PREFACE

Special section on

Recent Advances in Modelling, Analysis and Implementation of Cyber-Physical Systems

A cyber-physical system (CPS) is an integration of computation with physical processes, whose behaviour is defined by cyber and physical parts of the system. Rapid development of cyber-physical systems results in a huge impact on human life. The design methodology of such systems includes the joint dynamics of computers, software, networks and physical processes. The physical part refers to the real world and is prone to environmental influences, while the control (cyber) part controls the objects and makes decisions.

This special section presents five papers related to the recent advances in the modelling, analysis, and application merits of cyber-physical systems. The authors focus on the new aspects, algorithms and systems related to the prototyping flow of cyber-physical systems. Their papers include novel techniques, algorithms, and theoretical results oriented towards the modelling and analysis of CPSs, as well as propositions of new design methodologies, including cybersecurity aspects.

The paper entitled *Modelling information for the burnishing process in a cyber–physical production system* proposes a framework to collect data and information from the burnishing production process, in order to monitor real-time deviations from the correct course of the process. Such an operation allows reducing the number of defective products within the manufacturing process. The main contribution of the paper consists in constructing a predictive model, based on the Hellwig method for errors in the production process, which relies on indications of a machine's status. The presented technique is supported by experimental research based on the implementation of the system in a real-life environment.

The authors of the article *Edge computing in IOT-enabled honeybee monitoring for the detection of Varroa destructor* introduce a solution for the global monitoring of apiaries and the detection of *Varroa destructor* mites in beehives. In particular, the proposed solution is based on capturing and processing video streams from camera-based IoT devices. Such streams are further analysed with the use of edge computing in order to construct a global collection of cases within the cloud. The presented method is supported by experimental results, which show that the detection process can be run in real time.

The paper *Application of fuzzy logic in a secure beacon-based guidance system for public transportation* aims at the problems of guiding passengers within a public transport infrastructure. The proposed solution is based on a digital personal travel companion application, including outdoor location and event detection. The number of necessary interactions between the user and the application is reduced by employing an alerting system based on personalization through the preferences and characteristics of the user. The proposed solution includes an event detection system based on beacons and is supported by a fuzzy logic algorithm which makes it possible to determine the user's most likely actions during the journey. The techniques proposed in the work are supported by experimental research of two different case-studies.

In the work *An SFA-HMM performance evaluation method using state difference optimization for running gear systems in high-speed trains*, a health assessment method based on SFA and state transition optimization is developed along with application to running gear systems in high-speed train. In particular, a performance evaluation method based on a combination of slow feature maximum entropy analysis and a hidden Markov probability distribution is proposed. The presented technique is supported by experimental research in order to verify the effectiveness of the method.

Finally, the paper *A holistic study on use of blockchain technology in CPS and IoT architectures maintaining the CIA triad in data communication* is focused on the security aspects of cyber-physical systems. In particular, a holistic study of blockchain technology usage in CPS and IoT architectures is studied by exposing its main advantages and benefits. It is shown that present systems of CPS and IoT architectures are vulnerable to faults in the centralized control. In contrast, blockchain-based technologies of distributed secure systems can make these architectures much more secure and efficient.

Concluding, we would like to thank all the authors who submitted their research papers to our special section. We highly appreciate the contribution of the reviewers with their constructive comments and suggestions. We also wish to acknowledge the journal's Editor-in-Chief, Professor Józef Korbicz, for his acceptance of this special section, as well as his cooperation, support and assistance throughout the process. We also would like to thank Ms. Agnieszka Rożewska of the Editorial Office for her invaluable support and helpful suggestions offered during the managing of this special section.

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