

# Graphical models from an algebraic perspective

Elina Robeva  
MIT

ICERM Nonlinear Algebra Bootcamp

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# Overview

- Undirected graphical models
  - Definition and parametric description
  - Markov properties and implicit description
  - Discrete and Gaussian
- Directed graphical models
  - Definition and parametric description
  - Markov properties,  $d$ -separation, and implicit description
  - Discrete and Gaussian
  - model equivalence
- Mixed graphical models

# Undirected graphical models

Let  $G = (V, E)$  be an undirected graph and  $\mathcal{C}(G)$  the set of *maximal cliques* of  $G$ .

Let  $(X_v : v \in V) \in \mathcal{X} := \prod_{v \in V} \mathcal{X}_v$  be a random vector.

Notation:  $\mathcal{X}_A = \prod_{v \in A} \mathcal{X}_v$ ,  $X_A = (X_v : v \in A)$ ,  $x_A = (x_v : v \in A)$ .

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For each  $C \in \mathcal{C}(G)$  let

$$\phi_C : \mathcal{X}_C \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$$

be a continuous function called a *clique potential*.

The *undirected graphical model* (or *markov random field*) corresponding to  $G$  and  $\mathcal{X}$  is the set of all probability density functions on  $\mathcal{X}$  of the form

$$p(x) = \frac{1}{Z} \prod_{C \in \mathcal{C}(G)} \phi_C(x_C)$$

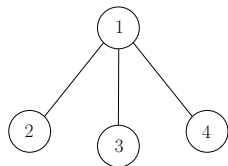
where

$$Z = \int_{\mathcal{X}} \prod_{C \in \mathcal{C}(G)} \phi_C(x_C) d\mu(x)$$

is the normalizing constant.

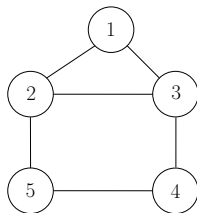
# Undirected graphical models

## Example



$$p(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) = \frac{1}{Z} \phi_{12}(x_1, x_2) \phi_{13}(x_1, x_3) \phi_{14}(x_1, x_4).$$

## Example



$$p(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5) = \frac{1}{Z} \phi_{123}(x_1, x_2, x_3) \phi_{25}(x_2, x_5) \phi_{34}(x_3, x_4) \phi_{45}(x_4, x_5).$$

# Discrete undirected graphical models

Suppose that  $\mathcal{X}_v = [r_v]$ ,  $r_v \in \mathbb{N}$ . Then,  $\mathcal{X} = \prod_{v \in V} [r_v]$ . We use parameters

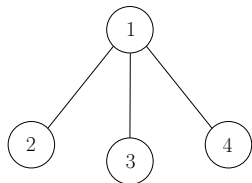
$$\theta_{x_C}^C := \phi_C(x_C), \quad C \in \mathcal{C}(G), x_r \in [r_v].$$

Then, we get the *rational parametrization*

$$p_x = \frac{1}{Z(\theta)} \prod_{C \in \mathcal{C}(G)} \theta_{x_C}^C.$$

The graphical model corresponding to  $G$  consists of all discrete distributions  $p = (p_x : x \in \mathcal{X})$  that factor in this way.

## Example



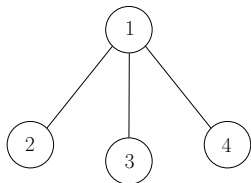
Let  $r_1 = r_2 = r_3 = r_4 = 2$ . The parametrization has the form

$$p_{x_1 x_2 x_3 x_4} = \frac{1}{Z(\theta)} \theta_{x_1 x_2}^{(12)} \theta_{x_1 x_3}^{(13)} \theta_{x_1 x_4}^{(14)}.$$

The ideal  $I_G$  is the ideal of the image of this parametrization.

# Discrete undirected graphical models

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```

S = QQ[a_(1,1)..a_(2,2), b_(1,1)..b_(2,2), c_(1,1)..c_(2,2)]
R = QQ[p_(1,1,1,1)..p_(2,2,2,2)]
L = {}
for i from 0 to 15 do (
s = last baseName (vars R)_(0,i);
L = append(L, a_(s_0,s_1)*b_(s_0,s_2)*c_(s_0,s_3))
)
phi = map(S, R, L)
I = ker phi
  
```

Output:

$$I_G = \langle 2\text{-minors of } M_1 \rangle + \langle 2\text{-minors of } M_2 \rangle + \langle 2\text{-minors of } M_3 \rangle + \langle 2\text{-minors of } M_4 \rangle$$

where

$$M_1 = \begin{pmatrix} p_{0000} & p_{0001} & p_{0010} & p_{0011} \\ p_{0100} & p_{0101} & p_{0110} & p_{0111} \end{pmatrix}, \quad M_2 = \begin{pmatrix} p_{1000} & p_{1001} & p_{1010} & p_{1011} \\ p_{1100} & p_{1101} & p_{1110} & p_{1111} \end{pmatrix}$$

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## Gaussian undirected graphical models

$X = (X_v : v \in V) \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \Sigma)$  Gaussian random vector,  $K = \Sigma^{-1}$ . The density of  $X$  is

$$p(x) = \frac{1}{Z} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}(x - \mu)^T K(x - \mu)\right)$$

When does it factorize according to  $G = (V, E)$ , i.e.  $p(x) = \frac{1}{Z} \prod_{C \in \mathcal{C}(G)} \phi_C(x_C)$ ?



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$$p(x) = \frac{1}{Z} \prod_{v \in V} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}(x_v - \mu_v)^2 K_{vv}\right) \prod_{v \neq u} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}(x_v - \mu_v)(x_u - \mu_u) K_{vu}\right).$$

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The *parametric description* of the Gaussian graphical model with respect to  $G = (V, E)$  is

$$\mathcal{M}_G = \{\Sigma = K^{-1} : K \succ 0 \text{ and } K_{uv} = 0 \text{ for all } (u, v) \notin E\}.$$

The ideal of the model  $I_G$  is the ideal of the image of this parametrization.

# Markov properties and conditional independence for undirected graphical models

A different way to define undirected graphical models is via conditional independence statements.

# Markov properties and conditional independence for undirected graphical models

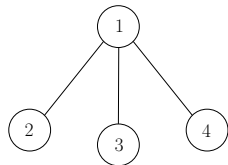
A different way to define undirected graphical models is via conditional independence statements.

Let  $G = (V, E)$ .

For  $A, B, C \subseteq V$ , say that  $A$  and  $B$  are **separated** by  $C$  if every path between  $a \in A$  and  $b \in B$  goes through a vertex in  $C$ .

The **global Markov property** associated to  $G$  consists of all conditional independence statements  $X_A \perp\!\!\!\perp X_B \mid X_C$  for all disjoint sets  $A, B, C$  such that  $C$  separates  $A$  and  $B$ .

## Example



# Markov properties and conditional independence for undirected graphical models

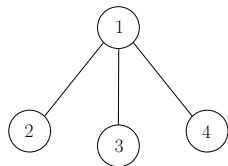
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Global Markov property:

$$X_2 \perp\!\!\!\perp X_3 \mid X_1$$

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# Conditional independence for discrete distributions

For discrete random variables conditional independence yields polynomial equations in

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If  $V = \{1, 2\}$  and  $\mathcal{X} = [m_1] \times [m_2]$ , then  $X_1 \perp\!\!\!\perp X_2$  is the same as

$$p_{ij} = p_{i+}p_{+j} \quad \text{for all } i \in [m_1], j \in [m_2].$$

Equivalently, the matrix

$$P = (p_{ij}) = \begin{pmatrix} p_{1+} \\ \vdots \\ p_{m_1+} \end{pmatrix} (p_{+1} \quad \cdots \quad p_{+m_2}),$$

has rank 1. So, equivalently its  $2 \times 2$  minors vanish, i.e.  $p_{ij}p_{k\ell} - p_{i\ell}p_{kj} = 0$  for all  $i, k \in [m_1], j, \ell \in [m_2]$ .



# Conditional independence for discrete distributions

## Proposition

Let  $X$  be a discrete random vector with sample space  $\mathcal{X} = \prod_{i=1}^n [m_i]$ . Then for disjoint sets  $A, B, C \subset [n]$ , we have that  $X_A \perp\!\!\!\perp X_B | X_C$  if and only if

$$p_{i_A i_B i_C} + p_{j_A j_B i_C} - p_{i_A j_B i_C} - p_{j_A i_B i_C} = 0 \quad \text{for all } i_A \neq j_A \in \mathcal{X}_A, i_B \neq j_B \in \mathcal{X}_B, i_C \in \mathcal{X}_C.$$

# Conditional independence for discrete distributions

Recall: the **global Markov property** w.r.t.  $G$  consists of all conditional independence statements  $X_A \perp\!\!\!\perp X_B \mid X_C$  for all disjoint  $A, B, C$  s.t.  $C$  separates  $A$  and  $B$ .

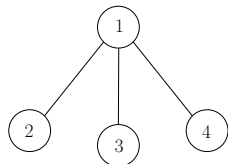
The global Markov properties define an ideal  $I_{\text{global}(G)} \subseteq \mathbb{R}[p_x : x \in \mathcal{X}]$ .

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## Example



Let  $X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4 \in \{1, 2\}$ . Global Markov property:

$$X_2 \perp\!\!\!\perp X_3, X_4 | X_1$$

$$X_3 \perp\!\!\!\perp X_2, X_4 | X_1$$

$$X_4 \perp\!\!\!\perp X_2, X_3 | X_1$$

Ideal associated to the global Markov property is

$$I_{\text{global}(G)} = \langle 2\text{-minors of } M_1 \rangle + \langle 2\text{-minors of } M_2 \rangle + \langle 2\text{-minors of } M_3 \rangle + \langle 2\text{-minors of } M_4 \rangle = I_G$$

where

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- **Independence** in a Gaussian distribution  $X \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \Sigma)$  is equivalent to entries of  $\Sigma$  vanishing:

$$X_a \perp\!\!\!\perp X_b \iff \Sigma_{a,b} = 0.$$

- **Conditional independence** in a Gaussian distribution  $X \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \Sigma)$  is equivalent to a rank condition:

$$X_A \perp\!\!\!\perp X_B | X_C \iff \text{rank}(\Sigma_{A \cup C, B \cup C}) \leq |C|.$$

Proof.

Exercise.



# Markov properties for undirected Gaussian graphical models

## Proposition

*The set of of Gaussian covariance matrices compatible with the global Markov properties for  $G$  is precisely*

$$\mathcal{M}_G = \{\Sigma \succ 0 : \text{rank}(\Sigma_{AUC, BUC}) \leq |C| \text{ for all } A, B, C \subseteq V \text{ s.t. } C \text{ separates } A \text{ and } B\}.$$

The ideal  $I_{\text{global}(G)} \subseteq \mathbb{R}[\Sigma]$  corresponding to the global Markov property for  $G$  is

$$I_{\text{global}(G)} = \langle (|C| + 1)\text{-minors of } \Sigma_{AUC, BUC} : A, B, C \subseteq V \text{ s.t. } C \text{ separates } A \text{ and } B \rangle.$$

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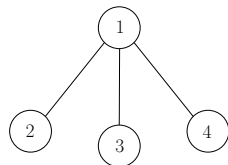
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The global Markov property yields the ideal

$$I_{\text{global}(G)} = \langle \det \Sigma_{12,13}, \det \Sigma_{12,14}, \det \Sigma_{13,14}, \det \Sigma_{12,34}, \det \Sigma_{13,24}, \det \Sigma_{14,23} \rangle.$$

# Equivalence of parametric and implicit descriptions

## Theorem (Hammersley-Clifford)

*A continuous positive distribution  $P$  on  $X$  factorizes according to  $G$  if and only if it satisfies the global Markov property for the graph  $G$ .*

- For discrete distributions:

$$\mathcal{V}(I_G) \cap \Delta_{(|\mathcal{X}|-1),+} = \mathcal{V}(I_{\text{global}(G)}) \cap \Delta_{(|\mathcal{X}|-1),+}.$$

- For Gaussian distributions

$$\mathcal{V}(I_G) \cap \{\Sigma \succ 0\} = \mathcal{V}(I_{\text{global}(G)}) \cap \{\Sigma \succ 0\}.$$



# Directed acyclic graphical models

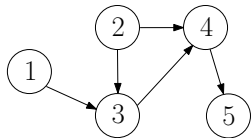
Let  $G = (V, E)$  be a *directed acyclic graph* (or *DAG*). For each node  $v \in V$ , let  $\text{pa}(v)$  be the parents of  $v$ . Let  $X \in \prod_{v \in V} \mathcal{X}_v$  be our random variable.

The distribution  $p(x)$  *factors according to the graph*  $G$  if

$$p(x) = \prod_{v \in V} p(x_v | x_{\text{pa}(v)}).$$

for all  $x \in \mathcal{X}$ .

## Example



The distribution  $p(x)$  factors according to this graph if

$$p(x) = p(x_1)p(x_2)p(x_3|x_1, x_2)p(x_4|x_2, x_3)p(x_5|x_4)$$

for all  $x \in \mathcal{X}$ .

The *directed acyclic graphical model* (or *Bayesian network*) corresponding to a DAG  $G$  and a state space  $\mathcal{X}$  is the set of all densities that factorize in according to  $G$ .

# Discrete directed graphical models

The factorization gives a parametric description of discrete graphical models.

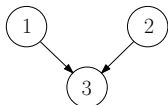
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The factorization gives a parametric description of discrete graphical models.

## Example

Assume that variables are binary:  $X_1, X_2, X_3 \in \{1, 2\}$ . We have

$$p_{x_1, x_2, x_3} = p(x_1)p(x_2)p(x_3|x_1, x_2) = \theta_{x_1}^{(1)}\theta_{x_2}^{(2)}\theta_{x_3|x_1, x_2}^{(3)}.$$



Note that

$$1 = \theta_1^{(1)} + \theta_2^{(1)} = \theta_1^{(2)} + \theta_2^{(2)} = \theta_{1|x_1, x_2}^{(3)} + \theta_{2|x_1, x_2}^{(3)}$$

for all values  $x_1, x_2 \in \{1, 2\}$ . Using Macaulay2, we can compute the vanishing ideal  $I_G$  for this model:

```
S = QQ[a, b, c11, c12, c21, c22];  
R = QQ[p111, p112, p121, p122, p211, p212, p221, p222];  
f = map(S, R, { a*b*c11, a*b*(1-c11), a*(1-b)*c12, a*(1-b)*(1-c12),  
(1-a)*b*c21, (1-a)*b*(1-c21), (1-a)*(1-b)*c22, (1-a)*(1-b)*(1-c22) });  
I = kernel f
```

The output is:

$$I_G = \langle p_{11+}p_{22+} - p_{12+}p_{21+} \rangle = I_{1 \perp\!\!\!\perp 2}.$$

# Gaussian directed graphical models

The factorization of a Gaussian DAG model also gives a parametrization of the model!  
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## Theorem

Let  $X \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \Sigma)$  be a Gaussian random vector. The density of  $X$  factors according to the DAG  $G$  if and only if we can write

$$X_i = \sum_{j \in \text{pa}(i)} \lambda_{ji} X_j + \epsilon_i,$$

where  $\epsilon = (\epsilon_1, \dots, \epsilon_n) \sim \mathcal{N}(\nu, \Omega = \text{diag}(\omega_1, \dots, \omega_n))$ , i.e. the  $\epsilon_i$  are independent of each other.

## Proof.

Exercise. □

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## Proof.

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Equivalently,

$$X = \Lambda^T X + \epsilon, \text{ where } \Lambda_{ij} = \begin{cases} \lambda_{ij} & \text{if } i \rightarrow j \in E \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}.$$

# Gaussian directed graphical models

Note that

$$X = \Lambda^T X + \epsilon \iff X = (I - \Lambda)^{-T} \epsilon.$$

Therefore, the covariance matrix of  $X$  is

$$\Sigma = (I - \Lambda)^{-T} \Omega (I - \Lambda)^{-1}.$$

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## Corollary

*The Gaussian graphical model associated to the DAG  $G = (V, E)$  is*

$$\mathcal{M}_G = \{\Sigma = (I - \Lambda)^{-T} \Omega (I - \Lambda)^{-1} : \Lambda \in \mathbb{R}^E \text{ and } \Omega \succ 0 \text{ is diagonal}\}.$$



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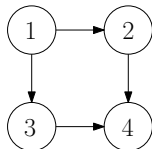
$$\mathcal{M}_G = \{\Sigma = (I - \Lambda)^{-T} \Omega (I - \Lambda)^{-1} : \Lambda \in \mathbb{R}^E \text{ and } \Omega \succ 0 \text{ is diagonal}\}.$$

## Definition

The Gaussian vanishing ideal for a given DAG  $G$  is the ideal  $I_G \subseteq \mathbb{R}[\Sigma]$  of the image of this parametrization.

# Gaussian directed graphical models

## Example



$$\Lambda = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \lambda_{12} & \lambda_{13} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \lambda_{24} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \lambda_{34} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (I - \Lambda)^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \lambda_{12} & \lambda_{13} & \lambda_{12}\lambda_{24} + \lambda_{13}\lambda_{34} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & \lambda_{24} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & \lambda_{34} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\Sigma = (I - \Lambda)^{-T} \begin{pmatrix} \omega_1 & & & \\ & \omega_2 & & \\ & & \omega_3 & \\ & & & \omega_4 \end{pmatrix} (I - \Lambda)^{-1}$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} \omega_1 & \omega_1\lambda_{12} & \omega_1\lambda_{13} & \omega_1\lambda_{12}\lambda_{24} + \omega_1\lambda_{13}\lambda_{34} \\ \omega_1\lambda_{12} & \omega_2 + \omega_1\lambda_{12}^2 & \omega_1\lambda_{12}\lambda_{13} & \omega_2\lambda_{24} + \omega_1\lambda_{12}^2\lambda_{24} + \omega_1\lambda_{12}\lambda_{13}\lambda_{34} \\ \dots & & & \\ \dots & & & \end{pmatrix}.$$

The ideal of the parametrization is  $I_G = \langle |\Sigma_{12,13}|, |\Sigma_{123,234}| \rangle = I_{2 \perp\!\!\!\perp 3 | 1, 1 \perp\!\!\!\perp 4 | 2, 3}$ .

# Markov properties for directed acyclic graphical models

Let  $G = (V, E)$  be a DAG.

The **directed global Markov property** associated to  $G$  consists of all conditional independence statements  $X_A \perp\!\!\!\perp X_B \mid X_C$  for all disjoint sets  $A, B, C$  such that  $C$  ***d-separates***  $A$  and  $B$ .

# $d$ -separation

An *undirected path* in a DAG  $G$  is a sequence of nodes  $u_0, \dots, u_k$  such that either  $u_i \leftarrow u_{i+1}$  or  $u_i \rightarrow u_{i+1}$  for all  $i \geq 0$ .

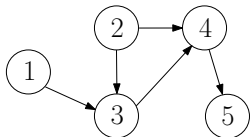
The vertex  $u_i$  is a **collider** in an undirected path if  $u_{i-1} \rightarrow u_i \leftarrow u_{i+1}$ .

## Definition

Two nodes  $u, v \in V$  in a DAG  $G$  are  **$d$ -separated** given  $C \subseteq V \setminus \{u, v\}$  if for every undirected path  $\pi$  between  $u$  and  $v$

- either  $\exists$  a non-collider in  $C$
- or  $\exists$  a collider not in  $C \cup \text{an}(C)$ .

## Example



$d$ -separation:

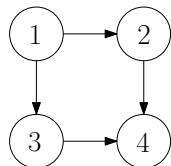
- $1 \perp_d 2$
- $1 \perp_d 4 | 2, 3$
- $1 \perp_d 5 | 4$
- $1 \not\perp_d 2 | 5$

Global Markov properties:

- $X_1 \perp\!\!\!\perp X_2$
- $X_1 \perp\!\!\!\perp X_4 | X_2, X_3$
- $X_1 \perp\!\!\!\perp X_5 | X_4$

# Markov properties for DAG models

## Example



$d$ -separation:

$$2 \perp_d 3 | 1$$

$$1 \perp_d 4 | 2, 3$$

Global Markov properties:

$$X_2 \perp\!\!\!\perp X_3 | X_1$$

$$X_1 \perp\!\!\!\perp X_4 | X_2, X_3$$

- Discrete: let  $X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4 \in \{1, 2\}$ . Then

$$I_{\text{global}(G)} = \langle p_{1111} + p_{1222} - p_{1112} - p_{1211}, p_{2111} + p_{2222} - p_{2112} - p_{2211}, \\ p_{1111}p_{2112} - p_{1112}p_{2111}, p_{1121}p_{2122} - p_{1122}p_{2121}, \\ p_{1211}p_{2212} - p_{1212}p_{2211}, p_{1221}p_{2222} - p_{1222}p_{2221} \rangle.$$

- Gaussian:

$$I_{\text{global}(G)} = \langle \det \Sigma_{12,13}, \det \Sigma_{123,234} \rangle = I_G.$$

# Hammersley-Clifford Theorem for directed acyclic graphical models

## Theorem

*A probability density factorizes according to a DAG  $G$  if and only if it satisfies the global Markov property with respect to  $G$ .*

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For Gaussian directed acyclic graphical models:

$$\mathcal{M}_G = \{\Sigma \succ 0\} \cap \mathcal{V}(I_G) = \{\Sigma \succ 0\} \cap \mathcal{V}(I_{\text{global}(G)}).$$

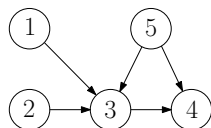
Note that

$$I_{\text{global}(G)} \subseteq I_G,$$

but equality doesn't always hold.

# Gaussian directed graphical models in Macaulay2

## Example



There is a Macaulay2 package called "GraphicalModels" specifically designed for working with parametrizations and conditional independence ideals in graphical models.

```
loadPackage "GraphicalModels"  
G = digraph{{1,{3}},{2,{3}},{3,{4}},{5,{3,4}}}  
R = gaussianRing G  
I = conditionalIndependenceIdeal(R,globalMarkov(G))  
J = gaussianVanishingIdeal(R)  
I == J
```

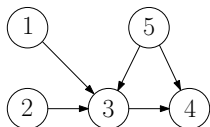
Output: false

Reason:  $|\Sigma_{12,34}| \in I_G$  but  $|\Sigma_{12,34}| \notin I_{\text{global}(G)}$ .



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Output: false

Reason:  $|\Sigma_{12,34}| \in I_G$  but  $|\Sigma_{12,34}| \notin I_{\text{global}(G)}$ .

## Theorem

For a Gaussian DAG model the following relationship holds between  $I_G$  and  $I_{\text{global}(G)}$ :

$$I_G = I_{\text{global}(G)} : \left( \prod_{A \subseteq V} \det(\Sigma_{A,A}) \right)^\infty.$$

# Markov equivalence for directed acyclic graphical models

Undirected graphical models:

- unique set of global Markov statements,
- unique family of probability distributions.

Not true for directed graphical models!

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All three of these DAGS have the global Markov property consisting of one statement:

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## Definition

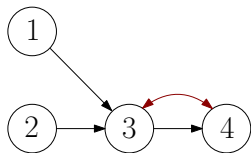
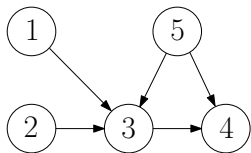
Two DAGs are **Markov equivalent** if they yield the same set of global Markov statements, i.e. they have the same  $d$ -separation.

## Theorem

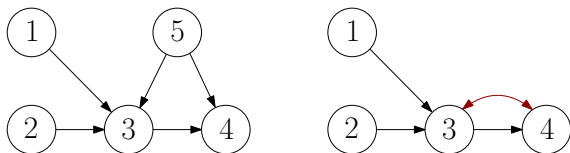
Two DAGS  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  are Markov equivalent if and only if

1.  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  have the same underlying undirected graph,
2.  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  have the same unshielded colliders, i.e. triples of vertices  $u, v, w$  which induce the subgraph  $u \rightarrow v \leftarrow w$ .

# Linear Structural Equation Models



# Linear Structural Equation Models



## Definition

A *mixed graph* is a triple  $G = (V, D, B)$  where

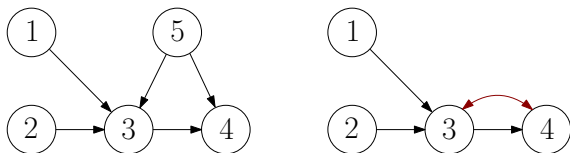
- $D$  is the set of *directed edges*  $i \rightarrow j$ , and
- $B$  is the set of *bidirected edges*  $i \leftrightarrow j$ .

Gaussian random vectors  $X = (X_v : v \in V)$ ,  $\epsilon = (\epsilon_v : v \in V)$  such that

$$X = \Lambda^T X + \epsilon,$$

where  $\Lambda \in \mathbb{R}^D$ , and  $\text{Var}(\epsilon) = \Omega$ , where  $\Omega_{uv} = 0$  for  $(u, v) \notin B$ .

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## Example

$$\Lambda = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & \lambda_{13} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \lambda_{23} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \lambda_{34} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \Omega = \begin{pmatrix} \omega_{11} & & & \\ & \omega_{22} & & \\ & & \omega_{33} & \omega_{34} \\ & & \omega_{34} & \omega_{44} \end{pmatrix}.$$

# Linear Structural Equation Models

$$X = \Lambda^T X + \epsilon \iff X = (I - \Lambda)^{-T} \epsilon.$$

Thus, if  $\Sigma = \text{Var}(X)$ , then

$$\Sigma = (I - \Lambda)^{-T} \Omega (I - \Lambda)^{-1}.$$

## Definition

The **linear structural equation model** associated to a mixed graph  $G = (V, D, B)$  is

$$\mathcal{M}_G = \{(I - \Lambda)^{-T} \Omega (I - \Lambda)^{-1} : \Lambda \in \mathbb{R}^D, \Omega \in PD(B)\}.$$

The **parametrization map** of this model is

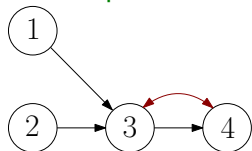
$$\phi_G : \mathbb{R}^D \times PD(B) \rightarrow PD_V, \quad (\Lambda, \Omega) \mapsto (I - \Lambda)^{-T} \Omega (I - \Lambda)^{-1}.$$

What is the ideal of the image of  $\phi_G$ ? A complete characterization of generators isn't known, Markov properties aren't enough.



# Linear Structural Equation Models

## Example

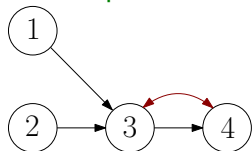


$$I_G = \langle |\Sigma_{12,45}| \rangle.$$

Not a conditional independence ideal!  
Corresponds to **trek separation**.

# Linear Structural Equation Models

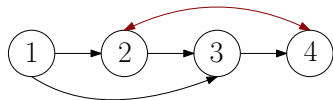
## Example



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Corresponds to **trek separation**.

## Example (Verma Graph)



$$I_G = \langle \sigma_{11}\sigma_{13}\sigma_{22}\sigma_{34} - \sigma_{11}\sigma_{13}\sigma_{23}\sigma_{24} \\ - \sigma_{11}\sigma_{14}\sigma_{22}\sigma_{33} + \sigma_{11}\sigma_{14}\sigma_{23}^2 - \sigma_{12}^2\sigma_{13}\sigma_{34} \\ + \sigma_{12}^2\sigma_{14}\sigma_{33} + \sigma_{12}\sigma_{13}^2\sigma_{24} - \sigma_{12}\sigma_{13}\sigma_{14}\sigma_{23} \rangle.$$

Not determinantal. It turns out that

$$I_G = \left\langle \left| \begin{array}{c|c} \Sigma_{123,123} & \Sigma_{123,124} \\ \hline \Sigma_{1,3} & \Sigma_{1,4} \end{array} \right| \right\rangle.$$

# Linear Structural Equation Models

Open problems:

- Parameter identifiability: is  $\phi_G$  (generically) injective?
- What is the dimension of the model  $\mathcal{M}_G$ ?
- Covariance equivalence: what are the equivalence classes of mixed graphs?
- What are the generators of  $I_G$ ?
- Maximum likelihood estimation: when does the MLE exist, what is the ML-degree?
- ...

[1] S. Sullivant. *Algebraic Statistics* (2018)

[2] M. Drton. *Algebraic Problems in Linear Structural Equation Modeling* (2016)

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Thank you!