



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*).

