

Application of Artificial Neural Network and Genetic Algorithm for Predicting three Important Parameters in Bakery Industries

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ABSTRACT

Farinograph is the most frequently used equipment for empirical rheological measurements of dough. It's useful to illustrate quality of flour, behavior of dough during mechanical handling and textural characteristics of finished products. The percentage of water absorption and the development time of dough are the most important parameters of farinography for bakery industries during production. However, farinograph quality number is also a profitable factor for rapid evaluation of flour. Our purpose in present research is to apply artificial neural networks (ANNs) for predicting three important parameters of farinograph from simple measurable physicochemical properties of flour. Genetic algorithm (GA) was also applied in the training phase for optimizing different parameters of ANN's structure and inputs. Sensitivity analyses were also conducted to explore the ability of inputs in predicting the networks outputs. Two neural networks were developed; the first for modeling water absorption and dough development time and the second for modeling farinograph quality number. Both developed ANNs using GA have excellent potential in predicting the farinograph properties of dough. In developed models, gluten index and Zeleny, suitable parameters for qualitative measurements of samples, played the most important role for predicting dough farinograph characterisations.

Keywords: Artificial Neural Network; Genetic Algorithm; Water Absorption; Dough Development Time; Farinograph Quality Number

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INTRODUCTION

The rheological characteristics of dough are important for obtaining useful information about quality of flour; behavior of dough during handling such as dividing and rounding; textural characteristics of the products; and also process efficiency (Dobraszczyk & Morgenstern, 2003). Bakery industries usually receive raw materials with variable quality and complicate effects on dough and products quality (Gaines *et al.*, 2006; Bettge *et al.*, 1989; Rashed *et al.*, 2007). Therefore, In order to satisfy consumer demands, design standard and reliable procedures for controlling product quality and safety are necessary. Rheological measurements of every batch in the production line are very useful, but usually impractical because of time, experience and equipments requirements. In contrast, assessment of the physicochemical properties of flour is feasible. In the other hand, wheat-milling industries can easily supply this data to bakers. Therefore, predicting dough rheological properties from simple measurable factors enables online process control and helps modify subsequent process conditions for preventing economic loss and deterioration of product quality.

In the literature, there are several researches that applied different mathematical modeling methods for extrapolating the range of conditions that dough experiences during processes from rheological measurements made under simple, well-defined laboratory conditions (Scott & Richardson, 1997; Binding *et al.*, 2003; Fan *et al.*, 1994). Nonetheless, prediction of dough rheological properties has historically proved to be complex because of a consequence of special viscoelastic characteristics of dough with gas-retaining ability and its dependency to various parameters with linear or non-linear interactions (Ruan *et al.*, 1995). In recent years, various multivariate statistical regression methods have become standard tools in food researches such as cereal industry. For instance, partial least squares regression (PLS) use to predict bread properties (Andersson *et al.*, 1994; Sahlstrom *et al.*, 1998; Engelsen *et al.*, 2001; Magnus *et al.*, 2000), regression methods have also been used to classify and predict wheat quality (Baker *et al.*, 1999). While these methods can be applicable in examining especial problems, they are not profitable for many others.

ANNs have recently been applied in different fields of food science, such as simulating processes like drying behavior of different agricultural materials (Erenturk & Erenturk,

2007; Kerdpiboon *et al.*, 2006; Martynenko & Yang, 2006; Movagharnjad & Nikzad, 2007; Momenzadeh *et al.*, 2011), osmotic dehydration (Trelea *et al.*, 1997) and cross-flow microfiltration (Dornier *et al.*, 1995). They have also been used in other fields of food science, such as classification (Jacobsen *et al.*, 2001), prediction (Alvarez, 2009; Shankar & Bandyopadhyay, 2007) and food-quality evaluation (Goyache *et al.*, 2001; Broyart & Trystram, 2003).

Genetic algorithm is a randomized method that is based on survival of the fittest generation by applying special operations similar to the natural phenomena such as selection, genetic operation and replacement. Reproduction operator selects an individual to survive by copying itself directly into the next generation, crossover creates two new chromosomes from two existing chromosomes by randomly choosing and exchanging a crossover point of the parents and mutation operator produces new chromosomes by randomly changing the genes of existing chromosomes. In GA process, an initial population of randomly generated chromosomes is selected as parents to generate offspring by genetic operations. Chromosomes with multiple genes work in parallel to represent the best solution to a problem. The fitness of the offspring is evaluated and the individuals with the higher fitness in the population are selected as parents and produce new individuals for the next generation. Therefore, during successive iterations, the initial chromosomes advance to stronger ones. The best population chromosomes become a highly evolved and superior solution to the problem (Saxena & Saad, 2007; Gosselin *et al.* 2009).

GA is a significantly efficient method for optimizing the most important parameters of neural network structures that have significant influence on performance efficiency of ANNs such as hidden layers number, the processing elements number (PE), the learning rates and the momentum coefficients (Kim *et al.*, 2004; Majdi & Beiki, 2010; Saemi *et al.*, 2007; Mohebbi *et al.*, 2008).

The main purpose of present study is to explore the ability of coupled ANN-GA in predicting three important farinograph-measured properties of dough from several of their accessible chemical and physical properties of flour. Results will have benefit for addressing requirements across the bake industries.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Sample preparation and properties

One hundred and twenty samples of white flour (18% partially debranned flour) were collected from different provinces of Iran. The purpose was to examine samples with extensive variations of physicochemical and rheological properties, in order to develop applicable predictive models to a wide variety of industry requirements.

Seven easily measurable physicochemical properties of samples with notable effects on dough qualities and bakery industries were selected from literature as the neural network's inputs: total protein content, total ash content, wet gluten, gluten index, falling number, Zeleny and particle size. These properties were evaluated according to the approved methods: 46-19, 08-01, 56-81B, 38-12A, 56-60 and 50-10 respectively (AACC, 1995).

Rheological properties of samples were evaluated with the Brabender farinograph (Brabender, Duisburg, Germany) according to the approved methods 54-21 (AACC, 1995). Each measurement was carried out three times and the results were averaged.

Artificial neural network model

One hundred and twenty patterns were normalized and randomly divided into 85, 15 and 20 data sets for training, validating and testing networks respectively. In order to improve the accuracy of the developed models, two neural networks were designed: the first for modeling water absorption of flour and development time of dough and the second for modeling farinograph quality number. The inputs of both networks were seven physicochemical properties of flour. A multi-layered perceptron (MLP) and a generalized feed-forward (GFF) artificial neural networks with a back-propagation (BP) training algorithm – the most common architectures for predicting different procedures – were applied for modeling each network and the best results are reported. Multilayer perceptron networks often have one input layer, one or more hidden layers, along with an output layer of neurons. Multiple layers of neurons except the input neurons have transfer functions that allow the network to learn linear or non-linear relationships between input and output vectors (Karray & Silva, 2004). Moreover the usual neurons connections in MLP, the generalized feed-forward networks have special connections that jump over one or more layers. In theory, a MLP can solve any problem that a generalized feed-forward network can solve. In practice, however, generalized feed-

forward networks sometime solve the problem much more efficiently.

In stage of developing networks, three and four layer neural networks with one and two hidden layer respectively were applied and the ones with the best performance are reported. Artificial neural networks need a relatively simple structure that can keep their errors within tolerance limits. An ANN with too few neuron numbers in the hidden layer cannot properly learn the input and output variables in the training stage. But more increasing the number of nodes enhances structural complexities, connection extends and size of the network. Therefore, the required time for training and computing process is raised. This situations sometimes improves network performance; but sometimes not (Saemi *et al.*, 2007). Therefore, in order to develop the neural network with the best performance, neuron numbers of hidden layers were changed from 1 to 3x (where x is the number of input neurons) (Kim *et al.*, 2004) in increments of 1 neuron. Genetic algorithms (GAs) were applied in training phase for optimizing the ANN structure and its parameters (input parameters, numbers of neurons in the hidden layer, coefficient of learning rate and momentum). In this procedure, an initial population of networks with different sets of parameters (genes) is randomly created. These parameters were automatically tuned through GA training by each chromosome of population. All chromosomes in the population pool had at least one different neural-network parameter value in ANN's structure. Some experiments were carried out to achieve an initial setting of GA parameters such as genetic operator rates, number of generation, population size, etc. The achieved values are based on literature review and computational experiences (Javadi *et al.*, 1999; Majdi *et al.*, 2010; Podgorelec & Kokol, 2002). The range of neuron numbers in the hidden layers, the quantities of step size and momentum were set 1-21, 0-1 and 0-1 in 1, 0.1 and 0.1 increments respectively.

The genetic algorithm was started with 200 and 300 randomly generated chromosomes that iterated through 90 and 50 generations in training phase of the first and second networks respectively. Each chromosome in population contained three genes. The first gene represented the hidden neuron number of the network; the second and third genes were used for learning rate and momentum in the network training process. The fitness value of each chromosome in every generation was calculated and every chromosome evolved into new chromosomes for all generations. The reproduction operator was

used for extracting chromosomes from the current population and creating an intermediate population. The reproduction operator of this study was roulette-wheel selection based on a ranking algorithm: the chromosomes were ranked in order of their fitness with the roulette-wheel operator, selecting according to their relative fitness and placing them into the intermediate population. By applying the one-point crossover and uniform mutation with adjusted probability to 0.9 and 0.01 respectively, the next generation was formed and the newly created chromosomes were evaluated. This procedure for evaluation and reproduction of all chromosomes was repeated

$$MSE = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (X_D - X_P)^2 \quad (1)$$

$$MAE = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n |X_D - X_P| \quad (2)$$

Where n is the number of data points, and X_D and X_P are the desired and predicted values of parameters, respectively. The procedures of networks designing were managed in NeuroSolutions environment (version number 5.07). This software gives users the ability to train a neural network, and test its performance directly.

Identification of sensitive input variables

This section looks at how changing the physicochemical properties of flour can affect the farinograph-measured properties of dough made from it. For identification-sensitive input variables (sensitivity about the mean), the developed network outputs were computed by

until the completion criteria (achieving 10,000 epochs, or didn't improving in cross-validation's MSE during 200 epochs) were satisfied. The fitness of the population usually improves with each new generation and eventually evolving a solution close to the optimal. The optimal configuration network with the minimum mean square error in the cross-validation data set was selected for testing. Mean square error (MSE) and mean absolute error (MAE), used as criteria for evaluating ANN performance (Erenturk & Erenturk, 2007). They were calculated using Eq. (1) and Eq. (2) respectively:

varying the first input between the mean \pm one standard deviation, while all other inputs were fixed at their respective means. This process was repeated for each input and generated the variation of each output with respect to the variation of each input.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Correlation coefficient

The minimum-maximum values of physicochemical and three important farinograph-measured properties of samples and correlation coefficients of them were expressed in table 1 and 2 respectively.

Table 1: Minimum-maximum values of physicochemical and rheological properties of samples

Sample properties	Range
Ash (%)	0.46-1.134
Protein (%)	10.14-13.24
Wet Gluten (%)	22.65-38.2
Gluten Index	19.21-99.11
Zeleny number (mL)	15-31.5
Falling number (s)	434.8-1182
Particle size ratio (-)	0.745-10.364
Water absorption (%)	53.1-67.9
Dough development time (min)	1.7-8.0
Farinograph quality number	27.0-200.0

Water absorption is a very important factor in the bakery industry. Dough-handling properties and quality of baked products' are influenced to water absorption of flour (Larsen & Greenwood, 1991). Flour with sufficient water-absorption

ability produce products that remain soft for a long time and exhibit good texture properties (Simon, 1987). Pearson correlation coefficients of physicochemical properties and water absorption demonstrate significant positive correlation

between flour ash content and water absorption of flour. Complex carbohydrates, such as hemicelluloses in bran increase flour's water absorption. This result is supported by research in 2006 that reported the range of water absorption of different extracted rate flours with different ash contents in the 56 to 66% (Azizi *et al.*, 2006). Total ash content also has significant effects on other properties of farinography. Flour with higher ash content contains larger amounts of bran and dietary fiber; these materials are

considered to disturb the continuous gluten network structure in dough (Maeda & Morita, 2001). The effect of ash content on dough development time is due to the presence of increased bran particles, which may interfere to the quick development of gluten and the hydration of endosperm; therefore, additional time is required for all components of flour to completely absorb water (Vetrimani *et al.*, 2005).

Table 2: Correlation coefficients between inputs and outputs of networks

	%Water absorption	Development time (min)	Farinograph quality number
%Ash	0.291**	0.495**	0.133
%Protein	0.414**	0.667**	0.484**
%Wet gluten	0.485**	0.281**	-0.022
Gluten index	-0.094	0.405**	0.627**
Sedimentation test	0.095	0.355	0.564**
Falling number	0.225*	0.221*	0.262**
Particle size index	-0.076	-0.088	0.130

* = Significant P<0.05

** = Significant P<0.01

Water absorption, development time and farinograph quality number have a positive significant correlation with total protein content of flour. Increasing wet gluten has also significant positive effects on water absorption and dough-development time. (Mueen-ud-din, 2009; Robertson & Cao, 2001).

Gluten index and sedimentation tests are the usual criteria for evaluating protein quality (Hrušková *et al.*, 2000; Curic *et al.*, 2001). Both factors have significant positive correlations with development time and farinograph quality number.

Falling number is an indicator of amylase activity of flour. According to the table 2, with increasing amylase activity of flour, water absorption, development time and farinograph quality number of dough are decreased. This is due to the weakening of mixed dough in the presence of low-molecular-weight dextrans, which are produced from damaged starches by amylase hydrolysis (Maeda & Morita, 2003; Kim *et al.*, 2006).

Particle size of flour is influenced by the milling process conditions and the structural characteristics of wheat. During milling, the weak protein bonds in wheat endosperm can easily break and produce small particles but strong protein bonds are not easily broken. Therefore, serious middling reduction produces fine flour with a high level of damaged starch that affect rheological properties of dough. In present

research, the higher index of particle size indicates the flour with smaller particles but in the evaluated extent of particle size of flours, there are not significant effects of measured-farinograph properties.

ANN modeling performance

According to the results of preliminary experiments by trial and error, selecting three farinograph parameters as outputs of a neural network reduce convergence rate and prediction accuracy of the developed models. Therefore, in order to improve precision of the model, we dedicate water absorption and dough development time as outputs of a network and farinograph quality number as an output of the other one. The input parameters of both network into the first layer of the ANNs were total protein content, total ash content, wet gluten, gluten index, sedimentation number, falling number and particle size index.

The first network was design for predicting water absorption and dough development time. In training process of ANN with GA, the parameter values of chromosomes were translated into the predefined ANNs and the networks were trained with the training data set. Using baseline strategies of GA such as recombinant crossover across gene boundaries, mutation at gene level and selection according to rank of MSE, the best ANN was designated after 14 generations with mean square error 0.0138 in validation data set

during training ANN-GA. The best and the average fitness value versus the number of

generations are demonstrated in Figures 1 (A).

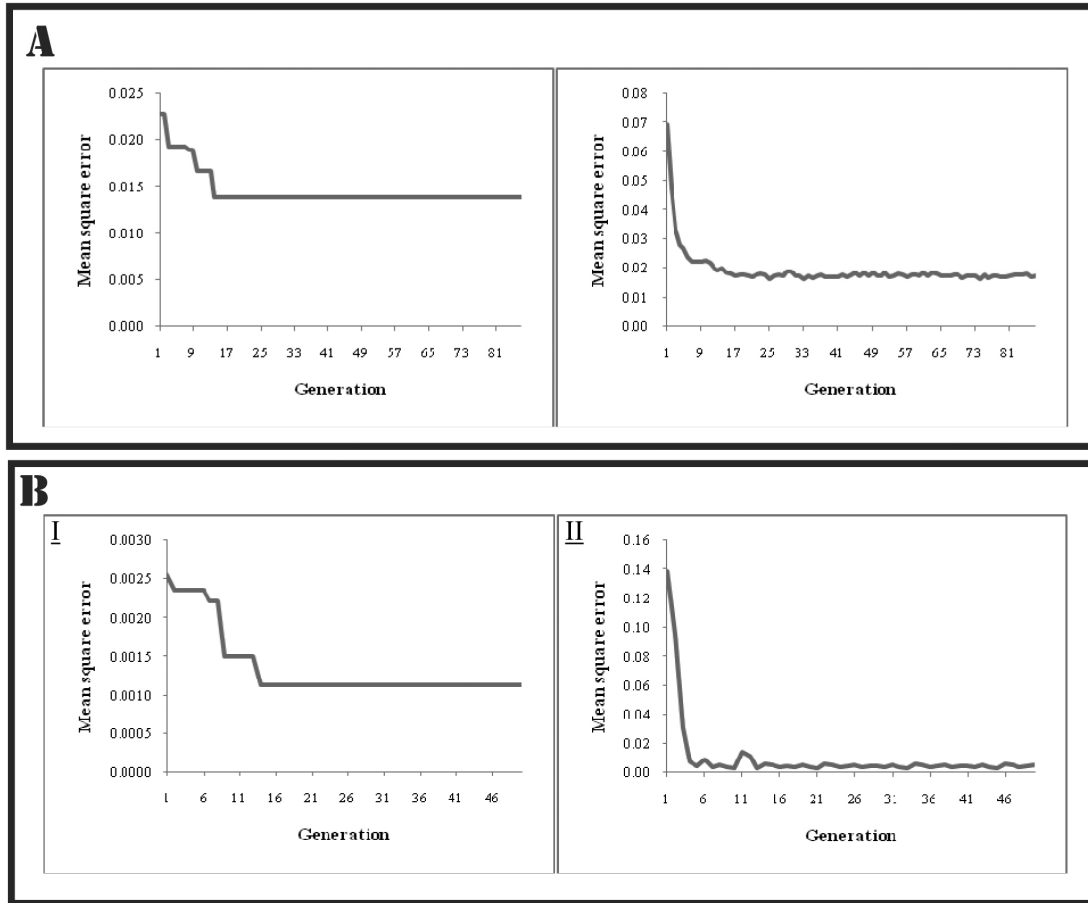


Fig. 1: Best fitness (I) and average fitness (II) versus generation
 A: Modeling of water absorption and dough development time, B: Modeling of farinograph quality number

Table 3: Cross-validation error obtained from trained networks with genetic algorithm

Optimization Summary	Best Fitness	Average Fitness
Generation	14	10
Minimum Mean absolute error	0.0011	0.0026
Final MSE	0.0011	0.0036

Table 3 also summarizes the minimum MSE, the generation when minimum MSE was obtained and the final MSE for the best and average fitness.

The best network would be the one that had the lowest training error and the highest fitness and the average fitness is the average of the minimum MSE taken across all of the networks within the

corresponding generation. The optimal network is a four layer generalized feed forward neural network with seven nodes in the first hidden layer and twelve neurons in the second hidden. Figure 2 (A) displays the topology of the best neural network for predicting present factors and table 4 demonstrates other structural parameters of it.

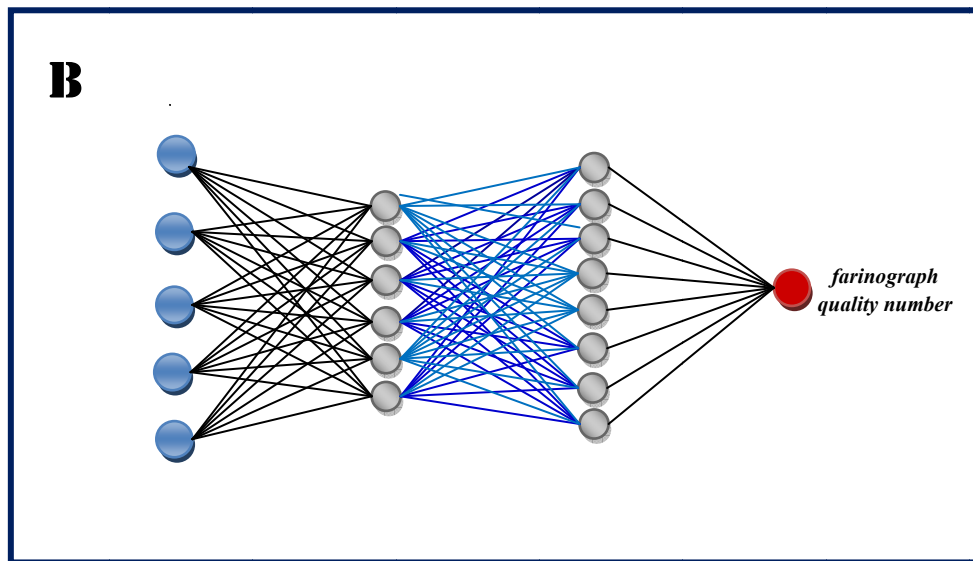
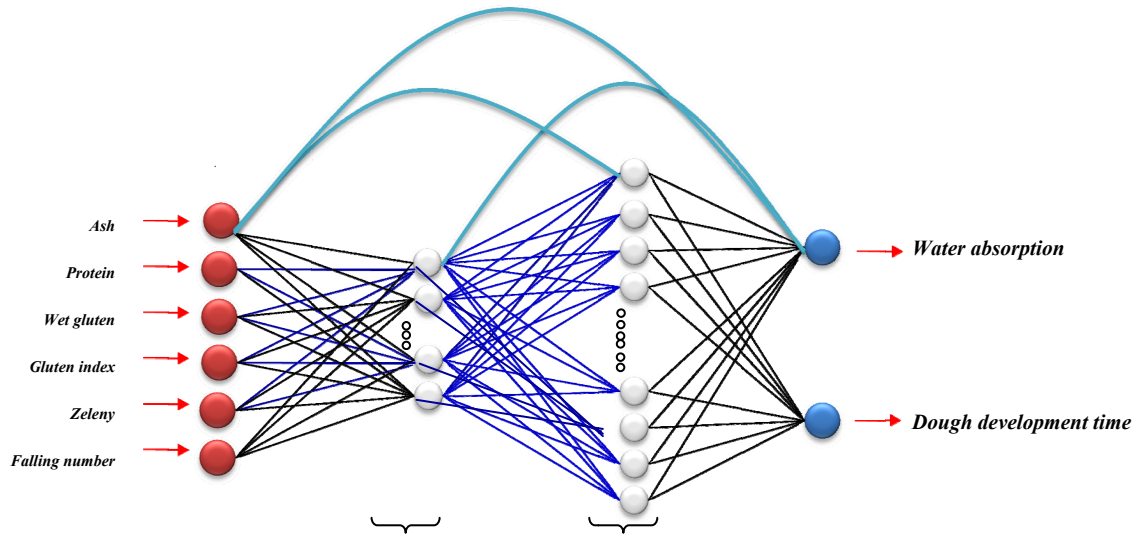


Fig.2: Schematic representation of optimized neural networks with genetic algorithm

Table 4: Structural parameters of the developed network for predicting water absorption and development time

Neurons	Number of neurons	Transfer function	Momentum rate (Synapse)	Step size (Synapse)	Momentum rate (Axon)	Step size (Axon)
Input layer	6	-	-	-	-	-
First hidden layer	7	Hyperbolic tangent	0.057	0.214	0.135	0.255
Second hidden layer	12	Hyperbolic tangent	0.992	0.984	0.986	0.403
Output layer	2	Bias	0.372	0.133	0.557	0.231
Input - Second hidden	-	-	0.278	0.588	-	-
First hidden - Output	-	-	0.174	0.244	-	-
Input - Output	-	-	0.761	0.015	-	-

For evaluating the performance of the network in test phase, test data set that had never been

encountered to the network during genetic training fed to the developed network and the

outputs were predicted. The measured water absorption and dough development time in laboratory were compared with the predicted ones and useful parameters for evaluating the network performance were computed. The

performance of the model on data test were evaluated by suitable criteria such as MAE, NMSE, MSE, correlation coefficients (r) and other beneficial parameters and the results are reported in Table 5.

Table 5: Performance of the developed ANN-GA models in predicting outputs

Performance	%Water absorption	Dough development time	Farinograph quality number
Mean square error	0.0203	0.0198	0.0098
Normalized Mean square error	0.0895	0.0512	0.0804
Mean absolute error	0.1167	0.1003	0.0695
Minimum absolute Error	0.0077	0.0031	0.0004
Maximum absolute Error	0.3104	0.3025	0.2471
Correlation coefficient (r)	0.9691	0.9772	0.9852

According to the mathematical expressions of r , MAE, and NMSE for ANNs, predictions of an ANN are optimum if r , MAE, NMSE and MSE are close to 1, 0, 0 and 0, respectively. The developed network with GA strategy was very successful in predicting water absorption and dough development time. Average of mean square error and correlation coefficient between measured and predicted water absorption and dough development time were 0.0201 and 0.9732 respectively.

The second network was design for predicting farinograph quality number. After planning and creating presupposition networks, they were trained using GA approach. The optimal network with the lowest error was designated after 14

generations during training ANN-GA. Mean square error of it were 0.0011 for validating data set. The best and the average fitness value versus the number of generations are displayed in Figures 1 (B) and summarizations of them are demonstrated in table 6.

The optimal network was a four layer multilayer perceptron with six neurons in the first hidden layer and eight neurons in the second hidden layer. Figure 2 (B) demonstrates the topology of the developed ANN-GA for predicting the farinograph quality number and table 7 illustrates structural parameters of it.

Table 6: Cross-validation error obtained from trained networks with genetic algorithm

Optimization Summary	Best Fitness	Average Fitness
Generation	14	10
Minimum Mean absolute error	0.0011	0.0026
Final MSE	0.0011	0.0036

Table 7: Structural parameters of the developed network for predicting farinograph quality number

Neurons	Number of neurons	Transfer function	Momentum rate (Synapse)	Step size (Synapse)	Momentum rate (Axon)	Step size (Axon)
Input layer	5	-	-	-	-	-
First hidden layer	6	Hyperbolic tangent	0.211	0.718	0.037	0.600
Second hidden layer	8	Hyperbolic tangent	0.987	0.486	0.253	0.209
Output layer	1	Linear	0.317	0.154	0.783	0.378

After testing the developed network, suitable factors for valuating network performance were computed and present in Table 5. Farinograph quality number can predict with mean square error and correlation coefficient of 0.0098 and 0.9852 respectively. In figure 3 experimented test

data sets that had never been fed into the networks during genetic training were depicted versus predicted ones. Results of predicting water absorption, development time and farinograph quality number are illustrated in the first, second and the third figures respectively.

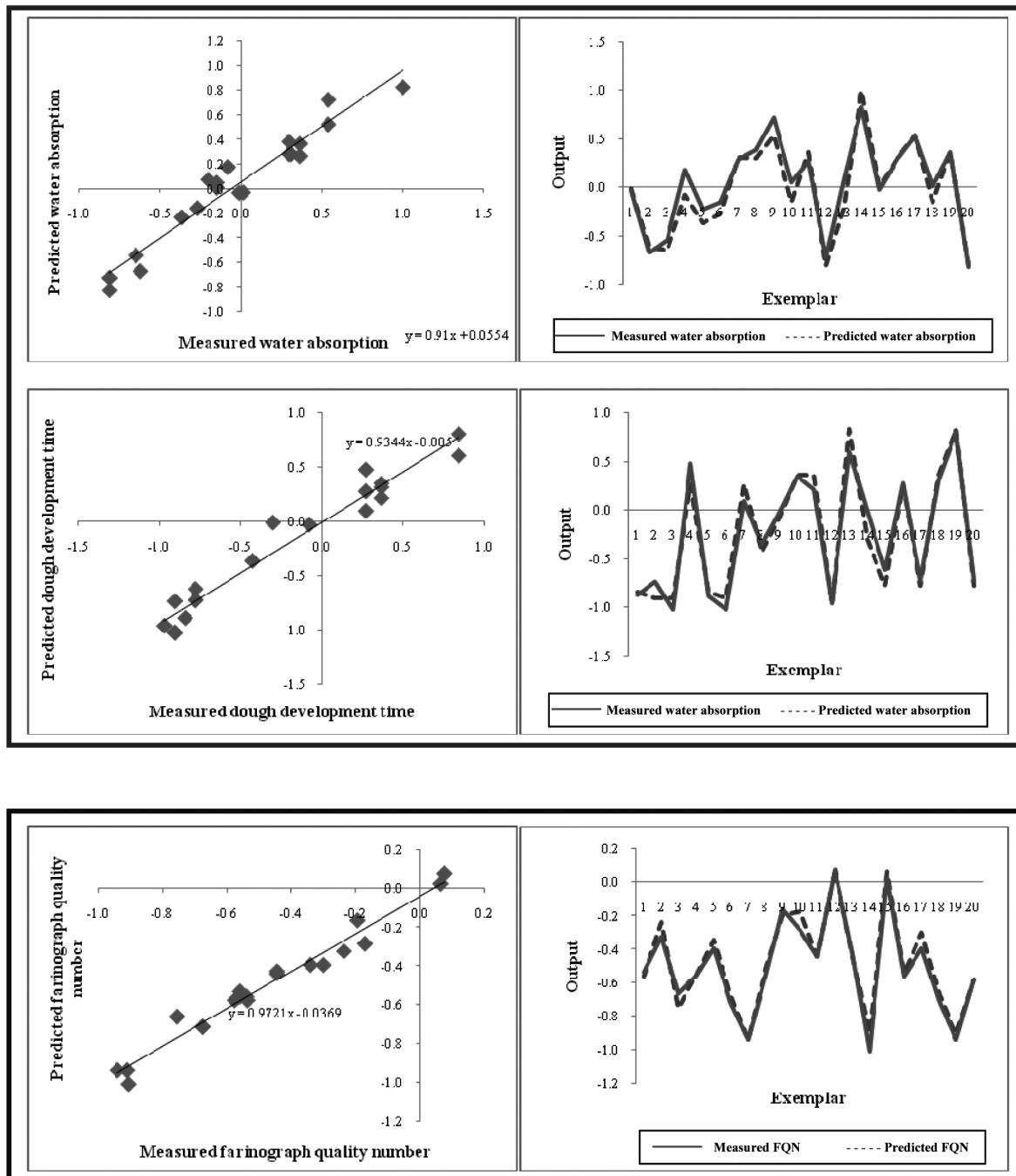


Fig. 3: Measured and predicted outputs of networks in testing data set

In literature, there are several studies about using ANN in prediction of different parameters of dough rheological properties. Ruan in 1995 developed a neural network for predicting dough rheology according to the mixing properties. The acquired mixer torque curve and the measured rheological properties such as farinograph peak, extensibility and maximum resistance to

extension were used as inputs and outputs of a network respectively. The average absolute error of predicted farinograph peak (BU) was 23.6 (Ruan *et al.*, 1995).

Razmi-Rad *et al.* (2007) applied an ANN for prediction of Iranian bread dough farinograph properties. They used four chemical compositions from 132 wheat cultivars as inputs and six

parameters of their farinograph-measured properties as outputs of a network. They trained an ANN by trial and error (Razmi-Rad *et al.*, 2007). Prediction accuracy of this study was significantly lower than the results of current research. For example coefficient of determination, R^2 , of the linear regression line between the predicted water absorption of flour from the neural network model and the desired output was 0.6157.

Greater prediction accuracy of present research than the results of previous studies is illustrated GA's ability as more powerful techniques than trial and error in training an ANN for optimizing structural parameters of it, even with less number of data set. Furthermore, selecting useful input and output variables for a network also significantly improved the performance of ANNs. Generally, ANN-GA is a powerful method in estimating farinograph properties of dough. Developed models has significant potential to be used in industries for evaluating and improving technological performance of dough during production and prohibiting economical loss due to increasing product quality.

Sensitivity analyses

Sensitivity analyses were carried out to select factors with the largest contribution to the network and measures the relative importance of the ANN's inputs. They illustrate how the optimised model affects outputs in response to variations of each input. It is very important for selecting effective parameters in the future studies on modeling of dough rheological properties. The results of sensitivity test are demonstrated in Figure 4. The first and second figures show the sensitivity of water absorption and dough development time to the inputs in the developed network for them and the last one demonstrate the sensitivity of farinograph quality number to the inputs in the developed network for it.

Particle size of flour, as the least important input of the developed ANN-GA for prediction water absorption and dough development time was removed from the structure of ANN. Therefore, sensitivity analyses were performed on the other six inputs. The sedimentation value was the most sensitive variable on water absorption in the developed ANN. Gluten index and total protein content of flour are the second sensitive variables. Amylase activity of flour that is represented by falling number is partially sensitive variable with positive effects on water absorption (Kim *et al.*, 2006). Other inputs such as wet gluten and total ash content are the least

sensitive variables with respect to water absorption.

Dough development time have the most sensitivity to variations of gluten index and sedimentation value. Wet gluten is the next sensitive variables and other parameters such as total protein content, falling number and total ash content of flour are the least sensitive variables respectively.

Gluten index is the most sensitive variable in developed ANN for predicting farinograph quality number. The sensitivity of other parameters almost is the same.

Generally, applied variables for evaluating qualitative properties of flour such as gluten index and Zeleny are the most sensitive inputs in developed models for predicting outputs.

CONCLUSION

In present work, neural networks with error back-propagation learning algorithms were applied for predicting three important farinograph properties of dough (water absorption, dough development time and farinograph quality number) as profitable rheological parameters for evaluating technological aspects in bakery industries that affected by physicochemical properties of flour. Seven important physicochemical properties were used as inputs: total protein content, total ash content, wet gluten, gluten index, amylase activity, Zeleny and particle size. Two neural networks were developed, the first for modeling water absorption and dough development time and the second for modeling farinograph quality number. The ANNs were trained using GA for determining network topology (neuron number of hidden layers, momentum and step size) in less time with acceptable performance. Further, for deducing prediction errors of ANN, GA optimise inputs with deleting negligible inputs in modeling outputs. The optimised ANNs-GA can potentially predict outputs with credible performance. The farinograph quality number was the best predictable parameter with developed ANN-GA.

We could also determine the sensitivity of each input on outputs. Of the seven investigated inputs, changes in quantity of gluten index and also Zeleny of flour have the most effect on changing every parameter of outputs in developed models.

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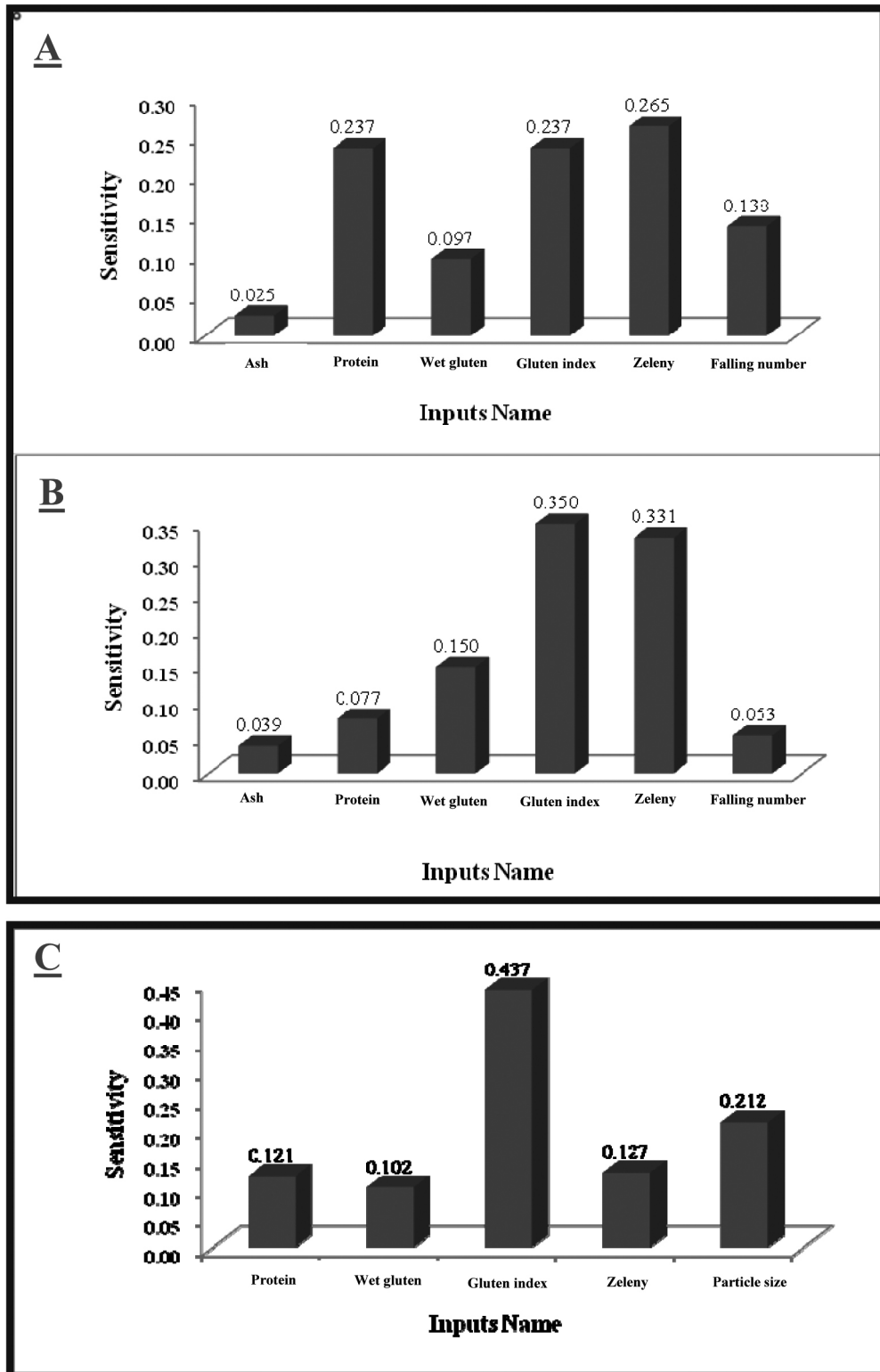


Fig. 4: Sensitivity of outputs about mean of inputs
(A: Water absorption, B: Dough development time, C: Farinograph quality number)

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