

Belief Rényi Divergence of Divergence and Its Application in Time Series Classification

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Abstract—Time series data contains the amount of information to reflect the development process and state of a subject. Especially, the complexity is a valuable factor to illustrate the feature of the time series. However, it is still an open issue to measure the complexity of sophisticated time series due to its uncertainty. In this study, based on the belief Rényi divergence, a novel time series complexity measurement algorithm, called belief Rényi divergence of divergence (BRéDOD), is proposed. Specifically, the BRéDOD algorithm takes the boundaries of time series value into account. What is more, according to the Dempster-Shafer (D-S) evidence theory, the time series is converted to the basic probability assignments (BPAs) and it measures the divergence of a divergence sequence. Then, the secondary divergence of the time series is figured out to represent the complexity of the time series. In addition, the BRéDOD algorithm is applied to sets of cardiac inter-beat interval time series, which shows the superiority of the proposed method over classical machine learning methods and recent well-known works.

Index Terms—D-S evidence theory, uncertainty, belief Rényi divergence, belief divergence of divergence, complexity, time series analysis, classification

I. Introduction

COMPLEXITY measurement is a valuable approach to explore the characteristic of information in time series data [1–4]. Specifically, it reflects the development or states of a subject [5, 6]. However, measuring the complexity of time series has become a critical challenge [7, 8]. With the advent of Artificial Intelligence, deep learning methods have been heavily used for feature extraction. It has also been proved that they extract complexity features of time-series data, based on a large number of neurons [9]. While deep learning approaches can yield more sophisticated complexity measures, a significant limitation is their reduced interpretability [10, 11]. The practical value of data features is compromised if they cannot be interpreted meaningfully.

Numerous studies suggest a direct correlation between the amount of information and its complexity. As the information increases, time series often becomes more uncertain, exhibiting higher levels of entropy [12–15]. By this observation, the complexity of time series and dynamics of the system could be calculated by utilizing the uncertainty of information [16–18]. This means that it is necessary to model the uncertainty of time series in

complex environments to explain its characteristics [19]. Nevertheless, without a fixed criterion, it is still an open issue to figure out the uncertainty of time series. Recently, several well-known works have been proposed to deal with uncertainty problem in various fields, such as decision making [20–23], fault diagnose [24], clustering [25, 26], reliability analysis [27, 28], pattern classification [29, 30], and so on [31–34].

Here, D-S evidence theory provides an effective way to address the uncertainty problems in an interpretable way [35–37]. It is extended in different aspects of random generalized D-S structure [38], permutation set [39, 40] and quantum evidence theory [41, 42], and widely used in output control [43], conflict management [44], evidence reasoning [45, 46], and so on [47–49]. It is noticed that D-S evidence theory offers a robust and framework for quantifying the uncertainty inherent in a time series to enable the assessment of its complexity [50, 51]. Specifically, it provides an efficacious approach for representing segments of time series as combinations of multiple subsets and singleton sets through the construction of BPAs. This methodology facilitates the extraction of segmental features of time series. Furthermore, it presents an interpretable method for measuring the complexity of time series, since BPAs illustrate the feature of uncertainty with assigning probabilities to different categories [52]. So, the interval characterization of time series data can be expressed based on D-S evidence theory reasonably.

Next, it is necessary to calculate the discrepancy of BPAs as it contributes to complexity measurement [53]. Recently, Xiao et al. [54] proposed generalized evidential divergences to measure the discrepancy between BPAs. Huang et al. [55] introduce belief f -divergence to improve the performance of complexity evaluation based on BPAs measurement. Moreover, belief Rényi divergence can quantifies the differences between BPAs for time series analysis [56, 57]. Hence, divergence shows well-performance qualities for discrepancy measurement [58–62]. Studying several belief divergence methods, belief Rényi divergence has outstanding properties to measure the discrepancy of BPAs. Specifically, the BPA degenerates to a probability distribution with all hypotheses containing one event, and the belief Rényi divergence correspondingly degenerates to a traditional Rényi divergence. Moreover, based on the parameter setting of belief Rényi divergence, it is related to the Kullback-Leibler divergence, Hellinger distance or χ^2 divergence, which leads to a more flexible belief divergence. However, there is still a limitation. For fussy

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time series, it is hard to extract the complexity features by using divergence measurement only once.

To address the limitation above, a novel belief divergence of divergence algorithm, called BRéDOD is proposed. At first, a divergence sequence of time series can be figured out according to belief Rényi divergence. Next, the complexity of the time series can be calculated by measuring the discrepancy of BPAs that are produced by the divergence sequence. Based on belief divergence of divergence, the deeper feature of time series can be obtained. Furthermore, the BRéDOD algorithm is applied to cardiac inter-beat interval time series, which demonstrates the effectiveness in handling a real-world time series issue in complexity measurement, and a pattern classification problem is addressed.

Main contributions of this paper are listed as follows:

- 1) Time series data is converted to mass function by means of D-S evidence theory, which provides an interpretable approach to carry out time series feature extraction.
- 2) The complexity of the time series is effectively figured out according to the proposed BRéDOD algorithm by measuring the belief Rényi divergence of divergence.
- 3) An application in cardiac inter-beat interval time series classification is carried out with BRéDOD algorithm, which shows higher classification accuracy than classical machine learning methods and several well-known works. Hence, the superiority of the proposed method has been discussed.

The organization of this study is shown as follows. Section II introduces the fundamental concepts of this study. In Section III, a novel belief Rényi divergence of divergence algorithm for complexity measure of time series is proposed and a specific example is put forward. In Section IV, the processing of complexity measurement is demonstrated based on cardiac inter-beat interval time series, and an application of pattern classification is carried out to illustrate the out-performance of the BRéDOD algorithm. Section V makes a conclusion of this study.

II. Preliminaries

This section briefly presents the basic concepts, including D-S evidence theory and belief Rényi divergence.

A. D-S Evidence Theory

D-S evidence theory is generalized by typical probability theory, which deals with uncertainty problems more effectively and flexibly.

Definition 1 (Framework of discernment).

Let Θ be the discernment with mutually exclusive events which can be defined as:

$$\Theta = \{e_1, e_2, \dots, e_n\}. \quad (1)$$

Then, its power set 2^Θ can be defined as follows:

$$2^\Theta = \{\emptyset, \dots, \{e_n\}, \dots, \{e_1, e_2\}, \dots, \Theta\}, \quad (2)$$

where \emptyset indicates the empty set.

Definition 2 (Mass function).

With discernment Θ , a mass function m can be defined as:

$$m : 2^\Theta \rightarrow [0, 1]. \quad (3)$$

It abides the rule of

$$\sum_{E \in 2^\Theta} m(E) = 1 \quad \text{and} \quad m(\emptyset) = 0. \quad (4)$$

Here, E is a focal element with $m(E) > 0$. Specifically, the information value of mass function contributes to uncertainty measurement [63, 64].

Definition 3 (Dempster's rule of combination).

Let m_1 and m_2 be two BPAs. The rule of Dempster's combination is describe as:

$$m(A) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{1-k} \sum_{P \cap Q = A} m_1(P)m_2(Q), & A \neq \emptyset, \\ 0, & A = \emptyset, \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

and

$$k = \sum_{P \cap Q = \emptyset} m_1(P)m_2(Q), \quad (6)$$

where P and Q are focal elements and k is regarded as a conflict coefficient.

B. Belief Entropy and Divergence

Definition 4 (Deng entropy).

Deng entropy is a new belief entropy in processing the measurement of conflict between evidence [37]. The Deng entropy can be calculated as:

$$E_D = - \sum_i m(E_i) \log \frac{m(E_i)}{2^{|E_i|} - 1}, \quad (7)$$

where $m(E_i)$ is a BPA, and $|\cdot|$ represents the cardinality of $m(E_i)$.

Definition 5 (Belief Rényi divergence).

Let m_1 and m_2 be two BPAs. The belief Rényi divergence between two mass function can be defined as [57]:

$$\mathcal{BRD}_\alpha(m_1 || m_2) = \frac{1}{\alpha - 1} \ln \sum_{i=1}^{2^\Theta} \frac{m_1(E_i)^\alpha m_2(E_i)^{1-\alpha}}{2^{|E_i|} - 1}, \quad (8)$$

where α is the parameter with $\alpha \in (0, 1) \cup (1, +\infty)$ and $|E_i|$ represents the cardinality of E_i .

III. Complexity Measurement Based on Belief Rényi Divergence of Divergence

The time series complexity analysis algorithm, BRéDOD algorithm is divided into two components. The first component figures out the divergence sequence of two types of time series, and the second component calculates the divergence of divergence sequence. The flowchart of BRéDOD algorithm for time series processing is described as Fig. 1.

A. Measure the Divergence of Time Series

In the first component, the time series is described as $\mathcal{S} = \{x_1, \dots, x_i, \dots, x_N\}$ with length N . Two types

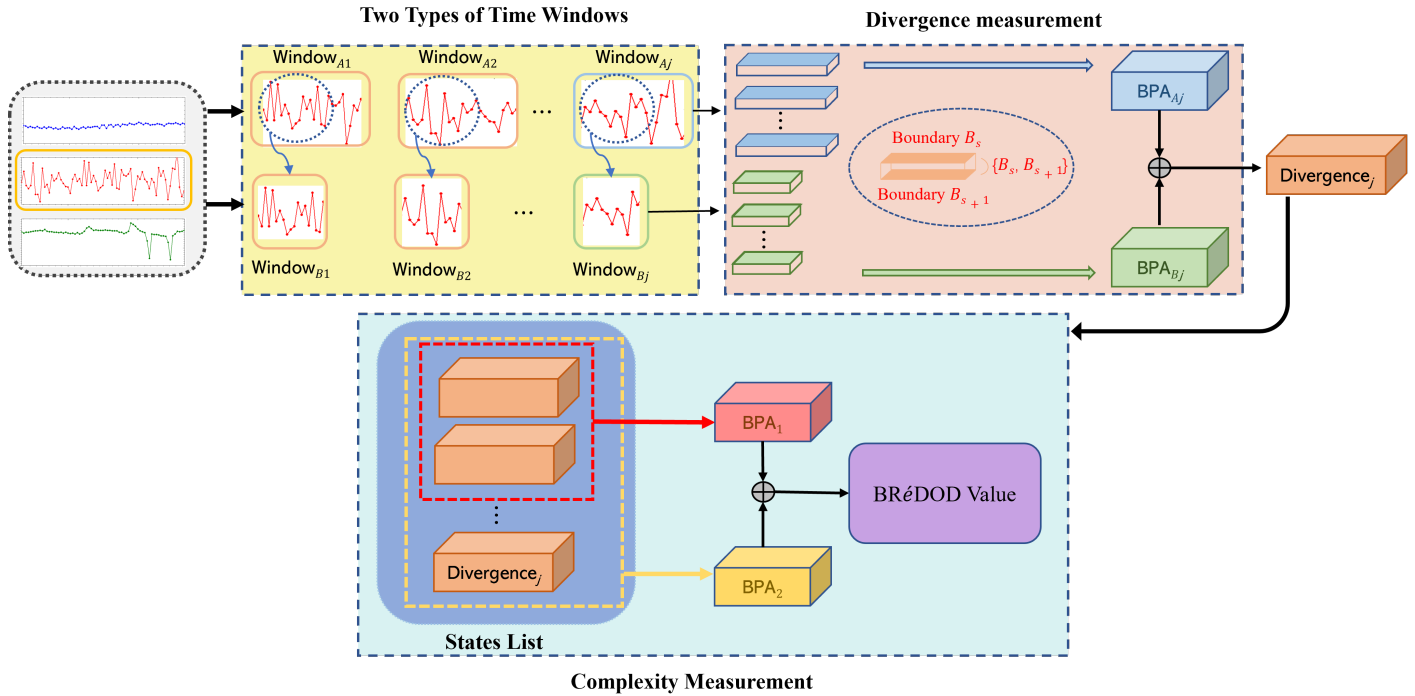


Fig. 1. Flowchart of the BRéDOD algorithm for time series complexity.

of consecutive and non-overlapping time windows are obtained by dividing the time series as type A $\{w_{A_j}^{(\tau)}\}$ and type B $\{w_{B_j}^{(\tau)}\}$. Here, $w_{A_j}^{(\tau)} = \{x_{(j-1)\tau+1}, \dots, x_{(j-1)\tau+\tau}\}$ is of length τ , where j is the window index which ranges from 1 to N/τ . It can be regarded that type B is the truncation of type A in each window as $w_{B_j}^{(\tau)} = \{x_{(j-1)\tau+1}, \dots, x_{(j-1)\tau+v}\}$, where $v < \tau$. The value selecting of v and τ are discussed in Section IV.

The time interval of each window ranges from x_{min} to x_{max} where x_{min} and x_{max} indicate the lower and upper boundaries of time series \mathcal{S} , respectively. The time interval is equally split into k slices. Each slice contains two boundaries (e.g., B_s and B_{s+1} of the s th slice), which represents the specific state. If data points are in the same slice, then it can be considered that they are in the same states.

Definition 6 (Belief divergence sequence).

As depicted in Fig. 1, each time window is conceptualized as a discernment framework, where each slice comprises two focal elements: one signifies the specific state, while the other denotes the state of uncertainty.

Let the total number of data points over w_{ij} between B_s and B_{s+1} be p_{ij} . Specifically, let data points γ of length γ_{ij} fall on the border B_s coincidentally. The BPAs based on each time window can be defined as:

$$m_{ij} : \begin{cases} m_{ij}^{(\tau)}(\{B_s\}) = \frac{q_{ij}}{|w_{ij}|}, & \text{if } \gamma \text{ falls on the boundary } s, \\ m_{ij}^{(\tau)}(\{B_s, B_{s+1}\}) = \frac{p_{ij}}{|w_{ij}|}, & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases} \quad (9)$$

where $i \in \{A, B\}$. Considering that all points are in the interval, the divergence $Div_j^{(\tau)}$ in each corresponding window is figured out based on Eq. (8):

$$\begin{aligned} Div_j^{(\tau)} &= BRD_\alpha(m_{A_j} || m_{B_j}) \\ &= \frac{1}{\alpha - 1} \ln \sum_{i=1}^k \left(\frac{m_{A_j}(E_i)^\alpha m_{B_j}(E_i)^{1-\alpha}}{2^{|E_i|} - 1} \right), \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

where E_i represents $\{B_i\}$ or $\{B_i, B_{i+1}\}$. Then a belief Rényi divergence sequence $\{Div_j^{(\tau)}\}$ of original time series is constructed.

The belief Rényi divergence is a generalized divergence. Choosing different α , the equation will degenerate to special divergence expression, including Hellinger distance, Kullback-Leibler divergence and χ^2 divergence [57]:

- When $\alpha \rightarrow \infty$, $Div_j^{(\tau)}$ degenerates the difference value between the logarithms of one focal element of BPA.
- When $\alpha = \frac{1}{2}$, $Div_j^{(\tau)}$ has the property of symmetry. Specifically, $Div_j^{(\tau)}$ degenerates an equation related to Hellinger distance with $\forall |E_i| = 1$.
- When $\alpha \rightarrow 1$, $Div_j^{(\tau)}$ degenerates an equation of Kullback-Leibler divergence with $\forall |E_i| = 1$.
- When $\alpha = 2$, $Div_j^{(\tau)}$ degenerates an equation related to the χ^2 divergence with $\forall |E_i| = 1$.
- When $\alpha \rightarrow 0$, $Div_j^{(\tau)} = 0$ with $\forall |E_i| = 1$.

Utilizing different α , divergence values will be obtained during calculation, which leads to a more flexible complexity measurement algorithm. The following proof shows that these properties still hold true in Eq. (10).

- Property 1. When all the data points fall on the

boundaries of time window, the $Div_j^{(\tau)}$ degenerates to:

$$Div_j^{(\tau)} = \frac{1}{\alpha - 1} \ln \sum_{i=1}^k \left(\frac{q_{Aj}}{|w_{Aj}|} \right)^\alpha \cdot \left(\frac{q_{Bj}}{|w_{Bj}|} \right)^{1-\alpha}. \quad (11)$$

Proof. Given two BPAs m_{Aj} and m_{Bj} . According to Eq. (9), each focal element in BPAs is a singleton.

$$\begin{aligned} Div_j^{(\tau)} &= \mathcal{BRD}_\alpha(m_{Aj}||m_{Bj}) \\ &= \frac{1}{\alpha - 1} \ln \sum_{s=1}^k \frac{m_{Aj}(\{B_s\})^\alpha m_{Bj}(\{B_s\})^{1-\alpha}}{2^{|\{B_s\}|} - 1} \\ &= \frac{1}{\alpha - 1} \ln \sum_{s=1}^k \left(\frac{q_{Aj}}{|w_{Aj}|} \right)^\alpha \cdot \left(\frac{q_{Bj}}{|w_{Bj}|} \right)^{1-\alpha}. \end{aligned}$$

- Property 2. When $\alpha \rightarrow \infty$, the $Div_j^{(\tau)}$ is regarded as:

$$Div_j^{(\tau)} = \ln \frac{m_{Aj}(E_\mu)}{m_{Bj}(E_\mu)}, \quad (12)$$

where $\mu = \arg \max_{1 \leq i \leq k} \left\{ \frac{m_{Bj}(E_i)}{2^{|E_i|} - 1} \cdot \left(\frac{m_{Aj}(E_i)}{m_{Bj}(E_i)} \right)^\alpha \right\}$.

Proof. $m = \max_i \left\{ \frac{m_{Bj}(E_i)}{2^{|E_i|} - 1} \cdot \left(\frac{m_{Aj}(E_i)}{m_{Bj}(E_i)} \right)^\alpha \right\}$ and $\mu = \arg \max_{1 \leq i \leq k} \left\{ \frac{m_{Bj}(E_i)}{2^{|E_i|} - 1} \cdot \left(\frac{m_{Aj}(E_i)}{m_{Bj}(E_i)} \right)^\alpha \right\}$.

$$\frac{1}{\alpha - 1} \ln m \leq Div_j^{(\tau)} \leq \frac{1}{\alpha - 1} (\ln m + \ln n)$$

That is:

$$\begin{aligned} Div_j^{(\tau)} &\geq \lim_{\alpha \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\alpha - 1} \ln \max_i \left\{ \frac{m_{Bj}(E_i)}{2^{|E_i|} - 1} \cdot \left(\frac{m_{Aj}(E_i)}{m_{Bj}(E_i)} \right)^\alpha \right\} \\ &= \lim_{\alpha \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\alpha - 1} \ln \frac{m_{Bj}(E_\mu)}{2^{|E_\mu|} - 1} + \lim_{\alpha \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\alpha - 1} \ln \left(\frac{m_{Aj}(E_\mu)}{m_{Bj}(E_\mu)} \right)^\alpha \\ &= 0 + \lim_{\alpha \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\alpha}{\alpha - 1} \ln \frac{m_{Aj}(E_\mu)}{m_{Bj}(E_\mu)} \\ &= \ln \frac{m_{Aj}(E_\mu)}{m_{Bj}(E_\mu)}. \end{aligned}$$

Similarly,

$$\begin{aligned} Div_j^{(\tau)} &\leq \lim_{\alpha \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\alpha - 1} \left(\ln n + \ln \max_i \left\{ \frac{m_{Bj}(E_i)}{2^{|E_i|} - 1} \cdot \left(\frac{m_{Aj}(E_i)}{m_{Bj}(E_i)} \right)^\alpha \right\} \right) \\ &= \lim_{\alpha \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln n}{\alpha - 1} + \lim_{\alpha \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\alpha - 1} \ln \frac{m_{Bj}(E_\mu)}{2^{|A_\mu|} - 1} + \lim_{\alpha \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\alpha}{\alpha - 1} \ln \frac{m_{Aj}(E_\mu)}{m_{Bj}(E_\mu)} \\ &= 0 + 0 + \lim_{\alpha \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\alpha}{\alpha - 1} \ln \frac{m_{Aj}(E_\mu)}{m_{Bj}(E_\mu)} \\ &= \ln \frac{m_{Aj}(E_\mu)}{m_{Bj}(E_\mu)}. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, $\ln \frac{m_{Aj}(E_\mu)}{m_{Bj}(E_\mu)} \leq Div_j^{(\tau)} \leq \ln \frac{m_{Aj}(E_\mu)}{m_{Bj}(E_\mu)}$. So, $Div_j^{(\tau)} = \ln \frac{m_{Aj}(A_\mu)}{m_{Bj}(A_\mu)}$. ■

- Property 3. When $\alpha = \frac{1}{2}$, the $Div_j^{(\tau)}$ follows the rule:

$$Div_j^{(\tau)} = \mathcal{BRD}_\alpha(m_{Aj}||m_{Bj}) = \mathcal{BRD}_\alpha(m_{Bj}||m_{Aj}), \quad (13)$$

which means that it has the property of symmetry.

Proof. Given two BPAs m_{Aj} and m_{Bj} , according to Eq. (10):

$$\mathcal{BRD}_\alpha(m_{Aj}||m_{Bj}) = -2 \ln \sum_{i=1}^k \left(\frac{\sqrt{m_{Aj}(E_i) m_{Bj}(E_i)}}{2^{|E_i|} - 1} \right).$$

$$\mathcal{BRD}_\alpha(m_{Bj}||m_{Aj}) = -2 \ln \sum_{i=1}^k \left(\frac{\sqrt{m_{Bj}(E_i) m_{Aj}(E_i)}}{2^{|E_i|} - 1} \right).$$

Therefore,

$$\mathcal{BRD}_\alpha(m_{Aj}||m_{Bj}) = \mathcal{BRD}_\alpha(m_{Bj}||m_{Aj}).$$

Specifically, when all the data points fall on the boundaries, the belief Rényi divergence is related to the Hellinger distance. Here, $Div_j^{(\tau)}$ is regarded as:

$$Div_j^{(\tau)} = -2 \ln \left(\frac{2 - \text{Hel}^2(m_{Aj}, m_{Bj})}{2} \right). \quad (14)$$

Proof. Given two BPAs m_{Aj} and m_{Bj} . According to Eq. (9), each focal element in BPAs is a singleton.

$$\begin{aligned} Div_j^{(\tau)} &= -2 \ln \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{\sqrt{m_{Aj}(E_i) m_{Bj}(E_i)}}{2^{|E_i|} - 1} \\ &= -2 \ln \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{m_{Aj}(E_i) + m_{Bj}(E_i) - \left(m_{Aj}(E_i)^{\frac{1}{2}} - m_{Bj}(E_i)^{\frac{1}{2}} \right)^2}{2} \\ &= -2 \ln \left(\frac{2 - \text{Hel}^2(m_{Aj}, m_{Bj})}{2} \right), \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\text{Hel}^2(m_{Aj}, m_{Bj}) = \sum_{i=1}^k \left(m_{Aj}(E_i)^{\frac{1}{2}} - m_{Bj}(E_i)^{\frac{1}{2}} \right)^2.$$

• Property 4. When $\alpha \rightarrow 1$ and all the data points fall on the boundaries, the belief Rényi divergence degenerates to a Kullback-Leibler divergence. Here, $Div_j^{(\tau)}$ is regarded as:

$$Div_j^{(\tau)} = \mathcal{DKL}(m_{Aj}||m_{Bj}). \quad (15)$$

Proof. Given two BPAs m_{Aj} and m_{Bj} . According to Eq. (9), each focal element in BPAs is a singleton.

$$\begin{aligned} Div_j^{(\tau)} &= \lim_{\alpha \rightarrow 1} \frac{\frac{\partial}{\partial \alpha} \left[\ln \sum_{i=1}^k m_{Aj}(E_i)^\alpha m_{Bj}(E_i)^{1-\alpha} \right]}{\frac{\partial}{\partial \alpha} (\alpha - 1)} \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^k m_{Aj}(E_i) (\ln m_{Aj}(E_i) - \ln m_{Bj}(E_i)) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n m_{Aj}(E_i) \ln \frac{m_{Aj}(E_i)}{m_{Bj}(E_i)} \\ &= \mathcal{DKL}(m_{Aj}||m_{Bj}). \end{aligned}$$

• Property 5. When $\alpha = 2$ and all the data points fall on the boundaries, the belief Rényi divergence is the function of χ^2 divergence. The $Div_j^{(\tau)}$ can be expressed as:

$$Div_j^{(\tau)} = \ln (1 + \chi^2(m_{Aj}, m_{Bj})). \quad (16)$$

Proof. Given two BPAs m_{Aj} and m_{Bj} . According to

Eq. (9), each focal element in BPAs is a singleton.

$$\begin{aligned} Div_j^{(\tau)} &= \ln \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{m_{A_j}(E_i)^2}{m_{B_j}(E_i)} \cdot \frac{1}{2^{|E_i|} - 1} \\ &= \ln \sum_{i=1}^n \left(2m_{A_j}(E_i) - m_{B_j}(E_i) + \frac{(m_{A_j}(E_i) - m_{B_j}(E_i))^2}{m_{B_j}(E_i)} \right) \\ &= \ln(1 + \chi^2(m_{A_j}, m_{B_j})). \end{aligned}$$

• Property 6. When $\alpha \rightarrow 0$, and all data points fall on the boundaries, the $Div_j^{(\tau)}$ is regarded as:

$$Div_j^{(\tau)} = 0. \quad (17)$$

Proof. Given two BPAs m_{A_j} and m_{B_j} . According to Eq. (9), each focal element in BPAs is a singleton.

$$\begin{aligned} Div_j^{(\tau)} &= -\ln \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{m_{B_j}(E_i)}{2^{|E_i|} - 1} \\ &= -\ln \sum_{i=1}^n m_{B_j}(A_i) \\ &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

B. Measure the Complexity of Time Series

In the second component, belief Rényi divergence is also used to measure the complexity of time series by calculating the divergence of sequence $\{Div_j^{(\tau)}\}$. Here, the divergence sequence is processed as two parts. The first part is the first half of the sequence, and the second part is the entire sequence.

Definition 7 (Belief divergence of divergence).

As illustrated in Fig. 1, the first half segment of the state list, and the whole state list serves as distinct discernment frameworks. Specifically, each individual state is construed as a focal element within these frameworks.

Let r be the quantity in the l th state of the sequence and there are \mathcal{L} states. So, the BPAs based on the belief Rényi divergence is described as follows:

$$\begin{cases} m_{S_1}(\{B_l\}) = \frac{2r}{N/\tau}, \\ m_{S_2}(\{B_l\}) = \frac{r}{N/\tau}, \end{cases} \quad (18)$$

where m_{S_1} and m_{S_2} represent the BPAs of the first part and second part of sequence, separately. In this case, the complexity of the whole time series $\Phi^{(\tau)}$ can be obtained by calculating the divergence between m_{S_1} and m_{S_2} with belief Rényi divergence as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi^{(\tau)} &= \mathcal{BRD}_\alpha(m_{S_1} || m_{S_2}) \\ &= \frac{1}{\alpha - 1} \ln \sum_{l=1}^{\mathcal{L}} \frac{m_{S_1}(\{B_l\})^\alpha m_{S_2}(\{B_l\})^{1-\alpha}}{2^{|\{B_s\}|} - 1} \\ &= \frac{1}{\alpha - 1} \ln \sum_{l=1}^{\mathcal{L}} \left(\frac{2r}{N/\tau} \right)^\alpha \cdot \left(\frac{r}{N/\tau} \right)^{1-\alpha}. \end{aligned} \quad (19)$$

Note that each element in sequence is at boundary which means that each focal element in BPAs is a singleton.

Algorithm 1: Complexity analysis algorithm for time series based on Rényi divergence

Input: Time series $\mathcal{S} = \{x_1, \dots, x_N\}$;

Output: Complexity result $\Phi^{(\tau)}$;

- 1 Split the time series \mathcal{S} into two types of time windows $\{w_{A_j}^{(\tau)}\}$ and $\{w_{B_j}^{(\tau)}\}$;
 - 2 Determine the lower and upper sides of time interval $\{x_{min}, x_{max}\}$;
 - 3 Divided each time window into k slices;
 - 4 Count the number of data points on or between boundaries;
 - 5 for $i=1; i \leq N/\tau$ do
 - 6 | Figure out the BPAs m_{A_i} and m_{B_i} of each time window by using the Eq. (9);
 - 7 end
 - 8 for $i=1; i \leq N/\tau$ do
 - 9 | Calculate the divergence $Div_j^{(\tau)}$ in each corresponding window by using Eq. (10);
 - 10 end
 - 11 Generate the BPAs m_{S_1} and m_{S_2} of the divergence sequence with Eq. (18);
 - 12 Calculate the complexity of time series $\Phi^{(\tau)}$ by using Eq. (19);
 - 13 return $\Phi^{(\tau)}$.
-

Here, $\Phi^{(\tau)}$ is to be computed under different parameter α of belief Rényi divergence and time scales τ .

• Property 7. When $\alpha \rightarrow \infty$, based on Eq. (12), the $\Phi^{(\tau)}$ is regarded as:

$$\Phi^{(\tau)} = \ln \frac{m_{S_1}(E_\mu)}{m_{S_2}(E_\mu)}, \quad (20)$$

where $\mu = \arg \max_{1 \leq i \leq n} \left\{ \frac{m_{S_1}(E_i)}{2^{|E_i|} - 1} \left(\frac{m_{S_1}(E_i)}{m_{S_2}(E_i)} \right)^\alpha \right\}$.

• Property 8. When $\alpha = \frac{1}{2}$, based on Eqs. (13)-(14), the $\Phi^{(\tau)}$ follows the rule:

$$\Phi^{(\tau)} = \mathcal{BRD}_\alpha(m_{S_1} || m_{S_2}) = \mathcal{BRD}_\alpha(m_{S_2} || m_{S_1}). \quad (21)$$

$$\Phi^{(\tau)} = -2 \ln \left(\frac{2 - \text{Hel}^2(m_{S_1}, m_{S_2})}{2} \right). \quad (22)$$

• Property 9. When $\alpha \rightarrow 1$, based on Eq. (15), $\Phi^{(\tau)}$ is regarded as:

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi^{(\tau)} &= \mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{KL}}(m_{S_1} || m_{S_2}) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n m_{S_1}(E_i) \ln \frac{m_{S_1}(E_i)}{m_{S_2}(E_i)}. \end{aligned} \quad (23)$$

• Property 10. When $\alpha = 2$, based on Eq. (16), the $\Phi^{(\tau)}$ can be expressed as:

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi^{(\tau)} &= \ln(1 + \chi^2(m_{S_1}, m_{S_2})) \\ &= \ln \left(1 + \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{(m_{S_1}(E_i) - m_{S_2}(E_i))^2}{m_{S_2}(E_i)} \right). \end{aligned} \quad (24)$$

• Property 11. When $\alpha \rightarrow 0$, based on Eq. (17), the $\Phi^{(\tau)}$ is regarded as:

$$\Phi^{(\tau)} = 0. \quad (25)$$

The pseudocode of time series complexity analysis algorithm based on belief Rényi divergence is shown in Algorithm 1.

IV. Application in Cardiac Inter-beat Interval Time Series Classification

In this section, an implementation of BR \acute{e} DOD algorithm for a practical classification problem is carried out based on cardiac inter-beat interval time series data.

A. Data Description and Processing

In this study, the cardiac inter-beat interval time series are taken into consideration, which comes from PhysioNet (<https://physionet.org>). Three different databases of long-term ECG (Electrocardiography) with 20-24 hours records are selected as follows:

- 1) BIDMC Congestive Heart Failure Database (CHF);
- 2) MIT-BIH Normal Sinus Rhythm Database (Healthy);
- 3) Long Term AF Database (AF).

The databases contain 15, 18, and 84 subjects, respectively. As for CHF and Healthy databases, each subject is truncated into five-time series by choosing the first 500 data points from every 10,000 data points. As for AF databases, time series of onset stages are extracted according to the annotation in PhysioNet. Then, 75 records are adopted whose lengths exceed 500 points. Hence, 240 cardiac inter-beat interval time series are chosen from 117 subjects, where 75, 90, and 75 are from CHF, Healthy, and AF, respectively.

Next, several parameters are set by processing the original data. First, all the data points $\{x_i\}$ are ranked

and divided into 1,000 segments. In order to avoid the noise influence and detection error, the 1 st and 999 th of 1,000-quantiles of the ranked segments are taken into consideration as $x_{min} = 0.3$ and $x_{max} = 1.6$. This interval is divided equally into 55 parts with $k = 55$. Second, to briefly demonstrate the performance of BR \acute{e} DOD model, 140 data points in each time series are chosen with $N = 140$, and the time window scale are considered as $\tau = 10$ and $v = 5$. So, there are 14-time windows ($\frac{N}{\tau}$) in total for each time series. At the same time, the parameter α in belief Rényi divergence varies to show the performance adequately. In addition, the influence of parameters will be discussed in the following sections.

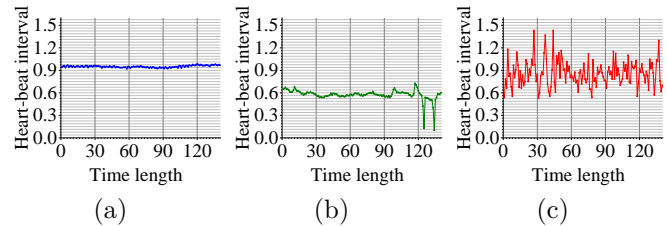


Fig. 2. The original time series with 140 data points of specific instances. (a) Original time series of CHF subject. (b) Original time series of Healthy subject. (c) Original time series of AF subject.

B. Implementation of the BR \acute{e} DOD Algorithm

Three representative time series are carried out to show the process of BR \acute{e} DOD algorithm, and final complexity values are figured out.

In the beginning, the original time series of CHF, Healthy, and AF subjects are shown in Fig. 2 based on the annotations. Note that each subject has different heart-beat rate profiles. Compared with Healthy subjects, the

TABLE I
The divergence sequence of CHF, Healthy and AF in each time window.

	$\alpha = 0.1$			$\alpha = 0.5$			$\alpha \rightarrow 1$			$\alpha = 2$			$\alpha = 10$			$\alpha \rightarrow +\infty$		
	CHF	Healthy	AF	CHF	Healthy	AF	CHF	Healthy	AF	CHF	Healthy	AF	CHF	Healthy	AF	CHF	Healthy	AF
Win_1	1.329	1.580	1.736	2.318	2.569	2.731	109.999	110.248	110.415	-0.916	-0.680	-0.510	0.393	0.471	0.546	0.666	0.673	0.680
Win_2	1.221	1.733	1.736	2.197	2.713	2.731	109.861	110.382	110.415	-1.099	-0.568	-0.511	-0.122	0.481	0.546	-0.011	0.673	0.680
Win_3	1.225	1.333	1.455	2.218	2.340	2.478	109.907	110.045	110.195	-0.990	-0.825	-0.671	0.3930	0.469	0.514	0.666	0.673	0.677
Win_4	1.326	1.224	1.914	2.303	2.217	2.890	109.967	109.905	110.554	-0.993	-0.993	-0.406	-0.017	0.393	0.571	0.094	0.666	0.682
Win_5	1.221	1.223	1.914	2.197	2.207	2.890	109.861	109.881	110.554	-1.099	-1.059	-0.406	-0.122	0.005	0.571	-0.011	0.166	0.682
Win_6	1.229	1.243	1.914	2.238	2.303	2.890	109.942	110.052	110.554	-0.945	-0.791	-0.406	0.227	0.323	0.571	0.389	0.457	0.682
Win_7	1.224	1.221	1.914	2.217	2.197	2.890	109.905	109.861	110.554	-0.993	-1.099	-0.406	0.393	-0.122	0.571	0.666	-0.011	0.682
Win_8	1.231	1.357	1.914	2.247	2.449	2.890	109.952	110.230	110.554	-0.945	-0.580	-0.406	0.141	0.546	0.571	0.274	0.680	0.682
Win_9	1.223	1.446	1.736	2.208	2.431	2.731	109.884	110.106	110.415	-1.052	-0.825	-0.511	0.067	0.395	0.546	0.267	0.666	0.680
Win_{10}	1.243	1.732	1.914	2.303	2.710	2.890	110.052	110.376	110.554	-0.791	-0.580	-0.406	0.323	0.440	0.571	0.457	0.666	0.682
Win_{11}	1.326	1.221	1.736	2.303	2.197	2.731	109.968	109.861	110.415	-0.990	-1.099	-0.511	-0.005	-0.122	0.546	0.120	-0.011	0.680
Win_{12}	1.230	1.736	1.445	2.247	2.731	2.424	109.965	110.415	110.091	-0.876	-0.511	-0.862	0.469	0.546	0.143	0.673	0.680	0.274
Win_{13}	1.224	2.163	1.581	2.217	3.337	2.572	109.905	132.869	110.253	-0.993	-0.629	-0.671	0.393	0.546	0.472	0.666	0.680	0.673
Win_{14}	1.224	2.162	1.540	2.217	3.337	2.217	109.905	132.869	76.907	-0.993	-0.629	-0.069	0.393	0.546	0.609	0.666	0.680	0.685

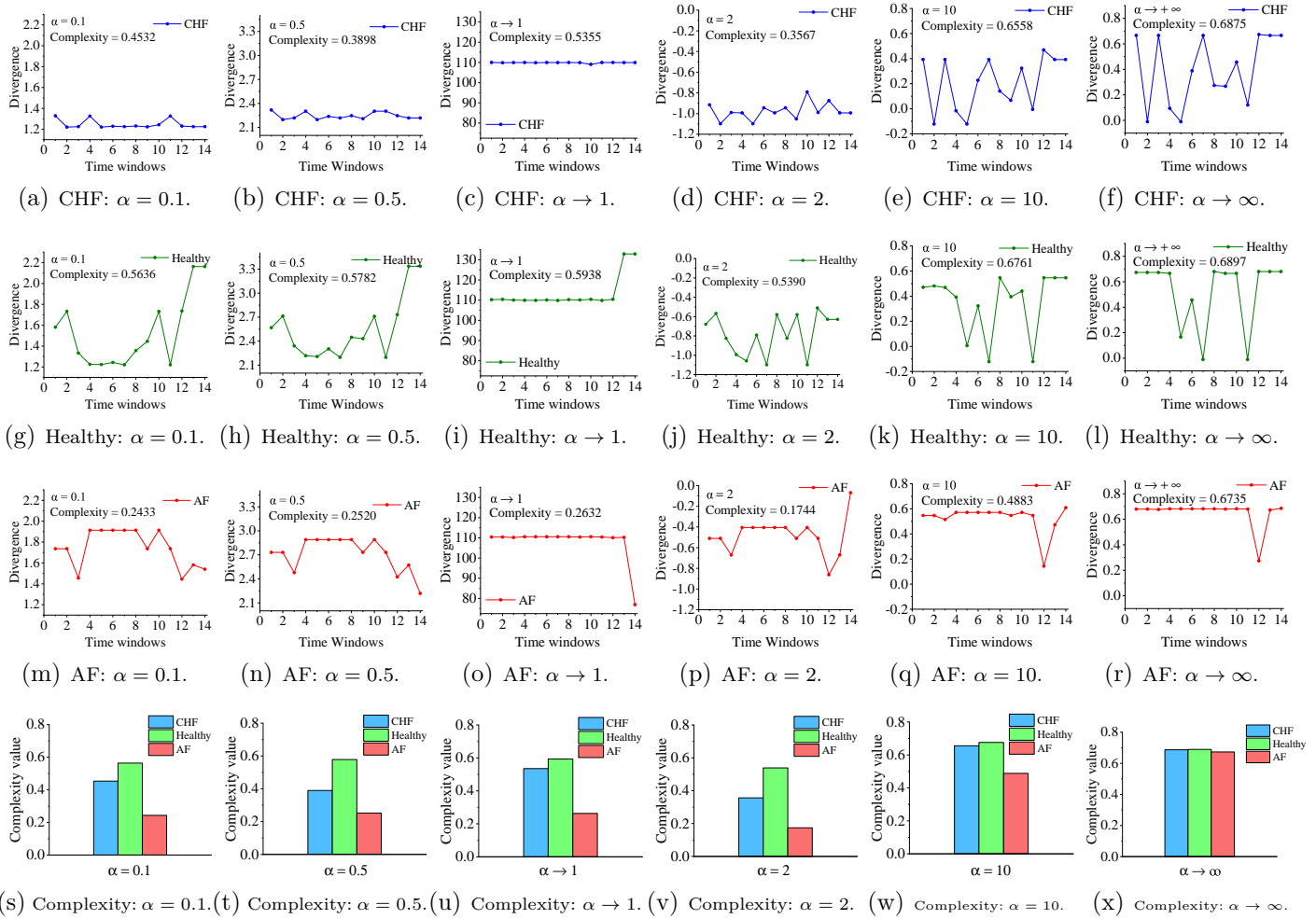


Fig. 3. Demonstration of BRéDOD algorithm for time series on three representative subjects with varied α .

heart-beat interval of CHF subjects tends to be more stable, while that of AF subjects varies considerably. In this case, there will be disparate features in different subjects by figuring out their complexity values.

According to Eqs. (9)-(17), Table I and Fig. (3a)-(3r) show divergence sequences of three representative subjects with varied α . After the first component of the BRéDOD algorithm, note that each time series has its own feature and the information of each time window is extracted. The divergence value shows the inner discrepancy during a period of time. Specifically, the divergence sequence of CHF subjects is always flat while that of Healthy and AF subjects rises and down. Moreover, the divergence of Healthy sequence fluctuates at a lower divergence value and that of AF subjects fluctuates at a higher divergence value. When parameter α tends to 1 and infinite, it can be found that there is a little discrepancy in the divergence sequence of time series.

Then, based on Eqs. (18)-(25), the complexity value of each time series is obtained after the second component of the BRéDOD algorithm. It can be found that the proposed method measures the complexity of inter-beat interval time series reasonably because healthy people have more

sophisticated abilities to regulate control of the heart while pathological groups are poor in regulation and control. In this case, the complexity value of Healthy subjects is supposed to be larger than that of CHF and AF subjects. Specifically, when α fixes at 0.5, the secondary BPAs of divergence sequence of CHF, Healthy, and AF subjects, and complexity results are shown in Table II. According to Figs. (3v)-(3x), the complexity value of the time series tends to be the same with the increasing of α , which means that it is hard to distinguish among different time series when α is too large.

C. Classification in Cardiac Inter-beat Interval Time Series Based on BRéDOD

In this part, the classification accuracy in time series will be figured out to demonstrate the effective and efficient performance of the proposed method. When $v = 5$, $\tau = 10$, and $k = 55$, the evaluation criteria, sensitivity of pathological subjects, and specificity of healthy subjects, can be defined as follows:

TABLE II
The BPAs and complexity value of three instances.

Subject	BPA	Complexity
CHF	$m_{S_1}(B_0) = \frac{1}{7}, m_{S_1}(B_1) = \frac{2}{7}, m_{S_1}(B_2) = \frac{1}{2}, m_{S_1}(B_3) = \frac{1}{7}, m_{S_1}(B_5) = \frac{1}{7}, m_{S_1}(B_6) = \frac{1}{7}$	0.3898
	$m_{S_2}(B_0) = \frac{1}{14}, m_{S_2}(B_1) = \frac{2}{14}, m_{S_2}(B_2) = \frac{1}{14}, m_{S_2}(B_3) = \frac{2}{14}, m_{S_2}(B_5) = \frac{1}{14}$	
	$m_{S_2}(B_6) = \frac{3}{14}, m_{S_2}(B_7) = \frac{1}{7}, m_{S_2}(B_8) = \frac{1}{14}, m_{S_2}(B_{10}) = \frac{1}{14}$	
Healthy	$m_{S_1}(B_0) = \frac{1}{7}, m_{S_1}(B_1) = \frac{1}{7}, m_{S_1}(B_2) = \frac{1}{2}, m_{S_1}(B_3) = \frac{1}{7}, m_{S_1}(B_4) = \frac{1}{7}, m_{S_1}(B_5) = \frac{1}{7}, m_{S_1}(B_6) = \frac{1}{7}$	0.5782
	$m_{S_2}(B_0) = \frac{1}{14}, m_{S_2}(B_1) = \frac{1}{14}, m_{S_2}(B_2) = \frac{1}{14}, m_{S_2}(B_3) = \frac{1}{14}, m_{S_2}(B_4) = \frac{1}{14}, m_{S_2}(B_5) = \frac{1}{14}$	
	$m_{S_2}(B_6) = \frac{1}{7}, m_{S_2}(B_7) = \frac{1}{14}, m_{S_2}(B_8) = \frac{1}{14}, m_{S_2}(B_9) = \frac{1}{14}, m_{S_2}(B_{11}) = \frac{1}{14}, m_{S_2}(B_{12}) = \frac{1}{7}$	
AF	$m_{S_1}(B_0) = \frac{2}{7}, m_{S_1}(B_2) = \frac{1}{7}, m_{S_1}(B_3) = \frac{4}{7}$	0.2520
	$m_{S_2}(B_0) = \frac{2}{7}, m_{S_2}(B_2) = \frac{1}{14}, m_{S_2}(B_3) = \frac{6}{14}, m_{S_2}(B_{11}) = \frac{1}{14}, m_{S_2}(B_{12}) = \frac{1}{14}, m_{S_2}(B_{13}) = \frac{1}{14}$	

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Specificity: } V_{sp} &= \frac{T_H}{T_H + F_H}, \\
 \text{Sensitivity: } V_{se} &= \frac{T_P}{T_P + F_P}, \\
 \text{Accuracy: } V_{ac} &= \frac{T_H + T_P}{T_H + F_H + T_P + F_P},
 \end{aligned} \tag{26}$$

where T_H and F_H represent the amount of healthy subjects that are classified correctly and falsely, respectively. Besides, T_P and F_P represent the amount of pathology subjects that are classified correctly and falsely. In particular, the BR \acute{e} DOD algorithm places its emphasis on feature extraction, rendering it highly adaptable to various classification models. This inherent flexibility enhances the algorithm's compatibility with different approaches.

In this section, a classification method known as Spectral clustering was employed to partition time series data-set into three distinct categories. This classification is based on the analysis of two-dimensional eigenvalues obtained through BR \acute{e} DOD, specifically considering the average divergence sequence and complexity value.

In this case, 240 subjects of cardiac inter-beat interval time series are taken into consideration to show the performance of BR \acute{e} DOD algorithm. Here, data points $N = 140$, $N = 300$, and $N = 500$ with varied α are used to demonstrate the effect of time series length.

According to Eq. (26), the specificity, sensitivity, and accuracy in different lengths of time series are figured out. Based on Table III, it can be found that different lengths of time series will affect the result. There will

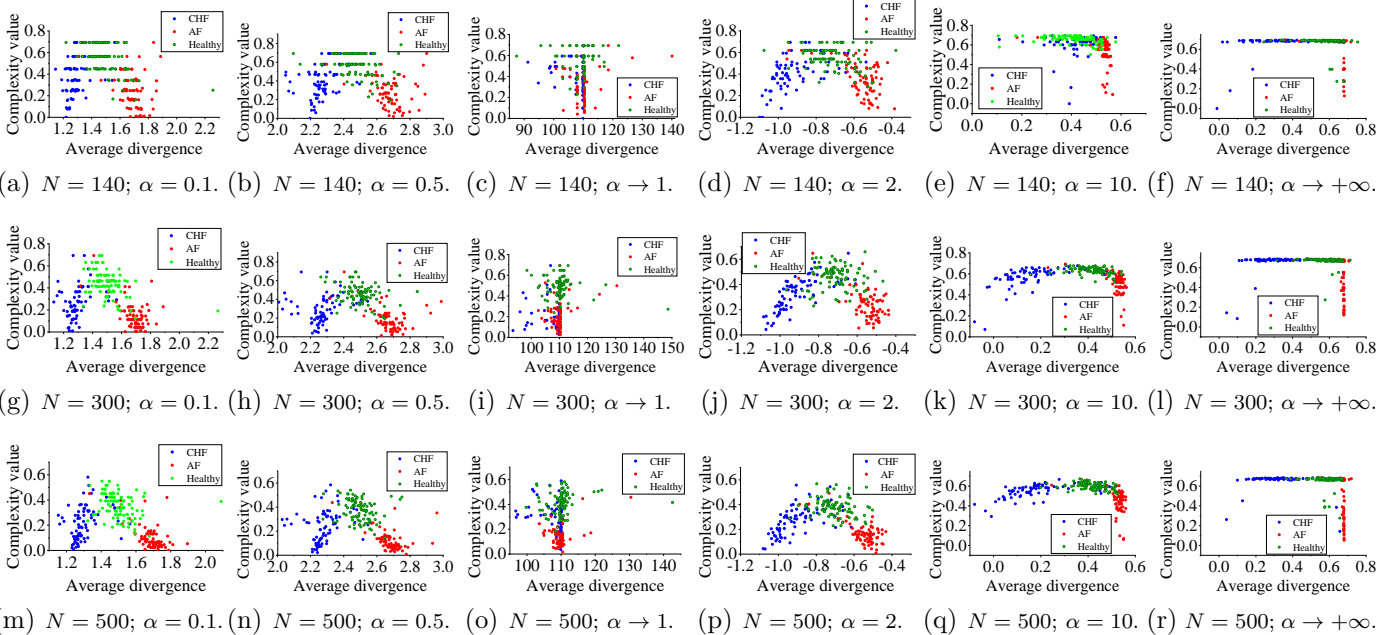


Fig. 4. The scatter plot with the relationship between belief R \acute{e} nyi divergence and complexity value in different time series length.

TABLE III
The sensitivity, specificity and accuracy of the application based on BR \acute{e} DOD.

Data points N	$\alpha = 0.1$			$\alpha = 0.5$			$\alpha = 1$			$\alpha = 2$			$\alpha = 10$			$\alpha \rightarrow +\infty$		
	140	300	500	140	300	500	140	300	500	140	300	500	140	300	500	140	300	500
V_{se} in CHF subjects	.6800	.7467	.8133	.6933	.7467	.6533	.0000	.0000	.0000	.6667	.6667	.6400	.8400	.0800	.8267	.7600	.8000	.8133
V_{se} in AF subjects	.8533	.8933	.9200	.8267	.9067	.9067	.0000	.0000	.0533	.8267	.9067	.9200	.0800	.7600	.4667	.2533	.3600	.4000
V_{sp} in Healthy subjects	.8222	.9000	.8111	.8444	.9000	.9111	.9667	.9889	.9556	.7889	.8111	.8889	.8667	.9333	.9556	.8889	.9556	.9111
Accuracy	.8044	.8600	.8455	.8056	.8956	.8789	.4933	.4944	.4911	.7811	.7989	.8411	.6800	.8567	.8045	.7144	.7778	.7722

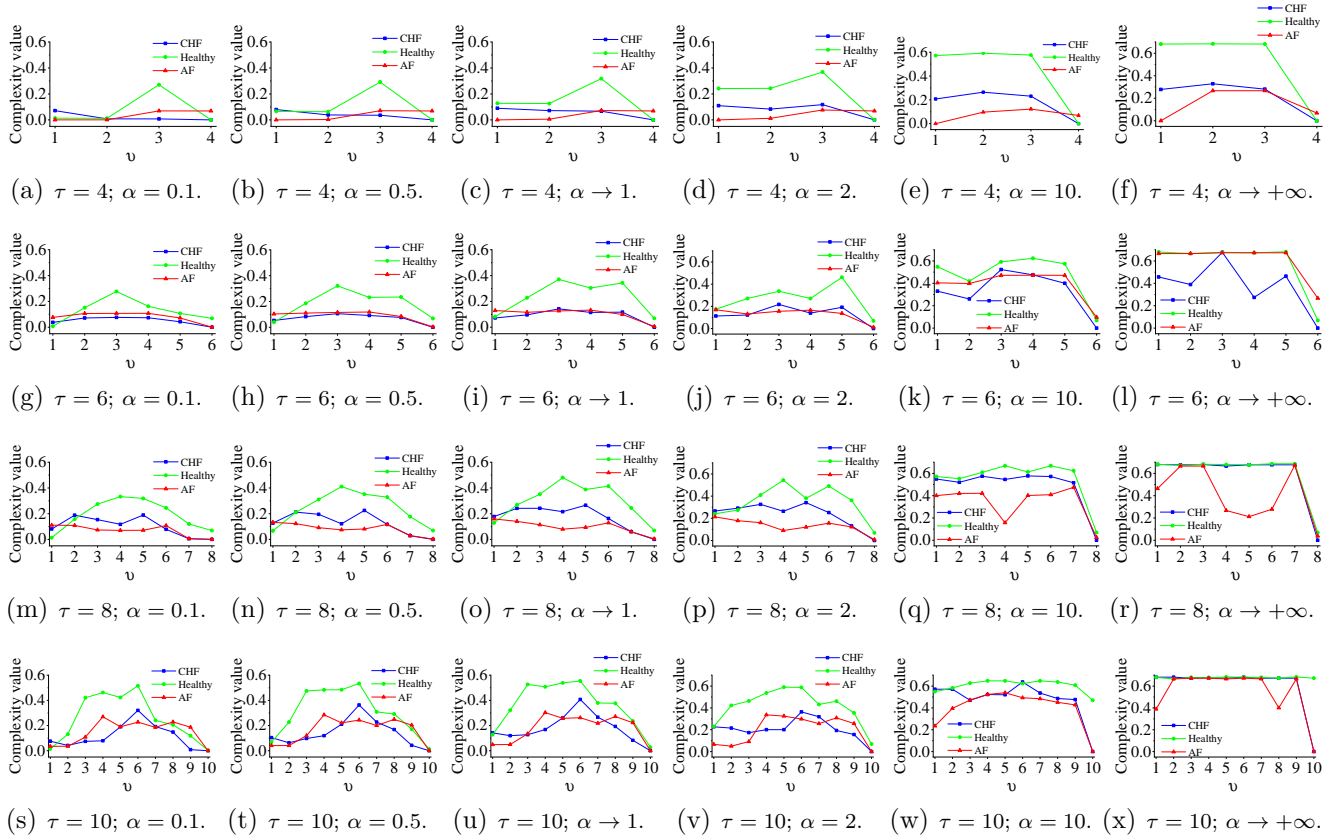


Fig. 5. Behavior of the BR \acute{e} DOD model with the influence of time window scale v and τ .

be a lack of performance in shorter time series, because insufficient quantity may cause missing information, which is intuitive that it's easier to extract features with larger data sets. As a result, the proposed BR \acute{e} DOD method is able to distinguish the healthy subjects and pathology subjects at the same time with a longer length of time series. Considering the influence of α , there will be the highest classification accuracy with $\alpha = 0.5$, while the classification accuracy achieves the minimum with α tends to 1. Fig. 4 shows the relationship between the average value of divergence sequence and complexity value in varied lengths of time series. Each picture tends to be an inverted U shape, which means that the effectiveness of classification is further demonstrated. However, it is hard to distinguish the discrepancy among time series when α tends to be 1 and infinite.

D. The Influence of Parameter Setting

In this section, several parameters in BR \acute{e} DOD model are taken into consideration to illustrate their influence. Specifically, the length of the time series is fixed as 300.

1) Parameters v and τ : Before considering the influence of v and τ , k is fixed as 55.

As is shown in Fig. 5, the complexity value of three representative subjects is getting more and more different with τ increasing from 4 to 10. When τ is at 4, there is a slight discrepancy in their complexity value. From Fig. 5, it can be found that a healthy subject reaches the highest complexity value most of the time. In addition, there will be an increase in complexity value before it declines with the change of v . Specifically, the complexity value of all the subjects tends to zero when $v = \tau$, which means that the divergence of two BPAs tends to be 0 when they are

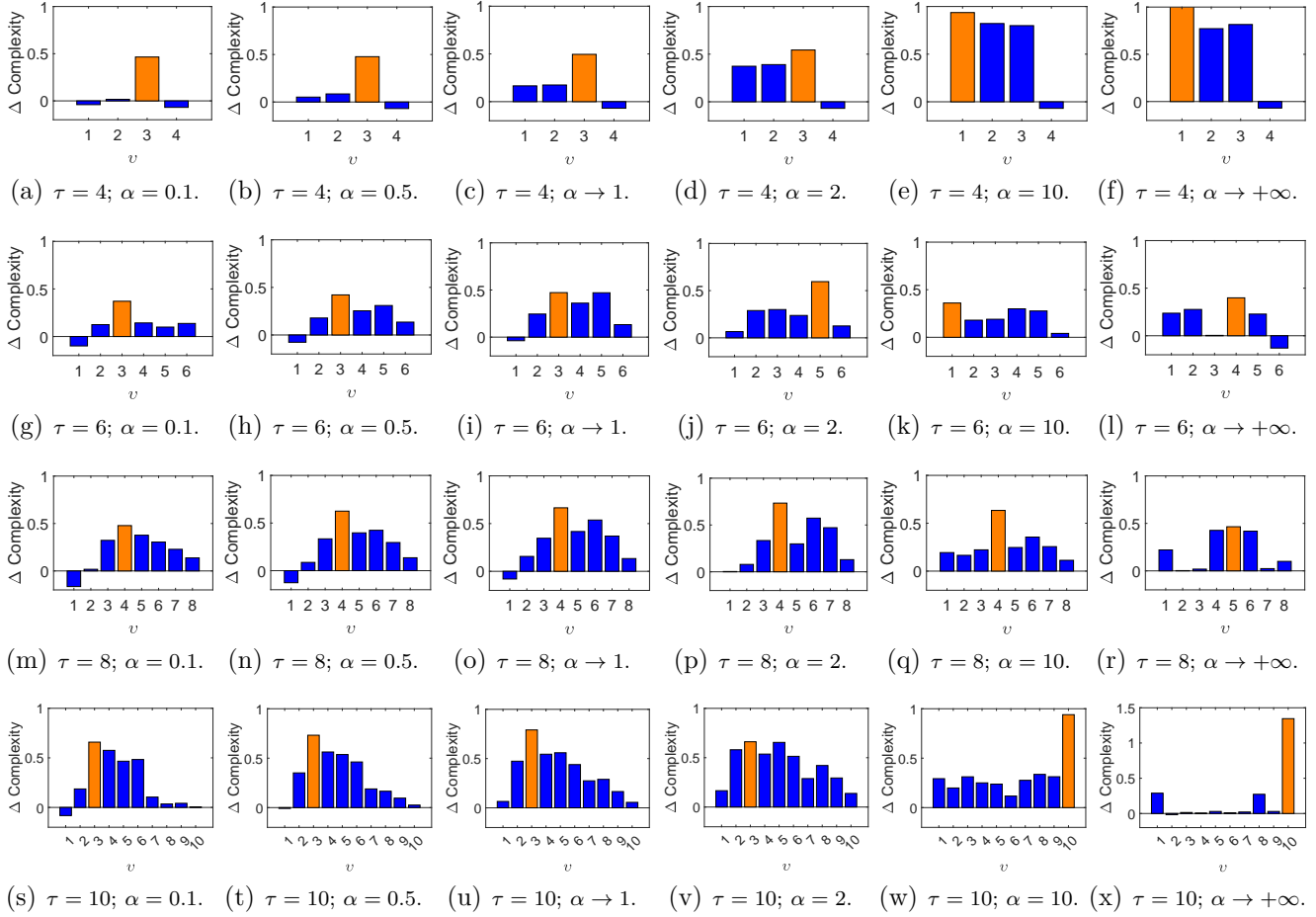


Fig. 6. Δ complexity value with the influence of time window scale v and τ .

the same. It's worth noting that the computed complexity value remains low when the value of v is small, because the elements in the corresponding BPA for v are quite limited, which will lead to a divergence result tending to 0. When considering the changing of α , it can be found that as the value of α increases, the complexity values of the three representatives become more and more difficult to distinguish.

The setting of v and τ is important, since they represent the truncation approaches of time window. Here, Δ complexity (the numerical value difference of complexity between healthy and pathology subjects) is utilized to analyze how to choose parameters v and τ . The higher Δ complexity is, the easier to distinguish healthy and pathology subjects. As shown in Fig. 6, the orange bar of each sub-figure represents the optimal value of v at a fixed τ , as it has the highest Δ complexity. It is worth noting that, for each column, Δ complexity gradually increases as τ increases with a fixed α , which means that τ is recommended to choose the larger value. However, with the increase of τ , the number of elements in the mass function built by time windows will also increase by a geometric multiple, and then a trade-off will be needed. As for v , it usually be selected empirically, since the optimal v will change with τ and α changing. In addition, different

time series have different characteristics. The selection of parameters needs to be adaptive based on different time series data sets. Considering this data set, the best time window length setting should be $\tau = 10$ and $v = 3$, since $\alpha = 0.5$ based on Table III.

2) Parameter k : Here, v and τ are fixed as 5 and 10 before considering the influence of k .

As for the 240 sets of cardiac inter-beat interval time series, Fig. 7 displays how classification accuracy varies with the changing of k . Note that accuracy is low when there are fewer slices, while more slices may cause the instability of the BR \acute{e} DOD model, and accuracy will decline at the same time. It shows that $30 < k < 60$ can lead to better results in pattern classification problems. Specifically, the highest accuracy can be achieved as 89.56% with $k = 41$ and $\alpha = 0.5$. When considering α , it can be found that the classification accuracy goes up and then goes down with the increase of k . Particularly, the performance of BR \acute{e} DOD model is the worst when $\alpha \rightarrow 1$ as classification accuracy hovers around 50%.

Hence, from the information above, the length of time series N , the scale of time window v and τ , the segment slices k and coefficient in belief R \acute{e} nyi divergence α are able to affect the performance of the BR \acute{e} DOD model in different degrees.

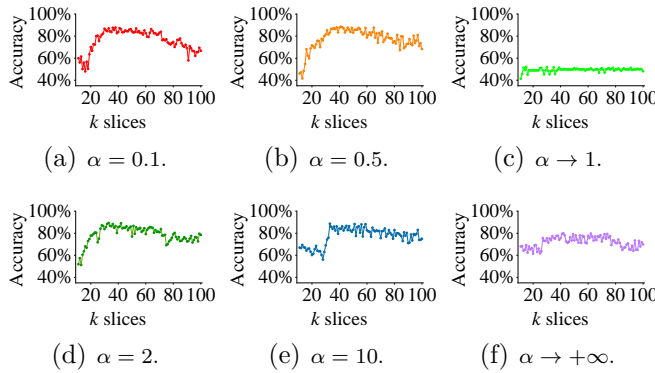


Fig. 7. The pattern classification accuracy of the BR \acute{e} DOD with the influence of k .

TABLE IV

The patter classification accuracy based on different methods.

	$N = 140$	$N = 300$	$N = 500$
K-means	0.3822	0.3711	0.4078
Spectral clustering	0.4044	0.4100	0.4056
MSE	0.6738	0.7024	0.7248
EOE	0.8230	0.8789	0.8850
BEOE	0.8730	0.8800	0.8912
BR \acute{e} DOD	0.8056	0.8956	0.8789

E. Comparison

Several classical and recent methods are applied to these cardiac inter-beat interval time series classification.

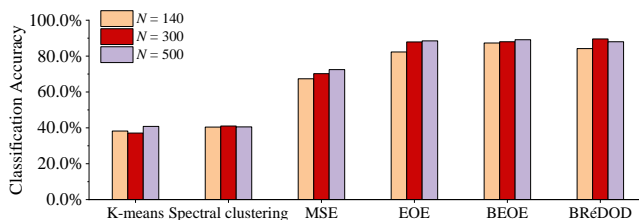


Fig. 8. The pattern classification accuracy in cardiac inter-beat interval time series.

The pattern classification accuracy based on different methods is shown in Table IV and Fig. 8. From Table IV, the accuracy reaches the peak at the value 0.8956 based on BR \acute{e} DOD when $N = 300$, which overtakes other methods referred to.

It can be found that BR \acute{e} DOD is far out-performance than K-means and Spectral clustering. No matter the length of the time series, these two classical machine learning methods are less accurate. According to MSE [65], EOE [66] and BEOE [51], BR \acute{e} DOD achieves highest accuracy as 0.8956 with $N = 300$. In addition, BR \acute{e} DOD has outstanding performance in both short-time series and long-time series. Though EOE and BEOE are able to reach high accuracy, they need more data to increase the accuracy.

Hence, the above information illustrates the superiority of the BR \acute{e} DOD in complexity measure for pattern classification. Not only BR \acute{e} DOD model overtakes the classical machine learning method, including K-means and Spectral clustering, but also surpasses several well-known methods, including MSE, EOE, and BEOE. In this case, the belief divergence of divergence reflects the complexity of the time series well.

V. Conclusion

As complexity analysis plays an important part in many research fields, measuring the complexity of time series is significant. A new algorithm, belief BR \acute{e} DOD divergence of divergence was proposed to figure the complexity of time series. The main innovation of BR \acute{e} DOD was that it measured the inner divergence of a time series twice, which can effectively reflect the feature of time series data. In addition, the boundaries of the time series value were taken into consideration to generate BPAs. Besides, the superiority of BR \acute{e} DOD algorithm for complexity measure and pattern classification was demonstrated based on cardiac inter-beat interval time series with the highest classification accuracy. Nonetheless, the BR \acute{e} DOD model exhibits a few limitations. Its extensive parameter set necessitates a careful selection process to identify the optimal configuration. Besides, there is a reduced likelihood of encountering boundary points when dealing with time series data distributed over a wide range. So, a more adaptive model is needed to select boundary points to construct appropriate mass functions. In summary, the BR \acute{e} DOD algorithm has introduced an innovative approach for assessing the complexity of time series data. In future research, addressing the parameter-related issues and applying this method to a broader range of real-time series data should be considered.

VI. Acknowledgments

The authors greatly appreciate the reviewers' suggestions and editor's encouragement. This research is supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (No. 62003280), Chongqing Talents: Exceptional Young Talents Project (No. cstc2022ycjh-bgzxm0070), Natural Science Foundation of Chongqing, China (No. CSTB2022NSCQ-MSX0531), Chongqing Overseas Scholars Innovation Program (No. cx2022024), and Fundamental Research Funds for the Central Universities (No. 2023CDJXY-035).

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