Causality

Granger Causality vs Transfer Entropy

Alireza Nouri

Sharif University

2024



2 / 25

- 1 Granger Causality
- 2 Transfer Entropy
- 3 Conclusions

3 / 25

- 1 Granger Causality
- 2 Transfer Entropy
- Conclusions

• Let X_t and Y_t be two stationary processes.

- Let X_t and Y_t be two stationary processes.
- It is said that the process X_t Granger causes another process Y_t if future values of Y_t can be better predicted using the past values of X_t and Y_t rather than only past values of Y_t if:

- Let X_t and Y_t be two stationary processes.
- It is said that the process X_t Granger causes another process Y_t if future values of Y_t can be better predicted using the past values of X_t and Y_t rather than only past values of Y_t if:

$$Y_{t} = a_{0} + \sum_{k=1}^{L} b_{1k} Y_{t-k} + \sum_{k=1}^{L} b_{2k} X_{t-k} + \varepsilon_{t}$$

where $\varepsilon_t \sim N(0, \sigma^2)$ and is i.i.d.

- Let X_t and Y_t be two stationary processes.
- It is said that the process X_t Granger causes another process Y_t if future values of Y_t can be better predicted using the past values of X_t and Y_t rather than only past values of Y_t if:

$$Y_{t} = a_{0} + \sum_{k=1}^{L} b_{1k} Y_{t-k} + \sum_{k=1}^{L} b_{2k} X_{t-k} + \varepsilon_{t}$$

where $\varepsilon_t \sim N(0, \sigma^2)$ and is i.i.d.

• If X_t causes Y_t , b_{2k} should not be equal to 0.

- Let X_t and Y_t be two stationary processes.
- It is said that the process X_t Granger causes another process Y_t if future values of Y_t can be better predicted using the past values of X_t and Y_t rather than only past values of Y_t if:

$$Y_{t} = a_{0} + \sum_{k=1}^{L} b_{1k} Y_{t-k} + \sum_{k=1}^{L} b_{2k} X_{t-k} + \varepsilon_{t}$$

where $\varepsilon_t \sim N(0, \sigma^2)$ and is i.i.d.

- If X_t causes Y_t , b_{2k} should not be equal to 0.
- Hypothesis testing:

$$H_0: b_{2k} = 0$$
 for $k \in \{1, 2, 3, \dots, L\}$

$$G = \frac{\frac{R_2 - R_1}{L}}{\frac{R_1}{N - 2L}} \sim F_{L, N - 2L}$$

Alireza Nouri

8 / 25

9 / 25

- **1** Granger Causality
- 2 Transfer Entropy
- Conclusions

• Shannon Information (Entropy):

$$H(X) = -\int_{x \in \mathcal{X}} p(x) \log_2(p(x)) dx$$

• Shannon Information (Entropy):

$$H(X) = -\int_{x \in \mathcal{X}} p(x) \log_2(p(x)) dx$$

Mutual Information:

$$I(X;Y) = H(X) - H(X|Y)$$

Shannon Information (Entropy):

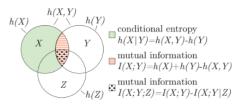
$$H(X) = -\int_{x \in \mathcal{X}} p(x) \log_2(p(x)) dx$$

Mutual Information:

$$I(X; Y) = H(X) - H(X|Y)$$

Conditional Mutual Information:

$$I(X;Y|Z) = H(X|Z) - H(X|Y,Z)$$



Shannon Information (Entropy):

$$H(X) = -\sum_{x \in \mathcal{X}} p(x) \log_2(p(x))$$

Mutual Information:

$$I(X;Y) = H(X) - H(X|Y)$$

Conditional Mutual Information:

$$I(X;Y|Z) = H(X|Z) - H(X|Y,Z)$$

Transfer Entropy:

$$T_{X\to Y}^t \equiv I(Y_t; X_{t-1}|Y_{t-1}) \ge 0$$

$$Y_t = f(X_{t-1}) + f(Y_{t-1}) + \varepsilon_t$$

Alireza Nouri Sharif University Causality

General (k, ℓ) – HistoryDefinitionofTransferEntropy

General Transfer Entropy:

$$T_{X \to Y}^{(K,\ell)} \equiv I(Y_t; X_{t-1}^{\ell} | Y_{t-1}^{k})$$

$$X_{t-1}^{\ell} = (X_{t-1}, X_{t-2}, \dots, X_{t-\ell})$$

$$Y_{t-1}^{k} = (Y_{t-1}, Y_{t-2}, \dots, Y_{t-k})$$

Multivariate Transfer Entropy:

$$T_{X \to Y|Z}^{(K,\ell,m)} \equiv I(Y_t; X_{t-1}^{\ell}|Y_{t-1}^k, Z_{t-1}^m)$$

• Initialise Z as an empty set and consider the candidate sets for Y's past (CY) and X's past (CX).

- Initialise Z as an empty set and consider the candidate sets for Y's past (CY) and X's past (CX).
- 2 Select variables from CY:

- 1 Initialise Z as an empty set and consider the candidate sets for Y's past (CY) and X's past (CX).
- Select variables from CY:
 - For each candidate, $c \in CY$, estimate the information contribution to c as $I(Y_n; c|Z)$
 - Find the candidate with maximum information contribution. c^* , and perform a significance test; if significant, add c^* to Z and remove it from CY. We use the maximum statistic to test for significance.
 - Terminate if $I(Y_n; c^*|Z)$ is not significant or CY is empty.

- Initialise Z as an empty set and consider the candidate sets for Y's past (CY) and X's past (CX).
- 2 Select variables from CY:
 - For each candidate, c ∈ CY, estimate the information contribution to c as I(Y_p; c|Z)
 - Find the candidate with maximum information contribution, c*, and perform a significance test; if significant, add c* to Z and remove it from CY. We use the maximum statistic to test for significance.
 - Terminate if $I(Y_n; c^*|Z)$ is not significant or CY is empty.
- 3 Select variables from X's past (i.e., from CX):

Alireza Nouri Sharif University
Causality 18 / 25

- 1 Initialise Z as an empty set and consider the candidate sets for Y's past (CY) and X's past (CX).
- Select variables from CY:
 - For each candidate, $c \in CY$, estimate the information contribution to c as $I(Y_n; c|Z)$
 - Find the candidate with maximum information contribution. c^* , and perform a significance test; if significant, add c^* to Z and remove it from CY. We use the maximum statistic to test for significance.
 - Terminate if $I(Y_n; c^*|Z)$ is not significant or CY is empty.
- 3 Select variables from X's past (i.e., from CX):
 - Iteratively test candidates in CX following the procedure described in step 2.

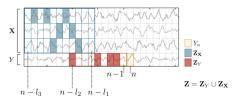
Alireza Nouri Sharif University Causality 19 / 25

- Initialise Z as an empty set and consider the candidate sets for Y's past (CY) and X's past (CX).
- 2 Select variables from CY:
 - For each candidate, c ∈ CY, estimate the information contribution to c as I(Y_n; c|Z)
 - Find the candidate with maximum information contribution, c*, and perform a significance test; if significant, add c* to Z and remove it from CY. We use the maximum statistic to test for significance.
 - Terminate if $I(Y_n; c^*|Z)$ is not significant or CY is empty.
- 3 Select variables from X's past (i.e., from CX):
 - Iteratively test candidates in CX following the procedure described in step 2.
- 4 Prune Z: Test and remove redundant variables in Z using the minimum statistic.

Alireza Nouri

20 / 25

- **5** Perform statistical tests on the final set Z:
 - Perform an omnibus test to test the collective information transfer from all the relevant (informative) source variables to the target: $I(Y_n; Z_X|Z_Y)$.
 - If the omnibus test is significant, perform a sequential maximum statistic on each selected variable $z \in Z$ to obtain each variable's final information contribution and p-value.



22 / 25

- **1** Granger Causality
- 2 Transfer Entropy
- 3 Conclusions

Conclusion

- Granger causality is particularly well-suited for analyzing linear time series data.
- Transfer entropy, being a non-parametric method, is versatile and effective for both linear and non-linear time series analysis.

References

- Granger, C. W. J. (1969). "Investigating Causal Relations by Econometric Models and Cross-spectral Methods".
 Econometrica. 37 (3): 424–438. doi:10.2307/1912791.
 JSTOR 1912791.
- Bossomaier, T., Barnett, L., Harré, M., & Lizier, J. T. (2016).
 An introduction to transfer entropy. Springer International Publishing
- Zhu, J.; Bellanger, J.-J.; Shu, H.; Le Bouquin Jeannès, R.
 Contribution to Transfer Entropy Estimation via the k-Nearest-Neighbors Approach. Entropy 2015, 17, 4173-4201. https://doi.org/10.3390/e17064173

Alireza Nouri Sharif University
Causality 24 / 25

Thanks!