

# Effects of aging on the redundancy of the cardiovascular control

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# Introduction

Aging strongly affects cardiovascular control and the strength of the relations among cardiovascular variables.

Recently, transfer entropy decomposition strategies have allowed the decomposition of the information transferred from a pair of exogenous sources to a target variable into quotes genuinely transferred from each exogenous variable to the destination and a term describing the interactions between the two drivers in contributing to the information carried by the target.

According to these information decomposition strategies redundant or synergic contributions of the two drivers to the information carried by the target can be disentangled.

# Aims

To exploit a transfer entropy decomposition strategy for the quantification of redundancy/synergy in cardiovascular control

To track the evolution of the redundancy/synergy in cardiovascular control with age

# Modeling dynamical interactions in the full and restricted universes of knowledge ( $\Omega$ s)

In the **full**  $\Omega = \{y, x_1, x_2\}$  the dynamic of  $y$  is described as

$$y_{i|\Omega} = \sum_{k=1}^p a_{k|\Omega} \cdot y_{i-k} + \sum_{k=1}^p b_{1,k|\Omega} \cdot x_{1,i-k} + \sum_{k=1}^p b_{2,k|\Omega} \cdot x_{2,i-k} + w_{i|\Omega} \quad \text{ARX}_1\text{X}_2$$

In the **restricted**  $\Omega = \Omega \setminus x_1 = \{y, x_2\}$  the dynamic of  $y$  is described as

$$y_{i|\Omega \setminus x_1} = \sum_{k=1}^p a_{k|\Omega \setminus x_1} \cdot y_{i-k} + \sum_{k=1}^p b_{2,k|\Omega \setminus x_1} \cdot x_{2,i-k} + w_{i|\Omega \setminus x_1} \quad \text{ARX}_2$$

In the **restricted**  $\Omega = \Omega \setminus x_2 = \{y, x_1\}$  the dynamic of  $y$  is described as

$$y_{i|\Omega \setminus x_2} = \sum_{k=1}^p a_{k|\Omega \setminus x_2} \cdot y_{i-k} + \sum_{k=1}^p b_{1,k|\Omega \setminus x_2} \cdot x_{1,i-k} + w_{i|\Omega \setminus x_2} \quad \text{ARX}_1$$

In the **restricted**  $\Omega = \Omega \setminus x_1 x_2 = \{y\}$  the dynamic of  $y$  is described as

$$y_{i|\Omega \setminus x_1 x_2} = \sum_{k=1}^p a_{k|\Omega \setminus x_1 x_2} \cdot y_{i-k} + w_{i|\Omega \setminus x_1 x_2} \quad \text{AR}$$

# One-step-ahead prediction in the full and restricted $\Omega$ s

In the **full**  $\Omega = \{y, x_1, x_2\}$  the one-step-ahead prediction is

$$\hat{y}_{i|\Omega} = \sum_{k=1}^p \hat{a}_{k|\Omega} \cdot y_{i-k} + \sum_{k=1}^p \hat{b}_{1,k|\Omega} \cdot x_{1,i-k} + \sum_{k=1}^p \hat{b}_{2,k|\Omega} \cdot x_{2,i-k} \quad \text{ARX}_1\text{X}_2$$

In the **restricted**  $\Omega = \Omega \setminus x_1 = \{y, x_2\}$  the one-step-ahead prediction is

$$\hat{y}_{i|\Omega \setminus x_1} = \sum_{k=1}^p \hat{a}_{k|\Omega \setminus x_1} \cdot y_{i-k} + \sum_{k=1}^p \hat{b}_{2,k|\Omega \setminus x_1} \cdot x_{2,i-k} \quad \text{ARX}_2$$

In the **restricted**  $\Omega = \Omega \setminus x_2 = \{y, x_1\}$  the one-step-ahead prediction is

$$\hat{y}_{i|\Omega \setminus x_2} = \sum_{k=1}^p \hat{a}_{k|\Omega \setminus x_2} \cdot y_{i-k} + \sum_{k=1}^p \hat{b}_{1,k|\Omega \setminus x_2} \cdot x_{1,i-k} \quad \text{ARX}_1$$

In the **restricted**  $\Omega = \Omega \setminus x_1 x_2 = \{y\}$  the one-step-ahead prediction is

$$\hat{y}_{i|\Omega \setminus x_1 x_2} = \sum_{k=1}^p \hat{a}_{k|\Omega \setminus x_1 x_2} \cdot y_{i-k} \quad \text{AR}$$

# Mean squared prediction error (MSPE)

Given the one-step-ahead prediction of  $y$ , the MSPE of  $y$  can be computed as

$$\lambda^2 = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2$$

In the **full**  $\Omega = \{y, x_1, x_2\}$  the MSPE of  $y$  is

$$\lambda^2 = \lambda^2|_{\Omega}$$

In the **restricted**  $\Omega = \Omega \setminus x_1 = \{y, x_2\}$  the MSPE of  $y$  is

$$\lambda^2 = \lambda^2|_{\Omega \setminus x_1}$$

In the **restricted**  $\Omega = \Omega \setminus x_2 = \{y, x_1\}$  the MSPE of  $y$  is

$$\lambda^2 = \lambda^2|_{\Omega \setminus x_2}$$

In the **restricted**  $\Omega = \Omega \setminus x_1 x_2 = \{y\}$  the MSPE of  $y$  is

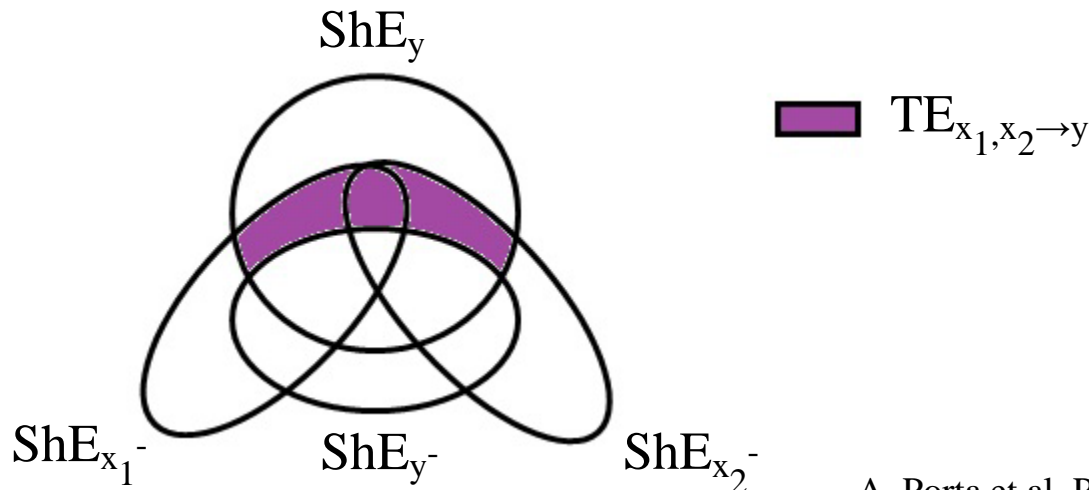
$$\lambda^2 = \lambda^2|_{\Omega \setminus x_1 x_2}$$

# Assessing the transfer entropy (TE) from $x_1$ and $x_2$ to $y$

Under the hypothesis of Gaussianity, the TE from  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  to  $y$  can be computed as

$$\text{TE}_{x_1, x_2 \rightarrow y} = \frac{1}{2} \log \frac{\lambda^2|_{\Omega \setminus x_1 x_2}}{\lambda^2|_{\Omega}}$$

where  $\lambda^2|_{\Omega}$  and  $\lambda^2|_{\Omega \setminus x_1 x_2}$  are the variances of the prediction error of the  $\text{ARX}_1 X_2$  and  $\text{AR}$  models in  $\Omega$  and  $\Omega \setminus x_1 x_2$  respectively

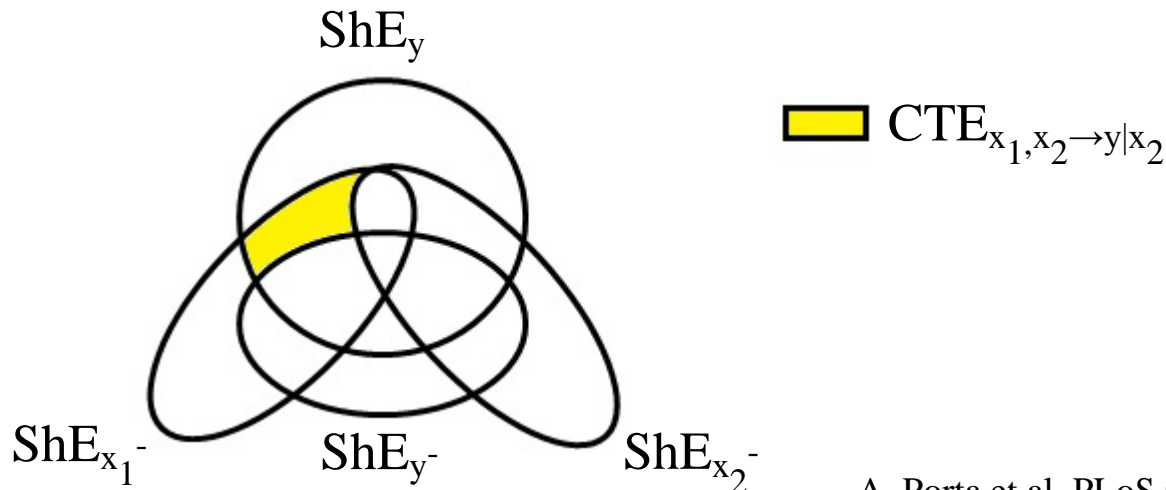


# Assessing the conditional TE (CTE) from $x_1$ and $x_2$ to $y$ given $x_2$

Under the hypothesis of Gaussianity, the CTE from  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  to  $y$  given  $x_2$  can be computed as

$$\text{CTE}_{x_1, x_2 \rightarrow y | x_2} = \frac{1}{2} \log \frac{\lambda^2 |_{\Omega \setminus x_1}}{\lambda^2 |_{\Omega}}$$

where  $\lambda^2 |_{\Omega}$  and  $\lambda^2 |_{\Omega \setminus x_1}$  are the variances of the prediction error of the  $\text{ARX}_1 X_2$  and  $\text{ARX}_2$  models in  $\Omega$  and  $\Omega \setminus x_1$  respectively



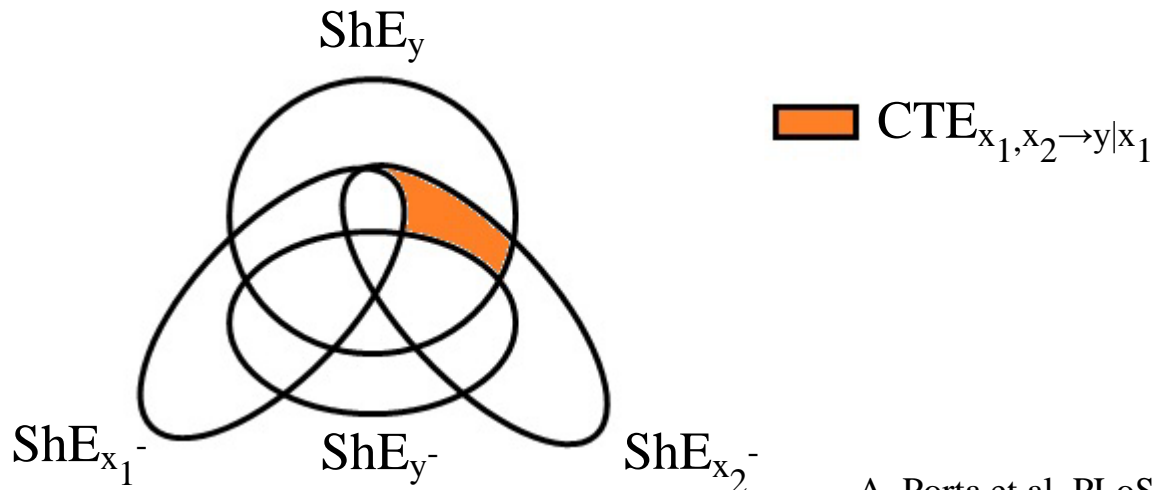


# Assessing the conditional TE (CTE) from $x_1$ and $x_2$ to $y$ given $x_1$

Under the hypothesis of Gaussianity, the CTE from  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  to  $y$  given  $x_1$  can be computed as

$$\text{CTE}_{x_1, x_2 \rightarrow y | x_1} = \frac{1}{2} \log \frac{\lambda^2 |_{\Omega \setminus x_2}}{\lambda^2 |_{\Omega}}$$

where  $\lambda^2 |_{\Omega}$  and  $\lambda^2 |_{\Omega \setminus x_2}$  are the variances of the prediction error of the  $\text{ARX}_1 X_2$  and  $\text{ARX}_1$  models in  $\Omega$  and  $\Omega \setminus x_2$  respectively



# Assessing the interactive TE (ITE) from $x_1$ and $x_2$ to $y$

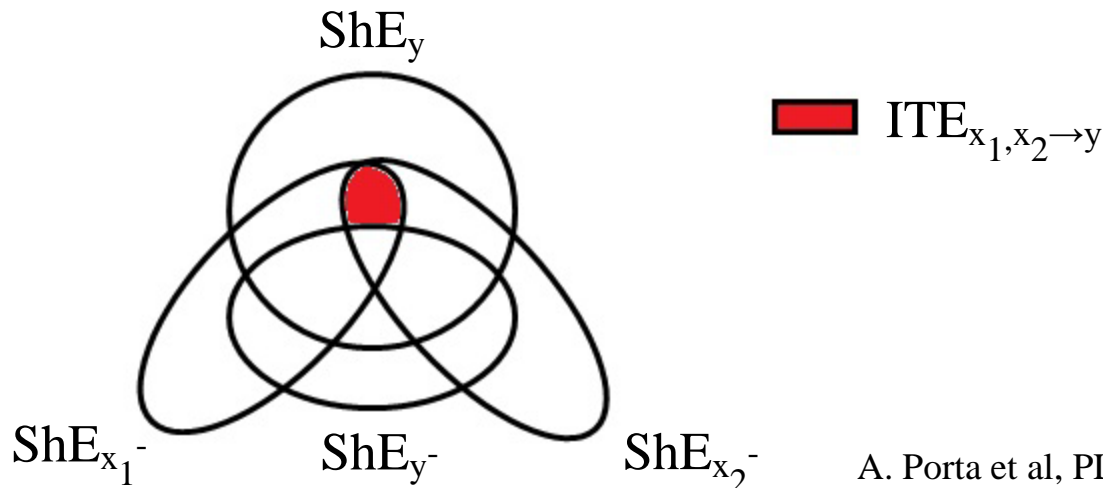
Defined

$$\text{ITE}_{x_1, x_2 \rightarrow y} = \text{TE}_{x_1, x_2 \rightarrow y} - (\text{CTE}_{x_1, x_2 \rightarrow y|x_2} + \text{CTE}_{x_1, x_2 \rightarrow y|x_1})$$

it can be computed as

$$\text{ITE}_{x_1, x_2 \rightarrow y} = \frac{1}{2} \log \frac{\lambda^2|_{\Omega \setminus x_1 x_2} \cdot \lambda^2|_{\Omega}}{\lambda^2|_{\Omega \setminus x_1} \cdot \lambda^2|_{\Omega \setminus x_2}}$$

where  $\lambda^2|_{\Omega \setminus x_1 x_2}$ ,  $\lambda^2|_{\Omega}$ ,  $\lambda^2|_{\Omega \setminus x_1}$ , and  $\lambda^2|_{\Omega \setminus x_2}$  are the variances of the prediction error of the AR, ARX<sub>1</sub>X<sub>2</sub>, ARX<sub>2</sub> and ARX<sub>1</sub> models in  $\Omega \setminus x_1 x_2$ ,  $\Omega$ ,  $\Omega \setminus x_1$  and  $\Omega \setminus x_2$  respectively



# Experimental protocol

We studied 100 nonsmoking healthy humans (54 males, age from 21 to 70 years)

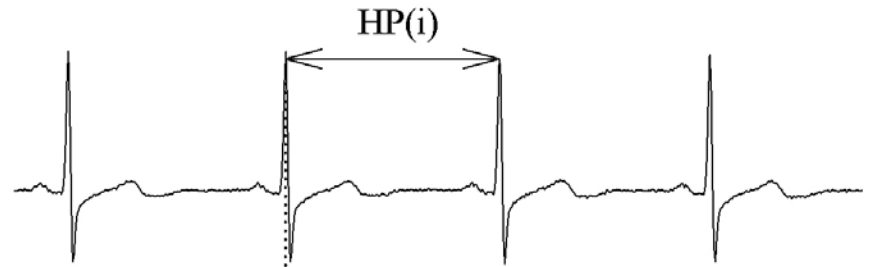
The population was composed by 20 subjects in each of the following age bins

- from 21 to 30 years (10 males, median age=26 years);
- from 31 to 40 years (11 males, median age=34 years);
- from 41 to 50 years (10 males, median age=45 years);
- from 51 to 60 years (10 males, median age=55 years);
- from 61 to 70 years (13 males, median age=65 years).

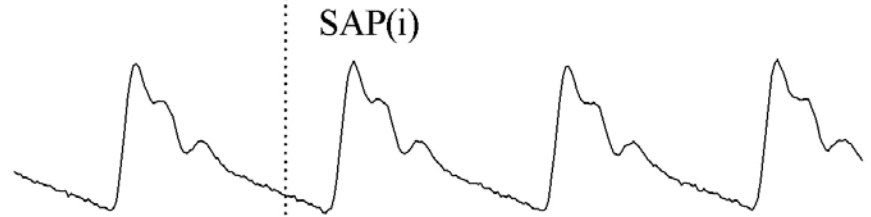
We recorded ECG (lead II), noninvasive finger arterial pressure (Finometer PRO) and respiration (thoracic belt) at 400 Hz at rest in supine position (REST) and during active standing (STAND)

# Cardiovascular variables

**ECG**



**Arterial pressure**

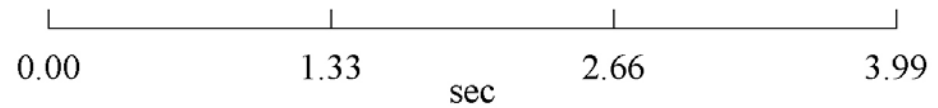


$SAP(i)$

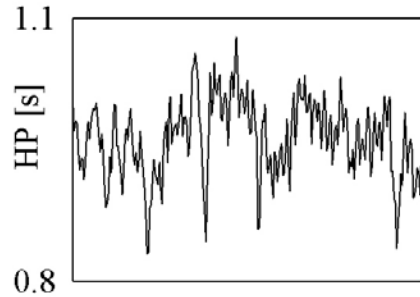
**Respiration**



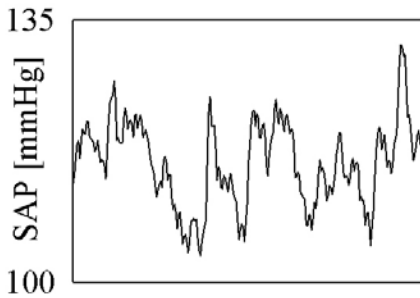
$R(i)$



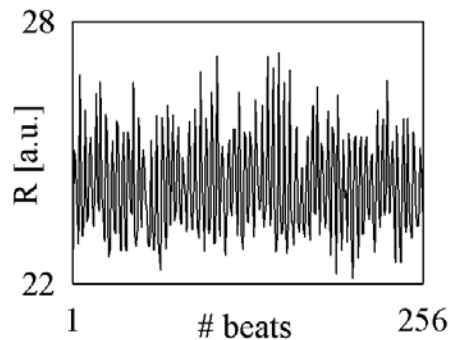
# Beat-to-beat variability series



$$\longrightarrow \text{HP} = \{\text{HP}(i), i=1, \dots, N\}$$



$$\longrightarrow \text{SAP} = \{\text{SAP}(i), i=1, \dots, N\}$$

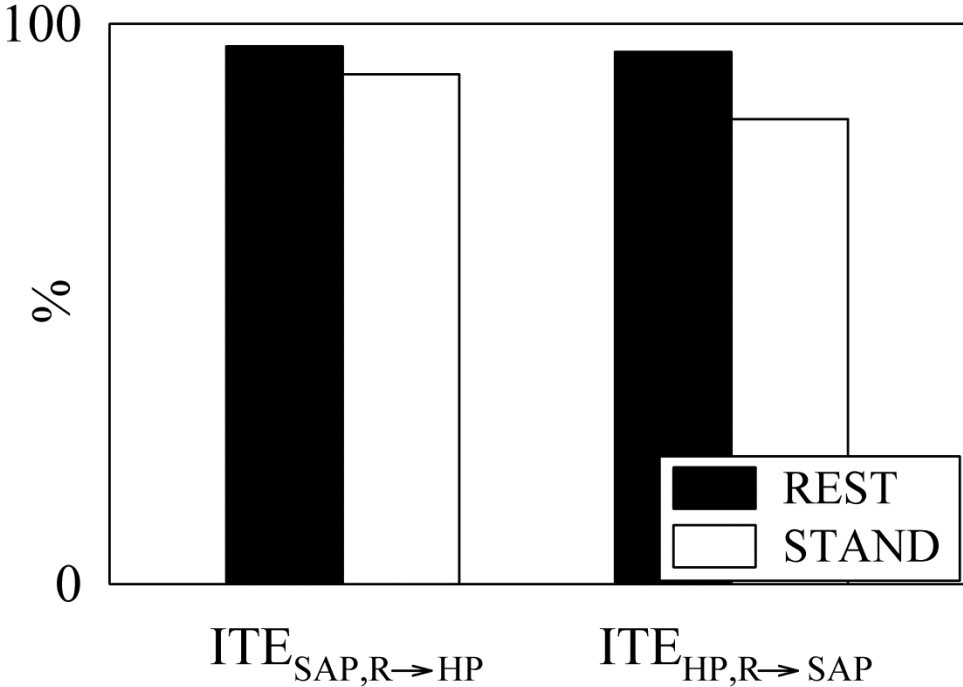


$$\longrightarrow \text{R} = \{\text{R}(i), i=1, \dots, N\}$$

The **full**  $\Omega = \{\text{HP}, \text{SAP}, \text{R}\}$

- 1)  $y = \text{HP}$ ,  $x_1 = \text{SAP}$  and  $x_2 = \text{R}$
- 2)  $y = \text{SAP}$ ,  $x_1 = \text{HP}$  and  $x_2 = \text{R}$

# Percentage of subjects featuring redundancy (i.e. $ITE > 0$ )



# Linear correlation analysis of the terms of the TE decomposition of HP on age at REST and during STAND

| TE term                          | REST    |                      |            | STAND   |                      |            |
|----------------------------------|---------|----------------------|------------|---------|----------------------|------------|
|                                  | $r_p$   | $p$                  | $p < 0.05$ | $r_p$   | $p$                  | $p < 0.05$ |
| $CTE_{SAP,R \rightarrow HP R}$   | -0.0476 | $6.38 \cdot 10^{-1}$ | No         | -0.176  | $7.94 \cdot 10^{-2}$ | No         |
| $CTE_{SAP,R \rightarrow HP SAP}$ | 0.0277  | $7.85 \cdot 10^{-1}$ | No         | -0.0015 | $9.98 \cdot 10^{-1}$ | No         |
| $ITE_{SAP,R \rightarrow HP}$     | -0.255  | $1.04 \cdot 10^{-2}$ | Yes        | -0.154  | $1.27 \cdot 10^{-1}$ | No         |

TE = transfer entropy;  $CTE_{SAP,R \rightarrow HP|R}$  = conditional TE from SAP and R to HP series given R;  $CTE_{SAP,R \rightarrow HP|SAP}$  = conditional TE from SAP and R to HP given SAP;  $ITE_{SAP,R \rightarrow HP}$  = interactive transfer entropy from SAP and R to HP series;  $r_p$  = Pearson product-moment correlation coefficient;  $p$  = probability of the type-I error; Yes/No = the variable is/is not significantly related to age with  $p < 0.05$ .

# Linear correlation analysis of the terms of the TE decomposition of SAP on age at REST and during STAND

| TE term                         | REST   |                      |            | STAND  |                      |            |
|---------------------------------|--------|----------------------|------------|--------|----------------------|------------|
|                                 | $r_p$  | $p$                  | $p < 0.05$ | $r_p$  | $p$                  | $p < 0.05$ |
| $CTE_{HP,R \rightarrow SAP R}$  | -0.208 | $3.77 \cdot 10^{-2}$ | Yes        | -0.268 | $7.09 \cdot 10^{-3}$ | Yes        |
| $CTE_{HP,R \rightarrow SAP HP}$ | -0.241 | $1.57 \cdot 10^{-2}$ | Yes        | -0.223 | $2.59 \cdot 10^{-2}$ | Yes        |
| $ITE_{HP,R \rightarrow SAP}$    | -0.107 | $2.91 \cdot 10^{-1}$ | No         | 0.127  | $2.08 \cdot 10^{-1}$ | No         |

TE = transfer entropy;  $CTE_{HP,R \rightarrow SAP|R}$  = conditional TE from HP and R to SAP series given R;  $CTE_{HP,R \rightarrow SAP|HP}$  = conditional TE from HP and R to SAP given HP;  $ITE_{HP,R \rightarrow SAP}$  = interactive transfer entropy from HP and R to SAP series;  $r_p$  = Pearson product-moment correlation coefficient;  $p$  = probability of the type-I error; Yes/No = the variable is/is not significantly related to age with  $p < 0.05$ .



# Conclusions

The decrease of the information genuinely transferred from HP to SAP and from R to SAP with age can be taken as an indication of the tendency toward the more important use of cardiac mechanics to control arterial pressure and the augmentation of the arterial stiffness during senescence.

SAP and R contributed redundantly to the cardiac control and the amount of SAP-R redundancy gradually declined with age, thus suggesting that its reduction might contribute to increase the cardiac frailty in old people.

HP and R contributed redundantly to the vascular control and the amount of HP-R redundancy was unrelated to age, thus suggesting that the maintenance of HP-R redundancy with age might contribute to the resilience of the vascular system in healthy senescence.