

Proceedings of the Junior Scientist Conference 2010

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Contents

Welcome Message from Peter Skalicky	xix
Welcome Message from Hans K. Kaiser	xxi
Conference Organizers	xxiii
1 Computational Science and Engineering	1
A Control System for a Humanoid Robot, <i>Ahmad Byagowi, Peter Kopacek</i>	3
A Lightweight Implementation of Hartree-Fock Theory with Computer- Generated Integration Routines, <i>Gregor Nikolaus Stipicic</i>	5
A Matrix Compression Scheme for Spherical Harmonics Expansions of the Boltzmann Transport Equation, <i>Karl Rupp, Tibor Grasser, Ansgar Jüngel</i>	7
A modeling of welded beam-to-column joint by component method, <i>Tibor Lang, Milan Sokol</i>	9
A Security Layer for the Time Triggered Architecture, <i>Emir Causevic, Haris Isakovic, Christian El Salloum</i>	11
Artificial Intelligence and the role of Humanities (Analyses, Applications, Models), <i>Gabriella Daróczy</i>	13
Audio Source Localization Using Multi-Microphone Techniques, <i>Francesco Caponio, Fabio Arlati, Marco Domenico Santambrogio, Andrea Abba, Antonio Manenti, Angelo Geraci</i>	15
Autonomous Operations Planning Applying Biological Control Principles, <i>Lawrence Mukhongo, Riham Khalil, David Stockton</i>	17

Classification of Points with an Active Surface Approach and Surface Modeling to Measured Data, <i>Bernhard Blaschitz, Martin Peternell</i>	19
Computational Science and Engineering in Conception for Choosing the Best Investment Solution, <i>Ivana Milosev, Mirjana Sujic, Andrea Katic, Vladimir Djakovic, Goran Andjelic</i>	21
Computer Modeling of Initiation and Synchronization Processes in Ciliated Cell's Cilia, <i>Elena Selivanova, Andrey Gorogetskiy</i>	23
Construction of NFkB Reporter Cell Lines for Real Time Monitoring of NFkB Activation in Microfluidic Channels, <i>Abdelhamit Jnane, Sihong Wang</i>	25
Creation of a program to dimension hopper and belt feeder, <i>Alfred Wondracek, Georg Kartnig</i>	27
Designing and optimisation of the carrying frame for the sensory system positioner, <i>Michal Dibdiak, Stanislav Gavlas, Ludovít Bakala, Juraj Komačka</i>	29
Detection of Ground Reaction Force Using Inductive Displacement Sensor, <i>Snezana Djuric, Laszlo Nagy, Mirjana Damnjanovic</i>	31
Discrete vortex method simulations of a turbulent flow past bridge decks with application to the aerodynamic admittance, <i>Mads M. Hejlesen, Johannes T. Rasmussen, Allan Larsen, Jens H. Walther</i>	33
Dynamic Obstacle Avoidance for Intelligent Ground Vehicle, <i>Roynal Rayess</i>	35
Efficient finite difference schemes for highly oscillatory linear ODE, <i>Jens Geier, Anton Arnold</i>	37
Elimination of Reference Count Operations in Bytecode Interpreters, <i>Stefan Brunthaler, Jens Knoop</i>	39
Embedded Real-Time Panoramic Video Tracking System, <i>Karthik Mahesh Varadarajan, Markus Vincze</i>	41
Evaluation of an Image-Assisted Deformation Monitoring System, <i>Christine Knötzl, Alexander Reiterer</i>	43
Experimental investigation of heat carried away by vortices shed from heated circular cylinder, <i>Péter Bencs, Szilárd Szabó</i>	45

Film drainage during droplet coalescence in presence of surfactants, <i>Marcin Grabias, Wioletta Podgórska</i>	47
Flexible Engineering Environment Integration for (Software+) Engineering Teams, <i>Andreas Pieber, Stefan Biffl</i>	49
From red cells to skiing to a new concept for a high speed train, <i>Parisa Mirbod, Yiannis Andreopoulos, Sheldon Weinbaum</i>	51
Geo-kinematics of Central and Southeastern Europe inferred from homogenized long term GPS measurements, <i>Linda Hipmanova</i>	53
Geodesic Support Weights For Local Stereo, <i>Asmaa Hosni, Michael Bleyer, Margrit Gelautz</i>	55
Geodetic data filtering by nonlinear diffusion equations on the Earth surface, <i>Martin Tunega, Robert Cunderlik, Karol Mikula</i>	57
High-Temperature Small-Signal Analysis of AlGaN/GaN HEMTs, <i>Stanislav Vitanov, Vassil Palankovski</i>	59
Improving Operations Management Planning and Control of a Service Project with Lean Principles, <i>Mohamed Alkaabi, Riham Khalil, David Stockton</i>	61
Influence of the non-ionic surfactant Tween 20 on the drop breakage and coalescence, <i>Agata Bak, Wioletta Podgorska</i>	63
Information Requisition for Computer-Supported Medical Care, <i>Theresia Gschwandtner, Katharina Kaiser, Silvia Miksch</i>	65
Initial design of rocket plane for tourism application, <i>Agnieszka Kwiek</i>	67
Integration of Design of Experiments with Discrete event Simulation for Problem Identification, <i>Parminder Singh Kang, Riham Khalil, David Stockton</i>	69
Investigation of the stability and dynamic behaviour of plates subjected to laser treatment, <i>Christian Bilik, Franz G. Rammerstorfer, Gerald Figala, Bruno Buchmayr</i>	71
Investigation on Nitromethane Combustion Mechanisms for Simulation of Micro-Detonations, <i>Severin Voglsam, Franz Winter</i>	73

Measuring Shape Analysis Precision, <i>Viktor Pavlu, Markus Schordan</i>	75
Methodological approach for optimization of repulsive crisis management in production companies by assessment of Integrated Production Systems, <i>Maximilian Schubert, Wilfried Sihn</i>	77
Mixing and hydrodynamics of micro- and nano-suspensions, <i>Jerzy Bałdyga, Katarzyna Malik</i>	79
Modelling and control of the piezoelectric actuator as a part of the Hybrid Micropositioning Stage, <i>Jovica Tasevski</i>	81
Molecular Dynamics of Underwater Explosions, <i>Sergei Igolkin, Alexander I. Melker</i>	83
Novel approach to the light scattering from rough metallic surfaces, <i>Johannes Böhm, András Vernes, Michael Vellekoop</i>	85
Novel Near-spherical Field-of-view Catadioptric Stereo Rig for Mobile Robots, <i>Igor Labutov, Carlos Jaramillo, Erez Gati, Jizhong Xiao</i>	87
Novel scheme to simulate friction between rough surfaces, <i>Sladjan Ilinicic, Friedrich Franek</i>	89
Observer-Based Residual Generator Design for Multiple Fault Detection and Isolation, <i>Clara Nieto-Wire</i>	91
On p-Core towers of prime power degree of the Symmetric Group, <i>Wainwright Joseph</i>	93
On the Problems of Efficient Realization of Parallelized Pollard's Rho Method, <i>Vitaly Perevoshchikov, Alexey Gritsenko</i>	95
Optimistic Integrated Instruction Scheduling and Register Allocation, <i>Gergö Barany, Andreas Krall</i>	97
Performance Prediction and Optimization of Factorization and Prime Numbers Algorithms, <i>Andrej Holubek</i>	99
Prarametric study of wave propagation in soil due to impulse load, <i>Lenka Konečná, Milan Sokol</i>	101
Regression Models of Mechanical Characteristics of 30XГСА Steel Multi-Pass Joint Welds, <i>Chinakhov Dmitry</i>	103

Robust Door Detection in Unfamiliar Environments, <i>Xiaodong Yang, Yingli Tian</i>	107
Segmentation of medical data using evolving plane curves, <i>Jozef Urbán, Karol Mikula</i>	109
Simulation of precipitation sequence of metastable and stable phases in Al-Mg-Si alloys, <i>Peter Lang, Ahmad Falahati, Erwin Povoden-Karadeniz, Olivier Nodin, Piotr Warczok, Mohammad Reza Ahmadi, Ernst Kozeschnik</i>	111
Solving a polynomial equation by employing structured matrices, <i>Taoufik Ennoure, Victor Pan</i>	113
Stability of a Closed-Loop Control System - Applied to a Gantry Crane with Heavy Chains, <i>Dominik Stuerzer, Anton Arnold, Andreas Kugi</i>	115
Text-based Indoor Signage Recognition, <i>Chucai Yi, Yingli Tian</i>	117
The use of recuperative mechanisms for utilization of burnt gases produced by smelting aggregation, <i>Stanislav Gavlas, Michal Dibdiak, Ludovít Bakala, Juraj Komačka</i>	119
Time-frequency Correlation Function's Application in Pipeline Leakage Localization, <i>Chau Tran, Valery Goncharov, Valery Avramchuk</i>	121
Trabeculae Histology and Architecture for Modeling of Traumatic Brain Injuries, <i>Parisa Saboori, Ali Sadegh</i>	123
Transfer function approximation of distributed parameter systems using numerical method, <i>Dang NguyenPhu</i>	125
Transformations of Conditional Term Rewrite Systems, <i>Karl Gmeiner, Bernhard Gramlich</i>	127
Transparent pseudonymization of patient data in distributed medical documentation processes, <i>Jochen Goeritz, Stefan Strobl, Mario Bernhart, Thomas Grechenig</i>	129
Visualization of Location Fingerprints in a Positioning System based on RFID, <i>Stefan Pongracz, Günther Retscher</i>	131
2 Materials and Matter	133

A Click Chemistry Approach to Columnar, <i>Eric Rios-Doria</i>	135
A Comprehensive Study on the Mechanical and Thermal Properties of Nanoclay Reinforced Thermoplastic and Thermoset Polymers at Various Temperatures, <i>Selen Bayar, Feridun Delale</i>	137
A New Petrophysical Model for Describing the Pressure Dependence of Seismic Velocity in Rocks, <i>Judit Molnár, Mihály Dobróka</i>	139
A Nonlinear Model for Nano-ionic Current along Microtubules, <i>Dalibor Sekulić, Miljko Satarić</i>	141
A Reliable Synthetic Approach to alpha,omega-disubstituted Oligothiophenes as Potential Materials for Organic Electronics, <i>Brigitte Holzer, Daniel Lumpi, Ernst Horkel, Christian Hametner, Johannes Fröhlich</i>	143
A Reliable Synthetic Route for Planarized OLED Compounds using Condensed Triarylamines and Rigidified Oligothiophene Units, <i>Johannes Bintinger, Daniel Lumpi, Ernst Horkel, Christian Hametner, Johannes Fröhlich</i>	145
A Study of Thermo-mechanical Properties of Composite Materials Reinforced with Polyhedral Shaped Particles, <i>Azra Rasool, Helmut Böhm (Faculty Mentor)</i>	147
Advanced Solution for Gamma Photon Detection, <i>Đorđe Obradović, Miloš Živanov</i>	149
Agglomeration of chitosan microspheres as a potential method for bone tissue substitutes fabrication, <i>Martyna Kucharska, Tomasz Ciach</i>	151
ALPHADET - new FPGA-based readout electronics for alpha-particle detection by BJT-detector, <i>Vladyslav Tyzhnevyyi, Gian-Franco Dalla Betta</i>	153
Anisotropy of bone lamellae, <i>Andreas G. Reisinger, Dieter H. Pahr, Philippe K. Zysset</i>	155
CdSe Quantum Dot-Single Walled Carbon Nanotube, <i>Francis Smith</i>	157
Coherent Coupling of Ring Cavity Quantum Cascade Lasers, <i>Clemens Schwarzer, Elvis Mujagic, Hermann Detz, Werner Schrenk, Jianxin Chen, Claire Gmachl, Gottfried Strasser</i>	159

Decoration of Pyridine Scaffold using Buchwald-Hartwig and Liebeskind-Srogl Coupling Reactions, <i>Laurin Wimmer, Michael Schnürch, Marko Mihovilovic</i>	161
Determination of electric and magnetic characteristics of basic electronic materials, <i>Nelu Blaz, Ljiljana Zivanov, Goran Radosavljevic, Michael Unger, Walter Smetana</i>	163
Development of Polarimetric Sensors using Metamaterials, <i>Amarachukwu Enemuo</i>	165
Direct Functionalization of N-Protected Tetrahydroisoquinoline and Isochromane, <i>Michael Ghobrial, Michael Schnürch, Marko Mihovilovic</i>	167
Disorder and Correlation: LDA+DMFT+CPA Approach, <i>Philipp Wissgott, Allesandro Toschi, Philipp Hansmann, Nico Parragh, Karsten Held</i>	169
Elimination of Plastic Shrinkage Cracking in Concrete, <i>Peter Briatka, Peter Makys</i>	171
Energy-Loss Magnetic Chiral Dichroism - Investigating Magnetism on the Nanometer Scale, <i>Stefan Löffler, Inga Ennen, Michael Stöger-Pollach, Peter Schattschneider</i>	173
Epoxy-Functional Monomers with Tailored Molecular Structure: Synthesis and Free Radical Grafting to Polypropylene, <i>Kerstin Wallisch, Simone Knaus</i>	175
Experimental and Computational Studies on the Reactivity of a Single-Source Precursor for Iron Silicide Nanoparticles, <i>Van An Du, Ulrich Schubert</i>	177
Flame spread on inclined surfaces of solids, <i>Nina Schjerve</i>	179
Functionally graded W/Cu interlayers for actively cooled “flat –tile” divertor mock-ups, <i>Stefanie Huber, Christian Edtmaier</i>	181
High-Mn Austenitic Steels: Strain Analysis and Study of the Thermal Phenomena Related to the Portevin-LE Chatelier Effect, <i>Carolina Di Salvo, Donato Firrao, Paolo Matteis, Giorgio Scavino</i>	183
Hydrophobic surfaces for medical applications, <i>Beata Butruk, Paulina Ziętek, Tomasz Ciach</i>	185

Improving road friction – The polishing test according to Wehner/Schulze, <i>Lukas Kirchmaier, Ronald Blab</i>	187
Improving the thermomechanical properties of cast Al-Si alloys by the addition of Ni and Fe aluminides, <i>Zahid Asghar, Guillermo Requena, Hans Degischer</i>	189
Innovative design of a cheap wireless sensor for monitoring water content in construction materials, <i>Milan Radovanović, Mirjana Malešev, Vlastimir Radonjanin, Goran Sto- janović</i>	191
Investigation of the Degradation Behaviour of Polyethyleneglycol in Aqueous Electrolytes, <i>Michael Kellner, Simone Knaus, Hermann Kronberger</i>	193
Investigations towards asymmetric C-H Activation Reactions, <i>Birgit Mrozek, Michael Schnürch, Marko Mihovilovich</i>	195
Large scale synthesis of dimethyldioxirane (DMDO) and its application in the development of new glycosylation reagents, <i>Dennis Svatunek, Hannes Mikula, Christian Hametner, Johannes Fröhlich</i> 197	
Locally-resolved kinetics of catalytic CO oxidation on polycrystalline plat- inum, <i>Diana Vogel, Christian Spiel, Yuri Suchorski, Wolfgang Drachsler, Robert Schlögl, Günther Rupprechter</i>	199
Magnetic Avalanches in Molecular Nanomagnets, <i>Lukas Zhao, Bo Wen, Lin Bo, Shiqi Li, Simon Divilov, Myriam Sarachik</i> . 201	
Materials and multisensoriality. A methodology to approach the sensory eval- uation of materials to strengthen metaproject, paying particular attention to ecocompatibility., <i>Beatrice Lerma</i>	203
Modification of Polyolefins by Using an Extruder as Chemical Reactor, <i>Linh Nguyen Pham Duy, Simone Knaus</i>	205
Momentum Imaging Of Three-Body Fragmentation Pathways in Polyatomic Molecules, <i>Li Zhang, Stefan Roither, Xinhua Xie, Daniil Kartashov, Stefanie Gräfe, Huailiang Xu, Atsushi Iwasaki, Tomoya Okino</i>	207
Decoration of Pyridine Scaffold using Buchwald-Hartwig and Suzuki Coupling Reactions, <i>Moumita Koley, Michael Schnürch, Marko Mihovilovic</i>	209

New Initiators for Two-Photon Photopolymerisation, <i>Marton Siklos, Zhiqian Li, Niklas Pucher, Robert Liska, Jürgen Stampfl</i>	211
Novel sealing materials for vascular grafts, <i>Anna Szulc, Tomasz Ciach</i>	213
On the van der Waals interactions between carbon onion layers, <i>Melanie Todt, Franz G. Rammerstorfer</i>	215
Optical spectral weight in cuprates: A DMFT study, <i>Georg Rohringer, Alessandro Toschi, Giorgio Sangiovanni, Karsten Held</i>	217
Optimization of the slip-casting process for the fabrication of polymer-derived ceramic microparts, <i>Silke Kütäubel, Thomas Konegger, Roland Haubner</i>	219
Ordering Phenomena of Organic Moieties on Nanoscopic Surfaces: Tailoring the Interface in Organic-Inorganic Nanocomposites, <i>Bernhard Feichtenschlager, Guido Kickelbick, Silvia Pabisch, Herwig Peterlik, Muhammad Sajjad, Thomas Koch</i>	221
Organically Modified Yttrium Alkoxides as Precursors for Hybrid Materials, <i>Robert Lichtenberger, Stefan O. Baumann, Maria Bendova, Ulrich Schubert</i>	223
Pickering Emulsions Stabilized by Anatase Nanoparticles, <i>Angelika Bachinger, Guido Kickelbick</i>	225
Polymers from Renewable Resources:, <i>Dzanana Dautefendic, Simone Knaus</i>	227
Probing quantum gases with an integrated single atom fluorescence detector, <i>Dominik Fischer, Wolfgang Rohringer, Dennis Heine, Sebastian Loziczký, Thomas Raub, Thorsten Schumm, Björn Hessmo, Hannes-Jörg Schmiedmayer</i>	229
Research KBrF4 Synthesis by Fluorination of Potassium Bromide, <i>Vladimir Shagalov, Vasilii Sobolev, Roman Ostvald</i>	231
Research on the impact of SMA11 mixtures gradation on permanent deformation rate, <i>Martins Zaumanis, Viktors Haritonovs</i>	233
Segregation of Segregation of particles in laminar flow, <i>Jerzy Baldyga, Wojciech Kowalinski</i>	235
Selective Sequential Cross-Coupling Reactions on Imidazoles, <i>Lisa-Maria Recnik, Mohammed Abd El Hameid, Michael Schnürch, Marko D. Mihovilovic</i>	237

Selective Triarylations of Tribromothiazole in One-Pot, <i>Maximilian Haider, Michael Schnürch, Marko Mihovilovic</i>	239
Si-NW synthesis by using octachlorotrisilane as novel precursor, <i>Wolfgang Molnar, Christian Bauch, Peter Pongratz, Alois Lugstein, Emerich Bertagnolli</i>	241
Structural and Studies of Heart Fatty Acid-Binding Protein and its Chemical Interactions with Omega-3 Fatty Acids, <i>Silmilly Toribio</i>	243
Structuring of polysiloxane-based waveguides via two-photon induced polymerization, <i>Josef Kumpfmüller, Robert Liska</i>	245
Studies on the Thermal Stabilization of Baeyer-Villiger Monoxygenases, <i>Saima Feroz, Marko D. Mihovilovic</i>	247
Sub-mW Flow Sensor based on a Wheatstone Bridge Read-out, <i>Almir Talic, Samir Cerimovic, Franz Keplinger</i>	249
Surface Force Measurements: Investigating Packing Order in Janus Particle Monolayers, <i>Francisco Guzman, Emily Cranston, Mark Rutland, Ilona Kretzschmar</i> . .	251
Suzuki Cross Coupling Reactions for the Optimised Synthesis of Potential Organo-Electronic Compounds, <i>Sebastian Gurtner, Ernst Horkel, Christian Hametner, Daniel Lumpi, Johannes Fröhlich</i>	253
Synthesis and Applications of a Fluorescence Marker, <i>Patrick Knaack, Simone Knaus</i>	255
Synthesis of fully benzyl- and silyl-protected glucuronals as intermediates for new diastereoselective glucuronyl donors, <i>Dominik Matscheko, Hannes Mikula, Christian Hametner, Johannes Fröhlich</i>	257
Synthesis of Potential Cancer Therapeutics, <i>Birgit Waldner, Michael Schnürch, Marko Mihovilovic</i>	259
Tailoring of silica nanoparticles networks via anion metathesis on the ionic connectors, <i>Marco Litschauer, Marie-Alexandra Neouze</i>	261
The effect of material behavior and placement of bone cement on the mechanical behavior and load transfer of augmented vertebral bodies., <i>Michael Kinzl, Lorin Benneker, Dieter Pahr</i>	263

The Multiple Emulsions Prepared in CTF Contactor for Controlled Release of Active Agents, <i>Agnieszka Markowska-Radomska, Ewa Dluska</i>	265
Titania and Silica Nanoparticles linked through novel phosphate-silane coupling agents and core-shell structures, <i>Mohsin Raza, Guido Kickelbick</i>	267
Transverese-isotropic properties of a model mineralized tissue: dependence on nanoindentation depth and hydration state, <i>Ewa Cichy, Maxim Schneider, Philippe K. Zysset</i>	269
Two Approaches for the Development of Materials for Vascular Tissue Regeneration., <i>Stefan Baudis, Robert Liska</i>	271
Two-photon absorption cross section measurement of a series of two-photon induced photo-initiators using Z-scan for ultrashort laser radiation., <i>Ali Ajami, Wolfgang Husinsky, Niklas Pucher, Rober Liska</i>	273
3 Information and Communication Technology	275
A Memetic Algorithm for a Break Scheduling Problem, <i>Magdalena Widl, Nysret Musliu, Werner Schafhauser</i>	277
A Statistical Vector based Routing Protocol for Wireless Networks, <i>Tobias Vaegs</i>	279
Advanced utilization of image processing from industrial cameras in traffic – “protection from barrier’s hits”, <i>Stefan Badura, Anton Lieskovsky</i>	281
Automated Injection Attacks on Social Networking Sites, <i>Markus Huber, Martin Mulazzani, Edgar Weippl</i>	283
Bridging Semantic Heterogeneities in Open Source Software Development Projects with Semantic Web Technologies, <i>Wikan Danar Sunindyo, Stefan Biffl</i>	285
Centralized Algorithms for Network Coding, <i>Dusan Orlovic, Vladimir Crnojevic</i>	287
Common Communication Protocol in Mobile Ad-Hoc Network, <i>Anton Lieskovsky, Stefan Badura</i>	289
Decentralized Diagnosis: Complexity Analysis and Datalog Encodings, <i>Andreas Pfandler, Reinhard Pichler, Stefan Woltran</i>	291

Decision Support Tool for Web-Based Thematic Mapping, <i>Manuela Schmidt, Georg Gartner</i>	293
Extensions for Interaction Nets, <i>Eugen Jiresch, Bernhard Gramlich</i>	295
Fast Fading Channel Estimation for UMTS Long Term Evolution, <i>Michal Simko, Markus Rupp</i>	297
Implementing a Peer Database Management System, <i>Sebastian Skritek, Reinhard Pichler</i>	299
IT tool to create new product from waste, <i>Clara Ceppa</i>	301
Meta-Reasoning in Multi-Context Systems, <i>Antonius Weinzierl, Michael Fink, Thomas Eiter</i>	303
On the Influence of UMTS Power Control on the Link-Level Error Statistics, <i>Markus Laner, Philipp Svoboda, Markus Rupp</i>	305
SAW-Filters in Modern Communication Systems, <i>Olena Khotenko</i>	307
Schema Mapping Optimization in the Presence of Target Constraints, <i>Emanuel Sallinger, Reinhard Pichler, Vadim Savenkov</i>	309
Solutions for integrating data in healthcare using Microsoft technologies, <i>Tap Pham, Alexey Ponomarev</i>	311
The hardware and software platform for automated control systems, <i>Iliay Tanryverdiev, Lyudmila Steshina, Igor Petukhov</i>	313
Towards Approximating Output-Projected Equilibria in Partially Known Multi-Context Systems, <i>Peter Schüller, Thomas Eiter, Michael Fink</i>	315
Towards the use of User Profile Ontology for enhancing Web Accessibility for an Ageing Population, <i>Jesia Zakraoui, Wolfgang Zagler</i>	317
User-centred design of intuitive technologies with Tangible User Interface for older people, <i>Wolfgang Spreicer</i>	319
4 Energy and Environment	321
A framework for modelling a renewable energy infrastructure: Applied to Aus- tria's energy situation, <i>Marcus Hummel, Andreas Windsperger</i>	323

A Multi-Satellite Approach to Develop an Adaptive Natural Resources Conservation Service Curve Number (NRSC-CN), <i>Alvaro Gonzalez, Marouane Temimi, Reza Khanvilbardi</i>	325
Adsorption of Pd, Pt and Rh on Austrian soils – determination of sorption isotherms, <i>Esther Herincs, Walter Wenzel, Stephan Hann, Andreas Limbeck</i>	329
Aging and Thermal Comfort Modeling, <i>Divine Novieto, Yi Zhang</i>	331
Algal Growth Stimulation for Bio-fuel Production: Effects of Engineered Nanomaterials and Culture Medium Manipulations, <i>Veronica Llaneza, Sejin Youn, Jean-Claude Bonzongo</i>	333
An Holistic Approach to Production Systems, <i>Brunella Cozzo</i>	337
Analysis of Drosophilas anatomy utilising ultramicroscopy, <i>Nina Jährling, Klaus Becker, Cornelia Schönauer, Frank Schnorrer, Hans-Ulrich Dodt</i>	339
Annamox Process Experiments: Selection for Nitrite Oxidizing Bacteria and Ammonia Oxidizing Bacteria in a Partial-Nitritation reactor. Annamox Reactor Specific Activity Increase Due to Elevating Nitrite Residual., <i>Magdalini Katehis, John Fillos</i>	341
Bioleaching of heavy metals from incineration fly ash supported with biosurfactant-producing microorganisms, <i>Dorota Andrzejewska, Ewa Karwowska, Małgorzata Wojtkowska</i>	343
Biological Hydrogen production from waste sugar and agricultural lignocellulosic waste materials (Wheat straw) in different production systems, <i>Nima Nasirian, Morteza Almassi, Saeed Minaee, Renatus Widmann</i>	345
Calibration of a Macro-Viscosimeter using CFD Methods, <i>Stefan Pohn, Ludek Kamarad, Roland Kirchmayr, Michael Harasek</i>	347
Centre for Innovation in Novi Sad – Parametric Design Study, <i>Nebojša Jakica</i>	349
Cold Flow Model Study for a Circulating Fluidized Bed Combustor, <i>Diana Carolina Guío Pérez, Tobias Pröll, Hermann Hofbauer</i>	351
Controlled Air Humidification using Green Plants, <i>Marek Kremen, Tim Selke</i>	353

Conversion of Jatropha Oil to Bio-Gasoline by Fluid Catalytic Cracking, <i>Alexander Weinert, Peter Bielansky, Christoph Schönberger, Bettina Schumi, Alexander Reichhold</i>	355
Dynamic Fine Particulate Matter (PM2.5) Estimators based on Planetary Boundary Layer Height and Aerosol Climatology, <i>Lina Cordero, Barry Gross</i>	357
EcoCatch Lunz, <i>Martin Koller, Carlos Ramirez-Santa Cruz, Maria Blecha, Klaus Leder, Heidi Bauer, Wolfgang Wanek, Anne Kasper-Giebl</i>	359
End-of-Life Glass fibre reinforcement: eco-design, <i>Davide Pico, Andreas Bartl</i>	361
Energetic Comparison of Machine Tools, <i>Matthias Stark, Christoph Dorn, Friedrich Bleicher</i>	363
Energy Consumption Optimization on Broad-gauge Track Užhorod (Mat'ovce) – Haniska pri Košiciach, <i>Karel Kubátka</i>	365
Energy efficiency of road and rail freight transport in Serbia, <i>Siniša Sremac, Svetlana Bašić</i>	367
Enhanced Mixing and Plume Containment in Porous Media Under Time Dependent Oscillatory Flow, <i>Pengfei Zhang, Stephanie DeVries</i>	369
Estimation of air pollutant emissions in Pakistan with increasing energy consumption using Gains-Asia model, <i>Imran Shahid</i>	371
Experimental and theoretical thermal analysis of the transparent naturally ventilated double skin facade, <i>Katarína Moravčíková, Milan Janák</i>	373
Extrapolation of Cloud/Storm Cell Evolution Based on Infrared Satellite Observations, <i>Janelle Lawrence</i>	375
How to increase number of bike-commuters among university population, <i>Vladimir Mrkajic</i>	377
Hydrocracking of vegetable oil, <i>Shanmugam Palanisamy, Börje.S Gevert</i>	379

Improvement of cultivation conditions for high enzyme production in the industrially important fungus <i>Trichoderma reesei</i> , <i>Marion E. Pucher, Astrid R. Mach-Aigner, Robert L. Mach</i>	383
Innovative Building Envelope Technological Design for Slum Buildings in Kenya, <i>Obudho Omondi, Enrico De Angelis</i>	385
Membrane Biogas Enrichment in Methane Coupled with Advanced Polish Gas Biofuel Production Plant, <i>Agata Polak, Andrzej Chmielewski</i>	387
MFA based Indicators for Assessment of Material Efficiency in Regions, <i>Stanimira Markova</i>	389
Mixed-uses as Prerequisite of Sustainable University Campus, <i>Marina Carevic, Jadranka Bugarski, Nadja Kurtovic Folic</i>	391
New ways in glazing systems measurements and evaluation, <i>Peter Hanuliak, Jozef Hraška</i>	393
Novel Projection of Solar Cells for Deep Space Missions, <i>Karen Garcia Ruiz, Franco Bernelli</i>	395
Odour emissions from wood stoves, <i>Magdalena Rzaca, Heidi Bauer, Hans Puxbaum</i>	397
One Possibility how to control Dynamic Voltage Restorer, <i>Petr Hecko</i>	399
Parameter Optimisation for the Determination of Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons (Hydrocarbon Index) by Gas Chromatography Using the Large Volume Injection Technique, <i>Svetlana Drozdova, Erwin Rosenberg</i>	401
Particulate matter (PM10) and selected trace gases in eastern Austria (Lunz am See), <i>Carlos Ramirez-Santa Cruz, Anne Kasper-Giebl, Heidi Bauer, Hans Puxbaum, Wolfgang Wanek</i>	403
Phytotolerance to Toxic Heavy Metals by American and International Rice <i>Oryza sativa</i> Cultivars L. in vitro: Implications on Remediation of Contaminated Sites., <i>Francisca Villar</i>	405
Pneumatic Pre-stressed Solar Concentrators based on Polymeric Materials, <i>Michael Hartl, Karl Ponweiser</i>	407

Postfunctionalized Nanoparticles for enrichment of trace metals in environmental liquids, <i>Gerald Bauer, Andreas Limbeck</i>	409
Present Power Utilization of Diesel-electric Locomotives, <i>Matěj Pácha</i>	411
Reducing Buildings' Eco-Footprints through Utilization-Increase, <i>štěfan Emrich, Sanja Zerlauth, Dietmar Wiegand, Shabnam Tauböck,, Niki Popper, Martin Bruckner, Felix Breitenecker</i>	413
Reference genes for Hypocrea jecorina, <i>Matthias G. Steiger, Robert L. Mach, Astrid R. Mach-Aigner</i>	415
Report on reductions of traffic emissions over the last three decades on a transit route in Austria - Results of the Tauerntunnel Experiment 2007, <i>Nicole Jankowski, Heidi Bauer, Hans Puxbaum</i>	417
Rotary kiln pyrolysis - First results of a 3 MW pilot plant, <i>Stefan Kern, Michael Halwachs, Gerhard Kampichler, Hermann Hofbauer</i>	419
Saving Energy and Resources by Apparel Recycling, <i>A.Sebnem Haner, Andreas Bartl</i>	421
Scale-Up of Biogas Plants by Investigation of the Mixing Process using Computational Fluid Dynamics, <i>Christian Maier, Wolfgang Weichselbaum, Martin Schlerka, Michael Harasek</i>	423
Sequestration of carbon dioxide by mineral carbonation, <i>Jerzy Bałdyga, Marek Henczka, Katarzyna Sokolnicka</i>	425
State-of-the-art and comparison of incineration and gasification of residues and waste, <i>Veronika Wilk, Hermann Hofbauer</i>	427
Sustainable and energy-efficient logistics through the conceptual design and evaluation of cross-company logistics models, <i>Felix Meizer, Margarethe Prochazka</i>	429
Systematic model tests for the low head powerhouse intake design, <i>Michael Pucher, Reinhard Prenner</i>	431
Systemic Design to Develop Local Distributed Economies, <i>Silvia Barbero</i>	433

The Evolution of Aspects and Tendencies in Sustainable Development in European Planning and Urbanism, <i>Barbara Lechner, Oliver Majcher, Hesamedin Ostad-Ahmad-Ghorabi, Daniel Collado-Ruiz</i>	435
Thermodynamic properties of low-emissivity building surfaces, <i>Miroslav Čekon, Jozef Hraška</i>	437
Index of Authors	439

Welcome Message from Peter Skalicky

By surfing in Wikipedia one will find the following definition: “*The scientific community consists of the total body of scientists, its relationships and interactions.*” And further: “*Communication between the members is established by disseminating research work and hypotheses through articles in peer reviewed journals, or by attending conferences where new research is presented and ideas are exchanged and discussed.*” So in fact - aside from publications - conferences are the core opportunity for young scientists to become part of their community, present their research, make contacts and make themselves a name.



The Junior Scientist Conference at the Vienna University of Technology (TU Wien) is specially designed to make it easier for young researchers to enter this arena. So it is my pleasure to wish everyone attending the conference, presenting their posters and getting in contact with their colleagues good luck and a good start!

The Junior Scientist Conference is also a good example for the collaboration within the heart of Europe. Aside from our friends from New York where the very first conference took place, there are - among others - also participants from the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland. We have great expectations in these members of the European Community. The Central European Region - in short: Centrope - is a political commitment to overcome former borders. One promising way to reach this goal is the intensive collaboration between scientists.

*Peter Skalicky
Rector Vienna University of Technology*

Welcome Message from Hans K. Kaiser

The idea for such a Junior Scientist Conference originated in the discussions between a delegation from the City College of New York and members of the TU Wien during the visit of our American colleagues to Vienna in 2004. The aim of such a conference is to give young researchers a first possibility to present the results of their scientific work to a wider audience. In the focus of such a conference is the presentation of posters by young scientists. The first conference in this series took place in New York in March 2005. The City College of New York hosted a second conference in 2007, Vienna University of Technology organized conferences in 2006 and 2008. TU Wien is happy to host another event in a – hopefully - long series of similar conferences. There was a call for scientific contributions in all fields of Science and Technology both on Master- and PhD-level. Preference was given to posters from the area of Computational Science and Engineering, Materials and Matter, Information and Communication Technology and Energy and Environment. We are very pleased that the announcement of our conference was well received both by universities in our neighbouring countries and our friends from the City College of New York. So we are proudly welcoming more than 200 young researchers from fourteen different countries. At the heart of the conference in Vienna will be the poster session. Around this main event there will be four mini-conferences in the area of Computational Science and Engineering, Materials and Matter, Information and Communication Technology and Energy and Environment. Within the conference we are organizing a best poster award: one for posters on the Master-level and one on PhD-level.



We wish all participants an exciting time in Vienna and a successful conference at Vienna University of Technology.

Hans K. Kaiser

Vice Rector for International Relations at Vienna University of Technology

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Towards Approximating Output-Projected Equilibria in Partially Known Multi-Context Systems*

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Abstract — *Heterogeneous nonmonotonic multi-context systems are a framework for knowledge based systems, consisting of decentralized nodes which are interlinked to allow pointwise information exchange. Semantics is defined in terms of equilibria, which are well defined if all system parts are fully known. However, in realistic scenarios, the behavior of some nodes is only known partially. For those scenarios, we introduce an approach to specify partial behavior using partially defined Boolean functions, and show how to under- and overapproximate so-called output-projected equilibria, which are witnesses for equilibria.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Heterogeneous nonmonotonic multi-context systems (MCSs) [1] are a framework for interlinked knowledge based systems, which allows to represent many current formalisms for reasoning about knowledge. MCSs are especially relevant to the Semantic Web, where decentralized nodes interact via pointwise information exchange.

In an MCS, these nodes are called contexts, and semantics is defined in terms of equilibria, which are stable states of beliefs at each context.

Output-projected equilibria are a projection of equilibria to the ‘belief interface’ between different contexts in a system. They are witnesses for equilibria and can therefore be utilized to incrementally evaluate MCS semantics.

In practice, semantics of some context may be known only partially, as not every knowledge base in the Semantic Web is fully disclosed, either to protect intellectual property, or because a context is a black box system with only vague specifications of its functionality.

To address this scenario, we define a representation for partial knowledge using partial defined Boolean functions, and investigate under- and overapproximation of output-projected equilibria in MCSs using this representation.

II. PRELIMINARIES

A heterogeneous nonmonotonic MCS [1] consists of *contexts*, each composed of a knowledge base with an underlying *logic*, and a set of *bridge rules* which control the information flow between contexts.

The concept of a *logic* we use here is an abstraction for many monotonic and nonmonotonic logics, e.g., classical logic, description logics, modal, default, and autoepistemic logics, circumscription, and logic programs under

the answer set semantics.

Formally, a logic $L = (\mathbf{KB}_L, \mathbf{BS}_L, \mathbf{ACC}_L)$ consists of a set of well-formed knowledge bases \mathbf{KB}_L , a set of possible belief sets \mathbf{BS}_L , and an acceptability function \mathbf{ACC}_L . Intuitively, each knowledge base $kb \in \mathbf{KB}_L$ is a set of well-formed formulas, the belief sets are possible consequences of knowledge bases, and \mathbf{ACC}_L provides the semantics, i.e., it takes some kb as argument and returns all belief sets which are consequences.

A *bridge rule* adds information to a context, depending on the belief sets which are accepted at other contexts. Given a collection $L = (L_1, \dots, L_n)$ of logics, an L_k -bridge rule r over L is of the form

$$(k : s) \leftarrow (c_1 : p_1), \dots, (c_j : p_j), \text{not } (c_{j+1} : p_{j+1}), \dots, \text{not } (c_m : p_m). \quad (1)$$

where k refers to the context receiving information s , and $(v : p)$ denotes belief p at context C_v . We denote by $hd(r)$ the formula s in the head of r .

Definition 1 A multi-context system $M = (C_1, \dots, C_n)$ is a collection of contexts $C_i = (L_i, kb_i, br_i)$, $1 \leq i \leq n$, where L_i is a logic, $kb_i \in \mathbf{KB}_i$ a knowledge base, and br_i is a set of L_i -bridge rules over (L_1, \dots, L_n) .

We denote by $IN_i = \{hd(r) \mid r \in br_i\}$ the set of bridge rule heads at context C_i . Similarly, the set OUT_i of *output beliefs* contains all beliefs p of context C_i which are contained in the body of some bridge rule in MCS M in the form of a literal ‘ $(i : p)$ ’ or ‘ $\text{not } (i : p)$ ’.

A *belief state* of an MCS $M = (C_1, \dots, C_n)$ is a sequence $S = (S_1, \dots, S_n)$ such that $S_i \in \mathbf{BS}_i$. We denote by $app(R, S)$ the set of all bridge rules $r \in R$ that are applicable in S , where a bridge rule (1) is applicable iff for $1 \leq i \leq j$: $p_i \in S_{c_i}$ and for $j < l \leq m$: $p_l \notin S_{c_l}$.

Equilibrium semantics selects certain belief states of an MCS as acceptable. Intuitively, an equilibrium is a belief state S , where each context C_i takes the heads of all bridge rules that are applicable in S into account, and accepts S_i . The formal definition is as follows.

Definition 2 A belief state $S = (S_1, \dots, S_n)$ is an equilibrium iff, for $1 \leq i \leq n$, the following condition holds:
 $S_i \in \mathbf{ACC}_i(kb_i \cup \{hd(r) \mid r \in app(br_i, S)\})$.

The following method for calculating witnesses for equilibria of MCSs is given in [2].

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1. Guess for each context C_i a subset A_i of the output beliefs OUT_i .
2. Interpret each set A_i as a set of output beliefs at context C_i , and use it to evaluate applicability of all bridge rules. As a result, for each context we obtain a set $B_i \subseteq IN_i$ of bridge rule heads, which are added by rules applicable with respect to A_i .
3. Finally, we check for each context C_i , whether it accepts a belief set S_i for knowledge base $kb_i \cup B_i$ s.t. S_i exactly reproduces output beliefs A_i .

Formally, that last check is defined as follows:

$$\exists S_i \in \mathbf{ACC}_i(kb_i \cup B_i) : S_i \cap OUT_i = A_i. \quad (2)$$

Each guess $S' = (A_1, \dots, A_n)$, where that check succeeds, is a witness for an equilibrium $S \in EQ(M)$. This witness S' corresponds to the projection of equilibrium S to output beliefs of M , and we call S' an *output-projected equilibrium*. Given an MCS M , we denote by $EQ'(M)$ the set of all output-projected equilibria in M .

In the following, if we refer to ‘equilibria’ then we always mean ‘output-projected equilibria’.

III. INCOMPLETE INFORMATION

We now show how to represent part of a context’s behavior by a partially defined Boolean function (pdBF). This allows to deal with MCSs where some contexts C_i is not fully specified.

Formally, a pdBF pf is a function from \mathbb{B}^k to $\mathbb{B} \cup \{\star\}$, where $\mathbb{B} = \{0, 1\}$ and ‘ \star ’ stands for undefined. A pdBF is characterized by its sets of true points $T(pf) = \{\vec{1} \mid pf(\vec{1}) = 1\}$ and false points $F(pf) = \{\vec{1} \mid pf(\vec{1}) = 0\}$.

In the following, we denote by $\vec{1}$ and $\vec{0}$ the Boolean vectors (bitmaps) corresponding to sets of bridge rule heads $I \subseteq IN_i$ and output beliefs $O \subseteq OUT_i$, respectively.

To specify partial behavior of some context, we represent the check formalized in (2) by a pdBF pf : arguments of pf are two Boolean vectors corresponding to A_i and B_i , pf returns 1 (resp. 0, or \star) if (2) for the corresponding sets is true (resp. false, or not specified).

A pdBF pf is compatible with a certain context C_i , if the true and false points of pf reflect real behavior of C_i .

Definition 3 Formally, a pdBF pf is compatible with the semantics of context C_i in an MCS M iff $f(\vec{1}, \vec{0}) = 1$ implies that there exists some $O' \in \mathbf{ACC}_i(kb_i \cup I)$ s.t. $O = O' \cap OUT_i$, and moreover $f(\vec{1}, \vec{0}) = 0$ implies that there is no $O' \in \mathbf{ACC}_i(kb_i \cup I)$ s.t. $O = O' \cap OUT_i$.

A Boolean function (BF) f is a pdBF with no ‘ \star ’ values. If we know such a BF f , and it is compatible with context C_i , we can use f as an oracle for check (2) in the above algorithm, so we can calculate equilibria without knowing kb_i or \mathbf{ACC}_i . We denote by $EQ'(M[i/f])$ the set of output-projected equilibria of M , obtained using the above algorithm, with f used for the check (2) (instead of using kb_i and \mathbf{ACC}_i).

IV. APPROXIMATION

Given a pdBF pf compatible with some context C_i , we know that true points correspond to ‘yes’ answers of check (2) and false points correspond to ‘no’ answers.

If, for some context C_i , we only know a compatible pdBF pf , we can use it to approximate output-projected equilibria as follows.

We denote by \underline{pf} the BF where we replace all unknown values of pdBF pf by 0. This represents the assumption, that C_i accepts only input/output combinations which are known true points in pf . Therefore, each equilibrium in $EQ'(M[i/\underline{pf}])$ is an actual equilibrium of M , but we might miss some equilibria due to unknown points.

Similarly, we denote by \overline{pf} the BF where we set all unknown values of pf to 1. Then the set $EQ'(M[i/\overline{pf}])$ contains all actual equilibria in M , plus possibly some non-actual equilibria, because of wrongly assumed true points.

Formally we obtain the following result.

Proposition 1 Given an MCS M and a pdBF pf compatible with context C_i of M , the following holds:

$$EQ'(M[i/\underline{pf}]) \subseteq EQ'(M) \subseteq EQ'(M[i/\overline{pf}]) \quad (3)$$

This result easily generalizes to the case of multiple partially known contexts.

Furthermore, if $S' \in EQ'(M[i/\underline{pf}]) \cap EQ'(M[i/\overline{pf}])$, then this S' is an actual equilibrium of M .

V. DISCUSSION

In summary, our results allow to approximate output-projected equilibria of MCSs without requiring full knowledge about all parts of the system. For some cases we can even obtain certain information about actual output-projected equilibria.

To the best of our knowledge, this issue has not been addressed before. A related approach are notions of approximate entailment as in [3], however these notions are motivated by computational efficiency, and they do not consider lack of information about knowledge bases or semantics, as we do.

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