

1. Quarto

Figure 1: Three types of basic DAGs.

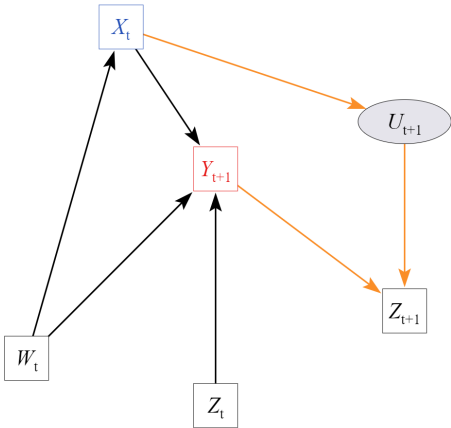
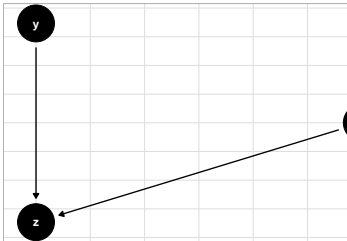
(a) Fork. Variable  $z$  is a common cause of  $x$  and  $y$ . You should control for it to avoid omitted variable bias



(b) Chain. Variable  $x$  causes  $z$ , which causes  $y$ . We say that  $z$  is a mediator of the causal effect of  $x$  on  $y$ . You should not control for  $z$ .



(c) Inverted-fork. Variable  $z$  is a common effect of  $x$  and  $y$ . Controlling for  $z$  opens a backdoor



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