

# Anytime Probabilistic Reasoning

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## Main Collaborators:

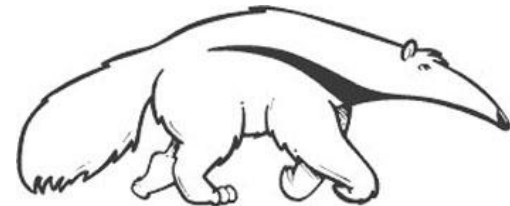
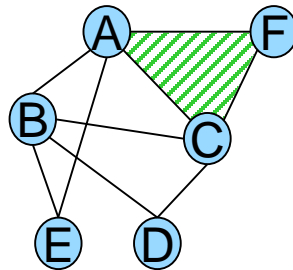
Alexander Ihler

Kalev Kask

Radu Marinescu

Qi Lou

Junhyu Lee



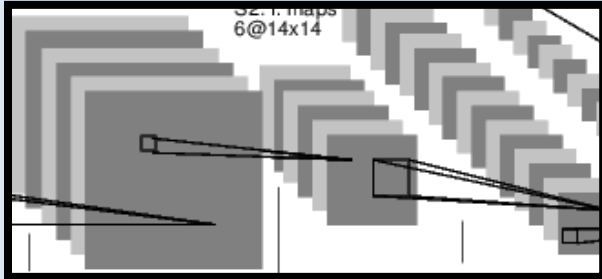
# AI Renaissance

THINKING,  
FAST AND SLOW



DANIEL  
KAHNEMAN

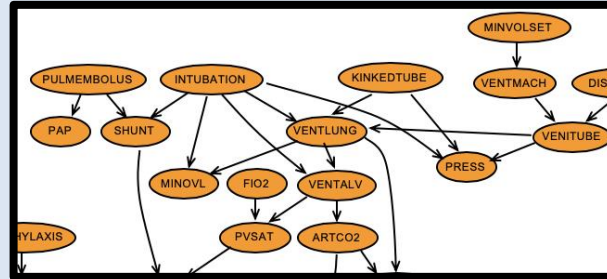
WINNER OF THE NOBEL PRIZE IN ECONOMICS



- Deep learning
  - Fast predictions
  - “Instinctive”

Tools:

Tensorflow, PyTorch, ...



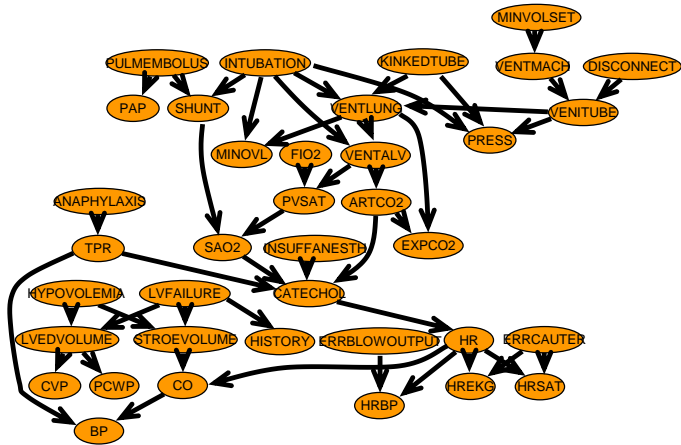
- Probabilistic models
  - Slow reasoning
  - “Logical / deliberative”

Tools:

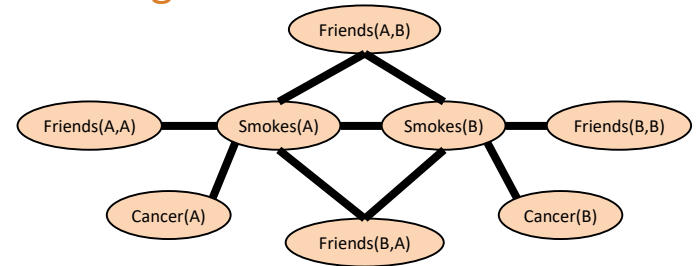
Probabilistic programming,  
Markov Logic, ...

# Overview: Graphical Models

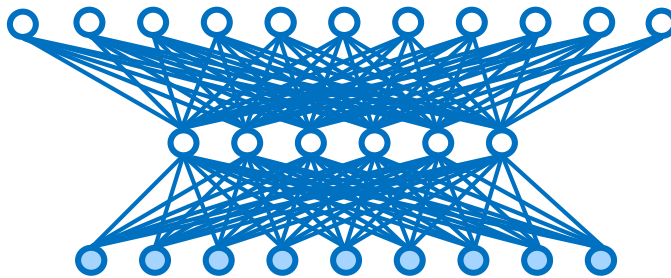
## Bayesian Networks



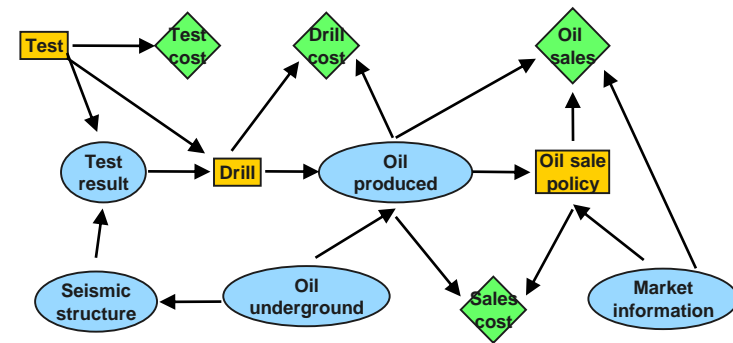
## Markov Logic



## Deep Boltzmann Machines



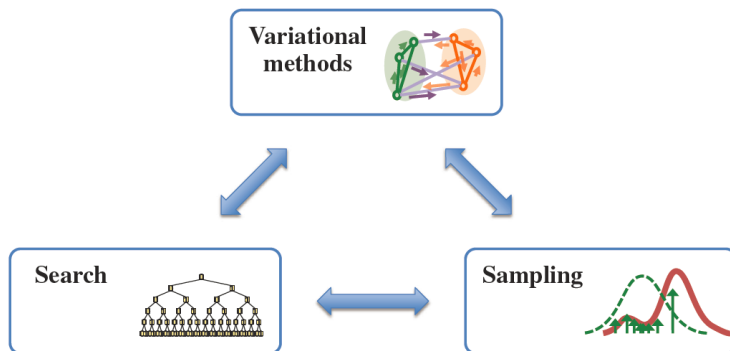
## Influence Diagrams



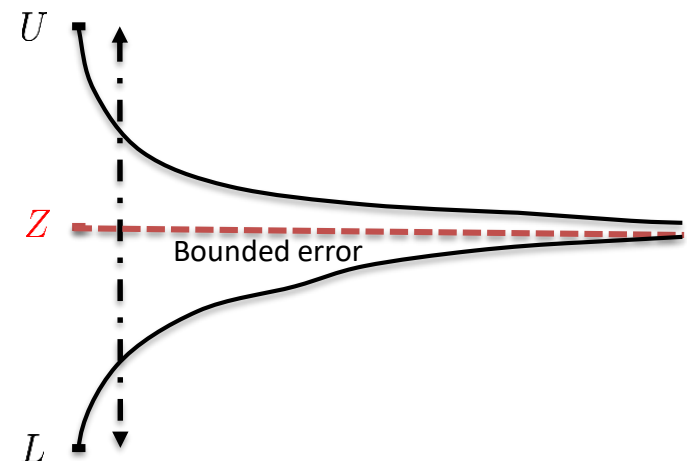
# Outline

- Overview of problems and methodology
- Main paradigms of approximate reasoning:  
Variational, Search, Sampling
- Combining approaches
- Future challenges

Main paradigms



The anytime desiderata



# Graphical Models

- Describe structure in large problems
  - Large complex system  $f(X)$
  - Made of “smaller”, “local” interactions  $f_\alpha(X_\alpha)$
  - Complexity emerges through interdependence

- More formally:

A graphical model consists of:

$X = \{X_1, \dots, X_n\}$  -- variables (we'll assume discrete)

$D = \{D_1, \dots, D_n\}$  -- domains

$F = \{f_{\alpha_1}, \dots, f_{\alpha_m}\}$  -- (non-negative) functions or “factors”

- Example:

$$F(A,B,C) = f(A,B) \cdot f(B,C)$$

A	B	f(A,B)
0	0	<b>0.24</b>
0	1	<b>0.56</b>
1	0	<b>1.1</b>
1	1	<b>1.2</b>

...

B	C	f(B,C)
0	0	<b>0.12</b>
0	1	<b>0.36</b>
1	0	<b>0.3</b>
1	1	<b>1.8</b>

Example:

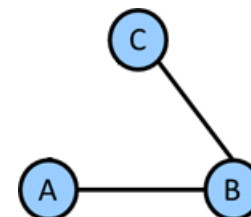
$$A \in \{0, 1\}$$

$$B \in \{0, 1\}$$

$$C \in \{0, 1\}$$

$$f_{AB}(A, B), \quad f_{BC}(B, C)$$

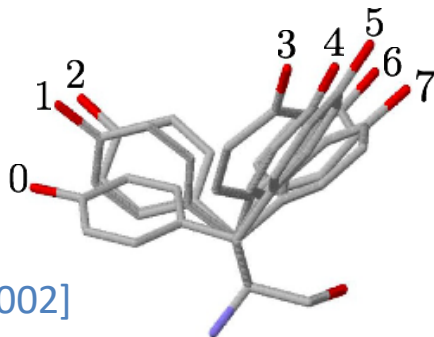
Primal graph



# Graphical Models

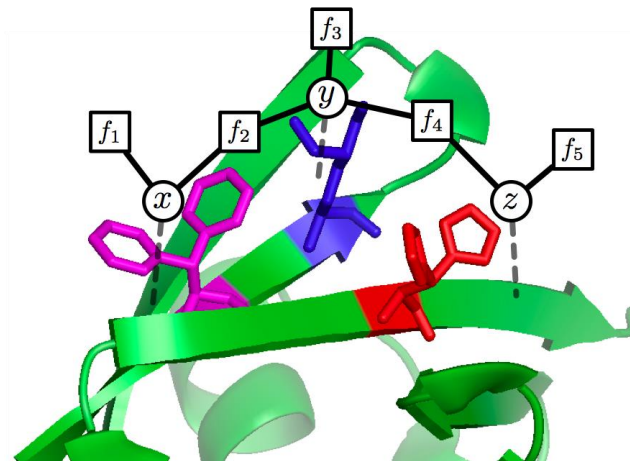
- Describe structure in large problems
  - Large complex system  $f(X)$
  - Made of “smaller”, “local” interactions  $f_\alpha(X_\alpha)$
  - Complexity emerges through interdependence
- Examples & Tasks
  - Maximization (**MAP**): compute the most probable configuration

$$\mathbf{x}^* = \arg \max_{\mathbf{x}} \prod_{\alpha} f_{\alpha}(\mathbf{x}_{\alpha}) \quad f(\mathbf{x}^*) = \max_{\mathbf{x}} \prod_{\alpha} f_{\alpha}(\mathbf{x}_{\alpha})$$



[Yanover & Weiss 2002]

Phenylalanine



# Graphical Models

- Describe structure in large problems
  - Large complex system  $f(X)$
  - Made of “smaller”, “local” interactions  $f_\alpha(X_\alpha)$
  - Complexity emerges through interdependence
- Examples & Tasks
  - Summation & marginalization

$$p(x_i) = \frac{1}{Z} \sum_{\mathbf{x} \setminus x_i} \prod_{\alpha} f_{\alpha}(\mathbf{x}_{\alpha}) \quad \text{and}$$

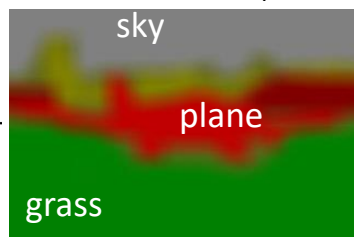
$$Z = \sum_{\mathbf{x}} \prod_{\alpha} f_{\alpha}(\mathbf{x}_{\alpha})$$

“partition function”

Observation  $\mathbf{y}$



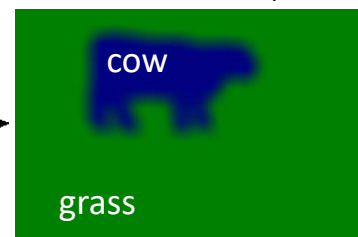
Marginals  $p(x_i | \mathbf{y})$



Observation  $\mathbf{y}$



Marginals  $p(x_i | \mathbf{y})$

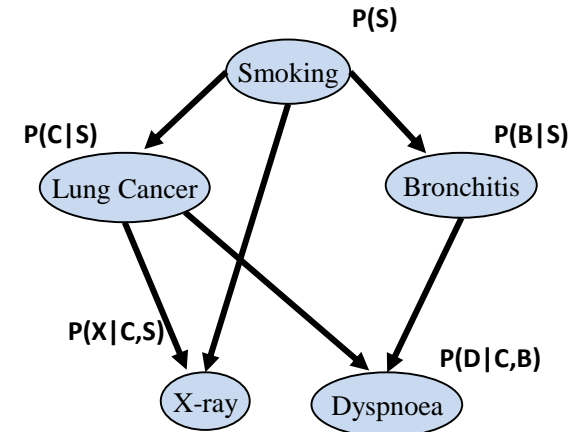


e.g., [Plath et al. 2009]

# Graphical Models

- Describe structure in large problems
  - Large complex system  $f(X)$
  - Made of “smaller”, “local” interactions  $f_\alpha(X_\alpha)$
  - Complexity emerges through interdependence
- Examples & Tasks
  - Mixed inference (**marginal MAP**, MEU, ...)

$$f(\mathbf{x}_M^*) = \max_{\mathbf{x}_M} \sum_{\mathbf{x}_S} \prod_{\alpha} f_\alpha(\mathbf{x}_\alpha)$$

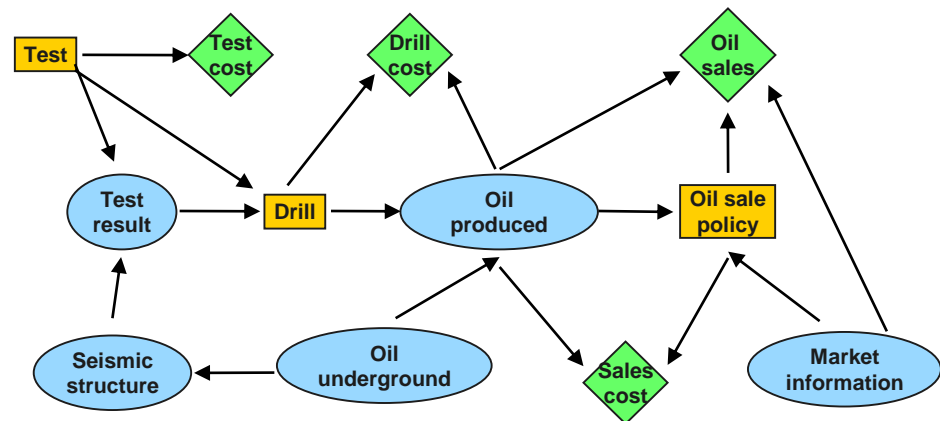


$$P(S,C,B,X,D) = P(S) \cdot P(C|S) \cdot P(B|S) \cdot P(X|C,S) \cdot P(D|C,B)$$

Influence diagrams & optimal decision-making

(the “oil wildcatter” problem)

e.g., [Raiffa 1968; Shachter 1986]





# Graphical models

A **graphical model** consists of:

- $X = \{X_1, \dots, X_n\}$  -- variables
- $D = \{D_1, \dots, D_n\}$  -- domains
- $F = \{f_{\alpha_1}, \dots, f_{\alpha_m}\}$  -- functions

## Operators:

combination operator  
(sum, product, join, ...)

elimination operator  
(projection, sum, max, min, ...)

## Types of queries:

▶ Max-Inference (MAP)	$f(\mathbf{x}^*) = \max_{\mathbf{x}} \prod_{\alpha} f_{\alpha}(\mathbf{x}_{\alpha})$
▶ Sum-Inference (P(€))	$Z = \sum_{\mathbf{x}} \prod_{\alpha} f_{\alpha}(\mathbf{x}_{\alpha})$
▶ Mixed-Inference	$f(\mathbf{x}_M^*) = \max_{\mathbf{x}_M} \sum_{\mathbf{x}_S} \prod_{\alpha} f_{\alpha}(\mathbf{x}_{\alpha})$

PP

≠P

NP<sup>PP</sup>

Harder

- All these tasks are NP-hard
  - exploit problem structure
  - identify special cases
  - **approximate**

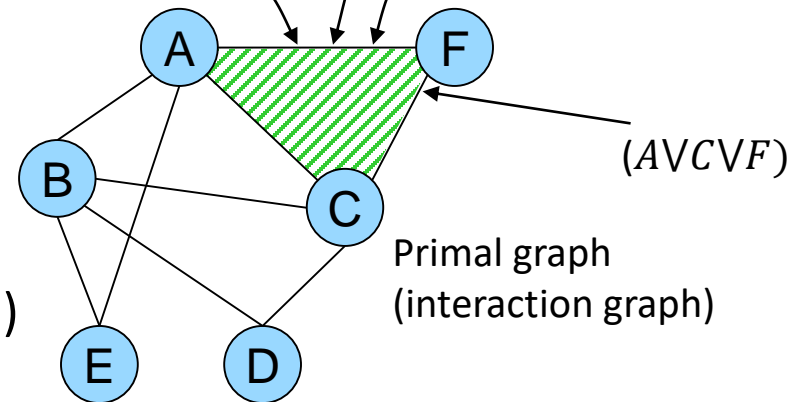
Conditional Probability Table (CPT)

A	C	F	P(F A,C)
0	0	0	0.14
0	0	1	0.96
0	1	0	0.40
0	1	1	0.60
1	0	0	0.35
1	0	1	0.65
1	1	0	0.72
1	1	1	0.68

Relation

A	C	F
red	green	blue
blue	red	red
blue	blue	green
green	red	blue

$$f_i := (F = A + C)$$

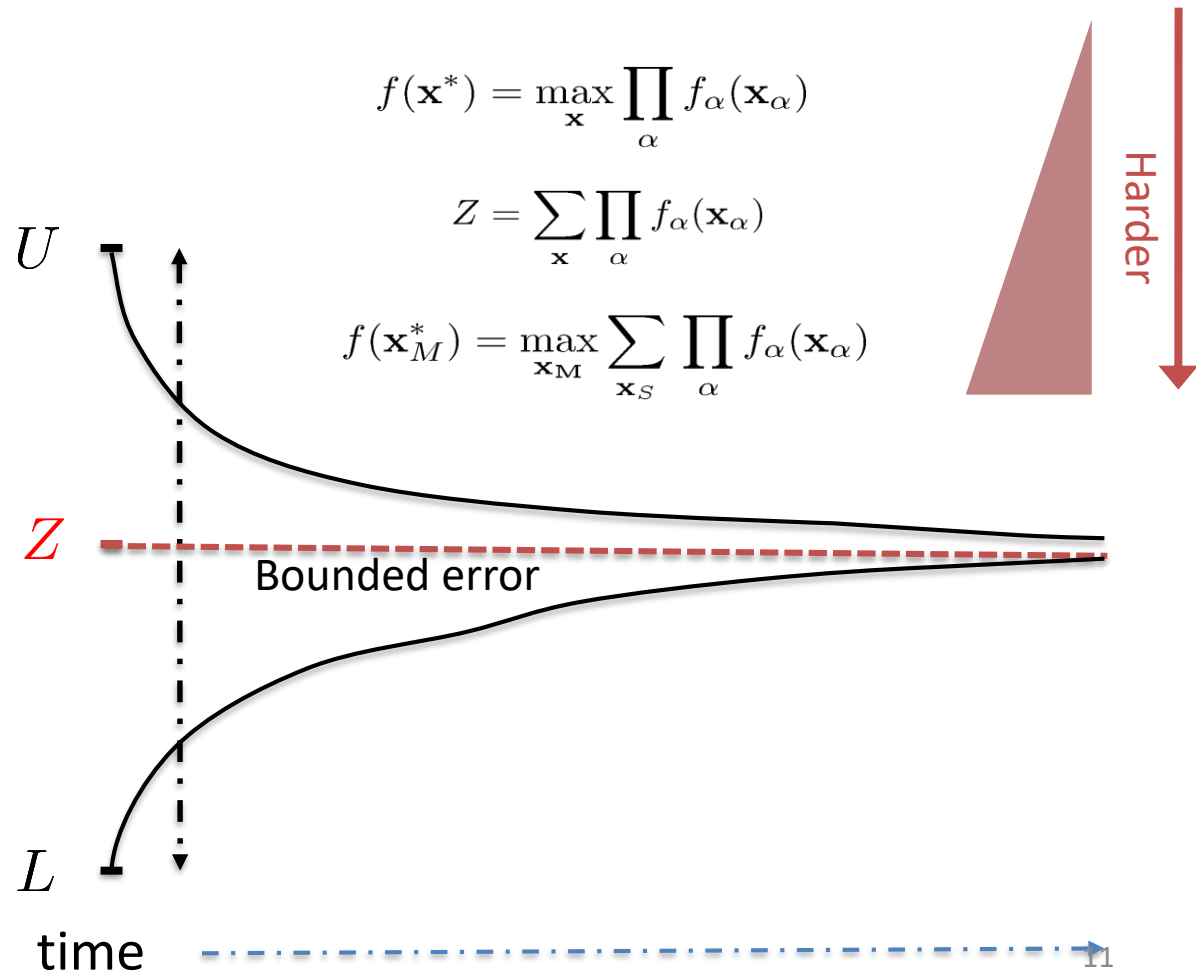


# Example Domains

- Natural Language processing
  - Information extraction, semantic parsing, translation, topic models, ...
- Computer vision
  - Object recognition, scene analysis, segmentation, tracking, ...
- Computational biology
  - Pedigree analysis, protein folding and binding, sequence matching, ...
- Networks
  - Webpage link analysis, social networks, communications, citations, ...
- Robotics
  - Planning & decision making

# Anytime Bounds

- Desiderata
  - Meaningful confidence interval
  - Responsive
  - Complete

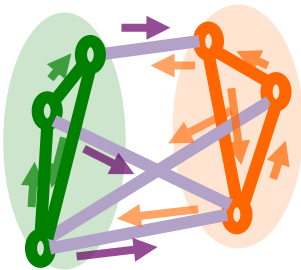


# Approximate Inference

- Three major paradigms
  - Effective at different types of problems

## Variational methods

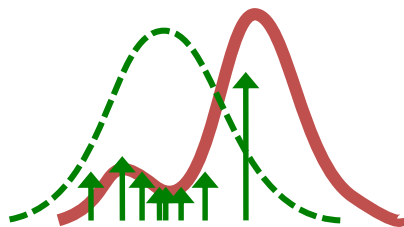
Reason over small subsets of variables at a time



- Bounds
- Responsive
- Complete

## (Monte Carlo) Sampling

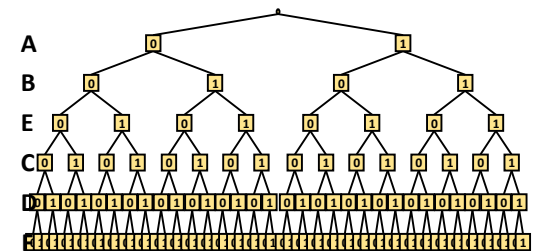
Use randomization to estimate averages over the state space



- Bounds
- Responsive
- Complete

## (Heuristic) Search

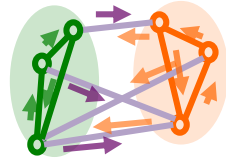
Structured enumeration over all possible states



- Bounds
- Responsive
- Complete

# Combining Approaches

**Inference,  
Variational  
methods**



Bucket-elimination  
weighted mini-bucket (WMB)

[Dechter 1999, Dechter and Rish, 2003  
Liu and Ihler, ICML 2011]

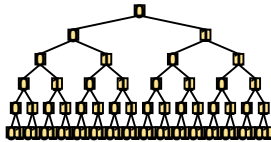
provide  
heuristic



provide WMB-IS  
proposal [Liu et al., NIPS 2015]



**Search**

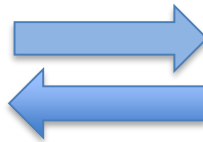


AND/OR search (AODFS)

[Marinescu et al 2009, Lou et al., AAAI 2017]

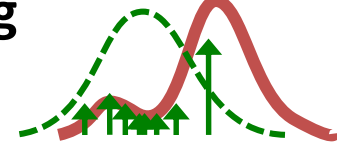
Marinescu et al., IJCAI 2018]

refine proposal



help search

**Sampling**

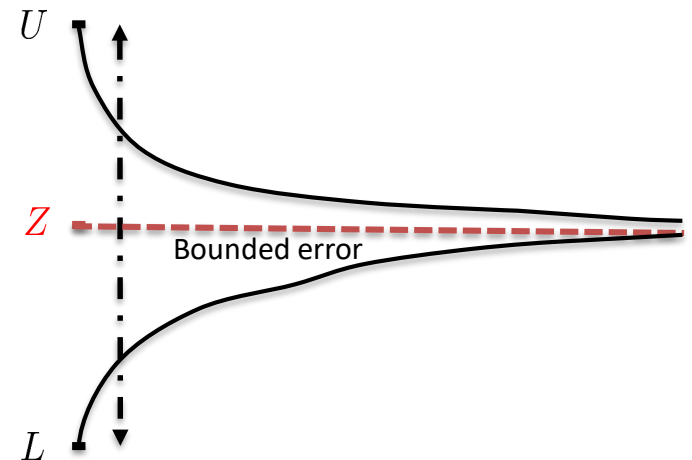
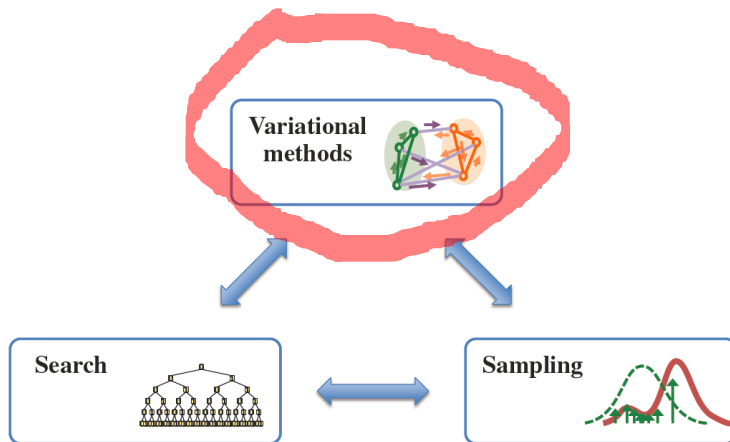


dynamic importance sampling (DIS)

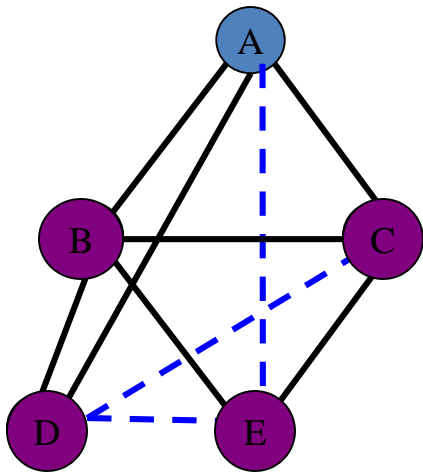
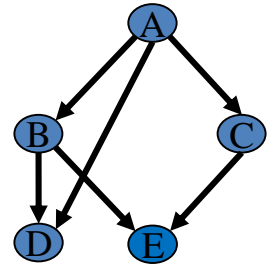
[Lou et al., NIPS 2017]

# Outline

- Overview of problems and methodology
- **Main paradigms of approximate reasoning:**  
**Variational**, Search, Sampling
- Combining approaches
- Future challenges



# Query 1: Belief updating: $P(X|\text{evidence})=?$



“primal” graph

$$P(a|e=0) \propto P(a, e=0) =$$

$$\sum_{e=0, d, c, b} P(a) \underbrace{P(b|a)} P(c|a) \underbrace{P(d|b, a) P(e|b, c)}$$

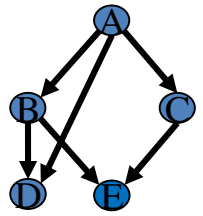
$$P(a) \sum_{e=0} \sum_d \sum_c P(c|a) \sum_b P(b|a) P(d|b, a) P(e|b, c)$$

Variable Elimination

$$h^B(a, d, c, e)$$

# Marginals by Bucket Elimination

(Dechter 1999)



$$P(A | E = 0) = \alpha \sum_{E=0, D, C, B} P(A) \cdot P(B | A) \cdot P(C | A) \cdot P(D | A, B) \cdot P(E | B, C)$$

$\sum_b \Pi$

Elimination operator

bucket B:

$$P(b|a) \quad P(d|b,a) \quad P(e|b,c)$$

bucket C:

$$P(c|a) \quad \lambda_{B \rightarrow C}(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{d}, \mathbf{c}, \mathbf{e})$$

bucket D:

$$\lambda_{C \rightarrow D}(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{d}, \mathbf{e})$$

bucket E:

$$e=0 \quad \lambda_{D \rightarrow A}(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{e})$$

bucket A:

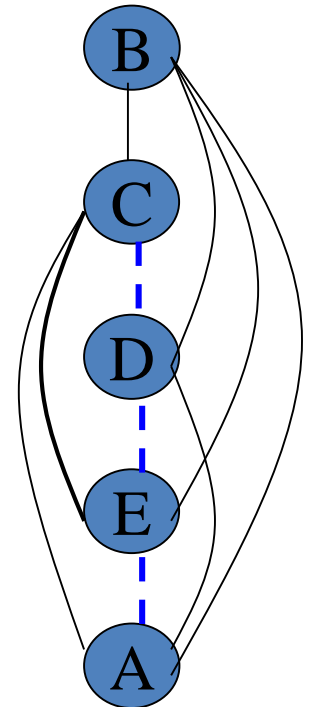
$$P(\mathbf{a}) \quad \lambda_{E \rightarrow A}(\mathbf{a})$$

$$P(e=0)$$

$$P(a/e=0)$$

$W^*=4$

"induced width"  
(max clique size)



Complexity time and space  $O(nk^{W^*+1})$

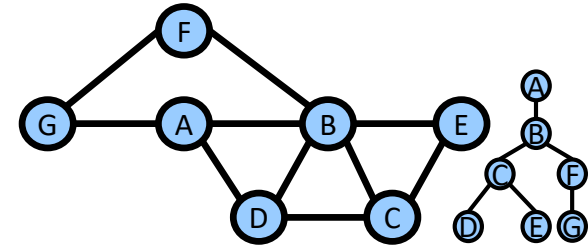


# Bucket and Mini-Bucket Elimination

$$\sum_X F(X)$$

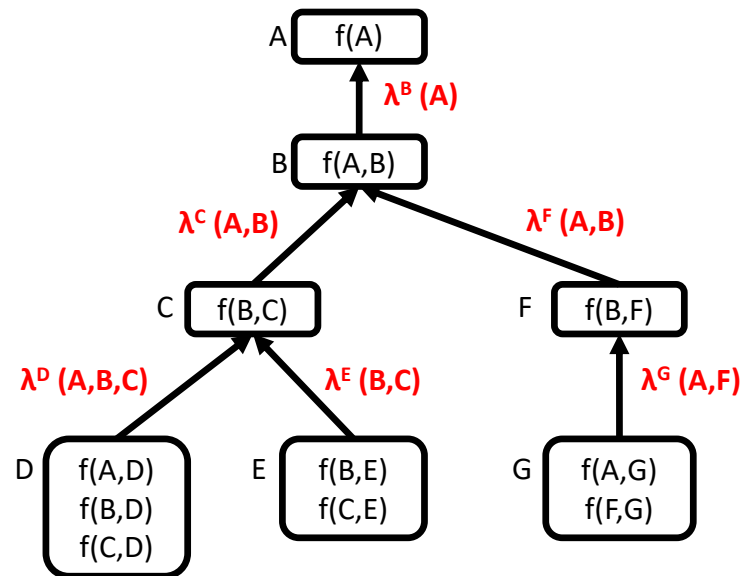
$$X = \{A, B, C, D, E, F, G\}$$

$$F(\mathbf{X}) = f(A)f(A, B)f(A, D)f(A, G)f(B, C)f(B, D) \\ f(B, E)f(B, F)f(C, D)f(C, E)f(E, G)$$

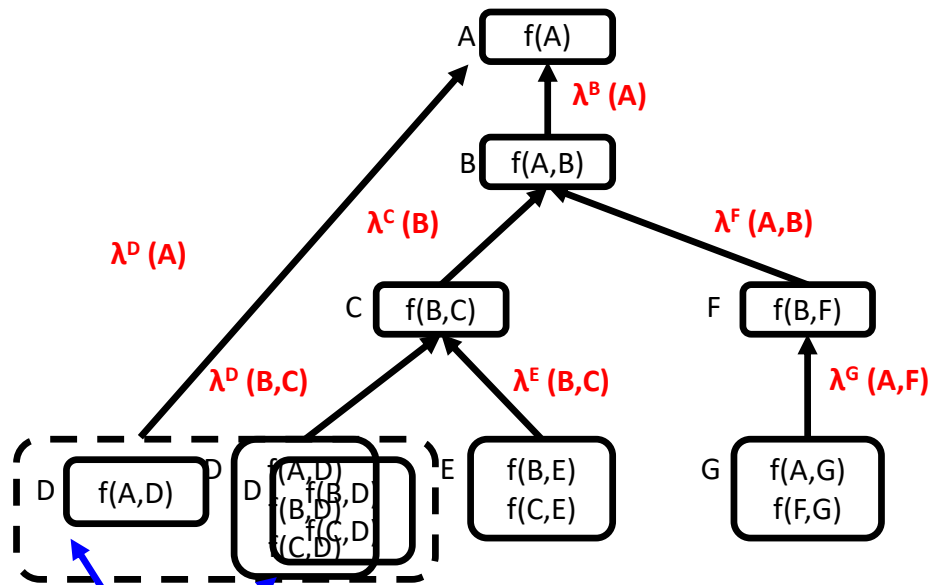


**Bucket-Elimination** (Dechter, 1999)  
Exponential in tree-width  $O(nk^w)$

**Mini-Bucket Elimination** (Dechter & Rish, 2003)  
Exponential in i-bound  $O(nk^i)$



$$\lambda^D(A, B, C) = \sum_D f(B, D) f(C, D) f(A, D)$$



mini-buckets

$$\lambda^D(A) = \max_D f(A, D) \\ \lambda^D(B, C) = \max_D [f(B, D) f(C, D)]$$

# Bucket and Mini-Bucket Elimination

[Dechter 1999; Dechter & Rish, 2003]

A summation query; e.g., partition function

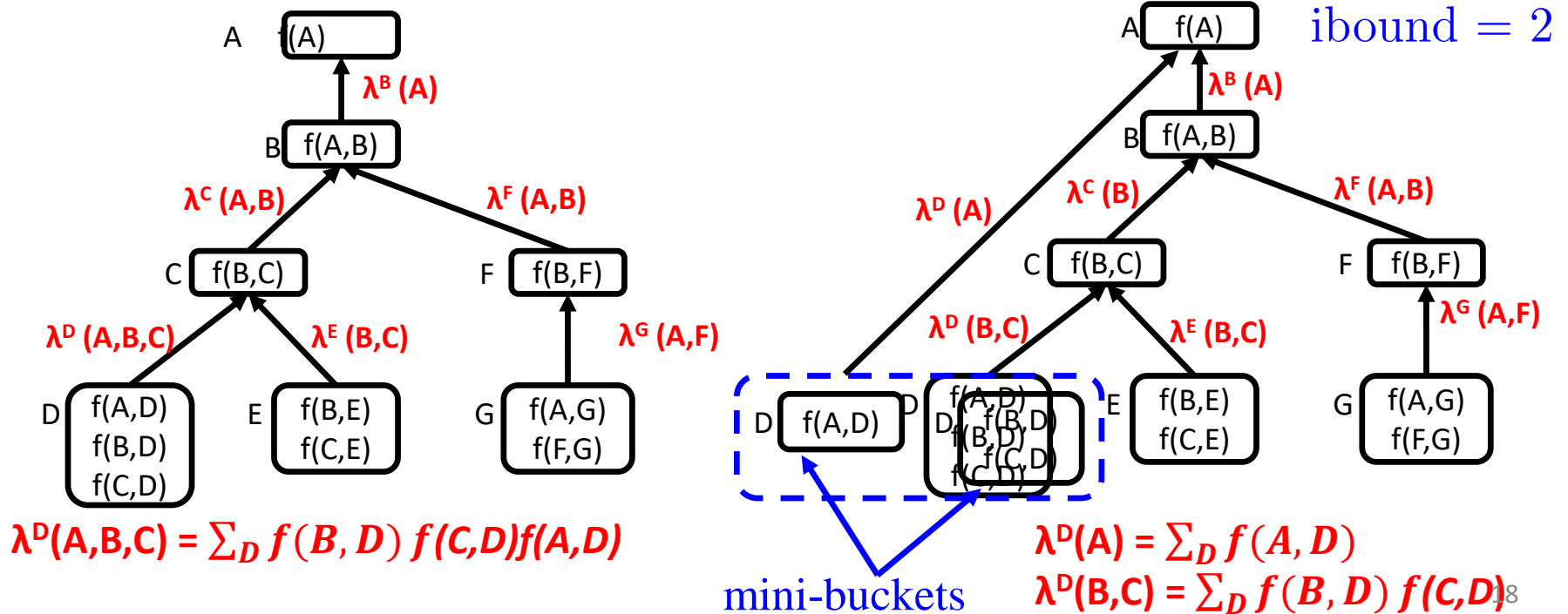
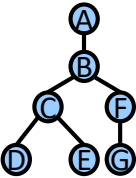
$$\sum_X F(X)$$

$$\lambda_X(\cdot) = \max_x \prod_{i=1}^n f_i(x, \dots)$$

$$\lambda_{X,1}(\cdot) = \max_x \prod_{i=1}^r f_i(x, \dots)$$

$$\lambda_{X,2}(\cdot) = \max_x \prod_{i=r+1}^n f_i(x, \dots)$$

$$\lambda_X(\cdot) \leq \lambda_{X,1}(\cdot) \lambda_{X,2}(\cdot)$$



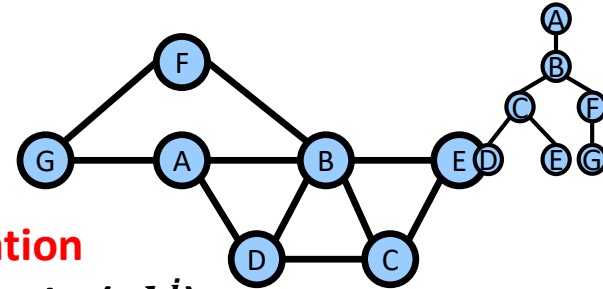
# Bucket and Mini-Bucket Elimination

[Dechter 1999; Dechter & Rish, 2003]

A maximization query; e.g., MAP

$$\max_X F(X)$$

$$F(\mathbf{X}) = f(A)f(A, B)f(A, D)f(A, G)f(B, C)f(B, D) \\ f(B, E)f(B, F)f(C, D)f(C, E)f(E, G)$$

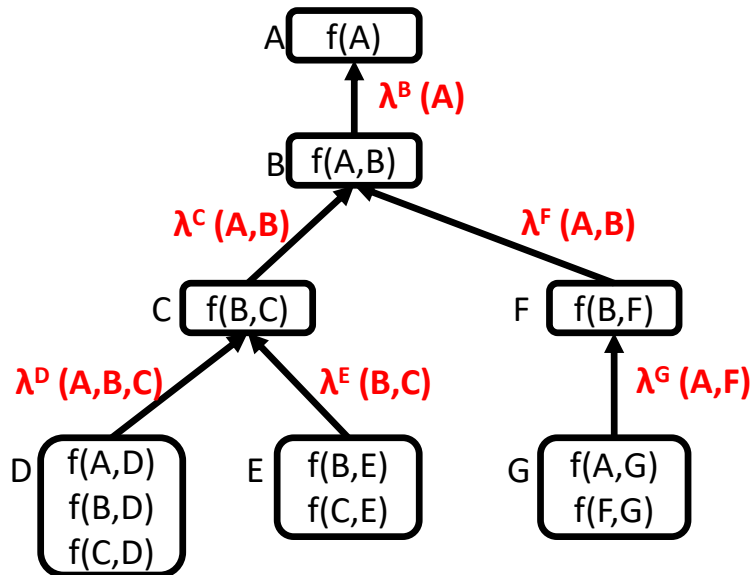


**Bucket-Elimination**

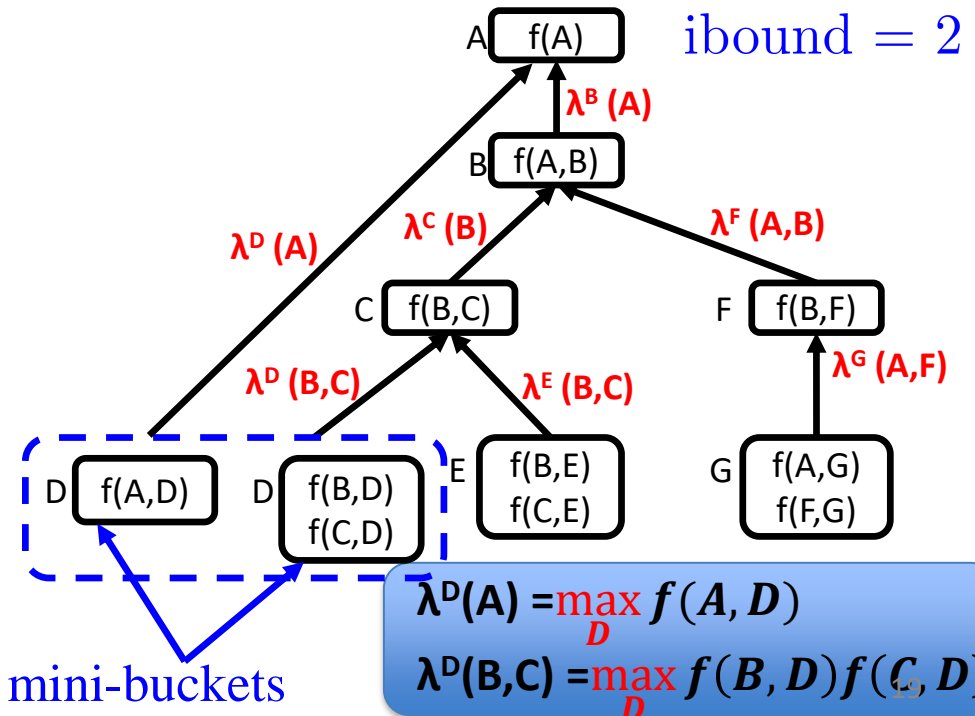
Exponential in tree-width  $O(nk^w)$

**Mini-Bucket Elimination**

Exponential in i-bound  $O(nk^i)$



$$\lambda^D(A,B,C) = \max_D f(B, D)f(C, D)f(A, D)$$



$$\lambda^D(A) = \max_D f(A, D) \\ \lambda^D(B,C) = \max_D f(B, D)f(C, D)$$

mini-buckets

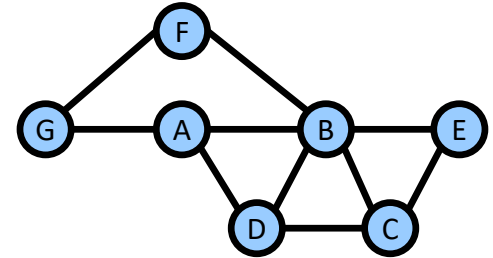
# Bucket and Mini-Bucket Elimination

[Dechter 1999; Dechter & Rish, 2003, Liu & Ihler 2011]

A maximization query; e.g., MAP

$$\max_X F(X)$$

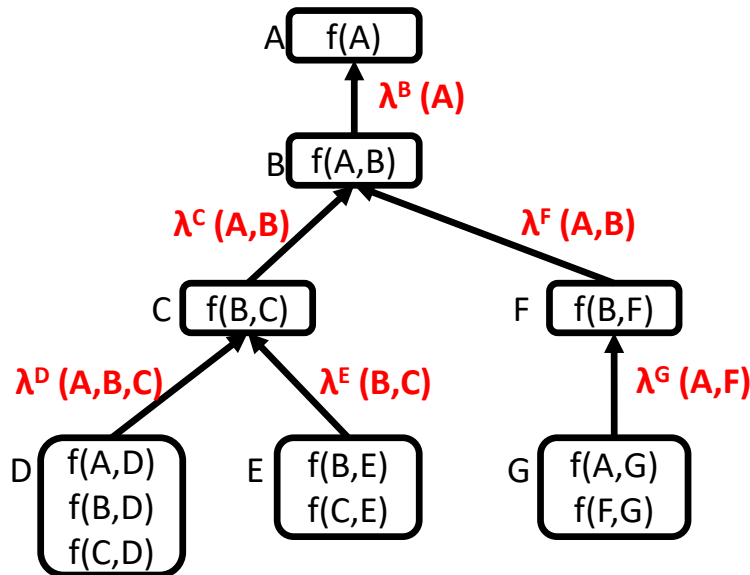
$$F(\mathbf{X}) = f(A)f(A, B)f(A, D)f(A, G)f(B, C)f(B, D) \\ f(B, E)f(B, F)f(C, D)f(C, E)f(E, G)$$



**Bucket-Elimination**

Exponential  $O(nk^w)$

Assigning MAP value, greedily



$$a^* = \operatorname{argmax}_a f(a) \lambda^B(a)$$

$$b^* = \operatorname{argmax}_b f(a^*, b) \lambda^C(a^*, b) \lambda^F(a^*, b)$$

$$c^* = \operatorname{argmax}_c f(b^*, c) \lambda^D(a^*, b^*, c) \lambda^E(a^*, c)$$

$$d^* = \operatorname{argmax}_d f(a^*, d) f(b^*, d) f(c^*, d)$$

$$f^* = \operatorname{argmax}_f f(b^*, f) \lambda^G(a^*, f)$$

$$e^* = \operatorname{argmax}_e f(b^*, e) f(c^*, e)$$

$$\lambda^D(A, B, C) = \max_D f(B, D) f(C, D) f(A, D)$$

return  $(a^*, b^*, c^*, d^*, e^*, f^*, g^*)$ , **exact**

# Bucket and Mini-Bucket Elimination

A maximization query; e.g., MAP

$$\max_{\mathbf{X}} F(\mathbf{X})$$

$$F(\mathbf{X}) = f(A)f(A, B)f(A, D)f(A, G)f(B, C)f(B, D) \\ f(B, E)f(B, F)f(C, D)f(C, E)f(E, G)$$

$$a^* = \operatorname{argmax}_a f(a) \lambda^B(a) \lambda^D(a)$$

$$b^* = \operatorname{argmax}_b f(a, b) \lambda^C(a^*, B) \lambda^E(a^*, B)$$

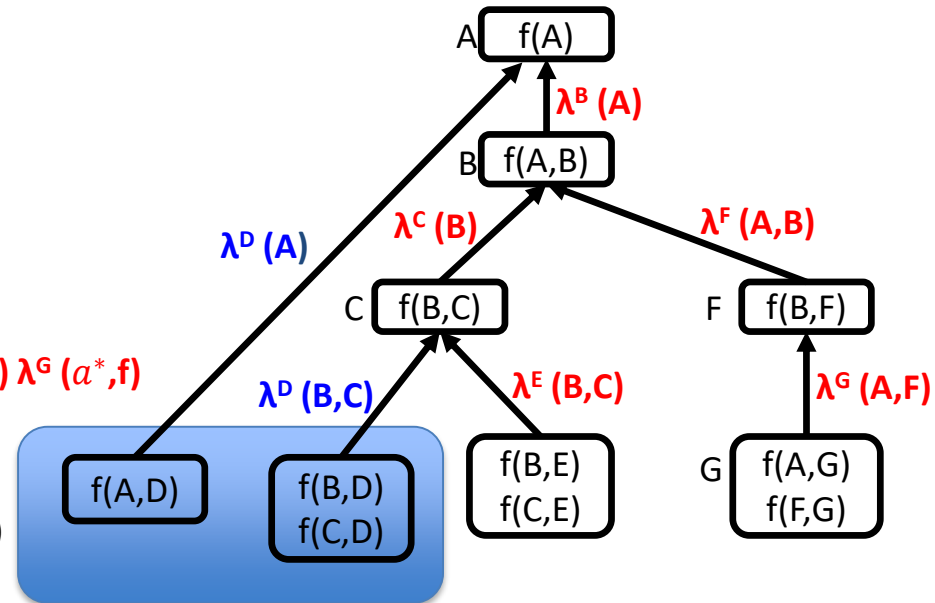
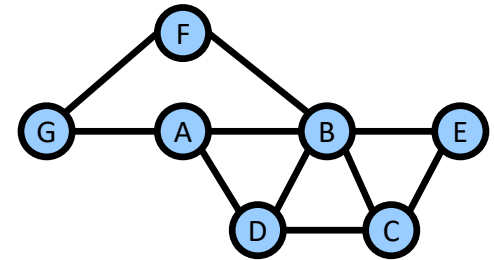
$$c^* = \operatorname{argmax}_c f(b, c) \lambda^D(b^*, C) \lambda^E(b^*, C)$$

$$d^* = \operatorname{argmax}_d f(a^*, d) f(b^*, d) f(c^*, d)$$

$$f^* = \operatorname{argmax}_f f(b, f) \lambda^G(a^*, f)$$

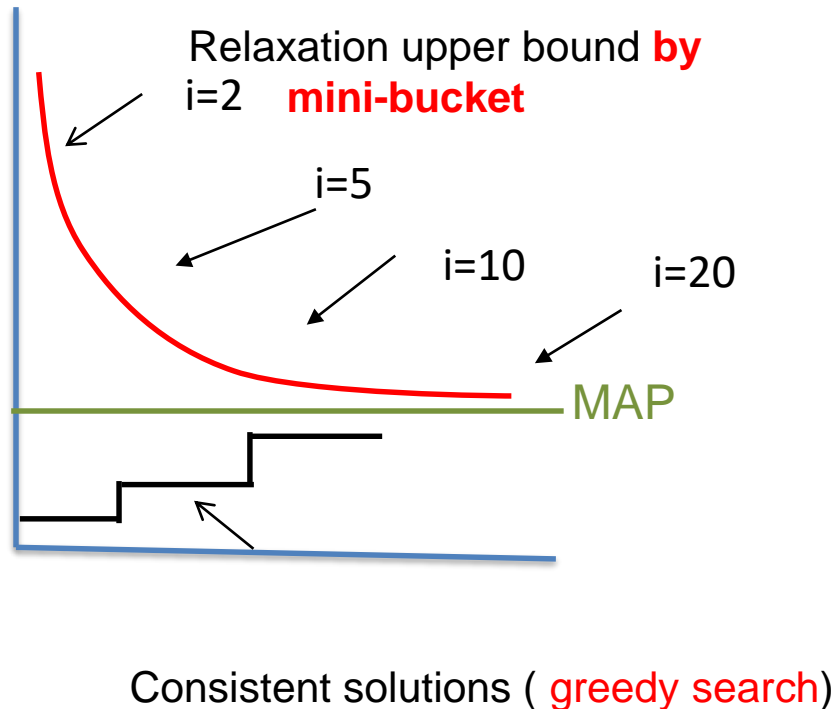
$$e^* = \operatorname{argmax}_e f(b^*, e) f(c^*, e)$$

returns  $F(a^*, b^*, c^*, d^*, e^*, f^*, g^*)$  a **lower bound**



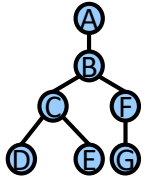
# Properties of Bucket Elimination and WMB

- Bounding from above and below



- Complexity:  $O(r \exp(i))$  time and  $O(\exp(i))$  space.
- Accuracy: determined by Upper/Lower bound.
- As  $i$ -bound increases, both accuracy and complexity increase.
- Message passing tightens bounds (next slides).

# Tightening the Bound; Weighted Mini-Bucket (WMB)



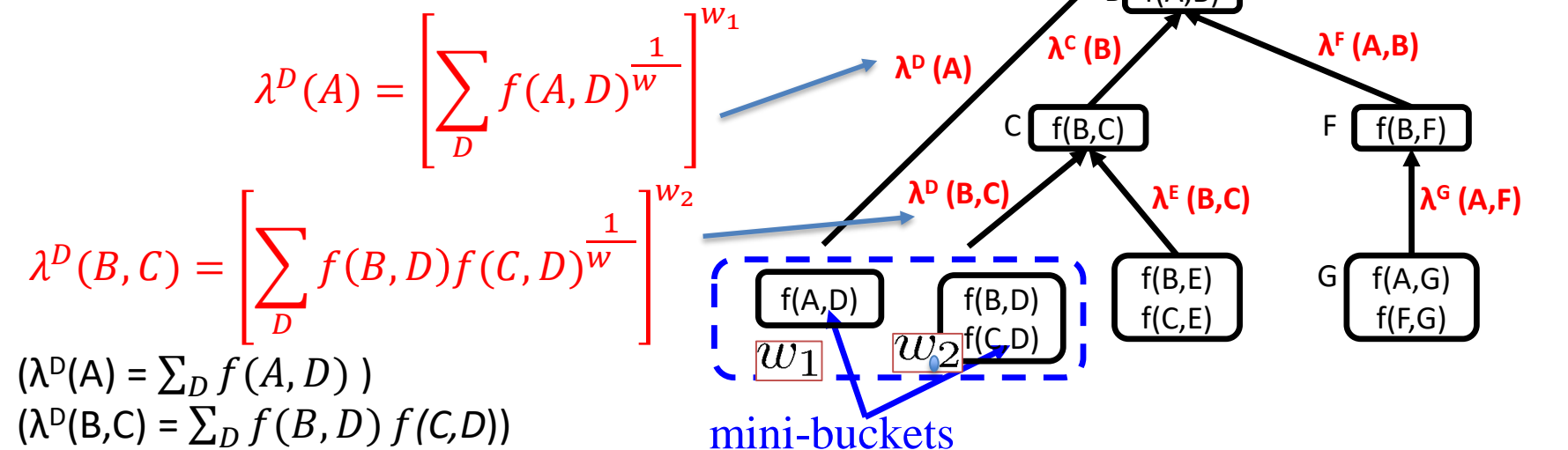
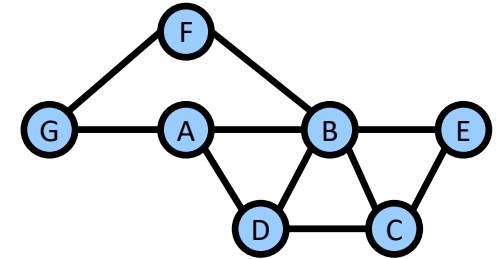
[Dechter 2003, Liu & Ihler 2011]

**Bounds can be tightened by optimizing weights.**

$$F(\mathbf{X}) = f(A)f(A, B)f(A, D)f(A, G)f(B, C)f(B, D) \\ f(B, E)f(B, F)f(C, D)f(C, E)f(E, G)$$

- Holder inequality  $w_1 + w_2 = 1$

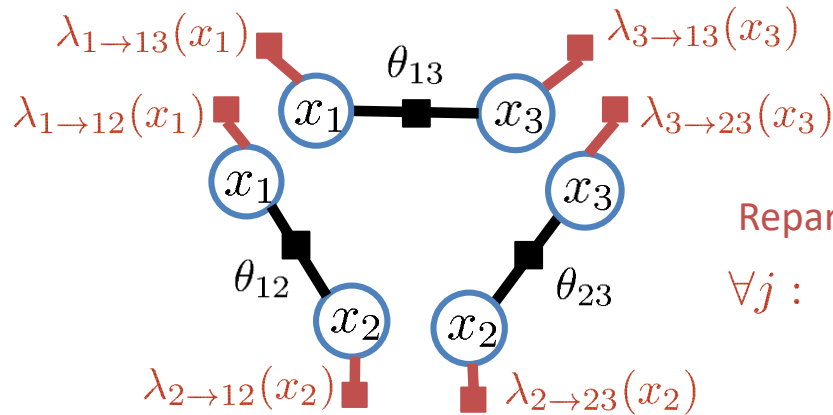
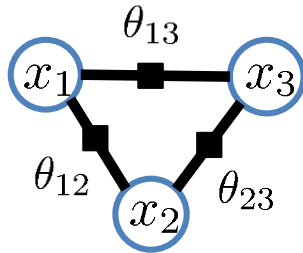
$$\sum_x f_1(x) \cdot f_2(x) \leq \left[ \sum_x f_1(x)^{\frac{1}{w_1}} \right]^{w_1} \cdot \left[ \sum_x f_2(x)^{\frac{1}{w_2}} \right]^{w_2}$$



# Tightening the Bound: Reparameterize FUNCTIONS

Add factors that “adjust”  
each local term, but  
cancel out in total

[Ihler, Flerova, Dechter, Otten 2012]



Reparameterization:

$$\forall j : \sum_{\alpha \ni j} \lambda_{j \rightarrow \alpha}(x_j) = 0$$

$$\log f(\mathbf{x}^*) = \max_{\mathbf{x}} \sum_{\alpha} \theta_{\alpha}(\mathbf{x}_{\alpha}) \leq \min_{\{\lambda_{i \rightarrow \alpha}\}} \sum_{\alpha} \max_{\mathbf{x}_{\alpha}} \left[ \theta_{\alpha}(\mathbf{x}_{\alpha}) + \sum_{i \in \alpha} \lambda_{i \rightarrow \alpha}(x_i) \right]$$

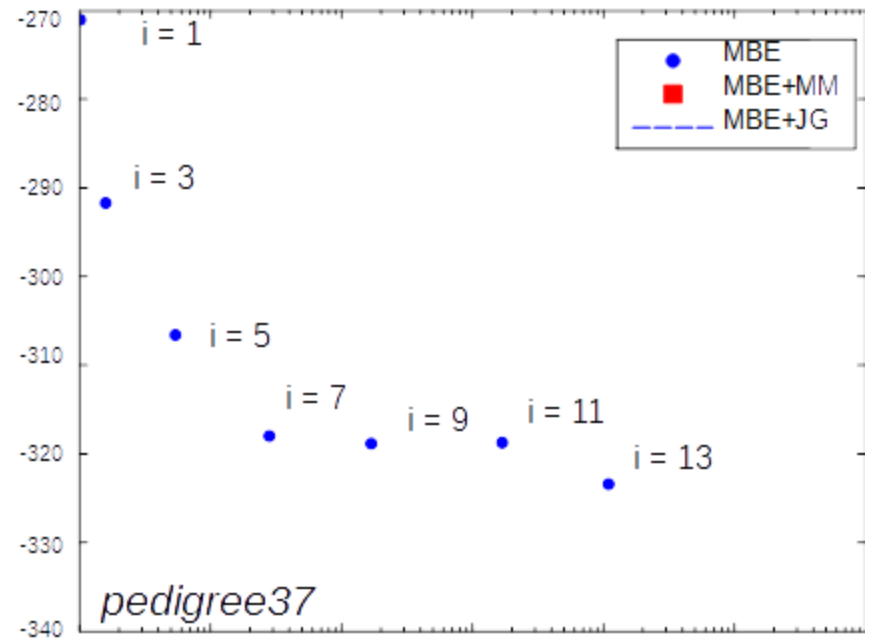
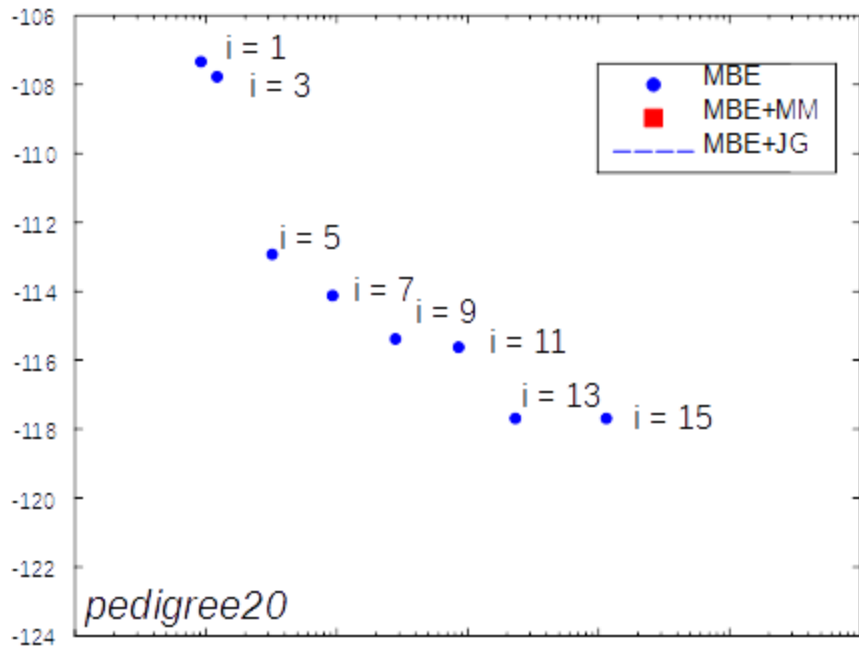
- Bound solution using decomposed optimization
- Solve independently: optimistic bound
- Tighten the bound by re-parameterization
  - Enforces lost equality constraints using Lagrange multipliers

Many names for the same class of bounds:

Dual decomposition [Komodakis et al. 2007], TRW, MPLP [Wainwright et al. 2005; Globerson & Jaakkola 2007, Soft arc consistency [Cooper & Schiex 2004] Max-sum diffusion [Warner 2007]

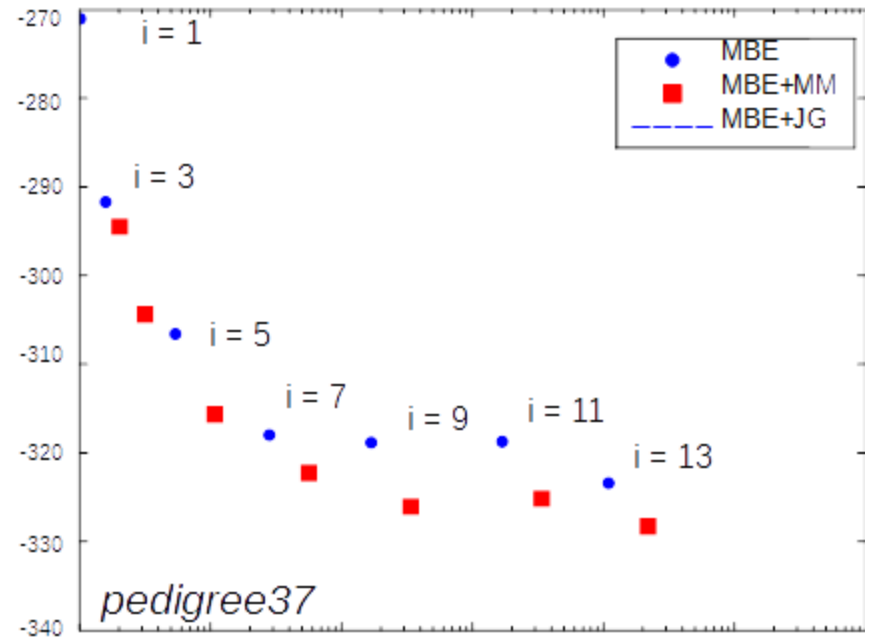
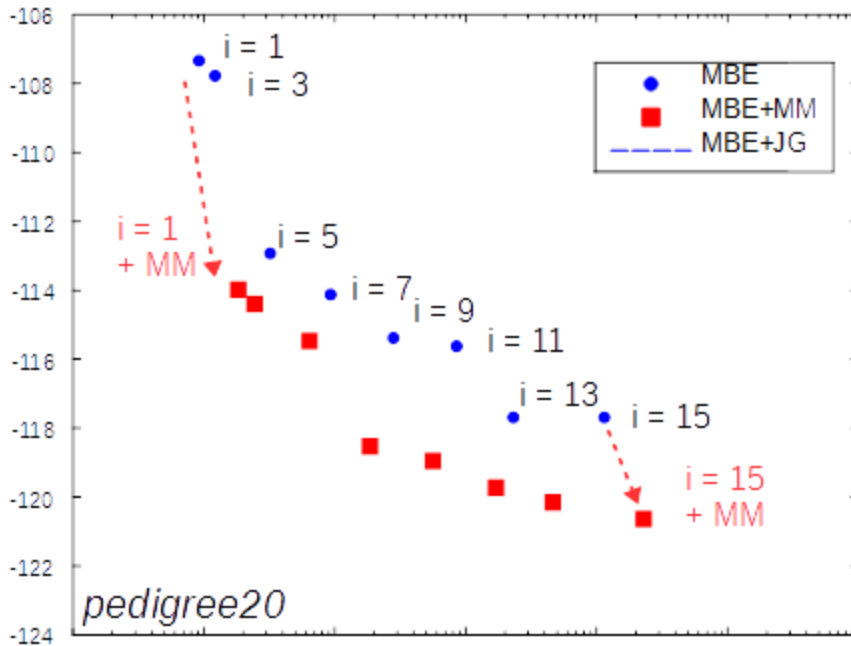


# Anytime Approximation



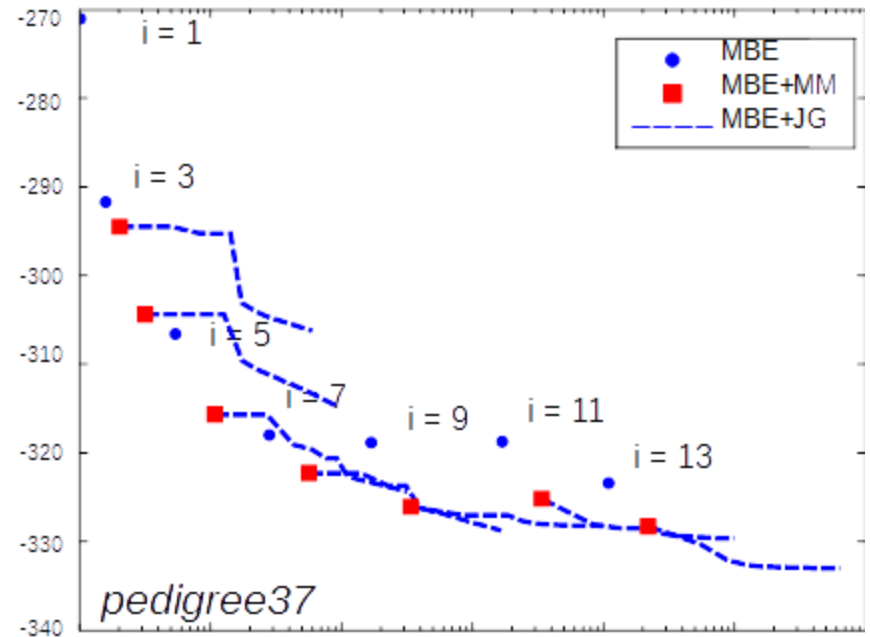
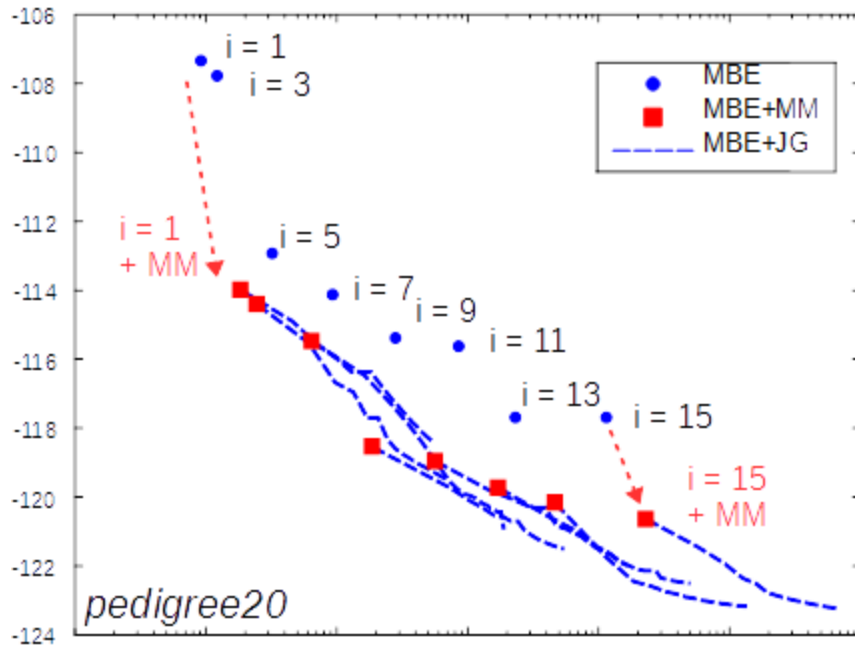
- Can tighten the bound in various ways
  - Cost-shifting (improve consistency between cliques)
  - Increase  $i$ -bound (higher order consistency)
- Simple moment-matching step improves bound significantly

# Anytime Approximation



- Can tighten the bound in various ways
  - Cost-shifting (improve consistency between cliques)
  - Increase i-bound (higher order consistency)
- Simple moment-matching step improves bound significantly

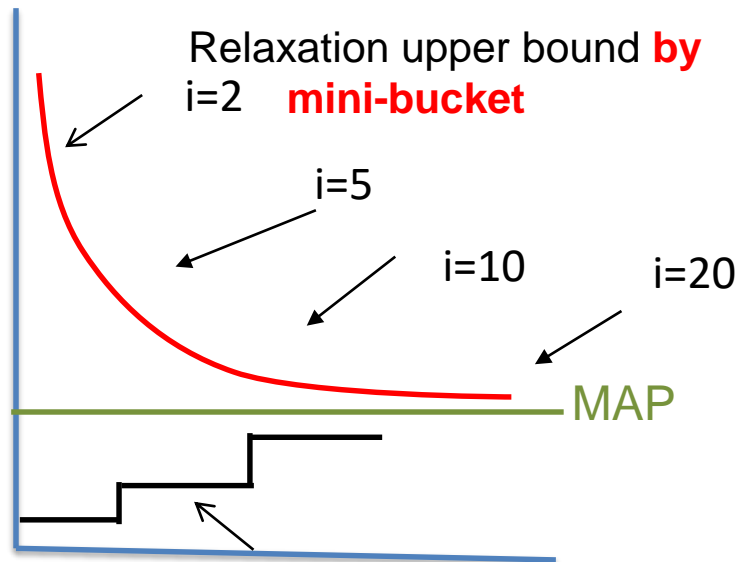
# Anytime Approximation



- Can tighten the bound in various ways
  - Cost-shifting (improve consistency between cliques)
  - Increase  $i$ -bound (higher order consistency)
- Simple moment-matching step improves bound significantly

# Properties of Bucket Elimination and WMB

- Bounding from above and below



Consistent solutions ( **greedy search** )

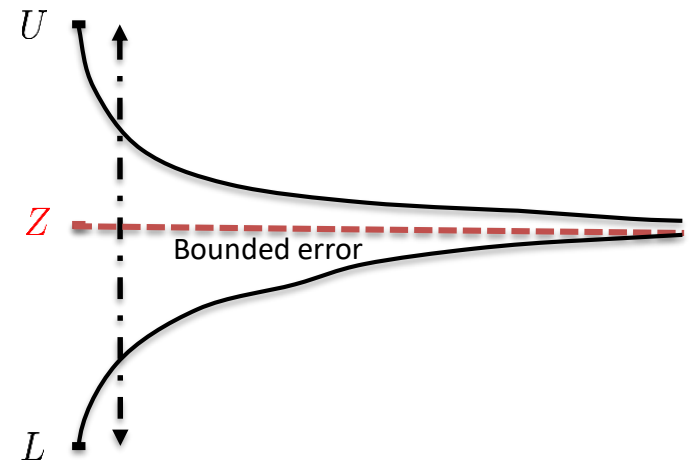
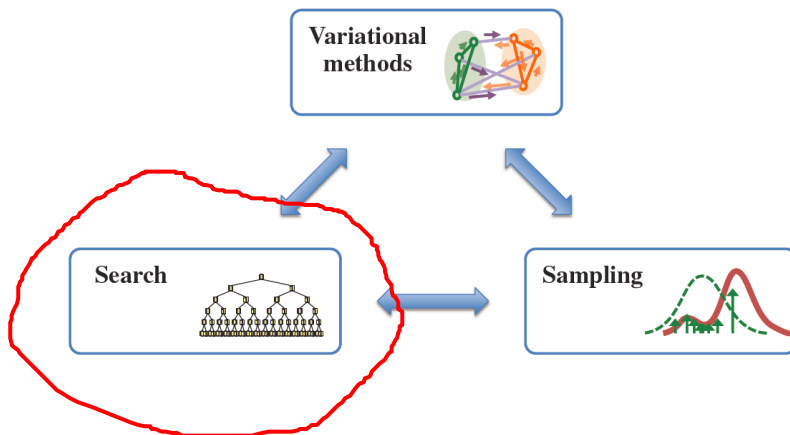
- Complexity:  $O(r \exp(i))$  time and  $O(\exp(i))$  space.
- Accuracy: determined by Upper/Lower bound.
- As  $i$ -bound increases, both accuracy and complexity increase.
- Message passing tightens bounds.

**But:**

- **Not anytime!**  
not asymp. tight w/o more memory

# Outline

- Overview of problems and methodology
- **Main paradigms of approximate reasoning:**  
Variational, **Search**, Sampling
- Combining approaches
- Future challenges

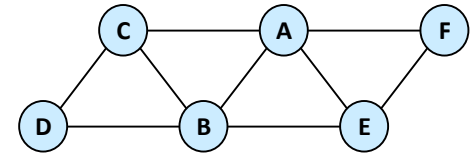
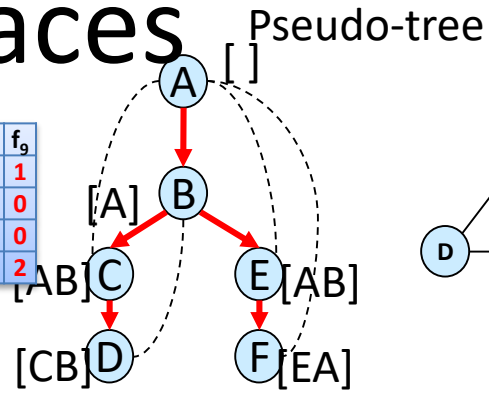


# Potential search spaces

A	B	$f_1$	A	C	$f_2$	A	E	$f_3$	A	F	$f_4$	B	C	$f_5$	B	D	$f_6$	B	E	$f_7$	C	D	$f_8$	E	F	$f_9$
0	0	2	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	1
0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	3	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	2	0	1	2	0	1	4	0	1	0
1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0
1	1	4	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	2	1	1	4	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	2

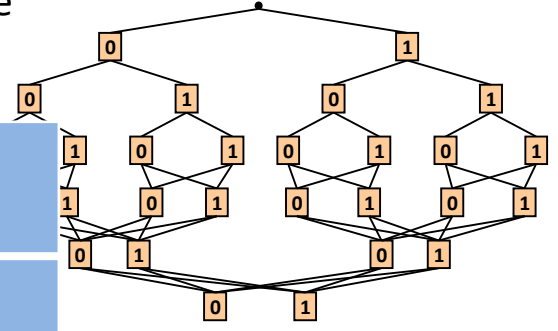
$$f(\mathbf{x}^*) = \max_{\mathbf{x}} \prod_{\alpha} f_{\alpha}(\mathbf{x}_{\alpha}) \quad Z = \sum_{\mathbf{x}} \prod_{\alpha} f_{\alpha}(\mathbf{x}_{\alpha})$$

$$f(\mathbf{x}_M^*) = \max_{\mathbf{x}_M} \sum_{\mathbf{x}_S} \prod_{\alpha} f_{\alpha}(\mathbf{x}_{\alpha})$$



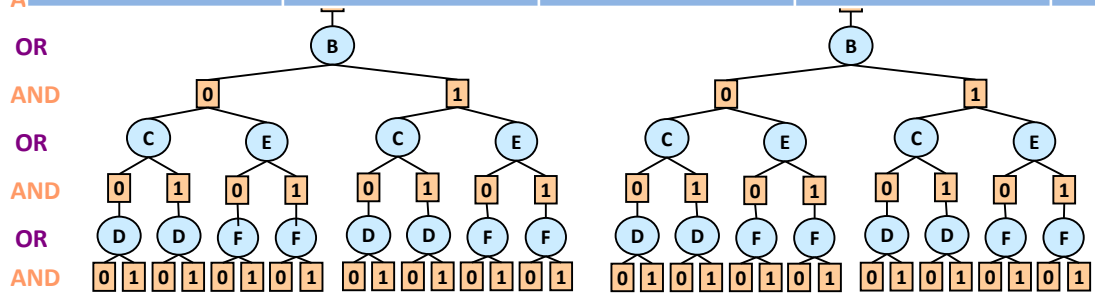
pseudo tree

A	0	1		
B				
C				
D				
E				
F				
	<b>OR tree</b>	<b>AND/OR tree</b>	<b>OR graph</b>	<b>AND/OR graph</b>
time	$O(k^n)$	$O(nk^h)$	$O(n k^{pw^*})$	$O(n k^{w^*})$
memory	$O(n)$	$O(n)$	$O(n k^{pw^*})$	$O(n k^{w^*})$



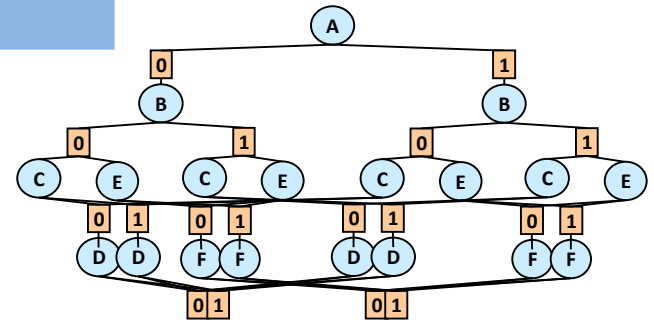
Context minimal OR search graph

28 nodes



Full AND/OR search tree

54 AND nodes



Context minimal AND/OR search graph

18 AND nodes

Any query can be computed over any of the search spaces

# Cost of a Solution Tree

$P(E | A, B)$

A	B	E=0	E=1
0	0	.4	.6
0	1	.5	.5
1	0	.7	.3
1	1	.2	.8

Evidence: E=0

$P(B | A)$

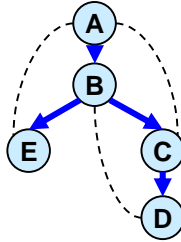
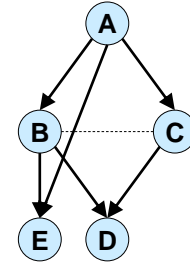
A	B=0	B=1
0	.4	.6
1	.1	.9

$P(C | A)$

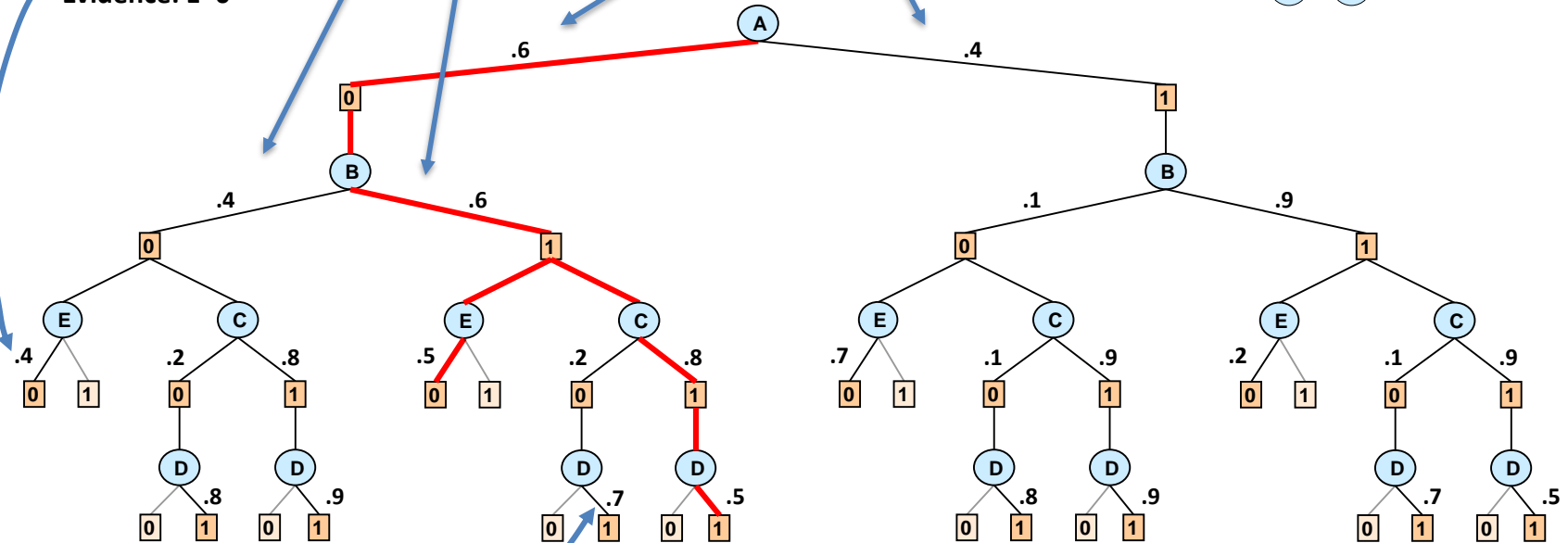
A	C=0	C=1
0	.2	.8
1	.7	.3

$P(A)$

A	P(A)
0	.6
1	.4



OR  
AND  
OR  
AND  
OR  
AND  
OR  
AND



$P(D | B, C)$

B	C	D=0	D=1
0	0	.2	.8
0	1	.1	.9
1	0	.3	.7
1	1	.5	.5

Evidence: D=1

Cost of the solution tree: the product of weights on its arcs

Cost of  $(A=0, B=1, C=1, D=1, E=0) = 0.6 \cdot 0.6 \cdot 0.5 \cdot 0.8 \cdot 0.5 = 0.0720$

# Value of a Node (e.g., Probability of Evidence)

$$P(E | A, B)$$

A	B	E=0	E=1
0	0	.4	.6
0	1	.5	.5
1	0	.7	.3
1	1	.2	.8

Evidence: E=0

$$P(B | A)$$

A	B=0	B=1
0	.4	.6
1	.1	.9

$$P(C | A)$$

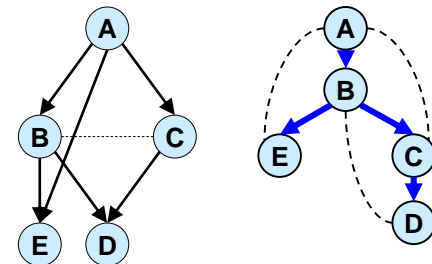
A	C=0	C=1
0	.2	.8
1	.7	.3

$$P(A)$$

A	P(A)
0	.6
1	.4

$P(D=1, E=0) = ?$

.24408



OR

AND

OR

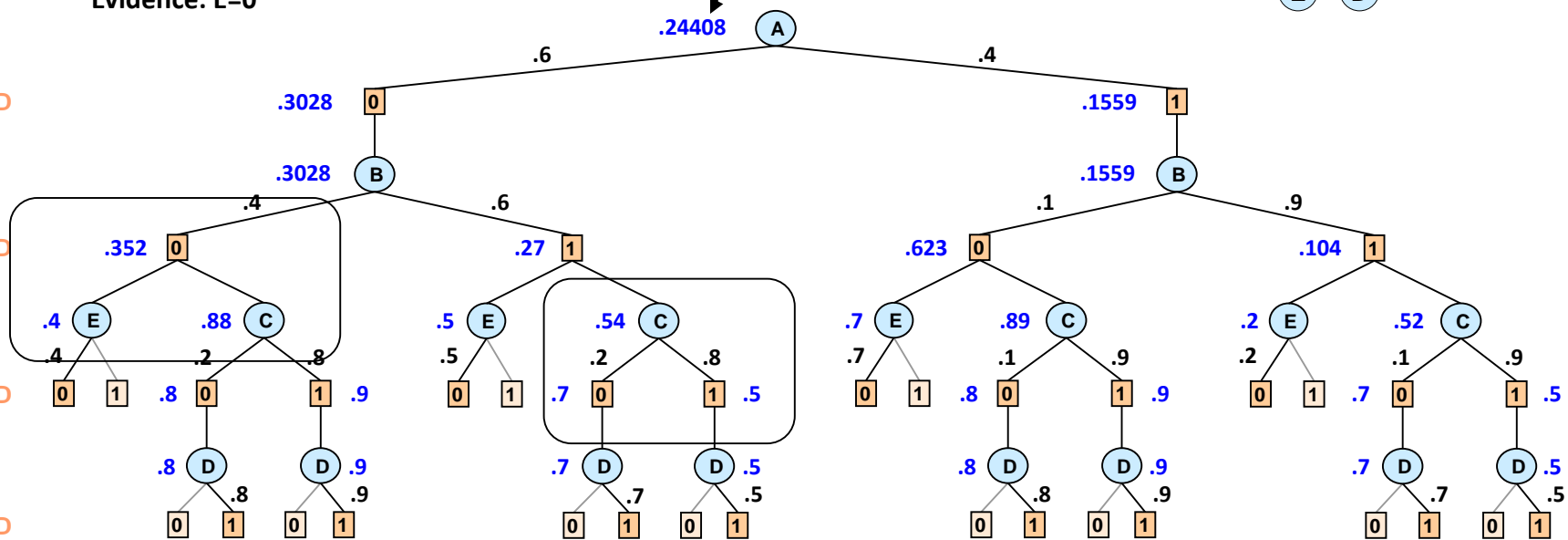
AND

OR

AND

OR

AND



$P(D | B, C)$

B	C	D=0	D=1
0	0	.2	.8
0	1	.1	.9
1	0	.3	.7
1	1	.5	.5

Evidence: D=1

Value of node = updated belief for sub-problem below

AND node: product

$$\prod_{n' \in \text{children}(n)} v(n')$$

OR node: Marginalization by summation

$$\sum_{n' \in \text{children}(n)} w(n, n') v(n')$$



# Answering Queries: Sum-Product (Belief Updating)

$P(E | A, B)$

A	B	E=0	E=1
0	0	.4	.6
0	1	.5	.5
1	0	.7	.3
1	1	.2	.8

Evidence: E=0

$P(B | A)$

A	B=0	B=1
0	.4	.6
1	.1	.9

$P(C | A)$

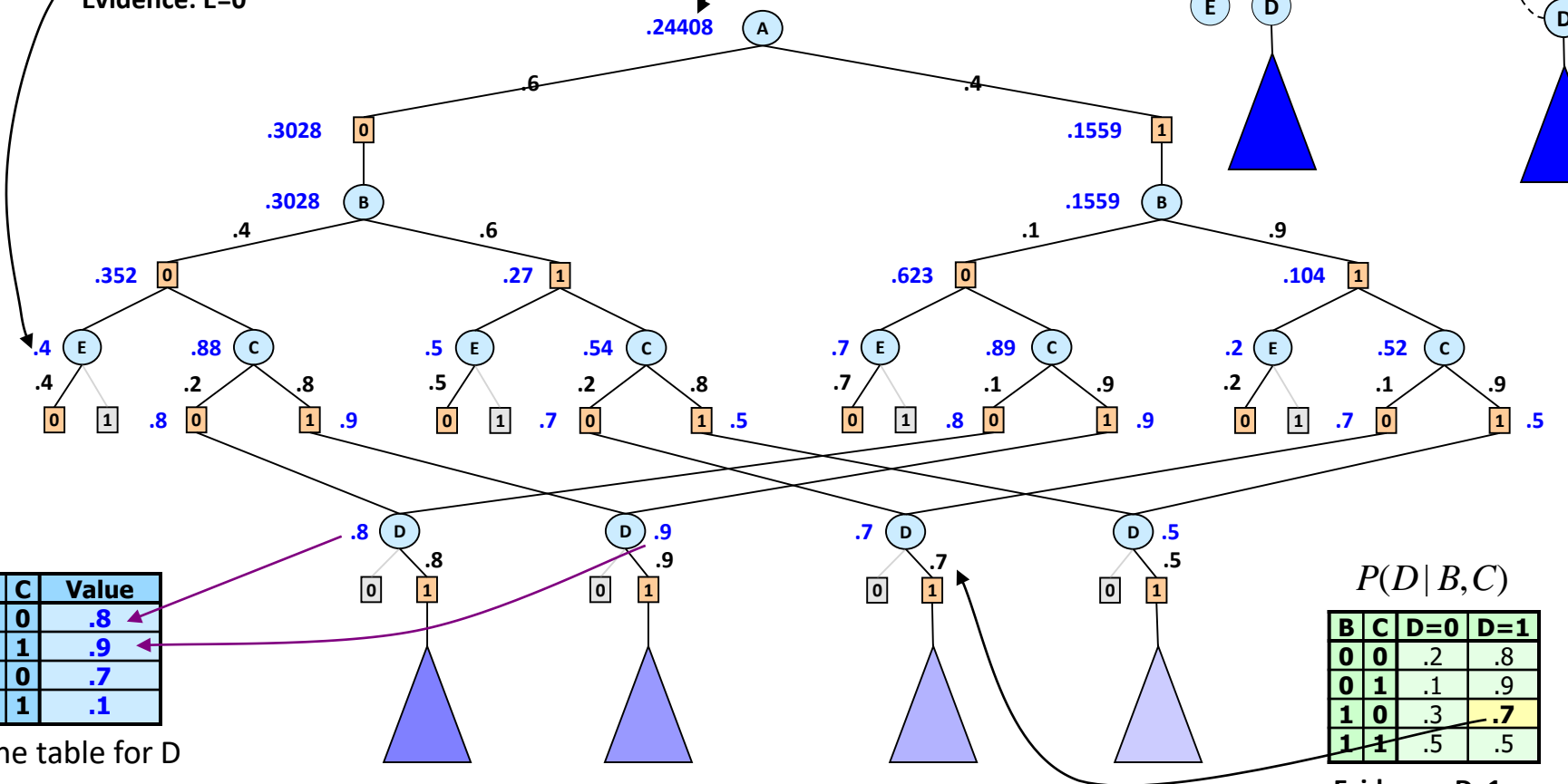
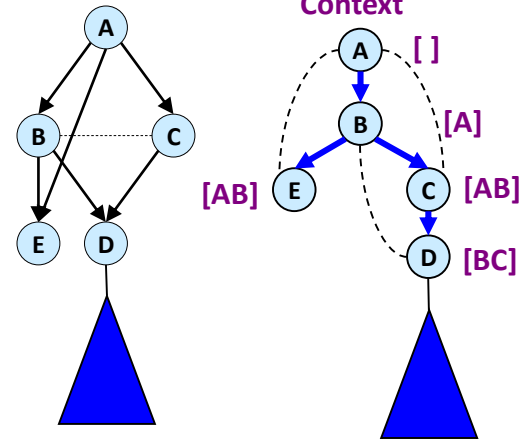
A	C=0	C=1
0	.2	.8
1	.7	.3

$P(A)$

A	P(A)
0	.6
1	.4

Result:  $P(D=1, E=0)$

.24408



Cache table for D

B	C	Value
0	0	.8
0	1	.9
1	0	.7
1	1	.1

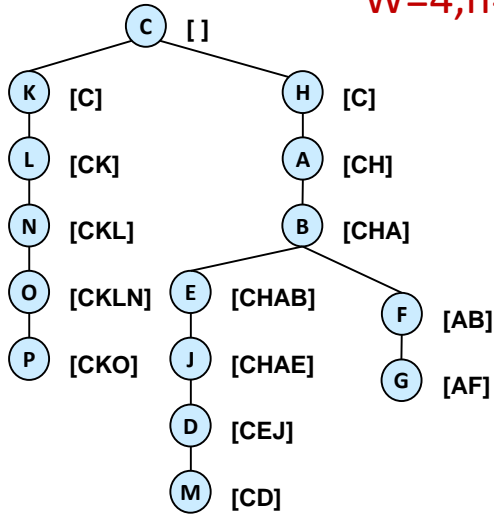
$P(D | B, C)$

B	C	D=0	D=1
0	0	.2	.8
0	1	.1	.9
1	0	.3	.7
1	1	.5	.5

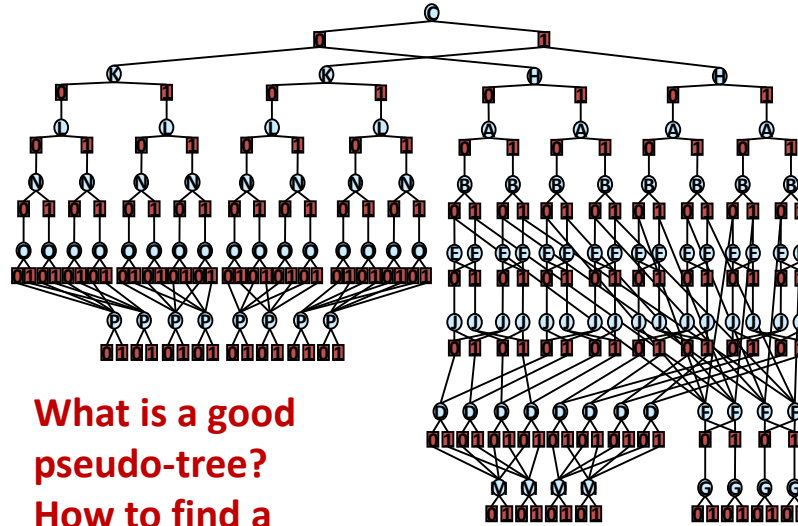
Evidence: D=1

# The Impact of the Pseudo-Tree

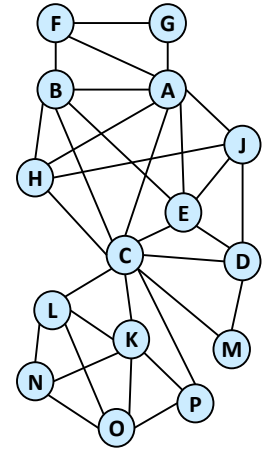
$W=4, h=8$



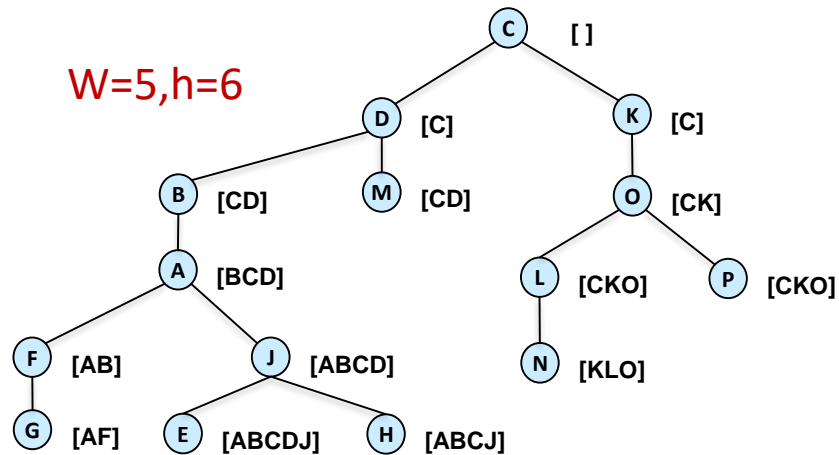
(CKHABEJLNODPMFG)



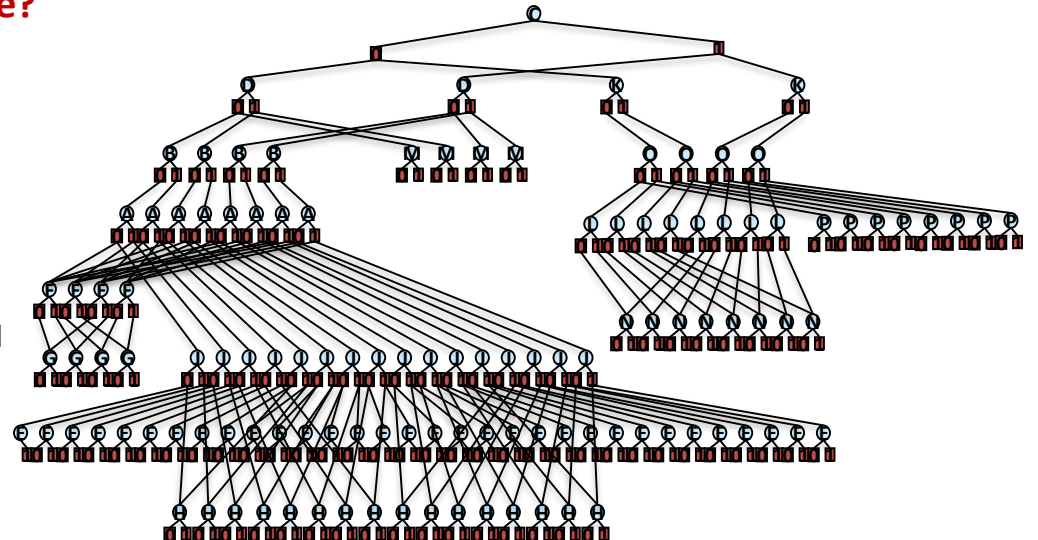
What is a good pseudo-tree?  
How to find a good one?



$W=5, h=6$

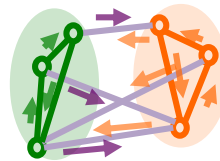


(CDKBAOMLNPJHEFG)



# Combining Approaches: Search + Variational

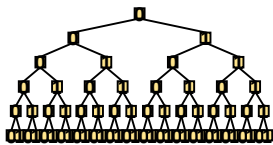
Variational methods



provide heuristics



Search

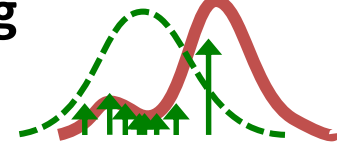


WMB



provide WMB-IS proposal [Liu et al., NIPS 2015]

Sampling

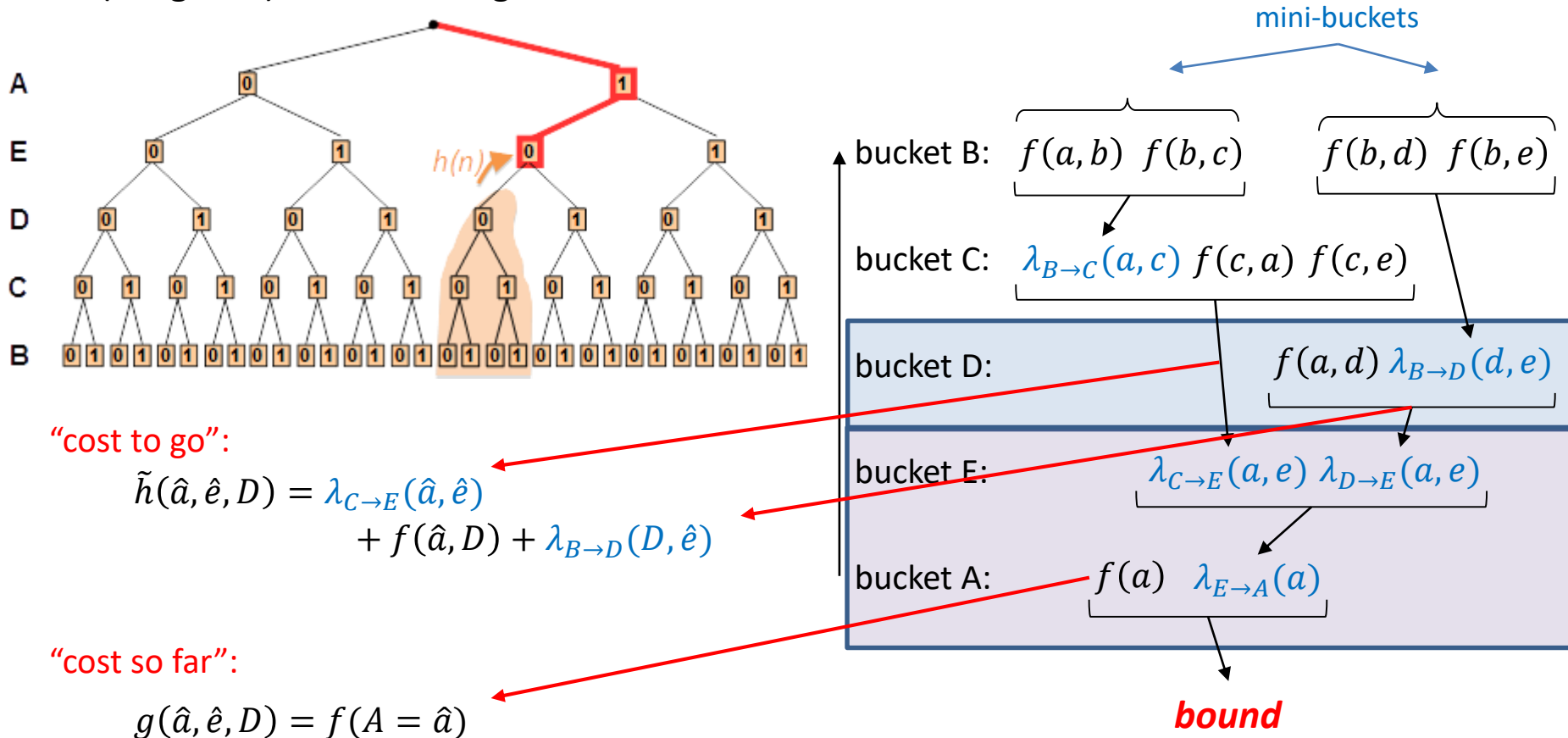


dynamic importance sampling (DIS) [Lou et al., NIPS 2017]

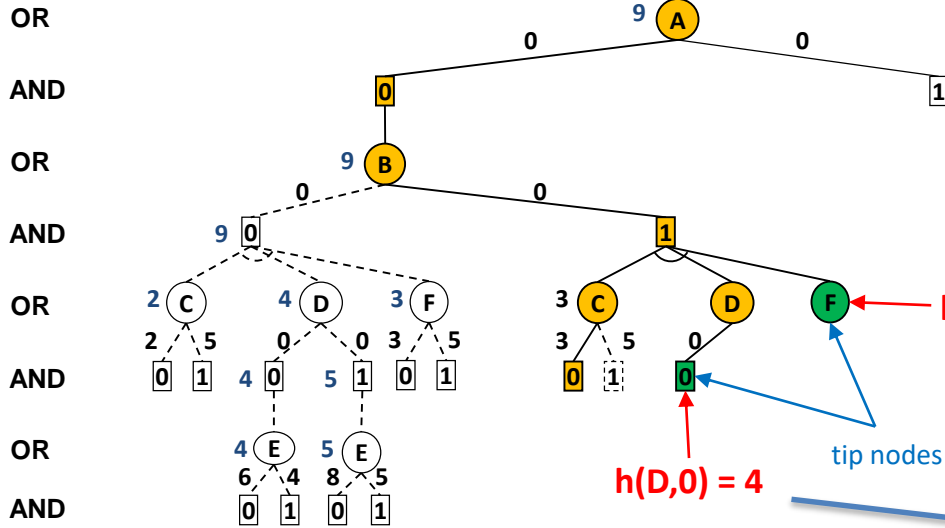
For MAP, marginal map and partition function

# WMBE Heuristic Guides OR Search

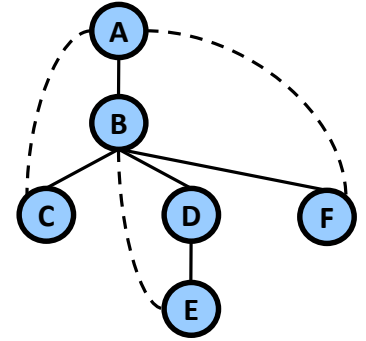
Given a partial assignment,  $[\hat{a} = 1, \hat{e} = 0]$   
 (weighted) mini-bucket gives an admissible heuristic:



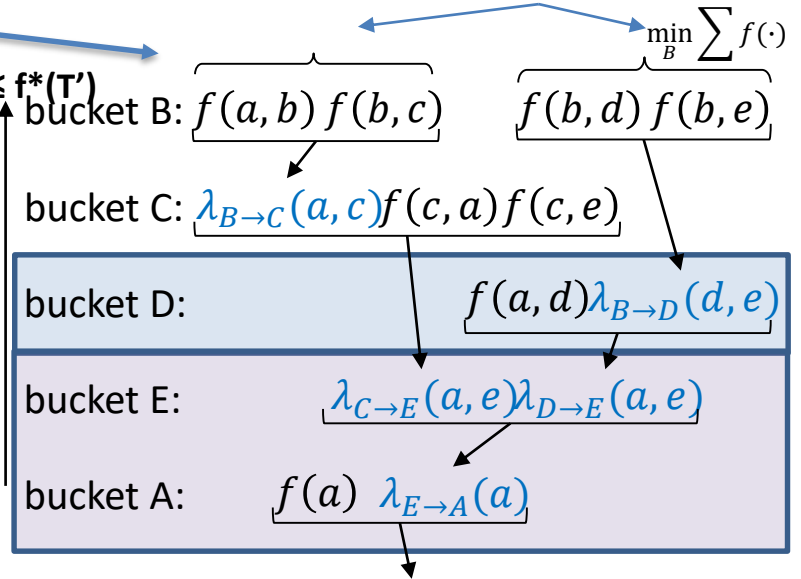
# MBE Heuristic Guides AO Search



$$h(n) \leq v(n)$$



$$f(T') = w(A,0) + w(B,1) + w(C,0) + w(D,0) + h(D,0) + h(F) = 12 \leq f^*(T')$$



**L = lower bound**

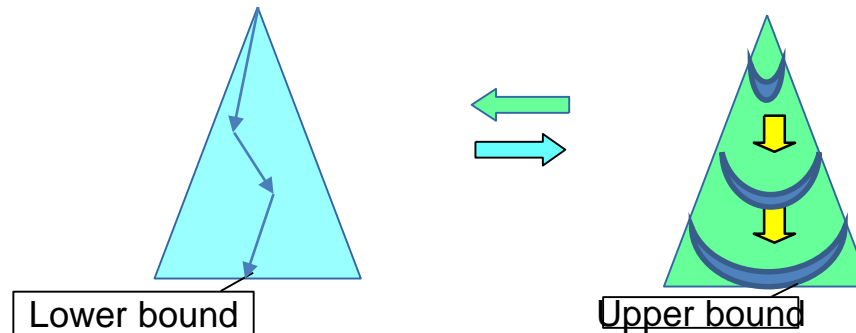
# Exploiting Heuristic Search Principles

- **Weighted Heuristic:** [Pohl 1970]

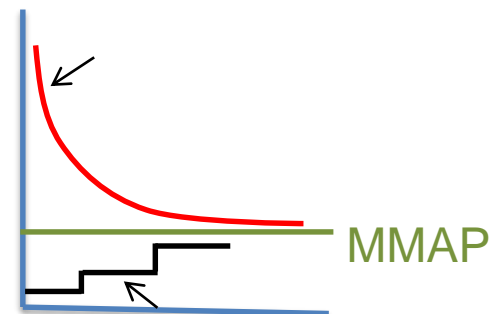
$$f(n) = g(n) + w \cdot h(n)$$

- Guaranteed  $w$ -optimal solution, cost  $C \leq w \cdot C^*$

- **Interleaving Best + Depth-First search**



**Goal: anytime bounds  
And anytime solution**



# Anytime Bounds for Optimization

(2001-2017)

- Kask and Dechter. Artificial Intelligence, 2001,
  - Marinescu and Dechter. Artif. Intell. (2009)
  - Otten and Dechter: AI Commun. (2012)
  - **Silberstein, et. AI (2013): Bioinformatics (2013)**
  - Flerova, Marinescu and Dechter Artificial Intelligence, 2016.
  - Flerova, Marinescu and Dechter, (2016) JAIR", 2016
  - Lam, Kask, Larrosa, and Dechter. " JAIR 2017.
  - Otten and Dechter (JAIR 2017)
  - Marinescu, Lee, Dechter and Ihler. JAIR, 2018.
- 2006
  - 2008
  - 2011
  - 2014



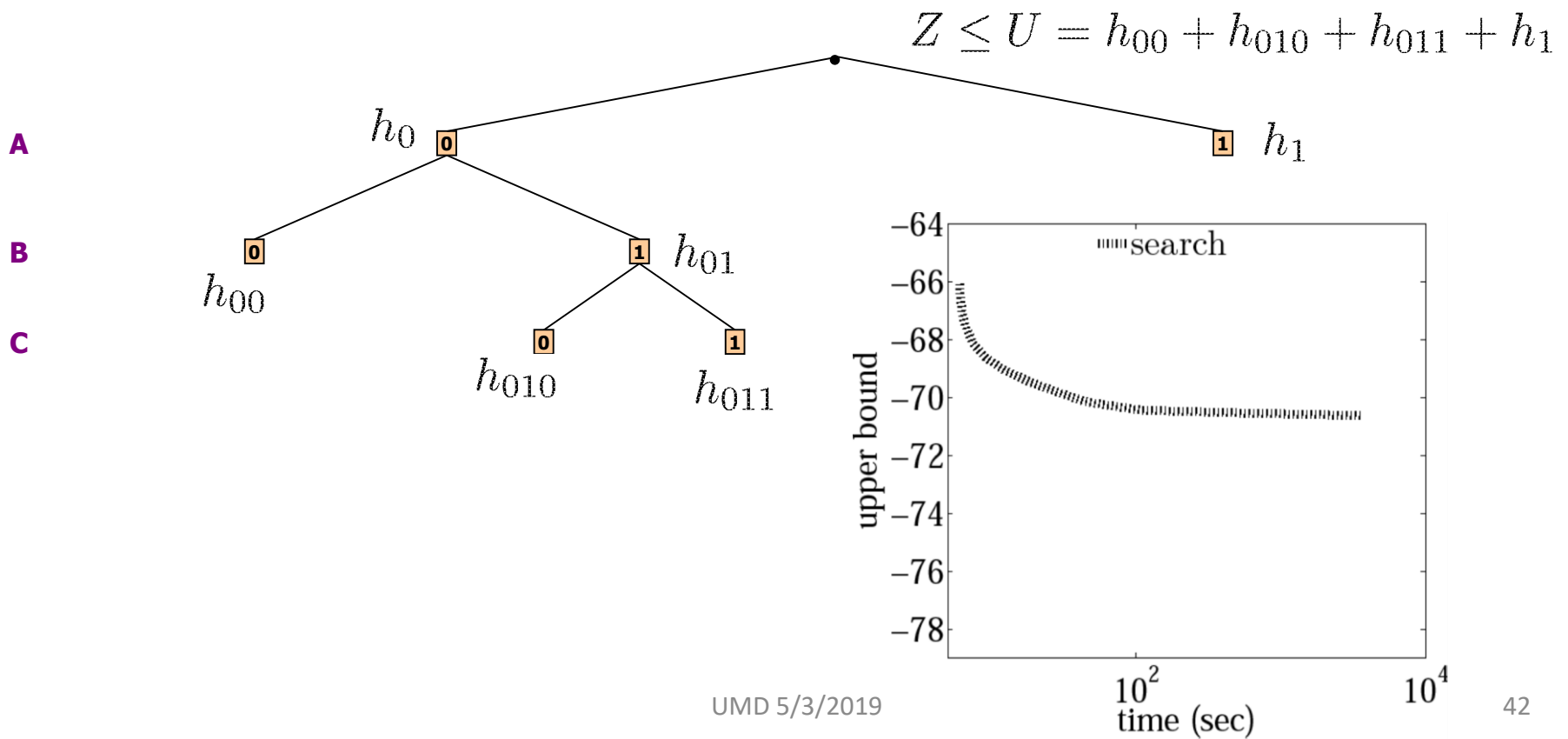
## UAI Competition MPE/MAP

**Winning first or second place UAI competitions,  
2006, 2008, 2011, 2014, 2016**

# Anytime Bounds for Summation

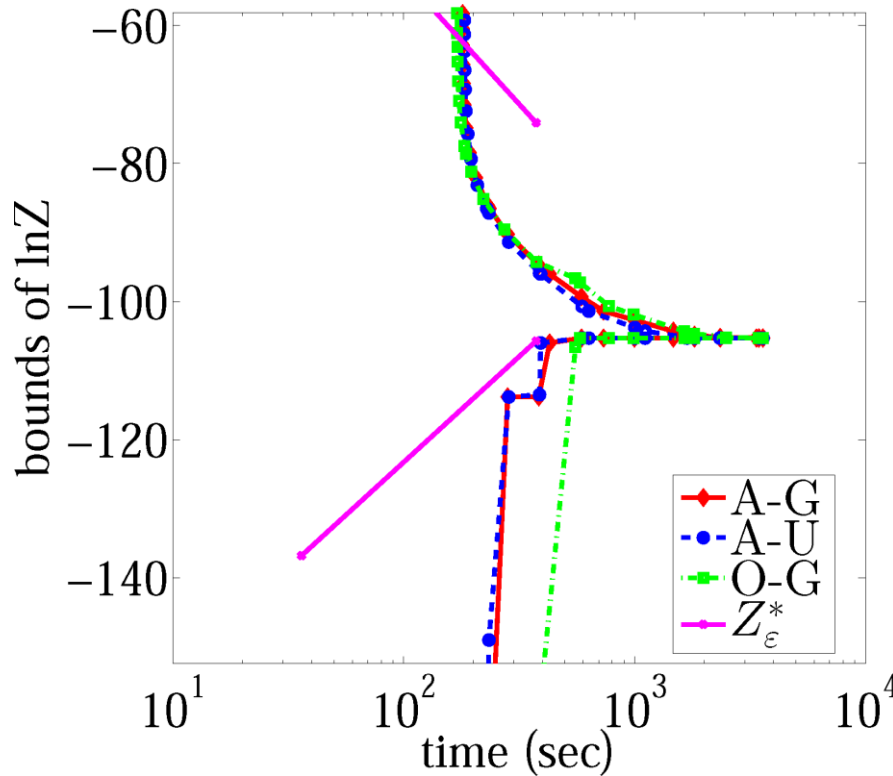
(AAAI'17, AAAI'18: Lou, Dechter and Ihler)

- Heuristic search for summation
  - Heuristic function upper bounds value (sum below) at any node
  - Expand tree and compute updated bounds, using a priority gap

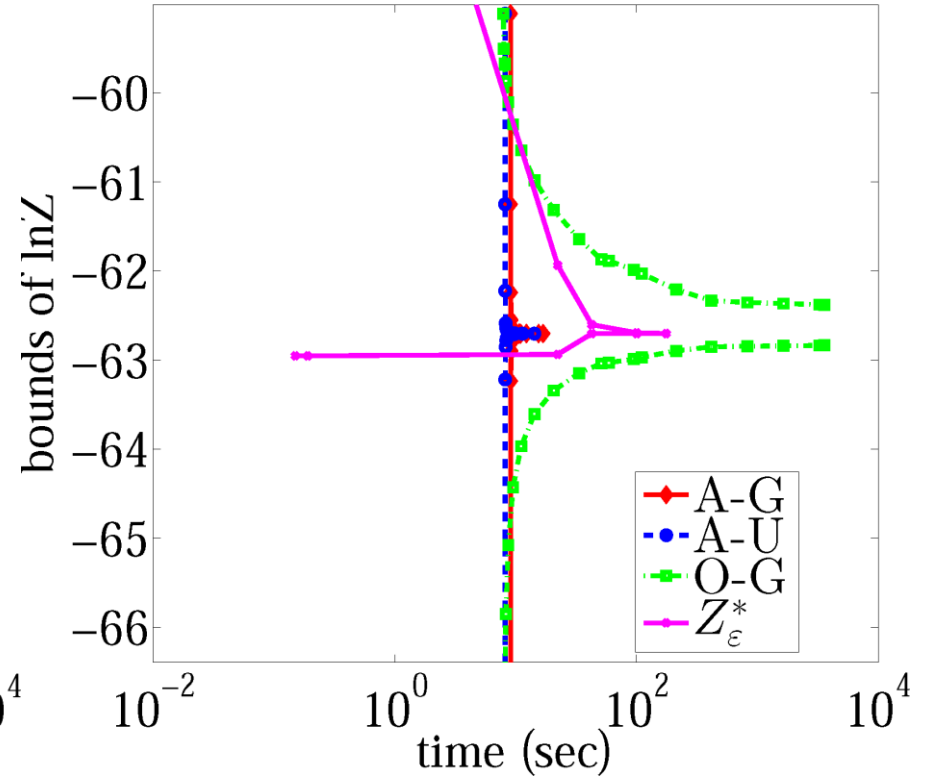




# Anytime Behavior of AOBFS



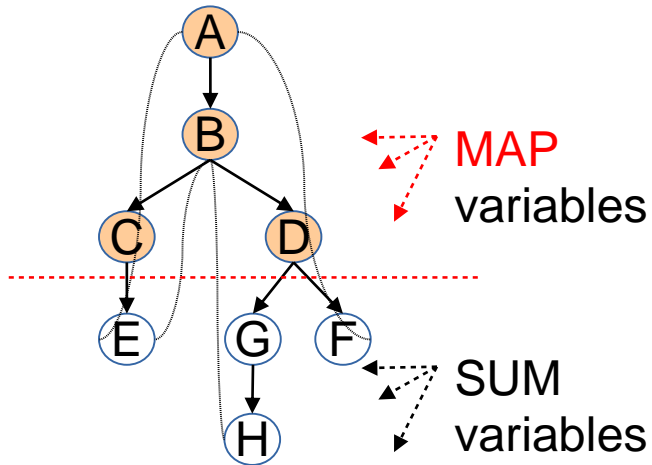
(a) PIC'11/queen5\_5\_4



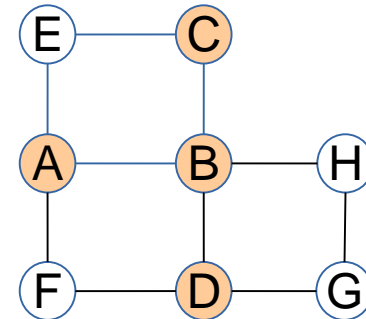
(b) Protein/1g6x

# Anytime Bounds for Marginal MAP

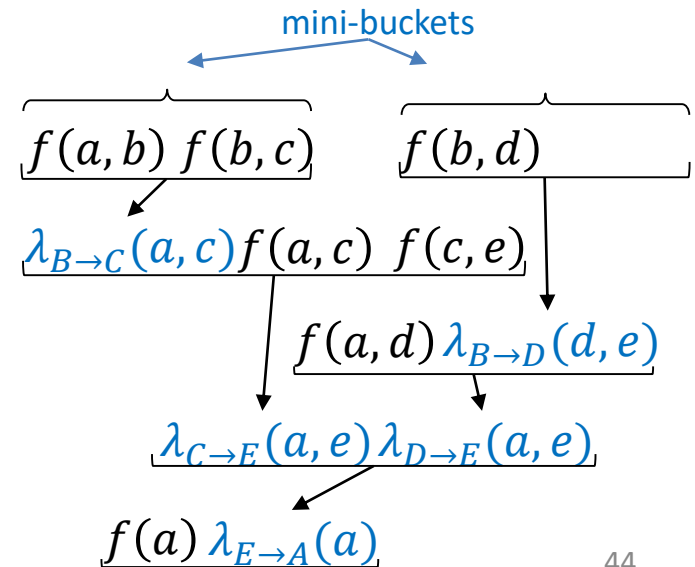
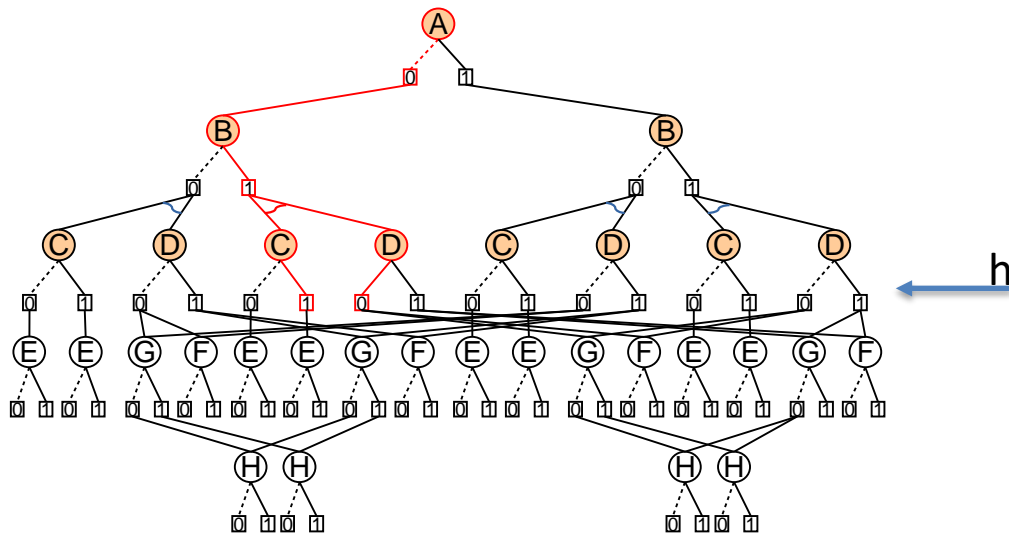
[Marinescu, Dechter and Ihler, 2014]



constrained pseudo tree



- Complexity:  $NP^{PP}$  complete
- Not necessarily easy on trees



# Anytime Solvers for **Marginal MAP**

- **Weighted Heuristic:** [Lee et. al. AAAI-2016, JAIR 2019]

- Weighted Restarting AOBF (WAOBF)
- Weighted Restarting RBFAOO (WRBFAOO)
- Weighted Repairing AOBF (WRAOBF)

- **Weighted A\* search** [Pohl 1970]

- non-admissible heuristic
- Evaluation function:

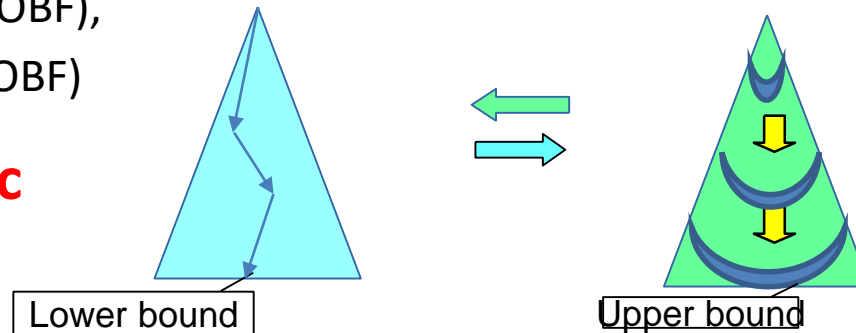
$$f(n) = g(n) + w \cdot h(n)$$

- **Guaranteed w-optimal solution, cost  $C \leq w \cdot C^*$**

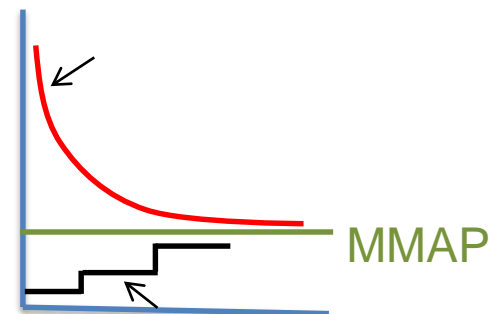
- **Interleaving Best and depth-first search:** (Marinescu et. al AAAI-2017)

- Look-ahead (LAOBF),
- alternating (AAOBF)

**Exploiting heuristic search ideas**



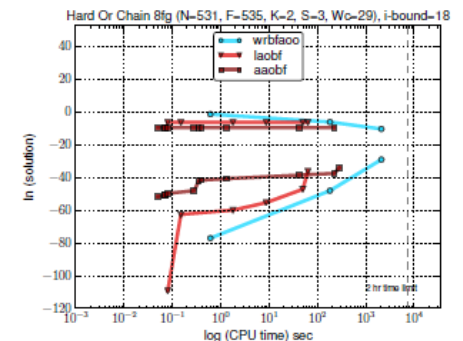
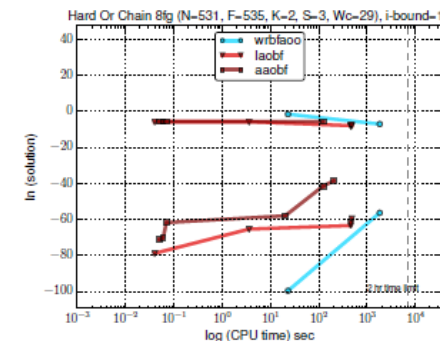
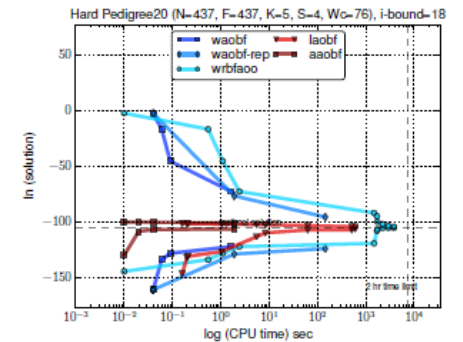
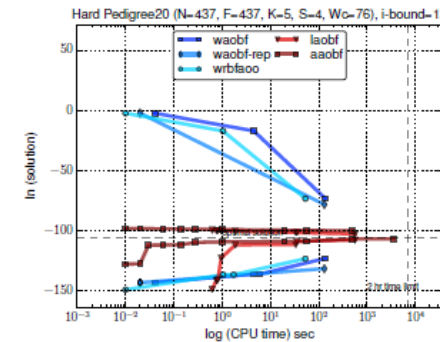
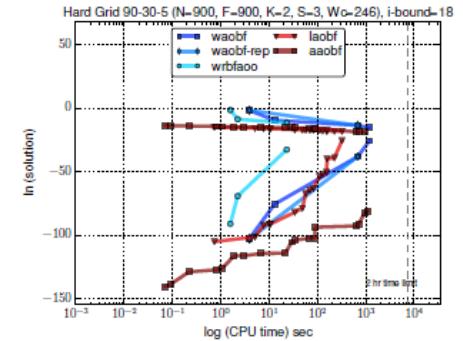
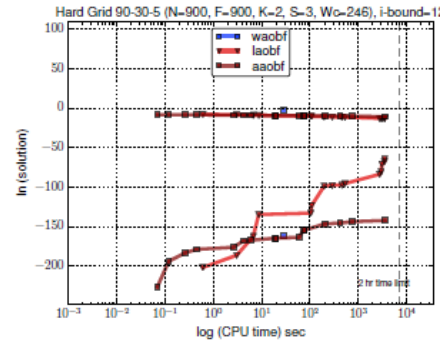
Goal: anytime bounds  
And anytime solution



# Anytime Bounds of Marginal MAP

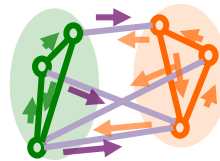
(UAI'14, IJCAI'15, AAI'16, AAI'17, JAIR 2019 (Marinescu, Lee, Ihler, Dechter))

- Search: LAOBF, AAOBF, BRAOBB, WAOBF, WAOBF-rep
- heuristic: WMB-MM (20)
- memory: 24 GB
- Anytime lower and upper bounds from hard problem instances with **i-bound 12 (left) and 18 (right)**.
- The horizontal axis is the CPU time in log scale and the vertical axis is the value of marginal MAP in log scale.



# Combining Approaches: **Sampling+Search**

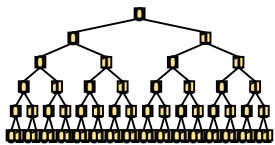
Variational methods



provide heuristics



And/or Search

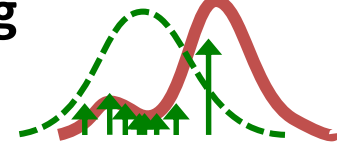


**WMB**



provide WMB-IS proposal [Liu et al., NIPS 2015]

Sampling



dynamic importance sampling (DIS)  
[Lou et al., NIPS 2017]

For MAP, marginal map and partition function

[Marinescu et al 2009, Lou et al., AAI 2017, JAIR 2019]

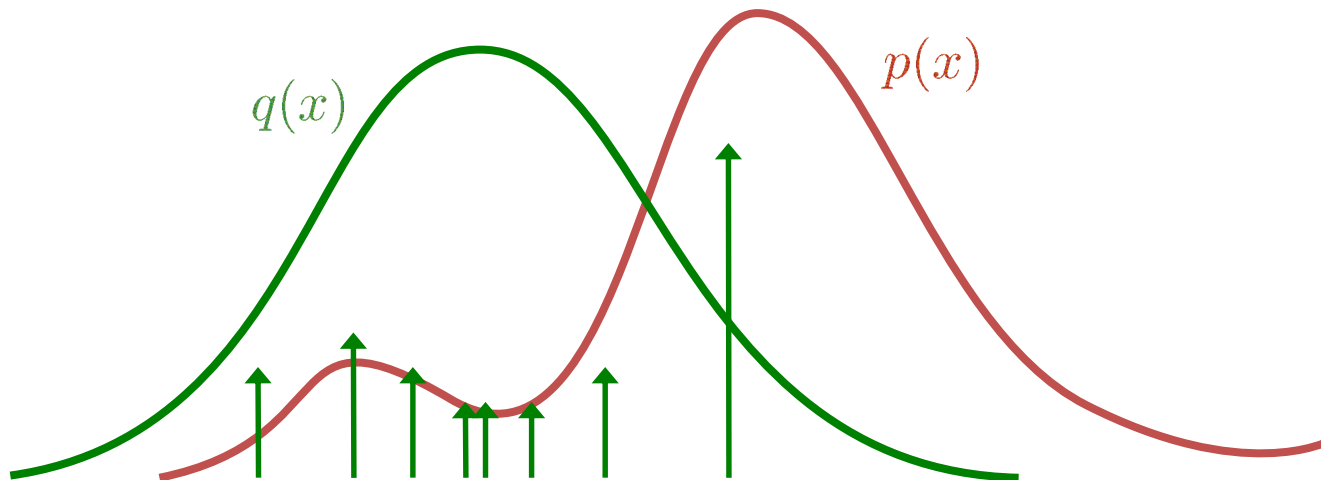
# Importance Sampling

- Basic empirical estimate of probability:

$$\mathbb{E}[u(x)] = \int p(x)u(x) \approx \hat{u} = \frac{1}{m} \sum_i u(\tilde{x}^{(i)}) \quad \tilde{x}^{(i)} \sim p(x)$$

- Importance sampling:

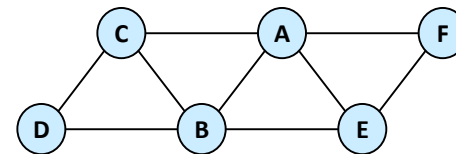
$$\int p(x)u(x) = \int q(x) \frac{p(x)}{q(x)} u(x) \approx \frac{1}{m} \sum_i \frac{p(\tilde{x}^{(i)})}{q(\tilde{x}^{(i)})} u(\tilde{x}^{(i)}) \quad \tilde{x}^{(i)} \sim q(x)$$



“importance weights”

$$w^{(i)} = \frac{p(\tilde{x}^{(i)})}{q(\tilde{x}^{(i)})}$$

# IS on a Bayesian or Markov Network?



- Draw samples from  $P[A | E=e]$  directly?
  - Model defines un-normalized  $p(A, \dots, E=e)$
  - Build (oriented) tree decomposition & sample

$$\tilde{b} \sim f(\tilde{a}, b) \cdot f(b, \tilde{c}) \cdot f(b, \tilde{d}) \cdot f(b, \tilde{e}) / \lambda_{B \rightarrow C}$$

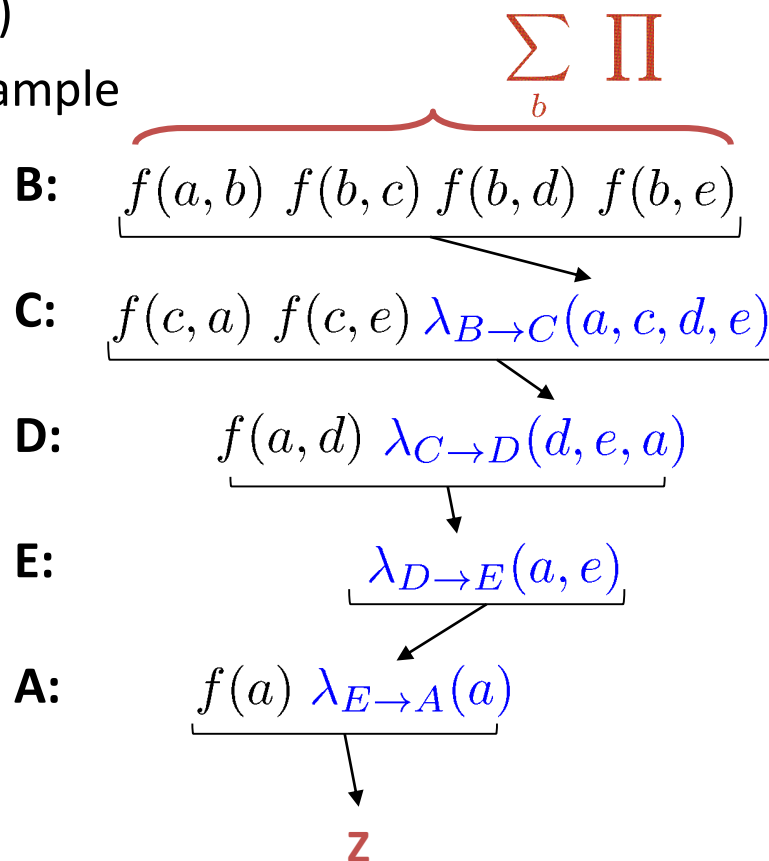
$$\tilde{c} \sim f(c, \tilde{a}) \cdot f(c, \tilde{e}) \cdot \lambda_{B \rightarrow C}(\tilde{a}, c, \tilde{d}, \tilde{e}) / \lambda_{C \rightarrow D}$$

$$\tilde{d} \sim f(\tilde{a}, d) \cdot \lambda_{B \rightarrow D}(d, \tilde{e}) / \lambda_{D \rightarrow E}(\tilde{a}, \tilde{e})$$

$$\tilde{e} \sim \lambda_{D \rightarrow E}(\tilde{a}, e) / \lambda_{E \rightarrow A}(\tilde{a})$$

$$\tilde{a} \sim p(A) = f(a) \cdot \lambda_{E \rightarrow A}(a) / Z$$

Downward message normalizes bucket;  
ratio is a conditional distribution



Can use, WMB, Generalized belief propagation for proposal

# Choose a Proposal Combine w Search

- **Cutset Sampling** [Bidyuk and Dechter (IAIP, 2007)]
- **Building blocks in current algorithms for Markov Logic Networks**
  - Probabilistic Theorem Proving: Gogate and Domingos, CACM 2016, [ ]
  - Lifted Importance Sampling: Venugopal and Gogate, NeurIPS 2014.
- [ ] (2012)]
- **Sampling based lower bounds** [Gogate, Dechter (Intelligenza Artificiale, 2011)]
- **Dynamic Importance Sampling (DIS)** [Lou, Dechter, and Ihler (NIPS 2017)]
- **Abstraction Sampling** [Broka, Dechter, Ihler and Kask (UAI, 2018)].
- **Finite-sample Bounds for MMAP** [Lou, Dechter, and Ihler. (UAI 2018)]
- **WMB Importance Sampling (WMB-IS)** [Liu, Fisher, Ihler (ICML 2015)]



# Choosing a proposal- WMB-IS

[Liu, Fisher, Ihler 2015]

- Can use WMB upper bound to define a proposal  $q_{\text{wmb}}(x)$

$$\tilde{\mathbf{b}} \sim w_1 q_1(b|\tilde{a}, \tilde{c}) + w_2 q_2(b|\tilde{d}, \tilde{e})$$

## Weighted mixture:

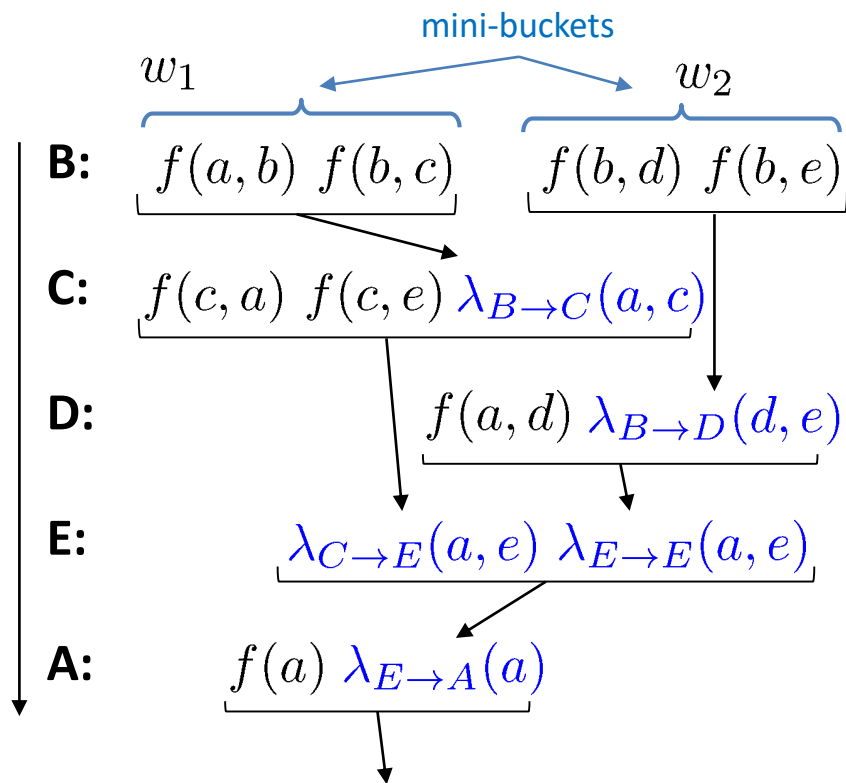
use minibucket 1 with probability  $w_1$   
 or, minibucket 2 with probability  $w_2 = 1 - w_1$

where

$$q_1(b|a, c) = \left[ \frac{f(a, b) \cdot f(b, c)}{\lambda_{B \rightarrow C}(a, c)} \right]^{\frac{1}{w_1}}$$

⋮

$$\tilde{a} \sim q(A) = f(a) \cdot \lambda_{E \rightarrow A}(a) / U$$



**Key insight: provides bounded importance weights!**

**$U = \text{upper bound}$**

$$0 \leq f(x) / q_{\text{wmb}}(x) \leq U \quad \forall x \quad \text{UMD 5/3/2019}$$

# WMB-IS Bounds

[Liu, Fisher, Ihler 2015]

- Finite sample bounds on the average

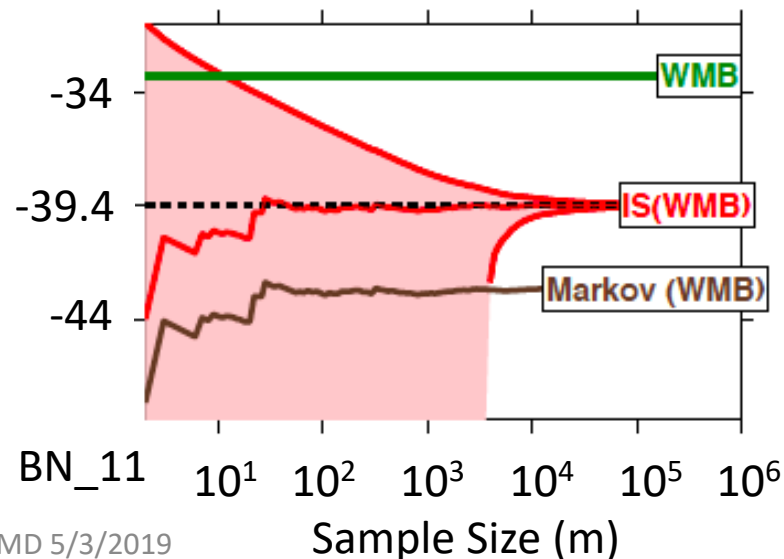
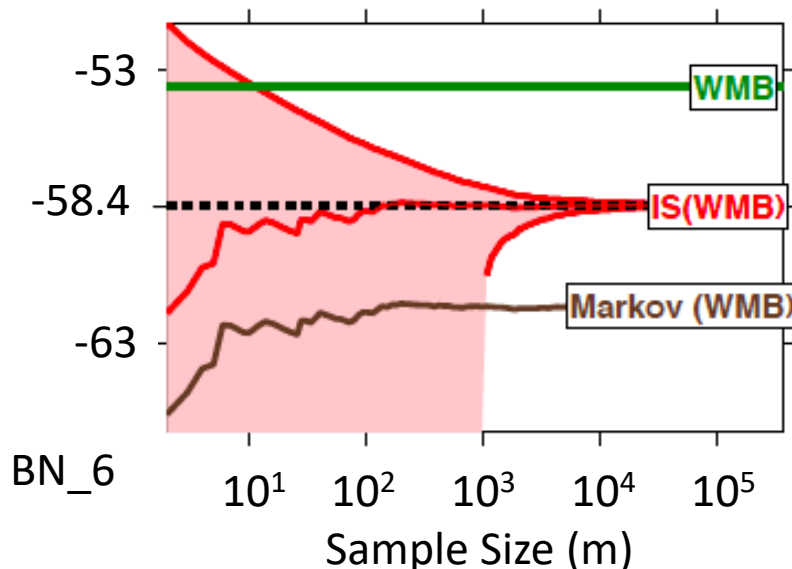
$$\Pr\left[|\hat{Z} - Z| > \epsilon\right] \leq 1 - \delta$$

$$\epsilon = \sqrt{\frac{2\hat{V} \log(4/\delta)}{m}} + \frac{7U \log(4/\delta)}{3(m-1)}$$

“Empirical Bernstein” bounds

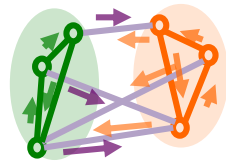
- Confidence interval depends on two parts

- Empirical variance, decreasing as  $1/m^{1/2}$
- Upper bound  $U$ , decreasing as  $1/m$



# Combining Approaches

Variational methods



provide heuristics

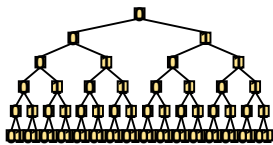


**WMB**

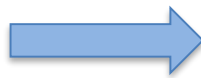


provide WMB-IS proposal [Liu et al., NIPS 2015]

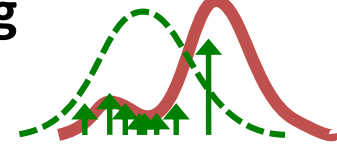
Search



refine proposal



Sampling



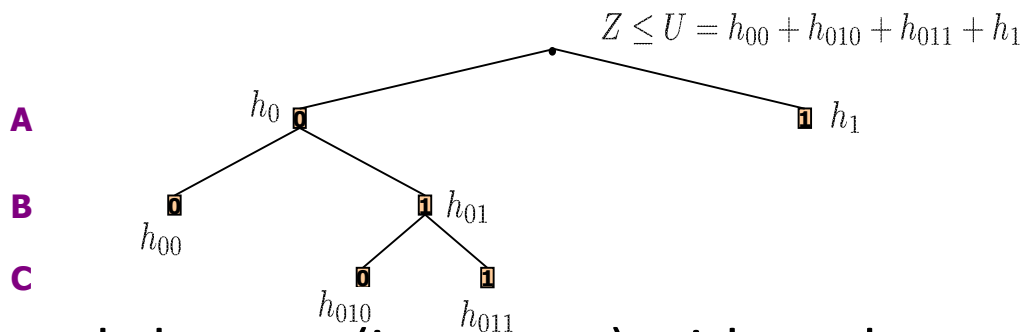
dynamic importance sampling (DIS) [Lou et al., NIPS 2017]

For MAP, marginal map and partition function

# Dynamic Importance Sampling

[Lou, Dechter, Ihler, NIPS 2017, AAAI 2019]

- Interleave
  - Building search tree (expand Nd nodes) (For partition function)
  - Draw samples given search bound (NI samples)

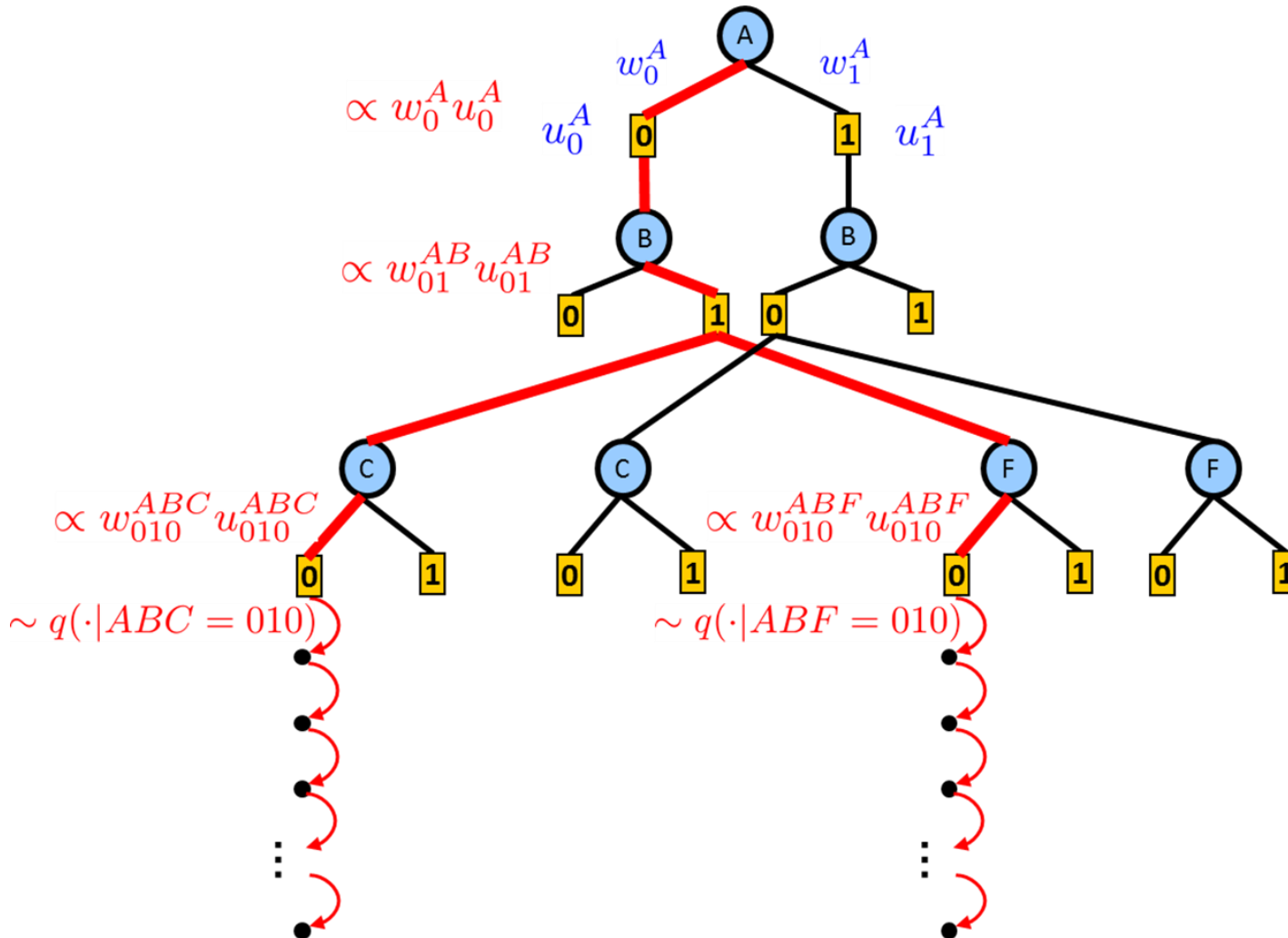


- Key insight: proposal changes (improves) with each step
  - Use weighted average: better samples get more weight

$$\hat{Z} = \frac{\text{HM}(\mathbf{U})}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{\hat{Z}_i}{U_i}, \quad \text{HM}(\mathbf{U}) = \left[ \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{1}{U_i} \right]^{-1}$$

- Derive corresponding concentration bound on Z

# Two-step Sampling



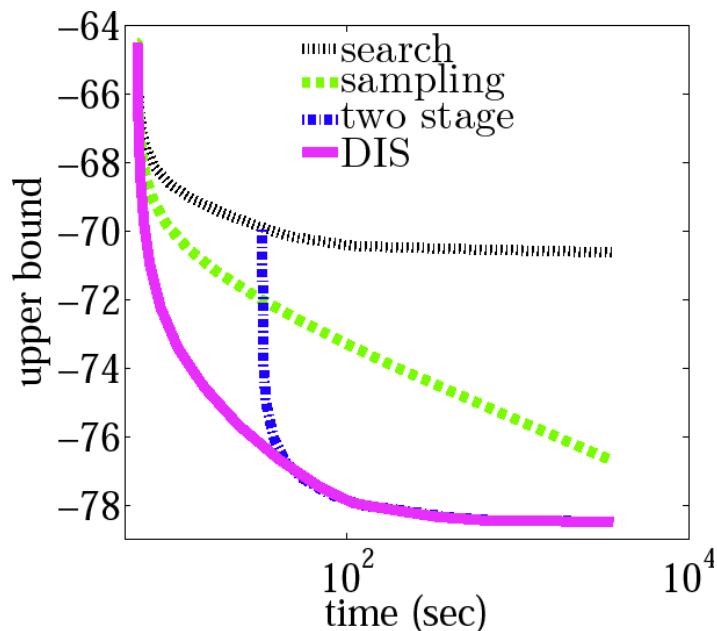
# Finite-sample Bounds for DIS

Theorem: Define the deviation term

$$\Delta = \text{HM}(\mathbf{U}) \left( \sqrt{\frac{2\widehat{\text{Var}}(\{\hat{Z}_i/U_i\}_{i=1}^N) \ln(2/\delta)}{N}} + \frac{7 \ln(2/\delta)}{3(N-1)} \right)$$

then,  $\Pr[Z \leq \hat{Z} + \Delta] \geq 1 - \delta$  and  $\Pr[Z \geq \hat{Z} - \Delta] \geq 1 - \delta$ .

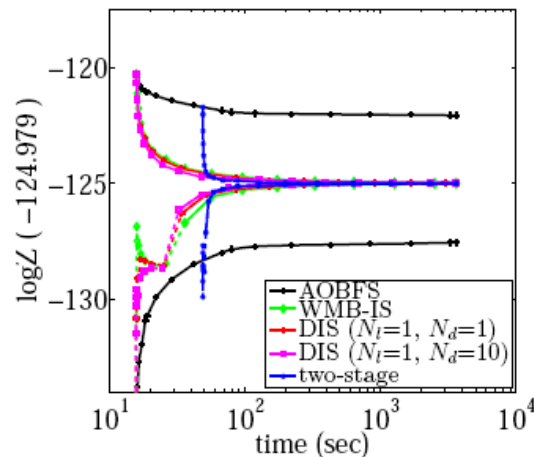
$\widehat{\text{Var}}(\{\hat{Z}_i/U_i\}_{i=1}^N)$ : empirical variance of  $\{\hat{Z}_i/U_i\}_{i=1}^N$ .



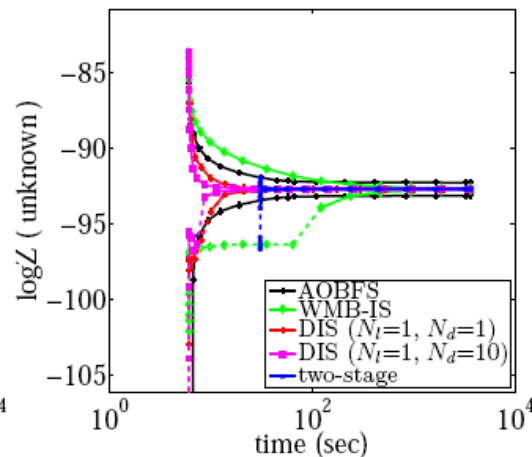
# Individual Results

(For partition function)

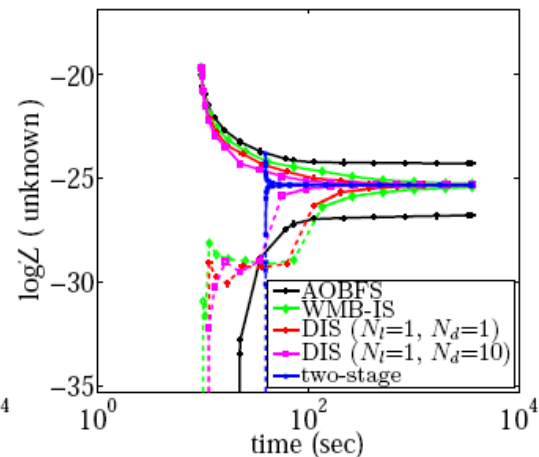
[Lou, Dechter, Ihler, NIPS 2017]



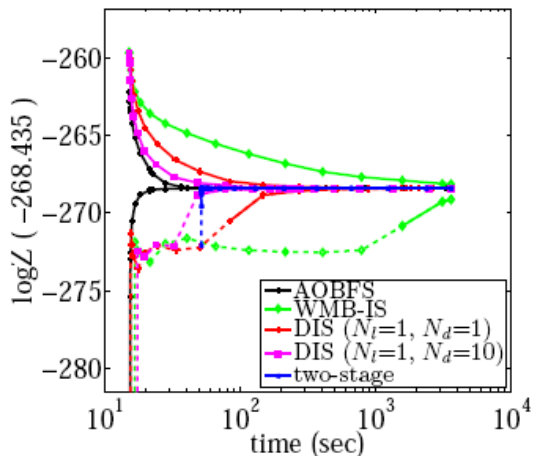
(a) pedigree/pedigree33



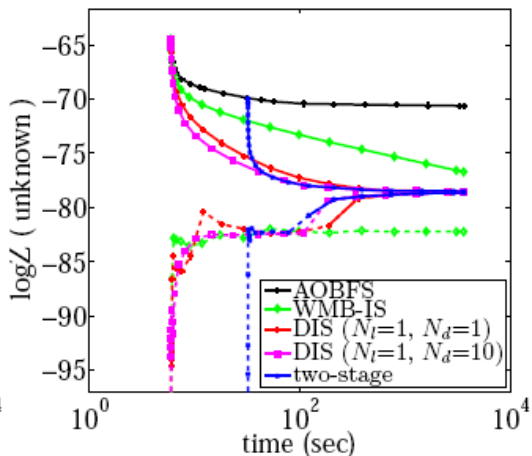
(b) protein/lco6



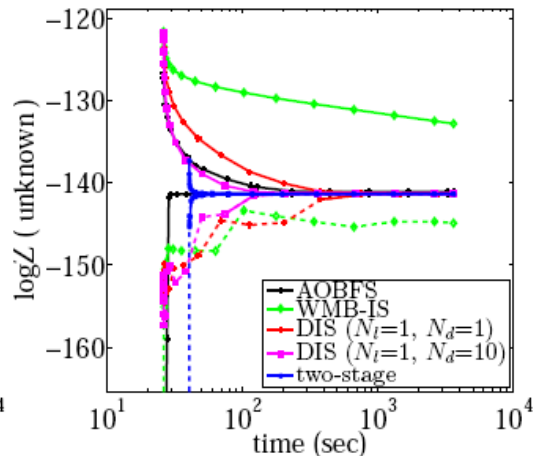
(c) BN/BN\_30



(d) pedigree/pedigree37



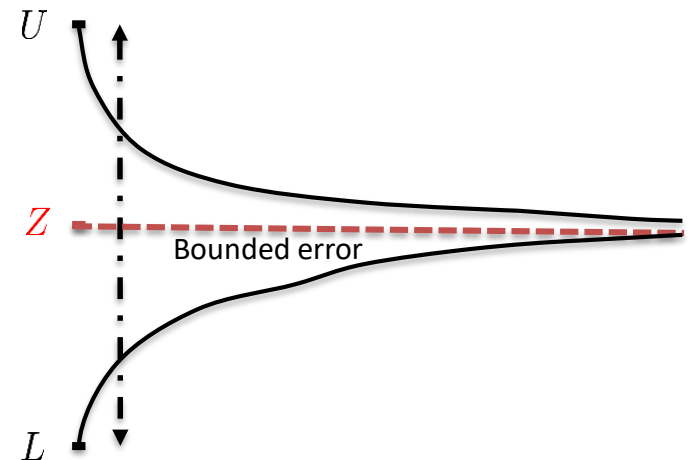
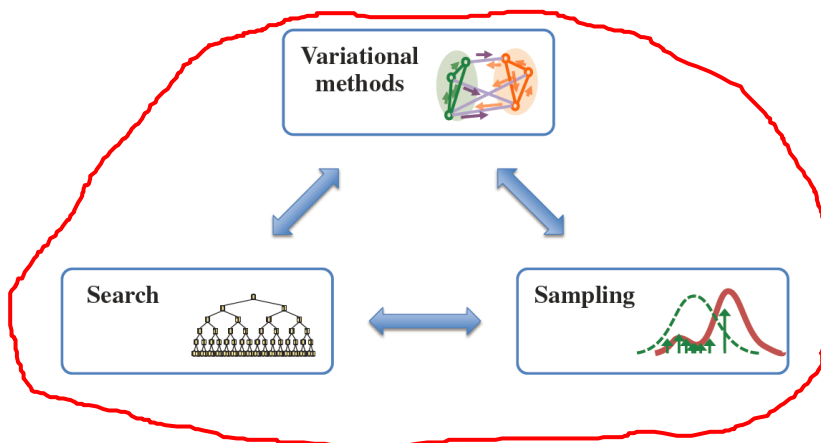
(e) protein/lbgc



(f) BN/BN\_129

# Outline and Challenges

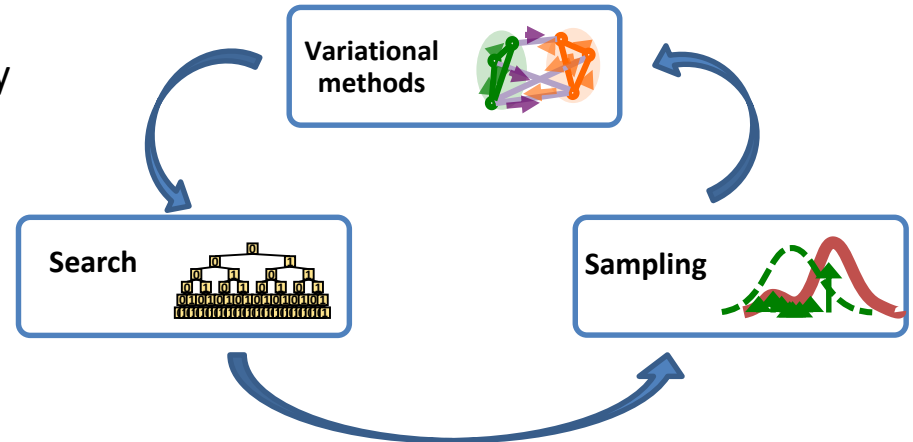
- Overview of problems and methodology
- Main paradigms of approximate reasoning:  
Variational, Search, Sampling
- Combining approaches
- **Future challenges**





# Continuing Work

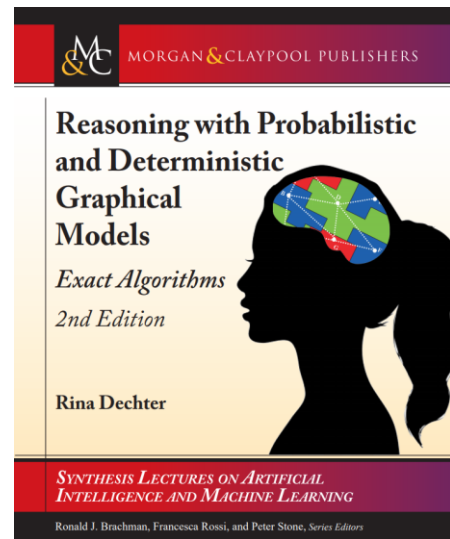
- Combining approaches:
  - Tune the hyper-parameters automatically
  - Extend to decision networks
- Languages and Tools:
  - Relational languages
  - Handle constraints specification and continuous functions
  - Temporal domains; Planning, e.g., Influence diagrams, MDPs, POMDPs
  - Cross interaction of deep learning and graphical models → Reinforcement



# Thank You !

For publication see:

<http://www.ics.uci.edu/~dechter/publications.html>



**Alex Ihler**  
**Kalev Kask**



Irina Rish  
Bozhena Bidyuk  
Robert Mateescu

**Radu Marinescu**



Vibhav Gogate  
Emma Rollon  
Lars Otten  
Natalia Flerova  
Andrew Gelfand  
William Lam

**Junkyu Lee**  
**Qi Lou**

