Multi-modal Time Series Analysis: A Tutorial and Survey

I引言

什么是多模态时间序列分析?

• 结合时间序列数据与其他补充模态(如文本、图像等)进行分析。

为什么重要?

- 数据来源日益多样化(文本、图像、表格等)
- 多模态提供更丰富的信息,显著提升下游任务(如预测、分类)的性能

核心挑战

- 数据异构性(不同统计特性、结构、维度)
- 时间不对齐(不同时间戳或粒度)。
- 固有的噪声和不相关信息。

综述目标:

- 提供多模态时间序列数据集和方法的系统性、最新概述
- 提出一个统一的跨模态交互框架。

Multi-modal Time Series Analysis

Background -

Challenges, Our Motivations, Preliminaries, etc.

Data, Methods & Applications

Multi-modal Time Series Data

- 1. Modalities: Time Series, Text, Image, Table, Graph, etc.
- 2. Scope, Existing Datasets, Characteristics, Domains, etc.

Taxonomy of Multi-modal Time Series Methods

- 1. Interaction Stage (Input, Intermediate, Output)
- 2. Interaction Strategy (Fusion, Alignment, Transference)
- 3. Specific Method (Concatenate, Attention, Contrastive, Gating, etc.)

Domains & Tasks

- 1. General, Finance, Healthcare, Traffic, Environment, etc.
- 2. Forecasting, Classification, Causal Discovery, Retrieval, etc.

Future Research Directions

Reasoning, Decision Making, Generalization, Contextual Noise, Bias & Ethics

II 多模态时间序列数据

常见模态

- 时间序列:核心数据
- 表格 (Tabular): 事件日志、人口统计信息等。
- 文本 (Text): 临床记录、新闻、社交媒体帖子等。
- 图像 (Image): 医学影像、卫星图像等。
- 图 (Graph): 社交网络关系、交通网络结构等。
- 音频 (Audio): 可视为特殊类型的时间序列。

代表性数据集:

Domain	Dataset (Superscripts include the URLs to the datasets)	Modalities
Healthcare	MIMIC-III [35] ^[1] , MIMIC-IV [34] ^[2] ICBHI [65] ^[3] , Coswara [4] ^[4] , KAUH [21] ^[5] , PTB-XL [71] ^[6] , ZuCo [14, 26] ^[7] Image-EEG [22] ^[8]	TS, Text, Tabular TS, Text TS, Image
Finance	FNSPID [17] ^[9] , ACL18 [84] ^[10] , CIKM18 [79] ^[11] , DOW30 [11] ^[12]	TS, Text
Multi-domain	Time-MMD [53] ^[13] , TimeCAP [42] ^[14] , NewsForecast [73] ^[15] , TTC [37] ^[16] , CiK [77] ^[17] , TSQA [38] ^[18]	TS, Text
Retail	VISUELLE [70] ^[19]	TS, Image, Text
IoT	LEMMA-RCA [40] ^[20]	TS, Text
Speech	LRS3 [1] ^[21] , VoxCeleb2 [13] ^[22]	TS (Audio), Image
Traffic	NYC-taxi, NYC-bike [48] ^[23]	ST, Text
Environment	Terra [10] ^[24]	ST, Text

III Cross-modal Interactions with Time Series

III 跨模态交互框架

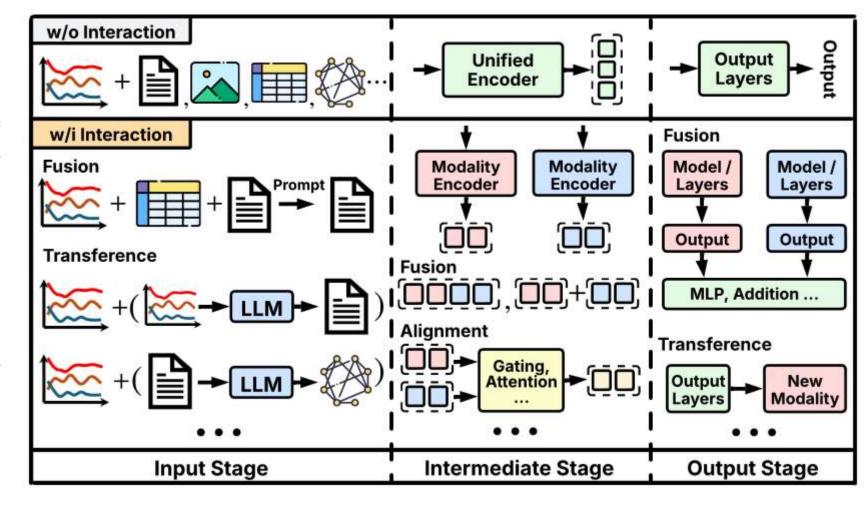
核心思想: 根据模态间交互的方式和阶段对现有方法进行分类

三种交互方式

- 融合 (Fusion): 整合异构 模态以捕捉互补信息
- 对齐 (Alignment): 确保模态间关系的保留和语义一致性
- 转换 (Transference): 在 不同模态之间进行映射 (如 生成、翻译)

三个交互阶段:

- 输入阶段
- 中间阶段(表示层或中间输出)
- 输出阶段



III 交互方式 - 融合

目标:整合不同模态信息以改进时间序列建模。

输入阶段融合

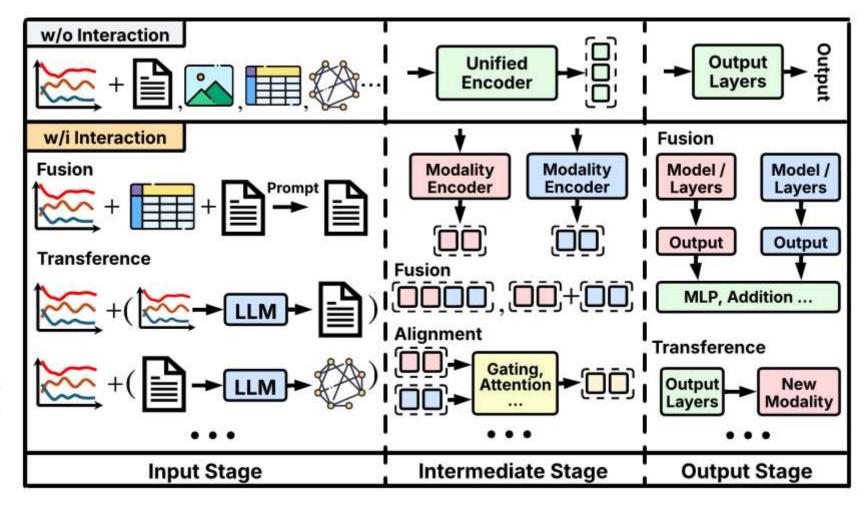
- 将TS、表格、文本整合为 统一的文本提示 (prompt),输入LLM
- 将配对的文本嵌入作为TS 的附加变量

中间阶段融合

• 常用方法: 加法、拼接 多模态表示

输出阶段融合

• 来自不同模态的预测或模型的输出在输出阶段融合



III 交互方式 – 对齐

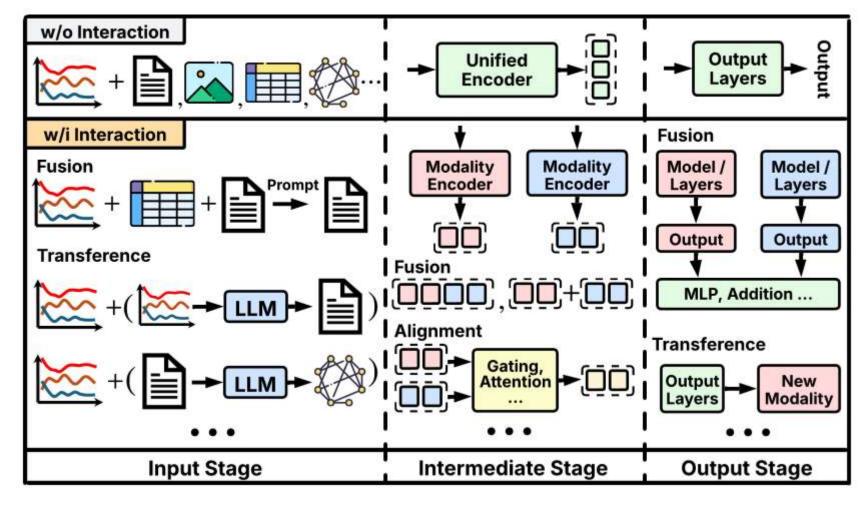
目标: 确保不同模态在统一学习框架中保留关系和语义连贯。解决模态间的异质性、时间不一致性以及噪声问题

输入阶段对齐

• 数据预处理:解决时间不对 齐、采样间隔/粒度差异问 题。

中间阶段对齐

- 自注意力:联合、无向对齐 所有模态。
- 交叉注意力:以时序为查询 Q,其他模态作为K和V,有 向对齐
- 门控机制:参数化过滤,调节各模态影响
- 图模态的对齐:利用图结构 进行对齐(如图卷积)



III 交互方式 - 转换

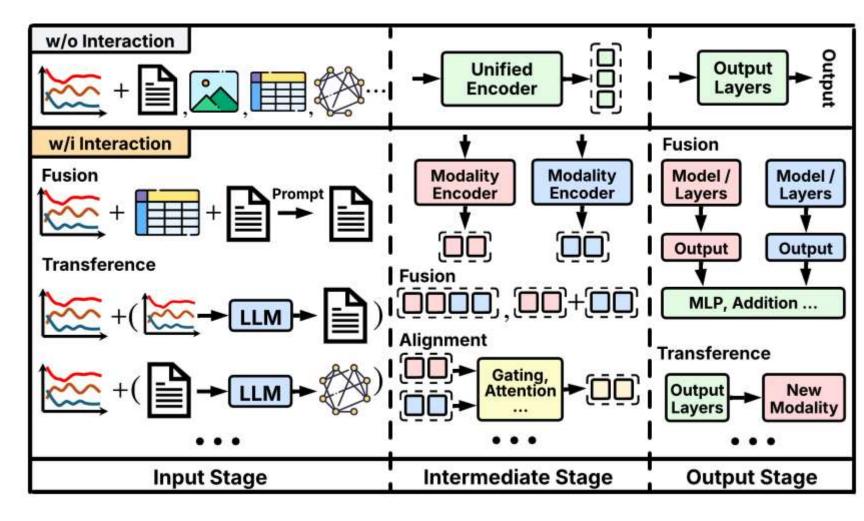
定义: 在不同模态间进行映射(推断、合成)

输入阶段转换(主要用于模态增强)

- 丰富样本,提供替代表示
- 示例:使用元信息生成文本 描述;利用LLM生成文本/ 图;将TS转换为图像或表格
- 用途:作为语义锚点指导表示对齐;为LLM提供上下文

中间/输出阶段融合(任务导向)

- 中间阶段:生成待优化的初始解
- 输出阶段:新模态生成(如基于文本的时间序列数据检索)



III 方法分类

系统地分类超过40种代表性的多模态时间序列 方法

- ・ 方法 (Method)
- 模态 (Modality):明确指出每种方法处理的数据类型
- **应用领域 (Domain)**:如通用、金融、交通等
- 任务 (Task):如预测、分类、检索、生成等。
- 跨模态交互(Cross-Modal Interaction): 交 互发生的阶段 (Stage) (输入/中间/输出), 以及采用的交互策略 (Fusion, Alignment, Transference)。具体的实现技术 (Method), 比如: 拼接(Concat)、加法(Addition)、自注 意力(Self-attention)、交叉注意力(Cross-attention)
- · 大模型 (Large Model):标注是否采用大型 预训练模型

Method	Modulity	Domain	Task			Line	Cross-Modal Interaction				
10000000		1120000000	-400	Stage Fasion Ally			ign, Tram. Method		Large Model	Vest	Ced
Time-MMD [88]	TS. Text	Cound	Formasting	Output	1	*		Addition	Multiple	2024	34
Wang et al. [78]	Th. Test	General	Foregoing	liquit Internediate	5	3	ž	Prompt LLM Resembling	LLuMu2 GPT-4 Turbo	2024	16
CPTO/ITS [H]	TS. Text	General	Forcuring	Interroediate	1	1	×	Addition: Self-attention	GPT-2	2024	N
TimeCMA [31]	Th. Text	General	Foresasting	Input Intermediate	ž	- 5	4	Meta-description Addition Convention	CFT-2	3029	-
MOST [41]	Th. Text	General	Pomcasting	Intermediate Output	1	4	×	Concat., Self-attention. Office Synthesis (MLP)	S-Best	3024	5
TimeCAP [42]	TS, Text	General	Classification	Ingut Intermediate Output	3	1	Ý,	LLM Generation Concat; Self-attention, Betrieval Addition	Beet, CPT-6	2004	
TimeXL [31]	TS. Text	General	Classification Forecasting	Intermediate Output	5	4	ž	Concat., Prompt; LLM Reserving Addition	Bert, S-Bert GPT-to	2925	8
Hebrid-MMF (17)	TS: Text	General	Forevesting	Intermediate	1	- ×	*	Concat	CPT-to	3024	3
Time LLM [10]	Th. Text	General	Foresasting	lique intermediate	5	3	4	Meta-description Concat, Self-attention	HAMA, GPT-2	3974	3
Time-VLM [98]	TX. Text. Image	General	Formatting.	Input Intermediate	1	5	4	Feat. Imaging, Meta-description. Addition, Gating, Cross attention	VILT. CLIP BLIP 2	2025	2
Unitime [55]	TS, Text.	Genural	Formasting	bene	*	-	4	Meta-description Consut / Self-attraction	OPT-2	2024	3
TE38A [30]	TS. Text	General	Amotation	Intermediate	-		- 5	Prompt: NL: LLM Generation	GPT-to	3024	-
Instruction [12]	TS, Text	General	Classification	Intermediate	-	2	*	Concat : Self-attending	GPT-2	2023	7
MATNED [68]	Th. Text, Graph	General	Canal Discovery	listermediate				Pringit; LLM Reauming; Supervision		2025	-
5TG-LLM [54]	ST. Text	General	Forcesting	Intermediate	-	-		Concat.; Self-attention.	GFT-2	3024	-
TableTime [77]	TS. Text	General	Classification	liqui	V	*	1	Prompt: Reformulate	Multiple	2024	3
ContextFormer [6]	TS. Yabular	General	Foresting	Intermediate	-	-	*	Addison Cross-attention	No	2925	-
Time-59QA [10]	TS, Text	General	Multiple	lignet	1	×	*	Priorpt	Multiple	2925	3
MAN-SF [67]	TS. Text. Craph	Pinance	Classification	Intermediate	-	1		Bilinear: Geaph Convolution	1.56	2020	
Bandred et al. (1)	TS, Text TS, Image	Finance	Betziensl	Intermediate Output	ž	4	5	Squerrinian	5-Best	2024	
Chen et al. [11]	Th. Test. Graph	Finance	Clanification	Intermediate	3	3	4	LLM Generation Cenerat: Graph Convolution	CharGPT	3023	1
Nie-et al. [81]	TS: Text	Finance	Clanification	Input	-	*	- 1	Prompt	Charget	3021	7
Yu. ot. al. [89]	TS: Text	Finance	Ponesorting	liquit	1	*	*	Prompt	GPT-4: Open LLaMA	2023	-
MedTid LM [SI	TS, Text, Tubular	Bedricare	Multiple	Intermediate	1	-		Connet: Self-attention	Hans2	3024	-
BespLLM (95)	TS (Audio), Test	Healthcare	Charification	Intermediate	-	1	*	Addition, Self-attention	OpenBioLLNL88	2024	-
METS [45]	TS, Text	Healthcare	Classification	Output	*	1	*	Contrastive	Clinicalliert	2023	7
Wang et al. [75]	Th, Text	Healthcare	Classification	Intermediate			1	Supervision	Burt, Seet, Solierta	3111	7
EEGITENT [12]	Th. Text	Healthcare	Concretion	Output	*	*	1	Self-inpervision, Supervision	But	2024	-)
MEDHAP [74]	TS. Text	Healthcare	Classification	Intermediate	1	1		Concat., Self-attention, Contrastive	Chical75	3923	-
Dysoabi et al. [16]	Til: Text	Healthoare	Classification	Intermediate	1	- 10		Concet	Bio+Clinical Hert	30.01	-
Nin et al. [60]	TS, Text	Healthcare	Clanification	Intermediate	1	1	3.8	Concat. Cross attention	BioBERT	2923	- 2
Yang et al. [85]	Th. Text	Healthcare	Classification	bitemediate	1	1	*	Concat. Addition: Getting	ClinicalIERT	3031	
Lin et al. [56]	TS. Text	Healthcare	Clamification Regression	Ingrati	1	×	*	Prompt	PubM	3023	-
eTP-IAM (H)	ST, Test	Traffic	Formatting	liqui	1	*	V	Protogi; Meta-description	Clama3-TB-chat	3934	-
UshanGPT [48]	ST. Tost	Traffic	Forecasting	Input	1	*	1	Primpt; Meta-description.	Vicuna-78	2024	-
CayGPT [19]	ST, Test	Mobility	Multiple	Input	1	*	*	Primpt	Multiple	2025	-
MULAN [97]	Th. Text. Graph	hit	Canad Discovery	Intermediate	1	1	1	Addition: Contrastive Supervision	No	3924	-
MEA (A2)	TS: Image	InT	Anomaly Detection	Intermediate	1	1	*	Addition, Cross-attention, Gating	No	3023	7
Ekonburan et al. [18]	Th. Inveger, Text	Retail	Forecasting	Intermediate	1	1	*	Concat: Self & Cross-attention	No	2020	1
Skenderi et al. [20]	Th. Image. Test	Retail	Formusting	Immodiate	1	1	*	Concut.; Cross-albertion	No	2934	3
VIMTS [96]	97. linoge	Environment	logotation	Interprediste	1	7	*	Concat.: Supervision	No	3922	1
TLLE [44]	ST. Text. Image	Encomment:	Formetting	Intermediate	1	1		Consul.; Self-attention	LLaMA-2-7B	2024	-0
AV-Hubert (ev)	TS (Audio), Image	Speech.	Classification	Intermediate	1	1	*	Concat., Self-attention	Hubert	3922	-
SpeechGPT [Wi]	TS(Audio), Text	Speech.	Generation	interprediste	1	· V	*	Concut.; Self-attention.	LLaMA-13B	3923	1
LA-CK-N [83]	ST. Text	Vision	Classification	Intermediate		1		Supervision	Bert	2021	7

IV Applications & Future Research Directions

IV 应用领域与未来方向

应用领域

● 医疗健康

- 整合多种数据源(如电子健康记录、音频、脑电图、心电图及其他可穿戴传感器数据)
- 针对音频、脑电图、心电图等数据开发的定制多模态方法,用于呼吸健康分类、心脏信号分析等医疗任务

金融

- 将市场时间序列(股价、交易量等)与新闻文本或社交媒体信息融合,辅助趋势预测
- 金融市场中,融合多模态信息可以更全面地评估市场情绪

● 交通与环境

- 结合地理空间数据、交通流量序列与天气新闻报道,用于更精准的出行预测与区域规划
- 环境监测中,多模态信息的整合能够有效解决数据缺失问题,提升环境时空预测的准确性

● 其它领域

- 物联网:融合传感器时序与日志文本或图像监控实现工业设备故障诊断
- 零售:新品销售预测(结合图像、文本描述)

未来方向

大模型与跨模态推理、整合多模态信息构建决策支持系统、提高多模态数据质量

总结

全面概述了多模态时间序列分析的现状

系统梳理了数据集和方法 (>40种)、提出了统一的跨模态交互框架 (融合、对齐、转换)、讨论了实际应用和未来方

谢谢!