

Reading Questions

1. Why does an observed correlation between two variables not provide compelling evidence that one causes the other?
2. What is a hypothetical causal network? What does the word “hypothetical” signify about these networks?
3. What is the difference between a correlating pathway and a non-correlating pathway?
4. How is the appropriate choice of covariates in models to study causation influenced by the structure of the modeler’s hypothetical causal network?
5. When might two modelers legitimately disagree about which covariates to include in a model?