



## Why

How to select distribution graphs.<sup>1</sup>

## Definition

Let  $(G, A)$  be a typed graph on  $\{1, \dots, n\}$ . Let  $S \subset \{1, \dots, n\}$ . Let  $x^1, \dots, x^n$  be a dataset in  $A_S = \prod_{j \in S} A_j$  (see [Function Graphs](#)). The *observation likelihood* for this dataset is the observation distribution likelihood of the dataset  $\prod_{i=1}^n p_S(x^i)$ .

A *maximum likelihood distribution graph* is one that maximizes the observation likelihood. The maximum likelihood distribution graph with respect to a parametric distribution family is the member of the family that maximizes the observation likelihood.

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<sup>1</sup>Future editions will modify.



