

# State sequence prediction in imprecise hidden Markov models

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# State sequence prediction in imprecise hidden Markov models

State sequence prediction in  
imprecise **hidden Markov models**

# (Precise) hidden Markov model

A sequence of hidden state variables

$X_1$

$X_2$

$X_3$

$O_1$

$O_2$

$O_3$

A sequence of observable variables



# (Precise) hidden Markov model

A sequence of hidden state variables

$X =$



or



or



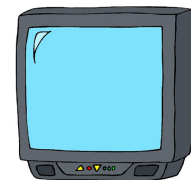
$O =$



or



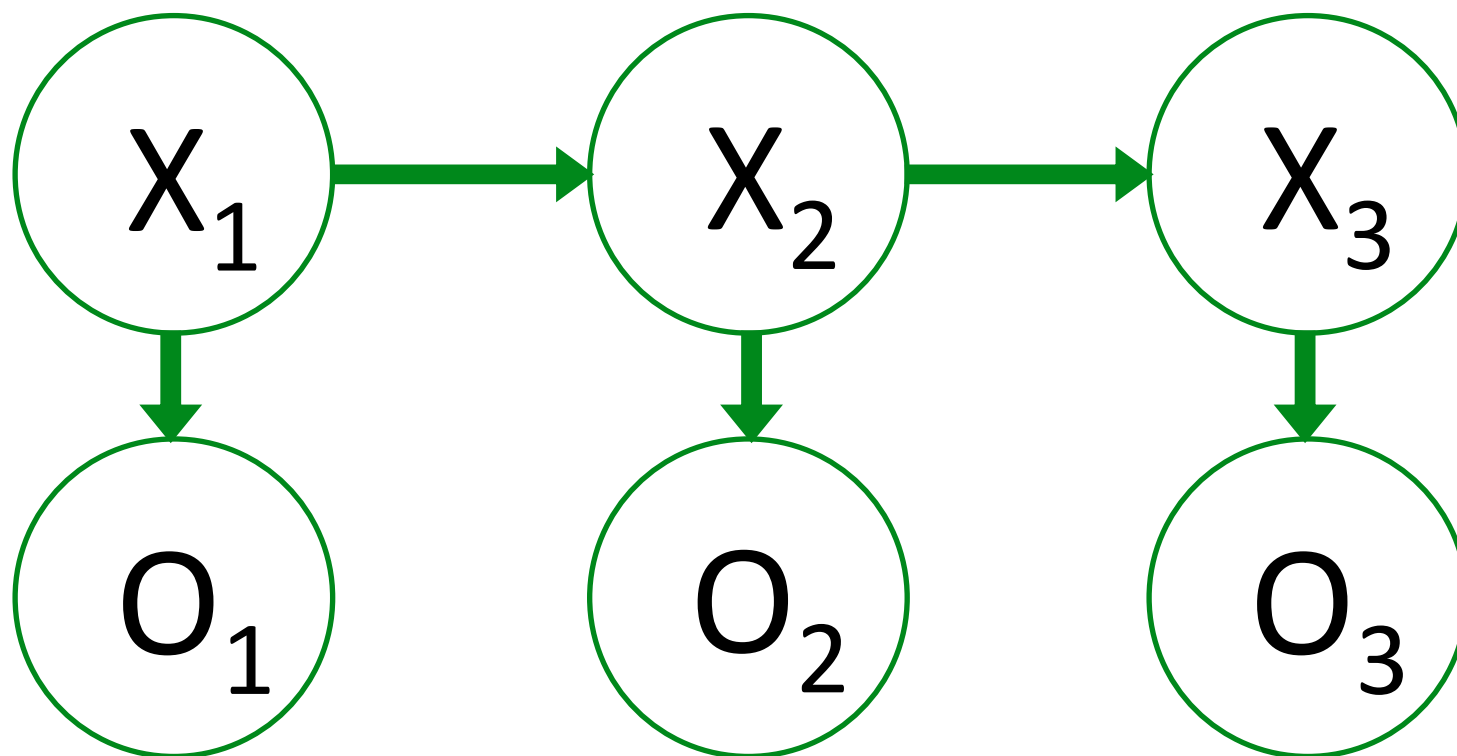
or



A sequence of observable variables

# (Precise) hidden Markov model

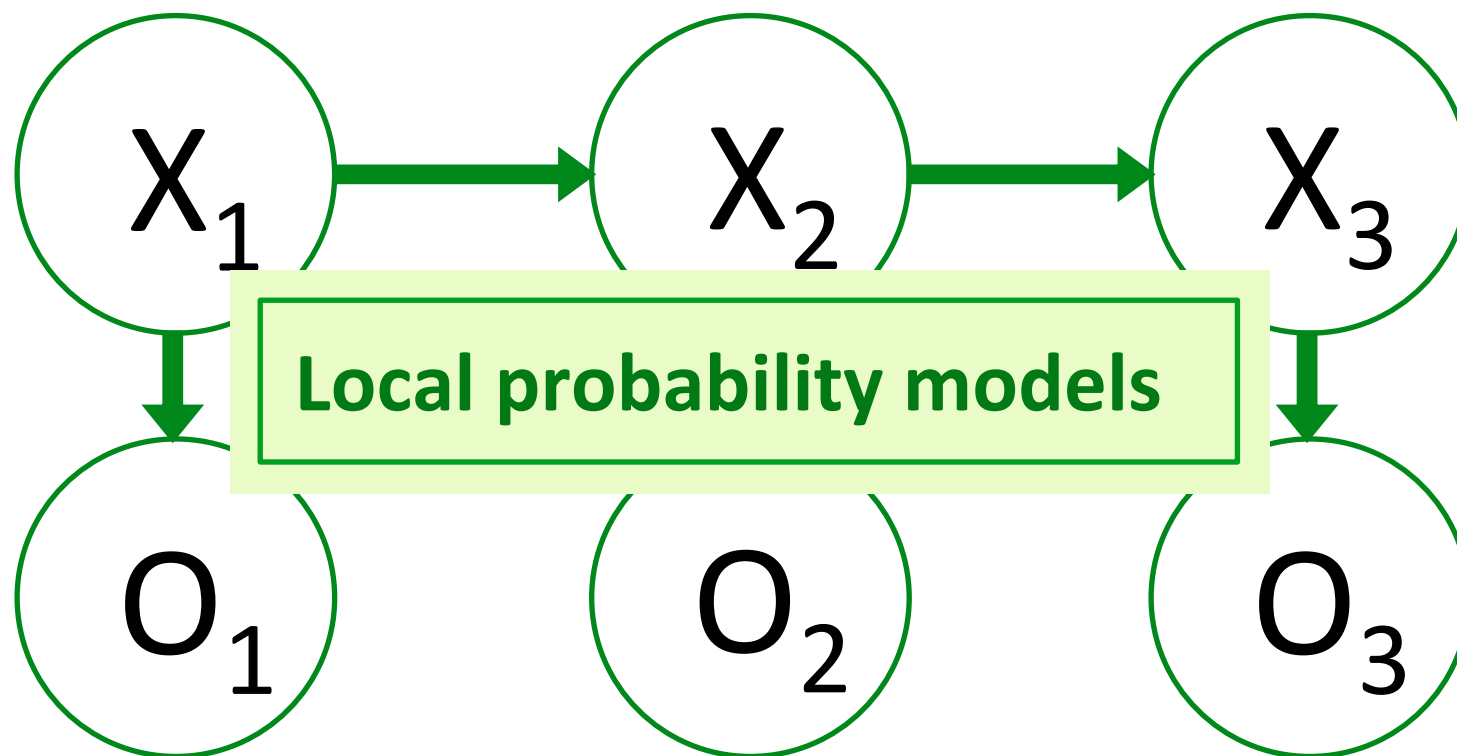
A sequence of hidden state variables



A sequence of observable variables

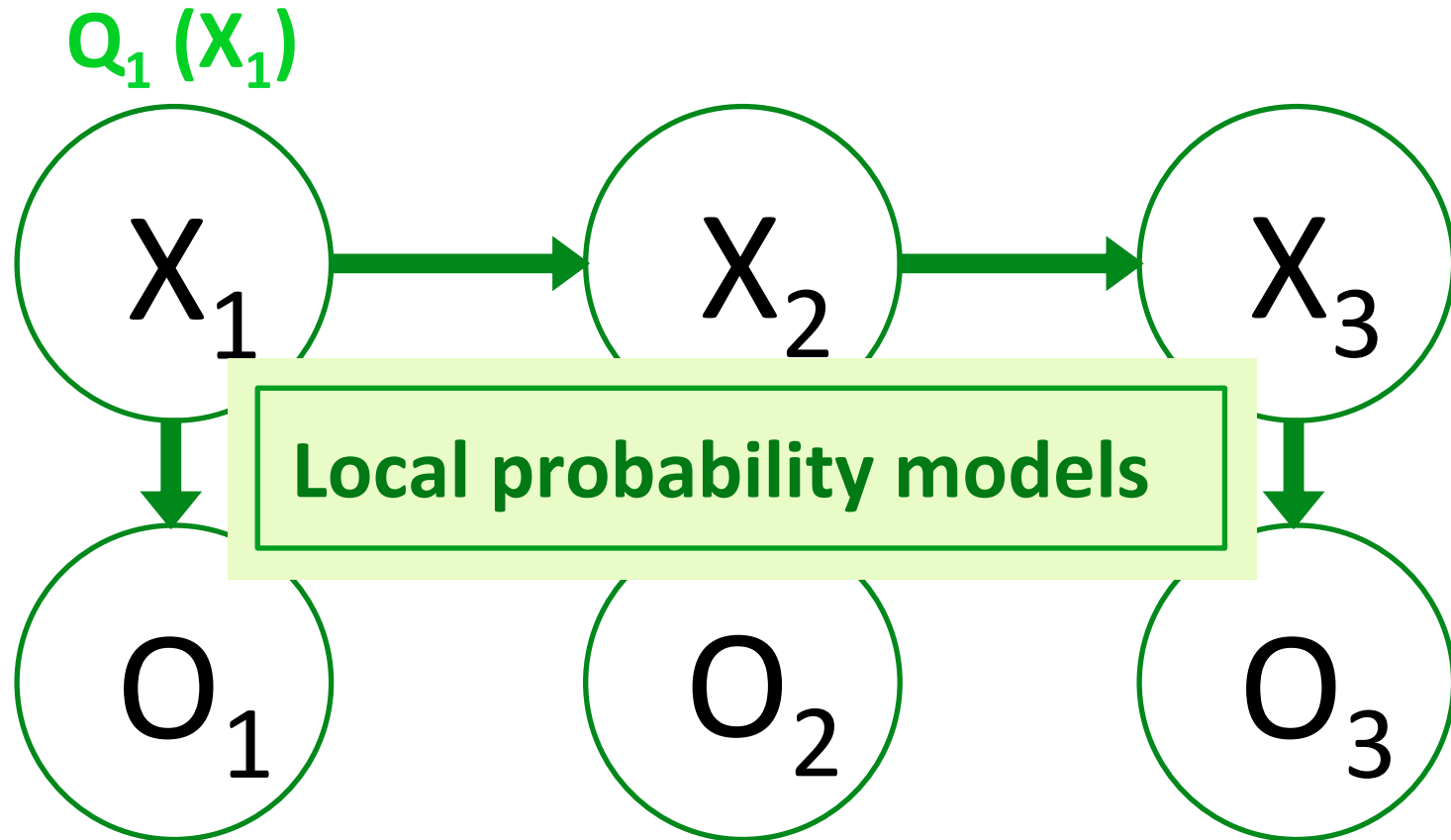
# (Precise) hidden Markov model

A sequence of hidden state variables



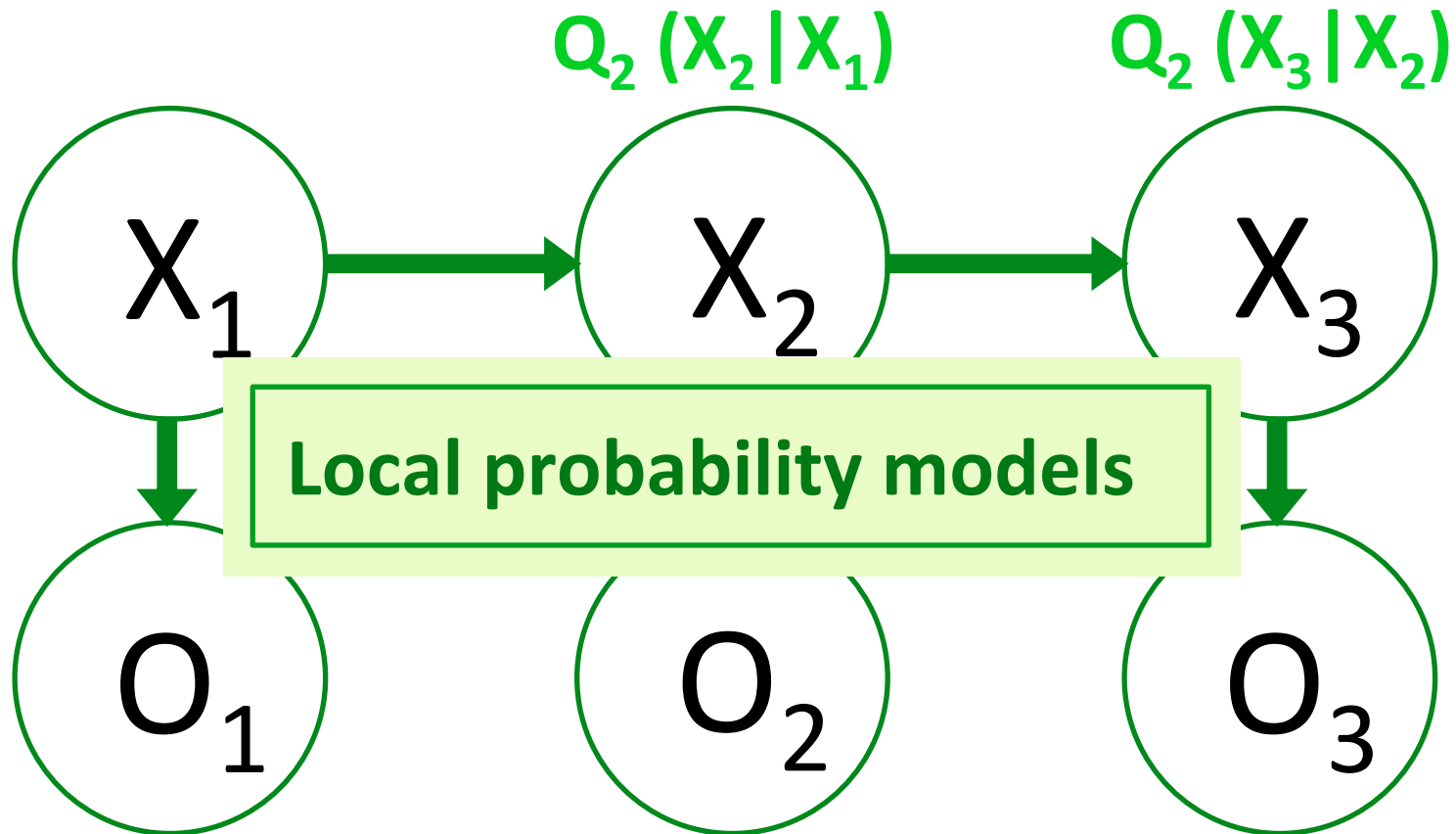
A sequence of observable variables

# (Precise) hidden Markov model



**Marginal model** for the first hidden variable

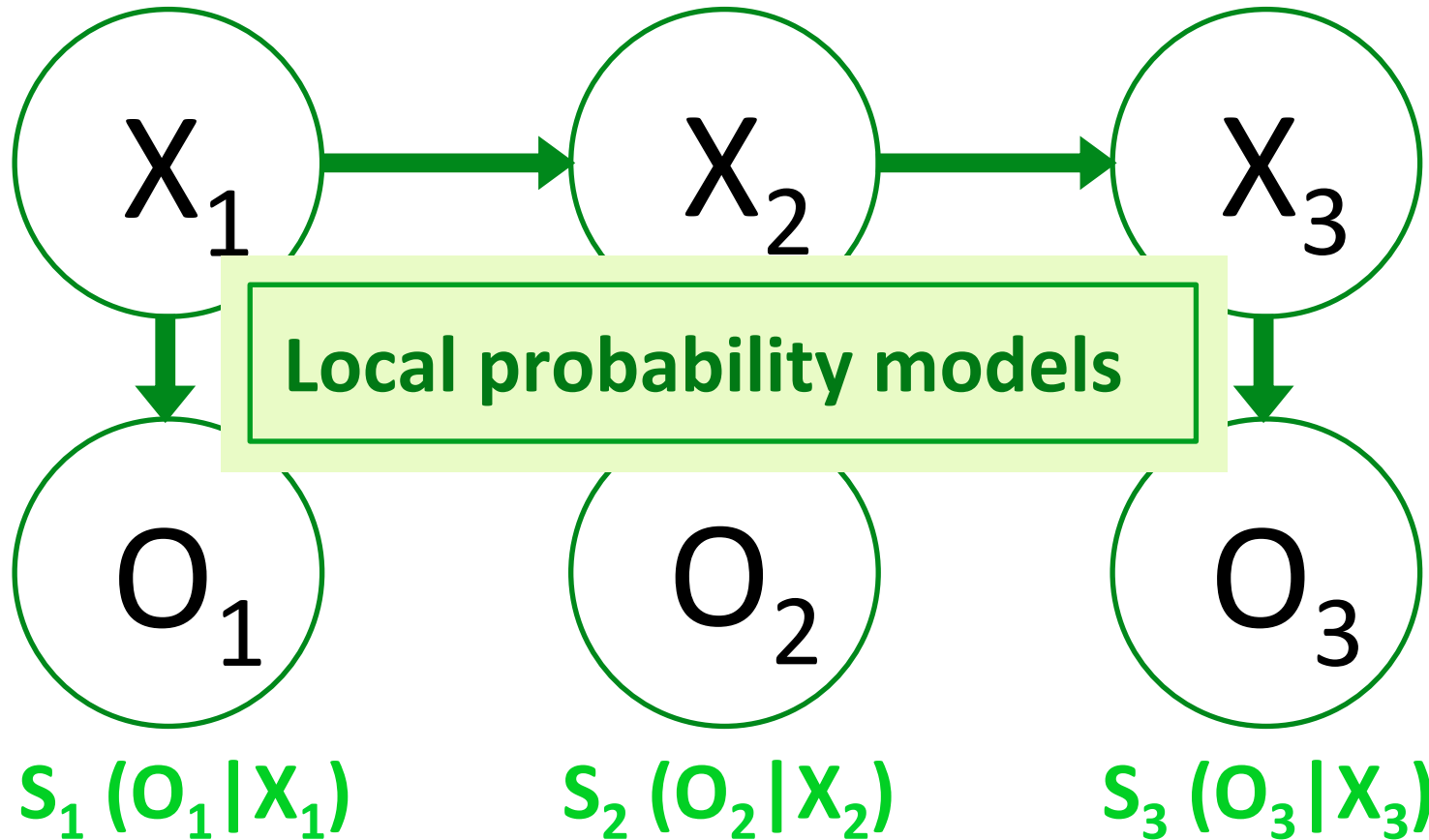
# (Precise) hidden Markov model



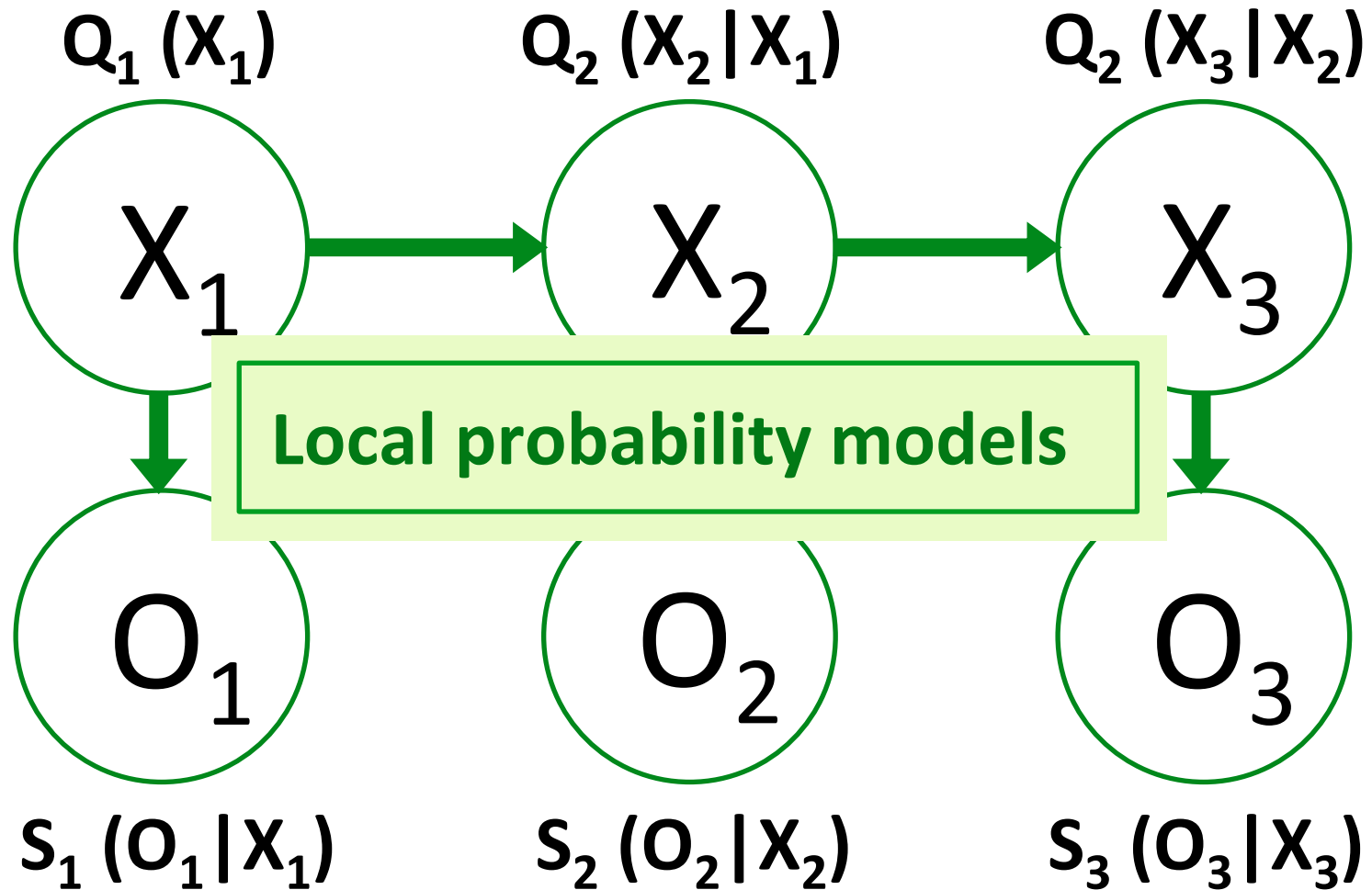
Transition models for the next hidden variables

# (Precise) hidden Markov model

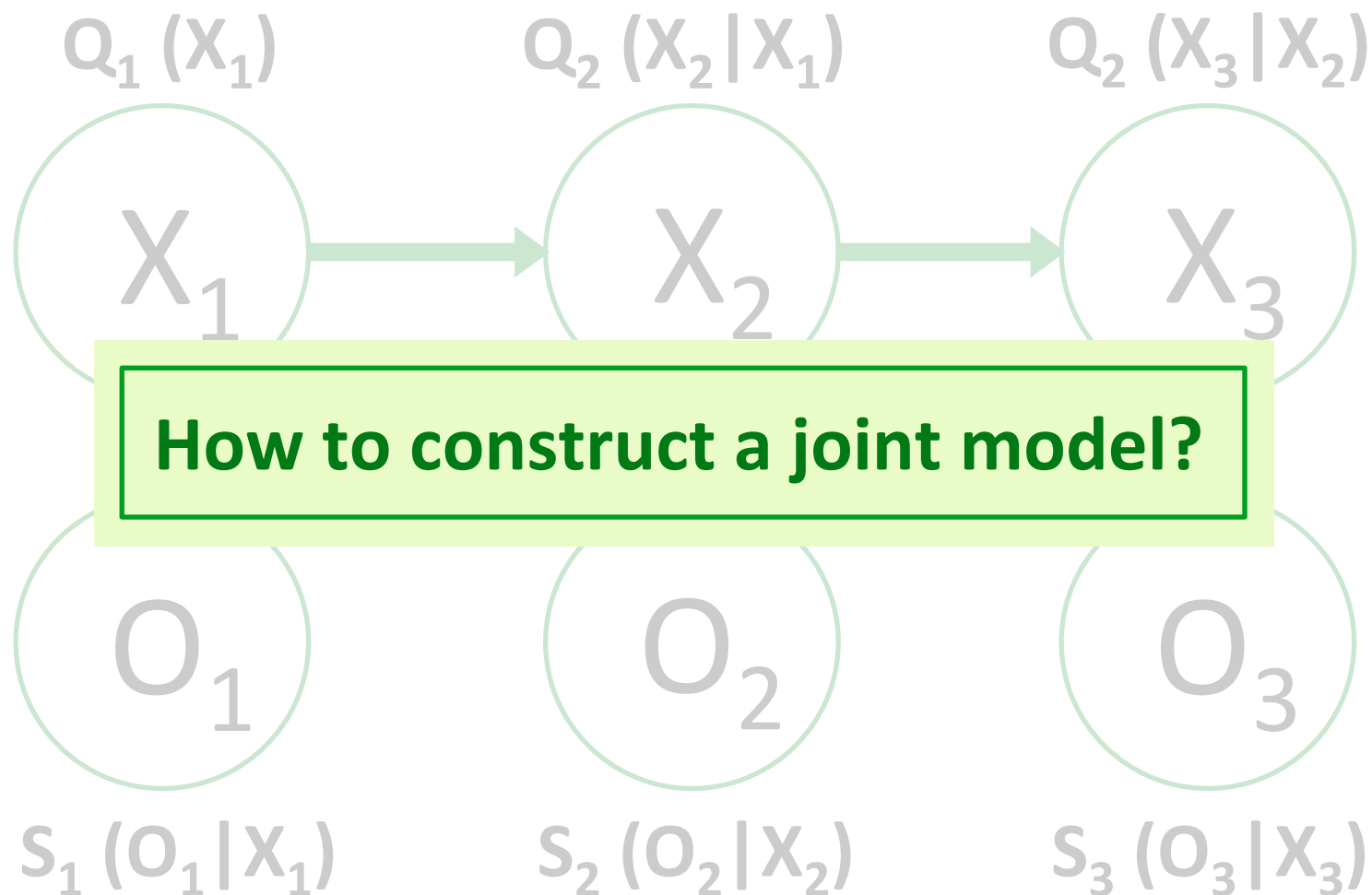
Output models for the observable variables



# (Precise) hidden Markov model

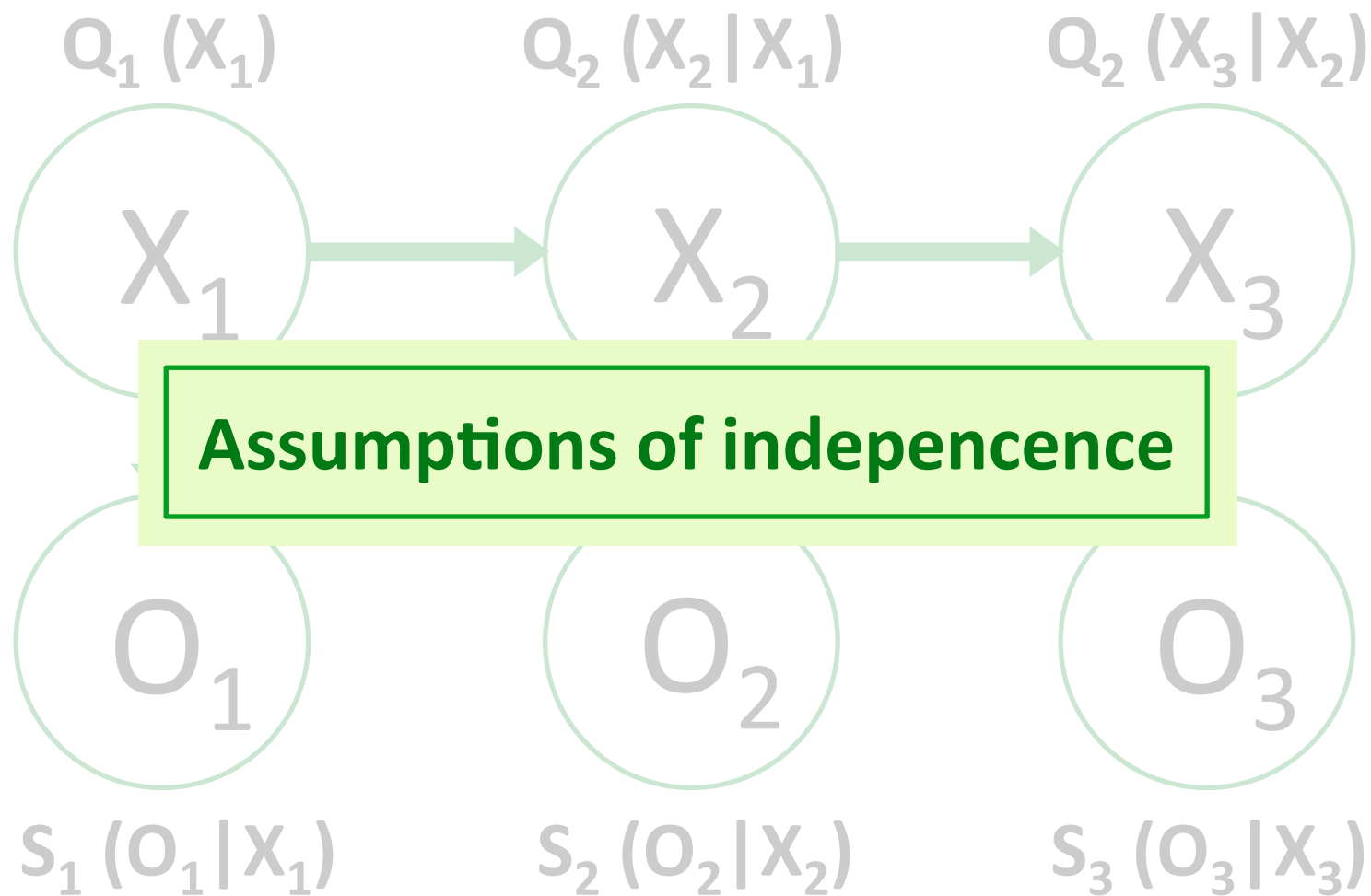


# (Precise) hidden Markov model



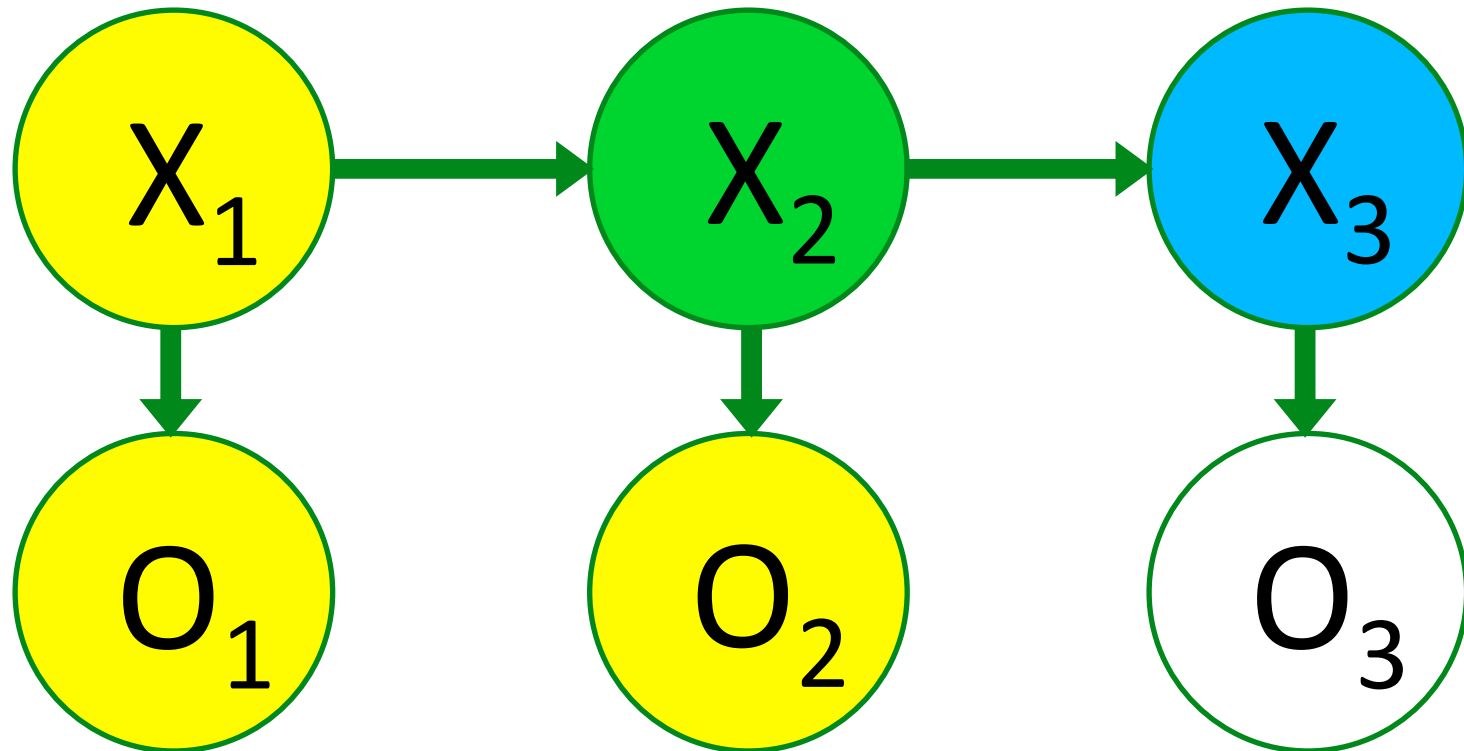


# (Precise) hidden Markov model

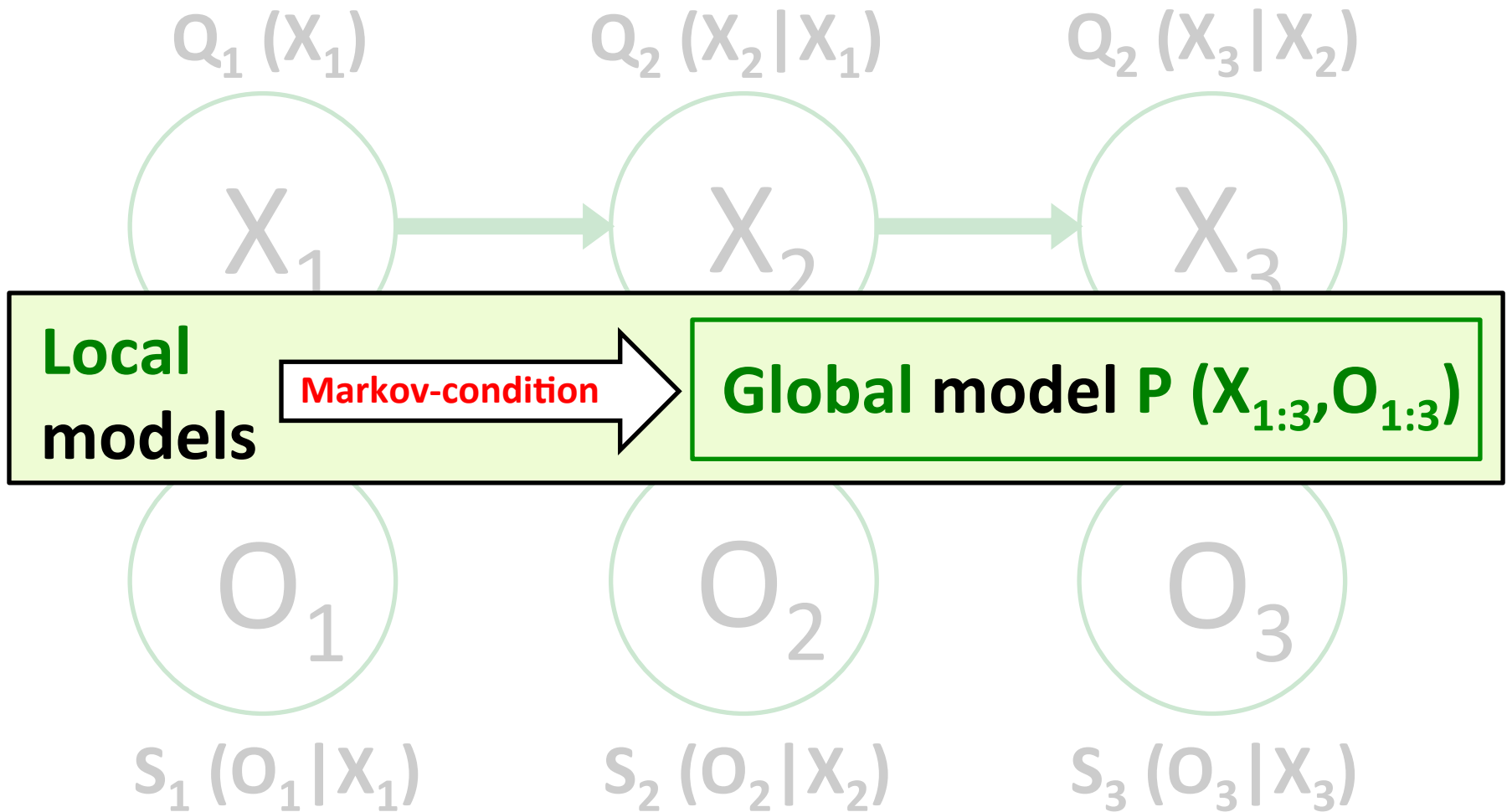


# (Precise) hidden Markov model

Conditional on its **mother variable**, any **variable** is independent of its **non-parent non-descendants**

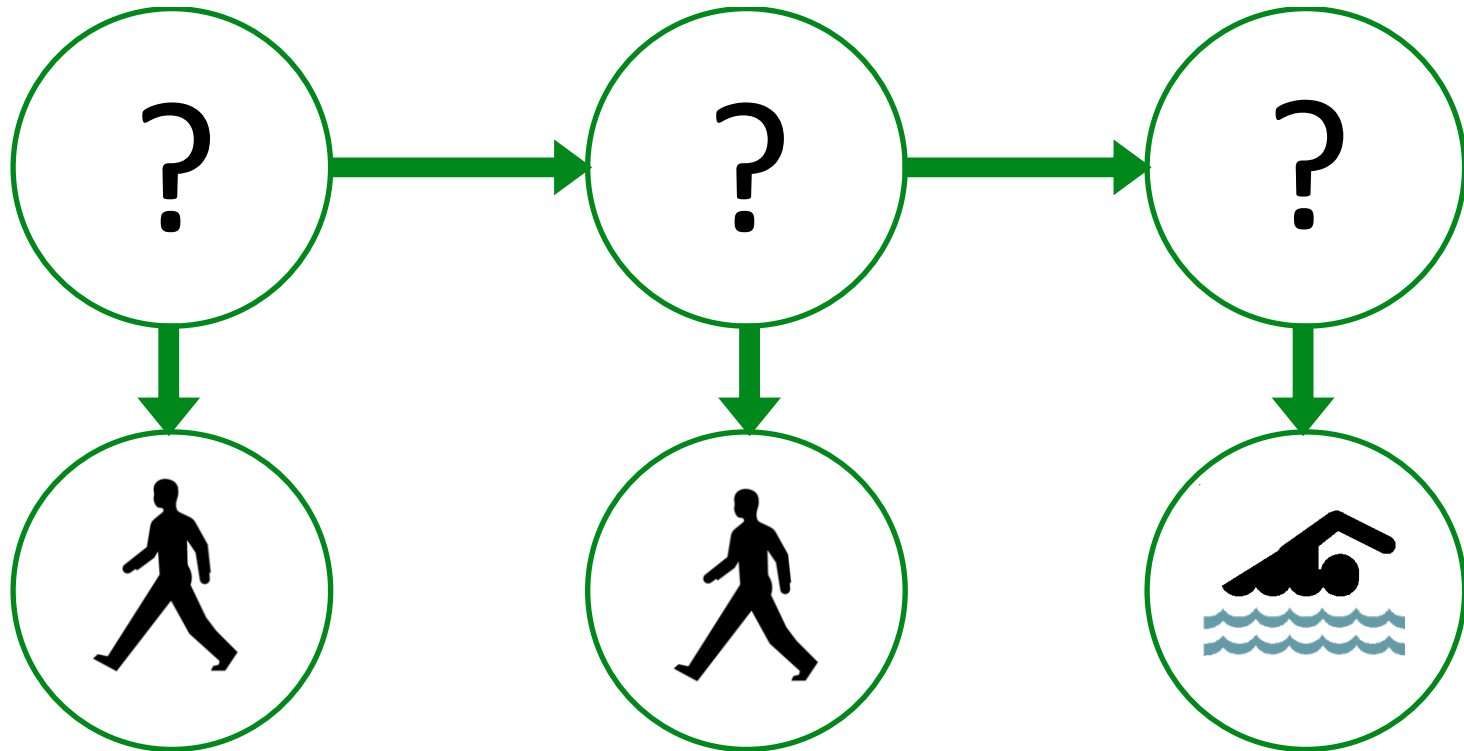


# (Precise) hidden Markov model



**State sequence prediction** in  
imprecise hidden Markov models

# State sequence prediction



# State sequence prediction

Conditioning the model on the observations

Local models

Markov-condition

Global model  $P(X_{1:3}, O_{1:3})$

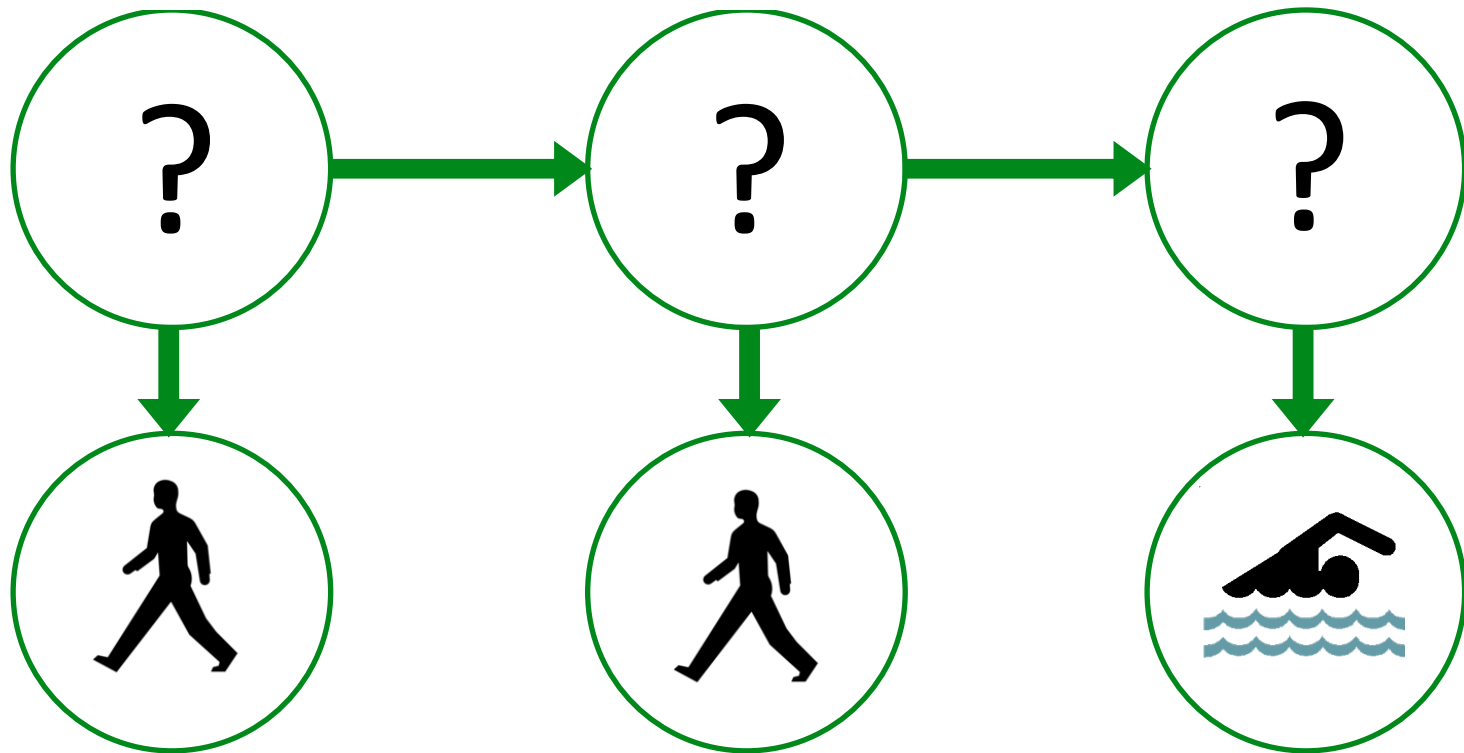
Bayes' theorem

$P(O_{1:3}) \neq 0$

Conditional global model  $P(X_{1:3} | O_{1:3})$

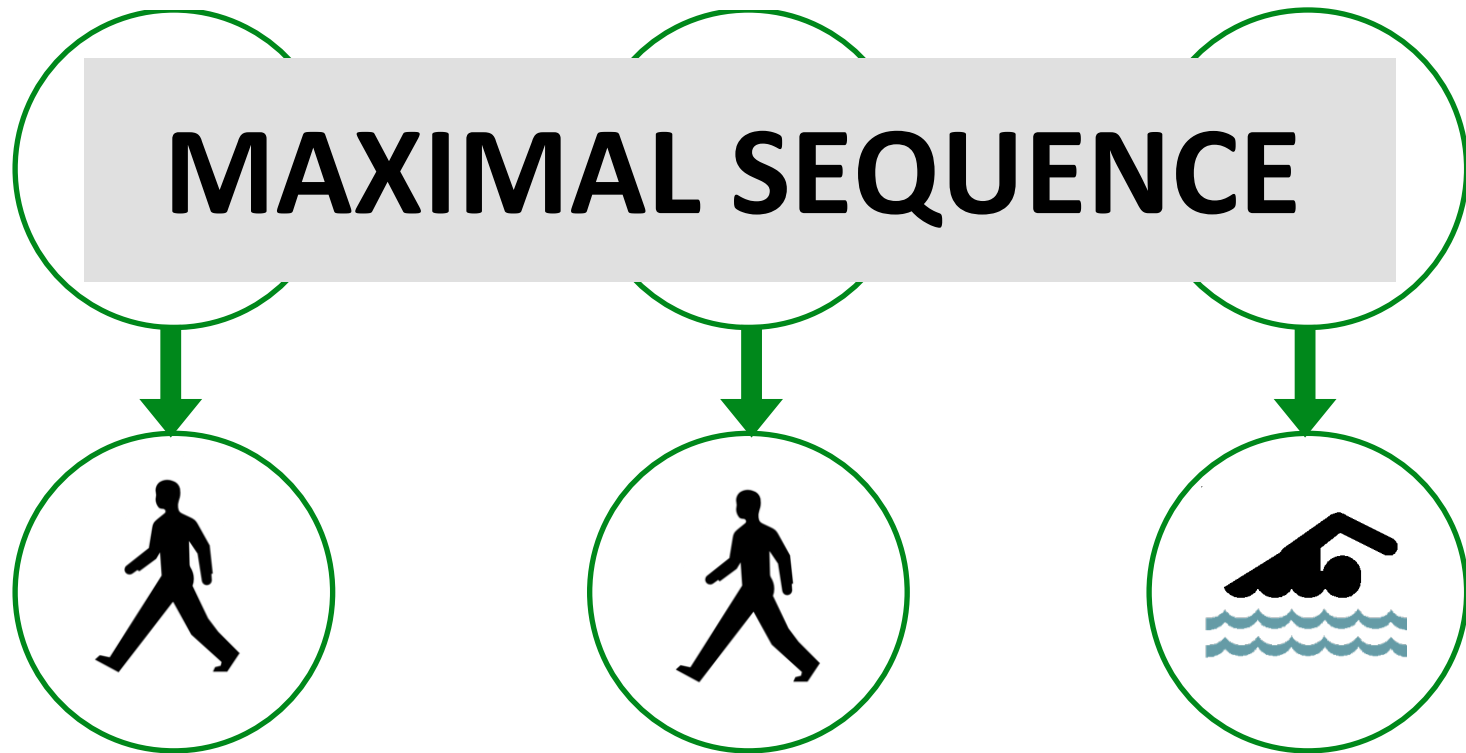
# State sequence prediction

$P(? \ ? \ ? \ | \ \text{🚶} \ \text{🚶} \ \text{🏊})$  Largest probability?



# State sequence prediction

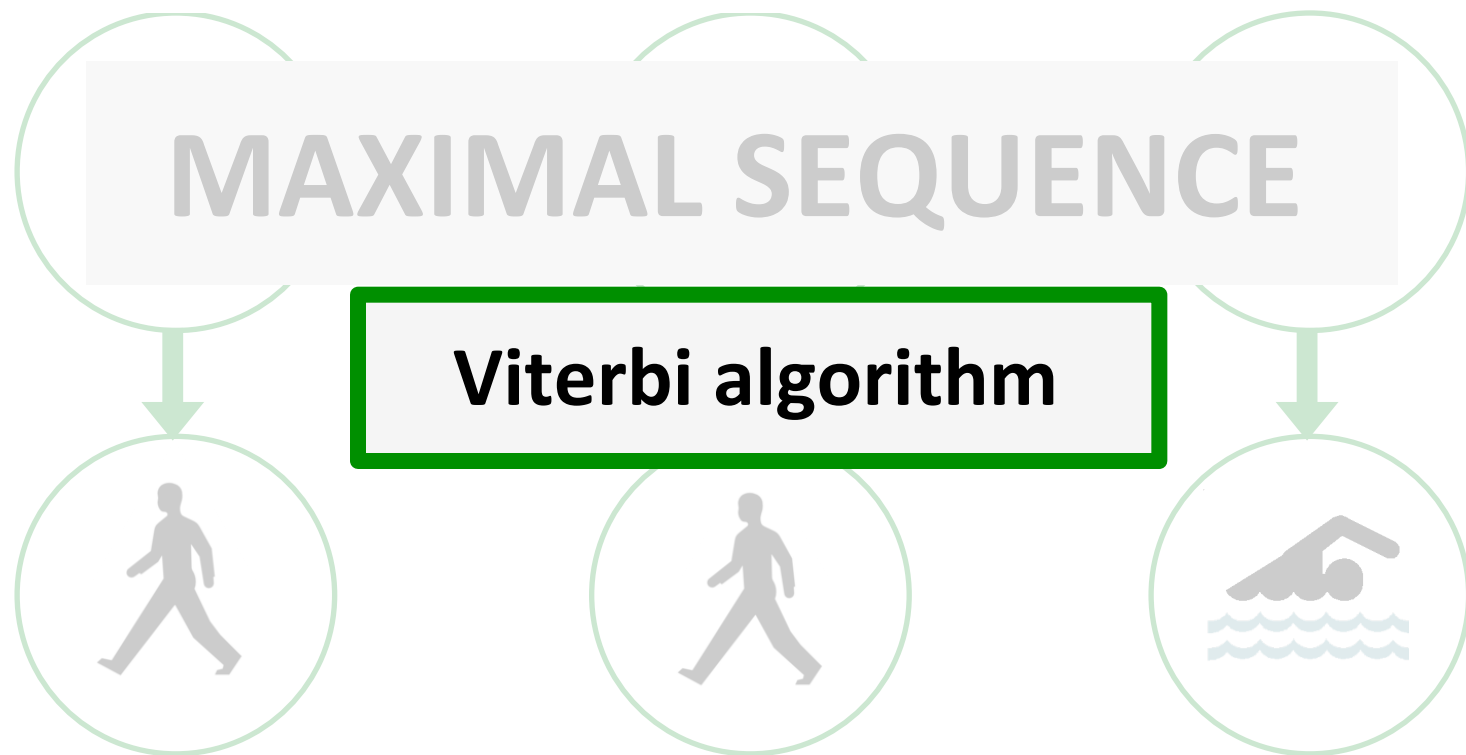
$P(? ? ? | \text{walk} \text{walk} \text{swim})$  Largest probability?





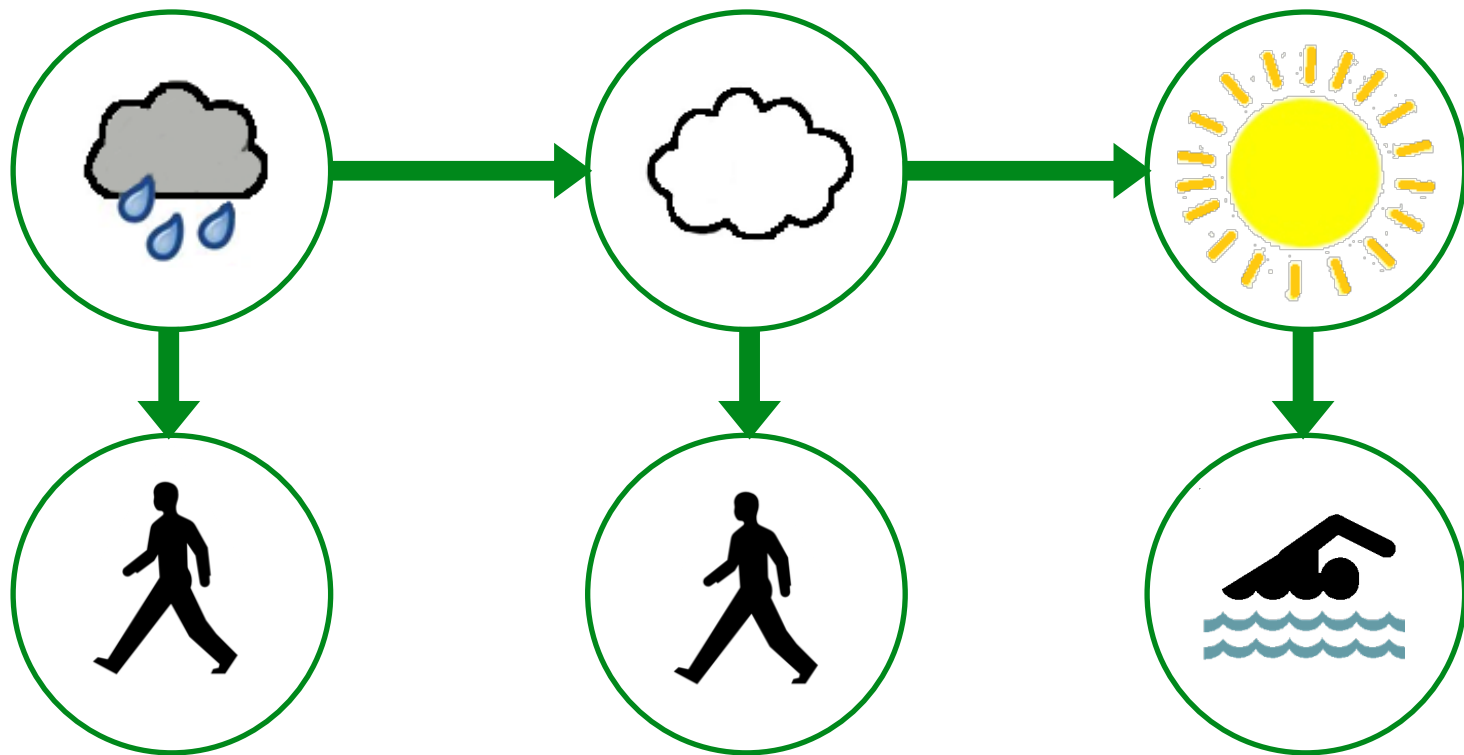
# State sequence prediction

$P( ? ? ? | \text{🚶} \text{🚶} \text{🏊} )$  Largest probability?



# State sequence prediction

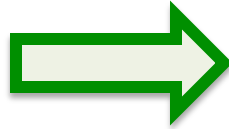
$P( ? \ ? \ ? \ | \ \text{🚶} \ \text{🚶} \ \text{🏊} )$  Largest probability?



# State sequence prediction in **imprecise** hidden Markov models

# Imprecise probabilities

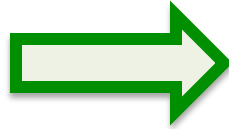
~~20%?~~



[10%, 30%]

# Imprecise probabilities

~~20%?~~



[10%,30%]

## Credal set $M$

Closed and convex set  
of mass functions  $\mathbf{p}$

# Coherent lower previsions

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \mathbf{p} : X \rightarrow [0,1] \\ \mathbf{f} : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \end{array} \right\} \rightarrow \mathbf{Prevision} \mathbf{P}(\mathbf{f}) = \mathbf{E}_{\mathbf{p}}(\mathbf{f})$$

(expectation functional)

# Coherent lower previsions

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \mathbf{p} : X \rightarrow [0,1] \\ \mathbf{f} : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \end{array} \right\} \rightarrow \text{Prevision } \mathbf{P}(\mathbf{f}) = \mathbf{E}_{\mathbf{p}}(\mathbf{f})$$

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## Credal set $\mathbf{M}$

Closed and convex set of mass functions  $\mathbf{p}$

$$\text{Lower prevision } \underline{\mathbf{P}}(\mathbf{f}) = \min\{ \mathbf{E}_{\mathbf{p}}(\mathbf{f}) : \mathbf{p} \in \mathbf{M} \}$$



# Coherent lower previsions

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \mathbf{p} : X \rightarrow [0,1] \\ \mathbf{f} : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \end{array} \right\} \rightarrow \text{Prevision } \mathbf{P}(\mathbf{f}) = \mathbf{E}_{\mathbf{p}}(\mathbf{f})$$

(expectation functional)

## Credal set $\mathbf{M}$

Closed and convex set of mass functions  $\mathbf{p}$

$$\text{Lower prevision } \underline{\mathbf{P}}(\mathbf{f}) = \min\{ \mathbf{E}_{\mathbf{p}}(\mathbf{f}) : \mathbf{p} \in \mathbf{M} \}$$

$$\text{Upper prevision } \overline{\mathbf{P}}(\mathbf{f}) = \max\{ \mathbf{E}_{\mathbf{p}}(\mathbf{f}) : \mathbf{p} \in \mathbf{M} \} = -\underline{\mathbf{P}}(-\mathbf{f})$$

# Coherent lower previsions

$$\text{Indicator function } I_A(X) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } X = A \\ 0 & \text{if } X \neq A \end{cases}$$

$$\text{Probability of } A = \underline{P}(A) = \underline{P}(I_A)$$

# Coherent lower previsions

$$\text{Indicator function } I_A(X) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } X = A \\ 0 & \text{if } X \neq A \end{cases}$$

$$\text{Probability of } A = \underline{P}(A) = \underline{P}(I_A)$$

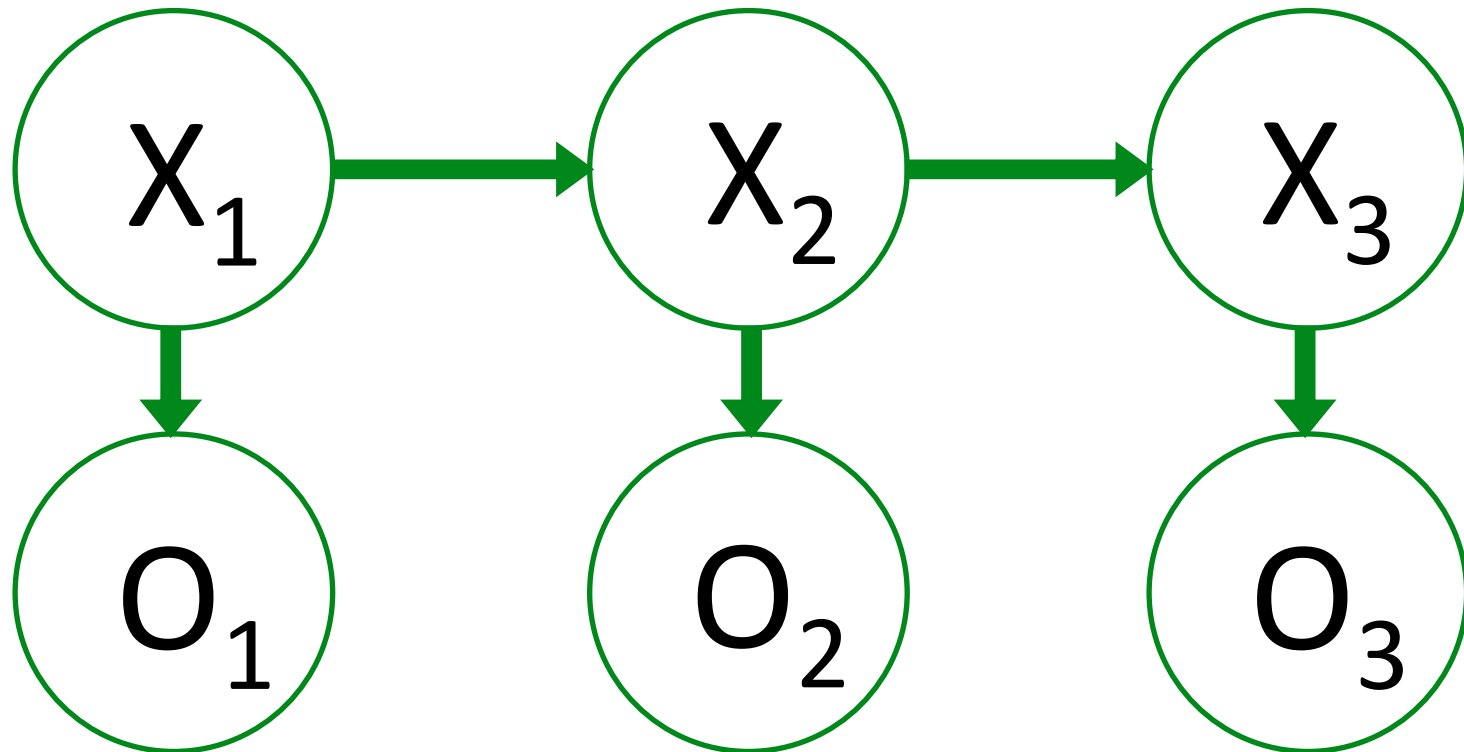
$$\text{Lower probability of } A = \underline{P}(A) = \underline{P}(I_A)$$

$$\text{Upper probability of } A = \bar{P}(A) = \bar{P}(I_A)$$

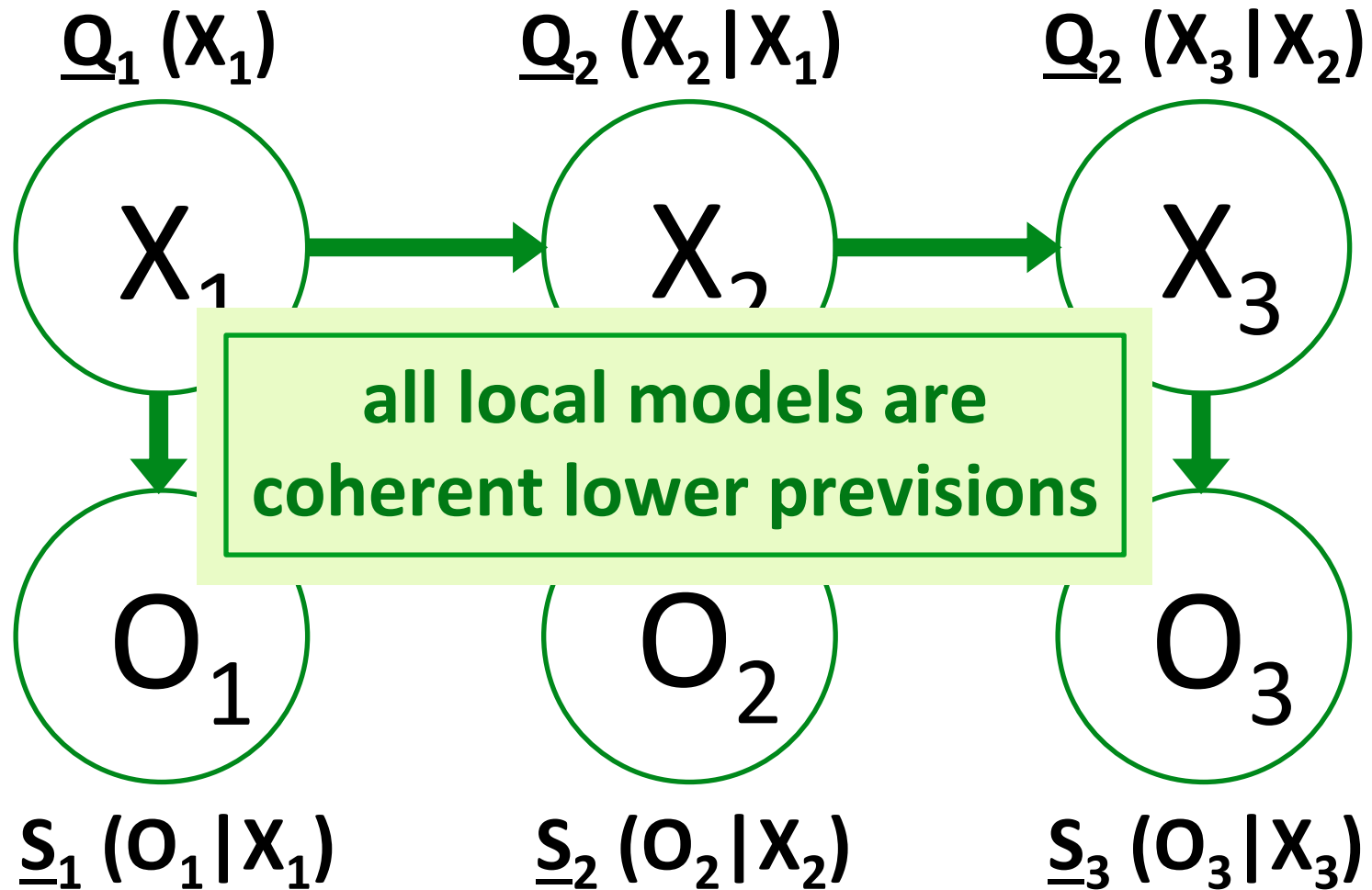
State sequence prediction in

**imprecise hidden Markov models**

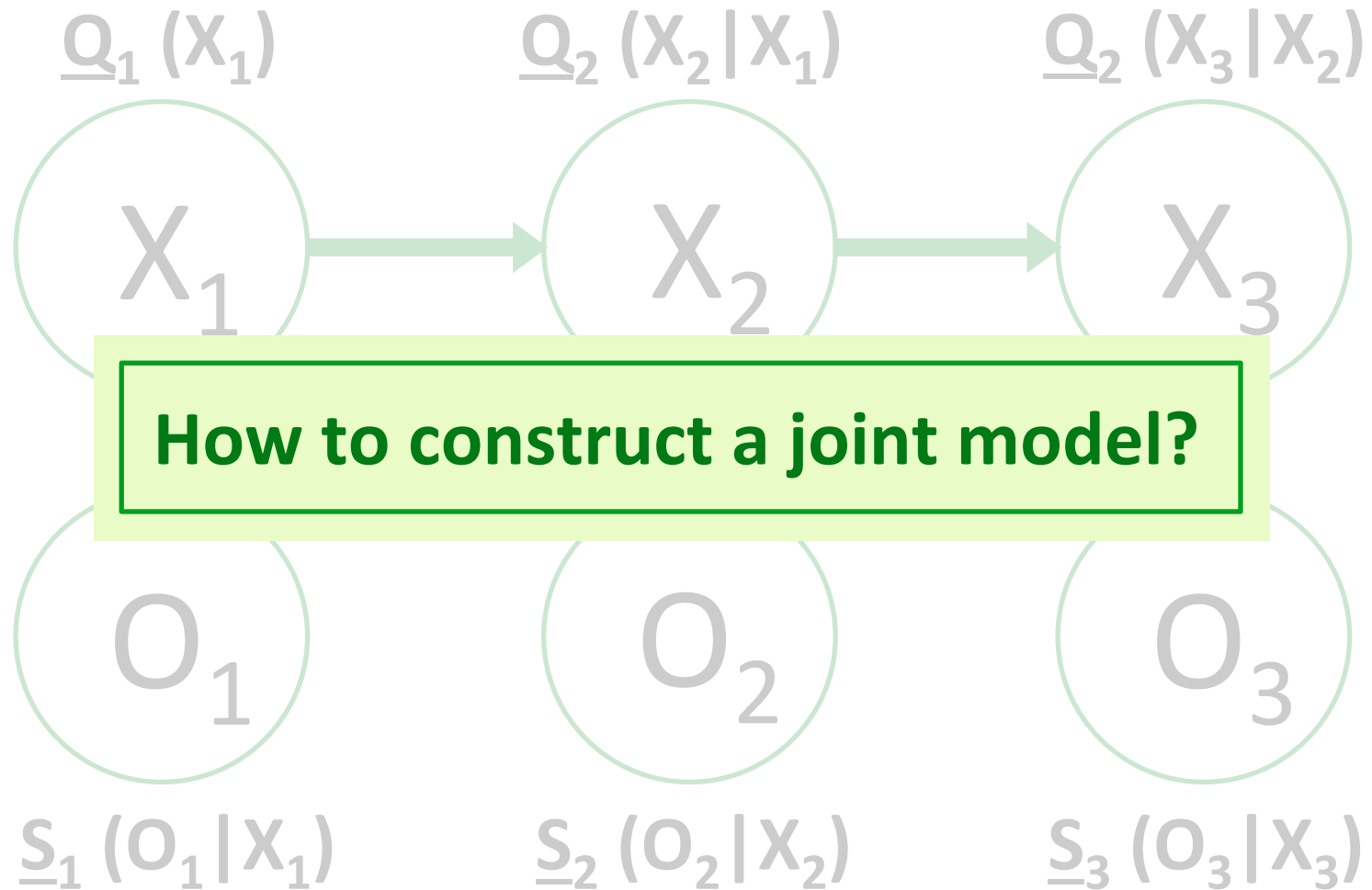
# Imprecise hidden Markov model



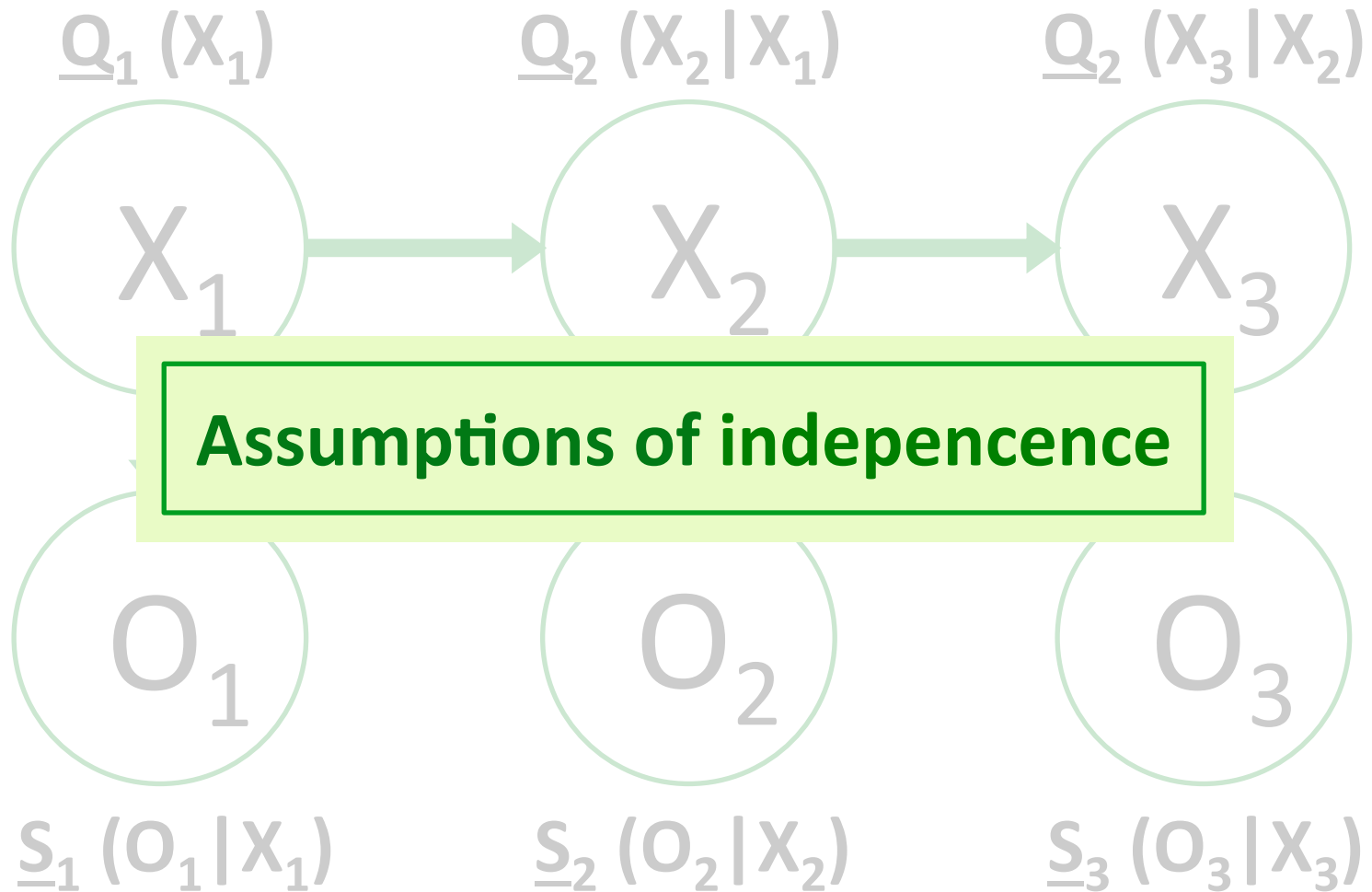
# Imprecise hidden Markov model



# Imprecise hidden Markov model

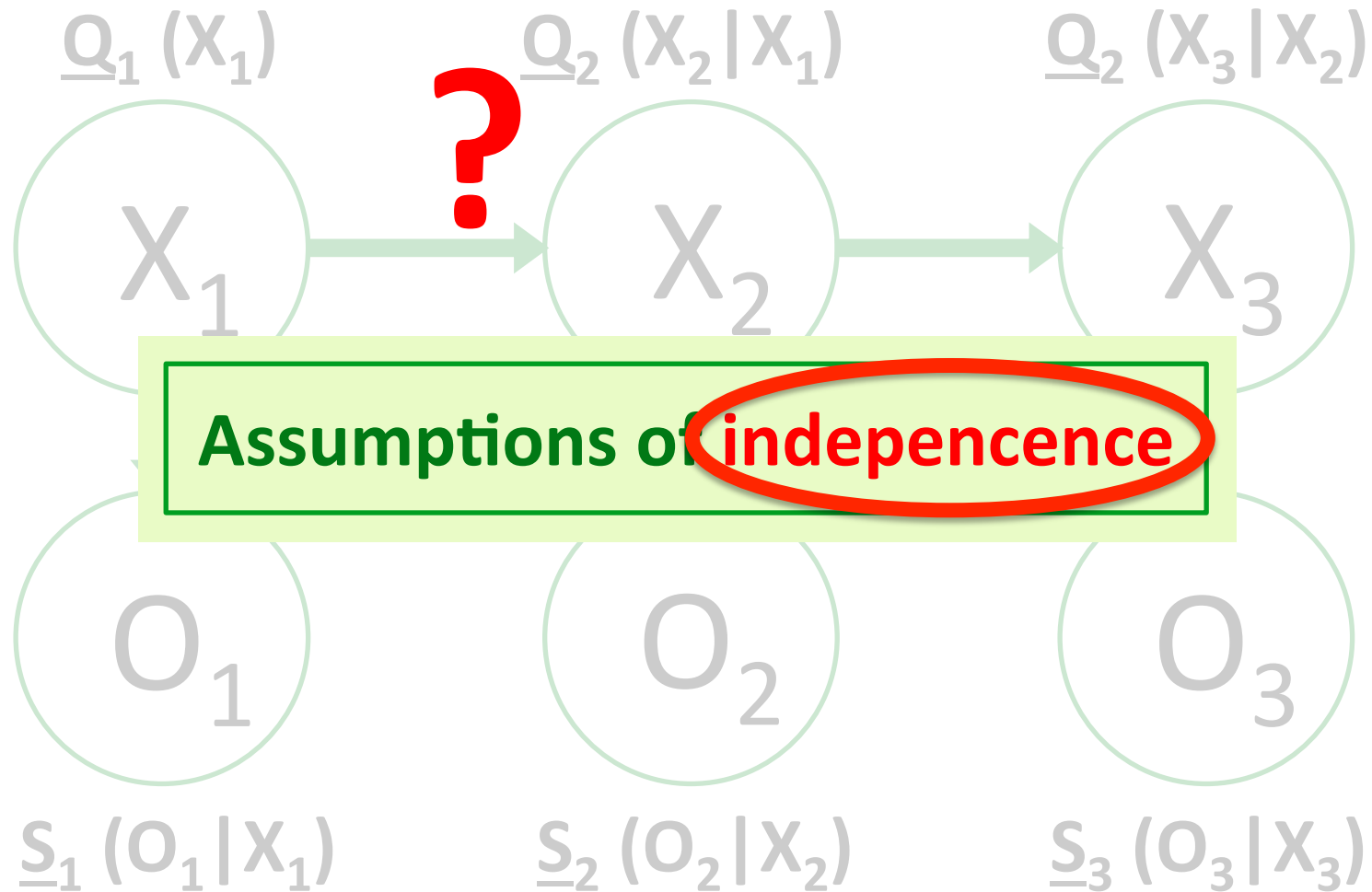


# Imprecise hidden Markov model





# Imprecise hidden Markov model



# Imprecise hidden Markov model

## Precise independence

$$P(A | B) = P(A)$$

## Imprecise notions of independence

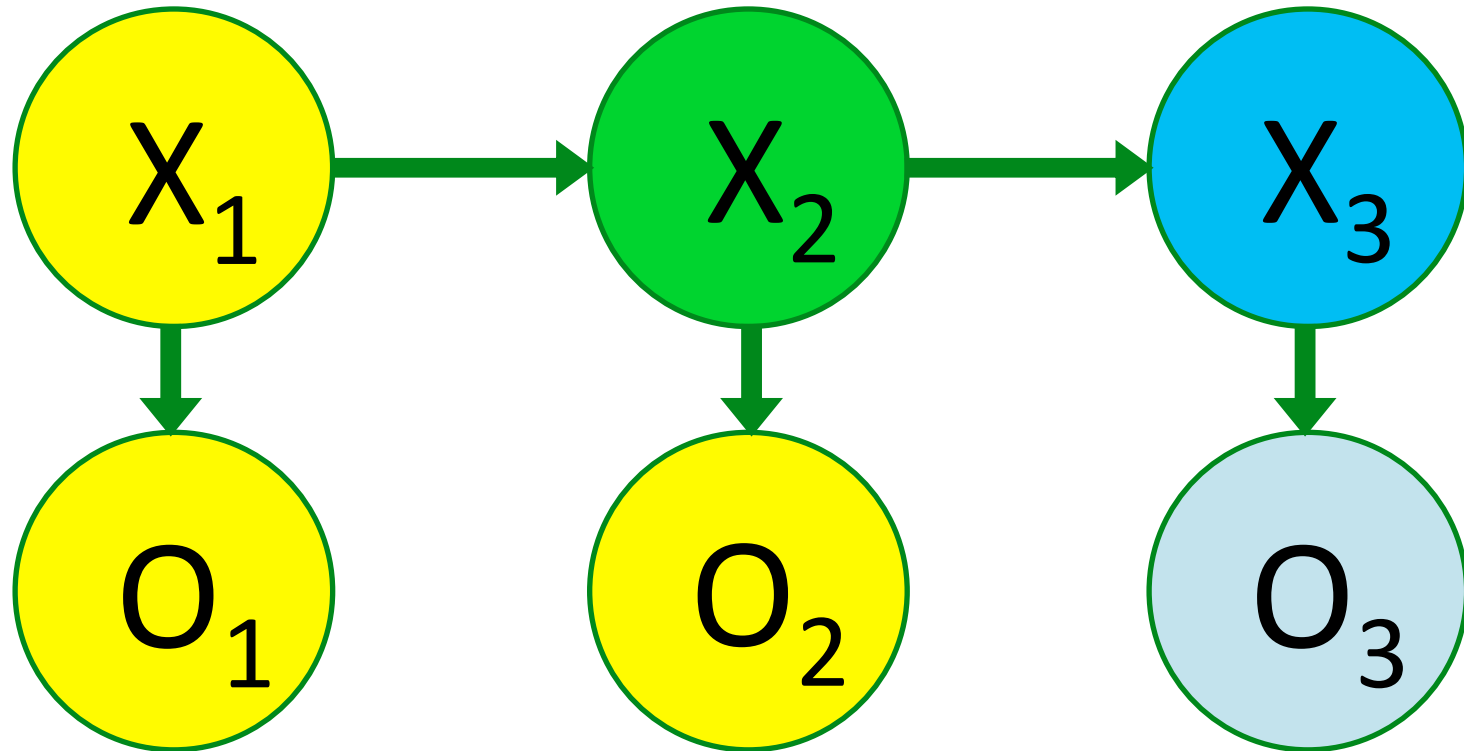
### Strong independence

$P(A | B) = P(A)$  for every extreme point in the credal set of  $\underline{P}$

**Epistemic irrelevance** (a weaker notion)

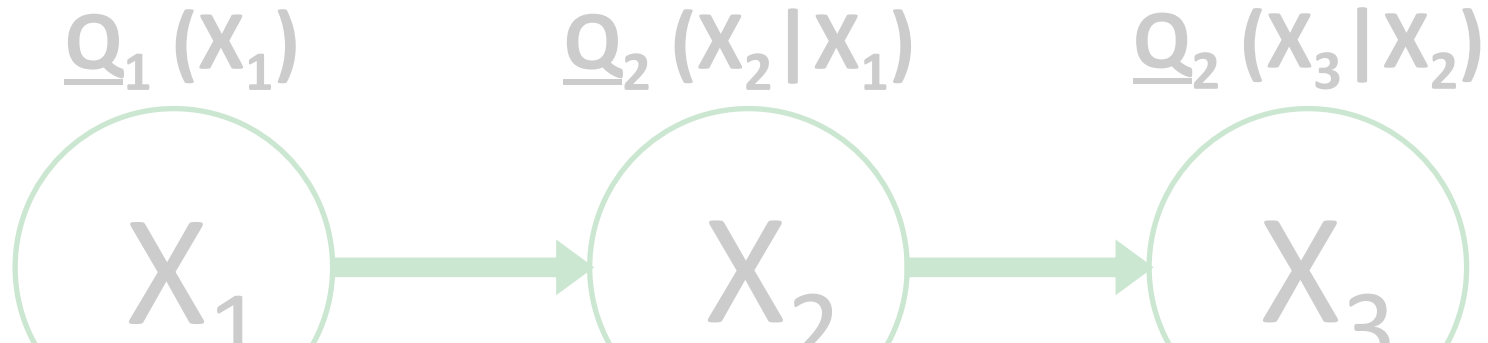
$$\underline{P}(A | B) = \underline{P}(A)$$

# Imprecise hidden Markov model



Conditional on its **mother variable**, the **non-parent non-descendants** of any **variable** in the tree are **epistemically irrelevant** to this **variable** and its **descendants**

# Imprecise hidden Markov model



**Local models**

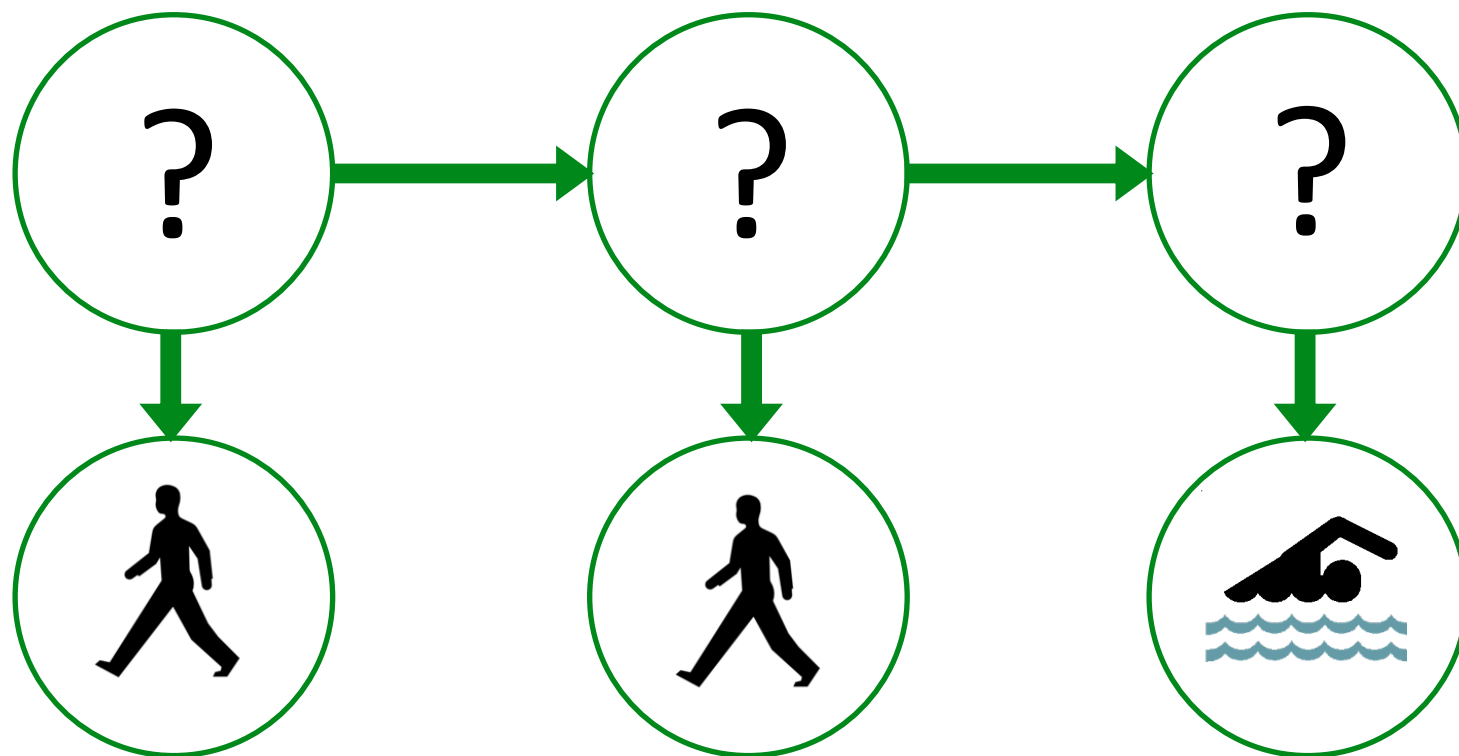
**Epistemic Irrelevance**

**Global model  $\underline{P}(X_{1:3}, O_{1:3})$**

**Epistemic Irrelevance yields formulas that recursively construct a global model**

**State sequence prediction** in  
**imprecise** hidden Markov models

# (Imprecise) state sequence prediction



# (Imprecise) state sequence prediction

Conditioning the model on the observations

Local models

Epistemic Irrelevance

Global model  $\underline{P}(X_{1:3}, O_{1:3})$

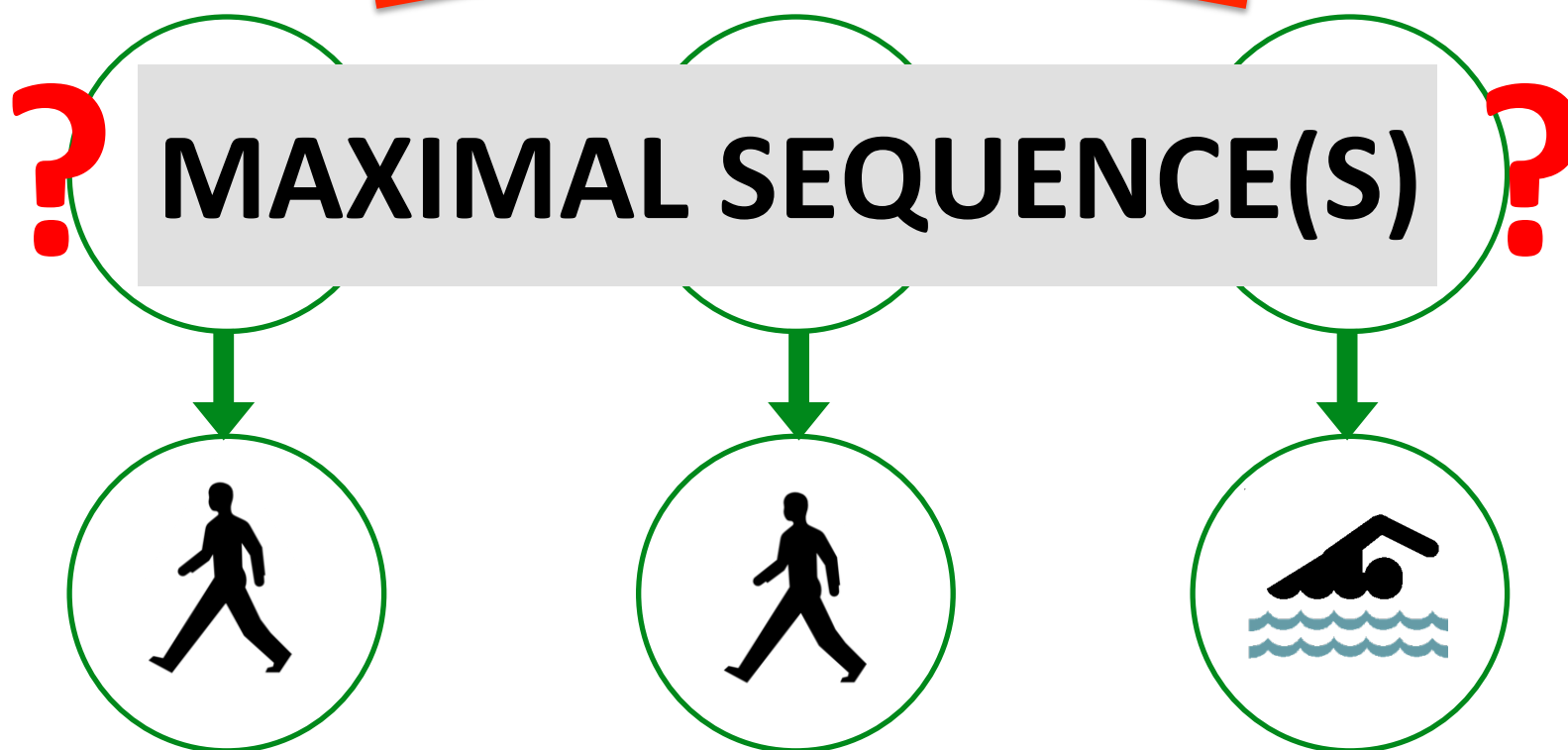
Regular Extension

$\overline{P}(O_{1:3}) \neq 0$

Conditional global model  $\underline{P}(X_{1:3} | O_{1:3})$

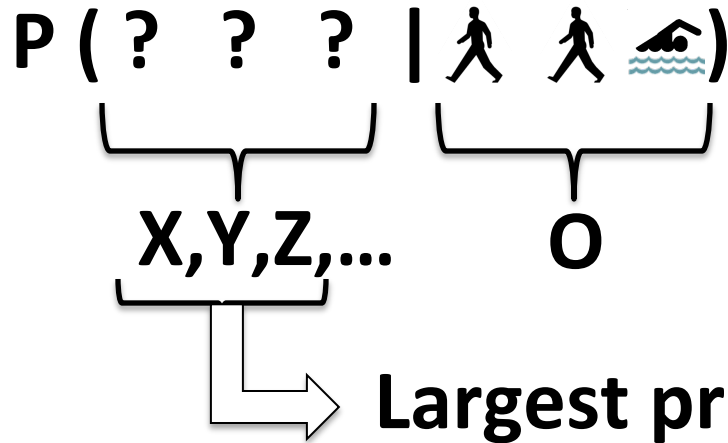
# (Imprecise) state sequence prediction

~~Largest conditional probability?~~





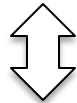
# (Imprecise) state sequence prediction



**PRECISE**

**Total ordering:**

$Y > X$  if  $P(Y|O) > P(X|O)$



$P(I_Y|O) > P(I_X|O) \iff P(I_Y - I_X|O) > 0$

# (Imprecise) state sequence prediction

## Total ordering:

$$Y > X \text{ if } P(I_Y - I_X | O) > 0$$

**PRECISE**

Bayes' theorem	$\updownarrow$	$P(O) \neq 0$
----------------	----------------	---------------

$$P(I_O[I_Y - I_X]) > 0$$

## Maximal sequence

= the sequence with the highest probability

= **The highest sequence in this ordering**

# (Imprecise) state sequence prediction

Partial ordering:

$Y > X$  if  $\underline{P}(I_Y - I_X | O) > 0$

**IMPRECISE**



$P(I_Y - I_X | O) > 0$

For every  $P$  in  $\underline{P}$

**Maximal sequence**

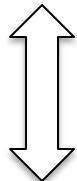
The undominated sequence(s) in this partial ordering

# (Imprecise) state sequence prediction

Partial ordering:

$Y > X$  if  $\underline{P}(I_Y - I_X | O) > 0$

**IMPRECISE**

$$\boxed{\overline{P}(O) \neq 0}$$


$$\underline{P}(I_O[I_Y - I_X]) > 0$$

**IMPORTANT RESULT!**  
Doesn't hold in general  
Only for HMMs

**Maximal sequence**

The undominated sequence(s) in this partial ordering

# (Imprecise) state sequence prediction

Partial ordering:

$Y > X$  if  $\underline{P}(I_O[I_Y - I_X]) > 0$

**IMPRECISE**

Maximal sequence

The undominated sequence(s) in this partial ordering

**X is maximal**  $\Leftrightarrow$  For all  $Y$  :  $Y \not> X$

$\Leftrightarrow$  For all  $Y$  :  $\underline{P}(I_O[I_Y - I_X]) \leq 0$

## (Imprecise) state sequence prediction

**X is maximal**  $\Leftrightarrow$  For all Y :  $\underline{P}(I_O[I_Y - I_X]) \leq 0$

How can we determine the **set of maximal sequences** efficiently?

## (Imprecise) state sequence prediction

**X is maximal**  $\Leftrightarrow$  For all Y :  $\underline{P}(I_O[I_Y - I_X]) \leq 0$

How can we determine the **set of maximal sequences** efficiently?

**EstiHMM:** an **efficient algorithm** to determine the maximal state sequences in an imprecise hidden Markov model

## (Imprecise) state sequence prediction

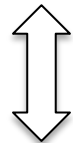
How can we determine the **set of maximal sequences efficiently?**

**Trick nr. 1**

**Using the joint model instead of the conditional one**

$Y > X$  if  $\underline{P}(I_Y - I_X | O) > 0$

$$\overline{P}(O) \neq 0$$



$$\underline{P}(I_O[I_Y - I_X]) > 0$$

**IMPORTANT RESULT!**

Doesn't hold in general  
Only for HMMs



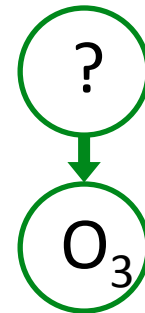
# (Imprecise) state sequence prediction

How can we determine the set of **maximal sequences** efficiently?

**Trick nr. 2**

**Working recursively**

Principle of optimality  
(Bellman)



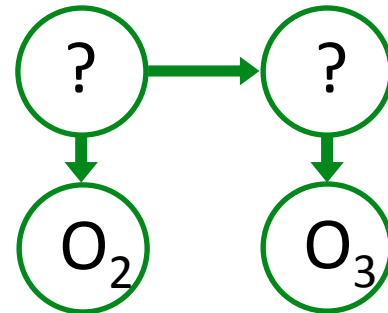
# (Imprecise) state sequence prediction

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**Trick nr. 2**

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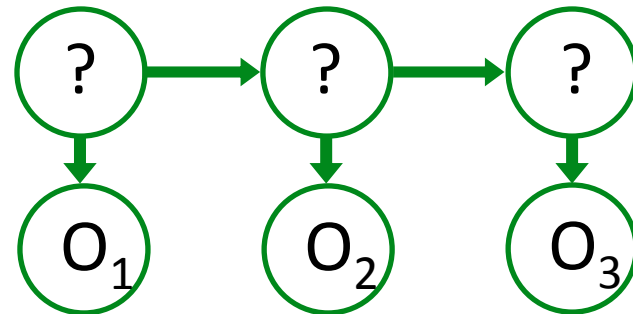
# (Imprecise) state sequence prediction

How can we determine the set of **maximal sequences** efficiently?

**Trick nr. 2**

**Working recursively**

Principle of optimality  
(Bellman)



## (Imprecise) state sequence prediction

How can we determine the set of maximal sequences efficiently?

Trick nr. 3

Reformulating the criterion of maximality

$X$  is maximal  $\Leftrightarrow$  For all  $Y$ :  $\underline{P}(I_0[I_Y - I_X]) \leq 0$

$$\Leftrightarrow \alpha_k^{\text{opt}}(\hat{x}_k | x_{k-1}) \leq \alpha_k(\hat{x}_{k:n}).$$

## (Imprecise) state sequence prediction

How can we determine the set of **maximal sequences** efficiently?

**Trick nr. 4**

**Storing solutions efficiently**

6 maximal sequences for a **binary HMM** of length 8:



Two state values: **0** or **1**

{00001000, 00001010, 00001110, 00011110, 10001010, 10001110}









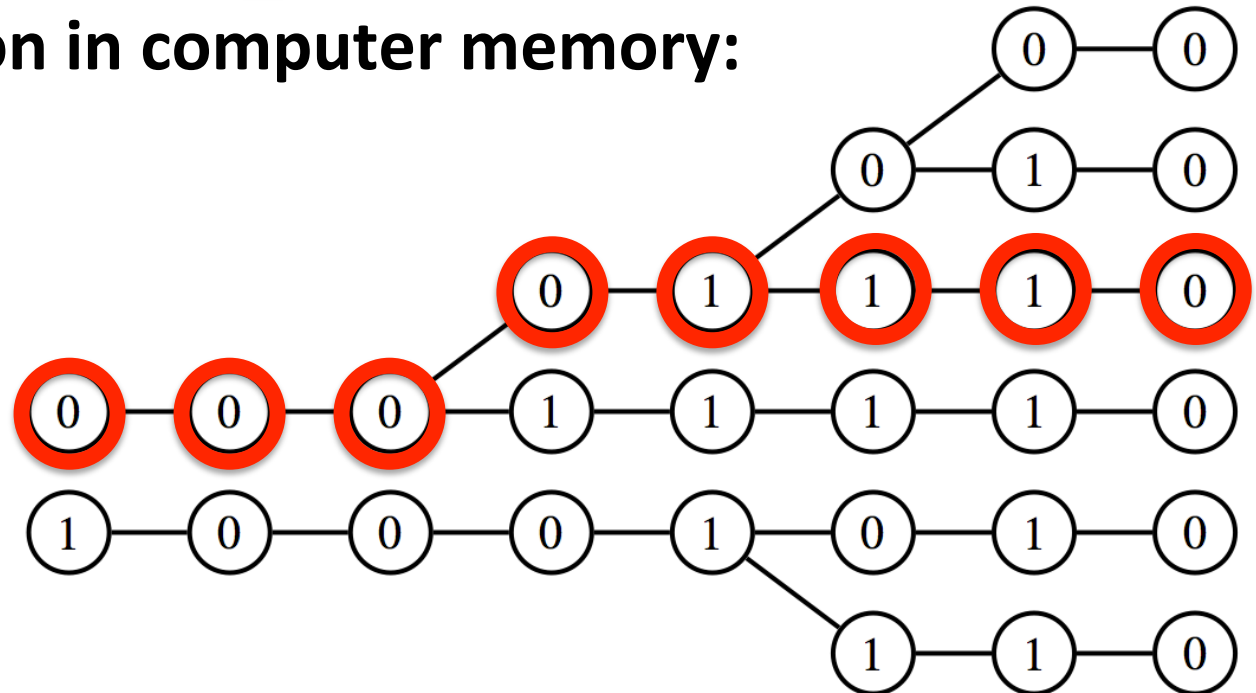
# (Imprecise) state sequence prediction

## Trick nr. 4

## Storing solutions efficiently

{00001000, 00001010, 00001110, 00011110, 10001010, 10001110}

Representation in computer memory:



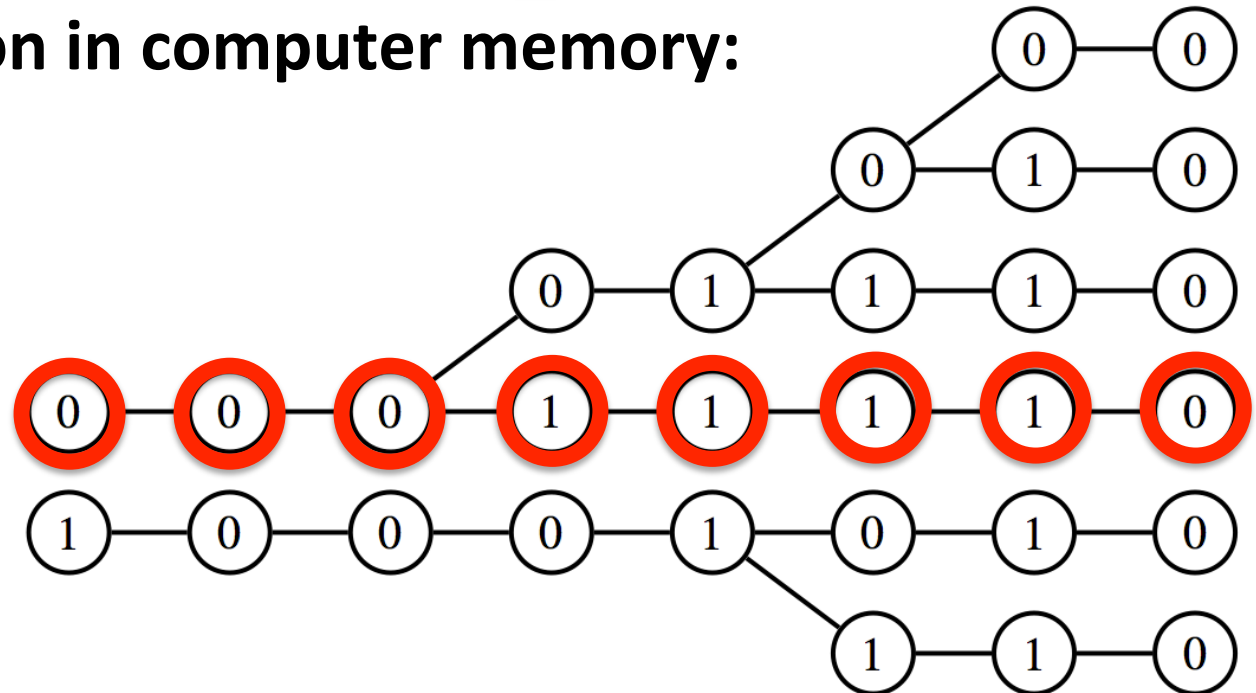
# (Imprecise) state sequence prediction

## Trick nr. 4

## Storing solutions efficiently

{00001000, 00001010, 00001110, 00011110, 10001010, 10001110}

Representation in computer memory:



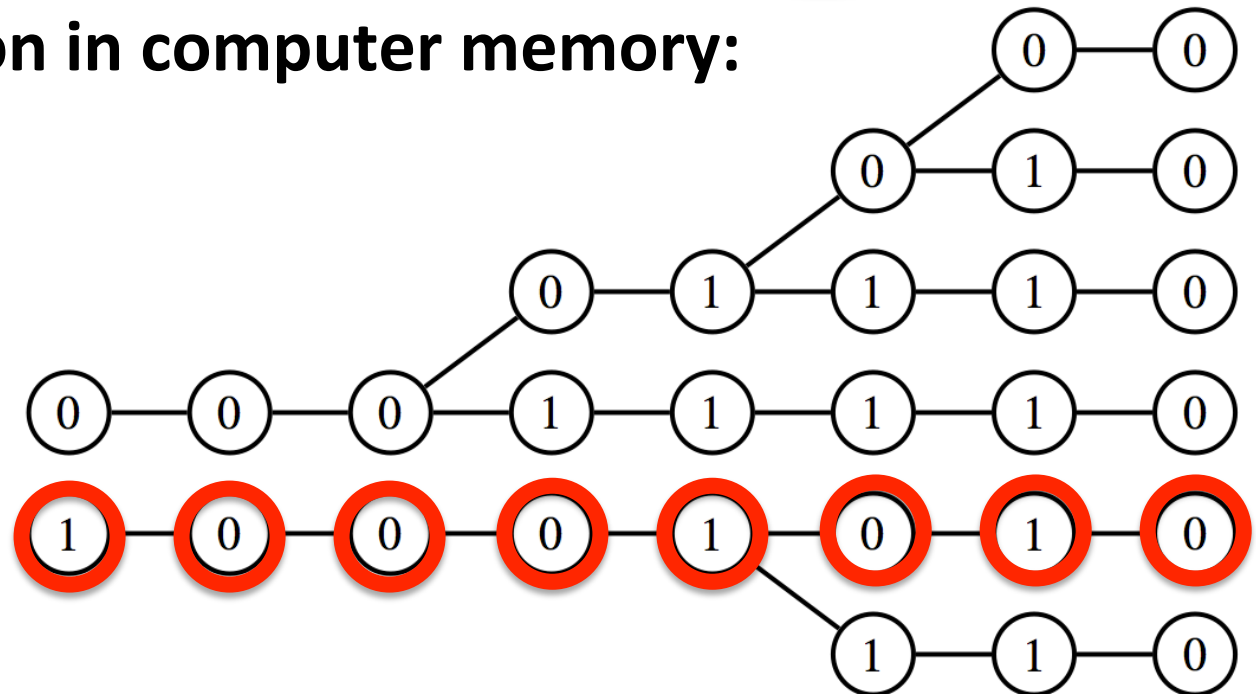
# (Imprecise) state sequence prediction

## Trick nr. 4

## Storing solutions efficiently

{00001000, 00001010, 00001110, 00011110, 10001010, 10001110}

Representation in computer memory:





## (Imprecise) state sequence prediction

**EstiHMM:** an efficient algorithm to determine the maximal state sequences in an imprecise hidden Markov model

Computational complexity

## (Imprecise) state sequence prediction

**EstiHMM:** an efficient algorithm to determine the maximal state sequences in an imprecise hidden Markov model

### Computational complexity

- Theoretical analysis

## (Imprecise) state sequence prediction

**EstiHMM:** an efficient algorithm to determine the maximal state sequences in an imprecise hidden Markov model

### Computational complexity

- Theoretical analysis (Empirical confirmation)

## (Imprecise) state sequence prediction

**EstiHMM:** an efficient algorithm to determine the maximal state sequences in an imprecise hidden Markov model

### Computational complexity

- Theoretical analysis (Empirical confirmation)
- Linear in the number of maximal sequences



## (Imprecise) state sequence prediction

**EstiHMM:** an efficient algorithm to determine the maximal state sequences in an imprecise hidden Markov model

### Computational complexity

- Theoretical analysis (Empirical confirmation)
- Linear in the number of maximal sequences
- Quadratic in the length of the HMM

## (Imprecise) state sequence prediction

**EstiHMM:** an efficient algorithm to determine the maximal state sequences in an imprecise hidden Markov model

### Computational complexity

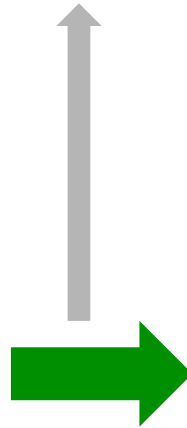
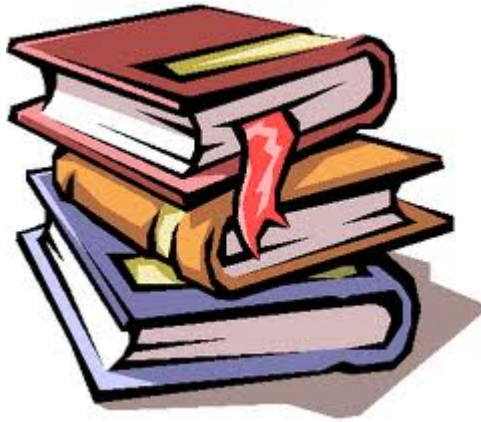
- Theoretical analysis (Empirical confirmation)
- Linear in the number of maximal sequences
- Quadratic in the length of the HMM
- Cubic in the number of possible states



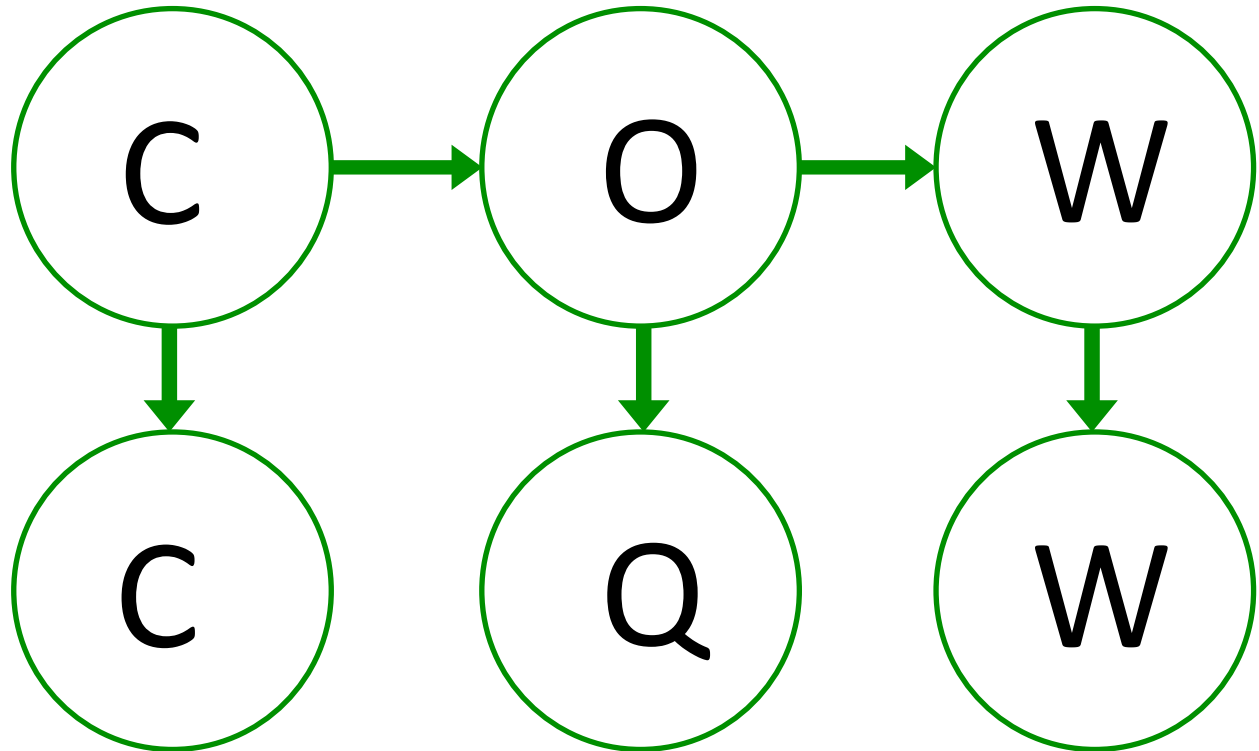
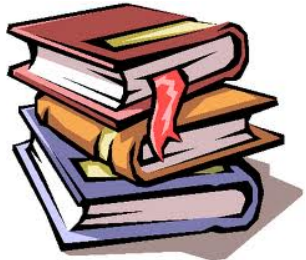
**“What can you  
do with it?”**

# An application

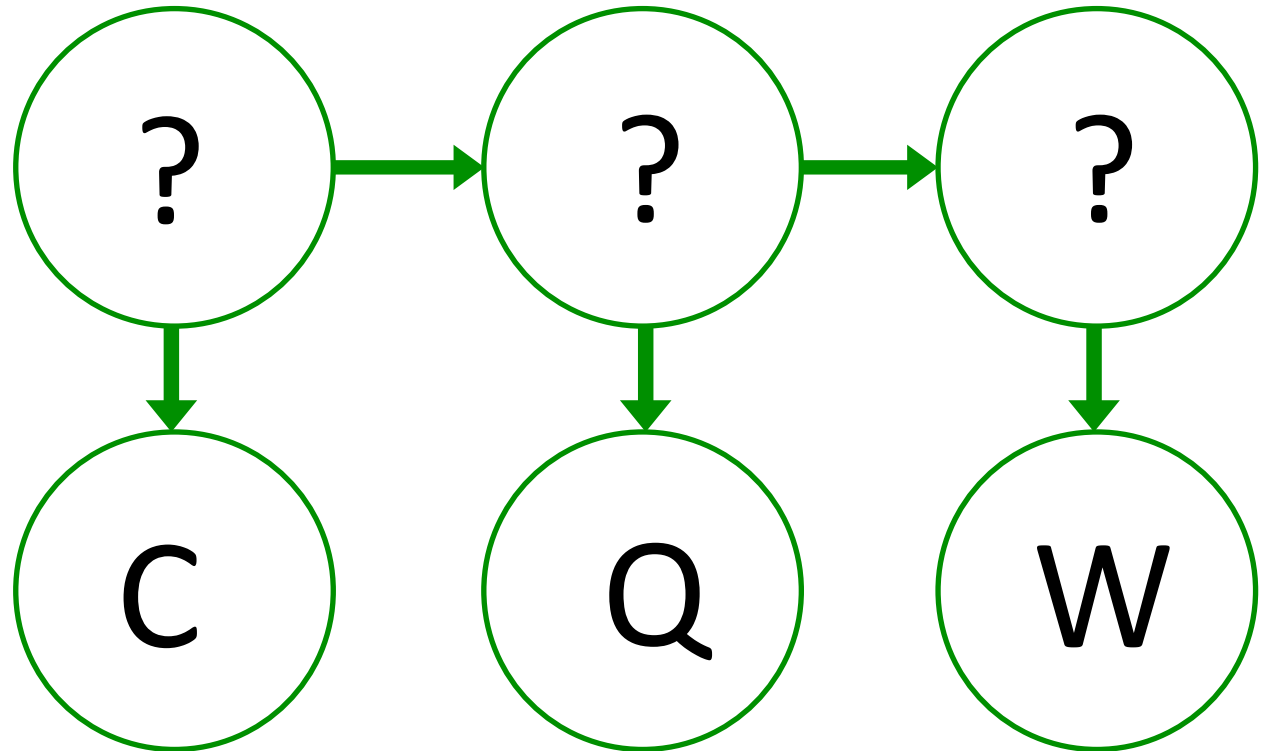
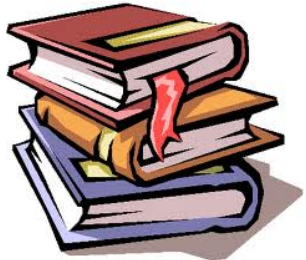
Optical character recognition software



# An application

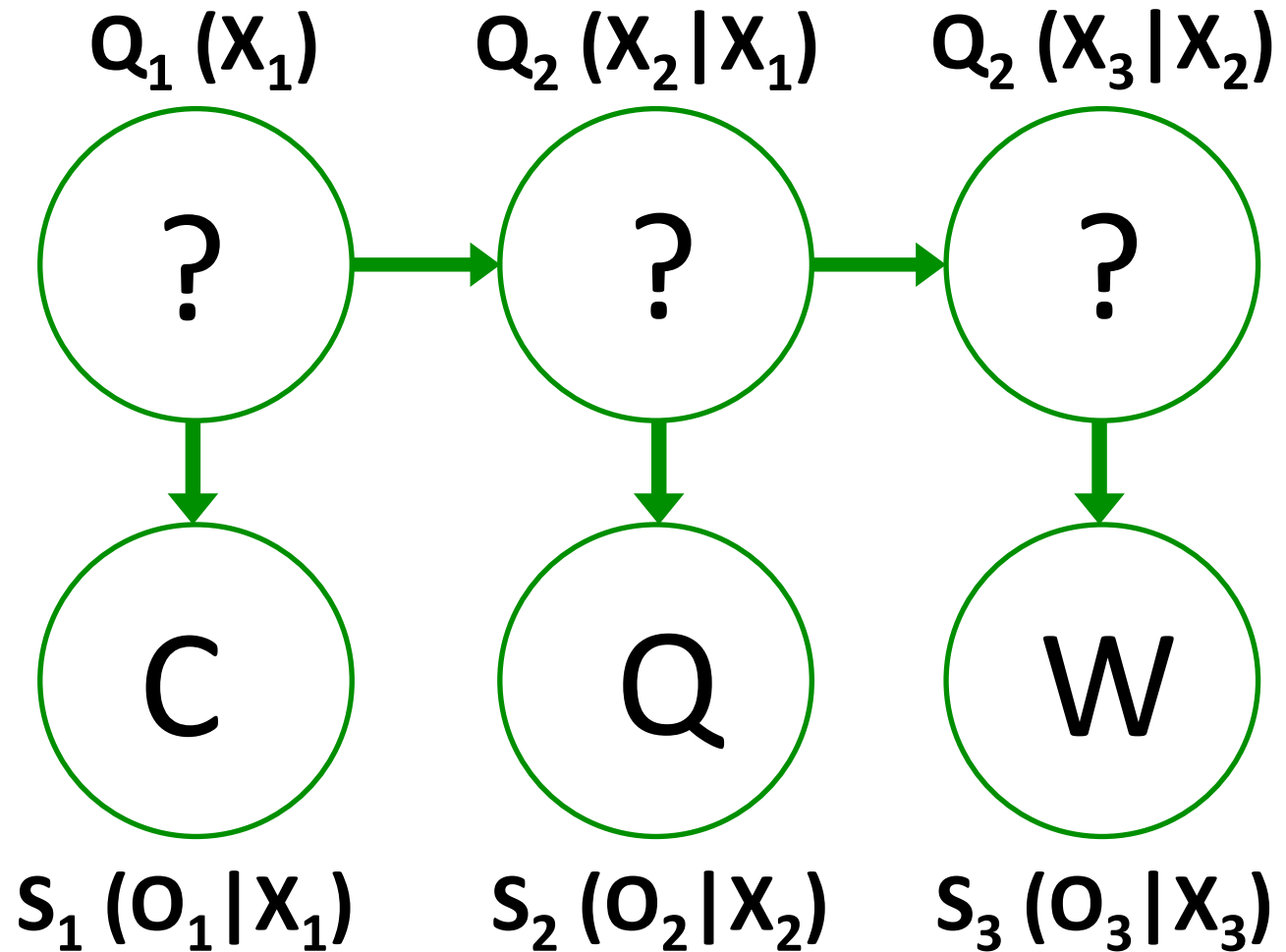
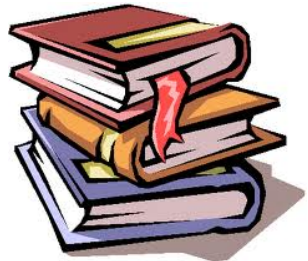


# An application



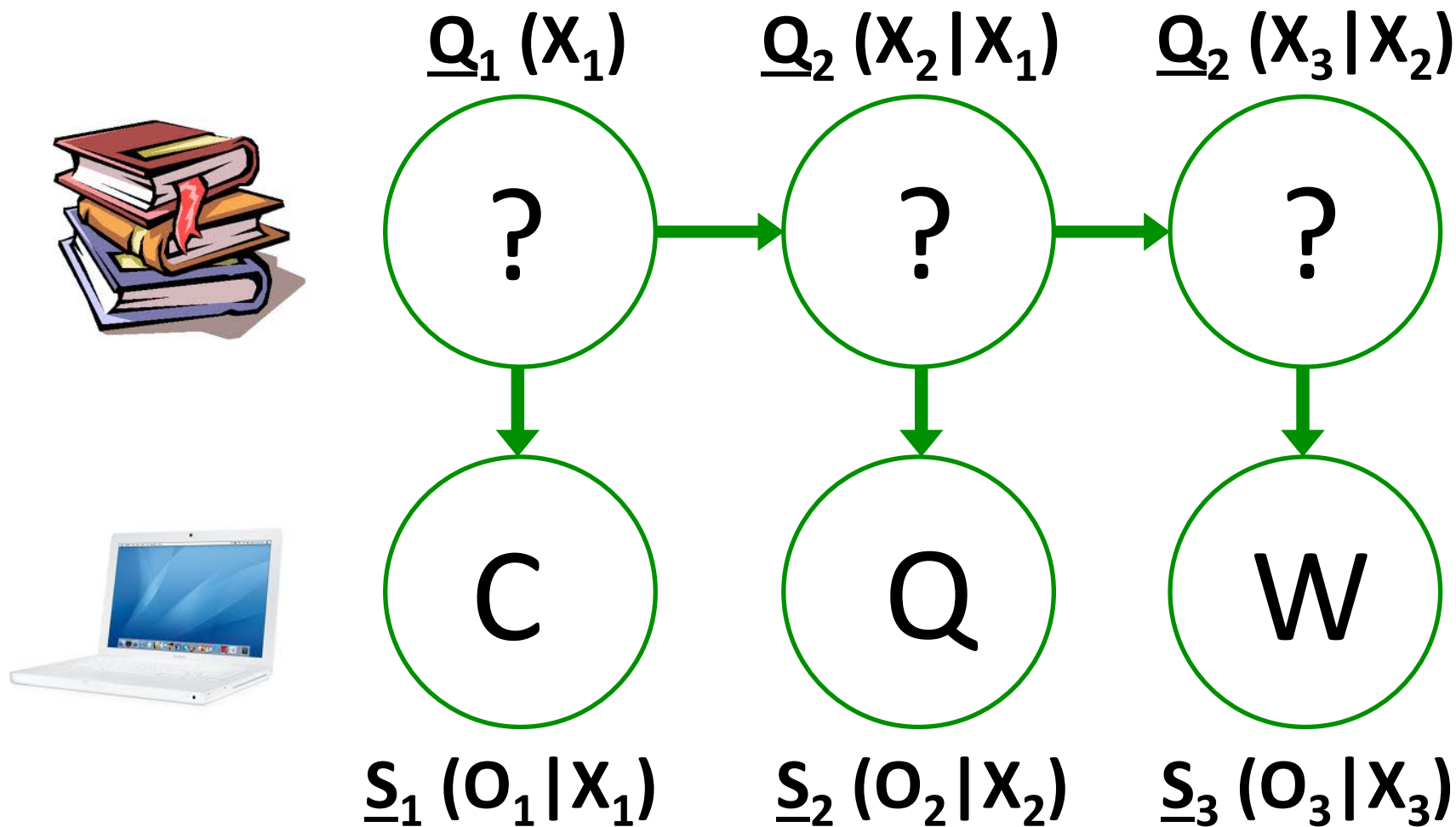
# An application

# Viterbi algorithm



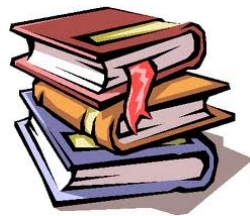
# An application

## EstiHMM algorithm





# An application



original

**VITA**

correctly read

digital

**VITA**



La Divina Commedia

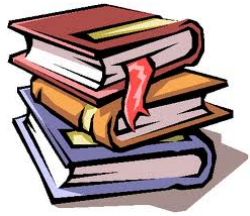
Solution Viterbi

**VITA**

Solution(s) EstiHMM-algoritme

**VITA**

# An application



original

**CON**

**incorrectly** read

digital

**CCN**



## La Divina Commedia

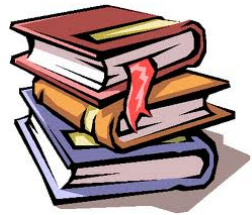
Solution Viterbi

**CON**

Solution(s) EstiHMM-algoritme

**CON**

# An application



original

**EH**

correctly read

digital

**EH**



# La Divina Commedia

Solution Viterbi

**EN**

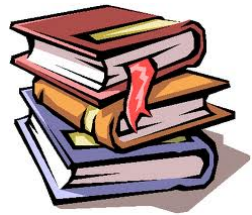
Solution(s) EstiHMM-algoritme

**CH**

**EH**

**EN**

# An application



original

**IO**

**incorrectly** read

digital

**ZO**



## La Divina Commedia

Solution Viterbi

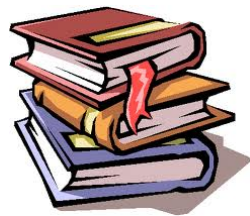
**LO**

Solution(s) EstiHMM-algoritme

**LO**

**IO**

# An application



original

**CHE**

**incorrectly** read

digital

**CNE**



## La Divina Commedia

Solution Viterbi

**ONE**

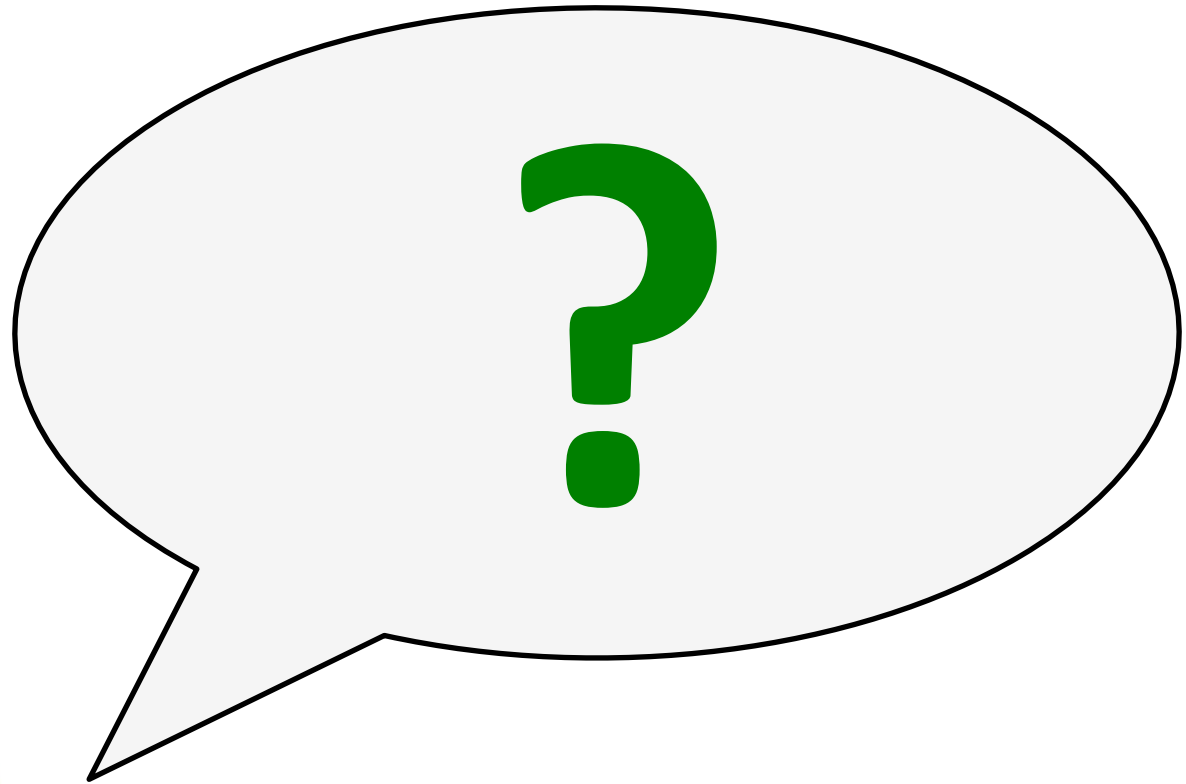
Solution(s) EstiHMM-algoritme

**CBE** **CHE**

**CNE** **CZE**

**ONE**

**Thanks for your attention!**



Questions?