


**Investigating the Impact of Different Representations of Data on Neural
Network and Regression**

This thesis is presented to the Graduate School
In fulfilment of the requirements for
Master of Science (Information Technology)
Universiti Utara Malaysia

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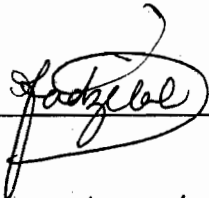
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ABSTRACT

In this research the impact of different data representation on the performance of neural network and regression was investigated on different datasets that has binary or Boolean class target. In addition, the performance of particular predictive data mining model could be affected with the change of data representation. The seven data representations that have been used in this research are As_Is, Min Max normalization, standard deviation normalization, sigmoidal normalization, thermometer representation, flag representation and simple binary representation. Moreover, all data representations have been applied on two datasets which are Wisconsin breast cancer and German credit dataset. As a result, the neural network performance is better than logistic regression on both datasets if we exclude the thermometer and flag representations. For datasets having a binary or Boolean target class, flag or thermometer binary representation is recommended to be used if logistic regression analysis is performed. Meanwhile, As_is representation, min max normalization, standard deviation normalization or sigmoidal normalization is recommended for neural network analysis on datasets having binary or Boolean target class.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Title	Page
TITLE	i
PERMISSION TO USE	ii
ABSTRACT	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	iv
TABLE OF CONTENTS	v
LIST OF FIGURES	vii
LIST OF TABLES	viii
CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.0 Background	1
1.1. PROBLEM STATEMENT	4
1.2. OBJECTIVE	4
1.3. SIGNIFICANCE	5
1.4. SCOPE AND LIMITATION	5
CHAPTER 2 LITERATURE REVIEW	6
2.1. Data mining applications	6
2.2. Different predictive models on different data representation	11
CHAPTER 3 METHODOLOGY	19
3.0 Introduction	19
3.1. Data Collection	20
3.2. Data preparation	21
3.2.1. Data description	21
3.2.1.1. Wisconsin Breast Cancer dataset	21
3.2.1.2. German credit	22
3.2.2. Data Cleaning	24
3.3. Analysis and experiment	24
3.3.1. Data representation	24
3.3.1.1. As_Is	25
3.3.1.2. Min Max normalization	25
3.3.1.3. Standard deviation normalization	27
3.3.1.4. Sigmoidal normalization	28
3.3.1.5. Thermometer binary	30
3.3.1.6. Flag binary	32
3.3.1.7. Simple binary	33
3.3.1.8. Change continuous into categorical	34
3.3.2. Regression model	35
3.3.3. Artificial Neural Network Model	40
3.4. Investigation and Comparison	48

CHAPTER 4 ANALYSIS AND EXPERIMENT	49
4.0 Introduction.....	49
4.1. Regression analysis.....	51
4.1.1. As_Is representation.....	51
4.1.2. Min Max normalization	68
4.1.3. Standard deviation normalization	70
4.1.4. Sigmoidal normalization.....	73
4.1.5. Thermometer representation	75
4.1.6. Flag representation.....	78
4.1.7. Simple binary representation	81
4.2. Artificial neural network.....	83
4.2.1. As_Is representation.....	83
4.2.2. Min Max normalization	103
4.2.3. Standard deviation normalization	107
4.2.4. Sigmoidal normalization.....	111
4.2.5. Thermometer representation	115
4.2.6. Flag representation.....	119
4.2.7. Simple binary representation	123
4.3. Conclusion	127
CHAPTER 5 INVESTIGATION AND COMPARISON.....	128
5.0 Introduction.....	128
5.1. Regression analysis.....	128
5.2. Neural network analysis.....	131
6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION	135
6.1. Discussion.....	136
6.2. Conclusion	137
6.3. Limitation.....	138
7. REFERENCE.....	139

LIST OF TABLES

Title	Page
Table 3.1: Wisconsin breast cancer dataset size	21
Table 3.2: Wisconsin Breast Cancer Dataset attribute description	22
Table 3.3: German credit dataset size	22
Table 3.4: German credit dataset attribute description	23
Table 3.5: Min max normalization on Wisconsin Breast Cancer dataset taking CellSize attribute as example	26
Table 3.6: Min Max normalization on German credit dataset taking PersonalS attribute as example	27
Table 3.7: Standard Deviation normalization on Wisconsin Breast Cancer dataset taking CellSize attribute as example	28
Table 3.8: Standard deviation normalization on German credit dataset taking PersonalS as example	28
Table 3.9: Sigmoidal normalization on Wisconsin breast cancer dataset taking CellSize attribute as example	29
Table 3.10: Sigmoidal normalization on German credit dataset taking PersonalS attribute as example	30
Table 3.11: Thermometer representation on Wisconsin breast cancer dataset taking Cellsize attribute as example	31
Table 3.12: Thermometer representation on German credit dataset taking PersonalS attribute as example	31
Table 3.13: Flag representation on Wisconsin breast cancer dataset taking Cellsize attribute as example	32
Table 3.14: Flag representation on German credit dataset taking PersonalS attribute as example	33
Table 3.15: Simple binary representation on Wisconsin breast cancer dataset taking CellSize as example	33
Table 3.16: Simple binary representation on German credit dataset taking PersonalS attribute as example	34
Table 3.17: Changing continuous attributes into categorical in German credit dataset	35
Table 4.1: Case Processing Summary for Wisconsin breast cancer	54
Table 4.2: Omnibus Tests of Model Coefficients for Wisconsin breast cancer	54
Table 4.3: Variables in the Equation for Wisconsin breast cancer	54
Table 4.4: Model Summery for Wisconsin breast cancer	55
Table 4.5: Classification Table step 0 for Wisconsin breast cancer	56
Table 4.6: Classification Table step 1 for Wisconsin breast cancer	56
Table 4.7: Correlation matrix for Wisconsin breast cancer	57
Table 4.8: As_is Accuracy for Wisconsin breast cancer	57
Table 4.9: Case Processing Summary for German credit using all variable	60
Table 4.10: Omnibus Tests of Model Coefficients for German credit using all variable	60
Table 4.11: Variables in the Equation for German credit using all variable	61
Table 4.12: Model Summery for German credit using all variable	62
Table 4.13: Classification Table step 0 for German credit using all variable	62
Table 4.14: Classification Table step 1 for German credit using all variable	63
Table 4.15: Correlation for significant for German credit using all variable	63
Table 4.16: Correlation for non significant for German credit using all variable	63
Table 4.17: As_is Accuracy for German credit using all variable	64
Table 4.18: Case Processing Summary for German credit using selected variable	65
Table 4.19: Omnibus Tests of Model Coefficients for German credit using selected variable	65
Table 4.20: Variables in the Equation for German credit using selected variable	65
Table 4.21: Model Summery for German credit using selected variable	66
Table 4.22: Classification Table step 0 for German credit using selected variable	67
Table 4.23: Classification Table step 1 for German credit using selected variable	67
Table 4.24: As_is Accuracy for selected variables for German credit using selected variable	67
Table 4.25: Classification Table step 1 for Min max Wisconsin breast cancer dataset	68
Table 4.26: Min Max Accuracy for Wisconsin breast cancer dataset	68
Table 4.27: Classification Table step 1 for Min max German credit dataset using all variables	69
Table 4.28: Min Max Accuracy for German credit dataset using all variables	69
Table 4.29: Classification Table step 1 for Min max German credit dataset using selected variables	70
Table 4.30: Min Max Accuracy for German credit dataset using selected variables	70
Table 4.31: Classification Table step 1 for standard deviation Wisconsin breast cancer dataset	71
Table 4.32: standard deviation Accuracy for Wisconsin breast cancer dataset	71
Table 4.33: Classification Table step 1 for standard deviation German credit dataset using all variables	71
Table 4.34: standard deviation Accuracy for German credit dataset using all variables	72
Table 4.35: Classification Table step 1 for standard deviation German credit dataset using selected variables	72

Table 4.36: standard deviation Accuracy for German credit dataset using selected variables	73
Table 4.37: Classification Table step 1 for sigmoidal Wisconsin breast cancer dataset.....	73
Table 4.38: sigmoidal Accuracy for Wisconsin breast cancer dataset.....	73
Table 4.39: Classification Table step 1 for sigmoidal German credit dataset using all variables.....	74
Table 4.40: sigmoidal Accuracy for German credit dataset using all variables.....	74
Table 4.41: Classification Table step 1 for sigmoidal German credit dataset using selected variables.....	75
Table 4.42: sigmoidal Accuracy for German credit dataset using selected variables.....	75
Table 4.43: Classification Table step 1 for thermometer Wisconsin breast cancer dataset	76
Table 4.44: thermometer Accuracy for Wisconsin breast cancer dataset.....	76
Table 4.45: Classification Table step 1 for thermometer German credit dataset using all variables	77
Table 4.46: thermometer Accuracy for German credit dataset using all variables	77
Table 4.47: Classification Table step 1 for thermometer German credit dataset using selected variables	78
Table 4.48: thermometer Accuracy for German credit dataset using selected variables	78
Table 4.49: Classification Table step 1 for flag Wisconsin breast cancer dataset	78
Table 4.50: flag Accuracy for Wisconsin breast cancer dataset	79
Table 4.51: Classification Table step 1 for flag German credit dataset using all variables	79
Table 4.52: flag Accuracy for German credit dataset using all variables	80
Table 4.53: Classification Table step 1 for flag German credit dataset using selected variables	80
Table 4.54: flag Accuracy for German credit dataset using selected variables	80
Table 4.55: Classification Table step 1 for simple binary Wisconsin breast cancer dataset.....	81
Table 4.56: simple binary Accuracy for Wisconsin breast cancer dataset.....	81
Table 4.57: Classification Table step 1 for simple binary German credit dataset using all variables.....	82
Table 4.58: simple binary Accuracy for German credit dataset using all variables.....	82
Table 4.59: Classification Table step 1 for simple binary German credit dataset using selected variables.....	83
Table 4.60: simple binary Accuracy for German credit dataset using selected variables.....	83
Table 4.61: Investigate Hidden Unit for Wisconsin breast cancer dataset	84
Table 4.62: Investigate Hidden Unit with weight seed for Wisconsin breast cancer dataset.....	85
Table 4.63: Investigate learning rate for Wisconsin breast cancer dataset	85
Table 4.64: Investigate learning rate with weight seed for Wisconsin breast cancer dataset	86
Table 4.65: Investigate momentum rate for Wisconsin breast cancer dataset	87
Table 4.66: Investigate momentum rate with weight seed for Wisconsin breast cancer dataset	87
Table 4.67: Investigate activation function with weight seed for Wisconsin breast cancer dataset	88
Table 4.68: Investigate number of epoch for Wisconsin breast cancer dataset	89
Table 4.69: Investigate weigh seed for Wisconsin breast cancer dataset	89
Table 4.70: As_is Accuracy for Wisconsin breast cancer dataset	90
Table 4.71: Investigate Hidden Unit for German credit dataset using all variables	91
Table 4.72: Investigate Hidden Unit with weight seed for German credit dataset using all variables	91
Table 4.73: Investigate learning rate for German credit dataset using all variables	92
Table 4.74: Investigate learning rate with weight seed for German credit dataset using all variables	92
Table 4.75: Investigate momentum rate for German credit dataset using all variables	93
Table 4.76: Investigate momentum rate with weight seed for German credit dataset using all variables	94
Table 4.77: Investigate activation function with weight seed for German credit dataset using all variables	94
Table 4.78: Investigate number of epoch for German credit dataset using all variables	95
Table 4.79: Investigate weigh seed for German credit dataset using all variables	96
Table 4.80: As_is Accuracy for German credit dataset using all variables	96
Table 4.81: Investigate Hidden Unit for German credit dataset using selected variables.....	97
Table 4.82: Investigate Hidden Unit with weight seed for German credit dataset using selected variables.....	98
Table 4.83: Investigate learning rate for German credit dataset using selected variables	99
Table 4.84: Investigate learning rate with weight seed for German credit dataset using selected variables	99
Table 4.85: Investigate momentum rate for German credit dataset using selected variables	100
Table 4.86: Investigate momentum rate with weight seed for German credit dataset using selected variables	100
Table 4.87: Investigate activation function with weight seed for German credit dataset using selected variables.....	101
Table 4.88: Investigate number of epoch for German credit dataset using selected variables	102
Table 4.89: Investigate weigh seed for German credit dataset using selected variables.....	102
Table 4.90: As_is Accuracy for German credit dataset using selected variables	103
Table 4.91: Investigate weight seed for Min max Wisconsin breast cancer dataset.....	104
Table 4.92: Min max Accuracy for Wisconsin breast cancer dataset.....	104
Table 4.93: Investigate weigh seed for Min max German credit dataset using all variables.....	105
Table 4.94: Min max Accuracy for German credit dataset using all variables.....	105
Table 4.95: Investigate weigh seed for Min max German credit dataset using selected variables	106

Table 4.96: Min max Accuracy for German credit dataset using selected variables	107
Table 4.97: Investigate weight seed for standard deviation Wisconsin breast cancer dataset	108
Table 4.98: standard deviation Accuracy for Wisconsin breast cancer dataset	108
Table 4.99: Investigate weigh seed for standard deviation German credit dataset using all variables	109
Table 4.100: standard deviation Accuracy for German credit dataset using all variables	109
Table 4.101: Investigate weigh seed for standard deviation German credit dataset using selected variables	110
Table 4.102: standard deviation Accuracy for German credit dataset using selected variables	111
Table 4.103: Investigate weight seed for sigmoidal Wisconsin breast cancer dataset.....	112
Table 4.104: sigmoidal Accuracy for Wisconsin breast cancer dataset.....	112
Table 4.105: Investigate weigh seed for sigmoidal German credit dataset using all variables.....	113
Table 4.106: sigmoidal Accuracy for German credit dataset using all variables.....	113
Table 4.107: Investigate weigh seed for sigmoidal German credit dataset using selected variables.....	114
Table 4.108: sigmoidal Accuracy for German credit dataset using selected variables.....	115
Table 4.109: Investigate weight seed for thermometer Wisconsin breast cancer dataset	116
Table 4.110: thermometer Accuracy for Wisconsin breast cancer dataset	116
Table 4.111: Investigate weigh seed for thermometer German credit dataset using all variables	117
Table 4.112: thermometer Accuracy for thermometer German credit dataset using all variables.....	117
Table 4.113: Investigate weigh seed for thermometer German credit dataset using selected variables	118
Table 4.114: Classification Table for thermometer German credit dataset using selected variables.....	119
Table 4.115: thermometer Accuracy for German credit dataset using selected variables	119
Table 4.116: Investigate weight seed for flag Wisconsin breast cancer dataset	120
Table 4.117: flag Accuracy for Wisconsin breast cancer dataset	120
Table 4.118: Investigate weigh seed for flag German credit dataset using all variables	121
Table 4.119: flag Accuracy for German credit dataset using all variables	121
Table 4.120: Investigate weigh seed for flag German credit dataset using selected variables	122
Table 4.121: Classification Table for flag German credit dataset using selected variables.....	123
Table 4.122: flag Accuracy for German credit dataset using selected variables	123
Table 4.123: Investigate weight seed for simple binary Wisconsin breast cancer dataset.....	124
Table 4.124: simple binary Accuracy for Wisconsin breast cancer dataset.....	124
Table 4.125: Investigate weigh seed for simple binary German credit dataset using all variables.....	125
Table 4.126: simple binary Accuracy for German credit dataset using all variables.....	125
Table 4.127: Investigate weigh seed for simple binary German credit dataset using selected variables.....	126
Table 4.128: Classification Table for simple binary German credit dataset using selected variables	127
Table 4.129: Simple binary Accuracy for German credit dataset using selected variables	127
Table 5.1: All regression and neural network accuracy.....	128

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Background

Data mining has been used widely in many different areas and domains to extract useful information from large amounts of data (Leung *et al.*, 2001). Instead of being its own field, data mining is a combination of several fields such as computer science, artificial intelligence and statistics (Remondino & Correndo, 2005). In addition, data mining is a crucial step in the Knowledge Discovery in Databases (KDD) process which comprises of data cleaning, data consolidation, data selection, data transformation, data mining, pattern analysis and knowledge presentation (Ozekes & Osman, 2003). There are two types of data mining models, namely the predictive and the descriptive (Kusiak, 2006; Remondino & Correndo, 2005; Ozekes & Osman, 2003). Descriptive data mining aims to summarize data and extract interesting properties from the data, while predictive data mining aims to build models and predict future behaviours. Data mining tasks can be grouped into four categories which are association, summarization, classification, clustering and trend analysis (Luo, 2008). There are many different methods of predictive data mining, for example, prediction, classification, regression, and time series.

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