

Question-1: For a neural network for robot path planning, the neural dynamics of each neuron is described by an additive equation,

$$\frac{dx_i}{dt} = -Ax_i + \sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^n w_{ij} f(x_j) + I_i \quad (1)$$

where $w_{ij} = w_{ji}$; $f(a) = \max\{a, 0\}$ is a linear-above threshold function; and I_i is the external input from the environment. Prove this neural network system is stable using the Lyapunov stability theory.

Solution-1: Recall the Grossberg's general model's :

$$\frac{dx_i}{dt} = a_i(x_i) \left[b_i(x_i) - \sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^n C_{ij} d_j(x_j) \right] \quad (2)$$

Where: a_i is the amplification function for neuron i ; b_i is the self-signal function for neuron i ; d_j is the other-signal function (activation function of other neuron j), c_{ij} is the connection weight from neuron j to neuron i .

Let's try to re-write the original additive equation in Grossberg's general model's format. Note that for all the equations below, we will assume the principal diagonal elements in matrix w and C are all zero so that we can ignore the term $i \neq j$ from the summation.

$$\frac{dx_i}{dt} = \left[(-Ax_i + I_i) - \sum_{j=1}^n (-w_{ij}) f(x_j) \right] \quad (3)$$

By comparing equation 3 with equation 2, one can proof the additive equation's stability by showing all the 3 stability criteria are satisfied according to Grossberg version's Lyapunov stability theorem:

$$C_{ij} = -w_{ij} \equiv -w_{ji} = C_{ji} \quad (\text{Proof for symmetry})$$

$$a_i(x_i) = 1 > 0 \quad (\text{Proof for positivity})$$

$$d_j(x_j) = f(x_j) = \max\{a, 0\} \geq 0 \quad (\text{Proof for monotonicity}) \quad \blacksquare$$

Question 2 A neural network is characterized by an input-output equation,

$$y_i(t+1) = \phi \left(\sum_{j=1}^n w_{ij} y_j(t) + \theta_i \right) \quad (4)$$

Where $w_{ij} = w_{ji}$, and $\phi(a) = (1 + e^{-a})^{-1}$ is the sigmoid function, θ_i is the threshold. (1) Use the function-summation exchange to transform this equation into an additive equation; (2) Prove the stability of this system.

Solution 2—Step-1: transform this equation into an additive equation:

$$\dot{y}_i = \frac{\Delta y_i}{\Delta t} = \frac{y_i(t+1) - y_i(t)}{1} = -y_i(t) + \phi(x_i) \quad (5)$$

Where a_i is defined as:

$$x_i \equiv \sum_{j=1}^n w_{ij} y_j(t) + \theta_i \quad (6)$$

Multiply $\sum_{i=1}^n w_{ji}$ on each side of equation 5:

$$\sum_{i=1}^n w_{ji} \dot{y}_i = - \sum_{i=1}^n w_{ji} y_i(t) + \sum_{i=1}^n w_{ji} \phi(x_i) \quad (7)$$

From equation 6, the definition of a_i , one can write:

$$\dot{x}_i = \frac{d \left(\sum_{j=1}^n w_{ij} y_j(t) \right)}{dt} = \sum_{j=1}^n w_{ij} \dot{y}_j(t) \quad (8)$$

Put equation 8 and equation 6 into equation 7:

$$\dot{x}_j = x_j + \theta_j + \sum_{i=1}^n w_{ji} \phi(x_i) \quad (9)$$

Finally, switch i and j, we can write equation in the additive equation format:

$$\dot{x}_i = x_i + \sum_{j=1}^n w_{ij} \phi(x_j) + \theta_i \quad (10)$$

Solution 2—Step-2: Note that equation 10 is identical with equation 1 in Question 1, except for:

$$A = -1$$

$$I_i = \theta_i$$

$$f(x_j) \text{ is replaced by } \phi(x_j)$$

Equation 10 can be re-write as:

$$\frac{dx_i}{dt} = \left[(x_i + \theta) - \sum_{j=1}^n (-w_{ij}) \phi(x_j) \right] \quad (11)$$

Comparing equation 11 with equation 2, one can proof the additive equation's stability by showing all the 3 stability criteria are satisfied according to Grossberg version's Lyapunov stability theorem:

$$C_{ij} = -w_{ij} \equiv -w_{ji} = C_{ji} \quad (\text{Proof for symmetry})$$

$$a_i(x_i) = 1 > 0 \quad (\text{Proof for positivity})$$

$$d_j(x_j) = \phi(x_j) = 1/(1 + e^{-x_j}) \geq 0 \quad (\text{Proof for monotonicity}) \quad \blacksquare$$