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Journal Name:	British Journal of Mathematics & Computer Science
Manuscript Number:	2014_BJMCS_14563
Title of the Manuscript:	Forecasting the Number of Muslim Pilgrims Using NARX Neural Networks with a Comparison Study with other Modern Methods
Type of the Article	

General guideline for Peer Review process:

This journal's peer review policy states that **NO** manuscript should be rejected only on the basis of '**lack of Novelty**', provided the manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound.

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PART 1: Review Comments

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
Compulsory REVISION comments	1 - it was not stated whether state space representation or input/ output representation had been used in the predictor design, knowing that in both representations only one ahead future sample could be predicted, so Fig 3.4 is completely incorrect 2 - the details of the used learning algorithm were not been mentioned 3 - the matlab toolbox used in training the neural network has a well known weakness due dependency on gradient descent learning algorithm which could not suit complex nonlinear and non stationary time series 4 - the matlab toolbox in time series prediction has an obvious poor prediction accuracy compared to other learning algorithms based on artificial intelligence techniques which have been widely used successfully over 15 years ago	Thanks a lot for your appreciated comments, I added a subsection called Learning algorithm. You are totally right if this subsection is not mentioned figure 3.4 is incorrect. But I explained in the subsection that to do multi-step ahead prediction one need to use iteration. Concerning Matlab NNT toolbox, frankly I do not know other than it, I just about Neurosolution. So I'll be thankful if you advise me another tool.
Minor REVISION comments	1 - Fig 2.2 page 7 it is worth mentioning that it is only one time series and not two as had been wrongly mentioned 2 - The reasons for selecting the proper numbers of delayed inputs and hidden layer neurons had been neglected knowing that the stated numbers are not consistence with the obviously small data set 3 - many references have been stated throughout the research without being mentioned in the reference	Thanks again for your remarkable comment I deleted that figure. The reason for selecting numbers of delayed inputs and hidden layer neurons was performance reasons.



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	sector, while other references have been mentioned in the reference sector without being stated throughout the paper	I corrected the references.
<u>Optional/General</u> comments	Using matlab toolbox is so poor scientific methodology and the derivation of the learning algorithm itself should be clarified	Thanks again for the valuable comments.