







# Copula Theory

## Theorem (Sklar's Theorem)

<sup>a</sup> Given a random vector  $X = (X_1, \dots, X_N)$ , its CDF  $F(x)$  can be represented as

$$F(x) = C(u_1, \dots, u_N), \quad (1)$$

where  $C$  is a copula function,  $\{u_i\}$  are marginal distribution functions of  $X$ . If  $\{F_i\}$  are continuous, then  $C$  is unique.

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<sup>a</sup>M. Sklar. "Fonctions de repartition an dimensions et leurs marges". In: *Publ. Inst. Statist. Univ. Paris 8* (1959), pp. 229–231.

- the core of copula theory
- there exists a copula function for each multivariate probability function



# Copula Entropy: Theory

## Definition (Copula Entropy)

Let  $X$  be random variables with marginals  $u$  and copula density  $c(u)$ . Copula Entropy of  $X$  is defined as

$$H_c(x) = - \int_u c(u) \log c(u) du. \quad (3)$$

- a special type of Shannon entropy
- an ideal measure of statistical independence
- distribution-free









# Copula Entropy: Application I

## Association Discovery<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup>Jian Ma. "Discovering Association with Copula Entropy". In: *arXiv preprint arXiv:1907.12268* (2019).



# Copula Entropy: Association Discovery

- Traditional association measures
  - Pearson Correlation Coefficient

$$r_{XY} = \text{corr}(X, Y) = \frac{\text{cov}(X, Y)}{\delta_X \delta_Y} \quad (6)$$

- Spearman's  $\rho$  and Kendall's  $\tau$

$$\rho_{XY} = 12 \int_u \int_v C(u, v) dudv - 3 \quad (7)$$

$$\tau_{XY} = 4 \int_u \int_v C(u, v) dC(u, v) - 1 \quad (8)$$

- Why Copula Entropy?

**Table:** Theoretical comparison between CE and CC.

	CC	CE
linearity	linear	nonlinear
Order	2	$\geq 2$
Assumption	Gaussian	None
variate	bivariate	multivariate



















# Copula Entropy: Application III

## Variable Selection<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup>Jian Ma. "Variable Selection with Copula Entropy". In: *Chinese Journal of Applied Probability and Statistics* 37.4 (2021), pp. 405–420.

# Copula Entropy: Variable Selection

- Problem
  - To select a 'right' subset of variables from the whole group for building classification or regression models with good predictability and interpretability
- History
  - An old and basic problem in statistics and machine learning
- Related Problems
  - Feature Selection
  - Model Selection

# Copula Entropy: Variable Selection

Existing methods - Likelihood with penalty

- Information Criteria  
with penalty on the number of parameters in the models

$$\text{AIC} = -2L + 2p \quad (9)$$

$$\text{BIC} = -2L + p \log N \quad (10)$$

- Penalized GLMs  
with penalty on the nonzero coefficients in the GLMs
  - LASSO
  - Ridge Regression
  - Elastic Net

$$\min_{\beta} \{L(\beta; y, \mathbf{X}) + \lambda_1 \|\beta\|_1 + \lambda_2 \|\beta\|_2^2\} \quad (11)$$

- Adaptive LASSO

$$\min_{\beta} \{L(\beta; y, \mathbf{X}) + \lambda \sum_{j=1}^p w_j |\beta_j|\} \quad (12)$$

# Copula Entropy: Variable Selection

Existing methods - Statistical independence measures

- Distance Correlation

$$\text{dCor}(X, Y) = \frac{\nu^2(X, Y)}{\sqrt{\nu^2(X)\nu^2(Y)}}, \quad (13)$$

where  $\nu^2(X, Y)$  be distance covariance.

- Hilbert-Schmidt Independence Criterion (HSIC)

$$\text{dHSIC}(P(X)) = \|\Pi(P(X_1) \otimes \dots \otimes P(X_d)) - \Pi(P(X))\|, \quad (14)$$

where  $\Pi$  be the mean embedding function associated with kernel functions.



# Copula Entropy: Variable Selection

- CE based method
  - To select variables based on ranks of their negative CE values with target
- Advantages
  - model-free, non-parametric
  - tuning-free, insensitive to parameters
  - interpretable with physical meanings
  - supported by rigorous math
  - science instead of art, compared with existing methods
  - easy to implement, low computation burden

# Copula Entropy: Variable Selection

## Experiments on the UCI heart disease data<sup>6</sup>

- Overview of the data

The data set contains 4 databases (899 samples) concerning heart disease diagnosis. All attributes are numeric-valued. The data was collected from the four following locations:

- Cleveland clinic foundation;
- Hungarian Institute of Cardiology, Budapest;
- V.A. medical center, long beach, CA;
- University hospital, Zurich, Switzerland.

- Attributes

The data has 76 attributes (#58 'num' for diagnosis). Of them, 13 attributes are recommended by professionals as clinical relevant.

Table: Recommended attributes.

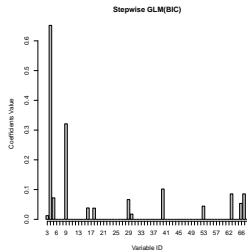
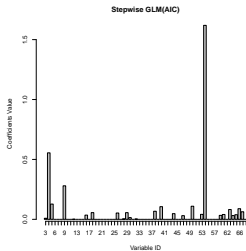
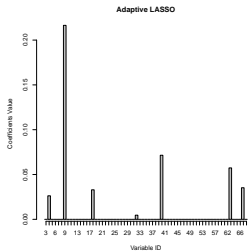
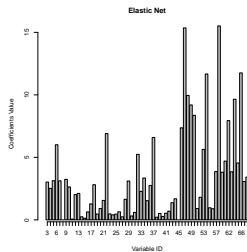
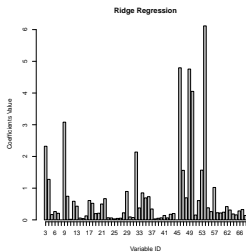
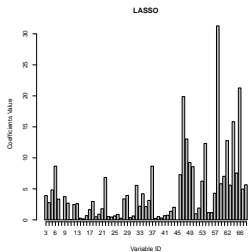
<b>ID</b>	3	4	9	10	12	16	19
<b>Name</b>	age	sex	cp	trestbps	chol	fbs	restecg
<b>ID</b>	32	38	40	41	44	51	58
<b>Name</b>	thalach	exang	oldpeak	slope	ca	thal	num

<sup>6</sup> Arthur Asuncion and David Newman. *UCI machine learning repository*. 2007.



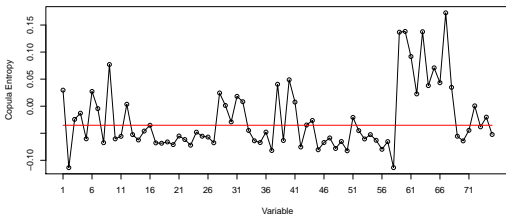
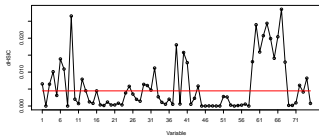
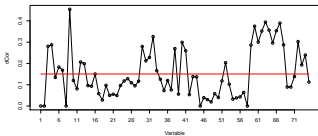
# Copula Entropy: Variable Selection

- Results - Coefficients of penalized likelihood based models



# Copula Entropy: Variable Selection

- Results - with statistical dependence measures (dCor, dHSIC, CE)



# Copula Entropy: Variable Selection

- Results - Prediction accuracy  
the selected variables present the best prediction accuracy.

Model	Accuracy(%)
SVM(Recommended variables)	84.20
SVM(CE)	<b>84.76</b>
SVM(dCor)	82.76
SVM(dHSIC)	84.54
Stepwise GLM(AIC)	51.8
Stepwise GLM(BIC)	49.1
LASSO	79.2
Ridge Regression	63.0
Elastic Net	75.9
Adaptive LASSO	35.7

# Copula Entropy: Variable Selection

- Results - Selected variables  
Copula Entropy selects more 'right' variables than the other methods do.

Method	Selected Variables' ID	✓
Recommended variables	3,4,9,10,12,16,19,32,38,40,41,44,51	13
CE	3,4,6,7,9,12,16,28-32,38,40,41,44,51,59-68	<b>11</b>
dHSIC	3,4,6,7,9,12,13,16,25,29-32,38,40,41,44,59-68	10
dCor	3,4,6,7,9,12,13,16,28-33,38,40,41,52,59-68	9
Stepwise GLM(AIC)	3,4,5,9,12,16,18,20,26,29,30,32,40,44,47,50,53,54,60,61,63,65-67	8
Stepwise GLM(BIC)	3,4,5,9,16,18,29,30,40,53,63,66,67	5
Adaptive LASSO	4,6,9,18,32,40,63,67	4
LASSO		
Ridge Regression	all except 8,45	-
Elastic Net		

# Copula Entropy: Application IV

## Causal Discovery<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>7</sup>Jian Ma. “Estimating Transfer Entropy via Copula Entropy”. In: *arXiv preprint arXiv:1910.04375* (2019).

# Copula Entropy: Causal Discovery

- Problem
  - To infer causality from time series data by *estimating Transfer Entropy*
- History & Significance
  - Causality is one of the oldest topics in philosophy.
  - Causal discovery is a central problem of all sciences.
- Correlation vs Causality
  - Correlation does not mean causation.
  - Correlation is only helpful for prediction while causality means intervention and control.



# Copula Entropy: Causal Discovery

- Causality measures

- Wiener's Principle

Cause should improve the prediction of effect.

- Granger Causality

improvement measured by the variance of prediction error

$$\delta^2(Y_{t+1}|Y_t, X_t) < \delta^2(Y_{t+1}|Y_t) \quad (15)$$

- Transfer Entropy

improvement on the uncertainty of prediction measured by Shannon entropy

$$TE = \sum p(Y_{t+1}, Y^t, X_t) \log \frac{p(Y_{t+1}|Y^t, X_t)}{p(Y_{t+1}|Y^t)} \quad (16)$$

$$= H(Y_{t+1}|Y^t) - H(Y_{t+1}|Y^t, X_t) \quad (17)$$

$$= I(Y_{t+1}, X_t|Y^t) \quad (18)$$

- Issue on TE

difficult to estimate, some think impossible without model assumptions

# Copula Entropy: Causal Discovery

- TE via CE

## Proposition

*Transfer Entropy can be represented with only Copula Entropy.*

$$T_{x \rightarrow y} = -H_c(Y_{t+1}, Y^t, X_t) + H_c(Y_{t+1}, Y^t) + H_c(Y^t, X_t) - H_c(Y^t) \quad (19)$$

- Non-parametric Estimator of TE
  - ① estimating three or four CE terms in (19);
  - ② calculating TE for these estimated CEs.
- inheriting all the merits of non-parametric CE estimation

# Copula Entropy: Causal Discovery

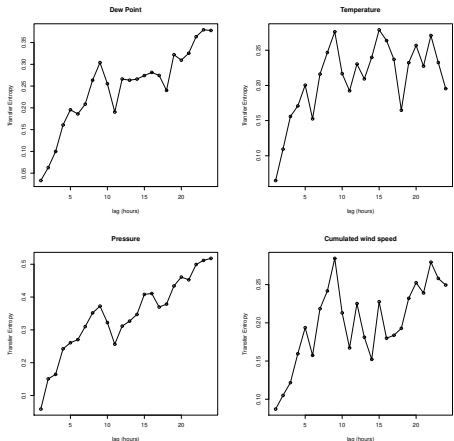
## Experiments on the UCI Beijing PM2.5 data<sup>8</sup>

- Overview of the data
  - Time
    - hourly data from 2010-01-01 to 2014-12-31, which results in 43824 samples with missing values.
  - Observations
    - PM2.5 data of US Embassy in Beijing
    - Meteorological data from Beijing Capital International Airport
  - Meteorological factors
    - dew point, temperature, pressure, cumulated wind speed, combined wind direction, cumulated hours of snow, cumulated hours of rain.
- Experimental data
  - the first four factors used in the experiments;
  - 1000 samples without missing values (2010-04-02~2010-05-14).

<sup>8</sup>Arthur Asuncion and David Newman. *UCI machine learning repository*. 2007.

# Copula Entropy: Causal Discovery

Results: Effects of meteorological factors on PM2.5



- Two phrases

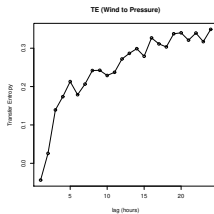
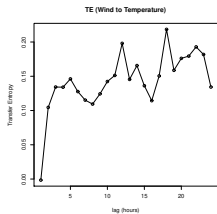
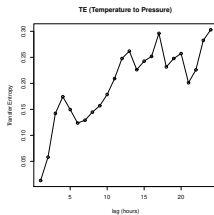
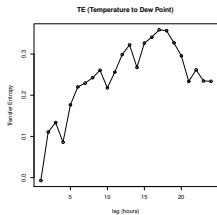
- Sharp increase phrase: the first 9 hours time lag, and peak at about 9 hours lag;
- Flat increase phrase: TE of Dew point and pressure increase with relatively flat rate while TE of temp. and cumulated wind speed does increase any more.

- Interpretation

- The effects do not show immediately and are cumulating processes.

# Copula Entropy: Causal Discovery

## Results - Effects between meteorological factors



- Temp. to Dew Point & Pressure
- Wind to Temp. & Pressure
  - Wind changes temperature in 3 hours later and
  - Wind changes pressure in 5 hours later.

# Copula Entropy: Application V

## Time Lag Estimation<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>9</sup>Jian Ma. "Identifying Time Lag in Dynamical Systems with Copula Entropy based Transfer Entropy". In: *arXiv preprint arXiv:2301.06037* (2023).

# Copula Entropy: Time Lag Estimation

- Problem
  - To identify time lag in dynamical systems with copula entropy based transfer entropy
- Significance
  - Time lag is ubiquitous in physical, social, and biological systems.
  - Identifying time lag is of fundamental importance in applications of dynamical systems.
- Related Methods
  - Auto-correlation
  - Time-delayed mutual information

# Copula Entropy: Time Lag Estimation

- Our method
  - ① estimating transfer entropies on time lag horizon from data with the CE-based estimator
  - ② identifying the time lag associated with the maximum TE value

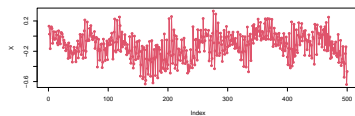
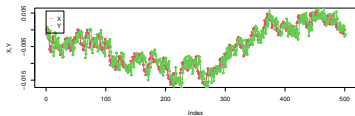
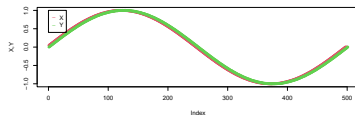
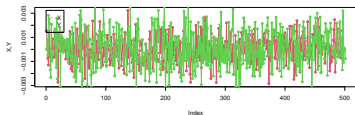


# Copula Entropy: Time Lag Estimation

- Simulations
  - ① generate trajectories from four simulated dynamical system with respect to different state or output lags
  - ② identify the time lag with our method
- Simulated systems
  - a system driven by random walk with output lag
  - a system driven by sine function with output lag
  - Wiener process with output lag
  - a first-order linear system with state lag

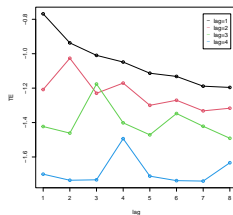
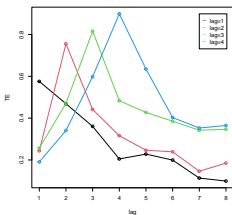
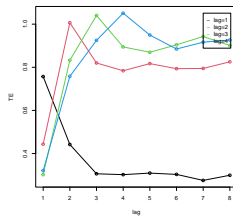
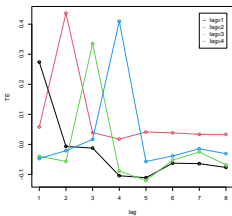
# Copula Entropy: Time Lag Estimation

- Simulated trajectories



# Copula Entropy: Time Lag Estimation

- Simulation: Results





# Copula Entropy: Application VI

## System Identification<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> Jian Ma. "System Identification with Copula Entropy". In: *arXiv preprint arXiv:2304.12922* (2023).

# Copula Entropy: System Identification

- Problem
  - To discover differential equation from time series data
- Significance
  - differential equations are the main mathematical tools for modelling dynamical systems.
  - discovering differential equations of dynamical systems has wide applications in many scientific fields.
- Related Methods
  - SINDy
  - Gaussian processes

# Copula Entropy: System Identification

- Idea  
considering system identification as a variable selection problem

$$\frac{dx_i}{dt} = f(x, t). \quad (20)$$

- Our method
  - ① calculating the derivative of system variables with differential operator;
  - ② estimating the CEs between the calculated derivatives and the covariates of the system;
  - ③ selecting the covariates with high CE value for each derivatives.





# Copula Entropy: Application VII

## Multivariate Normality Test<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>12</sup>Jian Ma. "Multivariate Normality Test with Copula Entropy". In: *arXiv preprint arXiv:2206.05956* (2022).

# Copula Entropy: Multivariate Normality Test

- Problem
  - To test the hypothesis that the distribution of data is normal distribution
- Significance
  - Normal distribution is the most important distribution in probability theory;
  - Normality is a common assumption of many statistical tools;
  - Testing normality is widely needed in real applications.
- Related Methods
  - characteristics function based
  - moments based
  - skewness and kurtosis
  - energy distance based
  - entropy based
  - Wasserstein distance based







# Copula Entropy: Application VIII

## Two-Sample Test<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>13</sup>Jian Ma. “Two-Sample Test with Copula Entropy”. In: *arXiv preprint arXiv:2307.07247* (2023).

# Copula Entropy: Two-Sample Test

- Problem
  - To test the hypothesis that two samples are from a same distribution
- Significance
  - a basic hypothesis testing problem;
  - Symmetry test and change point detection can be formulated as two-sample test problem;
  - has many real applications in many areas, such as politics, medicine, etc.
- Related Methods
  - T-test or F-test
  - Kernel-based two-sample test
  - Kolmogorov-Smirnov test
  - Mutual information based test















