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Journal of King Saud University – Computer and Information Sciences

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Message from the Editor



Dear Readers,

Our journal [webpage](https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/jksuci) has gone through a distinguished new shade, in which access to the various services of the journal became easier and more comprehensive. Also, our host Elsevier added [PlumX](https://plumanalytics.com/learn/about-metrics/) (<https://plumanalytics.com/learn/about-metrics/>), a revolutionary metrics that provides insights on how people interact with our published articles in the diversified online environment. In addition to the Citations, it adds the Usage, Captures, Mentions, and Social Media through a colored five circles star.

In this first issue of Volume 30, we will carry to you nine diversified and very attractive articles. The first two are review articles. The first presents an evaluation and comparison of various models used in the prediction of software product in its early stages. Six models have been tested on five open source software, with the results showing the superiority of Random Forest and Bagging, while Naïve Bayes was the least favorable. In the second review article, Brain Computer Interface (BCI) systems are presented, along with their applications, challenges in addition to experimental results related to the hand movement.

In the third article, an optimization method, that combines forest optimization and a gradient local search method, is proposed to perform fuzzy clustering in data analysis. The results were compared to two other fuzzy algorithms, one based on genetic algorithm and the second on swarm optimization, and showed the increased accuracy of the proposed method.

In the fourth article, a new automated thresholding technique is proposed to detect defects and alleviate the limitations of both Otsu method in the case of multimode image histogram, as well as its proposed solutions, which require preprocessing steps.

In the fifth paper, a new CT image de-noising is proposed. The technique uses an iterative method in post processing and a locally adaptive thresholding rule in Tetrolet domain. Through some thorough comparison to standard existing technique, its distinctive

superiority was shown in preserving important features such as edges, corners, textures and sharp structures.

In the sixth paper, a procedure synthesizing an automaton that may be used to detect incompleteness, anomalies and discrepancies in firewall security policies. The procedure has been proven analytically and experimentally for its low time and space complexities.

In the seventh paper, a mechanism is proposed to address the problem of query broadcast when using routing protocols in clustered ad-hoc networks. The method is basically an extension of the query-control technique BERS+.

In the eighth paper, a sophisticated fuzzy logic computational model using AHP and TOPSIS techniques was developed to extract valuable information from survey data on Sudanese Universities and its academic staff. The model was very successful in evaluating the performance of both the Universities and its staff, and may be easily applied to similar academic environments.

In the ninth article, an optimization technique, based on the teaching learning based optimization (TLBO) along with learning ability of the gradient descent learning (GDL), is suggested to obtain the optimal set of weights for a functional link ANN (FLANN) learning model. The results are compared with three other techniques and using many benchmark data sets.

In our next issue, we will provide you with a summary of our Journal achievements during the year 2017. Until then, we hope that you will find our articles most useful in your research and developments.

Editor-in-Chief of JKSUCI
Nasser-Eddine Rikli

Peer review under responsibility of King Saud University.



<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jksuci.2017.12.012>

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