

# Reconstructability Analysis: Discrete Multivariate Modeling

Martin Zwick

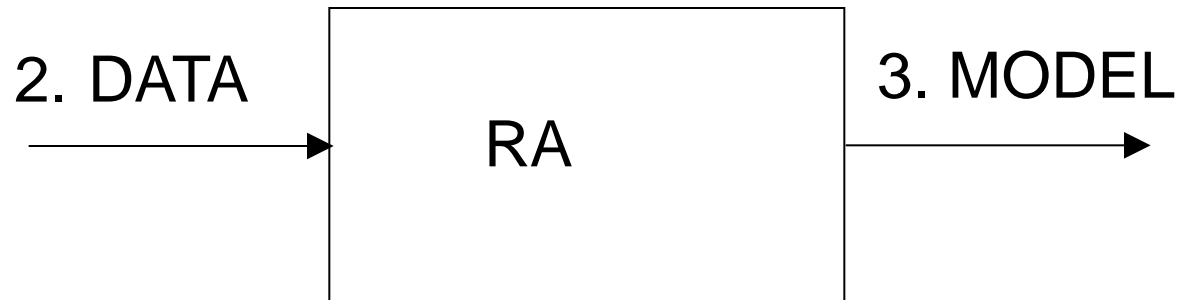
Professor of Systems Science  
Portland State University  
Portland OR 97207  
2024

[zwick@pdx.edu](mailto:zwick@pdx.edu)  
<https://web.pdx.edu/~zwick/>

# 1. Introduction: what is RA

2. Input data to RA

3. Output model from RA



# ***INTRODUCTION: WHAT IS RA?***

- **Reconstructability Analysis** (RA) = a probabilistic graphical modeling methodology
- RA = Information theory (IT) + Graph theory (GT)
- Graphs, applied to data, are **models**:
- node = variable; link = relationship
- RA uses not only graphs (a link joins 2 nodes), but **hypergraphs** (a link can join **>2** nodes)

## ***WHY RA MIGHT BE OF INTEREST*** 1/2

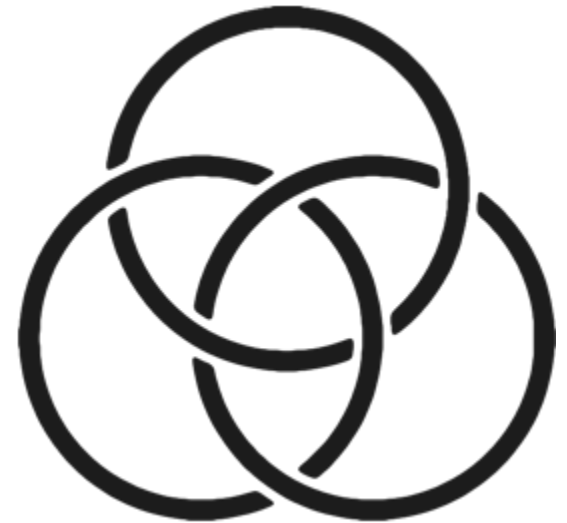
- Can detect **many-variable** or **non-linear** interactions not hypothesized in advance, i.e., it is explicitly designed for **exploratory** search
- **Transparent** -- not a black box like deep learning NNs
- Easily **interpretable & communicable**
- Designed for **nominal** variables
- Can also analyze **continuous** variables via **binning**
- **Prediction**/classification, **clustering**/network models
- **Time series, spatial** analyses
- Overlaps common **statistical & machine-learning** methods, but has unique features

## ***WHY RA MIGHT BE OF INTEREST*** <sup>2/2</sup>

- Analyses at **3 levels of refinement**:
  - coarse (very fast, in principle *many* variables)
  - fine (slower, 100s of variables) (~500 is max so far)
  - ultra-fine (slow, < 10 variables)
- **Standard application**: frequency data  $f(A_i, B_j, C_k, Z_l)$
- Variety of **non-standard capabilities**
  - Data: set-theoretic relations & mappings
  - Predict continuous dependent variables
  - Integrate multiple inconsistent data sets (not yet in Occam)
  - Regression-like Fourier version (not yet in Occam)

# ***OCCAM, SOFTWARE FOR RA***

- OCCAM, developed by Systems Science Program, Portland State University, is now **open source**
- [github.com/occam-ra/occam](https://github.com/occam-ra/occam)
- Contact me if you want to become involved:
- [zwick@pdx.edu](mailto:zwick@pdx.edu)



# ***PAST RA APPLICATIONS***

- ***BIOMEDICAL***

Gene-disease association, disease risk factors, gene expression, health care policy & outcomes, **dementia**, diabetes, heart disease, prostate cancer, brain injury, primate health, surgery

- ***FINANCE-ECONOMICS-BUSINESS***

Stock market, bank loans, credit decisions, apparel analyses, market segmentation

- ***SOCIAL-POLITICAL-ENVIRONMENTAL***

Socio-ecological interactions, wars, urban water use, rainfall, forest attributes

- ***MATH-ENGINEERING***

**Energy generation**, logic circuits, automata dynamics, genetic algorithm & neural network preprocessing, chip manufacturing, pattern recognition, decision analysis

- ***OTHER***

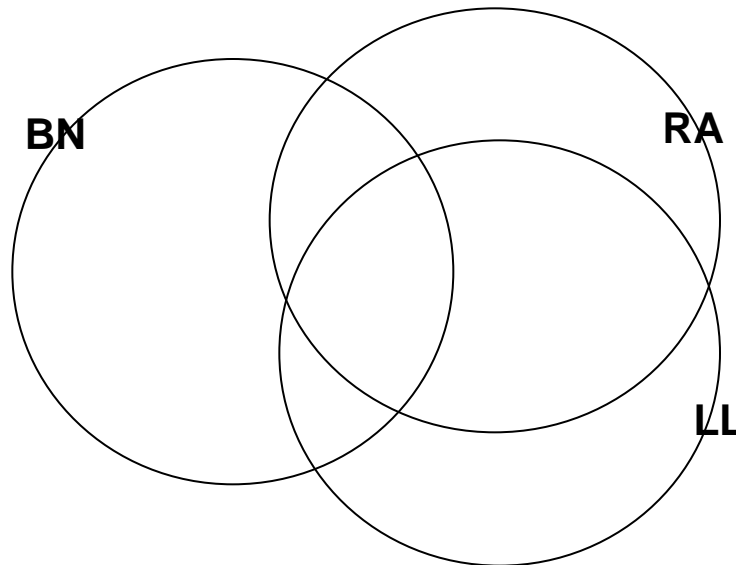
Textual analysis, language analysis

# ***OVERLAP WITH STATISTICAL, ML METHODS***

Closely related to other PGM methods, e.g., **log linear** (LL) (& logistic regression) models & **Bayesian networks** (BN)

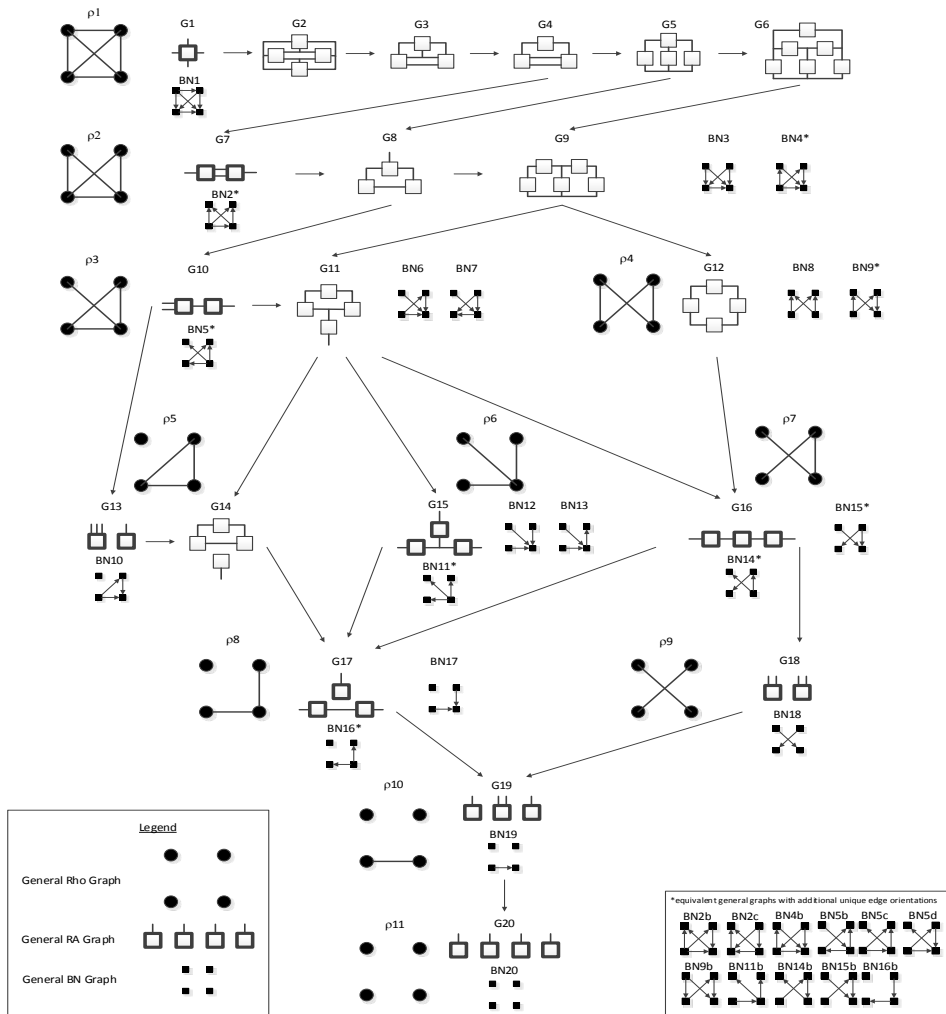
Where methods overlap, they're **equivalent**

These PGM methods totally **different** from **neural nets**





## 4-VARIABLE GENERAL RHO, RA, BN GRAPHS



- Harris, M. and Zwick, M. (2021). “Graphical Models in Reconstructability Analysis and Bayesian Networks.” Entropy, 23: 986.  
<https://doi.org/10.3390/e23080986>

# COMPARING RA TO BN, SVR, MLP (NN)

R Squared: bigger is better							
Method	ABC Train E Test	ABE Train D Test	ADE Train C Test	CDE Train B Test	BCD Train A Test	Average	Standard Deviation
Industry Model	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	7.5%	n/a
BN	13.3%	13.7%	14.2%	13.7%	14.4%	13.9%	0.5%
<b>RA</b>	<b>33.5%</b>	<b>33.2%</b>	<b>35.2%</b>	<b>33.2%</b>	<b>34.1%</b>	<b>33.8%</b>	<b>0.9%</b>
SVR-rbf	7.5%	7.5%	7.5%	7.2%	8.0%	7.5%	0.3%
SVR-Linear	6.3%	6.4%	6.5%	6.1%	6.9%	6.4%	0.3%
SVR-poly	6.6%	6.7%	6.8%	6.3%	7.1%	6.7%	0.3%
SVR-sigmoid	0.4%	0.1%	0.1%	0.4%	0.4%	0.3%	0.2%
MLP	16.8%	18.2%	17.9%	18.2%	19.3%	18.1%	0.9%
MAE: smaller is better							
Method	ABC Train E Test	ABE Train D Test	ADE Train C Test	CDE Train B Test	BCD Train A Test	Average	Standard Deviation
Industry Model	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	121.7	n/a
BN	103.0	102.2	102.4	103.4	102.7	102.7	0.5
<b>RA</b>	<b>86.6</b>	<b>86.7</b>	<b>85.8</b>	<b>87.6</b>	<b>86.8</b>	<b>86.7</b>	<b>0.6</b>
SVR-rbf	108.4	107.9	108.3	109.2	108.6	108.5	0.5
SVR-Linear	109.6	109.0	109.4	110.3	109.7	109.6	0.5
SVR-poly	109.1	108.6	109.0	109.9	109.4	109.2	0.5
SVR-sigmoid	588.3	579.6	580.7	600.5	582.8	586.4	8.5
MLP	100.5	99.2	99.8	100.4	99.7	99.9	0.5
MSE: smaller is better							
Method	ABC Train E Test	ABE Train D Test	ADE Train C Test	CDE Train B Test	BCD Train A Test	Average	Standard Deviation
Industry Model	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	27,339.7	n/a
BN	21,717.9	21,038.1	20,962.8	21,710.6	21,509.5	21,387.8	364.3
<b>RA</b>	<b>16,717.4</b>	<b>16,425.5</b>	<b>15,894.2</b>	<b>16,904.0</b>	<b>16,616.8</b>	<b>16,511.6</b>	<b>386.0</b>
SVR-rbf	23,164.5	22,576.3	22,603.6	23,361.5	23,164.7	22,974.1	359.9
SVR-Linear	23,470.0	22,822.8	22,860.1	23,631.9	23,410.9	23,239.2	372.2
SVR-poly	23,395.3	22,765.9	22,790.8	23,581.3	23,360.2	23,178.7	375.1
SVR-sigmoid	699,725.9	703,145.2	709,064.7	743,823.7	697,264.0	710,604.7	19,090.9
MLP	20,831.0	19,953.1	20,064.1	20,580.2	20,290.0	20,343.7	363.0

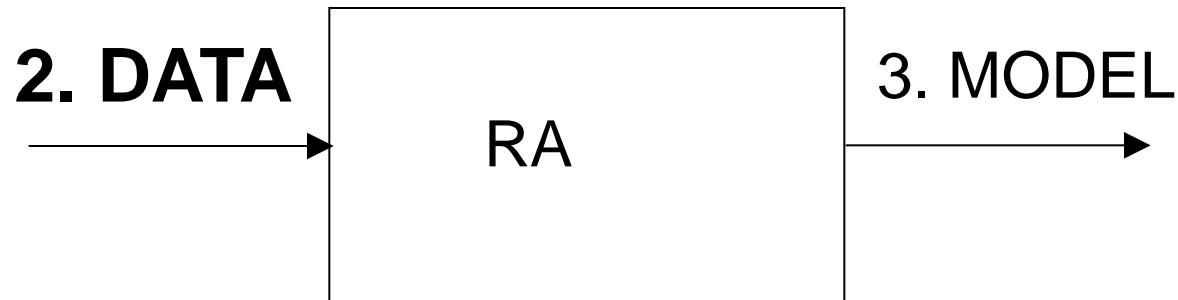
Harris, M., Kirby, E., Agrawal, A., Pokharel, R., Puyleart, F., and Zwick, M. (2023). “Machine Learning Predictions of Electricity Capacity.” *Energies* 2023, 16, 187.

<https://doi.org/10.3390/en16010187>

1. Introduction: what is RA

**2. Input data to RA**

3. Output model from RA



# ***FORM OF DATA***

## Variables

- Type: **nominal**; **bin** if continuous (continuous DV needn't be binned)
- Number: few variables to 100s (in principle >1000s coarse analysis)

## Data analysis

### *directed system*

- IV-DV distinction: **predict/classify** a DV from IVs

### *neutral system*

- No IV-DV distinction: model association, **clustering**

# FORM OF DATA

- frequency( $A_i, B_j, C_k, Z_l$ ) or individual cases

				frequency
$A_0$	$B_0$	$C_0$	$Z_0$	13
$A_0$	$B_0$	$C_0$	$Z_1$	2
$A_0$	$B_0$	$C_1$	$Z_0$	9
$A_0$	$B_0$	$C_1$	$Z_1$	11
...	...	...	...	—
				N

N = sample size

	A	B	C	Z
case <sub>1</sub>	$A_0$	$B_0$	$C_0$	$Z_0$
case <sub>2</sub>	$A_1$	$B_2$	$C_3$	$Z_1$
...				
case <sub>N</sub>	$A_0$	$B_0$	$C_0$	$Z_0$

Cases are indexed by  
 individual (in a population),  
 time, or  
 space

$$\text{frequency}(ABCZ) / N = p_{\text{data}}(ABCZ)$$

# OCCAM input file, **DATA** CASES INDEXED BY **INDIVIDUAL**

ID ,413,0,ID #Index specifying individual  
 APOE ,2,1,Ap  
 Gender ,2,1,Sx  
 Education ,3,1,Ed  
 AgeLastExam ,3,1,Ag  
 rs1801133 ,3,1,A  
 rs3818361 ,4,1,B  
 rs7561528 ,3,1,C  
 rs744373 ,3,1,D  
 rs6943822 ,3,1,E  
 rs4298437 ,3,1,F  
 rs7012010 ,3,1,G  
 rs11136000 ,3,1,H  
 rs10786998 ,4,1,J  
 rs11193130 ,4,1,K  
 rs610932 ,3,1,L  
 rs3851179 ,3,1,M  
 rs3764650 ,4,1,N  
 rs3865444 ,4,1,P  
 Dementia ,2,2,Z

## DEMENTIA EXAMPLE

Z = 0 no disease; Z = 1 disease

#ID	Ap	Sx	Ed	Ag	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	J	K	L	M	N	P	Z
101	0	0	2	2	1	1	0	1	2	2	1	1	2	0	1	1	2	2	1
103	0	0	2	1	0	2	2	0	1	1	1	2	2	0	1	1	0	1	0
111	0	1	2	1	2	2	1	1	0	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	0	1	0
112	0	0	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	0	2	2	0	0	2	0
118	0	1	0	2	2	2	2	0	0	1	1	1	.	.	1	1	0	2	0
120	0	1	2	2	1	2	1	1	0	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	0	.	1
121	0	0	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	1	.	1
122	0	0	1	2	1	2	1	1	2	0	0	2	2	0	1	1	1	1	0
123	0	0	2	2	2	2	2	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	2	1	0	1	1

...

# **DATA CASES INDEXED BY TIME**

	X	Y	Z
t-4	--	--	--
t-3	0	1	2
t-2	3	4	5
t-1	6	7	8
t	9	10	11

original data

A	B	C	X	Y	Z
--	--	--	--	--	--
--	--	--	--	--	--
0	1	2	3	4	5
3	4	5	6	7	8
6	7	8	9	10	11

transformed data

Values are labels for variable states at particular times

XYZ = **generating variables**

Apply **mask** (here # lags = 1) to data

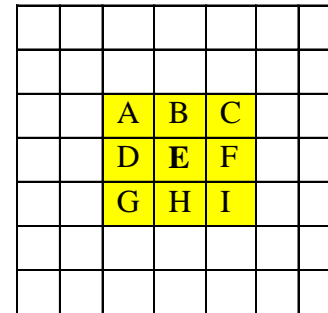
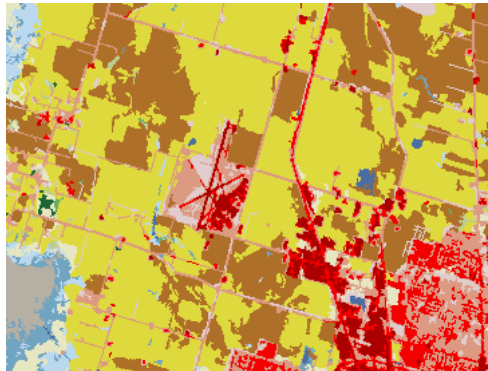
**Mask adds lagged variables**,  $ABC(t) = XYZ(t-1)$

E.g.,  $A(t) = X(t-1)$ , labeled 6

Masking: time series data → **atemporal** data

# DATA CASES INDEXED BY SPACE : 1 generating variable

A,14,1,A  
 B,14,1,B  
 C,14,1,C  
 D,14,1,D  
**E,14,2,E**  
 F,14,1,F  
 G,14,1,G  
 H,14,1,H  
 I,14,1,I



Moore neighborhood

**E** = DV

A,B,C,D,F,G,H,I = IVs

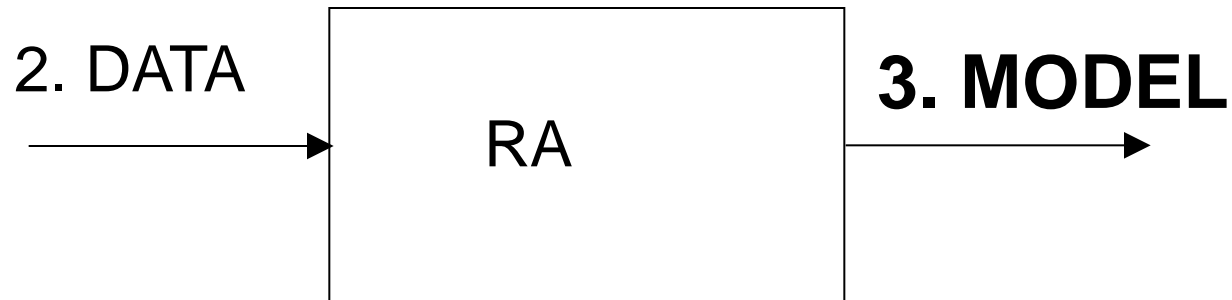
IVs & DV have 14 possible states

#A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
71	71	71	71	71	71	71	71	71
71	71	71	71	71	71	71	71	71
71	71	71	71	71	71	71	71	71
71	71	71	71	71	71	71	71	71
71	71	71	71	71	71	71	71	71
71	71	71	71	71	71	71	71	71
71	71	71	71	71	71	71	71	71
71	71	71	71	71	71	71	71	71
71	71	71	95	71	95	71	71	71
95	71	95	95	71	95	71	71	71
95	95	95	95	95	71	71	71	95
71	95	95	90	95	95	71	95	95
95	95	90	90	71	95	95	95	95
95	90	90	90	95	90	95	95	90

...



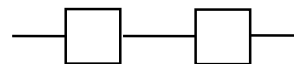
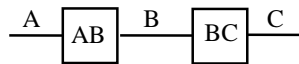
1. Introduction: what is RA
2. Input data to RA
- 3. Output model from RA**



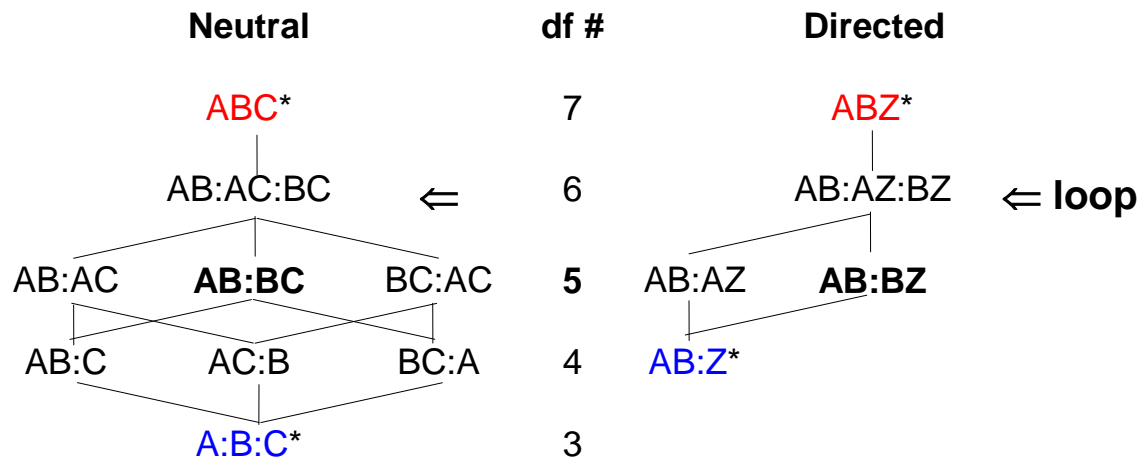
# MODEL = STRUCTURE APPLIED TO DATA

A structure (graph or hypergraph) is a set of relationships (GT)

Specific structure **AB:BC**    General structure



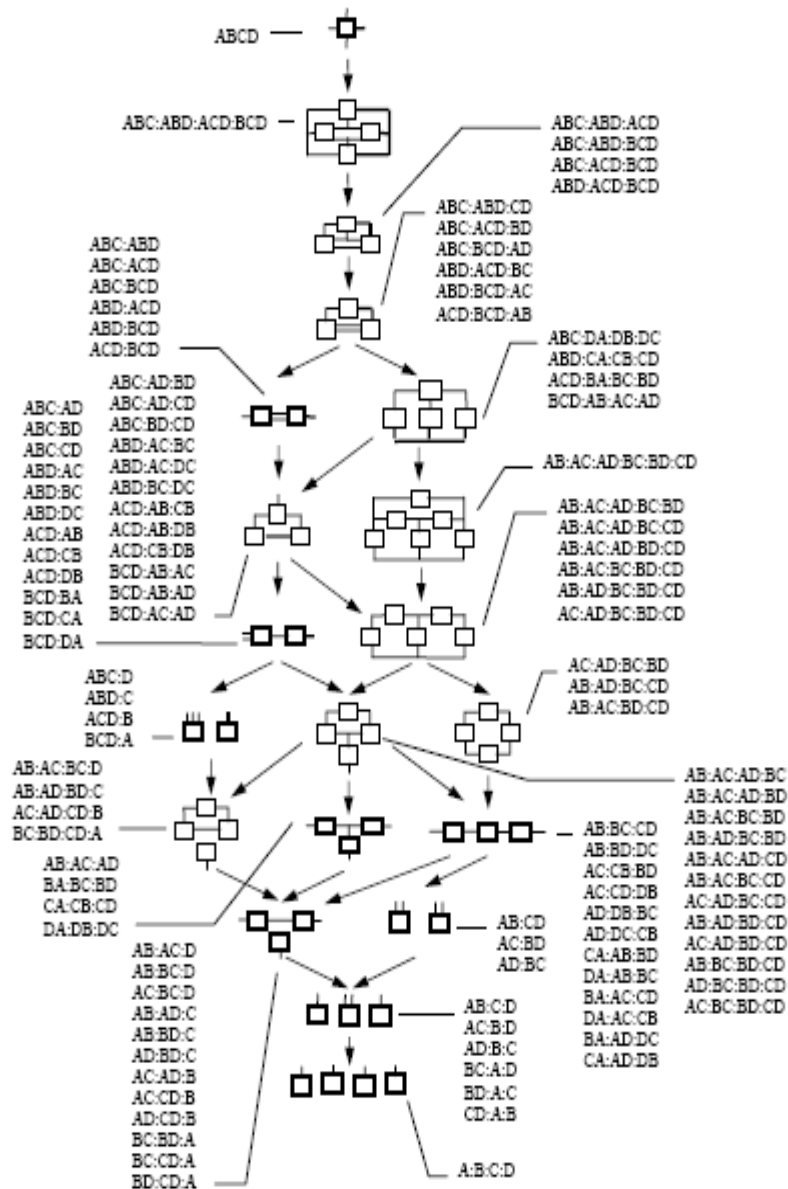
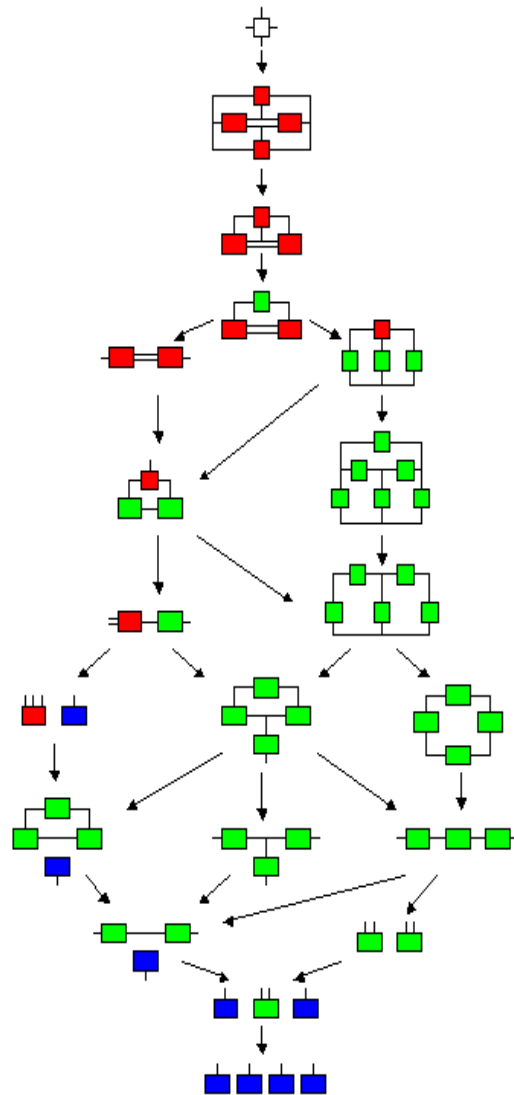
LATTICE OF SPECIFIC STRUCTURES (3 variables)



\* Reference model is **data** or **independence**

# df (degrees of freedom) values are for binary variables

## STRUCTURES 4 variables (GT)



# ***STRUCTURES* (GT)**

## Combinatorial explosion

# variables	3	4	5	6
# general structures neutral	5	20	180	16,143
# specific structures neutral	9	114	6,894	7,785,062
one DV directed	5	19	167	7,580
one DV, no loops directed	4	8	16	32

NEED **INTELLIGENT HEURISTICS** TO **SEARCH LATTICE**

Can analyze 100s of variables, & for simple models, many more.

# ***TYPES OF STRUCTURES*** (GT)

FOR **PREDICTION / CLASSIFICATION** (directed system)

- **Variable-based**

- **no loops** [coarse]      *many* variables (**fast**)  
IV:ACZ      simple prediction, **feature selection**

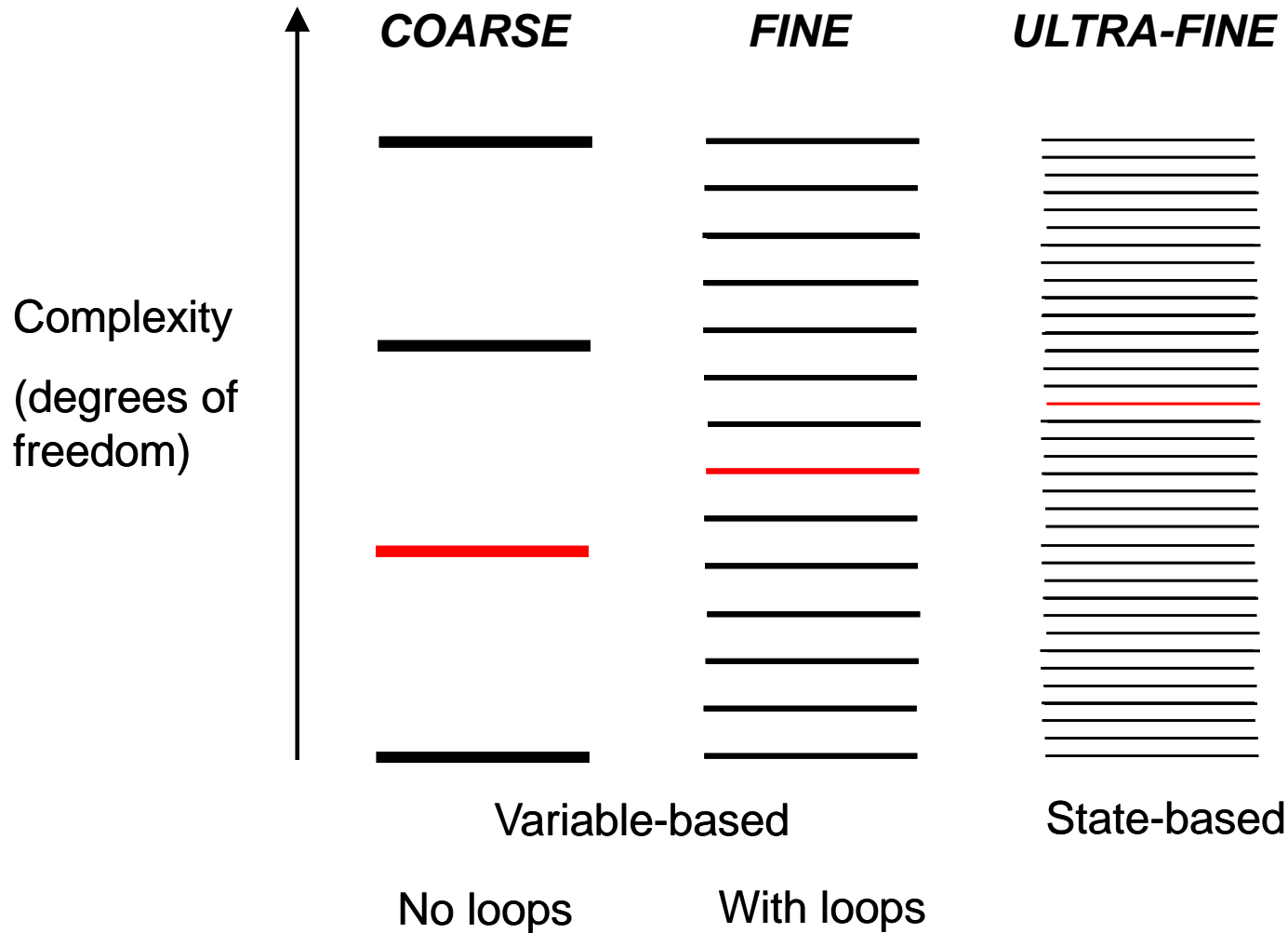
- **with loops** [fine]      up to 100s of variables (slow)  
IV:ABZ:BCZ      better prediction

- **State-based** [ultra-fine]      < 10 variables (**very slow**)  
IV:Z: A<sub>1</sub>B<sub>1</sub>Z : B<sub>2</sub>C<sub>3</sub>Z<sub>1</sub>      best prediction; detailed models

“IV” = ABC (all IVs); Z = DV

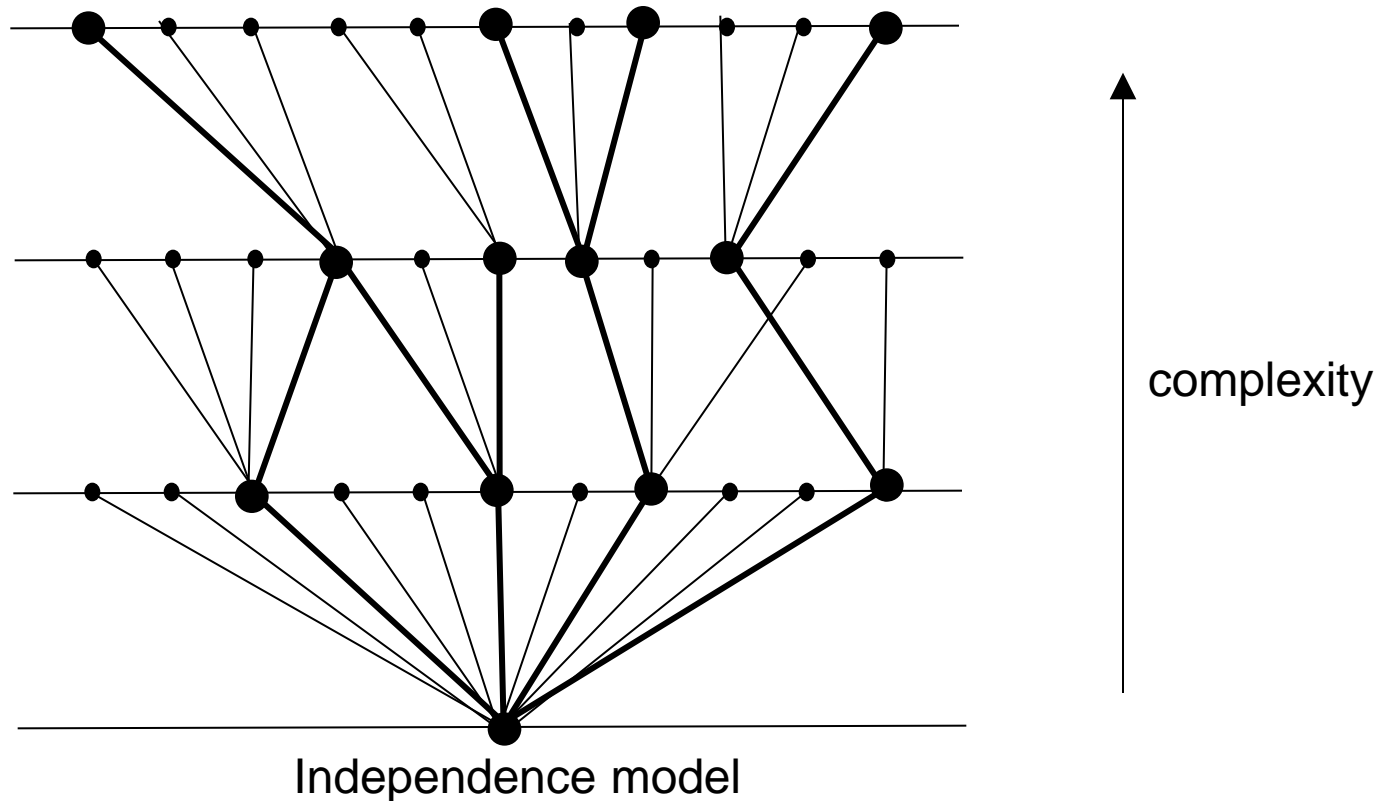
All directed system models include an IV component

## ***TYPES OF STRUCTURES (GT)***



# ***OCCAM SEARCH of LATTICE of STRUCTURES***

beam search, levels = 3, width = 4 (node = model)  
(there are many other search algorithms)



# ***MODEL = PROBABILITY DISTRIBUTION (IT)***

## Neutral system:

- Model = calculated *joint* distribution,  
e.g.,  $p_{ABC:AZ:BZ}(A_i B_j C_k Z_l)$

## Directed system:

- Model = calculated *conditional* distribution,  
e.g.,  $p_{ABC:AZ:BZ}(Z_l | A_i B_j C_k)$
- Distribution gives *rule* to *predict* Z from A,B,C  
And *increase/decrease risk* relative to margins



# SELECTING A MODEL (IT)

## 1. High information (or low error) in model

### Directed system

- Info-theory measure: high  $\Delta H$ , reduction of uncertainty of DV
- Generic measure: high %correct, accuracy of prediction

## 2. Low complexity: df, degrees of freedom

## 3. Information $\leftrightarrow$ complexity tradeoff

- Statistical significance (Chi-square p-values)
- Integrated measures: AIC, BIC  
(Akaike & Bayesian Information Criteria)
- BIC a conservative selection criterion

# UNCERTAINTY REDUCTION: SIMPLE EXAMPLE

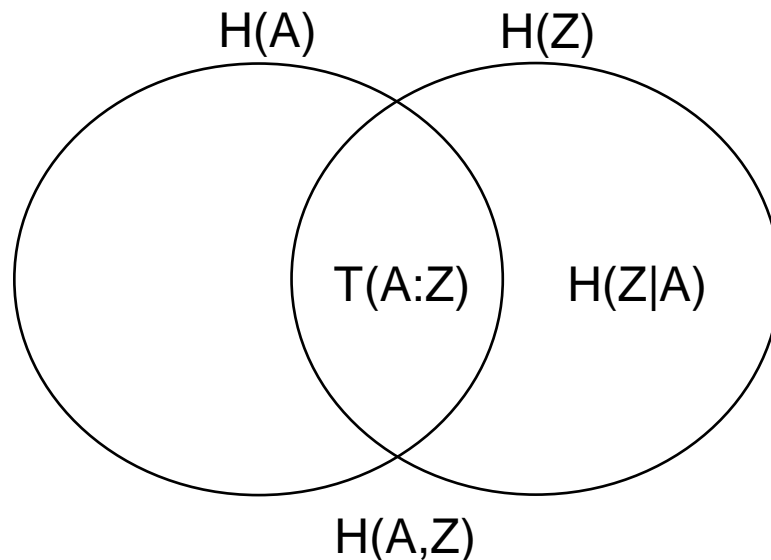
2 variables:  $IV=A$ ;  $DV=Z$ ;  $T(A:Z)$ =mutual information (*association*)

- *Uncertainty reduction* is like variance explained

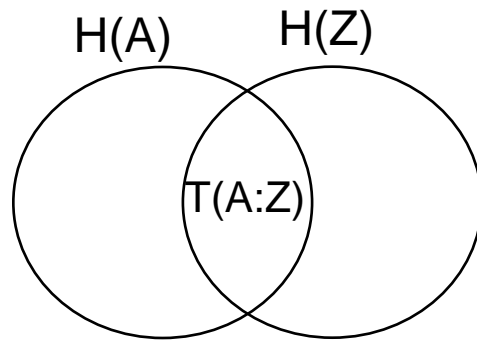
Model  $AZ$  = predict  $Z$ , i.e., reduce  $H(Z)$ , by knowing  $A$

- Uncertainty *reduced* =  $T(A:Z)$ ; uncertainty *remaining* =  $H(Z|A)$

$\Delta H = T(A:Z) / H(Z)$  *fractional uncertainty reduction* (express in %)



# UNCERTAINTY REDUCTION: SIMPLE EXAMPLE



	$Z_0$	$Z_1$	
$A_0$	$.67*.5$	$.33*.5$	.5
$A_1$	$.33*.5$	$.67*.5$	.5
df=3	.5	.5	

- $p(Z_1)/p(Z_0) = 1:1$ , not knowing A  $\rightarrow 2:1$  or 1:2, knowing A
- $\Delta H(Z) = T(A:Z) / H(Z) = 8\%$
- 8% reduction in uncertainty is *large* (unlike variance!)

# SELECTING A MODEL *DEMENTIA EXAMPLE*

<u>Criterion</u>	<u>model</u>	<u><math>\Delta H(\%)</math></u>	<u><math>\Delta df</math></u>	<u>%c</u>	<u><math>\Delta BIC</math></u>
------------------	--------------	----------------------------------	-------------------------------	-----------	--------------------------------

*Variable-based with loops (fine)*

BIC	IV: $A_p Z : E_d Z : K Z$	16	5	70	59
-----	---------------------------	----	---	----	----

p-value	IV: $A_p Z : E_d Z : K Z : C Z : L Z$	18	9	71	
---------	---------------------------------------	----	---	----	--

AIC	IV: $\textcircled{B A_p} Z : E_d Z : K Z : C Z$	20	11	72	
-----	-------------------------------------------------	----	----	----	--

*State-based (ultra-fine)*

BIC	(model below; each interaction = 1 df)	20	6	72	81
-----	----------------------------------------	----	---	----	----

IV:Z:  $A_{p_1} Z : E_{d_0} Z : K_2 Z : A_{p_0} E_{d_2} C_2 Z : A_{p_0} E_{d_1} C_2 K_1 Z : A_{p_0} E_{d_1} C_0 K_1 Z$

Models integrate multiple predicting interactions

IV =  $A_p E_d C K L \dots$  (all the independent variables);

%c( IV:Z ) = 52

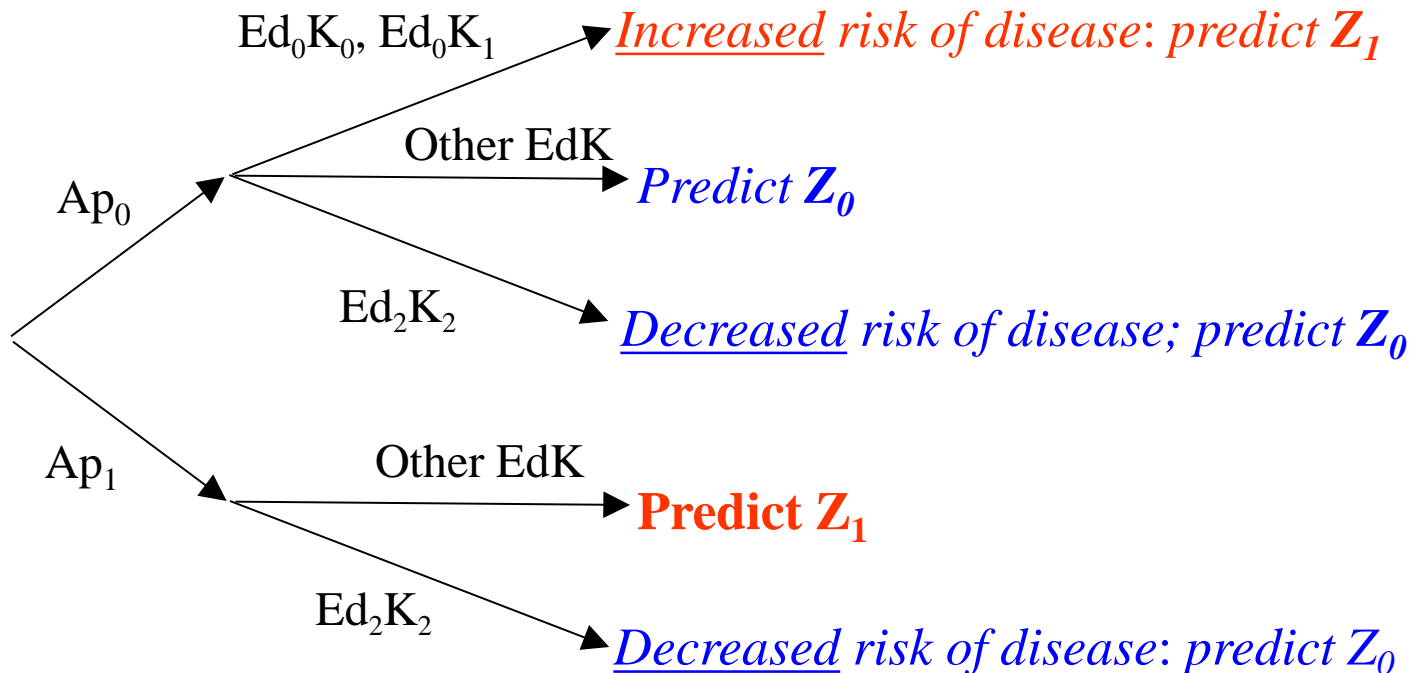
# PROBABILITY DISTRIBUTION *DEMENTIA* EXAMPLE

DATA				MODEL <i>iv:ApZ:EdZ:KZ</i>						
IV				obs p(Z   IV)		calc p(Z   IV)			p-value	
Ap	Ed	K	freq	Z <sub>0</sub>	Z <sub>1</sub>	Z <sub>0</sub>	Z <sub>1</sub>	rule	p <sub>rule</sub>	p <sub>Ap</sub>
<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	4	0.0	1.000	<b>.122</b>	<b>.878</b>	1	0.131	<b>0.028</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	8	.125	.875	<b>.124</b>	<b>.876</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.033</b>	<b>0.002</b>
0	0	2	4	.250	.750	.294	.706	1	0.409	0.138
0	1	0	31	.645	.355	.616	.384	0	0.198	0.707
0	1	1	37	.622	.378	.619	.381	0	0.147	0.714
<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	23	.783	.217	<b>.827</b>	<b>.173</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.002</b>	0.072
<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	66	.636	.364	<b>.640</b>	<b>.360</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.023</b>	0.894
<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	61	.656	.344	<b>.644</b>	<b>.357</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.025</b>	0.942
<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	33	.848	.152	<b>.842</b>	<b>.158</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.020</b>
0	--	--	267	.648	.352	<b>.648</b>	<b>.352</b>	<b>0</b>		
1	0	0	1	.000	1.000	.026	.974	1	0.343	0.571
<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	7	.143	.857	<b>.026</b>	<b>.974</b>	1	<b>0.012</b>	0.134
1	0	2	2	.000	1.000	.074	.926	1	0.228	0.514
1	1	0	13	.308	.692	.234	.766	1	0.055	0.709
<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	24	.167	.833	<b>.237</b>	<b>.763</b>	1	<b>0.010</b>	0.633
1	1	2	11	.545	.455	.478	.522	1	0.884	0.146
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	32	.219	.781	<b>.254</b>	<b>.746</b>	1	<b>0.005</b>	0.732
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	39	.256	.744	<b>.256</b>	<b>.744</b>	1	<b>0.002</b>	0.735
1	2	2	17	.529	.471	<b>.504</b>	<b>.496</b>	<b>0</b>	0.973	<b>0.040</b>
1	--	--	146	.281	.719	<b>.281</b>	<b>.719</b>	<b>1</b>		
			413	.518	.482	<b>.518</b>	<b>.482</b>	0		

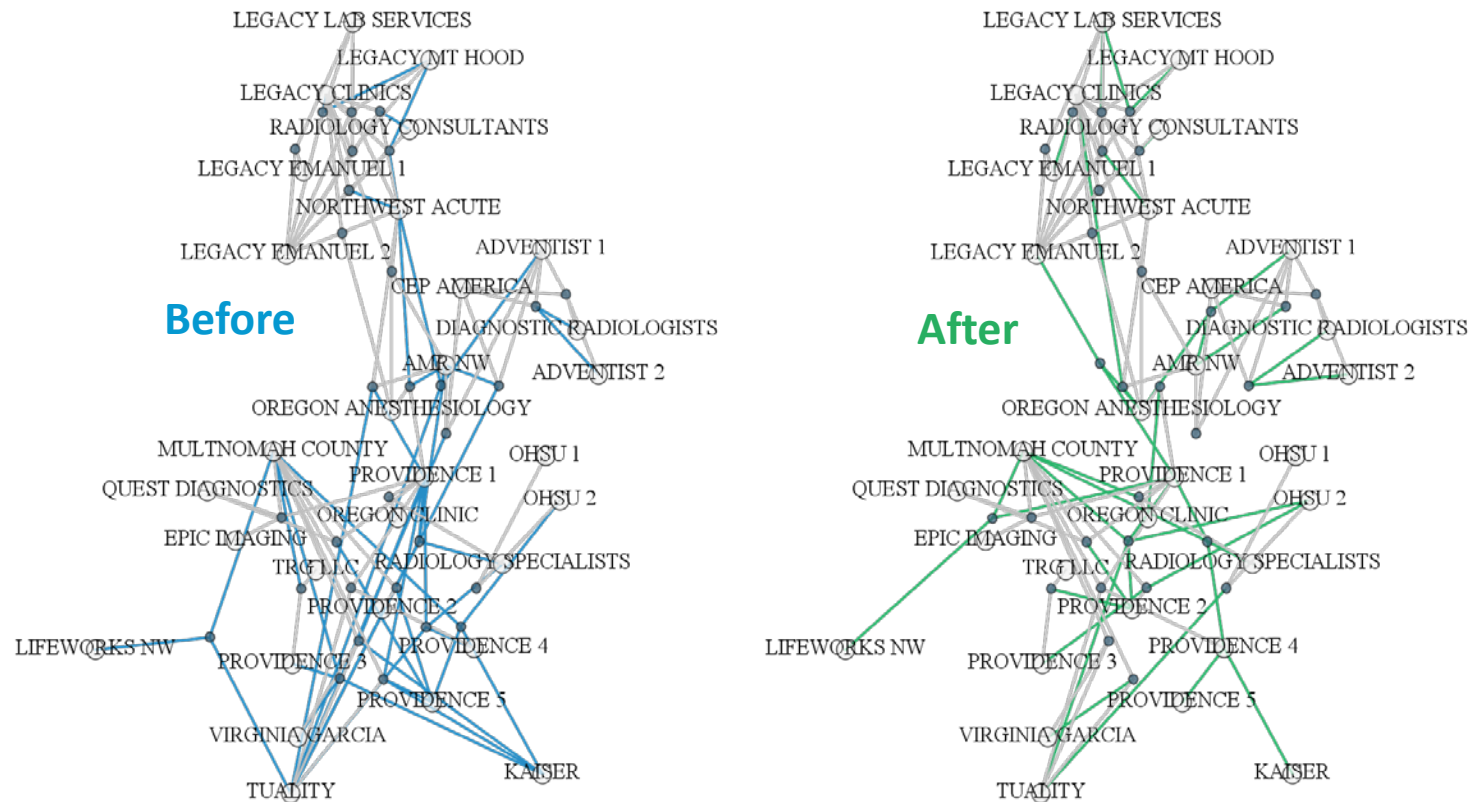
# ***DECISION TREE DEMENTIA EXAMPLE***

Obtained from conditional probability distribution

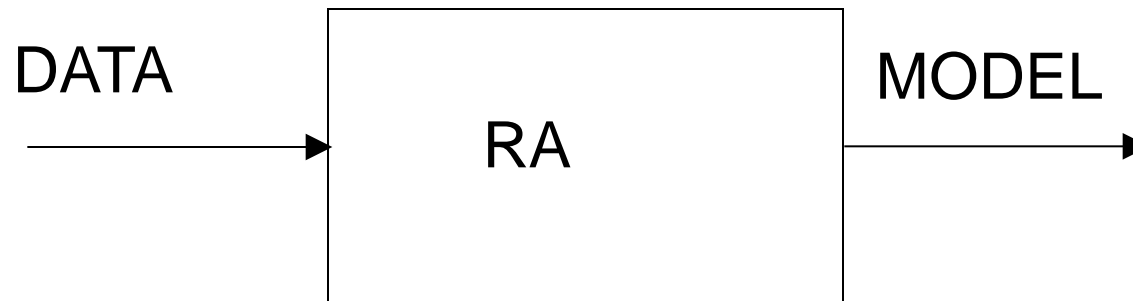
**Increase/decrease** of risk compared to prediction based only on  $A_p$



# NEUTRAL ANALYSIS EXAMPLE



1. Introduction: what is RA
2. Input data to RA
3. Output model from RA
4. RA methodology



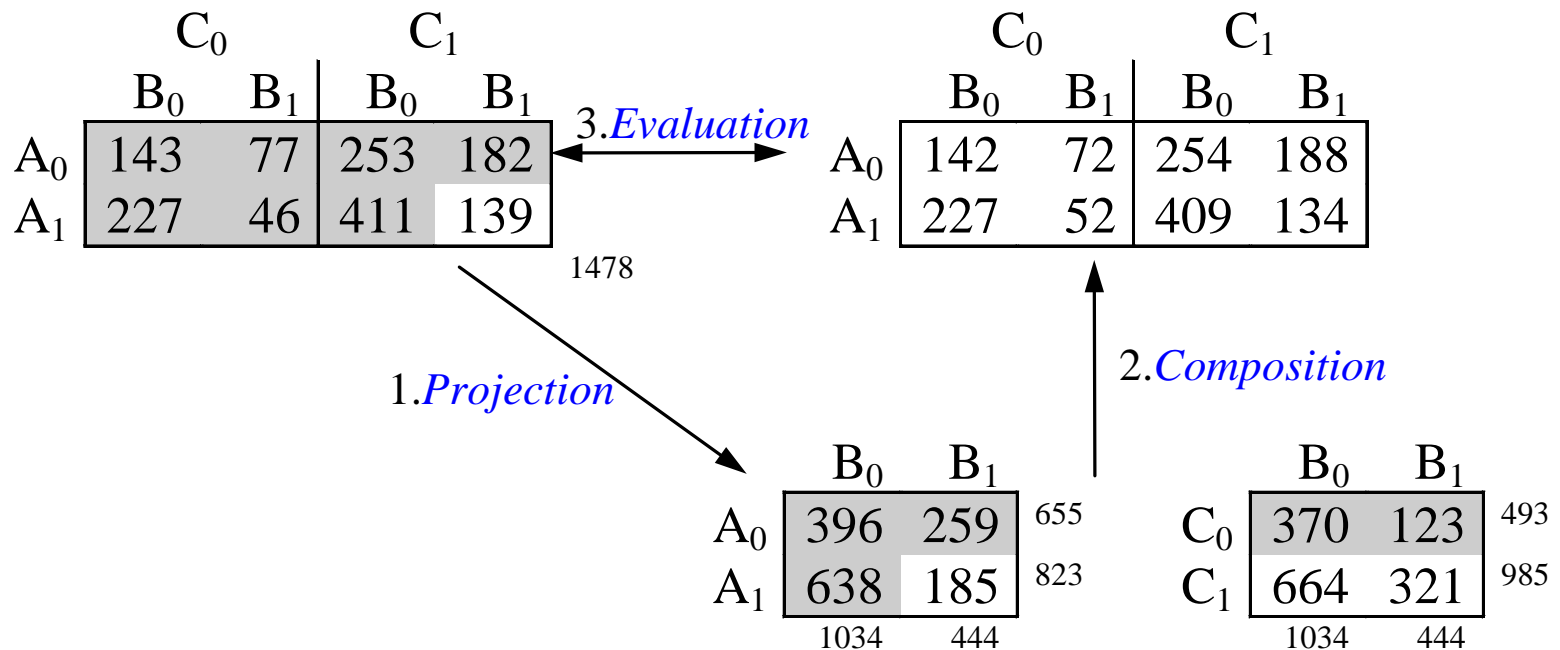


# GENERATE MODEL

frequencies shown, not probabilities

**data:** observed ABC (df=7)

**model:** calculated ABC<sub>AB:BC</sub>



**model:** AB:BC (df=5)

## ***GENERATE MODEL*** (*Projection, Composition*)

- *Projection* = sum frequencies or probabilities
- *Composition*

*Maximize* model *entropy* *subject to* model *constraints*

Model entropy:  $H(p_{\text{model}}) = - \sum p_{\text{model}} \log_2 p_{\text{model}}$

E.g., for model AB:BC, *maximize*  $H(p_{\text{AB:BC}})$  *subject to*

$$p_{\text{AB:BC}}(\text{AB}) = p_{\text{data}}(\text{AB})$$

$$p_{\text{AB:BC}}(\text{BC}) = p_{\text{data}}(\text{BC})$$

Composition is *critical computational step*; done

- |                                                         |                   |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| (a) Algebraically (very fast)                           | loopless models   |
| (b) <i>Iteratively</i> (Iterative Proportional Fitting) | models with loops |

# EVALUATE MODEL (1/2)

- *Evaluation* (1 = data dependent; 2 = data independent)

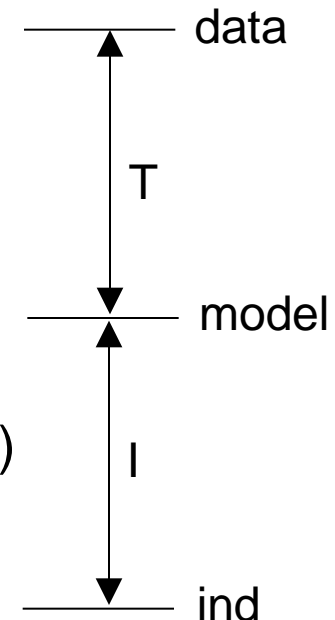
## 1. [reference=data]

$$\begin{aligned}\text{error, } T_{\text{model}} &= H_{\text{model}} - H_{\text{data}} \\ &= \sum p_{\text{data}} \log_2(p_{\text{data}}/p_{\text{model}})\end{aligned}$$

## [reference=independence]

$$\begin{aligned}\text{information, } I_{\text{model}} &= H_{\text{ind}} - H_{\text{model}} \\ &= \sum p_{\text{data}} \log_2(p_{\text{model}}/p_{\text{ind}})\end{aligned}$$

$$\text{uncertainty reduction} = H(\text{DV}) - H_{\text{model}}(\text{DV} \mid \text{IV})$$



## 2. [reference=independence]

$$\text{complexity} = \Delta df = df_{\text{model}} - df_{\text{ind}}$$

## ***EVALUATE MODEL (2/2)***

Trade off information (or error) & complexity, define **best model** criterion, via:

Use likelihood ratio Chi-square,  $LR = k N T$

- **p-values** from  $\Delta LR$ ,  $\Delta df$ , Chi-square table

Or linear combinations of information & complexity

- **$\Delta AIC$**  =  $\Delta LR + 2 \Delta df$
- **$\Delta BIC$**  =  $\Delta LR + \ln(N) \Delta df$

# ***BASIC OCCAM ACTIONS***

- **Search** = **exploratory** modeling, examine many models, find best or good ones  
(OCCAM actions: Search, SB-Search)
- **Fit** = **confirmatory** modeling, look at one model in detail (see probability distribution) & use for prediction  
(OCCAM actions: Fit, SB-Fit)

(OCCAM actions: Show Log, Manage Jobs = managerial functions)

# ***OCCAM Initial Screen***

# **INFORMATION ON RA**

- Review articles on Zwick's SW page
  - “Wholes & Parts in General Systems Methodology” (accessible)
  - “An Overview of Reconstructability Analysis” (encompassing)
- Krippendorff, Klaus (1986). *Information Theory. Structural Models for Qualitative Data* (Quantitative Applications in the Social Sciences Monograph #62). New York: Sage Publications.
- *International Journal of General Systems*
- *Kybernetes*, Vol. 33, No. 5/6 2004: special RA issue

- THANK YOU.
- `zwick@pdx.edu`