

Preface

The recent pursuits emerging in big data processing, interpretation, collection, and organization have emerged in numerous sectors including business, industry, and not-for-profit organizations. Data sets such as customer transactions for a mega-retailer, weather monitoring, intelligence gathering can quickly outpace the capacity of traditional techniques and tools of data analysis. We have been witnessing an emergence of new techniques and tools including NoSQL databases, MapReduce, Natural Language Processing, Machine Learning, visualization, acquisition, and serialization.

It becomes imperative to fully become aware what happens when big data grows up: how they are being applied and where they start playing a crucial role. We also need to become fully become aware of implications and requirements imposed on the existing techniques and various methods under development.

Soft Computing regarded as a plethora of technologies of fuzzy sets (or Granular Computing, in general), neurocomputing, and evolutionary optimization brings forward a number of unique features that might be instrumental to the development of concepts and algorithms to deal with big data. In particular, setting up a suitable and fully legitimate level of abstraction by forming semantically meaningful information granules is of paramount relevance. In light of their sheer volume, big data may call for distributed processing, where results of intensive data mining realized locally are afterwards reconciled leading to information granules of higher type. Neurocomputing operating at information granules leads to more tractable learning tasks. Evolutionary computing delivers an essential framework supporting global optimization.

In light of the inherent human-centric facet of Granular Computing the principles and practice of Computational Intelligence have been poised to play a vital role in the analysis, design, and interpretation of the architectures and functioning of mechanisms of big data.

Our ultimate objectives of this edited volume is to provide the reader with an updated, in-depth material on the emerging principles, conceptual underpinnings, algorithms, and practice of Computational Intelligence in the realization of concepts and implementation of big data architectures, analysis, and interpretation as well as data analytics.

An overall concise characterization of the objectives of the edited volume is expressed by highlighting several focal points:

- Systematic exposure of the concepts, design methodology, and detailed algorithms. In general, the volume adheres to the top-down strategy starting with the concepts and motivation and then proceeding with the detailed design that materializes in specific algorithms and representative applications.
- Individual chapters with clearly delineated agenda and well-defined focus and additional reading material available via carefully selected references.
- A wealth of carefully structured and organized illustrative material. The volume includes a series of brief illustrative numeric experiments, detailed schemes, and more advanced problems. They make the material more readable and appealing.
- Self-containment. Given the emerging character of the area of big data, our ultimate intent is to deliver a material that is self-contained and provides the reader with all necessary prerequisites and, if necessary, augments some parts with a step-by-step explanation of more advanced concepts supported by a significant amount of illustrative numeric material and some application scenarios to motivate the reader and make some abstract concepts more tangible.

The area of big data is highly diversified and this volume offers a quite representative view of the area. The contributions published here can be organized into three main parts. The first part, Fundamentals, which comprises chapters “[Nearest Neighbor Queries on Big Data](#)” to “[Building Fuzzy Robust Regression Model Based on Granularity and Possibility Distribution](#)” is focused on the methodological issues covering a broad spectrum of the approaches and detailed algorithmic pursuits including essential topics of forming cliques in big data, exploiting robust regression and its variants, constructing and optimizing rule-based models, Latent Semantic Indexing, information granulation, and Nearest Neighbor Querying. Part II entitled Architectures consisting of chapters “[The Role of Cloud Computing Architectures in Big Data](#)” to “[The Web Know ARR Framework: Orchestrating Computational Intelligence with Graph Databases](#)” is aimed at looking at the dedicated computing architectures such as cloud computing and the use of data storage techniques. Part III (case studies) includes chapters “[Customer Relationship Management and Big Data Mining](#)” to “[Application of Computational Intelligence on Analysis of Air Quality Monitoring Big Data](#)” which offer a suite of studies serving as a testimony to a wealth of promising applications including among others Customer Relationship management, market movements, weather forecasting, and air quality monitoring.

Given the theme of this project, this book is aimed at a broad audience of researchers and practitioners. Owing to the nature of the material being covered and the way it is organized, one can project with high confidence that it will appeal to the well-established communities including those active in various disciplines in which big data, their analysis, and optimization are of genuine relevance. Those involved in data mining, data analysis, management, various branches of engineering, and economics will benefit from the exposure to the subject matter.

Considering a way in which the edited volume is structured, this book could serve as a highly useful reference material for graduate students and senior undergraduate students in courses such as those on intelligent system, data mining, pattern recognition, decision-making, Internet engineering, Computational Intelligence, management, operations research, and knowledge-based systems.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to the authors for sharing the results of their innovative research and delivering their insights into the area. The reviewers deserve our thanks for their constructive and timely input. We greatly appreciate a continuous support and encouragement coming from the Editor-in-Chief, Prof. Janusz Kacprzyk whose leadership and vision makes this book series a unique vehicle to disseminate the most recent, highly relevant and far-reaching publications in the domain of Computational Intelligence and its various applications.

We hope that the readers will find this volume of genuine interest and the research reported here will help foster further progress in research, education, and numerous practical endeavors.

Witold Pedrycz
Shyi-Ming Chen

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Pedrycz, W.; Chen, S.-M. (Eds.)

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