

Simulation Based Methods for Network Inference

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2023-05-15

Initial definitions

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1. Partial Correlation

Correlation coefficient between X_1 and X_2 after removing the influence of Y , accounting for the scaling of the variables.

- ▶ Partial covariance: The partial covariance between X_1 and X_2 with reference to Y is calculated with:

$$\text{Cov}(X_1, X_2 \cdot Y) = \mathbb{E}[(X_1 - \hat{X}_1(Y))(X_2 - \hat{X}_2(Y))]$$

- ▶ $\hat{X}_I(Y)$ is the projection of X_I on Y , which is the expected value of X_I given Y :

$$\hat{X}_I(Y) = \mathbb{E}(X_I) + \frac{\text{Cov}(X_I, Y)}{\text{Var}(Y)}(Y - \mathbb{E}(Y))$$

1. Partial correlation

► Lemma:

$$\text{Cov}(X_l, X_m \cdot Y) = \text{Cov}(X_l, X_m) - \text{Cov}(X_l, Y) \text{Var}(Y)^{-1} \text{Cov}(X_m Y)^T$$

Given a vector $\mathbf{X} = (X_1, \dots, X_p)$ of p random variables. We have:

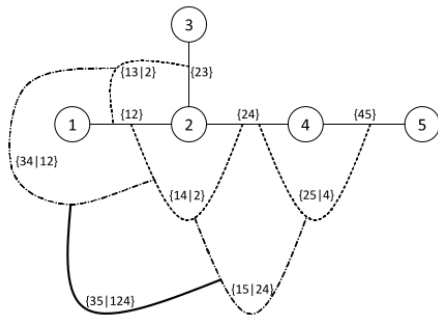
$$\text{Cov}^{\text{partial}}(\mathbf{X}_{l,m}) = \text{Cov}(X_l, X_m \cdot X_{V \setminus \{l,m\}})$$

► Partial correlation:

$$\rho^{\text{partial}}(\mathbf{X}_{l,m}) = \frac{\text{Cov}(X_l, X_m \cdot X_{V \setminus \{l,m\}})}{\sqrt{\text{Var}(X_l \cdot X_{V \setminus \{l,m\}}) \text{Var}(X_m \cdot X_{V \setminus \{l,m\}})}}$$

2. Regular vines

A vine in which two edges in tree T_i are joined by an edge in tree T_{i+1} only if these edges share a common node.

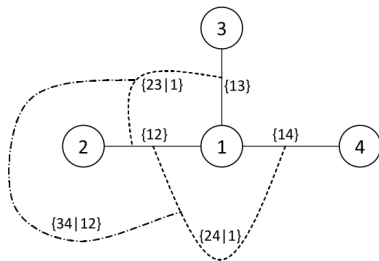


- ▶ Constraint set U_e : variables reachable from edge e
- ▶ Conditioning set D_e : variables shared between U_e and edge adjacent to e in the next tree
- ▶ Conditioned set $\{C_{1e}, C_{2e}\}$: symmetric difference of U_e and D_e

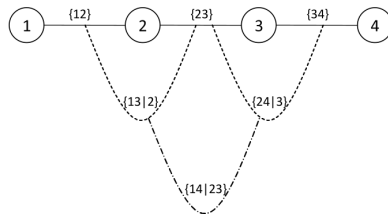
- ▶ $\{L|K\}$: the constraint set, with conditioned set L and conditioning set K .

4. C-vines

- ▶ C-vines: vines where each tree T_i has a unique node of degree $d - i$
- ▶ D-vines: vines where each node in T_i has a degree at most 2.



A C-vine



A D-vine

5. Generating random correlation matrices with C-vines

Algorithm to generate a random correlation matrix \mathbf{R} with density proportional to $\det(\mathbf{R})^{\eta-1}$, with $\eta > 1$:

1. Initialize $\beta = \eta + \frac{d-1}{2}$
2. Loop for $k = 1, \dots, d-1$:
 - 2.1 $\beta = \beta - \frac{1}{2}$
 - 2.2 Loop for $i = k+1, \dots, d$:
 - 2.2.1 generate $p_{k,i;1,\dots,k-1} \sim \text{Beta}(\beta, \beta)$ on $(-1, 1)$
 - 2.2.2 use the recursive formula for partial correlations calculation
3. Return \mathbf{R} , a $d \times d$ correlation matrix