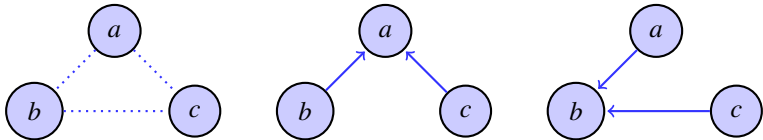


# Directed and undirected networks

## Causality and discovery



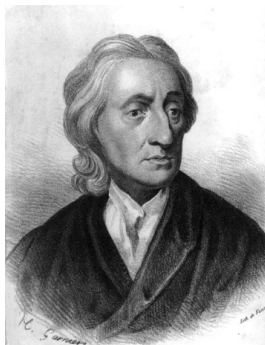
## Network analysis

Lourens Waldorp  
Universiteit van Amsterdam

# Objectives

Get to know and have some intuition about

- Causality in philosophy (of science)
- Conditional independence
- Undirected and directed networks
- Causal discovery using R



David Hume (1711-1776)

# Topics

## Why causality is interesting

- Explanations

- Causality and probability

## *d*-separation and conditional independence

- conditional independence

- d*-separation

- When are models the same?

## Discovering causal graphs

- Inductive Causation algorithm

# Explanations



René Descartes  
(1596 – 1650)

# Explanations



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Naturalism:  
Explanation of  
phenomena in terms of  
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# Explanations

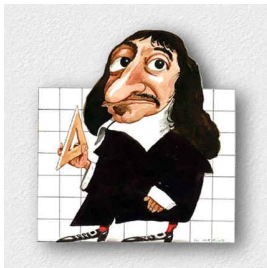


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# Explanations



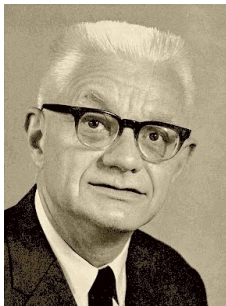
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- Example: the dials of a clock rotate by cogwheels and springs
- Divide mechanism into parts
- Not of mental processes like memory



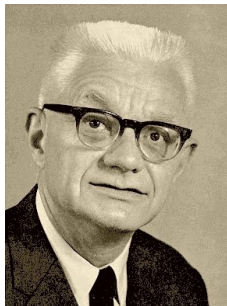
# Explanations



Logical positivists

Carl Hempel (1905 – 1977)

# Explanations

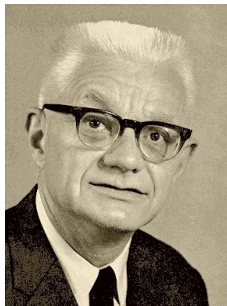


Carl Hempel (1905 – 1977)

Logical positivists

Deductive-nomological model

# Explanations



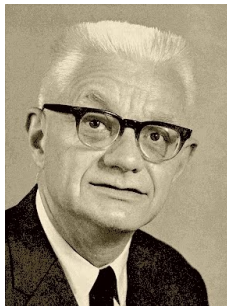
Carl Hempel (1905 – 1977)

Logical positivists

Deductive-nomological model

- $C_1, \dots, C_k$  (circumstances)
  - $L_1, \dots, L_n$  (laws)
- 
- $\vdash E$  (explanandum)

# Explanations



Logical positivists

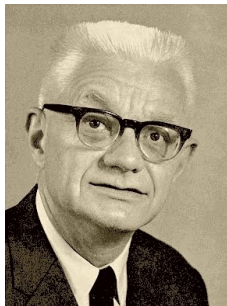
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# Explanations



Logical positivists

Deductive-nomological model

- $C_1, \dots, C_k$  (circumstances)
  - $L_1, \dots, L_n$  (laws)
- 
- $\vdash E$  (explanandum)

Carl Hempel (1905 – 1977)

- Necessarily true if  $C$  and  $L$  are true.
- *The* basis for all sciences are laws and logical deductions.

# Explanations



Isaac Newton (1643 – 1727)

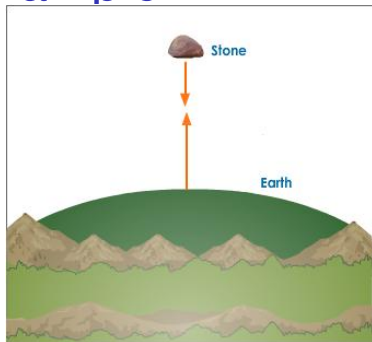
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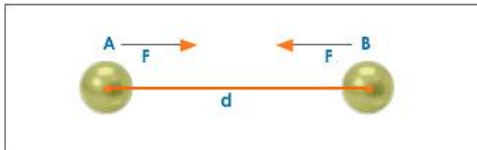
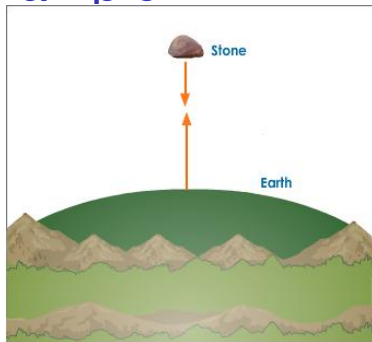
You can fall back on  
the laws of Newton

# Example



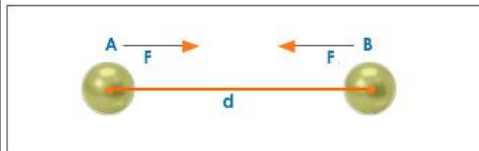
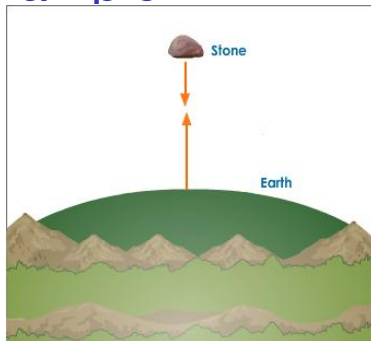


# Example



3rd law of Newton

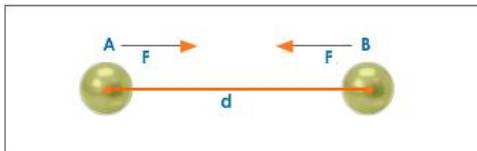
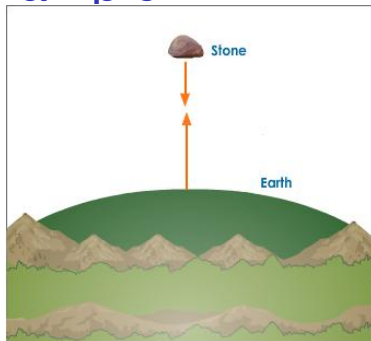
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3rd law of Newton

- $C$  : we are in the gravitational pull of the earth

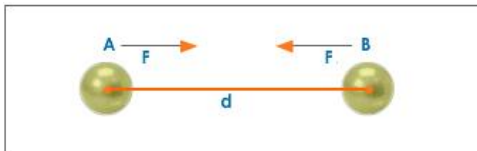
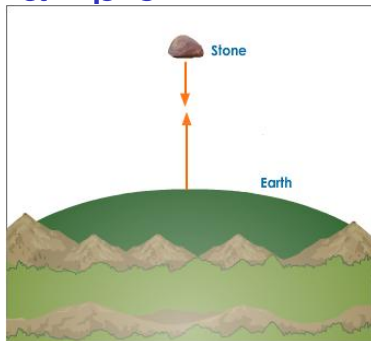
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3rd law of Newton

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# Example



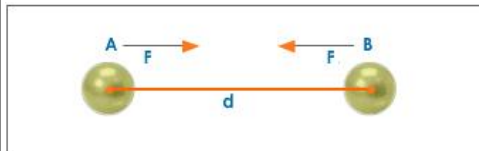
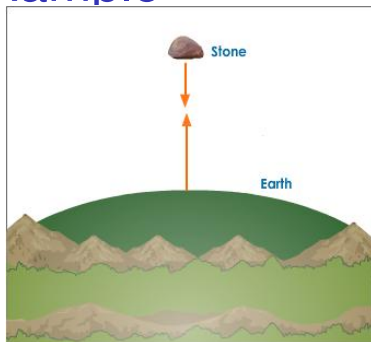
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$$F = ma \text{ and } F = \frac{gm_1m_2}{d^2}$$

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# Example



3rd law of Newton

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- $L$  : 2nd and 3rd laws of Newton

$$F = ma \text{ and } F = \frac{gm_1m_2}{d^2}$$

---

└ the rock falls to the earth

# Explanations

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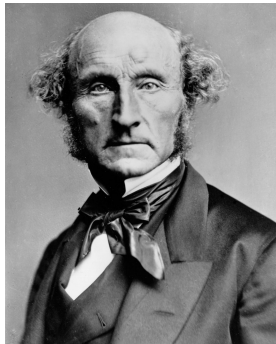
- Does the effect really always follow the cause? No.
- So, it is a regularity? Well, sort of...
- But it is a causal relation? That could be, but what is causality....
- This is what we need to figure out. It is the key to providing an explanation.

# Causal relation and laws

John Stuart Mill's conditions

- A always co-occurs with B
- A occurs before B
- There is no alternative explanation for the co-occurrence of A and B

But this was unsatisfactory because A does not always occur with B; no universality.



John Stuart Mill (1806-1873)

# Probabilities enter the stage

- Probability is essential to replace 'universal laws'

## Example

$$P(\text{catch fish} \mid \text{fishing rod}) \geq P(\text{catch fish})$$

- Conditional independence relations are the key to causal relations

## Example

$$P(\text{shark bite} \mid \text{ice cream}) \geq P(\text{shark bite})$$

$$P(\text{shark bite} \mid \text{ice cream, hot weather})$$

$$= P(\text{shark bite} \mid \text{hot weather})$$



Hans Reichenbach (1891-1953)



# Probabilities enter the stage

- Conditional independence relations are the key to causal relations

## Example

$$P(\text{shark bite} \mid \text{ice cream}) \geq P(\text{shark bite} \mid \text{ice cream, hot weather})$$

$$= P(\text{shark bite} \mid \text{hot weather})$$

- 'Screening off': search for nonredundent and sufficient 'variables' that define the relation (statistically relevant)



Wesley Salmon (1925-2001)

# Probabilities enter the stage

- Spirtes and Glymour: Use screening off principle to identify unique relations from data
- Pearl: Semantics for difference between 'do' and 'see'

## Example

$$P(\text{catch fish} \mid \text{rod}) \neq P(\text{catch fish} \mid \text{do}(\text{rod}))$$

- Causality definition:



$$E(\text{catch fish}) \neq E(\text{catch fish} \mid \text{do}(\text{rod}))$$



Judea Pearl (1936-)



Peter Spirtes (1956-)



Clark Glymour (1942-)

# Topics

## Why causality is interesting

- Explanations

- Causality and probability

## *d*-separation and conditional independence

- conditional independence

- d*-separation

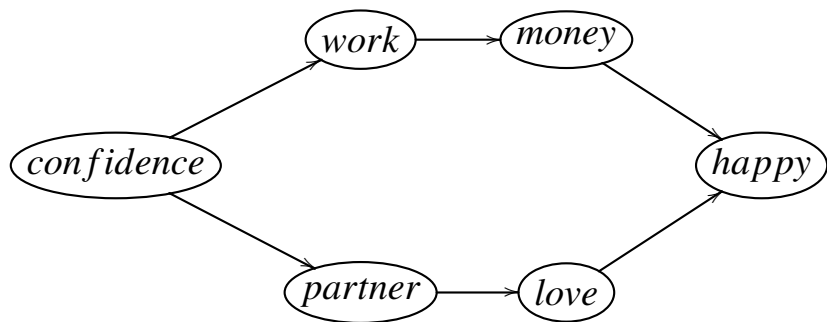
- When are models the same?

## Discovering causal graphs

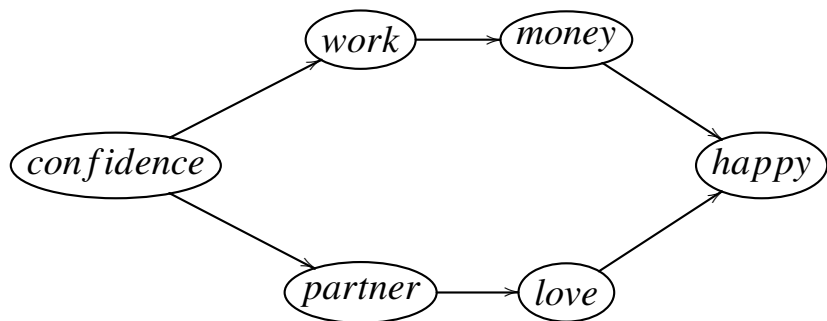
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# What is a causal graph?

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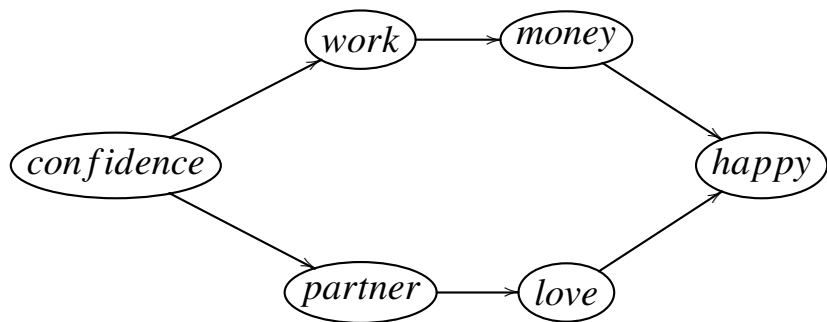


John Stuart Mill

- A (always) co-occurs with B
- A occurs before B
- There is no alternative explanation for the co-occurrence of A and B

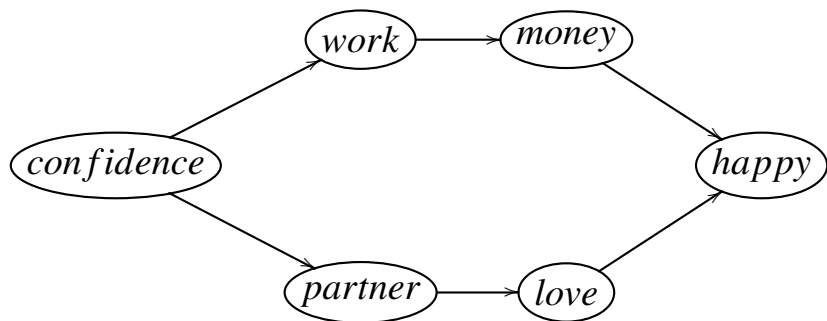
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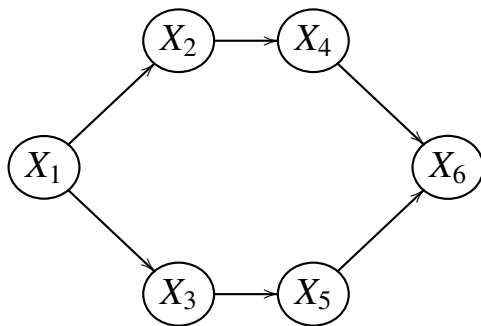
## Causality by intervention



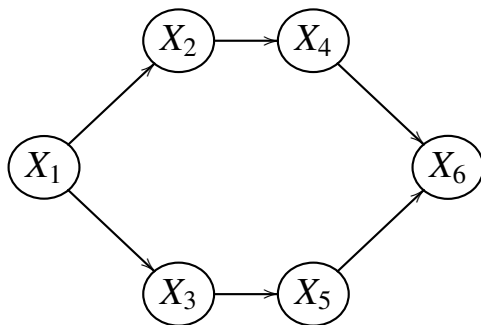
- If I wiggle A then B wiggles too (manipulation)
- There is no alternative explanation for the change in B as a result of the change in A

# What is a causal graph?

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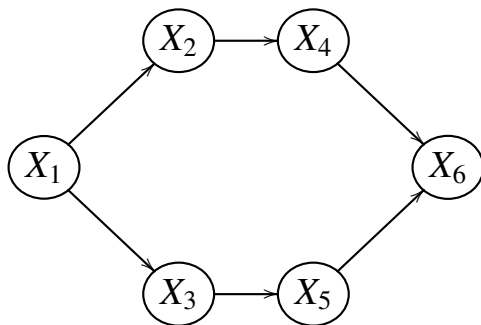
# What is a causal graph?



- A directed acyclic graph (DAG)
- A probability distribution over the nodes



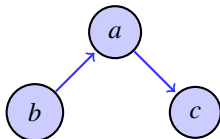
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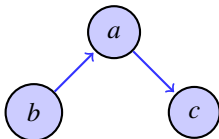
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This forms the basis to infer causal relations between variables

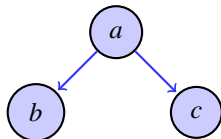
# $d$ -separation in directed graphs



chain



collider

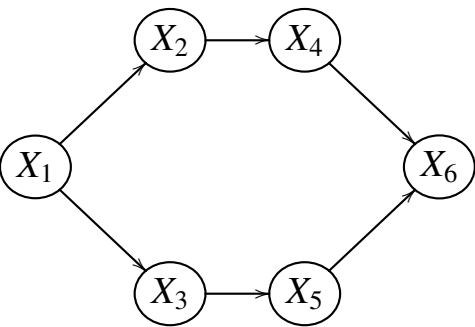


common cause

## examples

- chain: healthy life style  $\rightarrow$  exercise  $\rightarrow$  recovery
- collider: healthy life style  $\rightarrow$  recovery  $\leftarrow$  medication
- com. cause: exercise  $\leftarrow$  healthy life style  $\rightarrow$  recovery

# Graphs and probability



$$\iff P(X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4, X_5, X_6)$$

# Graphs and probability

**Theorem 1.2.5** (Pearl, 2000, p. 18)

For any three nodes  $(X, Y, Z)$  in a DAG  $G$  and for all probability functions  $P$ , we have



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## Why causality is interesting

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## *d*-separation and conditional independence

- conditional independence

- d*-separation

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- Inductive Causation algorithm

# conditional independence

Affliction    vitamin  $K$

	$A$	$\neg A$	total
$K$	14	56	70
$\neg K$	6	24	30
total	20	80	100

frequencies

$$P(A) = 0.20$$

	$A$	$\neg A$	total
$K$	0.14	0.56	0.67
$\neg K$	0.06	0.24	0.30
total	0.20	0.80	1.00

probabilities

$$P(A, K) = 0.14$$

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$$P(A \mid K) = \frac{P(A, K)}{P(K)} = \frac{0.14}{0.70} = 0.20$$

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So,  $A$  and  $K$  are independent or  $A \perp\!\!\!\perp K$

# conditional independence

Combined	A	$\neg A$		$P(A \mid (\neg)K)$	
Vit ( $K$ )	16	74	90	18%	$P(A \mid K) \neq P(A \mid \neg K)$
No vit ( $\neg K$ )	14	96	110	13%	
	30	170	200		

Gene C	A	$\neg A$		$P(A \mid C, (\neg)K)$	
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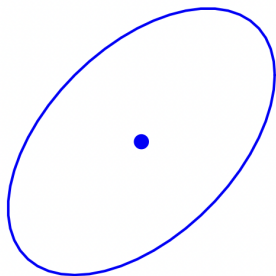
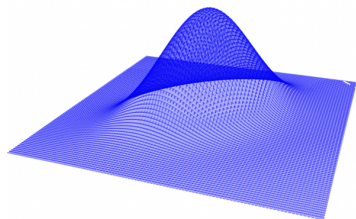
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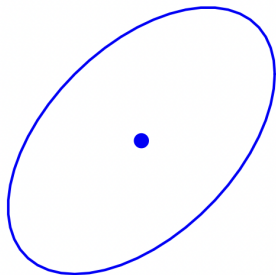
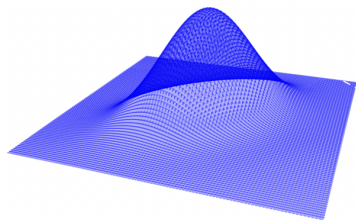
So:  $A$  is independent of  $K$  conditional on  $C$ , or  $A \perp\!\!\!\perp K \mid C$

# conditional independence



If the data are multivariate normal then we can use partial correlations for conditional independence

# conditional independence



for multivariate normal data, the following are equivalent

- (a)  $X$  and  $Y$  are independent conditional on  $Z$
- (b) the partial correlation between  $X$  and  $Y$  is 0 given  $Z$  ( $\omega_{XY|Z} = 0$ )

## conditional independence

If the data are multivariate normal then we can use partial correlations for conditional independence

$$\Sigma = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 & -1 \\ -1 & 1.5 & 0.5 \\ -1 & 0.5 & 1.5 \end{pmatrix}$$

## covariances

$$\Sigma^{-1} = K = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0.5 & 0.5 \\ 0.5 & 1 & 0 \\ 0.5 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

## partial covariances

partial correlation:  $\omega_{XY|Z} = -\frac{\kappa_{XY}}{\sqrt{\kappa_{XX}\kappa_{YY}}}$  or  $X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y \mid Z$

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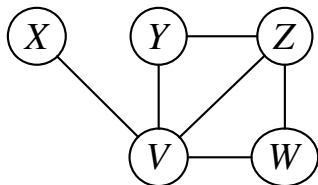
- d*-separation

- When are models the same?

## Discovering causal graphs

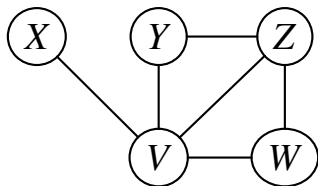
- Inductive Causation algorithm

## $d$ -separation undirected graphs



1.  $d$ -separation is a graphical (pictorial) tool to determine if variables are or can be separated.
2. For undirected graphs we simply check whether we can get from one node to another given a third (set).

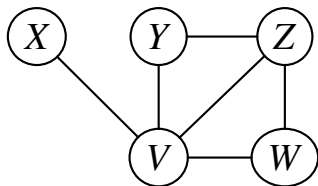
# $d$ -separation undirected graphs



$$(X \perp\!\!\!\perp Z \mid YW)$$



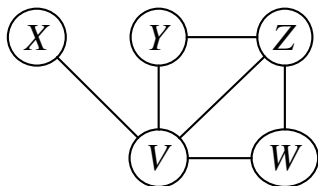
# $d$ -separation undirected graphs



$(X \perp\!\!\!\perp Z \mid YW)$

1. We block paths between  $X$  and  $Z$  with  $Y$  and  $W$ .

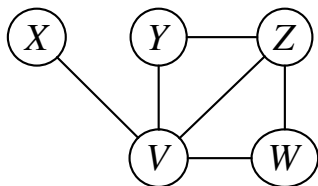
# $d$ -separation undirected graphs



$(X \perp\!\!\!\perp Z \mid YW)$

1. We block paths between  $X$  and  $Z$  with  $Y$  and  $W$ .
2. There is a path  $X - V - Z$  that remains unblocked.

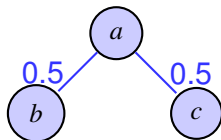
# $d$ -separation undirected graphs



$(X \perp\!\!\!\perp Z \mid YW)$

1. We block paths between  $X$  and  $Z$  with  $Y$  and  $W$ .
2. There is a path  $X - V - Z$  that remains unblocked.
3. So:  $X$  and  $Z$  are not  $d$ -separated when blocking on  $Y$  and  $W$   ~~$(X \perp\!\!\!\perp Z \mid YW)$~~ .

# graphs and conditional independence



$G_{(a,b),(a,c)}$

$$\Sigma = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 & -1 \\ -1 & 1.5 & 0.5 \\ -1 & 0.5 & 1.5 \end{pmatrix}$$

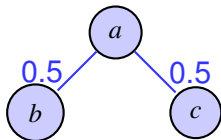
covariances

$$\Sigma^{-1} = K = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0.5 & 0.5 \\ 0.5 & 1 & 0 \\ 0.5 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

partial covariances

for multivariate normal data (Gaussian graphical model, ggm)

# graphs and conditional independence



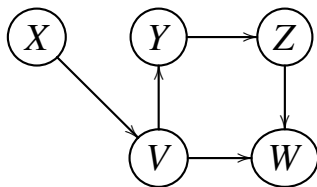
$$G_{(a,b),(a,c)}$$

$$\Omega = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0.5 & 0.5 \\ 0.5 & 0 & 0 \\ 0.5 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

connectivity parameters

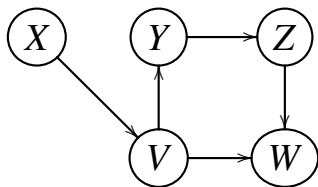
for multivariate binary data (Ising model, IsingFit)

# $d$ -separation in directed graphs



Lauritzen  $(X \perp\!\!\!\perp Z \mid YW)$

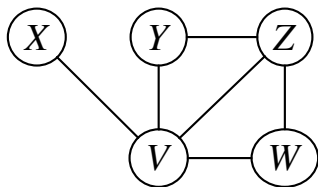
# $d$ -separation in directed graphs



Lauritzen ( $X \perp\!\!\!\perp Z \mid YW$ )

1. Make the *ancestral graph* ( $G_{an}$ ): the variables of interest and all variables that have a directed path to those variables  $\{W, X, Y, Z\}$ .

# $d$ -separation in directed graphs

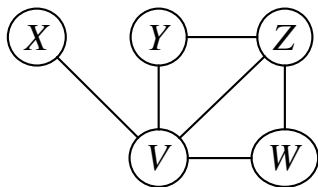


Lauritzen ( $X \perp\!\!\!\perp Z \mid YW$ )

1. Make the *ancestral graph* ( $G_{an}$ ): the variables of interest and all variables that have a directed path to those variables  $\{W, X, Y, Z\}$ .
2. Make the *ancestral graph moral* ( $G_{an}^m$ ): marry all the parents that have a child in common *and* convert all arrows into undirected edges.



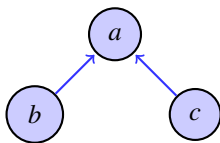
# $d$ -separation in directed graphs



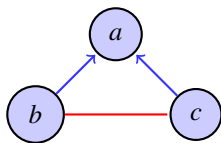
Lauritzen ( $X \perp\!\!\!\perp Z \mid YW$ )

1. Make the *ancestral graph* ( $G_{an}$ ): the variables of interest and all variables that have a directed path to those variables  $\{W, X, Y, Z\}$ .
2. Make the *ancestral graph moral* ( $G_{an}^m$ ): marry all the parents that have a child in common *and* convert all arrows into undirected edges.
3. Consider separating all paths in  $G_{an}^m$  between  $X$  and  $Z$ .

# $d$ -separation in directed graphs



true



spurious

## example

- suppose that recovery ( $a$ ) is because of healthy life style ( $b$ ) or homeopathy ( $c$ )
- we know you are recovering, and you do not take homeopathy
- then, it must be a healthy life style that causes you to recover

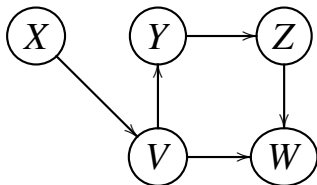
# $d$ -separation in directed graphs

$$(X \perp\!\!\!\perp Z \mid YW)$$

# $d$ -separation in directed graphs

$$(X \perp\!\!\!\perp Z \mid YW)$$

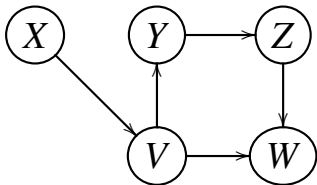
$G$



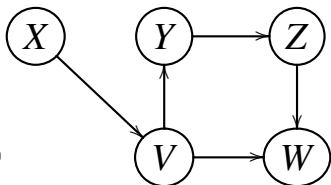
# $d$ -separation in directed graphs

$$(X \perp\!\!\!\perp Z \mid YW)$$

$G$



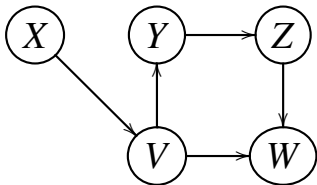
$G_{an}$



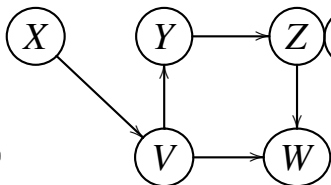
# $d$ -separation in directed graphs

$$(X \perp\!\!\!\perp Z \mid YW)$$

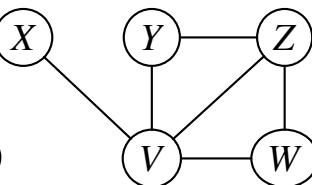
$G$



$G_{an}$



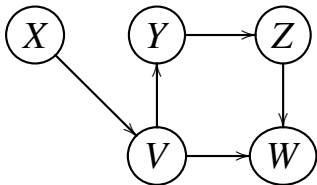
$G_{an}^m$



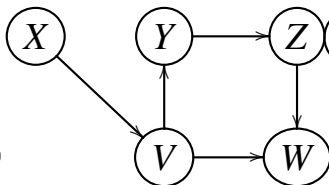
# $d$ -separation in directed graphs

$$(X \perp\!\!\!\perp Z \mid YW)$$

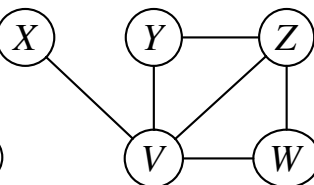
$G$



$G_{an}$



$G_{an}^m$



~~$(X \perp\!\!\!\perp Z \mid YW)$~~

# $d$ -separation in directed graphs

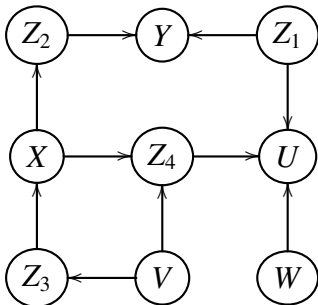
$$(X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y \mid Z_2, Z_3)$$



# $d$ -separation in directed graphs

$$(X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y \mid Z_2, Z_3)$$

$G$

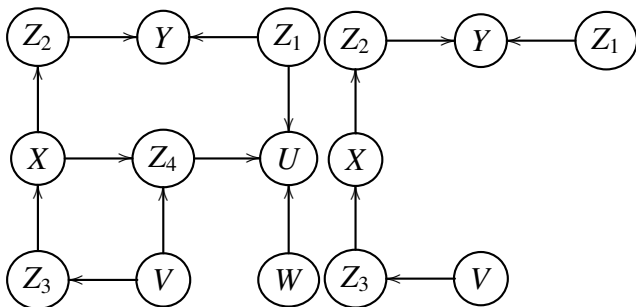


# $d$ -separation in directed graphs

$$(X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y \mid Z_2, Z_3)$$

$G$

$G_{an}$



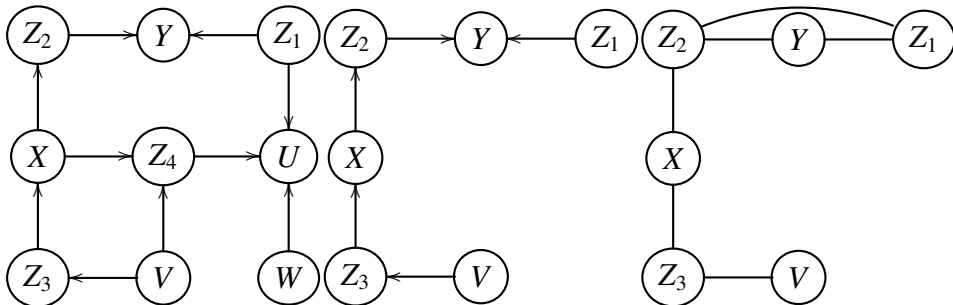
# $d$ -separation in directed graphs

$$(X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y \mid Z_2, Z_3)$$

$G$

$G_{an}$

$G_{an}^m$



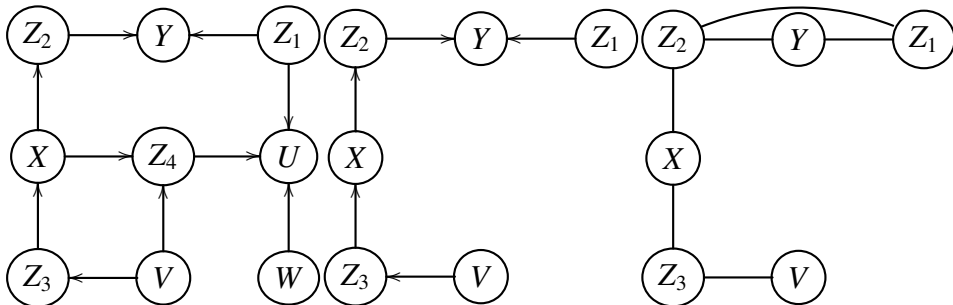
# $d$ -separation in directed graphs

$$(X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y \mid Z_2, Z_3)$$

$G$

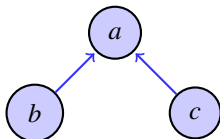
$G_{an}$

$G_{an}^m$

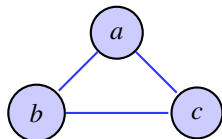


$$(X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y \mid Z_2, Z_3)$$

# $d$ -separation in directed graphs



directed



undirected

## edge in directed graph

- causal relation  $b \rightarrow a$

## edge in undirected graph

- causal relation  $a \rightarrow b$
- causal relation  $b \rightarrow a$
- reciprocal  $a - b$

# Today

## Why causality is interesting

- Explanations

- Causality and probability

## $d$ -separation and conditional independence

- conditional independence

- $d$ -separation

- When are models the same?

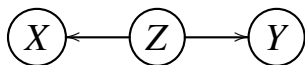
## Discovering causal graphs

- Inductive Causation algorithm

# When are models the same?



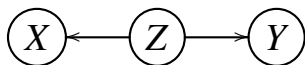
# When are models the same?



*d*-separation



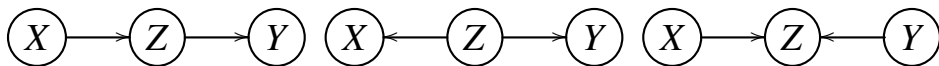
# When are models the same?



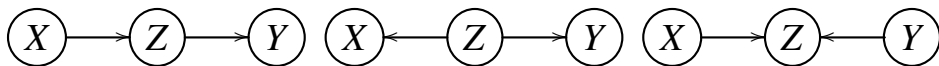
$d$ -separation

$$(X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y \mid Z)$$

# When are models the same?

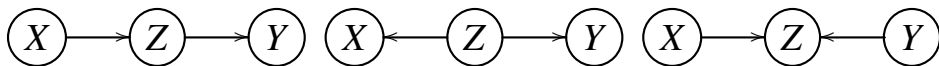


# When are models the same?



$$(X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y \mid Z)$$

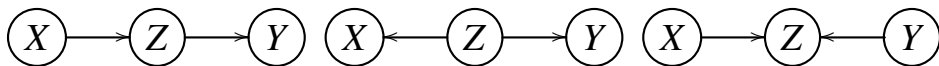
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$$(X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y \mid Z)$$

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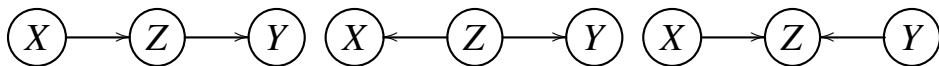


$$(X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y \mid Z)$$

$$(X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y \mid Z)$$

$$(X \not\perp\!\!\!\perp Y \mid Z)$$

# When are models the same?



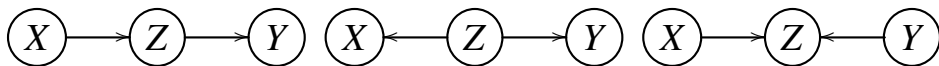
$$(X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y \mid Z)$$

$$(X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y \mid Z)$$

$$(X \not\perp\!\!\!\perp Y \mid Z)$$

$$(X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y)$$

# When are models the same?



$$(X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y \mid Z)$$

$$(X \not\perp\!\!\!\perp Y)$$

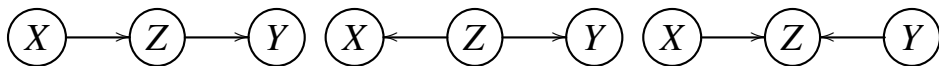
$$(X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y \mid Z)$$

$$(X \not\perp\!\!\!\perp Y)$$

$$(X \not\perp\!\!\!\perp Y \mid Z)$$

$$(X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y)$$

# When are models the same?



$$(X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y \mid Z)$$

$$(X \not\perp\!\!\!\perp Y)$$

$$(X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y \mid Z)$$

$$(X \not\perp\!\!\!\perp Y)$$

$$(X \not\perp\!\!\!\perp Y \mid Z)$$

$$(X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y)$$

Models are the same when the  $d$ -separations are the same!



# Today

## Why causality is interesting

- Explanations

- Causality and probability

## $d$ -separation and conditional independence

- conditional independence

- $d$ -separation

- When are models the same?

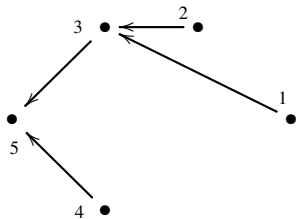
## Discovering causal graphs

- Inductive Causation algorithm

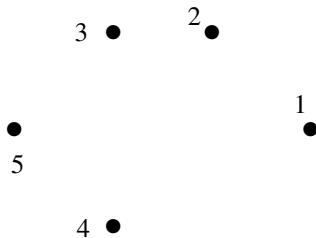
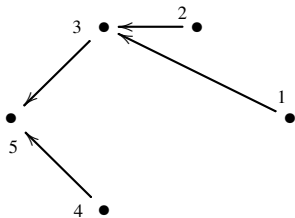
# Inductive Causation algorithm

# Inductive Causation algorithm

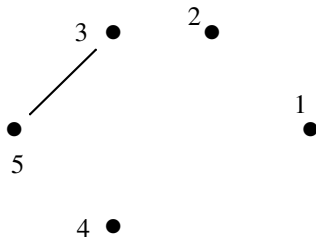
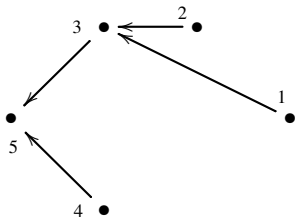
# Inductive Causation algorithm



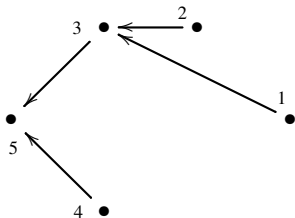
# Inductive Causation algorithm



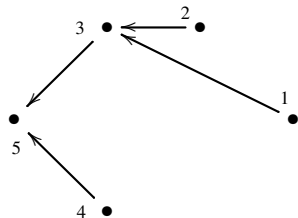
# Inductive Causation algorithm



# Inductive Causation algorithm



# Inductive Causation algorithm



$r(3, 5)$     $r(3, 5|1)$     $r(3, 5|2)$     $r(3, 5|4)$     $r(3, 5|1, 2)$     $\dots$

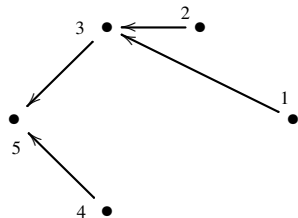
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$3 - 5$

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# Inductive Causation algorithm



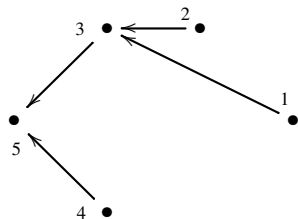
$r(3, 5)$	$r(3, 5 1)$	$r(3, 5 2)$	$r(3, 5 4)$	$r(3, 5 1, 2)$	$\dots$
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3 – 5	TRUE
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# Inductive Causation algorithm



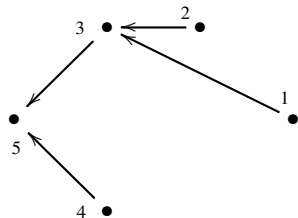
	$r(3, 5)$	$r(3, 5 1)$	$r(3, 5 2)$	$r(3, 5 4)$	$r(3, 5 1, 2)$	$\dots$
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3 – 5	TRUE	TRUE				
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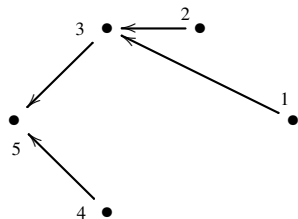
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# Inductive Causation algorithm



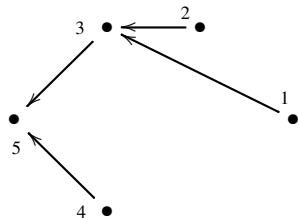
	$r(3, 5)$	$r(3, 5 1)$	$r(3, 5 2)$	$r(3, 5 4)$	$r(3, 5 1, 2)$	$\dots$
3 – 5	TRUE	TRUE	TRUE			

# Inductive Causation algorithm



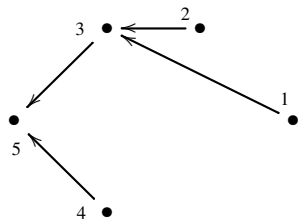
	$r(3, 5)$	$r(3, 5 1)$	$r(3, 5 2)$	$r(3, 5 4)$	$r(3, 5 1, 2)$	$\dots$
3 – 5	TRUE	TRUE	TRUE	TRUE		

# Inductive Causation algorithm



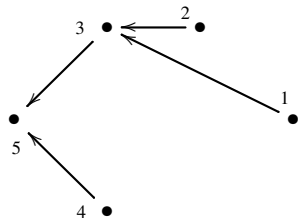
	$r(3, 5)$	$r(3, 5 1)$	$r(3, 5 2)$	$r(3, 5 4)$	$r(3, 5 1, 2)$	$\dots$
3 – 5	TRUE	TRUE	TRUE	TRUE	TRUE	

# Inductive Causation algorithm



	$r(3, 5)$	$r(3, 5 1)$	$r(3, 5 2)$	$r(3, 5 4)$	$r(3, 5 1, 2)$	$\dots$
3 – 5	TRUE	TRUE	TRUE	TRUE	TRUE	TRUE

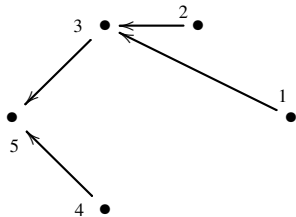
# Inductive Causation algorithm



	$r(3, 5)$	$r(3, 5 1)$	$r(3, 5 2)$	$r(3, 5 4)$	$r(3, 5 1, 2)$	$\dots$
3 – 5	TRUE	TRUE	TRUE	TRUE	TRUE	TRUE

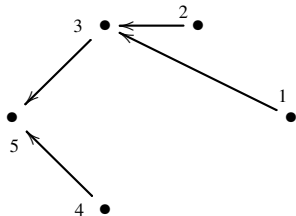
There is no (set of) node(s)  $x$  such that  $(3 \perp\!\!\!\perp 5 \mid x)$  holds; and so connection 3 – 5 is TRUE

# Inductive Causation algorithm





# Inductive Causation algorithm



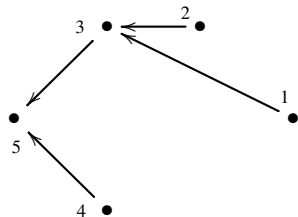
$r(3, 4)$     $r(3, 4|1)$     $r(3, 4|2)$     $r(3, 4|5)$     $r(3, 4|1, 2)$     $\dots$

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$3 - 4$

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# Inductive Causation algorithm



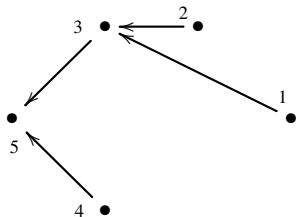
$r(3, 4)$     $r(3, 4|1)$     $r(3, 4|2)$     $r(3, 4|5)$     $r(3, 4|1, 2)$     $\dots$

---

3 – 4   FALSE

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# Inductive Causation algorithm



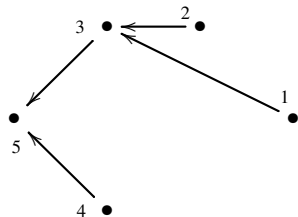
$r(3, 4)$	$r(3, 4 1)$	$r(3, 4 2)$	$r(3, 4 5)$	$r(3, 4 1, 2)$	$\dots$
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3 – 4	FALSE	FALSE
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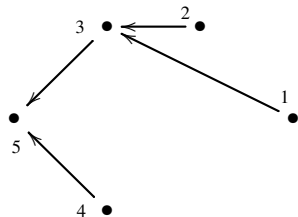
# Inductive Causation algorithm



	$r(3, 4)$	$r(3, 4 1)$	$r(3, 4 2)$	$r(3, 4 5)$	$r(3, 4 1, 2)$	$\dots$
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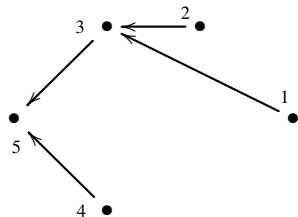
3 – 4	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE			
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# Inductive Causation algorithm



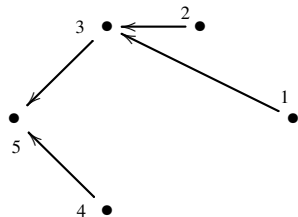
	$r(3, 4)$	$r(3, 4 1)$	$r(3, 4 2)$	$r(3, 4 5)$	$r(3, 4 1, 2)$	$\dots$
3 – 4	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	TRUE		

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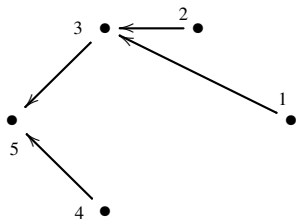
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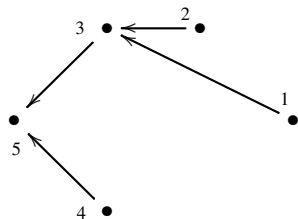
No correlation between 3 and 4 and so no (direct) connection 3 – 4, but conditioning on 5 gives correlation  $r(3, 4)$  and so a collider  $3 \rightarrow 5 \leftarrow 4$ .

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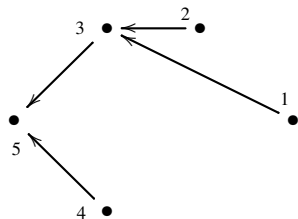
$r(1, 4) \quad r(1, 4|2) \quad r(1, 4|3) \quad r(1, 4|5) \quad r(1, 4|3, 5)$

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$1 - 4$

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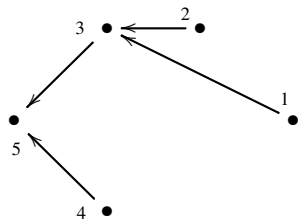
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1 – 4	FALSE
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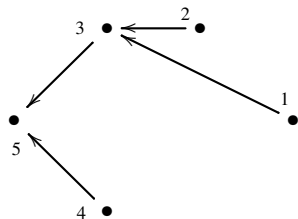
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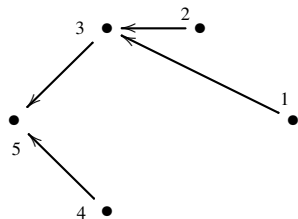
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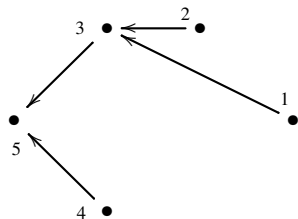
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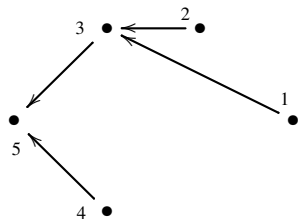
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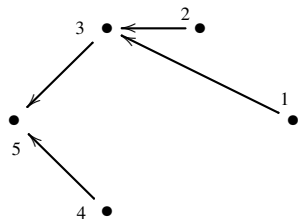
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1 – 4	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	TRUE	

There is no correlation between 1 and 4, and so no (direct) connection 1 – 4.

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1 – 4	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	TRUE	FALSE

There is no correlation between 1 and 4, and so no (direct) connection 1 – 4.

No collider since conditioning on 3 and 5 removes the correlation again.



# Inductive Causation algorithm

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 $a \rightarrow c \leftarrow b$ .
3. Orient as many of the undirected edges as possible, subject to: (i) no new  $v$ -structures and (ii) no cycles.

# directed and undirected networks, causality and discovery

- undirected networks represent reciprocal or unidirectional relations
- directed networks are often interpreted as causal networks
- *d*-separation is a pictorial (graphical) tool to determine conditional independencies
- causal statements using the idea of excluding alternative explanations are the same as the interventionist view on causality

Try all this in the  
practical