
Preface

Darwinian evolutionary theory is one of the most important theories in human history for it has equipped us with a valuable tool to understand the amazing world around us. There can be little surprise, therefore, that Evolutionary Computation (EC), inspired by natural evolution, has been so successful in providing high quality solutions in a large number of domains as diverse as engineering and finance.

EC includes a number of techniques, such as Genetic Algorithms, Genetic Programming, Evolution Strategy and Evolutionary Programming, which have been used in a diverse range of highly successful applications. This book brings together some of these EC applications in fields including electronics, telecommunications, health, bioinformatics, supply chain and other engineering domains, to give the audience, including both EC researchers and practitioners, a glimpse of this exciting and rapidly evolving field. We believe that it is also important for the users of EC to be aware of the theoretical basis underlying EC to unleash the potential for powerful tools that will emerge from the developments and advances in theory. Therefore, this book also includes several contributions concerning the latest theoretical progress in EC which are likely to be immediately applicable to solving problems in the real world.

The contributors' responses to this book were positive with 31 full paper submissions. These submissions were strictly peer reviewed by at least two and generally three experts in the field to ensure the quality of the book. We accepted only 16 papers resulting in an acceptance rate of 52%.

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