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Advanced Technologies in Ad Hoc and Sensor Networks Computational Intelligence Applications to Power Systems Real-Time Multi-Chip Neural Network for Cognitive Systems Artificial Neural Networks and Machine Learning - ICANN 2017 Collaborative Networks and Digital Transformation Handbook of Social Economics SET: 1A, 1B Handbook of Social Economics Quantitative Analysis of Cognitive Radio and Network Performance Underwater Acoustic Sensor Networks Fundamentals, Properties, and Applications of Polymer Nanocomposites Pyramidal Neural Networks Dynamic Routing in Broadband Networks Bulletin Index-digest System MultiMedia Modeling Radio Frequency Micromachined Switches, Switching Networks, and Phase Shifters Long-haul and Access Networks, Optical Metro, and WDM Advances in Web and Network Technologies and Information Management Complex Network-Based Global Value Chain Accounting System IRMs 7.25 Integration of Renewable Energy Sources with Smart Grid Strategic Competitions Over Networks Multilayer Networks Multimedia Systems, Standards, and Networks Network Games, Control, and Optimization Bulletin Index-digest System. Service 3; Employment Taxes Informatics in Control, Automation and Robotics MICAI 2008: Advances in Artificial Intelligence Social Networks Electric Distribution Network Planning Advanced Wireless Networks Proceedings of the Mini Workshop Southeast Asia Germany Alumni Network (SEAG) "Development of Animal Health and Production for Improving the Sustainability of Livestock Farming in the Integrated Agriculture Systems" Models and Methods in Social Network Analysis Microwave Network Design Using the Scattering Matrix Bio-inspired Computing: Theories and Applications Scalable Continuous Media Streaming Systems Computer Networks Bulletin Index-digest System The Oxford Handbook of the Economics of Prostitution Advances in Neural Networks - ISSN 2005 Computer Networks ISE

The two volume set, LNCS 10613 and 10614, constitutes the proceedings of then 26th International Conference on Artificial Neural Networks, ICANN 2017, held in Alghero, Italy, in September 2017. The 128 full papers included in this volume were carefully reviewed and selected from 270 submissions. They were organized in topical sections named: From Perception to Action; From Neurons to Networks; Brain Imaging; Recurrent Neural Networks; Neuromorphic Hardware; Brain Topology and Dynamics; Neural Networks

Meet Natural and Environmental Sciences; Convolutional Neural Networks; Games and Strategy; Representation and Classification; Clustering; Learning from Data Streams and Time Series; Image Processing and Medical Applications; Advances in Machine Learning. There are 63 short paper abstracts that are included in the back matter of the volume. A detailed review of underwater channel characteristics, Underwater Acoustic Sensor Networks investigates the fundamental aspects of underwater communication. Prominent researchers from around the world consider contemporary challenges in the development of underwater acoustic sensor networks (UW-ASNs) and introduce a cross-layer approach for effective integration of all communication functionalities. Discussing architectures for two- and three-dimensional sensor networks, this authoritative resource clearly delineates the main differences between terrestrial and underwater sensor networks—covering the wide range of topics related to UW-ASNs. It examines efficient distributed routing algorithms for delay-insensitive and delay-sensitive applications and introduces a realistic acoustic model characterized by channel utilization efficiency that enables proper setting of the optimal packet size for underwater communication. It also: Provides efficient sensor communication protocols for the underwater environment Addresses the topology control problem for sparse and dense 3D networks Presents a novel distributed MAC protocol that incorporates a unique closed-loop distributed algorithm for setting the optimal transmit power and code length The book includes coverage of routing, fault tolerance, time synchronization, optimal clustering, medium access control, software, hardware, and channel modeling. Exploring the need to design an energy-efficient cross-layer protocol suite, this resource provides the understanding required to achieve high-performance channel access, routing, event transport reliability, and data flow control with underwater acoustic sensors. This book constitutes the refereed proceedings of the 20th IFIP WG 5.5 Working Conference on Virtual Enterprises, PRO-VE 2019, held in Turin, Italy, in September 2019. The 56 revised full papers were carefully reviewed and selected from 141 submissions. They provide a comprehensive overview of major challenges and recent advances in various domains related to the digital transformation and collaborative networks and their applications with a strong focus on the following areas related to the main theme of the conference: collaborative models, platforms and systems for digital revolution; manufacturing ecosystem and collaboration in Industry 4.0; big data analytics and intelligence; risk, performance, and uncertainty in collaborative networked systems; semantic data/service discovery, retrieval, and

composition in a collaborative networked world; trust and sustainability analysis in collaborative networks; value creation and social impact of collaborative networks on the digital revolution; technology development platforms supporting collaborative systems; collective intelligence and collaboration in advanced/emerging applications; and collaborative manufacturing and factories of the future, e-health and care, food and agribusiness, and crisis/disaster management. The Mexican International Conference on Artificial Intelligence (MICAI), a yearly international conference series organized by the Mexican Society for Artificial Intelligence (SMIA), is a major international AI forum and the main event in the academic life of the country's growing AI community. In 2008 Mexico celebrates the 50th anniversary of development of computer science in the country: in 1958 the first computer was installed at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). Nowadays, computer science is the country's fastest growing research area. The proceedings of the previous MICAI events were published by Springer in its Lecture Notes in Artificial Intelligence (LNAI) series, vol. 1793, 2313, 2972, 3789, 4293, and 4827. Since its foundation in 2000, the conference has been growing in popularity, and improving in quality. This volume contains the papers presented at the oral session of the 7th Mexican International Conference on Artificial Intelligence, MICAI 2008, held October 27-31, 2008, in Atizapán de Zaragoza, Mexico. The conference received for evaluation 363 submissions by 1,032 authors from 43 countries (see Tables 1 and 2). This volume contains revised versions of 94 papers by 308 authors from 28 countries selected according to the results of an international reviewing process. Thus the acceptance rate was 25.9%. The book is structured into 20 thematic fields representative of the main current areas of interest for the AI community, plus a section of invited papers: With 40% new material the new edition of *Advanced Wireless Networks* provides a comprehensive representation of the key issues in 4G wireless networks. Focussing on cognitive, cooperative and opportunistic paradigms to provide further increase in network efficiency, the book explores and addresses issues in wireless internet, mobile cellular and WLAN, as well as sensor, ad hoc, bio-inspired, active and cognitive networks. It examines the problem of cross-layer optimisation and network information theory as well as adaptability and reconfigurability in wireless networks. This book is an integral description of future wireless networks and the interconnection between their elements. The information is presented in a logical order within each chapter making it ideal for all levels of reader including researchers involved in modelling and analysis of future networks as well as engineers working in the area. Each

chapter starts with introductory material and gradually includes more sophisticated models and mathematical tools concluding with a comprehensive list of references. Fully updated throughout with five new chapters on Opportunistic Communications; Relaying and Mesh Networks; Topology Control; Network Optimization; and Cognitive Radio Resource Management Unifies the latest research on cognitive, cooperative and opportunistic paradigms in wireless communications Provides efficient analytical tools for network analysis Discusses security issues, an essential element of working with wireless networks Supports advanced university and training courses in the field Companion website containing extra appendix on Queuing theory Dynamic Routing in Broadband Networks focuses on routing in broadband networks based on MPLS (Multiprotocol Label Switching) and ATM (Asynchronous Transfer Mode). The routing methods are based on the theory of Markov decision processes which forms a very accurate framework for on-line route optimization. The author shows the issue of performance optimization and scalability with respect to dynamic routing of logical connections in broadband networks. The methods used are applicable to routing virtual path connections (VPC) and virtual channel connections (VCC) in ATM networks as well as label switched paths (LSP) in MPLS networks. Simulation results and a performance comparison with reference routing are given for the different schemes. The goal of this book is to provide a reference for applications of mathematical modelling in social media and related network analysis and offer a theoretically sound background with adequate suggestions for better decision-making. Social Networks: Modelling and Analysis provides the essential knowledge of network analysis applicable to real-world data, with examples from today's most popular social networks such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, etc. The book provides basic notation and terminology used in social media and its network science. It covers the analysis of statistics for social network analysis such as degree distribution, centrality, clustering coefficient, diameter, and path length. The ranking of the pages using rank algorithms such as Page Rank and HITS are also discussed. Written as a reference this book is for engineering and management students, research scientists, as well as academicians involved in complex networks, mathematical sciences, and marketing research. This book starts with an overview of renewable energy technologies, smart grid technologies, energy storage systems, and covers the details of renewable energy integration with smart grid and the corresponding controls. This book provides better views on power scenario in developing countries. The requirement of the integration of smart grid along with the energy storage

systems are deeply discussed to acknowledge the importance of sustainable development of smart city. The methodologies are made quite possible with the high-efficient power convertor topologies and intelligent control schemes. These control schemes are capable to provide better control with the help of machine intelligence techniques and artificial intelligence. The book also addresses the modern power convertor topologies and the corresponding control schemes for renewable energy integration with smart grid. The design and analysis of power converters that are used for grid integration of solar PV along with simulation and experimental results are illustrated. The protection aspects of the microgrid with power electronic configurations for wind energy systems are elucidated. Simulation of brain neurons in real-time using biophysically-meaningful models is a pre-requisite for comprehensive understanding of how neurons process information and communicate with each other, in effect efficiently complementing in-vivo experiments. In spiking neural networks (SNNs), propagated information is not just encoded by the firing rate of each neuron in the network, as in artificial neural networks (ANNs), but, in addition, by amplitude, spike-train patterns, and the transfer rate. The high level of realism of SNNs and more significant computational and analytic capabilities in comparison with ANNs, however, limit the size of the realized networks. Consequently, the main challenge in building complex and biophysically-accurate SNNs is largely posed by the high computational and data transfer demands. *Real-Time Multi-Chip Neural Network for Cognitive Systems* presents novel real-time, reconfigurable, multi-chip SNN system architecture based on localized communication, which effectively reduces the communication cost to a linear growth. The system use double floating-point arithmetic for the most biologically accurate cell behavior simulation, and is flexible enough to offer an easy implementation of various neuron network topologies, cell communication schemes, as well as models and kinds of cells. The system offers a high run-time configurability, which reduces the need for resynthesizing the system. In addition, the simulator features configurable on- and off-chip communication latencies as well as neuron calculation latencies. All parts of the system are generated automatically based on the neuron interconnection scheme in use. The simulator allows exploration of different system configurations, e.g. the interconnection scheme between the neurons, the intracellular concentration of different chemical compounds (ions), which affect how action potentials are initiated and propagate. *Computer Networks: A Systems Approach, Fifth Edition*, explores the key principles of computer networking, with examples drawn from the real world of network and protocol design. *Using the Internet*

as the primary example, this best-selling and classic textbook explains various protocols and networking technologies. The systems-oriented approach encourages students to think about how individual network components fit into a larger, complex system of interactions. This book has a completely updated content with expanded coverage of the topics of utmost importance to networking professionals and students, including P2P, wireless, network security, and network applications such as e-mail and the Web, IP telephony and video streaming, and peer-to-peer file sharing. There is now increased focus on application layer issues where innovative and exciting research and design is currently the center of attention. Other topics include network design and architecture; the ways users can connect to a network; the concepts of switching, routing, and internetworking; end-to-end protocols; congestion control and resource allocation; and end-to-end data. Each chapter includes a problem statement, which introduces issues to be examined; shaded sidebars that elaborate on a topic or introduce a related advanced topic; What's Next? discussions that deal with emerging issues in research, the commercial world, or society; and exercises. This book is written for graduate or upper-division undergraduate classes in computer networking. It will also be useful for industry professionals retraining for network-related assignments, as well as for network practitioners seeking to understand the workings of network protocols and the big picture of networking. Completely updated content with expanded coverage of the topics of utmost importance to networking professionals and students, including P2P, wireless, security, and applications Increased focus on application layer issues where innovative and exciting research and design is currently the center of attention Free downloadable network simulation software and lab experiments manual available Prostitution bears the unique title of being both the "world's oldest profession" and one of the least understood occupations. Unlike most of the crime and family literature, prostitution appears to have all the features of traditional markets: prices, supply and demand considerations, variety in the organizational structure, and policy relevance. Despite this, economists have largely ignored prostitution in their research and writings. This has been changing, however, over the last twenty years as greater access to data has enabled economists to build better theories and gain a better understanding of the organization of sex market. The Oxford Handbook of the Economics of Prostitution fills the gap in our understanding. It brings together many of the top researchers in the field who explain how the prostitution markets are organized across space and time, the role of technology in shaping labor supply and demand, the intersection of prostitution with trafficking, and the

optimal use of law enforcement. What makes the material unique is its explicit focus on economics as the primary methodology for organizing our understanding of prostitution. The Handbook brings to scholars' attention for the first time a collection of original writings on prostitution that provides an overview of what is known and what is not known in this area. Researchers with an interest in underground markets, labor economics, risky behaviors, marriage, and gender will find the book's contents illuminating and path breaking. This volume comprises papers from four APWeb/WAIM 2009 workshops, which are 1. International Workshop on Web-based Contents Management Technologies (WCMT 2009), 2. International Workshop on Real-Time Business Intelligence (RTBI 2009), 3. International Workshop on DataBase and Information Retrieval and Aspects in Evaluating Holistic Quality of Ontology-based Information Retrieval (DBIR-ENQOIR 2009), as well as 4. International Workshop on Process Aware Information Systems (PAIS 2009). These four workshops were selected from a public call-for-proposals process. The workshop organizers have put a tremendous amount of effort into soliciting and selecting research papers with a balance of high quality and new ideas and new applications. This contributed volume offers a collection of papers presented at the 2016 Network Games, Control, and Optimization conference (NETGCOOP), held at the University of Avignon in France, November 23-25, 2016. These papers highlight the increasing importance of network control and optimization in many networking application domains, such as mobile and fixed access networks, computer networks, social networks, transportation networks, and, more recently, electricity grids and biological networks. Covering a wide variety of both theoretical and applied topics in the areas listed above, the authors explore several conceptual and algorithmic tools that are needed for efficient and robust control operation, performance optimization, and better understanding the relationships between entities that may be acting cooperatively or selfishly in uncertain and possibly adversarial environments. As such, this volume will be of interest to applied mathematicians, computer scientists, engineers, and researchers in other related fields. Describes ITU H.323 and H.324, H.263, ITU-T video, and MPEG-4 standards, systems, and coding; IP and ATM networks; multimedia search and retrieval; image retrieval in digital laboratories; and the status and direction of MPEG-7. This book includes extended and revised versions of a set of selected papers from the Ninth International Conference on Informatics in Control Automation and Robotics (ICINCO 2012), held in Rome, Italy, from 28 to 31 July 2012. The conference was organized in four simultaneous tracks: Intelligent Control Systems and Optimization, Robotics

and Automation, Systems Modeling, Signal Processing and Control and Industrial Engineering, Production and Management. ICINCO 2012 received 360 paper submissions, from 58 countries in all continents. From these, after a blind review process, only 40 were accepted as full papers, of which 20 were selected for inclusion in this book, based on the classifications provided by the Program Committee. The selected papers reflect the interdisciplinary nature of the conference as well as the logic equilibrium between the four abovementioned tracks. The diversity of topics is an important feature of this conference, enabling an overall perception of several important scientific and technological trends. This authoritative resource provides you with comprehensive and detailed coverage of the wave approach to microwave network characterization, analysis, and design using scattering parameters. For the first time in any book, all aspects and approaches to wave variables and the scattering matrix are explored. The book compares and contrasts voltage waves, travelling waves, pseudo waves, and power waves, and explains the differences between real scattering parameters, pseudo scattering parameters, and power scattering parameters. You find important discussions on standard scattering matrices and wave quantities, mixed mode wave variables, and noise wave variables with noise wave correlation matrices. Moreover, the book presents clear methods for standard single ended multiport network design and noise analysis. This in-depth reference is packed with over 1,100 equations and numerous illustrations. Advanced Technologies in Ad Hoc and Sensor Networks collects selected papers from the 7th China Conference on Wireless Sensor Networks (CWSN2013) held in Qingdao, October 17-19, 2013. The book features state-of-the-art studies on Sensor Networks in China with the theme of "Advances in wireless sensor networks of China". The selected works can help promote development of sensor network technology towards interconnectivity, resource sharing, flexibility and high efficiency. Researchers and engineers in the field of sensor networks can benefit from the book. Xue Wang is a professor at Tsinghua University; Li Cui is a professor at Institute of Computing Technology, Chinese Academy of Sciences; Zhongwen Guo is a professor at Ocean University of China. This book constitutes the proceedings of the 12th International Conference on Bio-inspired Computing: Theories and Applications, BIC-TA 2017, held in Harbin, China, December 2017. The 50 full papers presented were selected from 143 submissions. The papers deal with studies abstracting computing ideas such as data structures, operations with data, ways to control operations, computing models from living phenomena or biological systems such as evolution, cells, tissues, neural networks, immune

systems, and ant colonies. This book highlights the latest research advances in the planning and management of electric distribution networks. It addresses various aspects of distribution network management including planning, operation, customer engagement, and technology accommodation. Given the importance of electric distribution networks in power delivery systems, effectively planning and managing them are vital to satisfying technical, economic, and customer requirements. A new planning and management philosophy, techniques, and methods are essential to handling uncertainties associated with the integration of renewable-based distributed generation, demand forecast, and customer needs. This book covers topics on managing the capacity of distribution networks, while also addressing the future needs of electric systems. The efficient and economical operation of distribution networks is an essential aspect of ensuring the effective use of resources. Accordingly, this book addresses operation and control approaches and techniques suitable for future distribution networks. I present three applications of network theory to economic applications. The first chapter studies strategic spending in voting competitions with social networks. It finds that equilibrium spending targets voters whose position in the network has a high eigenvector influence. The second chapter studies how eigenvector influence changes when disconnected components of a network begin interacting. The result has implications for inequality in investment with social spill-overs and for consumption decisions with social influence. The final chapter studies pricing competitions in infrastructure networks. It finds how the structure of the network influences pricing behavior and market surplus. The two-volume set LNCS 11961 and 11962 constitutes the thoroughly refereed proceedings of the 25th International Conference on MultiMedia Modeling, MMM 2020, held in Daejeon, South Korea, in January 2020. Of the 171 submitted full research papers, 40 papers were selected for oral presentation and 46 for poster presentation; 28 special session papers were selected for oral presentation and 8 for poster presentation; in addition, 9 demonstration papers and 6 papers for the Video Browser Showdown 2020 were accepted. The papers of LNCS 11961 are organized in the following topical sections: audio and signal processing; coding and HVS; color processing and art; detection and classification; face; image processing; learning and knowledge representation; video processing; poster papers; the papers of LNCS 11962 are organized in the following topical sections: poster papers; AI-powered 3D vision; multimedia analytics: perspectives, tools and applications; multimedia datasets for repeatable experimentation; multi-modal affective computing of large-scale multimedia data; multimedia and

multimodal analytics in the medical domain and pervasive environments; intelligent multimedia security; demo papers; and VBS papers. Computer Networks ISE, Fourth Edition, is the only introductory computer networking book written by authors who have had first-hand experience with many of the protocols discussed in the book, who have actually designed some of them as well, and who are still actively designing the computer networks today. This newly revised edition continues to provide an enduring, practical understanding of networks and their building blocks through rich, example-based instruction. The authors' focus is on the why of network design, not just the specifications comprising today's systems but how key technologies and protocols actually work in the real world to solve specific problems. The new edition makes less use of computer code to explain protocols than earlier editions. Moreover, this new edition shifts the focus somewhat higher in the protocol stack where there is generally more innovative and exciting work going on at the application and session layers than at the link and physical layers. Completely updated with NEW sidebars discussing successes/failures of previously deployed networks Thorough companion website with downloadable OpNet network simulation software and lab experiments manual Expanded coverage of topics of utmost importance to today's networking professionals, e.g., security, wireless, multimedia applications This book and its sister volumes constitute the proceedings of the 2nd International Symposium on Neural Networks (ISNN 2005). ISNN 2005 was held in the beautiful mountain city Chongqing by the upper Yangtze River in southwestern China during May 30-June 1, 2005, as a sequel of ISNN 2004 successfully held in Dalian, China. ISNN emerged as a leading conference on neural computation in the region with - creasing global recognition and impact. ISNN 2005 received 1425 submissions from authors on 7ve continents (Asia, Europe, North America, South America, and Oc- nia), 33 countries and regions (Mainland China, Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan, South Korea, Japan, Singapore, Thailand, India, Nepal, Iran, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Turkey, Lithuania, Hungary, Poland, Austria, Switzerland, Germany, France, Sweden, Norway, Spain, Portugal, UK, USA, Canada, Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Australia, and New Zealand). Based on rigorous reviews, 483 high-quality papers were selected by the Program Committee for presentation at ISNN 2005 and publication in the proce- ings, with an acceptance rate of less than 34%. In addition to the numerous contributed papers, 10 distinguished scholars were invited to give plenary speeches and tutorials at ISNN 2005. Cognitive radio - a paradigm for wireless communication in which either a network or a wireless node changes its transmission or reception parameters

to communicate more efficiently and avoid interference -- is one of the most exciting emerging fields in communications technology. Taking an integrated development approach, this cutting-edge book provides you with clear methods for performing quantitative analysis of cognitive radio techniques in a variety of environments. This detailed reference presents a quantitative structure that helps you determine the capability of cognitive radio to address a number of constraints of current radio design. Critical to understanding the operation of cognitive radio, the book develops an analytic model for a range of spectrum environments. Moreover, this unique resource offers you unique insight into the application of dynamic spectrum access (DSA) to improve the performance of all classes of wireless devices. DVD Included! Contains sample cognitive radio environments and closed form approximations of these environments in MATLAB file format. This data enables you to reproduce the analysis provided in the book, perform the exercises in each chapter, and extend the work through independent investigation and research. How can economists define and measure social preferences and interactions? Through the use of new economic data and tools, our contributors survey an array of social interactions and decisions that typify homo economicus. Identifying economic strains in activities such as learning, group formation, discrimination, and the creation of peer dynamics, they demonstrate how they tease out social preferences from the influences of culture, familial beliefs, religion, and other forces. Advances our understanding about quantifying social interactions and the effects of culture Summarizes research on theoretical and applied economic analyses of social preferences Explores the recent willingness among economists to consider new arguments in the utility function Multilayer networks is a rising topic in Network Science which characterizes the structure and the function of complex systems formed by several interacting networks. Multilayer networks research has been propelled forward by the wide realm of applications in social, biological and infrastructure networks and the large availability of network data, as well as by the significance of recent results, which have produced important advances in this rapidly growing field. This book presents a comprehensive account of this emerging field. It provides a theoretical introduction to the main results of multilayer network science. This volume contains the proceedings of the NOC 2001 at Adastral park, UK, June 26-29 2001. With about 70 papers, this book highlights the gigabit ethernet PON developments, and other work on standard broadband PONs such as, dynamic bandwidth assignment. There are 10 papers on optical packet switching and work on optical cross-connects and DWDM for long-haul systems is presented. This

book aims to theoretically and empirically enrich the GVC accounting framework with statistical physics and complex network theory from the perspective of econophysics, thus adding up to the existing theories. Besides, it also aims at capturing the essences of network models such as topological complexity, hierarchy, transmissibility, interaction, and causality and reflecting the objective interrelations among economies or between economies and economic systems on the GVC, so as to reveal the inherent evolution of the cross-regional and even global economic systems. Radio Frequency Micromachined Switches, Switching Networks, and Phase Shifters discusses radio frequency microelectromechanical systems (RF MEMS)-based control components and will be useful for researchers and R&D engineers. It offers an in-depth study, performance analysis, and extensive characterization on micromachined switches and phase shifters. The reader will learn about basic design methodology and techniques to carry out extensive measurements on MEMS switches and phase shifters which include electrical, mechanical, power handling, linearity, temperature stability, reliability, and radio frequency performance. Practical examples included in the book will help readers to build high performance systems/subsystems using micromachined circuits. Key Features Provides simple design methodology of MEMS switches and switching networks including SPST to SP16T switches Gives an in-depth performance study of micromachined phase shifters. Detailed study on reliability and power handling capability of RF MEMS switches and phase shifters presented Proposes reconfigurable micromachined phase shifters Verifies a variety of MEMS switches and phase shifters experimentally This book represents a thoroughly comprehensive treatment of computational intelligence from an electrical power system engineer's perspective. Thorough, well-organised and up-to-date, it examines in some detail all the important aspects of this very exciting and rapidly emerging technology, including: expert systems, fuzzy logic, artificial neural networks, genetic algorithms and hybrid systems. Written in a concise and flowing manner, by experts in the area of electrical power systems who have had many years of experience in the application of computational intelligence for solving many complex and onerous power system problems, this book is ideal for professional engineers and postgraduate students entering this exciting field. This book would also provide a good foundation for senior undergraduate students entering into their final year of study. Continuous media streaming systems will shape the future of information infrastructure. The challenge is to design systems and networks capable of supporting millions of concurrent users. Key to this is the integration of fault-tolerant

mechanisms to prevent individual component failures from disrupting systems operations. These are just some of the hurdles that need to be overcome before large-scale continuous media services such as video-on-demand can be deployed with maximum efficiency. The author places the subject in context, drawing together findings from the past decade of research whilst examining the technology's present status and its future potential. The approach adopted is comprehensive, covering topics - notably the scalability and fault-tolerance issues - that previously have not been treated in depth. Provides an accessible introduction to the technology, presenting the basic principles for media streaming system design, focusing on the need for the correct and timely delivery of data. Explores the use of parallel server architectures to tackle the two key challenges of scalability and fault-tolerance. Investigates the use of network multicast streaming algorithms to further increase the scalability of very-large-scale media streaming systems. Illustrates all findings using real-world examples and case studies gleaned from cutting-edge worldwide research. Combining theory and practice, this book will appeal to industry specialists working in content distribution in general and continuous media streaming in particular. The introductory materials and basic building blocks complemented by amply illustrated, more advanced coverage provide essential reading for senior undergraduates, postgraduates and researchers in these fields.

Models and Methods in Social Network Analysis, first published in 2005, presents the most important developments in quantitative models and methods for analyzing social network data that have appeared during the 1990s. Intended as a complement to Wasserman and Faust's *Social Network Analysis: Methods and Applications*, it is a collection of articles by leading methodologists reviewing advances in their particular areas of network methods. Reviewed are advances in network measurement, network sampling, the analysis of centrality, positional analysis or blockmodelling, the analysis of diffusion through networks, the analysis of affiliation or 'two-mode' networks, the theory of random graphs, dependence graphs, exponential families of random graphs, the analysis of longitudinal network data, graphical techniques for exploring network data, and software for the analysis of social networks. A large amount of information about the world we live in is supplied by our visual systems. Humans perform the task of vision effortlessly without being aware of this complex process. Hierarchical structures permit successful examination of such intricate operations. This book investigates hierarchical-structured neural networks for vision and image processing tasks and proposes various new neural network models for that purpose. It exploits the capabilities of hierarchical neural networks in a systematic way by

considering the similarities to hierarchical structures already in use by computer vision researchers. All issues of hierarchical neural networks are treated in considerable detail; that is, the structure of the network, the representation issue, and learning mechanisms are analyzed theoretically as well as experimentally. Considering the similarity between conventional vision algorithms and hierarchical neural networks not only allows a transfer of knowledge between these two fields, but also gives voice to many new algorithms. How can economists define social preferences and interactions? Culture, familial beliefs, religion, and other sources contain the origins of social preferences. Those preferences--the desire for social status, for instance, or the disinclination to receive financial support--often accompany predictable economic outcomes. Through the use of new economic data and tools, our contributors survey an array of social interactions and decisions that typify homo economicus. Their work brings order to the sometimes conflicting claims that countries, environments, beliefs, and other influences make on our economic decisions. Describes recent scholarship on social choice and introduces new evidence about social preferences Advances our understanding about quantifying social interactions and the effects of culture Summarizes research on theoretical and applied economic analyses of social preferences This book is focused primarily on polymer nanocomposites, based on the author's research experience as well as open literature. The environmental health and safety aspects of nanomaterials and polymer nanocomposites, risk assessment and safety standards, and fire toxicity of polymer nanocomposites, are studied. In the final chapter, a brief overview of opportunities, trends, and challenges of polymer nanocomposites are included. Throughout the book, the theme is developed that polymer nanocomposites are a whole family of polymeric materials whose properties are capable of being tailored to meet specific applications. This volume serves as a general introduction to students and researchers just entering the field and to scholars from other subfields seeking information.

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