Temporal Gene Expression Analysis

Dissecting the Biological Motherboard
System Biology and Beyond
Temporal Organisation

Research Background (Past) and hypothesis (Past-Present interface)[5m in]

Neural Net System Biology Approach with gene silencing simulations (Present)[15m in]

Conclusions Present-Future interface)[5m in]

Questions/Comments? Future [5m in]
Why Temporal gene expression analysis is important?

Temporal gene expression data is of particular interest to researchers as it can be used to create regulatory gene networks. Such gene networks represent the regulatory relationships between genes over time and provide insight into how genes up- and down-regulate each other from one time-point to the next (the Biological Motherboard).

Harbinger of hope for the vision of diagnosis, prognosis and medicine being personalised.

Researchers believe that temporal gene expression models the biological system more accurately and closely as dynamic living systems.
Temporal Gene Expression Analysis Research
Unique Research Propositions

- One of the problems in the application of artificial neural networks in this research area concerns to the difficulty in creating complex regulatory networks from the analysis of high-dimensional weight matrices that represent the individual connections between genes over time.

- This work introduces an ANN based novel approach by introducing sensitivity analysis as a central theme of the NNSBAGSS methodology discussed here.

- Sensitivity analysis is more amenable than weight analysis and can be extended to more complex neural networks, such as those that result from the analysis of large temporal gene expression datasets

Source: Brazhnik et al, 2002 TIBS
**NNSBAGSS methodology**

1. Explore the data and know it
2. Preprocess the data if required
3. Input output mapping for submission to neural network simulator
4. Choose the Neural Network that suits your problem and Train, test on the data
5. Sensitivity Analysis on the Best Network
6. Prune/Silence insignificant genes
7. Are there any insignificant gene Channels
   - Yes
   - No
8. Dissect regulatory rules on the basis of Sensitivities b/w the genes
NNSBAGSS, what’s in the name?

Neural Network System Biology Approach with Gene Silencing Simulations.

Sensitivity analysis has an analogy with the system biology approach described by Leroy Hood, Ideker et al. in which they see the effect of genetic and environmental perturbations in a system and then analysing the effect on other system components thus gaining novel predictions and hypotheses about the system.

A particular temporal Gene expression experiment being regarded as a system, we perturb the Gene expression value of a Gene at previous time step to see the effect on Gene expression value of other Genes at subsequent time steps thus revealing the inherent cause-effect relations in our system.
NNSBAGSS methodology: Artificial temporal data

• The data involved in this experiment is an artificial gene expression dataset forward engineered by a C++ program which creates temporal Boolean Liang networks.

• The data contain 10 genes derived from Boolean rules with \( k \) values of 2 and 3. The data consists of \( 2^{10} \) (1024) records needed to specify every possible truth assignment for each dataset. The data consists of 1024 * 20 expression values. This data was generated using a C++ programme and had the following 20 inherent rules between values at time \( t \) and the subsequent value at time \( t+1 \). A gene goes off at a time-step unless it is specifically switched on by some gene at the previous time-step.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rule</th>
<th>Arguments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>3 ( \rightarrow ) 1</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>8 ( \rightarrow ) 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>4 &amp; 10 ( \rightarrow ) 1</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>5 ( \rightarrow ) 6</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>6 &amp; 10 ( \rightarrow ) 2</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>8 &amp; 7 ( \rightarrow ) 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>4 &amp; 9 ( \rightarrow ) 2</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>6 &amp; 10 ( \rightarrow ) 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>5 &amp; 4 ( \rightarrow ) 3</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>9 &amp; 3 ( \rightarrow ) 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>9 ( \rightarrow ) 3</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>4 &amp; 1 ( \rightarrow ) 8</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>2 ( \rightarrow ) 4</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>9 ( \rightarrow ) 4</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>9 &amp; 6 ( \rightarrow ) 5</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>1 ( \rightarrow ) 10</td>
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NNSBAGSS methodology: Artificial temporal data

Choice of desired input-output mapping
The task that the ANN has to solve is a linear problem, i.e., the artificial neural network has to learn the input (gene expression value at time t) to output (gene expression value at time t+1) mapping, where no nonlinear relationships exist between input values and output value. There are 1024 exemplars of this input-output mapping.

Choice of neural architecture
Neural networks can be very powerful learning systems. However, it is very important to match the neural architecture to the problem. For the artificial temporal data, we tried a number of single-layer perceptrons (that is, full connectivity between the input nodes and output nodes, with no hidden layers), adopting different learning rule parameters and transfer functions. We followed the standard training, cross-validation, and testing routine for perceptrons with different parameters. Out of 1024 randomized exemplars, we used 60% (614) for training, 15% (154) for cross-validation and 25% (256) for testing. The best network with minimum Mean Squared Error for training as well as cross-validation set was chosen. The best neural network architecture was a perceptron with the activation function as the hyperbolic Tanh function. This will squash the range of each neuron in the layer to between -1 and 1.
NNSBAGSS methodology: Artificial temporal data
By analysing Figure 3 and the sensitivity matrix (not shown) all the embedded rules were reverse engineered by the approach. This can be seen most clearly in the first column of “Gene1(t+1)”, where gene 3 has a large affect and genes 4 and 10 have a less marked affect. This corroborates the rules seen earlier as gene 3 can activate gene 1 by itself (Rule 1), whereas it requires the combined effort of gene 4 and gene 10 (Rule 2) to accomplish this. The sensitivity analysis therefore not only defines regulatory behaviour, but also the relative strengths of the regulation. Therefore, this demonstrates that our method is able to reverse engineer the embedded rules from artificial gene expression data.

Table 1 - Rules embedded in the artificial dataset

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NNSBAGSS methodology

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     - Dissect regulatory rules on the basis of Sensitivities b/w the genes
The Rat (Sprague-Dawley albino rat) data is an RT-PCR study of 112 genes each measured on cervical spinal cord tissue in triplicate at nine different time points during the development of the rat central nervous system [4]. This gene expression data is accepted to be non-noisy, small and accurate, and is ideal for testing a new strategy because of previous work in literature.

There are nine different time points in the CNS development study namely E11, E13, E15, E18, E21, P0, P7, P14, A. The input-output mapping were E11 input–E13 output, E13 input–E15 output, E15 input–E18 output, E18 input–E21 output, E21 input–P0 output, P0 input–P7 output, P7 input–P14 output, P14 input–A output.

There are eight exemplar pairs for network to learn from. Each exemplar has 112 input gene expression values of the prior time step and 112 desired gene expression output values of the subsequent time step.

The training, testing and cross validation regime was followed to choose the best network. The sensitivity analysis was performed on the perceptron trained on all eight exemplar pairs (9 time steps).
The graph in Figure below is the representation of sensitivity matrix showing the global sensitivity of all 112 genes at the previous time step affecting 112 genes at the next time step. Again these remain similar over the repeated runs.
NNSBAGSS methodology: Rat C.N.S development time-course data
The reverse engineering of gene networks and causal relationships between genes is the major obstacle in extracting system knowledge from gene expression data. These experiments demonstrate that a neural network approach, combined with sensitivity analysis, can reverse engineer both actual and biologically plausible rules from artificial and real-world data, respectively. The results presented here provide evidence of a novel, alternative approach to reverse engineering that can lead to automatic extraction of rules from temporal gene expression data. The process is simple and repeatable, with clear visualisations resulting from the method.

The application of this methodology with more complex networks on large gene expression data sets is currently ongoing and results of our experiments on one such data set (Iyer et al mentioned in the abstract), I will be presenting in YBF on 20/10/2004 for the first time.