

Lecture 21: 10 April, 2025

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Data Mining and Machine Learning
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Conditional probabilities

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Conditional probabilities

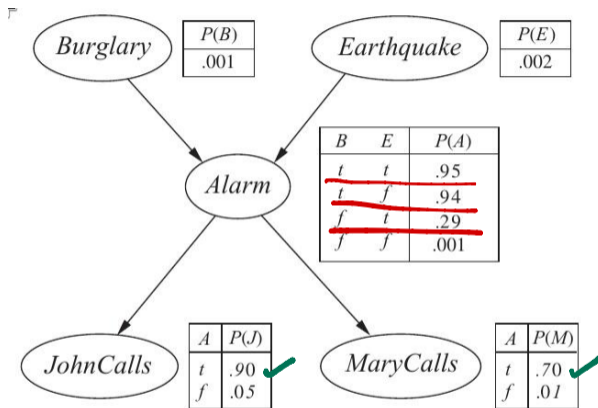
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- Can we strive for something in between?
 - “Local” dependencies between some variables

Probabilistic graphical models — Judea Pearl, Turing Award 2011

- Represent local dependencies using directed graph
- Each node has a local (conditional) probability table

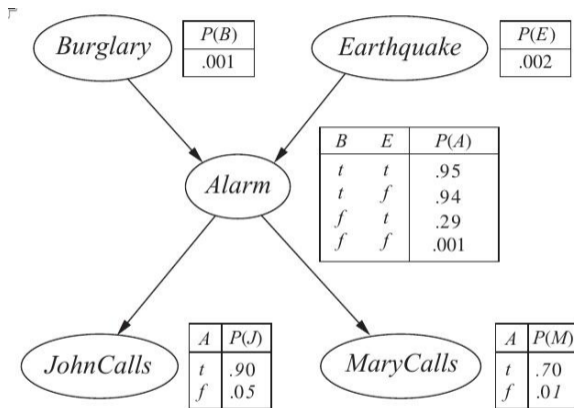
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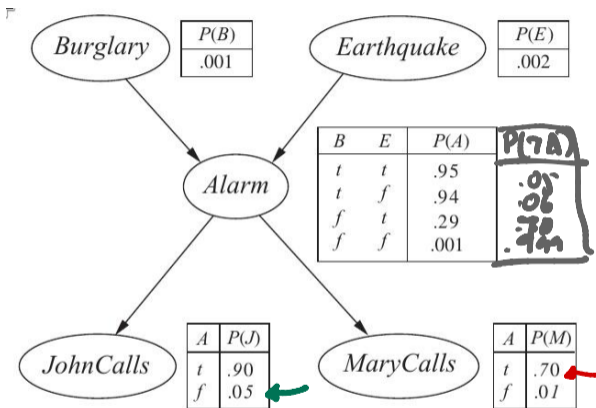
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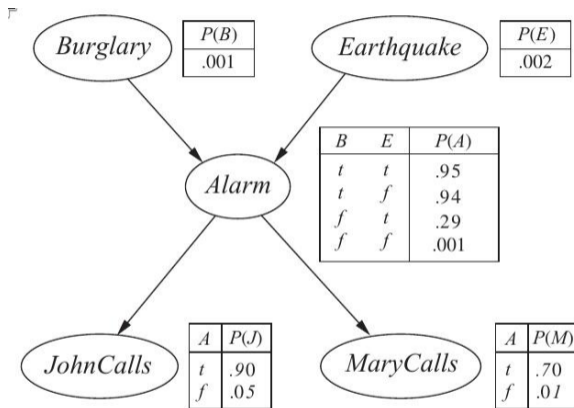
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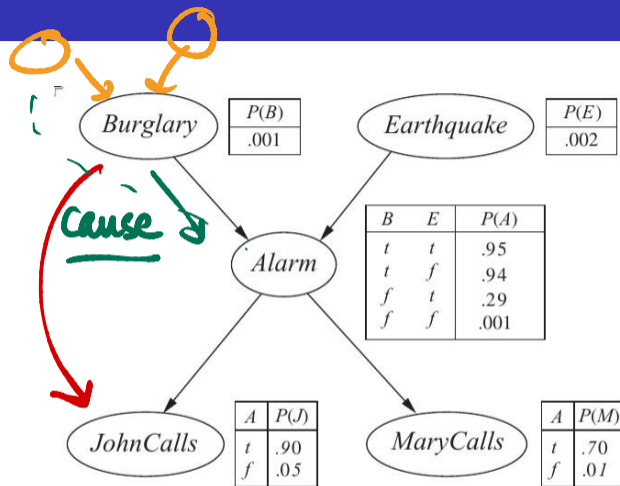
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 - The alarm may also be triggered by an earthquake (California!)



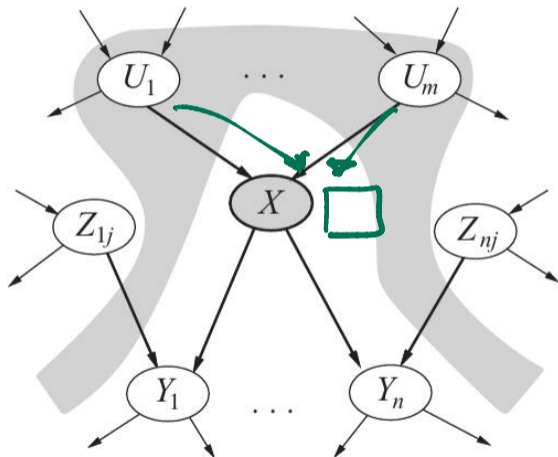
Probabilistic graphical models

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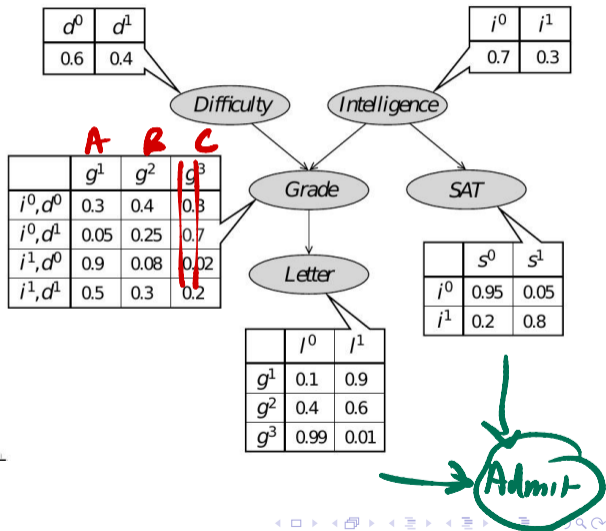
Probabilistic graphical models

- Graph is a DAG, no cyclic dependencies
- Fundamental assumption:
A node is conditionally independent of non-descendants, given its parents



Student example

- Example due to Nir Friedman and Daphne Koller
- Student asks teacher for a reference letter
- Teacher has forgotten the student, so letter is entirely based on student's grade in the course



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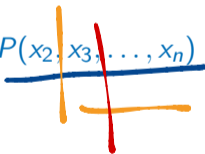
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- Applied recursively, this gives us the **chain rule**

$$P(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) = P(x_1 | x_2, \dots, x_n)P(x_2 | x_3, \dots, x_n) \cdots P(x_{n-1} | x_n)P(x_n)$$

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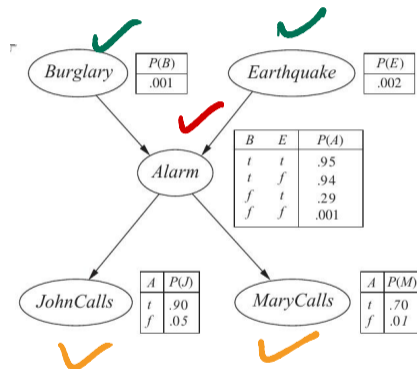
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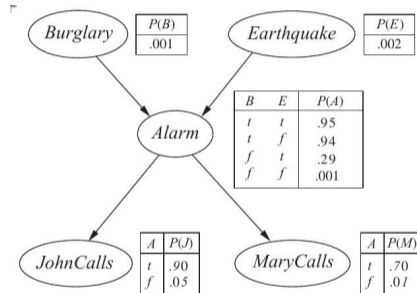
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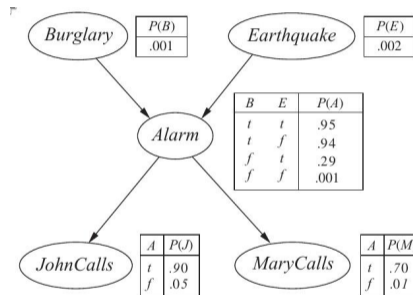
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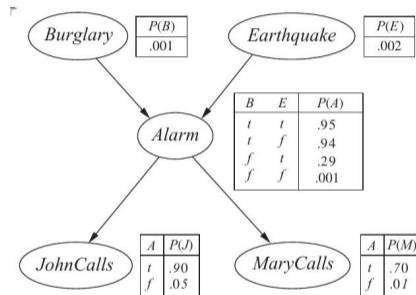
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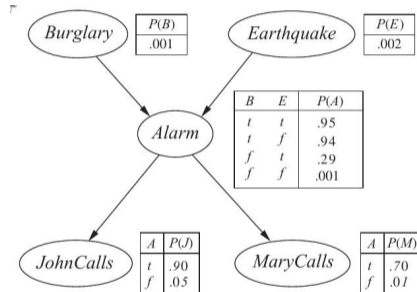
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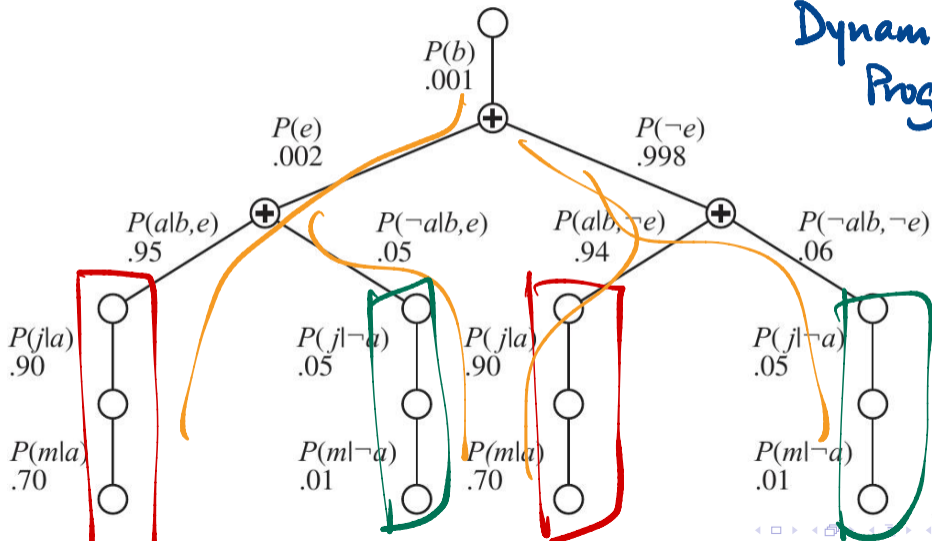
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Evaluation tree

Dynamic Programming

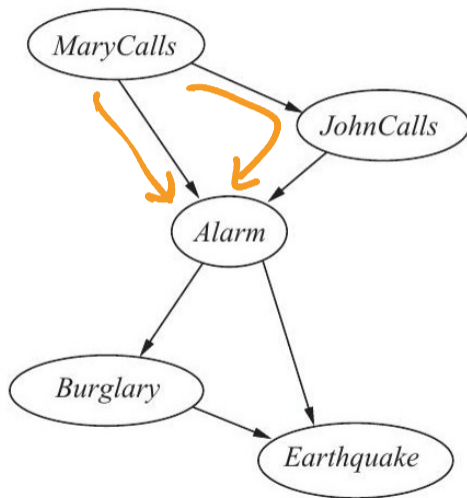


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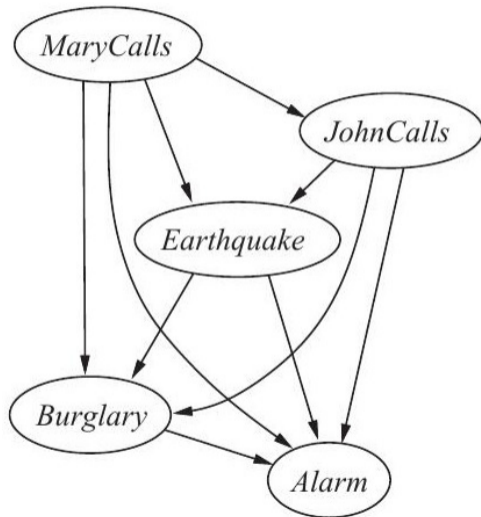
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- **Causal model** (causes to effects) works better than **diagnostic model** (effects to causes)

