

## FORECASTING SAVING DEPOSIT IN MALAYSIAN ISLAMIC BANKING: COMPARISON BETWEEN ARTIFICIAL NEURAL NETWORK AND ARIMA

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### *Abstract*

*The aim of this paper is to test the ability of artificial neural network (ANN) as an alternative method in time series forecasting and compared to autoregressive integrated moving average (ARIMA) in studying saving deposit in Malaysian Islamic banks. Artificial neural network is getting popular as an alternative method in time series forecasting for its capability to capture volatility pattern of non-linear time series data. In addition, the use of an established tool of analysis such as ARIMA is of importance here for comparative purposes. These two methods are applied to monthly data of the Malaysian Islamic banking deposits from January 1994 to November 2005. The result provides evidence that ANN using "early stopping" approach can be used as an alternative forecasting engine with univariate time series model. It can predict non-linear time series using the pattern of the data directly without any statistical analysis.*

**Keywords:** *artificial neural network, ARIMA, saving deposit*

### INTRODUCTION

Finding the trends and the patterns in banking and financial data has been put in highly attention by businesses and academicians. The detection of trends and patterns has combined statistical and econometric modeling. The mathematical models related to the forecasting may fail to predict the patterns in the dynamic of economic. However new methods of forecasting is growing very fast recently.

New intelligent methods, including ANN, have attracted forecaster to predict the trends and patters. In fact, many forecasters dealing

with financial matters are using neural network method. Neural network can be used to forecast stock market, foreign exchange trading, bond yield and commodity future trading.

Various attempts of economic time series prediction have been done ending with saying that ANN based forecasting outperform the conventional model [1]. Many researchers have also suggested that neural networks can serve as alternative and novel tools in business, e.g., in forecasting financial time series [2]. ANN has many advantages over conventional methods of analysis. *First*, they have the ability to analyze complex patterns quickly and with a high

degree of accuracy. *Second*, ANN makes no assumptions about the nature of the data distribution.

In dealing with the autocorrelation analysis, we often use ARIMA model (Box Jenkins) as a statistical approaches for forecasting. This analysis mainly detects the autocorrelation between the previous observations of time series. This method is very efficient to forecast linear time series. The problem of ARIMA approach arises when the time series is of increasing variance or when the time series represents nonlinear processes [3]. Kolarik [3] has conducted time series forecasting using neural network. He compared the result with the well known forecasting techniques, ARIMA. His result showed that forecasting error using ANN is less compared to that of ARIMA.

ANN is a good method to capture the data patterns of nonlinear time series. ANN for time series analysis relies purely on past data that were observed. Another advantage in using ANN is that it is powerful enough to model any form of time series. The ability to generalize allows ANN to learn even in the case of noisy or high volatility process. Basically it has four steps: collecting and preprocessing the input patterns, determining the ANN structure and architecture, training the ANN forecaster, and validation test of the trained ANN. This paper discusses univariate time series forecasting using ANN in comparison with ARIMA.

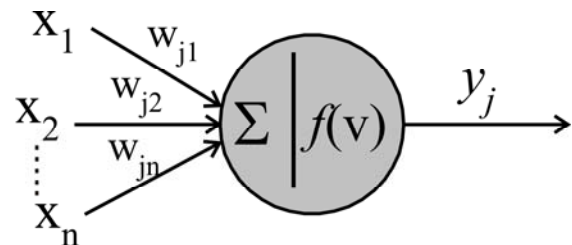
Theoretical concepts in this research as follows:

### 1. Artificial Neural Network

A neural network is a computational technique that benefits from techniques similar to ones employed in the human brain. Its very basic concept was introduced in 1940s. It is designed to mimic the ability of the human brain to

process data and information and comprehend patterns. It imitates the structure and operations of the three dimensional lattice of network among brain cells (nodes or neurons, and hence the term "neural").

An ANN can be defined as a processing system consisting of a large number of simple, highly interconnected processing element (neurons) in an architecture inspired by the structure of the human brain [4]. An ANN is characterized by its architecture, learning algorithm and activations function. The architecture describes the connections between the neurons. It consists of, generally, an input layer, an output layer and adequate number of hidden layers in between. The layers in the network are interconnected by links that associated with weight that dictate the effect on the information passing through them. These weights are updated by learning algorithm. The activation function relates the output of a neuron to its input. The most commonly used activation functions are: threshold, piece-wise linear, sigmoid and Gaussian function. . Figure 1 shows a single artificial neuron, where  $w_{ji}$  is the weight values and  $f$  is activation function.



**Figure 1. A Single Artificial Neuron**

Table 1 shows the typical activation function used for multilayer neural network. The choice of activation function from one layer to another may be different.

**Table 1. Activation Functions**

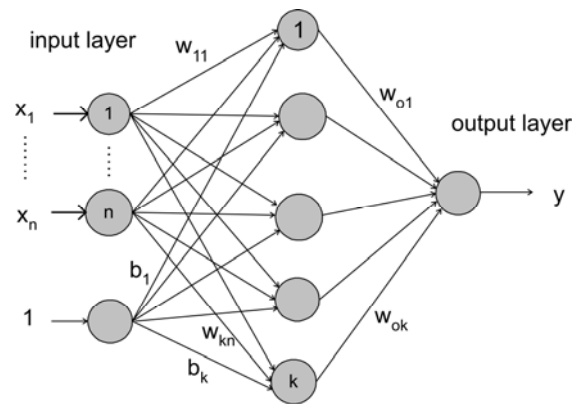
Type of Activation Function	Function
Linear	$f(v)=v$
Threshold	$f(v) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } v \geq 0 \\ 0 & \text{if } v < 0 \end{cases}$
Log sigmoid	$f(v) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-v}}$
Tan sigmoid	$f(v) = \frac{1 - e^{-2v}}{1 + e^{2v}}$

The learning process of the neural network can be likened to the way a child learns to recognize patterns, shapes and sounds, and discerns among them. For example, the child has to be exposed to a number of examples of a particular type of tree for her to be able to recognize that type of tree latter on. In addition, the child has to be exposed to different types of trees for her to be able to differentiate among trees.

The human brain has the uncanny ability to recognize and comprehend various patterns. The neural network is extremely primitive in this aspect. The network’s strength, however, is in its ability to comprehend and discern subtle patterns in a large number of variables at a time without being stifled by detail. It can also carry out multiple operations simultaneously. Not only can it identify patterns in a few variables, it also can detect correlations in hundreds of variables. It is this feature of the network that is particularly suitable in analyzing relationships between a large numbers of market variables. The networks can learn from experience. They can cope with “fuzzy” patterns – patterns that are difficult to reduce to precise rules. They can also be retrained and thus can adapt to changing market behavior.

The network holds particular promise for econometric applications. Multilayer feed forward neural networks as a common type of neural network with appropriate parameters are capable of approximating a large number of diverse functions arbitrarily well [5]. Even when a data set is noisy or has irrelevant inputs, the networks can learn important features of the data. Inputs that may appear irrelevant may in fact contain useful information. The promise of neural networks lies in their ability to learn patterns in a complex signal.

Recently, there are at least two most popular ANN in various applications, namely multilayer feed forward network (MFN) and radial basis function network (RBFN). ANN has been popular because of its capability as general approximate of nonlinear process. Multilayer feed forward network with back propagation learning algorithm is used in this paper. This type of ANN is shown in *Figure 2*.



**Figure 2. A Typical Multilayer Feed Forward Neural Network**

The output of node  $j$  in the hidden layer is given by

$$h_j = f\left(\sum_{i=1}^n w_{ji} \cdot x_i + b_j\right) \quad \dots(1)$$

and the output of the network by

$$y = \sum_{i=1}^k (w_{oi} \cdot h_i) \quad \dots(2)$$

The learning process of ANN is carried out using input-output data to update the weights and biases. One of the technique used to obtain these parameter is back propagation algorithm [4,6]. The weight adjustment is done iteratively from the output layer backward to previous layers to achieve a minimum mean square error (MSE) between the network output and the desired output [4]. The number of iterations is often termed as epoch.

The back propagation algorithm can be summarized as follows. Suppose a MFN is trained by gradient descent to approximate an unknown function, based on some training data consisting of pairs  $(x,t)$ . The vector  $x$  represents a pattern of input to the network, and the vector  $t$  the corresponding target (desired output). The overall gradient with respect to the entire training set is just the sum of the gradients for each pattern; then it is described how to compute the gradient for just a single training pattern. Let's number the units, and denote the weight from unit  $j$  to unit  $i$  by  $w_{ij}$ .

a. *Definitions:*

the **error** signal for unit  $j$ :  $\delta_j = -\partial E / \partial net_j$

the (negative) **gradient** for weight  $w_{ij}$ :  $\Delta w_{ij} = -\partial E / \partial w_{ij}$

the set of nodes **anterior** to unit  $i$ :  $A_i = \{j : \exists w_{ij}\}$

the set of nodes **posterior** to unit  $j$ :  $P_j = \{i : \exists w_{ij}\}$

b. *The gradient.* The gradient is expanded into two factors by use of the chain rule:

$$\Delta w_{ij} = - \frac{\partial E}{\partial net_i} \frac{\partial net_i}{\partial w_{ij}}$$

The first factor is the error of unit  $i$ . The second is

$$\frac{\partial net_i}{\partial w_{ij}} = \frac{\partial}{\partial w_{ij}} \sum_{k \in A_i} w_{ik} y_k = y_j$$

Putting the two together, we get

$$\Delta w_{ij} = \delta_i y_j$$

To compute this gradient, we thus need to know the activity and the error for all relevant nodes in the network.

c. *Forward activation.* The activity of the input units is determined by the network's external input  $x$ . For all other units, the activity is propagated forward:

$$y_i = f_i \left( \sum_{j \in A_i} w_{ij} y_j \right)$$

Note that before the activity of unit  $i$  can be calculated, the activity of all its anterior nodes (forming the set  $A_i$ ) must be known. Since feedforward networks do not contain cycles, there is an ordering of nodes from input to output that respects this condition.

d. *Calculating output error.* Assuming that the sum-squared loss is used.

$$E = \frac{1}{2} \sum_o (t_o - y_o)^2$$

the error for output unit  $o$  is simply

$$\delta_o = t_o - y_o$$

- e. *Error back propagation.* For hidden units, the error is back propagated from the output nodes (hence the name of the algorithm). Again using the chain rule, we can expand the error of a hidden unit in terms of its posterior nodes:

$$\delta_j = - \sum_{i \in P_j} \frac{\partial E}{\partial net_i} \frac{\partial net_i}{\partial y_j} \frac{\partial y_j}{\partial net_j}$$

Of the three factors inside the sum, the first is just the error of node i. The second is

$$\frac{\partial net_i}{\partial y_j} = \frac{\partial}{\partial y_j} \sum_{k \in A_i} w_{kj} y_k = w_{ij}$$

while the third is the derivative of node j's activation function:

$$\frac{\partial y_j}{\partial net_j} = \frac{\partial f_j(net_j)}{\partial net_j} = f'_j(net_j)$$

For hidden units h that use the tanh activation function, we can make use of the special identity  $\tanh(u)' = 1 - \tanh(u)^2$ , giving

$$f'_h(net_h) = 1 - y_h^2$$

Putting all the pieces together, yields

$$\delta_j = f'_j(net_j) \sum_{i \in P_j} \delta_i w_{ij}$$

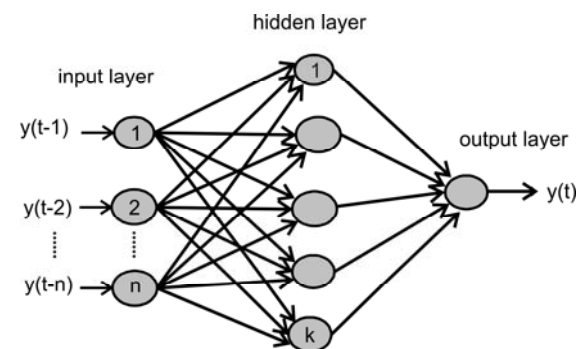
The common steps in ANN learning process are as follows.

- a. Input collection and preprocessing of the input data (if necessary). This includes the number of sampled data and data normalization.

- b. Determining the structure of the ANN. Including number of inputs, neurons, hidden layers and activation functions.  
 c. Training the ANN, using the input pattern and desired output.  
 d. Validation of the trained ANN.

## 2. Artificial Neural Network For Time Series Forecasting

The ability of ANN to discover nonlinear relationships in input data makes them ideal for modeling nonlinear time series. Therefore, ANN can be used to predict future values in a time series based on current and historical data. This can be considered as univariate modeling of time series. *Figure 3* shows the typical network for time series forecasting.



**Figure 3. Multilayer Feed Forward Network for Time Series Forecasting**

However, due to the tedious and time consuming of neural networks training, some of models reported in literature did not go through comprehensive experiments. The most time consuming process in ANN computation is determining the structure of the ANN. Unfortunately, the number of neurons, hidden layers and the types of activation functions can not be determined beforehand. It is usually found after quite long experiment. Even they have resulted poor prediction though they have successfully train the ANN model. This hap-

pens when the ANN has poor generalization capability or the data used is limited to small number. The ANN has memorized the training examples but it has not learned to generalize the new input pattern in prediction. This is because what so called *over fitting* occurs during the training. The error on the training set is driven to a very small value, but when new data is presented to the network the error is large.

One method to improve generalization capability is called *early stopping*. In this technique the available data is divided into three subsets. The first subset is the training set, which is used for computing the gradient and updating the network weights and biases. The second subset is the validation set. The error on the validation set is monitored during the training process. The validation error will normally decrease during the initial phase of training, as does the training set error. However, when the network begins to over fit the data, the error on the validation set will typically begin to rise. When the validation error increases for a specified number of iterations, the training is stopped, and the weights and biases at the minimum of the validation error are returned [7].

### 3. Autoregressive Integrated Moving Average (ARIMA)

It is a forecasting model using combination of three components, namely: Firstly, autoregressive term. It may use first order or higher order AR terms. Each AR relates to the use of a lagged value of the residual in the forecasting equation for the unconditional residual. Secondly, integration orders term. Each integration order corresponds to differencing series being forecast. First order integration means that the forecasting model is designed to the first difference of the original series. Lastly is the Moving Average term. Moving Average

forecasting model which is using lagged values of the forecast error is to improve the current forecast.

This ARIMA method consists of four steps [8] (1). *Identification*. This first steps is to identify the lagged value of the autoregressive term the order of integrated and the moving average term. (2). *Estimation*. The next step is to estimate the parameter of the autoregressive and moving average term. This can be done by the simple least squares.(3). *Diagnostic checking*. This is to see whether the chosen model fits the data reasonably well. (4). *Forecasting*. After considering all the steps, finally, we use the model to make a forecasting.

## RESEARCH METHOD

The number of available monthly data of Islamic banking deposit (saving) is 143. It starts from January 1994 up to November 2005. The data can be downloaded from Bank Negara Malaysia Website. About the first 75 percent data is used for training and the last 25 percent data is forecasted by the ANN and ARIMA.

The forecasting is carried out as *one step-ahead prediction* based on historical data using time delay input referring to *Figure 2*. The MFN with back propagation learning algorithm is used in this paper. In the time series forecasting using ANN, the data is divided into two sets. Typically, the first 75 percent is used to train the ANN and the rest is to test the obtained ANN forecaster. Since early stopping is applied to improve the prediction, thus the training data is divided further into two sets, one as training set and one as validation set for early stopping. This step is vital to build good generalization of the ANN. After one step ahead has been predicted, then the ANN is retrained with new input pattern to predict the

next one step. This is carried out iteratively until 33 times prediction. The training was specified to achieve MSE of  $10^{-5}$ .

The training phase has usually no much problem. The problem is when new input pattern fed to the ANN to predict the new value. Early stopping plays an important role here to improve generalization capability.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The plots comparing the actual index and the forecasting result by ANN with *early stopping technique* and ARIMA is shown in *Figures 4*. From the plot, it can be seen that the ANN has shown a good capability for time series forecasting based on historical data of Malaysia Islamic banking deposit. The proposed method of ANN was also able to forecast the pattern with low error.

The corellogram is used to test whether the data is stationary or not for ARIMA. It shows that the data is not stationary in the level form,

but it is stationary in the first difference. After considering the requirement needed for estimating the model, using least square regression, we come up with the model below:

$$\text{Deposit} = 30.29168 + 0.84512 * \text{Deposit} (-1) + 0.195871 * \text{Deposit} (-7)$$

To see the accuracy between these two method (ANN and ARIMA), we compute the error for each forecasting tools. In doing this, we employ the Mean Absolute Percentage Error (MAPE).

	ANN	ARIMA
MAPE	1.30	1.38

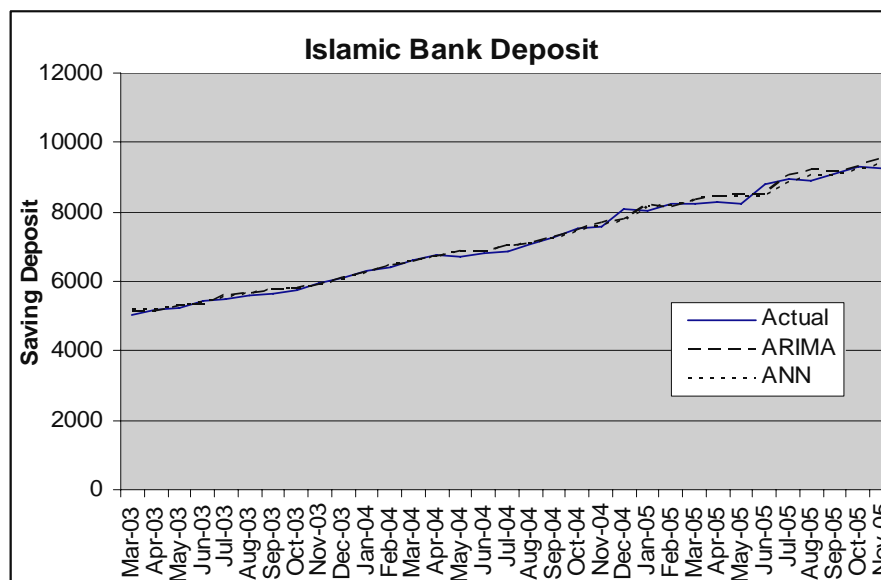


Figure 4. Actual and Predicted Saving Deposit

## CONCLUSION

Forecasting is very important for decision maker to have an idea of what might occur in the future. We, in this paper, have tried to implement two method for forecasting, namely Artificial Neural Network (ANN) and Autoregressive Integrated Moving Average (ARIMA). The result shows that ANN can be used as an alternative prediction tool that produces a slightly better performance than ARIMA. MAPE for ANN is 1.3 and for ARIMA is 1.38 and there is no statistical pre-analysis of the data needed to obtain the significant lag used like in ARIMA. Furthermore, ANN can be used for multiple-ahead prediction tool as well. Thus, short term and long term forecasting is also subject for ANN research.

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