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# 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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