



ÉCOLE  
POLYTECHNIQUE  
DE BRUXELLES



UNIVERSITÉ LIBRE DE BRUXELLES

# Interferometric stabilisation of a fibre-based optical computer

## Experimental study

Mémoire présenté en vue de l'obtention du diplôme  
d'Ingénieur Civil physicien à finalité spécialisée

**Denis Verstraeten**

Directeur

Professeur Marc Haelterman

Co-Promoteur

Professeur Serge Massar

Superviseur

Lorenz Butschek

Service

Opera

Année académique  
2018 - 2019

# Abstract

# Acknowledgements

# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Reservoir Computing</b>	<b>6</b>
2.1	Introduction . . . . .	6
2.2	Mathematical Model . . . . .	8
<b>3</b>	<b>Optical RC with frequency multiplexed neurons</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Interferometric stabilisation of RC optical resonator</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Results</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Conclusion</b>	<b>12</b>
	<b>Acronyms</b>	<b>13</b>

# Chapter 1

## Introduction

For the past few years, interest in optical data processing devices has been increasing. Their main advantage over silicon-based computers is that they are intrinsically faster because the information is carried around at nearly the speed of light, which could allow to overcome the limit in processing speed soon to be reached by classical integrated circuit electronics.

This Master thesis tackles the implementation of an optical computer based on reservoir computing.

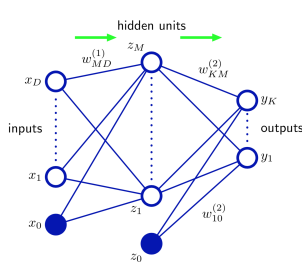
# Chapter 2

## Reservoir Computing

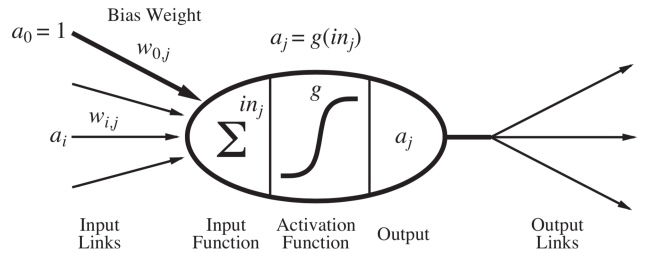
### 2.1 Introduction

Reservoir Computing (RC) is a bio-inspired artificial Recurrent Neural Network (RNN) which is based on the Echo State Network (ESN) introduced by Herbert Jaeger in [8]. This computation scheme is well suited for real-time data processing and for chaotic time series prediction[8, 9, 13], and achieves state of the art performances in those domains, as well as in speech recognition[21, 18, 12], nonlinear channel equalisation[8] and financial forecasting [2].

A Reservoir Computer (RC) is specific kind of Neural Network (NN), which is a computation paradigm mimicking the behaviour of a biological brain. As can be seen on Figure 2.1a, the artificial neurons are merely interconnected entities carrying an activation level. As shown on Figure 2.1b, the activation level of a neuron is updated according to the connection weights of the network, also known as the synaptic matrix, and with a nonlinear function, called the *activation function*, which allows NN to perform classification tasks [3, p.225][16, p.727].



(a) High-level overview a feedforward NN. Input data is fed into input neurons, and the result of the computation is read on the activation level of output neurons.  
[3, p.228]



(b) Update of the activation level of a neuron.  
The activation level of the neurons from the previous layer are linearly combined through the input links, and a nonlinear function is applied to the result of the sum.  
[16, p.728]

Figure 2.1: Neural Network seen from different points of view

The activation level of the neurons making up the reservoir characterise its state, which is a time-dependent object. The neurons are interconnected in such a way that they influence the dynamic of each other, leading to a complicated evolution of the state of the reservoir. What a first glance may seem to be a mathematical nightmare turns out to be the main advantage of RC. Indeed, when the reservoir is properly set up, the activation level of each of the neurons becomes a systematic transformed version of the input signal [8]. This is called the echo state

and this is the regime where RC reach their best performance. This is due to the fact that this is an operating point where the transients caused by the inputs are neither amplified nor damped, somehow providing a memory to the reservoir [7, 9]. The output of a RC is obtained by adequately combining the activation state of each neurons. The ideas developed in this paragraph are illustrated on Figure 2.2.

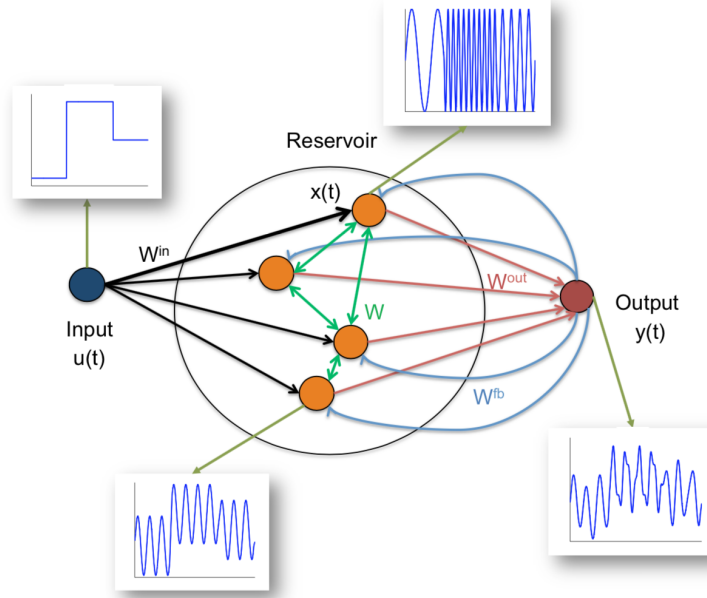
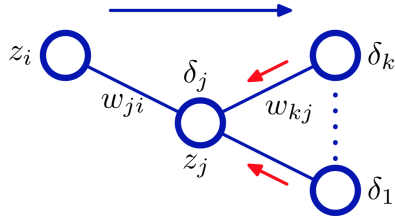
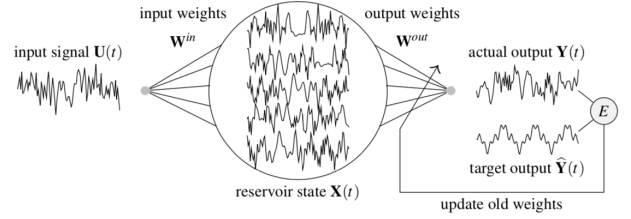


Figure 2.2: Principle scheme of a Reservoir Computer [2]

Regardless of the learning scheme used to train a NN, the basic idea is always to minimise the difference between the desired and the actual outputs. In practice, this is achieved by updating the coefficients in the synaptic matrix of the NN [3, p.233][16, p.733]. On Figure 2.3a, the learning procedure for a small portion of a feed-forward NN, for instance the one from Figure 2.1a, is shown. The NN is fed with data from the left, as can be seen with the blue arrows. The red arrows represent the error on the output being *backpropagated*, which means that the learning algorithm evaluates how each connection weight of the synaptic matrix should be updated in order to decrease the output error [3, p.241]. This procedure often turns out to be a really complicated task, which explains why the development of efficient Machine Learning (ML) algorithms is such a hot topic nowadays. On the other hand, as can be seen on Figure 2.3b, RC only need their output weights to be adjusted when being trained, which makes them computationally lighter[8]. This is due to the fact the connections of the reservoir should not contain any information about the task, but should only be used to reach the ESN regime, as previously mentioned. There are two main families of training methods for RC [10]. On the one hand, there is the *batch learning*, which comprises the methods requiring to first store a bunch of data regarding the task being taught before being able to actually compute the output weights. Once enough data is gathered, this kind of algorithms returns the optimal weights all at once. They present the advantage of involving only one training phase, after which the RC are ready to perform. However, the need for vast amount of data and the inability for the RC to adapt to an input evolving out of the range for which it has been trained are two drawbacks. On the other hand, *online learning* methods allow to iteratively improve the output weights. Therefore, starting from a first guess, these algorithms will converge to workable output weights. They are much more adaptable than the batch learning ones, however, their convergence is not guaranteed and can be slow [11, 17].



(a) Neural Network [3, p.244]



(b) Reservoir Computer [7]

Figure 2.3: Machine Learning for different kinds of Neural Networks

In order to reach the echo state regime, the constraints on the coupling between the neurons of the reservoir are actually quite loose. What is required is to introduce randomness and to break symmetries in the synaptic matrix. Once this condition is verified, the performance of the reservoir can be modified by tweaking only a small set of variables applying to the whole RC. In other words, as soon as the basic structure of the reservoir is set, there is no need to individually change the value of each connection to improve it, only modifying globally the reservoir is enough, for example by multiplying all the connection weights by the same constant. This property is a key element of the RC paradigm that allows it to be implemented in physical systems other than classical, silica-based computers. This has already been done several times in photonic experiments, leading to the novel concept of Photonic Reservoir Computing (PRC). Different implementations have been proposed: fully integrated photonic chips [19], fibre-based systems with time-multiplexed neurons coupled through a delay line with nonlinearities introduced by a Mach-Zehnder intensity modulator [15, 1, 5], by saturation of absorption [4, 20] and by the readout photodiodes [22]. This latter configuration even reached state of the art performances in different benchmark tasks, such as Memory Capacity Evaluation, NARMA10 (Nonlinear Auto-Regressive Moving Average of order 10), nonlinear channel equalisation, and isolated spoken digit recognition. In [6], the researchers even manage to perform speech recognition and the XOR task<sup>1</sup> in a bucket of water.

## 2.2 Mathematical Model

<sup>1</sup>The XOR task consists in reproducing the behaviour of a logical XOR gate, which is a task of historical importance for NN [14].



## Chapter 3

# Optical RC with frequency multiplexed neurons

## Chapter 4

# Interferometric stabilisation of RC optical resonator

# Chapter 5

## Results

## Chapter 6

## Conclusion

# Acronyms

**ESN** Echo State Network 6, 7

**ML** Machine Learning 7, 8

**NN** Neural Network 6–8

**PRC** Photonic Reservoir Computing 8

**RC** Reservoir Computer 4, 6–10

**RC** Reservoir Computing 4, 6

**RNN** Recurrent Neural Network 6

# Bibliography

- [1] Piotr Antonik et al. “Online Training of an Opto-Electronic Reservoir Computer Applied to Real-Time Channel Equalization”. In: *IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks and Learning Systems* 28.11 (Nov. 2017), pp. 2686–2698. DOI: 10.1109/tnnls.2016.2598655. URL: <https://doi.org/10.1109/tnnls.2016.2598655>.
- [2] A. Bernal, S. Fok, and R. Pidaparthi. “Financial Market Time Series Prediction with Recurrent Neural Networks”. In: (2012). URL: <http://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.278.3606&rep=rep1&type=pdf>.
- [3] Christopher Bishop. *Pattern recognition and machine learning*. New York: Springer, 2006. ISBN: 978-0387-31073-2.
- [4] Antoine Dejonckheere et al. “All-optical reservoir computer based on saturation of absorption”. In: *Optics Express* 22.9 (Apr. 2014), p. 10868. DOI: 10.1364/oe.22.010868. URL: <https://doi.org/10.1364/oe.22.010868>.
- [5] François Duport et al. “Fully analogue photonic reservoir computer”. In: *Scientific Reports* 6.1 (Mar. 2016). DOI: 10.1038/srep22381. URL: <https://doi.org/10.1038/srep22381>.
- [6] Chrisantha Fernando and Sampsa Sojakka. “Pattern Recognition in a Bucket”. In: *Advances in Artificial Life*. Springer Berlin Heidelberg, 2003, pp. 588–597. DOI: 10.1007/978-3-540-39432-7\_63. URL: [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-540-39432-7\\_63](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-540-39432-7_63).
- [7] Alireza Goudarzi et al. “A Comparative Study of Reservoir Computing for Temporal Signal Processing”. In: *CoRR* abs/1401.2224 (2014).
- [8] H. Jaeger. “Harnessing Nonlinearity: Predicting Chaotic Systems and Saving Energy in Wireless Communication”. In: *Science* 304.5667 (Apr. 2004), pp. 78–80. DOI: 10.1126/science.1091277. URL: <https://doi.org/10.1126/science.1091277>.
- [9] H. Jaeger. *The "echo state" approach to analysing and training recurrent neural networks*. 2001.
- [10] Herbert Jaeger. “Adaptive Nonlinear System Identification with Echo State Networks”. In: *Proceedings of the 15th International Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems*. NIPS’02. Cambridge, MA, USA: MIT Press, 2002, pp. 609–616. URL: <http://dl.acm.org/citation.cfm?id=2968618.2968694>.
- [11] Herbert Jaeger. “Tutorial on training recurrent neural networks, covering BPPT, RTRL, EKF and the echo state network approach”. In: *GMD-Forschungszentrum Informationstechnik, 2002*. 5 (Jan. 2002).
- [12] Herbert Jaeger et al. “Optimization and applications of echo state networks with leaky-integrator neurons”. In: *Neural Networks* 20.3 (Apr. 2007), pp. 335–352. DOI: 10.1016/j.neunet.2007.04.016. URL: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neunet.2007.04.016>.
- [13] M. Lukoševičius, M. Jaeger, and B. Schrauwen. “Reservoir Computing Trends”. In: *KI - Künstliche Intelligenz* 26.4 (May 2012), pp. 365–371. DOI: 10.1007/s13218-012-0204-5. URL: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13218-012-0204-5>.

- [14] Marvin Minsky. *Perceptrons; an introduction to computational geometry*. Cambridge, Mass: MIT Press, 1969. ISBN: 9780262130431.
- [15] Y. Paquot et al. “Optoelectronic Reservoir Computing”. In: *Scientific Reports* 2.1 (Feb. 2012). DOI: 10.1038/srep00287. URL: <https://doi.org/10.1038/srep00287>.
- [16] Stuart Russell. *Artificial intelligence : a modern approach*. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 2010. ISBN: 978-0-13-604259-4.
- [17] Benjamin Schrauwen, David Verstraeten, and Jan Campenhout. “An overview of reservoir computing: Theory, applications and implementations”. In: Jan. 2007, pp. 471–482.
- [18] Fabian Triefenbach et al. “Phoneme Recognition with Large Hierarchical Reservoirs”. In: *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems 23*. Ed. by J. D. Lafferty et al. Curran Associates, Inc., 2010, pp. 2307–2315. URL: <http://papers.nips.cc/paper/4056-phoneme-recognition-with-large-hierarchical-reservoirs.pdf>.
- [19] Kristof Vandoorne et al. “Experimental demonstration of reservoir computing on a silicon photonics chip”. In: *Nature Communications* 5.1 (Mar. 2014). DOI: 10.1038/ncomms4541. URL: <https://doi.org/10.1038/ncomms4541>.
- [20] Kristof Vandoorne et al. “Toward optical signal processing using Photonic Reservoir Computing”. In: *Optics Express* 16.15 (July 2008), p. 11182. DOI: 10.1364/oe.16.011182. URL: <https://doi.org/10.1364/oe.16.011182>.
- [21] D. Verstraeten, B. Schrauwen, and D. Stroobandt. “Reservoir-based techniques for speech recognition”. In: *The 2006 IEEE International Joint Conference on Neural Network Proceedings*. IEEE, 2006. DOI: 10.1109/ijcnn.2006.246804. URL: <https://doi.org/10.1109/ijcnn.2006.246804>.
- [22] Quentin Vinckier et al. “High-performance photonic reservoir computer based on a coherently driven passive cavity”. In: *Optica* 2.5 (Apr. 2015), p. 438. DOI: 10.1364/optica.2.000438. URL: <https://doi.org/10.1364/optica.2.000438>.