

Structural Representation of Measurement Error Bias

| Bias | Causal Diagram |
|---|----------------|
| <p>1</p> <p>Uncorrelated errors under sharp null: no treatment effect: Under sharp null, assuming confounders are not measured with error, uncorrelated measurement errors are generally not expected to lead to bias.</p> | |
| <p>2</p> <p>Uncorrelated errors under treatment effect: Outside sharp null, uncorrelated measurement errors distort targeted effects.</p> | |
| <p>3</p> <p>Correlated errors: Related, systematic errors in A and Y measurements that are related.</p> | |
| <p>4</p> <p>Directed error: exposure effects error of outcome: A affects Y's measurement error.</p> | |
| <p>5</p> <p>Directed error: outcome affects error of exposure: Y affects A's measurement error.</p> | |
| <p>6</p> <p>Correlated/directed error: Both systematic and correlated errors in A and Y measurements are from an unmeasured source of dependency.</p> | |

Key: A denotes the treatment; Y denotes the outcome; U denotes an unmeasured confounder; L denotes measured confounders; \longrightarrow asserts causality; $(X) \longrightarrow X'$ indicates a latent variable X measured by proxy X' ; \longrightarrow indicates a path for bias linking A to Y absent causation; $- \longrightarrow$ biased path for treatment effect in the target population; (X) indicates that conditioning on X introduces bias; $U_X \longrightarrow O \longrightarrow X'$ indicates that the error in a measured variable X' modifies the effect of $A \rightarrow Y$, such that the $ATE_{\text{target}} \neq \widehat{ATE}$