Inferring the connectivity of a complex system from data

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Inferring the connectivity of a complex system from data. First example: brain functional network



Second example: climate networks



⁻ Henk Dijkstra (Universidad de Ultrech)

The climate system as a complex network



Complex network representation of the climate system



Back to the climate system: interpretation (currents, winds, etc.)





Nodes



Time series in each node (e.g. air temperature)

Donges et al, Chaos 2015

Problems with thresholding



- The number of connected components as a function of threshold reveals different structures.
- But thresholding near the dotted lines indicates (inaccurately) that networks 1 and 2 have similar structures.

Giusti et al., J Comput Neurosci (2016) 41:1–14

How to "infer" significant interactions from observed data?

How to "reconstruct" the network?

A classification problem

$$S_{ij} > Th \Rightarrow A_{ij} = 1$$
, else $A_{ij} = 0$

- How to select the threshold?
- In "spatially embedded networks", nearby nodes have the strongest links.
- How to keep weak-but-significant links?
- There are many statistical similarity measures to infer interactions from observations, i.e., to classify:
 - the interaction exists (is significant)
 - the interaction does not exists (or is not significant)

Goal: use a system with known connectivity to test the performance of statistical similarity measures

Observed time series in nodes i and j: $a_i(t)$, $a_j(t)$, t=1, ..., T (normalized $\mu=0, \sigma=1$)

Lagged |cross correlation|: $\rho_{ij}(\tau) = \left| \left\langle a_i(t) a_j(t-\tau) \right\rangle_t \right|$

$$\rho_{ij}(\tau) = \frac{1}{T - \tau_{\max}} \left| \sum_{t=\tau_{\max}}^{T} \left\langle a_i(t) a_j(t - \tau) \right\rangle \right|$$

Statistical Similarity Measure:

$$\begin{split} \mathsf{S}_{ij} &= \max \mid \rho_{ij} \left(\tau \right) \mid \\ &= \mid \rho_{ij} \left(\tau_{ij} \right) \mid \qquad \tau_{ij} \text{ in } \left[0, \tau_{\max} \right] \end{split}$$



We compare with the Mutual Information, computed from probabilities of "raw" values and from ordinal probabilities

Ordinal analysis: a method to find patterns in data

- Consider a time series $x(t) = \{\dots x_i, x_{i+1}, x_{i+2}, \dots\}$
- Which are the possible order relations among three data points?



- Calculate ordinal probabilities by counting how many times each "ordinal pattern" appears.
- Advantages: allows to identify temporal structures & is robust to noise.
- Drawback: information about actual data values is lost.

Bandt and Pompe PRL 88, 174102 (2002)

The Mutual Information: a nonlinear correlation measure

$$MI = \sum_{i \in x} \sum_{j \in y} p(x, y) \log \left(\frac{p(x, y)}{p(x)p(y)} \right)$$

• MI(x,y) = MI(y,x)

•
$$p(x,y) = p(x) p(y) \Rightarrow MI = 0$$
, else $MI > 0$

■ MI value significant? ⇒ Analysis of surrogate data

Dynamical system: Kuramoto phase oscillators

Kuramoto model

(Japanese physicist, 1975)

Model of all-to-all coupled phase oscillators.

$$\frac{d\theta_i}{dt} = \omega_i + \frac{K}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N \sin(\theta_j - \theta_i) + \xi_i, \quad i = 1...N$$



K = coupling strength, ξ_i = stochastic term (noise)

Describes the emergence of collective behavior How to quantify? With the **order parameter**: $re^{i\psi} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} e^{i\theta_i}$

r =0 incoherent state (oscillators scattered in the unit circle) r =1 all oscillators are in phase ($\theta_i = \theta_i \forall i, j$)

Synchronization transition as the coupling strength increases



Strogatz, Nature 2001

Kuramoto oscillators in a random network



Results of a 100 simulations with different oscillators' frequencies, random matrices, noise realizations and initial conditions.

For each K, the threshold was varied to obtain optimal reconstruction.

G. Tirabassi et al., "Inferring the connectivity of coupled oscillators from time-series statistical similarity analysis", Sci. Rep. **5** 10829 (2015).

Instantaneous frequencies (d0/dt)



Perfect network inference is possible!

BUT

- the number of oscillators is small (12),
- the coupling is symmetric (\Rightarrow only 66 possible links) and
- the data sets are long (10⁴ points)

G. Tirabassi et al, Sci. Rep. 5 10829 (2015)

We also analyzed experimental data recorded from 12 chaotic Rössler electronic oscillators (symmetric and random coupling)



The Hilbert Transform was used to obtain phases from experimental data Kuramoto Oscillators'
 Rössler Oscillators'
 Network
 Network

$$\theta_{i}$$

$$f_{i} = \dot{\theta}_{i}$$

$$Y_{i} = \sin(\theta_{i})$$

$$\varphi_{i} = HT(x_{i})$$

$$f_{i} = \dot{\varphi}_{i}$$

$$x_{i}$$

Results obtained with experimental data

0.8

Observed variable (x)

Hilbert phase



1

V

0.8

20

How the similarity values and lag times depend on the coupling strength?

12 electronic chaotic circuits



N. Rubido and C. Masoller, "*Impact of lag information on network inference*", Eur. Phys. J. Special Topics **227**, 1243-1250 (2018).

Can we use lag-time information to infer the links?

If $S_{ij} > TH$ the link i $\leftarrow \rightarrow$ j exists, otherwise, it does not exist If $\tau_{ij} < \tau_{TH}$ the link i $\leftarrow \rightarrow$ j exists, otherwise, it does not exist

Three possible rules:

The link i $\leftarrow \rightarrow$ j exists if

- SIM : only the first criterion holds (S_{ii} > TH)
- AND: both criteria hold ($S_{ij} > TH$ and $\tau_{ij} < \tau_{TH}$)
- OR: at least one criteria holds ($S_{ij} > TH$ or $\tau_{ij} < \tau_{TH}$)

To quantify how good these rules are we use the area under the receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve





Uncoupled oscillators

Coupled oscillators



Results

50 Kuramoto phase oscillators, 10% existing links, Similarity $\rho_{ij} = \max_{\tau} \text{cross-correlation of } \cos(\phi_i), \cos(\phi_j)$



Variation of similarity and τ_{ii} values with the coupling



Explosive transition to synchrony

Oscillators can be linked only if they have different frequencies:



 $|\omega_i - \omega_j| > \gamma$

Order parameter
$$K = \left\langle \frac{1}{N} \left| \sum_{i=1}^{N} e^{i\phi_i(t)} \right| \right\rangle_T$$

I. Leyva et al. Explosive transitions to synchronization in networked phase oscillators. Scientific Reports 3 (2013) 1281



Results obtained using the *Phase Locking Value* as a measure of the similarity of two oscillators





Coupling strength

Results obtained from experimental data

28 electronic chaotic circuits, randomly connected



Data from: R. Sevilla-Escoboza & J. M. Buldu, Synchronization of networks of chaotic oscillators: Structural and dynamical data sets. Data in Brief 7 (2016) 1185–1189

Summary

- If we know the system's connectivity, lag information seems to be useful for anticipating the transition to synchronization (explosive or not).
- If we don't know the system's connectivity, lag information is not useful for inferring the links (but it could be useful to reduce certain types of mistakes – the false positives or the false negatives).

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION !



