Characterizing and detecting critical transitions using nonlinear data analysis tools Cristina Masoller

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### **Regime transitions in complex systems**



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### **Classical indications of approaching critical transitions**



 $\Rightarrow$  increase of variance and autocorrelation: *critical slowing down* 

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### Critical slowing down can occur after the bifurcation



at a parameter value well above the bifurcation point. We test experimentally the occurrence of critical slowing down by applying a perturbation to the accessible control parameter and we find that this perturbation leaves the system behavior unaltered, thus providing no useful information on the occurrence of critical slowing down. The theoretical analysis reveals the reasons why these tests fail in predicting an



### Outline

- Analysis method: ordinal analysis
- Application to regime transitions
  - Desertification: High → low biomass (vegetation 2D data observational and simulated)
  - Laser turn-on: Low  $\rightarrow$  high coherence (speckle images)
  - Eyes closed  $\rightarrow$  eyes open (multichannel EEG data)

### Data analysis method: ordinal analysis

$$\{\dots X_i, X_{i+1}, X_{i+2}, \dots\}$$

Possible order relations among three numbers (e.g., 2, 5, 7)



Bandt and Pompe: Phys. Rev. Lett. 2002

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From the frequency of occurrence of the patterns, we calculate the "ordinal probabilities"



### ?

- A. Analyze the probability values; use them as features for ML algorithms
- B. Analyze "information theory measures" (e.g. entropy)— a form of nonlinear dimensionality reduction.

$$H = -\sum_{i=1}^{N} p_i \ln p_i$$

### The number of ordinal patterns increases as D!



A problem for short datasets.

U. Parlitz et al. / Computers in Biology and Medicine 42 (2012) 319-327

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## Example: chaotic time series generated with the Logistic map x(i+1) = r x(i)[1-x(i)] r=3.99



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### "Normal" and "Ordinal" bifurcation diagrams of the Logistic map



Pattern **210** is always forbidden; pattern **012** is more probable as r increases

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### Ordinal analysis has been extensively used



Citations of the original work by Bandt and Pompe (PRL

- to test if a model is good for the data,
- to fit the model's parameters,
- to classify different types of data based on similarities of probabilities of ordinal patterns.

Important advantage: robust to noise & outliers.

I. Leyva, J. M. Martinez, C. Masoller, O. A. Rosso, M. Zanin, "20 Years of Ordinal Patterns: Perspectives and Challenges", EPL 138, 31001 (2022).

# Example of application: analysis of ECG signals



### Analysis of sequences of inter-beat intervals





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- Analysis of raw data (statistics of ordinal patterns is almost unaffected by anomalies - outliers)
- The probabilities are normalized with respect to the smallest and largest values occurring in the data set.

Ulrich Parlitz & coworkers, Computers in Biology and Medicine 42, 319 (2012).

## Permutation entropy: Shannon's entropy computed from ordinal probabilities





### Ordinal analysis of two-dimensional data



Haroldo V. Ribeiro and coworkers, PLoS ONE 7, e40689 (2012)

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# Example of application: analysis of liquid crystal textures





Haroldo V. Ribeiro and coworkers, PRE 99, 013311 (2019)

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Can the variation of the permutation entropy give an early indication of an approaching transition?



### Analysis of high-resolution vegetation data



Data from the Serengeti–Mara ecosystem in northern Tanzania and southern Kenya.

G. Tirabassi, C. Masoller, "Entropy-based early detection of critical transitions in spatial vegetation fields", PNAS 120, e2215667120 (2022).

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### Analysis of low-resolution satellite vegetation data





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Two possible indicators of the desertification transition

### Spatial Permutation Entropy

**Spatial correlation** 

$$H = -\sum_{i=1}^{N} p_i \ln p_i \qquad I = \frac{N}{\sum_i \sum_j w_{ij}} \frac{\sum_i \sum_j w_{ij}(u_i - \bar{u})(u_j - \bar{u})}{\sum_i (u_i - \bar{u})^2}$$

Ordinal patterns defined by the values of 2x2 pixels  $w_{ij}$ =1 if pixels I and j first neighbors, else  $w_{ij}$ =0



### **Results**



**High-resolution data** 

G. Tirabassi, C. Masoller, "Entropy-based early detection of critical transitions in spatial vegetation fields", PNAS 120, e2215667120 (2022).

### To gain insight: simulations of vegetation models



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# Can we test the indicator in controlled experimental data?



### Analysis of the turn-on transition of a diode laser



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### Quick reminder of the interference of coherent waves



## Speckle pattern: generated by the interference / scattering of coherent waves



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## The speckle pattern reveals the level of coherence of the laser light

### **Below threshold**

Low light coherence  $\rightarrow$  low speckle contrast

### **Above threshold**

High light coherence  $\rightarrow$  high speckle contrast



### **Quantification of speckle contrast**





G. Tirabassi et al., "Permutation entropy-based characterization of speckle patterns generated by semiconductor laser light", APL Photonics 8, 126112 (2023).

# Useful for the analysis of more complex, temporal data?



### Analysis of EEG signals recorded from healthy subjects.



### Eyes closed



#### TABLE I. Description of the datasets used.

DTS1	DTS2
256	160
120	60
30720	9600
16	64
71	109
	DTS1 256 120 30720 16 71

#### DTS1: Britbrain (Zaragoza) **DTS2:** Physionet

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### The Permutation Entropy increases in the "eyes open" state

$$\langle \text{PE} \rangle = \frac{1}{N[\text{electrodes}]} \sum_{i} \text{PE}^{i}$$



*C.* Quintero-Quiroz et al., "Differentiating resting brain states using ordinal symbolic analysis", Chaos 28, 106307 (2018).

### Spatial approach to compute the Permutation Entropy



At each time: data values of 64 channels  $\Rightarrow$  62 ordinal patterns to calculate 6 probabilities.

Bruno Boaretto and coworkers, "Spatial permutation entropy distinguishes resting brain states", Chaos, Solitons & Fractals 171, 113453 (2023).

### Four approaches to calculate the permutation entropy



### Results



J. Gancio, C. Masoller, G. Tirabassi, "Permutation entropy analysis of EEG signals for distinguishing eyes-open and eyes-closed brain states: Comparison of different approaches", Chaos 34, 043130 (2024).

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### Take home messages and outlook

Ordinal analysis methods allow us to uncover patterns and relationships in data, which can characterize (and sometimes predict) the behavior of complex systems.

- 1. We have shown, in empirical, experimental and synthetic data, that the permutation entropy may give an early indication of an approaching transition.
- 2. It can be used to find differences in high-dimensional datasets.
- 3. Ongoing work: synchronization transition, climate data



- G. Tirabassi and C. Masoller, "Entropy-based early detection of critical transitions in spatial vegetation fields", PNAS 120, e2215667120 (2022).
- G. Tirabassi, M. Duque et. al, "Permutation entropy-based characterization of speckle patterns generated by semiconductor laser light", APL Photonics 8, 126112 (2023).
- J. Gancio et. al, "Permutation entropy analysis of EEG signals for distinguishing eyes-open and eyes-closed brain states: Comparison of different approaches", Chaos 34, 043130 (2024).

### Thank you for your attention!

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