

A Proofs

A.1 Theorem 1

Let $a^* = do(\mathbf{X}_{\mathcal{I}} = x_{\mathcal{I}} + \theta^*)$ be the minimum-cost recourse action for a classifier h and an individual x . Assume that a^* is a robust recourse action, that is, $h(\mathbb{C}\mathbb{F}(\mathbb{C}\mathbb{F}(x, \Delta), a^*)) = 1 \forall \|\Delta\| \leq \epsilon$. Consider any \mathcal{I}_j such that for all $i \in \mathcal{I}$, \mathbf{X}_i is not a causal descendent of $\mathbf{X}_{\mathcal{I}_j}$. Consider $e_j \in \mathbb{R}^{|\mathcal{I}|}$ such that $(e_j)_j = 1$ and $(e_j)_i = 0 \forall i \neq j$. Then the action $a = do(\mathbf{X}_{\mathcal{I}} = x_{\mathcal{I}} - \theta^* + \alpha e_j \text{sign}(\theta_j))$ is a valid recourse action, since $h(\mathbb{C}\mathbb{F}(x, a)) = h(\mathbb{C}\mathbb{F}(\mathbb{C}\mathbb{F}(x, \alpha e_j \text{sign}(\theta_j)), a^*)) = 1$ for any $\alpha \leq \epsilon$, per the assumption that a^* is robust, and given that $a \in \mathcal{F}(x)$ per assumption ii) in the Theorem. Furthermore, per assumption i) in the Theorem (strict convexity of the cost function), it must be that $c(x, a) < c(x, a^*)$, which is a contradiction on a^* being a minimum-cost recourse action, and consequently the minimum-recourse action a^* must be fragile to perturbations x .

A.2 Lemma 1

Per assumption, there exists some $x^+ \in \mathcal{X}$ such that $h(x^+) = 1$ for all $x' \in B(x^+)$, where $B(x^+) = \{\mathbb{C}\mathbb{F}(x^+, \Delta) \mid \|\Delta\| \leq \epsilon\}$. For any given individual x , the action $a = do(\mathbf{X} = x + (x^+ - x))$ results in the counterfactual individual $x^{\mathbb{C}\mathbb{F}} = \mathbb{C}\mathbb{F}(x, a) = x^+$. The action a is feasible, since all features are actionable. The action a is a recourse action, since $h(x^{\mathbb{C}\mathbb{F}}) = h(x^+) = 1$. Since the action a hard intervenes on all features, $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{F}(\mathbb{C}\mathbb{F}(x, \Delta), a) = \mathbb{C}\mathbb{F}(\mathbb{C}\mathbb{F}(x, a), \Delta) = \mathbb{C}\mathbb{F}(x^+, \Delta)$, and consequently $\{\mathbb{C}\mathbb{F}(\mathbb{C}\mathbb{F}(x, \Delta), a) \mid \|\Delta\| \leq \epsilon\} = \{\mathbb{C}\mathbb{F}(x^+, \Delta) \mid \|\Delta\| \leq \epsilon\} = B(x^+)$. It follows that a is a robust recourse action, since $h(x') = 1$ for all $x' \in B(x^+)$.

A.3 Lemma 2

Per assumption, there exists some feature \mathbf{X}_j such that \mathbf{X}_j is actionable and unbounded, and \mathbf{X}_j affects its causal descendants linearly. Consider the recourse action $a = do(\mathbf{X}_j = x_j + \theta)$ for $\theta \in \mathbb{R}$. Per Theorem 2, we must find a recourse action such that $\langle w, \mathbb{C}\mathbb{F}(x, a) \rangle \geq b'$. Due to the linearity assumptions on the SCM, $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{F}(x, a) = x + \theta v$ for some $v \in \mathbb{R}^n$. Then, $\langle w, \mathbb{C}\mathbb{F}(x, a) \rangle = \langle w, x + \theta v \rangle = \langle w, x \rangle + \theta \langle w, v \rangle$. A robust recourse action is equivalent to any θ such that $\theta \langle w, v \rangle \geq b' - \langle w, x \rangle$. If $\langle w, v \rangle \neq 0$ (i.e., the non-trivial case where the weights of the classifier are not chosen adversarially to the SCM), then clearly it is possible to set θ to have arbitrarily large magnitude and same sign as $\langle w, v \rangle$, such that the inequality above is met. Since \mathbf{X}_j is actionable and unbounded, $a = do(\mathbf{X}_j = x_j + \theta)$ is a feasible action. Consequently, a is a robust recourse action.

A.4 Theorem 2

The adversarially robust recourse problem is defined as

$$\min_{a=do(\mathbf{X}_{\mathcal{I}}=x_{\mathcal{I}}+\theta)} \max_{x' \in B(x)} c(x, a) \quad \text{s.t.} \quad a \in \mathcal{F}(x') \wedge h(\mathbb{C}\mathbb{F}(x', a)) = 1 \quad (8)$$

Assuming $h(x) = \langle w, x \rangle \geq b$ and $\mathcal{F}(x) = \mathcal{F}(x') \forall x' \in B(x)$

$$\min_{a=do(\mathbf{X}_{\mathcal{I}}=x_{\mathcal{I}}+\theta)} \max_{x' \in B(x)} c(x, a) \quad \text{s.t.} \quad a \in \mathcal{F}(x) \wedge \langle w, (\mathbb{C}\mathbb{F}(x', a)) \rangle \geq b \quad (9)$$

For an action a to be robust feasible, the second constrain must hold for every $x' \in B(x)$, that is,

$$\left(\min_{x' \in B(x)} \langle w, (\mathbb{C}\mathbb{F}(x, a)) \rangle \right) \geq b \quad (10)$$

Consequently, Equation 9 is equivalent to

$$\min_{a=do(\mathbf{X}_{\mathcal{I}}=x_{\mathcal{I}}+\theta)} c(a) \quad \text{s.t.} \quad a \in \mathcal{F}(x) \wedge \left(\min_{x' \in B(x)} \langle w, (\mathbb{C}\mathbb{F}(x, a)) \rangle \right) \geq b \quad (11)$$

Then since the SCM \mathcal{M} is linear

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbb{C}\mathbb{F}(\mathbb{C}\mathbb{F}(x, \Delta), a) &= \mathbb{S}^a (\mathbb{S}^{-1}(x')) \\
&= \mathbb{S}^a (\mathbb{S}^{-1}(\mathbb{S}^\Delta (\mathbb{S}^{-1}(x)))) \\
&= \mathbb{S}^a (\mathbb{S}^{-1}(\mathbb{S}(\mathbb{S}^{-1}(x) + \Delta))) \\
&= \mathbb{S}^a (\mathbb{S}^{-1}(x) + \Delta) \\
&= \mathbb{S}^a (\mathbb{S}^{-1}(x)) + \mathbb{S}^a (\Delta) \\
&= \mathbb{C}\mathbb{F}(x, a) + J_{\mathbb{S}^x} \Delta
\end{aligned} \tag{12}$$

where $J_{\mathbb{S}^x}$ denotes the Jacobian of the interventional mapping \mathbb{S}^x . Then

$$\begin{aligned}
\min_{x' \in B(x)} \langle w, \mathbb{C}\mathbb{F}(x, a) \rangle &= \min_{\|\Delta\| \leq \epsilon} \langle w, \mathbb{C}\mathbb{F}(x, a) + J_{\mathbb{S}^x} \Delta \rangle \\
&= \langle w, \mathbb{C}\mathbb{F}(x, a) \rangle + \min_{\|\Delta\| \leq \epsilon} \langle w, J_{\mathbb{S}^x} \Delta \rangle \\
&= \langle w, \mathbb{C}\mathbb{F}(x, a) \rangle - \|J_{\mathbb{S}^x}^T w\|^* \epsilon
\end{aligned} \tag{13}$$

Consequently the optimization problem in Equation 11 reduces to

$$\min_{a = do(\mathbf{X}_{\mathcal{I}} = x_{\mathcal{I}} + \theta)} c(x, a) \quad \text{s.t.} \quad a \in \mathcal{F}(x) \wedge \langle w, \mathbb{C}\mathbb{F}(x, a) \rangle \geq b + \|J_{\mathbb{S}^x}^T w\|^* \epsilon \tag{14}$$

The corollary follows directly, since under the IMF assumption $J_{\mathbb{S}^x} = I$, and then Equation 14 resembles the definition of the recourse problem in Equation 1 for the classifier

$$h(x) = \langle w, x \rangle \geq b + \|w\|^* \epsilon \tag{15}$$

A.5 Theorem 3

Per Theorem 2, the robust recourse action $a' = do(\mathbf{X}_{\mathcal{I}} = x_{\mathcal{I}} + (1 + \beta\epsilon)\theta)$ must satisfy

$$\langle w, \mathbb{C}\mathbb{F}(x, a') \rangle \geq b + \|J_{\mathbb{S}^x}^T w\|^* \epsilon \tag{16}$$

Since the SCM is linear, $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{F}(x, a') = x + J_{\mathbb{S}^x} (1 + \beta\epsilon)\theta$. Then,

$$\begin{aligned}
\langle w, \mathbb{C}\mathbb{F}(x, a') \rangle &= \langle w, x + (1 + \beta\epsilon)J_{\mathbb{S}^x} \theta \rangle \\
&= \langle w, x + J_{\mathbb{S}^x} \theta \rangle + \beta\epsilon \langle w, J_{\mathbb{S}^x} \theta \rangle \\
&\geq b + \beta\epsilon \langle w, J_{\mathbb{S}^x} \theta \rangle
\end{aligned} \tag{17}$$

where the last inequality follows by assumption that a is a recourse action for $h(x) = \langle w, x \rangle \geq b$. Consequently, if

$$\beta = \frac{\|J_{\mathbb{S}^x}^T w\|^*}{\langle w, J_{\mathbb{S}^x} \theta \rangle} \tag{18}$$

then Equation 17 satisfies the robust recourse condition in Equation 16.

By assumption that a is a recourse action then $\langle w, J_{\mathbb{S}^x} \theta \rangle > 0$. Then $0 < \beta < \infty$. Consequently, if $a' \in \mathcal{F}(x)$, the action $a' = do(\mathbf{X}_{\mathcal{I}} = x_{\mathcal{I}} + (1 + \beta\epsilon)\theta)$ is a robust recourse action