

Applications of metaheuristic algorithms to fuzzy control and model building, learning-based control, and mobile robot navigation

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KEYNOTE SPEECH

Abstract—An optimization problem finds the best (i.e., optimal) solution among all feasible solutions. An optimization problem consists of two key components: the objective function and the constraints, which are optional. The objective function evaluates and compares solutions in the context of all feasible solutions by computing the desired quantity to be minimized or maximized. Constraints can be added to limit the possible values for the variables of the objective function and possibly to link these variables.

The optimization algorithms find the solutions to the optimization problems (i.e., the optimal solutions) by trying variations of the initial solution and using the information gained to improve the solution. This solution finding can also be considered as learning, which is a popular topic nowadays. The complexity of classical algorithms is very high, which requires rather large amount of computation. Therefore, alternative algorithms with lower complexity are appreciated. Metaheuristic algorithms for finding optimal solutions have become very popular because they are much better in terms of efficiency and complexity than classical algorithms.

This presentation highlights some of the results obtained by the Process Control Group of the Politehnica University of Timisoara, Romania. The presentation will focus on representative applications implemented in our labs, with real-time validation against experimental results. The results highlighted here include various laboratory equipment such as pendulum crane systems, multi-tank systems, servo systems, twin rotor aerodynamic systems, magnetic levitation systems, anti-lock braking systems, mobile robots, magnetic levitation systems, active mass damper systems, and shape memory alloy systems.

The scope of development of these metaheuristic algorithms is to solve optimization problems involving tuning of low-cost fuzzy controllers, tuning of fuzzy models, reinforcement-based control in various schemes including adaptive ones, and solving optimization problems specific to mobile robot navigation.

Keywords—fuzzy controllers, fuzzy models, lab equipment, metaheuristic algorithms, mobile robots, reinforcement learning.

SHORT BIO

Radu-Emil Precup is currently with the Politehnica University of Timisoara (UPT), Romania, where he became

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