

# Identification Without Exogeneity Under Equiconfounding in Linear Recursive Structural Systems

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**Abstract** This chapter obtains identification of structural coefficients in linear recursive systems of structural equations without requiring that observable variables are exogenous or conditionally exogenous. In particular, standard instrumental variables and control variables need not be available in these systems. Instead, we demonstrate that the availability of one or two variables that are equally affected by the unobserved confounder as is the response of interest, along with exclusion restrictions, permits the identification of all the system's structural coefficients. We provide conditions under which *equiconfounding* supports either full identification of structural coefficients or partial identification in a set consisting of two points.

**Keywords** Causality · Confounding · Covariance Restrictions · Identification · Structural systems

## 1 Introduction

This chapter obtains identification of structural coefficients in fully endogenous linear recursive systems of structural equations. In particular, standard exogenous instruments and control variables may be absent in these systems.<sup>1</sup> Instead, identification obtains under *equiconfounding* that is to say in the presence of (one or two) observable variables that are equally directly affected by the unobserved confounder as is the response. Examples of equiconfounding include cases in which the unobserved confounder directly affects the response and one or two observables by an equal

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<sup>1</sup> Standard instruments are uncorrelated with the unobserved confounder whereas conditioning on control variables renders the causes of interest uncorrelated with the confounder.

proportion (proportional confounding) or an equal standard deviation shift. We show that the availability of one or two variables that are equally (e.g., proportionally) confounded in relation to the response of interest, along with exclusion restrictions, permits the identification of all the system’s structural coefficients. We provide conditions under which we obtain either full identification of structural coefficients or partial identification in a set consisting of two points.

The results of this chapter echo a key insight in Halbert White’s work regarding the importance of specifying causal relations governing the unobservables for the identification and estimation of causal effects (e.g., White and Chalak 2010, 2011; Chalak and White 2011; White and Lu 2011a,b; Hoderlein et al. 2011). A single chapter can do little justice addressing Hal’s prolific and groundbreaking contributions to asymptotic theory, specification analysis, neural networks, time series analysis, and causal inference, to list a few areas, across several disciplines including economics, statistics, finance, and computer and cognitive sciences. Instead, here, we focus on one insight of Hal’s recent work and build on it to introduce the notion of equiconfounding and demonstrate how it supports identification in structural systems.

To illustrate this chapter’s results, consider the classic structural equation for the return to education (e.g., Mincer 1974; Griliches 1977)

$$Y = \beta_o X + \alpha_u U + \alpha_y U_y, \quad (1)$$

where  $Y$  denotes the logarithm of hourly wage,  $X$  determinants of wage with observed realizations, and  $U$  and  $U_y$  determinants of wage whose realizations are not observed by the econometrician. Elements of  $X$  may include years of education, experience, and tenure. Interest attaches to the causal effect of  $X$  on  $Y$ , assumed to be the constant  $\beta_o$ . Here,  $U$  denotes an index of unobserved personal characteristics that may determine wage and be correlated with  $X$ , such as cognitive and noncognitive skills, and  $U_y$  denote other unobserved determinants assumed to be uncorrelated with  $X$  and  $U$ . Endogeneity arises because of the correlation between  $X$  and  $\alpha_u U$ , leading to bias in the coefficient of a linear regression of  $Y$  on  $X$ . The method of instrumental variables (IV) permits identification of the structural coefficients under the assumption that a “valid” (i.e. uncorrelated with  $\alpha_u U + \alpha_y U_y$ ) and “relevant” (i.e.  $E(XZ')$  is full row rank) vector  $Z$  excluded from Eq. (1) and whose dimension is at least as large as that of  $X$  is available (e.g., Wooldridge 2002, pp. 83–84). Alternatively, the presence of key covariates may ensure “conditional exogeneity” or “unconfoundedness” supporting identification (see e.g., White and Chalak 2011 and the citations therein). We do not assume the availability of standard instruments or control variables here, so these routes for identification are foreclosed.

Nevertheless, as we show, a variety of shape restrictions<sup>2</sup> on confounding can secure identification of  $\beta_o$ . To illustrate, begin by considering the simplest such

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<sup>2</sup> Shape restrictions have been employed in a variety of different contexts. For example, Matzkin (1992) employs shape restrictions to secure identification in nonparametric binary threshold crossing models with exogeneity.

possibility in which data on a proxy for  $\alpha_u U$ , such as  $IQ$  score, is available. Let  $Z$  denote the logarithm of  $IQ$  and assume that the predictive proxy  $Z$  for  $U$  does not directly cause  $Y$ , and that  $Z$  and  $Y$  are equiconfounded. In particular, suppose that  $Z$  is structurally generated by

$$Z = \alpha_u U + \alpha_z U_z,$$

with  $U_z$  as a source of variation uncorrelated with other unobservables. Then, under this proportional confounding, a one unit increase in  $U$  leads to an approximate  $100\alpha_u\%$  increase in wage and  $IQ$  ceteris paribus. It is straightforward to see that, by substitution,  $\beta_o$  is identified from a regression of  $Y - Z$  on  $X$ . Note, however, that  $Z$  is not a valid instrument here ( $E(Z\alpha_u U) \neq 0$ ) since  $Z$  is driven by  $U$ .

The above simple structure excludes  $IQ$  from the equation for  $Y$  to ensure that  $\beta_o$  is identified. Suppose instead that  $X = (X_1, X_2, X_3)'$  and that the two variables  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  are structurally generated as follows

$$X_1 = \alpha_u U + \alpha_{x_1} U_{x_1} \quad \text{and} \quad X_2 = \alpha_u U + \alpha_{x_2} U_{x_2},$$

with  $U_{x_1}$  and  $U_{x_2}$  sources of variation, each uncorrelated with other unobservables. We maintain that the other elements of  $X$  are generally endogenous but we restrict  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  to be *equiconfounded joint causes* of  $Y$ . For example,  $X_1$  may denote the logarithm of another test score, such as the Knowledge of World of Work ( $KWW$ ) score (see e.g., Blackburn and Neumark 1992), and we relabel  $\log(IQ)$  to  $X_2$ . Here, wage,  $KWW$ , and  $IQ$  are proportionally confounded by  $U$ . Substituting for  $\alpha_u U = X_1 - \alpha_{x_1} U_{x_1}$  in (1) gives

$$Y - X_1 = \beta_o X - \alpha_{x_1} U_{x_1} + \alpha_y U_y,$$

and thus a regression of  $Y - X_1$  on  $X$  does not identify  $\beta_o$  since  $X_1$  is correlated with  $\alpha_{x_1} U_{x_1}$ . Further, although  $X_2$  and  $X_3$  are exogenous in this equation, they are not excluded from it and thus they cannot serve as instruments for  $X_1$ . Nevertheless, we demonstrate that in this case  $\beta_o$  is fully (over) identified.

In the previous example, two joint causes and a response that are equiconfounded secure identification. Similarly, one *cause* and two *joint responses* that are *equiconfounded* can ensure that  $\beta_o$  is identified. For example, let  $Y_1$  and  $Y_2$  denote two responses of interest (e.g., two measures of the logarithm of wage, one reported by the employer and another by the employee). In particular, suppose that

$$Y_1 = \beta_{1o} X + \alpha_u U + \alpha_{y_1} U_{y_1} \quad \text{and} \quad Y_2 = \beta_{2o} X + \alpha_u U + \alpha_{y_2} U_{y_2}.$$

Note that  $\beta_{1o}$  and  $\beta_{2o}$  need not be equal. As before, we maintain that an element  $X_1$  (e.g.,  $\log(IQ)$ ) of  $X$  is structurally generated by

$$X_1 = \alpha_u U + \alpha_{x_1} U_{x_1},$$

with the remaining elements of  $X$  generally endogenous. We demonstrate that here  $(\beta'_{1o}, \beta'_{2o})'$  is partially identified in a set consisting of two points.

Various other exclusion restrictions can secure identification of structural coefficients in the presence of equiconfounding. Consider the classic triangular structure:

$$\begin{aligned} Y &= \beta_o X + \alpha_u U + \alpha_y U_y, \\ X &= \gamma_o Z + \eta_u U + \alpha_x U_x. \end{aligned}$$

As before,  $U_y$  and  $U_x$  denote exogenous sources of variation. The method of IV identifies  $\beta_o$  provided that the excluded vector  $Z$  is valid ( $E(\alpha_u U Z') = 0$ ) and relevant ( $E(X Z')$  full row rank) and thus has dimension at least as large as that of  $X$ . Suppose instead that  $Y$ ,  $Z$ , and an element  $X_1$  of  $X$  are equiconfounded by  $U$ :

$$X_1 = \gamma_{1o} Z + \alpha_u U + \alpha_{x_1} U_{x_1} \quad \text{and} \quad Z = \alpha_u U + \alpha_z U_z,$$

where  $U_{x_1}$  and  $U_z$  are each uncorrelated with other unobservables. The remaining elements of  $X$  are generally endogenous. For example, a researcher may wish to allow  $IQ$  to be a structural determinant of the subsequently administered  $KWW$  test, in order to capture learning effects, and to exclude  $IQ$  from the equation for  $Y$  if this test's information is unavailable to employers. Then  $Z$  denotes  $\log(IQ)$  and  $X_1$  denotes  $\log(KWW)$ . In this structure we refer to  $Z$  and  $X_1$  as *equiconfounded pre-cause* and *intermediate-cause*, respectively. We demonstrate that  $(\beta'_o, \gamma'_o)'$  is either fully identified or partially identified in a set consisting of two points. Importantly, in contrast to the method of IV, here  $Z$  is a *scalar endogenous* variable.

This chapter is organized as follows. Section 2 introduces notation. Formal identification results, including for the examples above, are discussed in Sects. 3 to 6. Often we present the identification results as adjustments to standard regression coefficients thereby revealing the regression bias arising due to endogeneity. Section 7 contains a discussion and Sect. 8 concludes. All mathematical proofs as well as constructive arguments for identification are gathered in the appendix.

## 2 Notation

Throughout, we let the random  $k \times 1$  vector  $X$  and  $p \times 1$  vector  $Y$  denote the observed direct causes and responses of interest, respectively.<sup>3</sup> If there are observed variables excluded from the equation for  $Y$ , we denote these by the  $\ell \times 1$  vector  $Z$ . We observe independent and identically distributed realizations  $\{Z_i, X_i, Y_i\}_{i=1}^n$  for

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<sup>3</sup> This chapter considers linear recursive structural systems. Recursiveness rules out “simultaneity” permitting distinguishing the vectors of primary interest  $X$  and  $Y$  as the observed direct causes and responses, respectively. In particular, elements of  $Y$  are assumed to not cause elements of  $X$ . While mutual causality is absent here, endogeneity arises due to the confounder  $U$  jointly driving the causes  $X$  and responses  $Y$ .

$Z$ ,  $X$ , and  $Y$  and stack these into the  $n \times \ell$ ,  $n \times k$ , and  $n \times p$  matrices  $\mathbf{Z}$ ,  $\mathbf{X}$ , and  $\mathbf{Y}$ , respectively. The matrices (or vectors) of structural coefficients  $\gamma_o$  and  $\beta_o$  denote finite causal effects determined by theory as encoded in a linear structural system of equations. The scalar index  $U$  denotes an unobserved confounder of  $X$ ,  $Z$ , and  $Y$  and the vectors  $U_z$ ,  $U_x$ , and  $U_y$  of positive dimensions denote unobserved causes of elements of  $Z$ ,  $X$  and  $Y$ , respectively. Without loss of generality, we normalize the expectations of  $U$ ,  $U_z$ ,  $U_x$ , and  $U_y$  to zero. The structural coefficients matrices  $\alpha_z$ ,  $\alpha_x$  and  $\alpha_y$  denote the effects of elements of  $U_z$ ,  $U_x$  and  $U_y$  on elements of  $Z$ ,  $X$  and  $Y$ , respectively. Equiconfounding restricts the effect of the confounder  $U$  on  $Y$  and certain elements of  $X$  and  $Z$  to be equal; we denote this restricted effect by  $\alpha_u$  and we denote unrestricted effects of  $U$  on elements of  $X$  by  $\phi_u$ .

We employ the following notation for regression coefficients and residuals. Let  $Y$ ,  $X$ , and  $Z$  be generic random vectors. We denote the coefficient and residual from a regression of  $Y$  on  $X$  by

$$\pi_{y.x} \equiv E(YX')E(XX')^{-1} \quad \text{and} \quad \epsilon_{y.x} \equiv Y - \pi_{y.x}X.$$

Similarly, we denote the coefficient associated with  $X$  from a regression of  $Y$  on  $X$  and  $Z$  by

$$\pi_{y.x|z} \equiv E(\epsilon_{y.z}\epsilon'_{x.z})E(\epsilon_{x.z}\epsilon'_{x.z})^{-1}.$$

This representation obtains from the Frisch-Waugh-Lovell theorem (Frisch and Waugh 1993; Lovell 1963; see e.g., Baltagi 1999, p. 159). Noting that

$$\begin{aligned} E(\epsilon_{y.z}\epsilon'_{x.z}) &= E(Y\epsilon'_{x.z}) - E(YZ')E(ZZ')^{-1}E(Z\epsilon'_{x.z}) = E(Y\epsilon'_{x.z}) \\ &= E(YX') - E(YZ')E(ZZ')^{-1}E(ZX') = E(\epsilon_{y.z}X'), \end{aligned}$$

we can rewrite  $\pi_{y.x|z}$  as

$$\pi_{y.x|z} = E(Y\epsilon'_{x.z})E(X\epsilon'_{x.z})^{-1} = E(\epsilon_{y.z}X')E(\epsilon_{x.z}X')^{-1}.$$

Last, we denote sample regression coefficients by  $\hat{\pi}_{y.x} \equiv (\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{X})^{-1}\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{Y}$  and residuals by  $\hat{\epsilon}_{y.x,i} \equiv Y_i - \hat{\pi}_{y.x}X_i$ , which we stack into the  $n \times p$  vector  $\hat{\epsilon}_{y.x}$ . Similarly, we let  $\hat{\pi}_{y.x|z} \equiv (\hat{\epsilon}'_{x.z}\mathbf{X})^{-1}\hat{\epsilon}'_{x.z}\mathbf{Y}$ .

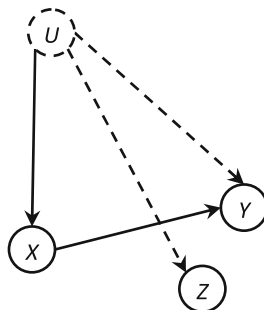
Throughout, we illustrate a structural system using a directed acyclic graph as in Chalak and White (2011). A graph  $G_{\mathcal{S}}$  associated with a structural system  $\mathcal{S}$  consists of a set of vertices (nodes)  $\{V_g\}$ , one for each variable in  $\mathcal{S}$ , and a set of arrows  $\{a_{gh}\}$ , corresponding to ordered pairs of distinct vertices. An arrow  $a_{gh}$  denotes that  $V_g$  is a potential direct cause for  $V_h$ , i.e., it appears directly in the structural equation for  $V_h$  with a corresponding possibly nonzero coefficient. We use solid nodes for observables and dashed nodes for unobservables. For convenience, we sometimes use vector nodes to represent vectors generated by structural system  $\mathcal{S}$ . In this case, an arrow from vector node  $Z$  to vector node  $X$  indicates that at least one element of  $Z$  is a direct cause of at least one element of  $X$ . We use solid nodes for observable vectors

and dashed nodes for vectors with at least one unobservable element. For simplicity, we omit nodes for the exogenous vectors  $U_z$ ,  $U_x$ , and  $U_y$ . Lastly, we use dashed arrows emanating from  $U$  to  $Y$ ,  $X_1$ ,  $Z$ , and possibly  $X_2$  to denote equiconfounding.

### 3 Equiconfounded Predictive Proxy and Response

The simplest possibility arises when the response  $Y$  and a scalar predictive proxy  $Z$  for the unobserved confounder  $U$  are equiconfounded. The predictive proxy  $Z$  is excluded from the equation for  $Y$ . In particular, consider the structural system of equations  $\mathcal{S}_1$  with causal graph  $G_1$ :

- (1)  $Z \stackrel{s}{=} \alpha_u U + \alpha_z U_z$ ,
  - (2)  $X_1 \stackrel{s}{=} \phi_u U + \alpha_x U_x$
  - (3)  $Y \stackrel{s}{=} \beta_o X + \alpha_u U + \alpha_y U_y$
- with  $U$ ,  $U_z$ ,  $U_x$ , and  $U_y$   
pairwise uncorrelated  
and with  $X = (X'_1, 1)'$ .



Graph 1 ( $G_1$ )  
Equiconfounded Predictive Proxy  
and Response

Similar to Chalak and White (2011), we use the “ $\stackrel{s}{=}$ ” notation instead of “ $=$ ” to emphasize structural equations. We let  $\ell = p = 1$  in  $\mathcal{S}_1$  as this suffices for identification. Here and in what follows, we let the last element of  $X$  be degenerate at 1. The next result shows that the structural vector  $\beta_o$  is point identified. This is obtained straightforwardly by substituting  $\alpha_u U$  with  $Z - \alpha_z U_z$  in the equation for  $Y$ .

**Theorem 3.1** *Consider structural system  $\mathcal{S}_1$  with  $k > 0$ ,  $\ell = p = 1$ , and expected values of  $U$ ,  $U_z$ ,  $U_x$ ,  $U_y$  normalized to zero. Suppose that  $E(U^2)$  and  $E(U_x U'_x)$  exist and are finite. Then (i)  $E(XX')$ ,  $E(ZX')$ , and  $E(YX')$  exist and are finite. Suppose further that  $E(XX')$  is nonsingular. Then (ii)  $\beta_o$  is fully identified as*

$$\beta_o = \pi_{y-z.x}.$$

Under standard conditions (e.g., White 2001) the estimator  $\hat{\pi}_{y-z.x} \equiv (\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{X})^{-1}\mathbf{X}'(\mathbf{Y} - \mathbf{Z})$  is a consistent and asymptotically normal estimator for  $\beta_o$ . A heteroskedasticity robust estimator (White 1980) for the asymptotic covariance matrix for  $\hat{\pi}_{y-z.x}$  is given by  $(\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{X})^{-1}(\sum_{i=1}^n \hat{\epsilon}_{y-z.x,i}^2 X_i X'_i)(\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{X})^{-1}$ .

## 4 Equiconfounded Joint Causes and Response

Identification in  $\mathcal{S}_1$  requires the predictive proxy  $Z$  to be excluded from the equation for  $Y$ . However,  $\beta_o$  is also identified if two causes  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  and the response  $Y$  are equiconfounded. In particular, consider structural system  $\mathcal{S}_2$  with causal graph  $G_2$ :

$$(1a) X_1 \stackrel{s}{=} \alpha_u U + \alpha_{x_1} U_{x_1},$$

$$(1b) X_2 \stackrel{s}{=} \alpha_u U + \alpha_{x_2} U_{x_2}$$

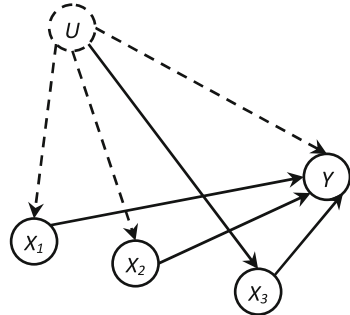
$$(1c) X_{31} \stackrel{s}{=} \phi_u U + \alpha_{x_3} U_{x_3}$$

$$(2) Y \stackrel{s}{=} \beta_o X + \alpha_u U + \alpha_y U_y$$

with  $U, U_{x_1}, U_{x_2}, U_{x_3}$ , and  $U_y$

pairwise uncorrelated and

$$X = (X'_1, X'_2, X'_{31}, 1)' = (X'_1, X'_2, X'_3)'$$



Graph 2 ( $G_2$ )

Equiconfounded Joint Causes and Response

We can rewrite 1(a, b, c) as

$$(1) (X'_1, X'_2, X'_{31})' \stackrel{s}{=} \eta_u U + \alpha_x U_x,$$

with  $\eta_u = (\alpha'_u, \alpha'_u, \phi'_u)'$ ,  $U_x = (U'_{x_1}, U'_{x_2}, U'_{x_3})'$ , and  $\alpha_x$  a block diagonal matrix with  $\alpha_{x_1}, \alpha_{x_2}$ , and  $\alpha_{x_3}$  at the diagonal entries and zeros at the off-diagonal entries. Here, we let  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  be scalars,  $k_1 = k_2 = 1$ , as this suffices for identification. The next theorem shows that the structural vector  $\beta_o$  is point identified.

**Theorem 4.1** Consider structural system  $\mathcal{S}_2$  with  $\dim(X_3) \equiv k_3 \geq 0$ , and  $k_1 = k_2 = p = 1$ , and expected values of  $U, U_x, U_y$  normalized to zero. Suppose that  $E(U^2)$  and  $E(U_x U'_x)$  exist and are finite. Then (i)  $E(XX')$  and  $E(YX')$  exist and are finite. Suppose further that  $E(XX')$  is nonsingular. Then (ii) the vector  $\beta_o$  is fully (over-)identified by:

$$\begin{aligned} \beta_o &= \beta_{JC}^* \equiv \pi_{y \cdot x} - [E(X_2 X'_1), E(X_2 X'_1), E(X_1 X'_3)] E(XX')^{-1} \\ &= \beta_{JC}^\dagger \equiv \pi_{y \cdot x} - [E(X_2 X'_1), E(X_2 X'_1), E(X_2 X'_3)] E(XX')^{-1}. \end{aligned}$$

The above result obtains by noting that the moment  $E(YX')$  identifies  $\beta_o$  when  $E(XX')$  is nonsingular provided that  $\alpha_u E(UX')$  is identified. But this holds since,  $E(X_1 X'_3) = E(X_2 X'_3) = (\text{Cov}(\phi_u U, \alpha_u U)', 0)$  and  $E(X_1 X'_2) = \text{Var}(\alpha_u U)$ . The expressions for  $\beta_{JC}^*$  and  $\beta_{JC}^\dagger$  emphasize the bias  $\pi_{y \cdot x} - \beta_{JC}^*$  (or  $\pi_{y \cdot x} - \beta_{JC}^\dagger$ ) in a regression of  $Y$  on  $X$  arising due to endogeneity. The plug-in estimators  $\hat{\beta}_{JC}^*$  and  $\hat{\beta}_{JC}^\dagger$  for  $\beta_{JC}^*$  and  $\beta_{JC}^\dagger$ , respectively:

$$\hat{\beta}_{JC}^* \equiv \hat{\pi}_{y.x} - \sum_{i=1}^n [X_{2i}X'_{1i}, X_{2i}X'_{1i}, X_{1i}X'_{31i}, 0](\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{X})^{-1}, \text{ and}$$

$$\hat{\beta}_{JC}^* \equiv \hat{\pi}_{y.x} - \sum_{i=1}^n [X_{2i}X'_{1i}, X_{2i}X'_{1i}, X_{2i}X'_{31i}, 0](\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{X})^{-1},$$

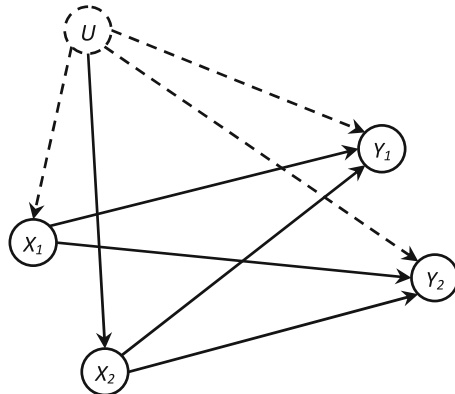
are consistent estimators under conditions sufficient to invoke the laws of large numbers.

A testable restriction of structure  $\mathcal{S}_2$  is that  $\text{Cov}(X_1, X_3) = \text{Cov}(X_2, X_3) = (\alpha_u E(U^2)\phi'_u, 0)$ . Thus,  $\mathcal{S}_2$  can be falsified by rejecting this null. In particular, one can reject the equiconfounding restrictions in equations 1(a, b, c) if  $E(X_1X'_3) \neq E(X_2X'_3)$ . For this, one can employ a standard  $F$ -statistic for the overall significance of the regression of  $\mathbf{X}_1 - \mathbf{X}_2$  on  $\mathbf{X}_3$ .

### 5 Equiconfounded Cause and Joint Responses

The availability of a single cause and two responses that are equiconfounded also ensures the identification of causal coefficients. Specifically, consider structural system  $\mathcal{S}_3$  given by:

- (1a)  $X_1 \stackrel{s}{=} \alpha_u U + \alpha_{x_1} U_{x_1}$
  - (1b)  $X_{21} \stackrel{s}{=} \phi_u U + \alpha_{x_2} U_{x_2}$
  - (2a)  $Y_1 \stackrel{s}{=} \beta_{1o} X + \alpha_u U + \alpha_{y_1} U_{y_1}$
  - (2b)  $Y_2 \stackrel{s}{=} \beta_{2o} X + \alpha_u U + \alpha_{y_2} U_{y_2}$
- with  $U, U_{x_1}, U_{x_2}, U_{y_1}$ , and  $U_{y_2}$  pairwise uncorrelated and  $X = (X'_1, X'_{21}, 1)' = (X'_1, X'_{21})'$ .



Graph 3 ( $G_3$ )

Equiconfounded Cause and Joint Responses

Letting  $Y = (Y'_1, Y'_2)'$ ,  $\beta_o = (\beta'_{1o}, \beta'_{2o})'$ ,  $U_x = (U'_{x_1}, U'_{x_2})'$ , and  $U_y = (U'_{y_1}, U'_{y_2})'$ , and letting  $\alpha_x$  be a block diagonal matrix with diagonal entries  $\alpha_{x_1}$  and  $\alpha_{x_2}$  and zero off-diagonal entries, and similarly for  $\alpha_y$ , we can write 1(a, b) and 2(a, b) more compactly as

- (1)  $(X'_1, X'_{21})' \stackrel{s}{=} \eta_u U + \alpha_x U_x$
- (2)  $Y \stackrel{s}{=} \beta_o X + \alpha_u \iota_p U + \alpha_y U_y,$



with  $\iota_p$  a  $p \times 1$  vector with each element equal to 1 and  $\eta_u = (\alpha'_u, \phi'_u)'$ . Here it suffices for identification that  $\dim(X_1) \equiv k_1 = 1$  and  $p = 2$ . The next theorem demonstrates that the structural matrix  $\beta_o$  is partially identified in a set consisting of two points.

**Theorem 5.1** *Consider structural system  $\mathcal{S}_3$  with  $\dim(X_2) \equiv k_2 \geq 0$ ,  $k_1 = 1$ ,  $p = 2$ , and expected values of  $U$ ,  $U_z$ ,  $U_x$ , and  $U_y$  normalized to zero. Suppose that  $E(U^2)$  and  $E(U_x U'_x)$  exist and are finite, then (i)  $E(XX')$  and  $(YX')$  exist and are finite. Suppose further that  $E(X_1 X'_1)$  and  $E(X_2 X'_2)$  are nonsingular then (ii.a)  $P_{x_1} \equiv E(\epsilon_{x_1, x_2} \epsilon'_{x_1, x_2})$  and  $P_{x_2} \equiv E(\epsilon_{x_2, x_1} \epsilon'_{x_2, x_1})$  exist and are finite. If also  $P_{x_1}$  and  $P_{x_2}$  are nonsingular then (ii.b)  $E(XX')$  is nonsingular,  $\pi_{y, x}$  and  $E(\epsilon_{y_1, x} Y'_2)$  exist and are finite, and (ii.c)*

$$\Delta_{JR} = \left[ 2P_{x_1}^{-1} E(X_1 X'_1) - 1 \right]^2 - 4P_{x_1}^{-1} \left[ E(X_1 X'_2) P_{x_2}^{-1} E(X_2 X'_1) + E(\epsilon_{y_1, x} Y'_2) \right],$$

*exists, is finite, and is nonnegative.*

(iii)  $\beta_o$  is partially identified in a set consisting of two points. In particular, (iii.a) if

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Var}(\alpha_{x_1} U_{x_1}) + \text{Cov}(\phi_u U, \alpha_u U)' \\ & \left[ \text{Var}(\phi_u U) + \text{Var}(\alpha_{x_2} U_{x_2}) \right]^{-1} \text{Cov}(\phi_u U, \alpha_u U) - \text{Var}(\alpha_u U) < 0, \end{aligned}$$

then

$$\begin{aligned} 0 \leq \sigma_{JR}^\dagger & \equiv E(X_1 X'_1) + \frac{1}{2} P_{x_1} (-1 - \sqrt{\Delta_{JR}}) < \alpha_u^2 E(U^2), \text{ and} \\ \sigma_{JR}^* & \equiv E(X_1 X'_1) + \frac{1}{2} P_{x_1} (-1 + \sqrt{\Delta_{JR}}) = \alpha_u^2 E(U^2), \end{aligned}$$

and thus

$$\beta_o = \beta_{JR}^* \equiv \pi_{y, x} - \iota_p [\sigma_{JR}^*, E(X_1 X'_2)] E(XX')^{-1}.$$

(iii.b) If instead the expression in (iii) is nonnegative then

$$\sigma_{JR}^\dagger = \alpha_u^2 E(U^2) \text{ and } 0 \leq \alpha_u^2 E(U^2) \leq \sigma_{JR}^*,$$

and thus

$$\beta_o = \beta_{JR}^\dagger \equiv \pi_{y, x} - \iota_p [\sigma_{JR}^\dagger, E(X_1 X'_2)] E(XX')^{-1}.$$

Observe here that, unlike for the case of equiconfounded joint causes,  $\beta_o$  is not point identified but is partially identified in a set consisting of two points. Also, observe that  $\beta_{1o} - \beta_{2o}$  is identified from a regression of  $Y_1 - Y_2$  on  $X$ . However,  $\beta_{1, JR}^* - \beta_{2, JR}^* = \beta_{1, JR}^\dagger - \beta_{2, JR}^\dagger$  and thus this does not help in fully identifying  $\beta_o$ . Similar to  $\mathcal{S}_2$ , with  $E(XX')$  nonsingular, the moment  $E(YX')$  identifies

$\beta_o$  provided  $\text{Cov}(\phi_u U, \alpha_u U)$  and  $\text{Var}(\alpha_u U)$  are identified. While  $E(X_{21} X_1) = \text{Cov}(\phi_u U, \alpha_u U)$ , identification of  $\text{Var}(\alpha_u U)$  is more involved here than in  $\mathcal{S}_2$ . Appendix B.1 presents a constructive argument showing that the moment  $E(Y_1 Y_2)$  delivers a quadratic equation in  $\text{Var}(\alpha_u U)$  with two positive roots,  $\sigma_{JR}^\dagger$  and  $\sigma_{JR}^*$ .

Under suitable conditions sufficient to invoke the law of large numbers, the following plug-in estimators are consistent for  $\Delta_{JR}$ ,  $\sigma_{JR}^*$ ,  $\sigma_{JR}^\dagger$ ,  $\beta_{JR}^*$ , and  $\beta_{JR}^\dagger$  respectively. To express these, let  $\hat{P}_{x_1} = \frac{1}{n} \hat{\epsilon}'_{x_1, x_2} \mathbf{X}_1$  and  $\hat{P}_{x_2} \equiv \frac{1}{n} \hat{\epsilon}'_{x_2, x_1} \mathbf{X}_2$ . Then

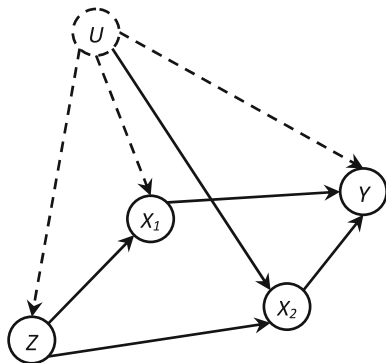
$$\begin{aligned} \hat{\Delta}_{JR} &\equiv \left[ 2\hat{P}_{x_1}^{-1} \frac{1}{n} \mathbf{X}'_1 \mathbf{X}_1 - 1 \right]^2 - 4\hat{P}_{x_1}^{-1} \left[ \frac{1}{n} \mathbf{X}'_1 \mathbf{X}_2 \hat{P}_{x_2}^{-1} \frac{1}{n} \mathbf{X}'_2 \mathbf{X}_1 + \frac{1}{n} \hat{\epsilon}'_{y_1, x} \mathbf{Y}_2 \right], \\ \hat{\sigma}_{JR}^* &\equiv \frac{1}{n} \mathbf{X}'_1 \mathbf{X}_1 + \frac{1}{2} \hat{P}_{x_1} \left( -1 + \sqrt{\hat{\Delta}_{JR}} \right) \quad \text{and} \\ \hat{\sigma}_{JR}^\dagger &\equiv \frac{1}{n} \mathbf{X}'_1 \mathbf{X}_1 + \frac{1}{2} \hat{P}_{x_1} \left( -1 - \sqrt{\hat{\Delta}_{JR}} \right), \\ \hat{\beta}_{JR}^* &\equiv \hat{\pi}_{y, x} - \iota_p \left[ \hat{\sigma}_{JR}^*, \frac{1}{n} \mathbf{X}'_1 \mathbf{X}_2 \right] \left( \frac{1}{n} \mathbf{X}' \mathbf{X} \right)^{-1}, \quad \text{and} \\ \hat{\beta}_{JR}^\dagger &\equiv \hat{\pi}_{y, x} - \iota_p \left[ \hat{\sigma}_{JR}^\dagger, \frac{1}{n} \mathbf{X}'_1 \mathbf{X}_2 \right] \left( \frac{1}{n} \mathbf{X}' \mathbf{X} \right)^{-1}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, under suitable statistical assumptions,  $\hat{\beta}_{JR}^*$  and  $\hat{\beta}_{JR}^\dagger$  converge to  $\beta_{JR}^*$  and  $\beta_{JR}^\dagger$ , respectively; under the structural assumptions of  $\mathcal{S}_3$ , either  $\beta_{JR}^*$  or  $\beta_{JR}^\dagger$  identifies the structural coefficient vector  $\beta_o$ .

## 6 Equiconfounding in Triangular Structures

Next, we consider the classic triangular structure discussed in the Introduction and show that if one excluded variable  $Z_1$ , one element  $X_1$  of the direct causes  $X$ , and the response  $Y$  are equally confounded by  $U$  then all the system's structural coefficients are identified. Consider structural system  $\mathcal{S}_4$  with causal graph  $G_4$ :

- (1)  $Z_1 \stackrel{s}{=} \alpha_u U + \alpha_z U_z$
- (2a)  $X_1 \stackrel{s}{=} \gamma_{1o} Z + \alpha_u U + \alpha_{x_1} U_{x_1}$
- (2b)  $X_{21} \stackrel{s}{=} \gamma_{2o} Z + \phi_u U + \alpha_{x_2} U_{x_2}$
- (3)  $Y \stackrel{s}{=} \beta_o X + \alpha_u U + \alpha_y U_y,$   
with  $U_z, U, U_{x_1}, U_{x_2},$  and  $U_y$   
pairwise uncorrelated,  
and with  $Z = (Z'_1, 1)' = (Z'_1, Z'_2)'$ ,  
and  $X = (X'_1, X'_{21}, 1) = (X'_1, X'_2)'$ .



Graph 4 ( $G_4$ )  
Equiconfounded Pre-Cause,  
Intermediate-Cause, and Response

To rewrite 2(a, b) more compactly, let  $\gamma_o = (\gamma'_{1o}, \gamma'_{2o})'$  and  $\eta_u = (\alpha'_u, \phi'_u)'$ , and write  $U'_x = (U'_{x_1}, U'_{x_2})'$ , with  $\alpha_{x_1}$  and  $\alpha_{x_2}$  the diagonal entries of the block diagonal matrix  $\alpha_x$  with zero off-diagonal entries. Then

$$(2) \quad (X'_1, X'_{21})' \stackrel{s}{=} \gamma_o Z + \eta_u U + \alpha_x U_x.$$

We sometimes refer to  $Z_1$  as a *pre-cause* variable as it is excluded from the equation for  $Y$  and to  $X_1$  as an *intermediate cause* as it mediates the effect of  $Z_1$  on  $Y$ . As discussed in the Introduction, necessary conditions for the method of IV to identify  $\beta_o$  are that  $E(Z(\alpha_u U + \alpha_y U_y)) = 0$  and that  $E(XZ')$  is full row rank. Both of these conditions can fail in  $\mathcal{S}_4$ , since  $E(Z(\alpha_u U))$  is generally nonzero and only one excluded variable suffices for identification here so that  $\dim(Z_1) \equiv \ell_1 = \dim(X_1) \equiv k_1 = p = 1$  and thus  $\dim(Z) \equiv \ell \leq \dim(X) \equiv k$ . Nevertheless, the next theorem demonstrates that the structural vectors  $\gamma_o$  and  $\beta_o$  are jointly either point identified or partially identified in a set consisting of two points.

**Theorem 6.1** Consider structural system  $\mathcal{S}_4$  with  $\dim(X_2) = k_2 \geq 0$ ,  $\ell_1 = k_1 = p = 1$ , and expected values of  $U, U_z, U_x, U_y$  normalized to zero. Suppose that  $E(U^2), E(U_z U'_z),$  and  $E(U_x U'_x)$  exist and are finite. Then (i)  $E(ZZ'), E(XZ'), E(XX'), E(YX'),$  and  $E(YZ')$  exist and are finite. (ii) Suppose further that  $P_{z_1} \equiv E(\epsilon_{z_1, z_2} Z'_1) = E(Z_1 Z'_1)$ , and thus  $E(ZZ')$ , and  $E(XX')$  are nonsingular. Then (ii.a)  $\pi_{x, z}, \pi_{z, x}, E(\epsilon_{x_1, z} X'_2),$  and  $E(\epsilon_{y, x} Z'_1)$  exist and are finite and (ii.b)

$$\Delta_{PC} = [-\pi'_{x, z_1|z_2} \pi'_{z_1, x} - \pi'_{z_1, x_1|x_2} + 1]^2 + 4P_{z_1}^{-1} \pi'_{z_1, x_1|x_2} [E(\epsilon_{y, x} Z'_1) + E(\epsilon_{x_1, z} X'_2) \pi'_{z_1, x_2|x_1}]$$

exists, is finite, and nonnegative.

(iii)  $\beta_o$  is either point identified or partially identified in a set consisting of two points. In particular, (iii.a) if

$$\pi'_{x.z_1|z_2} \pi'_{z_1.x} + \pi'_{z_1.x_1|x_2} - 1 - 2P_{z_1}^{-1} \pi'_{z_1.x_1|x_2} \alpha_u^2 E(U^2) < 0, \quad (2)$$

then

$$\sigma_{PC}^\dagger \equiv \frac{\pi'_{x.z_1|z_2} \pi'_{z_1.x} + \pi'_{z_1.x_1|x_2} - 1 - \sqrt{\Delta_{PC}}}{2P_{z_1}^{-1} \pi'_{z_1.x_1|x_2}} < \alpha_u^2 E(U^2) \quad \text{and}$$

$$\sigma_{PC}^* \equiv \frac{\pi'_{x.z_1|z_2} \pi'_{z_1.x} + \pi'_{z_1.x_1|x_2} - 1 + \sqrt{\Delta_{PC}}}{2P_{z_1}^{-1} \pi'_{z_1.x_1|x_2}} = \alpha_u^2 E(U^2),$$

and we have

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma_{1o} &= \gamma_{1,PC}^* \equiv \pi_{x_1.z} - [\sigma_{PC}^*, 0]E(ZZ')^{-1}, \\ \gamma_{2o} &= \gamma_{2,PC}^* \equiv \pi_{x_{21}.z} - [E(X_{21}\epsilon'_{x_1.z})[1 - \sigma_{PC}^* P_{z_1}^{-1}]^{-1}, 0]E(ZZ')^{-1}, \quad \text{and} \\ \beta_o &= \beta_{PC}^* \equiv \pi_{y.x} - [\sigma_{PC}^* (\pi'_{x_1.z_1|z_2} - \sigma_{PC}^* P_{z_1}^{-1} + 1), E(\epsilon_{x_1.z} X'_2) \\ &\quad + \sigma_{PC}^* \pi'_{x_2.z_1|z_2}]E(XX')^{-1}. \end{aligned}$$

(iii.b) If instead the expression in (2) is nonnegative then  $\sigma_{PC}^\dagger = \alpha_u^2 E(U^2)$  and  $\sigma_{PC}^* \geq \alpha_u^2 E(U^2)$ , and

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma_{1o} &= \gamma_{1,PC}^\dagger \equiv \pi_{x_1.z} - [\sigma_{PC}^\dagger, 0]E(ZZ')^{-1}, \\ \gamma_{2o} &= \gamma_{2,PC}^\dagger \equiv \pi_{x_{21}.z} - [E(X_{21}\epsilon'_{x_1.z})[1 - \sigma_{PC}^\dagger P_{z_1}^{-1}]^{-1}, 0]E(ZZ')^{-1}, \quad \text{and} \\ \beta_o &= \beta_{PC}^\dagger \equiv \pi_{y.x} - [\sigma_{PC}^\dagger (\pi'_{x_1.z_1|z_2} - \sigma_{PC}^\dagger P_{z_1}^{-1} + 1), E(\epsilon_{x_1.z} X'_2) \\ &\quad + \sigma_{PC}^\dagger \pi'_{x_2.z_1|z_2}]E(XX')^{-1}. \end{aligned}$$

Similar to  $S_3$ , the moment  $E(YX')$  identifies  $\beta_o$  provided  $\alpha_u E(UX')$  is identified, which involves identifying  $\text{Var}(\alpha_u U)$ . Appendix B.2 provides a constructive argument showing that the moment  $E(YZ')$  delivers a quadratic equation in  $\text{Var}(\alpha_u U)$  which admits the two roots  $\sigma_{PC}^\dagger$  and  $\sigma_{PC}^*$ . Note that it is possible to give primitive conditions in terms of system coefficients and covariances among unobservables for (2) to hold, similar to the condition given for the case of equiconfounded cause and joint responses. We forego this here but we note that, unlike for the case of equiconfounded cause and joint responses, if (2) holds, it is possible for  $\sigma_{PC}^\dagger$  to be negative, leading to  $\alpha_u^2 E(U^2)$ , and thus  $(\gamma_o, \beta_o)$ , to be point identified.

The following plug in estimators are consistent estimators under conditions suitable for the law of large numbers. First, we let  $\hat{P}_{z_1} = \frac{1}{n} \hat{\epsilon}'_{z_1.z_2} \mathbf{Z}_1$ , then

$$\begin{aligned}
\hat{\Delta}_{PC} &= [-\hat{\pi}'_{x,z_1|z_2} \hat{\pi}'_{z_1,x} - \hat{\pi}'_{z_1,x_1|x_2} + 1]^2 \\
&\quad + 4\hat{P}_{z_1}^{-1} \hat{\pi}'_{z_1,x_1|x_2} \left[ \frac{1}{n} \hat{\epsilon}'_{y,x} \mathbf{Z}_1 + \left( \frac{1}{n} \hat{\epsilon}'_{x_1,z} \mathbf{X}_2 \right) \hat{\pi}'_{z_1,x_2|x_1} \right], \\
\hat{\sigma}_{PC}^* &\equiv (2\hat{P}_{z_1}^{-1} \hat{\pi}'_{z_1,x_1|x_2})^{-1} \left[ \hat{\pi}'_{x,z_1|z_2} \hat{\pi}'_{z_1,x} + \hat{\pi}'_{z_1,x_1|x_2} - 1 + \sqrt{\hat{\Delta}_{PC}} \right], \\
\hat{\sigma}_{PC}^\dagger &\equiv (2\hat{P}_{z_1}^{-1} \hat{\pi}'_{z_1,x_1|x_2})^{-1} \left[ \hat{\pi}'_{x,z_1|z_2} \hat{\pi}'_{z_1,x} + \hat{\pi}'_{z_1,x_1|x_2} - 1 - \sqrt{\hat{\Delta}_{PC}} \right], \\
\hat{\gamma}_{1,PC}^* &\equiv \hat{\pi}_{x_1,z} - [\hat{\sigma}_{PC}^*, 0] \left( \frac{1}{n} \mathbf{Z}' \mathbf{Z} \right)^{-1} \quad \text{and} \\
\hat{\gamma}_{1,PC}^\dagger &\equiv \hat{\pi}_{x_1,z} - [\hat{\sigma}_{PC}^\dagger, 0] \left( \frac{1}{n} \mathbf{Z}' \mathbf{Z} \right)^{-1}, \\
\hat{\gamma}_{2,PC}^* &\equiv \hat{\pi}_{x_{21},z} - \left[ \left( \frac{1}{n} \mathbf{X}'_{21} \hat{\epsilon}_{x_1,z} \right) [1 - \hat{\sigma}_{PC}^* \hat{P}_{z_1}^{-1}]^{-1}, 0 \right] \left( \frac{1}{n} \mathbf{Z}' \mathbf{Z} \right)^{-1}, \\
\hat{\gamma}_{2,PC}^\dagger &\equiv \hat{\pi}_{x_{21},z} - \left[ \left( \frac{1}{n} \mathbf{X}'_{21} \hat{\epsilon}_{x_1,z} \right) [1 - \hat{\sigma}_{PC}^\dagger \hat{P}_{z_1}^{-1}]^{-1}, 0 \right] \left( \frac{1}{n} \mathbf{Z}' \mathbf{Z} \right)^{-1}, \\
\hat{\beta}_{PC}^* &\equiv \hat{\pi}_{y,x} - [\hat{\sigma}_{PC}^* (\hat{\pi}'_{x_1,z_1|z_2} - \hat{\sigma}_{PC}^* \hat{P}_{z_1}^{-1} + 1), \frac{1}{n} \hat{\epsilon}'_{x_1,z} \mathbf{X}_2 \\
&\quad + \hat{\sigma}_{PC}^* \hat{\pi}'_{x_2,z_1|z_2}] \left( \frac{1}{n} \mathbf{X}' \mathbf{X} \right)^{-1}, \quad \text{and} \\
\hat{\beta}_{PC}^\dagger &\equiv \hat{\pi}_{y,x} - [\hat{\sigma}_{PC}^\dagger (\hat{\pi}'_{x_1,z_1|z_2} - \hat{\sigma}_{PC}^\dagger \hat{P}_{z_1}^{-1} + 1), \frac{1}{n} \hat{\epsilon}'_{x_1,z} \mathbf{X}_2 \\
&\quad + \hat{\sigma}_{PC}^\dagger \hat{\pi}'_{x_2,z_1|z_2}] \left( \frac{1}{n} \mathbf{X}' \mathbf{X} \right)^{-1}.
\end{aligned}$$

## 7 Discussion

Structures  $\mathcal{S}_1$ ,  $\mathcal{S}_2$ ,  $\mathcal{S}_3$ , and  $\mathcal{S}_4$  do not exhaust the possibilities for identification under equiconfounding. An example of another linear triangular structure with equiconfounding is one involving equiconfounded cause, response, and a *post-response* variable. For example, assuming that *KWW* score (a potential cause), hourly wage (a response), and the number of hours worked (a post response directly affected by hourly wage but not by the *KWW* score) are proportionally confounded, with other determinants of wage generally endogenous, may permit identification of this system's structural coefficients.

Roughly speaking, equiconfounding reduces the number of unknowns thereby permitting identification. In contrast, the method of IV supplies additional moments useful for identification. In general, equiconfounding leads to covariance restrictions (see e.g., Chamberlain 1977; Hausman and Taylor 1983) that, along with exclusion

restrictions, permit identification. For example, in  $\mathcal{S}_4$ , the absence of a direct causal effect among  $X_1$  and elements of  $X_2$  and excluding  $Z_1$  from the equation for  $Y$  permits identifying  $\text{Cov}(\phi_u U, \alpha_u U)$  and  $\text{Var}(\alpha_u U)$  given that  $Z_1$ ,  $X_1$ , and  $Y$  are equiconfounded. This then permits identifying  $\mathcal{S}_4$ 's coefficients. Similar arguments apply to  $\mathcal{S}_1$ ,  $\mathcal{S}_2$ , and  $\mathcal{S}_3$ . This is conveniently depicted in the causal graphs by (1) a missing arrow between two nodes, one of which is linked to  $U$  by a dashed arrow and the other by a solid arrow (e.g.,  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  in  $\mathcal{S}_4$ ) and (2) a missing arrow between two nodes that are both linked to  $U$  by a dashed arrow (e.g.,  $Z$  and  $Y$  in  $\mathcal{S}_4$ ). Recent papers which make use of alternative assumptions that lead to covariance restrictions useful for identification include Lewbel (2010); Altonji et al. (2011) and Galvao et al. (2012).

As discussed in Sect. 4, the availability of multiple equiconfounded variables can overidentify structural coefficients, leading to tests for equiconfounding. Further, equiconfounding can be used to conduct tests for hypotheses of interest. For example, one could test for endogeneity under equiconfounding without requiring valid exogenous instruments. To illustrate, consider the triangular structure discussed in structure  $\mathcal{S}_4$  of Sect. 6 then Theorem 6.1 gives that under equiconfounding  $\beta_o$  is either fully identified or partially identified in  $\{\beta_{PC}^*, \hat{\beta}_{PC}^\dagger\}$ . Theorem 6.1 allows for the possibility  $\text{Var}(\alpha_u U) = 0$  of zero confounding or exogeneity. Further, if  $X$  is exogenous then clearly the regression coefficient  $\pi_{y,x}$  also identifies  $\beta_o$ . This overidentification provides the foundation for testing the exogeneity of  $X$  without requiring the availability of exogenous instruments with dimension at least as large as that of  $X$ . Instead, it suffices that a scalar  $Z_1$  and one element  $X_1$  of  $X$  are equally (un)affected by  $U$  as is  $Y$ . For example, in estimating an Engle curve for a particular commodity, total income  $Z_1$  is often used as an instrument for total expenditures  $X_1$  which may be measured with error. Nevertheless, as Lewbel (2010, Sect. 4) notes, “it is possible for reported consumption and income to have common sources of measurement errors” which could invalidate income as an instrument. One possibility for testing the absence of common sources of measurement error is to assume that the consumption  $Y$  of the commodity of interest, total expenditures  $X_1$ , and income  $Z_1$  are misreported by an equal proportion. In the absence of common sources of measurement error,  $\text{Var}(\alpha_u U) = 0$  and one of the equiconfounding estimands should coincide with the regression coefficient  $\pi_{y,x}$ , providing the foundation for such a test. A statistic for this test can be based on the difference between the regression estimator  $\hat{\pi}_{y,x}$  and the equiconfounding estimators  $\hat{\beta}_{PC}^*$  and  $\hat{\beta}_{PC}^\dagger$  for  $\beta_o$  or alternatively on the estimators  $\hat{\sigma}_{PC}^*$  and  $\hat{\sigma}_{PC}^\dagger$  for  $\text{Var}(\alpha_u U)$ . Such a test statistic must account for  $\text{Var}(\alpha_u U)$  being possibly partially identified in  $\{\sigma_{PC}^*, \hat{\sigma}_{PC}^\dagger\}$ . We do not study formal properties of such tests here but we note the possibility of a test statistic based on  $\min\{\hat{\sigma}_{PC}^*, \hat{\sigma}_{PC}^\dagger\}$ . A similar test for exogeneity can be constructed in other structures, e.g.,  $\mathcal{S}_3$ .

A key message of this chapter is that, when exogeneity and conditional exogeneity are not plausible, one can proceed to identify structural coefficients and test hypotheses in linear recursive structures by relying on a parsimonious alternative assumption that restricts the shape of confounding, namely equiconfounding. Here, we begin to

study identification via restricting the shape of confounding by focusing on equiconfounding in linear structures but there are several potential extensions of interest. One possibility is to maintain the equiconfounding assumption and relax the constant effect structure, e.g., by allowing for random coefficients across individuals. Another possibility is to maintain the constant effect linear assumption and study bounding the structural coefficients under shape restrictions on confounding weaker than equiconfounding. Relaxing the restriction on the shape of confounding could potentially increase the plausibility of this restriction albeit while possibly leading to wider identification sets.

## 8 Conclusion

This chapter obtains identification of structural coefficients in linear systems of structural equations with endogenous variables under the assumption of equiconfounding. In particular, standard instrumental variables and control variables need not be available in these systems. Instead, we demonstrate an alternative way in which sufficiently specifying the causal relations among unobservables, as Hal White recommends (e.g., Chalak and White 2011; White and Chalak 2010, 2011; White and Lu 2011a,b; Hoderlein et al. 2011), can support identification of causal effects. In particular, we introduce the notion of *equiconfounding*, where one or two observables are equally affected by the unobserved confounder as is the response, and show that, along with exclusion restrictions, equiconfounding permits the identification of all the system's structural coefficients. We distinguish among several cases by the structural role of the equiconfounded variables. We study the cases of equiconfounded (1) predictive proxy and response, (2) joint causes and response, (3) cause and joint responses, and (4) and pre-cause, intermediate-cause, and response. We provide conditions under which we obtain either full identification of structural coefficients or partial identification in a set consisting of two points.

As discussed in Sect. 7, several extensions of this work are of potential interest including characterizing identification under equiconfounding in linear structural systems, developing the asymptotic distributions and properties for the plug-in estimators suggested here, extending the analysis to structures with heterogenous effects, relaxing the restriction on the shape of confounding, developing tests for equiconfounding and for endogeneity, as well as employing these results in empirical applications. We leave pursuing these extensions to future work.

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## Appendix A: Mathematical Proofs

*Proof of Theorem 3.1 (i)* Given that the structural coefficients of  $S_1$  are finite and that  $E(U^2)$  and  $E(U_x U'_x)$  exist and are finite, the following moments exist and are finite:

$$\begin{aligned} E(XX') &= \begin{bmatrix} \phi_u E(U^2) \phi'_u + \alpha_x E(U_x U'_x) \alpha'_x & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \\ E(ZX') &= \alpha_u E(UX') = [\alpha_u E(U^2) \phi'_u, 0] \\ E(YX') &= \beta_o E(XX') + \alpha_u E(UX') = \beta_o E(XX') + [\alpha_u E(U^2) \phi'_u, 0]. \end{aligned}$$

(ii) Substituting for  $\alpha_u U$  in (3) with its expression from (1),  $\alpha_u U = Z - \alpha_z U_z$ , gives

$$Y - Z = \beta_o X - \alpha_z U_z + \alpha_y U_y, \text{ and thus } E[(Y - Z)X'] = \beta_o E(XX').$$

It follows from the nonsingularity of  $E(XX')$  that  $\beta_o$  is point identified as

$$\beta_o = \pi_{y-z,x} \equiv E[(Y - Z)X'] E(XX')^{-1}. \square$$

*Proof of Theorem 4.1 (i)* Given that the structural coefficients of  $S_2$  are finite and that  $E(U^2)$  and  $E(U_x U'_x)$  exist and are finite, we have that

$$\begin{aligned} E(XX') &= \begin{bmatrix} \eta_u E(U^2) \eta'_u + \alpha_x E(U_x U'_x) \alpha'_x & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \text{ and} \\ E(YX') &= \beta_o E(XX') + [\alpha_u E(UX'_1), \alpha_u E(UX'_2), \alpha_u E(UX'_{31}), \alpha_u E(U)] \\ &= \beta_o E(XX') + [\alpha_u^2 E(U^2), \alpha_u^2 E(U^2), \alpha_u E(U^2) \phi'_u, 0] \end{aligned}$$

exist and are finite. (ii) Further,  $\alpha_u^2 E(U^2)$  is identified by  $\alpha_u^2 E(U^2) = E(X_2 X'_1)$  and  $\phi_u E(U^2) \alpha_u$  is overidentified by  $\phi_u E(U^2) \alpha_u = E(X_{31} X'_1) = E(X_{31} X'_2)$ . Given that  $E(XX')$  is nonsingular, it follows that  $\beta_o$  is fully (over)identified by

$$\begin{aligned} \beta_o &= \beta_{JC}^* \equiv \pi_{y,x} - [E(X_2 X'_1), E(X_2 X'_1), E(X_1 X'_3)] E(XX')^{-1} \\ &= \beta_{JC}^\dagger \equiv \pi_{y,x} - [E(X_2 X'_1), E(X_2 X'_1), E(X_2 X'_3)] E(XX')^{-1}. \square \end{aligned}$$

*Proof of Theorem 5.1 (i)* Given that the structural coefficients of  $S_3$  and  $E(U^2)$  and  $E(U_x U'_x)$  exist and are finite we have

$$\begin{aligned} E(XX') &= \begin{bmatrix} \eta_u E(U^2) \eta'_u + \alpha_x E(U_x U'_x) \alpha'_x & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \text{ and} \\ E(YX') &= \beta_o E(XX') + \alpha_u \iota_p [E(UX'_1), E(UX'_2)] \end{aligned}$$



$$= \beta_o E(XX') + \iota_p [\alpha_u^2 E(U^2), [\alpha_u E(U^2)\phi'_u, 0]]$$

exists and are finite.

(ii.a) Given that  $E(X_1X'_1)$  and  $E(X_2X'_2)$  are nonsingular, we have

$$\begin{aligned} P_{x_1} &\equiv E(\epsilon_{x_1.x_2}\epsilon'_{x_1.x_2}) = E(\epsilon_{x_1.x_2}X'_1) = E(X_1X'_1) - \pi_{x_1.x_2}E(X_2X'_1) \quad \text{and} \\ P_{x_2} &\equiv E(\epsilon_{x_2.x_1}\epsilon'_{x_2.x_1}) = E(\epsilon_{x_2.x_1}X'_2) = E(X_2X'_2) - \pi_{x_2.x_1}E(X_1X'_2) \end{aligned}$$

exist and are finite. (ii.b) If also  $P_{x_1}$  and  $P_{x_2}$  are nonsingular, then  $E(XX')^{-1}$  exists, is finite, and is given by (e.g., Baltagi 1999, p. 185):

$$E(XX')^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} E(X_1X'_1), & E(X_1X'_2) \\ E(X_2X'_1), & E(X_2X'_2) \end{bmatrix}^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} P_{x_1}^{-1}, & -\pi'_{x_2.x_1}P_{x_2}^{-1} \\ -\pi'_{x_1.x_2}P_{x_1}^{-1}, & P_{x_2}^{-1} \end{bmatrix},$$

with  $P_{x_1}^{-1}\pi_{x_1.x_2} = \pi'_{x_2.x_1}P_{x_2}^{-1}$ . It follows that  $\pi_{y.x}$  exists and is finite. To show that

$$E(\epsilon_{y_1.x}Y'_2) = E(Y_1Y'_2) - E(Y_1X')E(XX')^{-1}E(XY'_2)$$

exists and is finite, note that

$$\begin{aligned} E(YY') &= E[(\beta_o X + \alpha_u \iota_p U + \alpha_y U_y)(\beta_o X + \alpha_u \iota_p U + \alpha_y U_y)'] \\ &= \beta_o E(XX')\beta'_o + \beta_o E(XU)\iota'_p \alpha'_u + \alpha_u \iota_p E(UX')\beta'_o \\ &\quad + \iota_p \iota'_p \alpha_u^2 E(U^2) + \alpha_y E(U_y U'_y)\alpha'_y. \end{aligned}$$

Substituting for the diagonal term  $E(Y_1Y'_2)$  in the above expression for  $E(\epsilon_{y_1.x}Y'_2)$  then gives

$$\begin{aligned} E(\epsilon_{y_1.x}Y'_2) &= \beta_{1o}E(XX')\beta'_{2o} + \beta_{1o}\alpha_u E(XU) + \alpha_u E(UX')\beta'_{2o} \\ &\quad + \alpha_u^2 E(U^2) - E(Y_1X')E(XX')^{-1}E(XY'_2), \end{aligned}$$

and thus  $E(\epsilon_{y_1.x}Y'_2)$  exists and is finite given that  $\alpha_u E(UX') = [\alpha_u^2 E(U^2), [\alpha_u E(U^2)\phi'_u, 0]]$ .

(ii.c) Next, we have that

$$\Delta_{JR} = [2P_{x_1}^{-1}E(X_1X'_1) - 1]^2 - 4P_{x_1}^{-1}[E(X_1X'_2)P_{x_2}^{-1}E(X_2X'_1) + E(\epsilon_{y_1.x}Y'_2)],$$

exists and is finite as it is a function of finite moments and coefficients. We now show that  $\Delta_{JR}$  is nonnegative. Given the nonsingularity of  $E(XX')$ , substituting for

$$\beta_o = [E(YX') - \alpha_u \iota_p E(UX')]E(XX')^{-1},$$

in the expression for  $E(YY')$  gives

$$\begin{aligned}
E(YY') &= [E(YX') - \alpha_u \iota_p E(UX')]E(XX')^{-1}E(XX')E(XX')^{-1}[E(XY') \\
&\quad - E(XU')\iota'_p \alpha'_u] + [E(YX') - \alpha_u \iota_p E(UX')]E(XX')^{-1}E(XU)\iota'_p \alpha'_u \\
&\quad + \alpha_u \iota_p E(UX')E(XX')^{-1}[E(XY') - E(XU)\iota'_p \alpha'_u] \\
&\quad + \iota_p \iota'_p \alpha_u^2 E(U^2) + \alpha_y E(U_y U'_y) \alpha'_y \\
&= E(YX')E(XX')^{-1}E(XY') - \alpha_u \iota_p E(UX')E(XX')^{-1}E(XU')\iota'_p \alpha'_u \\
&\quad + \iota_p \iota'_p \alpha_u^2 E(U^2) + \alpha_y E(U_y U'_y) \alpha'_y.
\end{aligned}$$

The off-diagonal term then gives

$$\begin{aligned}
E(\epsilon_{y_1 \cdot x} Y'_2) &= E(Y_1 Y'_2) - E(Y_1 X')E(XX')^{-1}E(XY'_2) \\
&= \alpha_u^2 E(U^2) - \alpha_u E(UX')E(XX')^{-1}E(XU')\alpha'_u
\end{aligned}$$

Substituting for  $\alpha_u E(UX') = [\alpha_u^2 E(U^2), [\alpha_u E(U^2)\phi'_u, 0]] = [\alpha_u^2 E(U^2), E(X_1 X'_2)]$  gives

$$\begin{aligned}
&\alpha_u E(UX')E(XX')^{-1}E(XU)\alpha'_u \\
&= [\alpha_u^2 E(U^2), E(X_1 X'_2)] \begin{bmatrix} P_{x_1}^{-1}, & -\pi'_{x_2, x_1} P_{x_2}^{-1} \\ -\pi'_{x_1, x_2} P_{x_1}^{-1}, & P_{x_2}^{-1} \end{bmatrix} [\alpha_u^2 E(U^2), E(X_1 X'_2)]' \\
&= \alpha_u^4 E(U^2)^2 P_{x_1}^{-1} - E(X_1 X'_2) \pi'_{x_1, x_2} P_{x_1}^{-1} \alpha_u^2 E(U^2) \\
&\quad - \alpha_u^2 E(U^2) \pi'_{x_2, x_1} P_{x_2}^{-1} E(X_2 X'_1) + E(X_1 X'_2) P_{x_2}^{-1} E(X_2 X'_1).
\end{aligned}$$

Thus, we expand the term  $E(X_1 X'_2) P_{x_2}^{-1} E(X_2 X'_1) + E(\epsilon_{y_1 \cdot x} Y'_2)$  in  $\Delta_{JR}$  as:

$$\begin{aligned}
&E(X_1 X'_2) P_{x_2}^{-1} E(X_2 X'_1) + E(\epsilon_{y_1 \cdot x} Y'_2) \\
&= E(X_1 X'_2) P_{x_2}^{-1} E(X_2 X'_1) + \alpha_u^2 E(U^2) - \alpha_u^4 E(U^2)^2 P_{x_1}^{-1} \\
&\quad + E(X_1 X'_2) \pi'_{x_1, x_2} P_{x_1}^{-1} \alpha_u^2 E(U^2) + \alpha_u^2 E(U^2) \pi'_{x_2, x_1} P_{x_2}^{-1} E(X_2 X'_1) \\
&\quad - E(X_1 X'_2) P_{x_2}^{-1} E(X_2 X'_1) \\
&= -\alpha_u^4 E(U^2)^2 P_{x_1}^{-1} + \alpha_u^2 E(U^2) [2P_{x_1}^{-1} \pi_{x_1, x_2} E(X_2 X'_1) + 1] \\
&= -\alpha_u^4 E(U^2)^2 P_{x_1}^{-1} + \alpha_u^2 E(U^2) [2P_{x_1}^{-1} [E(X_1 X'_1) - P_{x_1}] + 1] \\
&= -\alpha_u^4 E(U^2)^2 P_{x_1}^{-1} + \alpha_u^2 E(U^2) [2P_{x_1}^{-1} E(X_1 X'_1) - 1]
\end{aligned}$$

where we use  $P_{x_1}^{-1} \pi_{x_1, x_2} = \pi'_{x_2, x_1} P_{x_2}^{-1}$  and  $P_{x_1} = E(X_1 X'_1) - \pi_{x_1, x_2} E(X_2 X'_1)$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned}
\Delta_{JR} &\equiv [2P_{x_1}^{-1} E(X_1 X'_1) - 1]^2 - 4P_{x_1}^{-1} [E(X_1 X'_2) P_{x_2}^{-1} E(X_2 X'_1) + E(\epsilon_{y_1 \cdot x} Y'_2)] \\
&= [2P_{x_1}^{-1} E(X_1 X'_1) - 1]^2 + 4\alpha_u^4 E(U^2)^2 P_{x_1}^{-2} \\
&\quad - 4P_{x_1}^{-1} \alpha_u^2 E(U^2) [2P_{x_1}^{-1} E(X_1 X'_1) - 1]
\end{aligned}$$

$$= \{[2P_{x_1}^{-1}E(X_1X_1') - 1] - 2P_{x_1}^{-1}\alpha_u^2E(U^2)\}^2 \geq 0.$$

(iii) We begin by showing that

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Var}(\alpha_{x_1}U_{x_1}) + \text{Cov}(\phi_uU, \alpha_uU)' \\ & \times [\text{Var}(\phi_uU) + \text{Var}(\alpha_{x_2}U_{x_2})]^{-1} \text{Cov}(\phi_uU, \alpha_uU) - \text{Var}(\alpha_uU) \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A.1})$$

has the same sign as the expression  $2P_{x_1}^{-1}E(X_1X_1') - 1 - 2P_{x_1}^{-1}\alpha_u^2E(U^2)$  from  $\Delta_{JR}$ . First, clearly, (A.1) can be negative, zero, or positive (e.g., set  $\dim(X_{21}) = 1$ ,  $\text{Var}(\alpha_{x_1}U_{x_1}) = 1$ , and  $\text{Var}(\alpha_{x_2}U_{x_2}) = \text{Var}(\phi_uU) = \frac{1}{2}$ ). Then (A.1) reduces to  $1 - \frac{1}{2}\text{Var}(\alpha_uU)$  with sign depending on  $\text{Var}(\alpha_uU)$ . Next, multiplying this expression by  $P_{x_1} \equiv E(\epsilon_{x_1.x_2}\epsilon'_{x_1.x_2})$  preserves its sign and we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & 2E(X_1X_1') - P_{x_1} - 2\alpha_u^2E(U^2) \\ & = 2E(X_1X_1') - [E(X_1X_1') - E(X_1X_2')E(X_2X_2')^{-1}E(X_2X_1')] - 2\alpha_u^2E(U^2) \\ & = E(X_1X_1') + E(X_1X_2')E(X_2X_2')^{-1}E(X_2X_1') - 2\alpha_u^2E(U^2). \end{aligned}$$

But we have

$$\begin{aligned} E(X_1X_1') &= \alpha_u^2E(U^2) + \alpha_{x_1}E(U_{x_1}U'_{x_1})\alpha'_{x_1} \text{ and} \\ E(X_2X_2') &= \begin{bmatrix} \phi_uE(UU')\phi'_u + \alpha_{x_2}E(U_{x_2}U'_{x_2})\alpha'_{x_2}, & 0 \\ 0, & 1 \end{bmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

Then using  $[\alpha_uE(U^2)\phi'_u, 0] = E(X_1X_2')$  gives

$$\begin{aligned} & E(X_1X_1') + E(X_1X_2')E(X_2X_2')^{-1}E(X_2X_1') - 2\alpha_u^2E(U^2) \\ & = \alpha_u^2E(U^2) + \alpha_{x_1}E(U_{x_1}U'_{x_1})\alpha'_{x_1} + [\alpha_uE(U^2)\phi'_u, 0] \\ & \quad \times \begin{bmatrix} \phi_uE(UU')\phi'_u + \alpha_{x_2}E(U_{x_2}U'_{x_2})\alpha'_{x_2}, & 0 \\ 0, & 1 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} \phi_uE(U^2)\alpha_u \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} - 2\alpha_u^2E(U^2) \\ & = \text{Var}(\alpha_{x_1}U_{x_1}) + \text{Cov}(\phi_uU, \alpha_uU)'[\text{Var}(\phi_uU) + \text{Var}(\alpha_{x_2}U_{x_2})]^{-1} \\ & \quad \times \text{Cov}(\phi_uU, \alpha_uU) - \text{Var}(\alpha_uU). \end{aligned}$$

(iii.a) Now, recall from (ii.c) that

$$\Delta_{JR} = \{[2P_{x_1}^{-1}E(X_1X_1') - 1] - 2P_{x_1}^{-1}\alpha_u^2E(U^2)\}^2.$$

Suppose that (3) is negative, then

$$\begin{aligned}\sqrt{\Delta_{JR}} &= \left| 2P_{x_1}^{-1}E(X_1X_1') - 1 - 2P_{x_1}^{-1}\alpha_u^2E(U^2) \right| \\ &= -2P_{x_1}^{-1}E(X_1X_1') + 1 + 2P_{x_1}^{-1}\alpha_u^2E(U^2),\end{aligned}$$

and we have

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma_{JR}^\dagger &\equiv E(X_1X_1') + \frac{1}{2}P_{x_1}(-1 - \sqrt{\Delta_{JR}}) \\ &= 2E(X_1X_1') - P_{x_1} - \alpha_u^2E(U^2) \\ &= \text{Var}(\alpha_{x_1}U_{x_1}) + \text{Cov}(\phi_uU, \alpha_uU)'[\text{Var}(\phi_uU) + \text{Var}(\alpha_{x_2}U_{x_2})]^{-1} \\ &\quad \times \text{Cov}(\phi_uU, \alpha_uU) \\ &< \alpha_u^2E(U^2) \text{ (and } \geq 0),\end{aligned}$$

and

$$\sigma_{JR}^* \equiv E(X_1X_1') + \frac{1}{2}P_{x_1}(-1 + \sqrt{\Delta_{JR}}) = \alpha_u^2E(U^2).$$

(iii.b) Suppose instead that (A.1) is nonnegative then

$$\begin{aligned}\sqrt{\Delta_{JR}} &= \left| 2P_{x_1}^{-1}E(X_1X_1') - 1 - 2P_{x_1}^{-1}\alpha_u^2E(U^2) \right| \\ &= 2P_{x_1}^{-1}E(X_1X_1') - 1 - 2P_{x_1}^{-1}\alpha_u^2E(U^2),\end{aligned}$$

and we have

$$\sigma_{JR}^\dagger = \alpha_u^2E(U^2),$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma_{JR}^* &= \text{Var}(\alpha_{x_1}U_{x_1}) + \text{Cov}(\phi_uU, \alpha_uU)'[\text{Var}(\phi_uU) \\ &\quad + \text{Var}(\alpha_{x_2}U_{x_2})]^{-1}\text{Cov}(\phi_uU, \alpha_uU) \\ &\geq \alpha_u^2E(U^2) \geq 0.\end{aligned}$$

Thus,  $\alpha_u^2E(U^2)$  is partially identified in the set  $\{\sigma_{JR}^\dagger, \sigma_{JR}^*\}$ . It follows from the moment

$$E(YX') = \beta_oE(XX') + \iota_p[\alpha_u^2E(U^2), E(X_1X_2')],$$

and the nonsingularity of  $E(XX')$  that  $\beta_o$  is partially identified in the set  $\{\beta_{JR}^*, \beta_{JR}^\dagger\}$ .  $\square$

*Proof of Theorem 6.1 (i)* We have that

$$\begin{aligned}
 E(ZZ') &= \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_u^2 E(U^2), & 0 \\ 0, & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \\
 E(XZ') &= E \left( \begin{bmatrix} X'_1, & X'_{21} \\ Z' & \end{bmatrix} Z' \right) = \begin{bmatrix} \gamma_o E(ZZ') + [\eta_u E(U^2) \alpha'_u & 0] \\ [0, & 1] \end{bmatrix}, \\
 E(XX') &= \begin{bmatrix} \gamma_o E(ZX') + \eta_u E(UX') + \alpha_x E(U_x X'), & E(X) \\ E(X'), & 1 \end{bmatrix} \\
 &= \begin{bmatrix} \gamma_o E(ZX') + [[\eta_u E(U^2) \alpha'_u, 0] \gamma'_o \\ + \eta_u E(U^2) \eta'_u, 0] + [\alpha_x E(U_x U_x)' \alpha'_x, 0], & [0', 1']' \\ [0, 1], & 1 \end{bmatrix},
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 E(YX') &= \beta_o E(XX') + \alpha_u E(UX') = \beta_o E(XX') \\
 &\quad + [[\alpha_u^2 E(U^2), 0] \gamma'_{1o} + \alpha_u^2 E(U^2), [[\alpha_u^2 E(U^2), 0] \gamma'_{2o} + \alpha_u E(U^2) \phi'_u, 0]], \\
 E(YZ') &= \beta_o E(XZ') + [\alpha_u^2 E(U^2), 0],
 \end{aligned}$$

Thus, these moments exist and are finite since they are functions of existing finite coefficients and moments.

(ii.a) Given that  $P_{z_1} \equiv E(\epsilon_{z_1, z_2} Z'_1) = E(Z_1 Z'_1)$  is nonsingular and  $Z_2 = 1$ , we have that

$$E(ZZ')^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} P_{z_1}^{-1}, & -\pi'_{z_2, z_1} P_{z_2}^{-1} \\ -\pi'_{z_1, z_2} P_{z_1}^{-1}, & P_{z_2}^{-1} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} E(Z_1 Z'_1)^{-1} & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

is nonsingular and thus  $\pi_{x, z}$  and  $E(\epsilon_{x_1, z} X'_2) = E(X_1 X'_2) - \pi_{x_1, z} E(ZX'_2)$  exist and are finite. With  $E(XX')$  also nonsingular,  $\pi_{z, x}$  exists and is finite. Also,

$$\begin{aligned}
 E(\epsilon_{y, x} Z'_1) &= E(Y \epsilon'_{z_1, x}) \\
 &= \beta_o E(X \epsilon'_{z_1, x}) + \alpha_u E(U \epsilon'_{z_1, x}) + \alpha_y E(U_y \epsilon'_{z_1, x}) \\
 &= \alpha_u E(U \epsilon'_{z_1, x}).
 \end{aligned}$$

Using  $E(X_1 X'_2) = \gamma_{1o} E(ZX'_2) + \alpha_u E(UX'_2)$  then gives

$$\begin{aligned}
 E(\epsilon_{y, x} Z'_1) &= \alpha_u E(U \epsilon'_{z_1, x}) = \alpha_u E(UZ'_1) - \alpha_u E(UX') E(XX')^{-1} E(XZ'_1) \\
 &= \alpha_u^2 E(U^2) - [[\alpha_u^2 E(U^2), 0] \gamma'_{1o} \\
 &\quad + \alpha_u^2 E(U^2), E(X_1 X'_2) - \gamma_{1o} E(ZX'_2)] \pi'_{z_1, x}
 \end{aligned}$$

exists and is finite.

(ii.b) We have that  $\Delta_{PC}$  exists and is finite as it is a function of finite coefficients and moments. Next, we verify that  $\Delta_{PC} \geq 0$ . We begin by expanding the term  $E(\epsilon_{y.x}Z'_1)$  in  $\Delta_{PC}$ . For this, we substitute for  $\gamma_{1o}$  with

$$\gamma_{1o} = \pi_{x_1.z} - [\alpha_u^2 E(U^2), 0]E(ZZ')^{-1},$$

in  $-\alpha_u E(UX')\pi'_{z.x}$  which gives

$$\begin{aligned} & -\alpha_u E(UX')\pi'_{z.x} \\ &= -[[\alpha_u^2 E(U^2), 0]\gamma'_{1o} + \alpha_u^2 E(U^2), E(X_1X'_2) - \gamma_{1o}E(ZX'_2)]\pi'_{z.x} \\ &= -[\alpha_u^2 E(U^2), 0]\pi'_{x_1.z}\pi'_{z.x_1|x_2} + [\alpha_u^2 E(U^2), 0]E(ZZ')^{-1}[\alpha_u^2 E(U^2), 0]'\pi'_{z.x_1|x_2} \\ &\quad - \alpha_u^2 E(U^2)\pi'_{z.x_1|x_2} - E(\epsilon_{x_1.z}X'_2)\pi'_{z.x_2|x_1} - [\alpha_u^2 E(U^2), 0]\pi'_{x_2.z}\pi'_{z.x_2|x_1} \\ &= -\alpha_u^2 E(U^2)\pi'_{x_1.z_1|z_2}\pi'_{z.x_1|x_2} + \alpha_u^4 E(U^2)^2 P_{z_1}^{-1}\pi'_{z.x_1|x_2} - \alpha_u^2 E(U^2)\pi'_{z.x_1|x_2} \\ &\quad - E(\epsilon_{x_1.z}X'_2)\pi'_{z.x_2|x_1} - \alpha_u^2 E(U^2)\pi'_{x_2.z_1|z_2}\pi'_{z.x_2|x_1}, \end{aligned}$$

where we make use of  $[\alpha_u^2 E(U^2), 0]E(ZZ')^{-1}[\alpha_u^2 E(U^2), 0]' = \alpha_u^4 E(U^2)^2 P_{z_1}^{-1}$ . Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} E(\epsilon_{y.x}Z'_1) &= \alpha_u^2 E(U^2) - \alpha_u E(UX')\pi'_{z_1.x} \\ &= \alpha_u^2 E(U^2) - \alpha_u^2 E(U^2)\pi'_{x_1.z_1|z_2}\pi'_{z_1.x_1|x_2} + \alpha_u^4 E(U^2)^2 P_{z_1}^{-1}\pi'_{z_1.x_1|x_2} \\ &\quad - \alpha_u^2 E(U^2)\pi'_{z_1.x_1|x_2} - E(\epsilon_{x_1.z}X'_2)\pi'_{z_1.x_2|x_1} - \alpha_u^2 E(U^2)\pi'_{x_2.z_1|z_2}\pi'_{z_1.x_2|x_1} \\ &= \alpha_u^2 E(U^2) - \alpha_u^2 E(U^2)\pi'_{x.z_1|z_2}\pi'_{z_1.x} + \alpha_u^4 E(U^2)^2 P_{z_1}^{-1}\pi'_{z_1.x_1|x_2} \\ &\quad - \alpha_u^2 E(U^2)\pi'_{z_1.x_1|x_2} - E(\epsilon_{x_1.z}X'_2)\pi'_{z_1.x_2|x_1}. \end{aligned}$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta_{PC} &\equiv [-\pi'_{x.z_1|z_2}\pi'_{z_1.x} - \pi'_{z_1.x_1|x_2} + 1]^2 + 4P_{z_1}^{-1}\pi'_{z_1.x_1|x_2}[E(\epsilon_{y.x}Z'_1) \\ &\quad + E(\epsilon_{x_1.z}X'_2)\pi'_{z_1.x_2|x_1}] \\ &= [-\pi'_{x.z_1|z_2}\pi'_{z_1.x} - \pi'_{z_1.x_1|x_2} + 1]^2 \\ &\quad + 4P_{z_1}^{-1}\pi'_{z_1.x_1|x_2}[\alpha_u^2 E(U^2) - \alpha_u^2 E(U^2)\pi'_{x.z_1|z_2}\pi'_{z_1.x} \\ &\quad + \alpha_u^4 E(U^2)^2 P_{z_1}^{-1}\pi'_{z_1.x_1|x_2} - \alpha_u^2 E(U^2)\pi'_{z_1.x_1|x_2} \\ &\quad - E(\epsilon_{x_1.z}X'_2)\pi'_{z_1.x_2|x_1} + E(\epsilon_{x_1.z}X'_2)\pi'_{z_1.x_2|x_1}] \\ &= \{[\pi'_{x.z_1|z_2}\pi'_{z_1.x} + \pi'_{z_1.x_1|x_2} - 1] - 2P_{z_1}^{-1}\pi'_{z_1.x_1|x_2}\alpha_u^2 E(U^2)\}^2 \geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

(iii) Suppose that

$$\pi'_{x.z_1|z_2}\pi'_{z_1.x} + \pi'_{z_1.x_1|x_2} - 1 - 2P_{z_1}^{-1}\pi'_{z_1.x_1|x_2}\alpha_u^2 E(U^2) < 0.$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned}\sqrt{\Delta_{PC}} &= \left| \pi'_{x.z_1|z_2} \pi'_{z_1.x} + \pi'_{z_1.x_1|x_2} - 1 - 2P_{z_1}^{-1} \pi'_{z_1.x_1|x_2} \alpha_u^2 E(U^2) \right| \\ &= -\pi'_{x.z_1|z_2} \pi'_{z_1.x} - \pi'_{z_1.x_1|x_2} + 1 + 2P_{z_1}^{-1} \pi'_{z_1.x_1|x_2} \alpha_u^2 E(U^2),\end{aligned}$$

and thus

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma_{PC}^\dagger &\equiv \frac{\pi'_{x.z_1|z_2} \pi'_{z_1.x} + \pi'_{z_1.x_1|x_2} - 1 - \sqrt{\Delta_{PC}}}{2P_{z_1}^{-1} \pi'_{z_1.x_1|x_2}} \\ &= \frac{\pi'_{x.z} \pi'_{z.x} + \pi'_{z.x_1|x_2} - 1 - P_{z_1}^{-1} \pi'_{z_1.x_1|x_2} \alpha_u^2 E(U^2)}{P_{z_1}^{-1} \pi'_{z_1.x_1|x_2}} \\ &< \frac{P_{z_1}^{-1} \pi'_{z_1.x_1|x_2} \alpha_u^2 E(U^2)}{P_{z_1}^{-1} \pi'_{z_1.x_1|x_2}} = \alpha_u^2 E(U^2),\end{aligned}$$

and

$$\sigma_{PC}^* \equiv \frac{\pi'_{x.z_1|z_2} \pi'_{z_1.x} + \pi'_{z_1.x_1|x_2} - 1 + \sqrt{\Delta_{PC}}}{2P_{z_1}^{-1} \pi'_{z_1.x_1|x_2}} = \alpha_u^2 E(U^2).$$

Now, with  $E(ZZ')$  nonsingular, we have

$$\begin{aligned}E(X_1 Z') &= \gamma_{1o} E(ZZ') + [\alpha_u^2 E(U^2), 0], \text{ or} \\ \gamma_{1o} &= \pi_{x_1.z} - [\sigma_{PC}^*, 0] E(ZZ')^{-1}.\end{aligned}$$

Further, with  $E(XX')$  nonsingular, we have

$$\begin{aligned}E(YX') &= \beta_o E(XX') + \alpha_u E(UX'), \text{ or} \\ \beta_o &= \{E(YX') - [[\alpha_u^2 E(U^2), 0] \gamma'_{1o} \\ &\quad + \alpha_u^2 E(U^2), E(X_1 X'_2) - \gamma_{1o} E(ZX'_2)]\} E(XX')^{-1}.\end{aligned}$$

Substituting for  $\gamma_{1o}$  gives

$$\begin{aligned}&[\alpha_u^2 E(U^2), 0] \gamma'_{1o} + \alpha_u^2 E(U^2) \\ &= [\alpha_u^2 E(U^2), 0] \pi'_{x_1.z} - [\alpha_u^2 E(U^2), 0] E(ZZ')^{-1} [\alpha_u^2 E(U^2), 0]' + \alpha_u^2 E(U^2) \\ &= [\alpha_u^2 E(U^2), 0] \pi'_{x_1.z} - \alpha_u^4 E(U^2)^2 P_{z_1}^{-1} + \alpha_u^2 E(U^2) \\ &= \alpha_u^2 E(U^2) (\pi'_{x_1.z_1|z_2} - \alpha_u^2 E(U^2) P_{z_1}^{-1} + 1),\end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
E(X_1 X'_2) - \gamma_{1o} E(Z X'_2) \\
&= E(X_1 X'_2) - [\pi_{x_1.z} - [\alpha_u^2 E(U^2), 0] E(Z Z')^{-1}] E(Z X'_2) \\
&= E(\epsilon_{x_1.z} X'_2) + [\alpha_u^2 E(U^2), 0] \pi'_{x_2.z} = E(\epsilon_{x_1.z} X'_2) + \alpha_u^2 E(U^2) \pi'_{x_2.z_1|z_2},
\end{aligned}$$

so that

$$\begin{aligned}
\beta_o = \pi_{y.x} - [\sigma_{PC}^* (\pi'_{x_1.z_1|z_2} - \sigma_{PC}^* P_{z_1}^{-1} + 1), E(\epsilon_{x_1.z} X'_2) \\
+ \sigma_{PC}^* \pi'_{x_2.z_1|z_2}] E(X X')^{-1}.
\end{aligned}$$

Also, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
E(X_1 X'_{21}) &= \gamma_{1o} E(Z X'_{21}) + \alpha_u E(U X'_{21}) \\
&= \gamma_{1o} E(Z X'_{21}) + \alpha_u E(U Z') \gamma'_{2o} + \alpha_u E(U^2) \phi'_u \\
&= \gamma_{1o} E(Z X'_{21}) + [\alpha_u^2 E(U^2), 0] \gamma'_{2o} + \alpha_u E(U^2) \phi'_u \text{ and} \\
E(X_{21} Z') &= \gamma_{2o} E(Z Z') + [\phi_u E(U^2) \alpha'_u, 0].
\end{aligned}$$

Substituting for

$$\gamma_{2o} = \pi_{x_{21}.z} - [\phi_u E(U^2) \alpha'_u, 0] E(Z Z')^{-1}$$

in the expression for  $E(X_1 X'_{21})$  gives

$$\begin{aligned}
E(X_1 X'_{21}) &= \gamma_{1o} E(Z X'_{21}) + [\alpha_u^2 E(U^2), 0] \pi'_{x_{21}.z} \\
&\quad - [\alpha_u^2 E(U^2), 0] E(Z Z')^{-1} [\phi_u E(U^2) \alpha'_u, 0]' + \alpha_u E(U^2) \phi'_u \\
&= \gamma_{1o} E(Z X'_{21}) + [\alpha_u^2 E(U^2), 0] \pi'_{x_{21}.z} \\
&\quad - \alpha_u^2 E(U^2) P_{z_1}^{-1} \alpha_u E(U^2) \phi'_u + \alpha_u E(U^2) \phi'_u.
\end{aligned}$$

Further substituting for  $\gamma_{1o}$  with  $[E(X_1 Z') - [\alpha_u^2 E(U^2), 0]] E(Z Z')^{-1}$  gives

$$\begin{aligned}
E(X_1 X'_{21}) - [E(X_1 Z') - [\alpha_u^2 E(U^2), 0]] E(Z Z')^{-1} E(Z X'_{21}) - [\alpha_u^2 E(U^2), 0] \pi'_{x_{21}.z} \\
= -\alpha_u^2 E(U^2) P_{z_1}^{-1} \alpha_u E(U^2) \phi'_u + \alpha_u E(U^2) \phi'_u,
\end{aligned}$$

or

$$E(X_1 \epsilon'_{x_{21}.z}) = -\alpha_u^2 E(U^2) P_{z_1}^{-1} \alpha_u E(U^2) \phi'_u + \alpha_u E(U^2) \phi'_u.$$

Substituting for

$$\phi_u E(U^2) \alpha'_u = E(X_{21} \epsilon'_{x_1.z}) [1 - \alpha_u^2 E(U^2) P_{z_1}^{-1}]^{-1}$$

in the expression for  $\gamma_{2o}$  gives



$$\begin{aligned}\gamma_{2o} &= \pi_{x_{21}.z} - [\phi_u E(U^2) \alpha'_u, 0] E(ZZ')^{-1} \\ &= \pi_{x_{21}.z} - [E(X_{21} \epsilon'_{x_{1.z}}) [1 - \sigma_{PC}^* P_{z_1}^{-1}]^{-1}, 0] E(ZZ')^{-1}.\end{aligned}$$

(iii.b) Suppose instead that

$$\pi'_{x.z_1|z_2} \pi'_{z_1.x} + \pi'_{z_1.x_1|x_2} - 1 - 2P_{z_1}^{-1} \pi'_{z_1.x_1|x_2} \alpha_u^2 E(U^2) \geq 0.$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned}\sqrt{\Delta_{PC}} &= \left| \pi'_{x.z_1|z_2} \pi'_{z_1.x} + \pi'_{z_1.x_1|x_2} - 1 - 2P_{z_1}^{-1} \pi'_{z_1.x_1|x_2} \alpha_u^2 E(U^2) \right| \\ &= \pi'_{x.z_1|z_2} \pi'_{z_1.x} + \pi'_{z_1.x_1|x_2} - 1 - 2P_{z_1}^{-1} \pi'_{z_1.x_1|x_2} \alpha_u^2 E(U^2),\end{aligned}$$

and thus

$$\sigma_{PC}^\dagger = \alpha_u^2 E(U^2),$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma_{PC}^* &= \frac{\pi'_{x.z_1|z_2} \pi'_{z_1.x} + \pi'_{z_1.x_1|x_2} - 1 - P_{z_1}^{-1} \pi'_{z_1.x_1|x_2} \alpha_u^2 E(U^2)}{P_{z_1}^{-1} \pi'_{z_1.x_1|x_2}} \\ &\geq \frac{P_{z_1}^{-1} \pi'_{z_1.x_1|x_2} \alpha_u^2 E(U^2)}{P_{z_1}^{-1} \pi'_{z_1.x_1|x_2}} = \alpha_u^2 E(U^2).\end{aligned}$$

It follows that

$$\begin{aligned}\gamma_{1o} &= \gamma_1^\dagger \equiv \pi_{x_1.z} - [\sigma_{PC}^\dagger, 0] E(ZZ')^{-1}, \\ \gamma_{2o} &= \gamma_2^\dagger \equiv \pi_{x_2.z} - [E(X_{21} \epsilon'_{x_{1.z}}) [1 - \sigma_{PC}^\dagger P_{z_1}^{-1}]^{-1}, 0] E(ZZ')^{-1}, \text{ and} \\ \beta_o &= \beta^\dagger \equiv \pi_{y.x} - [\sigma_{PC}^\dagger (\pi'_{x_1.z_1|z_2} - \sigma_{PC}^\dagger P_{z_1}^{-1} + 1), E(\epsilon_{x_1.z} X'_2) \\ &\quad + \sigma_{PC}^\dagger \pi'_{x_2.z_1|z_2}] E(XX')^{-1}. \square\end{aligned}$$

## Appendix B: Constructive Identification

### *B.1 Equiconfounded Cause and Joint Responses: Constructive Identification*

We present an argument to constructively demonstrate how the expression for  $\Delta_{JR}$  and the identification of  $\alpha_u^2 E(U^2)$ , and thus  $\beta_o$ , in the proof of Theorem 5.1 obtain. Recall that in  $S_3$

$$E(YX') = \beta_o E(XX') + \iota_p [\alpha_u^2 E(U^2), [\alpha_u E(U^2) \phi'_u, 0]].$$

We have that  $\alpha_u E(U^2) \phi'_u = E(X_1 X'_2)$ . It remains to identify  $\alpha_u^2 E(U^2)$ . For this, recall that the proof of Theorem 5.1 gives

$$\begin{aligned} E(YY') &= E(YX')E(XX')^{-1}E(XY') - \alpha_u \iota_p E(UX')E(XX')^{-1} \alpha_u E(XU) \iota'_p \\ &\quad + \iota_p \iota'_p \alpha_u^2 E(U^2) + \alpha_y E(U_y U'_y) \alpha'_y, \end{aligned}$$

which we rewrite as

$$\begin{aligned} \iota_p \iota'_p \alpha_u^2 E(U^2) - \alpha_u \iota_p E(UX')E(XX')^{-1} E(XU) \iota'_p \alpha'_u \\ - E(\epsilon_{y.x} Y') + \alpha_y E(U_y U'_y) \alpha'_y = 0. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B.1})$$

From the proof of Theorem 5.1, we also have

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha_u E(UX')E(XX')^{-1} E(XU) \alpha'_u \\ = \alpha_u^4 E(U^2)^2 P_{x_1}^{-1} - E(X_1 X'_2) \pi'_{x_1.x_2} P_{x_1}^{-1} \alpha_u^2 E(U^2) \\ - \alpha_u^2 E(U^2) \pi'_{x_2.x_1} P_{x_2}^{-1} E(X_2 X'_1) + E(X_1 X'_2) P_{x_2}^{-1} E(X_2 X'_1). \end{aligned}$$

Thus, collecting the off-diagonal terms in Eq. (B.1) gives:

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha_u^2 E(U^2) - \alpha_u^4 E(U^2)^2 P_{x_1}^{-1} + E(X_1 X'_2) \pi'_{x_1.x_2} P_{x_1}^{-1} \alpha_u^2 E(U^2) \\ + \alpha_u^2 E(U^2) \pi'_{x_2.x_1} P_{x_2}^{-1} E(X_2 X'_1) - E(X_1 X'_2) P_{x_2}^{-1} E(X_2 X'_1) - E(\epsilon_{y_1.x} Y'_2) = 0. \end{aligned}$$

This is a quadratic equation in  $\alpha_u^2 E(U^2)$  of the form

$$a \alpha_u^4 E(U^2)^2 + b \alpha_u^2 E(U^2) + c = 0,$$

with

$$\begin{aligned} a &= P_{x_1}^{-1}, \\ b &= -[1 + E(X_1 X'_2) \pi'_{x_1.x_2} P_{x_1}^{-1} + \pi'_{x_2.x_1} P_{x_2}^{-1} E(X_2 X'_1)] \\ &= -[1 + E(X_1 X'_2) \pi'_{x_1.x_2} P_{x_1}^{-1} + P_{x_1}^{-1} \pi_{x_1.x_2} E(X_2 X'_1)] \\ &= -[1 + 2P_{x_1}^{-1} \pi_{x_1.x_2} E(X_2 X'_1)] \\ &= -[1 + 2P_{x_1}^{-1} [E(X_1 X'_1) - P_{x_1}]] = -[2P_{x_1}^{-1} E(X_1 X'_1) - 1], \text{ and} \\ c &= E(X_1 X'_2) P_{x_2}^{-1} E(X_2 X'_1) + E(\epsilon_{y_1.x} Y'_2), \end{aligned}$$

where we make use of  $P_{x_1}^{-1} \pi_{x_1.x_2} = \pi'_{x_2.x_1} P_{x_2}^{-1}$  and  $P_{x_1} = E(X_1 X'_1) - \pi_{x_1.x_2} E(X_2 X'_1)$ . The discriminant of this quadratic equation gives the expression for  $\Delta_{JR} = b^2 - 4ac$ . Theorem 5.1 (ii.c) gives that  $\Delta_{JR} \geq 0$  and (iii) gives the

two roots  $\sigma_{PC}^\dagger$  and  $\sigma_{PC}^*$  of this quadratic equation

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{\Delta_{JR}}}{2a} &= \frac{1}{2} P_{x_1} \left\{ 2P_{x_1}^{-1} E(X_1 X_1') - 1 \pm \sqrt{\Delta_{JR}} \right\} \\ &= E(X_1 X_1') + \frac{1}{2} P_{x_1} \left( -1 \pm \sqrt{\Delta_{JR}} \right), \end{aligned}$$

and shows that these are nonnegative. One of these roots identifies  $\alpha_u^2 E(U^2)$ , depending on the sign of

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{Var}(\alpha'_{x_1} U_{x_1}) + \text{Cov}(\phi_u U, \alpha_u U)' [\text{Var}(\phi_u U) \\ &\quad + \text{Var}(\alpha_{x_2} U_{x_2})]^{-1} \text{Cov}(\phi_u U, \alpha_u U) - \text{Var}(\alpha_u U). \end{aligned}$$

$\beta_o$  is then identified from the moment  $E(YX') = \beta_o E(XX') + \iota_p [\alpha_u^2 E(U^2), E(X_1 X_2')]$ .

## ***B.2 Equiconfounding in Triangular Structures: Constructive Identification***

We present an argument to constructively demonstrate how the expression for  $\Delta_{PC}$  and the identification of  $\alpha_u^2 E(U^2)$  in the proof of Theorem 6.1 obtain. From the proof of Theorem 6.1, we have that

$$\beta_o = \{E(YX') - \alpha_u E(UX')\} E(XX')^{-1} = \pi_{y.x} - \alpha_u E(UX') E(XX')^{-1}.$$

Substituting for  $\beta_o$  in the expression for  $E(YZ')$  gives

$$\begin{aligned} E(YZ') &= \beta_o E(XZ') + [\alpha_u^2 E(U^2), 0], \\ &= \pi_{y.x} E(XZ') - \alpha_u E(UX') E(XX')^{-1} E(XZ') + [\alpha_u^2 E(U^2), 0], \quad \text{or} \\ &\quad - E(\epsilon_{y.x} Z') - \alpha_u E(UX') \pi'_{z.x} + [\alpha_u^2 E(U^2), 0] = 0. \end{aligned}$$

From the proof of Theorem 6.1, we have

$$\begin{aligned} &-\alpha_u E(UX') \pi'_{z.x} \\ &= -\alpha_u^2 E(U^2) \pi'_{x_1.z_1|z_2} \pi'_{z.x_1|x_2} + \alpha_u^4 E(U^2)^2 P_{z_1}^{-1} \pi'_{z.x_1|x_2} - \alpha_u^2 E(U^2) \pi'_{z.x_1|x_2} \\ &\quad - E(\epsilon_{x_1.z} X_2') \pi'_{z.x_2|x_1} - \alpha_u^2 E(U^2) \pi'_{x_2.z_1|z_2} \pi'_{z.x_2|x_1}. \end{aligned}$$

Substituting for  $-\alpha_u E(UX') \pi'_{z.x}$  in the above equality then gives

$$\begin{aligned}
& - E(\epsilon_{y.x}Z') - \alpha_u^2 E(U^2)\pi'_{x_1.z_1|z_2}\pi'_{z.x_1|x_2} + \alpha_u^4 E(U^2)^2 P_{z_1}^{-1}\pi'_{z.x_1|x_2} \\
& - \alpha_u^2 E(U^2)\pi'_{z.x_1|x_2} - E(\epsilon_{x_1.z}X'_2)\pi'_{z.x_2|x_1} - \alpha_u^2 E(U^2)\pi'_{x_2.z_1|z_2}\pi'_{z.x_2|x_1} \\
& + [\alpha_u^2 E(U^2), 0] = 0.
\end{aligned}$$

Collecting the first elements of this vector equality gives

$$\begin{aligned}
& - E(\epsilon_{y.x}Z'_1) - \alpha_u^2 E(U^2)\pi'_{x_1.z_1|z_2}\pi'_{z_1.x_1|x_2} + \alpha_u^4 E(U^2)^2 P_{z_1}^{-1}\pi'_{z_1.x_1|x_2} \\
& - \alpha_u^2 E(U^2)\pi'_{z_1.x_1|x_2} - E(\epsilon_{x_1.z}X'_2)\pi'_{z_1.x_2|x_1} - \alpha_u^2 E(U^2)\pi'_{x_2.z_1|z_2}\pi'_{z_1.x_2|x_1} \\
& + \alpha_u^2 E(U^2) = 0.
\end{aligned}$$

This is a quadratic equation in  $\alpha_u^2 E(U^2)$  of the form

$$a\alpha_u^4 E(U^2)^2 + b\alpha_u^2 E(U^2) + c = 0,$$

with

$$\begin{aligned}
a &= P_{z_1}^{-1}\pi'_{z_1.x_1|x_2}, \\
b &= -\pi'_{x.z_1|z_2}\pi'_{z_1.x} - \pi'_{z_1.x_1|x_2} + 1, \text{ and} \\
c &= -E(\epsilon_{y.x}Z'_1) - E(\epsilon_{x_1.z}X'_2)\pi'_{z_1.x_2|x_1}.
\end{aligned}$$

The discriminant of this equation gives the expression for  $\Delta_{PC} = b^2 - 4ac$  in Theorem 6.1 where it is shown that  $\Delta_{PC} \geq 0$  and that the solutions to this quadratic equation are  $\sigma_{PC}^\dagger$  and  $\sigma_{PC}^*$ :

$$\frac{-b \pm \sqrt{\Delta_{PC}}}{2a} = \frac{\pi'_{x.z_1|z_2}\pi'_{z_1.x} + \pi'_{z_1.x_1|x_2} - 1 \pm \sqrt{\Delta_{PC}}}{2P_{z_1}^{-1}\pi'_{z_1.x_1|x_2}}.$$

This then enables the identification of  $(\beta_o, \gamma_o)$  as shown in the proof of Theorem 6.1.

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