

# Surfing the waves of explanation



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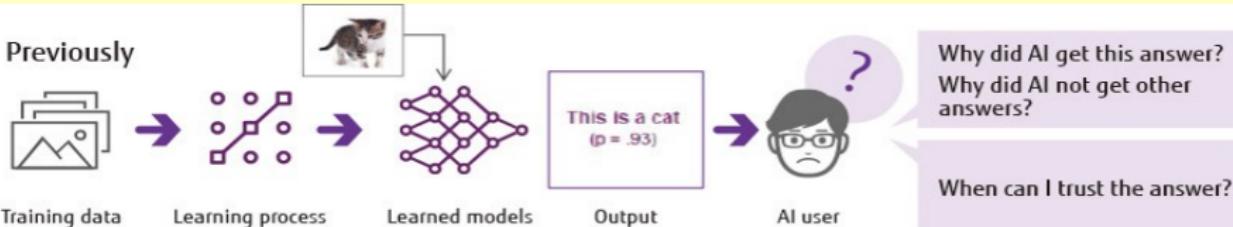
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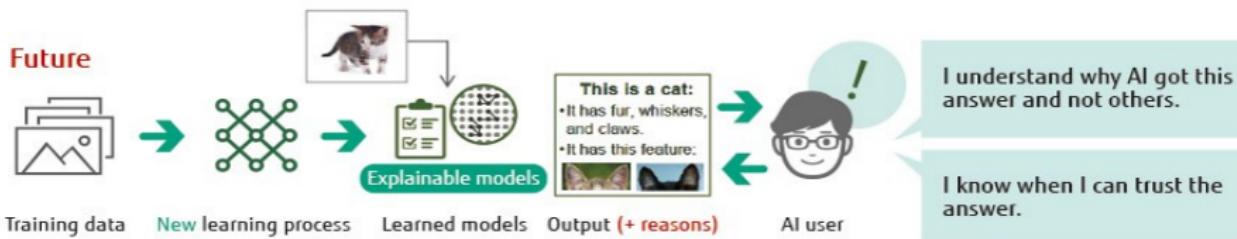
Universiteit Utrecht

# The goal of explainable AI

Previously



Future



Wikipedia:

Explainable AI (XAI) refers to methods and techniques in the application of artificial intelligence technology (AI) such that **the results of the solution can be understood by human experts**.

## Explanations: a social science perspective

It is important to realise that [Miller, 2019]:

- 1 explanations are **contrastive**: “why P instead of Q?”
- 2 explanations are **selected** (in a biased manner): people include just one or two relevant causes as explanation; this selection is influenced by cognitive biases.
- 3 explanations do **not** refer to **probabilities or statistical relationships**; the most likely explanation is not always the best explanation.
- 4 explanations are **social**: presented as part of a conversation or interaction.

Miller [2019]:

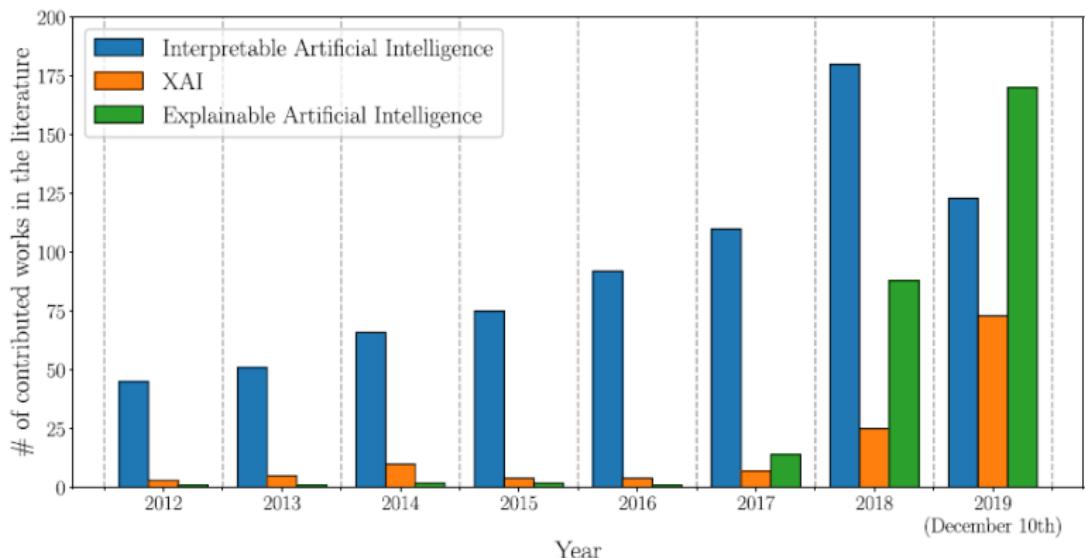
*For over two decades, cognitive psychologists and scientists have investigated how people generate explanations and how they evaluate their quality.*

When did AI start generating and evaluating explanations?

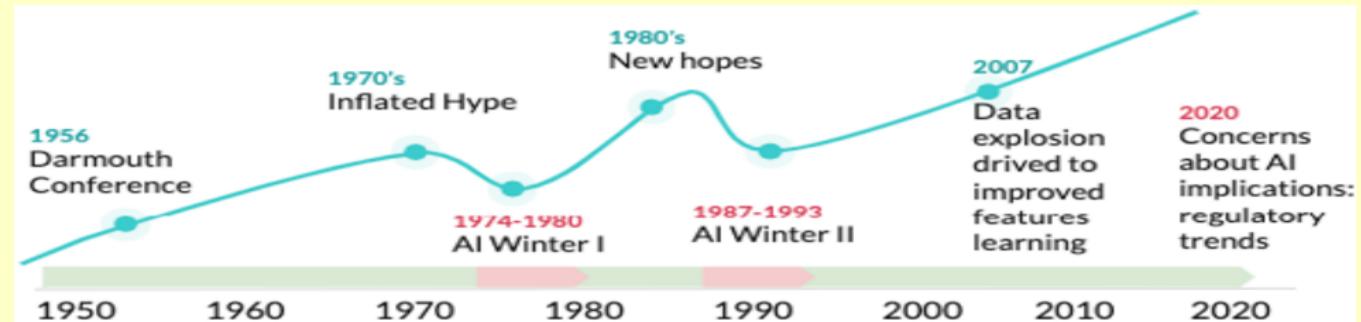
# XAI output past decade

A. Barredo Arrieta, N. Díaz-Rodríguez and J. Del Ser et al.

Information Fusion 58 (2020) 82–115

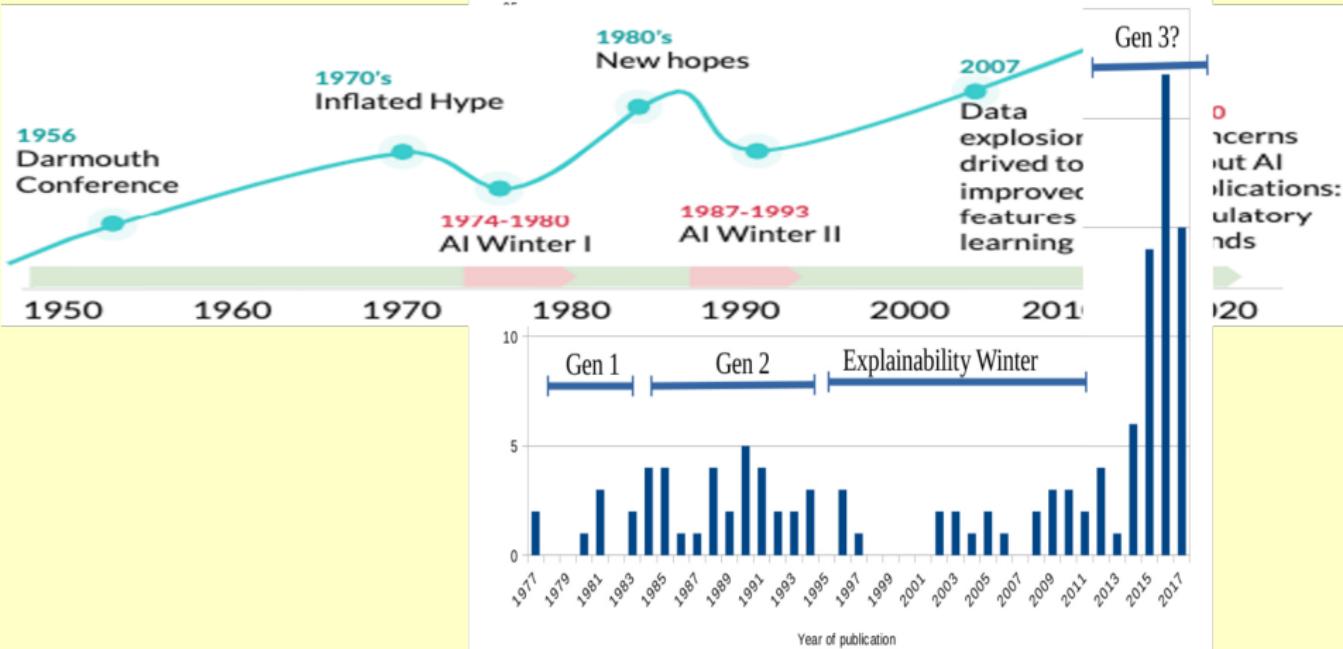


# Waves of AI output



# Waves of AI and XAI output

## Explanation in AI



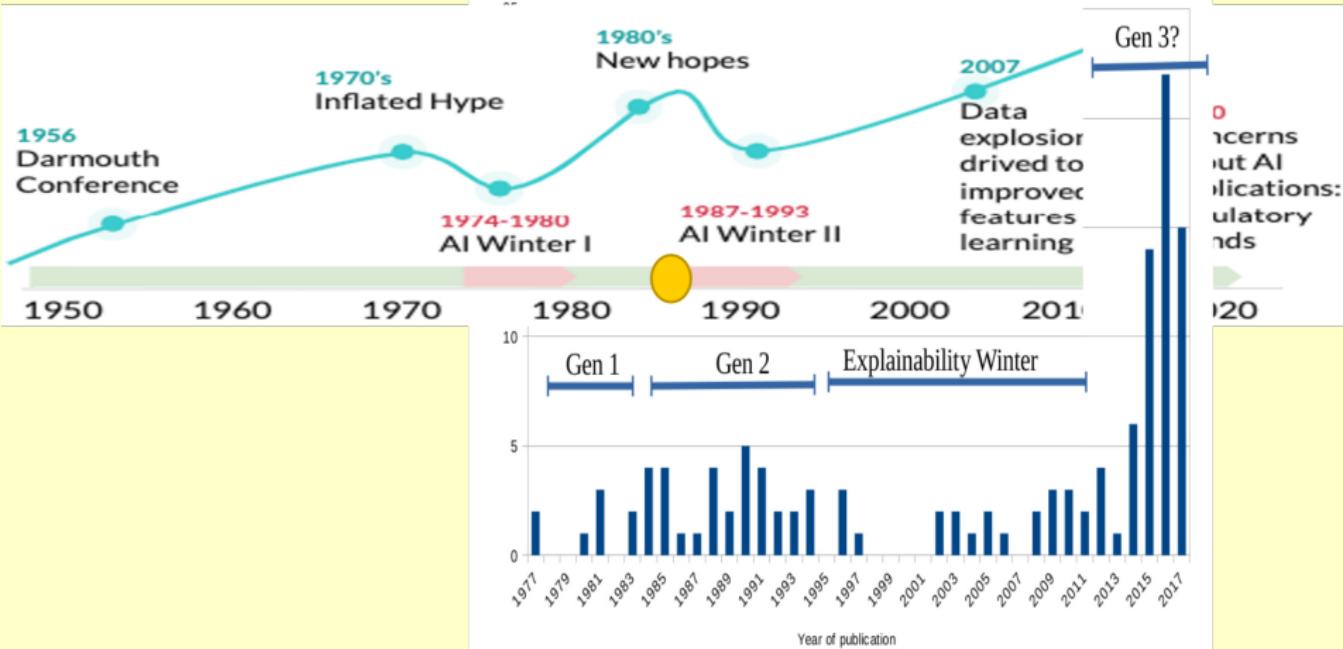
**AI:** <https://www.finextra.com/the-long-read/62/>

what-should-be-taken-into-account-if-artificial-intelligence-is-to-be-regulated

**XAI:** 2019 DARPA report *Explanation in Human-AI Systems: A Literature Meta-Review Synopsis of Key Ideas and Publications and Bibliography for Explainable AI*

# Waves of AI and XAI output

## Explanation in AI



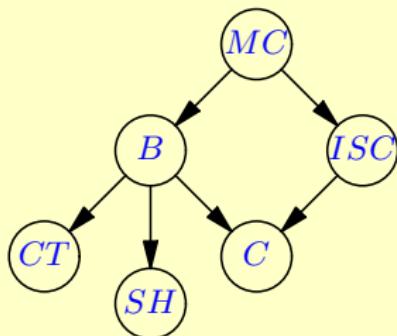
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XAI: 2019 DARPA report *Explanation in Human-AI Systems: A Literature Meta-Review Synopsis of Key Ideas and Publications and Bibliography for Explainable AI*

# Bayesian network (BN)

- late 1980s: introduced by J. Pearl;
- model  $\mathcal{B}$  of discrete joint probability distribution  $P(\mathbf{V})$ ;
- qualitative part: intuitive (?) DAG  $G$  of independence relation;
- quantitative part: distributions  $P(V_i \mid pa_G(V_i))$ ;



$P(b \mid mc) = 0.20$	$P(mc) = 0.20$
$P(b \mid \neg mc) = 0.05$	
$P(sh \mid b) = 0.80$	$P(c \mid b \wedge isc) = 0.80$
$P(sh \mid \neg b) = 0.60$	$P(c \mid \neg b \wedge isc) = 0.80$
	$P(c \mid b \wedge \neg isc) = 0.80$
	$P(c \mid \neg b \wedge \neg isc) = 0.02$
$P(ct \mid b) = 0.95$	
$P(ct \mid \neg b) = 0.10$	$P(isc \mid mc) = 0.80$
	$P(isc \mid \neg mc) = 0.20$

- can be handcrafted or learned from data;

$$\bullet P(\mathbf{V}) = \prod_{i=1}^n P(V_i \mid pa_G(V_i))$$

## Reasoning in Bayesian networks: queries

Let  $V = H \cup I \cup E$  be composed of three disjoint subsets.

Typical queries posed to a BN are:

MAP/MPE:  $\arg \max_h P(H = h \mid E = e)$  (classification)

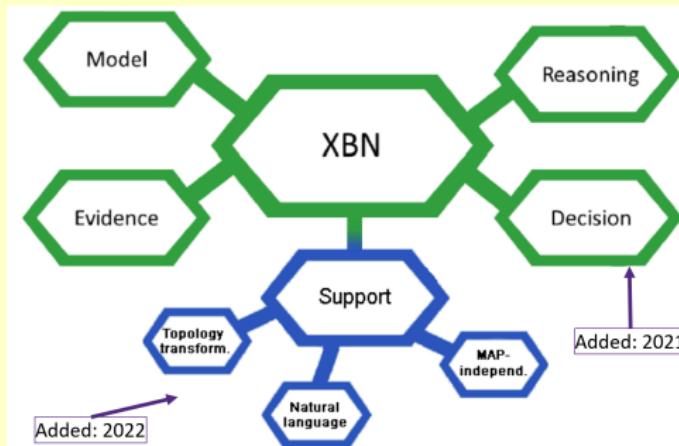
Inference:  $P(H = h \mid E = e)$  (What if?)

(typically  $H$  is a single  $V_i$ )

where  $e$  and  $h$  denote value assignments to  $E, H$ .

# Explaining Bayesian networks

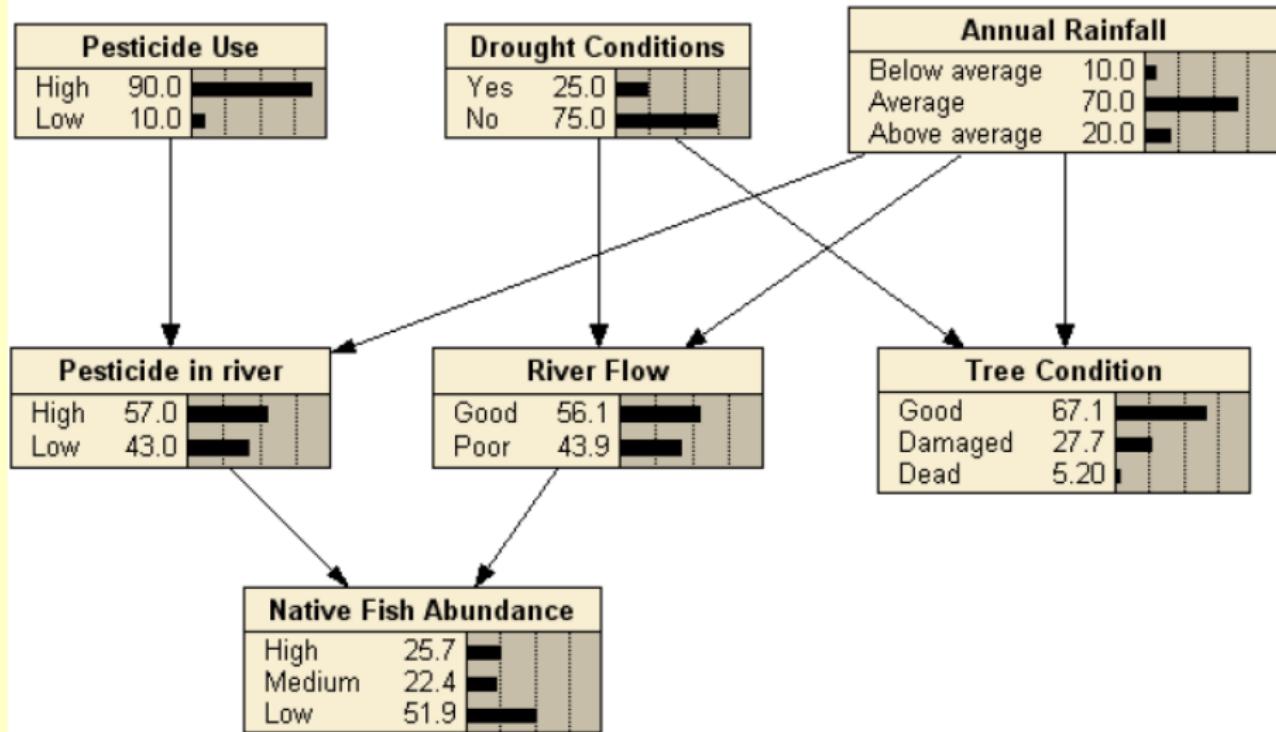
- 1992: *Explanation in Bayesian belief networks* (Stanford PhD thesis by H.J. Suermondt)
- 2001: *A Review of Explanation Methods for Bayesian Networks* (KER paper by C. Lacave and F.J. Díez)



2021: *A taxonomy of explainable Bayesian networks* (I.P. Derkx, A. de Waal)

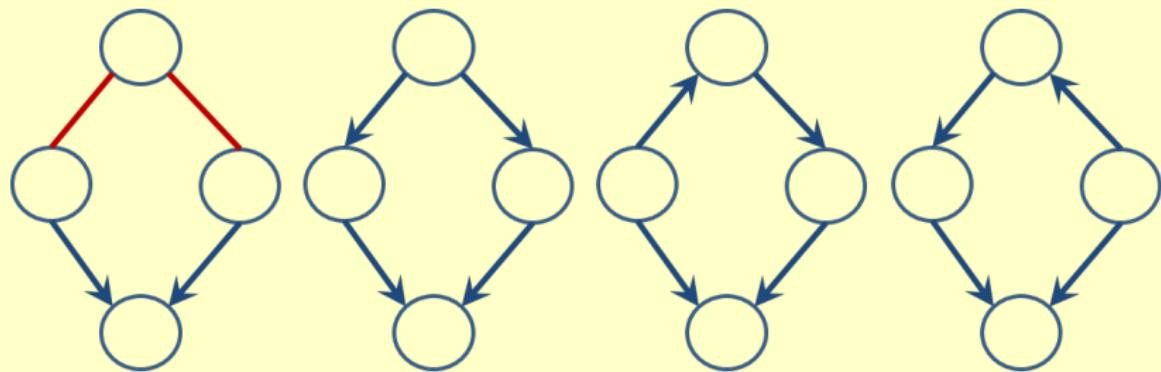
2022: *Extending MAP-independence for Bayesian network explainability* (E. Valero-Leal, P. Larrañaga, C. Bielza)

# Explanation of the model: graph and visual priors



# Beware of the DAG!

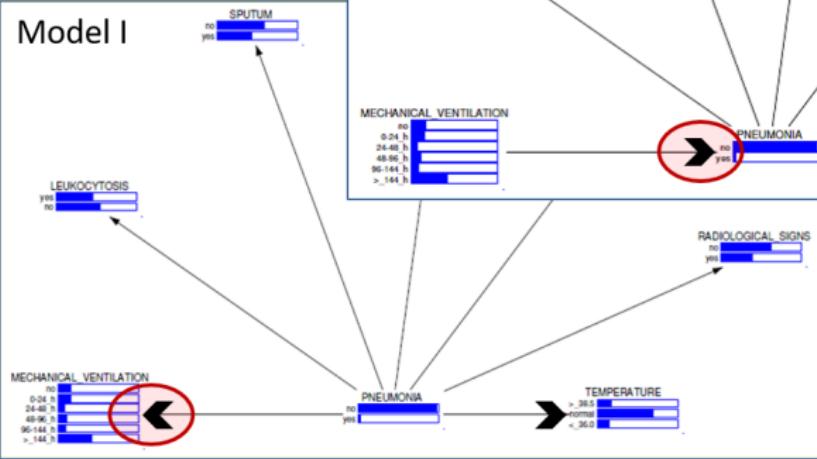
- DAG suggests causal interpretation;
- DAGs in the same Markov equivalence class represent the same probabilistic independences



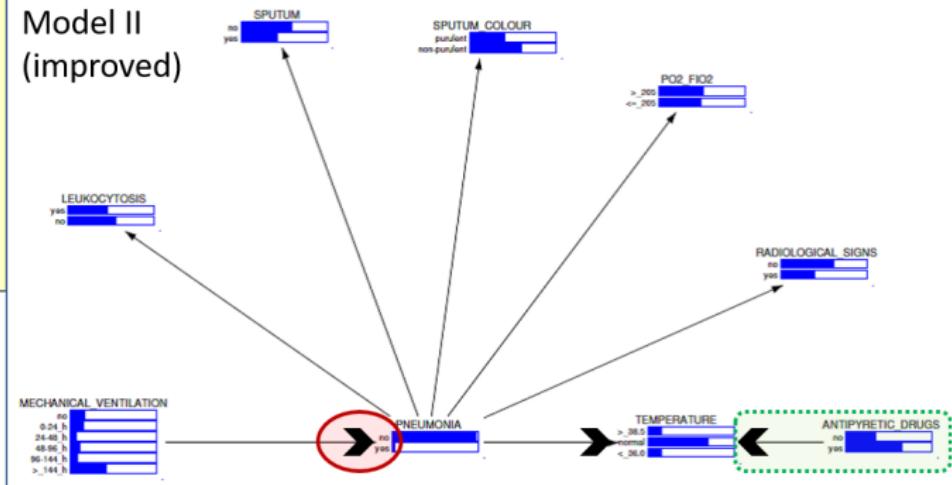
⇒ BNs with different graphs and different 'causal' interpretation can represent same  $P(\mathbf{V})$ !

# Causal anecdote

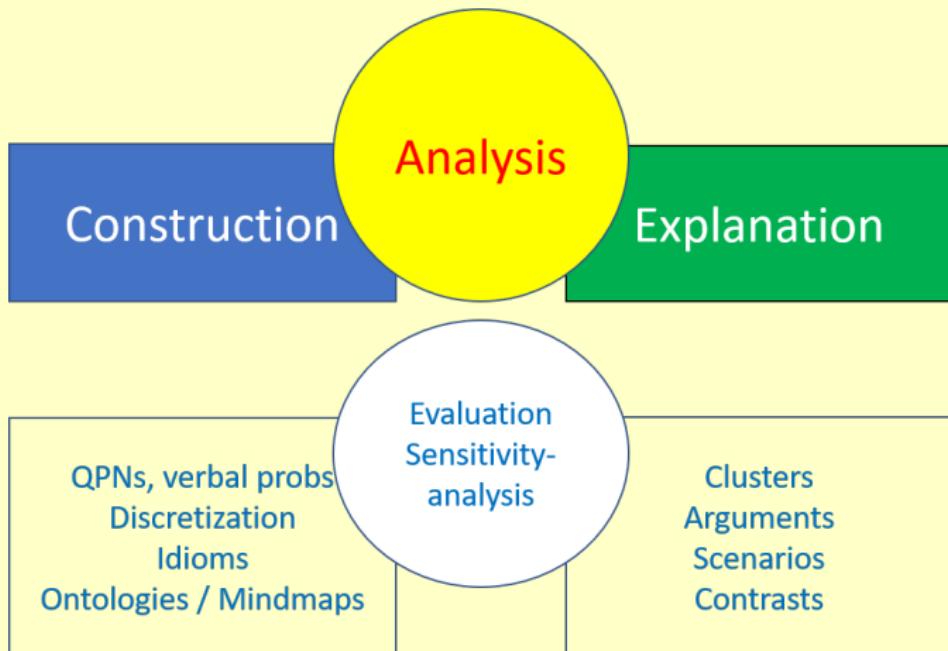
Model I



Model II  
(improved)



# Intermezzo: general overview of my research



# Analysis for explaining decisions

Derks & De Waal (2021):

Explanation of decisions supports the following questions:

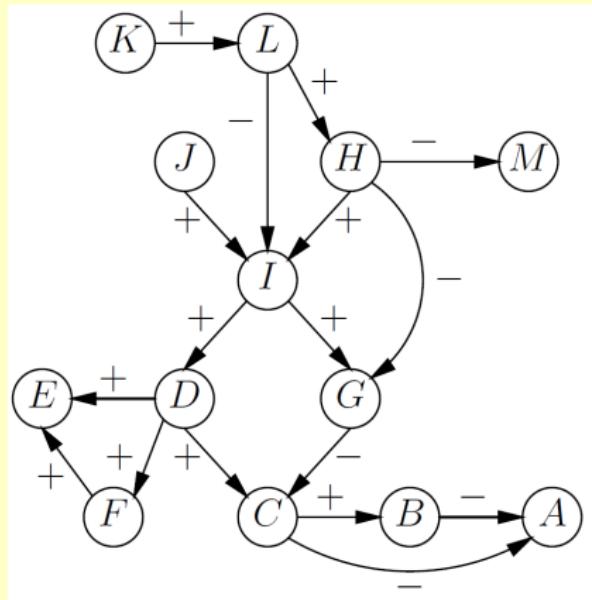
- “Given the available information, are we ready to make a decision?”, and **if not**
- “What additional information do we require to make an informed decision?”

using threshold-based solutions:

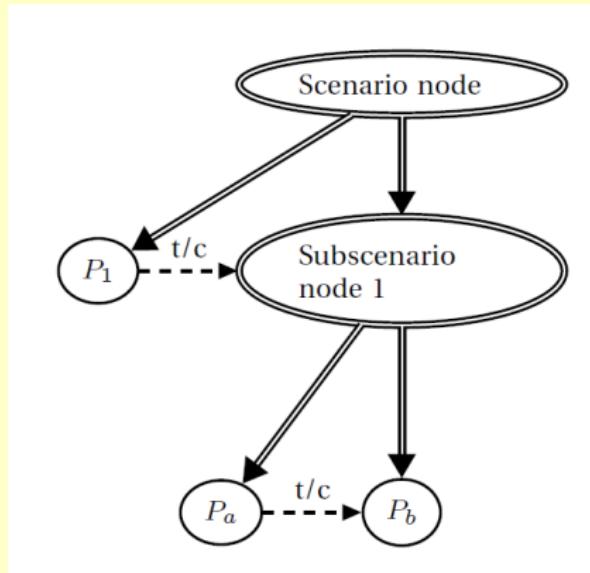
- SDP: probability that same decision is made upon obtaining additional evidence (2012 –)
- sensitivity analysis: to what extent does the outcome depend on the specified conditional probabilities? (1995 –)

# Construction: using monotonicity & idioms

QPNs, ~1990 –



idioms, ~2000 –

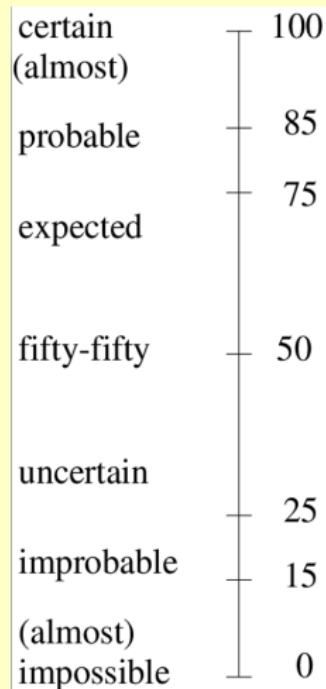


# Construction: probability elicitation

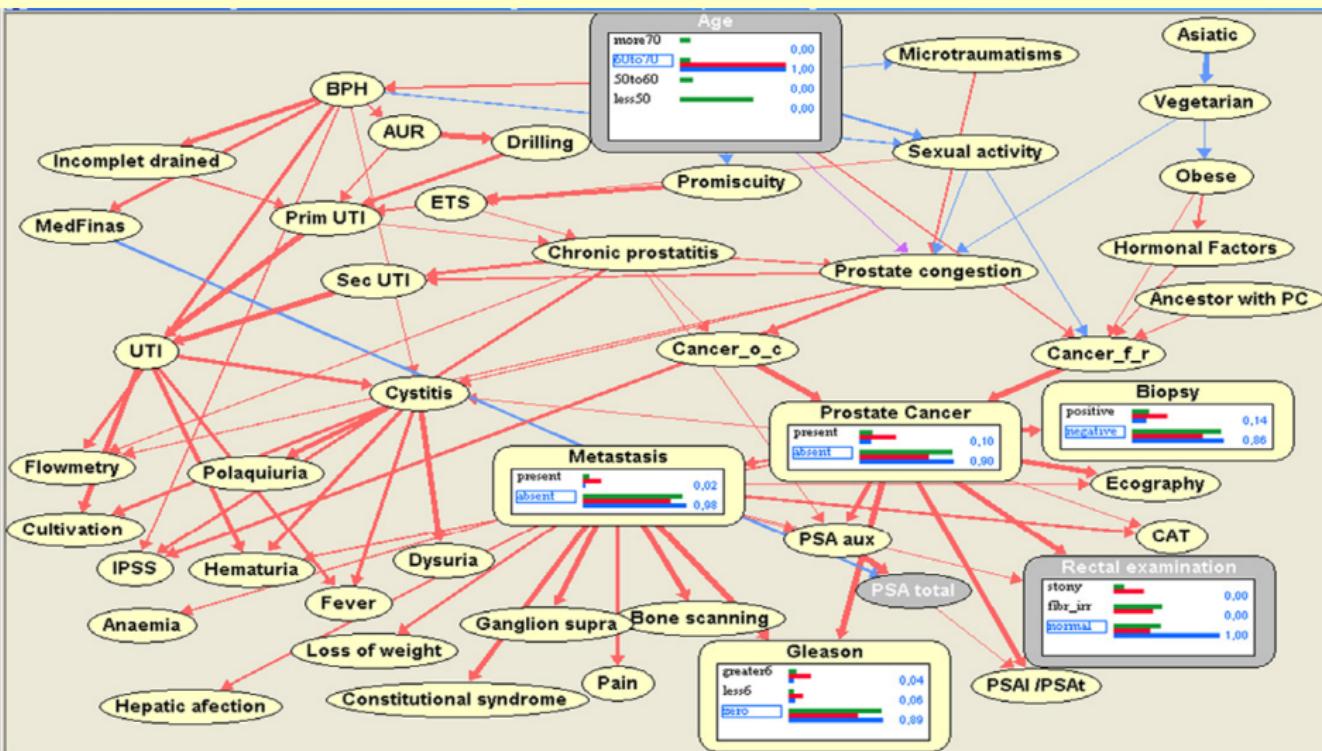
Eliciting  $P(\text{Conjunctivitis} = \text{yes} \mid \text{Mucositis} = \text{no})$ :

## Conjunctivitis | Mucositis (1)

Consider a pig *without an infection of the mucous*.  
How likely is it that this pig shows a *conjunctivitis* ?



# Explanation of reasoning: monotonicity (visual)



Img: Explanation of Bayesian Networks and Influence Diagrams in Elvira (C. Lacave, M. Luque, F.J. Díez, IEEE Trans., 2007)

# Explanation of reasoning: scenarios (textual)

1991:

The following scenario(s) are compatible with cold:

A. Cold and no cat hence no allergy	0.47
Other less probable scenario(s)	0.06

The following scenario(s) are incompatible with cold:

B. No Cold and cat causing allergy	0.48
------------------------------------	------

Scenario A is about as likely as scenario B (0.47/0.48) because cold in A is a great deal less likely than no cold in B (0.08/0.92), although no cat in A is a great deal more likely than cat in B (0.9/0.1).

Therefore cold is slightly more likely than not ( $p=0.52$ ).

2016:

Scenario 2: Sylvia and Tom committed the burglary. (prior probability: 0.0001, posterior probability: 0.2326)

**Scenario: Sylvia and Tom committed the burglary:** Sylvia and Tom had debts and a window was already broken. Then, Sylvia and Tom climbed through the window. Then, Tom stole a laptop.

Scenario 2 is complete and consistent. It contains the evidential gap 'Sylvia and Tom had debts' and the supported implausible element 'A window was already broken.'

Evidence for and against scenario 2:

- \* Broken window: moderate evidence to support scenario 2.
- \* Statement: Tom sold laptop: moderate evidence to support scenario 2.
- \* Testimony: window was already broken: weak evidence to support scenario 2.
- \* All evidence combined: very strong evidence to support scenario 2.

# Explanation of reasoning: relevance of evidence

2015:

1997:

Before presenting any evidence, the probability of GALLSTONES being present is 0.128

The following pieces of evidence are considered important (in order of importance):

- Presence of GUARDING results in a posterior probability of 0.175 for GALLSTONES.
- AGE of 41 results in a posterior probability of 0.172 for GALLSTONES.

Their influence flows along the following paths:

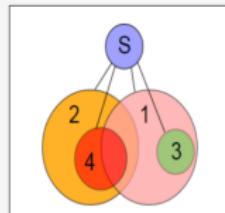
- GUARDING is caused by CHOLECYSTITIS, which is caused by GALLSTONES.
- AGE influences GALLSTONES.

Presentation of the evidence results in a posterior probability of 0.227 for the presence of GALLSTONES.

The value **scirrheus** of node **Shape** is certain ( $P = 1.00$ ).

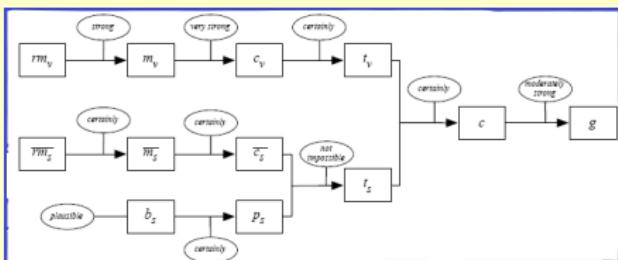
We were able to construct four arguments based on the evidence associated with the value **scirrheus** for node **Shape** (S). The arguments are ordered by how influential they are for the value of the node **Shape** (S).

- Argument 1: Node **Endosono-mediast** has value **no**  
Node **Bronchoscopy** has value **no**  
Node **Lapa-diagram** has value **no**  
Node **CT-organs** has value **none**  
Node **X-fistula** has value **no**  
Node **CT-liver** has value **no**  
Node **X-lungs** has value **no**  
Node **CT-lungs** has value **no**  
Node **Endosono-wall** has value **T3**
- Argument 2: Node **Gastro-shape** has value **scirrheus**  
Node **Gastro-circumf** has value **circular**  
Node **Gastro-length** has value  $5 < x < 10$   
Node **Weightloss** has value  $x < 10\%$   
Node **Endosono-wall** has value **T3**  
Node **Endosono-truncus** has value **non-determ**  
Node **Endosono-loco** has value **yes**  
Node **Gastro-necrosis** has value **no**  
Node **X-fistula** has value **no**  
Node **Endosono-mediast** has value **no**  
Node **Gastro-location** has value **distal**
- Argument 3: Node **Gastro-shape** has value **scirrheus**
- Argument 4: Node **X-fistula** has value **no**  
Node **Gastro-necrosis** has value **no**

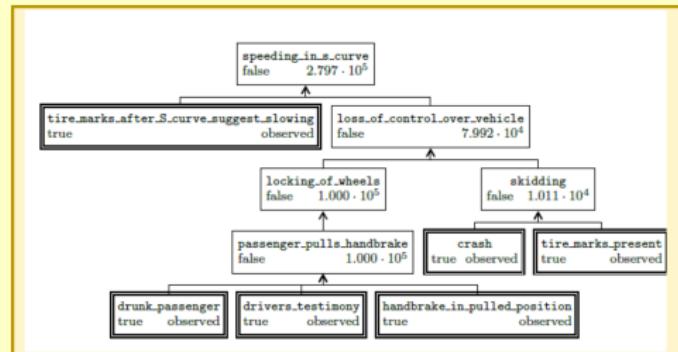


# Explanation of reasoning: argument graphs

2011:



2017:



# Persuasive contrastive explanation

## (explanation of reasoning: classification)

Consider evidence  $e \in \Omega(E)$ , resulting in output  $t$  instead of  $t'$ .

A **persuasive contrastive explanation** combines

- sufficient explanation  $s$ 
  - *minimal* sub-configuration of evidence  $e$  that suffices for concluding  $t$ , regardless of the values for  $E \setminus S$   
“evidence  $s$  would already be enough to conclude  $t$ ”
- counterfactual explanation  $c$ 
  - *minimal* sub-configuration of **unobserved** values  $\bar{e} \in \Omega(E)$  that in combination with the remaining evidence for  $E \setminus C$  suffices to conclude  $t'$   
“ $t'$  would result if the evidence contains  $c$  instead”

# Computing Explanations

- # of potential sufficient explanations:  $2^{|E|}$
- # of potential counterfactual explanations:  $\prod_{k=1}^{|E|} |\Omega(E_k)| - 1$
- we need to compute the outcome for the associated value-assignments from the network
- in Bayesian networks, probabilistic inference is NP-hard....

Various properties of these explanations allow for their computation

- using a breadth first search: BFS-SFX-CFX
- on a dynamically annotated subset lattice

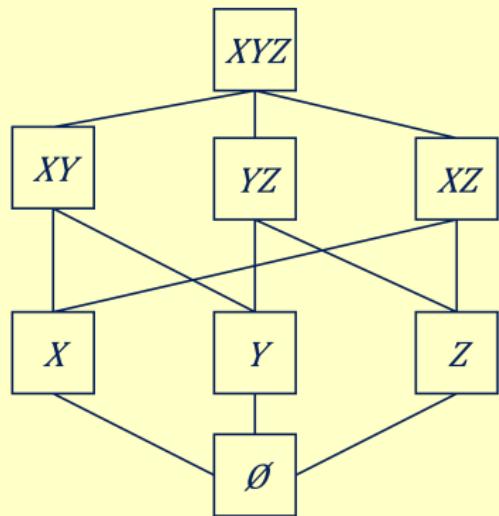
# Explanation lattice I

Lattice  $\mathcal{L} = (\mathcal{P}(\mathbf{E}), \subseteq)$  and each element  $S \subseteq \mathbf{E}$  annotated with:

1  $s \subseteq e$

e.g.  $x_1y_1z_1$  for  $S = \{X, Y, Z\}$   
 $x_1z_1$  for  $S = \{X, Z\}$   
 $y_1$  for  $S = \{Y\}$

$s$  is potentially a sufficient explanation;  
( $s$  should be as small as possible)



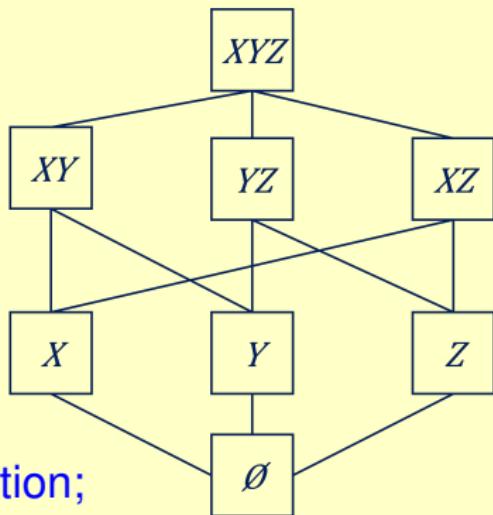
## Explanation lattice II

Lattice  $\mathcal{L} = (\mathcal{P}(\mathbf{E}), \subseteq)$  and each element  $S \subseteq \mathbf{E}$  annotated with:

- 2 all pairs  $(c, t^*)$  with  $c \in \Omega(\mathbf{E} \setminus S)$ ,  
 $c \subseteq \bar{e}$ , and  $t^*$  is output for input sc

e.g.  $(\mathbf{z}_2, t')$ ,  $(\mathbf{z}_3, t)$  for  $S = \{X, Y\}$   
 $(\mathbf{x}_2, t'')$  for  $S = \{Y, Z\}$   
 $(\mathbf{x}_2 \mathbf{y}_2, \text{unkn})$  for  $S = \{Z\}$

c is potentially a counterfactual explanation;  
(c should be as small as possible)

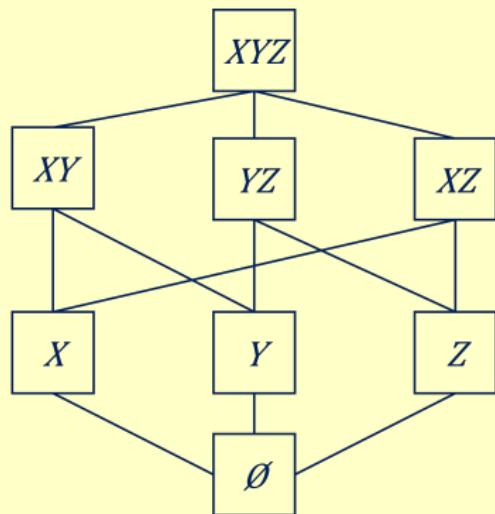


## Explanation lattice III

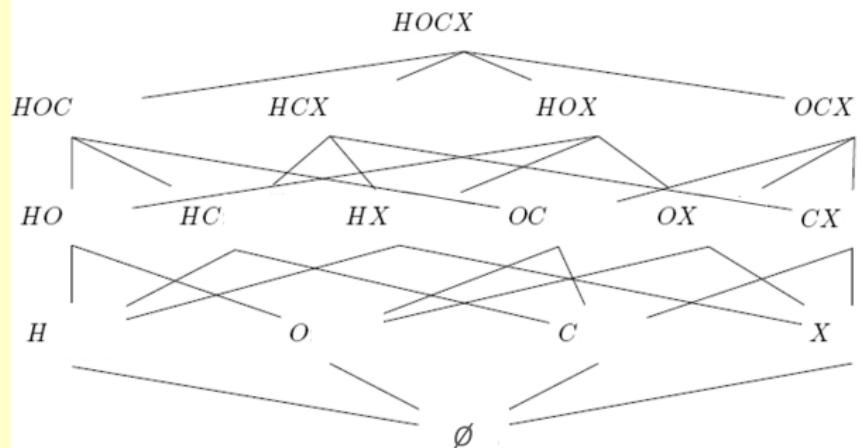
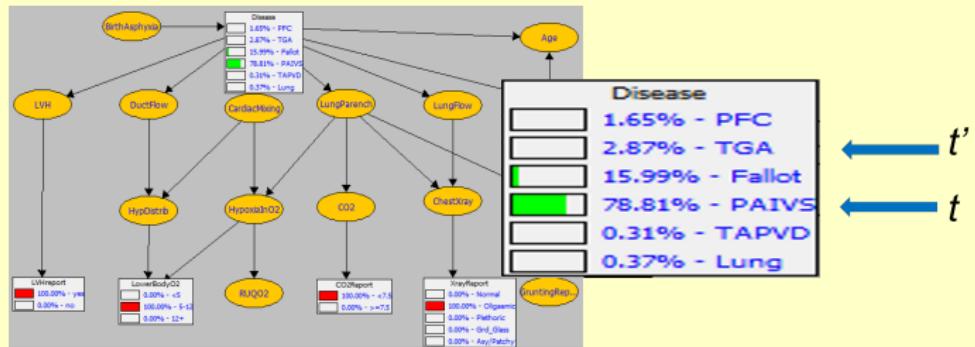
Lattice  $\mathcal{L} = (\mathcal{P}(\mathbf{E}), \subseteq)$  and each element  $S \subseteq \mathbf{E}$  annotated with:

- ③  $l_S \in \{\text{true, exp, oth}\}$ 
  - true: all  $t^*$  in  $(\mathbf{c}, t^*)$  are  $t$   
⇒ cue for continuing SFX
  - exp: all  $t^*$  are  $t'$   
⇒ cue for stopping CFX
  - oth:  $t^*$  mix of  $t, t', t'', \dots$   
⇒ cue for SFX and CFX

Initially all labels  $l_S$  are empty

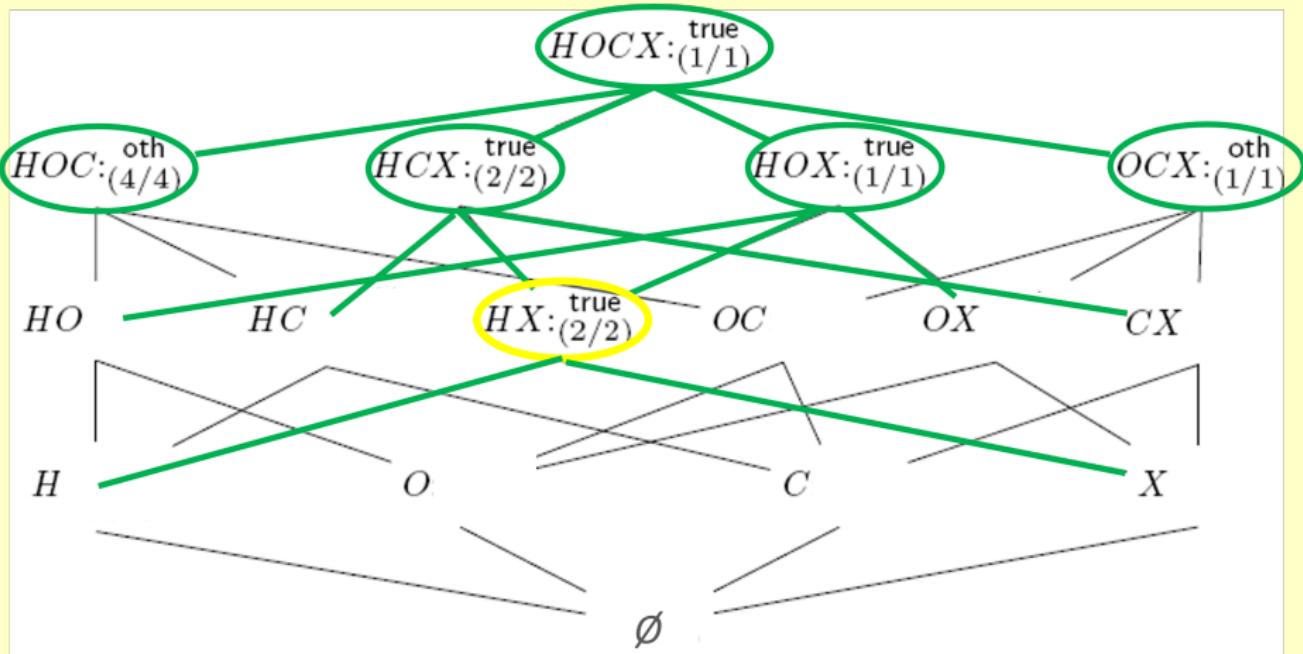


## Example



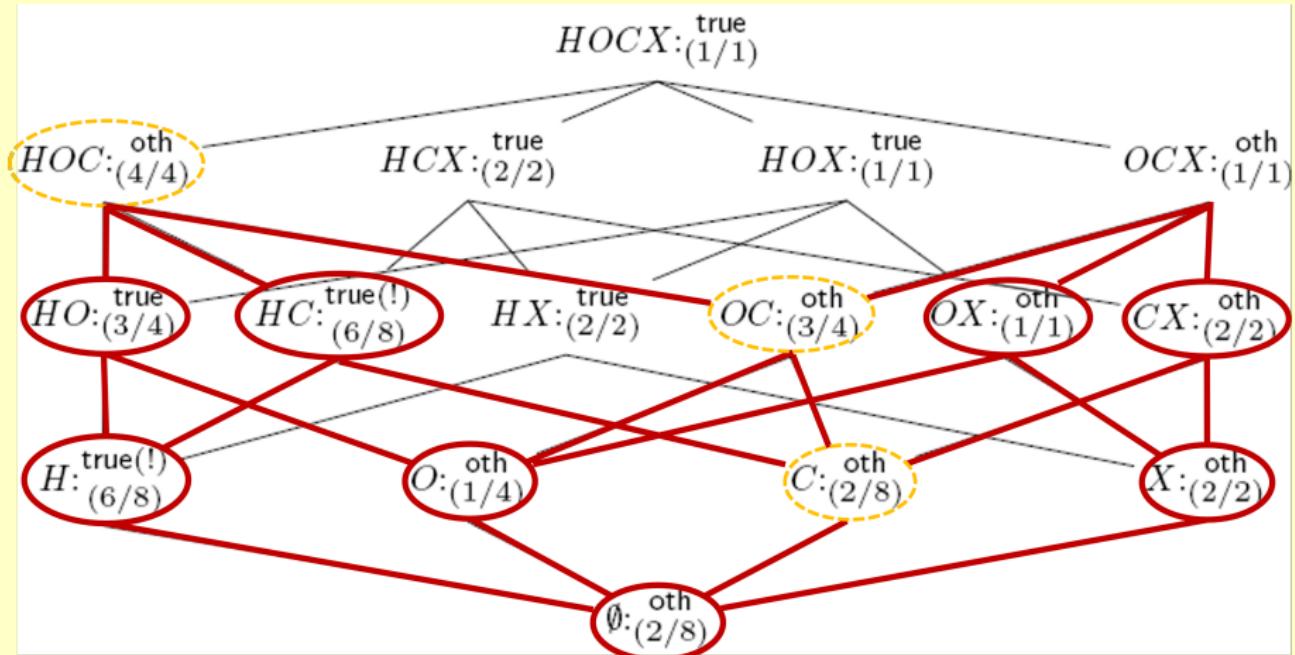
CHILD network (Spiegelhalter et al., 1993) implemented in **Samlam** (UCLA AR Group)

## Example: finding sufficient explanations



Sufficient explanation(s):  $\{H = \text{yes} \wedge X = \text{Oligoemic}\}$

# Example: finding counterfactual explanations



Counterfactual explanations:

{'X = Plethoric', 'X = Normal  $\wedge$  H = no', 'X = Grd\_Glass  $\wedge$  H = no', 'X = Asy/Patchy  $\wedge$  H = no  $\wedge$  O = < 5'}

# Explanation support: MAP-independence

Recall: MAP  $h^* = \arg \max_h P(\mathbf{H} = h \mid \mathbf{E} = e)$ .

$h^*$  is *MAP-independent* of subset  $\mathbf{R}$  of intermediate variables, if for all  $\mathbf{r} \in \Omega(\mathbf{R})$ : (Kwisthout, 2021)

$$\arg \max_{h' \in \Omega(\mathbf{H})} \Pr(h' \wedge \mathbf{r} \mid \mathbf{e}) = h^*$$

If  $\arg \max h' \neq h^*$  for some  $\mathbf{r}$  then

- $\mathbf{r}$  provides for a *counterfactual*;
- that *contrasts* outputs  $h^*$  and  $h'$ .

Note that the explanation concerns the effects of possible future observations rather than current!

# Interactive explanation

S Based on the given evidence, what is your expected value for *Accident*?

U I expect a moderate accident.

S Based on the given evidence, it is found that *severe* is the most likely value for *Accident*.

S Do you prefer understandable or convincing explanations for this finding?

U I prefer understandable explanations.

S We found the following sufficient and counterfactual explanations:

1. If only *Age = adolescent*, *Experience < 3*, *Model = old* was observed *severe* would always be the most probable value for *Accident* regardless of the values for the other evidence.  
If *Model = normal* was observed instead of the actual values and all other values would stay the same, *moderate* would be the most probable value for *Accident*
2. If only *Age = adolescent*, *Experience < 3*, *Model = old* was observed *severe* would always be the most probable value for *Accident* regardless of the values for the other evidence.  
If *Model = old* was observed instead of the actual values and all other values would stay the same, *moderate* would be the most probable value for *Accident*.
3. If only *Mileage = 2000*, *Experience < 3*, *Model = old* was observed *severe* would always be the most probable value for *Accident* regardless of the values for the other evidence.  
If *Model = normal* was observed instead of the actual value and all other values would stay the same, *moderate* would be the most probable value for *Accident*.

Do you want to see more explanations?

U No.

S On what observation is your expectation for a moderate accident based?

U On the observation that I have a cautious driving style.

S You probably have the right expectations of how  $E_i$  influences the target.  
However, this influence was suppressed by the other observations.

## Take home message

- explanations are more than ever necessary
- not everything needs explanation

- need to involve and interact with user more
- need to know what is technically possible

- effective explanations are not always accurate





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