

Causal Discovery from Interventions

Brady Neal

causalcourse.com

Structural Interventions

Single-Node Interventions

Multi-Node Interventions

Parametric Interventions

Interventional Markov Equivalence

Miscellaneous Other Settings

Structural Interventions

Single-Node Interventions

Multi-Node Interventions

Parametric Interventions

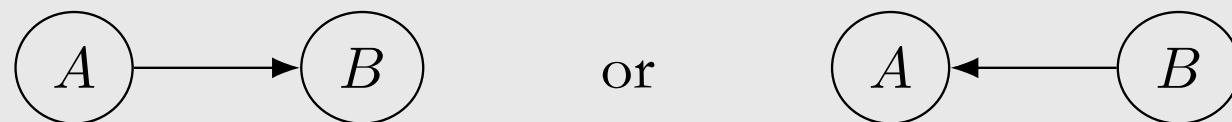
Interventional Markov Equivalence

Miscellaneous Other Settings

Intervention in Two-Variable Setting



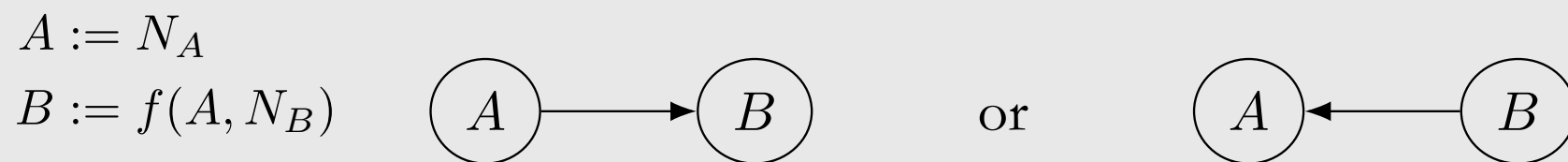
Intervention in Two-Variable Setting



Same Markov equivalence class / essential graph



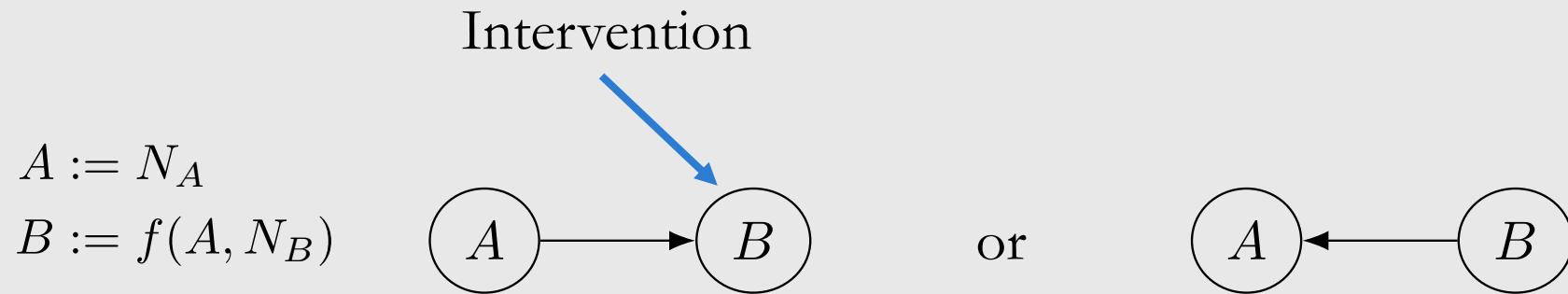
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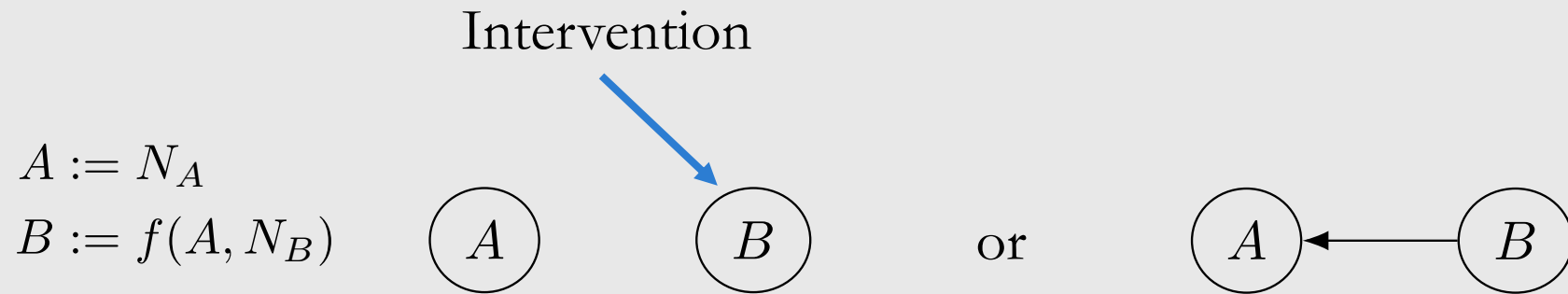
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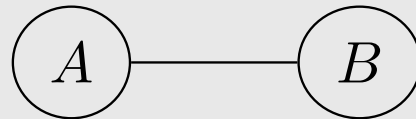
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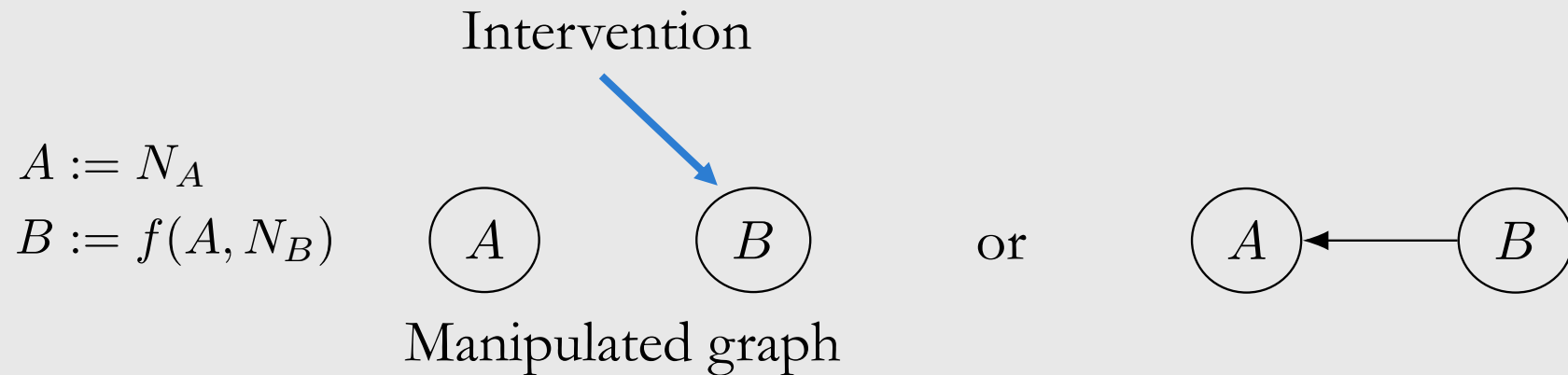
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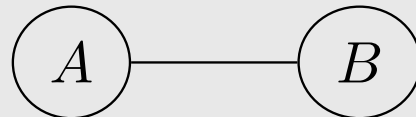
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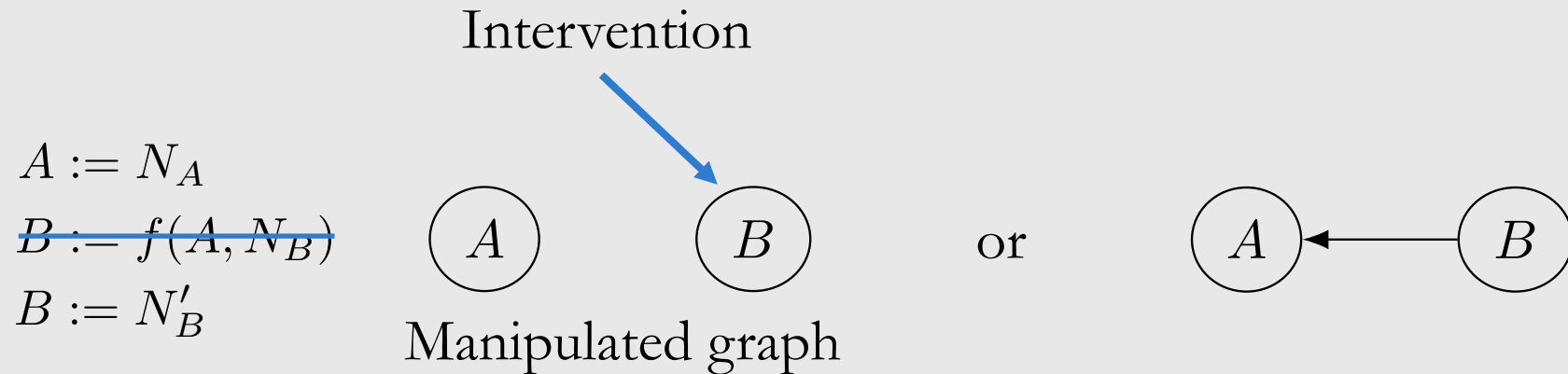
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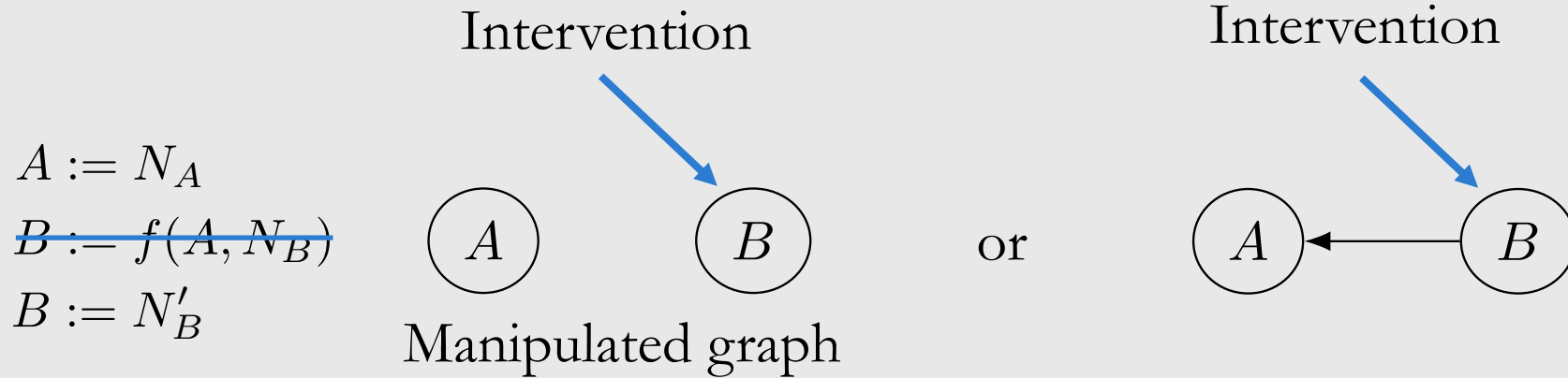
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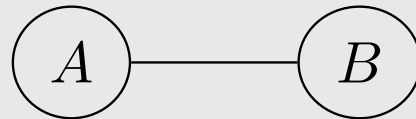
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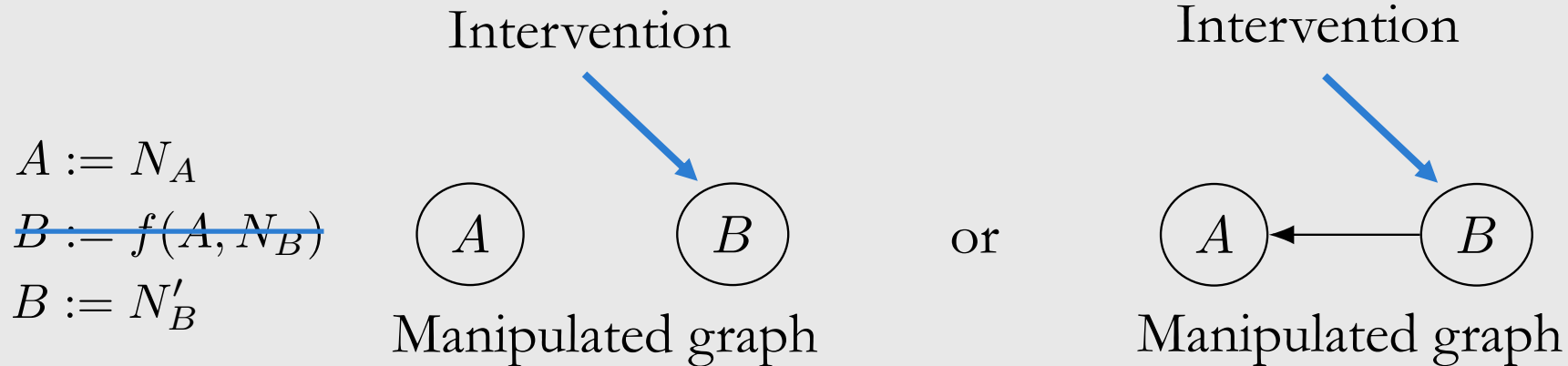
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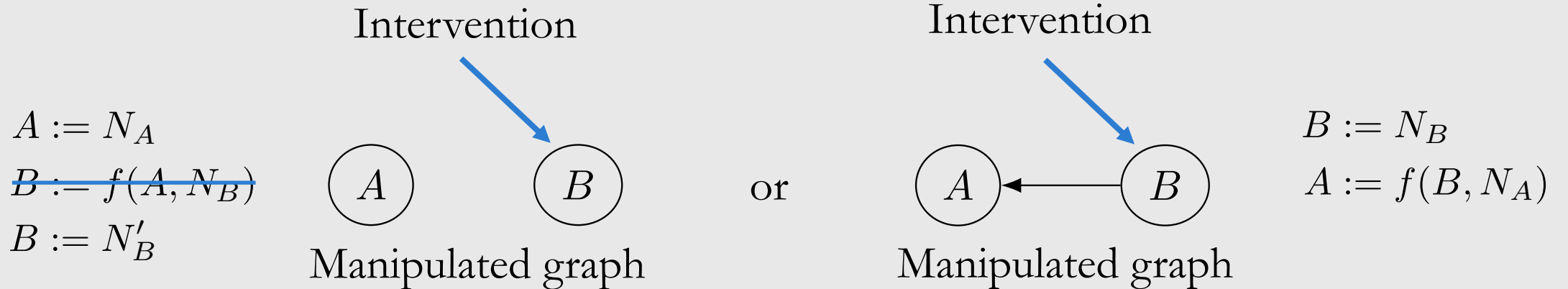
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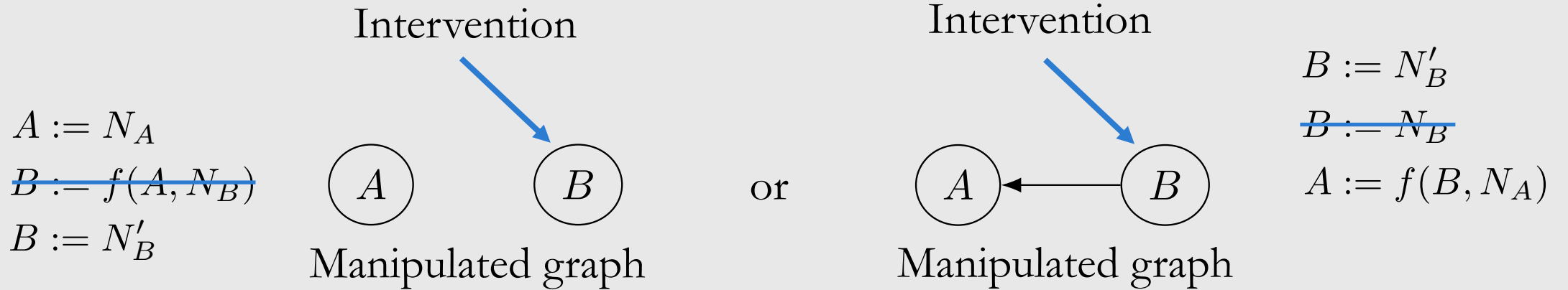
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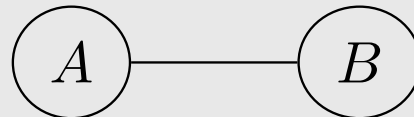
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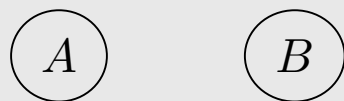
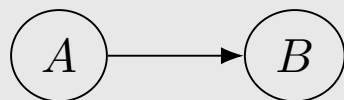


Same Markov equivalence class / essential graph



Two Variables: Interventional Essential Graphs

True graph



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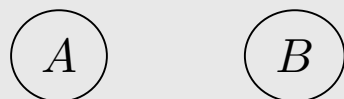
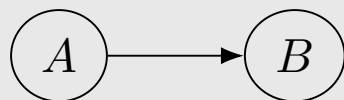
Interventional essential graphs

True graph

$I = \{A\}$

$I = \{B\}$

$I = \{\}$



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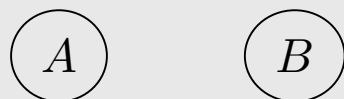
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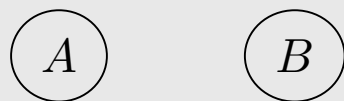
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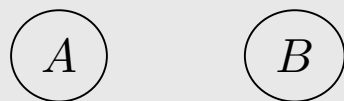
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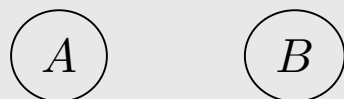


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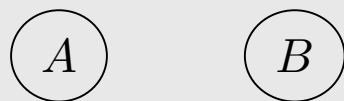
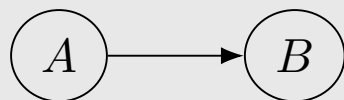
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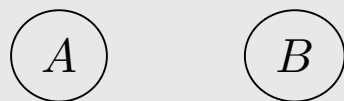
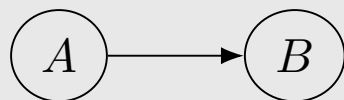
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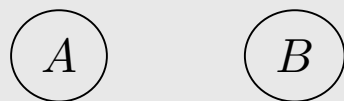
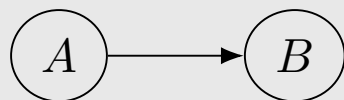
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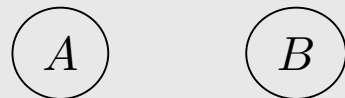
True graph under intervention $I = \{A\}$ (A) (B)

Interventional essential graphs

True graph



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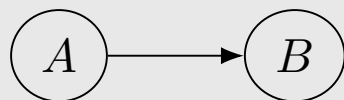
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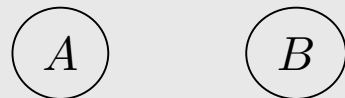
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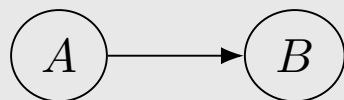
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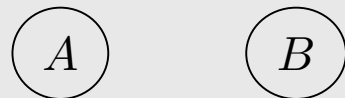
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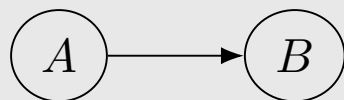
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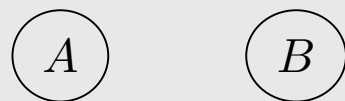
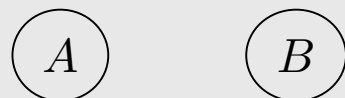
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Interventional essential graphs

True graph



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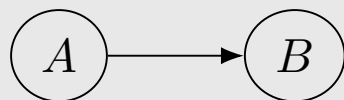
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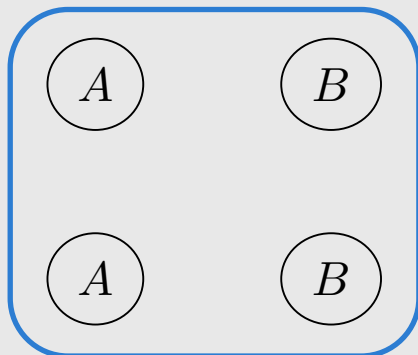
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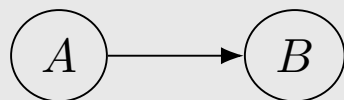
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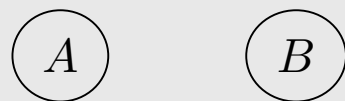
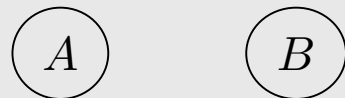
True graph under intervention $I = \{B\}$ (A) (B)

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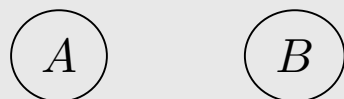
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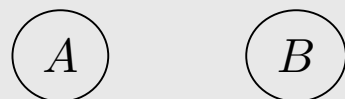
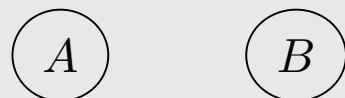
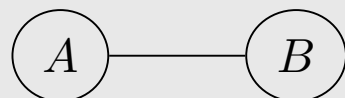
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Interventional essential graphs

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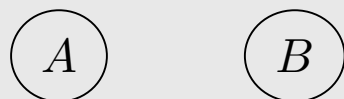
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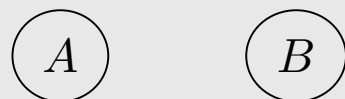
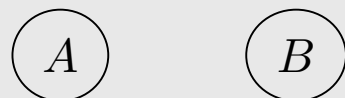
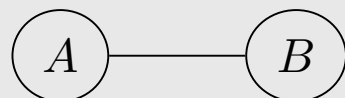
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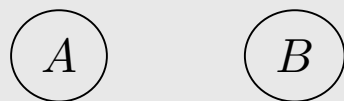
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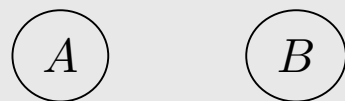
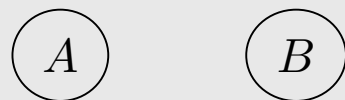
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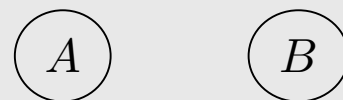
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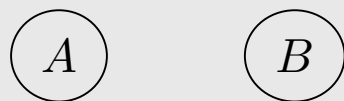
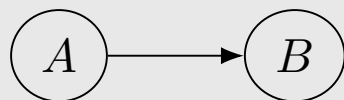
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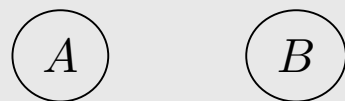
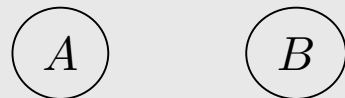
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Interventional essential graphs

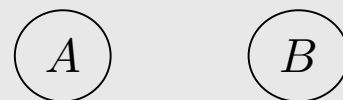
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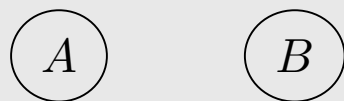
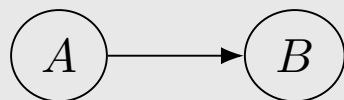
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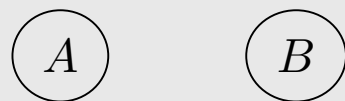
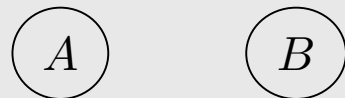
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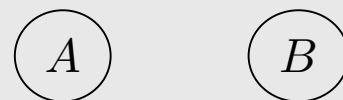
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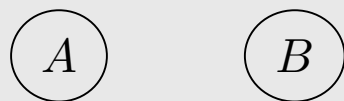
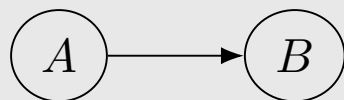
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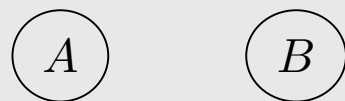
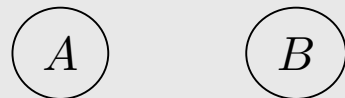
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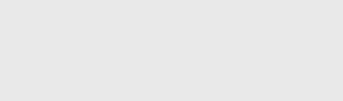
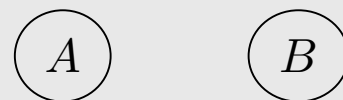
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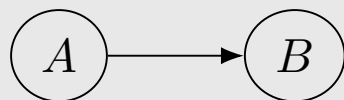
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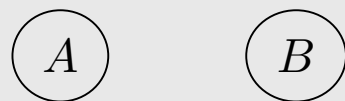
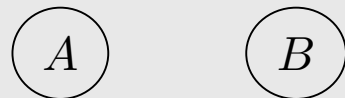


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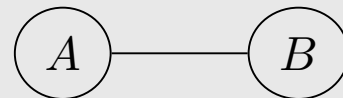
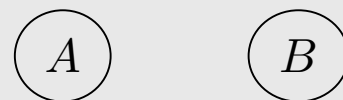
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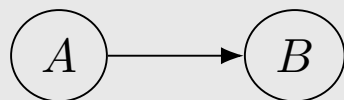
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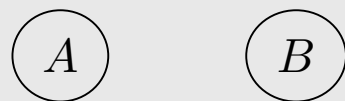
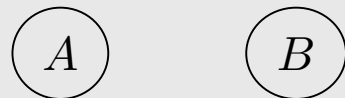


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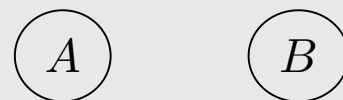
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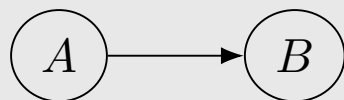
Two Variables: Interventional Essential Graphs

True graph under intervention $I = \{B\}$

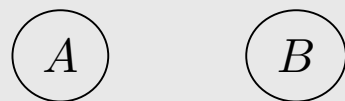
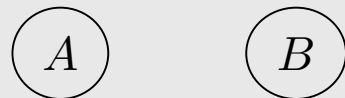


Interventional essential graphs

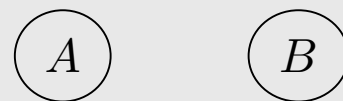
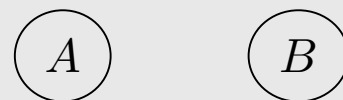
True graph



$I = \{A\}$



$I = \{B\}$



$I = \{\}$

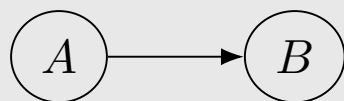
Two Variables: Interventional Essential Graphs

True graph under intervention $I = \{B\}$

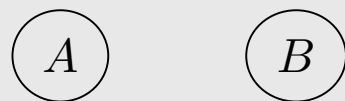
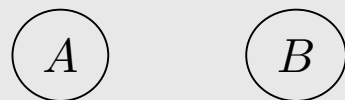
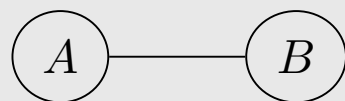


Interventional essential graphs

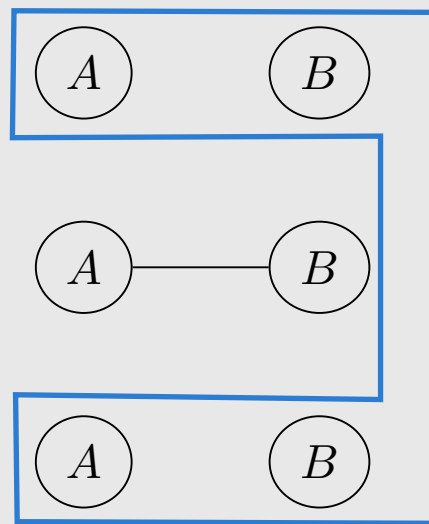
True graph



$I = \{A\}$



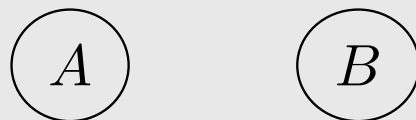
$I = \{B\}$



$I = \{\}$

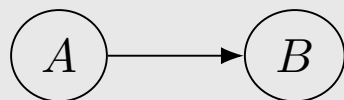
Two Variables: Interventional Essential Graphs

True graph under intervention $I = \{\}$

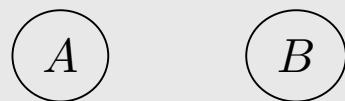
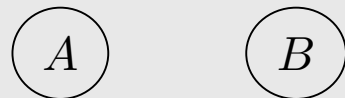


Interventional essential graphs

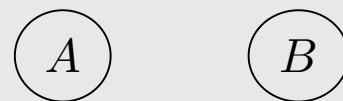
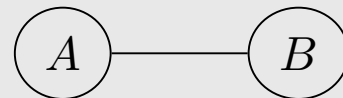
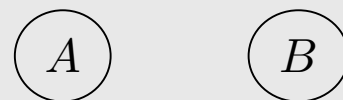
True graph



$I = \{A\}$



$I = \{B\}$



$I = \{\}$

Two Variables: Interventional Essential Graphs

True graph under intervention $I = \{\}$

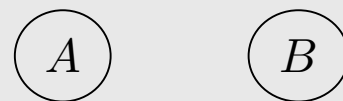
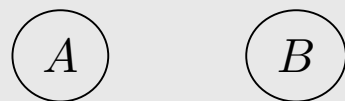
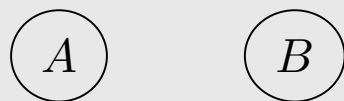
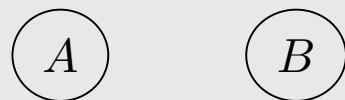
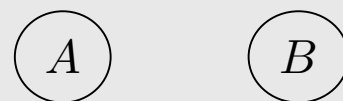
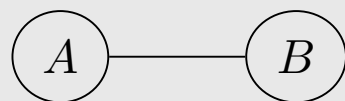
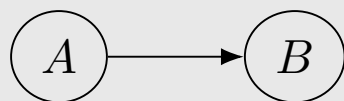
Interventional essential graphs

True graph

$I = \{A\}$

$I = \{B\}$

$I = \{\}$

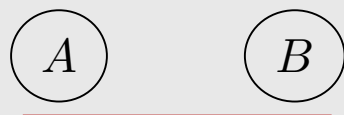


Two Variables: Interventional Essential Graphs

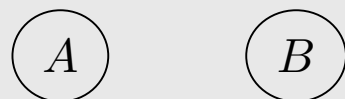
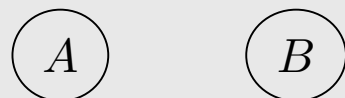
True graph under intervention $I = \{\}$

Interventional essential graphs

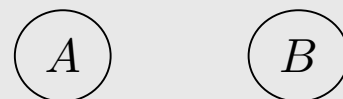
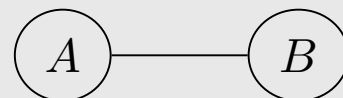
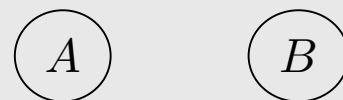
True graph



$I = \{A\}$



$I = \{B\}$



$I = \{\}$

Two Variables: Interventional Essential Graphs

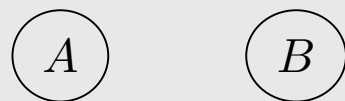
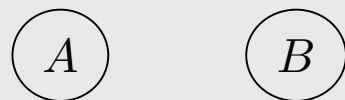
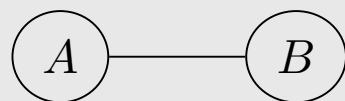
True graph under intervention $I = \{\}$

Interventional essential graphs

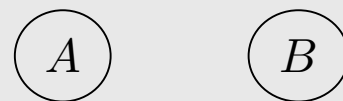
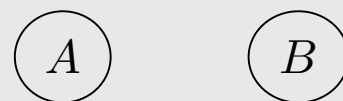
True graph



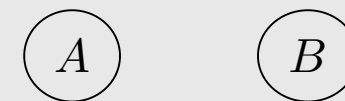
$I = \{A\}$



$I = \{B\}$



$I = \{\}$



Two Variables: Interventional Essential Graphs

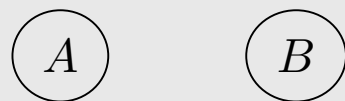
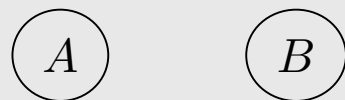
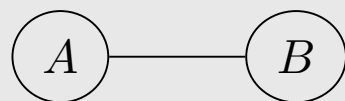
True graph under intervention $I = \{\}$

Interventional essential graphs

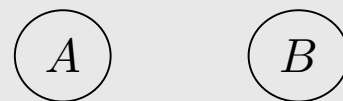
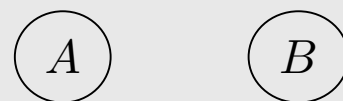
True graph



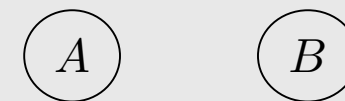
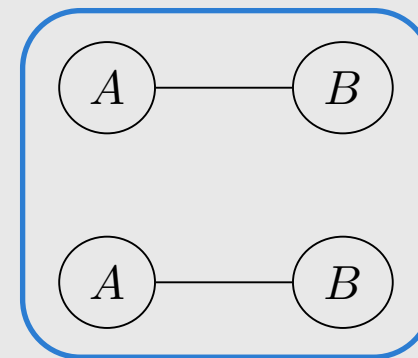
$I = \{A\}$



$I = \{B\}$



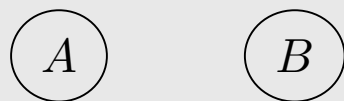
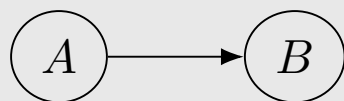
$I = \{\}$



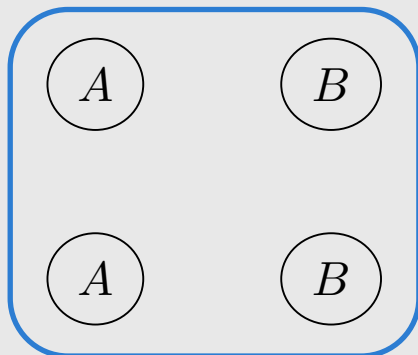
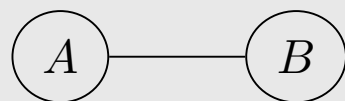
Two Variables: Interventional Essential Graphs

Interventional essential graphs

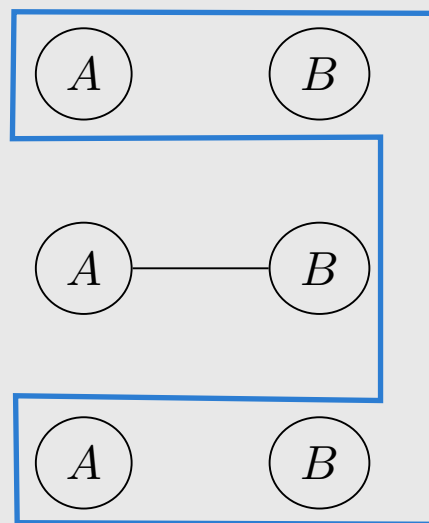
True graph



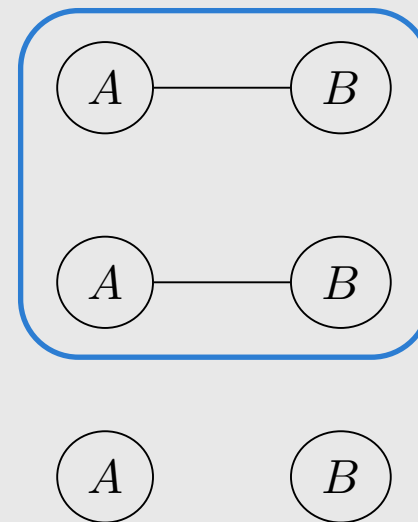
$I = \{A\}$



$I = \{B\}$



$I = \{\}$

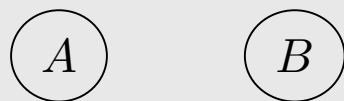
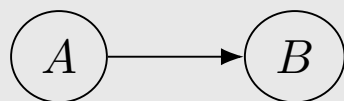


Two Variables: Interventional Essential Graphs

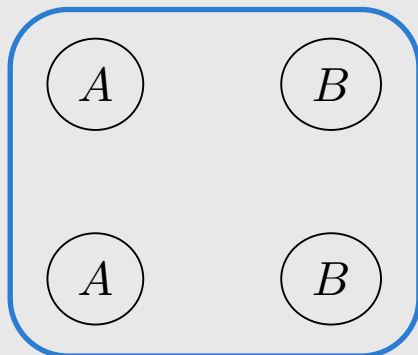
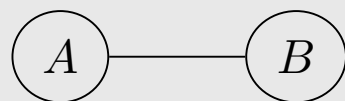
Need more than one intervention to identify the graph

Interventional essential graphs

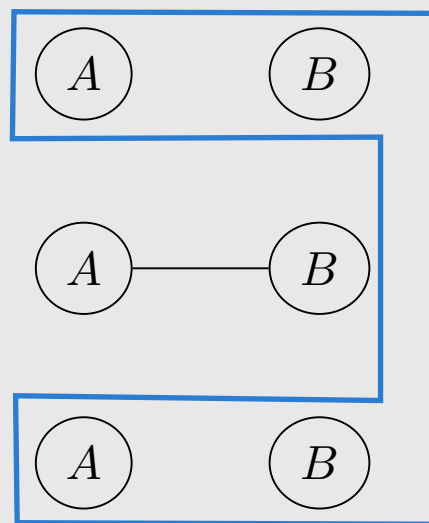
True graph



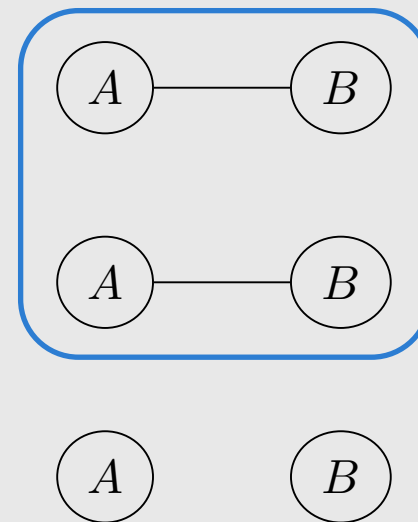
$I = \{A\}$



$I = \{B\}$



$I = \{\}$

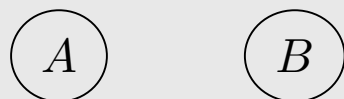


Two Variables: Two Interventions Identify the Graph

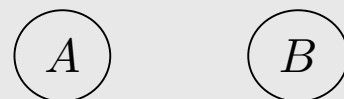
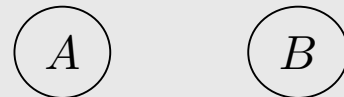
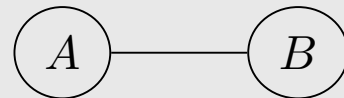
Two interventions are sufficient and necessary to identify the graph.

Interventional essential graphs

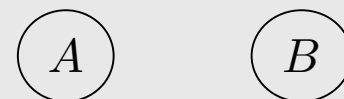
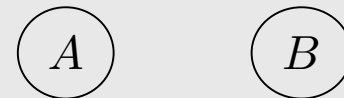
True graph



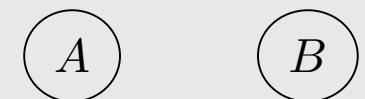
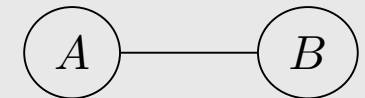
$I = \{A\}$



$I = \{B\}$



$I = \{\}$

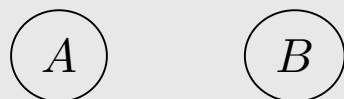


Two Variables: Two Interventions Identify the Graph

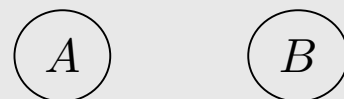
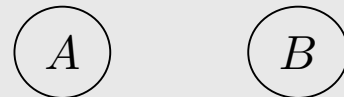
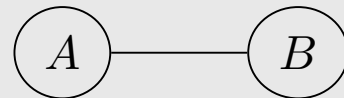
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Interventional essential graphs

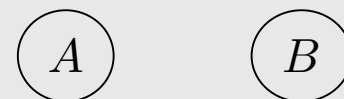
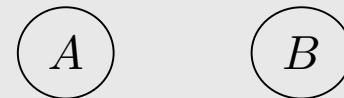
True graph



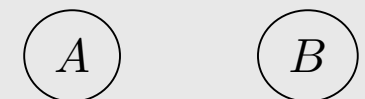
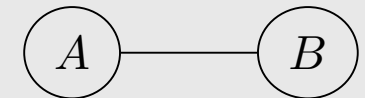
$I = \{A\}$



$I = \{B\}$



$I = \{\}$

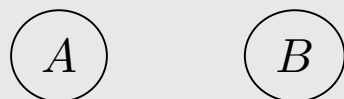


Two Variables: Two Interventions Identify the Graph

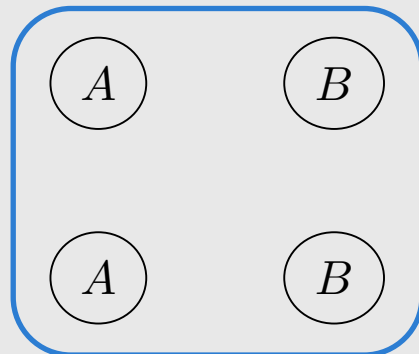
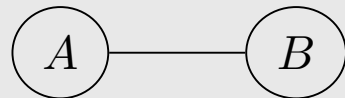
Two interventions are sufficient and necessary to identify the graph.

Interventional essential graphs

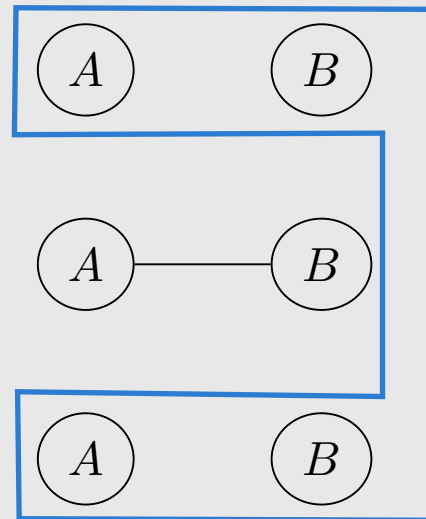
True graph



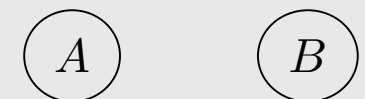
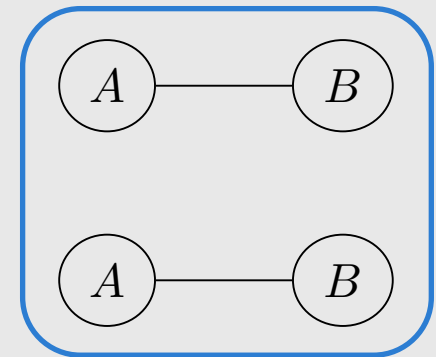
$I = \{A\}$



$I = \{B\}$



$I = \{\}$



Complete Graphs *Are* the Worst Case

Complete Graphs Are the Worst Case

Theorem: Two graphs are Markov equivalent if and only if they have the same skeleton and same immoralities (Verma & Pearl, 1990; Frydenburg, 1990).

Complete Graphs Are the Worst Case

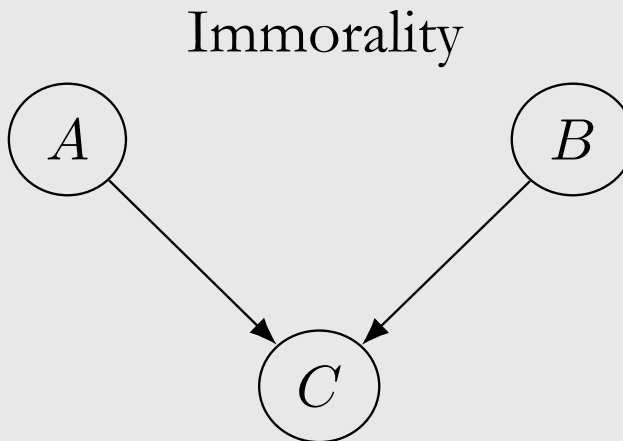
Theorem: Two graphs are Markov equivalent if and only if they have the same skeleton and same immoralities (Verma & Pearl, 1990; Frydenburg, 1990).

In complete graphs, there are no immoralities, so we can only get the complete skeleton graph (e.g. from PC) as the essential graph in the worse case

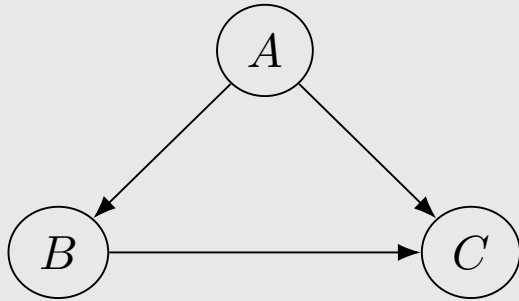
Complete Graphs Are the Worst Case

Theorem: Two graphs are Markov equivalent if and only if they have the same skeleton and same immoralities (Verma & Pearl, 1990; Frydenburg, 1990).

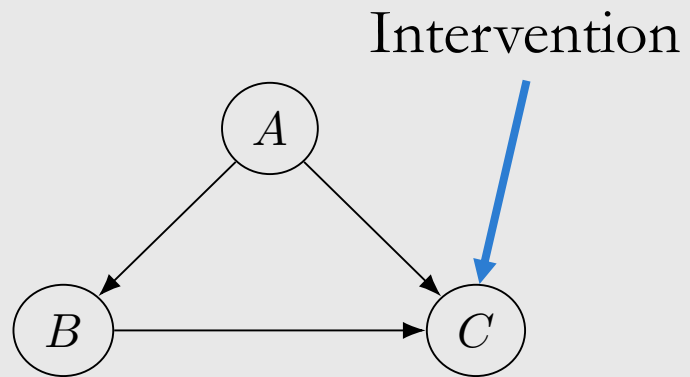
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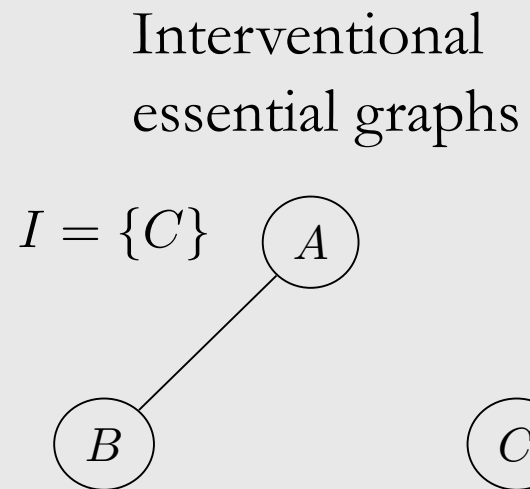
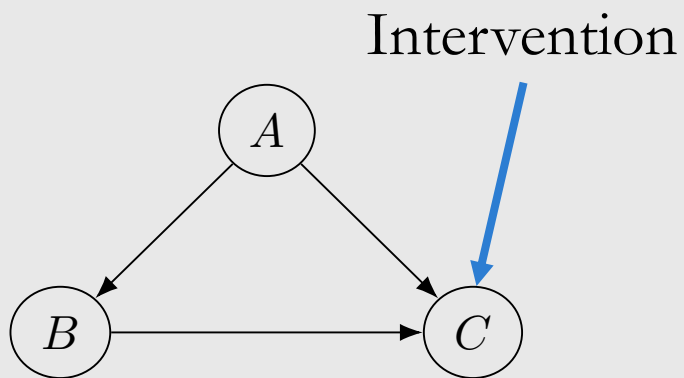
Three Variables



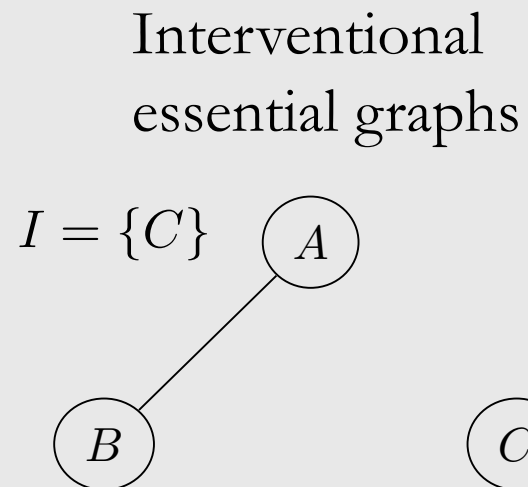
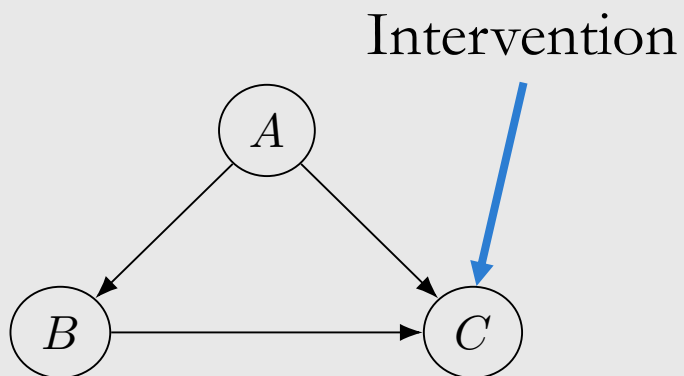
Three Variables



Three Variables



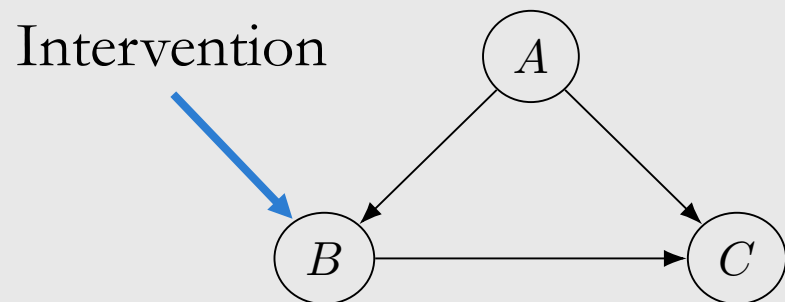
Three Variables



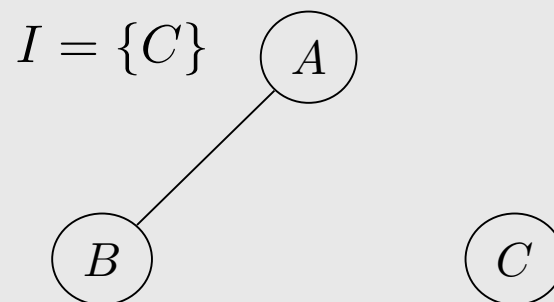
What we've learned:

- No $C \rightarrow A$ edge
- No $C \rightarrow B$ edge
- A and B connected

Three Variables



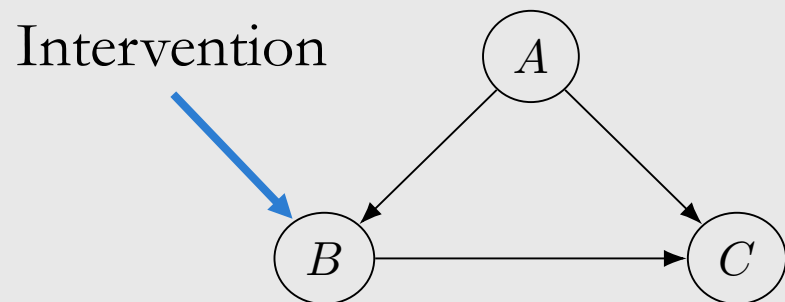
Interventional
essential graphs



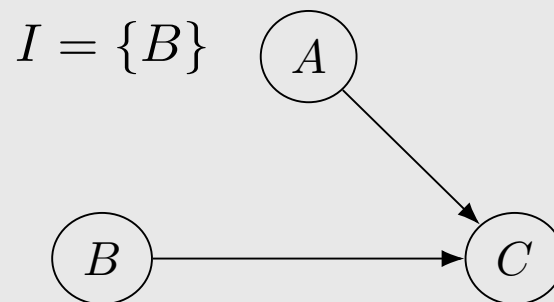
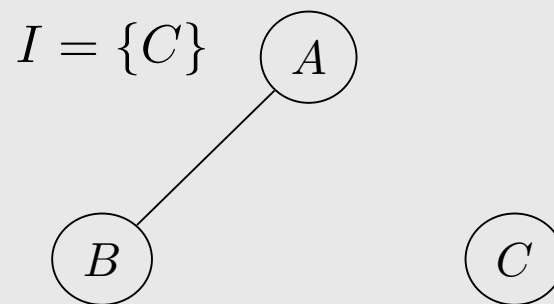
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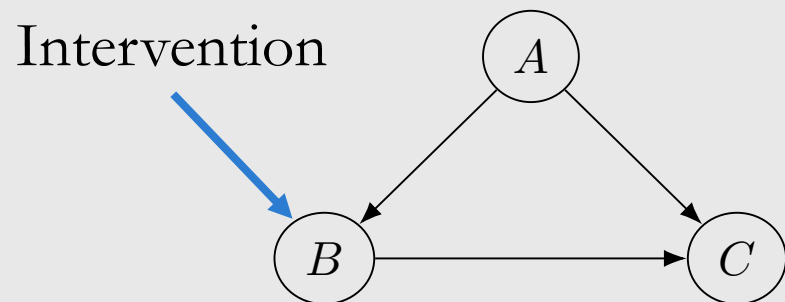
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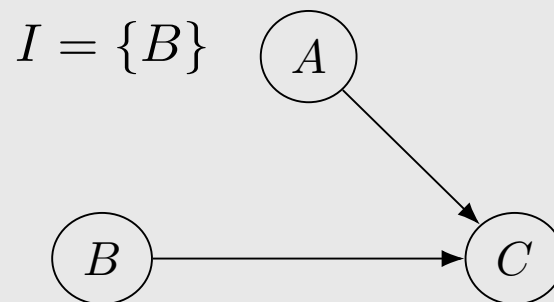
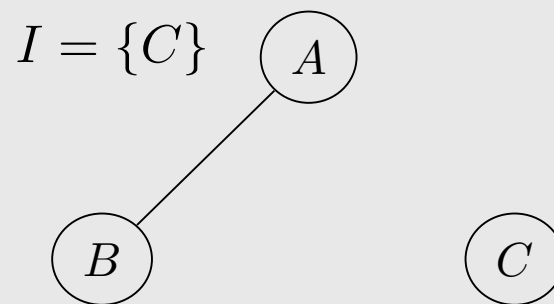
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Interventional
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What we've learned:

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- No $C \rightarrow B$ edge
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- No $B \rightarrow A$ edge
- Yes $A \rightarrow C$ edge
- Yes $B \rightarrow C$ edge

Single Variable Interventions: $n - 1$ Are Sufficient
for $n > 2$ ([Eberhardt et al., 2006](#))

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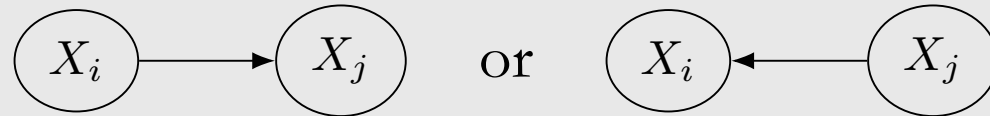
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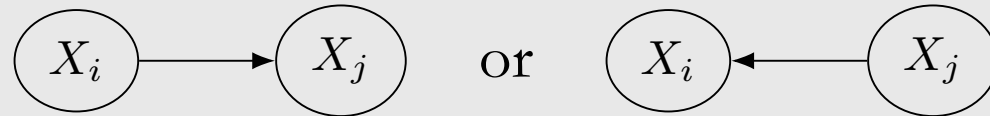


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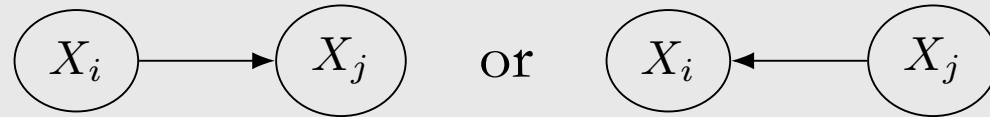
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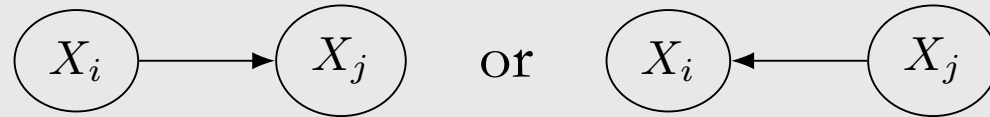
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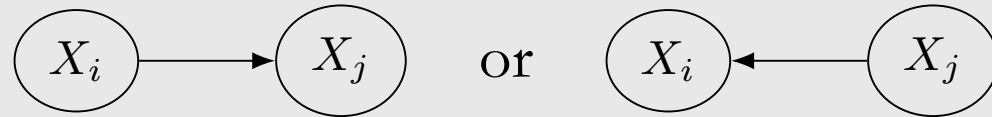
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Note: if you include the empty set (observational), then n are necessary in the worst case ([Eberhardt et al., 2006](#)).

Single Variable Interventions: $n - 1$ Are Necessary in the Worst Case (Complete Graph)

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Adaptivity doesn't help in the worst case (Eberhardt et al., 2006).

Questions (where the goal is to identify the graph):

1. Show that n interventions are necessary in the worst case in the three-variable setting when you use the observational data (null intervention) as one of the interventions.
2. What is the minimum number of interventions necessary in the worst case when $n = 3$?
3. What is the minimum number of interventions necessary in the worst case when $n = 2$?

Structural Interventions

Single-Node Interventions

Multi-Node Interventions

Parametric Interventions

Interventional Markov Equivalence

Miscellaneous Other Settings

Multiple-Node Interventions

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Number of Interventions in the Worse Case

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Start with Markov equivalence class, then how many interventions are necessary, given that we can intervene on unlimited nodes per intervention?

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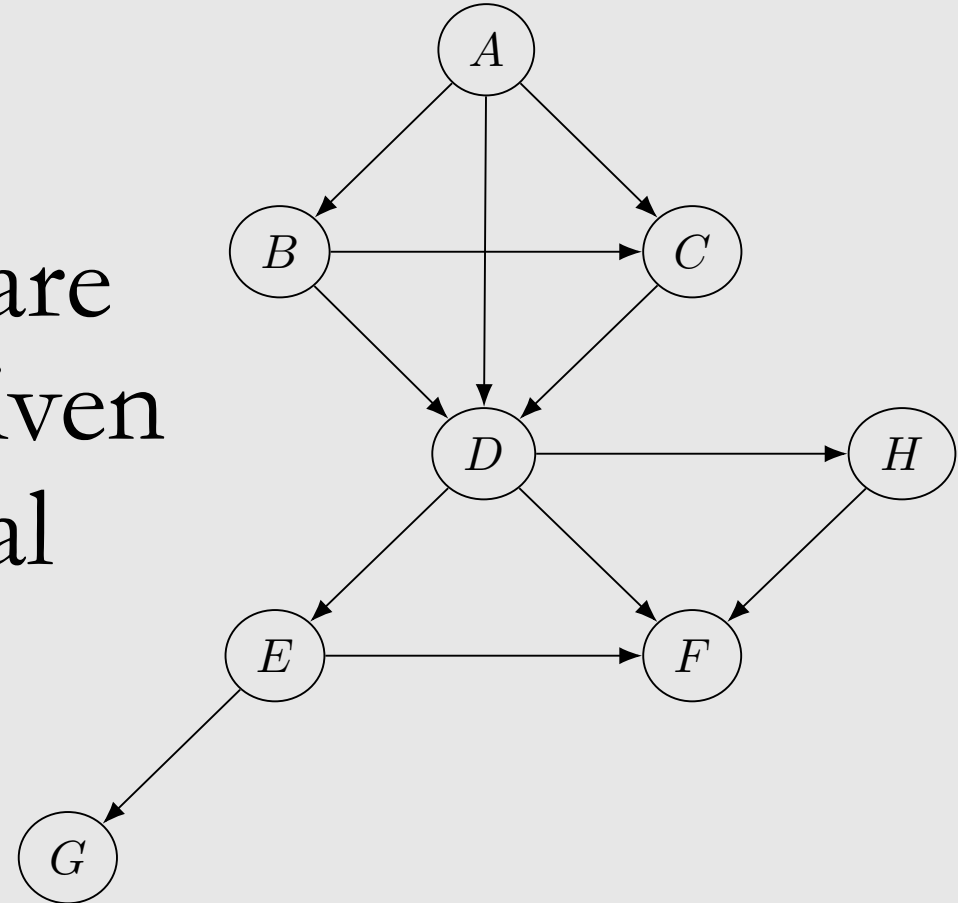
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Theorem: $\lceil \log_2(c) \rceil$ multi-node interventions are sufficient and necessary in the worst case, where c is the size of the largest **clique** (conjectured by [Eberhardt \(2008\)](#) and proven by [Hauser & Bühlmann \(2014\)](#)).

Question:

In this graph, how many multi-node interventions are sufficient and necessary given that you know the essential graph?



Structural Interventions

Single-Node Interventions

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Interventional Markov Equivalence

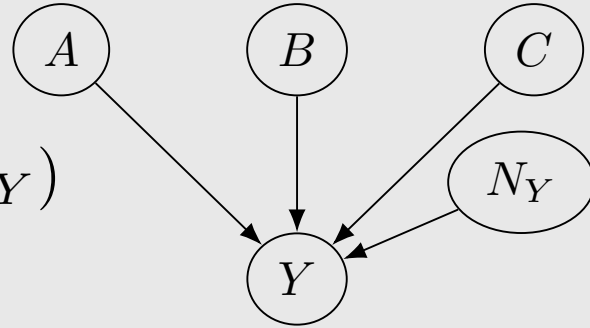
Miscellaneous Other Settings

Structural vs. Parametric Interventions

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Structural:

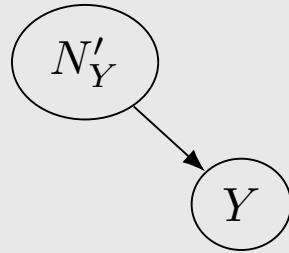
$$Y := f_{\theta}(A, B, C, N_Y)$$



Structural vs. Parametric Interventions

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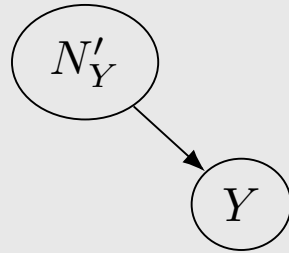
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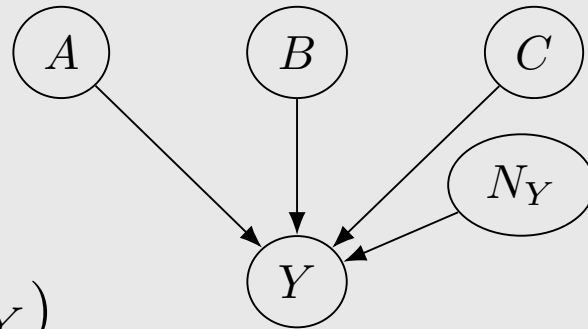
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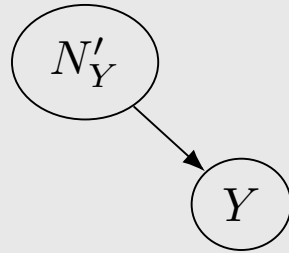
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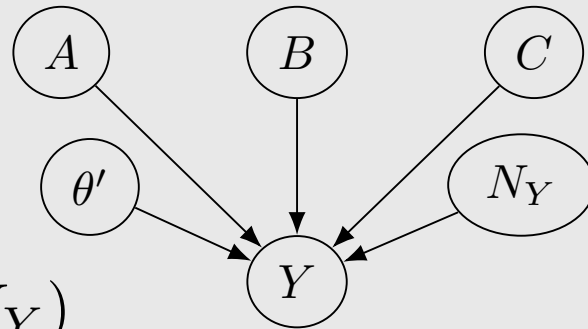
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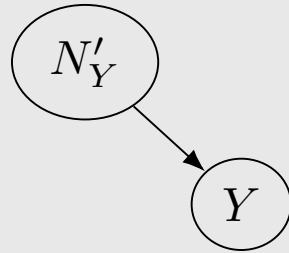
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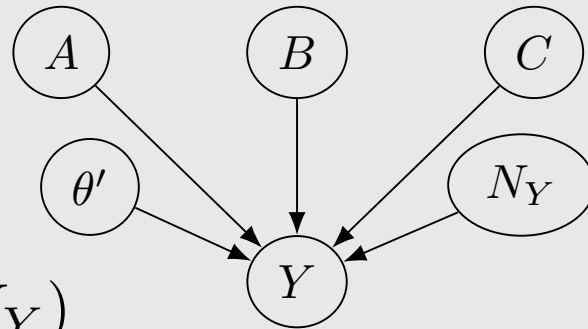
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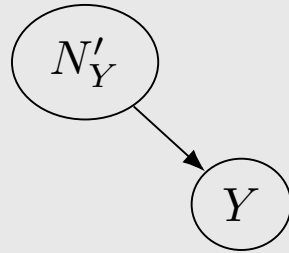


Other names: hard vs. soft, perfect vs. imperfect, etc.

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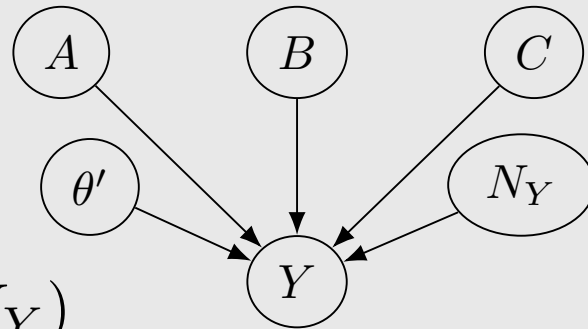
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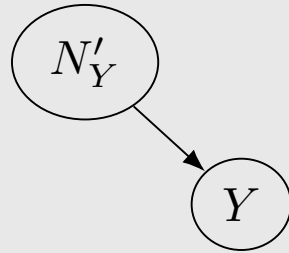
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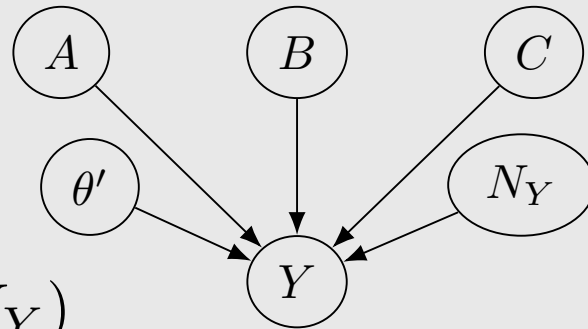
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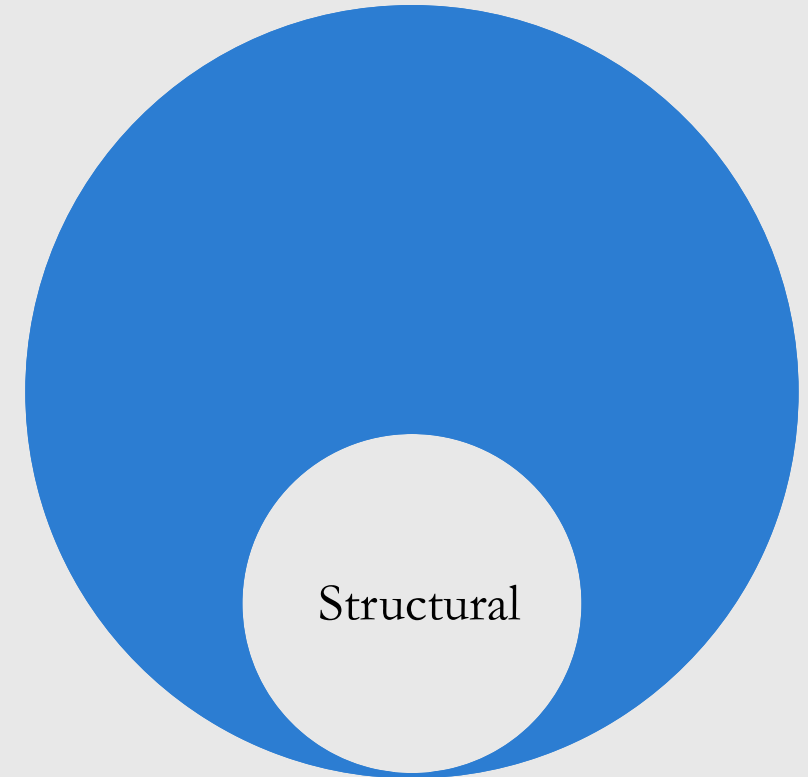


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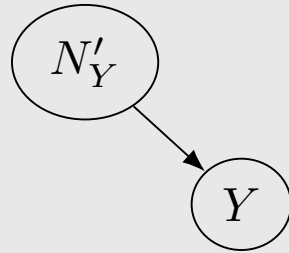


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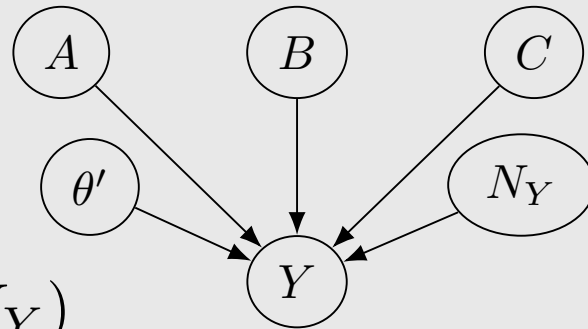
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Parametric

What people often mean by
“soft/parametric” and what
we’ll consider now

Structural

Other names: hard vs. soft, perfect vs. imperfect, etc.

Number of Parametric Single-Node Interventions

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Partial Identification with Fewer Interventions

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How about the in-between? How much of the graph can we identify with fewer interventions?

How much of the graph can we
identify with a given set of
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Structural Interventions

Single-Node Interventions

Multi-Node Interventions

Parametric Interventions

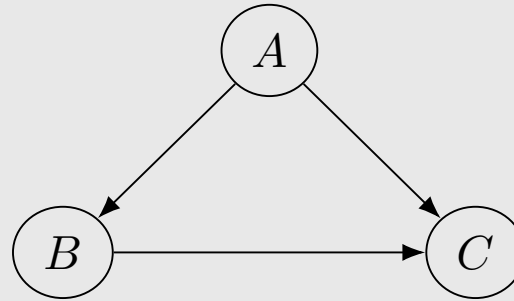
Interventional Markov Equivalence

Miscellaneous Other Settings

Interventions Introduce Immoralities: Single-Node

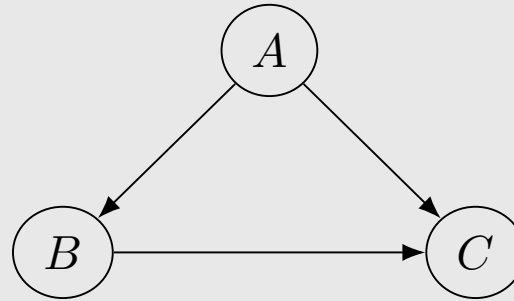
Interventions Introduce Immoralities: Single-Node

True Graph

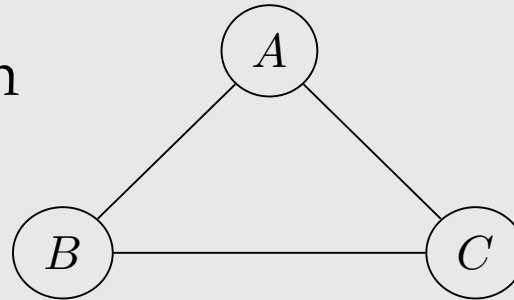


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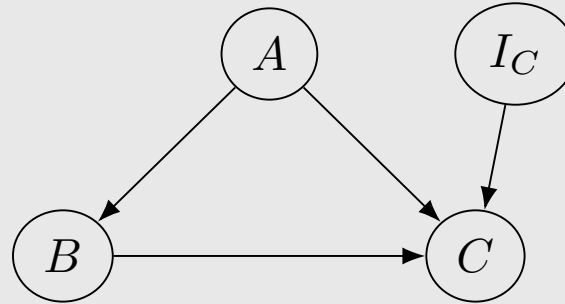


Essential Graph

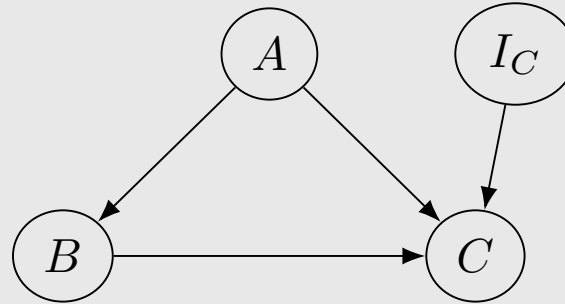


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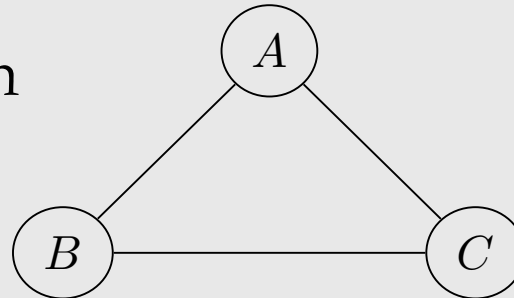
True Graph



Interventional Graph

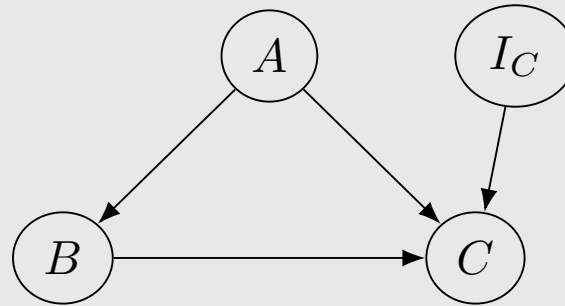


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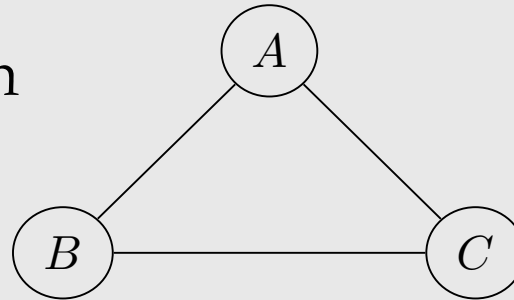
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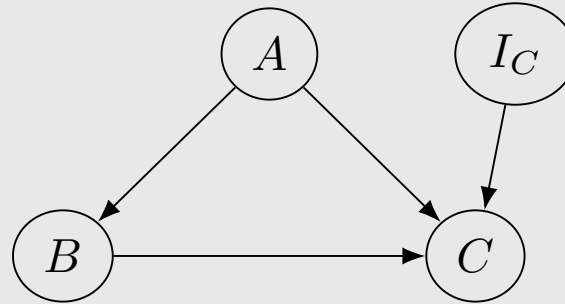
Preserves structure, unlike structural interventions

Essential Graph



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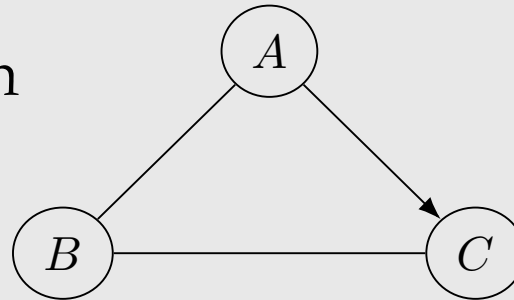
True Graph



Interventional Graph

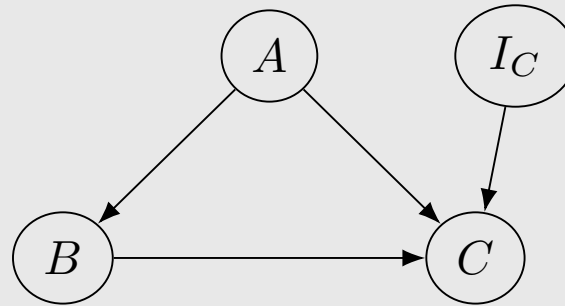
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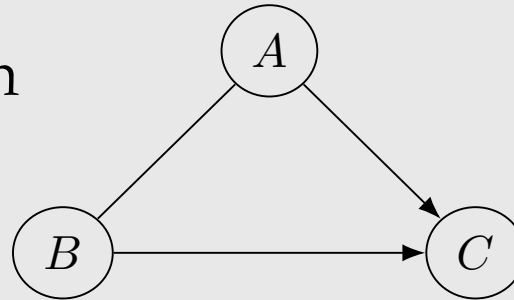
True Graph



Interventional Graph

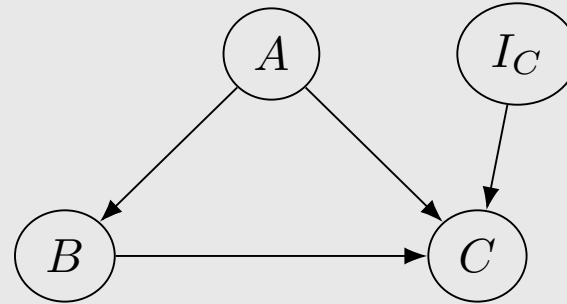
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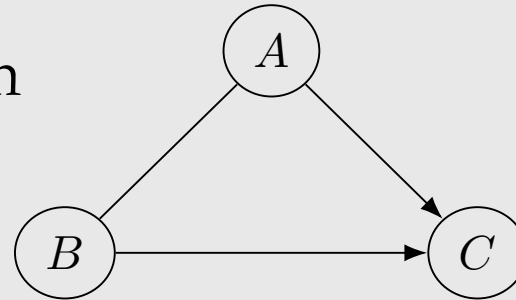
True Graph



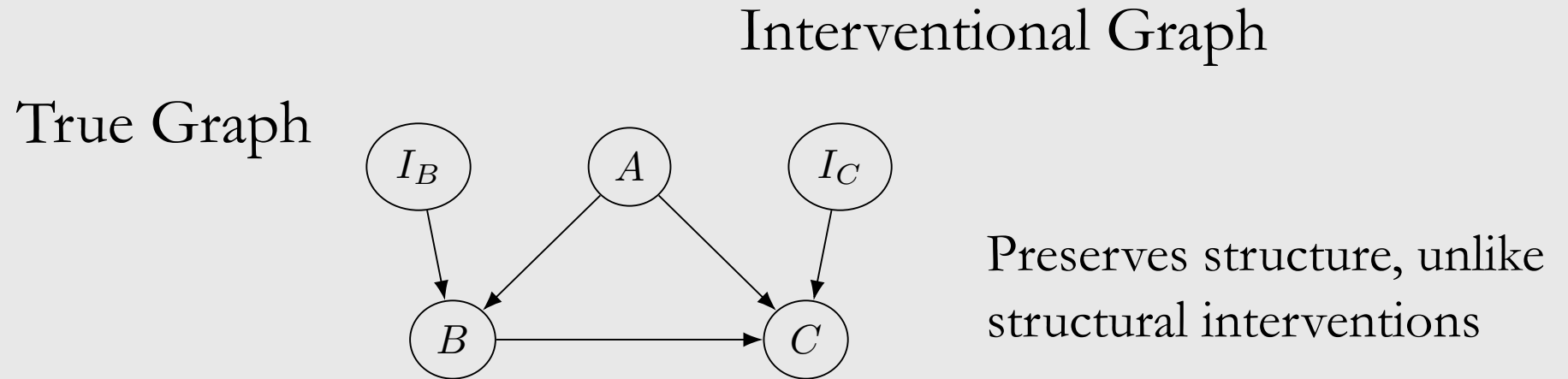
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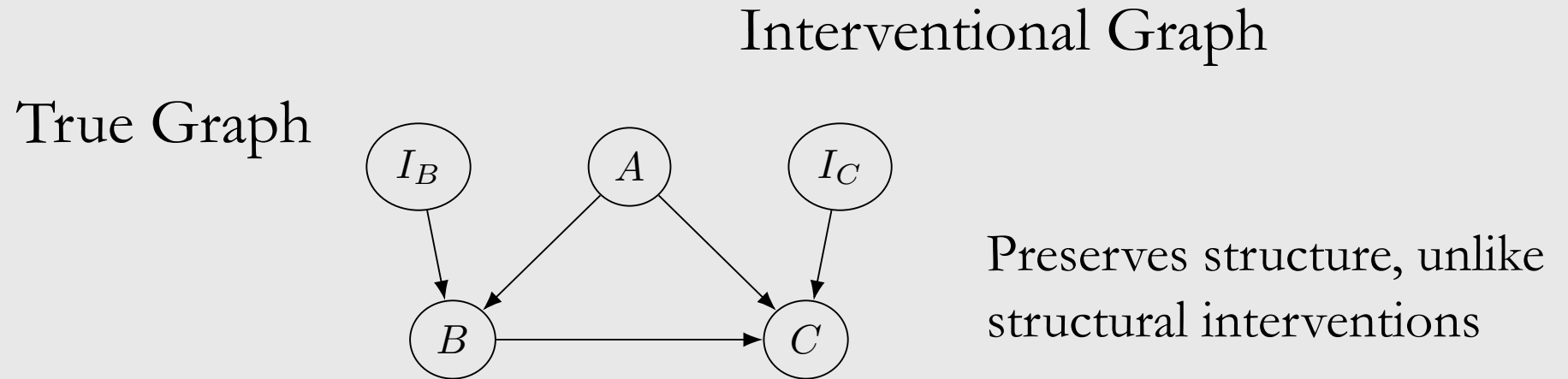
Interventional Essential Graph



Interventions Introduce Immoralities: Single-Node

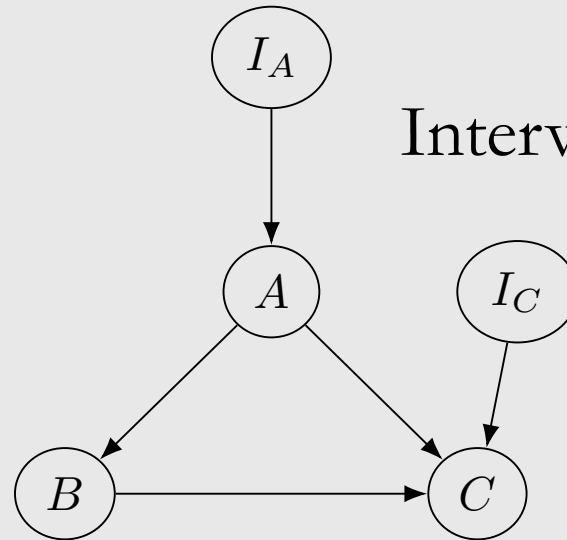


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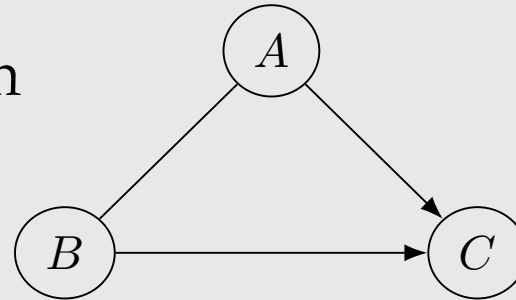
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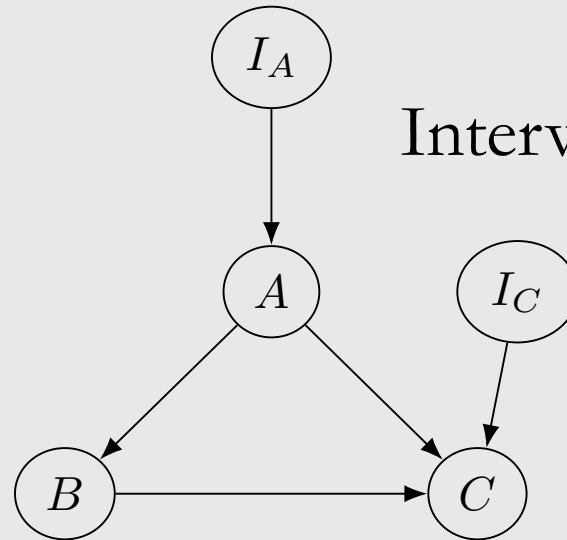
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Interventional Essential Graph



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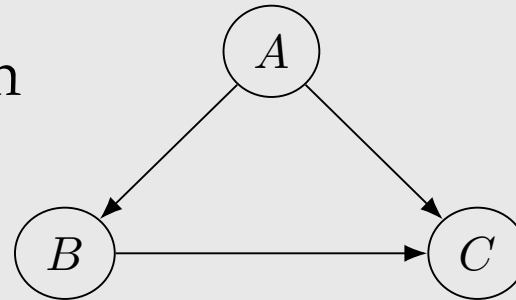
True Graph



Interventional Graph

Preserves structure, unlike structural interventions

Interventional Essential Graph



Interventional Markov Equivalence: Single-Node

Theorem: Two graphs augmented with single-node interventions are interventionally Markov equivalent if and only if they have the same skeletons and immoralities ([Tian & Pearl, 2001](#)).

Interventional Markov Equivalence: Single-Node

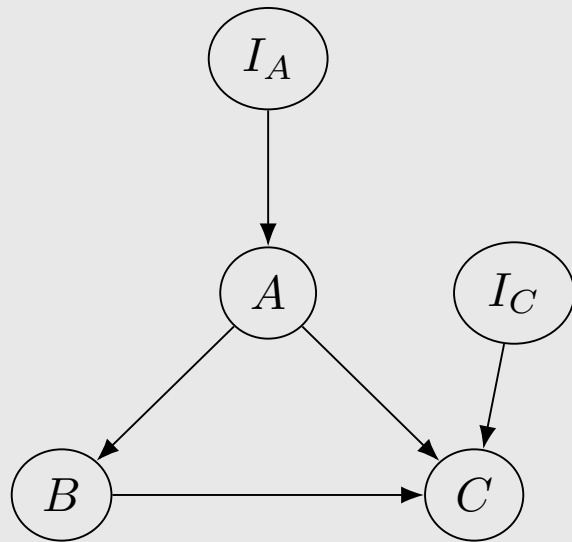
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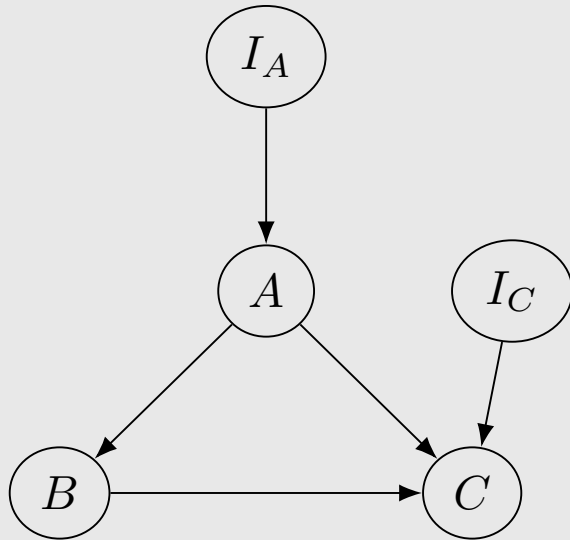
Interventional Graph: Multi-Node Interventions

Two Single-Node Interventions

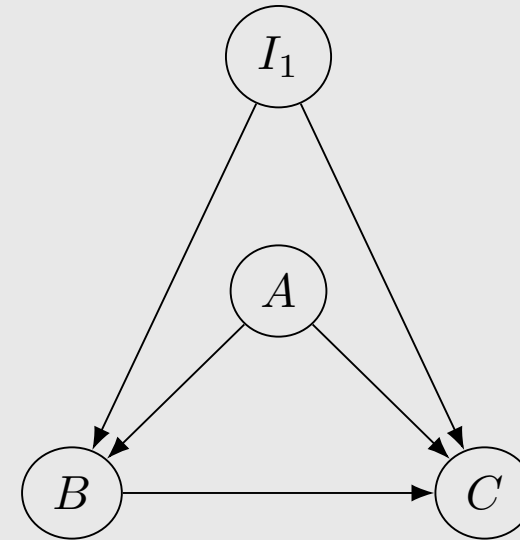


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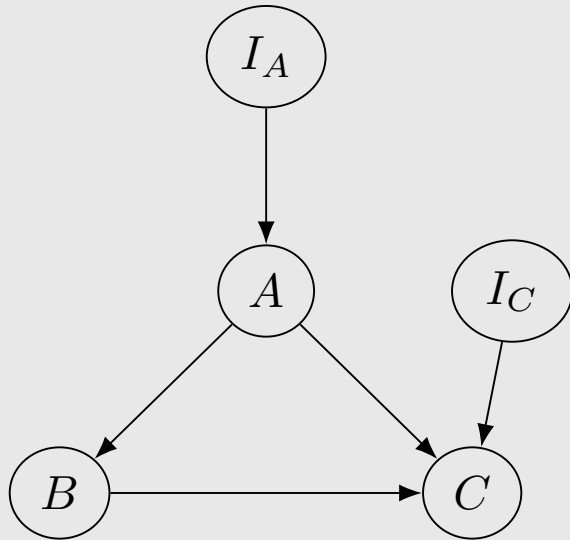


One Multi-Node Intervention

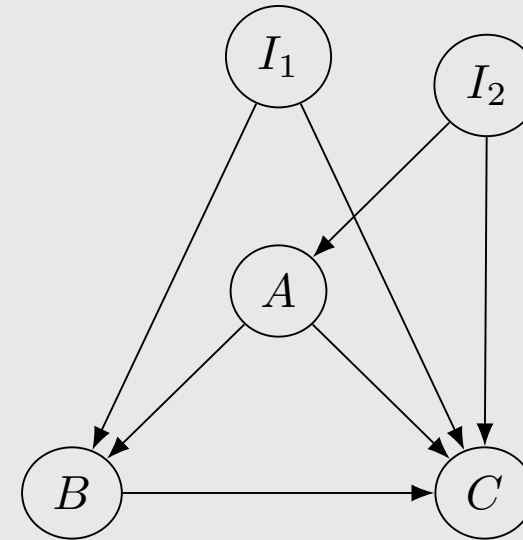


Interventional Graph: Multi-Node Interventions

Two Single-Node Interventions



Two Multi-Node Interventions

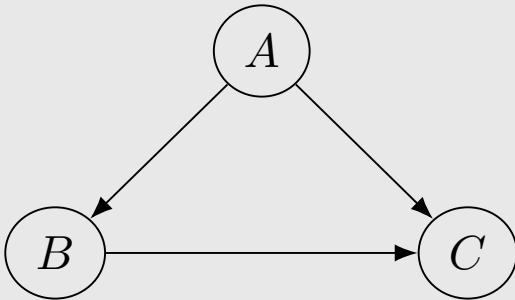


Interventional Markov Equivalence: Multi-Node

Theorem: Given the observational data, two graphs augmented with multi-node interventions are interventionally Markov equivalent if and only if they have the same skeletons and immoralities [\(Yang et al., 2018\)](#).

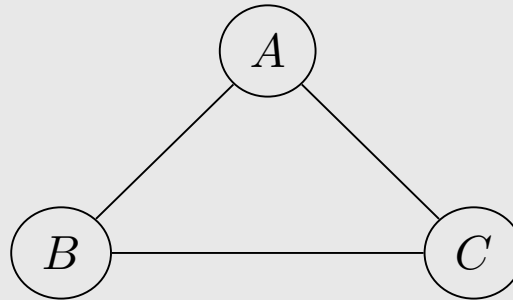
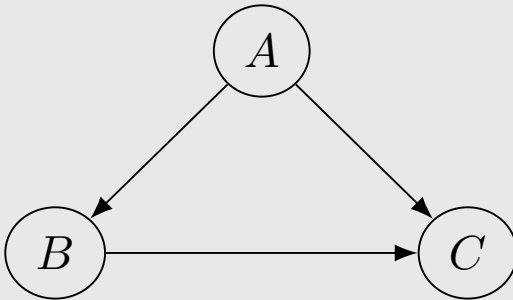
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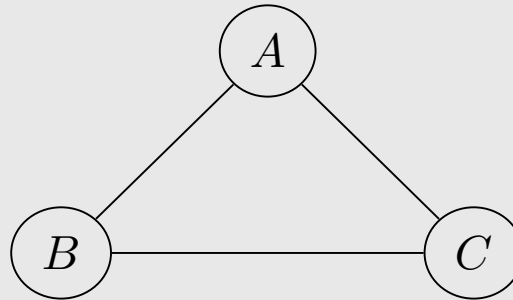
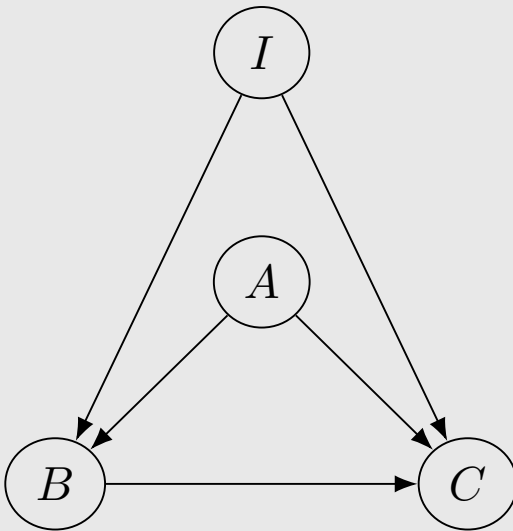
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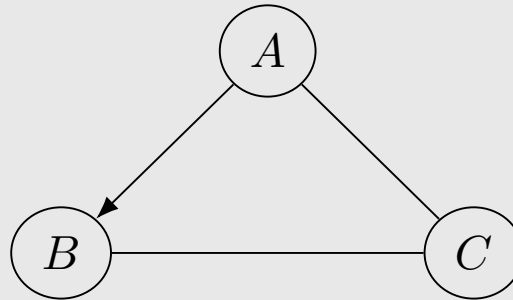
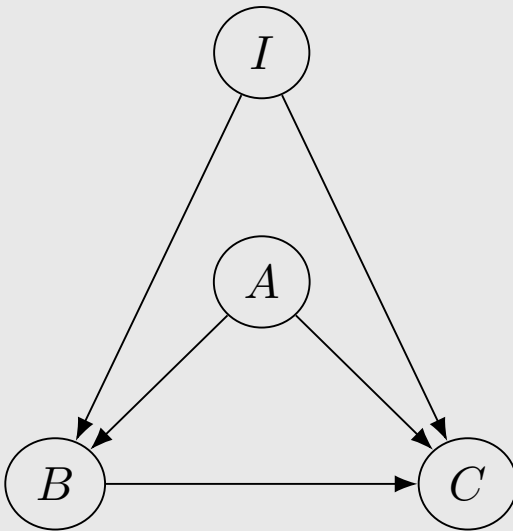
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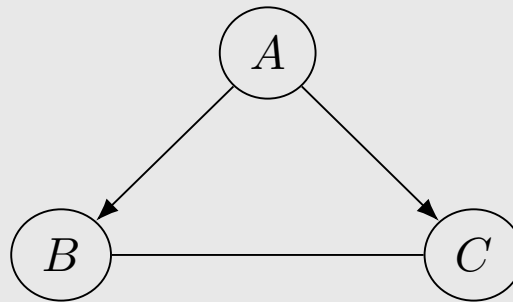
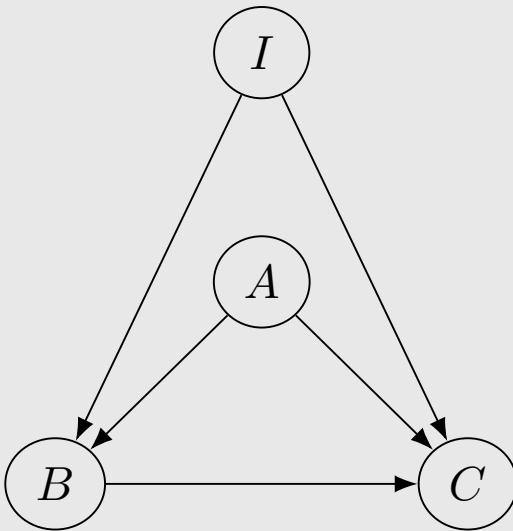
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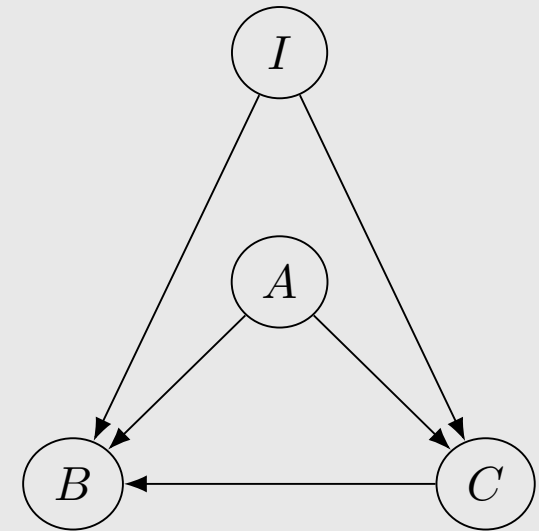
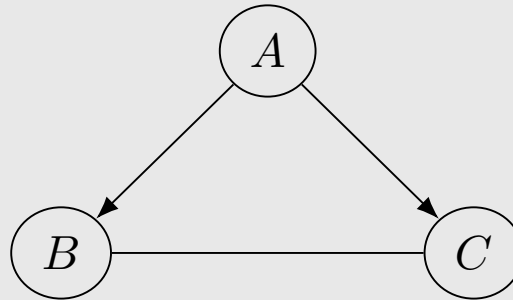
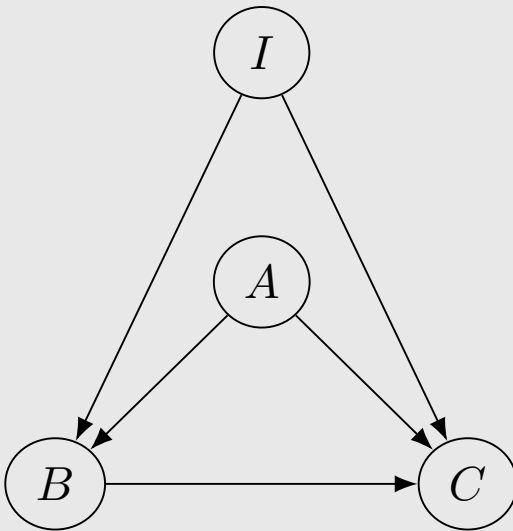
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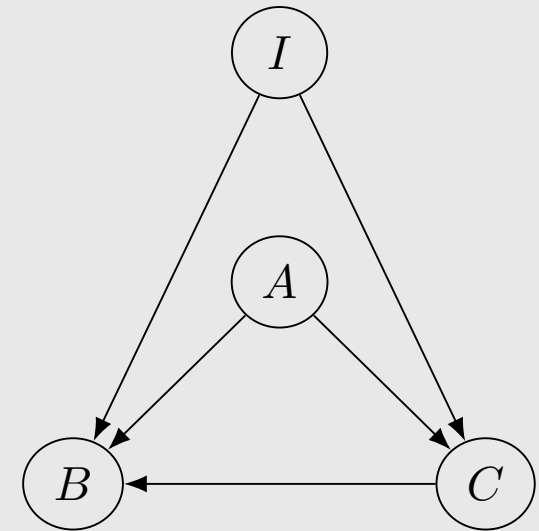
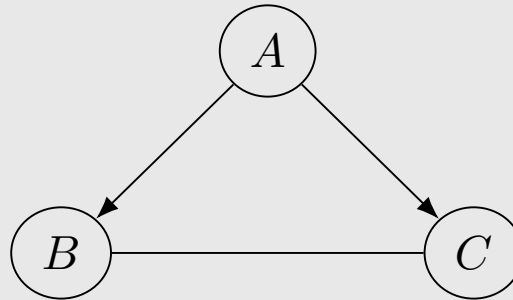
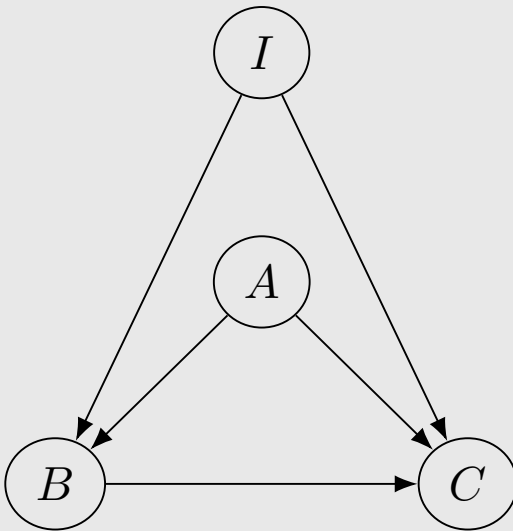
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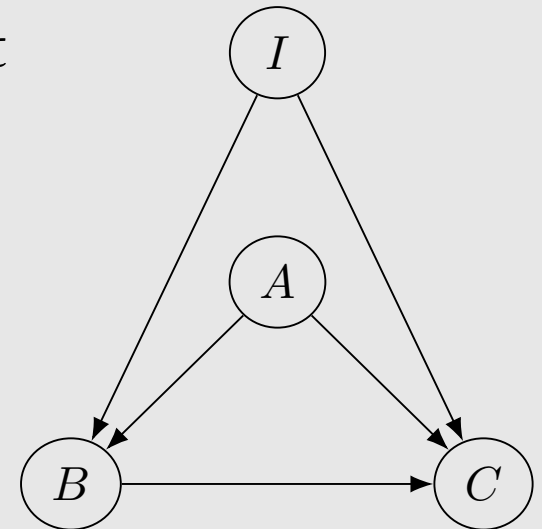
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Structural/perfect analog from [Hauser & Bühlmann \(2012\)](#)



Questions

1. How many parametric single-node interventions are necessary and sufficient for identifying a directed acyclic graph?
2. What is the essential graph of the graph on the right (ignoring the intervention node)?
3. What is the interventional essential graph?
4. What is a graph that this graph is interventionally Markov equivalent to?



Structural Interventions

Single-Node Interventions

Multi-Node Interventions

Parametric Interventions

Interventional Markov Equivalence

Miscellaneous Other Settings

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