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# applied mathematics and computer science

Special section

IMAGE ANALYSIS, CLASSIFICATION AND PROTECTION

**Guest editors** 

Marcin NIEMIEC Andrzej DZIECH Jakob WASSERMANN







#### About

The International Journal of Applied Mathematics and Computer Science is a quarterly published in Poland since 1991 by the University of Zielona Góra in partnership with De Gruyter Poland (Sciendo) and historically with Lubuskie Scientific Society, under the auspices of the Committee on Automatic Control and Robotics of the Polish Academy of Sciences. It strives to meet the demand for the presentation of interdisciplinary research in various fields related to control theory, applied mathematics, scientific computing, and computer science.

In particular, AMCS publishes original, high-quality full-length research papers in the following areas: modern control theory and practice; artificial intelligence methods and their applications; applied mathematics and mathematical optimisation techniques; and mathematical methods in engineering, computer science and biology.

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#### AIMS & SCOPE

The International Journal of Applied Mathematics and Computer Science strives to meet the demand for the presentation of interdisciplinary research in various fields related to control theory, applied mathematics, scientific computing, and computer science. In particular, it publishes high quality original research results in the following areas:

- · modern control theory and practice
- · artificial intelligence methods and their applications
- · applied mathematics and mathematical optimisation techniques
- · mathematical methods in engineering, computer science, and biology.

We are primarily interested in presenting theoretical and application-oriented full-length research papers dealing with the following topics:

- control theory, including optimal control, system identification, adaptive and robust control, multivariable control, and non-linear systems
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- · mathematical modelling and simulation, including numerical algorithms
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- · data mining, data and image processing, and big data
- · classification and pattern recognition
- · biomedical engineering and biomathematics
- · applications in engineering and medicine.

The editors welcome proposals for exchange between similar journals. Also, all persons interested in bringing out special issues of *AMCS* are encouraged to contact the Editor-in-Chief. Such issues may be published on any important and timely subject within the scope of the journal. All papers proposed for specials should be referred and meet the same criteria for scientific quality as articles presented in regular issues.

AMCS is published in Poland by the University of Zielona Góra in partnership with De Gruyter Poland (Sciendo) and historically with Lubuskie Scientific Society, under the auspices of the Committee on Automatic Control and Robotics of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

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### CONTENTS

~		34.00
mac	D Int	oction
Spec	iui s	ection

Kian Ara, R., Matiolanski, A. Grega, M., Dziech, A. and Baran, R. Efficient face detection based crow density estimation using convolutional neural networks and an improved sliding window strategy	
Karlupia, N., Mahajan, P., Abrol, P. and Lehana, P.K. A genetic algorithm based optimized convolutions neural network for face recognition	
Yang, L., Xie, T., Liu, M., Zhang, M., Qi, S. and Yang, J. Infrared small-target detection under a comple background based on a local gradient contrast method	
Duda, J. and Niemiec, M. Lightweight compression with encryption based on asymmetric numeral system	s 45
Ivanov, A. and Stoianov, N. Implications of the arithmetic ratio of prime numbers for RSA security	. 57
Regular section	
Ordaz, P., Alazki, H., Sánchez, B. and Ordaz-Oliver, M. On the finite time stabilization via robust control for uncertain disturbed systems	
Fadhilah, H.N., Adzkiya, D., Arif, D.K., Zhai, G. and Mardlijah Decentralized static output feedbac controller design for linear interconnected systems	
Kaczorek, T. Fractional time-invariant compartmental linear systems	. 97
Lazebnik, T. and Rosenfeld, A. FSPL: A meta-learning approach for a filter and embedded feature selection pipeline	
Kavi Priya, S. and Pon Karthika, K. A contemporary multi-objective feature selection model for depression detection using a hybrid pBGSK optimization algorithm	
<b>Teren, V., Cortadella, J. and Villa, T.</b> Generation of synchronizing state machines from a transition system A region-based approach	
Zhou, M., Huang, X., Liu, H. and Zheng, D. Hospitalization patient forecasting based on multi-task deelearning	

#### **PREFACE**

#### Special section on

#### Image Analysis, Classification and Protection

The rapid development of machine learning for image classification and recognition results in their efficient application in many areas of human activity, such as healthcare and security. Also, protection of digital content is crucial for development of modern services and networks. In recent years, multimedia and cybersecurity have been contributing extensively to our life experience and are expected to be among the most important applications in the future. This special section is focused on recent advances in image analysis and processing to ensure efficiency and high level of data security.

The section presents five theoretical and experimental papers related to digital image analysis, especially machine learning techniques and convolutional neural networks for object detection and classification, multimedia applications, as well as data protection and cybersecurity challenges. The authors of the papers introduce novel algorithms, models and methods. It is worth mentioning that three papers are directly connected with the European project ECHO (European Network of Cybersecurity Centers and Competence Hub for Innovation and Operations). This EU H2020 project connects and shares knowledge across multiple domains to develop a common cybersecurity strategy for Europe.

The first paper, entitled Efficient face detection based crowd density estimation using convolutional neural networks and an improved sliding window strategy, proposes a new approach for face detection-based crowd estimation under significant occlusion and head posture variations. This solution for training various detectors is introduced to address the problem with detection of excessively occluded faces. A special data set is used to train and test the model. Detecting faces in crowded scenes cannot be handled using a single face detection method, thus a robust technique for counting visible faces in a crowd is proposed by combining different machine learning and convolutional neural network algorithms. The proposed solution is efficient and outperforms various state-of-the-art algorithms in detecting faces.

The problem of reliable face detection and recognition is also considered in the paper entitled A genetic algorithm based optimized convolutional neural network for face recognition. The authors focus on hyperparameter optimization of convolutional neural networks to increase model performance. A genetic algorithm is used for optimization of various hyperparameters like filter siz as wel as the number of filters of hidden layers. The experiments indicate that the proposed approach generates an improved model accuracy in comparison with other solutions. It is proven that the genetic algorithm is able to minimize the objective function by selecting the best combination set of a neural network's hyperparameters in each iteration.

The paper entitled Infrared small-target detection under a complex background based on a local gradient contrast method considers another problem of image processing—small target detection under a complex background and a low signal-to-noise ratio. The authors propose a local gradient contrast method to address this challenge. The optimal scale for each pixel can be obtained by calculating a multiscale salient map. Then, a subblock-based local gradient measure can be designed to construct the local gradient contrast method. An adaptive threshold is employed to extract the final detection result. The experiments confirm that the designed method can discard clutters and obtain superior results compared to other approaches.

Effective compression is an important requirement of multimedia data storage and transmission, especially regarding digital images. Therefore, the section includes the paper entitled *Lightweight compression with encryption based on asymmetric numeral systems*. This work discusses asymmetric numeral systems—an innovative approach to entropy coding which can be used for compression with lightweight encryption. This solution provides a compression ratio comparable with arithmetic coding at a speed similar to that of Huffman. However, coding tables of the asymmetric numeral system make it possible to simultaneously encrypt the compressed message without additional cost. The authors introduce this approach and analyze its security level to find trade-offs between security, cost and performance, especially for battery-powered devices with limited resources.

The paper entitled *Implications of the arithmetic ratio of prime numbers for RSA security* also concerns the problem of data confidentiality. The authors emphasize the importance of following strict rules related to key generation of encryption algorithms (sufficiently large length of the key, reliable generation of prime numbers, etc.). The popular

asymmetric cryptography algorithm (RSA cipher) is considered in detail. Firstly, the importance of the arithmetic ratio between the prime numbers which create the modular number of the RSA key is presented as a new approach. The question whether all necessary requirements regarding key generation rules applied up to now are sufficient is clarified. All this aims to ensure a high level of data confidentiality, also for multimedia images.

The editors hope that all readers of the papers published in this special section will find that the detailed and careful presentation of ideas, methods and results achieved by the authors broadens their knowledge. We would like to thank all the authors of submitted papers as well as the reviewers, who provided constructive comments and suggestions. We also wish to acknowledge the journal's Editor-in-Chief, Professor Józef Korbicz, for the acceptance of this special section, fruitful cooperation, and constant support during the entire publication process.

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March 2023



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