

Higher-order interactions in statistical physics, machine learning and biomedicine

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Biomedical AI Lab January 2023

Collaborators

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A cross-disciplinary journey (2017-2023)

Study of interactions:

Part 1: Using a neural network to estimate interactions in Ising model

Part 2: model-independent estimation of interactions directly from data

Part 3: Biological interpretation of interactions and application in biomedicine

Forward vs inverse problem

Forward problem (Statistical Physics): The goal is to provide a macroscopic description of Nature by deriving observable quantities from underlying laws.

- Ising model forward problem: Obtain observables such as magnetisation, energy and correlations, given the Hamiltonian and its parameters

Inverse problem: Starting point are observations (data), the goal is to infer microscopic properties of the system

- Estimate Ising interactions directly from data

Interactions



Part 1 Interactions: The Ising model & RBM

Ising Model





Restricted Boltzmann Machine (RBM)

$$E_{\theta}(\mathbf{v},\mathbf{h}) = -\sum_{i=1}^{n}\sum_{j=1}^{m}w_{ij}h_{i}v_{j} - \sum_{i=1}^{n}c_{i}h_{i} - \sum_{j=1}^{m}b_{j}v_{j}$$

$$p_{ ext{RBM}}(\mathbf{v},\mathbf{h}| heta) = rac{1}{Z_{ ext{RBM}}}e^{-E_{ heta}(\mathbf{v},\mathbf{h})}$$



$$D_{\mathrm{KL}}\left(q_{\mathrm{data}}(\mathbf{v})||p_{\mathrm{RBM}}(\mathbf{v}|\theta)\right) = \sum_{\mathbf{v}} q_{\mathrm{data}}(\mathbf{v})\log\left(\frac{q_{\mathrm{data}}(\mathbf{v})}{p_{\mathrm{RBM}}(\mathbf{v}|\theta)}\right)$$
$$= \sum_{\mathbf{v}} \left(q_{\mathrm{data}}(\mathbf{v})\log\left(q_{\mathrm{data}}\right) - q_{\mathrm{data}}(\mathbf{v})\log\left(p_{\mathrm{RBM}}(\mathbf{v}|\theta)\right)\right)$$

 $\mathsf{Max}\,\mathsf{likelihood} \iff \mathsf{Min}\,\mathsf{KL}\,\mathsf{divergence}$

Ising configuration training data

Observables

$$\langle m
angle = rac{1}{L^2} \left\langle \left| \sum_{i=1}^{L^2} s_i \right| \right\rangle,$$

 $\langle \chi
angle = rac{L^2}{T} \left\langle \left\langle m^2 \right\rangle - \left\langle m \right\rangle^2 \right\rangle,$
 $\langle E
angle = -rac{1}{L^2} \left\langle \sum_{\langle i,j
angle} s_i s_j \right\rangle,$
 $\langle c_v
angle = rac{L^2}{T^2} \left\langle \left\langle E^2 \right\rangle - \left\langle E \right\rangle^2 \right\rangle.$

RBM: Observables



Example: 1D Ising model in 6 variables



RBM: Estimation of interactions

$$E(\mathbf{v}) = -\sum_{j} b_j v_j - \sum_{j} \left(\sum_{i} \kappa_i^{(1)} W_{ij} \right) v_j - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{jk} \left(\sum_{i} \kappa_i^{(2)} W_{ik} W_{ij} \right) v_j v_k + \cdots$$

Beyond pairwise, higher-order couplings

Possible to re-sum the <u>entire</u> series to obtain 2-point coupling!!

For binary data, using cumulant generating function ...

$$v_j^n = v_j \quad , \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$$

finite sum

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finite sum

e.g., 2-point interaction:

$$H_{j_1 j_2} = \frac{1}{8} \sum_{i} \ln \frac{(1 + e^{c_i + W_{i j_1} + W_{i j_2}})(1 + e^{c_i})}{(1 + e^{c_i + W_{i j_1}})(1 + e^{c_i + W_{i j_2}})}$$

Closed form expression!

RBM: Estimation of interactions

$$E(\mathbf{v}) = -\sum_{j} b_j v_j - \sum_{j} \left(\sum_{i} \kappa_i^{(1)} W_{ij} \right) v_j - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{jk} \left(\sum_{i} \kappa_i^{(2)} W_{ik} W_{ij} \right) v_j v_k + \cdots$$

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$$v_j^n = v_j \quad , \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$$

finite sum

e.g., 3-point interaction:

$$\frac{1}{6} \sum_{i} \ln \frac{(1 + e^{c_i + W_{ij_1} + W_{ij_2} + W_{ij_3}})(1 + e^{c_i + W_{ij_1}})(1 + e^{c_i + W_{ij_2}})(1 + e^{c_i + W_{ij_2}})}{(1 + e^{c_i + W_{ij_1} + W_{ij_2}})(1 + e^{c_i + W_{ij_1} + W_{ij_2}})(1 + e^{c_i + W_{ij_2} + W_{ij_3}})(1 + e^{c_i})}$$

Closed form expression!

RBM: Couplings J_{ij}

Ising Model

RBM prediction



RBM: Couplings during training



RBM: Number of training examples





0.12 0.10 0.08 0.06 0.04 0.02 0.02 0.00 -0.02

200 Examples



10000 Examples

RBM: Lessons Learnt

- Understand well the training criteria from RBMs: Log-likelihood, Loss, free energy, reconstruction error + moments generated by the machine
- RBMs are successful at estimating (higher-order) interactions in a given system of binary variables
- Generally, need lots of training examples

AND

- Still need to deal with potentially very large numbers of dependent variables (e.g. Gene Networks). RBM interactions changing depending on gene included!
- RBMs are not particularly convenient to train ... (e.g. including time on hyperparameter tuning)

Part 2 Interactions: Model-independent definition and estimation

Defining the target

Aim: Formulate the **target** quantity of interest:

not as a property of a parametric statistical model

The target quantity can often be identified **without** ever specifying the functional or distributional form of the model: **model-independent**

Why is this important?

Targeted Learning

- 1) Be clear about what we are actually after.
- 2) Don't waste computational, analytical and data resources on irrelevant aspects of a problem (here the full joint distribution!)

Come up with a 'sensible' model-independent statistical definition

For 1 spin:

$$I_i^m = \ln \left(\frac{p(G_i = 1 \mid \underline{G} = 0)}{p(G_i = 0 \mid \underline{G} = 0)} \right)$$
Here G = spins
Later, G = genes

'odds ratio': What is the likelihood of spin i being 1 vs 0

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'odds ratio': What is the likelihood of spin i being 1 vs 0

For 2 spins:

$$I_{i,j}^{m} = \ln \left(\frac{p(G_{ij} = (1,1) \mid \underline{G} = 0)}{p(G_{ij} = (0,1) \mid \underline{G} = 0)} \right) - \ln \left(\frac{p(G_{ij} = (1,0) \mid \underline{G} = 0)}{p(G_{ij} = (0,0) \mid \underline{G} = 0)} \right)$$

'odds ratio' of spin i

'odds ratio' of spin i with spin j being 1 'odds ratio' of spin i with spin j being 0

'generalised odds ratio': Does the likelihood of spin i being 1 increase/decrease depending on whether spin j is 1/0. Generalisable to higher-orders.

Come up with a 'sensible' model-independent statistical definition

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If two spins are independent: $p(G_i, G_j | \underline{G} = 0) = p(G_i | \underline{G} = 0) p(G_j | \underline{G} = 0)$

There is no interaction:

$$I_{i,j}^m = 0$$

Come up with a 'sensible' model-independent statistical definition

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$$I_i^m = \ln \left(\frac{p(G_i = 1 \mid \underline{G} = 0)}{p(G_i = 0 \mid \underline{G} = 0)} \right)$$
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There is no interaction:

$$I_{i,j}^m = 0$$

Spoiler: J_{ij} in Ising!

Recall analytical formula for RBM interactions

$$E_{\theta}(\mathbf{v},\mathbf{h}) = -\sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{m} w_{ij}h_{i}v_{j} - \sum_{i=1}^{n} c_{i}h_{i} - \sum_{j=1}^{m} b_{j}v_{j}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix}h_{1} & h_{2} & h_{3} & \dots & h_{n} \\ c_{1} & c_{2} & c_{3} & \dots & c_{n} \\ c_{1} & c_{2} & c_{3} & \dots & c_{n} \\ b_{1} & b_{2} & b_{3} & \dots & b_{n} \\ b_{1} & b_{2} & b_{3} & \dots & b_{n} \\ v_{1} & v_{2} & v_{3} & \dots & v_{n} \end{pmatrix}$$

Marginal:
$$p(\mathbf{v}|\theta) = \frac{1}{\mathcal{Z}(\theta)} \prod_{j=1}^{m} \left(e^{b_j v_j}\right) \prod_{i=1}^{n} \left(1 + e^{c_i + \sum_{j=1}^{m} w_{ij} v_j}\right)$$

Asymptotic expansion, resummation, ...



Analytical closed-form expression for n-point interactions, e.g. 2-point:

$$J_{j_1,j_2} \propto \ln \prod_{i=1}^n \frac{(1+e^{c_i+w_{ij_1}+w_{ij_2}})(1+e^{c_i})}{(1+e^{c_i+w_{ij_1}})(1+e^{c_i+w_{ij_2}})}$$

Recall analytical formula for RBM interactions

$$E_{\theta}(\mathbf{v},\mathbf{h}) = -\sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{m} w_{ij}h_{i}v_{j} - \sum_{i=1}^{n} c_{i}h_{i} - \sum_{j=1}^{m} b_{j}v_{j}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix}h_{1} & h_{2} & h_{3} & \dots & h_{n} \\ c_{1} & c_{2} & c_{3} & \dots & c_{n} \\ c_{1} & b_{2} & c_{3} & \dots & c_{n} \\ b_{1} & b_{2} & b_{3} & \dots & b_{n} \\ b_{1} & b_{2} & b_{3} & \dots & b_{n} \\ v_{1} & v_{2} & v_{3} & \dots & v_{n} \end{pmatrix}$$

Marginal:
$$p(\mathbf{v}|\theta) = \frac{1}{\mathcal{Z}(\theta)} \prod_{j=1}^{m} \left(e^{b_j v_j}\right) \prod_{i=1}^{n} \left(1 + e^{c_i + \sum_{j=1}^{m} w_{ij} v_j}\right)$$

Instead, use the TL formulation to directly read-off the coupling!!

$$I_{j_1,j_2}^m = \frac{p(v_{j_1j_2} = (1,1), \underline{v} = 0)}{p(v_{j_1j_2} = (1,0), \underline{v} = 0)} \frac{p(v_{j_1j_2} = (0,0), \underline{v} = 0)}{p(v_{j_1j_2} = (0,1), \underline{v} = 0)} = \prod_{i=1}^n \frac{(1+e^{c_i+w_{ij_1}+w_{ij_2}})(1+e^{c_i})}{(1+e^{c_i+w_{ij_1}})(1+e^{c_i+w_{ij_2}})}$$

No asymptotic expansion and re-summation required ... Applies to other energy based models

Beentjes & Khamseh, Physical Review E (2020)

Model-independent estimation results

Conditioning on parent spins to isolate pairs from the rest of the system (Markovian). Run time: Few seconds per temperature.



10K samples

Biology: Large number of dependent variables

Estimating intricate interaction structure amongst many genes

Certain approximation no longer possible: $p(G_i, G_j) \neq p(G_i)p(G_j)$

G binarised!

Number of variables >> data, (and high temperatures)

$$I_{i,j}^{m} = \ln\left(\frac{p(G_{ij} = (1,1) \mid \underline{G} = 0)}{p(G_{ij} = (0,1) \mid \underline{G} = 0)} \frac{p(G_{ij} = (0,0) \mid \underline{G} = 0)}{p(G_{ij} = (1,0) \mid \underline{G} = 0)}\right)$$

Estimate conditional dependencies directly from data, using efficient causal discovery algorithms (e.g. PC, Score-based MCMC)

Nothing comes for free! These come with their own assumptions/bias Keep in mind to be conservative.

Part 3 Biological data: Gene expression

The central dogma



Biology: Large number of dependent variables







Plot by Abel Jansma (PhD student)

10X single-cell LEVEL: 2 1M mouse brain Slo39a14 developmental data rept **€**th) Atf Ca(cn)g5 Si(na)d3 fzd9 **Atf**₿ Shedt Ampd3 Gata fas (dit) Clip4 Phachr1 (Atf⊉ T(gfb)3 Nfia fage made Pp(p1) bp Q(reb)1 Crto) Hepp1 (crb)2 E(ef 2)k



Plot by Abel Jansma (PhD student)







Estimate model-free n-point interactions

$$I_{i,j}^{m} = \ln\left(\frac{p(G_{ij} = (1,1) \mid \underline{G} = 0)}{p(G_{ij} = (0,1) \mid \underline{G} = 0)} \frac{p(G_{ij} = (0,0) \mid \underline{G} = 0)}{p(G_{ij} = (1,0) \mid \underline{G} = 0)}\right)$$

2-point up to 7-point interactions





What is the biological interpretation of these n-point interactions?

Does it help answer questions of molecular & cell biologists?

Regulation vs Cell State

1. MFIs represent physical interactions amongst molecules within a cell



2. MFIs represent a biochemical network: Transcription factor A -> Target gene B



3. MFIs represent dependence structure amongst genes that imply cell types, subtypes or states
 (MFIs estimated as an average across diverse cell populations)

i.e. the statistical interpretation of interactions, rather than dynamical/physical



For each cell



 $if(G_1, G_2, G_3) = (1, 1, 1) \Rightarrow 1$ $if(G_1, G_2, G_3) \neq (1, 1, 1) \Rightarrow 0$





Stator pipeline: Abel Jansma (PhD student)





Will biologists bother using this methodology?

Criteria:

1. Ease of use

(easy-to-follow documentation, easy copy/paste code, press of a button)

2. Speed

...

. . .

. . .

- 3. Output with good visualisation
- 4. Biology that "makes sense"

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...

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n. The methodology behind the software

(where n can be very large!)



Liver Cancer: Cell types and states



State: e.g. cell cycle, proliferative states, high-energy state, ...

Stator app interface



If you like MFIs and use it, please consider citing the related article:

Higher-order interactions in statistical physics and machine learning: A model-independent solution to the inverse problem at equilibrium Sjoerd Viktor Beentjes and Ava Khamseh, Phys. Rev. E. 2020 Nov 102, 053314

MFIs application code is available through Github

If you have any question, you can send an e-mail



Explore cell states by MFIs

MFIs takes in scRNA-seq count matrix and estimate gene interactions. Here we show how to use these MFIs to explore cell states.

Data Visualization & Analysis

- Table A Summary statistics for deviating state
- Heatmaps Over-representation test for MFIs and other cell annotations
- GO & KEGG for genes in each state
- rrvgo Simplifying the redundance of GO sets
- Upset Plot
- DE analysis for mutually exclusive states

Tutorial



Stator interface app: Yuelin Yao (PhD student)

Stator app interface



Here we use scRNA-seq HCC dataset. To upload your data, click the box:



About **H** Table Heatmap

CO & KEGG

Using rrvgo

III Upset Plot

X DE analysis

Table for deviating MFIs

391 deviating MFIs in total, 21 clusters.

Show 10 + entries			Search:		
	genes	state	dev 🌲	pval 🌲	cluster 🌲
47	IGHG4_IGHG1_IGKC	111	216.09886998247	2.29736631083133e-28	Cluster:1
150	IGHG4_FGFBP2_IGKC	111	21.9122324209873	1.04827895292059e-19	Cluster:1
341	PLTP_CD68_C1QC_RNASE1	1101	6.41225201584546	1.39266594426104e-9	Cluster:2
213	EREG_CXCL8_IL1B_FCN1	1011	14.7648630077289	1.05933261179815e-8	Cluster:3
220	EREG_CXCL8_IL1B_FCN1	1101	13.9465435194403	3.12038785771356e-13	Cluster:3
282	EREG_IL1B_FCN1	101	9.95679034074909	2.46844896187663e-13	Cluster:3
292	EREG_CXCL8_FCN1	101	9.09789155019342	9.41630198774148e-13	Cluster:3
177	IGHG4_IGHG1_IGKC	110	18.5991179035581	8.521545688936e-16	Cluster:4
63	CXCL1_IER3_CXCL3	111	99.0782359764262	2.01516836396423e-47	Cluster:5
74	MB_NDUFA4L2_TFF2	111	79.5037037037037	6.82448451177721e-18	Cluster:5
Showing 1 to 10 of 391 entries			Previous 1 2	3 4 5	40 Next

🕹 Download as .csv

Stator app interface



Compare to known cell types from the literature

Compare to other methods used in the literature, e.g. NMF

Compare to expert annotated cell types

Stator interface app: Yuelin Yao (PhD student)



Backup slides

RBM Prediction: n-point interactions

- A non pair-wise treatment
- Higher order couplings
- Not accessible via standard statistical techniques

$$E(\mathbf{v}) = -\sum_{j} b_{j} v_{j} - \sum_{j} \left(\sum_{i} \kappa_{i}^{(i)} W_{ij} \right) v_{j} - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{jk} \left(\sum_{i} \kappa_{i}^{(2)} W_{ik} W_{ij} \right) v_{j} v_{k} + \cdots$$

Re-sum the entire series to obtain 2-point coupling!!

Derivation of n-point interactions in closed form

$$\begin{split} E(\mathbf{v}) &= \ln \sum_{\mathbf{h}} e^{E(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{h})} \\ &= \quad \ln \sum_{\mathbf{h}} e^{-\sum_{j} b_{j} v_{j} - \sum_{i} c_{i} h_{i} - \sum_{i,j} h_{i} W_{ij} v_{j}} \\ &\qquad \mathbf{h} \end{split}$$

$$E(\mathbf{v}) = -\sum_{j} b_{j} v_{j} - \sum_{i} \ln \sum_{h_{i}} e^{c_{i}h_{i}} e^{\sum_{j} h_{i}W_{ij}v_{j}}$$
$$= -\sum_{j} b_{j} v_{j} - \sum_{i} \ln \sum_{h_{i}} q(h_{i})e^{th_{i}} , \qquad t \equiv \sum_{j} W_{ij}v_{j} \text{ and } q(h_{i}) \equiv e^{c_{i}h_{i}}$$

Cumulant generating function:

$$K_i(t) \equiv \ln \sum_{h_i} q(h_i) e^{th_i} = \sum_n \frac{\kappa_i^{(n)} t^n}{n!}$$

$$\kappa_i^{(n)} = \partial_t^n K_i(t)|_{t=0}$$

A high-bias, low-variance introduction to machine learning for physicists by Mehta et al. Physics Reports (2019)

Derivation of n-point interactions in closed form

$$E(\mathbf{v}) = -\sum_{j} b_{j} v_{j} - \sum_{i} \kappa_{i}^{(0)} - \sum_{i} \kappa_{i}^{(1)} t - \sum_{i} \frac{\kappa_{i}^{(2)} t^{2}}{2!} - \dots$$
$$= -\sum_{i} \kappa_{i}^{(0)} - \sum_{j} \left(b_{j} + \sum_{i} \kappa_{i}^{(1)} W_{ij} \right) v_{j} - \frac{1}{2!} \sum_{j_{1}, j_{2}} \left(\sum_{i} \kappa_{i}^{(2)} W_{ij_{1}} W_{ij_{2}} \right) v_{j_{1}} v_{j_{2}} - \dots$$

$$v_j^n = v_j \quad , \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$$

e.g. 2-point interaction:

$$\sum_{n>1} \frac{1}{2(n!)} \sum_{0 < k < n} \sum_{j_1 \neq j_2} \left(\sum_i \kappa_i^{(n)} \binom{n}{k} W_{ij_1}^k W_{ij_2}^{n-k} \right) v_{j_1} v_{j_2}$$

$$H_{j_1 j_2} = \frac{1}{8} \sum_{i} \ln \frac{(1 + e^{c_i + W_{ij_1} + W_{ij_2}})(1 + e^{c_i})}{(1 + e^{c_i + W_{ij_1}})(1 + e^{c_i + W_{ij_2}})}$$

Closed form expression!

Cossu et. al., Physical Review B (2018)

Derivation of n-point interactions in closed form

$$E(\mathbf{v}) = -\sum_{j} b_{j} v_{j} - \sum_{i} \kappa_{i}^{(0)} - \sum_{i} \kappa_{i}^{(1)} t - \sum_{i} \frac{\kappa_{i}^{(2)} t^{2}}{2!} - \dots$$
$$= -\sum_{i} \kappa_{i}^{(0)} - \sum_{j} \left(b_{j} + \sum_{i} \kappa_{i}^{(1)} W_{ij} \right) v_{j} - \frac{1}{2!} \sum_{j_{1}, j_{2}} \left(\sum_{i} \kappa_{i}^{(2)} W_{ij_{1}} W_{ij_{2}} \right) v_{j_{1}} v_{j_{2}} - \dots$$

$$v_j^n = v_j \quad , \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$$

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. . .

e.g. 3-point interaction:

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 Closed form expression!

Cossu et. al., Physical Review B (2018)

Back to Ising ...



Model-independent estimation results

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100K samples