



# Sampling for General Inference

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CS109, Stanford University

# CS109 Contest



# Null Hypothesis Test

Nepal Happiness	Bhutan Happiness
4.44	2.15
3.36	3.01
5.87	2.02
2.31	1.43
...	...
3.70	1.83

$\mu_1 = 3.1$        $\mu_2 = 2.4$

**Claim:** The difference in happiness between Nepal and Bhutan is 0.7 happiness points ( $p = 0.008$ ).

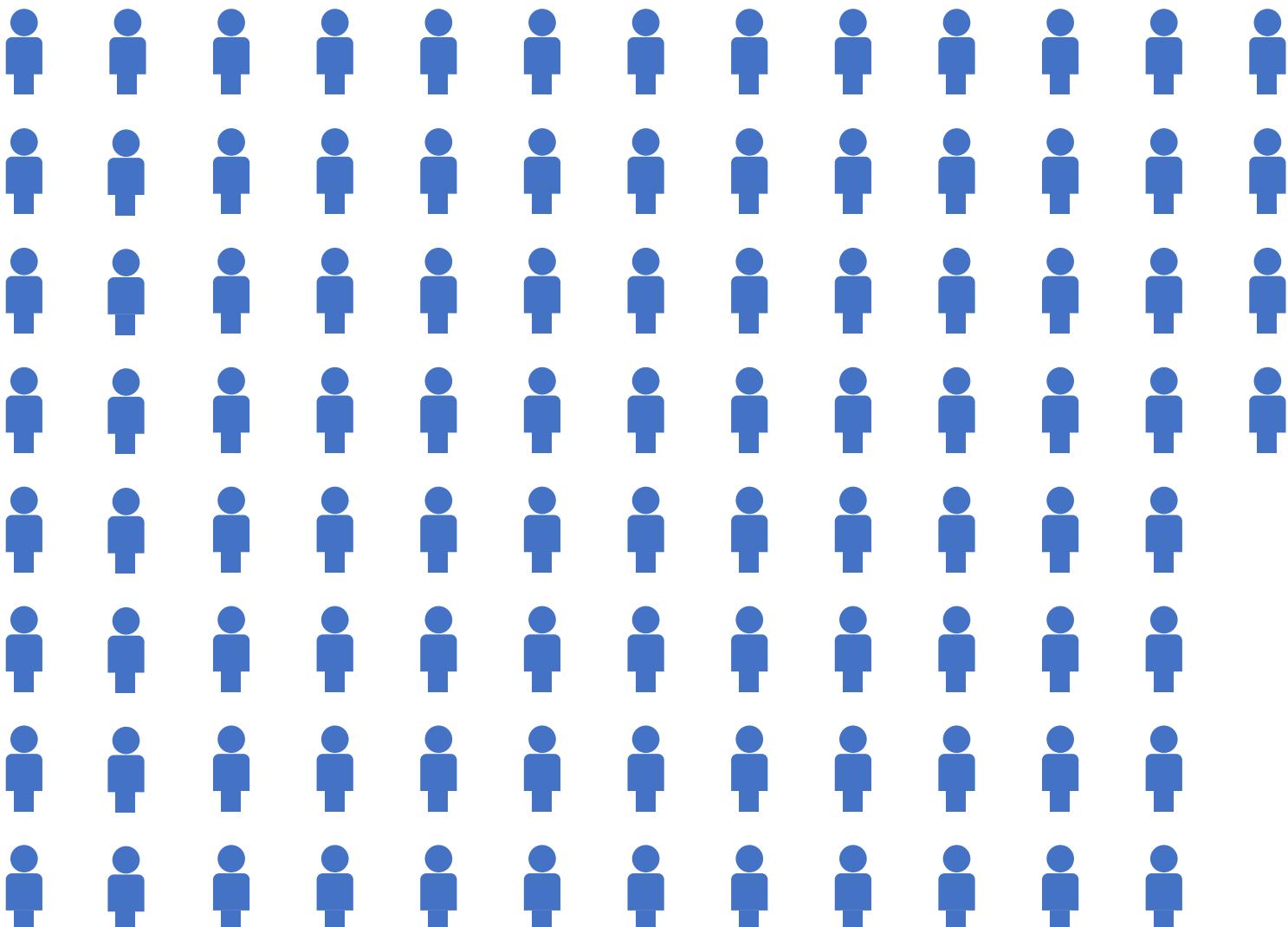
Something brand **new**...

# General “Inference”

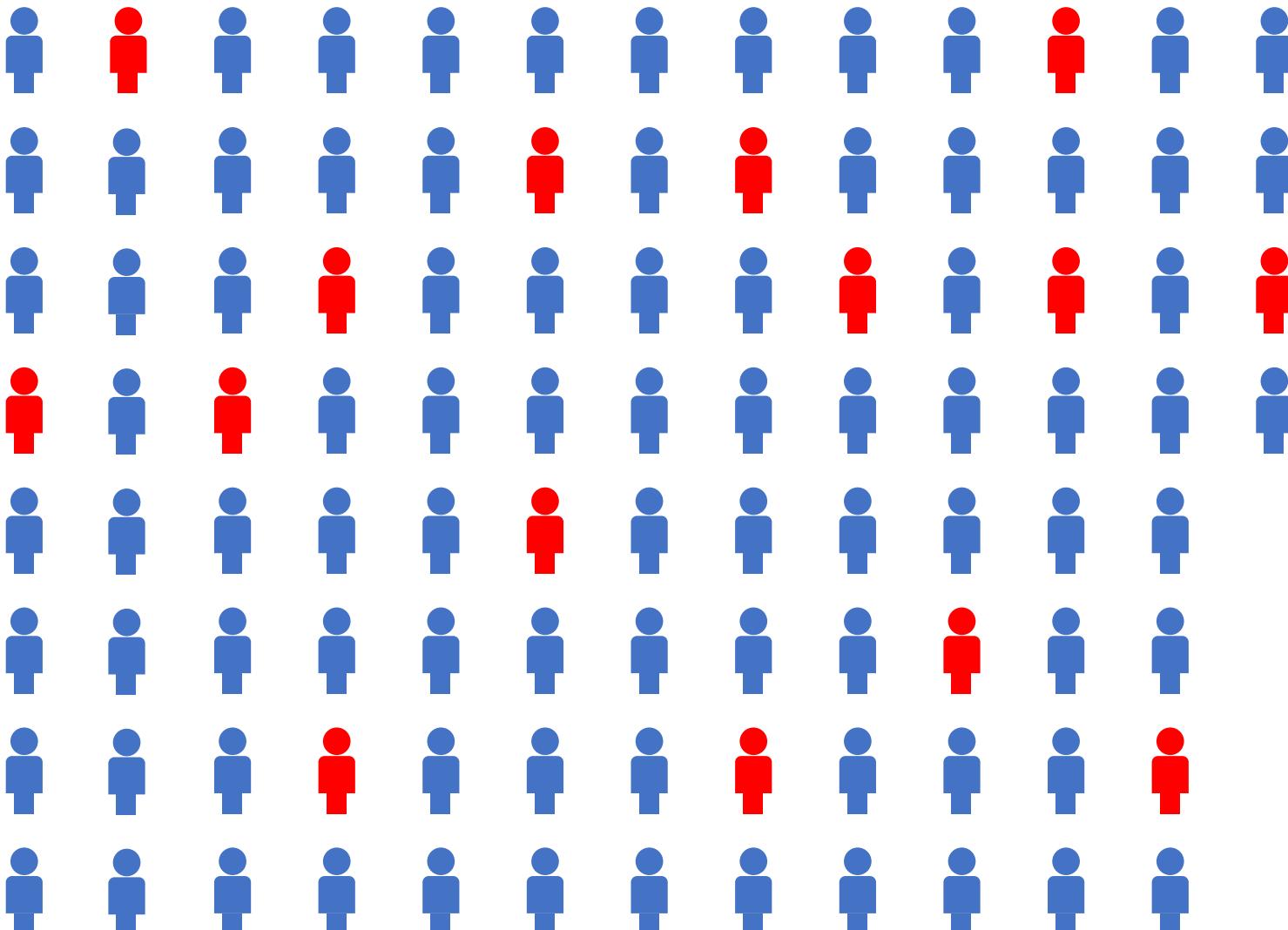


# Review

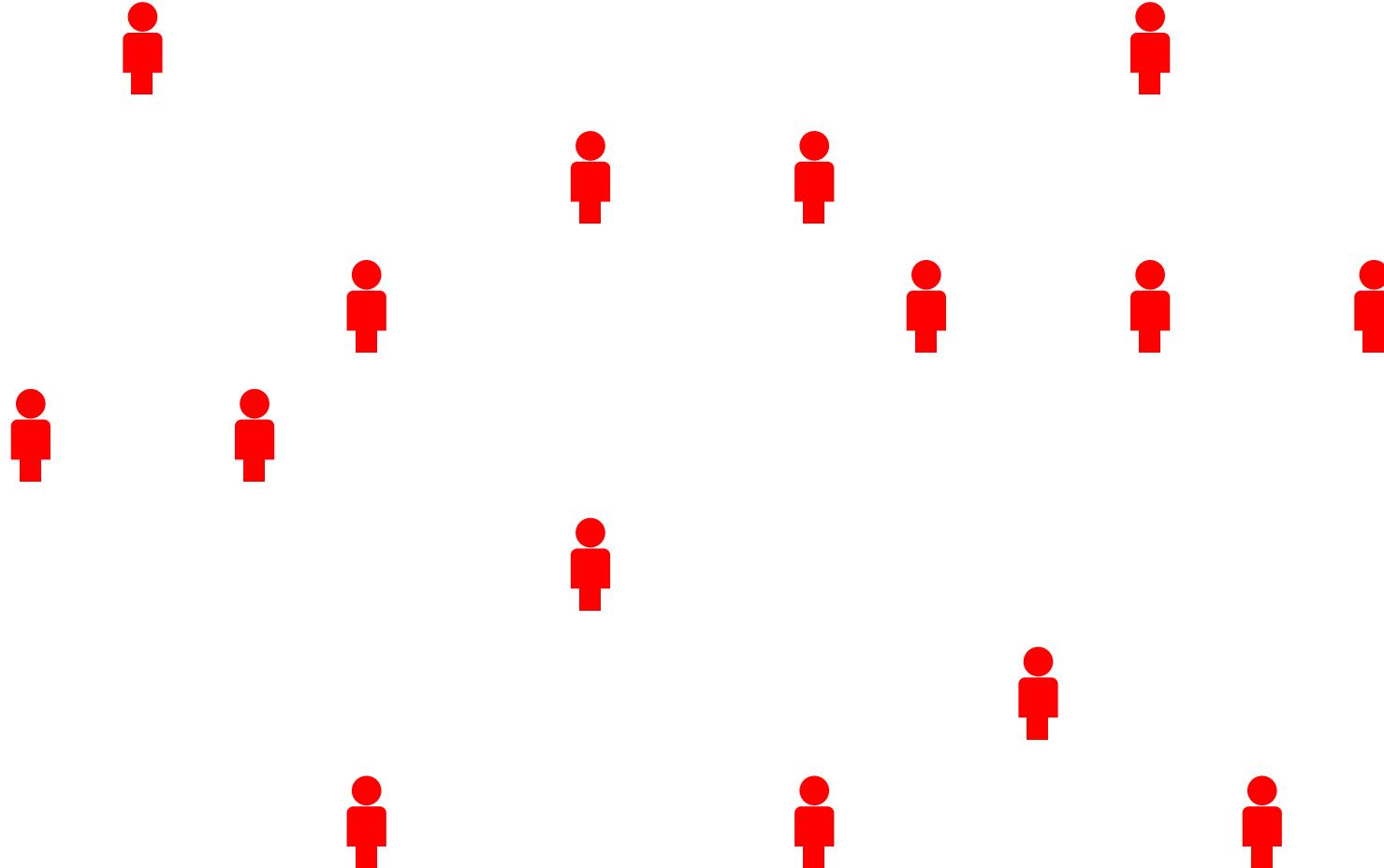
# Population



# Sample

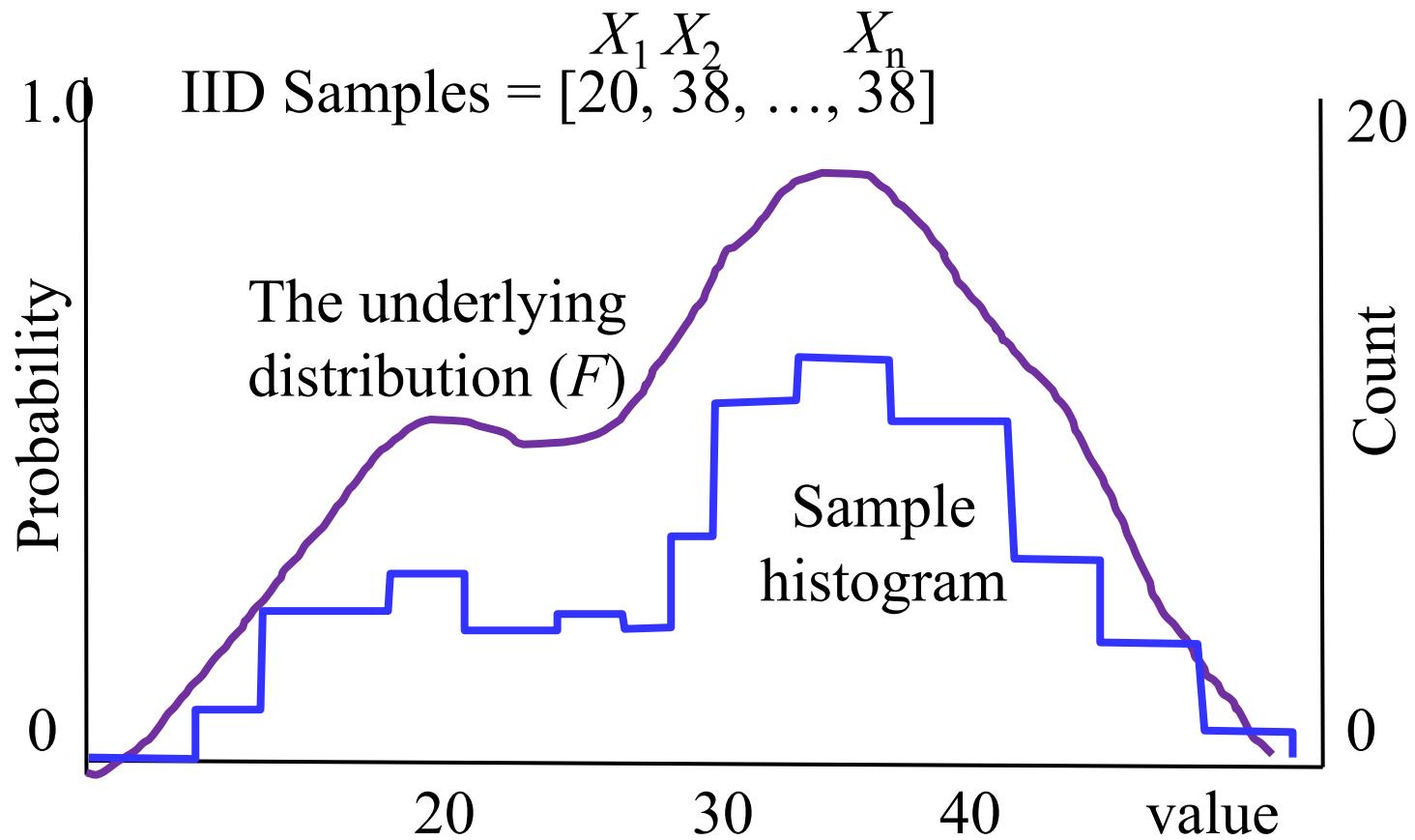


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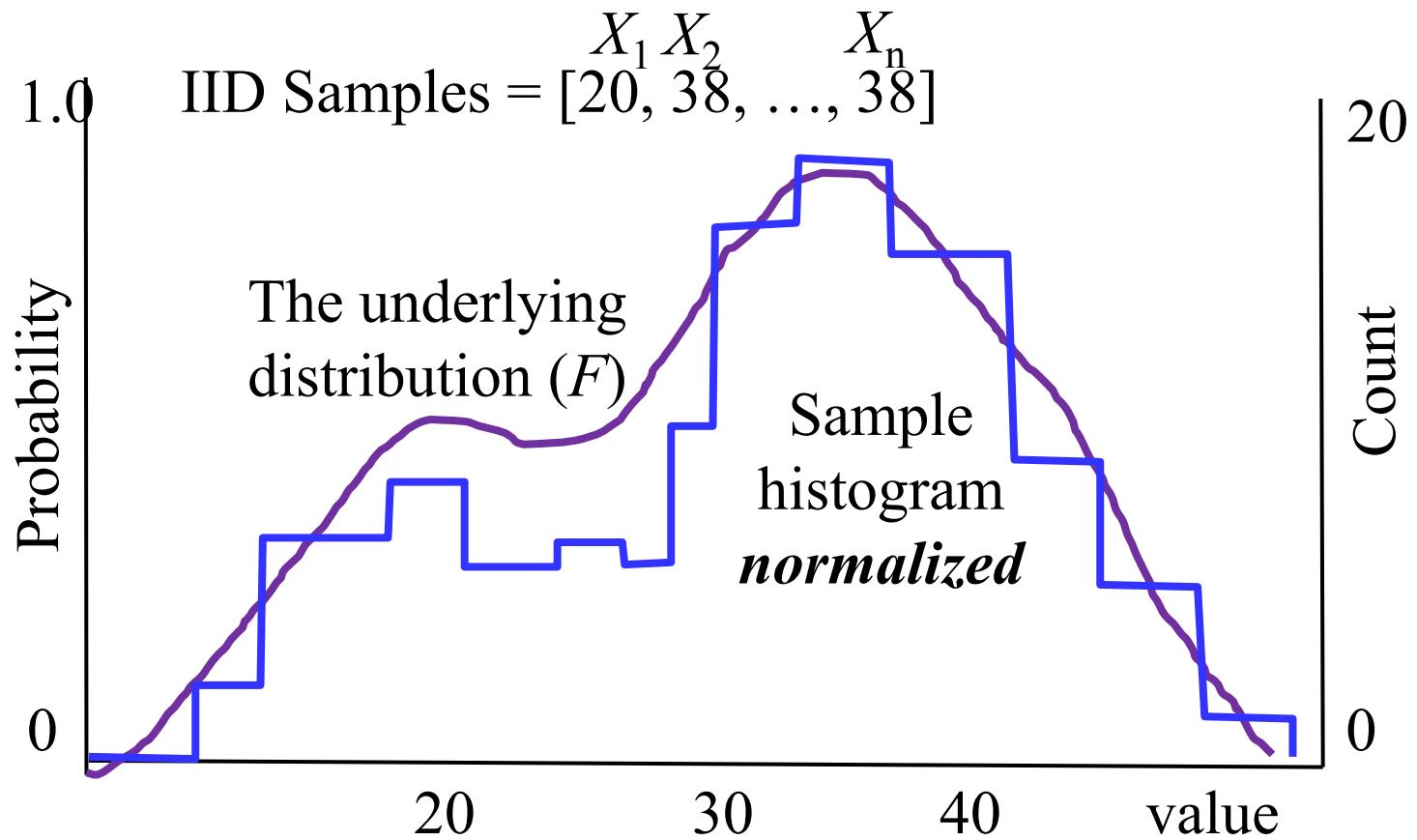


Collect one (or more) numbers from each person

# Samples



# Samples



# Sample Statistics

Sample Mean

$$\bar{X} = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{X_i}{n}$$

Oh my that thought can be  
random variable

Sample Variance

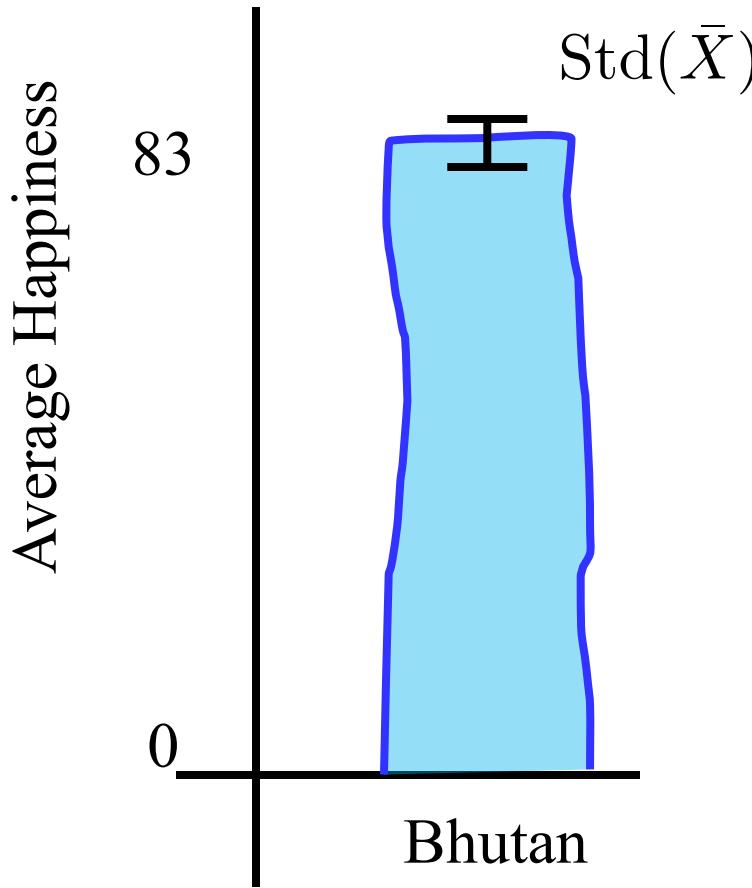
$$S^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{(X_i - \bar{X})^2}{n-1}$$

Var of Sample Mean

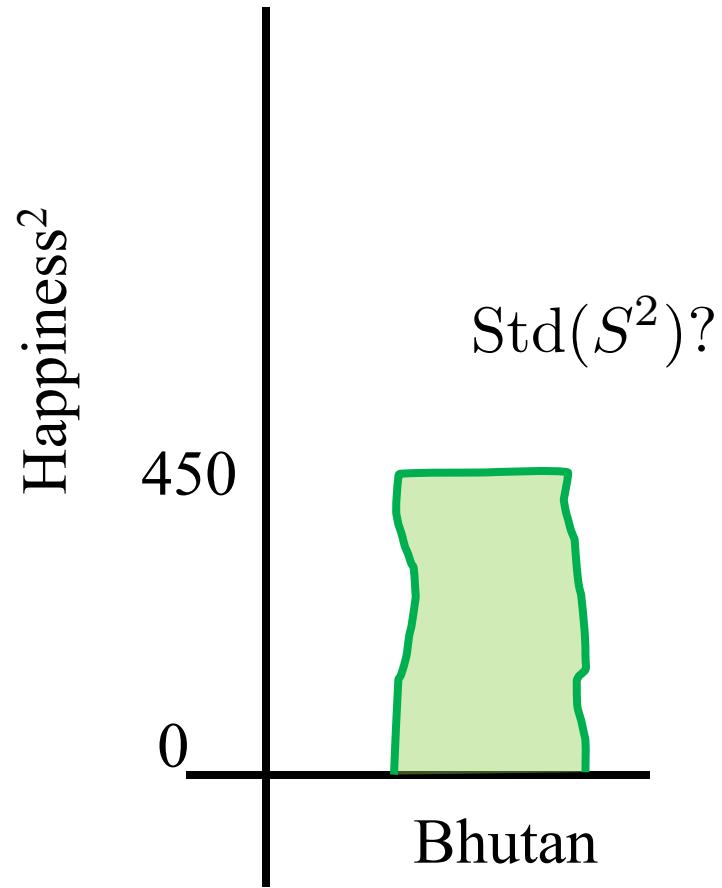
$$\text{Var}(\bar{X}) = \frac{S^2}{n}$$

# Sample Mean

Average Happiness



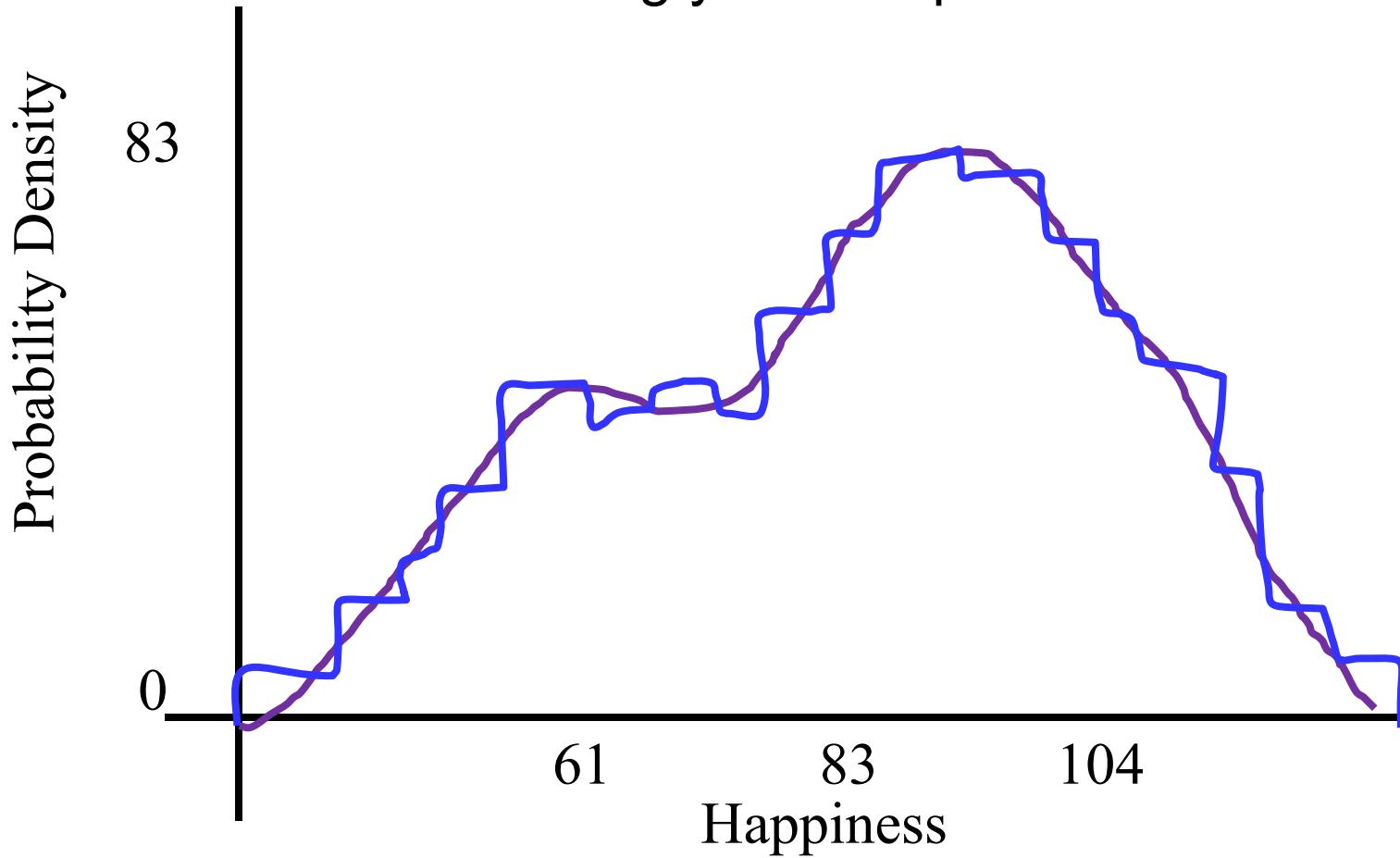
Variance of Happiness



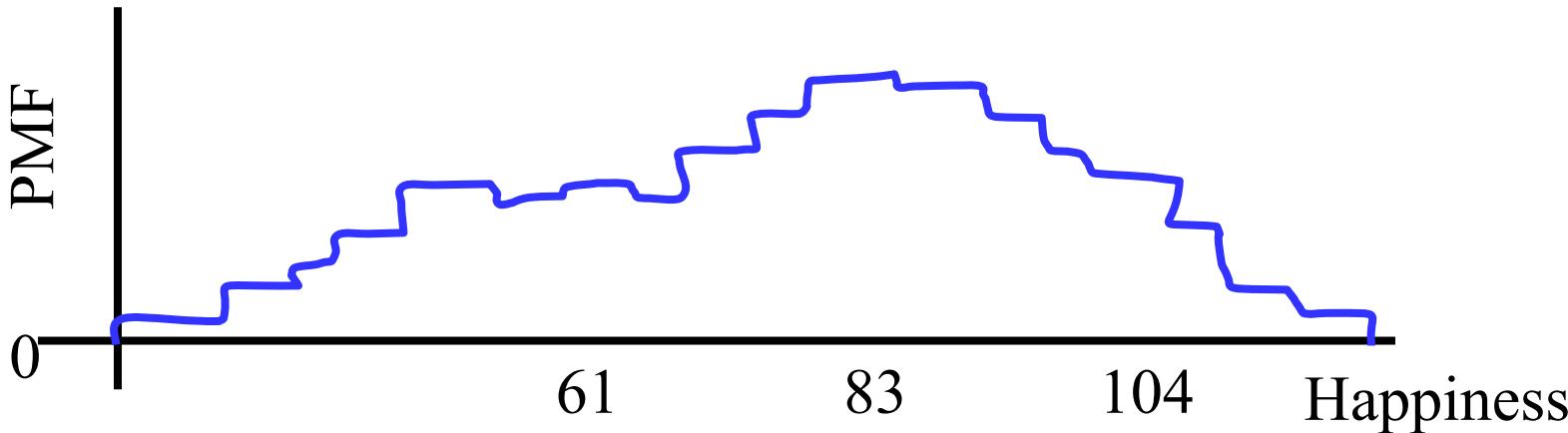
Claim: The average happiness of Bhutan is  $83 \pm 2$

# Bootstrap Insight

You can estimate the PMF of the underlying distribution,  
using your sample.



# Bootstrap for Any Stat



**Bootstrap Algorithm (sample) :**

1. Repeat 10,000 times:
  - a. Choose `len(sample)` elems from `sample`,  
with replacement
  - b. Recalculate the stat on the resample
2. You now have a **distribution of your stat**

# Bootstrap for p values

# Null Hypothesis Test

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End Review

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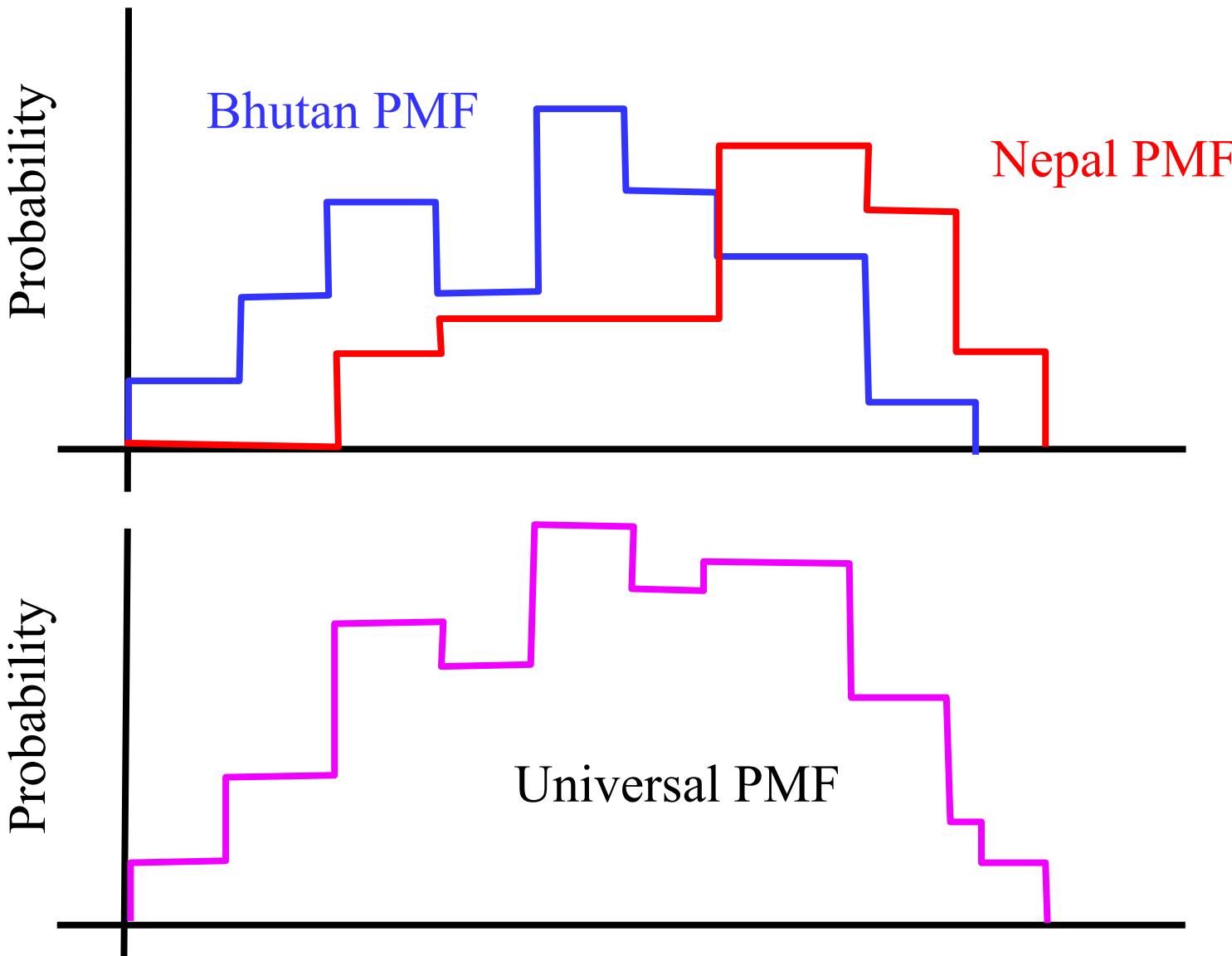
$$\mu_1 = 3.1 \qquad \qquad \qquad \mu_2 = 2.4$$

Claim: The difference in happiness between Nepal and Bhutan is 0.7 happiness points.



Null hypothesis: even if there is no pattern (ie the two samples are identically distributed) your results might have arisen by chance

# Universal Sample



# Bootstrap for P Values

```
def pvalueBootstrap(bhutanSample, nepalSample):
    N = size of the bhutanSample
    M = size of the nepalSample

    uniSamples = combine bhutanSamples and nepalSamples
    count = 0

    repeat 10,000 times:
        bhutanResample = draw N resamples from the uniSamples
        nepalResample = draw M resamples from the uniSamples
        muBhutan = sample mean of the bhutanResample
        muNepal = sample mean of the nepalResample
        meanDiff = |muNepal - muBhutan|
        if meanDiff > observedDifference:
            count += 1

    pValue = count / 10,000
```



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# Algorithm in Practice

```
def drawWithReplace(samples):
    # Estimate the PMF using the samples
    # Draw K new samples from the PMF
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def drawWithReplace(samples):
    # Estimate the PMF using the samples
    # Draw K new samples from the PMF
    return np.random.choice(samples, K)
```

# Bootstrap

got assumptions?

Lets try it!



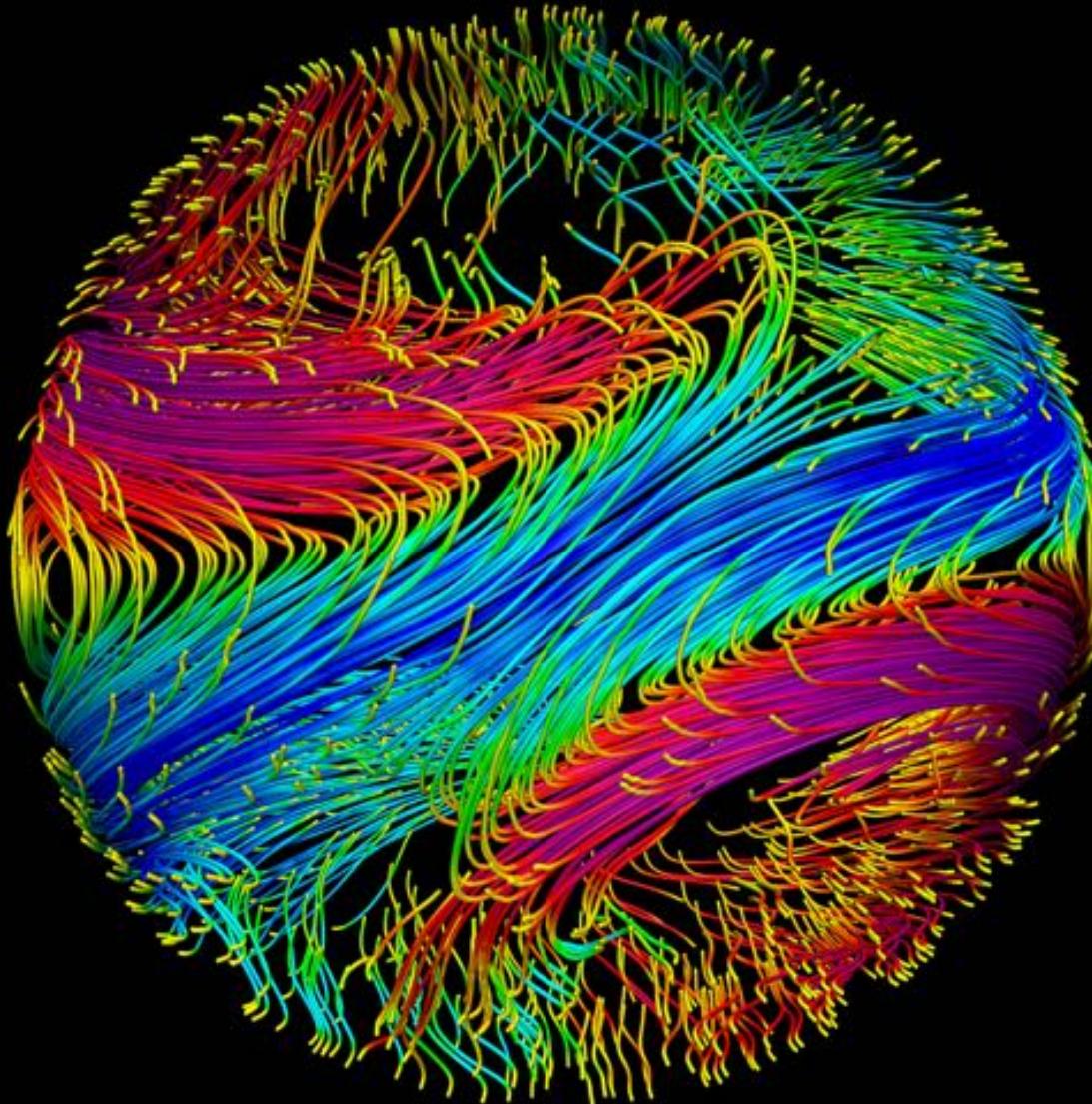
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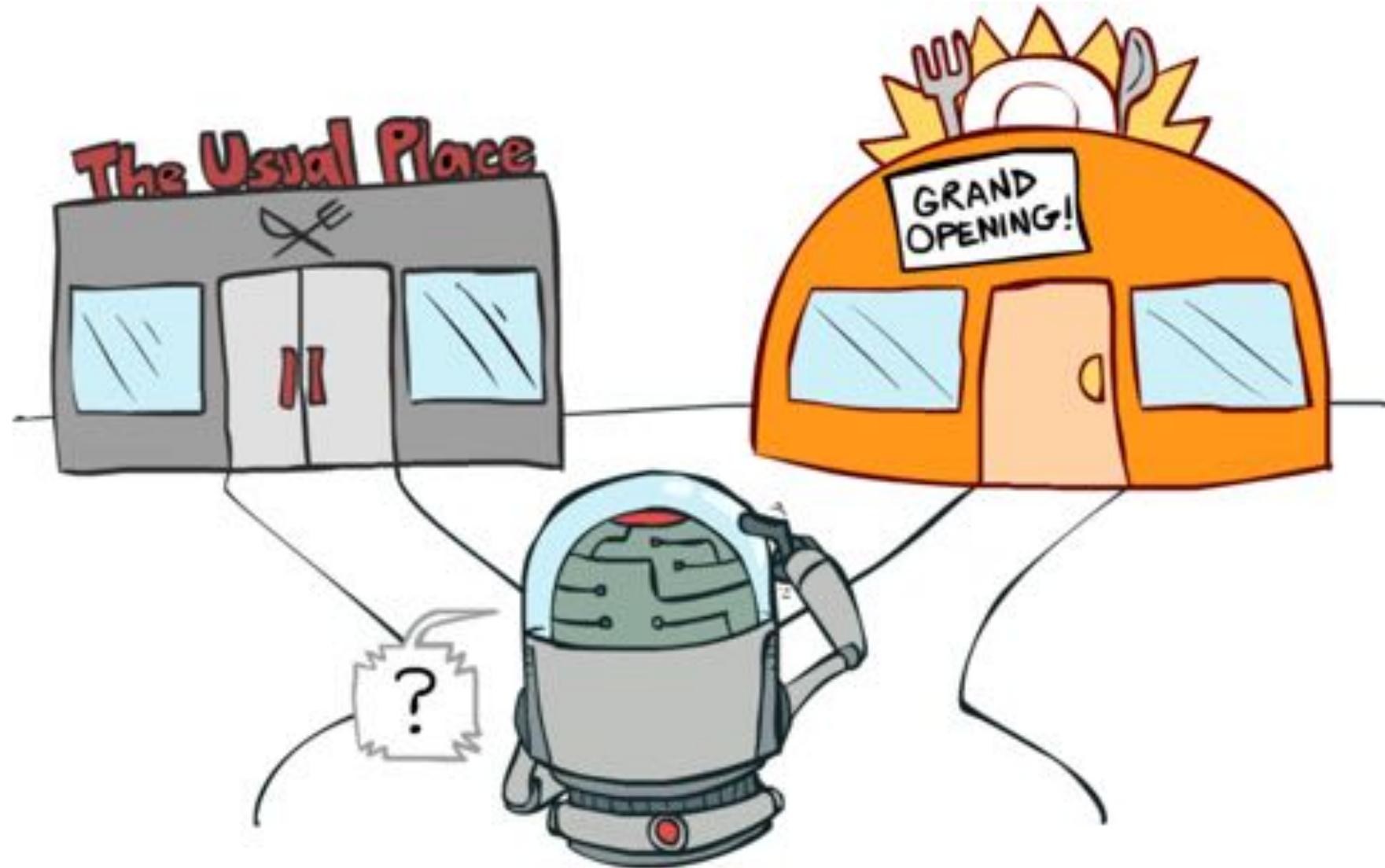
# Randomized Algorithms



# Bootstrapping



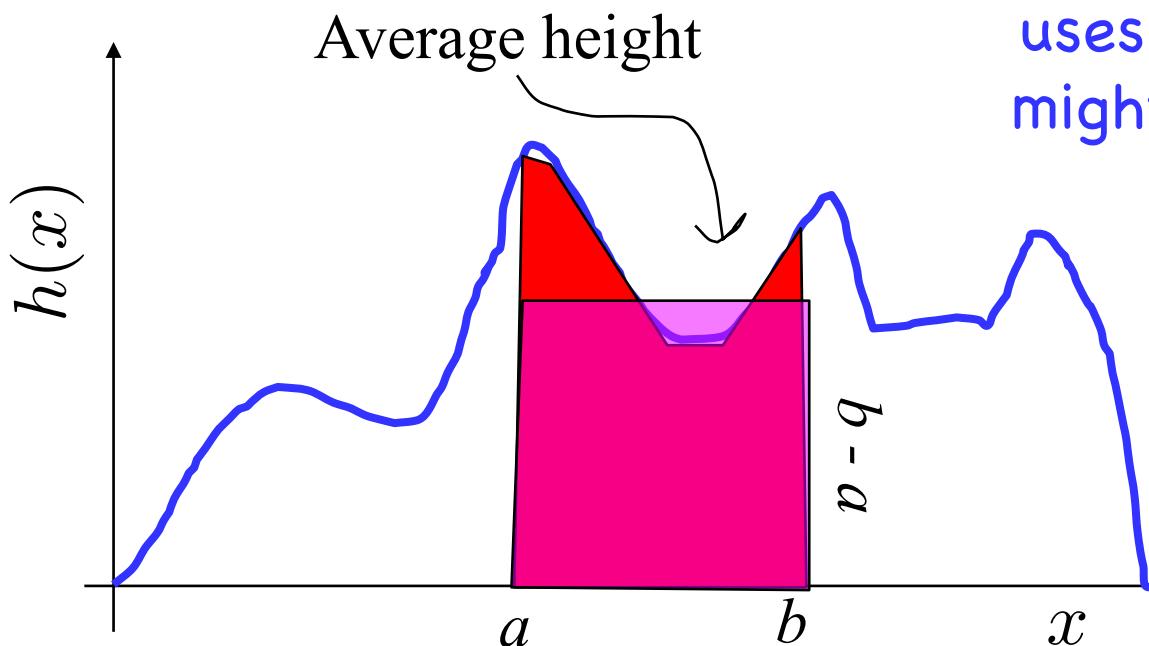
# Thompson Sampling



# Monte Carlo Integration

Generate  $N$  values  $(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_N)$  uniformly sampled over a range  $(a, b)$ . We can approximate the integral of a function  $h$  over  $(a, b)$  as:

$$\int_a^b h(x) dx \approx \frac{(b-a)}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N h(X_i)$$



A “Monte Carlo” algorithm uses randomization but might not get the right answer

# A Rose by Any Other Name



Las Vegas, Nevada

Monte Carlo, Monaco



Something brand **new**...

# General “Inference”



# General “Inference”

WebMD Symptom Checker BETA

INFO      SYMPTOMS      QUESTIONS      CONDITIONS      DETAILS      TREATMENT

Add more symptoms

Type your main symptom here

or Choose common symptoms

bloating    cough    diarrhea    dizziness    fatigue

fever    headache    muscle cramp    nausea

throat irritation

AGE 30      GENDER Male

MY SYMPTOMS

cough X    throat irritation X

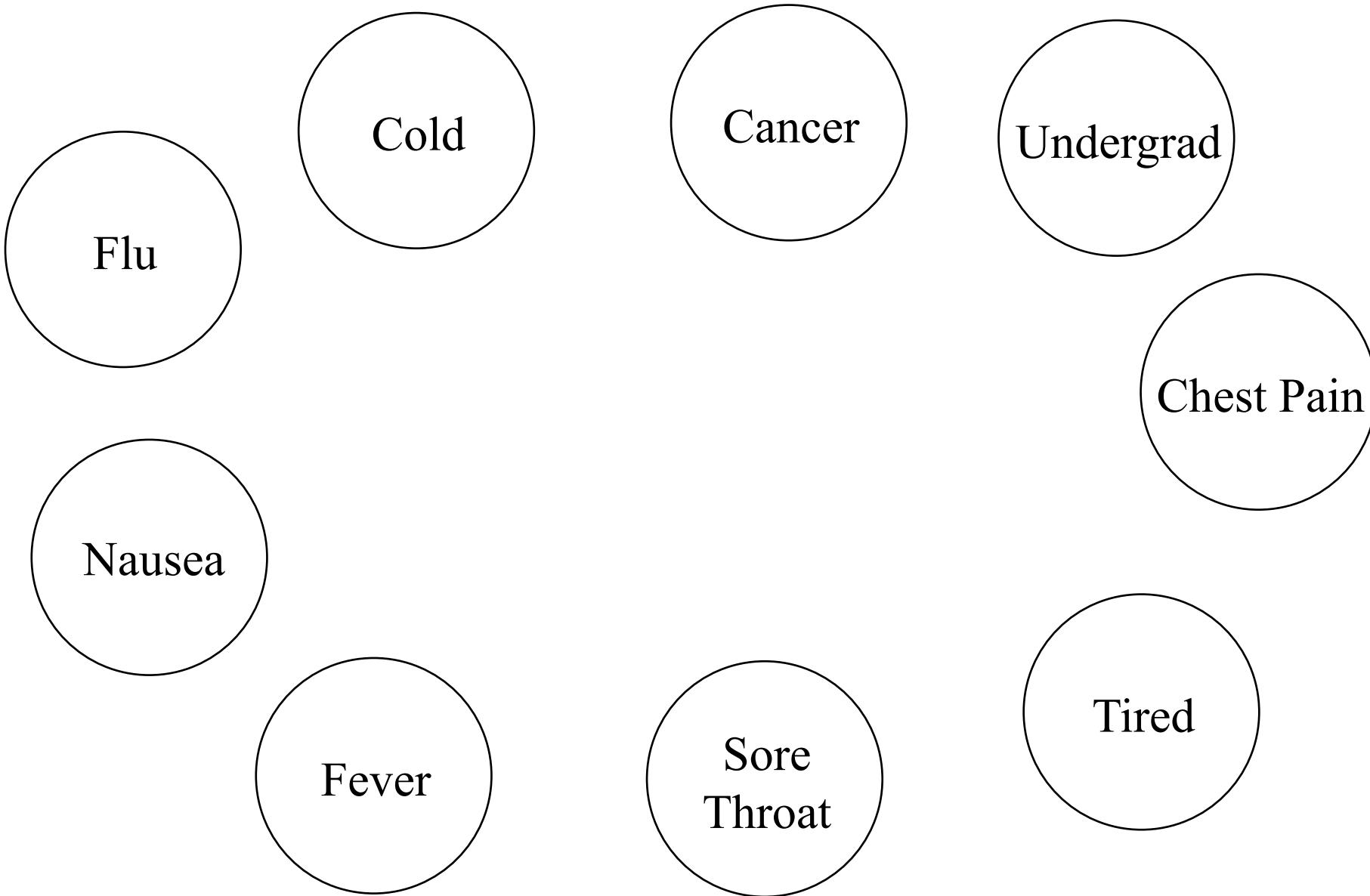
sneezing X

Results Strength: MODERATE

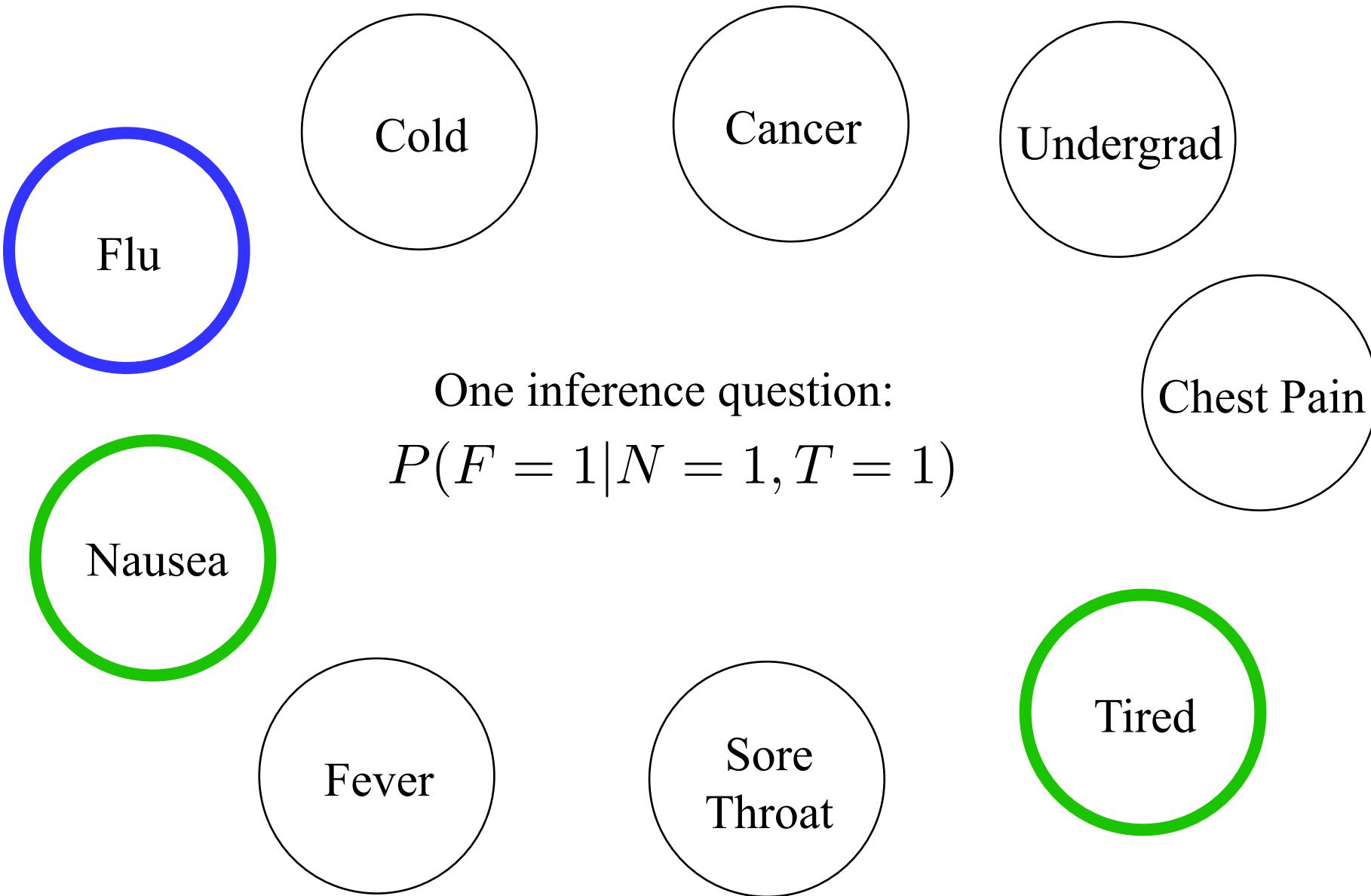
Info

< Previous      Continue >

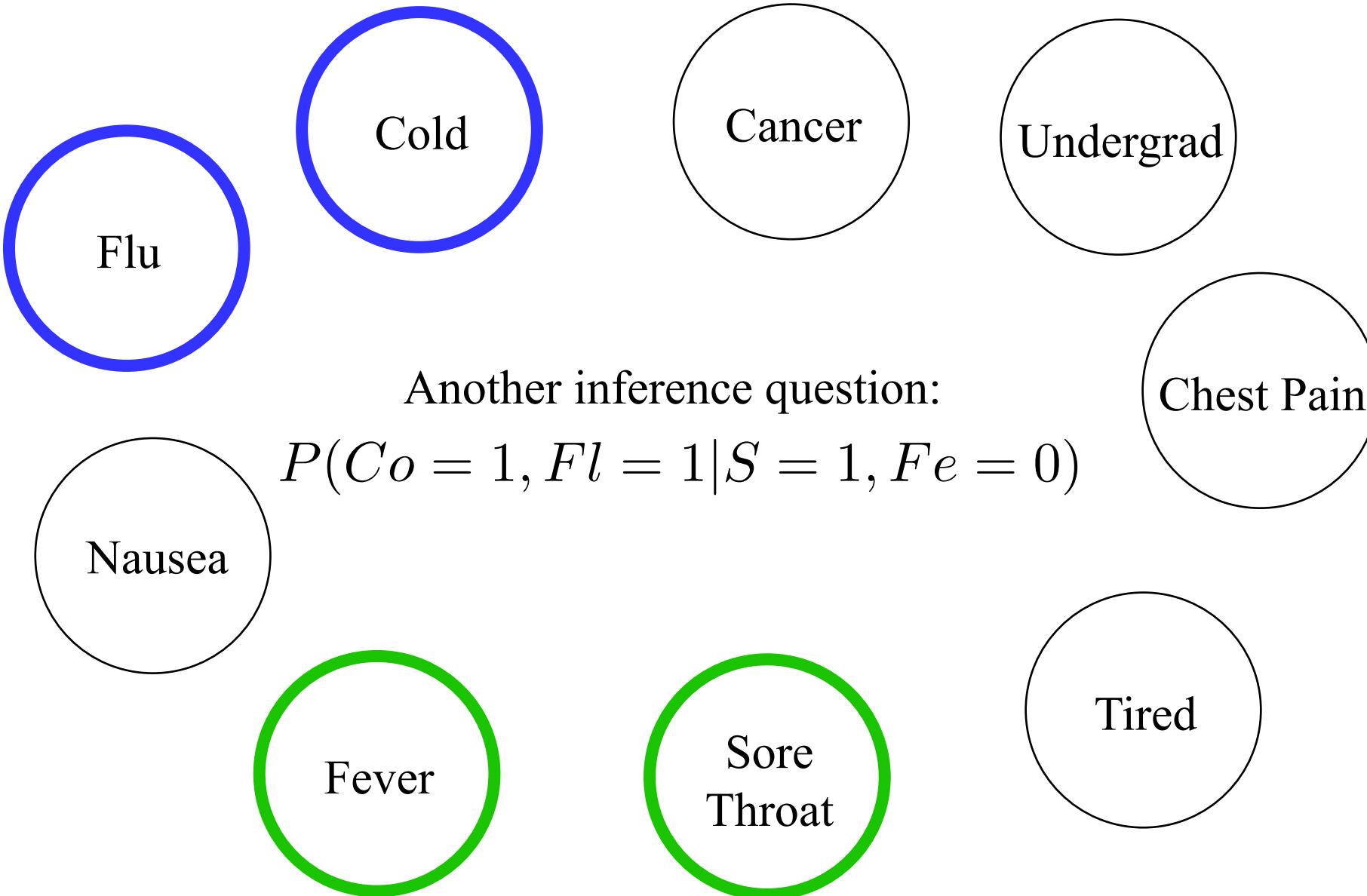
# General “Inference”



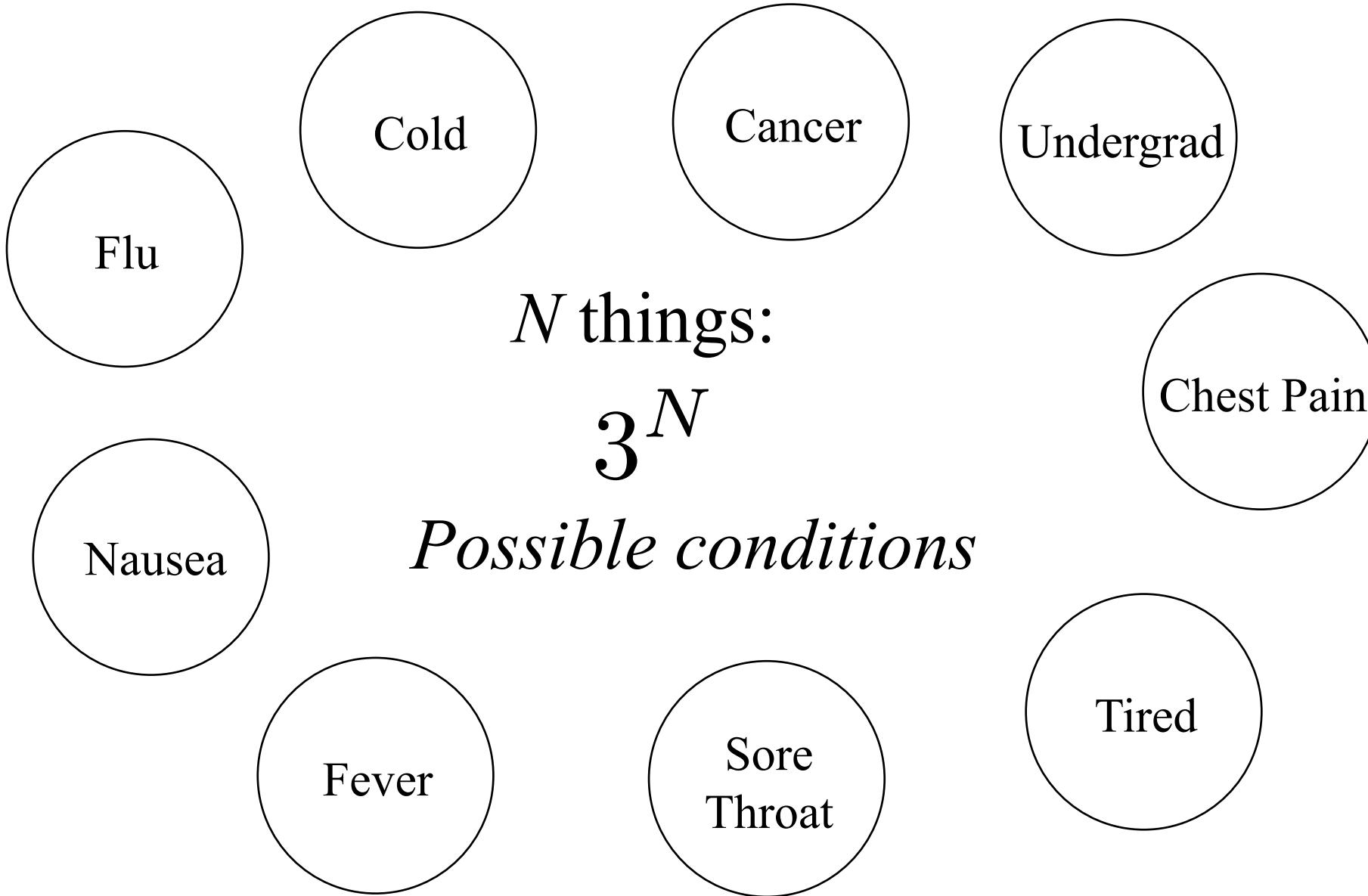
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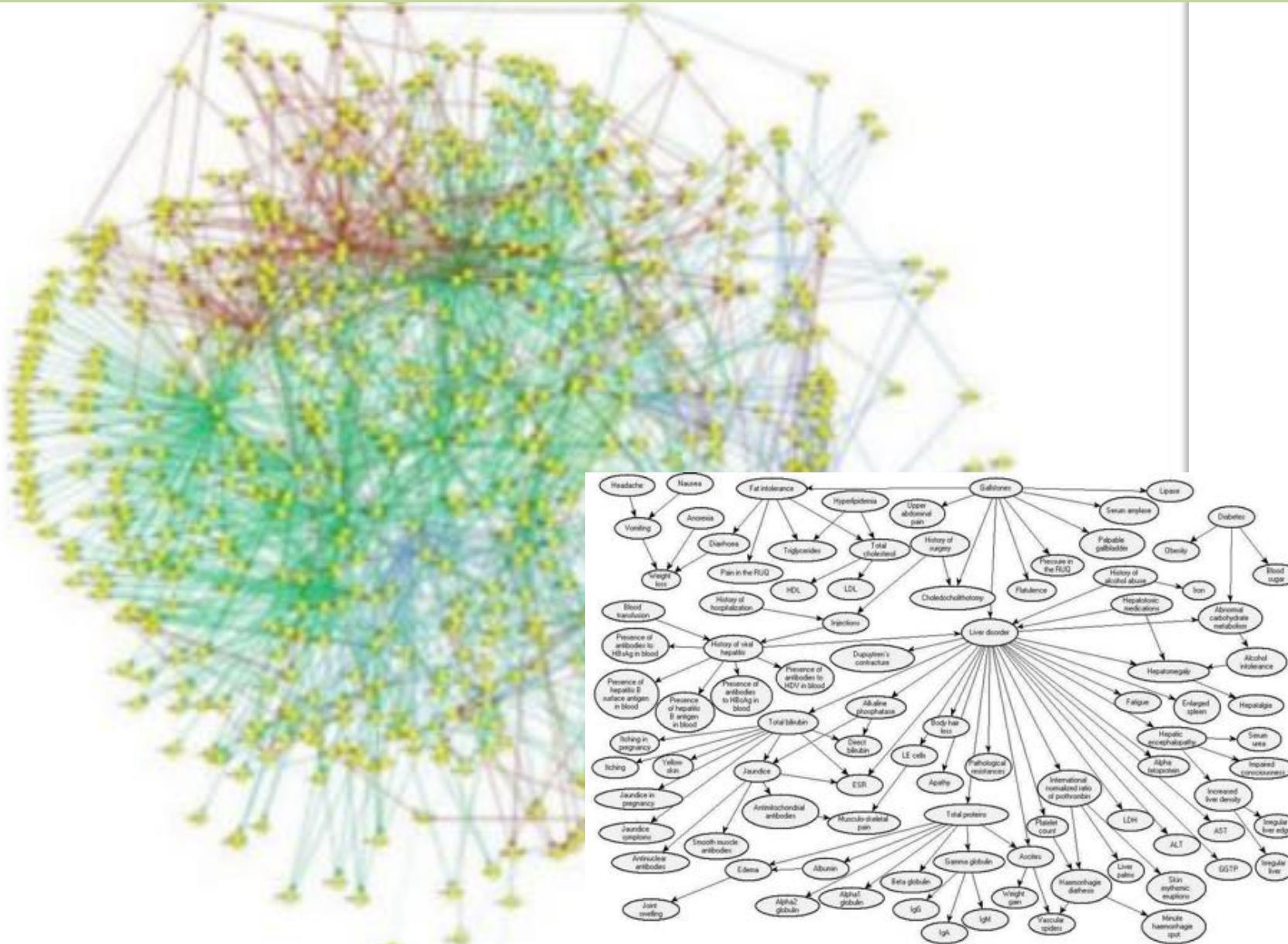
# General “Inference”



# How Many Things Can You Condition On?



# N is large...



# Simple WebMd

Flu

Undergrad

Fever

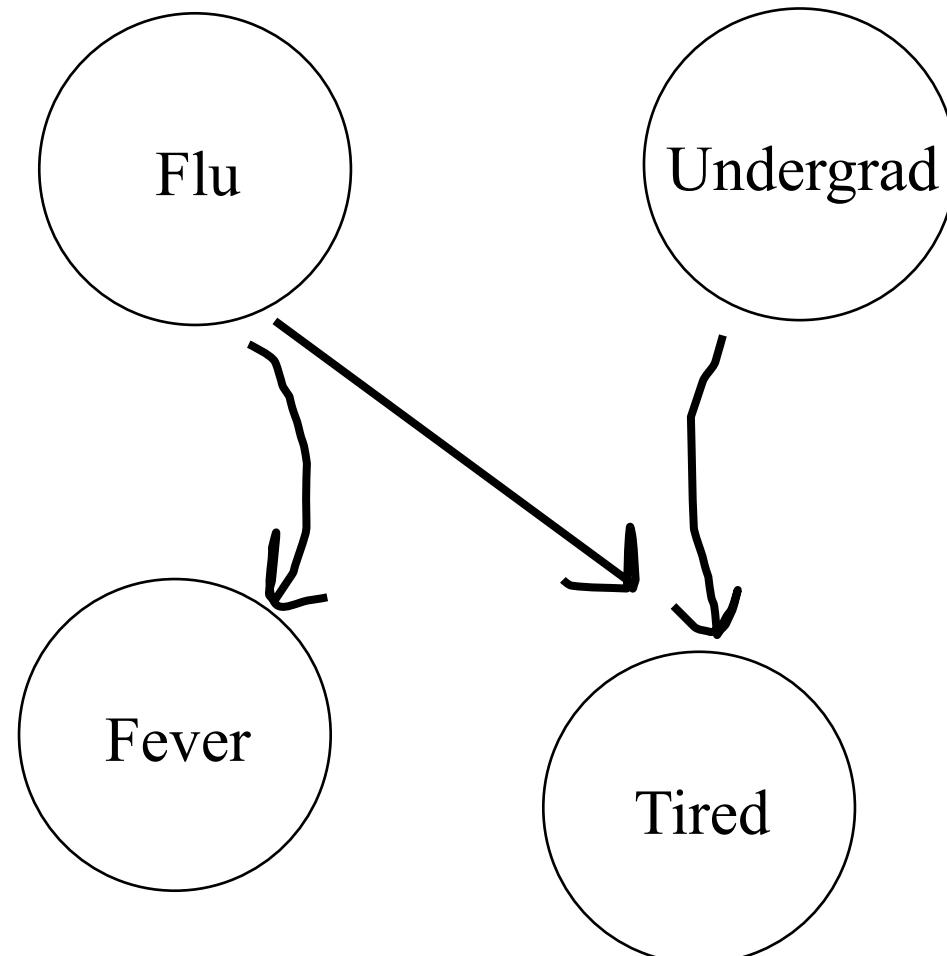
Tired



Naively specifying a joint is  
often impossible...

# Probabilistic Model

Describe the joint using causality!

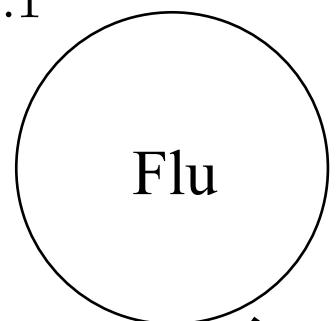


$$P(Fl = a, Fe = b, U = c, T = d)?$$

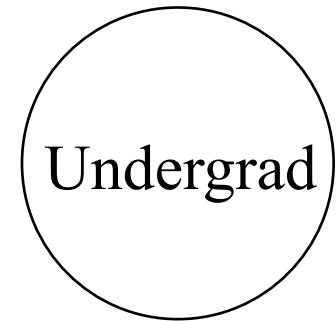
# Probabilistic Model

Describe the joint using causality!

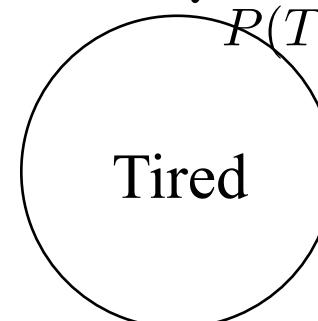
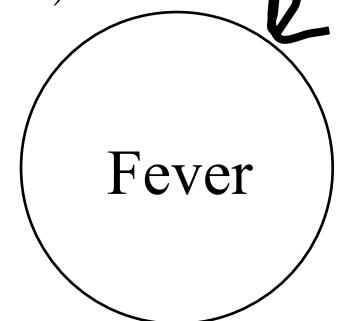
$$P(Fl = 1) = 0.1$$



$$P(U = 1) = 0.8$$



$$\begin{aligned} P(Fev = 1|Flu = 1) &= 0.9 \\ P(Fev = 1|Flu = 0) &= 0.05 \end{aligned}$$



$$\begin{aligned} P(T = 1|Flu = 0, U = 0) &= 0.1 \\ P(T = 1|Flu = 0, U = 1) &= 0.8 \\ P(T = 1|Flu = 1, U = 0) &= 0.9 \\ P(T = 1|Flu = 1, U = 1) &= 1.0 \end{aligned}$$

$$P(Fl = a, Fe = b, U = c, T = d)?$$



*If you know causality,*

Make a network of causality for your random vars.

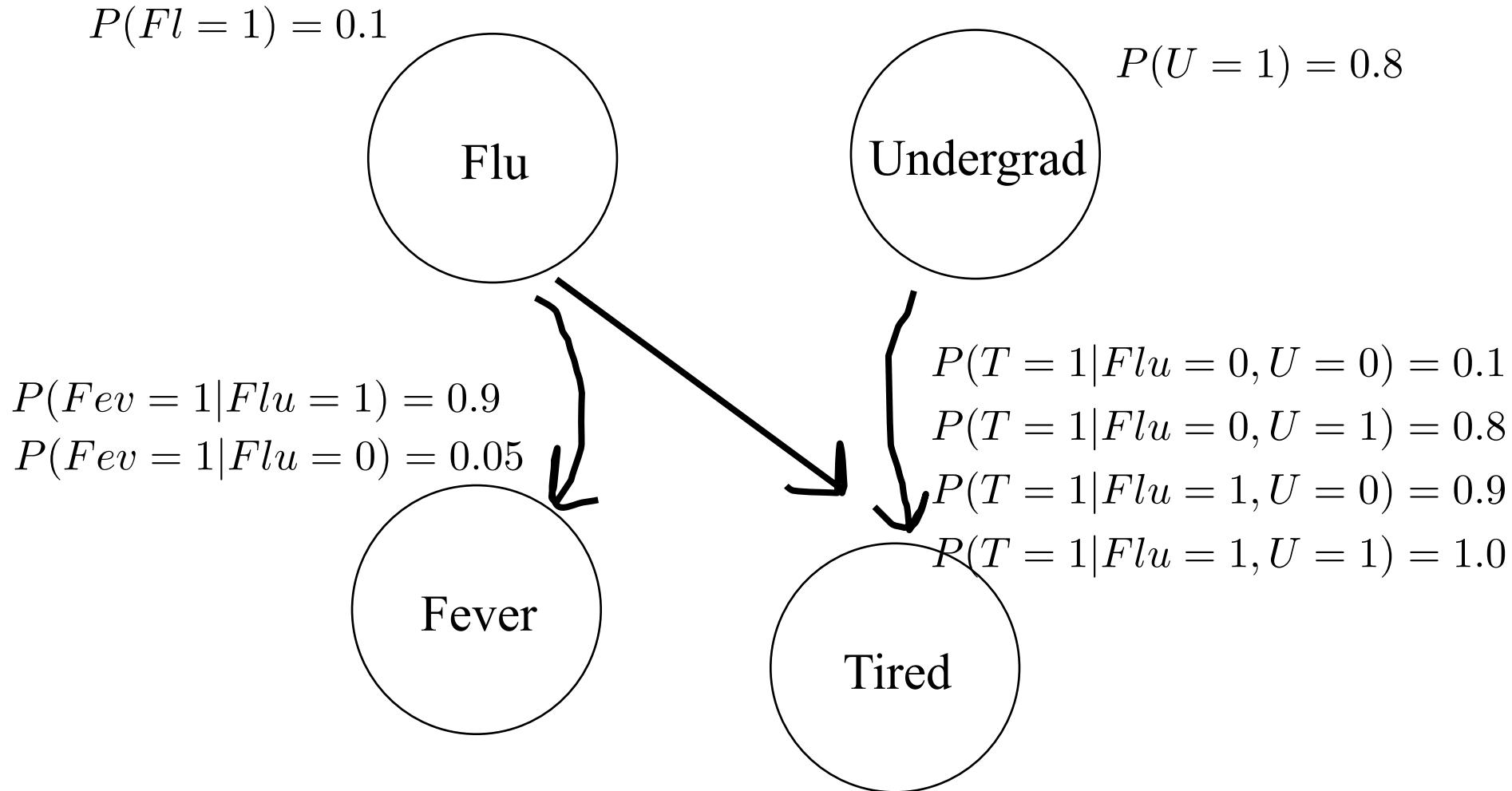
To define a joint you simply need give:

$P(\text{values} \mid \text{parents})$   
for each random variable.

Prob can be a conditional probability table or an equation!



# Probabilistic Model



# Alg #0: Straight Math

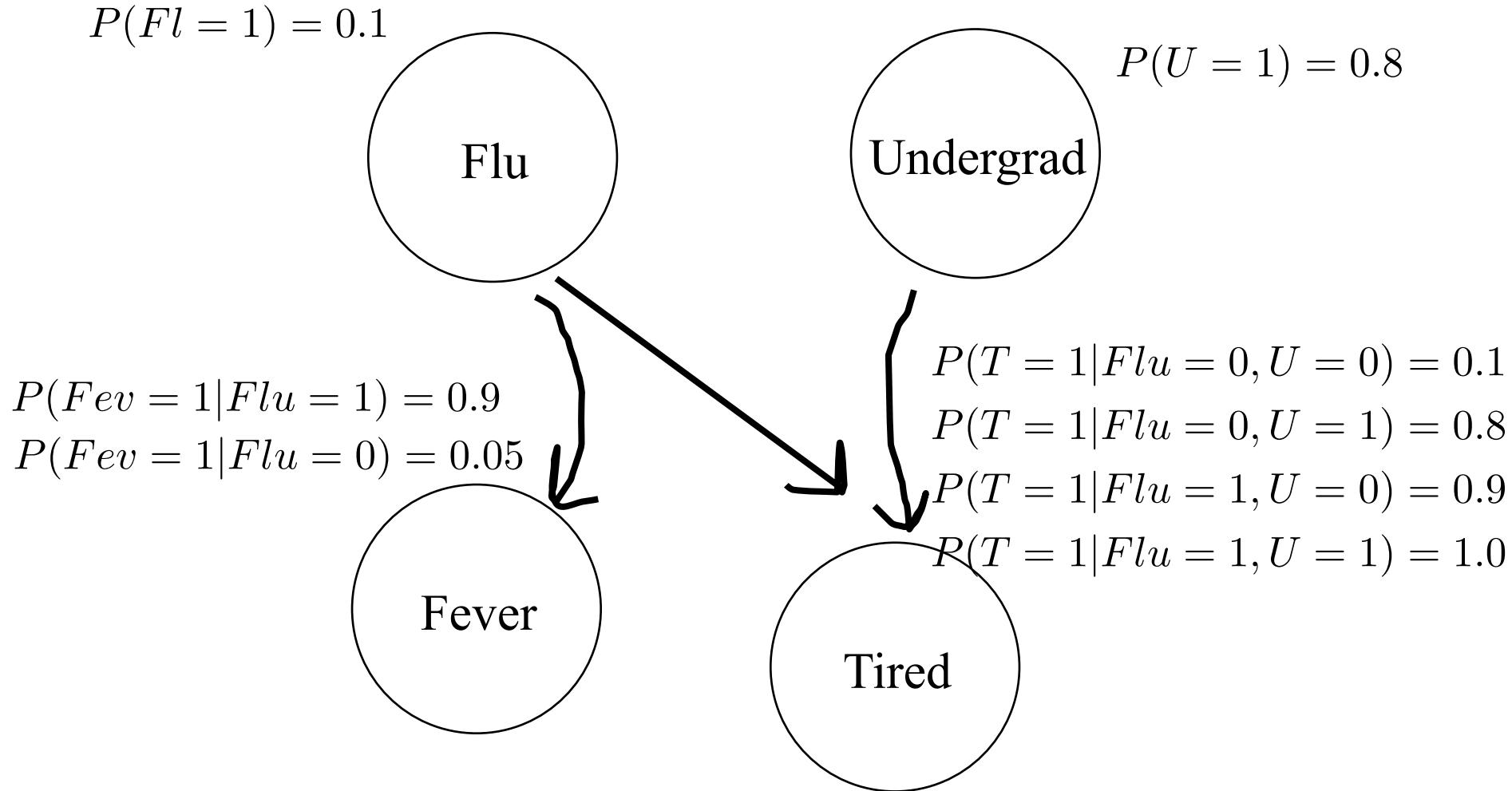
Too many possible **inference**  
questions one could ask...

# Alg #1: Joint Sampling

```
- 3 N_SAMPLES = 100000
4
5 # Program: Joint Sample
6 # -----
7 # we can answer any probability question
8 # with multivariate samples from the joint,
9 # where conditioned variables match
10 def main():
11     obs = getObservation()
12     print 'Observation = ', obs
13
14     samples = sampleATon()
15     prob = probFluGivenObs(samples, obs)
16     print 'Pr(Flu) = ', prob
--
```

```
71 # Method: Sample A Ton
72 # -----
73 # chose N_SAMPLES with likelihood proportional
74 # to the joint distribution
75 def sampleATon():
76     samples = []
77     for i in range(N_SAMPLES):
78         sample = makeSample()
79         samples.append(sample)
80     return samples
```

# Recall: Probabilistic Model



```
82 # Method: Make Sample
83 #
84 # chose a single sample from the joint distribut.
85 # based on the medical "Probabilistic Graphical I
86 def makeSample():
87     # prior on causal factors
88     flu = bern(0.1)
89     und = bern(0.8)
90
91     # choose fever based on flue
92     if flu == 1: fev = bern(0.9)
93     else:         fev = bern(0.05)
94
95     # choose tired based on (undergrade and flu)
96     if und == 1 and flu == 1: tir = bern(1.0)
97     elif und == 1 and flu == 0: tir = bern(0.8)
98     elif und == 0 and flu == 1: tir = bern(0.9)
99     else:                     tir = bern(0.1)
100
101    # a sample from the joint has an
102    # assignment to *all* random variables
103    return [flu, und, fev, tir]
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```
[0, 1, 0, 1]
[1, 1, 1, 1]
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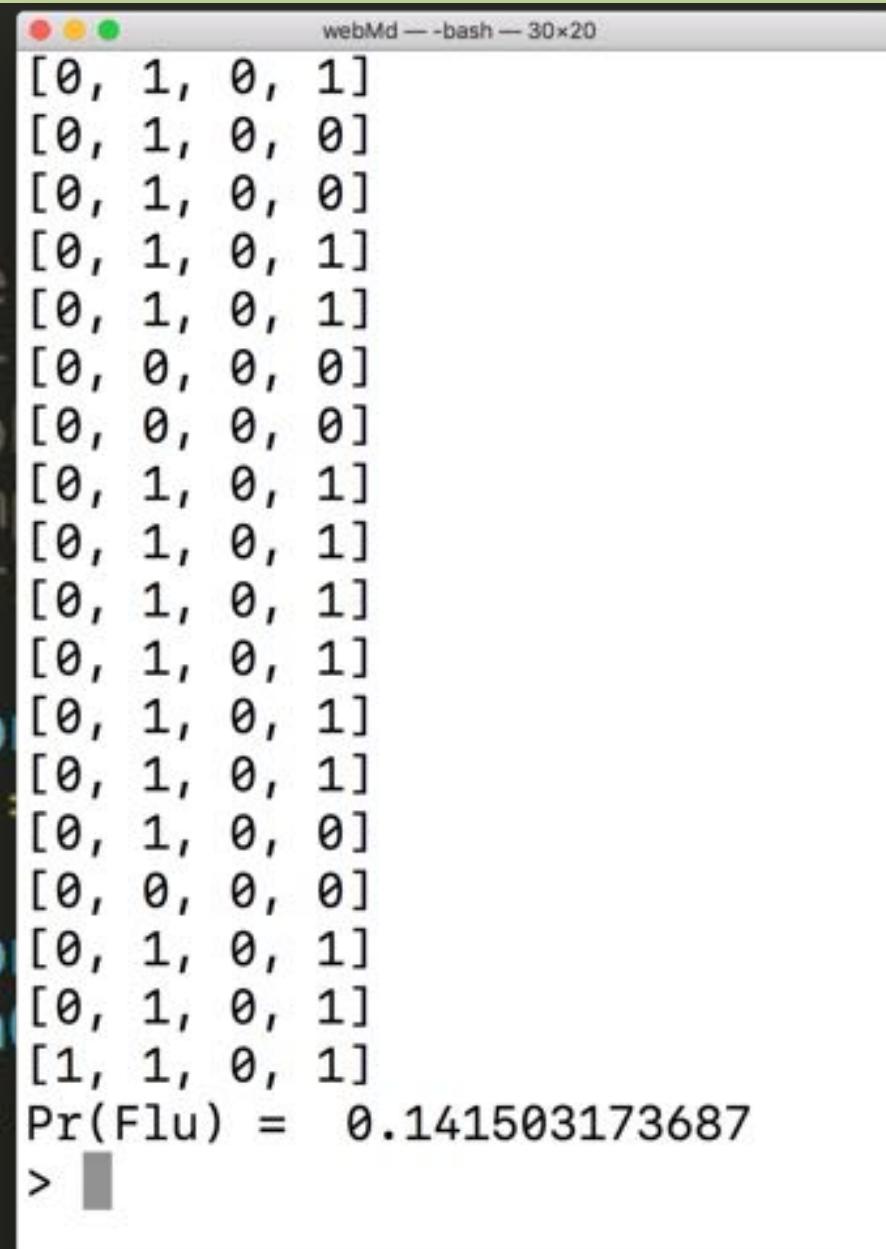
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26 #
27 # Calculate the probability of flu given many
28 # samples from the joint distribution and a set
29 # of observations to condition on.
30 def probFluGivenObs(samples, obs):
31     # reject all samples which don't align
32     # with condition
33     keepSamples = []
34     for sample in samples:
35         if checkObsMatch(sample, obs):
36             keepSamples.append(sample)
37
38     # from remaining, simply count...
39     fluCount = 0
40     for sample in keepSamples:
41         [flu, und, fev, tir] = sample
42         if flu == 1:
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44
45     # counting can be so sweet...
46     return float(fluCount) / len(keepSamples)
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14     samples = sampleAToN(N_SAMPLES)
15     prob = probFluGivenSamples(samples, obs)
16     print 'Pr(Flu) = ', prob
```



A terminal window titled "webMd — bash — 30x20" displaying the output of a Python script. The script generates 100,000 joint samples and calculates the probability of having the flu given the observed symptoms.

```
[0, 1, 0, 1]
[0, 1, 0, 0]
[0, 1, 0, 0]
[0, 1, 0, 1]
[0, 1, 0, 1]
[0, 0, 0, 0]
[0, 0, 0, 0]
[0, 1, 0, 1]
[0, 1, 0, 1]
[0, 1, 0, 1]
[0, 1, 0, 1]
[0, 1, 0, 1]
[0, 1, 0, 1]
[0, 1, 0, 1]
[0, 1, 0, 1]
[0, 1, 0, 1]
[0, 1, 0, 0]
[0, 0, 0, 0]
[0, 1, 0, 1]
[0, 1, 0, 1]
[1, 1, 0, 1]
Pr(Flu) = 0.141503173687
>
```

# The Magic School Bus™



```
webMd -- bash -- 39x20
[0, 1, 1, 0]
[1, 0, 1, 1]
[0, 1, 0, 1]
[0, 1, 0, 0]
[0, 1, 0, 0]
[0, 1, 1, 0]
[1, 1, 1, 1]
[0, 1, 0, 0]
[0, 0, 0, 1]
[0, 1, 0, 1]
[0, 1, 0, 1] ←
[0, 1, 0, 1]
[0, 1, 0, 0]
[0, 1, 0, 1]
[0, 1, 0, 0]
[0, 0, 0, 0]
[0, 0, 0, 1]
Observation = [None, None, None, None]
Pr(Flu | Obs) = 0.10164
>
```

If you can sample enough  
from the joint distribution,  
you can answer any  
probability question

Each one of  
these is one  
joint sample:  
[Flu, Undergrad, Fever, Tired]



# Alg #1: Joint Sampling

With enough samples:

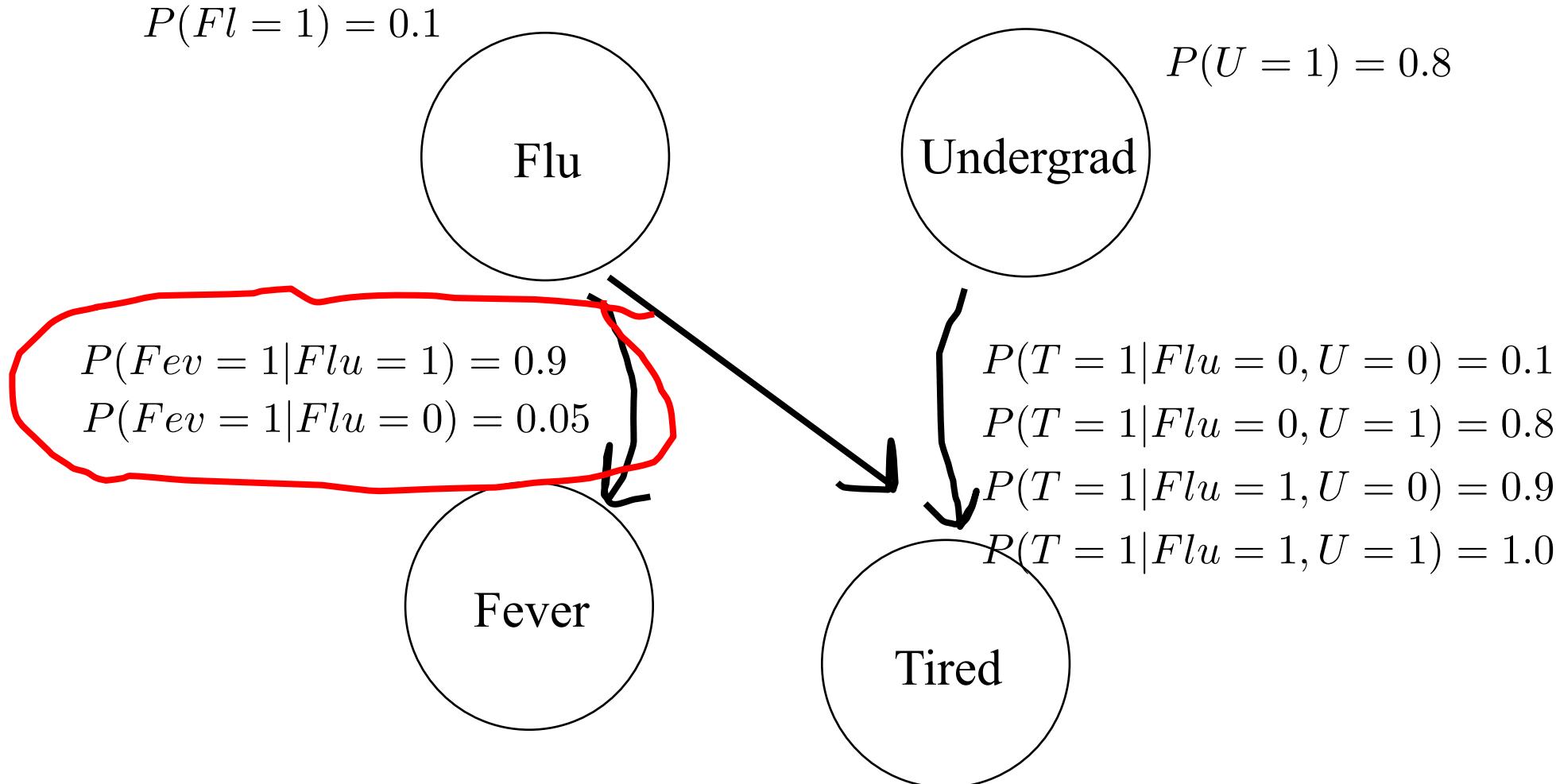
- Probability estimates will be correct
- Conditional probability estimates will be correct
- Expectation estimations will be correct



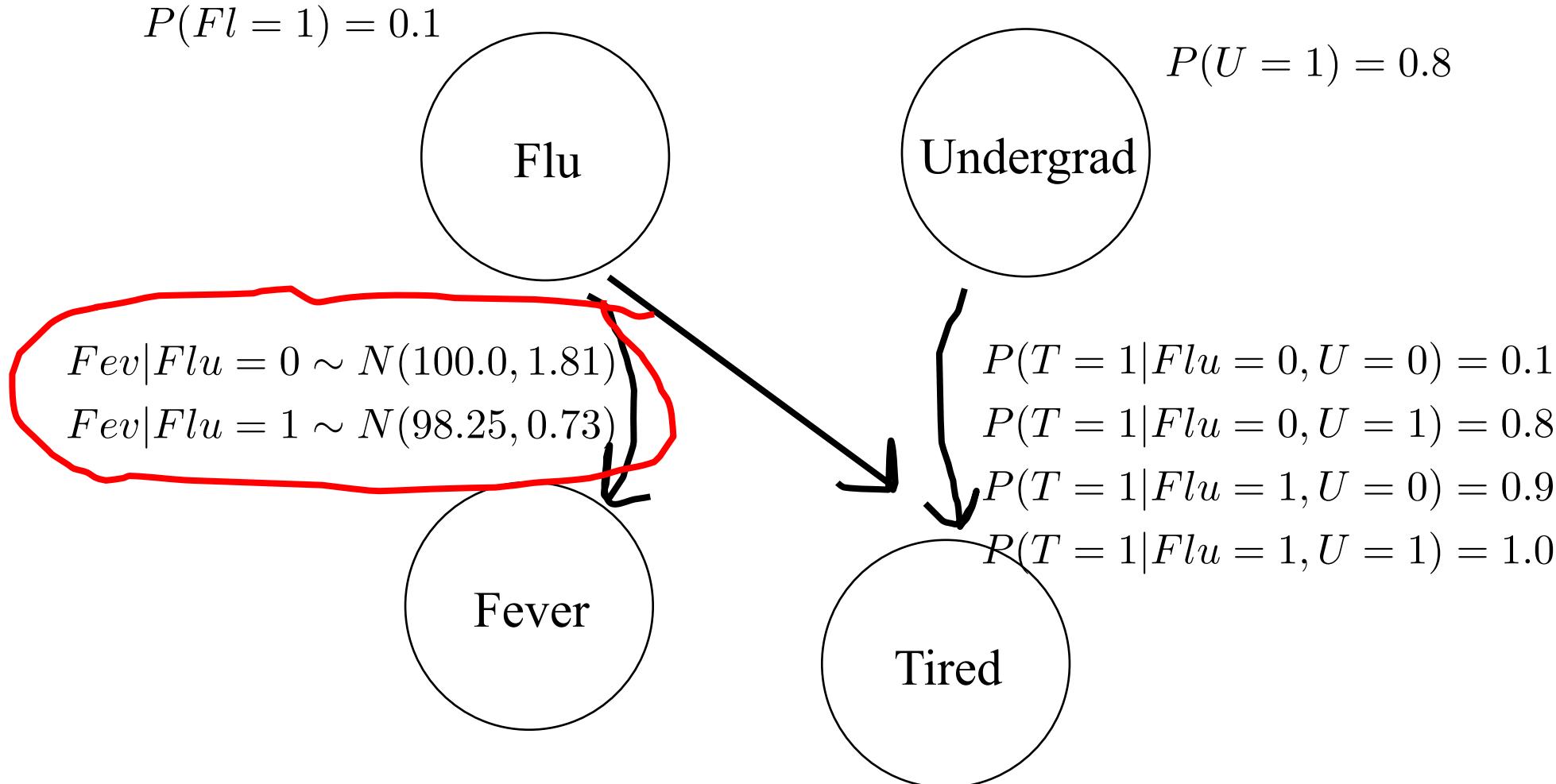
What's the matter with  
joint sampling?



# Probabilistic Model



# Probabilistic Model



# The Magic School Bus™



# Markov Chain



# MCMC



# Monte Carlo



# Alg #2: MCMC

```
webhd -- bash -- 20x20
[1, 1, 101.0, 1]
[1, 1, 101.0, 1]
[0, 1, 101.0, 0]
[0, 0, 101.0, 0]
[1, 0, 101.0, 1]
[1, 0, 101.0, 0]
[1, 0, 101.0, 1]
[1, 0, 101.0, 1]
[1, 1, 101.0, 1]
[1, 1, 101.0, 1]
[1, 1, 101.0, 1]
[1, 1, 101.0, 1]
[1, 1, 101.0, 1]
[1, 1, 101.0, 1]
[1, 1, 101.0, 1]
[1, 0, 101.0, 1]
[1, 1, 101.0, 1]
[1, 1, 101.0, 1]
Pr(Flu) = 0.9773
>
```

MCMC is a way to sample  
with conditioned variables  
fixed



Each one of  
these is one  
joint sample:

[Flu, Undergrad, Fever, Tired]



# Alg #2: MCMC

All Samples = []

---

Flu      Undergrad      Fever  
↓      ↓      ↓  
Initial Sample = [0, 0, 101.0, 1]  
                ↑      ↑  
            Tired



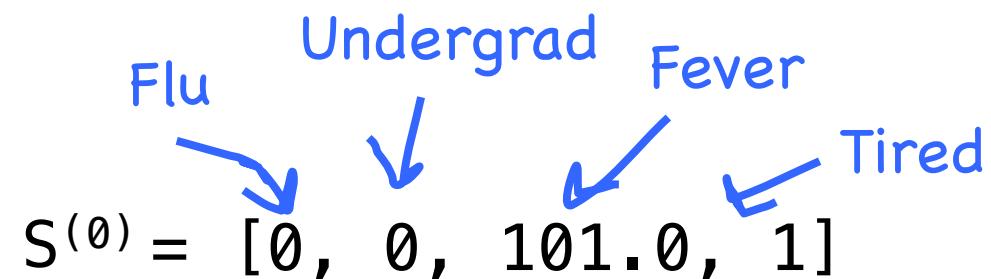
# Alg #2: MCMC

All Samples = []

---

$$S^{(0)} = [0, 0, 101.0, 1]$$

Flu      Undergrad      Fever      Tired





# Alg #2: MCMC

All Samples =  $[S^{(0)}]$

---

Flu      Undergrad      Fever  
↓            ↓            ↓  
 $S^{(0)} = [0, 0, 101.0, 1]$       Tired



From  $S_t$  make  $S_{t+1}$

# Alg #2: MCMC

All Samples =  $[S^{(0)}]$

---

Flu      Undergrad      Fever  
↓              ↓              ↓  
 $S^{(1)} = [0, 0, 101.0, 1]$   
Tired

$$\begin{aligned} P(Flu = 1 | \text{All others}) \\ &= P(Flu = 1 | Und = 0, Fev = 98.3, Tir = 1) \\ &= 0.21 \end{aligned}$$

$$Flu_1 = \text{Sample}\left[P(Flu = 1 | \text{All others})\right]$$



# Alg #2: MCMC

All Samples =  $[S^{(0)}]$

---

$S^{(1)} = [1, 0, 101.0, 1]$

Flu      Undergrad      Fever      Tired

$$\begin{aligned} P(Flu = 1 | \text{All others}) \\ &= P(Flu = 1 | Und = 0, Fev = 98.3, Tir = 1) \\ &= 0.21 \end{aligned}$$

$$Flu_1 = \text{Sample}\left[P(Flu = 1 | \text{All others})\right]$$



# Alg #2: MCMC

All Samples =  $[S^{(0)}]$

---

Flu      Undergrad      Fever  
S<sup>(1)</sup> = [1, 0, 101.0, 1]  
Tired

$$\begin{aligned} P(Und = 1 | \text{All others}) \\ &= P(Und = 1 | Flu = 1, Fev = 98.3, Tir = 1) \\ &= 0.91 \end{aligned}$$

$$Und_1 = \text{Sample}\left[P(Und = 1 | \text{All others})\right]$$



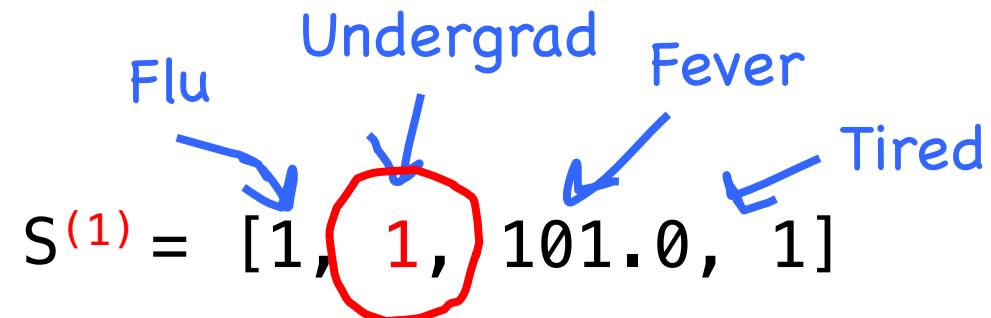
# Alg #2: MCMC

All Samples =  $[S^{(0)}]$

---

$S^{(1)} = [1, 1, 101.0, 1]$

Flu      Undergrad      Fever      Tired



$$\begin{aligned} P(Und = 1 | \text{All others}) \\ &= P(Und = 1 | Flu = 1, Fev = 98.3, Tir = 1) \\ &= 0.91 \end{aligned}$$

$$Und_1 = \text{Sample}\left[P(Und = 1 | \text{All others})\right]$$



# Alg #2: MCMC

All Samples =  $[S^{(0)}]$

---

Flu      Undergrad      Fever  
↓      ↓      ↓  
 $S^{(1)} = [1, 1, 101.0, 1]$       Tired

Let's say you are conditioning on fever being 101.0...  
then don't change that value



# Alg #2: MCMC

All Samples =  $[S^{(0)}]$

---

Flu      Undergrad      Fever  
↓      ↓      ↓  
 $S^{(1)} = [1, 1, 101.0, 1]$       Tired



# Alg #2: MCMC

All Samples =  $[S^{(0)}]$

---

Flu      Undergrad      Fever  
↓      ↓      ↓  
 $S^{(1)} = [1, 1, 101.0, 1]$       Tired



# Alg #2: MCMC

All Samples =  $[S^{(0)}]$

---

Flu      Undergrad      Fever  
↓            ↓            ↓  
 $S^{(1)} = [1, 1, 101.0, 1]$       Tired



# Alg #2: MCMC

All Samples =  $[S^{(0)}, S^{(1)}]$

---

Flu      Undergrad      Fever  
↓            ↓            ↓  
 $S^{(1)} = [1, 1, 101.0, 1]$       Tired



# Alg #2: MCMC

All Samples =  $[S^{(0)}, S^{(1)}]$

---

Flu      Undergrad      Fever  
↓            ↓            ↓  
 $S^{(2)} = [0, 1, 101.0, 1]$       Tired



# Alg #2: MCMC

All Samples = [S<sup>(0)</sup>, S<sup>(1)</sup>, S<sup>(2)</sup>]

---

Repeat at least 10,000 times



# Alg #2: MCMC

All Samples =  $[S^{(0)}, S^{(1)}, S^{(2)}, \dots, S^{(10000)}]$

---

Repeat at least 10,000 times



# Alg #2: MCMC

```
webhd -- bash -- 20x20
[1, 1, 101.0, 1]
[1, 1, 101.0, 1]
[0, 1, 101.0, 0]
[0, 0, 101.0, 0]
[1, 0, 101.0, 1]
[1, 0, 101.0, 0]
[1, 0, 101.0, 1]
[1, 0, 101.0, 1]
[1, 1, 101.0, 1]
[1, 1, 101.0, 1]
[1, 1, 101.0, 1]
[1, 1, 101.0, 1]
[1, 1, 101.0, 1]
[1, 1, 101.0, 1]
[1, 1, 101.0, 1]
[1, 0, 101.0, 1]
[1, 1, 101.0, 1]
[1, 1, 101.0, 1]
Pr(Flu) = 0.9773
>
```

MCMC is a way to sample  
with conditioned variables  
fixed



Each one of  
these is one  
joint sample:

[Flu, Undergrad, Fever, Tired]



# Alg #2: MCMC

For each random variable  
you must specify a way to  
sample from

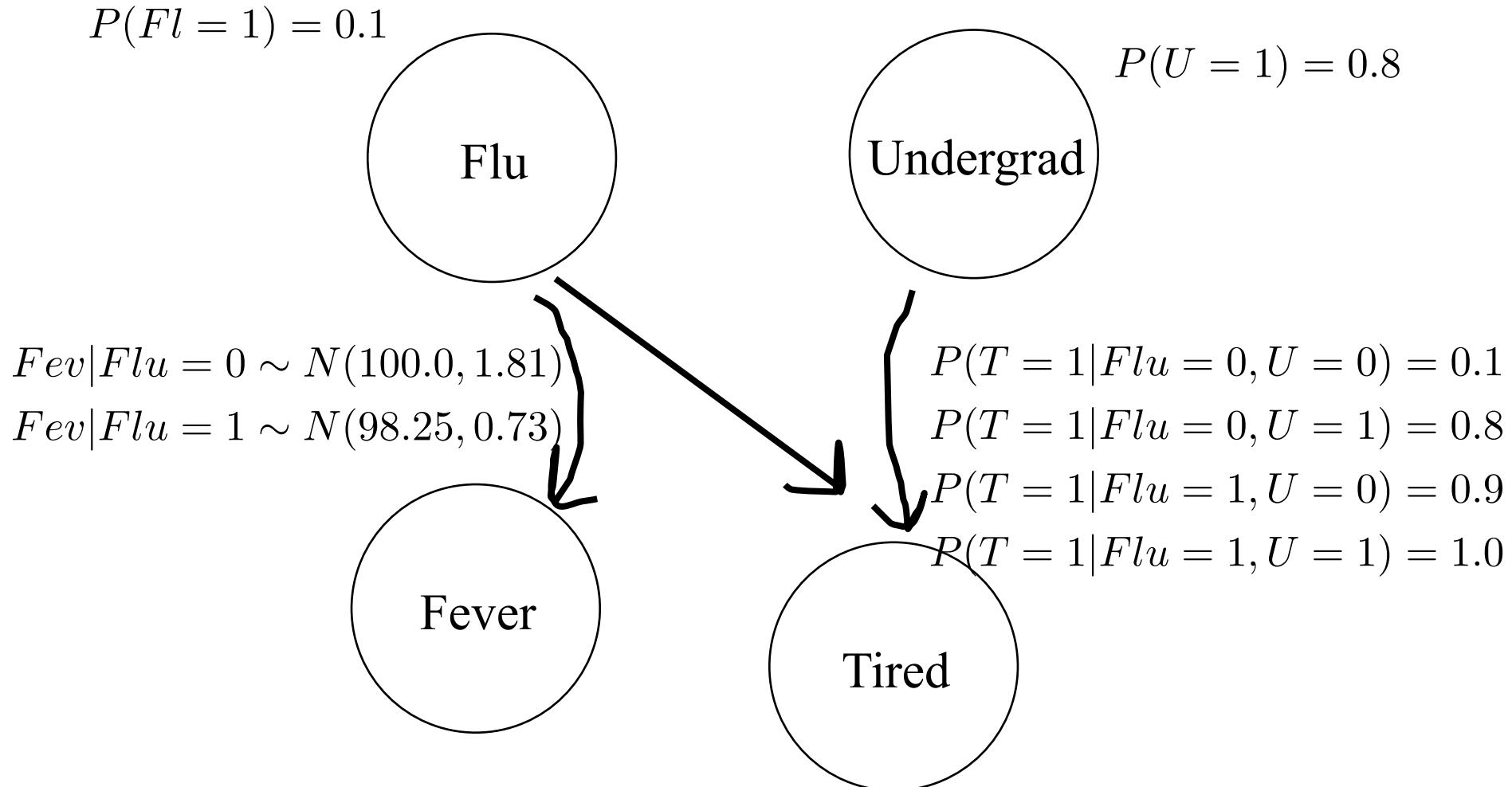


Current random variable

$$P(X_j^{(t+1)} | X_1^{(t+1)}, \dots, X_{j-1}^{(t+1)}, X_{j+1}^{(t)} \dots X_n^{(t)})$$

All the other values in the sample

# Probabilistic Model





# Alg #1: Joint Sampling

With enough samples:

- Probability estimates will be correct
- Conditional probability estimates will be correct
- Expectation estimations will be correct

