

# Spiegler (2016, QJE)

## Bayesian Networks and Boundedly Rational Expectations

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### 1 Motivation

- nonrational expectation
- nonrational expectations

### 2 Approach

- DAG(directed acyclic graph)Causality model
- objective probability distributions  $p(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ DAG  $R$ fitsubjective belief  $p_R(x_1, \dots, x_n)$
- (i.e.  $p_R(x) \equiv p(x)$ )(personal equilibrium)

### 3 Contribution

1. Bayesian network factorization formula (bayesian network)
  - 
  - $Rp(x_{-1} | x_1)p_R(x_{-1} | x_1)$
2. Causal/Statistical reasoning
  - reverse causation (): DAG
  - removal of a link (): DAG
  - IllustrationsGeneral Analysis
3. General characterizations of choice behavior
  - rationalirrational
  - causality model  $R$ causality model  $R'(:)$
4. Bayesian networks as a unifying framework
  - nonrational expectation

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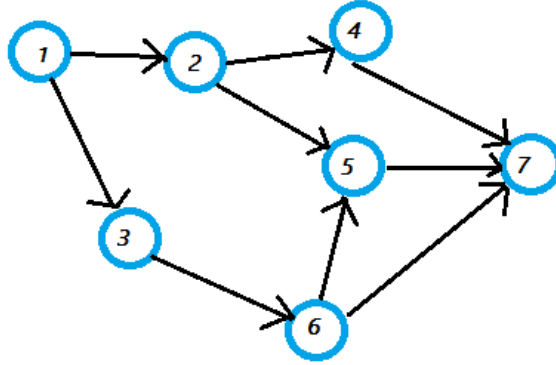
## 4 Model

- $X := X_1 \times \dots \times X_N$ : a finite set of states.  $X_1 = A$
- $p \in \Delta(X_1, \dots, X_n)$ : objective probability distribution
- $X_i \tilde{X}_i$  ( $i \in [n]$ )
- causality model: DAG  $(N, R)$ , (NRDAG)
  - the set of nodes  $N := \{1, \dots, n\}$  ( $i \in N \tilde{X}_i$ )
  - the set of edges  $R := N \times N$ .
  - $(i, j) \in R$  node  $i$  node  $j \rightarrow j$
  - $:ij$
  - $R(i) := \{j \in N \mid (j, i) \in R\}$ : node  $i$
  - $M \subseteq Nx_M := (x_i)_{i \in M}$ .

**e.g. 4.1** (DAG).  $N := \{1, 2, \dots, 7\}$ ,

$R := \{(1, 2), (1, 3), (2, 4), (2, 5), (3, 6), (4, 7), (5, 7), (6, 5), (6, 7)\}$

$R(5) = \{2, 6\}$ ,  $x_{R(5)} = (x_2, x_6)$ ,  $Descendants(6) = \{5, 7\}$ ,  $NonDescendants(6) = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$



- $DMpR()p_R$
- $p = p_R$

$$p_R(x) := \prod_{i=1}^n p(x_i \mid x_{R(i)})$$

$$\max_{p(x_1)} \sum_{x_{-1}} p_R(x_{-1} \mid x_1) u(x)$$

**e.g. 4.2** ( $p_R$ ). Fix  $N := \{1, 2, 3\}$  and  $p \in \Delta(X_1, X_2, X_3)$ . Suppose that DM has his subjective DAG  $R : 1 \rightarrow 2 \leftarrow 3$ . Then, he constructs his subjective belief  $p_R$  as follows:

$$p_R(x_1, x_2, x_3) := p(x_1)p(x_3)p(x_2 \mid x_1, x_3)$$

**Lem. 4.1** ( $p_R$  is a probability distribution). For any  $p \in \Delta(X)$ , the function  $p_R : X \rightarrow [0, 1]$  is also a probability distribution, i.e.,  $p_R \in \Delta(X)$ .

*Proof.* Assume w.l.o.g. that  $(1, \dots, n)$  are topologically sorted.<sup>1</sup> Then,

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_x p_R(x) &= \sum_{x_1} \cdots \sum_{x_n} \prod_{i=1}^n p(x_i \mid x_{R(i)}) \\
&= \sum_{x_1} \cdots \sum_{x_{n-1}} \prod_{i \leq n-1} p(x_i \mid x_{R(i)}) \underbrace{\sum_{x_n} p(x_n \mid x_{R(n)})}_{=1} \\
&= \sum_{x_1} \cdots \sum_{x_{n-1}} \prod_{i \leq n-1} p(x_i \mid x_{R(i)}) \\
&= \cdots \\
&= 1
\end{aligned}$$

□

**Def. 4.1** (consistent).  $p$  is consistent with  $R$ , or  $p$  factorizes over  $R$

$$\stackrel{\Delta}{\iff} p(x) = \prod_{i=1}^n p(x_i \mid x_{R(i)}) \iff p = p_R$$

- objective probability distribution  $p$  is consistent with the true DAG  $R^*$ .

**Ass. 4.1.** node 1 is ancestral in both  $R$  and  $R^*$ , i.e.,  $R(1) = R^*(1) = \emptyset$ .

**Def. 4.2** (Conditional Independence).  $V := \{V_1, \dots, V_n\}$ : a set of random variables,  $X, Y, Z \subseteq V$ .

$$X \perp Y \mid Z \stackrel{\Delta}{\iff} [p(Y = y, Z = z) > 0 \implies p(X = x \mid Y = y, Z = z) = p(X = x \mid Z = z)]$$

**Lem. 4.2** (local independencies).  $p$  factorizes over  $R$  iff the following holds:

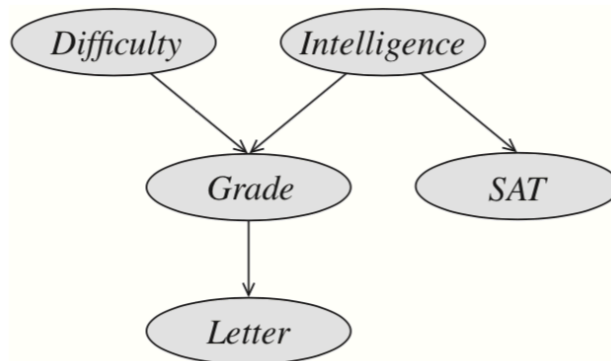
$$\tilde{X}_{\text{NonDescendants}(i)} \perp \tilde{X}_i \mid \tilde{X}_{R(i)}$$

**Cor. 4.1.** Let  $R$  be a DAG. Suppose that  $R' \supseteq R$  and  $R'$  is also a DAG. If  $p$  is consistent with  $R$ , then  $p$  is also consistent with  $R'$ .

*Proof.* Suppose that  $R' \supseteq R$ , and  $p$  is consistent with  $R$ . Assume w.l.o.g that  $(N, R)$  is topologically sorted. Since  $p$  is consistent with  $R$ ,  $p(x) = \prod_i p(x_i \mid x_{R(i)})$ . Consider the term  $p(x_i \mid x_{R(i)})$  for each  $i$ . Since  $R'$  is a DAG,  $x_{R'(i)} = x_{R(i)}$ , or  $x_{R'(i)} = x_{R(i)} \sqcup x_{N'}$ , where  $N' \subseteq \text{NonDescendants}(i)$ ; otherwise,  $R'$  has a cycle. Then, by Lem.4.2,  $p(x_i \mid x_{R'(i)}) = p(x_i \mid x_{R(i)})$ . □

**e.g. 4.3** (local independencies). *bayesian network structure*  $R$  (i.e. DAG)  $p$ Difficulty: , Intelligence: , Grade: , SAT: SAT, Letter:

$R(\text{Letter}) = \{\text{Grade}\}$ ,  $\text{NonDescendants}(\text{Letter}) = \{\text{Difficulty}, \text{Intelligence}, \text{SAT}\}$ .  $p$  is consistent with  $R$ <sup>2</sup>  $p$  Difficulty  $\perp$  Letter  $\mid$  Grade



<sup>1</sup>DAG node  $i \rightarrow j \implies i < j$  (i.e.  $f : N \rightarrow N(i, j) \in R \implies f(i) < f(j)$ )  $ij > ij \notin R(i)$ .

<sup>2</sup> $p$  factorizes over  $(N, R)$  DAG  $(N, R, p)$  bayesian network

- historical database interpretation
  - DMDMs
  - true distribution  $p$
  - DMcausal model  $p_R(x_i | x_{R(i)})$
  - $p_R(x)(p(a))_a p_R \equiv p()$
  - $p = p_{R\text{causality model } R\text{data}(\text{objective distrib.})}$
- - $p_R(y | a)(p(a))_a p_R(y | a) \text{ given } (p(a))_a$
  - “trembling”:  $a p_R(y | a) p(a) > 0$

**Def. 4.3** ( $\varepsilon$ -perturbed personal equilibrium). Fix  $R$  and  $\varepsilon > 0$ . A distribution  $p \in \Delta(X)$  *with full support on  $A$*  is an  $\varepsilon$ -perturbed personal equilibrium

$\Leftrightarrow$

$$\forall a \in A; p(a) > \varepsilon \implies a \in \operatorname{argmax}_{a'} \sum_y p_R(y | a') u(a', y)$$

**Def. 4.4** (personal eqm.).  $p^* \in \Delta(X)$  is a personal eqm.

$\Leftrightarrow$

$$\exists (\varepsilon_k)_k \exists (p_k)_k; \varepsilon_k \rightarrow 0, p_k : \varepsilon_k\text{-perturbed personal equilibrium}, p_k \rightarrow p^*$$

**Prop. 4.1** (Proposition 2). For any DAG  $R$ , there exists a personal equilibrium.

*Proof.* We show the following statement:

$$\forall (p(y | a))_{y,a} \exists (p(a))_a; p \text{ is PE, where } p(a, y) := p(y | a) p(a)$$

Fix  $(p(y | a))_{y,a}$ . Define  $Q^\varepsilon \subseteq \Delta(A)$  as follows:

$$Q^\varepsilon := \{\pi \in \Delta(A) \subseteq R^{|A|} \mid \forall a \in A; \pi(a) \geq \varepsilon\}$$

For each  $\pi \in Q^\varepsilon$ , define  $p^\pi, p_R^\pi(a, y)$  as

$$p^\pi(a, y) := \pi(a) p(y | a), p_R^\pi(a, y) := \prod_{i=1}^n p^\pi(x_i | x_{R(i)})$$

Next, define a correspondence  $BR : Q^\varepsilon \rightrightarrows Q^\varepsilon$  as follows:

$$BR(\pi) := \operatorname{argmax}_{\rho \in Q^\varepsilon} \underbrace{\sum_a \rho(a) \sum_y p_R^\pi(y | a) u(a, y)}_{=: h(\rho, \pi)}.$$

**Lem. 4.3** (Kakutani’s theorem). Suppose the following conditions:

- $F : X \rightrightarrows X$  is convex-valued, nonempty-valued and has a closed graph.
- $X$  is convex, compact, nonempty.

Then, there exists  $x \in X$  such that  $x \in F(x)$ .

**Lem. 4.4** (Berge’s theorem). •  $f : X \times \Theta \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ : continuous.

- $\Gamma : \Theta \rightrightarrows X$ : compact-valued, continuous.
  - $v(\theta) := \max_{x \in \Gamma(\theta)} f(x, \theta)$
  - $x^*(\theta) := \operatorname{argmax}_{x \in \Gamma(\theta)} f(x, \theta)$
- Then,  $v$  is continuous, and  $x^*$  is u.s.c.

**Lem. 4.5** (Sufficient condition for the closed graph).  $F : X \rightrightarrows X$  has a closed graph if  $F$  is closed-valued and  $F$  is u.s.c.

**Step 1: BR has a fixed point.** For sufficiently small  $\varepsilon > 0$ ,  $Q^\varepsilon$  is convex, compact, and nonempty.  $h(\rho) \equiv h(\rho, \pi)$  is linear in  $\rho$ ; hence,  $\rho$  is continuous and quasi-concave in  $\rho$ .

- Since  $h$  is continuous in  $\rho$  and  $Q^\varepsilon$  is compact,  $\text{BR}(\pi) \neq \emptyset$  for all  $\pi \in Q^\varepsilon$ .
- Since  $h$  is continuous,  $\text{BR}(\pi)$  is closed.
- Since  $h$  is quasi-concave,  $\text{BR}(\pi)$  is convex.

Then, we need to show that  $\text{BR}(\pi)$  has a closed graph. Since  $\text{BR}(\pi)$  is closed-valued, it is sufficient to show that  $\text{BR}(\pi)$  is u.s.c. Let  $X \times \Theta := Q^\varepsilon \times Q^\varepsilon$  is the statement of Berge's theorem. Since  $\Gamma(\theta) \equiv Q^\varepsilon$  (constant),  $\Gamma$  is continuous and compact. We can show that  $h(\rho, \pi)$  is continuous not only in  $\rho$  but also in  $\pi$ . ( $\because p^\pi(a, y)$  is continuous in  $\pi$ , and then  $p_R^\pi(a, y)$  and  $p^\pi(y | a)$  are also continuous in  $\pi$ .) As  $h$  is a function defined on a finite dimensional Euclidean space,  $h$  is continuous in  $(\rho, \pi)$ . By Berge's theorem,  $\text{BR}(\pi)$  is u.s.c. in  $\pi$ ; therefore,  $\text{BR}$  has a fixed point, i.e.,

$$\exists \pi \in Q^\varepsilon; \pi \in \text{BR}(\pi).$$

**Step 2:  $p^\pi$  is  $\varepsilon$ -PE.** Note that

$$\pi \in \operatorname{argmax}_{\rho \in Q^\varepsilon} \sum_a \rho(a) \sum_y p_R^\pi(y | a) u(a, y).$$

Consider the slightly modified version of the definition of  $\varepsilon$ -PE:

**Def. 4.5** ( $\varepsilon$ -PE  $(\star)$ ).  $p \in \Delta(X)$  s.t.  $\forall a \in A; p(a) \geq \varepsilon$  is  $\varepsilon$ -PE  $(\star)$

$\iff$

$$\forall a \in A; p(a) \geq \varepsilon \implies a \in \operatorname{argmax}_{a'} \sum_y p_R(y | a') u(a', y) \quad (1)$$

**Lem. 4.6** (The set of PEs remains the same). Consider two sets of PEs: one is the set of PEs under the original definition of  $\varepsilon$ -PE,  $\mathcal{E}$ ; the other is the set of PEs under the original definition of  $\varepsilon$ -PE  $(\star)$ ,  $\mathcal{E}'$ . Then,  $\mathcal{E} = \mathcal{E}'$ .

$\mathcal{E}' \subseteq \mathcal{E}$  clearly holds. Fix  $p^* \in \mathcal{E}$  and a corresponding sequence  $(\varepsilon_k, p_k)_k$ . Let  $\varepsilon'_k := \min\{\varepsilon_k, p_k(a)\}$ . Then,  $p'_k \rightarrow p^*$  and  $p'_k$  is  $\varepsilon'_k$ -PE. This completes the proof of Lem.4.6.

Here, we show that  $p^\pi$  is a  $\varepsilon$ -PE  $(\star)$ . Note that  $\pi$  satisfies the condition that  $\pi(a) \geq \varepsilon$  for all  $a \in A$ . Suppose toward contradiction that

$$\exists a \in A; \pi(a) > \varepsilon, a \notin \operatorname{argmax}_{a'} \underbrace{\sum_y p_R^\pi(y | a') u(a', y)}_{=: U(a')}$$

Pick some  $a^* \in \operatorname{argmax}_{a'} U(a')$ . (Since  $A$  is finite, we can pick such  $a^*$ .) Define  $\tilde{\pi} \in Q^\varepsilon$  as follows:

$$\tilde{\pi}(a') = \begin{cases} \pi(a') + \frac{\pi(a) - \varepsilon}{2} & (a' = a^*) \\ \pi(a') - \frac{\pi(a) - \varepsilon}{2} & (a' = a) \\ \pi(a') & \text{o.w.} \end{cases}$$

Note that  $\tilde{\pi} \in Q^\varepsilon$  certainly holds. It suffices to check  $\tilde{\pi}(a) \geq \varepsilon$ :

$$\tilde{\pi}(a) = \frac{2\pi(a) - \pi(a) + \varepsilon}{2} = \frac{\pi(a) + \varepsilon}{2} \geq \varepsilon \quad (\because \pi \in Q^\varepsilon)$$

Observe that  $\sum_a \tilde{\pi}(a) U(a) > \sum_a \pi(a) U(a)$ . This contradicts  $\pi \in \text{BR}(\pi)$ . Therefore,  $p^\pi$  is a  $\varepsilon$ -PE  $(\star)$ .

**Step 3: At least one PE  $p^*$  exists.** So far, we have shown that  $\varepsilon$ -PE exists (as long as  $\varepsilon$  is small enough.) Fix some sequence  $(\varepsilon^k)_k \subseteq \mathbb{R}$  such that  $\varepsilon^k \rightarrow 0$ . Let  $p^k$  be a  $\varepsilon^k$ -PE for each  $k$ . Note that  $(p^k)_k \subseteq \Delta(X) \subseteq \mathbb{R}^{|X|}$ . Since  $(p^k)_k$  is a sequence in a compact subset of a finite dimensional Euclidean space,  $(p^k)_k$  has a convergent subsequence  $(p^{k_m})_m$  such that  $(p^{k_m})_m \rightarrow p^* \in \Delta(X)$ . This  $p^*$  is PE.  $\square$

## 5 Illustrations

- Reverse causation: Dieter's dilemma
- Coarseness I: Demand for Education
- Coarseness II: Public Policy

### 5.1 Reverse causation: Dieter's dilemma

- Three variables:  $a, h, c$ :
  - DM's choice(diet or not), health outcome(good or bad), chemical level(high or low)
- $DM_{c,h}$

#### 5.1.1 Rational DM

- True DAG:  $R^* : a \rightarrow c \leftarrow h$ 
  - $pp(a, h, c) = p(a)p(h)p(c | a, h)$
  - $DM_{\text{rational}}$ (i.e. causality)

$$\max_a \sum_h \sum_c p(h)p(c | a, h)u(a, h, c)$$

#### 5.1.2 Irrational DM

- $DM_{\text{causality model}} R : a \rightarrow c \rightarrow h$
- $pp_{\text{personal eqm.}} p(a') > 0 a'$

$$a' \in \operatorname{argmax}_a \sum_h \sum_c p(h | c)p(c | a)u(a, h, c)$$

#### 5.1.3 Solving for the personal eqm.

- $R_{\text{personal eqm.}}$
- - $a, c, h \in \{0, 1\}$
  - $u(a, h, c) = u(a, h) := h - \kappa a$
  - $p(h = 1) = p(h = 0) = 1/2, h \perp a, c = (1 - h)(1 - a)$
- $DM_{\text{rational}} p_{R^*}(h | a) = p(h)a^* := 0$

**Prop. 5.1** (personal eqm. in Dieter's dilemma). *In this case, there is a unique personal eqm  $p$ :*

$$p(a = 0) = \begin{cases} 0 & (\kappa \leq 1/4) \\ 2 - \frac{1}{2\kappa} & (\kappa \in (1/4, 1/2)) \\ 1 & (\kappa \geq 1/2) \end{cases}$$

*Proof.* personal eqm.  $p\beta := p(a = 0) \in [0, 1]$  specification

$$p(c = 0 \mid a = 1) = 1, p(c = 0 \mid a = 0) = \frac{1}{2}, p(h = 1 \mid c = 1) = 0, p(h = 1 \mid c = 0) = \frac{1}{2 - \beta}$$

$$\begin{aligned} p_R(h = 1 \mid a = 0) &= p(h = 1 \mid c = 0)p(c = 0 \mid a = 0) + p(h = 1 \mid c = 1)p(c = 1 \mid a = 0) \\ &= \frac{1}{2 - \beta} \frac{1}{2} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} p_R(h = 1 \mid a = 1) &= p(h = 1 \mid c = 0)p(c = 0 \mid a = 1) + p(h = 1 \mid c = 1)p(c = 1 \mid a = 1) \\ &= \frac{1}{2 - \beta} \end{aligned}$$

$$\sum_h p(h \mid a)u(a, h)a$$

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_h p_R(h \mid a' = 0)u(a' = 0, h) &= p_R(h = 1 \mid a' = 0) \cdot 1 \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{2 - \beta} \end{aligned} \tag{E0}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_h p_R(h \mid a' = 1)u(a' = 1, h) &= \frac{1}{2 - \beta}(1 - \kappa) + \left(1 - \frac{1}{2 - \beta}\right) \\ &= \frac{1}{2 - \beta} - \kappa \end{aligned} \tag{E1}$$

**Case (i):**  $\beta \in (0, 1)$   $\beta > \varepsilon, 1 - \beta > \varepsilon \varepsilon > 0$  personal eqm. (E0) = (E1)

$$\therefore \beta = 2 - \frac{1}{2\kappa}$$

personal eqm.  $\varepsilon_k \rightarrow 0$   $p_k := (\beta, 1 - \beta)k p_k \varepsilon_k$ -perturbed personal eqm  $p_k \rightarrow p$  ok

**Case (ii):**  $\beta = 0$   $1 - \beta > \varepsilon$   $\varepsilon(E0) \leq (E1)$   $(E0) \leq (E1) \iff \kappa \leq 1/4$ . personal eqm.  $\kappa \leq 1/4$   $\varepsilon_k \rightarrow 0$   $p_k := (0, 1)k p_k \varepsilon_k$ -perturbed personal eqm  $p_k \rightarrow p$  ok

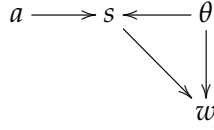
**Case (iii):**  $\beta = 1$  Case (ii) □

**Interpretation:**

- diet irrational DM diet
- $DMa = 0$   $DMc, h$  negative correlation
- $a \rightarrow c \rightarrow h$   $a \uparrow \rightarrow c \downarrow \rightarrow h \uparrow$
- $p(a = 1) > 0$
- $a = 1$   $c, h(p(h = 1 \mid c = 0) = \frac{1}{2 - \beta})$

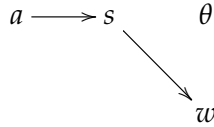
## 5.2 Coarseness I: Demand for Education

- $a, \theta, s, w$ : parent's investment, child's innate ability, school performance, wage
- true DAG  $R^*$  :



$$\max_a \sum_{\theta} p(\theta) \sum_s p(s | a, \theta) \sum_w p(w | \theta, s) u(a, w)$$

- DM's subjective DAG  $R$  :



$$\max_a \sum_s p(s | a) \sum_w p(w | s) u(a, w)$$

- $\theta$
- $a \in [0, 1], s, \theta, w \in \{1, 0\}$
- $u(a, w) := w - \kappa(a)$
- $\kappa$ : twice-differentiable, increasing, weakly convex. (i.e.  $\kappa' > 0, \kappa'' \leq 0$ ),  $\kappa'(0) = 0, \kappa'(1) \geq 1$ .
- $p(s = 1 | a, \theta) = a\theta, p(w = 1 | s, \theta) = \theta\beta_s$  ( $\beta_1 > \beta_0$ ),  $p(\theta = 1) = \delta > 0$ .

### 5.2.1 rational DM's choice

$$\max_a \{ \delta [a\beta_1 + (1-a)\beta_0] - \kappa(a) \}$$

- $\kappa'(a^*) = \delta(\beta_1 - \beta_0)a^*$  optimal.

### 5.2.2 irrational DM's choice

**Prop. 5.2.** In this case, the parent assigns probability one to some action  $a^{**}$  such that

$$\kappa'(a^{**}) = \delta \left[ \delta\beta_1 - \beta_0 \cdot \frac{\delta(1-a^{**})}{\delta(1-a^{**}) + 1 - \delta} \right]$$

If  $\kappa'$  is either weakly convex or weakly concave, then  $a^{**}$  is unique.

Note that since  $\kappa'(a^{**}) < \kappa'(a^*)$ , we have  $a^{**} > a^*$ : the parent overinvests in personal eqm.

### Interpretation:

- The parent overinvests because he overly estimates the positive correlation b/w  $a$  and  $w$ :
  - DM's pure causal effect  $\theta$
  - $\theta w()$
  -
- the perceived marginal benefit of investment  $\kappa'(a^{**})$  eqm. investment  $a^{**}$



- $\text{DM}w \perp_R a \mid s$
- perceived causal effect of  $s$  on  $wa$
- i.e. true DAG consistent  $p(w \mid s, a) \neq p(w \mid s)$
- $s = 0, a = 1, \theta = 0$
- $\mathbb{E}[w \mid s = 1] - \mathbb{E}[w \mid s = 0]$  increases in long-run investment. (a given  $s = 0, \theta = 0, \mathbb{E}[w \mid s = 0] = a$ )
- true distribution personal eqm. true DAG, subjective DAG

*Proof of Prop.5.2.*

$$\sum_s p(s \mid a) \sum_w p(w \mid s) u(a, w) = \sum_s p(s \mid a) p(w = 1 \mid s) - \kappa(a)$$

$$p(s = 1 \mid a) = \sum_{\theta} p(\theta) p(s = 1 \mid a, \theta) = \delta a$$

$$p(s = 1 \mid a) = \sum_{\theta} p(\theta) p(s = 1 \mid a, \theta) = \delta a$$

$$p(w = 1 \mid s = 1) = \delta \beta_1$$

$$p(w = 1 \mid s = 0) = \frac{p(w = 1, s = 0)}{p(s = 0)}$$

$$\begin{aligned} p(w = 1, s = 0) &= \sum_{\theta} \sum_a p(w = 1, s = 0, a, \theta) \\ &= \sum_{\theta} \int_a p(\theta) p(w = 1 \mid s = 0, \theta) p(s = 0 \mid \theta, a) d\mu(a) \\ &= (1 - \delta) \int_a \underbrace{p(w = 1 \mid s = 0, \theta = 0)}_0 p(s = 0 \mid \theta = 0, a) d\mu(a) \\ &\quad + \delta \int_a \underbrace{p(w = 1 \mid s = 0, \theta = 1)}_{(\beta_0)} \underbrace{p(s = 0 \mid \theta = 1, a)}_{(1-a)} d\mu(a) \\ &= \delta \beta_0 \int_a (1 - a) d\mu(a) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} p(s = 0) &= \sum_{\theta} \sum_a p(a, s = 0, \theta) \\ &= \sum_{\theta} \sum_a p(\theta) p(a) p(s = 0 \mid a, \theta) \\ &= (1 - \delta) \int_a \underbrace{p(s = 0 \mid a, \theta = 0)}_1 d\mu(a) + \delta \int_a \underbrace{p(s = 0 \mid a, \theta = 1)}_{(1-a)} d\mu(a) \\ &= (1 - \delta) + \delta \int_a (1 - a) d\mu(a) \end{aligned}$$

Then,

$$p(w = 1 \mid s = 0) = \frac{\delta \int_a (1 - a) d\mu(a)}{\underbrace{(1 - \delta) + \delta \int_a (1 - a) d\mu(a)}_{=: \gamma}} \beta_0$$

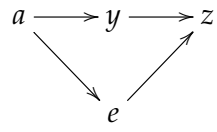
Note that  $\gamma < \delta$ . Hence,

$$\sum_s p(s \mid a) p(w = 1 \mid s) - \kappa(a) = \delta a \cdot \delta \beta_1 + (1 - \delta a) \gamma \beta_0 - \kappa(a)$$

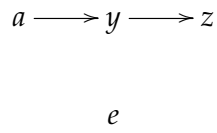
FOC is  $\kappa'(a) = \delta(\delta \beta_1 - \gamma \beta_0) \in (0, 1)$ . □

### 5.3 Coarseness II: Public Policy

- $a, y, e, z$ : policy, two macro variables, private sector's expectation of  $y$ .
- true DAG  $R^*$  :



- DM's DAG  $R$  :



## 6 General Analysis

### 6.1 Consequentialist Rationality

- personal equilibrium
- ()

#### 6.1.1 Preliminaries

**Def. 6.1** (skeleton). Fix a DAG  $\mathcal{G} := (N, R)$ . The skeleton of  $\mathcal{G}$ ,  $\tilde{\mathcal{G}} := (N, \tilde{R})$ , is an undirected version of  $\mathcal{G}$ : formally,  $\tilde{R} := \{(i, j) \in N \times N \mid (i, j) \in R, \text{ or } (j, i) \in R\}$ .  $(i, j) \in \tilde{R}$  is sometimes denoted by  $i\tilde{R}j$ , or  $i - j$ .

**e.g. 6.1** (skeleton).  $R : i \rightarrow j \rightarrow k, \tilde{R} : i - j - k$ .

**Def. 6.2** (clique, ancestral clique). Fix a DAG  $(N, R)$ .  $M \subseteq N$  is a clique in  $R$

$\iff$

$$\forall i, j \in M; i \neq j \implies i\tilde{R}j.$$

A clique  $M$  in  $R$  is an ancestral clique when  $\forall i \in M; R(i) \subseteq M$ .

**e.g. 6.2** (clique). •  $M_1 := \{5, 6, 7\}$ : clique, but not ancestral clique.

•  $M_2 := \{2, 4, 5, 7\}$ : not clique.

•  $M_3 := \{1, 3\}$ : ancestral clique.

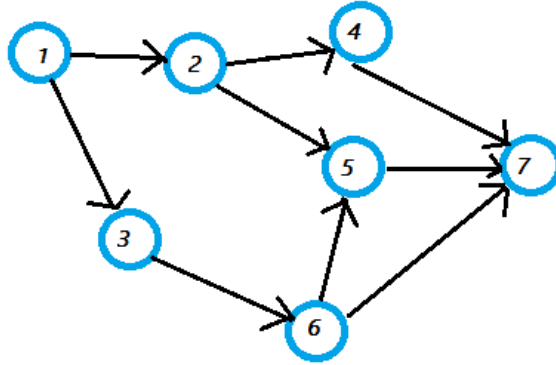


Figure 1: DAG

**Def. 6.3** (equivalent). Fix  $N$ . Two DAGs  $R$  and  $Q$  are equivalent, denoted as  $R \sim Q$ ,

$\iff$

$$\forall p \in \Delta(X); p_R(x) = p_Q(x)$$

We sometimes denote the equivalence class of  $R$  as  $[R]$ .

**e.g. 6.3** (equivalent).  $R : 1 \rightarrow 2$  and  $Q : 2 \rightarrow 1$  are equivalent: For any  $p \in \Delta(X)$ ,

$$p(x_1, x_2) = p(x_2 \mid x_1)p(x_1) = p(x_1 \mid x_2)p(x_2).$$

**Def. 6.4** (v-structure). The v-structure of a DAG  $R$ ,  $v(R)$ , is defined as follows:

$$v(R) := \{(i, j, k) \mid i \rightarrow j, j \rightarrow k, i \not\rightarrow j, j \not\rightarrow i\}$$

**e.g. 6.4** (v-structure). Consider the DAG  $R$  in Figure 1.  $(2, 5, 6)$  is a v-structure of  $R$ ;  $(5, 7, 6)$  is not a v-structure in  $R$ .

**Prop. 6.1** (Verma and Pearl, 1991).  $R \sim Q \iff [\tilde{R} = \tilde{Q} \text{ and } v(R) = v(Q)]$ .

**e.g. 6.5.**  $R : 1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 3$  and  $Q : 3 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 1$  are equivalent:  $\tilde{R} = \tilde{Q} = 1 - 2 - 3$  and  $v(R) = v(Q) = \emptyset$ . However,  $S : 1 \rightarrow 2 \leftarrow 3 \not\sim R$  because  $v(S) = \{(1, 2, 3)\} \neq \emptyset$ .

### 6.1.2 Consequentialist Rationality

- $\Delta_R(X) := \{p \in \Delta(X) \mid p \text{ is consistent with } R\}$

**Def. 6.5** (Consequentialistically rational). A DAG  $R$  is C-rational w.r.t. true DAG  $R^*$

$\stackrel{\Delta}{\iff}$

$$\forall p, q \in \Delta_{R^*}(X); [\forall x; p(x_{-1} \mid x_1) = q(x_{-1} \mid x_1) \implies \forall x; p_R(x_{-1} \mid x_1) = q_R(x_{-1} \mid x_1)]$$

- $R$ : C-rational true distrib.  $pp(x_1)p(x_{-1} \mid x_1)p_R(x_{-1} \mid x_1)$
- $p(x_{-1} \mid x_1)$ : given  $p(x_1)p(x_{-1} \mid x_1)$

**e.g. 6.6** (C-rationality in dieter's dilemma).  $p_R(h = 1 \mid a = 0) = \frac{1}{2-\beta} \frac{1}{2}$  dieter's dilemma RC-rational:  
 $pp_R(h \mid a)p^*(a)p'(a, h, c) := p(h, c \mid a)p^*(a) \neq p(a, h, c)p'_R(h \mid a) \neq p_R(h \mid a)$

- $R^*$  itself is C-rational w.r.t.  $R^*$ .

$\therefore$  Fix  $p, q \in \Delta_{R^*}(X)$  s.t.  $p(x_{-1} \mid x_1) = q(x_{-1} \mid x_1)$  for all  $x$ . Fix  $x$ .

$$p_{R^*}(x) = p(x_1)p(x_{-1} \mid x_1). p_{R^*}(x_1) = p(x_1) \sum_{x_{-1}} p(x_{-1} \mid x_1) = p(x_1).$$

Then,  $p_{R^*}(x_{-1} \mid x_1) = p(x_{-1} \mid x_1)$ . Similarly,  $q_{R^*}(x_{-1} \mid x_1) = q(x_{-1} \mid x_1)$ . □

- From now on, assume that  $R \neq R^*$ .

**Prop. 6.2** (characterization of C-rationality (Proposition 6)).  $R$  is C-rational w.r.t.  $R^*$

$\iff$

$$\forall i > 1; 1 \notin R(i) \implies x_i \perp_{R^*} x_1 \mid x_{R(i)}$$

**e.g. 6.7** (Dieter's dilemma). • True DAG:  $R^* : 1 \rightarrow 3 \leftarrow 2$

- Subjective DAG:  $R : 1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 3$
- $i := 3 \nmid R(3), x_3 \not\perp_{R^*} x_1 \mid x_2$ .
- $R$  is not C-rational w.r.t.  $R^*$ .
- $R' : 1 \rightarrow 3 \quad 2$  (fully coarsed/cursed)
- $R'$  is C-rational w.r.t.  $R^*$ :  $x_2 \perp_{R^*} x_1$ .

- DAG
- d-separation

Proof of Prop.6.2.  $\square$

$$\begin{aligned} p_R(x_{-1} \mid x_1) &= \frac{p_R(x_1, x_{-1})}{p_R(x_1)} = \frac{p(x_1) \prod_{i \geq 2} p(x_i \mid x_{R(i)})}{\sum_{x'_{-1}} p(x_1) \prod_{i \geq 2} p(x'_i \mid x_{R(i) \cap \{1\}}, x'_{R(i) - \{1\}})} \\ &= \frac{\prod_{i \geq 2} p(x_i \mid x_{R(i)})}{\sum_{x'_{-1}} \prod_{i \geq 2} p(x'_i \mid x_{R(i) \cap \{1\}}, x'_{R(i) - \{1\}})} \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

$$\begin{aligned} &p(x_{-1} \mid x_1) p(x_1) p_R(x_{-1} \mid x_1) \\ \iff \forall i > 1; 1 \notin R(i) \implies x_i \perp_{R^*} x_1 \mid x_{R(i)} \end{aligned}$$

$$\Leftarrow) \quad (2) p(x_1) i \geq 2$$

$$p(x'_i \mid x_{R(i) \cap \{1\}}, x'_{R(i) - \{1\}}) \quad (\star)$$

$$1 \in R(i)$$

$$(\star) = p(x'_i \mid x_1, x'_{R(i)})$$

$$(\star) p(x_1) (???)$$

$$1 \notin R(i) x_i \perp_{R^*} x_1 \mid x_{R(i)}$$

$$\begin{aligned} (\star) &= p(x'_i \mid x'_{R(i)}) = \sum_{x''_1} p(x''_1) p(x'_i \mid x''_1, x'_{R(i)}) \\ &= \sum_{x''_1} p(x''_1) p(x'_i \mid x'_{R(i)}) \\ &= p(x'_i \mid x'_{R(i)}) \end{aligned}$$

$$(\star) p(x_1) p(x_1) p_R(x_{-1} \mid x_1)$$

$$\Rightarrow) \quad i > 1, 1 \notin R(i) i \notin R(i)$$

$$(\star) = p(x'_i \mid x'_{R(i)}) = \sum_{x''_1} p(x''_1) p(x'_i \mid x''_1, x'_{R(i)})$$

$$x_i \not\perp_{R^*} x_1 \mid x_{R(i)} p(x'_i \mid x''_1, x'_{R(i)}) x''_1 (???) (\star) p(x''_1) (?) p_R(x_{-1} \mid x_1) p(x''_1)$$

$\square$

## 6.2 Behavioral Rationality

- DAG RDMrational – all payoff-relevant variables are causally linked and have no other causes.
- (link)behavioral rationalityviolate

### 6.2.1 Preliminaries

**Def. 6.6** (fully connected). A directed graph  $(N, R)$  is fully connected if  $i \rightarrow j$  or  $j \rightarrow i$  holds for all  $i, j \in N$ .

**Lem. 6.1** (fully connected DAG). A DAG  $(N, R)$  is fully connected  $\iff R$  is consistent for all  $p \in \Delta(X)$ .

*Proof.* Assume w.l.o.g that  $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$  are topologically sorted.

$\Rightarrow$ ) Fix any  $x$ . Then,

$$p(x) = \prod_i p(x_i \mid x_1, \dots, x_{i-1}) = p_R(x)$$

$\Leftarrow$ ) We show contraposition. Suppose that  $R$  is not fully connected. Then, since  $R$  does not have enough its degree of freedom, we can construct  $p$  that is not consistent with  $R$ . For example, consider  $R : 1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 3$ .  $R$  is not fully connected because  $1 \nrightarrow 3$ . Then, we can construct  $p$  such that

$$p(x) = p(x_1)p(x_2 \mid x_1)p(x_3 \mid x_2, x_1) \neq p(x_1)p(x_2 \mid x_1)p(x_3 \mid x_2) = p_R(x)$$

□

**Def. 6.7** ( $d$ -separation). Let  $R$  be a DAG, and  $X, Y, Z \subseteq N$ .

A directed path  $P$  is  $d$ -separated by  $Z$

$\stackrel{\Delta}{\iff}$

- $P$  contains a chain  $i \rightarrow m \rightarrow j$  or a fork  $i \leftarrow m \rightarrow j$  such that  $m \in Z$ .
- $P$  contains an inverted fork  $i \rightarrow m \leftarrow j$  such that  $m$  and the descendants of  $m$  are not in  $Z$ .

$Z$   $d$ -separates  $X$  and  $Y \iff Z$   $d$ -separates every path from a node in  $X$  to a node in  $Y$ . This is denoted by  $(X \perp Y \mid Z)_R$ .<sup>3</sup>

**Prop. 6.3** (Probabilistic Implications of  $d$ -Separation). For any three disjoint subsets of nodes  $X, Y, Z$  in a DAG  $R$ , and for all probability distributions  $p$ ,

1. If  $p$  is consistent with  $R$ , then  $(X \perp Y \mid Z)_R \implies (X \perp Y \mid Z)_p$
2.  $(X \not\perp Y \mid Z)_R \implies \exists p; (X \not\perp Y \mid Z)_p$ .

### 6.2.2 Behavioral Rationality

- no restriction on  $p \in \Delta(X)$ , i.e., assume that true DAG  $R^*$  is fully connected.
- Impose some restriction on the set of possible utility functions.

**Ass. 6.1** (Restriction on  $u$ ).  $\exists M \subsetneq N$ ;  $1 \in M$ , and  $u$  is purely a function of  $x_M$ .

**Def. 6.8** (Behaviorally Rational). A DAG  $R$  is  $B$ -rational if in every personal eqm.  $p$ ,

$$p(x_1) \implies x_1 \in \operatorname{argmax}_{x'_1} \sum_{x_{-1}} p(x_{-1} \mid x_1) u(x'_1, x_{-1})$$

<sup>3</sup>For a probability distribution  $p$ ,  $(X \perp Y \mid Z)_p$  denotes that  $X$  and  $Y$  are independent conditional on  $Z$ .

**Prop. 6.4** (Spiegler(2017), Proposition 2). *Let  $R$  be a DAG and let  $C \subseteq N$ .*

$$[\forall p \in \Delta(X) \forall x; p_R(x_C) = p(x_C)] \iff [\exists Q \in [R]; C \text{ is an ancestral clique in } Q].$$

*[2018/07/16:  $\Leftarrow$  is correct;  $\Rightarrow$  is not sure.]*

**e.g. 6.8.**  $R : 1 \rightarrow 2 \leftarrow 3$ . By Prop.6.1, we can see that  $[R] = \{R\}$ . Since  $\{x_2\}$  is not an ancestral clique in  $R$ , by Prop.6.4,  $\exists p \exists x_2; p_R(x_2) \neq p(x_2)$ .

*Proof of Prop.6.4. See Appendix.*

□

**Prop. 6.5.** *The DM is behaviorally rational  $\iff \exists Q \in [R]; M$  is an ancestral clique in  $Q$ .*

*Proof.* [Prop.6.4 $\Rightarrow$ ]

Note that, by assumption, node 1 is an ancestral node in both  $R$  and  $R^*$ .

$\Leftarrow$ ) Assume that there exists  $Q \in [R]$  such that  $M$  is an ancestral clique in  $Q$ . By Prop.(6.4),  $p_R(x_M) = p(x_M)$ . Fix any personal eqm.  $p$ . We need to show that  $p$  satisfies the following:

$$\forall x_1; p(x_1) > 0 \implies x_1 \in \operatorname{argmax}_{x'_1} \sum_{x_{-1}} p(x_{-1} | x'_1) u(x).$$

Fix  $x_1$  such that  $p(x_1) > 0$ . Since  $u$  depends only on  $x_M$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{argmax}_{x'_1} \sum_{x_{-1}} p(x_{-1} | x'_1) u(x) &= \operatorname{argmax}_{x'_1} \sum_{x_{M-\{1\}}} p(x_{M-\{1\}} | x'_1) u(x_M) \\ &= \operatorname{argmax}_{x'_1} \sum_{x_{M-\{1\}}} p_R(x_{M-\{1\}} | x'_1) u(x_M) (\because p_R(x_M) = p(x_M)) \\ &= \operatorname{argmax}_{x'_1} \sum_{x_{-1}} p_R(x_{-1} | x'_1) u(x) \end{aligned}$$

Since  $p$  is personal eqm.,  $x_1 \in \operatorname{argmax}_{x'_1} \sum_{x_{-1}} p_R(x_{-1} | x'_1) u(x)$ . Therefore,  $R$  is B-rational.

$\Rightarrow$ ) Assume that  $R$  is B-rational. By Prop.(6.4), we have  $p_R(x_1) = p(x_1)$ . Then,

$$p_R(x_{M-\{1\}} | x_1) = \frac{p_R(x_M)}{p_R(x_1)} = \frac{p_R(x_M)}{p(x_1)}, \quad p(x_{M-\{1\}} | x_1) = \frac{p(x_M)}{p(x_1)}.$$

Hence,  $p_R(x_{M-\{1\}} | x_1) = p(x_{M-\{1\}} | x_1)$  holds if and only if  $p_R(x_M) = p(x_M)$  holds.

By Prop.(6.4)[], it is sufficient to show that  $p(x_M) \equiv p_R(x_M)$ ; it suffices to show that  $p_R(x_{M-\{1\}} | x_1) = p(x_{M-\{1\}} | x_1)$ . Suppose toward contradiction that  $p_R(x_{M-\{1\}} | x_1) \neq p(x_{M-\{1\}} | x_1)$ . Then, we can construct the utility function  $u$  under which DM does not choose the optimal action w.r.t.  $p$ . (??)  $\square$

**Interpretation:**

- (1) all payoff-relevant variables are causally linked, (2) they have no other causes DM rational
- ((1),(2))  $p$  is suboptimal [ ]
- operation behavioral rationality

**Prop. 6.6** (Proposition 9). *Suppose that  $R$  departs from  $R^*$ , which is fully connected, by omitting one link  $i \rightarrow j$ . Then,*

$$DM \text{ is B-rational. } \iff j = n, i \neq 1.$$

**e.g. 6.9.** •  $R : 1 \rightarrow 3 \leftarrow 2$ .  $1 \rightarrow 2$  omitted from  $R^*$ . DM is not B-rational. – double-counting.

- $R : 1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 3$ .  $1 \rightarrow 3$  omitted from  $R^*$ . DM is not B-rational. – failed to perceive any effect of  $x_1$
- $R : 2 \leftarrow 1 \rightarrow 3$ .  $2 \rightarrow 3$  omitted from  $R^*$ . DM is B-rational. – not distinguish direct and indirect effect.

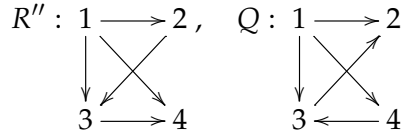


### 6.3 Payoff ranking of DAGs

- $\approx$
- DAG – No

**e.g. 6.10.** •  $R$ : fully connected DAG,  $1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 3 \rightarrow 4$ ;  $u$  is purely a function of  $x_1$  and  $x_4$ .

- $R'$ :  $2 \rightarrow 3$  removed from  $R$
- By Prop.6.6,  $R'$  is not B-rational:  $R'$  is weakly dominated by  $R$  in terms of expected performance.
- $R''$ :  $2 \rightarrow 4$  removed from  $R'$ .



- $Q \sim R''$  (the same skeleton and  $v$ -structure).  $\{1, 4\}$  is an ancestral clique in  $Q$ .
- $R''$  is B-rational w.r.t.  $R^*$ ;  $R'$  is weakly dominated by  $R''$ .

**Ass. 6.2** (For simplicity?). 1 is an isolated node in all relevant true and subjective DAGs.

**Def. 6.9** (Ranking of DAGs).  $R$  is more rational than  $R'$

$$\stackrel{\Delta}{\iff} \forall p, u, a, a';$$

$$\sum_y p_R(y) u(a, y) > \sum_y p_R(y) u(a', y), \quad (3)$$

$$\sum_y p_{R'}(y) u(a', y) > \sum_y p_{R'}(y) u(a, y) \quad (4)$$

$$\implies \sum_y p(y) u(a, y) > \sum_y p(y) u(a', y) \quad (5)$$

- 2DAG
- $R$ : fully connected,  $R'$ : not fully connected

**Prop. 6.7** (Proposition 10). Suppose both  $R$  and  $R'$  are not fully connected. Then, neither DAG is more rational than the other.

*Proof.* Assume that both  $R$  and  $R'$  are not fully connected. If  $R \sim R'$ , the claim holds. Assume  $R \approx R'$ .

Suppose toward contradiction that  $R$  is more rational than  $R'$ . Fix any  $p \in \Delta(X)$ . Let  $q := (p_R(y))_y$  and  $r := (p_{R'}(y))_y$ . Note that  $q$  and  $r$  are  $k := |Y|$ -length probability vectors. Fix any  $u, a, a'$ . Let  $z^y := u(a, y) - u(a', y)$ ,  $z := (z^y)_y$ , and  $D := [q \quad -r \quad -p]$ . Note that  $D$  is a  $k \times 3$  matrix. Fix any  $\varepsilon > 0$ . Let  $b := (\varepsilon, \varepsilon, \varepsilon)^\top$ .

First, we show the following:

$$\nexists z \in \mathbb{R}^k; D^\top z > b \quad (6)$$

Suppose not. Then there exists  $z \in \mathbb{R}^k$  such that

$$D^\top z = \begin{bmatrix} q^\top z \\ -r^\top z \\ -p^\top z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \sum_y p_R(y) (u(a, y) - u(a', y)) \\ -\sum_y p_{R'}(y) (u(a, y) - u(a', y)) \\ -\sum_y p(y) (u(a, y) - u(a', y)) \end{bmatrix} > b$$

This implies

$$\begin{aligned}\sum_y p_R(y)u(a, y) &> \sum_y p_R(y)u(a', y) \\ \sum_y p_{R'}(y)u(a', y) &> \sum_y p_{R'}(y)u(a, y) \\ \sum_y p(y)u(a', y) &> \sum_y p(y)u(a, y)\end{aligned}$$

This contradicts the assumption that  $R$  is more rational than  $R'$ . Therefore, (6) must hold.

Next, we apply Gale's theorem:

**Lem. 6.2** (Gale's Theorem). *Let  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{M \times N}$  and  $b \in \mathbb{R}^N$ . The following two statements are equivalent:*

1.  $\exists x \in \mathbb{R}^M; A^\top x \leq b$
2.  $\forall y \in \mathbb{R}^N; y \geq 0, Ay = 0 \implies b^\top y \geq 0$

By (6) and Gale's theorem, we have

$$\exists w \in \mathbb{R}^3; w \geq 0, Dw = 0, b^\top w < 0$$

[Spiegler(2016) $w > 0$ ]

Since  $b^\top w < 0$ , there exists  $j \in \{1, 2, 3\}$  such that  $w_j > 0$ . Since  $Dw = 0$ , for all  $i \in [k]$ ,  $w_1 q^i = w_2 r^i + w_3 p^i$ , or

$$w_1 p_R(y) = w_2 p_{R'}(y) + w_3 p(y)$$

By summing up w.r.t.  $i$ , we have  $w_1 = w_2 + w_3$ . Hence,

$$w_1 > 0, (w_2 > 0 \text{ or } w_3 > 0)$$

Since  $w_1 > 0$ , for all  $y$ ,

$$p_R(y) = \frac{w_2}{w_1} p_{R'}(y) + \frac{w_3}{w_1} p(y)$$

Let  $\alpha := w_2/w_1$  and  $\beta := w_3/w_1$ . Then, by summing up w.r.t.  $y$ , we have  $\alpha + \beta = 1$ . Therefore, we have the following:

$$\forall p \exists \alpha \in [0, 1]; p_R = \alpha p + (1 - \alpha) p_{R'} \quad (7)$$

In case  $\alpha < 1$ , the proof is done: If  $p$  is consistent with  $R$ , or  $p_R = p$ , by (7), we have  $p_R = p_{R'}$ , and then  $p = p_{R'}$ ; Similarly, if  $p$  is consistent with  $R'$ , then  $p$  is also consistent with  $R$ : we have the following relationship:

$$p = p_R \iff p = p_{R'}$$

In addition, for any  $p \in \Delta(X)$ ,  $p_R$  is consistent with  $R$ . Replace  $p$  with  $p_R$  and apply the procedure to  $p_R$ ; we have  $p_R = \alpha p_R + (1 - \alpha) p_{R'}$ , and then  $p_R = p_{R'}$ .

[ $\alpha < 1$  for all  $p$ , or,  $w > 0$  ok, fully-connected]

□

## **7 Variations and Relations to Other Concepts**

### **7.1 Variations**

- DAG(Partial cursedness)
- DAG(e.g. Dieters' dilemma)

### **7.2 Relations to Other Concepts**

- Jehiel (2005) Analogy-based expectations
- Esponda (2008) Naive Behavioral Equilibrium
- Eyster and Rabin (2005) Partial cursedness
- Osborne and Rubinstein (1998) S(K) equilibrium

## **8 Concluding Remarks**

### **8.1 Alternative interpretations of DAG**

- Data limitations (cf: Spiegler (2017) Data Monkeys)
- Limited ability to ask the right questions

## 9 Appendix

*Proof of Prop.6.4. [There is an error in the proof in Spiegler(2017).]*

If  $C$  is empty, the proposition clearly holds; from now on, we assume  $C \neq \emptyset$ .

First, note that for any DAG  $R$ , the following holds:

$$\begin{aligned} p_R(x_C) &= \sum_{x'_{N-C}} p_R(x_C, x'_{N-C}) \\ &= \sum_{x_{N-C}} \prod_{i \in C} p(x_i | x_{R(i) \cap C}, x'_{R(i)-C}) \prod_{i \notin C} p(x'_i | x_{R(i) \cap C}, x'_{R(i)-C}) \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

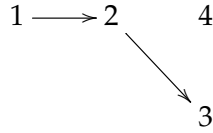
$\Leftarrow$ ) Fix  $C$  such that  $C$  is an ancestral clique in some  $Q \in [R]$ . Note that  $R(i) - C = \emptyset$  for all  $i \in C$ . Then,

$$\prod_{i \in C} p(x_i | x_{R(i) \cap C}, x'_{R(i)-C}) = \prod_{i \in C} p(x_i | x_{R(i) \cap C}) = p(x_C) \quad (\because \text{topological sort})$$

Hence, by (8),

$$p_R(x_C) = p_Q(x_C) = p(x_C) \underbrace{\sum_{x_{N-C}} \prod_{i \notin C} p(x'_i | x_{R(i) \cap C}, x'_{R(i)-C})}_1 = p(x_C).$$

**e.g. 9.1.** For example, consider the following DAG:



Let  $C := \{1, 2\}$ . Then,

$$p_R(x_1, x_2) = \sum_{x'_3, x'_4} p_R(x_1, x_2, x'_3, x'_4) = p(x_1, x_2) \sum_{x'_3, x'_4} p(x'_4) p(x'_3 | x_2) = p(x_1, x_2)$$

$\Rightarrow$ ) [We need to make some fix in this direction.]

We show contrapositive: we show the following:

$$[\forall Q \in [R]; C \text{ is not an ancestral clique in } Q] \implies [\exists p \exists x; p_R(x_C) \neq p(x_C)]$$

Assume that  $C$  is not an ancestral clique in any  $Q \in [R]$ . Fix any  $Q \in [R]$ . We divide the proof into two cases:

**Case (i): In case  $C$  is not a clique in  $Q$ .** In this case,  $C$  is not a clique in any  $R' \in [R]$ . There must be two distinct nodes  $i_0, i_1 \in C$  such that  $(i_0, i_1) \notin Q$  and  $(i_1, i_0) \notin Q$ . Consider  $p \in \Delta(X)$  such that for every  $i \in C \setminus \{i_0, i_1\}$ ,  $x_i$  is independently distributed, whereas  $x_{i_0}$  and  $x_{i_1}$  are mutually correlated. Then,

$$\begin{aligned} \prod_{i \in C} p(x_i | x_{R(i) \cap C}, x'_{R(i)-C}) &= \prod_{i \in C} p(x_i) \quad (\because \text{there is no edge b/w } i_0 \text{ and } i_1) \\ \prod_{i \notin C} p(x'_i | x_{R(i) \cap C}, x'_{R(i)-C}) &= \prod_{i \notin C} p(x'_i) \\ p_R(x_C) &= (8) = \prod_{i \in C} p(x_i) \sum_{i \notin C} \prod_{i \notin C} p(x'_i) = \prod_{i \in C} p(x_i) \end{aligned}$$

However,

$$p(x_C) = p(x_{i_0}) p(x_{i_1} | x_{i_0}) \prod_{i \in C \setminus \{i_0, i_1\}} p(x_i)$$

Therefore, for some  $p$ ,  $p_R(x_C) \neq p(x_C)$ .

**Case (ii):  $C$  is a clique, but not an ancestral clique in  $Q$ .** For a DAG  $R$ , denote the set of the all  $v$ -structures in  $R$  as  $v(R)$ , i.e.,

$$v(R) := \{(i, j, k) \mid i \rightarrow j, k \rightarrow j, i \nrightarrow k, k \nrightarrow i\}$$

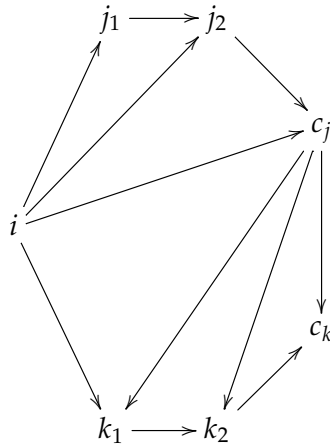
In the original proof, there is a lemma like the following, but the lemma is wrong:

**Lem. 9.1.** *Let  $R$  be a DAG and  $C$  be a clique in  $R$ . Assume the following two:*

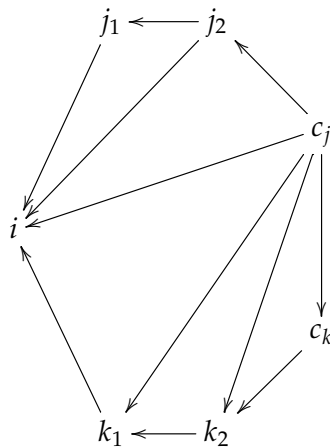
1.  $\forall j \in C; j$  has no unmarried parents in  $R$ .
2.  $\forall i \notin C$ ; if there is a directed path from  $i$  to some node  $j \in C$  in  $R$ , then  $i$  has no unmarried parents in  $R$ .

*Transform  $R$  into another DAG  $R'$  by inverting every link along every such path;  $R$  and  $R'$  has the same  $v$ -structure.*

**e.g. 9.2** (Counter example for Lem.9.1). *Let  $R$  be the graph below:*



Let  $C := \{c_j, c_k\}$ . Note that for all  $k \in N \setminus C$  such that  $k$  has a path to some  $c \in C$ ,  $k$  has no unmarried parents.  $R'$  is as follows:



Though  $v(R) = \emptyset$ , we have  $v(R') = \{(j_1, i, k_1), (j_1, i, c_j), (j_2, i, k_1)\}$ . Therefore, Lem.9.1 does not hold.

We can consider the modified version of the above lemma:

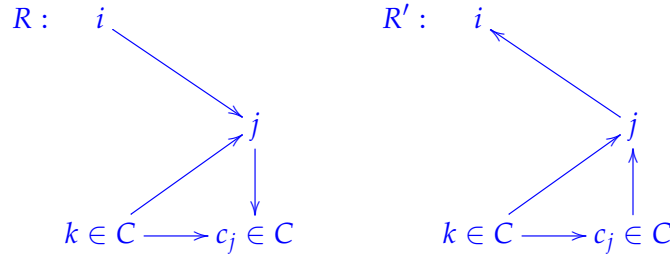
**Lem. 9.2.** Let  $R$  be a DAG and  $C$  be a clique in  $R$ . Assume the following two:

1.  $\forall j \in C; j$  has no unmarried parents in  $R$ .
2.  $\forall i, j \in N$ ; if there is a directed path from  $i$  to some node  $c_i \in C$  and a path from  $j$  to some node  $c_j \in C$  in  $R$ , then  $i \rightarrow j$  or  $j \rightarrow i$ .

Transform  $R$  into another DAG  $R'$  by inverting every link along the every path  $i \rightsquigarrow c$  such that  $i \notin C$  and  $c \in C$ ; then,  $R$  and  $R'$  has the same  $v$ -structure.

For the moment, let us admit Lem.9.2. (I prove it later.)

[I tried to modified the condition in assumption 2 from  $\forall i, j \in N$  to  $\forall i, j \notin C$ , but this does not hold: Below,  $(i, j, k) \in v(R)$ , but  $(i, j, k) \notin v(R')$ ]



**The modified proof for Case (ii)** By Lem.9.2, if the two assumptions in Lem.9.2 hold, there should exists  $R' \in [R]$  such that  $C$  is an ancestral clique in  $R'$ ; this contradicts the assumption we made at the beginning of the proof.

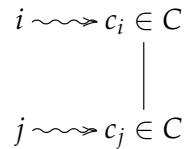
Hence, one of the following propositions holds:

$$\exists j \in C; j \text{ has an unmarried parents in } Q. \quad (P1)$$

$$\exists i, j \in N \exists c_i, c_j \in C; i \rightsquigarrow_Q c_i, j \rightsquigarrow_Q c_j, i \not\rightarrow_Q j, j \not\rightarrow_Q i \quad (P2)$$

In case of (P1), the original proof works. From now on, we assume (P1) does not hold and (P2) holds.

First of all,  $i \notin C$  or  $j \notin C$ ; otherwise there is an edge between them because  $C$  is a clique. Assume w.l.o.g. that  $i \notin C$ ;  $Q$  contains the structure as below:



Let  $P_i \subseteq N$  and  $P_j \subseteq N$  are the set of nodes contained in the directed paths from  $i$  to  $c_i$  and from  $j$  to  $c_j$  respectively.

**Observations:**

- $|P_i| \geq 2$ . ( $\because i \notin C$ .)
- $|P_j| \geq 1$ . ( $j$  may be a member of  $C$ .)
- $c_i$  and  $c_j$  may coincide.
- If  $|P_j| = 1$ , then  $j \neq c_i$ ; otherwise,  $i \rightarrow j$ .

Consider  $p \in \Delta(X)$  and a DAG  $R^*$  that satisfy

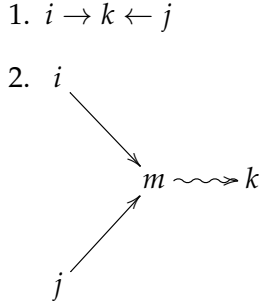
- $p$  is consistent with  $R^*$ .
- $i \notin P_i \cup P_j \implies i$  is an isolated node in  $R^*$ .

Consider the subgraph of  $Q$  restricted on  $P_i \cup P_j$ . We name the subgraph  $Q'$ .

**Case (ii-1): In case  $Q'(j) = \emptyset$ :** Since  $C$  is a nonempty clique,  $j \notin C$ . Since  $i \leftrightarrow j$ , for all  $p \in \Delta(X)$ , we have  $i \not\perp_{p_Q} j$ . Consider  $p \in \Delta(X)$  such that  $i \perp_p j$ . **Then, we can apply the same logic in the original proof in this case; we can show the existence of  $p$  such that  $p(x_C) \neq p_Q(x_C)$  for some  $x_C$ .**

**Case (ii-2): In case  $Q'(j) \neq \emptyset$ :** Fix  $k \in Q'(j)$ . Since  $Q'$  is a DAG,  $k$  is not a descendant of  $j$  in  $Q'$ . We also have  $k \neq i$ . Since all the nodes in  $Q'$  is either the descendant of node  $i$  or that of node  $j$ , node  $k$  is a descendant of node  $i$ . Assume w.l.o.g that there is no node along the path from  $i$  to  $k$  such that the node is a parent of  $j$ . (If  $|Q'(j)| \geq 2$ , then we can take the node  $k$  that is closest to  $i$ .)

$(i \perp j \mid k)_{Q'}$  **holds:**  $\therefore$  First, take any path  $i \rightsquigarrow j$ , by the construction of  $k$ ,  $k$  is on that path. Next, we need to check that neither of the following structure is contained in  $Q'$ :



However, since  $Q'$  is a DAG and  $k \rightarrow_{Q'} j$ , neither of them holds.

**cont.** Therefore, there exists  $p' \in \Delta(X_{P_i \cup P_j})$  such that  $(x_i \not\perp x_j \mid x_k)_{p'}$ . Consider the following probability distribution  $p$ :

$$p(x) := p'(x_{P_i \cup P_j}) \prod_{l \notin P_i \cup P_j} p(x_l)$$

$p_R$  should satisfy  $(x_i \perp x_j \mid x_k)_Q$ . This implies

$$\exists p \exists x_C; p(x_C) = p_{Q'}(x_C)$$

□

SpieglerLem.9.1

**Lem. 9.3.** Let  $R$  be a DAG and  $C$  be a non-ancestral clique in any  $R' \in [R]$ . Assume the following two:

1.  $\forall j \in C$ ;  $j$  has no unmarried parents in  $R$ .
2.  $\forall i \notin C$ ; if there is a directed path from  $i$  to some node  $j \in C$  in  $R$ , then  $i$  has no unmarried parents in  $R$ .

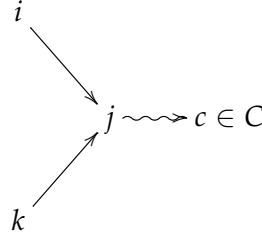
Transform  $R$  into another DAG  $R'$  by inverting every link along every such path;  $R$  and  $R'$  has the same  $v$ -structure.

*Proof of Lem.9.2.* We show  $v(R) = v(R')$ .

**Step 1:**  $v(R) \subseteq v(R')$  Fix any v-structure  $(i, j, k) \in v(R)$ ,  $i \rightarrow j \leftarrow k$ . By assumption 1 in Lem.9.2, we can assume that  $j \notin C$ . We can also assume that  $i \notin C$  or  $k \notin C$ ; otherwise there is an edge between  $i$  and  $k$  because  $C$  is a clique. Assume w.l.o.g that  $i \notin C$ .

It is sufficient to show that  $(i, j, k)$  remains as a v-structure after the inversion. Suppose toward contradiction that  $(i, j, k)$  is not a v-structure any more after the inversion. It is necessary that at least one of the edges  $i \rightarrow j$  and  $k \rightarrow j$  should be inverted.

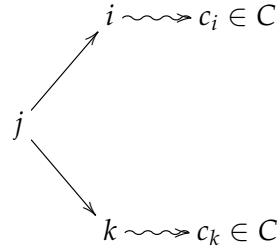
**Case (1-1): In case  $k \notin C$ :** Assume w.l.o.g that  $i \rightarrow j$  is inverted. Then, there exists some node  $c \in C$  such that  $i \rightsquigarrow_R c$ <sup>4</sup>; this implies that  $i \rightsquigarrow_R c$ , and  $k \rightsquigarrow_R c$ . The graph below summarizes the relationships:



However, by assumption 2 in Lem.9.2, there should be an edge between node  $i$  and node  $k$ ; this contradicts the assumption that  $(i, j, k)$  is a v-structure in  $R$ .

**Case (1-2) In case  $k \in C$ :** In this case,  $k \rightarrow j$  is not inverted; then,  $i \rightarrow j$  should be inverted. Then, by the same logic as in Case (1-1), this leads to a contradiction.

**Step 2:**  $v(R) \supseteq v(R')$  We show that the inversion does not create a new v-structure. Suppose toward contradiction that there exists a triple  $(i, j, k) \in v(R) \setminus v(R')$ . In this case, the structure as in the below graph should hold in  $R$  ( $c_i$  and  $c_k$  may be the same node.):



However, by assumption 2 in Lem.9.2, there should be an edge between node  $i$  and node  $k$ . A contradiction.  $\square$

<sup>4</sup>  $i \rightsquigarrow_R j$  denotes that there is a directed path from node  $i$  to node  $j$  in a DAG  $R$ .