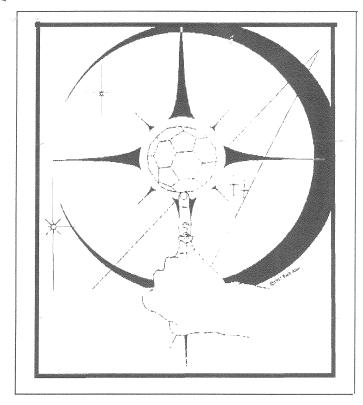


**VOLUME 3. NUMBER 3** 

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### Whence Cybernetics?

Interesting things and people show up on the electronics bulletin boards. Neuron Digest, moderated by Peter Marvit of the University of Pennsylvania, (email: neuron-request@psych.upenn.edu) recently ran a discussion "Whence Cybernetics". Contributors included (in order of posting, Jacob Galley, Melvin Rader, William Dwinnell, Marvin Minsky, and Dick Cavonius. The opinions expressed are solely those of the writers.

**Jacob Galley, a** student at the University of Chicago, began the discussion

I have been studying linguistics and cognitive science type stuff for about two years in college, and I am just now becoming aware of the long line of cybernetic thought which runs parallel to "good old-fashioned" symbolic AI. Why is this work now (and apparently always since the schism) more obscure than work done in symbolic, serial cognitive modelling?

[Gulley quoted two paragraphs from Foundations of Neural Networks by Tarun Khanna (Addison-Wesley 1990), which compare the cyberneticians and the AI community. He states that Khanna goes on to portray connectionism as a new hybrid between the two traditions.]

I am amazed that this alternative to symbolic AI is so obscure. Why are (symbolic) artificial intelligence classes, theories and opinions so easy to find, but cybernetic thought has faded away, become esoteric?

There are lots of reasons I can think of which seem reasonable, but I don't know enough of the history to be sure:

- Cybernetic theory is more abstract, difficult, vague. (No idea yet if this is even true.)
- The "Chomskyan Revolution" in linguistics and/or the "Cognitive
  Revolution" in psychology tipped the
  scales in the symbolic AI tradition's
  favor. (No idea what the causal relationships are between the three
  symbolic schools, if any can be clearly
  attributed.)
- The foundations of serial programming caught on before the foundations of parallel programming (which we are still hammering out today), so applications of symbolic AI were more successful, more glamorous, sooner.

Does anyone have any thoughts on this?

What's so interdisciplinary about studying lower levels of thought process?

Melvin Rader, a student at Evergreen State College responded:

By cybernetics, I take you to mean the study of neural networks and connectionist models of artificial intelligence. By no means is it dead, or even all that obscure. As an undergraduate at the Evergreen State College in Olympia, WA this year I took four credits of 'Connectionism' and another four of programming of neural networks. I believe there's a newsgroup devoted to neural networks as well.

Seymour Papert has written a whimsical account of the history of network vs. symbolic approaches to artificial intelligence.

[Papert's fairy tale, which Rader quoted, casts cybernetics and AI in the role of jealous sisters competing for the attention and overflowing coffers of Lord DARPA. He portrays himself and Marvin Minsky as the followers of the AI sister who used their mighty weapon, the pen, to create a book—Perceptrons—with which they slew the Cybernetics sister.]

Minsky and Papert's book did effectively kill further research into neural networks for about two decades. The thrust of the book was that with the learning algorithms that had been developed then, neural networks could only learn linearly separable problems, which are always simple (this was proved mathematically). Networks existed which could solve more complicated problems, but they had to be "hard wired" - the person setting up the network had to set it up in such a way that the network already "knew" everything that it was going to be tested on; there was no way for such a network to learn.

(The book also raised some other, more philosophical concerns.) Since learning was basically the only advantage neural network models had over symbolic models (aside from an aesthetic appeal due to their resemblance to natural models), research into neural networks died out. (Also, NN research is associated philosophically with behaviorism - NNs solve through association. When behaviorism died, it also helped bring down the NN field.)

However, in the late 70's (I think) the "backpropagation training algorithm" was developed. Backpropagation

allows the training of neural networks which are powerful enough to solve non-linearly separable problems, although it has no natural equivalent. With the development of backpropagation, and with the association of several big names with the field, research into network models of artificial intelligence revived.

I understand the term "Connectionism" to apply to a field which draws from neural network research and research into the brain. In contrast to whatever book you were quoting from, I understand connectionist thought to be at odds with the symbolic approach to artificial intelligence. A good book to read on the subject is Connectionism and the Mind by Bechtel and Abrahamsen. It is a good introduction to connectionism and goes into the philosophy behind it all, although some of the math is off.

William B. Dwinnell, University of Pittsburgh, then added a bit more history:

The passage you posted concerning cybernetics is somewhat misleading. The term "cybernetics" was coined by Norbert Wiener in the 1940's, defining it as "the entire field of control and communication theory, whether in the machine or in the animal." In its narrowest sense, as Wiener wrote about it.

#### CYBERNETICS

CIRCULAR CAUSAL AND FEEDBACK MECHANISMS IN BIOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL SYSTEMS

TRANSACTIONS OF THE NINTH CONFERENCE

CONTENTS

The Position of Humor in Human Communication
The Place of Emotions in the Feedback Concept

Discrimination and Learning in Octopus
Reduction of the Number of Possible Boolean Function
Central Excitation and Inhibition

Mechanical Chess Player Turbulence as Random Stimulation of Sense Organs Investigations on Synaptic Transmission Feedback Mechanisms in Cellular Biology

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Looking back: In addition to the editors, the 25 participants in this 1952 interdisciplinary workshop included Walter Pitts, Warren McColloch, Ross Ashby.

cybernetics might be thought of as a precursor to modern information theory (he mentions Shannon, by the way, in his book Cybernetics [1948, John Wiley & Sons, New York]), control theory (including what we now call robotics), and, to some degree, prediction.

In the most general sense, "cybernetics" may be construed as covering all of computer science, and more. It is common today for people to present cybernetics in light of AI or robotics, but there is no reason to put this special slant on cybernetics. Probably the most accurate short definition of "cybernetics", using contemporary terminology would be a proto-science concerning information theory and communication theory.

Next to enter the discussion was Prof. Marvin Minsky of MIT, who vehemently objected to Rader's understanding of Perceptrons:

You'd better give those credits back. The book explained (1) some theory of which geometric problems were linearly separable (and the results were

rithms of practical size -- but for many practical purposes, no one cares much about that.

The final comment, but not necessarily the last word, came from Dick Cavonius, University of Dortmond. in the August 27 issue of Neuron Digest:

I suspect that a large part of the answer to Galley's question on what happened to cybernetics is that time plays a role: it's unfortunate, but in this field—to a greater extent than in science in general — activity is dictated by what happens to be fashionable at any given moment. Cybernetics was all the rage in the late 40s and 50s. Too much enthusiasm was generated, and when it failed to achieve everything that was expected of it was renounced in favor of AI. To a certain extent the same is now happening to AI, although AI will be harder to kill off because our investment in it is much larger than the investment in cybernetics

#### From the Editor's Desk

The fascinating conversation above has prompted me to break my usual editorial silence and write a "from the editor" let-

First, a message to my colleagues in Neural Networks Education: When you teach a course in Neural Nets, do NOT teach the history at the beginning of the course! Teach it at the end. The typical student cannot put the significance of the history into context until you have covered the technical stuff. He won't know a backpropagation from a backprojection until the end of class.

And with that introduction, let me address some of the questions that arose in the discussion above:

The word "cybernetics" comes from the Greek kybernetes meaning the helmsman on a ship, the one who steers, the one who controls. Yes, cybernetics was the predecessor of modern control theory. And by the way, those who seek to use concepts of control theory to model biological systems are to be commended, but the history actually went the other way. (Biological) systems which adapt their behavior to comply with external stimuli, to keep certain parameters within bounds (what we would call a stable controller)

are referred to possessing homeostasis, a word used extensively in early cybernetics literature. This property was observed and described in biological systems a very long time ago.

not notably simple), (2) derived lower

problems, and (3) these results have

discuss the existence of suitable net-

the book was published, and around

1980 or so. This may have been partly

because we showed that feedforward

nets are impractical for various kinds of

but they are useful for many other kinds

many people propagated absurdly wrong

summaries of what the book said— as in

gloomy remarks near the end of the book

about the unavailability of convergence

guarantees for multilayer nets (as com-

pared with the simple perceptron proce-

separable patterns), and this might have

discouraged some theorists. There still

are no such guarantees for learning algo-

dure, which always converges for

the above account. There were some

of problems. The problem was that too

invariant recognitions on large retinas,

bounds on how the size of networks and

coefficients grow with the size of certain

nothing whatever to do with the learning

algorithms involved, because they only

works. There was not so much research

in neural networks between 1969, when

I did my own MS thesis under one of the grand old men of cybernetics, Ross Ashby. Look for his books Design for a Brain (Chapman and Hall, London, 1952) and Introduction to Cybernetics (Chapman and Hall, 1956) for some great reading. I worked with Ashby and Heinz von Förster in the Biological Computing Laboratory at the University of Illinois. (Did you get that? Biological Computing Laboratory. In 1969!)

At that time, research in cybernetics was a mixed bag of heavy mathematics, the firming up (and splitting off) of control theory as an independent discipline, and attempts to resolve what biology seemed to be telling us about computing with what computing seemed to be telling us about biology.

I did my MS thesis on internal communications in systems (the concept was that the more communication/interaction the elements within a system had among themselves, the less likely the system was to be stable--some profound implications

Wesley E. Snyder North Carolina State University

to modern government and the mass media). Unfortunately, I could only test the theory on linear systems. I was all set to go into cybernetics for the Ph.D. Then came Perceptrons.

As Prof. Minsky mentioned above, the book was carefully written. It explained the perceptron quite well, and was really quite limited in its "shooting down" of the field. Basically, it said that there were certain problems that a perceptron (a "diameter-limited" perceptron to be precise) could not solve. "So what?" we might say today, "Gödel also showed that there were certain problems no machine could solve." But that doesn't seem to stop us from using computers. Anyway, for reasons unexplainable (but easily theorized) neural network/cybernetics funding dried up.

Did Minsky and Papert write their book deliberately, for personal reasons, knowing what it would do, as rumor sometimes reports? I have no idea— or interest. Such speculation is counterproductive and unprofessional, and something I would like to see disappear. I do

Continued on back page

#### NNC Standards Committee

Walter Klarplus, UCLA Mary Lou Padgett, Auburn University

The Standards Committee of NNC has expanded its activities and invites your participation in the formal working groups and in upcoming events. The Artificial Neural Networks (ANN) Standards Working Groups are moving forward with formal procedures outlined by the IEEE Standards Board for groups with approved Project Authorization Requests (PAR). Balloting to approve standards and the eventual publication of standards is anticipated.

Recent reorganization has produced the following Working Groups and sub-groups:

- · Definition of Terms for Artificial Neural Networks: International Language and Symbology Paradigms
- · Guidelines for Evaluation of Artificial Neural Network Implementations: Trained Feed-forward Networks Supervised Training
- Artificial Neural Network Interfaces: Hardware Software
- Fuzzy Systems
- Virtual Reality

Reports from individual groups fol-

#### **ANN Definition Of Terms**

The Working Group on Definition of Terminology for Artificial Neural Networks has several activities in progress.

- 1. Methodology for Specification of ANN Paradigms and Supporting Terminology;
- 2. Panel discussions on International Language and Symbology at NNC International Conferences:
- 3. Paper and demonstration contests encompassing all the working group topics and supported by NASA;
- 4. WNN Workshops encompassing all working group topics and co-sponsored by NASA planned for 1994 and 1995.

The first effort, specification of paradigms, is an outgrowth of the glossary group. Careful development of

September 1993

appropriate definitions requires a modular, modifiable approach. Diagrams and supporting references are being gathered to help clarify the procedure recommended.

The second project, development of an international language and symbology, is gaining momentum. Initiated last year at IJCNN/Beijing, it will be extended at IJCNN/Nagova in October.

A panel discussion covering all the ANN Standards groups is planned for Thursday, October 28 from 14:00 to 17:00. Chairs will be Walter Karplus and Mary Lou Padgett. Participants will include Toshio Fukuda, Shiro Usui, Harold Szu and other international representatives.

Informal interaction and social events will be scheduled throughout the conference.

Also scheduled at IJCNN/Nagoya is a tutorial, "Standards, Basic Concepts And Applications". Participants will receive an educational copy of the NASA Nets software, and individual interaction and demonstrations will be continued throughout the conference. Each registrant will have the opportunity to ask individual questions and experiment with the software. (Monday, October 25, Tutorial 7-III, Mary Lou Padgett, Auburn University.)

The third and fourth projects are intended to stimulate interest in the careful development of standards and paradigm comparisons. Professors E. Tzanakou, Walter Karplus and a NASA representative will participate in the review process. The projects and conferences will be organized by Mary Lou Padgett, who can provide details on request.

#### **ANN Performance Evaluation** Methodology

In accordance with the plan of the working group to establish a repository for benchmark data sets, a new collection of pattern classification signatures is under consideration for inclusion in the

suite. These patterns are comprised of over 700 60-point AC electric current demand signatures for devices found on the space shuttle orbiter followed by a class code consisting of 9 values of either 0.1 or 0.9, with the higher value in position k (k = 0, ..., 8) signifying membership in class k, and all low (0.1) values signifying "none of the above".

The possible inclusion of these real signatures has raised a number of administrative and technical issues. The administrative questions are not new to standards efforts in that they pertain to the value and ownership of material which might become part of a public domain standard. As data-driven systems such as adaptive neural pattern classification algorithms become more common, it is increasingly clear that the cost of creating such systems is primarily driven by the cost of acquiring and cataloging training sets. It is now clear that in many cases, training data is at least as valuable as the actual pattern classification algorithms.

The other side of this issue is the value of the standard to the industrial and scientific community as a whole. Specifically, from a scientific point of view, the quality of algorithms as well as that of their implementations tends to be improved by the availability of large. diverse and challenging data sets. Due to the fact that the signature data came from real systems and was hand-cataloged by human experts, a number of technical issues must also be addressed. In particular, what are the implications of cataloging errors in the data, and how should the group decide what makes a good benchmark as opposed to a data set which produces a robust classifier?

Please address any thoughts or comments to the working group chair, Dr. Robert Shelton, NASA/JSC.

#### **Evaluation of ANN Training** Algorithms

The formation of a Working Group on Methodology for Evaluation of ANN Training Algorithms is proposed. The objective is to provide a means of evaluating algorithms for various aspects of training feedforward networks, such as weight initialization, training data selection, error minimization, and weight decay/pruning.

There are four major tasks for this group. The first is development of a taxonomy of learning problems. This involves issues such as the nature of the mapping (continuous, discontinuous, classification), the nature of the training data (sparse/plentiful, noisy/clean), and the learning criteria (numeric accuracy, misclassification).

The second task is the development of training algorithm performance criteria, which may be dependent upon the class of learning problem. Evident error minimization algorithm criteria include execution time and space requirements, generalization, sensitivity to algorithm parameters, and avoidance of local minima. Criteria are also needed for algorithms involving weight initialization, training data selection, and pruning.

The third task is an ongoing effort to collect and document training-related algorithms. A 'collected training algorithms' document will be maintained, and made available by anonymous ftp. Criteria for algorithm inclusion might include: common usage, novelty, or demonstrated effectiveness.

The final task is development of a benchmark set which is suitable for evaluation of the range of training-related algorithms, as applied to the range of learning problems. This, too, will be made available by anonymous ftp, and will be updated as experience and understanding dictate.

Contacts are Dr. Robert W. Green and Christopher M. DeAngelis.

#### Standards in Virtual Reality

The Working Group on Standards in Virtual Reality is still recruiting members through Virtual Reality News and other avenues. The group will soon report on the plans evolved at its working session at the VRAIS in Seattle, Sept 18-22. Another intensive meeting is planned for WNN93/San Francisco, Nov 7-10. NASA will also cooperate with meetings in 1994 and 1995. If interested in participating or just receiving reports, please contact the chair, Richard Blade, UCCS, by email.

#### NNC Standards Committee Contacts

These groups plan a series of meetings for the fall of 1993, and for 1994. Between conferences, the groups interact by email. Your concern and contributions will contribute to the success of this effort. Any of the committee members will be happy to receive your comments and expressions of interest and concern. Regular reports on committee activities are published in the IEEE-NNC Newsletter, Connections.

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#### Standards Calendar

Sept. 18-22, 1993 Virtual Reality
 Annual Int'l Symposium
 VRAIS'93 Seattle VR Working Group; ANN Working
 Groups

•Oct. 25-29, 1993 IJCNN'93/Nagoya

Panel - International Language and Symbology.

Tutorial 7-III - Neural Network Basics: Applications,

Examples and Standards
(includes NASA software)
Discussion Groups and Social
Events

Nov. 7-10, 1993 WNN/FNN93/ San
 Francisco: Meetings of ALL working groups. Tutorials, discussions, tour of NASA/ Ames; CONTESTS: papers and demonstrations

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Newsletter Deadline November 15, 1993

#### IEEE Neural Networks Council Connections

# 1994 IEEE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON

ROBOTICS AND AUTOMATION

#### Sponsored by the IEEE Robotics and Automation Society

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Treasurer and Coordinator: H. H.

H. Hayman, U.S.A.

May 8-13, 1994 Princess Resort San Diego, California

#### **ADVANCE ANNOUNCEMENT**

The theme of the 1994 Conference is "Robotics and Automation in the Service of Humankind". This year, the Conference celebrates its 11th anniversary. Major scientific and engineering accomplishments have been reported over the last decade. As the field matures, the research community is now looking into the future with a renewed sense of purpose, entrepreneurship, and dedication to the enhancement of the quality of life. Intelligent robotic systems are being developed by the rapidly emerging service robotics industry. Applications of advanced automation technology are having an increasing impact on productivity and quality control in many manufacturing sectors, and have become a key competitive factor in the global economy. The 1994 Conference will bring together researchers and practitioners to present the latest accomplishments, and explore future directions. Special emphasis will be placed on applications and industrial case studies to help identify new "pulling forces" for research in the 21st century. Technical papers presented on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, May 10–12, will appear in the bound proceedings. Topics include but are not limited to:

- Robot sensing and sensor data fusion
- Reasoning and planning
- Multirobot coordination
- Dexterous and redundant manipulation
- Robot dynamics and control
- · Telerobotics and shared control
- · Autonomous systems
- Micro electromechanical and micro robotic systems
- Advanced actuators
- Mechatronic design issues

#### **TUTORIALS AND WORKSHOPS:**

Half day and full day tutorials and workshops will be held on Sunday, May 8; Monday, May 9; and Friday, May 13, 1994.

#### **EXHIBITS:**

There will be exhibits of state-of-the-art hardware and software products at the conference. Reservations for space and further information may be obtained from:

#### Scott Harmon

Hughes Research Laboratories 3011 Malibu Canyon Road M/S RL 96 Malibu, CA 90265, U.S.A. Telephone: 310-317-5140 Fax: 310-317-5695 Email: harmon@aic.hrl.hac.com

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General Chair Steven K. Rogers United States Air Force Institute of Technology rogers@afit.af.mil Topics: Applications, architectures, artificially intelligent neural networks, artificial life, associative memory, computational intelligence, cognitive science, embedology, filtering, fuzzy neural systems, hybrid systems, image processing, implementations, intelligent control, learning and memory, machine vision, motion analysis, neurobiology, neurocognition, neurodynamics, optimization, pattern recognition, prediction, robotics, sensation and perception, sensorimotor systems, speech, hearing and language, system identification, supervised and unsupervised learning, tactile sensors, and time series analysis.

#### 

General Chair Piero P. Bonissone General Electric Corporate Research and Development bonissone@crd.ge.ge.com Topics: Basic principles and foundations of fuzzy logic, relations between fuzzy logic and other approximate reasoning methods, qualitative and approximate-reasoning modeling, hardware implementations of fuzzy- logic algorithms, design, analysis, and synthesis of fuzzy-logic controllers, learning and acquisition of approximate models, relations between fuzzy logic and neural networks, integration of fuzzy logic and neural networks, integration of fuzzy logic and evolutionary computing, and applications.

#### 

General Chair Zbigniew Michalewicz University of North Carolina, Charlotte zbyszek@mosaic.uncc.edu Topics: Theory of evolutionary computation, evolutionary computation applications, efficiency and robustness comparisons with other direct search algorithms, parallel computer applications, new ideas incorporating further evolutionary principles, artificial life, evolutionary algorithms for computational intelligence, comparisons between different variants of evolutionary algorithms, machine learning applications, evolutionary computation for neural networks, and fuzzy logic in evolutionary algorithms.

#### INSTRUCTIONS FOR ALL THREE CONFERENCES

Papers must be received by December 10, 1993. Papers will be reviewed by senior researchers in the field, and all authors will be informed of the decisions at the end of the review process. All accepted papers will be published in the Conference Proceedings. Six copies (one original and five copies) of the paper must be submitted. Original must be camera ready, on 8.5x11-inch white paper, one-column format in Times or similar fontstyle, 10 points or larger with one-inch margins on all four sides. Do not fold or staple the original camera-ready copy. Four pages are encouraged. The paper must not exceed six pages including figures, tables, and references, and should be written in English. Centered at the top of the first page should be the complete title, author name(s), affiliation(s) and mailing address(es). In the accompanying letter, the following information must be included: 1) Full title of paper, 2) Corresponding authors name, address, telephone and fax numbers, 3) First and second choices of technical session, 4) Preference for oral or poster presentation, and 5) Presenter's name, address, telephone and fax numbers. Mail papers to (and/or obtain further information from): World Congress on Computational Intelligence, Meeting Management, 5665 Oberlin Drive, #110, San Diego, California 92121, USA (email: 70750.345@compuserve.com, telephone: 619-453-6222).

#### Calendar

Upcoming Conferences with a Neural Networks component (ordered by date of submission deadline, or by conference date if the deadline has passed) If you have any conference details to add to this list, please send (preferably) a Call-For-Papers to

> Paul Bakker Computer Science Dept. The University of Queensland QLD 4072, Australia Fax: +61 7 365 1999 email: bakker@cs.uq.oz.au

Email or fax submissions are not usually acceptable. Please contact the program chair or other contact for submission requirements. The designation [passed] refers to the deadline date. We include some deadlines even after the official cutoff since these are sometimes changed

#### -Expired Submission Deadlines-

Ordered by conference date. Deadlines are sometimes extended.

- •Neuronet'93 20-26 Sep 93 Prague, Czech. [31 May 93] "Theory and applications of neural networks" Contact: cvs15@cspgcs11.bitnet (Mirko Novak)
- The Artificial Intelligence Technology
  Transfer Conference 22-24 Sep 93
  Monterrey, Mexico[passed] "AI techniques such as neural networks, fuzzy systems, cognitive systems" Contact: r.soto@ieee.org (Rogelio Soto)
- •IEEE Workshop on Emerging Technologies and Factory Automation (EFTA '93) 27-29 Sep 93 Palm Cove, Q, Australia [passed] "Neural networks & Genetic Algorithms" Contact:

  JOHN@topaz.ucq.edu.au (Prof. John Smith)
- International Conference on Signal Processing Applications & Technology
  (ICSPAT '93) 28 Sep-1 Oct 93 Santa
  Clara, CA, USA [30 Apr 93] "Neural
  Networks, Parallel Processing" Contact: DSPWorld@world.std.com
  (Amnon Aliphas)
- •Workshop on Integration Technology for Real-Time Intelligent Control Systems (IRTICS'93) 5-7 Oct 93Madrid, Spain [[passed] "Integrating Expert Systems, Neural Networks, Fuzzy Logic." Contact: CHIOZZA@iic.uam.es (Enrica Chiozza)
- •Fuzzy Theory and Technology Control & Decision 13-16 Oct 93Durham, NC, USA "Neural computing, Fuzzy selforganizing network, Pattern recognition" Contact: ctyan@ee.egr.duke.edu (Jerry C. Y. Tyan)
- •IEEE SMC'93 Conference 17-20 Oct 93 Le Touquet, France[passed] "Special

- Session: Applications of Neural Networks to Control Problems" Contact: dominique@v31002.decnet.citilille.fr
- •International Workshop on Applications of Neural Networks to Telecommunications 18-20 Oct 93 Princeton, NJ, USA [14 May 93] (summary) "Speech Recognition, Fraud Detection, Financial and Market Prediction." Contact: bg1@faline.bellcore.com (Betty Greer)
- •National Conference on AI and Expert Systems (CNIASE'93) 19-22 Oct 93 Barquisimeto, Venezuela[15 Jun 93] "Connectionist Architectures, Neural Networks Applications, Knowledge-based Systems, Theoretical AI..." Contact: itorres@conicit.ve
- •Neural Architectures and Distributed AI:

  >From Schema Assemblages to Neural Networks (Workshop) 19-20 Oct
  93 Los Angeles, CA, USA30 Aug 93

  "While the emphasis will be on technological systems, papers will also be accepted on biological and cognitive systems." Contact: arbib@pollux.us-c.edu (Michael Arbib)
- •International Conference on Document Analysis and Recognition (ICDAR'93) 20-22 Oct 93 Tsukuba, Japan [passed] "Neural networks" Contact: ICDAR93@etl.go.jp
- •1993 International Conference On Application-specific Array Processors 25-27 October 1993 Venice, Italy Contact: Mrs. Chiquita Snippe-Marlisa Fax +31-55-557393
- •IEEE Visualization '93: Workshop on Visualization and Decision Support 26 Oct 93 San Jose, CA, USA1 Sep 93 "Adaptive Representation; Mediated (AI/neural net) vs. unmediated display; Perceptual/cognitive issues in representation" Contact: beddow@staff.tc.umn.edu (Jeff Beddow)
- 1993 International Conference on Application-Specific Array Processors
   (ASAP'93) 25-27 Oct 93 Venice, Italy
   [passed] "Applications that Require
   Specialized Computing Systems: Neural Networks" Contact:
   dadda@ipmel2.elet.polimi.it (Prof. Luigi DADDA)
- •International Joint Conference on Neural Networks (LJCNN '93) 25-29 Oct 93 Nagoya, Japan [30 Apr 93] Contact: IJCNN'93-NAGOYA Secretariat (Fax: +81-52-561-1241) (Phone: +81-52-561-9880/8655)
- •1993 International Conference on Neural Networks and Signal Processing

- (ICNNSP'93) 2-5 Nov 93Guangzhou, China [passed] Contact: Prof. Zhen-Ya He (Fax: +86 25 714212)
- •International Symposium on Computer and Information Sciences (ISCIS VIII) 3-5 Nov 93 Antalya, Turkey [[30 Jun 93] "Neural Networks, Parallelism, Artificial Intelligence" Contact: iscis@vm.cc.metu.edu.tr (Ugur Halici)
- •International Simulation Technology
  Conference 93 (incorporating
  WNN93, a Neural Networks conference) 7-10 Nov 93 Clear Lake, TX,
  USA [1 May 93] "Parallel and Distributed Processing, Fuzzy Logic, Neural
  Networks" Contact: mpadgett@eng.auburn.edu (Mary Lou Padgett)
- \*Computational AI Conference (WNN93)/
  Tutorials and Standards Seminar
  (FNN93) 7-10 Nov 93 San Francisco,
  CA, USA [1 Jun 93] "Neural Networks, Fuzzy Logic, Virtual Reality"
  Contact: mpadgett@eng.auburn.edu
  (Mary Lou Padgett)
- •Fourth Workshop on Algorithmic Learning Theory (ALT'93) 8-10 Nov 93
  Tokyo, Japan [30 Apr 93] "Learning Mechanisms in Neural Networks and Pattern Recognition" Contact: alt93@cs.uec.ac.jp
- •Third International Conference on Automation, Robotics and Computer
  Vision (ICARCV'94) 8-11 Nov 93
  Singapore [30 Apr 93] "Neural Networks and Fuzzy Systems; AI & Expert Systems" Contact: ensundara@ntuvax.ntu.ac.sg (Professor N. Sundararajan)
- •5th IEEE International Conference on Tools with Artificial Intelligence 8-11 Nov 93 Boston, MA, USA [passed] "Artificial neural networks" Contact: jm@cs.toronto.ca (John Mylopoulos)
- •Australian Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AГ93) 16-19 Nov 93 Melbourne, Australia [28 May 93] "Machine Learning; Neural Networks & Genetic Algorithms" Contact: Trudi Dwyer (fax: +61 002 34 4464)
- •4th International Workshop on Parallel Applications in Statistics and Economics (PASE'93) 22-26 Nov 93
  Ascona, Switzerland [1 Aug 93]
  (abstracts) "Innovative information processing systems and their applications in the areas of statistics, finance and economics" Contact: pase@uivt1.uivt.cas.cs
- The First New Zealand International Two-stream Conference on Artificial Neural Networks and Expert Sys-

- tems (ANNES'93) 24-26 Nov 93 Dunedin, New Zealand [30 Apr 93] Contact: gporteous@otago.ac.nz (Ms Gina Porteous)
- •Neural Information Processing Systems -Natural and Synthetic- (NIPS\*93) 29 Nov-2 Dec 93 Denver, CO, USA [22 May 93] Contact: cowan@synapse.uchicago.edu (Jack Cowan)
- The First Australian and New Zealand Conference on Intelligent Information Systems (ANZIIS-93) 1-3 Dec 93 Perth, WA, Australia [4 Jun 93] "Neurobiological systems, neural networks, neurofuzzy controls" Contact: violetta@swanee.ee.uwa.edu.au (Ms V. Di Giacomo)
- •3rd International Conference on Industrial Fuzzy Control & Intelligent Systems (IFIS-93) 1-3 Dec 93College Station, TX USA [1 Jun 93] "Neural networks, genetic algorithms" Contact: cfl@cs.tamu.edu
- •Fifth IEEE Symposium on Parallel and Distributed Processing 1-4 Dec 93 Dallas, TX, USA [1 May 93] "Neural Networks, Parallel Algorithms, Artificial Intelligence" Contact: pakzad@ecl.psu.edu (S. Pakzad)
- •1993 International Symposium on Nonlinear Theory and its Applications 5-9 Dec 93 Waikiki, HI, USA[15 Aug 93] (summary) "Neural Networks, Cel-Jular Neural Networks. Biocybernetics" Contact: tanaka@mamoru.ee.sophia.ac.jp (Mamoru Tanaka)
- •Digital Image Computing: Techniques and Applications (DICTA'93) 8-10 Dec 93 Sydney, NSW, Australia [25] Jun 93] "Fuzzy logic and neural networks" Contact:

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- · Conference on Computational Learning Theory (EURO-COLT '93) 20-22 Dec 93 London, UK [15 May 93] "Learning algorithms and the theory of machine learning, including artificial and biological neural networks." Contact: john@cs.rhbnc.ac.uk (John Shawe-Taylor)
- 1993 International Symposium on Artificial Neural Networks (ISANN'93) 20-22 Dec 93 Hsinchu, Taiwan [15 Jun 93] Contact: isann93@hsinchu.csie.nctu edu tw
- 10th Israeli Symposium on Artificial Intelligence and Computer Vision 27-28 Dec 93 Tel-Aviv, Israel[30 Jun 93] "Cognitive Modeling; Pattern Recognition and Neural Networks" Contact: schild@bimacs.cs.biu.ac.il (Dr. Uri J. Schild)
- Third International Symposium on Artificial Intelligence and Mathematics 2-5 Jan 94 Ft Lauderdale, FL, USA [30 Jul 93] "Mathematical methods in neural networks, learning theory, learning algorithms, complexity of neural computation" Contact: hoffman@acc.fau.edu (Frederick Hoffman)
- 27th Annual Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences Mini-Track on Neural Network Applications in Organizations 4-7 Jan 94 Maui, HI, USA [1 Jun 93] "Bond rating, forecasting, data analysis, production scheduling,..." Contact: thill@uhunix.uhcc.hawaii.edu (Prof. Tim Hill)
- The Third Annual Conference on Evolutionary Programming (EP94) 24-25 Feb 94 San Diego, CA, USA[30 Jun 931 (abstract) "Neural network training and Design; Pattern Recognition" Contact: pja@cis.ohio-state.edu (Peter J Angeline)
- The Tenth IEEE Conference on Artificial Intelligence for Applications (CAIA-94) 1-4 Mar 94 San Antonio, TX, USA 31 Aug 93 Contact: caia@cs.umbc.edu
- International Conference on Expert Systems for Development 28-31 Mar 94 Bangkok, Thailand[15 Aug 93] (abstracts) "Associative Memories, Machine Learning, Neural Networks" Contact: sada@cs.ait.ac.th (Dr. R. Sadananda)
- •1994 American Control Conference **Invited Session: Neural Network** Application for Aircraft & Spacecraft 29 Jun-1 Jul 94Baltimore, MD, USA 1 Sep 93 (abstract) Contact: feteih@evax12.eng.fsu.edu (Salah

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The AdCom has approved funds for a limited number of travel fellowships for students who are presenting papers at IJCNN93 in Nagoya, Japan, October 25-29 1993. For application information contact:

> Karen Haines **Education Committee Chair** 2446 Newport Ave. Cardiff CA 92007 619-436-7314.

Feteih)

- -Unexpired Submission Deadlines-Ordered by Submission Deadline
- 1st International Workshop: Neural Networks in the Capital Markets 18-19 Nov 93 London, UK 15 Sep 93 "time series forecasting, multivariate dataset analysis, classification and pattern recognition" Contact: refenes@cs.ucl.ac.uk (Dr. A. N.
- · Workshop on Automatic Speaker Recognition. Identification and Verification (IDIAP-ESCA Workshop) 5-7 Apr 94Martigny, Switzerland 15 Sep 93 Contact: esca@idiap.ch
- Fifth Australian Conference on Neural Networks (ACNN'94) 31 Jan-2 Feb 94 Brisbane, Q, Australia17 Sep 93 Contact: acnn94@s1.elec.uq.oz.au
- 1994 ACM Symposium on Applied Comouting (SAC'94) Track on Fuzzy Logic in Applications 6-8 Mar 94 Phoenix, AZ, USA 17 Sep 93 "Applications of Fuzzy Systems to Neural Systems" Contact: fathi@ls1.informatik.uni-dortmund.de (Madjid Fathi)
- The Ninth Annual Goddard Conference on Space Applications of Artificial Intelligence 10-12 May 94Greenbelt, MD. USA 20 Sep 93 "Neural networks, Parallel Processing, Robotics and telerobotics." Contact: short@dunloggin.gsfc.nasa.gov (Nick Short)
- IMACS International Symposium on Signal Processing, Robotics And Neural Networks (SPRANN'94) 25-27 Apr 94 Lille, France 1 Oct 93 "Neural Nets in Robotics, Control, Computing,... Contact: SPRANN94@idnges.decnet.citilille.fr
- · International Symposium on Speech, Image Processing & Neural Networks (ICASSP'94) 14-16 Apr 94 Hong Kong 4 Oct 93 Contact: enpklun@hkpcc.hkp.hk (Dr. Daniel Lun)
- European Meeting on Cybernetics and Systems Research (EMCSR'94) 5-8 Apr 94 Vienna, Austria 8 Oct 93 "Artificial Neural Networks and Adaptive Systems" Contact: sec@ai.univie.ac.at
- · Representation, Analogy, and Cognition: An Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference 18-19 Feb 94Binghamton, NY, USA 15 Oct 93 "Developmental and Scaffolded Connectionist Models" Contact: timothy@turing.pacss.binghamton.edu (Timothy Buczak)
- •14th IMACS World Congress on Computation and Applied Mathematics 11-15 Jul 94 Atlanta, GA, USA 15 Oct 93 (abstract) "Neural network architectures and implementations; application of neural techniques for signal and

September 1993

- image processing" Contact: piuri@ipmel 1. polimi.it (Prof. Vincenzo Piuri)
- AAAI 1994 Spring Symposium: Artificial Intelligence in Medicine: Interpreting Clinical Data 21-23 Mar 94 Stanford, CA, USA 15 Oct(abstracts) "A large data sample will be made available to participants to serve as training and test sets for various approaches to information management and to provide a common domain of discourse." Contact: aim-94@camis.stanford.edu
- 7th European Conference on Machine Learning (ECML94) 6-8 Apr 94 Sicily, Italy 15 Oct 93 "computational learning theory, neural networks, genetic algorithms." Contact: ecml@cs.kuleuven.ac.be
- Florida AI Research Symposium (FLAIRS-94) 5-7 May 94Pensacola Beach, FL, USA 18 Oct 93 "knowledge-based approaches to the construction of intelligent systems" Contact: ddd@panther.cis.ufl.edu (Douglas D. Dankel II)
- Third Conference on Information Technology and its Applications (ITA'94) Association of Muslim Researchers. 2 3 Apr 94 Leicester, UK 1 Nov 93 "Expert Systems, Neural Networks, Fuzzy Logic, Genetic Algorithms, Robotics" Contact: wani@taff.cf.ac.uk (Dr. A Wani)
- Principles of Knowledge Representation and Reasoning (KR'94) 24-27 May 94 Bonn, Germany 8 Nov 93 "Explicit representations of knowledge; constraint solving; classification". Contact: kr94@mail2.ai.univie.ac.at
- •7th IEEE Symposium on Computer-Based Medical Systems. 10-12 June 94. Winston-Salem NC 1 December 93. Contact carla@relito.medeng.wfu.edu
- IEEE International Conference on Neural Networks (part of IEEE World Congress on Computational Intelligence) 26 Jun-2 Jul 94 Lake Buena Vista, FL, USA 10 Dec 93 Contact: 70750.345@compuserve.com
- · First World Congress on Computational Medicine, Public Health and Biotechnology 24-28 Apr 94 Austin, TX, USA 1 Nov 93 "Brain modeling, Neural nets and clinical applications, Neurological disorder modeling" Contact: compmed94@chpc.utexas.edu
- ·Pan Pacific Conference on Brain Electric Topography 10-12 Feb 94 Sydney, Australia 10 Nov 93 "Analysis and models of electrical brain function; findings of brain topography and cognitive processes" Contact: pan@brain.physics.swin.oz.au
- ·International Symposium on Integrating

- Knowledge and Neural Heuristics (ISIKNH'94) 9-10 May 94 Pensacola Beach, FL, USA 15 Dec 93 (summaries) Contact: Rob Francis (fax: +1 904-392-6950)
- International Conference on Artificial Neural Networks (ICANN'94) 26-29 May 94 Sorrento, Italy 15 Dec 93 "Cognitive Science, Mathematical Models, Neurobiology. "Contact: ijass@salerno.infn.it (Prof. Eduardo R. Caianiello)
- From Animals to Animats: Third International Conference on Simulation of Adaptive Behavior (SAB94) 8-12 Aug 94 Brighton, UK 5 Jan 94 "Neural correlates of behavior; Neural networks and evolutionary computation; Hierarchical and parallel organizations" Contact: sab94@cogs.susx.ac.uk
- 11th European Conference on Artificial Intelligence (ECAI'94) 8-12 Aug 94 Amsterdam, Holland8 Jan 94 "Machine Learning: Neural Networks; Cognitive Modelling: Connectionist and PDP Models for AI" Contact:

Call for Papers CBMS'94: Computers in Medicine The 7th IEEE Symposium on Computer-Based Medical Systems

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ecai94@scs.leeds.ac.uk (Dr. Tony Cohn)

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- Twelfth National Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI-94) 31 Jul-4 Aug 94 Seattle, WA, USA24 Jan 94 "Distributed AI, Neural Networks, Machine Learning" Contact: bhr@ksl.stanford.edu (Barbara Hayes-Roth)
- •IEE Int'l Conference on Systems, Man and Cybernetics. 2-5 October 94. San Antonio TX.Contact: dicesare@ecse.rpi.edu (Prof Frank DiCesare)
- •12th International Conferences on Pattern Recognition (ICPR) 9
  13 Oct 94 Jerusalem, Israel1 Feb 94 "Pattern recognition and neural networks; parallel computing" Contact: icpr@math.-tau.ac.il
- First IEEE International Conference on Image Processing (ICIP-94) 13-16 Nov 94 Austin, TX, USA 15 Feb 94 (abstracts) "Neural Networks for image processing and model-based compression" Contact: cip@pine.ece.utexas.edu
- 1994 IEEE/Nagoya University World Wisemen/women Workshop (WWW) On Fuzzy Logic and Neural Networks/Genetic Algorithms 9-10 Aug 94 Nagoya, Japan 31 Apr 94 Contact: furu@uchikawa.nuem.nagoya-u.ac.jp (Takeshi Furuhashi)
- •FUZZ-IEEE/IFES'95: Int'l J. Conf. of the 4th IEEE Int'l Conf. on Fuzzy Systems and the 2nd Int'l Fuzzy Engineering Symp. 20-24 March 95. Yokohama Japan. 31 August 94. Contact: Fax: 81 45-212-8255 (Ms. Mieko Hemmi).

IEEE Neural Networks Council NNC-Sponsored Conferences

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Virtual Reality Annual International Symposium September 18-22, 1993 Seattle, Washington

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San Francisco CA Nov. 7-10 '93 sar Hawaii Dec. 6-9'93

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onf. San Diego CA Feb. 24-25 '94

\* The NNC has agreed to be named in the Call for Papers and other promotional materials for these meetings, but the Council does not have a financial interest. Conference organizers who wish to list the NNC as a cooperating or technical co-sponsor should contact James Bezdek, Chairman of the NNC Meetings Committee for information on the approval process. (email: jhezdek@uwf.bitnet; Tel: (904)474-2784; FAX (904)484-3023.)

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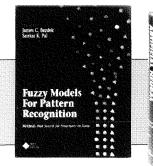
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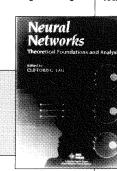
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# NEURAL NETWORKS FOR PATTERN RECOGNITION

Albert Nigrin

"The work is very original, a major contribution to the fields of pattern recognition and self-organizing neural networks. It is significant because it points out some fundamental capabilities that self-organizing pattern recognition systems ought to have and then show how to build neural network systems with those capabilities."— Jonathan A. Marshall, The University of North Carolina

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know that those are men whose research is solid, and whom I respect very much.

So why did neural networks revive? What was the key element? No single thing; in a way, the time was just right. However, there were several serious contributing factors, all of which came to fruition at about the same time, which I can identify.

#### The invention of backpropagation.

Before backpropagation, we knew about multi-layer linear machines. We knew that they could be used to partition a sample space pretty much any way we wished. There just wasn't a general, convenient, easy-to-understand, easy-to-implement, etc. rule for training such a machine. Of course, backpropagation (which was independently invented at least twice and probably several times) is dependent on a simple but profound bit of insight: replace the threshold (step function) of the McColloch-Pitts neuron with a differentiable approximation, the sigmoid, so the chain rule can be used. That's the real key discovery.

#### Results in recurrent networks.

John Hopfield's famous paper (for which the network was named) showed that one could describe the stable states of a recurrent network as the solutions to a minimization problem, and further showed the relationship between the weights of the network and the parameters of the minimization problem.

#### The continuing work in the USA.

A few hardy souls persisted through the lean years, and their contributions began to show fruit and be published at the "just right time". You know who those people are—if you don't

check out the NNC-sponsored Pioneer Series videotape tutorials (available from the IEEE, tel. 800-678-IEEE or FAX, 908-981-9667)

#### The continuing work worldwide

Neural Nets only went into suspended animation in the USA. It continued (but on a slower scale) at a number of institutions worldwide, including Finland and the old USSR. Teuvo Kohonen's book *Associative Memory* (Springer-Verlag, 1978) came out as a result of that continuing work, and contributed to the "just right timing" I mentioned above. If you are interested in the culmination of that work from Russia, you can still order the proceedings of the 1992 Conference on Neuroinformatics and Neurocomputers, jointly sponsored by our Council and the Russian Neural Networks Society (small sales pitch there—just send me email to order).

#### The radical increase in available computing resources.

In the 1960's the kinds of computers we have on our desks today were not only unheard of, they were undreamed of. And NOW, using those modern computer, we are frustrated that backpropagation training takes such a time to converge.

So that's my comment/editorial/history in a nutshell. *Students:* look this stuff up yourself. Learn it better. You need to know what's been done already so you don't spend time reinventing it. Feel free to argue with my editorial comments, or my interpretation of history. After all, that's what newsletters are for.

IEEE Neural Networks Council Dr. Wesley E. Snyder, Editor North Carolina State University

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