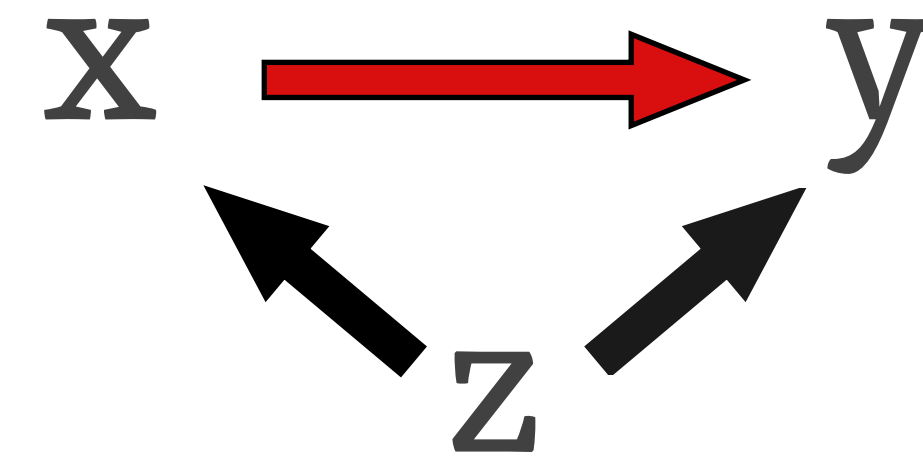# Examples of forks or confounders

- 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

x → y

z

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