This volume constitutes the proceedings of the 8th Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Soft Computing, ICAISC 2006, held in Zakopane, Poland in June 25-29, 2006. The conference was organized by the Polish Neural Network Society in cooperation with the Academy of Humanities and Economics in Łódź, the Department of Computer Engineering at the Czestochowa University of Technology, and the IEEE Computational Intelligence Society – Poland Chapter. The previous conferences took place in Kule (1994), Szczyrk (1996), Kule (1997) and Zakopane (1999, 2000, 2002, 2004) and attracted a large number of papers and internationally recognized speakers: Lotfi A. Zadeh, Shun-ichi Amari, Daniel Amit, Piero P. Bonissone, Zdzislaw Bubnicki, Andrzej Cichocki, Wlodzislaw Duch, Jerzy Grzymala-Busse, Kaoru Hirota, Janusz Kacprzyk, Laszlo T. Koczy, Soo-Young Lee, Robert Marks, Evangelia Micheli-Tzanakou, Erkki Oja, Witold Pedrycz, Sarunas Raudys, Enrique Ruspini, Jorg Siekman, Roman Slowinski, Ryszard Tadeusiewicz, Shiro Usui, Ronald Y. Yager, Syozo Yasui and Jacek Zurada. The aim of this conference is to build a bridge between traditional artificial intelligence techniques and recently developed soft computing techniques. It was pointed out by Lotfi A. Zadeh that “Soft Computing (SC) is a coalition of methodologies which are oriented toward the conception and design of information/intelligent systems. The principal members of the coalition are: fuzzy logic (FL), neurocomputing (NC), evolutionary computing (EC), probabilistic computing (PC), chaotic computing (CC), and machine learning (ML). The constituent methodologies of SC are, for the most part, complementary and synergistic rather than competitive”. This volume presents both traditional artificial intelligence methods and soft computing techniques. Our goal is to bring together scientists representing both traditional artificial intelligence approaches and soft computing techniques. The volume is divided into eight parts:

- Neural Networks and Their Applications
- Fuzzy Systems and Their Applications
- Evolutionary Algorithms and Their Applications
- Rough Sets
- Classification and Clustering
- Image Analysis and Robotics
- Bioinformatics and Medical Applications
- Various Problems of Artificial Intelligence

The conference attracted a total of 400 submissions from 41 countries and after the review process, 128 papers were accepted for publication in this volume. I would like to thank our participants, invited speakers and reviewers of the papers for their scientific and personal contribution to the conference. I also thank Alfred Hofmann editor-in-chief of Lecture Notes in Computer Science/Artificial Intelligence and the rest of Springer’s LNCS team for their cooperation in the
preparation of this volume. Finally I thank my co-workers Łukasz Bartczuk, Piotr Dziwiński, Marcin Gabryel, Marcin Korytkowski and Rafał Scherer for their enormous efforts to make the conference a very successful event.

June 2006

Leszek Rutkowski
President of the Polish Neural Network Society
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# Table of Contents

## Neural Networks and Their Applications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Authors</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Multichannel Data Aggregation by Layers of Formal Neurons</td>
<td>Leon Bobrowski</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimation of Distribution Algorithm for Optimization of Neural</td>
<td>Yuchui Chen, Yong Zhang, Ajith Abraham</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Networks for Intrusion Detection System</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neural Network Implementation in Reprogrammable FPGA Devices – An</td>
<td>Marek Gorgoń, Mateusz Wrzesiński</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Example for MLP</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A New Approach for Finding an Optimal Solution and Regularization</td>
<td>Eun-Mi Kim, Jong Cheol Jeong, Bae-Ho Lee</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>by Learning Dynamic Momentum</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domain Dynamics in Optimization Tasks</td>
<td>Boris Kryzhanovský, Bashir Magomedov</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonlinear Function Learning by the Normalized Radial Basis Function</td>
<td>Adam Krzyżak, Dominik Schäfer</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Networks</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sum and Product Kernel Regularization Networks</td>
<td>Petra Kudová, Terezie Šámalová</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chaotic Cellular Neural Networks with Negative Self-feedback</td>
<td>Wen Liu, Haixiang Shi, Lipo Wang, Jacek M. Zurada</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An Efficient Nonlinear Predictive Control Algorithm with Neural</td>
<td>Maciej Lawryńczuk, Piotr Tatjewski</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Models and Its Application to a High-Purity Distillation Process</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creativity of Neural Networks</td>
<td>Urszula Markowska-Kaczmar, Katarzyna Czeczot</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speed Up of the SAMANN Neural Network Retraining</td>
<td>Viktor Medvedev, Gintautas Dzemyda</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Application of Neural Networks in Chain Curve Modelling
   Andrzej Piegat, Izabela Rejer, Marek Mikolajczyk ...................... 104

RBF Nets in Faults Localization
   Ewaryst Rafajłowicz .............................................. 113

A Hypertube as a Possible Interpolation Region of a Neural Model
   Izabela Rejer, Marek Mikolajczyk .................................. 123

RBF Neural Network for Probability Density Function Estimation
   and Detecting Changes in Multivariate Processes
   Ewa Skubalska-Rafajłowicz ....................................... 133

Fast Orthogonal Neural Networks
   Bartłomiej Stasiak, Mykhaylo Yatsymirskyy ......................... 142

AI Methods in Solving Systems of Interval Linear Equations
   Nguyen Hoang Viet, Michal Kleiber .................................. 150

A Fast and Numerically Robust Neural Network Training Algorithm
   Youmin Zhang .................................................. 160

Fuzzy Systems and Their Applications

On Interpretation of Non-atomic Values and Induction of Decision
   Rules in Fuzzy Relational Databases
   Rafal A. Angryk .................................................. 170

A Genetic-Programming-Based Approach for the Learning of Compact
   Fuzzy Rule-Based Classification Systems
   Francisco Jos Berlanga, Mara Jos del Jesus, Mara Jos Gacto,
   Francisco Herrera .............................................. 182

Performance Evaluation of Fuzzy-Neural HTTP Request Distribution
   for Web Clusters
   Leszek Borzemski, Krzysztof Zatwarnicki .......................... 192

Fuzzy Approach to Correlation Function
   Bohdan S. Butkiewicz ............................................. 202

A Method for Designing Flexible Neuro-fuzzy Systems
   Krzysztof Cpalka ................................................. 212
Deterministic Annealing Integrated with \( \varepsilon \)-Insensitive Learning in Neuro-fuzzy Systems
Robert Czabański .................................................. 220

Transformation Lemma on Analytical Modeling Via Takagi-Sugeno Fuzzy System and Its Applications
Jacek Kluska .......................................................... 230

Combining Logical-Type Neuro-fuzzy Systems
Marcin Korytkowski, Robert Nowicki, Leszek Rutkowski, Rafał Scherer ................................................. 240

On Fuzzy Number Calculus and Some Application
Witold Kosiński .......................................................... 250

Combination of Fuzzy TOPSIS and Fuzzy Ranking for Multi Attribute Decision Making
Mohammad Reza Mehregan, Hossein Safari ...................... 260

Flow Graphs and Decision Tables with Fuzzy Attributes
Alicja Mieszkowicz-Rolka, Leszek Rolka .......................... 268

Elements of the Type-2 Semantics in Summarizing Databases
Adam Niewiadomski, Michał Bartyzel ................................ 278

Isolines of Statistical Information Criteria for Relational Neuro-fuzzy System Design
Agata Pokropińska, Robert Nowicki, Rafał Scherer ................. 288

Adjusting Software-Intensive Systems Developed by Using Software Factories and Fuzzy Features
Silva Robak, Andrzej Pieczyński ..................................... 297

Boosting Ensemble of Relational Neuro-fuzzy Systems
Rafał Scherer .......................................................... 306

An Application of Intuitionistic Fuzzy Set Similarity Measures to a Multi-criteria Decision Making Problem
Eulalia Szmidt, Janusz Kacprzyk .................................... 314

Evolutionary Algorithms and Their Applications
Additive Sequential Evolutionary Design of Experiments
Balazs Balasko, Janos Madar, Janos Abonyi ................................ 324
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Authors</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A New Inter-island Genetic Operator for Optimization Problems with Block Properties</td>
<td>Wojciech Bożejko, Mieczysław Wodecki</td>
<td>334</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiobjective Design Optimization of Electrostatic Rotary Microactuators Using Evolutionary Algorithms</td>
<td>Paolo Di Barba, Sławomir Wiak</td>
<td>344</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evolutionary Learning of Mamdani-Type Neuro-fuzzy Systems</td>
<td>Marcin Gabryel, Leszek Rutkowski</td>
<td>354</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study of Objective Functions in Fuzzy Job-Shop Problem</td>
<td>Inés González-Rodríguez, Camino R. Vela, Jorge Puente</td>
<td>360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scheduling with Memetic Algorithms over the Spaces of Semi-active and Active Schedules</td>
<td>Miguel A. González, Camino R. Vela, Ramiro Varela</td>
<td>370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chaos Detection with Lyapunov Exponents in Dynamical System</td>
<td>Iwona Karcz-Dulęba</td>
<td>380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improving Evolutionary Multi-objective Optimization Using Genders</td>
<td>Zdzisław Kowalczyk, Tomasz Białaszewski</td>
<td>390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evolutionary Learning of Linear Trees with Embedded Feature Selection</td>
<td>Marek Krętowski, Marek Grześ</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solving the Balanced Academic Curriculum Problem with an Hybridization of Genetic Algorithm and Constraint Propagation</td>
<td>Tony Lambert, Carlos Castro, Eric Monfroy, Frédéric Saubion</td>
<td>410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Graph-Based Genetic Algorithm for the Multiple Sequence Alignment Problem</td>
<td>Heitor S. Lopes, Guilherme L. Moritz</td>
<td>420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improved Multi-Objective Diversity Control Oriented Genetic Algorithm</td>
<td>Theera Piroonratana, Nachol Chaiyaratana</td>
<td>430</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Directional Distributions and Their Application to Evolutionary Algorithms</td>
<td>Przemysław Prętki, Andrzej Obuchowicz</td>
<td>440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adaptive Inertia Weight Particle Swarm Optimization</td>
<td>Zheng Qin, Fan Yu, Zhewen Shi, Yu Wang</td>
<td>450</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table of Contents

Estimation of the Evolution Speed for the Quasispecies Model: Arbitrary Alphabet Case
   Vladimir Red’ko, Yuri Tsoy ........................................ 460

Partitioning of VLSI Circuits on Subcircuits with Minimal Number of Connections Using Evolutionary Algorithm
   Adam S/lowik, Mich/ał Bia/lko .................................. 470

Genetic Approach to Modeling of a Dispatcher in Discrete Transport Systems
   Tomasz Walkowiak, Jacek Mazurkiewicz ......................... 479

Rough Sets

Interactive Analysis of Preference-Ordered Data Using Dominance-Based Rough Set Approach
   Jerzy B/laszczy/ński, Krzysztof Dembczy/ński, Roman S/lowi/ński .......... 489

Additive Preference Model with Piecewise Linear Components Resulting from Dominance-Based Rough Set Approximations
   Krzysztof Dembczy/ński, Wojciech Kot/łowski, Roman S/lowi/ński .......... 499

Induction of Decision Rules Using Minimum Set of Descriptors
   Andrzej Dominik, Zbigniew Walczak ................................ 509

Comparison of Information Theoretical Measures for Reduct Finding
   Szymon Jaroszewicz, Marcin Korze/ń ................................ 518

Rough Approximation Operations Based on IF Sets
   Anna Maria Radzikowska ............................................. 528

Relationships Between Concept Lattice and Rough Set
   Hong Wang, Wen-Xiu Zhang ........................................... 538

Classification and Clustering

Extended SMART Algorithms for Non-negative Matrix Factorization
   Andrzej Cichocki, Shun-ichi Amari, Rafa/l Zdunek, Raul Kompass,
   Gen Hori, Zhaohui He ................................................ 548

MAICS: Multilevel Artificial Immune Classification System
   Michal Bereta, Tadeusz Burczynski ................................ 563

Selection of Prototype Rules: Context Searching Via Clustering
   Marcin Blachnik, W/łodzis/ław Duch, Tadeusz Wieczorek ............... 573
**Table of Contents**

Committee Machine for Road-Signs Classification  
*Bogusław Cyganek* ................................................. 583

Cluster Analysis Via Dynamic Self-organizing Neural Networks  
*Marian B. Gorzalczany, Filip Rudziński* .......................... 593

Learning Vector Quantization Classification with Local Relevance Determination for Medical Data  
*Barbara Hammer, Thomas Villmann, Frank-Michael Schleif,  
Cornelia Albani, Wieland Hermann* ............................... 603

Genetically Evolved Trees Representing Ensembles  
*Ulf Johansson, Tuve Löfström, Rikard König, Lars Niklasson* .............................. 613

Sequential Classification Via Fuzzy Relations  
*Marek Kurzynski, Andrzej Zolnierek* .......................... 623

Attention Improves the Recognition Reliability of Backpropagation Network  
*Zbigniew Mikrut, Agata Piaskowska* .......................... 633

An Accurate MDS-Based Algorithm for the Visualization of Large Multidimensional Datasets  
*Antoine Naud* ...................................................... 643

The Multi-Agent System for Prediction of Financial Time Series  
*Sarūnas Raudys, Indre Zliobaite* ................................ 653

Visualization of Single Clusters  
*Frank Rehm, Frank Klawonn, Rudolf Kruse* .......................... 663

Dynamic Data Condensation for Classification  
*Dymitr Ruta* .......................................................... 672

Handwriting Recognition Accuracy Improvement by Author Identification  
*Jerzy Sas* .......................................................... 682

Adaptive Potential Active Hypercontours  
*Arkadiusz Tomczyk, Piotr S. Szczepaniak* .......................... 692

KIDBSCAN: A New Efficient Data Clustering Algorithm  
*Cheng-Fa Tsai, Chih-Wei Liu* ........................................... 702
**Table of Contents**

### Image Analysis and Robotics

**Localization and Extraction of the Optic Disc Using the Fuzzy Circular Hough Transform**

*Marianne Blanco, Manuel G. Penedo, Noelia Barreira, Marta Penas, Maria Jose Carreira* ................................................................. 712

**Object Recognition for Obstacle Avoidance in Mobile Robots**

*José M. Bolanos, Wilfredis Medina Meléndez, Leonardo Fermín, José Cappelletto, Gerardo Fernández-López, Juan C. Grieco* ........... 722

**Gait Synthesis and Modulation for Quadruped Robot Locomotion Using a Simple Feed-Forward Network**

*Jose Cappelletto, Pablo Estevez, Wilfredis Medina, Leonardo Fermin, Juan M. Bogado, Juan C. Grieco, Gerardo Fernandez-Lopez* .......... 731

**A Two-Stage Fuzzy Filtering Method to Restore Images Contaminated by Mixed Impulse and Gaussian Noises**

*Jyh-Yeong Chang, Shih-Mao Lu* .................................................. 740

**Determination of the Optimal Seam-Lines in Image Mosaicking with the Dynamic Programming (DP) on the Converted Cost Space**

*Jaechoon Chon, Hyongsuk Kim* ............................................... 750

**Symmetry-Based Salient Points Detection in Face Images**

*Michał Choras, Tomasz Andrysiak* ......................................... 758

**Cellular Neural Networks and Dynamic Enhancement for Cephalometric Landmarks Detection**

*Daniela Giordano, Rosalia Leonardi, Francesco Maiorana, Concetto Spampinato* ................................................................. 768

**Adaptive Critic Neural Networks for Identification of Wheeled Mobile Robot**

*Zenon Hendzel* ........................................................................ 778

**A New Chromatic Color Image Watermarking and Its PCA-Based Implementation**

*Thai Duy Hien, Zensho Nakao, Kazuyoshi Miyara, Yasunori Nagata, Yen Wei Chen* ................................................................. 787

**Human Identification Based on Fingerprint Local Features**

*Maciej Hreibień, Józef Korbicz* .................................................. 796

**Genetic Graph Programming for Object Detection**

*Krzysztof Krawiec, Patryk Lijewski* ........................................... 804
XVIII   Table of Contents

Selective Motion Analysis Based on Dynamic Visual Saliency Map Model
   *Inwon Lee, Sang-Woo Ban, Kunihiko Fukushima, Minho Lee* .................................................... 814

Efficient Ant Reinforcement Learning Using Replacing Eligibility Traces
   *SeungGwan Lee, SeokMi Hong* ................................. 823

Face Recognition Using Correlation Between Illuminant Context
   *Mi Young Nam, Battulga Bayarsaikhan, Phill Kyu Rhee* ........... 833

An Efficient Face and Eye Detector Modeling in External Environment
   *Mi Young Nam, Eun Jin Koh, Phill Kyu Rhee* ......................... 841

Keypoints Derivation for Object Class Detection with SIFT Algorithm
   *Krzysztof Slot, Hyongsuk Kim* ................................. 850

Gray Image Contrast Enhancement by Optimal Fuzzy Transformation
   *Roman Vorobel, Olena Berehulyak* ................................. 860

Non-negative Matrix Factorization with Quasi-Newton Optimization
   *Rafal Zdunek, Andrzej Cichocki* ................................. 870

**Bioinformatics and Medical Applications**

Active Mining Discriminative Gene Sets
   *Feng Chu, Lipo Wang* ........................................ 880

A Novel Approach to Image Reconstruction from Discrete Projections Using Hopfield-Type Neural Network
   *Robert Cierniak* ........................................ 890

Leukemia Prediction from Gene Expression Data—A Rough Set Approach
   *Jianwen Fang, Jerzy W. Grzymala-Busse* ......................... 899

Random Forest of Dipolar Trees for Survival Prediction
   *Małgorzata Krętowska* ........................................ 909

Interpretation of Medical Images Based on Ontological Models
   *Juliusz L. Kulikowski* ........................................ 919

Fuzzy Logic in Stuttering Therapy
   *Halina Kwasnicka, Blazej Zak* ................................ 925
Using Most Similarity Tree Based Clustering to Select the Top Most Discriminating Genes for Cancer Detection
Xinguo Lu, Yaping Lin, Xiaolin Yang, Lijun Cai, Haijun Wang, Gustaph Sanga ................................................................. 931

Nonambiguous Concept Mapping in Medical Domain
Paweł Matykwiecz, Włodzisław Duch, John Pestian .................. 941

Feature Selection and Ranking of Key Genes for Tumor Classification: Using Microarray Gene Expression Data
Srinivas Mukkamala, Qingzhong Liu, Rajeev Veeraghattam,
Andrew H. Sung ............................................................. 951

Cognitive Analysis in Diagnostic DSS-Type IT Systems
Lidia Ogiela, Ryszard Tadeusiewicz, Marek R. Ogiela ............... 962

Interpretability of Bayesian Decision Trees Induced from Trauma Data
Derek Partridge, Vitaly Schetinin, Dayou Li, Timothy J. Coats,
Jonathan E. Fieldsend, Wojtek J. Krzanowski, Richard M. Everson,
Trevor C. Bailey .................................................................. 972

The Greatest and the Least Eigen Fuzzy Sets in Evaluation of the Drug Effectiveness Levels
Elisabeth Rakus-Andersson .................................................. 982

Cardiac Ventricle Contour Reconstruction in Ultrasonographic Images Using Bayesian Constrained Spectral Method
Tomasz Sołtysiński, Krzysztof Kałużynski, Tadeusz Pałko ........ 988

A Model of a Diagnostic Rule in the Dempster-Shafer Theory
Ewa Straszecka ...................................................................... 998

DNA Fragment Assembly by Ant Colony and Nearest Neighbour Heuristics
Wannasak Wetcharaporn, Nachol Chaiyaratana,
Sissades Tongsima .............................................................. 1008

Various Problems of Artificial Intelligence

Application of Bayesian Confirmation Measures for Mining Rules from Support-Confidence Pareto-Optimal Set
Roman Slowinski, Izabela Brzezinska, Salvatore Greco ............. 1018

Cognitive Analysis Techniques in Business Planning and Decision Support Systems
Ryszard Tadeusiewicz, Lidia Ogiela, Marek R. Ogiela ................ 1027
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Authors</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PERT Based Approach to Performance Analysis of Multi-Agent Systems</td>
<td>Tomasz Babczyński, Jan Magott</td>
<td>1040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rule-Based Automated Price Negotiation: Overview and Experiment</td>
<td>Costin Bădică, Maria Ganzha, Marcin Paprzycki</td>
<td>1050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A New Version of the Fuzzy-ID3 Algorithm</td>
<td>Łukasz Bartczuk, Danuta Rutkowska</td>
<td>1060</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Interpolation Method with Fractal Curves</td>
<td>Andrzej Cader, Marcin Krupski</td>
<td>1071</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrating Lookahead and Post Processing Procedures with ACO for</td>
<td>Broderick Crawford, Carlos Castro</td>
<td>1082</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solving Set Partitioning and Covering Problems</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning Algorithms for Scheduling Using Knowledge Based Model</td>
<td>Ewa Dudek-Dyduch, Tadeusz Dyduch</td>
<td>1091</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge Representation of Pedestrian Dynamics in Crowd: Formalism of</td>
<td>Ewa Dudek-Dyduch, Jarosław Wąs</td>
<td>1101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cellular Automata</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Algorithm for Generating Fuzzy Rules for WWW Document Classification</td>
<td>Piotr Dziwiński, Danuta Rutkowska</td>
<td>1111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Possibilistic-Logic-Based Information Retrieval Model with Various</td>
<td>Janusz Kacprzyk, Katarzyna Nowacka, Sławomir Zadrozny</td>
<td>1120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term-Weighting Approaches</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sketch of Autopoietic Essence of Computing and Knowledge Working</td>
<td>Leonid Kompanets</td>
<td>1130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apply the Particle Swarm Optimization to the Multidimensional Knapsack</td>
<td>Min Kong, Peng Tian</td>
<td>1140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problem</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-stabilizing Algorithms for Graph Coloring with Improved</td>
<td>Adrian Kosowski, Łukasz Kuszner</td>
<td>1150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Performance Guarantees</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Novel Modeling Methodology: Generalized Nets</td>
<td>Maciej Krawczak</td>
<td>1160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Authors</td>
<td>Pages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Hierarchical Particle Swarm Optimization for Solving Bilevel</td>
<td>Xiangyong Li, Peng Tian, Xiaoping Min</td>
<td>1169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programming Problems</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methods of Artificial Intelligence in Blind People Education</td>
<td>Bohdan Macukow, Wladyslaw Homenda</td>
<td>1179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neural Networks and the Estimation of Hands’ Strength in Contract</td>
<td>Krzysztof Mossakowski, Jacek Mańdziuk</td>
<td>1189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridge</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mining Travel Resources on the Web Using L-Wrappers</td>
<td>Elvira Popescu, Amelia Bădică, Costin Bădică</td>
<td>1199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A New Evaluation Method for E-Learning Systems</td>
<td>Krzysztof Przybyszewski</td>
<td>1209</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parameter Estimation of Systems Described by the Relation by</td>
<td>Jerzy Świątek</td>
<td>1217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum Likelihood Method</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Distributed Learning Control System for Elevator Groups</td>
<td>Tomasz Walczak, Paweł Cichosz</td>
<td>1223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Author Index</td>
<td></td>
<td>1233</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>