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WIRELESS FLOOD MONITORING USING INTEGRATED HYDROLOGICAL SENSORS AND FLOOD PREDICTION VIA ARTIFICIAL NEURAL NETWORK

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ABSTRACT

Flooding is a natural phenomenon that is very difficult to model into an equation because of its nonlinear characteristics. As a result, early warning flood prediction systems are seldom developed and often rely on meteorological satellites and hydrological maps. However, in the advent of technology, randomness and nonlinearity can now be modelled using artificial neural network. The goal of this study is to develop a wireless flood monitoring and prediction system using artificial neural network, specifically the Nonlinear Autoregressive Network with External Inputs (NARX) neural network that can be used in a small community as flood early warning system. The flood monitoring system was developed by integration of different hydrological sensors such as rain gauge, float sensor, flow meter, soil resistivity meter, air humidity and temperature sensors. The wireless communication was achieved by the use of Zigbee modules. Training of ANN was done via the backpropagation algorithm and an MSE of 0.0032 was achieved using seven epochs having the fourth epoch having the best validation. During the field testing, an average prediction rate accuracy of 98.65% was achieved. A two-sample t-test was done to see if the actual field test is different from the predicted values and the result was there is no significant difference between the two that validates the accuracy of the prediction.

Keywords: flood prediction system, ANN, hydrological sensors, backpropagation, NARX model.

Literature Review

Many works are done in the past to combat flooding. One of the earliest attempts to mitigate flooding with the modern technology is through the study of Lien et al. [1]. They used the Grid technology, a similar technology to the cloud computing in the present day, to implement a web-based flood forecasting system in the Tan-Shui River basin in Taiwan. The forecasting system uses typhoon, reservoir and river calculation data to correlate the corresponding flood level. Today, most of the flood monitoring and prediction systems are based mainly on the use of satellite and microwave imaging techniques [2]. These techniques, however, are very expensive and require complex algorithms to be implemented, such as Multiple Input Single Output (MISO) Autoregressive Exogenous Input (ARX) algorithms [3].

Hardware Development Of Flood Monitoring System

The researcher developed a flood monitoring system through the interfacing of the different hydrological sensors such as rain gauge meter, flood level sensor, soil moisture sensor, air humidity, and flow meter and temperature sensors.



Figure 1. (a) Actual prototype of the flood monitoring system; (b) MCU circuit with Zigbee transmitter; (c) Zigbee receiver for the personal computer

Actual Field Test of Flood Prediction System

The flood prediction system is subjected the system to an actual field test. Figure 2 below shows the comparison of the actual and predicted flood levels. The test achieves a prediction rate accuracy of 98.65% and using t-test, it can be concluded that the there is no significant difference between the predicted and the actual flood level.

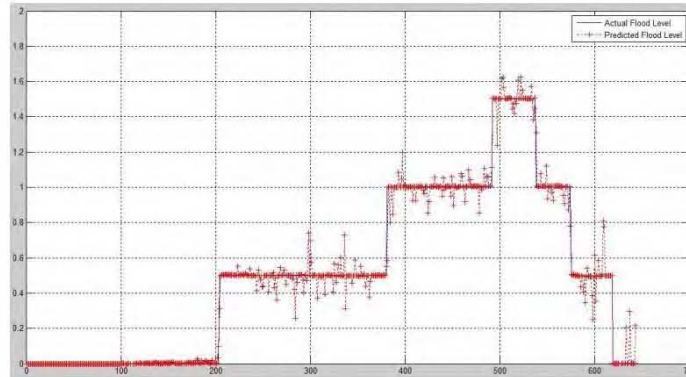


Figure 2. Comparison of actual flood level to predicted flood level in a two-hour lead time prediction

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