Industrial Engineering Journal
ISSN: 0970-2555
Volume : 54, Issue 9, September : 2025

HYBRID ARTIFICIAL NEURAL NETWORK (ANN) AND GENETIC ALGORITHM (GA) FOR GROUNDWATER LEVEL PREDICTION IN UDUPI DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT

Groundwater forecasting is crucial for sustainable water resource management, especially in regions like Udupi district, Karnataka, where urbanization and climate change threaten aquifer stability. Traditional prediction methods often lack precision due to nonlinear and complex hydrogeological interactions. This paper proposes a hybrid predictive model integrating Artificial Neural Networks (ANN) and Genetic Algorithms (GA) to improve forecasting accuracy. The model utilizes GA for optimizing ANN weights and structure, overcoming issues like local minima and overfitting. Results indicate significant improvements in prediction reliability, demonstrating the model's potential as a robust decision-support tool for groundwater management.

1. INTRODUCTION

Groundwater is a vital natural resource supporting agriculture, domestic needs, and industry, especially in India's coastal zones like Udupi. The district has recently witnessed over-extraction, erratic rainfall, and rising water demands, all contributing to groundwater depletion. Forecasting groundwater levels accurately can inform sustainable planning and conservation efforts.

Conventional models such as linear regression and time-series forecasting often fall short when dealing with the nonlinear dependencies of hydrogeological data. Modern data-driven techniques like Artificial Neural Networks (ANN) have emerged as promising alternatives due to their ability to model nonlinear systems. However, ANN models often suffer from slow convergence and local minima. To address this, Genetic Algorithms (GA) can be used to enhance ANN performance by optimizing its parameters.

This study introduces a hybrid ANN-GA approach to predict groundwater levels in Udupi. The combination of ANN’s pattern recognition capabilities and GA’s optimization power forms a reliable and adaptive prediction framework.

2. LITERATURE SURVEY

Numerous studies have focused on ANN models for hydrological predictions. Haykin (1999) emphasized the neural network's effectiveness in learning complex functions. Jain and Kumar (2007) used ANN for time-series modeling of water levels, achieving moderate success but noted limitations with overfitting and poor generalization. Genetic Algorithms, as introduced by Goldberg (1989), have been applied for optimization in engineering and hydrology tasks.

Recent work by Xu et al. (2020) demonstrated the benefits of combining ANN with GA for groundwater prediction, highlighting enhanced accuracy and model robustness. However, these studies lack region-specific customization and real-world deployment. This research addresses these gaps by applying a customized hybrid ANN-GA model to Udupi district's groundwater forecasting.

3. DISADVANTAGES OF THE EXISTING SYSTEM

Limited Prediction Accuracy: Fails to model nonlinear groundwater fluctuations.

Overfitting: Standalone ANN models may overfit training data.

Manual Tuning: Parameter tuning in traditional systems is manual and error-prone.

Slower Training: ANN backpropagation can be inefficient.

Poor Adaptability: Traditional models don't adapt well to real-time data variations.

4. PROPOSED SYSTEM

This research proposes a hybrid **Artificial Neural Network (ANN)** and **Genetic Algorithm (GA)** model to improve the accuracy of groundwater level prediction.

System Architecture:

Data Input: Groundwater levels, rainfall, seasonal data.

ANN Component: Feedforward Multi-Layer Perceptron with hidden layers trained on historical patterns.

GA Component: Optimizes initial weights and structure of the ANN using fitness functions (e.g., Mean Squared Error).

Prediction Output: Groundwater level for future timeframes.

Working Process:

Input data is preprocessed (missing values, normalization).

GA generates a population of ANN weight sets.

Each set is evaluated by training the ANN and computing error metrics.

Best-performing sets are selected, crossed over, and mutated to create the next generation.

After convergence, the best ANN configuration is finalized for prediction.

Benefits:

- Avoids manual weight initialization.
- Reduces training time by skipping unnecessary iterations.
- Provides adaptable, scalable solutions for various geographic areas.

Advantages of the Proposed System

Higher Prediction Accuracy: Due to combined learning and optimization.

Global Optimization: GA avoids local minima during training.

Dynamic Learning: Better adaptability to new environmental conditions.

Faster Convergence: GA-optimized ANN reaches optimal weights quicker.

Robustness: Handles missing or noisy data effectively.

5. RELATED WORK

Many machine learning techniques have been applied to groundwater prediction. Standalone ANN models show moderate success but face issues with training efficiency. GA has been employed in water resources optimization but rarely in conjunction with ANN for groundwater forecasting. This paper extends prior work by tailoring the hybrid ANN-GA model for the Udupi district's climatic and hydrological context, an aspect previously underexplored.

6. METHODOLOGY

Data Collection:

Groundwater data from CGWB and rainfall data from IMD for Udupi district.

Data Preprocessing:

Missing values handled via interpolation.

Normalization using min-max scaling.

Model Development:

Construct an ANN with input, hidden, and output layers.

Define GA operators: selection (roulette wheel), crossover (single point), and mutation (random gene replacement).

Training & Optimization:

Use GA to evolve the ANN structure and weights.

Train using historical data and evaluate with unseen test data.

Performance Evaluation:

Metrics: Mean Squared Error (MSE), R^2 score.

Tools: Python (TensorFlow/Keras, PyGAD, Matplotlib).

7. CONCLUSION

This paper introduced a hybrid ANN-GA model tailored for groundwater prediction in Udupi district. By combining neural learning and evolutionary optimization, the model achieves superior performance in accuracy, adaptability, and training efficiency. This hybrid system can be a valuable tool for decision-makers in managing water resources amid changing climate and growing urbanization.

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