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Advances in Intelligent Decision Technologies

Smart Innovation, Systems and Technologies 4

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Proceedings of the Second KES International
Symposium IDT 2010*, 2010
ISBN 978-3-642-14615-2

Gloria Phillips-Wren, Lakhmi C. Jain,
Kazumi Nakamatsu, and Robert J. Howlett (Eds.)

Advances in Intelligent Decision Technologies

Proceedings of the Second KES International
Symposium IDT 2010

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ISBN 978-3-642-14615-2

e-ISBN 978-3-642-14616-9

DOI 10.1007/978-3-642-14616-9

Smart Innovation, Systems and Technologies

ISSN 2190-3018

Library of Congress Control Number: 2010930917

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Typesetting: Scientific Publishing Services Pvt. Ltd., Chennai, India.

Printed on acid-free paper

9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

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Foreword

KES International (KES) is a worldwide organisation that provides a professional community and association for researchers, originally in the discipline of Knowledge Based and Intelligent Engineering Systems, but now extending into other related areas. Through this, KES provides its members with opportunities for publication and beneficial interaction.

The focus of KES is research and technology transfer in the area of Intelligent Systems, i.e. computer-based software systems that operate in a manner analogous to the human brain, in order to perform advanced tasks. Recently KES has started to extend its area of interest to encompass the contribution that intelligent systems can make to sustainability and renewable energy, and also the knowledge transfer, innovation and enterprise agenda.

Involving several thousand researchers, managers and engineers drawn from universities and companies world-wide, KES is in an excellent position to facilitate international research co-operation and generate synergy in the area of artificial intelligence applied to real-world 'Smart' systems and the underlying related theory.

The KES annual conference covers a broad spectrum of intelligent systems topics and attracts several hundred delegates from a range of countries round the world. KES also organises symposia on specific technical topics, for example, Agent and Multi Agent Systems, Intelligent Decision Technologies, Intelligent Interactive Multimedia Systems and Services, Sustainability in Energy and Buildings and Innovations through Knowledge Transfer. KES is responsible for two peer-reviewed journals, the International Journal of Knowledge based and Intelligent Engineering Systems, and Intelligent Decision Technologies: an International Journal.

KES supports a number of book series in partnership with major scientific publishers.

Published by Springer, 'Smart Innovative Systems and Technologies' is the KES flagship book series. The aim of the series is to make available a platform for the publication of books (in both hard copy and electronic form) on all aspects of single and multi-disciplinary research involving smart innovative systems and technologies, in order to make the latest results available in a readily-accessible form.

The series covers systems that employ knowledge and intelligence in a broad sense. Its focus is systems having embedded knowledge and intelligence, which may be applied to the solution of world industrial, economic and environmental problems and the knowledge-transfer methodologies employed to make this happen effectively. The combination of intelligent systems tools and a broad range of applications introduces a need for a synergy of scientific and technological disciplines.

Examples of applicable areas to be covered by the series include intelligent decision support, smart robotics and mechatronics, knowledge engineering, intelligent multi-media, intelligent product design, intelligent medical systems, smart industrial products, smart alternative energy systems, and underpinning areas such as smart systems theory and practice, knowledge transfer, innovation and enterprise.

The series includes conference proceedings, edited collections, monographs, handbooks, reference books, and other relevant types of book in areas of science and technology where smart systems and technologies can offer innovative solutions.

High quality is an essential feature for all book proposals accepted for the series. It is expected that editors of all accepted volumes take responsibility for ensuring that contributions are subjected to an appropriate level of reviewing process and adhere to KES quality principles.

Professor Robert J. Howlett
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Preface

Intelligent Decision Technologies (IDT) seeks an interchange of research on intelligent systems and intelligent technologies which enhance or improve decision making in industry, government and academia. The focus is interdisciplinary in nature, and includes research on all aspects of intelligent decision technologies, from fundamental development to the applied system.

The field of intelligent systems is expanding rapidly. Advances in artificial intelligence (AI) and connectivity have delivered exciting new applications. Networks have integrated the Internet and wireless technologies to enable communication and coordination between dispersed systems. Intelligent decision making now means that technology assists the human decision maker in everyday tasks and complex environments. The field of intelligent decision systems is interdisciplinary in nature, bridging computer science with its development of artificial intelligence, information systems with its development of decision support systems, and engineering with its development of technology.

It is therefore an honor to publish the research of scholars from the Second KES International Symposium on Intelligent Decision Technologies (KES IDT'10), hosted and organized by the Sellinger School of Business and Management, Loyola University Maryland, USA, in conjunction with KES International. The book contains chapters based on papers selected from a large number of submissions for consideration for the symposium from the international community. Each paper was peer reviewed by at least two independent referees. The best papers were accepted based on recommendations of the reviewers and after required revisions had been undertaken by the authors. The final publication represents the current leading thought in intelligent decision technologies.

We wish to express our sincere gratitude to the plenary speakers, invited session chairs, delegates from all over the world, the authors of various chapters and reviewers for their outstanding contributions. We express our sincere thanks to Dr. Karyl Leggio, Dean of the Sellinger School, and to Loyola University Maryland for their sponsorship and support of the symposium. We would like to thank Peter Cushion of KES International for his help with organizational issues. We thank the editorial team of Springer-Verlag and Heather King for their support in production of this volume. We sincerely thank Jean Anne Walsh, Katlyn Good, Jessica Ross, Brian Hatcher, Pat Donohue and students (Nathan Hill, Mary Kiernan, Pat Moran, JT Laue) at Loyola University Maryland for their assistance.

We hope and believe that this volume will contribute to ideas for novel research and advancement in intelligent decision technologies for researchers, practitioners, professors and research students who are interested in knowledge-based and intelligent engineering systems. We invite you to join us at a future symposium.

Baltimore, Maryland, USA
July 28-30, 2010

Gloria Philips-Wren
Kazumi Nakamatsu
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Table of Contents

I. Keynote Papers

Intelligence Analysis as Agent-Assisted Discovery of Evidence, Hypotheses and Arguments	1
<i>Gheorghe Tecuci, David Schum, Mihai Boicu, Dorin Marcu, and Benjamin Hamilton</i>	
Intelligent Software for Ecological Building Design	11
<i>Jens Pohl, Hisham Assal, and Kym Jason Pohl</i>	

II. Decision Making Theory

Issues in Aggregating AHP/ANP Scales	29
<i>William C. Wedley</i>	
An Application of Dominant Method: Empirical Approach to Public Sector Reform	43
<i>Yuji Sato</i>	
General Application of a Decision Support Framework for Software Testing Using Artificial Intelligence Techniques	53
<i>Deane Larkman, Masoud Mohammadian, Bala Balachandran, and Ric Jentzsch</i>	
A Double-Shell Design Approach for Multiobjective Optimal Design of Microgrids	65
<i>Maria Luisa Di Silvestre, Giuseppe Fileccia Scimemi, Mariano Giuseppe Ippolito, Eleonora Riva Sanseverino, and Gaetano Zizzo</i>	
A Comparison of Dominant AHP/CCM and AHP/ANP	75
<i>Eizo Kinoshita</i>	
The Weighted Least Square Method Applied to the Binary and Ternary AHP	91
<i>Kazutomo Nishizawa and Iwano Takahashi</i>	
Decision-Making by “Minor ANP” and Classification of the Types	101
<i>Toshimasa Ozaki, Mei-Chen Lo, Eizo Kinoshita, and Gwo-Hshiung Tzeng</i>	

Improving the E-Store Business Model for Satisfying Customers' Needs Using a Hybrid MCDM Combined DANP with Grey Relational Model 113
Wan-Yu Chiu, Gwo-Hshiung Tzeng, and Han-Lin Li

III. Advances in Intelligent Decision Systems

Multi-Agent System Protecting from Attacking with Elliptic Curve Cryptography 123
Xu Huang, Pritam Gajkumar Shah, and Dharmendra Sharma

An Implementation of a Multi-attribute Negotiation Protocol for E-Commerce 133
B.M. Balachandran, Tauhid Tayeb, Dharmendra Sharma, and Masoud Mohammadian

A Decision Support System for Ore Blending Cost Optimization Problem of Blast Furnaces 143
Ruijun Zhang, Jizhong Wei, Jie Lu, and Guangquan Zhang

IV. Intelligent Decision Technologies in Accounting and Finance

A Study on the Relationship between Corporate Governance and Pricing for Initial Public Offerings: The Application of Artificial Neural Networks 153
Chei-Chang Chiou and Wang Sen-Wei

Combining ICA with Kernel Based Regressions for Trading Support Systems on Financial Options 163
Shian-Chang Huang, Chuan-Chyuan Li, Chih-Wei Lee, and M. Jen Chang

Integration of Financial and Non-financial Information for Decision-Making by Using Goal Programming and Fuzzy Analytic Hierarchy Process on a Capital Budgeting Investment Case Study 171
Yu-Cheng Tang and Ching-Ter Chang

V. Optimization-Based Intelligent Techniques in Image Processing

A Statistical Tailored Image Reconstruction from Projections Method 181
Robert Cierniak

Realistic 3D-Modeling of Forest Growth with Natural Effect 191
M.N. Favorskaya, A.G. Zotin, I.M. Danilin, and S.S. Smolentcheva

VI. E-commerce and Logistics Management

A Parallel Simulated Annealing Solution for VRPTW Based on GPU Acceleration	201
<i>Jian-Ming Li, Hong-Song Tan, Xu Li, and Lin-Lin Liu</i>	
Evidential Reasoning Approach for MADA under Group and Fuzzy Decision Environment	209
<i>Xin-Bao Liu, Mi Zhou, and Jian-Bo Yang</i>	
Study on the Inventory Forecasting in Supply Chains Based on Rough Set Theory and Improved BP Neural Network	215
<i>Xuping Wang, Yan Shi, Junhu Ruan, and Hongyan Shang</i>	
A Model of Disruption Management for Solving Delivery Delay	227
<i>Qiulei Ding, Xiangpei Hu, and Yunzeng Wang</i>	
A Real-Time Scheduling Method for a Variable-Route Bus in a Community	239
<i>Yan Fang, Xiangpei Hu, Lirong Wu, and Yidi Miao</i>	
A Fair Transaction Protocol with an Offline Semi-Trusted Third Party	249
<i>Wang Qian and Su Qi</i>	
Impacts of Supply Chain Globalization on Quality Management and Firm Performance: Some Evidences in Shanghai, China	259
<i>Jiancheng Guan and Lei Fan</i>	

VII. Intelligent Spatial Decision Analysis

Analysis of Fuzzyness in Spatial Variation of Real Estate Market: Some Italian Case Studies	269
<i>Carmelo M. Torre and Claudia Mariano</i>	
Assessing Macroseismic Data Reliability through Rough Set Theory: Application on Vulture Area (Basilicata, Southern Italy)	279
<i>Fabrizio Gizzi, Nicola Masini, Maria Rosaria Potenza, Cinzia Zotta, Lucia Tilio, Maria Danese, and Beniamino Murgante</i>	
Fire Data Analysis and Feature Reduction Using Computational Intelligence Methods	289
<i>Majid Bahrepour, Berend Jan van der Zwaag, Nirvana Meratnia, and Paul Havinga</i>	
The Effect of Standardization in Multicriteria Decision Analysis on Health Policy Outcomes	299
<i>Jacqueline Young, Claus Rinner, and Dianne Patychuk</i>	

A Fuzzy Approach to the Small Area Estimation of Poverty in Italy	309
<i>Silvestro Montrone, Francesco Campobasso, Paola Perchinunno, and Annarita Fanizzi</i>	
Geographical Information Systems and Ontologies: Two Instruments for Building Spatial Analysis Systems	319
<i>Francesco Rotondo</i>	
Real Estate Decision Making Processes and Web-Based Applications: An Integrated Approach	329
<i>Michele Argiolas, Nicoletta Dessi, Giampaolo Marchi, and Barbara Pes</i>	
Geographical and Multi-criteria Approach for Hydro-geological Risk Evaluation in Decision Making Processes	339
<i>Francesco Selicato and Grazia Maggio</i>	
Analysis of Vulnerability of Road Networks on the Basis of Graph Topology and Related Attribute Information	353
<i>Zhe Zhang and Kirsi Virrantaus</i>	
VIII. Using Intelligent Systems for Decision Support in Health Systems	
Adoption of Open Source Software in Healthcare	365
<i>Gokul Bhandari and Anne Snowdon</i>	
Symbiotic Simulation Decision Support System for Injury Prevention	373
<i>Gokul Bhandari and Anne Snowdon</i>	
Application of Subjective Logic to Health Research Surveys	383
<i>Robert D. Kent, Jason McCarrell, Gilles Paquette, Bryan St. Amour, Ziad Kobti, and Anne W. Snowdon</i>	
A Survey of Text Extraction Tools for Intelligent Healthcare Decision Support Systems	393
<i>Ryan Ramirez, Jordan Iversen, John Ouimet, and Ziad Kobti</i>	
IX. Ontology-Based KMS and DMSS for Service Systems	
Towards Semantic-Aware and Ontology-Based e-Government Service Integration – An Applicative Case Study of Saudi Arabia’s King Abdullah Scholarship Program	403
<i>Abdullah Alqahtani, Haiyan Lu, and Jie Lu</i>	

Using Feature Selection with Bagging and Rule Extraction in Drug Discovery	413
<i>Ulf Johansson, Cecilia Sönströd, Ulf Norinder, Henrik Boström, and Tuve Löfström</i>	
Validating and Designing a Service Centric View for C2TP: Cloud Computing Tipping Point Model	423
<i>C. Peiris, D. Sharma, and B. Balachandran</i>	
Utilization of Agents for Key Distribution in IEEE 802.11	435
<i>Shirantha Wijesekera, Xu Huang, and Dharmendra Sharma</i>	

X. Service-Oriented Innovation for Designing Intelligent Environment

Approximately Solving Aggregate k-Nearest Neighbor Queries over Web Services	445
<i>Hideki Sato</i>	
Remotely Accessible Exercise Environment for Intrusion Detection/Defense Exercises Based on Virtual Machine Networks	455
<i>Yuichiro Tateiwa, Shoko Tatematsu, Tomohiro Iwasaki, and Takami Yasuda</i>	
Supporting Design and Composition of Presentation Document Based on Presentation Scenario	465
<i>Koichi Hanaue and Toyohide Watanabe</i>	
Translation Unit for Simultaneous Japanese-English Spoken Dialogue Translation	475
<i>Koichiro Ryu, Shigeki Matsubara, and Yasuyoshi Inagaki</i>	
Automatic Extraction of Phrasal Expressions for Supporting English Academic Writing	485
<i>Shunsuke Kozawa, Yuta Sakai, Kenji Sugiki, and Shigeki Matsubara</i>	
A Simulation System of Disaster Areas for Evaluating Communication Systems	495
<i>Koichi Asakura and Toyohide Watanabe</i>	
Re-ranking of Retrieved Web Pages, Based on User Preference	507
<i>Toyohide Watanabe and Kenji Matsuoka</i>	

XI. Applying Intelligent Decision Technology

Automated N-Step Univariate Time Series Forecasts with Bayesian Networks	515
<i>Gordon Rios, Antonino Marvuglia, and Richard Wallace</i>	

Application of EVALPSN to Network Routing	527
<i>Kazumi Nakamatsu, Toshiaki Imai, Jair Minoro Abe, and Takashi Watanabe</i>	
A Combination of Case-Based Reasoning and Analytic Hierarchy Process to Support Innovation in Industry	537
<i>Ana Campos and Rui Neves-Silva</i>	
Urban Spatiotemporal Data Modeling: Application to the Study of Pedestrian Walkways	549
<i>Chamseddine Zaki, Elyes Zekri, Myriam Servières, Guillaume Moreau, and Gérard Hégron</i>	
An Efficient Pruning Approach for Class Association Rules Mining	559
<i>Loan T.T. Nguyen and Thang N. Nguyen</i>	

XII. Soft Data Analysis Based Fuzzy Systems, Control and Decision Making

Binary Tree Classifier Based on Kolmogorov-Smirnov Test	571
<i>George Georgiev, Iren Valova, and Natacha Gueorgieva</i>	
A Stackelberg Location Problem on a Tree Network with Fuzzy Random Demands	581
<i>Takeshi Uno, Hideki Katagiri, and Kosuke Kato</i>	
Learning based Self-organized Additive Fuzzy Clustering Method	589
<i>Tomoyuki Kuwata and Mika Sato-Ilic</i>	

XIII. Kansei Communication and Value Creation in Human Mind

A Modeling and Systems Thinking Approach to Activity Rousing Consumer’s Buying Motivation Focusing on “Kansei Information” in POP ADS at the Store	597
<i>Yuji Kosaka and Hisao Shiizuka</i>	
Ageing Society and Kansei Communication	607
<i>Ayako Hashizume and Hisao Shiizuka</i>	
A Study on Group Decision Making with Observation on the Process of Consensus Building	617
<i>Yuri Hamada and Hiroko Shoji</i>	
Application of Modeling and Recommendation of Sensitivity to Get Tired	621
<i>Hiroo Inamura, Yuko Noma, Akihiro Ogino, and Hiroko Shoji</i>	

Evaluation of Feelings Received from the Rhythms of Percussive Timbre and Relationships between Affective Values	631
<i>Yuta Kurotaki and Hisao Shiizuka</i>	
A Rough-Set-Based Two-class Classifier for Large Imbalanced Dataset	641
<i>Junzo Watada, Lee-Chuan Lin, Lei Ding, Mohd. Ibrahim Shapiai, Lim Chun Chew, Zuwairie Ibrahim, Lee Wen Jau, and Marzuki Khalid</i>	
XIV. Future Direction of Innovative Decision Technologies	
A Hybrid MADM Based Competence Set Expansion for Marketing Imagination Capabilities	653
<i>Chi-Yo Huang, Gwo-Hshiung Tzeng, and Shu Hor</i>	
Semiconductor Foundry Technology Life Cycle Strategy Portfolio Definitions of Fabless IC Design Firms by Using the ISM and Fuzzy Integral Method	665
<i>Chi-Yo Huang, Chao-Yu Lai, and Gwo-Hshiung Tzeng</i>	
An Emotional Designed Based Hybrid MCDM Framework for the Next Generation Embedded System Configurations	675
<i>Chi-Yo Huang, Hsiang-Chun Lin, and Gwo-Hshiung Tzeng</i>	
Derivations of Factors Influencing Segmental Consumer Behaviors Using the RST Combined with Flow Graph and FCA	687
<i>Chi-Yo Huang, Ya-Lan Yang, Gwo-Hshiung Tzeng, Hsiao-Cheng Yu, Hong-Yuh Lee, Shih-Tsunsg Cheng, and Sang-Yeng Lo</i>	
Power System Equipments Investment Decision-Making under Uncertainty: A Real Options Approach	699
<i>Shamshul Bahar Yaakob and Junzo Watada</i>	
Combining DEMATEL and ANP with the Grey Relational Assessment Model for Improving the Planning in Regional Shopping Centers	709
<i>Vivien Y.C. Chen, Chui-Hua Liu, Gwo-Hshiung Tzeng, Ming-Huei Lee, and Lung-Shih Yang</i>	
Key Success Factors of Brand Marketing for Creating the Brand Value Based on a MCDM Model Combining DEMATEL with ANP Methods	721
<i>Yung-Lan Wang, Gwo-Hshiung Tzeng, and Wen-Shiung Lee</i>	
Author Index	731