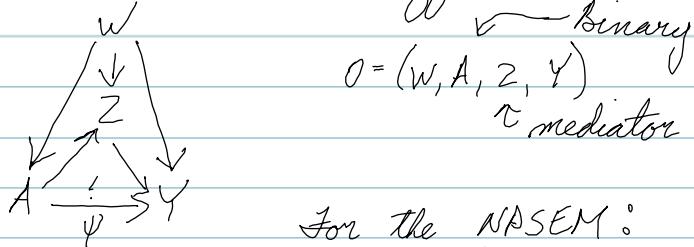


9/27/2011 Note: Was not present for 9/22/11 class

# TMLE for natural direct effects

Given



$$\Omega = (W, A, Z, Y)$$

$\curvearrowright$  mediator

For the NPSEM:

$$\Omega = (U_W, U_A, U_Z, U_Y)$$

$$W = f_W(U_W)$$

$$A = f_A(W, U_A)$$

$$Z = f_Z(W, A, U_Z)$$

$$Y = f_Y(W, A, Z, \cancel{U_Z}, U_Y)$$

$$Z_a = f_Z(W, A=a, U_Z)$$

$$Y_{a,z} = f_Y(W, A=a, Z=z, U_Y)$$

$$1) \text{ a controlled direct effect: } E(Y_{12} - Y_{02}) = \psi^F(\rho_{yx})$$

$$2) \text{ a natural direct effect: } E(Y_{12_0} - Y_{02_0}) = \psi^F(\rho_{yx})$$

Suppose  $\psi = 0$  (i.e. no direct effect)

then under #1 will always see effect b/c controlling  $Z$

under #2, would not see effect

So, under this, you have  $\Omega \sim (W, A, Z_A, Y_{A, Z_A})$

Identifiability Conditions

$$1) Y(A, 2) \perp Y_{12} | W \quad \forall_{a, z} \quad \left. \right\} \text{ aka randomization assumption}$$

$$2) A \perp Z_a | W \quad \forall a$$

$$3) E(Y_{12} - Y_{02} | Z_0 = z, W) = E[Y_{12} - Y_{02} | W] \quad \left. \right\} \text{ aka conditional independence}$$

i.e. each counterfactual ( $A$  &  $Z$ ) is indep. of the other.

If conditions 1-3 hold, then

$$E(Y_{1z_0} - Y_{0z_0}) = \Psi(P_0) := \sum_w P(w) \sum_z p(z|w, 0) [E(Y|w, A=1, z) - E(Y|w, A=0, z)]$$

Note: If 1,  $E(Y_1 - Y_0) = \underbrace{E(Y_{1z_1} - Y_{0z_0})}_{\text{total effect}} + \underbrace{E(Y_{1z_0} - Y_{0z_0})}_{\text{NDE}}$

assumption

$$\Psi(P_0) \stackrel{\text{A1-A2}}{=} E_w \sum_z p(z_0=z|w) E(Y_{1z} - Y_{0z}|w)$$

$\uparrow$  not the natural direct effect, but still interpretable  $\uparrow$  A3 gives us  $E(Y_{1z} - Y_{0z}|z_0=z, w)$

Target parameter ( $\Psi(P_0)$ )

$$\Psi(P_0) = \sum_w P(w) \sum_z (p(z|w, 0)) [E(Y|w, 1, z) - E(Y|w, 0, z)]$$

$$P(0) = P(w) P(A|w) P(z|w, A) P(y|w, A, z)$$

Notation: Let  $Q_w(\bar{w}) = P(w)$

$$Q_z(z|w, A) = P(z|w, A)$$

$$\bar{Q}_y(w, A, z) = E(Y|w, A, z)$$

$$g(A|w) = P(A|w)$$

$$\Rightarrow \Psi(P_0) = \Psi(Q_0) = E_{QW} [E_{QZ} [\bar{Q}_y(w, z) - \bar{Q}_y(w, 0, z) | w, A=0]]$$

$\downarrow$   $z$  phases out

Finding the E-IC of  $\Psi(P_0)$  under  $\mathcal{M}_{NP}$

$$\text{i) Notice } \Psi(P_0) = \underbrace{E_{QW} E_{QZ} [\bar{Q}_y(w, z)|w, 0]}_{\Psi_1(P_0)} - \underbrace{E_{QW} (E(Y|w, A=0))}_{\Psi_0(P_0)}$$

(\*) We know the EIC for  $\Psi_0(P_0) = \frac{I(A=0)}{g(A|w)} (Y - E(Y|w, 0)) + E(Y|w, 0) - E_w(E(Y|w,$

$\Rightarrow$  suffices to find EIC for  $\Psi_1(P_0)$ ,

$$\downarrow \Rightarrow \text{EIC for } \Psi_1(P_0) = EIC(\Psi) - EIC(\Psi_0)$$

$$\text{Want EIC for } \Psi_1(P_0) = \sum_w P(w) \sum_z p(z|w, 0) E(Y|w, A=1, z)$$

$\hookrightarrow$  use NPMLE approach:

Use the facts: i)  $\mathcal{M}_{NP}$  has only one gradient, namely the canon. grad.

$\Rightarrow$  Need regular & argms. linear estimator

$\hookrightarrow$  So IC will be the EIC

Note:  $P_f = E_P f \Rightarrow$  we know  $P_f(x) = E_P [I(x=f)]$

$\psi(P_n)$  is reg. and asympt. linear

↪ we find the IC for  $\psi(P_n)$

$$\text{Can rewrite } \psi(P) = \sum_w P(I(w=w)) \sum_z \frac{P(I(z=z, A=0, w=w))}{P(I(w=w, A=0))} \sum_y \frac{P(I(y=y, w=w, z=z))}{P(I(w=w, A=0, z=z))}$$

$$\Rightarrow \psi(P) = \psi(P_f : f \in \mathcal{F}), \quad \mathcal{F} = \begin{cases} I(w=w) \\ I(z=w, 0) & w \in W \\ I(w, 0) & z \in Z \\ I(y, w, 1, z) & y \in Y \\ I(w, 1, z) \end{cases}$$

gradient



$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow \psi(P_1) - \psi(P_0) &\approx \nabla_{P_f} \psi \cdot (P_1 - P_0) \\ &= \left( \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial P_f}, f \right) \cdot (P_1 f - P_0 f; f) \\ &= \sum_f \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial P_f} (P_1 f - P_0 f) \\ &= \sum_f \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial P_f} \left( \frac{1}{n} \sum_i f(O_i) - P_0 f \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \underbrace{\left( \sum_f \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial P_f} (f(O_i) - P_0 f) \right)}_{IC(O_i)} \end{aligned}$$

9/29/2011 TMLE for Natural Direct Effect (NDE)

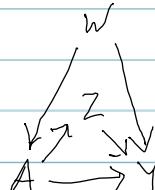
$$\bar{Q}_Y(A, w, z) = E(Y | W, A, Z)$$

$$Q_2(Z | w, A) = P(Z | w, A)$$

$$Q_W(W) = P(W)$$

$$g(A | w) = P(A | w)$$

$$\psi_2 : (\bar{Q}_Y, Q_2) \rightarrow \psi_2(\bar{Q}_Y, Q_2) = E_{Q_2}(\bar{Q}_Y(w, 1, z) - \bar{Q}_Y(w, 0, z) / w, 0)$$



$$\text{NDE causal form} \rightarrow E(Y_{1, Z_0} - Y_{0, Z_0})$$

$$\text{statistical form: } \psi(P_0) = E_{Q_W, 0} [E_{Q_2, 0} (\bar{Q}_Y(w, 1, z) - \bar{Q}_Y(w, 0, z) / w, 0)] \\ = E_{Q_W, 0} [\psi_2(Q_0)]$$