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City University of Hong Kong · Zhejiang University · Fudan University · Shanghai Academy of AI for Science · ★ Code: github.com/Applied-Machine-Learning-Lab/ICLR2026_SONATA

Motivation

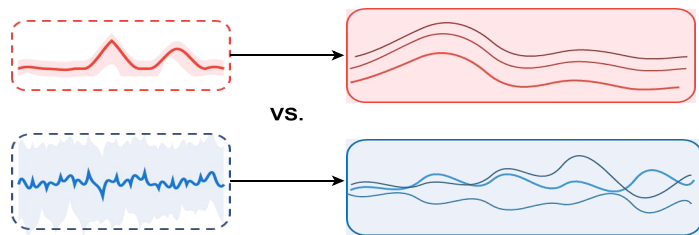
Dynamic tensor streams arise in recommender systems, neuroscience, and spatiotemporal sensing. Two fundamental challenges persist:

Modeling Expressiveness

Existing methods oversimplify temporal representations and fail to capture complex, evolving multi-scale entity dynamics.

Stream Efficiency

Processing all observations is computationally prohibitive. Most data is redundant; a small fraction is disproportionately informative.



Problem Formulation

Observe K -mode tensor stream $\{\{\ell, y, t\}\}$. Learn dynamic embeddings $u^{(k)}_j(t) : \mathbb{R}^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^R$ encoding evolving entity properties via CP factorization:

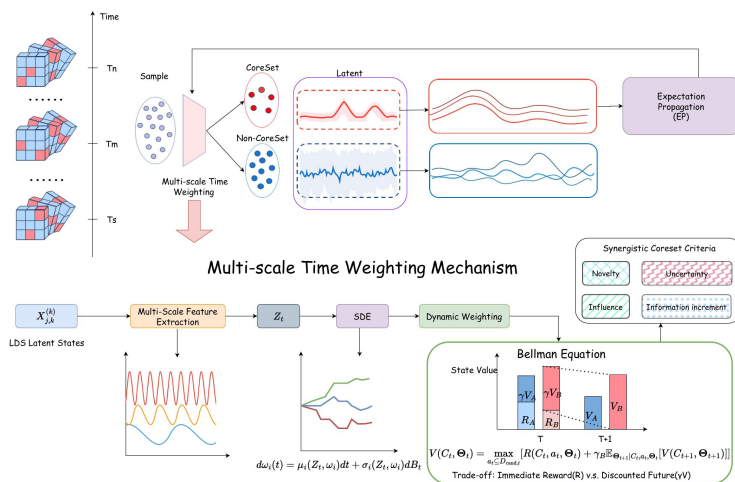
$$y_n = \sum_{r=1}^R \prod_{k=1}^K u_{l_n, k, r}^{(k)}(t_n) + \epsilon_n := f(\{\mathbf{u}_{l_n, k}^{(k)}(t_n)\}_{k=1}^K) + \epsilon_n$$

Entity evolution via Stochastic Differential Equations (Matérn kernels \Rightarrow LDS):

$$d\mathbf{x}_j^{(k)}(t) = \mathbf{F}\mathbf{x}_j^{(k)}(t)dt + \mathbf{L}d\mathbf{w}(t) \quad \mathbf{u}_j^{(k)}(t) = \mathbf{H}\mathbf{x}_j^{(k)}(t)$$

SONATA Framework Overview

SONATA unifies expressive LDS-based temporal modeling with principled synergistic coreset selection and streaming Bayesian inference — without deep neural networks.



Synergistic Coreset Criteria

$$S_n = w_u \cdot \mathcal{I}_{unc}(n) + w_i \cdot \mathcal{I}_{inf}(n) + w_n \cdot \mathcal{I}_{nov}(n) + w_m \cdot \mathcal{I}_{mart}(n)$$

Uncertainty \mathcal{I}_{unc}

Influence \mathcal{I}_{inf}

Novelty \mathcal{I}_{nov}

Info Increment \mathcal{I}_{mart}

Bellman-Inspired Coreset Evolution

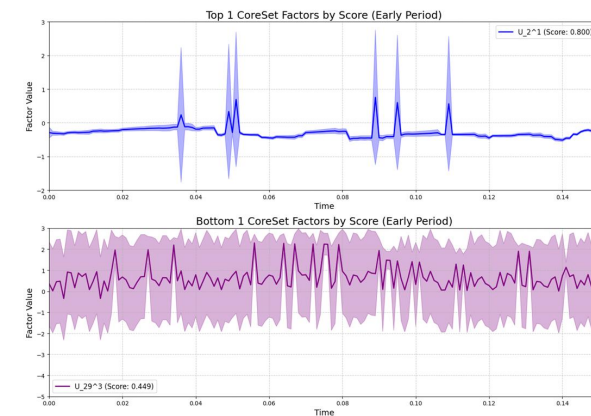
$V(C_t, \Theta_t) = \max_{a_t \in \mathcal{D}_{cand, t}} [\mathcal{R}(C_t, a_t, \Theta_t) + \gamma B \mathbb{E}_{\Theta_{t+1} | C_t, a_t, \Theta_t} [V(C_{t+1}, \Theta_{t+1})]]$
 Balances immediate reward (importance score) vs. discounted future utility. Enables strategic data retention outperforming myopic selection.

Experimental Results (RMSE, R=5, 10 runs)

Method	CA Traffic	ServerRoom	BeijingAir	FitRecord
NONFAT	0.501	0.117	0.395	0.503
THIS-ODE	0.632	0.132	0.540	0.526
SFTL-CP	0.231	0.161	0.248	0.424
SONATA (Ours)	0.089*	0.115*	0.237*	0.414*

61.5% RMSE reduction on CA Traffic 30K

Visualization of SONATA's Coreset selection effectiveness



Conclusion

- Novel framework: LDS temporal modeling + synergistic coreset selection
- 4-criterion scoring: uncertainty, influence, novelty, info increment
- Bellman-guided long-term optimization beyond greedy selection
- 25x speedup over full-data, SOTA on 4 streaming tensor datasets