

Chapter 1

Do Calculus proofs

In Chapter ?? of Bayesuvius, we explained Do Calculus but referred to this chapter for proofs of claims that use Do Calculus. In this chapter, we've aggregated all proofs, from throughout the book, of claims that use Do Calculus.

Note that even though the 3 rules of Do Calculus are great for proving adjustment formulae for general classes of DAGs, they are sometimes overkill for proving adjustment formulae for a single specific DAG. After all, the 3 rules of Do Calculus are a consequence of the d-separation theorem. Hence, all adjustment formulae should be provable from first principles, assuming only the d-separation theorem and the standard rules of probability theory.

We use the following conventions. Random variables are underlined and their values are not. For example, $\underline{a} = a$ means the random variable \underline{a} takes the value a . Diagrams with nodes that are underlined represent Bayesian Networks (bnets) and the same diagram with the letters not underlined represents a specific instantiation of that bnet. For example $\underline{a} \rightarrow \underline{b}$ represents the bnet with conditional probability distribution $P(b|a)$, whereas $a \rightarrow b$ represents $P(b|a)$ itself.

If \underline{a} is a root node, then $\sum \underline{a}$ signifies a weighted sum $\sum_a P(a)$. For example, $\sum \underline{a} \rightarrow \underline{b} = \sum_a P(a)P(b|a)$. If \underline{a} is not a root node as in $x \rightarrow \sum \underline{a} \rightarrow y = \sum_a P(y|a)P(a|x)$, then $\sum \underline{a}$ signifies a simple unweighted sum \sum_a .

Unobserved nodes are indicated by enclosing them in a dashed circle. For example, (\underline{u}) .

Selection diagrams with selection nodes are discussed in Chapter ??. In a selection diagram with a selection node $\underline{s} \in \{0, 1\}$, if a node \underline{x} has parents $pa(\underline{x})$ where $\underline{s} \notin pa(\underline{x})$, then the TPM of \underline{x} is $P(x|pa(x))$. If, on the other hand, \underline{x} has parents $pa(\underline{x}) \cup \underline{s}$, then the TPM of \underline{x} is $P(x|pa(x), \underline{s})$, where $P(x|pa(x), \underline{s} = 0) = P(x|pa(x))$ and $P(x|pa(x), \underline{s} = 1) = P^*(x|pa(x))$.

Some identities that are used in this chapter:

1.

$$P(y|x_1, x_2) = \sum_a P(y|a, x_1, x_2)P(a|x_1, x_2) . \quad (1.1)$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
x_1 & & x_1 \\
\searrow & & \searrow \quad \searrow \\
& y & \sum a \quad \longrightarrow y \\
\nearrow & & \nearrow \quad \nearrow \\
x_2 & & x_2
\end{array} = . \quad (1.2)$$

One can describe this identity as “giving \underline{y} a universal backdoor”, because $\sum a$ is a backdoor (i.e., input) to y , and $\sum a$ is universal in the sense that it is entered by every arrow that enters y except $\sum a$ itself.

2.

$$\sum_a P(a|x_1, x_2) = 1 \quad (1.3)$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
x_1 & \searrow & \\
& \sum a & \\
x_2 & \nearrow & \\
& \xrightarrow{0} & = 1
\end{array} \quad (1.4)$$

One can describe this identity as “summing over the values of a collider node which has no emerging arrows”¹. Eq.(1.4) can be understood as an edge case (when $\underline{y} = \emptyset$) of Eq.(1.2).

3.

$$\sum_a P(x_2|a)P(a|x_1) = P(x_2|x_1) \quad (1.5)$$

$$x_1 \longrightarrow \sum a \longrightarrow x_2 = x_1 \longrightarrow x_2 \quad (1.6)$$

One can describe this identity as “summing over the values of a mediator node”.

4.

$$P(x) = \sum_a P(x|a)P(a) = \sum_b P(x|b)P(b) \quad (1.7)$$

$$P(x) = \xrightarrow{0} \sum a \longrightarrow x = \xrightarrow{0} \sum b \longrightarrow x \quad (1.8)$$

One can describe this identity as “averaging over different priors”. Eq.(1.8) can be understood as an edge case of Eq.(1.6).

¹A zeroed arrow means the same as no arrow.

A **do-adjustment formula** expresses a **do-query** (i.e., a conditional probability with do operators in its condition) by an equivalent expression without do operators. If a do-adjustment formula exists for a particular do-query, then we say the do-query is **do-identifiable**.² The following is the simplest of do-adjustment formulae:

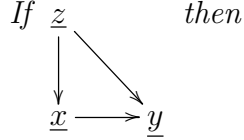
$$P(y|\mathcal{D}\underline{x} = x) = P(y|x) \quad (1.9)$$

Many problems (e.g., Backdoor, Frontdoor, etc.) satisfy this simplest of adjustment formulae, but in general we aim to find an adjustment formula that utilizes the full distribution of the observed nodes. Adjustment formulae that don't utilize the full distribution of the observed nodes are throwing away useful info from the dataset, and are less sensitive to deviations from the DAG model being hypothesized.

A **do-transport formula** expresses a do-query in terms of an equivalent do-query.

This chapter deals with both do-adjustment and do-transport formulae.

Claim 1 (*Backdoor Adjustment Formula*)



$$P(y|\mathcal{D}\underline{x} = x) = \sum_z P(y|x, z)P(z) \quad (1.10)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{D}\underline{x} = x \longrightarrow y \quad \sum_z & \\ = & \quad \begin{array}{c} z \\ \searrow \\ x \longrightarrow y \end{array} \end{aligned} \quad (1.11)$$

proof:

*** proof 1:**

$$P(y|\mathcal{D}\underline{x} = x) = \sum_z P(y|x, z)P(z)$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \sum_z & & \sum_z \\ \searrow & & \searrow \\ \mathcal{D}\underline{x} = x \longrightarrow y & = & x \longrightarrow y \end{array}$$

We can replace $\mathcal{D}\underline{x} = x$ by x because $\mathcal{D}\underline{x} \perp \underline{y}$ in $\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{D}\underline{x}}G$ so Rule 2 premise is satisfied.

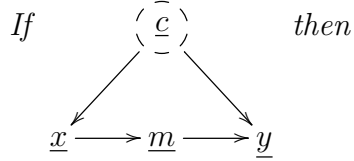
² To prove that a do-query $P(y|\mathcal{D}\underline{x} = x, z)$ is do-identifiable for a graph G , just prove that $\underline{y} \perp \underline{x}|z$ in $\mathcal{L}_{\underline{x}}G$. This is called Rule 2 of Do Calculus, but it is easy to understand just from the d-separation theorem. Info can be transmitted between \underline{y} and \underline{x} by either (1) paths in $\mathcal{D}\underline{x}G$ or (2) paths in $\mathcal{L}_{\underline{x}}G$. $P(y|\mathcal{D}\underline{x} = x, z) = P(y|x, z)$ means the info is being transmitted only by (1). So the Rule 2 premise is checking that no info is being transmitted by (2).

* proof 2:

$$\begin{aligned}
P(y|\underline{\mathcal{D}\underline{x}} = x) &= \sum_z P(y|\underline{\mathcal{D}\underline{x}} = x, z) P(z|\underline{\mathcal{D}\underline{x}} = x) \\
&\text{by Probability Axioms} \\
&= \sum_z P(y|x, z) P(z|\underline{\mathcal{D}\underline{x}} = x) \\
&\quad P(y|\underline{\mathcal{D}\underline{x}} = x, z) \rightarrow P(y|x, z) \\
&\text{by Rule 2:} \quad \text{If } (\underline{b.} \perp \underline{a.} | \underline{r.}, \underline{s.}) \text{ in } \mathcal{L}_{\underline{a.}} \mathcal{D}_{\underline{r.}} G, \text{ then} \\
&\quad \underline{\mathcal{D}\underline{a.}} = a. \leftrightarrow \underline{a.} = a. \\
&\underline{y} \perp \underline{x} | \underline{z} \text{ in } \mathcal{L}_{\underline{x}} \mathcal{D}_{\emptyset} G : \quad \underline{z} \begin{array}{c} \downarrow \quad \searrow \\ \underline{x} \quad \underline{y} \end{array} \\
&= \sum_z P(y|x, z) P(z) \\
&\quad P(z|\underline{\mathcal{D}\underline{x}} = x) \rightarrow P(z) \\
&\text{by Rule 3:} \quad \text{If } (\underline{b.} \perp \underline{a.} | \underline{r.}, \underline{s.}) \text{ in } \mathcal{D}_{\underline{a.} - an(\underline{s.})} \mathcal{D}_{\underline{r.}} G, \text{ then} \\
&\quad \underline{\mathcal{D}\underline{a.}} = a. \leftrightarrow 1 \\
&\underline{z} \perp \underline{x} \text{ in } \mathcal{D}_{\underline{x}} \mathcal{D}_{\emptyset} G : \quad \underline{z} \begin{array}{c} \searrow \\ \underline{x} \longrightarrow \underline{y} \end{array}
\end{aligned}$$

QED

Claim 2 (*Frontdoor Adjustment Formula*)



$$P(y|\mathcal{D}\underline{x} = x) = \sum_m \left[\sum_{x'} P(y|x', m) P(x') \right] P(m|x) \quad (1.12)$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{D}\underline{x} = x \longrightarrow y & \sum x' & \\ & \searrow & \\ = & x \longrightarrow \sum m \longrightarrow y & \end{array} \quad (1.13)$$

proof:

* proof 1:

$$P(y|\mathcal{D}\underline{x} = x) = \sum_{m,c,x'} P(y|m,c)P(c|x')P(x')P(m|\mathcal{D}\underline{x} = x)$$

by Probability Axioms

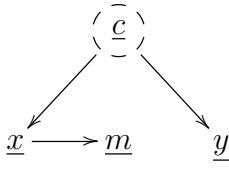
$$= \sum_{x'} \sum_m P(y|m, x') P(x'|\mathcal{D}\underline{m} = m) P(m|x)$$

$$P(y|\mathcal{D}\underline{m} = m, x') \rightarrow P(y|m, x')$$

by Rule 2: If $(\underline{b} \perp \underline{a} | \underline{r}, \underline{s})$ in $\mathcal{L}_{\underline{a}} \mathcal{D}_{\underline{r}} G$, then

$$\mathcal{D}\underline{a} = a. \leftrightarrow \underline{a} = a.$$

$\underline{y} \perp \underline{m} | \underline{x}$ in $\mathcal{L}_{\underline{m}} \mathcal{D}_{\emptyset} G$:



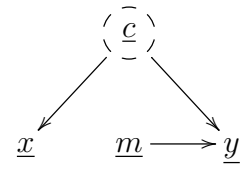
$$= \sum_{x'} \sum_m P(y|m, x') P(x') P(m|x)$$

$$P(x'|\mathcal{D}\underline{m} = m) \rightarrow P(x')$$

by Rule 3: If $(\underline{b} \perp \underline{a} | \underline{r}, \underline{s})$ in $\mathcal{D}_{\underline{a} - an(\underline{s})} \mathcal{D}_{\underline{r}} G$, then

$$\mathcal{D}\underline{a} = a. \leftrightarrow 1$$

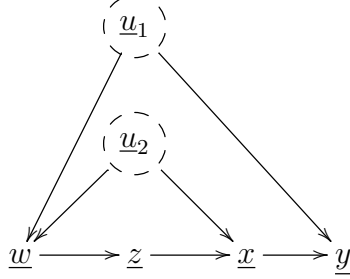
$\underline{x} \perp \underline{m}$ in $\mathcal{D}_{\underline{m}} \mathcal{D}_{\emptyset} G$:



QED

Claim 3 (*Napkin problem from Ref.[3]*)

If then



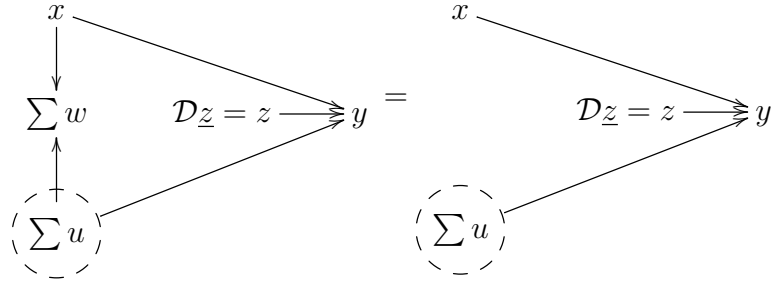
$$P(y|\mathcal{D}\underline{x} = x) = \sum_{w,z} P(y|x, w, z) P(w, z) \quad (1.14)$$

$$\mathcal{D}\underline{x} = x \longrightarrow y = \sum_{w,z} \begin{array}{c} w, z \\ \searrow \\ x \longrightarrow y \end{array} \quad (1.15)$$

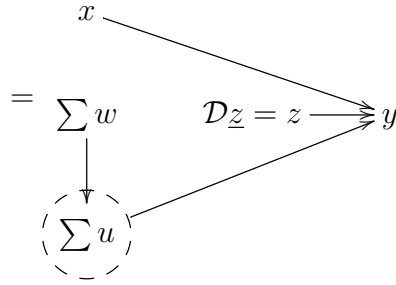
proof:

$$P(y|\mathcal{D}\underline{x} = x) = \sum_{u_1} P(y|\mathcal{D}\underline{x} = x, u_1) P(u_1)$$

$$P(y|\mathcal{D}\underline{z} = z, x) = \sum_u P(y|\mathcal{D}\underline{z} = z, x, u)P(u)$$

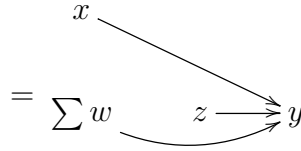


$$= \sum_w \sum_u P(y|\mathcal{D}\underline{z} = z, x, u)P(u|w)P(w)$$



$$= \sum_w P(y|z, x, w)P(w)$$

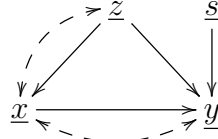
We can replace $\mathcal{D}\underline{z} = z$
by z because $\mathcal{D}\underline{z} \perp \underline{y}$
in $\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{D}\underline{z}}G$ so
Rule 2 premise is satisfied.



QED

Claim 5 (*Trivial Memoryless Transportability, from Ref.[2]*)

If \underline{z} where $\underline{s} \in \{0, 1\}$ is a selection node, then

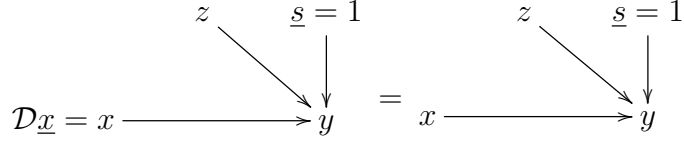


$$P^*(y|\mathcal{D}\underline{x} = x, z) = P^*(y|x, z) \quad (\text{replace } \mathcal{D} \text{ by } 1, \text{ keep } P^*) \quad (1.18)$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \begin{array}{c} z \\ \searrow \\ \mathcal{D}\underline{x} = x \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} \underline{s} = 1 \\ \downarrow \\ y \end{array} & = \begin{array}{c} z \\ \searrow \\ x \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \underline{s} = 1 \\ \downarrow \\ y \end{array} \end{array} \quad (1.19)$$

proof:

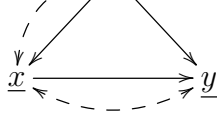
$$P(y|\mathcal{D}\underline{x} = x, z, \underline{s} = 1) = P(y|x, z, \underline{s} = 1)$$



QED

Claim 6 (*Direct Transportability, a.k.a. External Validity, from Ref.[2]*)

If $\underline{s} \longrightarrow \underline{z}$ where $\underline{s} \in \{0, 1\}$ is a selection node, then



$$P^*(y|\mathcal{D}\underline{x} = x, z) = P(y|\mathcal{D}\underline{x} = x, z) \quad (\text{replace } P^* \text{ by } P, \text{ keep } \mathcal{D}) \quad (1.20)$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \underline{s} = 1 & \longrightarrow & z \\ & \searrow & \\ \mathcal{D}\underline{x} = x & \longrightarrow & y \end{array} = \begin{array}{ccc} & & z \\ & \searrow & \\ \mathcal{D}\underline{x} = x & \longrightarrow & y \end{array} \quad (1.21)$$

Furthermore,

$$P^*(y|\mathcal{D}\underline{x} = x) = \sum_z P(y|\mathcal{D}\underline{x} = x, z)P^*(z) \quad (1.22)$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \underline{s} = 1 & & \underline{s} = 1 \longrightarrow \sum z \\ & \searrow & \searrow \\ \mathcal{D}\underline{x} = x & \longrightarrow & y \end{array} = \begin{array}{ccc} & & \sum z \\ & \searrow & \\ \mathcal{D}\underline{x} = x & \longrightarrow & y \end{array} \quad (1.23)$$

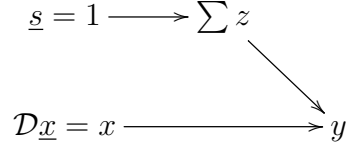
proof:

$$P(y|\mathcal{D}\underline{x} = x, z, \underline{s} = 1) = P(y|\mathcal{D}\underline{x} = x, z)$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \underline{s} = 1 & \longrightarrow & z \\ & \searrow & \\ \mathcal{D}\underline{x} = x & \longrightarrow & y \end{array} = \begin{array}{ccc} & & z \\ & \searrow & \\ \mathcal{D}\underline{x} = x & \longrightarrow & y \end{array} \quad \text{Because } \underline{s} \perp \underline{y} | \underline{z}$$

Furthermore,

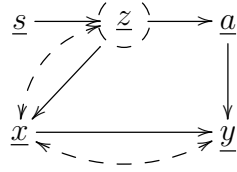
$$P(y|\mathcal{D}\underline{x} = x, \underline{s} = 1) = \sum_z P(y|\mathcal{D}\underline{x} = x, z)P(z|\underline{s} = 1)$$



QED

Claim 7 (*S-Admissable Transportability, from Ref.[2]*)

If $\underline{s} \rightarrow (\underline{z}) \rightarrow \underline{a}$ where $\underline{s} \in \{0, 1\}$ is a selection node, then

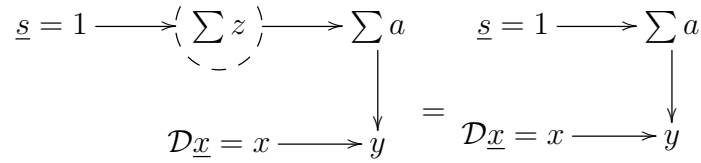


$$P^*(y|\mathcal{D}\underline{x} = x) = \sum_a P(y|\mathcal{D}\underline{x} = x, a)P^*(a) \quad (1.24)$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \underline{s} = 1 & & \underline{s} = 1 \longrightarrow \sum a \\ & \searrow & \downarrow \\ \mathcal{D}\underline{x} = x \longrightarrow y & = & \mathcal{D}\underline{x} = x \longrightarrow y \end{array} \quad (1.25)$$

proof:

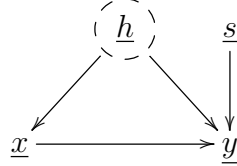
$$P(y|\mathcal{D}\underline{x} = x, \underline{s} = 1) = \sum_a P(y|\mathcal{D}\underline{x} = x, a)P(a|\underline{s} = 1)$$



QED

Claim 8 (*Non-transportability, from Ref.[2]*)

If $(\underline{h}) \rightarrow \underline{s}$ where $\underline{s} \in \{0, 1\}$ is a selection node, then



$$P^*(y|\mathcal{D}\underline{x} = x) = P^*(y|\mathcal{D}\underline{x} = x) \quad (1.26)$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & \underline{s} = 1 & \\
 & \downarrow & \\
 \mathcal{D}\underline{x} = x & \longrightarrow & y
 \end{array} = same \tag{1.27}$$

proof:

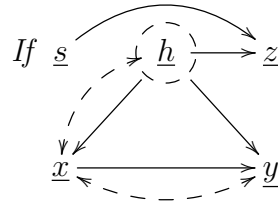
$$P^*(y|\mathcal{D}\underline{x} = x) = P^*(y|\mathcal{D}\underline{x} = x)$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 (\sum h) & \xrightarrow{\underline{s} = 1} & y \\
 \swarrow & & \downarrow \\
 \mathcal{D}\underline{x} = x & \longrightarrow & y
 \end{array} = \begin{array}{ccc}
 & \underline{s} = 1 & \\
 & \downarrow & \\
 \mathcal{D}\underline{x} = x & \longrightarrow & y
 \end{array}$$

Can't replace $\mathcal{D}\underline{x} = x$ by x because $\underline{y} \not\perp \underline{x}$ in $\mathcal{L}_{\underline{x}}G$. Hence, Rule 2 not satisfied.
QED

Claim 9 (from Ref.[2])

If $\underline{s} \xrightarrow{\quad} (\underline{h}) \xrightarrow{\quad} \underline{z}$ where $\underline{s} \in \{0, 1\}$ is a selection node, then



$$P^*(y|\mathcal{D}\underline{x} = x) = P(y|\mathcal{D}\underline{x} = x) \tag{1.28}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \underline{s} = 1 & & \\
 \searrow & & \\
 \mathcal{D}\underline{x} = x & \longrightarrow & y
 \end{array} = \mathcal{D}\underline{x} = x \longrightarrow y \tag{1.29}$$

proof:

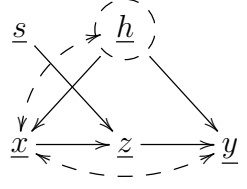
$$P(y|\mathcal{D}\underline{x} = x, \underline{s} = 1) = \sum_h P(y|\mathcal{D}\underline{x} = x, h)P(h)$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \underline{s} = 1 & \xrightarrow{\quad} & (\sum h) \xrightarrow{\quad} \sum z \\
 & \searrow & \downarrow \\
 \mathcal{D}\underline{x} = x & \longrightarrow & y
 \end{array} = \begin{array}{ccc}
 & (\sum h) & \\
 & \searrow & \\
 \mathcal{D}\underline{x} = x & \longrightarrow & y
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= P(y|\mathcal{D}\underline{x} = x) \\
 &= \mathcal{D}\underline{x} = x \longrightarrow y
 \end{aligned}$$

QED

Claim 10 (from Ref.[2])

If \underline{s}  where $\underline{s} \in \{0, 1\}$ is a selection node, then

$$P^*(y|\mathcal{D}\underline{x} = x) = \sum_z P(y|\mathcal{D}\underline{x} = x, z)P^*(z|x) \quad (1.30)$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \underline{s} = 1 \\ \searrow \\ \mathcal{D}\underline{x} = x \downarrow \\ y \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} \underline{s} = 1 \\ \searrow \\ x \longrightarrow \sum z \longrightarrow y \\ \mathcal{D}\underline{x} = x \downarrow \end{array} \quad (1.31)$$

proof:

$$P(y|\mathcal{D}\underline{x} = x, \underline{s} = 1) = \sum_h \sum_z P(y|h, z)P(h)P(z|\mathcal{D}\underline{x} = x, \underline{s} = 1)$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \underline{s} = 1 \\ \searrow \\ \mathcal{D}\underline{x} = x \longrightarrow \sum z \longrightarrow y \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} (\sum h) \\ \swarrow \quad \searrow \end{array}$$

$$= \sum_h \sum_z P(y|h, z)P(h|\mathcal{D}\underline{x} = x)P(z|x, \underline{s} = 1)$$

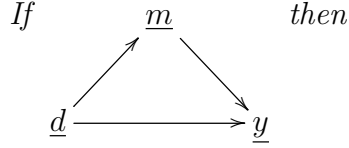
$$\begin{array}{c} \underline{s} = 1 \\ \searrow \\ \mathcal{D}\underline{x} = x \longrightarrow \sum z \longrightarrow y \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} (\sum h) \\ \swarrow \quad \searrow \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \mathcal{D}\underline{x} = x \longrightarrow \end{array}$$

$$= \sum_z P(y|\mathcal{D}\underline{x} = x, z)P(z|x, \underline{s} = 1)$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \underline{s} = 1 \\ \searrow \\ x \longrightarrow \sum z \longrightarrow y \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \mathcal{D}\underline{x} = x \downarrow \\ y \end{array}$$

QED

Claim 11 (Unconfounded Mediation, from Ref.[1])



$$P(y|\mathcal{D}\underline{d} = d, \mathcal{I}_{\underline{m}}\underline{d} = d') = \sum_m P(y|d, m)P(m|d') \quad (1.32)$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{I}\underline{d} = d' & \mathcal{I}\underline{d} = d' \longrightarrow \sum m & \\ \searrow & \searrow & \\ \mathcal{D}\underline{d} = d \longrightarrow y & = & \mathcal{D}\underline{d} = d \longrightarrow y \end{array} \quad (1.33)$$

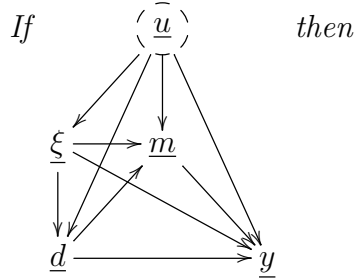
proof:

$$P(y|\mathcal{D}\underline{d} = d, \mathcal{I}\underline{d} = d') = \sum_m P(y|d, m)P(m|d')$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{I}\underline{d} = d' \longrightarrow \sum m & & \\ & \searrow & \\ \mathcal{D}\underline{d} = d \longrightarrow y & & \end{array}$$

QED

Claim 12 (Mediation with universal prior $\underline{\xi}$ and universal confounder \underline{u} , from Ref.[1])

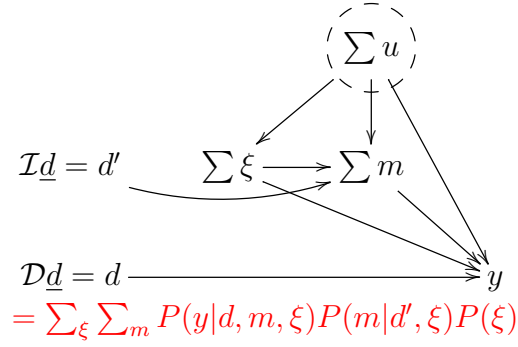


$$P(y|\mathcal{D}\underline{d} = d, \mathcal{I}_{\underline{m}}\underline{d} = d') = \sum_{\xi} \sum_m P(y|d, m, \xi)P(m|d', \xi)P(\xi) \quad (1.34)$$

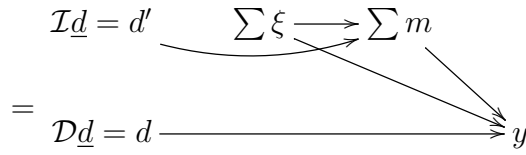
$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{I}\underline{d} = d' & \mathcal{I}\underline{d} = d' \longrightarrow \sum \xi \longrightarrow \sum m & \\ \searrow & \searrow & \searrow \\ \mathcal{D}\underline{d} = d \longrightarrow y & = & \mathcal{D}\underline{d} = d \longrightarrow y \end{array} \quad (1.35)$$

proof:

$$P(y|\mathcal{D}\underline{d} = d, \mathcal{I}\underline{d} = d') = \sum_{\xi, u} \sum_m P(y|d, m, \xi, u) P(m|d', \xi, u) \underbrace{P(\xi|u)P(u)}_{P(\xi, u)}$$



We switch from averaging over the prior of ξ, u to averaging over the prior of ξ .



QED

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