

Formally Reasoning about (In)dependencies in Probabilistic Programs

Jialu Bao, Aug. 26th, 2022 A-Exam

Committee Members: Justin Hsu (Chair), Joseph Halpern, Dexter Kozen, Alexandra Silva

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Probabilistic Independence
Conditional Independence
Negative Dependence

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Programs that may
sample from distributions

Syntax

Syntax

Imp $c ::= \text{skip}$

- | $x := a$
- | $c_1; c_2$
- | **if** b **then** c_1 **else** c_2
- | **while** b **do** c

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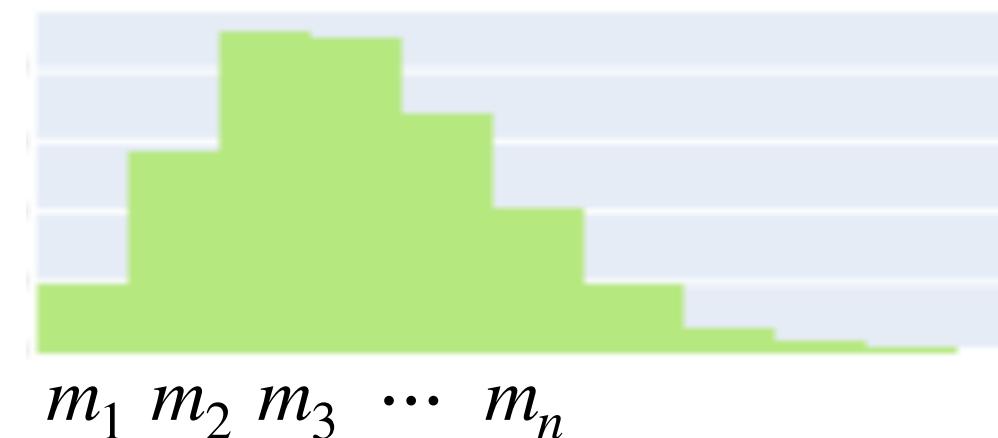
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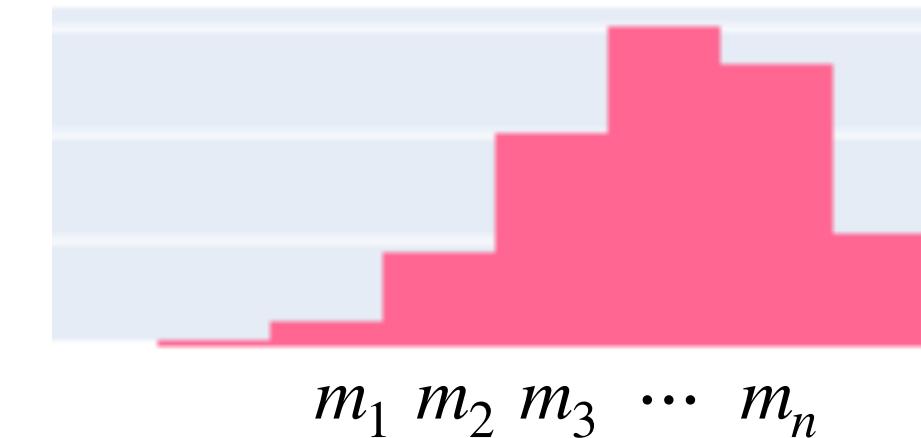
A distribution over
program states



Distribution Transformer

C

A distribution over
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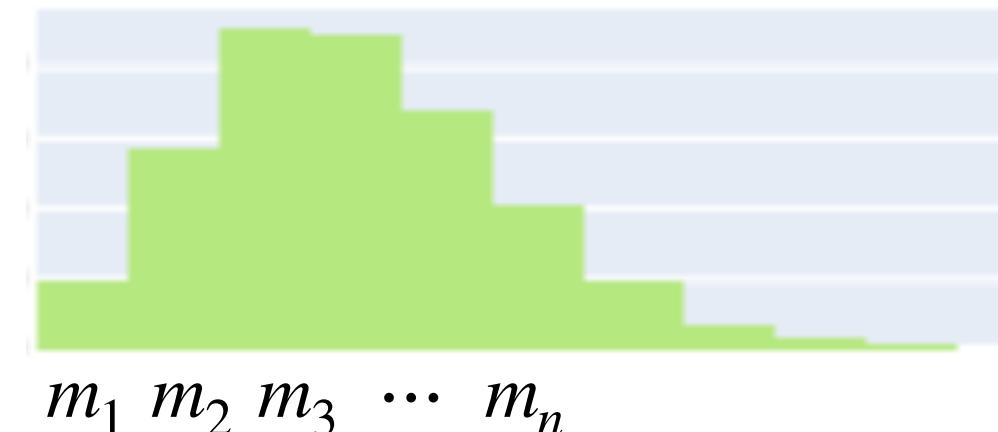


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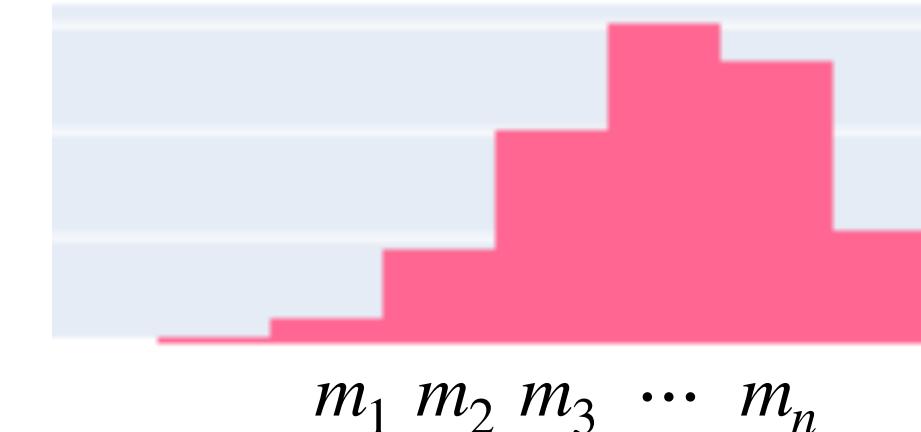
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Motivating Example



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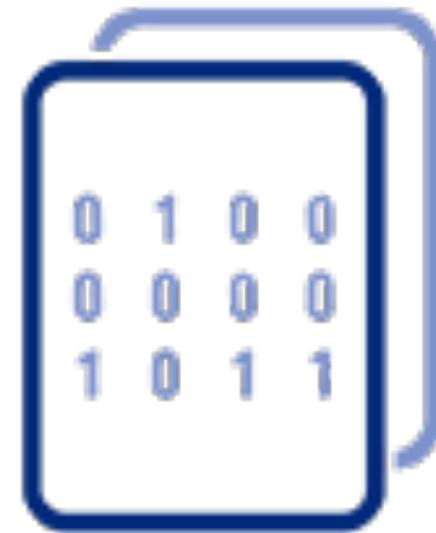
How do we ensure the security of an encryption algorithm?



Motivating Example

How do we ensure the security of an encryption algorithm?

Check



Encrypted text

does not give information about



Plain text

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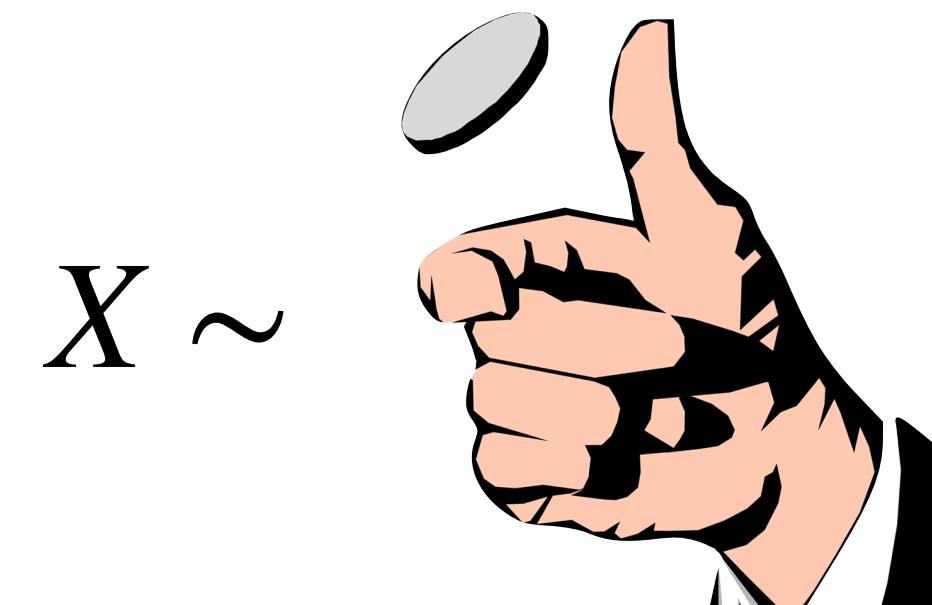
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$$X \sim$$

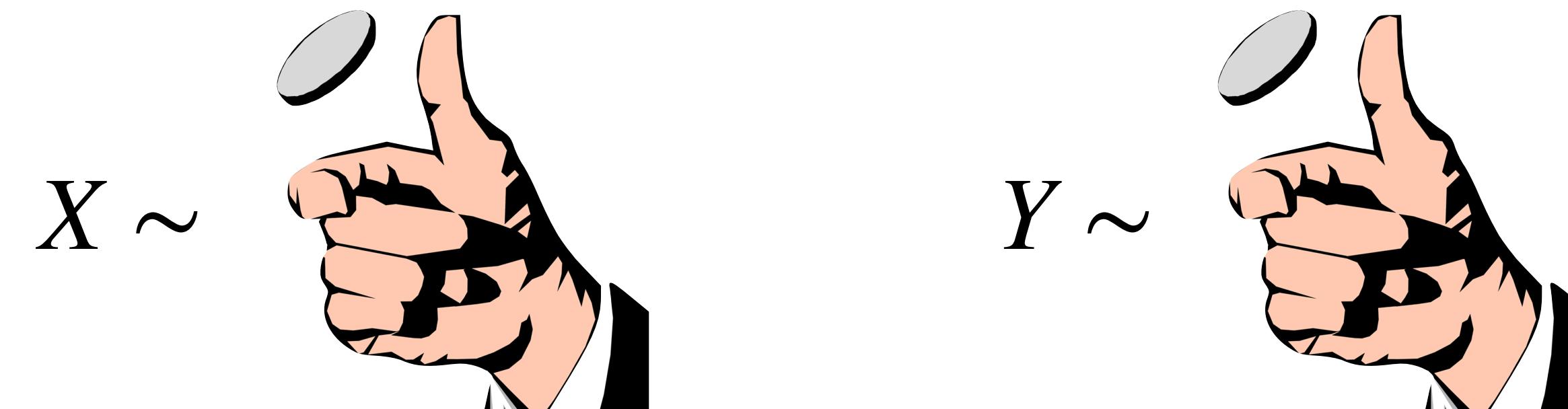
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Encryption

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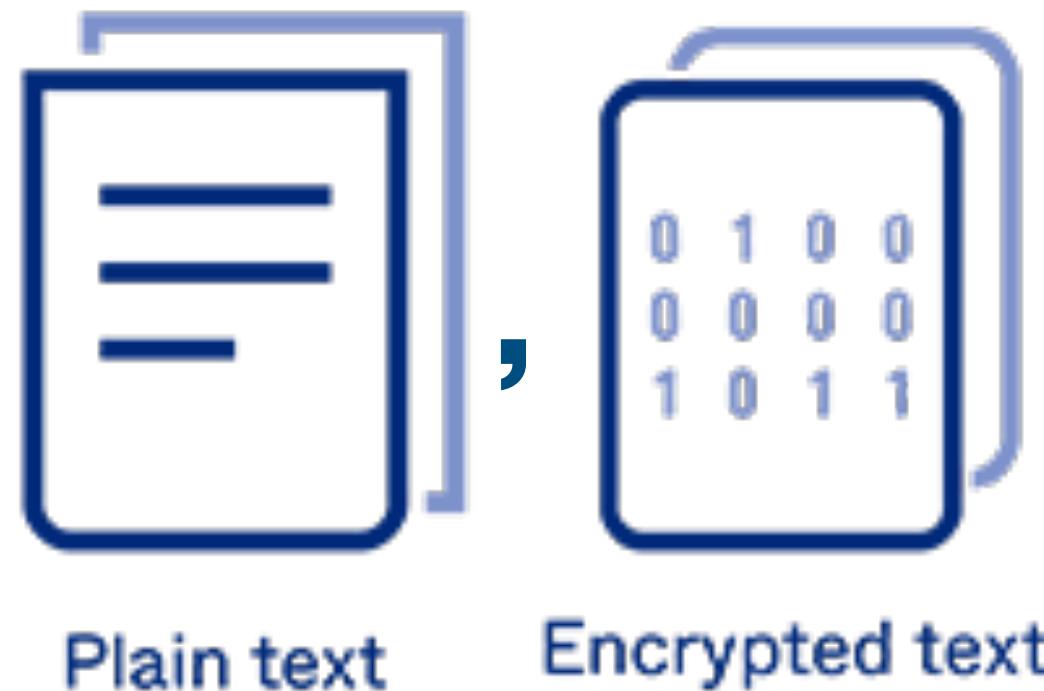
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Verify



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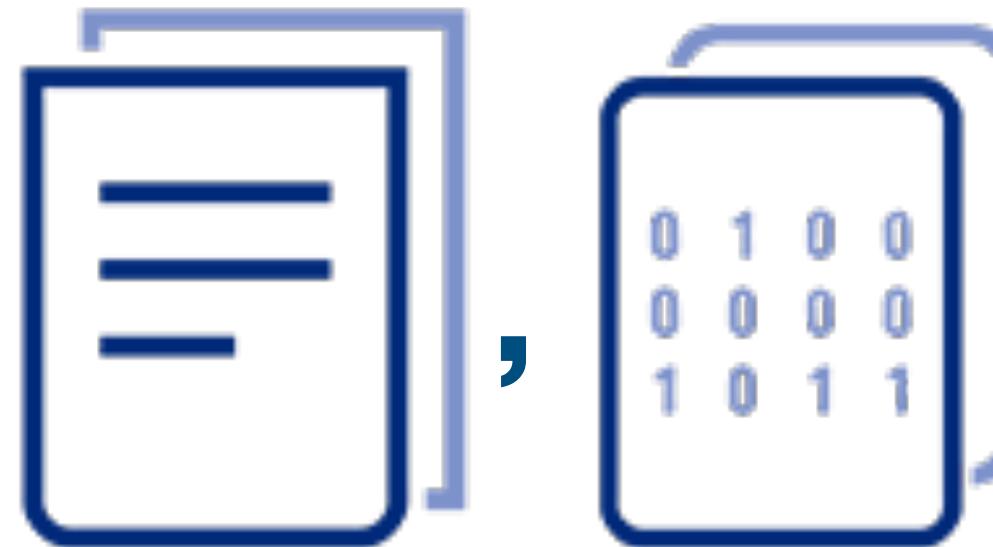


Encryption

as probabilistic programs;

However, reasoning about probabilities can be hard.

Verify



Plain text

Encrypted text

are probabilistically independent.

My Goal

Design formal methods to reason about
independence and dependencies
in the distribution constructed by
probabilistic programs.

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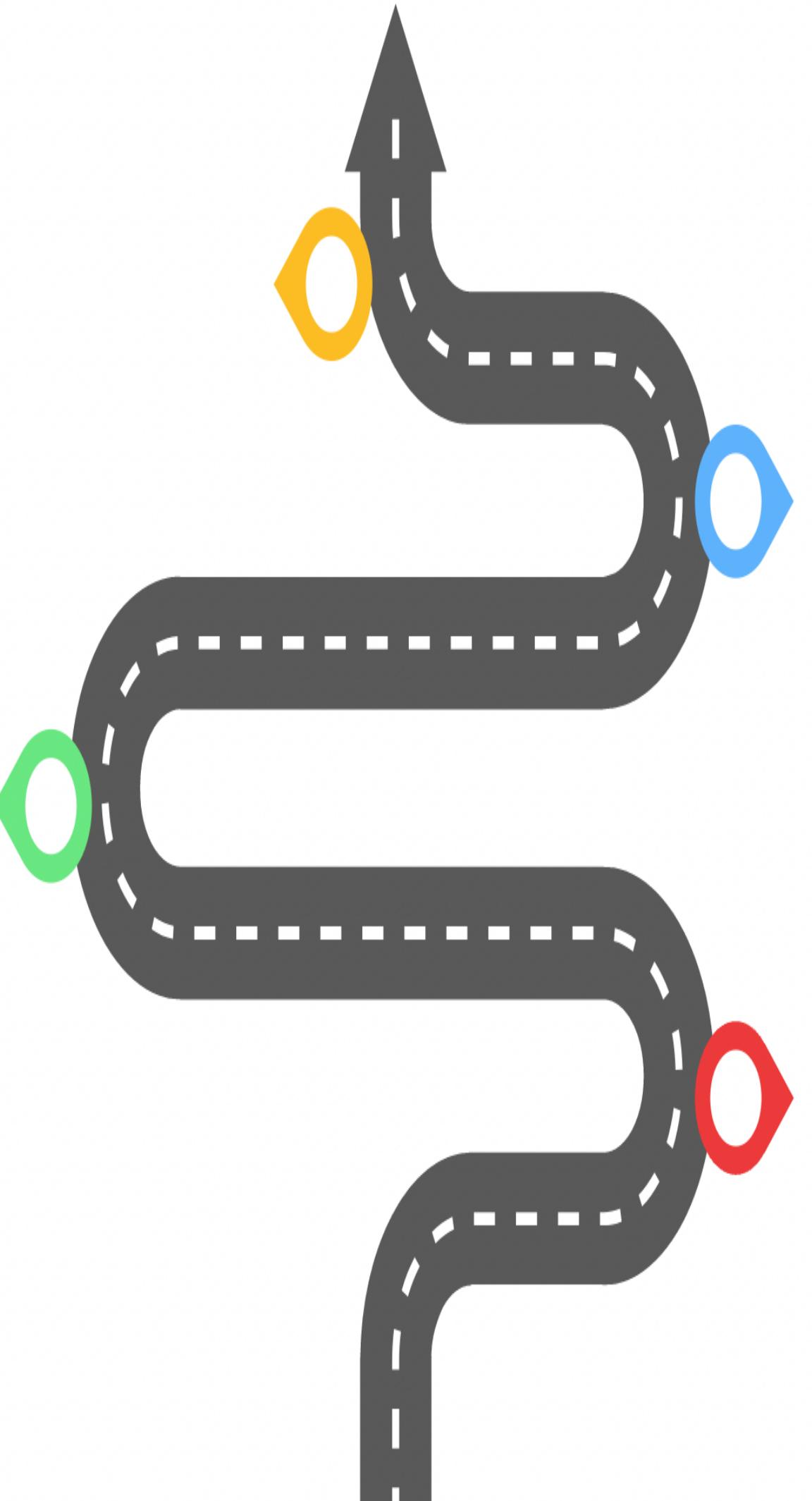
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Match better with pen-and-paper proofs.

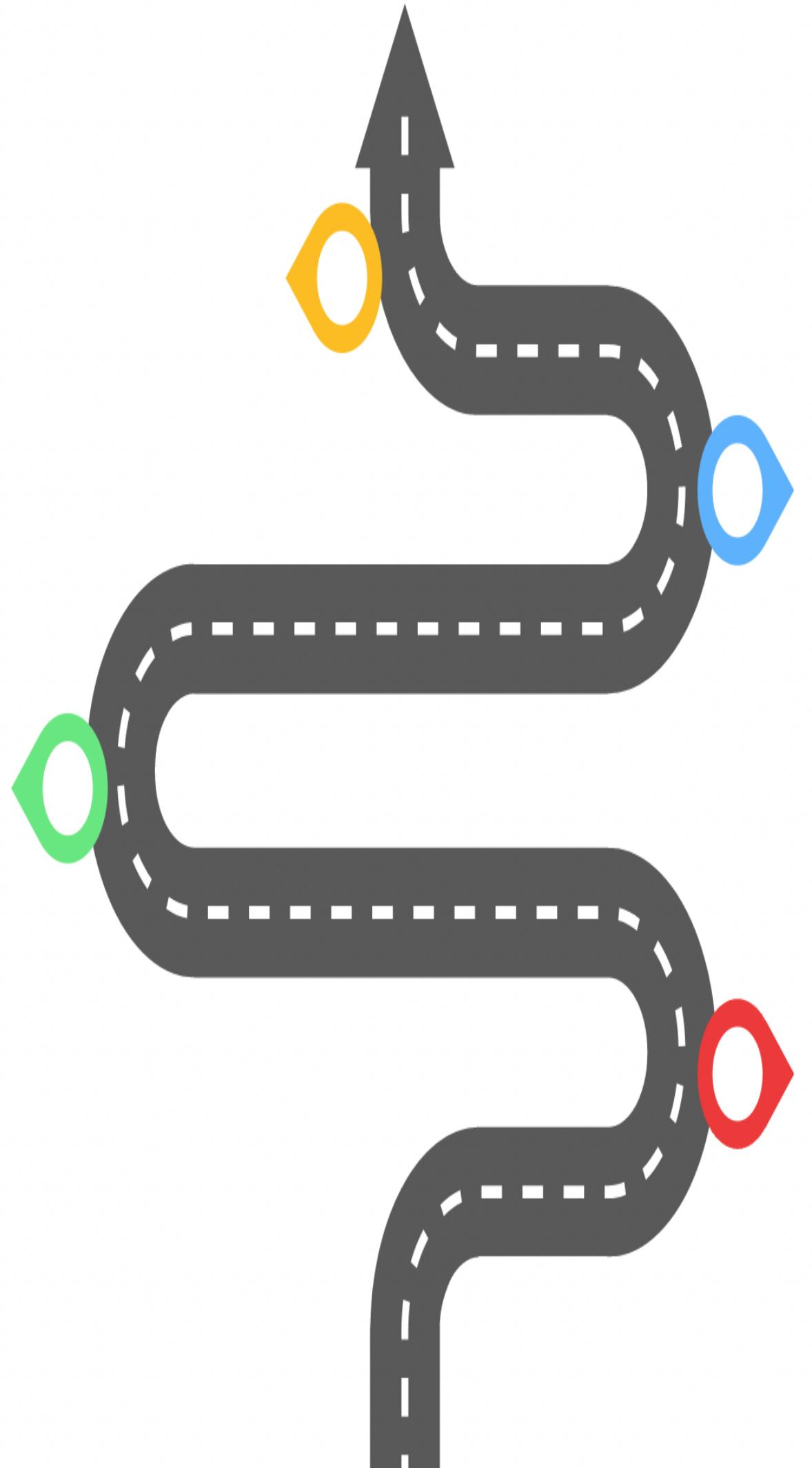
My Existing Work



My Existing Work

A Bunched Logic for **Conditional Independence**. LICS 2021

Jialu Bao, Simon Docherty, Justin Hsu, Alexandra Silva.



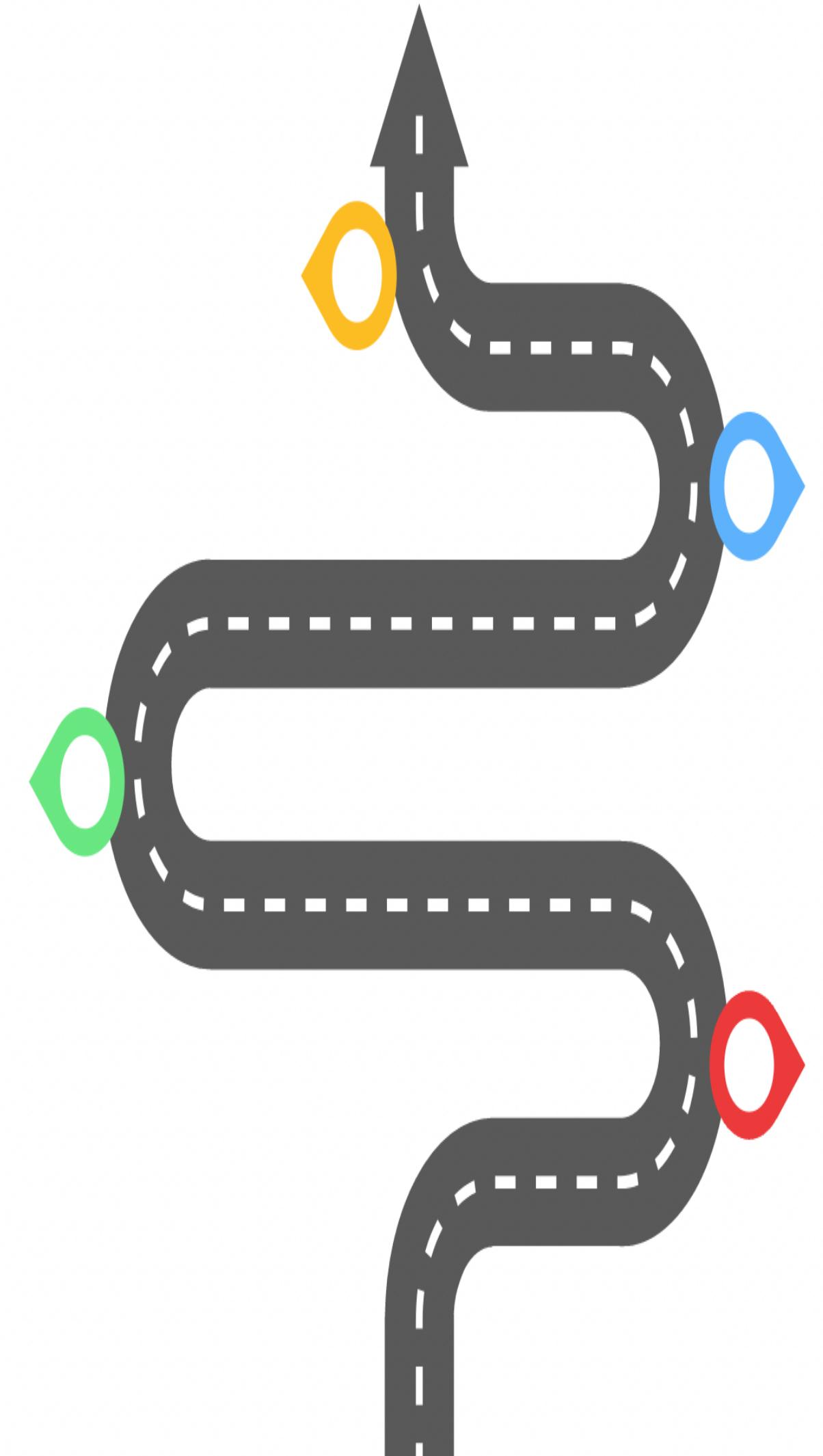
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A Separation Logic for **Negative Dependence**. POPL 2022

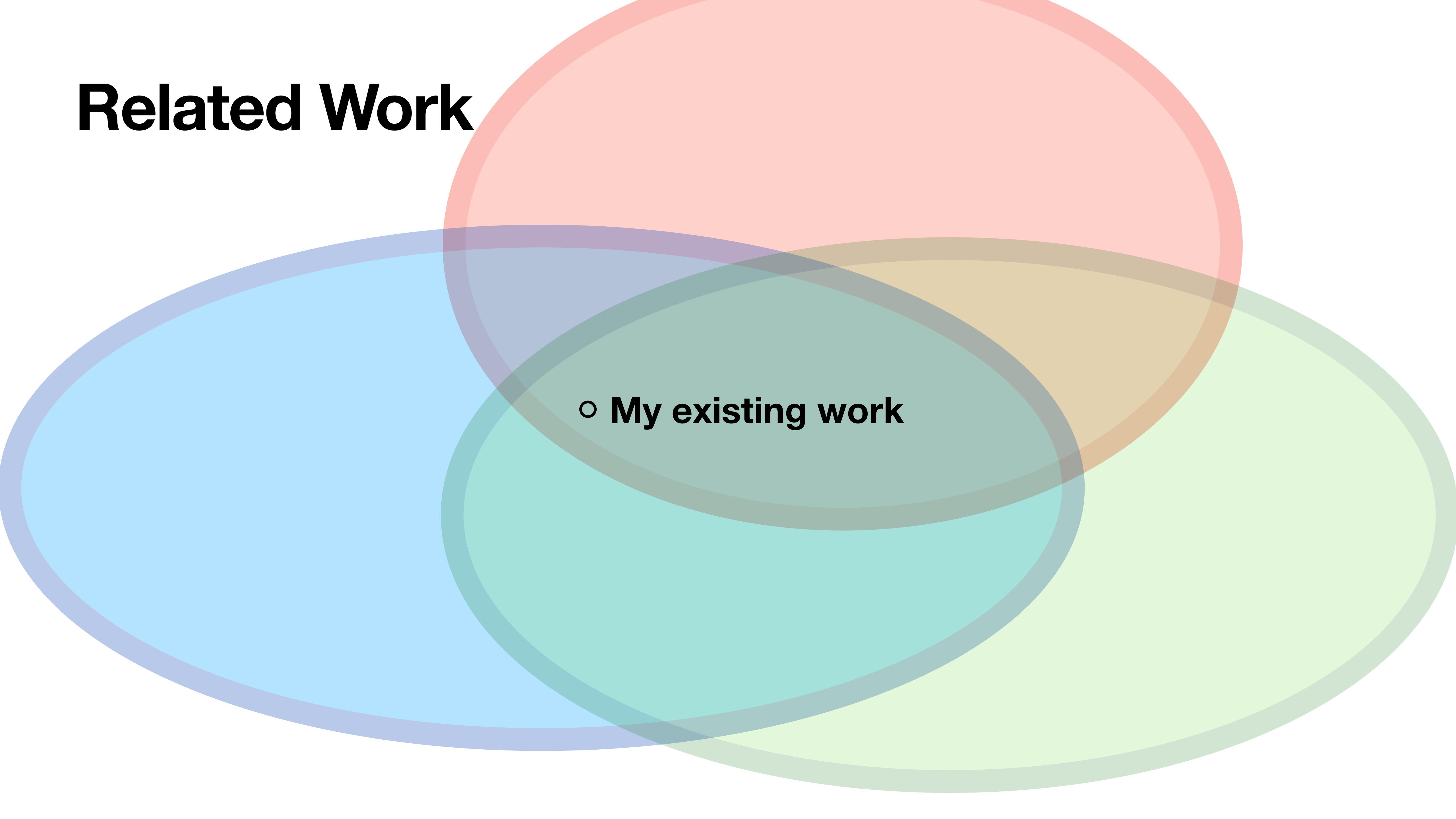
Jialu Bao, Marco Gaboardi, Justin Hsu, Joseph Tassarotti.

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Related Work



◦ My existing work

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**Probabilistic
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- Kozen. [1981]
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Separation Logic

- O'Hearn and Pym. [1999]
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◦ My existing work

Related Work

The diagram consists of three overlapping circles. The top circle is light red and labeled "Separation Logic". The bottom-left circle is light blue and labeled "Probabilistic Programs". The bottom-right circle is light green and labeled "Probabilistic (In)dependencies". The central area where all three circles overlap is shaded grey and contains the text "My existing work".

Probabilistic Programs

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Probabilistic (In)dependencies

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Probabilistic (In)dependencies

Formally Reasoning about Conditional Independence

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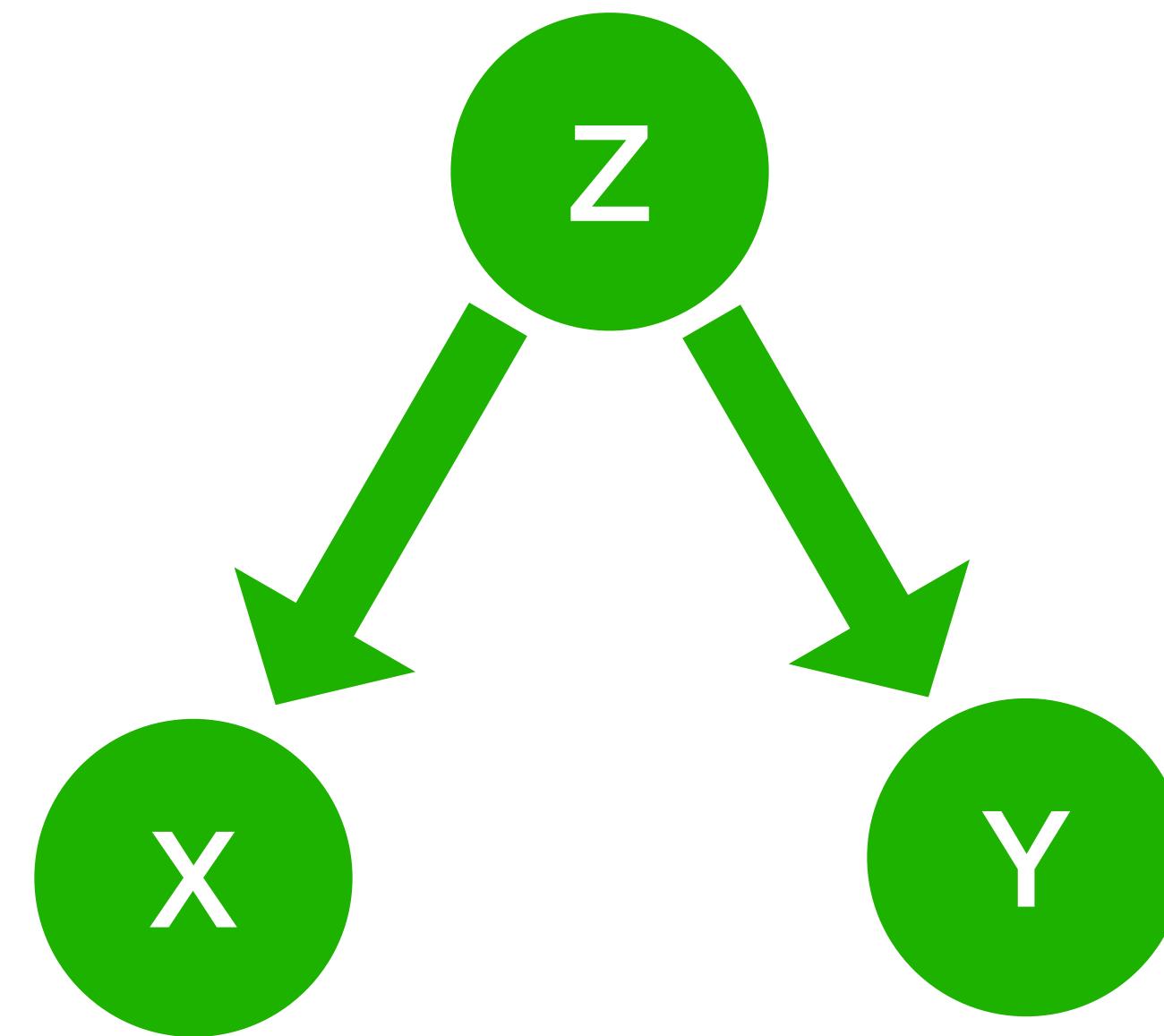
Applications of Conditional Independence

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- Represent and transform a joint distribution more efficiently.

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Example:

```
sunny := coin()
if sunny:
    icecream := coin();
    sunglasses := coin();
else:
    icecream := False;
    sunglasses := False;
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Design a program logic for proving conditional independence (CI)

Example: **Precondition:** { T }

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Post-condition: { icecream, sunglasses are CI given sunny }

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- How to express CI as assertions?
- How to prove CI in programs?

Post-condition: { icecream, sunglasses are CI given sunny }

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Visual Representation

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Conditional Probability Distribution

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Input-preserving maps of type

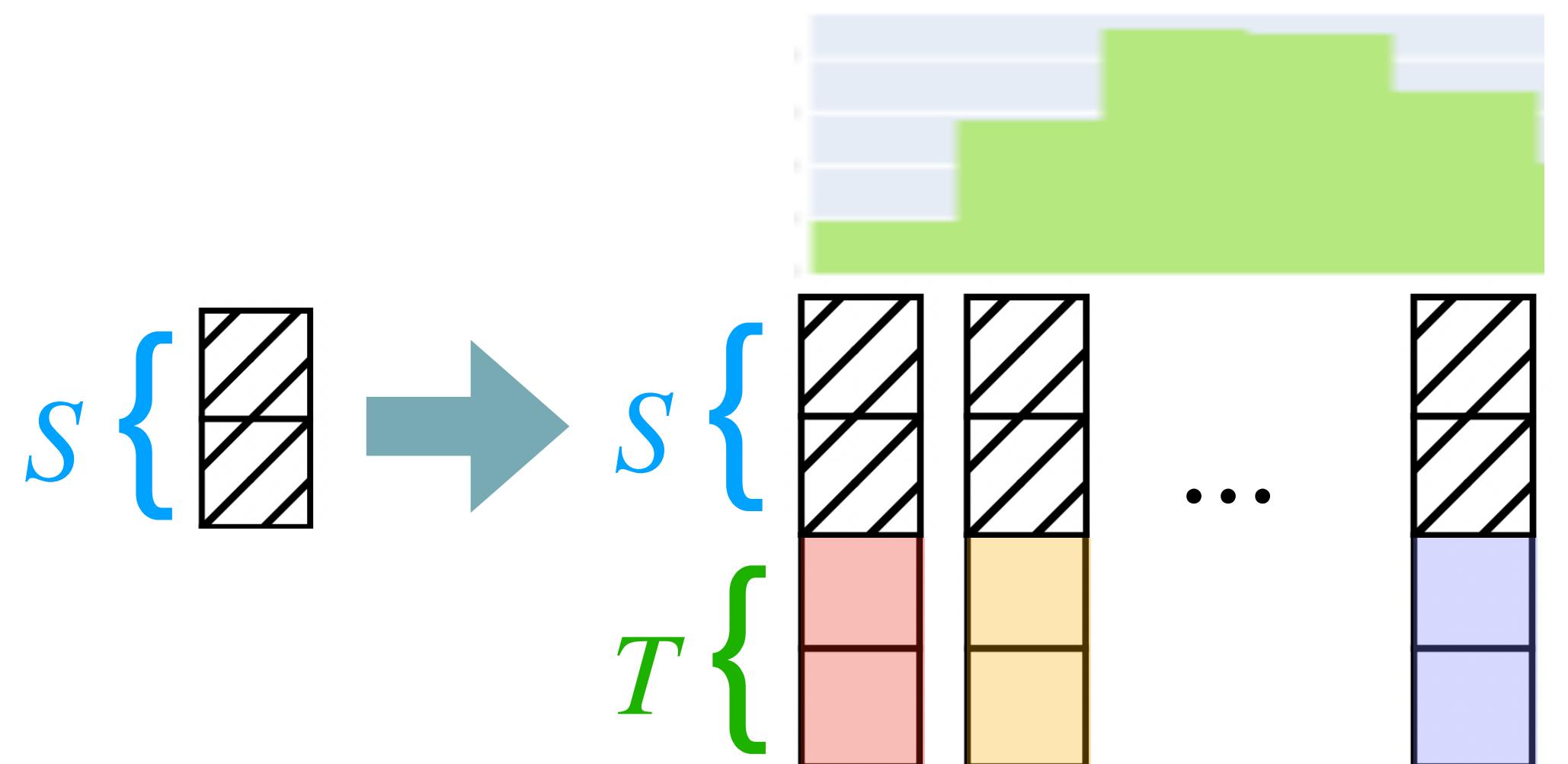
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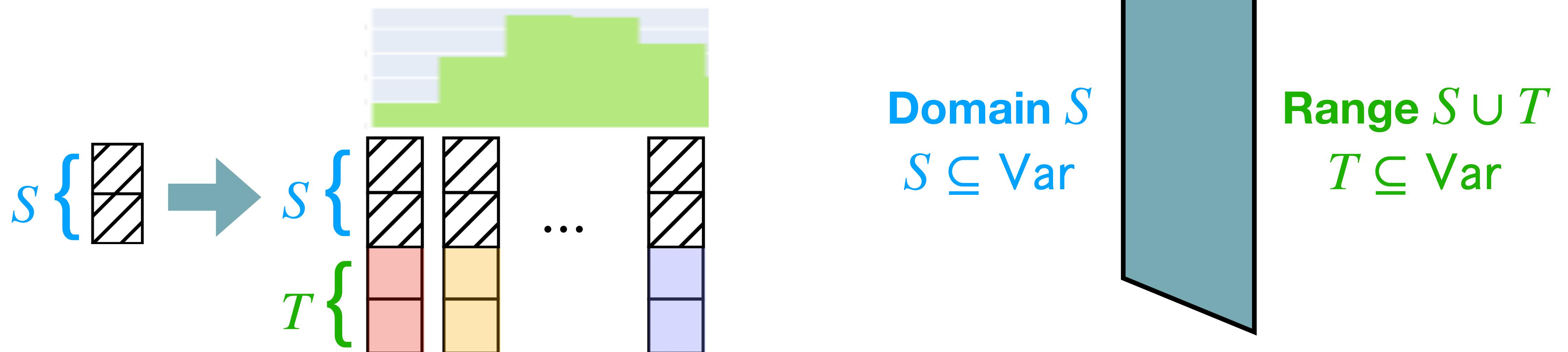


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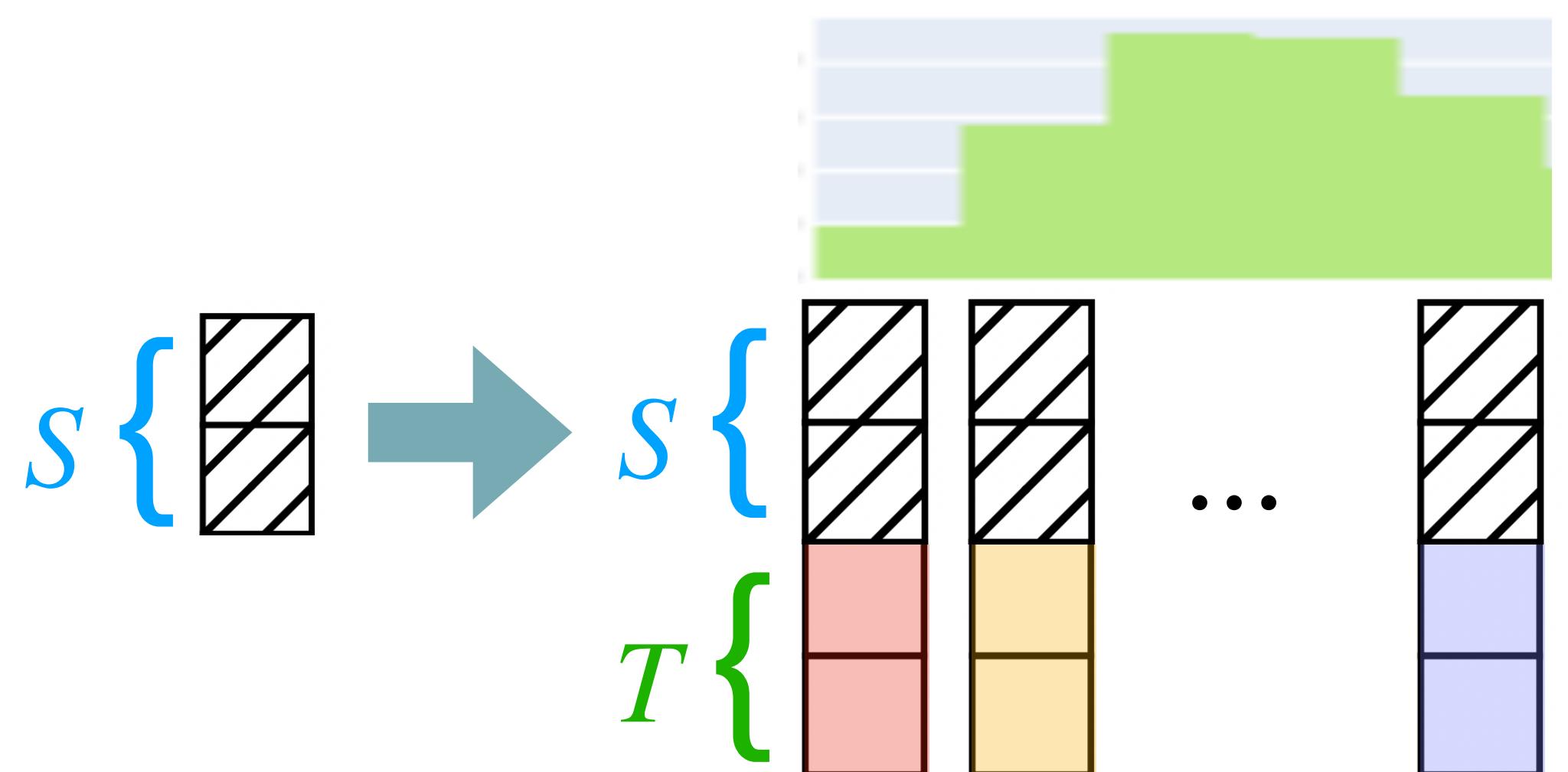


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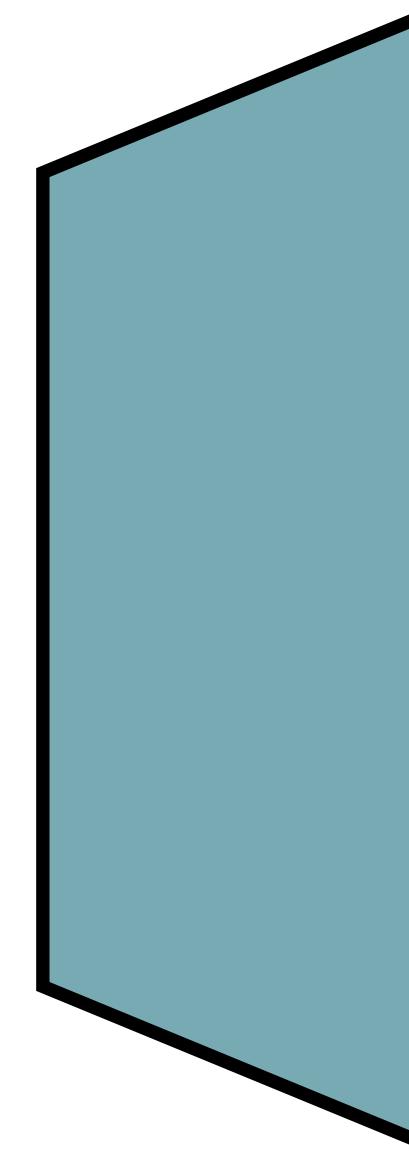
Conditional Probability Distribution

a.k.a., Kernels

Input-preserving maps of type
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Domain S
 $S \subseteq \text{Var}$



Range $S \cup T$
 $T \subseteq \text{Var}$

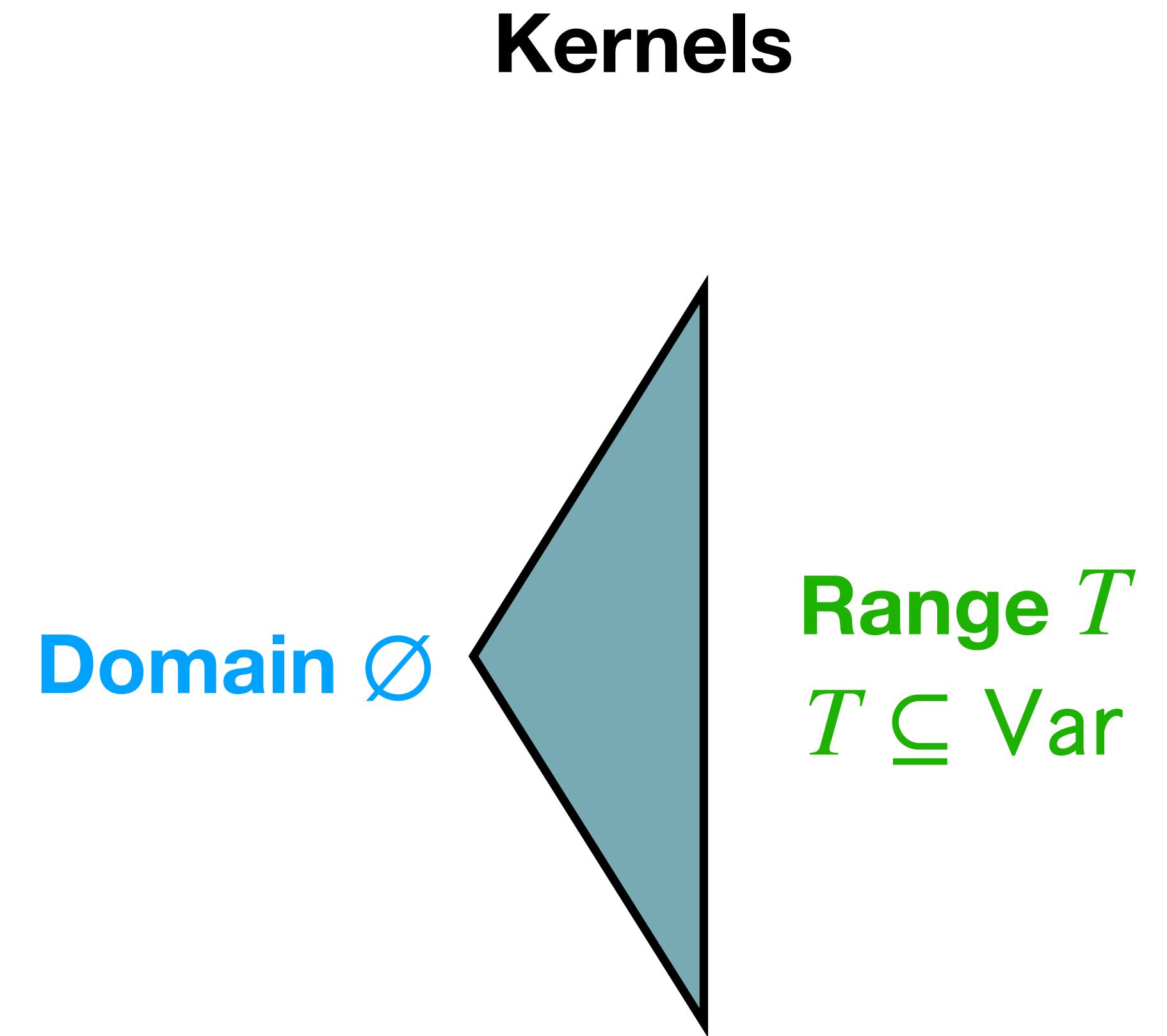
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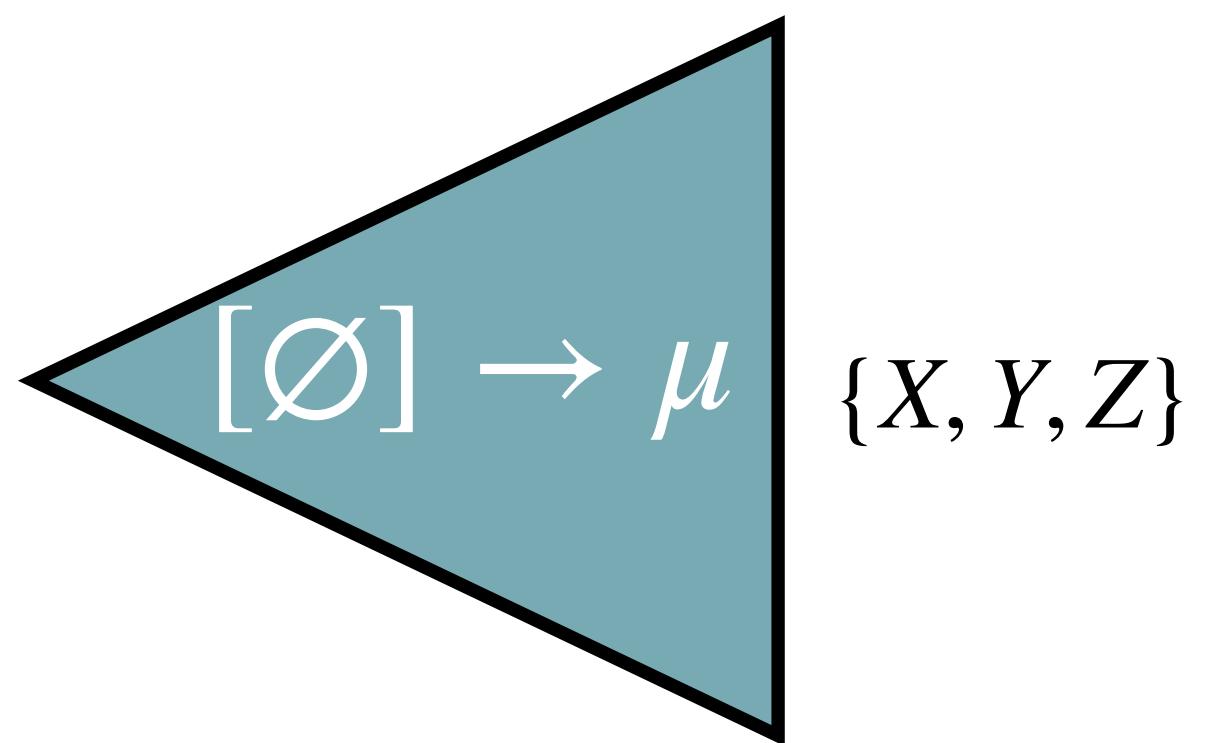
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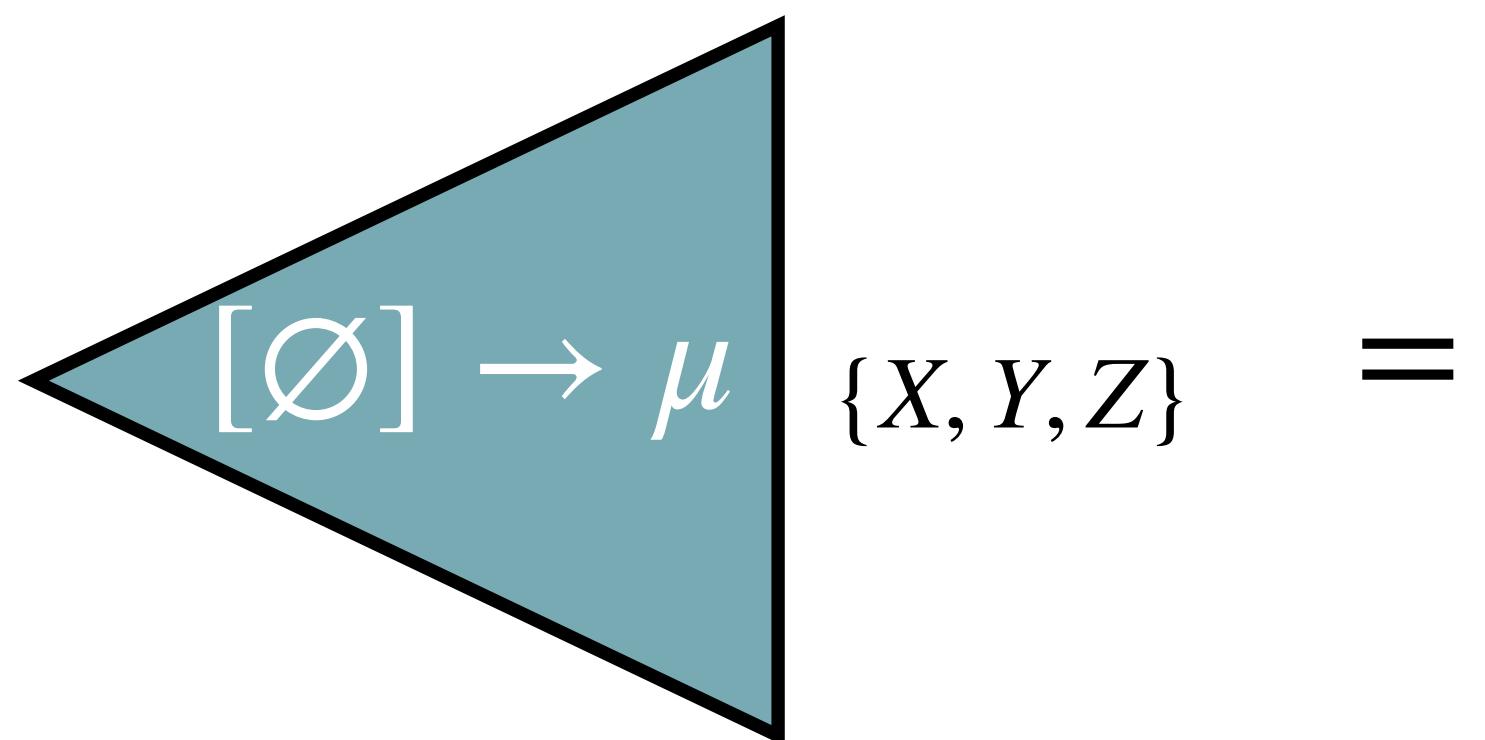
Sample X, Y, Z
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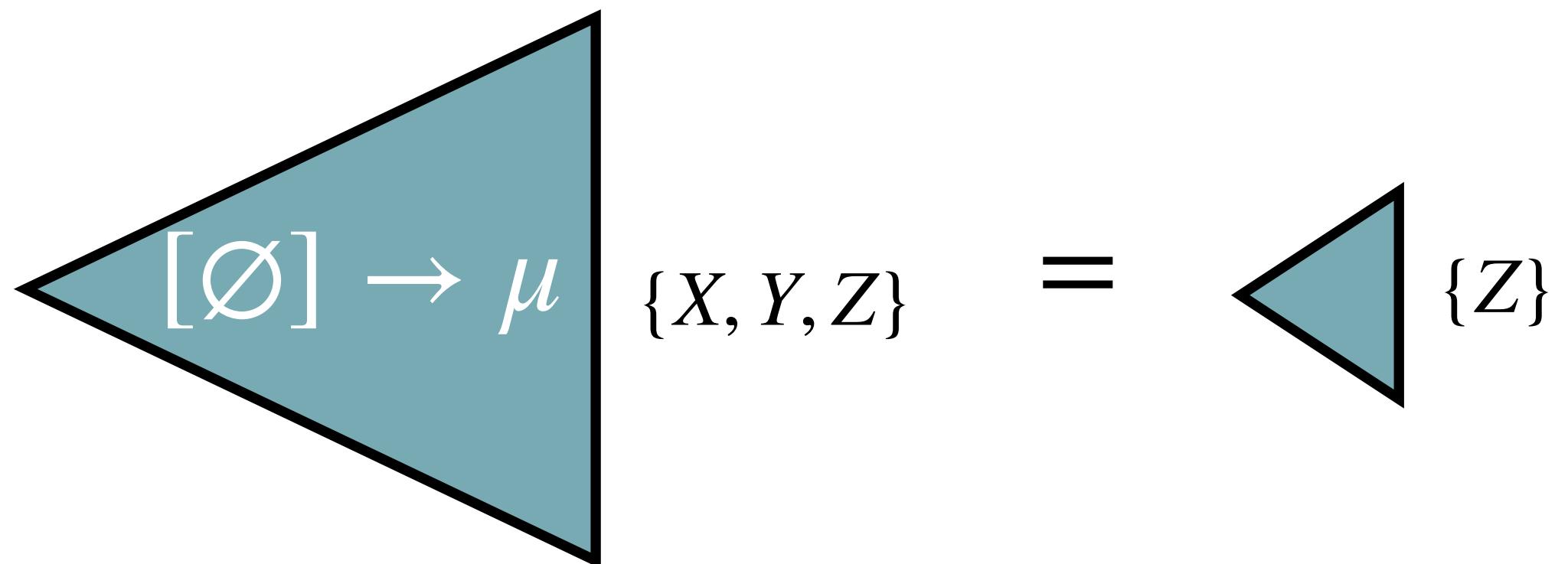


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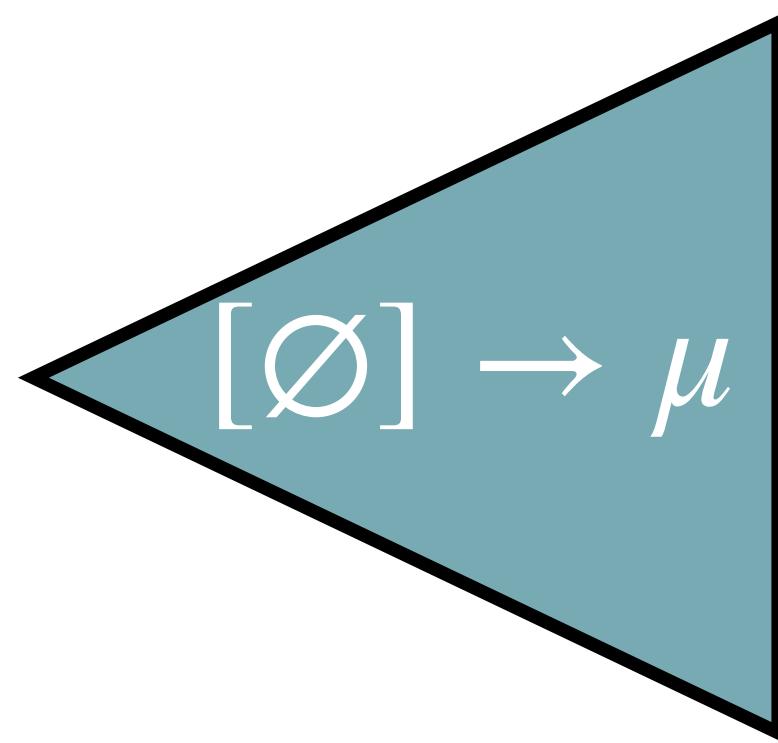
1. Sample Z



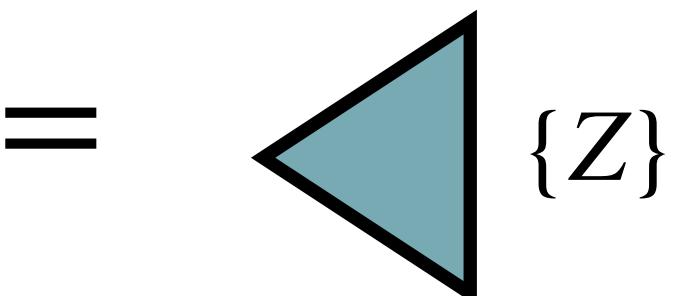
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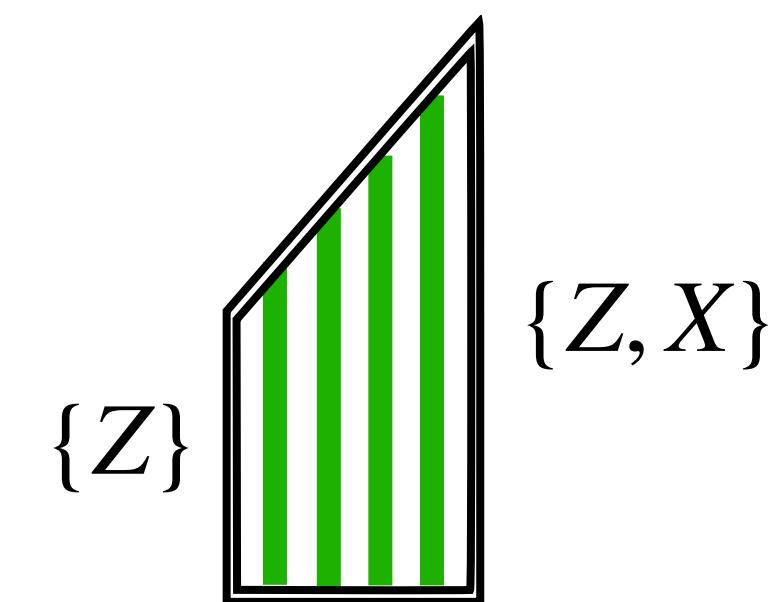
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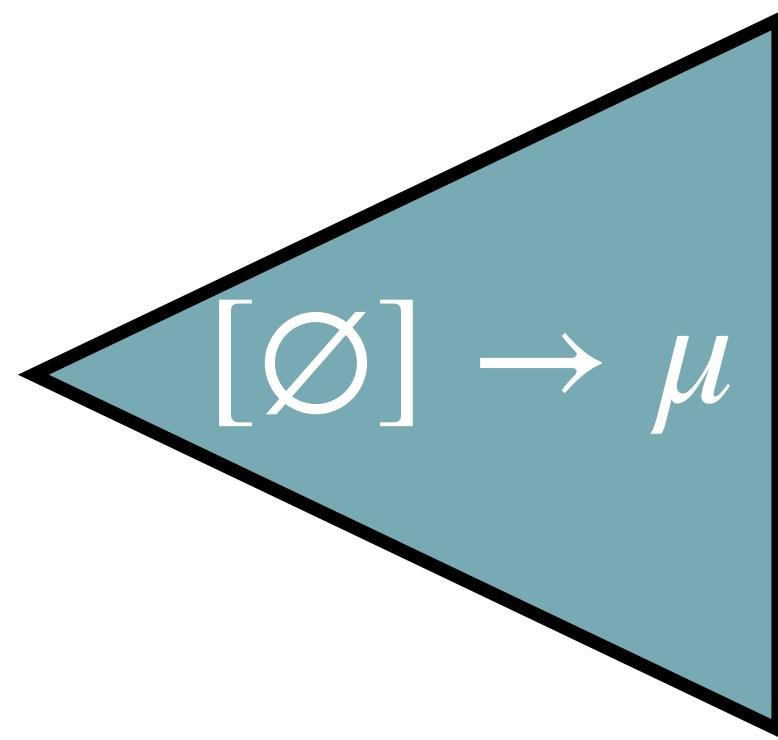
2a. Sample X
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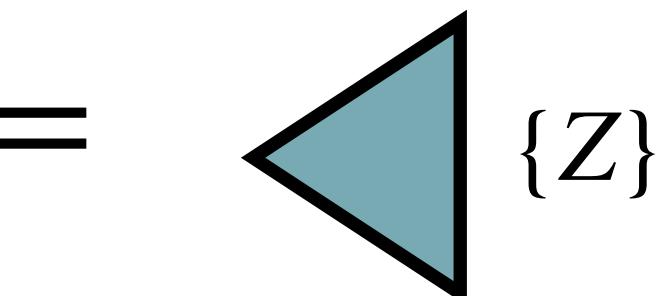
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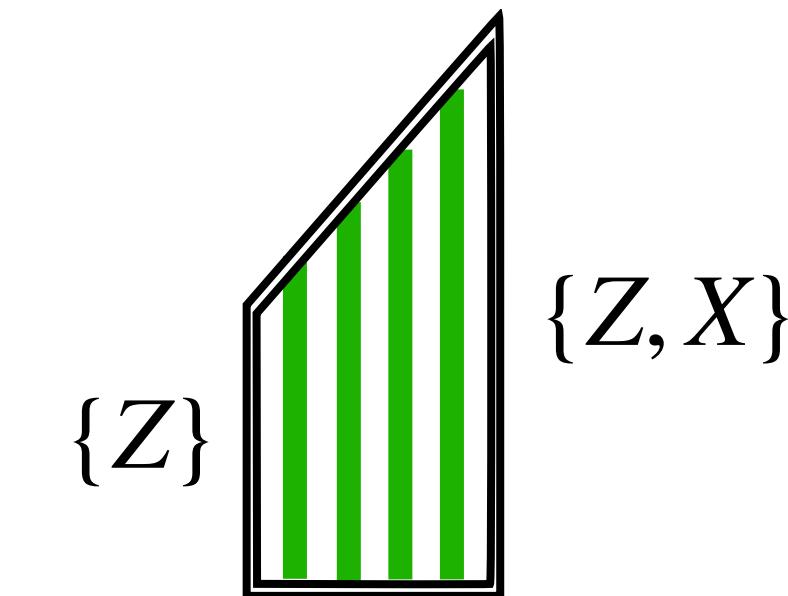
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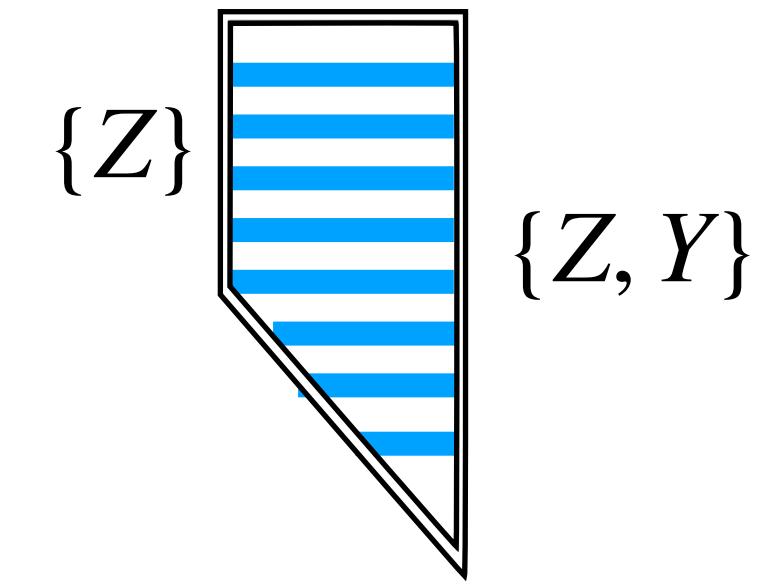
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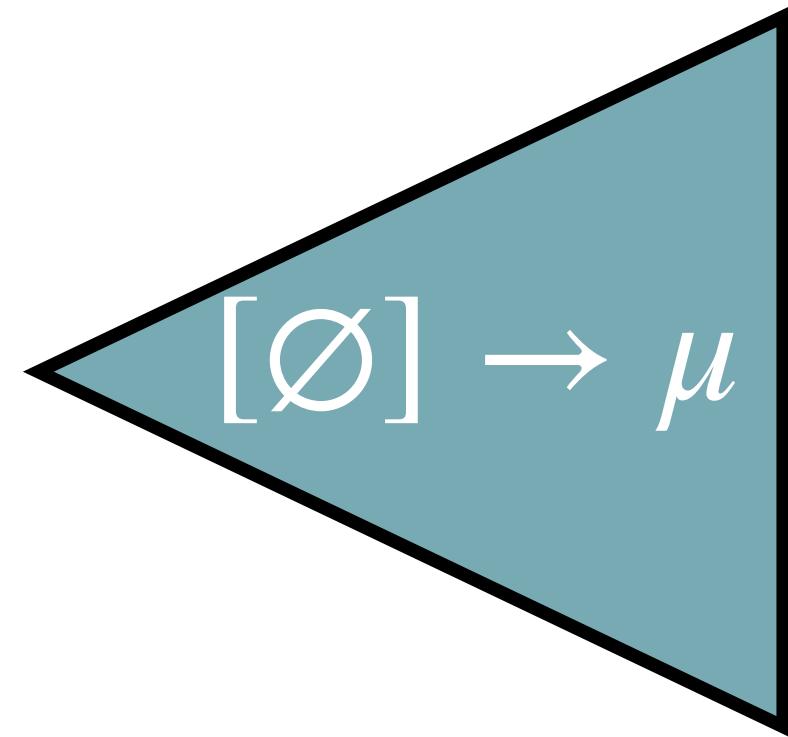
2b. **Separately**
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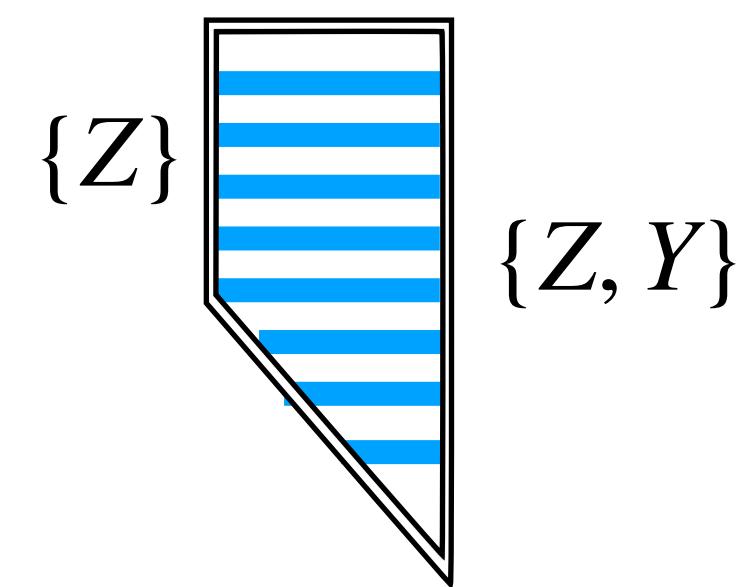
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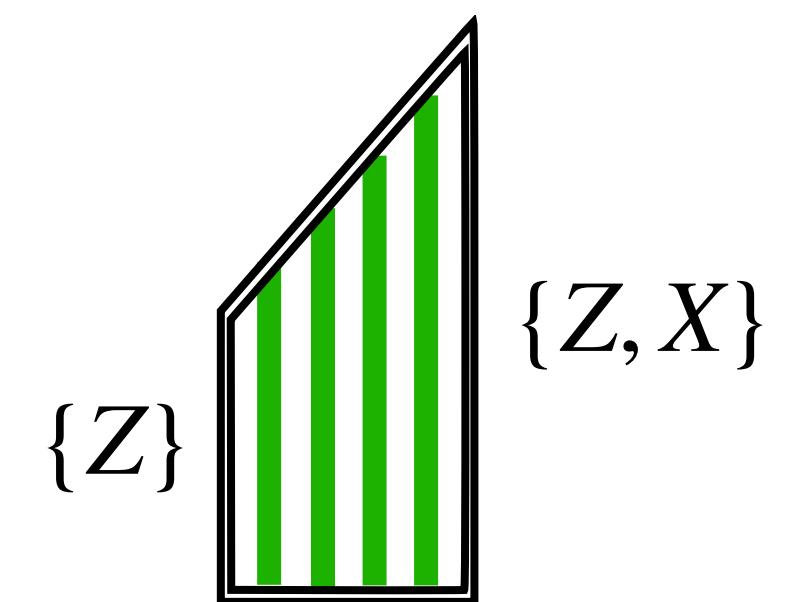
$$\{X, Y, Z\} = \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \\ \text{---} \end{array} \{Z\}$$

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Bunched Logic [O'Hearn and Pym 1999]

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A flexible framework to reason about separation

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$$P, Q ::= p \in \mathcal{AP} \mid \top \mid \perp \mid P \wedge Q \mid P \vee Q \mid P \Rightarrow Q \mid P * Q$$

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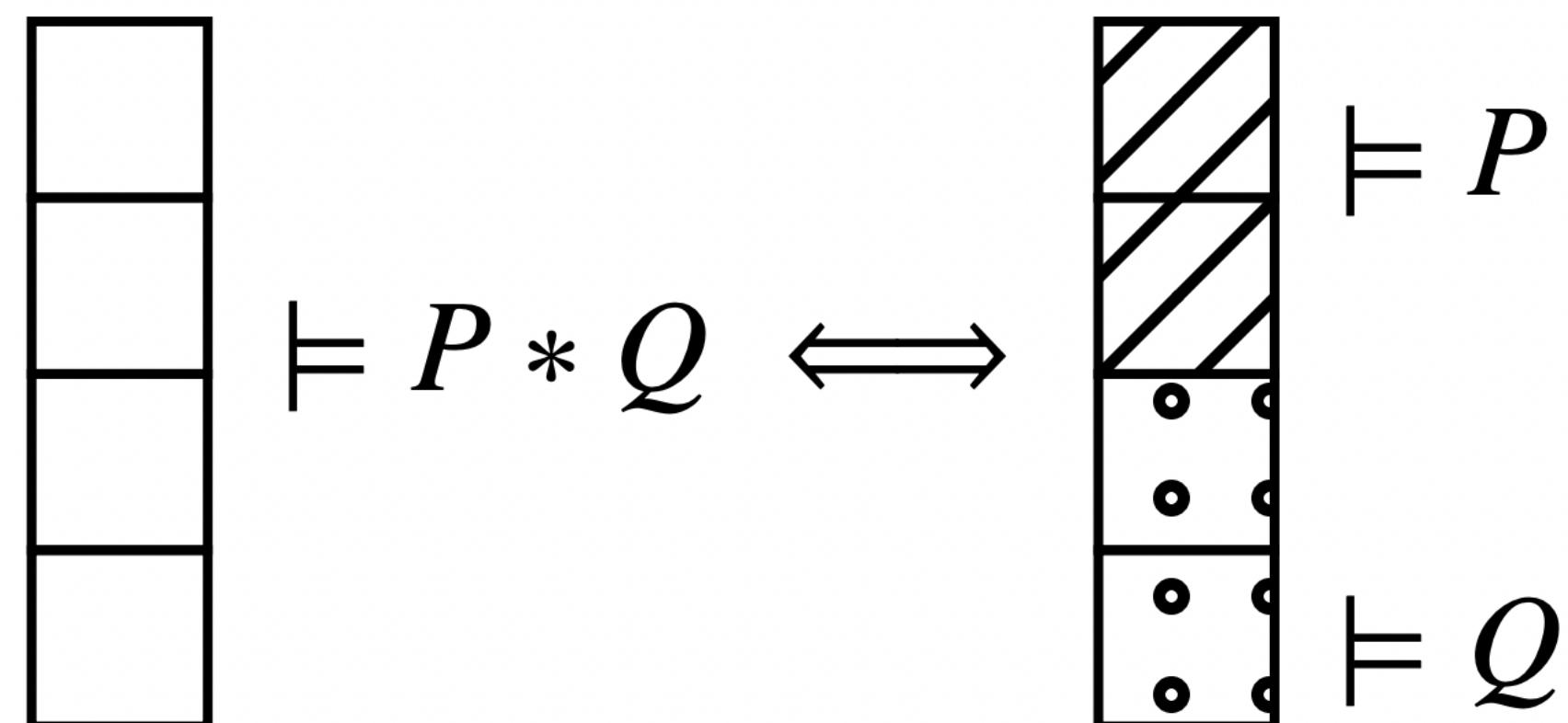
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Resource interpretation:



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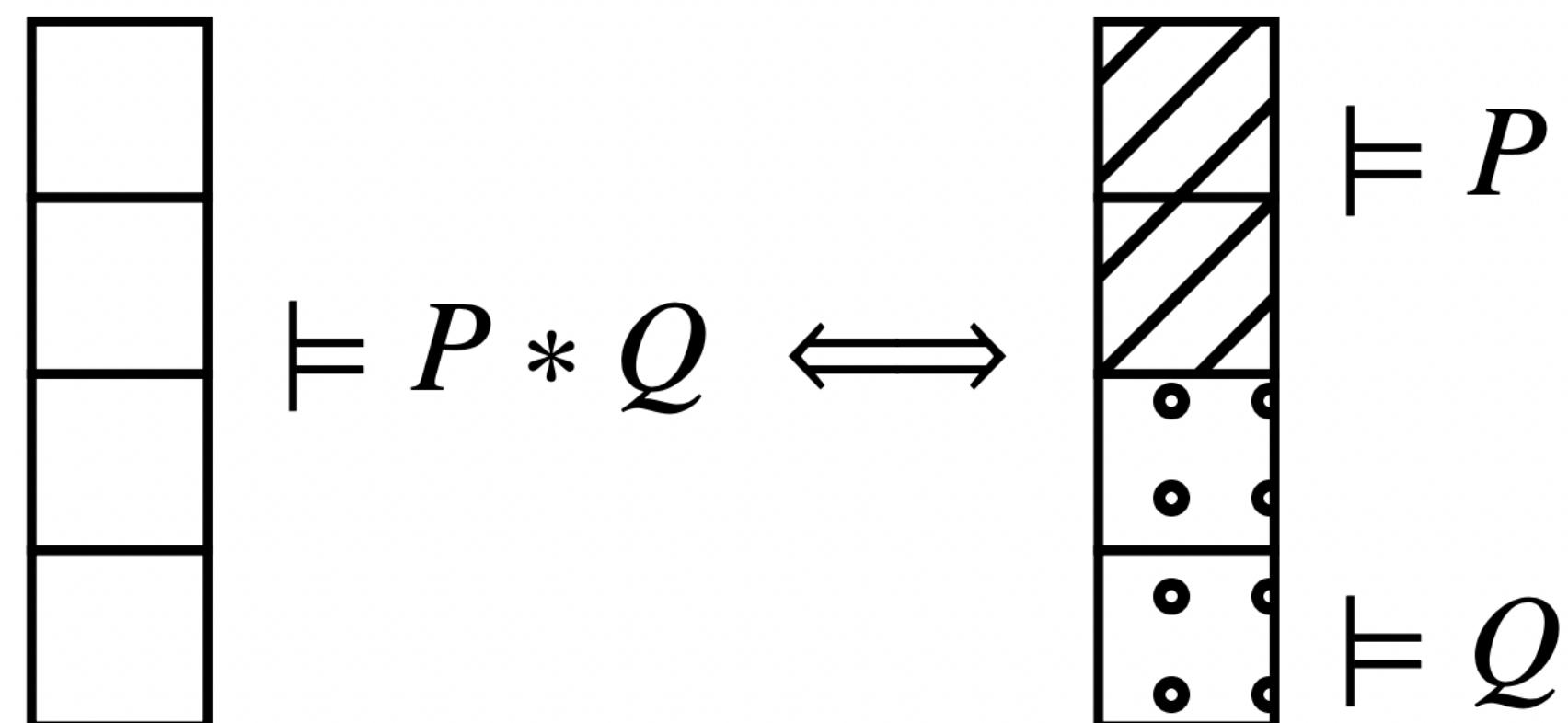
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where \oplus takes the **independent product** of two distributions.

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Theorem

$\mu \models \langle X \rangle * \langle Y \rangle$ iff X, Y are independent in μ .

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$\mu \models \langle X \rangle$ iff there exists S such that $\mu \in \mathcal{D}[S]$ and $X \in S$.

Theorem

$\mu \models \langle X \rangle * \langle Y \rangle$ iff X, Y are independent in μ .

How do we adapt this logic
for capturing conditional
independence?

DIBI: Dependence and Independence BI [Bao et al. 2021]

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$$P, Q ::= p \in \mathcal{AP} \mid \top \mid \perp \mid P \wedge Q \mid P \vee Q \mid P \Rightarrow Q \mid P * Q \mid \textcolor{red}{P} ; Q$$

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A new non-commutative conjunction for modeling dependence: 

read “ $P ; Q$ ” as “ Q may depend on P ”

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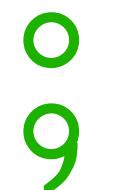
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$$\frac{P \vdash R \quad Q \vdash S}{P ; Q \vdash R ; S} ;\text{-CONJ}$$

DIBI Model for Conditional Independence

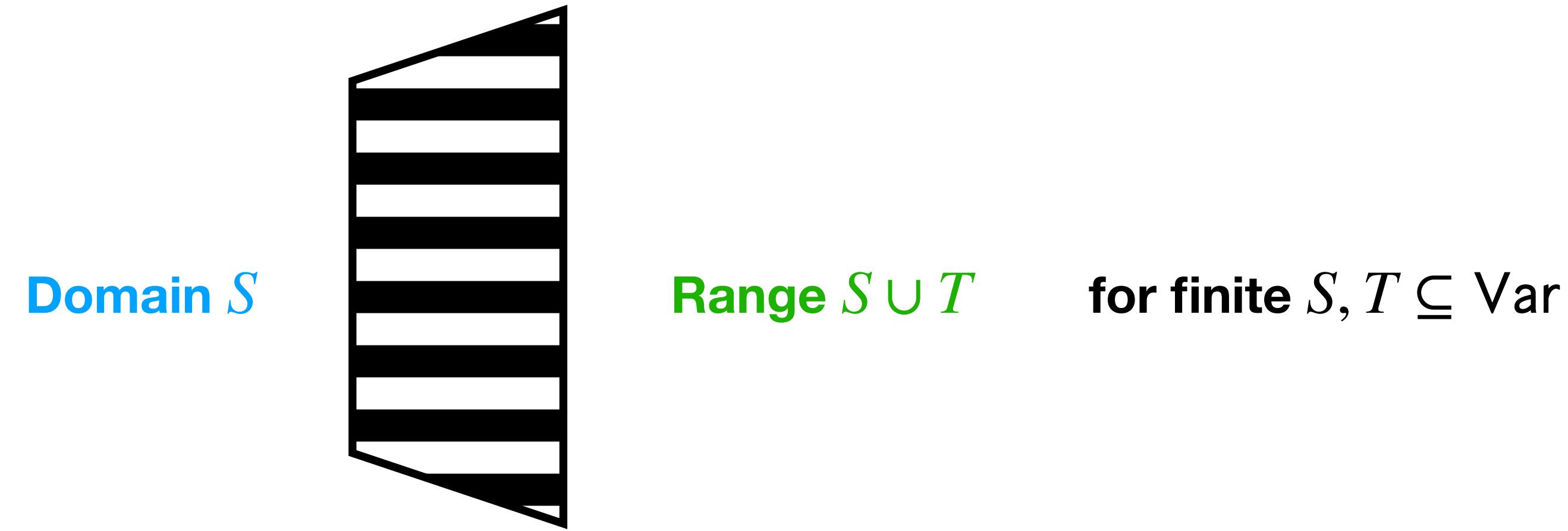
DIBI Model for Conditional Independence

Kripke Semantics Definition

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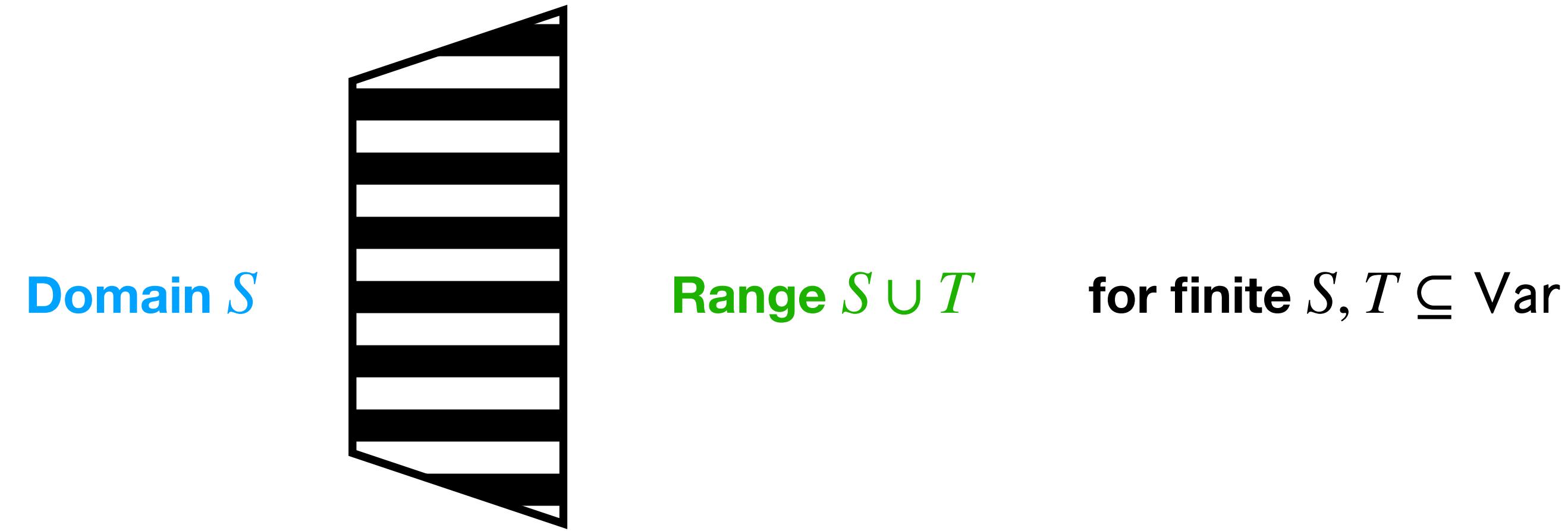
Let states be the set of kernels:



DIBI Model for Conditional Independence

Kripke Semantics Definition

Let states be the set of kernels:



We can lift any distribution μ to a kernel f by defining $f = [\emptyset] \mapsto \mu$

Semantics

Semantics

Atomic Proposition

Semantics

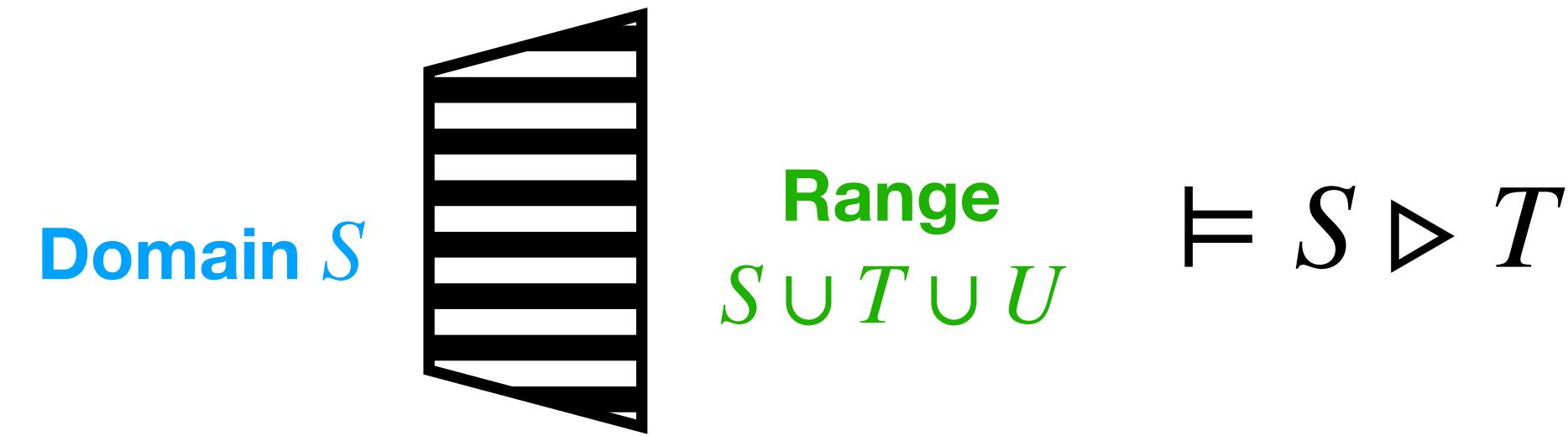
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$f \models S \triangleright T$ if the domain of f is **exactly** S and the range of f **includes** T .

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Atomic Proposition

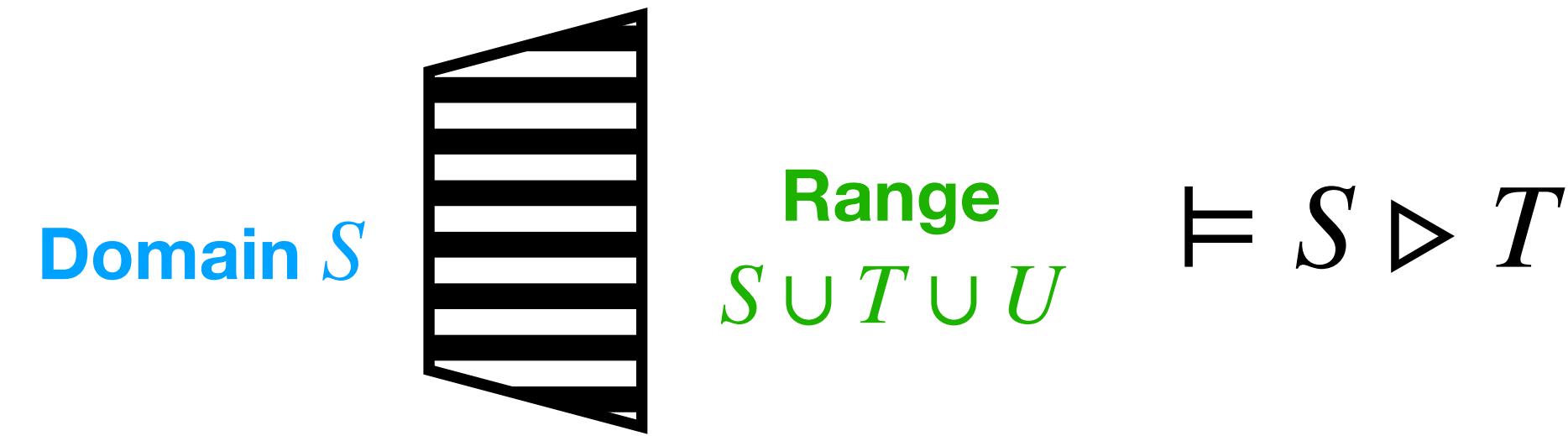
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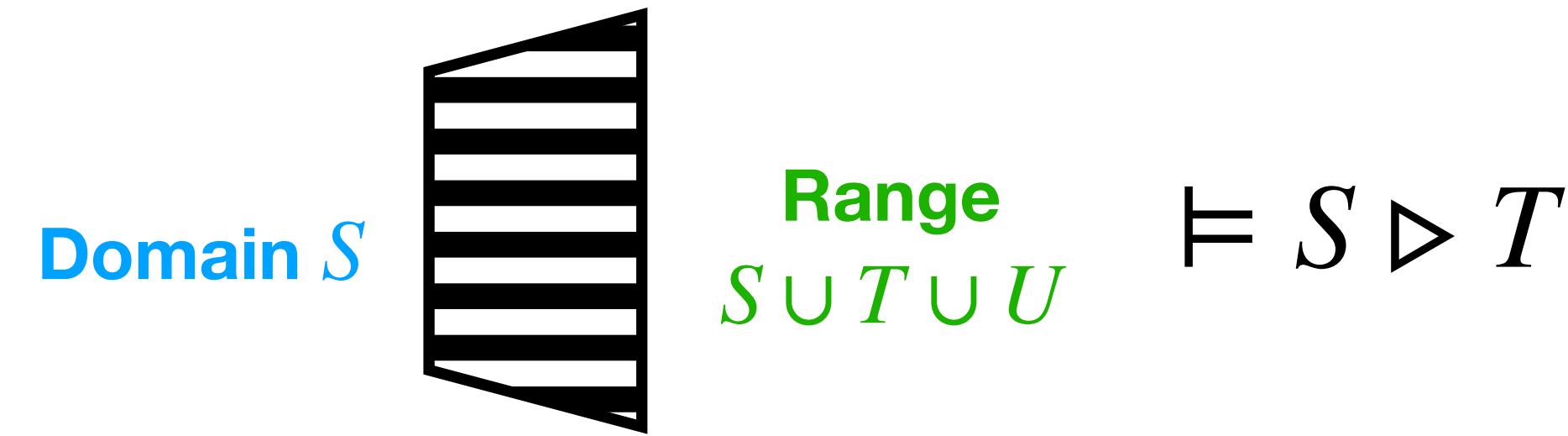
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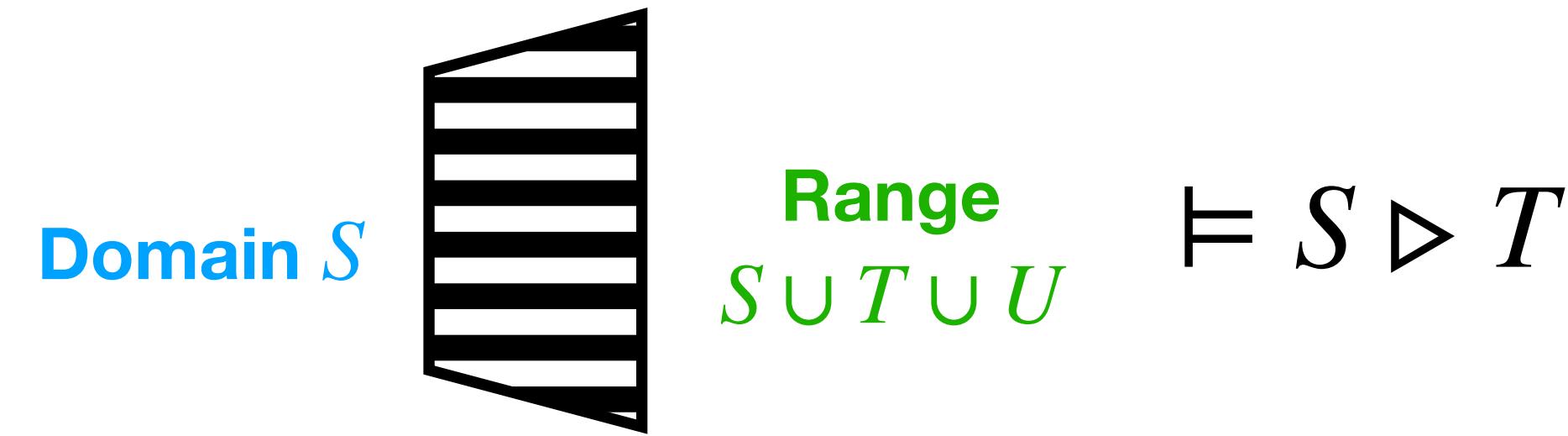


Satisfaction Rules

Semantics

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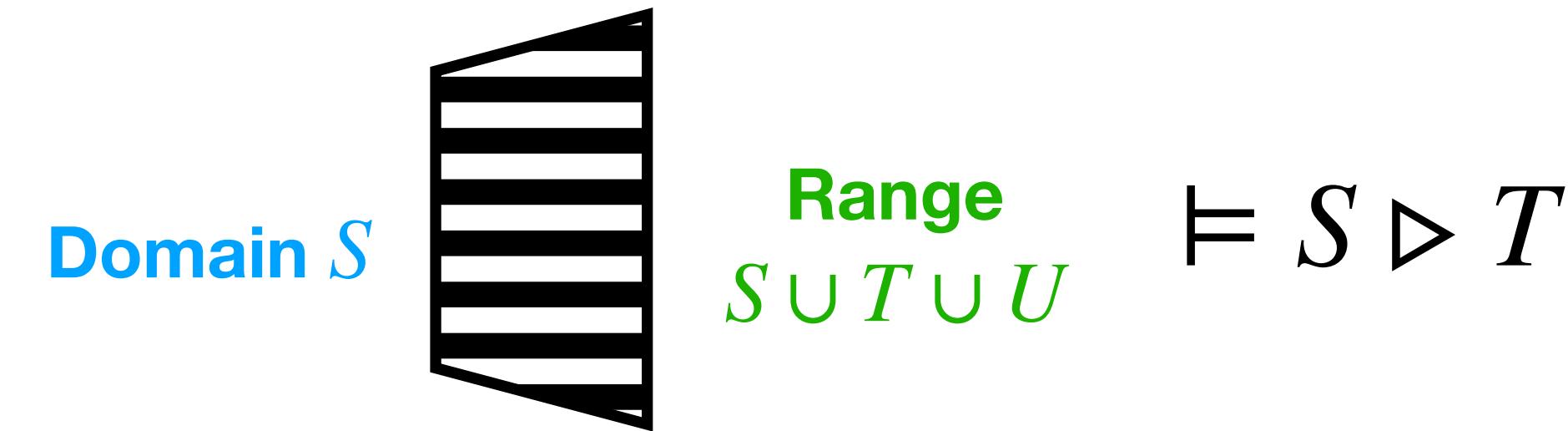


Satisfaction Rules

$f \models P * Q$ iff there exist f_1, f_2 such that $f_1 \models P, f_2 \models Q$ and $f_1 \oplus f_2 = \mu$.

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$f \models P ; Q$ iff there exist f_1, f_2 such that $f_1 \models P, f_2 \models Q$ and $f_1 \odot f_2 = f$.

Binary Operator \odot for Interpreting ;

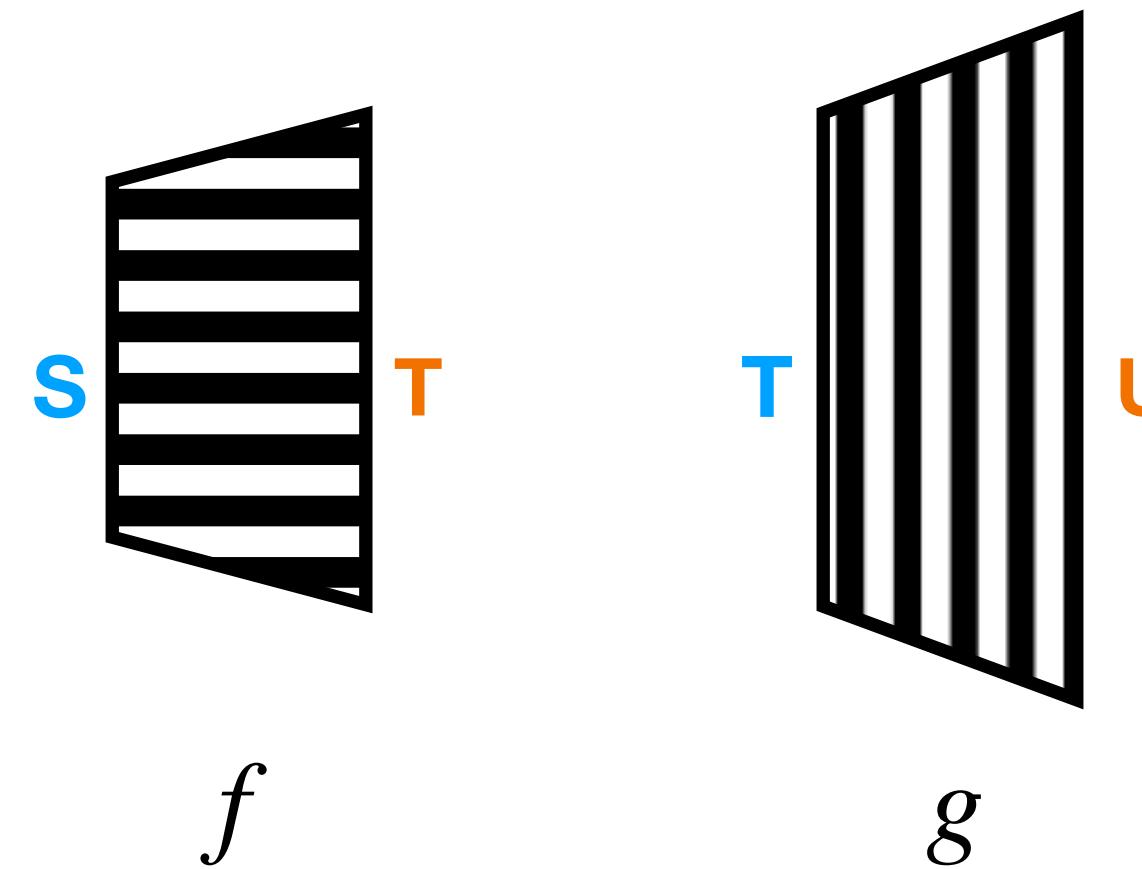
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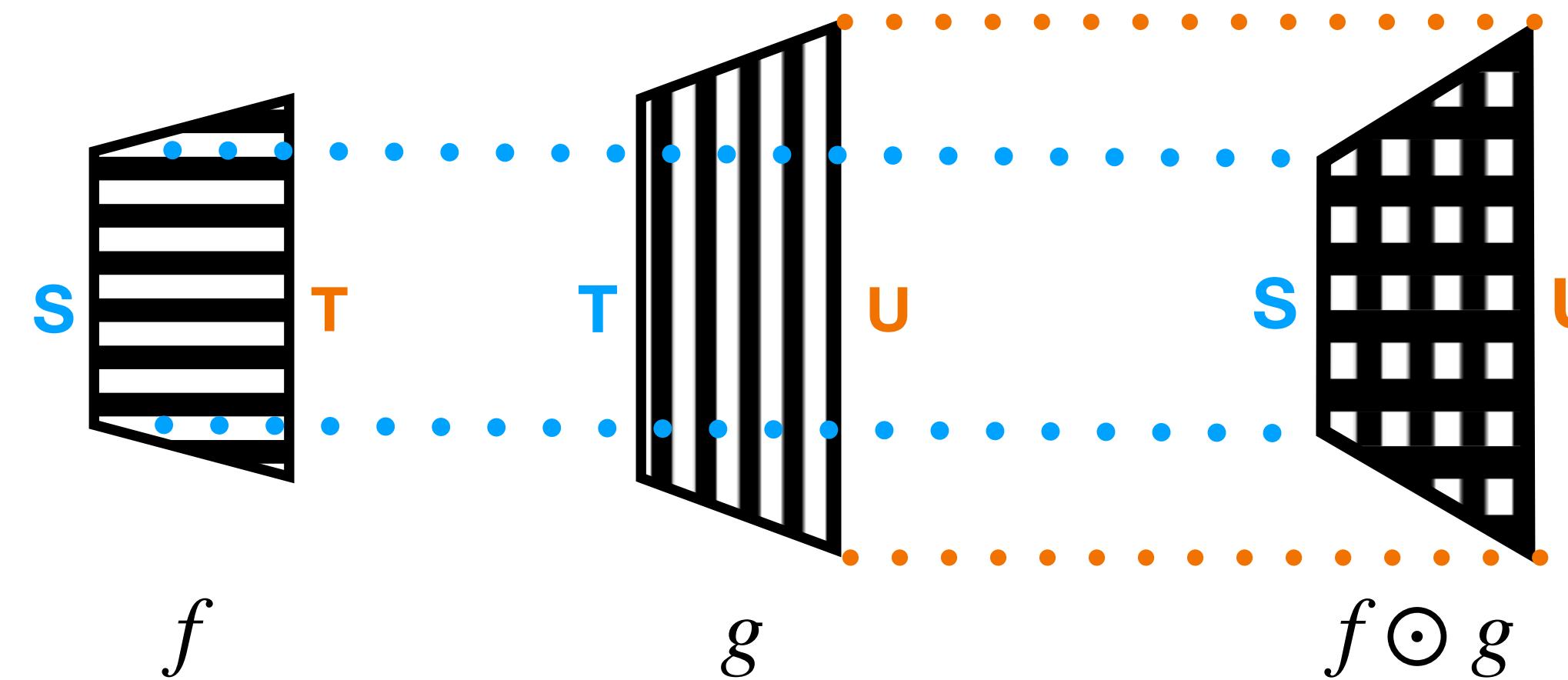
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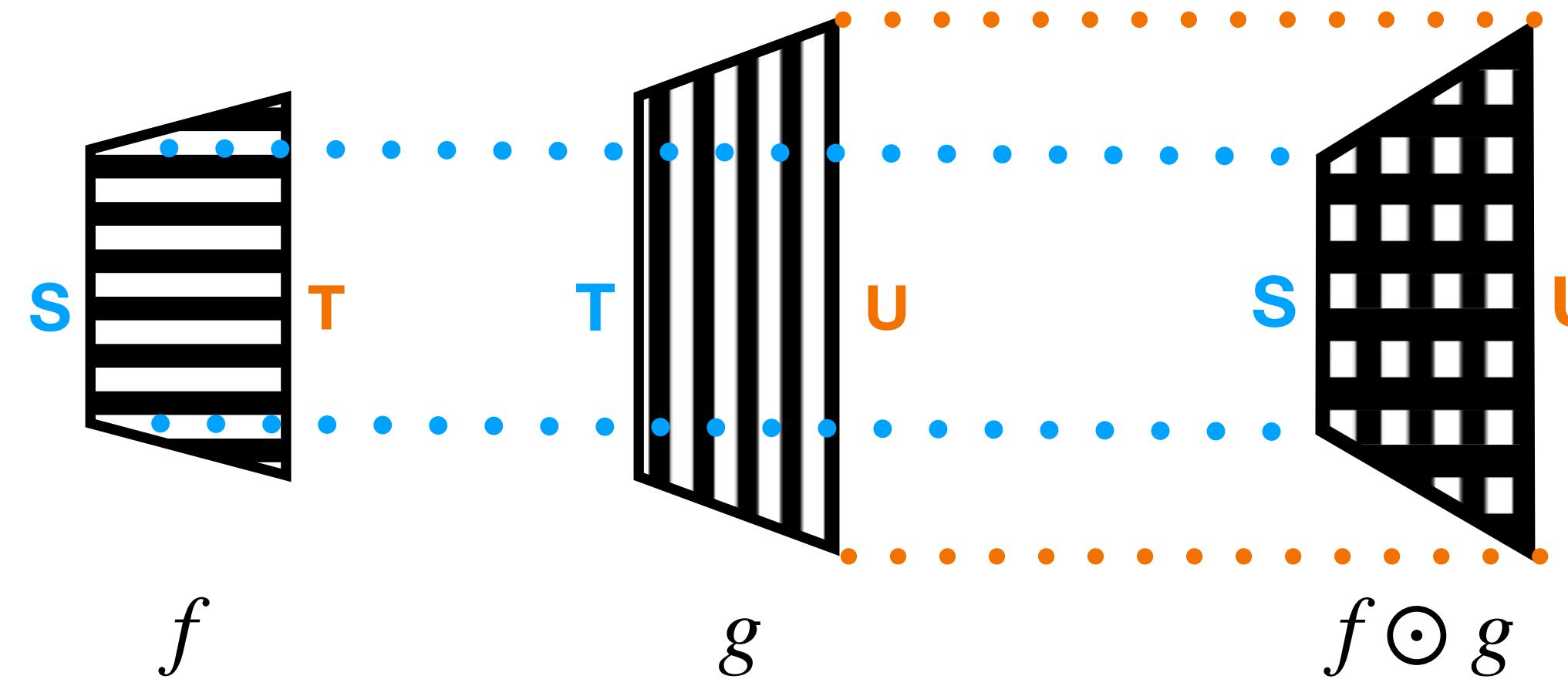
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$$(f \odot g)(s)(u) := \sum_t f(s)(t) \cdot g(t)(u)$$

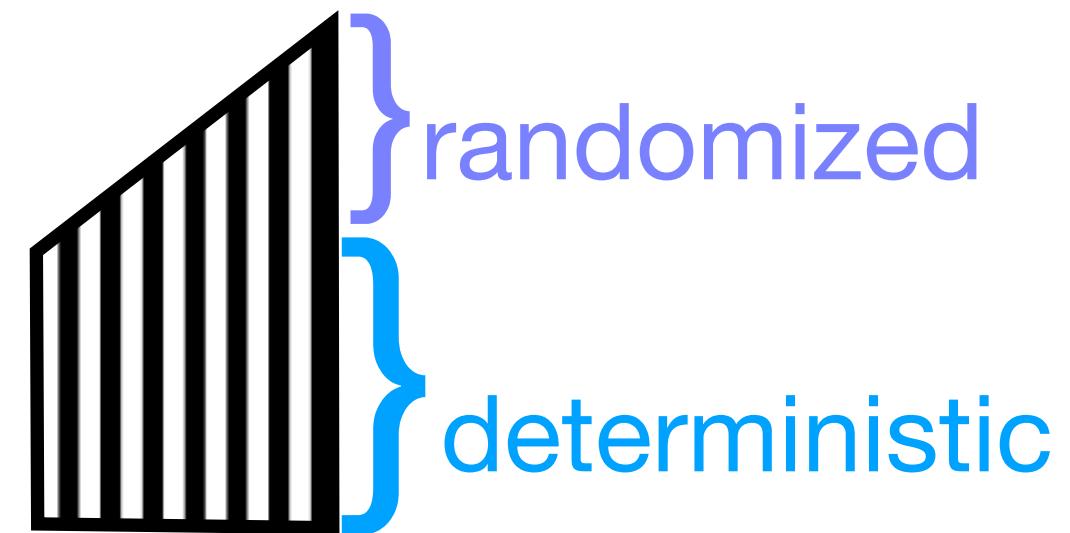
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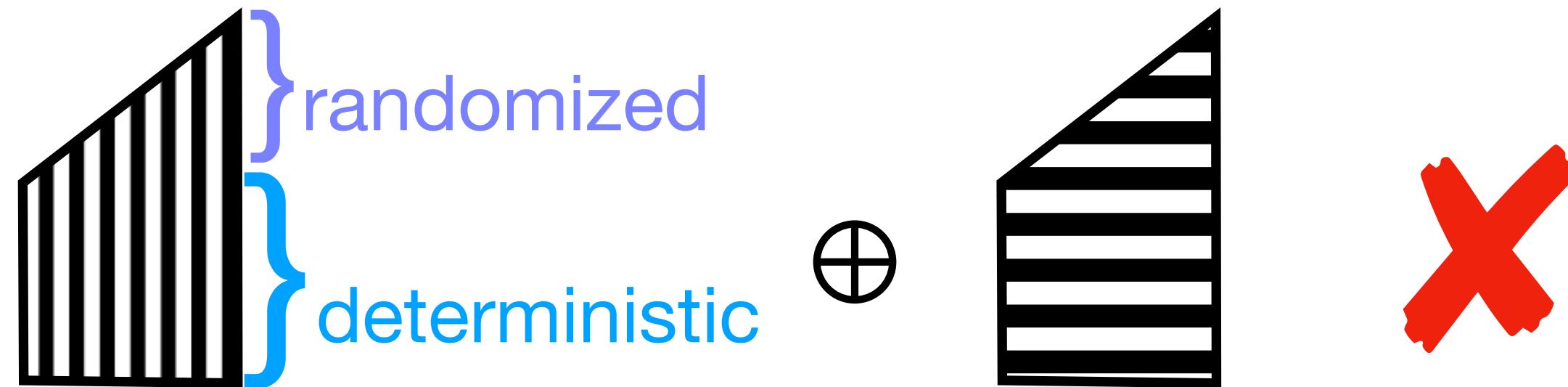
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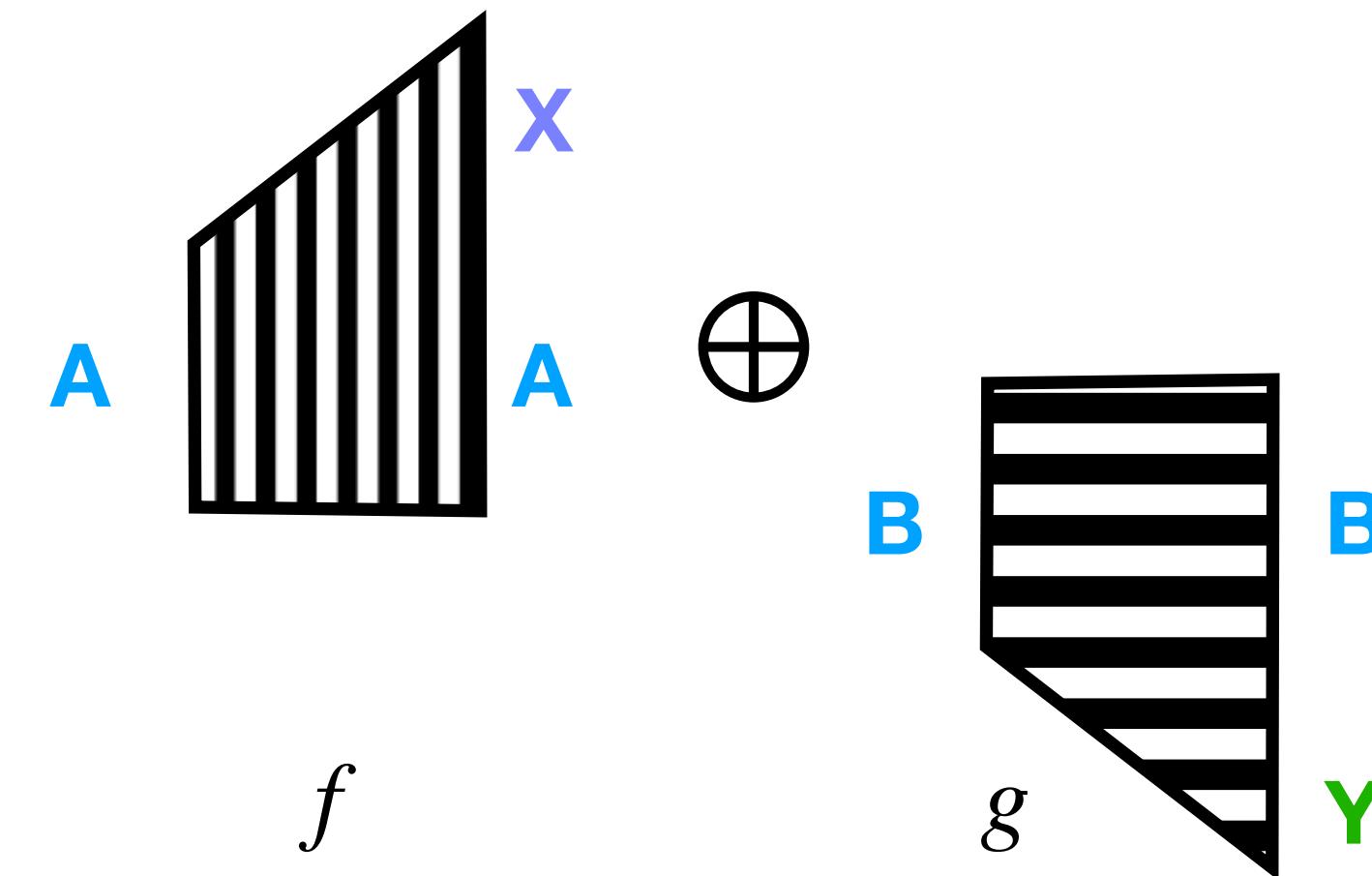
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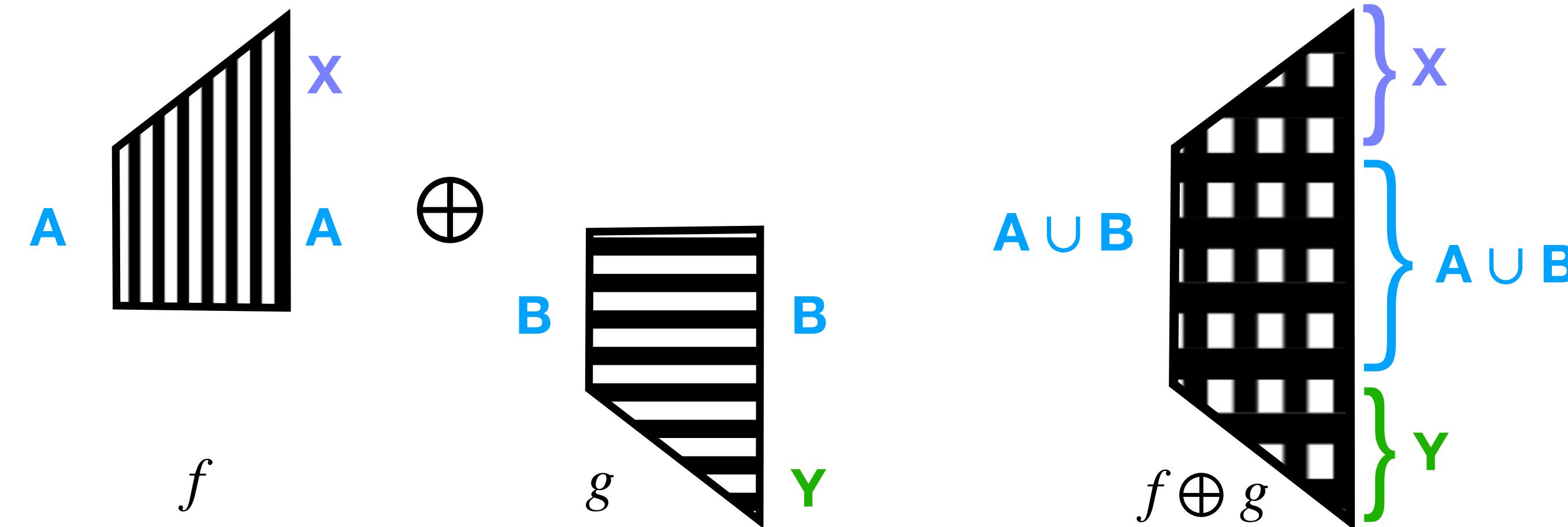
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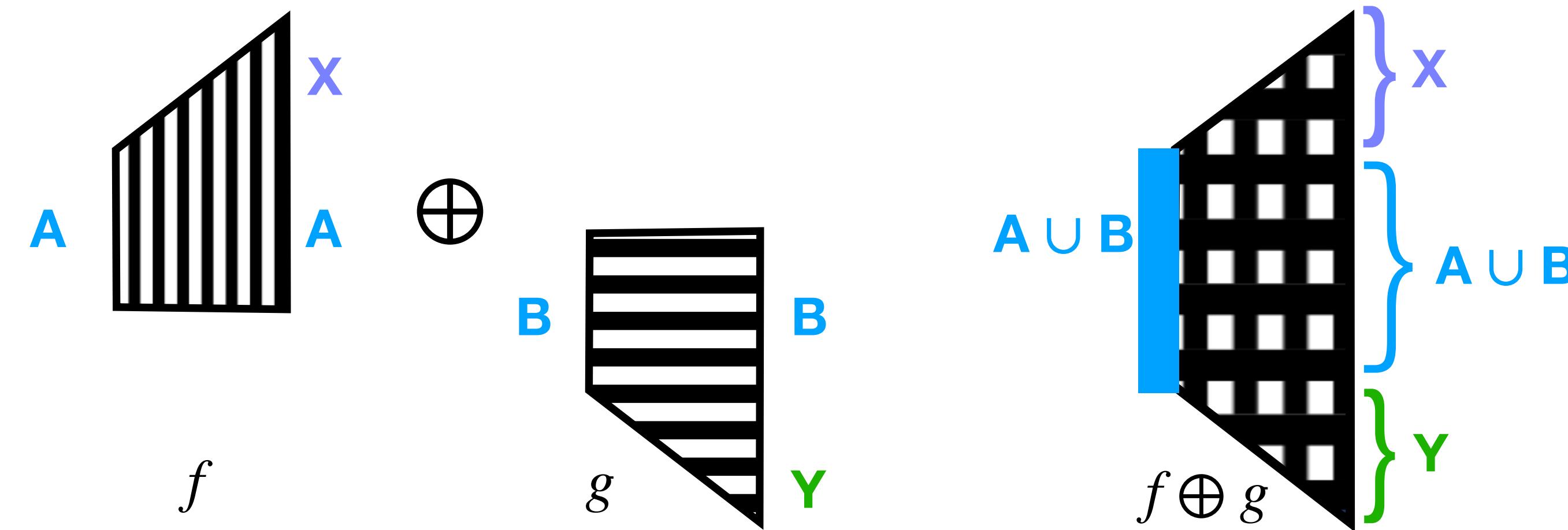
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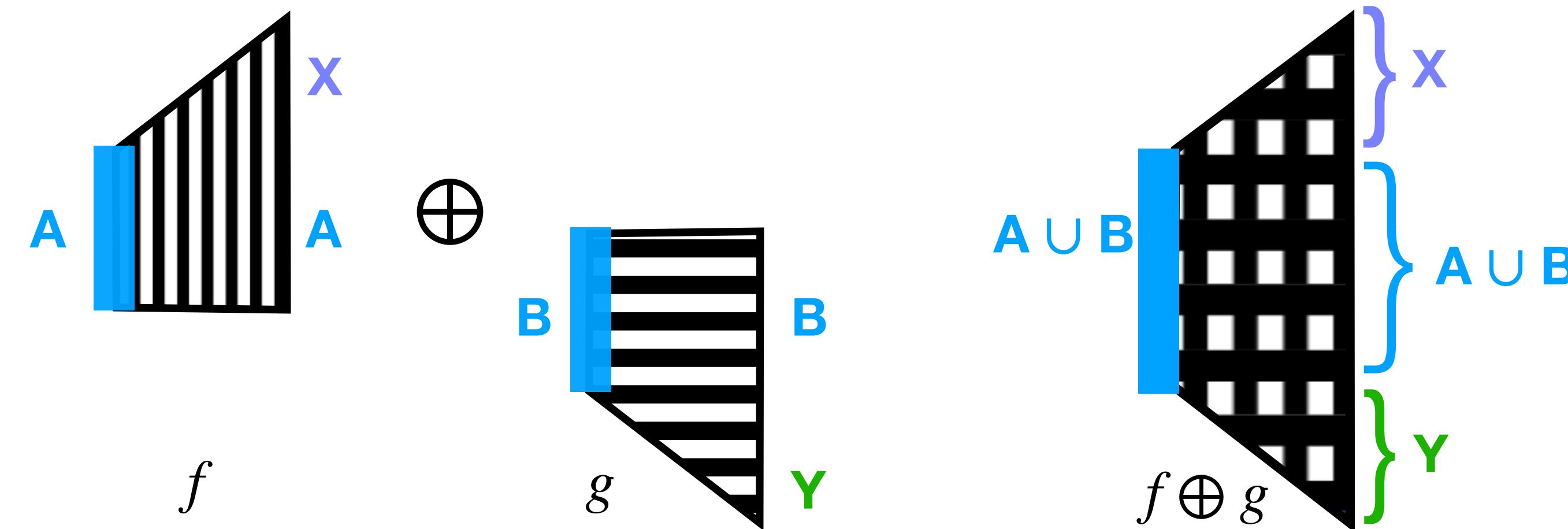
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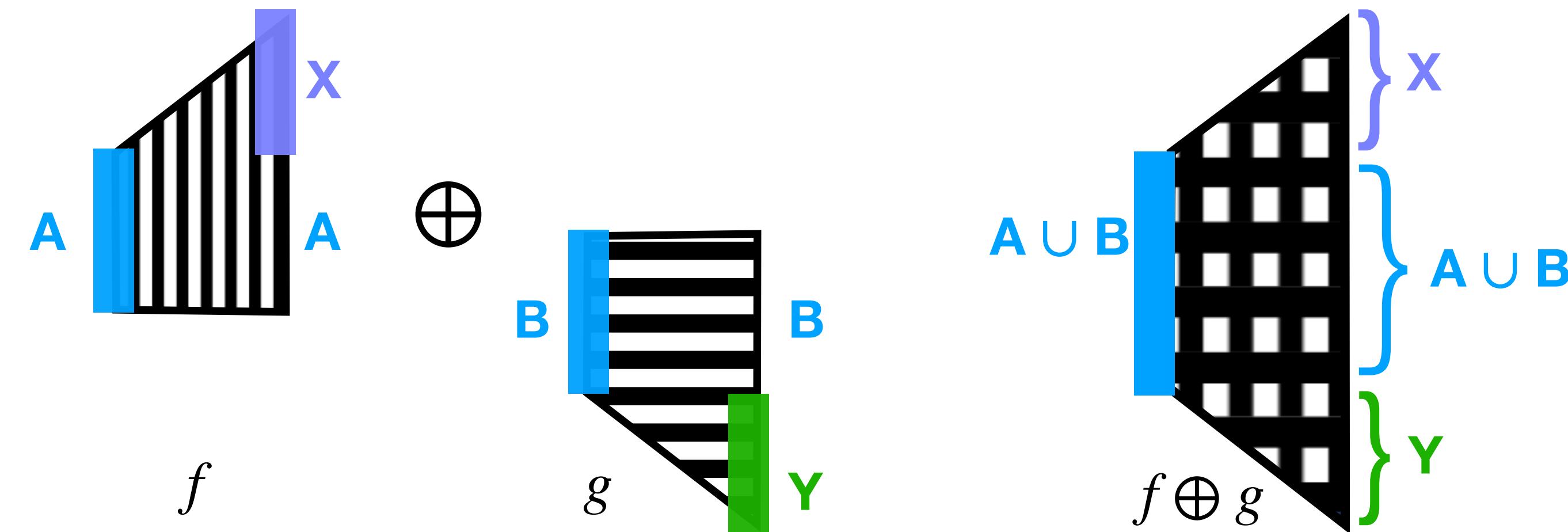
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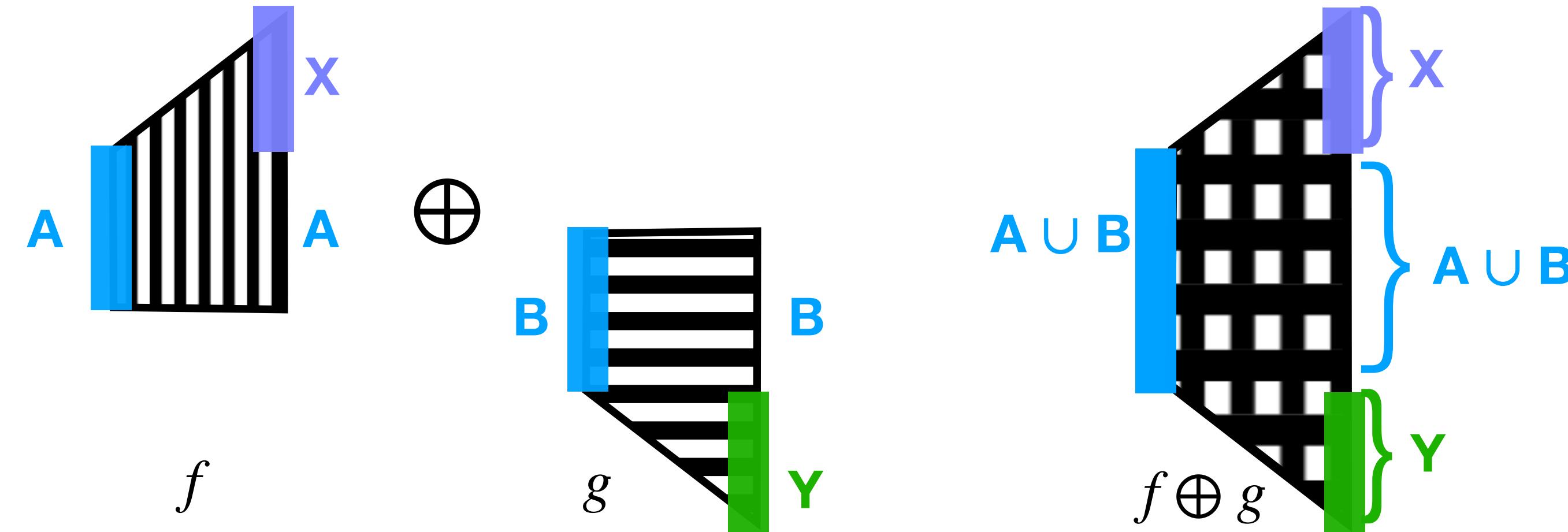
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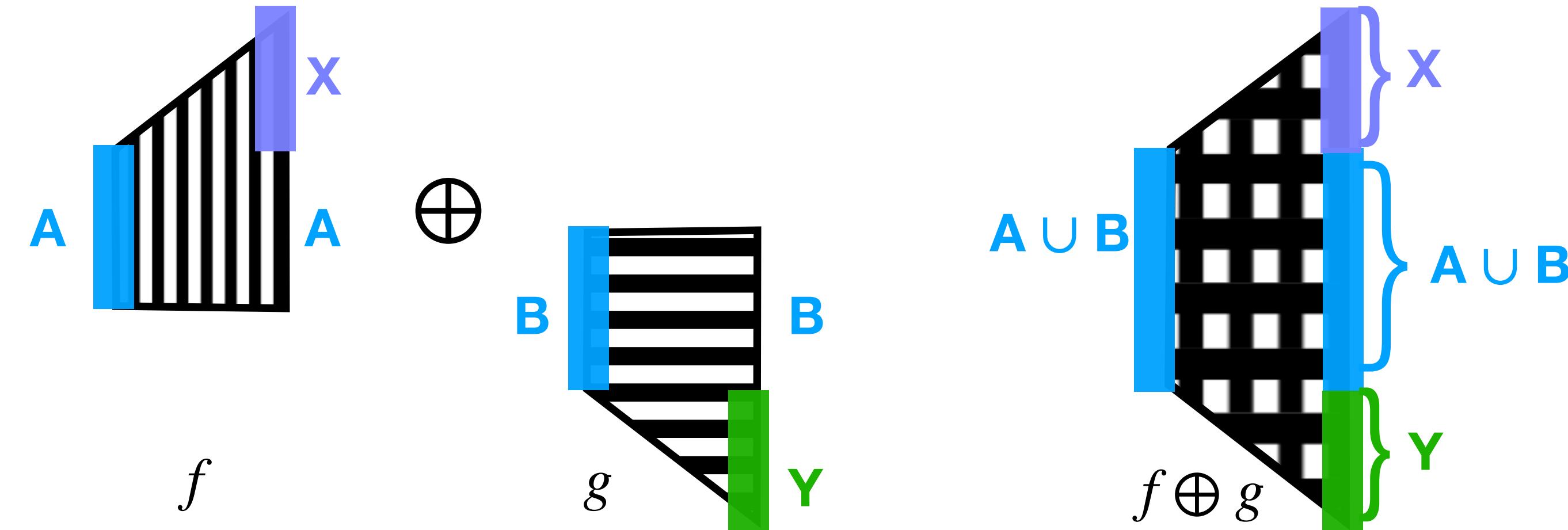
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Assert Conditional Independence

Theorem.

In the probabilistic DIBI, X, Y are CI given Z in distribution μ iff

$f \models (\emptyset \triangleright Z); (Z \triangleright X * Z \triangleright Y)$, where $f = [\emptyset] \mapsto \mu$

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$$f = \begin{array}{c} \text{triangle symbol} \\ \odot \\ \text{hexagon symbol} \end{array}$$

$\models \emptyset \triangleright Z$

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A sound and complete assertion logic for CI

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Program Logic

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A program logic for proving CI

Our Contributions

1. a new bunched logic (**DIBI**) with a sound and complete proof system.
2. a probabilistic DIBI model that can capture CI.
3. a Hoare-style program logic to verify CI.
4. a powerset DIBI model that can capture join dependencies.

<https://arxiv.org/pdf/2008.09231>



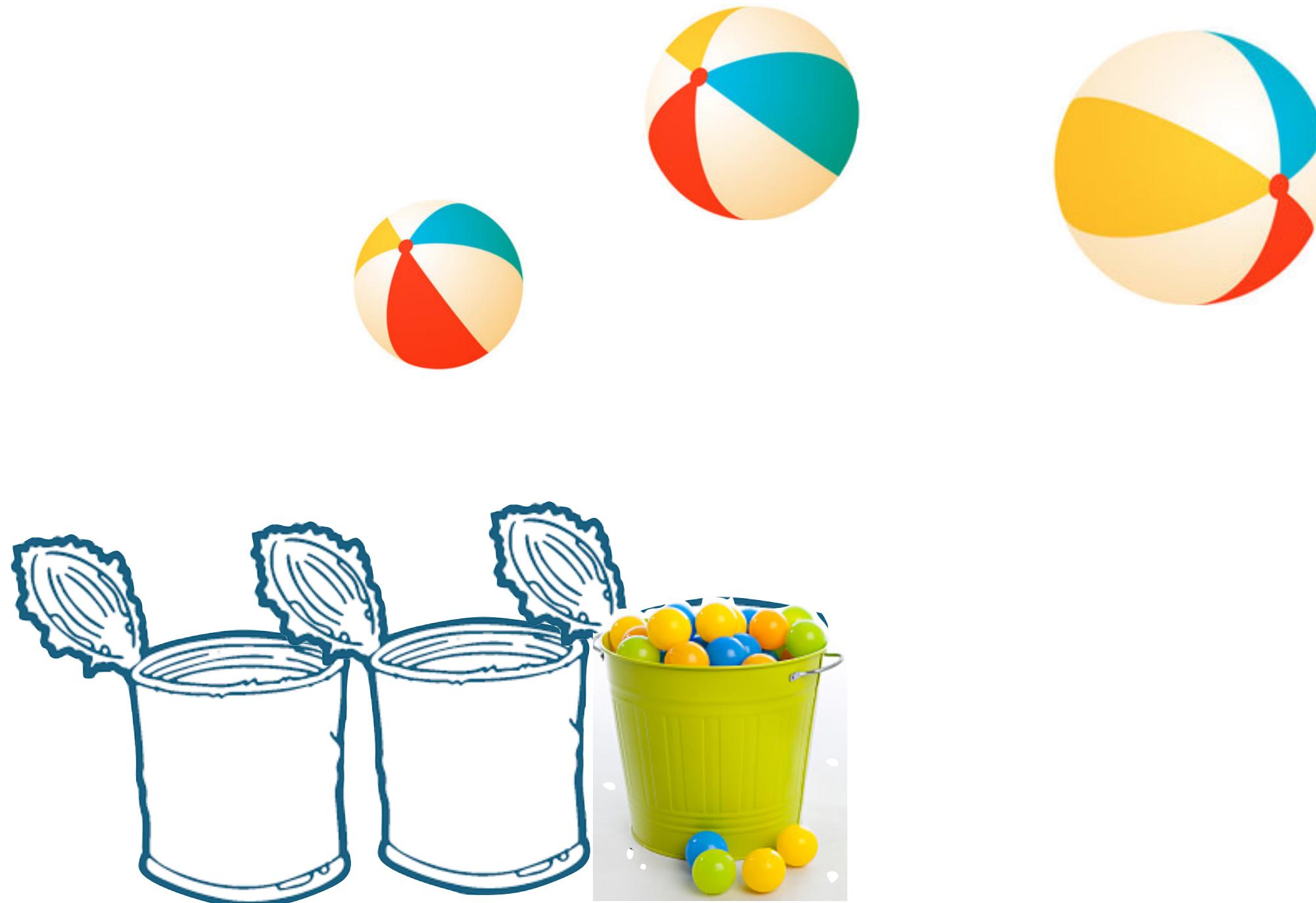
Formally Reasoning about Negative Dependence

Motivating Example: Balls-into-Bins

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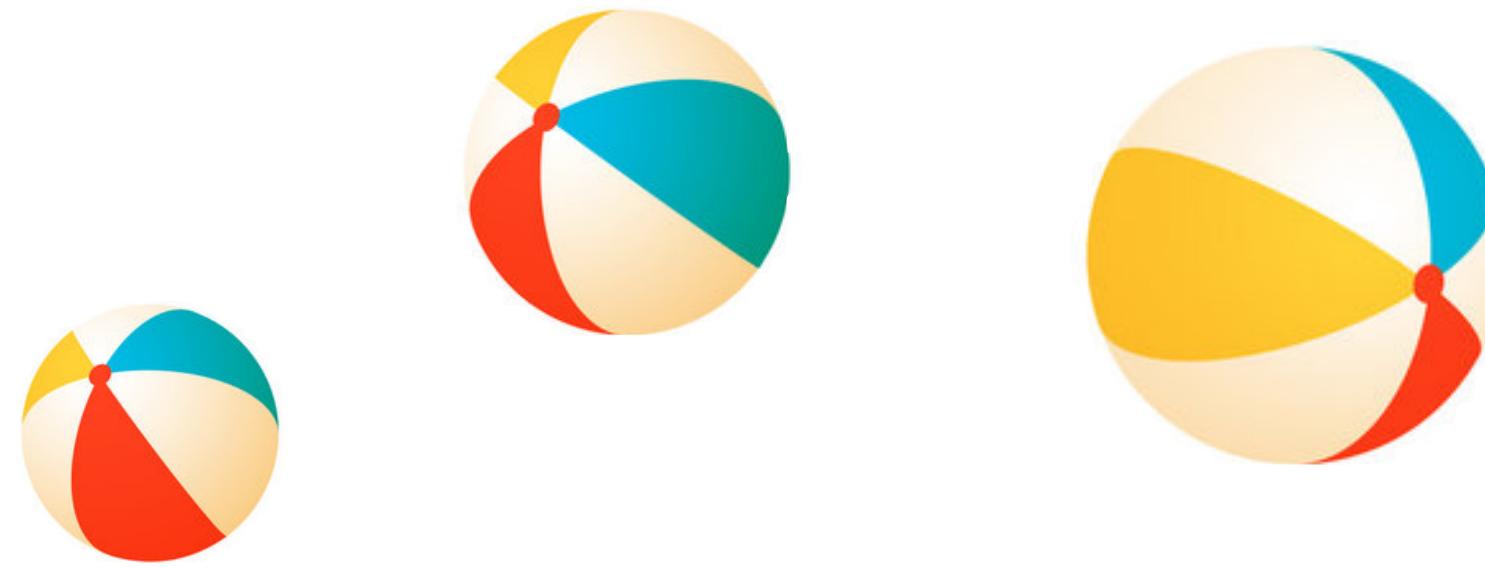


Motivating Example: Balls-into-Bins



$$\mathbb{P}\left[\sum_{bin} \text{overflow}[bin] \geq 2 \right] \leq ?$$

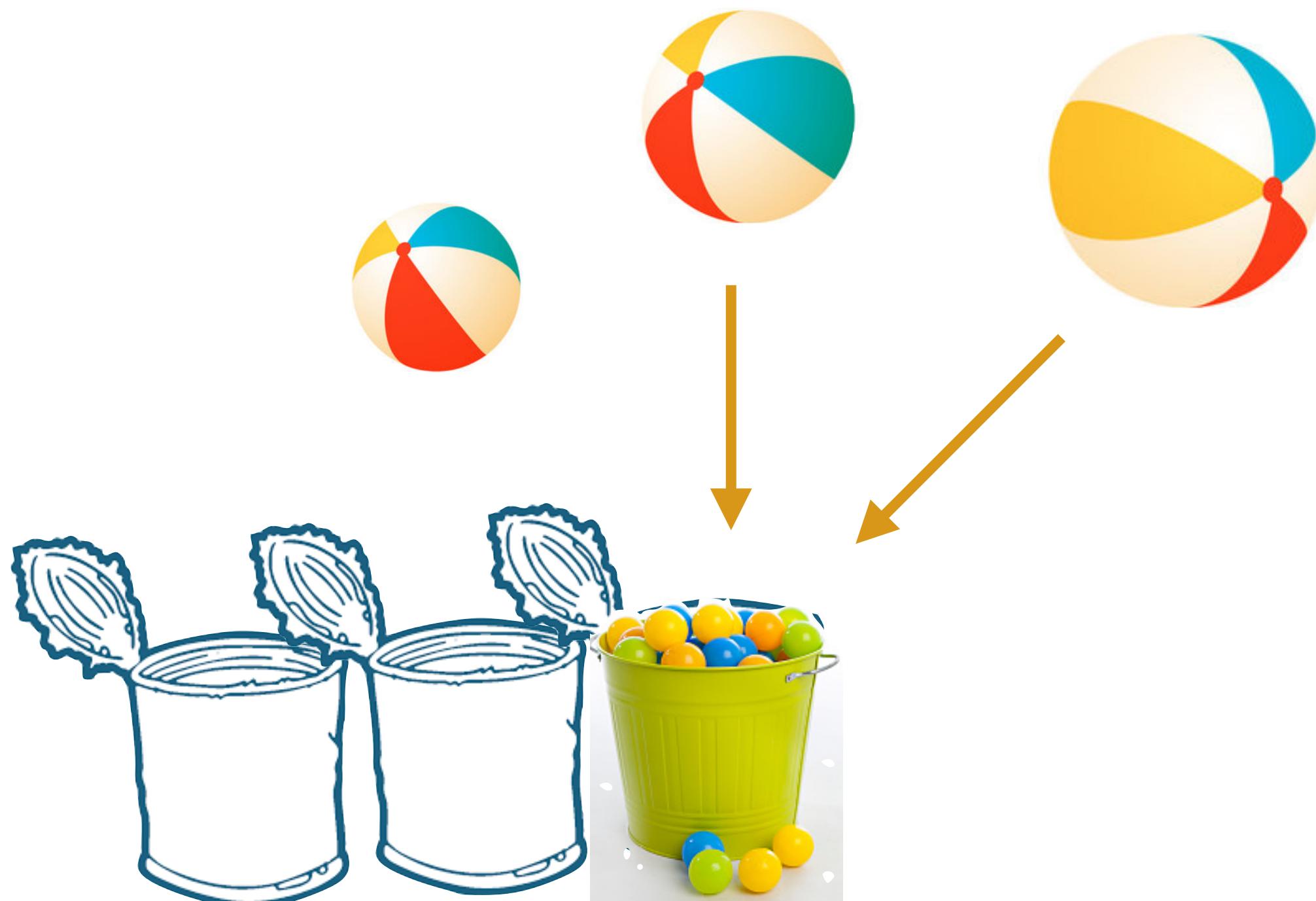
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Intuition: unlikely for many bins to overflow together

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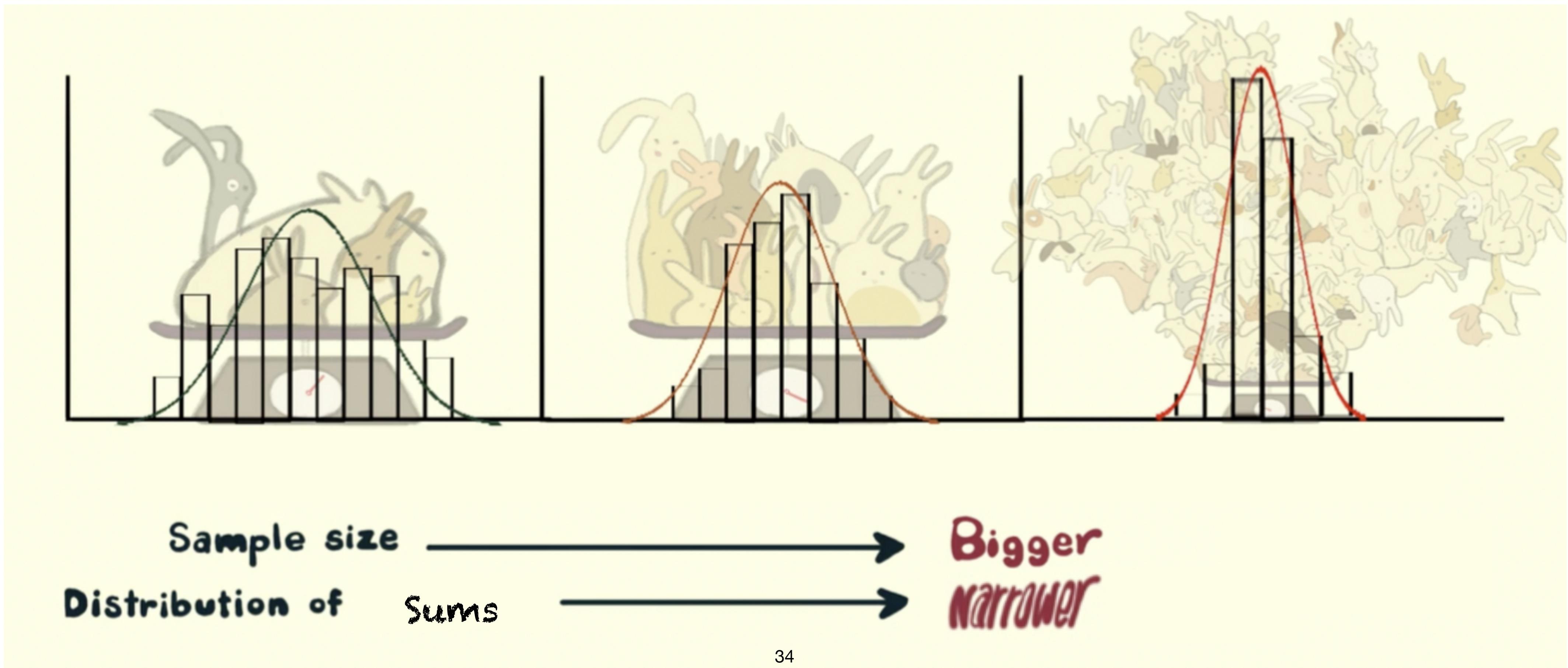
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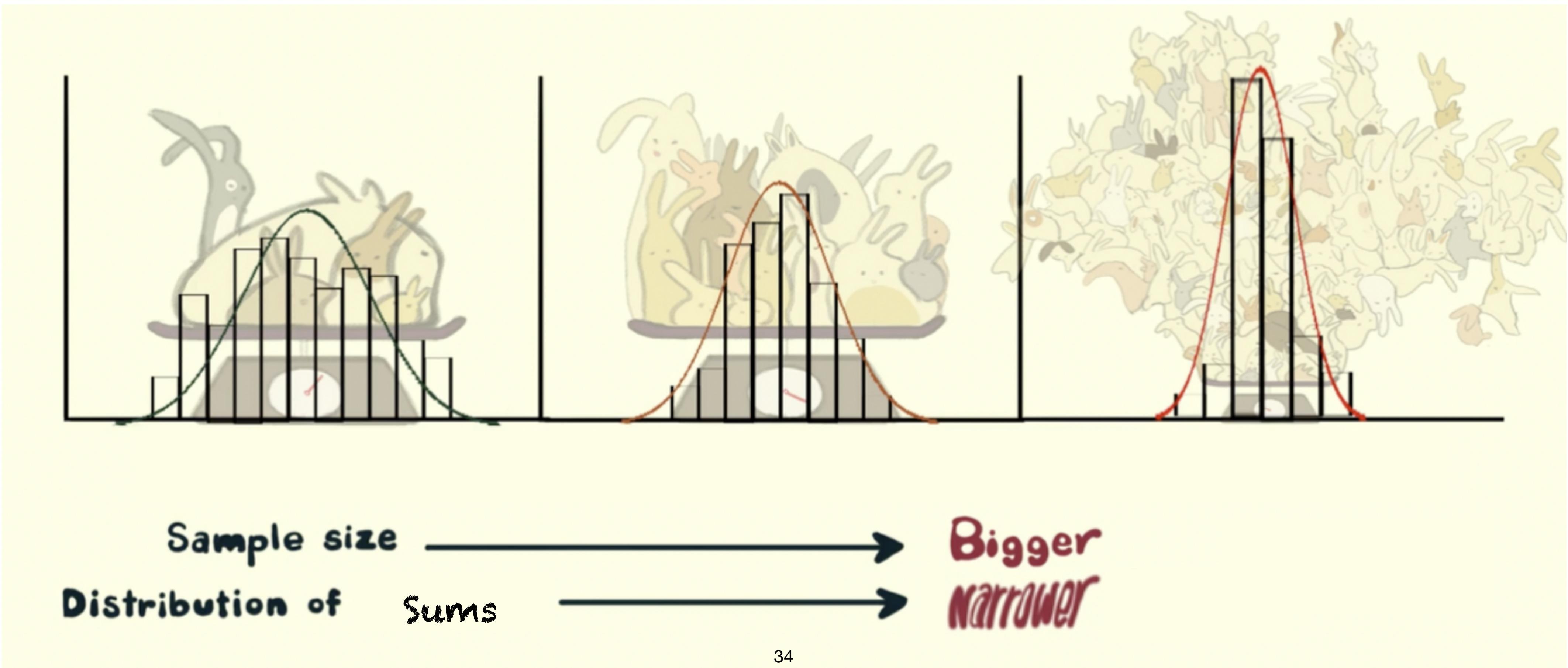
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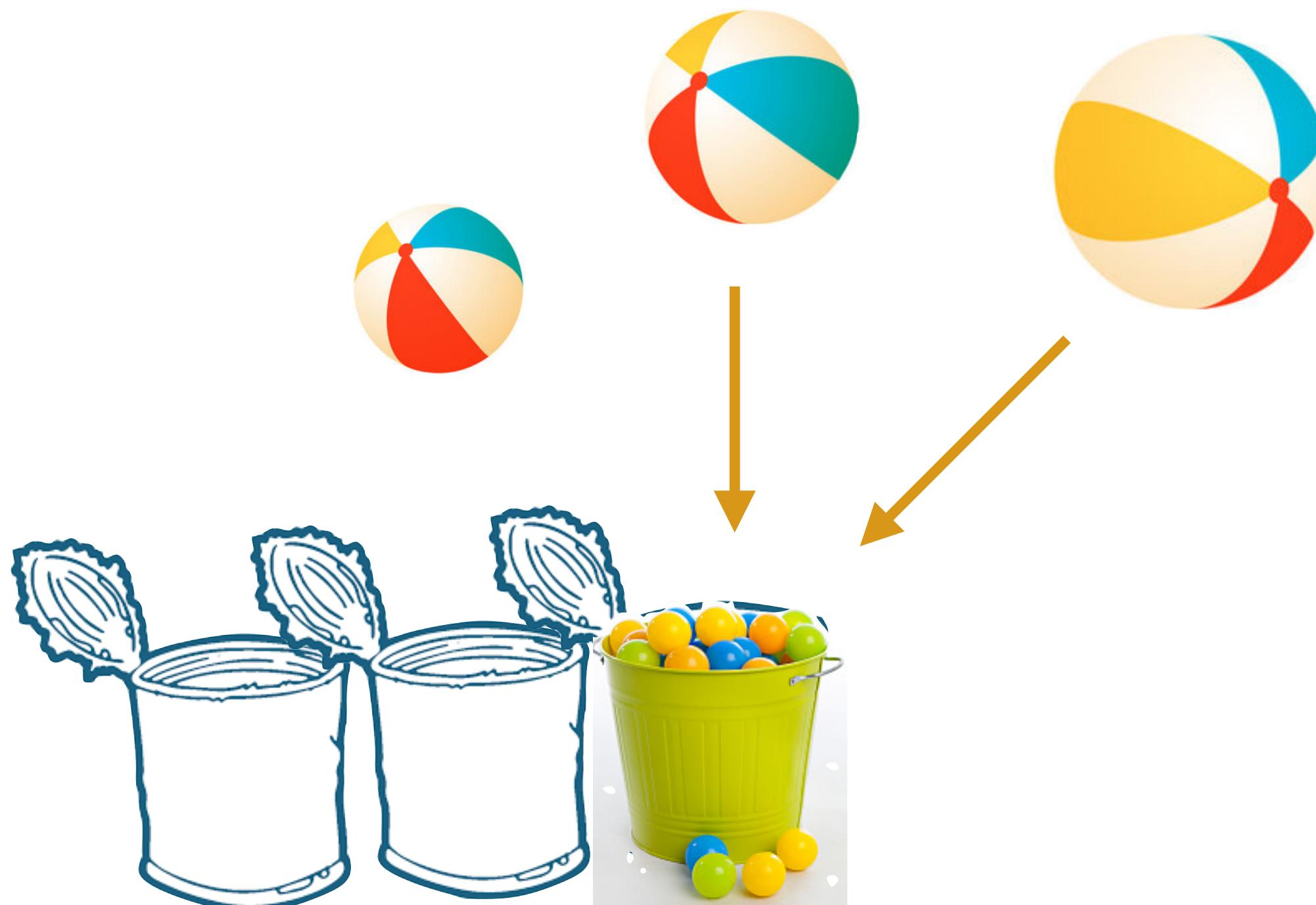


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$$Y = \sum_i^n Y_i, \text{ where } Y_i \text{ are independent, then } \mathbb{P}[|Y - \mathbb{E}[Y]| \geq M] \leq g(n, M)$$



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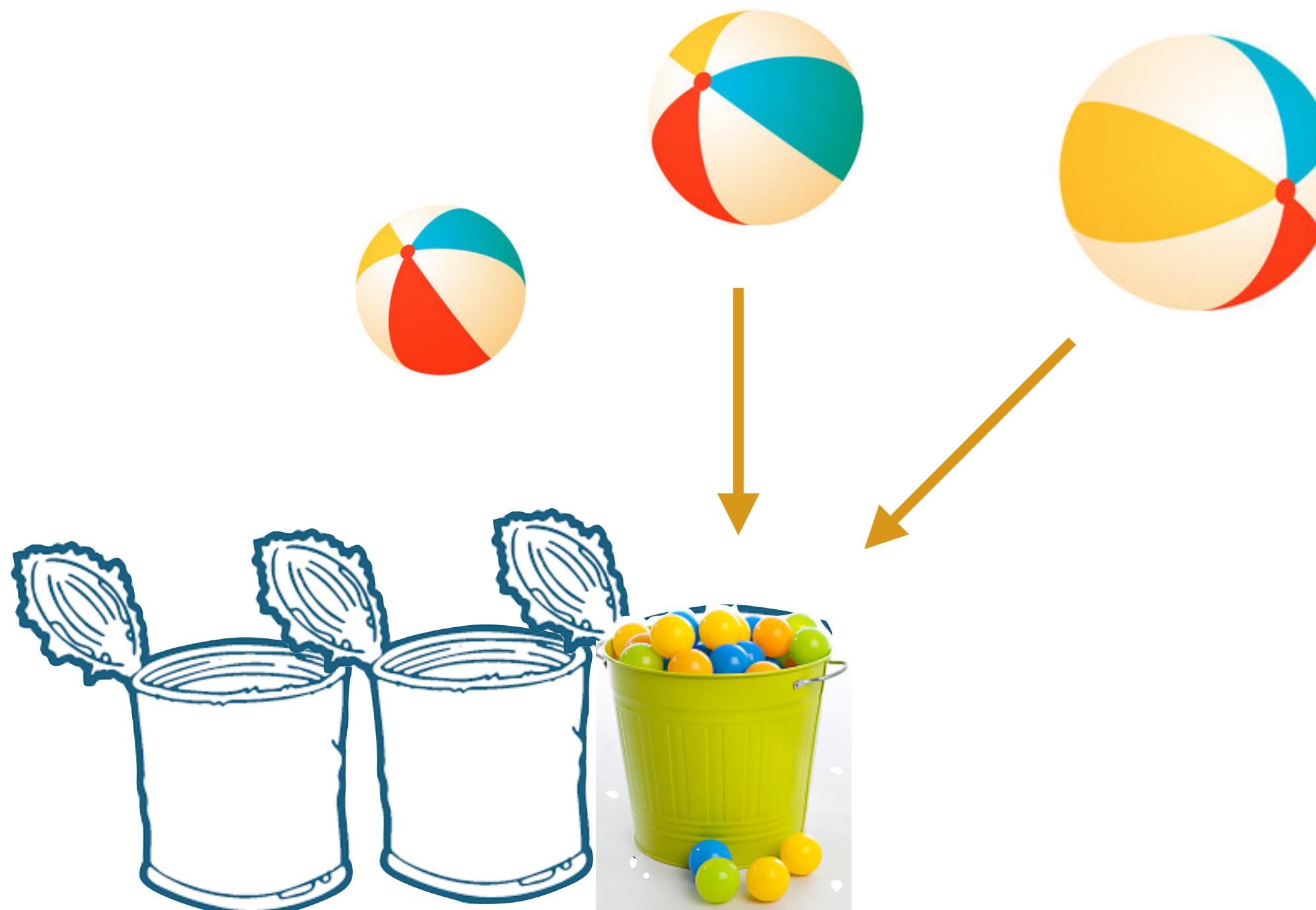


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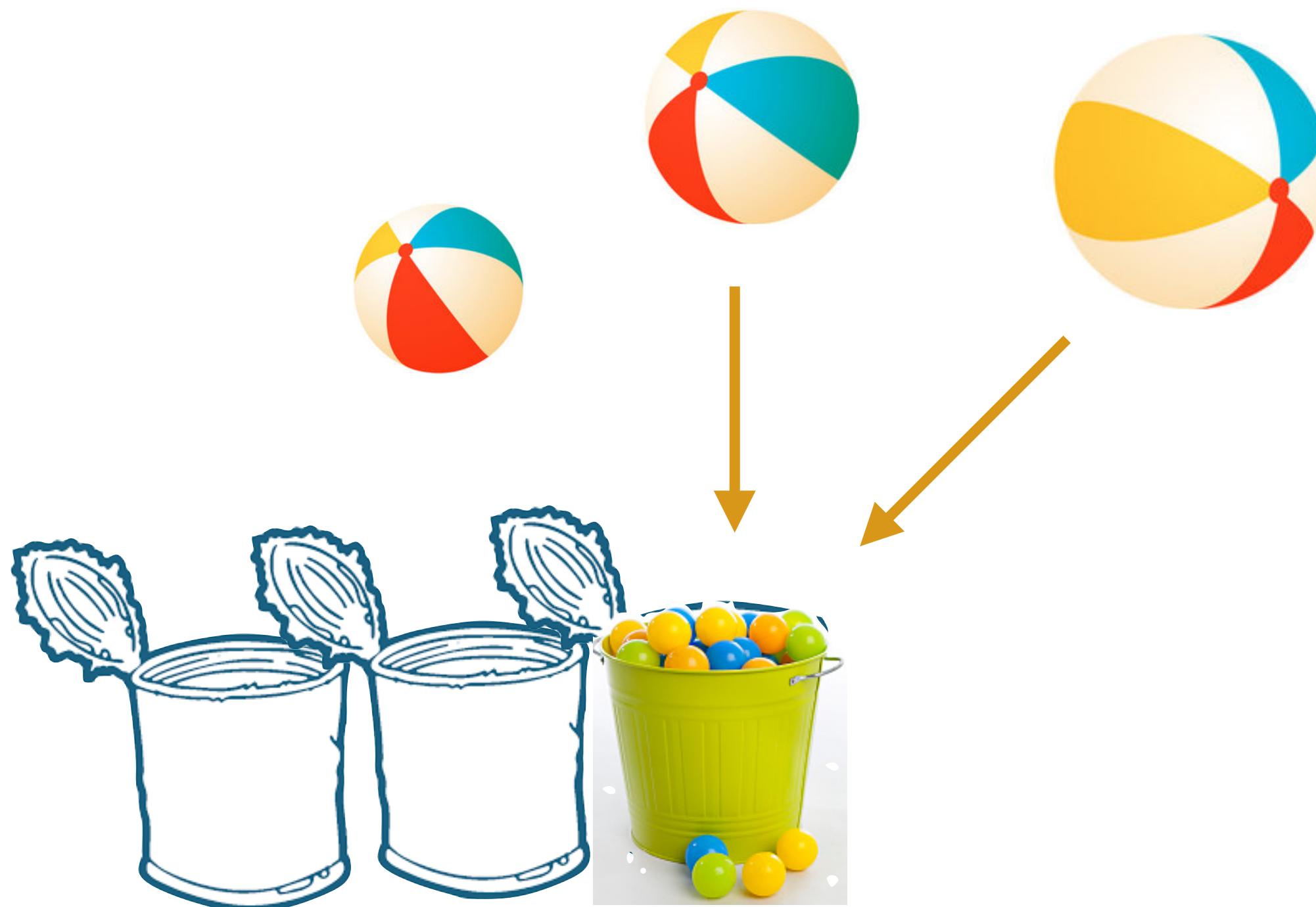
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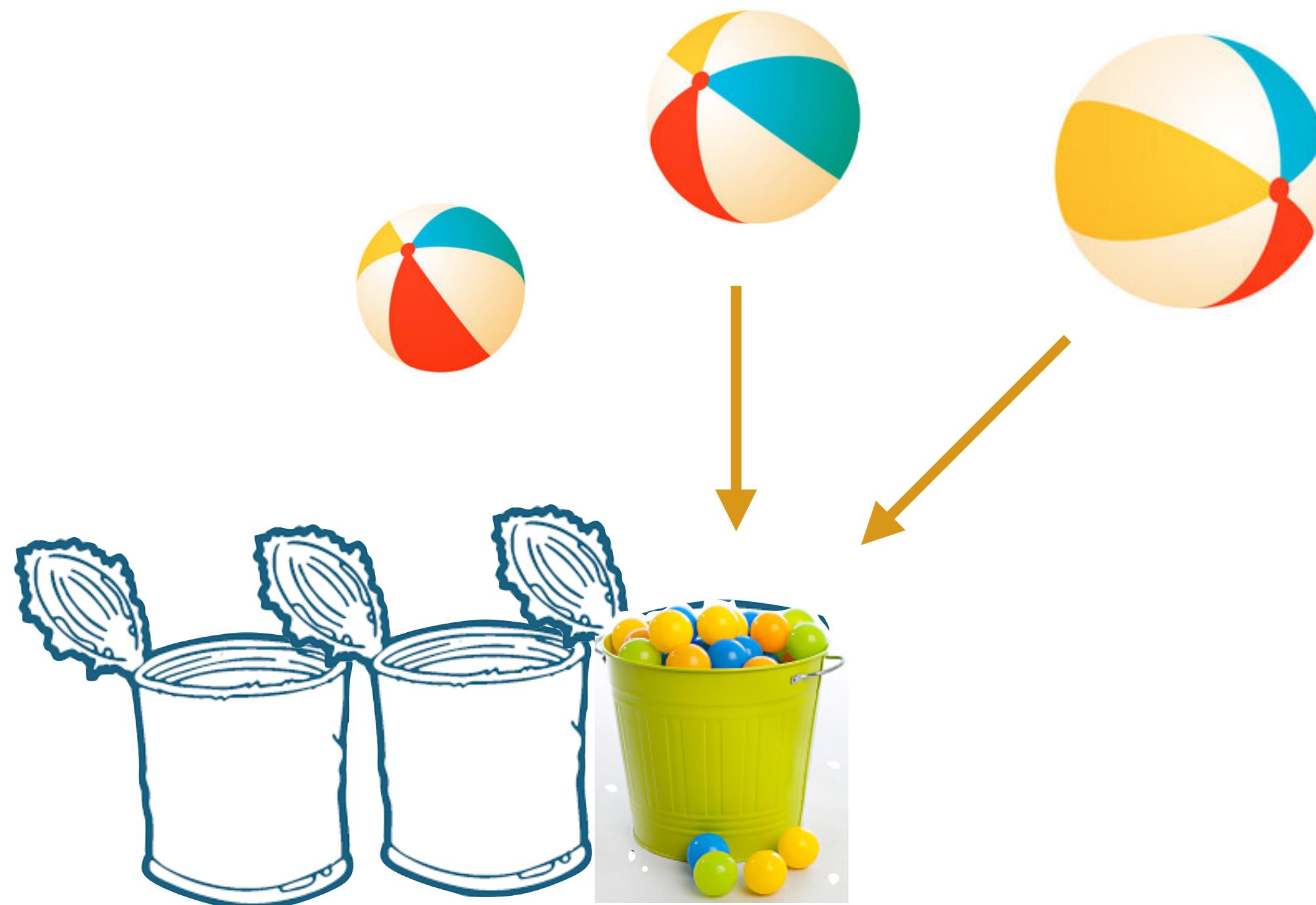
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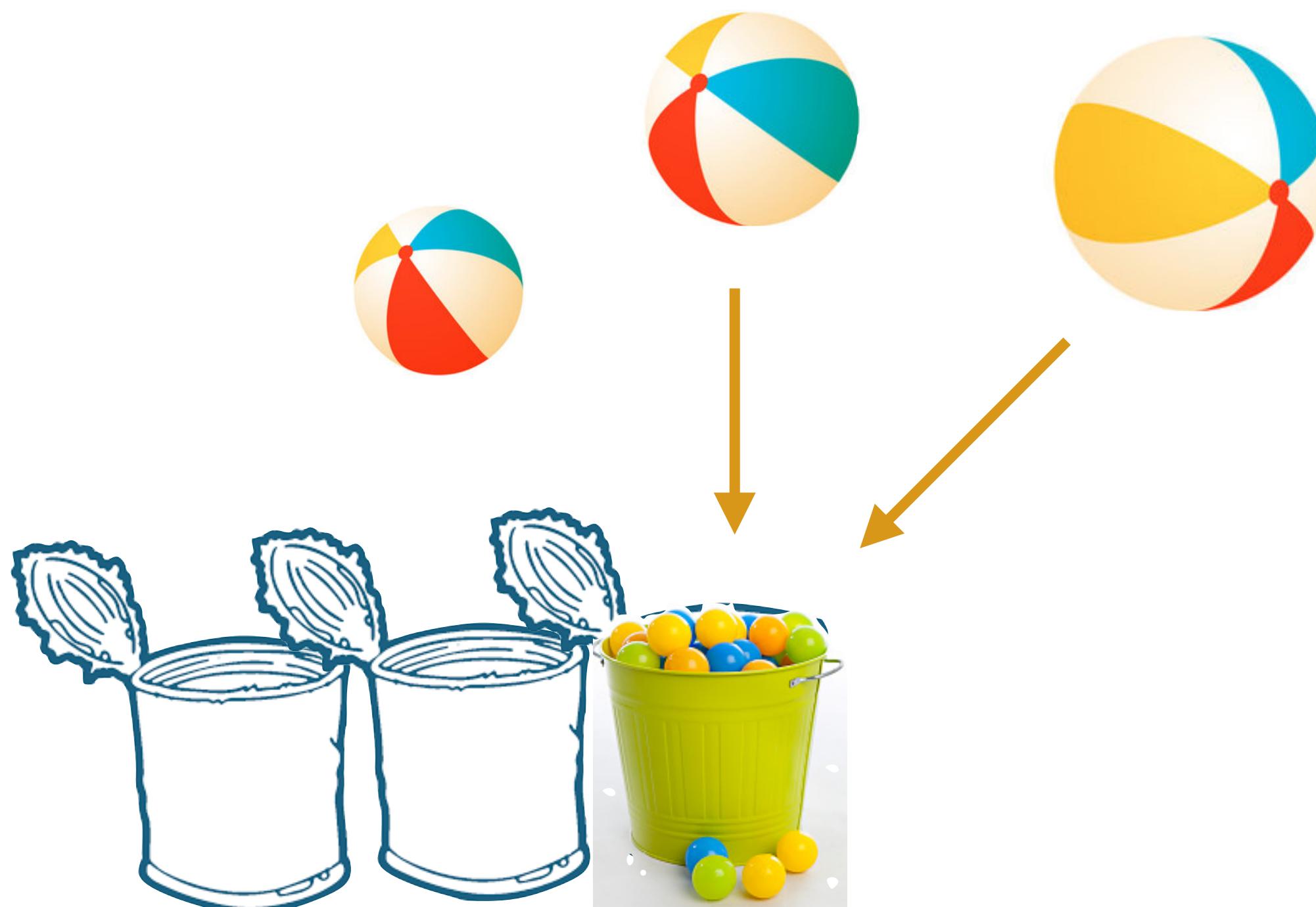
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Our goal: Prove negative dependence formally.

Negative Dependence

Negative Dependence

Negative Covariance

Negative Regression

Negative Association (NA)

Negative Right Orthant Dependence

Negative Quadrant Dependence

Negative Association (NA) [Joag-Dev and Proschan 1983]

Definition

Real-valued random variables X_1, \dots, X_n satisfy NA **iff**

for any disjoint $Y, Z \subseteq \{X_1, \dots, X_n\}$,

for any monotone functions $f : \mathbb{R}^{|Y|} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ and $g : \mathbb{R}^{|Z|} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$,

$$\mathbb{E}[f(Y) \cdot g(Z)] \leq \mathbb{E}[f(Y)] \cdot \mathbb{E}[g(Z)] .$$

Examples of NA [Joag-Dev and Proschan 1983]

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one-hot vectors

	X_1	X_2	X_3
p		0	0
q	0		0
1-p-q	0	0	

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 $Y_i = \text{cards}[i]$

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$\{Z_1, Z_2\}$ satisfies NA

A Bunched Logic for NA [Bao et al. 2022]

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We introduce a negative association conjunction $\textcolor{blue}{\circledast}$:

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$\mu_1 \otimes \mu_2$ has to be a set of distributions.

Challenge: semantics for \circledast

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Subtle to define \otimes for NA star \circledast

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Partition Negative Association (PNA) [Bao et al. 2022]

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Lemma

X_1, \dots, X_n satisfies NA iff partition $\{X_1\}, \dots, \{X_n\}$ satisfies PNA.

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$\mu \models P \circledast Q$ iff there exist μ_1, μ_2 such that $\mu_1 \models P, \mu_2 \models Q$,
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A Bunched Logic for NA [Bao et al. 2022]

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$\mu \models \langle X_1 \rangle \circledast \langle X_2 \rangle \circledast \cdots \circledast \langle X_n \rangle$ iff X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n are

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Theorem

Properties of PNA can be encoded as valid axioms in our logic.

Our Contributions

Assertion Logic (with a sound and complete proof system)

Separating conjunction for asserting negative association

Program Logic (with a sound proof system)

LINA: a probabilistic Separation Logic for Independence and NA

Applications

Verify Bloom filter and other probabilistic data structures

<https://arxiv.org/abs/2111.14917>

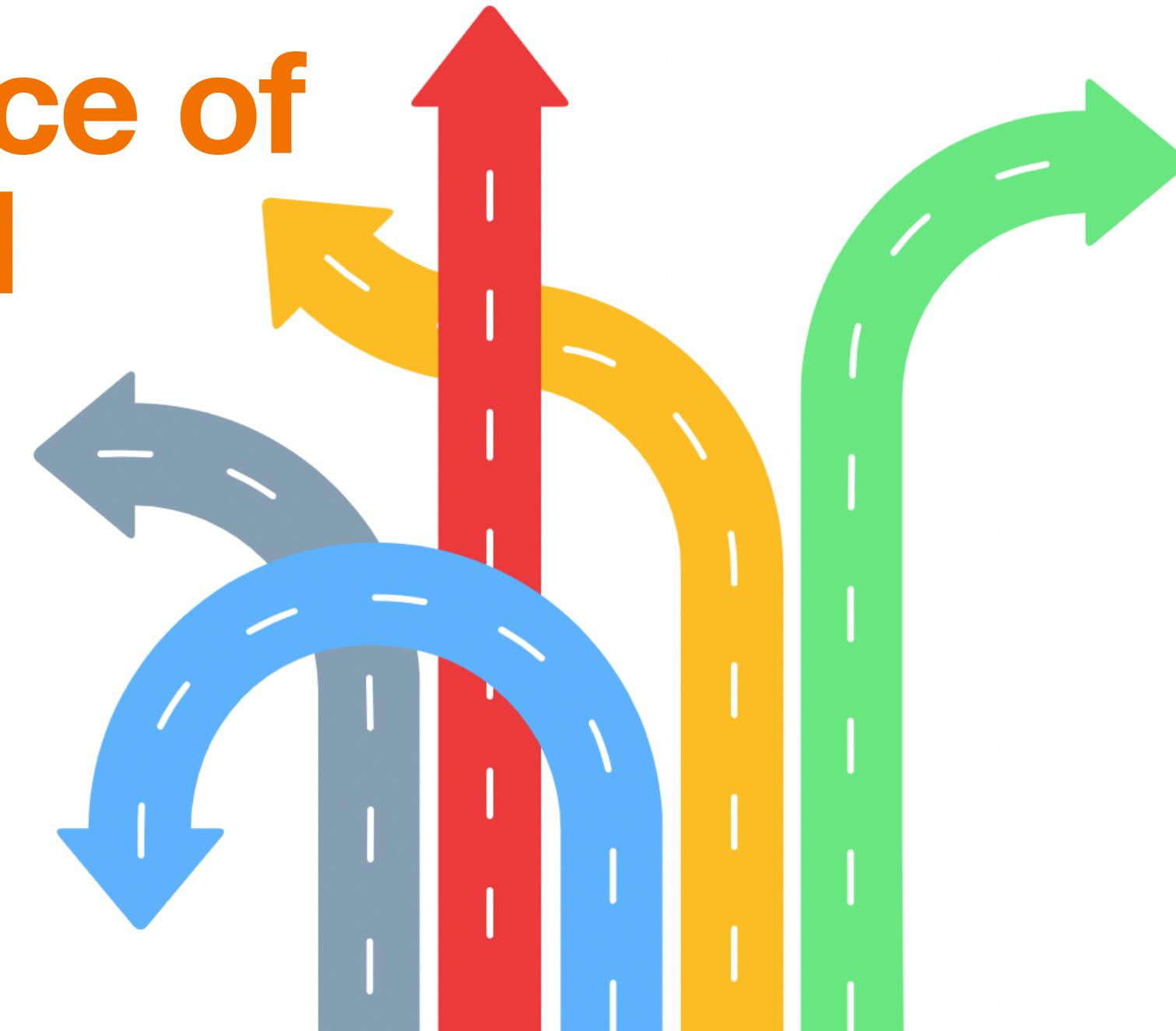


Future Work



Future Work

**Verifying Independence of
Variables with Shared
Randomness**



Existing Methods for Independence

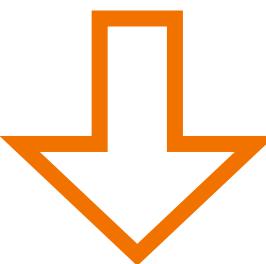
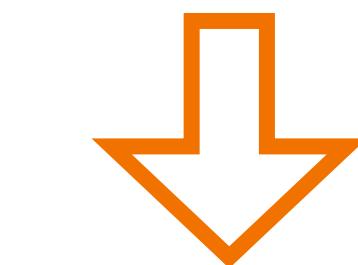
Existing Methods for Independence

Fresh Randomness



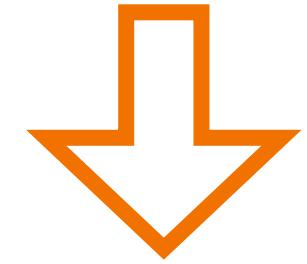
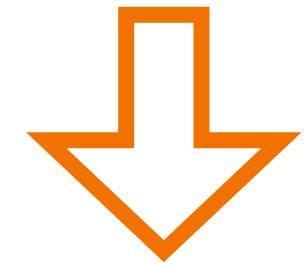
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X

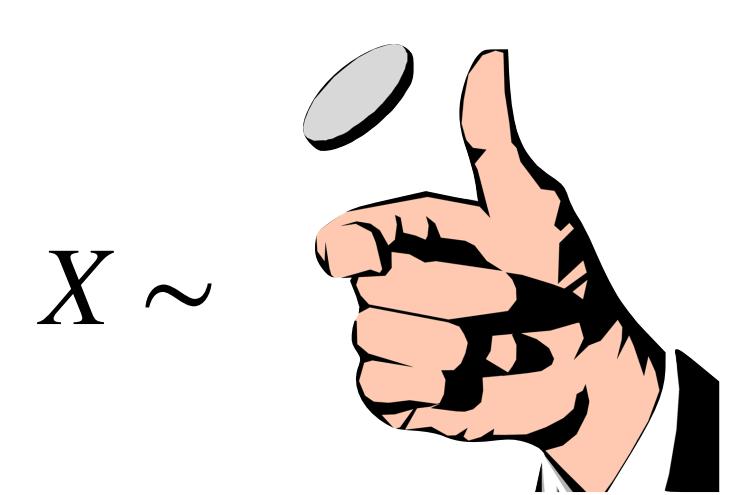
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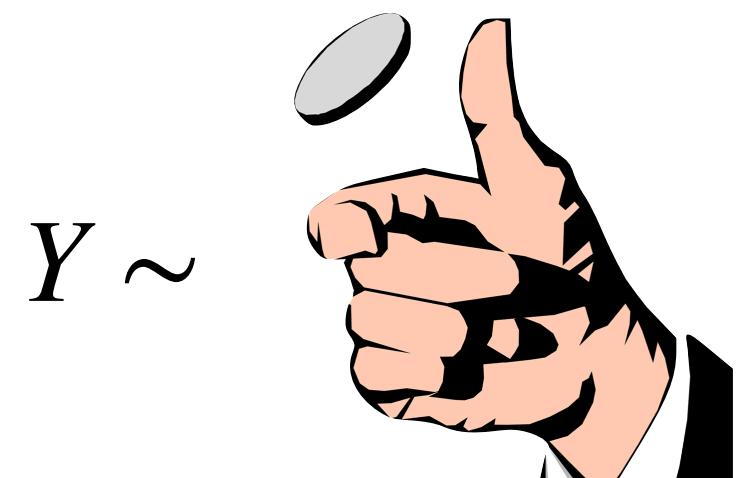
Y

Toy Example 1

Toy Example 1



Toy Example 1



Toy Example 1

$X \sim$

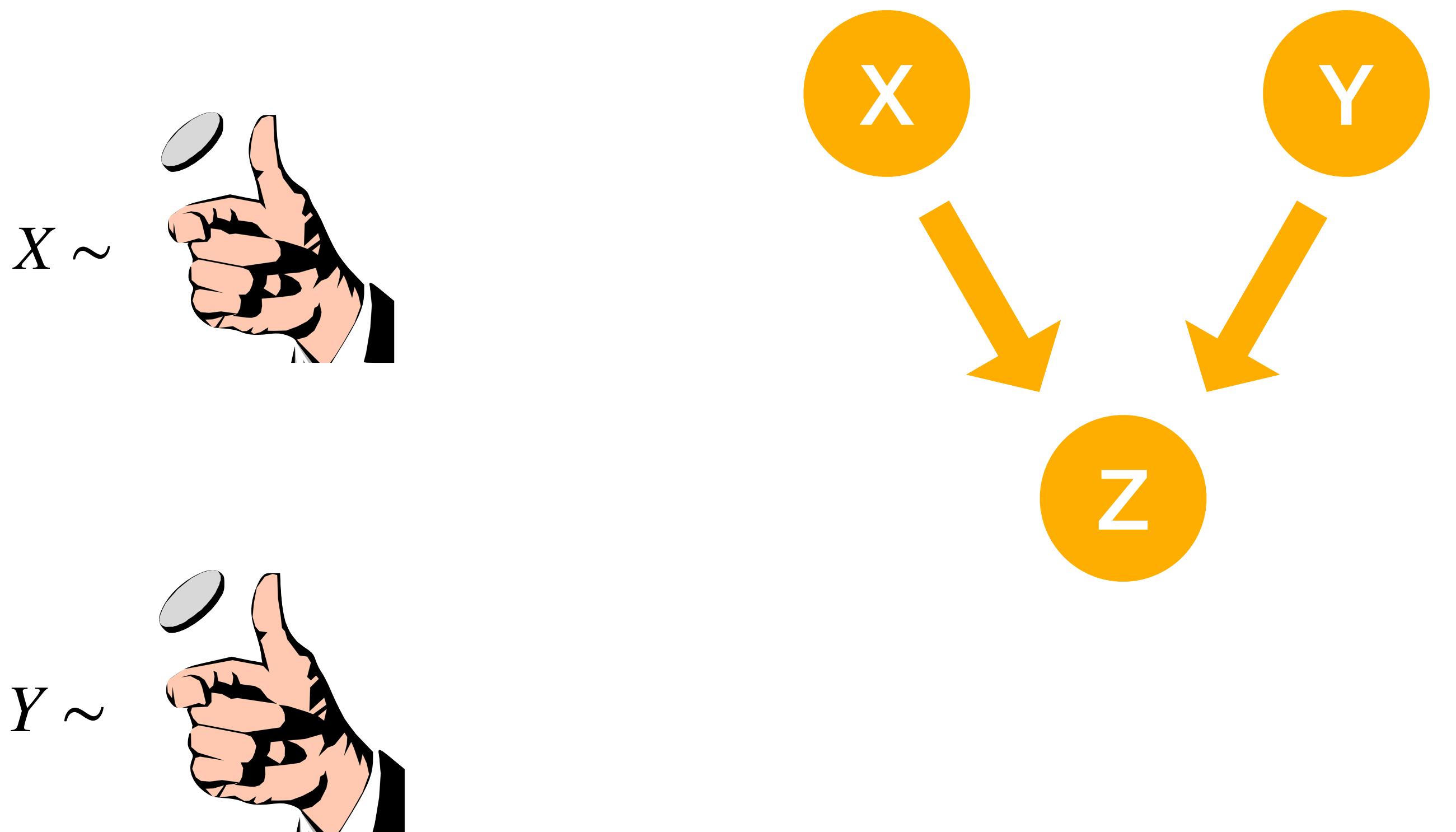


$Y \sim$



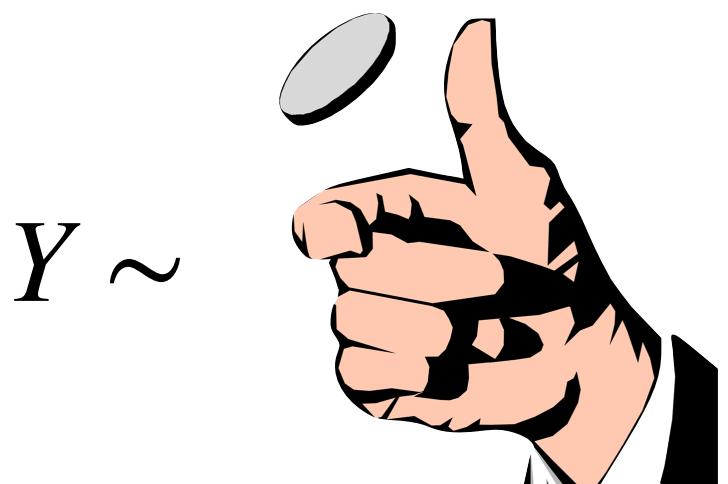
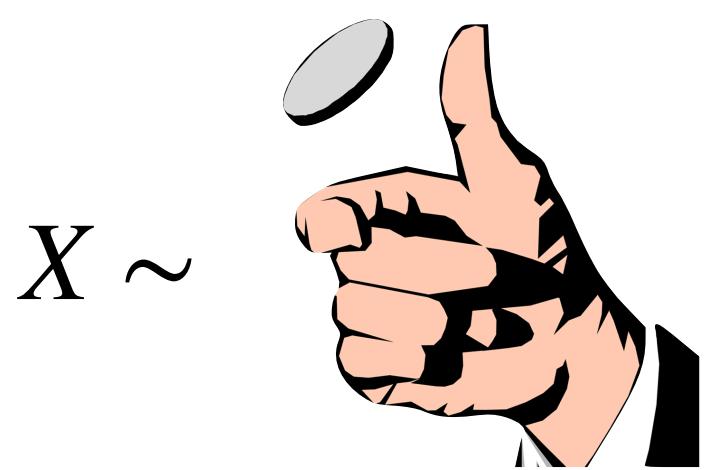
$$Z = X \text{ xor } Y$$

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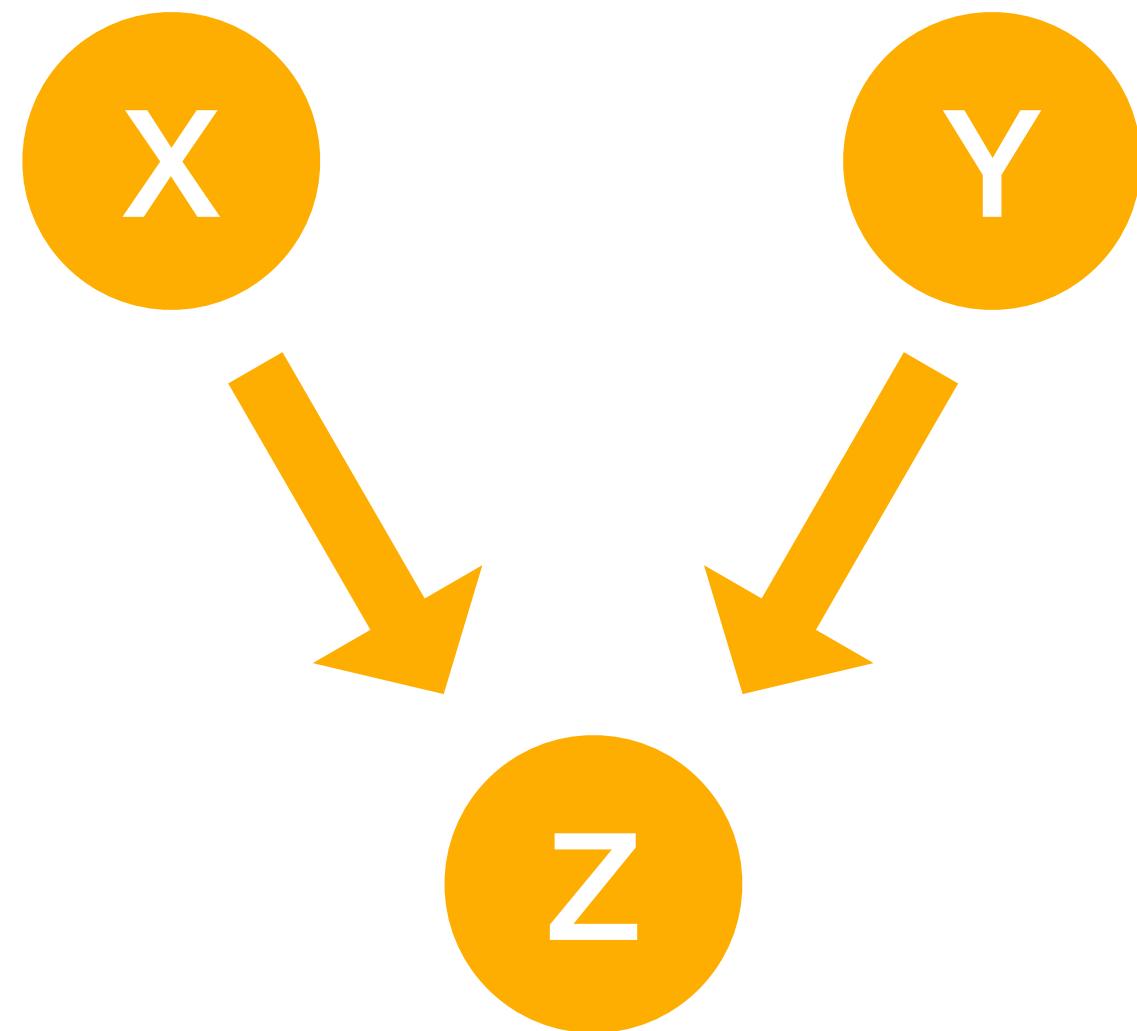


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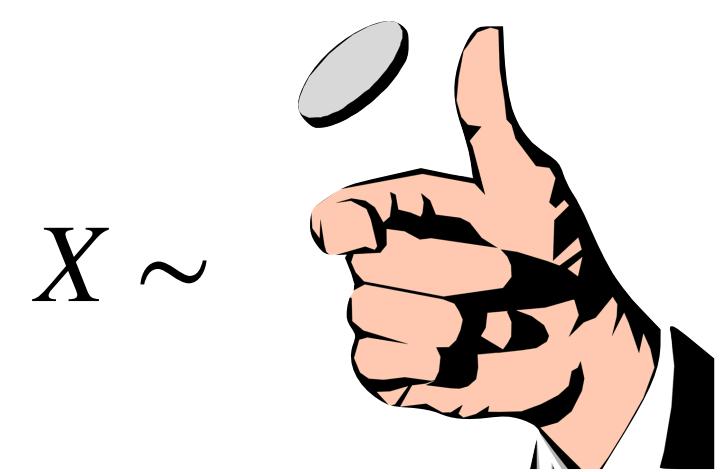
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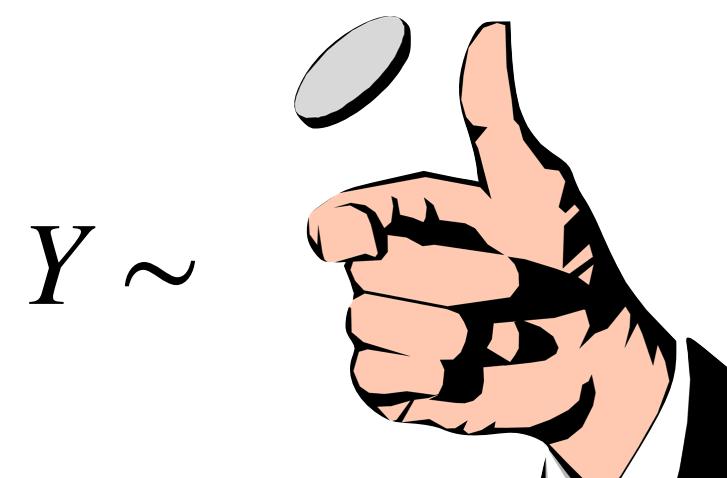
Program logic can not
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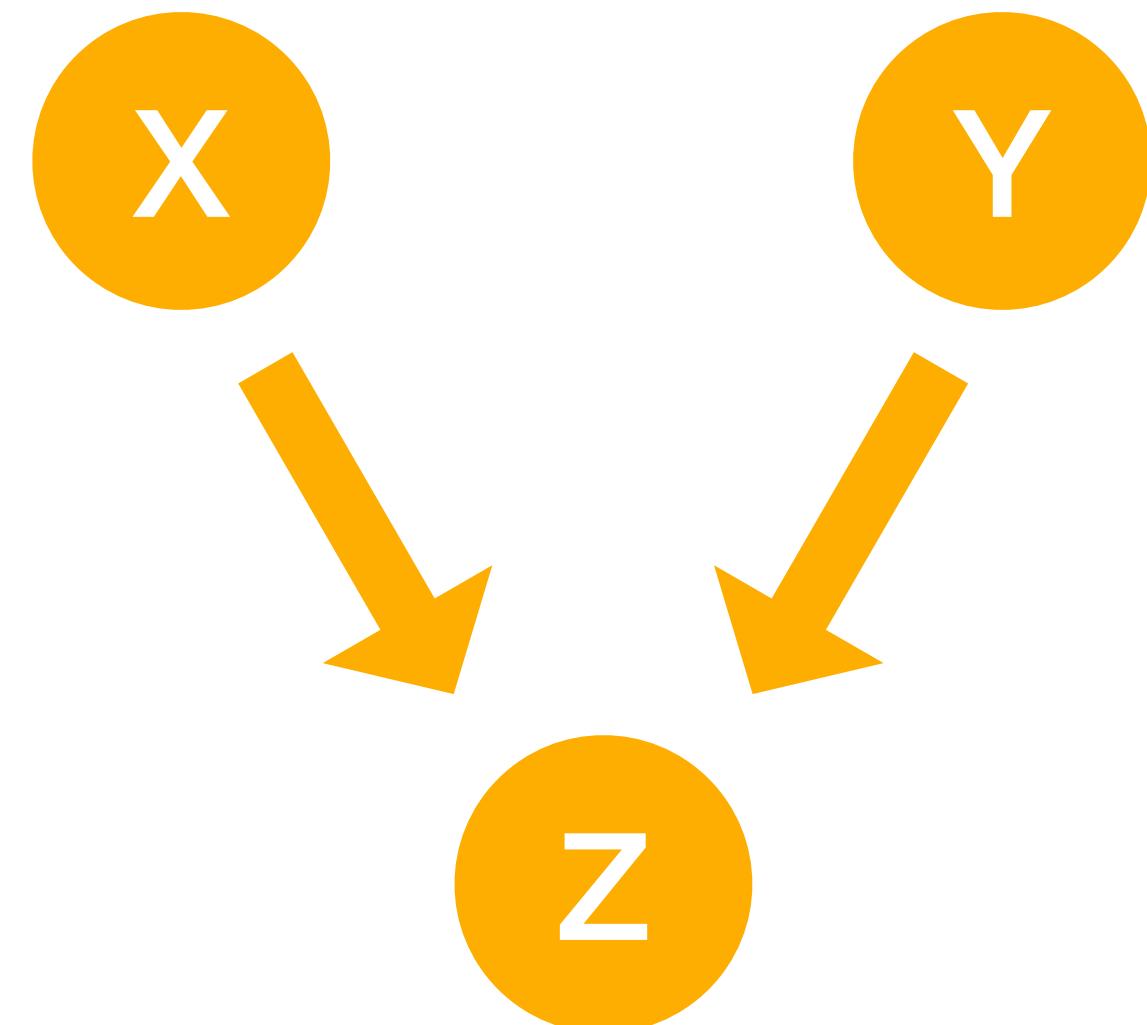
Fair coin



Fair coin



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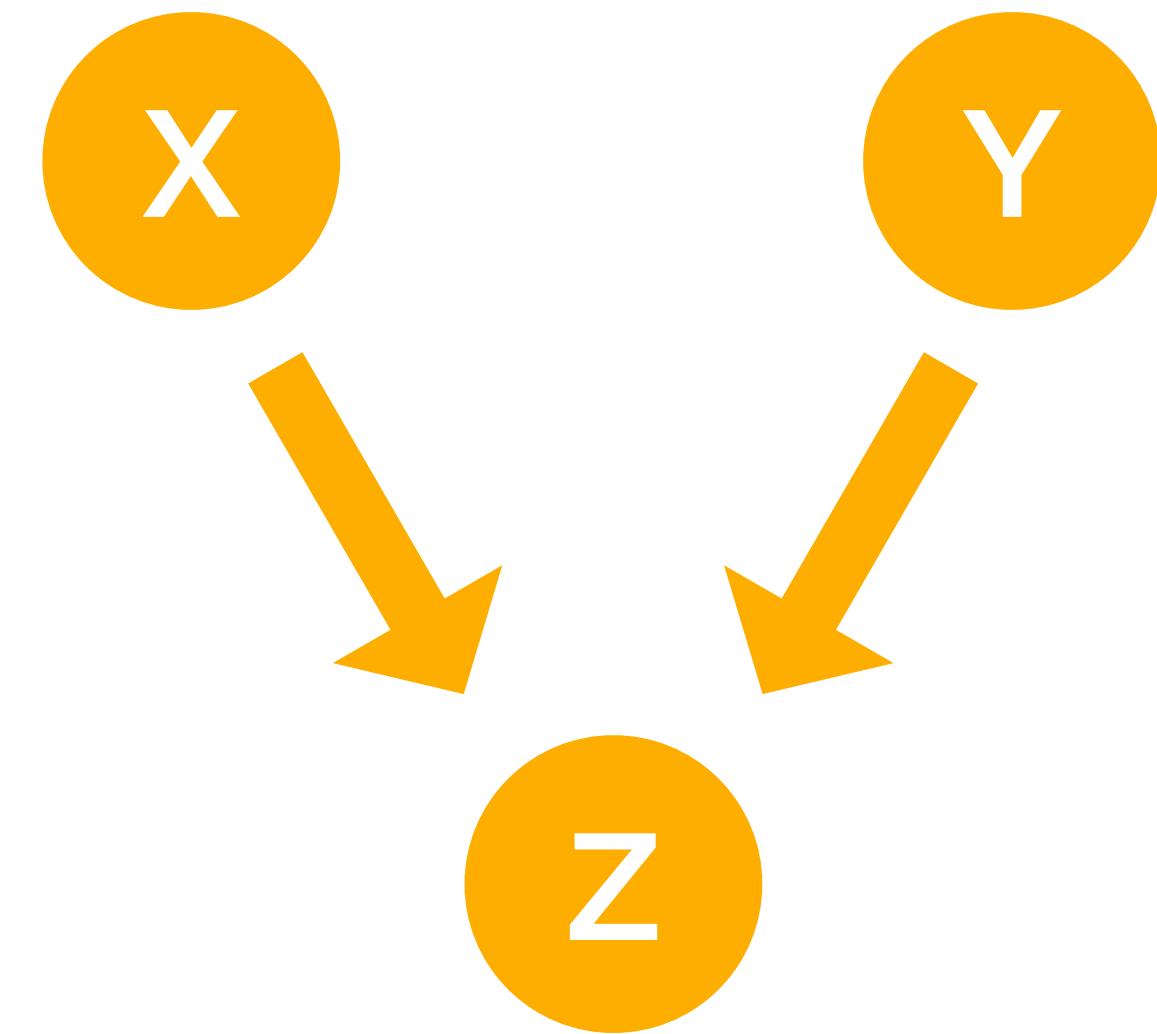
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Toy Example 1

Fair coin
 $X \sim$ 

Fair coin
 $Y \sim$ 

$Z = X \text{ xor } Y$



$$(X * Y) \wedge (X * Z) \wedge (Y * Z)$$

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Toy Example 2

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$$U \sim \begin{array}{c} \text{dice} \\ \text{dice} \end{array}$$

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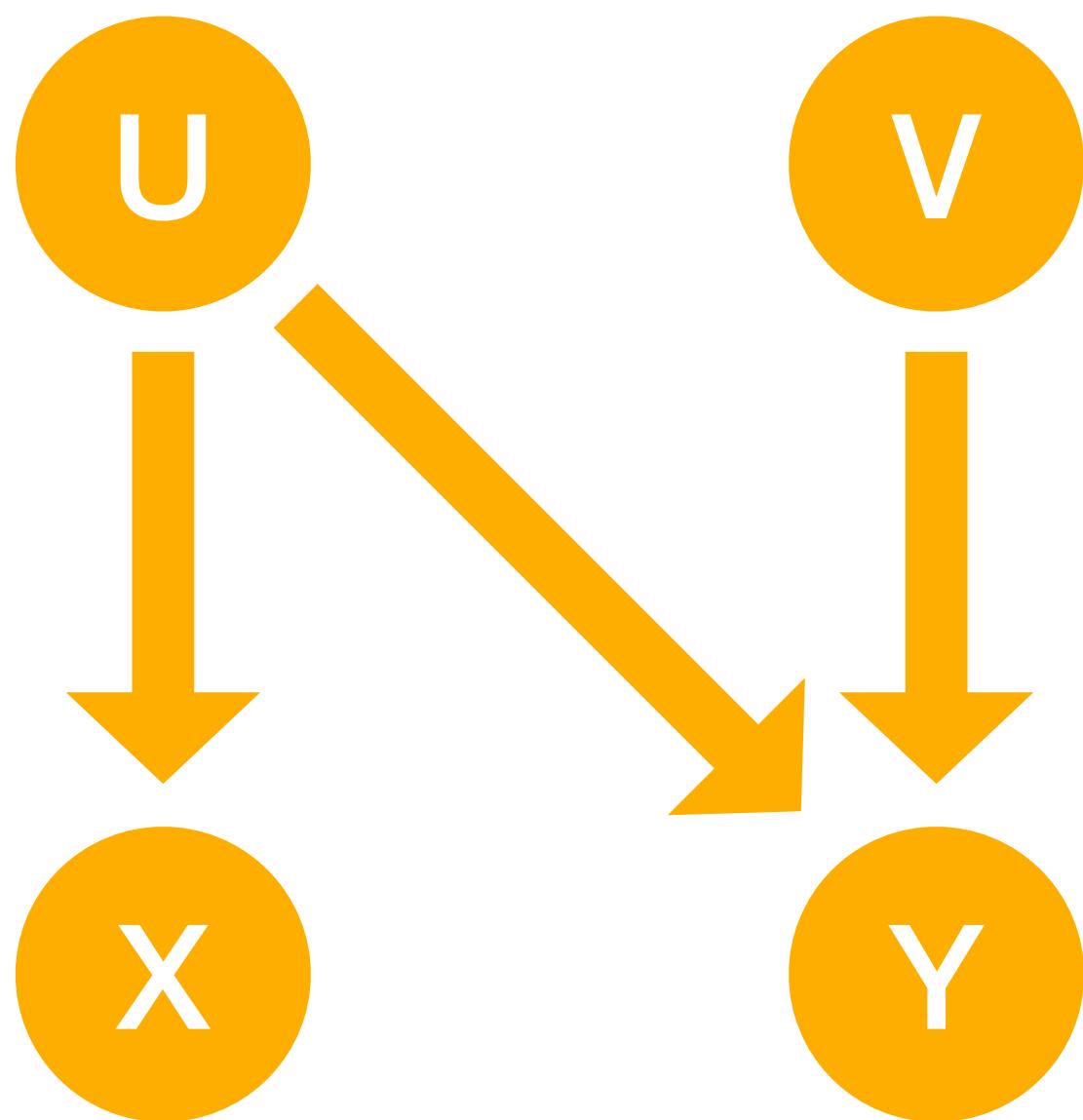
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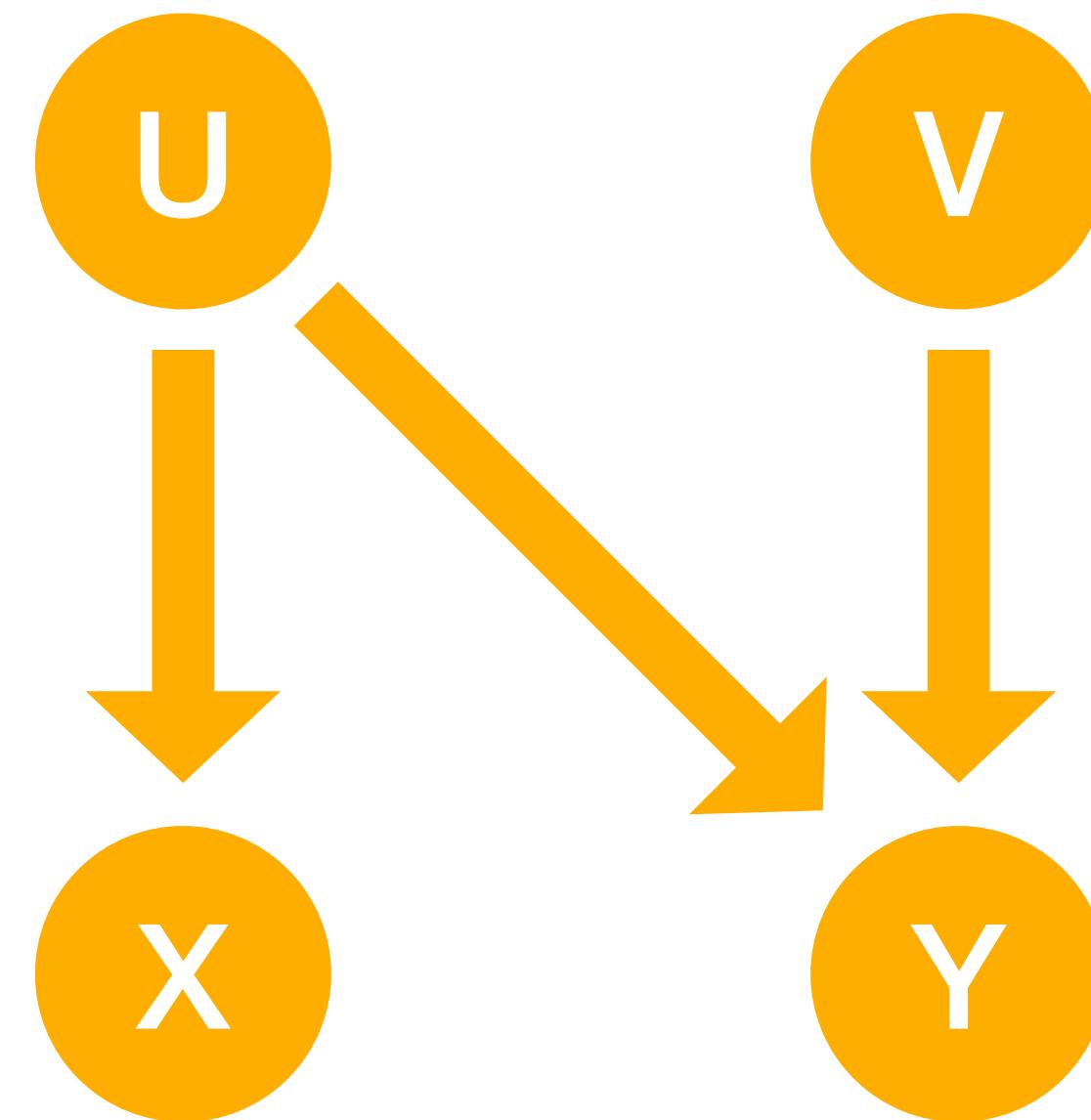
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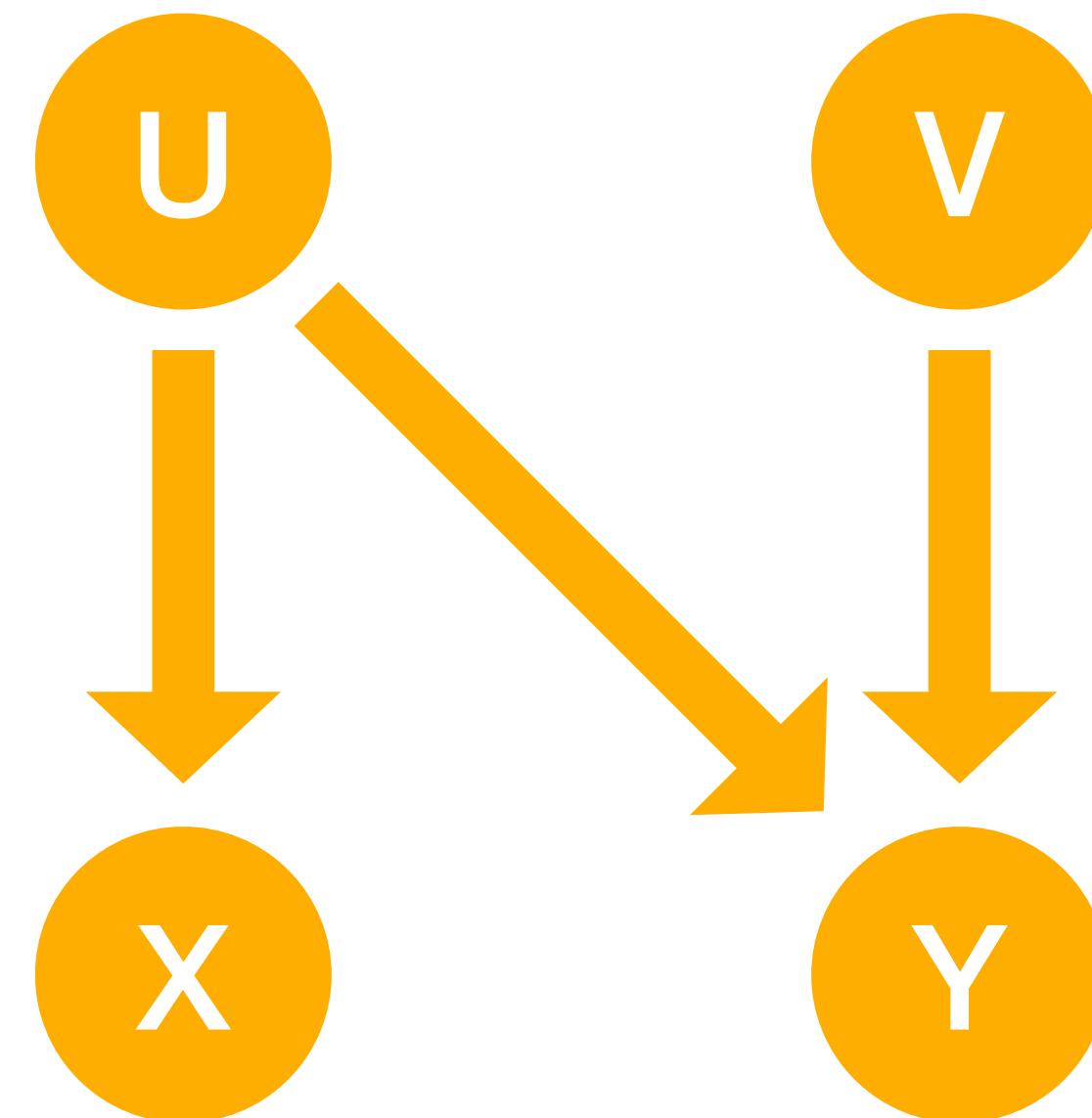
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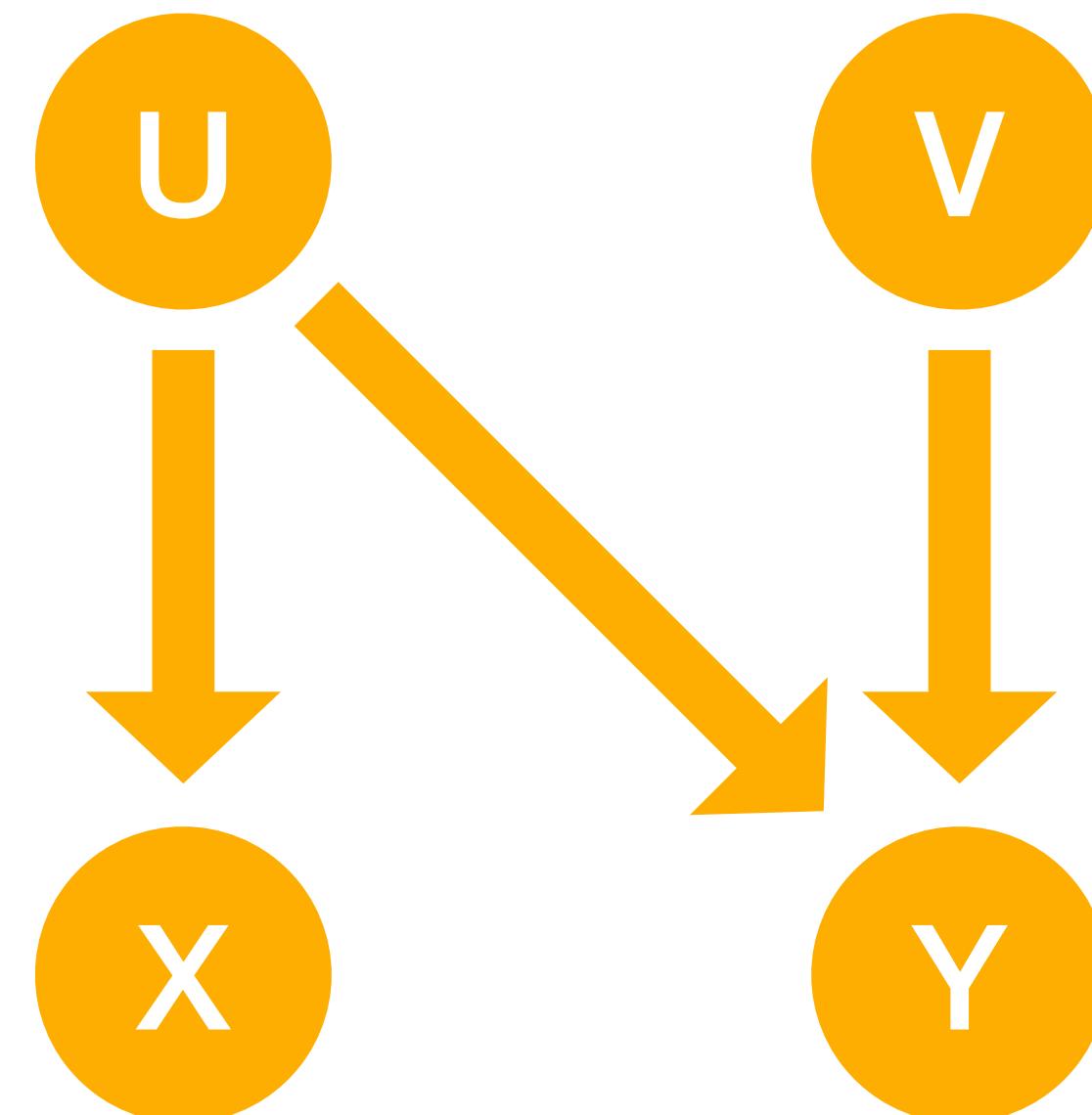
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Use: two independent uniformly distributed variables U, V .

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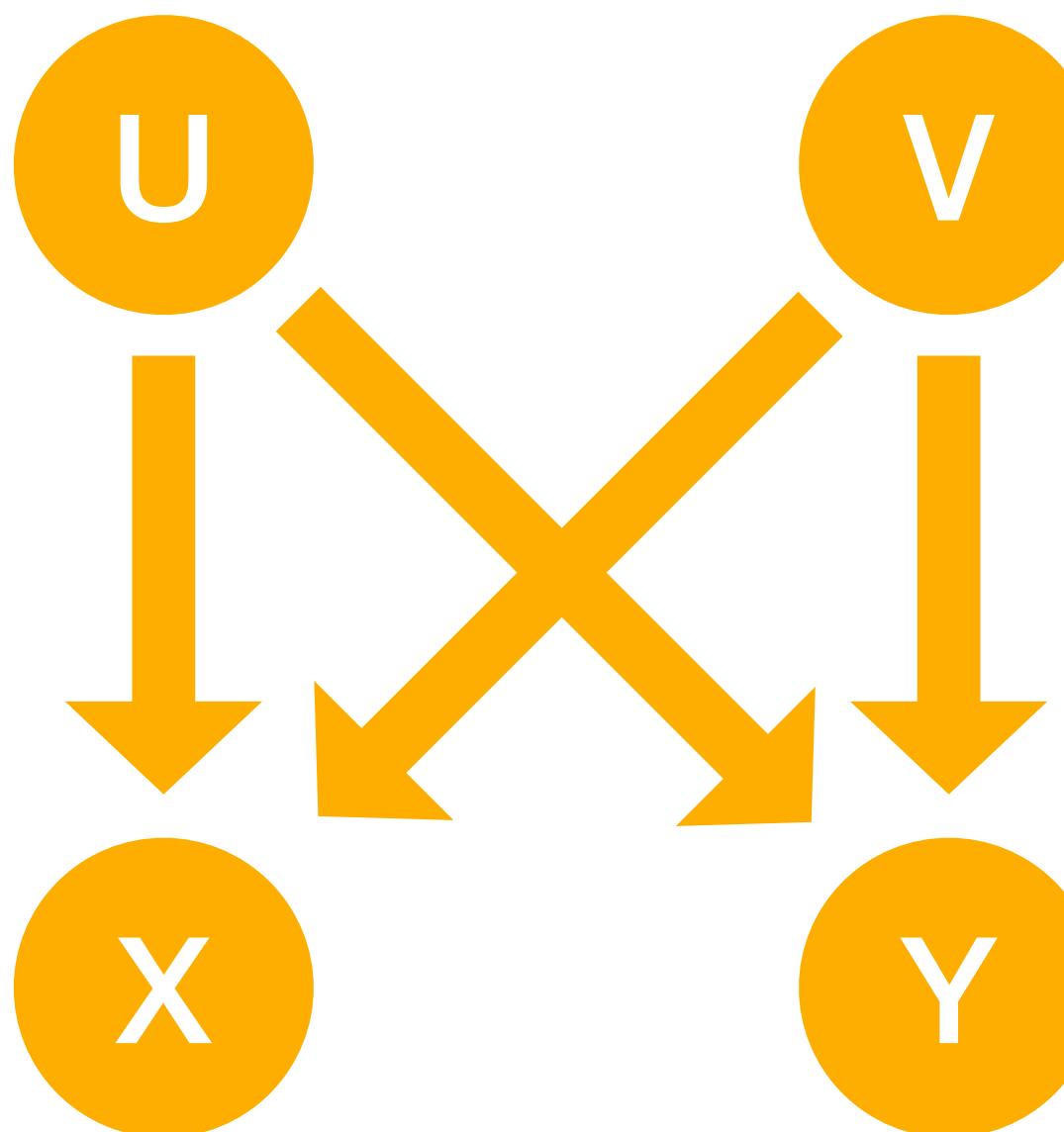
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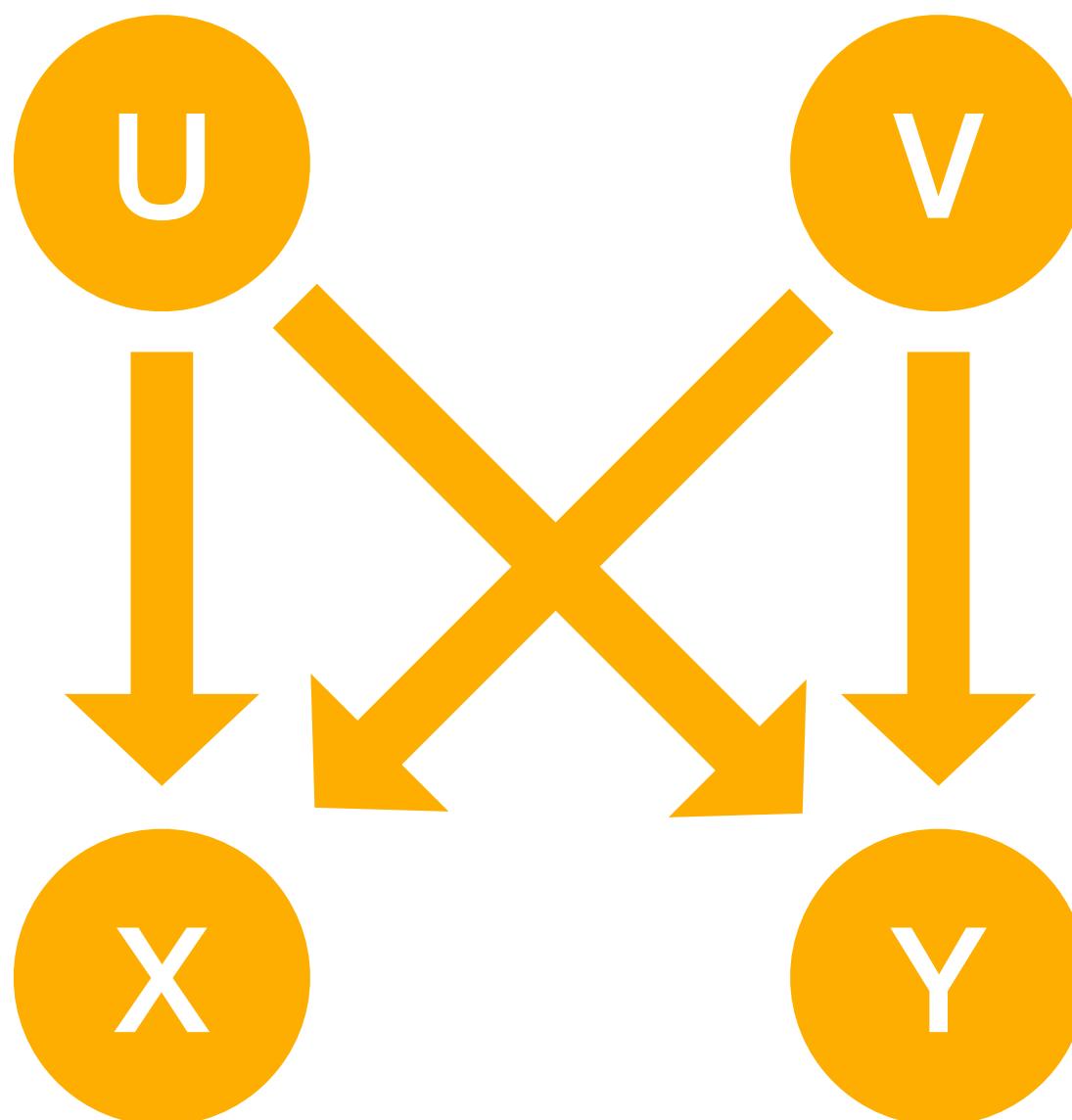
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X, Y are independent
but we cannot prove it

Observation

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$X \sim$

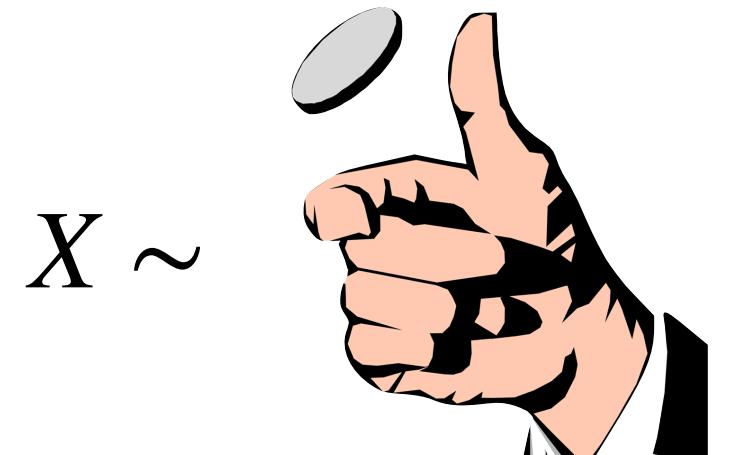
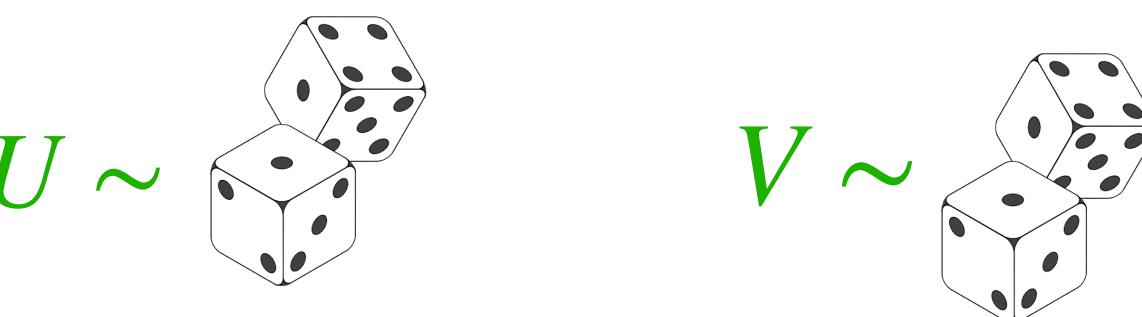


$Y \sim$

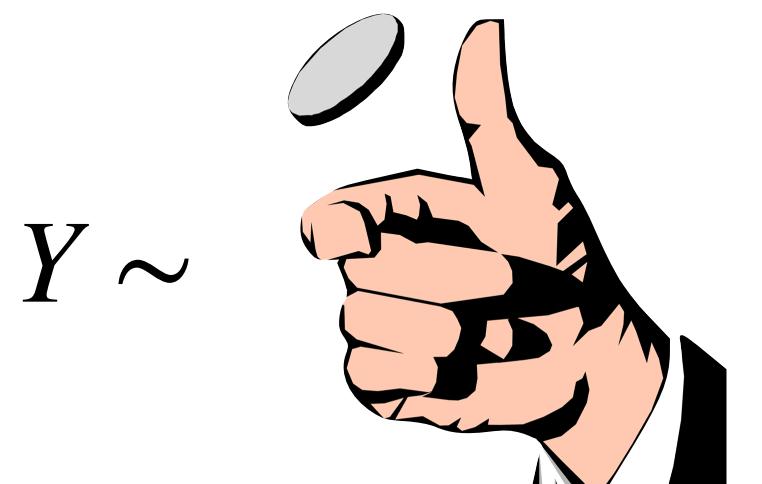


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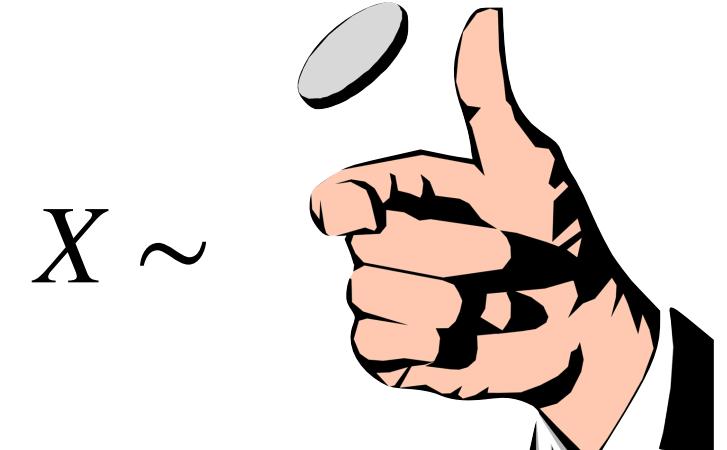
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 $Y \sim$

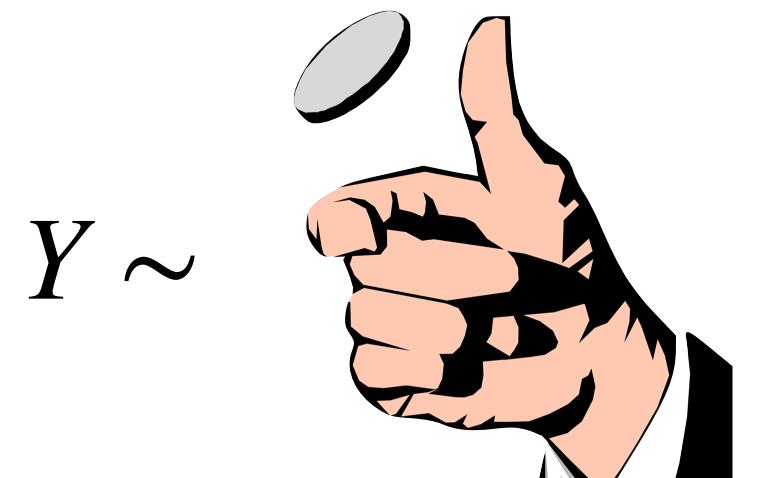
$$Y = (U + V = 7)$$

$$Z = X \text{ xor } Y$$

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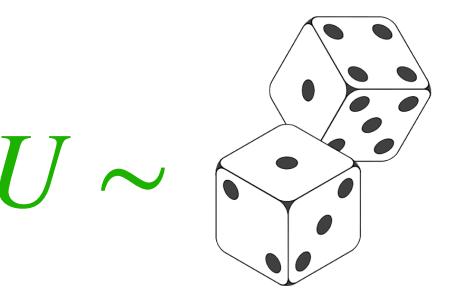


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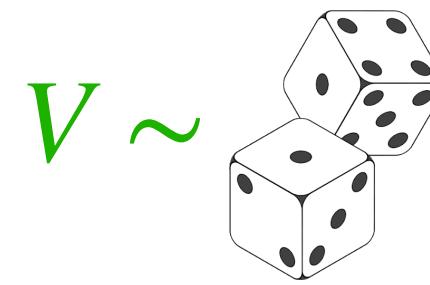


$Y \sim$

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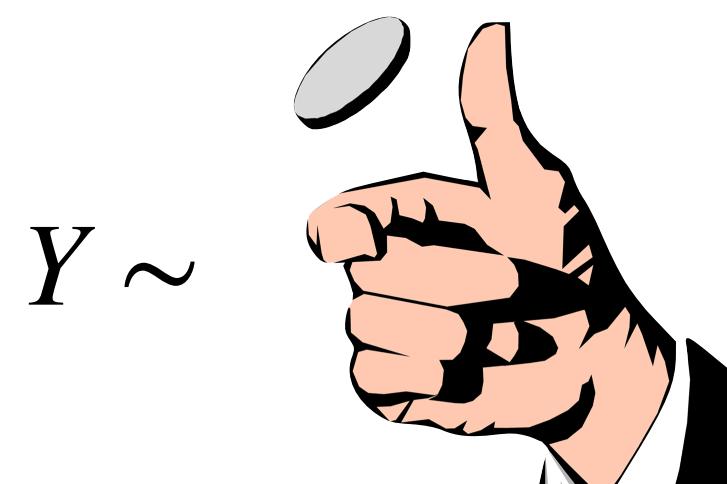
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Uniform distributions seems to be special!

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Add more axioms?

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and prove independence of variables that possibly **share source of randomness**.

Other Thoughts

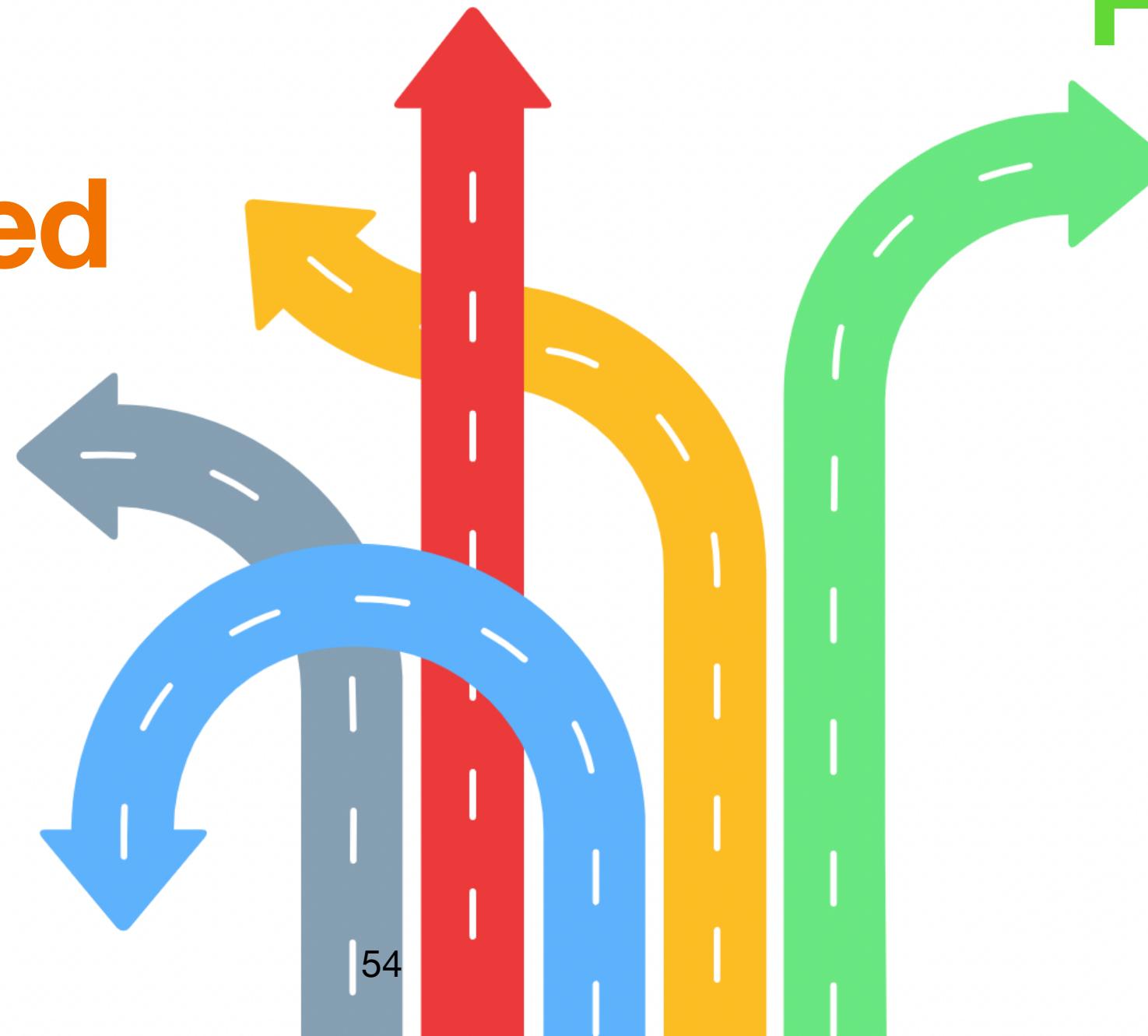
**Independence of
Variables with Shared
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Other Thoughts

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Conditional
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From d-separation

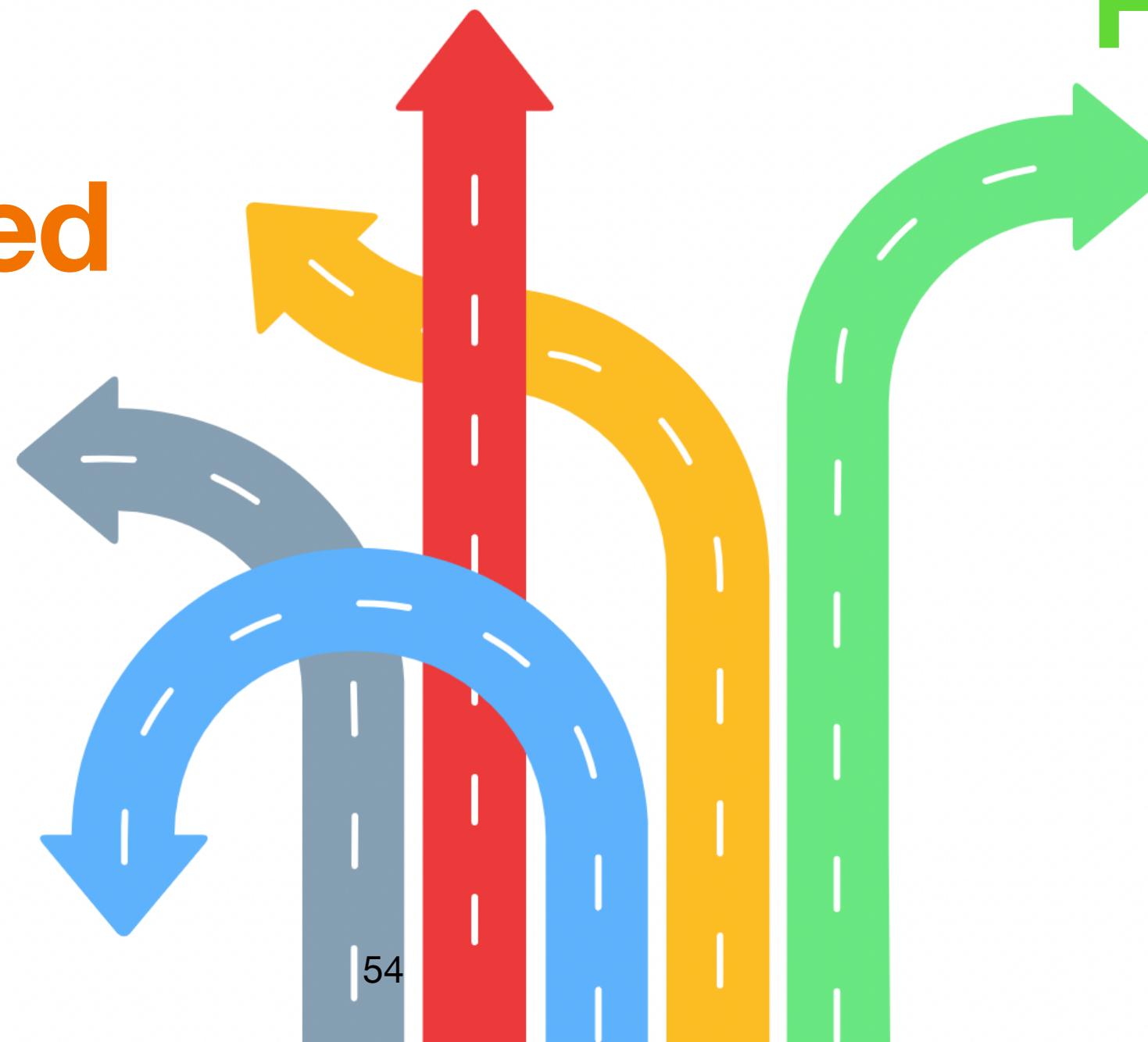


Other Thoughts

Independence of
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NA Arisen from
Sampling

Conditional
Independence
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Questions?