Causes and Explanations: A Structural-Model Approach. Part I: Causes

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Abstract

We propose a new definition of actual causes, using structural equations to model counterfactuals. We show that the definition yields a plausible and
elegant account of causation that handles well examples which have caused problems for other definitions and resolves major difficulties in the traditional account.

1. Introduction

2. Causal models: a review
   2.1 Causal models
   2.2 Syntax and semantics

3. The definition of cause

4. Examples

5. A more refined definition

6. Discussion

A Appendix: Some Technical Issues
   A.1 The active causal process
   A.2 A closer look at AC2(b)
   A.3 Causality with infinitely many variables
   A.4 Causality in nonrecursive models

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