Exploratory Causal Analysis in Bivariate Time Series Data

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Outline

- 1. Causality studies
- 2. Data causality
- 3. Exploratory causal analysis
- 4. Making an ECA guess
 - Transfer entropy difference
 - Granger causality statistic
 - Pairwise asymmetric inference
 - Weighed mean observed leaning
 - Lagged cross-correlation difference
- 5. Empirical examples
 - Cooling/Heating System Data
 - Snowfall Data
- 6. Times series causality as data analysis

Causality studies

The study of causality is as old as science itself

- ► Modern historians credit Aristotle with both the first theory of causality ("four causes") and an early version of the scientific method
- ► The modern study of causality is broadly interdisciplinary; far too broad to review in a short talk.

Illari and Russo's textbook¹ provides an overview of causality studies

¹ Illari, P., & Russo, F. (2014). Causality: Philosophical theory meets scientific practice. Oxford University Press.

Towards a taxonomy of causal studies

Paul Holland identified four types of causal questions²:

- ▶ the ultimate meaningfulness of the notion of causality
- ▶ the details of causal mechanisms
- ▶ the causes of a given effect
- ▶ the effects of a given cause

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Data causality "Does smoking cause lung cancer?" or "Are traffic accidents caused by rain storms?"

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Time series causality

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Approaches to time series causality can be roughly divided into five categories,

- ► Granger (model based approaches)
- ► Information-theoretic
- ► State space reconstruction (SSR)
- ▶ Correlation
- ▶ Penchant

Language

Exploring causal structures in data sets is distinct from **confirming** causal structures in data sets.

Causal language used in ECA should not be conflated with other typical uses; i.e., "cause", "effect", "drive", etc. are used as technical terms with definitions unrelated to their common, everyday definitions.

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 \rightarrow and \leftarrow will be used as shorthand for causal statements, e.g., A drives B will be written as $A \rightarrow B$.

Assumptions

A cause always precedes an effect.

This assumption is required for the operational definitions of causality.

A driver may be present in the data being analyzed.

This assumption may lead to issues of confounding.

ECA guess vector approach

We will not favor a specific operational definition of causality \Rightarrow we do not favor any particular tool

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Define a vector \vec{g} where each element g_i is defined as either 0 if $\mathbf{X} \to \mathbf{Y}$, 1 if $\mathbf{X} \leftarrow \mathbf{Y}$, or 2 if no causal inference can be made. The value of each g_i comes from a specific time series causality tool.

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ECA guess

The *ECA guess* is either $\mathbf{X} \to \mathbf{Y}$, $\mathbf{Y} \to \mathbf{X}$, or undefined, with $g_i = 0 \ \forall g_i \in \vec{g} \Rightarrow \mathbf{X} \to \mathbf{Y}$ and $g_i = 1 \ \forall g_i \in \vec{g} \Rightarrow \mathbf{Y} \to \mathbf{X}$.

- g₁ transfer entropy difference
- g₂ Granger log-likelihood statistics
- g_3 pairwise asymmetric inference (PAI)
- g₄ average weighted mean observed leaning
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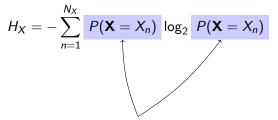
Shannon entropy

The uncertainty that a random variable X takes some specific value X_n is given by the Shannon (or information) entropy,

$$H_X = -\sum_{n=1}^{N_X} P(\mathbf{X} = X_n) \log_2 P(\mathbf{X} = X_n)$$

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The sum is over all possible values of X_n ; $n = 1, 2, ..., N_X$

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The base of the logarithm sets the entropy units, which is "bits" here

Shannon entropy example

Binary example (to help with intuition)

Consider a coin \mathbf{C} that take the value H with probability p_H and T with probability p_T . The Shannon entropy is

$$H_C = -\left(p_H \log_2 p_H + p_T \log_2 p_T\right)$$

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Fair coin
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(Entropy calculations almost always assume $0 \log_2 0 := 0$.)

Mutual information

A pair of random variables (\mathbf{X},\mathbf{Y}) have some mutual information given by

$$I_{X;Y} = H_X + H_Y - H_{X,Y}$$

$$= \sum_{n=1}^{N_X} \sum_{m=1}^{N_Y} P(\mathbf{X} = X_n, \mathbf{Y} = Y_m) \log_2 \frac{P(\mathbf{X} = X_n, \mathbf{Y} = Y_m)}{P(\mathbf{X} = X_n)P(\mathbf{Y} = Y_m)}$$

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 $P(\mathbf{X} = X_n, \mathbf{Y} = Y_m)$ is the probability that \mathbf{X} takes the specific value X_n and \mathbf{Y} takes the specific value Y_m

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If **X** and **Y** are independent, then
$$P(\mathbf{X} = X_n, \mathbf{Y} = Y_m) = P(\mathbf{X} = X_n)P(\mathbf{Y} = Y_m) \Rightarrow I_{X;Y} = 0$$

Mutual information

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The mutual information is symmetric; i.e., $I_{X:Y} = I_{Y:X}$

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Schreiber proposed an extension of the mutual information to measure "information flow" by making it conditional and including assumptions about the temporal behavior ${\bf X}$ and ${\bf Y}$.

Information flow

Suppose ${\bf X}$ and ${\bf Y}$ are both Markov processes. The directed flow of information from ${\bf Y}$ to ${\bf X}$ is given by the transfer entropy,

$$T_{Y \to X} = \sum_{n=1}^{N_X} \sum_{m=1}^{N_Y} p_{n+1,n,m} \log_2 \frac{p_{n+1|n,m}}{p_{n+1|n}}$$

with

- $ightharpoonup p_{n+1,n,m} = P(\mathbf{X}(t+1) = X_{n+1}, \mathbf{X}(t) = X_n, \mathbf{Y}(\tau) = Y_m)$
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- $p_{n+1|n} = P(\mathbf{X}(t+1) = X_{n+1}|\mathbf{X}(t) = X_n)$

Information flow

There is no directed information flow from \boldsymbol{Y} to \boldsymbol{X} if \boldsymbol{X} is conditionally independent of \boldsymbol{Y} ; i.e.,

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Operational causality (information-theoretic)

X causes Y if the directed information flow from X to Y is higher than the directed information flow from Y to X; i.e.,

$$T_{X \to Y} - T_{Y \to X} > 0 \implies \mathbf{X} \to \mathbf{Y}$$

 $T_{X \to Y} - T_{Y \to X} < 0 \implies \mathbf{Y} \to \mathbf{X}$
 $T_{X \to Y} - T_{Y \to X} = 0 \implies \text{no causal inference}$

Granger's axioms

Consider a discrete universe with two time series $\mathbf{X} = \{X_t \mid t = 1, \dots, n\}$ and $\mathbf{Y} = \{Y_t \mid t = 1, \dots, n\}$, where t = n is considered the present time. All knowledge available in the universe at all times $t \leq n$ is denoted as Ω_n .

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Axiom 1

The past and present may cause the future, but the future cannot cause the past.

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Axiom 1

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Axiom 2

 Ω_n contains no redundant information, so that if some variable **Z** is functionally related to one or more other variables, in a deterministic fashion, then **Z** should be excluded from Ω_n .

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Granger's definition of causality

Given some set A. \mathbf{Y} causes \mathbf{X} if

$$P(X_{n+1} \in A | \Omega_n) \neq P(X_{n+1} \in A | \Omega_n - \mathbf{Y})$$

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Granger's original goal was to make this notion of causality "operational".

Consider a time series pair (X, Y). Suppose there is a vector autoregressive (VAR) model that describes the pair,

$$\begin{pmatrix} X_t \\ Y_t \end{pmatrix} = \sum_{i=1}^n \begin{pmatrix} A_{11}^i & A_{12}^i \\ A_{21}^i & A_{22}^i \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} X_{t-i} \\ Y_{t-i} \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} \varepsilon_{1,t} \\ \varepsilon_{2,t} \end{pmatrix}$$

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The current time step t of \mathbf{X} and \mathbf{Y} is modeled as a sum of n past steps of \mathbf{X} and \mathbf{Y} , plus uncorrelated noise terms.

Comparison of VAR models

Consider two different VAR models for the pair (X, Y),

$$\begin{pmatrix} X_t \\ Y_t \end{pmatrix} = \sum_{i=1}^n \begin{pmatrix} A_{xx,i} & A_{xy,i} \\ A_{yx,i} & A_{yy,i} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} X_{t-i} \\ Y_{t-i} \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} \varepsilon_{x,t} \\ \varepsilon_{y,t} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} X_t \\ Y_t \end{pmatrix} = \sum_{i=1}^n \begin{pmatrix} A'_{xx,i} & 0 \\ 0 & A'_{yy,i} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} X_{t-i} \\ Y_{t-i} \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} \varepsilon'_{x,t} \\ \varepsilon'_{y,t} \end{pmatrix}$$

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$$F_{Y \to X} = \ln \frac{|\Sigma'_{xx}|}{|\Sigma_{xx}|}$$

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Covariance of X model residuals given a possible dependence on Y

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If both VAR models fit (or "forecast") the data equally well, then there is no G-causality; i.e.,

$$|\Sigma'_{xx}| = |\Sigma_{xx}| \Rightarrow F_{Y \to X} = 0$$

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Operational causality (Granger)

 ${\bf X}$ causes ${\bf Y}$ if the ${\bf X}$ -dependent forecast of ${\bf Y}$ decreases the ${\bf Y}$ model residual covariance (as compared to the ${\bf X}$ -independent forecast) more than the ${\bf Y}$ -dependent forecast of ${\bf X}$ decreases the ${\bf X}$ model residual covariance (as compared to the ${\bf Y}$ -independent forecast); i.e.,

$$F_{X \to Y} - F_{Y \to X} > 0 \implies \mathbf{X} \to \mathbf{Y}$$

 $F_{X \to Y} - F_{Y \to X} < 0 \implies \mathbf{Y} \to \mathbf{X}$
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State space reconstruction

Consider an embedding of the time series $\mathbf{X} = \{x_t \mid t = 0, 1, \dots, L - 1, L\}$ constructed from delayed time steps as

$$\tilde{\mathbf{X}} = \{\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_t \mid t = 1 + (E - 1)\tau, \dots, L\}$$

with

$$\tilde{x}_t = (x_t, x_{t-\tau}, x_{t-2\tau}, \dots, x_{t-(E-1)\tau})$$

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- ightharpoonup au is the delay time step
- ► *E* is the embedding dimension

Cross-mapping

Consider a time series pair (\mathbf{X},\mathbf{Y}) . The shadow manifold of \mathbf{X} (labeled $\tilde{\mathbf{X}}$) is constructed from the points

$$\tilde{x}_t = (x_t, x_{t-\tau}, x_{t-2\tau}, \dots, x_{t-(E-1)\tau}, y_t)$$

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1. Find the *n* nearest neighbors to \tilde{x}_t (in $\tilde{\mathbf{X}}$), where "nearest" means smallest Euclidean distance, d; i.e., $d_1 < d_2 < \ldots < d_n$

Cross-mapping

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2. Create weights, w, from the nearest neighbors as

$$w_{i} = \frac{e^{-\frac{d_{i}}{d_{1}}}}{\sum_{i=1}^{n} e^{-\frac{d_{j}}{d_{1}}}}$$

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3. Construct the *cross-mapped* estimate of **Y** using the weights as

$$\mathbf{Y}|\tilde{\mathbf{X}} = \left\{ Y_t | \tilde{\mathbf{X}} = \sum_{i=1}^n w_i Y_{\hat{\mathbf{t}}_i} \mid t = 1 + (E-1)\tau, \dots, L \right\}$$

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$$\tilde{x}_t = (x_t, x_{t-\tau}, x_{t-2\tau}, \dots, x_{t-(E-1)\tau}, y_t)$$

Each cross-mapped point in the estimate of \boldsymbol{Y} , i.e.,

$$Y_t | \tilde{\mathbf{X}} = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{e^{-\frac{d_i}{d_i}/d_1}}{\sum_{i=1}^n e^{-d_i/d_1}} Y_{\hat{t}_i}$$

depends on comparisons of

Pairwise asymmetric inference (g₃)

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Each cross-mapped point in the estimate of Y, i.e.,

$$Y_t | \tilde{\mathbf{X}} = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{e^{-d_i/d_1}}{\sum_{i=1}^{n} e^{-d_j/d_1}} Y_{\hat{t}_i}$$

depends on comparisons of the pasts of X and the presents of X and Y.

Cross-mapped correlation

A good cross-mapped estimate is defined as one that is strongly correlated with the original times series. The cross-mapped correlation is

$$C_{YX} = \left[\rho(\mathbf{Y}, \mathbf{Y} | \tilde{\mathbf{X}}) \right]^2$$

where $\rho(\cdot)$ is Pearson's correlation coefficient.

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Cross-mapping interpretation

If similar histories of **X** (i.e., nearest neighbors in the shadow manifold) capably estimate **Y** (i.e., lead to $C_{YX} \approx 1$, or at least $C_{YX} \neq 0$), then the presence (or action) of **Y** in the system has been recorded in **X**.

Pairwise asymmetric inference (g_3)

Cross-mapping interpretation of causality

A time series pair (\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Y}) will have two cross-mapped correlations, C_{YX} and C_{XY} .

Pairwise asymmetric inference (g_3)

Cross-mapping interpretation of causality

A time series pair (\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Y}) will have two cross-mapped correlations, C_{YX} and C_{XY} .

Operational causality (SSR)

 ${\bf X}$ causes ${\bf Y}$ if similar histories of ${\bf Y}$ estimate ${\bf X}$ better than similar histories of ${\bf X}$ estimate ${\bf Y}$, where the "similar histories" of one time series are used to estimate another time series through shadow manifold nearest neighbor weighting (cross-mapping); i.e.,

$$C_{YX} - C_{XY} < 0 \Rightarrow \mathbf{X} \to \mathbf{Y}$$

 $C_{YX} - C_{XY} > 0 \Rightarrow \mathbf{Y} \to \mathbf{X}$
 $C_{YX} - C_{XY} = 0 \Rightarrow \text{no causal inference}$

Causal penchant

The causal penchant $\rho_{EC} \in [1, -1]$ is

$$\rho_{EC} = P(E|C) - P(E|\bar{C})$$

Causal penchant

The causal penchant $\rho_{EC} \in [1, -1]$ is

$$\rho_{EC} = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|} P(E|C) & -P(E|\bar{C}) \\ \hline \\ & \end{array}$$

P(E|C) is the probability of some effect E given some cause C

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Causal penchant

The causal penchant $ho_{\it EC} \in [1,-1]$ is

$$\rho_{EC} = P(E|C) - P(E|\bar{C})$$

So, the penchant is the probability of an effect E given a cause C minus the probability of that effect without the cause

Causal penchant

The causal penchant $ho_{\it EC} \in [1,-1]$ is

$$\rho_{EC} = P(E|C) - P(E|\bar{C})$$

In the psychology/medical literature, the causal penchant is known as the *Eells measure of causal strength* or *probability contrast*.

Causal penchant

The causal penchant $ho_{\it EC} \in [1,-1]$ is

$$\rho_{EC} = P(E|C) - P(E|\bar{C})$$

If C drives E, then it is expected that $\rho_{EC} > 0$.

Causal penchant

The causal penchant $ho_{\it EC} \in [1,-1]$ is

$$\rho_{EC} = P(E|C) - P(E|\bar{C})$$

 $P\left(E|\bar{C}\right)$ is often considered "unobservable". It can be eliminated from the penchant formula using Bayes theorem.

Causal penchant

The causal penchant $\rho_{FC} \in [1, -1]$ is

$$\rho_{EC} = P(E|C) \left(1 + \frac{P(C)}{1 - P(C)} \right) - \frac{P(E)}{1 - P(C)}$$

Causal penchant

The causal penchant $ho_{EC} \in [1,-1]$ is

$$\rho_{EC} = P(E|C) \left(1 + \frac{P(C)}{1 - P(C)} \right) - \frac{P(E)}{1 - P(C)}$$

If E and C are independent, then P(E|C) = P(E), which implies

$$\rho_{EC} = P(E) + \frac{P(E)P(C) - P(E)}{1 - P(C)} = P(E) - P(E) = 0$$

Causal penchant

The causal penchant $\rho_{EC} \in [1, -1]$ is

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Example (to help with intuition)

Consider C and E to be two fair coins, c_1 and c_2 , being "heads"; i.e., $P(c_1 = \text{``heads''}) = 0.5$ and $P(c_2 = \text{``heads''}) = 0.5$. If the coins are independent, then

$$P(c_2 = ext{``heads''}|c_1 = ext{``heads''}) = P(c_2 = ext{``heads''}) = 0.5 \Rightarrow
ho_{EC} = 0$$

If they are completely dependent then

$$P(c_2 = \text{``heads''}|c_1 = \text{``heads''}) = 1 \text{ or } 0 \Rightarrow \rho_{FC} = 1 \text{ or } -1$$

Causal penchant

The causal penchant $\rho_{EC} \in [1, -1]$ is

$$\rho_{EC} = P(E|C) \left(1 + \frac{P(C)}{1 - P(C)}\right) - \frac{P(E)}{1 - P(C)}$$

This formula has the additional benefit of only needing to estimate one conditional probability from the data.

Causal leaning

A difference of penchants can be used to compare different cause-effect assignments (i.e., different assumptions of what should be considered a cause and what should be considered an effect). The leaning is

$$\lambda_{EC} = \rho_{EC} - \rho_{CE}$$

Causal leaning

A difference of penchants can be used to compare different cause-effect assignments (i.e., different assumptions of what should be considered a cause and what should be considered an effect). The leaning is

$$\lambda_{EC} = \rho_{EC} - \rho_{CE}$$

Leaning interpretation

If $\lambda_{EC} > 0$, then C drives E more than E drives C.

Usefulness of the leaning

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The primary cause-effect assignment will be the *I-standard assignment*,

/-standard assignment

Consider a time series pair (\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Y}) . The *I*-standard assignment initially assumes the cause is the *I* lagged time step of \mathbf{X} and the effect is the current time step of \mathbf{Y} ; i.e., $\{C, E\} = \{x_{t-I}, y_t\}$.

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Probabilities will estimated using data frequency counts.

Leaning from the data

The cause-effect assignment must be specific if the probabilities are to be estimated with frequency counts and need to include *tolerance domains* to account for noise in the measurements.

Leaning from the data

Consider the time series pair (\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Y}) . The penchant calculation depends on the conditional $P(y_t = a | x_{t-l} = b)$, where $a \in \mathbf{Y}$ and $b \in \mathbf{X}$. This conditional will be estimated as

$$P(y_t \in [a - \delta_y^L, a + \delta_y^R] | x_{t-l} \in [b - \delta_x^L, b + \delta_x^R]) = \frac{n_{a \cap b}}{n_b}$$

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$$P(y_t \in [a - \delta_y^L, a + \delta_y^R] | x_{t-1} \in [b - \delta_x^L, b + \delta_x^R]) = n_{a \cap b}$$

$$n_{a \cap b}$$
 is the number of times $y_t \in [a - \delta_y^L, a + \delta_y^R]$ and $x_{t-1} \in [b - \delta_x^L, b + \delta_x^R]$ in (\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Y})

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 n_b is the number of times $x_{t-l} \in [b - \delta_x^L, b + \delta_x^R]$ in **X**

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The tolerance domains are usually considered symmetric; i.e., $\delta_{\rm x}^L=\delta_{\rm x}^R$ and $\delta_{\rm y}^L=\delta_{\rm y}^R$

Leaning from the data

Consider the time series pair (\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Y}) . The penchant calculation depends on the conditional $P(y_t = a | x_{t-l} = b)$, where $a \in \mathbf{Y}$ and $b \in \mathbf{X}$. This conditional will be estimated as

$$P(y_t \in [a - \delta_y^L, a + \delta_y^R] | x_{t-l} \in [b - \delta_x^L, b + \delta_x^R]) = \frac{n_{a \cap b}}{n_b}$$

The causal inference implied by the leaning calculations are dependent on both the cause-effect assignment and the tolerance domains.

Weighted mean

Any time series pair (\mathbf{X},\mathbf{Y}) will have many leanings; e.g., an I-standard assignment of $\{C,E\}=\{x_{t-I}=b\pm\delta_x,y_t=a\pm\delta_y\}$ will have a different leaning calculation for each $x_{t-1}\in[b-\delta_x,b+\delta_x]$ and $y_t\in[a-\delta_v,a+\delta_v]$.

Weighted mean

Consider a time series pair (\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Y}) and some cause-effect assignment $\{C, E\}$ for which reasonable tolerance domains have been defined.

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The weighed mean observed penchant, $\langle \rho_{EC} \rangle_w$, is the weighed algebraic mean of the observed penchants.

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The weighed mean observed penchant, $\langle \rho_{EC} \rangle_w$, is the weighed algebraic mean of the observed penchants.

The weighed mean observed leaning, $\langle \lambda_{EC} \rangle_w$, is the difference of the weighed mean observed penchants; i.e., $\langle \lambda_{EC} \rangle_w = \langle \rho_{EC} \rangle_w - \langle \rho_{CE} \rangle_w$

Causal inference

Operational causality (penchant)

X causes Y if the weighted mean observed leaning is positive given a cause-effect assignment (and reasonable tolerance domains) in which the assumed cause X precedes the assumed effect Y; i.e.,

$$\begin{split} &\langle \lambda_{EC} \rangle_w > 0 & \Rightarrow & \mathbf{X} \to \mathbf{Y} \\ &\langle \lambda_{EC} \rangle_w < 0 & \Rightarrow & \mathbf{Y} \to \mathbf{X} \\ &\langle \lambda_{EC} \rangle_w = 0 & \Rightarrow & \text{no causal inference} \end{split}$$

given $C \in \mathbf{X}$, $E \in \mathbf{Y}$, and C precedes E.

Cross-correlation

The cross-correlation between two time series **X** and **Y** is

$$\rho^{xy} = \frac{E\left[\left(x_t - \mu_X\right)\left(y_t - \mu_Y\right)\right]}{\sqrt{\sigma_X^2 \sigma_Y^2}}$$

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The cross-correlation between two time series X and Y is

$$\rho^{xy} = \frac{E\left[\left(x_t - \mu_X\right)(y_t - \mu_Y)\right]}{\sqrt{\sigma_X^2 \sigma_Y^2}}$$

Every point in **X** is compared to the **mean** of **X**

Cross-correlation

The cross-correlation between two time series **X** and **Y** is

$$\rho^{xy} = \frac{E\left[\left(x_t - \mu_X\right)\left(y_t - \frac{\mu_Y}{\mu_Y}\right)\right]}{\sqrt{\sigma_X^2 \sigma_Y^2}}$$

Every point in ${\bf Y}$ is compared to the **mean** of ${\bf Y}$

Cross-correlation

The cross-correlation between two time series **X** and **Y** is

$$\rho^{xy} = \frac{E\left[\left(x_t - \mu_X\right)\left(y_t - \mu_Y\right)\right]}{\sqrt{\sigma_X^2 \sigma_Y^2}}$$

The product of the individual **variances** of **X** and **Y** is used as a normalization

Lagged cross-correlation difference (g_5)

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Example (to help with intuition)

$$\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{Y} \Rightarrow \rho^{xy} = \frac{E\left[\left(x_t - \mu_X\right)\left(y_t - \mu_Y\right)\right]}{\sqrt{\sigma_X^2 \sigma_Y^2}} = \frac{E\left[\left(x_t - \mu_X\right)^2\right]}{\sigma_X^2} = \frac{\sigma_X^2}{\sigma_X^2} = 1$$

Lagged cross-correlation difference (g_5)

Lagged cross-correlation

Consider a time series pair (X, Y). The past of Y may be compared to the present of X by introducing a lag I into the cross-correlation calculation,

$$\rho_{l}^{xy} = \frac{E\left[\left(x_{t} - \mu_{X}\right)\left(y_{t-l} - \mu_{Y}\right)\right]}{\sqrt{\sigma_{X}^{2}\sigma_{Y}^{2}}}$$

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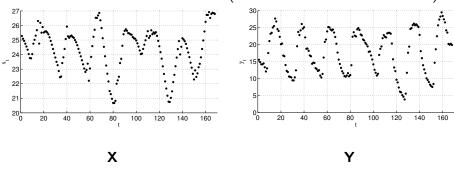
Operational causality (correlation)

 ${\bf X}$ causes ${\bf Y}$ (at lag /) if the past of ${\bf X}$ (i.e., ${\bf X}$ lagged by / time steps) is more strongly correlated with the present of ${\bf Y}$ than the past of ${\bf Y}$ (i.e., ${\bf Y}$ lagged by / time steps) is with the present of ${\bf X}$; i.e.,

$$\begin{split} |\rho_I^{xy}| - |\rho_I^{yx}| &< 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathbf{X} \to \mathbf{Y} \\ |\rho_I^{xy}| - |\rho_I^{yx}| &> 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathbf{Y} \to \mathbf{X} \\ |\rho_I^{xy}| - |\rho_I^{yx}| &= 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \text{no causal inference} \end{split}$$

Time series data

Consider a time series pair (\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Y}) where \mathbf{X} are indoor temperature measurements (in degrees Celsius) in a house with "experimental" environmental controls and \mathbf{Y} is the temperature outside of that house, measured at the same time intervals (168 measurements in each series)³

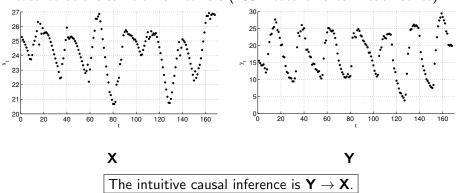


http://www.osti.gov/scitech/biblio/5231321. The data is also available as part of the UCI Machine Learning Repository.

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The embedding dimension will be set (somewhat arbitrarily) to E=10 and the time delay will be $\tau=1$.

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The tolerance domains will be the f-width tolerance domains; i.e., $\pm \delta_x = f(\max(\mathbf{X}) - \min(\mathbf{X}))$ and $\pm \delta_y = f(\max(\mathbf{Y}) - \min(\mathbf{Y}))$. For this example, f = 1/4.

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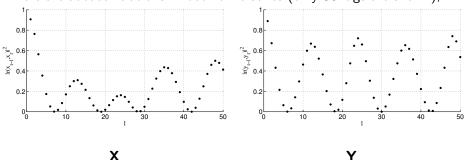
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The cause-effect assignment will be the *I*-standard assignment, but **there** is still the problem of determining relevant lags *I*.

Autocorrelations

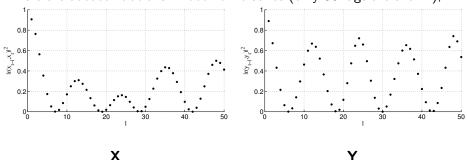
There are autocorrelations in both time series (only 50 lags are shown),



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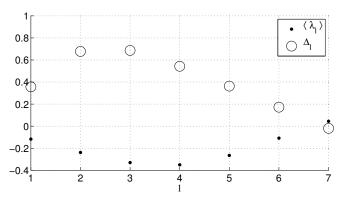


The autocorrelations appear cyclic and initially drop to zero around I=7 for both time series.

This observation will be used justify using lags of $l=1,2,\cdots,7$ for both g_4 (leaning) and g_5 (cross-correlation).

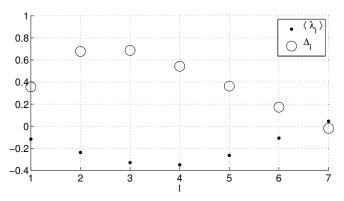
Lagged cross-correlations and leanings

The lagged cross-correlations and leaning (using the *I*-standard assignment) can be plotted for each tested lag,



Lagged cross-correlations and leanings

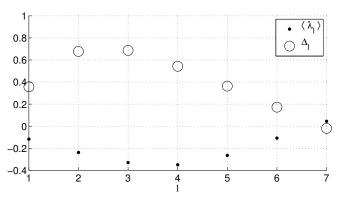
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There are 7 different causal inferences in this plot, all of which agree except I = 7.

Lagged cross-correlations and leanings

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There are 7 different causal inferences in this plot, all of which agree except l=7. A single causal inference (for each tool) will be found with the algebraic mean across all the tested lags.

Making an ECA guess

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$$T_{X \to Y} - T_{Y \to X} = -0.14 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathbf{Y} \to \mathbf{X} \quad \Rightarrow \quad g_1 = 1$$

Making an ECA guess

$$T_{X \to Y} - T_{Y \to X} = -0.14 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathbf{Y} \to \mathbf{X} \quad \Rightarrow \quad g_1 = 1$$

 $F_{X \to Y} - F_{Y \to X} = -0.35 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathbf{Y} \to \mathbf{X} \quad \Rightarrow \quad g_2 = 1$

Making an ECA guess

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} T_{X \to Y} - T_{Y \to X} = -0.14 & \Rightarrow & \mathbf{Y} \to \mathbf{X} & \Rightarrow & g_1 = 1 \\ F_{X \to Y} - F_{Y \to X} = -0.35 & \Rightarrow & \mathbf{Y} \to \mathbf{X} & \Rightarrow & g_2 = 1 \\ C_{YX} - C_{XY} = 3.1 \times 10^{-4} & \Rightarrow & \mathbf{Y} \to \mathbf{X} & \Rightarrow & g_3 = 1 \end{array}$$

Making an ECA guess

Making an ECA guess

Making an ECA guess

Each of the five time series tools leads to a causal inference in the ECA guess vector,

$$T_{X \to Y} - T_{Y \to X} = -0.14 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathbf{Y} \to \mathbf{X} \quad \Rightarrow \quad g_1 = 1$$

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$$C_{YX} - C_{XY} = 3.1 \times 10^{-4} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathbf{Y} \to \mathbf{X} \quad \Rightarrow \quad g_3 = 1$$

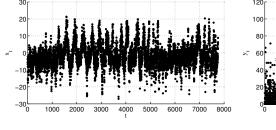
$$\langle \langle \lambda_{EC} \rangle_w \rangle = -0.20 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathbf{Y} \to \mathbf{X} \quad \Rightarrow \quad g_4 = 1$$

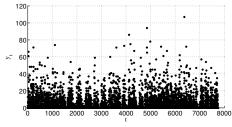
$$\langle |\rho_I^{xy}| - |\rho_I^{yx}| \rangle = 0.40 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathbf{Y} \to \mathbf{X} \quad \Rightarrow \quad g_5 = 1$$

 \therefore the ECA guess is $\mathbf{Y} \to \mathbf{X}$, which agrees with intuition

Time series data

Consider a time series pair (\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Y}) where \mathbf{X} is the mean daily temperature (in degrees Celsius) at Whistler, BC, Canada, and \mathbf{Y} is the total snowfall (in centimeters) (7,753 measurements in each series)⁴





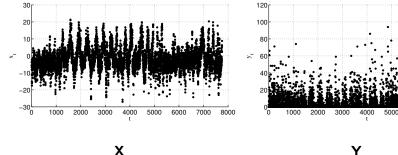




³This data is available as part of the UCI Machine Learning Repository. The data was recorded from July 1, 1972 to December 31, 2009.

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The intuitive causal inference is $X \rightarrow Y$.

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ECA guess preliminaries

The ECA guess can be made with similar parameters as the previous example,

- ullet The embedding dimension will be E=100 with a time delay of au=1
- ► The cause-effect assignment will be the *I*-standard assignment
- ▶ The tolerance domains will be the 1/4-width domains
- ▶ The tested lags will be I = 1, 2, ..., 20

Making an ECA guess

Making an ECA guess

$$T_{X \to Y} - T_{Y \to X} = 2.1 \times 10^{-2} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathbf{X} \to \mathbf{Y} \quad \Rightarrow \quad g_1 = 0$$

Making an ECA guess

$$T_{X \to Y} - T_{Y \to X} = 2.1 \times 10^{-2} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathbf{X} \to \mathbf{Y} \quad \Rightarrow \quad g_1 = 0$$

 $F_{X \to Y} - F_{Y \to X} = -2.6 \times 10^{-3} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathbf{Y} \to \mathbf{X} \quad \Rightarrow \quad g_2 = 1$

Making an ECA guess

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} T_{X \to Y} - T_{Y \to X} = 2.1 \times 10^{-2} & \Rightarrow & \mathbf{X} \to \mathbf{Y} & \Rightarrow & g_1 = 0 \\ F_{X \to Y} - F_{Y \to X} = -2.6 \times 10^{-3} & \Rightarrow & \mathbf{Y} \to \mathbf{X} & \Rightarrow & g_2 = 1 \\ C_{YX} - C_{XY} = -3.4 \times 10^{-2} & \Rightarrow & \mathbf{X} \to \mathbf{Y} & \Rightarrow & g_3 = 0 \end{array}$$

Making an ECA guess

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} T_{X \to Y} - T_{Y \to X} = 2.1 \times 10^{-2} & \Rightarrow & \mathbf{X} \to \mathbf{Y} & \Rightarrow & g_1 = 0 \\ F_{X \to Y} - F_{Y \to X} = -2.6 \times 10^{-3} & \Rightarrow & \mathbf{Y} \to \mathbf{X} & \Rightarrow & g_2 = 1 \\ C_{YX} - C_{XY} = -3.4 \times 10^{-2} & \Rightarrow & \mathbf{X} \to \mathbf{Y} & \Rightarrow & g_3 = 0 \\ \langle \langle \lambda_{EC} \rangle_w \rangle = 3.7 \times 10^{-2} & \Rightarrow & \mathbf{X} \to \mathbf{Y} & \Rightarrow & g_4 = 0 \end{array}$$

Making an ECA guess

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} T_{X \rightarrow Y} - T_{Y \rightarrow X} = 2.1 \times 10^{-2} & \Rightarrow & \mathbf{X} \rightarrow \mathbf{Y} & \Rightarrow & g_1 = 0 \\ F_{X \rightarrow Y} - F_{Y \rightarrow X} = -2.6 \times 10^{-3} & \Rightarrow & \mathbf{Y} \rightarrow \mathbf{X} & \Rightarrow & g_2 = 1 \\ C_{YX} - C_{XY} = -3.4 \times 10^{-2} & \Rightarrow & \mathbf{X} \rightarrow \mathbf{Y} & \Rightarrow & g_3 = 0 \\ \langle \langle \lambda_{EC} \rangle_w \rangle = 3.7 \times 10^{-2} & \Rightarrow & \mathbf{X} \rightarrow \mathbf{Y} & \Rightarrow & g_4 = 0 \\ \langle |\rho_I^{yy}| - |\rho_I^{yx}| \rangle = 2.3 \times 10^{-2} & \Rightarrow & \mathbf{Y} \rightarrow \mathbf{X} & \Rightarrow & g_5 = 1 \end{array}$$

Making an ECA guess

Each of the five time series tools leads to a causal inference in the ECA guess vector,

$$T_{X \to Y} - T_{Y \to X} = 2.1 \times 10^{-2} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathbf{X} \to \mathbf{Y} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathbf{g}_1 = 0$$

$$F_{X \to Y} - F_{Y \to X} = -2.6 \times 10^{-3} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathbf{Y} \to \mathbf{X} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathbf{g}_2 = 1$$

$$C_{YX} - C_{XY} = -3.4 \times 10^{-2} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathbf{X} \to \mathbf{Y} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathbf{g}_3 = 0$$

$$\langle \langle \lambda_{EC} \rangle_w \rangle = 3.7 \times 10^{-2} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathbf{X} \to \mathbf{Y} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathbf{g}_4 = 0$$

$$\langle |\rho_I^{xy}| - |\rho_I^{yx}| \rangle = 2.3 \times 10^{-2} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathbf{Y} \to \mathbf{X} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathbf{g}_5 = 1$$

: the ECA guess is undefined

Making an ECA guess

Each of the five time series tools leads to a causal inference in the ECA guess vector,

$$\begin{array}{cccccc} T_{X \to Y} - T_{Y \to X} = 2.1 \times 10^{-2} & \Rightarrow & \mathbf{X} \to \mathbf{Y} & \Rightarrow & \mathbf{g}_1 = 0 \\ F_{X \to Y} - F_{Y \to X} = -2.6 \times 10^{-3} & \Rightarrow & \mathbf{Y} \to \mathbf{X} & \Rightarrow & \mathbf{g}_2 = 1 \\ C_{YX} - C_{XY} = -3.4 \times 10^{-2} & \Rightarrow & \mathbf{X} \to \mathbf{Y} & \Rightarrow & \mathbf{g}_3 = 0 \\ \langle \langle \lambda_{EC} \rangle_w \rangle = 3.7 \times 10^{-2} & \Rightarrow & \mathbf{X} \to \mathbf{Y} & \Rightarrow & \mathbf{g}_4 = 0 \\ \langle |\rho_I^{xy}| - |\rho_I^{yx}| \rangle = 2.3 \times 10^{-2} & \Rightarrow & \mathbf{Y} \to \mathbf{X} & \Rightarrow & \mathbf{g}_5 = 1 \end{array}$$

... the ECA guess is undefined

The majority of the causal inferences agree with intuition.

Objections to causal studies

Data analysis often ignores causality.

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Two primary objections to time series causality

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Many different tools have been developed that go beyond correlation and ignoring such tools means ignoring potentially useful inferences that can be drawn from the data.

Objections to causal studies

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Two primary objections to time series causality

- 1. Correlation is not causation
- 2. Confounding cannot be controlled

Many different tools have been developed that go beyond correlation and ignoring such tools means ignoring potentially useful inferences that can be drawn from the data.

True, but this is an issue of defining "causality". **Exploring** potential causal relationships within data sets can be done with **operational** definitions of causality. These different causalities may provide deeper insight into the system dynamics.

Expanding the notion of data analysis

Causal analysis (either exploratory or confirmatory) can, and should, be a part of a standard data analysis approach in physics.

BACK-UP

Impulse with linear response

Consider $\{X, Y\} = \{\{x_t\}, \{y_t\}\}\$ where t = 0, 1, ..., L,

$$x_t = \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} 2 & t = 1 \\ A\eta_t & \forall \ t \in \{t \mid t \neq 1 \ \mathrm{and} \ t \ \mathrm{mod} \ 5 \neq 0\} \\ 2 & \forall \ t \in \{t \mid t \ \mathrm{mod} \ 5 = 0\} \end{array} \right.$$

and $y_t = x_{t-1} + B\eta_t$ with $y_0 = 0$, $A, B \in \mathbb{R} \ge 0$ and $\eta_t \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$. Specifically, consider L = 500, A = 0.1, and B = 0.4.

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccc} T_{X \to Y} - T_{Y \to X} = 5.3 \times 10^{-1} & \Rightarrow & \mathbf{X} \to \mathbf{Y} & \Rightarrow & g_1 = 0 \\ F_{X \to Y} - F_{Y \to X} = 4.5 \times 10^{-1} & \Rightarrow & \mathbf{X} \to \mathbf{Y} & \Rightarrow & g_2 = 0 \\ C_{YX} - C_{XY} = -8.3 \times 10^{-3} & \Rightarrow & \mathbf{X} \to \mathbf{Y} & \Rightarrow & g_3 = 0 \\ \langle \langle \lambda_{EC} \rangle_w \rangle = 6.6 \times 10^{-3} & \Rightarrow & \mathbf{X} \to \mathbf{Y} & \Rightarrow & g_4 = 0 \\ \langle |\rho_I^{yy}| - |\rho_I^{yx}| \rangle = -2.8 \times 10^{-3} & \Rightarrow & \mathbf{X} \to \mathbf{Y} & \Rightarrow & g_5 = 0 \end{array}$$

Cyclic driving with linear response

Consider
$$\{X, Y\} = \{\{x_t\}, \{y_t\}\}\$$
where $t = 0, 1, ..., L$,

$$x_t = a\sin(bt + c) + A\eta_t$$

and

$$y_t = x_{t-1} + B\eta_t$$

with $y_0 = 0$, $A \in [0,1]$, $B \in [0,1]$, $\eta_t \sim \mathcal{N}(0,1)$, and with the amplitude a, the frequency b, and the phase c all in the appropriate units. Specifically, consider L = 500, A = 0.1, B = 0.4, a = b = 1, and c = 0.

$$T_{X \to Y} - T_{Y \to X} = 1.9 \times 10^{-1} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathbf{X} \to \mathbf{Y} \quad \Rightarrow \quad g_1 = 0$$

$$F_{X \to Y} - F_{Y \to X} = 2.1 \times 10^{-1} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathbf{X} \to \mathbf{Y} \quad \Rightarrow \quad g_2 = 0$$

$$C_{YX} - C_{XY} = -9.8 \times 10^{-3} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathbf{X} \to \mathbf{Y} \quad \Rightarrow \quad g_3 = 0$$

$$\langle \langle \lambda_{EC} \rangle_{w} \rangle = 3.9 \times 10^{-3} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathbf{X} \to \mathbf{Y} \quad \Rightarrow \quad g_4 = 0$$

$$\langle |\rho_{xy}^{yy}| - |\rho_{yx}^{yx}| \rangle = -2.9 \times 10^{-2} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathbf{X} \to \mathbf{Y} \quad \Rightarrow \quad g_5 = 0$$

Cyclic driving with non-linear response

Consider $\{X, Y\} = \{\{x_t\}, \{y_t\}\}\$ where t = 0, 1, ..., L,

$$x_t = a\sin(bt + c) + A\eta_t$$

and

$$y_t = Bx_{t-1}(1 - Cx_{t-1}) + D\eta_t,$$

with $y_0=0$, with $A,B,C,D\in[0,1]$, $\eta_t\sim\mathcal{N}\left(0,1\right)$, and with the amplitude a, the frequency b, and the phase c all in the appropriate units given $t=0,f\pi,2f\pi,3f\pi,\ldots,6\pi$ with f=1/30, which implies L=181. Specifically, consider A=0.1, B=0.3, C=0.4, D=0.5, a=b=1, and c=0.

$$T_{X \to Y} - T_{Y \to X} = 2.7 \times 10^{-1} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathbf{X} \to \mathbf{Y} \quad \Rightarrow \quad g_1 = 0$$

$$F_{X \to Y} - F_{Y \to X} = 2.6 \times 10^{-1} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathbf{X} \to \mathbf{Y} \quad \Rightarrow \quad g_2 = 0$$

$$C_{YX} - C_{XY} = -1.8 \times 10^{-3} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathbf{X} \to \mathbf{Y} \quad \Rightarrow \quad g_3 = 0$$

$$\langle \langle \lambda_{EC} \rangle_{w} \rangle = 8.4 \times 10^{-3} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathbf{X} \to \mathbf{Y} \quad \Rightarrow \quad g_4 = 0$$

 $\langle |\rho_{\iota}^{xy}| - |\rho_{\iota}^{yx}| \rangle = -6.8 \times 10^{-2} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathbf{X} \rightarrow \mathbf{Y} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathbf{g}_5 = 0$

Coupled logistic map

Consider
$$\{X, Y\} = \{\{x_t\}, \{y_t\}\}\$$
 where $t = 0, 1, ..., L$,

$$x_t = x_{t-1} (r_x - r_x x_{t-1} - \beta_{xy} y_{t-1})$$

and

$$y_t = y_{t-1} (r_y - r_y y_{t-1} - \beta_{yx} x_{t-1})$$

where the parameters r_x , r_y , β_{xy} , $\beta_{yx} \in \mathbb{R} \geq 0$. Specifically, consider L=500, $\beta_{xy}=0.5$, $\beta_{yx}=1.5$, $r_x=3.8$, and $r_y=3.2$ with initial conditions $x_0=y_0=0.4$.

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} T_{X \rightarrow Y} - T_{Y \rightarrow X} = 4.9 \times 10^{-1} & \Rightarrow & \mathbf{X} \rightarrow \mathbf{Y} & \Rightarrow & g_1 = 0 \\ F_{X \rightarrow Y} - F_{Y \rightarrow X} = 5.4 \times 10^{-1} & \Rightarrow & \mathbf{X} \rightarrow \mathbf{Y} & \Rightarrow & g_2 = 0 \\ C_{YX} - C_{XY} = -3.9 \times 10^{-3} & \Rightarrow & \mathbf{X} \rightarrow \mathbf{Y} & \Rightarrow & g_3 = 0 \\ \langle \langle \lambda_{EC} \rangle_w \rangle = 2.7 \times 10^{-1} & \Rightarrow & \mathbf{X} \rightarrow \mathbf{Y} & \Rightarrow & g_4 = 0 \\ \langle |\rho_I^{xy}| - |\rho_I^{yx}| \rangle = -2.6 \times 10^{-1} & \Rightarrow & \mathbf{X} \rightarrow \mathbf{Y} & \Rightarrow & g_5 = 0 \end{array}$$