Causal Mediation in Natural Experiments

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Cornell Placement Week 29 September 2025

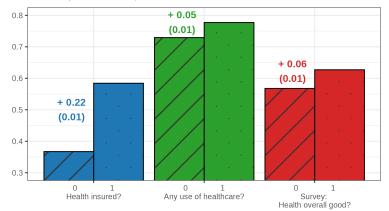
Notes for long version

- 1 Translate the wording for everyone (mechanism, quasi-random), and be clearer about suggestive. Use words like necessary but not sufficient.
- Needs a clearer introduction, which accurately overviews and previews the approach findings
- Novelty needs to be loud, so put it first, Write ATE = ADE + AIE for Levon, and enumerates folks theorems for why CM did not take off in econ but did in medicine epi psych)
- 4 Evan Riehl recommends a slide with quotes from top 5s that investigates mechanisms (note the approach is necessary but not sufficient for mechanism analysis)
- 6 Mention Kwon Roth result on my data, reject null then move on....
- 6 Longer presentation needs clear reasoning on the IV.

Intro: Oregon Health Insurance Experiment

In 2008, Oregon gave access to socialised health insurance by wait-list lottery (Finkelstein et al, 2012).

Mean Outcome, for each z' = 0, 1.



Applied practice:

⇒ Suggestive evidence for healthcare as mechanism for wait-list lottery. . . .

Intro: Oregon Health Insurance Experiment

In 2008, Oregon gave access to socialised health insurance by wait-list lottery (Finkelstein et al, 2012).

Figure: Model for Suggestive Evidence of a Mechanism.



Unanswered questions:

- Is $D_i \rightarrow Y_i$ small, large, or even existent?
- Where else do we accept assumed causal effects without evidence?

Plausible direct effects, which are overlooked:

• Psychological gains, less worry for financial consequences of health

Introduction — Road map

Causal Mediation (CM) is an additional framework, with clear identification and assumptions to add quantitative analysis to studying mechanisms. Introduce CM longer here, and the big picture.

Introduction — Contributions

Causal Mediation (CM) is an additional framework, with clear identification and assumptions to add quantitative analysis to studying mechanisms.

- 1 Problems with conventional approach to CM in observational settings.

 [Negative result]
- Recovering valid CM effects, via MTE + control function modelling. [Positive result]

New insights from intersection of two fields:

- Causal Mediation (CM).
 - Imai Keele Yamamoto (2010), Frölich Huber (2017), Deuchert Huber Schelker (2019), Huber (2020), Kwon Roth (2024).
- Labour theory, Selection-into-treatment, MTEs.
 Roy (1951), Heckman (1979), Heckman Honoré (1990), Vycatil (2002), Heckman Vycatil (2005), Brinch Mogstad Wiswall (2017), Kline Walters (2019).

Introduction - CM

Consider ignorable treatment $Z_i = 0, 1$, binary mediator $D_i = 0, 1$, and continuous outcome Y_i .

Treatment Z_i Treatment Effect (ATE) Y_i Outcome

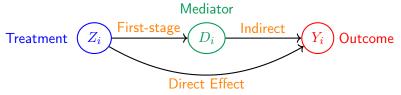
Assumption: Mediator Ignorability (MI, Imai Keele Yamamoto 2010) mediator D_i is also ignorable, conditional on X_i and Z_i realisation.

Average Direct Effect (ADE) and Average Indirect Effect (AIE) are identified by two-stage regression

- ADE is causal effect $Z_i \to Y_i$, blocking the indirect D_i path
- AIE is causal effect of $D_i(Z_i) \to Y_i$, blocking the direct Z_i path.

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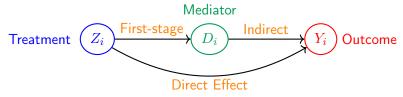
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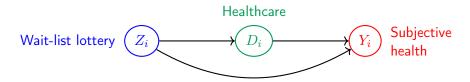
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Would this assumption hold true in settings economists study?

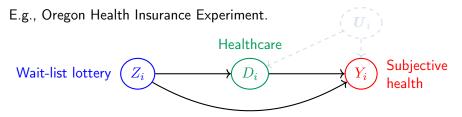
E.g., Oregon Health Insurance Experiment.



- 1 Treatment is as-good-as random (2008 Oregon wait-list lottery).
- 2 Healthcare is quasi-random, conditional on lottery realisation Z_i and demographic controls X_i .

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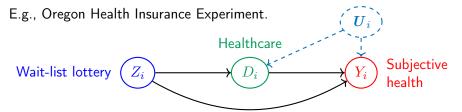
Would this assumption hold true in settings economists study?



Theorem: If choice to attend healthcare is unconstrained, based on costs and benefits (Roy model) and demographics do not explain all benefits \implies MI does not hold, there is unobserved confounding.

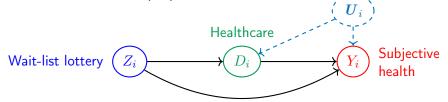
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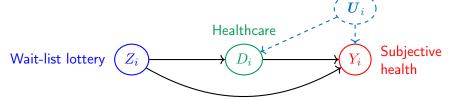
In an observational setting, need an additional credible research design for Mediator Ignorability (MI) to be credible.



If not, then CM effects are contaminated by bias terms, similar to classical selection bias (e.g., Heckman Ichimura Smith Todd 1998).

- ADE: CM Estimand = ADE+(Selection Bias+Group difference bias)
- AIE: CM Estimand = AIE+ (Selection Bias+Group difference bias)

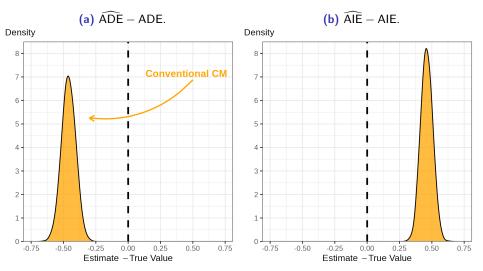
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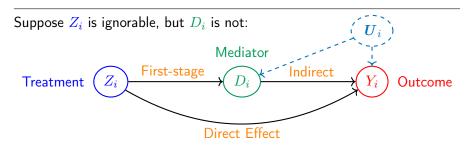
- ADE: CM Estimand = ADE+(Selection Bias+Group difference bias)
- CM Estimand = AIE + (Selection Bias + Group difference bias)▶ ADE biases

In a simulation with Roy selection-into- D_i , CM estimates are biased.



2. CM with Selection

Conventional CM methods do not identify ADE + AIE in a natural experiment setting, but can we build a credible structural model?

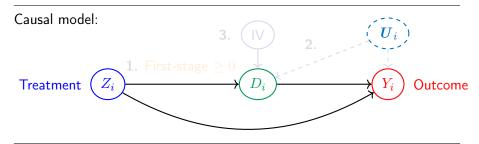


- **1** Average first-stage, $Z_i \rightarrow D_i$, is identified
- 2 Average second-stage, $Z_i, D_i \rightarrow Y_i$, is not represented by U_i .

Intuition: model U_i via mediator MTE to identify ADE + AIE.

MTE assumptions:

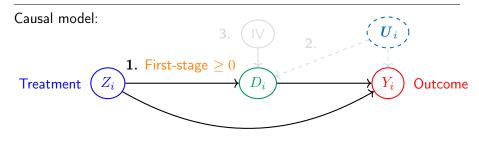
- Mediator monotonicity
- 2 Selection on mediator benefits
- **3** IV for mediator take-up cost.



Proposition: Under MTE assumptions, the mediator MTE is identified.

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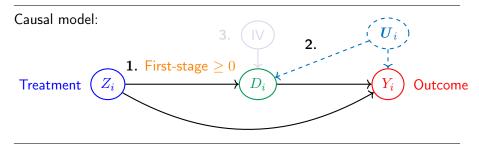
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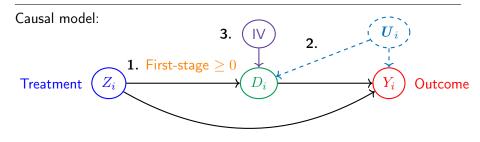
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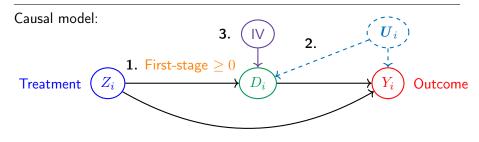
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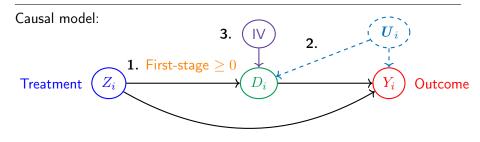
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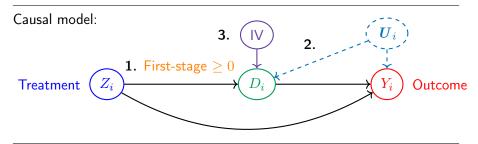


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In practice, this means two-stage CM estimation, with CF in second-stage.

Parametric CF Estimation Recipe:

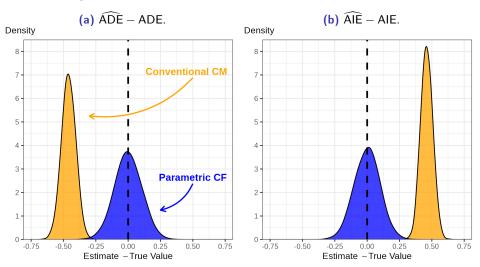
- 1 Estimate mediation first-stage with probit, including the IV.
- 2 Estimate mediation second-stage by OLS, with Mills ratio CF terms (Heckman 1979).
- 3 Compose CM estimates from two-stage plug-in estimates (same as parametric MTEs, Björklund Moffitt 1987).

Semi-parametric CF Estimation Recipe:

Replace 2. with semi-parametric CFs (same estimation as MTEs).

 \implies Conventional CM estimates (two-stages) + IV-guided CF adjustment.

Figure: CM Estimates from 10,000 DGPs with Normal Errors.



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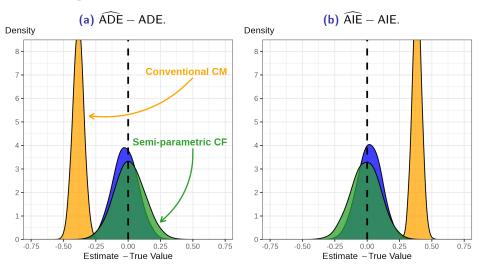
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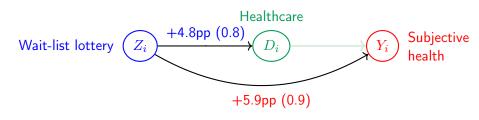
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Figure: CM Estimates from 10,000 DGPs with Uniform Errors.



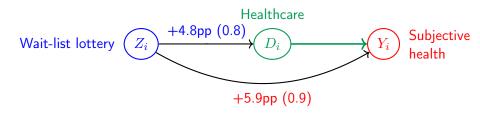
Winning access to Medicaid increases healthcare usage, and subjective health:



CM is quantitatively estimating the entire system:

- Use correlational estimate of $D_i \rightarrow Y_i$
- Does visiting healthcare at least once increase subjective health 12 months later?
- OLS for $D_i \to Y_i$ is ≈ 0 (not significant).

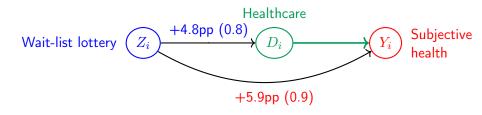
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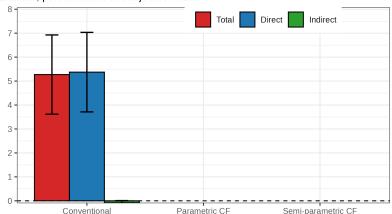


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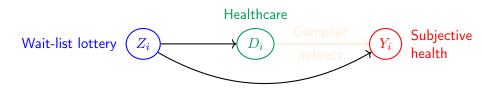
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Conventional CM estimates lottery effects as mostly direct, ≈ 0 healthcare.





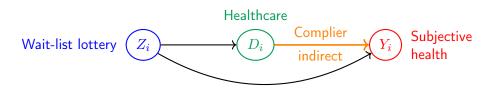
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My approach to CM is modelling selection-into- D_i via mediator MTE:

- Uses an estimate of $D_i o Y_i$ (plus complier extrapolation)
- Regular healthcare location pre-lottery serves as first-stage IV IV.
- IV + CF extrapolation estimates of $D_i \to Y_i$ are larger \Longrightarrow smaller ADE estimates.

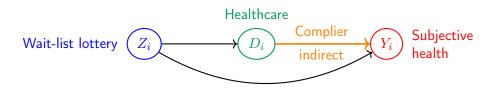
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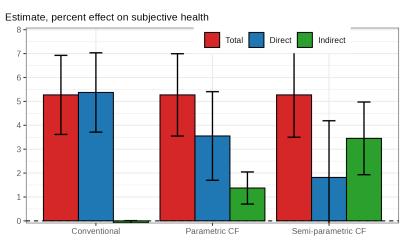
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Using my approach, with regular healthcare location as an excluded IV, restores indirect effect through increasing healthcare visitation.



Conclusion

Overview:

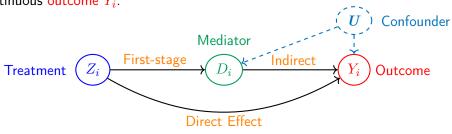
- 1 CM as alternative to "suggestive evidence for mechanisms."
- 2 Selection bias in conventional CM analyses with no case for mediator ignorability.
- \odot Connect CM with labour theory + selection-into-treatment + MTEs.

Caveats and points to remember:

- Structural assumptions and IV for identification + estimation (not ideal).
- Application to Oregon Health Insurance Experiment, showing subjective health + well-being effects mediated by healthcare.
- **Credible** analyses of mechanisms are hard in practice, wide confidence intervals show true uncertainty.

Appendix: CM Guiding Model

Consider binary treatment $Z_i = 0, 1$, binary mediator $D_i = 0, 1$, and continuous outcome Y_i .



Average Direct Effect (ADE) :
$$\mathbb{E}\left[Y_i\left(\mathbf{1},D_i(Z_i)\right)-Y_i\left(\mathbf{0},D_i(Z_i)\right)\right]$$

• ADE is causal effect $Z \to Y$, blocking the indirect D_i path.

Average Indirect Effect (AIE):
$$\mathbb{E}\left[Y_i\left(Z_i, D_i(1)\right) - Y_i\left(Z_i, D_i(0)\right)\right]$$

• AIE is causal effect of $D_i(Z_i) \to Y_i$, blocking the direct Z_i path.

Group Difference — ADE

CM effects contaminated by (less interpretable) bias terms.

CM Estimand = ADEM + Selection Bias

$$\begin{split} & \underbrace{\mathbb{E}_{D_i} \bigg[\mathbb{E} \left[Y_i \, | \, Z_i = 1, D_i \right] - \mathbb{E} \left[Y_i \, | \, Z_i = 0, D_i \right] \bigg]}_{\text{Estimand, Direct Effect}} \\ &= \underbrace{\mathbb{E}_{D_i = d'} \left[\mathbb{E} \left[Y_i(1, D_i(Z_i)) - Y_i(0, D_i(Z_i)) \, | \, D_i(1) = d' \right] \right]}_{\text{Average Direct Effect on Mediator (ADEM) take-up } - \text{ i.e., } D_i(1) \text{ weighted}} \\ &+ \underbrace{\mathbb{E}_{D_i} \bigg[\mathbb{E} \left[Y_i(0, D_i(Z_i)) \, | \, D_i(1) = d' \right] - \mathbb{E} \left[Y_i(0, D_i(Z_i)) \, | \, D_i(0) = d' \right] \bigg]}_{\text{Selection Bias}} \end{split}$$

The weighted ADE you get here is a positive weighted sum of local ADEs, but with policy irrelevant weights $D_i(1) = d'$.

consider this group bias, noting difference from true ADE. Pack

Selection Bias — Direct Effect

CM Effects + contaminating bias.

CM Estimand =
$$ADE +$$
 (Selection Bias + Group difference bias)

$$\mathbb{E}_{D_i = d'} \left[\mathbb{E} \left[Y_i \, \middle| \, Z_i = 1, D_i = d' \right] - \mathbb{E} \left[Y_i \, \middle| \, Z_i = 0, D_i = d' \right] \right]$$

$$= \mathbb{E} \left[Y_i(1, D_i(Z_i)) - Y_i(0, D_i(Z_i)) \right]$$
Average Direct Effect
$$+ \mathbb{E}_{D_i = d'} \left[\mathbb{E} \left[Y_i(0, D_i(Z_i)) \, \middle| \, D_i(1) = d' \right] - \mathbb{E} \left[Y_i(0, D_i(Z_i)) \, \middle| \, D_i(0) = d' \right] \right]$$
Selection Bias
$$+ \mathbb{E}_{D_i = d'} \left[\frac{\left(1 - \Pr \left(D_i(1) = d' \right) \right)}{\times \left(\mathbb{E} \left[Y_i(1, D_i(Z_i)) - Y_i(0, D_i(Z_i)) \, \middle| \, D_i(1) = 1 - d' \right] \right)} \right]$$

$$\times \left(\mathbb{E} \left[Y_i(1, D_i(Z_i)) - Y_i(0, D_i(Z_i)) \, \middle| \, D_i(0) = d' \right] \right)$$

Group Difference — AIE

CM effects contaminated by (less interpretable) bias terms.

CM Estimand =
$$AIEM + (Selection Bias + Group difference bias)$$

$$\mathbb{E}_{Z_{i}}\left[\left(\mathbb{E}\left[D_{i} \mid Z_{i}=1\right] - \mathbb{E}\left[D_{i} \mid Z_{i}=0\right]\right) \times \left(\mathbb{E}\left[Y_{i} \mid Z_{i}, D_{i}=1\right] - \mathbb{E}\left[Y_{i} \mid Z_{i}, D_{i}=0\right]\right)\right]$$

Estimand, Indirect Effect

$$\mathbb{E}\left[Y_{i}(Z_{i}, D_{i}(1)) - Y_{i}(Z_{i}, D_{i}(0)) \mid D_{i} = 1\right]$$

Average Indirect Effect on Mediated (AIEM) — i.e., $D_i = 1$ weighted

$$+\overline{\pi}\Big(\mathbb{E}\left[Y_i(Z_i,0)\,|\,D_i=1\right]-\mathbb{E}\left[Y_i(Z_i,0)\,|\,D_i=0\right]\Big)$$

 $\overline{}$

$$+ \overline{\pi} \left[\left(\frac{1 - \Pr\left(D_i(1) = 1, D_i(0) = 0\right)}{\Pr\left(D_i(1) = 1, D_i(0) = 0\right)} \right) \begin{pmatrix} \mathbb{E}\left[Y_i(Z_i, 1) - Y_i(Z_i, 0) \,|\, D_i(1) = 0 \text{ or } D_i(0) \\ - \mathbb{E}\left[Y_i(Z_i, 1) - Y_i(Z_i, 0)\right] \end{pmatrix} \right]$$

senan Hogan-Hennessy, Cornell University

Groups difference Bias

The weighted AIE you get here is not a positive weighted sum of local AIEs, because the AIE is only about D(Z) compliers. \bigcirc Model.

Selection Bias — Indirect Effect

CM Effects + contaminating bias, where $\overline{\pi} = \Pr(D_i(0) \neq D_i(1))$.

CM Estimand = AIE + $\left(\text{Selection Bias} + \text{Group difference bias} \right) \land Model$

$$\mathbb{E}_{Z_{i}}\left[\left(\mathbb{E}\left[D_{i} \mid Z_{i}=1\right]-\mathbb{E}\left[D_{i} \mid Z_{i}=0\right]\right)\times\left(\mathbb{E}\left[Y_{i} \mid Z_{i}, D_{i}=1\right]-\mathbb{E}\left[Y_{i} \mid Z_{i}, D_{i}=0\right]\right)\right]$$

Estimand, Indirect Effect

$$= \mathbb{E} [Y_i(Z_i, D_i(1)) - Y_i(Z_i, D_i(0))]$$

+
$$\pi \Big(\mathbb{E} [Y_i(Z_i, 0) | D_i = 1] - \mathbb{E} [Y_i(Z_i, 0) | D_i = 0] \Big)$$

Selection Bias

$$+ \overline{\pi} \begin{bmatrix} \left(1 - \Pr(D_i = 1)\right) \begin{pmatrix} \mathbb{E}\left[Y_i(Z_i, 1) - Y_i(Z_i, 0) \mid D_i = 1\right] \\ - \mathbb{E}\left[Y_i(Z_i, 1) - Y_i(Z_i, 0) \mid D_i = 0\right] \end{pmatrix} \\ + \left(\frac{1 - \Pr(D_i(1) = 1, D_i(0) = 0)}{\Pr(D_i(1) = 1, D_i(0) = 0)} \right) \begin{pmatrix} \mathbb{E}\left[Y_i(Z_i, 1) - Y_i(Z_i, 0) \mid D_i(Z_i) \neq Z_i\right] \\ - \mathbb{E}\left[Y_i(Z_i, 1) - Y_i(Z_i, 0)\right] \end{pmatrix} \end{bmatrix}$$

Semi-parametric Control Functions

Semi-parametric specifications for the CFs λ_0, λ_1 bring some complications to estimating the AIE.

$$\mathbb{E}\left[Y_i \mid Z_i, D_i = 0, \boldsymbol{X}_i\right] = \alpha + \gamma Z_i + \varphi(\boldsymbol{X}_i) + \frac{\rho_0 \lambda_0 \left(\pi(Z_i; \boldsymbol{X}_i)\right)}{\rho_0 \lambda_0 \left(\pi(Z_i; \boldsymbol{X}_i)\right)},$$

$$\mathbb{E}\left[Y_i \mid Z_i, D_i = 1, \boldsymbol{X}_i\right] = (\alpha + \beta) + (\gamma + \delta) Z_i + \varphi(\boldsymbol{X}_i) + \frac{\rho_1 \lambda_1 \left(\pi(Z_i; \boldsymbol{X}_i)\right)}{\rho_1 \lambda_1 \left(\pi(Z_i; \boldsymbol{X}_i)\right)}$$

Intercepts, $\alpha, (\alpha + \beta)$, and relevance parameters ρ_0, ρ_1 are not separately identified from the CFs $\lambda_0(.), \lambda_1(.)$ so CF extrapolation term $(\rho_1 - \rho_0)\Gamma(\pi(0; \boldsymbol{X}_i), \pi(1; \boldsymbol{X}_i))$ is not directly identified or estimable.

These problems can be avoided by estimating the AIE using its relation to the ATE, $\widehat{\text{AIE}}^{\text{CF}} =$

$$\widehat{\mathsf{ATE}} - (1 - \overline{Z}) \left(\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \widehat{\gamma} + \widehat{\delta} \, \widehat{\pi}(1; \boldsymbol{X}_i) \right) - \overline{Z} \left(\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \widehat{\gamma} + \widehat{\delta} \, \widehat{\pi}(0; \boldsymbol{X}_i) \right).$$

 \overrightarrow{ADE} given $Z_i=0$

Appenidx: CM with Selection

Suppose Z_i is ignorable, D_i is not, so we have the following causal model.



Then this system has the following random coefficient equations:

$$\begin{split} D_i &= \phi + \overline{\pi} Z_i + \varphi(\boldsymbol{X}_i) + U_i \\ Y_i &= \alpha + \beta D_i + \gamma Z_i + \delta Z_i D_i + \zeta(\boldsymbol{X}_i) + \underbrace{(1 - D_i) \, U_{0,i} + D_i U_{1,i}}_{\text{Correlated error term}} \end{split}$$
 where β, γ, δ are functions of $\mu_{d'}(z'; \boldsymbol{X}_i)$.

$$\mathsf{ADE} = \mathbb{E}\left[\gamma + \delta D_i
ight], \quad \mathsf{AIE} = \mathbb{E}\left[\overline{\pi}ig(eta + \delta Z_i + \widetilde{U}_iig)
ight]$$

with $\widetilde{U}_i = \mathbb{E}\left[U_{1,i} - U_{0,i} \mid \boldsymbol{X}_i, D_i(0) \neq D_i(1)\right]$ unobserved complier gains.

Appenidx: CM with Selection

Suppose Z_i is ignorable, D_i is not, so we have the following causal model.



Main problem, second-stage is not identified:

$$\begin{split} \mathbb{E}\left[Y_i \,|\, Z_i, D_i, \boldsymbol{X}_i\right] &= \alpha + \beta D_i + \gamma Z_i + \delta Z_i D_i + \varphi(\boldsymbol{X}_i) \\ &+ \left(1 - D_i\right) \mathbb{E}\left[U_{0,i} \,|\, D_i = 0, \boldsymbol{X}_i\right] \\ &+ \underbrace{D_i \mathbb{E}\left[U_{1,i} \,|\, D_i = 1, \boldsymbol{X}_i\right]}_{\text{Unobserved } D_i \text{ confounding.}} \end{split}$$

Identification intuition: Identify second-stage via MTE control function.

Appenidx: CM with Selection — Identification

Assume:

- **1** Mediator monotonicity, $Pr(D_i(0) \leq D_i(1) \mid \boldsymbol{X}_i) = 1$
 - $\implies D_i(z') = \mathbb{1}\left\{U_i \leq \pi(z'; \boldsymbol{X}_i)\right\}, \text{ for } z' = 0, 1 \text{ (Vycatil 2002)}.$
- **2** Selection on mediator benefits, Cov $(U_i, U_{0,i})$, Cov $(U_i, U_{1,i}) \neq 0$
 - ⇒ First-stage take-up informs second-stage confounding.
- 3 There is an IV for the mediator, $m{X}_i^{\mathsf{IV}}$ among control variables $m{X}_i$.

$$\implies \pi(Z_i; \boldsymbol{X}_i) = \Pr(D_i = 1 | Z_i, \boldsymbol{X}_i)$$
 is separately identified.

Proposition:

$$\mathbb{E}\left[Y_{i}(z',1) - Y_{i}(z',0) \mid Z_{i} = z', \boldsymbol{X}_{i}, U_{i} = p'\right] \\ = \beta + \delta z' + \mathbb{E}\left[U_{1,i} - U_{0,i} \mid \boldsymbol{X}_{i}, U_{i} = p'\right], \quad \text{for } p' \in (0,1).$$

Appenidx: CM with Selection — Identification

The marginal effect has corresponding Control Functions (CFs), describing unobserved selection-into- D_i ,

$$\rho_0 \lambda_0(p') = \mathbb{E} \left[U_{0,i} \mid p' \leq U_i \right], \quad \rho_1 \lambda_1(p') = \mathbb{E} \left[U_{1,i} \mid U_i \leq p' \right].$$

These CFs restore second-stage identification, by extrapolating from $\boldsymbol{X}_i^{\text{IV}}$ compliers to $D_i(Z_i)$ mediator compliers,

$$\mathbb{E}\left[Y_i \,|\, Z_i, D_i, \boldsymbol{X}_i\right] = \alpha + \beta D_i + \gamma Z_i + \delta Z_i D_i + \varphi(\boldsymbol{X}_i) \\ + \underbrace{\rho_0\left(1 - D_i\right) \lambda_0 \big(\pi(Z_i; \boldsymbol{X}_i)\big) + \rho_1 D_i \lambda_1 \big(\pi(Z_i; \boldsymbol{X}_i)\big)}_{\text{CF adjustment.}}$$

This adjusted second-stage re-identifies the ADE and AIE.

$$\mathsf{ADE} = \mathbb{E}\left[\gamma + \delta D_i\right], \ \ \mathsf{AIE} = \mathbb{E}\left[\overline{\pi}\left(\beta + \delta Z_i + \underbrace{\left(\rho_1 - \rho_0\right)\Gamma\big(\pi(0; \boldsymbol{X}_i), \, \pi(1; \boldsymbol{X}_i)\right)}\right)\right]$$

Will explain how estimation works, with simulation evidence.

- **1** Random treatment $Z_i \sim {\sf Binom}\,(0.5)$, for n=5,000.
- 2 $(U_{0,i}, U_{1,i}) \sim \text{BivariateNormal}(0, 0, \sigma_0, \sigma_1, \rho)$, Costs $C_i \sim N(0, 0.5)$.

Roy selection-into- D_i , with constant partial effects + interaction term.

$$\begin{split} D_i(z') &= \mathbb{1}\left\{C_i \le Y_i(z',1) - Y_i(z',0)\right\}, \\ Y_i(z',d') &= \left(z' + d' + z'd'\right) + U_{d'} & \text{for } z',d' = 0,1. \end{split}$$

Following the previous, these data have the following first and second-stage equations, where X_i^{IV} is an additive cost IV:

$$D_{i} = \mathbb{1}\left\{C_{i} - \left(\frac{U_{1,i} - U_{0,i}}{1 - U_{0,i}}\right) \le Z_{i} - X_{i}^{\mathsf{IV}}\right\}$$

$$Y_{i} = Z_{i} + D_{i} + Z_{i}D_{i} + (1 - D_{i})U_{0,i} + D_{i}U_{1,i}.$$

 \implies unobserved confounding by BivariateNormal $(U_{0,i},U_{1,i})$.

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Errors are normal, so system is Heckman (1979) selection model.

CFs are the inverse Mills ratio, with $\phi(.)$ normal pdf and $\Phi(.)$ normal cdf,

$$\lambda_0(p') = \frac{\phi(-\Phi^{-1}(p'))}{\Phi(-\Phi^{-1}(p'))}, \quad \lambda_1(p') = \frac{\phi(\Phi^{-1}(p'))}{\Phi(\Phi^{-1}(p'))}, \quad \text{for } p' \in (0,1).$$

Parametric Estimation Recipe:

- **1** Estimate first-stage $\pi(Z_i; \boldsymbol{X}_i)$ with probit, including $\boldsymbol{X}_i^{\mathsf{IV}}$.
- 2 Include λ_0, λ_1 CFs in second-stage OLS estimation.
- 3 Compose CM estimates from two-stage plug-in estimates.
- \rightarrow Same as conventional CM estimates (two-stages), with CFs added.

$$\widehat{\mathsf{ADE}} = \mathbb{E}\left[\widehat{\boldsymbol{\gamma}} + \widehat{\boldsymbol{\delta}}D_i\right], \ \ \widehat{\mathsf{AIE}} = \mathbb{E}\left[\widehat{\widehat{\boldsymbol{\pi}}}\left(\widehat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} + \widehat{\boldsymbol{\delta}}Z_i + \underbrace{\left(\widehat{\rho}_1 - \widehat{\rho}_0\right)\Gamma\left(\widehat{\boldsymbol{\pi}}(0; \boldsymbol{X}_i), \, \widehat{\boldsymbol{\pi}}(1; \boldsymbol{X}_i)\right)}_{\text{M.F. of }}\right)\right]$$

If errors are not normal, then CFs do not have a known form, so semiparametrically estimate them (e.g., splines).

$$\mathbb{E}\left[Y_i \mid Z_i, D_i = 0, \boldsymbol{X}_i\right] = \alpha + \gamma Z_i + \varphi(\boldsymbol{X}_i) + \frac{\rho_0 \lambda_0 \left(\pi(Z_i; \boldsymbol{X}_i)\right)}{\rho_0 \lambda_0 \left(\pi(Z_i; \boldsymbol{X}_i)\right)},$$

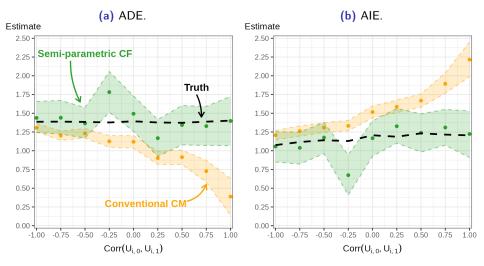
$$\mathbb{E}\left[Y_i \mid Z_i, D_i = 1, \boldsymbol{X}_i\right] = (\alpha + \beta) + (\gamma + \delta) Z_i + \varphi(\boldsymbol{X}_i) + \frac{\rho_1 \lambda_1 \left(\pi(Z_i; \boldsymbol{X}_i)\right)}{\rho_0 \lambda_0 \left(\pi(Z_i; \boldsymbol{X}_i)\right)}$$

Semi-parametric Estimation Recipe:

- **1** Estimate first-stage $\pi(Z_i; X_i)$, including X_i^{IV} .
- 2 Estimate second-stage separately for $D_i = 0$ and $D_i = 1$, with regressors $\lambda_0(p'), \lambda_1(p')$, semi-parametric in $\widehat{\pi}(Z_i; X_i)$.
- 3 Compose CM estimates from two-stage plug-in estimates.
- \rightarrow Same as conventional CM estimates, with semi-parametric CFs. \bigcirc CFs.

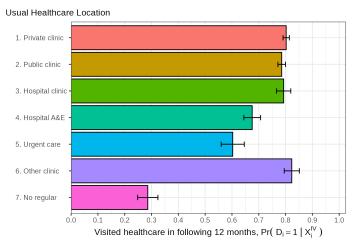
$$\widehat{\mathsf{ADE}} = \mathbb{E}\left[\widehat{\boldsymbol{\gamma}} + \widehat{\boldsymbol{\delta}}D_i\right], \ \ \widehat{\mathsf{AIE}} = \mathbb{E}\left[\widehat{\boldsymbol{\pi}}\left(\widehat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} + \widehat{\boldsymbol{\delta}}Z_i + (\widehat{\rho}_1 - \widehat{\rho}_0)\,\Gamma\big(\widehat{\boldsymbol{\pi}}(0;\boldsymbol{X}_i),\,\widehat{\boldsymbol{\pi}}(1;\boldsymbol{X}_i)\big)\right)\right]$$

Figure: CF Adjusted Estimates Work with Different Error Term Parameters.



Appenidx: OHIE IV

IV first-stage F stat. is 124, for all categories (minus base).



Structural estimate of mediator compliers' $D_i \rightarrow Y_i$ is +32.9pp (4.4).