An Artificial Neural Network Application for Estimation of Natural Frequencies of Beams

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Abstract—In this study, natural frequencies of the prismatical steel beams with various geometrical characteristics under the four different boundary conditions are determined using Artificial Neural Network (ANN) technique. In that way, an alternative efficient method is aimed to develop for the solution of the present problem, which provides avoiding loss of time for computing some necessary parameters. In this context, initially, first ten frequency parameters of the beam are found, where Bernoulli-Euler beam theory was adopted, and then natural frequencies are computed theoretically. With the aid of theoretically obtained results, the data sets are formed and ANN models are constructed. Here, 36 models are developed using primary 3 models. The results are found from these models by changing the number and properties of the neurons and input data. The handiness of the present models is examined by comparing the results of these models with theoretically obtained results. The effects of the number of neurons, input data and training function on the models are investigated. In addition, multiple regression models are developed with the data, and adjusted R-square is examined for determining the inefficient input parameters

Keywords—natural frequency; beam; ANN; multiple regression; adjusted R-square

I. INTRODUCTION

Every structure in the nature has endless number of vibration frequencies and mode shapes, and calculation of these frequencies and their mode shapes are important to solve the vibration induced engineering problems [1-5].

Vibration analyses of structural systems have been performed with the aid of different methods [6-15]. However, the complex shaped structures may be analyzed with soft computing techniques more easily. Soft Computing is a general term for a collection of computing techniques [16]. These wellknown techniques constitute artificial neural networks (ANN), fuzzy logic, evolutionary computation, machine learning and probabilistic reasoning. Soft computing methods differ from classical computing methods in that, unlike classical computing methods it is tolerant of imprecision, uncertainty, partial truth to achieve tractability, approximation, robustness, lows solution cost and better rapport with reality [17].

Although all above mentioned techniques have been adapted to the structural analysis, design and optimization problems, especially ANNs have been widely used in many fields of science and technology, such as, in vibration problems of engineering structures, due to it has an excellent learning Kemal Saplıoğlu

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capacity [18]. Gates et al. [19] presented a method of using artificial neural networks stabilizing large flexible space structures, in which the neural controller learns the dynamics of the structure to be controlled and constructs control signal stabilizing structural vibrations. Karlik et al. [20] studied the nonlinear vibrations of an Euler-Bernoulli beam with a concentrated mass using ANN technique which has a multilayer, feed-forward, back propagation algorithm. Mahmoud and Kiefa [21] investigated the feasibility of using general regression neural networks to solve the inverse vibration problem of cracked structures, in which a steel cantilever beam with a single edge crack is examined as a case study. Castillo et al. [22] presented a general methodology to develop and work with functional networks, which is a network based alternative to the neural network paradigm. Cevik et al. [23] suggested ANN approach for obtaining the natural frequencies of suspension bridges. Civalek [24] examined flexural and axial vibration of elastic beams with various support conditions using ANN, in which the first three natural frequencies of beams are obtained using multi-layer neural network based back-propagation error learning algorithm. Hassanpour et al. [25] investigated the vibration of the simply-supported beam with rotary springs at either ends using a multilayer feedforward back-propagation ANN. Bağdatlı et al. [26] studied the nonlinear vibrations of stepped beam systems using ANN technique which has a multi-layer, feed-forward, backpropagation algorithm networks. Saeed et al. [27] presented various artificial intelligence techniques for crack identification in curvilinear beams based on changes in vibration characteristics. Jalil et al. [28] presented dynamic model of flexible cantilever beam in transverse motion using finite difference approach, in which the identification of a flexible beam structure was utilized using neural network. Mohammadhassani et al. [29] presented comparison of the effectiveness of artificial neural network and linear regression in the prediction of strain in tie section using experimental data from eight high-strength-self-compact concrete deep beams.Ding et al. [30] determined locating and quantifying damage in beam-type structures using structural dynamicsguided hierarchical neural-networks scheme. Karimi et al. [31] suggested an alternative modeling technique using ANN for predicting the effects of different parameters on the natural and nonlinear frequencies of the laminated plates.

In the present study bending natural frequencies of the prismatical steel beams with various geometrical characteristics under the four different boundary conditions, i.e. Clamped-Clamped (C-C), Clamped-Free (C-F), Clamped-Simply

Supported (C-SS) and Simply Supported-Simply Supported (SS-SS) is determined using ANN technique. Initially, the first ten natural frequency parameters of the beam are found adopting Bernoulli-Euler beam theory, and then natural frequencies are computed theoretically. With the aid of theoretically obtained results the data sets are formed and ANN models are constructed. Here, 36 models are developed using primary 3 models. The results are found from these models by changing the number and properties of the neurons and input data. The handiness of the present models is examined by comparing the results of these models with theoretically obtained results. The effects of the number of neurons, input data and training function on the models are investigated. In addition, multiple regression models are developed with the data, and adjusted R^2 is investigated for determining the inefficient input parameters. To the best of authors knowledge, although various studies are presented on the free vibration analysis of the structures using ANN technique, the effects of the number of neurons, input data and training function on the models are not investigated in detail, and the inefficient input parameters are not determined using multiple regression models. In the present work, an attempt is made for addressing these issues.

II. MATHEMATICAL MODELLING OF THE PROBLEM

Consider an elastic beam of length L , width b, height h, Young's modulus E , and mass density ρ with uniform cross section A , as shown in Fig. 1.



Fig. 1. Geometry of the beam

Using Euler-Bernoulli beam theory, one can obtain the equation of motion of a beam with homogeneous material properties and constant cross section as follows [1-5]

$$\frac{\partial^4 w}{\partial x^4} + \mu \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial t^2} = 0 \tag{1}$$

where the following definition apply

$$\mu = \frac{\rho A}{EI} \tag{2}$$

here I is the area moment of inertia of the beam cross section, w is the transverse displacement, and t is time.

The solution of the Eq. (2) is sought by separation of variables. Therefore, the displacement is separated into two parts: one is depending on the position and the other is depending on time:

$$w(x,t) = \alpha(x)\beta(t)$$
(3)

where α and β are independent of time and position, respectively.

Substituting Eq. (3) into Eq. (2) and after some mathematical rearrangements, the following equation is obtained:

$$-\frac{1}{\mu\alpha(x)}\frac{\partial^4\alpha(x)}{\partial x^4} = \frac{1}{\beta(t)}\frac{\partial^2\beta(t)}{\partial t^2} = -\omega^2$$
(4)

Here the each side resulting equation is set to equal a constant, denoted – ω^2 , to have simple harmonic motion in the beam.

If the position variable of Eq. (4) is separated

$$\frac{\partial^4 \alpha(\mathbf{x})}{\partial \mathbf{x}^4} - \lambda^4 \alpha(\mathbf{x}) = 0 \tag{5}$$

where

$$\lambda^4 = \omega^2 \mu \tag{6}$$

If the time variable is separated

$$\frac{\partial^2 \beta(t)}{\partial t^2} + \omega^2 \beta(t) = 0$$
(7)

Eq. (5) is solved as follows:

$$\alpha(x) = A_1 \sinh \lambda x + A_2 \cosh \lambda x + A_3 \sin \lambda x + A_4 \cos \lambda x \quad (8)$$

where A_1, A_2, A_3, A_4 are constants, sinh and cosh are

the hyperbolic ^{SIN e} and ^{COS e} functions, respectively.

Eq. (7) is solved as follows:

$$\beta(t) = A_5 \sin \omega t + A_6 \cos \omega t \tag{9}$$

where A_5 and A_6 are constants.

Thus, if Eq. (8) is multiplied by Eq. (9) to obtain w(x,t), it yields eight combined constants as:

$$w(x, t) = (A_1 \sinh \lambda x + A_2 \cosh \lambda x + A_3 \sin \lambda x + A_4 \cos \lambda x)$$

×(A₅ sin ωt + A₆ cos ωt) (10)

where the constants A_1, A_2, A_3, A_4 can be obtained from the boundary conditions, and A_5, A_6 can be obtained from the initial conditions

The boundary conditions satisfied by a C-C, C-F, C-SS, SS-SS beams are as follows, respectively:

$$w(0) = w'(0) = w(L) = w'(L) = 0$$
(11)

$$w(0) = w'(0) = w''(L) = w'''(L) = 0$$
(12)

$$w(0) = w'(0) = w(L) = w''(L) = 0$$
(13)

$$w(0) = w''(0) = w(L) = w''(L) = 0$$
(14)

Substituting boundary conditions given in Eqs (11-14) into Eq. (8) separately; and then after some mathematical operations, the frequency parameters of the beam, $\eta = \lambda L$, are

obtained for the first ten modes. Finally, using Eq. (6) the natural frequency f_n (Hz) of the beam is found as follows:

$$f_n = \frac{\omega}{2\pi}$$
(15)

III. ANN MODELLING OF THE PROBLEM

A. Structure of ANN

ANN is a technique that seeks to build an intelligent program using models that simulate the working network of the neurons in the human brain (Fig. 2). Unlike conventional computational programs, the ANN does not have exact data and provides outputs with respect to introduced data set. The data and the circumstances introduced to the program are put into process by the help of various methods of education and learnings. With the aid of the outputs of these transactions, the program assigns weights between the data and the neurotic structures. Afterward, when come up to different situations and data, the cases are commented and results are presented in accordance with previous learnings [32].



Fig. 2. A biologic nerve cell structure

The basic unit of ANN is called as a process element or a node. Although the artificial nerve elements are simpler than the biological nerves, it can simulate the 4 main functions of biological nerves (Fig. 3).



Fig. 3. Artificial neural network sample

There are plenty of neural network models in the existing literature. However, the most preferred neural network model is back propagation model. It is experienced that this model gives pretty good results in the estimation and classification processes [33]. Back propagation neural network is the mostly preferred model because of its capability and excellence to solve problems which are nonlinear and have very complicated structures. Back propagation neural network is a multi-layer and feed-forward neural network trained by the Back Propagation algorithms [7]. This model makes weight assignment processing the inputs and the outputs again and again, and the model tries to minimize the least square errors using this operation. The mathematical expression of this model is as follows [34]

$$\Delta W_{n} = a \Delta W_{n-1} - b_{T} \frac{\partial F}{\partial W}$$
(16)

Here, w is a value of assigned weight between any two neurons, ΔW_n and ΔW_{n-1} are respectively the changes of weightings for n and n-1 values, a is the coefficient of momentum, b_T is the ratio of training, F is the calculated error

where

$$F = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} (T_i - P_i)$$
(17)

here T_i is the actual output or namely target and P_i is the estimated output value. The working principle of the ANN model is shown in Fig. 4, the inputs are included into the model after weight adjustment. The data are forwarded to the activation function being processed in each neural network with the weights. The results are compared with the actual results in order to determine error. The errors found are transferred to initial weights with the help of Back Propagation and this process is repeated for a number of times which is called as Epoch. Once the process is completed, the results with minimum errors are found [35].



Fig. 4. Neuron weight adjustments

B. Normalizing the data

The input and output values are required to be restricted in some certain rules for artificial neural network models. This process is called as normalization. The most used normalization functions are Min Rule, Max Rule, Median, Sigmoid and Z-Score [32]. In this study, Min-Max normalization rule is applied as below:

$$Z' = \frac{Z_i - Z_{\min}}{Z_{\max} - Z_{\min}}$$
(18)

Here, Z' is the normalized data, Z_i is the actual data, Z_{max} is the maximum data and Z_{min} is the minimum data. Through this equation, all the data are normalized in the range

of [0-1]. Hereby, both the error distribution is done in a

C. Multiple regression analysis

narrower range and model runs more quickly.

Multiple regression analysis is applied for evaluating the effect of multiple independent variables (x) on a dependent variable (y). In multiple linear regression analysis, it is assumed that each independent variable has a relationship with

the dependent variable [36]. This relationship is expressed as below:

$$y = c + b_1 x_1 + b_2 x_2 + \dots + b_n x_n \tag{19}$$

Here, c is a constant number, b_i are the coefficient of the variables.

To calculate the coefficients in the Eq. (19), the mean square method is used. The difference between the actual y and the theoretical y is minimized as follow

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} y_{i} - (c + B_{1}x_{1i} + B_{2}x_{2i} + ... + B_{n}x_{ni})$$
(20)

In order to evaluate the accuracy of multiple regression model, the regression coefficient is required to be determined. Besides, multiple regression is applied with respect to Stepwise Selection Method for determining the necessity of the parameters.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this section, natural frequencies, f_n (Hz), of prismatical steel beams under four different boundary conditions are examined. For this aim, at first natural frequency parameters are obtained, then natural frequencies, f_n (Hz), of prismatical steel beams are found theoretically. Afterward, from obtained these results data sets are constructed. Here, a total of 8640 data sets are used in training stage, and a total of 1920 data sets are total of 36 sub-models created by changing the number of neurons of the main models. The sizes, moment of inertia and boundary conditions are used as input data parameters. The natural frequency values are employed as outputs. Input data parameters and their intervals and mechanical parameters of steel are given in Table 1 and Table 2, respectively.

TABLE I. THE INPUT DATA PARAMETERS AND THEIR INTERVALS

Parameter	Minimum	Maximum
b (m)	0.10	0.15
h (m)	0.10	0.15
L(m)	3	3.5
I (m ⁴)	8.333×10 ⁻⁶	4.219×10^{-5}
n	1	10
Case	1	4



TABLE II. THE MECHANICAL PARAMETERS OF STEEL

Parameter	Description
Young's Modulus (E)	$2.1{\times}10^{11}N/m^2$
Passion Ratio (v)	0.3
Density (p)	7850kg/m ³

A. Numerical examples

Example 1: In this example, a comparative study is performed to validate the present numerical results. For this purpose, theoretically obtained exact results of natural frequency of the prismatical beams under the four different boundary conditions versus mode number (n) are compared with those obtained using ANN, in Table 3. It is found that the numerical results of both methods are consistent, which show the accuracy of the present ANN model. The absolute errors

are calculated as follows: $\left| \frac{f_{nANN} - f_{nExact}}{f_{nExact}} \right| \times 100$. Besides, the

variations of absolute errors in the natural frequencies, f_n (Hz), are illustrated in Fig. 5.

 $\label{eq:constraint} \begin{array}{ll} \text{TABLE III.} & \text{Variations of Natural Frequencies of the Prismatical Steel Beams Under the Four Different Boundary Conditions Versus} \\ & \text{Mode Number (N) (} b = 0.14m; h = 0.14m; L = 3m \) \end{array}$

	$f_n(Hz)$										
n	Case 1		Case 2		Cas	se 3	Case 4				
	Exact	ANN	Exact	ANN	Exact	ANN	Exact	ANN			
1	80.71	81.11	12.68	12.27	55.62	56.14	35.60	35.65			
2	222.47	224.35	79.48	77.56	180.24	183.16	142.41	140.96			
3	436.14	436.24	222.47	222.18	376.06	377.06	320.43	318.73			
4	720.97	719.61	436.14	433.72	643.09	642.07	569.65	567.22			
5	1077.01	1075.64	720.97	718.09	981.33	979.88	890.09	887.23			
6	1504.26	1503.92	1077.01	1076.40	1390.77	1390.24	1281.73	1282.26			
7	2002.71	2003.94	1504.26	1503.87	1871.42	1872.75	1744.58	1743.41			
8	2572.37	2572.38	2002.71	2000.87	2423.28	2424.99	2278.64	2278.86			
9	3213.23	3209.13	2572.37	2573.64	3046.34	3041.29	2883.90	2884.54			
10	3925.31	3933.66	3213.23	3210.43	3740.61	3749.58	3560.37	3557.60			



Fig. 5. Variations of error in the natural frequencies of the prismatical steel beams under the four different boundary conditions versus mode number (n)

Example 2: Table 4 shows the Model 1, in which 6 inputs, 1 hidden layer and 1 output (see Fig. 6) are used for obtaining the natural frequencies, of the prismatical steel beams under the four different boundary conditions.



Fig. 6. Schematic architecture of Model 1 (6-1-1)

As with all models, feed-forward back propagation algorithm is used in the network type. The tangent and logarithmic sigmoid transfer functions are employed. The number of hidden layer is determined as 1, and 12 separate sub-models are created using the models having 1 to 9 neurons. Actual output values of the natural frequencies are compared with those obtained from training. The results are found with the very small errors, especially for the models with 5 and more neurons.

T	North an of North and	Training Data			Test Data		
I ransier Function	Number of Neurons	R ²	Equation sets	MSE %	R ²	Equation sets	MSE %
	1	0.996	y=0.9961x	25.66	0.9913	y=0.9364x	31.23
	3	0.9998	y=0.9998x	6.18	0.9933	y=0.938x	12.05
Ton Sig	5	1	y=0.9999x	1.80	0.9932	y=0.946x	6.81
Tall Sig.	7	1	y=0.9999x	1.75	0.9932	y=0.9442x	7.16
	8	1	y=x	0.71	0.9931	y=0.9428x	6.71
	9	1	y=0.9999x	1.67	0.9929	y=0.9423x	8.04
	1	0.9959	y=0.9964x	25.66	0.9913	y=0.9364x	31.23
	3	0.9997	y=0.9997x	8.01	0.9933	y=0.938x	11.40
Log Sig	5	0.9999	y=0.9999x	2.53	0.9932	y=0.946x	7.81
Log Sig.	7	0.9999	y=0.9999x	1.68	0.9932	y=0.9442x	7.74
	8	0.9999	y=x	0.83	0.9929	y=0.9419x	6.88
	9	0.9999	v=0.9999x	1.74	0.9929	v=0.9423x	7.40

TABLE IV. TRAINING AND TEST RESULTS FOR MODEL 1

To eliminate the possibility of rote learning of these results, 1920 data sets, which are allocated for test, are also included into the model and the obtained results are compared with the exact values. The test data shows that, the interval of error is nearly 6-8%, and regression coefficient takes values very close to 1 for the models with 5 and more neurons. In addition, the best agreement is observed in the model with 8 neurons and plotted in Fig. 7.



Fig. 7. Scatter diagrams of Model 1 for tangent sigmoid transfer function with 8 neurons a) training b) test

Example 3: Table 5 shows the Model 2, in which 5 inputs, 1 hidden layer and 1 output are used for obtaining the natural frequencies of the prismatical steel beams under the four different boundary conditions. In this model, moments of

inertia, (I), is removed from input parameters and a model with 5 input is created (5-1-1). In the training process of the model for all models of 5 neurons and higher, the error seems to fall below 1%.

TABLE V. TRAINING AND TEST RESULTS FOR MODEL 2

Transfor Function	Number of Neurons	Training Data			Test Data		
Transfer Function	rumber of real ons	R ²	Equation sets	MSE %	R ²	Equation sets	MSE %
	1	0.9959	y=0.9961x	12.93	0.9912	y=0.9393x	31.22
	3	0.9998	y=0.9997x	1.81	0.9932	y=0.9424x	11.67
Tan Sig	5	0.9998	y=0.9999x	0.87	0.9930	y=0.9425x	8.11
Tali big.	7	0.9999	y=0.9999x	0.35	0.9937	y=0.9435x	6.80
	8	0.9999	y=0.9999x	0.43	0.9930	y=0.9428x	6.83
	9	0.9999	y=0.9999x	0.53	0.9912	y=0.9425x	7.34
	1	0.9958	y=0.9960x	12.93	0.9922	y=0.9398x	29.22
	3	0.9999	y=0.9998x	1.72	0.9935	y=0.9429x	11.56
Log Sig	5	0.9999	y=0.9999x	1.04	0.9936	y=0.9437x	8.95
Log Sig.	7	0.9999	y=0.9999x	0.61	0.9940	y=0.9437x	6.65
	8	0.9999	y=0.9999x	0.61	0.9943	y=0.9442x	6.59
	9	0.9999	y=0.9999x	0.96	0.9935	y=0.9435x	6.79

Considering the errors, the model for logarithmic sigmoid transfer function with 8 neurons is found the best and illustrated in Fig. 8.



Fig. 8. Scatter diagrams of Model 2 for logarithmic sigmoid transfer function with 8 neurons a) training b) test

Example 4: Table 6 shows the Model 3. Here parameters are tried to be identified with numbers from 1 to 10 instead of calculations of frequency parameter value. Therefore, the natural frequency parameters are aimed to be determined with ANN model without any calculation in advance. As the model results are examined, it is found that the results are worse than the results of previous ANN models in terms of both training and test. However, in other models, either moment of inertia or natural frequency parameters are included into the model with pre-calculating.

For this model, all the inputs are introduced to the model with simple numeric expressions and the outputs are obtained. As a result, the errors are found very minimal as being 8.93% for the test of the model for logarithmic sigmoid transfer function with 9 neurons and plotted in Fig. 9.

Example 5: Table 7 shows Model 4, in which the training inputs are implanted to the model step by step and adjusted R^2 values are investigated. The step in which the adjusted R^2 values decrease or remain constant; the included parameters are excluded from the model.

According to the steps of the process of Table 7, the input of moment of inertia is excluded and a multiple regression model is constructed with the remaining 5 input parameters in Table 8.

As shown in Fig. 10, the results found in the regression models are remarkably incorrect for both training and test data in comparison with the results obtained from three ANN models. And these results show that the constructed three ANN models give more efficient results for the present problem.

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It should be noted that, although having one missing input parameter in comparison with the Model 1, the present model does not show serious differences in error rates for both training and test results.

Transfor Function	Number of Neurons	Training Data			Test Data		
Transfer Function	Number of Neurons	R ²	Equation sets	MSE %	R ²	Equation sets	MSE %
	1	0.9784	y=0.9890x	17.72	0.9731	y=0.9321x	38.97
	3	0.9934	y=0.9955x	7.00	0.9867	y=0.9407x	18.75
Tan Sig	5	0.9995	y=0.9992x	2.39	0.9930	y=0.9417x	11.06
Tan. Sig.	7	0.9998	y=0.9987x	3.24	0.9930	y=0.9418x	12.20
	8	0.9998	y=0.9989x	3.22	0.9930	y=0.9418x	10.31
	9	0.9999	y=0.9999x	1.68	0.9930	y=0.9424x	9.64
	1	0.9784	y=1.0288x	16.63	0.9731	y=0.9507x	39.18
	3	0.9934	y=1.0189x	7.32	0.9867	y=0.9598x	18.50
Log Sig	5	0.9995	y=1.0159x	3.43	0.9930	y=0.9602x	10.32
205.015.	7	0.9998	y=1.0175x	4.32	0.9930	y=0.9586x	11.47
	8	0.9998	y=1.0179x	4.46	0.9930	y=0.9605x	9.49
	9	0.9999	v=1.0118x	3.06	0.9930	v=0.9612x	8.93

TABLE VI. TRAINING AND TEST RESULTS FOR MODEL 3



Fig. 9. Scatter diagrams of Model 3 for logarithmic sigmoid transfer function with 9 neurons a) Training b) Test

TABLE VII.	ADJUSTED R ² ANALYSIS RESULTS
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Model	R	R ²	Adjusted R ²	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	0.966	0.932	0.932	259.46804

TABLE VIII. MULTIPLE REGRESSION ANALYSIS RESULTS

	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	95.0% Confidence Interval for B		
	В	Std. Error	Beta	Lower Bound	Upper Bound	
Constant	-728.779	106.944		-938.414	-519.144	
Case	-2.113	2.498	-0.002	-7.010	2.783	
В	0.100	163.450	0.000	-163.350	163.550	
Н	9238.788	163.450	0.158	8918.388	9559.188	
L	-156.070	32.735	-0.013	-220.239	-91.901	
η	325.397	.960	0.952	323.517	327.278	



Fig. 10. Scatter diagrams of multiple regression model a) Training b) Test

V. CONCLUSION

In this study, bending natural frequencies of the prismatical steel beams with various geometrical characteristics under the four different boundary conditions are determined using ANN technique. In that way, an alternative efficient method is aimed to develop for the solution of the existing problem, which provides avoiding loss of time for computing some necessary parameters.

Briefly the following results are obtained:

1) The tangent sigmoid transfer function shows better performance in Model 1 with 8 neurons

2) The logarithmic sigmoid transfer function shows better performance in Model 2 with 8 neurons

3) When the first two models are considered it is concluded that ANN models do not need moment of inertia parameter in the training

4) The logarithmic sigmoid transfer function provides better results in Model 3 with 9 neurons

5) It is found from Model 4 that the moment of inertia has not any efficiency. This finding also supports the results found by the Models 1 and 2

6) The errors of the models having 5 or more neurons are lower, and this prove at least 5 neurons should be used for the reliably of the model

7) The two transfer functions have quite similar errors, and so both of them can be used

8) The constructed ANN models give more efficient results than the multiple regression model

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