



# Reasoning Under Uncertainty

Russell & Norvig chapter 12

T-622-ARTI

Spring 2023

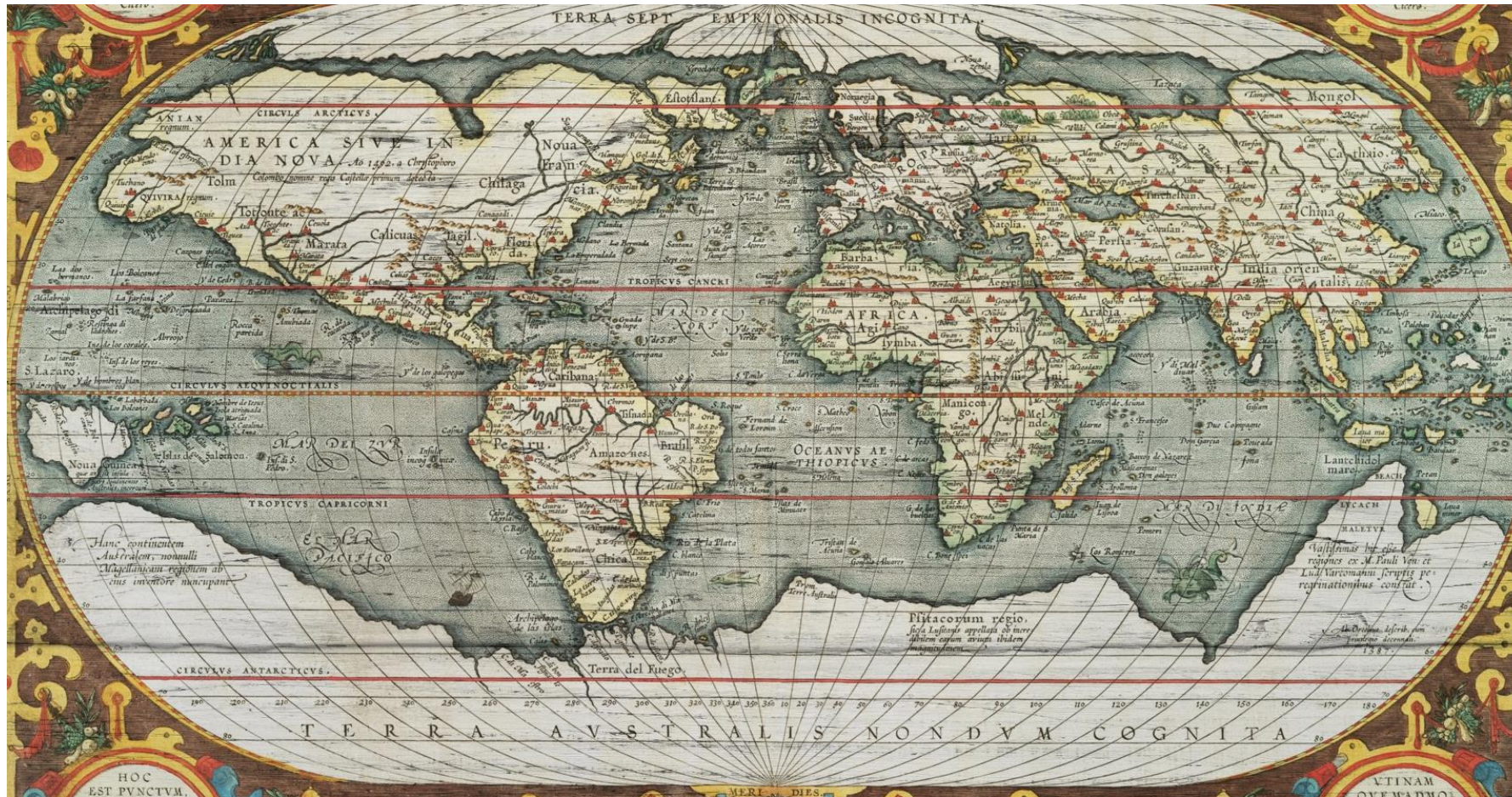






# Introducing Uncertainty (Ch. 12)

It is not the world that is imperfect, it is our knowledge of it.





## So far we have assumed that:

- World states are perfectly observable:
  - The current state is exactly known
- Action representations are perfect:
  - States are exactly predicted
- We will now investigate how an agent can cope with **imperfect information**



# Intelligence

Pei Wang – Temple University

**“Intelligence” ... is about whether, or how much, a system can improve its problem-solving capability by adaptation, that is, learning from its past experience.**



# Intelligent vs. Instinctive

In an **instinctive system**, all major components and their relations are **determined** when the system is formed, and **remain unchanged** afterwards.

In an **intelligent system**, all major components and their relations are **adaptive to the environment**. The system **learns** new beliefs, organize actions into skills, establish new goals, all as attempts to improve its goal-achieving capability, under the assumption that in general the future will be similar to the past.

**Intelligence is the ability to adapt to the environment  
with insufficient knowledge and resources.**





# Sources of Uncertainty

- **The Representation Language**
- **Imperfect Observation of the World**
- **Ignorance, Laziness, Efficiency**



# Representing the Real World

**Agent's conceptualization**  
**- Representation language**

3x3 matrix filled  
with 1, 2, .., 8, and  
'empty'



**Real world**

**8-puzzle**



# Representing the Real World

**Agent's conceptualization**  
**- Representation language**

Logic sentences using propositions like  
Block(A), On(A,B), Handempty, ...  
and connectives



**Real world**

**Blocks world**





# Who provides the representation language?

- The agent's **designer**
- Few practical techniques exist to allow an agent to autonomously abstract features of the real world into useful concepts
  - e.g. transformer embeddings, Thing2Vec
- Techniques allowing an agent to develop its own representation language using these concepts?
  - Inductive learning techniques are steps in this direction
- In the following slides:
  - Representation language is provided by the agent's designer
  - or developed over time by the agent

# Robots stacking blocks

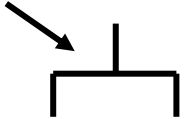




# Stacking blocks

## Simplified representation

Robotic arm



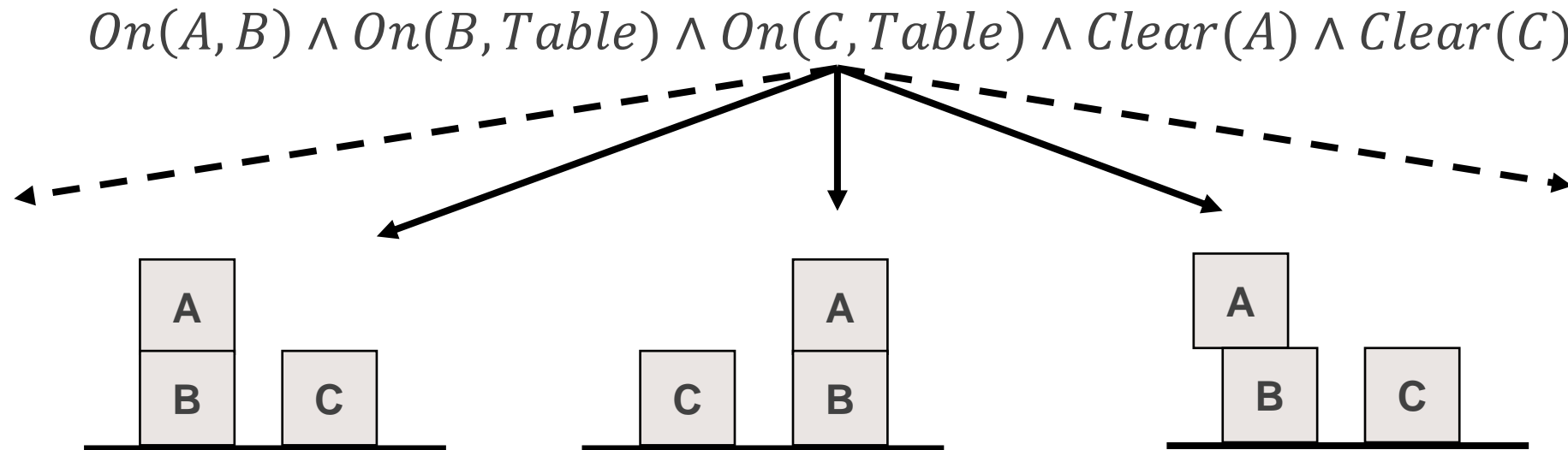
$$On(A, Table)On(B, Table) \wedge On(C, Table) \wedge \dots$$



# First Source of Uncertainty:

## The Representation Language

- There are many more states of the real world than can be expressed in the representation language
- So, any state represented in the language may correspond to many different states of the real world, which the agent can't represent distinguishably



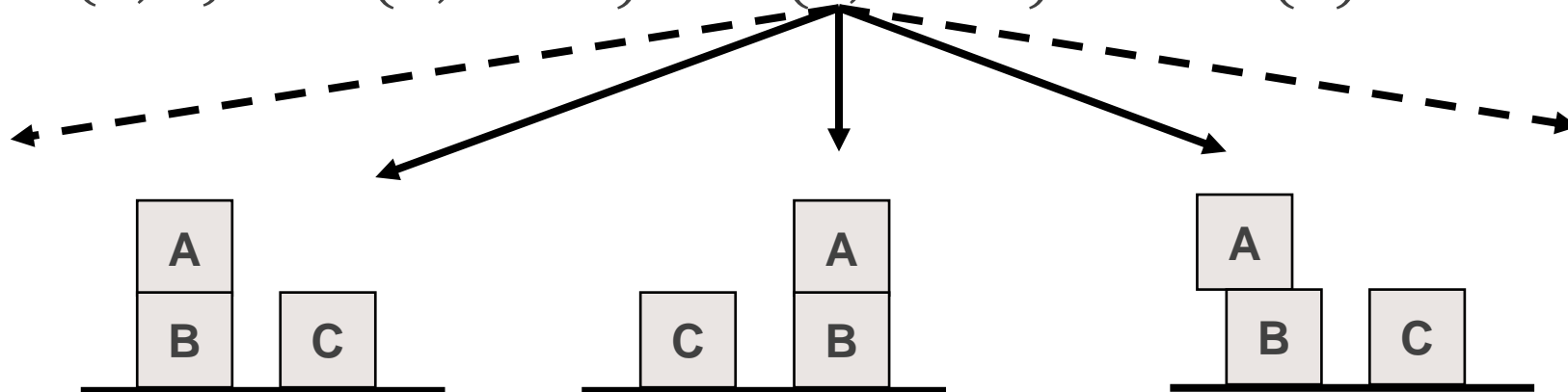


# First Source of Uncertainty:

## The Representation Language

- 6 propositions  $On(x,y)$ , where  $x, y = A, B, C$  and  $x \neq y$
- 3 propositions  $On(x,Table)$ , where  $x = A, B, C$
- 3 propositions  $Clear(x)$ , where  $x = A, B, C$
- At most  $2^{12}$  states can be distinguished in the language
- But there are infinitely many states of the real world

$On(A,B) \wedge On(B,Table) \wedge On(C,Table) \wedge Clear(A) \wedge Clear(C)$







# An action representation may be incorrect

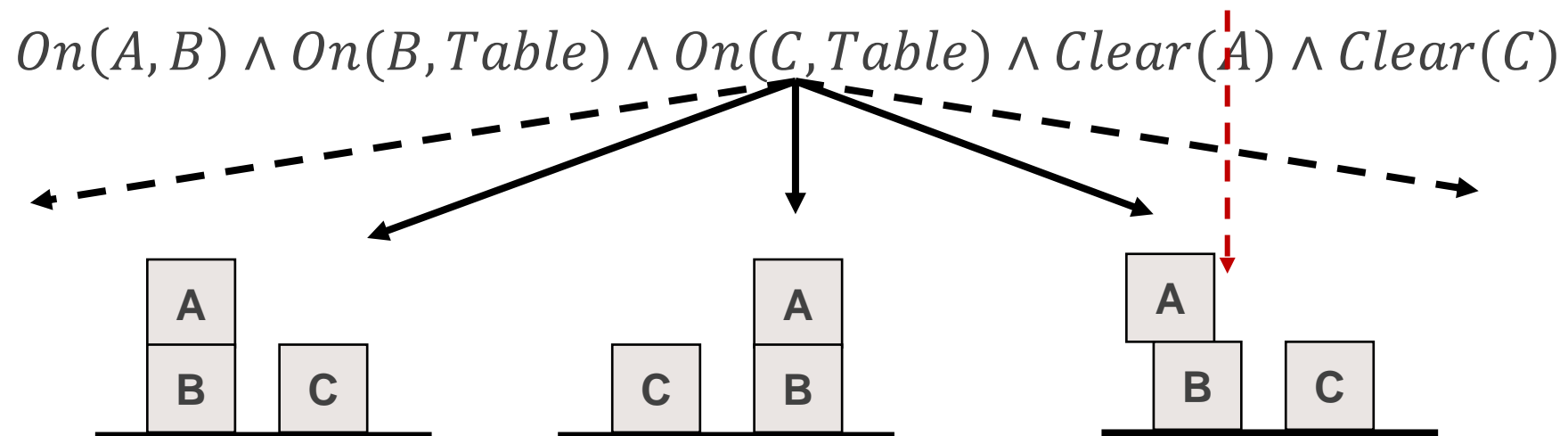
*Stack(C, A):*

*Precondition* =  $Holding(C) \wedge Block(A) \wedge Block(C) \wedge Clear(A)$

*Delete* =  $Clear(A), Holding(C)$

*Add* =  $On(C, A), Clear(C), Handempty$

is likely not to have the described effects in case 3  
because the precondition is “incomplete”





# An action may describe alternative effects

**Stack(C, A):**

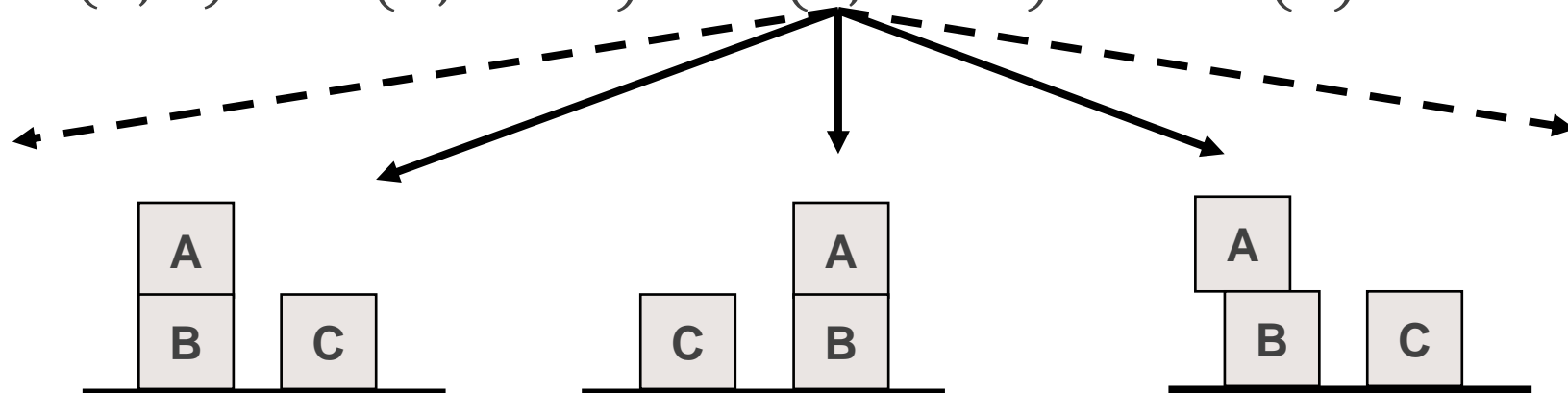
*Precondition* =  $Holding(C) \wedge Block(A) \wedge Block(C) \wedge Clear(A)$

*If*  $On(A, x) \wedge (x \neq Table)$

OR  
 $E_1 \left\{ \begin{array}{l} Delete = Clear(A), Holding(C) \\ Add = On(C, A), Clear(C), Handempty \end{array} \right.$

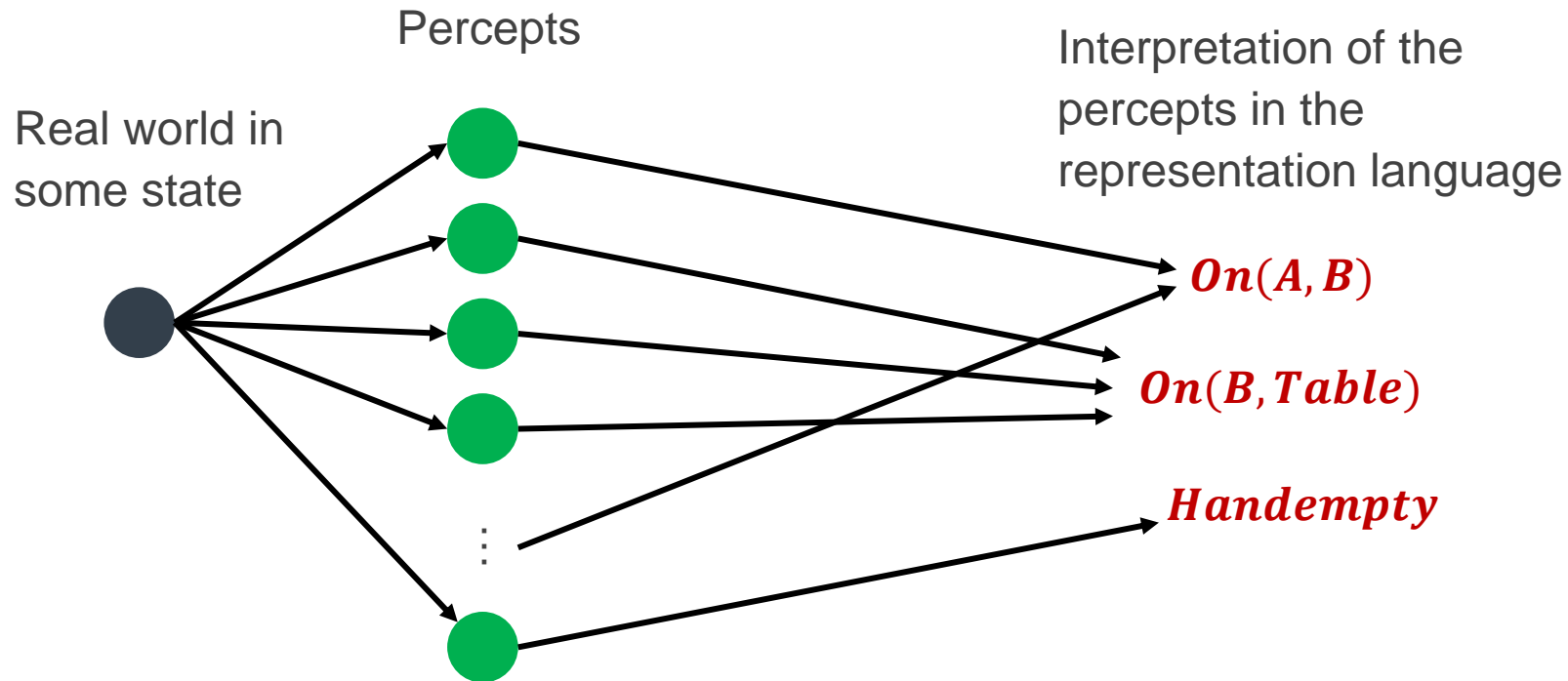
$E_2 \left\{ \begin{array}{l} Delete = On(A, x), Holding(C) \\ Add = On(C, Table), Clear(C), Handempty, On(A, Table), Clear(A), Clear(x) \end{array} \right.$

$On(A, B) \wedge On(B, Table) \wedge On(C, Table) \wedge Clear(A) \wedge Clear(C)$





# Observation of the real world

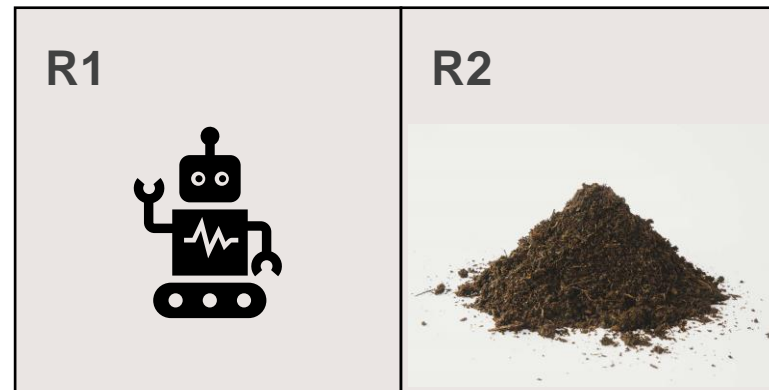


Percepts can be user's inputs, sensory data (e.g., image pixels), information received from other agents, ...



# Second source of Uncertainty: Imperfect Observation of the World

- **Observation of the world can be:**
  - *Partial* - a vision sensor can't see through obstacles (lack of percepts)

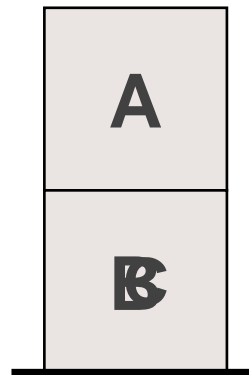


The robot may not know whether  
there is dirt in room R2



# Second source of Uncertainty: Imperfect Observation of the World

- **Observation of the world can be:**
  - *Partial* - a vision sensor can't see through obstacles (lack of percepts)
  - *Ambiguous* - percepts have multiple possible interpretations



$$On(A, B) \vee On(A, C)$$





# Second source of Uncertainty: Imperfect Observation of the World

- **Observation of the world can be:**
  - *Partial* - a vision sensor can't see through obstacles (lack of percepts)
  - *Ambiguous* - percepts have multiple possible interpretations
  - *Incorrect*



# Third Source of Uncertainty: Ignorance, Laziness, Efficiency

- An action may have a long list of preconditions:

- **Drive-Car:**

$P = Have(Keys) \wedge \neg Empty(GasTank) \wedge BatteryOk \wedge IgnitionOk \wedge \neg FlatTires \wedge \neg Stolen(Car) \dots$

- The agent's designer may **ignore** some preconditions, or by **laziness** or **efficiency**, may not include all in the action representation
- Results in representation that is incorrect:
  - Executing the action may not have the described effects
- Or has several alternative effects



# Third Source of Uncertainty: Ignorance, Laziness, Efficiency

- Example of uncertain reasoning: diagnosing a dental patient's toothache
- Using logic to cope with this domain fails:
  - **Laziness:** Too much work to list complete set of antecedents and consequences and too hard to use those rules
  - **Theoretical ignorance:** Medical science has no complete theory for domain
  - **Practical ignorance:** Even if rules are known, individual patients introduce uncertainty because not all test may have been run



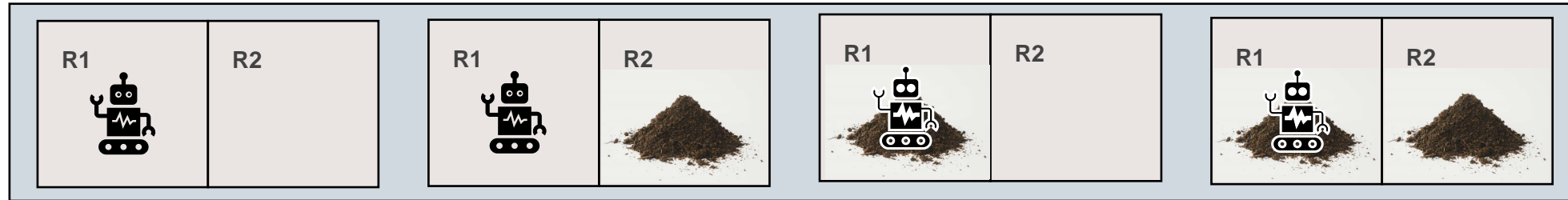
# Representation of Uncertainty

- Many models of uncertainty
- We will consider two important models:
  - 1. Non-deterministic model:**
    - Uncertainty is represented by a set of possible values
      - a set of possible worlds, a set of possible effects, ...
  - 2. Probabilistic model:**
    - Uncertainty is represented by a probabilistic distribution over a set of possible values

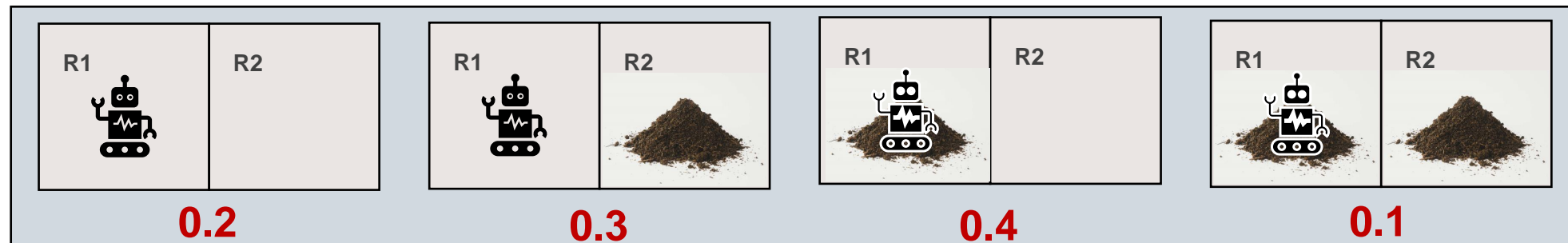


# Example: Belief State

In the presence of non-deterministic sensory uncertainty, an agent **belief state** represents all the states of the world that it thinks are possible at a given time or at a given stage of reasoning



In the probabilistic model of uncertainty, a probability is associated with each state to measure its likelihood to be the actual state

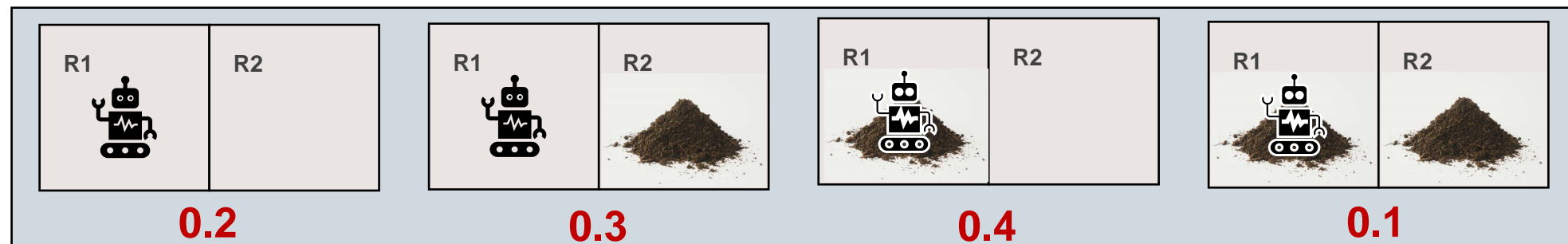






# What do probabilities mean?

- Probabilities have a natural **frequency interpretation**
- The agent believes:
  - If it returned many times to a situation where it has the same belief state → the actual states in this situation would occur at a relative frequency defined by the probabilistic distribution

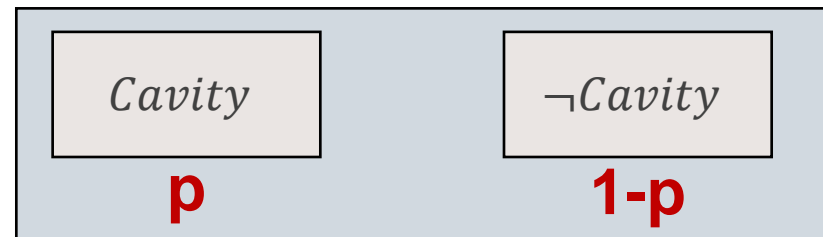


↑ This state would occur 20% of the times



# Example: Dentist Agent

- Consider a world where a dentist agent D meets a new patient P
- D is interested in one thing:
  - Whether P has a cavity
  - D models using the proposition *Cavity*
- Before making any observation, D's belief state is:



- D believes that a fraction  $p$  of patients have cavities



# Where do probabilities come from?

- **Frequencies observed in the past:**
  - by the agent, its designer, or others
- **Symmetries:**
  - Rolling dice, each of the 6 outcomes has probability  $1/6$
- **Subjectivism:**
  - Driving on Highway 280 at 120mph, will get speeding ticket with probability 0.6
  - Principle of indifference:
    - No knowledge if one possibility more probable than another, give them the same probability



# Decision Theory

## General theory of rational decisions

*The theory of probability provides a way of summarizing the uncertainty that comes from our laziness and ignorance*

Agents can have **preferences** for different possible **outcomes**

**Utility Theory:** Every state (or sequence) has a degree of usefulness to an agent

**General theory of rational decisions:**

*Decision Theory = probability theory + utility theory*

*An agent is rational if and only if it chooses the action that yields the highest expected utility, averaged over all the possible outcomes of the action*

→ Maximum Expected Utility



# A decision-theoretic agent that selects rational actions

**function** DT-Agent(**percept**) **returns** an **action**

**persistent:** `belief_state` probabilistic beliefs about the current state of the world  
`action` the agent's action

*update* **belief\_state** based on action and percept

```
calculate outcome probabilities for actions
    given action descriptions and current belief_state
```

```
select action with highest expected utility
given probabilities of outcomes and utility information
```

```
return action
```





# Probabilistic Belief States and Bayesian Networks

Russell & Norvig chapter 13

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# Probabilistic Belief

- Consider a world where a dentist agent D meets with a new patient P
- D is interested in only whether P has a cavity:
  - a state is described with a single proposition: *Cavity*
- Before observing P, D does not know if P has a cavity, but from years of practice, he believes *Cavity* with some probability  $p$  and  $\neg Cavity$  with probability  $1 - p$
- The proposition is now a **boolean random variable** and  $(Cavity, p)$  is a **probabilistic belief**

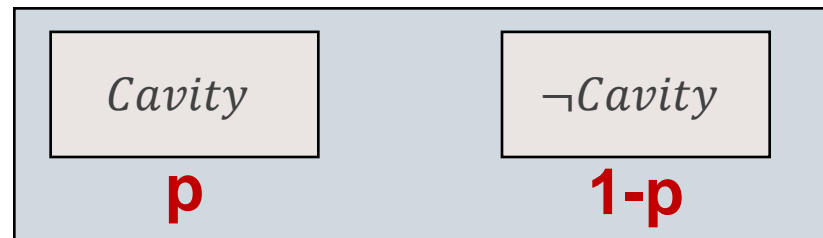


# Probabilistic Belief State

The world has only two possible states, which are respectively described by *Cavity* and  $\neg Cavity$

The **probabilistic belief state** of an agent is a probabilistic distribution over all the states that the agent thinks possible

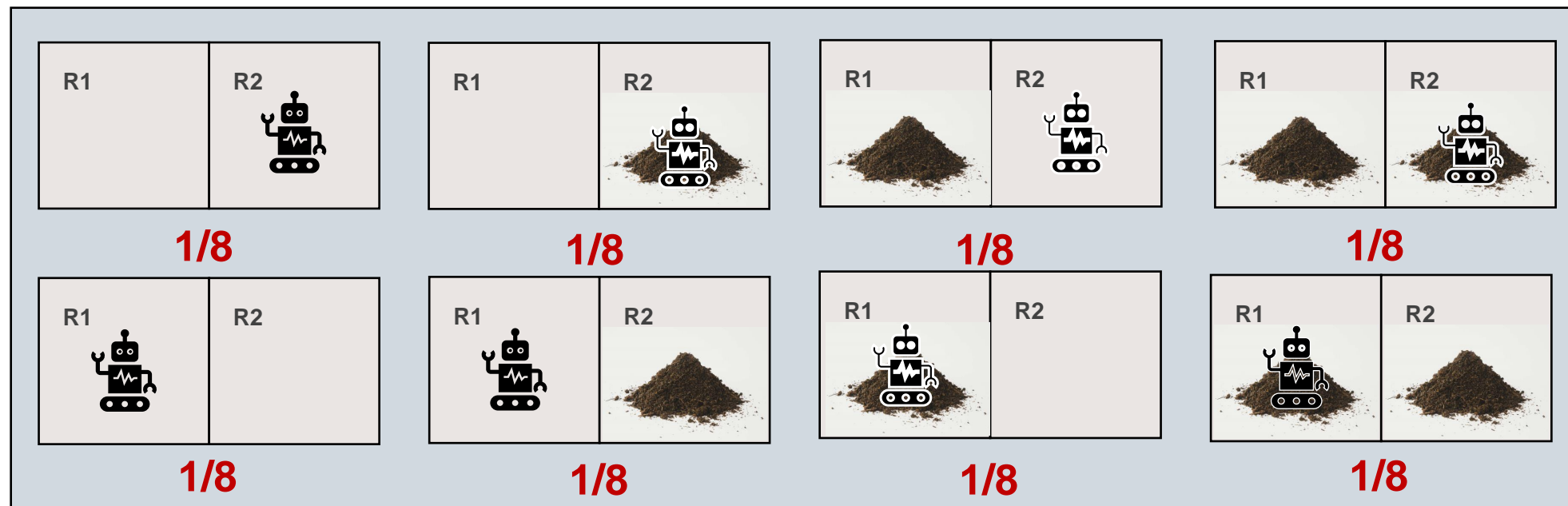
The dentist agent's belief state is:





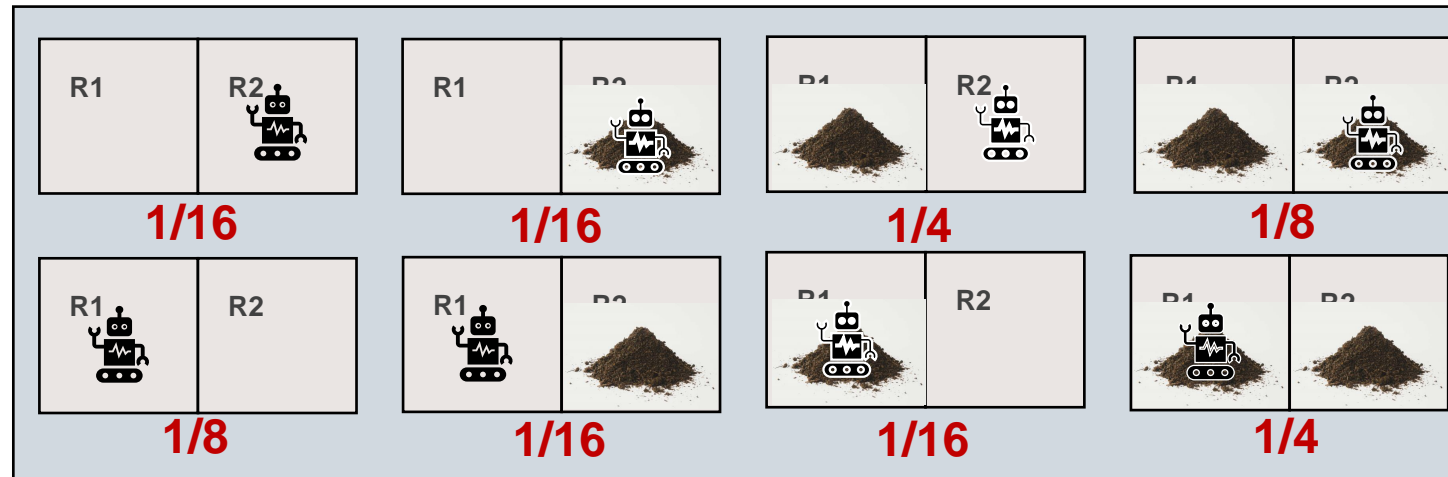
# Vacuum Robot

- The Principle of Indifference:
  - If the robot has no idea what the state of the world is, and thinks that all states are equally probable, its belief state is:

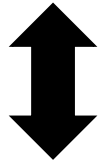




# How are beliefs and belief states related?



How does a belief affect the entire belief state and the other beliefs?



$(Clean(R1), 5/16)$   
 $(Clean(R2), 0.5)$   
 $(In(Robot, R1), 0.5)$   
 $(In(Robot, R2), 0.5)$

It is usually more convenient to deal with individual beliefs than with entire belief states:

- The robot may choose to execute  $Suck(R2)$  only if  $Clean(R2)$  has low probability
- The robot may directly observe whether  $Clean(R1)$  or  $Clean(R2)$



# Back to the dentist's ...

- Let's represent the world of the dentist D using three propositions:
  - *Cavity*, *Toothache*, and *Catch*
- D's belief state consists of  $2^3 = 8$  states, each with some probability:

$\{Cavity \wedge Toothache \wedge Catch,$   
 $\neg Cavity \wedge Toothache \wedge Catch,$   
 $Cavity \wedge \neg Toothache \wedge PCatch, \dots\}$



The belief state is defined by the full joint probability of the propositions

	<i>toothache</i>		$\neg$ <i>toothache</i>	
	<i>Catch</i>	$\neg$ <i>Catch</i>	<i>Catch</i>	$\neg$ <i>Catch</i>
<i>cavity</i>	0.108	0.012	0.072	0.008
$\neg$ <i>cavity</i>	0.016	0.064	0.144	0.576



# Probabilistic Inference

	<i>toothache</i>		$\neg$ <i>toothache</i>	
	<i>Catch</i>	$\neg$ <i>Catch</i>	<i>Catch</i>	$\neg$ <i>Catch</i>
<i>cavity</i>	0.108	0.012	0.072	0.008
$\neg$ <i>cavity</i>	0.016	0.064	0.144	0.576

$$\begin{aligned}P(\textit{cavity} \vee \textit{toothache}) &= 0.108 + 0.012 + \dots \\ &= 0.28\end{aligned}$$





# Probabilistic Inference

	<i>toothache</i>		$\neg$ <i>toothache</i>	
	<i>Catch</i>	$\neg$ <i>Catch</i>	<i>Catch</i>	$\neg$ <i>Catch</i>
<i>cavity</i>	0.108	0.012	0.072	0.008
$\neg$ <i>cavity</i>	0.016	0.064	0.144	0.576

$$\begin{aligned}P(\textit{cavity}) &= 0.108 + 0.012 + 0.072 + 0.008 \\ &= 0.2\end{aligned}$$

**Marginal probability**



# Probabilistic Inference

	<i>toothache</i>		$\neg$ <i>toothache</i>	
	<i>catch</i>	$\neg$ <i>catch</i>	<i>catch</i>	$\neg$ <i>catch</i>
<i>cavity</i>	0.108	0.012	0.072	0.008
$\neg$ <i>cavity</i>	0.016	0.064	0.144	0.576

**Marginalization:** Summing out – summing up the probabilities for each possible value of the other variables, taking them out of the equation

$$\begin{aligned} P(\text{Cavity}) &= P(\text{Cavity}, \text{toothache}, \text{catch}) + P(\text{Cavity}, \text{toothache}, \neg \text{catch}) \\ &\quad + P(\text{Cavity}, \neg \text{toothache}, \text{catch}) + P(\text{Cavity}, \neg \text{toothache}, \neg \text{catch}) \\ &= \langle 0.108, 0.016 \rangle + \langle 0.012, 0.064 \rangle + \langle 0.072, 0.144 \rangle + \langle 0.008, 0.576 \rangle \\ &= \langle 0.2, 0.8 \rangle \end{aligned}$$

$$P(\text{Cavity}) = \sum_{\text{Toothache}} \sum_{\text{Catch}} P(\text{Cavity} \wedge \text{Toothache} \wedge \text{Catch})$$



# Conditional Probability

$$\begin{aligned} P(A \wedge B) &= P(A|B) P(B) \\ &= P(B|A) P(A) \end{aligned}$$

$P(A|B)$  is the **posterior probability** of A given B

$$P(A|B) = \frac{P(A \wedge B)}{P(B)}$$



	<i>toothache</i>		$\neg$ <i>toothache</i>	
	<i>catch</i>	$\neg$ <i>catch</i>	<i>catch</i>	$\neg$ <i>catch</i>
<i>cavity</i>	0.108	0.012	0.072	0.008
$\neg$ <i>cavity</i>	0.016	0.064	0.144	0.576

$$\begin{aligned} P(\text{cavity}|\text{toothache}) &= \frac{P(\text{cavity} \wedge \text{toothache})}{P(\text{toothache})} \\ &= \frac{0.108 + 0.012}{0.108 + 0.012 + 0.016 + 0.064} = 0.6 \end{aligned}$$

**Interpretation:** After observing *toothache*, the patient is no longer an “average” one, and the prior probability (0.2) of *cavity* is no longer valid.

$P(\text{Cavity}|\text{toothache})$  is calculated by keeping the ratios of the probabilities of the 4 cases unchanged, and normalizing their sum to 1



	<i>toothache</i>		$\neg$ <i>toothache</i>	
	<i>catch</i>	$\neg$ <i>catch</i>	<i>catch</i>	$\neg$ <i>catch</i>
<i>cavity</i>	0.108	0.012	0.072	0.008
$\neg$ <i>cavity</i>	0.016	0.064	0.144	0.576

$$P(\text{cavity}|\text{toothache}) = \frac{P(\text{cavity} \wedge \text{toothache})}{P(\text{toothache})}$$

$$= \frac{0.108 + 0.012}{0.108 + 0.012 + 0.016 + 0.064} = 0.6$$

$$P(\neg \text{cavity}|\text{toothache}) = \frac{P(\neg \text{cavity} \wedge \text{toothache})}{P(\text{toothache})}$$

$$= \frac{0.016 + 0.064}{0.108 + 0.012 + 0.016 + 0.064} = 0.4$$



	<i>toothache</i>		$\neg$ <i>toothache</i>	
	<i>catch</i>	$\neg$ <i>catch</i>	<i>catch</i>	$\neg$ <i>catch</i>
<i>cavity</i>	0.108	0.012	0.072	0.008
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$$P(\text{cavity}|\text{toothache}) = \frac{0.108 + 0.012}{0.108 + 0.012 + 0.016 + 0.064} = 0.6$$

$$P(\neg\text{cavity}|\text{toothache}) = \frac{0.016 + 0.064}{0.108 + 0.012 + 0.016 + 0.064} = 0.4$$

$$P(\text{Cavity}|\text{Toothache}) = (P(\text{Cavity}|\text{Toothache}), P(\text{Cavity}|\text{Toothache}))$$

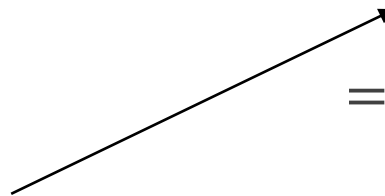
$$= \alpha P(\text{Cavity} \wedge \text{Toothache})$$

$$= \alpha \sum_{\text{Catch}} P(\text{Cavity} \wedge \text{Toothache} \wedge \text{Catch})$$

$$= \alpha [(0.108, 0.016) + (0.012, 0.064)]$$

$$= \alpha (0.12, 0.08) = (0.6, 0.4)$$

Normalization constant





# Conditional Probability

$$P(A \wedge B) = P(A|B) P(B)$$

$$= P(B|A) P(A)$$

$$P(A \wedge B \wedge C) = P(A|B, C)P(B \wedge C)$$

$$= P(A|B, C) P(B|C) P(C)$$

$$P(Cavity) = \sum_{Toothache} \sum_{Catch} P(Cavity \wedge Toothache \wedge Catch)$$

$$= \sum_{Toothache} \sum_{Catch} P(Cavity|Toothache, Catch)P(Toothache \wedge Catch)$$



# Independence

Two random variables A and B are **independent** if

$$P(A \wedge B) = P(A) P(B)$$

hence  $P(A|B) = P(A)$

Two random variables A and B are **independent given C**, if

$$P(A \wedge B|C) = P(A|C) P(B|C)$$

hence  $P(A|B, C) = P(A|C)$





# Updating the Belief State

	<i>toothache</i>		$\neg$ <i>toothache</i>	
	<i>catch</i>	$\neg$ <i>catch</i>	<i>catch</i>	$\neg$ <i>catch</i>
<i>cavity</i>	0.108	0.012	0.072	0.008
$\neg$ <i>cavity</i>	0.016	0.064	0.144	0.576

- Let E be the **evidence** such that  $P(\textit{Toothache}|E) = 0.8$
- We want to compute  $P(CA \wedge TO \wedge CH|E) = P(CA \wedge CH|TO, E) P(TO|E)$
- Since E is not directly related to the cavity or the catch, we consider that CA and CH are independent of E given T  
hence:  $P(CA \wedge CH|T, E) = P(CA \wedge CH|T)$



# Updating the Belief State

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# Updating the Belief State

	<i>toothache</i>		$\neg$ <i>toothache</i>	
	<i>catch</i>	$\neg$ <i>catch</i>	<i>catch</i>	$\neg$ <i>catch</i>
<i>cavity</i>	<del>0.108</del> 0.432	<del>0.012</del> 0.048	<del>0.072</del> 0.018	<del>0.008</del> 0.002
$\neg$ <i>cavity</i>	<del>0.016</del> 0.064	<del>0.064</del> 0.256	<del>0.144</del> 0.036	<del>0.576</del> 0.114

To get these 4 probabilities  
we normalize their sum to 0.8

ch that  $P(\text{Toothache}|E) = 0.8$

$P(CA \wedge TO \wedge CH|E) = P(CA$

To get these 4 probabilities  
we normalize their sum to 0.2

- Since E is not directly related to the cavity or the  
CH are independent of E given T  
hence:  $P(CA \wedge CH|T, E) = P(CA \wedge CH|T)$



# Issues

- If a state is described by  $n$  propositions, then a belief state contains  $2^n$  states (possibly, some have probability 0)
- **Modeling difficulty:** many numbers must be entered in the first place
- **Computational issue:** memory size and time



# Enter Bayesian Networks

	<i>toothache</i>		$\neg$ <i>toothache</i>	
	<i>catch</i>	$\neg$ <i>catch</i>	<i>catch</i>	$\neg$ <i>catch</i>
<i>cavity</i>	0.108	0.012	0.072	0.008
$\neg$ <i>cavity</i>	0.016	0.064	0.144	0.576

- Toothache and Catch are independent given Cavity (or  $\neg$ Cavity), but this relation is hidden in the numbers!
- **Bayesian networks** explicitly represent independence among propositions to reduce the number of probabilities defining a belief state

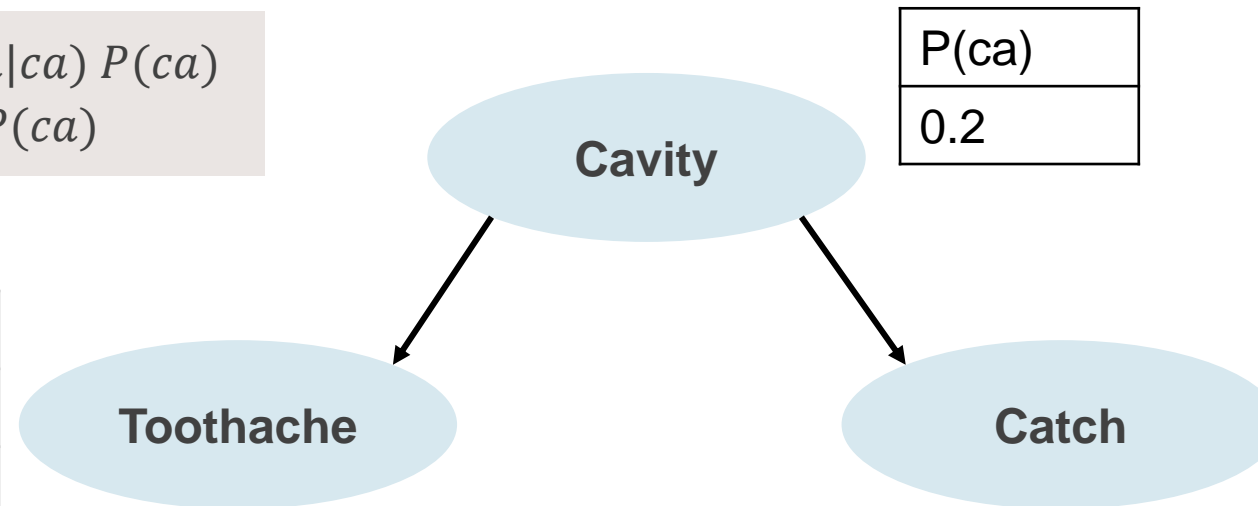


# Bayesian Network

- Notice that Cavity is the “cause” of both Toothache and Catch, and represent the causality links explicitly
- Give the prior probability distribution of Cavity
- Give the conditional probability tables of Toothache and Catch

$$\begin{aligned} P(ca \wedge to \wedge ch) &= P(to \wedge ch|ca) P(ca) \\ &= P(to|ca) P(ch|ca) P(ca) \end{aligned}$$

	P(to ca)
Cavity	0.6
¬Cavity	0.1



P(ca)
0.2

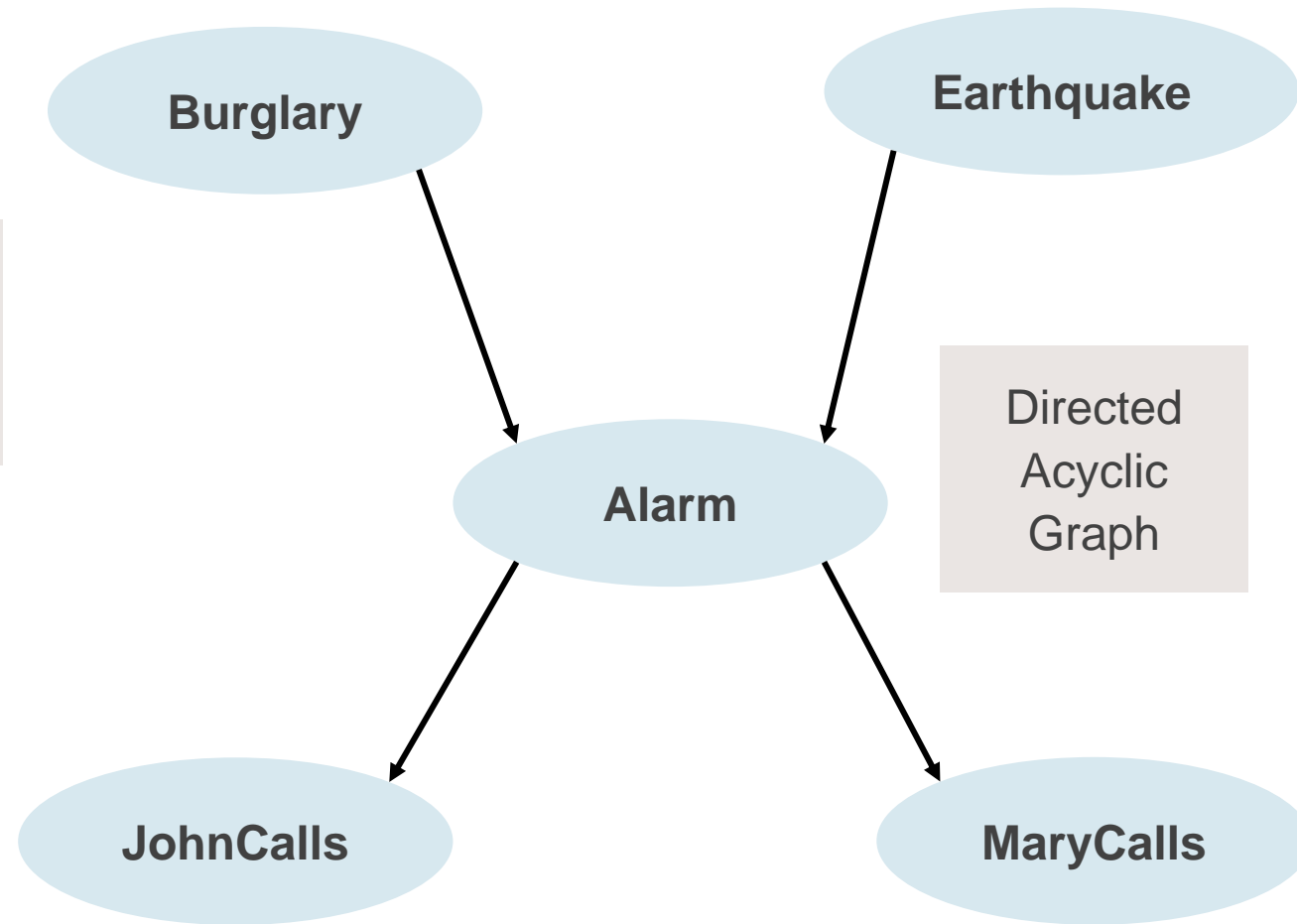
	P(ch ca)
Cavity	0.9
¬Cavity	0.02

5 probabilities instead of 7



# A More Complex BN

Intuitive meaning of  
arc from x to y:  
“x has direct influence on y”



Causes



Effects



# A More Complex BN

P(B)
0.001



P(E)
0.002



Size of the CPT for a node with k parents:  $2^k$

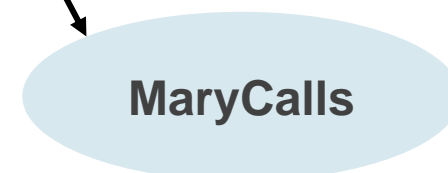
B	E	P(A ...)
T	T	0.95
T	F	0.94
F	T	0.29
F	F	0.001



A	P(J ...)
T	0.9
F	0.05



A	P(M ...)
T	0.7
F	0.01



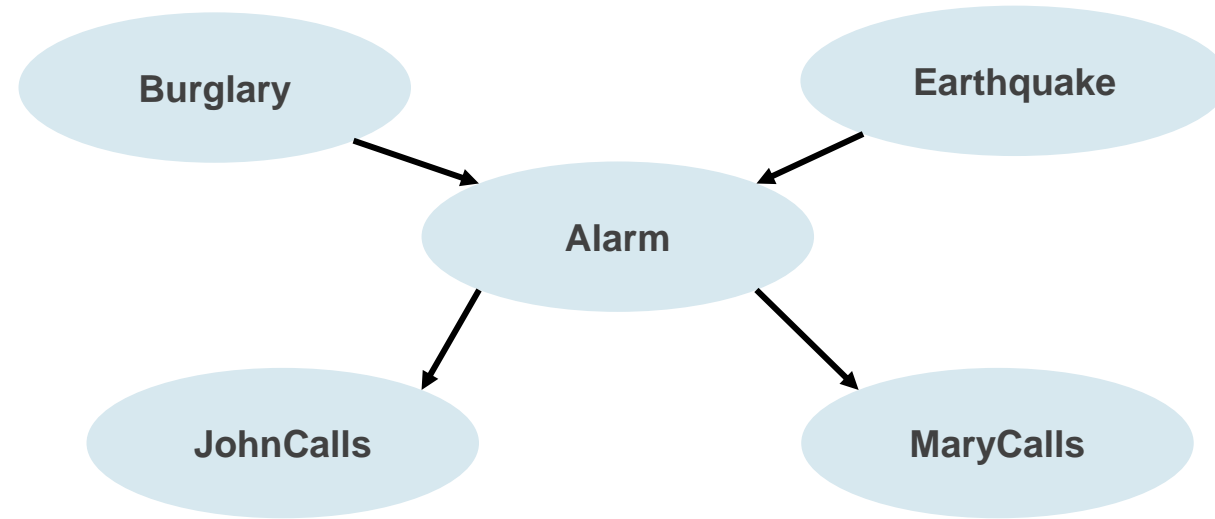
10 probabilities, instead of 31





# What does the BN encode?

$$P(b \wedge j) \neq P(b) P(j)$$
$$P(b \wedge j|a) = P(b|a) P(j|a)$$

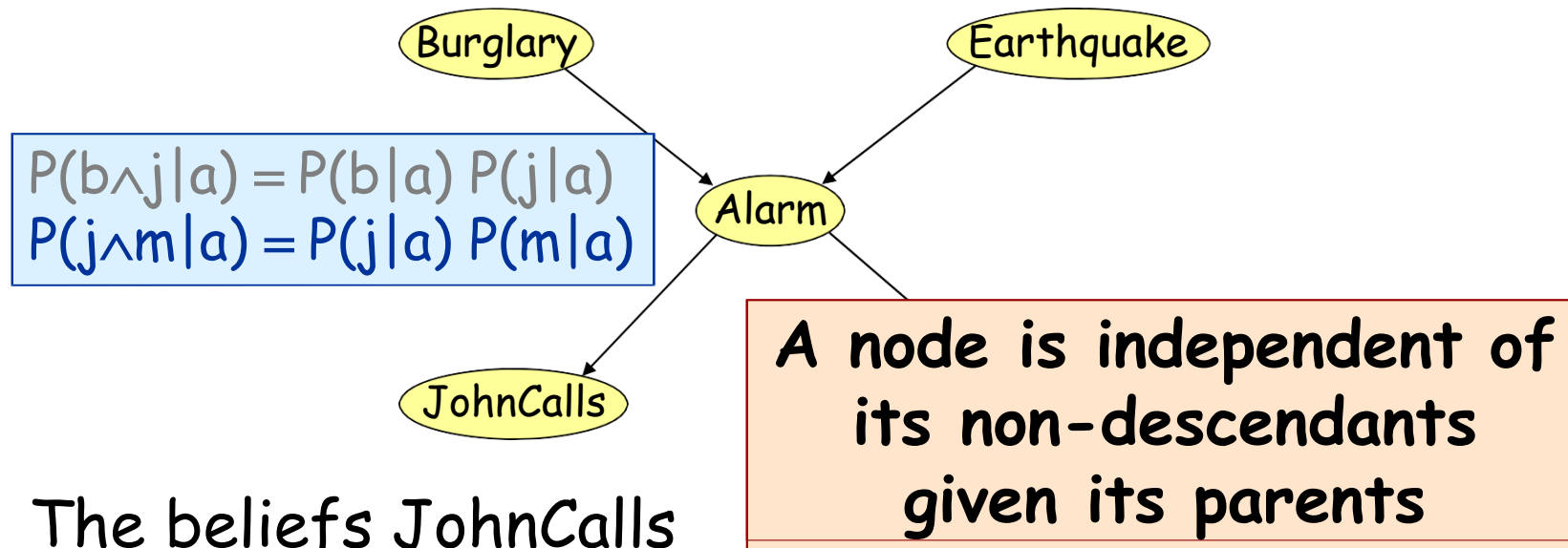


Each of the beliefs JohnCalls and MaryCalls is independent of Burglary and Earthquake given Alarm or  $\neg$  Alarm

For example, John does not observe any burglaries directly



# What does the BN encode?

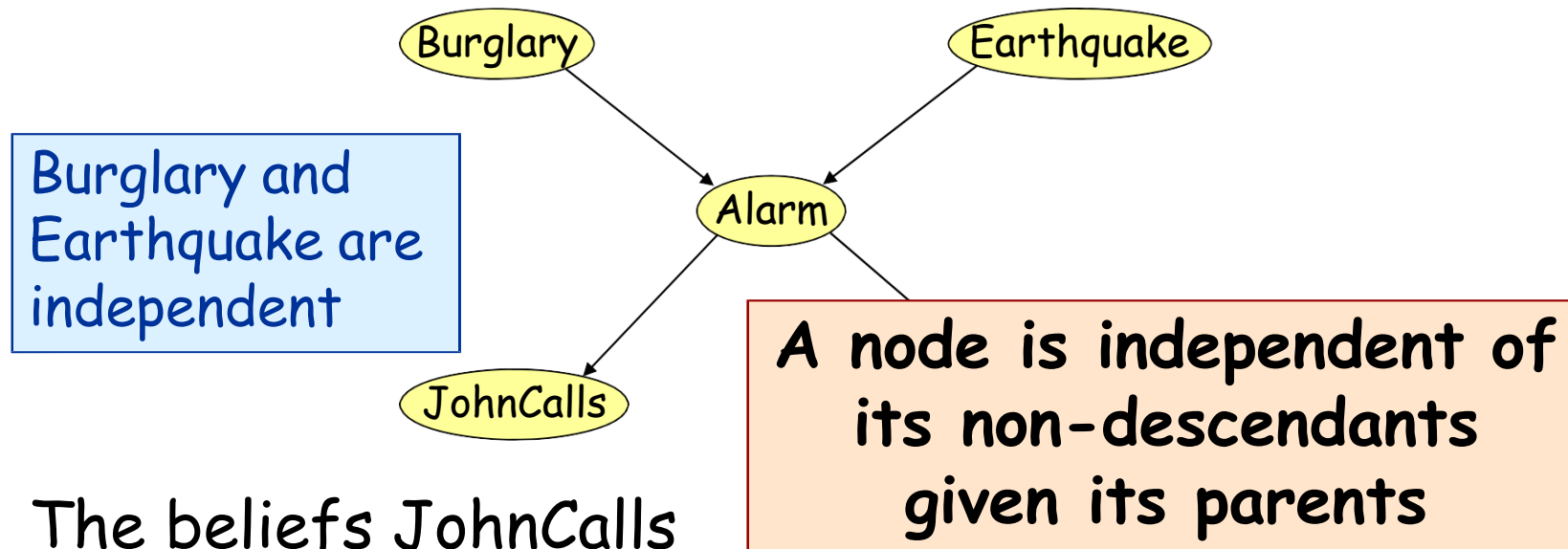


The beliefs JohnCalls and MaryCalls are independent given Alarm or  $\neg$ Alarm

For instance, the reasons why John and Mary may not call if there is an alarm are unrelated



# What does the BN encode?



The beliefs JohnCalls and MaryCalls are independent given Alarm or  $\neg$ Alarm

For instance, the reasons why John and Mary may not call if there is an alarm are unrelated



# Locally Structured World

- A world is **locally structured (or sparse)** if each of its components interacts directly with relatively few other components
- In a sparse world, the CPTs are small and the BN contains much fewer probabilities than the full joint distribution
- If the # of entries in each CPT is bounded by a constant, i.e.,  $O(1)$ , then the # of probabilities in a BN is **linear** in  $n$  - the # of propositions - instead of  $2^n$  for the joint distribution

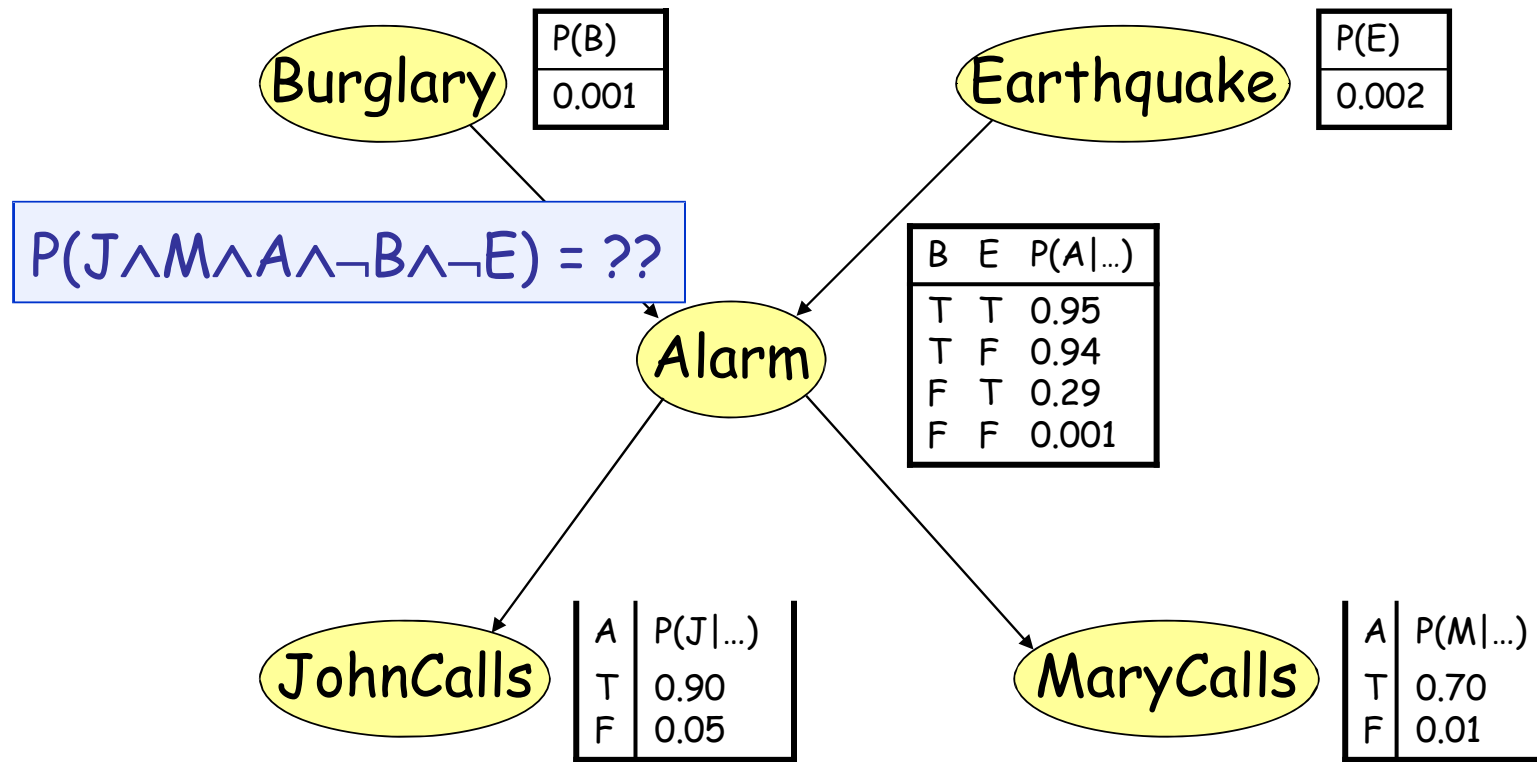


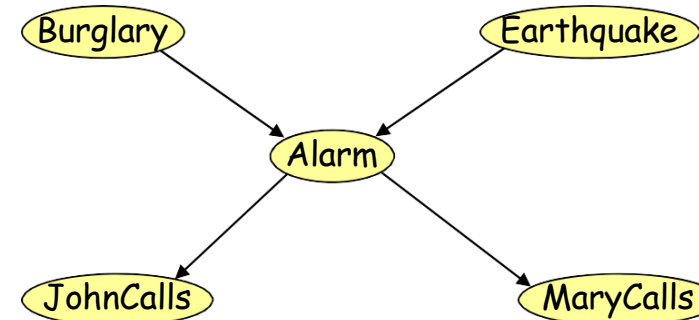
**But does a BN represent a  
belief state?**

**In other words, can we compute  
the full joint distribution of the  
propositions from it?**



# Calculation of Joint Probability

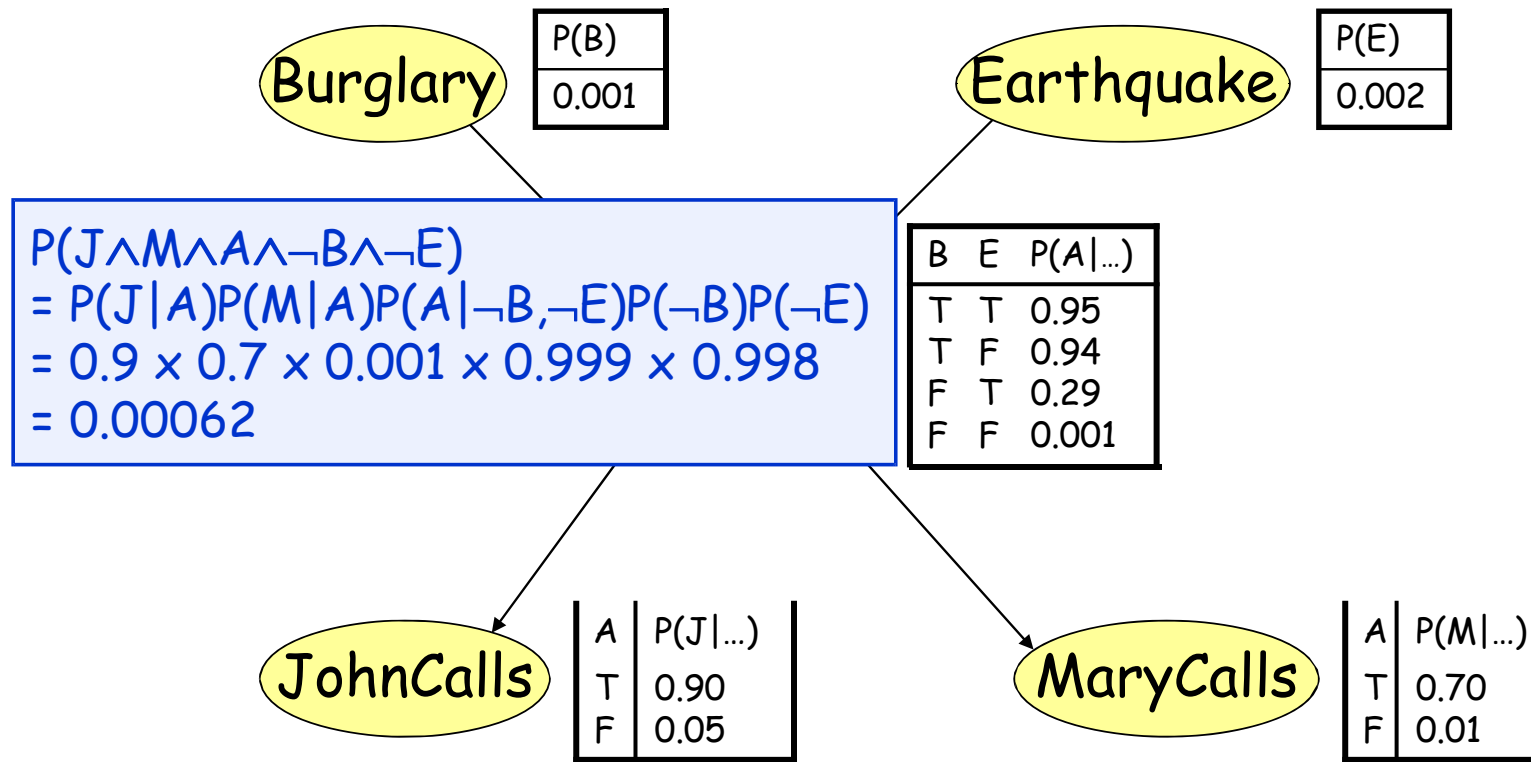




- $P(J \wedge M \wedge A \wedge \neg B \wedge \neg E)$   
 $= P(J \wedge M | A, \neg B, \neg E) \times P(A \wedge \neg B \wedge \neg E)$   
 $= P(J | A, \neg B, \neg E) \times P(M | A, \neg B, \neg E) \times P(A \wedge \neg B \wedge \neg E)$   
(J and M are independent given A)
- $P(J | A, \neg B, \neg E) = P(J | A)$   
(J and  $\neg B \wedge \neg E$  are independent given A)
- $P(M | A, \neg B, \neg E) = P(M | A)$
- $P(A \wedge \neg B \wedge \neg E) = P(A | \neg B, \neg E) \times P(\neg B | \neg E) \times P(\neg E)$   
 $= P(A | \neg B, \neg E) \times P(\neg B) \times P(\neg E)$   
( $\neg B$  and  $\neg E$  are independent)
- $P(J \wedge M \wedge A \wedge \neg B \wedge \neg E) = P(J | A)P(M | A)P(A | \neg B, \neg E)P(\neg B)P(\neg E)$



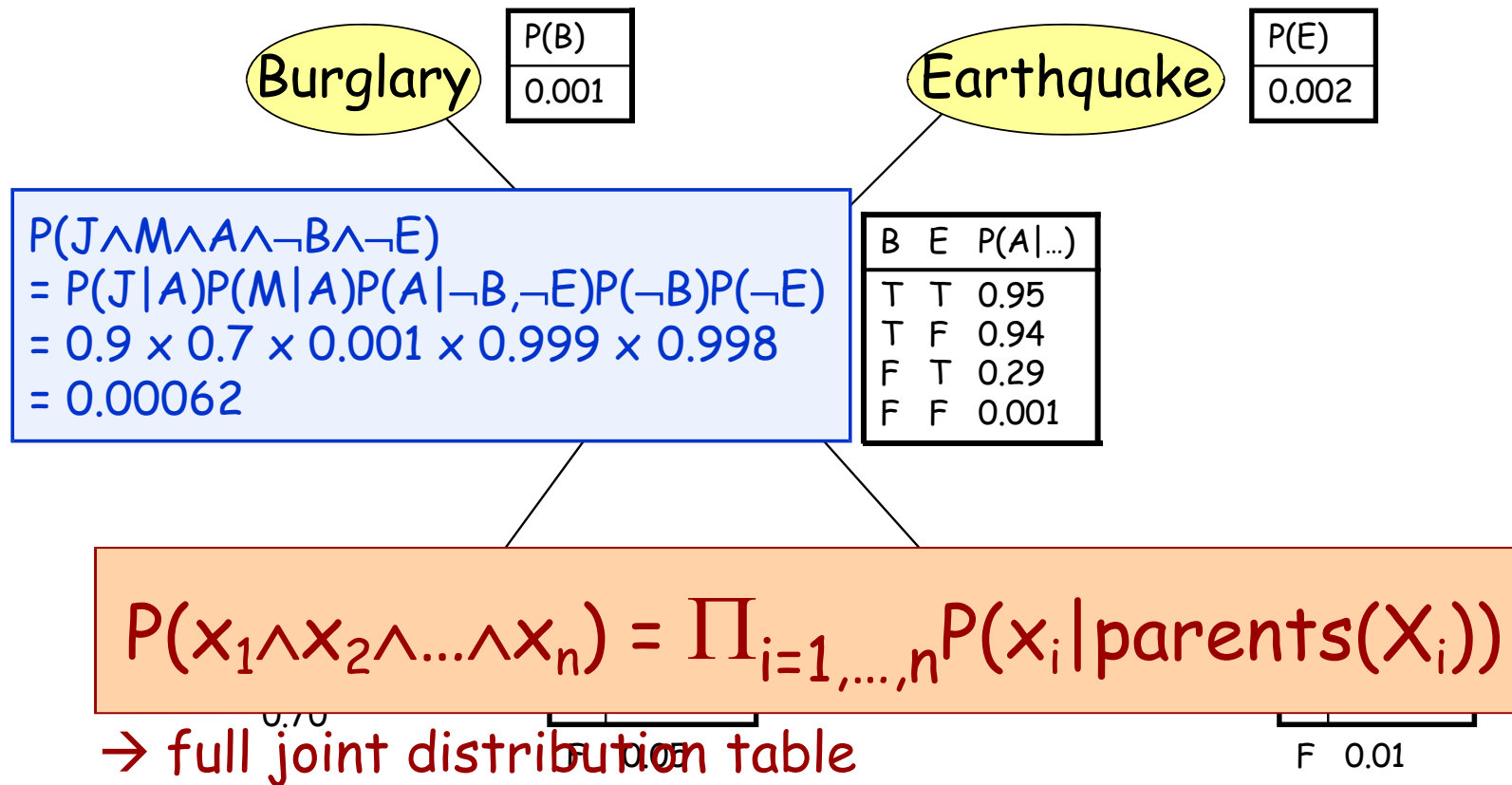
# Calculation of Joint Probability







# Calculation of Joint Probability





# Calculation of Joint Probability

Burglary

P(B)
0.001

Since a BN defines the full joint distribution of a set of propositions, it represents a belief state

$$\begin{aligned}
 &P(J \wedge M \wedge A \wedge \neg B \wedge \neg E) \\
 &= P(J|A)P(M|A)P(A|\neg B, \neg E) \\
 &= 0.9 \times 0.7 \times 0.001 \times 0.999 \times 0.998 \\
 &= 0.00062
 \end{aligned}$$

T	F	0.94
F	T	0.29
F	F	0.001

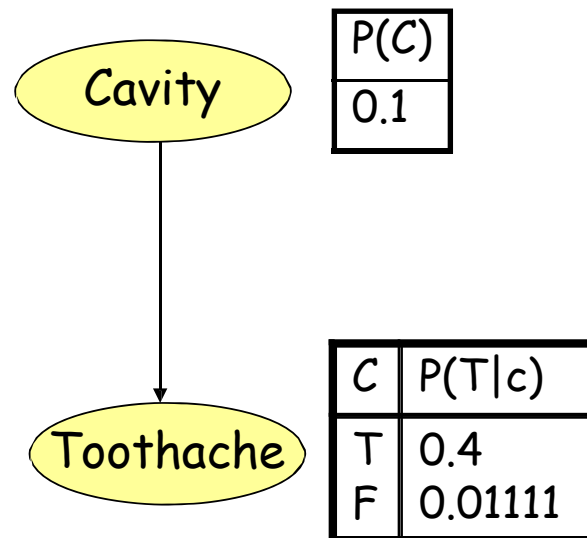
$$P(x_1 \wedge x_2 \wedge \dots \wedge x_n) = \prod_{i=1, \dots, n} P(x_i | \text{parents}(X_i))$$

→ full joint distribution table

F 0.01



# Querying the BN



- The BN gives  $P(t|c)$
- What about  $P(c|t)$ ?
- $P(\text{Cavity}|t)$   
 $= P(\text{Cavity} \wedge t) / P(t)$   
 $= P(t|\text{Cavity}) P(\text{Cavity}) / P(t)$   
[Bayes' rule]
- $P(c|t) = \alpha P(t|c) P(c)$
- Querying a BN is just applying the trivial Bayes' rule on a larger scale



# Querying the BN

- New evidence  $E$  indicates that JohnCalls with some probability  $p$
- We would like to know the posterior probability of the other beliefs, e.g.  $P(\text{Burglary}|E)$
- $$\begin{aligned} P(B|E) &= P(B \wedge J|E) + P(B \wedge \neg J|E) \\ &= P(B|J,E) P(J|E) + P(B|\neg J,E) P(\neg J|E) \\ &= P(B|J) P(J|E) + P(B|\neg J) P(\neg J|E) \\ &= p P(B|J) + (1-p) P(B|\neg J) \end{aligned}$$
- We need to compute  $P(B|J)$  and  $P(B|\neg J)$

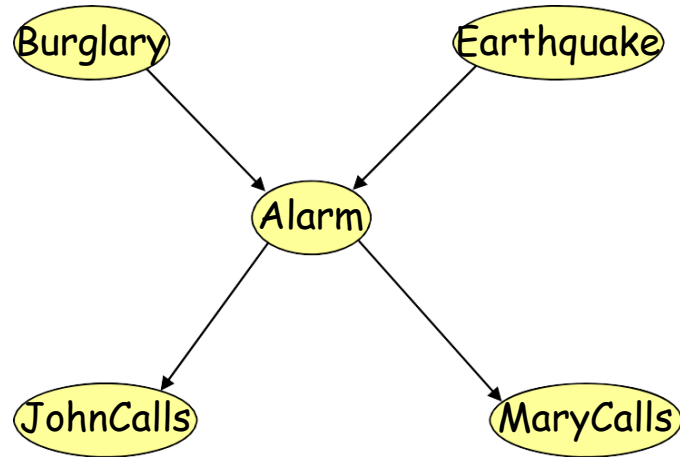


# Querying the BN

- $P(b|J) = \alpha P(b \wedge J)$   
 $= \alpha \sum_m \sum_a \sum_e P(b \wedge J \wedge m \wedge a \wedge e)$  [marginalization]  
 $= \alpha \sum_m \sum_a \sum_e P(b)P(e)P(a|b,e)P(J|a)P(m|a)$  [BN]  
 $= \alpha P(b) \sum_e P(e) \sum_a P(a|b,e)P(J|a) \sum_m P(m|a)$  [re-ordering]
- Depth-first evaluation of  $P(b|J)$  leads to computing each of the 4 following products twice:  
 $P(J|A)P(M|A), P(J|A)P(\neg M|A), P(J|\neg A)P(M|\neg A), P(J|\neg A)P(\neg M|\neg A)$
- Bottom-up (right-to-left) computation + caching - e.g., variable elimination algorithm (see R&N) - avoids such repetition
- For singly connected BN, the computation takes time **linear in the total number of CPT entries** ( $\rightarrow$  time linear in the # propositions if CPT's size is bounded)



# Comparison to Classical Logic



$Burglary \rightarrow Alarm$

$Earthquake \rightarrow Alarm$

$Alarm \rightarrow JohnCalls$

$Alarm \rightarrow MaryCalls$

If the agent observes

$\neg JohnCalls$ ,

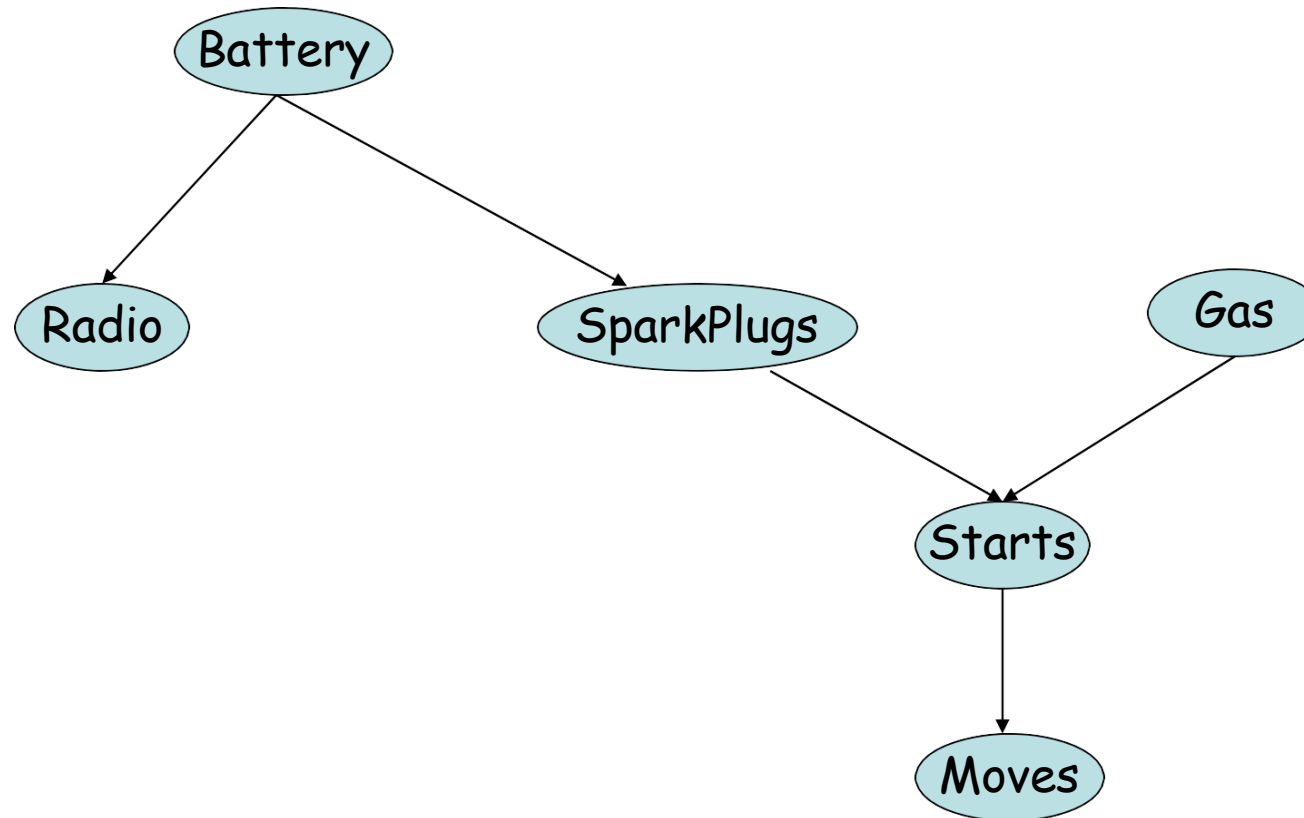
it infers  $\neg Alarm$ ,  $\neg MaryCalls$ ,

$\neg Burglary$ , and  $\neg Earthquake$

If it observes  $JohnCalls$ , then  
it infers nothing



# More Complicated Singly-Connected Belief Net





# Some Applications of BN

- Medical diagnosis
- Troubleshooting of hardware/software systems
- Fraud/uncollectible debt detection
- Data mining
- Analysis of genetic sequences
- Data interpretation, computer vision, image understanding