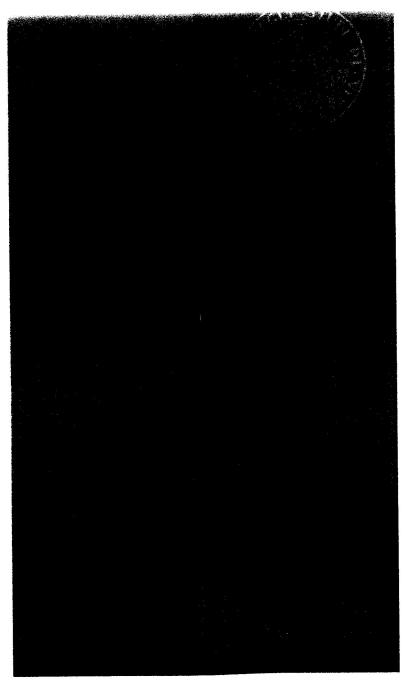
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UNIVERSITÀ DI VERONA DIPARTIMENTO DI SCIENZE ECONOMICHE

Neural Nearest-Neighbor Regression for Time Series Prediction

Marco Sandri Giovanni Tondini

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Neural nearest-neighbor regression for time series prediction

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Neural Nearest-Neighbor Regression For Time Series Prediction

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Abstract

In this note, we describe a forecasting method for time series which represents, from different point of views, an extension of the work of [13], recently published on this journal. Combining some basic notions of the theory of nonlinear dynamical systems and of neural networks, the method leads to the construction of a nonlinear piece-wise model in the reconstructed phase space. A description of the algorithm together with some flexible routines are provided.

Keywords. Time series, forecasting, neural networks, nearest neighbor

The sections 2.2, 3, 4 of this note are written by Marco Sandri, the sections 1, 2.1, 2.3, 5 are drafted by Giovanni Tondini.

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Neural Nearest-Neighbor Regression for Time Series Prediction

1 Introduction

Jadiz and Riddick [13] provides some flexible routines routines for implementing the nearest-neighbors approach to time series prediction. In this paper we present some interesting extentions which are based on the theory of nonlinear dinamical systems [14] and on feedforward artificial neural networks (F-ANN)[31].

First, we start dealing with the identification and reconstruction (embedding) of a low-dimensional attractor by the Takens Theorem, that is with the choice of the time lag τ and the embedding dimension d. We then apply a preprocessing (filtering) technique known as Singular Spectrum Analysis (see [1] and [28]), which proved to be quite useful in improving forecasting of noisy data [19]. After identifying in the reconstructed phase space the k closest neighbors of the reference points y_t , we estimate a local neural regression model and predict the state y_{t+T} of the system , where T is the prediction step.

Some papers showed that the proposed technique is able, under proper conditions, to prolong the trajectories of an unknown chaotic low-dimentional dinamical system (see [7] and [8]). This matter is only partially connected to time series forecasting. Experiments conducted on some time series generated by a simple (noisy and noise-free) chaotic model, show that the method is potentially interesting for predicting the future behavior of the process.

Section 2 briefly presents the theoretical notions undelying the proposed method. Section 3 contains the description of the algorithm and the discussion of some applicability aspects. In section 4 the code is described and some practical examples are reported. Moreover, the predictive performances of the methodology applied to some chaotic time series with and without noise are shown. Section 5 concludes.

2 Theoretical background

2.1 Nonlinear dynamics

Let the data generating process (DGP) be measured by the variable $Y_t \in \mathbb{R}$ and let the series $\{y_t : 1 \le t \le N\}$ be one of its realizations of length N. Following [13], we denote our data with $\{\mathbf{z}_t = (y_t, \mathbf{x}_t) : 1 \le t \le N\}$, where \mathbf{x}_t is a vector of covariates. In the field of time series prediction, the elements of \mathbf{x}_t are often lagged values of y_t . This is true

2

especially when, assuming the existence of an underlying deterministic dynamics in the series, we apply the Takens' Theorem.

We assume that $Y_t = \Psi_t + \Xi_t$, where Ξ_t is a purely stochastic component, and Ψ_t is a deterministic process, governed by an evolutionary deterministic law. Nella maggior parte dei casi reali, we do not have direct and complete access to the entire vector of the state variables Γ_t of the true DGP. Tipically we observe only one (or a combination) of them through a certain 'viewer' function $h: \mathbb{R}^m \to \mathbb{R}$, that is: $\Psi_t = h(\Gamma_t)$, where $d\Gamma_t/dt = F(\Gamma_t)$ is the true DGP, and $F: \mathbb{R}^m \to \mathbb{R}^m$ is the vector field. Under weak regularity conditions on h and F, and for sufficiently large positive integer d ($d \ge 2m + 1$), the Takens' Theorem guarantees that the time evolution of the reconstructed vector:

$$\Psi_t^d = (\Psi_t, \Psi_{t-\tau, \dots}, \Psi_{t-(d-1)\tau}) \in \mathbb{R}^d$$

is diffeomorphically equivalent to the true (and unknown) dynamics of Γ_t [25, 2]. This means that there exists a deterministic map $G: \mathbb{R}^d \to \mathbb{R}^d$, dependent on d, such that:

$$\Psi_{t+1}^d = G(\Psi_t^d) \tag{1}$$

Because of the unpredictable character of Ξ_t , we should concentrate our forecasting efforts only on the (unknown) Ψ_t component, trying to approximate as better as possible the map G of (1) in the reconstructed space. This approach justifies the choice of setting \mathbf{x}_t as a vector of lagged values of y_t . Of course, the quality of the predictions strongly depends on the signal-to-noise ratio, defined by $s/n = \sigma_{\Psi}^2/\sigma_{\Xi}^2$, where σ_{Ψ}^2 and σ_{Ξ}^2 are the variances of Ψ and Ξ respectively. In order to estimate G, many global [17, 29, 27] or local [5, 3, 25], linear [5, 24] or nonlinear [29, 20] models have been proposed. In the present work, we analyse a neural nearest-neighbor forecasting method, that is a nonlinear regression model based on feedforward neural approximators. The aim is to obtain local estimates \hat{G}_{y_j} of G in the neighborhood of y_j , where for neighborhood we mean the k nearest points of y_i in the reconstructed phase space.

2.2 Filtering with SSA

It is worth to point out that all the classical theorems concerning embedding and phase space reconstruction are based on the hyphotesis that data are noise-free (see [25]). Only recently some extensions of geometric time series analysis to genuinely stochastic systems appeared [21, 26]. Moreover, as written above, if we want to predict the future evolution of the series, we must concentrate our efforts only on the deterministic part Ψ of the process. These are the two main reasons which led us to the decision of applying a filter to our data in order to separate as much as possible Ψ from Ξ .

Many are the parametric and nonparametric filtering methods for time series proposed in literature, see for example [23, 4, 11]. An intuitive and easily applicable technique, which shows good denoising properties, is the one based on Singular Spectrun Analysis (SSA) [2, 28]. As pointed out by [16] (see also and [25]), SSA is by itself an alternative (and for some aspects, better) reconstructing method. Thus, it can be easily integrated in the algorithm proposed here.

For simplicity, we suppose that y_t be a unidimensional vector of observations. The generalization to the multidimensional case is straightforward and will be omitted.

The first step in the implementation of SSA is to construct the so-called 'trajectory matrix' in the reconstructed space:

$$\mathbf{Y}^{d} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \begin{bmatrix} y_1 & \dots & y_d \\ y_2 & \dots & y_{d+1} \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ y_{N-m+1} & \dots & y_N \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{y}_1^d \\ \mathbf{y}_2^d \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{y}_{N-m+1}^d \end{bmatrix}$$
(2)

From now on, we drop the superscript d whenever possible. Using the well known Singular Value Decomposition (SVD), the rectangular matrix \mathbf{Y} can be decomposed as $\mathbf{Y} = \mathbf{S} \mathbf{\Sigma} \mathbf{C}^T$, where \mathbf{S} is a matrix whose columns \mathbf{s}_i are the eigenvectors of the symmetric matrix $\mathbf{Y} \mathbf{Y}^T$; \mathbf{C} is a matrix whose columns \mathbf{c}_i are the eigenvectors of the covariance matrix $\mathbf{Y}^T\mathbf{Y}$; $\mathbf{\Sigma}$ is a diagonal matrix whose elements λ_i are the positive square roots of the eigenvalues of $\mathbf{Y}^T\mathbf{Y}$. The \mathbf{s}_i and \mathbf{c}_i vectors are also called singular vectors and the elements of $\mathbf{\Sigma}$ (considered in descending order) are called singular values of \mathbf{Y} .

Because singular vectors are orthogonal, the c_i vectors can be used as an orthonormal basis of the space \mathbb{R}^d on which d-dimensional points z_i^d can be projected. Those vectors are sometimes called 'empirical orthogonal functions' (EOFs). The columns of the matrix $A \equiv ZC$ are called *principal components* (PCs) and represent the coefficients of projection of vectors z_i^d onto the base $\{c_i\}_{i=1}^p$. Finally, the singular values λ_i can be ordered as $\sigma_1 \geq \sigma_2 \geq \ldots \geq \sigma_m \geq 0$.

If we consider a trajectory exploring on average an ellipsoid of dimension d, the c_i vectors correspond to the directions of the principal axes of the ellipsoid, and the associated λ_i^2 values correspond to the lengths of the axes. Each singular value λ_i is equal to the variance of the i-th principal component.

Recalling our basic assumption that $\{y_t\}$ is the result of a deterministic DGP contaminated by an observational white noise, than, if the series is stationary and sufficiently long, the covariance matrix $\mathbf{Y}^T\mathbf{Y}$ can be approximated as follows:

$$\mathbf{Y}^T \mathbf{Y} = \mathbf{\Psi}^T \mathbf{\Psi} + (\sigma_{\Xi}^2 / d) \mathbf{I}$$
 (3)

where σ_{Ξ}^2 denotes the variance due to noise, I is the $(d \times d)$ identity matrix and Ψ is the trajectory matrix of the deterministic part Ψ_t . Clearly, in this case the singular vectors \mathbf{c}_i of the perturbed trajectory matrix will be the same as those of the unperturbed one, whereas, owing to noise, the singular values will be uniformly increased by an amount σ_{Ξ}^2/d .

For any given value of the window length d and the level of noise σ_{Ξ}^2 , the signal-to-noise ratio (s.n.r.) associated with each direction measured by the quantity $d\lambda_i^2/\sigma_{\Xi}^2$ - will decrease as the order of the corresponding singular value increases and clearly noise can entirely dominate signal for 'higher order directions'. While, in general, the singular values of a noise-free series will be uniformely declining with the order i, in the presence of sufficiently strong white noise we should observe a plateau - the 'noise floor' - in the spectrum. If this is the case, only $p \leq d$ singular values will be above the noise floor.

2.3 Neural regression models

The choice of a feed-forward artificial neural network (F-ANN) is motivated by two properties. First, they can approximate virtually any function of interest to any desired degree of accuracy, provided many sufficiently hidden units are available. In other words, this kind of neural network represents a class of universal approximators [12]. This property makes neural models very appealing in nonlinear regression. Secondly, [31] demonstrates that, under mild smoothness conditions on f, feedforward neural networks are consistent estimators of f. In the specific context of chaotic dynamics, neural networks are found to be competitive with the best of the approximation methods in the

construction of a nonlinear map from a given time series [30] as well as in recovering the derivatives of a nonlinear map [6].

Without going into details (see [31] for a wide and rigorous treatment of the statistic aspects of F-ANN), a F-ANN is made by a set of elementary units (the neurons) connected together according to an architecture organized by layers: an input layer, one or more hidden layers and an output layer. In our algorithm, input patterns are the k d-dimensional nearest neighbors of \mathbf{y}_i , $\{\mathbf{y}_{n_j}\}_{j=1}^k$, where d is the embedding dimension of the reconstructed space. Input units send information to the hidden units using a linear transformation determined by their connection strength γ_{rs} . Each hidden unit performs a nonlinear transformation on its total input, producing an output using a sigmoid function $K(\cdot)$, called activation function, which usually is the same for all the hidden units. The output $\hat{\mathbf{y}}_{i+T} \in \mathbb{R}^d$ of a 1-layer F-ANN can be represented as

$$\hat{\mathbf{y}}_{i+T} = \sum_{r=1}^{h} \beta_r \cdot K(\sum_{s=1}^{d} \gamma_{rs} \mathbf{y}_{is} + b_r)$$
(4)

where y_{is} is the s component of \mathbf{y}_i ($y_{is} = y_{i-(s-1)\tau}$), and β_r , with $\beta_r \in \mathbf{R}^h$, are the weights connecting the output of the hidden units to the output units, h is the number of hidden units, and b_r is the bias of the hidden units. The k output vectors of the net are then compared to the points $\{\mathbf{y}_{n,j+T}\}_{j=1}^k$ which represent the T-ahead evolutions of the system starting from the neighbor \mathbf{y}_i , $\{\mathbf{y}_{n,j}\}_{j=1}^k$. The β and γ parameters are estimated minimizing the error function:

$$\sum_{j=1}^k (\mathbf{y}_{n_j+T} - \hat{\mathbf{y}}_{n_j+T})^2$$

3 The algorithm

The proposed forecasting algorithm can be summarized as follows:

- 1. Starting from the observed time series $\{y_t\}_{t=1}^N$, use the method of delay (MOD) to build the L=N-d+1 points $y_t\in\mathbf{R}^d$ in the reconstructed phase space, where $y_t=\{y_t,y_{t+1},y_{t+2\tau},\ldots,y_{t+(d-1)\tau}\}$, d is the embedding dimension and τ is the time delay.
- 2. Apply SSA on the trajectory matrix \mathbf{Y} and take the first p principal components, that is consider the first p columns of the matrix

6

15

- **YC**. Call \overline{y}_i the *p*-dimensional points of the filtered phase space obtained in this manner.
- 3. Take the last point of the reconstructed trajectories $\overline{\mathbf{y}}_L$.
- 4. Look for the k closest points to \overline{y}_L , $\{\overline{y}_{n_j}\}_{j=1}^k$, i.e. find the k points which minimize the distance from the reference point \overline{y}_L ; this set of points represents the total input of the neural network.
- 5. Select the successors $\{\overline{y}_{n_j+1}\}_{j=1}^k$, i.e. find the k points in the phase space which correspond to the evolutions of the dynamical system starting from the set of points elected in step (4); this set of points is the total output of the neural network.
- 6. Locally estimate the map G fitting a neural model $\hat{G}_{\overline{y}_L}$ to the two sets of points in \mathbb{R}^d calculated in step 4 and 5.
- 7. Put \overline{y}_L in the input of the network and calculate $\hat{\overline{y}}_{L+T} = \hat{G}_{\overline{y}_L}(\overline{y}_L)$; this is the prediction of the state of the system after a time of length T.

The parameters involved in the algorithm are: the number h of hidden units of the F-ANN, the time delay τ , the embedding dimension d and the number of nearest neighbors k.

One of the most important and unresolved problems in practical applications of F-ANN is how to determine the appropriate complexity h of the network in order to avoid overfitting and to improve generalization. Roughly speaking, the F-ANN should have a sufficiently high degree of complexity, that is a sufficient capacity to approximate the unknown function G_{y_i} . In the meantime, it should not be too much complex because it could overfit data loosing the capacity to generalize. The two main approaches to controlling complexity are model selection (pruning, bootstrap estimate of the generalization error) and regularization (weight decay, early stopping [22], etc.). In our forecasting procedure, overfitting is not a crucial matter because data are always filtered before model estimation. Therefore, we prefer to base the choice of h on the minimization of the in-sample normalized mean square prediction error (NMSPE) for different degrees of complexity.

Some authors [9, 14, 10] argue that an 'optimal' embedding can only be defined relative to a specific purpose for which the embedding is used. Nevertheless, the usual autocorrelation function, the time delay mutual information and a visual inspection of delay representations with various lags provide useful information about reasonable delay times. For highly sampled flow data, small delays yield delay

7

vectors which are all concentrated around the diagonal in the reconstructed space and thus the structure perpendicular to the diagonal is almost invisible. On the converse, large delays lead to vectors whose components are almost uncorrelated and seemingly randomly distributed.

The false nearest neighbors procedure is a popular and intuitive method which can give guidance about the proper dimension of reconstruction [15]. It examines the fraction of nearest neighbors as a function of the embedding dimension to determine the necessary global dimension to unfold an attractor. Thus the minimum embedding dimension is found when most of the nearest neighbors do not move apart significantly in the next higher dimensional embedding Because prediction is the final purpose of the embedding step of our algorithm, we prefer to choose d together with the number k of nearest neighbors. Following [3], we divide the available training data into a learning and a validation set and compute the NMSPE on the validation set for different values of k and d. The optimal values of the parameters are those corresponding to the minimum prediction error.

The problem concerning the choice of the optimal number p of principal components, which allow to eliminate as much as possible the noise from the series with a minimal distortion of the underlying dynamics, is a hard and substantially unresolved question. Some authors [28] suggest to evaluate p by bootstrap methods, while others [18] propose a 'best-prediction' method which is strictly related to our forecasting problem under many aspects. For simplicity, here we prefer to adopt the approach of [1] where the optimal p is defined as the number of singular values above the noise floor.

4 Code and examples

A description of the main commands is given in appendix.

In order to show the use of the provided code, we consider three examples which are more and more close to a real situation.

In the first case we suppose to be in a noise-free environment and to have a series containing all the variables which completely define the state of the system. These are two rather unrealist conditions but they greatly simplify our problem: we can avoid the embedding and filtering steps. The algorithm reduces to finding the k nearest neighbors of the point \overline{y}_L and fitting a local neural model $\hat{G}_{\overline{y}_L}$.

8

We start generating a 3-dimensional trajectory matrix of a Lorenz dynamical model by our integrate command (a fixed-stepsize third-order Runge-Kutta method). The required arguments are: (1) a string containing the name of an ODE file, (2) a vector of system parameters, (3) a vector containing the initial condition, (4) the stepsize, (5) the transient time, (6) the length of the output series.

```
lor=integrate('lorenz',[16 45.92 4],[10,10,10],.01,1000,10000);
```

After splitting the series in two parts, a learning (insamp) and a testing (outsamp) set, we apply the nnpredic command: the number k of nearest neighbors is 100, the prediction step T is 25, the local model is a F-ANN with a direct prediction method and a number of units in the hidden layer equal to 10.

```
ntest=1000; nlearn=length(lor)-ntest;
insamp=lor(1:nlearn,:); outsamp=lor(nlearn+1:end,:);
preds=nnpredic(insamp,outsamp,100,25,'neural','direct',10);
```

The below commands yield a plot of the true trajectory together with the corresponding predicted values (see Fig. 2):

```
preds=preds(1:end-25,:); outsamp=outsamp(26:end,:);
plot3(preds(:,1),preds(:,2),preds(:,3),'.',...
    outsamp(:,1),outsamp(:,2),outsamp(:,3));
```

In the second example, we suppose to measure only one of the three noise-free state variables describing the system. Therefore, we must first apply the MOD to reconstruct the underlying attractor. The rebuild command yields the trajectory matrix in the reconstructed phase space. Fig. 3 plots the cross-validation NMSPE vs. d and k and suggests an embedding dimension equal to 3 together with $k \equiv 80$.

```
x=lor(:,1);
m=3; tau=5;
y=rebuild(x,m,tau);
ntest=1000; nlearn=length(y)-ntest;
insamp=y(1:nlearn,:); outsamp=y(nlearn+1:end,:);
preds=nnpredic(insamp,outsamp,80,25,'neural','direct',10);
preds=preds(1:end-25,:); outsamp=outsamp(26:end,:);
plot3(preds(:,1),preds(:,2),preds(:,3),'.',...
    outsamp(:,1),outsamp(:,2),outsamp(:,3));
```

In the final example we consider a quite realistic case: only one noisy state variable is available. Therefore, we need to apply the algorithm as a whole.

```
noisyx=x+2*randn(size(x));
m=10; tau=5; p=3;
ssaplot(noisyx,m,tau,[1:4],'all');
```

The ssaplot command gives different plots of the spectrum of singular values (see Fig. 4) and suggest to take three principal components in the SSA filter.

```
filtx=(rc(noisyx,m,tau,p))';
y=rebuild(filtx,p,tau);
insamp=y(1:nlearn,:); outsamp=y(nlearn+1:end,:);
preds=nnpredic(insamp,outsamp,80,25,'neural','direct',10);
preds=preds(1:end-25,:); outsamp=outsamp(26:end,:);
n=length(preds);
rbx=rebuild(x,p,tau);
rbx=rebuild(x,p,tau);
rbx=rbx(nlearn+26:end,:);
plot(1:n,preds(:,3),'.',1:n,rbx(:,3));
disp(nmse(preds(:,3),rbx(:,3)));
```

Fig. 5 shows the plot of the true noise-less series and of the corresponding predicted values. The NMSPEs for linear, quadratic and neural models are 0.64, 0.55 and 0.24, respectively.

5 Summary

The simulations of the above section suggest that neural nearest-neighbors prediction models can outperform the corresponding linear or quadratical models. Therefore, althought they impose a heavier computational burden, neural models should be preferred to or, at least, should be used in combination with other forecasting models.

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10

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nnpredic

Description

Nearest-neighbors time series prediction with different local models

Sintax

```
y = nnpredic(insample, outofsample, k, T, opt1, opt2, nhidden)
```

Input

insample:

learning set represented by a d-dimensional vector of

inputs (generally the output of the rebuild command)

outosample: testing set

k:

number of nearest neighbors (this parameter should be

chosen by the choosedk command)

T:

prediction step

opt1:

local model type: 'constant', 'linear', 'quadratic', 'neural'

opt2:

type of prediction: 'direct', 'iterative' (when $T=1\,$

direct and iterative predictions give the same result)

nhidden:

number of unit in the hidden layer

Output

y:

predicted points in the reconstructed phase space

Example

```
load 'or.txt -ascii

x=rebuild(lor(:,1),3,5);

z=x(602:902,:);

insample=x(1:500,:);

outofsample=x(600:900,:);

y = nnpredic(insample,outofsample,30,2,'linear','direct');

plot3(y(:,1),y(:,2),y(:,3),',',z(:,1),z(:,2),z(:,3))
```

14

See also choosedk, rebuild

choosedk

Description

Algorithm for the optimal choice of the d and k parameters based on the minimum (cross-validation) nearest-neighbors prediction error. A portion of the reconstructed series (the learning set) is used for estimating the local regression model. On a second portion (the cross-validation set) the algorithm evaluates the prediction error of the model.

Sintax

 $[krange,\,drange,\,errors] = choosedk(x,\,noofpreds,\,T,\,tau,\,drange,\,kr$ opt1, opt2, opt3, nhidden)

Input

vector or matrix data (state variables must be placed x:

in columns)

noofpreds: number of points in the testing set

T:

prediction step

tau:

time lag

drange:

range of values for the embedding dimension

krange:

range of values for the number of nearest neighbors

opt1:

local model type: 'constant', 'linear', 'quadratic', 'neural'

(default: linear')

opt2:

type of prediction: 'direct', 'iterative' (when $T\,=\,1$ direct and iterative predictions give the same result)

(default: 'direct')

opt3:

type of graphic representation: '2dplot', '3dplot', 'no-

plot' (default = '2dplot')

Output

errors:

matrix of prediction errors for different values of d and

k

16

Example load lor.txt -ascii [krange,drange,erroridk]= choosedk(lor(1:500,2),100,1,5,[2:5],[10:10:100], 'lineare', 'diretta', '2dplot')

See also nmse, nnpredic, plotdk, rebuild

rebuild

Description

Method of delay for attractor reconstruction

Sintax

y = rebuild(x, m, tau)

Input

x:

vector or matrix data (state variables must be placed

in columns)

m:

embedding dimension

tau:

time lag

Output

y:

matrix of reconstructed points (each row represents an

m-dimensional point)

Example

load ior.txt -ascii

x=lor(.1);

y = rebuild(x,5,8)

See also

18

 \mathbf{rc}

Description

The routine filters the input series according to the method based on SSA and developed by [28]

Sintax

y = rc(x, m, p, tau)

Input

x:

vector or matrix input data

m:

embedding dimension

p:

number of principal components

tau:

lag time

Output

y:

filtered signal

Example

load lornoise.txt -ascii

x=lornoise(:.1); n=length(x);

y=rc(x.25.3.1);

plot(1:n,x,1:n,y)

See also

nnpredict

ssaplot

Description

Using different graphical representations, this command plots the singular values and singular vectors of the (uni or multivariate) input series

Sintax

h=ssaplot(x, m, tau, eigvectno, opt)

Input

x:

vector or matrix input data

m:

vector of embedding dimensions

tau:

lag time

eigvectno:

vector containing the number of singular vectors to

be plotted (es. eigvectno=[1,2,3,4] plots the first 4

eigenvectors)

opt:

type of plot required:

- 'spec' plot of the spectrum of singular vectors'

- 'logspec' plot of the logaritmic spectrum of the singular vectors

- 'diff' plot of the difference between successive sin-

gular vectors: $\frac{\lambda_{i+1}-\lambda_i}{\lambda_i}$ $i=1,2,\ldots,m-1$ - cum plot of the cumulative percentage of total vari-

ance explained by the first i principal vectors - 'all' the four above graphics plotted together'

eigvects' plot the four singular vectors specified by

eigvectno

Output

h:

the output of this command is the handle of the output figure

20

Example load lor.txt -ascii ssaplot(lor(1:500,1),25,5,[1,2,3,4],`all')ssaplot(lor(1:500,1),25,5,[1,2,3,4], eigvects')

See also eigspec, rebuild

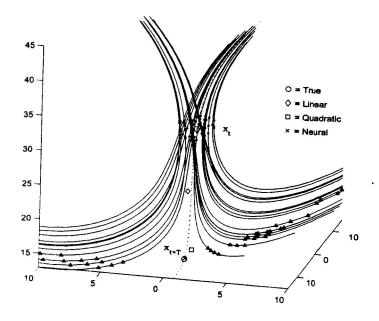


Figure 1: Example of nearest-neighbor prediction with three types of local models: linear, quadratic and neural. Balls and triangles represent the nearest neighbors of x_t and x_{t+T} , respectively.

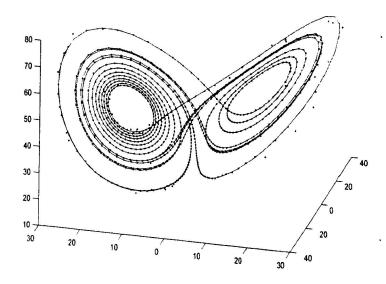


Figure 2: Prediction of a 3-dimensional noise-free Lorenz series with a local neural model. Balls are the predicted values. The solid line is the true trajectory.

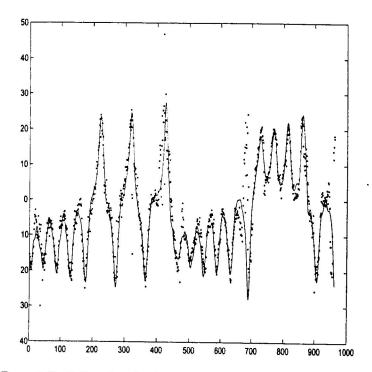


Figure 5: Prediction of a noisy Lorenz series with a local neural model (solid line: true noise-less trajectory, points: predicted values)

26

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