

Implementation of Pattern storage Neural Network as Associative Memory for storage and Recalling of finger prints

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Abstract

In this paper the performance of Pattern storage feedback neural network is evaluated for the storage and recalling of finger prints using unsupervised learning. The paper first discusses the storage and recall via hebbian learning and the problem areas or the efficiency issues involved and then the performance enhancement via the pseudo-inverse learning. Performance is measured with respect to storage capacity, recall of distorted or noisy patterns i.e association of a noisy version of a stored pattern to the original stored pattern for testing the accretive behaviour of the network and association of new or noisy form of some memorized pattern.

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Introduction

Association in the human brain refers to the phenomenon of one thought causing us to think of another. Correspondingly, associative memory is the function where the brain is able to store and recall information, given partial knowledge of the information content [1]. Associative Memory is a dynamic system which has a number of stable states with a domain of attraction around them. If the system starts at any state in the domain, it will converge to the locally stable state, which is called an attractor [2]. One such model, describing the organization of neurons in such a way that they function as *Associative Memory* is called *Content Addressable Memory*. The Neural Networks designed to model the process of memory recall in the human brain [30], were proposed by J. J. Hopfield and was named after him as Hopfield Model. It is a fully connected neural network model in which patterns can be stored by distributing among neurons and we can retrieve one of the previously presented patterns from an example which is similar to, or a noisy version of it [1, 2]. The network associates each element of a pattern with a binary neuron. The neurons are updated asynchronously and in parallel. They are initialized with an input pattern and the network activation converges to the closest learnt pattern [18]. This dynamical

behavior of the neurons strongly depends on the synaptic strength between neurons. The specification of the synaptic strength is *conventionally referred to as learning* [3]. Learning employs a number of learning algorithms as perceptron, hebbian, pseudo-inverse, LMS etc. [32]. While choosing a learning algorithm, there are a number of considerations. Those considered in this paper are:

- a) The maximum capacity of the network
- b) The network's ability to add patterns incrementally to the network
- c) The network's ability to correctly recall patterns stored in the network
- d) The network's ability to associate a noisy pattern to its original pattern
- e) The network's ability to associate a new pattern with its nearest neighbour

Points d and e would also vary with the number of patterns currently stored in the network.

The simplest rule that can be used to train a network is the hebbian rule. But it suffers from a number of problems such as:

- a) The maximum capacity is limited to just $0.14N$, where N is the number of neurons in the network [32].
- b) The recall efficiency of the network deteriorates as the number of patterns stored in the network increases [29, 33].
- c) The network's ability to correct noisy patterns is also extremely limited and deteriorates with packing density of the network.
- d) New patterns could hardly be associated to the stored patterns.

The next rule to be considered to overcome the disadvantages of the hebbian rule was the pseudo-inverse learning rule. The standard pseudo-inverse rule is known to be better than the hebbian rule in terms of the capacity (N), recall efficiency and pattern corrections [30, 32]. This paper is organized with the above five questions in mind. Section II provides a brief description of the Hopfield network as associative memory and its storage and update

dynamics. Section III elaborates the Pseudo-inverse Rule, the associated problems and measures to overcome them. Section IV contains the experiments whose results have been compiled with in Section V. Discussions and conclusions then follow in section VI and VII respectively

2. Hopfield Network as Associative Memory

Hopfield Network is probably the best known example of a neural network working as associative memory [24, 32]. It is a fully connected network made up of bipolar threshold logic units. The units receive inputs from every other unit except for itself. The net input of a unit i at any time t is computed by

$$s_i(t) = \sum_{j \neq i} w_{ij} s_j(t) \quad (1)$$

where w_{ij} is the weight of the connection between unit i and j and s_j is the state of unit j , which can be either $+1$ or -1 [12, 33].

The next state of unit i is a function of its net input and current state and is given by

$$s_i(t+1) = \begin{cases} +1 & \text{if } s_i(t) > \theta_i \\ -1 & \text{if } s_i(t) \leq \theta_i \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

θ_i is assumed to be 0.

The network's weight matrix W is an $N \times N$ matrix, whose contents are determined by the set of patterns and the learning rules used to set the weights. The set of stored patterns $P = \{\xi_1, \xi_2, \dots, \xi_n\}$ where each pattern ξ_i is a vector of size n . Thus P is a matrix of size $l \times n$, where l is the number of patterns stored in the network [32 – 34]. The weight matrix in the current paper is a symmetric zero diagonal matrix.

Pattern recall involves setting the initial state of the network equal to an input vector ξ_i . The states of the individual units are then updated repeatedly until the overall state of the network is stable. Updation of units may be synchronous or asynchronous [1, 22]. In the synchronous update all the units of the network are updated simultaneously and the state of the network is frozen until update is made for all the units. While

in the asynchronous update, a unit is selected at random and its state is updated, using the current state of the network. This update via random choice of a unit is continued until no further change in the state takes place for all the units i.e. the network reaches a stable state. Each stable state of the network corresponds to a stored pattern that has a minimum hamming distance from the input pattern [11]. With each stable state of the network is associated an energy E and hence that state acts as a point attractor. During update the network moves from an initial high energy state to the nearest attractor. All stable states which are similar to any of ξ_i of P are called Fundamental Memories. Apart from them there are other stable states, including inverses of fundamental memories. The number of such fundamental memories and the nature of additional stable states depend upon the learning algorithm that is employed.

3. Storage of pattern

The pseudo inverse method has been used for the storage of patterns in the form of images of finger prints. In the pseudo inverse, the weight matrix is given by:

$$W = \Xi \Xi^{-1} \quad (3)$$

where Ξ is the matrix whose rows are ξ_n and Ξ^{-1} is its pseudo-inverse. The matrix with the property that $\Xi^{-1}\Xi = I$ [29, 32, 33].

The pseudo inverse rule is neither local nor incremental as compared to the hebbian rule. This means that the update of a particular connection does not depend on the information available on either side of the connection and also patterns cannot be incrementally added to the network. These problems can be solved by modifying the rule in such a way that some characteristics of hebbian learning are also incorporated so that locality and increment are ensured. The hebbian rule is given as:

$$W_{ij} = 1/N \sum_{l=1}^L \xi_{li} * \xi_{lj} \quad \text{for } i \neq j \quad (4)$$

$$= 0, \text{ for } i=j, 1 \leq i, j \leq N$$

where, N is the number of units/neurons in the network.

ξ_{lj} for $l = 1$ to L are the vectors / images to be stored, where each component of ξ_l is binary i.e.

each $\xi_{lj} = \pm 1$ for $j=1$ to N .

Now the pseudo inverse of the weight matrix can be calculated as

$$W_{pinv} = W^t * (W * W^t)^{-1} \quad (5)$$

where

W^t is the transpose of the weight matrix W

$(W * W^t)^{-1}$ is the inverse of the product of W and its transpose.

This method will overcome the locality and increment problems associated with the pseudo-inverse rule. In addition, it has the benefits of the pseudo-inverse rule in terms of the storage capacity and recall efficiency over the hebbian rule.

4. Implementation

Various experiments were conducted to test the efficiency of the pseudo-inverse rule for the points mentioned in the Section.

1. All experiments were conducted in Matlab. Before implementing the learning rule the initial task was conversion of raw fingerprint images into patterns for storage in the network. For this the images were preprocessed through a series of steps, briefly discussed in the following subsection.

4.1. Image Preprocessing

Preprocessing, in the form of image enhancement, of the fingerprint images is required to convert the images into suitable patterns for storage in the Hopfield Network. The term image enhancement refers to making the image clearer for easy further operations. The fingerprint images considered for the study are the images of the fingerprint impressions of different individuals. The images are not of perfect quality to be considered for storage in a network. Hence enhancement methods are required to reveal the fine details of the images which may remain uncovered due to insufficient ink or imperfect impressions. The enhancement methods would increase the contrast between image components and connect the broken or incomplete image components.

The images were first scanned as RGB images and then converted to grayscale to retain the fine

details in the images. Then the image was enhanced and made clearer and sharper using histogram equalization techniques. Note that histogram equalization refers to expansion of the pixel value distribution of an image so as to increase the perceptual information. The image was then subjected to binarization. Binarization refers to conversion of a gray scale image to a black and white image. Typically binarization converts an image of up to 256 gray levels to a black and white image.

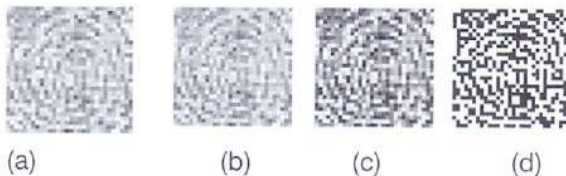


Fig 1: (a) Initial RGB Image, (b) Gray scale Image, (c) Histogram equalized Image (d) Binarized Image

After attaining binarization, the need was to convert the binary image to a bipolar image, since Hopfield networks work best with bipolar data. A bipolar image is one where each pixel has value either +1 or -1. Hence, all pixel values are verified and those with value 0 are converted to -1, thus converting the image to bipolar. Finally the image is converted to bipolar vectors. All the image vectors are stored into a comprehensive matrix which has the following structure:

$$P = \begin{pmatrix} \xi_{11}, \xi_{12}, \dots, \xi_{1N} \\ \xi_{21}, \xi_{22}, \dots, \xi_{2N} \\ \dots\dots\dots \\ \xi_{21}, \xi_{22}, \dots, \xi_{2N} \end{pmatrix}$$

4.2. Pattern Storage

The patterns in the form of bipolar vectors created in section 4.1 were then stored in the Hopfield network via the following algorithm separately for hebbian and pseudo-inverse rules in separate weight matrices.

Algorithm: Pattern Storage

1. Begin with a zero weight matrix, W of size $N \times N$
2. Compute the weight matrix as per equation 4 for the l patterns, where each pattern is a vector of size n .

3. Assign zeros to the diagonal elements at the end of each iteration.

4. Finally calculate the pseudo-inverse of W as per equation 5.

Hence the L patterns are all stored in the Hopfield network. The final weight matrix is a symmetric zero diagonal matrix. Once the patterns were stored, the next experiments were to test the capacity and recall efficiency of the network. This is discussed in the next subsection.

4.3. Pattern Recall

4.3.1. Mathematical Implementation Pattern recall refers to the identification and retrieval of the corresponding image when an image is presented as input to the network. As soon as an image is fed as input to the network, the network starts updating itself. In the current paper, we use asynchronous update of the network units to find their new states. This update via random choice of a unit is continued until no further change in the state takes place for all the units. That is, the state at time $(t+1)$ is the same as the state at time t for all the units.

$$s_i(t+1) = s_i(t) \quad \text{for all } i \quad (6)$$

Such a state is referred to as the stable state. In a stable state the output of the network will be a stable (trained) pattern that has a minimum hamming distance from the input pattern [11]. The network is said to have converged and recalled the pattern if the output matches the pattern presented initially as input. For pattern association, the patterns stored in an associative memory act as attractors and the largest hamming distance within which almost all states flow to the pattern is defined as the radius of the basin of attraction [5].

Each state of the Hopfield Network is associated with an energy value, whose value either reduces or remains the same as the state of the network changes [22]. The energy function of the network is given by:

$$V = -1/2 \sum_i \sum_j w_{ij} s_i s_j + \theta_i s_i \quad (7)$$

Hopfield has shown that for symmetric weights with no self feedback connections and bipolar output functions, the dynamics of the network using asynchronous update always lead towards energy minima at equilibrium. The network states corresponding to these energy

minima are termed as stable states [22] and the network uses each of these stable states for storing individual patterns.

The Hopfield network has the ability to recognize unclear pictures correctly. This means that the network can recall actual patterns when the noisy or partial clues of that pattern are presented to the network. It is known and has been shown [1, 2] that Hopfield networks converge to the original patterns if up to 40% distorted version of a stored pattern is presented. The patterns are stored in the network in the form of attractors on the energy surface. The network can then be presented with either a portion of one of the images (partial cue) or an image degraded with noise (noisy cue) and through multiple iterations it will attempt to reconstruct one of the stored images.

4.3.2 Algorithmic Implementation: The algorithm for pattern recall in a Hopfield Neural Network storing L patterns is as follows:

The algorithm would be implemented both for Hebbian and Pseudo-inverse rules and results would be recorded. Assume a pattern x_i , of size N , already stored in the network and modified by altering the values of k randomly chosen pixels. Also, assume vectors new to store the new states of the network. Consider a variable count initialized to value 1.

- 1) Initialize weights to store patterns (use Hebbian and Pseudo-inverse Rule) as per algorithm for Pattern Storage, while activations of the net are converged perform steps 2 to 8.
- 2) For each input vector x , repeat steps 3 to 7.
- 3) Set initial activations of the net equal to the external input vector x , $y_i = x_i$ ($i=1$ to n).
- 4) Perform steps 5 to 7 for each unit y_i .
- 5) Compute the net input

$$y_{\text{new}} = x_i + \sum y_i * w_{ji}$$

- 6) Determine the activation (output signal)

$$y_i = \begin{cases} +1, & \text{if } y_{\text{new}} > 0 \\ -1, & \text{if } y_{\text{new}} \leq 0 \end{cases}$$

- 7) Broadcast the value of y_{new} to all other units.
- 8) Test for convergence as per equation 4.

Note: The value of threshold θ is assumed to be zero. Each unit is randomly chosen for update.

The maximum number of patterns successfully recalled by the above procedure is a pointer to the maximum storage capacity of the Hopfield Network, which is further discussed in the results. Further the recall efficiency for noisy patterns is also determined as up to what percentage of error in the patterns is acceptable by the network and convergence to the original pattern occurs. This is discussed in the results.

5. Results

- 1) Experiment 1 (Pattern Recall ability and Critical Storage Capacity of the Hopfield Network). Table 1 shows the maximum number of patterns that can be efficiently stored in the Hopfield network with hebb and pseudo-inverse rule.
- 2) Experiment 2 (Recall Efficiency of the Hopfield Network for Noisy Patterns and New Patterns). Table 2 compares for hebb and pseudo-inverse rule, the successful and unsuccessful recall results at 30%, 40%, 50% and 60% distortion respectively at various packing densities of the network. The tables also show the results that when new patterns were presented to the network, whether they were associated to some stored pattern that matched them most closely or not.

6. Discussions

6.1. Pattern Storage

All the patterns after preprocessing as depicted in Section 4.1 were converted into bipolar vectors ready for storage into the Network. As per the algorithm of 4.2, the patterns were Input one by one into the Hopfield Network first by hebbian rule and then by pseudo-inverse rule. The weight matrices for both are 900×900 zero diagonal, symmetric matrix.

6.2. Pattern Recall and Critical Storage Capacity

The storage capacity of a neural network refers to the maximum number of patterns that can be stored and successfully recalled for a given number of nodes, N . The Hopfield network is limited in storage capacity to $0.14N$ when trained with hebbian rule [1-5, 11-12, 18, 21]. But the capacity enhances to N with pseudo-inverse

rule. Experiments were conducted to check the same and the network was able to store and perfectly recall 0.14N i.e. 126 patterns with hebbian rule and N i.e. 900 patterns with pseudo-inverse rule.

Thus the critical storage capacity for the Hopfield Network comes out to be 0.14N with hebbian and N with pseudo-inverse rule without any error in pattern recall, for the current study.

TABLE 1: CRITICAL STORAGE CAPACITY

	Hebbian	Pseudo-inverse
Capacity	126	900

6.3. Recall of Noisy Patterns

The Hopfield network has the ability to recognize unclear pictures correctly. This capacity of the network was tested as per algorithm in Section IV part C. This time the experiments were conducted with the network storing 20, 50, 80, 100, 130 patterns successively. The patterns were modified by altering 30%, 40%, 50% and 60% bits. The bits were randomly selected for alteration and the results compiled. Table 2 displays the results for both rules at various packing densities of the network and various levels of distortion. Further the network's behavior is also tested for new patterns and the observations are recorded in the same table.

Observations

- 1) With 20 patterns, behaviour with distorted patterns is similar with both the rules i.e. up to 40% distortion the same pattern is associated but at 50% distortion some other stored pattern or the nearest neighbour is associated. New patterns are not recognized by the hebbian rule but by pseudo-inverse, they are associated with some stored pattern.
- 2) With 50 patterns, behaviour upto 40%

TABLE 2: PATTERN RECALABILITY WITH NOISY AND NEW PATTERNS

No. of Patterns in the Network	Pattern Associated to		
	%distortion	Hebbian	Pseudoinverse
20 patterns	30%	Original Pattern	Original Pattern
	40%	Original Pattern	Original Pattern
	50%	Nearest neighbour	Nearest neighbour
	60%	None	None
	New		Nearest

	Patterns	None	Neighbour
50 patterns	30%	Original Pattern	Original Pattern
	40%	Original Pattern	Original Pattern
	50%	None	Nearest Neighbour
	60%	None	None
	New Patterns	None	Nearest Neighbour
80 patterns	30%	Original for 50% patterns	Original Pattern
	40%	None	Original Pattern
	50%	None	None
	60%	None	None
	New Patterns	None	None
100 patterns	30%	Original for 30% patterns	Original Pattern
	40%	None	Original Pattern
	50%	None	None
	60%	None	None
	New Patterns	None	None
130 patterns	30%	Original for 10% patterns	Original Pattern
	40%	None	None
	50%	None	None
	60%	None	None
	New Patterns	None	None

distorted patterns is similar with both the rules. But at 50% distortion hebb rule stops the recognition of the pattern while pseudo-inverse associates it to its nearest neighbour. New patterns are not recognized by the hebbian rule but by pseudo inverse, they are associated to some stored pattern.

- 3) With 80 patterns hebb rule further deteriorates and even at 30% distortion recognizes only 50% patterns. The pseudo inverse rule on the other hand recognizes the patterns up to 40% distortion also but now it stops associating new patterns to stored patterns.
- 4) With 100 patterns, hebb rule further deteriorates and recognizes only 30% patterns at 30% distortion. While pseudo inverse has the same behaviour as that with 80 patterns.
- 5) With 130 patterns, hebb rule recognizes hardly 10% patterns at 30% distortion. While pseudo inverse rule, though having degraded in performance at this stage yet is able to

recognize the original pattern up to 30% distortion. Beyond this there is no recognition.

It was observed that the network performs sufficiently well with pseudo-inverse rule than with hebbian rule with regard to distorted patterns and with new patterns which are not at all recognized but the network in case of hebbian rule.

Further it has been observed that the network's efficiency starts deteriorating as the network gets saturated. As depicted in table 2, the performance of the network deteriorated with 80 patterns for hebb rule and 130 patterns for pseudo inverse rule. This result can be attributed to the reduction of the Hamming Distance between the stored patterns and the consequent reduction of the radius of the basin of attraction of each stable state. Hence only few patterns could settle into the stable states of their original patterns.

Conclusions

The Hopfield network designed to work with image patterns works variably with the learning rules utilized to train the network. The efficiency is invariably low when we work with the hebbian rule in terms of the maximum capacity and the recall efficiency with noisy and new patterns. But this capability can be sufficiently enhanced when the pseudo inverse rule with capabilities of hebbian rule is used to train the network. With this, the capacity suddenly increases to N and the recall efficiency is also remarkably improved for distorted patterns. New patterns are now recognized by the network up to a limited packing density which was totally absent with hebb rule.

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