



## Why

We want to select a distribution graph to summarize some data.

## 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](#)).

A *distribution graph selector* for typed graph  $(G, A)$ , dataset of size  $n$ , and indices  $S \subset \{1, \dots, n\}$  is a function from datasets of size  $n$  in  $A_S$  to distribution graphs on  $(G, A)$ .

In the case that  $S \neq \{1, \dots, n\}$  we call  $S$  the *observable* (or *data*) indices and  $T = \{1, \dots, n\} - S$  the *hidden* (or *latent*, *nonobservable*) indices. It is common for many authorities to use the notational convention  $Z$  for  $A_T$  and  $X$  for  $A_S$ .

Let  $p : \prod_i A_i \rightarrow [0, 1]$  denote the full joint distribution of a distribution graph. In this case, we call  $p_S : A_S \rightarrow [0, 1]$  the *observable distribution* (or *evidence distribution*).



