



**WPI**

# **Recurrent Bayesian Classifier Chains for Exact Multi-Label Classification**

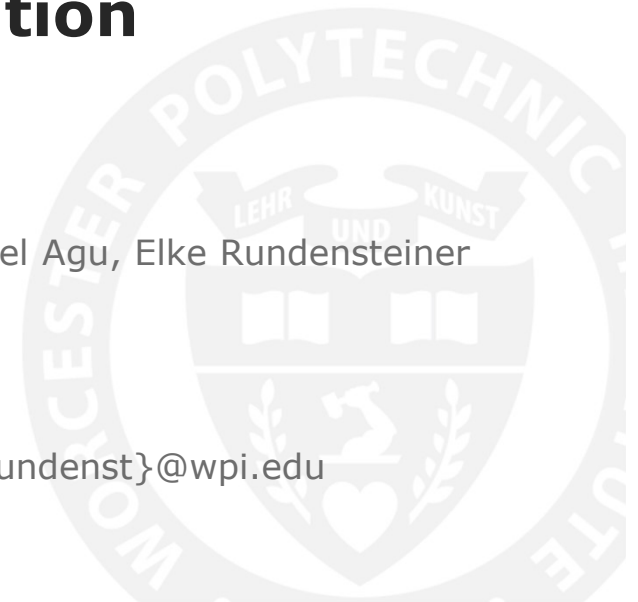
NeurIPS 2021

Walter Gerych\*, Tom Hartvigsen, Luke Buquicchio, Emmanuel Agu, Elke Rundensteiner

Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Worcester, MA

{wgerych, twhartvigsen, lbuiquicchio, emmanuel, rundenst}@wpi.edu



# Multi-Label Data Is Common

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Computer Vision



$X =$

Predictive Medicine



Text Mining



$C =$

{  
Person  
Laptop  
Soda can  
}

{  
Hypertension  
Arrhythmia  
}

{  
Editorial  
Science  
Health  
}

# Multi-Label Classification

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$$X, c_1, c_2, \dots, c_L \sim (X, C_1, C_2, \dots, C_L)$$

such that  $c_i = 1$  if class  $i$  applies to  $x$ , and  $c_i = 0$  otherwise

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Goal:

Construct  $f(x) = c_1, c_2, \dots, c_L$

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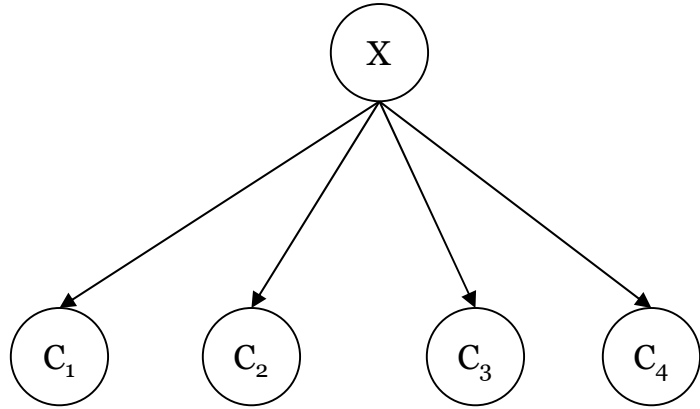
# Background

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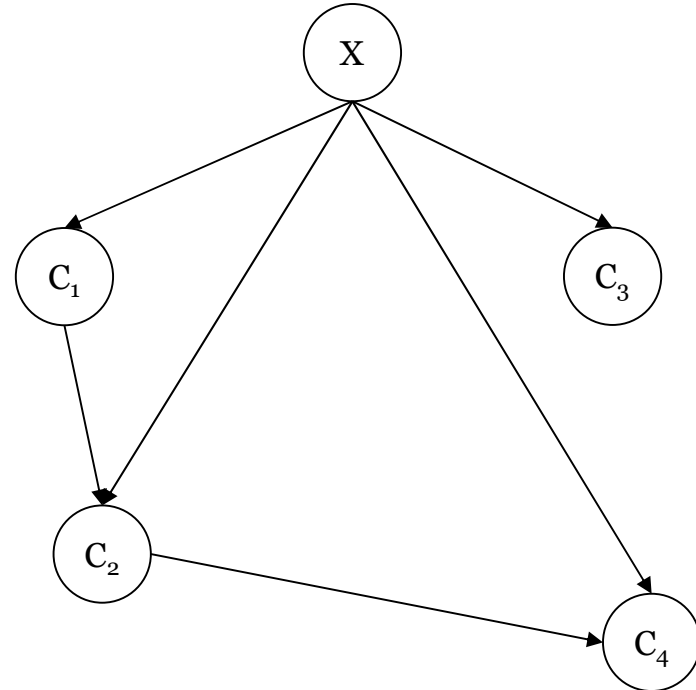
# Exploiting Label Relationships

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Binary Approach



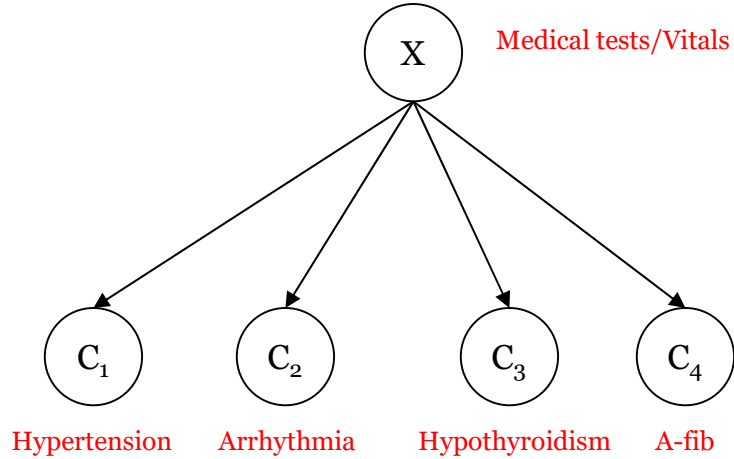
Modeling Label Dependencies



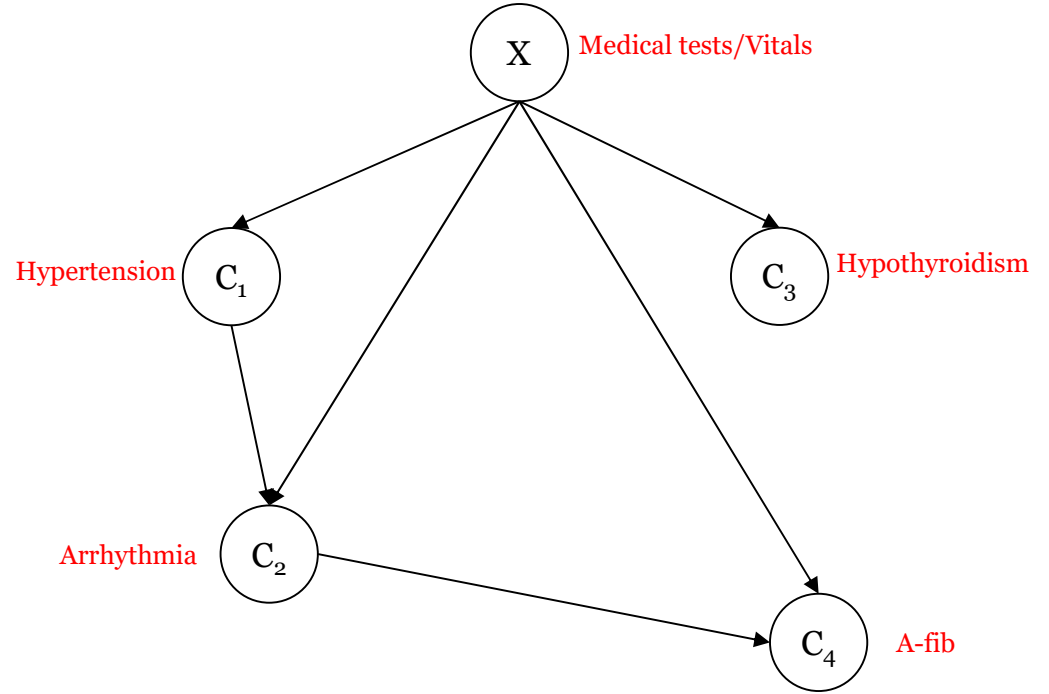
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Binary Approach



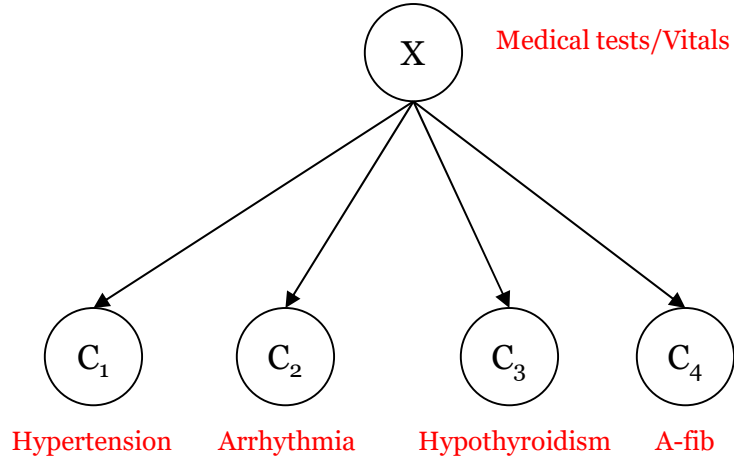
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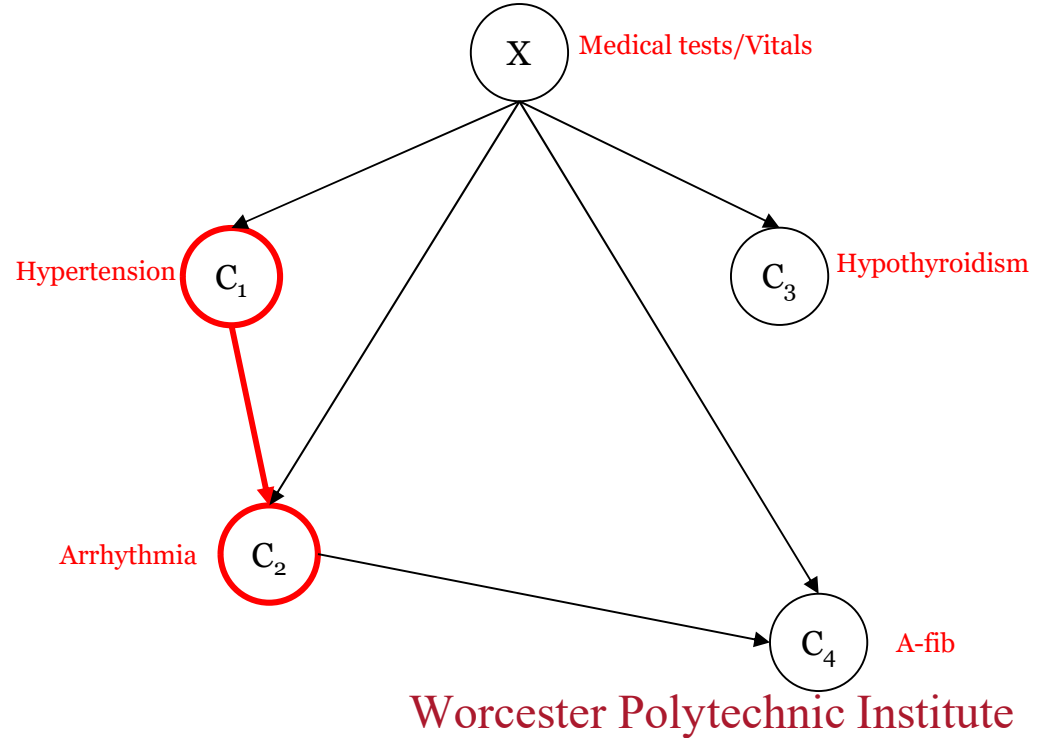
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Binary Approach



Modeling Label Dependencies





# Leading Approach: Recurrent Classifier Chains

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$$P(C_1, C_2, \dots, C_L | X) = P(C_1 | X) \prod_{i=2}^L P(C_i | C_{<i}, X)$$

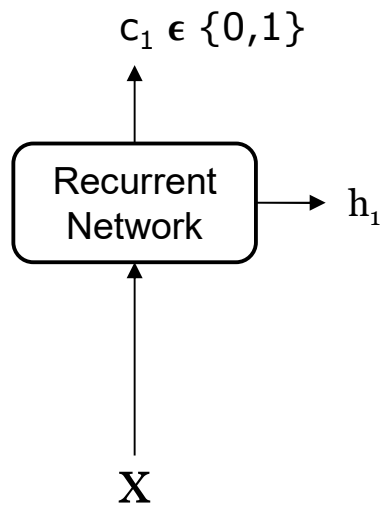
Nam, Jinseok, et al. "Maximizing subset accuracy with recurrent neural networks in multi-label classification." NeurIPS 2017.

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# Leading Approach: RCC

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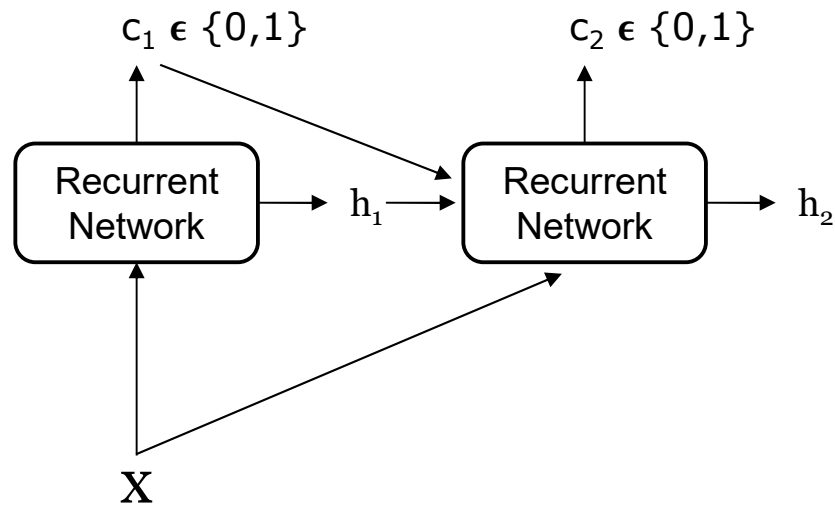
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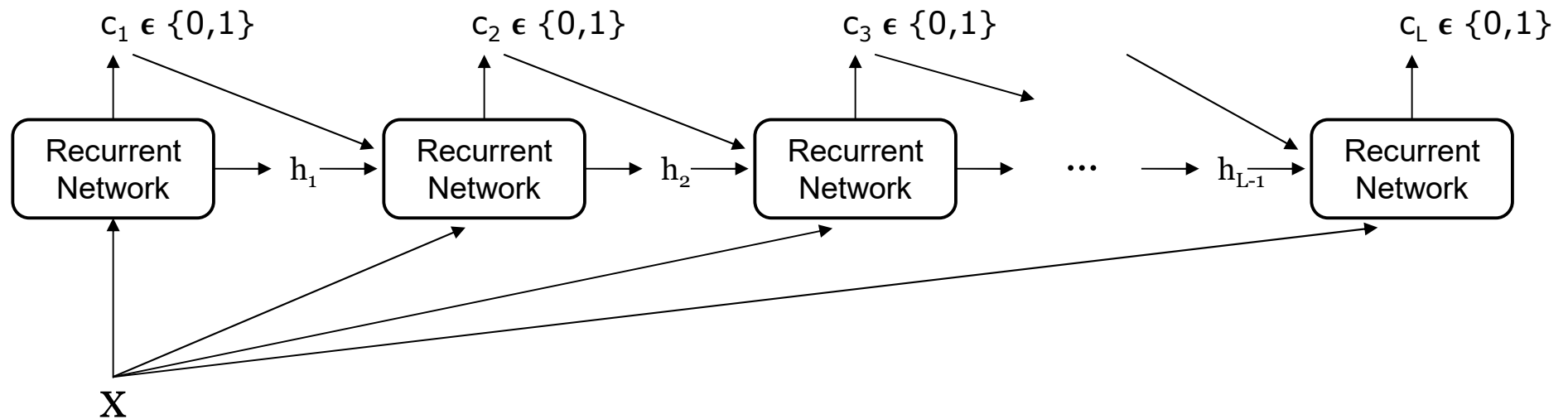
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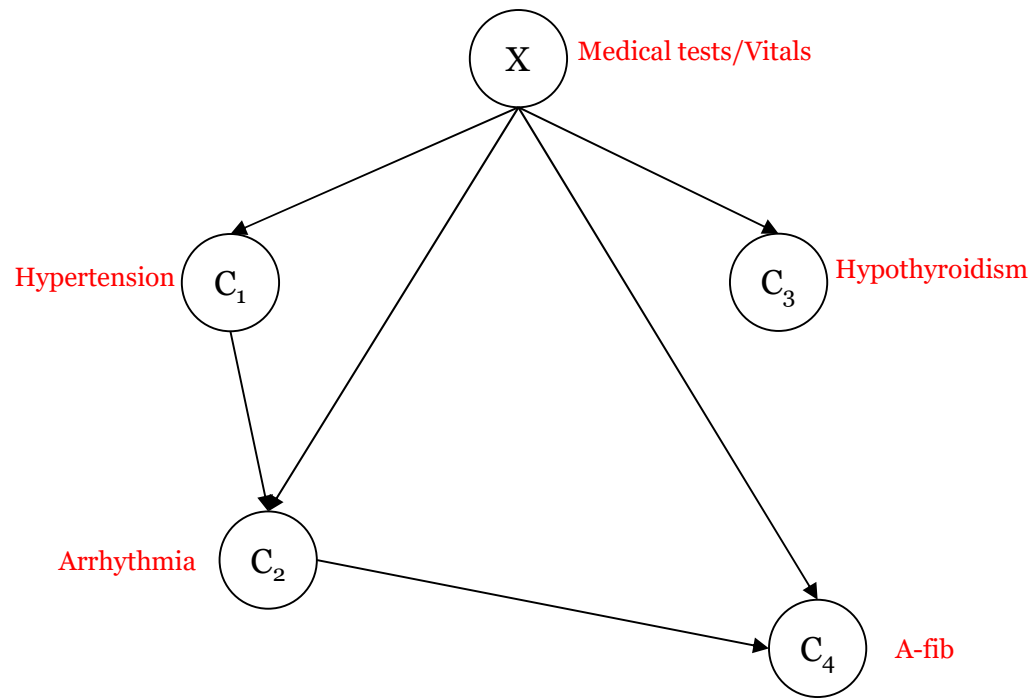
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# **Limitations of RCCs**

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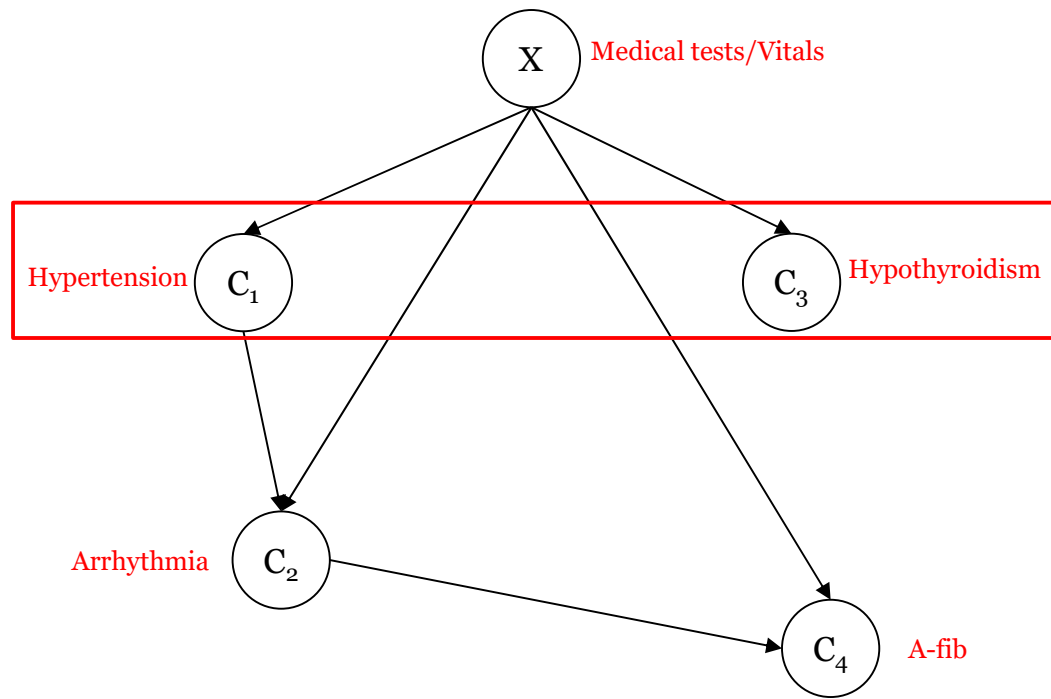
# Limitation 1: Noisy Conditioning

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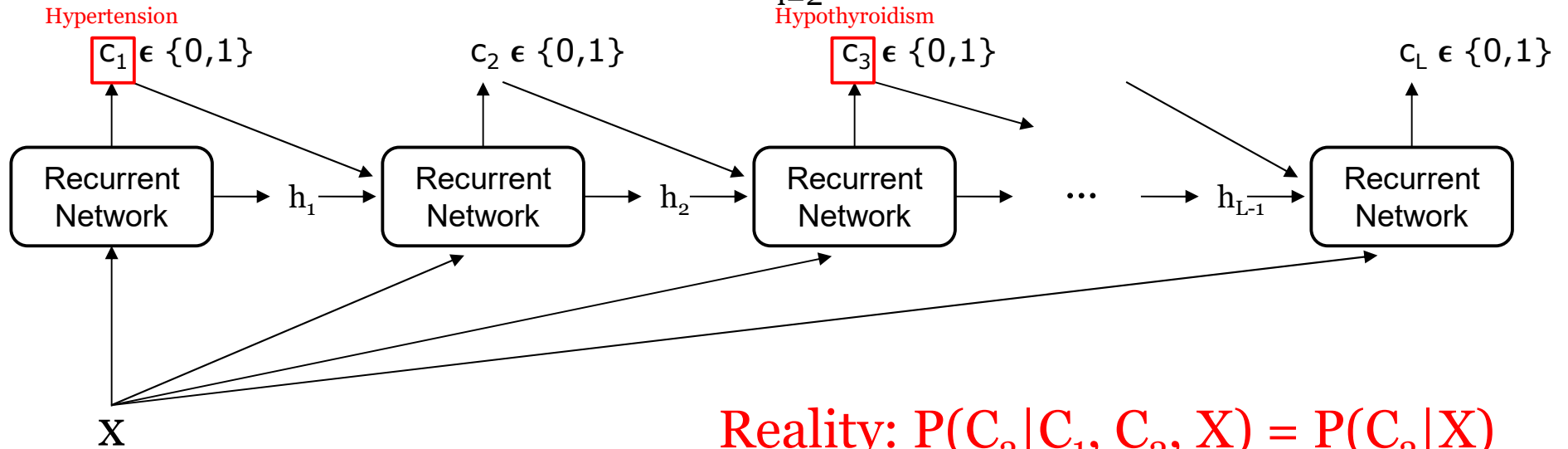
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# Limitation 1: Noisy Conditioning

$$P(C_1, C_2, \dots, C_L | X) = P(C_1 | X) \prod_{i=2}^L P(C_i | C_{<i}, X)$$



Reality:  $P(C_3 | C_1, C_2, X) = P(C_3 | X)$

RCC model:  $f(C_3 | C_1, C_2, X) \neq f(C_3 | X)$

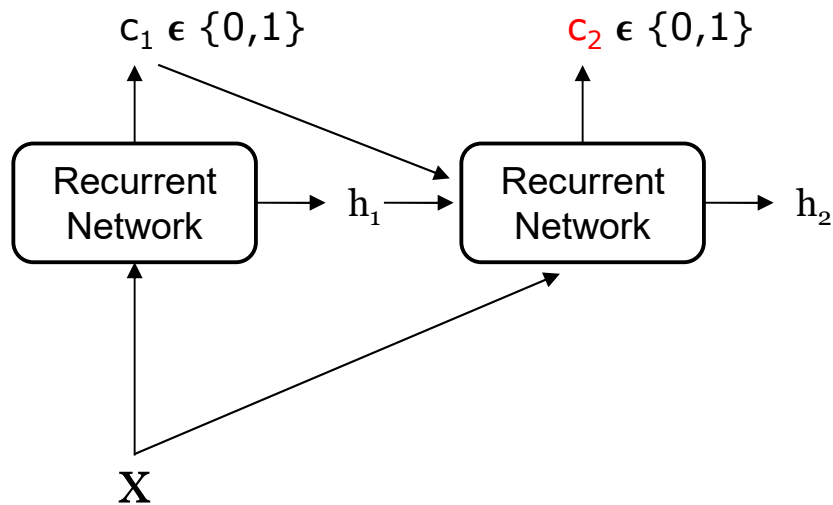
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# Limitation 2: Error Propagation

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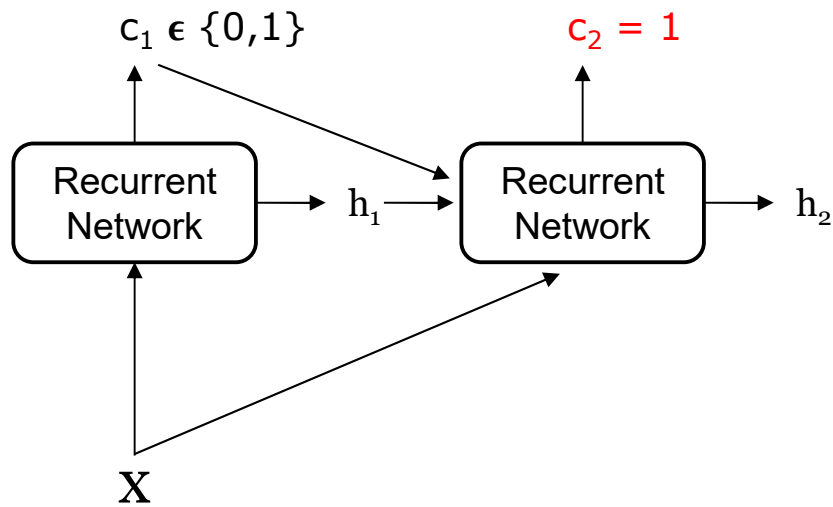
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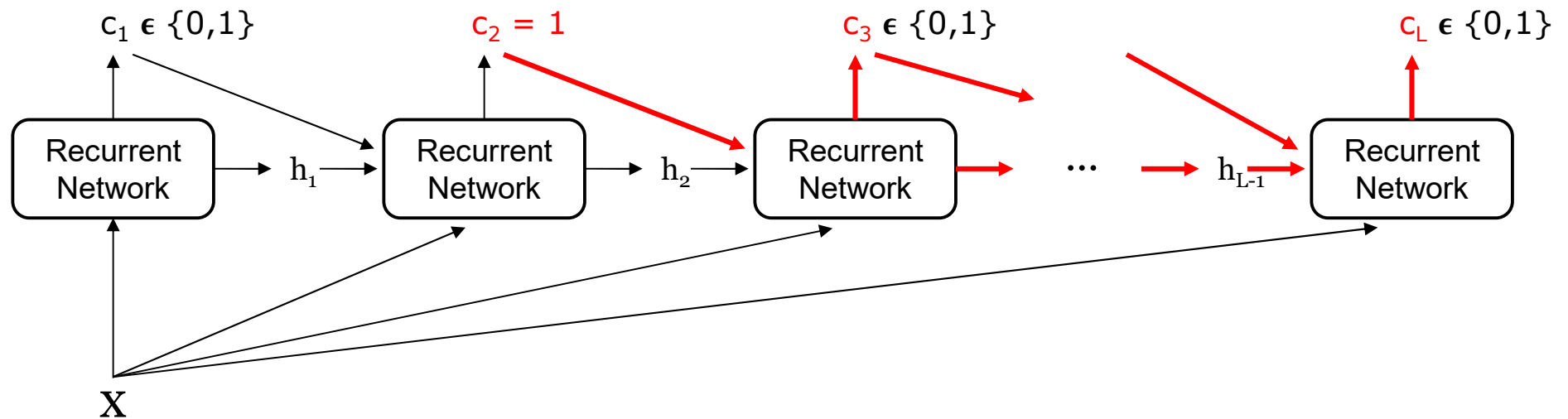
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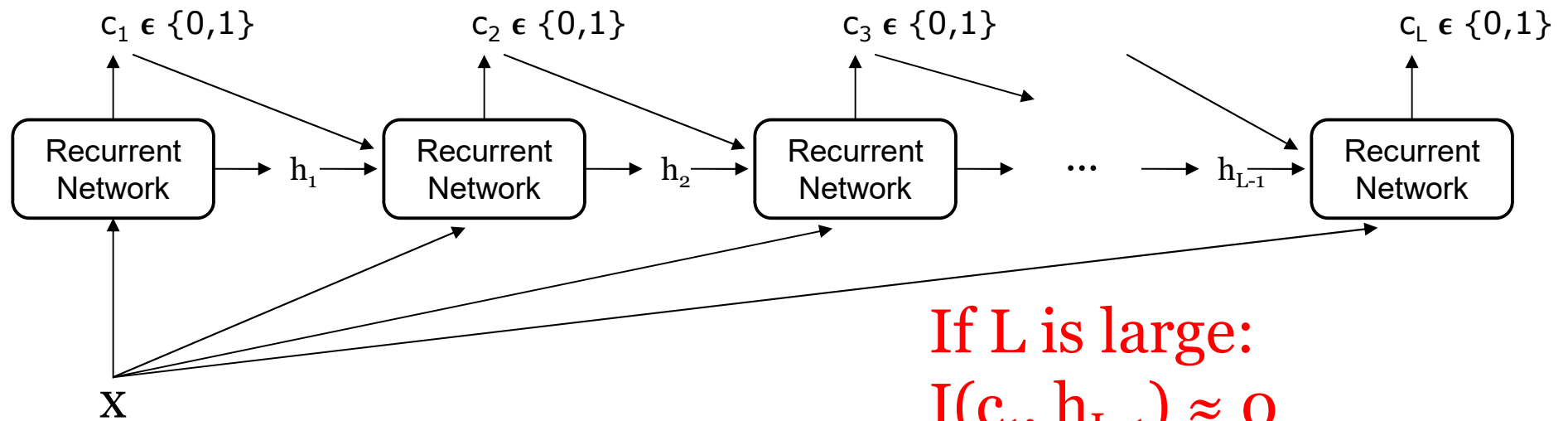
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# Limitation 3: Large Label Sets

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$$P(C_1, C_2, \dots, C_L | X) = P(C_1 | X) \prod_{i=2}^L P(C_i | C_{<i}, X)$$



If  $L$  is large:  
 $I(c_1, h_{L-1}) \approx 0$

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# **Our Approach: Recurrent Bayesian Classifier Chains**

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# Overview of Recurrent Bayesian Classifier Chains

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RBCC key components:

1. Infer Bayesian network of label dependencies
2. Modify RCC architecture to only use parent classes (defined by Bayesian network) for inference

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# Overview of Recurrent Bayesian Classifier Chains

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RBCC key components:

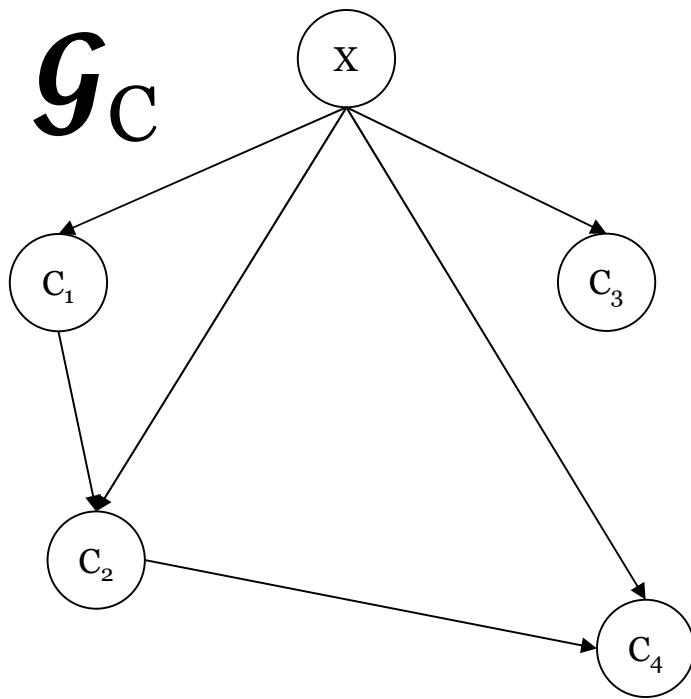
1. Infer Bayesian network of label dependencies
2. Modify RCC architecture to only use parent classes (defined by Bayesian network) for inference

Tackles challenges by:

- Eliminating noisy conditioning
- Minimizing error propagation
- Removing need for long-term memory

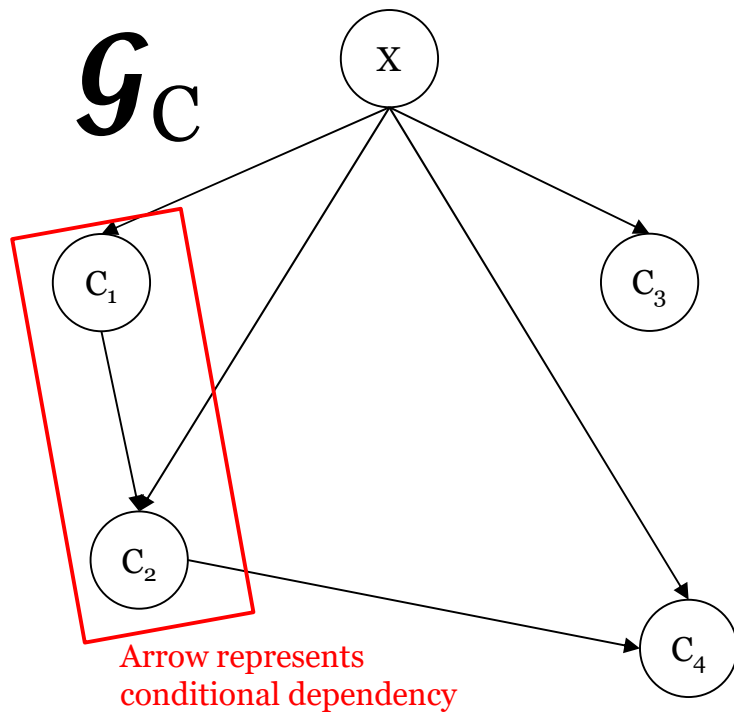
# RBCC Step 1: Label Dependency Graph

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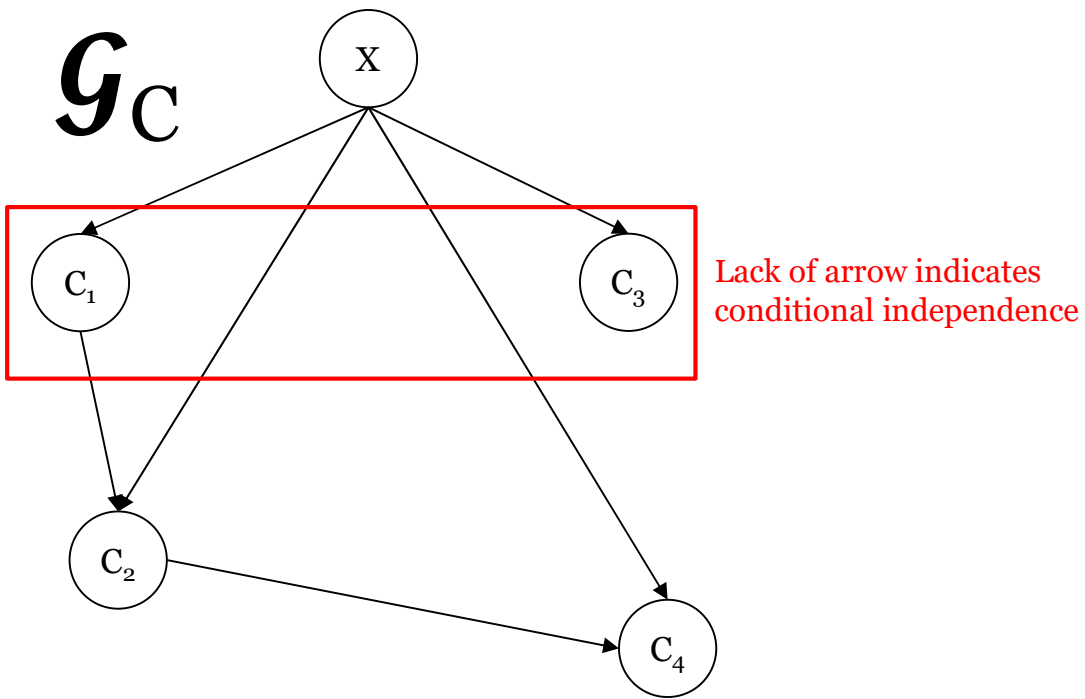
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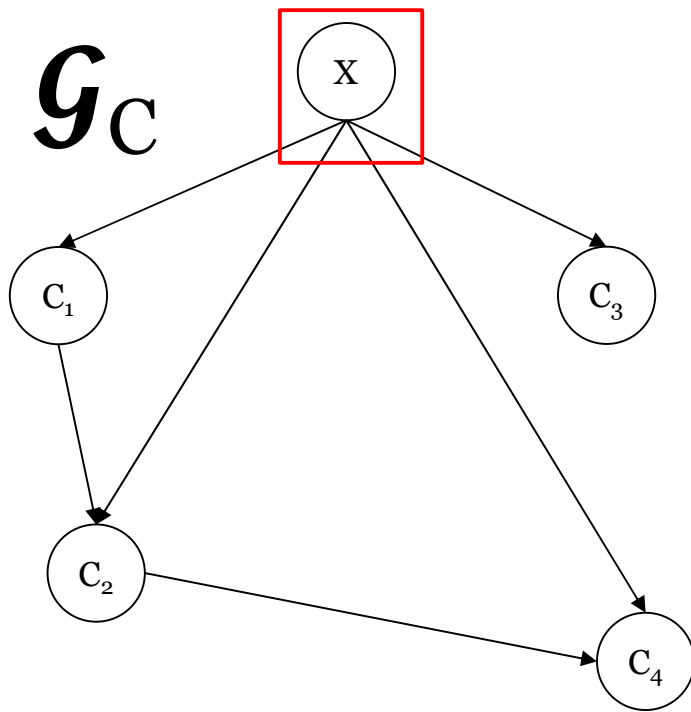
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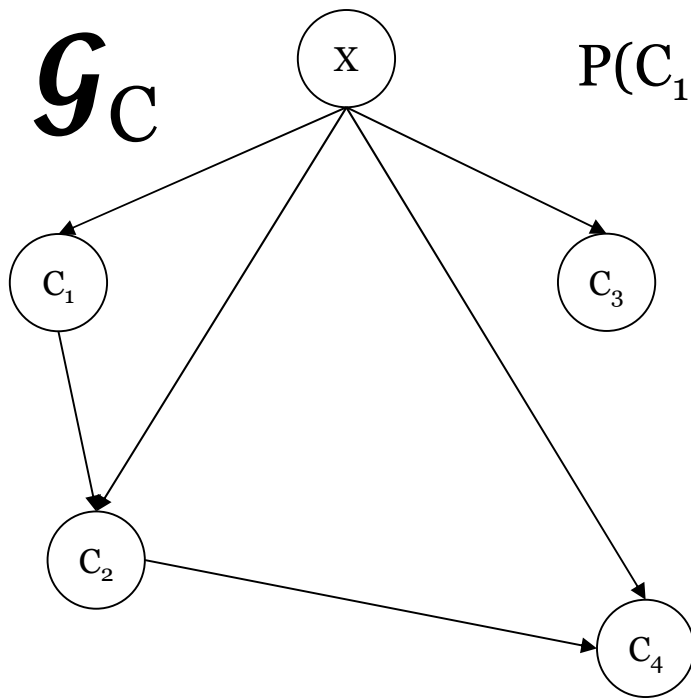
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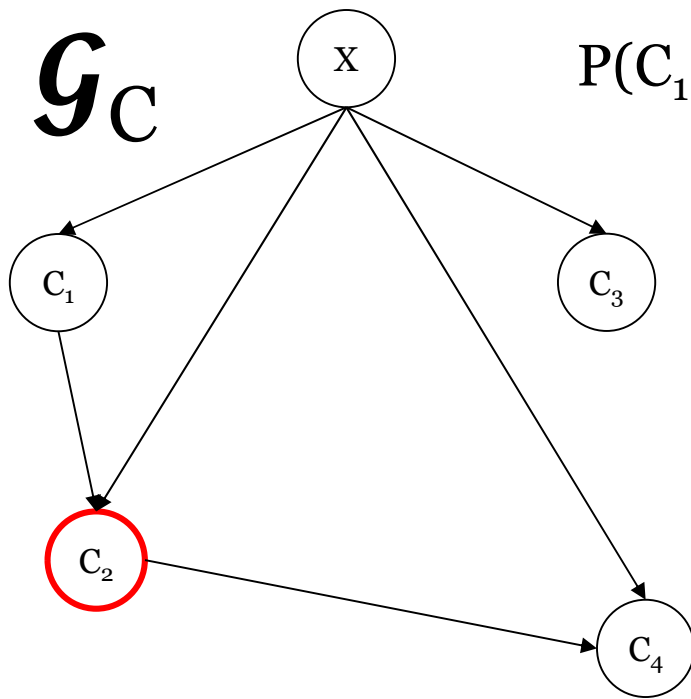
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$$= P(C_1 | X) \prod_{i=2}^L P(C_i | \text{Pa}_{\mathcal{G}_C}(C_i))$$

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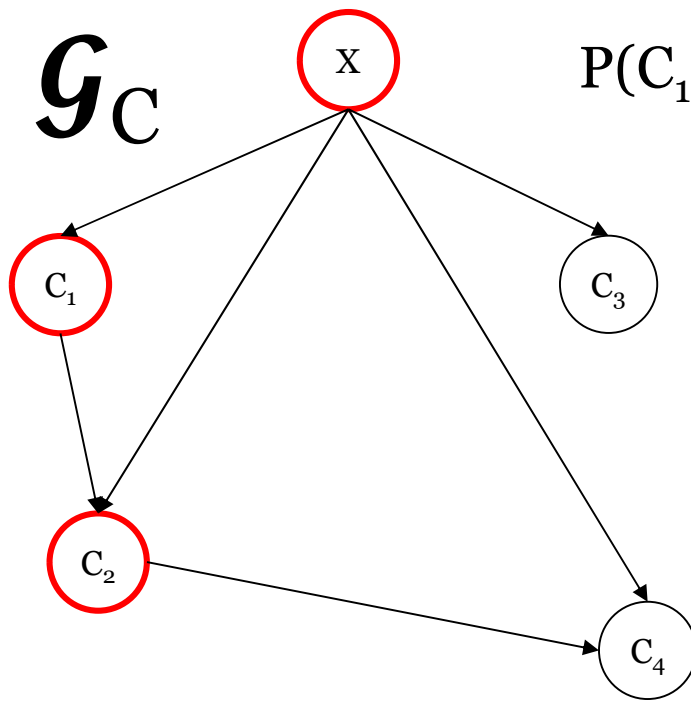


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ex:  $\text{Pa}_{\mathcal{G}_C}(C_2) = C_1, X$

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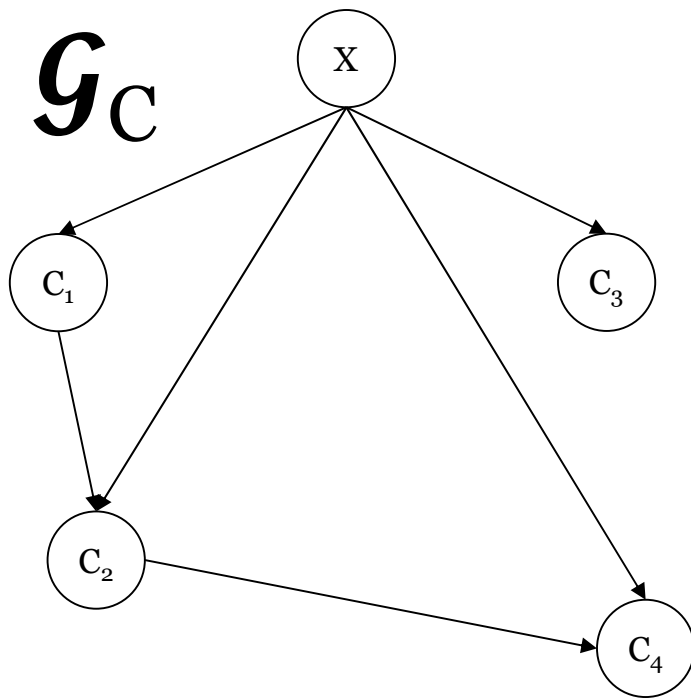
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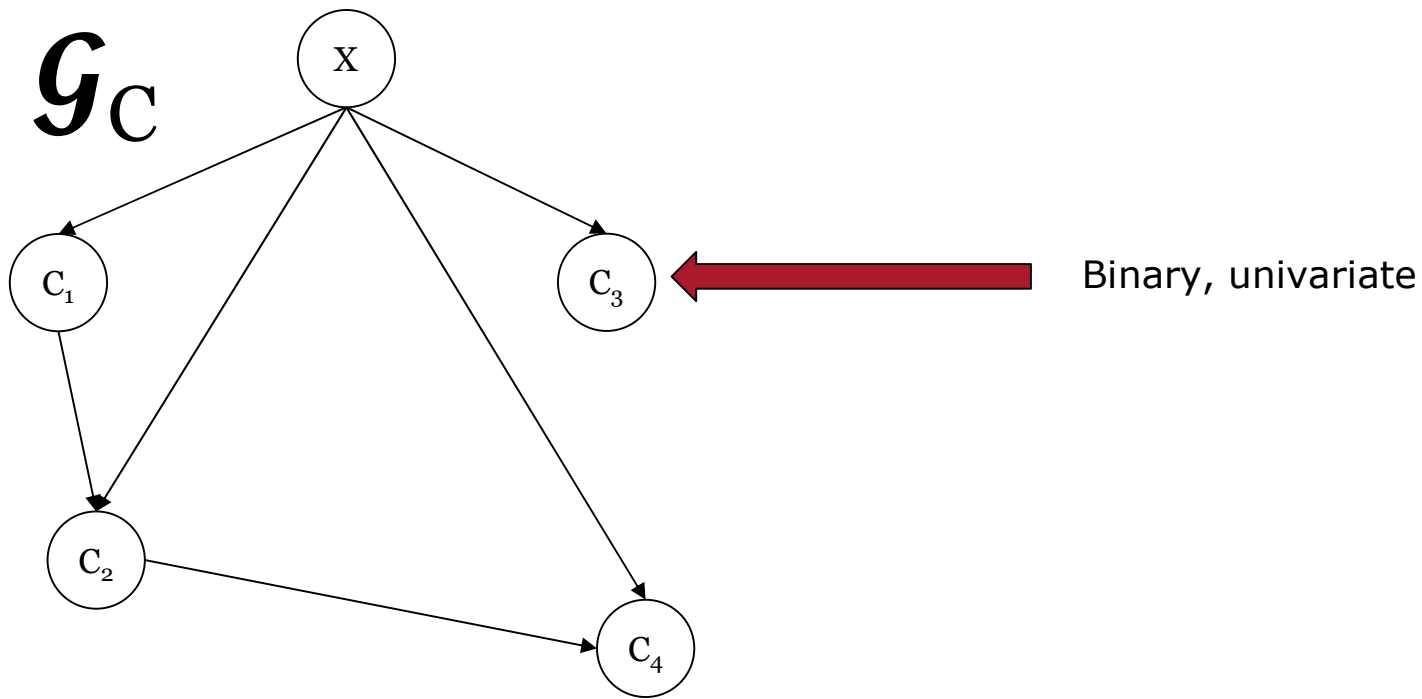
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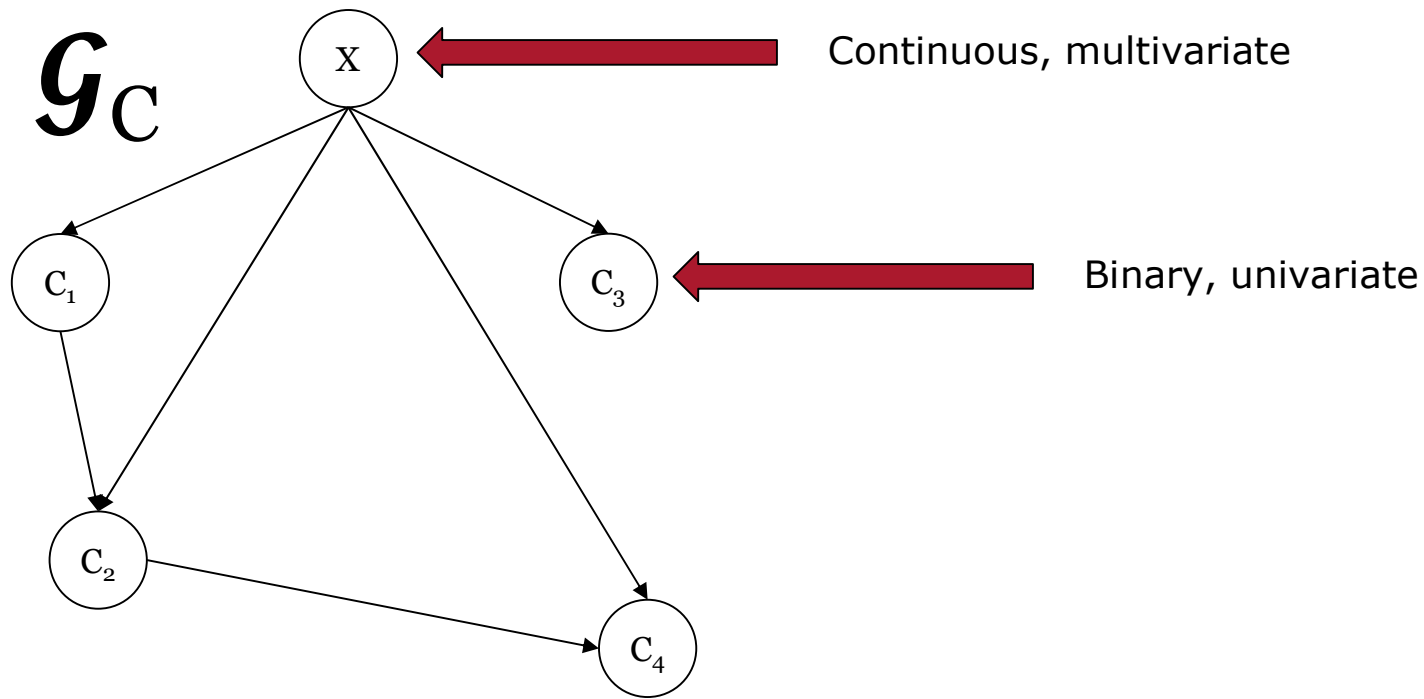
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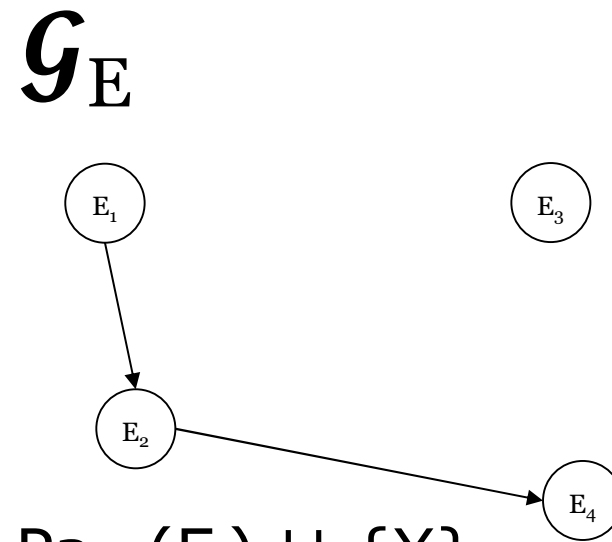
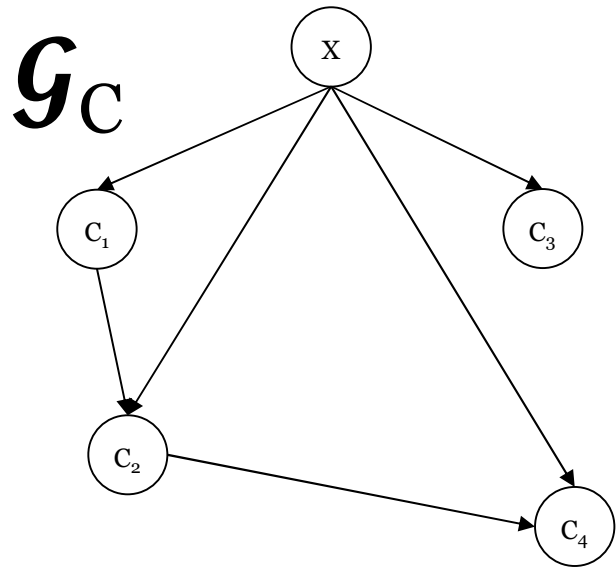
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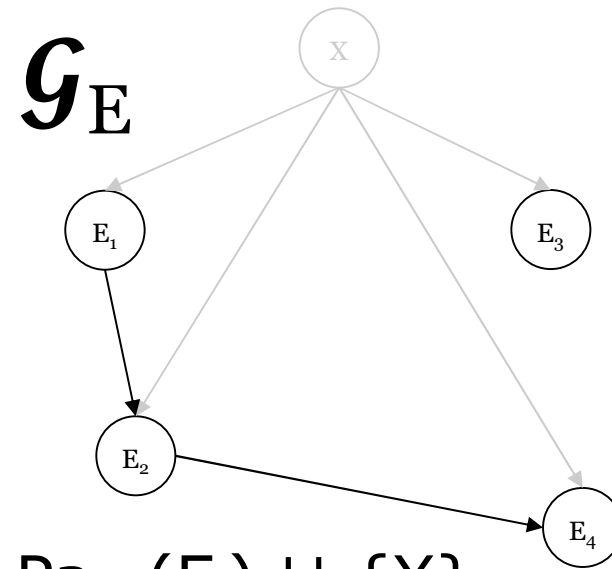
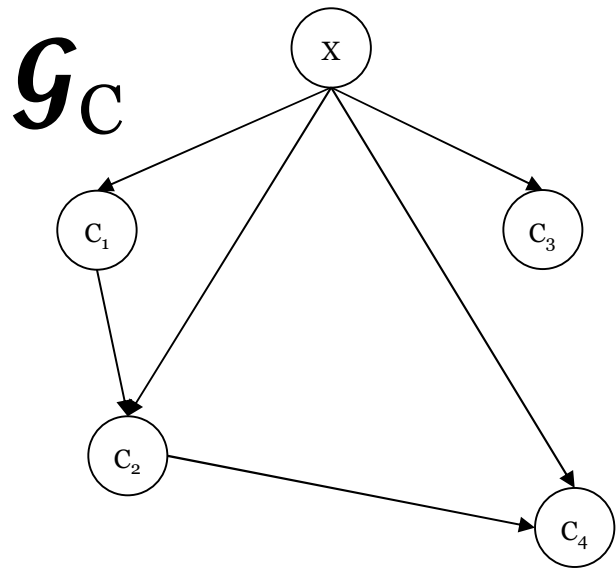
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$$\text{Pa}_{\mathcal{G}_C}(C_i) = \text{Pa}_{\mathcal{G}_E}(E_i) \cup \{X\}$$

# RBCC Step 1: Label Dependency Graph

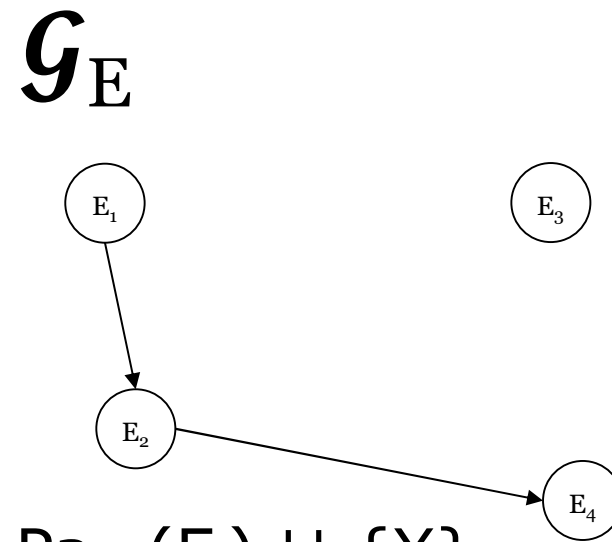
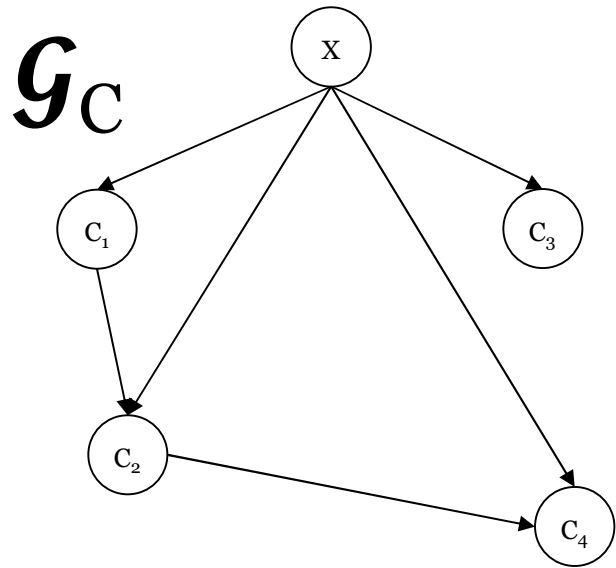
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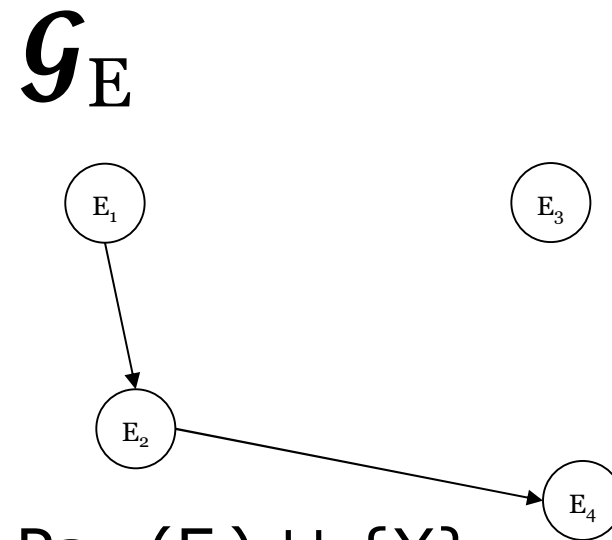
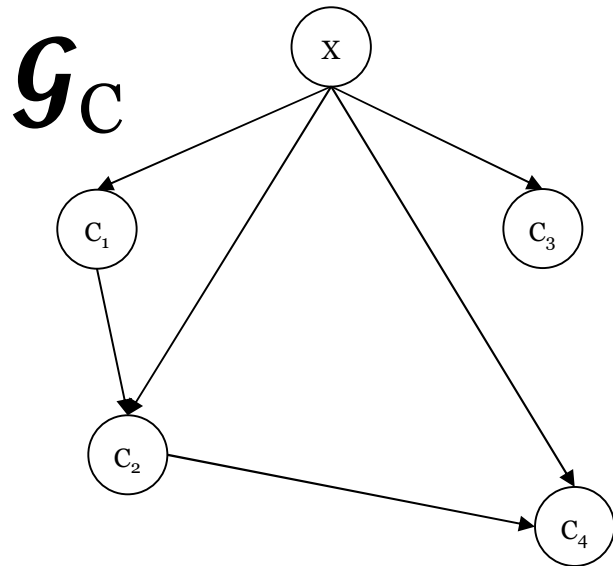
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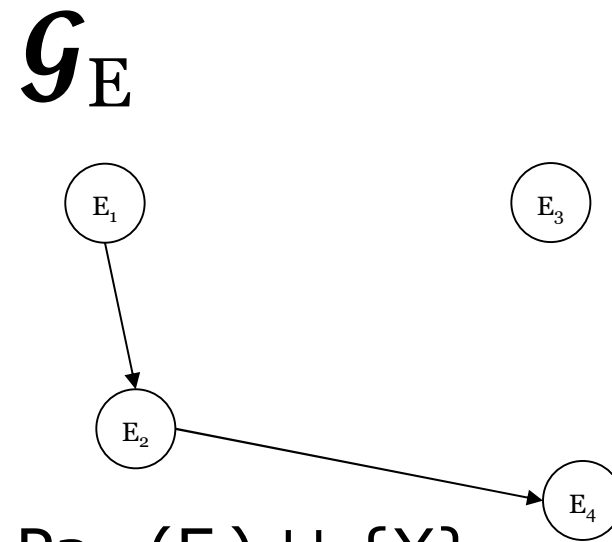
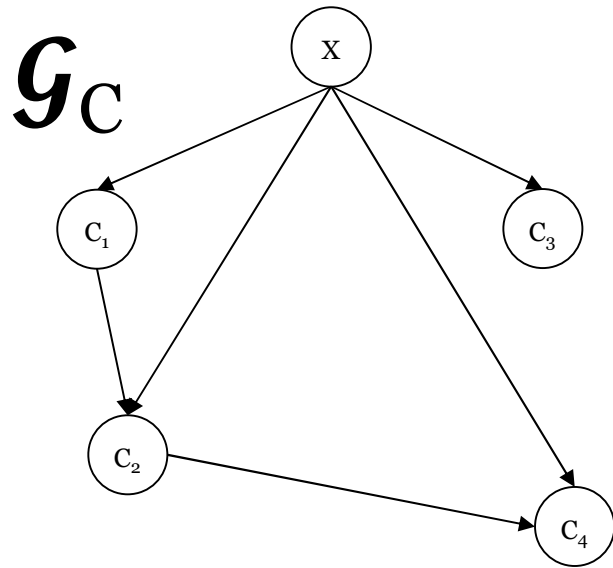


$$\text{Pa}_{\mathcal{G}_C}(C_i) = \text{Pa}_{\mathcal{G}_E}(E_i) \cup \{X\}$$

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# RBCC Step 1: Label Dependency Graph

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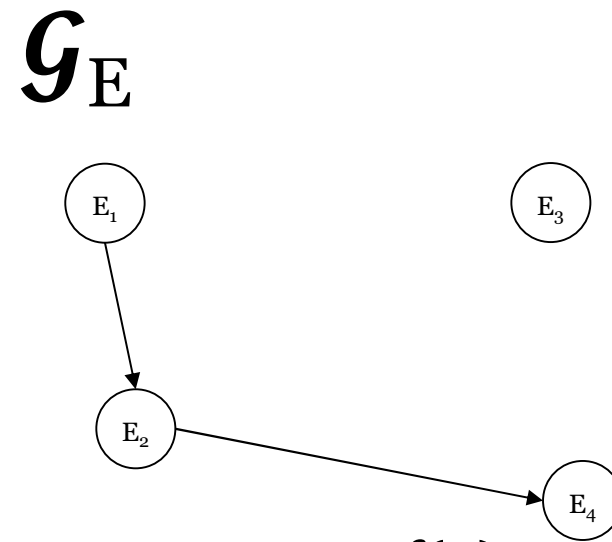
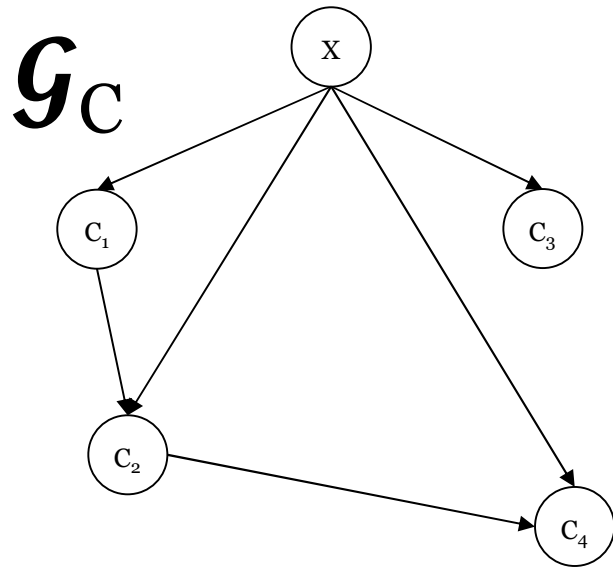
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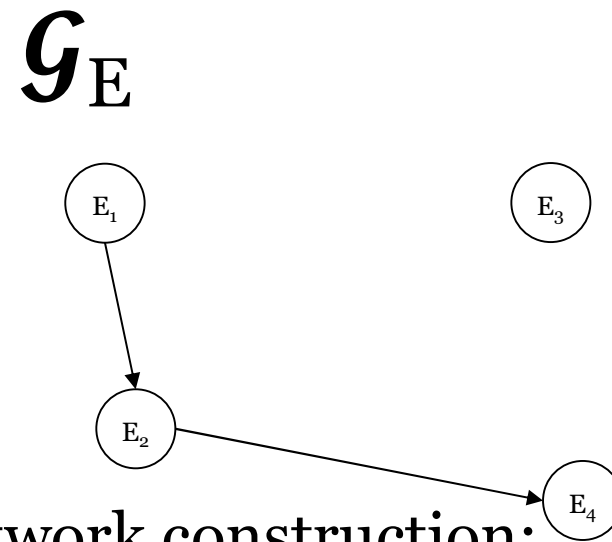
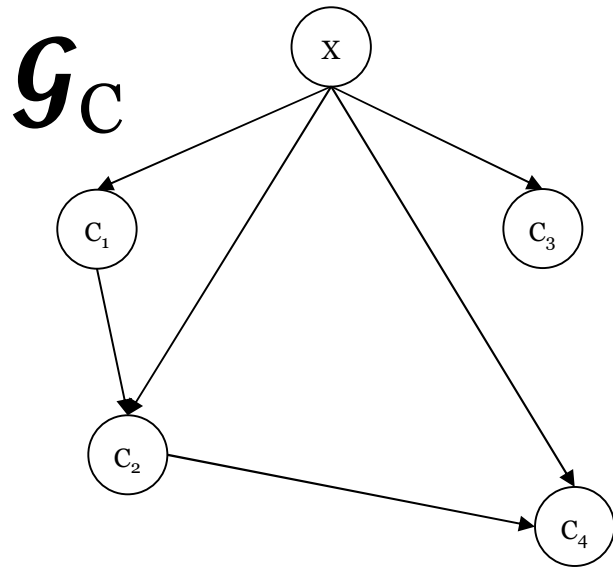


$$C_i = k_i(X) + E_i \Rightarrow E_i = C_i - f(X)$$

Where  $k_i$  is found by maximizing data likelihood

# RBCC Step 1: Label Dependency Graph

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Network construction:

- Hill climbing [1]
- Constraint based [2]
- Chow Liu algorithm [3]

[1] Daly, Rónán, et al. "Methods to accelerate the learning of bayesian network structures." UKCI 2007.

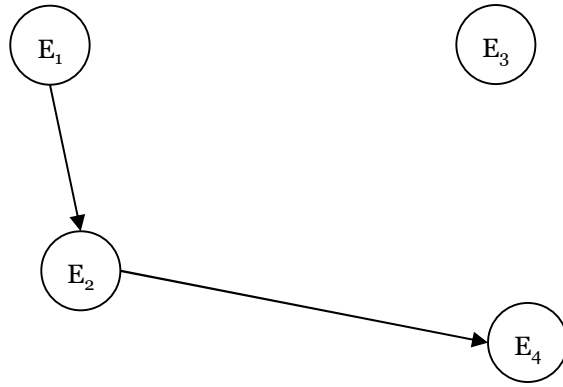
[2] Verma, Thomasand, et al. "Equivalence and synthesis of causal models." 1991.

[3] Chow, C., et al. "Approximating discrete probability distributions with dependence trees." IEEE Transactions on Information Theory 1968.

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$\mathcal{G}_E$



$$\begin{aligned} P(C_1, C_2, \dots, C_L | X) &= P(C_1 | X) \prod_{i=2}^L P(C_i | C_{<i}, X) \\ &= P(C_1 | X) \prod_{i=2}^L P(C_i | \text{Pa}_{\mathcal{G}_C}(C_i)) \\ &= P(C_1 | X) \prod_{i=2}^L P(C_i | \text{Pa}_{\mathcal{G}_E}(E_i), X) \end{aligned}$$

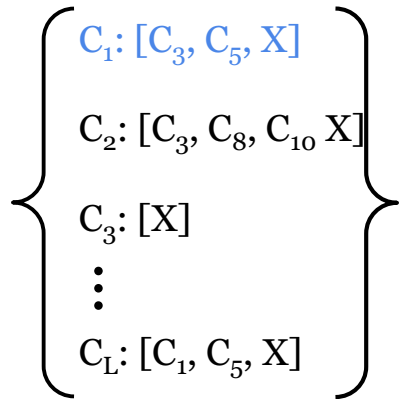
# RBCC Step 2: Model Training

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$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} C_1: [C_3, C_5, X] \\ C_2: [C_3, C_8, C_{10}, X] \\ C_3: [X] \\ \vdots \\ C_L: [C_1, C_5, X] \end{array} \right.$$

# RBCC Step 2: Model Training

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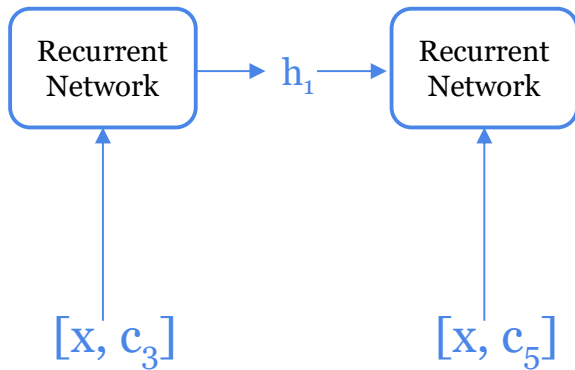


$[X, c_3]$

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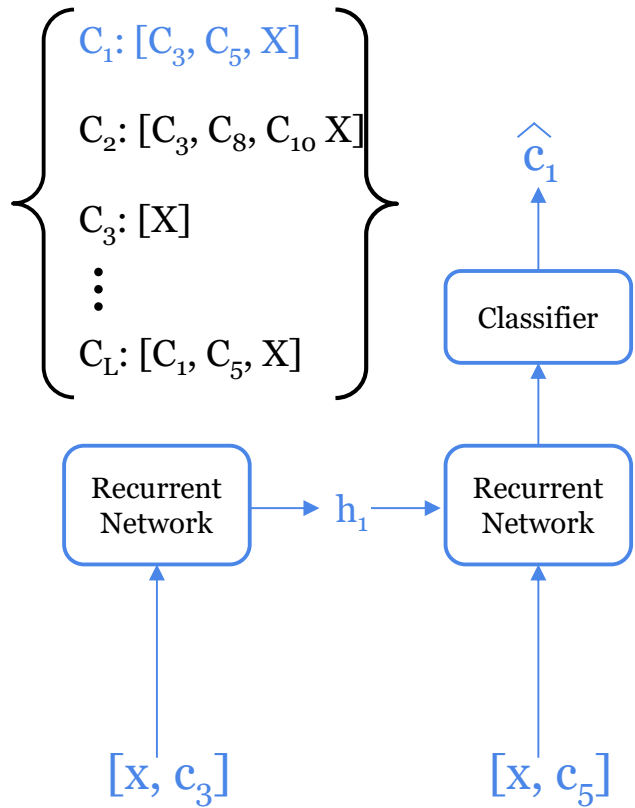
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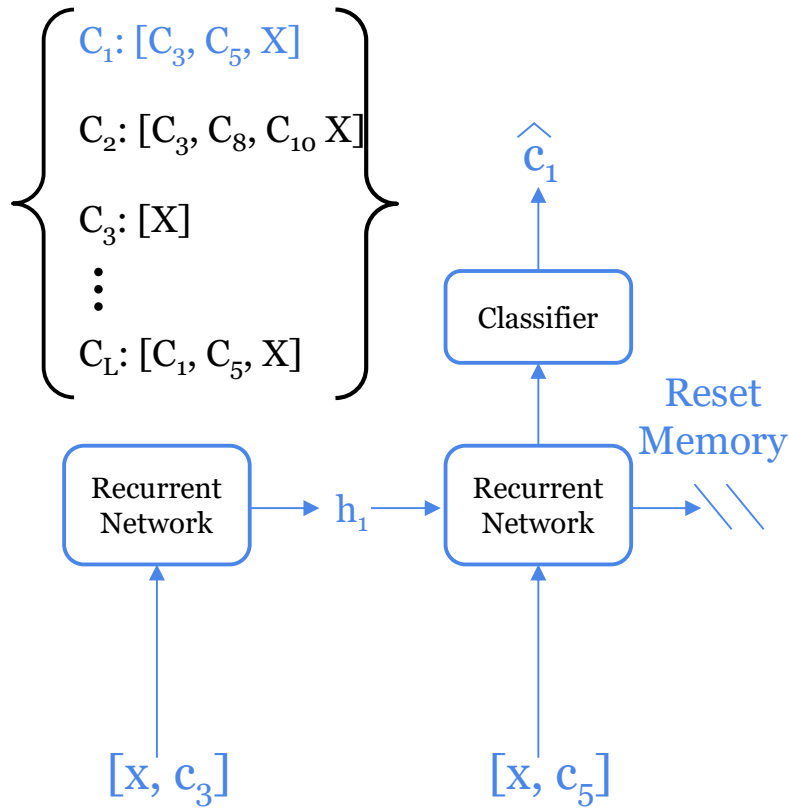
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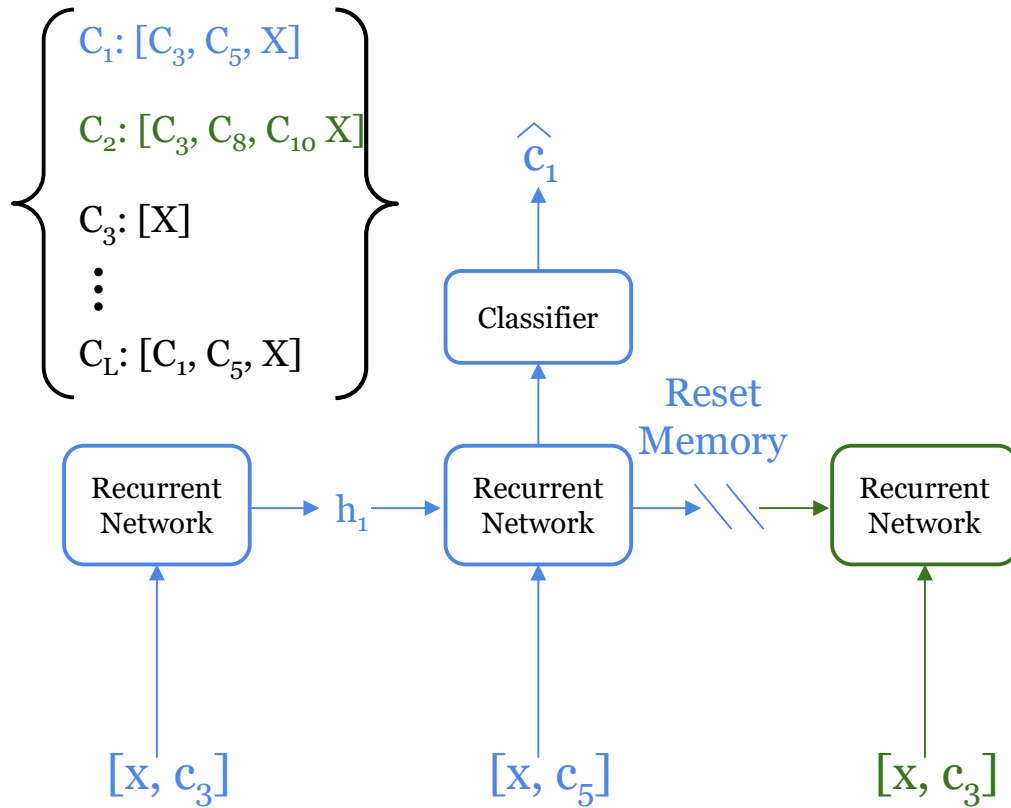
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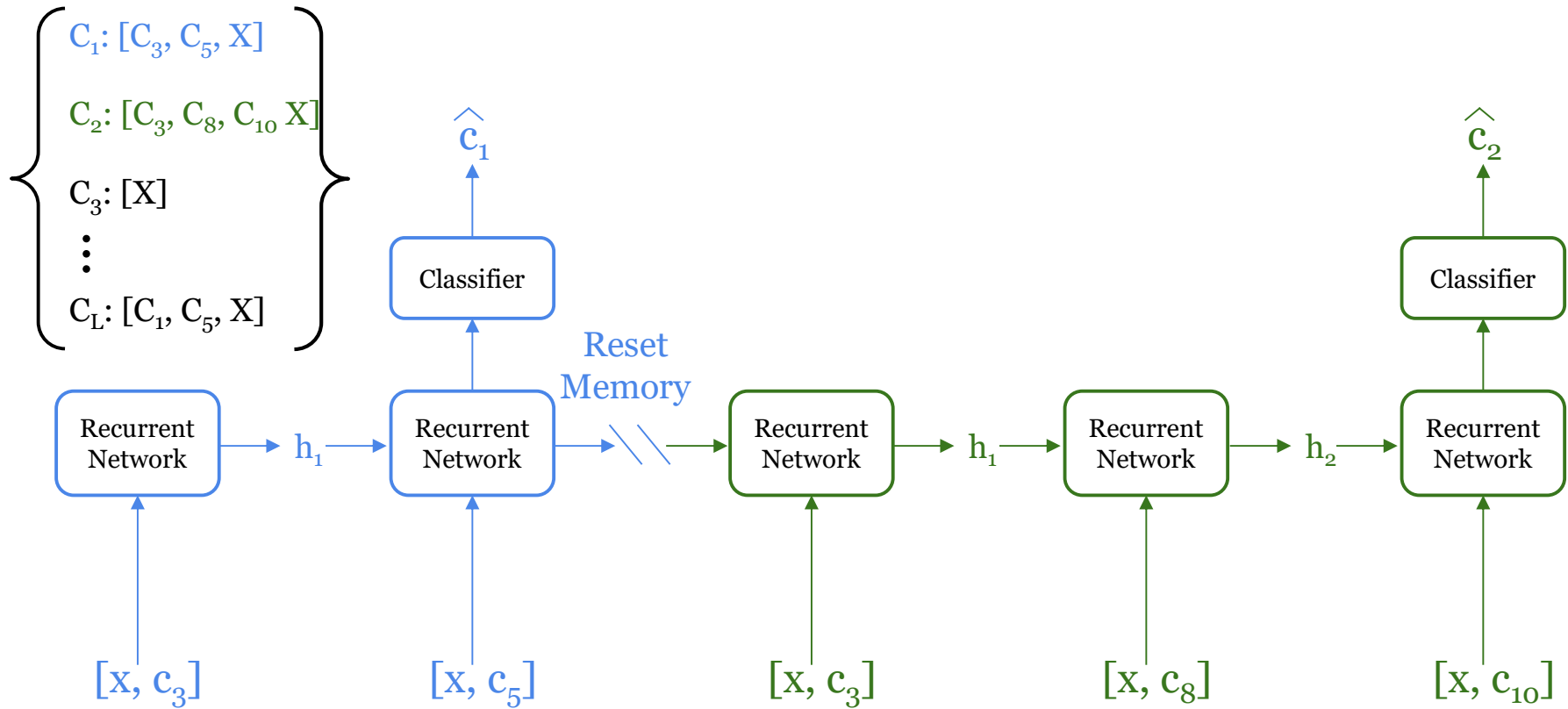




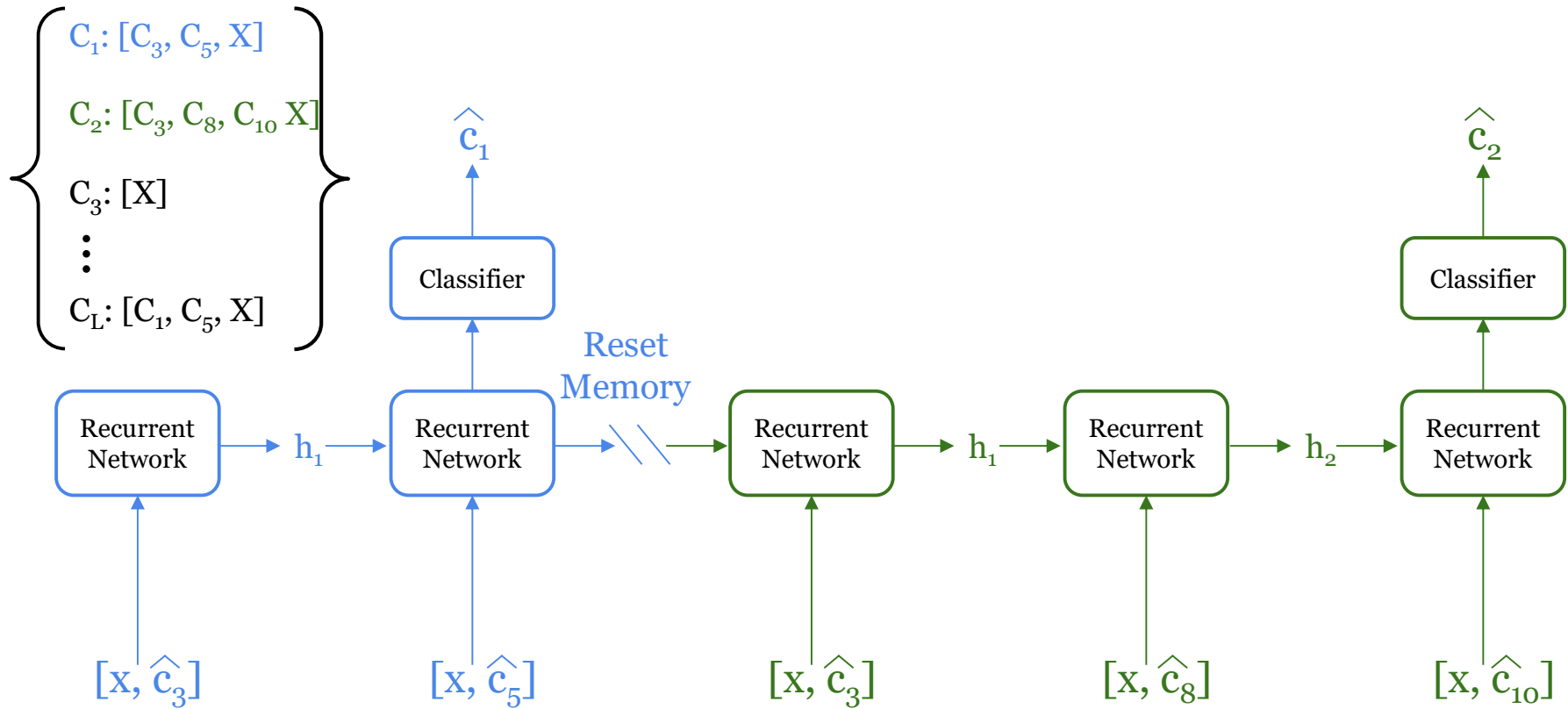
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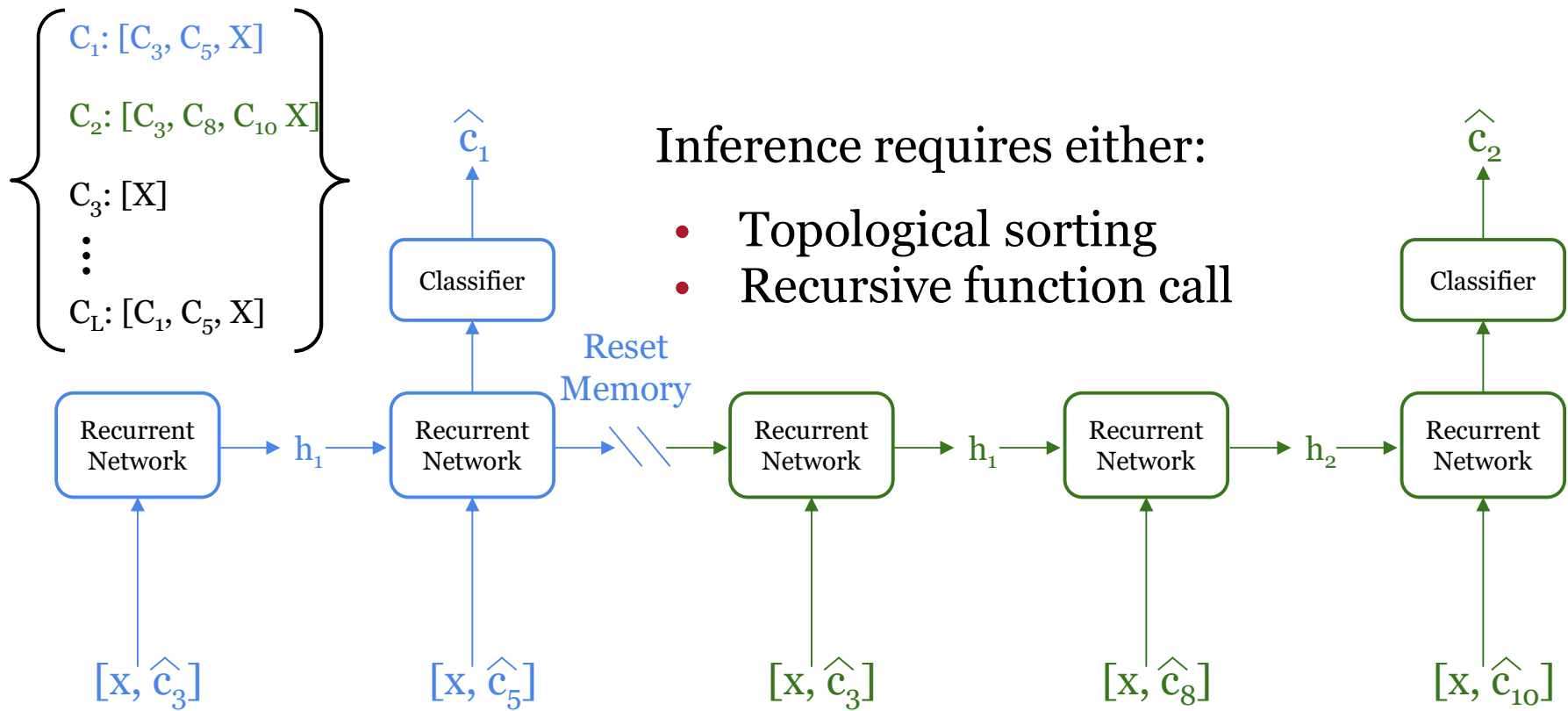
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# RBCC Step 3: Inference



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# Evaluation

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# Compared Methods

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- Recurrent Classifier Chains (RCC) [1]
- Topological-Sort RCC (TS-RCC) [1]
- Order-Free RCC (OF-RCC) [2]
- Bayesian Classifier Chains (BCC) [3]
- Binary Decomposition (BD) [4]

[1] Nam, Jinseok, et al. "Maximizing subset accuracy with recurrent neural networks in multi-label classification." NeurIPS 2017.

[2] Shang-Fu Chen, et al. "Order-free RNN with visual attention for multi-label classification." AAAI 2018.

[3] Zhang, Min-Ling, et al. "Multi-label learning by exploiting label dependency." KDD 2010.

[4] Tsoumakas, Grigoris Tsoumakas et al. "Multi label classification: An overview." IJDWM 2007.

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- Bayesian Classifier Chains (BCC) [3]
- **Binary Decomposition (BD) [4]**

[1] Nam, Jinseok, et al. "Maximizing subset accuracy with recurrent neural networks in multi-label classification." NeurIPS 2017.

[2] Shang-Fu Chen, et al. "Order-free RNN with visual attention for multi-label classification." AAAI 2018.

[3] Zhang, Min-Ling, et al. "Multi-label learning by exploiting label dependency." KDD 2010.

[4] Tsoumakas, Grigoris Tsoumakas et al. "Multi label classification: An overview." IJDWM 2007.

# Datasets

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We compare on 6 benchmark multi-label datasets:

- PASCAL VOC 2007
- Scene
- Yeast
- Enron
- EukaryoteGO
- Yeast

M. Everingham, et al. “The “PASCAL Visual Object Classes Challenge” 2007

Boutell, Matthew, et al. “Learning multi-label scene classification.” Pattern Recognition 2004.

Sajani, Hitesh et al. “Classifying yelp reviews into relevant categories”. 2012.

Klimt, B., et. al. “The Enron Corpus: A New Dataset for Email Classification Research.” ECML 2004.

Xu, Jianhua et al. “A multi-label feature extraction algorithm via maximizing feature variance and feature-label dependence simultaneously”. Knowledge-Based Systems 2016.

Elisseeff, A., et al. “A Kernel Method for Multi-Labelled Classification.” NeurIPS 2001.

Worcester Polytechnic Institute

# Results

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Evaluation Metrics	Methods					
	RBCC (Ours)	RCC	TS-RCC	OF-RCC	BCC	BD
Subset Accuracy $\uparrow$	<b>0.240</b> $\pm$ 0.008	<u>0.212</u> $\pm$ 0.002	0.192 $\pm$ 0.010	0.169 $\pm$ 0.009	0.210 $\pm$ 0.000	0.202 $\pm$ 0.002
Hamming Loss $\downarrow$	<b>0.186</b> $\pm$ 0.003	0.204 $\pm$ 0.001	0.209 $\pm$ 0.004	0.218 $\pm$ 0.004	0.199 $\pm$ 0.001	<u>0.189</u> $\pm$ 0.000
Macro-F1 $\uparrow$	<u>0.556</u> $\pm$ 0.008	0.526 $\pm$ 0.004	0.506 $\pm$ 0.004	<b>0.569</b> $\pm$ 0.004	0.551 $\pm$ 0.005	0.517 $\pm$ 0.008
Micro-F1 $\uparrow$	<b>0.670</b> $\pm$ 0.006	0.639 $\pm$ 0.002	0.628 $\pm$ 0.004	<u>0.662</u> $\pm$ 0.004	0.653 $\pm$ 0.003	0.638 $\pm$ 0.003

**Table 2: Classification results for the Yelp dataset. Bolded is best performer, underlined is second best.**

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# Results

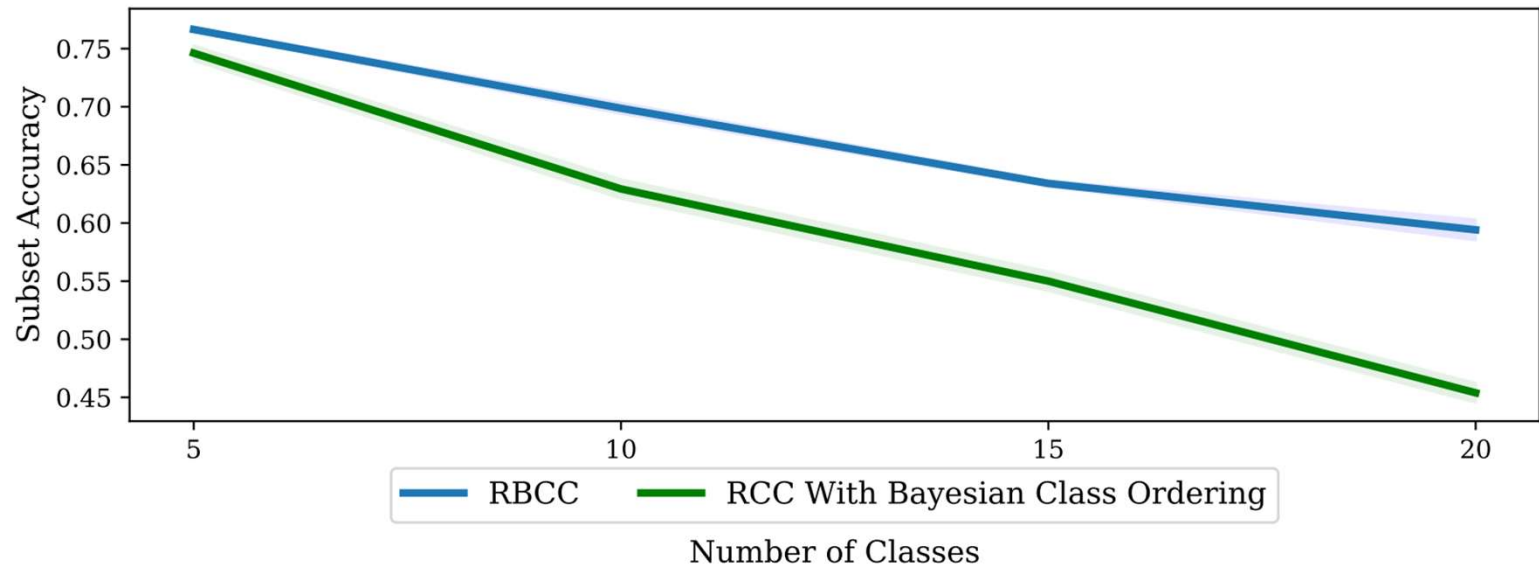
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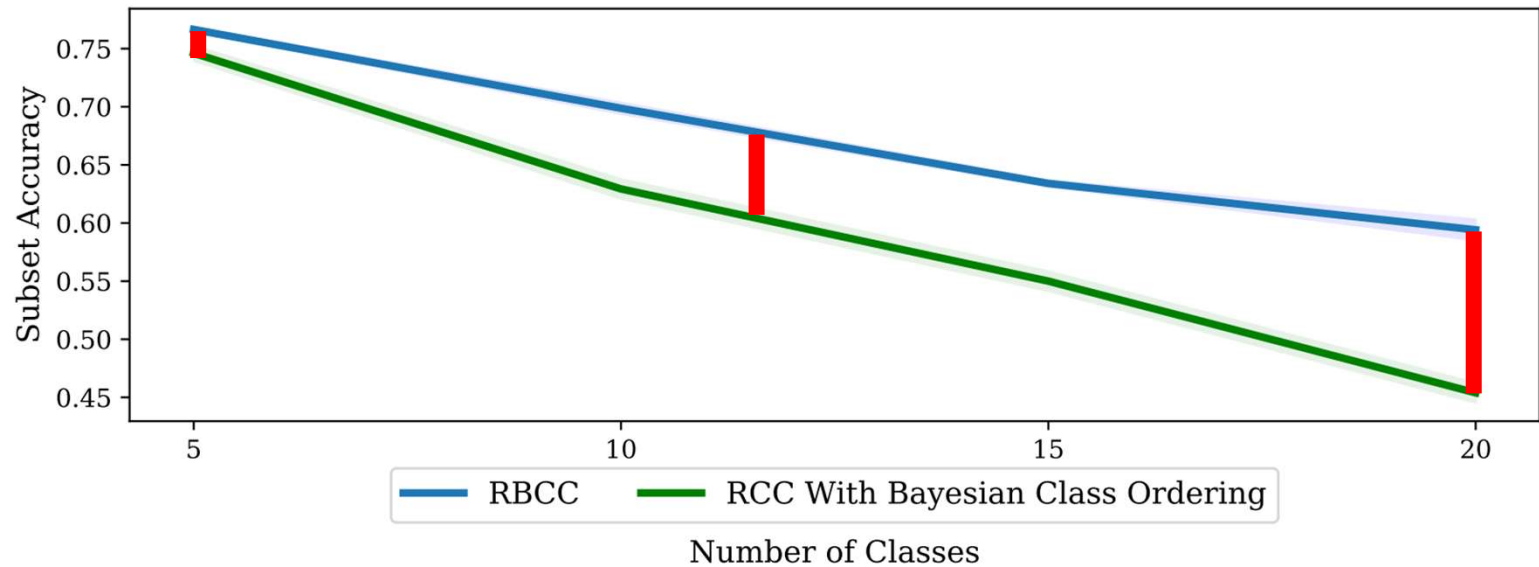
# Performing Better on Large Label Sets

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# Performing Better on Large Label Sets

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# Conclusions

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In this work we:

- Identified flaws with state-of-the-art multi-label approach (RCC)
- Proposed new multi-label approach that leverages label dependence and independence to improve RCC training and inference
- Performed experimental study illustrating the practical improvement of our approach

# Acknowledgements

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- WPI WASH Research group
- WPI DAISY Lab
- DARPA WASH Grant #FA8750-18-2-0077