Empirical Mode Decomposition

Patrick Flandrin

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thanks to Gabriel Rilling, Paulo Gonçalves, Azadeh Moghtaderi & Pierre Borgnat

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Aim

Given an observation x(t), get a representation of the form :

$$\mathbf{x}(t) = \sum_{k=1}^{K} \mathbf{a}_k(t) \,\psi_k(t),$$

where the $a_k(t)$'s measure "amplitude modulations" and the $\psi_k(t)$'s "oscillations".

⇒ "EMD" (Empirical Mode Decomposition)

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- deduce an upper and a lower envelope by interpolation (cubic splines)
 - subtract the mean envelope from the signal
 - iterate until #{extrema} = #{zeroes} ±1
- Subtract the so-obtained Intrinsic Mode Function (IMF) from the signal
- iterate on the residual

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IMF 1; iteration 1









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IMF 1; iteration 5

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IMF 2; iteration 2

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IMF 3; iteration 14

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IMF 4; iteration 42



IMF 5; iteration 13

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IMF 7; iteration 21

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time





















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time











time



























- Locality The method operates at the scale of one oscillation.
- Adaptativity The decomposition is fully data-driven.
- Arbitrary oscillation No assumption on the harmonic structure of oscillations ⇒ 1 non linear oscillation = 1 mode.
- Multiresolution The iterative process explores sequentially the "natural" constitutive scales of a signal.
- Performance evaluation The decomposition is defined as the output of the algorithm (no analytic definition) ⇒ need of numerical simulations in well-controlled situations.

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Empirical Mode Decomposition (EMD)

signal = fast oscillation + slow oscillation & iteration

- separation "fast vs. slow" data driven
- "local" analysis based on extrema
- theoretical framework ?

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Discrete Wavelet Transform (DWT)

| signal = approximation + detail |
|---------------------------------|
| & |
| iteration |

- separation "approximation vs. detail" based on a priori (dyadic) filtering
- "global" analysis
- sound mathematical grounds

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EMD vs. wavelets

similarity : both achieve a decomposition into "fluctuations" and "trend"

$$\begin{aligned} x(t) &= \sum_{k} c_{k}(t) + r_{K}(t) \qquad (\text{EMD}) \\ &= \sum_{k} d_{k}(t) + a_{K}(t) \qquad (\text{DWT}) \\ d_{k}(t) &= \sum \langle x, \psi_{kn} \rangle \psi_{kn}(t) \end{aligned}$$

with
$$d_k(t) = \sum_n \langle x, \psi_{kn} \rangle \psi_{kn}(t)$$

and $a_K(t) = \sum_n \langle x, \varphi_{Kn} \rangle \varphi_{Kn}(t)$

Ofference : scales are pre-determined for DWT ({φ, ψ}_{kn}(t) = 2^{-k/2}{φ, ψ}(2^{-k}t - n)) and adaptive (data-driven) for EMD

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2 difference : scales are **pre-determined** for DWT $(\{\varphi, \psi\}_{kn}(t) = 2^{-k/2} \{\varphi, \psi\} (2^{-k}t - n))$ and **adaptive** (data-driven) for EMD

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non linear oscillations



- Stochastic frequency approach Decomposition and spectrum analysis, mode by mode, of a wideband noise.
- Model Fractional Gaussian noise (fGn), with spectrum density S(f) ~ |f|^{1-2H}, with 0 < H < 1 (Hurst exponent).

Result

"Spontaneous" emergence of a quasi-dyadic, self-similar, filterbank structure (F., Gonçalvès & Rilling, '03) :

$$\mathcal{S}_{k',H}(f) = \rho_H^{\alpha(k'-k)} \mathcal{S}_{k,H}(\rho_H^{k'-k}f)$$

for any $k'>k\geq$ 2, with lpha – 2H – 1 and $ho_{
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IMF spectra of fGn



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renormalized IMF spectra of fGn



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one or two components?

$$\ll \cos(\omega_1 t) + \cos(\omega_2 t) = 2\cos\left(\frac{\omega_1 + \omega_2}{2}t\right)\cos\left(\frac{\omega_1 - \omega_2}{2}t\right) \gg t^{-1}$$

mathematics vs. physics









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Empirical Mode Decomposition

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Empirical Mode Decomposition

simulations

$x(t) = \underbrace{a_{1}\cos(2\pi f_{1}t)}_{x_{1}(t)} + \underbrace{a_{2}\cos(2\pi f_{2}t + \varphi)}_{x_{2}(t)}, \quad f_{1} > f_{2}$

Analysis of its EMD

- only the first IMF is computed : if separation, it should be equal to the highest frequency component x₁(t)
- criterion (= 0 if separation) :

$$c\left(\frac{a_2}{a_1}, \frac{f_2}{f_1}, \varphi\right) = \frac{\|IMF_1(t) - x_1(t)\|_{\ell_2}}{\|x_2(t)\|_{\ell_2}}$$

 sampling effects are neglected : f₁, f₂ ≪ f_s, with f_s the sampling frequency

DQC

simulations

Signal $x(t) = \underbrace{a_1 \cos(2\pi f_1 t)}_{x_1(t)} + \underbrace{a_2 \cos(2\pi f_2 t + \varphi)}_{x_2(t)}, \quad f_1 > f_2$

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variations on the theme

EMD is based on a general principle that can be extended and connected with other approaches

- Ensemble EMD
- bivariate EMD
- 2D EMD
- wavelets
- synchrosqueezing
- etc.

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Reduce "mode mixing" by averaging noisy EMDs

In practice (Wu & Huang, '09) :

- add some controlled noise to data
- 2 compute EMD
- reiterate and average

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Patrick Flandrin Empirical Mode Decomposition

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Ensemble EMD



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improved EEMD

Problem



② Noise residual \Rightarrow approximate reconstruction

Idea

Add noise "mode by mode" \Rightarrow "Complete EEMD with Adaptive Noise" (Torres et al., ICASSP'11)

- meaningful averaging
- 2 reduced total number of IMFs as compared to EEMD
- ③ perfect reconstruction

CEEMDAN algorithm 1.

pre-processing step, given a signal *x*[*n*]

- generate *J* realizations of white Gaussian noise $w^{j}[n] \in \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$
- define *E_k*(·) as the operator which, given a signal, produces the *k*-th IMF
- **pre-compute** and **store** the $J \times K$ IMFs $E_k(w^j[n])$ for j = 1, ..., J and k = 1, ..., K
- select (possibly IMF-dependent) SNRs ε_k , with $k = 1, \ldots, K$

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CEEMDAN algorithm 2.

① generate $x^{j}[n] = x[n] + \varepsilon_1 w^{j}[n]$ (j = 1, ..., J) and define

$$\widetilde{IMF}_1[n] = \frac{1}{J} \sum_{j=1}^J E_1(x^i[n])$$

② assign k = 1, compute $r_1[n] = x[n] - \widetilde{IMF}_1[n]$. and define

$$\widetilde{IMF}_{2}[n] = \frac{1}{J} \sum_{j=1}^{J} E_{1}\left(r_{1}[n] + \varepsilon_{2} E_{1}(w^{j}[n])\right)$$

(a) for k = 2, ..., K, compute $r_k[n] = r_{(k-1)}[n] - \widetilde{IMF}_k[n]$ and define

$$\widetilde{IMF}_{(k+1)}[n] = \frac{1}{J} \sum_{j=1}^{J} E_1(r_k[n] + \varepsilon_{k+1} E_k(w^j[n]))$$

④ go to step 3 until no further residue

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CEEMDAN — Dirac pulse example



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bivariate EMD

Idea

Decompose "coherently" the two components of bivariate or complex-valued signals

In practice (Rilling *et al.*, '07 + Rehman & Mandic, '10) :

- switch from oscillations to rotations
- replace envelopes by tubes
- apply the usual EMD machinery

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bivariate EMD - example



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Decompose images in 2D oscillating patterns

In practice (Linderhed, '02 + Nunes *et al.*, '03 + Damerval *et al.*, '05 + Xu *et al.*, '06) :

- ① 2x1D vs. 1x2D schemes
- 2 extrema ?
- interpolation ?

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Figure 4. Decomposition of a simulated texture image: (a) the original image, (b-d) the three original components that form the original image, (e and f) the IMFs and (g) the residue.

from (Xu et al., '07)

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some uses

• Pre-processing

- baseline removal
- signal disentanglement
- selection of significant IMFs

Post-processing

- Hilbert transform of IMFs
- grouping of significant IMFs
- (local) trend removal
- denoising from partial coarse-to-fine reconstruction
- gap filling
- scaling analysis

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a model-based toy example



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a model-based toy example



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more on "detrending"

Observation

A "trend" is a loosely defined object, e.g., a "long-term change in the mean" (Chatfield, '96)

- as opposed to "fluctuations", an EMD-based definition of a "trend" may correspond to (some of) the last IMF(s)
- a possible strategy (Moghtaderi *et al.*, '11) for selecting those relevant modes combine ratios of
 - zero-crossings
 - energy

between successive adjacent modes

a model-free toy example



from (Moghtaderi et al., '11)

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monthly mean CO₂



from (Moghtaderi et al., '11)

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from (Moghtaderi et al., '11)

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shared bicycles (Lyon Vélo'v system)



from (Moghtaderi et al., '11)

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Patrick Flandrin Empirical Mode Decomposition

shared bicycles (Lyon Vélo'v system)



from (Moghtaderi et al., '11)

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global Earth surface temperature



Patrick Flandrin Empirical Mode Decomposition

Problem

Analyze and/or reconstruct data with gaps, due to unavailable and/or corrupted measurements

Idea

Carry over the problem to IMFs

- construct gapped IMFs
- ② fill in gaps in each mode, based on geometrical constraints
- add up all gap-filled IMFs

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from (Moghtaderi et al., '12)

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heart rate variability

- Objective Assessment of cardiovascular autonomic control
- Methods Spectrum analysis of RR intervals, LF (0.04–0.15 Hz) vs. HF (0.15–0.4 Hz) contributions quantifying the sympatho-vagal balance
- Issues VLF trends and/or non steady-state measurements

Idea

Switch from fixed, time-invariant, LF/HF filters to data-adaptive, time-varying, slow/fast modes

Objective — Assessment of cardiovascular autonomic control

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HRV analysis. Example 1



HRV analysis. Example 2 (Souza Neto et al., '02)



EMD...

- ... is a model-free, fully data-driven method
- ... naturally copes with nonstationarities and nonlinearities
- ... is intuitive but still lacks from general theory : current on-going work for possible ways out include
 - modifications of the original algorithm, e.g., by constrained variational approaches (Meignen and Perrier, '11; Pustelnik *et al.*, '12) in place of sifting
 - alternative transforms via EMD-like decompositions, e.g., "synchrosqueezing" (WU, Daubechies *et al.*, '10-11)

much work to be done but worth investigating !

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method properties variations applications

preprints, Matlab codes & contact

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- Patrick.Flandrin@ens-lyon.fr

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