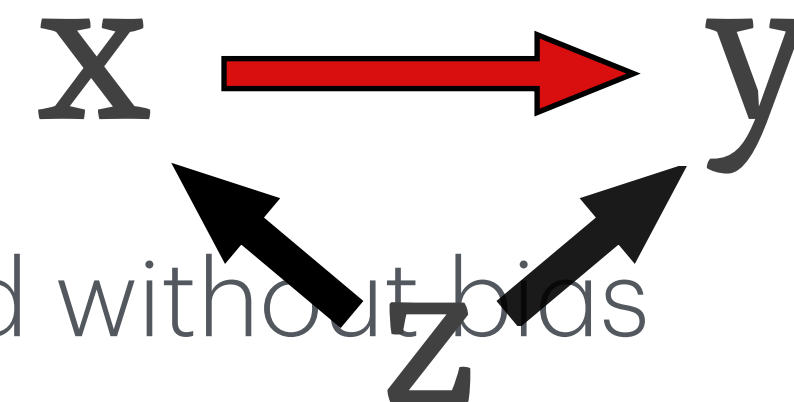


Examples of forks or confounders

- This is the quintessential “control” variable.
- Most variables are included in the model under the assumption that they are confounders and need have their effects taken into consideration.
- Conditioning on z , the causal effect of x on y can be estimated without bias



Smoking and Cancer

Famously, R. A. Fisher was not convinced that smoking caused cancer, and proposed that an unobserved propensity variable caused both cancer and smoking

