

Neural Nets

Attendees: Greg Louis (chairman)
Greg Dickerhoof (secretary)
R.J. Brown
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Michael Pandolfo Stratus Computers
Adam Meggitt Control Automation
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Summarized Minutes of Neural Nets Working Group

The session began with some additional background information from Bob Brown on the effects of sigmoid activation function and a family tree recognition model. "Gradient Backflow" is the process necessary for the net to learn. Optical character recognition has used neural techniques for the past 15 years. Feedback in a net with sigmoid activation results in an infinite chain of neurons (the cul de sac).

There was some controversy on the following issues:

- whether neural nets are applicable to useful work
- goal doesn't need to emulate the brain
- complexity of neurons (not weights, but inconnects)
- dolphin sense

It was noted by Bob Brown that the conference revealed some surprisingly encouraging...

Stability was identified as a very difficult issue, often ignored.

Generally, this was an informational meeting for the group members, with no specific directions to submit to the conference at large.