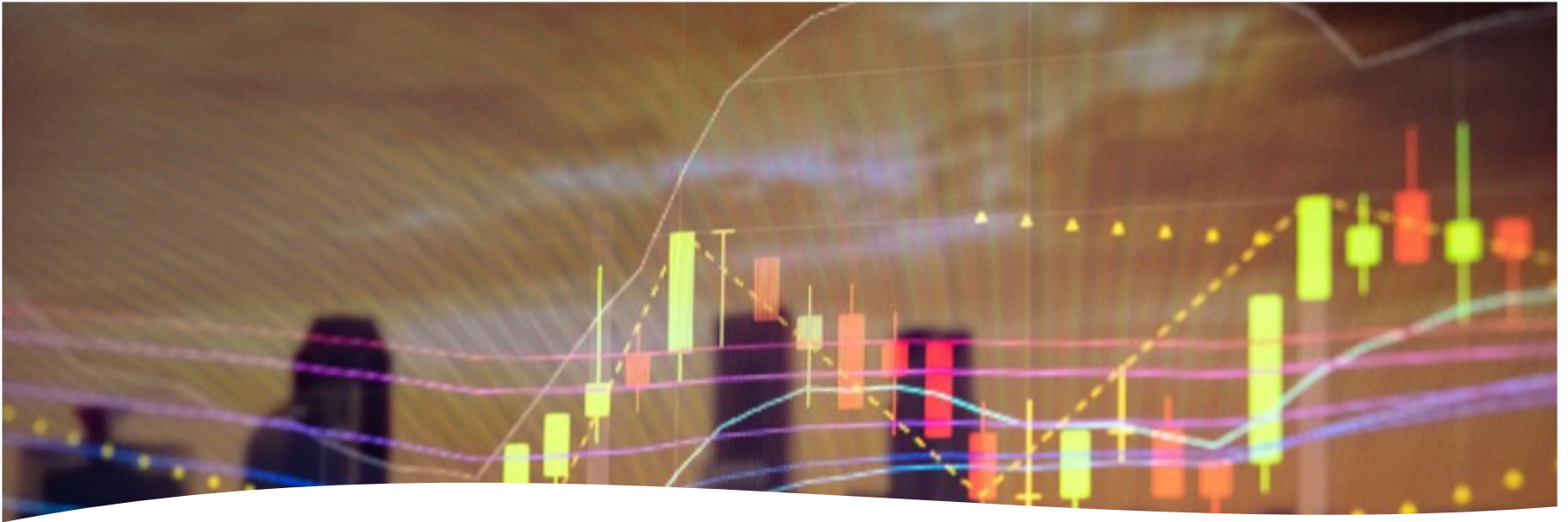


# XAI-TS Workshop 2023



## Towards explainable time series classification

Turin, September 18, 2023

*Panagiotis Papapetrou, Professor, Stockholm University*



**Stockholms  
universitet**

# Agenda

Introduction

Time series classification

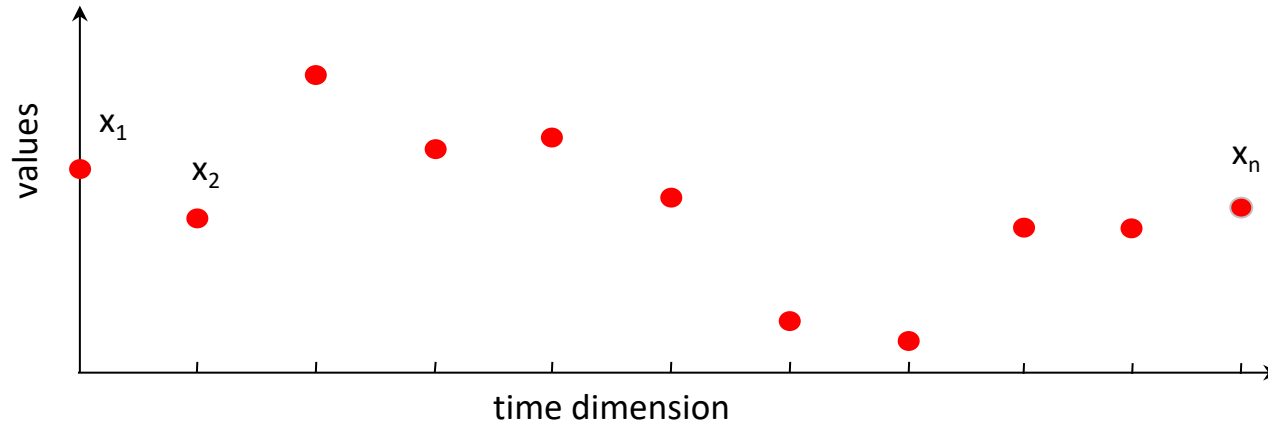
Explainable time series classification

Time series counterfactuals

Challenges and future directions

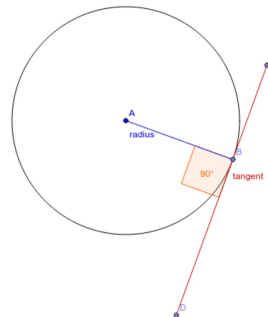
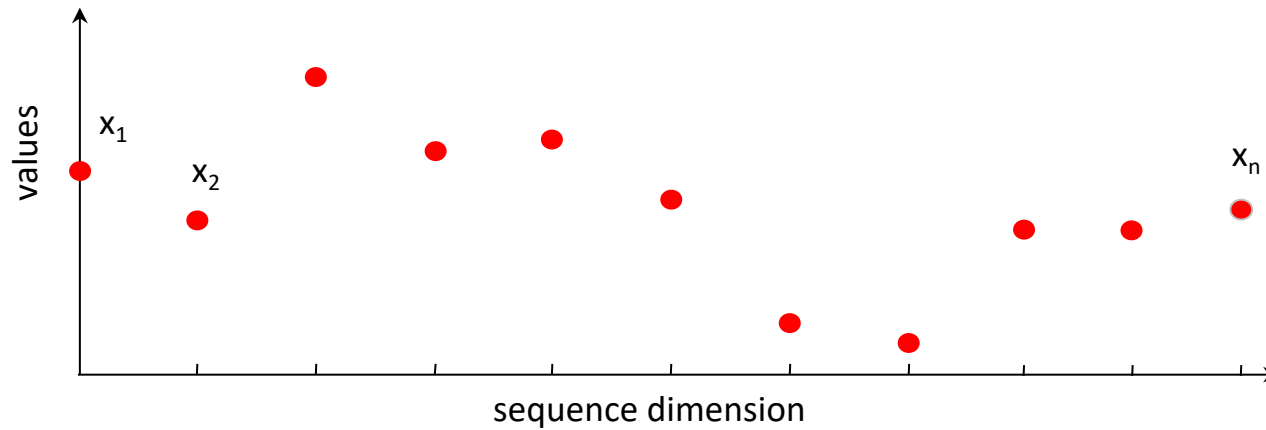
# Time series

- Sequence of measurements **ordered over time**



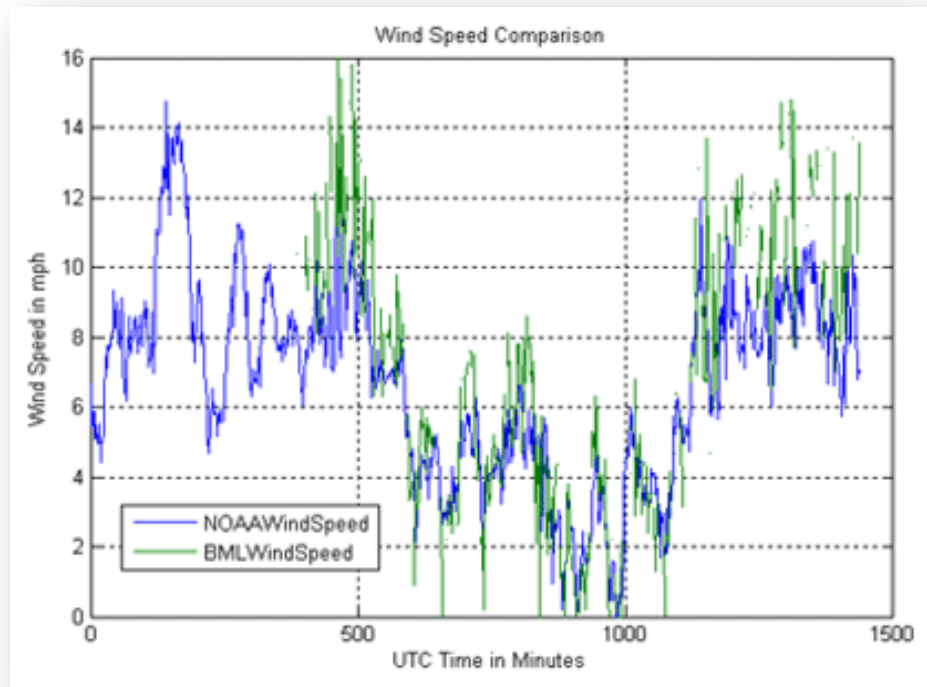
# Data series

- Sequence of points **ordered along some dimension**



# Data series

- Sequence of points ordered along some dimension



## Wind speed

From ocean observing node project, <http://bml.ucdavis.edu/boon/wind.html>

# Data series

- Sequence of points ordered along some dimension

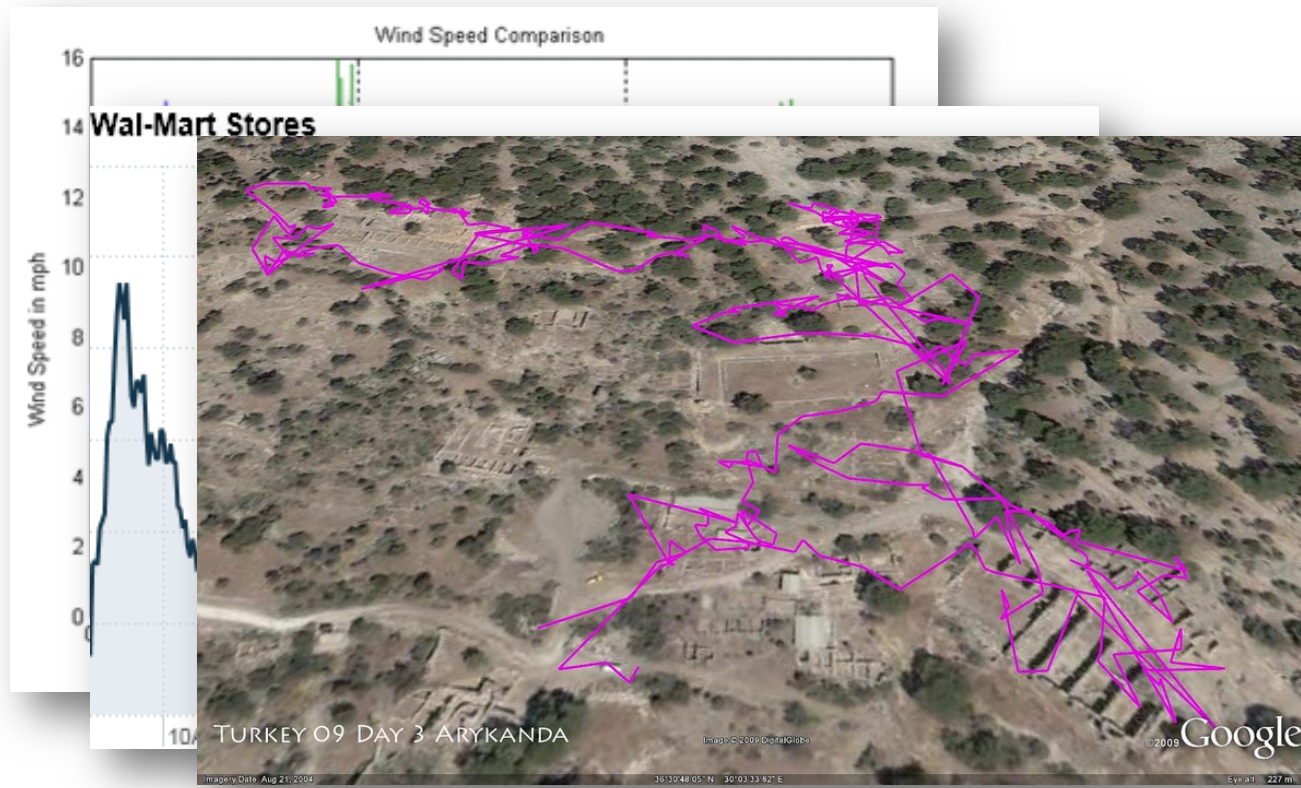


## Historical stock quotes

From [http://money.cnn.com/2012/04/23/markets/walmart\\_stock/index.htm](http://money.cnn.com/2012/04/23/markets/walmart_stock/index.htm)

# Data series

- Sequence of points ordered along some dimension

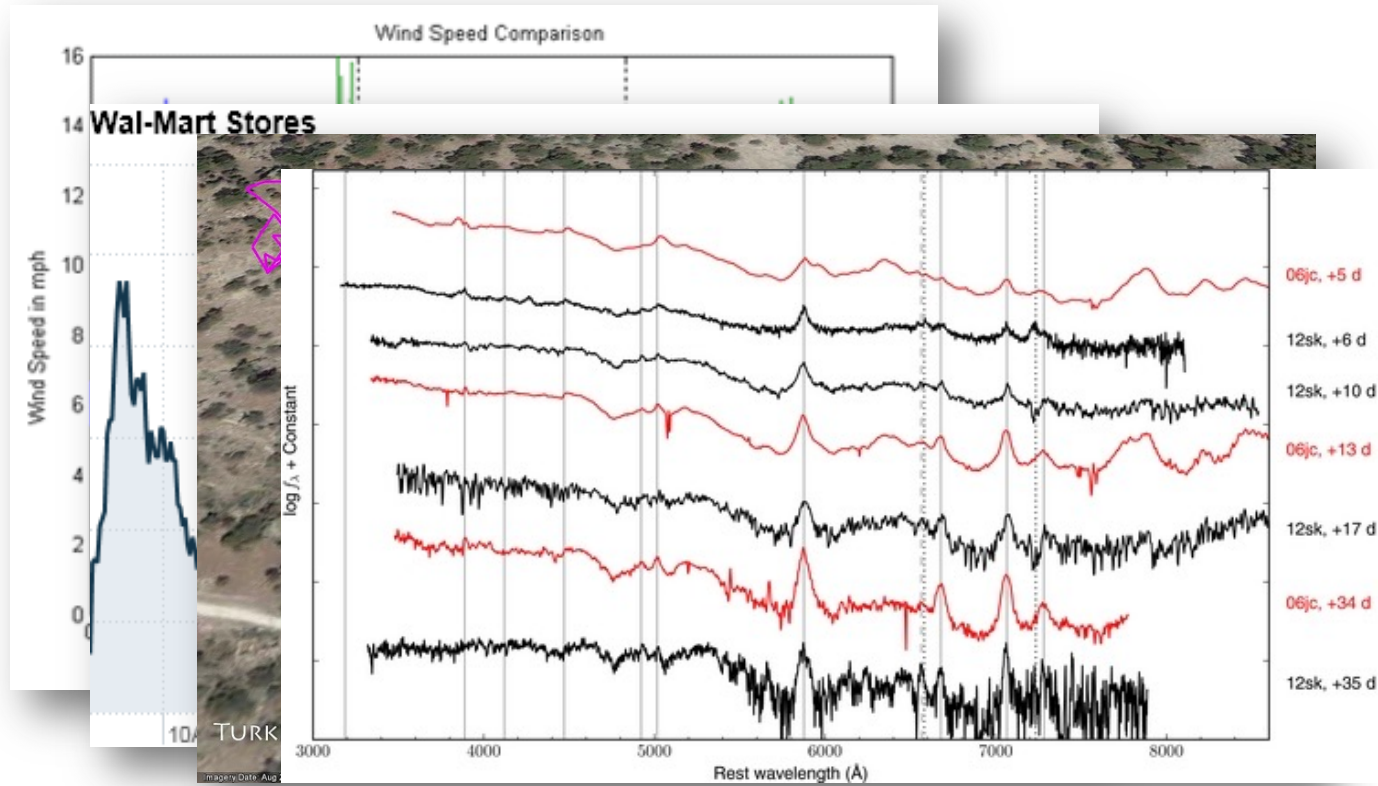


## Trajectories from GPS logs

From <http://www.flickr.com/photos/kitepuppet/3604115258>

# Data series

- Sequence of points ordered along some dimension



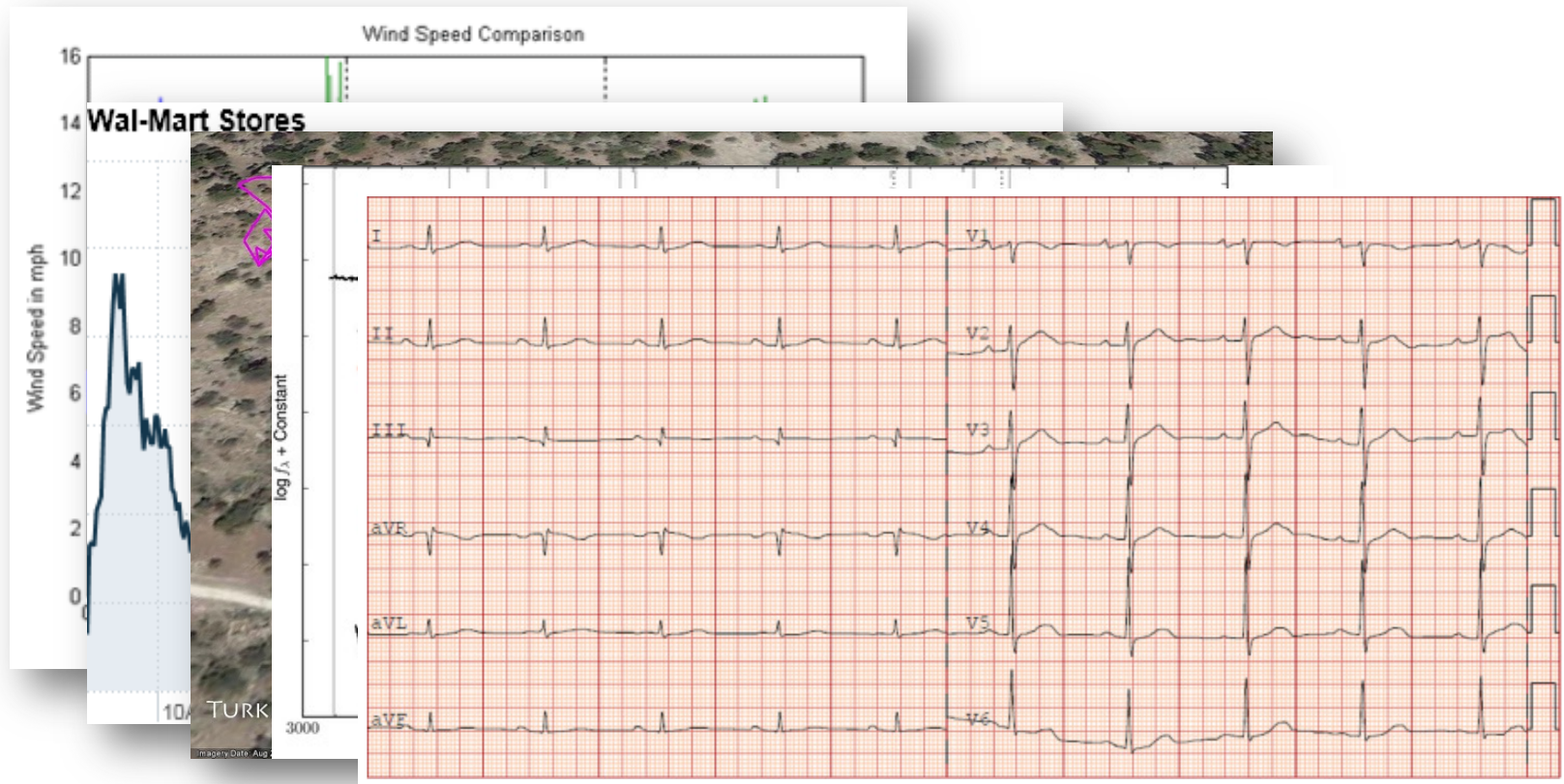
Spectroscopic sequence data (astronomy)

From Sanders et al., <http://dx.doi.org/10.1088/0004-637X/769/1/39>



# Data series

- Sequence of points ordered along some dimension

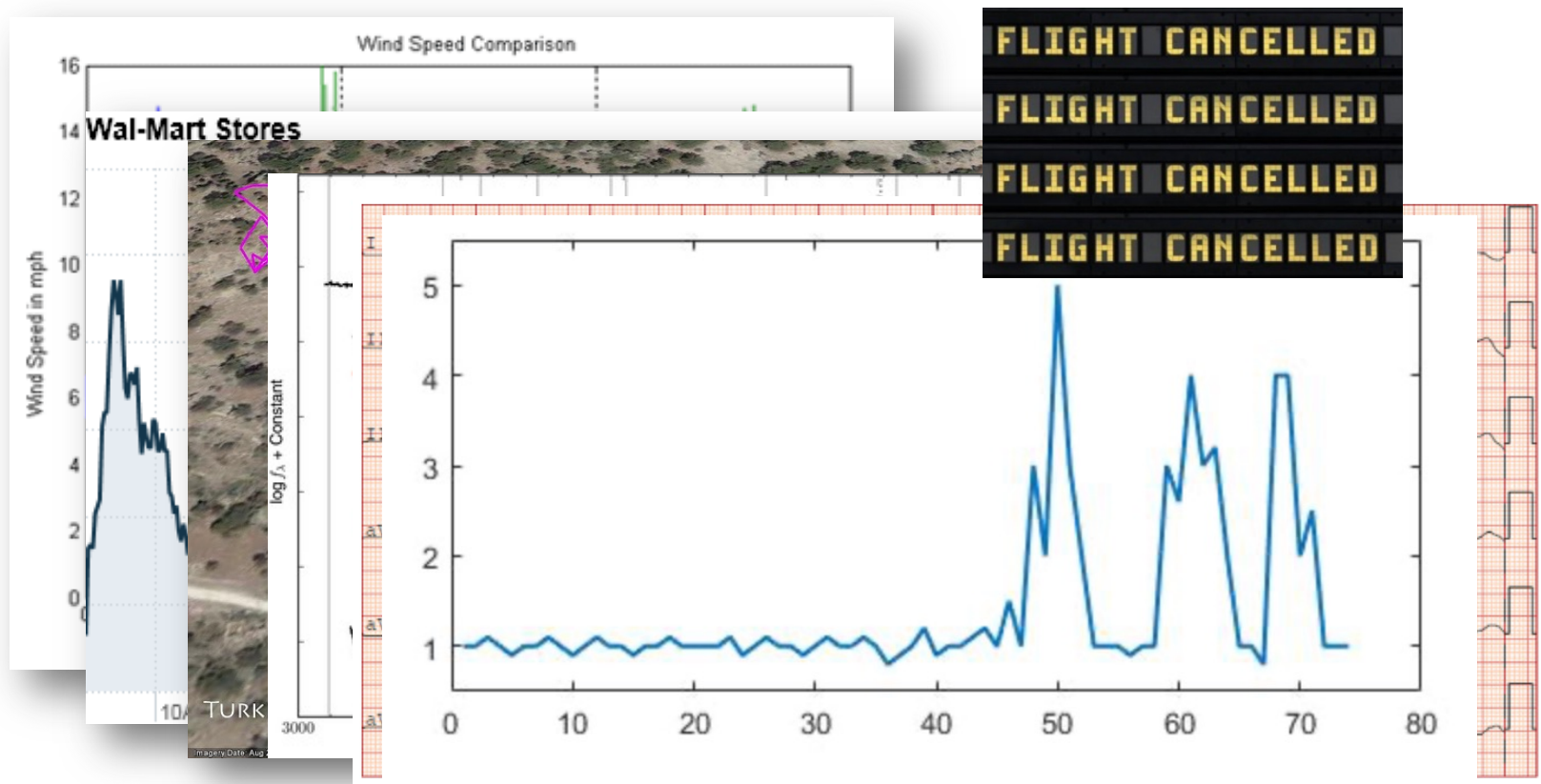


Electrocardiograms (cardiology)

<https://archive.physionet.org/physiobank/>

# Data series

- Sequence of points ordered along some dimension



Customer satisfaction/frustration

# Data series analysis tasks

**Clustering**

**Anomaly  
Detection**

**Forecasting**

**Classification**

**Motif  
Discovery**

**Similarity  
search**

# Agenda

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Explainable time series classification

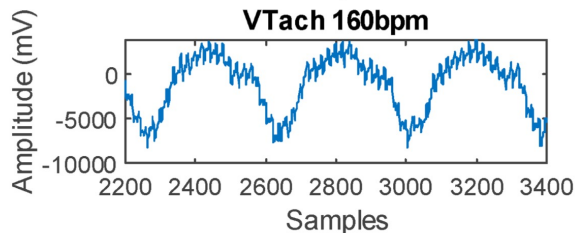
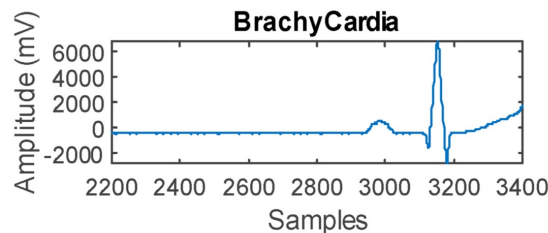
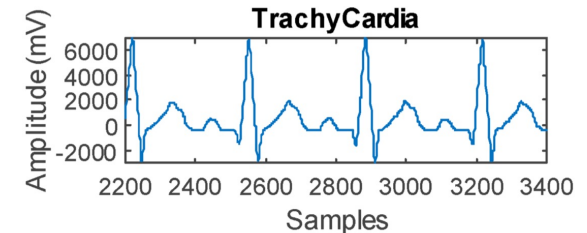
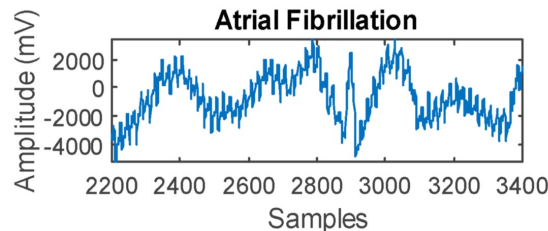
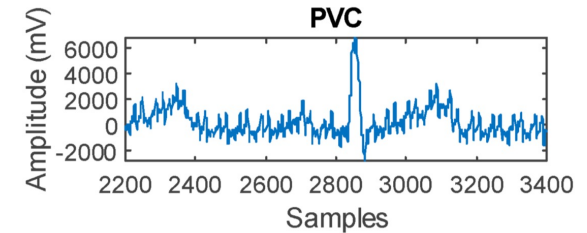
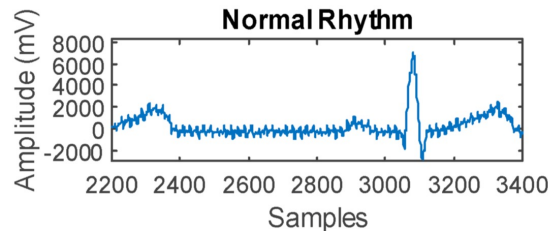
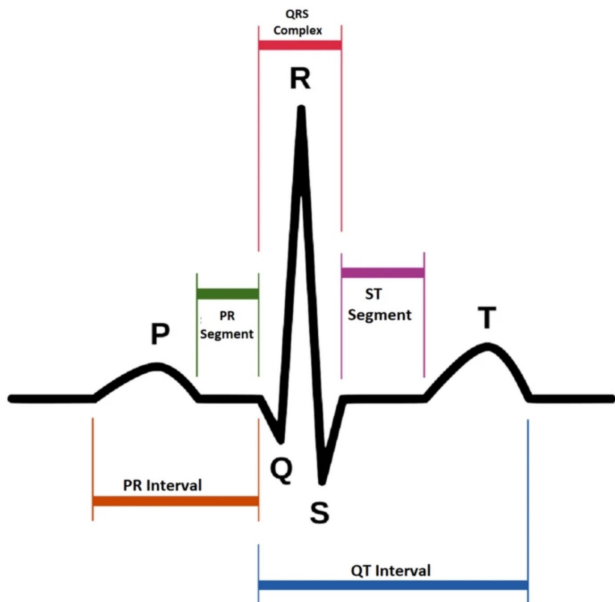
Time series counterfactuals

Challenges and future directions

# Time series classification



Abnormal (binary)  
atrial fibrillation (multiclass)



# Many time series classifiers

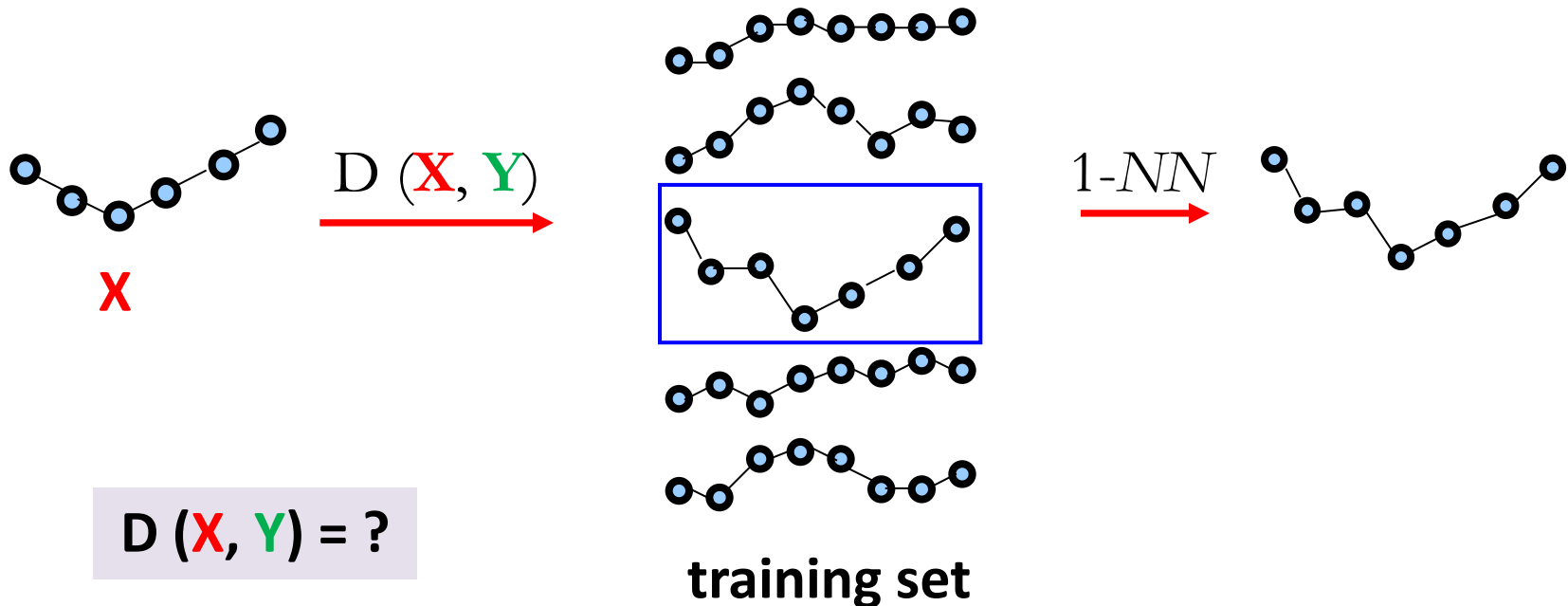
Distance-based

Feature-based

Deep learning-  
based

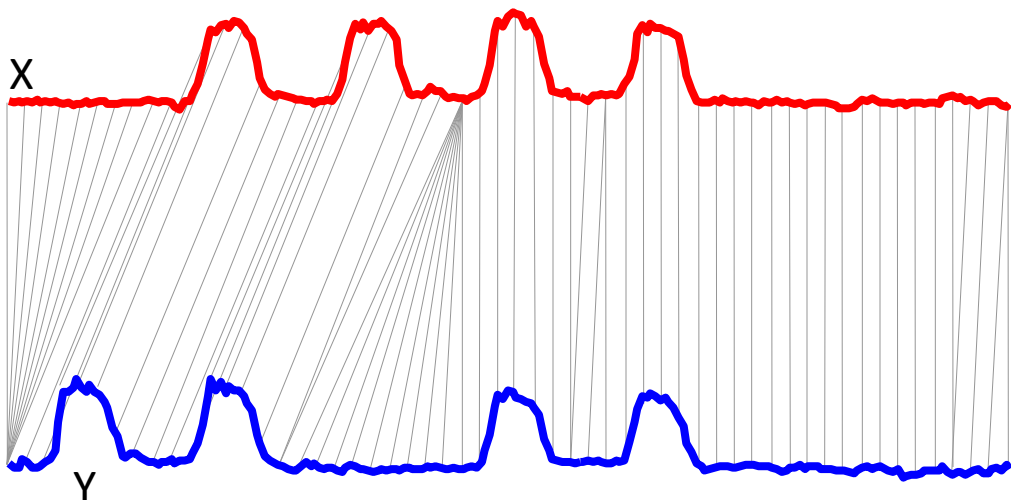
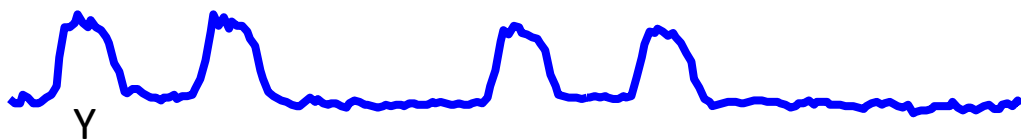
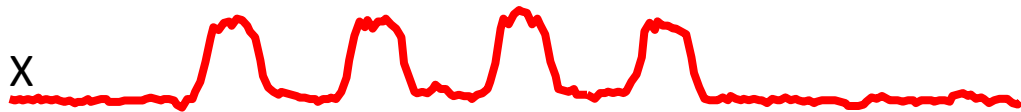
# $k$ -NN time series classification

- Given a **time series training set  $Y$**  and a **test time series  $X$**
- Find the **best match** of  $X$  in  $Y$
- Assign the **class** of the **1-NN** to  $Q$



# Euclidean and Dynamic Time Warping

*figures taken from Eamonn Keogh, University of California, Riverside*



## Euclidean Distance

*Sequences are aligned “one to one”.*

$$D(X, Y) \equiv \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - y_i)^2}$$

## “Warped” Time Axis

*Nonlinear alignments are possible.*



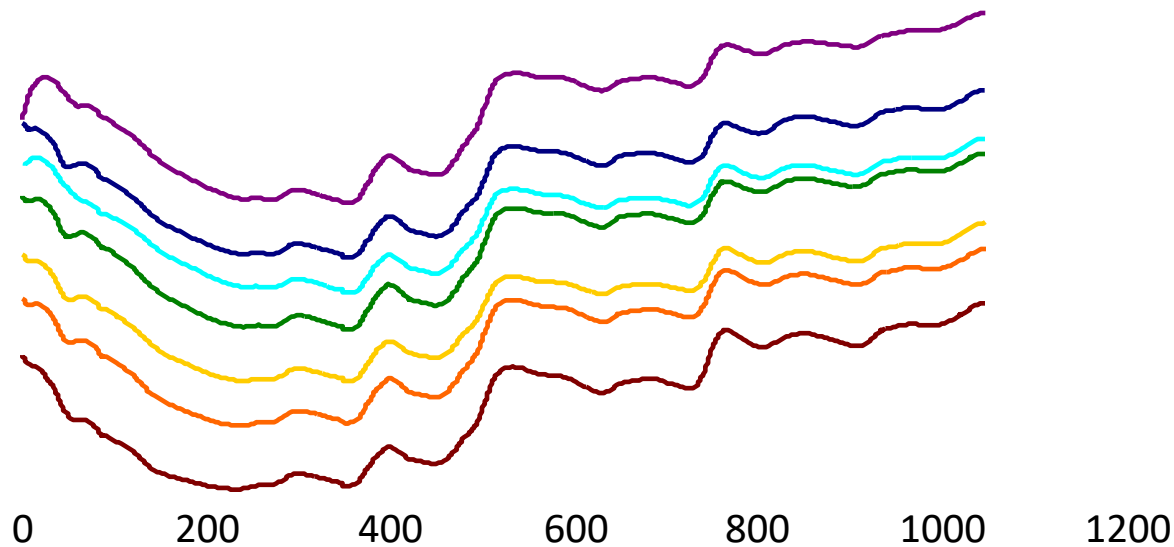
# Other time series distance measures

- **DDTW**: Derivative DTW
- **WDTW**: Weighted DTW
- **LCSS**: Longest Common Subsequence
- **MSM**: Move-Split-Merge
- **ERP**: Edit Distance with Real Penalty
- **TWE**: Time Warp Edit

# Limitations of $k$ -NN time series classifiers

*figure taken from Eamonn Keogh, University of California, Riverside*

- Given **seven** time series **classes**



- $k$ -NN is unable to identify **smaller patterns** or **shapes** that are class discriminant

# Many time series classifiers

Distance-based

Feature-based

Deep learning-  
based

# How about feature-based classification?

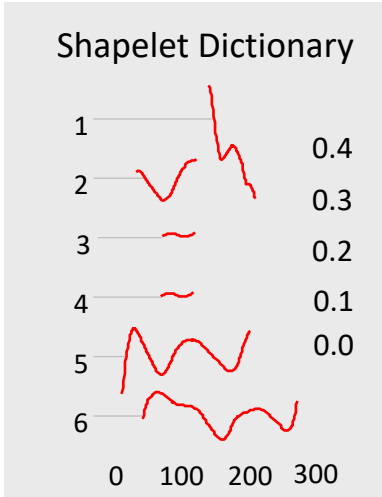
- Use **shapelets** as “attributes” or “features” for splitting a node in the decision tree

shapelet



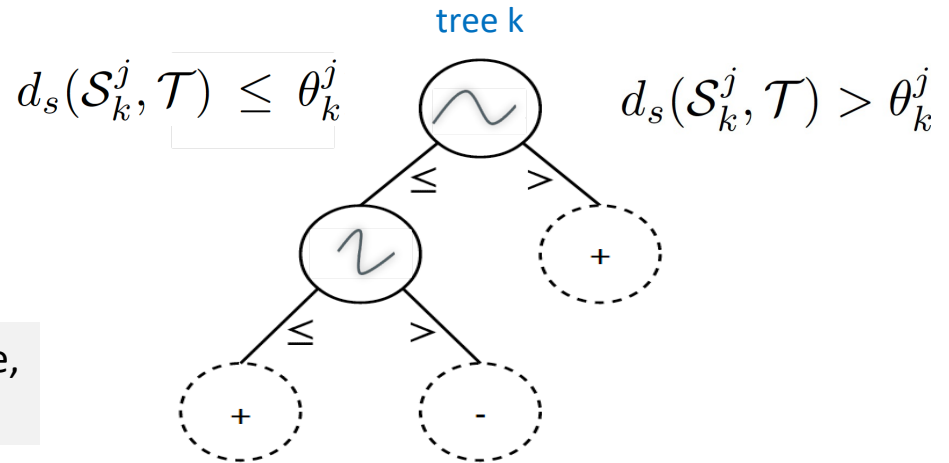
- **Shapelets:**
  - time series subsequence
  - *maximally representative* of a class
  - *discriminative* from other classes

# The Shapelet Tree classifier

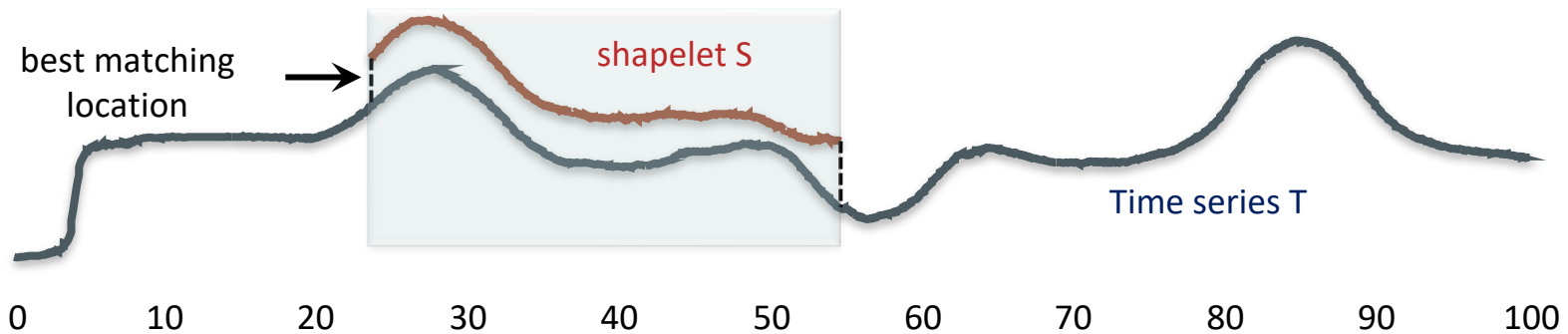


The tree contains several root-leaf paths

$$p_{k,j} = \{(x_1 \leq \theta_1), (x_2 \leq \theta_2), \dots, (x_n \leq \theta_n)\}$$

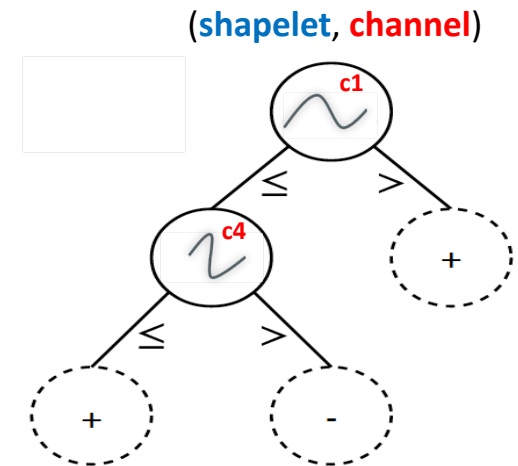
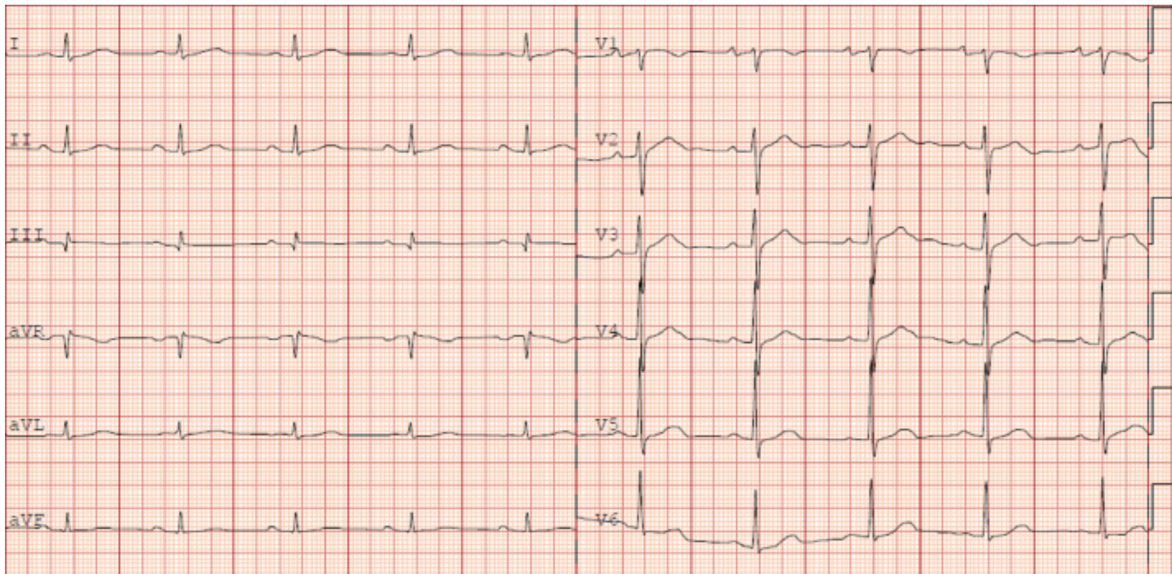


**non-leaf node condition:** Euclidean distance, lowest scoring subsequence match of S in T



# Generalized Random Shapelet Forest (gRSF)

- A **generalization** of RSF for **multivariate** time series classification
- $T$  random shapelet trees are built
  - each tree is built from a random sample (with replacement) of **time series channels** in the training set (channels are recorded in the decision nodes)
  - inspect  $r$  random shapelets at each node



# Other shapelet-based approaches

- Transformations + k-NN

- improved subsequence searching and matching, using online normalization, early abandoning, and re-ordering
- dimensionality reduction using SAX

- Shapelet-based features

- select the top k most informative shapelets as features
- learn any suitable classifier (e.g., SVM, Random Forest) using the transformed dataset

- Synthetic shapelet generation

- initialize using, e.g., K-means clustering
- learn synthetic Shapelets

|          | $s_1$    | $s_2$    | $\dots$  | $s_k$    |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| $d_1$    | 0.3      | 3.3      | $\dots$  | 0.1      |
| $d_2$    | 0.2      | 3.2      | $\dots$  | 3.8      |
| $\vdots$ | $\vdots$ | $\vdots$ | $\vdots$ | $\vdots$ |
| $d_n$    | 3.1      | 0.9      | $\dots$  | 9.6      |

# Other feature-based classifiers

- **STC**: Shapelet Transform
- **BOSS**: Bag-of- SFA-Symbols
- **WEASEL**: Word eXtrAction for time SEries cLassification
- **MrSQL**: Multiple Representation Sequence Learner



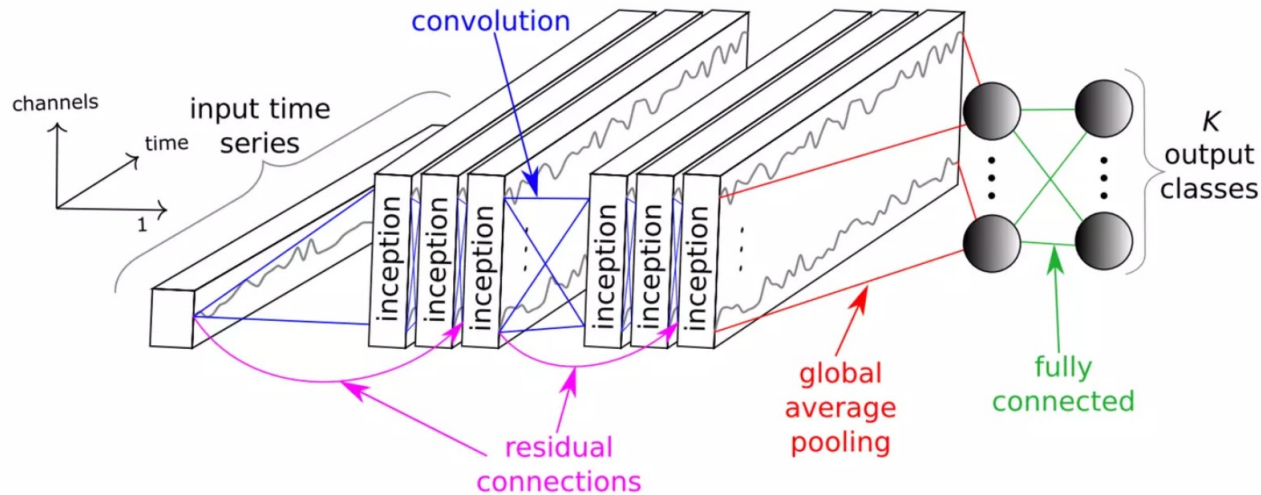
# Many time series classifiers

Distance-based

Feature-based

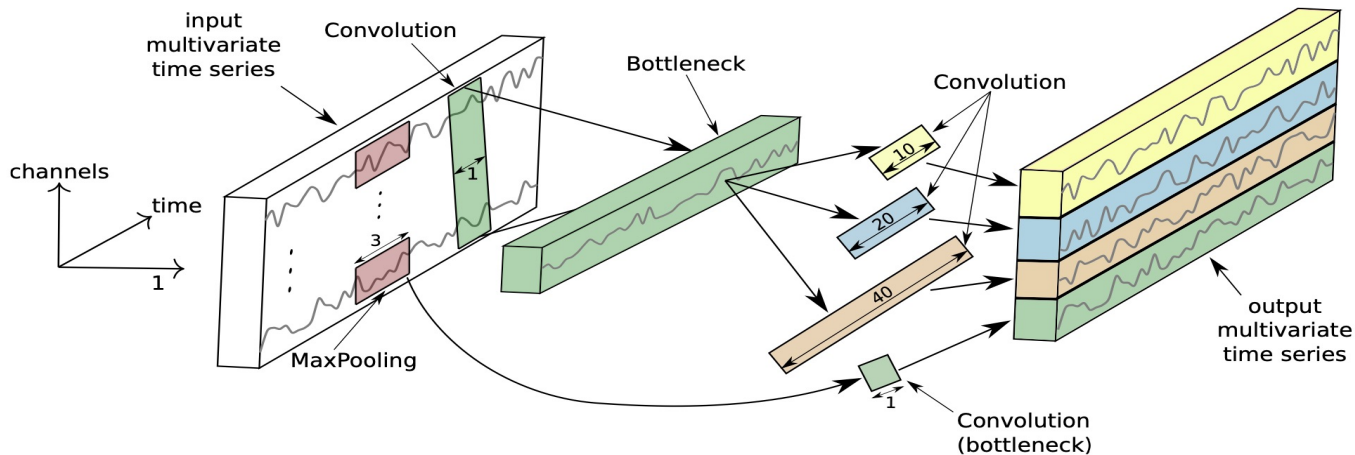
Deep learning-  
based

# Inception Time [Fawaz 2020]



- The equivalent of **AlexNet** for time series
- An ensemble of **five deep learning models**
  - each created by **cascading** multiple **inception modules**
  - each having exactly the same architecture but with different **randomly** initialized weight values

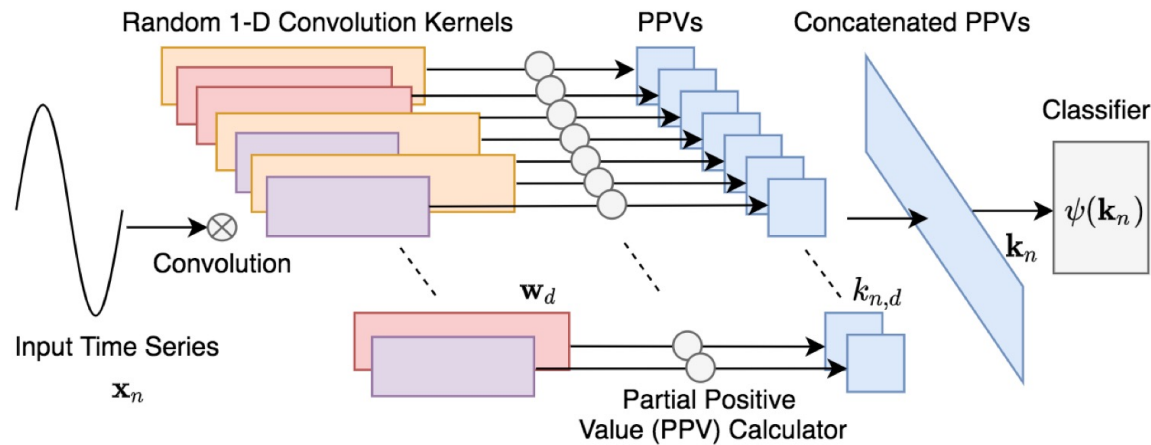
# Inception Time [Fawaz 2020]



- **Core idea of an inception module:**

- apply **multiple filters** simultaneously to an input time series
- includes filters of **varying lengths** allowing the network to automatically extract relevant features from both **long** and **short** time series

# ROCKET [Dempster et al. 2021]



## In short...

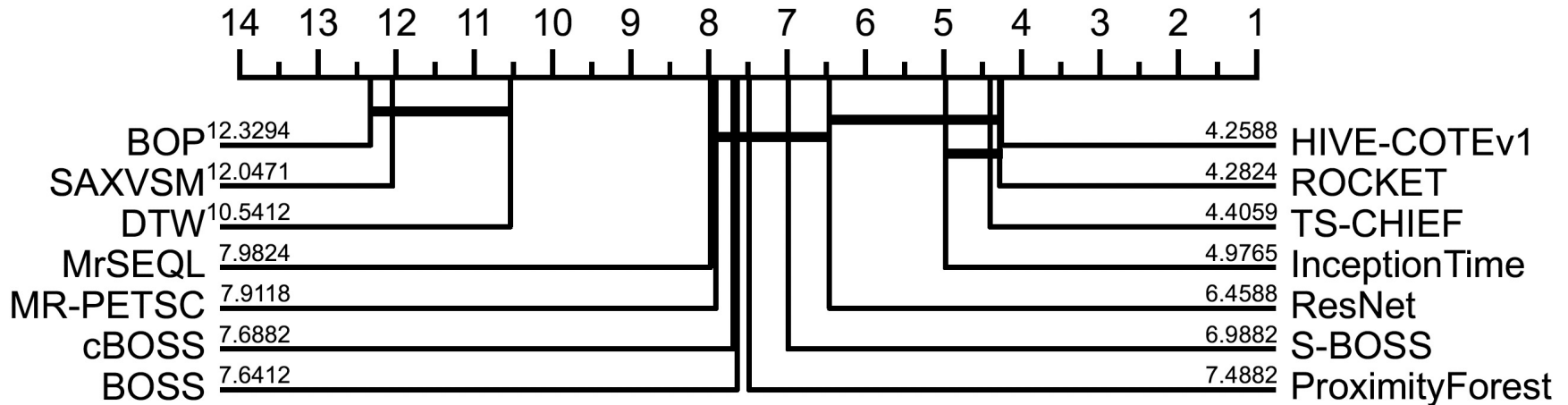
- **ROCKET** initializes a bank of random convolution kernels (e.g., 10 000)
- The convolution of each kernel with an input time series produces a **feature vector**
- Each feature vector is represented by the **proportion of positive values (PPV)** and/or the maximum value (**max pooling**)
- The **concatenation** of PPV values from the kernels + the max pooling values is used as the input feature vector to train a **Ridge regression classifier**

# Other deep classifiers and ensembles

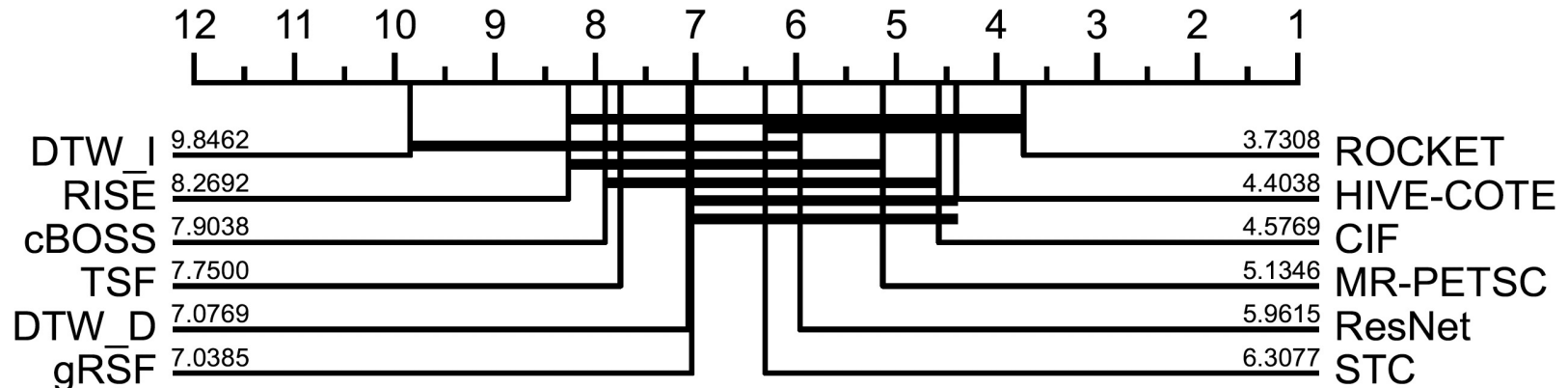
- **TapNet**: Time Series Attentional Prototype Network
- **ResNet** for time series classification
- **TS-CHIEF**: Time Series Combination of Heterogeneous and Integrated Embeddings Forest
- **HIVE-COTE**: Hierarchical Vote Collective of Transformation-based Ensembles
- **PETSC**: Pattern-Based Embedding for Time Series Classification
- **XEM**: An Explainable-by-Design Ensemble Method for Multivariate Time Series Classification

# Overall winner?

## Univariate time series classification



## Multivariate time series classification



# Agenda

Introduction

Time series classification

Explainable time series classification

Time series counterfactuals

Challenges and future directions

# Why explainability

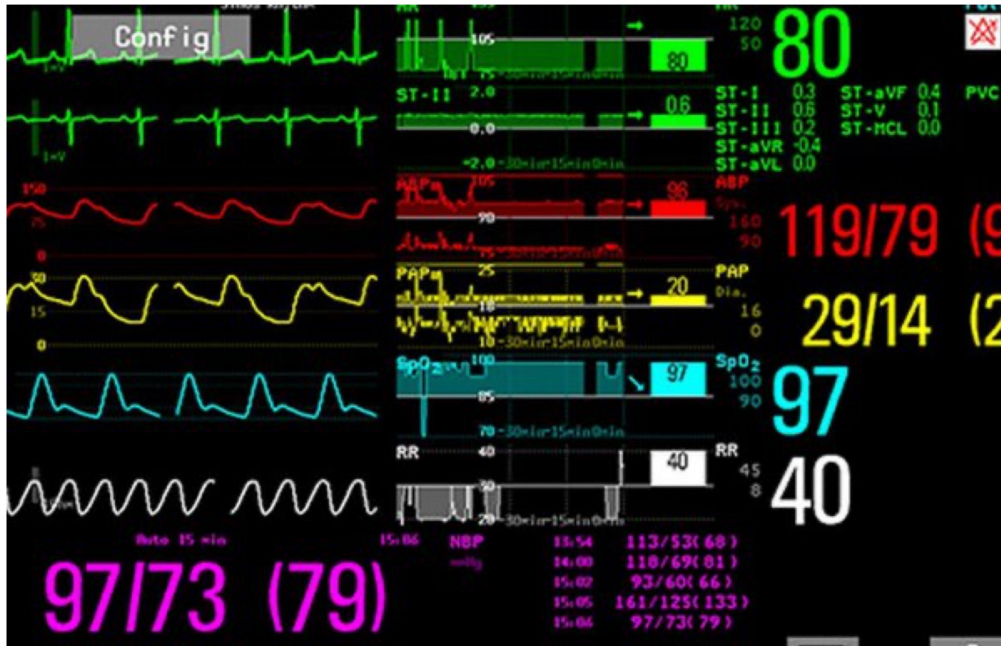
- Interpretation/understanding of results
- Error discovery and management
- Bias avoidance
- Effectiveness improvement
- Trust

## **Proposition (J. Holmes 2023):**

XAI-based systems need to start from **modeling the underlying domain** in order to obtain **a true understanding** of the context in which these systems will be used



# Medical time series - in the ICU



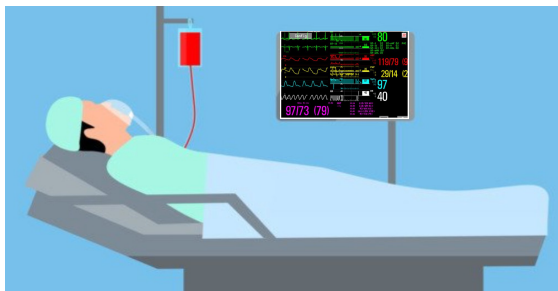
heart rate

systolic/diastolic blood pressure

pulmonary artery pressure

blood oxygen supply

respiration rate



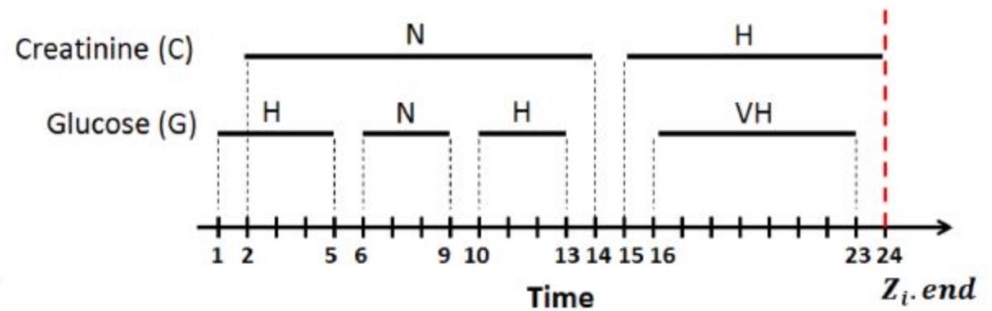
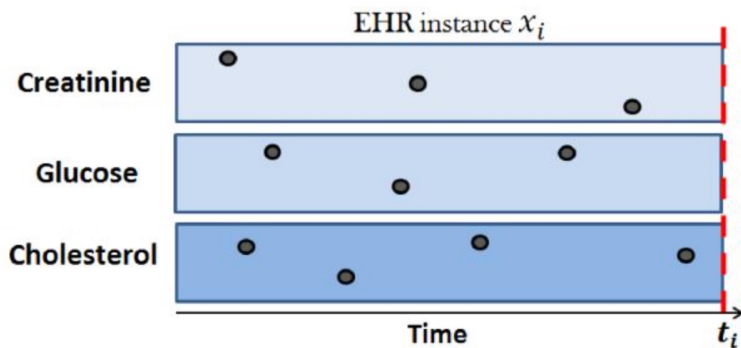
Over 100 variables are measured over time

Medical experts need to understand **why**...

...in order to be able to act timely

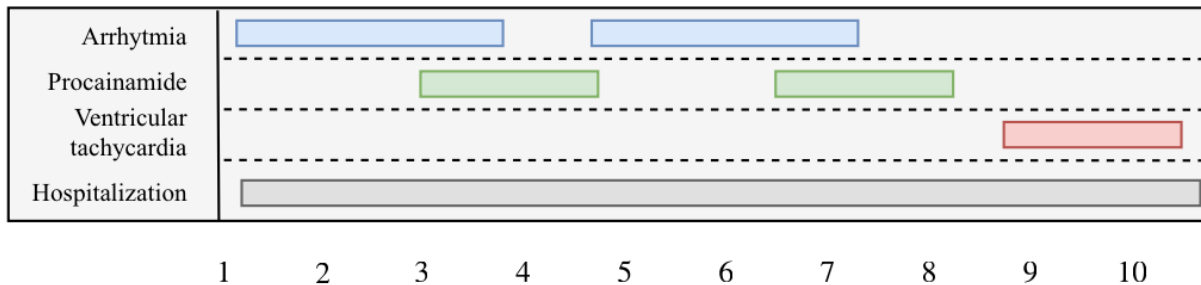
# Temporal abstractions

- **Multiple temporal variables** registered and evolving concurrently
- Each variable with **multiple readings** until a **critical time point  $t_i$** , e.g., glucose, creatinine, cholesterol
- **Class label**: diagnosis/symptom detected at time  $t_i$  (**event of interest**)
- **Main question**: are all values over time really relevant?



# Temporal abstractions

- Trend abstraction:
  - e.g., decreasing, steady, increasing
- Value abstraction:
  - e.g., very low, low, normal, high, very high



| Relation               | Representation |
|------------------------|----------------|
| $A$ meets $B$          |                |
| $A$ matches $B$        |                |
| $A$ overlaps-with $B$  |                |
| $A$ followed-by $B$    |                |
| $A$ contains $B$       |                |
| $A$ left-contains $B$  |                |
| $A$ right-contains $B$ |                |

Allen's temporal logic

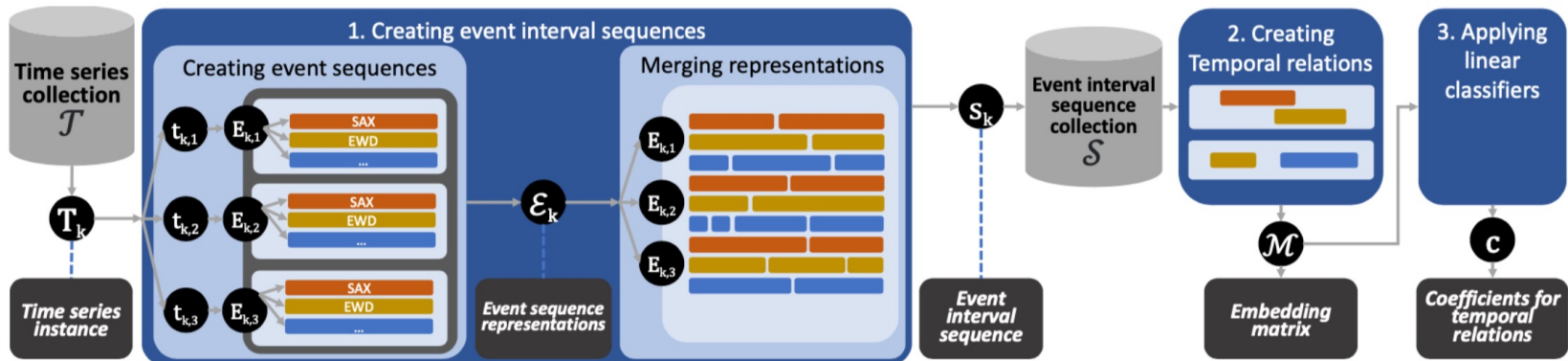
## What is a temporal feature?

a sequence of “*temporal relations*” between two or more event intervals

## What are the types of “temporal relations”?

# Z-time [Lee et al. 2023]

- Employs **temporal abstractions**
- Builds temporal relations of event intervals to create **interpretable features** across **multiple** time series dimensions

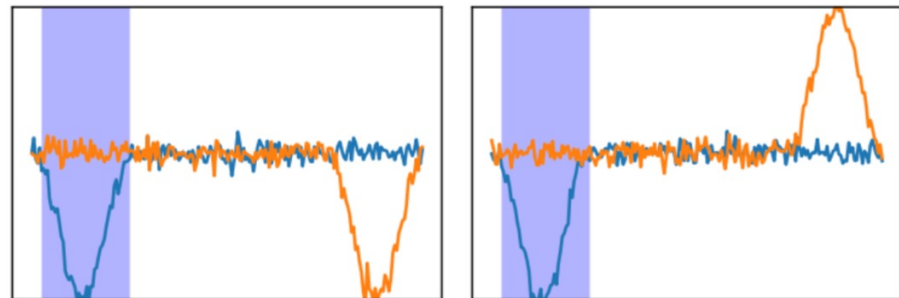
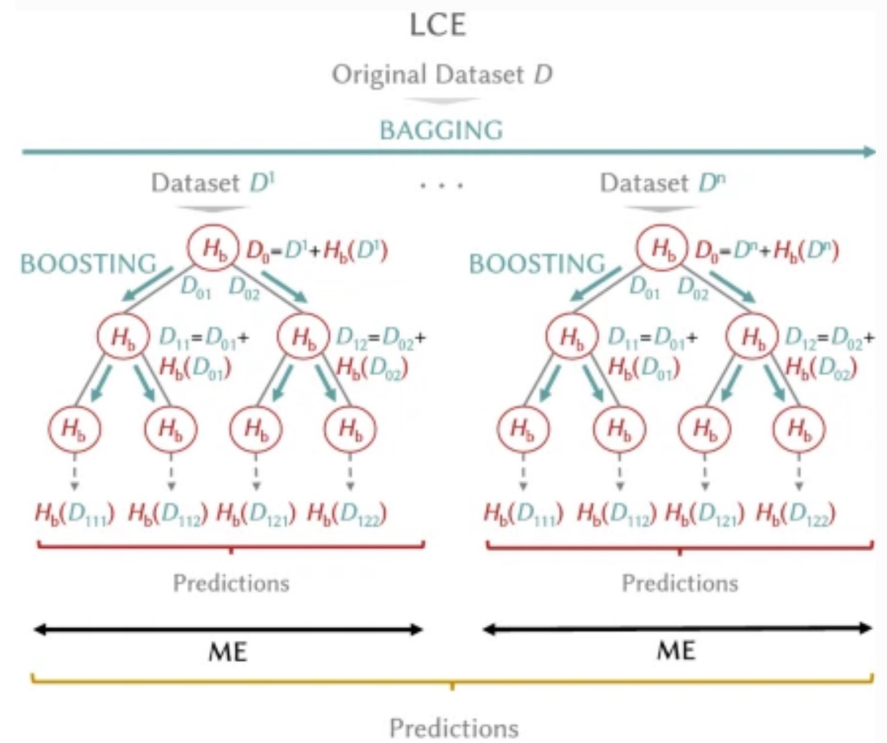


- **Faster** than the **two interpretable competitors**, XEM and MR-PETSC
- Handles **missing data** without applying interpolation

Z-Time: Efficient and Effective Interpretable Multivariate Time Series Classification, Lee et al.  
(**session: time series II, 16:30-18:30**)

# XEM (Fauvel et al. 2022)

- Relies on an **ensemble of eXtreme Gradient Boosting local cascade (LC)** models
- The prediction is based on the **subsequence that has the highest class probability**, i.e., the subsequence on which LCE is the most confident
- XEM provides **explainability-by-design** through the identification of the time window used to classify the MTS



# Agenda

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Time series classification

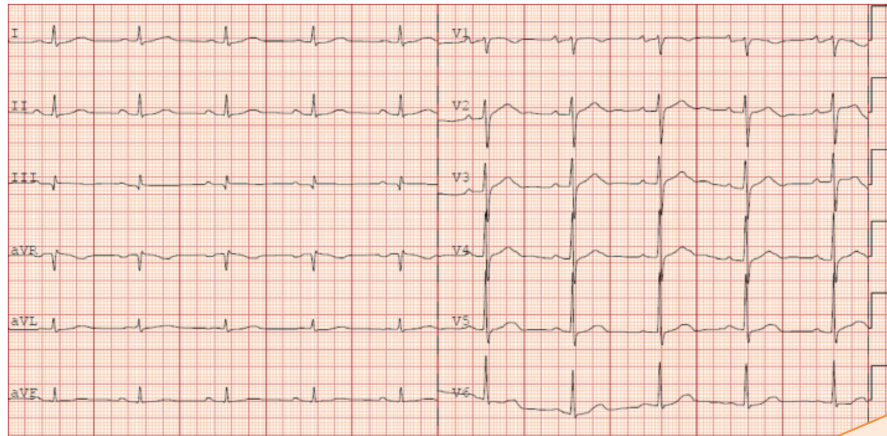
Explainable time series classification

Time series counterfactuals

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# Interpretable and actionable models

- It is desired to **understand the predictions** + outcomes **without compromising predictive performance**



black box classifier

**Explaining:** I can indicate the **ECG segments** and **features** that have **affected my decision** the most!

The patient will suffer a stroke in 2 days!



Now what?  
Please tell me **why?**

**Preventing:** I can tell you **what changes you need to make** to the patient record, so that I can **change my prediction** 😊

# What is a counterfactual (CF)?

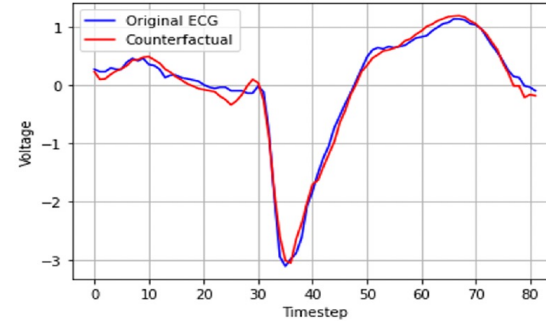
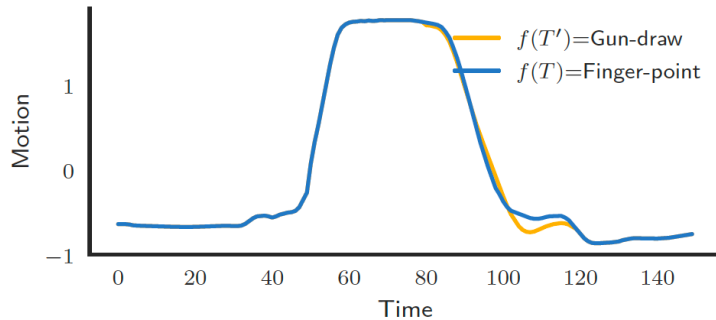
- Given a **classifier  $f$** , an **input instance  $x$**  with predicted **class label  $c$** , defined over a set of variables
- A counterfactual explanation  **$x'$**  can provide an answer to the following question:

*How should the configuration of the variables in  $x$  change to obtain class label  $c'$  instead of  $c$ ?*

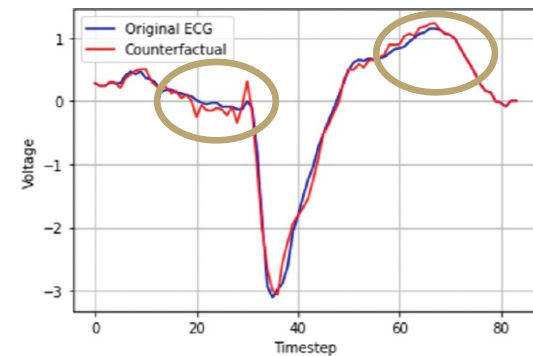
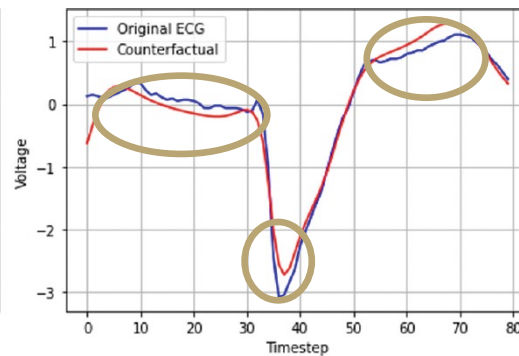
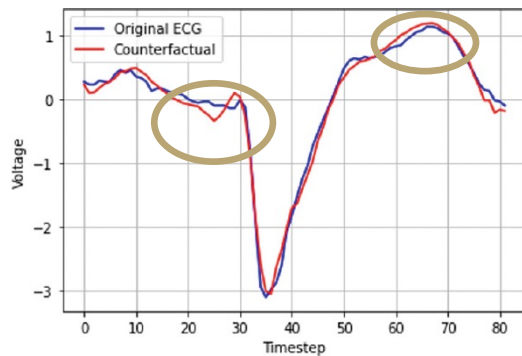




# Time series counterfactuals

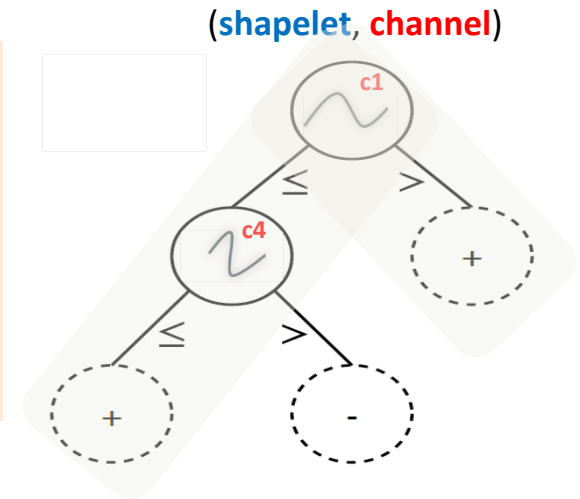


**Goal:** What is the **minimum number of changes** to apply to a time series  $T$  so that a **given opaque classifier** changes its prediction?



# Time series counterfactuals for gRSF

- Focus on the trees that **predict neg**
- For each tree  $\mathcal{T}$ , explore the positive paths, i.e., those that **predict pos**
- Try to **force those trees to predict pos** by changing the **shapelet features** of  $\mathcal{T}$

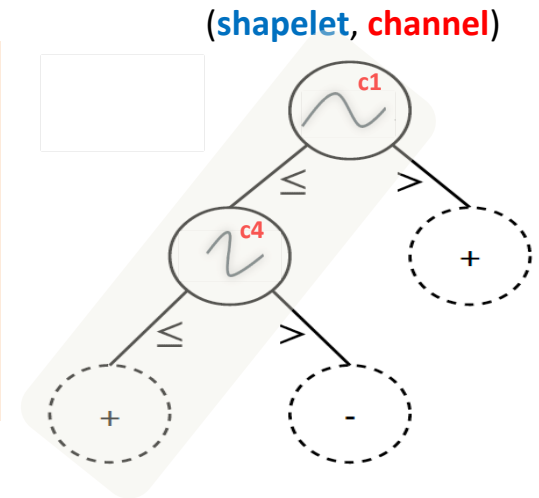


Given a non-leaf node  $(S_k^j, \theta_k^j)$

- **Increase distance:**
  - if  $S_k^j$  exists in  $\mathcal{T}$ , that is  $d_s(S_k^j, \mathcal{T}) \leq \theta_k^j$
  - and the current node condition demands otherwise
  - ✓ increase the distance of **all matching instances** of  $S_k^j$ , so that they all fall **above the distance threshold**  $\theta_k^j$

# Time series counterfactuals for gRSF

- Focus on the trees that **predict neg**
- For each tree  $\mathcal{T}$ , explore the positive paths, i.e., those that **predict pos**
- Try to **force those trees to predict pos** by changing the **shapelet features** of  $\mathcal{T}$



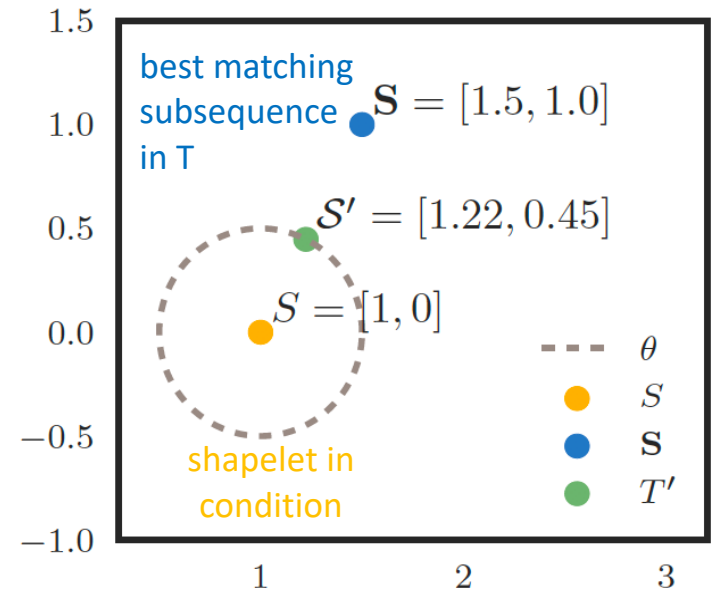
Given a non-leaf node  $(S_{k'}^j, \theta_{k'}^j)$

- **Decrease distance:**
  - if  $S_{k'}^j$  does not exist in  $\mathcal{T}$ , that is  $d_s(S_{k'}^j, \mathcal{T}) > \theta_{k'}^j$
  - and the current node condition demands otherwise
  - ✓ decrease the distance of **the best matching instance** of  $S_{k'}^j$ , so that it falls **below the distance threshold**  $\theta_{k'}^j$

# How to transform the time series?

- Consider shapelet  $S$  as an **m-dimensional point**
- Define an **m-sphere** with  $S$  as its center and radius  $\theta$
- The **transformed time series counterpart of  $S$**  is given by the following equation:

$$\tau_S(\mathbf{S}, p_{ik}^j, \epsilon) = \mathcal{S}_k^j + \frac{\mathcal{S}_k^j - \mathbf{S}}{\|\mathcal{S}_k^j - \mathbf{S}\|_2} (\theta_k^j + (\epsilon \delta_{ik}^j))$$



Karlsson et al. Explainable time series tweaking via irreversible and reversible temporal transformations, ICDM 2018

# Evaluation metrics?

## proximity

**Average cost** of successful transformation, i.e.,  
*how costly is the transformation?*

$$c_{\mu}(\tau, y') = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n c(\mathcal{T}_i, \tau(\mathcal{T}_i, y'))$$

## sparsity

**Compactness** of transformation, i.e.,  
*how much of the time series is changed?*

$$compact(\mathcal{T}, \mathcal{T}') = \frac{1}{|\mathcal{T}'|} \sum_{i=1}^{|\mathcal{T}'|} diff(T_i, T'_i) ,$$

where

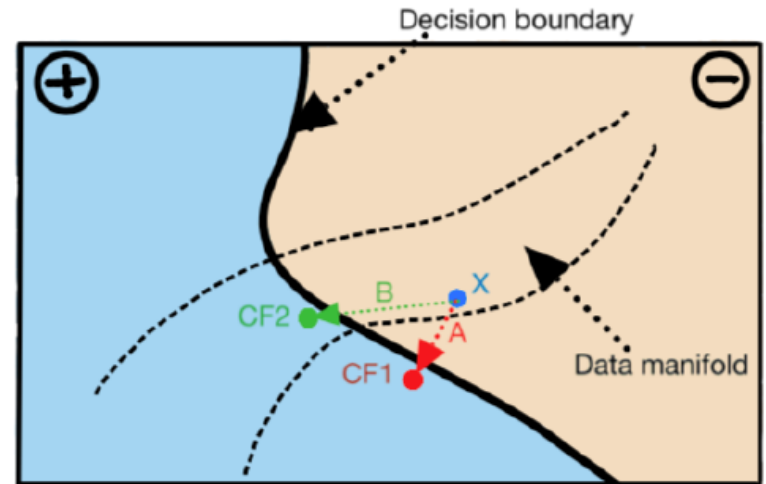
$$diff(T_i, T'_i) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } |T_i - T'_i| \leq e \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

# Counterfactual quality

- It is not only **sparsity** and **proximity** that matter
- Counterfactuals should also be:
  - **compliant** with the original **data distribution**
  - should be **expected** to be observed

Several CF “goodness” measures:

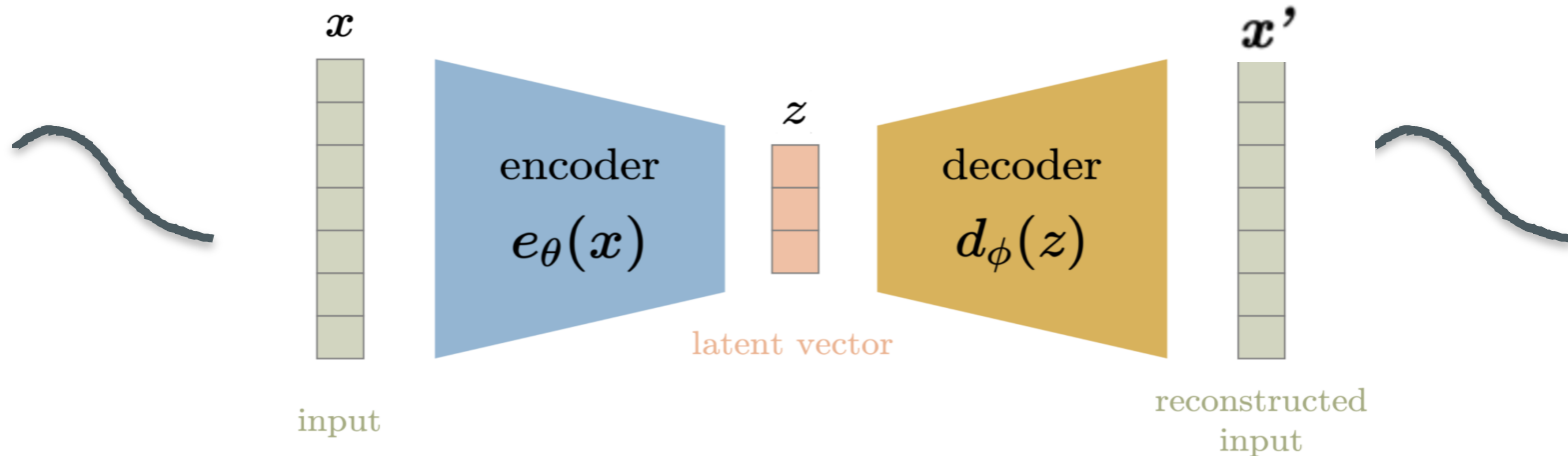
- proximity
- validity
- sparsity
- faithfulness
- fairness
- ...



- **One direction:** find a way to learn the data manifold / distribution per class

\* Figure source: Verma, S., Dickerson, J., Hines, K.: Counterfactual Explanations for Machine Learning: A Review

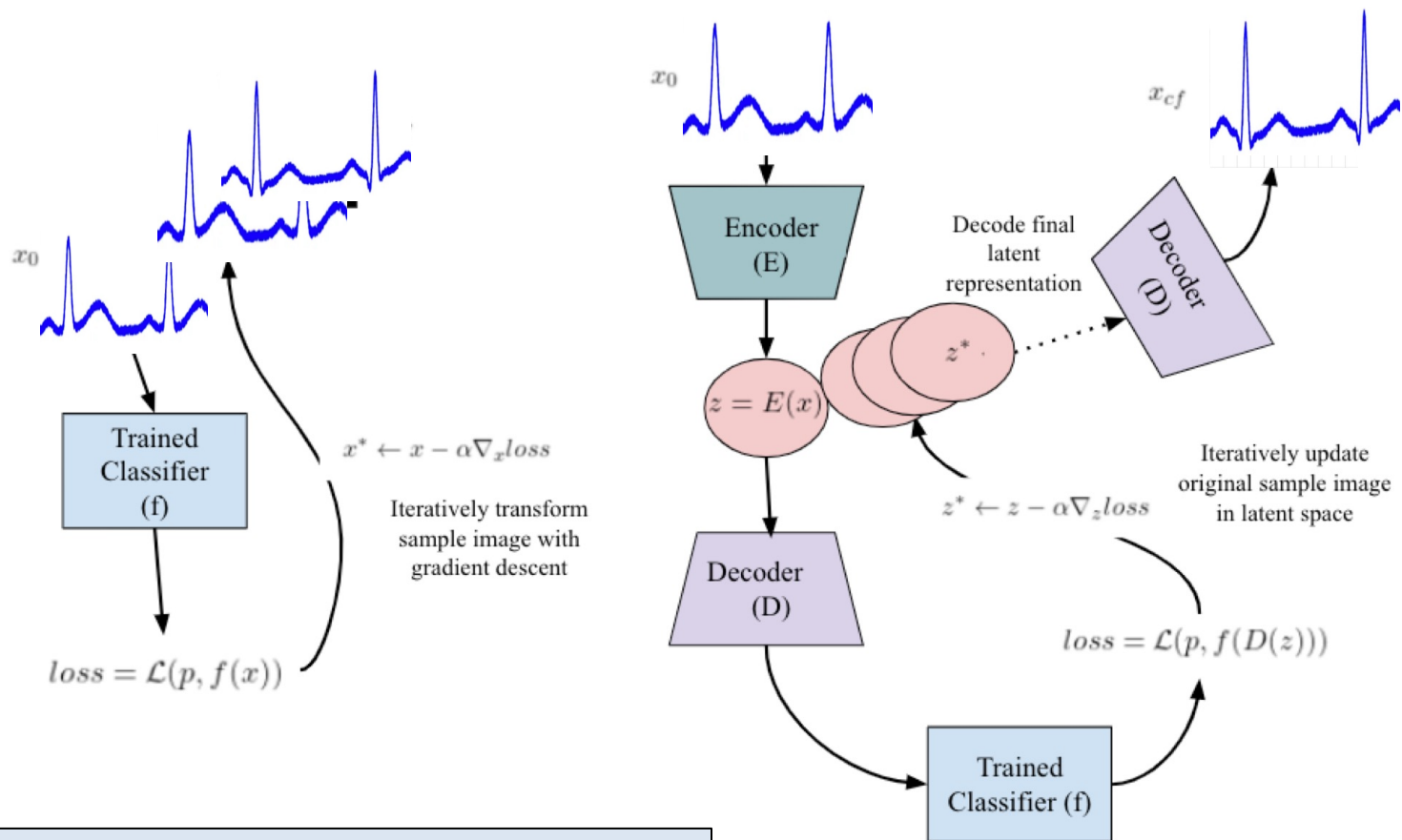
# Autoencoders



$$loss = \|x - x'\|_2 = \|x - d_{\phi}(z)\|_2 = \|x - d_{\phi}(e_{\theta}(x))\|_2$$

- Use an **auto-encoder** to find the generated counterfactual with the desired class (e.g., positive) outcome
- **Perturb** the encoded latent representation  $z = e(x)$  through a **gradient descent optimization approach** iteratively to generate a new time series sample  $x' = d(z)$  such that the output target  $f(x') = '+'$

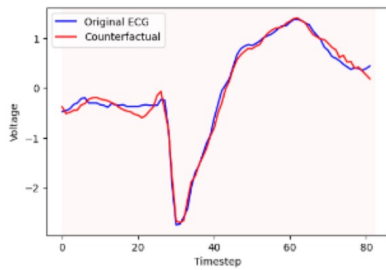
# Latent space CFs



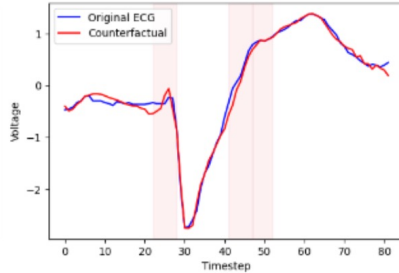
Balasubramanian et al. Latent-CF: A Simple Baseline for Reverse Counterfactual Explanations, Arxiv 2020



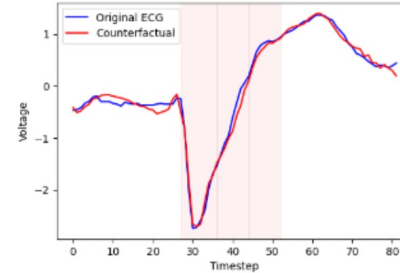
# LatentCF for time series



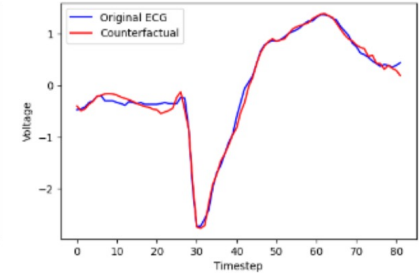
(a) unconstrained



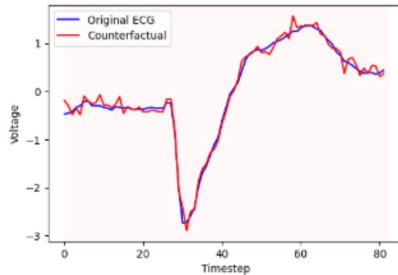
(b) example-specific



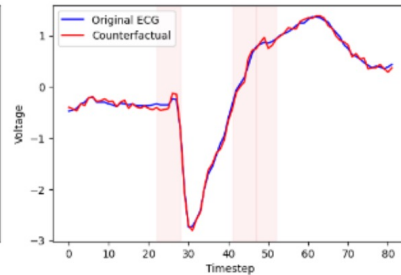
(c) global



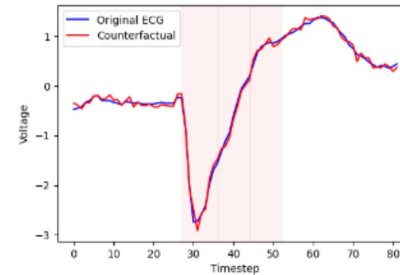
(d) uniform



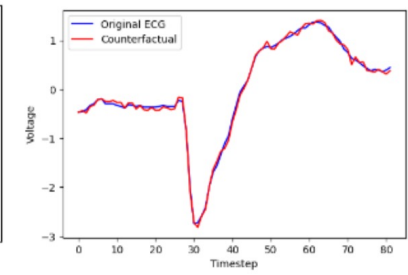
(e) unconstrained



(f) example-specific



(g) global



(h) uniform

Wang et al. Learning Time Series Counterfactuals via Latent Space Representations, Discovery Science 2022 and MACH (to Appear)

# Agenda

Introduction

Time series classification

Explainable time series classification

Time series counterfactuals

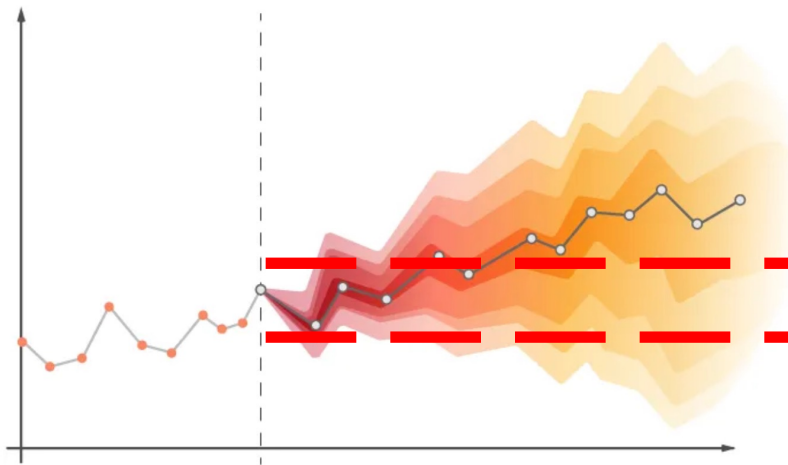
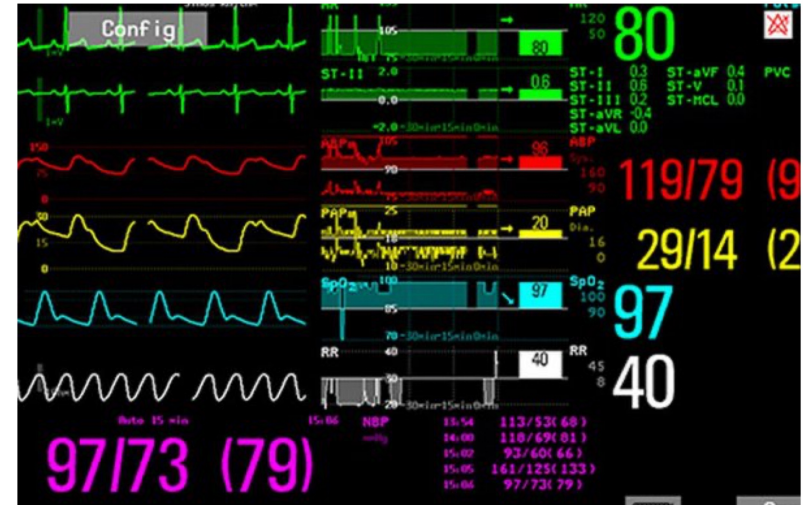
Challenges and future directions

# Challenges in XAI-TS

- **Multimodal** learning
- **Sparsity** in time series measurements
- **Short** time series
- **Assessing** explanations
- **Actionable** explanations
- **Actionable** time series **forecasting**

# Counterfactuals for time series forecasting

- Monitor current patient **vitals**
- Forecast their **progression**
- Identify **timely interventions**
- Define **forecasting counterfactuals**

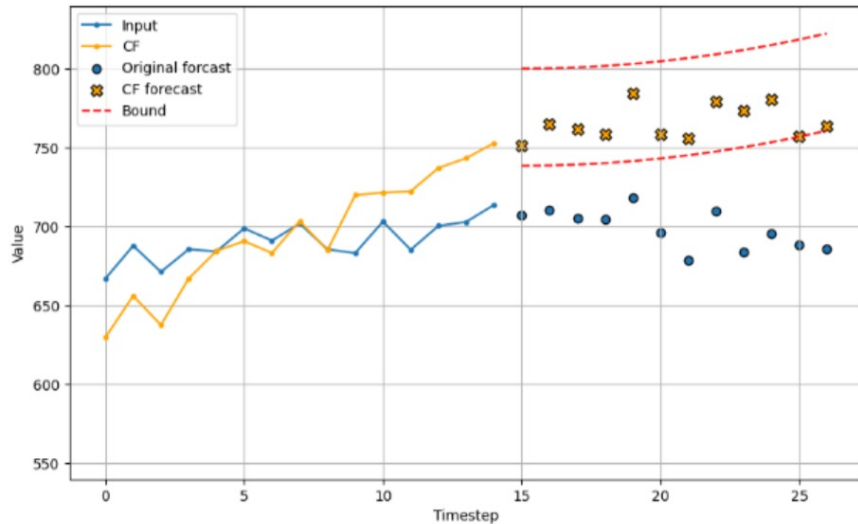


Maintain the prediction within a **constant band**

Early interventions to prevent **“violating”** the band

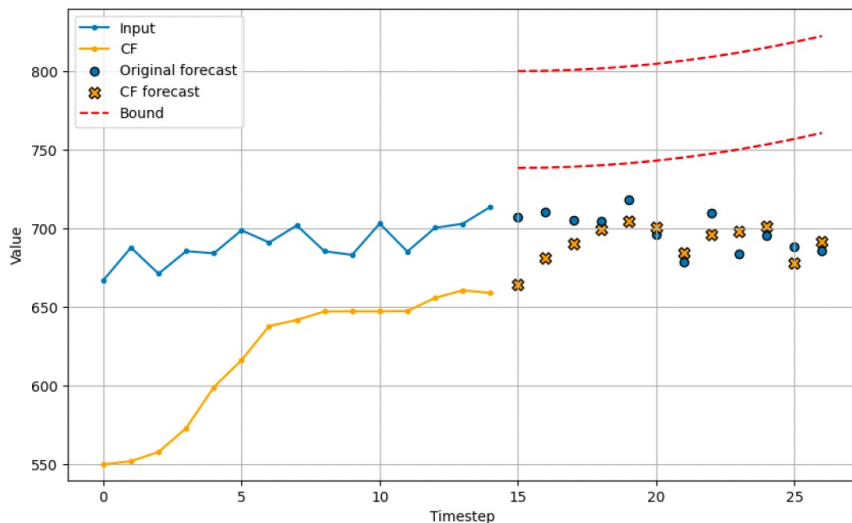
Wang et al. Counterfactuals for time series forecasting, ICDM 2023

# Counterfactuals for time series forecasting



## Challenges:

- Defining proper **constraints**
- Defining proper and **timely interventions**
- Integrating **external** variables
- **Multivariate** forecasting



Wang et al. Counterfactuals for time series forecasting, ICDM 2023

# Take-home messages

- **Understand** the domain you are explaining
- Consult with **domain experts**
- Ensure that your explanations are **compliant** with the **data domain**
- **Multivariate** and **multimodal** data is *challenging* but can be *critical*

Thank you!



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