# **Delineating Causal Pathways to Suicidality Among People at Clinical High Risk for Psychosis**

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Partial Correlations

Correlations

a < b < cb < a < c

Left: Observational Data Contain Clues about Causation. For example, partial correlation patterns can differentiate between unshielded colliders (left cell) and all other potential acyclic graphs with three nodes. Middle: Example search space adjacent graphs differ by one adjacency traversal. **Right:** GRaSP avoids local maxima while searching this space by performing three different types of tucks, thereby allowing multiple simultaneous traversals.

**Participants:** 266 NAPLS-3 participants. Met COPS criteria. Sample was enriched for high psychosis risk.

**Measures**: Demographics, psychosis & depression symptoms, sleep quality, trauma history, social functioning and perceptions.

- **Baseline + 2 mo. assessments only** (algorithm requires no missing data).
- **Outliers winsorized**
- Mean suicidality was 0.86, suggesting occasional thoughts of suicide and/or frequent thoughts of being better off dead.



# Method

### Algorithm, Parameters, and **Benchmarking:**

- **GRaSP was selected**, default parameters were used, 1000 bootstrapped resamples to evaluate stability
- Uncertainty Resolution: via LiNGAM
- **Prior Knowledge**: Temporal priority only
- Simulation Study: GRaSP will have 75% precision, 73% recall for causal adjacency
- Effect Size Estimation: By fitting SEM based on final graph to the data.
- Intervention on Suicidality: Targets identified via IDA







## Discussion

**Causal Ancestors of Suicidality:** Depression symptoms (ex: hopelessness, depressed mood, self-deprecation), attenuated positive and disorganized psychosis symptoms, childhood trauma **Mere Correlates:** Attenuated negative symptoms (via hopelessness)

Intervention Targets: <u>Baseline</u> depressed mood (total effect: 0.45), hopelessness (0.39), self-deprecation (0.39). 2mo depressed mood (total effect: 0.46), morning depression (0.33), sleep quality (0.30)

**Connection to Theory and Past Work:** Joiner's IPTS implicates Thwarted Belongingness, which was *not* a cause of greater suicidality. Suggests that mediation of trauma-suicide relation by depression is causal, mainly due to pathological guilt.

**Limitations:** CDSS suicide item places ideation and action on one spectrum, but causes differ. Unknown impact of rightskew/zero-inflation on GRaSP. Single item measures mean limited (co-)variance, Type II error risk. Low mean suicidality.

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