

# Graph Neural Flows for Unveiling Systemic Interactions Among Irregularly Sampled Time Series

The 38th Annual Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems  
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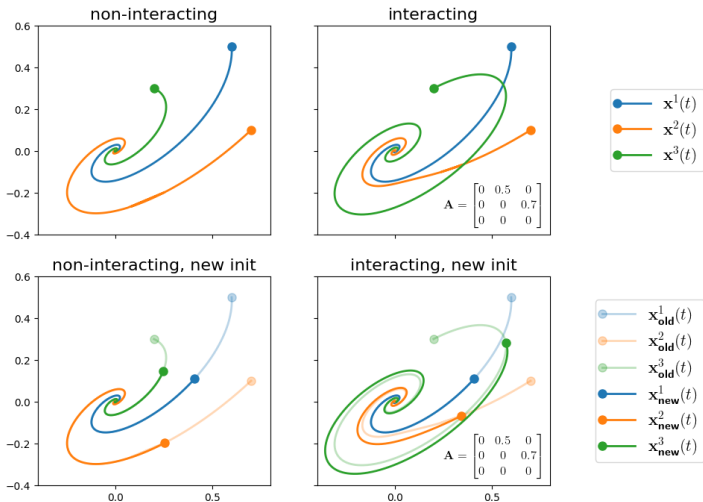
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# Modeling Interacting Time Series via a DAG



# DAG-Based ODE Model

Let  $\mathbf{A}$  be the DAG adjacency matrix of  $n$  time series  $\mathbf{X}(t) : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$ .

$$\dot{\mathbf{X}} = f(t, \mathbf{X}, \mathbf{A}) \quad \text{with} \quad \mathbf{X}(0) = \mathbf{X}_0, \quad (1)$$

where the right-hand side  $f$  is unknown.

**Problem:** Given  $\mathbf{X}(t)$  at irregular time points  $t_0, \dots, t_N$ , predict  $\mathbf{X}(t)$  for any  $t \geq t_0$ . Additionally, find  $\mathbf{A}$ .

**Graph neural flow framework:**

$$\mathbf{X}(t) = F(t, \mathbf{X}_0, \mathbf{A}), \quad (2)$$

where  $F(t, \mathbf{X}, \mathbf{A})$  is a neural network satisfying:

- 1  $F(0, \mathbf{X}_0, \mathbf{A}) = \mathbf{X}_0$ ;
- 2  $F(t, \mathbf{X}, \mathbf{A})$  is invertible in  $\mathbf{X}$  for any  $t$  and  $\mathbf{A}$ ; equivalently, the streamline  $F(t, \mathbf{X}_0, \mathbf{A})$  given any  $\mathbf{X}_0$  and  $\mathbf{A}$  is not self-intersecting.

$$\tilde{\mathbf{X}} = \text{GCN}(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{X}) = \hat{\mathbf{A}} \text{ReLU}(\hat{\mathbf{A}}\mathbf{X}\mathbf{W})\mathbf{U}, \quad (3)$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{A}} = \mathbf{I} - \mathbf{A}^\top / \gamma, \quad \text{where } \gamma = \max_j \{ \sum_{i \neq j} |\mathbf{B}_{ij}| \} \text{ and } \mathbf{B} = \mathbf{A} + \mathbf{A}^\top. \quad (4)$$

## Theorem (Contractiveness of GCN)

For any DAG adjacency matrix  $\mathbf{A}$ , the matrix  $\hat{\mathbf{A}}$  admits  $\|\hat{\mathbf{A}}\|_2 \leq 2$ .

# Parameterization of $F$ (1/3): ResNet Flow

$$F(t, \mathbf{X}, \mathbf{A}) = \mathbf{X} + \varphi(t) \cdot g(t, \mathbf{X}, \mathbf{A}), \quad (5)$$

$$g(t, \mathbf{X}, \mathbf{A}) = \text{MLP}^1(\mathbf{X} \parallel \tilde{\mathbf{X}} \parallel t) \odot \text{MLP}^2(\mathbf{X} \parallel t), \quad \tilde{\mathbf{X}} = \text{GCN}(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{X}). \quad (6)$$

# Parameterization of $F$ (2/3): GRU Flow

$$F(t, \mathbf{X}, \mathbf{A}) = \underbrace{\mathbf{X} + \varphi(t) \cdot h^1(t, \mathbf{X})}_{\text{base form}} \odot h^2(t, \tilde{\mathbf{X}}), \quad \tilde{\mathbf{X}} = \text{GCN}(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{X}), \quad (7)$$

where  $h^k$ ,  $k = 1, 2$ , is computed by

$$\begin{aligned} r^k(t, \mathbf{X}) &= \beta \cdot \text{sigmoid}(f_r^k(t, \mathbf{X})), & c^k(t, \mathbf{X}) &= \tanh(f_c^k(t, r^k(t, \mathbf{X}) \odot \mathbf{X})), \\ z^k(t, \mathbf{X}) &= \alpha \cdot \text{sigmoid}(f_z^k(t, \mathbf{X})), & h^k(t, \mathbf{X}) &= z^k(t, \mathbf{X}) \odot (c^k(t, \mathbf{X}) - \mathbf{X}). \end{aligned}$$

## Theorem

If  $f_z^k(t, \cdot)$ ,  $f_r^k(t, \cdot)$ ,  $f_c^k(t, \cdot)$ , and  $\text{GCN}(\mathbf{A}, \cdot)$  are contractive, the function  $F(t, \cdot, \mathbf{A})$  is invertible whenever  $\alpha(5\beta + 6) \leq 2$ .

## Parameterization of $F$ (3/3): Coupling Flow

$$\begin{aligned} F(t, \mathbf{X}, \mathbf{A})_U &= \mathbf{X}_U \odot \exp \left( \varphi_u(t) \cdot u(t, \mathbf{X}_V, \tilde{\mathbf{X}}_V) \right) + \left( \varphi_v(t) \cdot v(t, \mathbf{X}_V, \tilde{\mathbf{X}}_V) \right) \\ F(t, \mathbf{X}, \mathbf{A})_V &= \mathbf{X}_V, \end{aligned} \quad \underbrace{\tilde{\mathbf{X}}_V = \text{GCN}(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{X}_V)}_{\text{graph conditioned}} \quad (8)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} u(t, \mathbf{X}_V, \tilde{\mathbf{X}}_V) &= \text{MLP}^3 \left( \text{MLP}^1(\mathbf{X}_V || t) \parallel \text{MLP}^2(\tilde{\mathbf{X}}_V || t) \right) \\ v(t, \mathbf{X}_V, \tilde{\mathbf{X}}_V) &= \text{MLP}^4 \left( \text{MLP}^1(\mathbf{X}_V || t) \parallel \text{MLP}^2(\tilde{\mathbf{X}}_V || t) \right). \end{aligned}$$

$$\min_{\mathbf{A}, \theta} \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{A}, \theta) \quad \text{s.t. } \mathbf{A} \text{ corresponds to a DAG.} \quad (9)$$

Theorem (Zheng et al, 2018)

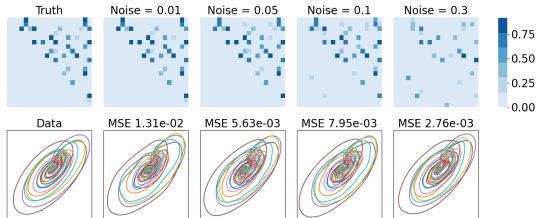
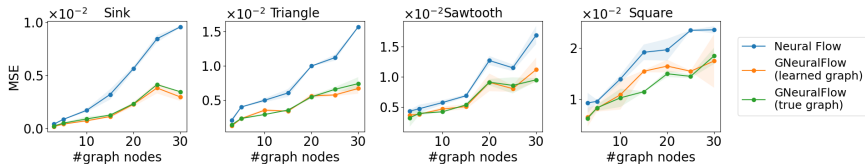
$\mathbf{A}$  is a DAG adjacency matrix iff  $\text{tr}(\exp(\mathbf{A} \odot \mathbf{A})) = n$ .

Theorem (Yu et al, 2019)

$\mathbf{A}$  is a DAG adjacency matrix iff  $\text{tr}((\mathbf{I} + \alpha \mathbf{A} \odot \mathbf{A})^n) = n$  for any  $\alpha \neq 0$ .



# Synthetic Systems



# Synthetic Systems

		Sink MSE ( $\times 10^{-4}$ )	Triangle MSE ( $\times 10^{-3}$ )	Sawtooth MSE ( $\times 10^{-3}$ )	Square MSE ( $\times 10^{-3}$ )
No Graph	Neural ODE	10.6 ( $\pm 0.03$ )	8.32 ( $\pm 0.24$ )	9.32 ( $\pm 0.36$ )	16.8 ( $\pm 0.39$ )
	Neural flow (ResNet)	8.41 ( $\pm 0.05$ )	4.01 ( $\pm 0.52$ )	4.73 ( $\pm 0.06$ )	9.61 ( $\pm 0.02$ )
	Neural flow (GRU)	10.9 ( $\pm 0.43$ )	10.3 ( $\pm 0.45$ )	16.1 ( $\pm 0.41$ )	17.2 ( $\pm 0.51$ )
	Neural flow (Coupling)	9.31 ( $\pm 0.23$ )	12.2 ( $\pm 0.41$ )	14.2 ( $\pm 0.24$ )	13.0 ( $\pm 0.63$ )
	GRU-D	12.3 ( $\pm 0.23$ )	11.3 ( $\pm 0.32$ )	17.6 ( $\pm 0.53$ )	18.7 ( $\pm 0.31$ )
Graph ODE	GDE	10.4 ( $\pm 0.20$ )	3.99 ( $\pm 0.05$ )	7.65 ( $\pm 0.03$ )	15.89 ( $\pm 0.81$ )
	LG-ODE	8.57 ( $\pm 0.06$ )	3.58 ( $\pm 0.21$ )	7.07 ( $\pm 0.02$ )	13.99 ( $\pm 0.73$ )
	CF-GODE	8.60 ( $\pm 0.14$ )	7.19 ( $\pm 0.02$ )	8.19 ( $\pm 0.03$ )	13.53 ( $\pm 0.11$ )
Graph Learn	NRI	5.25 ( $\pm 0.02$ )	3.96 ( $\pm 0.16$ )	4.99 ( $\pm 0.12$ )	9.39 ( $\pm 0.45$ )
	dNRI	5.40 ( $\pm 0.04$ )	3.39 ( $\pm 0.09$ )	4.97 ( $\pm 0.21$ )	9.78 ( $\pm 0.21$ )
Our Method	GNeuralFlow (ResNet)	<b>3.95</b> ( $\pm 0.32$ )	<b>2.32</b> ( $\pm 0.11$ )	<b>3.84</b> ( $\pm 0.06$ )	<b>8.24</b> ( $\pm 0.64$ )
	GNeuralFlow (GRU)	6.83 ( $\pm 0.23$ )	5.41 ( $\pm 0.23$ )	5.11 ( $\pm 0.13$ )	9.14 ( $\pm 0.61$ )
	GNeuralFlow (Coupling)	4.45 ( $\pm 0.51$ )	3.21 ( $\pm 0.34$ )	4.25 ( $\pm 0.09$ )	8.33 ( $\pm 0.23$ )

# Latent Variable Modeling: Smoothing

		Activity Accuracy	Physionet AUC	Activity MSE ( $\times 10^{-2}$ )	Physionet MSE ( $\times 10^{-3}$ )	MujoCo MSE ( $\times 10^{-3}$ )
No Graph	ODE-RNN	0.785 ( $\pm 0.003$ )	0.781 ( $\pm 0.004$ )	6.050 ( $\pm 0.10$ )	4.52 ( $\pm 0.03$ )	<b>2.540</b> ( $\pm 0.12$ )
	Neural flow (ResNet)	0.760 ( $\pm 0.004$ )	0.784 ( $\pm 0.010$ )	6.279 ( $\pm 0.09$ )	4.90 ( $\pm 0.12$ )	8.403 ( $\pm 0.14$ )
	Neural flow (GRU)	0.783 ( $\pm 0.008$ )	0.788 ( $\pm 0.008$ )	5.837 ( $\pm 0.07$ )	5.04 ( $\pm 0.13$ )	4.249 ( $\pm 0.07$ )
	Neural flow (Coupling)	0.752 ( $\pm 0.012$ )	0.788 ( $\pm 0.004$ )	6.579 ( $\pm 0.04$ )	4.86 ( $\pm 0.07$ )	4.217 ( $\pm 0.14$ )
Graph ODE	GDE	0.721 ( $\pm 0.014$ )	0.757 ( $\pm 0.010$ )	6.491 ( $\pm 0.011$ )	4.83 ( $\pm 0.38$ )	5.220 ( $\pm 0.42$ )
	LG-ODE	0.743 ( $\pm 0.023$ )	0.748 ( $\pm 0.018$ )	5.738 ( $\pm 0.089$ )	4.87 ( $\pm 0.27$ )	6.699 ( $\pm 0.83$ )
	CG-ODE	0.768 ( $\pm 0.048$ )	0.783 ( $\pm 0.082$ )	6.241 ( $\pm 0.012$ )	4.73 ( $\pm 0.07$ )	4.312 ( $\pm 0.17$ )
Our Method	GNeuralFlow (ResNet)	0.786 ( $\pm 0.009$ )	0.800 ( $\pm 0.009$ )	5.947 ( $\pm 0.03$ )	4.31 ( $\pm 0.06$ )	2.916 ( $\pm 0.21$ )
	GNeuralFlow (GRU)	0.804 ( $\pm 0.003$ )	<b>0.812</b> ( $\pm 0.001$ )	<b>5.169</b> ( $\pm 0.05$ )	<b>4.23</b> ( $\pm 0.15$ )	4.112 ( $\pm 0.13$ )
	GNeuralFlow (Coupling)	<b>0.808</b> ( $\pm 0.005$ )	0.808 ( $\pm 0.008$ )	5.431 ( $\pm 0.10$ )	4.59 ( $\pm 0.23$ )	3.849 ( $\pm 0.07$ )

# Latent Variable Modeling: Filtering

		MSE	NLL
No Graph	GRU-ODE-Bayes	0.379 ( $\pm 0.005$ )	0.748 ( $\pm 0.045$ )
	Neural flow (ResNet)	0.379 ( $\pm 0.005$ )	0.774 ( $\pm 0.059$ )
	Neural flow (GRU)	0.364 ( $\pm 0.008$ )	0.734 ( $\pm 0.054$ )
	Neural flow (Coupling)	0.366 ( $\pm 0.002$ )	0.675 ( $\pm 0.003$ )
Graph ODE	GDE	0.342 ( $\pm 0.001$ )	0.657 ( $\pm 0.007$ )
	LG-ODE	0.349 ( $\pm 0.002$ )	0.649 ( $\pm 0.005$ )
	CG-ODE	0.372 ( $\pm 0.011$ )	0.825 ( $\pm 0.018$ )
Our Method	GNeuralFlow (ResNet)	0.356 ( $\pm 0.0007$ )	0.663 ( $\pm 0.008$ )
	GNeuralFlow (GRU)	<b>0.335</b> ( $\pm 0.003$ )	<b>0.606</b> ( $\pm 0.001$ )
	GNeuralFlow (Coupling)	0.350 ( $\pm 0.004$ )	0.662 ( $\pm 0.008$ )

## Summary

- learning the systemic interactions of time series
- learning the graph structure in tandem with the system dynamics

## Limitation

- number of parameters on the  $\mathbf{A}$  part grows quadratically with the number of time series (nodes)
- mitigation is to introduce structures into  $\mathbf{A}$  (such as low-rankness),

## More info

Poster session 2.

Wed 11 Dec 4:30 p.m. PST — 7:30 p.m. PST