

GUEST EDITORIAL PREFACE

Special Issue on Networking Decision Making and Negotiation (Part 2)

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This IJDSST special issue on “Networking Decision Making and Negotiation” has selected papers from two consecutive workshops of the EURO Working Group on Decision Support Systems (EWG-DSS): the EWG-DSS London-2011 Workshop on Decision Systems, held in the UK during the period of June 23rd to 24th, 2011; and the EWG-DSS Stream on Collaborative Decision Making of the EWG-DSS/DASIG Paris-2011 Joint-Workshop, held in France from November 30th to December 1st, 2011. There were a total of 52 DSS-related papers presented in both workshops - 39 in London and 13 in Paris, respectively. Among those papers, 8 papers were selected for publication, after the corresponding reviewing process.

As members of the coordination board of the EWG-DSS and also guest editors of this journal special issue, we are extremely proud to confirm that this publication’s initiative has reached its main objective of gathering high quality research papers, devoted to the development of new decision-making and decision support for negotiation approaches, taking account of collaborative networking environments.

Due to the length of the papers, this IJDSST edition was organised into two issues—Volume 4, Issue 2, and Volume 4, Issue 3, with four papers each. Among the selected papers for the current issue, we find research work concerning: modelling of the decision-making process within a theorem proving paradigm (“Decision Making Modeled as a Theorem Proving Process” by Jacques Calmet and Marvin Oliver Schneider); optimizing algorithms and techniques in decision guidance query language (“A Regression Dependent Iterative Algorithm for Optimizing Top-K Selection in Simulation Query Language” by Susan Farley, Alexander Brodsky, and Chun-Hung Chen) and (“Distributed Manufacturing Networks: Optimization via Preprocessing in Decision Guidance Query Language” by Nathan Egge, Alexander Brodsky, and Igor Griva); as well as a decision system applied in the area of procurement (“Optimizing Procurement Decisions in Networked Virtual Enterprises” by Amihai Motro, Alexander Brodsky, Nathan Egge, and Alessandro D’Atri).

We are very happy to have joined in this IJDSST issue a set of four high quality and interesting pieces of research, authored by well-known professionals and their teams as well as collaborators coming from different continents and research institutions. Editing this Special Issue was for us a pleasure. We hope that you also enjoy as much reading it and that you can eventually refer to its contents in further research projects.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The guest editors of this special issue wish to acknowledge their gratitude for the prompt and highly constructive reviews received from the reviewers in the various phases of this issue's reviewing process.

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Fátima Dargam is a project manager at SimTech Simulation Technology in Graz, Austria; acts as research consultant for the Institute of Logic, Philosophy and Theory of Science – ILTC in Brazil; and co-coordinates the EURO Working Group on Decision Support Systems (EWG-DSS). She joined SimTech in 1995, where she works on research projects and development of application software modules supporting computer-based simulation. She holds a PhD in Computer Sciences (Logic and Automated Reasoning) from the Department of Computing at Imperial College, London (1996). She also holds a Master degree in Artificial Intelligence from Instituto Militar de Engenharia (IME), Rio de Janeiro (1989); an Engineering degree in Electronics from Santa Ursula University (USU) in Rio de Janeiro (1983); and a Bachelors degree (BA) in English (Teaching Didactics & Literature) from USU, Rio de Janeiro (1983). Fátima Dargam is a founding member of the EURO Working Group on Decision Support Systems (EWG-DSS) since 1989, and since 2007 she integrates its Coordination Board. Fátima Dargam's research interests reside mainly in the development of intelligent, web-based, distributed and cooperative decision support systems for various applications; bridging the areas of knowledge management and decision making. In those areas she has been engaged in research for the last 20 years. She regularly takes part as reviewer as well as guest-editor for several international journals related to the area of Decision Systems.

Boris Delibašić is an associate professor in Business Decision-Making at the University of Belgrade in Serbia, Faculty of Organizational Sciences (School of Business Administration). His main research interests are in data mining, decision support systems, business intelligence, and decision theory. He received his PhD in 2007 from the University in Belgrade with the theme: "Formalization of the decision-making process with patterns." Since then he was involved in research in design of data mining algorithms that are pattern-based (white-box algorithms). Dr. Delibasic is also an adjunct lecturer at the University of Jena (Yena) in Germany. In 2011, Prof. Delibasic received a prestigious Fulbright fellowship to work as a visiting scholar at the Center for data analytics and biomedical informatics at Temple University in Philadelphia, PA. The research objectives of the project at Temple University were in design of spatio-temporal algorithms for analysis of ski injuries and ski injury patterns discovery that could be used for injury prevention. Dr. Delibašić is also ski patroller on Serbian mountains.

Jorge E. Hernández is a Lecturer in Operations and Supply Chain Management at the Management School University of Liverpool, UK. He holds a PhD degree in Collaborative Decision Support Systems from the Universitat Politècnica de València, Spain (2011) which has received a Cum-Laude distinction and a Bsc. Degree in Industrial Engineering from the Universidad de La Frontera of Chile (2003) which has received a distinction by the Latin American Association of Industrial Engineering Students and related careers (2003). He has more than four years of professional experience as a consultant in multinational companies. As consultant he has been linked to the modelling, simulation and optimisation of the logistic, operational and management processes in industrial companies such as mining, harbour, aerospace and third-parties logistics companies. In addition, since 2006, Dr. Hernandez is actively linked to British's, Spanish's and European's research projects related to the automotive, aerospace, energy a food supply chain industry. His research interests include Decision Support Systems, Operations Management, Enterprise Engineering, Modelling and Simulation, MultiAgent System, Supply Chain Management and Operational Research. The work of Dr. Hernandez can be found in several competitive international edited books, journals, books chapters and conferences. He is currently reviewer and guest editor for international journals and conferences.

Shaofeng Liu is currently an Associate Professor (Reader in UK system) in Operations Management and Decision Making at the University of Plymouth, UK. She obtained her PhD degree from Loughborough University, UK, specialising in Knowledge and Information Management for Global Manufacturing Co-ordination Decisions. Her main research interests and expertise are in knowledge-based techniques to support business decision making, particularly in the areas of knowledge management, integrated decision support, ERP systems and quantitative decision methods for lean operations, process improvement, resource management, quality management, and supply chain management. She is currently supervising 6 PhD students in above research areas. She has undertaken a number of influential research projects funded by UK research councils and the European Commission. She has produced over 60 peer-reviewed publications including 41 journal articles, 5 book chapters, 18 conference/workshop papers, and editorials for 2 journal Special Issues and 4 conference/workshop proceedings.