Neural network approach to reduce dynamic measurement errors

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ABSTRACT
The neural network inverse model of a sensor with filtration of the sequentially recovered signal is considered. This model effectively reduces the dynamic measurement errors due to deep mathematical processing of measurement data. The result of the experimental data processing of a dynamic temperature measurement validates the efficiency of the proposed neural network approach to reduce dynamic measurement errors.

1. INTRODUCTION
The output of a measuring system may suffer from dynamic errors. An input signal recovery approach is presented that reduces these dynamic errors [1]. This problem is ill-posed and requires the numerical solution to the convolution integral equation [2], [3]. However, the analysis of measuring systems can be made in terms of the control theory [4], as well as of the theory of automatic control systems sensitivity [5], [6]. The automatic control theory approach effectively improves the dynamic measurement accuracy [7]-[9]. Along with it, the artificial neural network (ANN) approach to designing the dynamic models of measuring systems and algorithms for the data processing of dynamic measurements is a way of intelligent measuring systems development.

Recent publications reflect researchers’ interest in the matter of dynamic measurement error reduction. In [10] the double channel correction method is proposed. This method is developed for improving the dynamic properties of methane sensors on the basis of two measurement transducers. The method assumes that they are described by identical first-order models with different time constants. Reference [11] deals with the dynamic compensation of a sensor approach based on an ANN infinite impulse response filter. This filter represents the inverse model of the sensor that recovers the sensor input signal.

In the present paper the ANN inverse sensor model is also considered. However, this model is based on the ANN finite response filter that ensures stability of the inverse sensor model. Moreover, the proposed approach without reference to the order of the sensor model represents its inverse model as a special designed filter and a set of identical ANN sections that implement only the inverse model of the first-order system. Furthermore, the criterion of training sets formation and their length definition on the stage of the ANN model adjustment is proposed.

In Section 2 of the paper the ANN representation of the direct model of a sensor is discussed. On the basis of this representation in Section 3 the ANN inverse model of the sensor in three different representations is proposed. In Section 4 results of experimental data processing are given in order to validate the efficiency of the proposed approach. Finally, in the concluding section the major results are summarized.

2. NEURAL NETWORK DIRECT MODEL OF A SENSOR
Suppose a primary measuring transducer (sensor) is described by the transfer function (TF) as follows:
\[ W_j(p) = \frac{Y(p)}{U(p)} = \frac{\prod_{i=1}^{k} \left( T_{1i}^2 p^2 + 2 \xi_{1i} T_{1i} p + 1 \right) - \prod_{i=1}^{m} \left( T_{1i} p + 1 \right)}{\prod_{j=1}^{m} \left( T_{2j}^2 p^2 + 2 \xi_{2i} T_{2i} p + 1 \right) - \prod_{j=1}^{m} \left( T_{2j} p + 1 \right)} , \quad (1) \]

where \( U \) and \( Y \) are the sensor input and output signals, respectively; \( T_{1i} \) and \( T_{2i} \) are time constants; \( \xi_{1i} \) and \( \xi_{2i} \) are damping coefficients; \( i = 1, 2, ..., m, j = 1, 2, ..., n \) \((m \leq n)\); \( K_0 \) is the static gain; \( p \) is the complex number frequency.

The continuous TF(1) of the sensor can be represented in the following way:

\[ W_j(p) = \frac{Y(p)}{U(p)} = \frac{b_m p^n + b_{m-1} p^{n-1} + ... + b_0}{a_n p^n + a_{n-1} p^{n-1} + ... + a_1 p + a_0} , \quad (2) \]

where \( b_i = b_i \left( T_{1i}, \xi_{1i}, K_0 \right) \) for \( i = 1, 2, ..., m \) are coefficients depending on the parameters of (1) numerator and the static gain; \( a_j = a_j \left( T_{1j}, \xi_{1j} \right) \) for \( j = 1, 2, ..., n \) are coefficients depending on the parameters of (1) denominator.

The discrete analogue of the continuous TF(2) in general can be represented as follows:

\[ W_j(z) = \frac{Y(z)}{U(z)} = \frac{\beta_0 + \beta_1 z^{-1} + \beta_2 z^{-2} + ... + \beta_n z^{-n}}{1 - \alpha_1 z^{-1} - \alpha_2 z^{-2} - ... - \alpha_n z^{-n}} , \quad (3) \]

where \( U(z) \) and \( Y(z) \) are the \( z \)-transformation of the sensor input and output signals, respectively; \( \beta_i = \beta_i \left( a_{0i}, a_{1i}, ..., a_{ni-1} \right) \) for \( i = 0, 1, ..., n \) and \( \alpha_j = \alpha_j \left( b_{0i}, b_{1i}, ..., b_{ni-1} \right) \) for \( j = 1, 2, ..., n \) are coefficients depending on the parameters of (2) and the sampling period \( T \).

The difference equation corresponding to the discrete TF(3) of the sensor is as follows:

\[ y(k) - \sum_{i=1}^{n} \alpha_j \cdot y(k-i) = \sum_{j=0}^{n} \beta_j \cdot u(k-j) , \quad (4) \]

where \( u(k) \) and \( y(k) \) are samples of the sensor input and output signals, respectively, at discrete times \( t_k = k \cdot T \) for \( k = 0, 1, 2, ... \).

The relationship between the output and input of the discrete sensor model is described by the following recurrence equation derived from the previous one:

\[ y(k) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \alpha_j \cdot y(k-i) + \sum_{j=0}^{n} \beta_j \cdot u(k-j) , \quad (5) \]

The parameters of the discrete model (3) can be determined on the basis of the ANN direct sensor model shown in Figure 1. This model is the recurrent ANN [12] consisting of a single neuron with the linear activation function \( f_a \left( net \right) \) and the zero bias. The structure of this model is fully consistent with the recurrence equation (5).

The recurrence equation that determines the relationship between input and output of the ANN direct sensor model is as follows:

\[ y^*(k) = f_a \left( net \right) = net = \sum_{i=1}^{n} v_i \cdot y^*(k-i) + \sum_{j=0}^{n} w_j \cdot u(k-j) , \quad (6) \]

where \( u(k) \) and \( y^*(k) \) are samples of the sensor input signal and the output signal of the ANN direct sensor model, respectively, at discrete times \( t_k = k \cdot T \) for \( k = 0, 1, 2, ..., w_j \) for \( j = 0, 1, ..., n \) and \( v_i \) for \( i = 1, 2, ..., n \) are adjustable coefficients (weights) of the ANN direct sensor model.

By means of an appropriate procedure of the input and target training sets formation, that reflects the relationship between the input and output of the discrete sensor model (3), the weights of the ANN direct sensor model can be adjusted during the training process so that the samples of the ANN sensor model output will be equal to the respective samples of the continuous sensor model (1) output for a given level of the accuracy. The indicated possibility follows from the linearity and the conformity of the discrete and the ANN direct models of the sensor. Indeed, if \( y^*(k) = y(k) \) for \( k = 0, 1, 2, ... \), then from (5) and (6) the following equality can be obtained:

\[ \sum_{i=1}^{n} \alpha_j \cdot y(k-i) + \sum_{j=0}^{n} \beta_j \cdot u(k-j) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} v_i \cdot y^*(k-i) + \sum_{j=0}^{n} w_j \cdot u(k-j) \]

\[ = \sum_{i=1}^{n} v_i \cdot y^*(k-i) + \sum_{j=0}^{n} w_j \cdot u(k-j) . \quad (7) \]

Provided the sensor input is nonzero, the last equality becomes the identity only when \( \beta_j = w_j \) for \( j = 0, 1, ..., n \) and \( \alpha_i = v_i \) for \( i = 1, 2, ..., n \).

The functional block diagram of the ANN direct sensor model training is shown in Figure 2. The procedure of the ANN direct sensor model training (i.e. its weights adjustment) consists in minimization of the training error represented as the aggregate square deviation for all \( N+1 \) samples of the input training set \( b_n(k) \) between the target \( b_i^*(k) \) and actual \( b_i^*(k) \) outputs of the ANN direct sensor model:
The approach to the ANN direct sensor model creation discussed in the previous section can be used for the solution to the problem of the sensor (1) dynamic measurement error reduction. Then, this problem is formulated as the problem of the dynamically distorted sensor input signal recovery on the basis of the respective samples of its output signal.

Considering the indicated formulation it is necessary on the basis of the ANN direct sensor model and the functional block diagram of its training to create the ANN inverse sensor model and, similarly, the functional block diagram of its training. This diagram of its training to create the ANN inverse sensor model is shown in Figure 3. This model is the recurrent ANN consisting of a single neuron with the linear activation function and zero bias. The structure of this model is fully consistent with the recurrence equation (11).

The recurrence equation that determines the relationship between the input and output of the inverse discrete sensor model is as the following recurrence equation derived from the previous one:

\[
W_{j}^{-1} (z) = \left( \frac{Y(z)}{U(z)} \right)^{-1} = \frac{U(z)}{Y(z)} = \left( \frac{\beta_0 + \beta_1 \cdot z^{-1} + \beta_2 \cdot z^{-2} + \ldots + \beta_s \cdot z^{-s}}{1 - \alpha_1 \cdot z^{-1} - \alpha_2 \cdot z^{-2} - \ldots - \alpha_s \cdot z^{-s}} \right)^{-1} = \frac{1 - \alpha_1 \cdot z^{-1} - \alpha_2 \cdot z^{-2} - \ldots - \alpha_s \cdot z^{-s}}{\beta_0 + \beta_1 \cdot z^{-1} + \beta_2 \cdot z^{-2} + \ldots + \beta_s \cdot z^{-s}} = \frac{1}{\beta_0} \frac{\beta_1 \cdot z^{-1} + \beta_2 \cdot z^{-2} + \ldots + \beta_s \cdot z^{-s}}{1 - \alpha_1 \cdot z^{-1} - \alpha_2 \cdot z^{-2} - \ldots - \alpha_s \cdot z^{-s}} = \frac{1}{\beta_0} + \frac{\beta_1}{\beta_0} \cdot \frac{1}{1 - \lambda_1 \cdot z^{-1} - \lambda_2 \cdot z^{-2} - \ldots - \lambda_s \cdot z^{-s}}
\]

where \( \mu_0 = -\frac{1}{\beta_0}, \mu_i = -\frac{\alpha_i}{\beta_0}, \lambda_i = -\frac{\beta_i}{\beta_0} \) for \( i = 1, 2, \ldots, n \).

The difference error equation corresponding to the inverse discrete TF(9) of the sensor is as follows:

\[
\sum_{i=1}^{s} \lambda_i \cdot u(k-i) = \sum_{j=0}^{s} \mu_j \cdot y(k-j),
\]

(10)

where \( u(k) \) and \( y(k) \) are samples of the sensor input and output signals, respectively, at discrete times \( t_k = k \cdot T \) for \( k = 0, 1, 2, \ldots \).

The relationship between the input and output of the inverse discrete sensor model is as the following recurrence equation derived from the previous one:

\[
u(k) = \sum_{i=1}^{s} \lambda_i \cdot u(k-i) + \sum_{j=0}^{s} \mu_j \cdot y(k-j).
\]

(11)

The structure of (11) for the inverse discrete sensor model is the same as the structure of (5) for the direct discrete sensor model. Therefore the structure of the ANN inverse sensor model will also be the same as the structure of the ANN direct sensor model.

The block diagram of the ANN inverse sensor model is shown in Figure 3. This model is the recurrent ANN consisting of a single neuron with the linear activation function \( f_a (\text{net}) \) and zero bias. The structure of this model is fully consistent with the recurrence equation (11).

The recurrence equation that determines the relationship between the input and output of the ANN inverse sensor model is as follows:

\[
u^*(k) = f_a (\text{net}) = \text{net} = \sum_{i=1}^{s} v_i \cdot u^*(k-i) + \sum_{j=0}^{s} w_j \cdot y(k-j),
\]

(12)

where \( y(k) \) and \( u^*(k) \) are samples of the sensor output signal and the output signal of the ANN inverse sensor model, respectively, at discrete times \( t_k = k \cdot T \) for \( k = 0, 1, 2, \ldots \). \( w_j \) for \( j = 0, 1, \ldots, n \) and \( v_i \) for \( i = 1, 2, \ldots, n \) are weights of the ANN inverse sensor model.

The criterion for the ANN inverse sensor model training as in the case of the ANN direct sensor model training is the minimum of the training error represented as the standard deviation between the target and actual outputs of the ANN inverse sensor model.
Obviously, both in the criterion and in the functional block diagram of the ANN inverse sensor model training it is necessary to swap the input and target training sets towards the criterion and the functional block diagram of the ANN direct sensor model training. This is the implementation of the inverse learning approach [13], applied to designing the dynamic control systems, in designing the dynamic measuring systems.

### 3.2. Cascade representation

In order to avoid possible problems with the stability of the inverse model discussed, the cascade representation of the ANN inverse sensor model in the form of first- and second-order sections is proposed. This approach is based on the representation of the direct sensor model (1) in the following form of second-order and first-order cascades with real coefficients:

\[
W_{i2}(p) = \prod_{j=1}^{r} W_{2j}(p) \prod_{j=1}^{s} W_{1j}(p),
\]

where the discrete TF of the second-order cascade in general is as follows

\[
W_{2j}(\xi) = \frac{\beta_{0j} + \beta_{1j} \cdot \xi^{-1} + \beta_{2j} \cdot \xi^{-2}}{1 - \alpha_{1j} \cdot \xi^{-1} - \alpha_{2j} \cdot \xi^{-2}},
\]

and the discrete TF of the first-order cascade in general is as follows:

\[
W_{1j}(\xi) = \frac{\beta_{0j} + \beta_{1j} \cdot \xi^{-1}}{1 - \alpha_{1j} \cdot \xi^{-1}}.
\]

Inverse TFs of cascades \(W_{2j}(p)\) and \(W_{1j}(p)\) derived analogically to (9) are as follows:

\[
W_{i2}^{-1}(\xi) = \frac{\mu_{0j} + \mu_{1j} \cdot \xi^{-1}}{1 - \lambda_{1j} \cdot \xi^{-1} - \lambda_{2j} \cdot \xi^{-2}},
\]

\[
W_{i1}^{-1}(\xi) = \frac{\mu_{0j} + \mu_{1j} \cdot \xi^{-1}}{1 - \lambda_{1j} \cdot \xi^{-1}}.
\]

The functional block diagram of the ANN inverse model of the sensor in the cascade representation is shown in Figure 4 (where \(C_{2[i]}\) are sections implementing the inverse model (16) of second-order cascades \(W_{2j}(p)\) for \(j = 1, 2, ..., r\) and \(C_{1[j]}\) are sections implementing the inverse model (17) of first-order cascades \(W_{1i}(p)\) for \(i = 1, 2, ..., s\)).

Thus, the structure of the cascade ANN inverse model of the sensor corresponds to the structure of the sensor in the cascade representation. Therefore, each section is the ANN inverse sensor model of the respective cascade in the structure of the sensor represented by (13).

The block diagram of the ANN second-order section \(C_{2[i]}\) is shown in Figure 5 and the block diagram of the ANN first-order section \(C_{1[j]}\) is shown in Figure 6.

### 3.3. Sequential representation

The recovery of the input signal of the sensor (1) is implemented by its measured output signal processing on the basis of the ANN inverse sensor model. This model is represented as the sequential connection of the correcting filter and identical first-order sections [14]. Every such section is the ANN inverse model of a first-order LTI system with the following TF:

\[
W_{i1}(p) = \frac{1}{\beta T_{1} + 1}.
\]

The value of the time constant \(T_{1}\) in (18) is set equal to such a value among the time constants \(T_{1j}\) in (1), that provides the proximity of the step responses of systems represented by (1) and (18). The TF \(W_{q}(p)\) of the correcting filter is the inverse TF of the sensor, which is supplemented with a certain number \(q = n - m\) of TFs (18) to ensure the stability of the inverse model. The TF \(W_{q}(p)\) of the correcting filter is as follows:
The functional block diagram of the ANN inverse sensor model in the sequential representation is shown in Figure 7, where the first-order section \( C_1[T_1] \) is the ANN inverse model of the first-order LTI system described by (18).

Figure 7. Functional block diagram of the ANN inverse model of the sensor in the sequential representation.

The inverse model of the system (20) is described by the following TF:

\[
W^{-1}_1(z) = \frac{\beta_0}{1 - \alpha_1 \cdot z^{-1}} = \frac{1}{\beta_0} - \frac{\alpha_1}{\beta_0} \cdot z^{-1} = \mu_0 + \mu_1 \cdot z^{-1}
\]

where \( \mu_0 = \frac{1}{\beta_0} \) and \( \mu_1 = \frac{-\alpha_1}{\beta_0} \).

Figure 8. Block diagram of the ANN section \( C_1[T_1] \).

The block diagram of the ANN section \( C_1[T_1] \) that implements the inverse model (21) is shown in Figure 8, where \( w_0 \) and \( w_1 \) are weights of the ANN section \( C_1[T_1] \).

It should be noted that the structure above represents an ANN finite impulse response filter. The basic advantage of this structure is its guaranteed stability. Therefore, it ensures stability of the ANN inverse model of the sensor as a whole and provides stable the sensor input signal recovery.

### 3.4. Noise cancellation approach

In practice, the recovery of the dynamically distorted input signal of the sensor on the basis of its ANN inverse model is accompanied by the significant increase of the additive noise at the sensor output, as well as the internal noise of the ANN inverse sensor model.

For the correct recovery of the input signal of the sensor it is expedient to extend the ANN inverse sensor model, taking into account the presence of the additive noise at the sensor output. This extension can be implemented as the additional low-pass filtration of the recovered signal by means of an increase of the order of the sequential sections \( C_1[T_1] \) in the structure of the ANN inverse sensor model.

The block diagram of the ANN \( d \)-order section \( C_1[T_1] \) with the filtration of the recovered signal is shown in Figure 9.

The discrete TF of the section \( C_1[T_1] \) is as follows:

\[
W_1(z) = W^{-1}_1(z) = \frac{\beta_0}{1 - \alpha_1 \cdot z^{-1}}.
\]

Figure 9. Block diagram of the ANN section \( C_1[T_1] \).
\[
d_{d} \cdot z_{w} \cdot z_{w} \cdot z_{w} \cdot w_{d} \cdot \ldots \cdot w_{1} \cdot z_{w} \cdot z_{w} \cdot z_{w} \cdot z_{w} \cdot w_{d} = 10 \cdot (22)
\]

where \( w_{0}, w_{1}, w_{2}, \ldots, w_{d} \) are the weights of the section.

The cancellation of additive noise amplified during the sensor input signal recovery is implemented due to the presence of the internal filter in the structure of the ANN section \( C_{d}[T_{1}] \). The discrete TF of the internal filter in the structure of the ANN section \( C_{d}[T_{1}] \) is described by the following equation:

\[
W_{d}(z) = W_{d}(z) \cdot W_{1}(z), \quad (23)
\]

where \( W_{j}(z) \) is the discrete analogue (20) of (18).

It should be noted again that the structure of the section \( C_{d}[T_{1}] \) and hence its internal filter \( W_{d}(z) \) represents an ANN finite impulse response filter. Therefore, it ensures stability of the ANN inverse model of the sensor as a whole and simultaneously provides stable sensor input signal recovery and filtration.

### 3.5. Training procedure and training sets composition

The block diagram of the ANN section \( C_{d}[T_{1}] \) training is shown in Figure 10. The procedure of the ANN section training (i.e. its weights \( w_{0}, w_{1}, w_{2}, \ldots, w_{d} \) adjustment) consists in the minimization of the training error represented as the aggregate standard deviation for all \( N+1 \) samples of the input training set \( b_{d}(k) \) between the target \( b_{d}(k) \) and actual \( b_{d}^{*}(k) \) outputs of the ANN section \( C_{d}[T_{1}] \):

\[
E = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=0}^{N} \left( b_{d}(k) - b_{d}^{*}(k) \right)^{2}, \quad (24)
\]

A criterion for the training sets composition is proposed. This criterion allows to evaluate the training sets length \( N+1 \).

In order to implement the filtration ability the sinusoidal smoothening of the ANN section \( C_{d}[T_{1}] \) step response was applied. The filter (23) bandwidth regulation is achieved by the section order \( d \) adjusting.

On this basis, the samples of the target training set are composed according to the following equation (where \( T \) is the sampling period and \( k = 0, 1, \ldots, N \)):

\[
b_{d}(k) = \begin{cases} 
1 + \sin \left( \frac{\pi}{2} \cdot T \cdot \left( k - \frac{d}{2} \right) \right), & 0 \leq k \leq d \\
2, & d < k \leq N 
\end{cases}, \quad (25)
\]

Then, the input training set should be composed from the step response samples of (18) as follows:

\[
b_{d}(k) = 1 - \exp(-t_{k} / T_{1}) = 1 - \exp(-k \cdot T / T_{1}), \quad (26)
\]

where \( t_{k} = k \cdot T \) are discrete times for \( k = 0, 1, \ldots, N \).

Suppose, provided \( \varepsilon << 1 \), starting with time \( T_{k} = N \cdot T \) all the successive samples of the TF(18) step response lie within the following range:

\[
\Delta_{b} = (1 \pm \varepsilon). \quad (27)
\]

Then, the training sets can be composed in accordance with (25) and (26).

The sensor step response as the source signal for the input training set composition underlies the definition of the required length of training sets \( b_{d}(k) \) and \( b_{d}^{*}(k) \).

This consequence follows from the analysis of (24) for the ANN section \( C_{d}[T_{1}] \) training in terms of the problem considered.

The limiting value of the training error, where the length of the training sets approaches infinity, is as follows:
The considered ANN inverse model of a sensor with filtration of sequentially recovered signal effectively improves the sensor dynamic behaviour due to deep mathematical processing of measurement data. A criterion for the training sets composition for the ANN inverse model adjustment is proposed. This criterion helps to evaluate the length of training sets on the basis of the required training error.

The future work direction is to develop the dynamic measurement error estimator on the basis of the ANN approach. It is expected that the additional information obtained from the error estimator will optimize the adjustment procedure of the ANN inverse model.

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