

**14.3 The operation of arc reversal in a Bayesian network allows us to change the direction of an arc  $X \rightarrow Y$  while preserving the joint probability distribution that the network represents (Shachter, 1986). Arc reversal may require introducing new arcs: all the parents of  $X$  also become parents of  $Y$ , and all parents of  $Y$  also become parents of  $X$ .**

**a. Assume that  $X$  and  $Y$  start with  $m$  and  $n$  parents, respectively, and that all variables have  $k$  values. By calculating the change in size for the CPTs of  $X$  and  $Y$ , show that the total number of parameters in the network cannot decrease during arc reversal. (Hint: the parents of  $X$  and  $Y$  need not be disjoint.)**

**b. Under what circumstances can the total number remain constant?**

**c. Let the parents of  $X$  be  $U \cup V$  and the parents of  $Y$  be  $V \cup W$ , where  $U$  and  $W$  are disjoint. The formulas for the new CPTs after arc reversal are as follows:**

$$P(Y | U, V, W) = \sum_x P(Y | V, W, x) \times P(x | U, V)$$

$$P(X | U, V, W, Y) = P(Y | X, V, W) \times P(X | U, V) / P(Y | U, V, W)$$

**Prove that the new network expresses the same joint distribution over all variables as the original network.**

**a. Assume that  $X$  and  $Y$  start with  $m$  and  $n$  parents, respectively, and that all variables have  $k$  values. By calculating the change in size for the CPTs of  $X$  and  $Y$ , show that the total number of parameters in the network cannot decrease during arc reversal. (Hint: the parents of  $X$  and  $Y$  need not be disjoint.)**

**Paper:** Evaluating Influence Diagrams

Author: Ross D. Shachter

Year: 1986

<http://cs.ru.nl/~peterl/BN/shachter1987.pdf>

An influence diagram is a generalization of a Bayesian network. For this exercise we are interested in the Theorem 3 of the paper that says:

**Theorem 3: Arc Reversal.** *Given that there is an arc  $(i, j)$  between chance nodes  $i$  and  $j$ , but no other directed  $(i, j)$ -path in a regular influence diagram, arc  $(i, j)$  can be replaced by arc  $(j, i)$ . Afterward, both nodes inherit each other's conditional predecessors.*

Lets call  $\#parents(X_{BN1})$  the number of parents that the variable  $X$  presents in the Bayesian Network 1 (before arc reversal) and  $\#parents(X_{BN2})$  the number of parents that the variable  $X$  presents in the Bayesian Network 2 (after reversal).

$$\#parents(X_{BN1}) = m$$

$$\#parents(Y_{BN1}) = n$$

The theorem 3 says that after reversal the variable  $X$  will inherit all the parents of  $Y$  and  $Y$  will inherit all the parents of  $X$ . Then after the arc reversal we will find that:

$$parents(X_{BN1}) \subseteq parents(Y_{BN2})$$

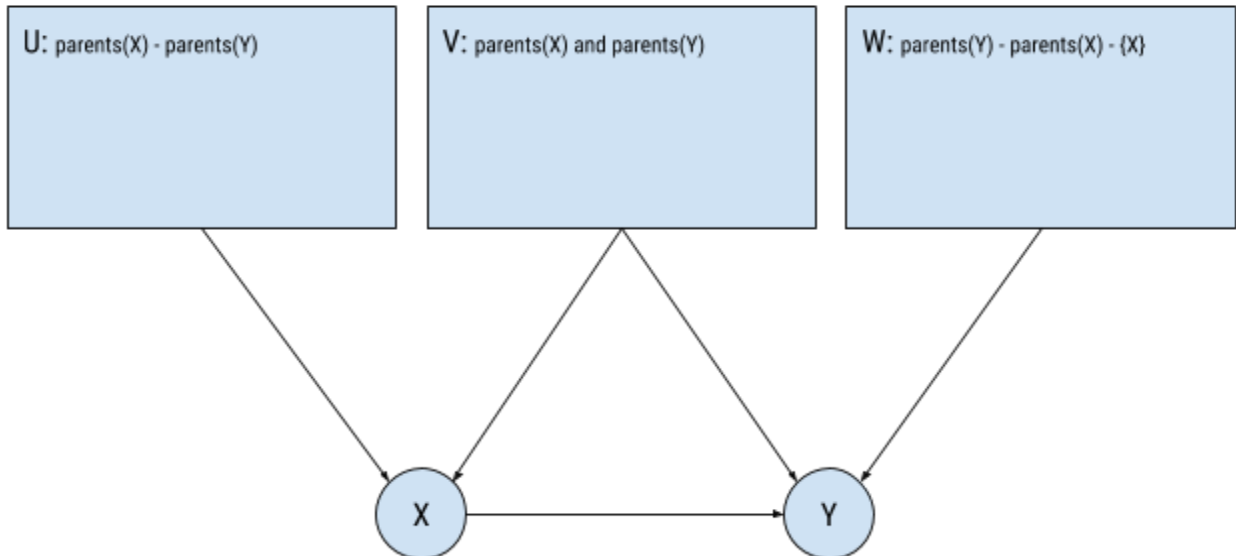
$$parents(Y_{BN1}) \subseteq parents(X_{BN2})$$

The above conditions mean that:

$$\begin{aligned} \#parents(X_{BN2}) &\geq \#parents(Y_{BN1}) = n \\ \#parents(Y_{BN2}) &\geq \#parents(X_{BN1}) = m \\ \#parents(X_{BN1}) + \#parents(Y_{BN1}) &= m + n \end{aligned}$$

And we can generalize the Bayesian Network as:

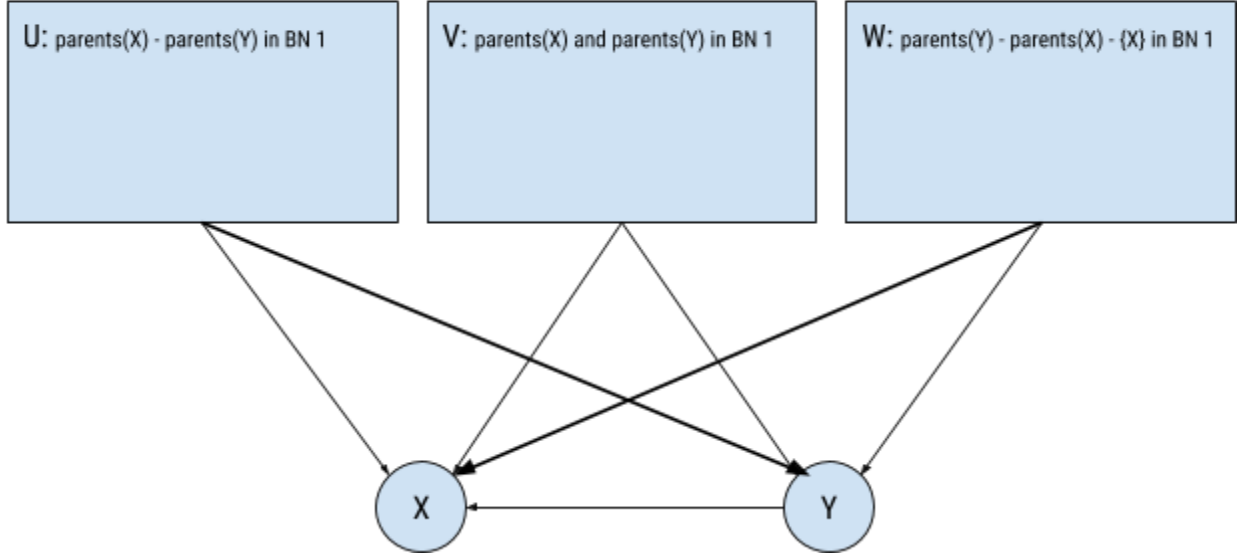
Bayesian Network 1 (before arc reversal)



That let us rewrite  $m$  and  $n$  as:

$$\begin{aligned} \#parents(X_{BN1}) = m &= u + v \\ \#parents(Y_{BN1}) = n &= w + v + 1 \end{aligned}$$

### Bayesian Network 2 (after arc reversal)



$$\#parents(X_{BN2}) = u + v + w + 1 = n + u$$

$$\#parents(Y_{BN2}) = u + v + w = m + w$$

$$\#parents(X_{BN2}) + \#parents(Y_{BN2}) = n + u + m + w$$

When all variables of a Bayesian Network presents the same number of possible discrete values  $k$ , the size of the CPT of each variable can be easily calculated knowing the number of parents links of the variable.

For a simple variable we will need to save  $k - 1$  probability values. This is because the last value can be calculated based on the Axiom 1 of Probability Theory: probabilities of all atomic events must sum 1.

$$size(CPT(X_{BN1})) = k^{\#parents(X_{BN1})} \times (k - 1) = k^m \times (k - 1)$$

$$size(CPT(Y_{BN1})) = k^{\#parents(Y_{BN1})} \times (k - 1) = k^n \times (k - 1)$$

$$\#params(X_{BN1} + Y_{BN1}) = size(CPT(X_{BN1})) + size(CPT(Y_{BN1})) = (k^m + k^n) \times (k - 1)$$

$$size(CPT(X_{BN2})) = k^{\#parents(X_{BN2})} \times (k - 1) = k^{n+u} \times (k - 1)$$

$$size(CPT(Y_{BN2})) = k^{\#parents(Y_{BN2})} \times (k - 1) = k^{m+w} \times (k - 1)$$

$$\#params(X_{BN2} + Y_{BN2}) = size(CPT(X_{BN2})) + size(CPT(Y_{BN2})) = (k^{n+u} + k^{m+w}) \times (k - 1)$$

$$ChangeRatio = \frac{\#params(X_{BN2} + Y_{BN2})}{\#params(X_{BN1} + Y_{BN1})} = \frac{(k^{n+u} + k^{m+w}) \times (k - 1)}{(k^n + k^m) \times (k - 1)}$$

$$ChangeRatio = \frac{(k^{n+u} + k^{m+w})}{(k^n + k^m)}$$

The number of parameters required can not decrease after arc reversal.

Q.E.D.

**b. Under what circumstances can the total number remain constant?**

The total number of parameters remains constant when  $u$  and  $w$  are zero (when  $U$  and  $W$  are empty groups). This is when there are no variables parents of  $X$  and not parents of  $Y$  and vice versa. Observing at the second Bayesian Network Graph after arc reversal, there are one link that change direction (from  $X \rightarrow Y$  to  $Y \rightarrow X$ ) and there are new groups of links (arcs) that appears that are originated when  $U$  and  $W$  groups are not empties.

**c. Let the parents of  $X$  be  $U \cup V$  and the parents of  $Y$  be  $V \cup W$ , where  $U$  and  $W$  are disjoint. The formulas for the new CPTs after arc reversal are as follows:**

$$P_{BN2}(Y | U, V, W) = \sum_x P_{BN1}(Y | V, W, x) \times P_{BN1}(x | U, V)$$

$$P_{BN2}(X | U, V, W, Y) = P_{BN1}(Y | X, V, W) \times P_{BN1}(X | U, V) / P_{BN1}(Y | U, V, W)$$

**Prove that the new network expresses the same joint distribution over all variables as the original network.**

The definition of  $U$ ,  $V$  and  $W$  here are the same I used to proof the items a) and b) of the exercise.

$U$  : group of nodes that are parents of  $X$  and not parent of  $Y$

$V$  : group of nodes that are parents of  $X$  and parent of  $Y$  at the same time

$W$  : group of nodes that are parents of  $Y$  and not parent of  $X$  with exception of  $X$ .

Lets complete the Bayesian Network 1 Universe:

$\overline{D}$  : group of nodes that are descendants of  $X$  and  $Y$  and does not belong to  $U \cup V \cup W \cup \{X, Y\}$

$\overline{D}$  : group of nodes complement of  $D$  and does not belong to  $U \cup V \cup W \cup \{X, Y\}$

Now every possible variable of the Bayesian Network must be located into one of the defined groups that build the entire universe:  $U \cup V \cup W \cup \{X\} \cup \{Y\} \cup D \cup \overline{D}$

This definitions of the groups is very important because they are independent groups that will help to estimate some probabilities in a while.

The arc reversal process only makes arc modifications between nodes in groups  $U$ ,  $V$ ,  $W$  and  $\{X, Y\}$ . The arc reversal process does not add or removes arcs in nodes that belong to the groups  $D$  or  $\overline{D}$ .

Remember Equation 14.2 (AIMA 3E, p.513) to calculate a generic entry in the joint distribution:

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

Then the full joint distribution before arc removal could be defined as  $P(\overline{D}, U, V, W, X, Y, D)$ :

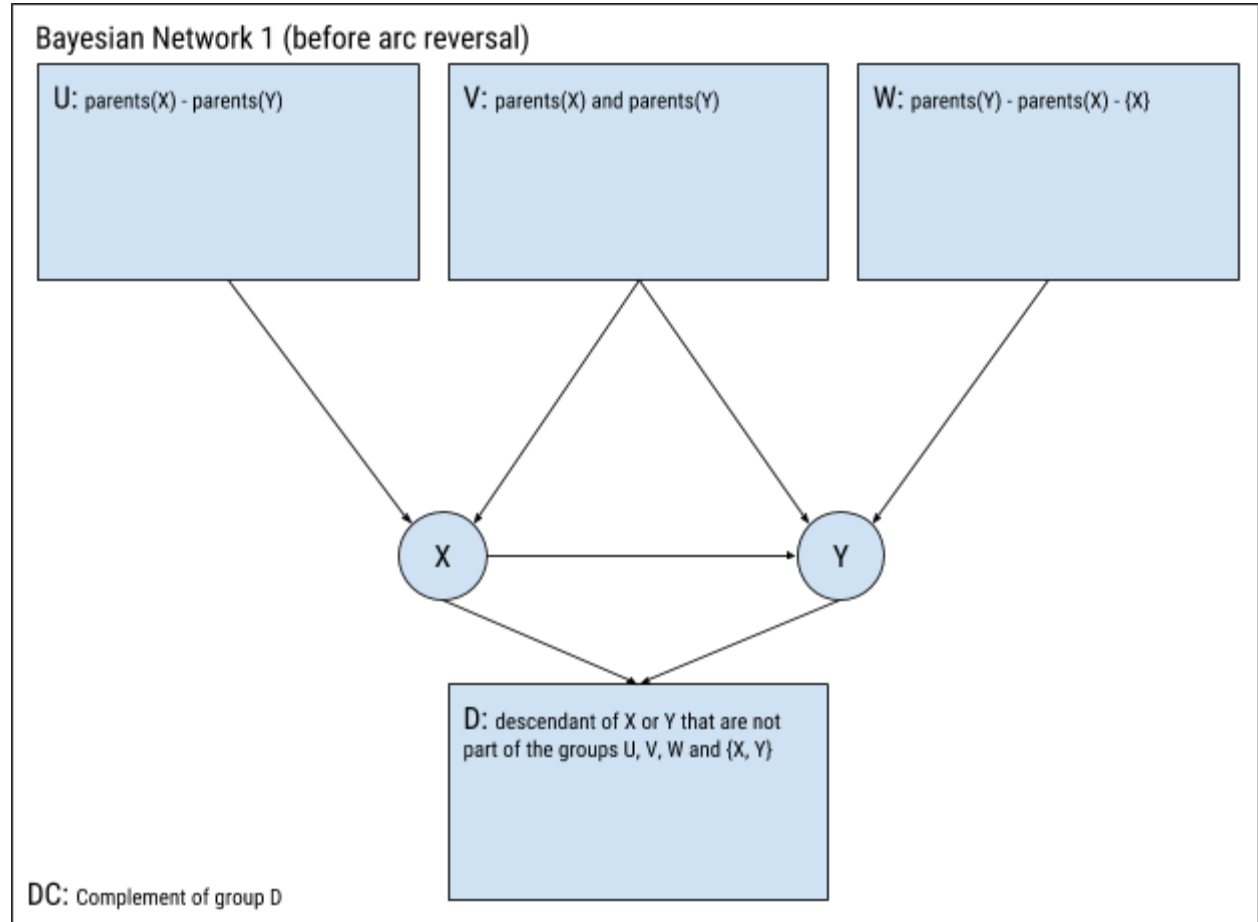
$$P(\overline{D}, U, V, W, X, Y, D) = P((\overline{D}, U, V, W), (X, Y), (D))$$

l) By Equation 14.2:

$$P_{BN1}(\bar{D}, U, V, W, X, Y, D) = P_{BN1}(\bar{D}, U, V, W) \times P_{BN1}(X, Y \mid U, V, W) \times P_{BN1}(D \mid U, V, W, X, Y)$$

So, we could prove the new network expresses the same joint distribution over all variables as the original network if we prove that:

- a)  $P_{BN1}(\bar{D}, U, V, W) = P_{BN2}(\bar{D}, U, V, W)$
- b)  $P_{BN1}(X, Y \mid U, V, W) = P_{BN2}(X, Y \mid U, V, W)$
- c)  $P_{BN1}(D \mid U, V, W, X, Y) = P_{BN2}(D \mid U, V, W, X, Y)$



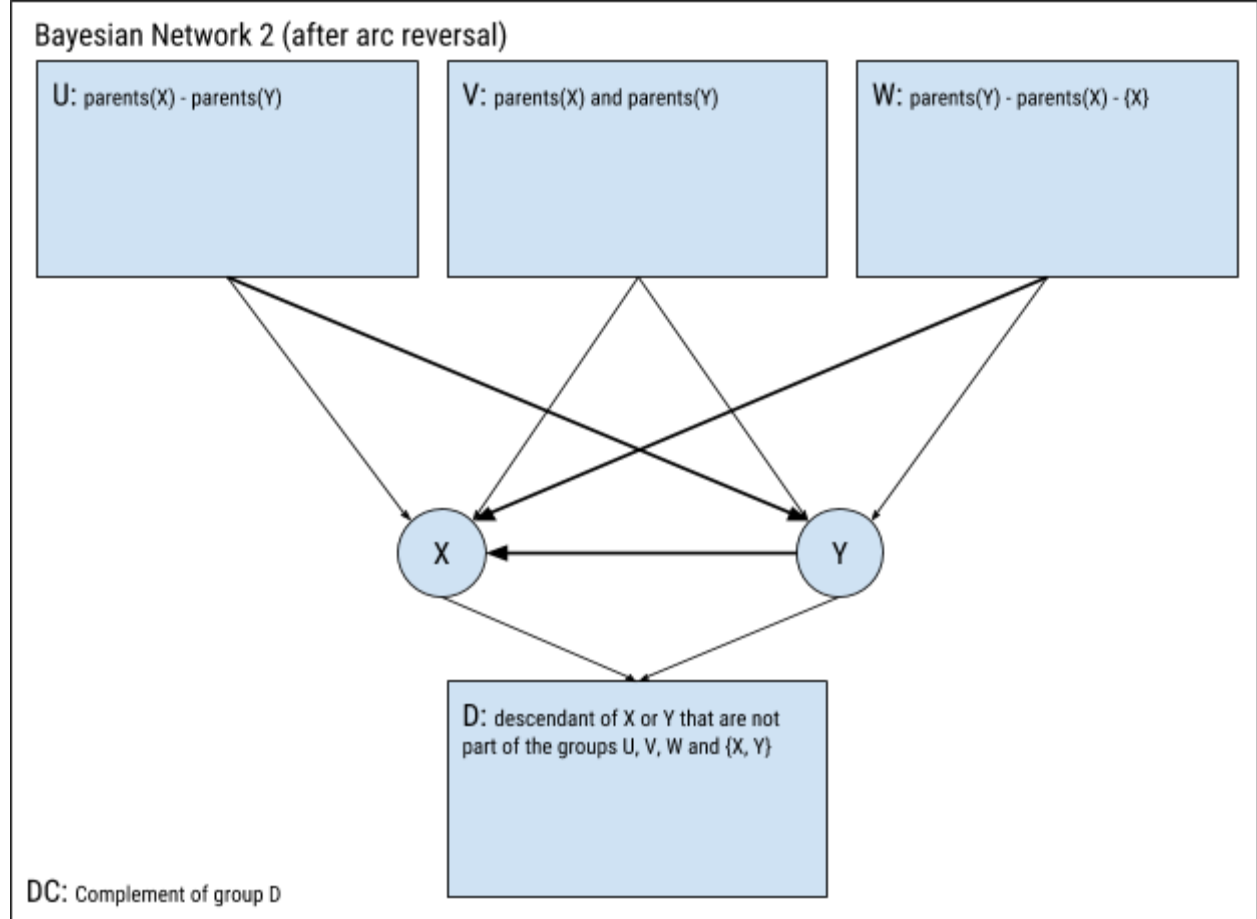
Proof of (a) and (c):

The arc reversal process does not change CPT of the variables that belongs to groups  $(\bar{D}, U, V, W)$ , then the probabilities of the original network will be the same in the new network:

$$P_{BN1}(\bar{D}, U, V, W) = P_{BN2}(\bar{D}, U, V, W)$$

And by definition of the group D, all the variables in D depends completely of its parents and we know they are located in:  $U, V, W, X$ , and  $Y$  :

$$P_{BN1}(D | U, V, W, X, Y) = P_{BN2}(D | U, V, W, X, Y)$$



Proof of (b):

II) After arc reversal process the exercise says that:

$$P_{BN2}(Y | U, V, W) = \sum_x P_{BN1}(Y | V, W, x) \times P_{BN1}(x | U, V)$$

$$P_{BN2}(X | U, V, W, Y) = P_{BN1}(Y | X, V, W) \times P_{BN1}(X | U, V) / P_{BN1}(Y | U, V, W)$$

III) By equation 14.2

$$P_{BN2}(X, Y | U, V, W) = P_{BN2}(Y | U, V, W) \times P_{BN2}(X | U, V, W, Y)$$

IV) Using equations in (II) in (III)

$$P_{BN2}(X, Y | U, V, W) = \frac{\sum_x P_{BN1}(Y | V, W, x) \times P_{BN1}(x | U, V) \times P_{BN1}(Y | X, V, W) \times P_{BN1}(X | U, V)}{P_{BN1}(Y | U, V, W)}$$

We can add to the first term the group U that is independent of variable Y before the arc reversal process.

$$= \frac{\sum_x P_{BN1}(Y | U, V, W, x) \times P_{BN1}(x | U, V) \times P_{BN1}(Y | X, V, W) \times P_{BN1}(X | U, V)}{P_{BN1}(Y | U, V, W)}$$

$$= \frac{\sum_x P_{BN1}(Y, U, V, W, x) \times P_{BN1}(U, V, W) \times P_{BN1}(x | U, V) \times P_{BN1}(Y | X, V, W) \times P_{BN1}(X | U, V)}{P_{BN1}(U, V, W, x) \times P_{BN1}(Y, U, V, W)}$$

$$= \frac{\sum_x P_{BN1}(x | Y, U, V, W) \times P_{BN1}(x | U, V) \times P_{BN1}(Y | X, V, W) \times P_{BN1}(X | U, V)}{P_{BN1}(x | U, V, W)}$$

And we know that variable x is independent of W, then:

$$= \frac{\sum_x P_{BN1}(x | Y, U, V, W) \times P_{BN1}(x | U, V) \times P_{BN1}(Y | X, V, W) \times P_{BN1}(X | U, V)}{P_{BN1}(x | U, V)}$$

$$P_{BN2}(X, Y | U, V, W) = \sum_x P_{BN1}(x | Y, U, V, W) \times P_{BN1}(Y | X, V, W) \times P_{BN1}(X | U, V)$$

$$P_{BN2}(X, Y | U, V, W) = 1 \times P_{BN1}(Y | X, V, W) \times P_{BN1}(X | U, V)$$

$$P_{BN2}(X, Y | U, V, W) = P_{BN1}(Y | X, V, W) \times P_{BN1}(X | U, V)$$

V) By equation 14.2

$$P_{BN1}(X, Y | U, V, W) = P_{BN1}(Y | X, V, W) \times P_{BN1}(X | U, V)$$

VI) By (IV) and (V)

$$P_{BN1}(X, Y | U, V, W) = P_{BN2}(X, Y | U, V, W)$$

Then we found a proof for:

- d)  $P_{BN1}(\bar{D}, U, V, W) = P_{BN2}(\bar{D}, U, V, W)$
- e)  $P_{BN1}(X, Y | U, V, W) = P_{BN2}(X, Y | U, V, W)$
- f)  $P_{BN1}(D | U, V, W, X, Y) = P_{BN2}(D | U, V, W, X, Y)$

VII) And we can conclude:

$$P_{BN2}(\bar{D}, U, V, W, X, Y, D) = P_{BN1}(\bar{D}, U, V, W) + P_{BN1}(X, Y | U, V, W) + P_{BN1}(D | U, V, W, X, Y)$$

VIII) That implies that:

$$P_{BN1}(\overline{D}, U, V, W, X, Y, D) = P_{BN2}(\overline{D}, U, V, W, X, Y, D)$$

Q.E.D.