*Improve UnitTests for Temporal Memory Algorithm*

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*Abstract*—Temporal memory algorithms have gained popularity as a promising approach for modeling temporal sequences in machine learning. This project aims to improve the unit test for the given temporal memory algorithm, which is based on the principles of the cortical column and the neocortex. The algorithm uses a sparse distributed representation of data and incorporates temporal context to predict future values in a sequence. We implemented improvements to the existing unit test, including the addition of more test cases with varying complexity and the implementation of cross-validation techniques for better evaluation of the algorithm's performance. We also optimized the implementation of the algorithm for improved efficiency and scalability.

Keywords— Temporal memory algorithm, Cortical column, Neocortex, Sparse distributed representation

# Introduction

Temporal memory algorithms have been widely used in machine learning for modeling temporal sequences. These algorithms are inspired by the principles of the cortical column and the neocortex, which are responsible for processing sensory information and storing long-term memories in the brain. The Temporal Memory algorithm is a well-known implementation of these principles, which has been used in various applications such as natural language processing, anomaly detection, and stock price prediction.

However, accurately evaluating the performance of the Temporal Memory algorithm can be challenging, especially when dealing with complex and noisy data. Therefore, improving the unit test for this algorithm is crucial for ensuring its accuracy and reliability. In this project, we propose several improvements to the existing unit test for the Temporal Memory algorithm. These improvements include the creation, removal, and update of synapses in distal segments, growth of new dendrite segments, activation of cells in columns, and detection/handling of duplicate active columns.

We also implemented learning and recalling patterns of sequences with different sparsity rates and the ability to initialize Temporal Memory with custom parameters such as the number of cells per column and number of column dimensions. Additionally, we adapted segments and increased the permanence of active synapses, limited the number of active cells per column, and retrieved winner cells from Temporal Memory Compute. Furthermore, we implemented least used cell selection and correct initialization of Connections object and used different parameters for existing unit tests to reinforce testing.

Overall, our project aims to enhance the reliability and accuracy of the unit test for the Temporal Memory algorithm, enabling more accurate evaluation of its performance. This improvement can help advance the development of more robust and reliable algorithms for modeling temporal sequences, benefiting various domains and applications.

# Methods

In this section, we describe the approach we followed to evaluate the performance of our Temporal Memory algorithm. Our objective was to test the algorithm's ability to learn and predict spatio-temporal patterns in a dataset. To achieve this, we performed a series of experiments using unit tests, which allowed us to systematically evaluate the algorithm's behavior under different conditions. We first describe the setup of our experiments, followed by a detailed explanation of the unit tests we designed and the results obtained.

* *Testing New Segment Growth when multiple matching segments found* []: The purpose of this test is to verify the growth of a new dendrite segment when multiple matching segments are found. The TemporalMemory object is initialized and a set of default parameters are applied to create a Connections object. The TemporalMemory is then initialized with the Connections object. Next, a set of active columns and cells are created, and multiple matching segments are created in the Connections object for the first active cell. The TemporalMemory is then instructed to compute based on the active columns, and the test asserts that a new segment is grown for the active cell with two synapses. This test is important because it verifies the ability of the TemporalMemory to dynamically adapt to changing input patterns and grow new dendrite segments when necessary.
* *Testing value of Synapse Permanence Updating When Matching Segments are Found*: The purpose of the Test Synapse Permanence Update When Matching Segments Found unit test is to verify that the permanence of synapses in a matching dendritic segment are updated when the segment is activated. Firstly we initialize the TemporalMemory and Connections object. The Parameters object is used to set the permanence decrement parameter, which is applied to the Connections object. In the test, two sets of columns and cells are used: the previous active columns and cells, and the current active columns and cells. Two matching segments are created in the Connections object, each containing synapses to the previous active cells and a synapse to a different cell. The previous active columns are then computed using the TemporalMemory object, followed by the current active columns. The test then verifies that the synapse permanence of the matching synapses is updated correctly. In a nutshell, this unit test verifies that the TemporalMemory algorithm can update the permanence of synapses in matching dendritic segments correctly.
* *Testing TemporalMemory Algorithms initialization*: TestCellsPerColumn [], TestCustomDimensionsAndCells [], and TestColumnDimensions [] are unit tests written to test the initialization of the TemporalMemory class with custom parameters. The first test checks if the class initializes correctly with a custom number of cells per column, while the second test checks if it initializes correctly with custom column dimensions and cells per column. The third test checks if the class initializes correctly with a custom number of column dimensions. To perform the tests, the TemporalMemory class is initialized with a Connections object and the Parameters object, which contains the default parameters for the temporal memory algorithm. The custom parameters are then set using the Set() method of the Parameters object and applied to the Connections object using the apply() method. The TemporalMemory class is then initialized using the initialized Connections object. To check if the initialization was successful, the number of cells in each column is counted and compared to the expected value using the Assert.AreEqual() method. If the number of cells is equal to the expected value, the initialization is considered successful. These tests help to ensure that the TemporalMemory class is properly initialized with the desired custom parameters, which is necessary for the proper functioning of the temporal memory algorithm. Note that this an extension of an original existing test method [].
* *Testing Recycle Least Recently Active Segment To Make Room For New Segment*: We enhanced this existing test [] by giving different various data by DataRow attribute. This tests the behavior of the Temporal Memory algorithm in recycling the least recently active segment to make room for a new segment. The test method is parameterized with different sets of previously active and currently active columns to test the algorithm's behavior in different scenarios. The Temporal Memory object is initialized with a set of default parameters, and the connections are set up with a fixed number of cells per column and a maximum number of segments per cell. The test method then simulates previous and current sets of active columns using the Temporal Memory object's Compute method. The test asserts that the least recently active segment is replaced by the new segment after exceeding the maximum number of segments per cell. The test verifies that the new segment's synapses are disjoint with the replaced segment's synapses by checking that the presynaptic cells of the synapses in the old and new segments are not shared. Overall, this test method ensures that the Temporal Memory algorithm's behavior in segment recycling is consistent and operates correctly in different scenarios.
* *Testing New Segment Add Synapses To All Winner Cells*: This is also an existing test [] enhanced by us to test it against different dataset. This test, named "TestNewSegmentAddSynapsesToAllWinnerCells" [], verifies the behavior of the algorithm when new segments are added to winner cells. The test is parameterized with the number of previously active columns and the number of currently active columns. The method is initialized as usual. The method creates two arrays, previousActiveColumns and activeColumns, which represent the columns that were previously active and the currently active columns, respectively. The method then computes the TM algorithm on the previousActiveColumns and activeColumns arrays, and retrieves the winner cells from the compute cycle. The method asserts that the number of previous winner cells matches the number of previously active columns and that the number of current winner cells matches the number of currently active columns. The method then retrieves the distal dendrites and synapses for the first winner cell in the current winner cells list. The method asserts that the number of segments is 1 and that the number of synapses is 4, which is the default value for the maximum number of new synapses per segment. Finally, the method retrieves the presynaptic cells for each synapse and sorts them in ascending order. The method asserts that the presynaptic cells match the previous winner cells in the same order, which verifies that the new segment has added synapses to all of the previous winner cells.
* *Testing Destroy Weak Synapse On Wrong Prediction* []: This is one of the existing tests [] we modified with different datasets to ensure the tests true potential in testing the feature of Temporal Memory algorithms behaviour in destroying weak synapses. Our modified test checks if weak synapses are correctly destroyed when an incorrect prediction is made with different datasets. The method takes in a double value for the permanence of the weak synapse and creates a TemporalMemory object along with its required connections and parameters. It then sets up a previous active column, a set of previous active cells, and an active column with an expected active cell. A distal dendrite segment is created with synapses connected to the previous active cells and a weak synapse connected to the fourth previous active cell with the specified permanence. The method then calls the Compute method of the TemporalMemory object with the previous active column and the active column as input. After the computation, the method asserts that the distal dendrite segment has correctly destroyed the weak synapse, leaving only the strong synapses. The unit test method is executed with various values of weakSynapsePermanence using the [DataRow] attribute. This allows for multiple test cases to be executed in a single test method.
* *Test Adding Segment To Cell With Fewest Segments* [] *:*This existing test [] was previously implemented with only one set of data but we now modified it to run with three different datasets. The purpose of the test is to verify the behavior of the Temporal Memory algorithm under various conditions. The test checks if adding a new distal segment to the cell with the fewest segments grows the segment on the correct cell. The test is repeated 100 times with different random seeds to ensure the behavior is consistent across multiple runs. The test uses a mock Connections object and sets up a Temporal Memory object with default parameters. It then creates an array of previous active columns and cells, an array of currently active columns, and an array of non-matching cells. Two new distal segments are created on non-matching cells and connected to two of the previous active cells. The Temporal Memory algorithm is then run, and the number of segments, number of segments on specific cells, and number of synapses on each segment are checked for correctness. The test then checks if the segment was grown on the cell with the fewest segments and ensures that the correct columns are activated. The test utilizes the DataRow attribute to test the method with different input data, in the form of weak synapse permanence values or random seeds. Finally, the test checks whether the distal segment grew on both cell 1 and cell 2 at least once during the 100 runs.
* *Test Adapt Segment To Max* []*:* We modified the exiting TestAdaptSegmentToMax [] to test the ability of the TemporalMemory class to adapt the permanence value of a synapse in a distal dendrite segment to the maximum value specified in the HTM configuration parameters with different values with the help of [DataRow] attribute. The test is performed with different initial permanence values of the synapse, and the expected permanence value after adaptation is also specified in the test. The test method creates a new instance of the TemporalMemory and Connections classes, initializes them with default parameters, and creates a new distal dendrite segment with a synapse connecting it to a cell. The AdaptSegment method of the TemporalMemory class is then called with the specified parameters to adapt the permanence value of the synapse to the maximum value. The test method asserts that the permanence value of the synapse is equal to the expected value within a tolerance of 0.1. The test is repeated with the same segment and cell, and the AdaptSegment method is called again to ensure that the permanence value remains at the maximum value. The test method again asserts that the permanence value of the synapse is equal to the expected value within a tolerance of 0.1. So, this test method verifies that the TemporalMemory class is able to correctly adapt the permanence value of a synapse to the maximum value specified in the HTM configuration parameters.
* *Testing Destroy Segments With Too Few Synapses To Be Matching* []: We have modified this existing method []. The method tests the ability of the TemporalMemory class to destroy a segment with too few synapses to be considered a match. The modified test method is parameterized using the DataRow attribute to retest the method with different sets of input parameters. The test method sets up a new instance of the TemporalMemory class and its related objects such as Connections and Parameters. The test method then creates a new DistalDendrite object with a matching segment and synapses using the Connection object. The test method then computes the active columns and the expected active cell using the TemporalMemory object. Finally, the test method asserts that the number of segments associated with the expected active cell matches the expected number of segments. The purpose of this test method is to ensure that the TemporalMemory class is correctly identifying segments with too few synapses and destroying them. By parameterizing the test method with different input values, the test method verifies that the TemporalMemory class can correctly handle a variety of different scenarios.
* *Test Punish Matching Segments In Inactive Columns* []: This existing test method [] is modified by us to take 13 input parameters dynamically. The purpose of the unit test is to verify the behavior of a Temporal Memory algorithm under various input conditions. It takes various permanence values and expected permanence values for a set of synapses. The unit test creates an instance of the TemporalMemory class and initializes it with default parameters. It then creates a set of active and inactive cells, as well as two distal dendrites with multiple synapses. The algorithm is run on these inputs and the permanence values of the synapses are compared against the expected values. The [DataRow] attribute is used to pass in multiple sets of input data to the same unit test, allowing it to be retested with different data.
* *Testing High Sparsity Sequence Learning And Recall* []: This test is designed to verify if the Temporal Memory algorithm can successfully learn and recall patterns of sequences with a high sparsity rate. The test first initializes a Temporal Memory object and a Connections object, and applies default parameters to the Connections object. Then, it sets the column dimensions to be 64 and initializes the Temporal Memory object with the Connections object. The test creates two sequences, each with a different set of active columns. It then computes the Temporal Memory algorithm for each of these sequences to train the model. Next, the test recalls the first sequence and the second sequence using the Temporal Memory algorithm with the "compute" method, and checks if all the active cells in the second sequence are also active in the first sequence. This test is important because it validates the ability of the Temporal Memory algorithm to learn and recall patterns of sequences with a high sparsity rate, which is a crucial capability for machine learning algorithms that are designed to process high-dimensional data, such as images or speech signals.
* *Testing Low Sparsity Sequence Learning and Recall* []: The purpose of the test is to verify if the model can learn and recall patterns of sequences with a low sparsity rate, which refers to the proportion of active columns in a given input. The test initializes a Temporal Memory model and sets up connections with default parameters, including column dimensions of 64. The test then generates two sequences of active columns, one with 7 active columns and another with 5 active columns, and feeds them to the model. The test then attempts to recall both sequences and checks if the model can accurately recall the desired result, which is a set of 3 specific active columns that should be present in both sequences. As those columns are re-enforced in both cycle, the Compute() method should match our given desired output.
* *Testing Create Synapse in Distal Segment* []: The test ensures that the new synapse is created with the correct parameters and is added to the distal segment's list of synapses. The test initializes a new Temporal Memory and Connections object with default parameters, and then creates a distal segment for a specified cell. It then creates a new synapse in the distal segment with a specified presynaptic cell index and permanence value. The test checks that the distal segment contains only one synapse, which is the one that was just created. It also checks that the created synapse has the correct presynaptic cell index and permanence value. This test is important to ensure that the creation of synapses in a distal segment works correctly, which is essential for the learning and recall of temporal sequences in a Temporal Memory.

# Results

This Part of the text describes results of your works. There can only be mentioned references, MUST point back to Methods and Intro chapter. No more external references.

Code examples must be provided to demonstrate how to use the algorithm/module. Provide a reference to more unit tests, which show the same in more detail. Also provide all diagrams with comments and reference to unit tests, which generate diagrams.

# Discussion

Conclusion of your work should be precise and concise. How was the project, what is done, what is the result... There can be discussion on further work and direction.

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*a**b* 

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For adding object other than text (tables, equations, graphs, figures, code…), **there must be at least one cross reference** to it. Figure 1 is an example

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Figure 1 Example Figure Caption

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## Code References:

Referencing Code in your text should be avoided unless necessary. In such cases it can be inserted as a listing as shown in **Error! Reference source not found.**

Listing 1 Code Reference Example

Console.WriteLine(“Referencing code”, var);

// using tab can be replaced with 4 spaces

Do not pass code as image. When referring to variable in **Error! Reference source not found.**, italics should be used for example *var.* Code flows and logic should be presented better as Graph or Diagram instead of words.

Code Block which is too big to put in the textbox can be reference as Listing 2.

Listing 2 Unit Test [EncodeDateTimeTest](https://github.com/ddobric/neocortexapi/blob/0348ffb99739ddf8c8c3a875f8162a18073938ca/source/UnitTestsProject/EncoderTests/DateTimeEncoderExperimentalTests.cs#L34-L49)

public void EncodeDateTimeTest(int w, double r, …)

{

…

DateTimeEncoderExperimental encoder = new…

var result = encoder.Encode(input);

…

Assert.IsTrue(result.SequenceEqual(expected…

}

##### Acknowledgment *(Heading 5)*

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##### References

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