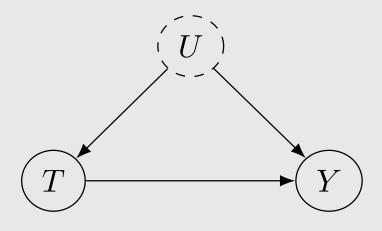
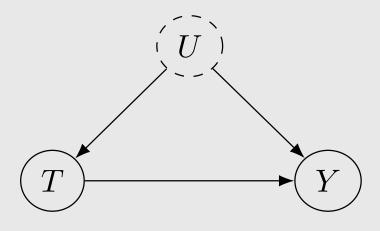
Instrumental Variables

Brady Neal

causalcourse.com

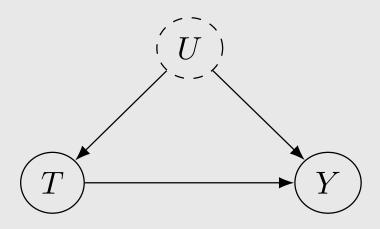


Week 5:



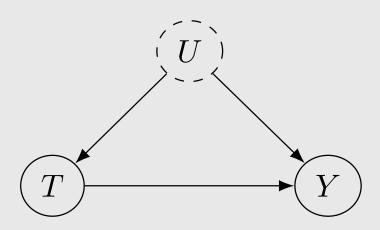
Week 5:

• Frontdoor adjustment



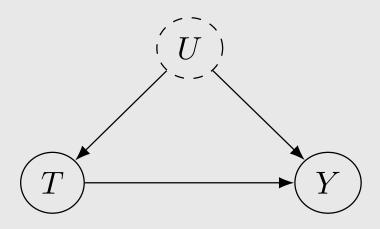
Week 5:

- Frontdoor adjustment
- Unconfounded children criterion



Week 5:

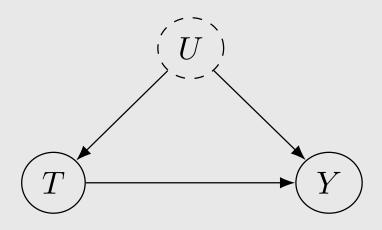
- Frontdoor adjustment
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- Some other fancy application of do-calculus



Week 5:

- Frontdoor adjustment
- Unconfounded children criterion
- Some other fancy application of do-calculus

Week 7:

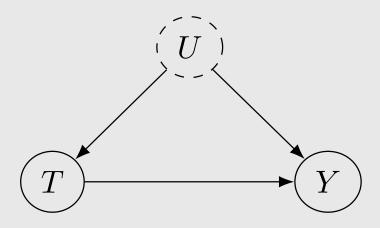


Week 5:

- Frontdoor adjustment
- Unconfounded children criterion
- Some other fancy application of do-calculus

Week 7:

• Set identification (bounds)

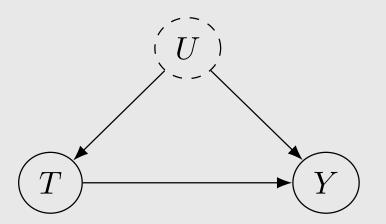


Week 5:

- Frontdoor adjustment
- Unconfounded children criterion
- Some other fancy application of do-calculus

Week 7:

- Set identification (bounds)
- Sensitivity analysis



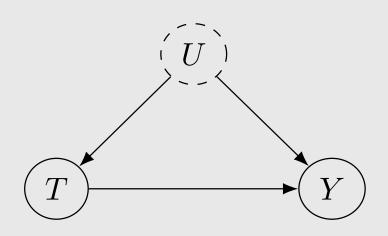
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This week:
Instrumental variables



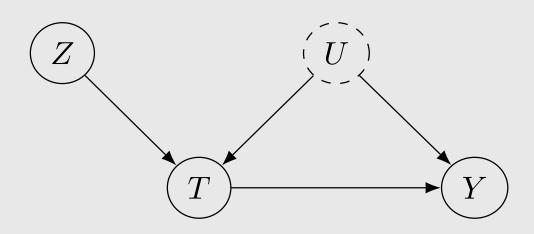
Week 5:

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Week 7:

- Set identification (bounds)
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This week:
Instrumental variables



What is an Instrument?

No Nonparametric Identification of the ATE

Warm-Up: Linear Setting

Nonparametric Identification of Local ATE

More General Settings for the ATE

What is an Instrument?

No Nonparametric Identification of the ATE

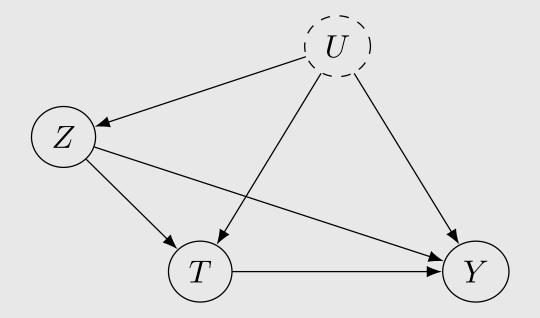
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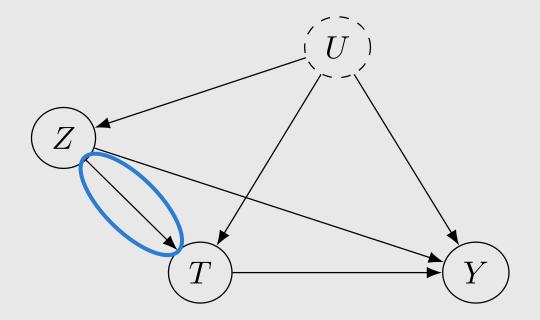
Assumption 1: Relevance

Z has a causal effect on T

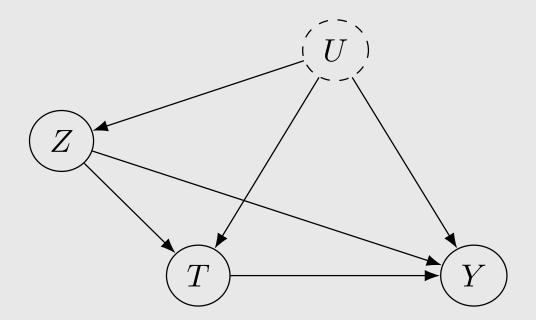


Assumption 1: Relevance

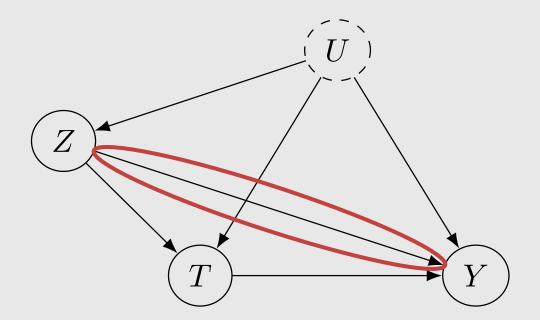
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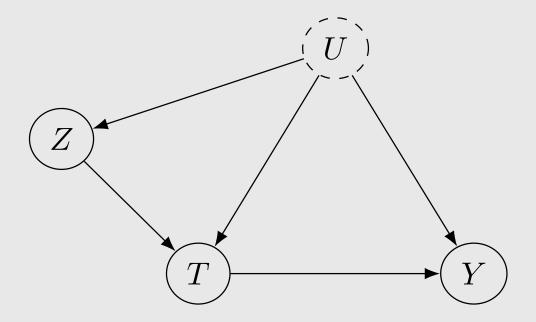
The causal effect of Z on Y is fully mediated by T



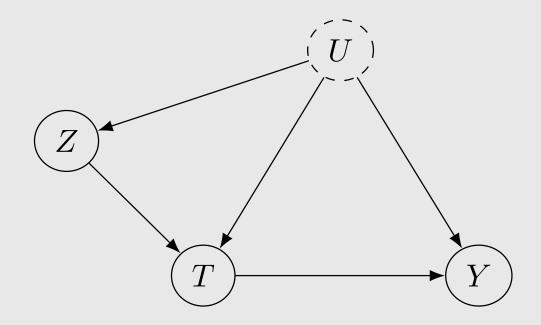
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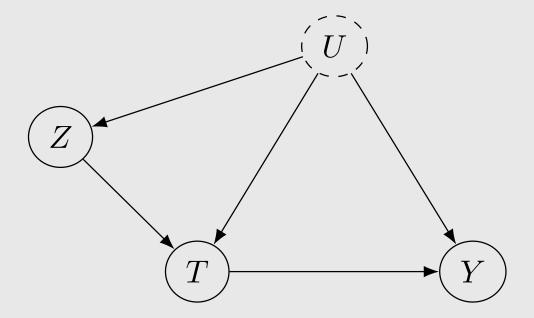


Recall:

Removing edges corresponds to adding assumptions

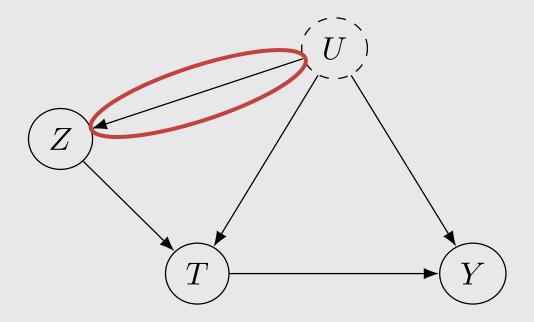
Assumption 3: Instrumental Unconfoundedness

Z is unconfounded (no unblockable backdoor paths to Y)



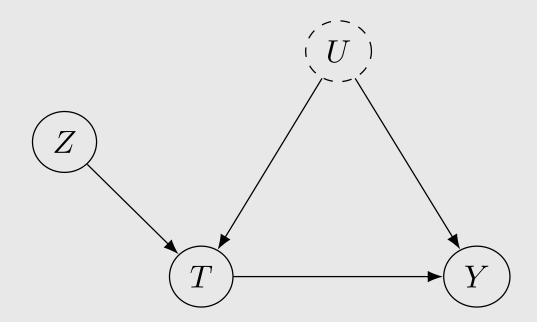
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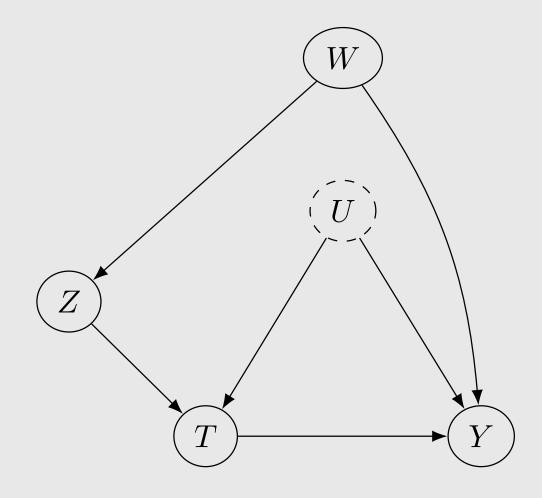


Assumption 3: Instrumental Unconfoundedness

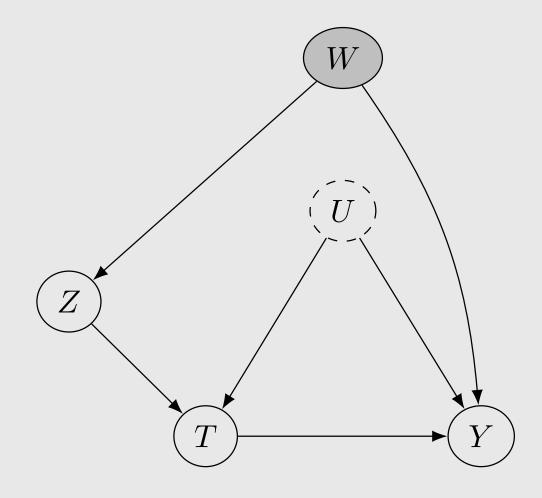
Z is unconfounded (no unblockable backdoor paths to Y)



Conditional Instruments



Conditional Instruments



Conditional Instruments

Slightly weaker version of Assumption 3: Unconfoundedness after conditioning on observed variables

Question:

What are the 3 assumptions we need to say that a given variable is an instrument, and what do they correspond to graphically?

What is an Instrument?

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Nonparametric Identification of Local ATE

More General Settings for the ATE

Why didn't we see instruments in Week 5 Identification?

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Week 5 was about nonparametric identification

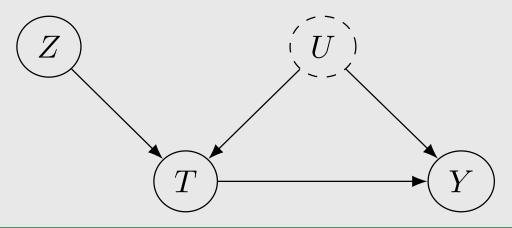
Why didn't we see instruments in Week 5 Identification?

Week 5 was about nonparametric identification

Recall necessary condition for nonparametric identification:

For each backdoor path from T to any child that is an ancestor of Y, it is

possible to block that path



What is an Instrument?

No Nonparametric Identification of the ATE

Warm-Up: Linear Setting

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More General Settings for the ATE

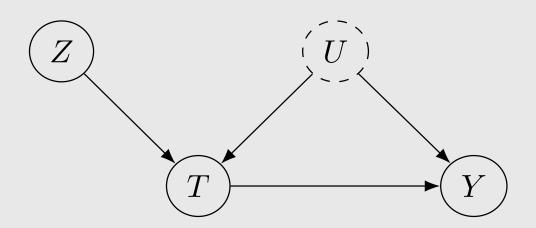
Another Assumption: Linear Outcome

$$Y := \delta T + \alpha_u U$$

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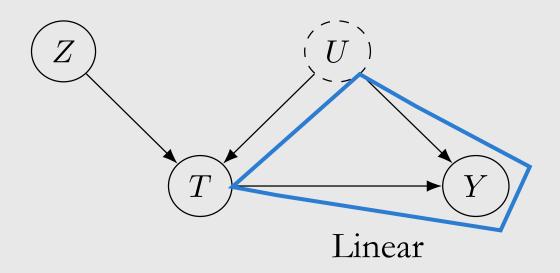
Z doesn't appear in this structural equation because of the exclusion restriction assumption



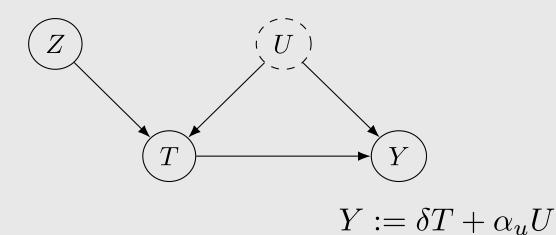
Another Assumption: Linear Outcome

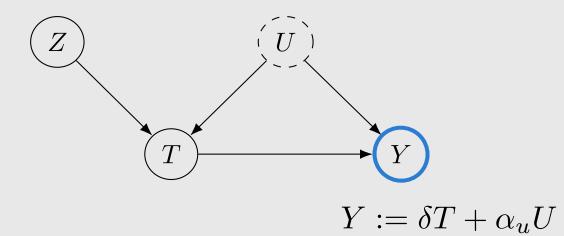
$$Y := \delta T + \alpha_u U$$

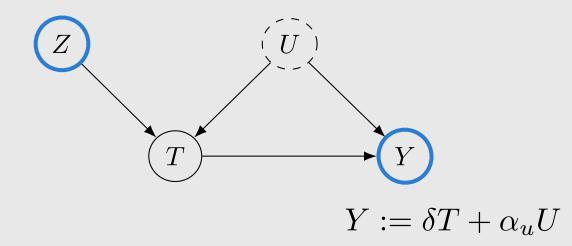
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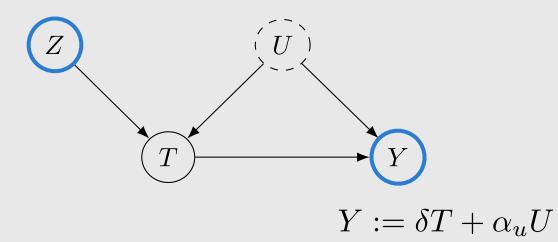
Warm-Up: Binary Linear Setting





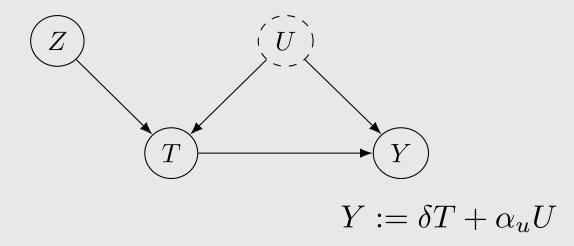


$$\mathbb{E}[Y \mid Z = 1] - \mathbb{E}[Y \mid Z = 0]$$

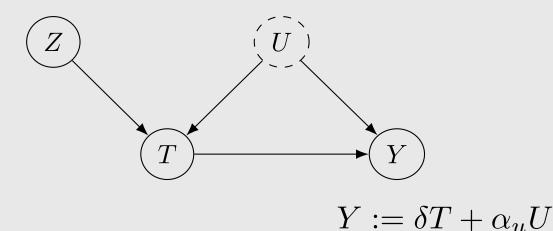


$$\mathbb{E}[Y \mid Z = 1] - \mathbb{E}[Y \mid Z = 0]$$

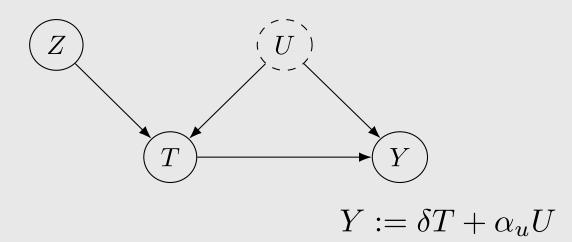
$$= \mathbb{E}[\delta T + \alpha_u U \mid Z = 1] - \mathbb{E}[\delta T + \alpha_u U \mid Z = 0] \quad \text{(exclusion restriction and linear outcome assumptions)}$$



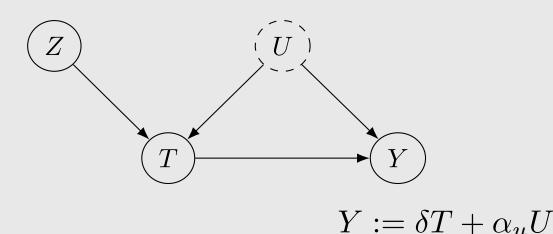
$$\begin{split} \mathbb{E}[Y\mid Z=1] - \mathbb{E}[Y\mid Z=0] \\ &= \mathbb{E}[\delta T + \alpha_u U\mid Z=1] - \mathbb{E}[\delta T + \alpha_u U\mid Z=0] \quad \text{(exclusion restriction and linear outcome assumptions)} \\ &= \delta\left(\mathbb{E}[T\mid Z=1] - \mathbb{E}[T\mid Z=0]\right) + \alpha_u\left(\mathbb{E}[U\mid Z=1] - \mathbb{E}[U\mid Z=0]\right) \end{split}$$



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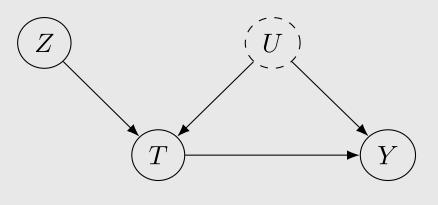


$$\begin{split} \mathbb{E}[Y\mid Z=1] - \mathbb{E}[Y\mid Z=0] \\ &= \mathbb{E}[\delta T + \alpha_u U\mid Z=1] - \mathbb{E}[\delta T + \alpha_u U\mid Z=0] \quad \text{(exclusion restriction and linear outcome assumptions)} \\ &= \delta\left(\mathbb{E}[T\mid Z=1] - \mathbb{E}[T\mid Z=0]\right) + \alpha_u\left(\mathbb{E}[U\mid Z=1] - \mathbb{E}[U\mid Z=0]\right) \\ &= \delta\left(\mathbb{E}[T\mid Z=1] - \mathbb{E}[T\mid Z=0]\right) + \alpha_u\left(\mathbb{E}[U] - \mathbb{E}[U]\right) \quad \text{(instrumental unconfoundedness assumption)} \\ &= \delta\left(\mathbb{E}[T\mid Z=1] - \mathbb{E}[T\mid Z=0]\right) \end{split}$$



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$$\delta = \frac{\mathbb{E}[Y \mid Z = 1] - \mathbb{E}[Y \mid Z = 0]}{\mathbb{E}[T \mid Z = 1] - \mathbb{E}[T \mid Z = 0]}$$

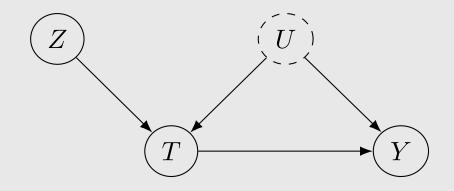


$$Y := \delta T + \alpha_u U$$

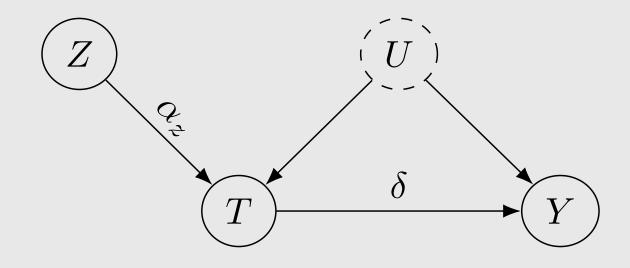
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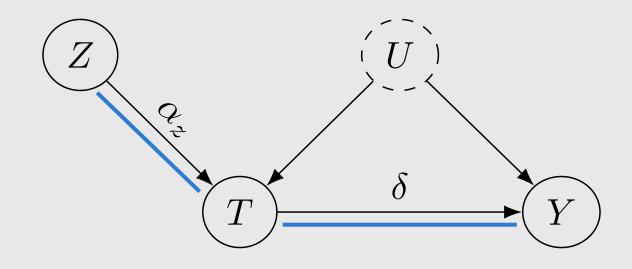
(non-zero due to relevance assumption)



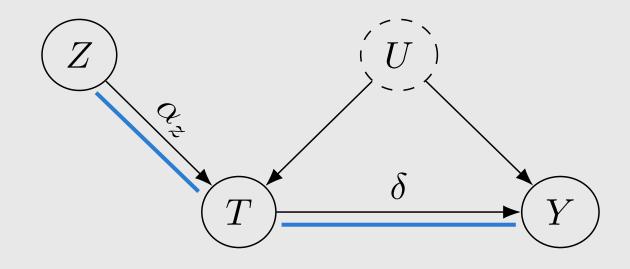
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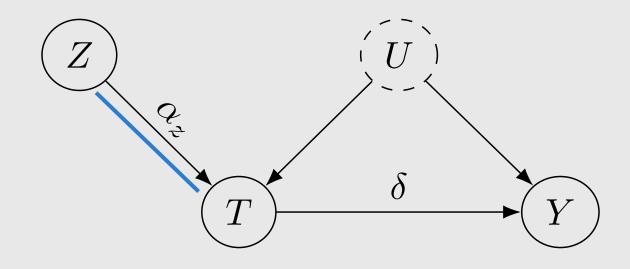
$$\delta = \frac{\mathbb{E}[Y \mid Z = 1] - \mathbb{E}[Y \mid Z = 0]}{\mathbb{E}[T \mid Z = 1] - \mathbb{E}[T \mid Z = 0]}$$



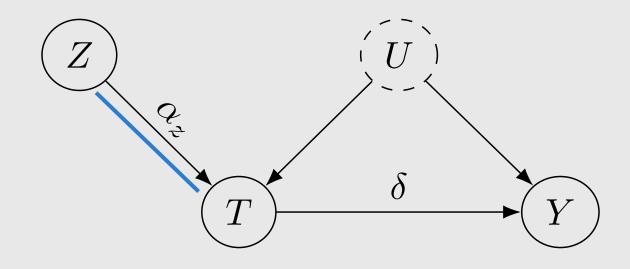
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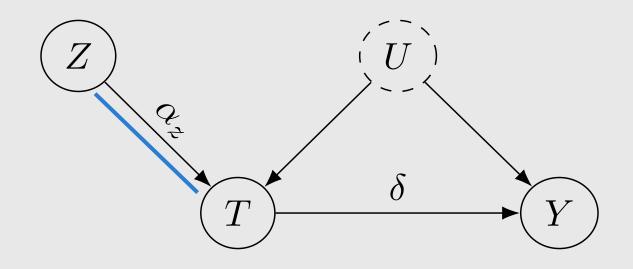
$$\delta = \frac{\alpha_z \delta}{\mathbb{E}[T \mid Z = 1] - \mathbb{E}[T \mid Z = 0]}$$



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$$\delta = \frac{\alpha_z \delta}{\alpha_z}$$

Wald Estimator

Wald estimand:

$$\delta = \frac{\mathbb{E}[Y \mid Z = 1] - \mathbb{E}[Y \mid Z = 0]}{\mathbb{E}[T \mid Z = 1] - \mathbb{E}[T \mid Z = 0]}$$

Wald Estimator

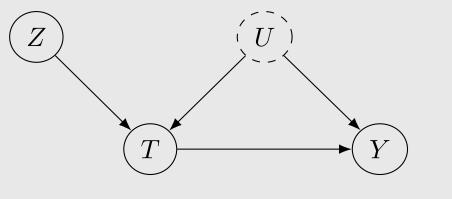
Wald estimand:

$$\delta = \frac{\mathbb{E}[Y \mid Z = 1] - \mathbb{E}[Y \mid Z = 0]}{\mathbb{E}[T \mid Z = 1] - \mathbb{E}[T \mid Z = 0]}$$

Wald estimator:

$$\hat{\delta} = \frac{\frac{1}{n_1} \sum_{i:z_i=1} Y_i - \frac{1}{n_0} \sum_{i:z_i=0} Y_i}{\frac{1}{n_1} \sum_{i:z_i=1} T_i - \frac{1}{n_0} \sum_{i:z_i=0} T_i}$$

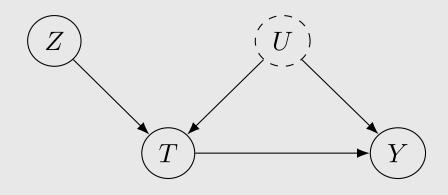
$$\delta = \frac{\mathbb{E}[Y \mid Z = 1] - \mathbb{E}[Y \mid Z = 0]}{\mathbb{E}[T \mid Z = 1] - \mathbb{E}[T \mid Z = 0]}$$



$$Y := \delta T + \alpha_u U$$

$$\delta = \frac{\mathbb{E}[Y \mid Z = 1] - \mathbb{E}[Y \mid Z = 0]}{\mathbb{E}[T \mid Z = 1] - \mathbb{E}[T \mid Z = 0]}$$

What if T and Z are continuous?

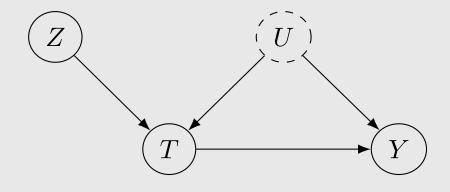


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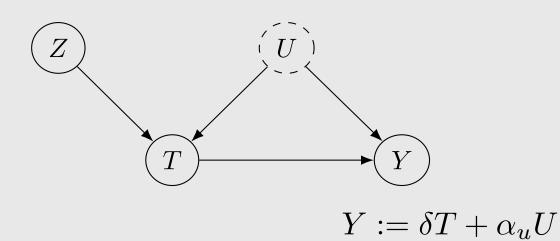
$$\delta = \frac{\mathbb{E}[Y \mid Z = 1] - \mathbb{E}[Y \mid Z = 0]}{\mathbb{E}[T \mid Z = 1] - \mathbb{E}[T \mid Z = 0]}$$

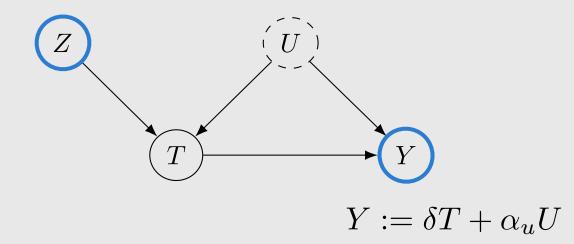
$$\delta = \frac{\operatorname{Cov}(Y, Z)}{\operatorname{Cov}(T, Z)}$$

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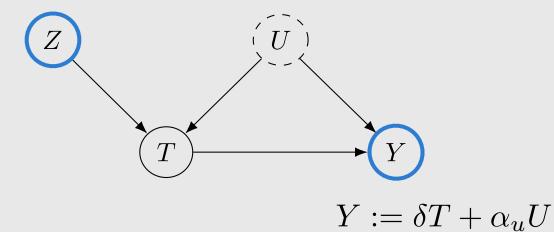


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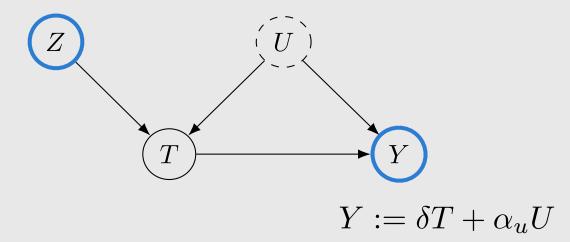




Cov(Y, Z)

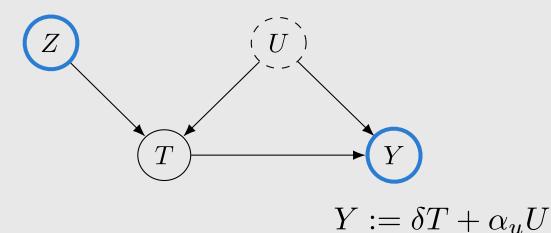


$$Cov(Y, Z) = \mathbb{E}[YZ] - \mathbb{E}[Y]\mathbb{E}[Z]$$

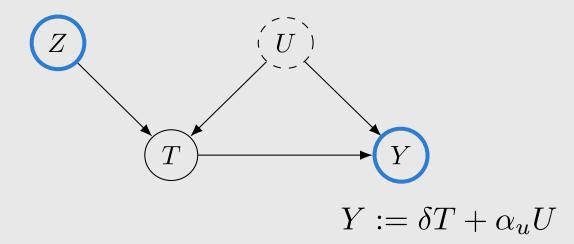


$$Cov(Y, Z) = \mathbb{E}[YZ] - \mathbb{E}[Y]\mathbb{E}[Z]$$
$$= \mathbb{E}[(\delta T + \alpha_u U)Z] - \mathbb{E}[\delta T + \alpha_u U]\mathbb{E}[Z]$$

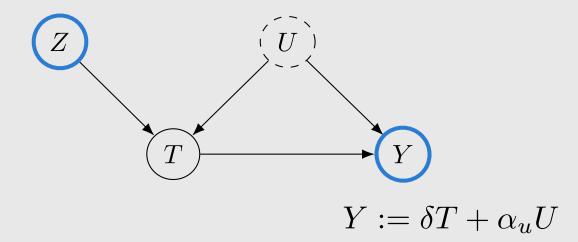
(exclusion restriction and linear outcome assumptions)



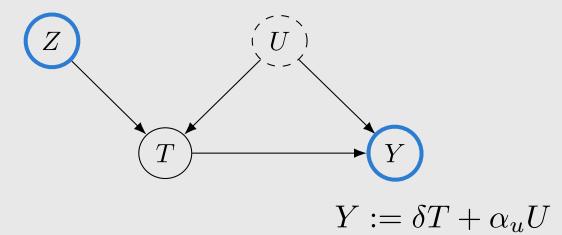
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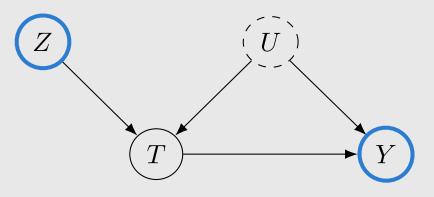
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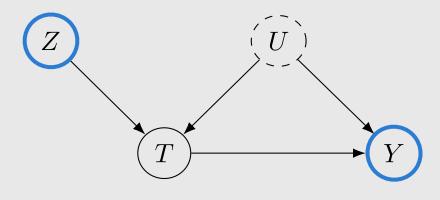
$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{Cov}(Y,Z) &= \mathbb{E}[YZ] - \mathbb{E}[Y]\mathbb{E}[Z] \\ &= \mathbb{E}[(\delta T + \alpha_u U)Z] - \mathbb{E}[\delta T + \alpha_u U]\mathbb{E}[Z] \quad \text{(exclusion restriction and linear outcome assumptions)} \\ &= \delta \mathbb{E}[TZ] + \alpha_u \mathbb{E}[UZ] - \delta \mathbb{E}[T]\mathbb{E}[Z] - \alpha_u \mathbb{E}[U]\mathbb{E}[Z] \\ &= \delta \left(\mathbb{E}[TZ] - \mathbb{E}[T]\mathbb{E}[Z] \right) + \alpha_u \left(\mathbb{E}[UZ] - \mathbb{E}[U]\mathbb{E}[Z] \right) \\ &= \delta \operatorname{Cov}(T,Z) + \alpha_u \operatorname{Cov}(U,Z) \\ &= \delta \operatorname{Cov}(T,Z) \quad \text{(instrumental unconfoundedness assumption)} \end{aligned}$$



$$Y := \delta T + \alpha_u U$$

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$$\delta = \frac{\operatorname{Cov}(Y, Z)}{\operatorname{Cov}(T, Z)}$$

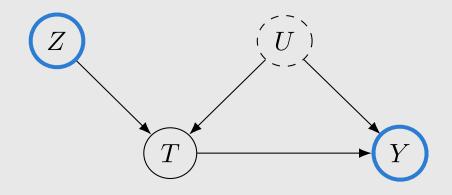


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$$\delta = \frac{\operatorname{Cov}(Y, Z)}{\operatorname{Cov}(T, Z)}$$

(non-zero due to relevance assumption)



$$Y := \delta T + \alpha_u U$$

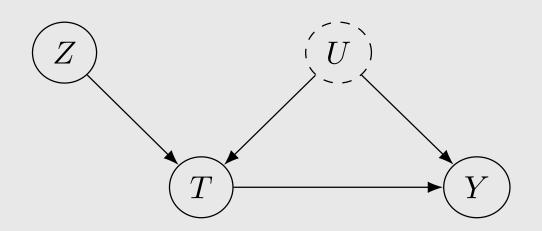
Continuous Linear Setting: Estimator 1

$$\delta = \frac{\text{Cov}(Y, Z)}{\text{Cov}(T, Z)}$$

Continuous Linear Setting: Estimator 1

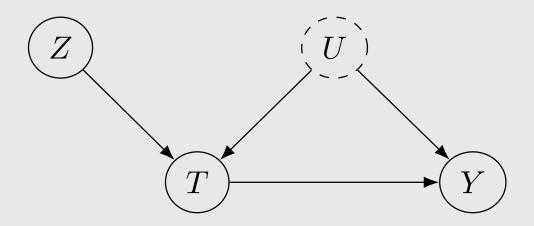
$$\hat{\delta} = \frac{\widehat{\text{Cov}}(Y, Z)}{\widehat{\text{Cov}}(T, Z)}$$

Two-Stage Least Squares Estimator



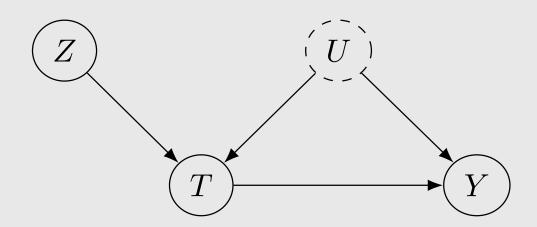
Two-Stage Least Squares Estimator

1. Linearly regress T on Z to estimate $\mathbb{E}[T \mid Z]$. This gives us the projection of T onto Z: \hat{T}

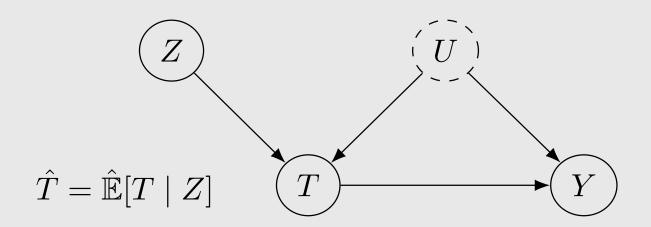


Two-Stage Least Squares Estimator

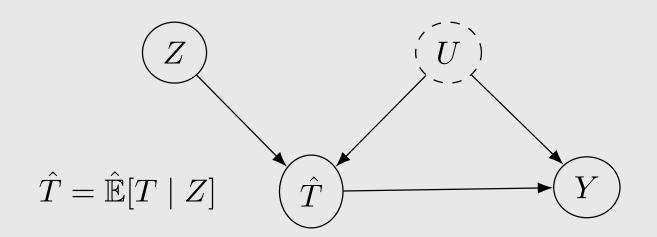
- 1. Linearly regress T on Z to estimate $\mathbb{E}[T \mid Z]$. This gives us the projection of T onto Z: \hat{T}
- 2. Linearly regress Y on \hat{T} to estimate $\mathbb{E}[Y \mid \hat{T}]$. Obtain our estimate $\hat{\delta}$ as the fitted coefficient in front of \hat{T} .



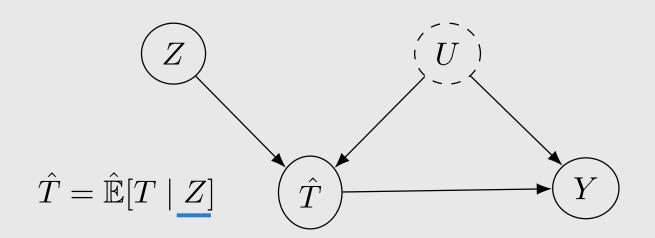
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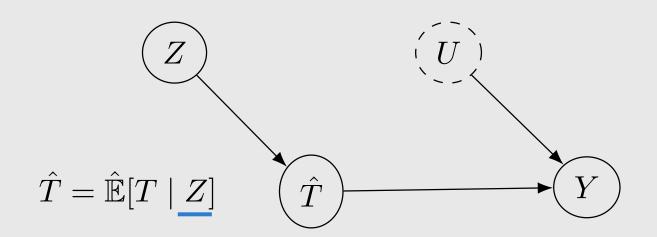
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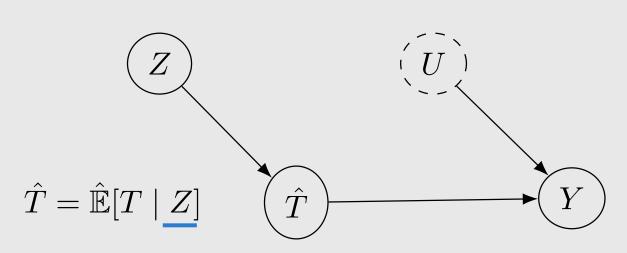
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Also works as an estimator in the binary setting

Question:

In the binary linear, setting where is each assumption used in the proof below?

$$\begin{split} \mathbb{E}[Y \mid Z = 1] - \mathbb{E}[Y \mid Z = 0] \\ &= \mathbb{E}[\delta T + \alpha_u U \mid Z = 1] - \mathbb{E}[\delta T + \alpha_u U \mid Z = 0] \\ &= \delta \left(\mathbb{E}[T \mid Z = 1] - \mathbb{E}[T \mid Z = 0] \right) + \alpha_u \left(\mathbb{E}[U \mid Z = 1] - \mathbb{E}[U \mid Z = 0] \right) \\ &= \delta \left(\mathbb{E}[T \mid Z = 1] - \mathbb{E}[T \mid Z = 0] \right) + \alpha_u \left(\mathbb{E}[U] - \mathbb{E}[U] \right) \\ &= \delta \left(\mathbb{E}[T \mid Z = 1] - \mathbb{E}[T \mid Z = 0] \right) \\ \delta &= \frac{\mathbb{E}[Y \mid Z = 1] - \mathbb{E}[Y \mid Z = 0]}{\mathbb{E}[T \mid Z = 1] - \mathbb{E}[T \mid Z = 0]} \end{split}$$

Question:

In the continuous linear setting, prove the following:

$$\delta = \frac{\text{Cov}(Y, Z)}{\text{Cov}(T, Z)}$$

What is an Instrument?

No Nonparametric Identification of the ATE

Warm-Up: Linear Setting

Nonparametric Identification of Local ATE

More General Settings for the ATE

Linear Outcome Assumption as Homogeneity

Linear outcome assumption: $Y := \delta T + \alpha_u U$

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There are other variants of the linear outcome assumption that all require the treatment effect to be homogeneous (the same for all units) in some way (see, e.g., Section 16.3 of Hernán & Robins (2020))

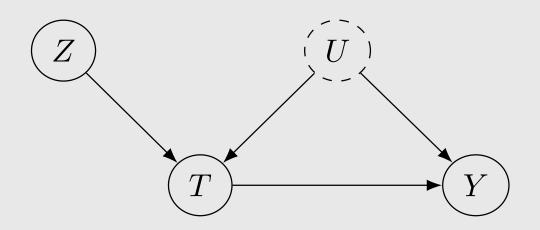
Linear Outcome Assumption as Homogeneity

Linear outcome assumption: $Y := \delta T + \alpha_u U$

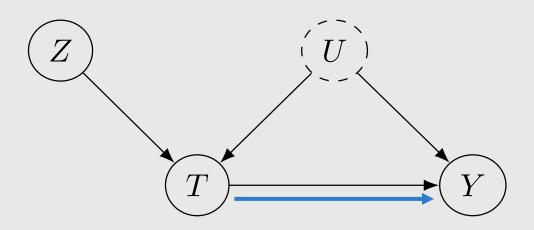
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Very restricting!

Can we get identification without parametric assumptions?

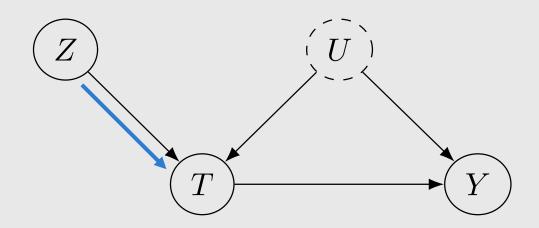


Y(1) and Y(0) are short for Y(T=1) and Y(T=0)



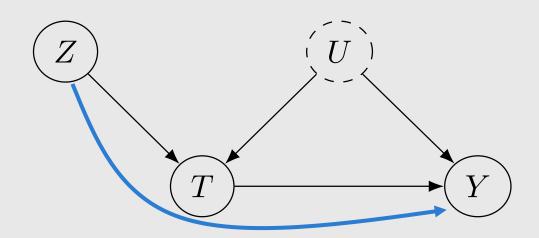
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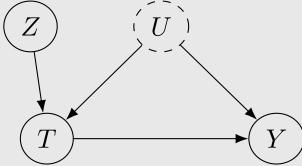
We now have T(Z=1) and T(Z=0) or T(1) and T(0) for short



$$Y(1)$$
 and $Y(0)$ are short for $Y(T=1)$ and $Y(T=0)$
We also have $Y(Z=1)$ and $Y(Z=0)$

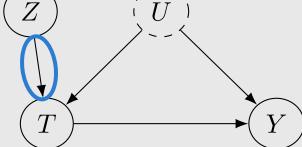
We now have T(Z=1) and T(Z=0) or T(1) and T(0) for short





Break data into 4 strata (groups) based on how the instrument affects the treatment they take

• Compliers: T(Z = 1) = 1, T(Z = 0) = 0



- Compliers: T(Z = 1) = 1, T(Z = 0) = 0
- Defiers: T(Z = 1) = 0, T(Z = 0) = 1

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- Always-takers: T(Z=1)=1, T(Z=0)=1

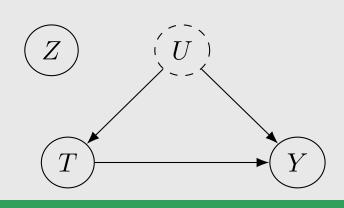
• Compliers:
$$T(Z = 1) = 1$$
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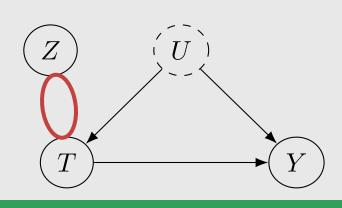
• Always-takers:
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• Never-takers:
$$T(Z = 1) = 0$$
, $T(Z = 0) = 0$

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- Always-takers: T(Z=1)=1, T(Z=0)=1
- Never-takers: T(Z = 1) = 0, T(Z = 0) = 0

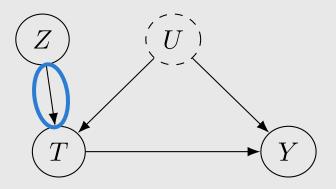


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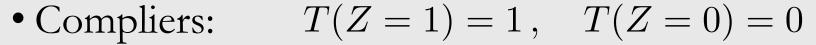


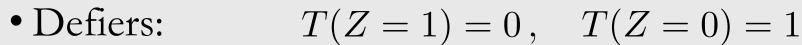
$$\forall i, \quad T_i(Z=1) \geq T_i(Z=0)$$

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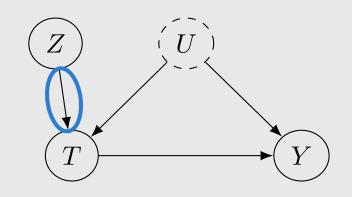


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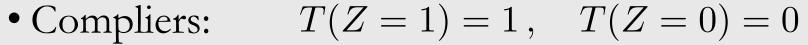




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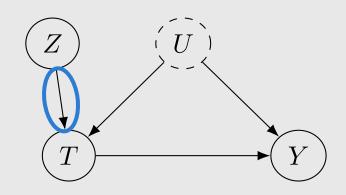


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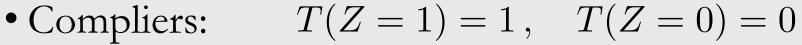




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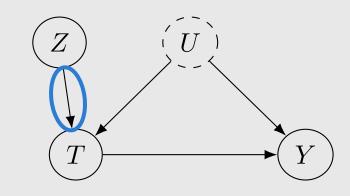


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- Always-takers: T(Z = 1) = 1, T(Z = 0) = 1
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$$\mathbb{E}[Y(Z=1) - Y(Z=0)]$$

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with Monotonicity Assumption

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average causal effect (CACE):
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This is the Wald estimand!

Problems:

- Monotonicity isn't always satisfied
- Even if it is, we are usually interested in the average effect across the whole population (ATE), rather than just the compliers (CACE)

Question:

What causal estimand can we nonparametrically identify with an instrument and the monotonicity assumption?

What is an Instrument?

No Nonparametric Identification of the ATE

Warm-Up: Linear Setting

Nonparametric Identification of Local ATE

More General Settings for the ATE

Nonparametric Outcome with Additive Noise

$$Y := f(T, W) + U$$

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Nonparametric Outcome with Additive Noise (Semi-parametric)

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See Kilbertus et al. (2020) and references therein