

Preface

This project started out with a joint publication with Richard Gill (Gill, van der Laan, Robins, 2000, technical report) on locally efficient estimation in censored data models. Therefore we are particularly grateful to Richard for his contributions. The writing of the book began during Mark van der Laan's sabbatical at the Department of Statistics, University of Auckland, New Zealand, which involved discussions with Alastair Scott and Chris Wild. We owe thanks to Alastair and Chris for their interest, stimulus, and helpful remarks.

An earlier version of this book has been used in a course in the Biostatistics Department at University of California, Berkeley, directed at Ph.D students in biostatistics and statistics. We thank these students for their helpful comments that led to an improved presentation. In spite of the difficulty of the materials, the students were highly motivated to master it and successfully applied the methodology to important practical problems. Collaborations with current and previous Ph.D students on research topics in censored data and causal inference have helped in writing this book. We, therefore, owe thanks to Van der Laan's students Alan Brookhart, Jennifer Bryan, Sunduz Keles, Alan Hubbard, Romain Neugebauer, Maja Pavlic, Katherine Pollard, Chris Quale, Tanya Henneman, Annette Molinaor, and Zhuo Yu and Robins's students Nuala McGrath, Jon Page, and Eric Tchetgen. In addition, collaborations with other researchers have been an important stimulus. In particular, we would like to thank Miguel Hernan, Babette Brumback, Andrea Rotnitzky, Steve Mark, Marshall Joffee, Niels Keiding, Whitney Newey, Jacqueline Wittelman, Steve Cole, Sander Greenland, Ya'acov Ritov, Chris Andrews, Larry Wasserman, Alan Hub-

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