

Causal Inference: Classical and Quantum

Lecturer: Robert Spekkens
July 6, 2026

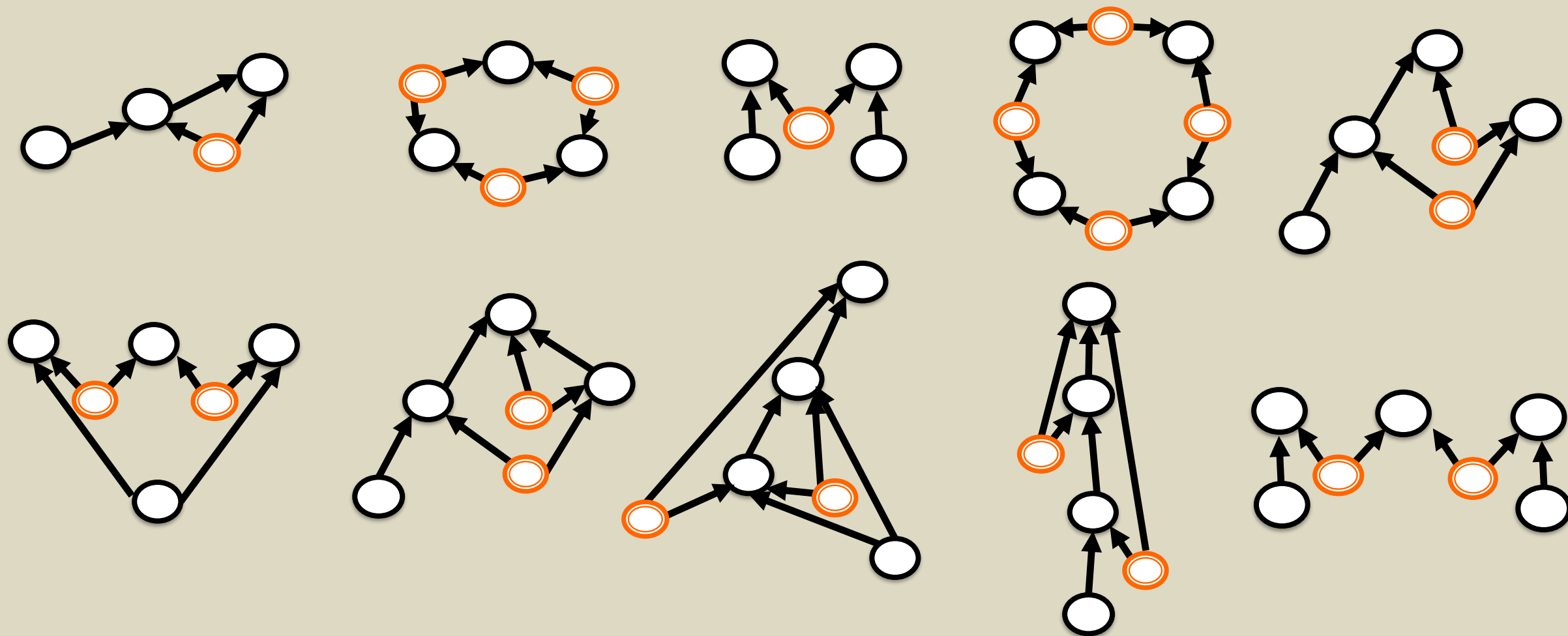
Journeys,
SAIFR, ICTP, Brazil



Causarum Investigatio
“Investigate the causes”

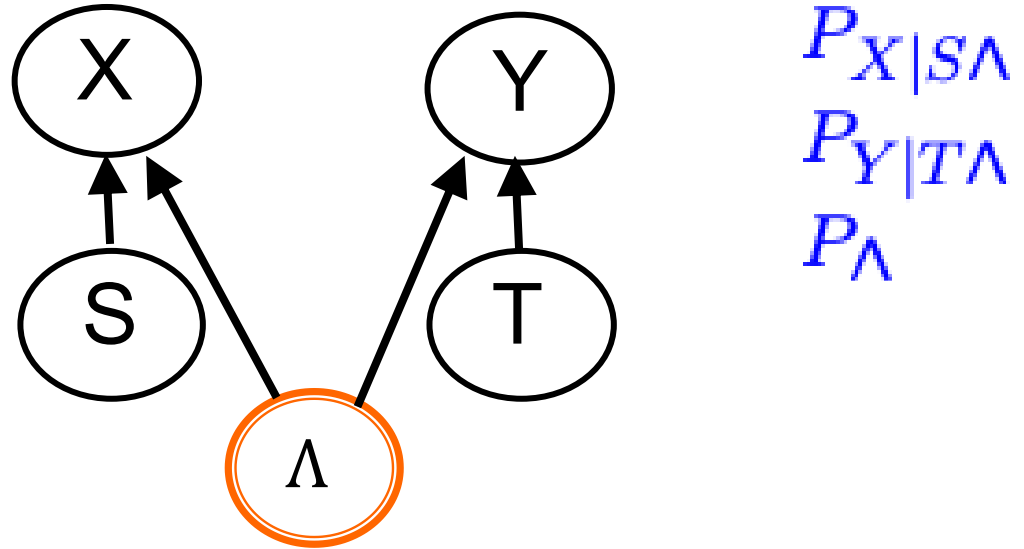
Inequality constraints

Some causal structures that admit of inequality constraints



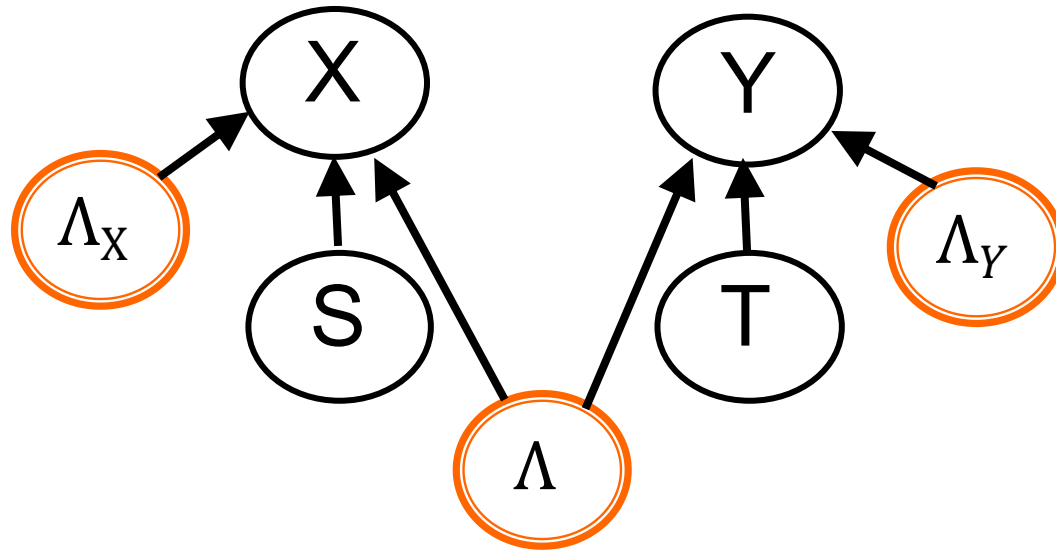
Inequality constraints
by brute-force
quantifier elimination

Bell scenario



$$P_{XY|ST} = \sum_{\Lambda} P_{Y|T\Lambda} P_{X|S\Lambda} P_{\Lambda}$$

Bell scenario



$$X = f_X(S, \Lambda, \Lambda_X)$$

$$Y = f_Y(T, \Lambda, \Lambda_Y)$$

$$P_\Lambda$$

$$P_{\Lambda_X}$$

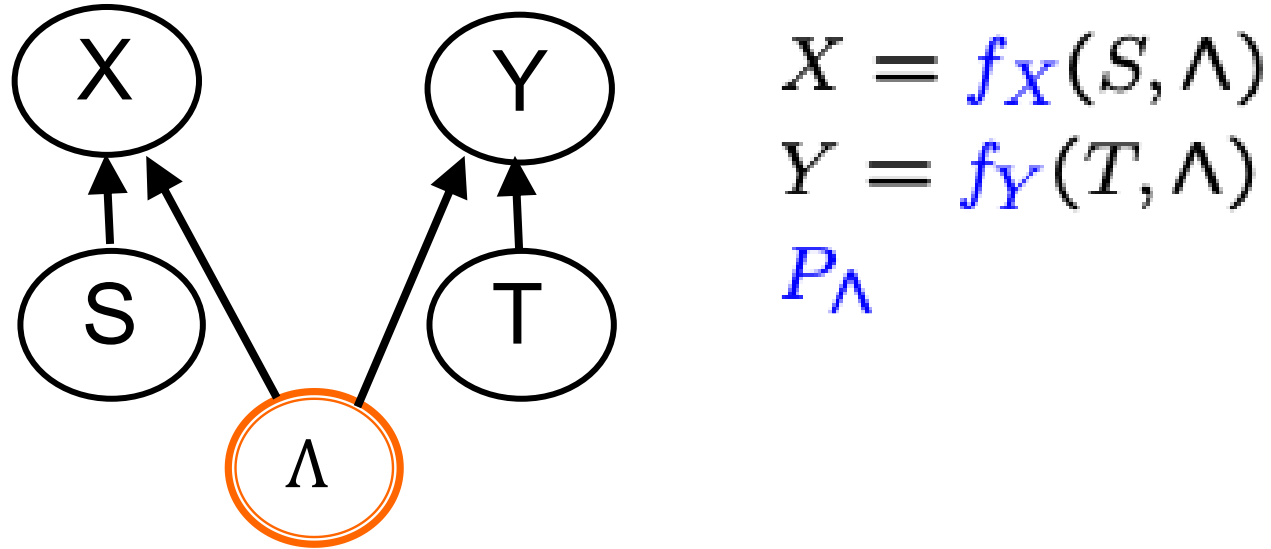
$$P_{\Lambda_Y}$$

$$P_{XY|ST} = \sum_{\Lambda, \Lambda_X, \Lambda_Y} \delta_{X, f_X(S, \Lambda, \Lambda_X)} \delta_{Y, f_Y(T, \Lambda, \Lambda_Y)} P_\Lambda P_{\Lambda_X} P_{\Lambda_Y}$$

$$P_{X|S\Lambda} = \sum_{\Lambda_X} \delta_{X, f_X(S, \Lambda, \Lambda_X)} P_{\Lambda_X}$$

$$P_{Y|T\Lambda} = \sum_{\Lambda_Y} \delta_{Y, f_Y(T, \Lambda, \Lambda_Y)} P_{\Lambda_Y}$$

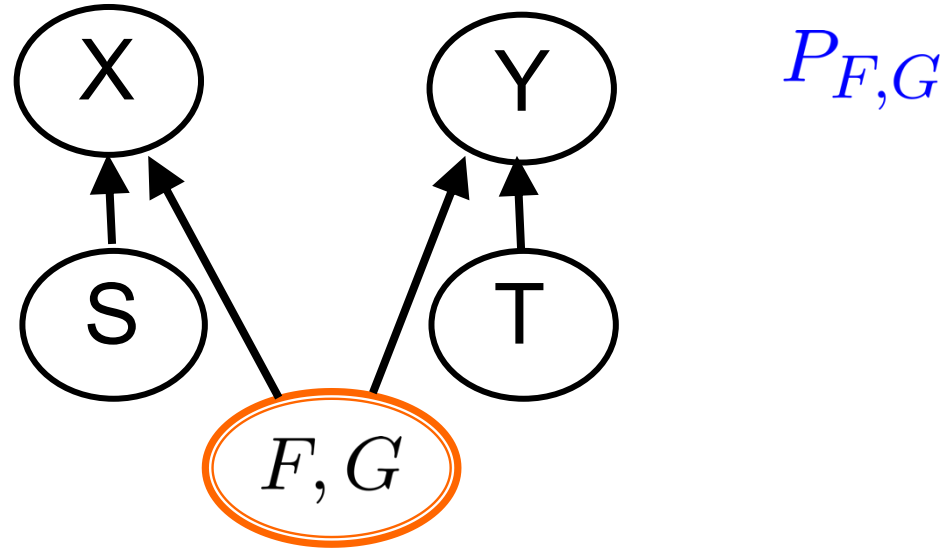
Bell scenario



$$P_{XY|ST} = \sum_{\Lambda} \delta_{X, f_X(S, \Lambda)} \delta_{Y, f_Y(T, \Lambda)} P_\Lambda$$

One can absorb local hidden variables into the common cause hidden variable

Bell scenario



$$P_{XY|ST} = \sum_{f,g} \delta_{X,f(S)} \delta_{Y,g(T)} P_{F,G}(f, g)$$

Gearing: The hidden variable can be taken to stipulate the functional dependences $X=f(S)$ and $Y=g(T)$

$$P_{XY|ST} = \sum_{f,g} \delta_{X,f(S)} \delta_{Y,g(T)} P_{F,G}(f,g)$$

If X,Y,S,T are binary, Λ can have cardinality 16

$$p_{xy|st} := P_{XY|ST}(xy|st)$$

$$q_{fg} := P_{F,G}(f,g)$$

$$x, y, s, t \in \{0, 1\}$$

$$f, g \in \{\mathbf{I}, \mathbf{F}, \mathbf{R}_0, \mathbf{R}_1\}$$

$$p_{00|00} = q_{\mathbf{R}_0, \mathbf{R}_0} + q_{\mathbf{R}_0, \mathbf{I}} + q_{\mathbf{I}, \mathbf{R}_0} + q_{\mathbf{I}, \mathbf{I}}$$

$$p_{00|01} = q_{\mathbf{R}_0, \mathbf{R}_0} + q_{\mathbf{R}_0, \mathbf{F}} + q_{\mathbf{I}, \mathbf{R}_0} + q_{\mathbf{I}, \mathbf{F}}$$

$$0 \leq q_{fg} \leq 1 \quad \forall f, g$$

•
•
•

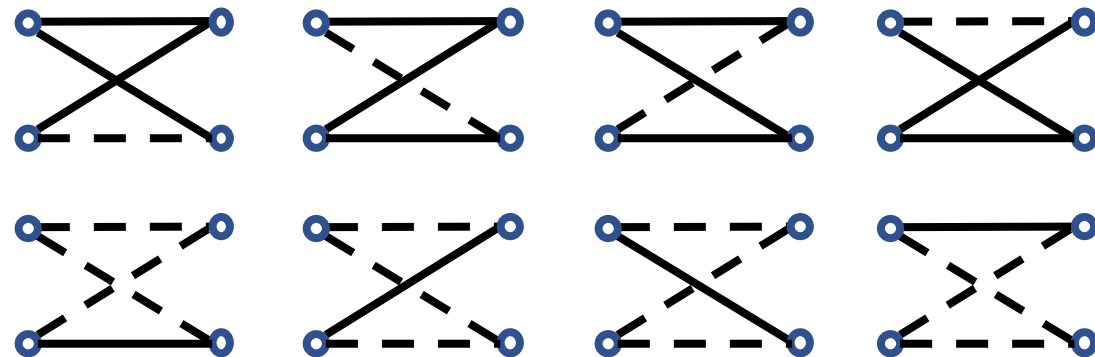
16 linear equalities + inequalities

Do linear quantifier elimination on the 16 q's.

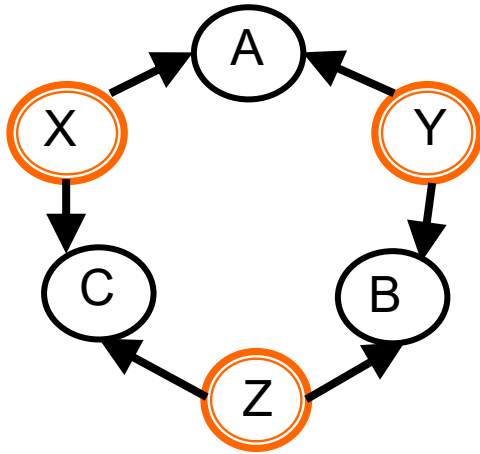
This yields the conditional independence relations and
the 8 CHSH inequalities

$$\begin{aligned}
 P_{X|ST} &= P_{X|S} \\
 P_{Y|ST} &= P_{Y|T} \\
 &\frac{1}{4} \sum_{x=y} P_{XY|ST}(xy|00) + \frac{1}{4} \sum_{x=y} P_{XY|ST}(xy|01) \\
 &\frac{1}{4} \sum_{x=y} P_{XY|ST}(xy|10) + \frac{1}{4} \sum_{x \neq y} P_{XY|ST}(xy|11) \leq \frac{3}{4} \\
 &\quad + 7 \text{ others}
 \end{aligned}$$

Corresponding to the 8 frustrated four-node networks



DAGs for which one can deduce the cardinalities of latent variables in this manner are termed **gearable**
(R. Evans, Annals of Statistics, **46**, 2623 (2018))



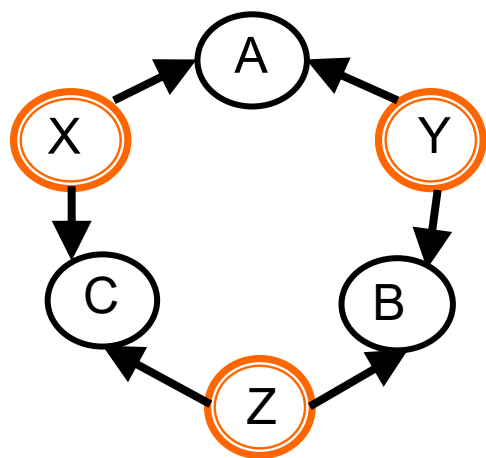
Triangle

The triangle scenario is an example of a DAG that is not gearable

Techniques for determining upper bounds on cardinalities of the latent variables in more general causal structures

R. Evans, Annals of Statistics, 46, 2623 (2018)

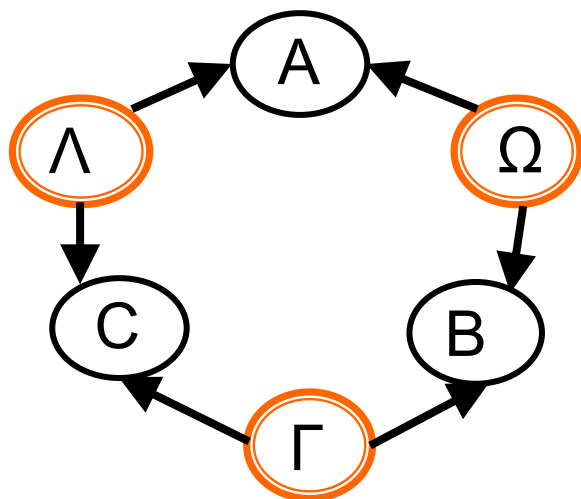
D. Rosset, N. Gisin, and E. Wolfe. Quantum Inf. & Comp. **18**, 0910 (2018)



A, B, C binary $\rightarrow$

Sufficient for
X, Y, Z to be 6-valued

Causal structure



Parameters

$$P_{A|\Lambda\Omega}$$

$$P_{B|\Omega\Gamma}$$

$$P_{C|\Gamma\Lambda}$$

$$P_{\Lambda}$$

$$P_{\Omega}$$

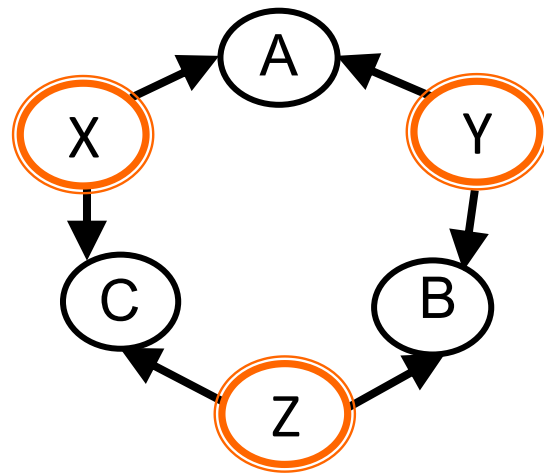
$$P_{\Gamma}$$

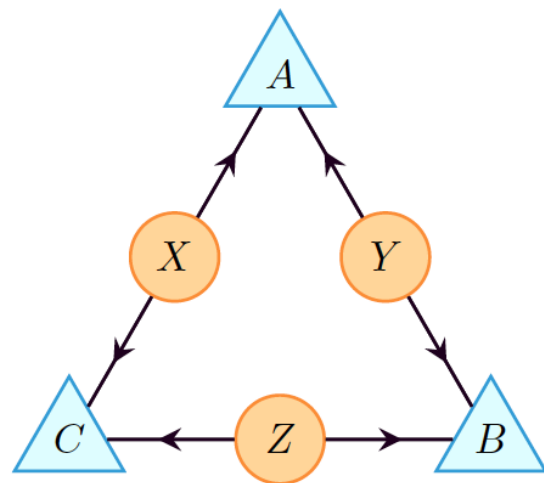
$$P_{ABC} = \sum_{\Lambda\Omega\Gamma} P_{A|\Lambda\Omega} P_{B|\Omega\Gamma} P_{C|\Gamma\Lambda} P_{\Lambda} P_{\Omega} P_{\Gamma}$$

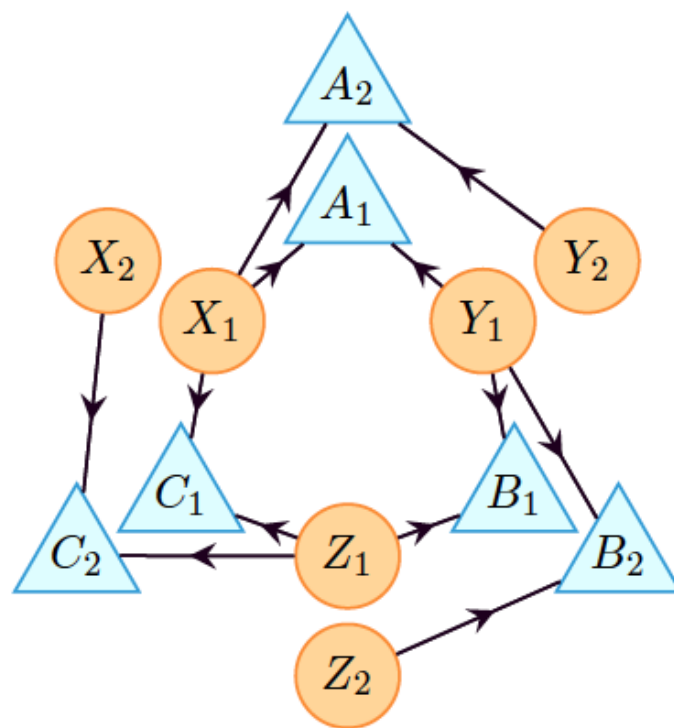
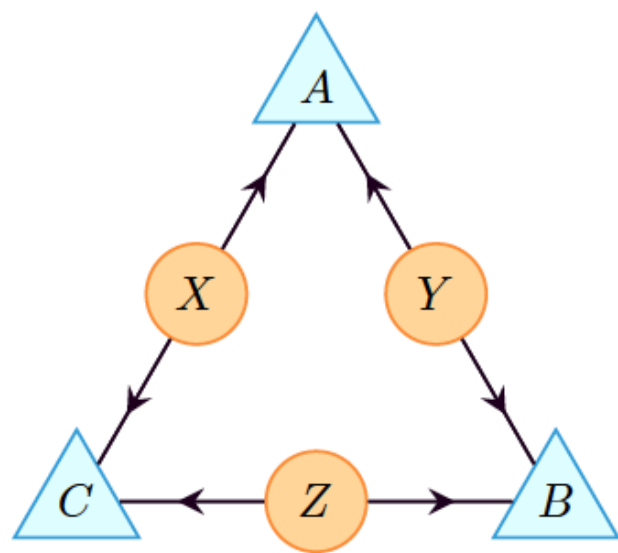
With more than one latent variable,
we require **nonlinear** quantifier elimination
which scales badly

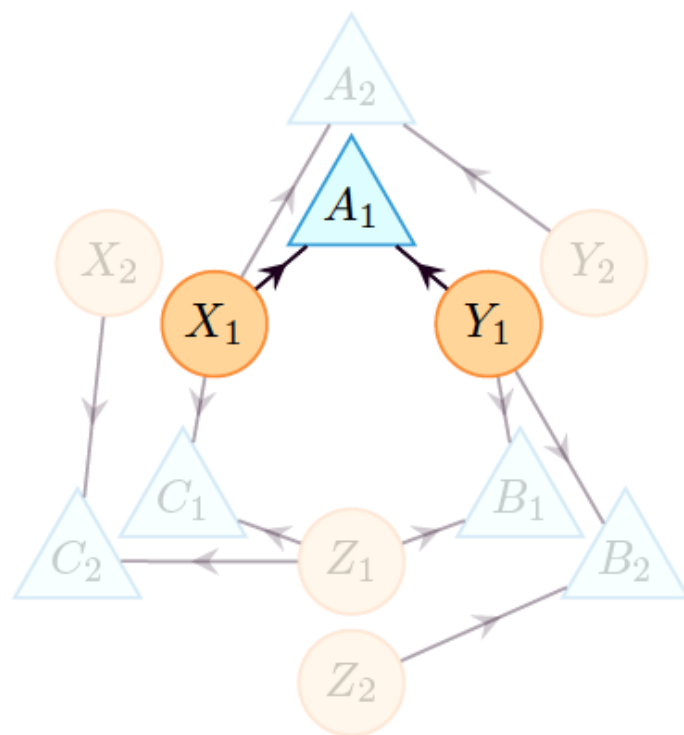
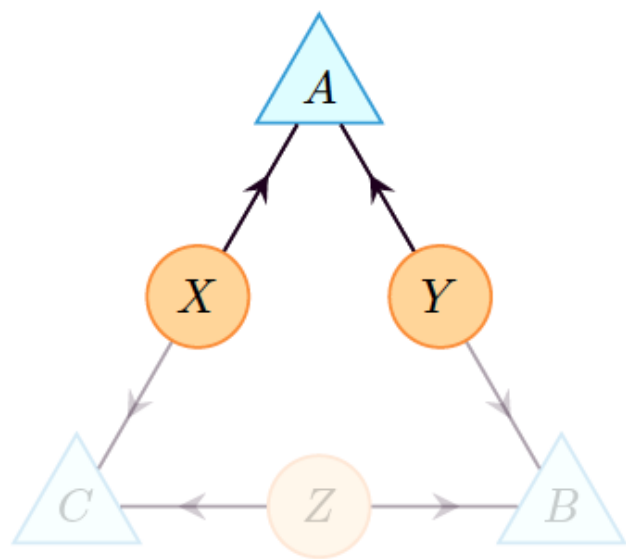
The inflation technique for
deriving inequality constraints

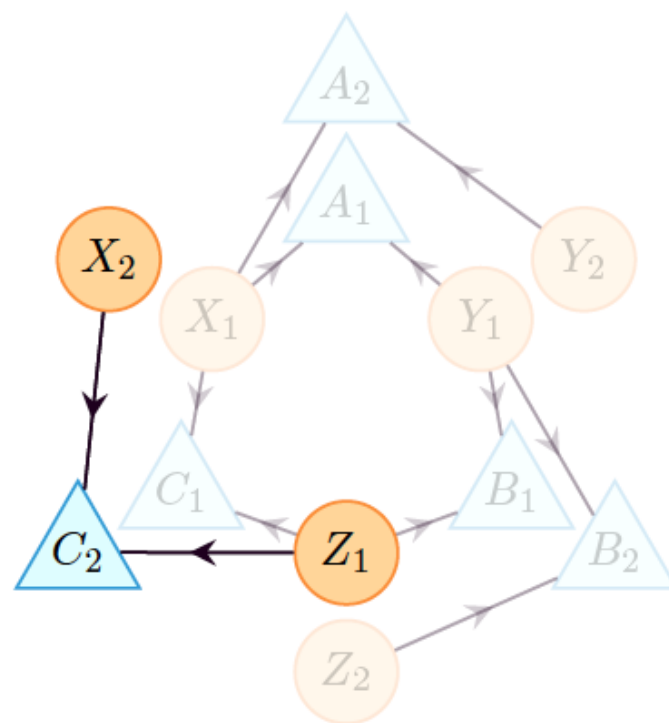
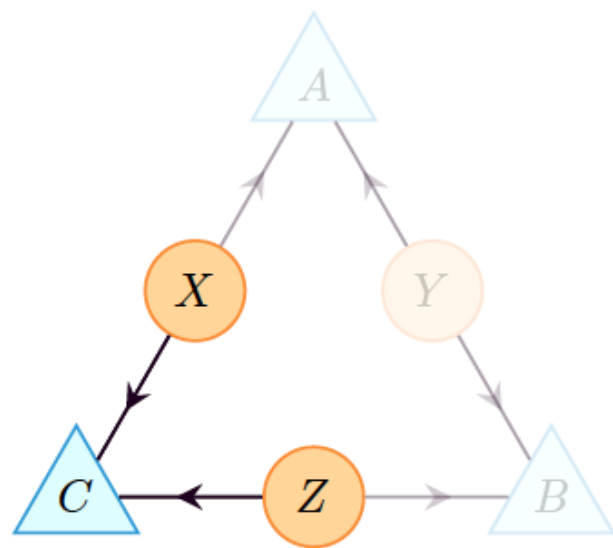
Inflation DAGs

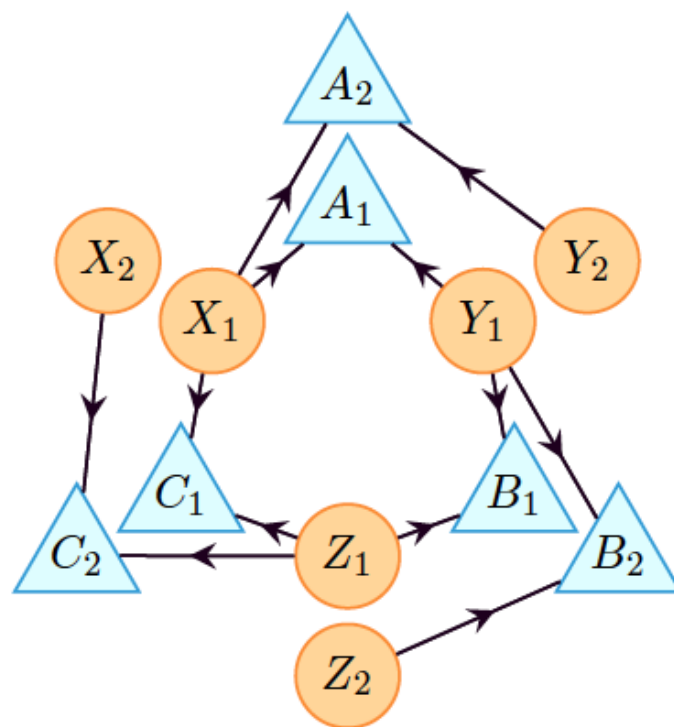
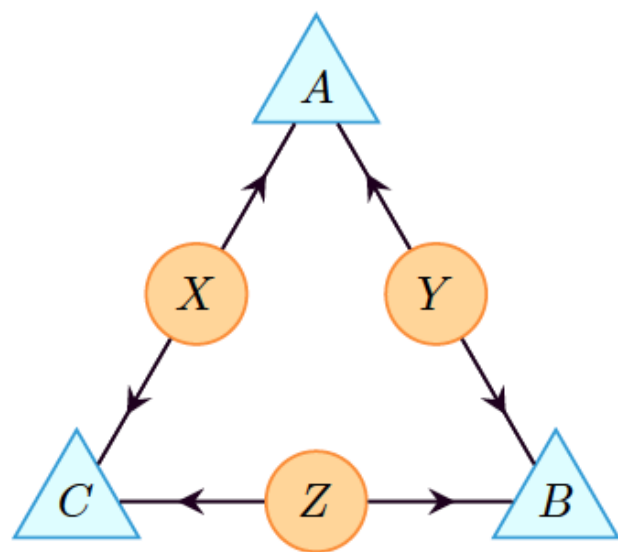












Sameness up to copy-indices

Let $\mathbf{X} \subseteq \text{Nodes}(G)$, $\mathbf{X}' \subseteq \text{Nodes}(G')$

$$\mathbf{X} \sim \mathbf{X}'$$

denotes that $\mathbf{X}'$ contains exactly one copy of every node in $\mathbf{X}$

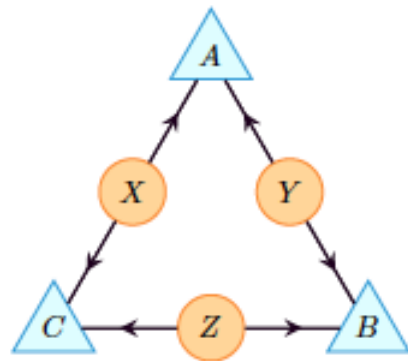
$$\text{ansubgraph}_{G'}(\mathbf{X}') \sim \text{ansubgraph}_G(\mathbf{X}).$$

Denotes that $\mathbf{X} \sim \mathbf{X}'$ and that an edge is present between two nodes in $\mathbf{X}'$ iff it is present between the two associated nodes in $\mathbf{X}$.

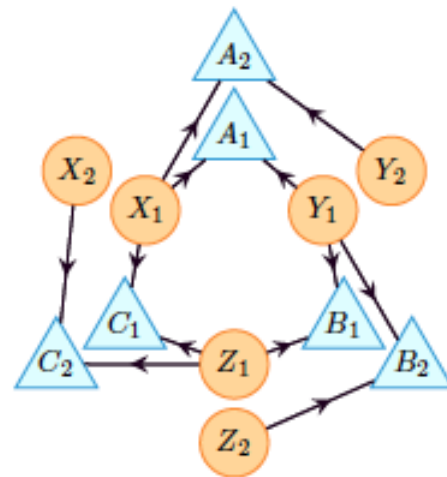
$$G' \in \text{inflations}(G)$$

if and only if

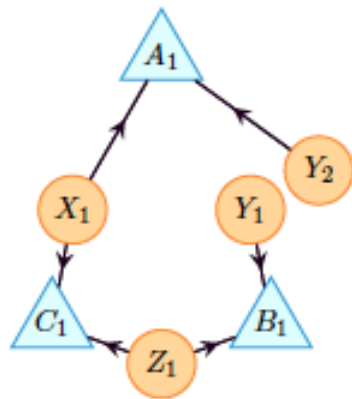
$$\forall A_i \in \text{nodes}(G') : \text{ansubgraph}_{G'}(A_i) \sim \text{ansubgraph}_G(A).$$



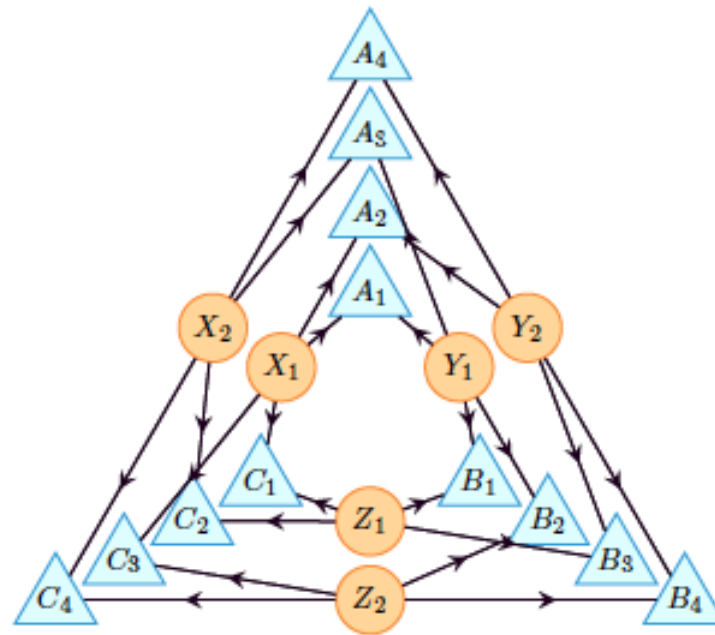
The Triangle Scenario



Spiral Inflation

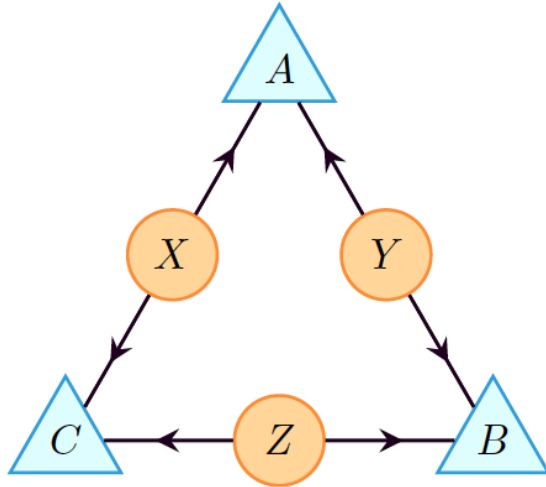


Cut Inflation



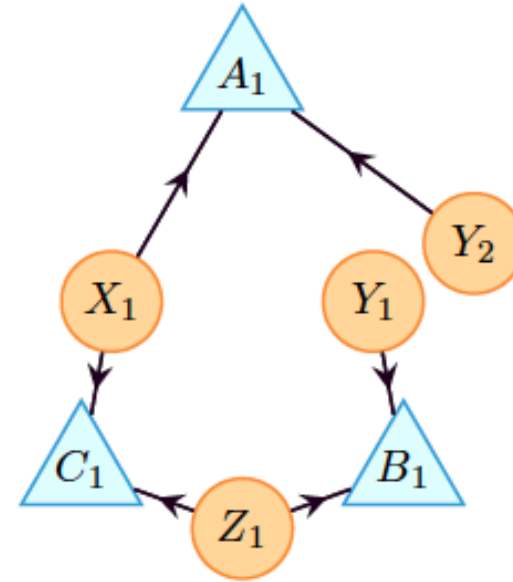
Large Inflation

model M on DAG G



$P_{A|XY}$
 $P_{B|YZ}$
 $P_{C|XZ}$
 P_X
 P_Y
 P_Z

$M' = G \rightarrow G'$ Inflation of M

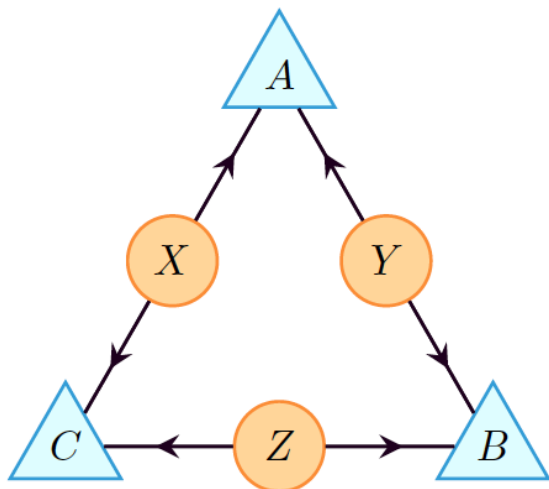


$P_{A_1|X_1Y_2}$
 $P_{B_1|Y_1Z_1}$
 $P_{C_1|X_1Z_1}$
 P_{X_1}
 P_{Y_1}
 P_{Y_2}
 P_{Z_1}

with symmetry constraint:

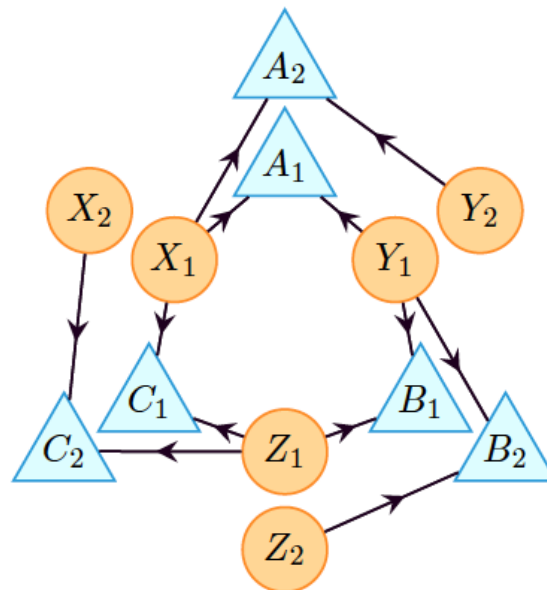
$$P_{Y_1} = P_{Y_2}$$

model M on DAG G



$P_{A|XY}$
 $P_{B|YZ}$
 $P_{C|XZ}$
 P_X
 P_Y
 P_Z

$M' = G \rightarrow G'$ Inflation of M



$P_{A_1 X_1Y_1}$	$P_{A_2 X_1Y_2}$
$P_{B_1 Y_1Z_1}$	$P_{B_2 Y_1Z_2}$
$P_{C_1 X_1Z_1}$	$P_{C_2 X_2Z_1}$
P_{X_1}	P_{X_2}
P_{Y_1}	P_{Y_2}
P_{Z_1}	P_{Z_2}

with symmetry constraints:

$$P_{A_1|X_1Y_1} = P_{A_2|X_1Y_2}$$

$$P_{B_1|Y_1Z_1} = P_{B_2|Y_1Z_2}$$

$$P_{C_1|X_1Z_1} = P_{C_2|X_2Z_1}$$

$$P_{X_1} = P_{X_2}$$

$$P_{Y_1} = P_{Y_2}$$

$$P_{Z_1} = P_{Z_2}$$

Suppose $G' \in \text{inflations}(G)$

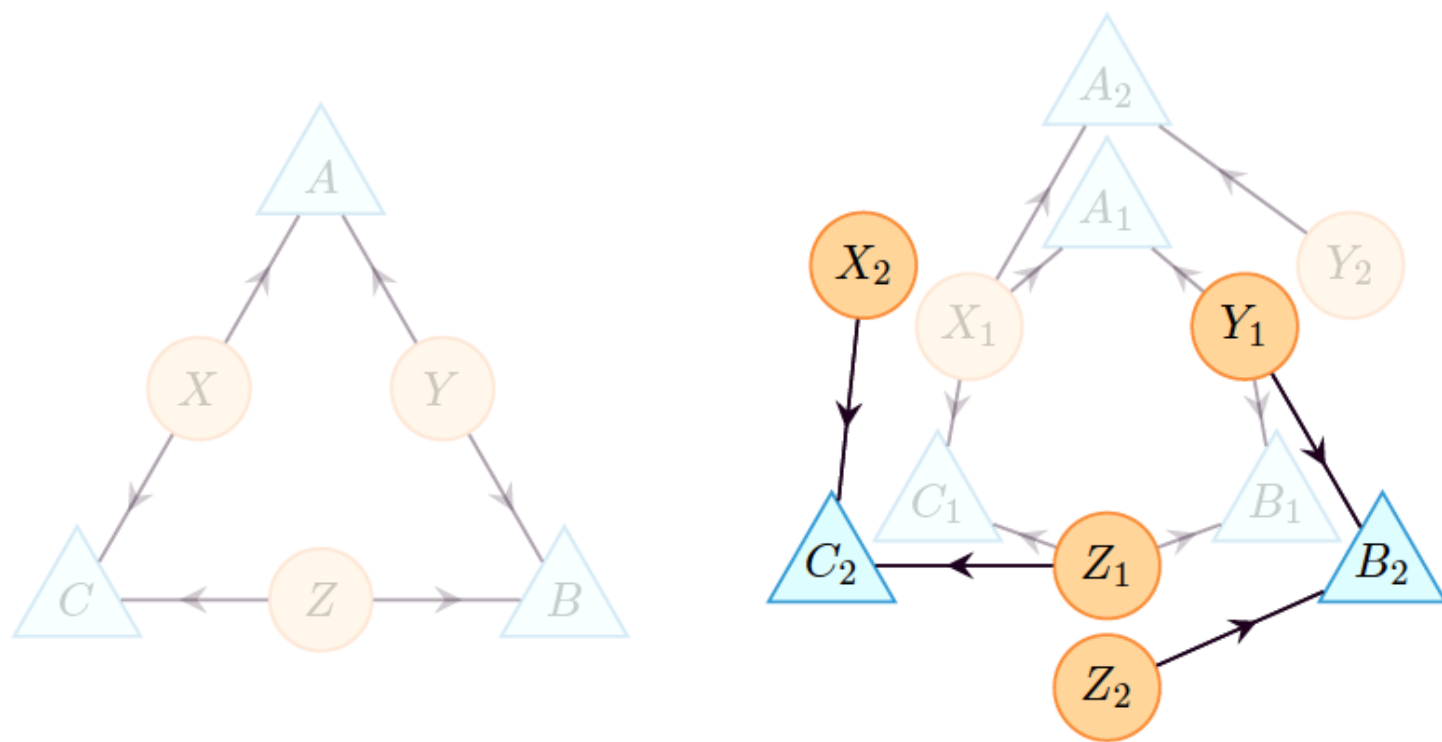
then

$$M' = \text{Inflation}_{G \rightarrow G'}(M)$$

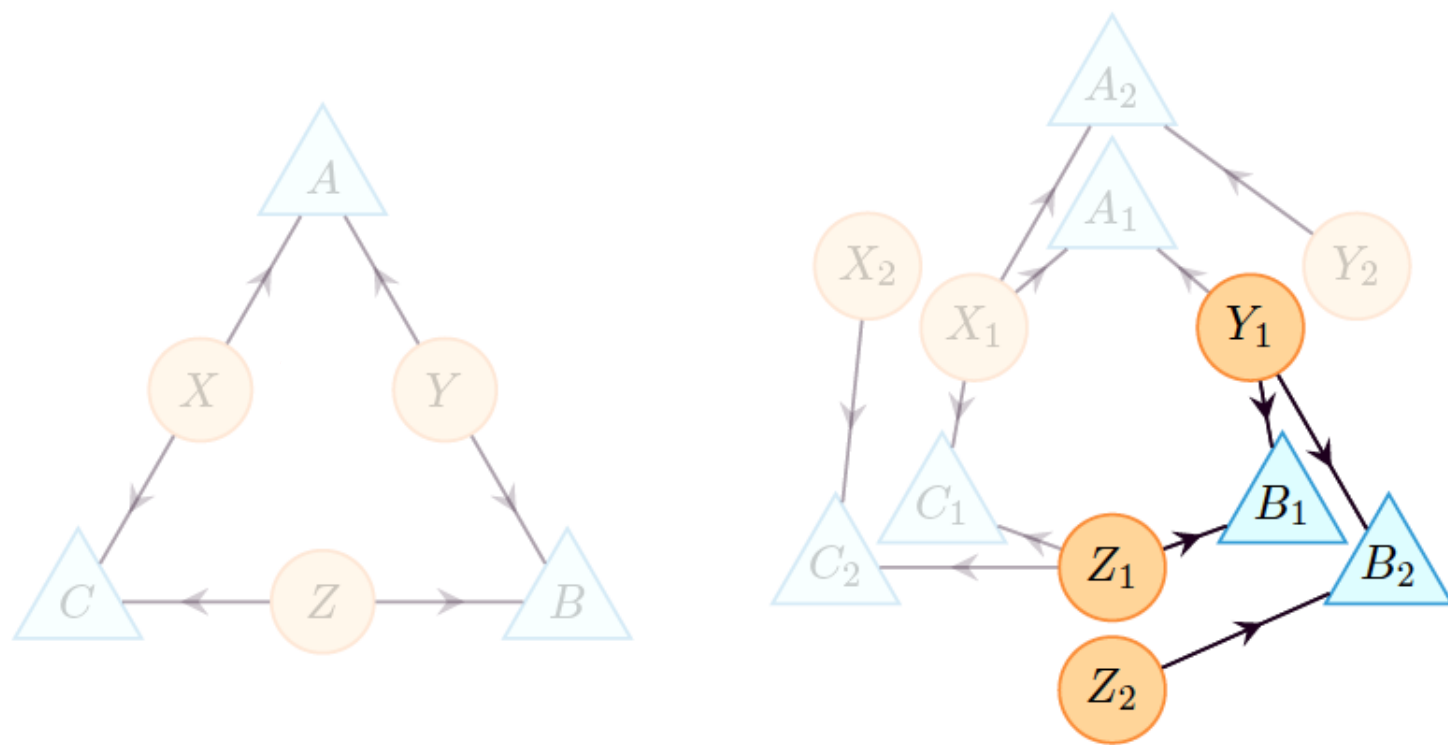
if and only if

$$\forall A_i, A_j \in \text{nodes}(G') : P_{A_i | \text{Pa}_{G'}(A_i)} = P_{A_j | \text{Pa}_{G'}(A_j)}.$$

Injectable sets of observed variables
in the inflation DAG



$\{B_2C_2\}$ is *not* an injectable set



$\{B_1 B_2\}$ is *not* an injectable set

Suppose $G' \in \text{inflations}(G)$

Consider

$$\mathbf{V} \subseteq \text{ObservedNodes}(G)$$

$$\mathbf{V}' \subseteq \text{ObservedNodes}(G')$$

such that

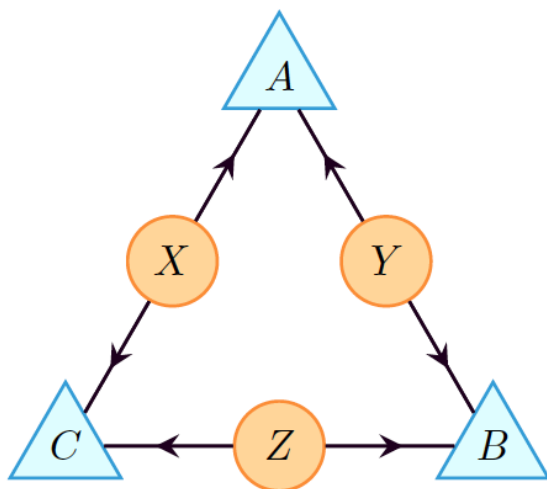
$$\mathbf{V}' \sim \mathbf{V}$$

$$\mathbf{V}' \in \text{InjectableSets}(G') \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{V} \in \text{ImagesInjectableSets}(G)$$

if and only if

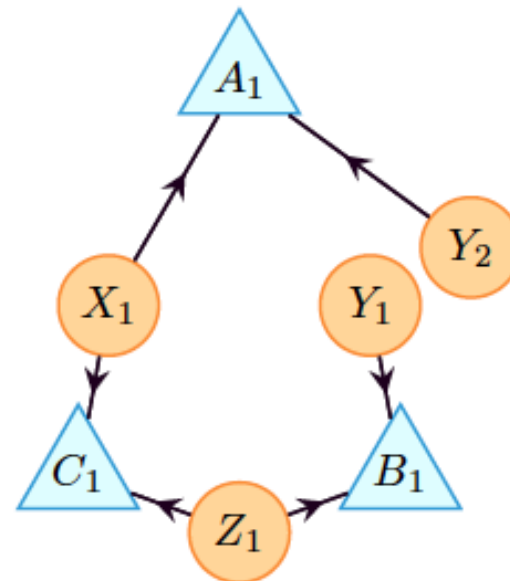
$$\text{ansubgraph}_{G'}(\mathbf{V}') \sim \text{ansubgraph}_G(\mathbf{V}).$$

model M on DAG G



$$\begin{aligned} &P_{A|XY} \\ &P_{B|YZ} \\ &P_{C|XZ} \\ &P_X \\ &P_Y \\ &P_Z \end{aligned}$$

$M' = G \rightarrow G'$ Inflation of M



$$\begin{aligned} &P_{A_1|X_1Y_2} \\ &P_{B_1|Y_1Z_1} \\ &P_{C_1|X_1Z_1} \\ &P_{X_1} \\ &P_{Y_1} \\ &P_{Y_2} \\ &P_{Z_1} \end{aligned}$$

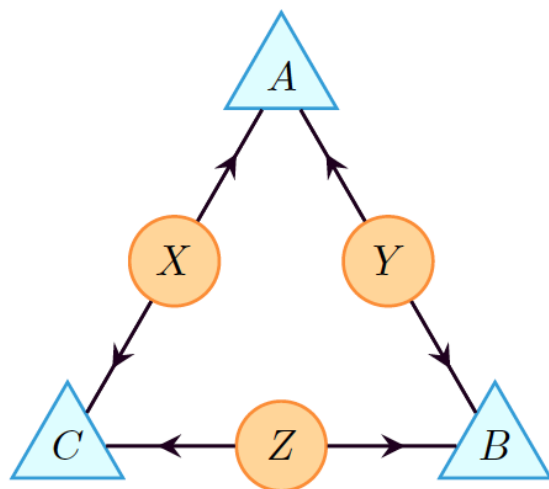
$\{A_1C_1\}$ is an injectable set

$$P_{A_1C_1} = \sum_{X_1Y_2Z_1} P_{A_1|X_1Y_2} P_{C_1|X_1Z_1} P_{X_1} P_{Y_2} P_{Z_1}$$

$$P_{AC} = \sum_{XYZ} P_{A|XY} P_{C|XZ} P_X P_Y P_Z$$

$$P_{AC} \text{ compatible with } M \implies P_{A_1C_1} = P_{AC} \text{ compatible with } M'$$

model M on DAG G



$$P_{A|XY}$$

$$P_{B|YZ}$$

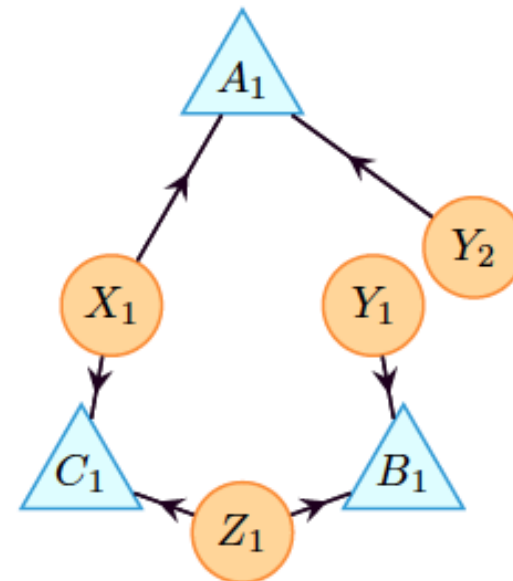
$$P_{C|XZ}$$

$$P_X$$

$$P_Y$$

$$P_Z$$

$M' = G \rightarrow G'$ Inflation of M



$$P_{A_1|X_1Y_2}$$

$$P_{B_1|Y_1Z_1}$$

$$P_{C_1|X_1Z_1}$$

$$P_{X_1}$$

$$P_{Y_1}$$

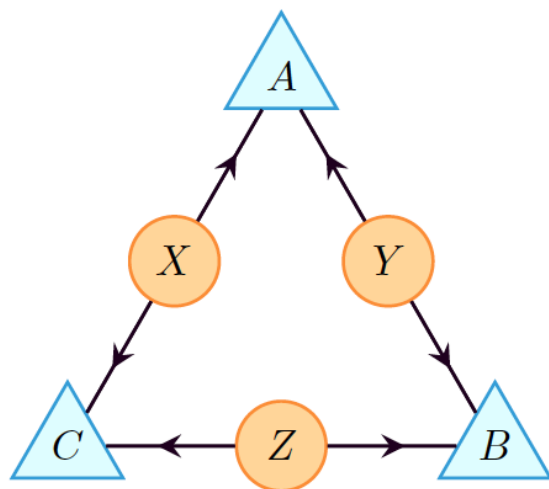
$$P_{Y_2}$$

$$P_{Z_1}$$

$\{A_1B_1\}$ is *not* an injectable set

$$P_{A_1B_1} = \sum_{X_1Y_1Y_2Z_1} P_{A_1|X_1Y_2} P_{B_1|Y_1Z_1} P_{X_1} P_{Y_1} P_{Y_2} P_{Z_1}$$

model M on DAG G



$$P_{A|XY}$$

$$P_{B|YZ}$$

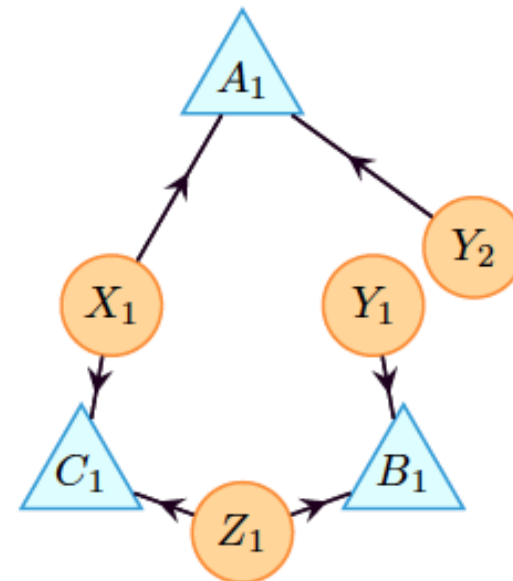
$$P_{C|XZ}$$

$$P_X$$

$$P_Y$$

$$P_Z$$

$M' = G \rightarrow G'$ Inflation of M



$$P_{A_1|X_1Y_2}$$

$$P_{B_1|Y_1Z_1}$$

$$P_{C_1|X_1Z_1}$$

$$P_{X_1}$$

$$P_{Y_1}$$

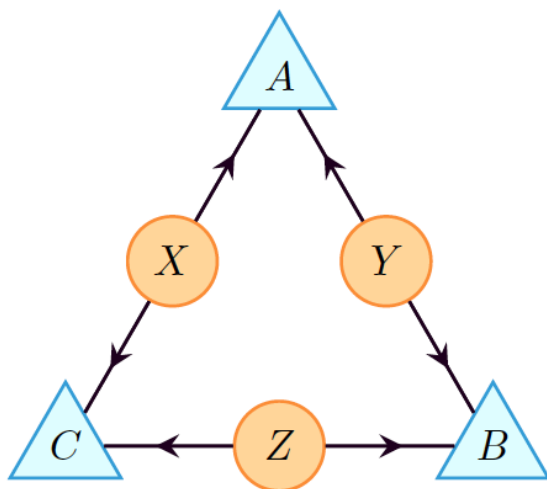
$$P_{Y_2}$$

$$P_{Z_1}$$

$\{A_1B_1\}$ is *not* an injectable set

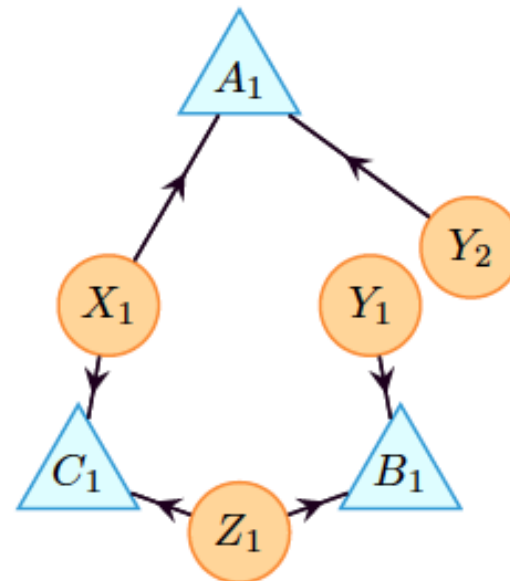
$$P_{A_1B_1} = \left(\sum_{X_1Y_2} P_{A_1|X_1Y_2} P_{Y_2} P_{X_1} \right) \left(\sum_{Z_1Y_1} P_{B_1|Y_1Z_1} P_{Y_1} P_{Z_1} \right)$$

model M on DAG G



$$\begin{aligned} &P_{A|XY} \\ &P_{B|YZ} \\ &P_{C|XZ} \\ &P_X \\ &P_Y \\ &P_Z \end{aligned}$$

$M' = G \rightarrow G'$ Inflation of M



$$\begin{aligned} &P_{A_1|X_1Y_2} \\ &P_{B_1|Y_1Z_1} \\ &P_{C_1|X_1Z_1} \\ &P_{X_1} \\ &P_{Y_1} \\ &P_{Y_2} \\ &P_{Z_1} \end{aligned}$$

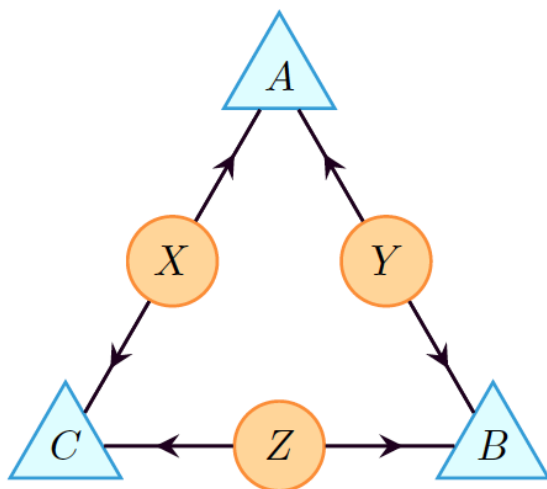
$\{A_1B_1\}$ is *not* an injectable set

$$P_{A_1B_1} = \left(\sum_{X_1Y_2} P_{A_1|X_1Y_2} P_{Y_2} P_{X_1} \right) \left(\sum_{Z_1Y_1} P_{B_1|Y_1Z_1} P_{Y_1} P_{Z_1} \right)$$

$$P_{AB} = \sum_{XYZ} P_{A|XY} P_{B|YZ} P_X P_Y P_Z$$

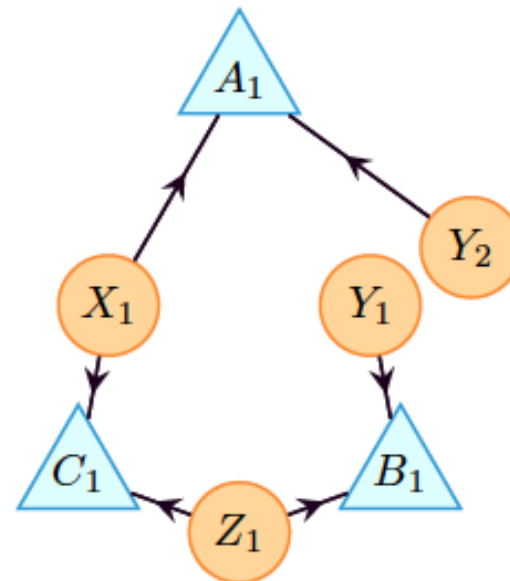
$$P_{AB} \text{ compatible with } M \not\Rightarrow P_{A_1B_1} = P_{AB} \text{ compatible with } M'$$

model M on DAG G



$P_{A|XY}$
 $P_{B|YZ}$
 $P_{C|XZ}$
 P_X
 P_Y
 P_Z

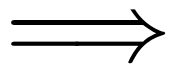
$M' = G \rightarrow G'$ Inflation of M



$P_{A_1|X_1Y_2}$
 $P_{B_1|Y_1Z_1}$
 $P_{C_1|X_1Z_1}$
 P_{X_1}
 P_{Y_1}
 P_{Y_2}
 P_{Z_1}

Injectable sets: $\{A_1\}, \{B_1\}, \{C_1\}, \{A_1C_1\}, \{B_1C_1\}$

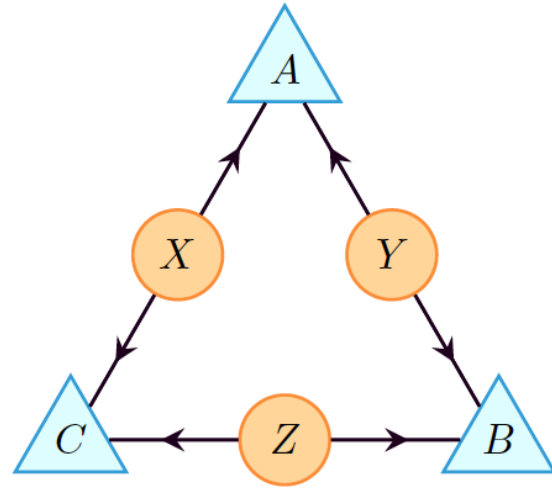
$(P_A, P_B, P_C, P_{AC}, P_{BC})$
 compatible with M



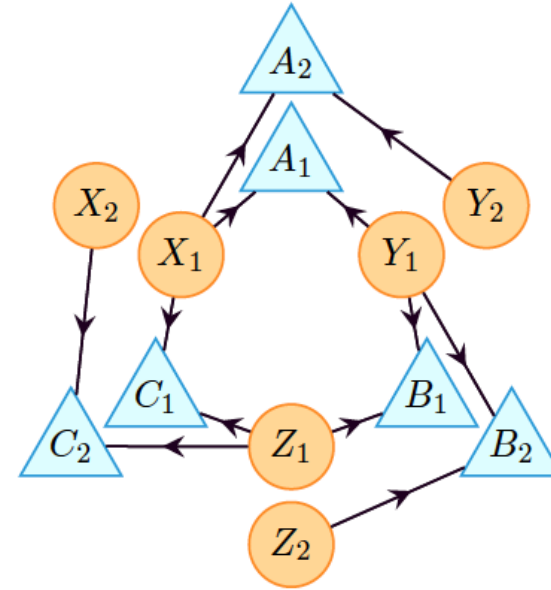
$(P_{A_1}, P_{B_1}, P_{C_1}, P_{A_1C_1}, P_{B_1C_1})$
 compatible with M'

where $P_{A_1} = P_A$ $P_{A_1C_1} = P_{AC}$
 $P_{B_1} = P_B$ $P_{B_1C_1} = P_{BC}$
 $P_{C_1} = P_C$

model M on DAG G



$M' = G \rightarrow G'$ Inflation of M



Injectable sets: $\{A_1\}, \{B_1\}, \{C_1\}, \{A_2\}, \{B_2\}, \{C_2\},$
 $\{A_1B_1\}, \{A_1, B_2\}, \{B_1C_1\}, \{B_1, C_2\}, \{C_1, A_1\}, \{C_1, A_2\},$
 $\{A_1B_1C_1\}$

$M' = G \rightarrow G'$ Inflation of M

$$\mathcal{S} \subseteq \text{ImagesInjectableSets}(G)$$

$$\mathcal{S}' \subseteq \text{InjectableSets}(G')$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \{P_{\mathbf{V}} : \mathbf{V} \in \mathcal{S}\} & \implies & \{P_{\mathbf{V}'} : \mathbf{V}' \in \mathcal{S}'\} \\ \text{is compatible with } M & & \text{where } P_{\mathbf{V}'} = P_{\mathbf{V}} \text{ for } \mathbf{V}' \sim \mathbf{V} \\ & & \text{is compatible with } M' \end{array}$$

$M' = G \rightarrow G'$ Inflation of M

$$\mathcal{S} \subseteq \text{ImagesInjectableSets}(G)$$

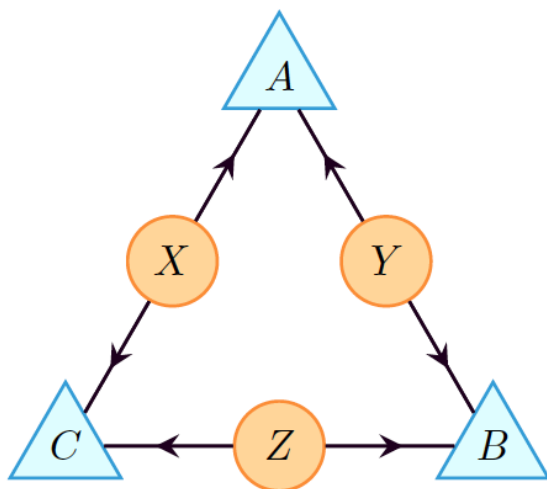
$$\mathcal{S}' \subseteq \text{InjectableSets}(G')$$

$\{P_{\mathbf{V}} : \mathbf{V} \in \mathcal{S}\}$
is **not** compatible with M



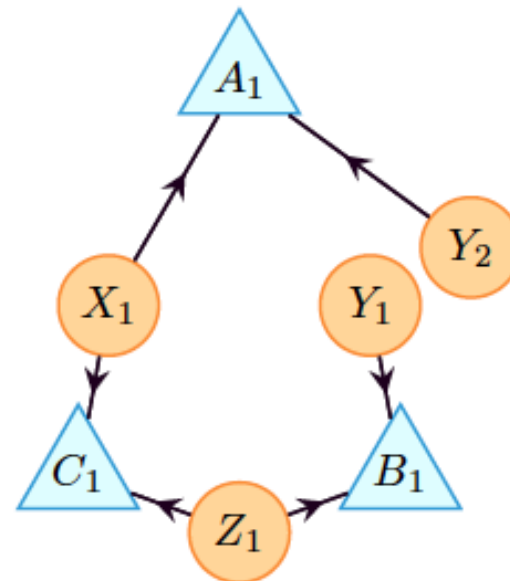
$\{P_{\mathbf{V}'} : \mathbf{V}' \in \mathcal{S}'\}$
where $P_{\mathbf{V}'} = P_{\mathbf{V}}$ for $\mathbf{V}' \sim \mathbf{V}$
is **not** compatible with M'

model M on DAG G



$P_{A|XY}$
 $P_{B|YZ}$
 $P_{C|XZ}$
 P_X
 P_Y
 P_Z

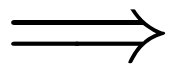
$M' = G \rightarrow G'$ Inflation of M



$P_{A_1|X_1Y_2}$
 $P_{B_1|Y_1Z_1}$
 $P_{C_1|X_1Z_1}$
 P_{X_1}
 P_{Y_1}
 P_{Y_2}
 P_{Z_1}

Injectable sets: $\{A_1\}, \{B_1\}, \{C_1\}, \{A_1C_1\}, \{B_1C_1\}$

$(P_A, P_B, P_C, P_{AC}, P_{BC})$
 compatible with M



$(P_{A_1}, P_{B_1}, P_{C_1}, P_{A_1C_1}, P_{B_1C_1})$
 compatible with M'

where $P_{A_1} = P_A$ $P_{A_1C_1} = P_{AC}$
 $P_{B_1} = P_B$ $P_{B_1C_1} = P_{BC}$
 $P_{C_1} = P_C$

Deriving
causal compatibility inequalities
by the inflation technique

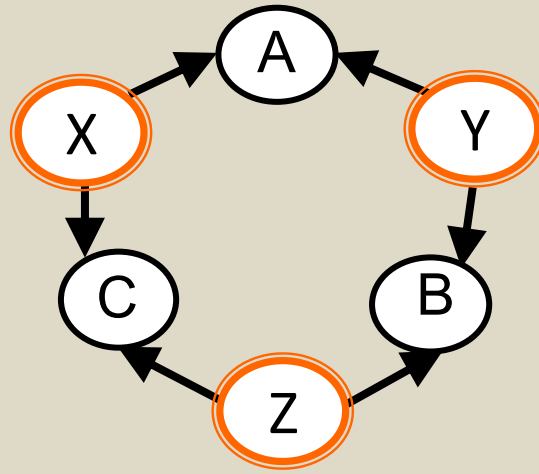
Let $I_{\mathcal{S}}$ be an inequality that acts on
the family of distributions $\{P_{\mathbf{V}} : \mathbf{V} \in \mathcal{S}\}$

such that whenever

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \{P_{\mathbf{V}} : \mathbf{V} \in \mathcal{S}\} & \implies & I_{\mathcal{S}} \text{ is **satisfied** for} \\ \text{is compatible with } M & & \{P_{\mathbf{V}} : \mathbf{V} \in \mathcal{S}\} \end{array}$$

we say that

$I_{\mathcal{S}}$ is a **causal compatibility inequality** for model M



$$P_A + P_B + P_C - P_A P_B - P_{BC} - P_{AC} \leq 1$$

causal compatibility inequality

$M' = G \rightarrow G'$ Inflation of M

$\mathcal{S} \subseteq \text{ImagesInjectableSets}(G)$

$\mathcal{S}' \subseteq \text{InjectableSets}(G')$

$I_{\mathcal{S}'}$ is a **causal compatibility inequality** for model M'

$\{P_{\mathbf{V}} : \mathbf{V} \in \mathcal{S}\}$
 is compatible with M
 $\implies$
 $\{P_{\mathbf{V}'} : \mathbf{V}' \in \mathcal{S}'\}$
 where $P_{\mathbf{V}'} = P_{\mathbf{V}}$ for $\mathbf{V}' \sim \mathbf{V}$
 is compatible with M'

$\Downarrow$

$I_{\mathcal{S}}$ is **satisfied** for
 $\{P_{\mathbf{V}} : \mathbf{V} \in \mathcal{S}\}$
 $\Longleftarrow$
 $I_{\mathcal{S}'}$ is **satisfied** for
 $\{P_{\mathbf{V}'} : \mathbf{V}' \in \mathcal{S}'\}$
 where $P_{\mathbf{V}'} = P_{\mathbf{V}}$ for $\mathbf{V}' \sim \mathbf{V}$

$M' = G \rightarrow G'$ Inflation of M

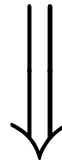
$\mathcal{S} \subseteq \text{ImagesInjectableSets}(G)$

$\mathcal{S}' \subseteq \text{InjectableSets}(G')$

$I_{\mathcal{S}'}$ is a **causal compatibility inequality** for model M'

$\{P_{\mathbf{V}} : \mathbf{V} \in \mathcal{S}\}$

is compatible with M



$I_{\mathcal{S}}$ is **satisfied** for

$\{P_{\mathbf{V}} : \mathbf{V} \in \mathcal{S}\}$

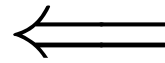
$I_{\mathcal{S}}$ is a **causal compatibility inequality** for model M

$M' = G \rightarrow G'$ Inflation of M

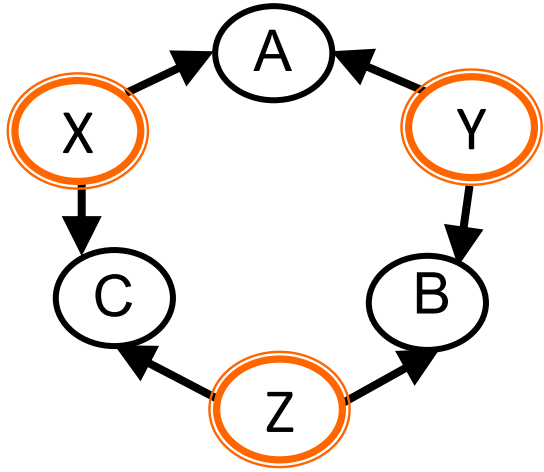
$\mathcal{S} \subseteq \text{ImagesInjectableSets}(G)$

$\mathcal{S}' \subseteq \text{InjectableSets}(G')$

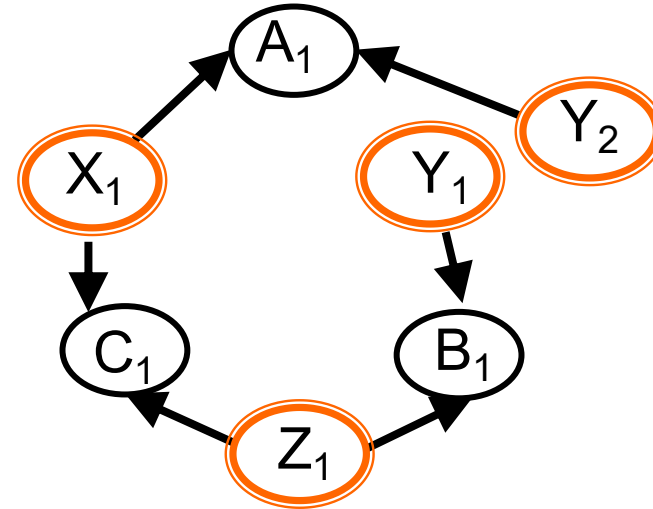
$I_{\mathcal{S}}$ is a **causal compatibility inequality** for model M



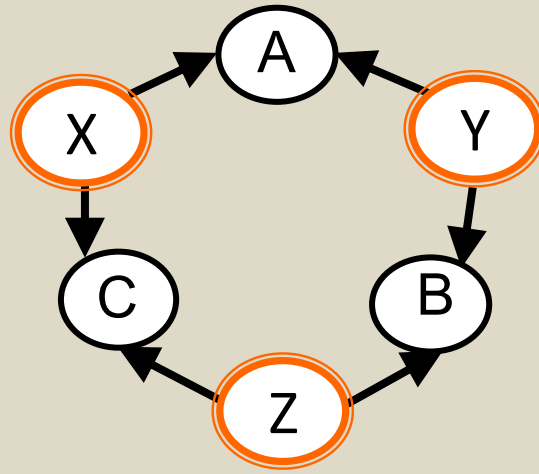
$I_{\mathcal{S}'}$ is a **causal compatibility inequality** for model M'



$P_A + P_B + P_C - P_A P_B - P_{BC} - P_{AC} \leq 1$
 is a causal compatibility
 inequality for M



$P_{A_1} + P_{B_1} + P_{C_1} - P_{A_1} P_{B_1} - P_{B_1 C_1} - P_{A_1 C_1} \leq 1$
 is a causal compatibility
 inequality for M'



$$P_A + P_B + P_C - P_A P_B - P_{BC} - P_{AC} \leq 1$$

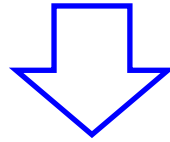
causal compatibility inequality

$$\begin{array}{l}
 (P_{A_1 C_1}, P_{B_1 C_1}, P_{A_1 B_1}) \\
 \text{is a valid set of marginals}
 \end{array}
 \implies
 \begin{array}{l}
 (P_{A_1 C_1}, P_{B_1 C_1}, P_{A_1 B_1}) \text{ satisfy} \\
 P_{A_1} + P_{B_1} + P_{C_1} - P_{A_1 B_1} - P_{B_1 C_1} - P_{A_1 C_1} \leq 1
 \end{array}$$

Linear quantifier elimination

Consider binary X, Y and Z

$\exists P_{XYZ}$ with $P_X, P_Y, P_Z, P_{XY}, P_{YZ}, P_{XZ}$ as marginals



Marginal compatibility constraints

$$P_X = \sum_Y P_{XY} = \sum_Z P_{XZ}$$

$$P_Y = \sum_X P_{XY} = \sum_Z P_{YZ}$$

$$P_Z = \sum_X P_{XZ} = \sum_Y P_{YZ}$$

$$P_X + P_Y + P_Z - P_{XY} - P_{YZ} - P_{XZ} \leq 1$$

How this is proven:

$\exists Q_{XYZ}$ with $P_X, P_Y, P_Z, P_{XY}, P_{YZ}, P_{XZ}$ as marginals

$$\forall x, y : P_{XY}(xy) = \sum_z Q_{XYZ}(xyz)$$

$$\forall y, z : P_{YZ}(yz) = \sum_x Q_{XYZ}(xyz)$$

$$\forall x, z : P_{XZ}(xz) = \sum_y Q_{XYZ}(xyz)$$

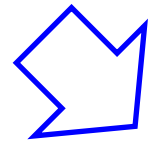
$$\forall x : P_X(x) = \sum_{y,z} Q_{XYZ}(xyz)$$

$$\forall y : P_Y(y) = \sum_{x,z} Q_{XYZ}(xyz)$$

$$\forall z : P_Z(z) = \sum_{x,y} Q_{XYZ}(xyz)$$

$$\forall x, y, z : 0 \leq Q_{XYZ}(xyz) \leq 1$$

Linear quantifier
elimination



$$\forall x : P_X(x) = \sum_y P_{XY}(xy) = \sum_z P_{XZ}(xz)$$

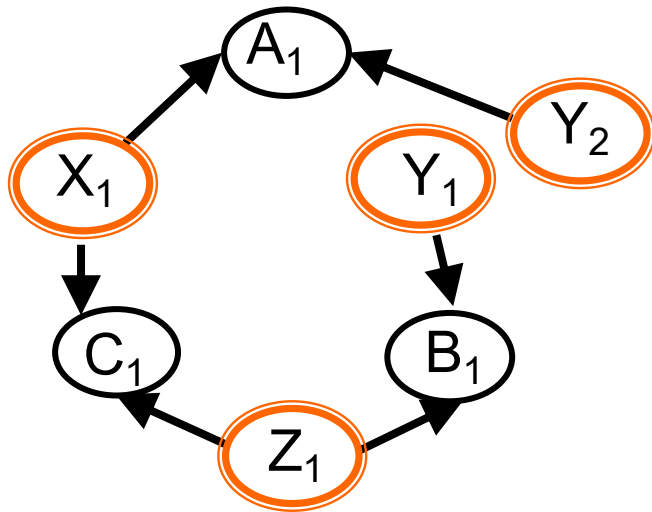
$$\forall y : P_Y(y) = \sum_x P_{XY}(xy) = \sum_z P_{YZ}(yz)$$

$$\forall z : P_Z(z) = \sum_x P_{XZ}(xz) = \sum_y P_{YZ}(yz)$$

$$\forall x, y, z : P_X(x) + P_Y(y) + P_Z(z) - P_{XY}(xy) - P_{YZ}(yz) - P_{XZ}(xz) \leq 1$$

$$\begin{array}{l} (P_{A_1 C_1}, P_{B_1 C_1}, P_{A_1 B_1}) \\ \text{is a valid set of marginals} \end{array} \implies \begin{array}{l} (P_{A_1 C_1}, P_{B_1 C_1}, P_{A_1 B_1}) \text{ satisfy} \\ P_{A_1} + P_{B_1} + P_{C_1} - P_{A_1 B_1} - P_{B_1 C_1} - P_{A_1 C_1} \leq 1 \end{array}$$

Linear quantifier elimination

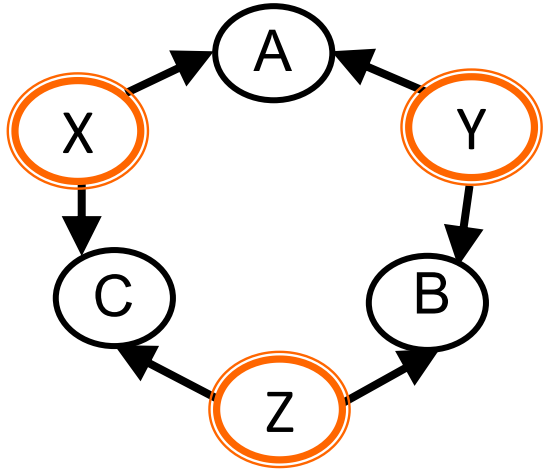


$$\begin{array}{l} (P_{A_1 C_1}, P_{B_1 C_1}, P_{A_1 B_1}) \\ \text{is compatible with } M' \end{array}$$

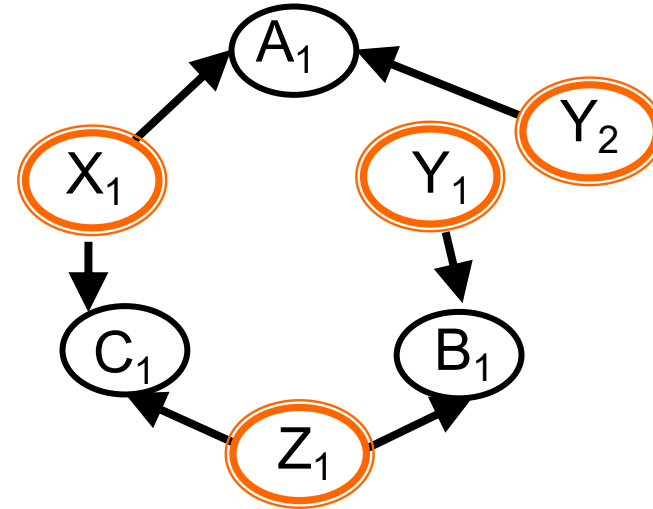
$$A_1 \perp_d B_1 \implies P_{A_1 B_1} = P_{A_1} P_{B_1}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} (P_{A_1 C_1}, P_{B_1 C_1}, P_{A_1 B_1}) \\ \text{is compatible with } M' \end{array} \implies P_{A_1} + P_{B_1} + P_{C_1} - P_{A_1} P_{B_1} - P_{B_1 C_1} - P_{A_1 C_1} \leq 1$$

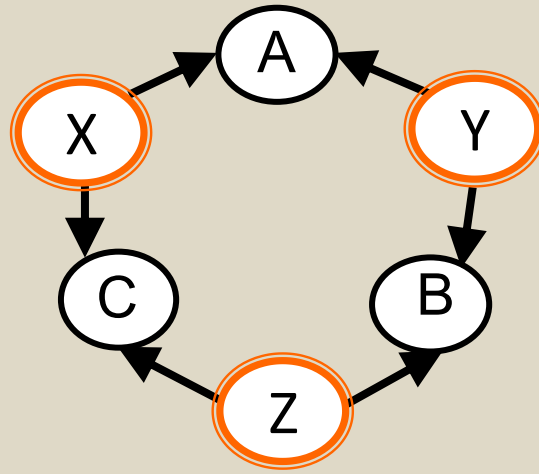
This is a causal compatibility
inequality for M'



$$P_A + P_B + P_C - P_A P_B - P_{BC} - P_{AC} \leq 1$$
 is a causal compatibility inequality for M



$$P_{A_1} + P_{B_1} + P_{C_1} - P_{A_1} P_{B_1} - P_{B_1 C_1} - P_{A_1 C_1} \leq 1$$
 is a causal compatibility inequality for M'

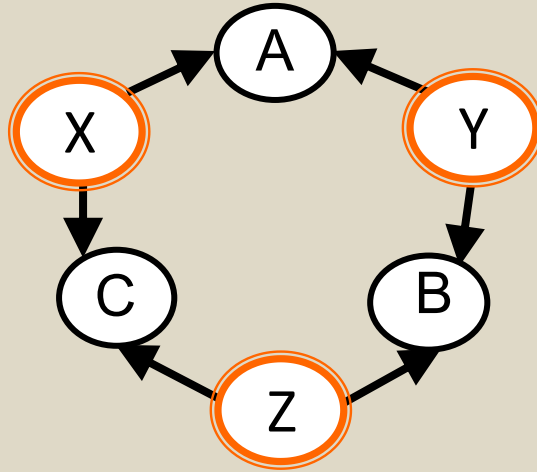


$$P_A + P_B + P_C - P_A P_B - P_{BC} - P_{AC} \leq 1$$

causal compatibility inequality

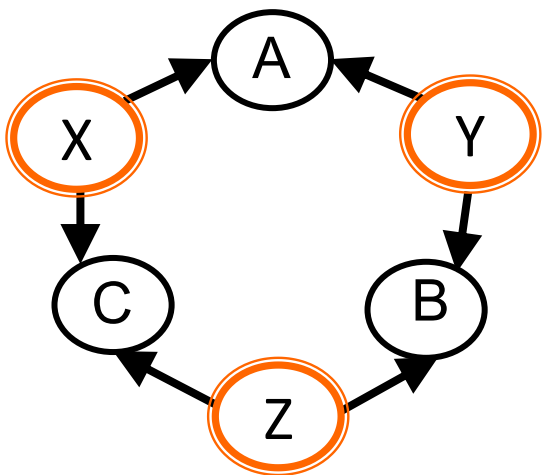
rules out

$$P_{ABC} = \frac{1}{2}[000] + \frac{1}{2}[111]$$



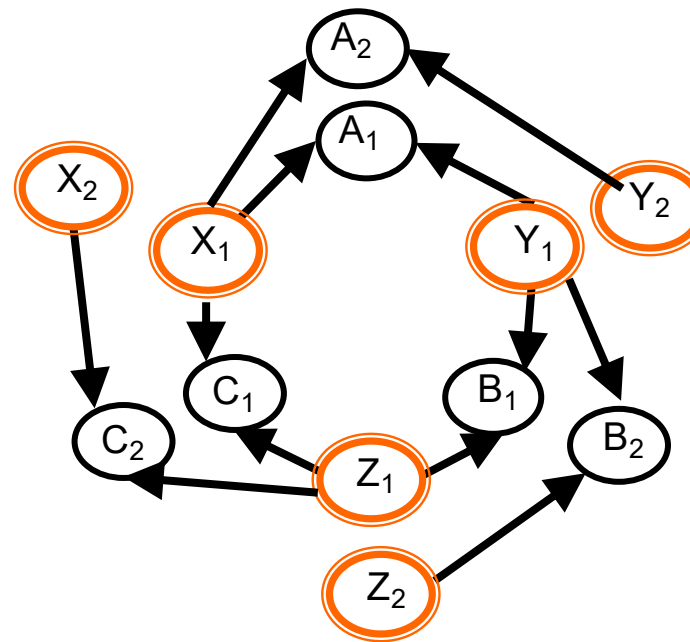
$$\begin{aligned} &P_A(1)P_B(1)P_C(1) \\ &\leq P_{AB}(11)P_C(1) + P_{BC}(11)P_A(1) \\ &\quad + P_{AC}(11)P_B(1) + P_{ABC}(000) \end{aligned}$$

causal compatibility inequality



$$\begin{aligned}
 &P_A(1)P_B(1)P_C(1) \\
 &\leq P_{AB}(11)P_C(1) + P_{BC}(11)P_A(1) \\
 &\quad + P_{AC}(11)P_B(1) + P_{ABC}(000)
 \end{aligned}$$

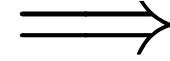
is a causal compatibility
inequality for M



$$\begin{aligned}
 &P_{A_2}(1)P_{B_2}(1)P_{C_2}(1) \\
 &\leq P_{A_1B_2}(11)P_{C_2}(1) + P_{B_1C_2}(11)P_{A_2}(1) \\
 &\quad + P_{A_2C_1}(11)P_{B_2}(1) + P_{A_1B_1C_1}(000)
 \end{aligned}$$

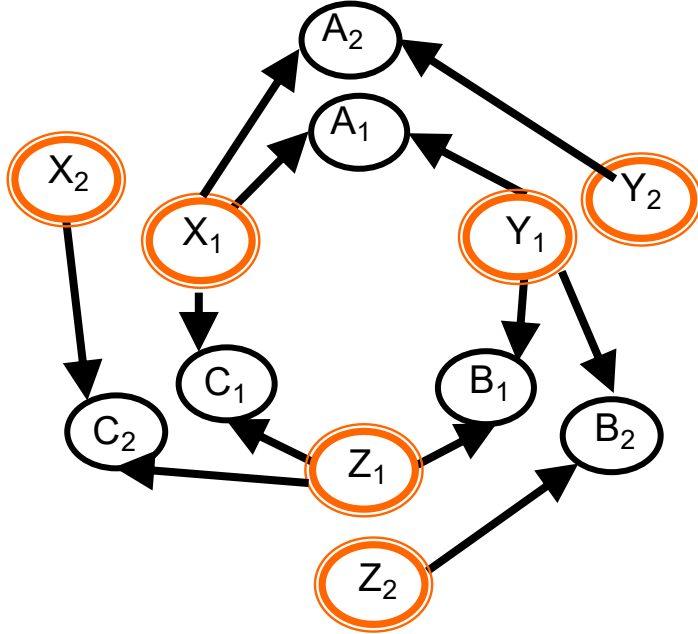
is a causal compatibility
inequality for M'

$(P_{A_2B_2C_2}, P_{A_1B_2C_2}, P_{A_2B_1C_2}, P_{A_2B_2C_1}, P_{A_1B_1C_1})$
is a valid set of marginals



$$\begin{aligned} &P_{A_2B_2C_2}(111) \\ &\leq P_{A_1B_2C_2}(111) + P_{B_1C_2A_2}(111) \\ &\quad + P_{A_2C_1B_2}(111) + P_{A_1B_1C_1}(000) \end{aligned}$$

Linear quantifier elimination



$(P_{A_2B_2C_2}, P_{A_1B_2C_2}, P_{A_2B_1C_2}, P_{A_2B_2C_1}, P_{A_1B_1C_1})$
is compatible with M'

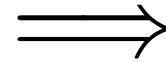
$$A_1B_2 \perp_d C_2 \implies P_{A_1B_2C_2} = P_{A_1B_2}P_{C_2},$$

$$B_1C_2 \perp_d A_2 \implies P_{B_1C_2A_2} = P_{B_1C_2}P_{A_2},$$

$$A_2C_1 \perp_d B_2 \implies P_{A_2C_1B_2} = P_{A_2C_1}P_{B_2},$$

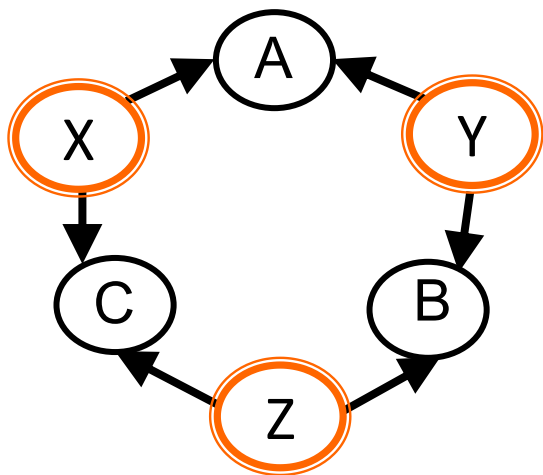
$$A_2 \perp_d B_2 \perp_d C_2 \implies P_{A_2B_2C_2} = P_{A_2}P_{B_2}P_{C_2}$$

$(P_{A_2B_2C_2}, P_{A_1B_2C_2}, P_{A_2B_1C_2}, P_{A_2B_2C_1}, P_{A_1B_1C_1})$
is compatible with M'

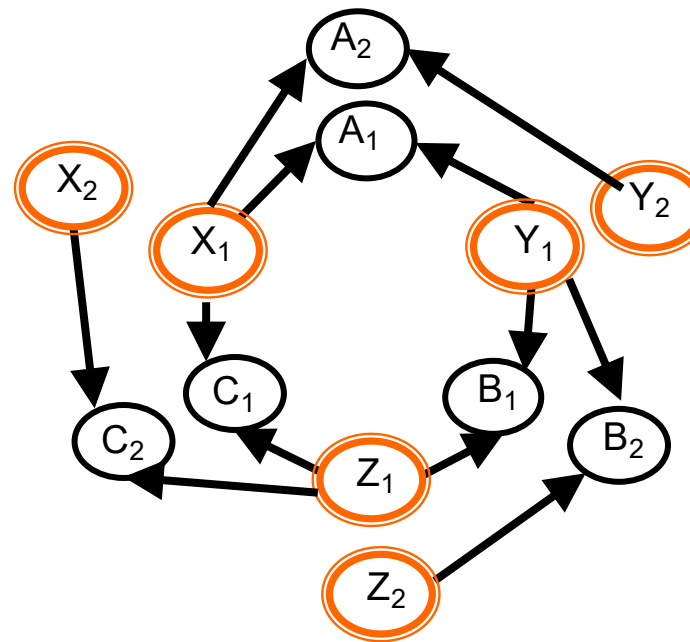


$$\begin{aligned} &P_{A_2}(1)P_{B_2}(1)P_{C_2}(1) \\ &\leq P_{A_1B_2}(11)P_{C_2}(1) + P_{B_1C_2}(11)P_{A_2}(1) \\ &\quad + P_{A_2C_1}(11)P_{B_2}(1) + P_{A_1B_1C_1}(000) \end{aligned}$$

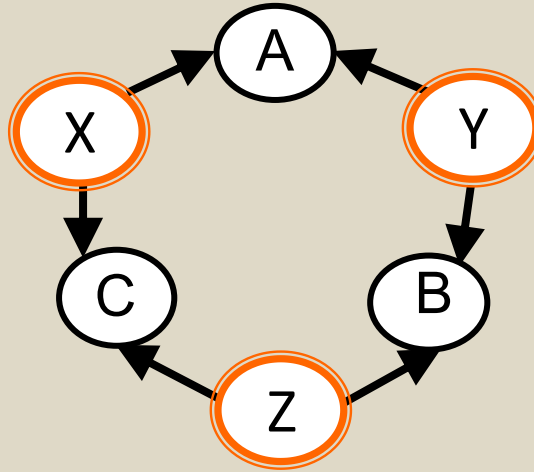
This is a causal compatibility
inequality for M'



$$\begin{aligned}
 &P_A(1)P_B(1)P_C(1) \\
 &\leq P_{AB}(11)P_C(1) + P_{BC}(11)P_A(1) \\
 &\quad + P_{AC}(11)P_B(1) + P_{ABC}(000)
 \end{aligned}$$



$$\begin{aligned}
 &P_{A_2}(1)P_{B_2}(1)P_{C_2}(1) \\
 &\leq P_{A_1B_2}(11)P_{C_2}(1) + P_{B_1C_2}(11)P_{A_2}(1) \\
 &\quad + P_{A_2C_1}(11)P_{B_2}(1) + P_{A_1B_1C_1}(000)
 \end{aligned}$$



$$\begin{aligned} &P_A(1)P_B(1)P_C(1) \\ &\leq P_{AB}(11)P_C(1) + P_{BC}(11)P_A(1) \\ &+ P_{AC}(11)P_B(1) + P_{ABC}(000) \end{aligned}$$

causal compatibility inequality

rules out

$$P_{ABC} = \frac{1}{3}[001] + \frac{1}{3}[010] + \frac{1}{3}[100]$$

Linear inequality constraints from
marginal compatibility
(from linear quantifier elimination)



Polynomial inequality
constraints for causal
compatibility with the
original DAG

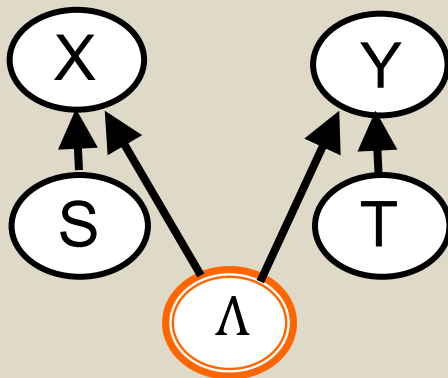
+

Polynomial equality constraints
from causal compatibility with the
inflated DAG
(e.g., from d-separation relations)

The technique defines an algorithm for deriving causal compatibility inequalities and for testing compatibility

Proof that this provides a convergent hierarchy of tests:
Navascués & Wolfe, J. Causal Inf. 8(1) 70 (2020)

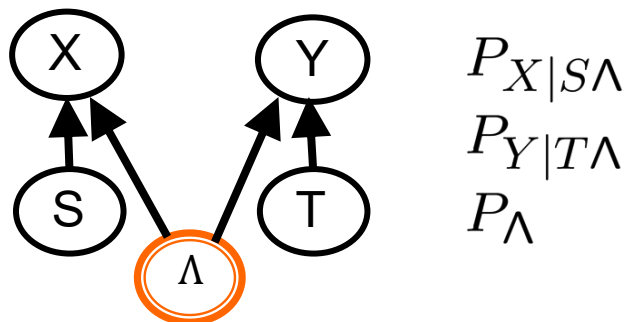
Derivation of Bell inequalities from inflation technique



$$\frac{1}{4} \sum_{x=y} P_{XY|ST}(xy|00) + \frac{1}{4} \sum_{x=y} P_{XY|ST}(xy|01) \\ \frac{1}{4} \sum_{x=y} P_{XY|ST}(xy|10) + \frac{1}{4} \sum_{x \neq y} P_{XY|ST}(xy|11) \leq \frac{3}{4}$$

Note that the derivation of the CHSH inequalities from brute-force quantifier elimination did not provide much conceptual insight into their origin

Bell model M



$$P_{X|S\Lambda}$$

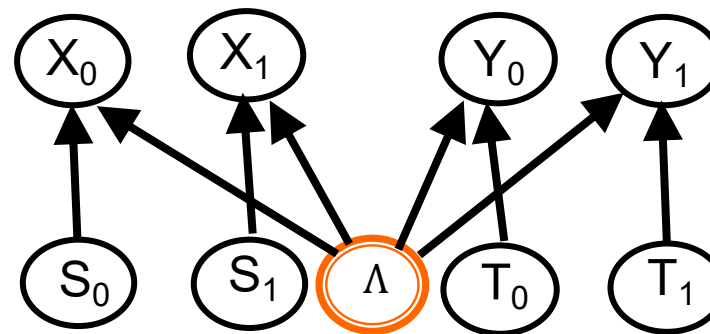
$$P_{Y|T\Lambda}$$

$$P_{\Lambda}$$

$$P_{XY|ST} = \sum_{\Lambda} P_{X|S\Lambda} P_{Y|T\Lambda} P_{\Lambda}$$

$P_{XY|ST}$
compatible with M

Inflated model M'



$$P_{X_0|S_0\Lambda}$$

$$P_{X_1|S_1\Lambda}$$

$$P_{Y_0|T_0\Lambda}$$

$$P_{Y_1|T_1\Lambda}$$

$$P_{\Lambda}$$

$$P_{X_0|S_0\Lambda} = P_{X_1|S_1\Lambda}$$

$$P_{Y_0|T_0\Lambda} = P_{Y_1|T_1\Lambda}$$

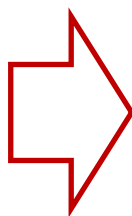
$$P_{X_0Y_0|S_0T_0} = \sum_{\Lambda} P_{X_0|S_0\Lambda} P_{Y_0|T_0\Lambda} P_{\Lambda}$$

$$P_{X_0Y_1|S_0T_1} = \sum_{\Lambda} P_{X_0|S_0\Lambda} P_{Y_1|T_1\Lambda} P_{\Lambda}$$

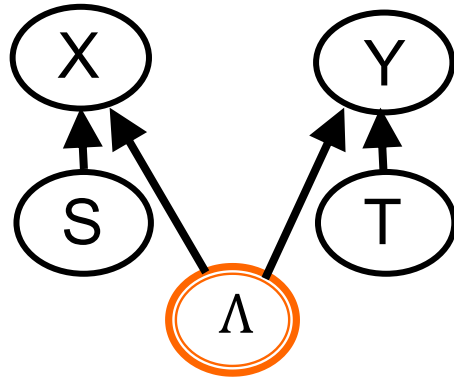
$$P_{X_1Y_0|S_1T_0} = \sum_{\Lambda} P_{X_1|S_1\Lambda} P_{Y_0|T_0\Lambda} P_{\Lambda}$$

$$P_{X_1Y_1|S_1T_1} = \sum_{\Lambda} P_{X_1|S_1\Lambda} P_{Y_1|T_1\Lambda} P_{\Lambda}$$

$P_{X_0Y_0|S_0T_0}, P_{X_0Y_1|S_0T_1}, P_{X_1Y_0|S_1T_0}, P_{X_1Y_1|S_1T_1}$
where $P_{X_iY_j|S_iT_j} = P_{XY|ST}$
compatible with M'

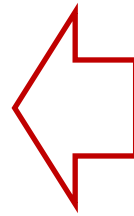


Bell model M

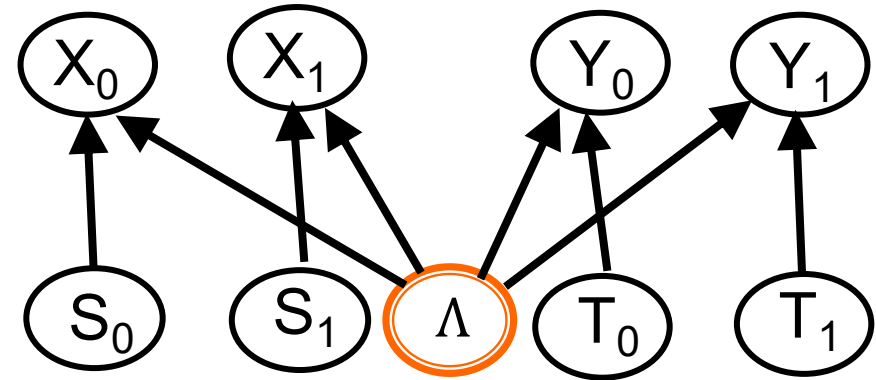


$$\frac{1}{4} \sum_{x=y} P_{XY|ST}(xy|00) + \frac{1}{4} \sum_{x=y} P_{XY|ST}(xy|01) \\ \frac{1}{4} \sum_{x=y} P_{XY|ST}(xy|10) + \frac{1}{4} \sum_{x \neq y} P_{XY|ST}(xy|11) \leq \frac{3}{4}$$

Causal compatibility inequality in M



Inflated model M'



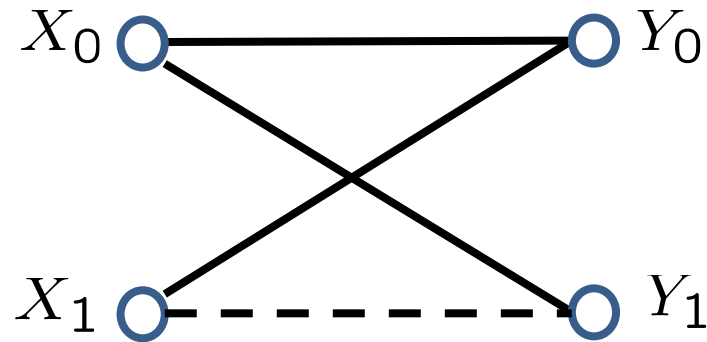
$$\frac{1}{4} \sum_{x=y} P_{X_0Y_0|S_0T_0}(xy|00) + \frac{1}{4} \sum_{x=y} P_{X_0Y_1|S_0T_1}(xy|01) \\ \frac{1}{4} \sum_{x=y} P_{X_1Y_0|S_1T_0}(xy|10) + \frac{1}{4} \sum_{x \neq y} P_{X_1Y_1|S_1T_1}(xy|11) \leq \frac{3}{4}$$

Causal compatibility inequality in M'

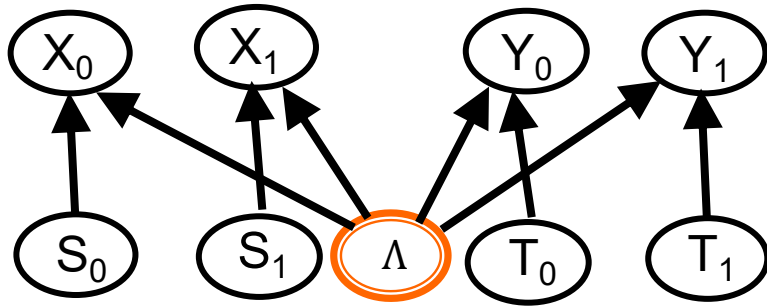
Consider any distribution over 4 variables $Q_{X_0 X_1 Y_0 Y_1}$

The marginals $Q_{X_0 Y_0}, Q_{X_0 Y_1}, Q_{X_1 Y_0}, Q_{X_1 Y_1}$ satisfy

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{4} \sum_{x=y} Q_{X_0 Y_0}(xy) + \frac{1}{4} \sum_{x=y} Q_{X_0 Y_1}(xy) \\ \frac{1}{4} \sum_{x=y} Q_{X_1 Y_0}(xy) + \frac{1}{4} \sum_{x \neq y} Q_{X_1 Y_1}(xy) \leq \frac{3}{4} \end{aligned}$$

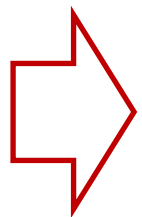


Inflated model M'



Take $Q_{X_0 X_1 Y_0 Y_1}(\cdot) := P_{X_0 X_1 Y_0 Y_1 | S_0 S_1 T_0 T_1}(\cdot | 0101)$

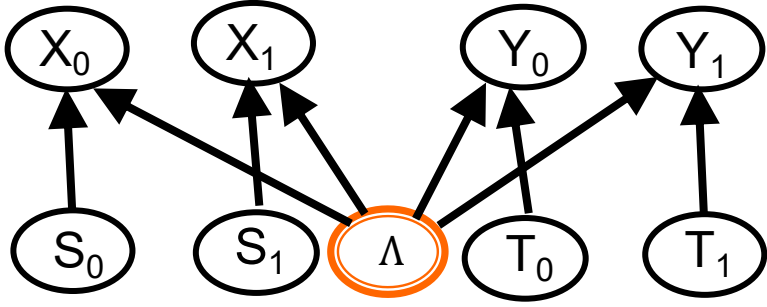
$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{4} \sum_{x=y} Q_{X_0 Y_0}(xy) + \frac{1}{4} \sum_{x=y} Q_{X_0 Y_1}(xy) \\ & \frac{1}{4} \sum_{x=y} Q_{X_1 Y_0}(xy) + \frac{1}{4} \sum_{x \neq y} Q_{X_1 Y_1}(xy) \leq \frac{3}{4} \end{aligned}$$



$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{4} \sum_{x=y} P_{X_0 Y_0 | S_0 S_1 T_0 T_1}(xy | 0101) + \frac{1}{4} \sum_{x=y} P_{X_0 Y_1 | S_0 S_1 T_0 T_1}(xy | 0101) \\ & \frac{1}{4} \sum_{x=y} P_{X_1 Y_0 | S_0 S_1 T_0 T_1}(xy | 0101) + \frac{1}{4} \sum_{x \neq y} P_{X_1 Y_1 | S_0 S_1 T_0 T_1}(xy | 0101) \leq \frac{3}{4} \end{aligned}$$

This is a marginal compatibility constraint

Inflated model M'



$$X_0 Y_0 \perp S_1 T_1 | S_0 T_0 \implies P_{X_0 Y_0 | S_0 T_0 S_1 T_1} = P_{X_0 Y_0 | S_0 T_0}$$

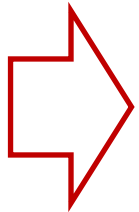
$$X_0 Y_1 \perp S_1 T_0 | S_0 T_1 \implies P_{X_0 Y_1 | S_0 T_0 S_1 T_1} = P_{X_0 Y_1 | S_0 T_1}$$

$$X_1 Y_0 \perp S_0 T_1 | S_1 T_0 \implies P_{X_1 Y_0 | S_0 T_0 S_1 T_1} = P_{X_1 Y_0 | S_1 T_0}$$

$$X_1 Y_1 \perp S_0 T_0 | S_1 T_1 \implies P_{X_1 Y_1 | S_0 T_0 S_1 T_1} = P_{X_1 Y_1 | S_1 T_1}$$

$$\frac{1}{4} \sum_{x=y} P_{X_0 Y_0 | S_0 S_1 T_0 T_1}(xy|0101) + \frac{1}{4} \sum_{x=y} P_{X_0 Y_1 | S_0 S_1 T_0 T_1}(xy|0101)$$

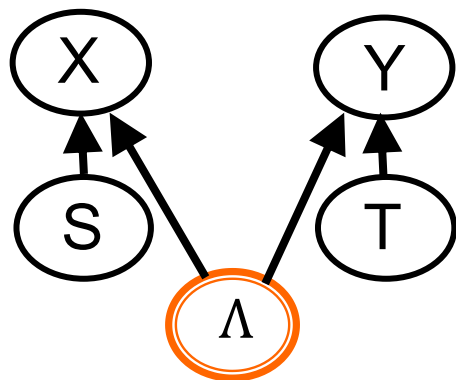
$$\frac{1}{4} \sum_{x=y} P_{X_1 Y_0 | S_0 S_1 T_0 T_1}(xy|0101) + \frac{1}{4} \sum_{x \neq y} P_{X_1 Y_1 | S_0 S_1 T_0 T_1}(xy|0101) \leq \frac{3}{4}$$



$$\frac{1}{4} \sum_{x=y} P_{X_0 Y_0 | S_0 T_0}(xy|00) + \frac{1}{4} \sum_{x=y} P_{X_0 Y_1 | S_0 T_1}(xy|01)$$

$$\frac{1}{4} \sum_{x=y} P_{X_1 Y_0 | S_1 T_0}(xy|10) + \frac{1}{4} \sum_{x \neq y} P_{X_1 Y_1 | S_1 T_1}(xy|11) \leq \frac{3}{4}$$

Bell model M

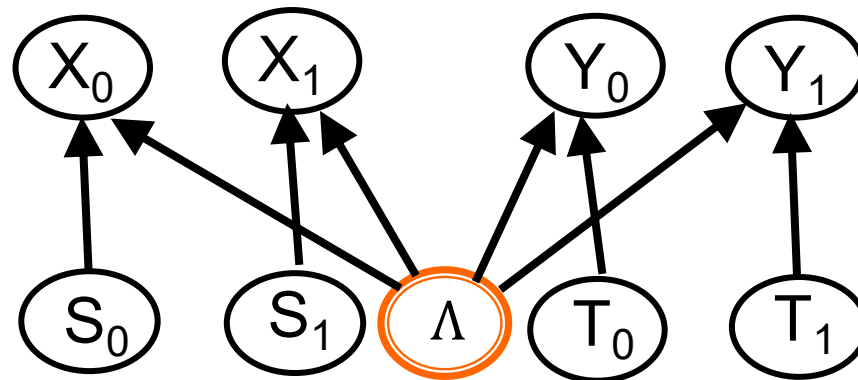


$$\frac{1}{4} \sum_{x=y} P_{XY|ST}(xy|00) + \frac{1}{4} \sum_{x=y} P_{XY|ST}(xy|01) \\ \frac{1}{4} \sum_{x=y} P_{XY|ST}(xy|10) + \frac{1}{4} \sum_{x \neq y} P_{XY|ST}(xy|11) \leq \frac{3}{4}$$

Causal compatibility inequality in M



Inflated model M'



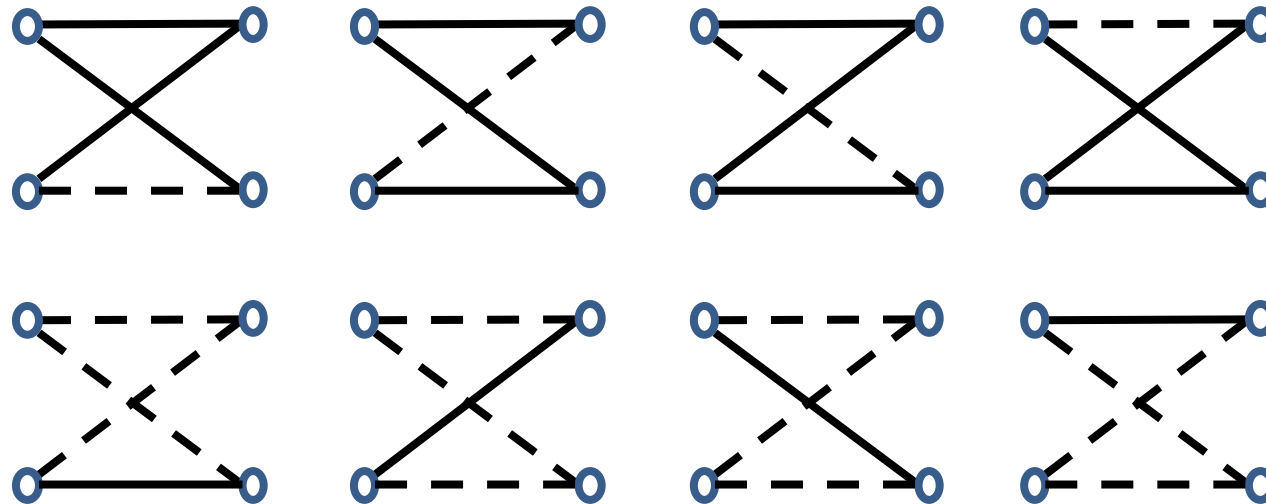
$$\frac{1}{4} \sum_{x=y} P_{X_0 Y_0 | S_0 T_0}(xy|00) + \frac{1}{4} \sum_{x=y} P_{X_0 Y_1 | S_0 T_1}(xy|01) \\ \frac{1}{4} \sum_{x=y} P_{X_1 Y_0 | S_1 T_0}(xy|10) + \frac{1}{4} \sum_{x \neq y} P_{X_1 Y_1 | S_1 T_1}(xy|11) \leq \frac{3}{4}$$

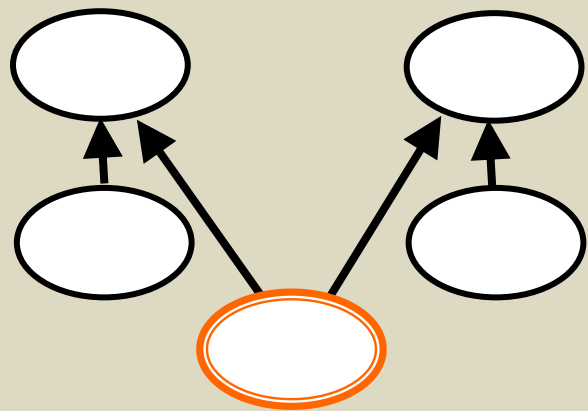
Causal compatibility inequality in M'

All the Bell inequalities for binary settings and outcomes

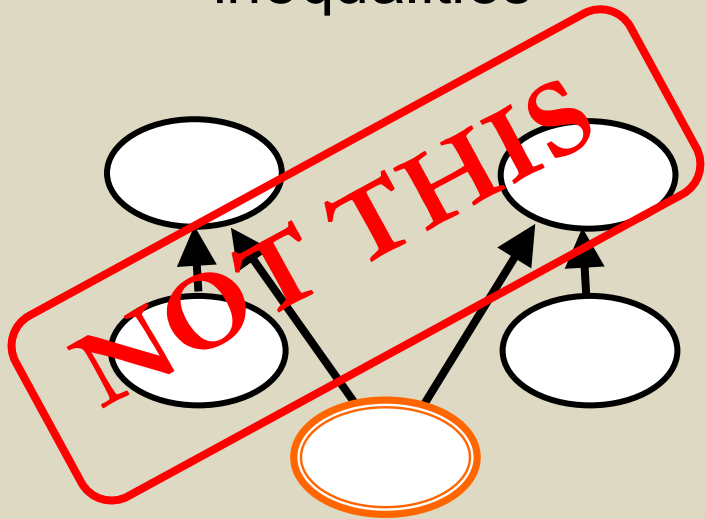
$$\frac{1}{4} \sum_{x=y} P_{XY|ST}(xy|00) + \frac{1}{4} \sum_{x=y} P_{XY|ST}(xy|01) + \frac{1}{4} \sum_{x=y} P_{XY|ST}(xy|10) + \frac{1}{4} \sum_{x \neq y} P_{XY|ST}(xy|11) \leq \frac{3}{4}$$

+ permutations corresponding to the 8 frustrated four-node networks

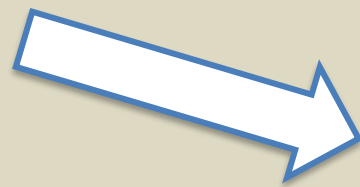
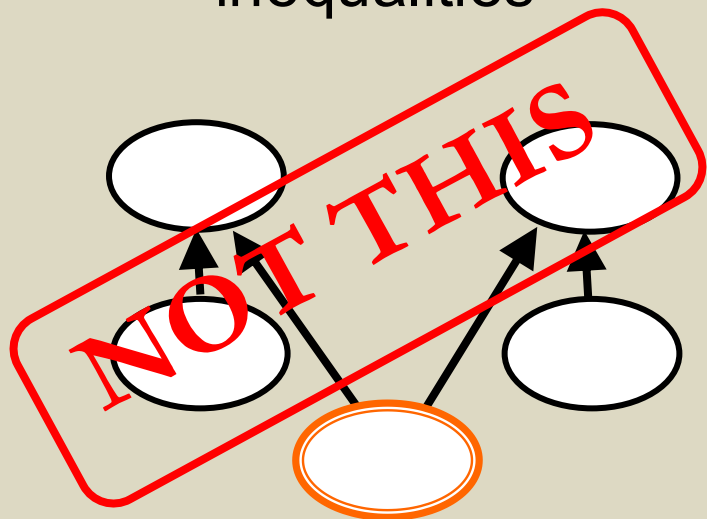




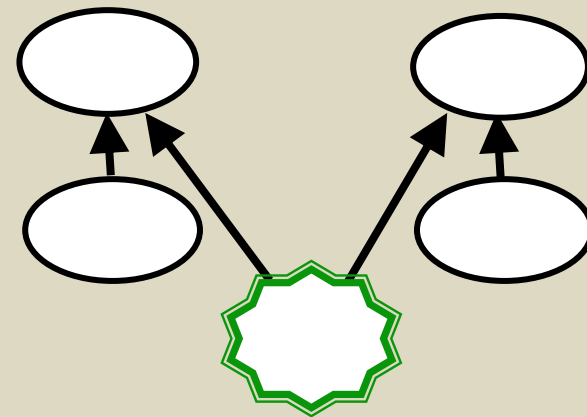
Violation of Bell
inequalities



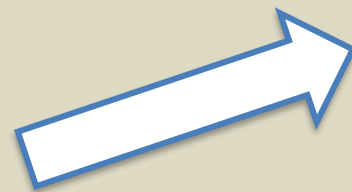
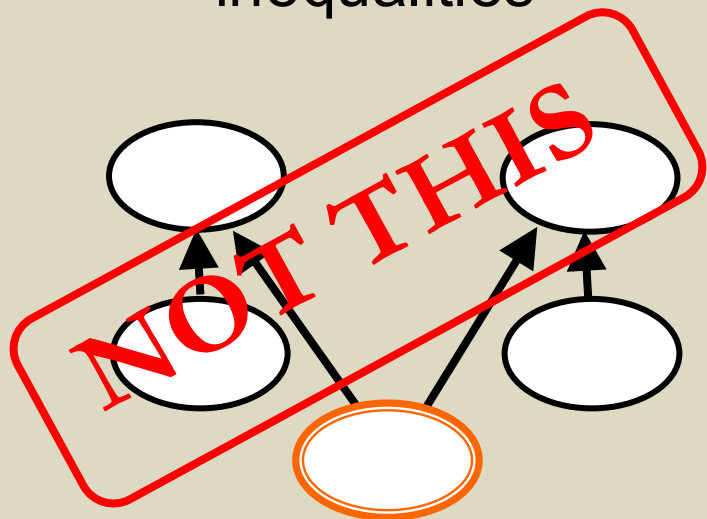
Violation of Bell
inequalities



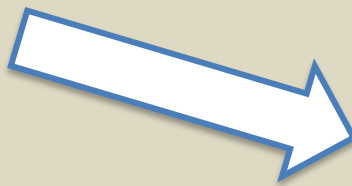
Witnessing
quantumness



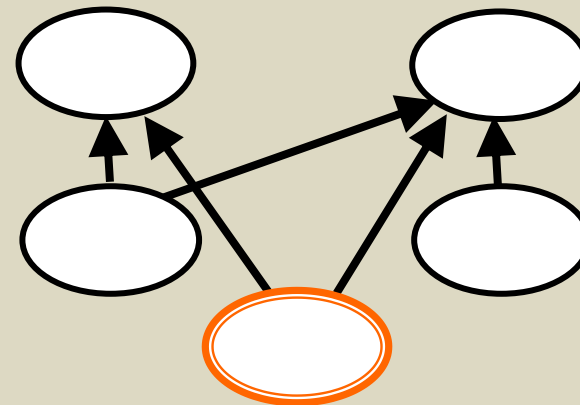
Violation of Bell inequalities



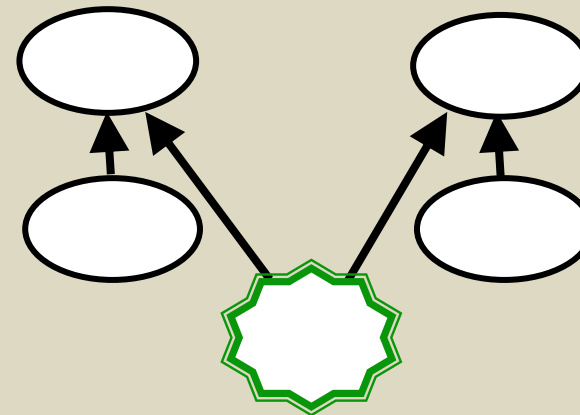
or

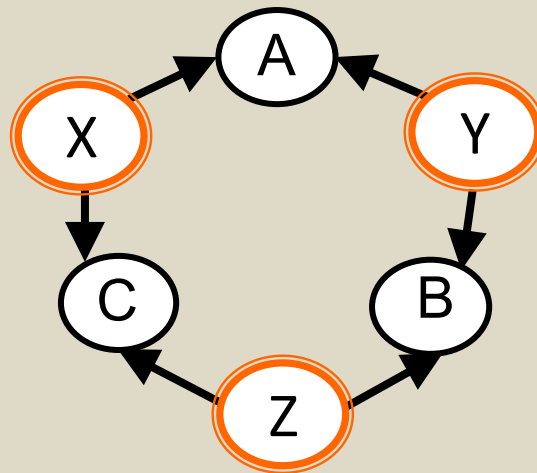


Witnessing need for
different structure

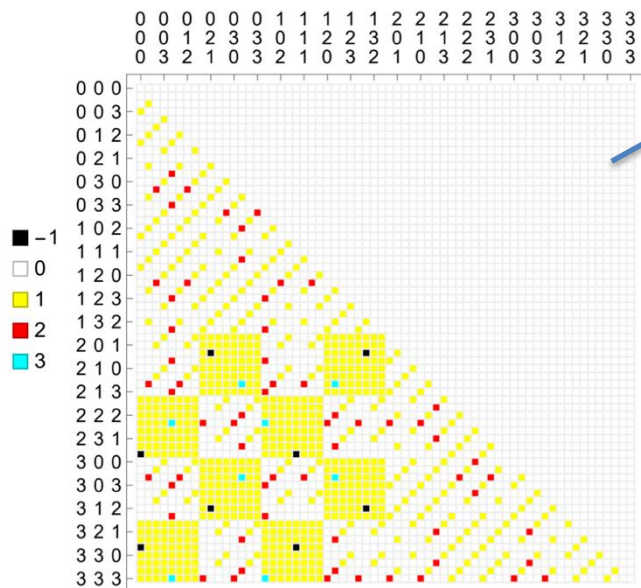


Witnessing
quantumness





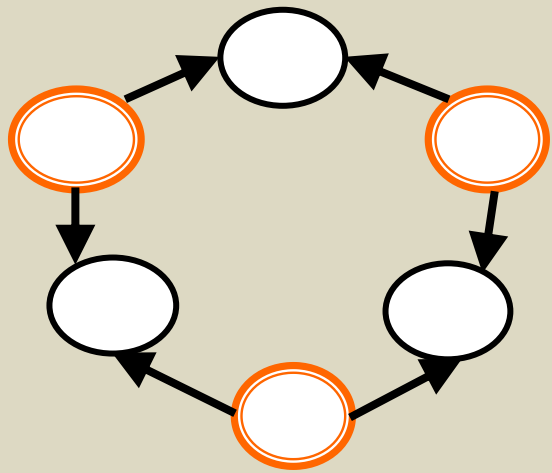
$$V := \sum_{a,b,c,a',b',c'} y_{abca'b'c'} P_{ABC}(abc) P_{ABC}(a'b'c') \geq 0$$



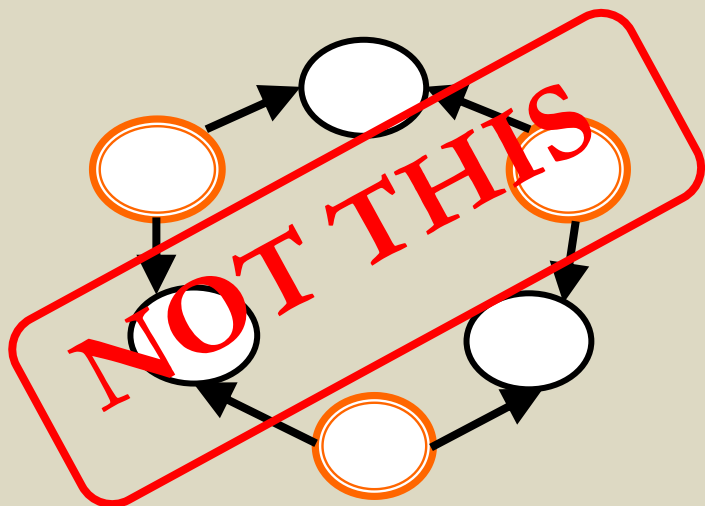
This causal compatibility inequality is violated by the data

$$V_{\text{exp}} = -0.02436 \pm 0.00016$$

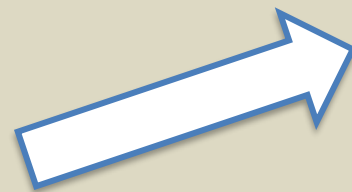
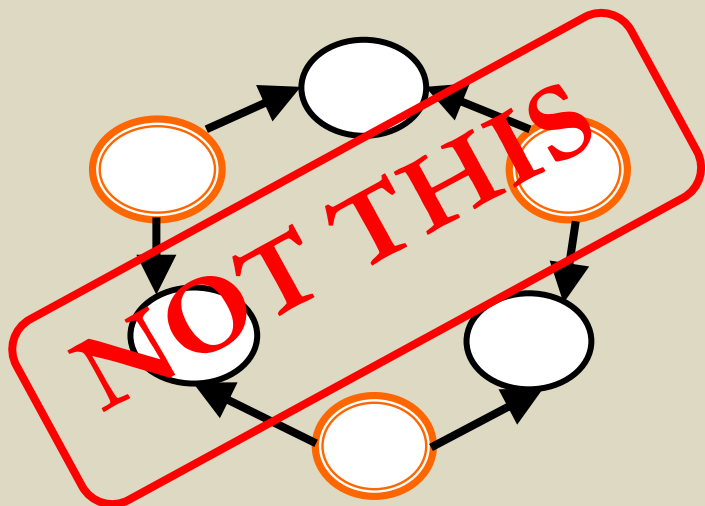
(b) The coefficients of a quadratic inequality



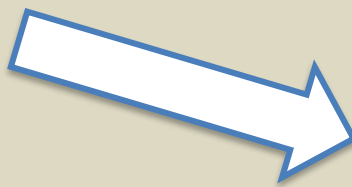
Violation of certain
causal compatibility
inequalities



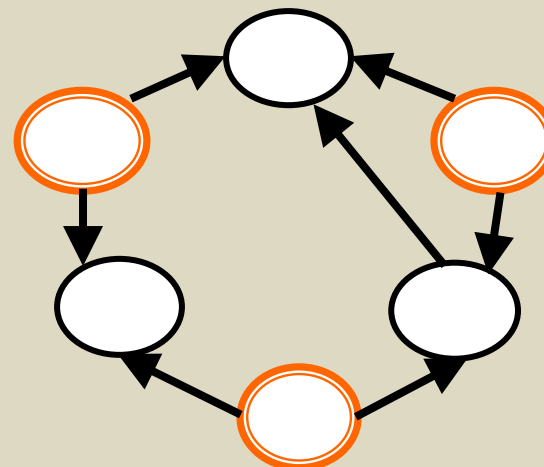
Violation of certain
causal compatibility
inequalities



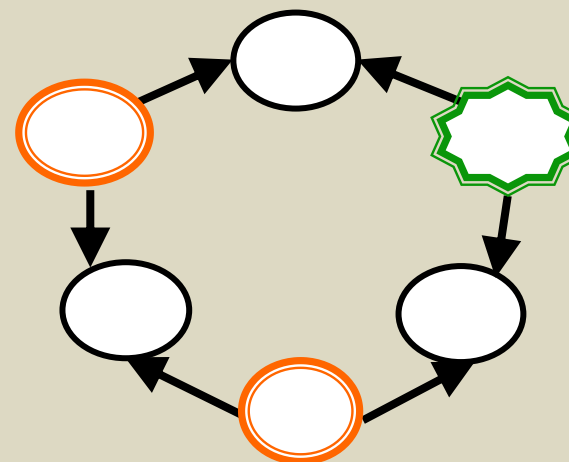
or



Witnessing need for
different structure



Witnessing
quantumness



Approaches to Bell arguments that follow essentially
the logic of the inflation technique:

Fine's proof of CHSH inequalities

Hardy's proof of Bell's theorem

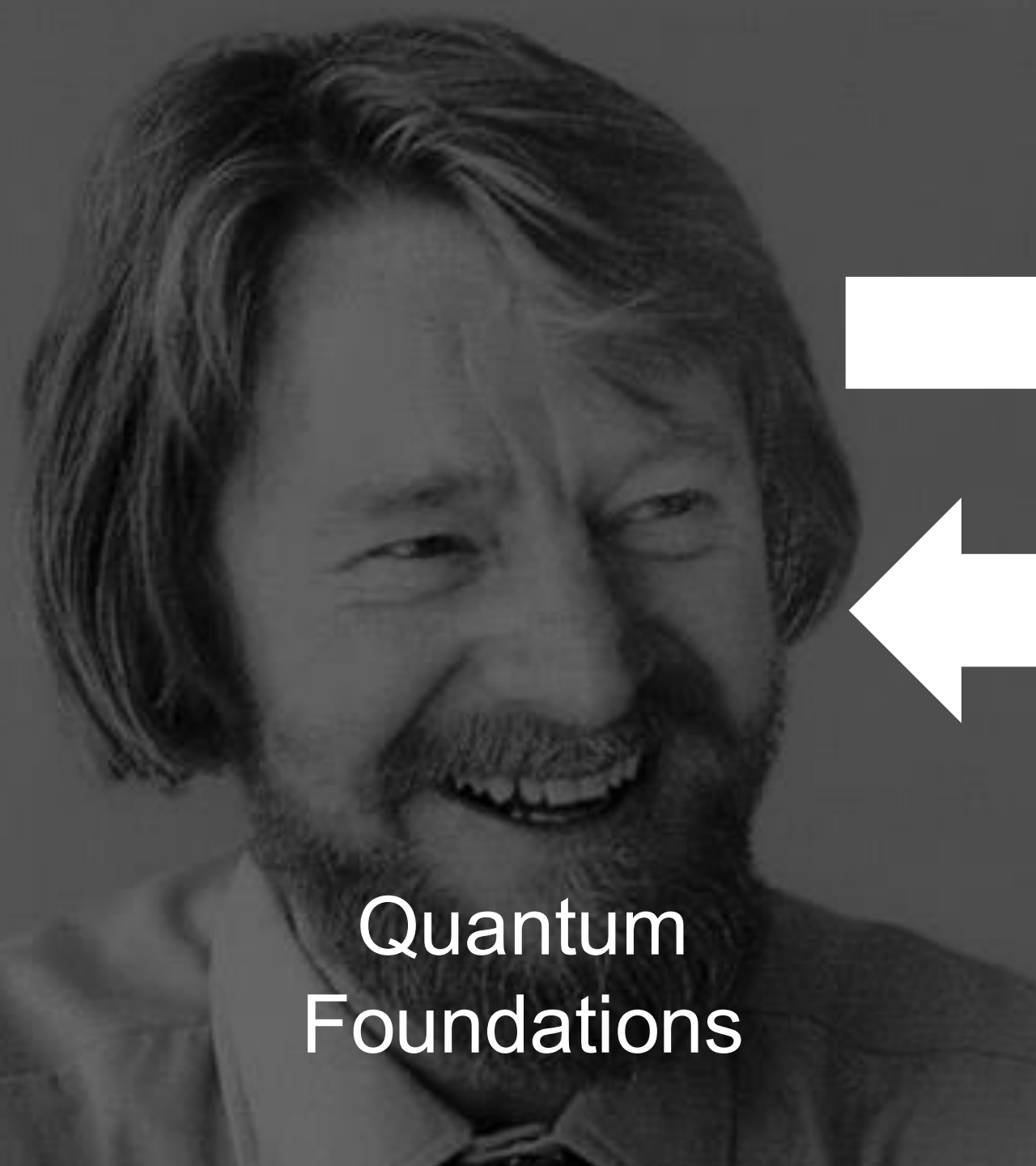
The Greenberger-Horne-Zeilinger proof of Bell's theorem

Bell's theorem by way of Kochen-Specker noncontextuality

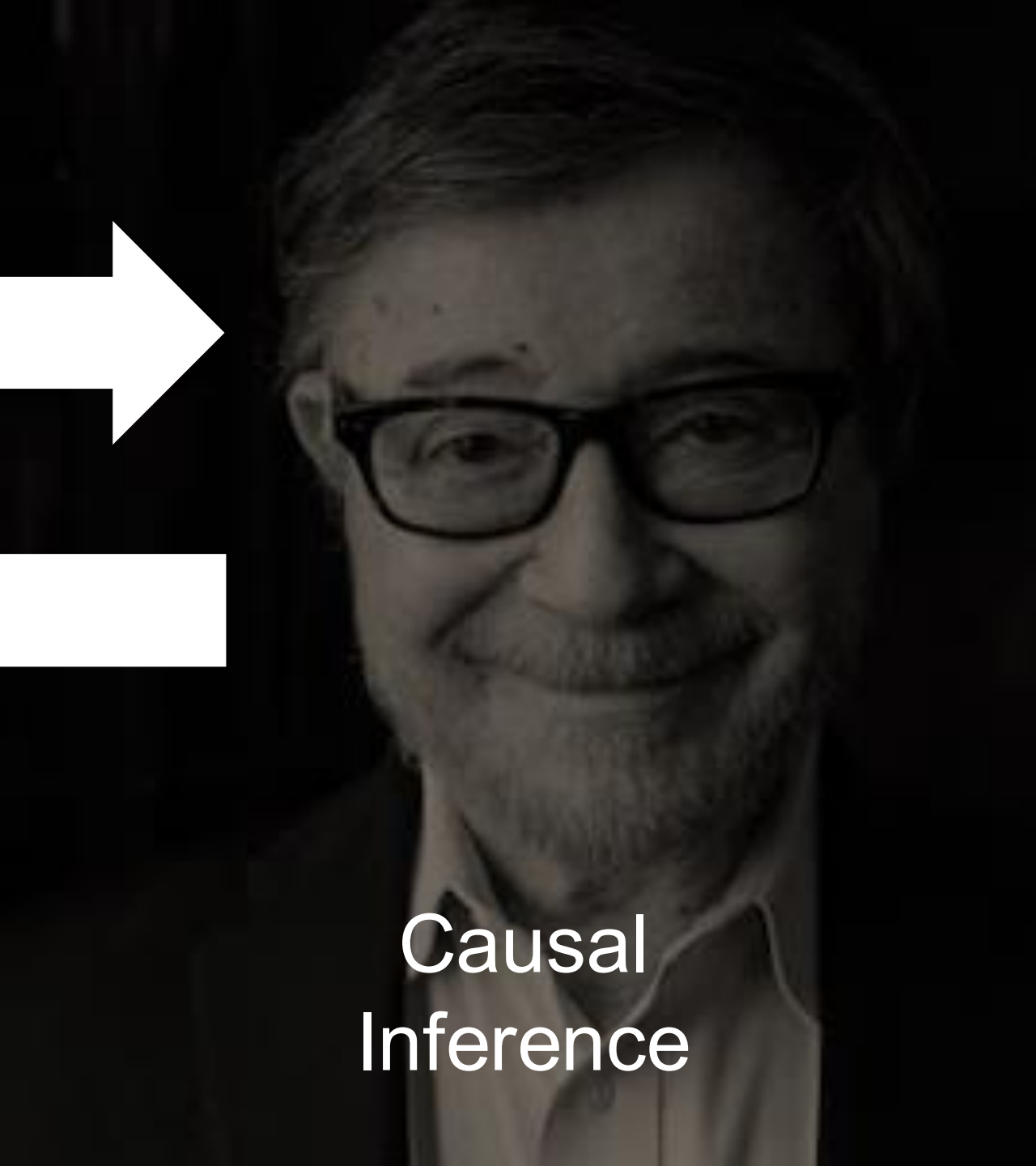
Braunstein-Caves entropic inequalities

Symmetric extensions / shareability of local correlations

...

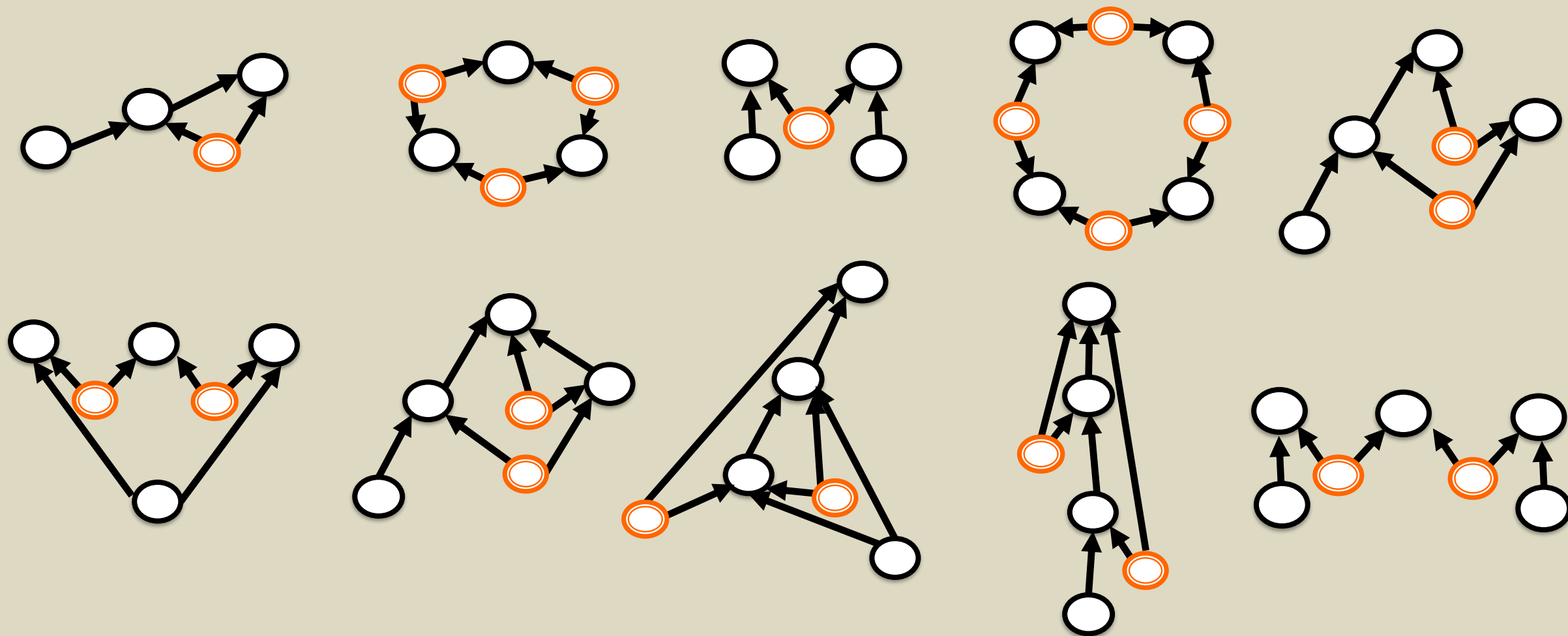


Quantum
Foundations



Causal
Inference

Some causal structures that admit of inequality constraints



Causal inference techniques

