

July 15-19, 2017
Berlin, Germany



Association for
Computing Machinery

Advancing Computing as a Science & Profession



GECCO'17 Companion

Proceedings of the 2017

**Genetic and Evolutionary Computation
Conference Companion**

Sponsored by:

ACM SIGEVO

The Association for Computing Machinery
2 Penn Plaza, Suite 701
New York, New York 10121-0701

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Printed in the USA

General Chair's Welcome

It is my pleasure and honor to welcome you to the Genetic and Evolutionary Computation Conference (GECCO) 2017 in Berlin, Germany, July 15-19, on behalf of the entire organization committee. GECCO is the main conference of the Special Interest Group on Genetic and Evolutionary Computation (SIGEVO) of the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM). GECCO prides itself in being the top quality conference in the area of genetic and evolutionary computation. This quality is ensured by having a selective and thorough reviewing process. Decisions on the acceptance of papers are made by expert track chairs with strong reputations, covering all the key areas in our field.

This year 464 papers were submitted to 13 different tracks, and 1780 reviews were assigned. Approximately 39% of papers have been accepted as full papers, with a further 36% accepted for poster presentation.

I am thrilled that this year we are able to offer an enticing mix of academic and corporate invited keynote presentations by Francesca Ciccarelli of King's College London and The Francis Crick Institute, Drew Purves and Chrisantha Fernando of Google DeepMind, and, for the SIGEVO Chair plenary lecture, Hod Lipson of Columbia University.

Attending GECCO provides an unparalleled opportunity to listen to and interact with the leading experts in our field, to establish new collaborations, and to reunite with well-known friends. On top of that, GECCO this year offers an amazing plethora of 21 workshops and 33 tutorials at no extra charge. Furthermore, with 7 competitions and the annual Humies event sponsored by John Koza, GECCO is sure to present the edge of modern computational possibilities and the latest human competitive results in our field. Finally, GECCO 2017 also brings a few new items to the table such as a job market, a summer school, and a completely new look and feel for the website.

I would like to thank all authors for submitting their excellent work to GECCO 2017 and all people who contributed to the organization of the conference. I am very much in debt to the organization committee, the track chairs, and the reviewers for their tremendous work. GECCO could not happen without the joint and tireless effort of the amazing people that make up the GECCO community.

I would like to specifically mention and thank the editor-in-chief Gabriela Ochoa for the excellent teamwork and Francisco Chicano for the huge job of getting the proceedings together in time. I would also like to mention and thank the core event organization team Cara Candler and Roxane Rose as well as this year's addition Taylor Vick from Executive Events for handling registrations and logistics, and Franz Rothlauf and Marc Schoenauer from SIGEVO for their in-depth knowledge, experience and advice on how to organize a successful GECCO.

On behalf of GECCO I further want to thank our industry sponsors Sentient, Uber AI Labs as well as Springer, Beacon and ACM SIGEVO for their contribution and support.

Finally, but perhaps most of all, I sincerely wish all of you attending GECCO an excellent conference experience that brings you a lot of new insights, collaborations, ideas and inspiration for future research, and of course, some fun to go with it all.

Peter A.N. Bosman
GECCO 2017 General Chair
Centrum Wiskunde & Informatica (CWI)
Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Table of Contents

Hot Off the Press

The Unrestricted Black-Box Complexity of Jump Functions	1
Maxim Budzalov (<i>ITMO University</i>), Benjamin Doerr (<i>Ecole Polytechnique</i>), and Mikhail Kever (<i>ITMO University</i>)	
Multilayer Optimization of Heterogeneous Networks Using Grammatical Genetic Programming	3
Michael Fenton and David Lynch (<i>University College Dublin</i>), Stepan Kucera and Holger Claussen (<i>Bell Labs Nokia</i>), and Michael O'Neill (<i>University College Dublin</i>)	
On Constructing Ensembles for Combinatorial Optimisation	5
Emma Hart and Kevin Sim (<i>Edinburgh Napier University</i>)	
Evolutionary algorithm with a directional local search for multiobjective optimization in combinatorial problems	7
Krzysztof Michalak (<i>Wroclaw University of Economics</i>)	
Effective Visualisation of the High-Dimensional Pareto-Optimal Solutions	9
Maizura Mokhtar and Ian Hunt (<i>Edinburgh Napier University</i>) and Stephen Burns and Dave Ross (<i>Scotland's Rural College (SRUC)</i>)	
Downscaling Near-Surface Atmospheric Fields With Multi-Objective Genetic Programming	11
Tanja Zerenner, Victor Venema, Petra Friederichs, and Clemens Simmer (<i>Meteorological Institute University of Bonn</i>)	

Late-Breaking Abstracts

A Novel Iterative Improvement Pivoting Rule for Local Search Heuristics	13
Saad Bougrine, Mohamed Amine El Majdouli, and Abdelhakim Ameur El Imrani (<i>Faculty of Science, Mohammed V University</i>)	
An Approach of Satellite Periodic Continuous Observation Task Scheduling Based on Evolutionary Computation	15
Hao Chen, Chun Du, Jun Li, Ning Jing, and Lingfeng Wang (<i>National University of Defense Technology</i>)	
BBIOS: A Characterization of Evolutionary Algorithm Stability	17
Matthew J. Craven (<i>Plymouth University</i>) and Simon P. Martin (<i>Brighstone</i>)	
Exploring the (Efficient) Frontiers of Portfolio Optimization	19
Matthew J. Craven and David I. Graham (<i>Plymouth University</i>)	
Optimizing LSTM RNNs Using ACO to Predict Turbine Engine Vibration	21
AbdElrahman ElSaid, Travis Desell, Fatima El Jamiy, James Higgins, and Brandon Wild (<i>University of North Dakota</i>)	
Social Trends in the Iterated Prisoner's Dilemma	23
Jessica Finocchiario and H. David Mathias (<i>Florida Southern College</i>)	
Solving Order/Degree Problems by Using EDA-GK	25
Hisashi Handa and Ryoichi Hasegawa (<i>Kindai University</i>)	
A Bi-objective memetic algorithm proposal for solving the minimum sum coloring problem	27
Olfa Harrabi (<i>Higher Institute Of Management Of Tunis, University of Tunis, Tunisia</i>); Ezzeddine Fatnassi (<i>Institut Supérieur de Gestion de Tunis Université de Tunis</i>); Hend Bouziri (<i>ESSEC, University of Tunis, Tunisia</i>); and Jouhaina Chaouachi (<i>IHEC Carthage Présidence-2016 Tunis, Tunisia</i>)	

Solving A Large Sudoku by Co-evolving Numerals	29
Jeffrey Horn (<i>Northern Michigan University</i>)	
Multi-document Summarization using Evolutionary Multi-objective Optimization	31
Chihoon Jung, Rituparna Datta, and Aviv Segev (<i>KAIST</i>)	
Discovering Weekly Seasonality for Water Demand Prediction using Evolutionary Algorithms	33
Piotr Lipinski, Patryk Filipiak, and Pawel Rychlikowski (<i>Computational Intelligence Research Group, Institute of Computer Science, Univeristy of Wroclaw</i>); Justyna Stanczyk, Joanna Kajewska-Szkudlarek, and Janusz Lomotoski (<i>Wroclaw University of Environmental and Life Sciences</i>); and Tomasz Konieczny (<i>MPWiK</i>)	
Utilization of Infeasible Solutions in MOEA/D for Solving Constrained Many-objective Optimization Problems	35
Minami Miyakawa (<i>JSPS Research Fellow (PD) and Hosei University</i>), Hiroyuki Sato (<i>The University of Electro-Communications</i>), and Yuji Sato (<i>Hosei University</i>)	
Melody Composition Using Geometric Crossover for Variable-length Encoding	37
Yong-Wook Nam and Yong-Hyuk Kim (<i>Kwangwoon Univ.</i>)	
Evaluating Island-based EAs on Unstable Networks with Complex Failure Patterns	39
Rafael Nogueras and Carlos Cotta (<i>Universidad de Málaga</i>)	
An Efficient Vector-Growth Decomposition Algorithm for Cooperative Coevolution in Solving Large Scale Problems	41
Zhigang Ren and An Chen (<i>Xi'an Jiaotong University</i>), Lin Wang (<i>Northwest University</i>), and Yongsheng Liang and Beibei Pang (<i>Xi'an Jiaotong University</i>)	
Optimization of Solid Waste Collection: Two ACO Approaches	43
Katya Rodríguez-Vázquez, Beatriz Garro-Licón, and Elizabeth Mancera-Galván (<i>IIMAS-UNAM</i>)	
General Aspect-based Selection Concept for Multi- and Many-objective Molecular Optimization	45
Susanne Rosenthal and Markus Borschbach (<i>Steinbeis Center BG</i>)	
Hierarchical Pattern Mining Based On Swarm Intelligence	47
Kazuaki Tsuboi, Satoshi Suga, and Satoshi Kurihara (<i>The University of Electro-Communications</i>)	

Posters

Track: Ant Colony Optimization and Swarm Intelligence

Particle Swarm Optimization based on Island Models	49
Houda Abadlia, Nadia Smairi, and Khaled Ghedira (<i>COSMOS Laboratory, National School of Computer Sciences, University of Manouba</i>)	
Parallel Ant Colony Optimization for Evacuation Planning	51
Manel Hajjem (<i>LARODEC Laboratory, ISGT, University of Tunis</i>); Hend Bouziri (<i>LARODEC Laboratory, ESSCT, University of Tunis</i>); El-Ghazali Talbi (<i>INIRIA, CNRS, university of Lille</i>); and Khaled Mellouli (<i>LARODEC Laboratory, IHEC, University Carthage</i>)	

Track: Complex Systems (Artificial Life/Artificial Immune Systems/Robotics/Evolvable Hardware/Generative and Developmental Systems)

Ecological Modularity as a Means to Reduce Necessary Training Environments in Evolutionary Robotics	53
Collin Kovach Cappelle, Josh Bongard, and Anton Bernatskiy (<i>The University of Vermont</i>)	
Evolving Cost Functions For Model Predictive Control of Multi-Agent UAV Combat Swarms	55
David D. Fan and Evangelos Theodorou (<i>Georgia Institute of Technology</i>) and John Reeder (<i>SPAWAR Systems Center Pacific</i>)	

Increasing the Complexity of Solutions Produced by an Evolutionary Developmental System	57
Heather Goldsby (<i>Michigan State University</i>), Rebecca L. Young (<i>University of Texas Austin</i>), Hans A. Hofmann (<i>University of Texas Austin</i>), and Arend Hintze (<i>Michigan State University</i>)	
Automated Pattern Identification and Classification: Anomaly Detection Case Study	59
Ryan Goss and Geoff Nitschke (<i>University of Cape Town</i>)	
Exploring Divergence for Soft Robot Evolution	61
Daniele Gravina, Antonios Liapis, and Georgios N. Yannakakis (<i>Institute of Digital Games, University of Malta, Malta</i>)	
Is Social Learning More Than Parameter Tuning?	63
Jacqueline Heinerman (<i>Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam</i>), Jörg Stork and Margarita Alejandra Rebolledo Coy (<i>TH Köln</i>), Julien Hubert (<i>Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam</i>), Thomas Bartz-Beielstein (<i>TH Köln</i>), and A.E. Eiben and Evert Haasdijk (<i>Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam</i>)	
Benefits of Lamarckian Evolution for Morphologically Evolving Robots	65
Milan Jelisavcic and Rafael Kiesel (<i>Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam</i>), Kyrre Glette (<i>University of Oslo</i>), and Evert Haasdijk and A. E. Eiben (<i>Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam</i>)	
Precomputation for Rapid Hypothesis Generation in Evolutionary Robotics	67
Joel Lehman (<i>IT University of Copenhagen</i>)	
A developmental artificial neural network model for solving multiple problems	69
Julian Francis Miller (<i>University of York</i>) and Dennis George Wilson (<i>University of Toulouse</i>)	
The EMERGE modular robot, an open platform for quick testing of evolved robot morphologies	71
Rodrigo Moreno (<i>Universidad Nacional de Colombia</i>); Ceyue Liu (<i>China University of Mining & Technology, Beijing</i>); Andres Faina (<i>IT University of Copenhagen</i>); and Henry Hernandez and Jonatan Gomez (<i>Universidad Nacional de Colombia</i>)	
GP-Based Motion Control Design for the Double-Integrator System Subject to Velocity Constraint	73
Ollin Peñaloza-Mejía (<i>Instituto Tecnológico de Sonora</i>), Eddie Clemente (<i>Instituto Tecnológico de Ensenada - TecNM</i>), Marlen Meza-Sánchez (<i>CONACYT-Instituto Tecnológico de Ensenada</i>), Cynthia Beatriz Pérez (<i>Instituto Tecnológico de Sonora</i>), and Francisco Chávez (<i>University of Extremadura</i>)	
Balancing Selection Pressures, Multiple Objectives, and Neural Modularity to Coevolve Cooperative Agent Behavior	75
Alex C. Rollins and Jacob Schrum (<i>Southwestern University</i>)	
Evolutionary Search For Paths on Protein Energy Landscapes	77
Emmanuel Sapin, Kenneth A. De Jong, and Amarda Shehu (<i>George Mason University</i>)	
Embodied Evolution versus Cooperative Coevolution in Multi-Robot Optimization: a practical comparison	79
Pedro Trueba, Abraham Prieto, and Francisco Bellas (<i>University of Coruna</i>)	
Exploiting Environmental Differentiation to Promote Evolvability in Artificial Evolution	81
Jonata Tyska Carvalho (<i>Center for Computational Sciences(C3)/Federal University of Rio Grande (FURG)</i>) and Stefano Nolfi (<i>Institute of Cognitive Sciences and Technologies (ISTC)/National Research Council(CNR)</i>)	
An Evolutionary Approach to Behavioural Morphometrics	83
Sebastian von Mammen (<i>University of Würzburg</i>), Melanie Däscherger (<i>University of Augsburg</i>), and Andreas Knote (<i>University of Würzburg</i>)	

Track: Digital Entertainment Technologies and Arts

Procedural Level Design using an Interactive Cellular Automata Genetic Algorithm	85
Chad M. Adams, Hirav P. Parekh, and Sushil J. Louis (<i>University of Nevada Reno</i>)	
Gamification Techniques in Collaborative Interactive Evolutionary Computation	87
Mario Garcia Valdez (<i>Instituto Tecnológico de Tijuana</i>), Juan-J Merelo Guervós (<i>University of Granada</i>), José Christian Romero (<i>Instituto Tecnológico de Tijuana</i>), Francisco Fernández de Vega (<i>Universidad de Extremadura</i>), and Alejandra Mancilla (<i>Instituto Tecnológico de Tijuana</i>)	
Escher-like Tiling Design Using Hierarchical Optimization	89
Asuka Hisatomi, Hitomi Koba, and Makoto Kamizono (<i>Department of Information Science and Biomedical Engineering, Graduate School of Science and Engineering, Kagoshima University</i>); Kazunori Mizuno (<i>Department of Computer Science, Faculty of Engineering, Takushoku University</i>); and Satoshi Ono (<i>Department of Information Science and Biomedical Engineering, Graduate School of Science and Engineering, Kagoshima University</i>)	
Speeding up Genetic Algorithm-based Game Balancing using Fitness Predictors	91
Mihail Morosan and Riccardo Poli (<i>University of Essex</i>)	
A Deep Learning / Neuroevolution Hybrid for Visual Control.....	93
Andreas Precht Poulsen, Mark Thorhauge, Mikkel Hvilshøj Funch, and Sebastian Risi (<i>IT University of Copenhagen</i>)	
Voxelbuild: A Minecraft-Inspired Domain for Experiments in Evolutionary Creativity	95
Lisa B. Soros, Justin K. Pugh, and Kenneth O. Stanley (<i>University of Central Florida</i>)	
Comparing multimodal optimization and illumination.....	97
Vassilis Vassiliades, Konstantinos Chatzilygeroudis, and Jean-Baptiste Mouret (<i>Inria</i>)	

Track: Evolutionary Combinatorial Optimization and Metaheuristics

A New Evolutionary Approach Using Pre-Post Testing to Trigger Exploration and Exploitation in DOPs	99
Hajer Ben-Romdhane (<i>LARODEC Laboratory, ISG of Tunis</i>); Enrique Alba (<i>University of Malaga</i>); and Saoussen Krichen (<i>LARODEC Laboratory, ISG of Tunis</i>)	
How to Get More from Your Model: The Role of Constructive Selection in Estimation of Distribution Algorithms.....	101
Jamie R. Caldwell and Richard A. Watson (<i>University of Southampton</i>)	
A Memetic Algorithm for Computing Multicriteria Shortest Paths in Stochastic Multimodal Networks.....	103
Omar Dib (<i>IRT SystemX</i>) and Alexandre Caminada, Marie-Ange Manier, and Laurent Moalic (<i>Univ. Bourgogne Franche-Comté, UTBM, OPERA</i>)	
A Novel Reduction Algorithm for the Generalized Traveling Salesman Problem.....	105
Mehdi El Krari, Belaïd Ahiod, and Bouazza El Benani (<i>Mohammed V University in Rabat</i>)	
Multi-objectiveness in the Single-objective Traveling Thief Problem.....	107
Mohamed El Yafrani (<i>Mohammed V University in Rabat</i>); Shelvin Chand (<i>University of New South Wales, Canberra, Australia</i>); Markus Wagner and Aneta Neumann (<i>The University of Adelaide</i>); and Belaïd Ahiod (<i>Mohammed V University in Rabat</i>)	
Parameter-less Population Pyramid with Feedback.....	109
Marcin Michal Komarnicki (<i>Wroclaw University of Science and Technology</i>) and Michal Witold Przewozniczek (<i>Wroclaw University of Science and Technology</i>)	
A Model-Based Genetic Algorithm Framework for Constrained Optimisation Problems.....	111
Mark Lawrenson, Tommaso Urli, and Philip Kilby (<i>CSIRO Data61 & the Australian National University</i>)	

The Menu Planning Problem: a MultiObjective Approach for the Brazilian Schools Context	113
Rafaela Priscila Cruz Moreira (<i>Centro Federal de Educação Tecnológica de Minas Gerais</i>), Elizabeth Fialho Wanner (<i>Aston University</i>), and Flávio Vinicius Cruzeiro Martins and João Fernando Machry Sarubbi (<i>Centro Federal de Educação Tecnológica de Minas Gerais</i>)	
Modeling Optimization Algorithm Runtime Behavior and its Applications	115
Qi Qi (<i>University of Science and Technology of China (USTC)</i>); Thomas Weise (<i>Institute of Applied Optimization, Hefei University</i>); and Bin Li (<i>University of Science and Technology of China (USTC)</i>)	
Efficient Quantitative Heuristics for Graph Clustering	117
Rafael de Santiago (<i>University of Vale do Itajaí</i>) and Luís Lamb (<i>Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul</i>)	
Clustering of Hyper-heuristic Selections using the Smith-Waterman Algorithm for Offline Learning	119
William Brian Yates and Edward Christopher Keedwell (<i>University of Exeter</i>)	
A fast heuristic algorithm for the critical node problem	121
Yangming Zhou and Jin-Kao Hao (<i>Université d'Angers</i>)	
Track: Evolutionary Machine Learning	
Evidential Learning Classifier System	123
Chedi Abdelkarim, Lilia Rejeb, Lamjed Ben Said, and Maha Elarbi (<i>Université de Tunis, Institut Supérieur de Gestion de Tunis</i>)	
An Upgraded Bat Algorithm for Tuning Extreme Learning Machines for Data Classification	125
Adis Alihodzic (<i>University of Sarajevo</i>), Eva Tuba (<i>University of Belgrade</i>), and Milan Tuba (<i>John Naisbitt University</i>)	
Large Scale Evolution of Convolutional Neural Networks Using Volunteer Computing	127
Travis Desell (<i>University of North Dakota</i>)	
Revisiting Interval Arithmetic for Regression Problems in Genetic Programming	129
Grant Dick (<i>University of Otago</i>)	
Evolutionary Learning of Meta-Rules for Text Classification	131
Juan Carlos Gomez (<i>University of Guanajuato Campus Irapuato-Salamanca</i>) and Stijn Hoskens and Marie-Francine Moens (<i>KU Leuven</i>)	
Autonomous Intersection Driving with Neuro-Evolution	133
Geoff Nitschke and Aashiq Parker (<i>UCT</i>)	
Automated State Feature Learning for Actor-Critic Reinforcement Learning through NEAT	135
Yiming Peng, Gang Chen, Scott Holdaway, Yi Mei, and Mengjie Zhang (<i>Victoria University of Wellington</i>)	
cCube: A Cloud Microservices Architecture for Evolutionary Machine Learning Classification	137
Pasquale Salza (<i>University of Salerno</i>), Erik Hemberg (<i>Massachusetts Institute of Technology</i>), Filomena Ferrucci (<i>University of Salerno</i>), and Una-May O'Reilly (<i>Massachusetts Institute of Technology</i>)	
The Role of Conditional Independence in the Evolution of Intelligent Systems	139
Jory Schossau (<i>Michigan State University</i>), Larissa Albantakis (<i>University of Wisconsin–Madison</i>), and Arend Hintze (<i>Michigan State University</i>)	
Low-power FSM synthesis using a fuzzy c-mean clustering-based decomposition	141
Yanyun Tao (<i>Soochow University</i>), Yuzhen Zhang (<i>The first affiliated Hospital of Soochow University</i>), and Qinyu Wang (<i>Jiangnan University</i>)	

Stability Selection using a Genetic Algorithm and Logistic Linear Regression on Healthcare Records.....	143
Ales Zamuda (<i>University of Maribor</i>), Christine Zarges (<i>Aberystwyth University</i>), and Gregor Stiglic and Goran Hrovat (<i>University of Maribor</i>)	
Linear Combinations of Features as Leaf Nodes in Symbolic Regression	145
Jan Žegklitz (<i>Czech Technical University in Prague, Czech Institute of Informatics, Robotics, and Cybernetics</i>) and Petr Pošík (<i>Czech Technical University in Prague, Faculty of Electrical Engineering</i>)	
Track: Evolutionary Multiobjective Optimization	
Towards an Epigenetics-Inspired Control System for Power Dispatch Problem	147
Daniel Joel Couvartier and Kalyanmoy Deb (<i>Michigan State University</i>) and Erik Goodman (<i>Michigan State University</i>)	
Set-SMAA for Finding Preferable Multi-Objective Solutions.....	149
Rotem Dror (<i>Technion -- Israel Institute of Technology</i>), Amir Kantor and Michael Masin (<i>IBM Research</i>), and Segev Shlomov (<i>Technion -- Israel Institute of Technology</i>)	
A Multi-Objective Continuous Genetic Algorithm for Financial Portfolio Optimization Problem	151
Yacine Kessaci (<i>Worldline</i>)	
Hybridizing Non-dominated Sorting Algorithms: Divide-and-Conquer Meets Best Order Sort	153
Margarita Markina and Maxim Buzdalov (<i>ITMO University</i>)	
The MOEA/D Algorithm with Gaussian Neighbourhoods for the Multiobjective Travelling Salesman Problem	155
Krzysztof Michalak (<i>Wrocław University of Economics</i>)	
Multiple Reference Points MOEA/D for Feature Selection	157
Bach Hoai Nguyen and Bing Xue (<i>Victoria University of Wellington</i>), Hisao Ishibuchi (<i>Osaka Prefecture University</i>), and Peter Andreae and Mengjie Zhang (<i>Victoria University of Wellington</i>)	
Solving electoral zone design problems with NSGA-II.\\Application to redistricting in Mexico	159
Antonin Ponsich, Eric Alfredo Rincón García, and Roman Anselmo Mora Gutiérrez (<i>Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana – Azcapotzalco</i>) and Sergio Gerardo de-los-Cobos Silva, Miguel Angel Gutiérrez Andrade, and Pedro Lara Velázquez (<i>Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana – Iztapalapa</i>)	
Distributed NSGA-II with Migration using Compensation on Many-core Processors for Improving Performance and Accuracy	161
Yuji Sato (<i>Hosei University</i>), Mikiko Sato (<i>Tokai University</i>), and Minami Miyakawa (<i>Hosei University</i>)	
An Improved MOEA/D Utilizing Variation Angles for Multi-Objective Optimization	163
Hiroyuki Sato (<i>The University of Electro-Communications</i>), Minami Miyakawa (<i>Hosei University</i>), and Keiki Takadama (<i>The University of Electro-Communications</i>)	
Track: Evolutionary Numerical Optimization	
On the Mutual Information as a Fitness Landscape Measure.....	165
Rebeka Coric (<i>University of Osijek</i>); Stjepan Picek (<i>KU Leuven</i>); Domagoj Jakobovic (<i>University of Zagreb, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing</i>); and Carlos A. Coello Coello (<i>CINVESTAV-IPN, Department of Computer Science</i>)	
A Two-Stage Coevolution Approach for Constrained Optimization.....	167
Jing-Yu Ji and Wei-Jie Yu (<i>Sun Yat-sen University</i>) and Jun Zhang (<i>South China University of Technology</i>)	
Interpolated Continuous Optimisation Problems with Tunable Landscape Features.....	169
Benjamin Lacroix (<i>Robert Gordon University</i>), Lee Ashley Christie (<i>University of Sirtling</i>), and John Alexander Wyper McCall (<i>Robert Gordon University</i>)	

A New Grouping Strategy-Based Hybrid Algorithm for Large Scale Global Optimization Problems	171
Haiyan Liu, Yuping Wang, and Liwen Liu (<i>Xidian University, Xi'an</i>); Xiao-Zhi Gao (<i>Machine Vision and Pattern Recognition Laboratory, Lappeenranta University of Technology, Lappeenranta</i>); and Yiu-ming Cheung (<i>Department of Computer Science, Hong Kong Baptist University</i>)	
Analysis of Scaling for Fitness Landscape Learning Evolutionary Computation based on CMA-ES	173
Naoki Mori, Kento Tsukada, Taku Hasegawa, and Keinosuke Matsumoto (<i>Osaka Prefecture University</i>)	
Non-parametric model of the space of continuous black-box optimization problems	175
Mario Andres Munoz Acosta and Kate Amanda Smith-Miles (<i>Monash University</i>)	
Ordinal versus Metric Gaussian Process Regression in Surrogate Modelling for CMA Evolution Strategy	177
Zbynek Pitra (<i>Czech Technical University</i>), Lukas Bajer and Jakub Repicky (<i>Charles University</i>), and Martin Holena (<i>Czech Academy of Sciences</i>)	
Adaptiveness of CMA based Samplers	179
Nixon Ronoh and Edna Milgo (<i>Vrije Universiteit Brussel</i>), Peter Waiganjo (<i>University of Nairobi</i>), and Bernard Manderick (<i>Vrije Universiteit Brussel</i>)	
A Computationally Efficient Gravitational Search Algorithm	181
Alex Rothwell and Aldeida Aleti (<i>Monash University</i>)	
Modified Box Constraint Handling for the Covariance Matrix Adaptation Evolution Strategy	183
Naoki Sakamoto and Youhei Akimoto (<i>Shinshu University</i>)	
Track: Genetic Algorithms	
On the Exploitation of Search History and Accumulative Sampling in Robust Optimisation	185
Khulood Alyahya, Kevin Doherty, Jonathan Fieldsend, and Ozgur Akman (<i>University of Exeter</i>)	
Automated Case Generation Using a Genetic Algorithm	187
Hayley Borck and Mark Boddy (<i>Adventium Labs</i>)	
A Two-Phase Genetic Algorithm for Image Registration	189
Sarit Chicotay, Eli (Omid) David, and Nathan S. Netanyahu (<i>Bar-Ilan University</i>)	
A Computationally Fast Multimodal Optimization with Push Enabled Genetic Algorithm	191
Yashesh Dhebar and Kalyanmoy Deb (<i>Michigan State University</i>)	
A Hybrid Genetic Algorithm for Deploying RSUs in VANETs Based on Inter-Contact Time.....	193
Marcelo Fonseca Faraj and João Fernando Machry Sarubbi (<i>Centro Federal de Educação Tecnológica de Minas Gerais</i>), Cristiano Maciel da Silva (<i>Universidade Federal de São João Del Rei</i>), and Flávio Vinícius Cruzeiro Martins (<i>Centro Federal de Educação Tecnológica de Minas Gerais</i>)	
A Genetic Algorithm with randomly shifted Gray codes and local optimizations based on quadratic approximations of the fitness.....	195
Alexandre Mayer (<i>University of Namur</i>)	
Overlapping community detection in social networks using a quantum-based genetic algorithm	197
Alireza Saleh Sedgh Pour (<i>Iran University of Science and Technology</i>) and Amin Nikanjam (<i>Khajeh Nasir Toosi University of Technology</i>)	
Introducing the Cumulation to the Population Based Incremental Learning and the Compact GA to Relax Genetic Drift	199
Keigo Tanaka and Youhei Akimoto (<i>Shinshu University</i>)	

Track: General Evolutionary Computation and Hybrids

Synergies Between Evolutionary Computation and Multiagent Reinforcement Learning: the Benefits of Exchanging Solutions	201
Ana Lucia C. Bazzan (<i>Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre RS - Brasil</i>)	
The Baldwin Effect on a Memetic Differential Evolution for Constrained Numerical Optimization Problems	203
Saul Dominguez-Isidro and Efren Mezura-Montes (<i>University of Veracruz</i>)	
Randomized Parameter Settings for a Pool-based Particle Swarm Optimization Algorithm	205
Amaury Hernandez-Aguila and Mario Garcia-Valdez (<i>Tijuana Institute of Technology</i>), Juan Julian Merelo-Guervos (<i>University of Granada</i>), and Oscar Castillo (<i>Tijuana Institute of Technology</i>)	
A multi-objective approach for the (α, β)-k Feature Set Problem using Memetic Algorithms	207
Francia Jimenez, Claudio Sanhueza, Regina Berretta, and Pablo Moscato (<i>The University of Newcastle</i>)	
Load Balance Aware Distributed Differential Evolution for Computationally Expensive Optimization Problems	209
Xiao-Fang Liu, Zhi-Hui Zhan, and Jun Zhang (<i>South China University of Technology</i>); Ning Ma (<i>Beihang University</i>); and Jing-Hui Zhong (<i>South China University of Technology</i>)	
Design choices for adapting bio-hybrid systems with evolutionary computation	211
Pedro Mariano (<i>Universidade de Lisboa</i>), Ziad Salem (<i>Karl-Franzens-University Graz</i>), Rob Mills (<i>Universidade de Lisboa</i>), Payam Zahadat (<i>Karl-Franzens-University Graz</i>), Luís Correia (<i>Universidade de Lisboa</i>), and Thomas Schmickl (<i>Karl-Franzens-University Graz</i>)	
Neural Network Topology and Weight Optimization through Neuro Differential Evolution	213
Karl J. Mason, Jim Duggan, and Enda Howley (<i>National University of Ireland Galway</i>)	
A Parallel hybrid GA-PSO Approach with Dynamic Rule Based Parameter Setting	215
Abtin Nourmohammadzadeh and Sven Hartmann (<i>Clausthal University of Technology</i>) and Hui Ma (<i>Victoria University of Wellington</i>)	
Indicator-Based Multi-Objective Genetic Programming for Workflow Scheduling Problem	217
Qin-zhe Xiao, Jinghui Zhong, Wei-neng Chen, Zhi-Hui Zhan, and Jun Zhang (<i>South China University of Technology</i>)	

Track: Genetic Programming

Evolving Texture Image Descriptors Using A Multitree Genetic Programming Representation	219
Harith Al-Sahaf, Bing Xue, and Mengjie Zhang (<i>Victoria University of Wellington</i>)	
Late-Acceptance and Step-Counting Hill-Climbing GP for Anomaly Detection	221
Van Loi Cao, Miguel Nicolau, and James McDermott (<i>University College Dublin</i>)	
New Geometric Semantic Operators in Genetic Programming: Perpendicular Crossover and Random Segment Mutation	223
Qi Chen, Mengjie Zhang, and Bing Xue (<i>Victoria University of Wellington</i>)	
Semantic-based Local Search in Multiobjective Genetic Programming	225
Tiantian Dou and Peter I. Rockett (<i>University of Sheffield</i>)	
Dynamic GP Fitness Cases in Static and Dynamic Optimisation Problems	227
Edgar Galvan-Lopez (<i>National University of Ireland Maynooth</i>), Lucia Vazquez-Mendoza (<i>Trinity College Dublin</i>), Marc Schoenauer (<i>INRIA Paris Saclay</i>), and Leonardo Trujillo-Reyes (<i>Tecnologico de Tijuana</i>)	

Genetic Programming with Multi-Layered Population Structure	229
Taku Hasegawa, Naoki Mori, and Keinosuke Matsumoto (<i>Osaka Prefecture University</i>)	
An Empirical Study on the Parametrization of Cartesian Genetic Programming.....	231
Paul Kaufmann (<i>Paderborn University</i>) and Roman Kalkreuth (<i>TU Dortmund</i>)	
Evolutionary Linear Discriminant Analysis for Multiclass Classification Problems.....	233
Michael Francis Korns (<i>Korn's Associates</i>)	
Long-Term Evolution of Genetic Programming Populations	235
William B. Langdon (<i>University College London</i>)	
Improving k-means Clustering with Genetic Programming for Feature Construction	237
Andrew Lensen, Bing Xue, and Mengjie Zhang (<i>Victoria University of Wellington</i>)	
Learning figure-ground image segmentors by genetic programming	239
Yuyu Liang, Mengjie Zhang, and Will N. Browne (<i>Victoria University of Wellington</i>)	
Late-acceptance hill-climbing with a grammatical program representation.....	241
James McDermott and Miguel Nicolau (<i>University College Dublin</i>)	
Visualizing genetic programming ancestries using graph databases	245
Nicholas Freitag McPhee (<i>University of Minnesota, Morris</i>); Maggie M. Casale (<i>Design Center, Inc.</i>); Mitchell Finzel (<i>University of Minnesota, Morris</i>); Thomas Helmuth (<i>Washington and Lee University</i>); and Lee Spector (<i>Hampshire College</i>)	
Using algorithm configuration tools to optimize genetic programming parameters: A case study	243
Nicholas Freitag McPhee (<i>University of Minnesota, Morris</i>); Thomas Helmuth (<i>Washington and Lee University</i>); and Lee Spector (<i>Hampshire College</i>)	
Hierarchical Grammatical Evolution	249
Eric Medvet (<i>DIA, University of Trieste, Italy</i>)	
An Effective Diversity Promotion Mechanism in Grammatical Evolution	247
Eric Medvet and Alberto Bartoli (<i>DIA, University of Trieste</i>) and Giovanni Squillero (<i>Politecnico di Torino</i>)	
Evolving S-boxes Based on Cellular Automata with Genetic Programming	251
Stjepan Picek (<i>KU Leuven</i>), Luca Mariot (<i>Universita degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca</i>), Domagoj Jakobovic (<i>Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing</i>), and Alberto Leporati (<i>Universita degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca</i>)	
Feature Selection Using Geometric Semantic Genetic Programming.....	253
Gustavo Henrique Rosa (<i>Sao Paulo State University</i>), Luciene Patrici Papa (<i>Sao Paulo Southwestern College</i>), and Joao Paulo Papa (<i>Sao Paulo State University</i>)	
Multitask Evolution with Cartesian Genetic Programming.....	255
Eric O. Scott and Kenneth A. De Jong (<i>George Mason University</i>)	
PSXO - Population-Wide Semantic Crossover	257
Leonardo Vanneschi and Mauro Castelli (<i>NOVA IMS, Universidade Nova de Lisboa</i>); Luca Manzoni (<i>DISCo, University of Milano-Bicocca</i>); Sara Silva (<i>University of Lisbon</i>); Krzysztof Krawiec (<i>Poznan University of Technology</i>); Alberto Moraglio (<i>University of Exeter</i>); and Ivo Gonçalves (<i>NOVA IMS, Universidade Nova de Lisboa</i>)	

Track: Real World Applications

Multiobjective Evolutionary Algorithms for Operational Planning Problems in Open-Pit Mining	259
Rafael Frederico Alexandre (<i>Department of Exact and Applied Sciences, Universidade Federal de Ouro Preto</i>) and Felipe Campelo and João Antônio Vasconcelos (<i>Department of Electrical Engineering, Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais</i>)	

Genetic Algorithms Approaches for the Production Planning in the Glass Container Industry	261
Flaviana Moreira de Souza Amorim and Márcio da Silva Arantes (<i>University of São Paulo</i>), Pierre Eric Frisch (<i>FRISCH VERRIER</i>), Bernardo Almada-lobo (<i>Universidade do Porto</i>), and Claudio Fabiano Motta Toledo and Jesimar da Silva Arantes (<i>University of São Paulo</i>)	
Development of a multi-model system to accommodate unknown misclassification costs in prediction of patient recruitment in multicentre clinical trials	263
Gilyana Borlikova (<i>UCD</i>), Louis Smith and Michael Phillips (<i>ICON plc</i>), and Michael O'Neill (<i>UCD</i>)	
Applying Particle Swarm Optimization to the Motion-Cueing-Algorithm Tuning Problem	265
Sergio Casas, Cristina Portalés, Inmaculada Coma, and Marcos Fernández (<i>IRTIC, University of Valencia</i>)	
Interactive evolutionary modelling of complex food systems: freeze-drying of lactic acid bacteria	267
Thomas Chabin, Marc Barnabé, Nadia Boukhelifa, Fernanda Fonseca, Alberto Tonda, Hélène Velly, Nathalie Perrot, and Evelyne Lutton (<i>INRA</i>)	
ZCSR for Targeting the Optimal Impedance in Digital Radio Frequency Matching Box	269
Liang-Yu Chen (<i>National Chiao Tung University/Institute of Computer Science and Engineering</i>); Ya-Liang Yang (<i>National Chiao Tung University/Department of Computer Science</i>); and Tzu-Chien Hsiao (<i>National Chiao Tung University/Institute of Biomedical Engineering, Department of Computer Science</i>)	
A Comparison of Fitness Functions in a Genetic Algorithm for Acoustic-Articulatory Parameter Inversion of Vowels	271
Jared Drayton (<i>Plymouth University</i>) and Eduardo Miranda and Alexis Kirke (<i>Plymouth University</i>)	
Developing Proactive Defenses for Computer Networks with Coevolutionary Genetic Algorithms	273
Anthony Edward Erb Lugo, Dennis Alberto Garcia, Erik Anders Pieter Hemberg, and Una-May O'Reilly (<i>Massachusetts Institute of Technology</i>)	
Toward a Smart Mobility System: Integrating Electric Vehicles Within Smart Cities	275
Ezzeddine Fatnassi (<i>Institut Supérieur de Gestion de Tunis Université de Tunis</i>), Olfa Harrabi (<i>Institut Supérieur de Gestion de Tunis</i>), and Jouhaina Chaouachi (<i>IHEC Carthage</i>)	
Scheduling a Continues Galvanization Line using Genetic Algorithm	277
Hila Fox, Shimon Ben-Alul, and Miri Weiss Cohen (<i>Braude College of Engineering</i>)	
Community detection in power grids by an evolutionary method	279
Manuel Guerrero, Consolación Gil, Francisco G. Montoya, Alfredo Alcayde, and Raúl Baños (<i>University of Almería</i>)	
A Hybrid Genetic Algorithm for Climate Input Features and Neural Network Parameters Selection	281
Ali Haidar and Brijesh Verma (<i>Central Queensland University</i>)	
Automatically Difficulty Grading Method of "Instruction System" Question Bank based on Knowledge Tree	283
Chengcheng Liu, Jin Zhang, Yang Zhou, Shunjian Tian, Xiaoli Gong, and Xin Wei (<i>Nankai University</i>)	
Fast 3D Path Planning based on Heuristic-aided Differential Evolution	285
Ning Ma (<i>Beihang University</i>), Xue Yu (<i>Sun Yat-sen University</i>), and Wei-Neng Chen and Jun Zhang (<i>South China University of Technology</i>)	
On Evolutionary Computation for Moving Target Defense in Software Defined Networks	287
Adetokunbo Makanju (<i>KDDI Research</i>), Nur Zincir-Heywood (<i>Dalhousie University</i>), and Shinsaku Kiyomoto (<i>KDDI Research</i>)	
Reducing systemic risk in multiplex networks using evolutionary optimization	289
Krzysztof Michalak (<i>Wroclaw University of Economics</i>)	

Single and Multi-Objective Genetic Algorithms for the Container Loading Problem	291
Gara Miranda (<i>Universidad de La Laguna</i>), Algirdas Lančinskas (<i>Vilnius University</i>), and Yanira González (<i>Universidad de La Laguna</i>)	
Computing a New Central Terminal for ECG recording using combined Genetic Algorithm and linear regression from real patient data	293
Hossein Moeinzadeh and Gaetano D. Gargiulo (<i>The MARCS Institute, Western Sydney University</i>); Paolo Bifulco and Mario Cesarelli (<i>Department of Electrical Engineering and Information Technology (DIETI), "Federico II" The University of Naples</i>); Alistair L. McEwan (<i>School of EIE, University of Sydney</i>); Aiden O'Loughlin (<i>School of Medicine, Western Sydney University</i>); Ibrahim M. Shugman (<i>Cardiology Department, Campbelltown Hospital</i>); Jonathan C. Tapson (<i>The MARCS Institute, Western Sydney University</i>); and Aravinda Thiagalingam (<i>School of Medicine, The University of Sydney</i>)	
Massive Asynchronous Master-Worker EA for a Nuclear Reactor Optimization: a Fitness Landscape Perspective	295
Mathieu Muniglia (<i>CEA</i>), Sébastien Verel (<i>LISIC-ULCO</i>), and Jean-Charles Le Pallec and Jean-Michel Do (<i>CEA</i>)	
Using Desirability Functions for Many-Objective Optimization of a Hybrid Car Controller	297
Yuka Ogino and Ryoya Iida (<i>Tokyo Institute of Technology</i>) and Tobias Rodemann (<i>Honda Research Institute Europe</i>)	
Evolutionary Computation at work for the Optimization of Link State Routing Protocols	299
Vitor Pereira, Pedro Sousa, and Miguel Rocha (<i>Universidade do Minho</i>)	
Application of a memetic algorithm to the fleet size and mix vehicle routing problem with electric modular vehicles	301
Dhekra Rezgui (<i>Higher Institute of Management of Tunis</i>), Jouhaina Chaouachi-Siala (<i>Institut des Hautes Etudes commerciales de Carthage</i>), Wassila Aggoune-Mtalaa (<i>Luxembourg Institute of Science and Technology</i>), and Hend Bouziri (<i>ESSEC Tunis</i>)	
A Genetic Algorithm for Hybrid VANETs with Synchronous Communication	303
João Fernando Machry Sarubbi and Flávio Vinícius Cruzeiro Martins (<i>Centro Federal de Educação Tecnológica de Minas Gerais</i>), Cristiano Maciel da Silva (<i>University Federal de São João del Rey</i>), and Elizabeth Fialho Wanner (<i>Aston University</i>)	
Short Versus Long-term Urban Planning Using Multi-objective Optimization	305
Jonas Schwaab (<i>ETH Zürich</i>); Kalyanmoy Deb and Erik Goodman (<i>Michigan State University</i>); Sven Lautenbach (<i>Institute of Geodesy and Geoinformation- IGG, University Bonn</i>); Maarten van Strien (<i>ETH Zürich</i>); and Adrienne Grêt-Regamey (<i>ETH Zurich</i>)	
A Fast Hybrid Evolutionary Algorithm with Inexact Fitness Evaluation for Solving Two-Stage Stochastic Scheduling Problems	307
Thomas Siwczyk and Sebastian Engell (<i>TU Dortmund</i>)	
Evolving sharing strategies in cybersecurity information exchange framework	309
Iman Vakiliinia, Sushil Louis, and Shamik Sengupta (<i>University of Nevada, Reno</i>)	
Track: Search-Based Software Engineering	
Software Change Prediction using Voting Particle Swarm Optimization based Ensemble Classifier	311
Ruchika Malhotra and Megha Khanna (<i>Delhi Technological University</i>)	
Track: Theory	
Analyzing Search Heuristics with Differential Equations	313
Tobias Friedrich, Timo Kötzing, and Anna Melnichenko (<i>Hasso-Plattner-Institut</i>)	
Simple Problems: The Simplicial Gluing Structure of Pareto Sets and Pareto Fronts	315
Naoki Hamada (<i>Fujitsu Laboratories Ltd.</i>)	

An Initial Error Analysis for Evolutionary Algorithms	317
Jun He (<i>University of Wales, Aberystwyth</i>); Yuren Zhou (<i>Sun Yat-sen University</i>); and Guangming Lin (<i>Shenzhen Institute of Information Technology</i>)	

Tutorials

Introductory Tutorials

Introduction to Randomized Continuous Optimization	319
Anne Auger and Nikolaus Hansen (<i>Inria</i>)	
Tutorial on Evolutionary Multiobjective Optimization	335
Dimo Brockhoff (<i>Inria Saclay - Ile-de-France and CMAP, Ecole Polytechnique</i>)	
Introduction to Gene Regulatory Networks	359
Sylvain Cussat-Blanc (<i>University of Toulouse</i>) and Wolfgang Banzhaf (<i>Memorial University of Newfoundland</i>)	
Evolutionary Computation: A Unified Approach	373
Kenneth De Jong (<i>George Mason University</i>)	
Theory for Non-Theoreticians	389
Benjamin Doerr (<i>Ecole Polytechnique</i>)	
A Practical Guide to Benchmarking and Experimentation	413
Nikolaus Hansen (<i>Inria</i>)	
Runtime Analysis of Population-based Evolutionary Algorithms	414
Per Kristian Lehre (<i>University of Birmingham</i>) and Pietro S. Oliveto (<i>University of Sheffield</i>)	
Fitness Landscape Characterisation of Optimisation Problems	435
Katherine Malan (<i>University of Pretoria</i>), Irene Moser (<i>Swinburne University of Technology</i>), and Aldeida Aleti (<i>Monash University</i>)	
Evolution of Neural Networks	450
Risto Miikkulainen (<i>The University of Texas at Austin</i>)	
Genetic Programming	471
Una May O'Reilly (<i>MIT</i>)	
Representations for Evolutionary Algorithms	489
Franz Rothlauf (<i>Universität Mainz</i>)	
Hyper-heuristics	510
Daniel R. Tauritz (<i>Missouri University of Science and Technology</i>) and John R. Woodward (<i>University of Stirling</i>)	
Model-Based Evolutionary Algorithms	545
Dirk Thierens (<i>Utrecht University</i>) and Peter A.N. Bosman (<i>Centrum Wiskunde & Informatica (CWI)</i>)	
Introducing Rule-Based Machine Learning: Capturing Complexity	576
Ryan Urbanowicz (<i>University of Pennsylvania</i>)	
Introductory Statistics for EC: A Visual Approach	605
Mark Wineberg (<i>Univeristy of Guelph</i>)	

Advanced Tutorials

CMA-ES and Advanced Adaptation Mechanisms	641
Youhei Akimoto (<i>Shinshu University</i>) and Nikolaus Hansen (<i>Inria</i>)	
Constraint-Handling Techniques used with Evolutionary Algorithms	675
Carlos Artemio Coello Coello (<i>CINVESTAV-IPN</i>)	
Recent Advances in Evolutionary Multi-Criterion Optimization	702
Kalyanmoy Deb (<i>Michigan State University</i>)	

Non-Static Parameter Choices in Evolutionary Computation	736
<i>Carola Doerr (CNRS and Univ. Sorbonnes Paris 6)</i>	
Exploratory Landscape Analysis	762
<i>Pascal Kerschke and Mike Preuss (University of Münster)</i>	
Solving Complex Problems with Coevolutionary Algorithms	782
<i>Krzysztof Krawiec (Poznan University of Technology) and Malcolm Heywood (Dalhousie University)</i>	
Evolutionary Large-Scale Global Optimization: An Introduction.....	807
<i>Mohammad Nabi Omidvar (University of Birmingham) and Xiaodong Li (RMIT University)</i>	
Sequential Experimentation by Evolutionary Algorithms.....	828
<i>Ofer M. Shir (Tel-Hai College), Thomas Bäck (Leiden University), Joshua Knowles (University of Birmingham), and Richard Allmendinger (University of Manchester)</i>	
Expressive Genetic Programming: Concepts and Applications	852
<i>Lee Spector (Hampshire College) and Nicholas Freitag McPhee (University of Minnesota, Morris)</i>	
Generative and Developmental Systems Tutorial	872
<i>Kenneth O. Stanley (University of Central Florida and Uber AI Labs)</i>	
Theory of Swarm Intelligence	902
<i>Dirk Sudholt (University of Sheffield)</i>	
Next Generation Genetic Algorithms	922
<i>Darrell Whitley (Colorado State University)</i>	
Specialized Tutorials	
Intelligent Systems for Smart Cities	942
<i>Enrique Alba (University of Malaga)</i>	
Multiagent Systems and Agent-based Modeling and Simulation	959
<i>Ana L. C. Bazzan (UFRGS)</i>	
Evolutionary Robotics	1005
<i>Nicolas Bredeche and Stéphane Doncieux (Université Pierre et Marie Curie) and Jean-Baptiste Mouret (Inria)</i>	
Automated Offline Design of Algorithms.....	1038
<i>Manuel López-Ibáñez (Decision and Cognitive Sciences Research Centre, University of Manchester) and Thomas Stützle (IRIDIA, Université libre de Bruxelles)</i>	
Evolutionary Computation and Cryptology.....	1066
<i>Stjepan Picek (CSAIL, MIT)</i>	
Evolutionary Computation in Network Management and Security	1094
<i>Nur Zincir-Heywood (Dalhousie University)</i>	
Workshop Papers	
Workshop: Simulation in Evolutionary Robotics	
A Baseline-Realistic Objective Open-Ended Kinematics Simulator for Evolutionary Robotics	1113
<i>Riley Konsella, Frank Chiarulli, John Peterson, and John Rieffel (Union College)</i>	
Simulating the Evolution of Soft and Rigid-Body Robots	1117
<i>Sam Kriegman and Collin Cappelle (University of Vermont), Francesco Corucci (Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna), Anton Bernatskiy (University of Vermont), Nick Cheney (Cornell University), and Josh Bongard (University of Vermont)</i>	
20 Years of Reality Gap: A few Thoughts About Simulators in Evolutionary Robotics	1121
<i>Jean-Baptiste Mouret and Konstantinos Chatzilygeroudis (Inria)</i>	

Workshop: 7th Workshop on Evolutionary Computation for the Automated Design of Algorithms

Towards a Method for Automatically Selecting and Configuring Multi-Label Classification Algorithms	1125
Alex Guimarães Cardoso de Sá and Gisele Lobo Pappa (<i>Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais (UFMG)</i>) and Alex Alves Freitas (<i>University of Kent</i>)	
Evolutionary Computation for the Automated Design of Category Functions for Fuzzy ART: An Initial Exploration	1133
Islam Elnabarawy, Daniel R. Tauritz, and Donald C. Wunsch (<i>Missouri University of Science and Technology</i>)	
Comparing Hyper-heuristics with Blackboard Systems	1141
Kevin Graham and Leslie Smith (<i>University of Stirling</i>)	
Evaluating random forest models for irace	1146
Leslie Pérez Cáceres (<i>IRIDIA, CoDE, Université Libre de Bruxelles</i>); Bernd Bischl (<i>Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität</i>); and Thomas Stützle (<i>IRIDIA, CoDE, Université Libre de Bruxelles</i>)	
Recent Developments in Autoconstructive Evolution	1154
Lee Spector (<i>Hampshire College</i>) and Eva Moscovici (<i>University of Massachusetts, Amherst</i>)	
Design of An Efficient Hyper-heuristic Algorithm CMA-VNS for Combinatorial Black-box Optimization Problems	1157
Fan Xue (<i>The University of Hong Kong</i>) and Geoffrey Q. Shen (<i>The Hong Kong Polytechnic University</i>)	

Workshop: Evolution in Cognition (Second edition)

Chairs' Welcome for GECCO'17 Workshop "Evolution in Cognition"	1163
Joshua E. Auerbach (<i>Champlain College</i>); Stephane Doncieux (<i>Sorbonnes Universités, UPMC Univ Paris 06, CNRS, ISIR</i>); Richard J. Duro (<i>Integrated Group for Engineering Research, Universidade da Coruna</i>); and Harold P. de Vladar (<i>Centre for Parmenides Foundation</i>)	
Cognitive Cultural Dynamics	1165
Harold de Vladar (<i>Centre for Parmenides Foundation</i>)	
Context Nodes in the Operation of a Long Term Memory Structure for an Evolutionary Cognitive Architecture	1172
Richard J. Duro, Jose Antonio Becerra, Juan Monroy, and Luis Calvo (<i>Universidade da Coruna</i>)	
Learning Highly Diverse Robot Throwing Movements through Quality Diversity Search	1177
Seungsu Kim and Stéphane Doncieux (<i>Sorbonne Universités, UPMC Univ Paris 06, CNRS, Institute of Intelligent Systems and Robotics (ISIR)</i>)	

Workshop: Evolutionary Computation Software Systems

In Hypercubo Nigrae Capsulae Optimum	1179
Arnaud Berny (<i>Independent researcher</i>)	
ecr 2.0: A Modular Framework for Evolutionary Computation in R	1187
Jakob Bossek (<i>University of Münster</i>)	
PonyGE2: Grammatical Evolution in Python	1194
Michael Fenton, James McDermott, David Fagan, and Stefan Forstenlechner (<i>University College Dublin</i>); Erik Hemberg (<i>Massachusetts Institute of Technology</i>); and Michael O'Neill (<i>University College Dublin</i>)	
evospace-js: Asynchronous Pool-Based Execution of Heterogeneous Metaheuristics	1202
Mario García-Valdez (<i>Instituto Tecnológico de Tijuana</i>) and JJ Merelo (<i>University of Granada</i>)	

Towards the Design and Implementation of Optimization Networks in HeuristicLab	1209
Johannes Karder, Stefan Wagner, Andreas Beham, Michael Kommenda, and Michael Affenzeller (University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria)	
flaccogui: Exploratory Landscape Analysis for Everyone	1215
Pascal Kerschke and Christian Hanster (University of Münster)	
ECJ Then and Now	1223
Sean Luke (George Mason University)	
Multijob: A Framework for efficient Distribution of Evolutionary Algorithms for Parameter Tuning	1231
Robin Mueller-Bady, Martin Kappes, and Lukas Atkinson (Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences) and Inmaculada Medina-Bulo (University of Cadiz)	
Design and Architecture of the jMetalSP Framework	1239
Antonio J. Nebro (University of Málaga)	
MYRA: A Java Ant Colony Optimization Framework for Classification Algorithms	1247
Fernando E. B. Otero (University of Kent)	
PyshGP: PushGP in Python	1255
Edward Pantridge (MassMutual Financial Group) and Lee Spector (Hampshire College)	
Towards Evolutionary Machine Learning Comparison, Competition, and Collaboration with a Multi-Cloud Platform	1263
Pasquale Salza (University of Salerno), Erik Hemberg (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), Filomena Ferrucci (University of Salerno), and Una-May O'Reilly (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)	
Workshop: Evolutionary Methods for Smart Grid Applications	
Towards Coding Strategies for Forecasting-Based Scheduling in Smart Grids and the Energy Lab 2.0	1271
Wilfried Jakob, Jorge Ángel González Ordiano, Nicole Ludwig, Ralf Mikut, and Veit Hagenmeyer (Karlsruhe Institute of Technology)	
Differential Evolution Strategies for Large-Scale Energy Resource Management in Smart Grids	1279
Fernando Lezama (National Institute of Astrophysics, Optics and Electronics (INAOE)); Joao Soares (Polytechnic of Porto); Enrique Muñoz de Cote (INAOE and PROWLER.io); Luis Enrique Sucar (National Institute of Astrophysics, Optics and Electronics (INAOE)); and Zita Vale (Polytechnic of Porto)	
Evolving Multi-Objective Neural Networks using Differential Evolution for Dynamic Economic Emission Dispatch	1287
Karl Mason, Jim Duggan, and Enda Howley (National University of Ireland Galway)	
Restoration of Power Distribution Networks - A Fast Evolutionary Approach based on Practical Perspectives	1295
Carlos E. R. Nogueira (CEMIG-D) and Wallace C. Boaventura, Ricardo H. C. Takahashi, and Eduardo G. Carrano (UFMG)	
Optimizing Booster Stations	1303
Jonas Benjamin Weber and Ulf Lorenz (University of Siegen - Chair of Technology Management)	
Workshop: 2nd Workshop on Industrial Applications of Metaheuristics	
Artificial Bee Colony Framework to Non-convex Economic Dispatch Problem with Valve Point Effects: A Case Study	1311
Dogan Aydin and Gurcan Yavuz (Dumlupinar University, Computer Engineering Department); Serdar Ozyon and Celal Yasar (Dumlupinar University, Electrical and Electronics Engineering Department); and Thomas Stuetzle (IRIDIA, CoDE, Université Libre de Bruxelles)	

Multiobjective Discovery of Human-like Driving Strategies	1319
<i>Erik Dovgan (University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Computer and Information Science); Jaka Sodnik (University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Electrical Engineering); Ivan Bratko (University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Computer and Information Science); and Bogdan Filipic (Jozef Stefan Institute, Department of Intelligent Systems)</i>	
Identifying a Robust Waste Heat Recovery System for Varying Hot Water Temperature Demand.....	1327
<i>Maizura Mokhtar (Edinburgh Napier University)</i>	
Combining Parallel Coordinates with Multi-Objective Evolutionary Algorithms in a Real-World Optimisation Problem	1335
<i>Neil Urquhart (Edinburgh Napier University)</i>	
Workshop: 20th International Workshop on Evolutionary Rule-Based Machine Learning	
Classifier Systems with Native Fuzzy Logic Control Operation	1341
<i>Nugroho Fredriani and Kurt Geihs (University of Kassel)</i>	
Toward Curious Learning Classifier Systems: Combining XCS with Active Learning Concepts	1349
<i>Anthony Stein, Roland Maier, and Jörg Hähner (University of Augsburg)</i>	
Workshop: Medical Applications of Genetic and Evolutionary Computation	
A Comparative Study of the EEG Signals Big Optimization Problem using Evolutionary, Swarm and Memetic Computation Algorithms	1357
<i>Mohamed Amine El Majdoui, Saad Bougrine, Ismail Rbouch, and Abdelhakim Ameer El Imrani (Faculty of Science, Mohammed V University)</i>	
Going Through Directional Changes: Evolving Human Movement Classifiers Using an Event Based Encoding	1365
<i>Michael A. Lones (Heriot-Watt University); Jane E. Alty, Jeremy Cosgrove, and Stuart Jamieson (Leeds General Infirmary); and Stephen L. Smith (University of York)</i>	
Efficient, Effective, and Insightful Tackling of the High-Dose-Rate Brachytherapy Treatment Planning Problem for Prostate Cancer using Evolutionary Multi-Objective Optimization Algorithms.....	1372
<i>Ngoc Hoang Luong and Anton Bouter (Centrum Wiskunde & Informatica (CWI)), Marjolein C. van der Meer (Academic Medical Center (AMC)), Yury Niatetski (Elekta), Cees Witteveen (Delft University of Technology), Arjan Bel and Tanja Alderliesten (Academic Medical Center (AMC)), and Peter A. N. Bosman (Centrum Wiskunde & Informatica (CWI))</i>	
Evolutionary learning-based modeling for warfarin dose prediction in Chinese	1380
<i>Yanyun Tao (Soochow University) and Yuzhen Zhang and Bin Jiang (The first affiliated Hospital of Soochow University)</i>	
Forecasting Glucose Levels in Patients with Diabetes Mellitus using Semantic Grammatical Evolution and Symbolic Aggregate Approximation	1387
<i>Jose Manuel Velasco, Oscar Garnica, and Sergio Contador (Universidad Complutense Madrid); Marta Botella (Hospital Hospital U. Principe Asturias); and Juan Lanchares and Jose Ignacio Hidalgo (Universidad Complutense Madrid)</i>	
Workshop: Student Workshop	
On Binary Unbiased Operators Returning Multiple Offspring.....	1395
<i>Nina Bulanova and Maxim Buzdalov (ITMO University)</i>	
Variable Selection as a Non-Completely Decomposable Problem: A Case Study in Multivariate Calibration.....	1399
<i>Lauro de Paula and Anderson Soares (Federal University of Goiás)</i>	

Genetic Programming meets Linear Algebra How genetic programming can be used to find improved iterative numerical methods	1403
Reza Gholami M. and Harald Köstler (<i>FAU Erlangen-Nuernberg</i>)	
Hierarchical Surrogate Modeling for Illumination Algorithms	1407
Alexander Hagg (<i>Bonn-Rhein-Sieg University of Applied Sciences</i>)	
Optimization Networks for Real-World Production and Logistics Problems	1411
Viktoria A. Hauder and Andreas Beham (<i>University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria, Johannes Kepler University Linz</i>); Stefan Wagner (<i>University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria</i>); and Michael Affenzeller (<i>University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria, Johannes Kepler University Linz</i>)	
Amplitude-oriented Mixed-type CGP Classification	1415
Karlo Knezevic (<i>University of Zagreb, Faculty of El. Engineering and Computing</i>); Stjepan Picek (<i>KU Leuven, imec-COSIC</i>); and Julian Francis Miller (<i>University of York</i>)	
Evaluation of a Genetic Representation for Outline Shapes	1419
Paul Lapok, Alistair Lawson, and Ben Paechter (<i>Edinburgh Napier University</i>)	
Evaluation of Heavy-tailed Mutation Operator on Maximum Flow Test Generation Problem	1423
Vladimir Mironovich and Maxim Buzdalov (<i>ITMO University</i>)	
Econometric Genetic Programming Outperforms Traditional Econometric Algorithms for Regression Tasks	1427
André Novaes and Ricardo Tanscheit (<i>PUC-Rio</i>) and Douglas Mota Dias (<i>Rio de Janeiro State University</i>)	
An Investigation of Topological Choices in FS-NEAT and FD-NEAT on XOR-based Problems of Increased Complexity	1431
Evgenia Papavasileiou and Bart Jansen (<i>Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), Department of Electronics and Informatics (ETRO) and imec</i>)	
Reinforcement Learning Based Dynamic Selection of Auxiliary Objectives with Preservation of the Best Found Solution	1435
Irina Petrova and Arina Buzdalova (<i>ITMO University</i>)	
Hybridisation of Artificial Bee Colony algorithm on Four Classes of Real-valued Optimisation Functions	1439
Mudita Sharma and Dimitar Kazakov (<i>University of York</i>)	
Ant Colony Optimization with Human-computer Cooperative Strategy for Two-echelon Vehicle Routing Problem	1443
Xueming Yan (<i>South China University of Technology</i>), Zhifeng Hao (<i>Foshan University</i>), and Han Huang and Hongyue Wu (<i>South China University of Technology</i>)	
Workshop: Genetic and Evolutionary Computation in Defense, Security and Risk Management	
Return-Oriented Programme Evolution with ROPER: A proof of concept	1447
Olivia Lucca Fraser (<i>NIMS Lab, Dalhousie University</i>); Nur Zincir-Heywood and Malcolm Heywood (<i>NIMS Laboratory, Dalhousie University</i>); and John T. Jacobs (<i>Raytheon Space and Airborne Systems</i>)	
Investigating Coevolutionary Archive Based Genetic Algorithms on Cyber Defense Networks	1455
Dennis Alberto Garcia, Anthony Erb Lugo, Erik Hemberg, and Una-May O'Reilly (<i>MIT, CSAIL</i>)	
Administrating Role-Based Access Control by Genetic Algorithms	1463
Igor Saenko and Igor Kotenko (<i>SPIIRAS</i>)	

Workshop: Landscape-Aware Heuristic Search

Instance-Based Algorithm Selection on Quadratic Assignment Problem	
Landscapes	1471
Andreas Beham and Michael Affenzeller (<i>University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria, Johannes Kepler University Linz</i>) and Stefan Wagner (<i>University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria</i>)	
Analyzing Deception, Evolvability, and Behavioral Rarity in Evolutionary Robotics	1479
Joel Lehman (<i>IT University of Copenhagen</i>)	
Exploiting Active Subspaces in Global Optimization: How Complex is your Problem?	1487
Pramudita Satria Palar and Koji Shimoyama (<i>Tohoku University</i>)	
The Effect of Landscape Funnels in QAPLIB Instances	1495
Sarah L. Thomson, Gabriela Ochoa, Fabio Daolio, and Nadarajen Veerapen (<i>University of Stirling</i>)	

Workshop: Genetic Improvement Workshop

Deep Parameter Optimisation on Android Smartphones for Energy Minimisation - A Tale of Woe and a Proof-of-Concept	1501
Mahmoud A. Bokhari (<i>The University of Adelaide</i>), Bobby R. Bruce (<i>University College London</i>), and Brad Alexander and Markus Wagner (<i>The University of Adelaide</i>)	
From Problem Landscapes to Language Landscapes: Questions in Genetic Improvement	1509
Brendan Cody-Kenny, Michael Fenton, and Michael O'Neill (<i>University College Dublin</i>)	
Gaining Insights into Road Traffic Data through Genetic Improvement	1511
Aniko Ekart, Alina Patelli, and Victoria Lush (<i>Aston University</i>) and Elisabeth Ilie-Zudor (<i>Computer and Automation Research Institute</i>)	
Genetic Improvement of Runtime and its Fitness Landscape in a Bioinformatics Application	1521
Saemundur Oskar Haraldsson, John R. Woodward, and Alexander E.I. Brownlee (<i>University of Stirling</i>) and Albert V. Smith and Vilmundur Gudnason (<i>The Icelandic Heart Association</i>)	
Fixing Bugs in Your Sleep: How Genetic Improvement Became an Overnight Success	1513
Saemundur Oskar Haraldsson, John R. Woodward, and Alexander E.I. Brownlee (<i>University of Stirling</i>) and Kristin Siggeirsdottir (<i>Janus Rehabilitation</i>)	
Learning from Super-Mutants	1529
Jason Landsborough, Stephen Harding, and Sunny Fugate (<i>SPAWAR Systems Center Pacific</i>)	
Improving SSE Parallel Code with Grow and Graft Genetic Programming	1537
William B. Langdon (<i>UCL</i>) and Ronny Lorenz (<i>University of Vienna</i>)	
Evolving Software Building Blocks with FINCH	1539
Michael Orlov (<i>Shamoon College of Engineering</i>)	
New Operators for Non-functional Genetic Improvement	1541
Justyna Petke (<i>University College London</i>)	
Modelling Genetic Improvement Landscapes with Local Optima Networks	1543
Nadarajen Veerapen, Fabion Daolio, and Gabriela Ochoa (<i>University of Stirling</i>)	
GI in No Time	1549
David Robert White (<i>UCL</i>)	
Embedding Genetic Improvement into Programming Languages	1551
Shin Yoo (<i>Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology</i>)	

Workshop: Measuring and Promoting Diversity in Evolutionary Algorithms

Dynamic Observation of Genotypic and Phenotypic Diversity for Different Symbolic Regression GP variants	1553
Michael Affenzeller, Stephan Winkler, Bogdan Burlacu, Gabriel Kronberger, Michael Kommenda, and Stefan Wagner (<i>FH Hagenberg</i>)	
A Simple Bucketing Based Approach to Diversity Maintenance	1559
Amit Benbassat (<i>Sapir Academic College</i>) and Yuri Shafet (<i>Ben-Gurion University of the Negev</i>)	
A Multi-Objective Decomposition-based Evolutionary Algorithm with Enhanced Variable Space Diversity Control	1565
Joel Chacón, Carlos Segura, and Arturo Hernández Aguirre (<i>CIMAT</i>) and Gara Miranda and Colomoto León (<i>Universidad de La Laguna</i>)	
Genealogical Distance as a Diversity Estimate in Evolutionary Algorithms	1572
Thomas Gabor and Lenz Belzner (<i>LMU Munich</i>)	
A comparison of illumination algorithms in unbounded spaces	1578
Vassilis Vassiliades, Konstantinos Chatzilygeroudis, and Jean-Baptiste Mouret (<i>Inria</i>)	

Workshop: New Standards for Benchmarking in Evolutionary Computation Research

Generating custom classification datasets by targeting the instance space	1582
Mario Andrés Muñoz and Kate Smith-Miles (<i>Monash University</i>)	
On the Difficulty of Benchmarking Inductive Program Synthesis Methods	1589
Edward Pantridge (<i>MassMutual Financial Group</i>); Thomas Helmuth (<i>Washington and Lee University</i>); Nicholas Freitag McPhee (<i>University of Minnesota, Morris</i>); and Lee Spector (<i>Hampshire College</i>)	
CryptoBench: Benchmarking Evolutionary Algorithms with Cryptographic Problems	1597
Stjepan Picek (<i>CSAIL, MIT</i>); Domagoj Jakobovic (<i>University of Zagreb</i>); and Una-May O'Reilly (<i>CSAIL, MIT</i>)	
Performance Testing of Automated Modeling for Industrial Applications	1605
Dylan Sherry and Michael Schmidt (<i>Nutonian Inc</i>)	

Workshop: Workshop on Surrogate-Assisted Evolutionary Optimisation

A Surrogate-Based Evolutionary Algorithm For Highly Constrained Design Problems	1613
Charlotte Beauthier, Paul Beaucaire, and Caroline Sainvitu (<i>Cenaero</i>)	
Bayesian Optimization Approach of General Bi-level Problems	1614
Emmanuel Kieffer, Grégoire Danoy, and Pascal Bouvry (<i>University of Luxembourg</i>) and Anass Nagih (<i>University of Lorraine</i>)	
Overview of Surrogate-model Versions of Covariance Matrix Adaptation Evolution Strategy	1622
Zbyněk Pitra (<i>Faculty of Nuclear Sciences and Physical Engineering of the Czech Technical University</i>); Lukáš Bajer and Jakub Repický (<i>Charles University, Faculty of Mathematics and Physics</i>); and Martin Holeňa (<i>Czech Academy of Sciences</i>)	
Enabling High-Dimensional Surrogate-Assisted Optimization by Using Sliding Windows	1630
Bernhard Werth, Erik Pitzer, and Michael Affenzeller (<i>University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria</i>)	

Workshop: Evolutionary Computation in Computational Biology

Toward Self-Adapting Computation in Cells: Building Spiking Neural Network with Cell Signaling Pathways	1638
Katherine H. Chiang (<i>Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company</i>)	

Optimisation and Landscape Analysis of Computational Biology Models: A Case Study	1644
Kevin Doherty, Khulood Alyahya, Jonathan Fieldsend, and Ozgur Akman (<i>University of Exeter</i>)	
On heuristic bias in fragment-assembly methods for protein structure prediction	1652
Julia Handl, Mario Garza-Fabre, Shaun Kandathil, and Simon C. Lovell (<i>University of Manchester</i>)	
Genetic Improvement of Computational Biology Software.....	1657
William B. Langdon and Karina Zile (<i>UCL</i>)	
Identification of Robust Strain Designs via Tandem pFBA/LMOMA phenotype prediction.....	1661
Paulo Maia (<i>SilicoLife, Lda</i>) and Isabel Rocha and Miguel Rocha (<i>Univ. Minho</i>)	
An Evolutionary Algorithm to Model Structural Excursions of a Protein	1669
Amarda Shehu (<i>George Mason University</i>)	
A protein folding model using the Face-Centered Cubic lattice model	1674
Daniel Varela and José Santos (<i>University of A Coruña</i>)	
Workshop: Second Workshop on Evolving Collective Behaviors in Robotics	
Evolving Robot Swarm Behaviors by Minimizing Surprise: Results of Simulations in 2-d on a Torus.....	1679
Richard Borkowski (<i>University of Paderborn</i>) and Heiko Hamann (<i>University of Lübeck</i>)	
Phylogeny of Embodied Evolutionary Robotics	1681
Amine Boumaza (<i>Université de Lorraine / LORIA</i>)	
Benefits of Proportionate Selection in Embodied Evolution: a Case Study with Behavioural Specialization	1683
Nicolas Bredeche (<i>Université Pierre et Marie Curie</i>), Jean-Marc Montanier (<i>Softbank Robotics Europe</i>), and Simon Carrignon (<i>Barcelona Supercomputing Center</i>)	
Incorporating User Feedback in Embodied Evolution	1685
Micha Kemeling (<i>Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam</i>) and Evert Haasdijk (<i>VU University Amsterdam</i>)	
Validation of a Learning and Evolving Robot Swarm	1687
Rasmus Munk, Emma Hart, and Ben Paechter (<i>Edinburgh Napier University</i>)	
Workshop: Visualisation Methods in Genetic and Evolutionary Computation	
Interactive tool for analyzing multiobjective optimization results with Level Diagrams.....	1689
Xavier Blasco and Juan Manuel Herrero (<i>Universitat Politècnica de València</i>), Gilberto Reynoso-Meza (<i>Pontifical Catholic University of Paraná (PUCPR)</i>), and Miguel A. Martínez Iranzo (<i>Universitat Politècnica de València</i>)	
Spatial Redistribution of Irregularly-Spaced Pareto Fronts for More Intuitive Navigation and Solution Selection	1697
Anton Bouter (<i>Centrum Wiskunde & Informatica</i>), Kleopatra Pirpinia (<i>Netherlands Cancer Institute</i>), Tanja Alderliesten (<i>Academic Medical Center</i>), and Peter A.N. Bosman (<i>Centrum Wiskunde & Informatica (CWI)</i>)	
The DU Map: A Visualization to Gain Insights into Genotype-Phenotype Mapping and Diversity	1705
Eric Medvet (<i>DIA - University of Trieste</i>) and Tea Tušar (<i>Department of Intelligent Systems - Jožef Stefan Institute</i>)	
On the Role of Aesthetics in Genetic Algorithms Applied to Graph Drawing.....	1713
Evgheni Polisciuc, António Cruz, Penousal Machado, and Joel P. Arrais (<i>Center for Informatics and Systems of the University of Coimbra</i>)	

Workshop: Exploration of Inaccessible Environments through Hardware/Software Co-evolution

Energy-Efficient Environment Mapping via Evolutionary Algorithm Optimized Multi-Agent Localization	1721
Ahmed Hallawa, Stephan Schlupkothen, Giovanni Iacca, and Gerd Ascheid (<i>RWTH Aachen</i>)	
Instinct-Driven Dynamic Hardware Reconfiguration: Evolutionary Algorithm Optimized Compression for Autonomous Sensory Agents	1727
Ahmed Hallawa (<i>RWTH Aachen</i>), Jaro De Roose and Martin Andraud (<i>KU Leuven</i>), Gerd Ascheid (<i>RWTH Aachen</i>), and Marian Verhelst (<i>KU Leuven</i>)	
Acquiring Moving Skills in Robots with Evolvable Morphologies: Recent Results and Outlook	1735
Milan Jelisavcic, Evert Haasdijk, A. E. Eiben, Evert Haasdijk, and A. E. Eiben (<i>Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam</i>)	

Workshop: Black Box Optimization Benchmarking 2017

Self-adaptive Search Equation-Based Artificial Bee Colony Algorithm with CMA-ES on the Noiseless BBOB Testbed	1742
Dogan Aydin and Gurcan Yavuz (<i>Dumlupinar University, Computer Engineering Department</i>)	
Benchmarking a Pool-Based Execution with GA and PSO Workers on the BBOB Noiseless Testbed	1750
Mario García-Valdez (<i>Instituto Tecnológico de Tijuana</i>) and Juan-J Merelo (<i>Universidad de Granada</i>)	
Benchmarking CMAES-APOP on the BBOB Noiseless Testbed	1756
Duc Manh Nguyen (<i>Hanoi National University of Education</i>) and Nikolaus Hansen (<i>INRIA</i>)	
Comparison of Ordinal and Metric Gaussian Process Regression as Surrogate Models for CMA Evolution Strategy	1764
Zbyněk Pitra (<i>Faculty of Nuclear Sciences and Physical Engineering of the Czech Technical University</i>), Lukáš Bajer and Jakub Repický (<i>Charles University</i>), and Martin Holeňa (<i>Czech Academy of Sciences</i>)	
Benchmarking the SMS-EMOA with Self-adaptation on the bbob-biobj Test Suite	1772
Simon Wessing (<i>Technische Universität Dortmund</i>)	
Benchmarking the Novel CMA-ES Restart Strategy Using the Search History on the BBOB Noiseless Testbed	1780
Takahiro Yamaguchi and Youhei Akimoto (<i>Shinshu University</i>)	

Workshop: Parallel and Distributed Evolutionary Inspired Methods

Large Scale Optimization of Computationally Expensive Functions: an approach based on Parallel Cooperative Coevolution and Fitness Metamodeling	1788
Ivanoe De Falco (<i>Institute of High Performance Computing and Networking, \ National Research Council of Italy</i>); Antonio Della Cioppa (<i>Natural Computation Lab, DIEM, University of Salerno</i>); and Giuseppe A. Trunfio (<i>DADU, University of Sassari</i>)	
Multi-Objective Parallel Extremal Optimization in Processor Load Balancing for Distributed Programs	1796
Ivanoe De Falco (<i>Institute of High Performance Computing and Networking, CNR</i>); Eryk Laskowski (<i>Institute of Computer Science Polish Academy of Sciences</i>); Richard Olejnik Richard Olejnik (<i>Universite Lille, CNRS, UMR 9189</i>); Ernesto Tarantino (<i>Institute of High Performance Computing and Networking, CNR</i>); and Marek Tudruj (<i>Polish-Japanese Academy of Information Technology</i>)	
A Distributed Framework for Cooperation of Many-Objective Evolutionary Algorithms	1804
Gian Maurício Fritsche and Aurora Trinidad Ramirez Pozo (<i>Federal University of Paraná</i>)	

A Study of Self-Adaptive Semi-Asynchronous Evolutionary Algorithm on Multi-Objective Optimization Problem	1812
Tomohiro Harada (<i>Ritsumeikan University</i>) and Keiki Takadama (<i>The University of Electro-Communications</i>)	
Asynchronous Parallel Cartesian Genetic Programming	1820
Adam Harter and Daniel R. Tauritz (<i>Missouri University of Science and Technology</i>) and William M. Siever (<i>Washington University</i>)	
Designing Bent Boolean Functions With Parallelized Linear Genetic Programming	1825
Jakub Husa (<i>Brno University of Technology</i>)	
Integrating Surrogate Evaluation Model and Asynchronous Evolution in Multi-Objective Evolutionary Algorithm for Expensive and Different Evaluation Time	1833
Misaki Kaidan, Tomohiro Harada, and Ruck Thawonmas (<i>Ritsumeikan University</i>)	
Island-Cellular Model Differential Evolution for Large-Scale Global Optimization	1841
Rodolfo A. Lopes and Alan R. R. Freitas (<i>Universidade Federal de Ouro Preto</i>)	
Parallel Optimization of Transistor Level Circuits using Cartesian Genetic Programming	1849
Vojtech Mrazek and Zdenek Vasicek (<i>Brno University of Technology</i>)	
A Distributed Implementation Using Apache Spark Of A Genetic Algorithm Applied To Test Data Generation	1857
Ciprian Paduraru (<i>University of Bucharest and Electronic Arts</i>) and Marius-Constantin Melemciuc and Alin Stefanescu (<i>University of Bucharest</i>)	
Hyper-Parameter Selection in Deep Neural Networks Using Parallel Particle Swarm Optimization	1864
Pablo Ribalta Lorenzo (<i>Future Processing</i>), Jakub Nalepa (<i>Silesian University of Technology</i>), and Luciano Sanchez Ramos and José Ranilla Pastor (<i>Universidad de Oviedo</i>)	
TensorFlow Enabled Genetic Programming	1872
Kai Staats (<i>Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University</i>); Edward Pantridge (<i>MassMutual Financial Group</i>); Marco Cavaglia (<i>University of Mississippi</i>); Iurii Milovanov (<i>SoftServe, Inc.</i>); and Arun Aniyan (<i>SKA South Africa / Rhodes University</i>)	
Exploiting Diversity in an Asynchronous Migration Model for Distributed Differential Evolution	1880
Ernesto Tarantino and Ivanoe DE Falco (<i>ICAR-CNR</i>), Antonio Della Cioppa (<i>University of Salerno</i>), and Umberto Scafuri (<i>ICAR-CNR</i>)	
A Parallel Multi-objective Cooperative Co-evolutionary Algorithm with Changing Variables	1888
Biao Xu and Dunwei Gong (<i>China University of Mining and Technology</i>)	

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