An Improved Back Propagation Neural Network Model and Its Application

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Abstract—Stroke is one of the most serious diseases, and the incidence rate of stroke is confirmed to be related to environmental factors including temperature, pressure and humidity. In order to obtain the relationship between the incidence rate and environmental factors, we research on local daily meteorological data and stroke disease cases from January 2008 to December 2012, which is provided by the administrative department of public health and medical institutions statistics in China, then build the improved BPNN(Back propagation neural network) model to carry out data analysis and processing, obtain the weight matrix between them. It can be seen that the relationship between incidence rate and pressure is the highest degree from the value of weight matrix, and pressure is positive correlation with the incidence rate. The relationship between the temperature and incidence rate is second, and they are negative correlation. The incidence between average relative humidity and correlation is quite small.

The results show that the model can be used to predict the future stroke incidence rate under various meteorological conditions, and it can play a certain role in making disease knowledge popular and providing a reference to potential patients.

Index Terms—Stroke, BP, neural network, incidence rate, meteorological conditions

I. INTRODUCTION

The relationship between the incidence rates of stroke and environmental factors (pressure, temperature, humidity) have recently emerged as one of promising research areas for safety of the patients and the potential patients. In this paper we study the relationship; it means that we should get the influence coefficient of correlation (weight) between environmental factors and incidence rates of stroke [1]. The rationality of correlation coefficient is directly related to the accuracy of the model. Because this is a complex relationship, with the passage of time and space, the weights may be changed. How to determine the weights is a key to improve the performance [2][3]. The BPNN is a forward multi-layer network, which bases on BP algorithm, and the topological structure as a layered feed-forward network, is composed of the input layer, hidden layer and output layer[4]. In essence, the BPNN algorithm makes the input and output of a set of samples into a nonlinear optimization problem with using the gradient descent algorithm optimization technique, which uses the iterative solution to get the right value [5].

We use momentum adaptive learning rate adjustment algorithm to improve the BPNN model in this paper. With our intellectual contributions, we improve the performance of BPNN algorithm. Through theoretical analysis and extensive evaluation, it is shown that our design provides an efficient way to outperform the existing algorithm.

II. MODEL IMPROVEMENT

A. Notations

m: the input layer node number;

n: the output layer node number;

s: the hidden layer node number;

xj: the input of j node in input layer, j =1,2,3;

wij: the weight between i node in hidden layer and j node in input layer;

θi: the threshold of i node in hidden layer;

f(x): the excitation function in hidden layer;

wki: the weight between k node in output layer and i node in hidden layer;

wjk: the weight between k node in output layer and i node in hidden layer;

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ak: the threshold of k node in output layer; Ψ(x): the excitation function in output layer; O_k: the output of k node in output layer.

B. The BPNN Flow

C. Forward Propagation Process of Signal

The input of i node in hidden layer [6]:

\[ \text{net}_i = \sum_{j=1}^{M} w_{ij} x_j + \theta_i \]  

(1)

The output of i node in hidden layer:

\[ y_i = \phi(\text{net}_i) = \phi \left( \sum_{j=1}^{M} w_{ij} x_j + \theta_i \right) \]  

(2)

The input of k node in output layer:

\[ \text{net}_k = \sum_{i=1}^{Q} y_i \theta_i + a_k = \sum_{i=1}^{Q} y_i \theta_i + \sum_{j=1}^{P} w_{kj} x_j + \theta_k \]  

(3)

The output of k node in output layer:

\[ y_k = \psi(\text{net}_k) = \psi \left( \sum_{i=1}^{Q} y_i \theta_i + \sum_{j=1}^{P} w_{kj} x_j + \theta_k \right) \]  

(4)

D. Back Propagation Process of Error

For the two type of criterion function of every sample p[7]:

\[ E_p = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=1}^{P} (T_k - O_k)^2 \]  

(5)

The total error criterion functions of P training samples:

\[ E = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{p=1}^{P} \sum_{k=1}^{L} (T_k - O_k)^2 \]  

(6)

The weight adjustment formula for output layer:

\[ \Delta w_{ik} = -\eta \frac{\partial E}{\partial w_{ik}} = -\eta \frac{\partial E}{\partial O_k} \frac{\partial O_k}{\partial \text{net}_k} \frac{\partial \text{net}_k}{\partial x_j} \frac{\partial x_j}{\partial w_{ik}} \]  

(7)

The threshold adjustment formula for output layer:

\[ \Delta a_k = -\eta \frac{\partial E}{\partial a_k} = -\eta \frac{\partial E}{\partial O_k} \frac{\partial O_k}{\partial \text{net}_k} \frac{\partial \text{net}_k}{\partial \theta_i} \frac{\partial \theta_i}{\partial a_k} \]  

(8)

The weight adjustment formula for hidden layer:

\[ \Delta w_{ij} = -\eta \frac{\partial E}{\partial w_{ij}} = -\eta \frac{\partial E}{\partial y_i} \frac{\partial y_i}{\partial \text{net}_i} \frac{\partial \text{net}_i}{\partial x_j} \frac{\partial x_j}{\partial w_{ij}} \]  

(9)

The threshold adjustment formula for hidden layer:

\[ \Delta a_i = -\eta \frac{\partial E}{\partial a_i} = -\eta \frac{\partial E}{\partial y_i} \frac{\partial y_i}{\partial \text{net}_i} \frac{\partial \text{net}_i}{\partial \theta_j} \frac{\partial \theta_j}{\partial a_i} \]  

(10)

E. The Improved BPNN Algorithm

The BP algorithm is simple, easy, small amount of calculation, and has the parallel advantages, so it is one of the largest and most mature training algorithms for network training at present. The essence of the algorithm is to solve the minimum value of the error function. Because it exists following problem by using the method of steepest descent in nonlinear programming [7]:

1. low learning efficiency, slow convergence;
2. falling into local minima easily.

In order to make the model more accurate, we use momentum adaptive learning rate adjustment algorithm. The weights and threshold adjustment formula with additional momentum factor [8]:

\[ \Delta w_{ik}(k+1) = (1-mc)\eta \delta_p + mc \Delta w_{ik}(k) \]  

(11)

\[ \Delta a_k(k+1) = (1-mc)\eta \delta_p + mc \Delta a_k(k) \]  

(12)

In which, k is the training times, we take 10000, mc is the momentum factor, we take 0.9. At the same time it is not easy to select appropriate learning rate for a particular problem. To solve the problem, it is natural to adjust the learning rate automatically in training process. The adaptive learning rate adjustment formula is as follows [3][4]:

\[
\eta(k) = \begin{cases} 
1.05 \eta(k) & E(k+1)<E(k) \\
0.7 \eta(k) & E(k+1)>1.04E(k) \\
\eta(k) & \text{other} 
\end{cases}
\]  

(13)

E(k) is sum of squared errors for the k step. The selection of the initial learning rate can be optional, we take 1.0[9].

F. Other Network Parameters

1. The initial weight values should not be equal to a set of values, we take $-1 \sim +1$[10];
2. The excitation function of network, we take sigmoid function;
3. The training function of network, we take trainr function;
4. The adaptive function of network, we take learngd function;
G. The Network Environment/platform

Windows XP, VS2010, C++

H. Model Solution

In this paper the pressure, temperature, humidity, and the corresponding incidence rate between 2009 and 2011 are the training samples. Train them to solve the weights from input layer to the hidden layer and from the hidden layer to the output layer. Then use the resulting weight and the pressure, temperature, humidity data in 2010 to predict the actual data. We analyze the difference between the forecast value (forecast incidence) and the actual incidence to prove that the model is correct. The process is as follows:

(1) Training samples input

The pressure, temperature, humidity during the period 2009-2011 are the training samples and input layer nodes, which namely input layer node 3, see the incidence rate as the output layer nodes, which namely the input node 1. Meanwhile train samples of the corresponding data. In this paper the dynamic functions of hidden layer nodes is

\[ s = 4, \]

And

\[ s = \sqrt{0.43mn+0.12n^2+2.54m+0.35+0.51}, \]

samples number is:

\[ 3*12*3 = 108, \]

Matrix size of the input layer is

\[ 108*3, \]

matrix size of the input layer to the hidden layer is

\[ 3*4 = 12, \]

matrix size of the hidden layer to the output layer is

\[ 4*1 = 4, \]

the matrix of the output layer is

\[ 36*1. \]

| TABLE 1. RELATIONSHIP OF CLIMATE AVERAGE AND INCIDENCE |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 2008                            | temperature    | pressure value  | humidity value  | incidence rate  |
| early January                   | 1028.250       | 4.010           | 72.800          | 2.900           |
| middle January                  | 1028.320       | 4.660           | 80.800          | 2.100           |
| late January                    | 1028.118       | 4.809           | 66.727          | 2.000           |
| Early February                  | 1023.290       | 8.080           | 65.500          | 2.100           |
| middle February                 | 1018.410       | 8.490           | 71.300          | 1.800           |
| February                        | 1020.375       | 9.825           | 76.750          | 1.700           |
| Early March                     | 1020.460       | 9.620           | 70.400          | 2.800           |
| Middle March                    | 1021.940       | 8.360           | 68.900          | 1.800           |
| March                            | 1012.973       | 16.245          | 68.636          | 2.500           |
| Early April                     | 1021.150       | 12.780          | 60.000          | 3.000           |
| Middle April                    | 1013.400       | 15.610          | 64.500          | 2.700           |
| April                            | 1015.080       | 17.720          | 63.200          | 2.500           |
| Early May                       | 1010.150       | 20.770          | 62.700          | 2.900           |
| Middle May                      | 1009.560       | 22.690          | 54.400          | 2.700           |
| May                              | 1005.718       | 24.227          | 67.636          | 2.700           |
| June                             | 1007.570       | 22.410          | 76.900          | 2.800           |
| Middle June                      | 1007.440       | 22.720          | 77.500          | 2.700           |
| June                             | 1003.500       | 28.920          | 72.100          | 2.400           |
| Early July                       | 1001.370       | 27.950          | 79.100          | 1.900           |
| Middle July                      | 1000.650       | 28.680          | 75.100          | 2.700           |
| July                             | 1006.536       | 31.355          | 66.455          | 2.500           |
| Early August                     | 1004.300       | 30.660          | 65.700          | 3.100           |
| August                           | 1002.700       | 28.780          | 71.600          | 2.900           |
| Late August                      | 1007.527       | 29.255          | 69.909          | 3.200           |
| Early September                  | 1008.530       | 24.060          | 77.000          | 3.400           |
| Middle September                 | 1008.310       | 24.170          | 82.100          | 2.900           |
| September                        | 1014.510       | 24.660          | 69.100          | 3.000           |

(2) Samples training

When all the samples are trained over, and reach the precision requirement, we can get weight matrix from input layer to hidden layer and from hidden layer to output layer.

In which, the weight matrix from input layer to hidden layer is $X_{3\times4}$:

\[
X_{3\times4} = \begin{bmatrix}
-0.0062 & 0.1695 & 0.4637 & 0.1864 \\
-0.4296 & 0.0796 & -0.1296 & 0.1365 \\
0.0245 & -0.1191 & -0.2651 & -0.4984
\end{bmatrix}
\]

The weight matrix from hidden layer to output layer is $Y_{4\times1}$:

\[
Y_{4\times1} = \begin{bmatrix}
-0.1485 \\
0.1503 \\
0.4346 \\
-0.1893
\end{bmatrix}
\]

Then use the formula (14) to obtain the weight matrix

\[
w = \begin{bmatrix}
0.5224 \\
-0.3899 \\
0.0877
\end{bmatrix}
\]

of pressure, temperature, humidity [12,13]. It can be seen that there is a specific positive and high degree correlation between pressure and incidence rate of stoke, there is a negative and lower correlation between temperature and incidence rate of stoke, the incidence rate of stoke is little relevance to humidity.

(3) Samples Prediction and Effect

We use the data in each stage of 2012 as training sam-
ple, pressure, temperature, humidity as input nodes, use the weights matrix gotten above, then get the rate value of the corresponding stage, at last compare with the real value, get the error curve.

![Figure 3. Error curve](image)

It can be seen from the figure 3, the last system error stabilized stay between 6-8% with the increase of training times.

From the discussion above, according to the established network, we can predict the incidence rate of stroke was 3 in 2010 early January, and the relative errors of the real value of 3.2 is about 6%, predict the incidence rate was 2.7 in the mid January, and the relative errors of the real value of 2.9 is about 7%. Sequentially comparing relative errors stay between 6% ~8%, the error is very small, so we can say our established model is accurate and reasonable. Using this model, we can forecast the incidence rate of stroke in future; if we know the environmental factors (pressure, temperature, humidity). Thus we can use the model to prevent the disease.

![Figure 4. data comparison](image)

I. Mode evaluation and promotion

This model can not only accurately reflect the relationship between incidence rate and pressure, temperature, humidity, but also predict the future stroke incidence rate under various meteorological conditions. It can play a certain role in making disease knowledge popular as well as in transformation of health status.

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