

Bias	Problem	Sequential data solution
1	Confounding by common cause: the confounding we have in mind: an unmeasured variable is assumed to cause both A and Y .	
2	Reverse causation: $A_{\phi 1}$ and $Y_{\phi 2}$ incorrectly asserted: in truth Y_1 causes association with A_2 .	
3	Mediator bias: timing asserted by L_{ϕ} is wrong, leading to controlling for a mediator, which can distort the true causal effect.	
4	Collider bias: timing asserted by $L_{\phi 1}$ is wrong, leading to controlling for collider, leading to a non-causal association between A and Y .	
5	Collider proxy bias: conditioning on a descendant of a collider can introduce bias.	
6	Post-exposure collider stratification bias: conditioning on a variable that is affected by exposure but does not have a direct causal effect on outcome.	
7	Unmeasured common cause conditioning on baseline exposure and baseline outcome exerts powerful confounding control and recovers incident exposure effect.	

Key:

A denotes the treatment;

Y denotes the outcome;

U denotes an unmeasured confounder;

L denotes a confounder;

L' denotes a proxy for an unmeasured confounder;

V denotes a mediator of the $A \rightarrow M$ that is also a confounder of $M \rightarrow Y$;

\rightarrow indicates a pathway for bias linking A to Y absent causation.

\boxed{X} indicates conditioning on variable X eliminates or reduces;

\boxed{X} indicates that conditioning on X introduces bias.

To denote relative timing we place subscripts on nodes (e.g., L_0, A_1, Y_2).

Examples 2 reverse-causation: ϕ timing in the exposure and outcome is wrong.

Examples 3-6 ϕ timing of confounder is wrong: $L_{\phi 0} \neq L_0$

Example 7 shows how we can reduce unmeasured confounding by conditioning on baseline values of the exposure and outcome.