Bayesian networks

Chapter 14.1–3

Outline

◇ Syntax

◇ Semantics

◇ Parameterized distributions

Bayesian networks

A simple, graphical notation for conditional independence assertions
and hence for compact specification of full joint distributions

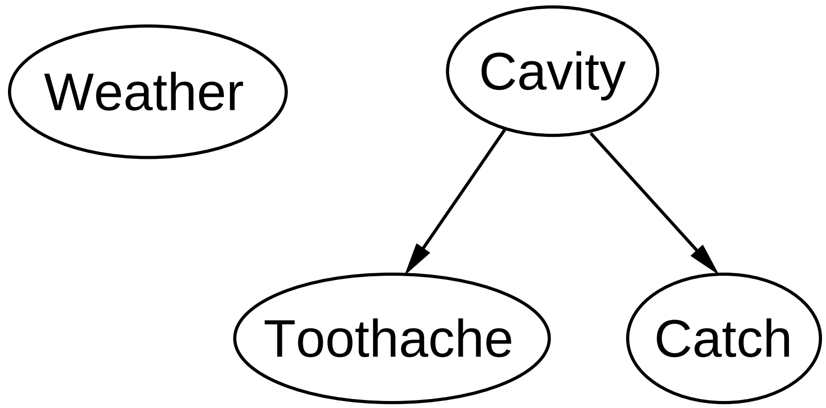
Syntax:

a set of nodes, one per variable
a directed, acyclic graph (link $\approx$ "directly influences")
a conditional distribution for each node given its parents:
$\mathbf{P}(X_i|Parents(X_i))$

In the simplest case, conditional distribution represented as
a conditional probability table (CPT) giving the
distribution over X_i for each combination of parent values

Example

Topology of network encodes conditional independence assertions:



$Weather$ is independent of the other variables

$Toothache$ and $Catch$ are conditionally independent given $Cavity$

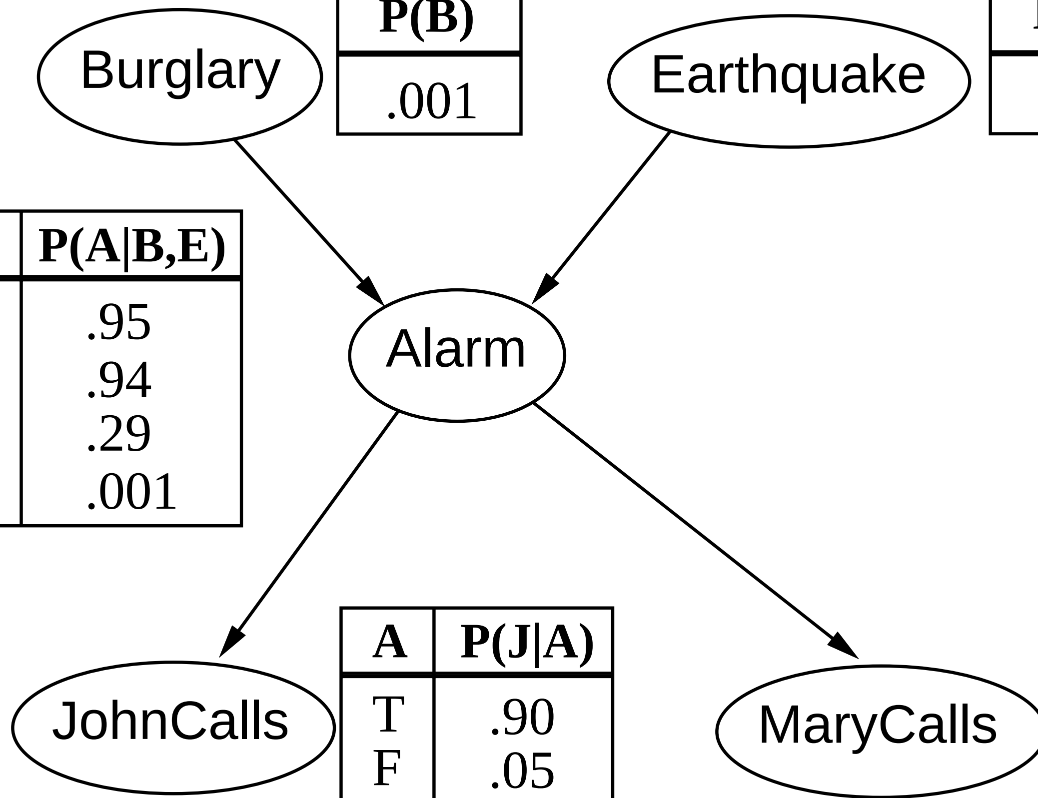
Example

I'm at work, neighbor John calls to say my alarm is ringing, but neighbor Mary doesn't call. Sometimes it's set off by minor earthquakes. Is there a burglar?

Variables: $Burglar$, $Earthquake$, $Alarm$, $JohnCalls$, $MaryCalls$
Network topology reflects "causal" knowledge:

- A burglar can set the alarm off
- An earthquake can set the alarm off
- The alarm can cause Mary to call
- The alarm can cause John to call

Example contd.



P(B)
.001

P(E)
.002

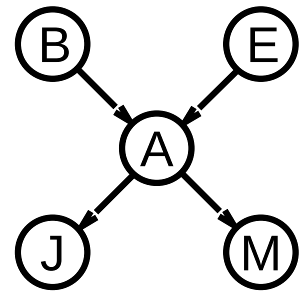
B	E	P(A|B,E)
T	T	.95
T	F	.94
F	T	.29
F	F	.001

A	P(J|A)
T	.90
F	.05

A	P(M|A)
T	.70
F	.01

Compactness

A CPT for Boolean X_i with k Boolean parents has
2^k rows for the combinations of parent values



Each row requires one number p for $X_i = true$
(the number for $X_i = false$ is just $1 - p$)

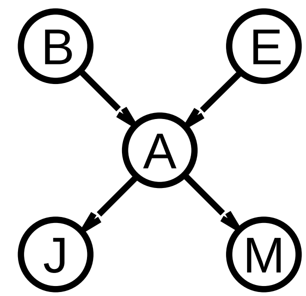
If each variable has no more than k parents,
the complete network requires $O(n \cdot 2^k)$ numbers

I.e., grows linearly with n, vs. $O(2^n)$ for the full joint distribution

For burglary net, $1 + 1 + 4 + 2 + 2 = 10$ numbers (vs. $2^5 - 1 = 31$)

Global semantics

Global semantics defines the full joint distribution
as the product of the local conditional distributions:



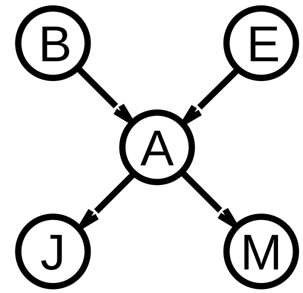
$$P(x_1, \ldots, x_n) = \prod_{i=1}^{n} P(x_i | parents(X_i))$$

e.g., $P(j \wedge m \wedge a \wedge \neg b \wedge \neg e)$

$$=$$

Global semantics

"Global" semantics defines the full joint distribution as the product of the local conditional distributions:



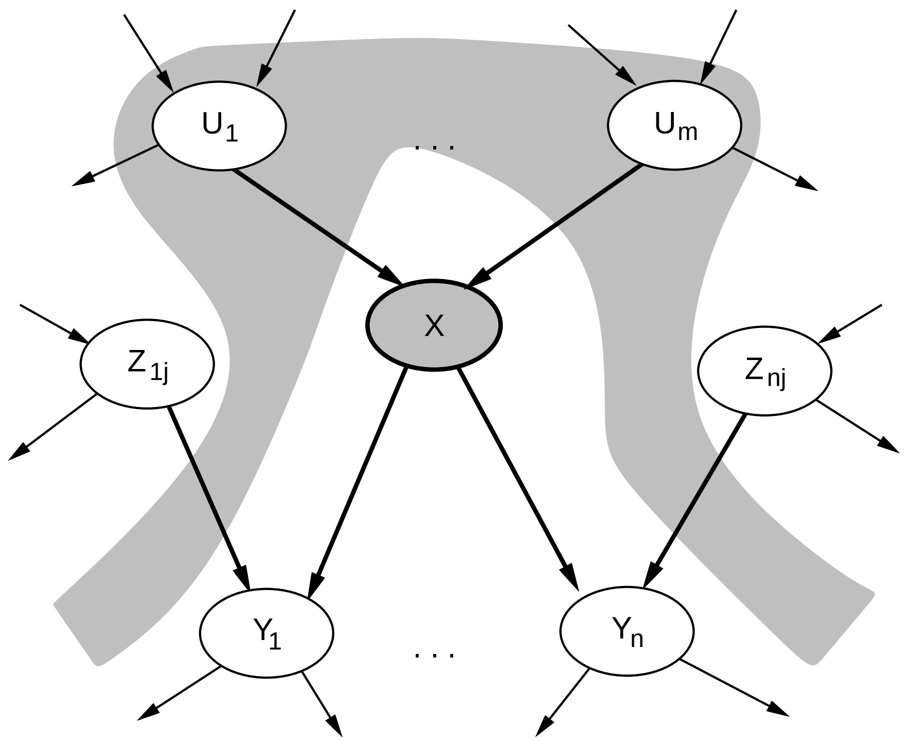
$$P(x_1, \ldots, x_n) = \prod_{i=1}^{n} P(x_i | parents(X_i))$$

e.g., $P(j \wedge m \wedge a \wedge \neg b \wedge \neg e)$

$$\begin{aligned} &= P(j|a)P(m|a)P(a|\neg b, \neg e)P(\neg b)P(\neg e) \\ &= 0.9 \times 0.7 \times 0.001 \times 0.999 \times 0.998 \\ &\approx 0.00063 \end{aligned}$$

Local semantics

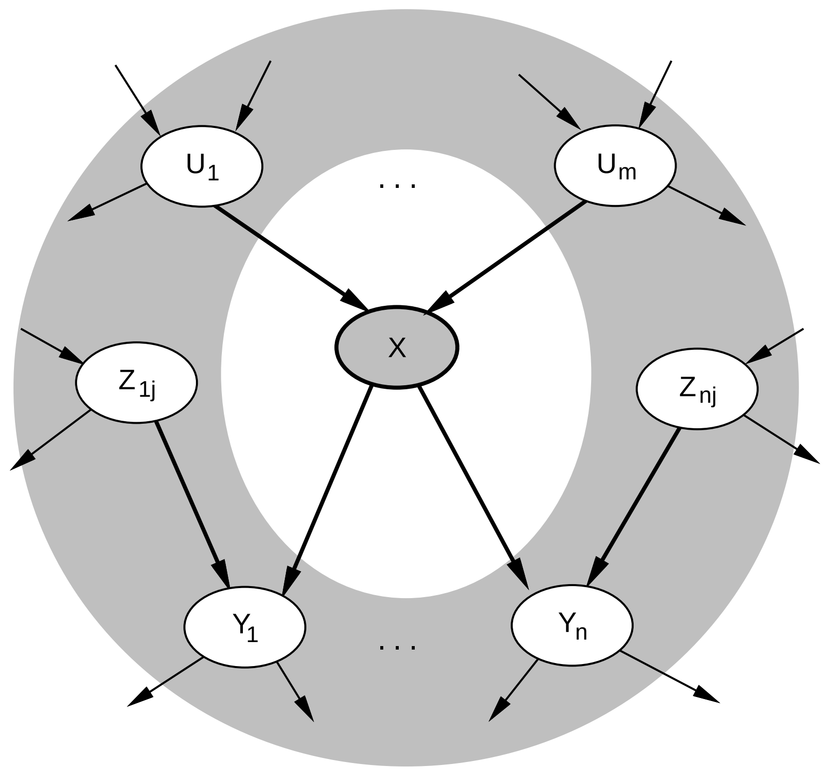
Local semantics: each node is conditionally independent of its nondescendants given its parents



Theorem: Local semantics $\Leftrightarrow$ global semantics

Markov blanket

Each node is conditionally independent of all others given its Markov blanket: parents + children + children's parents

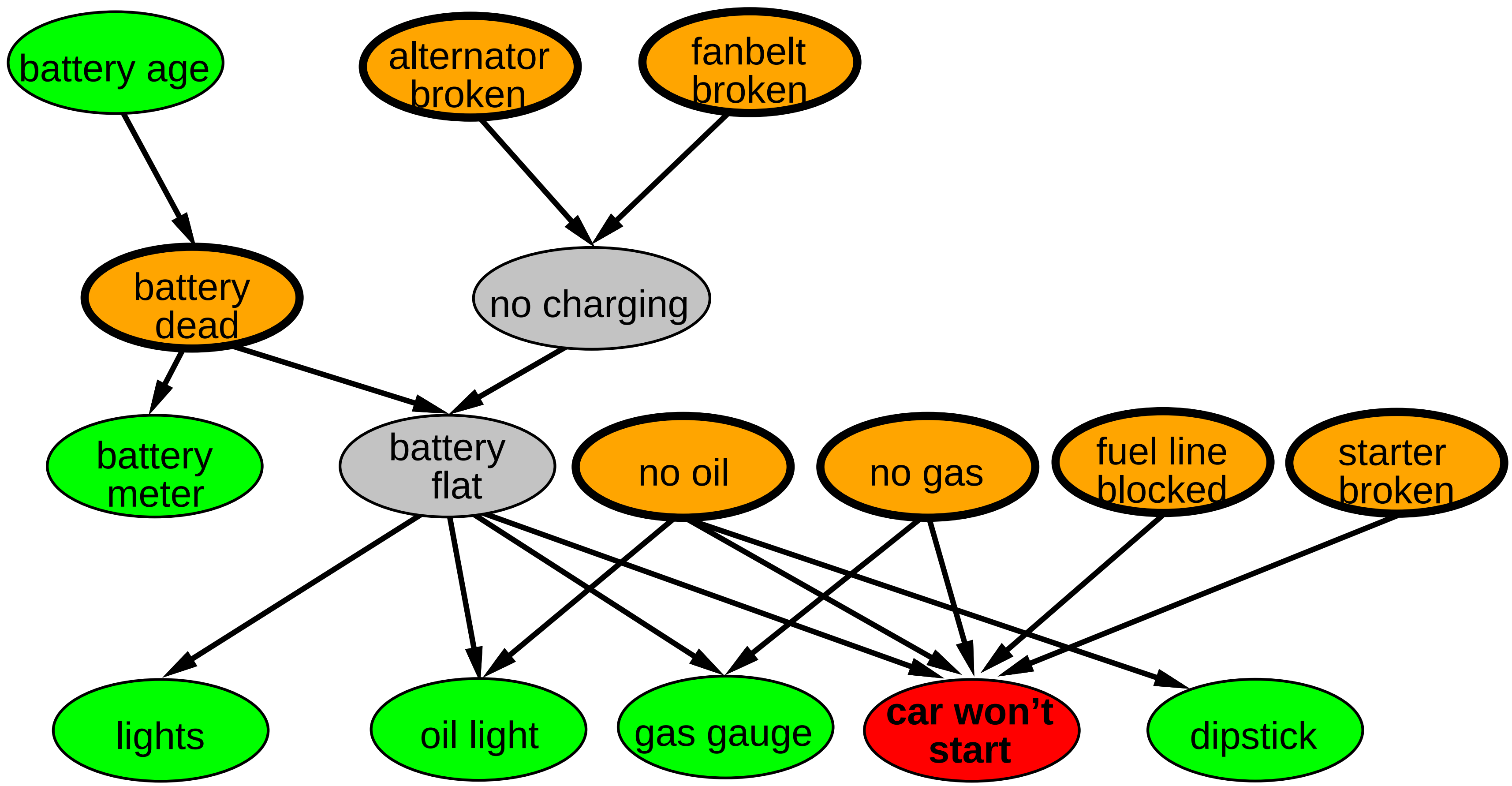


Example: Car diagnosis

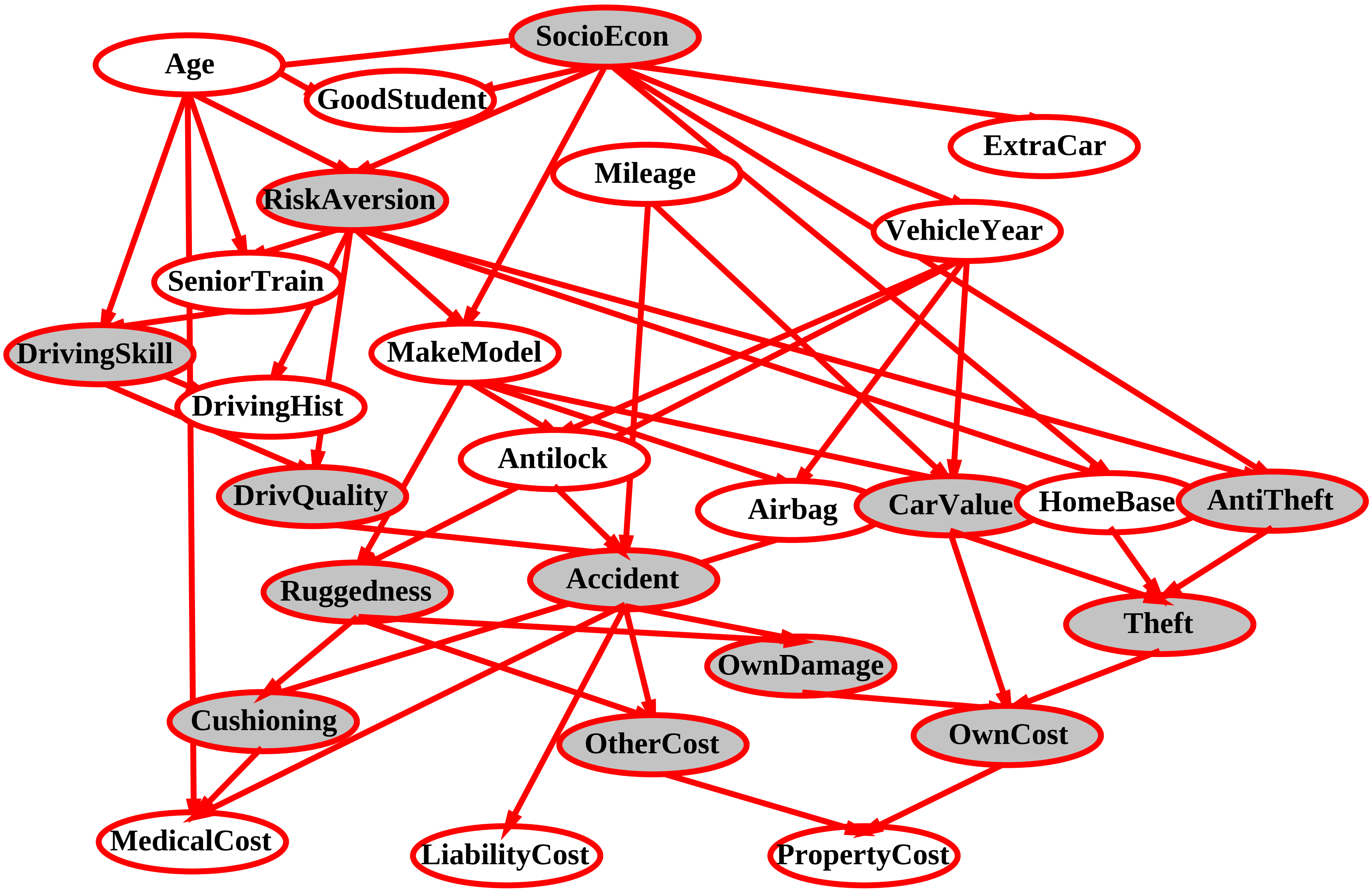
Initial evidence: car won't start

Testable variables (green), "broken, so fix it" variables (orange)

Hidden variables (gray) ensure sparse structure, reduce parameters



Example: Car insurance



Summary

Bayes nets provide a natural representation for (causally induced) conditional independence

Topology + CPTs = compact representation of joint distribution

Generally easy for (non)experts to construct

Canonical distributions (e.g., noisy-OR) = compact representation of CPTs

Continuous variables $\Rightarrow$ parameterized distributions (e.g., linear Gaussian)