

# Artificial Neural Networks Application in Lake Water Quality Estimation Using Satellite Imagery

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**ABSTRACT.** Lake water quality monitoring using traditional water sampling and laboratory analyses is very expensive and time consuming. Application of neural networks to predict water quality using satellite imagery data has a potential to make the water quality determination process cost-effective, quick, and feasible. This paper includes an indirect method of determining the concentrations of chlorophyll-a (chl-a) and suspended matter (SM), two optically active parameters of lake water quality. Radial basis function neural (RBFN) network models are developed to predict the chl-a and SM concentrations in the lake. The low cost commercially available Landsat-TM imagery spectral information was used as the input with chl-a or SM concentrations as output. The model is trained and validated with data from the years 2001, 2002, 2003, and 2004. The model testing resulted in a coefficient of determination ( $R^2$ ) of 0.55, and 0.90, respectively, for actual and predicted chl-a and SM concentrations. The root mean square error (RMSE), standard error of prediction (SEP), and average testing accuracy indicated the merit of the developed models.

*Keywords:* Chlorophyll, image processing, RBFN, remote sensing, suspended matter

## 1. Introduction

Accurate quantification of lake water quality is essential for its management and improvement. Traditionally, lake water quality assessment has been limited to in-situ collection and measurement of water samples for subsequent laboratory analyses – a method that is accurate but expensive and time consuming. Time and cost constraints associated with in-situ measurements of lake water quality often limit assessment of spatial and temporal trends of water quality. Remote sensing has a potential to overcome these constraints by providing an alternative means of water quality monitoring over a greater range of temporal and spatial scales (Dekker et al., 1996). In addition, remote sensing can be used as a valuable tool to retrieve water quality information of ungauged lakes from a vast amount of archived remote sensing data.

Chlorophyll-a (chl-a), suspended matter (SM), and dissolved organic matters are optically active parameters of lake water quality. Several investigators have successfully used Landsat-MSS/TM imagery in inland and estuarine water quality monitoring (e.g., Ritchie et al., 1990; Lathrop, 1992; Choubey, 1994; Keiner and Yan, 1998; Brivio et al., 2001; Baruah et al., 2001; Wang and Ma, 2001). In case of inland water, the water dynamics is more complex to have a linear relationship between the satellite spectral signatures and the water quality parameters. There is considerable scattering (in all visible and even in near-IR bands) from the lake waters with high sediment and chlorophyll content (Baruah et al., 2001).

For nonlinear environmental processes, artificial neural networks (ANN) could be used due to its ability in modeling nonlinear geophysical transfer functions. A neural network is a parallel-distributed processor that has a natural property for storing experimental knowledge and making it available for use (Haykin, 1999). Through learning procedures, ANNs have the power to approximate any non-linear relationship that exists between a set of inputs and their corresponding set of outputs (Lacroix et al., 1997). Artificial neural networks have the ability of computing, processing, predicting and classifying data and have the advantages of nonlinearity, input-output mapping, adaptivity, generalization, and fault tolerance (Haykin, 1999). The ANN techniques are based on the configuration of several prediction, classification, and time series estimation techniques. Zhuang and Engel (1990), Ranaweera et al. (1995), and Panda and Panigrahi (2000) have provided research evidences regarding the superiority of ANN modeling technique over the statistical process in the case of nonlinear data modeling. Keiner and Yan (1998), and Baruah et al. (2001) have established the importance of back-propagation neural networks (BPNN) over the multiple regression technique while predicting water quality from satellite imagery. The ANN models provided  $R^2$  of 0.94 for the chl-a versus Landsat TM spectral information (Keiner and Yan, 1998). Baruah et al. (2001) encountered a significant increase in  $R^2$  with their ANN models of chl-a versus Landsat-TM. The authors reported  $R^2$  of 0.31 with statistical regression model and improved  $R^2$  of 0.93 with the ANN model.

Radial basis function network (RBFN) methodology has found increased application in pattern recognition, signal

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processing, load forecasting, and crop prediction modeling, etc., due to its structural simplicity and training efficiency (Goodman, 1993; Ranaweera et al., 1995; Walczak and Massart, 1996; Lee et al., 1996; Wan and Harrington, 1999; Panda et al., 2002). The RBFN architecture is different from some other neural networks such as back-propagation neural networks (BPNN). The RBFNs have certain advantages over the BPNN such as guaranteed learning algorithm (e.g., linear least squares optimization) (Walczak and Massart, 1996). Application of RBFN modeling in quantifying lake water quality has not been done in the past. The objective of this study was to develop and compare RBFN model with a statistical model to predict chl-a and SM concentration using the Landsat-TM satellite imagery and simultaneously in-situ analyzed spatially distributed water samples from Beaver Reservoir.

A typical RBFN consists of three different layers with each successive layer fully connected by feed forward arcs (Moody and Darken, 1989) (Figure 1). There is no provision of weight between the input layer and the hidden layer (prototype). The transfer function used at the hidden layer is the "radial basis functions," a nonlinear transfer function. Unlike BPNN, there is only one hidden layer present in the RBFN architecture which makes the RBFN model computation faster. Other hidden layers can be used in the RBFN architecture to perform the error back-propagation function. However, these layers are optional and generally not used. The output layer in RBFN is linear (Haykin, 1999). There is an extra prototype layer in the RBFN architecture, where the input vectors after being multiplied with random weights are clustered into different homogeneous groups. The clustered centroids are fed to the prediction model for output prediction (Haykin, 1999).

Many complex classification and prediction problems, such as image classification, character recognition, speech recognition, volatile compound detection, and prediction from electronic-nose experiments, have been successfully conducted using RBFNs (Wan and Harrington, 1999). According to Walczak and Massart (1996), RBFNs have certain advantages over the multi-layer perception networks (MLPs) such as BPNN. Contrary to MLP, RBFNs have a guaranteed learning algorithm, e.g., linear least squares optimization. In addition, a common difference between BPNN and RBFN is that a BPNN uses the stochastic approximation as model optimization method whereas the RBFN uses the curve-fitting approximation in a high-dimensional space to obtain a best fit to the training data (Haykin, 1994).

In RBFN, the activation function in the hidden units calculates the distance between the input vector and the center of the hidden unit using Euclidean norm. However, MLP uses a scalar product of the input vector and synaptic weight vector of that hidden unit. The distance measurement is efficient in RBFN (Simard et al., 1993). RBFN uses exponentially decaying nonlinear (Gaussian) functions to construct local approximations to non-linear input-output mapping whereas the MLP can only construct a global approximation to non-linear input-output mapping. Localized approximation in input-output mapping is always preferred (Haykin, 1999). The RBFN is an ideal tool for environmental application problems

because local approximation of nonlinear input-output mapping results in the RBFN models of fast learning with reduced sensitivity (Haykins, 1999; Hassoun, 1995). Walczak and Massart (1996) also suggested that net convergence is not guaranteed in MLP network, while this problem does not exist in RBFN. Therefore, despite its computational intensity (because the network's use of high-dimensional space) and its optimal parameterization problem RBFN is currently getting wider recognition.

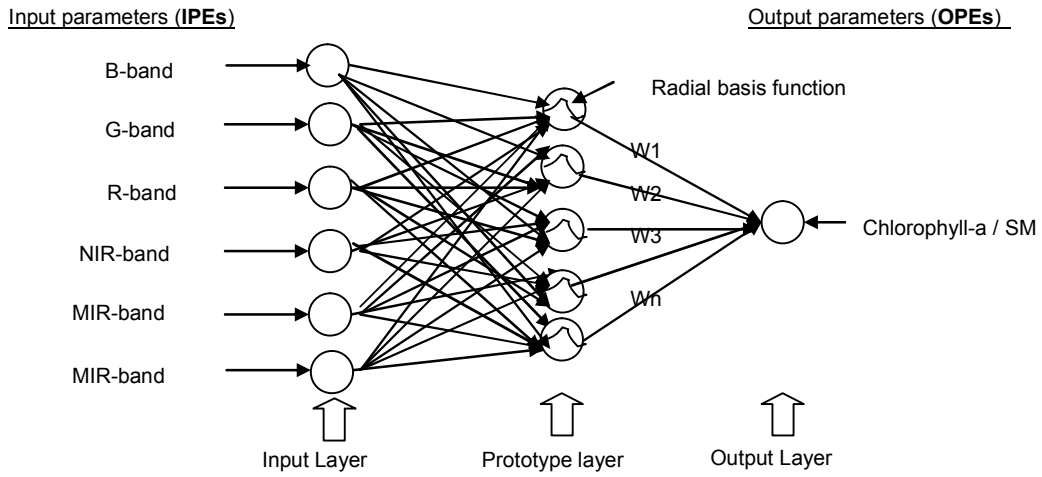
## 2. Methodology

The study was conducted in the Beaver Reservoir located in NAD 83 UTM coordinates of 389237.20 to 449127.16 m N and 3952318.95 to 4038348.33 m E (Figure 2). Beaver Reservoir is the primary drinking water source for more than 280,000 people in Northwest Arkansas. Northwest Arkansas is among the most rapidly growing metropolitan areas in the US. Eutrophication of the lake is a great concern for long-term Beaver Reservoir water quality management.

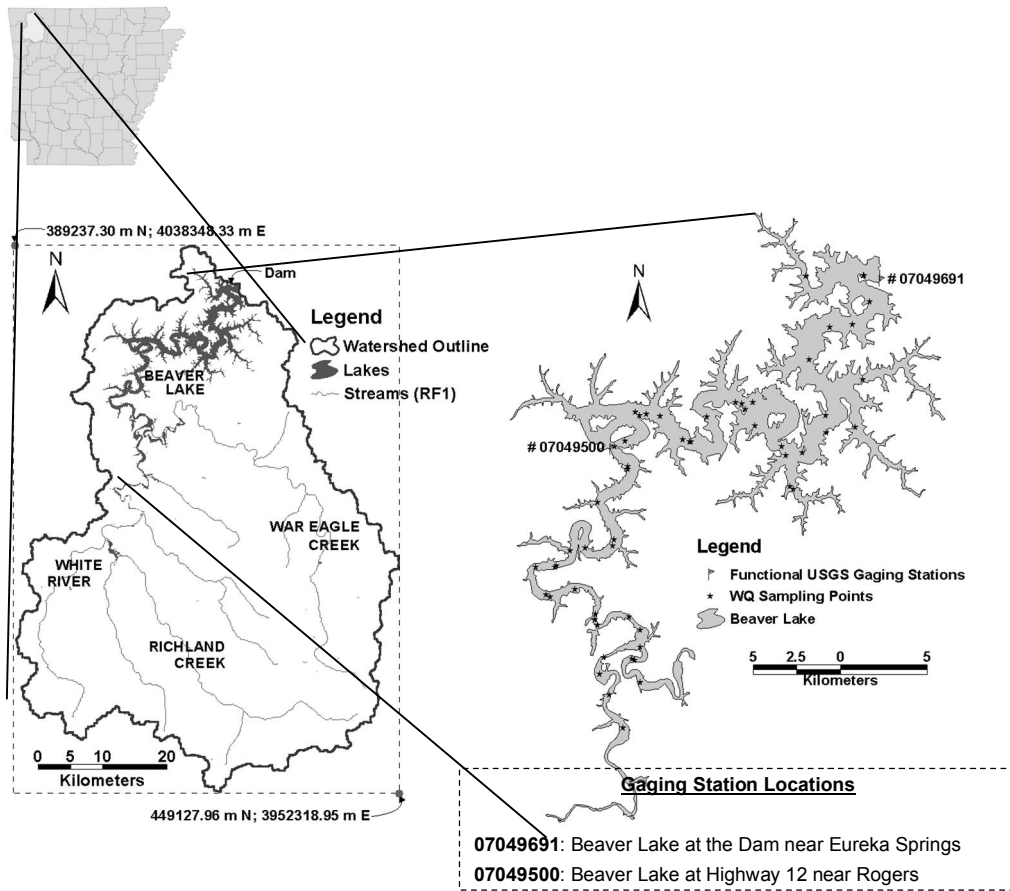
### 2.1. Image and Water Quality Data Acquisition

Ten Thematic Mapper (TM) cloud free images from two Path/Row combinations (25/35 and 26/35) covering Beaver Reservoir were used in this study (Table 1). The TM images were precision corrected including radiometric and geometric corrections. Six spectral bands: band 1 (TM1), 0.45 – 0.52  $\mu\text{m}$ ; band 2 (TM2), 0.52 – 0.60  $\mu\text{m}$ ; band 3 (TM3), 0.63 – 0.69  $\mu\text{m}$ ; band 4 (TM4), 0.76 – 0.90  $\mu\text{m}$ ; band 5 (TM5), 1.55 – 1.75  $\mu\text{m}$ ; and band 7 (TM7), 2.08 – 2.35  $\mu\text{m}$  of TM were used to determine the chl-a and SM concentrations in water. Band 6 (57 m resolution) was not used because of the image resolution dissimilarity with other bands that were 28.5 m in resolution. Since 2003, water samples were collected on cloud free dates from different spatial positions of Beaver Reservoir coinciding with TM acquisition dates of the Beaver Reservoir scenes. In addition, chl-a measured data of two United States Geological Service (USGS) gaging stations (#07049500 and #07049691) located in the Beaver Reservoir were also used in this study. The TM scenes were acquired coinciding with cloud free sampling dates of USGS gauging station in 2001 and 2002. The spatial positions of each water sample collection points including the USGS gaging stations are shown in Figure 2.

Water samples were collected from three depths (surface, 1 m below surface, and 2 m below surface) for each location. For each water sample, 4 L of water was collected and stored in dark on ice until returned to laboratory for analyses. Upon returned to the laboratory 1000 to 1500 ml of each sample was filtered using Gelman GF/C 47-mm filters for chl-a and SM determination. Filters for chl-a extraction were macerated in 5 ml 90% acetone. Extracts were then cleared by centrifugation and analyzed spectrometrically (APHA, 1998). Filters for determination of SM were preweighed. After sample filtration, filters were oven dried at 105 °C for 24 h and reweighed to determine SM. Average concentrations of chl-a and SM from three depth samples were used for modeling.



**Figure 1.** Structure of a typical radial basis function network (RBFN) model.



**Figure 2.** Location of the study area, watershed stream network, USGS gaging stations, and other water sample collection stations in Beaver Lake in northwest Arkansas.

**Table 1.** Landsat TM-5 Image Acquisition and the Corresponding Water Sampling Dates

Year	Data Water sampling	Image acquisition	Path/Row	# of water sampling points
2001	April 18	April 17	25/35	2
	June 13	June 13	26/35	2
	October 16	October 19	25/35	2
2002	July 10	July 9	26/35	2
	July 24	July 21	26/35	2
2003	July 21	July 21	25/35	10
	August 6	August 7	25/35	12
	December 19	December 19	26/35	12
2004	February 21	February 21	26/35	11
	April 4	April 2	25/35	10

Typical reservoirs have dendrite shape and longer shorelines compared to lakes. Beaver Reservoir also has a dendrite shape (Figure 2) and its width was small at many sampling points. Therefore, we used single pixel gray values instead of a  $3 \times 3$  window values from each water quality sampling to avoid pixels of window falling outside the water body. Single pixel gray values (digital numbers, DN) of the collected water sample spatial position were extracted and used in modeling. Studentized t-test was applied for outlier detection and one outlier sample data point was eliminated from the database. The gray value of the outlier data was exceptionally high for each band of the image as compared to the other digital numbers. Geomatica 9.1 (PCI Geomatics, Richmond Hill, Ontario, Canada) and IDRISI 32.2 (IDRISI Production, Worcester, MA) software were used for image processing. Figure 3 describes the image processing (DN extraction) procedure.

## 2.2. Input Dataset

Three different input data sets were prepared using DN values of different band of TM images. The dataset 1 (DS1) included six DN numbers of band: TM1, TM2, TM3, TM4, TM5, and TM7. In remote sensing many indices are used based on combination of different bands to improve the natural resources predictability and management (Thiam and Eastman, 1999; Yang and Anderson, 2000; Panda et al., 2004). We created eleven indices using various combinations of band TM1, TM2, TM3, TM4, TM5, and TM7. These eleven indices were:  $(TM1 + TM2 + TM3) / 3$ ,  $TM1 / TM2$ ,  $TM1 / TM3$ ,  $TM2 / TM3$ ,  $(TM5 + TM7) / 2$ ,  $(TM4 + TM5 + TM7) / 3$ ,  $(TM1 - TM3) / (TM1 + TM3)$ ,  $(TM1 - TM2) / (TM1 + TM2)$ ,  $(TM2 - TM3) / (TM2 + TM3)$ ,  $TM2 + TM3$ ,  $TM4 + TM5 + TM7$ . These indices were created on the format of band averaging, simple band division, vegetation indices calculation, and selective band summing. The dataset 2 (DS2) used the values of these eleven indices as the input. Third dataset (DS3) was made of 17 input parameters by pooling 6 DN values of data set 1, and 11 indices values of DS2.

For RBFN modeling each dataset was scaled down to

values between zero and one using min-max scaling option of the software. The equation used for the scaling technique was

$$X = \frac{X_i - X_{\min}}{X_{\max} - X_{\min}} \quad (1)$$

where  $X_i$  is the value of the raw input variable,  $X$ , for the  $i^{\text{th}}$  training case;  $X_{\max}$  is the maximum value of a training case; and  $X_{\min}$  is minimum value of a training case in the dataset.

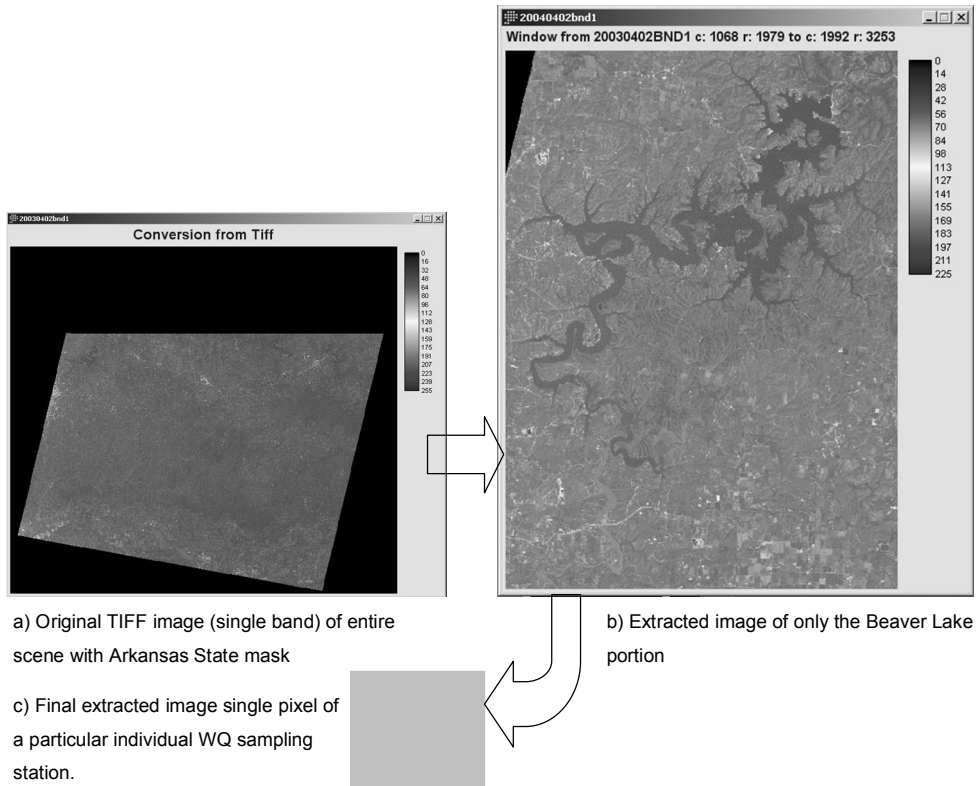
These three data sets were then used to develop RBFN models using one of the data set as input and either chl-a or SM concentrations as model output. Similarly, these three data sets were used to develop statistical models using least square multiple regression (LMR) with one of the input dataset as independent variables and either chl-a or SM as dependent variables. In case of statistical modeling, individually each band DN was also used to develop regression models with either chl-a or SM concentrations.

For chl-a modeling 64 observations were available for analysis. In statistical modeling all 64 observations were used for developing multiple regression equation. However, for RBFN model development, out of the 64 observations 46 were randomly selected as training and rest 18 were selected as testing observations. For SM modeling only 54 observations were available. Statistical model used all 54 observations. In RBFN modeling, 40 observations were randomly selected for model training and the remaining 14 were selected for model testing.

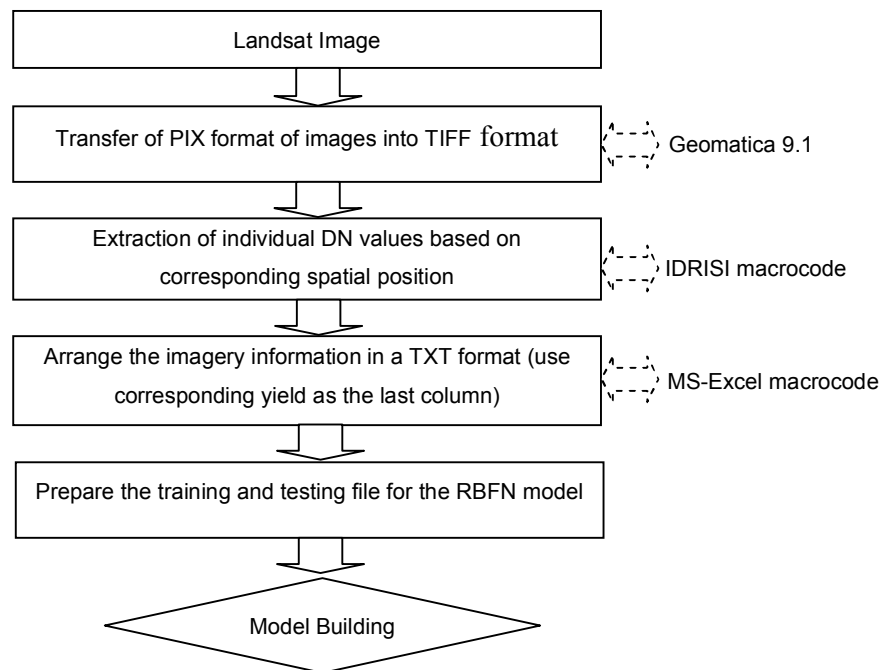
## 2.3. RBFN Network Architecture

Figure 4 represents the methods used for the image processing to prepare data for the RBFN model building. A typical RBFN model consists of three different layers with each successive layer fully connected by feed forward arcs as shown in Figure 1 (Moody and Darken, 1989). There is no provision of weight between the input layer and the hidden layer (prototype) in the RBFN. A nonlinear transfer function is used at the hidden layer in the RBFN. The output layer in RBFN is linear (Haykin, 1999). The model architecture of RBFN is defined by providing its layer numbers. Figure 1 shows an architecture of 6-5-0-1, which means the network has 6 input neurons/input processing element (IPE), 5 prototype nodes in the prototype layer, zero neurons in the hidden layer for error back-propagation, and 1 output neuron (OPE). We used Neural Ware Professional Plus II software (Neural Ware, Carnegie, PA) for building the RBFN model.

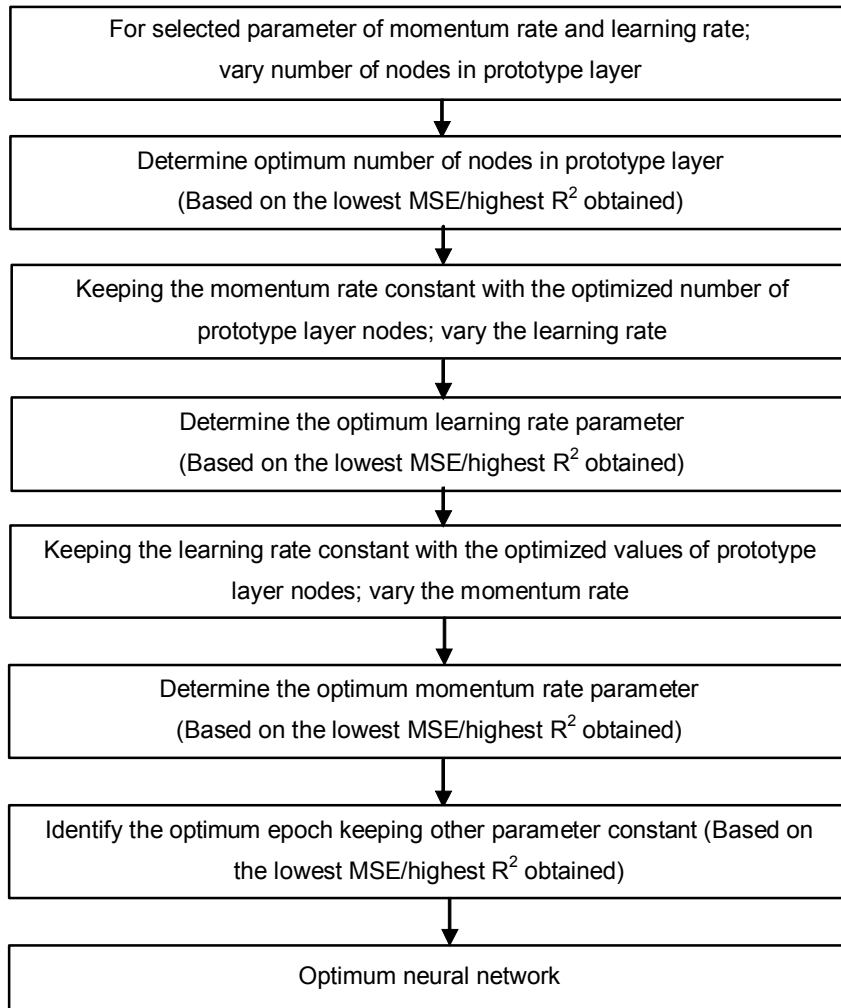
For data sets 1, 2, and 3, the RBFN models were constructed with an initial architecture of 6-10-0-1, 11-10-0-1, and 17-10-0-1, respectively. Altogether, six RBFN models were developed; three with chl-a as output neuron and three with SM as output neuron. "Delta rule" as learning rule (Haykin, 1999) and the sigmoid (nonlinear) transfer function were used for model learning. Then, using the procedure outlined in Figure 5, the models were optimized to obtain the best possible prediction model.



**Figure 3.** Image extraction process for spectral information collection from Landsat 5 image.



**Figure 4.** The procedure followed for image processing and dataset preparation for the RBFN model development.



**Figure 5.** Schematic of procedure for determining the optimum neural network architecture.

#### 2.4. Statistical Indices for Model Testing

The statistical and RBFN model performances were evaluated based on root mean square error (*RMSE*), prediction accuracy (average test accuracy), standard error of prediction (*SEP*), and the coefficient of determination ( $R^2$ ).

The equation for *RMSE* is given by

$$RMSE = \sqrt{\frac{SSE}{n}} \quad (2)$$

where  $n$  is the number of observations; and *SSE* is sum of squared error.

Average test prediction accuracy (*ATPA*) is calculated by the equation

$$ATPA = \left( 1 - \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{|Y_i - X_i|}{Y_i} \right) \times 100 \quad (3)$$

where  $Y$  and  $X$  are actual and predicted output, respectively.

The *SEP* of the predictive model was calculated by the equation (Kramer, 1998)

$$SEP = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n [(Y_i - X_i) - d_m]^2}{n - 1}} \quad (4)$$

where  $d_m$  is mean of the difference between actual and pre-

**Table 2.** Results Obtained from Neural Network and Regression Analysis of RBFN-Chlorophyll-a Prediction Model

Model	Optimal model architecture and parameters (From neural network analysis)					Average prediction accuracy (%)	Actual-Predicted model correlation (From regression analysis)					
	Net	$\Gamma^a$	$M^b$	Iterations	RMSE <sup>c</sup>		$\alpha^d$	$\beta^e$	$R^{2f}$	SEP <sup>g</sup> ( $\mu$ gm/l)	RMSE <sup>c</sup> ( $\mu$ gm/l)	
Training	6-20-0-1	0.9	0.7	40,000	0.1713	55.37	1.00	-0.15	0.45	2.08	2.06	
Testing	6-20-0-1	0.9	0.7	40,000	0.0772	74.85	0.86	0.50	0.55	1.03	1.00	

Note: <sup>a</sup> Learning rate coefficient; <sup>b</sup> Momentum coefficient; <sup>c</sup> Root mean square error; <sup>d</sup> Intercept; <sup>e</sup> Slope; <sup>f</sup> Coefficient of determination; and <sup>g</sup> Standard error of prediction.

**Table 3.** Results Obtained from Neural Network and Regression Analysis of RBFN-SM Prediction Model

Model	Optimal model architecture and parameters (From neural network analysis)					Average prediction accuracy (%)	Actual-Predicted model correlation (From regression analysis)				
	Net	$\Gamma^a$	$M^b$	Iterations	RMSE <sup>c</sup>		$\alpha^d$	$\beta^e$	$r^f$	SEP <sup>g</sup> (mg/l)	RMSE <sup>c</sup> (mg/l)
Training	6-60-0-1	0.9	0.7	20,000	0.0293	78.57	1.01	0.01	0.98	0.30	0.30
Testing	6-60-0-1	0.9	0.7	20,000	0.0558	78.36	0.97	0.48	0.90	0.49	0.64

Note: <sup>a</sup> Learning rate coefficient; <sup>b</sup> Momentum coefficient; <sup>c</sup> Root mean square error; <sup>d</sup> Intercept; <sup>e</sup> Slope; <sup>f</sup> Coefficient of determination; and <sup>g</sup> Standard error of prediction.

dicted values  $Y$  and  $X$  (of the  $i^{\text{th}}$  individual), respectively.

An MS Visual C++ program was written to determine the  $RMSE$ , average test accuracy,  $SEP$ , and  $R^2$  between the actual and predicted output from the RBFN model results.

### 3. Results and Discussion

#### 3.1. Statistical Models

When each individual band DN was regressed with either chl-a or SM, the correlation was low ( $R^2 < 0.01$ ) indicating that no single band information was able to explain the variability of either chl-a or SM concentration in water. However, when DS1 consisting of six DN values of individual bands was used to develop LMR model for chl-a prediction, comparatively higher  $R^2$  (0.28) was obtained. The parameter estimates of the LMR model suggested that band values of TM4 and TM5 were not significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) for chl-a determination. The LMR model using DS1 as independent variables and SM as dependent variables resulted in a significantly higher  $R^2$  (0.71). In this LMR model to predict SM, band TM4, TM5, and TM7 were not found significant ( $p < 0.05$ ). These results support finding of Wang and Ma (2001) and Dekker and Peters (1993). Wang and Ma (2001) found that TM4 band had no significant relationship with water quality parameters. Dekker and Peters (1993) remarked that absorption of light by water increases rapidly in the infrared region of light (bands TM5 and TM7 are further in the infrared region), therefore no significant information could be obtained from these bands concerning the water column. We developed models omitting those insignificant bands from the input dataset.

Statistical LMR models developed using DS2 as in-

dependent variables and chl-a as dependent variable slightly improved the  $R^2$  (0.29). When DS3 was used instead of DS2 the  $R^2$  further increased to 0.37. This increase can partly be due to increase of parameters of the LMR model. Therefore, in case of chl-a, use of indices or combination of DN and indices did not increase the model correlation significantly from DN alone and overall correlation of chl-a with either set of data was low ( $R^2 = 0.37$ ). These results are comparable with the study conducted by Baruah et al. (2001) ( $R^2 = 0.31$ ) using statistical modeling technique.

Similar trend was observed for the LMR models developed based on either DS2 or DS3 as independent variables and SM as dependent variables. The  $R^2$  increased from 0.71 for DS1 to 0.74, and 0.75, respectively, for DS2 and DS3. However, model developed for SM prediction had higher correlation than for chl-a prediction. This may be attributed to the fact that SM, even at low concentrations, has a strong scattering in visible wavelength compared to chl-a. Therefore, effect of SM in water will be more pronounced on DN values than of chl-a. In addition, chl-a concentration in Beaver reservoir was not high. The minimum and maximum concentrations of chl-a in the lake were only 0.1 and 13.15  $\mu\text{g/l}$ , respectively, with an average concentration of 3.35  $\mu\text{g/l}$ .

#### 3.2. RBFN Model for Chlorophyll-a Prediction

Among the three data sets evaluated in this study, the DS1 having 6 IPE from the TM bands DN values provided the best result of chl-a prediction. The DS1 provided the lowest training and testing NN-RMSE values and the highest  $R^2$  value using the actual and predicted chl-concentrations. We validated the RBFN model robustness by running the optimized model with same network parameters for 20 times with

network initialization each time. The low standard deviation (*SD*) of statistical indices among 20 different runs of model, suggested the optimized chl-a-RBFN model robustness. Training and testing set of RBFN model for 20 run provided stable *RMSE* (*SD* = 0.03 and 0.02, respectively), *SEP* (*SD* = 0.04 and 0.03, respectively), *ATPA* (*SD* = 1.1 and 0.9, respectively) and  $R^2$  of the actual and predicted output values (*SD* = 0.02). The *RMSE*, and  $R^2$  between actual and predicted chl-a concentration obtained from training and testing data set of RBFN models were averaged, and the results are provided in Table 2. Testing data of RBFN model provided an actual versus predicted  $R^2$  of 0.55 for chl-a (Figure 6). The  $R^2$  (0.55) obtained in this study was less than the  $R^2$  obtained by Keiner and Yan (1998) and Baruah et al. (2001) with their respective experiments for chl-a determination in different circumstances. Keiner and Yan (1998) obtained  $R^2$  of 0.94 while conducting their study in a bay that was devoid of any other adjacent land use interference. Baruah et al. (2001) used high-resolution multi-spectral spectroradiometer and compact airborne spectrographic imager (CASI) for inland water body's water quality (WQ) analysis and obtained  $R^2$  of 0.93. However, in this study, we used commercially available low cost Landsat TM-5 imagery for Chl-a analysis which had comparatively fewer number of bands and a coarser spectral resolution.

RBFN model for chl-a testing using DS2 provided optimization parameters values of 0.32 for  $R^2$ , 1.35  $\mu\text{g/l}$  for *SEP*, and 1.35  $\mu\text{g/l}$  for *RMSE*, respectively. RBFN model for chl-a testing using DS3 provided slightly better results compared to RBFN model using DS2. The optimization parameter values were 0.36 for  $R^2$ , 1.32  $\mu\text{g/l}$  for *SEP*, and 1.28  $\mu\text{g/l}$  for *RMSE*. Though, these results were an improvement from the statistical least square fit models that used the similar inputs and outputs but were inferior to the results we obtained from the RBFN model based on DS1 for chl-a prediction.

In case of statistical models, the prediction correlation improved when the number of parameters increased from DS1 to DS2 or DS3. However, in RBFN modeling, use of DS2 or DS3 as input showed inferior results compared to DS1 even though DS2 or DS3 included input points of DS1.

### 3.3. RBFN Model for SM Prediction

Similar to statistical models, RBFN models were also superior for the SM prediction compared to prediction of chl-a. The RBFN model based on DS1 as input was found better than RBFN model using input DS2 or DS3 (Table 3). The RBFN model was found robust as statistical indices (Equations 2 to 4) for model testing remained stable during model running with same network parameters for 20 different simulations. Training and testing set of RBFN model provided stable *RMSE* (*SD* = 0.02 and 0.04, respectively), *SEP* (*SD* = 0.01 and 0.02, respectively), *ATPA* (*SD* = 1.2 and 1.1, respectively) and  $R^2$  of the actual and predicted output values (*SD* = 0.01). Figure 7 shows the relationship between measured and predicted SM concentrations. The obtained  $R^2$  of the testing data was 0.90 with *SEP* and *RMSE* of 0.49 mg/l and 0.64 mg/l, respectively.

## 4. Summary and Conclusions

Multiple linear regression statistical model (LMR) and Radial basis function neural (RBFN) network models were developed to predict either chl-a or SM concentrations in the lake using the spectral information from the Landsat-TM imagery. Sixty-four observations of chl-a and 46 observations of SM collected over the period of 2001-2004 were used for the analysis. Three different input data sets were prepared using the six-band information of the imagery: first with six DN numbers (DS1); second with randomly creating 11 indices based on six-band information (DS2); and third by pooling the data of first and second data sets (DS3). Statistical indices such as  $R^2$ , *SEP*, *ATPA* and *RMSE* were used for comparing the model performances. RBFN model results were found better than statistical model results for both chl-a or SM. In case of statistical models, DS3 compared to DS1 or DS2 gave slightly better results. This slight increase may be attributed to the increase in number of parameters in the LMR model. In case of RBFN models, DS1 gave the best result compared to DS2 or DS3. It indicates that, increase in parameters calculated as a function of available parameters may not improve prediction accuracy for RBFN model. The best RBFN model resulted in  $R^2$  of 0.55, and 0.90, respectively, between actual and model predicted chl-a and SM concentrations. Testing *RMSE* was found 0.077 and 0.056 for chl-a, and SM concentrations, respectively. The RBFN models developed were found robust. The results showed that SM prediction model was better than model for chl-a prediction, probably due to a strong nature of scattering by SM compared to chl-a in water.

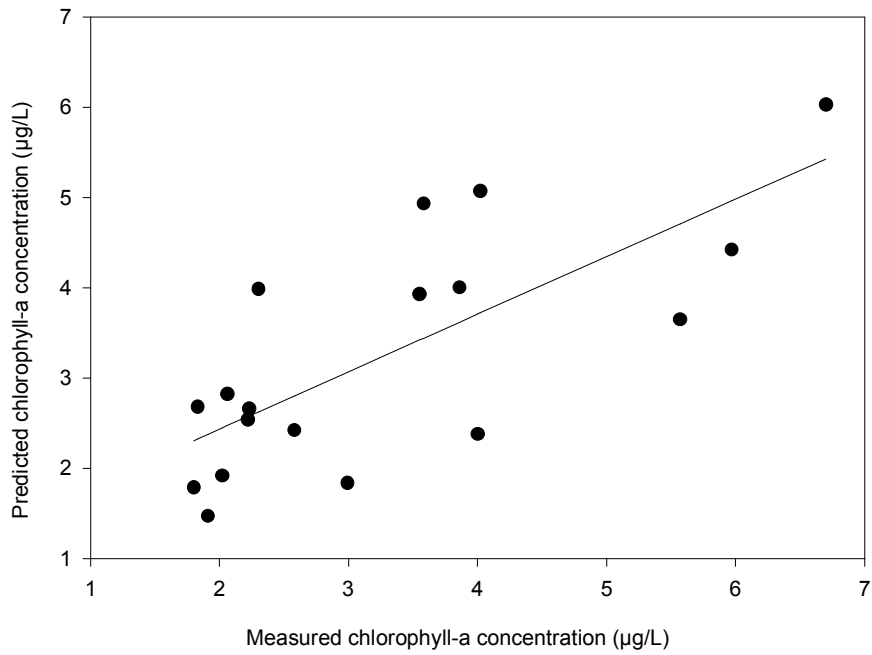
Results from this study also showed that no single band information gave a significant correlation for SM or chl-a prediction. Therefore, information of all the bands using LMR model or RBFN model is better approach than using one single band based relationship for predicting chl-a, or SM concentrations in reservoirs.

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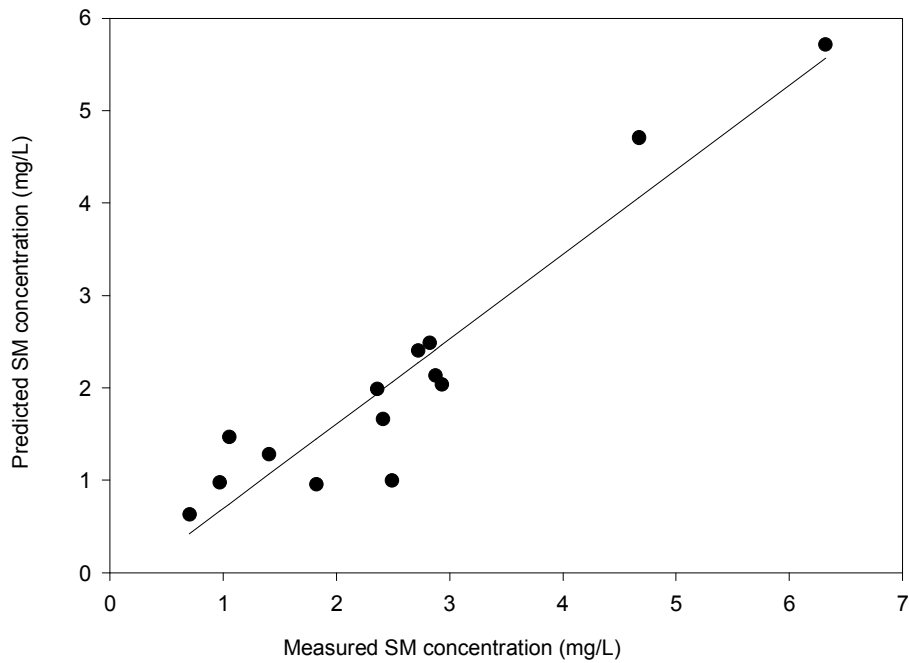
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**Figure 6.** Measured and predicted chlorophyll-a concentration obtained from the RBFN model. Solid line represents regression between measured and predicted data (predicted =  $0.6366 \times$  measured + 1.1612,  $R^2 = 0.55$ ).



**Figure 7.** Measured and predicted suspended matter concentration obtained from the RBFN model. Solid line represents regression between measured and predicted data (predicted =  $0.9152 \times$  measured - 0.2176,  $R^2 = 0.90$ ).

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