A PROOF FOR THEOREM 3.1

Proof. To estimate $p(y|\boldsymbol{x}, do(\boldsymbol{z}_s))$, we introduce variables \boldsymbol{Z}_c :

$$p(y|\boldsymbol{x}, do(\boldsymbol{z}_s)) = \int_{\boldsymbol{z}_c} p(y|\boldsymbol{z}_c, \boldsymbol{x}, do(\boldsymbol{z}_s)) p(\boldsymbol{z}_c|\boldsymbol{x}, do(\boldsymbol{z}_s)) \, \mathrm{d}\boldsymbol{z}_c$$
(7)

We can simplify the calculation of $p(y|z_c, x, do(z_s))$ using Pearl's Do-Calculus Rules.

$$p(y|\boldsymbol{z}_{c},\boldsymbol{x},do(\boldsymbol{z}_{s})) = p(y|\boldsymbol{z}_{c},do(\boldsymbol{z}_{s})) \quad (Y \perp \boldsymbol{X}|\boldsymbol{Z}_{c},\boldsymbol{Z}_{s})_{\mathcal{G}_{\overline{\boldsymbol{z}_{s}}}} \quad \text{According to Rule 1}$$
$$= p(y|\boldsymbol{z}_{c}) \quad (Y \perp \boldsymbol{Z}_{s}|\boldsymbol{Z}_{c})_{\mathcal{G}_{\overline{\boldsymbol{z}_{s}}}} \quad \text{According to Rule 3}$$
(8)

We employ the Backdoor Adjustment Theorem and Pearl's Do-Calculus Rule 2 to estimate $p(z_c|x, do(z_s))$,

$$p(\boldsymbol{z}_{c}|\boldsymbol{x}, do(\boldsymbol{z}_{s})) = \frac{p(\boldsymbol{z}_{c}|do(\boldsymbol{z}_{s}))p(\boldsymbol{x}|\boldsymbol{z}_{s}, do(\boldsymbol{z}_{s}))}{p(\boldsymbol{x}|do(\boldsymbol{z}_{s}))} \quad \text{Bayes's Theorem}$$

$$= \frac{p(\boldsymbol{z}_{s}|do(\boldsymbol{z}_{s}))p(\boldsymbol{x}|\boldsymbol{z}_{c}, \boldsymbol{z}_{s})}{p(\boldsymbol{x}|do(\boldsymbol{z}_{s}))} \quad (\boldsymbol{X} \perp \boldsymbol{Z}_{s}|\boldsymbol{Z}_{c})_{\mathcal{G}_{\underline{Z}_{s}}} \quad \text{According to Rule 2}$$

$$(9)$$

Between Z_s, Z_c , there is a valid backdoor path from $Z_c \leftarrow Y \leftarrow U_{xy} \rightarrow Z_s$, we can directly apply the Backdoor Adjustment Theorem with a valid adjusting set $\{Y\}$:

$$p(\boldsymbol{z}_{c}|do(\boldsymbol{z}_{s})) = \sum_{y} p(\boldsymbol{z}_{c}|y, \boldsymbol{z}_{s})p(y)$$
$$= \sum_{y} p(\boldsymbol{z}_{c}|y)p(y) \quad (\boldsymbol{Z}_{c} \perp \boldsymbol{Z}_{s}|Y)_{\mathcal{G}}$$
$$= p(\boldsymbol{z}_{c})$$
(10)

Between Z_s, X , there is a valid backdoor path from $X \leftarrow Z_c \leftarrow Y \leftarrow U_{xy} \rightarrow Z_s$. We are able to adjust on $\{Y\}, \{Z_c\}$ or $\{Y, Z_c\}^3$ In our case, we choose to adjust on $\{Z_c\}$:

$$p(\boldsymbol{x}|do(\boldsymbol{z}_s)) \stackrel{\text{Adjust on } \boldsymbol{Z}_c}{=} \int_{\boldsymbol{z}_c} p(\boldsymbol{x}|\boldsymbol{z}_c, \boldsymbol{z}_s) p(\boldsymbol{z}_c) \, \mathrm{d}\boldsymbol{z}_c$$
(11)

Substitute Eq. equation 10, equation 11 into Eq. equation 9, we obtain:

$$p(\boldsymbol{z}_c | \boldsymbol{x}, do(\boldsymbol{z}_s)) = \frac{p(\boldsymbol{x} | \boldsymbol{z}_c, \boldsymbol{z}_s) p(\boldsymbol{z}_c)}{\int_{\boldsymbol{z}_c} p(\boldsymbol{x} | \boldsymbol{z}_c, \boldsymbol{z}_s) p(\boldsymbol{z}_c) \, \mathrm{d}\boldsymbol{z}_c}$$
(12)

Substitute Eq. equation 12 and equation 8 into Eq. equation 7, we obtain Eq. equation 1 in **Theorem** 3.1:

$$p(y|\boldsymbol{x}, do(\boldsymbol{z}_s)) = \int_{\boldsymbol{z}_c} p(y|\boldsymbol{z}_c, \boldsymbol{x}, do(\boldsymbol{z}_s)) p(\boldsymbol{z}_c|\boldsymbol{x}, do(\boldsymbol{z}_s)) \, \mathrm{d}\boldsymbol{z}_c$$

$$= \int_{\boldsymbol{z}_c} p(y|\boldsymbol{z}_c) \frac{p(\boldsymbol{x}|\boldsymbol{z}_c, \boldsymbol{z}_s) p(\boldsymbol{z}_c)}{\int_{\boldsymbol{z}_c} p(\boldsymbol{x}|\boldsymbol{z}_c, \boldsymbol{z}_s) p(\boldsymbol{z}_c) \, \mathrm{d}\boldsymbol{z}_c} \, \mathrm{d}\boldsymbol{z}_c$$
(13)

³The equations for conditioning on those three different adjusting sets are the same.

B DERIVATIONS

B.1 THE DERIVATION IN EQ. (2)

$$\begin{split} \mathbb{E}_{p(\boldsymbol{z}_{s}|\boldsymbol{x})}[p(\boldsymbol{y}|\boldsymbol{x}, do(\boldsymbol{z}_{s}))] = & \mathbb{E}_{p(\boldsymbol{z}_{s}|\boldsymbol{x})}[\frac{\int_{\boldsymbol{z}_{c}} p(\boldsymbol{y}|\boldsymbol{z}_{c})p(\boldsymbol{x}|\boldsymbol{z}_{c}, \boldsymbol{z}_{s})p(\boldsymbol{z}_{c})\,\mathrm{d}\boldsymbol{z}_{c}}{\int_{\boldsymbol{z}_{c}} p(\boldsymbol{x}|\boldsymbol{z}_{c}, \boldsymbol{z}_{s})p(\boldsymbol{z}_{c})\,\mathrm{d}\boldsymbol{z}_{c}}] \\ \approx & \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^{N} [\sum_{l=1}^{L} p(\boldsymbol{y}|\boldsymbol{z}_{c,l}) \frac{p(\boldsymbol{x}|\boldsymbol{z}_{c,l}, \boldsymbol{z}_{s,n})}{\sum_{l'=1}^{L} p(\boldsymbol{x}|\boldsymbol{z}_{c,l'}, \boldsymbol{z}_{s,n})}], \boldsymbol{z}_{c,l} \sim p(\boldsymbol{z}_{c}), \boldsymbol{z}_{s,n} \sim p(\boldsymbol{z}_{s}|\boldsymbol{x}) \\ = & \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^{N} [\sum_{l=1}^{L} p(\boldsymbol{y}|\boldsymbol{z}_{c,l}) \boldsymbol{\omega}(\boldsymbol{z}_{c,l}, \boldsymbol{z}_{s,n})], \text{where } \boldsymbol{\omega}(\boldsymbol{z}_{c,l}, \boldsymbol{z}_{s,n}) = \frac{p(\boldsymbol{x}|\boldsymbol{z}_{c,l}, \boldsymbol{z}_{s,n})}{\sum_{l'=1}^{L} p(\boldsymbol{x}|\boldsymbol{z}_{c,l'}, \boldsymbol{z}_{s,n})} \\ (14) \end{split}$$

B.2 THE DERIVATION OF THE MARGINAL LIKELIHOOD IN EQ. (4)

We character the joint likelihood over the variables in the proposed SCM. However, there are 6 variables of interest and only the observations for 2 of them are available. Therefore, we start from the marginal likelihood p(x, y).

$$\begin{split} &\log p(x,y) \\ &= \log \int_{z_c} \int_{z_c} \int_{z_c} \sum_{u_s} \sum_{u_{sy}} p(u_x, u_{xy}, z_s, z_c, x, y) \, \mathrm{d}z_c \, \mathrm{d}z_s \\ &= \log \int_{z_c} \int_{z_c} \int_{z_s} \sum_{u_s} \sum_{u_{sy}} p(u_x) p(u_{xy}) p(z_s | u_x, u_{xy}) p(y|u_{xy}) p(z_c | y) p(x | z_s, z_c) \, \mathrm{d}z_c \, \mathrm{d}z_s \quad \text{Bayesian Network Chain Rule} \\ &= \log \frac{1}{p(y)} \int_{z_c} \int_{z_s} \sum_{u_s} \sum_{u_{sy}} p(u_x) p(u_{xy}) p(z_s | u_x, u_{xy}) p(y | u_{xy}) p(y | z_c) p(z_c) p(x | z_s, z_c) \, \mathrm{d}z_c \, \mathrm{d}z_s \quad \text{Bayes Theorem} \\ &= \log \frac{1}{p(y)} + \log \int_{z_c} \int_{z_s} \sum_{u_s} \sum_{u_{sy}} p(u_x) p(u_{xy}) p(z_s | u_x, u_{xy}) p(y | u_{xy}) p(y | z_c) p(z_c) p(x | z_s, z_c) \, \mathrm{d}z_c \, \mathrm{d}z_s \\ &\geq \log \int_{z_c} \int_{z_s} \left[\sum_{u_s} \sum_{u_{sy}} p(u_x) p(u_{xy}) p(z_s | u_x, u_{xy}) p(y | u_{xy}) p(y | z_c) p(z_c) p(x | z_s, z_c) \, \mathrm{d}z_c \, \mathrm{d}z_s \\ &= \log \int_{z_c} \int_{z_s} \left[\sum_{u_s} \sum_{u_{sy}} p(u_x) p(u_{xy}) p(z_s | u_x, u_{xy}) p(y | u_{xy}) \right] p(y | z_c) p(z_c) p(x | z_s, z_c) \, \mathrm{d}z_c \, \mathrm{d}z_s \\ &= \log \int_{z_c} \int_{z_s} \left[\sum_{u_s} \sum_{u_{sy}} p(u_{xy}) p(z_s | u_{xy}, u_{yy}) p(y | u_{xy}) \right] p(y | z_c) p(z_c) p(x | z_s, z_c) \, \mathrm{d}z_c \, \mathrm{d}z_s \\ &= \log \int_{z_c} \int_{z_s} \int_{z_s} \sum_{u_{sy}} p(u_{xy}) p(z_s | u_{xy}) p(y | u_{xy}) \right] p(y | z_c) p(z_c) p(x | z_s, z_c) \, \mathrm{d}z_c \, \mathrm{d}z_s \\ &= \log \int_{z_c} \int_{z_s} \int_{z_s} \sum_{u_{sy}} p(u_{xy}) p(z_s | u_{xy}) p(y | u_{xy}) \right] p(y | z_c) p(z_c) p(x | z_s, z_c) \, \mathrm{d}z_c \, \mathrm{d}z_s \\ &= \log E_q(z_s, z_c | x) \left[\frac{\sum_{u_{sy}} p(u_{xy}) p(z_s | u_{xy}) p(y | u_{xy}) \right] p(y | z_c) p(z_c) p(x | z_s, z_c)}{q(z_s, x_c | x)} \right] \\ &= \log E_q(z_s, z_c | x) \log \left[\frac{\sum_{u_{sy}} p(u_{xy}) p(z_s | u_{xy}) p(y | u_{xy}) \right] p(y | z_c) p(z_c) p(x | z_s, z_c)}{q(z_s | x | q(z_c | x)}) \right] \\ &= \log E_q(z_s, z_c | x) \log \left[\frac{\sum_{u_{sy}} p(u_{xy}) p(z_s | u_{xy}) p(y | u_{xy}) \right] p(y | z_c) p(z_c) p(x | z_s, z_c)}{q(z_s | x | q(z_c | x))} \right] \\ &= \log (z_s, z_s | z) \log \left[\frac{\sum_{u_{sy}} p(u_{xy}) p(z_s | u_{xy}) p(y | u_{xy}) p(y | u_{xy})}{q(z_s | x | q(z_c | x))} \right] \\ &= E_q(z_s, z_s | z) \log \left[\frac{\sum_{u_{sy}} p(u_{xy}) p(z_s | u_{xy}) p(y | u_{xy})}{q(z_s | x)}}{q(z_s | x)} \right] \\ \\ &=$$

We further simplify the first term as follows,

$$\begin{split} \mathbb{E}_{q(\boldsymbol{z}_{s}|\boldsymbol{x})} \log \frac{\left[\sum_{u_{xy}} p(u_{xy}) p(\boldsymbol{z}_{s}|u_{xy})\right]}{q(\boldsymbol{z}_{s}|\boldsymbol{x})} \\ = \mathbb{E}_{q(\boldsymbol{z}_{s}|\boldsymbol{x})} \log \left[\sum_{u_{xy}} \frac{p(\boldsymbol{z}_{s}|u_{xy}) p(\boldsymbol{y}|u_{xy})}{q(\boldsymbol{z}_{s}|\boldsymbol{x})} p(u_{xy})\right] \\ = \mathbb{E}_{q(\boldsymbol{z}_{s}|\boldsymbol{x})} \log \mathbb{E}_{p(u_{xy})} \frac{p(\boldsymbol{z}_{s}|u_{xy}) p(\boldsymbol{y}|u_{xy})}{q(\boldsymbol{z}_{s}|\boldsymbol{x})} \\ \geq \mathbb{E}_{q(\boldsymbol{z}_{s}|\boldsymbol{x})} \mathbb{E}_{p(u_{xy})} \log \left[\frac{p(\boldsymbol{z}_{s}|u_{xy}) p(\boldsymbol{y}|u_{xy})}{q(\boldsymbol{z}_{s}|\boldsymbol{x})}\right] \quad \text{Jensen's inequality} \\ = \mathbb{E}_{q(\boldsymbol{z}_{s}|\boldsymbol{x})} \mathbb{E}_{p(u_{xy})} \left[\log \frac{p(\boldsymbol{z}_{s}|u_{xy}) p(\boldsymbol{y}|u_{xy})}{q(\boldsymbol{z}_{s}|\boldsymbol{x})}\right] \quad \text{Jensen's inequality} \\ = \mathbb{E}_{q(\boldsymbol{z}_{s}|\boldsymbol{x})} \mathbb{E}_{p(\boldsymbol{u}_{xy})} \mathbb{E}_{q(\boldsymbol{z}_{s}|\boldsymbol{x})} \left[\log \frac{p(\boldsymbol{z}_{s}|u_{xy})}{q(\boldsymbol{z}_{s}|\boldsymbol{x})} + \log p(\boldsymbol{y}|u_{xy})\right] \\ = \mathbb{E}_{p(u_{xy})} \mathbb{E}_{q(\boldsymbol{z}_{s}|\boldsymbol{x})} \left[\log \frac{p(\boldsymbol{z}_{s}|u_{xy})}{q(\boldsymbol{z}_{s}|\boldsymbol{x})}\right] + \mathbb{E}_{p(u_{xy})} \log p(\boldsymbol{y}|u_{xy}) \text{ Re-introduce } U_{x} \\ = \mathbb{E}_{p(u_{xy})} \mathbb{E}_{q(\boldsymbol{z}_{s}|\boldsymbol{x})} \left[\log \frac{\sum_{u_{x}} p(\boldsymbol{z}_{s}|u_{x}, u_{xy}) p(\boldsymbol{u}_{x}|u_{xy})}{q(\boldsymbol{z}_{s}|\boldsymbol{x})}\right] + \mathbb{E}_{p(u_{xy})} \log p(\boldsymbol{y}|u_{xy}) \quad U_{x} \perp U_{xy} \\ = \mathbb{E}_{p(u_{xy})} \mathbb{E}_{q(\boldsymbol{z}_{s}|\boldsymbol{x})} \left[\log \mathbb{E}_{p(u_{x})} \frac{p(\boldsymbol{z}_{s}|u_{x}, u_{xy})}{q(\boldsymbol{z}_{s}|\boldsymbol{x})}\right] + \mathbb{E}_{p(u_{xy})} \log p(\boldsymbol{y}|u_{xy}) \quad U_{x} \perp U_{xy} \\ = \mathbb{E}_{p(u_{xy})} \mathbb{E}_{q(\boldsymbol{z}_{s}|\boldsymbol{x})} \left[\log \mathbb{E}_{p(u_{x})} \frac{p(\boldsymbol{z}_{s}|u_{x}, u_{xy})}{q(\boldsymbol{z}_{s}|\boldsymbol{x})}\right] + \mathbb{E}_{p(u_{xy})} \log p(\boldsymbol{y}|u_{xy}) \\ \geq \mathbb{E}_{p(u_{xy})} \mathbb{E}_{p(u_{x})} \mathbb{E}_{q(\boldsymbol{z}_{s}|\boldsymbol{x})} \left[\log \frac{p(\boldsymbol{z}_{s}|u_{x}, u_{xy})}{q(\boldsymbol{z}_{s}|\boldsymbol{x})}\right] + \mathbb{E}_{p(u_{xy})} \log p(\boldsymbol{y}|u_{xy}) \quad \text{Jensen's inequality} \\ = - \mathbb{E}_{p(u_{x}, u_{xy})} KL(q(\boldsymbol{z}_{s}|\boldsymbol{x})||p(\boldsymbol{z}_{s}|u_{x}, u_{xy})) + \mathbb{E}_{p(u_{xy})} \log p(\boldsymbol{y}|u_{xy}) \\ = - \mathbb{E}_{p(u_{x}, u_{xy})} KL(q(\boldsymbol{z}_{s}|\boldsymbol{x})||p(\boldsymbol{z}_{s}|u_{x}, u_{xy})) + \mathbb{E}_{p(u_{xy})} \log p(\boldsymbol{y}|u_{xy}) \end{split}$$

We parameterize the encoder distributions using parameter $\Theta = \{\Theta_s, \Theta_c\}$, denoted as $q_{\Theta_s}(\mathbf{z}_s|\mathbf{x})$ and $q_{\Theta_c}(\mathbf{z}_c|\mathbf{x})$, the decoder distribution with parameter Φ as $p_{\Phi}(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{z}_c, \mathbf{z}_s)$, and the classifier distribution with parameter Ψ as $p_{\Psi}(y|\mathbf{z}_c)$. During training, we optimize these defined parameters to construct the corresponding distributions. Additionally, we make assumptions or estimations about the prior distributions, specifically $p(\mathbf{z}_c)$ and $p(\mathbf{z}_s|u_x, u_{xy})$, to help regularize the learning of representations. Notably, we do not parameterize over $p(y|u_{xy})$, as it is not necessary for either obtaining representations or computing interventional distributions. As a result, we omit the term $\mathbb{E}_{p(u_{xy})} \log p(y|u_{xy})$, as it is independent of the parameters for optimization. By combining Eq. [15] with Eq. [16], we propose the following training objective for the causal representation learning procedure:

$$\mathcal{L}_{obj}(\boldsymbol{x}, y, \Theta, \Phi, \Psi) = -\mathbb{E}_{p(u_x, u_{xy})} KL(q_{\Theta_s}(\boldsymbol{z}_s | \boldsymbol{x}) || p(\boldsymbol{z}_s | u_x, u_{xy})) - KL(q_{\Theta_c}(\boldsymbol{z}_c | \boldsymbol{x}) || p(\boldsymbol{z}_c)) + \mathbb{E}_{q_{\Theta_c}(\boldsymbol{z}_c | \boldsymbol{x})} \log p_{\Psi}(y | \boldsymbol{z}_c) + \mathbb{E}_{q_{\Theta}(\boldsymbol{z}_c, \boldsymbol{z}_s | \boldsymbol{x})} \log p_{\Phi}(\boldsymbol{x} | \boldsymbol{z}_c, \boldsymbol{z}_s)$$
(17)

C EMPIRICAL ABLATION STUDY

In this section, we perform three ablation studies: 1) We show the sensitivity of our proposed CRLII method with respect to the value of |U| that we specify during SCM parameterization and learning. 2) We demonstrate the necessity of our intervention inference approach due to the imperfect disentanglement between z_s and z_c . 3) We provide a detailed approach to choose the number of $z_{c,l}$ that we need to obtain to perform interventional inference.

C.1 The number of domains

In this section, we explore how varying the number of domains |U| affects out-of-distribution (OOD) prediction performance. We incrementally increase the values of |U| from 1 to 5 and present the corresponding prediction performance in Figure 5.

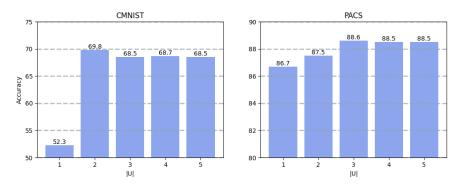


Figure 5: Ablation study on the influence from the number of domains |U|. The results on PACS dataset are averaged over four domains.

The findings from Figure **5** reveal that our method exhibits its poorest performance when the number of domains, denoted as |U|, is set to 1. In such a scenario, the assumption is made that z_s follows a Gaussian distribution, and its prior distribution mirrors that of z_c . This results in a compromise in the asymmetry regularization between the two types of representations, leading to suboptimal disentanglement. The restoration of this asymmetry occurs when we set $|U| \ge 2$. However, performance results appear comparable for cases where |U| exceeds 2. The optimal selection of |U| hinges on the dissimilarities between the true data distributions across each domain. In situations involving observational datasets lacking domain-specific information, setting |U| = 2 can still yield a reasonably well-disentangled set of representations.

C.2 INFLUENCE OF INTERVENTIONAL INFERENCE

In Section 4.1, we provide theoretical justification for our choice of interventional inference, driven by the partial disentanglement observed between z_c and z_s during the SCM learning process. In Table 4, our empirical results demonstrate that the z_c representation we obtain still retains information from z_s . Consequently, interventional inference proves effective in further enhancing OOD performance when compared to direct prediction using $p(y|z_c^t)$, where $z_c^t = \arg \max_{z_c} q(z_c|x^t)$.

Datasets	Accuracy (%)	
	Prediction with z_c	Interventional Inference
CMNIST	52.6	69.8
PACS	86.7	88.6
VLCS	76.3	79.1
OfficeHome	67.7	69.5

Table 4: Comparison between prediction and interventional inference.

C.3 The selection of L

For the purpose of inference, we generated a set of z_c samples from the training inputs and computed their weighted sum for $p(y|z_c)$. However, this process proved to be time-consuming and inefficient, especially when dealing with a large number of training inputs. We observed significant variation in the magnitudes of weights assigned to different samples of z_c . Let's denote the obtained samples as $z_{c,1}, z_{c,2}, \dots, z_{c,l}$, with $\omega(z_{c,1}, z_{s,n}) \ge \omega(z_{c,2}, z_{s,n}) \ge \dots \ge \omega(z_{c,L}, z_{s,n})$. Notably, when L > 5, the ratio $\frac{\omega(z_{c,1}, z_{s,n})}{\omega(z_{c,L}, z_{s,n})}$ exceeds 10, and when L > 10, it surpasses 100. In cases where $\omega(z_{c,1}, z_{s,n}) > 100\omega(z_{c,L}, z_{s,n})$, the contribution of $\omega(z_{c,L}, z_{s,n})$ to the weighted sum becomes negligible. Consequently, it becomes unnecessary to consider values of L greater than 10.