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# A Python/Zig optimized and customizable implementation for the $\rho_{DCCA}$ and $DMC_x^2$ methods

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#### Abstract

This paper presents tha **Zebende**, a Python package written in Python and Zig, that calculates the DFA, DCCA  $\rho_{DCCA}$  and the  $DMC_x^2$ . The package presents an optimized algorithm that significantly improves the calculations speed. A comparison with other packages that calculates the  $\rho_{DCCA}$ . The package is also the first to implement the  $DMC_x^2$  coefficient in a package and the first algorithm to calculates it for any number of time series.

Keywords:  $\rho_{DCCA}$ ,  $DMC_x^2$ , optimization, Python, Zig.

### 1. introduction

The Detrended Cross-correlation Coefficient ( $\rho_{DCCA}$ ) (Zebende 2011) is a widely used coefficient that measures the cross-correlation between two non-stationary time series. It 's an extension of the Detrended Fluctuation Analysis (DFA) (Peng, Buldyrev, Havlin, Simons, Stanley, and Goldberger 1994) and the Detrended Cross-correlation Analysis (DCCA) (Podobnik and Stanley 2008): while the DFA calculates the self-affinity and long-memory properties of a time series data, and the DCCA analyses power-law cross correlations between two different non-stationarity time series, the  $\rho_{DCCA}$  coefficient quantifies this cross-correlation in simple values ranging from -1 to 1, where -1 indicates a perfect anti-correlation between the series, 1 a perfect correlation and zero (0) no correlation at all.

The Detrended Multiple Cross-Correlation Coefficient (Zebende and Silva 2018)  $(DMC_x^2)$  is a generalization of the  $\rho_{DCCA}$  coefficient that correlates one time series (dependent variable) a number of time series (independent variables). The  $DMC_x^2$  values ranges from zero (0), indicating no correlation to 1, meaning perfect correlation or anti-correlation between the

dependent and the independent variables.

This paper presents the **Zebende** Python package, an implementation of the DFA, DCCA,  $\rho_{DCCCA}$ ,  $DMC_x^2$  and utility functions related to the methods. In section 2 the steps for calculating the  $\rho_{DCCCA}$  and  $DMC_x^2$  are presented and discussed. Section 3 shows how this library was implemented, the optimization technics and the recommended steps to use the library. In Section 4 the **Zebende** package is compared with other packages for Python and R that calculates the  $\rho_{DCCA}$  in terms of performance and usability, leading to the conclusions in Section 5.

### 2. Algorithms of the coefficients

The algorithms that calculates the  $\rho_{DCCA}$  uses the DFA and the DCCA steps. The  $DMC_x^2$  coefficient uses the  $\rho_{DCCA}$  coefficient and, consequently, also embraces the DFA and the DCCA. The DFA method is described in six steps:

- 1. Taking a time series  $\{x_i\}$  with i ranging from 1 to N, the integrated series  $X_k$  is calculated by  $X_k = \sum_{i=1}^k [x_i \langle x \rangle]$  with k also ranging from 1 to N;
- 2. the  $X_k$  series is divided in N-n boxes of size n(time scale), each box containing n+1 values, starting in i up to i+n;
- 3. for each box, a polynomial (usually of degree 1) best fit is calculated, getting  $\widetilde{X}_{k,i}$  with  $i \leq k \leq (i+n)$ ;
- 4. in each box is calculated:  $f_{DFA}^2(n,i) = \frac{1}{1+n} \sum_{k=i}^{i+n} (X_k \tilde{X}_k)^2$
- 5. for all the boxes of a time scale, the DFA is calculated as:

$$F_{DFA}(n) = \sqrt{\frac{1}{N-n} \sum_{i=1}^{N-n} f_{DFA}^2(n,i)};$$

6. for a number of different timescales (n), with possible values  $4 \leq n \leq \frac{N}{4}$  the  $F_{DFA}$  function is calculated to find a relation among  $F_{DFA} \times n$ 

The DCCA method is very similar to the DFA calculations, with the difference of analyzing two series while the DFA evaluate properties of a single time series. It's also a six steps process:

- 1. Taking two time series with the same length  $\{x\alpha_i\}$  and  $\{x\beta_i\}$  with i ranging from 1 to N, the integrated series  $X\alpha_k$  and  $X\beta_k$  are calculated by  $X_k = \sum_{i=1}^k [x_i \langle x \rangle]$  for each series, with k also ranging from i to N;
- 2.  $X\alpha_k$  and  $X\beta_k$  series are divided in N-n boxes of size n(time scale), each box containing n+1 values, starting in i up to i+n;
- 3. for each box, a polynomial (usually of degree 1) best fit is calculated, getting  $\widetilde{X\alpha_{k,i}}$  and  $\widetilde{X\beta_{k,i}}$ , for series  $\{x\alpha_i\}$  and  $\{x\beta_i\}$  respectively, with  $i \leq k \leq (i+n)$ ;
- 4. in each box is calculated:  $f_{DCCA}^2(n,i) = \frac{1}{1+n} \sum_{k=i}^{i+n} (X\alpha_k \widetilde{X\alpha}_{k,i}) \times (X\beta_k \widetilde{X\beta}_k)$

5. for all the boxes of a time scale, the DCCA is calculated as:

$$F_{DCCA}^{2}(n) = \frac{1}{N-n} \sum_{i=1}^{N-n} f_{DCCA}^{2}(n,i);$$

6. for a number of different timescales (n), with possible values  $4 \le n \le \frac{N}{4}$  the  $F_{DCCA}^2$  function is calculated to find a relation among  $F_{DCCA}^2 \times n$ 

Comparing the algorithms, the first three are basically identical, the only difference is that the DCCA method apply those steps to two series. The step four of the DFA can be considered an analogous of the variance, replacing the average subtraction (in the variance) for the values obtained by the polynomial fit (estimated series); and the equivalent step of the DCCA is, in the same terms, compared to the covariance between the two series. The technique of fitting a curve, interpreted as a trend inside each box, and subtracting the value estimated by the trend from the actual value in the integrated series  $(X_k - \tilde{X}_k)$  from now on will be called **detrended values** (DV). In the DFA algorithm, the  $f_{DCCA}^2(n,i)$  function is the mean of the square of the DV, in DCCA calculations, the  $f_{DCCA}^2(n,i)$  function evaluates the mean of the product of the DV of the two series in each box.

Step five of the DFA calculates the square root of the mean of the values calculates in the previous step for each box, in the DCCA, the mean of the values evaluated for each box is calculated in stead. The last step, in both cases, is more a reminder to repeat the respective previous operations for a number of difference time scales (n).

The  $\rho_{DCCA}$  is measured using Eq. 1. Considering the relation between DFA and variance and DCCA and covariance, the  $\rho_{DCCA}$  resembles Pearson correlation for a time scale n.

$$\rho_{DCCA}(n) = \frac{F_{DCCA (x\alpha, x\beta)}^2(n)}{F_{DFA (x\alpha)}(n) \times F_{DFA (x\beta)}(n)}$$
(1)

The  $DMC_x^2$  is a generalization of the  $\rho_{DCCA}$  that calculates the correlation between one time-series  $\{Y\}$ , as the dependent variable, and a number j of time-series  $\{X_1\}$ ,  $\{X_2\}$ ,  $\{X_3\}$ , ...,  $\{X_j\}$  defined as independent variables. The coefficient is expressed mathematically as:

$$DMC_x^2 \equiv \rho_{Y,X_i}(n)^T \times \rho^{-1}(n) \times \rho_{Y,X_i}(n)$$
(2)

In Eq. 2,  $\rho^{-1}(n)$  represent the inverse of a matrix populated by all possible combinations of  $\rho_{DCCA}$  between independent variables. In Eq. 3, value  $\rho_{X_1,X_2}(n)$ , for instance, is the  $\rho_{DCCA}$  for independent variables  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  calculated with time scale n, occupying position  $\rho_{12}$  of the matrix. Two fundamental characteristics: the first is that the main diagonal values are all ones, since it's position in the matrix denotes the calculation of a cross-correlation between a series and itself. Second, the matrix is symmetric in relation to the main diagonal, as the  $\rho_{DCCA}$  is a commutative operation.

$$\rho^{-1}(n) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \rho_{X_1, X_2}(n) & \rho_{X_1, X_3}(n) & \dots & \rho_{X_1, X_j}(n) \\ \rho_{X_2, X_1}(n) & 1 & \rho_{X_2, X_3}(n) & \dots & \rho_{X_2, X_j}(n) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \dots & \vdots \\ \rho_{X_j, X_1}(n) & \rho_{X_j, X_2}(n) & \rho_{X_j, X_3}(n) & \dots & 1 \end{pmatrix}^{-1}$$
(3)

At last Eq. 4 represent the transposed vector of the  $\rho_{Y,X_i}(n)$  between the depended variable  $\{Y\}$  and each  $\{X_i\}$  independent variable for a given time scale n.

$$\rho_{Y,X_i}(n)^T = [\rho_{Y,X_1}(n), \rho_{Y,X_2}(n), \cdots, \rho_{Y,X_j}(n)]$$
(4)

As the DFA and the DCCA,  $\rho_{DCCA}$  and  $DMC_x^2$  should be evaluated in a number of time scales (n) to analyze the characteristics of each coefficient.

### 3. Zebende package: implementation and optimization

The implementation of the **Zebende** package follows some well defined goals:

- 1. Enhance performance;
- 2. avoid redundant calculations;
- 3. make the outputs compatibles with other data analyses tools (including data manipulation, machine learn and statistical packages);
- 4. manage multiple time series inputs;
- 5. operate the  $DMC_x^2$  for any number of series;
- 6. create a customizable and modular set of tools;
- 7. facilitate package evolution and maintenance;
- 8. deliver an easy to use package.

The Python language was chosen because it's one of the most used languages in the data analyses field and have a great support for statistical tools and machine learning algorithms. The are a plethora of tools to load and manipulate data (Pandas, Polar, PySpark ...), execute statistical analyzes (Numpy, SciPy, StatsModels ...), machine learning (Pytorch, TensorFlow, Scykit Learn ...) and data visualization(Matplotlib, Seaborn, Plotly ...) among other data related applications.

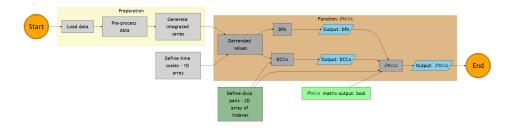


Figure 1: Calculating  $\rho_{DCCA}$  with **Zebende** package - Simplified flowchart

The first draft of the code was written in pure Python, to rapidly prototype the way users will interact with the package. Figures 1 and 2 presents simplified flowcharts illustrating how to use the package and how the main functions  $(\rho_{DCCA} \text{ and } DMC_x^2)$  works.

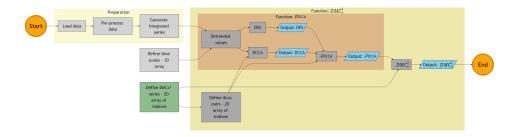


Figure 2: Calculating  $DMC_x^2$  with **Zebende** package - Simplified flowchart

The preparation steps are the same in both functions. First the data is loaded, and should be analyzed by the researchers. Based on the data characteristics, the set should be treated to ensure the methods requirements in the "Pre-processing" stage. The package functions expects data as a matrix with the columns as the series and the lines as time steps. Columns unwanted in the indented research should also be dropped for better performance of the algorithms in this step. The more common way to do that is to use a data manipulation package. To proceed to the next step, the data table should be in the form of a Numpy 2D array. Any data manipulation Python package can export a table as a Numpy array. The next step is to calculate the integrated series. The package provides a function, named integrated\_series(), to calculate that. The code example below show how to load the libraries (using Pandas as the data manipulation packages and loading a .csv file as a generic example), convert to Numpy array and generate the integrated series.

```
# importing packages
import numpy as np
import pandas as pd
import zebende as zb

data = pd.read_csv('path_to_the_file.csv') # loading data
# Pre-processing data
# ...
data = data.to_numpy(data) #converting data to Numpy array
int_data = zb.integrated_series(data) # calculating the integrated series
```

The option of taking out the integrated series generation from the main methods (p\_dcca() and dmcx2()) to an independent one was inspired by Peng et al. (1994) work, where the way of calculating integrated series was different from the one that is widely used in more recent years. The integration of the series is essentially a pre-processing step, and this approach makes easy to explore alternative ways to integrate the series or compare Peng et al. (1994) approach to the current most used one in different scenarios, or even embrace new proposals for the series integrating step.

The input and output structures of each function are displayed below:

```
def p_dcca(
   input_data: NDArray[float64],
   tws: NDArray[int64] | NDArray[float64],
```

```
DCCA_of: ndarray | Literal['all'] = "all",
    P_DCCA_output_matrix: bool = False
) -> tuple[NDArray[float64],
          NDArray[float64],
                              # DCCA
          NDArray[float64]
                              # P DCCA
def dmcx2(
    input_data: NDArray[float64],
    tws: NDArray[int64] | NDArray[float64],
    dmcx2_of: ENUM_DMCx2_of | NDArray[float64] | list = 'all-full'
) -> tuple[ NDArray[float64],
                                # DFA
            NDArray[float64],
                                # DCCA
            NDArray[float64],
                                # P_DCCA
            NDArray[float64],
                                # DMC
          ]
```

The first two inputs are the same for functions p\_dcca() and dmcx2(): input\_data receive the integrated series and the tws receives an 1D array representing the time scales (box size) described in the algorithms on Section 2. The input\_data is a 2D array of 64 bits floating point data. The tws accepts integers and, for convenience reasons, also floating points. Since the size of the boxes needs to be integers, in case of floating points, the values will be converted to integers by ignoring the decimal values (truncating). This two inputs are colored in light gray in Figures 1 and 2, indicating mandatory inputs.

With the mandatory steps explained, some very important optional inputs should be addressed. Starting with the  $\rho_{DCCA}$  function (dark green node in Figure 2) represents the input DCCA\_of of the function. This input requires a 2D array of integers, each row is a pair of index, related to the data\_input matrix. For example: if the input\_data receives a four columns matrix, with index ranging from 0 to 3, that is intended to calculate de DFA for all the series but the  $\rho_{DCCA}$  between series of index 0 and 1 and also for series 2 and 3, the DCCA\_of input should receive the array [[0,1], [2,3]]. If no value (or the string 'all') is given, the function will calculate all possible combinations of DCCA calculations between all the series respecting the index values order, as below:

```
[[0,1], [0,2], [0,3], [1,2], [1,3], [2,3]]
```

### 3.1. Implementation of the Detrended Cross-correlation Coefficient function

It's important to understand the calculation steps, the role of the DCCA\_of array and how it fits in the goals of the package implementation. The code below is part of the pure Python implementation of the  $\rho_{DCCA}$  function,

```
for n_index, n in enumerate(tws): # for each time scale
    # temporaty allocation arrays
    f2dfa_n = np.full(shape=(data.shape[0] - n, data.shape[1]),
```

```
fill_value=np.nan, dtype=data.dtype)
dcca_n = np.full(shape=(data.shape[0] - n, DCCA_of.shape[0]),
fill_value=np.nan, dtype=data.dtype)
detrended_mat = np.full(shape=(n + 1, data.shape[1]),
fill value=np.nan, dtype=data.dtype)
for i in range(data.shape[0] - n): # for each box
    detrended_series( # inputs
                      time\_steps[i : i + (n + 1)], # arr_x
                      data[i : i + (n + 1), :], # mat_y
                       detrended_mat, # output
    f2dfa_n[i] = np.power(detrended_mat, 2).mean(axis=0)
    for j, pair in enumerate(DCCA_of): # for each DCCA pair
        dcca_n[i, j] = (detrended_mat[:, pair[0]] * detrended_mat[:, pair[1]]
                       ).mean(axis=0)
F_DFA_arr[n_index, :] = np.sqrt(f2dfa_n.mean(axis=0))
DCCA_arr[n_index, :] = dcca_n.mean(axis=0)
# calculation of P_DCCA
P_DCCA_output_function(n_index, DCCA_of, F_DFA_arr, DCCA_arr, # Inputs
P_DCCA_arr) # Output
```

The first for loop in the code operates over the values of the tws input, ensuring that step 6 of the DFA and DCCA methods, presented in Section 2, is being carried out. In other words, the calculations will be applied, sequentially, to every single value in the tws array. Three temporary arrays are allocated and resized for each time scale. The first, f2dfa\_n, is used to store the calculations of the step 4 of the DFA  $(f_{DFA}^2)$ . The number of lines of this array correspond to the number of boxes in the current time scale (N-n, resized for eachtime scale n) and the columns is the number of series in the analysis (same size for every value of n). Second, the array dcca\_n holds the values calculated in the step 4 of the DCCA (to calculate  $f_{DCCA}^2(n,i)$ ). The number of lines also correspond to the number of boxes (resized for each n) but the number of columns equals the number of pairs (rows) in the DCCA\_of input (same size in each n). The detrended\_mat array has a number of lines equal to the number of points in a time scale box (n+1), resized for each n) and column count also equal to the number of time series (same size in each n). The first two temporary arrays will store data for all the boxes in the time scale, the last one will be used in each box and will have the values replaced in the next one, until the last box of the time scale. Than all the arrays will be cleared and recreated with shapes calculated with the new value of n.

After the allocation of the temporary arrays, the second for loop operates in every box for a certain time scale n. In each box, the detrended\_series() function execute a one degree polynomial fit, subtract the values of the serie with the value given by the interpolated curve(DV) and stores this values in the detrended\_mat. After that, the mean of the square of each DV in the box ( $f_{DFA}^2(n,i)$ ) is calculated in the current box for every time series and stored in the f2dfa\_n array in the line associated with the current box, and the column related to each time series.

The next nested for loop operates over the DCCA\_of array. For each line (pair) in the DCCA\_of array, the  $f_{DCCA}^2(n,i)$  is evaluated by multiplying the corresponding DV from the two series

boxes in the current pair, getting the mean, and stores it in the dcca\_n temporary array.

After all the pairs are calculated, the algorithm goes back to the each box for loop and head to the next box for the current time scale. when all the all the boxes are calculated, the final results for the DFA, DCCA and  $\rho_{DCCA}$  are evaluated and saved in the output vectors F\_DFA\_arr, DCCA\_arr and P\_DCCA\_arr respectively.

The function named P\_DCCA\_output\_function() in the code above, is a pointer to other functions. One that outputs the  $\rho_{DCCA}$  results in the form of a table (rows for each time scale and columns for each DCCA\_of pair) and the other outputs it the form of a 3D matrix, where each level is the matrix in Equation 3 for one of the time scales. This behavior is driven by the P\_DCCA\_output\_matrix input (represented as the light green node in Figure 1), where False means table output and True matrix output. This is very convenient for calculating the  $DMC_x^2$ . There are two utility functions to transform a table output in a matrix one (p\_dcca\_simple\_to\_matrix()) and also the other way around (p\_dcca\_matrix\_to\_simple()).

### 3.2. Implementation of the Detrended Multiple Cross-correlation Coefficient function

The dmcx2() function runs the p\_dcca() with P\_DCCA\_output\_matrix set to True in the background. There is no DCCA\_of input for the  $DMC_x^2$  function, instead there is a dmcx2\_of parameter. This input receives a 2D matrix where each line represents the indexes of the series to be used in Equation 2. For each row, the first elements is the index of the serie used as the dependent variable, the others, the index of the independent ones. There are two literal strings that can be used, for convenience as inputs for this parameter: 'all-full', that generates a 2D array with every series as the dependent variable against all the others; and 'first-full', with only one row, having the index zero series as the dependent variable in relation with all the others. The 'all-full' option is conducted by calling dmc\_of\_all\_as\_y(), also available as a utility function.

With a given  $dmcx2_of$  an array with all the necessary pairs for the DCCA and  $\rho_{DCCA}$  is automatically generated and used for the background  $p_dcca()$  function to calculate da matrix as in Eq. 3. The  $dcca_of_from_dmcx2_of()$ , also can be used as an utility function, receives the  $dmcx2_of$  as input and returns the  $dcca_of$  array. With the matrix  $\rho_{DCCA}$  assembled, two internal functions, that can also be used as utility functions, calculates the  $DMc_x^2$  for all the lines in the  $dmcx2_of$  matrix, for all the time scales. The first function,  $dmcx2_from_p_dcca_matrix()$ , that receives the  $\rho_{DCCA}$  and the  $dmcx2_of$  array, is presented in the code below.

```
\label{eq:decomp_dcca_matrix_2d(P_DCCA_arr_2D, dmcx2_of_1D)} DMCx2\_arr \\ [n_index, j] = dmcx2\_from_p_dcca_matrix_2d(P_DCCA_arr_2D, dmcx2_of_1D) \\
```

The  $dmcx2\_from_p\_dcca\_matrix()$  function executes a for loop over the  $\rho_{DCCA}$  that separates the this 3D matrix in to the 2D matrices for each time scale. Nested in this loop, another for extracts each line of the  $dmcx2\_of$  and passes, the extracted matrix and the line vector to the  $dmcx2\_from_p\_dcca\_matrix\_2d()$ , displayed here.

The dmcx2\_from\_p\_dcca\_matrix\_2d() function uses Numpy methods to preparate the data to apply Eq. 2. The list of indexes is divided in y\_index, holding an one item array whit the index of the dependent variabel time series, and x\_indexes, containing the indexes of the independent ones. The Numpy np.ix\_(), althow it's not a very known function of the library constructs index arrays that will use the cross product from a serie of 1D arrays as inputs. It's a very convenient way to extract a submatrix and a vector from the  $\rho_{DCCA}$  matrix. The matrix, as assembled by the p\_dcca() function, will always need to have extractions of a 2D matrix and a vector, as we can see in Eq. 2. The code below is an example of the extraction process.

An illustrative arr matrix is defined as  $4 \times 4$  with all ones in the main diagonal and symmetric integer values in the other cells. Since the  $\rho_{DCCA}$  ranges from -1 to 1, those values should be interpreted as place holders.

```
sub_mat_index = np.ix_([1,2,3], [1,2,3])
print("index combination:\n", sub_mat_index)
print("extracted matrix:\n",arr[sub_mat_index])
```

Above, a submatrix, holding the positions 1 to 3 is extracted using np.ix\_() function, and below, the extraction of the vector, first as a line and then as a column vector.

```
sub_mat_vec = np.ix_([0], [1,2,3])
print("line vectror:\n", arr[sub_mat_vec])
sub_mat_vec = np.ix_([1,2,3],[0])
print("column vectror:\n", arr[sub_mat_vec])
line vectror:
[[2 3 4]]
column vectror:
[[2]
[3]
[4]]
```

In the **Zebende** package, the vector is extracted as a column for better coherence with the  $DMC_x^2$  theory. The method also works for dependent variable different of index 0. The resulting matrix will preserve the diagonal as 1, the symmetry regarding the main diagonal and the order of elements in the column vector respeted, the code below extract the index 1 series as the dependent and the others as independent.

```
sub_mat_index = np.ix_([0,2,3], [0,2,3])
print("index combination:\n", sub_mat_index)
print("extracted matrix:\n",arr[sub_mat_index])
sub_mat_vec = np.ix_([0,2,3],[1])
print("column vectror:\n", arr[sub_mat_vec])
index combination:
(array([[0],
      [2],
      [3]]), array([[0, 2, 3]]))
extracted matrix:
[[1 3 4]
[3 1 7]
[4 7 1]]
column vectror:
[[2]
[5]
[6]]
```

The idea of separating the calculations of the  $\rho DCCA$  calculatons in three distinct functons aims to different workflows. The dmcx2() function calculates and outputs all the prerequisites, as the DFA, DCCA,  $\rho_{DCCA}$  along with the  $DMC_x^2$ . This is the most practical way of getting all this calculations conducted. But the task can also be diveded in two: first use the p\_dcca() function to generate DFA, DCCA,  $\rho_{DCCA}$  outputs, analyze the outputs and then get the  $DMC_x^2$  using dmcx2\_from\_p\_dcca\_matrix().

Function  $dmcx2\_from_p\_dcca\_matrix\_2d()$  can be used to more customizable applications. Imagine a usecase where only the  $\rho_{DCCA}$  anti-correlation, above a certain trashhold, in relation to the dependent variable, with the  $dmcx2\_0f$  set to all-full. From previous  $\rho_{DCCA}$  studies is known that this coefficient can vary from posite to negative and vice versa in different time scales. This implies that the  $\rho_{DCCA}$  matrix should be analyzed in every time scale from every line of the  $dmcx2\_of$ , also implies that the  $dmcx2\_of$  may not be a matrix in the sence that the rows may have different. The Numpy ND Array could not hold that. Many different workarounds could be proposed for that situation. In the implementation of this package, function  $dmcx2\_from\_p\_dcca\_matrix\_2d()$  allow the user to make a costum code that extracts the  $\rho_{DCCA}$  matrix for the current stime scale and extracts the elements that fit the rules from each  $dmcx2\_of$  row.

#### 3.3. Zig implementation

The Python implementation successfully reflects the implementation goals presented in Sec. 3 but the performance could be

Zig language is one low-level language that gain popularity in recent years (Kacs, Lee, Zarins, and Brown 2024).

### 3.4. Algorithm optimization

### 4. Results

### 5. Summary and discussion

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