

Risk Assessment and Prediction of Construction Project Based on 1D-CNN-Attention-BP

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Abstract

In order to solve the problem of low accuracy of construction project duration prediction, this paper proposes a CNN attention BP combination model project risk prediction model based on attention mechanism, one-dimensional convolutional neural network (1d-cnn) and BP neural network. Firstly, the literature analysis method is used to select the risk evaluation index value of construction project, and the attention mechanism is used to determine the weight of risk factors on construction period prediction; then, BP neural network is used to predict the project duration, and accuracy, cross entropy loss function and F1 score are selected to comprehensively evaluate the performance of 1d-cnn-attention-bp combined model. The experimental results show that the duration risk prediction accuracy of the risk prediction model proposed in this paper is more than 90%, which can meet the risk prediction of construction projects with high accuracy.

Keywords

Construction Project Risk, 1D-CNN-Attention-BP, One Dimensional Convolutional Neural Network, Construction Period Forecast, Risk Identification

1. Introduction

In the construction project, the contractor strives to win the bid in the form of quotation. In the process of project construction, if the risk factor analysis and evaluation are not carried out objectively, it may lead to wrong decision-making in project bidding and loss of the project. Theoretically, the owner should strive to reasonably disperse the risks when preparing the bidding documents, but few

owners do so in practice. Therefore, after winning the bid, the contractor of the construction project will bear most of the risks. In order to reduce the risk loss and improve the risk management level, the project risk must be comprehensively analyzed and evaluated before the project construction [1] [2] [3] [4].

With the development of artificial intelligence and big data, neural network has attracted more and more researchers' attention. Due to the strong nonlinear fitting ability of neural network and good effect on the mapping of nonlinear relationships, relevant scholars have combined neural networks with engineering project risk research in recent years and achieved certain results [5] [6] [7]. Reference [8] proposed a risk prediction method of PPP project of underground comprehensive pipe gallery based on PCA-PSO-SVM, which can predict the project risk to a certain extent, but the index weight problem of SVM has not been solved. Literature [9] proposed a project investment deviation, early warning model, based on BP neural network. By defining early warning indicators and combining them with the neural network, the prediction of investment deviation degree of the project is realized. However, BP neural network has the characteristics of many network parameters, difficult to find the global optimal value and serious dependence on samples, which limit the application of traditional BP neural network in actual engineering project risk prediction. In order to solve the problem that it is difficult to find the global optimal value of BP neural network, literature [10] proposed a project risk prediction method based on PCA-BP-GA. in order to further improve the prediction accuracy, this paper uses genetic algorithm to optimize BP neural network to avoid the randomness of initial threshold and weight. However, when the selection of evolutionary algebra of the genetic algorithm is large, it will affect the execution efficiency and prediction accuracy of the algorithm.

In order to improve the shortcomings of the neural network prediction model in the above literature, literature [11] proposed a construction project risk prediction model based on EW-FAHP and 1d-cnn, but for a single isolated project, it did not fundamentally change the congenital deficiency of neural network prediction caused by the small amount of project data.

Convolutional neural network can quickly capture the nonlinear relationship of data and alleviate the overfitting problem, which can significantly improve the effect of prediction model [11]. When the vector dimension of input data is too large, it is prone to dimension disaster and reduces the learning efficiency of the model. Attention mechanism is an effective mechanism to obtain good results. Its key is to improve attention to important information and the use attention mechanism to determine the influence weight of risk factors on project duration. By adding the attention mechanism to the convolutional neural network and assigning different probability weights to the middle layer neurons, the neural network model pays more attention to the information with greater impact on the construction period and reduces or even ignores the information with less impact on the construction period [12]. This paper proposes to apply attention to convolutional neural networks (CNN) and add back propagation (BP) to adjust the parameters of the whole combination model. The preprocessed construction period risk factors are used as the input vector to reduce the dimension of neural network. In the CNN hidden layer, the attention mechanism is introduced to the importance of the characteristics of risk factors on the construction period. The feature vector after dimensionality reduction of CNN layer and attention layer is input into BP neural network to predict the construction period, and the performance of the model is evaluated and analyzed.

2. Project Risk Theory Research

2.1. Project Risk Identification

Starting from the decision-making stage, various risks affecting the construction project duration and costs will arise as the project progresses. For the construction project management and construction parties, it is necessary to target the entire implementation process of the project with limited resources. Accurately identify the risk factors that have a greater impact on the construction period and costs [13] [14] [15]. For construction project management and construction parties, it is necessary to accurately identify the risk factors that have a greater impact on the construction period and cost for the entire implementation process of the project under the condition of limited resources.

Project risk identification methods mainly include: brainstorming method, literature research method and rough set theory. Each method has its best applicable environment, and suitable identification methods can be selected according to different analysis angles, routes and focuses [16]. Compared with other identification methods, literature research method is not limited by time and space, and can realize risk identification even with a small amount of resources. This method has been widely applied in intelligent algorithms, big data analysis, fault diagnosis, etc. [17] [18].

This paper selects construction projects invested by state-owned assets, controlled by state-owned assets or directly managed by government departments for analysis. Therefore, literature analysis is adopted to identify risk factors and summarize project risk evaluation indexes. Combined with the attributes of construction project risk, the project risk preliminary evaluation index system is obtained.

2.2. Project Risk Assessment

In project management, project risk evaluation refers to the process of analyzing, estimating and quantifying the impact of risks on the project. Establishing a scientific and effective risk assessment method is the prerequisite for risk research. The flowchart of the risk assessment process is shown in **Figure 1**.

2.3. Construction of Project Risk Evaluation Indicators

In construction project management, choosing an appropriate risk evaluation index system is the prerequisite for controlling project risks. The selection of risk



Figure 1. Flow chart of risk assessment process.

assessment indicators should meet the requirements of representativeness, diversity, conciseness and comprehensiveness [19] [20]. The hierarchy of the system determines whether the evaluation index system is scientific and reasonable. Therefore, when constructing the project risk evaluation index system, the evaluation indexes are divided according to the defined grade categories, and finally a multi-level index system is constructed to help risk managers understand the specific conditions of the risks in the project more comprehensively [21] [22]. As is shown in **Figure 2**, the primary indicators are, and the secondary indicators corresponding to each primary indicator are.

3. Definition of Construction Project Risk

In the early stage of decision making, in order to avoid losses, the risks of construction period and cost can be used to evaluate the risk of the whole project before deciding whether to bid. Construction period risk and cost risk can be expressed by Equations (1):

$$R_T = \left| \frac{T_\Delta - T_0}{T_\Delta} \right| \tag{1}$$

In the formula, R_T represent the construction period risk, T_{Δ} and T_0 represent the actual construction period and the target construction period respectively.

Table 1 shows the duration risk value of relevant projects of a group in Chengdu established according to formula (1).

Establish Numerical Judgment Matrix

In order to quantify the decision judgment and form a numerical judgment matrix, the relative importance is given by using the 0.1 - 0.9 scale method [23] [24], and the number of index layers is set as, and the initial matrix of Equation (2) is constructed.

					(Constr	uction	n project	risk			
First level risk indicator	Econo	$\operatorname{omic} R_1$	Soci	al R_2	Tec	chnica ↓ ↓	$1R_3$	Manag	ement <i>R</i>	Public re	elations R_5	Natural R_6
The secondary risk indicators	$\begin{array}{c} & \\ & \\ & \\ & \\ & \\ & \\ & \\ & \\ & \\ & $	 Financial and construction cost risk U Interest rate and exchange rate risks U Contract risks U 	Changes in policies and regulations U ₇ Administrative government intervention U ₆	Regional cultural differences D [*] The quality of the people D [*]	Frequent design changes $U_1^{(2)}$	Construction proficiency	Suitability of construction technologies and methods \mathcal{U}_{β}	$\begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} Project \\ Project resource allocation \\ \end{array} \\ \hline \\ \begin{array}{c} Complexity of relationships between \\ subprojects \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} U^{\pm} \\ \end{array} \end{array}$	Information sharing between projects D_1 Cross construction organization between Δ_2	Build the credibility of engineers $\sqrt{2}$ The sincerity of the owner to fulfill the agreement $\sqrt{2}$ Project management experience of the $\sqrt{2}$	Government management efficiency Ability of the subcontractor to fulfill the agreement Brofessional level of designers	- Regional climate risk U ₂ natural disasters U ₂

Figure 2. Evaluation index system.

Table 1. Risk factor assessment data of construction project.

rumber	Duration Risk	
1	0.0659	
2	0.0842	
3	0.0682	
4	0.0734	
5	0.0649	
6	0.0685	
7	0.0651	
8	0.0523	
9	0.061	
10	0.0787	
11	0.0685	
12	0.0651	
13	0.0523	
14	0.0610	
15	0.0787	

$$A = \left(a_{ij}\right)_{n \times n} \tag{2}$$

This paper presents the process of determining the weight of each index of public relations risk, and the weights of other risk factors can be determined sequentially.

The relevant data comes from the data of a Sichuan group's entire construction project in a community in Chengdu. First, use the expert scoring method to fill in the proportional scale table for the public relations risk factors of the construction project, and the following matrix can be obtained:

	0.5	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.3
	0.8	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.7
A =	0.6	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.4
	0.8	0.4	0.7	0.5	0.6
	0.7	0.3	0.6	0.4	0.5

4. Project Risk Research Model

4.1. The Basic Principles of Convolutional Neural Networks

With the development of neural networks, convolutional neural networks have been applied in more and more fields. They are currently widely used in visual image analysis, natural language processing and recommendation systems [25], but they have not yet been effectively applied in the risk prediction of construction engineering projects.

The CNN (Convolutional Neural Networks) network is an extension of DNN (Deep Neural Networks). It mainly includes input layer, output layer, convolutional layer and pooling layer. A convolution kernel of CNN only extracts one feature, and multiple features are extracted by multiple convolution kernels and then integrated in the fully connected layer [11] [12]. Figure 3 shows the network structure of 1D-CNN.

The 1D-CNN network structure mainly includes five parts: input layer, convolutional layer, pooling layer, fully connected and output layer. For the input one-dimensional information vector, the vector passes through the convolutional layer and the pooling layer. Finally, the corresponding output is obtained through the fully connected layer.

1) Convolutional layer: Suppose the input signal of the 1D-CNN model is *x*, the length is *N*, and the convolution kernel is used to perform convolution operation on the local area of the input signal. The specific convolution operation formula is:





$$y_{i}^{k} = Ker_{L_{1}}^{k} * x_{i}^{k} + b_{i}^{k} \left(i = 1, 2, \cdots, \frac{N}{st_{1}} \right)$$
(12)

where: $Ker_{L_1}^k$ represents the *k*th layer convolution kernel whose length is L_1 ; * indicates that the convolution operation x_i^k means the *i*-th input sub-segment (which is the same length with the convolution kernel); b_i^k represents the offset of the *i*-th convolution output of the k layer; y_i^k represents the convolution output of the *k*-th layer; st_1 is the convolution step length, where $y^k = \left[y_1^k, y_2^k, \dots, y_{N/st_1}^k\right]$.

The non-linear processing of the data after the convolution operation is as follows:

$$s = \max\left(0, y^k\right) \tag{13}$$

In the equation above, *s* represents the activation function of y^k . This article uses ReLu, the mainstream activation function in the deep learning world, which can accelerate the model convergence and overcome gradient dispersion.

2) Pooling layer: Pooling layer reduces the calculation amount and reduces the risk of overfitting by reducing the parameters of the neural network. Maximum pooling can be used to obtain position-independent characteristics. The pooling operation is usually the maximum pooling (max-pooling), as shown in Formula (14), the sequence length can be reduced in dimension.

$$a_{j} = \max_{(j-1)L_{2} \le t \le jL_{2}} \left(0, s_{t}^{j}\right)$$
(14)

In the equation: $j = 1, 2, \dots, \frac{N}{L_2 s t_1}$, where s_t^j represents the *t*-th value of the

j-th pooling segment, a_j represents the maximum value of the *j*th pooling segment; L_2 represents the length of the pooling segment. The output of the pooling layer is:

$$a = \begin{bmatrix} a_1, a_1, \cdots, a_{N/L_2 s t_1} \end{bmatrix}$$
(15)

where *a* is the output vector of the pooling layer.

3) Fully connected layer: The fully connected layer has the same structure as the traditional neural network and is composed of multiple hidden layers. The fully connected layer further abstracts and combines the global timing features, and the output is as follows:

$$v_c = w_o a + b_o \tag{16}$$

In the equation, w_o and b_o are the weight and bias of the fully connected layer, respectively.

4.2. Principle of Attention Mechanism

The attention mechanism (**Figure 4**) is added to the neural network to consider the influence factors of different past states and capture the most important part related to construction period risk. In order to make full use of the information of various risk factors, the CNN attention BP combination model proposed in



Figure 4. The architecture of attention mechanism.

this paper adds an attention layer to the CNN layer in order to reduce or even ignore the information irrelevant to the construction period and change the attention to important information. The key is to assign different probability weights to neurons, so that the model pays more attention to the large data information affecting classification prediction, so as to improve the prediction accuracy [26].

4.3. Principle of BP Neural Network

The learning process consists of signal forward propagation and error back propagation. During forward propagation, the input samples are transmitted from the input layer, processed by each hidden layer, and then transmitted to the output layer. If the actual output of the output layer does not meet the requirements with the expected output, it will turn to the back propagation stage of error. Error back propagation is to back propagate the output error to the input layer by layer through the hidden layer in some form, and allocate the error to all units of each layer, so as to obtain the error signal of each layer unit, which is used as the basis for correcting each unit. The weight adjustment process of each layer of signal forward propagation and error back propagation is carried out repeatedly. The process of continuous weight adjustment is the learning and training process of the network. This process continues until the error of the network output is reduced to an acceptable level or until a predetermined number of learning times.

4.4. 1D-CNN-Attention-BP Model

This paper adopts the combined model structure, which is mainly divided into input layer, CNN layer, attention layer, BP layer and output layer. The process is shown in **Figure 5**.

The data $X = \begin{bmatrix} x_{11} & x_{12} & \cdots & x_{1p} \\ x_{21} & x_{22} & \cdots & x_{2p} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ x_{n1} & x_{n1} & \cdots & x_{np} \end{bmatrix}$, related to construction period risk is



Figure 5. Flow chart of the 1D-CNN-Attention-BPmodel.

used as the input of the combination model. x_{i1} represents the label value of duration risk, i = 1, ..., n; $x_{i2}, ..., x_{nm}$ represents the normalized sequence of the *m*-th impact factor. Firstly, a nonlinear activation function RELU is connected through the convolution layer, and then the commonly used maximum pooling is selected for operation, that is, the maximum value of elements in the pooling layer is extracted. After the convolution layer and pooling layer, the original data is mapped to the hidden layer feature space, and then a full connection layer with sigmoid activation function is built to convert it to output, and finally the output feature vector is obtained [27].

The output eigenvector y_c of CNN layer is expressed as:

$$Z_1 = f\left(X \otimes W_1 + b_1\right) = \operatorname{ReLU}\left(X \otimes W_1 + b_1\right)$$
(17)

$$F_1 = \max\left(C_1\right) + b_2 \tag{18}$$

$$Z_2 = f\left(F_1 \otimes W_2 + b_3\right) = \operatorname{ReLU}\left(F_1 \otimes W_2 + b_3\right)$$
(19)

$$F_2 = \max\left(Z_2\right) + b_4 \tag{20}$$

$$Y_c = f\left(F_2 \times W_3 + b_5\right) = \text{sigmoid}\left(Z_2 \times W_3 + b_5\right)$$
(21)

where: Z_1 and Z_2 are the convolution outputs of the first layer and the second layer respectively; F_1 and F_2 are the output of pool layer 1 and layer 2 respectively; W_1 , W_2 and W_3 are weight matrices; b_1, b_2, b_3, b_4 and b_5 are deviation, \otimes and max() are convolution operation and maximum function, and the length of CNN layer output is t, $Y_c = [Y_{c1}, Y_{c2}, \dots, Y_{ct}]^T$. Then, take the vector y after CNN hidden layer activation processing as the input of the attention layer, and nonlinearly convert it into a characteristic state matrix representing the output vector h_t of the *t*-th sample through CNN layer, as shown in the formula: $e_t = u \tanh(w_1h_t + b)$.

u and w_t are the weight matrix, and B is the offset matrix. Secondly, each variable is given an initial weight, and then normalized through the softmax layer to obtain the attention weight. The calculation method is as follows:

$$\partial_t = \frac{\exp(e_t)}{\sum_{j=1}^t \exp(e_j)}$$
(22)

$$s_t = \sum_{t=1}^l \partial_t h_t \tag{23}$$

where ∂_t is the attention vector and s_t is the output of the attention layer at time *t*.

The output vector passing through CNN and attention layers is recorded as $X_c = [x_{c1}, x_{c2}, \dots, x_{cl}]^T$, which represents the input vector of BP neural network in L dimension, $Y = [y_1, y_2, \dots, y_m]^T$ represents the predicted value, and the forward propagation and backward propagation are carried out after initializing the weight values W_{pq} and W_{qk} , the hidden layer threshold a_q and the output layer threshold b_k . In this paper, sigmoid activation function is used at each hidden layer node of BP, and the input of neural node L is expressed as:

$$H_q = f\left(\sum_{l=1}^h W_{pq} x_l - a_q\right), l = 1, 2, \cdots, h; q = 1, 2, \cdots, s$$
(24)

where l is the number of hidden layer nodes and F is the excitation function of hidden layer. The output of the prediction model is obtained through the hidden layer:

$$O_k = \sum_{q=1}^{s} H_q W_{qk} - b_k, k = 1, 2, \cdots, r$$
(25)

when Y_k is the actual value, there is an error function:

$$P_k = Y_k - O_k \tag{26}$$

Finally, the error between the output target vector and the actual value is calculated. If the global error is smaller than the set error value, fix the current weight and threshold parameter values, end the learning, and output the prediction vector $Y = [y_1, y_2, \dots, y_f]^T$; If it is not within the error range, the error value is passed back to update the weight and threshold.

5. Simulation Analysis

5.1. Simulation Conditions

The experimental test platform parameters in this article are Windows 10 Pro-

fessional 64-bit, processor model (CPU) i7 9850H, main frequency 2.6 GHz, and memory (RAM) 2×8 GB.

The steps of the improved convolutional neural network model are as follows: Step 1. Divide the normalized construction project duration into training set and test set.

Step 2. Take the processed risk factor data as the input variable and the actual duration value as the output variable, and use the convolution neural network method for training. Set the training cycle (epoch) to 1, and the initial learning rate is 0.01, batch_Size refers to the number of samples selected for training at one time, which is initially set to 12 to capture the characteristics of the sequence related to the project duration.

Step 3. Introduce attention into CNN hidden layer for training to extract risk factors with strong correlation with construction period.

Step 4. Input the output result of the attention layer into the BP neural network to adjust the parameters of the whole neural network and output the error between the prediction vector and the actual value; If it is not within the error range, return to step 2 to calculate the error gradient again and update the weight; Until it is within the error range, the training ends and the parameter values are fixed. As the accuracy begins to decrease with the increase of epoch, the epoch with the highest accuracy is 9. Because the over fitting phenomenon occurs when the batch is too large, this paper sets the batch as 32, 64, 128 and 256. After preliminary training, when the batch is 128, the training error is the smallest and the update learning rate is 0.001; See **Figure 6** for details. At this time, the training times of BP is 10 and the learning rate is 0.002.

Step 5. Use the model after parameter optimization to model the test set data and complete the prediction of construction period.

In this paper, in the training process of combined prediction model, Adam (adaptive motion estimation) [28] algorithm is selected to minimize the objective function and optimize the parameters of neural network. Adam algorithm



Figure 6. Prediction accuracy of the model with different epochs.

can iteratively update the weight of neural network based on training data to optimize the output value of loss function. At the same time, the cross entropy loss function is used as the evaluation index, that is:

$$f_{\text{loss}} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{l=1}^{f} L_{i} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{l=1}^{f} -y_{i} \cdot \log(p_{i}) + (1 - y_{i}) \cdot \log(1 - p_{i}), i = 1, 2, \cdots, f \quad (27)$$

where, f_{loss} is the cross entropy loss function, y_i is the expected output of the sample, and p_i is the actual output of the sample. Cross entropy is actually the distance between the actual output probability and the expected output probability, that is, the smaller the value of cross entropy, the closer the two probability distributions and the smaller the loss.

Only using the cross entropy loss function can not fully evaluate the performance of the model, so the accuracy (a) that can show the stability of the model and the F1-score ($F_{1-score}$) that can evaluate the generalization ability of the model are selected.

$$A = \frac{\eta_{TP} + \eta_{TN}}{\eta_{TP} + \eta_{TN} + \eta_{FP} + \eta_{FN}}$$
(28)

where, η_{TP} represents the number of samples correctly predicted as having precipitation, η_{TN} represents the number of samples correctly predicted as having no precipitation, η_{FP} represents the number of samples incorrectly predicted as having precipitation, and η_{FN} represents the number of samples incorrectly predicted as having no precipitation.

$$F_{1-\text{score}} = \frac{2PR}{P+R} = \sum_{k=0}^{n} \frac{2T_{k}^{k}}{\sum_{i=1}^{k-1} P_{i}^{k} + \sum_{j=k}^{n} P_{k}^{j}} \times 100\%$$
(29)

And:

$$P = \sum_{k=0}^{n} \frac{T_k^k}{\sum_{i=1}^{k-1} P_i^k} \times 100\%$$
(30)

$$R = \sum_{k=0}^{n} \frac{T_k^k}{\sum_{j=k}^{n} P_k^j} \times 100\% \quad (k = 0, \dots, n)$$
(31)

 T_k^k represents the number of samples that are actually positive and predicted to be positive, P_i^k represents the number of samples that are predicted to be positive by the model, and P_k^j represents the number of samples that are predicted to be negative by the model.

5.2. Analysis of Experimental Results

According to the prediction results in Table 2, the accuracy of 1D-CNN-Attention-BP algorithm in this paper is more than 92%, the loss function is less than 2.6, and $F_{1-\text{score}}$ is about 0.7. The simulation results further verify the reliability and accuracy of the proposed algorithm.

Number	actual value	Estimate	Accuracy	loss function	F ₁ -score
1	0.0659	0.0610	93%	0.232	0.732
2	0.0842	0.0801	95%	0.201	0.761
3	0.0682	0.0740	92%	0.255	0.693
4	0.0734	0.0786	93%	0.247	0.702
5	0.0649	0.0596	92%	0.254	0.691
6	0.0685	0.0631	92%	0.254	0.712
7	0.0651	0.0692	94%	0.213	0.753
8	0.0523	0.0563	93%	0.241	0.742
9	0.0610	0.0579	95%	0.206	0.771
10	0.0787	0.0824	96%	0.191	0.787

Table 2. Relationship between evaluation set and corresponding quantity value.

 Table 3. Comparison of prediction results of various prediction models.

	Predicted project duration/error				
prediction model	973 days				
1D-CNN-Attention-BP	914/6.1%				
BP	1076/10.6%				
SVM	825/15.2%				
ELM	1153/18.5%				

5.3. Comparative Analysis of Prediction Model Performance

In order to verify the effect of the 1D-CNN-Attention-BP risk prediction model proposed in this paper on risk prediction, BP (back propagation), SVM (support vector machine) and elm (extreme learning machine) networks are selected to predict and compare the construction project duration risk and cost risk discussed in this paper. 10 groups of data with item No. 6 - 15 in Table 1 are selected for risk prediction, and compared with the real value. Table 3 shows the relevant information of a group company in Sichuan in the construction of a residential community in Chengdu and the prediction results of each prediction model.

It can be seen from **Table 3** that the 1D-CNN-Attention-BP risk prediction curve has the smallest error and the closest curve to the real value, indicating that the 1D-CNN-Attention-BP risk prediction model proposed in this paper has better prediction accuracy and effect than other risk prediction models.

6. Conclusion

Due to the uncertainty of early construction period, this paper proposes a combined model based on 1d-cnn-attention-bp to decompose the complex construction period prediction task. Firstly, the convolution neural network is used to effectively learn the risk factor information related to the construction period for feature extraction. Then the attention mechanism is used to distribute the weight of important information. Finally, BP is used to adjust the parameters of the whole network to achieve optimal prediction results. The results show that the accuracy of the CNN attention BP combined model proposed in this paper can reach about 90%, which is greatly improved compared with the traditional prediction model. The new combined model has better stability and accuracy in construction period prediction and has better applicability.

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Conflicts of Interest

The author declares no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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