Chapter 12

Batchman

Since training a neural network may require several hours of CPU time, it is advisable to perform this task as a batch job during low usage times. SNNS offers the program `batchman` for this purpose. It is basically an additional interface to the kernel that allows easy background execution.

12.1 Introduction

This newly implemented batch language is to replace the old `snnsbat`. Programs which are written in the old `snnsbat` language will not be able to run on the newly designed interpreter. `Snnsbat` is not supported any longer, but we keep the program for those users who are comfortable with it and do not want to switch to `batchman`. The new language supports all functions which are necessary to train and test neural nets. All non-graphical features which are offered by the graphical user interface (`XGUI`) may be accessed with the help of this language as well.

The new batch language was modeled after languages like `AWK`, `Pascal`, `Modula2` and `C`. It is an advantage to have some knowledge in one of the described languages. The language will enable the user to get the desired result without investing a lot of time in learning its syntactical structure. For most operators multiple spellings are possible and variables don't have to be declared before they are used. If an error occurs in the written batch program the user will be informed by a displayed meaningful error message (warning) and the corresponding line number.

12.1.1 Styling Conventions

Here is a description of the style conventions used:

Input which occurs on a Unix command line or which is part of the batch program will be displayed in `typewriter` writing. Such an input should be adopted without any modification.

For example:

```
/Unix> batchman -h
```

This is an instruction which should be entered in the Unix command line, where `/Unix>` is the shell prompt which expects input from the user. Its appearance may change depending on the Unix-system installed. The instruction `batchman -h` starts the interpreter with the `-h` help option which tells the interpreter to display a help message. Every form of input has to be confirmed with Enter (Return). Batch programs or part of batch programs will also be displayed in typewriter writing. Batch programs can be written with a conventional text editor and saved in a file. Commands can also be entered in the interactive mode of the interpreter. If a file is used as a source to enter instructions, the name of the file has to be provided when starting the interpreter. Typewriter writing is also used for wild cards. Those wild cards have to be replaced by real names.

12.1.2 Calling the Batch Interpreter

The Interpreter can be used in an interactive mode or with the help of a file, containing the batch program. When using a file no input from the keyboard is necessary. The interactive mode can be activated by just calling the interpreter:

```
/Unix> batchman
```

which produces:

```
SNNS Batch Interpreter V1.0.  Type batchman -h for help.
No input file specified, reading input from stdin.
batchman>
```

Now the interpreter is ready to accept the user's instructions, which can be entered with the help of the keyboard. Once the input is completed the interpreter can be put to work with `Ctrl-D`. The interpreter can be aborted with `Ctrl-C`. The instructions entered are only invoked after `Ctrl-D` is pressed.

If the user decides to use a file for input the command line option `-f` has to be given together with the name of the interpreter:

```
/Unix> batchman -f myprog.bat
```

Once this is completed, the interpreter starts the program contained in the file myprog.bat and executes its commands.

The standard output is usually the screen but with the command line option `-l` the output can be redirected in a protocol file. The name of the file has to follow the command line option:

```
/Unix> batchman -l logfile
```

Usually the output is redirected in combination with the reading of the program out of a file:

```
/Unix> batchman -f myprog.bat -l logfile
```

The order of the command line options is arbitrary. Note, that all output lines of batchman that are generated automatically (e.g. Information about with pattern file is loaded or saved) are preceded by the hash sign "#". This way any produced log file can be processed directly by all programms that treat "#" as a comment delimiter, e.g. gnuplot.

The other command line options are:

`-p`: Programs should only be parsed but not executed. This option tells the interpreter to check the correctness of the program without executing the instructions contained in the program. Run time errors can not be detected. Such a run time error could be an invalid SNNS function call.

`-q`: No messages should be displayed except those caused by the `print()`-function.

`-s`: No warnings should be displayed.

`-h`: A help message should be displayed which describes the available command line options.

All following input will be printed without the shell-text.

12.2 Description of the Batch Language

This section explains the general structure of a batch program, the usage of variables of the different data types and usage of the print function. After this an introduction to control structures follows.

12.2.1 Structure of a Batch Program

The structure of a batch program is not predetermined. There is no declaration section for variables in the program. All instructions are specified in the program according to their execution order. Multiple blanks are allowed between instructions. Even no blanks between instructions are possible if the semantics are clear. Single instructions in a line don't have to be completed by a semicolon. In such a case the end of line character (Ctrl-D) is separating two different instructions in two lines. Also key words which have the responsibility of determining the end of a block (`endwhile, endif, endfor, until` and `else`) don't have to be completed by a semicolon. Multiple semicolons are possible between two instructions. However if there are more than two instructions in a line the semicolon is necessary. Comments in the source code of the programs start with a '#' character. Then the rest of the line will be regarded as a comment.
A comment could have the following appearance:

```
#This is a comment
a:=4 #This is another comment
```

The second line begins with an instruction and ends with a comment.

12.2.2 Data Types and Variables

The batch language is able to recognize the following data types:

- Integer numbers
- Floating point numbers
- Boolean type `'TRUE'` and `'FALSE'`
- Strings

The creation of float numbers is similar to a creation of such numbers in the language C because they both use the exponential representation. Float numbers would be: 0.42, 3e3, or 0.7E-12. The value of 0.7E-12 would be $0.7 * 10^{-12}$ and the value of 3e3 would be $3 * 10^3$

Boolean values are entered as shown above and without any kind of modification.

Strings have to be enclosed by " and can not contain the tabulator character. Strings also have to contain at least one character and can not be longer than one line. Such strings could be:

```
"This is a string"
"This is also a string (0.7E-12)"
```

The following example would yield an error

```
"But this
is not a string"
```

12.2.3 Variables

In order to save values it is possible to use variables in the batch language. A variable is introduced to the interpreter automatically once it is used for the first time. No previous declaration is required. Names of variables must start with a letter or an underscore. Digits, letters or more underscores could follow. Names could be:

```
a, num1, _test, first_net, k17_u, Test_buffer_1
```

The interpreter distinguishes between lower and upper case letters. The type of a variable is not known until a value is assigned to it. The variable has the same type as the assigned value:

```
a = 5
filename := "first.net"
init_flag := TRUE
```

```
NET_ERR = 4.7e+11
a := init_flag
```

The assignment of variables is done by using '=' or ':='. The comparison operator is '=='. The variable 'a' belongs to the type integer and changes its type in line 5 to boolean. `Filename` belongs to the type string and `NET_ERR` to the type float.

12.2.4 System Variables

System variables are predefined variables that are set by the program and that are read-only for the user. The following system variables have the same semantics as the displayed variables in the graphical user interface:

`SSE`	Sum of the squared differences of each output neuron
`MSE`	SSE divided by the number of training patterns
`SSEPU`	SSE divided by the number of output neurons of the net
`CYCLES`	Number of the cycles trained so far.

Additionally there are three more system variables:

`PAT`	The number of patterns in the current pattern set
`EXIT_CODE`	The exit status of an execute call
`SIGNAL`	The integer value of a caught signal during execution

12.2.5 Operators and Expressions

An expression is usually a formula which calculates a value. An expression could be a complex mathematical formula or just a value. Expressions include:

```
3
TRUE
3 + 3
17 - 4 * a + (2 * ln 5) / 0.3
```

The value or the result of an expression can be assigned to a variable. The available operators and their precedence are given in table 12.1. Higher position in the table means higher priority of the operator.

If more than one expression occurs in a line the execution of expressions starts at the left and proceeds towards the right. The order can be changed with parentheses '(' ')'.

The type of an expression is determined at run time and is set with the operator except in the case of integer number division, the modulo operation, the boolean operation and the compare operations.

If two integer values are multilpied, the result will be an integer value. But if an integer and a float value are multilpied, the result will be a float value. If one operator is of type string, then all other operators are transformed into strings. Partial expressions are calculated before the transformation takes place:

Operator	Function
$+, -$	Sign for numbers
not, !	Logic negation for boolean numbers
sqrt	Square root
ln	Natural logarithm to the basis e
log	Logarithms to the basis 10
$**$, ˆ	Exponential function
$*$	Multiplication
/	Division
div	Even number division with an even result
mod, %	Result after an even number division
$+$	Addition
$-$	Subtraction
$<$	smaller than
$<=, =<$	smaller equal
$>$	greater than
$>=, =>$	greater equal
$==$	equal
$<>, !=$	not equal
and, &&	logic AND for boolean values
or, ||	logic OR for boolean values

Table 12.1: The precedence of the batchman operators

```
a := 5 + " plus " + 4 + " is " + ( 8 + 1 )
```

is transformed to the string:

```
5 plus 4 is 9
```

Please note that if the user decides to use operators such as sqrt, ln, log or the exponential operator, no parentheses are required because the operators are not function calls:

Square root:	`sqrt 9`
natural logarithm:	`ln 2`
logarithm to the base of 10:	`log alpha`
Exponential function:	`10 ** 4` oder `a^b`

However parentheses are possible and some times even necessary:

```
sqrt (9 + 16)
ln (2^16)
log (alpha * sqrt tau)
```

12.2.6 The Print Function

So far the user is able to generate expressions and to assign a value to a variable. In order to display values, the print function is used. The print function is a real function call of the batch interpreter and displays all values on the standard output if no input file is declared. Otherwise all output is redirected into a file. The print function can be called with multiple arguments. If the function is called without any arguments a new line will be produced. All print commands are automatically terminated with a newline.

Instruction:	generates the output:
`print(5)`	`5`
`print(3*4)`	`12`
`print("This is a text")`	`This is a text`
`print("This is a text and values:",1,2,3)`	`This is a text and values:123`
`print("Or: ",1," ",2," ",3)`	`Or: 1 2 3`
`print(ln (2^16))`	`11.0904`
`print(FALSE)`	`FALSE`
`print(25e-2)`	`0.25`

If a variable, which has not been assigned a value yet, is tried to be printed, the print function will display $< >$ `undef` instead of a value.

12.2.7 Control Structures

Control structures are a characteristic of a programming language. Such structures make it possible to repeat one or multiple instructions depending on a condition or a value. `BLOCK` has to be replaced by a sequence of instructions. `ASSIGNMENT` has to be replaced by an assignment operation and `EXPRESSION` by an expression. It is also possible to branch within a program with the help of such control structures:

```
if EXPRESSION then BLOCK endif
if EXPRESSION then BLOCK else BLOCK endif
for ASSIGNMENT to EXPRESSION do BLOCK endfor
while EXPRESSION do BLOCK endwhile
repeat BLOCK until EXPRESSION
```

The If Instruction

There are two variants to the `if` instruction. The `first` variant is:

```
If EXPRESSION then BLOCK endif
```

The block is executed only if the expression has the boolean value TRUE.

`EXPRESSIONS` can be replaced by any complex expression if it delivers a boolean value:

```
if sqrt (9)-5<0 and TRUE<>FALSE then print("hello world") endif
```

produces:

```
hello world
```

Please note that the logic operator 'and' is the operator last executed due to its lowest priority. If there is confusion about the execution order, it is recommended to use brackets to make sure the desired result will be achieved.

The `second` variant of the `if` operator uses a second block which will be executed as an alternative to the first one. The structure of the second `if` variant looks like this:

```
if EXPRESSION then BLOCK1 else BLOCK2 endif
```

The first BLOCK, here described as BLOCK1, will be executed only if the resulting value of EXPRESSION is 'TRUE'. If EXPRESSION delivers 'FALSE', BLOCK2 will be executed.

The For Instruction

The `for` instruction is a control structure to repeat a block, a fixed number of times. The most general appearance is:

for ASSIGNMENT to EXPRESSION do BLOCK endfor

A counter for the `for` repetitions of the block is needed. This is a variable which counts the loop iterations. The value is increased by one if an loop iteration is completed. If the value of the counter is larger then the value of the `EXPRESSIONS`, the `BLOCK` won't be executed anymore. If the value is already larger at the beginning, the instructions contained in the block are not executed at all. The counter is a simple variable. A `for` instruction could look like this:

for i := 2 to 5 do print (" here we are: ",i) endfor

produces:

```
here we are:  2
here we are:  3
here we are:  4
here we are:  5
```

It is possible to control the repetitions of a block by assigning a value to the counter or by using the `continue`, `break` instructions. The instruction `break` leaves the cycle immediately while `continue` increases the counter by one and performs another repetition of the block. One example could be:

```
for counter := 1 to 200 do
a := a * counter
c := c + 1
if test == TRUE then break endif
endfor
```

In this example the boolean variable test is used to abort the repetitions of the block early.

While and Repeat Instructions

The `while` and the `repeat` instructions differ from a `for` instruction because they don't have a count variable and execute their commands only while a condition is met (while) or until a condition is met (repeat). The condition is an expression which delivers a boolean value. The formats of the `while` and the `repeat` instructions are:

```
while EXPRESSION do BLOCK endwhile
repeat BLOCK until EXPRESSION
```

The user has to make sure that the cycle terminates at one point. This can be achieved by making sure that the EXPRESSION delivers once the value 'TRUE' in case of the `repeat` instruction or 'FALSE' in case of the `while` instruction. The `for` example from the previous section is equivalent to:

```
i := 2
while i <= 5 do
print ( "here we are:  ",i)
i := i + 1 endwhile
```

or to:

```
i := 2
repeat
print ( "here we are:  ",i)
i := i + 1
until i > 5
```

The main difference between `repeat` and `while` is that repeat guarantees that the BLOCK is executed at least once. The `break` and the `continue` instructions may also be used within the BLOCK.

12.3 SNNS Function Calls

The SNNS function calls control the SNNS kernel. They are available as function calls in `batchman`. The function calls can be divided into four groups:

- Functions which are setting SNNS parameters :
  - setInitFunc()
  - setLearnFunc()
  - setUpdateFunc()
  - setPruningFunc()
  - setRemapFunc()
  - setActFunc()
  - setCascadeParams()

- – setSubPattern()
  – setShuffle()
  – setSubShuffle()
  – setClassDistrib()

- Functions which refer to neural nets :
  – loadNet()
  – saveNet()
  – saveResult()
  – initNet()
  – trainNet()
  – resetNet()
  – jogWeights()
  – jogCorrWeights()
  – testNet()

- Functions which refer to patterns :
  – loadPattern()
  – setPattern()
  – delPattern()

- Special functions :
  – pruneNet()
  – pruneTrainNet()
  – pruneNetNow()
  – delCandUnits()
  – execute()
  – print()
  – exit()
  – setSeed()

The format of such calls is:

function_name (parameter1, parameter2...)

No parameters, one parameter, or multiple parameters can be placed after the function name. Unspecified values take on a default value. Note, however, that if the third value is to be modified, the first two values have to be provided with the function call as well. The parameters have the same order as in the graphical user interface.

12.3.1 Function Calls To Set SNNS Parameters

The following functions calls to set SNNS parameters are available:

`setInitFunc()`	Selects the initialization function and its parameters
`setLearnFunc()`	Selects the learning function and its parameters
`setUpdateFunc()`	Selects the update function and its parameters
`setPruningFunc()`	Selects the pruning function and its parameters
`setRemapFunc()`	Selects the pattern remapping function and its parameters
`setActFunc()`	Selects the activation function for a type of unit
`setCascadeParams()`	Set the additional parameters required for CC
`setSubPattern()`	Defines the subpattern shifting scheme
`setShuffle()`	Change the shuffle modus
`setSubShuffle()`	Change the subpattern shuffle modus
`setClassDistrib()`	Sets the distribution of patterns in the set

The format and the usage of the function calls will be discussed now. It is an enormous help to be familiar with the graphical user interface of the SNNS especially with the chapters “Parameters of the learning functions”, “Update functions”, “Initialization functions”, “Handling patterns with SNNS”, and “Pruning algorithms”.

setInitFunc

This function call selects the function with which the net is initialized. The format is:

```
setInitFunc (function name, parameter...)
```

where `function name` is the initialization function and has to be selected out of:

```
ART1_Weights        DLVQ_Weights            Random_Weights_Perc
ART2_Weights        Hebb                    Randomize_Weights
ARTMAP_Weights      Hebb_Fixed_Act          RBF_Weights
CC_Weights          JE_Weights              RBF_Weights_Kohonen
ClippHebb           Kohonen_Rand_Pat        RBF_Weights_Redo
CPN_Weights_v3.2    Kohonen_Weights_v3.2    RM_Random_Weights
CPN_Weights_v3.3    Kohonen_Const
CPN_Rand_Pat        PseudoInv
```

It has to be provided by the user and the name has to be exactly as printed above. The function name has to be embraced by `""`.

After the name of the initialization function is provided the user can enter the parameters which influence the initialization process. If no parameters have been entered default values will be selected. The selected parameters have to be of type float or integer. Function calls could look like this:

```
setInitFunc ("Randomize_Weights")
setInitFunc("Randomize_Weights", 1.0, -1.0)
```

where the first call selects the Randomize_Weights function with default parameters. The second call uses the Randomize_Weights function and sets two parameters. The batch interpreter displays:

```
# Init function is now Randomize_Weights
# Parameters are:  1.0 -1.0
```

setLearnFunc

The function call setLearnFunc is very similar to the setinitFunc call. setLearnFunc selects the learning function which will be used in the training process of the neural net. The format is:

```
setLearnFunc (function name, parameters....)
```

where function name is the name of the desired learning algorithm. This name is mandatory and has to match one of the following strings:

```
ART1                 Counterpropagation   Quickprop
ART2                 Dynamic_LVQ          RadialBasisLearning
ARTMAP               Hebbian              RBF-DDA
BackPercolation      JE_BP                RM_delta
BackpropBatch        JE_BP_Momentum       Rprop
BackpropChunk        JE_Quickprop         Sim_Ann_SS
BackpropMomentum     JE_Rprop             Sim_Ann_WTA
BackpropWeightDecay  Kohonen              Sim_Ann_WWTA
BPTT                 Monte-Carlo          Std_Backpropagation
BBPTT                PruningFeedForward   TimeDelayBackprop
CC                   QPTT                 TACOMA
```

After the name of the learning algorithm is provided, the user can specify some parameters. The interpreter is using default values if no parameters are selected. The values have to be of the type float or integer. A detailed description can be found in the chapter "Parameter of the learning function". Function calls could look like this:

```
setLearnFunc("Std_Backpropagation")
setLearnFunc( "Std_Backpropagation", 0.1)
```

The first function call selects the learning algorithm and the second one additionally provides the first learning parameter. The batch interpreter displays:

```
# Learning function is now:  Std_backpropagation
# Parameters are:  0.1
```

setUpdateFunc

This function is selecting the order in which the neurons are visited. The format is:

```
setUpdateFunc (function name, parameters...)
```

where function name is the name of the update function. The name of the update algorithm has to be selected as shown below.

```
Topological_Order      BAM_Order              JE_Special
ART1_Stable            BPTT_Order             Kohonen_Order
ART1_Synchronous       CC_Order               Random_Order
ART2_Stable            CounterPropagation     Random_Permutation
ART2_Synchronous       Dynamic_LVQ            Serial_Order
ARTMAP_Stable          Hopfield_Fixed_Act     Synchonous_Order
ARTMAP_Synchronous     Hopfield_Synchronous   TimeDelay_Order
Auto_Synchronous       JE_Order
```

After the name is provided several parameters can follow. If no parameters are selected, default values are chosen by the interpreter. The parameters have to be of the type float or integer. The update functions are described in the chapter `Update functions`. A function call could look like this:

```
setUpdateFunc ("Topological_Order")
```

The batch interpreter displays:

```
# Update function is now Topological_Order
```

setPruningFunc

This function call is used to select the different pruning algorithms for neural networks. (See chapter `Pruning algorithms`). A function call may look like this:

```
setPruningFunc (function name1, function name2, parameters)
```

where function name1 is the name of the pruning function and has to be selected from:

```
MagPruning                OptimalBrainSurgeon    OptimalBrainDamage
Noncontributing_Units     Skeletonization
```

Function name2 is the name of the subordinated learning function and has to be selected out of:

```
BackpropBatch          Quickprop         BackpropWeightDecay
BackpropMomentum       Rprop             Std_Backpropagation
```

Additionally the parameters described below can be entered. If no parameters are entered default values are used by the interpreter. Those values appear in the graphical user interface in the corresponding widget of the pruning window.

1. Maximum error increase in % (float)
2. Accepted error (float)
3. Recreate last pruned element (boolean)

4. Learn cycles for first training (integer)
5. Learn cycles for retraining (integer)
6. Minimum error to stop (float)
7. Initial value of matrix (float)
8. Input pruning (boolean)
9. Hidden pruning (boolean)

Function calls could look like this:

```
setPruningFunc("OptimalBrainDamage","Std_Backpropagation")
setPruningFunc("MagPruning", "Rprop", 15.0, 3.5, FALSE, 500, 90,
1e6, 1.0)
```

In the first function call the pruning function and the subordinate learning function is selected. In the second function call almost all parameters are specified. Please note that a function call has to be specified without a carriage return. Long function calls have to be specified within one line. The following text is displayed by the batch interpreter:

```
# Pruning function is now MagPruning
# Subordinate learning function is now Rprop
# Parameters are:  15.0 3.5 FALSE 500 90 1.0 1e-6 TRUE TRUE
```

The regular learning function `PruningFeedForward` has to be set with the function call `setLearnFunc()`. This is not necessary if `PruningFeedForward` is already set in the network file.

setRemapFunc

This function call selects the pattern remapping function. The format is:

```
setRemapFunc (function name, parameter...)
```

where `function name` is the pattern remapping function and has to be selected out of:

```
None                Binary                  Inverse
Norm                Threshold
```

It has to be provided by the user and the name has to be exactly as printed above. The function name has to be enclosed in `""`.

After the name of the pattern remapping function is provided the user can enter the parameters which influence the remapping process. If no parameters have been entered default values will be selected. The selected parameters have to be of type float or integer. Function calls could look like this:

```
setRemapFunc ("None")
setRemapFunc("Threshold", 0.5, 0.5, 0.0, 1.0)
```

where the first call selects the default function `None` that does not do any remapping. The second call uses the `Threshold` function and sets four parameters. The batch interpreter displays:

```
# Remap function is now Threshold
# Parameters are:  0.5 0.5 0.0 1.0
```

setActFunc

This function call changes the activation function for all units in the network of a specific type. The format is:

```
setActFunc (Type, function name)
```

where `function name` is the activation function and has to be selected out of the available unit activation functions:

```
Act_Logistic           Act_Elliott             Act_BSB
Act_TanH               Act_TanH_Xdiv2          Act_Perceptron
Act_Signum             Act_Signum0             Act_Softmax
Act_StepFunc           Act_HystStep            Act_BAM
Logistic_notInhibit    Act_MinOutPlusWeight    Act_Identity
Act_IdentityPlusBias   Act_LogisticTbl         Act_RBF_Gaussian
Act_RBF_MultiQuadratic Act_RBF_ThinPlateSpline Act_less_than_0
Act_at_most_0          Act_at_least_2          Act_at_least_1
Act_exactly_1          Act_Product             Act_ART1_NC
Act_ART2_Identity      Act_ART2_NormP          Act_ART2_NormV
Act_ART2_NormW         Act_ART2_NormIP         Act_ART2_Rec
Act_ART2_Rst           Act_ARTMAP_NCa          Act_ARTMAP_NCb
Act_ARTMAP_DRho        Act_LogSym              Act_CC_Thresh
Act_Sinus              Act_Exponential         Act_TD_Logistic
Act_TD_Elliott         Act_Euclid              Act_Component
Act_RM                 Act_TACOMA
```

It has to be provided by the user and the name has to be exactly as printed above. The function name has to be embraced by `""`.

`Type` is the type of the units that are to be assigned the new function. It has to be specified as an integer with the following meaning:

Type	affected units	Type	affected units
0	all units in the network	5	special units only
1	input units only	6	special input units only
2	output units only	7	special output units only
3	hidden units only	8	special hidden units only
4	dual units only	9	special dual units only

See section 3.1.1 and section 6.5 of this manual for details about the various unit types.

setCascadeParams

The function call `setCascadeParams` defines the additional parameters required for training a cascade correleation network. The parameters are the same as in the Cascade window of the graphical user interface. The order is the same as in the window from top to bottom. The format of the function call is:

```
setCascadeParams(parameter, ...)
```

the order and meaning of the parameters are:

- max output unit error (float). Default value is 0.2.
- subordinate learning function (string). Has to be one of: "Quickprop", "BatchBackprop", "Backprop", or "Rprop". Default is Quickprop.
- modification (string). Has to be one of: "no", "SDCC", "LFCC", "RLCC", "Static", "ECC", or "GCC". Default is no modification.
- print covariance and error (TRUE or FALSE). Default is TRUE.
- cache unit activations (TRUE or FALSE). Default is TRUE.
- prune new hidden unit (TRUE or FALSE). Default is FALSE.
- minimization function (string). Has to be one of: "SBC", "AIC", or "CMSEP". Default is SBC.
- the additional parameters (5 float values). Default is 0, 0, 0, 0, 0.
- min. covar. change (float). Default value is 0.04.
- cand. patience (int). Default value is 25.
- max number of covar. updates (int). Default value is 200.
- max no of candidate units (int). Default value is 8.
- activation function (string). Has to be one of: "Act_Logistic", "Act_LogSym", "Act_TanH", or "Act_Random". Default is Act_LogSym.
- error change (float). Default value is 0.01.
- output patience (int). Default value is 50.
- max no of epochs (int). Default value is 200.

For a detailed description of these parameters see section 10 of the manual. As usual with batchman, latter parameters may be skipped, if the default values are to be taken. The function call:

```
setCascadeParams(0.2, ``Quickprop'', no, FALSE, TRUE, FALSE, ``SBC'',
0.0, 0.0, 0.0, 0.0, 0.0, 0.04, 25, 200, 8, ``Act_LogSym'', 0.01, 50,
200)
```

will display:

```
# Cascade Correlation
# Parameters are:  0.2 Quickprop no FALSE TRUE FALSE SBC 0.0 0.0 0.0
0.0 0.0 0.04 25 200 8 Act_LogSym 0.01 50 200
```

Note that (like with the graphical user interface in the learning function widgets) in the batchman call setLearnFunc() CC has to be specified as learning function, while the the parameters will refer to the subordinate learning function given in this call.

setSubPattern

The function call `setSubPattern` defines the *Subpattern-Shifting-Scheme* which is described in chapter 5.3. The definition of the *Subpattern-Shifting-Scheme* has to fit the used pattern file and the architecture of the net. The format of the function call is:

```
setSubPattern(InputSize, InputStep1, OutputSize1, OutputStep1)
```

The first dimension of the subpatterns is described by the first four parameters. The order of the parameters is identical to the order in the graphical user interface (see chapter "Sub Pattern Handling"). All four parameters are needed for one dimension. If a second dimension exists the four parameters of that dimension are given after the four parameters of the first dimension. This applies to all following dimensions. Function calls could look like this:

```
setSubPattern (5, 3, 5, 1)
setSubPattern(5, 3, 5, 1, 5, 3, 5, 1)
```

A one-dimensional subpattern with the InputSize 5, InputStep 3, OutputSize 5, OutputStep 1 is defined by the first call. A two-dimensional subpattern as used in the example network `watch net` is defined by the second function call. The following text is displayed by the batch interpreter:

```
# Sub-pattern shifting scheme (re)defined
# Parameters are:  5 3 5 1 5 3 5 1
```

The parameters have to be integers.

setShuffle, setSubShuffle

The function calls `setShuffle` and `setSubShuffle` enable the user to work with the shuffle function of the SNNS which selects the next training pattern at random. The shuffle function can be switched on or off. The format of the function calls is:

```
setShuffle (mode)
setSubShuffle (mode)
```

where the parameter mode is a boolean value. The boolean value TRUE switches the shuffle function on and the boolean value FALSE switches it off. `setShuffe` relates to regular patterns and `setSubShuffle` relates to subpatterns. The function call:

```
setSubShuffle (TRUE)
```

will display:

```
# Subpattern shuffling enabled
```

setClassDistrib

The function call `setClassDistrib` defines the composition of the pattern set used for training. Without this call, or with the first parameter set to FLASE, the distribution will not be altered and will match the one in the pattern file. The format of the function call is:

```
setClassDistrib(flag, parameters....)
```

The flag is a boolean value which defines whether the distribution defined by the following parameters is used (== TRUE), or ignored (== FALSE).

The next parameters give the relative amount of patterns of the various classes to be used in each epoch or chunk. The ordering asumes an alphanumeric ordering of the class names. Function calls could look like this:

```
setClassDistrib(TRUE, 5, 3, 5, 1, 2)
```

Given class names of “alpha”, “beta”, “gamma”, “delta”, “epsilon”, this would result in training 5 times the alpha class patterns, 3 times the beta class patterns, 5 times the delta class patterns, once the epsilon class patterns, and twice the gamma class patterns. This is due to the alphanumeric ordering of those class names “alpha”, “beta”, “delta”, “epsilon”, “gamma”.

If the learning function BackpropChunk is selected, this would also recommend a chunk size of 16. However, the chunk size parameter of BackpropChunk is completely independent from the values given to this function.

The following text is displayed by the batch interpreter:

```
# Class distribution is now ON
# Parameters are:  5 3 5 1 2
```

The parameters have to be integers.

12.3.2 Function Calls Related To Networks

This section describes the second group of function calls which are related to network or network files. The second group of SNNS functions contains the following function calls:

`loadNet()`	Load a net
`saveNet()`	Save a net
`saveResult()`	Save a result file
`initNet()`	Initialize a net
`trainNet()`	Train a net
`jogWeights()`	Add random noise to link weights
`jogCorrWeights()`	Add random noise to link weights
`testNet()`	Test a net
`resetNet()`	Reset unit values

The function calls `loadNet` and `saveNet` both have the same format:

```
loadNet (file_name)
saveNet (file_name)
```

where file_name is a valid Unix file name enclosed in `" "`. The function `loadNet` loads a net in the simulator kernel and `saveNet` saves a net which is currently located in the simulator kernel. The function call `loadNet` sets the system variable `CYCLES` to zero. This variable contains the number of training cycles used by the simulator to train a net. Examples for such calls could be:

```
loadNet ("encoder.net")
...
saveNet ("encoder.net")
```

The following result can be seen:

```
# Net encoder.net loaded
# Network file encoder.net written
```

The function call `saveResult` saves a SNNS result file and has the following format:

```
saveResult (file_name, start, end, inclIn, inclOut, file_mode)
```

The first parameter (file_name) is required. The file name has to be a valid Unix file name enclosed by `" "`. All other parameters are optional. Please note that if one specific parameter is to be entered all other parameters before the entered parameter have to be provided also. The parameter `start` selects the first pattern which will be handled and `end` selects the last one. If the user wants to handle all patterns the system variable PAT can be entered here. This system variable contains the number of all patterns. The parameters `inclIn` and `inclOut` decide if the input patterns and the output patterns should be saved in the result file or not. Those parameters contain boolean values. If `inclIn` is TRUE all input patterns will be saved in the result file. If `inclIn` is FALSE the patterns will not be saved. The parameter `inclOut` is identical except for the fact that it relates to output patterns. The last parameter `file_mode` of the type string, decides if a file should be created or if data is just appended to an existing file. The strings "create" and "append" are accepted for file mode. A `saveResult` call could look like this:

```
saveResult ("encoder.res")
saveResult ("encoder.res", 1, PAT, FALSE, TRUE, "create")
```

both will produce this:

```
# Result file encoder.res written
```

In the second case the result file encoder.res was written and contains all output patterns.

The function calls `initNet, trainNet, testNet` are related to each other. All functions are called without any parameters:

```
initNet()
trainNet()
testNet()
```

`initNet()` initializes the neural network. After the net has been reset with the function call `setInitFunc`, the system variable `CYCLE` is set to zero. The function call `initNet` is necessary if an untrained net is to be trained for the first time or if the user wants to set a trained net to its untrained state.

```
initNet()
```

produces:

```
# Net initialized
```

The function call `trainNet` is training the net exactly one cycle long. After this, the content of the system variables `SSE, MSE, SSEPU` and `CYCLES` is updated.

The function call `testNet` is used to display the user the error of the trained net, without actually training it. This call changes the system variables `SSE , MSE, SSEPU` but leaves the net and all its weights unchanged.

Please note that the function calls `trainNet`, `jogWeights`, and `jogCorrWeights` are usually used in combination with a repetition control structure like `for`, `repeat`, or `while`.

Another function call without parameters is

```
resetNet()
```

It is used to bring all unit values to their original settings. This is useful to clean up gigantic unit activations that sometimes result from large learnign rates. It is also necessary for some special algorithms, e.g. training of Elman networks, that save a history of the training in certain unit values. These need to be cleared , e.g. when a new pattern is loaded.
Note that the weights are not changed by this function!

The function call `jogWeights` is used to apply random noise to the link weights. This might be useful, if the network is stuck in a local minimum. The function is called like

```
jogWeights(minus, plus)
```

where `minus` and `plus` define the maximum random weight change as a factor of the current link weight. E.g. `jogWeights(-0.05, 0.02)` will result in new random link weights within the range of 95% to 102% of the current weight values.

`jogCorrWeights` is a more sophisticated version of noise injection to link weights. The idea is only to jog the weights of non-special hidden units which show a very high correlation during forward propagation of the patterns. The function call

```
jogCorrWeights(minus, plus, mincorr)
```

first propagates all patterns of the current set through the network. During propagation, statistical parameters are collected for each hidden unit with the goal to compute the correlation coefficient between any two arbitrary hidden units:

$$\rho_{x,y} = \frac{cov(X,Y)}{\sigma_x \sigma_y} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n}(X_i - \overline{X})(Y_i - \overline{Y})}{\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{n}(X_i - \overline{X})^2 \sum_{i=1}^{n}(Y_i - \overline{Y})^2}} \tag{12.1}$$

$\rho_{x,y} \in [-1.0, 1.0]$ denotes the correlation coefficient between the hidden units x and y, while X_i and Y_i equal the activation of these two units during propagation of pattern i. Now the hidden units x and y are determined which yield the highest correlation (or anti-correlation) which is als higher than the parameter `mincorr`: $|\rho_{x,y}| >$ `mincorr`. If such hidden units exist, one of them is chosen randomly and its weights are jogged accoring to the `minus` and `plus` parameters. The computing time for one call to `jogCorrWeights()` is about the same as the time consumed by `testNet()` or half the time used by `trainNet()`. Reasonable parameters for `mincorr` are in the range of $[0.8, 0.99]$.

12.3.3 Pattern Function Calls

The following function calls relate to patterns:

`loadPattern()`	Loads the pattern file
`setPattern()`	Replaces the current pattern file
`delPattern()`	Deletes the pattern file

The simulator kernel is able to store several pattern files (currently 5). The user can switch between those pattern files with the help of the `setPattern()` call. The function call `delPattern` deletes a pattern file from the simulator kernel. All three mentioned calls have `file_name` as an argument:

```
loadPattern (file_name)
setPattern (file_name)
delPattern (file_name)
```

All three function calls set the value of the system variable `Pat` to the number of patterns of the pattern file used last. The handling of the pattern files is similar to the handling of such files in the graphical user interface. The last loaded pattern file is the current one. The function call `setPattern` (similar to the USE button of the graphical user interface of the SNNS.) selects one of the loaded pattern files as the one currently in use. The call `delPattern` deletes the pattern file currently in use from the kernel. The function calls:

```
loadPattern ("encoder.pat")
loadPattern ("encoder1.pat")
setPattern("encoder.pat")
delPattern("encoder.pat")
```

produce:

```
# Patternset encoder.pat loaded; 1 patternset(s) in memory
# Patternset encoder1.pat loaded; 2 patternset(s) in memory
# Patternset is now encoder.pat
# Patternset encoder.pat deleted; 1 patternset(s) in memory
# Patternset is now encoder1.pat
```

12.3.4 Special Functions

There are seven miscelaneous functions for the use in `batchman`

`pruneNet()`	Starts network pruning
`pruneTrainNet()`	Starts network training with pruning
`pruneNetNow()`	Perfom just one network pruning step
`delCandUnits()`	no longer in use
`execute()`	Executes any unix shell comand or program
`exit()`	Quits `batchman`
`setSeed()`	Sets a seed for the random number generator

pruneNet

The function call `pruneNet()` is pruning a net equivalent to the pruning in the graphical user interface. After all functions and parameters are set with the call `setPruningFunc` the `pruneNet()` function call can be executed. No parameters are necessary.

pruneTrainNet

The function call `pruneTrainNet()` is equivalent to `TrainNet()` but is using the subordinate learning function of pruning. Use it when you want to perform a training step during your pruning algorithm. It has the same parameter syntax as `TrainNet()`.

pruneNetNow

The function call `pruneNetNow()` performs one pruning step and then calculates the SSE, MSE, and SSEPU values of the resulting network.

delCandUnits

This function has no functionality. It is kept for backward compatibility reasons. In earlier SNNS versions Cascade Correlation candiate-units had to be deleted manually with this function. Now they are deleted automatically at the end of training.

execute

An interface to the Unix operation system can be created by using the function `execute`. This function call enables the user to start a program at the Unix command line and redirect its output to the batch program. All Unix help programs can be used to make this special function a very powerful tool. The format is:

```
execute (instruction, variable1, variable2.....)
```

where 'instruction' is a Unix instruction or a Unix program. All output, generated by the Unix command has to be separated by blanks and has to be placed in one line. If this is not done automatically please use the Unix commands `AWK` or `grep` to format the output as needed. Those commands are able to produce such a format. The output generated by the program will be assigned, according to the order of the output sequences, to the variables `variable1`, `variable2`.. The data type of the generated output is automatically set to one of the four data types of the batch interpreter. Additionally the exit state of the Unix program is saved in the system variable `EXIT_CODE`. An example for `execute` is:

```
execute ("date", one, two, three, four)
print ("It is ", four, " o'clock")
```

This function call calls the command `date` and reads the output `"Fri May 19 16:28:29 GMT 1995"` in the four above named variables. The variable 'four' contains the time. The batch interpreter produces:

```
It is 16:28:29 o'clock
```

The `execute` call could also be used to determine the available free disk space:

```
execute ("df .| grep dev", dmy, dmy, dmy, freeblocks)
print ("There are ", freeblocks, "Blocks free")
```

In this examples the Unix pipe and the grep command are responsible for reducing the output and placing it into one line. All lines, that contain `dev`, are filtered out. The second line is read by the batch interpreter and all information is assigned to the named variables. The first three fields are assigned to the variable `dmy`. The information about the available blocks will be stored in the variable `freeblocks`. The following output is produced:

```
There are 46102 Blocks free
```

The examples given above should give the user an idea how to handle the `execute` command. It should be pointed out here that `execute` could as well call another batch interpreter which could work on partial solutions of the problem. If the user wants to accomplish such a task the command line option -q of the batch interpreter could be used to suppress output not caused by the print command. This would ease the reading of the output.

exit

This function call leaves the batch program immediately and terminates the batch interpreter. The parameter used in this function is the exit state, which will be returned to the calling program (usually the Unix shell). If no parameter is used the batch interpreter returns zero. The format is:

```
exit (state)
```

The integer `state` ranges from -128 to +127. If the value is not within this range the value will be mapped into the valid range and an error message displayed. The following example will show the user how this function call could be used:

```
if freeblocks < 1000 then
print ("Not enough disk space")
exit (1)
endif
```

setSeed

The function `setSeed` sets a seed value for the random number generator used by the initialization functions. If `setSeed` is not called before initializing a network, subsequent initializiations yield the exact same initial network conditions. Thereby it is possible to make an exact comparison of two training runs with different learning parameters.

```
setSeed(seed)
```

`SetSeed` may be called with an integer parameter as a seed value. Without a parameter it uses the value returned by the shell command ‘date’ as seed value.

12.4 Batchman Example Programs

12.4.1 Example 1

A typical program to train a net may look like this:

```
loadNet("encoder.net")
loadPattern("encoder.pat")
setInitFunc("Randomize_Weights", 1.0, -1.0)
initNet()

while SSE > 6.9 and CYCLES < 1000 and SIGNAL == 0 do
```

```
  if CYCLES mod 10 == 0 then
    print ("cycles = ", CYCLES, "  SSE = ", SSE) endif
  trainNet()
endwhile

saveResult("encoder.res", 1, PAT, TRUE, TRUE, "create")
saveNet("encoder.trained.net")

if SIGNAL != 0 then
  print("Stopped due to signal reception: signal " + SIGNAL")
endif

print ("Cycles trained: ", CYCLES)
print ("Training stopped at error: ", SSE)
```

This batch program loads the neural net 'encoder.net' and the corresponding pattern file. Now the net is initialized. A training process continues until the SSE error is smaller or equal to 6.9, a maximum number of 1000 training cycles was reached, or an external termination signal was caught (e.g. due to a Ctrl-C). The trained net and the result file are saved once the training is stopped. The following output is generated by this program:

```
# Net encoder.net loaded
# Patternset encoder.pat loaded; 1 patternset(s) in memory
# Init function is now Randomize_Weights
# Net initialised
cycles = 0  SSE = 3.40282e+38
cycles = 10  SSE = 7.68288
cycles = 20  SSE = 7.08139
cycles = 30  SSE = 6.95443
# Result file encoder.res written
# Network file encoder.trained.net written
Cycles trained: 40
Training stopped at error: 6.89944
```

12.4.2 Example 2

The following example program reads the output of the network analyzation program `analyze`. The output is transformed into a single line with the help of the program `analyze.gawk`. The net is trained until all patterns are classified correctly:

```
loadNet ("encoder.net")
loadPattern ("encoder.pat")
initNet ()

while(TRUE)
  for i := 1 to 500 do
    trainNet ()
  endfor
```

```
    resfile := "test.res"
    saveResult (resfile, 1, PAT, FALSE, TRUE, "create")
    saveNet("enc1.net")

    command := "analyze -s -e WTA -i " + resfile + " | analyze.gawk"
    execute(command, w, r, u, e)
    print("wrong: ",w, "  right: ",r, "  unknown: ",u, "  error: ",e)
    if(right == 100) break
  endwhile
```

The following output is generated:

```
# Net encoder.net loaded
# Patternset encoder.pat loaded; 1 patternset(s) in memory
-> Batchman warning at line 3:
   Init function and params not specified; using defaults
# Net initialised
# Result file test.res written
# Network file enc1.net written
wrong: 87.5  right: 12.5  unknown: 0  error: 7
# Result file test.res written
# Network file enc1.net written
wrong: 50  right: 50  unknown: 0  error: 3
# Result file test.res written
# Network file enc1.net written
wrong: 0  right: 100  unknown: 0  error: 0
```

12.4.3 Example 3

The last example program shows how the user can validate the training with a second pattern file. The net is trained with one training pattern file and the error, which is used to determine when training should be stopped, is measured on a second pattern file. Thereby it is possible to estimate if the net is able to classify unknown patterns correctly:

```
loadNet ("test.net")
loadPattern ("validate.pat")
loadPattern ("training.pat")
initNet ()

repeat
  for i := 1 to 20 do
    trainNet ()
  endfor
  saveNet ("test." + CYCLES + "cycles.net")
  setPattern ("validate.pat")
  testNet ()
  valid_error := SSE
  setPattern ("training.pat")
```

```
    until valid_error < 2.5

    saveResult ("test.res")
```

The program trains a net for 20 cycles and saves it under a new name for every iteration of the repeat instruction. Each time the program tests the net with the validation pattern set. This process is repeated until the error of the validation set is smaller than 2.5

12.5 Snnsbat – The predessor

This section describes `snnsbat`, the old way of controling SNNS in batch mode. Please note that we do encourage everybody to use the new `batchman` facility and do not support `snnsbat` any longer!

12.5.1 The Snnsbat Environment

`snnsbat` runs very dependably even on unstable system configurations and is secured against data loss due to system crashes, network failures etc.. On UNIX based systems the program may be terminated with the command 'kill -15' without loosing the currently computed network.

The calling syntax of snnsbat is:

snnsbat [< configuration_file > [< log_file >]]

This call starts `snnsbat` in the foreground. On UNIX systems the command for background execution is 'at', so that the command line

echo 'snnsbat default.cfg log.file' | at 22:00

would start the program tonight at 10pm[1].

If the optional file names are omitted, `snnsbat` tries to open the configuration file './snnsbat.cfg' and the protocol file './snnsbat.log'.

12.5.2 Using Snnsbat

The batch mode execution of SNNS is controlled by the configuration file. It contains entries that define the network and parameters required for program execution. These entries are tuples (mostly pairs) of a keyword followed by one or more values. There is only one tuple allowed per line, but lines may be separated by an arbitrary number of comment lines. Comments start with the number sign '#'. The set of given tuples specify the actions performed by SNNS in one execution run. An arbitrary number of execution runs can be defined in one configuration file, by separating the tuple sets with the keyword 'PerformActions:'. Within a tuple set, the tuples may be listed in any order. If a tuple is listed several times, values that are already read are overwritten. The only exception is

[1]This construction is necessary since 'at' can read only from stdin.

the key 'Type:', which has to be listed only once and as the first key. If a key is omitted, the corresponding value(s) are assigned a default.

Here is a listing of the tuples and their meaning:

Key	Value	Meaning
InitFunction:	<string>	Name of the initialization function.
InitParam:	<float> ···	'NoOfInitParam' parameters for initialization function, separated by blanks.
LearnParam:	<float> ···	'NoOfLearnParam' parameters for learning function, separated by blanks.
UpdateParam:	<float> ···	'NoOfUpdateParam' parameters for the update function, separated by blanks.
LearnPatternFile:	<string>	Filename of the learning patterns.
MaxErrorToStop:	<float>	Network error when learning is to be halted.
MaxLearnCycles:	<int>	Maximum number of learning cycles to be executed.
NetworkFile:	<string>	Filename of the net to be trained.
NoOfInitParam:	<int>	Number of parameters for the initialization function.
NoOfLearnParam:	<int>	No of parameters for learning function.
NoOfUpdateParam:	<int>	No of parameters for update function.
NoOfVarDim:	<int> <int>	Number of variable dimensions of the input and output patterns.
PerformActions:	none	Execution run separator.
PruningMaxRetrainCycles:	<int>	maximum no. of cycles per retraining
PruningMaxErrorIncrease:	<float>	Percentage to be added to the first net error. The resulting value cannot be exceeded by the net error, unless it is lower than the accepted error
PruningAcceptedError:	<float>	Maximum accepted error.
PruningRecreate:	[YES | NO]	Flag for reestablishing the last state of the net at the end of pruning
PruningOBSInitParam:	<float>	initial value for OBS
PruningInputPruning:	[YES | NO]	Flag for input unit pruning
PruningHiddenPruning:	[YES | NO]	Flag for hidden unit pruning
ResultFile:	<string>	Filename of the result file.
ResultIncludeInput:	[YES | NO]	Flag for inclusion of input patterns in the result file.
ResultIncludeOutput:	[YES | NO]	Flag for inclusion of output learning patterns in the result file.
SubPatternOSize:	<int> ···	NoOfVarDim[2] int values that specify the shape of the sub patterns of each output pattern.

Key	Value	Meaning
SubPatternOStep:	<int> · · ·	NoOfVarDim[2] int values that specify the shifting steps for the sub patterns of each output pattern.
TestPatternFile:	<string>	Filename of the test patterns.
TrainedNetworkFile:	<string>	Filename where the net should be stored after training / initialization.
Type:	<string>	The type of grammar that corresponds to this file. Valid types are: 'SNNSBATCH_1': performs only one execution run. 'SNNSBATCH_2': performs multiple execution runs.
ResultMinMaxPattern:	<int> <int>	Number of the first and last pattern to be used for result file generation.
Shuffle:	[YES | NO]	Flag for pattern shuffling.
ShuffleSubPat:	[YES | NO]	Flag for subpattern shuffling.
SubPatternISize:	<int> · · ·	NoOfVarDim[1] int values that specify the shape of the sub patterns of each input pattern.
SubPatternIStep:	<int> · · ·	NoOfVarDim[1] int values that specify the shifting steps for the sub patterns of each input pattern.

Please note the mandatory colon after each key and the upper case of several letters.

`snnsbat` may also be used to perform only parts of a regular network training run. If the network is not to be initialized, training is not to be performed, or no result file is to be computed, the corresponding entries in the configuration file can be omitted.

For all keywords the string '<OLD>' is also a valid value. If <OLD> is specified, the value of the previous execution run is kept. For the keys 'NetworkFile:' and 'LearnPatternFile:' this means, that the corresponding files are not read in again. The network (patterns) already in memory are used instead, thereby saving considerable execution time. This allows for a continuous logging of network performance. The user may, for example, load a network and pattern file, train the network for 100 cycles, create a result file, train another 100 cycles, create a second result file, and so forth. Since the error made by the current network in classifying the patterns is reported in the result file, the series of result files document the improvement of the network performance.

The following table shows the behavior of the program caused by omitted entries:

missing key	resulting behavior
InitFunction:	The net is not initialized.
InitParam:	Init function gets only zero values as parameters.
LearnParam:	Learning function gets only zero values as parameters.
UpdateParam:	Update function gets only zero values as parameters.
LearnPatternFile:	Abort with error message if more than 0 learning cycles are specified. Initialization can be performed if init function does not require patterns.
MaxErrorToStop:	Training runs for 'MaxLearnCycles:' cycles.
MaxLearnCycles:	No training takes place. If training is supposed to run until *MaxErrorToStop*, a rather huge number should be supplied here. (skipping this entry would inhibit training completely).
MaxErrorToStop:	Training runs for 'MaxLearnCycles:' cycles.
MaxLearnCycles:	No training takes place. If training is supposed to run until *MaxErrorToStop*, a rather huge number should be supplied here. (skipping this entry would inhibit training completely).
NetworkFile:	Abort with error message.
NoOfInitParam:	No parameters are assigned to the initialization function. Error message from the SNNS kernel possible.
NoOfLearnParam:	No parameters are assigned to the learning function. Error message from the SNNS kernel possible.
NoOfUpdateParam:	No parameters are assigned to the update function.
NoOfVarDim:	Network can not handle variable pattern sizes.
PerformActions:	Only one execution run is performed. Repeated keywords lead to deletion of older values.
ResultFile:	No result file is generated.
ResultIncludeInput:	The result file does NOT contain input Patterns.
ResultIncludeOutput:	The result file DOES contain learn output Patterns.
ResultMinMaxPattern:	All patterns are propagated.
Shuffle:	Patterns are not shuffled.
ShuffleSubPat:	Subpatterns are not shuffled.
SubPatternISize:	
SubPatternIStep:	
SubPatternOSize:	
SubPatternOStep:	Abort with error message if 'NoOfVarDim:' was specified.
TestPatternFile:	Result file generation uses the learning patterns. If they are not specified either, the program is aborted with an error message when trying to generate a result file.
TrainedNetworkFile:	Network is not saved after training / initialization. It is used for result file generation.
Type:	Abort with error message.

Here is a typical example of a configuration file:

```
#
Type: SNNSBATCH_2
#
# If a key is given twice, the second appearance is taken.
# Keys that are not required for a special run may be omitted.
# If a key is omitted but required, a default value is assumed.
# The lines may be separated with comments.
#
# Please note the mandatory file type specification at the beginning and
# the colon following the key.
#
#######################################################################
NetworkFile: /home/SNNSv\currver/examples/letters.net
#
InitFunction: Randomize_Weights
NoOfInitParam: 2
InitParam: -1.0 1.0
#
LearnPatternFile: /home/SNNSv\currver/examples/letters.pat
NoOfVarDim: 2 1
SubPatternISize: 5 5
SubPatternOSize: 26
SubPatternIStep: 5 1
SubPatternOStep: 1
NoOfLearnParam: 2
LearnParam: 0.8 0.3
MaxLearnCycles: 100
MaxErrorToStop: 1
Shuffle: YES
#
TrainedNetworkFile: trained_letters.net
ResultFile: letters1.res
ResultMinMaxPattern: 1 26
ResultIncludeInput: NO
ResultIncludeOutput: YES
#
#This execution run loads a network and pattern file with variable
#pattern format, initializes the network, trains it for 100 cycles
#(or stops, if then error is less than 0.01), and finally computes
#the result file letters1.
PerformActions:
#
NetworkFile: <OLD>
#
LearnPatternFile: <OLD>
NoOfLearnParam: <OLD>
LearnParam: <OLD>
MaxLearnCycles: 100
MaxErrorToStop: 1
Shuffle: YES
#
ResultFile: letters2.res
ResultMinMaxPattern: <OLD>
ResultIncludeInput:  <OLD>
ResultIncludeOutput: <OLD>
```

```
#
#This execution run continues the training of the already loaded file
#for another 100 cycles before creating a second result file.
#
PerformActions:
#
NetworkFile: <OLD>
#
LearnPatternFile: <OLD>
NoOfLearnParam: <OLD>
LearnParam: 0.2 0.3
MaxLearnCycles: 100
MaxErrorToStop: 0.01
Shuffle: YES
#
ResultFile: letters3.res
ResultMinMaxPattern: <OLD>
ResultIncludeInput:  <OLD>
ResultIncludeOutput: <OLD>
TrainedNetworkFile: trained_letters.net
#
#This execution run concludes the training of the already loaded file.
#After another 100 cycles of training with changed learning
#parameters the final network is saved to a file and a third result
#file is created.
#
```

The file <log_file> collects the SNNS kernel messages and contains statistics about running time and speed of the program.

If the <log_file> command line parameter is omitted, `snnsbat` opens the file 'snnsbat.log' in the current directory. To limit the size of this file, a maximum of 100 learning cycles are logged. This means, that for 1000 learning cycles a message will be written to the file every 10 cycles.

If the time required for network training exceeds 30 minutes of CPU time, the network is saved. The log file then shows the message:

```
##### Temporary network file 'SNNS_Aaaa00457' created. #####
```

Temporay networks always start with the string 'SNNS_'. After 30 more minutes of CPU time, `snnsbat` creates a second security copy. Upon normal termination of the program, these copies are deleted from the current directory. The log file then shows the message:

```
##### Temporary network file 'SNNS_Aaaa00457' removed. #####
```

In an emergency (powerdown, kill, alarm, etc.), the current network is saved by the program. The log file, resp. the mailbox, will later show an entry like:

```
Signal 15 caught, SNNS V4.2Batchlearning terminated.

SNNS V4.2Batchlearning terminated at Tue Mar 23 08:49:04 1995
System:  SunOS Node:  matisse Machine:  sun4m
```

```
Networkfile './SNNS_BAAa02686' saved.
Logfile 'snnsbat.log' written.
```

12.5.3 Calling Snnsbat

`snnsbat` may be called interactively or in batch mode. It was designed, however, to be called in batch mode. On Unix machines, the command 'at' should be used, to allow logging the program with the mailbox. However, 'at' can only read from standard input, so a combination of 'echo' and 'pipe' has to be used.

Three short examples for Unix are given here, to clarify the calls:

```
unix>echo 'snnsbat mybatch.cfg mybatch.log' | at 21:00 Friday
```

starts `snnsbat` next Friday at 9pm with the parameters given in mybatch.cfg and writes the output to the file mybatch.log in the current directory.

```
unix>echo 'snnsbat SNNSconfig1.cfg SNNSlog1.log' | at 22
```

starts `snnsbat` today at 10pm

```
unix>echo 'snnsbat' | at now + 2 hours
```

starts `snnsbat` in 2 hours and uses the default files snnsbat.cfg and snnsbat.log

The executable is located in the directory '.../SNNSv4.2/tools/<machine_type>/'.
The sources of snnsbat can be found in the directory '.../SNNSv4.2/tools/sources/'.
An example configuration file was placed in '.../SNNSv4.2/examples'.