

Querying Advanced Probabilistic Models: From Relational Embeddings to Probabilistic Programs

Guy Van den Broeck

StarAI Workshop @ AAI, Feb 7, 2020

The AI Dilemma



Pure Logic

Pure Learning

The AI Dilemma



Pure Logic

Pure Learning

- Slow thinking: deliberative, cognitive, model-based, extrapolation
- Amazing achievements until this day
- “*Pure logic is brittle*”
noise, uncertainty, incomplete knowledge, ...



The AI Dilemma



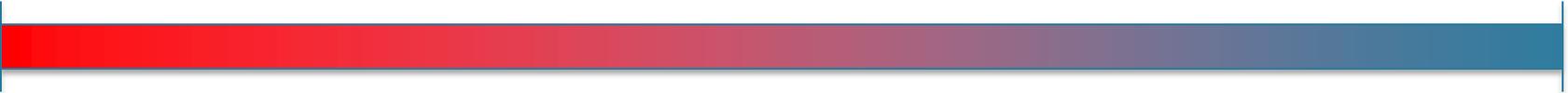
Pure Logic

Pure Learning

- Fast thinking: instinctive, perceptive, model-free, interpolation
- Amazing achievements recently
- “*Pure learning is brittle*”
 - bias, algorithmic fairness, interpretability, explainability, adversarial attacks, unknown unknowns, calibration, verification, missing features, missing labels, data efficiency, shift in distribution, general robustness and safety
 - fails to incorporate a sensible model of the world



The **FALSE** AI Dilemma



So all hope is lost?

Probabilistic World Models

- Joint distribution $P(X)$
- Wealth of representations:
can be causal, relational, etc.
- Knowledge + data
- Reasoning + learning



Pure Logic

Probabilistic World Models

Pure Learning



A New Synthesis of Learning and Reasoning

**Probabilistic
Circuits**

**Representations
Inference
Learning
Applications**

Antonio Vergari
University of California, Los Angeles
Robert Peharz
TU Eindhoven

Yoojung Choi
University of California, Los Angeles
Guy Van den Broeck
University of California, Los Angeles

February 7th, 2020 - AAAI 2020 - New York City

Tutorial on Probabilistic Circuits
This afternoon: 2pm-6pm
Sutton Center, 2nd floor

Pure Logic

Probabilistic World Models

Pure Learning

High-Level Probabilistic Representations



Probabilistic Databases Meets
Relational Embeddings:
Symbolic Querying of Vector Spaces

Modular Exact Inference for
Discrete Probabilistic Programs



What we'd like to do...

Has anyone published a paper with both Erdos and Einstein



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Erdős number - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Erdős_number ▾ Wikipedia ▾

He **published** more **papers** during his lifetime (at least 1,525) than any other ...

Anybody else's Erdős number is $k + 1$ where k is the lowest Erdős number of any coauthor. ... **Albert Einstein and Sheldon Lee Glashow have an Erdős number of 2.** ...

and mathematician Ruth Williams, **both** of whom **have** an Erdős number of 2.

Erdős–Bacon number - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Erdős–Bacon_number ▾ Wikipedia ▾

This article possibly **contains** previously unpublished synthesis of **published** ... Her **paper** gives her an Erdős number of 4, and a Bacon number of 2, **both** of ...

What we'd like to do...

$\exists x \text{ Coauthor}(\text{Einstein}, x) \wedge \text{ Coauthor}(\text{Erdos}, x)$



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This article possibly **contains** previously unpublished synthesis of **published** ... Her **paper** gives her an Erdős number of 4, and a Bacon number of 2, **both** of ...

Einstein is in the Knowledge Graph

Albert Einstein



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Albert Einstein - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Albert_Einstein

Albert Einstein (/ˈaɪnʃtaɪn/; German: [ˈalbɛʁt ˈaɪnʃtaɪn] (listen); 14 March 1879 – 18 April 1955) was a German-born theoretical physicist.

[Hans Albert Einstein](#) - [Mass–energy equivalence](#) - [Eduard Einstein](#) - [Elsa Einstein](#)

Albert Einstein (@AlbertEinstein) | Twitter

<https://twitter.com/AlbertEinstein>

16 hours ago - [View on Twitter](#)

ICYMI, Albert Einstein knew a thing or two about being romantic. Learn about the love letters he wrote. guff.com/didnt-know-einst...

20 hours ago - [View on Twitter](#)

An interesting read on Einstein's superstar status. What are your thoughts? twitter.com/aeonmag/status...

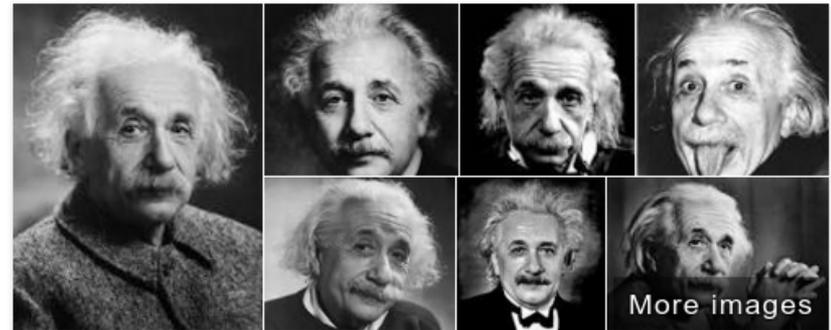


Albert Einstein - Biographical - Nobelprize.org

www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/physics/.../einstein-bio.htm...

Albert Einstein was born at Ulm, in Württemberg, Germany, on March 14, 1879. ...

Later, they moved to Italy and Albert continued his education at Aarau



Albert Einstein

Theoretical Physicist

Albert Einstein was a German-born theoretical physicist. He developed the general theory of relativity, one of the two pillars of modern physics. Einstein's work is also known for its influence on the philosophy of science. [Wikipedia](#)

Born: March 14, 1879, [Ulm, Germany](#)

Died: April 18, 1955, [Princeton, NJ](#)

Influenced by: [Isaac Newton](#), [Mahatma Gandhi](#), [More](#)

Children: [Eduard Einstein](#), [Lieserl Einstein](#), [Hans Albert Einstein](#)

Spouse: [Elsa Einstein](#) (m. 1919–1936), [Mileva Marić](#) (m. 1903–1919)

Erdős is in the Knowledge Graph

Paul Erdos



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Paul Erdős - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_Erdős ▾ Wikipedia ▾

Paul Erdős was a Hungarian Jewish mathematician. He was one of the most prolific mathematicians of the 20th century. He was known both for his social ...

Fan Chung - Ronald Graham - Béla Bollobás - Category:Paul Erdős

The Man Who Loved Only Numbers - The New York Times

<https://www.nytimes.com/books/.../hoffman-man.ht...> ▾ The New York Times ▾

Paul Erdős was one of those very special geniuses, the kind who comes along only once in a very long while yet he chose, quite consciously I am sure, to share ...

Paul Erdos | Hungarian mathematician | Britannica.com

www.britannica.com/biography/Paul-Erdos ▾ Encyclopaedia Britannica ▾

Paul Erdős, (born March 26, 1913, Budapest, Hungary—died September 20, 1996, Warsaw, Poland), Hungarian “freelance” mathematician (known for his work ...

Paul Erdős - University of St Andrews

www-groups.dcs.st-and.ac.uk/~history/Biographies/Erdos.html ▾

Paul Erdős came from a Jewish family (the original family name being Engländer) although neither of his parents observed the Jewish religion. Paul's father ...

[PDF] Paul Erdős Mathematical Genius, Human - UnTruth.org

www.untruth.org/~josh/math/Paul%20Erdős%20bio-rev2.pdf ▾

by J Hill - 2004 - Related articles



Paul Erdős

Mathematician

Paul Erdős was a Hungarian Jewish mathematician. He was one of the most prolific mathematicians of the 20th century. He was known both for his social practice of mathematics and for his eccentric lifestyle.

[Wikipedia](#)

Born: March 26, 1913, Budapest, Hungary

Died: September 20, 1996, Warsaw, Poland

Education: Eötvös Loránd University (1934)

Books: Probabilistic Methods in Combinatorics, More

Notable students: Béla Bollobás, Alexander Soifer, George B. Purdy, Joseph Kruskal

This guy is in the Knowledge Graph

Ernst Straus



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Ernst G. Straus - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ernst_G._Straus Wikipedia

Ernst Gabor Straus (February 25, 1922 – July 12, 1983) was a German-American mathematician who helped found the theories of Euclidean Ramsey theory ...

Straus biography - University of St Andrews

www-groups.dcs.st-and.ac.uk/~history/Biographies/Straus.html

Ernst Straus's mother was Rahel Goitein who had the distinction of being one of the first women medical students officially studying at a German university.

Images for Ernst Straus

Ernst G. Straus

Mathematician

Ernst Gabor Straus was a German-American mathematician who helped found the theories of Euclidean Ramsey theory and of the arithmetic properties of analytic functions. [Wikipedia](#)

Born: February 25, 1922, [Munich, Germany](#)

Died: July 12, 1983, [Los Angeles, CA](#)

Residence: [United States of America](#)

... and he published with both Einstein and Erdos!

Desired Query Answer

Has anyone published a paper with both Erdos and Einstein



Ernst Straus



Barack Obama, ...



Justin Bieber, ...

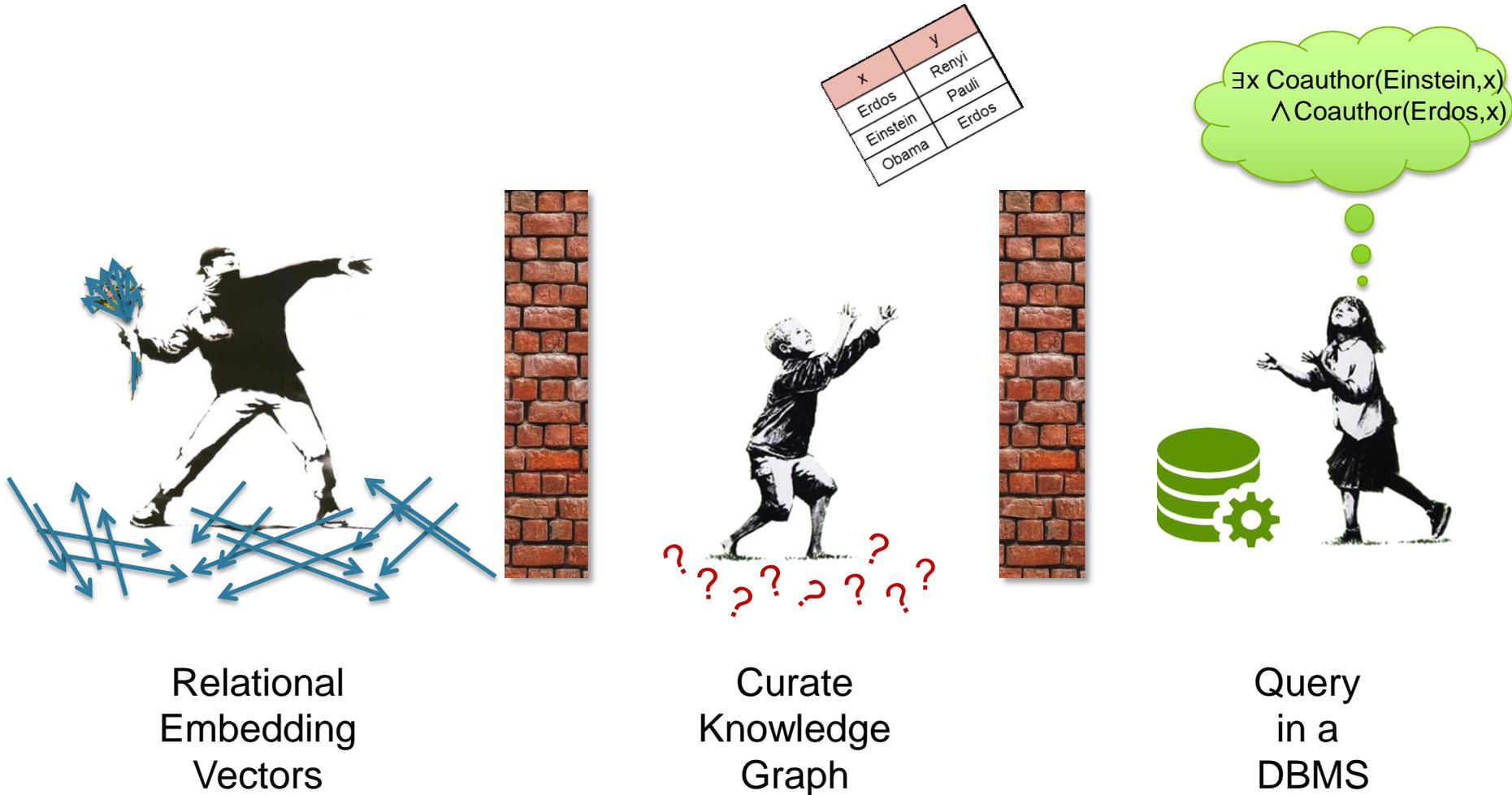
1. Fuse uncertain information from web

⇒ **Embrace probability!**

2. Cannot come from labeled data

⇒ **Embrace query eval!**

Cartoon Motivation



Many exceptions in StarAI and PDB communities, but, we need to embed...

Probabilistic Databases

Has anyone published a paper with both Erdos and Einstein



- Probabilistic database

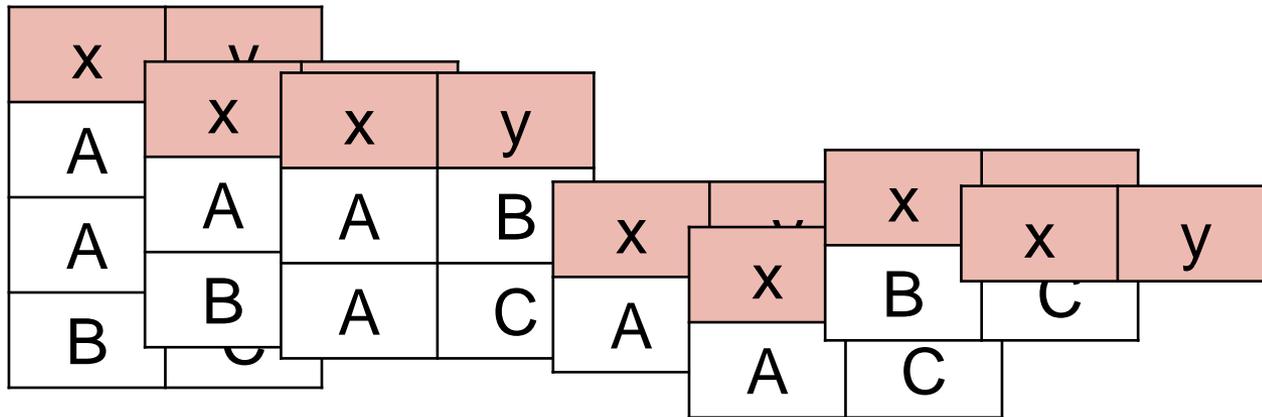
Scientist	x	P
	Erdos	0.9
	Einstein	0.8
	Pauli	0.6

Coauthor	x	y	P
	Erdos	Renyi	0.6
	Einstein	Pauli	0.7
	Obama	Erdos	0.1

- Learned from the web, large text corpora, ontologies, etc., using **statistical** machine learning.

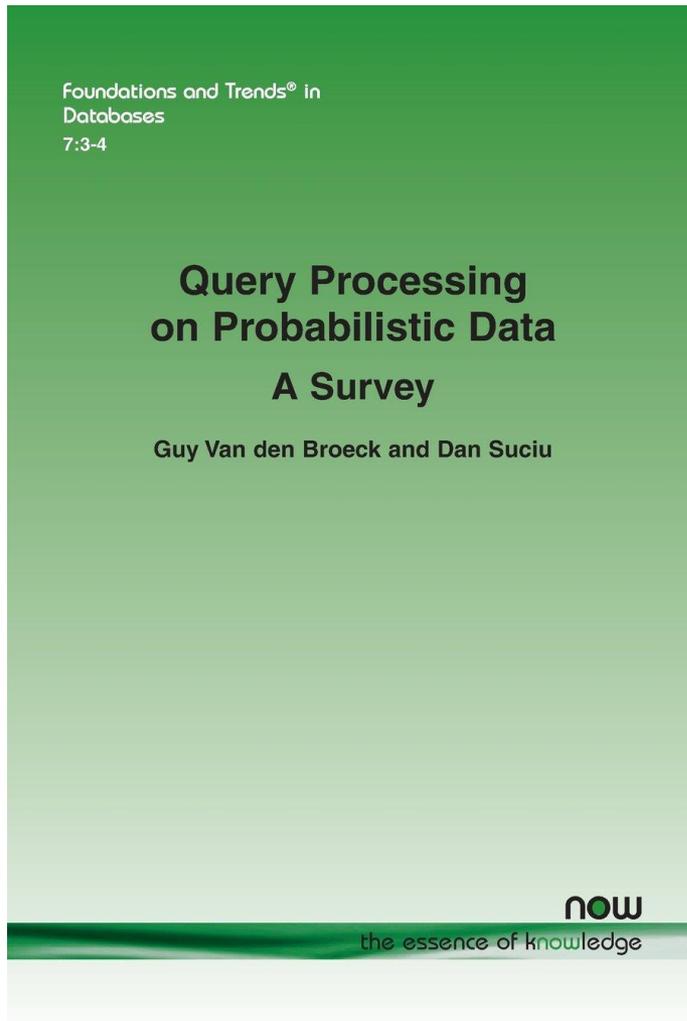
Probabilistic Databases Semantics

- All possible databases: $\Omega = \{\omega_1, \dots, \omega_n\}$



- Probabilistic database P assigns a probability to each: $P: \Omega \rightarrow [0,1]$
- Probabilities sum to 1: $\sum_{\omega \in \Omega} P(\omega) = 1$

Commercial Break



- **Survey book**

<http://www.nowpublishers.com/article/Details/DBS-052>

- **IJCAI 2016 tutorial**

<http://web.cs.ucla.edu/~guyvdb/talks/IJCAI16-tutorial/>

How to specify all these numbers?

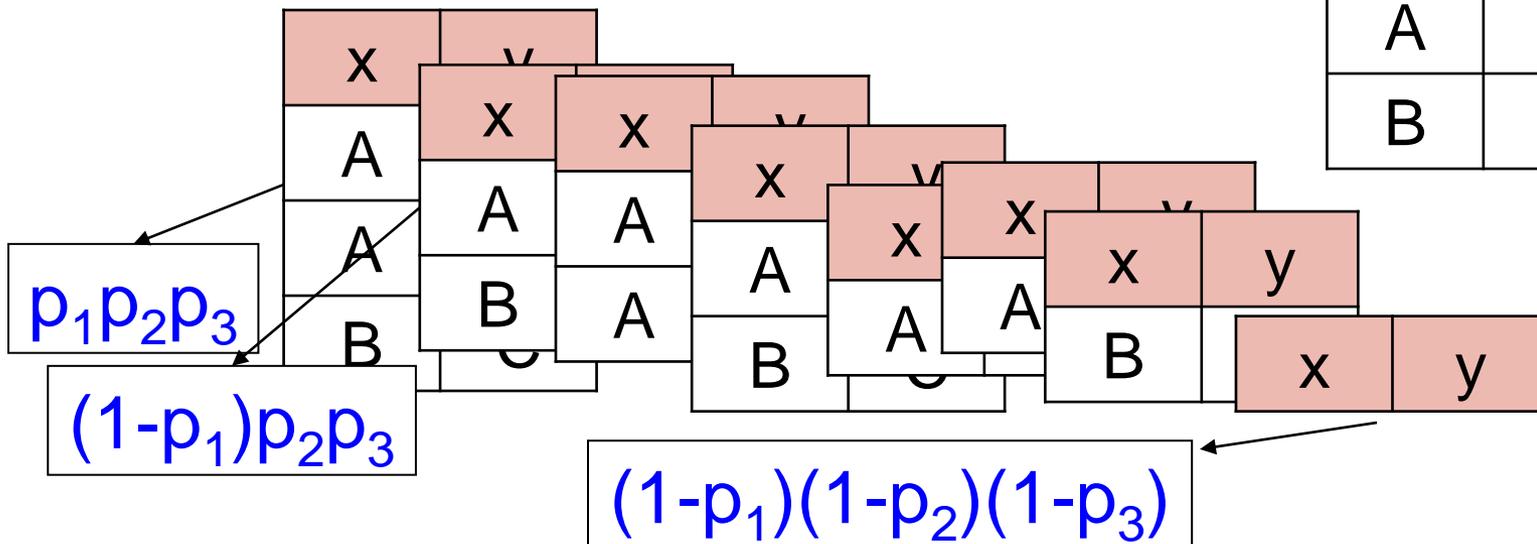
- Only specify marginals:

$$P(\text{Coauthor}(\text{Alice}, \text{Bob})) = 0.23$$

- Assume tuple-independence

Coauthor

x	y	P
A	B	p_1
A	C	p_2
B	C	p_3



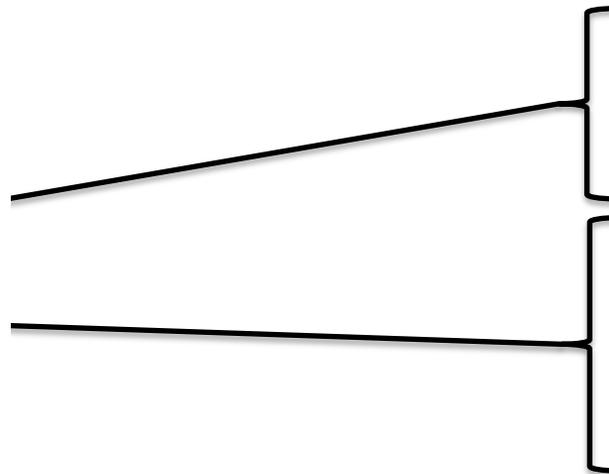
Probabilistic Query Evaluation

$$Q = \exists x \exists y \text{ Scientist}(x) \wedge \text{Coauthor}(x,y)$$

$$P(Q) = 1 - \{ 1 - p_1 * [1 - (1 - q_1) * (1 - q_2)] \} * \\ \{ 1 - p_2 * [1 - (1 - q_3) * (1 - q_4) * (1 - q_5)] \}$$

Scientist

x	P
A	p_1
B	p_2
C	p_3



x	y	P
A	D	q_1
A	E	q_2
B	F	q_3
B	G	q_4
B	H	q_5

Coauthor

Lifted Inference Rules

Preprocess Q (omitted),
Then apply rules (some have preconditions)

$$P(\neg Q) = 1 - P(Q)$$

Negation

$$P(Q1 \wedge Q2) = P(Q1) P(Q2)$$
$$P(Q1 \vee Q2) = 1 - (1 - P(Q1)) (1 - P(Q2))$$

Decomposable \wedge, \vee

$$P(\forall z Q) = \prod_{A \in \text{Domain}} P(Q[A/z])$$
$$P(\exists z Q) = 1 - \prod_{A \in \text{Domain}} (1 - P(Q[A/z]))$$

Decomposable \exists, \forall

$$P(Q1 \wedge Q2) = P(Q1) + P(Q2) - P(Q1 \vee Q2)$$
$$P(Q1 \vee Q2) = P(Q1) + P(Q2) - P(Q1 \wedge Q2)$$

Inclusion/
exclusion

Example Query Evaluation

$$Q = \exists x \exists y \text{Scientist}(x) \wedge \text{Coauthor}(x,y)$$

Decomposable \exists -Rule

$$P(Q) = 1 - \prod_{A \in \text{Domain}} (1 - P(\text{Scientist}(A) \wedge \exists y \text{Coauthor}(A,y)))$$

Check independence:

$\text{Scientist}(A) \wedge \exists y \text{Coauthor}(A,y)$

$\text{Scientist}(B) \wedge \exists y \text{Coauthor}(B,y)$

$$\begin{aligned} &= 1 - (1 - P(\text{Scientist}(A) \wedge \exists y \text{Coauthor}(A,y))) \\ &\quad \times (1 - P(\text{Scientist}(B) \wedge \exists y \text{Coauthor}(B,y))) \\ &\quad \times (1 - P(\text{Scientist}(C) \wedge \exists y \text{Coauthor}(C,y))) \\ &\quad \times (1 - P(\text{Scientist}(D) \wedge \exists y \text{Coauthor}(D,y))) \\ &\quad \times (1 - P(\text{Scientist}(E) \wedge \exists y \text{Coauthor}(E,y))) \\ &\quad \times (1 - P(\text{Scientist}(F) \wedge \exists y \text{Coauthor}(F,y))) \end{aligned}$$

...

Complexity PTIME

Limitations

$$H_0 = \forall x \forall y \text{ Smoker}(x) \vee \text{Friend}(x,y) \vee \text{Jogger}(y)$$

The decomposable \forall -rule:
... does not apply:

$$P(\forall z Q) = \prod_{A \in \text{Domain}} P(Q[A/z])$$

$H_0[\text{Alice}/x]$ and $H_0[\text{Bob}/x]$ are dependent:



Dependent

$\forall y (\text{Smoker}(\text{Alice}) \vee \text{Friend}(\text{Alice},y) \vee \text{Jogger}(y))$

$\forall y (\text{Smoker}(\text{Bob}) \vee \text{Friend}(\text{Bob},y) \vee \text{Jogger}(y))$

Lifted inference sometimes fails.

Are the Lifted Rules Complete?

Dichotomy Theorem for Unions of Conjunction Queries / Monotone CNF

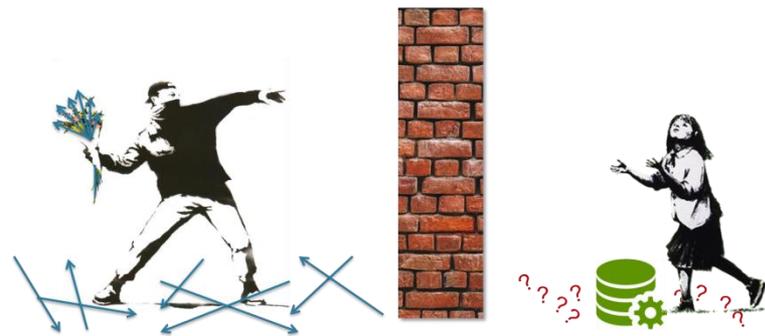
- If lifted rules succeed, then **P**TIME query
- If lifted rules fail, then query is **#P**-hard

Lifted rules are complete for UCQ!

The Good, Bad, Ugly

- We understand querying very well 😊
 - and it is often efficient (a rare property!)
 - but often also highly intractable 😞
- Tuple-independence is limiting unless reducing from a more expressive model 😞
 - Can reduce from MLNs but then intractable...
- Where do probabilities come from? 😞 😞
 - An unspecified “statistical model”

Throwing Relational Embedding Models Over the Wall



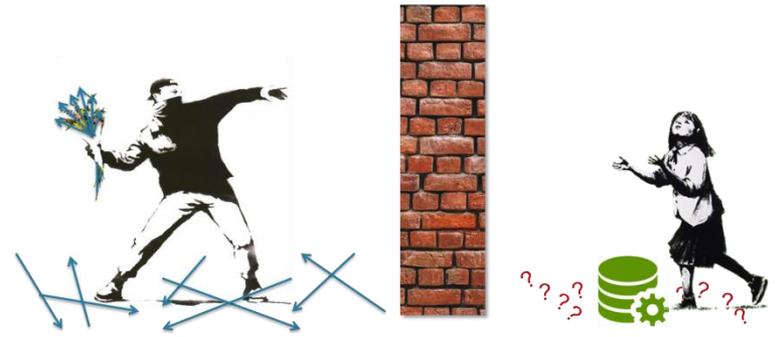
- Associate vector with
 - each relation R
 - each entity A, B, \dots
- Score $S(\text{head}, \text{relation}, \text{tail})$
(based on Euclidian, cosine, ...)

Coauthor

	x	y	S
A		B	.6
A		C	-.1
B		C	.4

Method	Entity Embedding	Relation Embedding	Triple Score
TransE (Bordes et al., 2013)	$v_h, v_t \in \mathbb{R}^d$	$v_R \in \mathbb{R}^d$	$\ v_h + v_R - v_t\ $
DistMult (Yang et al., 2014)	$v_h, v_t \in \mathbb{R}^d$	$v_R \in \mathbb{R}^d$	$\langle v_h, v_R, v_t \rangle$
Rescal (Nickel et al., 2011)	$v_h, v_t \in \mathbb{R}^d$	$v_R \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times d}$	$v_h^T v_R v_t$
Complex (Trouillon et al., 2016)	$v_h, v_t \in \mathbb{C}^d$	$v_R \in \mathbb{C}^d$	$\text{Re}(\langle v_h, v_R, \bar{v}_t \rangle)$

Throwing Relational Embedding Models Over the Wall



Interpret scores as probabilities

High score ~ prob 1 ; Low score ~ prob 0

Coauthor	x	y	S
	A	B	.6
	A	C	-.1
	B	C	.4

→

Coauthor	x	y	P
	A	B	0.9
	A	C	0.1
	B	C	0.5

The Good, Bad, Ugly

- Where do probabilities come from?
We finally know the “statistical model”! 😊
Both capture marginals: a good match
- We still understand querying very well! 😊
but it is often highly intractable 😞
- Tuple-independence is limiting 😞 😞
Relational embedding models do not attempt to capture dependencies in link prediction

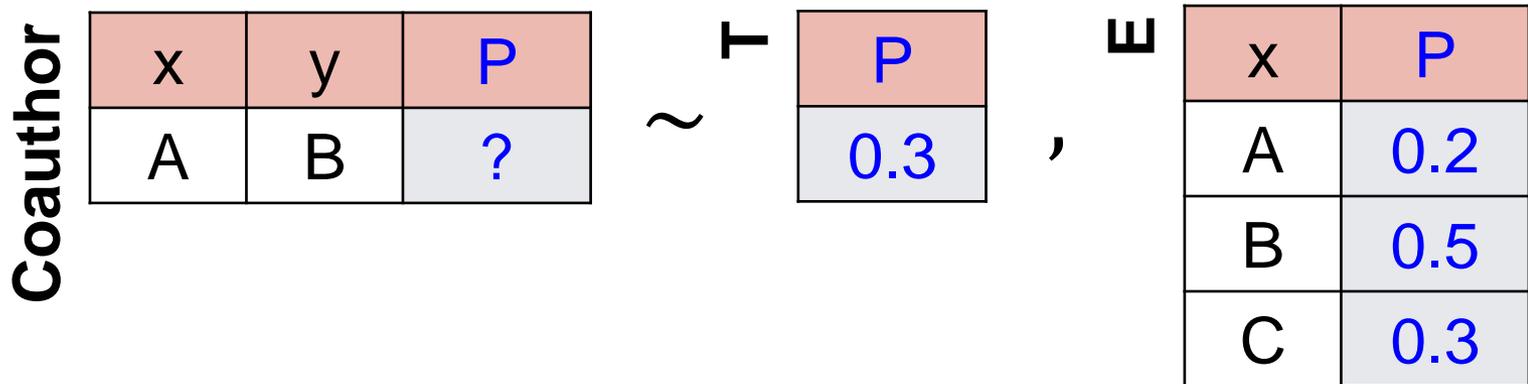
A Second Attempt

- Let's simplify drastically!
- Assume each relation has the form
$$R(x, y) \Leftrightarrow T_R \wedge E(x) \wedge E(y)$$
- That is, there are latent relations
 - T_* to decide which relations can be true
 - E to decide which entities participate

Coauthor	x	y	P	~	T	P	,	E	x	P
	A	B	0.9			0.2			A	0.2
	A	C	0.1						B	0.5
	B	C	0.5						C	0.3

Can this do link prediction?

- Predict Coauthor(Alice,Bob)



- Rewrite query using

$$R(x, y) \Leftrightarrow T_R \wedge E(x) \wedge E(y)$$

- Apply standard lifted inference rules
- $P(\text{Coauthor}(\text{Alice}, \text{Bob})) = 0.3 \cdot 0.2 \cdot 0.5$

The Good, ~~Bad~~, Ugly

- Where do probabilities come from?
We finally know the “statistical model”! 😊
- We still understand querying very well! 😊
By rewriting R into E and T_R , every UCQ query becomes tractable! 😊 😊 😊 😊 😊
- Tuples sharing entities or relation symbols depend on each other
- The model is not very expressive 😞

A Third Attempt

- Mixture models of the second attempt

$$R(x, y) \Leftrightarrow T_R \wedge E(x) \wedge E(y)$$

Now, there are latent relations T_R and E for each mixture component

- The Good: 😊
 - Still a clear statistical model
 - Every UCQ query is still tractable
 - Still captures tuple dependencies
 - Mixture can approximate any distribution

Can this do link prediction?

- Predict $\text{Coauthor}(\text{Alice}, \text{Bob})$ in each mixture component
 - $P_1(\text{Coauthor}(\text{Alice}, \text{Bob})) = 0.3 \cdot 0.2 \cdot 0.5$
 - $P_2(\text{Coauthor}(\text{Alice}, \text{Bob})) = 0.9 \cdot 0.1 \cdot 0.6$
 - Etc.
- Probability in mixture of d components

$$\begin{aligned} &P(\text{Coauthor}(\text{Alice}, \text{Bob})) \\ &= \frac{1}{d} 0.3 \cdot 0.2 \cdot 0.5 + \frac{1}{d} 0.9 \cdot 0.1 \cdot 0.6 + \dots \end{aligned}$$

How good is this?

Does it look familiar?

$$P(\text{Coauthor}(\text{Alice}, \text{Bob})) \\ = \frac{1}{d} 0.3 \cdot 0.2 \cdot 0.5 + \frac{1}{d} 0.9 \cdot 0.1 \cdot 0.6 + \dots$$

Method	Entity Embedding	Relation Embedding	Triple Score
TransE (Bordes et al., 2013)	$v_h, v_t \in \mathbb{R}^d$	$v_R \in \mathbb{R}^d$	$\ v_h - v_R - v_t\ $
DistMult (Yang et al., 2014)	$v_h, v_t \in \mathbb{R}^d$	$v_R \in \mathbb{R}^d$	$\langle v_h, v_R, v_t \rangle$
Rescal (Nickel et al., 2011)	$v_h, v_t \in \mathbb{R}^d$	$v_R \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times d}$	$v_h^T v_R v_t$
ComplEx (Trouillon et al., 2016)	$v_h, v_t \in \mathbb{C}^d$	$v_R \in \mathbb{C}^d$	$\text{Re}(\langle v_h, v_R, \bar{v}_t \rangle)$

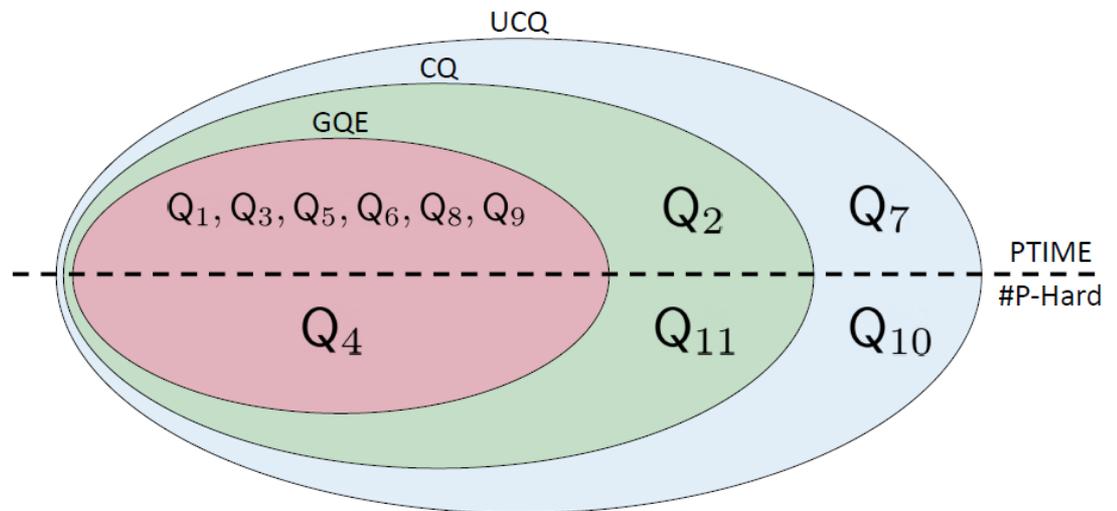
How good is this?

- At link prediction: same as DistMult
- At queries on bio dataset [Hamilton]
Competitive,
while having a consistent underlying distribution
Ask Tal at his poster!

Method	AUC	APR
Bilinear	79.2	78.6
DistMult	86.7	87.5
TransE	78.3	81.6
TractOR-pos	75.0	84.5
TractOR	82.8	86.3

How expressive is this?

$Q_1(t) = R(a, t)$
$Q_2(t) = \exists x.R(a, x)$
$Q_3(t) = \exists x.R(a, x) \wedge S(x, t)$
$Q_4(t) = \exists x, y.R(a, x) \wedge S(x, y) \wedge T(y, t)$
$Q_5(t) = R(a, t) \wedge S(b, t)$
$Q_6(t) = R(a, t) \wedge S(b, t) \wedge T(c, t)$
$Q_7(t) = \exists x.R(a, x) \wedge S(x, t)$
$\quad \vee \exists y.R(a, y) \wedge T(y, t)$
$Q_8(t) = \exists x.R(a, x) \wedge S(x, t) \wedge T(b, t)$
$Q_9(t) = \exists x.R(a, x) \wedge S(b, x) \wedge T(x, t)$
$Q_{10}(t) = \exists x_1, y_1.R(a, x_1) \wedge S(x_1, y_1)$
$\quad \vee \exists x_2, y_2.S(x_2, y_2) \wedge T(y_2, t)$
$Q_{11}(t) = \exists x, y, z.R(a, x) \wedge S(x, y) \wedge T(y, z)$



GQE baseline are graph queries translated to linear algebra by Hamilton et al [2018]

First Conclusions

- We can give probabilistic database semantics to relational embedding models
 - Gives more meaningful query results
- By doing some solve some annoyances of the theoretical PDB framework
 - Tuple dependence
 - Clear connection to learning
 - While everything stays tractable
 - And the intractable becomes tractable
- Enables much more (train on Q, consistency)

What are probabilistic programs?

```
x ~ flip(0.5);  
y ~ flip(0.7);  
z := x || y;  
if(z) {  
    ...  
}  
observe(z);
```

means “flip a coin, and output true with probability $\frac{1}{2}$ ”

Standard programming language constructs

means “reject this execution if z is not true”

Why Probabilistic Programming?

- PPLs are proliferating



Pyro

Edward



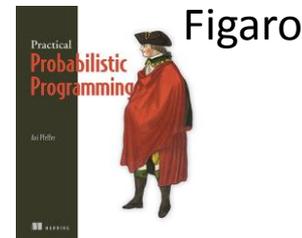
HackPPL



Venture, Church



Stan



Figaro

ProbLog, PRISM, LPADs, CProlog, ICL, PHA, etc.

- They have many compelling benefits
 - Specify a probability model in a familiar language
 - Expressive and concise
 - Cleanly separates model from inference

The Challenge of PPL Inference

Most popular inference algorithms are **black box**

- Treat program as a map from inputs to outputs



(black-box variational, Hamiltonian MC)

- Simplifying assumptions: differentiability, continuity
- Little to no effort to exploit program structure
(automatic differentiation aside)
- Approximate inference ☹️

Why Discrete Models?

1. Real programs have inherently discrete structure (e.g. if-statements)
2. Discrete structure is inherent in many domains (graphs, text/topic models, ranking, etc.)
3. Many existing PPLs assume smooth and differentiable densities and do not handle these programs correctly.

Discrete probabilistic programming is the important unsolved open problem!

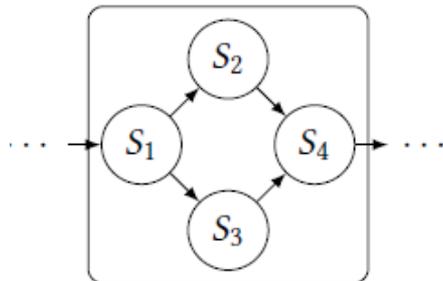
Prob. Logic Programming vs. PPL

- What is easy for PLP is hard for PPL at large (discrete inference, semantics)
- What is easy for PPL at large is hard for PLP (continuous densities, scaling up)
- This community has a lot to contribute.
- What I will present is heavily inspired by the StarAI community's work

Frequency Analyzer for a Caesar cipher in Dice

```
1 fun EncryptChar(key:int, obs:char):Bool {
2   let randomChar = ChooseChar() in
3   let ciphertext = (randomChar + key) % 26 in
4   let _ = observe ciphertext = obs in
5   true}
6 let k = UniformInt(0, 25) in
7 let _ = EncryptChar(k, 'H') in ...
8 let _ = EncryptChar(k, 'D') in k
```

Example Dice Program in Network Verification



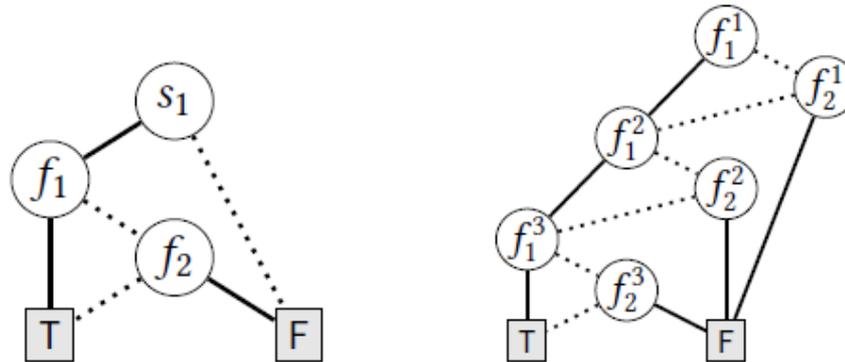
(a) Network diagram.

```

1 fun diamond(s1:Bool):Bool {
2   let route = flip1 0.5 in
3   let s2 = if route then s1 else F in
4   let s3 = if route then F else s1 in
5   let drop = flip2 0.0001 in
6   s2 ∨ (s3 ∧ ¬drop)}
7 diamond(diamond(diamond(T)))

```

(b) Probabilistic program defining the network.



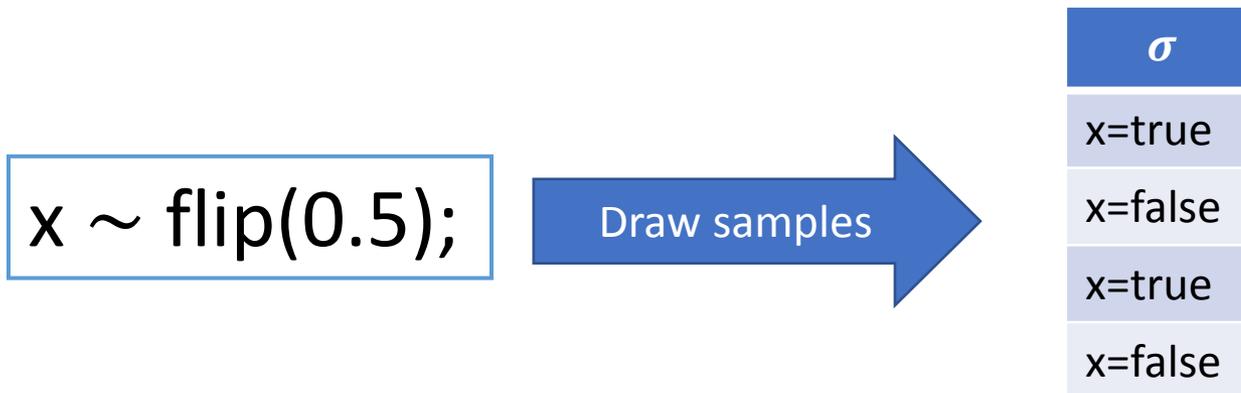
(c) Summary of diamond. (d) BDD for the program.

Semantics

- The *program state* is a map from *variables* to *values*, denoted σ
- The goal of our semantics is to associate
 - statements in the syntax with
 - a probability distribution on states
- Notation: semantic brackets $[[s]]$

Sampling Semantics

- The simplest way to give a semantics to our language is to *run the program infinite times*



- The probability distribution of the program is defined as the *long run average* of how often it ends in a particular state

Semantics of

```
x ~ flip(0.5);  
y ~ flip(0.7);
```

```
x = true  
y = true
```

 ω_1

$$0.5 * 0.7 = 0.35$$

```
x = false  
y = true
```

 ω_2

$$0.5 * 0.7 = 0.35$$

```
x = false  
y = false
```

 ω_3

$$0.5 * 0.3 = 0.15$$

```
x = true  
y = false
```

 ω_4

$$0.5 * 0.3 = 0.15$$

Semantics of

```
x ~ flip(0.5);  
y ~ flip(0.7);  
observe(x || y);
```

```
x = true  
y = true
```

ω_1

$0.5 * 0.7 = 0.35$

```
x = false
```

Semantics: Throw away all executions that do not satisfy the condition $x || y$.

0.35

```
x = false  
y = false
```

ω_3

$0.3 =$

REJECTION SAMPLING
SEMANTICS

ω_4

$0.5 * 0.3 = 0.15$

Rejection Sampling Semantics



- Extremely general: you only need to be able to run the program to implement a rejection-sampling semantics
- This how most AI researchers think about the meaning of their programs (?)

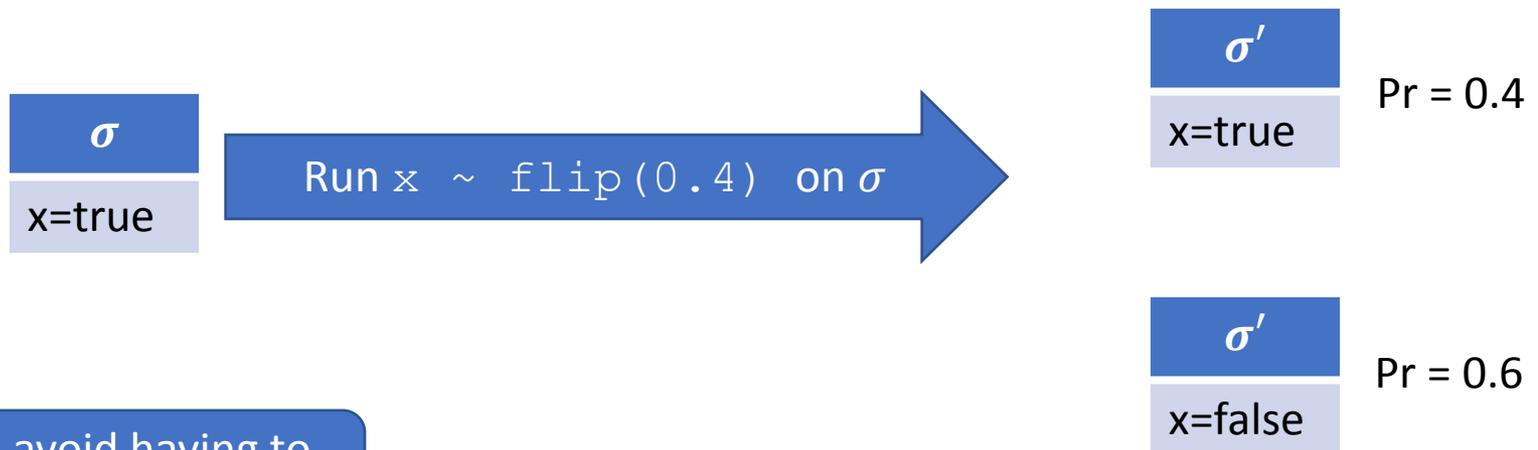


- “Procedural”: the meaning of the program is whatever it executes to ...not entirely satisfying...
- A sample is a full execution: a global property that makes it harder to think modularly about local meaning of code

Next: the gold standard in programming languages
denotational semantics

Denotational Semantics

- Idea: We don't have to *run* a flip statement to know what its distribution is
- For some input state σ and output state σ' , we can directly compute the *probability of transitioning* from σ to σ' upon executing a flip statement:



We can avoid having to think about sampling!

Denotational Semantics of Flip

Idea: Directly define the probability of transitioning upon executing each statement

Call this its *denotation*, written $\llbracket \mathbf{s} \rrbracket$

$$\llbracket x \sim \text{flip}(\theta) \rrbracket (\sigma' \mid \sigma) \triangleq \begin{cases} \theta & \text{if } \sigma' = \sigma[x \mapsto T] \\ 1 - \theta & \text{if } \sigma' = \sigma[x \mapsto F] \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Semantic bracket:
associate semantics with syntax

Output state

Input State

Assign x to false in the state σ

Formal Denotational Semantics

$$\llbracket v \rrbracket \triangleq \delta(v) \quad (1)$$

$$\llbracket \text{fst } (v_1, v_2) \rrbracket \triangleq \delta(v_1) \quad (2)$$

$$\llbracket \text{snd } (v_1, v_2) \rrbracket \triangleq \delta(v_2) \quad (3)$$

$$\llbracket \text{if } v \text{ then } e_1 \text{ else } e_2 \rrbracket \triangleq \begin{cases} \llbracket e_1 \rrbracket & \text{if } v = \text{T} \\ \llbracket e_2 \rrbracket & \text{if } v = \text{F} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

$$\llbracket \text{flip } r \rrbracket(v) \triangleq \begin{cases} r & \text{if } v = \text{T} \\ 1 - r & \text{if } v = \text{F} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

$$\llbracket \text{observe } v_1 \rrbracket(v) \triangleq \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } v_1 = \text{T and } v = \text{T}, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (6)$$

$$\llbracket x(v) \rrbracket \triangleq T(x)(v) \quad (7)$$

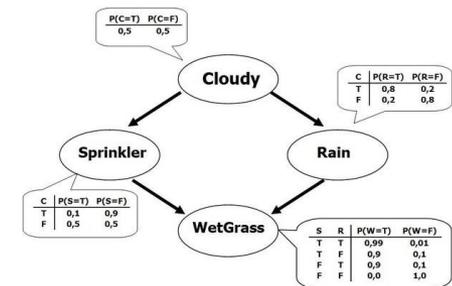
$$\llbracket \text{let } x = e_1 \text{ in } e_2 \rrbracket(v) \triangleq \sum_{v'} \llbracket e_1 \rrbracket(v') \times \llbracket e_2[x \mapsto v'] \rrbracket(v) \quad (8)$$

The Challenge of PPL Inference

- Probabilistic inference is *#P-hard*
 - Implies there is likely no universal solution
- In practice inference is often feasible
 - Often relies on conditional independence
 - Manifests as *graph properties*

- *Why exact?*

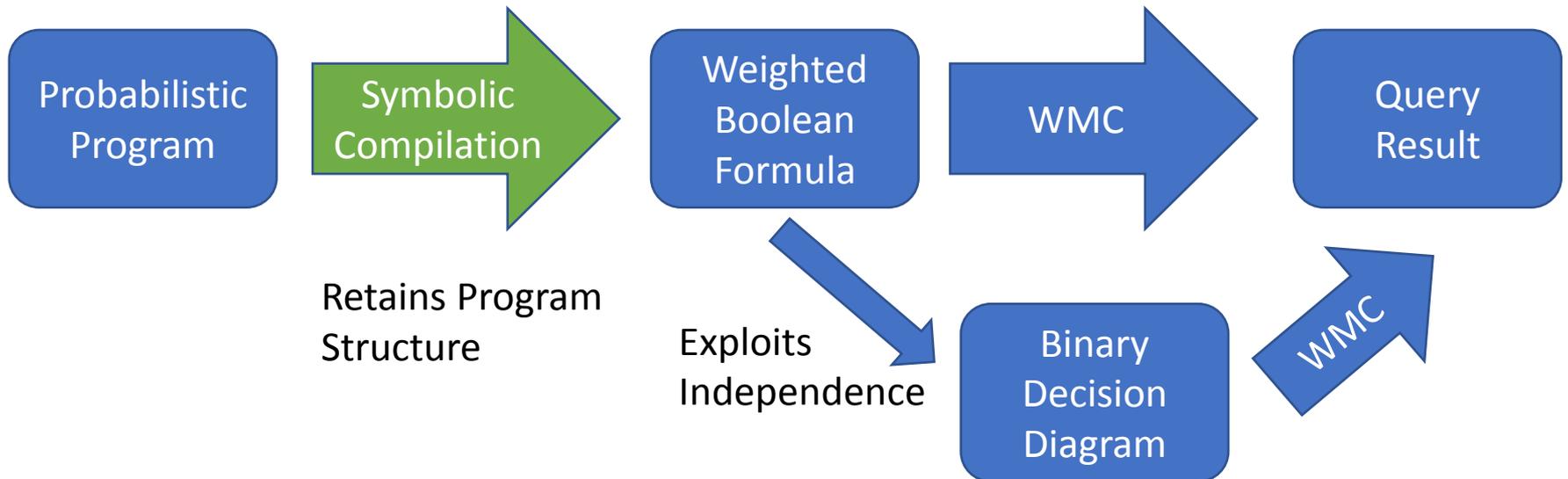
1. No error propagation
2. Approximations are intractable in theory as well
3. Approximates are known to mislead learners
4. Core of effective approximation techniques
5. Unaffected by low-probability observations



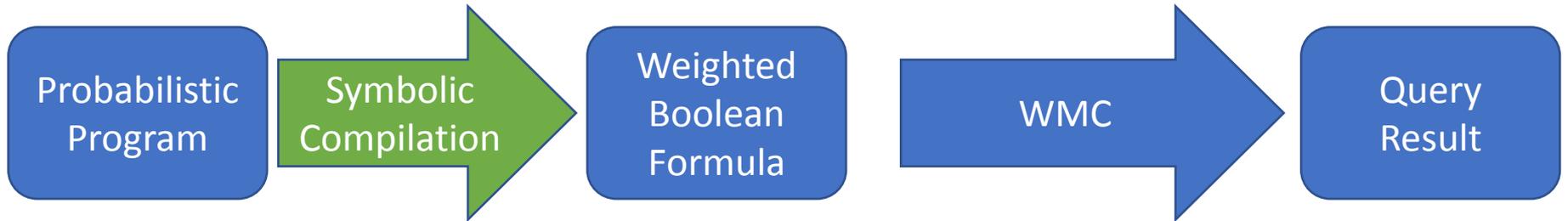
Techniques for exact inference

Yes	Graphical Model Compilation (Figaro, Infer.Net)	Symbolic compilation (Our work)
Exploits independence to decompose inference?		Path Enumeration (WebPPL, Psi)
No	No	Yes
	Keeps program structure?	

Our Approach: Symbolic Compilation & WMC



Our Approach: Symbolic Compilation & WMC



```
x := flip(0.4);
```

l	$w(l)$
f_1	0.4
\bar{f}_1	0.6

$(x' \Leftrightarrow f_1)$

$$\text{WMC}(\varphi, w) = \sum_{m \models \varphi} \prod_{l \in m} w(l).$$

$\text{WMC}((x' \Leftrightarrow f_1) \wedge x \wedge x', w)$?

- A single model: $m = x' \wedge x \wedge f_1$
- $w(x') * w(x) * w(f_1) = 0.4$

Provably Correct Compilation

$$\frac{\vdash v : \tau}{\Gamma \vdash v : \tau \rightsquigarrow (F_r(v), \emptyset)} \quad (\text{C-VALUE})$$

$$\frac{\Gamma(x) = \tau}{\Gamma \vdash x : \tau \rightsquigarrow (\mathbf{r} \stackrel{\tau}{\Leftrightarrow} \mathbf{x}, \emptyset)} \quad (\text{C-IDENT})$$

$$\frac{\Gamma(x) = \tau_1 \times \tau_2}{\Gamma \vdash \text{fst } x : \tau_1 \rightsquigarrow (\mathbf{r} \stackrel{\tau_1}{\Leftrightarrow} \mathbf{x}_l, \emptyset)} \quad (\text{C-FST})$$

$$\frac{\Gamma(x) = \tau_1 \times \tau_2}{\Gamma \vdash \text{snd } x : \tau_2 \rightsquigarrow (\mathbf{r} \stackrel{\tau_2}{\Leftrightarrow} \mathbf{x}_r, \emptyset)} \quad (\text{C-SND})$$

$$\frac{\Gamma(x_1) = \tau_1 \quad \Gamma(x_2) = \tau_2}{\Gamma \vdash (x_1, x_2) : \tau_1 \times \tau_2 \rightsquigarrow (\mathbf{r}_l \stackrel{\tau_1}{\Leftrightarrow} \mathbf{x}_1 \wedge \mathbf{r}_r \stackrel{\tau_2}{\Leftrightarrow} \mathbf{x}_2, \emptyset)} \quad (\text{C-TUP})$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e_1 : \tau_1 \rightsquigarrow (\varphi_1, w_1) \quad \Gamma \cup \{x : \tau_1\} \vdash e_2 : \tau_2 \rightsquigarrow (\varphi_2, w_2)}{\Gamma \vdash \text{let } x : \tau_1 = e_1 \text{ in } e_2 : \tau_2 \rightsquigarrow (\exists x. (\varphi_1[\mathbf{r} \stackrel{\tau_1}{\mapsto} \mathbf{x}] \wedge \varphi_2), w_1 \uplus w_2)} \quad (\text{C-LET})$$

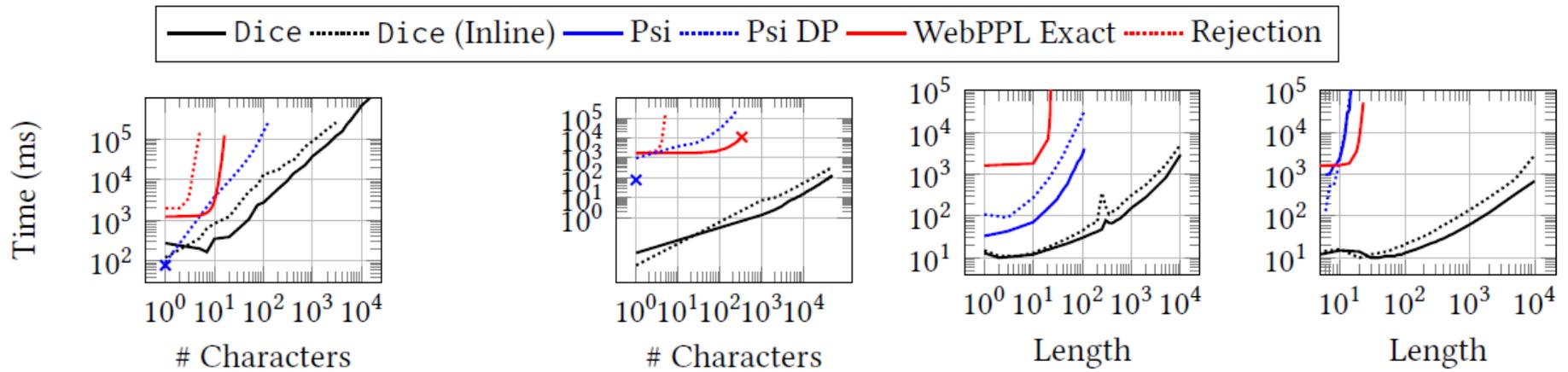
$$\frac{\text{fresh } f}{\Gamma \vdash \text{flip } r : \mathbf{Bool} \rightsquigarrow (\mathbf{r} \Leftrightarrow f, (f \mapsto r, \bar{f} \mapsto 1 - r))} \quad (\text{C-FLIP})$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash g : \mathbf{Bool} \rightsquigarrow (\varphi_g, \emptyset) \quad \Gamma \vdash e_T : \tau \rightsquigarrow (\varphi_T, w_T) \quad \Gamma \vdash e_E : \tau \rightsquigarrow (\varphi_E, w_E)}{\Gamma \vdash \text{if } g \text{ then } e_T \text{ else } e_E : \tau \rightsquigarrow ((\varphi_g \mid F_r(\mathbf{T})) \wedge \varphi_T) \vee ((\varphi_g \mid F_r(\mathbf{F})) \wedge \varphi_E), w_T \uplus w_E)} \quad (\text{C-ITE})$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash g : \mathbf{Bool} \rightsquigarrow (\varphi, \emptyset)}{\Gamma \vdash \text{observe } g : \mathbf{Bool} \rightsquigarrow (\varphi \wedge \mathbf{r}, \emptyset)} \quad (\text{C-OBS})$$

$$\frac{\Phi(x_1) = (\mathbf{x}_{arg}, \varphi, w) \quad \Gamma(x_1) = \tau_1 \rightarrow \tau_2 \quad \Gamma(x_2) = \tau_1 \quad (\varphi', w') = \text{RefreshFlips}(\varphi, w)}{\Gamma \vdash x_1(x_2) : \tau_2 \rightsquigarrow (\varphi'[\mathbf{x}_{arg} \stackrel{\tau_1}{\mapsto} \mathbf{x}_2], w')} \quad (\text{C-FCALL})$$

Benchmarks



(a) Caesar cipher with errors.

(b) Caesar cipher no errors.

(c) Diamond network.

(d) Ladder network.

Benchmarks

#	Benchmark	# Paths	Default Psi	DP Psi	Dice	BDD Size
1	Grass	$10^{2.41}$	154	64	1.06	15
2	Burglar Alarm	$10^{1.98}$	152	10	1.06	11
3	Coin Bias	$10^{0.60}$	49	26	0.993	
4	Noisy Or	$10^{4.21}$	744	153	1.11	35
5	Evidence1	$10^{0.90}$	48	32	1.05	5
6	Evidence2	$10^{0.90}$			1.07	6
7	Murder Mystery	$10^{1.20}$	70	29	1.03	6
8	Digit Recognition	$10^{237.70}$	$3.6 \cdot 10^5$	4539	70.29	7896
9	Cancer [43]	$10^{3.06}$	455	85	1.22	46
10	Alarm [3]	$10^{36.01}$	X	X	1058.265	437658
11	Hailfinder [1]	$10^{76.26}$	X	X	5529.999	213745
12	Survey	$10^{4.14}$			1.184	116
13	Insurance [4]	$10^{40.92}$	X	X	847.514	232111
14	Hepar2 [52]	$10^{69.45}$	X	X	204.067	54860
15	Pigs	$10^{492.86}$			465.597	265379
16	Water	$10^{54.50}$			138.966	68352
17	Munin	$10^{1610.98}$			$2.62 \cdot 10^5$	22830303

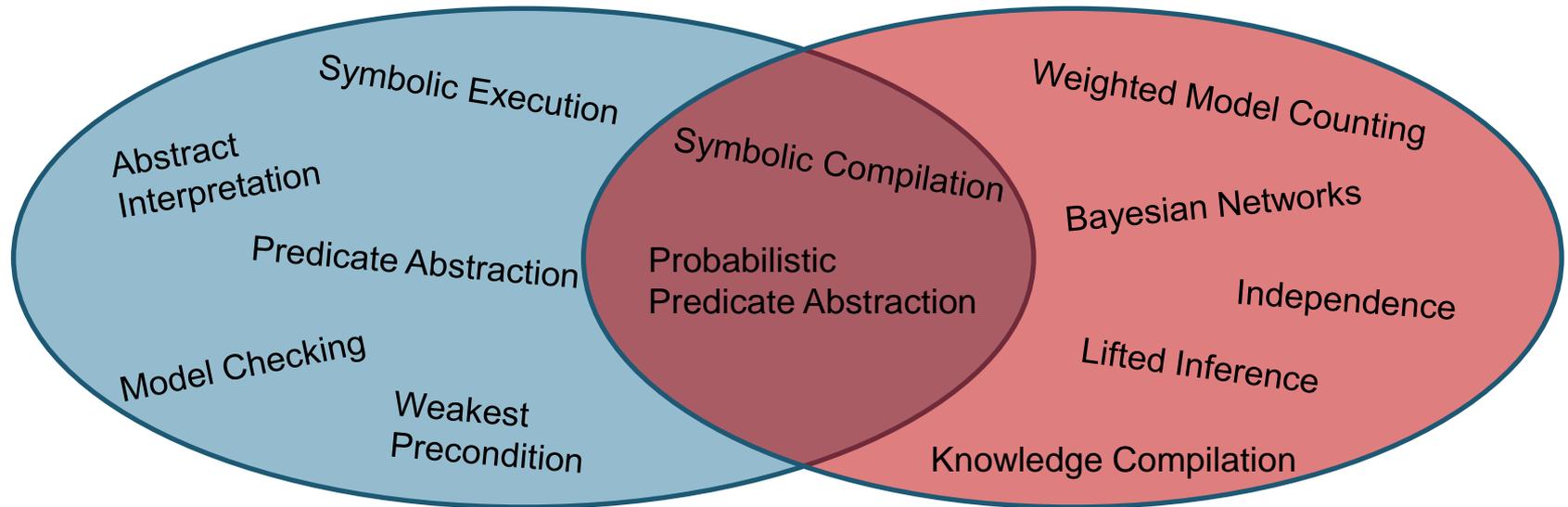
Second Conclusions

- New state-of-the-art system for discrete probabilistic programs
- Exact inference yet very scalable
- Provably correct
- Modular compilation-based inference
- Try Dice out:
<https://github.com/SHoltzen/dice>

Third Conclusions

Programming Languages

Artificial Intelligence



Final Conclusions



Bring high-level representations, general knowledge, and efficient high-level reasoning to probabilistic models

References

- **Tal Friedman** and Guy Van den Broeck. Probabilistic Databases Meets Relational Embeddings: Symbolic Querying of Vector Spaces (coming soon)
- **Steven Holtzen, Todd Millstein** and Guy Van den Broeck. [Symbolic Exact Inference for Discrete Probabilistic Programs](#), *In Proceedings of the ICML Workshop on Tractable Probabilistic Modeling (TPM)*, 2019.
- Steven Holtzen, Guy Van den Broeck and Todd Millstein. [Sound Abstraction and Decomposition of Probabilistic Programs](#), *In Proceedings of the 35th International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML)*, 2018.
- Steven Holtzen, Todd Millstein and Guy Van den Broeck. [Probabilistic Program Abstractions](#), *In Proceedings of the 33rd Conference on Uncertainty in Artificial Intelligence (UAI)*, 2017.
- <https://github.com/SHoltzen/dice>

...with slides stolen from Steven Holtzen and Tal Friedman.

Thanks