

1 DGM

We consider G , a DAG:

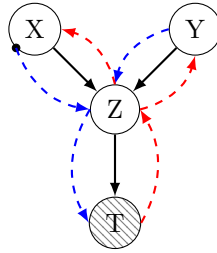


Figure 1: Graph G , where T is observed. An active path (blue dashed line) can lead from X to Y since this is an undirected path. The arrow is there to indicate the motion of the Bayes Ball. The starting point of the algorithm is represented as a black dot.

To prove that $X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y \mid T$, we use the Bayes Ball algorithm (see algorithm 1 in the appendix). We conclude that $X \not\perp\!\!\!\perp Y \mid T$ because there exists an undirected active path (blue dashed line in figure 1) from X to Y . This could also have been observed using the fact that the unobserved node Z with two parents has a descendant that is observed.

A distribution $p \in \mathcal{L}(G)$ satisfy the factorization

$$\mathcal{L}(G) = \left\{ p \mid p(x_V) = \prod_{i=1}^n p(x_i \mid x_{\pi_i}) \right\}$$

where π_i is the set of all parents of node i and V is the set of vertex in the graph. Therefore, $p \in \mathcal{L}(G)$ must satisfy

$$p(x_V) = p(x)p(y)p(z \mid x, y)p(t \mid z)$$

2 D-separation in DGM

We consider the graph G :

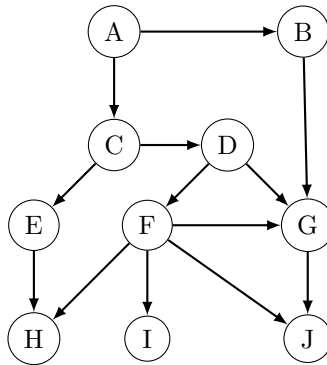


Figure 2: Complete graph G .

We are interested in the verification of several conditional independence relations. For each case, we will verify the relation using Bayes Ball algorithm (see algorithm 1). Here, we exploit the fact that unobserved nodes do not have the ability to bounce the ball when visited by a parent. Therefore, for each case, we only consider a relevant sub-graph of G built by plucking away all the unobserved nodes until an observed node is found or a node of interest is found.

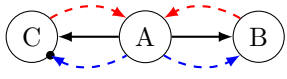
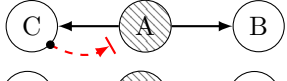
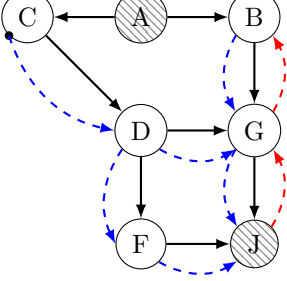
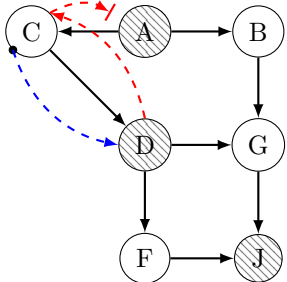
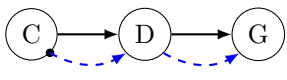
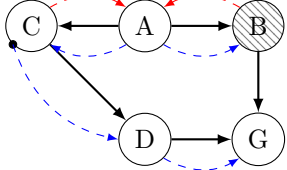
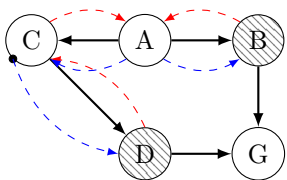
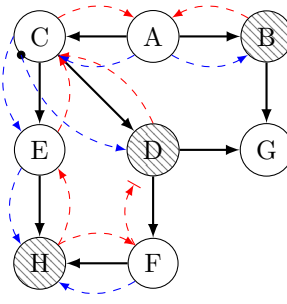
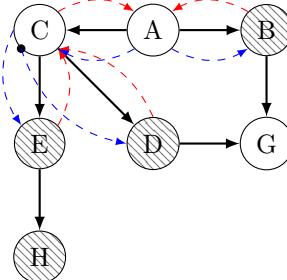
Relevant sub-graph	Conditional independence	True/False
	$C \perp\!\!\!\perp B \mid \emptyset$	False
	$C \perp\!\!\!\perp B \mid A$	True
	$C \perp\!\!\!\perp B \mid A, J$	False
	$C \perp\!\!\!\perp B \mid A, J, D$	True
	$C \perp\!\!\!\perp G \mid \emptyset$	False
	$C \perp\!\!\!\perp G \mid B$	False
	$C \perp\!\!\!\perp G \mid B, D$	True
	$C \perp\!\!\!\perp G \mid B, D, H$	True
	$C \perp\!\!\!\perp G \mid B, D, H, E$	True

Table 1: Conditional independence statements and active trail (blue dashed paths) shown in the relevant path column for questions (a) to (i).

Relevant sub-graph	Conditional independence	True/False
	$B \perp\!\!\!\perp I \mid J$	False

Table 2: Conditional independence statement of question (j). In the relevant sub-graph we omitted the node D because we wanted to show the shortest active trail.

3 Positive interaction in V-structure

We let X, Y, Z be binary variables ($\in \{0, 1\}$) with a joint distribution parametrized according to the V-structure shown in figure 3.

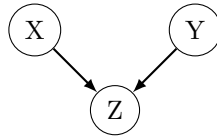


Figure 3: V-structure between the binary variables X, Y and Z .

We define the following constant

$$\begin{aligned}\alpha &\equiv P(X = 1) \\ \beta &\equiv P(X = 1 \mid Z = 1) \\ \gamma &\equiv P(X = 1 \mid Z = 1, Y = 1)\end{aligned}$$

In term of the marginal $P(X, Y)$ and the conditional $P(Z \mid X, Y)$, we can rewrite theses constants as follows

$$\begin{aligned}\alpha &= \sum_y p(x = 1, y) \\ \beta &= \frac{\sum_y P(X = 1, y)P(Z = 1 \mid X = 1, y)}{\sum_x \sum_y P(x, y)P(Z = 1 \mid x, y)} \\ \gamma &= \frac{P(X = 1, Y = 1)P(Z = 1 \mid X = 1, Y = 1)}{\sum_x P(x, Y = 1)P(Z = 1 \mid x, Y = 1)}\end{aligned}$$

a) Inequalities

The most general case for $p \in \mathcal{L}(G)$ we can consider where all variable are binary random variable is the following

$$\begin{aligned} X &\sim \text{Bernoulli}(p) \\ Y &\sim \text{Bernoulli}(q) \end{aligned}$$

$$Z \mid X, Y \sim \begin{cases} \text{Bernoulli}(\pi_{11}), & \text{if } X = 1 \text{ and } Y = 1 \\ \text{Bernoulli}(\pi_{10}), & \text{if } X = 1 \text{ and } Y = 0 \\ \text{Bernoulli}(\pi_{01}), & \text{if } X = 0 \text{ and } Y = 1 \\ \text{Bernoulli}(\pi_{00}), & \text{if } X = 0 \text{ and } Y = 0 \end{cases}$$

To simplify the expressions for the constant, we will work with coin flip for X and Y . Therefore,

$$\alpha = pq + p(1 - q) = 0.5 \quad \{\text{Since } X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y \mid \emptyset\} \quad (3.1)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \beta &= \frac{pq\pi_{11} + p(1 - q)\pi_{10}}{pq\pi_{11} + p(1 - q)\pi_{10} + (1 - p)q\pi_{01} + (1 - p)(1 - q)\pi_{00}} \\ &= \frac{\pi_{11} + \pi_{10}}{\pi_{11} + \pi_{10} + \pi_{01} + \pi_{00}} \end{aligned} \quad (3.2)$$

$$\gamma = \frac{pq\pi_{11}}{pq\pi_{11} + (1 - p)q\pi_{01}} = \frac{\pi_{11}}{\pi_{11} + \pi_{01}} \quad (3.3)$$

I $\gamma < \alpha$

Here, we notice that π_{11} and π_{01} have a big impact on the relative importance of γ when compared. We can see that

$$\begin{aligned} \pi_{11} \gg \pi_{01} \leq 1 &\implies \gamma \rightarrow 1 \\ \pi_{01} \gg \pi_{11} \leq 1 &\implies \gamma \rightarrow 0 \end{aligned}$$

Setting every other parameter to 0.5, $\pi_{11} = 0.01$ and $\pi_{01} = 0.9$, we get the following example for which $\gamma < \alpha$

X	Y	P(X, Y)
1	1	0.25
1	0	0.25
0	1	0.25
0	0	0.25

Table 3: Joint distribution of 2 coin flip.

X	Y	$P(Z = 1 \mid X, Y)$
1	1	0.01
1	0	0.5
0	1	0.9
0	0	0.5

Table 4: Conditional on $Z = 1$ with $\gamma \ll 1$.

α	β	γ
0.5	0.28	0.01

Table 5: Results

II $\alpha < \gamma < \beta$

$\gamma > \alpha$ can be obtained by setting $\pi_{11} \gg \pi_{01}$. To get the RHS of the inequality, we must set $\pi_{00} \ll 1$. The following table works as intended:

X	Y	P(X, Y)
1	1	0.25
1	0	0.25
0	1	0.25
0	0	0.25

Table 6: Joint distribution of 2 coin flip.

X	Y	$P(Z = 1 X, Y)$
1	1	0.9
1	0	0.5
0	1	0.5
0	0	0.001

Table 7: Conditional on $Z = 1$ with $\gamma \ll 1$.

α	β	γ
0.5	0.74	0.64

Table 8: Results

III $\beta < \alpha < \gamma$

Here, starting from equilibrium (all parameter equal), we can shift β to be smaller than the other by increasing π_{00} . Then we can increase γ slightly by increasing slightly π_{11} . Too harsh an increase will upset the lower inequality.

X	Y	P(X, Y)
1	1	0.25
1	0	0.25
0	1	0.25
0	0	0.25

Table 9: Joint distribution of 2 coin flip.

X	Y	$P(Z = 1 X, Y)$
1	1	0.6
1	0	0.5
0	1	0.5
0	0	0.9

Table 10: Conditional on $Z = 1$ with $\gamma \ll 1$.

α	β	γ
0.5	0.44	0.54

Table 11: Results

b)

I $\gamma < \alpha$

In order for this inequality to hold, then the effect $Z = 1$ must contain information about a correlation between the causes $Y = 1$ and the possible values of X . This information is encoded through the parameters π_{11} and π_{01} . By lowering π_{01} , we naturally lower the possibility that $X = 0$ given $Z = Y = 1$. Conversely for π_{11} . Therefore, the condition $\pi_{01} \ll \pi_{11} \leq 1$, all other parameters being equal, means that the observation of the effect $Z = 1$ and the cause $Y = 1$ update strongly our belief about the probability of observing $X = 1$. Initially, we had no particular opinion $\alpha = 0.5$. After observation, we are now almost convinced that the second cause was $X = 1$.

II $\alpha < \gamma < \beta$

Here, we reversed the previous inequality first so that the observation of $Y = 1$ and the observation of the effect $Z = 1$ will increase the probability of observing $X = 1$. The RHS can function independently of the first one since π_{00} do not affect γ . Indeed, $Y = 1$ is observed for γ therefore the probability of observing $Y = 0$ do not impact γ .

For the β probability, we are working with less information about the cause of $Z = 1$ (we do not know Y). Therefore, to have higher confidence of observing $X = 1$ without knowing the Y cause means we must have a strong belief that observing the effect $Z = 1$ means the cause $X = 0$ is unlikely. This is encoded in π_{00} and π_{01} (but we do not touch this one in order to keep γ intact). This is why setting π_{00} to a low value yielded the inequality we seeked.

III $\beta < \alpha < \gamma$

Here, we want to lower our confidence that observing $Z = 1$ was caused by $X = 1$. To do that, we bring π_{00} to a very probable value. This update our belief that an effect $Z = 1$ is most likely caused by $X = 0$ when $Y = 0$.

We do not increase π_{01} because we do not want to lower our confidence that observing $Z = 1$ and $Y = 1$ is related to an event with $X = 1$ (γ). This is why we increase only slightly π_{11} in order to increase γ without upsetting too much β .

In other words, observing the effect $Y = 1$ will increase slightly our confidence that the second cause for $Z = 1$ was $X = 1$ as opposed to no belief at all (α), updating our initial belief that the most probable cause was $X = 0$.

4 Appendix

a) Bayes Ball algorithm

Here we focus our attention to the Bayes Ball algorithm for probabilistic node only. In that case, conditional independence $X_J \perp\!\!\!\perp X_L \mid X_K$, with $J, K, L \subseteq V$ requires the notion of d-separation:

Active path An active path from J to L given K is an undirected path between $\ell \in L$ and $j \in J$ such that every node i with two parents in this chain is observed ($i \in K$) or has a descendant in K ($i \in K \cap \text{descendant}(i)$)

D-separation X_J is said to be conditionally independent to X_L (or *d-separate* X_L) given X_K if there is no active path from J to L given K .

With this description, we can devise a simple algorithm that will find all active path in the graph in linear time [1]. We will use the following convention

- $\text{--}\rightarrow$ Dashed blue arrows indicate the ball drop from parent to child;
- $\text{--}\leftarrow$ Dashed red arrow indicate the ball bounce back to the parent;
- Barred arrows mean the node will block the ball (neither bounce it back nor let it pass through). These can be used as an indicator and are not necessary for the algorithm.

With this convention, we describe an algorithm that will find all active path from a node $\ell \in L$ to a node $j \in J$ given K if they exists:

Algorithm 1: Bayes Ball

Result: active paths in the graph $\text{--}\rightarrow$
initialize a schedule with all $j \in J$ as though they were visited by a child;
while *schedule not empty* **do**
 pick a node j and remove it from the schedule;
 if $j \notin K$ **and** j is visited from a child **and** there is no $\text{--}\leftarrow$ linking j to previous node **then**
 draw $\text{--}\rightarrow$ going into j ;
 schedule its parents to be visited;
 schedule its children to be visited;
 else if j is visited from a parent **and** there is no $\text{--}\rightarrow$ linking j to previous node **then**
 draw $\text{--}\rightarrow$ going into j ;
 if $j \in K$ **then**
 schedule its parents to be visited;
 else
 schedule its children to be visited;

References

- [1] Shachter, R. D. (2013). Bayes-Ball: The Rational Pastime (for Determining Irrelevance and Requisite Information in Belief Networks and Influence Diagrams). <http://arxiv.org/abs/1301.7412>