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# Acoustic Emission Signal Denoising of Bridge Structures using SOM Neural Network Machine Learning

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## ABSTRACT

Identification Noise signal is one of the challenging problems in the health monitoring of bridge structure using acoustic emission monitoring and identification technology. Hardware filtering technology and spatial identification technologies are the most common method in identifying of the signals from the defect of the bridge, which have great limitations due to the presence of environmental noise. Therefore, this paper focus on the AE noise signal from a bridge in operation state and other specific loading state, which is diagnosed in the hardware filtering technology, spatial identification and SOM neural network, to obtain the new noise recognition methods. It is found that the first two methods can indeed filter the noise signal, but the filtering rate can only reach about 50 %, and can barely filter strong noise signal. The SOM neural network had strong self-recognition ability. The classification accuracy of simulated AE signals is 90 % and 100 % respectively. The trained network is used to test 183 sample signals, the defect signal detection accuracy reaches 76 % and 78.8 %, therefore, the noise signal filtering effect is significantly improved.

**Keywords:** Noise, SOM neural network, Wavelet packet energy analysis, Wavelet packet entropy analysis

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## 1. Introduction

Acoustic emission signal processing is a passive, non-destructive and real-time dynamic

35 detection technique (Dunegan 1969), and there is no strict requirement for the size and detection  
36 range of the detected object. Moreover, non-contact detection can be achieved, such as detection  
37 in high temperature and corrosion that cannot be approached by human beings.

38 This technology has been widely used in the damage detection of homogeneous materials,  
39 such as damages in mechanical bearing (Nguyen et al. 2018), metal tool (Rmili et al. 2016;  
40 Bhuiyan et al. 2014), metal container corrosion detection (Li et al. 2015), aeronautical metal  
41 materials (Holford et al. 2017), metal track detection (Zhang et al. 2017), glass (Njuhovic et al.  
42 2014), carbon fiber (McCrory et al. 2015) and rock (Liu et al. 2020). However, there is little  
43 application in reinforced concrete materials (Colombo et al. 2003; Lamonaca et al. 2012;  
44 Noorsuhada 2016). The main reason is the complexity and diversity of environmental noise signals  
45 causing ambiguities when identify the noise signals and structural damage signals, which makes  
46 it difficult to effectively identify and characterize damage signals.

47 In the current practical engineering, most noises signal are filtered by hardware filtering  
48 technology and spatial identification (Noorsuhada et al. 2011; Kalyanasundaram et al. 2007; Li  
49 and Ou 2007), which has a positive effect on the identification of damage signals, but it has great  
50 limitations and obvious defects for more complex environmental noise.

51 Therefore, scholars began to extract and identify the key characteristic parameters of damage  
52 signal and noise signal (Dijck et al. 2009; Kacimi and Laurens 2009; Surgeon and Wevers 1999;  
53 Fu et al. 2011; Bianchi et al. 2015; Velayudham et al. 2005; Deng et al. 2009). It has been found  
54 that the extraction of signal characteristic parameters can better identify and eliminate noise signals.

55 Artificial intelligence technology is one of the means of signal recognition. Its algorithms are  
56 mainly divided into traditional machine learning algorithms (Fu,2020,2018) and neural network

57 algorithms (Cai et al , 2020,2019), such as support vector machine Noble (2006), Gaussian process  
58 regression (HU et al. 2010, Wang et al.(2022), long short-term memory network Moon et  
59 al.(2022), and so on. In recent years, with the rapid development of neural network algorithms,  
60 researchers have studied the identification of damage signals and noise signals through artificial  
61 neural networks (Zafar et al 2017, Ekici et al ,2008) based on spectrum, energy and entropy of  
62 wavelet packets. With the development of artificial neural network in signal processing, the way  
63 of distinguishing based on the neural network of wavelet packet energy and entropy has been  
64 addressed by various researchers in the other areas of signal processing such as, track defects  
65 detection, power systems, mechanical engineering. In the field of mechanical engineering, (Luo et  
66 al.) extract the energy eigenvector of the signal failure die using the wavelet packet analysis  
67 technique, and the energy percentage is taken as the characteristic parameters. Then a BP neural  
68 network recognition model was established. The BP neural network recognition model can quickly  
69 identify new sample data with an accuracy rate of 95 %. This new technology enabled an more  
70 accurate identification method of acoustic emission signals and assessing the degree of structural  
71 or material damage

72 From previous studies, it can also be found that it is feasible for some researchers to try to  
73 identify signals and remove noise signals through parameter analysis and neural networks.  
74 However, most of the existing research focuses on homogeneous materials, and concrete materials  
75 are multiphase heterogeneous materials, which makes the damage signal become complex and  
76 diverse in the process of propagation, which will lead to differences in signal recognition between  
77 concrete materials and homogeneous materials. Therefore, this has not been investigated in the  
78 past for background noise reduction of concrete structures such as building structures and bridges.

79 Therefore, in this paper, the AE signals of the bridges in operation under certain specific  
80 loading state were tested in this experiment. Based on the signal of hardware filtering technology  
81 and spatial identification technology, as well as the wavelet packet energy analysis (Guo et al.  
82 2020, 2021) and wavelet packet entropy analysis (Safty and El-Zonkoly 2008; Yin et al. 2004) the  
83 characteristic frequency bands were extracted from simulated acoustic emission signal and noise  
84 signal. Finally, the signal was clustered by using Konhonen's self-organizing feature map and  
85 neural network (SOM neural network) (Kohonen 1998) to establish an acoustic emission detection  
86 and recognition algorithm, which provided new ideas and methods for solving the noise reduction  
87 problem of bridge acoustic emission damage signal. It is expected to solve the difficulty to  
88 effectively identify and characterize structural damage due to the confusion between noise signals  
89 and structural damage signals.

## 90 2. Test set up

### 91 2.1 Introduction of the prototype bridge

92 The prototype bridge is a single flyover, and the superstructure is a four-span simply  
93 supported hollow beam bridge with a span of 10 m + 20 m + 20 m + 10 m. The main beam with a  
94 span of 20 m is a prestressed reinforced concrete hollow beam, and the main beam with a span of  
95 10 m is a common reinforced concrete hollow beam. The net width of the bridge deck is 11m +  
96 2×0.5m ( anti-collision wall ), and the bridge design grade is grade I.

### 97 2.2 Detection scheme

98 The signal acquisition instrument is full digital Sensor Highway III ( SH-III ) acoustic  
99 emission device manufactured by American Physical Acoustics ( PAC ) as shown in Fig. 1.  
100 Acoustic emission parameter settings are shown in Table 1. Two 360kN truck are used for loading

101 test machinery.

### 102 *2.3 sensor installation*

103

104 In order to facilitate the monitoring of structural stress changes and considering the  
105 convenience of sensor installation and arrangement. The monitoring position chosen are the most  
106 unfavorable position of shear force when the bridge is under load (the 2-2 section of the middle  
107 span of the 4th span). Fig. 2 shows the overall elevation of the bridge. When the sensor is installed,  
108 the concrete surface is smoothed by grinding the bottom of the bridge, and the Vaseline glue is  
109 uniformly coated on the sensor to stabilized sensors at the bottom of the bridge. Before monitoring,  
110 the Pencil Lead Break Testing (PLBT)(Lopes et al. 2018) was used to identify whether the sensor  
111 coupling was good.

112

### 113 *2.4 Simulated Acoustic Emission Signal and Noise Source*

114

115 Simulated AE signal is produced using Pencil Lead Break Testing. To perform the tests, a  
116 mechanical pencil with 3 mm of length and 0.5 mm of diameter were mounted on the bridge which  
117 maintained 30° angle between the pencil and the bridge surface. The noise source mainly monitors  
118 the sound source of static load condition, driving condition, jumping condition and braking  
119 condition. The environment of various noise sources is as follows :

120

121 1 ) Signal under static load condition : AE signals generated by the tiny vertical vibration of  
122 the bridge under environmental vibration are collected under conditions such as no driving.

123

124 2 ) Signal in driving condition : the test vehicle passes the bridge at the speeds of 10 km / h,  
125 20 km / h and 30 km / h to collect the AE signals generated by the vertical vibration and friction  
126 of the fourth span bridge.

127 3 ) Signal of vehicles bumping condition : a single vehicle with 360 kN self- weight was  
128 used to simulate the bad state of vehicle bumping by let it pass a wedge with a height of 10 cm  
129 in the middle of the fourth span bridge, and the AE signals generated by vertical vibration and  
130 friction under the bad state of vehicle load were collected.

131 4 ) Signal of vehicles braking condition : an emergency braking test was conducted with a  
132 single 360 kN vehicle at the middle of the fourth span bridge to collect AE signals generated by  
133 vibration and friction of the bridge.

134

### 135 **3 Filtering and Spatial Identification of Noise Signal**

#### 136 *3.1 Data filtering*

137 Select the appropriate filter in acoustic emission system, that is, select the appropriate  
138 'window' to suppress noise. At present, the most commonly used engineering is to set the  
139 appropriate amplitude threshold, the noise below the threshold will be isolated by the detection  
140 system.

141 In the static load condition detection, a large number of high frequency continuous noise  
142 signals are collected when the amplitude threshold is set to 20 dB, As shown in Fig. 3. It can be  
143 clearly seen that the amplitude distribution of the interference noise signal is mainly concentrated  
144 below 43 dB, and only a few amplitude reaches more than 43 dB. In the subsequent data processing,  
145 the amplitude threshold is increased to 43dB, almost filtering out the interference noise signal

146 generated by the environment.

### 147 *3.2 Spatial Identification*

148 Spatial identification technology is to place two types of sensors (monitoring sensors and  
149 guard sensors) at different locations to eliminate noise signals. In the test, the main sensor ( No. 1-  
150 7 sensor ) is placed at the bottom of the test beam, and the guard sensor ( No. 8-9 sensor ) is placed  
151 at the side of the tested area to shield the interference noise signal produced when driving in both  
152 direction. The three-dimensional schematic layout of the sensor is shown in Fig. 4. The noise signal  
153 positioning maps before and after setting the guard sensor are shown in Fig. 5 (a) and Fig. 5 (b).

154 It can be seen from Fig. 5 (a) that the number of events is 32, indicating the randomness of  
155 the noise signal. The number of events in Fig. 5 (b) is 16. The latter eliminates 50% noise and  
156 improves the signal-to-noise ratio. It shows that the system can shield the noise signal after setting  
157 the guard sensor.

158 In summary, the use of data filtering and spatial identification technology can effectively  
159 eliminate the interference of noise. However, the characteristics parameter of some strong  
160 interference noise signals is intertwined with the characteristics parameter of simulated AE signals,  
161 which cannot accurately filter out the noise signals. Therefore, it is necessary to further use SOM  
162 neural network to cluster the signals and establish an effective pattern recognition method.

## 163 **4 Wavelet packet based feature extraction**

### 164 *4.1 Basic principles*

165 wavelet packet transform (WPT) has become one of the most widely used signal analysis  
166 methods because of its multi-resolution and ability to characterize the local characteristics of  
167 signals in both time domain and frequency domain. Wavelet entropy analysis is a new method to

168 measure the complex sequence of the signal, which is the combination of wavelet transform and  
169 information entropy. In signal processing, it not only has the advantages of changeable resolution  
170 and no signal -stationary requirements, but also can statistically analyze the complexity of entropy  
171 on signal, which can be used to detect the local characteristics of non-stationary signals.

172

173 Wavelet packet decomposition methods first decomposes the input signal into high frequency  
174 and low frequency dataset through orthogonal wavelet bases, and then decomposes the two  
175 datasets of the signal to obtain the next high and low frequency datasets. In the process interaction,  
176 the scale function  $\varphi(t)$  and the wavelet function  $\psi(t)$  satisfy the below equation:

$$177 \quad \varphi(t) = \sqrt{2} \sum_k h(k) \varphi(2t - k) \quad (1)$$

$$178 \quad \psi(t) = \sqrt{2} \sum_k g(k) \varphi(2t - k) \quad (2)$$

179 Where:  $k$  is the translation amplitude.  $h(k)$  is the low-pass filter corresponding to the scale  
180 function  $\varphi(t)$ .  $g(k)$  is a high-pass filter corresponding to the wavelet function  $\psi(t)$ .

181 After the original signal is decomposed by  $i$ -layer wavelet packet, the characteristic signal  
182 composed of  $2^i$  frequency bands from low frequency to high frequency in the  $i$ -layer is obtained.  
183 The decomposed wavelet packet coefficients are reconstructed to extract the signals in each  
184 frequency band.

185 The energy  $E$  corresponding to the  $j$ -band signal in layer  $i$  is :

$$186 \quad E_{i,j} = \int |S_{i,j}(t)|^2 dt = \sum_{k=1}^n |x_{i,j}(k)|^2 \quad (3)$$

187 Where ,  $x_{i,j}(k)$  denotes the amplitude of the discrete points of the reconstructed signal  $S_{i,j}$ ,  
188 and  $n$  is the number of discrete points of the reconstructed signal.

189

190 Therefore, the total energy of the whole signal is :

$$191 \quad E = \sum_{j=0}^{2^l-1} E_{i,j} \quad (4)$$

192 Wavelet packet energy coefficient:

$$193 \quad P_{i,j} = \frac{E_{i,j}}{E} \quad (5)$$

194

195 According to the basic theory of information entropy, the wavelet packet characteristic  
196 entropy is defined as :

$$197 \quad H_{i,j} = - \sum_{j=0}^n P_{i,j} \log P_{i,j} \quad (6)$$

#### 198 *4.2 Wavelet packet decomposition*

199 The wavelet energy and wavelet entropy are used to study the characteristics of AE signals.  
200 The sampling frequency of the AE signal is 1MHz. According to the sampling theorem, the  
201 Nyquist frequency is 512kHz, the wavelet basis function and the number of wavelet packet  
202 decomposition layers can determine the optimal solution according to the norm entropy ( Lp ).  
203 Thus, the db6 wavelet basis function is selected to decompose the AE signal into five levels of  
204 wavelet packet. The signal is decomposed into 25 sub-bands, and each band width is 16kHz.  
205 Therefore, this decomposition basically meets the requirements of acoustic emission time domain  
206 waveform signal frequency band division.

207 According to the relevant literature(Wen 2015), the frequency of AE signal and noise signal  
208 in concrete is mostly less than 150 KHz, so this paper extracts the first 16 frequency components  
209 of the fifth layer from low frequency to high frequency, which can basically reflect the  
210 characteristics of each signal. The frequency ranges are shown in Table 2.

### 211 *4.3 Energy Analysis of Wavelet packet Coefficient*

212 The results of calculating the characteristic energy of each decomposed signal in each  
213 frequency band are shown in Fig. 6, and the energy proportion of each signal is shown in Table 3.  
214 It can be seen that the frequency components of simulated AE signals with different propagation  
215 distances are quite different. The frequency band range of the sound source is wide, and both high  
216 and low frequency information exist. The energy is mainly concentrated in the 6 ~ 8 high frequency  
217 band, accounting for 72.2 % of the total energy. The high frequency energy components such as  
218 14 ~ 16 account for 10.4 % of the total energy, and the 2 ~ 4 band accounts for 14.2 % of the total  
219 energy. With the propagation of signals, the high-frequency components of 6th, 7th and 8th  
220 continuously decay. When propagating to 1.2 m, the energy is mainly concentrated in the first,  
221 second and fourth bands, accounting for 87.4 % of the total energy. The energy of noise in other  
222 working conditions is mainly concentrated in the 1st, 2nd and 4th low which is similar to the  
223 energy of simulated AE signal at 1.2 m and can be greater than 87.4 %. So the noise signals can  
224 be distinguished by the main frequency band distribution.

### 225 *4.4 Entropy Analysis of Wavelet packet Coefficient*

226 The wavelet entropy is calculated by using the energy of decomposed signals in each  
227 frequency band, and the results are shown in Fig. 7. The proportion of entropy of each signal is  
228 shown in Table 4. It can be seen that, the above series of signal wavelet entropy coefficient wavelet  
229 energy coefficient follows the same pattern. The entropy of the sound source is mainly  
230 concentrated in the 6th-8th high frequency band, accounting for 79.1 %. As the propagation  
231 distance of the simulated AE signal increases, when it reaches 1.2 m, the entropy gradually  
232 concentrates in the first, second and fourth low frequency bands. The entropy of the noise signal

233 in the other conditions is similar to that of the simulated AE signal at 1.2 m, which is also  
234 concentrated in the first, second and fourth low frequency bands, accounting for more than 84.4 %.

## 235 **5 SOM Neural Network Machine learning**

### 236 *5.1 SOM Clustering Principle*

237 SOM is a competitive artificial neural network with self-organization, self-learning and  
238 lateral association ability proposed by Professor Kohonen of Helsinki University of Technology  
239 in 1981. Firstly, it is a single-layer neural network composed of input layer and output layer and  
240 realizes the orderly mapping of high-dimensional data distribution to regular shape low-  
241 dimensional grids (generally two-dimensional). Secondly, the output layer is a one-dimensional or  
242 two-dimensional regular lattice grid composed of logical units, and there is a short-range lateral  
243 feedback between each unit in a certain neighborhood, and the feedback intensity varies with the  
244 distance. Therefore, the adjacent neurons stimulate to each other, while the slightly distant neurons  
245 inhibit from each other, and the farther neurons have a weaker incentive effect. Finally, through  
246 competitive learning, the input vector continuously adjusts the connection weight to make it closer  
247 to a certain type of input vector. The final similar input vectors can be clustered at a node and  
248 separated from the dissimilar input vectors. The signal recognition process using SOM network  
249 structure is shown in Fig. 8.

### 250 *5.2 SOM neural network training*

#### 251 **5.2.1 Standard Sample Design**

252 The acoustic emission signals collected in test of flyover are clustered. 20 groups of simulated  
253 AE signals and 100 groups of noise signals are selected as standard sample set input, in total of  
254 120 groups of sample feature vectors. Training input mode is:

255 
$$P_k = (P_1^k, P_2^k, \dots, P_{16}^k) \quad k = 1, 2, \dots, 120$$

256 **5.2.2 Network structure design**

257 1) Number of neurons in input layer

258 The simulated AE signal and noise signal are concentrated below 300 kHz. The wavelet  
259 characteristic parameters of 0 ~ 16 band ( 0 ~ 256 kHz ) can fully reflect the characteristics of each  
260 band of the signal, and the data is rich and reliable. So the number of input layer neurons in SOM  
261 neural network (N) is 16.

262 2 ) Number of neurons in competition layer

263 The selection of the number of neurons in the competition layer will affect the performance  
264 of the network. If the number is too large, it will increase the amount of calculation and reduce the  
265 learning speed of the network. If the number is too small, it is possible to misclassify signals of  
266 different modes. The sample size here is small, and according to the parameter recommendation  
267 of literature (Silva et al 2019, Khanzadeh,2018,) supplemented by the clustering performance  
268 observation of network structure adjustment. Finally, the structure with a competitive layer of 6×6  
269 is selected, which can achieve better clustering results. So, the number of competition layer  
270 neurons in SOM neural network (M) is 36.

271 3 ) Determine function, select learning efficiency, set training steps

272 Create a SOM neural network using the NEWSOM function The code is : net = NEWSOM  
273 ( minmax (P),[6 6]). Among them, minmax ( P ) specifies the maximum and minimum values of  
274 input vector elements, and 6×6 denotes the structure of 6×6 competition layer of the network. The  
275 network is trained and simulated by function train and simulation function sim. The size of learning  
276 rate <sup>[35]</sup> and the number of training steps will affect the clustering performance of the network

277 (training time and convergence rate ). When the learning rate ( $\eta(t)$ ) is 1.0 and the number of steps(T)  
278 is 500, it is clear to observe the clustering results.

279 In this paper, **hyperparameters are empirically determined, however, according to** In  
280 Liang et al 2009, Zhang et al 2012, The Bayesian optimization can be used to determine the critical  
281 hyperparameters.

### 282 5.2.3 SOM neural network training algorithm steps

283 (1) Determine SOM network topology, the number of neurons in input layer and competition  
284 layer.

285 (2) Set  $t = 0$ , random initialization weight vector  $w_j(0)$  ( $j = 1, 2, \dots, M$ ),  $M$  is the number of  
286 neurons in the competition layer.

287 (3) The network is randomly provided with an input vector  $P_k(t) = (P_1^k, P_2^k, \dots, P_N^k)^T$ , ( $k=1, 2, \dots,$   
288  $L$ ), where  $L$  is the total number of data set vectors to be input.

289 (4) Calculate the distance between the current input vector and the neurons in the competition  
290 layer, and select the neurons with the smallest distance as the winning neurons  $q(t)$

$$291 \quad q(t) = \arg \min_j \|P_k(t) - w_j(t)\| \quad (7)$$

292 (5) Adjust the weighted vector of the winning neuron and its neighborhood to

$$293 \quad w_j(t+1) = \begin{cases} w_j(t) + \eta(t)(P_k(t) - w_j(t)) & j \in N_q(t) \\ w_j(t) & j \notin N_q(t) \end{cases} \quad (8)$$

294  $\eta(t)$  is the learning rate parameter, and  $0 < \eta(t) < 1$ ,  $N_q(t)$  is the adjacent region of the  
295 winning neuron  $q$ , both of which are decreasing functions with the increase of time  $t$ .

296 (6) Determine whether all the input vectors are provided to the network, if it is transferred to  
297 the next step, otherwise return step (3).

298 (7) Update learning rate and neighborhood radius.

299 (8) If the total number of iterations reaches T, the algorithm ends, otherwise step (3) is  
300 returned.

### 301 *5.3 SOM neural network testing*

302 The trained network clusters the input test sample data, which is called the network recall  
303 process. If the training input mode  $P_k$  wins at node  $j$ , then when the test input model  $X_k$  is similar  
304 to the training input mode  $P_k$ , node  $j$  will be more likely to win, that is, the category attribute of  
305 the test input mode  $X_k$  is identified.

#### 306 **5.3.1 Test sample design**

307 33 groups of simulated AE signals and 150 groups of noise signals in AE test are selected as  
308 test samples set, in total are 183 groups of test sample feature vectors. Each sample includes 16  
309 evaluation indexes, and the network is tested by test samples. Test input mode is :

$$310 X_k = (X_1^k, X_2^k, \dots, X_{16}^k) \quad k = 1, 2, \dots, 183$$

#### 311 **5.3.2 Mapping of SOM neural network clustering results**

312 For each input signal, the output plane array of SOM neural network has a specific neuron  
313 sensitive to it. This input-output mapping relationship is very clear in the output characteristic  
314 plane array. Fig. 9 is the signal clustering result map. Character I maps simulate AE signals neurons,  
315 character C maps neurons that interfere with noise signals, and character subscripts are cluster  
316 serial numbers.

## 317 **6 Clustering results analysis of AE signal pattern recognition based on SOM neural** 318 **network**

### 319 *6.1 Wavelet Energy*

320 The wavelet energy coefficient of the standard sample is extracted as the input feature vector,

321 and the SOM neural network will conduct automatic classification training. Finally, the test dataset  
322 is used for the training. The clustering formula is shown in Equation 9. The clustering results are  
323 shown in Fig. 9 and the clustering summary table is shown in Table 5.

324

$$N_C \% = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^k N_{Ci}}{N} \quad (9)$$

325

326 Where ,  $N_C$  % is the percentage of the noise signals,  $\sum_{i=1}^k N_{Ci}$  is the sum of the number of noise signals in  
327 each character C (noise signal neuron),  $N$  is the total number of input noise signals.

328

329 It can be seen from Table 5 and Fig. 10 that SOM neural network has strong self-recognition  
330 ability, the classification accuracy of simulated AE signals in the standard sample set reaches 90 %.  
331 When predicting the signal dataset in the test, it also shows a similar classification trend, and the  
332 accuracy reaches 76 %. However, the simulated AE signals and noise signals are mixed to some  
333 extent, reflecting the diversity and complexity of the signal mode. The main reasons for the errors  
334 are as follows : Firstly, the simulated AE signal is a point source, the signals received by different  
335 distance sensors are transmitted and attenuated, and have different modes. Secondly, the noise  
336 signals generated by different sound sources such as vibration and friction also have different  
337 modes. For the noise signals whose feature energy is obviously concentrated in the second and  
338 fourth bands and is not easy to cross with other classes, the classification accuracy of the standard  
339 sample set reaches 95 %, while the classification accuracy of the test sample set reaches 94 %. In  
340 summary, SOM neural network shows good classification ability and can clearly identify AE  
341 signals from a large number of interference noise signals.

342 6.2 entropy

343 The wavelet energy entropy of each frequency band of the signal in the standard sample  
344 dataset and the test sample dataset is used as the feature vector for similar clustering. The clustering  
345 formula is shown in Equation 10. The clustering results are summarized in Table 6. Fig. 11 is the  
346 output of the signal clustering result.

347

$$N_I \% = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^k N_{ii}}{N} \quad (10)$$

348

349 ,Where  $N_I \%$  is the percentage of analog AE signals,  $\sum_{i=1}^k N_{ii}$  is the sum of the number of simulated AE  
350 signals in each character I (simulated AE signal neurons),  $N$  is the total number of input simulated AE signals.  
351

352 Table 6 and Fig. 11 show that: first of all, noise signal recognition can reach more than 99 %,  
353 simulated AE signal classification accuracy in standard sample dataset of is 100 %. The trained  
354 network is used for the test the sample signals, and the correct rate reaches 78. 8 %. The reason is  
355 similar to wavelet energy coefficient analysis. Secondly, some simulated AE signals are mistakenly  
356 identified as noise signals by SOM neural network, indicating that the characteristics between  
357 different types are sometimes very similar and there is a certain degree of confusion. However, the  
358 network has good classification ability and strong generalization ability, which can clearly identify  
359 AE signals from a large number of noise signals. Finally, compared with the wavelet energy  
360 coefficient analysis method, the wavelet entropy coefficient analysis method has stronger  
361 clustering ability for signals. The reason is that wavelet entropy is the representation of the  
362 complexity of wavelet energy, which can better represent the characteristics of the signal.

## 363 **7 Conclusion**

364 The effectiveness of data filtering and spatial discrimination technology on noise signal  
365 recognition is analyzed in this paper based using Pencil Lead Break Testing on AE signal and noise  
366 AE signal of the bridge in operation state and other specific loading state, and the study further  
367 used wavelet packet energy and wavelet packet entropy analysis to extract the characteristic  
368 frequency bands of AE signal and interference noise signal, to train and identify defect signals  
369 using SOM neural networks. A more effective method to denoising noise signal was developed,  
370 the main conclusions are as follows:

371 1. When threshold is greater than 43dB, it can eliminate most of the environment and other  
372 interference noise signal. However, the noise signal and damage signal are often intertwined in the  
373 field detection. When the threshold is low, it often contains many unnecessary noise signals. When  
374 the threshold is high, all the noise is filtered, but the system will filter out the AE signal with low  
375 amplitude. Therefore, in practical engineering detection, Data filtering needs to rely on the  
376 experienced engineers, and is not that reliable

377 2. Under the same conditions, by using the guard sensor, 50 % of the noise signal is eliminated  
378 and the signal to noise ratio is improved. It shows that the noise signal can be well shielded by  
379 setting the guard sensor. Although spatial filtering can eliminate the noise signal from the  
380 distance, it cannot process the noise signal in the detection area. Therefore, it is necessary to  
381 conduct in-depth research on the noise characteristics in the field detection to find a more suitable  
382 noise processing method.

383 3. Energy and entropy analysis have similar laws. The simulated AE signal source is mainly  
384 concentrated in the 6-8 frequency band. With the propagation of the signal, the high frequency

385 components of signals decay continuously, When the signal was spread to 1.2m, the frequency  
386 gradually concentrated in the 1, 2, 4 bands. The energy and entropy of the noise signal are mainly  
387 concentrated in the 1, 2, 4 frequency bands, which are similar to those of the simulated damage AE  
388 signal at 1.2 m, but the frequency characteristics between AE simulation signal and noise signal  
389 are obviously different, so the feature vector can be formed by extracting the characteristic  
390 frequency band of signal to establish the identification mode of AE signal.

391 4. The classification accuracy of simulated AE signals obtained by wavelet packet energy and  
392 entropy analysis method reaches 90 % and 100 %, respectively. The trained NN is used for the test  
393 set signal, and the accuracy reaches 76 % and 78.8 %. The error is caused by the characteristic  
394 cross between the effective AE signal and the interference noise signal, and the input data are  
395 similar. However, the network has good classification ability and can clearly identify AE signals  
396 from a large number of interference noise signals. It shows that compared with the defects of  
397 commonly used methods (hardware filtering and spatial identification technology) in practical  
398 engineering, this method can more accurately identify and separate noise signals, reduce the  
399 distortion of damage acoustic emission signal caused by noise environment, and make more  
400 accurate and effective acoustic emission identification and characterization of structural damage.

401 The relevant machine learning on denoise is rare. Most research is to use ML to predict the  
402 acoustic emission signals, such as use Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) (Zhang et al ,2018)  
403 network and support vector machine learning models (Yang et al, 2012). The reason we choose  
404 SOM neural network is because that it can use Wavelet packet energy analysis, Wavelet packet  
405 entropy to analyze the defect signal. Further research on other learning model will be continued in  
406 our future project.

407

## 408 **Data Availability Statement**

409       Some or all data, models, or code that support the findings of this study are available from  
410 the corresponding author upon reasonable request.

411

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## 553 **Table**

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**Table 1.** Acoustic emission detection parameter settings

parameter	settings
Sensor model	R6
Pre-amplifier	40dB
Acquisition threshold	43dB

Sample rate	1M
Pre-trigger	100 $\mu$ s
Length	1k
PDT	300 $\mu$ s
HDT	600 $\mu$ s
HLT	1000 $\mu$ s
Positioning wave speed	2700m·s <sup>-1</sup>
Number of sensors	9
Layout	flat

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557 **Table 2.** frequency ranges

frequency band	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Frequency interval(kHz)	0~16	16~32	32~48	48~64	64~80	80~96	96~112	112~128
frequency band	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Frequency interval(kHz)	128~144	144~160	160~176	176~192	192~208	208~224	224~240	240~256

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560 **Table 3.** statistics tables of Energy in each frequency band

Frequency band	Static			10km/h	20km/h	30km/h	Bounce state	Braking state	Operational status	
	0m	0.6m	1.2m							
1、 2、 4	—	—	87.44%	91.41%	91.93%	93.37%	88.11%	87.64%	92.10%	92.90%



Note: “—” means no statistics

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565 **Table 5.** Cluster results

Class	Sample set			Test set		
	Simulated AE signal	Noise signal	Cluster accuracy (%)	Simulated d AE signal	Noise signal	Cluster accuracy (%)
Simulated d AE signal	18	2	90	25	8	76
Noise signal	5	95	95	9	141	94

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568 **Table 6.** Cluster results

Class	Sample set			Test set		
	Simulated AE signal	Noise signal	Cluster accuracy (%)	Simulated AE signal	Noise signal	Cluster accuracy (%)
Simulated d AE signal	20	0	100	26	7	78.8

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Noise						
signal	1	99	99	1	149	99.4

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