Expecting confirmed and death cases of covid-19 in Iraq by utilizing backpropagation neural network

Moatasem Yaseen Al-Ridha1, Ammar Sameer Anaz2, Raid Rafi Omar Al-Nima3
1,3Technical Engineering College, Northern Technical University, Mosul, Iraq
2Basic Education College, University of Mosul, Mosul, Iraq

ABSTRACT

The world is currently facing a strong epidemic and pandemic of coronavirus. This motivates establishing our paper, where this virus pushes researchers to study, investigate, observe, analyse and try solving its related issues. In this work, an artificial neural network (ANN) model of backpropagation neural network (BNN) with two hidden layers is proposed for expecting confirmed cases and death cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (covid-19). As a field of study, Iraq country has been considered in this paper. Covid-19 dataset from our world in data (OWID) is used here. Promising result is achieved where a very small error value of 0.0035 is reported in overall the evaluations. This paper may implicate establishing further researches that consider other parameters and other countries over the world. It is worth mentioning that the suggested ANN model may help decision maker people in taking quarantine movements against the strong epidemic and pandemic of covid-19.

Keywords: Backpropagation neural network, Covid-19, Prediction

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Corresponding Author:
Moatasem Yaseen Al-Ridha
Technical Engineering College
Northern Technical University, Mosul, Iraq
Email: Moatasem@ntu.edu.iq

1. INTRODUCTION

The world is currently challenging an epidemic of an unusual virus called covid-19. Organizations have become more pressing than ever as humanity need a streamline patient analysis. In literature, prediction of covid-19 was studied in several papers as in [1]-[5]. Ganavi et al. proposed a global systematic literature review to summarize trends in the modeling techniques used for covid-19 from the 1st of January 2020 to the 30th of June 2020. The authors examined many models of predictions such as confidence interval (CI) or credibility interval (CrI), the reliability and correctness of comparing values should be used with cautious [6]. M. Castro, S. Ares, J. A. Cuesta, and S. Manrubia suggested a study that advises against accurate forecasts of the evolution of epidemics that found in phenomenological models, mean-field or effective. Only probabilities of different outcomes can confidently be given [7]. Matta and Saraf offered a set of recognizing algorithms such as support vector machines (SVM), random forests (RF), artificial neural network (ANN) for prediction. RF got better performance among them [8]. W. C. Roda, M. B. Varughese, D. Han, and M. Y. Li proposed that the key reason for wide differences in predictions model caused by the non-identifiability in model calibrations using the confirmed-case data [9]. Calistus N. Ngonghala, Enahoro Iboi, Steffen Eikenberry, et al., discussed the Non-pharmaceutical interventions strategies to control and reduce the effect of the mitigating the burden of the pandemic. The mathematical model depends on the deterministic system of nonlinear differential equations for assessing the population-level impact of controlling [10]. S. Boccaletti, W. Ditto, G. Mindlin, and A. Atangana presented a study of forecasting and modeling epidemics. Pandemics are considered here as covid-19 [11]. P. Melin, J. C. Monica, D. Sanchez, and O. Castillo suggested a model
of multiple ensemble neural network with fuzzy response aggregation for the covid-19. Ensemble neural networks were composed of a set of modules, which are used to produce several predictions under different conditions to improve the final prediction by combining the outputs of the modules in an intelligent way. Fuzzy logic handled the uncertainty in the process of making the final prediction decision [12]. Sun and Wang offered a model that matched the epidemic data in heilongjiang province. It was found that continuously strict measures indeed impede the covid-19 spreading [13]. Castillo and Melin adopted a hybrid intelligent approach, which is composed of the fractal dimension definition and fuzzy logic concepts for achieving a classification accurate for countries based on the complexity of covid-19 time series data. Moreover, the results show that a classification accuracy could be further enhanced by the hybrid intelligent approach [14]. Castillo and Melin described a hybrid intelligent method for forecasting covid-19 time series by combining fractal theory and fuzzy logic. Provided results can help decision makers to deal with the pandemic [15].

The aim, contribution and originality of this work is presenting an intelligent neural network of BNN to expect the confirmed and death cases of a serious pandemic (the covid-19) in one of middle east countries (Iraq). This can be performed by providing inputs of dates (as employed months and days) and outputs of expected cases (as numbers of confirmed and death cases). The remaining sections after the introduction are distributed as follows: section 2 explains the employed BNN, section 3 discusses the results and section 4 yields the conclusion of this paper.

2. PROPOSED BNN

In this paper, the general architecture of the proposed BNN for confirmed and death cases of covid-19 in Iraq is given in Figure 1.

![Figure 1. The general architecture of the proposed BNN](image)

2.1. Training algorithm

The training algorithm of the BNN that consists of two hidden layers can be described as [16]. Feedforward stage:

\[
\begin{align*}
  z_{\cdot i n_h} &= u_{0h} + \sum_{i=1}^{n} X_i u_{ih} \\
  Z_h &= f(z_{\cdot i n_h}) \\
  zz_{\cdot i n_j} &= v_{0j} + \sum_{h=1}^{q} Z_h v_{hj} \\
  ZZ_j &= f(zz_{\cdot i n_j}) \\
  y_{\cdot i n_k} &= w_{0k} + \sum_{j=1}^{p} ZZ_j w_{jk} \\
  Y_k &= f(y_{\cdot i n_k})
\end{align*}
\]

where \( z_{\cdot i n_h} \) is the inputs of the first hidden layer \((h=1,...,q)\), \( u_{0h} \) is the connection weights between the first bias \( B_1 \) and first hidden layer, \( X_i \) is the inputs \((i=1,...,n)\), \( u_{ih} \) is the connection weights between the input and first hidden layer, \( Z_h \) is the transfer function outputs of the first hidden layer, \( zz_{\cdot i n_j} \) is the inputs of the second hidden layer \((h=1,...,q)\), \( v_{0j} \) is the connection weights between the second bias \( B_2 \) and second hidden layer, \( v_{hj} \)
is the connection weights between the first hidden and second hidden layers, $ZZ_j$ is the transfer function outputs of the second hidden layer, $y_{in}$ is the inputs of the output layer ($k=1, ..., m$), $w_{0k}$ is the connection weights between the third bias $B_3$ and output layer, $w_{jk}$ is the connection weights between the second hidden and output layers, and $Y_k$ is the transfer function of the output layer. All the weights here are initialized as small random numbers.

Backpropagation of error stage:

$$\delta_k = (T_k - Y_k) f'(y_{in} n_k) \quad (7)$$

$$\Delta w_{jk} = \alpha \delta_k ZZ_j \quad (8)$$

$$\Delta w_{0k} = \alpha \delta_k \quad (9)$$

$$\delta_{-i} n_j = \sum_{k=1}^m \delta_k w_{jk} \quad (10)$$

$$\delta_j = \delta_{-i} n_j f'(zz_{-i} n_j) \quad (11)$$

$$\Delta v_{nj} = \alpha \delta_j Z_n \quad (12)$$

$$\Delta v_{0j} = \alpha \delta_j \quad (13)$$

$$\delta_{-i} n_h = \sum_{j=1}^q \delta v_{hj} \quad (14)$$

$$\delta_h = \delta_{-i} n_h f'(z_{-i} n_h) \quad (15)$$

$$\Delta u_{ih} = \alpha \delta_h X_i \quad (16)$$

$$\Delta v_{0j} = \alpha \delta_j \quad (17)$$

where $\delta_k$ is the output error in the output layer, $T_k$ is the provided targets, $f'(y_{in} n_k)$ is the derivative function of $f(y_{in} n_k)$, $\Delta$ is the updating computations, $\alpha$ is the learning rate, $\delta_{-in}$ is the input error in the second hidden layer, $\delta_i$ is the second error in the second hidden layer, $f'(zz_{-i} n_j)$ is the derivative function of $f(zz_{-i} n_j)$, $\delta_{-in}$ is the input error in the first hidden layer, $\delta_h$ is the first error in the first hidden layer and $f'(z_{-i} n_h)$ is the derivative function of $f(z_{-i} n_h)$. Update biases and weights stage:

$$w_{jk}(\text{new}) = w_{jk}(\text{old}) + \Delta w_{jk} \quad (18)$$

$$w_{0k}(\text{new}) = w_{0k}(\text{old}) + \Delta w_{0k} \quad (19)$$

$$v_{hj}(\text{new}) = v_{hj}(\text{old}) + \Delta v_{hj} \quad (20)$$

$$v_{0j}(\text{new}) = v_{0j}(\text{old}) + \Delta v_{0j} \quad (21)$$

$$u_{ih}(\text{new}) = u_{ih}(\text{old}) + \Delta u_{ih} \quad (22)$$

$$u_{0h}(\text{new}) = u_{0h}(\text{old}) + \Delta u_{0h} \quad (23)$$

2.2. Testing algorithm

The testing algorithm of the BNN that consists of two hidden layers can be illustrated as [16].

$$z_{-i} n_h = u_{0h} + \sum_{i=1}^n X_i u_{ih} \quad (24)$$

$$Z_h = f(z_{-i} n_h) \quad (25)$$

$$zz_{-i} n_j = v_{0j} + \sum_{h=1}^q Z_h v_{hj} \quad (26)$$

$$ZZ_j = f(zz_{-i} n_j) \quad (27)$$
where the weights here are initialized by the obtained values from the training algorithm.

2.3. Proposed BNN specifications

The specifications of the proposed BNN are as follows: the inputs are for the date of month \((X_1)\) and day \((X_2)\), the outputs are for the expected confirmed cases \((Y_1)\) and death cases \((Y_2)\), two hidden layers \((q=p=2)\), the activation function for the first and second hidden layers is bipolar sigmoid, the activation function for the output layer is pure linear, and the testing error type between the outputs and targets is the mean squared error (MSE). It is worth mentioning that in order to avoid the overloading in the BNN, the inputs and outputs are normalized by reducing their values.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

First of all, this type of epidemic does require a comprehensive dataset in order to establish a useful study. In this paper, the used covid-19 dataset is taken from the our world in data (OWID) [17]. The original dataset has various records from all over the world such as information for date, total cases, new cases, new cases smoothed, total deaths, new deaths, new deaths smoothed, total cases per million, new cases per million, new cases smoothed per million, total deaths per million, new deaths per million, new deaths smoothed per million, new tests, total tests, total tests per thousand, new tests per thousand, new tests smoothed, new tests smoothed per thousand, tests per case and positive rate.

In this work, we have focused on the information that belong to the country of Iraq for the period of 1\(^{st}\) January 2020 to 13\(^{th}\) October 2020. As mentioned, only the data of months, days, new or confirmed cases, and new or confirmed deaths. BNN training data has been selected from the odd orders and testing data has been determined from the even orders.

Figure 2 demonstrates the relationship between the targets and outputs. It can be seen from this figure that the attained outputs are so close from the targets. Obviously, the regression \((R)\) factor is here equal to approximately 0.95 and this is a further evidence about how the training is succeeded as the optimal \(R\) value is equal to 1. It can be observed from Figure 3 that the training curve is successfully reduced from a big error value to a very small error value of 0.0035 in 13 epochs. This curve represents the relationship between the number of epochs and MSE. It can be considered that the training is succeeded in reaching the desired goal.

Figure 2. Regression outcomes between the targets and outputs of the suggested BNN

Figure 3. Training progress for the proposed BNN

Figure 4 depicts three shapes for the BNN model along the training epochs. Firstly, the gradient curve which is for the computed direction and magnitude that is utilized to adjust the weights by the right amount and in the right direction as explained in [16]. It is reasonably decreased to a very small error value of 0.05. Secondly, the mu curve which is a training algorithm control parameter as illustrated in [18]. It is also successfully reduced to a very small value of 0.00005.

In the BNN evaluations, such interesting and promising results were achieved. That is, for expecting the covid-19 values of confirmed cases and death cases in Iraq, a very small error of 0.0035 is benchmarked.
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**BIOGRAPHIES OF AUTHORS**

**Moatasem Yaseen Al-Ridha** received the BSc degrees in Technical Computer Engineering in 2006. In 2013, he accomplished his master’s degree in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Southern Illinois University - USA. His research interests are in the fields of Image processing, signal processing, pattern recognition, security, and artificial intelligence.

**Ammar Sameer Anaz** received the BSc and MSc degrees in Technical Computer Engineering in 2006 and 2018, respectively. During 2018, he worked as an Assistant Lecturer in the Basic Education College in University of Mosul, Iraq. His research interests are in the fields of real time applications, artificial intelligence and image processing.

**Raid Rafi Omar Al-Nima** received the BSc and MSc degrees in Technical Computer Engineering in 2000 and 2006, respectively. During 2006, he worked as an Assistant Lecturer in the Technical College of Mosul, Iraq. In 2011, he obtained the Lecturer scientific title in the same college. In 2017, he accomplished his PhD in the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering at Newcastle University, UK. In 2020, he achieved the title of Assistant Professor in the Northern Technical University. His research interests are in the fields of pattern recognition, security, artificial intelligence and image processing.

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