

---

# Two nonparametric approaches to cognitive diagnosis modeling

---

Brian W. Junker  
Carnegie Mellon University  
[brian@stat.cmu.edu](mailto:brian@stat.cmu.edu)

25<sup>th</sup> Workshop on Item Response Theory. Oct 12-15, 2009.  
Twente University, Enschede, The Netherlands

---

# Outline

- Cognitive Diagnosis Models (CDM's)
- The ASSISTMENTS Project
- Two Nonparametric Approaches in CDM's
  - Nonparametric Skills Inference
  - Nonparametric Skills Discovery
- Some Thoughts

# Cognitive Diagnosis Models (CDM's)

## ■ Basic ingredients

$X_{ij}$  = 1 if examinee  $i$  performs task  $j$  correctly; 0 else

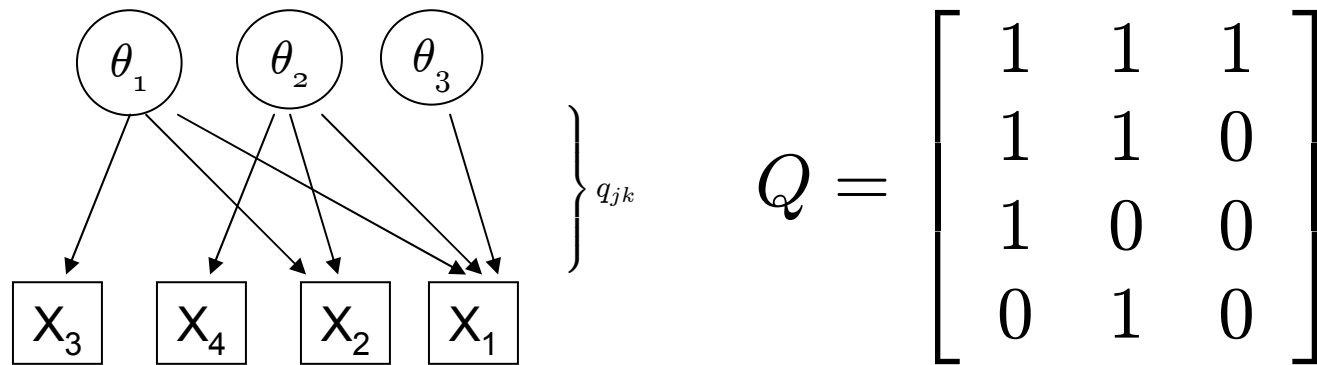
$q_{jk}$  = 1 if skill  $k$  is related to task  $j$ ; 0 else

$\theta_{ik}$  = 1 if examinee  $i$  possesses skill  $k$ ; 0 else

- Additional parameters  $\beta_j$  for the structure of  $P(\theta_i, \beta_j, Q) = P[X_{ij}=1 | \theta_i, \beta_j, Q]$
- $\theta_{ik}$  is latent (knowledge state component of examinee)  
[  $\theta_i = (\theta_{i1}, \dots, \theta_{iK})$  is a latent class label ]
- **Skill = attribute = knowledge component = ...**

# CDM's

- The Q matrix is the incidence matrix of a bipartite graph (Bayes network; conj/disj/otherwise)



- Generative model looks much like IRT model:

$$\begin{aligned} P[X_{i1} = x_{i1}, \dots, X_{iJ} = x_{iJ} | \theta_i, \beta_j, Q] \\ = \prod_{j=1}^J P(\theta_i, \beta_j, Q)^{x_{ij}} (1 - P(\theta_i, \beta_j, Q))^{1-x_{ij}} \end{aligned}$$

# A simple parametric, conjunctive CDM: Deterministic Input, Noisy “And”: DINA

$$\xi_{ij} = \prod_{k=1}^K \theta_{ik}^{q_{jk}} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } i \text{ has all } \theta\text{'s for } j \\ 0 & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

$$P_j(\theta_i) = (1 - s_j)^{\xi_{ij}} g_j^{1 - \xi_{ij}}, \beta_j = (\text{slip } s_j, \text{guess } g_j)$$

- Origins with Macready & Dayton (1977 *JES*), Tatsuoka (1983 *JEM*), Embretson (1984 *Pmka*), Haertel (1989 *JEM*)
- Reviewed/named by Junker & Sijtsma (2001, *APM*)
- Rediscovered often (e.g. educational data mining)
  - Barnes' (2006 AAI EDM wkshp) Q-matrix work is based on a model like this with  $s=g=0$
  - Pardos et al (2006 AAI EDM wkshp) applied to tutoring data

---

# Generalizations Within and Beyond Conjunctive Modeling...

- RUM (Reduced, reparametrized, unified model);
  - Dibello et al (1995, *Cognitively Diagnostic Assessment*, Chipman et al, eds);
  - Roussos et al (2009; *CDA for Education: Theory and Practice*, Leighton & Gierl, eds)
- Expansions...
  - LCDM (Templin, IMPS09; Henson et al, *Pmka* 2009)
  - GDM (von Davier, 2005 ETS TR; 2008 *BJMSP*)
  - GDINA (de la Torre, IMPS09 & later in this workshop)
- Excellent reviews (Rupp & Templin, 2008, *Measurement* ; Fu & Li, 2007, NCME)

# The ASSISTMENT Online Tutor

- **Assist** students toward success on Massachusetts Comprehensive System of Assessments (MCAS) in 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Mathematics
- **Assess** students through time, provides teacher reports per student & per class.
  - **Predict MCAS Scores**
  - **KC Feedback: learned/not-learned, etc.**
- Main Items: Released MCAS or “morphs”
- Incorrect Main → “Scaffold” Items
  - “One-step” breakdowns of main task
  - Buggy feedback, hints on request, etc.
- All items coded by
  - transfer model (Q-matrix) for
  - knowledge components (KC’s; skills)
- Led by **Ken Koedinger** (CMU Team), **Neil Heffernan** (WPI and WPS Team)

19 Triangles  $ABC$  and  $DEF$  shown below are congruent.



The perimeter of  $\triangle ABC$  is 23 inches. What is the length of side  $\overline{DF}$  in  $\triangle DEF$ ?

The screenshot shows the following elements:

- Original question:** "What is the length of side DF in triangle DEF?" with a text input field containing "23".
- Hint:** "Which side of triangle ABC has the same length as side DF of the congruent triangle DEF?" with radio button options for AB, BC, and AC. The AC option is selected.
- Original question (continued):** "What is the perimeter of triangle ABC?" with radio button options for  $1/2 * 8x$ ,  $2x + 8$ ,  $2x + x + 8$ , and  $1/2 * x(2x)$ . The  $2x + x + 8$  option is selected.
- Input field:** A text input field containing "5".
- Original question (continued):** "Now, given the perimeter of triangle ABC equals 23 inches, you can write the equation  $2x + x + 8 = 23$  and solve it for  $x$ . What is the value of  $x$ ?"
- Input field:** A text input field containing "10".
- Original question (continued):** "Good. You've just got the value of  $x$ . Now you can get the length of side AC. What is it?"
- Input field:** A text input field containing "10".
- Original question (continued):** "Remember, we are looking for side DF. Enter the length of side DF:"
- Messages:**
  - A message box stating: "Corresponding sides are congruent. In the picture below, corresponding sides are colored." It includes a diagram of the two triangles with corresponding sides highlighted in red and blue.
  - A "Buggy message" that says: "No. You might be thinking that the area is  $1/2$  base times height, but you are looking for the perimeter."
  - A "Scaffolding question" message box that says: "AC is equal to  $2x$ :" and shows a diagram of triangle ABC with side AC labeled  $2x$  and side BC labeled  $x = 5$ . Below the diagram, it lists:  $AC = 2 * 5$  and  $AC = 10$ .

---

# 2004-2005 Data

- Tutoring tasks
  - 493 main items (multiple skills)
  - 1216 scaffold items (single skills)
- Students
  - 912 eighth-graders in two middle schools
- Skills Models (Transfer Models / Q Matrices)
  - 1 “*Proficiency*”: Unidimensional IRT
  - 5 MCAS “*strands*”: Number/Operations, Algebra, Geometry, Measurement, Data/Probability
  - 39 MCAS *learning standards*: nested in the strands
  - 77 *active skills* (~ 120 potential) in a task analysis performed by Neil Heffernan and his staff
- Assisment data available at <http://pslcdatashop.org/>

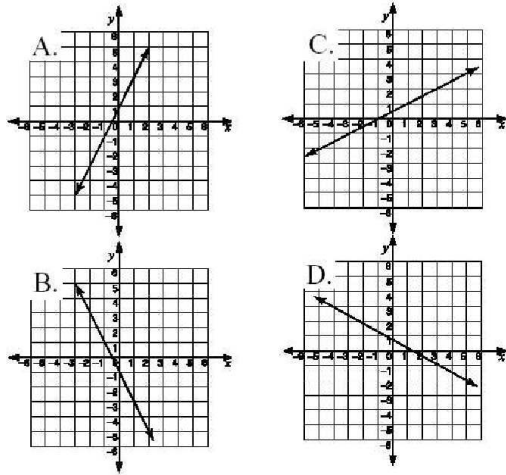
---

# Parametric Fit/Calibration: Challenges

- Sheer size of data (tasks, skills, students) can be large
- Published examples tend to be small: 5-10 skills (e.g., de la Torre, 2008, *JEBS*; Templin et al, 2008, *APM*; von Davier, 2008, *BJMSP*)
- E-M good on small K, but combin. explosion as number of skills grow ( $2^K$  latent classes...)
- MCMC for DINA using Assistment data
  - Anozie (2007, NCME): ~ 300 tasks, 100 skills, 600 students (1-3 skills/task, 20-40 tasks/student)

# Example: Guess and Slip Parameters

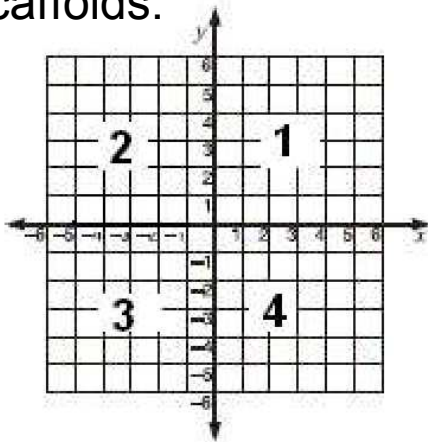
Main Item:



Which graph contains the points in the table?

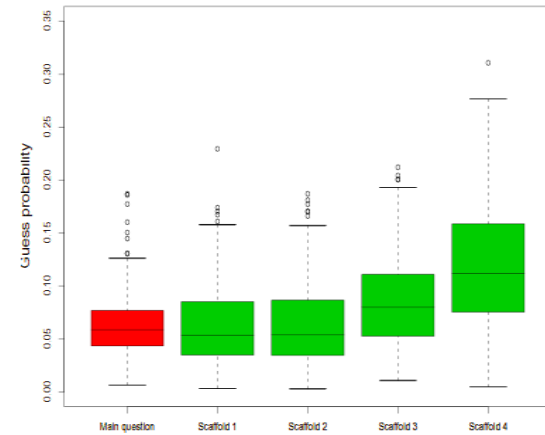
X	Y
-2	-3
-1	-1
1	3

Scaffolds:

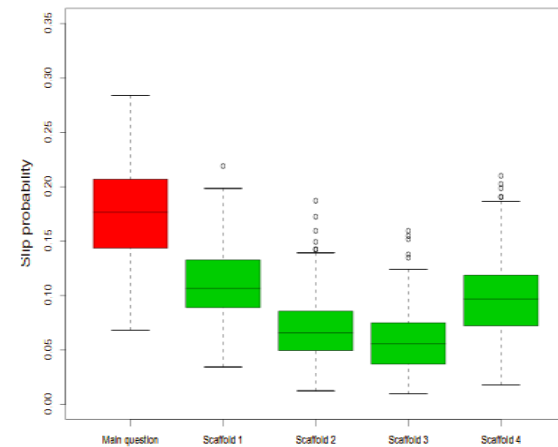


1. Quadrant of  $(-2, -3)$ ?
2. Quadrant of  $(-1, -1)$ ?
3. Quadrant of  $(1, 3)$ ?
4. [Repeat main]

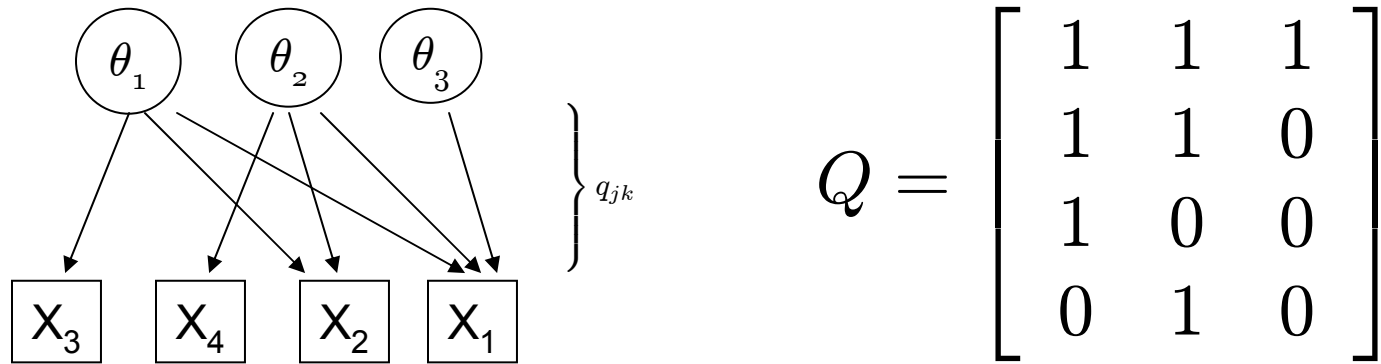
Guess (posterior boxplots)



Slip (posterior boxplots)



# Nonparametric Skills Inference: Henson et al.



- Henson, Templin & Douglas (2007, *JEM*):  
Given  $Q=[q_{jk}]$ , compute sum-scores

$$W_i = (W_{i1}, \dots, W_{iK}) \text{ where } W_{ik} = \sum_{j:i \text{ saw } j} x_{ij} q_{jk}$$

as a measure of mastery of individual skills

---

# Nonparametric Skills Inference: Chiu et al.

- Chiu (2008 Dissertation)
  - Recover “perfect”  $\theta_i$ 's from  $W_i$ 's: K-means, hierarchical agglomerative clustering
  - **Theorem**: If there is a non-vanishing proportion of single-skill items for each skill, then as  $J$  grows, all  $2^K$  latent classes can be recovered
  - For  $K=3$ , 4 skills,  $N=500$  subjects, recovery of all  $2^K$  clusters moderate (ARI~0.50) for  $J=20$  items to excellent (ARI~0.95) for  $J=80$  items

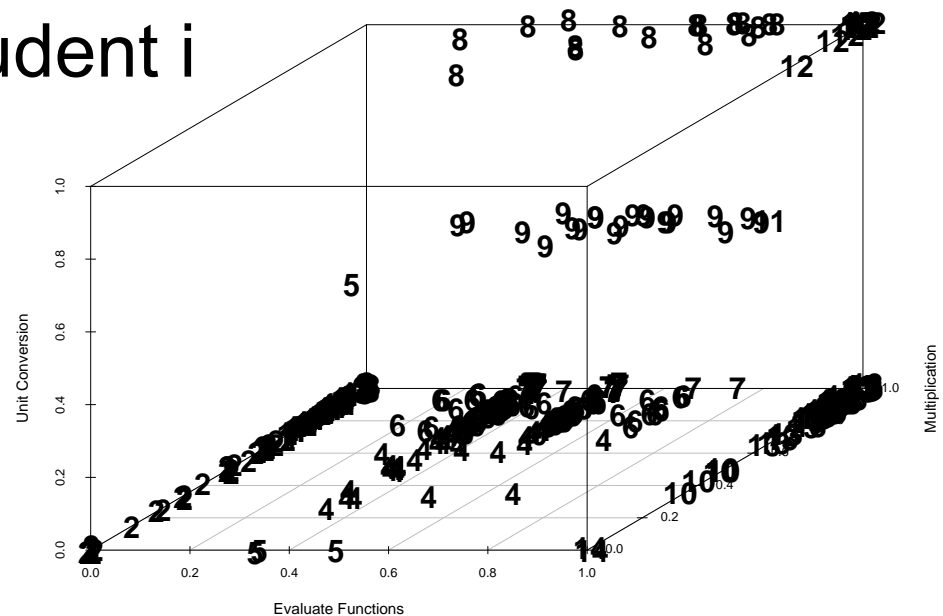
# Nonparametric Skills Inference: Ayers

- Ayers, Nugent & Dean (2008, *First Int'l Conf on Educ. Data Mining*; 2009, *IMPS*) consider the capability matrix with rows

$$B_i = (B_{i1}, \dots, B_{iK})$$

where  $B_{ik} = W_{ik}/J_{ik}$ ,  $J_{ik}$  = number of tasks with attribute  $k$  seen by student  $i$

- Maps sum scores directly into unit hypercube; corners are pure 0/1 attribute/KC profiles
- Accommodates MCAR data
- Use model-based clustering (MBC) to identify major skill groups



# Nonparametric Skills Inference: Ayers

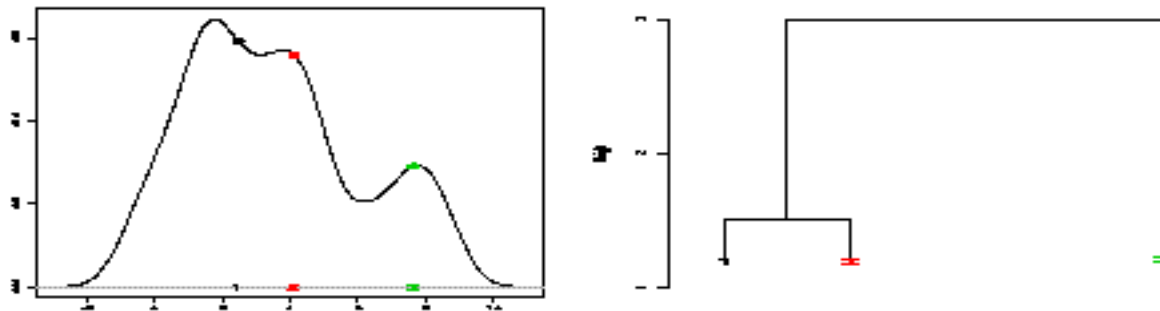
- Typical Result (N=250, J=30, K=3, unbalanced mixed design):

ARI	% Missing				
	0	10	20	30	40
DINA (MCMC)	0.92	0.91	0.88	0.82	0.77
Sum-Score (HAC)	0.65	0.57	0.48	0.37	0.33
Capability (MBC)	0.66	0.55	0.47	0.48	0.43

- Speedups can be substantial. E.g. for K=10 attributes/KC's:

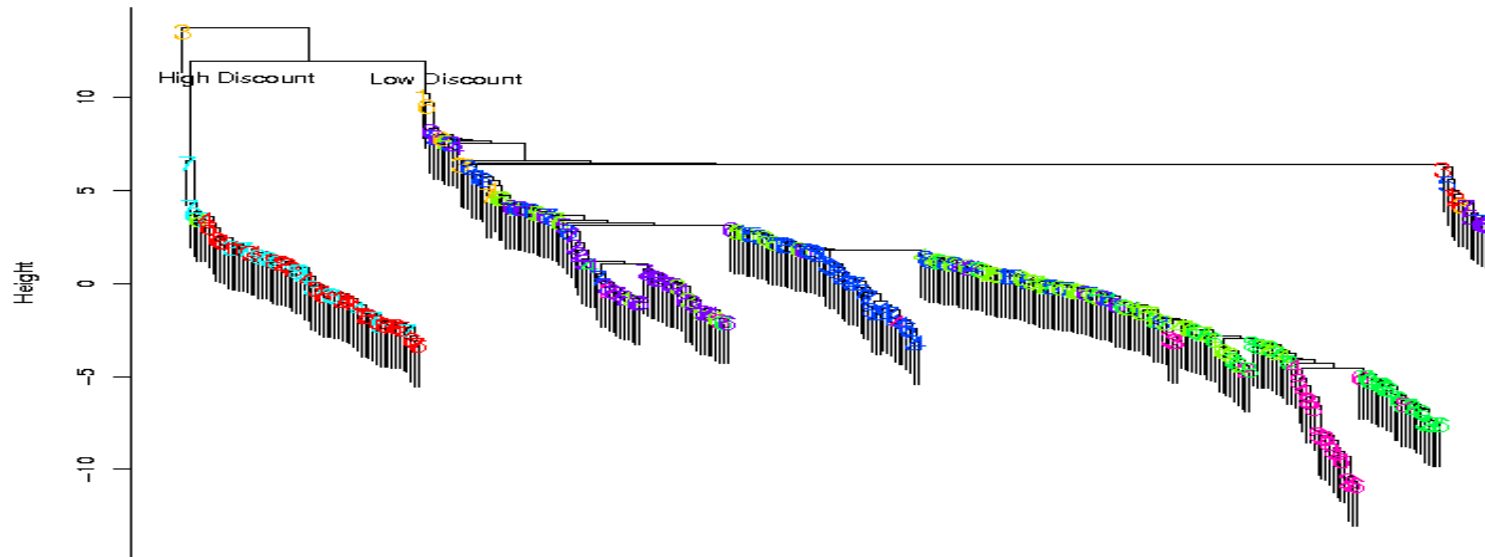
- Winbugs estimation of DINA: 1 day
- EM estimation of DINA: 15 min
- Clustering: 2 sec

- Visualization using Nugent & Dean (2009) minimum-density linkage



# Example from Assistments Project

- $J = 135$  items,  $K = 13$  attributes,  $N = 344$  students



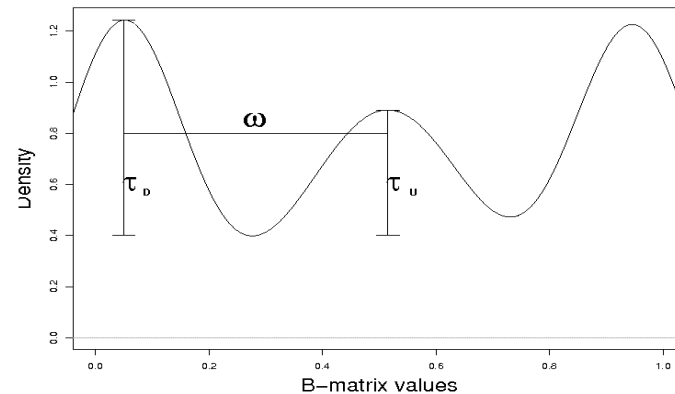
- One outlying student
- Higher dimensional information
  - Equation Solving, Reading a Graph, Substitution
- Really less than  $2^{13}$  interesting groups here

# Nonparametric Skills Inference: Ayers

- Ayers et al (2009, 2<sup>nd</sup> EDM Conference) explore *Conditional*

## *Subspace (Pre)Clustering*

- Find dimensions with modes separated by well-def valleys
- Cluster remaining dimensions, conditional on these modes

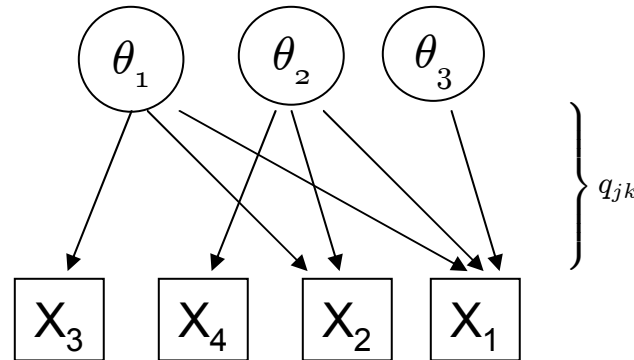


- Often comparable to straight Model-Based Clust (MBC)
- Observed computational savings (simulation):

	DINA-MCMC	DINA-EM	MBC
DINA-EM	96–840		
MBC	3–1900	1–450	
Conditional	85–12000	1–900	3–900

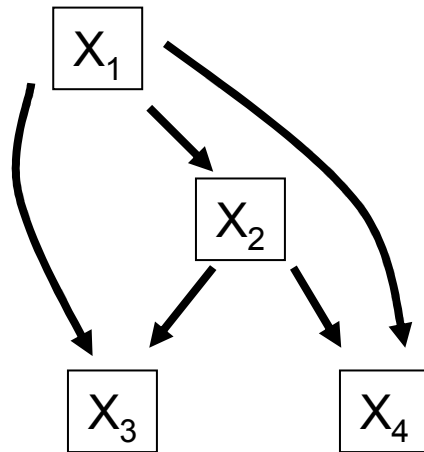
# Nonparametric Skills Discovery

- Q-Matrix (Skills Graph):



$$Q = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

- R-Matrix (Surmise Graph):



$$R = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

---

# Nonparametric Skills Discovery

- Algebraically,  $R = (Q^c \circ Q^T)^c$ 
  - $Q^c = 1 - Q$
  - $\circ$  is matrix mult with “and” for  $*$  and “or” for  $+$
- Discovering  $Q$ :
  - Part I. Estimate  $R$  from Data
  - Part II. Find a  $Q$  that factors  $R$  as above

# Nonparametric Skills Discovery:

## Estimating R from Data

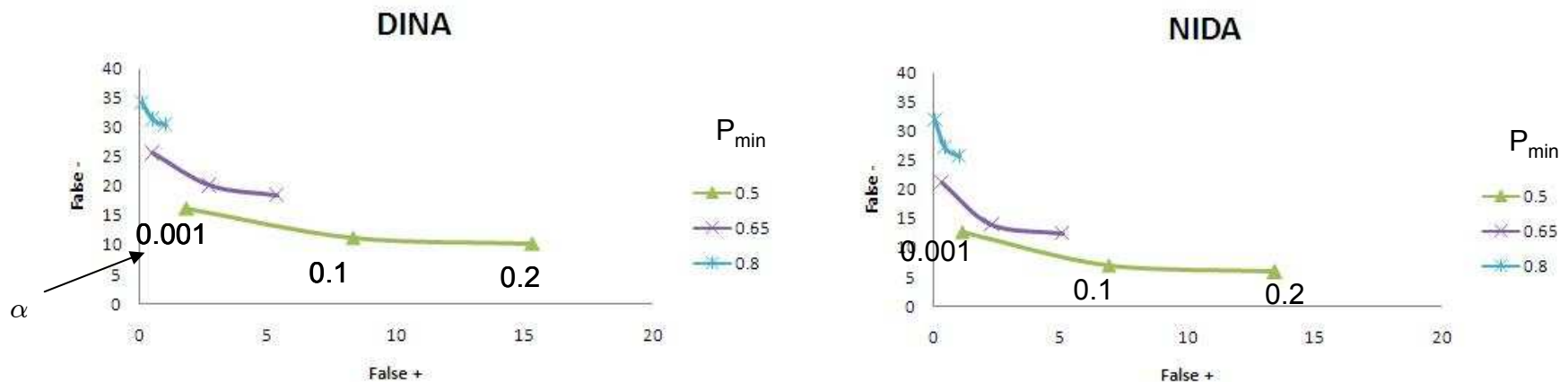
- $X_a \rightarrow X_b$  iff success on  $X_b$  can be surmised from success on  $X_a$ 
  - $P[X_b=1|X_a=1]$  large and  $P[X_a=0|X_b=0]$  large
  - Test Odds( $X_b|X_a$ )  $\approx n_{11}/n_{10}$  large,  
Odds( $\sim X_a|\sim X_b$ )  $\approx n_{00}/n_{10}$  large:

		$X_b$	
		<hr/>	
		$n_{00}$	$n_{01}$
$X_a$	<hr/>		
		$n_{10}$	$n_{11}$

- Want  $n_{10}$  small; similar to Guttman condition
- **Desmarais & Pu (2005, *IntJ AI in Ed*)**

# Nonparametric Skills Discovery: Estimating R from Data

- Tucker (2009 Honors Thesis), Part I:
  - Simulated 45,000 data sets from DINA and NIDA
  - Conditional binomial tests to recover “true” R...

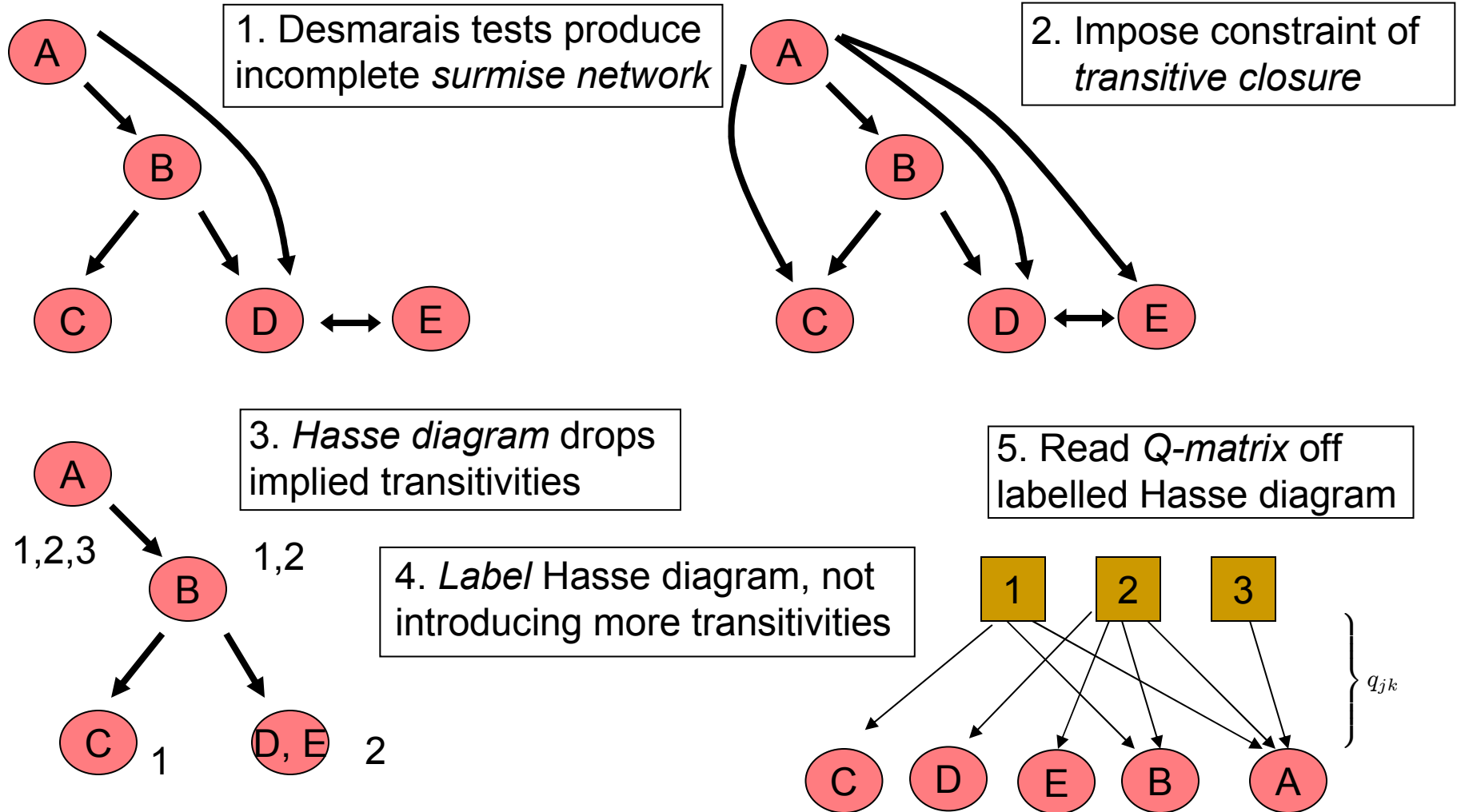


---

# Nonparametric Skills Discovery: Finding $Q$ to Factor $R$

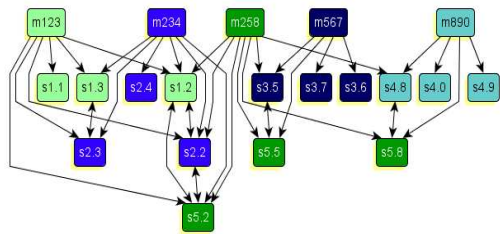
- Tucker (2009), Part II:
  - Compute transitive closure of estimated  $R$ 
    - Compensate partially for false-negative edges
    - $R = (Q^c \circ Q^T)^c$  is transitively closed
  - Compute Hasse Diagram from estimated  $R$ 
    - Minimal directed graph with same transitive closure
    - Combine mutually surmised items into equivalence classes
  - $Q$  is not unique
    - $Q = R^T$  is always possible
    - Minimal  $Q$  is NP-hard (Leenen, van Mechelen & DeBoeck, 1999, *JMP*)
    - Find a labelling of Hasse Diagram that is “useful”

# Nonparametric Skills Discovery (Tucker)

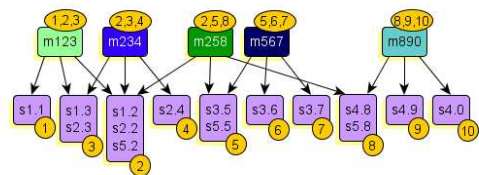


# Nonparametric Skills Discovery Examples

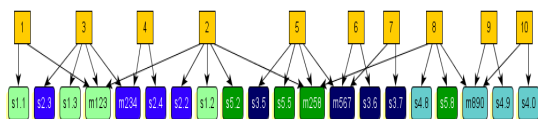
Target R



Target Hasse Diagram

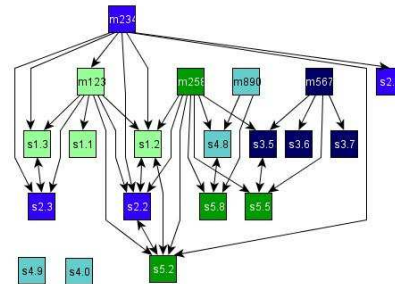


Target Q-Matrix



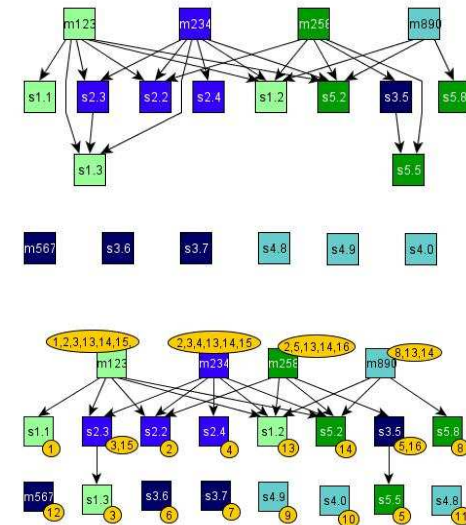
- 10 attribs in all

Liberal Discovery



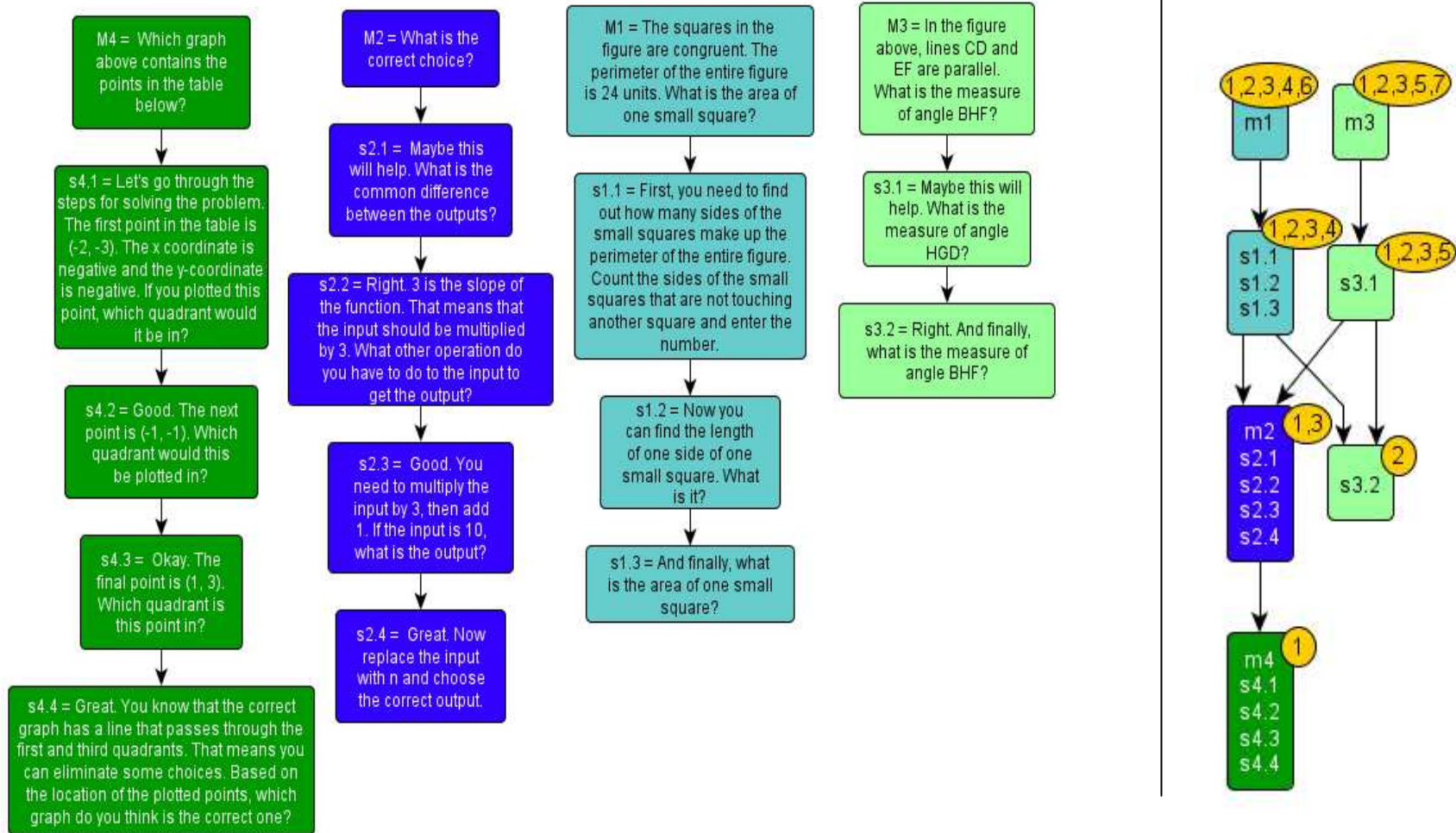
- All equivalence classes detected
- 1 additional skill required for M234
- 11 attribs in all

Conservative Discovery



- Many edges & equivalent nodes not detected
- Many more skills needed
- 16 attribs in all

# Example from Assisments Project



---

## Some Thoughts...

- Nonparametric approaches to CDM's are in their infancy
- Key motivating factor is computation that scales up as data size scales up
  - parametric model computation need not scale well
- As with Nonparametric IRT, success with
  - Partial sum scores, for scoring students
  - Manifest covariance structure, for discovering latent structure
  - Clustering methods

---

## More Thoughts...

- Building a Nonparametric CDM theory may help understanding of the models as well as speed/scalability of inference
- Data sharing & data repositories matter.  
<http://pslcdatashop.org> ...and what else?
- The educational data mining community has
  - interesting psychometric problems,
  - lots of data, and
  - competitors/collaborators.

We should see what they're up to!

<http://www.educationaldatamining.org>

---

---

END