

Erratum to: Causality as a theoretical concept: explanatory warrant and empirical content of the theory of causal nets

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In Sect. 2.2, “Explaining linking up”, we write “In order to explain $\text{DEP}(X, Y|Z)$ it suffices to assume ... [the] condition of dependence overlap (DO)⁹: $\exists x, z, y: \text{DEP}(x, z) \wedge \text{DEP}(z, y)$.” This is an error. The stronger condition (DT), introduced three paragraphs before, is needed. The corrected sentence must say: “In order to explain $\text{DEP}(X, Y|Z)$ we must assume condition (DT) introduced above.⁹” Footnote 9 has to be changed as follows: “*Proof*: As shown in the proof in fn. 8, (DT) and $\sum_z P(y|x, z) \cdot P(z|x) = \sum_z P(y|z) \cdot P(z|x)$ entail by probability theory $P(y|x) \neq P(y)$. Thus (by contraposition) (DT) and (*) $P(x|y) = P(y)$ entail (**) $\sum_z P(y|x, z) \cdot P(z|x) \neq \sum_z P(y|z) \cdot P(z|x)$. (*) follows from (C) and the fact that X is not d-connected with Y in $X \rightarrow Z \leftarrow Y$. This gives us (**), which implies $\exists z: P(y|x, z) \neq P(y|z)$, i.e., $\text{DEP}(Y, X|Z)$. Q.E.D.”

The following changes are consequences of this correction: (i) The first two sentences of footnote 10 have to be replaced by “Weaker than (DT) is the condition (DO) of “dependence overlap”: $\exists x, y, z: \text{Dep}(y, z) \wedge \text{Dep}(z, x)$. (DO) is not a sufficient but a necessary condition for screening off (we are indebted to an anonymous reviewer for pointing this out to us).” (ii) In the paragraph of Sect. 3.2 headed “(3) Intransitivity

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unfaithfulness”, the words “Sect. 2.2” must be replaced by “fn. 10” and “ $\neg\exists x,z,y: \text{DEP}(x,z)\wedge\text{DEP}(z,y)$ implies $\text{INDEP}(X,Y|Z)$ (see the proof in fn. 10)” by “ $\neg\exists x,z,y: \text{DEP}(x,z|y)\wedge\text{DEP}(z,y|x)$ implies $\text{INDEP}(X,Y|Z)$ ”.