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# Intelligent and Soft Computing in Infrastructure Systems Engineering

Recent Advances

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# Preface

The term “soft computing” applies to variants of and combinations under the four broad categories of evolutionary computing, neural networks, fuzzy logic, and Bayesian statistics. Although each one has its separate strengths, the complementary nature of these techniques when used in combination (hybrid) makes them a powerful alternative for solving complex problems where conventional mathematical methods fail.

The use of intelligent and soft computing techniques in the field of geomechanical and pavement engineering has steadily increased over the past decade owing to their ability to admit approximate reasoning, imprecision, uncertainty and partial truth. Since real-life infrastructure engineering decisions are made in ambiguous environments that require human expertise, the application of soft computing techniques has been an attractive option in pavement and geomechanical modeling.

The objective of this carefully edited book is to highlight key recent advances made in the application of soft computing techniques in pavement and geomechanical systems. Soft computing techniques discussed in this book include, but are not limited to: neural networks, evolutionary computing, swarm intelligence, probabilistic modeling, kernel machines, knowledge discovery and data mining, neuro-fuzzy systems and hybrid approaches. Highlighted application areas include infrastructure materials modeling, pavement analysis and design, rapid interpretation of nondestructive testing results, porous asphalt concrete distress modeling, model parameter identification, pavement engineering inversion problems, sub-grade soils characterization, and backcalculation of pavement layer thickness and moduli.

This book belongs to the “Studies in Computational Intelligence (SCI)” series published by Springer Verlag. Each chapter contained in this book has been peer-reviewed by at least two anonymous referees to assure the highest quality. The valuable contributions of the following individuals in assisting with the review process are greatly appreciated: Sunghwan Kim (Iowa State University), Roger W. Meier (The University of Memphis), Fwa Tien Fang (National University of Singapore), P. Chris Marshall (Golder Associates Inc.), Abhisek Mudgal (Iowa State University), and Amit Pande (Iowa State University).

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Researchers and practitioners engaged in developing and applying soft computing and intelligent systems principles to solving real-world infrastructure engineering problems will find this book very useful. This book will also serve as an excellent state-of-the-art reference material for graduate and postgraduate students in transportation infrastructure engineering.

August 13, 2009

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# About This Book

The use of intelligent and soft computing techniques in the field of geomechanical and pavement engineering has steadily increased over the past decade owing to their ability to admit approximate reasoning, imprecision, uncertainty and partial truth. Since real-life infrastructure engineering decisions are made in ambiguous environments that require human expertise, the application of soft computing techniques has been an attractive option in pavement and geomechanical modeling. The objective of this carefully edited book is to highlight key recent advances made in the application of soft computing techniques in pavement and geomechanical systems. Soft computing techniques discussed in this book include, but are not limited to: neural networks, evolutionary computing, swarm intelligence, probabilistic modeling, kernel machines, knowledge discovery and data mining, neuro-fuzzy systems and hybrid approaches. Highlighted application areas include infrastructure materials modeling, pavement analysis and design, rapid interpretation of nondestructive testing results, porous asphalt concrete distress modeling, model parameter identification, pavement engineering inversion problems, sub-grade soils characterization, and backcalculation of pavement layer thickness and moduli. Researchers and practitioners engaged in developing and applying soft computing and intelligent systems principles to solving real-world infrastructure engineering problems will find this book very useful. This book will also serve as an excellent state-of-the-art reference material for graduate and postgraduate students in transportation infrastructure engineering.

## Written for

Researchers and practitioners engaged in developing and applying soft computing and intelligent systems principles to solving real-world geomechanical and pavement engineering problems.

## Keywords

Pavement engineering; artificial intelligence; artificial neural networks; evolutionary computing; genetic algorithms; particle swarm optimization; shuffled complex evolution; support vector machines; data mining; rough set; neuro-fuzzy; decision trees; genetic polynomial; relief ranking filter; extended Kalman filter.

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