What Are The Topics In Football?

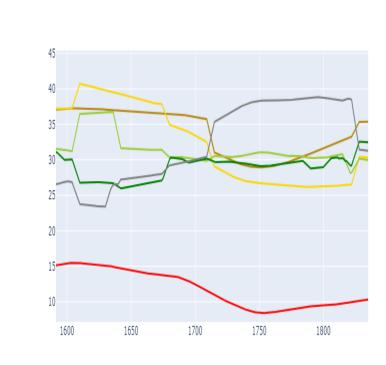
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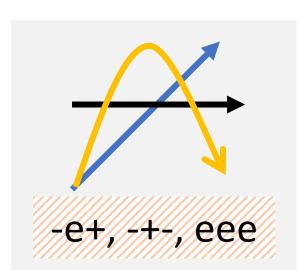
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Summary / Introduction



We take multiple homogeneous episodes (e.g. of a football game) and characterize them by multiple features.

It is challenging to synthesize holistic understanding of the behaviours.



What can be exploited is the relationship of temporal co-occurrence of patterns from different time series.

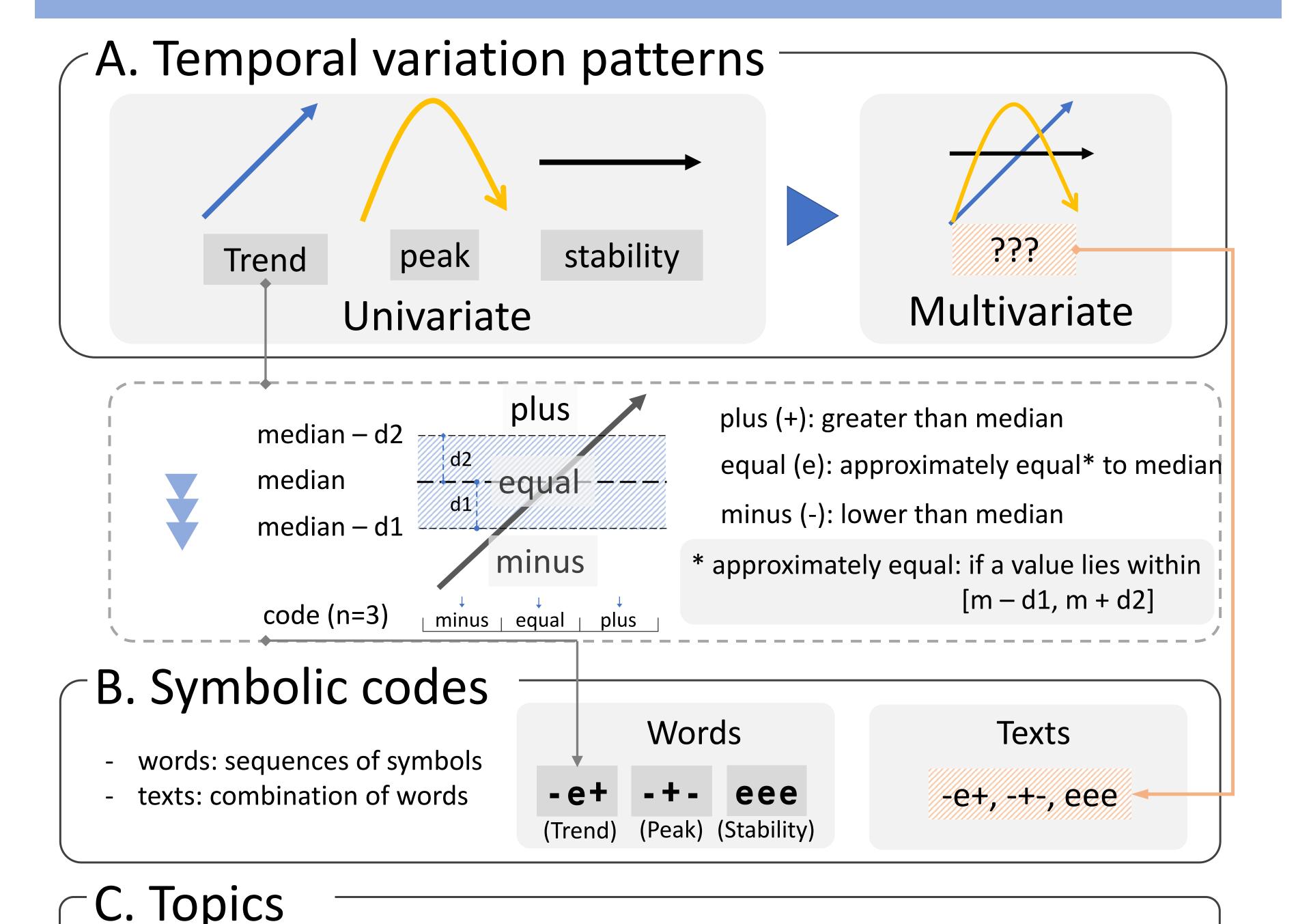
We represent variation patterns of different features by symbolic codes.

We reveal pattern co-occurrences using topic modelling.

We found semantic interpretation in each cluster.

We apply the approach to episodes of a football game characterized by a novel feature *gate width* reflecting space availability to attackers and space control by defenders.

Method: Patterns In Multivariate Time Series



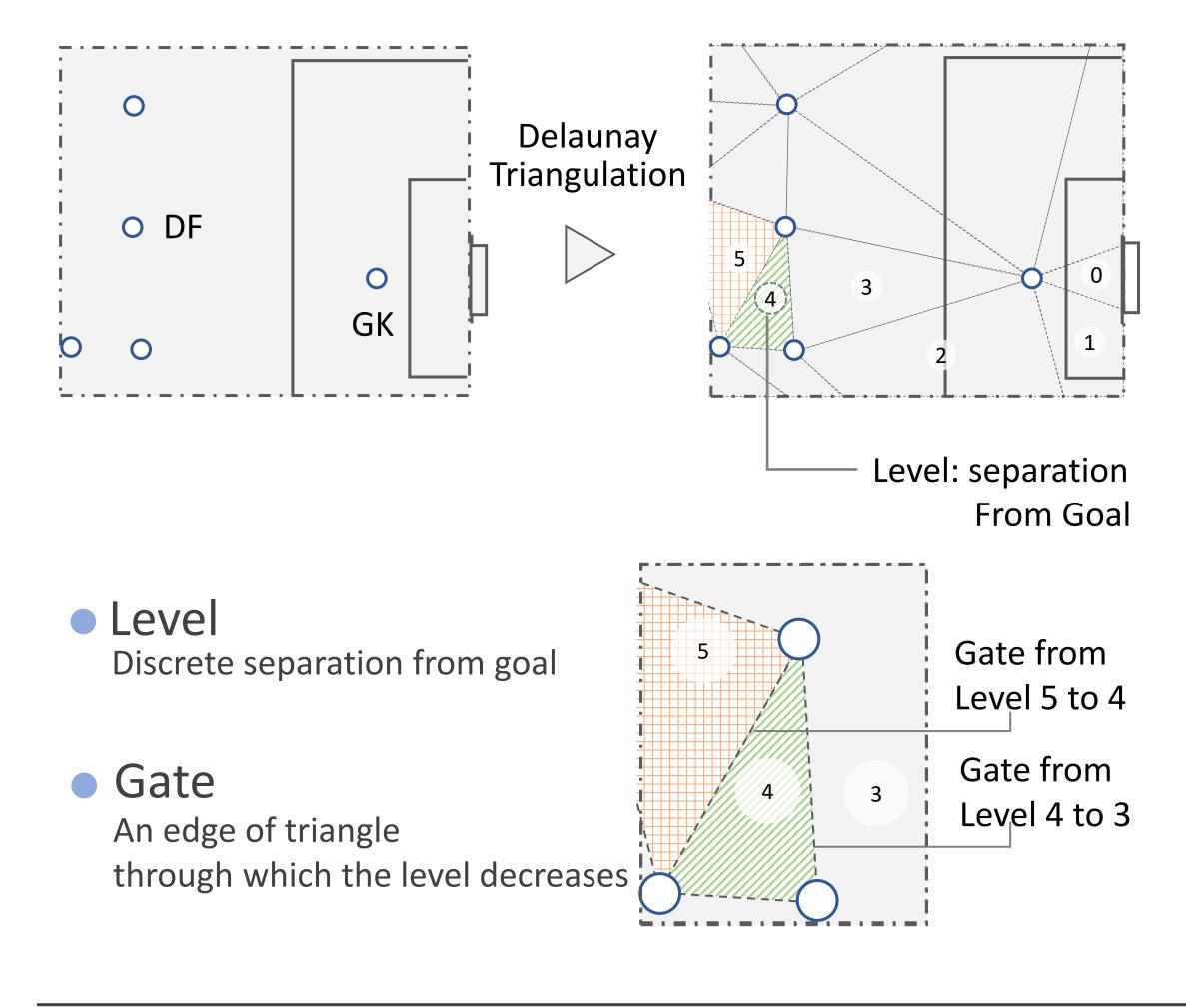
- showing patterns of different variables that tend to occur together

- clustering episodes using a topic model

Application in Football

Spatial Feature – Gate Width

A novel feature that captures inter-player spaces



The multivariate time series consists of gate width that is aggregated for each level.

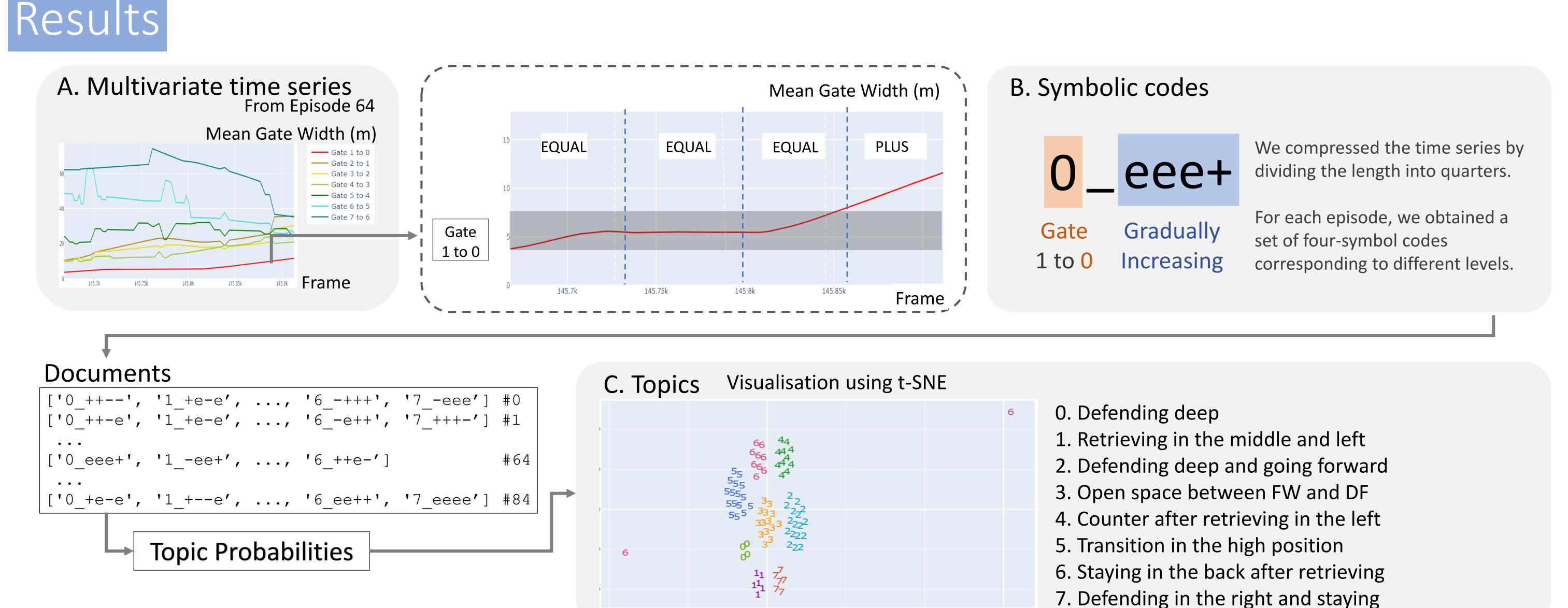
85 Episodes of ball possession change

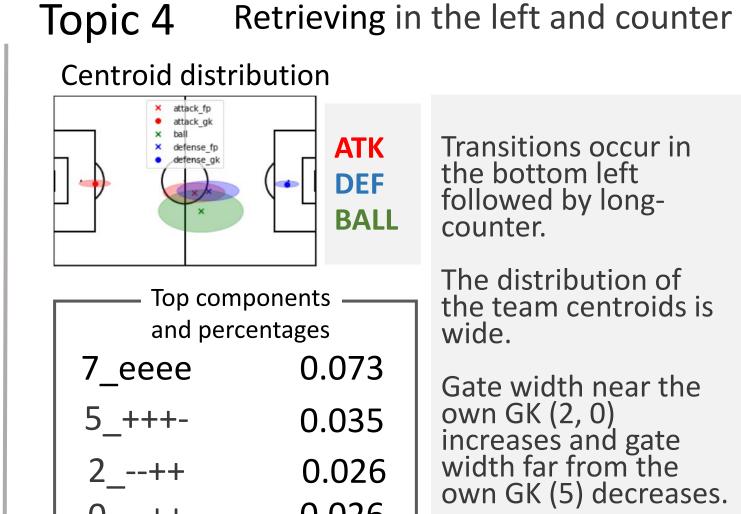
Data Examples

Transitions from defense to attack

- 10 seconds 5 seconds before and after transitions
- Defending players' positional data

250 timesteps with sampling rate of 25 Hz



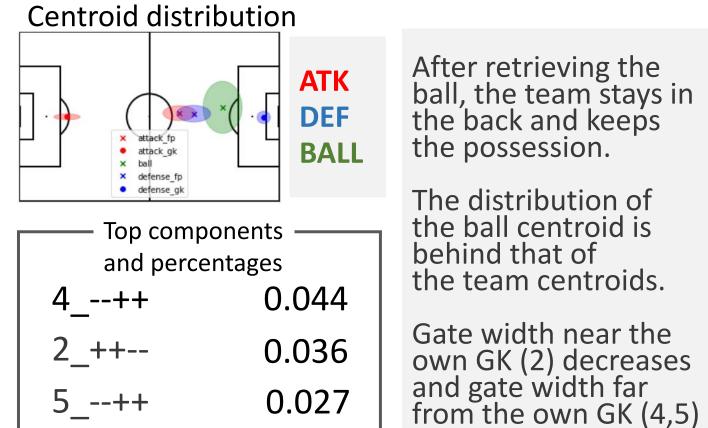


Retrieving and staying in the back

0.026

0_--++

4_+--+



0.027

decreases.