### The Role of Artificial Neural Networks in Understanding Complex Systems Behavior

#### Gary R. Weckman

Ohio University Palm Island Enviro-Informatics & Business Solutions, LLC

#### **David F. Millie**

Palm Island Enviro-Informatics & Business Solutions, LLC Loyola University, New Orleans

#### Andrew P. Snow

Ohio University School of Information and Telecommunication Systems

## What are complex systems?

- "A system comprised of a (usually large) number of (usually strongly) interacting entities, processes, or agents, the understanding of which requires the development, or the use of, new scientific tools, nonlinear models, out-of equilibrium descriptions and computer simulations." [Advances in Complex Systems Journal]
  - "A system that can be analyzed into many components having relatively many relations among them, so that the behavior of each component depends on the behavior of others. [Herbert Simon]"
  - "A system that involves numerous interacting agents whose aggregate behaviors are to be understood. Such aggregate activity is nonlinear, hence it cannot simply be derived from summation of individual components behavior." [Jerome Singer]

## **Our Research:** Complex Systems















Easily manage your...

## Artificial Neural Networks

Machine-learning algorithms that identify data patterns and perform decision making in a manner imitating cognitive functionality

### **\*** '*Learning*' (analogous to problem solving) is:

- ✓ adaptive knowledge is altered, updated, & stored (via weights)
- ✓ iterative examples to generalizations
- *Universal approximators*' can discover & reproduce any (*linear / non-linear*) trend given enough data & computational (processing) capability
  - ✓ No expert knowledge required
  - ✓ Few (if any)'formal' assumptions i.e. Gaussian requirements, etc.

Disadvantage - (superficially ? ?) lack a declarative knowledge structure

✓ a '*Black Box*' (i.e. no global equation)

## **Biological Analogy**

Inputs

- Brain Neuron
- Artificial neuron

Set of processing

with adjustable

strengths

elements (PEs) and

connections (weights)

- Synapse Axon Dendrites **w**<sub>1</sub>  $W_2$ f(net) Wn **X1 X2** Input Output **X3** Layer Layer **X4 X5** 
  - den Laver

## Modeling Approach

Early Days: Interested in "Model Accuracy"



## Modeling Approach



## Early Project: Stock Market Model

# Accuracy of predicting market turns – not necessarily why



## **'Paradigms' of Scientific Discovery \***

### \* Empirical - describing natural phenomena

- **initiated, a thousand years ago**
- Theoretical models, 'laws' & generalizations
   initiated, the last few hundred years

Computational - simulating complex phenomena
 initiated, the last few decades







## ANN: BLACK BOX



#### **KNOWLEDGE EXTRACTION defined:**

is the creation of knowledge from structured (relational databases, XML) and unstructured (text, documents, images) sources [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/]

### Is there a way illuminate the black box?



## **Environmental Modeling & Knowledge Extraction**



#### **1st ATTEMPT:**

- Included all attributes collected
- Sensitivity about the means
- Found many limitations to current method

How are we to explain a more complex situation?





#### Variable Behavior





### **Predicting Saginaw Bay Chl a (1991-1996)** MLP - 1 Hidden Layer of 4 Processing Elements

## Hydrological Predictors: °C, Sechhi, K<sub>d</sub>, Cl, NO<sub>3</sub>, NH<sub>4</sub>, SRP, TP, SiO<sub>2</sub>, PSiO<sub>2</sub>, DOC, POC



Measured Chlorophyll *a* (µg L<sup>-1</sup>)

## **Existing Knowledge Extraction Tools**

### **Neural Interpretation Diagram**

- Decomposition method to visual
  - Determine significance of input variables
  - Based on the magnitude of interconnecting weights

### **Connected Weights**

- Decomposition method that uses weights of an ANN to determine:
  - Input Significance to model
  - Nodes Significance to ANN
- Procedure
  - Calculate "connected weights" for all possible paths of the network

Network Interpretive Diagram\* (of a trained network)



Single Parameter Sensitivity Analysis (± 1 SD)



#### *Garson's Algorithm* **Relative Share of Prediction**



## **Developed More Complex Networks**

#### Saginaw Bay CHL a (2008-2010) - Hydrological & Meteorological Predictors



### **Developed New Approaches to Observe Interactions**

#### Multi-Variable Sensitivity Analysis (circa 2006 !)



## **Decision Trees**



- Symbolic Knowledge Extraction Technique
- Most commonly used decision tree induction algorithm – C4.5 (Quinlan)
- Recursive partitioning of the data
- Drawback: Amount of data
   reaching each node decreases
   with the depth of the tree
  - Alternative: TREPAN

### **TREPAN+** Methodologies



20

## Simulation Based Neural Network Modeling

#### Investigate training a NN network with results from wireless simulation











## Knowledge Extraction for Wi-Fi

 $\bullet$ 

•

Sensitivity



## **Needed More Understanding: Variable Interactions**

Multiple Variable Interactions while looking at various states!

Our drive to Mechanistic Model: Grey Box => WHITE BOX



**Different Project:** Crude Oil Impact

- Used New Set of Tools:
  - >Limitations to Sensitivity:
    - 2 ANNs were created for "high" and "low" %Crude Oils
    - Sensitive results were very different



### **Revised Look:** Saginaw Bay 2008 - 2010





#### Introduced New Visualizations: Multi-variable Impact on Chlorophyll a

**CHL as a function of TP & TEMP** Modeled Chlorophyll a ( $\Box g \ L^{-1}$ ) 125 100 0 μg Chl a L<sup>-1</sup> 25 75 50 75 50 100 125 25 12 Temperature (C) 0 230<sub>184</sub> 138 92 Total Phosphorus 0<sup>12</sup>

**CHL**  $a^{0.5} = 1.98 + (0.03*TP)$ adj r<sup>2</sup> = 0.99, Fit SE = 0.41, Fstat = 29857.36

 $\ln \text{CHL } a = 2.23 + (0.002 * \text{TEMP}^2)$ 

adj  $r^2 = 0.99$ , Fit SE = 1.03, Fstat = 6323.88

CHL  $a = -862.16 + (473.88*WndSpd_{Ave-3}) - (103.65*WndSpd_{Ave-3}^2) + (12.14*WndSpd_{Ave-3}^3) - (0.82*WndSpd_{Ave-3}^4) + (0.03*WndSpd_{Ave-3}^5) - (0.001*WndSpd_{Ave-3}^6) + (5.80e-6*WndSpd_{Ave-3}^7)$ adj r<sup>2</sup> = 0.99, Fit SE = 0.13, Fstat = 13,127.67



### **Delineating TP Thresholds for Saginaw Bay CHL a (2008-2010)** (Taking Into Account the Interactions and/or Synergisms of Co-Limiting Nutrients)





#### CHL a as a function of TP & NH<sub>4</sub>-N CHL a (µg L<sup>-1</sup>) CHL a (µg L<sup>-1</sup>) <sup>24</sup> <sup>18</sup> <sup>15</sup> <sup>6</sup> 18 they w NH4-N (µg L-1)



## **Development of Grey Box Technique**

 $[CHL a] = w_1 \cdot f(x_1, y_1) + r_1, \ r_1 = w_2 \cdot f(x_2, y_2) + r_2,$  $r_2 = w_3 \cdot f(x_3, y_3) + r_3, \text{ and } r_{n-1} = w_n \cdot f(x_n, y_n) + r_n$  Generalized Equation for 2 variable interaction with output (CHL a)



## Iterations : ANNs Models

$$[CHL a]_{Grey-Box} = [CHL a]_{1st iteration} + [CHL a]_{2nd iteration...} + [CHL a]_{nth iteration} + r_n$$

Multiple ANN models utilizing 2 variables at a time to predict Output

#### **Iterations: Additive Models**



#### **Finalized Combined Model**





30

## **Global Sensitivity**

- Sensitivity about Means
  - Local Sensitivity
  - Does not consider variable interactions as states change
- Developed Global Sensitivity

   Looks at how variables interact as their states change!

## **Global Sensitivity**



Each Variable has its own distribution of values (States)

Impact of Correlation on State Behavior

| PON     | Secchi | TSS   | TP    | TDP   | SRP   | NH4   | NO3   | CL    | Sol_Si | POC   | DOC   |
|---------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|
| -1.25 σ | 1.57   | -0.70 | -0.98 | -0.48 | -0.25 | 0.02  | -0.02 | -0.57 | -0.16  | -1.16 | -0.80 |
| -0.75 σ | 0.53   | -0.67 | -0.59 | -0.04 | -0.14 | 0.09  | 0.41  | -0.02 | -0.40  | -0.79 | 0.04  |
| -0.25 σ | -0.17  | -0.08 | -0.16 | -0.11 | -0.09 | -0.09 | -0.04 | -0.14 | -0.09  | -0.26 | -0.14 |
| 0.25 σ  | -0.40  | -0.02 | 0.14  | 0.13  | 0.04  | -0.26 | -0.24 | -0.16 | 0.39   | 0.35  | -0.06 |
| 0.75 σ  | -0.68  | 0.50  | 0.31  | -0.37 | -0.06 | -0.49 | -0.35 | -0.06 | 0.20   | 0.87  | 0.15  |
| 1.25 σ  | -0.75  | 0.64  | 1.58  | 0.97  | 0.72  | -0.08 | -0.64 | 0.89  | 0.31   | 1.42  | 0.42  |

## **Global Variation Across States**



## Global (State Based) versus Local (Means) Sensitivity



#### Lake Erie *Microcystis* (Continuous MLP); Hydrological & Meteorological HLs: 32-15-14-10-1, TanH/Mom



## Data Issues



### Big: Random reduction

- Little: Synthetic (SMOTE)
- Imbalance Data
- 0's

#### Cology & 'Big' Data:

**Not all 'Big Data' created equally:** 

volume, variety, velocity, volatility, veracity

- No longer '... your daddy's database ...'
- Big' Data = 'Big' Information = 'Big' Value Does 'Big' Data ensure 'Big' Science



## Imbalanced Datasets

- Definition: under or over representation of a class in a dataset is considered as an imbalance in a dataset.
- Ill-balanced, unbalanced, uneven



#### **Balanced Dataset**

**Imbalanced Dataset** 

## Graphic showing change under/over Sampling



Under Sampling

Over Sampling

## SMOTE's Informed Oversampling Procedure

Smote: Synthetic Minority Oversampling Technique



#### Lake Erie (2009-2011) Chlorophyll a & Microcystis Distributions

World Health Organization Guidance Values for Acute Health Effects of Cyanobacteria-Dominated Waters \*



\* after Chorus & Bartram 1999

#### Lake Erie *Microcystis* (Presence-Absence MLP); Hydrological & Meteorological HLs: 29-15-10-5-1

| Training &<br>Cross Validation<br>(class imbalance<br>corrected via<br>SMOTE) | Absent | Present |  |
|---|--------|---------|--|
| Absent  | 130    | 10      |  |
| Present   | 8      | 151     |  |
| Accuracy (% correct<br>% Absent Correct –<br>% Present Correct –              | Total  | 2       |  |

| Test<br>Application                   | Absent  | Present |  |
|---------------------------------------|---------|---------|--|
| Absent                                | 10      | 7       |  |
| Present                               | 4       | 65      |  |
| Accuracy (% corre<br>% Absent Correct | Total   | 86      |  |
| % Present Correct                     | - 90.23 |         |  |

#### **Concentrations / Conditions for Occurrence Likelihood of** *Microcystis*:



#### **Visualizing Predictive Variances & Uncertainties for** *Microcystis* (Continuous)



42

### This is were we are TODAY!



## Still more effort to develop and investigate new ideas



Machine-learning algorithms capable of autonomously unearthing and reproducing complex patterns within sizeable data quantities afford great potential for fueling ecological hypothesis creation and 'intelligent' knowledge derivation (here, 'Robo-ecology').