Fault diagnosis expert system for large-scale railway maintenance equipment based on BP neural network

Ming Pu¹, Hairui Wang²*

School of information engineering and automation Kunming University of Science and Technology, No. 727, Jingming South Road, Kunming, China

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Abstract

According to the characteristics of the neural network and expert system, a fault diagnosis method for large-scale railway maintenance equipment based on Back Propagation (BP) neural network and expert system is proposed. Fault diagnosis for large-scale railway maintenance equipment on BP neural network and expert system model are constructed. A weak of collection and expression of knowledge on traditional expert system is overcome. Availability of the method based on BP neural network system and expert system is verified by experimental results of large-scale railway maintenance equipment fault.

Keywords: BP neural network; neural network-knowledge base; expert system; fault diagnosis

1 Introduction

Tamping machine is a complex large-scale railway maintenance equipment, it often appears various faults inside and outside the tamping machine because tamping machine always work in field with influence of weather, temperature, humidity, dust, etc. [8]. Once a part of tamping machine fails, the whole system will cause malfunction, therefore the system performance will decline, serious faults will lead to a loss of most of the original features of system. Expert system and neural network methods both can be used in fault diagnosis, but single expert system and neural network fault diagnosis both have certain limitations. Theoretical analysis and experimental studies have shown that expert system based on symbolic logic specializes in reasoning work and artificial neural network based on practice specializes in information perception, both complement each other in function. A combination of expert system and neural network can make themselves mutually reinforcing. In order to make full use of the advantages of expert system and neural network, this paper will organically integrated diagnosis method based on rule-based reasoning of expert system and artificial neural network. Thus we can solve problems that existed in system such as “Knowledge Acquisition Bottleneck”, “Match Conflict”, “Combinatorial Explosion”, “Infinite Recursion” and apply in fault diagnosis of tamping machine.

2 Principles and characteristics of expert system based on BP network

Since the system of tamping machine is very complex, working environment is very bad and the existence of other common phenomenon such as “high fault rate” and “hard to find fault reason” [10]. The system measures working parameters through monitoring status of tamping machine in real-time and uses these parameters to make a contrast with normal condition value [7]. When the measured working parameter does not match normal condition value, it can be shown that there exist at least one or more faults in tamping machine. We can consider using functions which conclude learning and memory in a neural network to replace the role of knowledge engineers. The main content is to learn from faults and complete automatic acquisition of fault diagnosis expert system and automatic updates. The reasoning process of building expert system in a neural network is actually a process of computing, it means that the neuron of neural network constantly parallels until convergence on solving space problems through the relationship among knowledge which are stored in a neural network. Because the parallel mathematical reasoning process in neural network replaces the matching search and backtrack problems in the processing of traditional artificial intelligence (AI) symbol, neural network has a higher efficiency of reasoning.

BP neural network will change diagnosis information into the weights and thresholds, and make them stored in network separately [12]. A combination of BP network and traditional expert system can overcome many defects in expert diagnosis system. BP network has a strong ability of adaption because diagnosis information which are distributed stored in the connected weights of the whole network, and each neuron stores various kinds of information, even though parts of neurons lost, the impact on BP network storage diagnosis information is not much, thus BP network can handle large disturbed input information, furthermore, BP network can solve problems about the bottleneck of knowledge acquisition in traditional expert system – self-learning [11].

* Corresponding author’s e-mail: hrwang88@163.com
3 Technical basis of BP neural network

In system based on neural networks, method of knowledge representation is completely different from method of traditional AI system. Traditional AI system uses the method of explicit knowledge representation, on the contrary, neural network uses implicit knowledge representation [9]. In Artificial Neural Network (ANN), knowledge is not expressed as a set of rules, unlike traditional methods, it is expressed a certain knowledge as the weights distribution in the same network. Figure 1 and 3-layer threshold BP network show the following 4 “XOR” logical formula rules:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{IF } x_1 = 0 \text{ AND } x_2 = 0 \text{ THEN } y = 0; \\
\text{IF } x_1 = 0 \text{ AND } x_2 = 1 \text{ THEN } y = 1; \\
\text{IF } x_1 = 1 \text{ AND } x_2 = 0 \text{ THEN } y = 1; \\
\text{IF } x_1 = 1 \text{ AND } x_2 = 1 \text{ THEN } y = 0
\end{align*}
\]

![Figure 1 ANN representation of “XOR” logic](image)

4.1 ORWARD-PROPAGATION STAGE

Set \( k \)-th sample of input vector \( x_k = (x_{k1}, x_{k2}, \ldots, x_{kd}) \), get the output of \( y_j \) of \( j \)-th nodes in the hidden layer:

\[
y_j = f \left( \sum_{i=1}^{d} W_{ij} x_{ki} + \theta_j \right)
\]

The output of \( O_r \) of \( r \)-th nodes in the output layer is:

\[
Q_r = f \left( \sum_{j=1}^{M} W_{rj} y_j + \theta_r \right)
\]

4.2 BACK-PROPAGATION STAGE

Set \( L \) pairs of learning samples \( (X_k, O_k) \) \((k=1,2,\ldots, L)\), the mean square error of actual output \( Y_k \) and required output \( O_k \) is:

\[
E_k = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{p=1}^{M} (Y_{k,p} - O_{k,p})^2.
\]

The total error of sample set is:

\[
E = \sum_{k=1}^{L} E_k.
\]

Modifying weights along negative gradient direction of error function so that network convergence, the weights in the output layer is modified as \( \Delta W_{rj} \):

\[
\Delta W_{rj} = \frac{\partial E(t)}{\partial W_{rj}} = -[O'_r(t) - O_r(t)] [1 - O_r(t)] y_j(t).
\]

Weights in the output layer which is modified is:

\[
W_{rj}(t+1) = W_{rj}(t) - \eta \Delta W_{rj}
\]

Similarly, weights in the hidden layer which is modified is \( \Delta W_{ij} \):

\[
\Delta W_{ij} = \frac{\partial E(t)}{\partial W_{ij}} = -[y_j(t) [1 - y_j(t)]] \cdot x_{ki}(t) \sum_r \delta_r W_{rj}.
\]

Weights in the hidden layer is modified as:

\[
W_{ij}(t+1) = W_{ij}(t) - \eta \Delta W_{ij}.
\]
Let us introduce the following terms:
- $f$ - sigmoid function;
- $L$ - numbers of neurons in the input layer;
- $W_{ij}$ - connection weights between input layer and hidden layer;
- $x_{ik}$ - the input of $k$-th sample;
- $k$ - the number of sample;
- $\theta_j$ - thresholds of $j$-th neurons in the input layer;
- $M$ - numbers of neurons in the hidden layer;
- $W_{ij}$ - connection weights between hidden layer and output layer;
- $\theta_i$ - thresholds of $i$-th neurons in the hidden layer;
- $E(t)$ - error function;
- $O_i(t)$ - desired output;
- $\eta$ - steps, experience;
- $\delta_i$ - sensitivity of $i$-th nodes correspond to output error function $E(t)$;

5 Design of fault diagnosis expert system

Based on the analysis of fault diagnosis expert system and BP neural network technology above, expert system and neural network must be combined to play their strong point when problems can’t be solved using expert system or neural network alone. So I design a fault diagnosis expert system. The basic structure of the process is shown in Figure 3.

6 Simulation of tamping machine fault diagnosis expert system

The size of neural network is determined by need, the number of fault symptoms is corresponded to the number of input nodes; the number of fault is corresponded to the number of output nodes. The select of the number of hidden nodes in the hidden layer doesn’t have theoretical guidance, the selected number is merely to meet capacity and requirements of certain learning speed.

This paper selects common engine fault diagnosis of 09-32 tamping machine as the research object, illustrating the practice and diagnosis process of expert system and neural network fault diagnosis system [8].

Tamping machine mainly uses diesel engine, diesel engine often appears many faults such as electrical fault, mechanical fault and oil path fault [8]. Electrical fault shows mainly the line-to-ground fault, line empty pick up fault, damaged components fault and unreliable grounding fault. Line-to-ground fault is most common, as long as grounding can cause a short circuit and automatically cut off the power supply. Virtual connect circuit fault is mainly due to loose caused by vibrations in long-term work, effective way to avoid this is to strengthen the line inspection and tight of terminals. Mechanical faults are relatively less, but there are always several typical faults such as governor throttle trolley balance spring results in only idling, bolts of governor transmission shaft sheared causes failure of work, nozzle jammed results in a mass of diesel leaking into the machine and diluting the oil. The typical fault of oil path fault is diesel tank blocked, the main reason is that diesel tank not cleaned for a long time or some foreign matters get into the tank. When suction pipe appears loosen or the installation of filter element is unqualified, it will result in air suction, low back pressure of suction pipe, air into high-pressure oil pump.

The engine of this diagnosis system has 5 symptoms and 7 faults (Table 1). The 5 symptoms and 7 faults are designed for 5 input nodes and 7 output nodes, hidden nodes are calculated as 5. To calculate the answer, using the formula $h = \sqrt{n + m + a}$ ($h$ is the number of neurons in the hidden layer; $n$ is the number of input neurons; $m$ is the number of output neurons; $a$ is the network layer, which is a constant number between 1-10, here $a$ is 2).
Based on the above, we selected 7 samples of examples to learn, when the network structure and learning sample are selected, you can train the neural network. First of Table 2 is trouble-free sample.

**TABLE 1 Neural network output table**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Input</th>
<th>Symptom</th>
<th>Output</th>
<th>Fault</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$x_1$</td>
<td>DG08 charging current is high, table shows the maximum and the next to the diesel engine has screaming voice.</td>
<td>$y_1$</td>
<td>The ground wire of B13 box is bad contact.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$x_2$</td>
<td>5e9 self-healing insurance will jump and can’t start when the engine starts.</td>
<td>$y_2$</td>
<td>The damage of 317 lines in dryer working power supply results in grounding.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$x_3$</td>
<td>The diesel engine suddenly stalled when working.</td>
<td>$y_3$</td>
<td>5e9 and 5e7 self-healing are jumping.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$x_4$</td>
<td>Diesel tank is blocked.</td>
<td>$y_4$</td>
<td>Engine is damaged.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$x_5$</td>
<td>Throttle can’t lift.</td>
<td>$y_5$</td>
<td>The damaged 81 Re3 results in adjustment can’t be passed to post-amplifier.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the Table 1, $x_i$ represents fault symptom, $x_i=0$ ($i=1,2,...,5$) represents no symptom, $x_i=1$ ($i=1,2,...,5$) indicates the symptom, $y_j = 0$ ($j=1,2,...,7$) represents a fault that doesn’t exist, $y_j = 1$ ($j=1,2,...,7$) represents a fault that existed. Based on the above, we selected 7 samples of examples to learn, when the network structure and learning sample are selected, you can train the neural network. First of Table 2 is trouble-free sample.

**TABLE 2 Learning sample table**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample</th>
<th>$x_1$</th>
<th>$x_2$</th>
<th>$x_3$</th>
<th>$x_4$</th>
<th>$x_5$</th>
<th>$x_6$</th>
<th>$x_7$</th>
<th>$y_1$</th>
<th>$y_2$</th>
<th>$y_3$</th>
<th>$y_4$</th>
<th>$y_5$</th>
<th>$y_6$</th>
<th>$y_7$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In fault diagnosis, according to the input fault symptom, we call the trained weights between the layers to calculate forward and display the results of diagnosis based on output of the output layer.

**TABLE 3 Desired output and Actual output**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Desired output</th>
<th>Actual output</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$y_1$</td>
<td>$y_2$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In fault diagnosis, according to the input fault symptom, we call the trained weights between the layers to calculate forward and display the results of diagnosis based on output of the output layer.

**TABLE 4 Fault diagnosis example**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Input</th>
<th>Output</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$x_1$</td>
<td>$x_2$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4 shows that fault can be located in the damage of 317 lines in dryer working power supply results in grounding when 5e9 self-healing insurance jumps with diesel engine started. Table 3 also shows that the result of fault is consistent with the actual and this method is feasible in fault diagnosis application of tamping machine.
7 Conclusions

BP neural network has a feature of highly nonlinear function mapping, so it is very convenient for tamping machine fault diagnosis. It can not only improve the reliability of diagnosis, but also develop tamping machine fault diagnosis expert system by using BP neural network technology. This system has a self-learning function, with the growth of time investment, the system will automatically record the result of each test into knowledge base and update network weights constantly based on knowledge base, as a result, the system and the diagnosis accuracy will constantly growing and improving.

Reference


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Authors

Ming Pu, China.
Current position, grades: postgraduate student in Kunming University of Science and Technology, China.
University study: Bachelor degree in network engineering, Xi’an University of Post & Telecommunications, 2013.
Research activities: main research direction for automatic control.

Hairui Wang, China.
Current position: grades professor in Kunming University of Science and Technology, China.
University study: PhD degree in Metallurgical Engineering Control, Kunming University of Science and Technology 2007.
Research activities: Main research direction for automatic control, signal detection and processing, instrumentation development.
Professional Activities and Memberships: National Natural Science Foundation of China (on Tamping Wagon automatic control).