

## Research Article

# Blood Pressure Classification Using the Method of the Modular Neural Networks

Martha Pulido,<sup>1</sup> Patricia Melin ,<sup>1</sup> and German Prado-Arechiga<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Tijuana Institute of Technology, Calzada Tecnológico, Tijuana 22379, Mexico

<sup>2</sup>Cardiodiagnostico Excel Medial Center, Tijuana 22010, Mexico

Correspondence should be addressed to Patricia Melin; [pmelin@tectijuana.mx](mailto:pmelin@tectijuana.mx)

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In this paper, we present a new model based on modular neural networks (MNN) to classify a patient's blood pressure level (systolic and diastolic pressure and pulse). Tests are performed with the Levenberg-Marquardt (trainlm) and scaled conjugate gradient backpropagation (traincsg) training methods. The modular neural network architecture is formed by three modules. In the first module we consider the diastolic pressure data; in the second module we use details of the systolic pressure; in the third module, pulse data is used and the response integration is performed with the average method. The goal is to design the best MNN architecture for achieving an accurate classification. The results of the model show that MNN presents an excellent classification for blood pressure. The contribution of this work is related to helping the cardiologist in providing a good diagnosis and patient treatment and allows the analysis of the behavior of blood pressure in relation to the corresponding diagnosis, in order to prevent heart disease.

## 1. Introduction

The learning ability of neural networks and their pattern classification characteristics are the reasons why these models can be of great importance for medical applications. Nowadays there are many approaches in intelligent computing, such as evolutionary computing, fuzzy systems [1–7] and neural networks [8–18], which are used in the areas of medicine [17–22].

Hypertension that threatens to be present in most of the people of the world is a dangerous disease and leads to fatal consequences such as death and is a risk factor for people who suffer from it: obesity, diabetes mellitus, etc.

Hypertension is a global problem as it affects more than a billion people and causes more than ten million (avoidable) deaths each year. The only way to know if a person suffers from this disease is to constantly check the blood pressure and effectively diagnose and prevent this disease [23, 24].

Currently, there are several computer techniques that have been applied in medicine, such as neural networks and fuzzy systems to diagnose hypertension; by using these methods we can provide information about the factors and risks the patient may have.

The main contribution of this work is the proposed Arterial Hypertension Classification and Diagnosis model based on modular neural networks for disease prevention. In this way, the cardiologist with the help of the model may prescribe the necessary treatment to the patient since hypertension is a disease that can evolve without showing any symptoms; this is the reason it is also known as “the silent killer”.

In this work, an MNN model is used to classify the patient's hypertension level, tests are also performed with the Levenberg-Marquardt (trainlm) and scaled conjugate gradient backpropagation (traincsg) training methods, and this neural network consists of three modules. In the first module we consider the diastolic pressure data; in the second module we use details of the systolic pressure; in the third module, pulse data is used. Therefore, we obtain the patient's blood pressure through ambulatory blood pressure monitoring (ABPM); so far we have 300 records.

*1.1. Overview of Related Works.* Artificial neural networks with the back propagation learning algorithm to obtain the hypertension diagnosis were presented by Sumathi B. et al. [25]. The method was designed with eight risk factors:

smoking, stress, family history, high cholesterol, etc., where the result of neural network classification shows if the patient suffers from arterial hypertension.

Huang S. et al. [26] presented a study to investigate the factors of Hypertension (HTN) and was implemented as a prediction model for 35-year-old people in a rural area of China, with a modular neural network, considering risk factors, such as socioeconomic status and education level.

Vilkov V.G. et al. [13, 27] presented a comparative study with models of daily blood pressure monitoring was performed in 34 apparently healthy subjects and 72 patients with arterial hypertension (AH). They compared the efficiency of diagnosis of latent AH using models based on artificial neural networks of different architectures.

Barman M. et al. [28] presented an intelligent system based on a fuzzy rule system, to diagnose heart diseases and the number of heart attacks; such fuzzy system has seven inputs and uses the Cleveland database.

Patil P. et al. [29] designed a sensor which measures the pulse and temperature of the patient and is controlled by a fuzzy system which shows the patient's pulse via remote and sends a warning to relatives, doctors, or ambulances, in case it presents an emergency for patients.

Morsi I. et al. [30] presented a model to diagnose blood pressure. A group of 105 patients is used to design this model and another group with the same number of patients is used to test and thus check the efficiency of fuzzy systems in the field of medicine.

Hussein S. [31] analyzed the risk factors of hypertension and a model was designed for the prediction of rural residents over 35 years of age, considering several factors such as education level, sedentary work, and history of hypertension in the family.

Touyz M. R. et al. [32] presented an ANFIS system; methodology is designed to diagnose and compare an existing fuzzy expert system, regarding performance metrics accuracy and sensitivity.

*1.2. Artificial Neural Networks.* Neural networks are integrated by many interrelated components. A neural network can have a structure of multiple inputs and outputs; these systems operate similarly to the human brain. A neural network learns from input values, and this helps us learn about the human being [33–35].

*1.3. Hypertension.* In Mexico, a large number of professional studies have been made with the idea of determining the prevalence of hypertension, defined as the frequency of the disease at a given time in a particular place. The most important studies use different methodological criteria, which make them difficult to compare. In these studies, different blood pressure levels are used to define this disease. They even propose an adequate standardization to measure it, which usually leads to overdiagnosis. The number of measurements made at the time of the survey, be it on the same day or on different days, impacts significantly the prevalence of the disease. Another study that was decided to be included on the findings reported is the study of heart diseases of San Antonio (ECSA), which includes Mexican-American population and

has a branch in Mexico City: the study of diabetes in Mexico City (EDCM). In these studies, the prevalence and incidence of hypertension and other cardiovascular factors are also reported.

*1.4. Arterial Hypertension.* Hypertension may be essential (unknown etiology, but with hereditary background) or secondary (with demonstrable cause) and can also be isolated or as metabolic syndrome; this disease is incapacitating and deadly due to the damage caused to important organs: blood vessels, heart, kidney, and eyes. Normal levels of blood pressure are those below 139/89 mmHg; secondary hypertension can be suspected in young people younger than 35 years of age or when there is no hypertension history in the family or in the absence of a family. Treatment of hypertension helps reducing damage to organs or even reverses it if possible; this treatment may be a drug with antidepressant use or nonpharmacological treatment, which includes changes in hygienic-dietetic habits (reduction weight, stop smoking, and drinking alcoholic beverages).

*1.4.1. Development of Systolic and Diastolic Hypertension.* The risk of cardiovascular complications begins, apparently with blood pressure values of 115mmHg for systolic and 75 mmHg for diastolic. In the clinical area, several subtypes of hypertension determined by isolated elevations of systolic and diastolic, or the combination of both are used. These subgroups have their own natural history and present a different cardiovascular risk.

Isolated systolic hypertension (ISH) is common after 50 years of age, affecting nearly 50% of people between 50 and 59 years of age, reaching 90% in those over 80 years old. This subtype of hypertension reflects the increase in the stiffness of the aorta and great vessels without an increase in arteriolar resistance.

When there is an increase in arteriolar resistance combined with a lack of increased arterial stiffness, the isolated diastolic pressure subtype (IDP) occurs; this subtype predominates in people younger than 40, comprising almost 60% of the population [36].

*1.4.2. Pulse Pressure.* Hypertension includes calculating pulse pressure (PP), which is done by subtracting the diastolic pressure and systolic quantities [37, 38]. In the elderly, increased systolic blood pressure reflects an increase in the degree of stiffness of arteries; as a result, pulse pressure increases. This is related to an increased incidence of cardiovascular events. Blood pressure PP is closely related to the changes produced by age in people over 50, increasing diastolic coronary mortality rates, and after 60 they stop. To most people, pulse and systolic pressure values become the most important risk triggers.

Previously, the pulse was measured when the examiner or physician would sit comfortably on the right side to support the patient's elbow and, with his right thumb, explore the antecubital fosse, where the brachial artery is. The patient's arm reflex should be activated. When the thumb or finger of the examiner is correctly in place, he or she can raise or lower the patient's forearm by varying the pressure applied to the

artery, feeling the maximum pulse. The right thumb of the examiner can feel the patient's carotid artery similarly, which he or she may feel by gently grasping the patient's fingertips with theirs. The digital pulse can be counted exactly by simultaneously palpating the radial artery while the examiner supports the patient's wrist. The femoral pulse of a child of tender age should be sought only while the leg is relaxed voluntarily.

The arteries pulsations provide information about heart rhythms and speed, arterial pulse differential (right and left limbs, or top and bottom), thrills (shudders), and waveform. [39, 40].

*Bradycardia.* The bradycardia term simply means slower rate. Bradycardia athletes: the heart of an athlete is much more powerful than a normal person, which allows their heart force a greater volume of blood with each beat, a large proportion of blood driven into the arterial tree with each beat probably produces sufficient circulatory reflexes to begin causing bradycardia.

*Tachycardia.* Tachycardia means rapid heart rate. The three causes of tachycardia are increased body temperature and heart stimulation by the sympathetic and toxic states of the heart. Increased heart rate of about 10 beats per minute for each degree Celsius increases body temperature, up to 41°C; at this temperature, the heart rate may actually decrease by increasing muscle wasting as a result of fever. Tachycardia causes hyperthermia and increases the frequency of the heart rhythm [41–45].

*1.5. Ambulatory Blood Pressure Monitoring.* Nowadays modern laboratory methods often require outpatient-monitoring equipment to measure a variety of the indicators for blood pressure (BP), for 24 hours continuously. The biological rhythms are physiological functions and pathological alterations. The BP with an average heart rate of 72 beats per minute and 103.680 pulse waves is produced with corresponding changes in BP [46]. While at first the method was used in research studies, it is now increasingly used in clinical practice, as it provides additional data of measures from office and home. Moreover, only the ABMP can shed some light on symptomatic episodes occurring within 24 hours, either by raising or lowering the BP [47]. This means that it can be used not only for diagnosis of arterial hypertension (HA), but also to evaluate the frequency and severity of acute episodes of hyper- or hypotension. The ABMP is very useful to investigate the effects of new drugs for a period of 24 hours.

## 2. The Proposed Method

This section presents the proposed method for blood pressure classification, which consists of designing of modular neural networks (MNN) and the integration of responses of MNN with an average method. The main goals are to implement and find the best MNN architecture; the MNN consists of three modules; the first module is for the systolic pressure, the next module is the diastolic pressure, and in the last module we

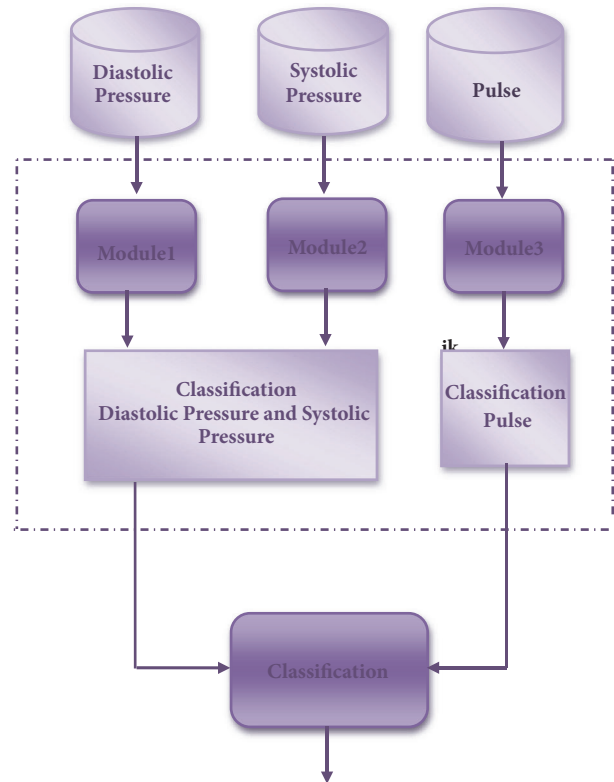


FIGURE 1: General scheme of the method.

have pulse, this way we classify the arterial hypertension of a person.

Figure 1 illustrates the MNN structure, which considers the diastolic, systolic pressure, and the pulse for the MNN inputs, and in this case has 3 modules. The tests are performed by changing the number of layers that are between 1 and 3 and the number of neurons from 1 to 50, and in this way we obtained the responses of the MNN and integrate them with the average integration method and we obtained the classification of blood pressure.

In Figure 2, we present the data used for the classification of the arterial hypertension, where 300 patient samples are used for training all the modules in the modular neural network and we considered other 40 patients for tests with 45 records for each patient in the complete architecture.

Table 1 presents the parameters of the MNN that are manually changed to obtain the best architecture.

Table 2 presents the classification of arterial hypertension according to the European guidelines.

## 3. Discussion and Results

The proposed method to classify the blood pressure of a patient was validated with tests performed on 16 patients and positive results were obtained for the MNN.

The results of the best MNN architecture are shown in Figure 3. For each of the modules of the MNN, the goal error was of 0.002 and 500 epochs were used; the number of neurons used was 14 in the first layer and 15 in the second layer.

TABLE 1: MNN data.

Number of Layers	Number of Neurons	Epochs	Learning Rate	Error Goal	Training Methods
1 to 3	1 to 50	500	0.001	0.01	(i) Levenberg-Marquardt (trainlm) (ii) Scaled Conjugate Gradient Back Propagation (traincsg).

TABLE 2: Blood pressure levels (mmHg).

Category	Systolic	And	Diastolic
Optimal	<120	And	<80
Normal	120-129	And/or	80-84
High Normal	130-139	And/or	85-89
Grade 1 Hypertension	140-159	And/or	90-99
Grade 2 Hypertension	160-179	And/or	100-109
Grade 3 Hypertension	≥180	And/or	≥110
Isolated Systolic hypertension	≥140	And/or	<90

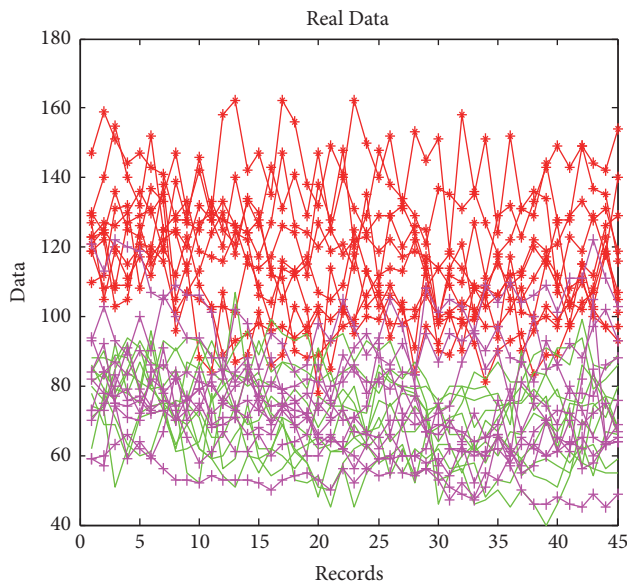


FIGURE 2: Real data of the patients.

Table 3 presents the results of the MNN with the “trainlm” method for the classification arterial hypertension.

Table 4 presents the average of the test of the MNN for each of the patients.

The results of the best MNN architecture are shown in Figure 4. For each of the modules of the MNN, the goal error was of 0.002 and 500 epochs were used; the number of neurons used was 26 in the first layer and 29 in the second layer.

Table 5 presents the results of the MNN with the “traincsg” method for the classification of arterial hypertension.

In Table 6 the average of the test of the MNN for each of the persons is presented.

Figure 5 presents the modeling data of diastolic pressure for the MNN; the pink line represents the real data and

the green line represents data modeled with the MNN. The results of this model for the diastolic pressure that were obtained were good with respect to the records used to use the tests, since the trend according to the cardiologist was good.

Figure 6 presents the modeling data of systolic pressure with the MNN proposed; the pink line represents the real data and the green line represents data modeled with the MNN. The results of this model for the systolic pressure that were obtained were good with respect to the records used to use the tests, since the trend according to the cardiologist was good.

Figure 7 present the modeling data of pulse pressure with the MNN; the pink line represents the real data and the green line represents data modeled with the modular neural network. The obtained results of this model for the pulse pressure were good with respect to the records used in the tests, since the trend according to the cardiologist is good.

#### 4. Statistical Comparative Study

In this section a hypothesis test is made based on the errors obtained with the architecture of the modular network using the Levenberg-Marquardt learning method (trainlm) to obtain the trend of the systolic pressure. In addition, the results are compared with linear regression models based on the obtained errors.

The model used to perform the statistical comparison was the well-known linear regression. This model describes the relationship between a dependent variable and (also known as the output or answer) as a function of one or more independent variables  $X$  (called predictors). The general equation corresponding to a linear regression model is as follows:

$$y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X + \epsilon_1 \quad (1)$$

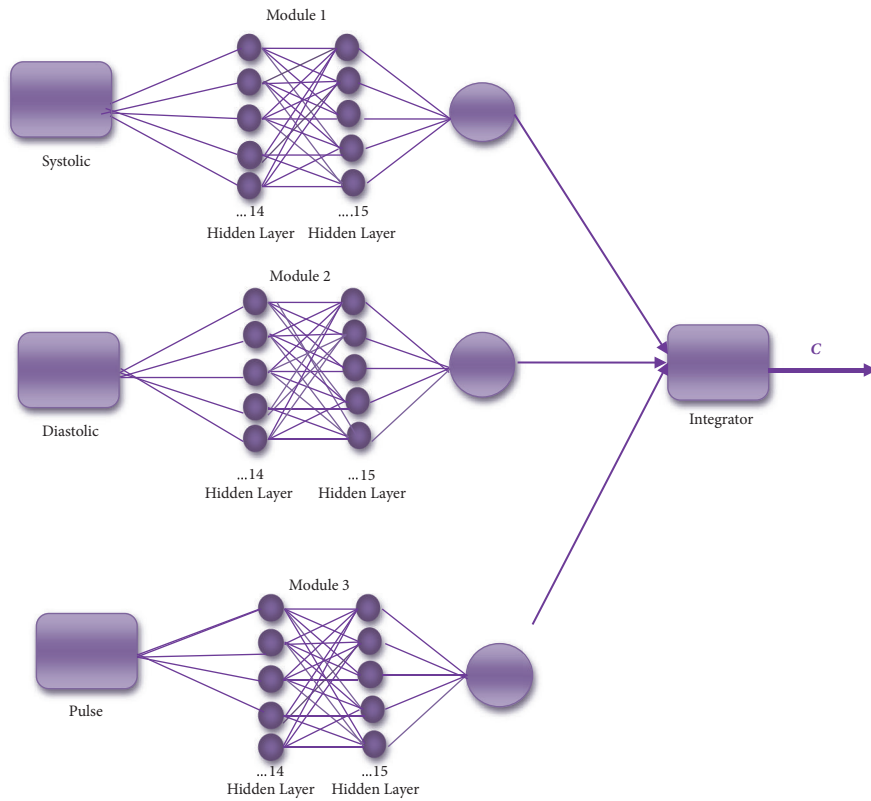


FIGURE 3: The best architecture for MNN with the training method (trainlm).

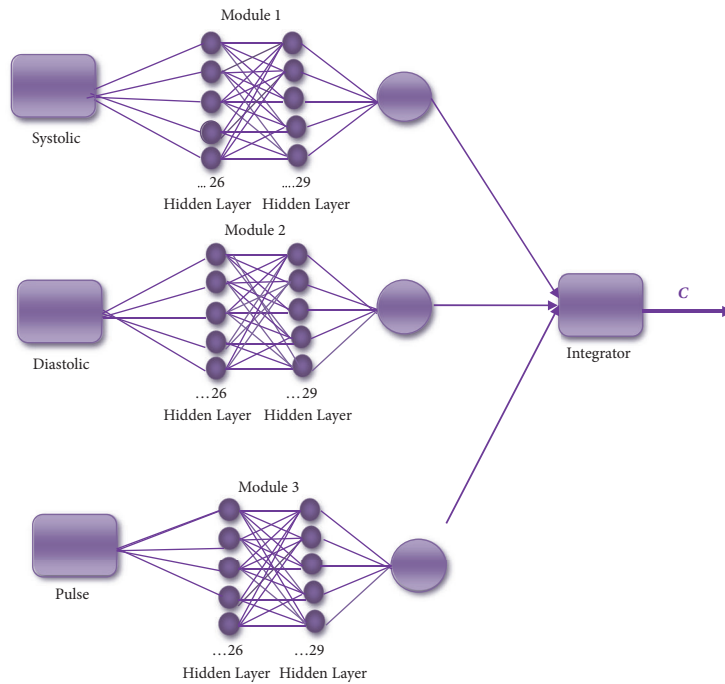


FIGURE 4: The best architecture for MNN with the training method (traincsg).



TABLE 3: Classification for MNN with train method (trainlm).

No. Persons	Number of Neurons	Time	Systolic	Diastolic	Pulse	Classification
Person1	14,15	00:06:48	118	70	68	Optimal
Person 2	14,15	00:06:48	109	77	76	Optimal
Person 3	14,15	00:06:48	112	76	79	Optimal
Person 4	14,15	00:06:48	120	73	73	Optimal
Person 5	14,15	00:06:48	146	86	77	Grade 1 Hypertension
Person 6	14,15	00:06:48	107	63	92	Optimal
Person 7	14,15	00:06:48	128	83	97	Normal
Person 8	14,15	00:06:48	112	66	96	Optimal
Person 9	14,15	00:06:48	130	76	73	Normal
Person 10	14,15	00:06:48	123	79	57	Normal
Person 11	14,15	00:06:48	138	65	65	High Normal
Person 12	14,15	00:06:48	138	84	74	High Normal
Person 13	14,15	00:06:48	123	76	79	Normal
Person 14	14,15	00:06:48	114	63	78	Optimal
Person 15	14,15	00:06:48	124	79	72	Normal
Person 16	14,15	00:06:48	134	84	89	High Normal
Person 17	14,15	00:06:48	125	77	80	Normal
Person 18	14,15	00:06:48	106	65	79	Optimal
Person 19	14,15	00:06:48	110	68	79	Optimal
Person 20	14,15	00:06:48	123	76	80	Normal
Person 21	14,15	00:06:48	115	72	76	Optimal
Person 22	14,15	00:06:48	112	73	78	Optimal
Person 23	14,15	00:06:48	122	76	77	Normal
Person 24	14,15	00:06:48	117	68	90	Optimal
Person 25	14,15	00:06:48	121	74	92	Optimal
Person 26	14,15	00:06:48	130	82	89	Normal
Person 27	14,15	00:06:48	121	63	86	Optimal
Person 28	14,15	00:06:48	112	73	90	Optimal
Person 29	14,15	00:06:48	123	82	80	Normal
Person 30	14,15	00:06:48	95	61	73	Optimal
Person 31	14,15	00:06:48	108	65	72	Optimal
Person 32	14,15	00:06:48	110	70	73	Optimal
Person 33	14,15	00:06:48	116	67	71	Normal
Person 34	14,15	00:06:48	130	86	80	Normal
Person 35	14,15	00:06:48	117	73	80	Optimal
Person 36	14,15	00:06:48	117	54	81	Optimal
Person 37	14,15	00:06:48	113	74	74	Optimal
Person 38	14,15	00:06:48	132	86	79	Normal
Person 39	14,15	00:06:48	128	80	78	Normal
Person 40	14,15	00:06:48	131	85	70	Normal

where

$\beta$  represents a parameter that establishes the linear relationship between variables.

$\epsilon$  represents the random error terms.

$X$  represents the real data.

$y$  is the variable for classification.

The formulas to estimate the beta parameter values are given by

TABLE 4: Average results of the MNN with (trainlm).

Person	Time	Systolic	Diastolic	Pulse
Person 1	00:15:34	115	73	67
Person 2	00:15:34	105	72	77
Person 3	00:15:34	114	70	80
Person 4	00:15:34	119	71	72
Person 5	00:15:34	145	84	75
Person 6	00:15:34	104	61	90
Person 7	00:15:34	125	87	96
Person 8	00:15:34	109	64	73
Person 9	00:15:34	129	73	56
Person 10	00:15:34	122	77	65
Person 11	00:15:34	136	63	70
Person 12	00:15:34	136	81	71
Person 13	00:15:34	120	74	78
Person 14	00:15:34	110	62	77
Person 15	00:15:34	119	68	70
Person 16	00:15:34	131	82	80
Person 17	00:15:34	125	77	80
Person 18	00:15:34	106	65	79
Person 19	00:15:34	110	68	79
Person 20	00:15:34	123	76	80
Person 21	00:15:34	115	72	76
Person 22	00:15:34	112	73	78
Person 23	00:15:34	122	76	77
Person 24	00:15:34	117	68	90
Person 25	00:15:34	121	74	92
Person 26	00:15:34	130	82	89
Person 27	00:15:34	121	63	86
Person 28	00:15:34	112	73	90
Person 29	00:15:34	123	82	80
Person 30	00:15:34	95	61	73
Person 31	00:15:34	108	65	72
Person 32	00:15:34	110	70	73
Person 33	00:15:34	116	67	71
Person 34	00:15:34	130	86	80
Person 35	00:15:34	117	73	80
Person 36	00:15:34	117	54	81
Person 37	00:15:34	113	74	74
Person 38	00:15:34	132	86	79
Person 39	00:15:34	128	80	78
Person 40	00:15:34	131	85	70

$$\beta_0 = \bar{y} - \beta_1 \bar{x} \tag{2} \quad \text{Module 1}$$

$$\beta_1 = \frac{\sum xy - \sum x \bar{y} - n \bar{x} \bar{y}}{\sum x^2 - n \bar{x}^2} \tag{3}$$

$$\beta_0 = 0.101663348532528$$

$$\beta_1 = 1.028385618868264$$

Module 2

$$\beta_0 = 0.04938271$$

$$\beta_1 = 1.024901397932274$$

In this case the values for  $\beta_0$  and  $\beta_1$  are the following (for each of the modules):

TABLE 5: Classification for MNN with train method (traincsg).

No. Persons	Number of Neurons	Time	Systolic	Diastolic	Pulse	Classification
Person1	26,29	00:07:12	116	72	67	Optimal
Person 2	26,29	00:07:12	106	72	77	Optimal
Person 3	26,29	00:07:12	114	70	80	Optimal
Person 4	26,29	00:07:12	119	71	72	Optimal
Person 5	26,29	00:07:12	145	84	75	Grade1 Hypertension
Person 6	26,29	00:07:12	107	61	90	Normal
Person 7	26,29	00:07:12	130	87	97	High Normal
Person 8	26,29	00:07:12	120	64	97	Optimal
Person 9	26,29	00:07:12	131	74	73	High Normal
Person 10	26,29	00:07:12	122	78	57	Normal
Person 11	26,29	00:07:12	136	63	65	High Normal
Person 12	26,29	00:07:12	135	75	70	High Normal
Person 13	26,29	00:07:12	120	75	78	Normal
Person14	26,29	00:07:12	117	72	77	Optimal
Person 15	26,29	00:07:12	121	69	70	Normal
Person 16	26,29	00:07:12	132	90	78	High Normal
Person 17	26,29	00:07:12	126	76	80	Normal
Person 18	26,29	00:07:12	106	65	82	Optimal
Person 19	26,29	00:07:12	110	68	84	Optimal
Person 20	26,29	00:07:12	123	76	90	Normal
Person 21	26,29	00:07:12	112	71	78	Optimal
Person 22	26,29	00:07:12	111	70	70	Optimal
Person 23	26,29	00:07:12	122	73	71	Normal
Person 24	26,29	00:07:12	116	67	80	Optimal
Person 25	26,29	00:07:12	120	74	80	Optimal
Person 26	26,29	00:07:12	129	80	79	Normal
Person 27	26,29	00:07:12	120	61	74	Optimal
Person 28	26,29	00:07:12	112	73	81	Optimal
Person 29	26,29	00:07:12	121	82	67	Normal
Person 30	26,29	00:07:12	95	61	77	Optimal
Person 31	26,29	00:07:12	106	65	80	Optimal
Person 32	26,29	00:07:12	116	75	72	Optimal
Person 33	26,29	00:07:12	116	71	75	Normal
Person 34	26,29	00:07:12	130	86	90	Normal
Person 35	26,29	00:07:12	117	74	97	Optimal
Person 36	26,29	00:07:12	117	58	88	Optimal
Person 37	26,29	00:07:12	113	70	73	Optimal
Person 38	26,29	00:07:12	131	71	80	Normal
Person 39	26,29	00:07:12	128	81	82	Normal
Person 40	26,29	00:07:12	134	85	81	Normal



TABLE 6: Average of the MNN with (traincsg).

Person	Time	Systolic	Diastolic	Pulse
Person 1	00:17:19	115	73	67
Person 2	00:17:19	105	72	77
Person 3	00:17:19	114	70	80
Person 4	00:17:19	119	71	72
Person 5	00:17:19	145	84	75
Person 6	00:17:19	104	61	90
Person 7	00:17:19	125	87	96
Person 8	00:17:19	109	64	73
Person 9	00:17:19	129	73	56
Person 10	00:17:19	122	77	65
Person 11	00:17:19	136	63	70
Person 12	00:17:19	136	81	71
Person 13	00:17:19	120	74	78
Person 14	00:17:19	110	62	77
Person 15	00:17:19	119	68	70
Person 16	00:17:19	131	82	80
Person 17	00:17:19	126	76	80
Person 18	00:17:19	106	65	82
Person 19	00:17:19	110	68	84
Person 20	00:17:19	123	76	90
Person 21	00:17:19	112	71	78
Person 22	00:17:19	111	70	70
Person 23	00:17:19	122	73	71
Person 24	00:17:19	116	67	80
Person 25	00:17:19	120	74	80
Person 26	00:17:19	129	80	79
Person 27	00:17:19	120	61	74
Person 28	00:17:19	112	73	81
Person 29	00:17:19	121	82	67
Person 30	00:17:19	95	61	77
Person 31	00:17:19	106	65	80
Person 32	00:17:19	116	75	72
Person 33	00:17:19	116	71	75
Person 34	00:17:19	130	86	90
Person 35	00:17:19	117	74	97
Person 36	00:17:19	117	58	88
Person 37	00:17:19	113	70	73
Person 38	00:17:19	131	71	80
Person 39	00:17:19	128	81	82
Person 40	00:17:19	134	85	81

Module 3

$$\beta_0 = 0.565544448530641$$

$$\beta_1 = 1.104635529315485$$

A set of 30 experiments are carried out to compare the results; for this, we use the parametric Z test of two samples, which is used with the following formula:

$$Z = \frac{(\bar{x}_1 - \bar{x}_2) - (\mu_1 - \mu_2)}{\sigma_{\bar{x}_1 - \bar{x}_2}} \tag{4}$$

where

$\bar{x}_1 - \bar{x}_2$  is the observed difference.

$(\mu_1 - \mu_2)$  is the expected difference.

$\sigma_{\bar{x}_1 - \bar{x}_2}$  is the standard error of the difference.

TABLE 7: Parameters for hypothesis testing modules.

Parameters	
Confidence Interval	95%
Alfa	0.05
Ho	$\mu_1 \geq \mu_2$
Ha	$\mu_1 < \mu_2$
Critical Value	Z= -1.645

TABLE 8: Descriptive statistics for Module 1 (systolic).

Variable	Observations	Mean	Std. Derivation
MNN(sys)	30	9.820	1.997
Regression	30	16.830	4.508

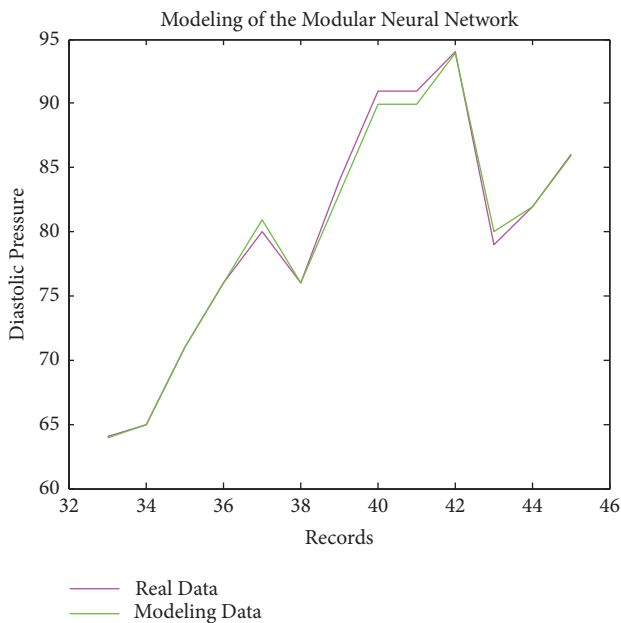


FIGURE 5: Modeling of diastolic pressure with the MNN.

The null hypothesis establishes that the mean of the errors of the systolic neural network are greater than or equal to the average of the errors obtained by the regression, being the alternative hypothesis that the mean of the errors of the systolic neural network are lower than the average of the errors obtained by the regression; the parameters of the hypothesis test are shown in Table 7.

In Table 8 we show the descriptive statistics for this test.

Table 9 shows the results obtained by applying formula (1) for Module 1.

Since the result of the p value is lower than the level of significance  $\alpha = 0.05$ , we reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternative hypothesis, so we can conclude that there is sufficient evidence with a 5% level of significance to support the claim that the means of the errors of the modular neural network for the obtaining of the systolic pressure tendency are smaller than those obtained by the regression method.

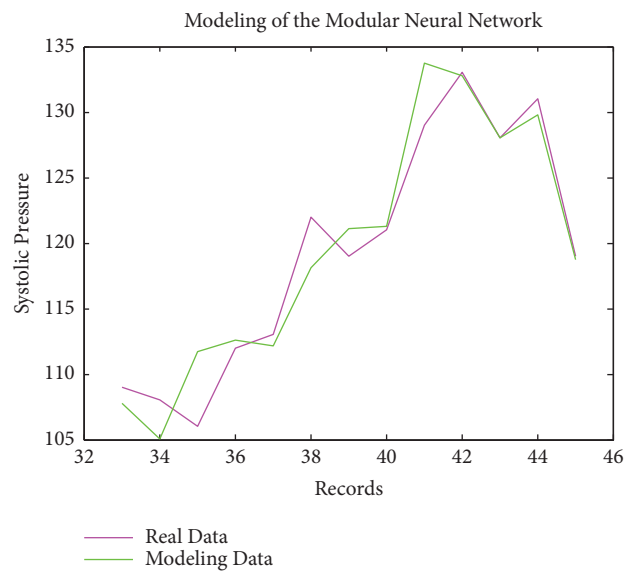


FIGURE 6: Modeling of systolic pressure with the MNN.

TABLE 9: Results of the Z-test for Module 1.

Difference	-7.010
z (Observed Value)	-7.788
z (Critical Value)	-1.645
p-value	$<3.33066907387547 \times 10^{-15}$
Alfa	0.05

In Table 10 the descriptive statistics for Module 2 (diastolic) test is shown.

Table 11 shows the results obtained by applying formula (1) for this test.

Since the result of the p value is lower than the level of significance  $\alpha = 0.05$ , we reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternative hypothesis, so we can conclude that there is sufficient evidence with a 5% level of significance to support the claim that the means of the errors of the modular neural network for the obtaining of the diastolic pressure tendency are smaller than those obtained by the regression method.

TABLE 10: Descriptive statistics Module 2 (diastolic).

Variable	Observations	Mean	Std. Derivation
MNN(sis)	30	23.177	3.096
Regression	30	34.778	5.438

TABLE 11: Results of the Z-test for Module 2.

Difference	-9.462
z (Observed Value)	-8.2383
z (Critical Value)	-1.645
p-value	$<1.11022302462516 \times 10^{-16}$
Alfa	0.05

TABLE 12: Descriptive statistics Module 3 (pulse).

Variable	Observations	Mean	Std. Derivation
MNN(sis)	30	14.774	1.821
Regression	30	28.367	4.733

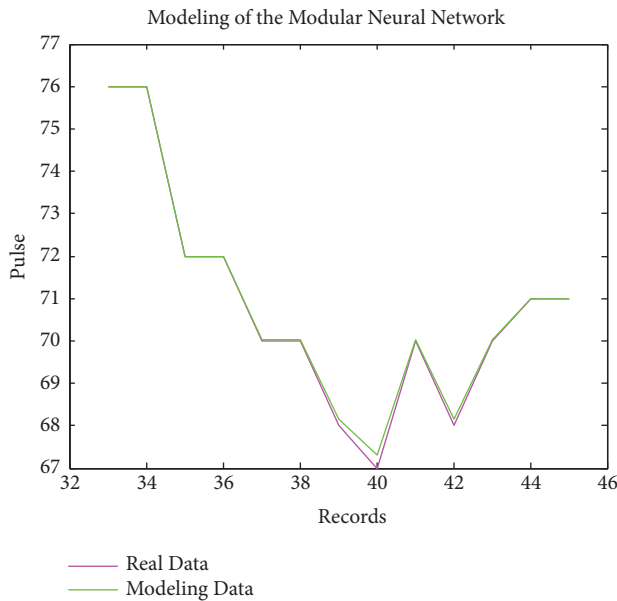


FIGURE 7: MNN modeling of pulse pressure.

We show in Table 12 the descriptive statistics for Module 3 (pulse) test.

Table 13 shows the results obtained by applying formula (1) for the third module (pulse tendency).

Since the result of the p value is less than the level of significance  $\alpha = 0.05$ , we reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternative hypothesis, so we can conclude that there is sufficient evidence with a 5% level of significance to support the claim that the means of the errors of the modular neural network for obtaining the pulse tendency are smaller than those obtained by the regression method.

When comparing the model of the modular neural network with the linear regression models by means of the z-statistic tests, we can realize that when using intelligent

TABLE 13: Results of the Z-test Module 3.

Difference	-13.593
z (Observed Value)	-14.682
z (Critical Value)	-1.645
p-value	$<2.59524148975464 \times 10^{-17}$
Alfa	0.05

computing techniques, in this case the modular neural networks, we have a more efficient technique to classify the systolic and diastolic pressure and the pulse and this could help the cardiologist detect and prevent diseases in the blood.

## 5. Conclusion

In this paper we have obtained good results with the proposed model. The MNN classification model for arterial hypertension was implemented with two training methods for the modular neural network, namely, the Scale Conjugate Gradient Backpropagation (trainscg) and Levenberg-Marquardt (trainlm), and we achieved good results with the second method (trainlm). Good results were also obtained in the diastolic, systolic, and pulse models, since the trend was good with respect to the records used to perform the tests. In addition, we have made a comparison between the neural network model and the regression equations, showing that the MNN model statistically outperforms the regression model. In this paper we conclude that this classification method is effective and could help the cardiologist to detect and prevent a patient's blood pressure.

## Data Availability

The data that was used in this research to support the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author upon request by email [pmelin@tectijuana.mx](mailto:pmelin@tectijuana.mx).

## Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest, financial or nonfinancial, with respect to this research study.

## Authors' Contributions

The three authors of the paper were responsible for (1) concept and design of the system, (2) acquisition of data, (3) analysis and interpretation of data, and (4) preparation of the manuscript. The authors have agreed to authorship the paper and the order of authorship for this manuscript of this research.

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