

# Lifted Inference in Statistical Relational Models

Guy Van den Broeck

BUDA Invited Tutorial  
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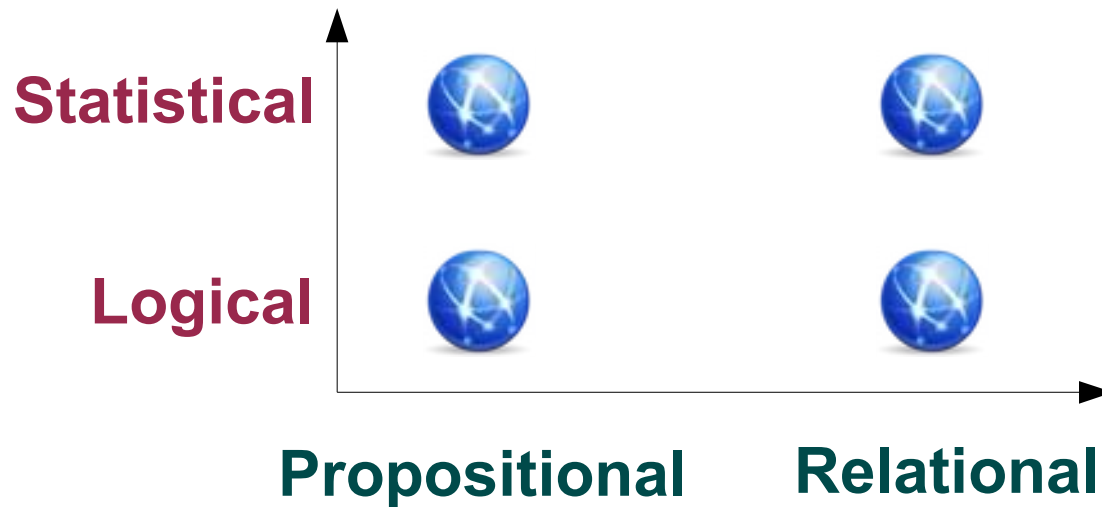
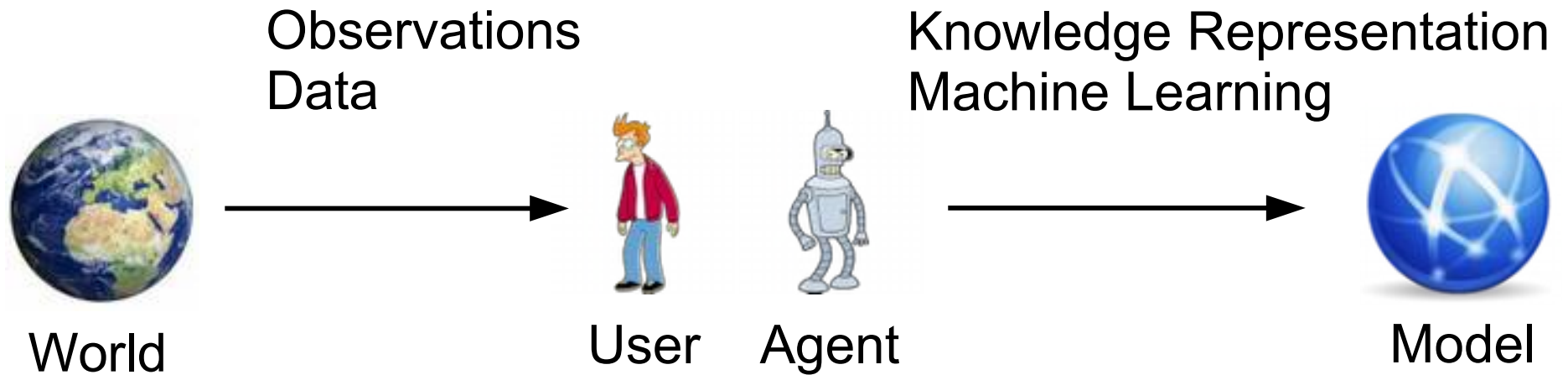
# Overview

1. What are statistical relational models?
2. What is lifted inference?
3. How does lifted inference work?
4. Theoretical insights
5. Practical applications

# Overview

- 1. What are statistical relational models?**
2. What is lifted inference?
3. How does lifted inference work?
4. Theoretical insights
5. Practical applications

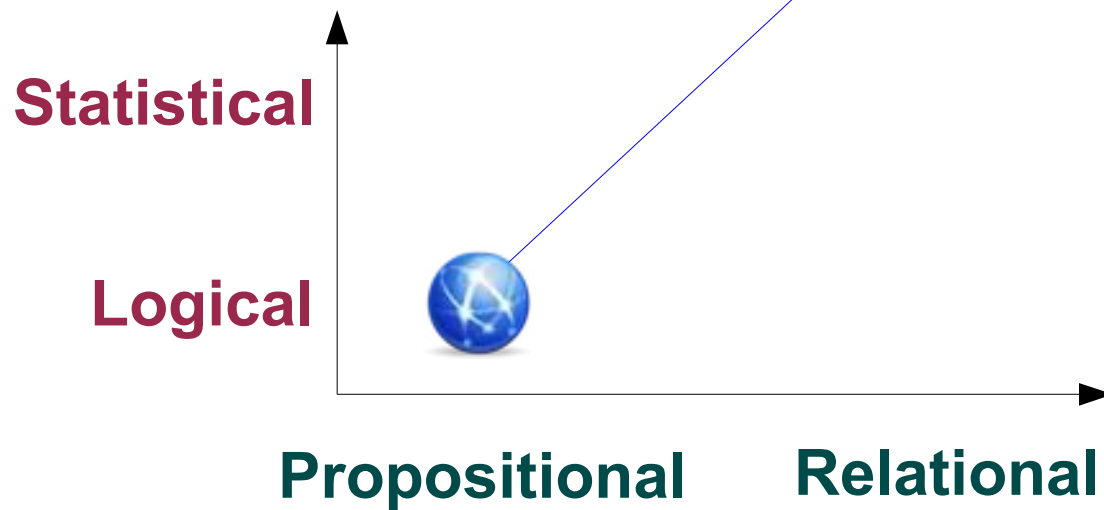
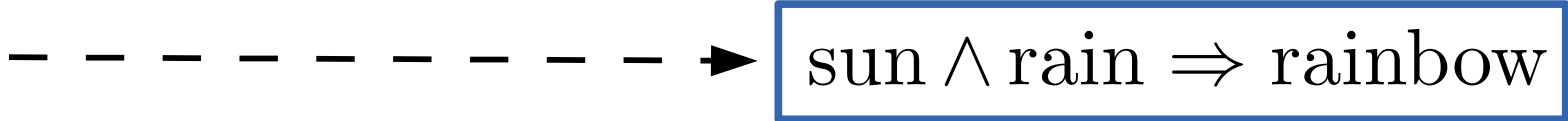
# Types of Models



# Logical Propositional Models



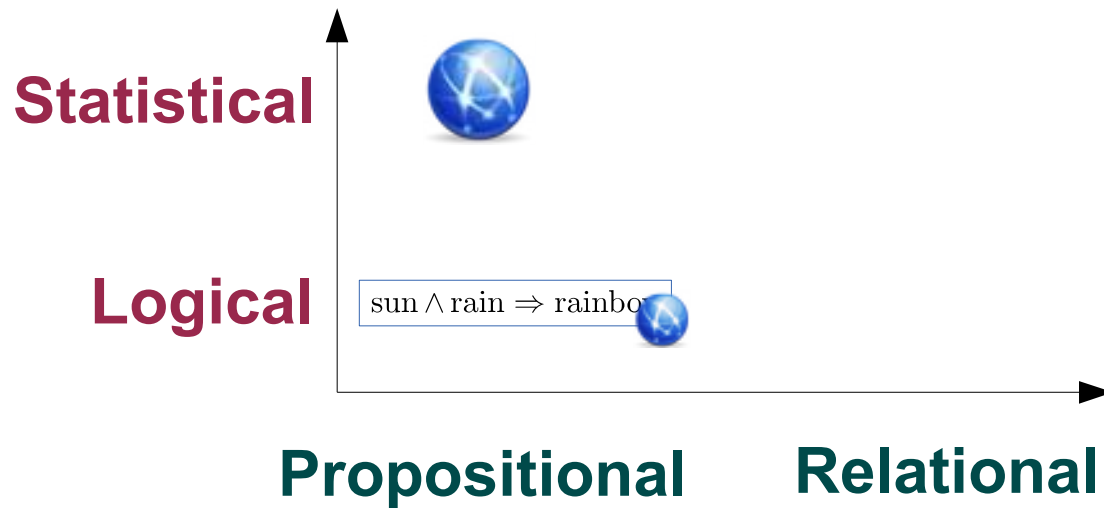
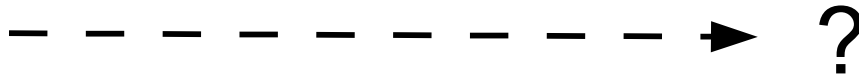
Weather



# Statistical Propositional Models



Weather



# Statistical Propositional Models



Weather



rain	sun	rainbow	Prob.
T	T	T	0.018
T	T	F	0.002
T	F	T	0.009
T	F	F	0.171
F	T	T	0.024
F	T	F	0.456
F	F	T	0
F	F	F	0.32

Statistical

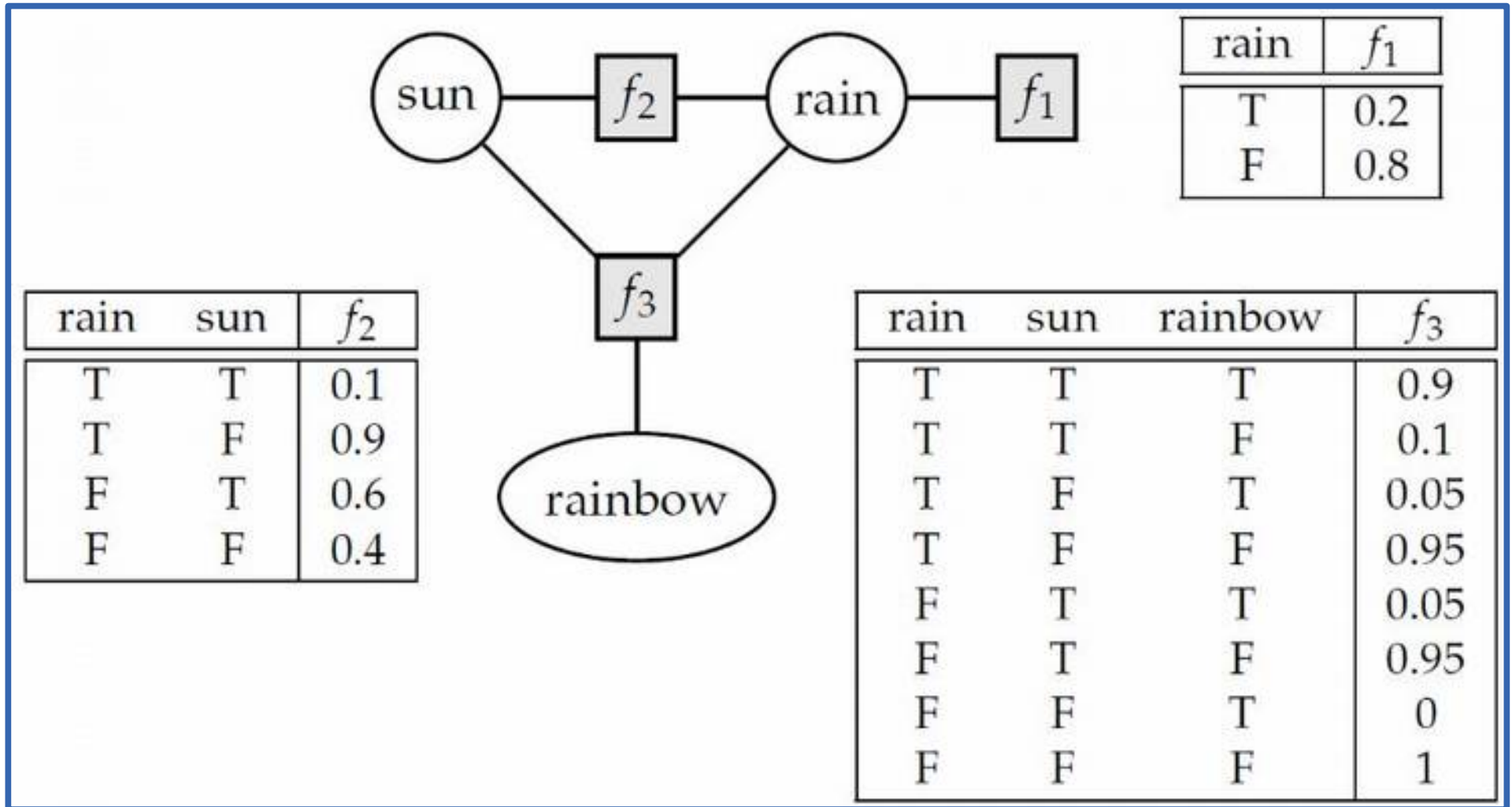
Logical

Propositional

Relational

$\text{sun} \wedge \text{rain} \Rightarrow \text{rainbow}$

# Probabilistic Graphical Models: Factor Graphs



$$\Pr(\omega) = \frac{1}{Z} \prod_i f_i(\omega_i)$$

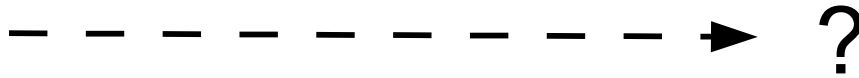
where  $Z = \sum_{\omega} \prod_i f_i(\omega_i)$



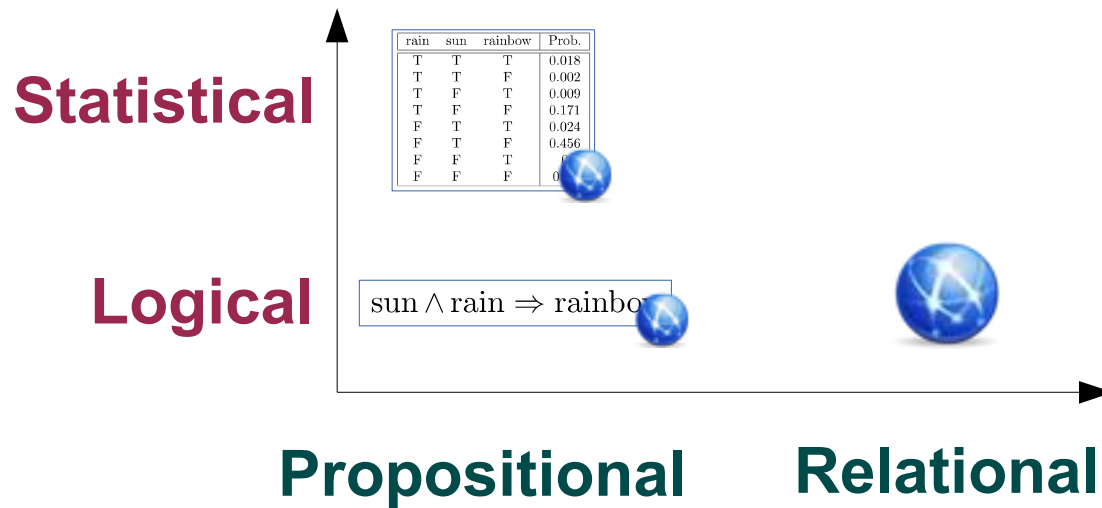
# Logical Relational Models



Social  
Network

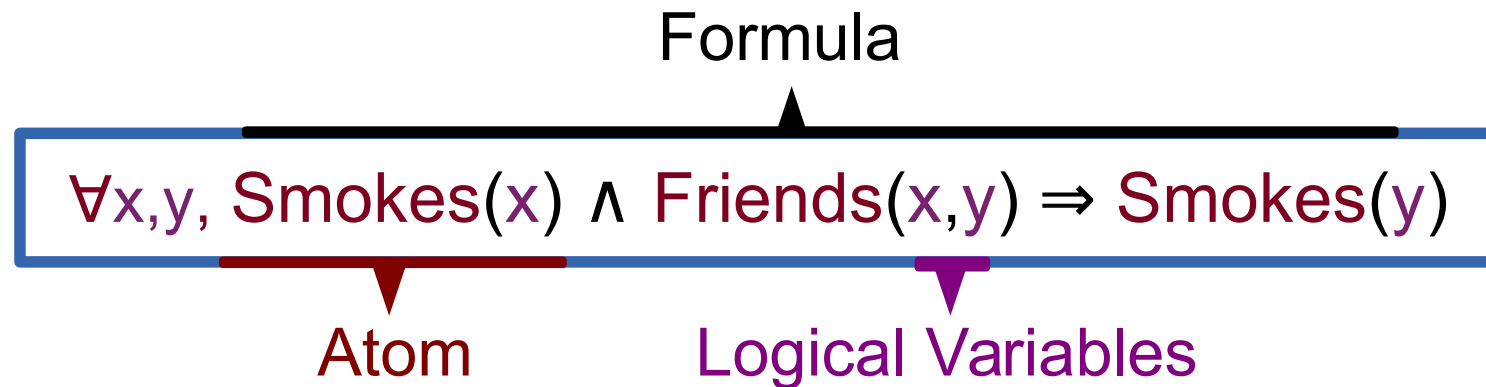


?



# Logical Relational Models

- Example: First-Order Logic



- Logical variables have **domain** of constants  
e.g.,  $x,y$  range over domain  $\text{People} = \{\text{Alice}, \text{Bob}\}$
- **Ground** formula has no logical variables  
e.g.,  $\text{Smokes}(\text{Alice}) \wedge \text{Friends}(\text{Alice}, \text{Bob}) \Rightarrow \text{Smokes}(\text{Bob})$

# Logical Relational Models



Social Network



$$\forall x,y, \text{Smokes}(x) \wedge \text{Friends}(x,y) \Rightarrow \text{Smokes}(y)$$

Statistical

rain	sun	rainbow	Prob.
T	T	T	0.018
T	T	F	0.002
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F	T	T	0.024
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Logical

$\text{sun} \wedge \text{rain} \Rightarrow \text{rainbow}$

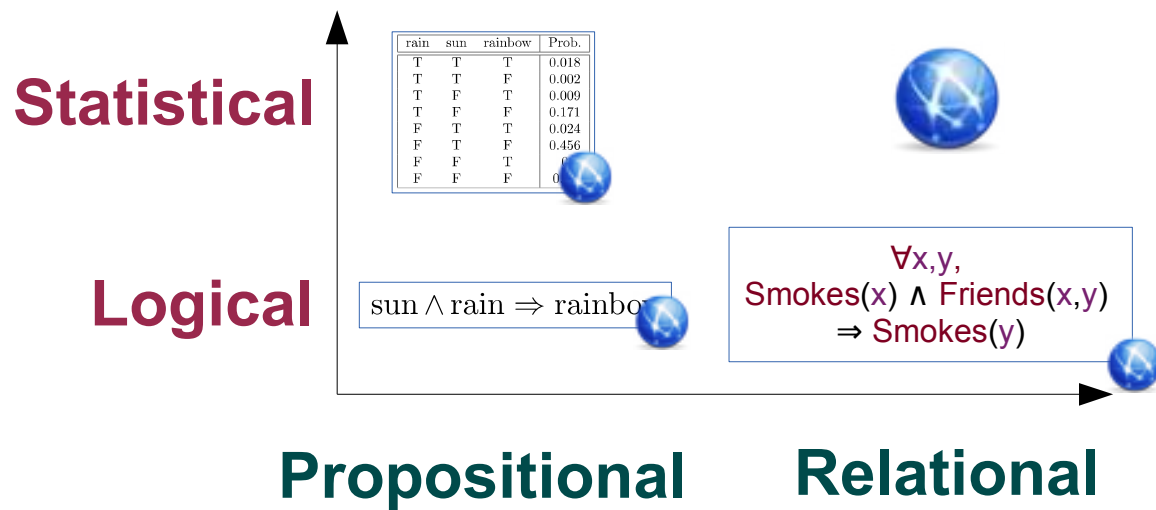
Propositional

Relational

# Statistical Relational Models



Social  
Network



# Why Statistical Relational Models?

- Probabilistic graphical models
    - ✗ Not very expressive
      - Rules of chess in ~100,000 pages*
    - ✓ Quantify uncertainty and noise
  - Relational representations
    - ✓ Very expressive
      - Rules of chess in 1 page*
    - ✓ Relational data is everywhere
    - ✗ Hard to express uncertainty
- **Need probability distribution over databases**

# Markov Logic Networks (MLNs)

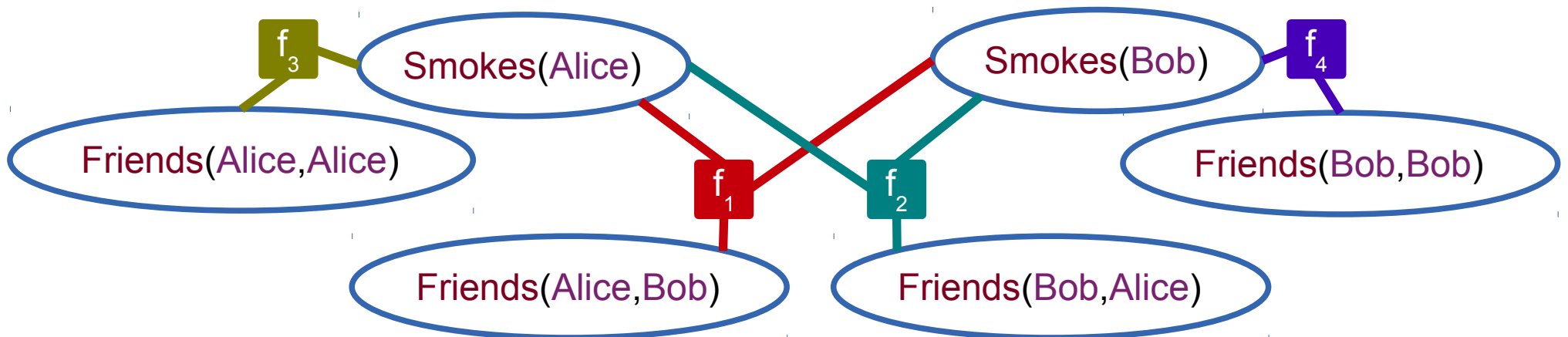
- Weighted First-Order Logic

Weight~Probability

FOL Formula

$$3.14 \quad \text{Smokes}(x) \wedge \text{Friends}(x,y) \Rightarrow \text{Smokes}(y)$$

- Ground atom/tuple = **random variable** in {true,false}  
e.g.,  $\text{Smokes}(\text{Alice})$ ,  $\text{Friends}(\text{Alice},\text{Bob})$ , etc.
- Ground formula = factor in propositional **factor graph**



# Statistical Relational Models



Social Network



$$3.14 \text{ Smokes}(x) \wedge \text{Friends}(x,y) \Rightarrow \text{Smokes}(y)$$

Statistical

rain	sun	rainbow	Prob.
T	T	T	0.018
T	T	F	0.002
T	F	T	0.009
T	F	F	0.171
F	T	T	0.024
F	T	F	0.456
F	F	T	0.000
F	F	F	0.221



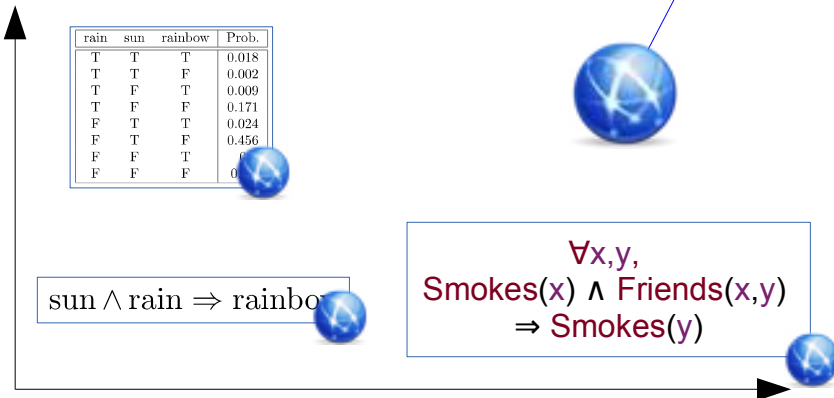
Logical

$$\text{sun} \wedge \text{rain} \Rightarrow \text{rainbow}$$

$$\forall x,y, \text{Smokes}(x) \wedge \text{Friends}(x,y) \Rightarrow \text{Smokes}(y)$$

Propositional

Relational



# Reasoning about Statistical Models: Probabilistic Inference

- Model:

0.7 Actor(a)  $\Rightarrow$   $\neg$ Director(a)

1.2 Director(a)  $\Rightarrow$   $\neg$ WorkedFor(a,b)

1.4 InMovie(m,a)  $\wedge$  WorkedFor(a,b)  $\Rightarrow$  InMovie(m,b)

- Inference query:

- Given database tables for Actor, Director, WorkedFor

Actor(Brando), Actor(Cruise), Director(Coppola),  
WorkedFor(Brando, Coppola), etc.

- What is the probability of each tuple in table InMovie?

$\Pr(\text{InMovie}(\text{GodFather}, \text{Brando})) = ?$

- What is the most likely table for InMovie?



# What about Probabilistic Databases?

- Tuple-independent probabilistic databases

Prob	Actor	Prob	WorkedFor	
0.9	Brando	0.9	Brando	Coppola
0.8	Cruise	0.2	Coppola	Brando
0.1	Coppola	0.1	Cruise	Coppola
				...

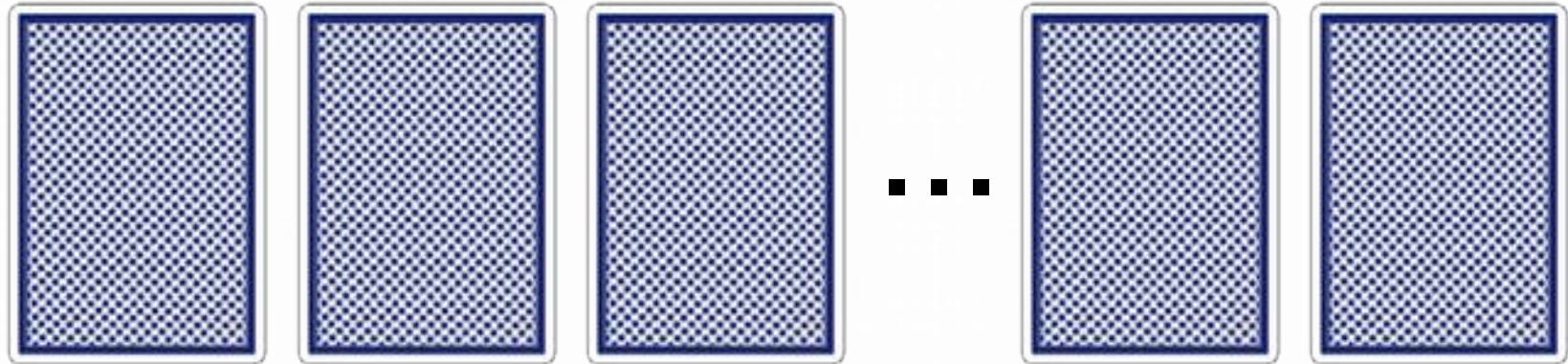
- Also a distribution over deterministic databases
- Different purpose (query seen data vs. generalize to unseen data)
- Underlying reasoning task identical:

## Weighted (First-Order) Model Counting

# Overview

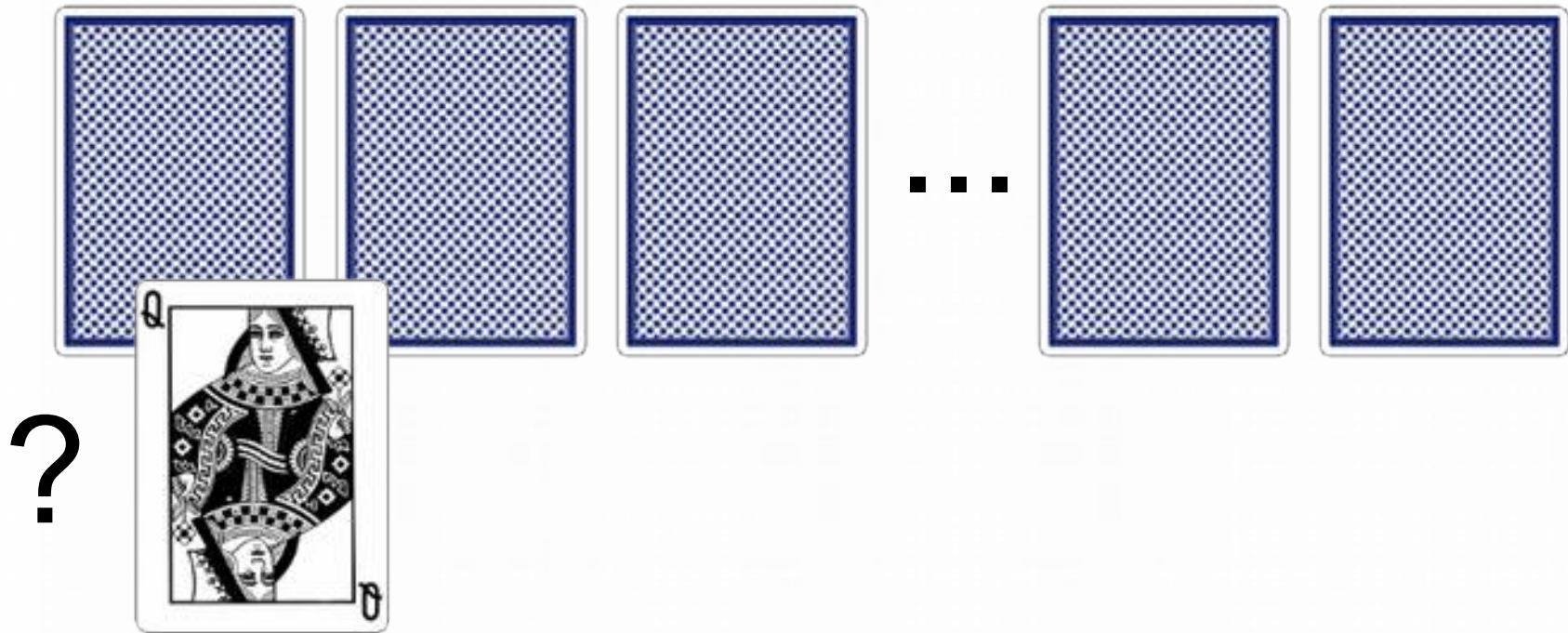
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# A Simple Reasoning Problem

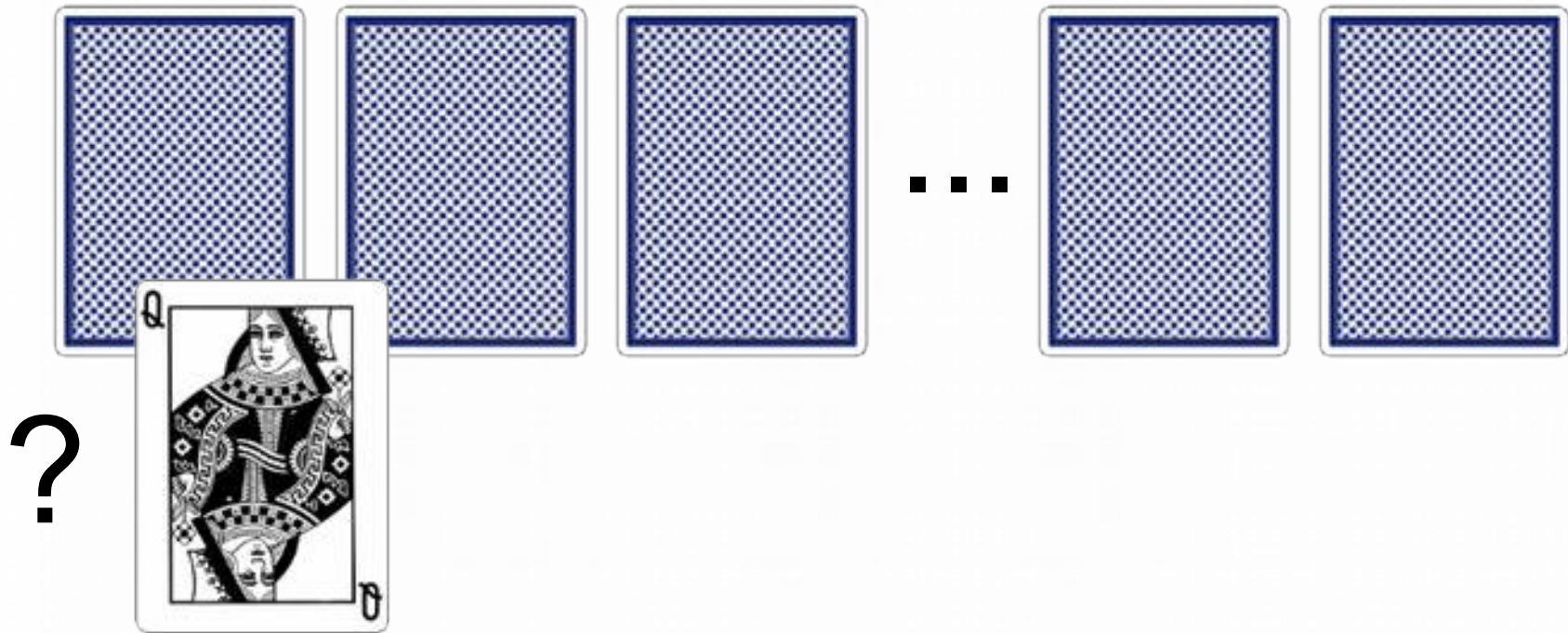


- 52 playing cards
- Let us ask some simple questions

# A Simple Reasoning Problem

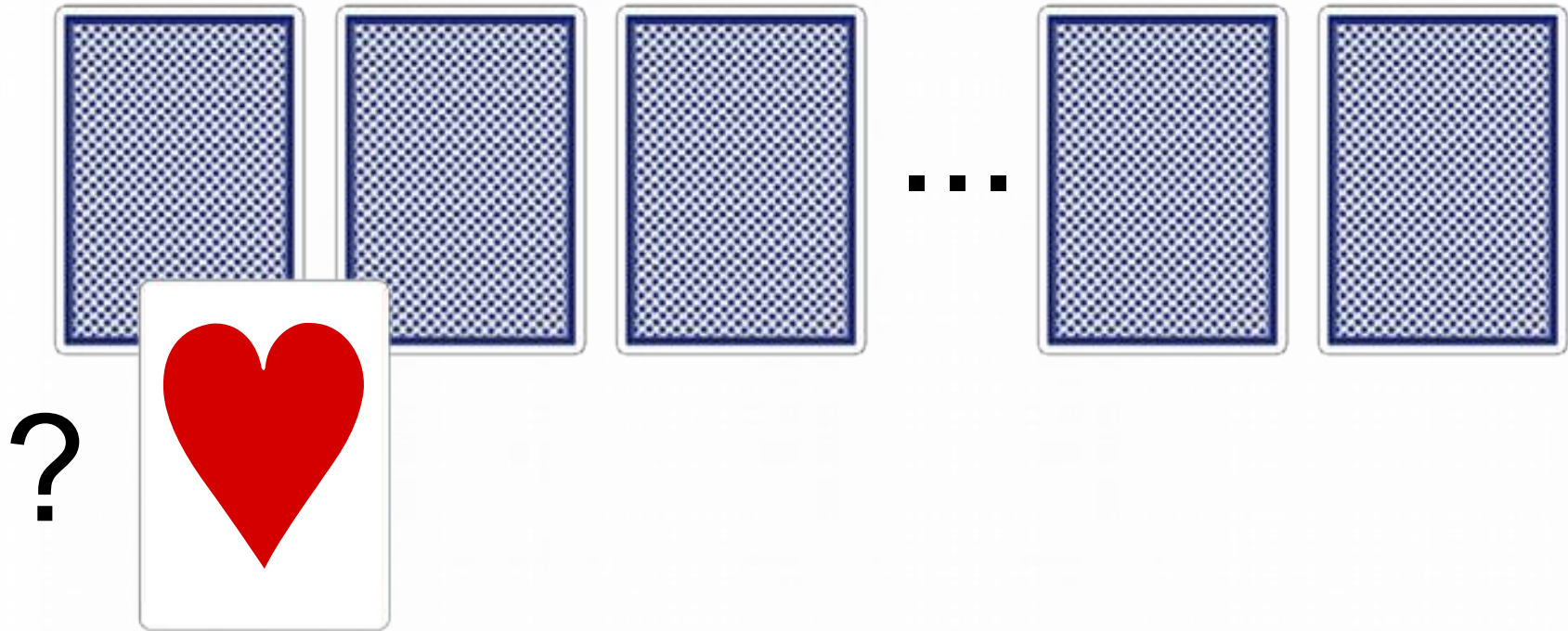


# A Simple Reasoning Problem

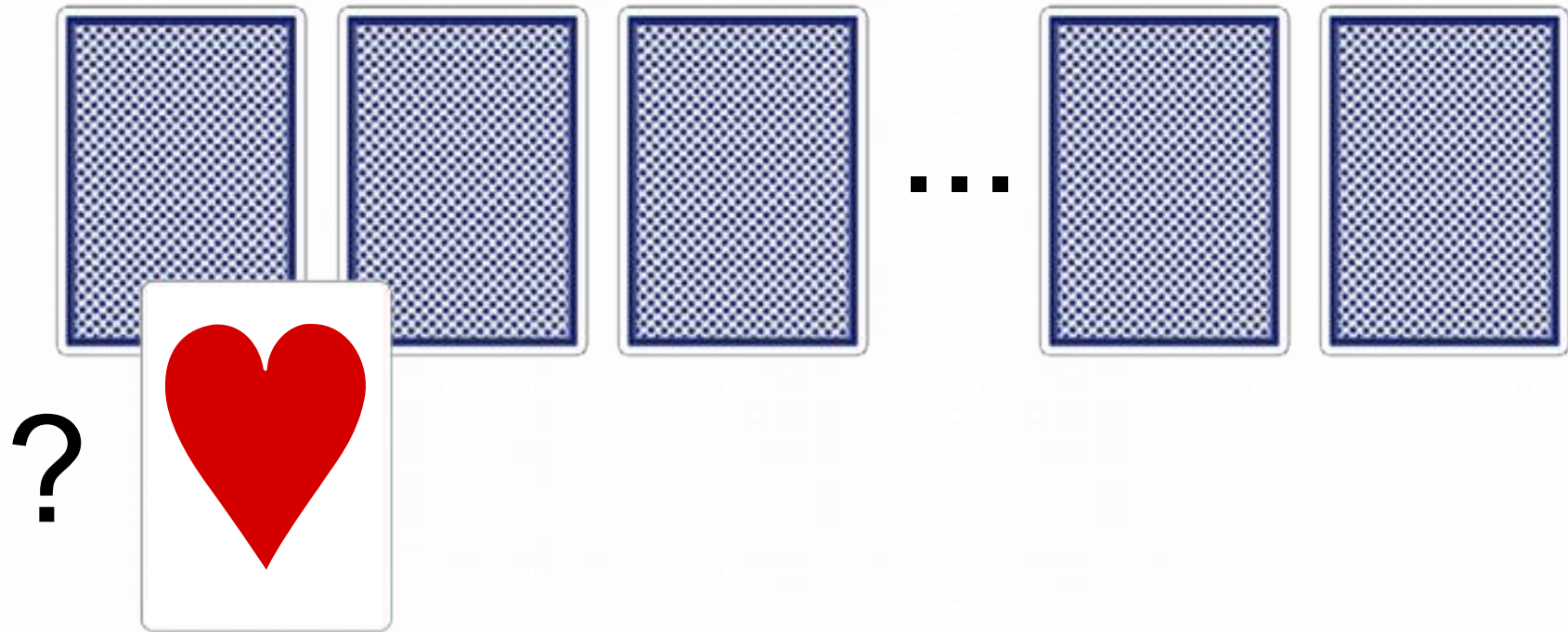


Probability  $1/13$

# A Simple Reasoning Problem

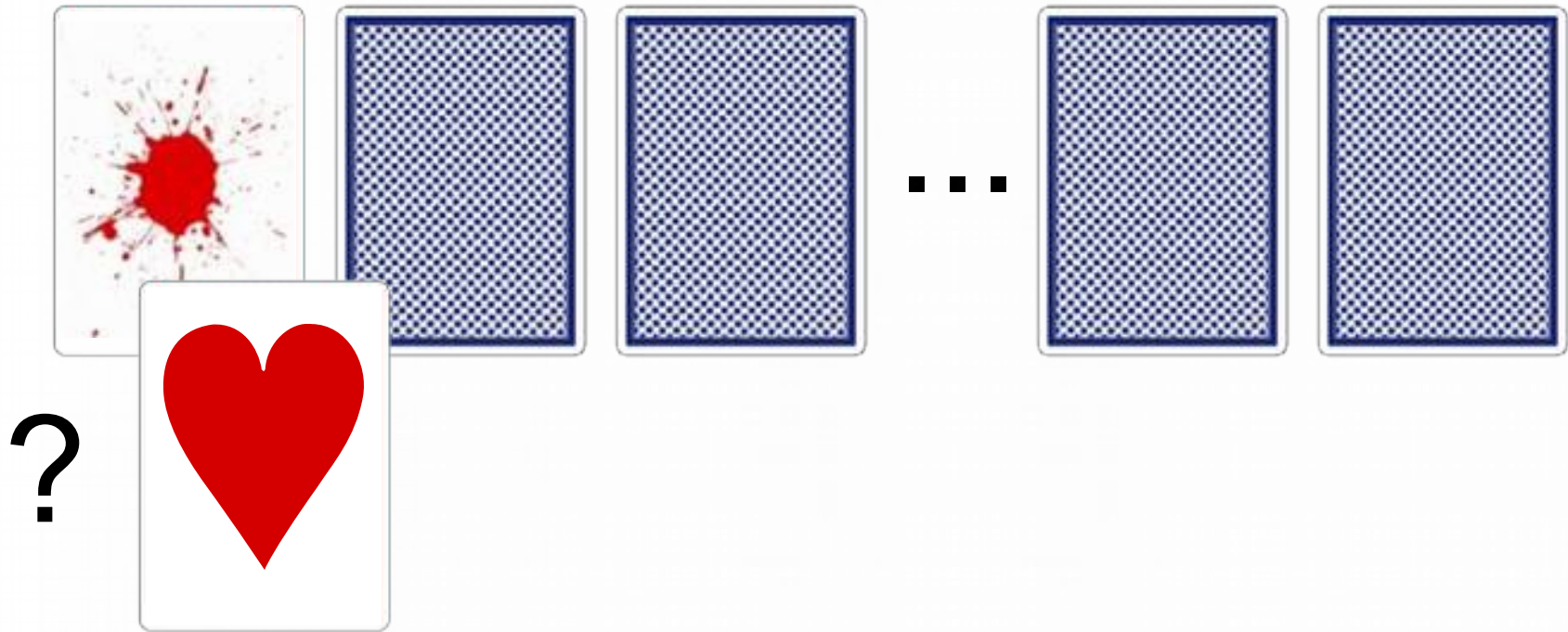


# A Simple Reasoning Problem



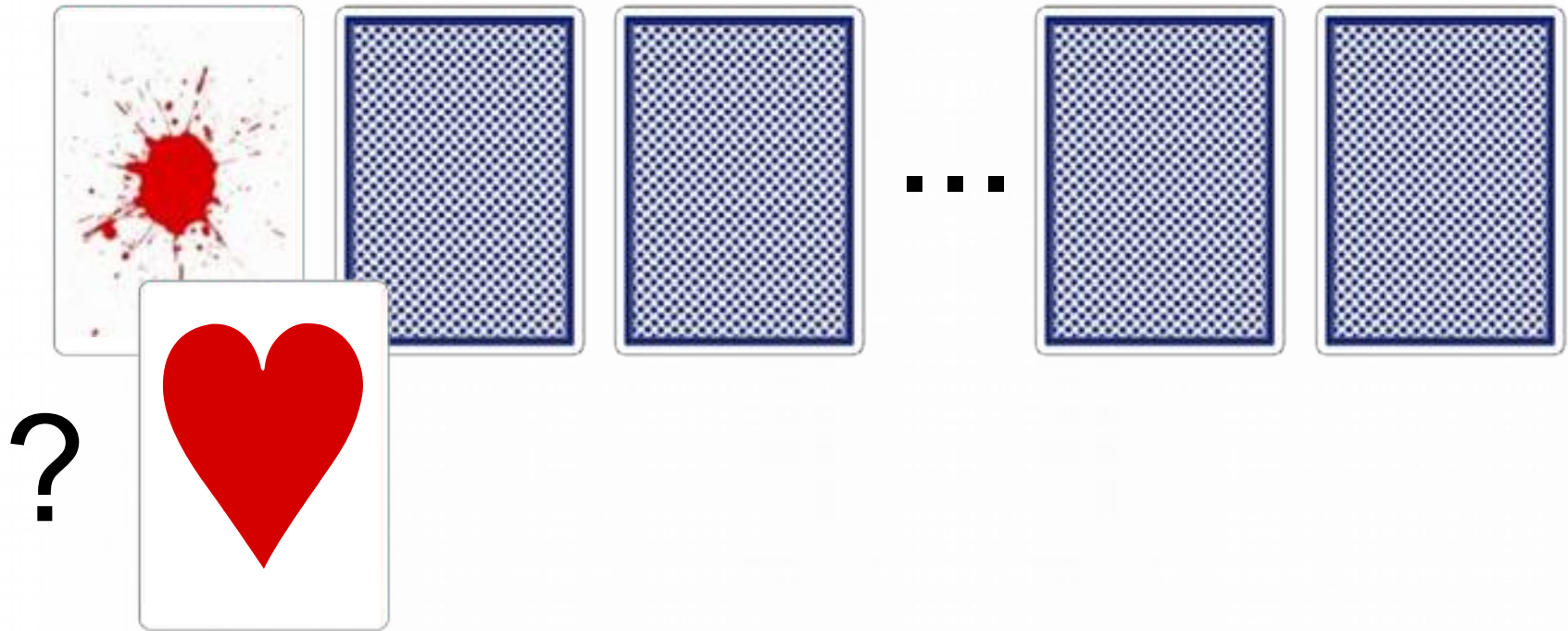
Probability  $1/4$

# A Simple Reasoning Problem



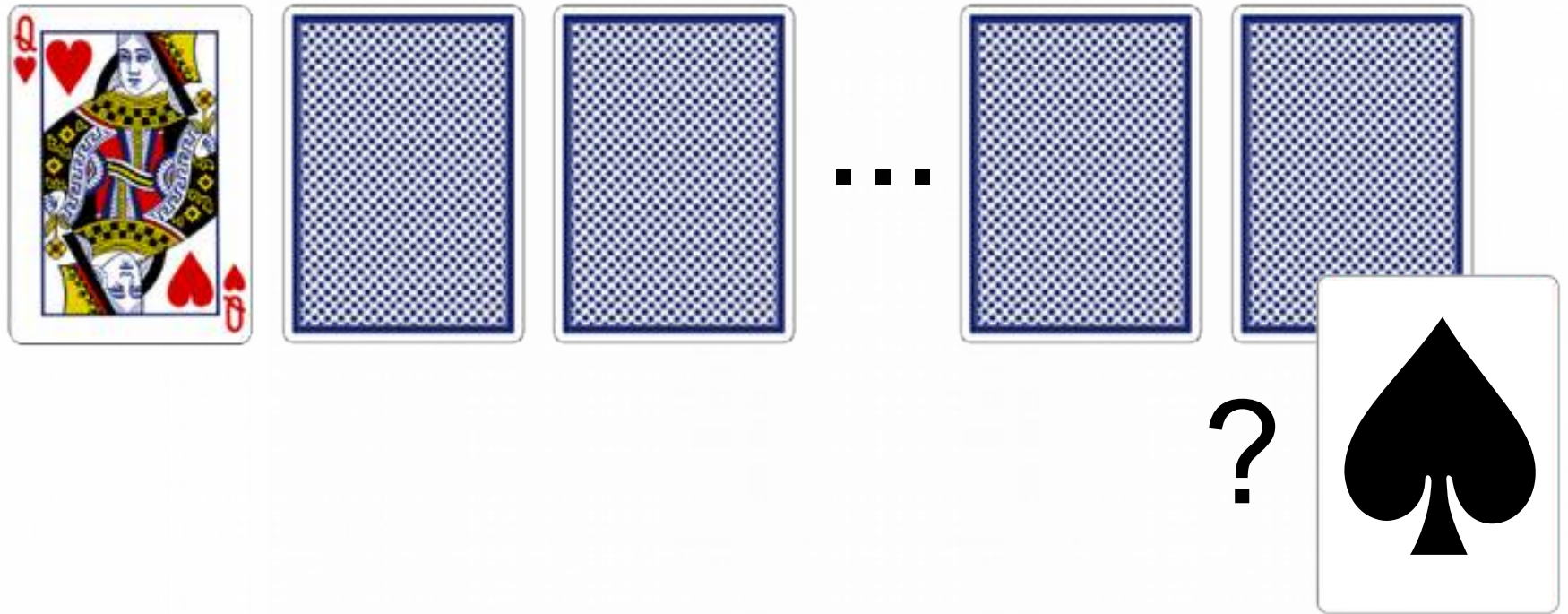


# A Simple Reasoning Problem

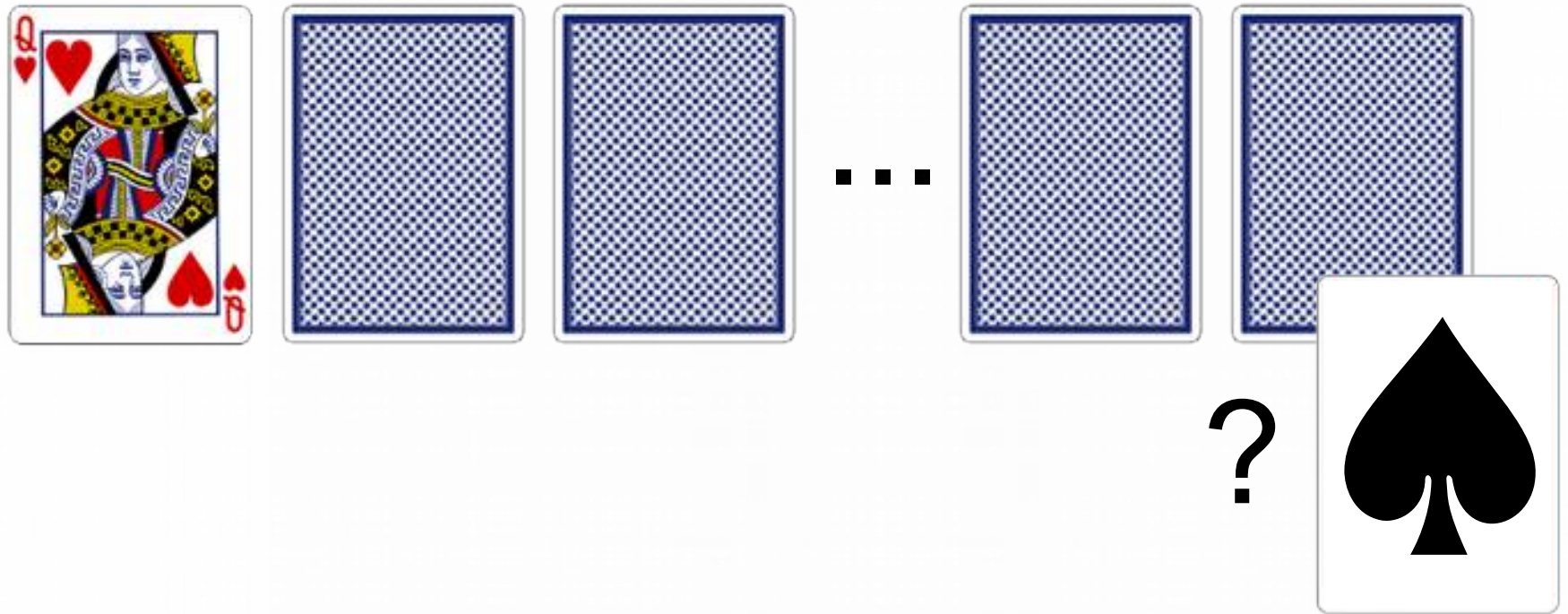


Probability  $1/2$

# A Simple Reasoning Problem



# A Simple Reasoning Problem

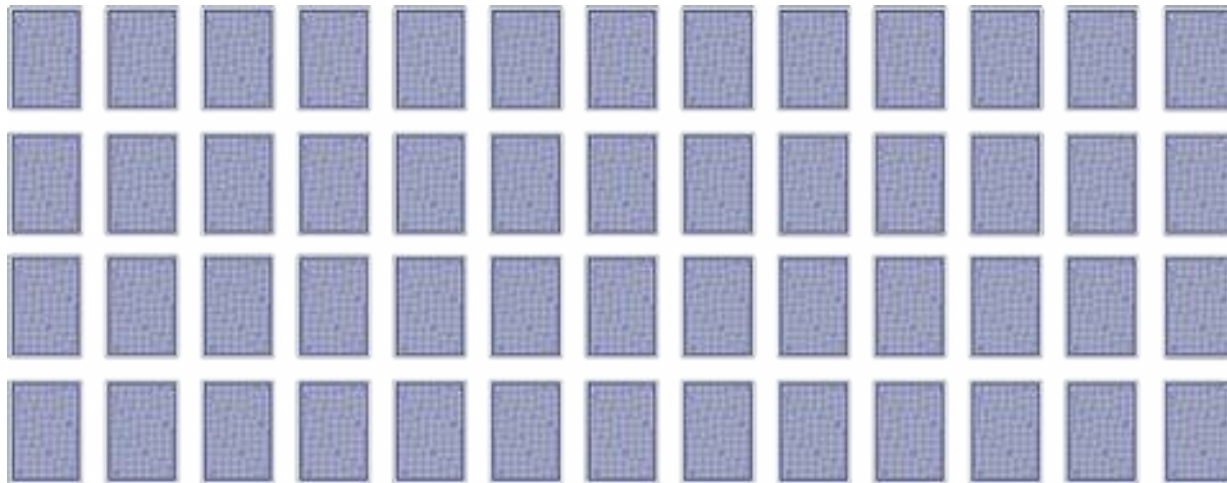


Probability  $13/51$

# Automated Reasoning

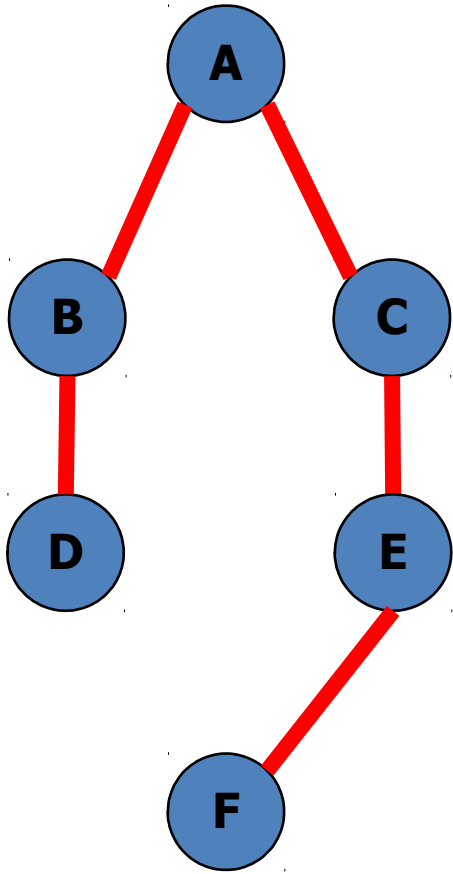
Let us automate this:

1. Probabilistic propositional model (factor graph)

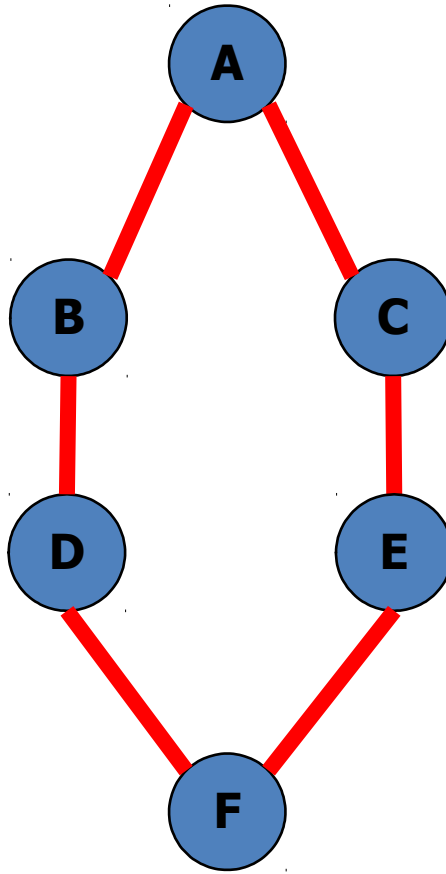


2. Probabilistic inference algorithm

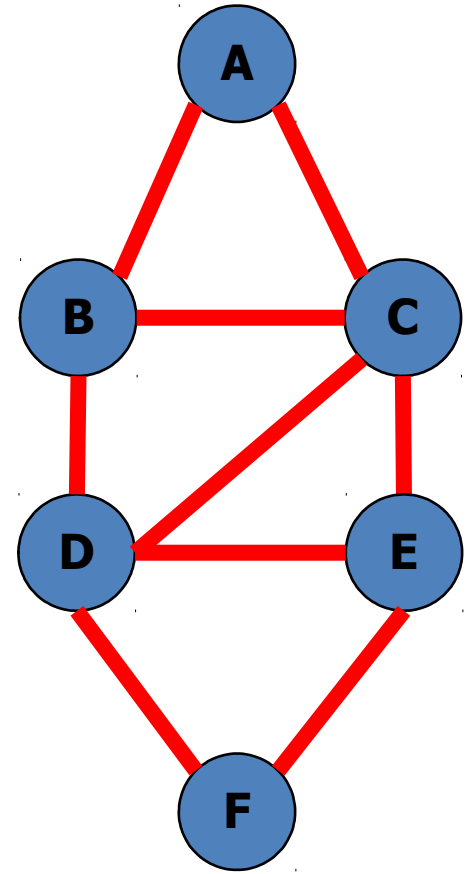
# Reasoning in Propositional Models



tree



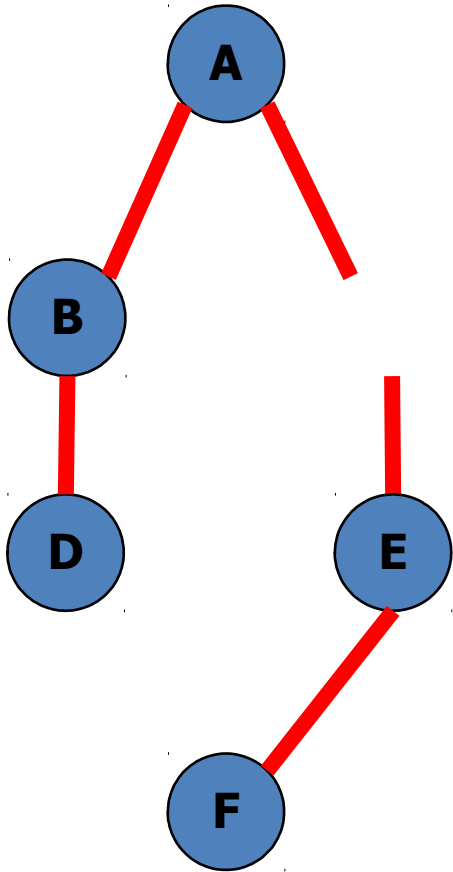
graph



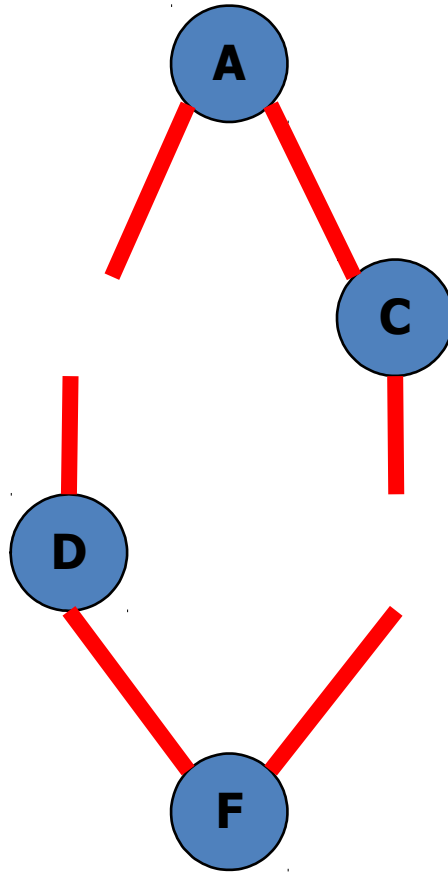
graph

A key result: Treewidth  
Why?

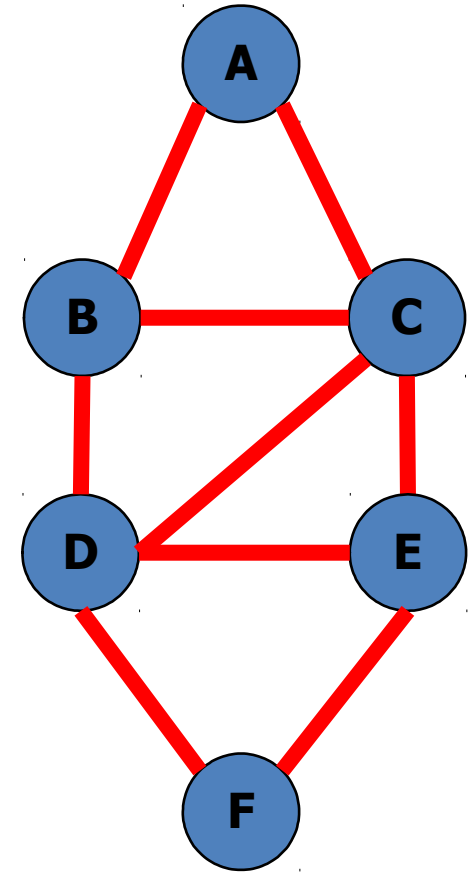
# Reasoning in Propositional Models



tree



graph



graph

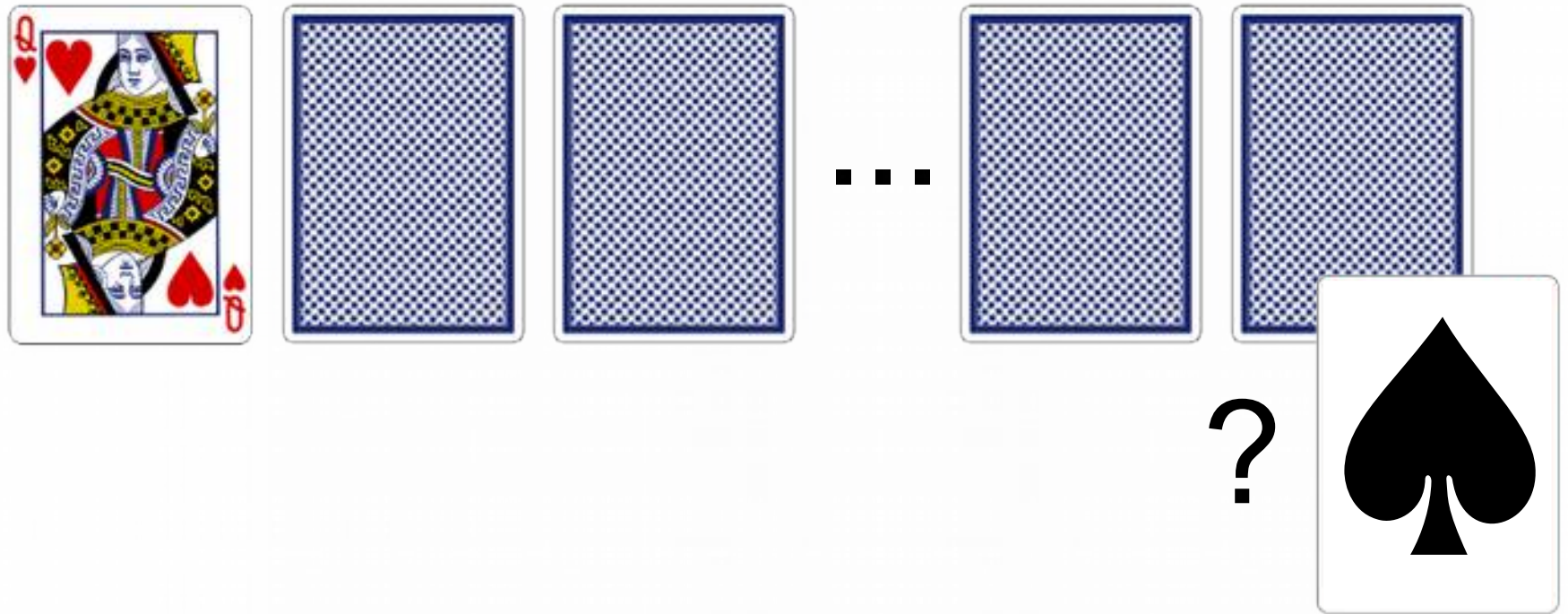
A key result: Treewidth  
Why? **Conditional Independence**

$$\Pr(A|C,E) = \Pr(A|C)$$

$$P(A|B,E,F) = P(A|B,E)$$

$$P(A|B,E,F) \neq P(A|B,E)$$

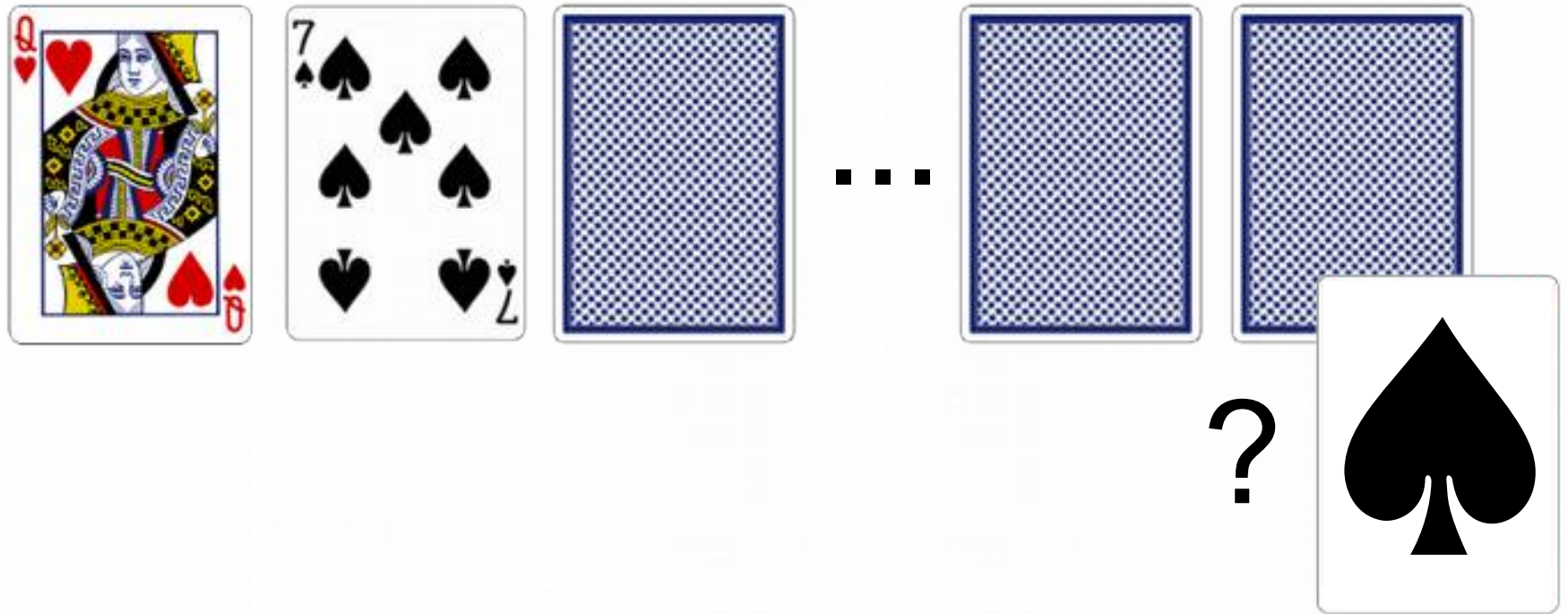
# Is There Conditional Independence?



Probability  $13/51$

$$\Pr(\text{Card}_{52} \mid \text{Card}_1, \text{Card}_2) \stackrel{?}{=} \Pr(\text{Card}_{52} \mid \text{Card}_1)$$

# Is There Conditional Independence?

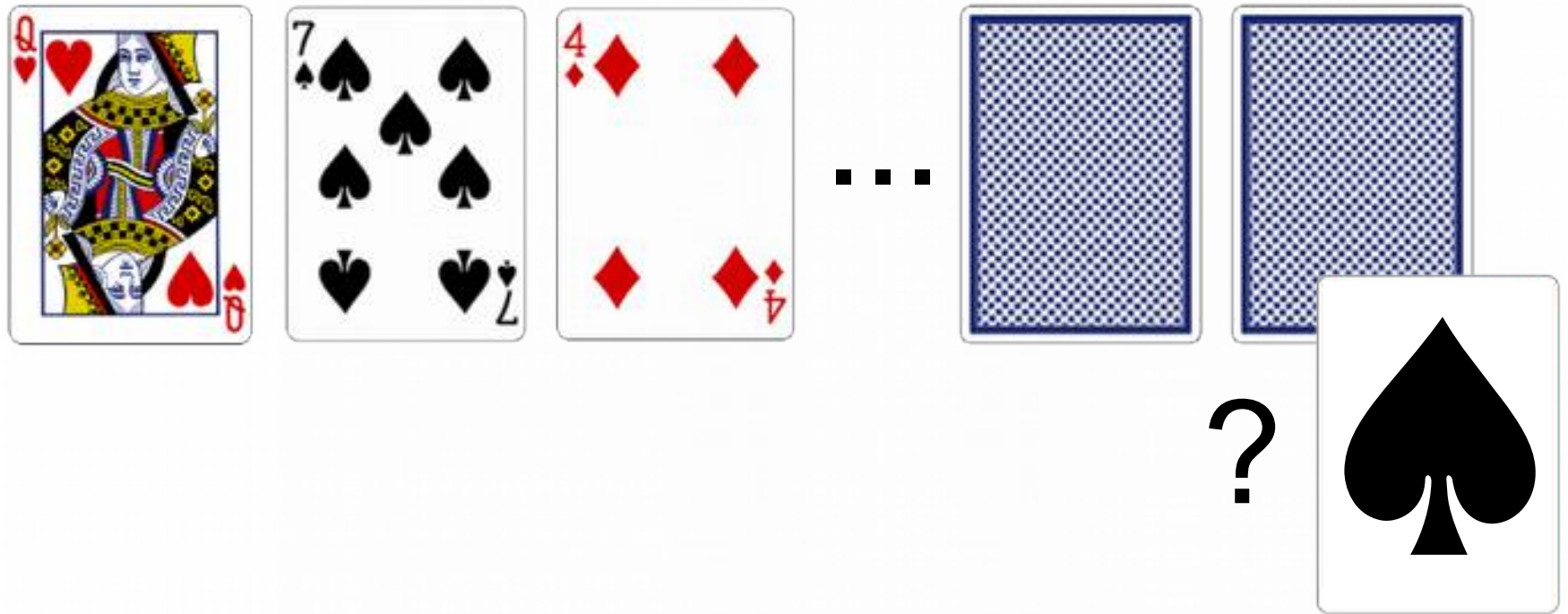


Probability 12/50

$$\Pr(\text{Card}_{52} \mid \text{Card}_1, \text{Card}_2, \text{Card}_3) \stackrel{?}{=} \Pr(\text{Card}_{52} \mid \text{Card}_1, \text{Card}_2)$$



# Is There Conditional Independence?

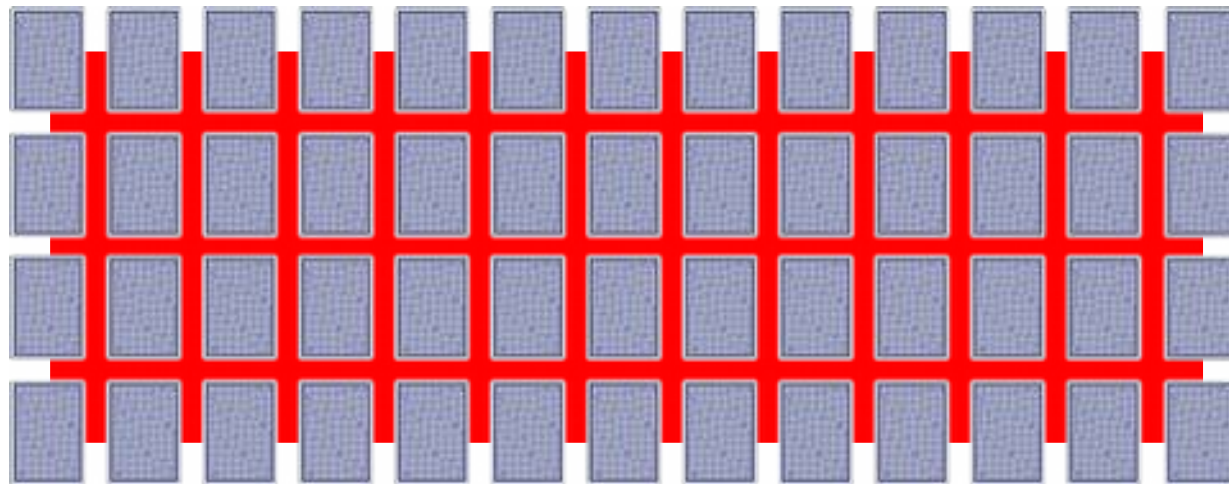


Probability  $12/49$

# Automated Reasoning

Let us automate this:

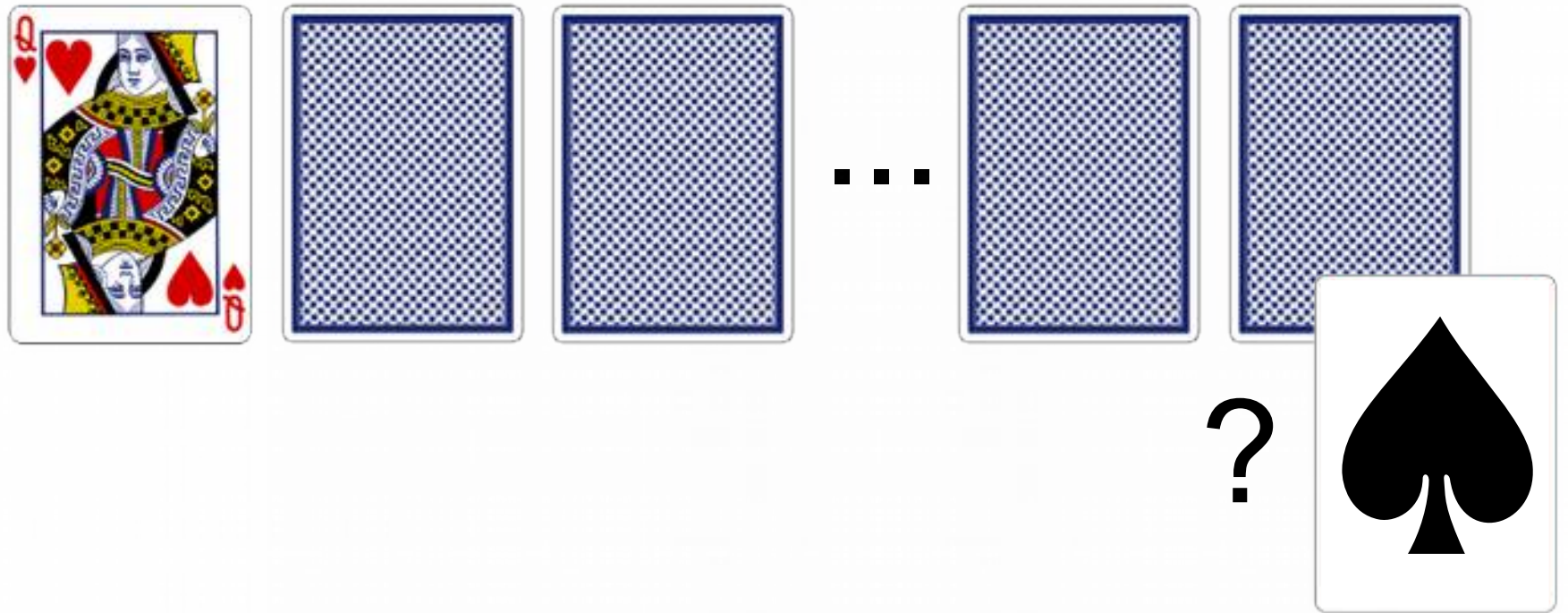
1. Probabilistic propositional model  
is fully connected!



(artist's impression)

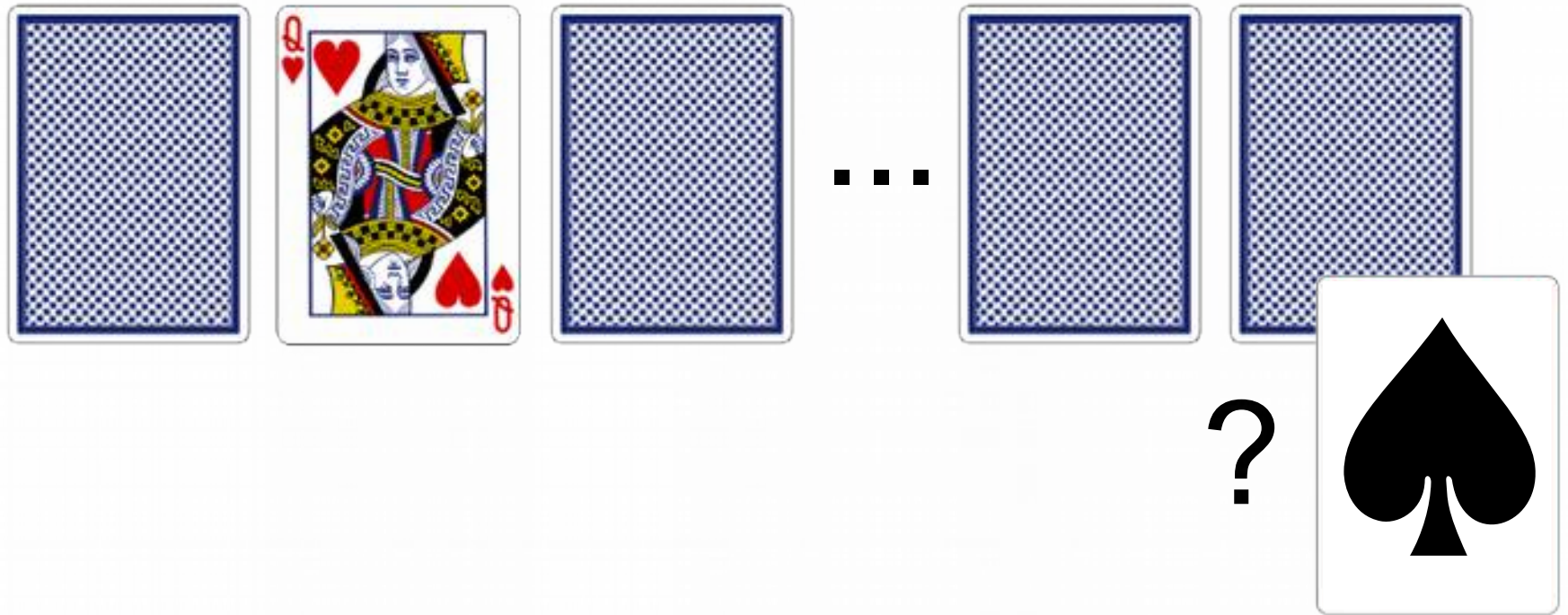
2. Probabilistic inference algorithm (VE)  
builds a table with  $13^{52}$  rows (or equivalent)

# What's Going On Here?



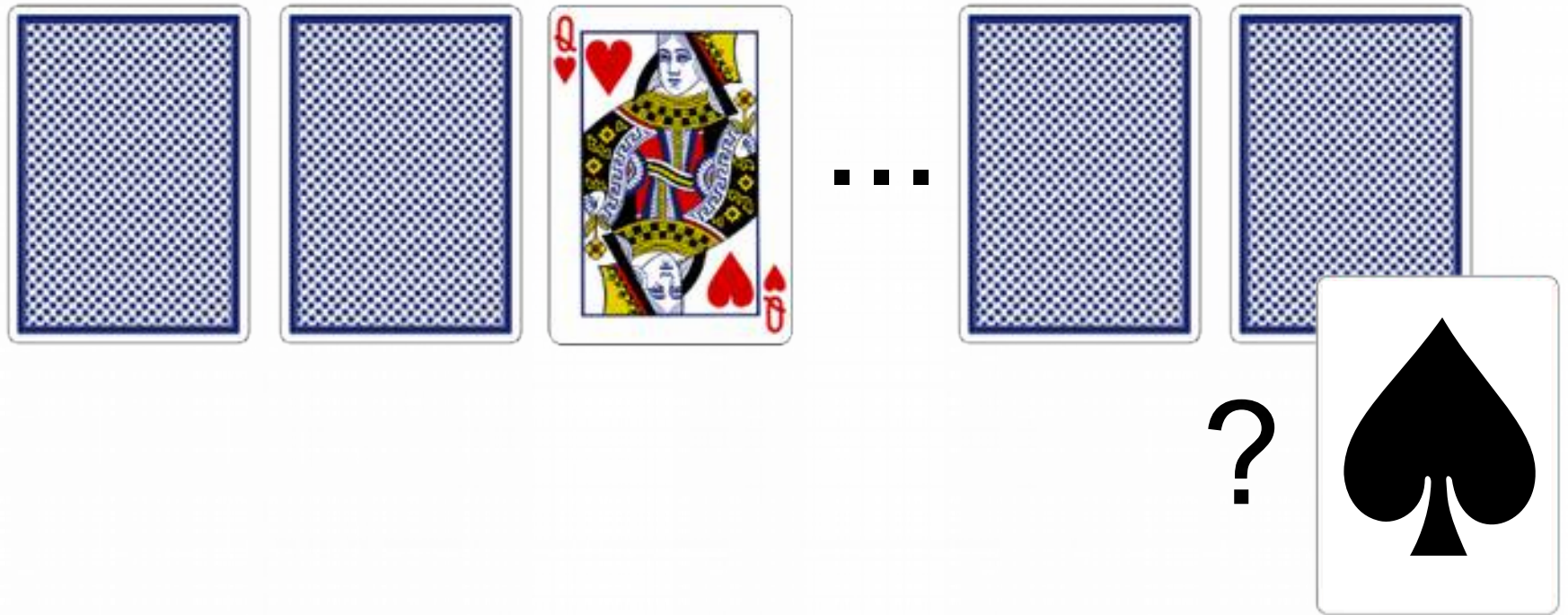
Probability  $13/51$

# What's Going On Here?



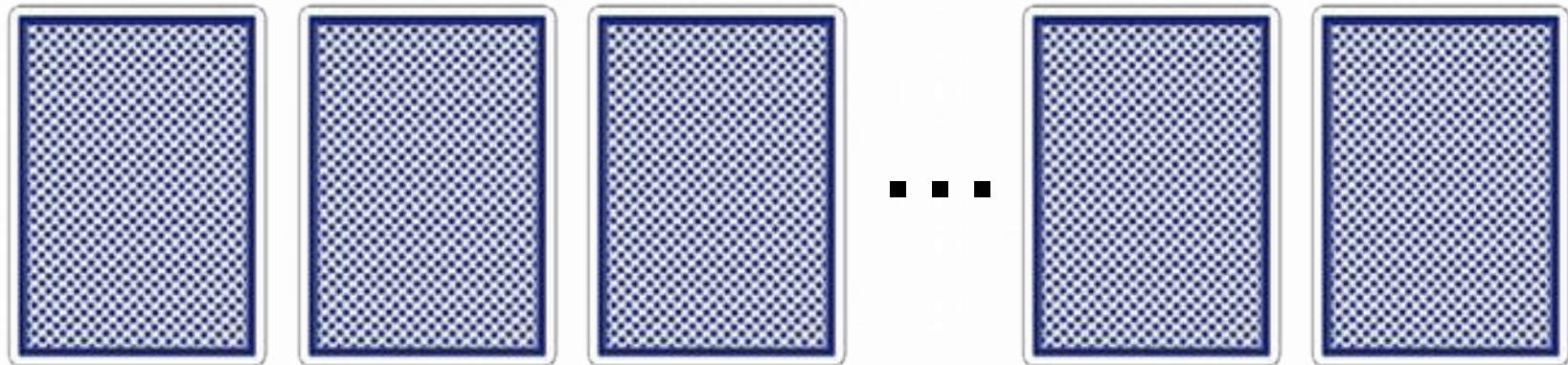
Probability  $13/51$

# What's Going On Here?



Probability  $13/51$

# Tractable Probabilistic Inference



Which property makes inference tractable?

- Traditional belief: Independence (conditional/contextual)
- What's going on here?
  - Symmetry
  - Exchangeability

⇒ Lifted Inference

# Automated Reasoning

Let us automate this:

- **Relational** model

$$\begin{aligned} \forall p,x,y, \text{Card}(p,x) \wedge \text{Card}(p,y) &\Rightarrow x = y \\ \forall c,x,y, \text{Card}(x,c) \wedge \text{Card}(y,c) &\Rightarrow x = y \end{aligned}$$

- **Lifted** probabilistic inference algorithm

# Other Examples of Lifted Inference

- First-Order resolution

$$\forall x, \text{Human}(x) \Rightarrow \text{Mortal}(x)$$
$$\forall x, \text{Greek}(x) \Rightarrow \text{Human}(x)$$

then

$$\forall x, \text{Greek}(x) \Rightarrow \text{Mortal}(x)$$



# Other Examples of Lifted Inference

- First-Order resolution
- Reasoning about populations

We are investigating a rare disease. The disease is more rare in women, presenting only in **one in every two billion women** and **one in every billion men**. Then, assuming there are **3.4 billion men** and **3.6 billion women** in the world, the probability that **more than five people** have the disease is

$$1 - \sum_{n=0}^5 \sum_{f=0}^n \binom{3.6 \cdot 10^9}{f} \left(1 - 0.5 \cdot 10^{-9}\right)^{3.6 \cdot 10^9 - f} \left(0.5 \cdot 10^{-9}\right)^f \\ \times \binom{3.4 \cdot 10^9}{(n-f)} \left(1 - 10^{-9}\right)^{3.4 \cdot 10^9 - (n-f)} \left(10^{-9}\right)^{(n-f)}$$

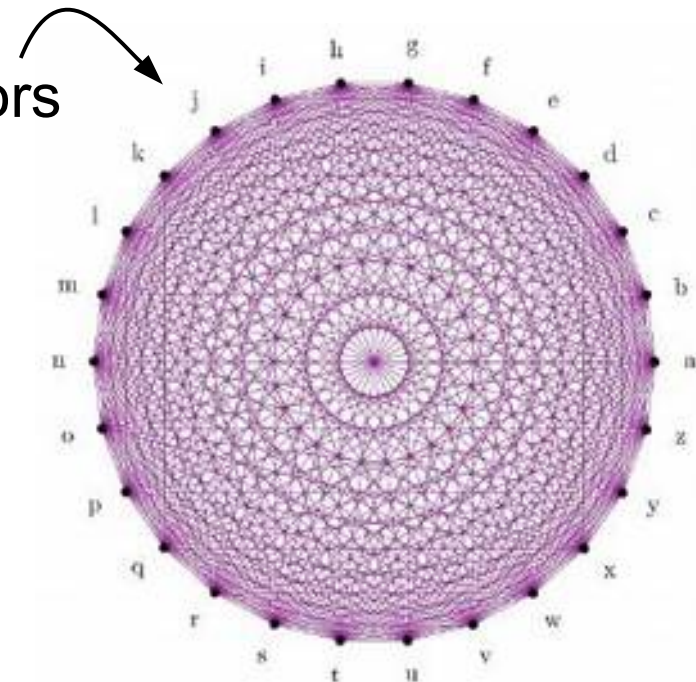
# Relational Representations

- Statistical relational model (e.g., MLN)

$$3.14 \text{ FacultyPage}(x) \wedge \text{Linked}(x,y) \Rightarrow \text{CoursePage}(y)$$

- As a probabilistic graphical model:
  - 26 pages, 728 random variables, 676 factors
  - 1000 pages, 1,002,000 random variables, 1,000,000 factors
- Highly intractable?

**Lifted inference** in milliseconds!



# A Formal Definition of Lifting

- Informal

*Exploit symmetries, Reason at first-order level,  
Reason about groups of objects, Scalable inference*

- Formal Definition: **Domain-lifted inference**

Probabilistic inference runs in time **polynomial**  
in the **number of objects** in the domain.

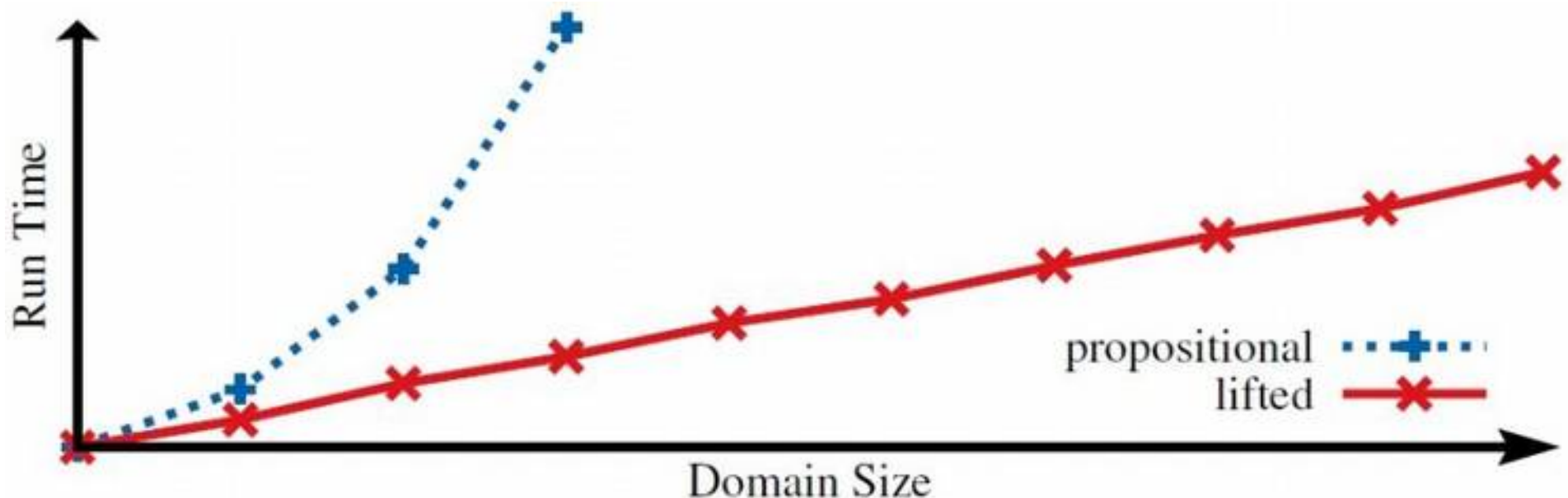
- polynomial in #people, #webpages, #cards
- not polynomial in #predicates, #formulas, #logical variables

# A Formal Definition of Lifting

- Informal

*Exploit symmetries, Reason at first-order level,  
Reason about groups of objects, Scalable inference*

- Formal Definition: **Domain-lifted inference**



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1. What are statistical relational models?
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# Lifted Algorithms (in the AI community)

- Exact Probabilistic Inference
  - First-Order Variable Elimination [Poole-IJCAI03, Braz-IJCAI05, Milch-AAAI08, Taghipour-JAIR13]
  - First-Order Knowledge Compilation [VdB-IJCAI11, VdB-NIPS11, VdB-AAAI12, VdB-Thesis13]
  - Probabilistic Theorem Proving [Gogate-UAI11]
- Approximate Probabilistic Inference
  - Lifted Belief Propagation [Jaimovich-UAI07, Singla-AAAI08, Kersting-UAI09]
  - Lifted Bisimulation/Mini-buckets [Sen-VLDB08, Sen-UAI09]
  - Lifted Importance Sampling [Gogate-UAI11, Gogate-AAAI12]
  - Lifted Relax, Compensate & Recover (Generalized BP) [VdB-UAI12]
  - Lifted MCMC [Niepert-UAI12, Niepert-AAAI13, Venugopal-NIPS12]
  - Lifted Variational Inference [Choi-UAI12, Bui-StarAI12]
  - Lifted MAP-LP [Mladenov-AISTATS14, Apsel-AAAI14]
- Special-Purpose Inference:
  - Lifted Kalman Filter [Ahmadi-IJCAI11, Choi-IJCAI11]
  - Lifted Linear Programming [Mladenov-AISTATS12]

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# Assembly Language for Lifted Probabilistic Inference

Computing conditional probabilities with:

- Parfactor graphs
- Markov logic networks
- Probabilistic datalog/logic programs
- Probabilistic databases
- Relational Bayesian networks

All reduces to

**weighted (first-order) model counting**



# Weighted First-Order Model Counting

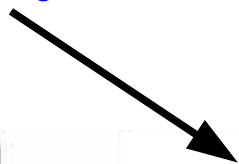
A vocabulary

Smokes(Alice)	Smokes(Bob)	Friends(Alice,Bob)	Friends(Bob,Alice)
0	0	0	0
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮
1	0	1	0
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮
1	1	1	1

Possible worlds  
Logical interpretations

# Weighted First-Order Model Counting

A logical theory



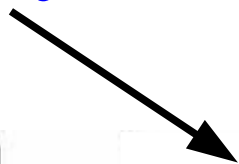
$$\forall x,y, \text{Smokes}(x) \wedge \text{Friends}(x,y) \Rightarrow \text{Smokes}(y)$$

Smokes(Alice)	Smokes(Bob)	Friends(Alice,Bob)	Friends(Bob,Alice)	theory
0	0	0	0	1
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮
1	0	1	0	0
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮
1	1	1	1	1

Interpretations that satisfy the theory  
**Models**

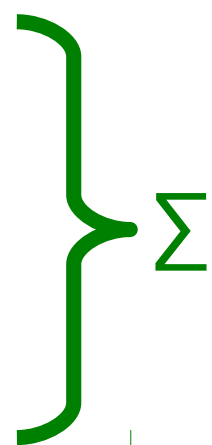
# Weighted First-Order Model Counting

A logical theory



$$\forall x,y, \text{Smokes}(x) \wedge \text{Friends}(x,y) \Rightarrow \text{Smokes}(y)$$

Smokes(Alice)	Smokes(Bob)	Friends(Alice,Bob)	Friends(Bob,Alice)	theory
0	0	0	0	1
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮
1	0	1	0	0
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮
1	1	1	1	1

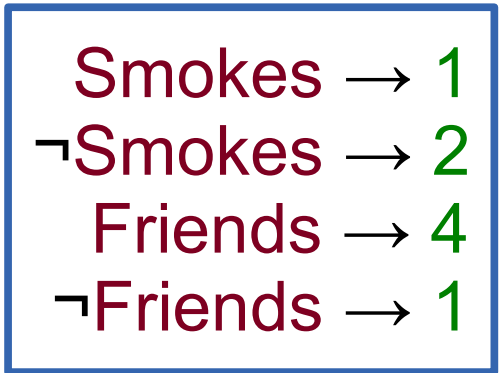


First-order model count  
~ #SAT

# Weighted First-Order Model Counting

A logical theory and a weight function for predicates

Smokes(Alice)	Smokes(Bob)	Friends(Alice,Bob)	Friends(Bob,Alice)	theory	weight
0	0	0	0	1	$2 \cdot 2 \cdot 1 \cdot 1$
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮
1	0	1	0	0	0
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮
1	1	1	1	1	$1 \cdot 1 \cdot 4 \cdot 4$



Smokes	→	1
$\neg$ Smokes	→	2
Friends	→	4
$\neg$ Friends	→	1

# Weighted First-Order Model Counting

A logical theory and a weight function for predicates

Smokes(Alice)	Smokes(Bob)	Friends(Alice,Bob)	Friends(Bob,Alice)	theory	weight
0	0	0	0	1	$2 \cdot 2 \cdot 1 \cdot 1$
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮
1	0	1	0	0	0
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮
1	1	1	1	1	$1 \cdot 1 \cdot 4 \cdot 4$

}  $\Sigma$

Smokes	→	1
$\neg$ Smokes	→	2
Friends	→	4
$\neg$ Friends	→	1

Weighted first-order model count  
 ~ Partition function

# Example: First-Order Model Counting

1. Logical sentence

$\text{Stress}(\text{Alice}) \Rightarrow \text{Smokes}(\text{Alice})$

Domain

Alice

# Example: First-Order Model Counting

1. Logical sentence

$\text{Stress}(\text{Alice}) \Rightarrow \text{Smokes}(\text{Alice})$

Domain

Alice

Stress(Alice)	Smokes(Alice)	Formula
0	0	1
0	1	1
1	0	0
1	1	1

# Example: First-Order Model Counting

1. Logical sentence

$\text{Stress}(\text{Alice}) \Rightarrow \text{Smokes}(\text{Alice})$

Domain

Alice

→ 3 models



# Example: First-Order Model Counting

1. Logical sentence

$\text{Stress}(\text{Alice}) \Rightarrow \text{Smokes}(\text{Alice})$

→ 3 models

Domain

Alice

2. Logical sentence

$\forall x, \text{Stress}(x) \Rightarrow \text{Smokes}(x)$

Domain

Alice

# Example: First-Order Model Counting

1. Logical sentence

$\text{Stress}(\text{Alice}) \Rightarrow \text{Smokes}(\text{Alice})$

→ 3 models

Domain

Alice

2. Logical sentence

$\forall x, \text{Stress}(x) \Rightarrow \text{Smokes}(x)$

→ 3 models

Domain

Alice

# Example: First-Order Model Counting

2. Logical sentence

$\forall x, \text{Stress}(x) \Rightarrow \text{Smokes}(x)$

Domain

Alice

→ 3 models

# Example: First-Order Model Counting

2. Logical sentence

$$\forall x, \text{Stress}(x) \Rightarrow \text{Smokes}(x)$$

→ 3 models

Domain

Alice

3. Logical sentence

$$\forall x, \text{Stress}(x) \Rightarrow \text{Smokes}(x)$$

Domain

n people

# Example: First-Order Model Counting

2. Logical sentence

$\forall x, \text{Stress}(x) \Rightarrow \text{Smokes}(x)$

→ 3 models

Domain

Alice

3. Logical sentence

$\forall x, \text{Stress}(x) \Rightarrow \text{Smokes}(x)$

→  $3^n$  models

Domain

n people

# Example: First-Order Model Counting

3. Logical sentence

$\forall x, \text{Stress}(x) \Rightarrow \text{Smokes}(x)$

Domain

n people

→  $3^n$  models

# Example: First-Order Model Counting

3. Logical sentence

$$\forall x, \text{Stress}(x) \Rightarrow \text{Smokes}(x)$$

→  $3^n$  models

Domain

n people

4. Logical sentence

$$\forall y, \text{ParentOf}(y) \wedge \text{Female} \Rightarrow \text{MotherOf}(y)$$

Domain

n people

# Example:

## First-Order Model Counting

3. Logical sentence

$$\forall x, \text{Stress}(x) \Rightarrow \text{Smokes}(x)$$

Domain

n people

→  $3^n$  models

4. Logical sentence

$$\forall y, \text{ParentOf}(y) \wedge \text{Female} \Rightarrow \text{MotherOf}(y)$$

Domain

n people

if Female:

$$\forall y, \text{ParentOf}(y) \Rightarrow \text{MotherOf}(y)$$



# Example: First-Order Model Counting

3. Logical sentence

$$\forall x, \text{Stress}(x) \Rightarrow \text{Smokes}(x)$$

Domain

n people

→  $3^n$  models

4. Logical sentence

$$\forall y, \text{ParentOf}(y) \wedge \text{Female} \Rightarrow \text{MotherOf}(y)$$

Domain

n people

if not Female:

True

# Example: First-Order Model Counting

3. Logical sentence

$$\forall x, \text{Stress}(x) \Rightarrow \text{Smokes}(x)$$

→  $3^n$  models

Domain

n people

4. Logical sentence

$$\forall y, \text{ParentOf}(y) \wedge \text{Female} \Rightarrow \text{MotherOf}(y)$$

→  $(3^n + 4^n)$  models

Domain

n people

# Example: First-Order Model Counting

4. Logical sentence

$\forall y, \text{ParentOf}(y) \wedge \text{Female} \Rightarrow \text{MotherOf}(y)$

Domain

n people

$\rightarrow (3^n + 4^n)$  models

# Example: First-Order Model Counting

4. Logical sentence

$$\forall y, \text{ParentOf}(y) \wedge \text{Female} \Rightarrow \text{MotherOf}(y)$$

Domain

n people

→  $(3^n + 4^n)$  models

5. Logical sentence

$$\forall x, y, \text{ParentOf}(x, y) \wedge \text{Female}(x) \Rightarrow \text{MotherOf}(x, y)$$

Domain

n people

# Example: First-Order Model Counting

4. Logical sentence

$\forall y, \text{ParentOf}(y) \wedge \text{Female} \Rightarrow \text{MotherOf}(y)$

Domain

n people

$\rightarrow (3^n + 4^n)$  models

5. Logical sentence

$\forall x, y, \text{ParentOf}(x, y) \wedge \text{Female}(x) \Rightarrow \text{MotherOf}(x, y)$

Domain

n people

$\rightarrow (3^n + 4^n)^n$  models

# Example: First-Order Model Counting

6. Logical sentence

$\forall x,y, \text{Smokes}(x) \wedge \text{Friends}(x,y) \Rightarrow \text{Smokes}(y)$

Domain

n people

# Example: First-Order Model Counting

6. Logical sentence

Domain

$\forall x,y, \text{Smokes}(x) \wedge \text{Friends}(x,y) \Rightarrow \text{Smokes}(y)$

n people

- If we know precisely who smokes, and there are  $k$  smokers

# Example: First-Order Model Counting

## 6. Logical sentence

$$\forall x,y, \text{Smokes}(x) \wedge \text{Friends}(x,y) \Rightarrow \text{Smokes}(y)$$

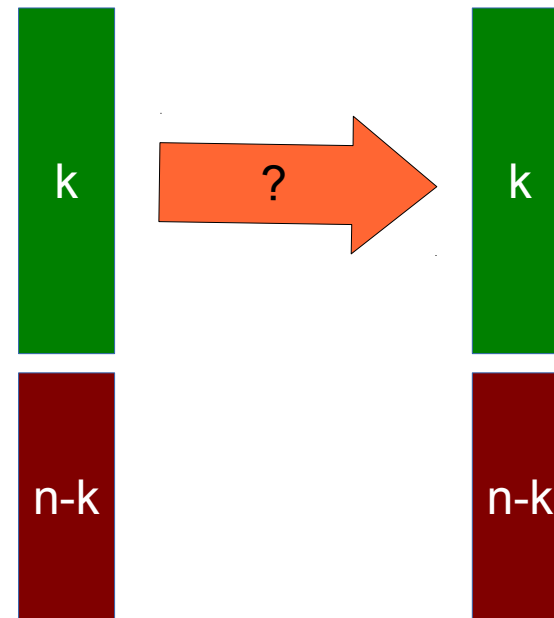
Domain

$n$  people

- If we know precisely who smokes, and there are  $k$  smokers

### Database:

$\text{Smokes}(\text{Alice}) = 1$   
 $\text{Smokes}(\text{Bob}) = 0$   
 $\text{Smokes}(\text{Charlie}) = 0$   
 $\text{Smokes}(\text{Dave}) = 1$   
 $\text{Smokes}(\text{Eve}) = 0$   
...





# Example: First-Order Model Counting

## 6. Logical sentence

$\forall x, y, \text{Smokes}(x) \wedge \text{Friends}(x, y) \Rightarrow \text{Smokes}(y)$

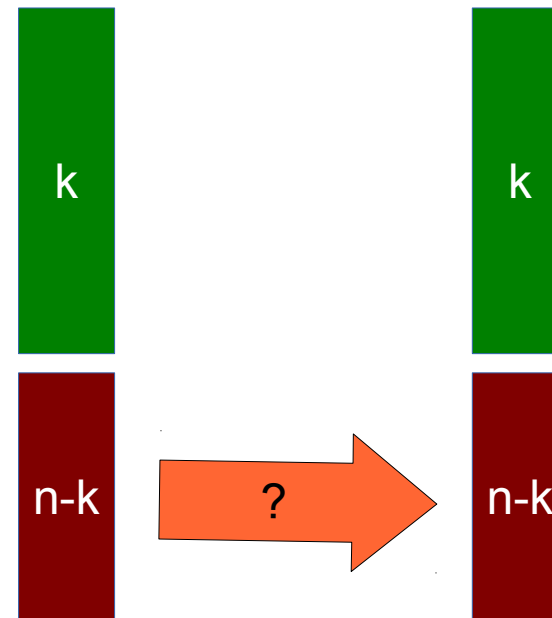
## Domain

$n$  people

- If we know precisely who smokes, and there are  $k$  smokers

### Database:

$\text{Smokes}(\text{Alice}) = 1$   
 $\text{Smokes}(\text{Bob}) = 0$   
 $\text{Smokes}(\text{Charlie}) = 0$   
 $\text{Smokes}(\text{Dave}) = 1$   
 $\text{Smokes}(\text{Eve}) = 0$   
...



# Example: First-Order Model Counting

## 6. Logical sentence

$$\forall x,y, \text{Smokes}(x) \wedge \text{Friends}(x,y) \Rightarrow \text{Smokes}(y)$$

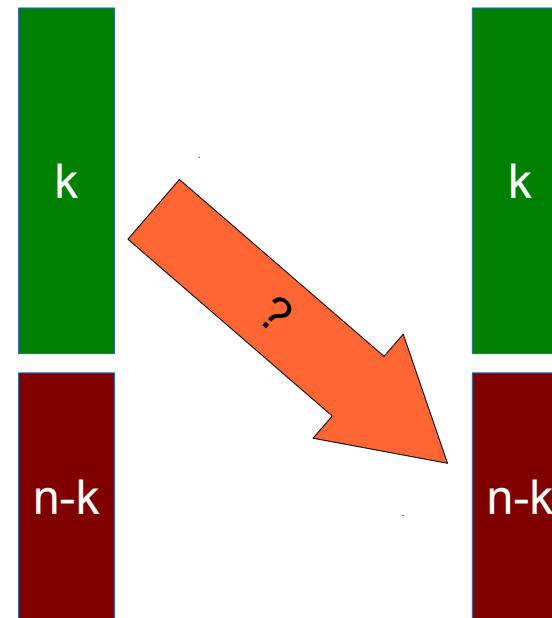
## Domain

n people

- If we know precisely who smokes, and there are  $k$  smokers

### Database:

$\text{Smokes}(\text{Alice}) = 1$   
 $\text{Smokes}(\text{Bob}) = 0$   
 $\text{Smokes}(\text{Charlie}) = 0$   
 $\text{Smokes}(\text{Dave}) = 1$   
 $\text{Smokes}(\text{Eve}) = 0$   
...



# Example: First-Order Model Counting

## 6. Logical sentence

$$\forall x, y, \text{Smokes}(x) \wedge \text{Friends}(x, y) \Rightarrow \text{Smokes}(y)$$

Domain

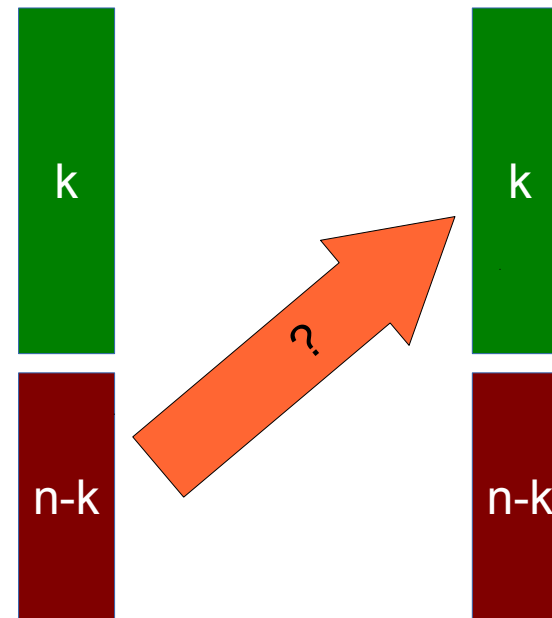
$n$  people

- If we know precisely who smokes, and there are  $k$  smokers

### Database:

$\text{Smokes}(\text{Alice}) = 1$   
 $\text{Smokes}(\text{Bob}) = 0$   
 $\text{Smokes}(\text{Charlie}) = 0$   
 $\text{Smokes}(\text{Dave}) = 1$   
 $\text{Smokes}(\text{Eve}) = 0$

...



# Example: First-Order Model Counting

6. Logical sentence

Domain

$\forall x,y, \text{Smokes}(x) \wedge \text{Friends}(x,y) \Rightarrow \text{Smokes}(y)$

n people

- If we know precisely who smokes, and there are  $k$  smokers  
→  $2^{n^2 - k(n-k)}$  models

# Example: First-Order Model Counting

6. Logical sentence

Domain

$\forall x, y, \text{Smokes}(x) \wedge \text{Friends}(x, y) \Rightarrow \text{Smokes}(y)$

n people

- If we know precisely who smokes, and there are  $k$  smokers  
→  $2^{n^2 - k(n-k)}$  models
- If we know that there are  $k$  smokers

# Example: First-Order Model Counting

6. Logical sentence

Domain

$\forall x, y, \text{Smokes}(x) \wedge \text{Friends}(x, y) \Rightarrow \text{Smokes}(y)$

n people

- If we know precisely who smokes, and there are  $k$  smokers  
→  $2^{n^2 - k(n-k)}$  models
- If we know that there are  $k$  smokers  
→  $\binom{n}{k} 2^{n^2 - k(n-k)}$  models

# Example: First-Order Model Counting

6. Logical sentence

Domain

$\forall x,y, \text{Smokes}(x) \wedge \text{Friends}(x,y) \Rightarrow \text{Smokes}(y)$

n people

- If we know precisely who smokes, and there are  $k$  smokers  
→  $2^{n^2 - k(n-k)}$  models
- If we know that there are  $k$  smokers  
→  $\binom{n}{k} 2^{n^2 - k(n-k)}$  models
- In total

# Example: First-Order Model Counting

6. Logical sentence

Domain

$\forall x, y, \text{Smokes}(x) \wedge \text{Friends}(x, y) \Rightarrow \text{Smokes}(y)$

$n$  people

- If we know precisely who smokes, and there are  $k$  smokers  
→  $2^{n^2 - k(n-k)}$  models

- If we know that there are  $k$  smokers

$$\rightarrow \binom{n}{k} 2^{n^2 - k(n-k)} \text{ models}$$

- In total

$$\rightarrow \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} 2^{n^2 - k(n-k)} \text{ models}$$



# The Full Pipeline

MLN

3.14  $\text{Smokes}(x) \wedge \text{Friends}(x,y) \Rightarrow \text{Smokes}(y)$

# The Full Pipeline

MLN

3.14  $\text{Smokes}(x) \wedge \text{Friends}(x,y) \Rightarrow \text{Smokes}(y)$



$\forall x,y, F(x,y) \Leftrightarrow [ \text{Smokes}(x) \wedge \text{Friends}(x,y) \Rightarrow \text{Smokes}(y) ]$

Relational Logic

# The Full Pipeline

MLN

$$3.14 \quad \text{Smokes}(x) \wedge \text{Friends}(x,y) \Rightarrow \text{Smokes}(y)$$

$$\forall x,y, F(x,y) \Leftrightarrow [ \text{Smokes}(x) \wedge \text{Friends}(x,y) \Rightarrow \text{Smokes}(y) ]$$

Relational Logic

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Smokes} &\rightarrow 1 \\ \neg \text{Smokes} &\rightarrow 1 \\ \text{Friends} &\rightarrow 1 \\ \neg \text{Friends} &\rightarrow 1 \\ F &\rightarrow \exp(3.14) \\ \neg F &\rightarrow 1 \end{aligned}$$

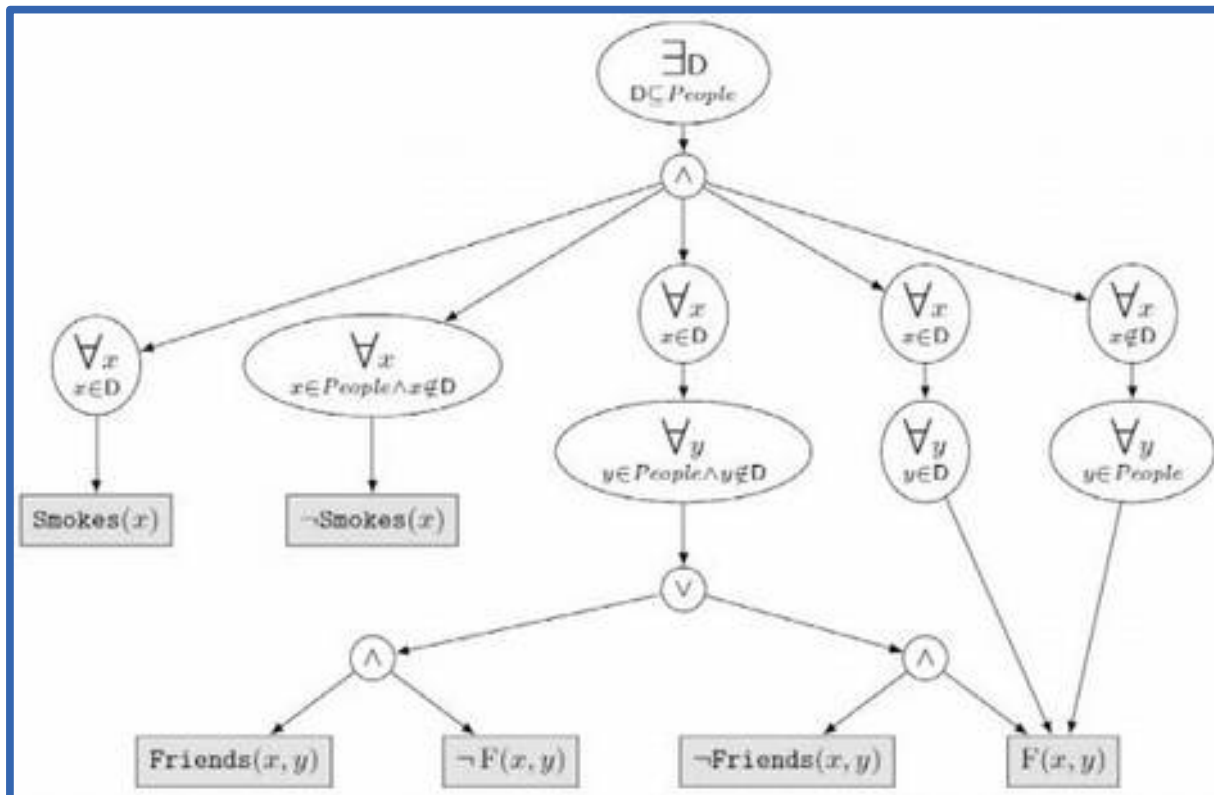
Weight Function

# The Full Pipeline

$$\forall x,y, F(x,y) \Leftrightarrow [ \text{Smokes}(x) \wedge \text{Friends}(x,y) \Rightarrow \text{Smokes}(y) ]$$

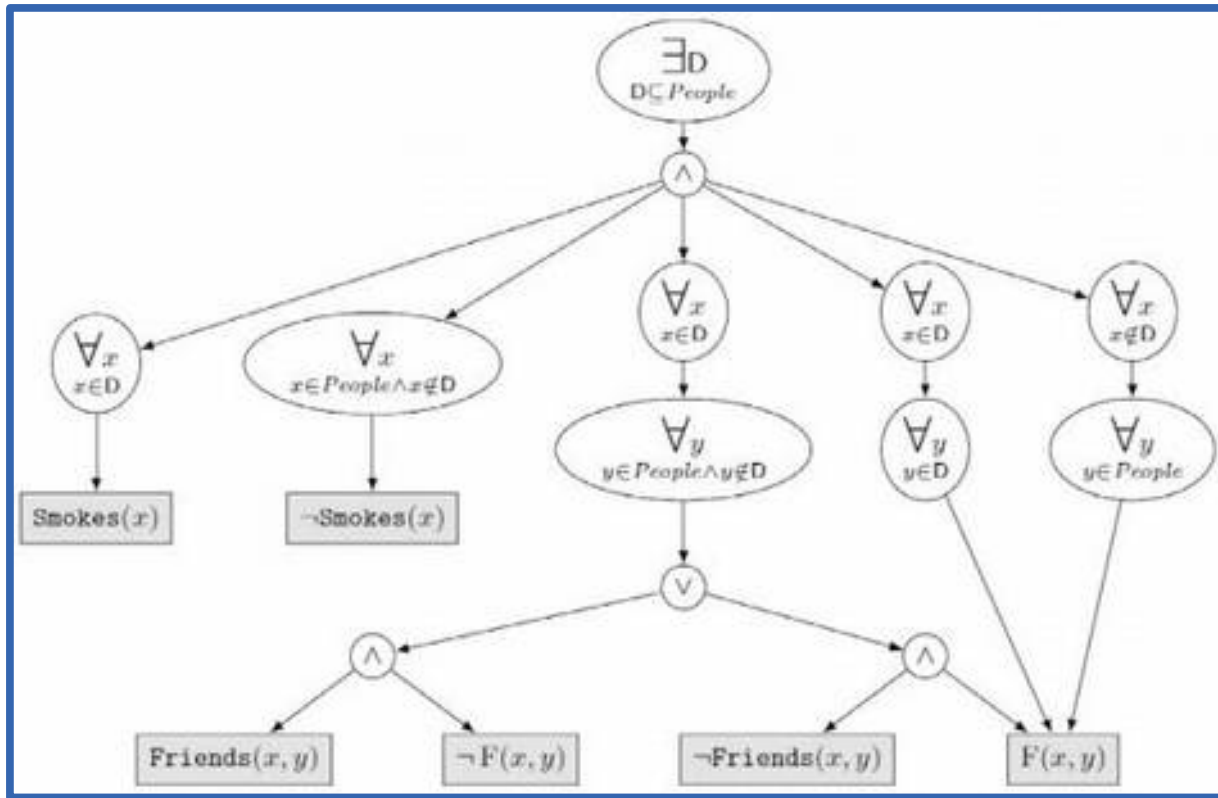


Relational Logic

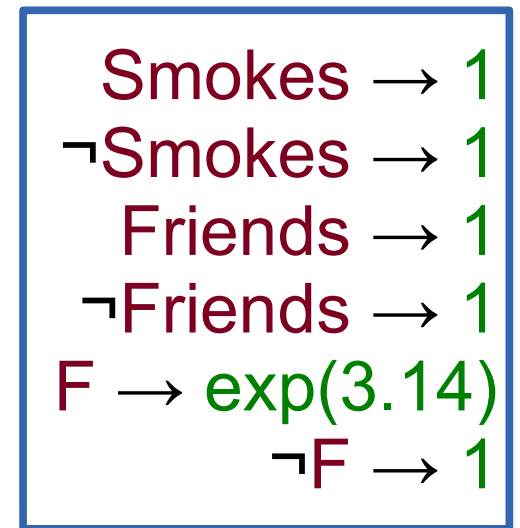


First-Order  
d-DNNF Circuit

# The Full Pipeline



First-Order d-DNNF Circuit



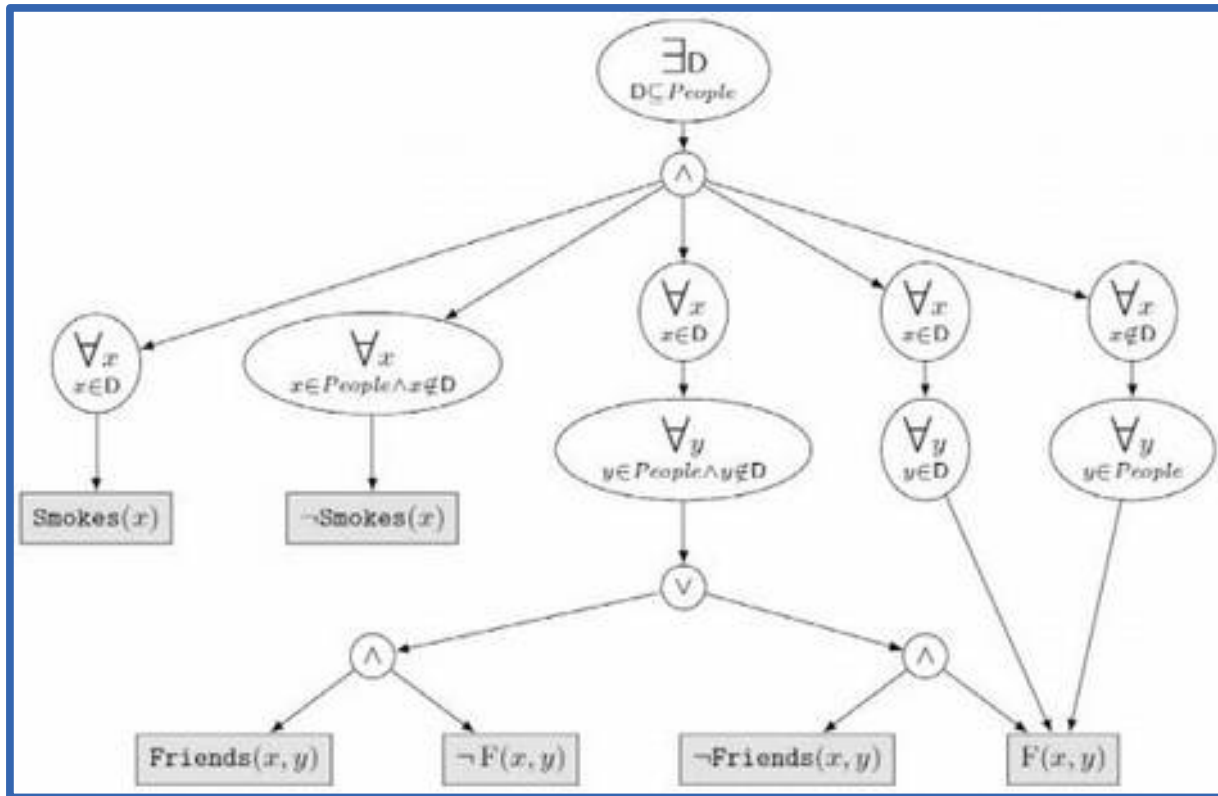
Weight Function



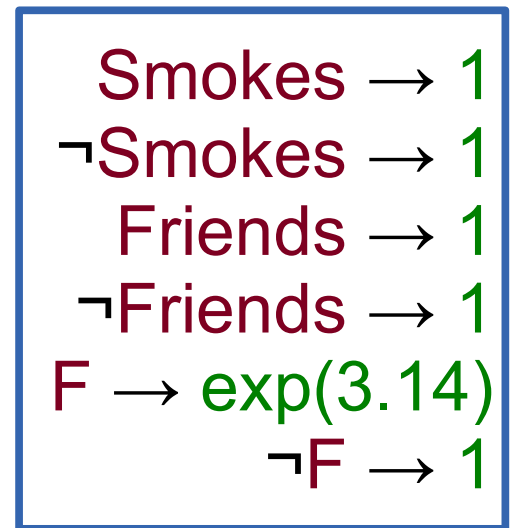
Domain

Weighted First-Order Model Count is 1479.85

# The Full Pipeline



First-Order d-DNNF Circuit



Weight Function



Domain

Weighted First-Order Model Count is **1479.85**

**Circuit evaluation is polynomial in domain size!**

# Assembly Language for Lifted Probabilistic Inference

Computing conditional probabilities with:

- Parfactor graphs
- Markov logic networks
- Probabilistic datalog/logic programs
- Probabilistic databases
- Relational Bayesian networks

All reduces to

**weighted (first-order) model counting**

# Overview

1. What are statistical relational models?
2. What is lifted inference?
3. How does lifted inference work?
- 4. Theoretical insights**
5. Practical applications



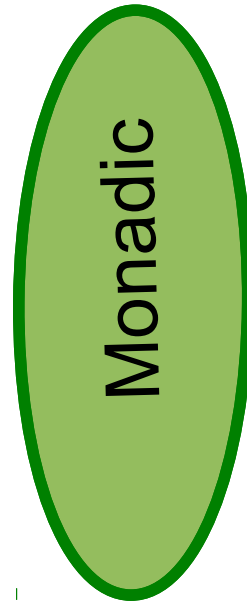
# Liftability Framework

- **Domain-lifted** algorithms run in time polynomial in the domain size ( $\sim$ data complexity).
- A class of inference tasks  $C$  is **liftable** iff there *exists* an algorithm that
  - is domain-lifted and
  - solves all problems in  $C$ .
- Such an algorithm is **complete** for  $C$ .
- Liftability depends on the type of task.

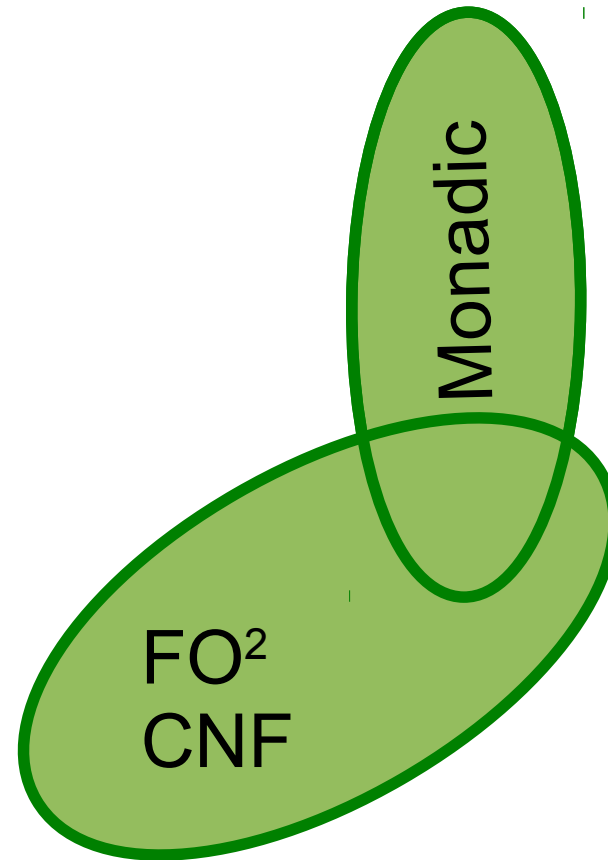
# Liftable Classes

(of model counting problems)

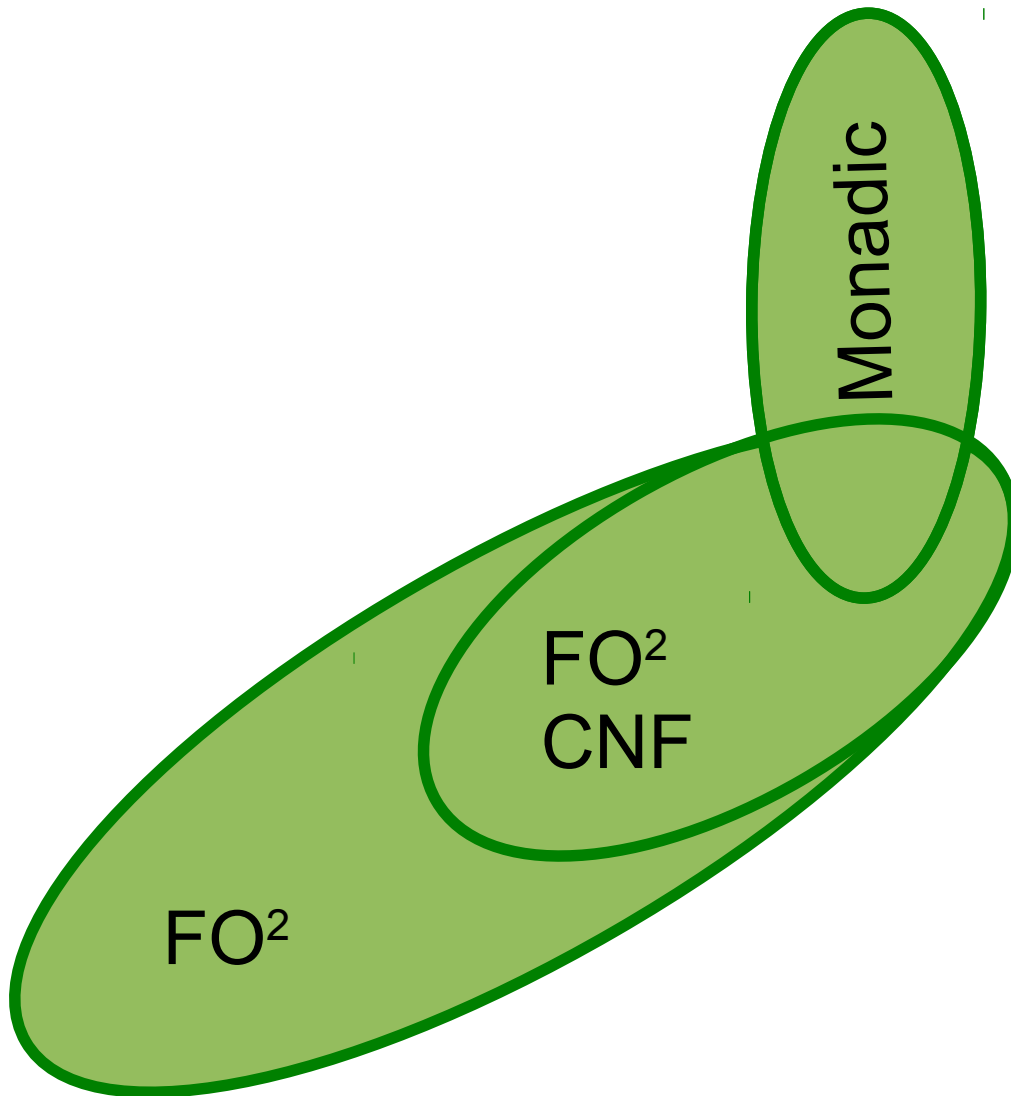
# Liftable Classes



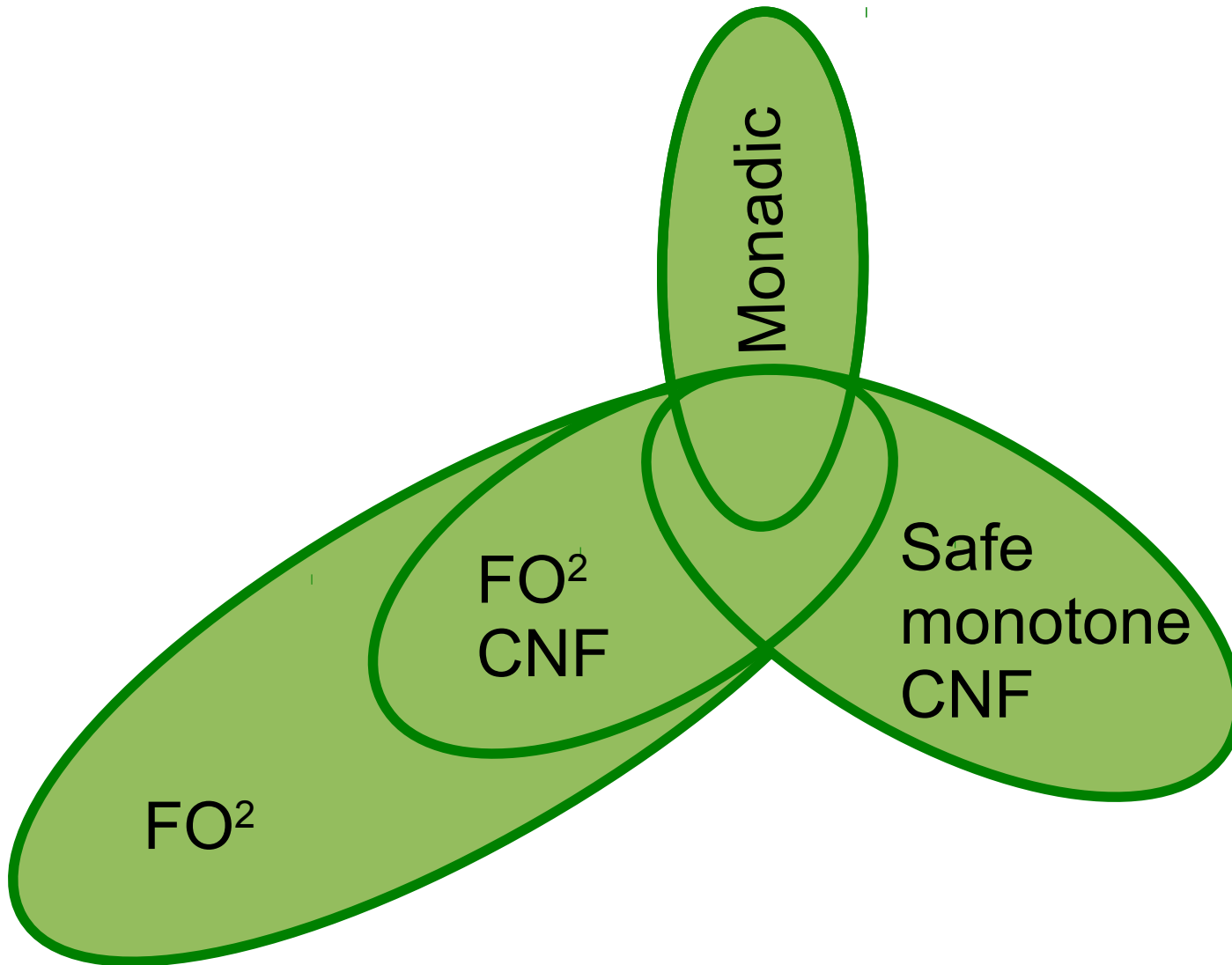
# Liftable Classes



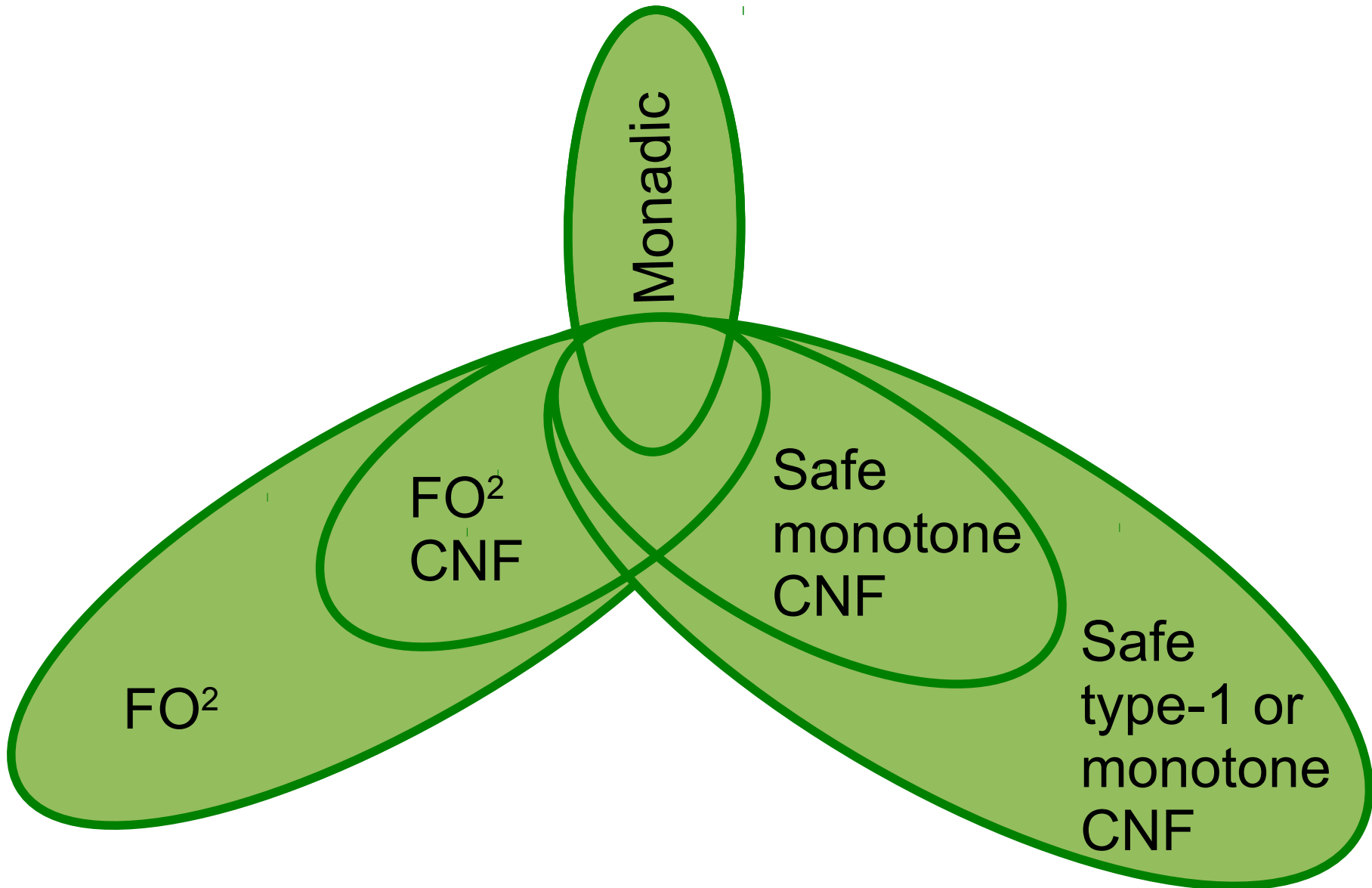
# Liftable Classes



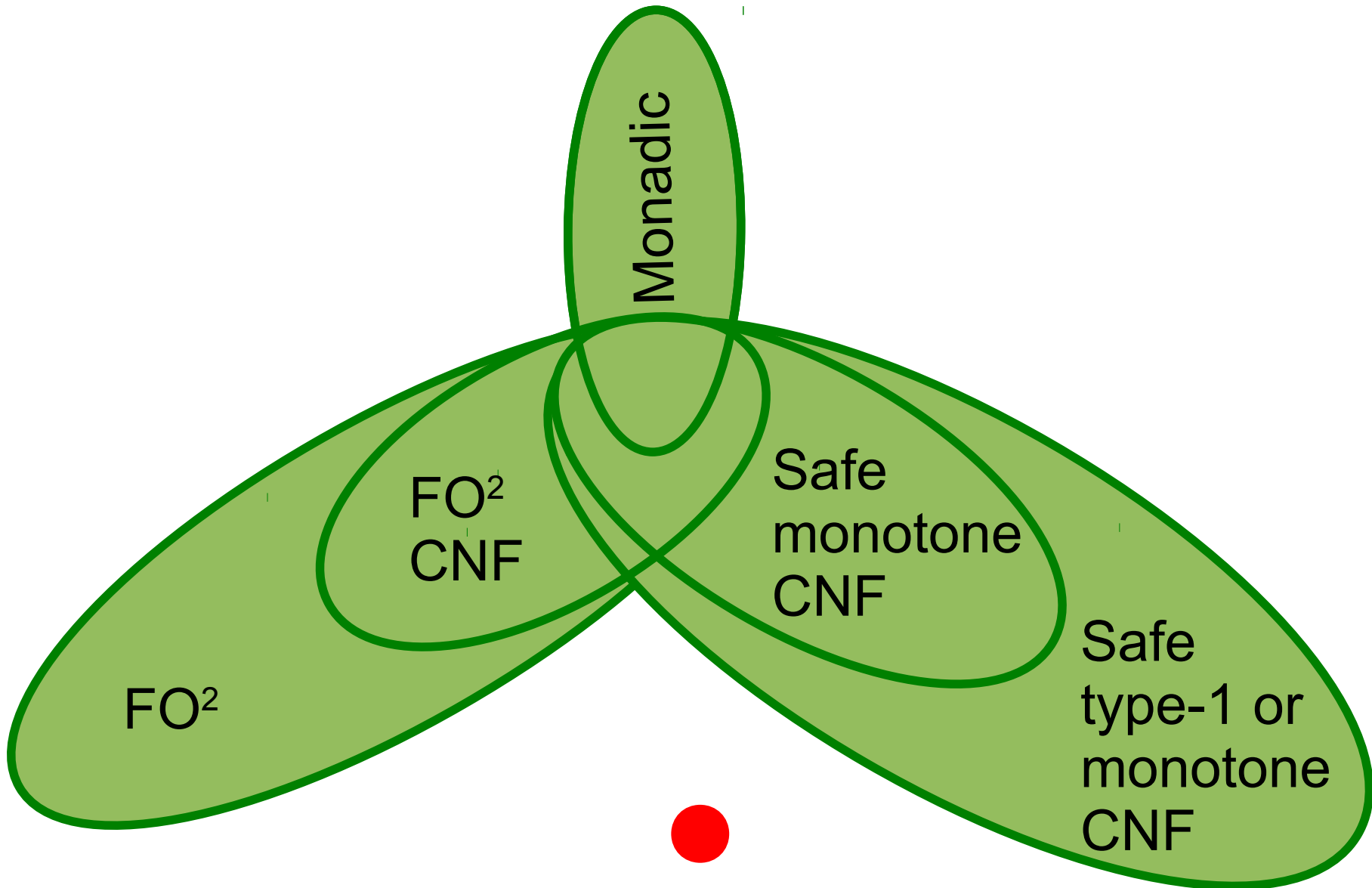
# Liftable Classes



# Liftable Classes

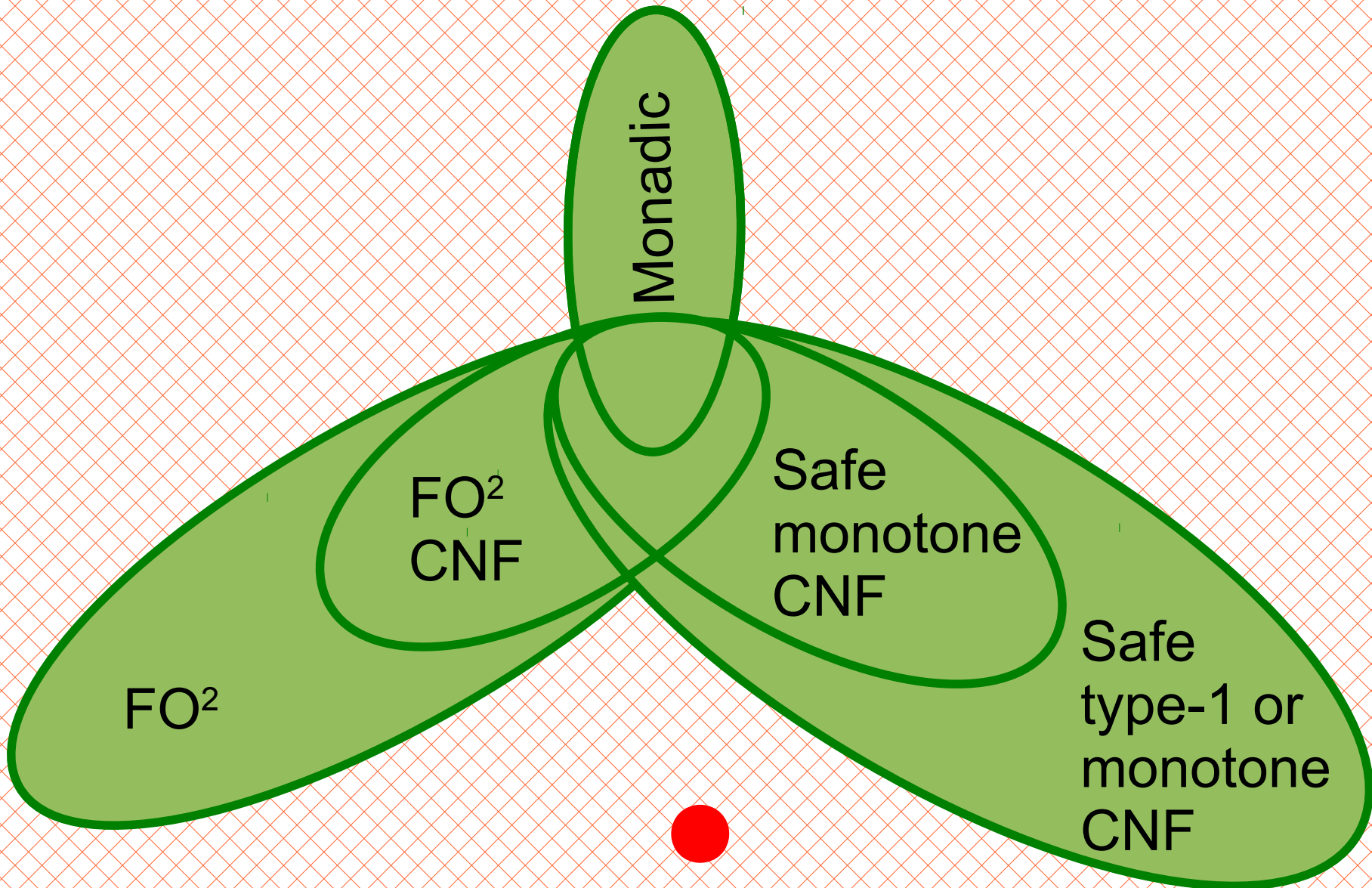


# Liftable Classes





# Liftable Classes



# Positive Liftability Result

X



Y



# Positive Liftability Result

Properties

Smokes(x)

Gender(x)

Young(x)

Tall(x)

X



Properties

Smokes(y)

Gender(y)

Young(y)

Tall(y)

Y



# Positive Liftability Result

Properties

Smokes(x)

Gender(x)

Young(x)

Tall(x)

X



Relations

Friends(x,y)

Colleagues(x,y)

Family(x,y)

Classmates(x,y)

Y



Properties

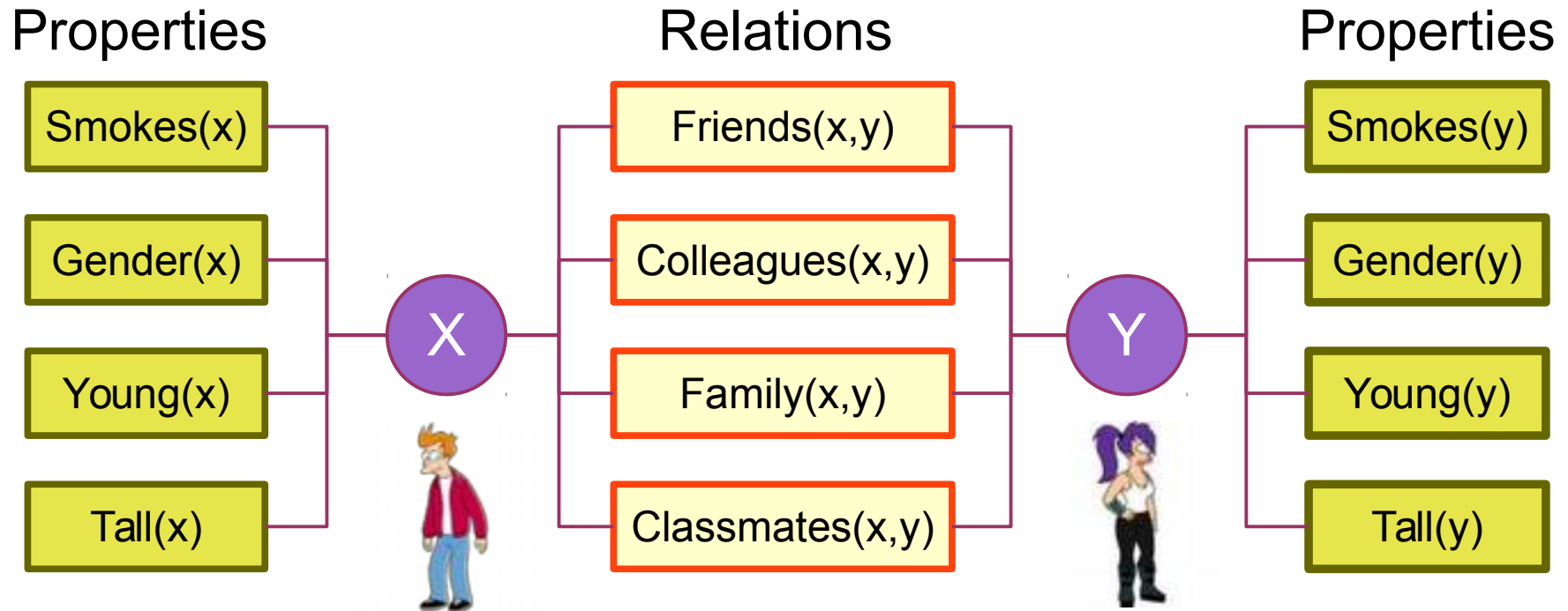
Smokes(y)

Gender(y)

Young(y)

Tall(y)

# Positive Liftability Result



“Smokers are more likely to be friends with other smokers.”

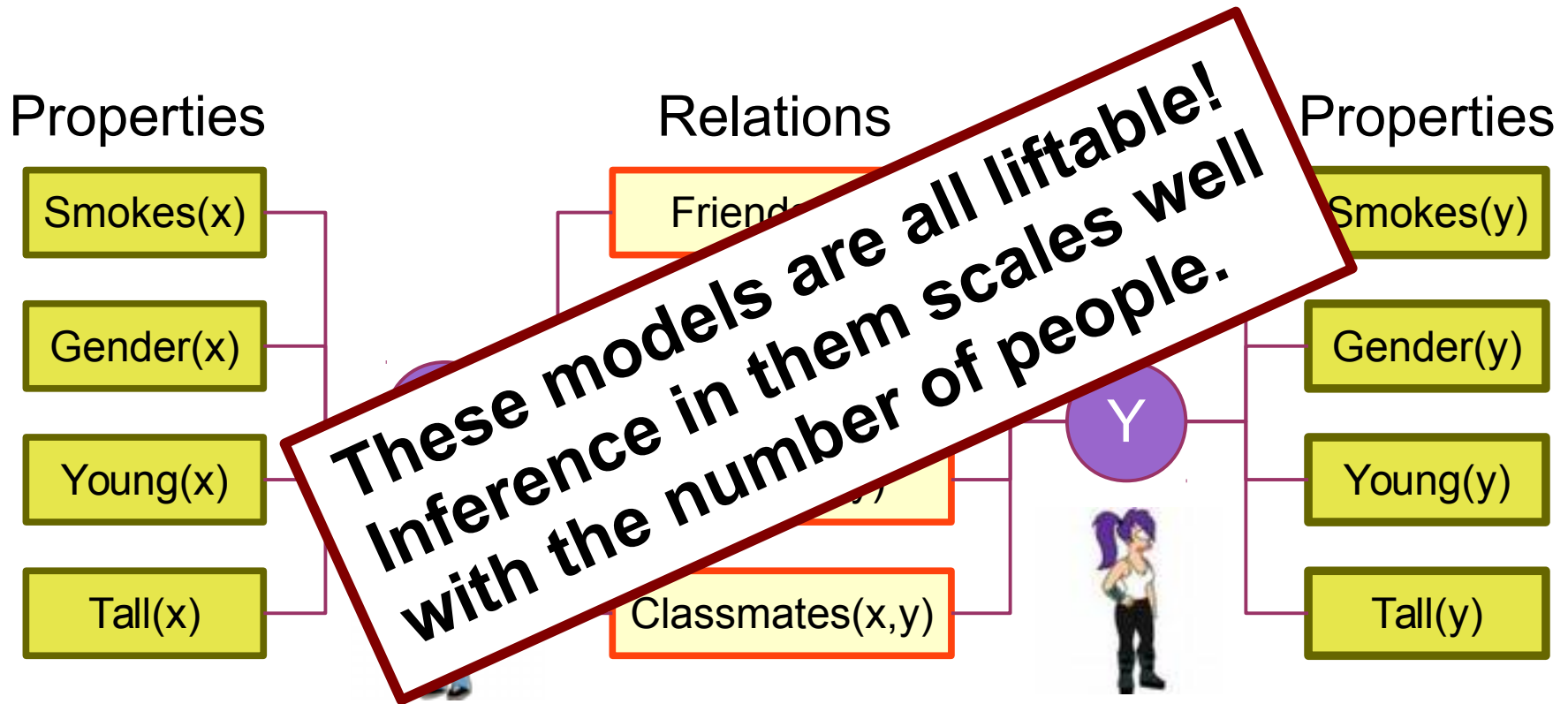
“Colleagues of the same age are more likely to be friends.”

“People are either family or friends, but never both.”

“If X is family of Y, then Y is also family of X.”

“If X is a parent of Y, then Y cannot be a parent of X.”

# Positive Liftability Result



“Smokers are more likely to be friends with other smokers.”

“Colleagues of the same age are more likely to be friends.”

“People are either family or friends, but never both.”

“If X is family of Y, then Y is also family of X.”

“If X is a parent of Y, then Y cannot be a parent of X.”

# Complexity in Size of “Evidence”

- Consider a model liftable for model counting:

$$3.14 \text{ FacultyPage}(x) \wedge \text{Linked}(x,y) \Rightarrow \text{CoursePage}(y)$$

- Given database DB, compute  $P(Q|DB)$ . Complexity in DB size?
  - Evidence on unary relations: **Efficient**

$\text{FacultyPage}(\text{"google.com"})=0, \text{CoursePage}(\text{"coursera.org"})=1, \dots$

- Evidence on binary relations: **#P-hard**

$\text{Linked}(\text{"google.com"}, \text{"gmail.com"})=1, \text{Linked}(\text{"google.com"}, \text{"coursera.org"})=0$

*Intuition: Binary evidence breaks symmetries*

- Evidence on binary relations of Boolean rank  $< k$ : **Efficient**
- Safe monotone or type-1 CNFs: Any evidence is **Efficient**

# Overview

1. What are statistical relational models?
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# Applications of Lifted Inference

- Many applications of SRL
  - Computational biology
  - Social network analysis
  - Robot mapping
  - Activity recognition
  - Personal assistants
  - Natural language processing
  - Information extraction
  - Entity resolution
  - Link prediction
  - Collective classification
  - Web mining
  - etc.
- Plug in (approximate) lifted inference algorithm
- Notable examples in lifted inference literature
  - Content distribution [Kersting-AAAI10]
  - Groundwater analysis [Choi-UAI12]
  - Video segmentation [Nath-StarAI10]

# Lifted Weight Learning

**Given:** a set of first-order logic **formulas**  
a set of training **databases**

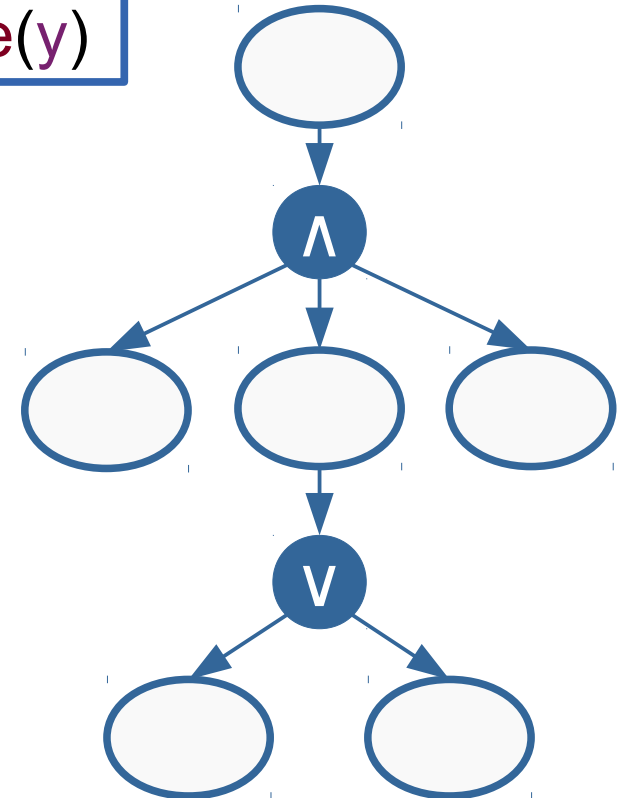
**Learn:** the associated maximum likelihood **weights**

$w$   $\text{FacultyPage}(x) \wedge \text{Linked}(x,y) \Rightarrow \text{CoursePage}(y)$

1 Compile formula into circuit

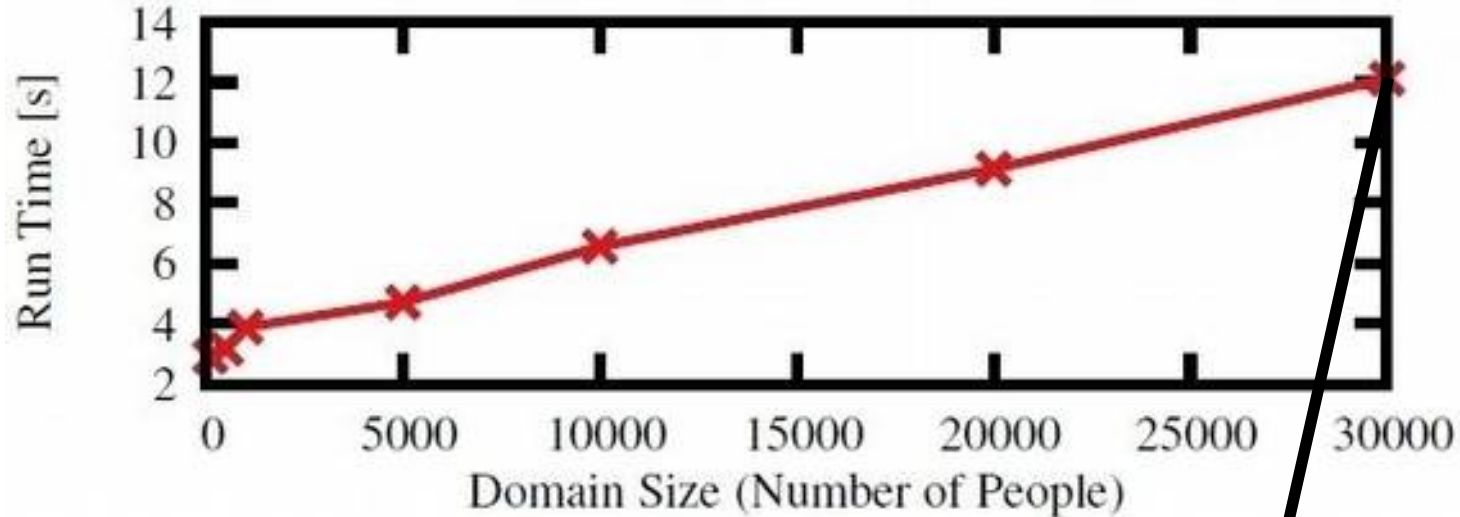
2 Compute maximum likelihood weight  $W$

3 Compute exact likelihood of the model



# Learning Time - Synthetic

$w$   $\text{Smokes}(x) \wedge \text{Friends}(x,y) \Rightarrow \text{Smokes}(y)$



Learns a model over 900,030,000 random variables

# Lifted Structure Learning

**Given:** a set of training **databases**

**Learn:** a set of first-order logic **formulas**  
the associated maximum likelihood **weights**

	IMDb			UWCSE		
	B+PLL	B+LWL	LSL	B+PLL	B+LWL	LSL
Fold 1	-548	-378	<b>-306</b>	-1,860	-1,524	<b>-1,477</b>
Fold 2	-689	-390	<b>-309</b>	-594	-535	<b>-511</b>
Fold 3	-1,157	-851	<b>-733</b>	-1,462	-1,245	<b>-1,167</b>
Fold 4	-415	-285	<b>-224</b>	-2,820	-2,510	<b>-2,442</b>
Fold 5	-413	-267	<b>-216</b>	-2,763	-2,357	<b>-2,227</b>

# “But my data has no symmetries?”

1. All statistical relational models have **abundant symmetries**
2. Some **tasks** do not require symmetries in data
  - Weight learning, partition functions, single marginals, etc.
3. Symmetries of **computation** are not symmetries of data
  - Belief propagation and MAP-LP require weaker automorphisms
4. Over-symmetric **evidence approximation**
  - Approximate  $\Pr(Q|DB)$  by  $\Pr(Q|DB')$
  - $DB'$  has more symmetries than  $DB$ , is more liftable
  - Remove weak asymmetries, e.g. Low-rank matrix factorization
  - Very high speed improvements
  - Low approximation error

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# Conclusions

- Lifted inference is frontier of AI, AR, ML and databases
  - A radically new reasoning paradigm
- No question that we need
  - relational databases and logic
  - probabilistic models and learning
- Many theoretical open problems – fertile ground
- It works in practice
- Long-term outlook: probabilistic inference exploits
  - ~1988: conditional independence
  - ~2000: contextual independence (local structure)
  - ~201?: symmetries

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Thanks!