Opening the Black Box: Data Mining with Product Unit Neural Networks



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Witteveen+Bos Deltas, Coasts and Rivers Coast, Rivers and Land Reclamation Data Analysis and Information Management

Data Scientist: from data to information



Witteveen+Bos Deltas, Coasts and Rivers Coast, Rivers and Land Reclamation Data Analysis and Information Management



Group Data Analysis and Information Management:

Unique knowledge on

- collection and analysis of data
- monitoring
- databases
- statistics
- (numerical) modelling

But also

- applied in projects
- focus on management information

Ambition: smarter / faster / better!





Example of applications



2. Challenge

European Water Framework Directive: *improve water quality and ecological quality of surface water*

Many measures taken.

Well-known what type is most effective in what case.



But total effect is uncertain.



2. Challenge

Aim: development of data-driven models for accurate prediction of effect of measure.

Data available:

- Dutch water bodies 8 water type clusters
- characteristics

Banks Level Control Maintenance Connectivity Meandering Weirs Shading Shipping BOD5 Chloride Total Phosphorus Total Nitrogen

- ecological quality (4 EQR's)
- 10 yrs





2. Challenge

Explaining characteristics vary per water type cluster

Slow flowing brooks:

Meandering Weirs Shading BOD5 Total Phosphorus Total Nitrogen

Brackish waters:

Banks Level Control Maintenance Connectivity

Deep lakes:

Banks Level Control Total Phosphorus Total Nitrogen

Chloride

Total Phosphorus Total Nitrogen





3. Ecological Quality Ratio

Dutch implementation of EWFD

Ecological Quality Ratio (EQR)

- phytoplankton
- macrofauna
- aquatic flora
- fish







Inspired by human brain

- basis: neuron processes input to output
- network: connected neurons
- learning by training with inputs/targets

Characteristics neuron:

- weight
- bias
- transfer function







straightforward Multi Layer Neuron (3x3) Network





... or complex ...





General Neural Network

Positive:

- simple concept
- easy to apply
- flexibility



Negative:

- no interpretation of model (black box)
- limited posibilities to simplify network
- problems with transportability



Standaard Neuraal Network: based on sum

$$\sum_{u=1}^{n_x} w_u x_u$$

Product Unit Neuraal Netwerk: based on product weights > powers

 n_x $r_u^{p_u}$ u=1



Standaard Neuraal Network: based on sum

$$\sum_{u=1}^{n_x} w_u x_u$$

Product Unit Neuraal Netwerk: based on product weights > powers

$$\prod_{u=1}^{n_x} x_u^{p_u}$$

Advantages of PUNN compared to sum network

- great predictive power (smaller network)
- simplification is possible (pruning)
- interpretable (white box)
- transportable (one-line formula)



Experimental setup

For each EQR / water type cluster

• Split dataset in training / validation / test

Performance indicators on test set:

- percentage of error less than 0.10;
- root mean squared error (RMSE);
- coefficient of determination (CoD).

Compare to: Regression tree, Standard NN



Derivation of PUNN model for EQR:

- Starting PUNN: 4 products plus a constant;
- 2000 x training after random initialization;



- 30 best trained PUNN are pruned;
- best pruned PUNN is delivered as EQR-model.



Water type cluster: Deep Lakes

Explaining variables

Banks (Ba)Total Phosphorus (P)Level Control (L)Total Nitrogen (N)

Results

Deep Lakes	Training (incl. Validation)			Evaluation		
EQR	pct <0.1	RMSE	CoD	pct <0.1	RMSE	CoD
phytoplankton	50%	0.15	0.69	46%	0.17	0.63
aquatic flora	76%	0.086	0.85	73%	0.091	0.81
macrofauna	87%	0.066	0.86	85%	0.080	0.60
fish	90%	0.069	0.86	69%	0.12	0.69



Water type cluster: Deep Lakes

EQR phytoplankton

 $EQR_{phyt} = -0.7347 + 0.9958 \frac{1}{N^{0.288}} + 0.002878 N^{1.535} + 0.09921 \frac{N^{0.3107}}{P^{0.4086}}$

EQR aqautic flora

$$EQR_{aqfl} = 7.054 - 0.3623 \frac{L^{3.13}}{Ba^{2.456}} + 0.2406 \frac{L^{3.554}}{Ba^{3.148}} + 0.5741 \frac{1}{L^{7.167}} - 7.474 \frac{P^{0.01563}}{L^{0.1776}}$$



Water type cluster: Deep Lakes

EQR macrofauna



EQR fish Similar long formula





Water type cluster: Ditches

Explaining variables

Banks (Ba) Level Control (L) Maintenance (Ma) Total Phosphorus (P) Total Nitrogen (N)



EQR fish

$$EQR_{fish} = -10.38 + 6.796 \frac{L^{0.1253}Ma^{0.1178}}{P^{0.03803}} - 0.1405 \frac{1}{P^{0.4452}} + 4.326 \frac{P^{0.03148}}{L^{0.2724}Ma^{0.2525}N^{0.01809}} - 0.1624 \frac{1}{L^{14.87}Ma^{11.67}}$$



Comparison with other methods

Overall performance:

model type	pct <0.1	RMSE	CoD
regression tree	63%	0.121	0.49
standard neural network	64%	0.129	0.41
product unit neural network	68%	0.106	0.60

For 21 out of 29 punn gives best model.

PUNNs incorporated in WFD-explorer (Deltares).



6. Conclusion

For Ecological Quality Ratio the PUNN's

- deliver a data-driven model;
- provide accurate prediction for EQR;
- outperform other methods.





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For Ecological Quality Ratio the PUNN's

- deliver a data-driven model;
- provide accurate prediction for EQR;
- outperform other methods.

Moreover there are additional advantages:

- interpretability;
- transportability.





6. Conclusion

In case of:

- large datasets
- complex physics
- not well-understood
- need for information

Product Unit Neural Networks are a powerfull tool to open the black box!





7. Acknowledgement





Bos





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