What explains causal judgments? Counterfactual versus hypothetical simulations

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What's the question?

Did A prevent B from going through the gate?

What does the model say?

The hypothetical simulation model of causal judgment

People compare what actually happened ...

... with what would have happened if the cause hadn't been there.

Reviewer #2: But counterfactuals and hypotheticals don't come apart here!

So maybe hypotheticals are enough?

Hypothetical

What would happen if A wasn't there?

Counterfactual

What would have happened if A hadn't been there?

Simulation judgments and model predictions

The model captures participants' hypothetical and counterfactual judgments well.

Causal judgments and model predictions

Causal judgments are predicted by counterfactuals and not by hypotheticals.

References
