

Annual Research Report

Politehnica University Timisoara 2020



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Annual Research Report Politehnica University Timişoara 2020



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Introducing the Report





"It's not the walls that make a school, but the spirit living inside." King Ferdinand I, 1923

The needs for a modern society, in the context of a competitive global market, require highly skilled human resource development. In this context, the role of universities in the innovation process has increased continuously over time because the development of new products or technologies depends more and more on the findings of scientific research.

Established in 1920, shortly after the union of Romanian territories, in a European context marked by the redefinition of states and by the aftermath of World War I, the Polytechnic School in Timişoara – as it was originally called – was the answer to one of the requirements of the Romanian society of the time, namely the formation of engineers.

The mission of the Politehnica University Timişoara (UPT) is to offer nationally competitive and internationally recognized opportunities for Learning, Research, and Innovation at the highest levels of excellence. As a resource of knowledge for the public, the university builds partnerships with other educational institutions, community organizations, government agencies, and the private sector to fulfill the requirements for competences of the societal environment through superior professional training for students and graduates.

The present Research Report of Politehnica University Timişoara gathers the main results obtained through the research activities carried out within the university in 2020, Politehnica being renowned as a remarkable actor on the stage of scientific research, both at national and international level. Our research activity is facilitated by the existence of twenty-six research centres specialized in fields that are capital for the sustainable development of any modern society. Each of these research centres brings together various prestigious researchers, whom, by their effort and vision, provide UPT with the incentives needed to contribute to the progress of our society.

Most of the research activity carried out by our institution is financed through external sources, obtained either from national and international calls for projects, or through agreements with private companies. This represents a confirmation of the superior quality of the research, but also of the prestige and professional deontology of the researchers affiliated to our institution. Politehnica's reputation as an institution of advanced research is also emphasized by the patents obtained by its researchers, by the medals and prizes obtained in both national and international competitions, and by the collaborations with important research centres and institutes from Romania and from abroad.

Each year we select the most talented young researchers for our doctoral school, providing them with the opportunity to transform their knowledge and ideas into the innovations of tomorrow. Many of them take part in peer learning programs and consolidate in this way the relationship between our university and similar partner institutions. They strive for becoming doctors in science.

This report is divided into twelve sections, each one presenting a specific component of the research activity performed within the institution.

The first section focuses on the research infrastructure, which comprises the twenty-six research centres hosted by the university. The order in which they are presented is given by the research fields. The research centres, respectively teams of researchers, on different themes, are highly important for our university since they manage to put into practice the scientific research strategy of the university successfully, within the framework of numerous grants and contracts won by competition. The research results are materialized in papers, patents and products, all bringing for the University prestige, as well as important funds.

The second section of the Research Report is dedicated to the Scientific Excellence Awards. These prestigious awards celebrate those colleagues who have made a significant contribution in their field of research and continue to inspire future generations to get involved in science.

The third and fourth sections include the research projects implemented by the university. The third section includes the projects supported by public funds, both national and international, while the fourth one includes the projects supported by private funds awarded by companies. For the purposes of this report, we have chosen the most relevant projects for our the most representative projects for our research strategy.

The innovative capacity of the Politehnica University Timişoara is supported by teachers and scientific researchers through patents and utility models invented, presented in the fifth section.

Politehnica University Timişoara recognizes scientific excellence by conferring the honorary degrees of Doctor Honoris Causa and Honorary Professor to distinguished Researchers for their contribution to the development of UPT of continuous support, as shown in section six of this Report.

Sections seven and eight include habilitation theses and PhD theses held in 2020 in our University.

Section nine presents an overview of the most relevant scientific conferences that brought together scholars and professionals from Romania and from abroad. The conferences hosted by our university encouraged the dialogue, facilitated the exchange of ideas, and offered a great opportunity for new collaborations.

The tenth section gathers the scientific journals that have been published by our institution. This category includes journals specialized in various fields, such as computer science, chemistry and environmental engineering, electronics and communications, economics and social sciences, electrical engineering, mathematics and physics, hydrotechnics, physical education and sport, modern languages, etc.

The dissemination of the research results and findings is an integral part of the research process and the career in academia. Section eleven presents the most relevant scientific researches that have been published in 2020. It comprises the results obtained by our researchers, namely the papers that obtained recognition from some of the most prestigious journals, from both Romania and abroad.

And finally the twelfth section comprises a collection of books written by our researchers, most of them published under Politehnica Publishing House.

Through research we generate ideas, through ideas we generate innovation and through innovation we contribute to the improvement of the quality of life; this is why research is our priority.



RESEARCH CENTRES





Center for Innovation and Technology Transfer Politehnica 2020 (CITT) of the Politehnica University of Timişoara

In 11 November 2020, the Center for Innovation and Technology Transfer (CITT) Politehnica 2020 received the provisional authorization from the Ministry of National Education, for a 12 month period, in the fields of

- $\sqrt{\textit{Eco-nano-technologies}}$ and advanced materials
- $\sqrt{}$ Information and communication technologies
- \sqrt{Energy} , environment and climate change

The **mission** of CITT is the general stimulation of the collaboration activity between the Research Centers within the Politehnica University of Timişoara and the economic and industrial environment, by supporting and encouraging the technological transfer, in order to introduce in the economic circuit the research results transformed into products, processes and new or improved services. CITT mediates the additional steps that separate laboratory knowledge from industrial technology.

The **vision** of the CITT is in line with the strategic policy of the European Union for economic growth for the next ten years, with efforts to gradually align with recent guidelines of EU policy dictated by the need to increase capacity and competitiveness of education and research – development – innovation presented in the NDP National Development Plan 2007–2013 and their compatibility with similar systems in the European Union.

The general **objectives** of the CITT are:

- a) Increasing the visibility of the research-innovation activity within the Politehnica University of Timişoara regionally, nationally and internationally;
- b) Consultation of the academic community, through the representatives of the research centers, for the implementation of the mission assumed by the Strategic Plan;
- c) Training and development of human resources involved in the realization of projects;
- d) Initiating, promoting and advising inter- and multidisciplinary collaboration for the realization of projects;
- e) Supporting the achievement of the performance indicators of the Politehnica University of Timişoara for the internal self-evaluation of the quality and the promotion of the quality in research;
- f) Modernization and efficiency of the material base necessary for the development of scientific research in the university;



CITT POLITEHNICA 2020

- g) Orienting the research of the Politehnica University of Timişoara towards the needs of the society on medium and long term and promoting the industrial doctorates;
- h) Achieving an efficient management of the research development innovation activity;
- i) Strengthening the dimension of national and international cooperation;
- j) Creating a climate of trust and scientific cooperation between UPT teachers, based on decision-making transparency;
- k) Periodic evaluation of the results of scientific research and research development innovation centers.
- Efficient management of technology transfer results through continuous updating of data, operation of the database and conducting statistical studies on activities;

The **role** of CITT is materialized through:

a) Negotiating and drawing up research contracts, service contracts or partnership agreements with industrial partners;

- b) Supporting inventors to prove the concept and pre-industrial validation. CITT will also manage the protection of intellectual property generated by the institution. This includes identifying sources of funding, both internal and external, for the registration of applications for intellectual property protection (such as patents, trademarks or copyrights);
- c) Negotiation and preparation of license agreements and transfer of intellectual property to industry, with or without the support of specialized external legal advisers;
- d) CITT will encourage and support the creation of new companies.
- CITT has the following **attributions**:
- a) Promotes the activity of innovation and technological transfer;
- b) Contributes to the implementation of the results of scientific research and advanced technologies;

- c) Ensures the access of SMEs to the technological services and RDI infrastructure of the Politehnica University of Timişoara;
- d) Provides assistance for technology acquisitions (domestic or import);
- e) Ensures the realization and administration of product packages (CDI-production transfer documents);
- f) Ensures the efficient transfer of the results of the RDI teams to the production departments of the companies;
- g) Ensures the participation in competitions for RDI projects financed by the Romanian Government through the Ministry of National Education and in the projects financed by the EU;
- h) Elaborates statistical or feasibility studies for the activities carried

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Phone: 0256 403 450







Research Institute for Renewable Energy

Director: prof. Viorel UNGUREANU
Contact: viorel.ungureanu@upt.ro, https://www.icer.ro/



Research Centre for Smart Energy Conversion and Storage

Director: prof. Nicolae MUNTEAN
Contact: nicolae.muntean@upt.ro,
https://et.upt.ro/ro/pdf/energy-conversion-and-storage-control-research-center



Şt. Nădăşan Laboratory

Director: prof. Liviu MARŞAVINA Contact: liviu.marsavina@upt.ro, https://eeris.eu/ERIF-2000-000P-0735



Research Centre for Mechanics of Materials and Structural Safety

Director: prof. Dan DUBINĂ

Contact: dan.dubina@upt.ro, https://www.ct.upt.ro/centre/cemsig/index.htm



Research Centre for Processing and Characterization of Advanced

Director: conf. Bogdan RADU Contact: bogdan.radu@upt.ro, https://sites.google.com/view/ccpcma/home



Director: prof. Ştefan KILYENI Contact: stefan.kilyeni@upt.ro,

https://et.upt.ro/ro/pdf/analiza-%C5%9Fi-optimizarea-regimurilor-sistemelor-electroenergetice



Research Centre for Computers and Information Technology

Research Centre for Power Systems Analysis and Optimization

Director: prof. Vladimir-loan CRETU

Contact: vladimir.cretu@upt.ro, https://cs.upt.ro/ro/research



Research Centre for Organic, Macromolecular and Natural Compounds' Chemistry and Engineering

Director: prof. Corneliu DAVIDESCU

Contact: corneliu.davidescu@upt.ro, http://www.chim.upt.ro/ro/cercetare/centre-cercetare/centru-de-cercetare-in-chimia-si-inqineria-compusilor-organici-macromoleculari-si-naturali



Research Centre for Skills Plasturgie

Director: conf. Nicolae CRAINIC Contact: nicolae.crainic@upt.ro,

https://www.facebook.com/events/universitatea-politehnica-timisoara/centrul-de-competente-in-plasturgie/2151522965134377/



Research Centre for Hidrotechnical Engineering and Environmantal Protection

Director: prof. Constantin FLORESCU

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Research Centre for Construction and Transportation Substructures

Director: prof. Liviu Adrian CIUTINĂ

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Research Centre for Automatic Systems Engineering

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Research Centre for Complex Fluid Systems Engineering

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Research Centre for Medical Engineering

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Research Centre for Integrated Engineering

Director: prof. George DRĂGHICI

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Research Centre for Engineering and Management

Director: conf. Larisa Victoria IVAŞCU

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Research Centre for Building Services

Director: s.l. Călin SEBARCHIEVICI

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Research Centre for Thermal Machines and Equipments, Transportation and Environmental Pollution Control

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Research Centre for Inorganic Materials and Alternative Energies

Director: prof. loan LAZĂU

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Research Center for Materials and Industrial Technologies

Director: prof. Teodor HEPUŢ

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Research Centre for Mechatronics and Robotics

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Research Centre for Advanced Study Methods for Physical Phenomena

Director: prof. Dumitru TOADER

Contact: dumitru.toader@upt.ro, https://et.upt.ro/ro/pdf/metode-avansate-de-studiu-fenomenelor-fizice



Research Centre for Multimedia

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Research Center in Urban Planning and Architecture

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Research Centre for Intelligent Signal Processing

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Research Centre for Retrofitting of Constructions

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Research Centre for Intelligent Electronic Systems

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Research Centre for Environmental Science and Engineering

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SCIENTIFIC EXCELLENCE AWARDS



Romanian Academy The "Aurel Vlaicu" Prize awarded in 2020 Assist.Prof. Emanoil LINUL, phd & Nima MOVAHEDI, phd

"Aurel Vlaicu" Award of Romanian Academy to Emanoil LINUL and Nima MOVAHEDI for the group of scientific papers with the common title: "Mechanical characterization of advanced cellular materials".

Cellular materials (metal, ceramic and polymeric foams) have experienced a considerable development in recent years, both in terms of manufacturing methodologies and by obtaining increasingly high-performance mechanical characteristics.

The year 2018 was a reference in disseminating the results and publishing them in prestigious journals in the field of cellular materials and foambased composites. The group of papers entitled "Mechanical characterization of advanced cellular materials", having as main authors Emanoil LINUL (Associate Professor, PhD) and Liviu MARŞAVINA (Academician, Professor, PhD) from the Politechnica University of Timişoara (Romania), respectively Nima MOVAHEDI (PhD) from the University of Newcastle (Australia), contains the following papers:

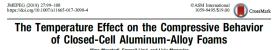
1. Emanoil Linul, Nima Movahedi, Liviu Marsavina, The temperature and anisotropy effect on compressive behavior of cylindrical closedcell aluminum-alloy foams, Journal of Alloys and Compounds 2018, 740, 1172-1179.



2. Nima Movahedi, Emanoil Linul, Mechanical properties of Light Expanded Clay Aggregated (LECA) filled tubes, Materials Letters 2018, 217, 194-197.



3. Nima Movahedi, Emanoil Linul, Liviu Marsavina, The temperature effect on the compressive behavior of closed-cell aluminum-alloy foams, Journal of Materials Engineering and Performance 2018, 27(1), 99-108.



4. Emanoil Linul, Nima Movahedi, Liviu Marsavina, On the lateral compressive behavior of empty and ex-situ aluminum foam-filled tubes at high temperature, Materials 2018, 11(4), 554..



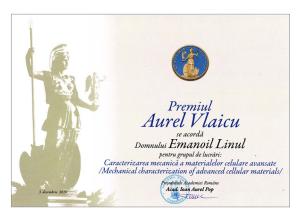
On the Lateral Compressive Behavior of Empty and Ex-Situ Aluminum Foam-Filled Tubes at **High Temperature**

Emanoil Linul 1,* 0, Nima Movahedi 2,* and Liviu Marsavina 1

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The research topic addressed by the authors aims to broaden the scope of cellular materials in the automotive industry. Although the automotive industry has developed high-strength materials, they are gradually being replaced with new advanced lightweight materials, mainly due to weight

and price. The authors identified structures as fillers for the stiffening structural components can absorb structures, showing a significant have a high stiffness-to-weight energy, good corrosion resistance, makes them ideal candidates for materials (e.g. steel, aluminum, results present in the literature in systematic program for mechanical materials and structures filled with numerical and analytical methods. mentioned materials above



a potential for the use of cellular elements of vehicles. Foam-filled more impact energy than foam-free increase in weight. These materials ratio, high capacity to absorb impact as well as recycling potential, which the replacement of high-density etc.). Due to the limitation of the this field, the authors developed a characterization of both cellular such materials, using experimental, The characterization of the cellular consisted in performing axial

and radial guasi-static compression tests. The effects of temperature (25-500°C) and anisotropy (three loading directions) were investigated. The mentioned parameters were chosen according to the foam matrix material.



Romanian Academy The "Tudor Tănăsescu" Prize awarded in 2020 Assist.Prof. Raul-Cristian ROMAN and Prof. Radu-Emil PRECUP, phd

As.Dr.Ing. Raul-Cristian ROMAN and Prof.Dr.Ing. Radu-Emil PRECUP have been awarded the "Tudor Tănăsescu Award" prize, given by the Romanian Academy for a group of three papers generically grouped in "Tehnici data-driven de acordare a parametrilor regulatoarelor" — RO, "Data-driven techniques for tuning controller parameters – EN". The prize was officially awarded during the special session "PREMIILE ACADEMIEI ROMÂNE PENTRU ANUL 2018" — RO, "ROMANIAN ACADEMY AWARDS FOR THE YEAR 2018" – EN in 3.12.2020 at 10:00 in Aula of the Romanian Academy https://acad.ro/com2020/pag_com20_1203.htm

The Romanian Academy is a cultural forum founded in Bucharest,

Romania, in 1866. It covers the scientific, artistic, and literary domains. The academy has 181 acting members who are elected for life. According to its bylaws, the academy's

literature, the study of the national history of Romania and research into major scientific domains.

into major scientific domains. Some of the academy's fundamental projects are the Romanian language dictionary, the dictionary of Romanian literature, and the treatise on the history of the Romanian

main goals are the cultivation of Romanian language and Romanian

people.

As.dr.ing. Raul-Cristian Roman and Prof.dr.ing. Radu-Emil Precup, corresponding member of the Romanian Academy, published in 2018, as main authors, the following three papers in the field of data-driven techniques for tuning the parameters of controllers:

- 1. R.-C. Roman, R.-E. Precup, R.-C. David, Second order intelligent proportional-integral fuzzy control of twin rotor aerodynamic systems, Sixth International Conference on Information Technology and Quantitative Management (ITQM 2018), Omaha, NE, USA, Procedia Computer Science, Elsevier, vol. 139, pp. 372–380, Oct. 2018.
- 2. R.-C. Roman, M.-B. Radac, C. Tureac, R.-E. Precup, Data-driven active disturbance rejection control of pendulum cart systems, Proceedings of 2018 IEEE Conference on Control Technology and Applications CCTA 2018, Copenhagen, Denmark, pp. 933-938, Aug. 2018.
- 3. M.-B. Radac, R.-E. Precup, R.-C. Roman, Data-driven model reference control of MIMO vertical tank systems with model-free VRFT and Q-learning, ISA Transactions, Elsevier, vol. 73, pp. 227–238, Feb. 2018.



These papers have proposed a number of important contributions in the field proposed for award due the fact they ensure autonomy and adaptability to automatic control systems and solve correctly defined control problems without accurate information about the modeled processes.



Romanian Academy The "Gheorghe Cartianu" Prize awarded in 2020 Assoc.Prof. Codruţa O. ANCUŢI, phd and Lect. Cosmin ANCUŢI, phd

- 1. Codruta O. Ancuti, Cosmin Ancuti, Philippe Bekaert and Christophe De Vleeschouwer "Color balance and fusion for underwater image enhancement". IEEE Transactions on Image Processing, January, 2018, impact factor 9.34 (revista Q1).
- 2. Codruta O. Ancuti, Cosmin Ancuti, Christophe De Vleeschouwer, Radu Timofte "O-HAZE: a dehazing benchmark with real hazy and haze-free outdoor images", 2018 NTIRE, IEEE Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition Workshops (CVPRW), Salt Lake City, US 2018
- 3. Codruta O. Ancuti, Cosmin Ancuti, Christophe De Vleeschouwer, Radu Timofte "I–HAZE: a dehazing benchmark with real hazy and haze–free indoor images", International Conference on Advanced Concepts for Intelligent Vision Systems, LNCS, Springer, Poitiers, France, 24–27 Sept 2018
- 4. Cosmin Ancuti, Codruta O. Ancuti, Radu Timofte et al. "NTIRE 2018 challenge on image dehazing: Methods and results". Proceedings of the IEEE Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition, NTIRE Workshops, (CVPRW), Salt Lake City, US 2018



The first article introduces an original method that is the first and currently (despite of the advance of the CNN and deep learning field) the only method that proves to be effective to enhance challenging underwater scenes (e.g. deep and artificially illuminated underwater scenes). Due to its highly impact in the underwater imaging and in general in the image processing and computer vision research communities, in 2018 and 2019, our article occupied the first position in the ranking of the most popular articles in IEEE Transactions on Image Processing with more than 50.000 full text views and 100+citation.

The next three papers are the result of the publication of the results and datasets used in the organization by the authors of the first image dehazing competition ever organized worldwide. This competition was organized during the NTIRE 2018 workshop of the prestigious IEEE Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (IEEE CVPR), Utah, US 2018 (+9000 attendees).

Highest honors for the Rector of the Politehnica University of Timisoara — The Doctor Honoris Causa title conferred by the Polytechnic University of Bucharest Prof. Viorel Aurel ŞERBAN, phd

On 27 February 2020, the Polytechnic University of Bucharest conferred to the Rector of the Politehnica University of Timisoara, Univ. prof.dr.eng. Viorel Aurel Serban, the highest distinction that can be bestowed by a higher education institution, that is the title of Doctor Honoris Causa.

At the solemn ceremony, the merits of Univ.prof.dr.eng. Viorel Aurel Serban were highlighted, both at the scientific and the academic management levels, as well as from the perspective of boosting the collaboration between the Politehnica University of Timisoara and the Polytechnic University of Bucharest. Among other things, the motivation of the award states that "For his entire scientific, teaching, managerial and collaboration activity with our university, for the

remarkable results of such activity, the Senate of the Polytechnic University of Bucharest has decided to award the highest academic title, DOCTOR HONORIS CAUSA, to Professor Viorel-Aurel Serban".

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The ceremony also included a presentation of the teaching and research activity carried out by Univ.prof.dr.eng. Viorel Aurel Serban. Such teaching and research activities were added to by a rich activity in the field of academic administration and management, which was crowned by the election as Rector of the Politehnica University of Timisoara, for two terms, between 2012 and 2020. As a Rector, he contributed to the establishment of The Romanian Alliance of Technical Universities — ARUT, in 2016, along with the Rectors of the other technical universities, and became the first President of the Alliance, which position he has occupied ever since.

Furthermore, during the awarding ceremony, his efforts were highlighted and his significant contribution to the development of

international cooperation, by having signed numerous agreements with foreign universities and research institutions, as well as his extensive activity in the field of sports and culture.











The Politehnica University of Timisoara, the best Romanian university in the field of information technology, computers and electronic engineering Prof.Radu-Emil PRECUP, phd and Prof. Stefan PREITL, phd

The Politehnica University of Timisoara was ranked as the best Romanian university, in the top 2020 of the best universities with

study programs related to information technology, computers and electronic engineering, published by Guide2Research, one of the leading portals for research in such fields. In the world rankings, the Politehnica University of Timisoara ranks 449.

The ranking, based on H-Index and the DBLP publications, was designed so as to offer the academic community more

visibility and exposure to research contributions

made by leading institutions in the field of informatics, computer and electronic engineering.

The Hirsch Index (H-Index) is an assessing tool for the scientific results of researchers and academic institutions and a criterion for quantifying

their scientific impact through the number of quotations, whereas the DBLP is the largest database that indexes scientific works in the field of informatics, computers and electronics.

The ranking is based on a sum of the H-index values of all top IT specialists affiliated with a university. The Hirsch index threshold for being a leading scientist was set at 40, provided that most of their

A ranking published by Guide2Research scientific work were in the field of information ics, computer and technology, computers and electronics and be indexed in the DBLP



In the Guide2Research ranking, the Politehnica University of Timisoara is present with two prestigious researchers in the field, with a total Hirsch index value of 89 and a total of 254 DBLP publications:

- Prof.dr.eng. Radu-Emil Precup, corresponding Member of the Romanian Academy, Dean of the Faculty of Automation and Computing;
- **Prof.dr.eng. Stefan Preitl**, Director of the Center for Scientific Research in Automation and Computing, within the Politehnica University of Timisoara, between 2001 and 2011.

The ranking mirrors the H-Index and DBLP values collected by August 25, 2020 and is based on the detailed examination of more than 6000 engineering and computer profiles from Google Scholar and DBLP.







Professor Nicolae Muntean, an Honorary Member of the Romanian Academy of Technical Sciences



A new reason for pride has occured for the academic community of the Politehnica University of Timisoara. Professor Nicolae Muntean, from the Faculty of Electrical and Power Engineering, became an Honorary Member of the Romanian Academy of Technical Sciences, due to his scientific, teaching and managerial activities carried out both within the university and the industry.

A graduate of the Polytechnic Institute "Traian Vuia" of Timisoara, specialization of Electric Engineering, class of 1981, Prof. Nicolae Muntean began his career, like many other graduates of the

Polytechnic, at the Electrotimis Company, as a design engineer. After a short time spent as a research engineer at ICMET Craiova, he started his teaching career at the Politehnica University of Timisoara in 1990, and took all the necessary steps. He got his doctorate in Electrical Engineering (1994), became a university professor in 2008, and a PhD coordinator in 2009.

Prof.univ.dr.eng. Nicolae Muntean has over 35 years of experience in the fields of electric drives with power electronics, industrial automation, automotive systems and renewable energy sources. He currently manages the Research Center for the Control of Energy Conversion and Storage, and has a special contribution to the development of extraordinary laboratories all over Eastern Europe, in the field of Power Electronics in Smart Microgrids and Automotive. Moreover, Prof. Muntean has developed competitive multi-disciplinary contracts and projects together with domestic and foreign industry

companies. He is a Member or a Coordinator in over 20 nationally and internationally funded research programs. He is also an associated editor for the "Journal of Electrical Engineering", indexed INSPEC. Last but not least, Professor Nicolae Muntean also has a rich experience in management, both within the university (having been, over the time, a scientific secretary, a vice–dean, an Interim Dean of the Faculty of Electrical and Power Engineering, as well as director of the PUT Publishing House), and the industry (as the manager of Beespeed Automation Timisoara).





The "Acad. Corneliu Mikloşi" Medal awarded to the former Rector of the Politehnica University of Timisoara, Univ. Prof. dr. eng. Viorel-Aurel ŞERBAN

The Romanian Welding Politehnica University of on Wednesday, November Library, the symposium Field at the Centennial included the awarding "Acad. Corneliu Miklosi' Aurel Serban, former The festive moment of the



Association and the Timisoara jointly organized 4th, 2020 at the PUT called "The Welding Politehnica". The event of the Association Medal to Univ.prof.dr.eng Viorel-Rector of the University.

"Acad. Corneliu Miklosi"

Medal's delivery to Univ.prof.dr.eng. Viorel-Aurel Serban, was preceded by the reading of the Laudatio by Prof.dr.eng. Dorin Dehelean, President of the local branch of the Romanian Welding Association, who highlighted some points of the activity of Professor Serban, who is a personality of the field

of materials science and of the Romanian Academy permanently involved in its related processes.

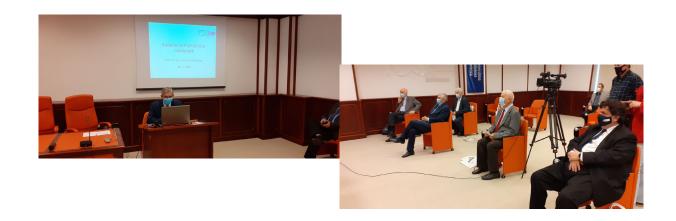
Professor Viorel-Aurel presentation called "The Centennial Politehnica", emphasized the particularly Politehnica University of academics led by Corneliu development of welding



engineering, a Member of Technical Sciences and the field of welding and

Serban held the Welding Field at the during which he important role that the Timisoara, through its Miklosi, played in the and of higher education in

this field, and that such work was the one of pioneers at the time, and placed Timisoara at the forefront of welding education, research and technology.





European Distance and E-learning Network, EDEN Fellow Award, Prof. Radu VASIU, phd

European Distance and E-learning Network, EDEN Fellow Award, Prof. Radu VASIU, PhD, awarded during the Official Opening Ceremony of the 2020 EDEN Annual Conference, 22 June 2020



EDEN is pleased to announce that at the Opening Ceremony of the EDEN2020 Annual Virtual Conference in Timisoara, the EDEN Fellow Title has been awarded to Radu Vasiu, President of the Politehnica University Timisoara. of the title give to Radu Vasiu was exceptioal, in honour of the EDEN Conference host, Politehnica University Timisoara.

The purpose of the EDEN Fellow scheme is to provide validation and support to professionals in Europe in this field, and to enhance their mobility within Europe through a respected scheme of recognition. The first Senior Fellow and Fellow Awards were presented at the 2007 Annual Conference in Naples. The EDEN Fellow title is an expression of acknowledgement of professional merit by the Association, for NAP members, who have demonstrated excellence in professional practice in the field of flexible and distance learning and provided valued support to the evolution and progress of EDEN.

The 2020 EDEN Fellow Awards will be officially held at the EDEN Research Workshop, Lisbon, Portugal this autumn, the announcement of the title give to Radu Vasiu was exceptioal, in honour of the EDEN Conference host, Politehnica University Timisoara.







European Distance and E-learning Network, Elected Chair of the NAP Steering Committee Lect. Vlad MIHAESCU, phd

European Distance and E-learning Network, Elected Chair of the NAP Steering Committee, Lect. Vlad MIHAESCU, PhD, September 2020

We are delighted to announce that at their online meeting on June 18, 2020, the NAP Steering Committee elected Vlad Mihaescu by unanimous vote as new Chair of EDEN Network of Academics and Professionals (NAP) Steering Committee.

The NAP is EDEN's professional community, that includes in its membership all individual members as well as our institutional members' individual representatives. The official NAP membership consists over 1100 members. The activities of the community are coordinated by NAP's own Steering Committee (SC), the members of which

are elected by the NAP individual community casting their votes once every three years. Vlad Mihaescu has a PhD in educational and technological models of MOOCs and has more than 10 years' experience as a trainer and teacher in areas like multimedia technologies, social media, e-tourism, e-learning, usability, programming, soft skills and leadership. Author of over 25 scientific papers and book chapters published in international conferences and journals, Vlad is involved in several European research projects in the field of eLearning. He is also a lecturer for UPT.



Vlad Mihaescu has a PhD in educational and technological models of MOOCs and has more than 10 years' experience as a trainer and teacher in areas like multimedia technologies, social media, e-tourism, e-learning, usability, programming, soft skills and leadership. Vlad as the Chair of the EDEN NAP Steering Committee at the same time is ex officio a member of the EDEN Executive Committee. EDEN thanks for the devoted and valuable work of former NAP SC Chair, Antonella Poce, and welcomes Vlad Mihaescu in his new position in the management of our Association.



IEEE Senior Member grade elevation, Prof. Corina NAFORNIȚĂ, phd

In 2020, Dr Corina Nafornita was elevated to the grade of Senior Member by IEEE, Signal Processing Society (SPS). IEEE Senior Membership is an honor bestowed only to those who have made significant contributions to the profession and less than 10% of IEEE members achieve this level of professional recognition. Professor Corina Nafornita has been with the Communications Department at Politehnica University of Timisoara since 2003. In 2015, she successfully defended her Habilitation thesis. Her research interests include signal and image processing, radar, watermarking and wavelets. She is an affiliate member of the IEEE SPS SPTM Technical Committee and Secretary for IEEE Romania Section Joint Chapter, SP01/IT12/COM19.

Dr Nafornita's activity started in 2003, in the field of image watermarking using wavelets, also her PhD thesis subject, obtaining results with a significant impact.

The team from which Dr Nafornita is a part of, led by Prof. Alexandru lsar, proposed the hyperanalytic wavelet transform, with improved directional selectivity and quasi shift invariance.

The new transform was used also by other authors and had a large number of citations. One major contribution was the proposal of the Kullback-Leibler divergence for complex generalized Gaussian probability density functions, CGGD, not existing in the literature before, following the collaboration with Prof. Yannick Berthoumieu (Univ. of Bordeaux).

In recognition of professional standing the Officers and Board of Directors of the IEEE certify that

Corina Nafornita

has been elected to the grade of Senior Member

Senior Member

Figure 15 February 2020

Other contributions are related to the field of Hurst exponent estimation and applications, in collaboration with James Nelson (University College London) and Alexandru Isar, that raised the interest of other known researchers, working in the same field. In 2011 she was invited researcher at IMS-LAPS, ENSEIRB Bordeaux and in 2009 Invited Professor at IMS-LAPS, Universite Bordeaux I, with an EGIDE scholarship for research. In 2018, Dr Nafornita was invited speaker at the University College London, at the Workshop in memory of Dr James Nelson, at the Department of Statistical Science, presenting the talk "Dr James Nelson: from mathematics to engineering. The Hurst exponent: estimation and applications". In 2018, with the team from UCL and University of Cambridge, Dr Nafornita published a paper that harmonises two significant contributions to the field of wavelet analysis in the past two decades, the locally stationary wavelet process and the family of dual-tree complex wavelets (with James Nelson, Alex Gibberd, Nick Kingsbury). Dr Nafornita was director of an ESA funded grant (budget 150.000 Euros), which studied the coverage extension of EGNOS availability service in Romania. Dr Nafornita is also working in the field of automotive radar, having been a member of the FP7 programme ARTRAC. She advises two PhD students in this field. A third one has already defended his PhD thesis in 2020 in the field of satellite navigation. Dr Nafornita is a reviewer and TPC member for various prestigious conferences and journals.





Winner at German Design Award 2020: "Home of Art" by Prof. Vlad GAIVORONSCHI, phd

The German Design Council is the organizer of the annual international competition GDA -German Design Award — which is addressed to the whole world of design and architecture. In 2020 the exhibition dedicated to design products opened in 07.02. 2020 in the morning at Messe Frankfurt and the architecture exhibition was open the same day in the afternoon at the Museum Angewandte Kunst (applied

art), the well known building designed by architect Richard Meyer.

Two works by AMA Design from Bucharest and "Home of Art" from Timisoara were declared among the winners . The entire event attracted professionals from all around the world and all projects declared winners were published in the catalogue of the event. Regarding to "Home of Art", the residential project from Timisoara

Which was deprior events (I BIG SEE Ljul of the GDA "The project GERMAN DESIGN

which was declared winner also at prior events (BETA Biennial Timisoara, BIG SEE Ljubljana), the statement of the GDA jury considered that "The project combines a variety

of building styles

GERMAN with the existing

DESIGN historical buildings

to create a coherent

and overall extremely
high-quality and
elegant-looking

ensemble."It is for the second time that a contemporary architecture project from Timisoara attracts GDA jury attention. In 2018 City Business Centre was also declared winner. In both cases the project team was almost the same, composed by graduates from the UPT Architecture Faculty.















Honorable Mention #1 in 2020 Best PhD Thesis Award Competition Awarded by IEEE Robotics and Automation Society Assist.Prof. Raul-Cristian ROMAN

As.Dr.lng. Raul-Cristian ROMAN received "Honorable Mention #1" in 2020 Best PhD Thesis Award Competition awarded by IEEE Robotics and Automation Society for the PhD thesis entitled "Tehnici de tip model-free de acordare a parametrilor regulatoarelor automate" - RO, "Model-Free techniques for tuning the parameters of automatic controllers" — EN having Prof. Radu-Emil PRECUP as supervisor. The award was given during a special session organized at the 24th International Conference on System Theory, Control and Computing Joint Conference SINTES 24, SACCS 20, SIMSIS 24, CONTI 13 8 - 10 October 2020, Sinaia, Romania http://ace.ucv.ro/icstcc2020/

The IEEE Robotics and Automation Society — Romania Chapter is pleased to announce the launch of the 2020 Best PhD Thesis Award Competition. The main objective of this award is to recognize and encourage young researchers from the local robotics and automation academic and industrial communities and to increase their engagement with IEEE and with the Robotics and Automation Society.



The PhD thesis discusses a modern subject, of major practical interest, at a high scientific level. The thesis has made innovative theoretical and practical contributions to the development of high performance control systems, focusing on the design and tuning of controllers for processes in various fields including the "unconventional" nonlinear systems.

The main objective accomplished through this thesis was to automatically determine the parameters of the model-free algorithms. The benefit of achieving this objective was used to solve the problem of choosing the best values of the parameters of the initial controllers. Before solutioning this objective, the parameters values were determined heuristically in the case of model-free algorithms studied in thesis (MFC and MFAC), and now the process of determining the parameters of the model-free controllers was optimized by reducing practitioner's precious time.

The second objective accomplished through this thesis was to experimentally validate the model–free techniques. The experimental validations presented in the thesis chapters at that time were the first world–wide applications of the Model–Free Control (MFC) and the Model–Free Adaptive Control MFAC algorithms on the twin rotor aerodynamic system (TRAS) laboratory equipment.

The thesis makes remarkable major theoretical and applied research contributions to the development of very efficient model-free solutions for tuning the parameters of automatic controllers which are widely used in the engineering practice.





Banat Excellence Gala, in 2020 - "Traian Vuia" price for "Engineering Sciences" Prof.Emeritus Radu BĂNCILĂ, phd

Radu Băncilă was born in Timișoara in April 1945. He graduated the" Nikolaus Lenau" High School in 1962 (German language). Absolvent of the Faculty of Civil Engineering in 1967, he went through all the teaching steps, becoming a university professor in 1993. He defended his doctorate in 1981 (PhD. supervisor - Acad. Prof. D. Mateescu). His didactic activity took place in the field of steel constructions and steel bridges at the Faculty for Civil Engineering within the Politehnica University of Timisoara (UPT). Since 2021 he is Professor Emeritus UPT. He became PhD supervisor in 1997;

at present are eight doctors with a diploma and four in internships. Professor Băncilă has a rich scientific and technical activity of design and research, in the fields: Steel Constructions and Bridges, with 110 papers printed in prestigious publications – 10 specialized books, 4 in English, 2 in German (Springer Verlag).He was vice-dean and later dean (2004 – 2008), at the Faculty for Civil Engineering Timisoara. He is the initiator and coordinator of the German Teaching branch in Civil Engineering (founded in 1991) and has realized a double degree program with the Technical University of Munich (TUM). Currently, the German Teaching branch has 340 graduates, of which 30 with a double TUM/UPT diploma.He is an expert and checking engineer of the Railway and Highway Administration in the field of bridges. Professor Bancila has an intense interdisciplinary activity, being since 1998 Lecturer at ASR (Romanian Welding Society)





and ISIM (National Institute for Welding and Material Testing) for the course International Welding Engineer (IWE) and Designer of Welded Metal Constructions (IWSD). He participated in the organization of courses in Serbia, Turkey, Republic of Moldova. The most important recognitions of his didactic and educational performances are highlighted: the Silver (2000) and gold (2018) distinction of TU Muenchen, Honorary Professor of the University of PECS- 2006, Professor Emeritus of UPT (2012), the German Federal Cross of Merit - first class (2012), ASR Medal "C. Miklosi" - 2018.He is an honorary

citizen of the tourist resort Bran – Braşov, where the Băncilă family comes from.He is an honorary member of the Romanian Academy of Technical Sciences – ASTR (June 2019).

For his whole activity he was granted with the prestigious "Traian Vuia" price for "Engineering Sciences", in the frame of the "Banat Excellence Gala, in December 2020The research conducted within the paper presented at TIMTED 2019 International Conference was supported by a grant of the Romanian National Authority for Scientific Research and Innovation, CNCS-UEFISCDI, project number, PN-II-RU-TE-2014-4-1760, project entitled "The impact of the economic and financial stability on investments, innovation process and entrepreneurial activity in the EU" (Director, Prof. Claudiu ALBULESCU). The paper is accepted for publication in "Environmental Science and Pollution Research".



Banat Excellence Gala, in 2020 - The Romanian Academy Award Prof. Viorel Aurel ŞERBAN, phd

In order to highlight the work of the Banat elites, the Gala of Excellence was born, which took the model of the Nobel Prize. The event reached its 7th edition, which aims at promoting the values of Timisoara, Banat and the Western region, while supporting the culture of excellence." The Banat Excellence Gala awards 10 awards every year to ten recognized and appreciated personalities of Banat and the Western Region. On 19 December 2020, this time online on the Internet, the 2020 Banat Excellence Gala took place, being linked to the most important historical moment of the contemporary history of

Timisoara, that is the December 1989 Revolution. Among the winners of this edition is Prof.Dr.eng. Viorel-Aurel Serban , who was awarded the Romanian Academy Award. The jury was comprised of Acad. Dan Dubina, Assoc.prof.dr.eng. Florin Dragan, from the Politehnica University of Timisoara, Univ.prof.dr. Marilen Gabriel Pirtea, from the West University of Timisoara, Prof. Octavian Cretu, from the "Victor Babes" University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Timisoara, Prof. Cosmin Popescu, from the "King Mihai I of Romania" University of Agricultural Science and Veterinary Medicine of Banat, Timisoara. Professor Viorel-Aurel Serban is a graduate of the "Traian Vuia"



Polytechnic Institute, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, specialization of Machinery Technology, class of 1978. In 1992 he obtained his PhD in Materials Science and became a lecturer, an associate professor in 1996, and a university professor in 2000. He is a PhD tutor in his field of study, with 20 doctoral graduates. He has participated in over 65 research agreements (in 18 as Director/ Coordinator) and has published, as sole author or co-author, over 250 research papers in technical journals, books and session volumes (87 in the ISI circuit) and 19 books and manuals.

Ever since 1996, he has also had a rich managerial activity, being vice-dean of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering (1996-2004), Vice-rector of the University (2004-2012) and the Rector of the University (2012 - 2020). He was the Chairman of the Materials Engineering Committee of the CNATDCU (2012-2020). He was awarded the Doctor Honoris Causa title by the Obuda University of Budapest (2018), by the Polytechnic University of Bucharest (2020), as well as the "Acad. Corneliu Miklosi" Medal, by the Romanian Wwelding Association. In 2021, Prof. Viorel Aurel Serban was elected a Corresponding Member of the Romanian Academy of Technical Sciences.







The Politehnica University of Timisoara awards excellence

Faithful to the tradition it started in 2016 and followed each year ever since, during Christmas parties, The Politehnica University of Timisoara

has once again awarded excellence in the field of research, in appreciation of efforts carried out by Master and doctoral students, as well as of young scientists with most scientific papers published in internationally known journals. Along with a certificate and a plaque, prizes included a supporting grant in the amount of 1000 Euro, out of the University's own funding sources.

Since, because of the pandemic

situation, the University's Christmas party could not be held, the management team of the university has decided to keep the tradition, on December 15th 2020, in the form of a small festive gathering, in the Christmas spirit, around the decorated Christmas tree in the main hall of the University Library. Christmas carols sung by the University's choir added to the atmosphere.

Here are the most significant moments of the celebration:





• The Rector of the UPT, Assoc.prof.dr.eng. Florin Drăgan, offered a special award called "The Centennial Award", established on the

occasion of the 100 years celebration of the University, to **Acad. Ion Boldea**, a true role model for all academics, for excellence in teaching and research.

• Univ.Prof.dr.eng. Liviu Marşavina, Vicerector of the UPT, offered the award "Excellence in Research", in the category of young researchers under the age of 40, to **Prof.dr.eng. Boqdan Groza**.

- Assoc.prof.dr.eng. Alina Dumitrel, Vicerector of the UPT, offered the award "Excellence in Research" in the master students category, to Delia Anca Boţilă.
- Univ.Prof.dr.eng. Radu-Emil Precup, Director of the Doctoral Studies Council, offered the award "Excellence in Research", in the category of doctoral students, to Melinda Vajda.







12th European Exhibition of Creativity and Innovation "EUROINVENT 2020" lasi, online edition 21-23 May 2020 Multiple medals for Politehnica University Timisoara

Politehnica University of Timisoara participated in the EUROINVENT 2020 International Exhibition (virtual edition), from 21 to 23 May 2020, with 20 inventions, research projects, educational programmes, PhD theses, teaching stands and even weekend inventions, obtaining 32 awards and diplomas, as follows: 8 gold medals, 7 silver medals, 2 bronze medals, 3 diplomas of excellence and 12 special awards. Politehnica University of Timisoara was also awarded the EUROINVENT 2020 Popularity Award, given for the diversity, applicability and innovative spirit of the inventions presented at the EUROINVENT 2020 International Exhibition.

The international jury of the EUROINVENT 2020 exhibition have appreciated the following aspects:

- The diversity, novelty, applicability and environmental impact of the 20 inventions, research projects, educational programs, PhD theses, teaching stands and weekend inventions of the team of the Politehnica University of Timisoara;
- The international collaboration of UPT researchers with academic institutions and businesses for the development and implementation of the research projects;
- Recycling of ferrous materials, i.e. municipal pulverous waste, with an impact on the environment;
- Collaboration of the Politehnica University of Timisoara with the CorneliuGroup Association in the educational program "DEXTER's Laboratory" in order to involve and support UPT students for the realization of the didactic stands;
- Increase in the performance of DRIFT cars by implementing Super Suction Air Filters (ECODrift programme) to reduce fuel consumption and pollutant emissions;
- Realization and development of products in the Weekend Inventions category (SeptoBirCor disinfectant, AIR by CORNELIU soap) in order to prevent and combat the spread of Coronavirus.

- 1.Cylindrical multi-hollow briquette produced of ferrous pulverous waste
 - Inventors: Teodor HEPUŢ, Eugen CRIŞAN, Erika ARDELEAN, Ana SOCALICI, Marius ARDELEAN
- · Diploma of gold medal
- University Politehnica of Bucharest bestows Excellence Innovation Award
- 2.Method for treatment of municipal solid waste incineration residues by stabilization/solidification into fly ash rock
- Inventors: Reinhold WÄCHTER, Ioana IONEL, Adina NEGREA
- · Diploma of gold medal
- University Politehnica of Bucharest bestows Excellence Innovation Award
- 3.Project: Novel modular stack design for high PREssure PEM water elecTrolyZer tEchnoLogy with wide operation range and reduced cost PRETZEL
 - Partners: German Aerospace Center, Stuttgart, Germany,
 Westphalian University of Applied Sciences, Gelsenkirchen,
 Germany Armines, France, Politehnica University Timisoara,
 Romania, Adamant Composites Ltd., Greece, GKN Sinter Metals
 Filters GmbH, Germany, Centre for Research and Technology
 Hellas, Thessaloniki, Greece, Soluciones Catalíticas IBERCAT S. L.,
 Madrid, Spain, iGas energy GmbH, Germany
 - Diploma of Gold Medal
 - Technical University Cluj-Napoca confers "Special Prize"









The 24th International Exhibition of Inventics "INVENTICA 2020" lasi, online edition, 29-31 July 2020 Multiple medals for Politehnica University Timisoara

The Politehnica University of Timisoara has participated in the International Exhibition INVENTICA 2020 (online edition) with 27 inventions, research projects, doctoral theses, experimental teaching stands and even weekend inventions:

7 Special Awards; and 12 Medals Inventica 2020.

The international jury at INVENTICA 2020 appreciated the following aspects:

- The real technological transfer capacity of UPT inventions in the context of the current situation, in order to reduce the spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus by implementing the "Device for reducing the microbiological load of exhaled air of mechanically ventilated patients" and the disinfectant "SeptoBirCor" (UPT won the special TECHNOLOGICAL TRANSFER AWARD).
- The environmental impact of UPT inventions based on recycling materials from the incineration of solid waste and waste from ferrous processing.
- -The involvement of UPT students through the educational programme "DEXTER's Laboratory" CorneliuGroup Association in actions aimed at non-formal education in order to develop communication skills and improve practical skills.
- The applicability and novelty of the presented research projects carried out by UPT researchers in collaboration with businesses and similar academic institutions.
- The study of human behaviour in interaction with the environment, by monitoring information about the psychomotor level, intensity of cognitive, emotional and behavioural reactions of subjects to various stimuli, in real time or in a virtual situation.
 - 1.In recognition of its high scientific contribution and loyalty to INVENTICA 2020, the Politehnica University of Timisoara received the Award for Technological Transfer.
 - 2.Method for the treatment of municipal solid waste incineration waste by stabilization/ solidification into fly ash rock
 - Inventors: Reinhold WÄCHTER, Ioana IONEL, Adina NEGREA
 - Diploma of Achievement, Inventica 2020
 - 3.Experimental plant for resistance to

thermal fatigue

- Inventors: Camelia PINCA BRETOTEAN
- Diploma of Achievement, Inventica 2020
- 4.Cylindrical multi-hollow briquette produced of ferrous pulverous waste
 - Inventors: Teodor HEPUŢ, Eugen CRIŞAN, Erika ARDELEAN, Ana SOCALICI, Marius ARDELEAN
 - Diploma of Achievement, Inventica 2020
- Politehnica University of Bucharest bestows Gold Medal & Diploma for Innovation
- 5. Device for reducing the microbiological load of the air exhaled by mechanically ventilated patients
 - Inventors: Laurenţiu Valentin ORDODI, Gabriela Alina DUMITREL, Ana-Maria PANĂ, TODEA Anamaria, Liliana MÂŢIU-IOVAN, Raul Ciprian IONEL, Dorel SĂNDESC, Ovidiu Horea BEDREAG, Marius PĂPURICĂ, Alexandru Florin ROGOBETE, Ion SIMION, Alin MOTICA, Dan Sergiu GROAPĂ, Virgil PĂUNESCU, Maria Florina BOJIN, Oana Isabela GAVRILIUC
 - Diploma of Achievement, Inventica 2020
- Politehnica University of Bucharest bestows Gold Medal & Diploma for Innovation



- Inventors: German Aerospace Center, Stuttgart, Germany, Westphalian University of Applied Sciences, Gelsenkirchen, Germany, Armines, France, Politehnica University Timisoara, Romania, Adamant Composites Ltd., Greece, GKN Sinter Metals Engineering GmbH, Germany, Centre for Research and Technology Hellas, Thessaloniki, Greece, Soluciones Catalíticas IBERCAT S. L., Madrid, Spain, iGas energy GmbH, Germany
- Diploma of Excellence, Medal Inventica 2020





The International Exhibition of Inventions and Innovations "TRAIAN VUIA" Timişoara, sixth edition, online 13 - 15 October 2020 Multiple medals for the Politehnica University of Timisoara

The POLITEHNICATIMIŞOARA UNIVERSITY team participated in the TRAIAN VUIA International Exhibition of Inventions and Innovations, 13–15.10.2020 Timisoara, with 34 inventions, research projects, educational programs, PhD theses, teaching stands and even weekend inventions.

The results obtained after the jury's deliberation are:

20 - Gold Medals

7 - Silver Medals

7 - Bronze Medals

8 - Special Prizes

11 - Diplomas of Excellence

- 1.Control method for an automatic capacitive compensator for power factor improvement and load balancing in three-phase four-conductor electrical networks
- Inventors: Adrian PANĂ
- · Gold Medal
- Diploma of Excellence awarded by Continental
- 2. Electrical installation for disinfecting air and surfaces in public transportation
 - Inventors: Ştefan PAVEL, Daniel-Viorel UNGUREANU, Alexandru BÎNZAR, Ancuţa Letiţia TUTELCĂ, Siviu Cristian SUCIU, Călin Marius POPOIU
- Gold Medal
- 3.Installation for remote monitoring of ground corrosion of zinc coated and uncoated metal constructions
 - Inventors: Ştefan PAVEL, Daniel-Viorel UNGUREANU, Alexandru BÎNZAR, Aurel MOLDOVAN
 - · Gold Medal

- 4.Device for reducing the microbiological load of the air exhaled by mechanically ventilated patients
 - Inventors: Laurenţiu Valentin ORDODI, Gabriela Alina DUMITREL, Ana-Maria PANĂ, TODEA Anamaria, Liliana MÂŢIU-IOVAN, Raul Ciprian IONEL, Dorel SĂNDESC, Ovidiu Horea BEDREAG, Marius PĂPURICĂ, Alexandru Florin ROGOBETE, Ion SIMION, Alin MOTICA, Dan Sergiu GROAPĂ, Virgil PĂUNESCU, Maria Florina BOJIN, Oana Isabela GAVRILIUC
 - · Gold Medal
- 5.Experimental plant for resistance to thermal fatigue
 - Inventors: Camelia PINCA BRETOTEAN
- Gold Meda
- 6.Intelligent control system for continuous casting based on water flow control in the secondary cooling
 - Inventors: Gelu-Ovidiu TIRIAN
 - · Gold Medal
 - Diploma of Excellence Justin Capră Association









The International Exhibition of Scientific Research, Innovation and Invention "PRO INVENT 2020" Cluj-Napoca, 18th edition, online, 18-20 November 2020 Multiple medals for the Politehnica University of Timisoara

The theme of the fair was related to innovative materials, processes and products (energy, environment, health, agriculture, resources, etc.). Graphic presentations, accompanied by models, prototypes, finished products, series products, video presentations, as well as data on the social and financial impact of the work were appreciated by the jury.

The jury appreciated the diversity, adaptability and practical applicability of the inventions presented by the UPT team, led by Corneliu Birtok-Băneasă, Ph.D., Senior Lecturer.

- 1.Cylindrical multi-hollow briquette produced of ferrous pulverous waste
- Inventors: Teodor HEPUT, Eugen CRIŞAN, Erika ARDELEAN, Ana SOCALICI, Marius ARDELEAN
- Diploma of excellence and gold medal
- 2.Device for reducing the microbiological load of air exhaled by mechanically ventilated patients
- Inventors: Laurenţiu Valentin ORDODI, Gabriela Alina DUMITREL, Ana-Maria PANĂ, TODEA Anamaria, Liliana MÂŢIU-IOVAN, Raul Ciprian IONEL, Dorel SĂNDESC, Ovidiu Horea BEDREAG, Marius PĂPURICĂ, Alexandru Florin ROGOBETE, Ion SIMION, Alin MOTICA, Dan Sergiu GROAPĂ, Virgil PĂUNESCU, Maria Florina BOJIN, Oana Isabela GAVRILIUC
- Diploma of excellence and gold medal
- 3. Process for the synthesis of silver nanowires coated with low-melting-point metal nanoparticles
- Inventors: Radu Nicolae BĂNICĂ, Andrea Rozalia KELLENBERGER, Daniel Horaţiu URSU, Liliana CSEH, Petrică Andrei LINUL, Nicolae VASZILCSIN
- Diploma of excellence and gold medal
- 4. Control method for an automatic capacitive compensator meant to improve the power factor and to load balancing in three-phase four-wire electrical networks
- Inventors: Adrian PANĂ
- Diploma of excellence and gold medal



- 5. Technologic procedure for encapsulation of municipal solid waste incineration residue into coal fly ash rock matrix
- Inventors: Mihail Reinhold WÄCHTER, Ioana IONEL, Adina Georgeta NEGREA
- Diploma of excellence and gold medal

6.Intelligent control system for continuous casting based on water flow control in the secondary cooling

- Inventors: Gelu-Ovidiu TIRIAN
- Diploma of excellence and gold medal

7. Development of Experimental Laboratory of Applied Ergonomics

- Inventors: Mihaela POPA, Marcel TOPOR, Amalia DASCĂL
- Diploma of excellence and gold medal
- 8. Novel modular stack design for high PREssure PEM water elecTrolyZer tEchnoLogy with wide operation range and reduced cost (PRETZEL)
- Inventors: German Aerospace Center, Stuttgart, Germany, Westphalian University of Applied Sciences, Gelsenkirchen, Germany, Armines, France, Politehnica University Timisoara, Romania, Adamant Composites Ltd., Greece, GKN Sinter Metals Engineering GmbH, Germany, Centre for Research and Technology Hellas, Thessaloniki, Greece, Soluciones Catalíticas IBERCAT S. L., Madrid, Spain, iGas energy GmbH, Germany
- Diploma of excellence and gold medal





First International Exhibition "InventCor" Deva, online edition, 17-19.12.2020 Multiple medals for the Politehnica University of Timisoara

The online event brought together nearly two hundred and fifty inventions from 14 countries around the world. The creativity of the participants took many forms: from inventions and research projects to products, educational programmes and educational stands. Among the fields represented were environmental protection, agriculture, medicine, nanotechnology, aviation, art, cosmetics and mechanics. The most appreciated inventions were awarded prizes.

InventCor 2020 brought together universities, research institutes, companies and private inventors. The fair aimed to cultivate a spirit of innovation, especially among young people.

- 1. Sustaining the inventive spirit and promoting innovation and research at international level
 - Politehnica University Timisoara
 - Inventcor Special Prize
- 2.Cylindrical multi-hollow briquette produced of ferrous pulverous waste
 - Inventors: Teodor HEPUT, Eugen CRIŞAN, Erika ARDELEAN, Ana SOCALICI, Marius ARDELEAN
 - Gold medal Diploma
- 3. Device for reducing the microbiological load of air exhaled by mechanically ventilated patients
 - Inventors: Laurenţiu Valentin ORDODI, Gabriela Alina DUMITREL, Ana-Maria PANĂ, TODEA Anamaria, Liliana MÂŢIU-IOVAN, Raul Ciprian IONEL, Dorel SĂNDESC, Ovidiu Horea BEDREAG, Marius PĂPURICĂ, Alexandru Florin ROGOBETE, Ion SIMION, Alin MOTICA, Dan Sergiu GROAPĂ, Virgil PĂUNESCU, Maria Florina BOJIN, Oana Isabela GAVRILIUC
- Gold medal Diploma
- 4.Experimental plant for resistance to thermal fatigue
- Inventor: Camelia PINCA BRETOTEAN
- Gold medal Diploma
- Antik Special Award
- 5.Method for treatment of municipal solid waste incineration residues by stabilization/solidification into fly ash rock
 - Inventors: Reinhold WÄCHTER, Ioana IONEL, Adina NEGREA
- Gold medal Diploma
- 6. Tubular briquette from powdery ferrous wastes
 - Inventors: Teodor HEPUŢ, Ana SOCALICI, Erika ARDELEAN,

- Marius ARDELEAN, Nicolae CONSTANTIN, Miron BUZDUGA, Radu BUZDUGA
- Silver medal Diploma
- 7. Process for the synthesis of silver nanowires coated with low-melting-point metal nanoparticles
 - Inventors: Radu Nicolae BĂNICĂ, Andrea Rozalia KELLENBERGER, Daniel Horaţiu URSU, Liliana CSEH, Petrică Andrei LINUL, Nicolae VASZILCSIN
 - Gold medal Diploma
- 8. Control method for an automatic capacitive compensator meant to improve the power factor and to load balancing in three-phase four-wire electrical networks
- Inventor: Adrian PANĂ
- Gold medal Diploma
- Novel modular stack design for high PREssure PEM water elecTrolyZer tEchnoLogy with wide operation range and reduced cost (PRETZEL)
- Inventors: German Aerospace Center, Stuttgart, Germany,
 Westphalian University of Applied Sciences, Gelsenkirchen,
 Germany, Armines, France, Politehnica University Timisoara,
 Romania, Adamant Composites Ltd., Greece, GKN Sinter
 Metals Engineering GmbH, Germany, Centre for Research and
 Technology Hellas, Thessaloniki, Greece, Soluciones Catalíticas
 IBERCAT S. L., Madrid, Spain, iGas energy GmbH, Germany
- Gold medal Diploma
- 10.New Nature-Inspired Cycloidal Propeller for Low-Reynolds-Number Hovering Flight
- Inventors: Francisc BERECZKY, Ioan SILEA
- Diploma Inventcor: Popularity award





EXECUTIVE UNIT FOR FINANCING HIGHER EDUCATION, RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION - UEFISCDI AWARDS - ARTICLES

Through these awards UEFISCDI aims to increase quality, impact and international visibility of Romanian research by recognizing and rewarding significant results published in prestigious journals from international senior scientific stream.

Within this competition can participate the researchers affiliated to institutions in Romania, authors of scientific articles published in journals indexed by Clarivate Analytics Science Citation Index Expanded ("Science"), Social Sciences Citation Index ("Social Sciences") or Arts & Humanities Citation Index ("Arts & Humanities").

More information at http://uefiscdi.gov.ro/Public/cat/471/Premierea-rezultatelor-cercetarii.html

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PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY PUBLIC FUNDS



National Research Projects





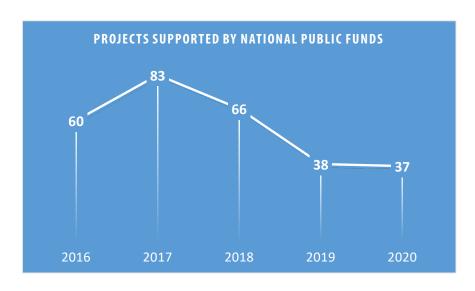
PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY NATIONAL PUBLIC FUNDS IMPLEMENTED BY UPT 2020

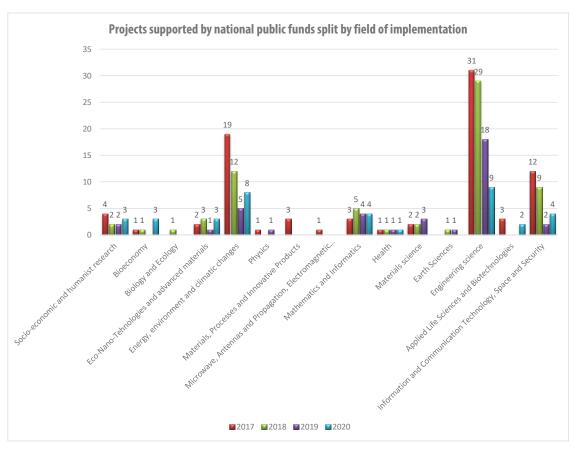
Fields	Total number of projects	Number of projects presented
Social and Economic sciences	3	2
Eco-Nano-Tehnologies and advanced materials	3	3
Energy, environment and climatic changes	8	8
Mathematics and Informatics	4	4
Health	1	1
Bioeconomy	3	3
Applied Life Sciences and Biotechnologies	2	2
Engineering science	9	9
Information and Communication Technology, Space and Security	4	4
Total	37	36





EVOLUTION OF PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY NATIONAL PUBLIC FUNDS IMPLEMENTED BY UPT 2016 - 2020









PRESENCE - PRIVACY-ENABLED, SECURED INTERACTIONS BETWEEN VEHICLES AND SMART ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Goal of the project:

The main target of the project is the design, analysis and implementation of security and privacy mechanisms for mediating access to in-vehicle functionalities by using intelligent mobile devices instead of classical RF and/or mechanical vehicle keys that are rigid and are lacking in terms of configurability and functionalities. The design of such security solutions is challenged by limitations on computational capabilities of existing components, e.q., in-vehicle controllers, as well as by the potential insecurity of smartphones.



Short description of the project:

PRESENCE addresses the security of the newly emerged ecosystem of modern vehicles that interact with intelligent mobile devices, e.g., smart-phones.

Project implemented by

Politehnica University Timişoara

Implementation period:

2018-2020

Main activities:

Our project calls for the use of security enforcing technologies (e.g., NFC security cards) and modern device pairing techniques by harvesting environmental data (e.g., accelerometer data) to provide a secure and usable solution. Privacy enhancing technologies also need to be put in place in order to protect the users in front of corrupted cloud owners. As deployment platform we target Android, the mobile OS with the largest installed base. We also test the computational feasibility of the proposed solutions on a commonly employed controller for car BCMs.

Main project objectives:

- 1. Design, analysis and implementation of security protocols.
- 2. Security enforcing technologies (e.g., NFC cards).
- 3. Ecosystem-based device association (e.g., accelerometer data).
- 4. Cloud-based access control.
- 5. Connectivity to in-vehicle control units.



Results:

More than 15 research papers in relevant workshops and journals in the field addressing new concepts in vehicle access control supported by practical deployments on real-world components have been published. The list includes the following 6 Q1 journals:

[1] Bogdan Groza, Tudor Andreica, Adriana Berdich, Pal-Stefan Murvay, Horatiu Gurban, PRESTvO: PRivacy Enabled Smartphone-based access To vehicle On-board units, IEEE Access, 2020.

[2] Bogdan Groza, Adriana Berdich, Camil Jichici, Rene Mayrhofer, Secure Accelerometer-Based Pairing of Mobile Devices in Multi-Modal Transport, IEEE Access, vol. 8, 2020.

[3] Bogdan Groza, Lucian Popa, Pal-Stefan Murvay, CANTO - Covert AutheNtication with Timing channels over Optimized traffic flows for CAN, IEEE Transactions on Information Forensics and Security, accepted 2020.

[4] Bogdan Groza, Lucian Popa, Pal-Stefan Murvay, Highly Efficient Authentication for CAN by Identifier Reallocation with Ordered CMACs, IEEE Transactions on Vehicular Technology, 2020.

[5] Bogdan Groza, Lucian Popa, Pal-Stefan Murvay, TRICKS - time TRIggered Covert Key Sharing for Controller Area Networks, IEEE Access, vol. 7, 2019.

[6] Bogdan Groza, Pal-Stefan Murvay, Identity-Based Key Exchange on In-Vehicle Networks: CAN-FD & FlexRay, Sensors, 22, 2019.

Applicability and transferability of the results:

Replacing traditional keys with smartphones appears like a natural step for achieving increased usability and an improved user experience. Industry application of the designed protocols and implemented functionalities for car access control by modern smartphones is immediate.

Financed through/by

CNCS-UEFISCDI PN-III-P1-1.1-TE-2016-1317, 2018-2020

Research Centre

Department of Automation and Applied Informatics

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Eng. Tudor-Sebastian Andreica

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/index.html





SECURITY ENHANCEMENTS AND VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT FOR INDUSTRY-STANDARD NETWORKS (SEVEN)

Goal of the project

Most attacks on industry-standard networks rely on vulnerabilities. In this context, the SEVEN project aims to assess vulnerabilities in protocols not yet analyzed and to increase the security of industrial networks by proposing mechanisms to assure basic security objectives (e.g. authenticity, confidentiality or key management). The project also focuses on the design of intrusion detection systems. Finally, we also consider a performance impact evaluation of the introduction of the designed security solutions.

Short description of the project

Vulnerability evaluation and development of protection mechanisms for in industry-standard networks.

Project implemented by

Pal-Ştefan MURVAY (Project leader) Bogdan GROZA (Mentor)

Implementation period

02/05/2018-30/04/2020

Main activities

The project is structured around three main activities.

- 1. The first main activity focuses on vulnerability assessment of industry-standard communication protocols. Our goal is to identify industry-standard communication-protocols that were not analyzed from a security perspective and identify potential vulnerabilities. Our first approach for enhancing the security of industry-standard communication protocols is the development of mechanisms for assuring basic security objectives such as: authenticity, confidentiality or key management.
- 2. A second approach focuses on designing intrusion detection mechanisms for the early identification of attack attempts.
- 3. Finally, we intend to provide an evaluation of the performance impact of the proposed mechanisms.

Results

The first phase of the SEVEN project focused on the identification of vulnerabilities in two industry-standard protocols, i.e., FlexRay and DeviceNet. The findings have been published as part of two conference papers:

[1] Pal–Stefan Murvay, Bogdan Groza, Practical security exploits of the FlexRay in-vehicle communication protocol, presented at The 13th International Conference on Risks and Security of Internet and Systems (CRISIS 2018), 2018.

[2] Pal-Stefan Murvay, Bogdan Groza, A brief look at the security of DeviceNet communication in industrial control systems, presented at The second Central European Cybersecurity Conference (CECC 2018), 2018.

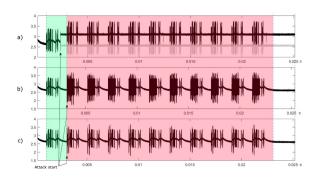


Figure 1. Three variants of the DoS attack for the entire communication.

We dedicated several lines of work to designing security mechanisms for enhancing the security of industry-standard protocols. The results obtained cover both secure communication mechanisms and intrusion detection systems for the Controller Area Network and FlexRay protocols. Papers presenting these results have been published in conference proceedings or journals:

[3] Pal-Stefan Murvay, Bogdan Groza, Accommodating Time-Triggered Authentication to FlexRay Demands, presented at The third Central European Cybersecurity Conference (CECC 2019), 2019.

[4] Camil Jichici, Bogdan Groza, Pal-Stefan Murvay, Integrating Adversary Models and Intrusion Detection Systems for In-Vehicle Networks in CANoe, presented at The 12th International Conference on Security for Information Technology and Communications (SECITC 2019), 2019.

[5] Pal-Stefan Murvay, Bogdan Groza, TIDAL-CAN: differential Timing based Intrusion Detection And Localization for Controller Area Network, accepted for publication in IEEE Access, 2020.

Applicability and transferability of the results

Our results add to the already known vulnerabilities of communication protocols used in industrial applications. Knowledge of the vulnerabilities is an important building block of designing proper security mechanisms for these communication protocols.

The proposed security mechanisms are efficient in preventing a series of spoofing and replay attacks as well as in the detection of attack attempts. These mechanisms focus on FlexRay, which was developed for the automotive industry and Controller Area Network, a communication protocol widely used both in the automotive domain and industrial control systems.

Financed through/by

This work was supported by a grant of the Romanian Ministry of Research and Innovation, CNCS – UEFISCDI, project number PN-III-P1-1.1-PD-2016-1198, within PNCDI III

Research Centre

Department of Automation and Applied Informatics

Research team

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- Prof. Bogdan GROZA, PhD

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NATURE-INSPIRED MODELING AND OPTIMIZATION TECHNIQUES OF FUZZY CONTROL SYSTEMS WITH MECHATRONICS APPLICATIONS

Goal of the project

The aim of this project is to demonstrate efficiency and prove the viability of an innovative tuning approach for fuzzy control systems using nature-inspired algorithms in control structures modeling and optimization stages. In this framework, combining nature-inspired optimization algorithms with fuzzy control structures, will have a significant impact on the performance of fuzzy control systems.

Short description of the project

The nature-inspired optimization algorithms will be employed in solving optimization problems that minimize discrete-time objective functions expressed as integral or sum-type quadratic performance indices.

Project implemented by

Politehnica University Timişoara

Implementation period

19.10.2018 - 18.10.2020

Main activities:

The main activities are:

- 1. Development of efficient control solutions for different processes by bypassing the higher derivative calculations;
- 2. Takagi–Sugeno fuzzy controllers' optimization through minimization of several objective functions;
- 3. Development of performant solutions with a reduced implementation cost;
- 4. Experimental validation of proposed control solutions;
- 5. Achievements dissemination in high visibility journals and conferences;
- 6. Successful project management administration.

Results

The main results are related to development of nature inspired algorithm-based solutions for solving optimization problems of fuzzy systems will be disseminated at national and international levels as: four papers published in Thomson Reuters Web of Science (formerly known as ISI Web of Knowledge) publications and four presentations at international conferences.

Applicability and transferability of the results

The results obtained during this contract belong exclusively to Politehnica University Timişoara.

Financed through/by

Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding

Research Centre

Faculty of Automation and Computers

Research team

- Eng. Radu-Codruţ DAVID, PhD
- Prof. eng. Stefan PREITL, PhD

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DATA-DRIVEN CONTROLLERS FOR SHAPE MEMORY ALLOYS SYSTEMS (DDCSMASYST)

Goal of the project

Analysis, design and implementation of control solutions with nonlinear data-driven controllers (MFC, MFAC, ADRC, VRFT and IFT) in combination with other modern control algorithms in order to improve the CS performance and validate the new CSs with the proposed nonlinear controllers through experiments on laboratory equipments related to Shape Memory Alloys (SMA), and other various laboratory equipment with SMA as actuators.

Short description of the project

Nonlinear controllers whose parameters are tuned using experiments are developed and validated with experiments on laboratory equipments related to Shape Memory Alloys (SMA), and other various laboratory equipment with SMA as actuators.

Project implemented by

- As.Dr.Ing. Raul-Cristian ROMAN responsible for outlining the research—goals, modeling of experiments, simulation and data validation, writing scientific manuscripts, overall project
- Prof.Dr.Ing. Stefan PREITL mentor for the project director, research goals
- Prof.Dr.Ing. Radu-Emil PRECUP mentor for the project director, theoretical expert advisor regarding algorithm theory

Implementation period

17.08.2020 - 16.08.2022

Main activities

- 1. The analysis, the design and the implementation of nonlinear datadriven controllers (MFC, MFAC, ADRC, VRFT and IFT) in combination with other modern control algorithms in order to improve the CS performance.
- 2. Validation of the new CSs with the proposed nonlinear controllers through experiments performed on laboratory equipments related to Shape Memory Alloys (SMA), and other various laboratory equipment with SMA as actuators.
- 3. Applying the new CSs with data-driven controllers through external partners.
- 4. Publication of results in visible conference and journal papers.
- 5. Solving issues related to project management.

Results

The research team published two conference papers currently indexed in the international data bases IEEExplore (link and link). The proceedings of the previous editions of these conferences are indexed in WoS.

Applicability and transferability of the results

With the support of our partner from the University of Ottawa, the new CSs with nonlinear data-driven controllers presented in IJCCC journal and at 2020 IEEE International Conference on Systems, Man, and Cybernetics (SMC) and 2020 24th International Conference on System Theory, Control and Computing (ICSTCC) are in the validation process at Ontario Centers of Excellence.

Financed through/by

UEFISCDI

Research Centre

Automatic Systems Engineering Research Centre

Research team

- -As.Dr.Ing. Raul-Cristian ROMAN project leader
- -Prof.Dr.Ing. Stefan PREITL mentor

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AGENT-BASED INTERACTION MODELS WITH TEMPORAL ATTENUATION FOR OPINION POLL PREDICTION

Goal of the project

Improving the accuracy of opinion poll prediction by means of agent-based complex network modelling, with the integration of temporal attenuation to model the decaying strength of agent-agent interactions. To this end, we propose the following objectives:

- 1) Develop a novel temporal tolerance agent-based interaction model to improve the state of the art in terms of understanding how the temporal patterns of interaction between individuals influence the distribution of opinion at macro-scale.
- 2) Define cost-optimal temporal spreading strategies for improving diffusion coverage in social networks.
- 3) Enhance opinion poll prediction using temporal attenuation through votes injected in the social network by selected seeders, active for a predefined time frame.
- 4) Implement a mobile simulation application for opinion injection and poll estimation. We corroborate all expected research results, with direct applicative socio-economic impact, by developing a simulation application for further validation via crowdsourcing.

Short description of the project

This project comes to push the boundaries of scientific understanding forward, on several levels, in terms of better predicting the spread of opinion over large social temporal networks, with applicability in opinion poll prediction.

Project implemented by

Associate Prof. Alexandru TOPÎRCEANU — project director. Roles of: outlining the research goals, modeling of experiments, simulation, and data validation, writing scientific manuscripts, overall project management.

Prof. Mihai UDRESCU — mentor for the project director, research goals, revising scientific manuscripts.

Mihai ARDELEAN, PhD student — mobile application development, under director's supervision.

Adrian MILITARU, MSc student - data acquisition and processing, under director's supervision.

Implementation period

August 2020 — July 2022 (24 months)

Main activities

In order to reach the final research objective — that of improving the accuracy of opinion poll prediction — a number of activities are planned. We start from developing a novel temporal tolerance agent-based interaction model to understand how the patterns of interaction between individuals influence the distribution of opinion at macro-scale.

We build upon our previously introduced tolerance model (Topirceanu et al., PeerJ Comp Sci, 2016), corroborated with state of the art, and augment it by adopting an original perspective on temporal dynamics

Next, we consider that opinion should not be considered fixed in time and space, but rather opinion should be injected at specific locations in the topology, for limited amounts of time, and that each spreader agent implies a cost of operation (Figure 1a,b).

Consequently, we enhance opinion dynamics prediction using temporal attenuation (TA) previously introduced in (Topirceanu et al., Social Netw. Analys. Mining, 2020) (see Figure 1c-e).

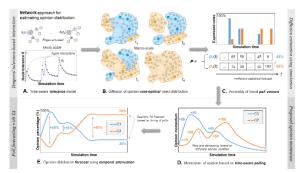
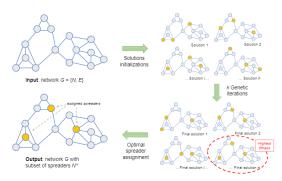


Figure 1 – Overview of the main objectives for creating a dynamic agent-based opinion injection simulation model which can better forecast opinion distribution in a large social network. Agents react to individual interactions in their vicinity by increasing their immediate tolerance threshold; poll vectors are further processed using temporal attenuation, and opinion momentum is computed based on the timing of polls in the network. The opinion distribution is computed based on its momentum, highlighting that forecasts using TA.

Results

We have currently introduced the GenOSOS computational intelligence framework. GenOSOS is able to determine a near optimal placement of opinion spreaders in a complex network, ensuring spatial heterogeneity. See Figure below.



Currently two proceedings papers (to appear in WoS):

- Topîrceanu, A. (2020, December). Analyzing the Impact of Geo-Spatial Organization of Real-World Communities on Epidemic Spreading Dynamics. In International Conference on Complex Networks and Their Applications (pp. 345–356). Springer, Cham.
- Topîrceanu, A. (October, 2020), "Genetically Driven Optimal Selection of Opinion Spreaders in Complex Networks", In 2nd International Conference on Machine Learning and Intelligent Systems (MLIS 2020), In Press, published by IOS Press in Frontiers in Artificial Intelligence and Applications, 2020. (to be indexed)

Also submitted:

- A manuscript under review in Expert Systems with Applications (Q1, IF=5.45)
- A manuscript under review in Scientific Reports (Q1, IF=3.99)

Applicability and transferability of the results

Current state of the art in forecasting employs multilevel regression and post-stratification (MRP). However, the MRP method is often cumbersome to apply, requiring economic indices and detailed demographics to be accurate. Alternatively, we propose to elaborate on the concept of temporal attenuation (TA), which models the timed oscillation of poll data as opinion momentum. For this, we propose a research methodology based on computer simulation of information diffusion, on large datasets, using novel agent-based models.

The expected results of this project are directly applicable in the industry context, like political and marketing research. For example, web marketing and recommender systems are increasingly popular for disseminating influence, as there is a need of scientific support for strategies to maximize revenue, applicable on social networking platform like Facebook or Twitter. Altogether, the project outputs can minimize marketing investment, and maximize the impact of a campaign.

Financed through/by

Romanian National Authority for Scientific Research and Innovation (UEFISCDI), project number PN-III-P1-1.1-PD-2019-0379

Research centre

- CCCTI: Research Centre for Computers and Information Technology (UPT)
- ACSA: Advanced computing systems and architectures research group

Research team

- Director Associate Prof. Alexandru TOPÎRCEANU
- Mentor Prof. Mihai UDRESCU

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Project website: https://sites.google.com/view/upt-pollstream/

home

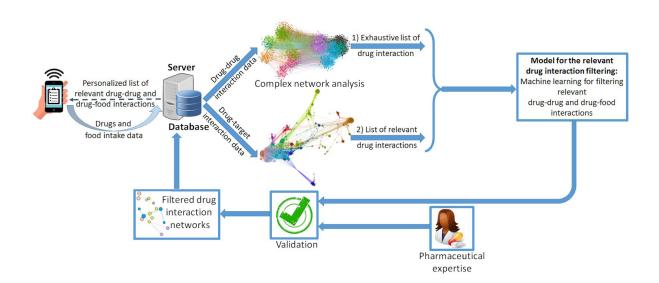




COMPLEXITY SCIENCE FOR PRECISION PHARMACY: PREDICTING RELEVANT DRUG INTERACTIONS USING COMPLEX NETWORK ANALYSIS (HYPERION)

Goal of the project

A drug-drug interaction (DDI) is a complex graph, where the node is a drug, and an edge represents a drug-drug interaction. DDIs are analyzed with algorithmic and statistical methods to predict previously unaccounted interactions. Our objective is to build a network-based model that selects only the individually-relevant drug interactions and then issues corresponding alerts. Our personalized drug interaction prediction model will mitigate alert fatique. The end product will be a prototype of the smartphone-based personalized alert system, for relevant drug interactions.



Short description of the project

Drug-drug interactions (DDI) may cause therapeutic failure. Avoiding harmful DDI is crucial in medical practice.

Project implemented by

- "Victor Babes" University of Medicine and Pharmacy Timisoara (coordinator),
- Politehnica University Timisoara (partner)

Implementation period

02.11.2020-31.10.2022

Main activities

- 1. Building the initial drug-drug interaction network and the drug-drug similarity network
- 2. Performing the complex network analysis and processing on Politehnica University Timisoara and University of Medicine and PharmacyTimisoara servers
- 3. Pharmacological validation of network modeling
- 4. Building a supervised machine learning model for selecting the relevant drug-drug and drug-food interactions
- 5. Adjusting the filtered drug interaction network according to the validated machine learning model
- 6. Mobile application development

Results

Our project's expected results are

- (i) the validated drug-drug interaction and drug-drug similarity networks, in Gephi and Python/NetworkX, using data from the DrugBank database
- (ii) the validated machine learning model for predicting the relevance (i.e., strength) of drug interactions at server-level, and (iii) the prototype smartphone software for personalized drug interaction alert.

Applicability and transferability of the results

The starting point of our project covers the TRL2-specific requests, as all project's objectives consists of theoretical models.

Both drug-drug interaction and drug-drug similarity networks with data from DrugBank, built in Gephi and NetworkX correspond to TRL3, as they represent analytical and experimental critical function.

The mobile application prototype for personalized drug interaction alert represents a laboratory-validated system (TRL4). We will experimentally demonstrate the integration of our system by testing it with data gathered from the medical prescriptions database. We will identify potential customers (patients with chronic diseases, pharmacists, and doctors).

Financed through/by

UEFISCDI, PNIII-P2-Subprogramul 2.1. Competitivitate prin cercetare, dezvoltare și inovare—Proiect experimental-demonstrativ 2019

Research centre

Research Center in Computer and Information Technology (CCCTI)

Research team

- Prof. Mihai Udrescu, Ph.D.
- Assoc. Prof. Alexandru Topîrceanu, Ph.D.
- Assist. Prof. Alexandru Iovanovici, Ph.D.
- Eng. Sebastian-Mihai Ardelean, Ph.D. Student

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INTEGRATED AND SUSTAINABLE PROCESSES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CLEAN-UP, WASTEWATER REUSE AND WASTE VALORIZATION — SUSTENVPRO

Goal of the project

The goal of complex project SUSTENVPRO is to increase the institutional performance in the ENVIRONMENT field of a consortium of 5 public research organizations with recognized research performances and one R&D National Institute under consolidation, through an integrative approach which supports/develop the existent research competencies of each partner and transfer capacities of results with applicative and innovative potential envisaging the elimination of priority pollutants from water using innovative advanced water/ wastewater treatment processes and waste recovery.

Short description of the project

The complex project **SUSTENVPRO** consisted of 5 research component projects (PC):

- PC 1. Complex evaluations of priority pollutants present in various water matrixes and risk identification on the ecosystems and human health:
- PC 2. Water treatment processes optimization and development of innovative materials for the priority pollutants removal;
- PC 3. Valorization of biomass resources for the development of innovative processes for wastewater treatment and priority pollutants removal;
- PC 4. Metallic waste valorization for innovative wastewater treatment process development and removal of priority pollutants;
- PC 5. Sustainability assessments of water/ wastewater treatment and waste valorization processes based on life cycle assessment.

Project implemented by

The project is implemented by 4 universities and two national R&D institutes:

Coordinator: "Gheorghe Asachi" Tehnical University of lasi;

Partners: Politehnica University of Bucharest; "Alexandru Iona Cuza" University of Iasi; Politehnica University Timişoara; "Petru Poni" Institute of Macromolecular Chemistry Iasi; National Research and Development Institute for Environmental Protection, Bucharest.

Implementation period

2018 - 2020

Main activities

- -Developing and validating an innovative approach oriented to analysis, preventing and correcting the environmental risks associated with the presence of priority pollutants in various matrices of water use:
- -Development of efficient innovative water treatment and advanced wastewater treatment processes in order to eliminate priority organic and inorganic pollutants in the anthropic water cycle;
- -Development of new innovative materials (polymeric or composite materials) with properties designed according to the characteristics of the priority pollutants:
- -Utilization of materials from organic (biomass) and inorganic waste (metallic waste) in innovative wastewater treatment processes for removing priority pollutants and recirculating / reusing water;
- -Sustainability assessment of processes and products through Life Cycle Assessment tool.

Results

- -Research workplaces;
- -New/significantly improved technologies /procedures;
- -New/significantly improved research services;
- -New research and technology consultancy services (uploaded on the ERRIS platform);
- -Research services by sharing the research infrastructure among project partners (A1 and A2 research vouchers);
- -Knowledge transfer to water operator through C voucher;
- -Research papers published in ISI-ranked journals;
- -Communications at national and international scientific events (conferences, exhibitions);
- -Dissemination and technology transfer workshops;
- -(Initiation /Intermediary /Final) Project workshops;
- -RDI common program (in agreement with the institutional development plan of every partner).

Applicability and transferability of the results

- Transferability of research results between consortium partners;
- Technological transfer of advanced water/wastewater treatment technologies/procedures to public and private economic environment (regional water operators, environmental companies, private companies in the water/waste field etc.); knowledge transfer to regional water operator through C voucher within the project framework tested at pilot scale as treatability study for concrete applications in drinking water treatment;
- Good practice guide for circular economy in water field for sustainability consulting company, non-profit organization, environmental agencies.

Financed through/by

Executive Agency for Higher Education, Development and Innovation Funding (UEFISCDI)

Research centre

Research Centre in Environmental Science and Engineering

Research team

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- Scientific Researcher, level III: COCHECI Laura
- Scientific Researcher, level III: POP Aniela
- Scientific Researcher, level III: VODA Raluca
- Scientific Researcher, level III: BACIU Anamaria
- Development engineer: IGHIAN Lacrima-Crysty
- Development engineer: DELCIOIU Claudia

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3D POROUS DIMENSIONALLY STABLE ANODE - INTEGRATED PARTICULATE ELECTRODE - ELECTROCHEMICAL FILTERING SYSTEM FOR ADVANCED TREATMENT OF CYTOSTATICS-CONTAINING WATER

Goal of the project

The goal of the present project is to develop an innovative three-dimensional (3D) Porous Dimensionally Stable Anode – integrated Particulate Electrode -Electrochemical Filtering System for advanced water treatment, which will be validated at the lab-scale for advanced treatment of cytostatics-containing water. The system will be flexible and enable for an advanced treatment of water/wastewater characterized by a wide range of contaminants (organics and inorganics) by combination of advanced electrooxidation with adsorption/catalysis processes within one reactor.

Short description of the project

This project falls within the targeted area of **Environment and Climate Change and Depollution Technologies** according with the goals of Romanian National Plan for RDI 2015–2020.

Project implemented by

The project is implemented by one university, one research institute and one private company.

Coordinator: Politehnica University of Timisoara

Partners: National Institute for R&D in Electrochemistry and Condensed Matter Timisoara; S.C. BeeSpeed Automatizari SRL

Implementation period

2020-2022

Main activities

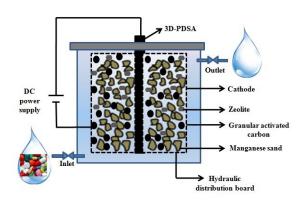
I. Synthesis and characterization of new porous dimensionally stable anodes. Design of an innovative three-dimensional (3D) porous dimensionally stable anode—integrated particulate electrode-electrochemical filtering system

II. Synthesis and characterization of new porous dimensionally stable anodes. Optimization of particulate electrode composition. Design and fabrication of an innovative three-dimensional (3D) porous dimensionally stable anode — integrated particulate electrode – electrochemical filtering system

III. Testing electrochemical filtering system in removal and degradation and mineralization of cytostatics from water.

Results

- -Lots of porous DSA type electrode materials;
- -Morpho-structural and electrochemical characteristics of the electrode materials;
- -Various compositions of the particulate electrode;
- -Design of innovative three-dimensional (3D) porous dimensionally stable anode—integrated particulate electrode-electrochemical filtering system;
- -Innovative three-dimensional (3D) porous dimensionally stable anode—integrated particulate electrode-electrochemical filtering system;
- -Functional and operational characteristics of innovative three-dimensional (3D) porous dimensionally stable anode—integrated particulate electrode-electrochemical filtering system;
- -Scientific-technical report for each stage;
- -1 patent request;
- -4 ISI-ranked scientific articles;
- -6 oral presentations and 8 poster presentations at national and international conferences.



Applicability and transferability of the results

- Transferability of research results between consortium partners;
- Technological transfer of advanced water/wastewater treatment technologies/procedures to public and private economic environment (regional water operators, environmental companies, private companies in the water/waste field etc.)

Financed through/by

Executive Agency for Higher Education, Development and Innovation Funding (UEFISCDI)

Research centre

Research Centre in Environmental Science and Engineering

Research team

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- Assoc. Prof. Dr.eng. Raluca VODA
- PhD stud. Claudia DELCIOIU
- PhD stud. Sergiu VASILIE
- Eng. Lacrima-Crysty IGHIAN

National Institute for Research and Development in Electrochemistry and Condensed Matter Timisoara (INCEMC) -Partner 1

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- Dr. Carmen LAZAU
- Dr. eng. Cornelia BANDAS
- PhD stud. Mina Ionela POPESCU
- PhD stud. Mircea Daniel NICOLAESCU

SC. BeeSpeed Automatizari SRL - Partner 2

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- Assoc. Prof. Dr. eng. Alexandru HEDES
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SMART PHOSPHORESCENT PIGMENTS FOR PERSISTENT GLOW-IN-THE-DARK SAFETY MARKINGS

Goal of the project

The goal of the research project is to obtain smart phosphorescent pigments via an energy-efficient method and test them in making persistent glow-in-the-dark safety markings.

To achieve this goal, the project involves active research and development of efficient SrAl204: Eu^{2+} , Dy^{3+} phosphorescent pigments and adequate organic matrixes to incorporate the obtained pigments (TRL3). In a second phase, both components (pigment and organic matrix) will be integrated in the form of a glow-in-the-dark coating and tested for compatibility (TRL4).

Short description of the project

An energy-efficient method is used to make phosphorescent pigments designed for glow-in-the-dark safety markings.

Project implemented by

Polytehnica University Timişoara, Faculty of Industrial Chemistry and Environmental Engineering, department CAICAM

Implementation period

August 2020 - June 2022

Main activities

The following activities are involved to achieve the project goals:

- recipes design and combustion synthesis of SrAl204: Eu²⁺, Dy³⁺ phosphor piaments:
- pigments characterization, results interpretation and recipes optimization;
- choosing a compatible organic matrix for pigments incorporation;
- preparation of organic matrix pigment disperse systems with various pigment content, to establish the optimal proportions;
- coatings application and characterization. Results interpretation and parameters optimization;
- testing in laboratory conditions of the pigment-matrix system functionality;
- results dissemination and project management.

Results

The results will include, but are not limited to:

- sets of investigation reports, optimized pigments recipes and synthesis protocols;
- sets of investigation reports and selected organic matrix specimens.
- manuscript submitted for publication in an ISI-ranked journal, paper presentation within an international conference, diploma paper, project website, periodic research report for UEFISCDI;
- preparation recipes, working procedures, two components (pigment-matrix) specimens;
- coatings specimens, set of investigation reports, optimized coating application protocol;
- manuscript accepted for publication in an ISI-ranked journal, paper presentation within an international conference, "Inorganic Pigments Technology" special course topic, project website update, periodic research report for UEFISCDI, OSIM patent request.

Applicability and transferability of the results

The resulted pigment–matrix systems can be used as persistent glow-in-the-dark safety marking systems in the transportation (automotive and aircraft or railway industry), public spaces and buildings, road signage, etc. Different pigment–matrix systems may be used for different application supports.

The research results will also be disseminated as conference presentations and articles in ISI publications to increase project visibility. The know-how achieved within the project development will also be used to coordinate a diploma paper. The implementation team will apply for a patent request to protect the results obtained within the project for future transfer to the industry.

Financed through/by

The project is financed by the The Executive Unit for Financing Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation (UEFISCDI), P2 Program – Increasing the competitiveness of the Romanian economy through RDI/ Demonstration experimental project (PED)

Research centre

Research Center for Inorganic Materials and Alternative Energies

Research team

The research team is composed by

- •the principal investigator
- Radu LAZĂU,
- •two experienced researchers
- Cornelia PĂCURARIU and Robert IANOŞ
- •and a technician
- Aylin CĂPRARU.

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NEW "GREEN" TECHNOLOGY FOR ADVANCED WATER TREATMENT BASED ON FUNCTIONALIZED POLYSULFONES/IONIC LIQUIDS MEMBRANES (GREENTECHMEMBR)

Goal of the project

The goal of this project is to develop new supported liquid membranes (SLMs) and polymer inclusion membranes (PIMs), which will be used as medium separations in an innovative membrane treatment unit (MTU), which will be tested and validated for the advanced treatment of aqueous solutions, containing both organic and inorganic pollutants. Our approach involves the development of membranes based on quaternized polysulfones (PSFQs) and various ionic liquids (ILs), with improved features and performances, so that by integrating those into MTU, the functionality and expected performance of the entire assembly can be fulfilled.

Short description of the project

We aim to develop new functionalized polysulfones/ionic liquids membranes, for testing, and validation in a water treatment unit.

Project implemented by

- "Petru Poni" Institute of Macromolecular Chemistry Iasi (ICMPP) project coordinator
- Politehnica University Timisoara, Faculty of Industrial Chemistry and Environmental Engineering (UPT) — project partner

Implementation period

03.08.2020-29.07.2022

Main activities

- Optimization of properties in solution in order to obtain ionic liquids-based polysulfone membranes;
- Formulation and design of ionic liquids-based polysulfone membranes (SLMs, PIMs);
- Optimization of properties in solid state in order to obtain ionic liquids-based polysulfone membranes applicable in microfiltration process;
- Design and development of the membrane treatment unit (MTU) by integrating the optimized experimental demonstrator (SLM, PIM) into a final product;
- Validation of the laboratory technology through specific tests;
- Dissemination of the results.

Results

The modeling of new membrane materials with increased efficiency in microfiltration processes was performed by the optimal combination of PSFQ functionalized with various ionic liquids. Thus, by the method of solution pouring, polysulfonic membranes with controlled thickness were obtained. By mixing/including polysulfonic solutions (PSFQ) with selected ionic liquids in different ratios the PIM membranes were obtained, and the SLM membranes were made by depositing/immersing the PSFQ membranes already obtained in the selected ionic liquids.

The membrane treatment unit (MTU) was designed / built for a variable flow of raw water, and the configuration of the unit by integrating the experimental demonstrator (SLM, PIM membranes) in the proposed technological installation was made to operate in optimal conditions for their application. in microfiltration processes, aiming to determine the efficiency of the membranes obtained in water treatment processes.

Applicability and transferability of the results

- A solid transfer of knowledge occurred during the collaboration between the partners involved in the research.
- Application of the developed membranes in the advanced treatment of waters and waste waters.
- Transfer of the membrane treatment unit from the lab-scale application to large-scale advanced treatment.

Financed through/by

This work was supported by a grant of the Romanian Ministry of Education and Research, CCCDI – UEFISCDI, project number PN-III-P2-2.1-PED-2019-3013, within PNCDI III.

Research centre

- Research Centre in Environmental Science and Engineering
- Research Institute for Renewable Energy

Research team

(ICMPP) – project coordinator:

- Dr. Anca FILIMON project director
- Dr. Adina Maria DOBOS
- Dr. Alexandra BARGAN
- Dr. Mihaela Dorina ONOFREI
- PhD student Alexandru ANISIEI
- PhD student Oana Dumbrava

(UPT) – project partner:

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- Prof. Dr. Eng. Petru NEGREA
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- PhD student Samuel Nick TOLEA

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BIOCATALYTIC SYNTHESIS OF NEW POLYESTERAMIDES AS NANOCARRIERS FOR BIOACTIVE COMPOUNDS

Goal of the project

The goal of the project is to develop a demonstration model of a new biocatalytic approach to synthesize polyesteramides, based on renewable sources and suitable as nanosized carriers for bioactive compounds. Therefore, the project is focused on two main directions (i) biocatalytic polymerization and (ii) particle technology. The validation of the model will be accomplished through the effectiveness of the polymeric material in specific encapsulation of a bioactive product, together with the demonstration of its biodegradability.

Short description of the project

The main objective is to develop the biobased synthetic route for biocatalytic synthesis of new polyesteramides, starting from amino acids and ε-caprolactone, or hydroxy acids and ε-caprolactam, using green solvents. The stabilization of the employed enzymes will be performed by substrate-directed immobilization, including covalent binding onto magnetic particles and magnetic sol-gel entrapment. The selectivity of different lipases, proteases and esterases will be evaluated in terms of catalytic efficiency, to increase the productivity of the process. Several amino acids and hydroxy acids will be tested as co-monomers, and the optimal reactions conditions will be determined by experimental design. The reaction engineering will target the effect of different process parameters on the structure and properties of the synthesized polyesteramides. The structural analysis and assessment of the physico-chemical properties of the reaction products will be accomplished by advanced analytical techniques. The synthesized oligoesters will be used as starting materials for novel nanoparticles effective as bioactive compounds carriers.

Project implemented by

Politehnica University Timișoara

Implementation period

03.08.2020-29.07.2022

Main activities

Stage 1 (2020) - Enzymatic synthesis of novel oligoesteramides/ polyesteramides of epsilon-caprolactone and epsiloncaprolactam.

Activity 1.1. Investigation of lipases and proteases from various microbial sources as biocatalysts for polyesteramide synthesis

Activity 1.2. The effect of process parameters on the composition of the reaction product

Activity 1.3. Characterization of reaction products by MALDI-TOF MS, NMR, FT-IR

Activity 1.4. Tailor-made immobilization of lipases, esterases and proteases to obtain active biocatalysts in polymerization reactions

Activity 1.5. Characterization of the immobilized lipases and reaction engineering

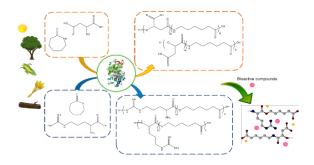


Figure 1. Green synthetic pathway for synthesis of novel polyesteramides from bio-based raw materials

Results

The main results of the first stage were:

- the development of the experimental protocol for enzymatic synthesis of polyesteramides;
- the methodology for identifying the components of the polymerization product by MALDI-TOF MS and NMR;
- the development of a substrate-directed immobilization protocol for each type of the studied enzymes;

Visit also: http://chim.upt.ro/ro/cercetare/proiecte-decercetare/286-pn-iii-p2-2-1-ped-2019-2638.

Financed through/by

Romanian Ministry of Education and Research, CCCDI - UEFISCDI, project code PN-III-P2-2.1-PED-2019-2638, project No. 272PED/2020, within PNCDI III

Research centre

Research Centre in Organic, Macromolecular and Natural Compounds Chemistry and Engineering

Research team

- Project leader: Prof. Dr. Eng. Francisc Peter
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- Ş.l. dr. ing. Cristina Paul
- Ş.I. dr. ing. Iulia Maria Păușescu
- Ş.l. dr. ing. Valentin Badea
- Dr. Ing. Emese Biró
- Postdoctoral researcher:
- Asist. dr. chim. Diana Maria Dreavă
- PhD Students:
- Drd. Ing. Ioana Cristina Benea
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INTELLIGENT AND ACTIVE SYSTEMS IN FOOD PACKAGING BASED ON BIOPOLYMERS AND NOVEL FLAVYLIUM DYES

Goal of the project

The main scope of the project is developing a model for production of new materials used in food packaging systems which must include compounds that through their properties can emphasize different possible transformations of the packaged food. The packaging systems must fulfill mandatory conditions that should highlight possible food transformations in time under different conditions. This would be accomplished by inserting in the package material compounds with photochromic properties whose color is changing with pH value and temperature variation.

Short description of the project

The project will address the development of new packaging materials starting with computational methods and synthesis of new dyes and polymers.

Project implemented by

Politehnica University Timișoara

Implementation period

01.11.2020 - 31.10.2022

Results

The results of the first stage:

- Geometry optimization of the designed dyes

Main activities

Stage 1 – Design of flavylium dyes

Activity 1.1. – Design of novel flavylium dyes structures

Activity 1.2. — Geometry optimization and reactivity descriptors calculations for proposed structures

Activity 1.3. — Evaluation of photochromic properties of the proposed dyes

Activity 1.4. — Evaluation of antioxidant activity of proposed dyes

Activity 1.5. — Toxicity evaluation of the proposed compounds by theoretical methods

Activity 1.6. — Analysis of theoretical computations and selection of proposed dyes structures

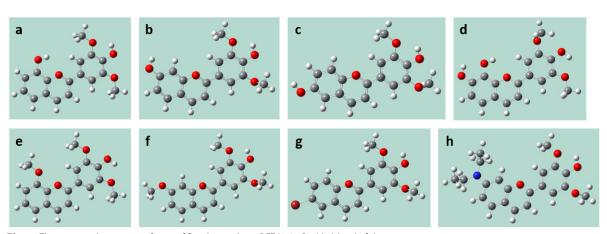


Fig. 1. The optimized structures of a set of flavylium salts at DFT/6-31G+(d,p) level of theory

- antioxidant and photochromic properties theoretical evaluation

Table 1. The calculated excitation energies, E (eV) of a set of flavylium dyes

Compound	Calculated absorption wavelength λ (nm)	Excitation energies E (eV)
1	482.1 (HOMO -> LUMO)	2.571
2	456.6 (HOMO -> LUMO)	2.715
3	465.1 (HOMO -> LUMO)	2.666
4	476.3 (HOMO -> LUMO)	2.603
5	474.7 (HOMO -> LUMO)	2.612
6	462.4 (HOMO -> LUMO)	2.681

⁻ a list of proposed compounds for synthesis with all the computed properties, ordered by the two type of activities: antioxidant and photochromic.

Financed through/by

Romanian Ministry of Education and Research, CCCDI — UEFISCDI, project number PN-III-P2-2.1-PED-2019-3037

Research centre

Research Center for Chemistry and Engineering of Organic, Macromolecular and Natural Compounds

Research team

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- Eng. Ionuţ TĂNASE, PhD student
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⁻ a scientific paper sent for publication





CONTINUOUS-FLOW SYSTEM BIOREACTOR FOR THE ENZYMATIC KINETIC RESOLUTION OF NOVEL CHIRAL SECONDARY HETEROCYCLIC ALCOHOLS- PN-III-P2-2.1-PED-2019-3414

Goal of the project

The goal of the project is to develop a demonstration model for quantitative resolution of racemic mixture of novel secondary alcohols with biologic potential activity. The validation of the experimental system will be accomplished through the effective obtaining of the enantiomers in quantities of the order of grams whose biological activity will be evaluated and compared with that of the racemic mixture..

Short description of the project

The aim of this project is to develop, at laboratory scale, a continuous-flow system bioreactor for quantitative kinetic enzymatic resolution of racemic mixtures of novel chiral secondary heterocyclic alcohols, with potential biological activity, which will be synthesized within this project.

After the synthesis of the new secondary heterocyclic alcohols (R,S)-1-(aryl/methyl)-2-[(4,5-diaryl-4H-1,2,4-triazol-3-yl)thio] ethan-1-ols as racemate, optimal conditions of enzymatic kinetic resolution will be established for each substrate, using selected microbial lipases and various reaction media.

The realization of the enzymatic kinetic resolution will be done using a continuous flow bioreactor followed by the isolation and purification of the products with high enantiomeric purity.

The realization of the enzymatic kinetic resolution will be done using a continuous flow bioreactor followed by the isolation and purification of the products with high enantiomeric purity.

The validation of the experimental system will be accomplished through the effective obtaining of the enantiomers, whose biological activity, after assigning their absolute configuration, will be evaluated and compared with that of the racemic mixture where they come from.

Project implemented by

Politehnica University Timisoara

Implementation period

03.08.2020-29.07.2022

Main activities

Stage 1– Synthesis, purification and spectroscopic characterization of intermediates used to obtain new chiral heterocyclic secondary alcohols.

Activity.1.1. Synthesis, purification and spectroscopic characterization of the corresponding N-(aryl) hydrazine carbothioamides – Part 1

Activity.1.2. Synthesis, purification and spectroscopic characterization of the corresponding 2-benzoyl-N-arylhydrazine -1-carbothioamides - Part 1.

Activity 1.3— Synthesis, purification and spectroscopic characterization of the corresponding 4-aryl-5-phenyl-4H-1,2,4-triazole-3-thiols - Part 1.

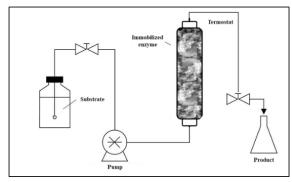


Figure 1. The proposed continuous flow system using packed-bed column bioreactor

Results

The results of the first stage were:

- development of an experimental synthesis protocol for N-(aryl) hydrazinecarbothioamide in gram amounts and spectroscopic characterization;
- development of an experimental synthesis protocol for benzoyl(acyl)-N-arylhydrazine-1-carbothioamide in gram amounts and spectroscopic characterization;
- development of an experimental synthesis protocol for 4-aryl-5-phenyl(alkyl)-4H-1,2,4-triazol-3-thiol in gram amounts and spectroscopic characterization;
- development of an experimental synthesis protocol for 1-(aryl)-2-[(4-aryl-5-aryl(alkyl)-4H-1,2,4-triazol-3-yl)thio]ethan-1-one in gram amounts and spectroscopic characterization.

Financed through/by

Research Centre in Organic, Macromolecular and Natural Compounds Chemistry and Engineering

Research centre

Research Centre in Organic, Macromolecular and Natural Compounds Chemistry and Engineering

Research team

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- Lecturer Dr. Vasile Bercean
- Lecturer Dr. Eng. Anamaria Todea
- Lecturer Dr. Eng. Iulia Maria Păușescu
- Lecturer Dr. Eng. Valentin Laurențiu Ordodi
- Assis. Dr. Chem. Diana Maria Aparaschivei
- Research Assistant Eng. Ion Burcă

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pn-iii-p2-2-1-ped-2019-3414





NEW SOL-GEL-MAGNETIC BIOCATALYSTS USED FOR THE ENZIMATIC HYDROLYSIS OF LIGNOCELLULOSIC BIOMASS

Goal of the project

The main goal of the project is the obtaining of new immobilized enzymatic biocatalysts, customized by new sol-gel entrapment techniques, used for the hydrolysis of certain types of lignocellulosic biomass.

Short description of the project

The major cause of environmental pollution is due to emissions generated by burning of fossil fuels. The known crude oil reserves are going to disappear in short time and the oil crisis in recent years, together with the rising of air pollution levels has shown the need for the replacement of fossil fuels with cleaner biofuels, obtained from a range of organic renewable raw materials.

The first step in conversion of lignocellulosic biomass is the pretreatment for the release of cellulose from the network formed with lignin and to increase the yield of fermentable sugars. There are many methods of pretreatment, but they are energy consumable and pollute the environment.

In this sense the project proposes an innovative approach on studies regarding biomass pretreatment and enzymatic hydrolysis of cellulose in an integrated system that can improve the exploitation of biomass components and the reuse of the biocatalyst. It is desired to provide novel biocatalysts, immobilized cellulases customized by new sol-gel entrapment techniques, used in the hydrolysis of certain types of lignocellulosic biomass.

By immobilization, stability and reusability of cellulases are significantly improved, a key issue for increasing the amount of fermentable sugars and to reduce process costs.



Figure 1. Types of lignocellulosic biomass (hard wood, soft wood, wheat straw, cardboard, mixture).

Project implemented by

Politehnica University Timișoara

Implementation period

15/09/2020-14/09/2022

Main activities

Stage 1 (2020) - Pretreatment of lignocellulosic biomass using unconventional methods.

Activity.1.1. Comparative evaluation of different pretreatment techniques.

Activity.1.2. Establishing the optimal conditions for the selected pretreatment techniques.

Results

The main results of the first stage were:

- the development of lignocellulosic biomass pretreatment protocols;
- the optimization of the enzymatic hydrolysis reaction parameters;
- the development of an optimized lignocellulosic biomass pretreatment protocol.

Also visit project website:

https://chim.upt.ro/ro/cercetare/proiecte-de-cercetare/248-pn-iii-p1-1-1-te-2019-1179

Financed through/by

Romanian Ministry of Education and Research, CNCS - UEFISCDI, project code PN-III-P1-1.1-TE-2019-1179, project number TE 94 / 2020 within PNCDI III

Research centre

Research Centre in Organic, Macromolecular and Natural Compounds Chemistry and Engineering

Research team

Project leader:

- Lecturer Ana Cristina PAUL, PhD

Researchers:

- Lecturer Gerlinde RUSU, PhD
- Lecturer DVM Simona MARC
- RA chem. Corina VASILESCU (PhD student)

Contact information

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GREEN CHEMISTRY ROUTE FOR THE ENZYMATIC CASCADE SYNTHESIS OF BIODEGRADABLE OLIGOESTERS- PN-III-P1-1.1-TE-2019-1573

Goal of the project

The main goal of the project is to demonstrate a new concept for valorization of vegetable oils, mainly of castor oil by developing new oligo-esters containing –0H functions or aromatic rings, in a system of three cascade enzymatic reactions. The proposed reaction system involves an innovative three cascade reaction system catalyzed by two enzymes of different classes: (i) hydrolysis of triglycerides, (ii) glycerol oxidation and (iii) synthesis of oligoesters. The enzyme stabilization will be performed by covalent binding and the selectivity will be evaluated in terms of maximal catalytic efficiency, to increase the productivity of the process. The reaction products will be characterized in detail by several analytical techniques for structure confirmation and assessment of the physico-chemical properties and their biodegradability rate will be evaluated by two methods. The synthesized monomers and oligoesters will be used as starting materials for novel organogels preparation.

Short description of the project

The main objective of the project is to obtain new oligoesters in one-pot system starting from castor oil and bio-based furan monomers by a complete green route, using a combination of two enzymes. All the purposed reactions will be mediated by tailor-made immobilized enzymes that are non-toxic, recyclable and eco-friendly biocatalysts, by using green solvents or solventless systems. The resulted biodegradable oligoesters will present new functionalities and properties.

Project implemented by

Politehnica University Timişoara

Implementation period

15/09/2020-14/09/2022

Main activities

Stage 1 (2020) - Enzymatic synthesis and optimization of glycerol conversion in glyceric and tartronic acids.

Activity 1.1. Screening of laccases from different microbial sources in order to establish the types of products under different reaction conditions.

Activity 1.2. Screening of the initiator for the enzymatic oxidation reaction.

Activity 1.3. Characterization of reaction products by FT-IR and NMR methods $\,$

Activity 1.4. Tailor-made immobilization of laccases with high efficiency and stability for the synthesis of hydroxy acids derived from glycerol.

Activity 1.5. Characterization of the immobilized catalyst in terms of thermal stability, pH stability, reusability in several reaction cycles.



Figure 1. HPLC system for the analysis of reaction products (purchased using financial support from the project)

Results

The results of the first stage:

- Development of experimental methodology for enzymatic synthesis of glycerin acids using laccases.
- Development of the immobilization protocol for covalent binding of laccases.



Figure 2. Laccase immobilized onto magnetic nanoparticles.

Visit also: http://chim.upt.ro/ro/cercetare/proiecte-decercetare/285-pn-iii-p1-1-1-te-2019-1573

Financed through/by

Romanian Ministry of Education and Research, CNCS - UEFISCDI, project code PN-III-P1-1.1-TE-2019-1573, project No. TE 101/2020, within PNCDI III

Research Centre

Research Centre in Organic, Macromolecular and Natural Compounds Chemistry and Engineering

Research team

Project leader:

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Postdoctoral researchers:

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- Conf. dr. ing. Ionuţ Valentin Ledeţi
- Asist. dr. chim. Diana Maria Dreavă

PhD Students:

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- Drd. Ing. Ioana Cristina Benea
- Drd. Ing. Ionuţ Mihai Tănase

Students:

- Andreea Petrovici

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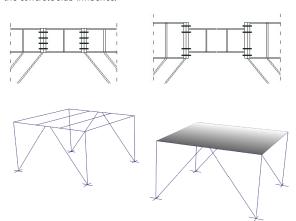
ADVANCING RE-CENTRING ECCENTRICALLY BRACED FRAMES: NEW LINK TYPOLOGIES AND INFLUENCE OF REINFORCED CONCRETE SLAB (ARNIS)

Goal of the project

To reduce the costs and downtime of a structure hit by an earthquake, removable links and re-centering capacity concepts may be implemented in a dual eccentrically braced structure. The project aims at extending the validation of re-centering capability and link replacement feasibility on extended end-plate typologies and also investigate more detailed the global and local influence of three-dimensional reinforced concrete slab panels, as well as reinforced concrete slab repair.

Short description of the project

It studies the re-centering capability using new link typologies and the concrete slab influence.



Project implemented by

Politehnica University Timişoara (UPT) — Civil Engineering Faculty — Steel Structures and Structural Mechanics Department

Implementation period

10.10.2018 - 09.10.2020

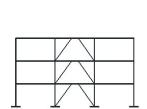
Main activities

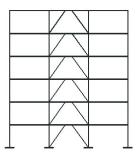
- Designing prototype structures with two height levels: medium rise (P+2E) and higher rise (P+5E), with differently connected links (flush/extended end-plate), extending the bolted links removal procedure and re-centering capability – done in 2018;

- Experimentally testing isolated links assemblies in two solutions: flush end-plate bolted link and extended end-plate bolted link, at natural scale (1:1), both of them with and without concrete slab above the link (8 tests) proposed for 2019;
- Experimentally testing a 3D portal frame, with/without concrete, with damaged/repaired slab (4 tests) proposed for 2020;
- Calibrating numerical models post-test proposed for 2019 and 2020 \cdot
- Seismic performance and behavior factors numerical assessment
- proposed for 2020.

Results

In 2018 — prototype structures design, re-centering capability validation and link removal procedure description.





Proposed for 2019 and 2020:

- Design of experimental specimens;
- Material behavior curves;
- Links experimental results describe local behavior;
- Frames experimental results describe global behavior;
- Calibrated numerical models for links;
- Values of behavior factors for structures.

Obtained results will be presented in project deliverables and scientific papers at international conferences/journals.

Applicability and transferability of the results

Increase the application potential of the system both at national and international levels: by improved connections (larger behavior factor obtained), improved knowledge on the effect of reinforced concrete slab and repair of the slab.

Solutions providing self-centering of the structure are technically demanded and require specialized knowledge, careful maintenance and high initial cost. Alternatively, a conventional design can be employed, but with the dissipative members realized to be removable allowing their replacement when damaged and reducing the repair costs.

Financed through/by

Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding (UEFISCDI)

Research centre

Research Centre for Mechanics of Materials and Structural Safety - CEMSIG

Research team

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- Assoc. prof. Aurel STRATAN, PhD

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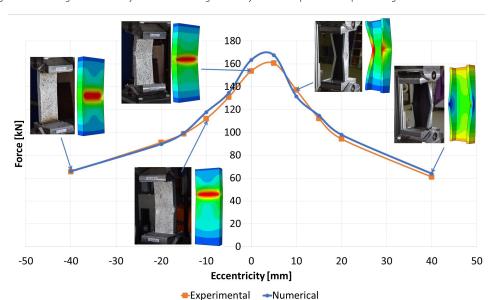




STRUCTURAL DESIGN TOOL FOR COLD-FORMED STEEL STRUCTURES (CFSEXPERT)

Goal of the project

The project will develop innovative design software tools for cold-formed steel members and structures. The calculation processes are prepared for practising engineers and integrated with easy-to-use modelling and analysis tools to provide complete design solutions.



Short description of the project

The project aims to develop a calculation core for the design of structures composed of cold-formed steel (CFS) members, which will be implemented in three different structural softwares: CFSExpert Structure, CFSExpert Member and CFSExpert Engine.

Project implemented by

- ConSteel Solutions Ltd., Hungary
- GORDIAS Ltd., Romania
- Politehnica University of Timişoara, Romania

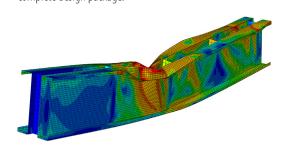
Implementation period

04.01.2020-31.12.2021

Main activities

 Review of existing analyses and standard design methods of CFS members and structures and identification of their limitations;

- Development of an advanced integrated analysis and of a design method for CFS members;
- Validation of the advanced CFS design methods via experimental and numerical tests;
- Experimental tests on:
 - (1) minor and major eccentric compression of lipped channels;
 - (2) back-to-back plain and lipped channels in bending;
- (3) Z-purlins with overlapping over intermediate supports and restrained by sheeting;
- Implementation of the advanced CFS design methods into a complete design package.



Results

The goal of the project is to develop straightforward software tools for engineers to use in their projects including cold-formed sections of general shape, according to a design based on Eurocode 3 — Part 1.3 concept.

The software is based on an innovative design process which integrates the specific modern mechanical analysis of CFS members (Constrained Finite Strip Method – cFSM) with existing and newly developed design procedures.

The software tools will be launched at three levels for different types of target users having the same calculation core including the developed new innovative design methodology.

The main R&D result of the project is in this special calculation core, but for the support of an efficient marketing and sales process it is also aimed to implement it into three different types of software realization.

The CFSExpert Structure is a design package implemented into the ConSteel 3D analysis and design software as an additional module for the design of cold-formed sections within a general 3D steel structural model.

The CFSExpert Member is a stand-alone software configuration to handle a single element, with simply supported or continuous statical system, with specific graphical input and output features limited to cold-formed profiles.

The CFSExpert Engine is a "black-box" calculation engine, without graphical user interface, but having standard easy-to-use input-output interface suitable for implementing into any existing or new-to-develop specific design software tools.

Applicability and transferability of the results

The CFSExpert software packages will fill a market gap of missing complete design tools supporting the complex design of CFS structures accordingly we expect great interest from structural engineering companies.

The companies already having CFS products can accelerate their design process and widen their product range using this software. The greater part of our possible market consists of those companies which realize new possibilities in using CFS in their structures by using this software.



Financed through/by

This work was supported by a grant of the Romanian Ministry of Research and Innovation, CCCDI — UEFISCDI, project number EUROSTARS-2019-E!113493 — CFSExpert, within PNCDI III

Research centre

- Research Center for Mechanics of Materials and Structural Safety (CEMSIG).
- Politehnica University of Timişoara

Research team

- Prof. Viorel UNGUREANU, PhD
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- Sen. lect. Mircea BURCĂ, PhD
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- Andrei GÎRBACEA, PhD stud.
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SAFETY OF BUILDING WALLS AND CLADDINGS AGAINST ACCIDENTAL EXPLOSIONS SAFE-WALL

Goal of the project:

Explosions produced in urban or industrial areas are low-probability but high-impact events. When they occur in the immediate vicinity of buildings or other constructions, the explosions can pose a high risk to the structural resistance and to the occupants (risk of injury or death). The goal of this project is to provide more robust envelope solutions for the protection of occupants against the direct effects (pressure wave) and secondary hazards (local failures, fragmentation, flying debris) resulting from an explosion.

Short description of the project

The demonstration-building model includes several typologies of wall elements attached to a 3D steel frame structure. The building is tested against far-field and near-field explosions. The fixing/anchoring systems of the walls to the building are also investigated to validate their performance under extreme loading.

Project implemented by

The project is implemented by a partnership between:

- Politehnica University Timisoara UPT, project coordinator Prof. dr.ing. Florea Dinu;
- National Institute for Research and Development in Mine Safety and Protection to Explosion INSEMEX Petrosani, responsible ing. Robert Laszlo;
- Technical University of Cluj-Napoca UTCN, responsible SL.dr.ing.
 Mihai Senila.

Implementation period

2020 - 2022

Main activities

WP1: Preliminary analyses, design and fabrication of experimental specimens

- Preliminary analysis of building envelope under external explosions
- Design of experimental full-scale wall specimens for explosion tests, substructure specimens for static test, and small-scale specimens from materials and components
- Fabrication of full-scale specimens, material coupons and connection components

WP2: Experimental program

- Experimental tests on materials and components
- Full-scale static tests on wall sub-structures
- Full-scale blast tests on wall-frame structure systems

P3: Validation of a full-scale building envelope under blast loading in laboratory environment

- Validation of full-scale blast test model in laboratory environment
- Numerical simulations on external wall systems with enhanced protection against explosive threats

WP4: Project management and dissemination

Results:

Preliminary analysis

Preliminary numerical simulations were performed on the full-scale building model to determine the explosion parameters (incident and reflected pressure/impulse) as a function of explosive charge size and position (see Fig. 1).

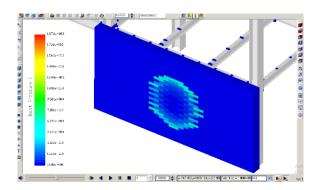
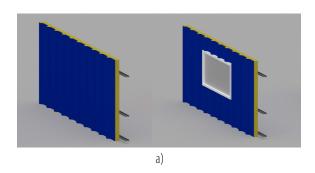


Fig. 1 Pressure distribution on the front wall from a charge located of 1.00 m

Design and fabrication of experimental specimens

The design of the wall specimens was done considering the non-accidental load requirements (dead load, wind load, others). The expected pressure/impulse from blast was used to evaluate the most probable damage level under the explosion. Four types of most common solutions were considered, see Fig. 2. The wall system will be mounted on an existing 3D steel frame structure, see Fig. 3 and Fig. 4. Static tests will be performed on similar wall elements to determine the capacity under normal loading conditions, see Fig. 5).



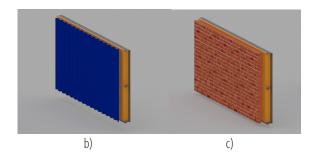


Fig. 2 Wall systems:

- a) multi-skin sandwich panels with horizontal lipped rails (with and without windows);
- b) multi-skin wall, with liner tray (cassette), insulation and outer steel cladding;
- c) multi-skin wall, with liner tray (cassette), insulation and brick cladding



Fig. 3 Existing 3D steel frame structure

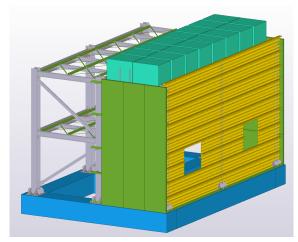


Fig. 4 The 3D frame model with the facade system for blast test

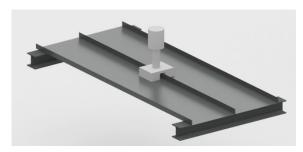


Fig. 5 Static test on wall elements





Applicability and transferability of the results

- Experimental validation of the response of an integrated building system in laboratory environment represents the bridge from the scientific research to the practical application (structural engineering).
- The qualification of acceptance criteria for wall components and connections under blast loading environment is an important step toward the codification and implementation of such systems in practice, guarantying improved performance and capacity to provide protection in case of extreme events.

Financed through/by

Romanian National Authority for Scientific Research and Innovation, project number PN III 279PED/2020 (PN-III-P2-2.1-PED-2019-1765), Safety of buildings walls and claddings against accidental explosions SAFE-WALL (2020-2022).

Research centre

The Research Center for Mechanics of Materials and Structural Safety - CEMSIG

Research team (from UPT)

- Prof.dr.ing. Florea DINU (Coordinator)
- Prof.dr.ing. Dan DUBINA, member of the Romanian Academy
- Prof.dr.ing. Viorel UNGUREANU
- Prof.dr.ing. Adrian CIUTINA
- Prof.dr.ing. Daniel GRECEA
- SL.dr.ing. Calin NEAGU
- SL.dr.ing. loan MARGINEAN
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INTELLIGENT CONTROL SYSTEMS WITH GENERALIZABLE BEHAVIOUR FROM LEARNED PRIMITIVES

Goal of the project

The project proposal aims at the continuous development of a hierarchical primitives-based learning concept for intelligent control systems (CSs). The idea is to induce feedback CSs with a generalization capability towards tracking tasks, inspired by intelligent living beings who can extrapolate learned optimal behavior to new unseen tasks without learning by repetitions. The framework operates on three levels. The project's main goals are: to improve existing issues and to experimentally validate the hierarchical learning framework on different ubiquitous tracking tasks.

Short description of the project

The framework operates on three levels:

- L1) low level feedback CS design in model-free style to ensure reference tracking, disturbance rejection and indirect CS linearization;
- L2) learning tracking tasks (in terms of CS reference input + controlled output pairs, called primitives) by repeated executions via data-driven lterative Learning Control (ILC), over the feedback CS, in terms of a given optimal criterion;
- L3) extrapolate the learned optimal tracking behavior to new tracking tasks, without needing repetitions.

Project implemented by

Assoc Prof. Mircea-Bogdan RĂDAC, PhD Eng. Alexandra-Bianca BORLEA Eng. Timotei LALA

Main activities

Main improvement activities are centered around making the above framework impactful, by:

- a) ensure strong CS linearization at lower level, in an output reference model tracking problem setting, since the generalizability of the learned tracking behavior relies on the superposition principle of the linear CS;
- b) ensure learning convergence at level L2 via ILC, while reducing the number of dedicated gradient experiments;
- c) deal with tracking tasks of different time lengths (shorter/longer) than that of the learned primitives and with operational constraints.

Results

Development of a hierarchical learning framework that is able to generalize an optimally learned behavior to new unseen tasks. The publication of papers in leading journals, participation and presentation of papers in international academic conferences, three scientific reports (two intermediate and a final one).

Applicability and transferability of the results

Validation of the proposed framework on a diversity of systems is expected to open new application areas to the next generation of autonomous, adaptive and intelligent planning and control systems (possible applications in UAVs and drones maneuvering, autonomous driving, robotic arms).

Financed through/by

UEFISCDI PN-III-P1-1.1-TE-2019-1089, 2020-2022

Implementation period

01.09.2020 - 31.08.2022

Research Centre

Department of Automation and Applied Informatics

Research team

- Assoc. Prof. Mircea-Bogdan RĂDAC, PhD
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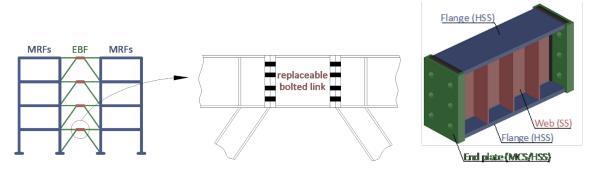
HYBRID REPLACEABLE LINKS FROM STAINLESS AND HIGH-STRENGTH STEEL (HYLINK)TREATMENT

Goal of the project:

The project aimed at development of a novel hybrid stainless steel replaceable link for re-centring eccentrically braced frames. Considering that the ductility of the replaceable link and the adequate resistance of the bolted connection are key requirements for the global seismic performance of the system, the goal of the project consists in numerical and experimental investigations of the hybrid link behaviour, in order to assess the benefits induced by the use of high-performance steels.

Short description of the project

The project aims at investigating numerically and experimentally a novel link, fabricated from high-performance steel.



Project implemented by

- Universitatea Politehnica Timisoara (UPT)
- National R&D Institute for Welding and Material Testing (ISIM)

Implementation period

2020 - 2022

Main activities

- Development of welding processes for joining dissimilar steels: stainless steel to high strength steel (SS/HSS), stainless steel to mild carbon steel (SS/MCS) and mild carbon steel to high strength steel (MCS/HSS).
- Characterisation of low-cycle fatigue (LCF) behaviour of stainless steel (SS), high strength steel (HSS) and mild carbon steel (MCS).
- Characterisation of low-cycle fatigue (LCF) behaviour of welded joints with dissimilar steel SS/MCS and SS/HSS.
- Experimental validation of inelastic cyclic performance of hybrid replaceable links.
- Development of a design recommendations for hybrid replaceable links.

These specific objectives will be accomplished through numerical and experimental investigations on low cycle fatigue response of materials, welded joint components and structural components (hybrid links).

Results

Result indicators which quantify the project achievements:

- Development of informative documents, research reports and design guidelines for hybrid replaceable links;
- Project outcomes will be disseminated through publication in conference proceedings and journal papers;
- Dissemination of project results through the website with free access to the users.

Applicability and transferability of the results

Considering that the potential for using austenitic stainless steel in applications requiring large ductility has been previously recognised, the present research project aims at promoting stainless steel for a wider adoption in structural applications.

Financed through/by

This work is supported by a grant of the Romanian Ministry of Education and Research, CCCDI – UEFISCDI, project number PN-III-P2-2.1-PED-2019-5427, within PNCDI III.

Research Centre

The Research Centre for Mechanics of Materials and Structural Safety $-\,\mathsf{CEMSIG}$

Research team

- Prof. Aurel STRATAN
- PhD student Anna PRODAN
- Lect. Ioan BOTH
- Acad. Dan DUBINA

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NEW HYBRID DC-DC SWITCHING CONVERTER FAMILIES WITH APPLICATIONS IN BATTERY CHARGING SYSTEMS FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLES AND SOLAR ENERGY CONVERSION

Goal of the project

The project proposes three new dc-dc hybrid converter families suitable for solar energy processing and battery charging systems.

Short description of the project

Synthesis, analysis, simulation and practical validation of three new hybrid converter families with emphasis on two topologies from each family.

Therefore, in total 6 new converters will be investigated.

Two converters out of the six will be used for energy conversion in two applications: a battery charging system from the single phase mains as a solution in automotive industry and a solar energy conversion system comprising a PV panel and also including MPPT control.

Project implemented by

Politehnica University Timişoara Department of Applied Electronics, Project Director: Ioana-Monica POP-CĂLIMANU

Implementation period

01.09.2020-28.02.2022

Main activities

- A1. Ć-SC family. Theoretical development of the Ć-SC family. Topologies operation validation by simulation and experimental prototypes for 2 converters.
- A2. S–SC family. Theoretical development of the S–SC family. Converters operation validation by simulation and hardware test for 2 converters.
- A3. SN-SC family Theoretical development of the SN-SC family. Topologies validation by simulation and experimental prototypes for 2 converters.
- A4. Comparative study of the 6 new developed topologies and final decision about the converter that is best suited in the battery charging system and in the solar energy system.

- A5. Battery charger system based on the proposed converter topology. Design of the current mode control and charging profiles. Measurements and evaluation of the system performance.
- A6. Design and practical implementation of the solar energy conversion system and its MPPT control; LabView programs for long term monitoring of system behavior in different environmental conditions.

Results

In the first year of the project 3 papers were published in the following journal and international conferences:

- **1.** Pop-Calimanu I-M, Balint M, Lascu D. A New Hybrid Ćuk DC-DC Converter with Coupled Inductors. Electronics. 2020; 9(12):2188. https://doi.org/10.3390/electronics9122188
- **2.** I. -M. Pop-Calimanu, C. Alexandru-Adrian and M. Pop-Calimanu, "A New Quadratic Step-Down Converter," 2020 International Symposium on Electronics and Telecommunications (ISETC), Timisoara, Romania, 2020, pp. 1-4, doi: 10.1109/ISETC50328.2020.9301118
- **3.** G. -M. Jude, I. -M. Pop-Calimanu and F. Renken, "A New Step-Up Converter With Coupled Inductor," 2020 International Symposium on Electronics and Telecommunications (ISETC), Timisoara, Romania, 2020, pp. 1-4, doi: 10.1109/ISETC50328.2020.9301041.

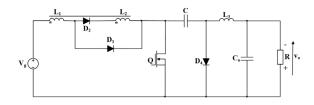


Fig. 1. The novel proposed hybrid Ćuk-type dc-dc converter with coupled inductors.

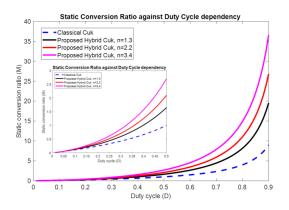


Fig. 2. Static conversion ratio against duty cycle

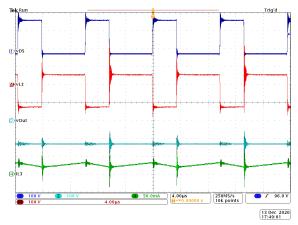


Fig. 3. Main waveforms

Applicability and transferability of the results

- Charging system for electric vehicles
- Solar energy processing and possible integration in Smart Grids and Smart Homes –
- Implementation in the automotive industry Continental Automotive Timisoara or Vitesco Technology Engineering Romania

Financed through/by

Unitatea Executiva pentru Finantarea Invatamantului Superior, a Cercetarii, Dezvoltarii si Inovarii (UEFISCDI) Programul 1 - Dezvoltarea sistemului naţional de cercetare-dezvoltare Subprogramul 1.1 - Resurse umane/Proiecte de Cercetare Postdoctorală, PN-III-P1-1.1-PD-2019, 184450 RON.

Research Centre

TIntelligent ElectronicSystems https://erris.gov.ro/Centrul-de-Cercetari-SEI

Research team

Project Director:

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Mentor:

- Dan-Florentin LASCU

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GETICA-INTELLIGENT, INDEPENDENT AND AUTOMATED GREENHOUSE WITH SELECTIVE ABSORPTION OF SOLAR RADIATION USING DYE-SENSITIZED SOLAR CELLS (DSSCS)

Goal of the project

For the first time, GETICA project proposes to develop and validate an energy independent and combined fully automated greenhouse standalone prototype based on DSSCs.

Our team aims to implement a completely autonomous greenhouse in which plants can grow without human intervention. Moreover, it will be sought reducing production cost of the greenhouse using 3D printing of the modular roofs and a low-cost maintenance given by near zero energy input from conventional sources and decreasing the water consumption in irrigation.

In this context, GETICA project aims to demonstrate the economic sustainability of this smart greenhouse based on DSSC in the real agriculture.

Short description of the project

Our project involves the implementation of a prototype for an autonomous greenhouse that can provide all the necessary conditions for a proper growth of plants without the need for human intervention.

For this, the greenhouse has numerous sensors that record and analyze environmental conditions such as temperature, humidity, wind speed and direction, etc.

Depending on the data read from the sensors, the necessary measures will be taken in order to ensure the suitable environmental conditions for the plants (irrigation pumps or fans can be started, the roof can be closed or opened).

Project implemented by

- National Institute for Research and Development in Electrochemistry and Condensed Matter
- -Faculty of Electronics, Telecommunications and Informational Technologies, Politehnica University Timişoara
- SYMPH ELECTRONICS

Implementation period

17.11.2020 - 31.10.2022

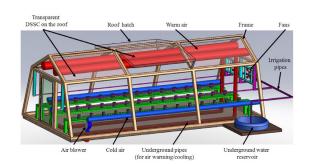
Main activities

The main activities in our project are:

- Define a block diagram for the greenhouse
- Establish the environmental conditions that must be monitored
- Establish the optimal dimensions for the greenhouse
- Design the resistance structure of the greenhouse
- Design the roof of the greenhouse
- Find methods to reduce manufacturing costs and maintenance costs
- Greenhouse implementation
- Control unit implementation
- Thermal simulation of photovoltaic cells

Results

The proposed greenhouse has transparent DSSC on the roof, fans, irrigation pipeline, underground pipelines, air blower, etc.



Applicability and transferability of the results

The implemented prototype offers an intelligent system for autonomous plant growth and for their monitoring using various sensors to record environmental conditions.

Moreover, our solution reduces the manufacturing costs and the maintenance costs.

Financed through/by

Ministery of Research and Innovation, CNCS – UEFISCDI, Project number: PN-III-P2-2.1-PED-2019-2091

Research Centre

Politehnica University Timişoara (UPT) Department of Applied Electronics

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- Eng. COVACI Corina
- Eng. ILIEŞ Elisei Ştefan
- Student MARINCA Magdalena Patricia

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RANGE OF PROTOTYPES OF AUTOMATIC CAPACITIVE COMPENSATORS DESIGNED TO IMPROVE THE POWER FACTOR AND LOAD BALANCING IN LOW VOLTAGE ELECTRICAL NETWORKS

Goal of the project

The project aims at two of the most important measures to increase the performance of electrical power distribution networks: reactive power compensation and load balancing. The aim of the project is to raise the level of technological maturity from TRL4 to TRL6 of an innovative load balancing solution in three-phase low voltage distribution networks, by using an automatically unbalanced capacitive compensator. It allows the two goals to be achieved simultaneously: improving the power factor and balancing the equivalent load.

Short description of the project

Currently the solution is materialized in the form of a demonstrative experimental model, successfully completed through a previous partnership between UPT (coordinator) and ICPE (partner). https://www.sites.google.com/site/caeredjt/

Project implemented by

- ICPE S.A. of Bucharest coordinator;
- Politehnica University of Timisoara partner.

Implementation period

May 2020 - April 2022

Main activities

Starting from the identification of this innovative product as having a significant market potential, ICPE is this time the project coordinator and aims to develop it together with the same partner, UPT, to the prototype level. The new project mainly contains industrial research activities:

- transfer of intellectual property rights from UPT to ICPE;
- technical and economic analysis followed by the design, construction and commissioning of a range of prototypes (real-scale compensators) with rated reactive powers of 50, 150, 250 kvar;
- testing the range of prototypes in operating conditions similar to the real ones;
- optimization of algorithms to improve functional characteristics;
- validation of the components of the prototype range.

Results

The first stage (May 2020 - Dec. 2020) entitled "Studies on constructive solutions and trends for establishing new solutions for automatic capacitive compensator" has as main activities the choice of new solutions for automatic unbalanced capacitive compensator and testing of experimental models of assemblies and subassemblies in order to validate the proposed solutions. The results of this first stage are the following:

- 1.Study on constructive solutions and trends;
- 2.Design experimental models for assemblies and subassemblies;
- 3. Txperimental models for assemblies and subassemblies;
- 4.Test results of experimental models for assemblies and subassemblies; .

Applicability and transferability of the results

The market segment initially targeted by the new product is that of customers in the category of electrical power distribution operators. The large–scale installation of balancing capacitor banks in secondary distribution networks will make a massive contribution to reducing their own technological consumption and increasing the quality of electrical power supplied to consumers. As the benefits of the new product become known to more and more customers, as the quality of electrical power supplied in secondary distribution networks depreciates, more and more distribution operators and large consumers of electrical will be forced to adopt methods and means of limiting asymmetry disturbances and so the new product will impose itself on the market as the optimal solution.

Financed through/by

The Government of Romania, Ministry of Education and Research, through Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding (UEFISCDI) National Plan for Research – Development and Innovation for the period 2015–2020 (PNCDI III), project code: PN-III-P2-2.1-PTE-2019-0694 contract no. 41PTE/2020

Research Centre

Analysis and Optimization of Operating Regimes of Electrical Power Systems

Research team

UPT - partner

- Adrian PANĂ in charge
- Florin MOLNAR-MATEI
- Alexandru BĂLOI
- Attila SIMO
- Ilona BUCATARIU
- Felicia BĂLOI
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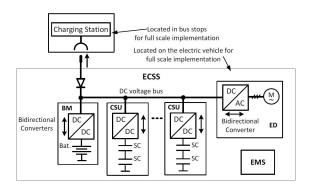
ENERGY CONVERSION SYSTEM FOR AN ELECTRIC CITY BUS/MICROBUS, WITH SUPERCAPACITOR ENERGY STORAGE AND SUPERHIGH POWER DENSITY DRIVE (ECON-BUS)

Goal of the project

The project main objective is to develop a small-scale laboratory demonstration model of an energy conversion and storage system for a public transport electric vehicle (bus / minibus), which is charged during stopping at stations. The system will be composed of a high torque density electric drive, powered by a high power density inverter associated with an energy storage unit based on supercapacitor cells, charged/discharged by DC-DC converters connected to a common voltage bus.

Short description of the project

The laboratory demonstration model of the energy conversion and storage system is designed and implemented based on preliminary research and digital simulation results. The model is validated in various operating modes, through extensive experimental tests. The dissemination of the obtained results is considered in order to find companies interested in potential industrial implementation.



Project implemented by

- Romanian Academy, Timisoara branch (Coordinator) &
- University Politehnica of Timisoara (Partner)

Implementation period

17/08/2020 - 15/04/2022

Main activities

- Development and test of the simulation models for the system components (2020)
- Extensive simulation testing of the entire conversion and storage system (2020)
- Design of the energy conversion and storage system (2021)
- Implementation of the demonstration model (2021)
- Design and implementation of the test bench for the demonstration model (2021)
- Extensive testing of the demonstration model (2021/2022)
- Patenting (2021/2022)
- Dissemination of the project results in scientific and academic environment (2021/2022)
- Industrial, scientific and in mass-media results dissemination (2021/2022)

Results

In the first stage of the project (2020) the individual simulation models of the electric drive system and of the DC-DC converter used for charging/discharging supercapacitors were developed and tested, as well as a model for determining the global power and energy data, for the energy conversion and storage system.

The electric drive simulations were carried out for both the 1: 1 scale (100kW) and the reduced 1:20 scale (5kW) that will be used to implement the laboratory demonstration model.

Two topologies were evaluated for the DC-DC converter. As with the electric drive, the design and simulation data were obtained for 1:1 scale (100kW) and for 1:20 scale (5kW).

All simulation results showed that the selected electric drive and both DC-DC converter are suitable for the application.

Applicability and transferability of the results

An important component of the project is the activity of disseminating the results, which will be done in the final stage. In addition to transferring essential information related to the obtained results to the scientific and academic community, detailed test reports will be submitted to the industry. If there will be no conditions for industrial implementation, the project research team will consider obtaining a new research grant to bring the TRL to a higher level.

Financed through/by

PNCDI III, Contract no. 307PED/2020; project code PN-III-P2-2.1-PED-2019-5230

Research Centre

Research Centre for Smart Energy Conversion and Storage

Research team

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- Acad. Ion Boldea
- Prof. Nicolae Tutelea
- Prof. Gheorghe-Daniel Andreescu
- CSII Ileana Torac (Romanian Academy, Timisoara branch)
- CSI Sebastian Muntean (Romanian Academy, Timisoara branch)
- Assoc. Prof. Octavian Cornea
- Assist. Prof. Ana Popa
- Assist. Dan-Cornel Hulea
- Assist. Liviu-Danut Vitan
- Assist. Adrian Martin
- Ph.D. student Mihaita-Constantin Gireada

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SMART MICROACTUATORS WITH LAYER-OPTIMIZED ARCHITECTURE - SMAL

Goal of the project

The SMAL Project aims to use the models developed in our research group for bimorph and trimorph architectures with at least one layer that undergoes a temperature-dependent phase transformation, in order to manufacture cantilever-type microactuator demonstrators with enhanced displacement, for use in micro electromechanical systems.

Short description of the project

The project aims to generate sensing and actuation at micro and nano level by taking into account the change in the thermoelastic properties during a phase transformation in active layer(s). The materials considered as phase transformation active layers are shape memory alloys, that will be deposited by magnetron sputtering in various bi and multimorph layered architectures. The stress developed in such cantilever-type architectures is reflected in the actuation by bending (which depends on the thermoelastic properties of the shape memory alloy layer(s) and the one(s) of the passive (non-transforming) layer, usually used as a substrate. The demonstrators will be manufactured in bimorph and trimorph architectures and will be tested to determine the materials integrity as well as the functional output (e.g. actuation and curvature) with the results used for further optimization.

Implementation period

2020-2022

Main activities

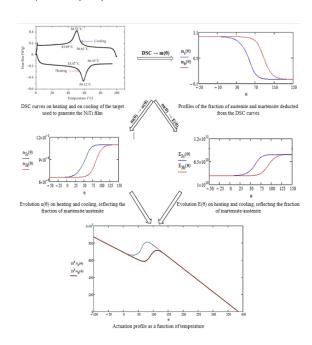
The demonstrators will be manufactured based on the analysis of the models developed by the members of the project team. The design of the bimorphs will be made in various architectures, with different deposition temperatures in order to verify the models over a larger temperature range. Magnetron sputtering will be used to generate the shape memory alloy films on several substrates, thus expanding the range of thermoelastic stresses that can be generated in the selected architectures (film/substrate). Multilayers will also be designed, taking into account the corresponding phase transformation features for each layer (e.g. transformation temperatures).

Project implemented by

Politehnica University Timisoara, Romania

Results

Models developed for analysis of different architectures based on shape memory alloy films.



Applicability and transferability of the results

The technical solutions developed in the project have the potential to be applied the micro-opto-electro-mechanical systems.

Financed through/by

PN-III-P2-2.1-PED-2019-0619-1

Research Centre

Smart Materials and Structures Laboratory https://eeris.eu/ERIF-2000-000R-4315

Research team

Politehnica University Timisoara:

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THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ENERGY INVESTMENTS, SHOCKS IN ENERGY PRICES AND THE MACROECONOMY IN THE EU COUNTRIES - EIP-MACRO

Goal of the project

Energy prices record high fluctuations increasing market uncertainty. The central role of oil prices in influencing consumption, investments and macroeconomic policies requires special attention. In this context, the main goals of the project are: (i) to analyse the investment behaviour and TFP of energy sector companies using firm-level data; (ii) to investigate the non-liner interactions between oil prices and the macroeconomy; (iii) to assess the environmental impact of energy policies, EU regulations and renewable energy consumption.

Short description of the project

The project aims to provide a deeper understanding of the energy and environmental economics issues, analyzing the interactions between energy prices and the macroeconomy.

Project implemented by

Politehnica University of Timisoara

Implementation period

02.05.2018 - 30.04.2020

Main activities

- a) Development of research on three directions:
- determinants of investments and TFP of energy companies
- macroeconomic impact of oil price shocks
- environmental impact of energy policies.
- b) Econometric analyses and generation of results
- c) Dissemination of results in conferences and high-ranked journals.

Results

- a) 3 Research stages for young researchers (University of Poitiers, University of Augsburg, International School for Social and Business Studies)
- b) 11 Conference participations
- c) 1 organized research workshop https://sites.google.com/view/infer-timisoara-2019/home.

- d) 11 ISI journal papers:
- 1. Grecu, E., Aceleanu, M.I. and Albulescu, C.T. (2018). The economic, social and environmental impact of shale gas exploitation in Romania: A cost-benefit analysis, Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews, 93, 691–700. (Q1)
- 2. Albulescu, C.T. and Pépin, D. (2018). Monetary integration, money demand stability and the role of monetary overhang in forecasting inflation in CEE countries, Journal of Economic Integration, 33(4), 841–879 (EMCI).
- Albulescu, C.T., Kang, S.H., Tiwari, A.K. and Yoon, S-M. (2019).
 FDI, income, and environmental pollution in Latin America: Replication and extension using panel quantiles regression analysis, Energy Economics, 84, Article 104504. (Q1)
- 4. Kang, S.H., Tiwari, A.K., Albulescu, C.T. and Yoon, S-M. (2019). Exploring the time-frequency connectedness and network among crude oil and agriculture commodities V1, Energy Economics, 84, Article 104543. (Q1)
- 5. Albulescu, C.T., Riza, D., Raheem, I.D. and Tiwari, A.K. (2019). Does economic policy uncertainty connect financial markets? Evidence from oil and commodity currencies, Energy Economics, 83, 375–388. (Q1)
- Tiwari, A.K., Adewuyi, A.O., Albulescu, C.T. and Wohar, M.E. (2020). Empirical evidence of extreme dependence and contagion risk between main cryptocurrencies, The North American Journal of Economics and Finance, 51, 101083. (03)
- 7. Grecu, E., Albulescu, C.T., Pârţachi, I.P., Stancu, S. and Traşcă, D.L. (2020). Output, uncertainty and fuel prices in the EU countries, Economic Computation and Economic Cybernetics Studies and Research, 1, 15–30. (Q3)
- 8. Albulescu, C.T., Artene, A.E., Luminosu, C.T. and Tamasila, M. (2019). CO2 emissions, renewable energy production and environmental regulation in the EU countries, Environmental Science and Pollution Research, 27, 33615–33635 (Q2)

- Albulescu, C.T., Bouri, E., Roubaud, D. and Tiwari A.K. (2020).
 Quantile causality between banking, stock and real estate securities returns in the US, The Quarterly Review of Economics and Finance, 78, 251–260 (Q3)
- 10. Albulescu, C.T., Tiwari, A.K., Ji, Q. (2020). Copula-based local dependence between energy, agriculture and metal commodity markets, Energy, 202, 117762 (Q1)
- 11. Albulescu, C.T., Oros, C. (2020). Inflation, uncertainty and labor market conditions in the US, Applied Economics, 52, 5770–5782. (Q3)
- e) 2 book chapters
- Sirbu, R.M., Albulescu, C.T. (2020). Carbon emissions, energy consumption and managing investment in renewable energy, in: Innovation in Sustainable Management and Entrepreneurship, G. Prostean, J.J.L. Villahoz, L. Brancu, G. Bakacsi (eds.), Publisher: Springer, 14, ISBN 978-3-030-44710-6.
- 2. Albulescu, C.T., Miclea, S., Tamasila, M., Vartolomei, M. (2020). Financial Constrains and the Structure of the Firm's Investment: An Application to the Scientific R&D Industry from the Largest EU Countries, in: Innovation in Sustainable Management and Entrepreneurship, G. Prostean, J.J.L. Villahoz, L. Brancu, G. Bakacsi (eds.), Publisher: Springer, 18, ISBN 978-3-030-44710-6.

Financed through/by

Executive Unit for Financing Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation - UEFISCDI

Applicability and transferability of the results

The results of the project have both a micro- and a macro-level applicability. In the first case, the strategic management of companies activating in the energy field will benefit from a deeper understanding of elements influencing the level of investment in the industry. In the second case, national and international regulators and policy makers receive information about the impact of shocks in energy prices on inflation and exchange rate, but also about the effectiveness of environmental regulation and the role of renewable sources in reducing CO2 emissions at EU level.

Research Centre

Research Center in Engineering and Management

Research team

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ECONOMIC POLICY UNCERTAINTY, ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENERGY POLICIES AND THEIR MACRO-FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS IN THE EU - EPUEER-MFI

Goal of the project

As a response to growing environmental concerns, the interest for identifying the economic elements that prevent the environmental degradation increased. At the same time, the economic and financial impact of environmental and energy policies gained the interest of researchers and policy makers. Against this background, the purpose of this project is to investigate how the policy-induced economic uncertainty impacts the producers, consumers and portfolio investment behavior, influencing thus the relationship between environment, energy use and macro-financial variables.

Short description of the project

The project aims to test the connection between policy uncertainty, energy and finance, considering their environmental impact

Project implemented by

Politehnica University of Timisoara

Implementation period

01.09.2020-31.08.2022

Main activities

- a) Development of research on three directions:
 - (i) the impact of uncertainty and energy security on oil and financial assets prices connection,
 - (ii) the role of environmental regulations and renewables on carbon emissions,
 - (iii) the effect of policy-induced uncertainty and energy price shocks on bank stability.
- b) Literature review and data collection
- c) Econometric analyses and discussions on empirical results
- d) Dissemination of results in conferences and high-ranked journals.

Results

- a) 5 papers under review in ISI journals, out of which, 3 accepted papers:
- 1. Albulescu, C.T. (2020), COVID-19 and the United States financial markets' volatility, Finance Research Letters. (Q1)

- 2. Albulescu, C.T., Miclea, S. (2020), How does the national human capital index influence the total factor productivity of the Romanian R&D firms? Human Systems Management. (ESCI)
- 3. Albulescu, C.T., Mina, M., Oros, C. (2020), Oil-US Stock Market Nexus: Some insights about the New Coronavirus Crisis, Economics Bulletin. (ESCI)
- b) 6 participations in international conferences:
- 1. 22th INFER Annual Conference, University Pris 13, Paris, France.
- 2. 11th Global Conference on Business and Social Sciences, Bangkok, Thailand.
- 3. 36th IBIMA Conference, Granada, Spain.
- 4. The 14th International Management Conference "Managing Sustainable Organizations", Bucharest, Romania.
- 5. 12th International Conference "Globalisation and Higher Education in Economics and Business Administration", "A.I. Cuza" University, Iasi, Romania.
- 6. 33rd EBES Conference, Madrid, Spain.
- c) project website:

https://sites.google.com/view/epueer-mfi-te2019/home

Applicability and transferability of the results

The results of the project have noteworthy implications for international investors and policymakers. In the first case, the investors will learn how the commodity and financial markets are connected and how the economic policy uncertainty will affect their risk management and portfolio optimization strategy. In the second case, national and international regulators and policymakers receive information about the impact of shocks in energy prices on macroeconomic variables, but also about the effectiveness of environmental regulation and the role of renewable sources in reducing carbon emissions at EU level.

Financed through/by

Executive Unit for Financing Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation - UEFISCDI

Research Centre

Research Center in Engineering and Management

Research team

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Lect. Şerban MICLEA, PhD

Assist. Prof. Lavinia MIHALI, PhD

Assist. Prof. Andra DIACONESCU, PhD

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INCREASING THE INSTITUTIONAL PERFORMANCE OF THE POLITEHNICA UNIVERSITY TIMIŞOARA BY STRENGTHENING THE R & D AND TECHNOLOGICAL TRANSFER CAPACITY IN THE FIELD OF "ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE"

Goal of the project

The overall objective of the PERFORM-TECH-UPT project is to increase the institutional performance of the Polytechnic University of Timisoara (UPT), by developing the R & D capacity of the Research Institute for Renewable Energy, a structure of UPT, by expanding and consolidating its activities in the field of intelligent specialization Energy, Environment and Climate Change, to serve the innovation requirements of economic operators from Romania West Development Region, respectively by intensifying the collaboration and visibility at national and international level.

Short description of the project

The PERFORM-TECH-UTP project is dedicated to the institutional development of UPT through targeted activities on human resources, research and development infrastructure and international visibility.

Project implemented by

Politehnica University Timisoara

Implementation period

October 16th, 2018 - December 10th, 2020 (26 months)

Main activities

- Project management and coordination
- Acquisition of significant R&D equipment and services
- Financial support for attending prestigious international conferences
- Stimulate the publication of articles in WOS indexed journal, located in the Q1
- Stimulation of the doctoral research activity of the last year of internship for the successful completion of the experimental part of the thesis
- Identifying funding opportunities for research and the development of successful applications
- Development of a portfolio of new products / technologies / methods / systems / services or significantly improved
- Selection of postdoctoral researchers in the field of the project
- Integration and testing of purchased equipment within research centers / laboratories
- Creating the site www.research.upt.ro

Results

- Creation of a multidisciplinary research platform capable of meeting the needs and requirements of economic operators including in priority economic sectors, such as "energy and environmental management", part of the Industrial Policy Direction named "Innovation, technological development and added value" (according to the National Competitiveness Strategy 2014–2020).
- The development of a highest level research infrastructure in the field of "Energy, environment and climate change", which will enable the participation of UPT's RDI staff in projects of national and international scale to be dynamic.
- The increase in the number of publications in high impact journals, that is in the first two quartiles, but also in the international recognition, by winning awards at large-scale scientific events and inventics exhibitions.
- Financing of minimum 20 support grants for the participation of researchers at prestigious international conferences.
- Project based employment of 3 researchers.
- Funding of 4 doctoral internships, to successfully complete the experimental part of the doctoral thesis.
- Creation of the site www.research.at.upt.ro containing information about the university research infrastructure, and about the services that the UPT can offer in the area of RDI.
- Financing of 20 grants in order to stimulate the publication of scientific articles in first quartile WOS journals.
- Organization of 2 workshops.



Financed through/by

Ministry of Education, "Program 1 - Development of the National Research and Development System, Subprogram 1.2 - Institutional Performance", National Plan for Research, Development and Innovation for the period 2015–2020 (PNCDI III), Institutional Development Project - CD Excellence Funding Project.

Research centre

- 1. Research Institute for Renewable Energy
- 2. Research Centre for Smart Energy Conversion and Storage
- 3. Research Centre for Mechanics of Materials and Structural Safety
- 4. Research Centre for Processing and Characterization of Advanced Materials
- 5. "Ştefan Nădăsan" Research Laboratory for Strength, Integrity and Durability of materials, structures and conductors.

Research team

- Assoc. Prof. Liviu CĂDARIU-BRĂILOIU, PhD
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- Prof. Eng. Viorel UNGUREANU, PhD
- Prof. Eng. Nicolae MUNTEAN, PhD
- Prof. Eng. Liviu MARŞAVINA, PhD
- Prof. Eng. Petru NEGREA, PhD
- Assoc. Prof. Eng Bogdan RADU, PhD

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INOVATIVE METHOD FOR LANDFILLING OF MUNICIPAL SOLID <u>W</u>ASTE <u>I</u>NCINERATION <u>RESIDUES BY STABILIZATION/SOLIDIFICATION INTO COAL FLY ASH ROCK MATRIX RESULTED FROM DENSE SLURRY TECHNOLOGY</u>

Goal of the project

The project goal is treatment of MSWI residues by stabilization/solidification by means of using a binder matrix. The aim of this process is to create new compounds in a stabilized form that encompassing the harmful elements, which are non-hazardous or less hazardous than the raw (initial) material.

Project includes a series of experiments for embedding the MSWI residues into the coal fly ash rock matrix with the support of the preview research results. There will be done a small scale landfill disposal, in order to investigate the leaching behavior on environmental conditions for tracking the pollutants concentrations migration into environment.

Short description of the project

The project concept is based on using fly ash and desulphurization products related to coal incineration as a binder material to stabilize through solidification process the pollutants (heavy metals mostly) contained in MSWI residues.

Main activities

The main activity of the project is to assess the discharge behavior of the experimental landfill disposal exposed into environmental conditions.

In this demand the following activity were foreseen:

- Construction of the experimental demonstrator.
- Evaluate the waste characteristics.
- Construction of the experimental landfill disposal according to the proposed technology.
- Leaching and percolation sampling.
- · Lab analyses of experimental samples. Data recording.
- Processing and analyses of the experimental data.
- Interpretation of experimental data.
- Model the environmental behavior of the waste.
- Validate the model by calibration with the results from laboratory tests and field experiments and by comparing it to natural analogues.

Implementation period

01.05.2018 - 30.04.2020

Project implemented by

Politehnica University Timişoara

Results

Stage I (2018) — Up-grading the existing lab demonstrator. Technical design. Purchasing of equipment.

- 1.1 Preparation of design documents.
- 1.2 Designing installations for upgrading the experimental demonstrator in accordance with the proposed technology.
- 1.3 Elaboration of technical datasheets for equipment purchasing.
- 1.4 Launch of the public procurement procedure in accordance with the legislation in force.
- 1.5 Reception of purchased equipment. Equipment payment.

Stage II (2019) — Construction of experimental demonstrator (upgrade). First run. Testing. Lab analyses

2.1 Integration on technological assembly

Applicability and transferability of the results

The solidification/stabilization method of different types of toxic residues consists of using a binder matrix, which is non-pollutant for the environment with the aim to encapsulate the harmful chemical compounds.

In this regard most of the applied technologies are using cement based binder matrix material which is an expensive material in comparison with coal fly ash and associated flue gas desulphurization (FGD) by-products related to coal power plants.

In fact the coal fly ash and FGD by-products are residues that end into open landfill disposal, which means that are costs free.

More than that is well known that cement factory worldwide are using coal fly ash as material basis for different types of cements, for their cementitious properties given by the pozzolanic compounds like silica (SiO2), alumina (Al2O3), and iron oxide (Fe2O3) that exceeds over 80% of the fly ash composition.

The new proposed technology based on using fly ash and desulphurization by-products related to coal incineration as a binder material according to solidification/stabilization method, will eliminate the costs with the cement, which could bring considerable economical savings.

From environmental point of view the incineration residues (fly ash and FGD by-products) related to coal incineration can be used as binder material according to the proposed concept of solidification/stabilization method, with the aim to prevent ground water pollution by leaching phenomenon developed on open landfill disposals by dense slurry technology.

Financed through/by

Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding — UEFISCDI / PN-III-P1-1.1-PD-2016-1093

Research centre

Research Institute for Renewable Energies — ICER

Research team

Research contract director /Coordinator:

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Mentor:

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FREE RUNNER FOR SWIRLING FLOW CONTROL AT THE OUTLET OF HYDRAULIC TURBINES

Goal of the project

The main objective of the project is to design and investigate a new concept by using a free runner downstream on the main hydraulic runner turbine. The free runner concept supposes that rotates at the runaway speed with vanishing mechanical torque. The main purpose is to redistribute between the shaft and the periphery the total pressure and the moment of momentum such that the flux of total pressure and the moment of momentum are not altered. Moreover the free runner does not modify the operating point.

Short description of the project

The research topic deals with the fundamental aspects of the decelerated swirling flows in conical diffusers, applied to the flow in the draft tube cone of hydraulic turbines. The variable demand on the energy market, as well as the limited energy storage capabilities, requires a great flexibility in operating hydraulic turbines. When the hydraulic turbine operates far from the best efficiency point, the flow downstream the runner becomes unstable (with formation of a precessing spiral vortex in the draft tube cone). The decelerated swirling flow and the precessing spiral vortex are responsible for severe pressure fluctuations which reduce the operating regime and diminish performances. The project propose a new concept in order to control the flow by adding a free runner downstream the hydraulic runner turbine. The free runner will be designed taking into account the flow from the exit of the main turbine runner, such that at the inlet of the conical diffuser a uniform flow should enter. Numerical and experimental investigations will evaluate the new concept in order to minimize the effects of hydraulic instabilities.

Project implemented by

Politehnica University Timişoara

Implementation period

02.11.2020 - 03.10.2022

Main activities

The main activities are programed as follows:

Activity 1. Flow field analysis in the draft tube cone of the swirl apparatus using Laser Doppler Velocimetry — first year 2020.

Activity 2. 3D hydrodynamic design of the free runner blades and mechanical design for the free runner rotating system; Numerical simulation of the swirl apparatus with the new concept of free runner — second year 2021.

Activity 3. Implementation and first tests of the free runner system. Experimental investigations of the free runner performances — third year 2022.

Results

The project will develop a free runner which can be mounted downstream of the turbine runner in order to diminish the hydraulic instabilities.



First results concentrated on the experimental investigations of the velocity profiles in the divergent part of the swirl apparatus. Therefore the LDA velocity profiles measured at the exit of the runner will be used as design inlet conditions for the free runner blades new concept..



Applicability and transferability of the results

The results obtained from this project can be implemented in the hydraulic turbines in order to operate in safety conditions far from the best efficiency point.

Financed through/by

UEFISCOI, P1 Human Resources Program, Research Projects to Stimulate Young Independent Teams (TE)

Research centre

Research Centre for Engineering of Systems with Complex Fluids

Research team

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- Eng. Timotei ARDELEAN, PhD Student
- Eng. Raul SZAKAL, PhD Student
- Eng. Constantin TANASA, CS II
- Associate Prof. Adrian STUPARU, PhD
- Prof. Romeo SUSAN-RESIGA, PhD

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RESEARCH CONCERNING CHARACTERIZATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE ELECTROMAGNETIC ENVIRONMENT IN MODERN CARS

Goal of the project

- Assessment of the electromagnetic environment in modern vehicles: technical and legal aspects;
- Assessment and analysis of measuring and testing methods and of equipment involved in Automotive EMC;
- Implementation of novel test and measurement methods in Automotive EMC and improvement of the testing repeatability
- Applications of metamaterials to Automotive EMC.

Short description of the project

This project is component of the complex project *Hybrid Platform* for Communication in Visible Light and Augmented Reality for the Development of Intelligent Systems for Assistance and Active Security of Vehicles, 21PCCDI / 2018.

Project implemented by

Politehnica University Timişoara, Faculty of Electronics, Communications and Information Technology, Department of Measurements and Optical Electronics

Implementation period

18.05.2018 - 16.11.2020

Main activities

- 1. Characterization of the electromagnetic environment in vehicles:
 - Near field and far field measurement;
 - Spectral occupancy measurement.
- 2. Improvement of repeatability of Automotive MC tests
 - Assessment of devices and equipment involved;
 - Interlaboratory testing and comparisons
 - Far-field prediction from near-field measurements data;
 - Prediction of far-field radiation from current measurement.
- 3. Methods of reduction of conducted and radiated emissions:
 - Resonance analysis of systems that fail EMC tests;
 - Applications of metamaterials: filtering, suppressing of cavity oscillations, screening with frequency selective surfaces.

Results

2018-2020

- Documentations and reports concerning assessment of electromagnetic field in modern cars;
- Documentations and reports concerning EMC Automotivex inter-laboratory comparisons, chamber validation and equipment assessment;
- Documentation and reports concerning applications of periodic structures in the Automotive EMC field;
- 35 published papers on:
 - Application of Frequency Selective Surfaces;
 - Conduction and radiated immunity (Fig. 1);
 - ALSE chamber validation:
 - Stripline measurements in Automotive EMC;
 - Near field measurements and applications to emission reduction;
 - Frequency selective surfaces;
 - Antenna simulation and measurement (Fig. 2)
 - -Spectrum occupancy measurement in the different frequency ranges (Fig. 3);

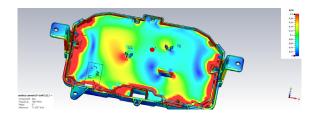


Fig. 1. Radiated immunity tests: DUT simulation

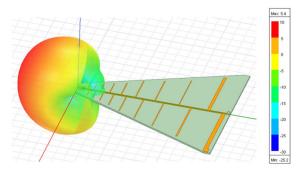


Fig. 2. Antenna simulation

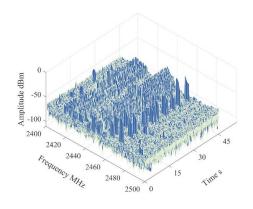


Fig. 3. Spectrum occupancy

Applicability and transferability of the results

Results obtained in this research might be useful to:

- EMC laboratories, mainly related to Automotive industry;
- EMC professionals;
- EMC research community;
- EMC standards elaboration;
- Legal authorities that regulate spectrum occupancy;
- Professionals working in Automotive design.

Financed through/by

UEFISCDI

Research centre

ICER - Research Institute for Renewable Energy

Research team

- Aldo de SABATA
- Cornel BALINT
- Septimiu MISCHIE
- Cora IFTODE
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FUZZY CONTROLLERS FOR SHAPE MEMORY ALLOYS SYSTEMS (FUZZYSMA)

Goal of the project

Analysis, design and implementation of adaptive fuzzy control solutions which include combination of fuzzy control, adaptive control, gain-scheduling control and sliding mode control in order to improve the Control System (CS) performance and validate the new CSs with the proposed adaptive fuzzy controllers through experiments on laboratory equipments related to Shape Memory Alloys (SMA), and other various laboratory equipment with SMA as actuators.

Short description of the project

Adaptive fuzzy control algorithms are developed and validated with experiments on laboratory equipments related to Shape Memory Alloys (SMA), and other various laboratory equipment with SMA as actuators..

Project implemented by

Lect. Claudia-Adina Bojan-Dragos - carries out all management activities and all activities that involve theoretical approaches.

Prof. Stefan Preitl – assists the PI in the management of the activities. Lect. Alexandra-Iulia Szedlak–Stînean – is in maternity leave in the first year of the project and she will carry out activities that involve simulation and experimental approaches on processes that include SMA actuators in the second year.

Assist. Raul-Cristian Roman - carries out activities that involve hardware and software implementations and solve numerical problems.

M.Sc. Elena-Lorena Hedrea - carries out activities that involve theoretical research and experimental approaches on processes that include SMA actuators.

Implementation period

15.09.2020 - 14.09.2022

Main activities

- 1. The analysis of the theoretical framework with regard to the controlling of processes that include SMA actuators.
- 2. The development and implementation of new three new adaptive fuzzy control algorithms for nonlinear SMA processes.
- 3. The validation of the proposed control algorithms as controllers for real-world processes that include SMA, with the support of the external partners (Continental Automotive Timişoara, Airbus Helicopters Romania through direct connections timely consolidated, Ontario Centres of Excellence through our Ottawa team partner). 4. The dissemination of results focused on high visibility journals and important conferences.
- 5. Solving the project management issues.

Results

The research team works on the publishing journal papers indexed in Clarivate Analytics Web of Science (WoS, with one of the previous names ISI Web of Knowledge) (link) and on the publishing of conference papers currently indexed in the international data bases IEEExplore (link and link). The proceedings of the previous editions of these conferences are indexed in WoS..

Applicability and transferability of the results

With the support of our partner from the University of Ottawa, the new CSs with adaptive fuzzy controllers will be in the validation process at Ontario Centers of Excellence..

Financed through/by

UEFISCDI

Research Centre

Automatic Systems Engineering Research Centre

Research team

- S.I.dr.ing. Claudia-Adrina BOJAN-DRAGOŞ Project Leader
- Prof.dr.ing. Stefan PREITL Member
- S.I.dr.ing. Alexandra-Iulia SZEDLAK-STINEAN Member
- As.dr.ing. Raul-Cristian ROMAN Member
- As.drd.ing. Elena-Lorena HEDREA Member

Contact information

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INSPECTION OF HIGHLY SCATTERED AND ARTIFICIALLY ILLUMINATED UNDERWATER SCENES USING OPENROV TRIDENT

Goal of the project

Optical systems of the existing ROV's (including OpenROV Trident) are quite limited when dealing with deep and turbid underwater scenes that require artificial illumination. Despite of the recent efforts, existing single-image underwater techniques exhibit significant limitations in the presence of highly scattered water and/or artificial ambient illumination. As a result real time pre-processing (to enhance visibility of such scenes) of the captured video stream is a must. This project proposes a radically novel paradigm that provides the basis for more direct, interactive and efficient underwater studies, while reducing the associated costs.

Short description of the project

This project aims to develop an effective underwater image enhancement techniques that can be employed in real time by the affordable ROV Trident..

Implementation period

1.11.2020-30.10.2022

Financed through/by

UEFISCDI

Research team

- Cosmin Ancuti
- Horia Balta
- Kis Arpad
- Codruta O. Ancuti

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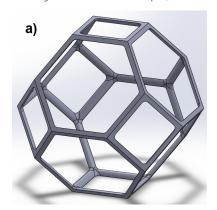
INTELLIGENT CONTROL SYSTEM FOR CONTINUOUS CASTING BASED ON WATER FLOW CONTROL IN THE SECONDARY COOLING

Goal of the project:

This project deals with the development of metamaterial structures composed tessellations of mainly two types of open cells: truncated hexahedron tessellation (the Kelvin structure,

- a) and hollow sphere tessellation
- b). The structures will be modelled using computer aided design software and their mechanical properties will be evaluated using finite element analysis software.

When the desired geometries will be developed, the CAD file will be exported to a rapid prototyping machine for manufacturing.

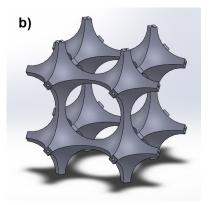


Short description of the project:

This project addresses a subject in the field of innovative materials and it deals with the design and manufacturing of structures composed of engineered materials whose properties are not found in nature (metamaterials). The metamaterials proposed for this project will consist of cellular polymeric lattices, whose properties will be controlled through geometric parameter manipulation (strut thickness, cell size and shape). The main applications of these structures will be as cushioning and protective layers meant to absorb the deformations and impact energy of personal protective equipment. The project has two main stages. The first stage consists of the design and simulation of the structures in order to determine the optimal parameters in terms of mechanical properties. The second stage of the project will deal with the manufacturing of the structures through rapid prototyping and the experimental determination of their mechanical characteristics. The comparison between the estimated and experimentally determined properties will validate the designs of the structures, allowing for complex geometry modelling for actual safety equipment applications.

Project implemented by

Politehnica University Timisoara



Implementation period:

1.5.2018 - 30.4.2020

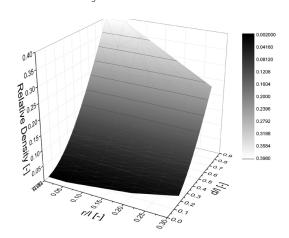
Main activities:

- 01. Literature survey concerning metamaterial structures and additive rapid prototyping techniques.
- A1.1. Literature study concerning mechanical metamaterial structures
- A1.2. Literature study concerning rapid prototyping techniques for polymers
- 02. Development of parametrical metamaterial structures
 - A2.1. Design of metamaterial structures based on Kelvin cells
- A2.2. Design of metamaterial structures with hollow sphere cells
- 03. Numerical evaluation of the mechanical properties of the developed metamaterial structures
- A3.1. Determination of the mechanical properties of the polymers used in rapid prototyping
- A3.2. Evaluation of the static mechanical properties of the developed structures
- A3.3. Evaluation of the impact and energy absorption properties of the developed structures
- A3.4. Optimization of metamaterial structures

- 04. Manufacturing of metamaterial structures
 - A4.1. Parameter adjustment for structure manufacturing through rapid prototyping
 - A4.2. Manufacturing of designed structures through additive rapid prototyping
- 05. Experimental determination of the mechanical characteristics of the manufactured structures
 - A5.1. Elaboration of static tests in compression on the manufactured structures
 - A5.2. Elaboration of static tests in bending on the manufactured structures
 - A5.3. Elaboration of fatigue tests in compression on the manufactured structures
 - A5.4. Elaboration of impact tests on the manufactured structures
- 06. Structure validation and product component design
 - A6.1. Comparison of results and simulation optimization
 - A6.2. Design of safety equipment components based on metamaterial structures
 - A6.3. Numerical analysis of the designed components' behavior in impact applications

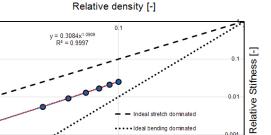
Results:

After the first year of implementation, several structures were generated, and the variation of relative stiffness with the structure parameters was investigated.



The geometries were imported into a finite element analysis software and the relative stiffness and relative strength variation with relative density was determined.

Partial results were published in an article entitled "A parametric study of the mechanical properties of open-cell Kelvin structures" and presented at the international conference AMS18



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Applicability and transferability of the results:

The results obtained from this project can be implemented in safety equipment, for various types of industries, such as civil engineering (helmets), sports (protective equipment such as helmets, shin guards, padding), automotive (motorcycle suits) and defense (body and vehicle armor)

Financed through/by

UEFISCDI

Programul 1 - Dezvoltarea sistemului național de cercetaredezvoltare

Research Center

- 1. Laboratorul Ştefan Nădăşan, Politehnica University Timişoara
- 2. Medical Engineering Research Center, Politehnica University Timisoara
- 3. ICER Research Institute for Renewable Energy, Politehnica University Timisoara

Research team

- Eng. Dan-Andrei ŞERBAN, PhD
- Prof. Eng. Nicolae FAUR, PhD

Contact information

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Web: http://www.dserban.com/PD13-2018/





SMART BUILDINGS ADAPTABLE TO THE CLIMATE CHANGE EFFECTS (CIA_CLIM)

Goal of the project

The specific objective of the project is centred on the increase of energy efficiency of buildings, by using smart facades with low-thermal transfer and smart energy efficiency through building automatization and solar energy collectors, through a modular laboratory demonstrative application. The resulted system, the smart house, is conceived thus to minimize the input energy for maintenance.

Short description of the project

The four component projects are focusing on two principal research directions:

- (i) use of smart facades with the low–thermal transfer, actively integrated for the enhancement of internal comfort and possessing a passive control of energy and
- (ii) smart energy efficiency through building automatization and solar energy collectors.



Project implemented by

Politehnica University of Timişoara as coordinator (CO), in collaboration with

- -Technical University of Civil Engineering of Bucharest (UTCB, P1),
- -Technical University of Cluj-Napoca (UTCN, P2),
- -National Institute for R & D in Electrical Engineering Bucharest (ICPE CA, P3) and
- -National Institute of R & D for Electrochemistry and Condensed Matter Timişoara (INCEMC, P4)

Implementation period

01.03.2018 - 30.06.2021

Main activities

Project 1 investigates the mechanical properties of cellular materials used as thermal insulations in smart façade systems, through mechanical compre-ssion, bending and toughness fracture testing.

Project 2 is focused on obtaining, characterizing and testing of high-property materials used for smart facades as thermal insulation materials and as support for special property layers: photo-catalytic layers and with reduced absorption/reflexion of UV-VIS-IR radiation.

Project 3 investigates the implementation of the electric power distribution in direct current for individual households or in small communities (smart-grid), with renewable energy sources integration.

Project 4 implements the knowledge and data resulted from projects no. 1-3 through a modular laboratory demonstrative application. The project will perform an integrated study on the influence of the facades and the energetic contribution to the internal comfort of the building.

Results

- Determination of mechanical properties of cellular materials used as thermal insulations in smart façade systems;
- Production, characterization and testing of high-property materials used for smart facades as thermal insulation materials and as support for special property layers;
- Implementation of the electric power distribution in direct current for individual households or in small communities (smart-grid), with renewable energy sources integration, finalizing with an experimental platform;
- Modular laboratory demonstrative application for the implementation of project results, performing a global study regarding the influence of the facades and the energetic contribution to the internal comfort of the building.



Applicability and transferability of the results

In the construction domain, the energy represents the key-point in achieving efficient buildings. All the results obtained in the frame of the project are expected to be of interest for the economic environment, from manufacturers to contractors. Design guidelines and recommendations will be provided.

Financed through/by

The project is supported by a grant of the Executive Unit for Financing Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation (UEFISCDI), project number PN-III-P1-1.2-PCCDI-2017-0391 / grant agreement 30PCCDI/2018.

Research Centre

- ICER The Research Institute for Renewable Energy, UPT (CO);
- "St. Nadasan" Research Laboratory for Strength, Integrity and Durability of materials, structures and conductors, UPT (CO);
- Research Center of Environmental Science and Engineering, UPT (CO);
- Intelligent Control of Energy Conversion and Storage Research Center, UPT (CO);
- ACTEX Integrated Platform of Research and Development for the Behaviour of Structures under Extreme Actions, UPT (CO);
- CAMBI Advanced Research Center for Ambiental Quality and Building Physics, UTCB (P1);
- EEC Energy Efficiency in Buildings, UTCB (P1);
- RLSDEPE Research Laboratory and Sustainable Development in Electronics and Power Electronics, UTCN (P2);
- Department for Efficiency in Conversion and Consumption of Energy, ICPE - CA (P3);
- Renewable Energies Photovoltaics Laboratory, INCEMC (P4);
- Chemical and Electrochemical Synthesis Department, INCEMC (P4).

Research team

The research team is composed by 90 researchers of the five institutions.

Contact information

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DATASET AND IMAGE DEHAZING TECHNIQUES FOR HIGHLY DISTORTED HAZY SCENES

Goal of the project

The main objective of this project is to design effective image dehazing techniques but also an image interpretation framework that are robust to haze, including the challenging cases where the sources of light and impairment are non-uniformly distributed over the scene. As a federating objective, our project aims at implementing dehazing methods that are suited to dense and non-homogeneous hazy scenes.

Short description of the project

This project aims to build up an image dataset including pairs of hazy and haze-free scenes, for which hazy scenes include real, dense, and non-homogeneous haze and to develop develop several image dehazing techniques.

Implementation period

1.11.2020-30.10.2022

Financed through/by

UEFISCDI

Research team

- Codruta Ancuti
- Kis Arpad
- Cosmin Ancuti

Contact information

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International Research Projects





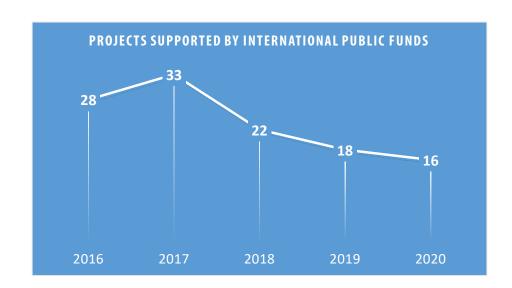
PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC FUNDS IMPLEMENTED BY UPT 2020

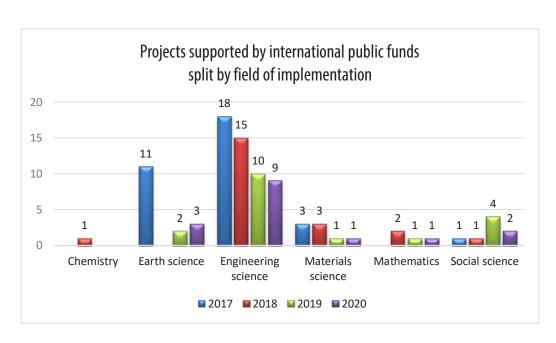
Field	Total number of projects	Number of projects presented
Earth science	3	-
Engineering science	9	6
Materials science	1	1
Mathematics	1	1
Social science	2	2
Total	16	10





EVOLUTION OF PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC FUNDS IMPLEMENTED BY UPT 2016 - 2020









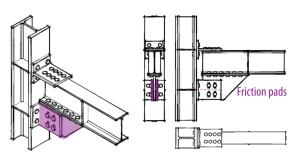
VALORISATION OF KNOWLEDGE FOR FREE FROM DAMAGE STEEL CONNECTIONS (FREEDAM-PLUS)

Goal of the project

The project aimed at valorisation, dissemination and extension of the results of previous investigations regarding the design and testing of innovative connections equipped with friction dampers able to withstand without any damage severe seismic events, to a wide audience of academic institutions, engineers and architects, construction companies, and steel producers by producing informative documents, design guidelines and organizing seminars, webinars and workshops.

Short description of the project

The project developed design guidelines for innovative connections equipped with friction dampers.



Typical layout of a FREEDAM connection

T-stub working in tension/compression Slotted haunch bolted to the bottom beam flange Slots Stainless steel plate Friction pads with thermal spray aluminium

Project implemented by

- Universita degli Studi di Salerno (UNISA)
- Universita degli Studi di Napoli Federico II (UNINA)
- Universite de Liege (ULIEGE)
- Universidade de Coimbra (UC)
- Universitatea Politehnica Timișoara (UPT)
- Convention Europeenne de la Construction Metallique ASBL (ECCS)
- National Technical University of Athens (NTUA)
- Ceske Vysoke Uceni Technicke v Praze (CVUT)
- Institut National des Sciences Appliquees de Rennes (INSA RENNES)
- Technische Universiteit Delft (TU DELFT)
- Univerza v Ljubljani (UL)
- Universitet po Architektura Stroitelstvo i Geodezija (UASG)
- Universitat Politecnica de Atalunya (UPC)
- Rheinisch-Westfaelische Technische Hochschule Aachen (RWTH AACHEN)

Implementation period

01/07/2020-30/06/2022

Main activities

- Development and translation of the informative documents concerning the connections equipped with friction dampers, from English into 12 additional languages.
- Development of pre-normative design recommendations on FREEDAM connections.
- Development of a design handbook for building structures equipped with FREEDAM connections.
- Software and mobile app development, allowing to select pregualified solutions from FREEDAM standardised connections.
- Organization of seminars, webinars and workshops for disseminating the gained knowledge in EU, EU associated and non-EU Countries.
- Development of a web site with free access to the users in order to promote the obtained results.
- Preparation of videos about the benefits of FREEDAM solutions, for an You-Tube channel.

Results

The pre-normative design recommendations for the seismic resistant steel beam-to-column joints equipped with FREEDAM devices are being considered for the implementation in the next version of the European seismic design code.

Additionally, the set of technological and constructional requirements within EN 1090-2 suitable for friction devices will be produced. Informative material concerning the connections equipped with friction dampers will be prepared in 12 languages to reach not only academic and scientific communities but mostly structural engineers and architects, construction companies, steel producers, providing them with all available tools (design and manufacture guidelines, codified design procedures, software and mobile app tools for practitioners, website, YouTube channel, etc.).

Financed through/by

Research Fund for Coal and Steel Grant agreement RFCS-02-2019 Project number 899321

Research Centre

The Research Centre for Mechanics of Materials and Structural Safety — CEMSIG

Applicability and transferability of the results

- Use of the design guidelines with simplified procedures for designing steel beam-to-column connections equipped with friction dampers, which could significantly reduce seismic damages. The produced design recommendation and criteria will be used in setting up limits of applicability between EN 1993:1-8 and EN 1998-1 concerning the design of seismic resistant steel beam-to-column joints equipped with FREEDAM device.
- Increased structural safety against the seismic hazard in large parts of Europe.
- Improvement in life cycle costs and sustainability due to the reduction of losses caused by seismic hazards.

Research Team

- Acad. Dan DUBINA
- Prof. Aurel STRATAN
- PhD student Anna PRODAN

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PROVISIONS FOR GREATER REUSE OF STEEL STRUCTURES - PROGRESS

Goal of the project

The PROGRESS project will provide methodologies, tools and recommendations on reusing steel-based components from existing and planned buildings. The project particularly targets the design for deconstruction and reuse of envelopes, load-bearing frames, trusses and secondary elements of single-storey buildings framed in steel. This building type has broad applicability as industrial, commercial, sports, exhibition, warehouse facilities, and shows most potential in suitability for reuse and viability for circular economy business models. The whole life benefits of reusable single-storey steel buildings will be quantified from environmental and economic viewpoints. The outcomes will be extensively disseminated in particular among manufacturers, designers, contractors and researchers.



Short description of the project

The main objective of the proposal is to develop products, systems, methods and protocols that facilitate reuse of various components of steel-framed single-storey buildings. The proposed project addresses both deconstruction and reuse of existing buildings and how new buildings can be designed, constructed and documented to facilitate future reuse. Its scope includes: (a) primary structures (frames), (b) secondary structures, (c) envelope components and hybrid multi-material systems.

Project implemented by

VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland Ltd., (VTT, Finland)

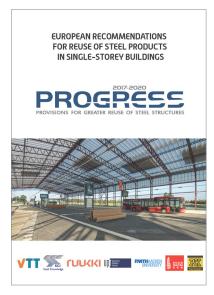
Implementation period

01.06.2017-30.05.2020

Main activities

 review of the experiences from the successful reuse and deconstruction projects collected by the project partners and from the practitioners in the building industry;

- propose methods for the assessment of suitability of materials and elements for the reuse, including recommendations for their modification/adaptation to fit in the new design;
- propose technical recommendations for the increase of reusability of the components to be provided on component and building design levels.
- propose novel hybrid solutions for envelopes of single-storey buildings, either new buildings or renovation projects, that improves the thermal performance of the entire building, service life of envelopes and reusability of solutions themselves;
- propose a methodology to quantify and declare the environmental benefits of reused elements, resulting in recommendations on the circularity and LCA methodology;
- provide benchmark for demolition, classification and testing/ verification protocols developed on a real deconstructed building including the laboratory tests to identify mechanical and chemical properties of the materials;
- design case studies to cover the most common reuse situations.



Results

The outcomes of the project will include recommendations to:

- Reduce the technical barriers to reuse through establishing the quality verification procedures for the structural elements and envelopes of deconstructed low-rise buildings to be reused;
- Simplify the implementation of reusable components through recommendations for design for deconstruction and reuse, and for design using reclaimed elements as well as for safe and efficient deconstruction activities;
- Support the product manufacturers', facility owners' and designers' decision making by recommended methodology to calculate the environmental impact and cost of steel components reusing;
- Develop an online reused steel trading portal to co-ordinate the supply and demand for reused steel-based components;
- Develop novel types of hybrid solutions for envelopes in order to improve the thermal performance of a building, extend the service life of an envelope and maximize the reuse potential of components.

Financed through/by

Research Fund for Coal and Steel, EU, grant agreement No 747847

Research Centre

Research Center for Mechanics of Materials and Structural Safety (CEMSIG), Politehnica University of Timişoara

Applicability and transferability of the results

The majority of existing steel low-rise buildings can be deconstructed into elements such as cold-formed or hot-rolled sections, sheets, panels, frames or truss girders. These components have very high reuse potential, but require verification of the material quality, dimensions and tolerances in order to be included in new building projects. The future reuse of modern buildings, however, may be different, because those structures are increasingly designed as systems and their design information can be easily maintained for instance as a building information model (BIM).

Research team

- VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland Ltd., (VTT, Finland)
- Steel Construction Institute (SCI, UK)
- Ruukki Construction Oy (Ruukki, Finland)
- RWTH Aachen University (RWTH, Germany)
- Universitatea Politehnica Timișoara (UPT, Romania)
- European Convention for Constructional Steelwork (ECCS, Belgium)
- Paul Kamrath Ingenieurrückbau GmbH (PKIR, Germany)

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EASTERN EUROPEAN TWINNING ON STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY AND RELIABILITY OF ADVANCED MATERIALS OBTAINED THROUGH ADDITIVE MANUFACTURING (SIRAMM)

Goal of the project

The overall goal of the SIRAMM project is to significantly strengthen research in the Additive Manufacturing (AM) field at the University Politehnica Timisoara. To achieve this aim, SIRAMM will build upon the existing science and innovation base of UPT, creating a network with two internationally-leading counterparts at EU level: Norwegian University of Science and Technology (Norway) and the University of Parma (Italy).

Project objectives

- In the long term, the project aims at laying the foundations for creating a pole of excellence on AM in Eastern Europe. For this reason, other two partners from low R&I performing countries, the University of Belgrade (Serbia) and the Institute of Physics of Materials, Academy of Sciences (Czech Republic) will also take part in this Twinning project.
- To reach its goals, this 3-year project will be focused on the implementation of knowledge transfer activities such as workshops and staff exchange, training events (i.e. summer schools, seminars) for early stage researchers, and dissemination and communication actions (i.e. web site, videos, open access publications, public engagement activities) for different audiences. To keep maintaining the knowledge transfer well beyond the duration.

Implementation period

01.10.2019 – 30.09.2022 (project was suspended due to COVID between 15.04.2020 – 14.10.2020)

Results

- Increased research excellence of the coordinating institution and the other widening partners,
- Enhanced reputation, attractiveness and networking channels of the partners,
- Training and professional development of a new generation of scholars,
- Growth of industrial sector,
- Increasing awareness in the general public.

Publications

Journal Papers:

- Marsavina, L., Linul, E. (2020). Fracture toughness of rigid polymeric foams: A review. Fat. & Fract. of Eng. Mat. & Struct., 43, 2483–2514.
- Brighenti, R., Li, Y., Vernerey, F.J. (2020). Smart polymers for advanced applications: a mechanical perspective review. Frontiers in Materials, 7(196), 1–18.
- Linul, E., Marsavina, L., Stoia, D. I. (2020). Mode I and II fracture toughness investigation of Laser-Sintered Polyamide. Theoretical and Applied Fracture Mechanics, 106, 102497.
- Stoia, D. I., Marsavina, L., Linul, E. (2020). Mode I Fracture Toughness of Polyamide and Alumide Samples obtained by Selective Laser Sintering Additive Process. Polymers, 12(3), 640.

Conference Papers:

- Valean, C., Marsavina, L., Mihai, M., Luinul, E., Razavi, J., Berto, F. (2020). Effect of manufacturing parameters on tensile properties of FDM printed specimens. Structural Integrity Procedia, 26, 313–320.
- Galatanu, S-V., Scano, M., Pietras, D., Pirvulescu, L-D., Porcu, M.C., Marsavina, L., Sadowski, T. (2020). Bending behavior of AM50 Magnesium alloy under static and dynamic loading. Structural Integrity Procedia, 26, 269–276.
- Milovanović A., Sedmak A., Grbović A., Milosević M., Golubović Z. (2020) Influence of second-phase particles on fracture behaviour of pla and advanced pla-x material. In: 4th International Conference on Structural Integrity and Durability, September 15 – 18, 2020, Dubrovnik, Croatia.

- Milovanović A., Sedmak A., Grbović A., Golubović Z., Mladenović G., Čolić K., Milosević M. (2020) Comparative analysis of printing parameters effect on mechanical properties of natural PLA and advanced PLA-X material. 1st Virtual European Conference on Fracture (VECF1), Procedia Structural Integrity, 28, 1963–1968.
- Valean C. , Marsavina L., Marghitas M., Linul E., Berto F., Razavi J., Brighenti R. (2020) The effect of crack insertion in FDM printed PLA materials on Mode I and Mode II fracture toughness. 1st Virtual European Conference on Fracture (VECF1), Procedia Structural Integrity, 28,1134–1139.

Financed through/by

European Commission, H2020-WIDESPREAD-2018-03 (action: CSA) under the grant agreement No. 857124







Research centre

"St. Nadasan" Research Laboratory for Strength, Integrity and Durability of materials, structures and conductors.

Research team

- 1. Coordinator: University Politehnica Timisoara (UPT), Romania
- 2. Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, University of Belgrade (UBG), Serbia
- 3. Institute of Physics of Materials, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic (IPM), Czech Republic
- 4. University of Parma (UniPR), Italy
- 5. Norwegian Univ. of Science and Technology (NTNU), Norway











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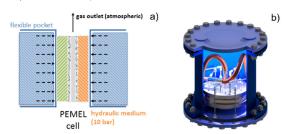
NOVEL MODULAR STACK DESIGN FOR HIGH <u>PRESSURE PEM</u> WATER ELEC<u>T</u>ROLY<u>Z</u>ER TECHNOLOGY WITH WIDE OPERATION RANGE AND REDUCED COST (PRETZEL)

Goal of the project

Green hydrogen produced by electrolysis might become a key energy carrier for the implementation of renewable energy as a cross-sectional connection between the energy sector, industry and mobility. Proton exchange membrane electrolyzer (PEMEL) is the preferred technology for this purpose, still costs, efficiency, lifetime and operability need to be optimized. The aim of PRETZEL project is to develop a new PEMEL that provides significant improvements in efficiency and operability to satisfy emerging market requirements.

Short description of the project

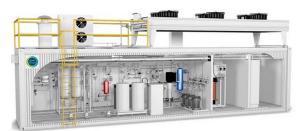
The central objective of PRETZEL is to develop a new PEMEL for hydrogen production, upscaling a patented design approach based on hydraulic cell compression.



Principle of homogeneous hydraulic cell compression (a) and stack design for hydraulic compression (b).

The system will operate with a maximum energy consumption of 25 kWh, with a production capacity of 4.5 m 3 H $_2$ / h at rated power, at a pressure of 100 bar and water temperature of 90°C.

All subsystems needed to properly operate a PEMEL stack will be integrated in a housing, equipped with a hydrogen detection and ventilation system.



Schematic drawing of a PEMEL system as container solution by iGas energy.

Project implemented by:

Project Coordinator:

• German Aerospace Center, Stuttgart, Germany (DLR)

EU Partners:

- Westphalian University of Applied Sciences, Germany (WHS)
- Association for Research and Development of Industrial Methods and Processes, France (ARMINES)
- Politehnica University Timişoara, Romania (UPT)
- Adamant Composites Ltd., Greece
- GKN Sinter Metals Engineering GmbH, Germany (GKN)
- Centre for Research and Technology Hellas, Greece (CERTH)
- Soluciones Catalíticas IBERCAT, Spain
- iGas energy GmbH, Germany



"PRETZEL"-like shape passing over the geographical location of all PRETZEL partners representing the long-term collaboration in know-how, supply chain, business partnership and R&D.

Implementation period

01.01.2018 - 31.12.2020

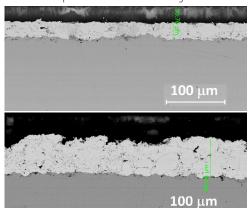
Main activities

UPT's main activities in PRETZEL are the investigation of newly developed bipolar plates (BPP), as cost-efficient alternative for the classical titanium BPP, consisting of highly corrosion resistant Nb-coatings deposited by vacuum plasma spraying (VPS) on copper pole plates in regard of:

- Corrosion resistance evaluation in simulated PEMEL environment, at 90°C and O₂ saturated solution, including accelerated stress tests at constant potential of 2 V applied for 6 hours
- Interfacial contact resistance (ICR) versus compaction force measurement
- Structure and morphology of BPP before and after accelerated stress tests

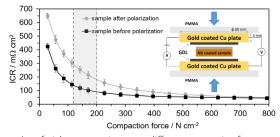
Results

- A 30 μ m thick Nb coating fully protects the copper substrate against corrosion in simulated PEMEL environment, showing excellent corrosion resistance properties, with i_{corr} lower than 0.1 μ A cm⁻².
- Cross-section images show no signs of corrosion, nor the formation of pinholes beneath the coating.



Cross section FE-SEM images of Nb-coatings after accelerated stress test.

• ICR decreases with compaction force up to 45 m Ω cm 2 . In the range of 120 to 200 N cm $^{-2}$, which is the common pressure applied for assembling commercial PEM electrolyzer stacks, ICR decreases from 130 to 90 m Ω cm 2 .



Interfacial contact resistance at different compaction forces.

Applicability and transferability of the results:

- **System:** Development and validation of a 25 kW PEM electrolyzer system with hydrogen output pressure of 100 bars or higher.
- **Cell components:** Reduction of Ir catalyst loading compared to the state-of-the-art, by the use of new aerogel supports.
- **Protocols:** development of complete protocols for BPP testing, including stress test, corrosion resistance and ICR.

Financed through/by

Fuel Cell and Hydrogen 2 Joint Undertaking under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 779478.

Research Centre

Research Institute for Renewable Energy (ICER-TM), UPT

Research team

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- Assoc. Prof. Narcis DUTEANU, PhD
- Assist. Prof. Mircea Laurentiu DAN, PhD
- Prof. Adina NEGREA, PhD
- M.Sc.Eng. Delia DUCA,
- Eng. Anuta SERAC

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COMBINATORIAL DESIGN OF NOVEL BIPOLAR PLATE COATINGS FOR PROTON EXCHANGE MEMBRANE ELECTROLYZERS (CODE-PEM)

Goal of the project



The CoDe-PEM project aims to contribute towards the development of affordable PEM electrolysis systems with the development of lower cost coating materials for bipolar plates and sinters. In order to lower the costs, a reduction in use of expensive materials and the introduction of new low(er) cost materials are key elements. In addition, new materials should allow for fast and low-cost manufacturing processes, such as stamping of BPP flow structures.

Short description of the project

In order to achieve its goals, the CoDe-PEM Project will:

- Accelerate innovation research of novel coating compositions by the use of combinatorial exploration.
- Improve efficiency and reduce time of testing and characterisation of BPPs by the use of advanced electrolyser test cell
- Identify factors affecting the durability of BBP materials based on in situ experiments and post mortem failure analysis.
- Raise public awareness concerning the importance and advantages of using hydrogen based clean energy and the potential for growth in a healthy and sustainable economy.

Project implemented by:

Politehnica University Timisoara, Romania SINTEF Industry, Norway

Implementation period

2019-2023

Main activities

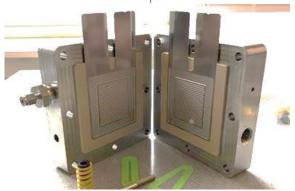
- Coating development via combinatorial exploration
- Ex-situ characterization of coatings and coated substrates
- Bipolar plates design, testing and evaluation
- Dissemination and public awareness activities

Results

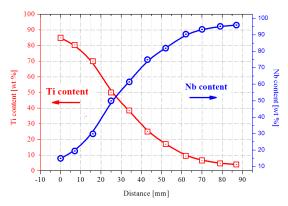
System for deposition of compositional spread libraries installed in Politehnica University Timisoara







Compositional map of a binary library manufactured in Politehnica University Timisoara



Partner's meeting in SINTEF



Applicability and transferability of the results:

. The technical solutions developed in the project have the potential to reduce the costs for hydrogen generated via proton exchange membrane electrolysis.

Financed through/by





Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding

EEA Grants 2014-2021

administered by UEFISCDI.

More information about EEA Grants can be found here: www.eeagrants.org/ and www.eeagrants.ro

Research Centre

Politehnica University Timisoara:

- Combinatorial exploration group
- Fuel cell group

SINTEF Industry:

- New energy solutions group
- Corrosion and tribology group

Research team

Politehnica University Timisoara:

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- Conf. Aurel ERCUTA
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- Ph.D. student Delia DUCA
- Ph D. student Mihaela LABOSEL
- Ph D. student Vlad BOLOCAN
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SINTEF Industry:

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PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEMS FOR IMPROVING THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN SOME PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Goal of the project

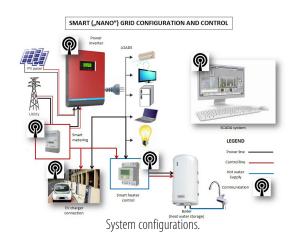
The goal of the project is the design and implementation of PV systems in public buildings in Ghiroda town, including smart power monitoring (SCADA) for energy conversion evaluating and control, using "smart grid" technologies. The systems work without injection of energy in the power grid. The additional energy will be stored in domestic hot water or will be used to charge electric vehicles.

Short description of the project

The project aims is to increase the capacity to deliver renewable energy, by integration of the PV systems, in order to reduce the power consumption from fossil fuels.

Project implemented by:

The project Promoter is Ghiroda City Hall, having as partners: POLITEHNICA University of Timisoara, Romania, and Western Norway Research Institute.



Implementation period

2019-2023

Main activities

- Power consumption measurements in each location for identifying the necessary electrical energy;
- Dimensioning the installed power (peak power) of each PV system, according to the energy demands;
- 3. Dimensioning the storage (the installations for heat water production) for each location;
- 4.Integrating (design) "smart grid" technologies in order to maximize the efficiency, avoid the injection of electrical energy in the grid;
- 5. Integrating (design) smart power monitoring (SCADA) systems for evaluating and control the energy conversion, with a central unit and distributed automation;
- 6.Acquisition and installation of the PV system, including the automation and supervising elements;
- 7. Testing and monitoring the installations in order to obtain maximum efficiency and reliability;
- 8. Disseminating the results in workshops, with potential other beneficiaries, and in international conferences with compatible subjects.

Results

- 8 PV systems with an installed PV capacity of 49 kWp, design and implementation;
- 60 MWh/year estimated PV electrical energy production;
- Annual CO2 emission reduction estimated at 19.8 tons per year;
- Smart power monitoring and control of entire system using "smart grid" technologies;
- Life cycle assessment for all proposed solar energy harvesting installations.

Applicability and transferability of the results:

The project has an applicative purpose, through the integration of PV electrical energy production systems in some public buildings, in an "intelligent way", using "smart grid" technologies.

The project can be an example of the transformation of a commune into a green energy pole as a compulsory and necessary measure for a consolidated economic development, minimizing the impact on the environment and implicitly increasing the quality of life of the inhabitants.

Financed through/by

EEA and Norway Grants

Research Centre

"Intelligent Control of Energy Conversion and Storage", part of the "Research Institute for Renewable Energies".

Research team

- Prof. Nicolae MUNTEAN UPT team leader;
- Assoc. Prof. Octavian CORNEA;
- Assoc. Prof. Ciprian ŞORANDARU;
- Assist. Prof. Dan HULEA
- Assist. Prof. Dănuţ VITAN

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DANUBE URBAN BRAND + BUILDING REGIONAL AND LOCAL RESILIENCE THROUGH THE VALORIZATION OF DANUBE'S CULTURAL HERITAGE (DANURB+)

Goal of the project

To stop socio-economic shrinkage DANURB+ creates a dense network of stakeholders and projects along the Danube implementing EUSDR actions in the peripheral and border regions along the river. The main objective is the capacity building for local stakeholders to enable them to cooperate locally and interregionally for the valorization of their Danube related heritage with local actions under a unified brand strong enough to increase local prosperity and international tourist attractiveness.

Short description of the project

DANUrB+ aims to reactivate underused cultural heritage and resources in shrinking settlements along the Danube.

Project implemented by:

The partnership consists of 19 partners and 23 associated strategic partners from 6 countries: Hungary, Slovakia, Croatia, Bulgaria, Romania, and Serbia.



Implementation period

01-07-2020 - 31-12-2022

Main activities

As shrinking urban situations often entail the decay of the built environment, creating an economical vicious circle, the ambition of the project is to initiate 6 local physical interventions (building, public space) selected according to their potential positive effect on the whole urban development and in close collaboration with the local communities. The objective is to provide planning, technical measurement, and documentation, so that those pilot sites are ready for funding application. The project aims at the creation of a Quality Label, an enlarged Danube Cultural Promenade, an Atlas, audio guided tours, a documentary movie, and guidelines for educational programs to raise awareness of the local values.

Results

A significant aspect is the creation of a database reflected in an Atlas of the Danube regions, focusing on settlements, culture and local values and conducting an analysis of local heritage with the potential to facilitate the development of the region. Also, together with partners, UPT will be the developer of a regional development strategy, complemented by local plans and technical documentation for a local objective, to access external financing.

Applicability and transferability of the results:

As DANUrB+ aims to reactivate underused cultural heritage to increase local prosperity and international tourist attractiveness in shrinking settlements its stakeholder network building framework and methodology are easily transferable to other cities in a similar situation.

Financed through/by

Co-funded by the European Union through the Joint Secretariat of the Danube Transnational Programme

Research team

- Conf. Dr. Arh. Ana-Maria BRANEA
- Conf. Dr. Arh. Marius GAMAN
- Sl. Dr. Arh. Gabriela DOMOKOS-PASCU
- Asist. Dr. Arh. Stefana BADESCU
- Asist. Drd. Arh. Mihai DANCIU
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ENGAGED AND ENTREPRENEURIAL EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY AS DRIVER FOR EUROPEAN SMART AND SUSTAINABLE REGIONS (E3UDRES2)

Goal of the project

E³UDRES² is a European Universities Consortium focusing on

- Co-Innovate Smart and Sustainable European Regions
- Co-Ideate a Future University for future-skilled learners
- Co-Create a European Multi-University Campus

E³UDRES² co-creates outstanding ideas and concepts for future universities for future-skilled learners, integrates challenge- based education, mission-oriented research, human-centred innovation as well as open and engaged knowledge exchange as interrelated core areas and establishes an exemplary multi-university campus across Europe.



Engaged and Entrepreneurial European University as Driver for European Smart and Sustainable Regions

Short description of the project

The project is one of the 41 consortiums selected for funding as part of the European Commission Initiative towards creating a number of European Universities.

Project implemented by:

- University of Applied Sciences St. Polten, Austria
- Politehnica University of Timisoara, Romania
- Polytechnic Institute of Setubal, Portugal
- Szent Istvan University Godollo Hungary
- University College Limburg, Belgium
- Vidzemes University, Latvia



Implementation period

2020 - 2023

Main activities

The E³UDRES² learning trajectory creates entrepreneurial and engaged professionals committed to designing and implementing the future roads of their regions. To be able to achieve this, E³UDRES² organises six I-Living Labs for educators and 30 I-Living Labs for learners of all ages and levels of prior knowledge. These I-Living Labs are divided into three categories addressing either the challenges linked to wellbeing & ageing, circular economy, or the role of the human being in an Al society.

E³UDRES²sees research and innovation as the most efficient educational tools to ensure that learners will be equipped with the future-proof hard, soft and innovation skills to fully participate and take responsibility in the "novel worlds" that our regions and Europe will become during the next decades: novel technologies, novel stakeholders, novel challenges, and novel societies will definitely emerge.

WP1: Management

WP2: Future Universities

WP3: Learners

WP4: Researchers

WP5: Innovators and Entrepreneurs

WP6: Sustainability and Dissemination

Results

- Scenarios for a future university, as vision for 2030
- E³UDRES² 2030 Blueprint (Vision for the University of the Future)
- I-Living Labs: Educators for the future (development of 36 transnational I-Living Labs)
- Creation of 3 Research & Development Innovative (R&Di) networks: circular economy, well being & active ageing, human contributions to AI
- Knowledge Exchange Strategy on Innovation for Smart and Sustainable Regions
- Empower Regional Innovation Ecosystems
- Science Engagement
- Open Access
- Annual E3UDRES2 conferences and workshops
- Long-term strategy for sustainability of the alliance

Applicability and transferability of the results:

E³UDRES² promotes the development of small and medium-sized cities and their rural environments into smart and sustainable regions and shapes a prosperous future with the best possible quality of life for a self-determined people in a progressive European society. The project aims to develop further co-operation applications under Horizon Europe, Erasmus+ KA2, Marie Curie doctoral consortiums and other international funded calls.

Financed through/by

European Commission, EPP-EUR-UNIV-2020

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- Daniel Dan, PhD
- Diana Andone, PhD
- Alexandru Iovanovici, PhD
- Razvan Bogdan, PhD
- Attila Simo, PhD
- Valentin Ciupe, PhD
- Nicolae Muntean, PhD
- Sergiu Galatanu, PhD
- Mihaela Crisan-Vida, PhD
- Alin Totorean, PhD
- Calin Adrian Popa, PhD
- Claudiu Albulescu, PhD
- Flaviu Frigura, PhD
- Victoria Cociota
- Alexandru Iliescu, student
- Mihai Mutiu, external advisor
- Florin Ciocan, external advisor

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MITIGATION OF THE RISK OF PROGRESSIVE COLLAPSE IN STEEL AND COMPOSITE BUILDING FRAMES UNDER EXCEPTIONAL EVENTS (FAILNOMORE)

Goal of the project

Recent events such as natural catastrophes or terrorism attacks have highlighted the necessity to ensure the structural integrity of buildings under exceptional events so as to mitigate the risk of progressive collapse; the main objective being to save lives (occupants and members of emergency services) and to reduce collateral effects.

The overall objective of the project is the preparation of scientific background material, derivation of design guidelines, preparation of study cases and production of dissemination materials (design manual, PowerPoint presentations). The manual can be considered as a reference document for the practical design of structures for which the structural integrity has to be ensured under exceptional events.

Project implemented by

The project is implemented by a partnership of 14 European Universities and Industrial partners:

- Universite de Liege (coordinator);
- Universidade De Coimbra;
- Imperial College of Science Technology and Medicine;
- Universitaet Stuttgart;
- Universita Degli Studi Di Trento;
- Politehnica University Timisoara;
- Ceske Vysoke Uceni Technicke V Praze;
- Politechnika Rzeszowska Im Ignacego Lukasiewicza Prz;
- Technische Universiteit Delft;
- Universitat Politecnica De Catalunya;
- Institut National Des Sciences Appliquees De Rennes;
- Convention Europeenne De La Construction Metallique Asbl;
- Feldmann + Weynand Gmbh;
- Arcelormittal Belval & Differdange Sa.



Implementation period

2020 - 2022

Short description of the project

The proposed project, which involves European centers of expertise in the area of robustness, brings together extensive knowledge acquired on various related aspects, i.e. risk analysis, loading scenarios, mechanical responses of structures, and components subject to extreme loading conditions such as impact, earthquake and explosions.

Main activities

WP1: Development of a consistent design approach for robustness

• Collection of all relevant information documents available worldwide on all the relevant "robustness" and accidental loading events issues (Fig. 1, Fig. 2);

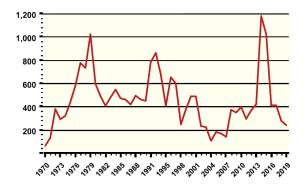


Fig. 1 Occurrence of explosions associated with terrorist attacks between 1970 and 2019 in Europe (GTD, 2019)



Fig. 2 Accidental explosion produced by improper storage of large quantities of ammonium nitrate, Beirut, August 2020

• Integration of the knowledge based on different research works into a full-consistent design approach for robustness.

WP2: Derivation of design guidelines, application to study cases and preparation of the dissemination material (English version)

- Drafting of a fully-consistent set of up-to-date and practice-orientated design recommendations;
- The applicability will be demonstrated through the preparation of four worked examples.

WP3: Translation and editing of the dissemination material

• Translation of deliverables in 9 other European languages.

WP4: Dissemination activities

- Organization of training workshop
- Organization of post-project dissemination

Results

Comprehensive overview of the project and preparation of the technical background material

- Collection of worldwide reports of ongoing and recently-finalized research projects related to structural robustness;
- Codes and recommendations related to risk analysis, definition of scenarios, design guidelines, local response of structural elements under impact and blast, global response of buildings following a local damage, possibly including dynamic effects.

Development of a consistent design approach for robustness of steel and composite buildings

A fully consistent and scientifically founded design approach including the general philosophy and the design models was developed.

A complete scientific background document was drafted. The document will be used as a reference for the preparation of the design guidelines.





Applicability and transferability of the results

The derivation of a full consistent set of practice orientated design guidelines and relevant worked examples are useful tools for construction professionals including designers, fabricators and control officers, within a clear and easy-to-apply format.

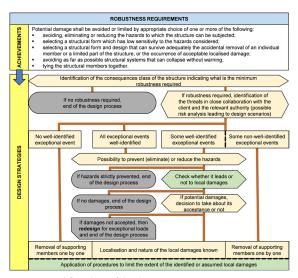


Fig. 3 General flowchart of the design process

Financed through/by

Research Fund for Coal and Steel: Grant agreement number RFCS 899371 / 2020, European Union.

Research Centre

The Research Center for Mechanics of Materials and Structural Safety - CEMSIG

Research team

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- Prof.dr.ing. Florea DINU
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CONTRIBUTIONS TO CODIMENSION K BIFURCATIONS IN DYNAMICAL SYSTEMS THEORY

Goal of the project

The overall project objectives are to produce new knowledge in the area of codim k bifurcations for continuous and discrete (smooth and non-smooth) dynamical systems and provide training in this area of research to early stage researchers.

Short description of the project

The project objectives are planned to be achieved during secondments.

Project implemented by

- 1. Politehnica University of Timisoara (Coordinator)
- 2. Autonoma University of Barcelona
- 3. Obuda University
- 4. West University of Timisoara
- 5. University of Craiova
- 6. Acmit Gmbh, Austria
- 7. University North Caroline, USA
- 8. Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China
- 9. University of Sao Paulo, Brazil
- 10. Queen's University, Canada
- 11. University of Bio-Bio, Chile

Implementation period

1 April 2018 - 31 March 2022

Main activities

- 1. Study degenerate Bautin bifurcations;
- 2. Study degenerate Hopf-Hopf bifurcations;
- 3. Study other codimension k bifurcations in continuous (smooth) systems;
- 4. Study other codimension k bifurcations in discrete (smooth) systems;
- 5. Study codim k bifurcations in non-smooth systems;
- 6. Study bifurcations in non-smooth systems with impacts.

Results

Published articles:

- G. Tigan et al., Bifurcation diagrams in a class of Kolmogorov systems, Nonlinear Analysis: Real World Applications 56, 103154, 1-14, 2020.
- 2. J. Ginoux, J. Llibre, C. Valls, Dynamics and Darboux integrability of the D_2 polynomial vector fields of degree 2 in R^3, Mathematical Physics, Analysis and Geometry 24, 2021.

Financed through/by

Horizon2020-2017-RISE-777911, "Dynamics"

Research team

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PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY PRIVATE FUNDS





PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY PRIVATE FUNDS IMPLEMENTED BY UPT 2020

Field	Total number of projects	Number of projects presented	
Environment	28	-	
Transport, telecomunications and other infrastructures	35	3	
Education	1	-	
Energy	3	2	
Industrial production and technology	37	9	
Engineering and technological sciences	3	-	
Total	107	14	



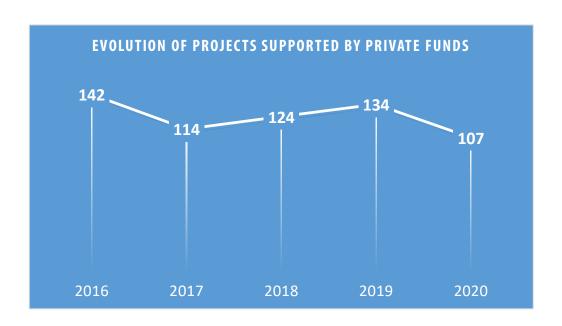


EVOLUTION OF PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY PRIVATE FUNDS CONTRACTED BY UPT 2016 - 2020

A series of inter-institutional collaborations have crucially influenced UPT's ranking classification exercise beteen 2016 and 2020.

Two main categories of institutional collaborations are to be noted: inter-university collaborations and collaborations with enterprises. Each of them has clearly established, mutually-shared objectives: mutual support, know-how transfer, and cooperation objectives for a common output.

UPT has always maintained a close relationship with the community, with the external environment, this relationship being its own reason to exist. Beyond the actual research and formal education, the research accomplished through technological transfer has been a constant concern for the University departments, faculties and management structures, which is reflected in the number of contracts with private companies.



This chapter presents a selection of the research contracts with third parties.





CONSULTING FOR THE USAGE OF MACHINE LEARNING FOR MACHINE VISION APPLICATIONS

Goal of the project

Machine learning consists of scientific study of algorithms and statistical models that computer systems use to effectively perform a specific task Machine learning algorithms are used in a wide variety of applications (as computer vision is) where it is infeasible to develop an algorithm of specific instructions. Data mining is a field within machine learning, and focuses on exploratory data analysis through unsupervised learning. In its application across business problems, machine learning is also referred to as predictive analytics.

EVT has developed machine vision products, which not only allow precise and error-free image processing, but also products, which are one step ahead of the market. The machine vision software EyeVision by EVT is a product, which due to easy-handling is able to adopt to various applications. The research trends for it follow to enhance easy programming, easy-handling, versatility, extensibility and to get fast solutions

Short description of the project

EyeVision is a complete image processing package for every possible field of application. EyeVision is connecting a powerful, hardware platform independent software for Windows and Linux with a wide range of hardware for image capture and digital I/O.

All industrial inspection tasks are done fast and effective by the all-in-one image processing software EyeVision.

Implementation period

01.04.2018 - 01.04.2020

Main activities

- Image Processing largely involves several processes to gain information from source data, such as for example image recognition and pattern matching. With the usual methods for image processing one can for example count objects, measure, inspect or read coded information. Image processing nowadays is used in nearly every science and engineering disciplines. One domain for image processing is the quality control at production processes such as automotive engineering, electrical and semiconductor industries, food industry and pharmaceutical industry.
- We focused on research and development of the hardware platform independent software for Windows and Linux - technical We offerd consultancy in the field of all-in-one image processing software
- Consulting services for using applications at Machine Learning for Machine Vision.

Results

- Machine Vision Software for VisionSensors, SmartCameras and PC Systems - EyeVison the one software for all Hardware Platforms.
- For programmers a Plugln Interface was made, which supports easy to integrate software modules.
- The software supports all major interfaces for cameras e.g. USB, FireWire, GigE, CL, CoaXPress and analog.

Applicability and transferability of the results

- A build in WebServer for easy remote control as well as interfaces to SAP Oracle and SQL.
- EyeVision Software is available.

Financed through/by

EVT Eye Vision Technology GmbH, Karlsruhe Germany

Research team

- Prof. Ivan BOGDANOV, PhD

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TECHNICAL-SCIENTIFIC ANALYSIS REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY OF FUEL AND NOXES REDUCTION OF DIESEL ENGINES THAT EQUIPP S.C. SANGO WATER CO S.A. PERSONS TRANSPORT VEHICLES

Goal of the project

The aim of the project is to identify the technical solutions that can be implemented on a target group of vehicles in order to reduce the fuel consumption as well as the emissions exhausted during their operating regimes.

Short description of the project

Within the project, the fuel consumption of a group of vehicles was analyzed based on pollution standards and real operating conditions.

Implementation period

01.10.2019-24.05.2020

Project implemented by

The project will be implemented by S.C. Sango Water Co S.A.

Main activities

- Identification of real test conditions.
- Determining the fuel consumption for the buses in the target group.
- Measurement and verification of results.

Results

- The factors that lead to a reduction in fuel consumption at a target group of buses were identified
- Technical solutions for optimizing fuel consumption have been proposed.

Applicability and transferability of the results

The obtained results led to the identification of technical solutions to reduce fuel consumption, and implicitly, the pollution degree, so that the emission values to fall within the limits imposed by pollution standards.

Financed through/by

S.C. SANGO WATER Co S.A.

Research Centre

Research Centre for Thermal Machines and Equipments, Transportation and Environmental Pollution Control,

Research team

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- Arina Negoitescu,
- Adriana Tokar,
- Dan Negoitescu,
- Ion Silviu Borozan,
- Dan Tokar

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STUDY FOR SMALL HYDROPOWER PLANTS ON BÂRZAVA RIVER, AS LOCALLY ADAPTED SOLUTION FOR INVESTMENT IN RENEWABLE ENERGY AND PUBLIC UTILITIES INFRASTRUCTURE

Goal of the project

The study is mainlyconcerned by the implementation of extension of the water supply and the domestic sewerage network for the area of tourist resorts of local interest Secu, Reşiţa municipality, construction of non-motorized pedestrian and bicycle track to the Secu resort area and providing a protective tube for the electrical cables, lighting, internet, telephony, etc., for the Secu station area.

Short description of the project

Following analysis, the project identifies two accomplishment scenarios from whichthe technical-economical optimum solution for the extension of the water supply and the domestic sewerage network and the construction of non-motorized track for the Secu tourist resort area.

Implementation period

2019-2020 (19 months)

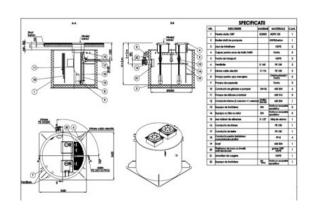
Financed through/by

Resita Municipality

Main activities



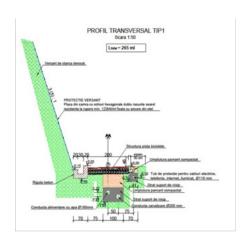
The extension of the drinking water supply network of the objective will be made of PE-HD, PE100, PN16, with De 180 mm, on a length of approximately L=7,469 m.2 tanks with the volume of V=200 m3 each will be provided, a pumping station for the tank R1 and a pumping station for the tank R2.

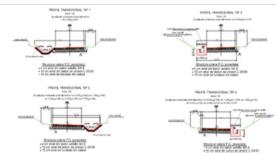


The extension of the sewerage network of the objective implies:

- wastewater discharge pipe from PE-HD, PE100, PN10, with De 200 x 11.9 mm in length of 3,903 m from the wastewater pumping station at the highest point on the route;
- wastewater discharge pipe from PE-HD, PE100, PN16, with 180 x 16.4 mm in length of 4,170 m from the highest point on the route to the existing manhole on Rozelor Street.

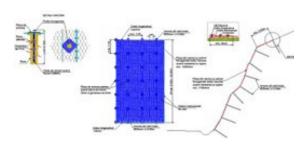
On the location of the track bikes, according to the situation plan and the transversal profile, a corrugated protection tube made of PE-HD with De 110 mm is positioned for the protection of the existing or future cables of telephony, electrical, internet, lighting, etc. The total length of the protection tube is 7,394 m.





The projected route of the runway runs over a length of 7,394 m, on the administrative territory of Reşiţa municipality, Caraş-Severin county.

It serves the inhabitants of the area as well as the tourists who generate the bicycle traffic in the area.



On the projected water-canal route, respectively the bicycle track, in the areas where the existing road is close to the slope, given the width of the bicycle track, respectively of the imposed safety zones, including gutters, demolition works are required in the slope, the total length (cumulated by sectors) being about 1,625 m.

Results

Ensuring the traffic of tourists by bicycle and the degree of comfort in the tourist resort Secu through the water and sewerage system.

Applicability and transferability of the results

Providing a water supply and sewerage system for the Secu tourist resort and the bicycle track for tourists.

Research team

- Albert Titus CONSTANTIN,
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- Marin MARIN,
- Ioan ŞUMĂLAN,
- Ciprian COSTESCU,
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- Serban —Vlad NICOARA,
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- Mircea VIŞESCU, Marius ADAM,
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FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR DANUBE SHORE DEVELOPMENT ON MOLDOVA NOUĂ, CARAȘ-SEVERIN COUNTY

Goal of the project

The situation considered by the present feasibility study regards the territory under the responsibility of Moldova Veche Border Police on the Danube left shore in Caraş-Severin County, institution endowed with several speed boats and floating barges as required for fulfilling its local specific missions. Still, one of the major logistical problems resides in the lack of proper mooring, locating and stationing space for the water equipment, operations that at this moment are improperly and unsatisfactory performed. Thus, according to the professional request elaborated by the beneficiary through technical specifications, the main general objective of the study was to establish the feasible options for designing a docking quay of about 50 m in length furnished with mooring (pontoon also) and boats landing equipment, with an operating/monitoring office, a fuel mobile station and a power transformation station..

Short description of the project

Following a thorough analysis, the project identifies three accomplishment scenarios from which the technical–economical optimum solution was pointed out.

Mainly, for each considered technical design scenario, there were followed the analysis of vulnerabilities that may affect the investment, the situation of expected utilities and the analysis of consumption, respectively the sustainability of achieving the objective. Afterwards, specific conclusions were drawn on the financial investment (expenditure summary, total items, quantities of machinery and technological equipment, general cost estimation). The optimum and so recommended technical accomplishment scenario was presented in an argumentative way.

Project implemented by:

Timisoara Border Police Territorial Inspectorate

Implementation period

2020-2021 - 18 months

Main activities

Following the analysis of the existing situation, it was found that due to the lack of spaces arranged for floating means in Moldova Nouă area, the border river navy basing is improperly done.

The study of the location particularities with respect to the needs of the beneficiary led to the identification, proposal and presentation of the three technical-economic options for achieving the investment objective.

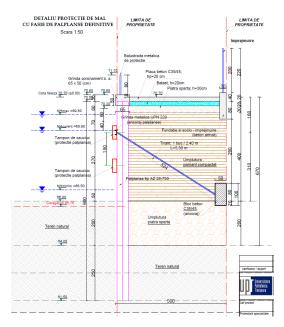


Land use general plan

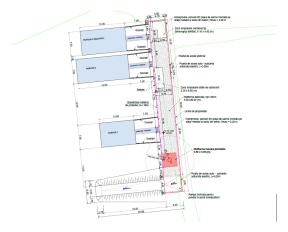
By individually and comparatively analysis of the viable options, it turned out to be optimal, both from a technical point of view and from the impact produced in the area, but also from a financial point of view, the alternative that provides the support of the quay bank through lost metal sheet-piles.



Sheet-piles quay wall — model



At the same time, the proposed arrangement option provides also for the disposition of the docking pontoons and of the constructive elements, as well as of the equipment for landing the boats, so as to ensure the development of the specific exploitation operations performed by the beneficiary.



Nevertheless, the profile of the riverbed in the arranged shore area was bathymetrically analyzed and following a specific river engineering study of the alluvial evolution, special corrective measures were proposed in order to ensure the access of ships under various water level conditions.

Results

Following the analysis of the studied feasible options and aiming to make the most of the technical-economic, financial, sustainability and risks, the optimum practical solution for arranging the Danube shore on the sector of the dedicated plot to meet the needs of the beneficiary was chosen.

Applicability and transferability of the results

The solution presented is sustainable, environmentally friendly and possible to be implemented in the shortest possible time, and that can also be fulfilled at a lower cost.

Financed through/by

Ministry of Internal Affairs — Romanian Border Police, Timişoara Border Police Territorial Inspectorate

Research Centre

Research Center in Hydrotechnics and Environmental Protection

Research team

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FEASIBILITY STUDY - BRANCHING AND WASTEWATER COLLECTION PLANT NAIDĂŞ, CARAŞ - SEVERIN COUNTY, CORRESPONDING TO C.F. NUMBER: 30061, 30062, 30063, 30064, 30065, 30066, 30067, 30068, 30069, 2528

Goal of the project

The investment objective aims at extending the domestic sewerage network of the SPF location with connection to the existing sewerage network of the PTF location on a length of 397 m to connect the objectives from the SPF location, which are currently connected to a drainable basin.

Short description of the project

Domestic sewage network designed for the collection of domestic wastewater and its discharge into a newly designed treatment plant. The existing evacuation of the treatment plant in the Năidăşel emissary is no longer possible due to the drastic evacuation conditions imposed by Apele Române. Discharge of treated water will be made in the river Nera by using a pumping station, a discharge pipe and a mouth of discharge.

Project implemented by:

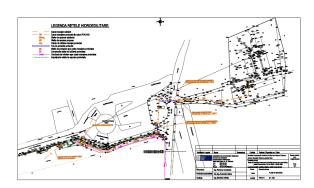
Timișoara Border Police Territorial Inspectorate

Implementation period

2020-2021 - 18 months

Main activities

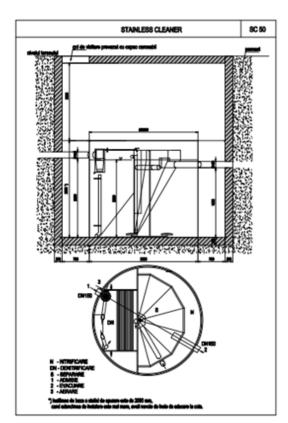
Sewerage network designed from PVC-KG pipes, SN8 with De 250 mm in length of 397 m which will be located on the public domain.



On the proposed sewerage network there are 15 manholes and 2 road underpasses through horizontal drilling through a steel protection tube with Dn 350 mm.

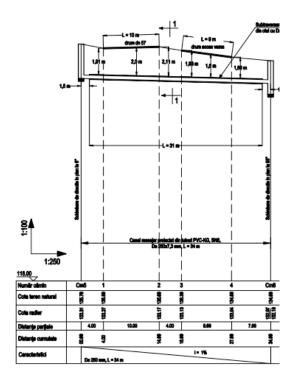
The designed treatment plant is sized for 45 consumers.

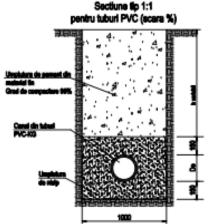
The pumping station is equipped with 2 (1 + 1R) submersible electric pumps having: Q = 3 I/s, H = 40 mCA and P = 4 KW.



The designed discharge pipe is made of PE-HD, PN6, 90x5.1 mm in length L = 2,330 m and will be located on the public domain.

On the designed discharge pipe were provided manhole valves, road underpasses by horizontal drilling through a steel protection tube with Dn 200 mm, reassurance chimney and an overpass with anchoring on an existing bridge with a venting – deaeration device.





Results

Giving up of the drainage basin located within the SPF and the replacement of the existing treatment plant with a new one that meets the new needs and that has an advanced technology for domestic wastewater treatment.

Applicability and transferability of the results

Collection, transport, treatment and disposal of domestic wastewater from the Romania-Serbia border point, Naidas.

Financed through/by

Ministry of Internal Affairs — Romanian Border Police, Timişoara Border Police Territorial Inspectorate

Research Centre

Research Center in Hydrotechnics and Environmental Protection

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ACCURATE GUIDANCE OF A DRONE IN A HIGH CROP FOR STREAMLINE PLANT SPRAYING OPERATIONS

Goal of the project

Design and execution of a drone that navigates autonomously in a high crop field with 2m/s spraying 15 liters of chemical substance.

Short description of the project

The drone has the following autonomous functions:

- to navigate towards the target area
- to navigate along the crop plants and spray the substance
- to return to base dock

In research activity, the team made efforts to reduce dramatically the total costs using low price components, compensating their performance with more complex algorithms.

Implementation period

03.2020-03.2022

Main activities

- Design of autonomous navigation algorithms by image and GPS processing: plant line follower, change the plant line, target point and return point finding.
- Design of integrated manual commands
- Mechanical design of drone
- Mechanical design of spraying accesories (tank, pump, nozzles, tubes, etc)
- Integration, starting up.

Results

A 42 kg and 3.2 m diameter drone that can carry 15 liters of chemicals, that is 18 kg payload.

Applicability and transferability of the results

The interest for drones in the agricultural field is very high, and the low price is a criterion for selling. The beneficiary conducted a study and identified a number of potential customers for the drones.

Financed through/by

CARPATHIAN BERRIES SRL Company

Research Centre

ICER (Renewable Energy Research Institute)

Research team

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- Lect. Ciprian DUGHIR PhD.
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DEFINING AUTOMATIC TESTING STRATEGIES AND THEIR IMPLEMENTATION SOLUTIONS FOR SOFTWARE VALIDATION / TESTING FOR ASTON MARTIN AND RENAULT ALPINE PROJECTS

Goal of the project

Defining strategies for automating the testing process for instrument clusters followed by proposing solutions for their implementation for different functionalities. The proposed solutions are evaluated based on metrics that include coverage and test duration.

Short description of the project

The research project analyzes the impact of identifying a test automation strategy and its implementation on the duration and testing results of various versions of software dedicated to instrument clusters.

Implementation period

01.03.2020 - 31.12.2020

Main activities

- 1. Identify software testing environment requirements for instrument clusters
- 2. Proposing a unitary architecture of test and development sequence development files
- 3. Defining the test automation strategy and integrating with the available testing tools
- 4. Defining and validating performance criteria for automation
- 5. Implementation of automatic testing at the level of functionality and validation based on performance criteria
- 6. Study of the possibility of automatic generation of automated tests based on standard requirements and specific configuration files.

Results

- 1. Analysis report of general and specific aspects for the automation of instrument cluster testing.
- 2. Proposed and validated structure for a generic automated test specification file
- 3. Validation of the automatic test specification implemented for Garage functionality
- 3. Validation of the automatic test specification implemented for the Service functionality
- 4. Application for extracting and analyzing test results
- 5. Performance report with conclusions and directions for expanding the implementation

Applicability and transferability of the results

The automated test specifications implemented and validated for Garage and Service functionalities are used in the full or regression test cycles of the various instrument cluster models.

Validation of the automated testing specifications implemented for two functionalities is the foundation for extending the implementation for all instrument cluster functionalities.

Financed through/by

SC CONTINENTAL AUTOMOTIVE ROMANIA SRL, TIMISOARA.

Research team

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HMECS - HPC MEMORY ERRORS CORRECTION SOLUTION

Goal of the project

The goal of the project is to find the most favorable way to get reliable data from an unreliable non-volatile memory, providing complete robustness for critical applications. The target is represented by all kinds of non-volatile memories, including MRAM memories.

Short description of the project

Development of innovative solutions for error correction codes used for non-volatile memories in high-performance computing systems.

Implementation period

09.12.2020 - 23.12.2021

Main activities

The main activities in our project are:

- Build a Linux functional setup for initial experiments
- Analyze the errors in current and future NVMs
- Analyze and simulate the error correction codes used in NVMs
- Analyze performance of various ECCs
- Develop the algorithm
- System simulation
- Build a demonstrator
- · Issue a patent request

Results

A FPGA Linux Python setup was built based on a Xilinx EK-U1-ZCU104 board.

A simple ECC test project was simulated in Vivado. It is implemented using two free IPs from Xilinx (ECC and VIO IPs).

Two simple project (a counter and a peak detector) were implemented in MATLAB/ Simulink in order to generate VHDL code. The final VHDL code is well written, documented and easy to understand.

We studied the types of non-volatile memories used in automotive and we compared their characteristics.

The Reed-Solomon code was simulated in Simulink and Vivado.



We communicated with a Verilog Flash memory model through a Vivado simulation.

Applicability and transferability of the results

Developed solutions for error correction codes can provide a reliable storage using current Flash memories.

They also can allow the use of less expensive memories and can extend the lifetime of the memory-based products.

Financed through/by

Continental Automotive Timișoara

Research team

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- Eng. ILIEŞ Elisei Ştefan
- Student MARINCA Magdalena Patricia

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USING FPGA FOR INTELLIGENT PROCESSING OF DATA FROM AN IMAGE SENSOR

Goal of the project

The goal of the project is to use an FPGA to configure an OmniVision image sensor, but also to retrieve and process data from it. Another important purpose of this project is to find a suitable method to write a value in the OTP memory of the image sensor in various setups

Short description of the project

In this project we aim to configure an image sensor in order to display the video stream from the camera module on a monitor and to automate the writing of certain data in an OTP memory.

Implementation period

15.07.2020 - 23.12.2020

Main activities

The main activities we focused on are the following:

- Build the necessary setup.
- Image sensor configuration via i2c protocol
- Process data from the image sensor and display video stream from the camera module on a monitor
- Write a value in an OTP memory using Aardvark I2C Host Adapter
- Write a value in an OTP memory using Raspberry Pi
- Development of a graphical interface to facilitate the writing of an OTP memory
- Portable solution for flashing in any remote area

Results

We built a setup with an image sensor, a development board and a computer with Linux operating system.

The image sensor was configured using a .xml script and the image transmitted by it was displayed on a monitor and saved in .raw format.

Using a Raspberry Pi to write data in an OTP memory and to read data from it, we were able to develop a method that allows remote programming of the memory.

In order to make the method for flashing even easier, we developed a graphical interface using the python language. In this way we obtained a portable and user friendly solution.

Applicability and transferability of the results

FPGA-based systems offer the possibility of fast and intelligent processing of data from different image sensors. The portable solution for flashing allows configurations or updates for devices even after the completion of the manufacturing process.

Financed through/by

Continental Automotive Timișoara

Research team

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- Eng. BĂRBULESCU Corneliu
- Eng. ILIEŞ Elisei Ştefan
- Student MARINCA Magdalena Patricia

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ADVANCED INTEGRATION OF RLC MEASUREMENT METHODS IN THE TAKAYA APT 9411 AND 1400F

Goal of the project

The goal of this project is to avoid the apparition of FP erroneous measurements, for circuit–mounted L and C components, by integration between an LCR meter with the FP. This application was implemented with the help of a partner company which provided the required equipment: the Takaya APT 1400F FP [10] and the BK Precision 891 LCR meter

Short description of the project

Advanced integration of RLC measurement methods in order to avoid the apparition of FP erroneous measurements.

Project implemented by:

- Universitatea Politehnica Timișoara
- Alfa Test S.R.L.

Implementation period

19.02.2020 - 31.10.2020

Main activities

The proposed software component was developed using NI LabVIEW. It includes two independent applications. The Frequency Response App (FRA) and The Measurement App (MA). The integration was developed and tested under laboratory conditions at the Alfa Test SRL headquarter in Timişoara, Romania. Final testing, deployment and validation were performed at the beneficiary headquarters in Sibiu, Romania. Experimental results demonstrate that the proposed integration performs as expected. In the case of accidental replacement of inductors with components of wrong values, provided results show exact confirmation of the fault.

Results

The main novelties of our work arise from the characteristics of flexibility, customization according to user needs and performances of a prototype integration solution which solved an engineering challenge issued by one of the most important automotive manufacturers in Romania and world-wide.

This concept was an industry validated solution for integrating off-the-shelf instrumentation (in this case LCR – BK Precision 891) in the Takaya FP machines. Following the integration method, other types of external instrumentation can be used to expand the technical capabilities of the Takaya FP machine. Statistical measurement accuracy evaluation demonstrates the appropriateness of such a solution, in the project industrial context.

Applicability and transferability of the results

All the results from this project were transferred to the beneficiary Alfa Test S.R.L. One student oriented laboratory was developed using the results from this project.

Financed through/by

Alfa Test S.R.L.

Research Centre

Faculty of Electronics, Telecommunications and Information Technologies

Research team

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- Conf. dr. ing. lonel Raul-Ciprian member
- S.l. dr. ing. Mâţiu-lovan Liliana member
- Anca Rogoz member

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TECHNOLOGICAL LOSSES FORECAST IN ELECTRICAL DISTRIBUTION NETWORKS

Goal of the project

Distribution network real technical losses evaluation for EON Distribution System Operator. Several methodologies have been implemented in order to assess the technological losses for complex distribution networks.

Short description of the project

An algorithm is developed for technical losses forecast.

Project implemented by

Servelect Cluj-Napoca & EON DelgazGrid Distribution System Operator

Implementation period

2020

Main activities

The study was conducted for EON DelgazGrid Distribution System Operator. Quantitative and qualitative on-field measurements are provided and discussed, followed by the technical losses computing based on the provided algorithm. Different necessary scenarios for the distribution network operator have been taken into consideration highlighting the optimal operating conditions.

Results

- Algorithm developed for technical losses evaluation;
- Comparative analysis has been performed;
- Electrical distribution network simulation model;
- Technical losses' reduction methods.



Applicability and transferability of the results

The algorithm used for technical losses evaluation is able to be applied in case of any distribution network operator. Also, based on the achieved experience, other (or similar) technical losses reduction methods could be highlighted in case of other distribution operators.

Financed through/by

Servelect Cluj-Napoca, total value: 17850 RON

Research Centre

Power Systems Analysis and Optimization Research Centre

Research team

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ELECTRICAL DISTRIBUTION NETWORKS TECHNOLOGICAL LOSSES EVALUATION BASED ON POST-CALCULATION METHODS

Goal of the project

Technical losses evaluation for Electrica Muntenia Nord Distribution System Operator has been performed. Analytical methods and power flow computing methods have been applied. Real data have been used and operating conditions specific to the power producers, renewable sources, power consumption.

Short description of the project

An algorithm is developed for technical losses assessment..

Project implemented by:

- Servelect Cluj-Napoca &
- Electrica Muntenia Nord Distribution System Operator

Implementation period

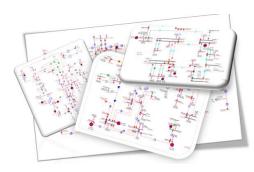
2020

Main activities

The study was conducted for Electrica Muntenia Nord Distribution System Operator. The analyses have been divided for several voltage levels, distribution branches and equipment type. Different scenarios for the distribution network operator have been taken into consideration highlighting the optimal operating conditions.

Results

- Methodologies developed for technical losses evaluation in case of different voltage levels;
- Electrical distribution network simulation model at 110 kV and 20 kV voltage levels, analyses, recommendations;
- Technical losses' reduction methods.



Applicability and transferability of the results

The developed methodologies for technical losses evaluation are able to be applied in case of any distribution network operator.

Financed through/by

Servelect Cluj-Napoca, total value: 17850 RON

Research Centre

Power Systems Analysis and Optimization Research Centre

Research team

- Prof. Stefan KILYENI, PhD
- Assoc. Prof. Constantin BARBULESCU, PhD
- Bittenbinder Alex, PhD Student
- Lecturer Annamaria KILYENI, PhD

Contact information

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INTRODUCTION OF A UNITARY PROBLEM-SOLVING AND IMPROVEMENT SYSTEM OF THERMAL GALVANIZING PROCESSES

Goal of the project

The goal of this project was to evaluate the company based on the SWOT Analysis and the Diagnostic Analysis, to develop a unitary system for solving problems and improving processes and its implementation at the level of the entire organization. The harmfull emission absorption system was also evaluated technically and economically.

Short description of the project

Specific methods of problem solving and process improvement have been introduced, which have been set up in a unitary system applicable to the entire company. SWOT Analysis and Diagnostic Analysis were performed to assess the existing situation and provide information for future actions.

Implementation period

01.02.2020 - 30.04.2020

Main activities

- Activity 1: Performing the SWOT and the Diagnostic Analysis.
- Activity 2: Evaluation, ranking and elimination of main defects.
- Activity 3: Develop a unitary system for solving problems and improving processes and implementation at the organizational level
- Activity 4: Evaluation of harmfull emission absorption system.

Results

- The diagnostic analysis revealed that the company received the grade of satisfactory adaptation and that an offensive strategy was recommended.
- The improvement methods found focused on improving the products by reducing the number of main defects by 60%.
- The harmfull emission absorption system was evaluated, the reduction in the acquisition costs of hydrochloric acid, the unacquired quantity being replaced by the acidic water resulting from the filtration.

Applicability and transferability of the results

- The unitary system for solving problems and improving processes is currently implemented in all areas of the company.
- Following the implementation of the absorption system, the emissins with harmful impact on the environment are reduced to a minimum, Berg Banat SRL entering the category of companies with sustainable development.

Financed through/by

S.C. BERG BANAT SRL, Timisoara



Fig. 1 Retrieving parts from thermal galvanizing process

Research Centre

Research Center in Engineering and Manangement, Faculty of Management in Production and Transportation, University Politehnica Timisoara

Research team

- Assoc. Prof. Adrian Pavel PUGNA, PhD
- Lect. Prof. Sabina POTRA, PhD
- Assoc. Prof. Romeo NEGREA, PhD
- Eng. Dariana MICU
- Eng. Oana LUNGU

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Web: www.mpt.upt.ro/cercetare/centrul-de-cercetare.html





DEVELOPMENT OF BUSINESS MODEL AND STRATEGY FOR S.C. ANISSU AMB S.R.L.

Goal of the project

This project aims to define a sustainable business model to increase the company's competitiveness in the national and international business environment. At the same time, the development of the strategy is considered to increase the organizational capacity for sustainability and competitiveness.

Short description of the project

Increasing the company's competitiveness in the national and international business environment..

Project implemented by:

Faculty of Management in Production and Transportation, Management Department.

Implementation period

25.07.2020 - 25.09.2020

Main activities

- Outlining the apparel and shoes industry market at local and national level
- Identifying the main competitors and their profiles
- Identifying the conditions for increasing the capacity of apparel and shoes industry for sustainability
- Conditions for adaptation to international regulations
- Identifying potential international clients
- Outlining the conditions for increasing the circularity of products in the context of the circular economy
- Developing the strategy for increasing the company's competitiveness.



Results

- Model for measuring product circularity
- Model for the sustainability of the apparel and shoes industry
- he strategy for increasing the company's competitiveness in the conditions of the circular economy.

Applicability and transferability of the results

Ensuring an integrated business model to increase the company's competitiveness.

Financed through/by

S.C. ANISSU AMB S.R.L.

Research team

- Assoc. prof. eng. Larisa IVAŞCU, Ph.D.
- Lecturer ec. Alin ARTENE, Ph.D.

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members.html

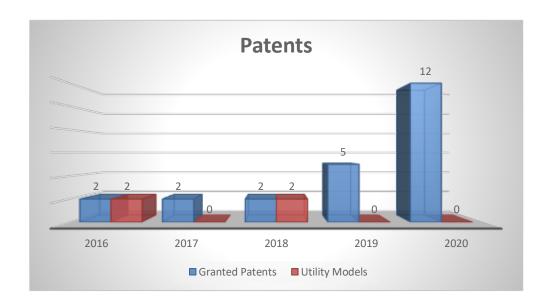


PATENTS





EVOLUTION OF PATENTS UNDER AFFILIATIONS OF UPT 2016 - 2020



The innovative capacity of the Politehnica University Timisoara is supported by teachers and scientific researchers through patents and utility models invented, presented in this section.



Granted Patents





INVENTORS: VALENTIN SAVIN, OANA BONCALO, DAVID DECLERCQ

PATENT NO. 3373488 / 2020

STOPPING CRITERION FOR DECODING QUASI-CYCLIC LDPC CODES



The present invention relates to the field of LDPC (Low-Density Parity Check) codes and concerns more particularly an early stopping criterion for decoding Quasi-Cyclic LDPC codes.

In the following, it will be assumed for the sake of simplification but without loss of generality, that the LDPC code is binary, that the code is defined over GF(2). However, it will be clear for the man skilled in art that the invention equally applies to non-binary LDPC codes defined over $GF(2^b)$ where b is an integer such that b > 1.

The idea underlying the present invention is to propose a new on-the-fly measure for terminating the decoding iterations of a layered LDPC decoder, for example a QC-LDPC decoder. This measure is used for defining a new family of stopping criteria, hereinafter referred to as In-Between Layers Partial Syndrome (IBL-PS).

Basically, the IBL-PS is a partial syndrome defined by two consecutive layers (bilayer). More specifically, if we denote $\mathbf{H}_{r,r+1}$ the $2L \times N$ submatrix of the parity-check matrix \mathbf{H} constituted by the concatenation of the matrices \mathbf{H}_r and \mathbf{H}_{r+1} , for $r=0,\ldots$, $R=0,\ldots$, and $R=0,\ldots$ assuming that the layers are indexed modulo R, i.e. the layer following the layer R=1 is the layer R=1 is the layer R=1 is defined as:

$$\mathbf{s}_{r,r+1} = \mathbf{H}_{r,r+1} \hat{\mathbf{x}}_r^T$$

where $\hat{\mathbf{x}}_r = (\hat{x}_{r,1}, \hat{x}_{r,2}, ..., \hat{x}_{r,N})$ is the hard decision vector (signs of AP-LLRs) after processing layer r and before processing r+1. It is important to understand that the IBL-PS is calculated on the same word (vector $\hat{\mathbf{x}}_r$) output by the decoding of layer r.

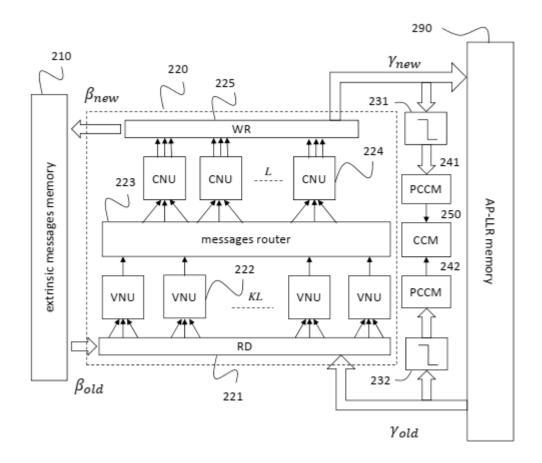
The IBL-PS criterion is defined by:

if
$$\exists r \in \{0,...,R-1\}$$
 such that $\mathbf{s}_{r,r+1} = \mathbf{0}_{2L}$ decoding stops

More generally, we define a family of stopping criteria involving a plurality of IBL-PS syndromes, denoted IBL-PS(θ) where $\theta \ge 1$ defined by:

$$if \ \exists r \in \left\{0,...,R-1\right\} \ \text{such that} \ \mathbf{s}_{r,r+1} = \mathbf{s}_{r+1r,r+2} = ... = \mathbf{s}_{r+\theta-1,r+\theta} = \mathbf{0}_{2L} \ \text{decoding stops}$$

In other words, if the IBL-PS syndromes calculated for a plurality of θ consecutive layers are null, then the decoding is stopped. Within the family of stopping criteria IBL-PS θ , the minimum value for θ is $\theta=1$, and corresponds to the lowest latency case, since the decoder will stop as soon as any IBL-PS in satisfied. However, increasing the value of θ will render the stopping criteria safer and safer.



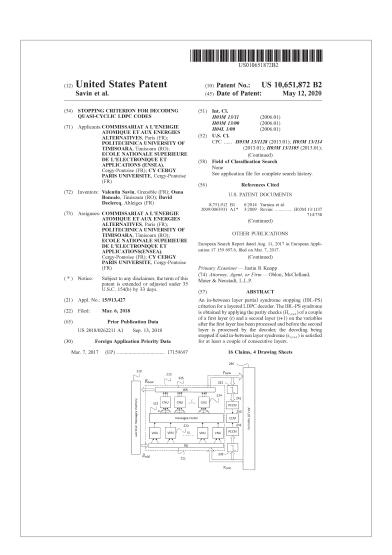




INVENTORS: VALENTIN SAVIN, OANA BONCALO, DAVID DECLERCQ

PATENT NO. US 10651872 B2 / 2020

STOPPING CRITERION FOR DECODING QUASI-CYCLIC LDPC CODES



The present invention relates to the field of LDPC (Low-Density Parity Check) codes and concerns more particularly an early stopping criterion for decoding Quasi-Cyclic LDPC codes.

In the following, it will be assumed for the sake of simplification but without loss of generality, that the LDPC code is binary, that the code is defined over GF(2). However, it will be clear for the man skilled in art that the invention equally applies to non-binary LDPC codes defined over $GF(2^b)$ where b is an integer such that b > 1.

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Research Report ষ্ট্

Basically, the IBL-PS is a partial syndrome defined by two consecutive layers (bilayer). More specifically, if we denote $\mathbf{H}_{r,r+1}$ the $2L \times N$ submatrix of the parity-check matrix \mathbf{H} constituted by the concatenation of the matrices \mathbf{H}_r and \mathbf{H}_{r+1} , for $r=0,\ldots$, $R=0,\ldots$, and $R=0,\ldots$ assuming that the layers are indexed modulo R, i.e. the layer following the layer R=1 is the layer R=1 is the layer R=1 is defined as:

$$\mathbf{s}_{r,r+1} = \mathbf{H}_{r,r+1} \hat{\mathbf{x}}_r^T$$

where $\hat{\mathbf{x}}_r = (\hat{x}_{r,1}, \hat{x}_{r,2}, ..., \hat{x}_{r,N})$ is the hard decision vector (signs of AP-LLRs) after processing layer r and before processing r+1. It is important to understand that the IBL-PS is calculated on the same word (vector $\hat{\mathbf{x}}_r$) output by the decoding of layer r.

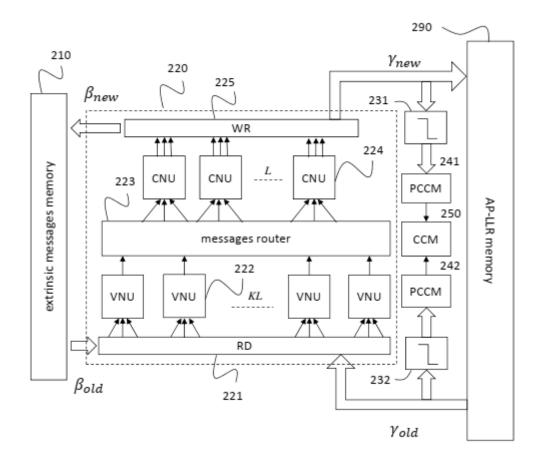
The IBL-PS criterion is defined by:

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In other words, if the IBL-PS syndromes calculated for a plurality of θ consecutive layers are null, then the decoding is stopped. Within the family of stopping criteria IBL-PS (θ), the minimum value for θ is $\theta=1$, and corresponds to the lowest latency case, since the decoder will stop as soon as any IBL-PS in satisfied. However, increasing the value of θ will render the stopping criteria safer and safer.







INVENTORS: CRACIUNESCU CORNELIU MARIUS, BUDAU VICTOR, MITELEA ION

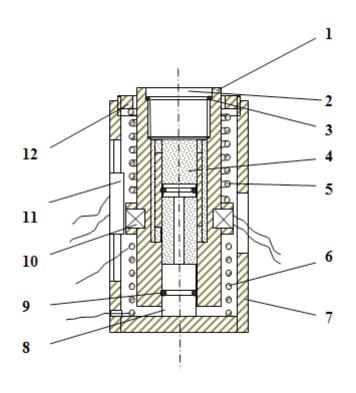
PATENT NO. 128675 / 2020

ACTUATOR WITH THERMO-MAGNETIC CONTROL OF POSITION



The invention refers to an actuator which allows reaching distinct positions in non-motorized actuators, by combining the contribution of a shape memory alloy and a magnetorheological fluid.

According to the invention, the actuator with thermal and magnetic position control uses a movable rod (1) inside which a magnetorheological fluid (4) is transferred by a piston (8) during actuation by an antagonistic mechanism consisting of a spring (5) and a shape memory alloy spring (6) which rests on the actuator body (7). The locking of the actuator in a position, established by locating the position sensor (11), is achieved by modifying the characteristics of the magnetorheological fluid (4) under the action of the magnetic field produced by the electromagnet (10).







INVENTORS: GONTEAN AUREL STEFAN, CERNAIANU MIHAIL OCTAVIAN

PATENT NO. 129498 / 2020

INTELLIGENT CONTROL DEVICE FOR LIGHT SWITCHES



The invention relates to a device for switches with light indicator, integrated in a lighting control system controlled by microcontroller, for the lighting of domestic or industrial rooms in order to reduce electricity consumption.

The intelligent control device for light-switched switches according to the invention consists of:

- some classic switches (with return) 1 equipped with some LED lights –LED 2
- some connecting wires 3
- a control microsystem 4, with a (internal) resistor 6 of pull-up, configurable
- a power driver block 5
- photoresist sensors 7 and proximity sensors 8.
- a current limiting resistor 9

According to the scheme shown in figure 1, the microcontroller 4 will generate interruptions periodically, at 10 ms. This range is chosen for compatibility with European triac or IGBT lighting control systems, where a zero-crossing detector synchronizes the operation of the controller every 10 ms. For a DC lighting system, the 10 ms interval is generated by an internal microcontroller timer.

The I / O1 pin is configured in output mode; most of the time the output is in logic state 0 and the control LED 1 is off. When the warning light is desired, the output is set to logic 1.

A pull-up resistor (configurable, internal to most current microcontrollers) is connected internally to the I / O1 pin. Every 10 ms, the I / O1 pin is switched to

input mode for a few microseconds (depending on the clock frequency of the microcontroller) and read (1 logic if switch 1 is open, respectively 0 logic if 1 is closed). The few microseconds in which the indicator light is off are not noticeable to the user. The external resistor 9 limits the current through the output pin of the microcontroller.

The selective control of the illumination of the indicator lights 2 is done by analyzing the following situations:

- 1. Analyzing natural light with an optical detector. A single external sensor, for example a photoresistor 7, informs one of the control systems of the external illumination level and depending on this level the decision is made to switch all the warning lights on or off. This (simple) approach does not solve the problem of differentiated switching on / off of the warning lights; but it has the advantage of low cost.
- 2. Analyzing the illumination of each room with an internal sensor, for example with a photoresistor 7, which informs the control system on the lighting level in the respective room. This approach allows

differentiated illumination of the indicator light in that room.

3. Detecting a person's approach with a PIR 8 proximity sensor that controls the indicator light. The additional presence of a light sensor 7 also eliminates the illumination of the light indicator during the day. In the case of an intelligent, multiprocessor system, distributed throughout the building and used for lighting control, the building will have a network of PIR 8 sensors and 7 light sensors in the rooms to control the lighting according to the specific conditions in each room. In this case the communication between the control systems is realized by means of a transceiver and a dedicated bus, using the I / OCOM pins of the microcontroller 4.

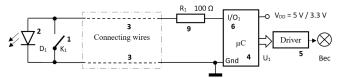


Figure 1. Block diagram of the device - 2-wire connection

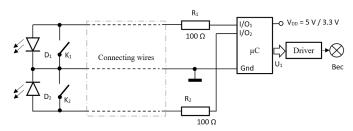


Figure 2. Block diagram of the device - 3-wire connection (allows light intensity control)

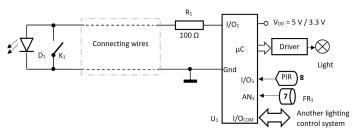


Figure 3. Complete device – 2-wire connection

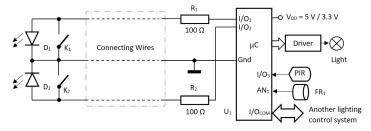


Figure 4. Complete device – 3-wire connection (allows light intensity control)





INVENTORS: BĂNICĂ RADU NICOLAE, KELLENBERGER ANDREA ROZALIA, URSU DANIEL HORAŢIU, CSEH LILIANA, LINUL PETRICĂ, VASZILCSIN NICOLAE

PATENT NO. 132480 / 2020

PROCESS FOR THE SYNTHESIS OF SILVER NANOWIRES COATED WITH LOW MELTING POINT METAL NANOPARTICLES, SELECTED FROM INDIUM AND TIN



The invention relates to a synthesis method of silver nanowires decorated with low melting point metallic nanoparticles, such as indium or tin, which can be used for making conductive paths on suports in the the construction of solar cells or optoelectronic devices.

A great challenge in the actual research of solar-toelectricity conversion is the construction of flexible solar cells without using indium tin oxide (ITO). Silver nanowires (AgNWs) are a promising candidate to replace ITO due to their high electric conductivity and corrosion resistance, but there is still the issue of increased resistance on wire contacts.

The proposed solution, which is subject of one national patent, involves deposition of low melting point metallic nanoparticles on the surface of silver nanowires, allowing to weld the nanowires and to obtain a network with high electrical conduction paths.

This invention can be used in the field of solar cells or optoelectronic devices such as flexible light emmiting diodes (LEDs), organic thin film transistors or electronic paper by depositing functionalized silver nanowires with low melting point metal nanoparticles on flexible substrates, followed by sintering them at low temperatures and obtaining high conductivity paths, necessary for the construction of such devices.

The technical problem of the invention is to develop a process for functionalizing silver nanowires with low melting point metal nanoparticles, in order to allow their sintering at low temperatures on various flexible or rigid supports. The developed process is simple, allows the deposition of metallic nanoparticles with low melting point directly on the surface of silver nanowires, by reducing the corresponding metal ions, without the need to use an intermediate molecule to allow their anchoring on the nanowires.

The process according to the invention consists in the fact that in a first stage the silver nanowires with diameters of 100... 500 nm and lengths of over 20 micrometers are obtained, by the solvothermal technique, after which in a second stage on the synthesized silver nanowires quasispherical indium (In) or tin (Sn) nanoparticles with dimensions of 2...50 nm are deposited directly at temperatures of 25...90°C, resulting in silver nanowires functionalized with indium or tin nanoparticles that allow subsequent sintering at low temperatures.

The novelty of the invention is that the indium and tin nanoparticles used in the process of the invention have lower melting points than silver nanowires, so that subsequent sintering can be performed at a lower temperature.

The invention has the following advantages:

- (i) the functionalization of silver nanowires takes place by a simple process;
- (ii) allows the deposition of metallic nanoparticles with a low melting point directly on the surface of silver nanowires;
- (iii) the deposition of nanoparticles takes place directly, by reducing the corresponding metal ions, without the need to use an intermediate molecule to allow their anchoring on the nanowires;
- (iv) the indium and tin nanoparticles used in the process of the invention have lower melting points than silver nanowires, so that subsequent sintering can be performed at a lower temperature.

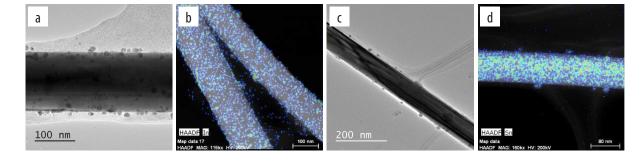


Fig. 1. TEM images and EDX mapping of silver nanowires decorated with low melting point metallic ln (a, b) and Sn (c, d) nanoparticles.





INVENTORS: PAVEL STEFAN, BORZA IOAN, BRATU EMANUEL ADRIAN, DOBOSI IOAN SILVIU, GAINA PAULINA IOANA, STREIAN FELICIA, TALPOS-NICULESCU SERBAN

PATENT NO. 129343 / 2020

WASTE WATER DECONTAMINATION SYSTEM IN THE DENTAL UNIT



The invention concerns a system for the decontamination and treatment of waste water in the dental unit, water that is to be purged in the sewers. The technical problems to be solved regard the creation of a system that could, once attached to the dental unit, the collection of the contaminated waste water, its treatment and sterilization, and, finally, the evacuation of the water under hygienic and safety conditions. The system must perform the tasks simultaneously and efficiently. The newly invented system to perform the decontamination of waste water from the dental unit, is composed of an assembly of closed and segmented (divided) recipients that are equipped with baffles that allow the injection of a air and ozone mix into a first set of decontamination activation cells, to be followed by further decontamination by UV germ-killing lamps (C class) in the next activation cells; and finally, evacuated into the sewer system when the physical, chemical and microbiological parameters are reached. The newly invented system for the decontamination of waste water from the dental unit presents the following advantages:

- Uses decontamination agents produces into the installation (ozone) and long term use devices (germ-killing UV lamps);
- The decontamination is efficient as it uses just approx. 1kW/hour electrical energy for 16 hours of functioning;
- The maintenance operations are very simple and require just the replacement of germ-killing UV lamps after 10,000–15,000 hours of functioning;

- The system can be easily monitored while working;
- · Safety during functioning;
- Allows for the avoidance of environmental pollution resulting from the use of chlorine as disinfectant.





INVENTOR: PANĂ ADRIAN

PATENT NO. 131297 / 2020

CONTROL METHOD FOR AN AUTOMATIC CAPACITIVE COMPENSATOR MEANT TO IMPROVE THE POWER FACTOR AND TO BALANCING THE LOAD IN THREE-PHASE FOUR-WIRF FI FCTRICAL NETWORKS



If a single-phase capacitor connects between two of the phases of a three-phase electrical network, it will cause a reactive power absorption, in equal parts on the two phases, which is obvious. However, there will be an effect on the circulation of real power, the capacitor absorbing real power from the network on one of the phases and returning it to the network on the other phase. And this fact is, even for an electrical engineer, less obvious. It can be stated that a single-phase capacitor connected between two phases makes, in addition to a shunt capacitive compensation of the reactive power, a redistribution of the real power between the two phases of the network. These statements also apply to a three-phase assembly of single-phase capacitors connected in a delta connection. Such an assembly can be transformed into an unbalanced capacitive compensator, which in addition to improving the power factor, can balance the active and reactive load on the three phases of the network. In the case of a three-phase four-wires network, the compensator must also contain a circuit with the Yn connection. When the concentrator (6) goes down, it detaches by cutting (punching, through contour) material from the strip, as sufficient amount to form the product to be manufactured.

The patented method is based on an original mathematical model that establishes the analytical relationships between the six equivalent susceptances of the two three-phase circuits of the compensator (Δ

and Yn) and the real and imaginary components of the load sequence currents. The method is applied for the control of an automatic capacitive compensator, having the following original elements:

• defines as input quantities of the control process, the rms values of the real and imaginary components of the sequence currents of the load,

- defines as control quantities of the control process, the compensation levels of the positive, negative and zero sequence components of the load currents,
- defines as output quantities of the control process, the values of the six equivalent susceptances of the compensator, calculated with analytical relations that establish the direct connection with the input quantities,
- uses in the control process a sequence of operating steps in order to obtain negative or zero values for the output quantities by iterative correction of the control quantities,
- adjusts the susceptances (capacities) of the compensator so as to obtain an optimal distribution of the capacitive reactive power of compensation between the two functions of the compensator, the one of improving the power factor and the one of load balancing,
- achieves the optimal distribution of the capacitive reactive power of compensation on the positive sequence between the two three-

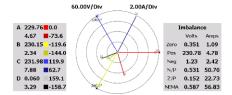
Fig. 1. Functional experimental model (Electrical Networks Laboratory, Department of Electrical Power Engineering, UPT).

The experimental model and the patented method are the results of industrial research activities, funded by the Government of Romania, the Ministry of National Education, through Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding (UEFISCDI), within the program: PN-II-PT-PCCA-2013—4, UPT – ICPE

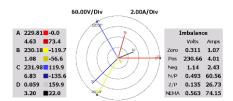
phase circuits of the compensator, provided the minimization of the number and value of the susceptances that must be canceled due to the fact that they cannot be brought in the capacitive domain.

The patented method is meant to be implemented through the medium of a specialized software in the control system of a three-phase capacitive compensator, consisting of single-phase power capacitor banks, included in two three-phase circuits, one in Δ connection, the other in Yn connection, to allow a variable unbalanced three-phase capacitive compensation, in order to fulfill, in addition to the "classic" function of power factor improvement, that of balancing the load of the three-phase four-wire network.

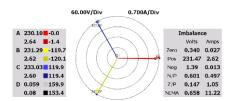
The method is implemented in a functional experimental model (fig. 1). Figure 2 shows the recorded values of characteristic electrical quantities for three sections of the three-phase circuit of the experimental model: at the load terminals (a), at the compensator terminals (b) and at the terminals of the load-compensator assembly (c).



a) Unbalanced three-phase load



b) Unbalanced capacitive compensator



c) Load-compensator assembly

Fig. 2. Values of characteristic quantities for three sections of the three-phase circuit

S.A. partnership. Currently, the method is being implemented, on an industrial scale, in a series of prototypes, within a new project carried out in partnership with ICPE S.A., financed by the PN-III-CERC-CO-PTE-2-2019 program.





INVENTORS: MANEA FLORICA, POP ANIELA CARMEN, BACIU ANAMARIA SIMONA, REMES ADRIANA ILEANA

PATENT NO. 129026 / 2020

ELECTRODE AND METHOD FOR FAST ELECTROCHEMICAL DETECTION OF ARSENIC (III) FROM AQUEOUS SOLUTIONS



The invention reffers to the elaboration of an electrode and a process for the electrochemical detection of arsenic (III), a highly toxic pollutant from aqueous solutions. Also, the working electrode and the process of the invention can be used both for the detection of other pollutants from water (heavy metals and organic pollutants) and for other applications (the analysis of pharmaceutical products, food quality control and safety, clinical analysis).

The issue to be solved by the invention is to develop a product and a method based on the electrochemical method of fast detection of arsenic (III) from aqueous solutions using a relatively inexpensive electrode material, with a long operating time, exhibiting high electroanalytical performance: the lowest limit of detection, sensitivity, reproducibility, accuracy.

The electrode and the method of fast electrochemical determination of the arsenic (III) from aqueous solutions according to the invention consists of the use of an electrode called working electrode, a counter electrode in assembly with a reference electrode, which based on the anodic stripping method and using the square wave voltammetry technique allow the contact with the arsenic (III) contaminated water in the presence of an electrolyte, leading to the working electrode electrochemical response in the presence of the pollutant. The working electrode is a composite electrode obtained by dispersing carbon nanotubes in an epoxy matrix and then, electrochemically modified with silver nanoparticles.

The detection and determination of arsenic concentration is done by anodic stripping using the square wave voltammetry technique and consists of two stages described by the following reactions and operating parameters:

In stage 1, the cathodic reduction of the species As (III) to As (0), in according with the reaction As3++3e--> As0, occurring from the application of a potential of -0.4 V/SCE for 120 seconds, which depends on the value of the potential applied and the reaction time having an effect on the electrochemical response of detection As (III) in the second stage;

In stage 2, the effective determination of the As (III) content in the solution, based on the electrochemical response obtained by the anodic stripping process, corresponding to the concentration of arsenic (III) in the solution to be analyzed, at the potential of -0.01 V/ESC, during the square wave voltammetry scanning.

The electrode and the method of fast electrochemical detection of arsenic (III) from aqueous solutions according to the invention has the following advantages: very high electroanalytical characteristics (the lowest limit of detection, sensitivity, reproducibility, accuracy), low cost of materials used for the working electrode elaboration, long operating time (at least 1 year).

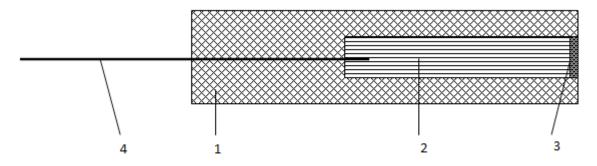


Figure 1. Schematic representation of the electrode

- 1 cylinder holder,
- 2 the active cylinder consisting of carbon nanofibers dispersed into an epoxy matrix,
- 3 a disc-shaped front side decorated by electrochemical deposition of silver nanoparticles,
- 4 copper wire to assure connection





INVENTORS: WÄCHTER MIHAIL REINHOLD, IOANA IONEL, NEGREA PETRU

PATENT NO. 131485 / 2020

PROCESS FOR INTEGRATION OF DRY FLUE GAS DESULPHURISATION BY-PRODUCT INTO DENSE SLURRY MIXRURE FOR HYDRAULIC TRANSPORT THROUGH PIPELINE SYSTEMS



The technical problem of the invention is to provide a more efficient and less expensive process for integrating the dry desulphurization by-product into the dense slurry mixture recipe, by which the self-hardening time of the slurry and the hydraulic characteristics of the pipeline can be controlled.

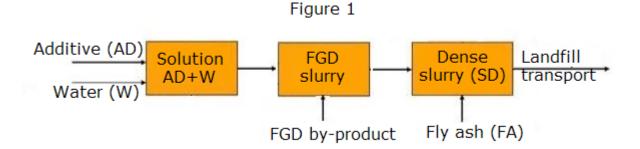
The process of integrating the dry desulfurization by-product into the dense slurry mixture recipe for hydraulic transport through pipeline systems offers a technological solution for the management and storage in the coal fly ash landfill disposal of the desulphurization by-product resulting from the technological process of flue gas treatment for coal-fired power plants.

The dense slurry prepared according to the invention solves the problem of preparing the dense slurry mixture recipe which also encompasses the desulphurization by-product, resulting in a slurry fluid which can be hydraulically transported through pipes to the slag and ash landfill disposal specific to coal fired power plants.

The process does not influence the self-hardening properties of dense slurry, prevents the phenomenon of deposition on the pipe line walls, reduces the cost of transport and storage of desulfurization by-product, involves a low cost of implementation, are low energy consumption in operation compared to other methods and is environmental friendly.

The process for integrating the dry desulphurization by-product into the dense slurry mixture recipe for hydraulic transport through piping systems according to the invention uses an additive which simplifies the technological installation for stabilizing the desulphurization by-product and involves low energy consumption during operation.

The invention consists in a process for stabilizing the by-product of dry desulphurization by integrating it into a new dense slurry mixture recipe, which offers the possibility of transport and discharge into the landfill disposal through piping systems. Process flow diagram is depicted in Figure 1.



The process involves the use of a retardant additive in the dense slurry mixture recipe in order to control the rate of chemical cementation reactions, so as to maintain the optimal hydraulic piping properties of the dense slurry prepared after this process for a predetermined time. The delay time of the chemical cementation reactions must be long enough to ensure the time of preparation of the dense slurry in the facility as well as the time required for transport through pipes on the landfill disposal.

Following the results obtained experimentally for the recipe that does not use additives, it was found that the dense slurry comprising the by-product of dry desulfurization does not have hydraulic characteristics of hydraulic transport through pipes. The solidification time of the dense slurry in this case is less than 30 min, which led to the clogging of the pilot installation with which the experiment was performed, a fact highlighted in figure 2.

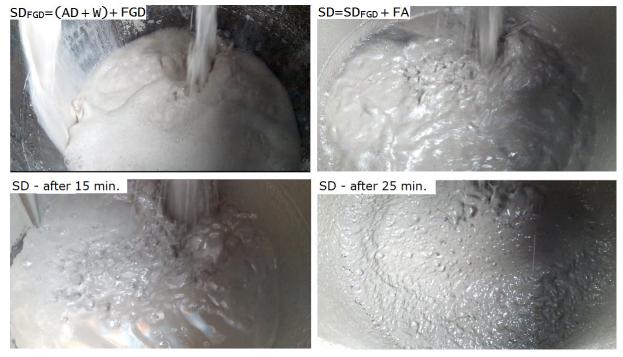


Figure 2.





INVENTORS: WÄCHTER MIHAIL REINHOLD, IOANA IONEL, NEGREA ADINA GEORGETA

PATENT NO. 131486 / 2020

PROCESS FOR TREATMENT MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE INCINERATION REDIUSES BY SOLIDIFICATION/STABILIZATION INTO ASH ROCK



The technical problem of the invention is to achieve a more efficient and less expensive residue treatment process using a stabilizing binder existing in coal combustion residues, in a process that activates the chemical cementation reactions by intense hydraulic mixing, resulting an ecologically inert final product. The process of treating residues from the incineration

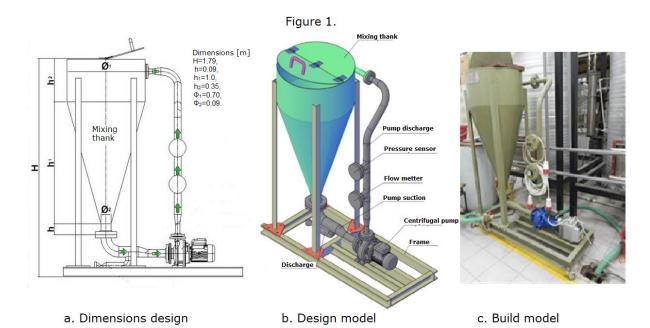
of municipal solid waste by solidification-stabilization in ash rock is an ecological method of landfilling these types of residues, or residues with similar content and toxicity.

The material stored in the form of ash rock, protects the contamination of the environment by eliminating the migration of heavy metals in the soil and groundwater due to the leaching phenomenon. Based on this process, new concepts can be developed regarding the methods of landfilling waste related to the incineration of municipal solid waste.

The binder material used does not involve production costs. By applying this method, it is possible to deposit in the same landfill both the combustion residues related to the incineration of municipal solid waste and those from the combustion of coal. This eliminates the need to manage and monitor of one landfill disposal. The method can be easily implemented on an industrial scale.

The process for treating the residues from the municipal solid waste incineration by solidification –

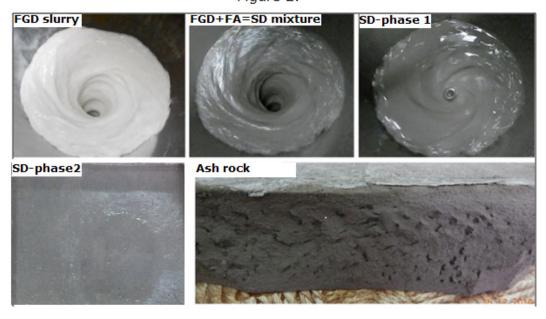
stabilization in the ash rock, according to the invention, uses as stabilizing binder material the by-products from the combustion of lignite coal, represented by electro static precipitator fine ash (pozzolanic material) and desulfurization by-product FGD (calcium-based). The final product of the invention is ash rock, which incorporates and fixes in its structure, by chemical cementation reactions, the heavy metals contained in the toxic residues.



The preparation of the dense slurry is achieved under hydraulic conditions which ensure the activation of the pozzolanic elements contained in the fly ash, and their chemical reaction with the calciumbased compounds contained in the FGD by-product. For this purpose, the mixture is made in the installation of Figure 1, by cycles of recirculation of the dense slurry with a centrifugal pump for slurries. The mixing tank through its specifically shape and the tangential direction of the pump discharge jet to the walls of the tank form a vortex which ensures a homogeneous mixture between the solid particles and water.

The process involves the production of a homogeneous bi-phasic fluid in the form of dense slurry with cementing properties, obtained by predetermined recipes for mixing water, binder material and toxic residues. The self-hardening properties of the dense slurry is based on the chemical cementation reactions, generated by the pozzolanic elements SiO2, Al2O3 and Fe2O3; and calcium-based compounds CaO, Ca(OH)2, CaSO3 and CaSO4; contained in the coal fly ash, respectively in the by-products related to the flue gas desulphurization unit specific to the coal energy recovery process. Process stages are depicted in Figure 2.

Figure 2.







INVENTORS: GUI VASILE, ALEXA FLORIN, CALEANU CATALIN-DANIEL, POPA GHEORGHE-DANIEL, DAVID CIPRIAN, SIMION GEORGIANA

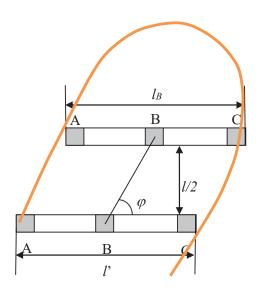
PATENT NO. 127779 / 2020

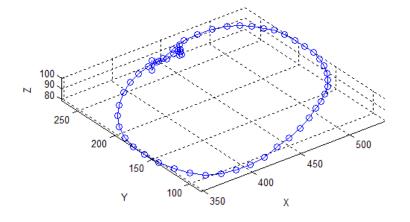
METHOD FOR TRACKING THE HAND FINGERS FOR HUMAN-MACHINE COMMUNICATIONS MEANS

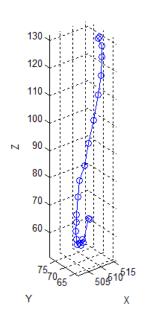


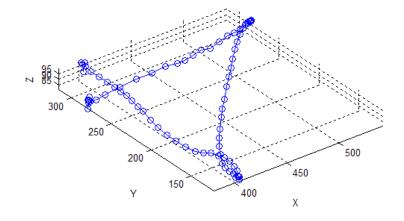
The invention relates to a method for tracking the hand fingers and human-computer communication means based on gestures made with the hand. According to the invention, the method consists in a series of operations for digitally processing the signal generated by a monocular video camera (1) connected to or included in a PC-type computer which allows the tracking of the extended fingers of a hand gesticulating on a complex background, at a distance variable in relation to the video camera (1), where the system is automatically initialized when the open hand is exposed in front of the video camera (1); for each finger there is generated a set of four parameters allowing the generation of 4D trajectory on the basis of 2D images.

The method has an advanced robustness in conditions of camouflage or partial occlusion of the hand. Its implementation on a computer for personal use, according to the invention, leads to a higher computational efficiency than the known methods.













INVENTORS: BANICA RADU, URSU DANIEL, MOSOARCA CRISTINA, RACU ANDREI, LINUL PETRICA, NYARI TEREZIA, SVERA PAULA, PASCARIU MIHAI-COSMIN, NEGREA PETRU, SASCA VIOREL ZOLTAN, HEDES ALEXANDRU

PATENT NO. 132634 / 2020

PROCESS FOR THE SYNTHESIS OF PdS /Cd_xZn_{1-x}S VISIBLY ACTIVE PHOTOCATALYSTS USING LOW PURITY PRECURSORS



The invention relates to a method for obtaining a series of high efficiency chalcogenic photocatalysts, $Zn_{1-x}Cd_xS$ (ZCS) and PdS/ $Zn_{1-x}Cd_xS$ (PZCS) by using waste from the battery industry.

Technical problem solved by the invention, as it results from the description, consists in obtaining high-efficiency, visibly active photocatalysts, $Zn_{1-x}Cd_xS$ (ZCS) and PdS/ $Zn_{1-x}Cd_xS$ (PZCS), with a high degree of crystallinity, using low purity precursors from waste from the battery industry.

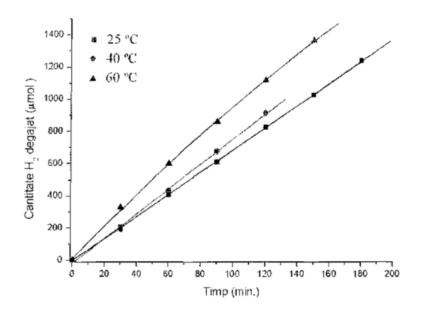
The process for obtaining high-efficiency, visibly active photocatalysts, $Zn_{1-x}Cd_xS$ and $PdS/Zn_{1-x}Cd_xS$, according to the invention, eliminates the disadvantages of the known processes, in that a suspension based on impure cadmium hydroxide is obtained, steel of spent batteries such as Ni-Cd, ZnS, $PdCl_2$ and deionized water;

The homogenized suspension is introduced into the autoclaving system, achieving a 70% degree of autoclave filling and subsequently the heating takes place at the synthesis temperature of 200°C, for 70 h.

As a source of cadmium (SC), it is used during the synthesis of ZCS and PZCS type photocatalysts, potassium cadmium hydroxide, 2.6% nickel, carbon and iron (less than 1%). $Cd(OH)_2$ was obtained in an earlier step by mechanical scraping of cadmium hydroxide from the steel fittings of spent Ni–Cd batteries.

Hydrothermal synthesis is used to increase the crystallinity of ZCS and PZCS photocatalysts, but also to ensure their high purity.

In fig. 1, an example of a photocatalytic experiment is presented, using 100 mg of photocatalytic Pd type analyzer (0.2% by mass Cd_{0.8}Zn_{0.2}S (PZCS) and simulated sunlight obtained with the aid an Oriel solar simulator equipped with AM 1.5 type radiation filter. The area of the illuminated surface was of about 12.8 cm². The irradiance was about 100 mW / cm² and was determined using a calibrated silicon solar cells. The aqueous solution used as the reaction medium had a concentration of 0.5 M Na₂S and 0.25 M Na₂SO₃. The flow of hydrogen measured under standard conditions of temperature and pressure, released during the photocatalytic reaction carried out at 60°C, according to fig. 1, is over 144 L / Kgcat*h.





HONORARY MEMBERS





EVOLUTION OF HONORARY MEMBERS OF UPT 2016 - 2020

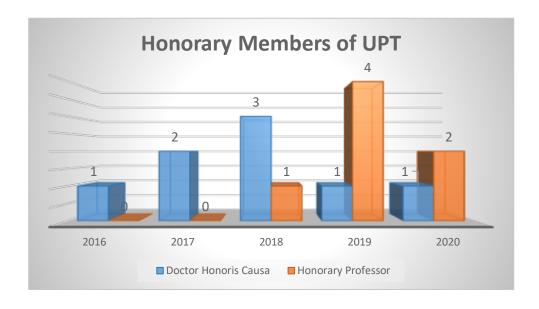
The conferring of honorary degrees is one way in which the University recognizes individuals distinguished by accomplishments consonant with the overarching mission of the University.

Nominees may be eminent scholars, scientists, artists, or professionals who have advanced their disciplines in important ways, or they may be individuals outside of the academic world who have made particularly distinguished contributions to society.

Politehnica University Timisoara recognizes scientific excellence by conferring the honorary degree of Doctor Honoris Causa and Honorary Professor to distinguished Researchers for their contribution to the development of UPT and continuous support.

The University strives for a robust pool of honorary degree recipients enriched by individuals from all backgrounds of engineering.

We also find it rewarding to honor individuals who have not already been publicly recognized by a number of other institutions.





DOCTOR HONORIS CAUSA Professor Herman ROHLING, Technical University of Hamburg

Hermann Rohling was born on December 5, 1946 in Melle, Germany. Professor Hermann Rohling is a renowned specialist in the field of telecommunications, especially in the field of signal processing and estimation and decision theory, being a personality known and recognized worldwide for his contributions in these fields.

After studying mathematics at the Technical University Stuttgart, Professor Rohling initially worked as a research assistant at AEG-Telefunken Communications Engineering Research Institute in Ulm, in the fields of digital radar signal processing, statistical decision theory and signal theory, between 1977 and 1988. During this period, he wrote his doctoral thesis entitled "Adaptive Methoden zur Zielerkennung in Pulsradargeräten mit Dopplerprozessoren" which he defended in 1983 at the Technical University of Aachen. From April 1988 he became a professor at the Technical University of Braunschweig. There he was the head of the "Department of Signal Theory for Location and Information Technology" within the Institute of Telecommunications.

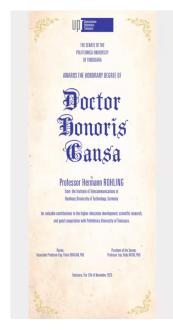
Professor Rohling moved to Technical University of Hamburg-Harburg, Germany (TUHH) eleven years later. Between July 2005 and September 2011 he was Vice President for Research at this technical university.

In October 2010, he took over the presidency of the German Insitute of Navigation (DGON), whose Radar Technical Committee he had led since 1995. He has been an IEEE fellow since 2006.

Professor Rohling is the co-founder of the SMS Smart Microwave

Sensors GmbH and is involved in over 30 patents.

There is a long-term collaboration between UPT and TUHH both in the field of education, through various Erasmus-Socrates programs and in the field of research. Between the Communications departments of the two technical universities there is a close relationship of collaboration materialized by: mutual support of scientific events, student exchanges, collaboration on international research contracts. This collaboration began after the 1990s and materialized through a program Tempus. The collaboration continued through the careful selection of valuable students from the Communications department of UPT in order to prepare the diploma projects and doctoral theses at TUHH. After several years of working in Professor Rohling's research team, these former students were hired by international companies based in Germany or Romania and came to lead teams of highly regarded experts in the leading fields of the electronics industry and telecommunications, some of them operating even in Timisoara. The collaboration continued through an FP 7 grant, entitled "ARTRAC Advanced Radar Tracking and Classification for Enhanced Road Safety" number 284740 FP7, carried out in 2011-2014, led by Professor Hermann Rohling. On the occasion of this grant, Professor Rohling visited UPT again, giving lectures on the use of radar sensors in cars. Also, Professor Rohling was actively involved in organizing the 2014 edition of the International Symposium on Electronics and Telecommunications (ISETc) being one of the plenary speakers of the conference.

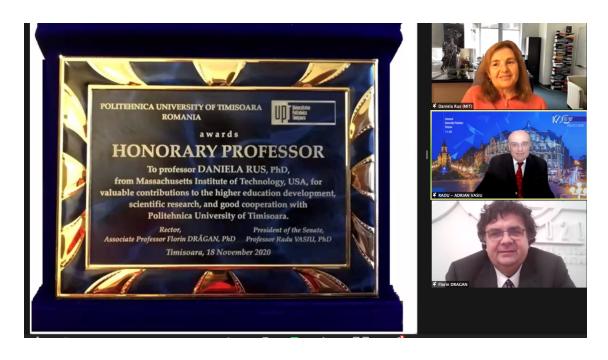




HONORARY PROFESSOR Professor Daniela RUS, MIT - Massachusetts Institute of Technology, SUA

- Professor Daniela Rus was born in 1963 in Cluj-Napoca She emigrated in the United States in the '80s, but she still holds a double citizenship Romanian and American.
- In 1993, Daniela Rus received her Ph.D. at Cornell University under the supervision of Professor John Hopcroft.
- Since 2003, prof. Daniela Rus is the "Andrew and Erna Viterbi" Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts, and director of the Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory (CSAIL) since 2012. Daniela Rus is also the Deputy Dean of Research for the Schwarzman College of Computing at MIT since 2019.
- Prof. Rus is a member of the National Academy of Engineering and
 of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and fellow of the
 Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI),
 fellow of the the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineer
 (IEEE), and fellow of the Association for Computing Machinery
 (ACM). She is also a recipient of a MacArthur Fellowship, a
 National Science Foundation Career award, and an Alfred P. Sloan
 Foundation fellowship. She is a recipient of the 2017 Engelberger

- Robotics Award for Education from the Robotics Industries Association.
- Her statement on the future world is described as: "I imagine a future where robots are so integrated in the fabric of human life that they become as common as smart phones are today. The field of robotics has the potential to greatly improve the quality of our lives at work, at home and at play."
- Rus' research interests include robotics, mobile computing and programmable matter. She is known for her work on self-reconfiguring robots, shape-shifting machines that have the ability to adapt to different environments by altering their internal geometric structure. They do this on their own, without remote control, for locomotion, manipulation, or sensing purposes. She has shown that these self-reconfigurable machines could be used in many situations where the possible obstacles and constraints on movement could not ever be fully anticipated in preprogrammed control software (e.g., deep sea or planetary exploration).
- Professor Daniela Rus joined UPT as a keynote speaker at conference dedicated to digital education and artificial intelligence "Human and Artificial Intelligence for the Society of the Future".





HONORARY PROFESSOR Professor Ladislau MATEKOVITS, Politecnico di Torino University, Italy

- Ladislau MATEKOVITS was born in1967, he graduated in1992
 the Bucharest Polytechnic Institute, Faculty of Electronics and
 Telecommunications, and the second degree of the same profile
 was obtained in 2002 from the Politecnico di Torino University.
- Since 1996 he has been employed at Politecnico di Torino in various positions (collaborator, technician, etc.), and since 2002 he has been permanently employed as a teacher.
- During his teaching career, Professor Ladislau Matekovits has demonstrated remarkable action in all modern educational cycles: bachelor's, master's, and PhD's degree. Among the subjects taught we can remember: Electromagnetic Fields, Complements of Electromagnetic Field, Antennas (bachelor), Electromagnetic Compatibility, Radio Planning (master), Metamaterials, Metasurfaces, Numerical Optimization (PhD).
- Professor MATEKOVITS' long-term collaboration with UPT/Faculty
 of Electronics, Telecommunications and Information Technologies
 has manifested itself on various levels: didactic, scientific, through
 joint programs and by supporting the organization of international
 scientific events.
- On the teaching level, Mr. Matekovits published two books

- in Romanian, at the Politechnic Publishing House, one of Microwaves and Electromagnetic Compatibility and a collection of Microwave problems. The professor also supported the doctoral school through direct guidance and publication of scientific papers in common with the participation of PHD students from UPT. The Professor supported the conduct of the international traditional symposiums of Electronics and Telecommunications organized by UPT (ISETc) through direct participation with works in collaboration with professors and PhD students, through reviews of the proposed countries, and through presentation and/or organizing lectures in the plenary of the events at the latest editions.
- The programs carried out jointly were of the Socrates type and then Erasmus, since 2004 until now.
- Another type of collaboration was provided by the MCD type mobility programs granted by UEFISCDI to finance the movement of Romanian researchers from the diaspora to research institutions in Romania to support scientific research in the country. UPT, through the MEO department of the ETCTI faculty, has so far carried out three such programs with Mr. Matekovits as a quest.





HABILITATION THESIS





EVOLUTION OF HABILITATION THESIS IN UPT 2016 - 2020

Habilitation (from Latin habilis "fit, proper, skillful") is the highest academic qualification a scholar can achieve by his or her own pursuit.

In this chapter we present the habilitation thesis supported by teachers from Politehnica University Timisoara, both at UPT and, also, at other universities.

The habilitation thesis are presented in chronological order, according to institution where they were sustained.







IMAGE ENHANCING TECHNIQUES BASED ON FUSION

Author: Codruta ANCUTI

Abstract

The present habilitation thesis summarizes the research contributions of the candidate obtained between 2011 (when the candidate obtained the PhD) to this date.

The most significant research activity and the obtained results are presented structured in several parts that represent original contributions in the field of image processing and computational photography: image dehazing (day-time single image dehazing, night-time single image dehazing, dehazing evaluation dataset), underwater images enhancement, image decolorisation and single scale fusion technique for effectively merging images.

I. Image dehazing deals with the problem of enhancing the visibility in terms of color and details for images degraded by haze. In outdoor environments, haze phenomena appears when the light reflected from object surfaces is scattered due to the impurities of the aerosol, or due to the presence of fog and haze. The yielding hazy images are characterized by poor contrast, lower saturation and additional noise.

II. Enhancing Underwater Images. We describe an effective technique that is able to enhance underwater images. Our strategy derives the inputs and the weight measures only from the degraded version of the image. In order to overcome the limitations of the underwater medium we define two inputs that represent color corrected and contrast enhanced versions of the original underwater image/frame, but also four weight maps that aim to increase the visibility of the distant objects degraded due to the medium scattering and absorption. The enhanced images and videos are characterized by reduced noise level, better exposedness of the dark regions, improved global contrast while the finest details and edges are enhanced significantly. In addition, the utility of our enhancing technique is proved for several challenging applications (image matching, segmentation, etc.).

III. Image decolorization (color-to-grayscale) deals with the problem of converting a color image (with three-RGB-channels) into



a single channel image version. Often, the standard decolorization conversion is simply employed as the luminance channel of different color spaces. However, this simple global mapping disregards important chromatic information and therefore, in many cases, the output does not preserve the original appearance. Our grayscale transformation, designed in RGB color space and takes as individual inputs the three color channels (R, G, B). Our technique is guided by two weight maps that transfer in the final result the most significant information of each derived input (RGB color channels). In order to minimize artifacts introduced by the weight maps, our approach is designed in a multi-scale fashion.

The full thesis at:

http://www.upt.ro/Informatii_teze-de-abilitare-sustinute_285_ro.html

Habilitation Commission

Prof.univ.dr.ing. Aldo DE SABATA Universitatea Politehnica Timișoara Prof.univ.dr.ing. Corneliu RUSU Universitatea Tehnică din Cluj-Napoca Prof.univ.dr.ing. Dinu COLTUC Universitatea "Valahia" din Targoviște



WATER IN SUPRAMOLECULAR NANOSYSTEMS AND MATERIALS FOR FOODS, PHARMACEUTICALS AND COSMETICS

Author: Daniel-Ioan HĂDĂRUGĂ

Abstract

The *Habilitation Thesis* is based on the author's research in food and pharmaceutical fields. Research results were published as original articles in highly esteemed journals from these fields, as well as book chapters in encyclopedias and monographs from internationally recognized publishers in the last five years (e.g., many articles in *Food Chemistry*, ISI 6.3/Q1 or book chapter in *Encyclopedia of Analytical Science*, Elsevier, 2019). Moreover, the research results were presented at high level international conferences in the field such as *International Conference on Water in Food (EFW)* — Reims, Helsinki, Leuven, Belgium and Prague, or *European Conference on Cyclodextrins (EuroCD)* —Asti, Antalya and Lille.

The thesis starts with the presentation of the main author's research results regarding the scientifically, professional and academic aspects in the field of "Engineering of vegetable and animal resources": an introduction related to biological and supramolecular systems, implications of water molecules in the obtaining, analysis and bioavailability of some biologically active compounds. The thesis continues with the synthesis and characterization of supramolecular nanosystems having applications in food, pharmaceutical and cosmetic fields, based on the scientific results obtained for molecular nanoencapsulation in natural and semi-synthetically modified cyclodextrins of unique biologically active compounds or mixtures with hydrophobic properties, as well as more hydrophilic natural antioxidants. In the next section is detailed the Karl Fischer titration method (KFT), which have important applications for selective determination of water in supramolecular nanosystems based on cyclodextrins and materials that can be used in food product development. The thermogravimetry-differential thermogravimetry (TG-DTG) and differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) thermal methods that are applicable to the obtained supramolecular nanosystems in order to evaluate the water/moisture content, the stability, releasing properties of volatile and degradation compounds have been emphasized. The correlation and multivariate statistical analyses of the above obtained data were presented in the final part. Both linear and multilinear regression, as well as classifying and grouping methods by multivariate statistical analysis - principal



component analysis (PCA) have been used. Relevant mathematical models on the water content, composition and KFT kinetic parameters for food ingredients and supramolecular nanosystems having food, pharmaceutical and cosmetic applications, as well as between the KFT and TG-DSC parameters were obtained.

The second section of the thesis is dedicated to the evolution and development plan for professional, scientifically and academic career. It was emphasized the development of the career in the field of engineering of vegetable and animal resources, the publications, international impact and visibility through the *Hirsch index - 12, acting as Guest Editor for Food Chemistry, Vice-president of Association EuroFoodWater* (Reims, France), activating in scientific and organizing committees of international conferences in the field (*EFW* and *EuroCD*), or as expert for international and national grants.

The full thesis at:

https://www.usab-tm.ro/ro/scoli-doctorale-66/abilitare-11118

Habilitation Commission

Prof. Dr. Olimpia-Alina IORDĂNESCU

Banat's University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine "King Michael I of Romania" from Timişoara

Prof. Dr. Sevastiţa MUSTE

University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Cluj-Napoca

Prof. Dr. Camelia VIZIREANU

"Dunărea de Jos" University of Galați



PhD THESIS

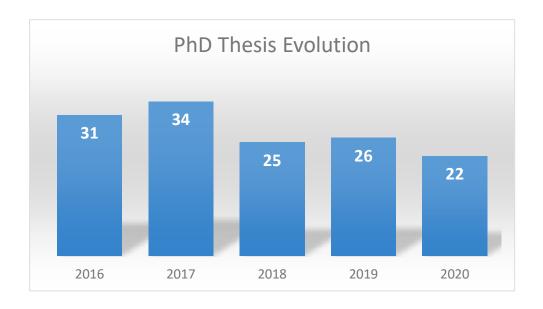




EVOLUTION OF PhD THESIS DEFENDED IN UPT 2016 - 2020

PhD students of UPT are those with a high degree of personal motivation that stems from their natural curiosity and love of intellectual pursuits. It is expected that after they obtain their degree they will metamorphose into scholars for whom also the temptation of researching new and exciting subjects is irresistible, or at least preferable to all other choices.

Doctoral programs usually encompass intensive training in research methods, including interviewing, surveys, questionnaires, clinical trials and laboratory experiments; later, those skills are put into practice when the doctoral candidate conducts fieldwork for his dissertation. Skills gained in qualitative and quantitative research methodology and statistical analysis are transferable to non-academic research environments, particularly for industrial research. In addition, employers outside of academia seek individuals with sound research skills to carry out projects at think tanks and research institutes in both the private and government sectors.



In this chapter we present a list of the PhD Thesis defended in Politehnica University Timisoara during 2020.





Architecture

Irina MOHORA	Relația lumii vegetale cu spații destinate birourilor
PhD adviser prof. C. DUMITRESCU	(Connection between greenery and workplaces)
Brînduşa Raluca HAVAŞI	Arhitectura și copiii. Spațiul ca mediu de educație a tinerilor
PhD adviser prof. T. O. GHEORGHIU	(Architecture and children. The space as a youth education environment)
Vladimir OBRADOVICI PhD adviser prof. S. M. BICA	Salvgardarea bisericii monument de lemn din Crivina de Sus. Rolul arhitectului într-un proces multidisciplinar (Saving the wooden church monument in Crivina de Sus. The role of the architect in a multidisciplinary process)

Systems Engineering

Cristian - Grigore ZIMBRU PhD adviser prof. I. SILEA	Soluții informatice pentru cercetarea variantelor și tiparelor genomice aplicând metode din ingineria sistemelor (In silicosolutions for researching genomicvariants and patternsapplying systems engineering methods)
Ovidiu GANA PhD adviser prof. O. PROŞTEAN	Probleme de modelare și conducere ale sistemelor electroenergetice solare (Problems of driving and modeling of the electroenergetic systems)
Răzvan-Cătălin MICLEA PhD adviser prof. I. SILEA	Sisteme de creștere a siguranței traficului rutier în condiții meteo ce alterează vizibilitatea - cercetări și soluții (Systems to increase the safety of road traffic in weather conditions that alter visibility - research and solutions)

Computers and Information Technology

Sorin Liviu JURJ PhD adviser prof. M. VLĂDUŢIU	Alimentarea și evaluarea sistemelor bazate pe învățarea profundă utilizând energie verde (Powering and evaluating deep learning-based systems using green energy)
Gabriel BARINA PhD adviser prof. M. VLĂDUŢIU	Analiza Computațională a Comportamentelor Emergente în Rețele (Computational Analysis of Emergent Behaviour in Collaboration Networks)
lulia ŞTIRB PhD adviser prof. H. CIOCÂRLIE	Reducerea consumului de energie și a timpului de execuție prin optimizarea comunicării între firele de execuție și prin localizarea echilibrată a datelor la execuția programelor paralele, pe sisteme NUMA (Optimization of performance and energy consumption by balanced data locality for the execution of parallel applications on numa systems)



Chemical Engineering

Paula Aurelia BORZA Noi căi de sinteză pentru biocompuși folosind enzime native și imobilizate PhD adviser prof. F. PETER (New synthetic routes for biocompounds using native and immobilized enzymes)

Bogdan Adrian MILITARU Dezvoltarea unor procese de valorificare a cenușii de epurare PhD adviser prof. R. PODE (Development of processes for capitalization of sewage sludge ash)

Civil Engineering and Building Services

Adrian SMULEAC Metode geospațiale în vederea realizării unui GIS pentru amenajările hidrotehnice și hidroameliorative PhD adviser prof. T. E. MAN (Geospatial methods in order to implement a GIS for hydrotechnical and hydroameliorative facilities)

lasmina APOSTOL Vulnerabilitatea centrelor istorice la seism

PhD adviser prof. M. MOŞOARCĂ (Seismic vulnerability assessment of historical urban centers) Alexandra - Iasmina KELLER O metodologie complexă de evaluare a şarpantelor istorice PhD adviser prof. M. MOŞOARCĂ (A complex assessment methodology for historic roof structures)

Civil Engineering

Radu POPA Contribuții la realizarea îmbrăcăminților rutiere rigide PhD adviser prof. S. DAN (Contributions to the construction of rigid road surface course)

Electronic Engineering and Telecommunications

Markus HERRMANN Detecția, estimarea și corecția traiectoriei pentru ghidarea robotului PhD adviser prof. M.-E. OTEŞTEANU (Path detection, estimation and correction for robot guidance)

Electrical Engineering

Convertoare CC-CC bidirecționale cu raport de conversie extins pentru aplicații de stocare în Dan HULEA supercondensatoare

PhD adviser prof. N. MUNTEAN (Wide ration bidirectional DC-DC converters for supercapacitor storage applications)





Engineering and Management

Anca MOCAN PhD adviser prof. A. DRĂGHICI	Industria 4.0 pentru ergonomia depozitelor: Posibile aplicații ale tehnologiilor emergente (Industry 4.0 in warehouse ergonomics: Possible applications of emerging technology)
Daniel PASCHEK PhD adviser prof. A. DRĂGHICI	Utilizarea inteligenței artificiale în managementul proceselor de afaceri - Cerință importantă, factor de succes și necesitate pentru afaceri în industria 5.0 (Business Process Management Using Artificial Intelligence - An important Requirement, Success Factor and Business Need for Industry 5.0)
Alin - Lucrețiu - Dubcek GĂUREANU PhD adviser prof. A. DRĂGHICI	Managementul securității în muncă - perspective strategice în consolidarea culturii de securitate a muncii în întreprinderi (Occupational Safety and Health Management - Strategic Perspectives in Strengthening the Safety Culture in Enterprises)

Mechanical Engineering

losif LAZĂR	Tehnici de optimizare a rezistenței la eroziune prin cavitație a unor aliaje Cu-Zn și Cu-Sn
PhD adviser prof. I. BORDEAŞU PhD adviser prof. I. MITELEA	(Techniques for the optimization of the resistance to cavitation erosion of certain Cu–Zn and Cu–Sn alloys)

Industrial Engineering

Nicolae ISTRAT Abordarea sistemic-integrată a optimizării siguranței rutiere în județul Timiș PhD adviser prof. D. T.I.C.I. (Systemic integrated approach to road cafety optimization in Timis County)		
PhD advicer prof. D. TIICII. (Systemic integrated approach to road cafety entimization in Timic County.)	Nicolae ISTRAT	Abordarea sistemic-integrată a optimizării siguranței rutiere în județul Timiș
Tild adviser prof. D. Joco (Systemic-integrated approach to load safety optimization in films country)	PhD adviser prof. D. ŢUCU	(Systemic-integrated approach to road safety optimization in Timiş County)

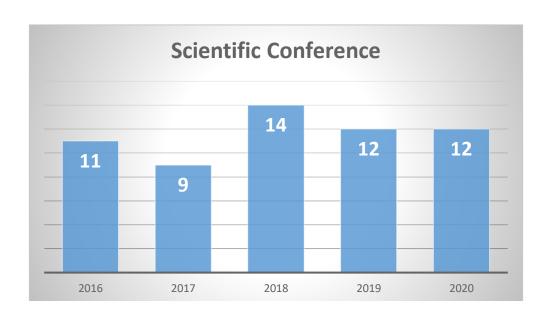


SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCES





EVOLUTION OF SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCES 2016 - 2020







Building Services and Environmental Comfort (ICCA 2020)

April 2 - 3, 2020, Timişoara, Romania

Organizers: AllR - Romanian Association of Building Services;

Politehnica University Timişoara – Civil Engineering and Installations Department; in association with REHVA, Danube ASHRAE Chapter, Research Center of Installations,

Electrical Installations and Automation Society Romania

http://www.aiir-timisoara.ro

Knowing the comfort needs, being aware of the imperative of the protection of the environment and finding the current energy "deficiencies", led to the organization of the 29-th Conference "Building Services and Environmental Comfort" with theme "The comfort provided by renewable energy sources". Specialists of all classes, students, performers, designers, researchers, and teachers have published in this volume.

The key issues of renewable energy supply and proposals for solving them can be found in the 28 papers of authors from our country and from abroad, published in the conference volume.

Topics: ambient comfort, environmental protection, HVAC systems, energy efficiency, renewable energy, technical and economic parameters of the installations, the influence of the improper functioning of the facilities on human health, issues in facilities management and marketing.

The conference was attended by 46 authors who addressed topics such as renewable energy sources (solar energy, wind energy, soil, and environmental energy), air and water quality, technical sustainability, but also the influence / importance of human action in contact with environment. Researchers' concerns closely related to future work/activity, have led to the development of valuable works with current topics and personal contributions to solve, gravitating in the areas of primary factors of life: air, water, heat, light, which fits perfectly with the words "Homo sanus in domo pulchra." Published papers by: The volume consisting of the conference's papers was published by MATRIX Publishing (ISSN: 1842–9491).



International Conference on Applied Sciences ICAS2020

May 20 - 22, 2020, Hunedoara, Romania (on-line)

Organizers: Politehnica University Timişoara and Unieversity of Banja Luka

in cooperation with: Ministry for Scientific and Technological Development, Higher Education and Information Society of the Republika Srpska, Academy of Romanian Scientists, Academy of Sciences and Arts of the Republika Srpska, Academy of Technical Sciences of Romania – Timisoara Branch, General Association of Romanian Engineers – Hunedoara Branch and Association Universitaria Hunedoara

http://icas.science/

Event dedicated to the Centenary of the University Politehnica Timişoara and the Semi-Centenary of the Engineering Faculty of Hunedoara. The conference has been focused on several fields of application, operation and influence of the applied sciences and technologies on industry.

Topics of the conference covers a comprehensive spectrum of issues from:

- **1. Fundamental Sciences:** Pure and Applied Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Numerical Approximation and Analysis, Computational Methods, Applied Statistics and others...
- **2. Computers Engineering:** Modeling and Simulation, Software Engineering, Data Bases, and others...
- 3. Electrical Engineering: Circuits and Systems, Signal Processing, Electric Motors, Control Engineering, and others...
- **4. Mechanical Engineering:** Mechanics, Mechatronics, Robotic Systems Engineering, Production Engineering, Constructions, Automotive and Traffic Engineering, Safety Engineering, Reliability, and others...
- **5. Materials Engineering:** Metallic Materials, Composite Materials, Metal Alloys, Metallurgy, Heat Transfer, and others... Publication of papers: The volume "Proceedings of ICAS2020" has been published in *Journal of Physics: Conference Series* vol. 1781 (2021).

SACI 2020

IEEE 14th International Symposium on Applied Computational Intelligence and Informatics (SACI 2020)

May 21 - 23, 2020, Timişoara, Romania

Organizers: Óbuda University, Budapest, Hungary, Politehnica University Timişoara, IEEE Chapter of Systems, Many, and Cybernetics Society, Romania

http://conf.uni-obuda.hu/saci2020/

SACI 2020 has featured several kinds of presentations, including invited talks, contributed papers and posters. The outcome of SACI 2020 is a better understanding of some leading research areas, as already Computational Intelligence and Informatics have demonstrated.

SACI 2020 has welcomed papers on the following topics:

- Computational Intelligence
- · Intelligent Mechatronics
- · Systems Engineering
- Intelligent Manufacturing Systems

- · Intelligent Control
- Intelligent Robotics
- Informatics.

Published papers by:

IEEE Xplore Digital Library, please visit

http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/search/searchresult.jsp?newsearch=true&queryText=SACI%202020



ErgoWork 2020 International Conference on Ergonomics and Workplace Management

June 18 - 20, 2020, Timișoara, Romania - On-line event

Organizers: Romanian Society on Ergonomics and Workplace Management (ErgoWork), Politehnica University of Timisoara, Romania, Technical University of Cluj-Napoca, Romania, Romanian Association of Workplace and Facility Management, Federation of European Ergonomics Societies, Hungary Hungarian Ergonomics Society, Serbia Ergonomics Society of Serbia, Croatian Ergonomics Society http://www.mpt.upt.ro/cercetare/conferinte/ergowork.html

ErgoWork 2020 international scientific event was organized for creating a large national and international community of knowledge, practice and interests in the field of ergonomics and workplace management. The published papers were related to a large variety of topics as: industrial ergonomics, product and process ergonomics, workplace aesthetics and ergonomics (workplace design and modern architecture perspectives), biomechanics and modelling in ergonomics, occupational medicine, application of ergonomics, occupational health and safety management, sustainable workplaces, education and human resources management. The conference was supported by the Ergonomics and Human Factors Regional Educational CEEPUS Network (CIII-HU-1506-01-2021), https://sites.google.com/view/ceepusergohf/home

- Publication of papers in 2 emergent ISI Thomson/Clarivate Analytics journal:
- 32 articles were published in ACTA TECHNICA NAPOCENSIS SERIES-APPLIED MATHEMATICS, MECHANICS AND ENGINEERING journal, special issue, Anca DRAGHICI (Guest Editor), 64(1-S1), 2021, https://atna-mam.utcluj.ro/index.php/Acta/issue/view/52
- 9 articles were published in HUMAN SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT journal, special issue "Changes and challenges of human systems management during and after the pandemic", Anca DRAGHICI (Guest Editor), 39(4), pp. 469-472, 2020, https://content.iospress.com/articles/human-systemsmanagement/hsm209001? result Number = 0 & total Results = 12 & start = 0 & q = Draghici + Anca & results Page Size = 10 & rows = 10 & roThis research output has an Altmetric Attention Score of 33. This is our high-level measure of the quality and quantity of online attention that it has received. This Attention Score, as well as the ranking and number of research outputs shown below, was calculated when the research output was last mentioned on 09 -12 - 2020.





Agua Circular 2020 - On-line Conference

October 7 - 8, 2020, on-line

Organizers: Aquademica Foundation, Aquatim SA, Aquaserv SA, Politehnica University of Timişoara, "Gheorghe Asachi" Technical University of Iaşi, Fraunhofer Institute for Interfacial Engineering & Biotechnology, Business Development Group, TRITECC, Zalmo Expert Consult, EIT Climate–KIC, NextGen, "Volatile" Project.

https://aguademica.ro/on-line-conference-circular-water-2020/

The conference has been focused on new innovative technologies, regional policies, barriers, new business models to follow in next years.

Topics of the conference covers a comprehensive spectrum of issues from:

- 1. Circular Economy in Sustainable Water Management
- 2. Public Services Management in the Circular economy
- 3. Environmental protection & Circular economy
- 4. Moving Water Industry towards to Circular economy
- 5. Circular economy & Water Security Nexus

Publication of papers:

Aquademica publication (on-line version)



8th International Conference on Advanced Materials and Structures - AMS 2020

October 7 - 9, 2020, Timisoara, Romania

Organizers: University Politehnica Timişoara ("Department of Materials Engineering and Manufacturing" and "Department of Mechanics and Strength of Materials") in collaboration with the Politehnica Foundation

www.ams.upt.ro

The 8th International Conference on Advanced Materials and Structures - AMS'20 was organized by the University Politehnica Timişoara ("Department of Materials Engineering and Manufacturing" and "Department of Mechanics and Strength of Materials") with the support of the Politehnica Foundation. The AMS'20 conference was held between October 7-9, 2020 in Timişoara, Romania and it is the eighth of the scientific event. The AMS'20 conference celebrated the 100th anniversary of University Politehnica Timişoara foundation.

The conference included plenary sessions, oral and poster presentations, and social events.

The conference topics included:

- Advanced materials amorphous, nano-structured materials, composites, cellular materials, biomaterials etc.
- Surface engineering
- Modern fabrication, additive manufacturing, joints and recycling technologies
- Materials damage under time-dependent-actions (fatigue, creep, impact, corrosion)
- Computational techniques for advanced engineering materials and structures

Publication of papers:

Proceeding of AMS'20 have been published in the Journal Materials Today: Proceedings (https://www.journals.elsevier.com/materials-today-proceedings). Materials Today: Proceedings (ISSN: 2214–7853) provides the materials science community with a fast and flexible route to the publication of research presented at national and international scientific conferences in the field of materials science, technology and engineering. Accepted proceedings are published on ScienceDirect.



The X International Conference "Industrial Engineering and Environmental Protection"

October 8 - 9, 2020, Zrenjanin, SERBIA

Organizers: University of Novi Sad, Technical Faculty "Mihajlo Pupin", Zrenjanin, SERBIA, in cooperation with partners: University Politehnica Timisoara, Faculty of Engineering, Hunedoara, ROMANIA, University "St. Kliment Ohridski", Technical Faculty, Bitola, MACEDONIA, "Aurel Vlaicu" University of Arad, Faculty of Engineering, Arad, ROMANIA, University of East Sarajevo, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering East Sarajevo, BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA and University of Giresun, Faculty of Engineering, Giresun, TURKEY http://www.tfzr.uns.ac.rs/iizs/

Industrial Engineering

- · Mechanical Engineering
- Energetics And Process Technique
- Designing And Maintenance
- · Oil And Gas Engineering

Environmental Engineering

- · Health And Environmental Protection
- Environmental Management
- Occupational Safety

Publication of papers:

- Proceedings of INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (9; 2019; Zrenjanin), ISBN 978-86-7672-324-9, published by University of Novi Sad, Technical Faculty "Mihajlo Pupin", Zrenjanin, SERBIA (http://www.tfzr.uns.ac.rs/iizs/files/IIZS%202019%20Proceedings.pdf)
- Selected papers in ANNALS of Faculty Engineering Hunedoara International Journal of Engineering, ISSN: 1584-2665, ISSN: 2601-2332, ISSN-L: 1584-2665, published by University Politehnica Timisoara, Faculty of Engineering, Hunedoara, ROMANIA, http://annals.fih.upt.ro/
- Selected papers in ACTA TECHNICA CORVINIENSIS Bulletin of Engineering, e-ISSN: 2067–3809, published by University Politehnica Timisoara, Faculty of Engineering, Hunedoara, ROMANIA, http://acta.fih.upt.ro/



24th International Conference on System Theory, Control and Computing (ICSTCC 2020)

October 12 - 14, 2020, Sinaia, Romania

Organizers: Faculty of Automation, Computers and Electronics of University of Craiova; Faculty of Automatic Control and Computer Engineering of Gheorghe Asachi Technical University of lasi; Faculty of Control Systems, Computers, Electrical and Electronics Engineering of "Dunarea de Jos" University of Galati; Faculty of Automation and Computers, Department of Automation and Applied Informatics and Department of Computers and Information Technology of Politehnica University of Timisoara

http://ace.ucv.ro/icstcc2020/

ICSTCC 2020 has featured several kinds of presentations, including invited talks, contributed papers and special sessions. The outcome of ICSTCC 2020 is a better understanding of some leading research areas, as already System Theory, Control and Computing have demonstrated.

ICSTCC 2020 has welcomed papers on the following topics:

- **Automation and Robotics:** Linear and Nonlinear Control System Design, System Identification and Process Modeling, Robust and Adaptive Control, Robotics and Intelligent Control, Applications and Case Studies in Automation and Robotics, Embedded Systems;
- **Computer Science and Engineering:** Distributed Systems and Software Engineering, Databases, Systems of Programs and Expert Systems, Web Services, Internet Security, Software Tools and Methods, Grid Computing, Artificial Intelligence, Computer Architectures;
- **Electronics and Instrumentation:** Modeling, Simulation and CAD Tools, Signal Processing and Communication Systems, Linear and Nonlinear Circuits and Systems, Evolutionary Electronics.

Publication of papers:

IEEE Xplore Digital Library, please visit http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/search/searchresult.jsp?newsearch=true&gueryText=ICSTCC%202020





MTM & Robotics 2020

The Joint International Conference of the XIII International Conference on Mechanisms and Mechanical Transmissions (MTM) and the XXIV International Conference on Robotics (Robotics)

October 21st – 23rd, 2020, Timisoara, Romania

Organizer: University Politehnica of Timisoara https://mctr.mec.upt.ro/mtm-robotics-2020/

The aim of the joint conference is to bring together researchers, scientists, industry experts and PhD students involved in the general area of mechanisms, mechanical transmissions, robotics and mechatronics, to disseminate their latest research results and exchange views on the future research directions of these fields.

Topics

MTM: Mechanisms — analysis and synthesis; Dynamics of mechanisms and machines; Mechanical Transmissions; Biomechanics; Precision mechanics; Mechatronics; Micromechanisms and Microactuators; Computational and Experimental Methods; CAD in mechanism and machine design.

Robotics: Mechanical design of robot architecture; Parallel robots; Mobile robots; Micro and Nano robots; Sensors and actuators in robotics; Intelligent control systems; Biomedical engineering; Teleoperation, haptics, virtual reality.

Publication of papers:

Springer Nature Switzerland AG 2021, ISSN 2211-0984, ISSN 2211-0992 (electronic) Mechanisms and Machine Science, ISBN 978-3-030-60075-4, ISBN 978-3-030-60076-1 (eBook) https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-60076-1



14th International Symposium on Electronics and Telecommunications (ISETC'20)

November 05 - 06, 2020, Timişoara, Romania

Organizers: • Faculty of Electronics, Telecommunications and Information Technologies, • Politehnica University Timişoara, • Association of Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering from Timişoara, in association with: • IEEE Romania, • Romania Communication Chapter, • Romania Joint Chapter Communications/IEEE Information Theory/Signal Processing Societies, • ASTR – Romanian Academy of Technical Sciences http://conference.etc.upt.ro/isetc2020/

Since 1994, when the first edition of the International Symposium on Electronics and Telecommunications took place, the scientific event has grown from a national happening to an important international event, organized every two years. If in the beginning the papers were published in the Scientific Bulletin of the Politehnica University Timisoara, since 2010 the Symposium has become independent and the papers are published in a dedicated proceeding. Moreover, papers of 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016 and 2018 editions were included in IEEE eXplore and Clarivate Analytics Web of Sciences databases. We are proud that throughout these 26 years we faced a continuous increase both in quantity and in quality of the papers. Topics of the conference covers following fields:

1. Advances on Intelligent Electronic Systems, 2. Artificial Intelligence and Computer Vision, 3. Instrumentation and Measurement, 4. Open Education and Emerging Technologies, 5. Power Electronics, 6. Signal Processing, 7. Telecommunications

During the conference 99 papers, written by 294 authors from 5 countries, were presented.

Unfortunately, due to the COVID pandemic situation, taking into consideration associated restrictions regarding travels, social distancing and people gathering, the Organizing Committees in agreement with technical sponsors and IEEE have decided to hold this edition of the ISETC conference, in order to assure under these circumstances, the safety and well-being of all participants, fully on-line. It is a new experience which hopefully will be interesting and exciting for the authors who have been chosen to publish their research results in the Proceedings of ISETC'20.

Proceedings of ISETC'20 were published in IEEE eXplore databases: https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/xpl/conhome/9301024/proceeding



The 11th International Conference "Innovative Technologies for Joining Advanced Materials" TIMA20

November 26–27, 2020, Timişoara, Romania (Online through the zoom platform)

Organizers: • Nicuşor-Alin Sîrbu (Conference Chair) Phd.eng. - ISIM Timişoara (Romania)

- Florin Drăgan Assoc.Prof.Phd.Eng. Politehnica University Timişoara (Romania)
- Vladimir-loan Creţu Prof.Phd.Eng. Technical Sciences Academy of Romania -Timişoara Subsidiary (Romania)

http://www.isim.ro/tima/tima20 home.php

The international conference has been focused on several fields of application, has featured several kinds of presentations, including invited talks, contributed papers and posters.

The conference topics were:

- New joining technologies Coatings: advanced materials & innovative technologies Modelling and simulation of welding and allied processes
- Specific problems in advanced materials joining Advanced methods and new trends in NDT Mechanical and structural characterization of advanced materials and joints Quantitative non-destructive testing Fracture mechanics of advanced materials Damage of advanced materials under time-dependent-actions and remaining life assessment, fatique, creep, corrosion, irradiation Quality of welded joints and welded structures

Publication of papers:

Conference proceedings will be published in Trans Tech Publications' periodical 'Key Engineering Materials' (printed and online) and 'Advanced Materials Research' (online), selected materials, science related papers only, with Indexing and DOI. The periodical will be available in full text online at www.scientific.net/KEM and www.scientific.net/AMR.

Conference proceedings will be indexed in major international database: SCOPUS, Ei Compendex, REAXYS Etc.



SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS



BULETINUL ŞTIINŢIFIC

al Universității Politehnica Timișoara, România Seria INGINERIE ȘI MANAGEMENT Vol. 6, Nr. 1, 2020

SCIENTIFIC BULLETIN

of

Politehnica University of Timisoara, Romania Transactions on ENGINEERING AND MANAGEMENT
Vol. 6, Issue 1, 2020

> ISSN 2392 - 7364 ISSN-L 2392 - 7364

Transactions on Engineering and Management Volume 6, Issue 1, 2020

www.mpt.upt.ro/cercetare/buletin-stiintific.html

- The Scientific Bulletin of Politehnica University Timişoara, Transaction on Engineering and Management presents research results in the field of industrial management and business studies that are of significant impact on major contemporary issues.
- The journal welcomes submissions of theoretical, methodological, empirical, policy-oriented, as well as industrial papers in all the field. Additionally, it considers contributions that combine engineering and management studies with any other field of inquiry.
- SCIENTIFIC BULLETIN of Politehnica University Timişoara, Transactions on ENGINEERING AND MANAGEMENT is indexed: Index Copernicus, Google Scholar (under review), Ulrich (under review).





Buletinul Științific al Universității Politehnica Timișoara Seria Hidrotehnică

SCIENTIFIC BULLETIN

The Politehnica University of Timisoara

Transactions on HYDROTECHNICS



Transactions on Hydrotechnics Volume 65 (79), Issue 1, 2020

http://www.ct.upt.ro/buletinhidro/index.htm

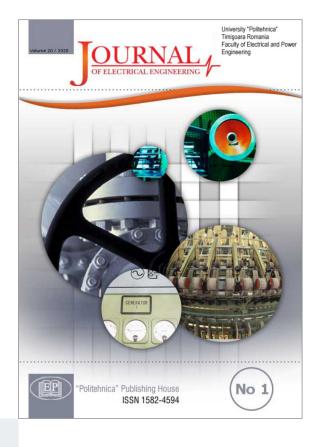
- The Scientific Bulletin of the Politehnica University Timişoara, Transactions on Hydrotechnics is coordinated since 1992 by the Faculty of Hydrotechnical Engineering. Published papers in the journal focus on engineering sciences, civil engineering, theoretical and applied hydraulic, mathematics and numerical modeling, hydrology and water management, hydrotechnical developments and constructions, land improvement (irrigations, drainage, erosion control), engineering and sustainable rural development, water supply and sewerage systems, wastewater treatment, hydraulic structures and technologies.
- The Journal is published entirely in English, with abstracts and keywords, with international exposure.
- "The revue is known for experts from home and abroad, is accredited and ranked in the "B+" CATEGORY Journal by CNCSIS, and is indexed by EBSCO Publishing."



Transactions on Modern Languages Volume 19, Issue 1, 2020

www.sc.upt.ro/ro/publicatii/buletinul-stiintific/about

- The Transactions on Modern languages, published by the Department of Communication and Foreign Languages, has its origin in The Social Science and Humanities Series, started in 1991 under ISSN 1223-1959.
- The Transactions of Modern Languages publishes original papers in all areas of theoretical and applied linguistics: Linguistics, Translation and Interpreting Studies, Discourse Analysis, Pragmatics, Rhetoric, Terminology, LSP, Foreign Language Teaching.
- The journal is included in the CEEOL, Fabula and EBSCO data bases.



Journal of Electrical Engineering
Volume 20, Issue 1, Issue 3, Issue 4, Issue 5, 2020

www.jee.ro/

- JEE continues the prestigious "Scientific Bulletin" of the Politehnica University Timişoara, Electrotehnical section, but in electronic form.
- It also aims to become a fully international archival journal.
- Its scope includes all issues of widespread generic interest to engineers who work in the field of electrical engineering.
- The Journal of Electrical Engineering is indexed by Scopus and IEE INSPEC.





Acta Technica Corviniensis - Bulletin of Engineering Volume 13, Issue 1, Issue 2, Issue 3, Issue 4, 2020

http://acta.fih.upt.ro/

- ACTA TECHNICA CORVINIENSIS Bulletin of Engineering is an independent, free-access, online, international and multidisciplinary scientific publication edited by the Politehnica University Timişoara, Faculty Engineering Hunedoara and Faculty of Mechanical Engineering Timişoara.
- The Journal is focused on engineering sciences and other innovative allied research areas, in all fields of science and technology on the basis of its originality, importance and timeliness.
- ACTA TECHNICA CORVINIENSIS Bulletin of Engineering is accredited and ranked in the "B+" CATEGORY Journal by CNCSIS, and is indexed by Index Copernicus, Google Scholar, EBSCO Publishing, DOAJ, SCIRUS, EVISA, ProQuest, DRJI, CAS, BASE, ULRICHSweb - Global serials directory, Directory Indexing of International Research Journals, Electronic Journals Library etc.



Annals of Faculty Engineering Hunedoara International Journal of Engineering Volume 18, Issue 1, Issue 2, Issue 3, Issue 4, 2020

http://annals.fih.upt.ro/

- The Journal is a multi-disciplinary journal which covers all aspects of scientific, engineering and technical disciplines including applications of scientific inventions for engineering, technological and industrial purposes, advances in engineering, technology and science.
- The Journal is accredited and ranked in the B+ category by The National University Research Council's Classification of Romanian Journals, CNCSIS, and is indexed by Index Copernicus, Google Scholar, EBSCO Publishing, DOAJ, SCIRUS, EVISA, ProQuest, DRJI, CAS, BASE etc.



Academic Journal of Manufaturing Engineering Volume 18, Issue 1, Issue 2, Issue 3, Issue 4, 2020

https://www.ajme.ro

- The Academic Journal of Manufacturing Engineering intends to provide the specialists in the manufacturing engineering field a possibility for sharing and exchanging results and information by publishing the results of their work.
- Academic Journal of Manufacturing Engineering is recognized as a B+ journal by the Romanian National Council of Scientific Research and indexed by Index Copernicus international database.

JOURNAL OF ARCHITECTURE URBANISM AND HERITAGE

University Politehnica Timisoara Romania Faculty of Architecture and Urbanism Vol. III - Nr. 2/2020 www.jauh.ro







Journal of Architecture, Urbanism and Heritage Volume 3, Issue 1, Issue 2, 2020

www.jauh.ro/

- The JOURNAL OF ARHITECTURE, URBANISM AND HERITAGE, JAUH, is a peer-review academic journal which publishes original research papers and advances theory, research and practice in the fields of architecture and urban planning.
- The interdisciplinary scholarly publication is aimed at advancing conceptual, scientific, and applied understandings of Architecture, Interior design, Urbanism, Built environment and Preservation and heritage studies.
- Its articles include recent research findings, empirical research papers, theoretical and integrative review articles, book reviews and innovative new practices, creating a link between theory and practice, researchers and practicing professionals.





Nonconventional Technologies Review
Volume XXIV, Issue 1, Issue 2, Issue 3, Issue 4, 2020

www.revtn.ro

- The Nonconventional Technologies Review is a scientific engineering publication of the Romanian Association for Nonconventional Technologies (ARTN), which has started in 1997, with quarterly appearances. The publication is addressed to all engineers and scientists interested in nonconventional technologies.
- Nonconventional Technologies Review is indexed in ProQuest, EBSCOhost, DOAJ, Google Scholar and Index Copernicus, and is classified as B+ according to the Romanian journal system.
- ISSN codes are: Print: ISSN 2359-8646; On-line: ISSN 2359-8654



ISI PAPERS



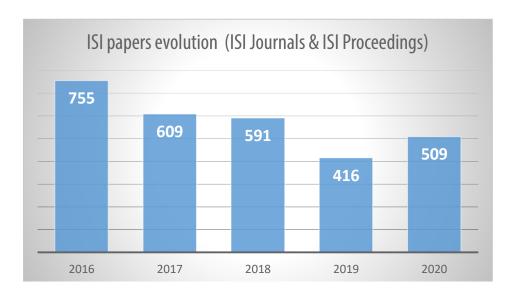


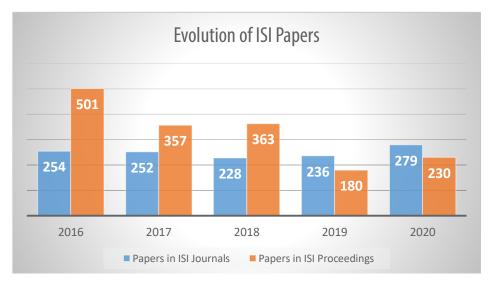
EVOLUTION OF ISI PAPERS UNDER AFFILIATIONS OF UPT 2016 - 2020

Scientific writing and publication marks the endpoint of research that has been performed, completed, peer reviewed and accepted, and complements teaching and training.

In this chapter we present the publications/papers written by our professors, PhD students, researchers etc. These publications can be: papers published in ISI Journals or papers presented at Conference and indexed in ISI Proceedings.

The number of papers presented in the below figures is greater than the number of papers presented in previous Research Reports. This number varies from year to year because annually it increases the number of publications indexed in the ISI Clarivate Analytics database.





^{*} The data for 2020 was obtained from Web of Science - Clarivate Analytics in 5 November 2021



ISI Papers in highlight





Selected from the most recent 10 years of data, Highly Cited Papers reflect the top 1% of papers by field and publication year. Highly Cited Papers help identify breakthrough research within a research field and are used within Web of Science to identify and refine the most influential research papers.

Boldea, I., Tutelea, L.N., Parsa, L., Dorrell, D. Automotive Electric Propulsion Systems With Reduced or No Permanent Magnets: An Overview, IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON INDUSTRIAL ELECTRONICS, Volume: 61, Issue: 10, Pages: 5696-5711, ISSN: 0278-0046, eISSN: 1557-9948, 2014;



Precup, R.E., Hellendoorn, H. A survey on industrial applications of fuzzy control, COMPUTERS IN INDUSTRY, Volume: 62, Issue: 3, Pages: 213-226, ISSN: 0166-3615, eISSN: 1872-6194, 2011;

Times Cited in Web of Science Core Collection: 311

Times Cited in Web of Science Core Collection: 365



Sarbu, I., Sebarchievici, C. General review of ground-source heat pump systems for heating and cooling of buildings, ENERGY AND BUILDINGS, Volume: 70, Pages: 441-454, ISSN: 0378-7788, eISSN: 1872-6178, 2014; Times Cited in Web of Science Core Collection: 257



Gheju, M., Balcu, I. Removal of chromium from Cr(VI) polluted wastewaters by reduction with scrap iron and subsequent precipitation of resulted cations, JOURNAL OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS, Volume: 196, Pages: 131-138. PubMed ID: 21955659. ISSN: 0304-3894. 2011:

Times Cited in Web of Science Core Collection: 174



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Sarbu, I., Sebarchievici, C. A Comprehensive Review of Thermal Energy Storage, SUSTAINABILITY, Volume: 10, Issue: 1, Article Number: 191, ISSN: 2071-1050, 2018;

Times Cited in Web of Science Core Collection: 156



Highly Cited Papers received enough citations as of January/December 2020 to place them in the top 1% of their academic fields based on a highly cited threshold for the field and publication year.

^{*} The data was obtained from Web of Science - Clarivate Analytics in 30 March 2021



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Ancuti, C.O., Ancuti, C., De Vleeschouwer, C., Bekaert, P. Color Balance and Fusion for Underwater Image Enhancement, IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON IMAGE PROCESSING, Volume: 27, Issue: 1, Pages: 379-393, PubMed ID: 28981416, ISSN: 1057-7149, eISSN: 1941-0042, 2018;



Precup, R.E., David, R.C., Petriu, E.M. Grey Wolf Optimizer Algorithm-Based Tuning of Fuzzy Control Systems With Reduced Parametric Sensitivity, IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON INDUSTRIAL ELECTRONICS, Volume: 64, Issue: 1, Pages: 527-534, ISSN: 0278-0046, eISSN: 1557-9948, 2017;

Times Cited in Web of Science Core Collection: 123

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Gheju, M., Balcu, I., Mosoarca, G. Removal of Cr(VI) from aqueous solutions by adsorption on MnO2, JOURNAL OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS, Volume: 310, Pages: 270-277, PubMed ID: 26947189, ISSN: 0304-3894, eISSN: 1873-3336, 2016;

Times Cited in Web of Science Core Collection: 110



Gavruta, L. Frames for operators, APPLIED AND COMPUTATIONAL HARMONIC ANALYSIS, Volume: 32, Issue: 1, Pages: 139-144, ISSN: 1063-5203, 2012;

Times Cited in Web of Science Core Collection: 100



Rajak, D.K., Pagar, D.D., Menezes, P.L., Linul, E. Fiber-Reinforced Polymer Composites: Manufacturing, Properties, and Applications, POLYMERS, Volume: 11, Issue: 10, Article Number: 1667, PubMed ID: 31614875, eISSN: 2073-4360, 2019;

Highly Cited Paper

Times Cited in Web of Science Core Collection: 75

Sarbu, I., Dorca, A. Review on heat transfer analysis in thermal energy storage using latent heat storage systems and phase change materials, INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ENERGY RESEARCH, Volume: 43, Issue: 1, Pages: 29-

64, ISSN: 0363-907X, eISSN: 1099-114X, 2019;



Times Cited in Web of Science Core Collection: 48

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Istratie, R., Stoia, M., Pacurariu, C., Locovei, C. Single and simultaneous adsorption of methyl orange and phenol onto magnetic iron oxide/carbon nanocomposites, ARABIAN JOURNAL OF CHEMISTRY, Volume: 12, Issue: 8, Pages: 3704–3722, ISSN: 1878–5352, eISSN: 1878–5379, 2019;



Times Cited in Web of Science Core Collection: 25

Times Cited in Web of Science Core Collection: 23

Fiedler, T., Al-Sahlani, K., Linul, P.A., Linul, E. Mechanical properties of A356 and ZA27 metallic syntactic foams at cryogenic temperature, JOURNAL OF ALLOYS AND COMPOUNDS, Volume: 813, Article Number: 152181, ISSN: 0925-8388, eISSN: 1873-4669, 2020;



Tmusic, G., Manfreda, S., Aasen, H., James, M.R., Goncalves, G., Ben-Dor, E., Brook, A., Polinova, M., Arranz, J.J.,

Meszaros, J., Zhuang, R.D., Johansen, K., Malbeteau, Y., de Lima, I.P., Davids, C., Herban, S., McCabe, M.F. Current Practices in UAS-based Environmental Monitoring, REMOTE SENSING, Volume: 12, Issue: 6, Article Number: 1001, eISSN: 2072-4292, 2020;



Times Cited in Web of Science Core Collection: 18

Precup, R.E., Teban, T.A., Albu, A., Borlea, A.B., Zamfirache, I.A., Petriu, E.M. Evolving Fuzzy Models for Prosthetic Hand Myoelectric-Based Control, IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON INSTRUMENTATION AND MEASUREMENT, Volume: 69, Issue: 7, Pages: 4625–4636, ISSN: 0018–9456, eISSN: 1557–9662, 2020;



Times Cited in Web of Science Core Collection: 16

Linul, E., Marsavina, L., Valean, C., Banica, R. Static and dynamic mode I fracture toughness of rigid PUR foams under room and cryogenic temperatures, ENGINEERING FRACTURE MECHANICS, Volume: 225, Article Number: 106274, ISSN: 0013-7944, eISSN: 1873-7315, 2020;



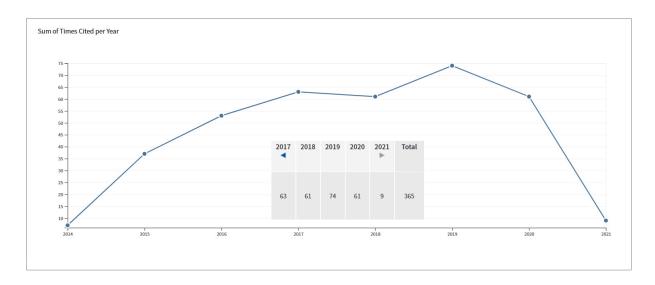
Times Cited in Web of Science Core Collection: 14

Highly Cited Papers received enough citations as of January/December 2020 to place them in the top 1% of their academic fields based on a highly cited threshold for the field and publication year.

* The data was obtained from Web of Science - Clarivate Analytics in 30 March 2021



As of January/December 2020, this highly cited paper received enough citations to place it in the top 1% of the academic field of **Engineering** based on a highly cited threshold for the field and publication year.



Boldea, I., Tutelea, L.N., Parsa, L., Dorrell, D. Automotive Electric Propulsion Systems With Reduced or No Permanent Magnets: An Overview, IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON INDUSTRIAL ELECTRONICS, Volume: 61, Issue: 10, Pages: 5696–5711, ISSN: 0278–0046, eISSN: 1557–9948, 2014; Times Cited in Web of Science Core Collection: 365

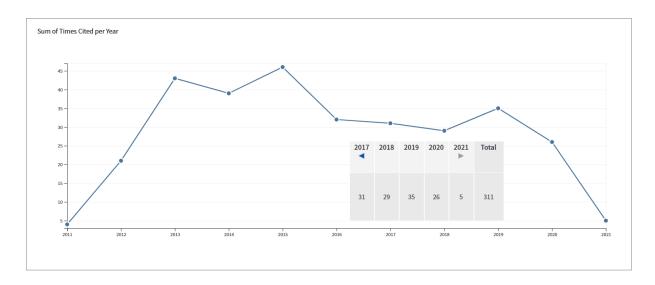
Abstract: Hybrid and electric vehicle technology has seen rapid development in recent years. The motor and the generator are at the heart of the vehicle drive and energy system and often utilize expensive rare-earth permanent magnet (PM) material. This paper reviews and addresses the research work that has been carried out to reduce the amount of rare-earth material that is used while maintaining the high efficiency and performance that rare-earth PM machines offer. These new machines can use either less rare-earth PM material,

weaker ferrite magnets, or no magnets; and they need to meet the high performance that the more usual interior PM synchronous motor with sintered neodymium-iron-boron magnets provides. These machines can take the form of PM-assisted synchronous reluctance machines, induction machines, switched reluctance machines, wound rotor synchronous machines (claw pole or biaxially excited), double-saliency machines with ac or dc stator current control, or brushless dc multiple-phase reluctance machines.





As of January/December 2020, this highly cited paper received enough citations to place it in the top 1% of the academic field of **Computer Science** based on a highly cited threshold for the field and publication year.



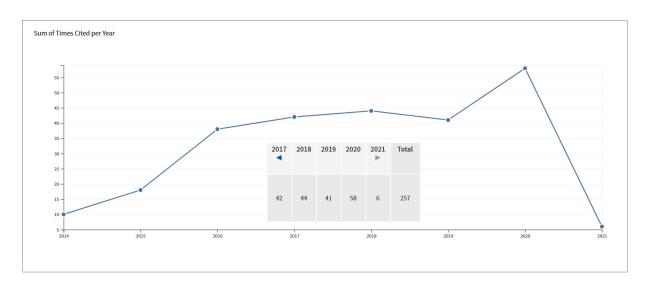
Precup, R.E., Hellendoorn, H. A survey on industrial applications of fuzzy control, COMPUTERS IN INDUSTRY, Volume: 62, Issue: 3, Pages: 213–226, ISSN: 0166–3615, eISSN: 1872–6194, 2011; Times Cited in Web of Science Core Collection: 311

Abstract: Fuzzy control has long been applied to industry with several important theoretical results and successful results. Originally introduced as model-free control design approach, model-based fuzzy control has gained widespread significance in the past decade.

This paper presents a survey on recent developments of analysis and design of fuzzy control systems focused on industrial applications reported after 2000.



As of January/December 2020, this highly cited paper received enough citations to place it in the top 1% of the academic field of **Engineering** based on a highly cited threshold for the field and publication year.



Sarbu, I., Sebarchievici, C. General review of ground-source heat pump systems for heating and cooling of buildings, ENERGY AND BUILDINGS, Volume: 70, Pages: 441–454, ISSN: 0378–7788, eISSN: 1872–6178, 2014; Times Cited in Web of Science Core Collection: 257

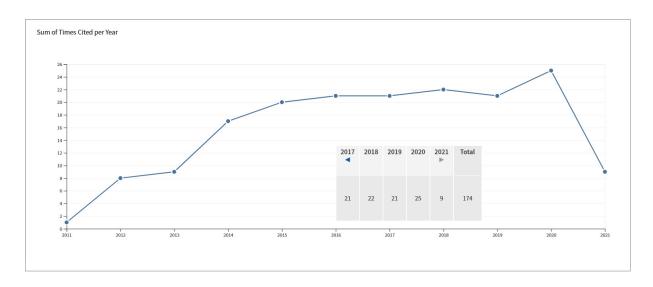
Abstract: A large number of ground-source heat pumps (GSHP) systems have been used in residential and commercial buildings throughout the world due to the attractive advantages of high energy and environmental performances. The GSHPs are proven renewable energy technology for space heating and cooling. This paper provides a detailed literature review of the GSHP systems, and their recent advances. The operation principle and energy efficiency of a heat pump are defined first. Then, a general introduction on the GSHPs and its development, and a detailed description of the surface water (SWHP), ground-water (GWHP), and ground-couplet (GCHP) heat pumps are performed. The most typical simulation and ground thermal response

test models for the vertical ground heat exchangers currently available are summarized including the heat transfer processes outside and inside the boreholes. Also, some information about a new GWHP using a heat exchanger with special construction, and the possibility to obtain the better energy efficiency with combined heating and cooling by GCHP are presented. The various hybrid GCHP systems for cooling or heating-dominated buildings are well described. Finally, the energy, economic and environmental performance of a closed-loop GCHP system is also briefly reviewed. It is found that the GSHP technology can be used both in cold and hot weather areas and the energy saving potential is significant.



Web of Science - Clarivate Analytics Highly Cited Paper

As of January/December 2020, this highly cited paper received enough citations to place it in the top 1% of the academic field of **Engineering** based on a highly cited threshold for the field and publication year.



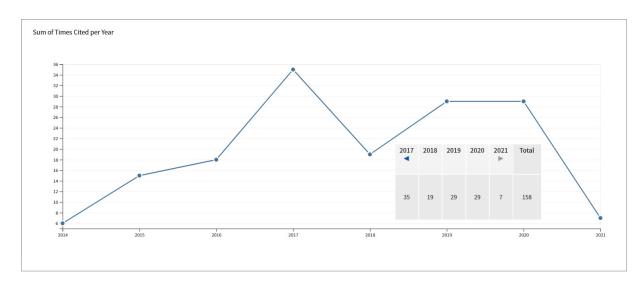
Gheju, M., Balcu, I. Removal of chromium from Cr(VI) polluted wastewaters by reduction with scrap iron and subsequent precipitation of resulted cations, JOURNAL OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS, Volume: 196, Pages: 131–138, PubMed ID: 21955659, ISSN: 0304–3894, 2011; Times Cited in Web of Science Core Collection: 174

Abstract: This work presents investigations on the total removal of chromium from Cr(VI) aqueous solutions by reduction with scrap iron and subsequent precipitation of the resulted cations with NaOH. The process was detrimentally affected by a compactly passivation film occurred at scrap iron surface, mainly composed of Cr(III) and Fe(III). Maximum removal efficiency of the Cr(total) and Fe(total) achieved in the clarifier under circumneutral and alkaline (pH 9.1) conditions was 98.5% and 100%, respectively. The optimum precipitation pH range which resulted from this study is 7.6–8.0. Fe(total) and Cr(total) were

almost entirely removed in the clarifier as Fe(III) and Cr(III) species: however, after Cr(VI) breakthrough in column effluent, chromium was partially removed in the clarifier also as Cr(VI), by coprecipitation with cationic species. As long the column effluent was free of Cr(VI), the average Cr(total) removal efficiency of the packed column and clarifier was 10.8% and 78.8%, respectively. Our results clearly indicated that Cr(VI) contaminated wastewater can be successfully treated by combining reduction with scrap iron and chemical precipitation with NaOH.



As of May/December 2020, this highly cited paper received enough citations to place it in the top 1% of the academic field of **Engineering** based on a highly cited threshold for the field and publication year.



Sarbu, I., Sebarchievici, C. Review of solar refrigeration and cooling systems, ENERGY AND BUILDINGS, Volume: 67, Pages: 286–297, ISSN: 0378–7788, eISSN: 1872–6178, 2013;

Times Cited in Web of Science Core Collection: 158

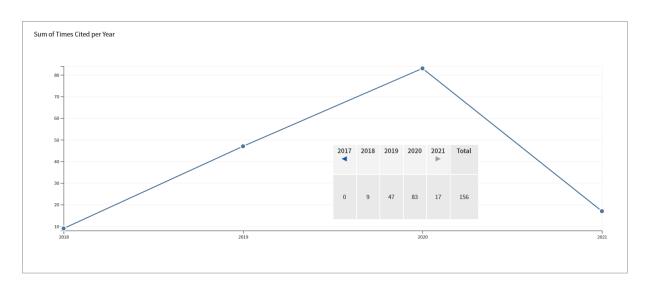
Abstract: Providing cooling by utilizing renewable energy such as solar energy is a key solution to the energy and environmental issues. This paper provides a detailed review of different solar refrigeration and cooling methods. There are presented theoretical basis and practical applications for cooling systems within various working fluids assisted by solar energy and their recent advances. Thermally powered refrigeration technologies are classified into two categories: sorption technology (open systems or closed systems) and thermomechanical technology (ejector system). Solid and liquid desiccant cycles represent the open system. The liquid desiccant system has a higher thermal coefficient of performance (COP) than the solid

desiccant system. Absorption and adsorption technologies represent the closed system. The adsorption cooling typically needs lower heat source temperatures than the absorption cooling. Based on COP, the absorption systems are preferred to the adsorption systems, the higher temperature issues can be easily handled with solar adsorption systems. The ejector system represents the thermo-mechanical cooling, and has a higher thermal COP but require a higher heat source temperature than other systems. The study also refers to solar hybrid cooling systems with heterogeneous composite pairs, to a comparison of various solar cooling systems, and to some use suggestions of these systems.



Web of Science - Clarivate Analytics Highly Cited Paper

As of January/December 2020, this highly cited paper received enough citations to place it in the top 1% of the academic field of **Environment/ Ecology** based on a highly cited threshold for the field and publication year.



Sarbu, I., Sebarchievici, C. A Comprehensive Review of Thermal Energy Storage, SUSTAINABILITY, Volume: 10, Issue: 1, Article Number: 191, ISSN: 2071-1050, 2018;

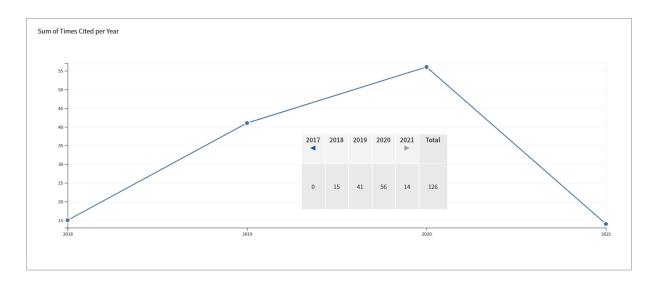
Times Cited in Web of Science Core Collection: 156

Abstract: Thermal energy storage (TES) is a technology that stocks thermal energy by heating or cooling a storage medium so that the stored energy can be used at a later time for heating and cooling applications and power generation. TES systems are used particularly in buildings and in industrial processes. This paper is focused on TES technologies that provide a way of valorizing solar heat and reducing the energy demand of buildings. The principles of several energy storage methods and calculation of storage capacities are

described. Sensible heat storage technologies, including water tank, underground, and packed-bed storage methods, are briefly reviewed. Additionally, latent-heat storage systems associated with phase-change materials for use in solar heating/cooling of buildings, solar water heating, heat-pump systems, and concentrating solar power plants as well as thermo-chemical storage are discussed. Finally, cool thermal energy storage is also briefly reviewed and outstanding information on the performance and costs of TES systems are included.

Web of Science - Clarivate Analytics Highly Cited Paper

As of January/December 2020, this highly cited paper received enough citations to place it in the top 1% of the academic field of **Engineering** based on a highly cited threshold for the field and publication year.



Ancuti, C.O., Ancuti, C., De Vleeschouwer, C., Bekaert, P. Color Balance and Fusion for Underwater Image Enhancement, IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON IMAGE PROCESSING, Volume: 27, Issue: 1, Pages: 379–393, PubMed ID: 28981416, ISSN: 1057–7149, eISSN: 1941–0042, 2018; Times Cited in Web of Science Core Collection: 126

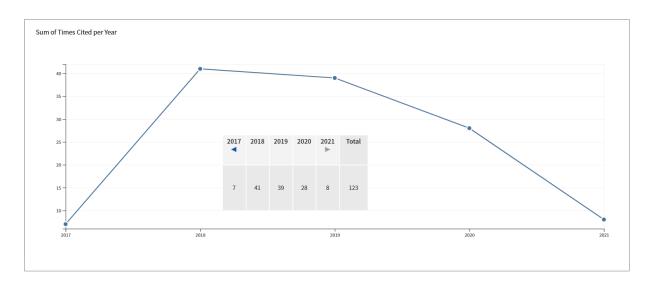
Abstract: We introduce an effective technique to enhance the images captured underwater and degraded due to the medium scattering and absorption. Our method is a single image approach that does not require specialized hardware or knowledge about the underwater conditions or scene structure. It builds on the blending of two images that are directly derived from a color-compensated and white-balanced version of the original degraded image. The two images to fusion, as well as their associated weight maps, are defined to promote the transfer of edges and color contrast to the output

image. To avoid that the sharp weight map transitions create artifacts in the low frequency components of the reconstructed image, we also adapt a multiscale fusion strategy. Our extensive qualitative and quantitative evaluation reveals that our enhanced images and videos are characterized by better exposedness of the dark regions, improved global contrast, and edges sharpness. Our validation also proves that our algorithm is reasonably independent of the camera settings, and improves the accuracy of several image processing applications, such as image segmentation and keypoint matching.



Web of Science - Clarivate Analytics Highly Cited Paper

As of January/December 2020, this highly cited paper received enough citations to place it in the top 1% of the academic field of **Engineering** based on a highly cited threshold for the field and publication year.



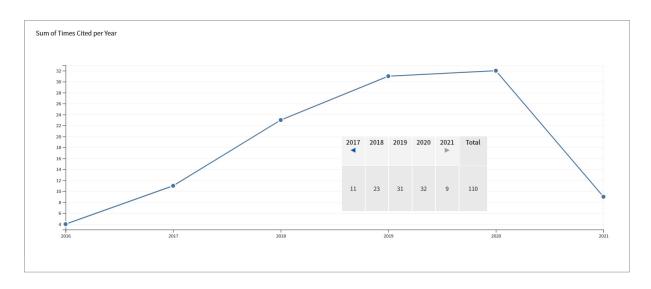
Precup, R.E., David, R.C., Petriu, E.M. Grey Wolf Optimizer Algorithm-Based Tuning of Fuzzy Control Systems With Reduced Parametric Sensitivity, IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON INDUSTRIAL ELECTRONICS, Volume: 64, Issue: 1, Pages: 527–534, ISSN: 0278–0046, eISSN: 1557–9948, 2017; Times Cited in Web of Science Core Collection: 123

Abstract: This paper proposes an innovative tuning approach for fuzzy control systems (CSs) with a reduced parametric sensitivity using the Grey Wolf Optimizer (GWO) algorithm. The CSs consist of servo system processes controlled by Takagi–Sugeno–Kang proportional–integral fuzzy controllers (TSK PI–FCs). The process models have second-order dynamics with an integral component, variable parameters, a saturation, and dead–zone static nonlinearity. The sensitivity analysis employs output sensitivity functions of the sensitivity models defined

with respect to the parametric variations of the processes. The GWO algorithm is used in solving the optimization problems, where the objective functions include the output sensitivity functions. GWO's motivation is based on its low-computational cost. The tuning approach is validated in an experimental case study of a position control for a laboratory nonlinear servo system, and TSK PI-FCs with a reduced process small time constant sensitivity are offered.

Web of Science - Clarivate Analytics Highly Cited Paper

As of January/December 2020, this highly cited paper received enough citations to place it in the top 1% of the academic field of **Engineering** based on a highly cited threshold for the field and publication year.



Gheju, M., Balcu, I., Mosoarca, G. Removal of Cr(VI) from aqueous solutions by adsorption on MnO2, JOURNAL OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS, Volume: 310, Pages: 270-277, PubMed ID: 26947189, ISSN: 0304-3894, eISSN: 1873-3336, 2016; Times Cited in Web of Science Core Collection: 110

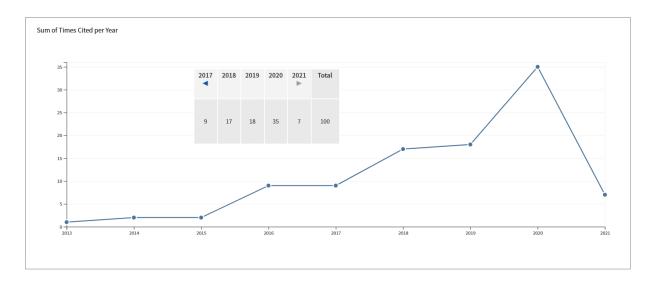
Abstract: Adsorption of Cr(VI) on MnO2 was investigated with respect to effect of pH, temperature, ionic strength, initial Cr(VI) concentration, co-presence of different anions (HCO3-, SO42-, H2PO4-, NO3- and CI-) and of low molecular weight natural organic materials (LMWNOM) (acetate, oxalate and citrate). The process was rapid during the first 3-5 min, reaching equilibrium after one hour. Adsorption decreased with increasing pH, temperature and Cr(VI) initial concentration, and increased with increasing ionic strength. Co-presence of phosphate, sulfate, bicarbonate, citrate and oxalate hindered Cr(VI) adsorption, whereas nitrate, chloride and acetate did not exert any notable influence. The overall order of Cr(VI) adsorption suppression due to

co-presence of anions and LMWNOM was H2PO4 > HCO3- > SO42-, and oxalate > citrate, respectively. Highest experimental equilibrium sorption capacity (0.83 mg g(-1)) was obtained at 20 degrees C and pH 5.9, while lowest (0.18 mg g(-1)) was noticed in the co-presence of H2PO4-, at 20 degrees C and pH 6.9. Adsorption kinetics was successfully fitted by pseudo-second-order model. Mechanisms for both specific and non-specific adsorption are likely to be involved, while rate-controlling step involved both intra-particle and film diffusion processes. Cr(VI) was strongly bound to MnO2, which makes risks of its subsequent liberation into the environment to be low.





As of May/June and September/December 2020, this highly cited paper received enough citations to place it in the top 1% of the academic field of **Mathematics** based on a highly cited threshold for the field and publication year.



Gavruta, L. Frames for operators, APPLIED AND COMPUTATIONAL HARMONIC ANALYSIS, Volume: 32, Issue: 1, Pages: 139–144, ISSN: 1063–5203, 2012;

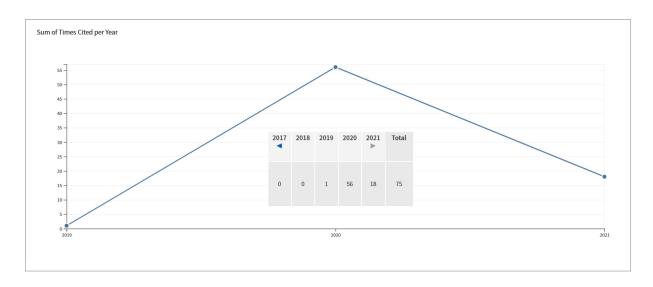
Times Cited in Web of Science Core Collection: 100

Abstract: Frames in Hilbert spaces are a redundant set of vectors which yield a representation for each vector in the space. In the present paper, we give a generalization of frames, which allows, in a stable

way, to reconstruct elements from the range of a linear and bounded operator in a Hilbert space.

Web of Science - Clarivate Analytics Highly Cited Paper

As of September/December 2020, this highly cited paper received enough citations to place it in the top 1% of the academic field of **Chemistry** based on a highly cited threshold for the field and publication year.



Rajak, D.K., Pagar, D.D., Menezes, P.L., Linul, E. Fiber-Reinforced Polymer Composites: Manufacturing, Properties, and Applications, POLYMERS, Volume: 11, Issue: 10, Article Number: 1667, PubMed ID: 31614875, eISSN: 2073-4360, 2019; Times Cited in Web of Science Core Collection: 75

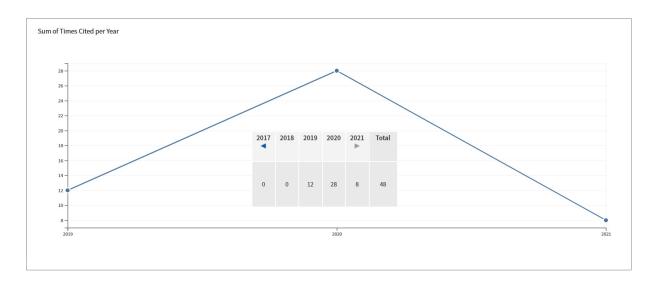
Abstract: Composites have been found to be the most promising and discerning material available in this century. Presently, composites reinforced with fibers of synthetic or natural materials are gaining more importance as demands for lightweight materials with high strength for specific applications are growing in the market. Fiber-reinforced polymer composite offers not only high strength to weight ratio, but also reveals exceptional properties such as high durability; stiffness; damping property; flexural strength; and resistance to corrosion, wear, impact, and fire. These wide ranges of diverse features have led composite materials to find applications in mechanical, construction, aerospace, automobile, biomedical, marine, and many other manufacturing industries. Performance of composite

materials predominantly depends on their constituent elements and manufacturing techniques, therefore, functional properties of various fibers available worldwide, their classifications, and the manufacturing techniques used to fabricate the composite materials need to be studied in order to figure out the optimized characteristic of the material for the desired application. An overview of a diverse range of fibers, their properties, functionality, classification, and various fiber composite manufacturing techniques is presented to discover the optimized fiber-reinforced composite material for significant applications. Their exceptional performance in the numerous fields of applications have made fiber-reinforced composite materials a promising alternative over solitary metals or alloys.



Web of Science - Clarivate Analytics Highly Cited Paper

As of January/December 2020, this highly cited paper received enough citations to place it in the top 1% of the academic field of **Engineering** based on a highly cited threshold for the field and publication year.



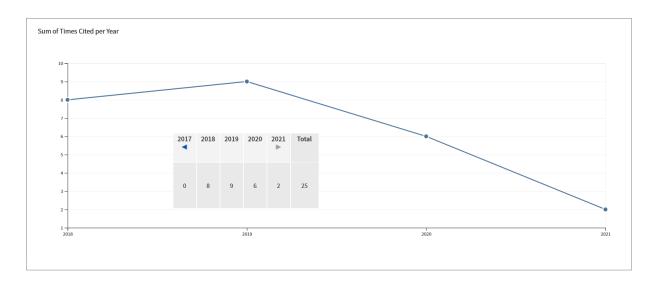
Sarbu, I., Dorca, A. Review on heat transfer analysis in thermal energy storage using latent heat storage systems and phase change materials, INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ENERGY RESEARCH, Volume: 43, Issue: 1, Pages: 29–64, ISSN: 0363–907X, eISSN: 1099–114X, 2019; Times Cited in Web of Science Core Collection: 48

Abstract: Thermal energy storage (TES) is a technology that stocks thermal energy by heating or cooling a storage medium so that the stored energy can be used later for heating and cooling applications and for power generation. TES has recently attracted increasing interest to thermal applications such as space and water heating, waste heat utilisation, cooling, and air conditioning. Phase change materials (PCMs) used for the storage of thermal energy as latent heat are special types of advanced materials that substantially contribute to the efficient use and conservation of waste heat and solar energy. This paper provides a comprehensive review on the development of latent heat storage (LHS) systems focused on heat transfer and enhancement techniques employed in PCMs to effectively charge and discharge

latent heat energy, and the formulation of the phase change problem. The main categories of PCMs are classified and briefly described, and heat transfer enhancement technologies, namely dispersion of low-density materials, use of porous materials, metal matrices and encapsulation, incorporation of extended surfaces and fins, utilisation of heat pipes, cascaded storage, and direct heat transfer techniques, are also discussed in detail. Additionally, a two-dimensional heat transfer simulation model of an LHS system is developed using the control volume technique to solve the phase change problem. Furthermore, a three-dimensional numerical simulation model of an LHS is built to investigate the quasi-steady state and transient heat transfer in PCMs. Finally, several future research directions are provided.



As of January/February 2020, this highly cited paper received enough citations to place it in the top 1% of the academic field of **Chemistry** based on a highly cited threshold for the field and publication year.



Istratie, R., Stoia, M., Pacurariu, C., Locovei, C. Single and simultaneous adsorption of methyl orange and phenol onto magnetic iron oxide/carbon nanocomposites, ARABIAN JOURNAL OF CHEMISTRY, Volume: 12, Issue: 8, Pages: 3704–3722, ISSN: 1878–5352, eISSN: 1878–5379, 2019; Times Cited in Web of Science Core Collection: 25

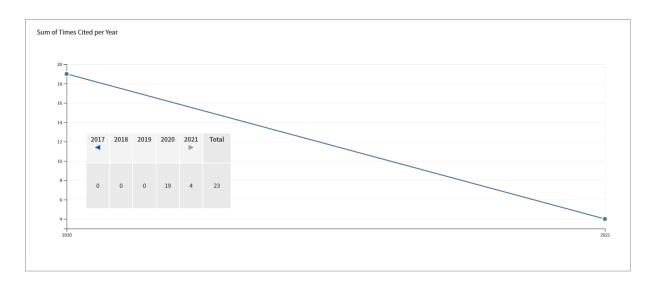
Abstract: Magnetic iron oxide/carbon nanocomposites were synthesized by a facile, one-step solvothermal method. The magnetic nanopowders were characterized by X-ray diffraction (XRD), Fourier transform infrared (FTIR) spectroscopy, thermal analysis (DSC-TG), scanning electron microscopy (SEM), specific surface area and particle size measurements, pore size distributions and magnetic properties. The magnetic nanopowders were tested as adsorbents for the removal of methyl orange (MO) and phenol (Ph) from aqueous solutions. The effects of solution pH, contact time, adsorbent dose and initial pollutants concentration on the adsorption of MO and phenol onto the investigated adsorbents were studied. A significant increase in the removal efficiency, both for MO and phenol, with the increase in the carbon content of the magnetic nanopowder was evidenced.

New experimental data were provided regarding the bicomponent adsorption of MO and phenol. Pseudo-second order equation was fitted to the kinetic data and four isotherm models, namely Langmuir, Freundlich, Redlich-Peterson and Sips were used to analyze the equilibrium data in both single and binary-component solutions. The investigated adsorbents showed a higher adsorption capacity toward MO than phenol. The simultaneous adsorption of the two pollutants in bicomponent solutions indicated that the MO adsorption is practically not affected by the presence of phenol while the adsorption of phenol is significantly reduced in the presence of MO. The benefits of obtaining low-cost nanocomposites with adsorption capacity and magnetic separation tailored, effective in single and bicomponent adsorption of MO and phenol, represent strong arguments regarding their great potential for practical applications.



Web of Science - Clarivate Analytics Highly Cited Paper

As of May/December 2020, this highly cited paper received enough citations to place it in the top 1% of the academic field of **Materials Science** based on a highly cited threshold for the field and publication year.



Fiedler, T., Al-Sahlani, K., Linul, P.A., Linul, E. Mechanical properties of A356 and ZA27 metallic syntactic foams at cryogenic temperature, JOURNAL OF ALLOYS AND COMPOUNDS, Volume: 813, Article Number: 152181, ISSN: 0925-8388, eISSN: 1873-4669, 2020; Times Cited in Web of Science Core Collection: 23

Abstract: This work presents compressions tests of metallic foams at cryogenic temperature. The investigated syntactic foams were manufactured by combining a packed bed of expanded glass particles with either an aluminium or a zinc matrix using infiltration casting. Uni-axial compressions tests were performed after submerging samples in a bath of liquid nitrogen with an equilibrium temperature of –196 degrees C. Both the solid matrix material and syntactic foam

samples were tested. For comparison, room temperature reference data from the literature was obtained. In addition, the effect of thermal treatment on the mechanical behaviour of both alloys and their foams at cryogenic temperature was addressed. The results indicate significant embrittlement at cryogenic temperature; however, aluminium and its foams are less susceptible to this effect.



As of July/December 2020, this highly cited paper received enough citations to place it in the top 1% of the academic field of **Geosciences** based on a highly cited threshold for the field and publication year.



Tmusic, G., Manfreda, S., Aasen, H., James, M.R., Goncalves, G., Ben-Dor, E., Brook, A., Polinova, M., Arranz, J.J., Meszaros, J., Zhuang, R.D., Johansen, K., Malbeteau, Y., de Lima, I.P., Davids, C., Herban, S., McCabe, M.F. Current Practices in UAS-based Environmental Monitoring, REMOTE SENSING, Volume: 12, Issue: 6, Article Number: 1001, eISSN: 2072-4292, 2020; Times Cited in Web of Science Core Collection: 18

Abstract: With the increasing role that unmanned aerial systems (UAS) are playing in data collection for environmental studies, two key challenges relate to harmonizing and providing standardized guidance for data collection, and also establishing protocols that are applicable across a broad range of environments and conditions. In this context, a network of scientists are cooperating within the framework of the Harmonious Project to develop and promote harmonized mapping strategies and disseminate operational guidance to ensure best practice for data collection and interpretation. The culmination of these efforts is summarized in the present manuscript. Through

this synthesis study, we identify the many interdependencies of each step in the collection and processing chain, and outline approaches to formalize and ensure a successful workflow and product development. Given the number of environmental conditions, constraints, and variables that could possibly be explored from UAS platforms, it is impractical to provide protocols that can be applied universally under all scenarios. However, it is possible to collate and systematically order the fragmented knowledge on UAS collection and analysis to identify the best practices that can best ensure the streamlined and rigorous development of scientific products.



Web of Science - Clarivate Analytics Highly Cited Paper

As of November/December 2020, this highly cited paper received enough citations to place it in the top 1% of the academic field of **Engineering** based on a highly cited threshold for the field and publication year.



Precup, R.E., Teban, T.A., Albu, A., Borlea, A.B., Zamfirache, I.A., Petriu, E.M. Evolving Fuzzy Models for Prosthetic Hand Myoelectric-Based Control, IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON INSTRUMENTATION AND MEASUREMENT, Volume: 69, Issue: 7, Pages: 4625-4636, ISSN: 0018-9456, eISSN: 1557-9662, 2020:

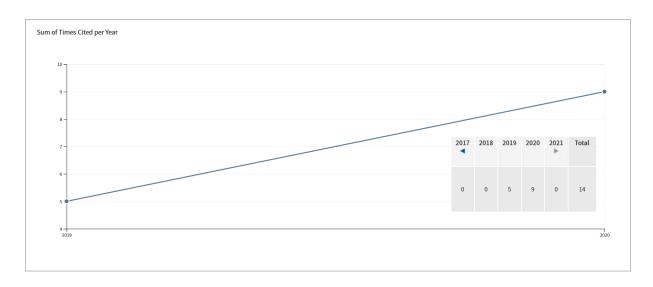
Times Cited in Web of Science Core Collection: 16

Abstract: This article applies an incremental online identification algorithm to develop a set of evolving fuzzy models (FMs) that characterize the nonlinear finger dynamics of the human hand for the myoelectric (ME)-based control of a prosthetic hand. The FM inputs are the ME signals obtained from eight ME sensors and past inputs and/or outputs. The FM outputs are the finger angles, considered here as the midcarpal joint angles, to ensure their control. The best evolving FMs that characterize each of the five fingers are described with the results validated on real data. Simple second-order linear models are

next given to enable the cost-effective controller design. Five separate control loops are proposed, with proportional-integral (PI) controllers separately tuned by a frequency-domain approach. Simple PI-fuzzy controllers are designed starting with the linear PI controllers to ensure the control system performance improvement. The evolving FMs are used to simulate accurately the behavior of the human hand. Digital simulation results are included to show the effectiveness of the PI-fuzzy controllers and the performance improvement in comparison to the initial PI ones.

Web of Science - Clarivate Analytics Highly Cited Paper

As of January/December 2020, this highly cited paper received enough citations to place it in the top 1% of the academic field of **Engineering** based on a highly cited threshold for the field and publication year.



Linul, E., Marsavina, L., Valean, C., Banica, R. Static and dynamic mode I fracture toughness of rigid PUR foams under room and cryogenic temperatures, ENGINEERING FRACTURE MECHANICS, Volume: 225, Article Number: 106274, ISSN: 0013-7944, eISSN: 1873-7315, 2020; Times Cited in Web of Science Core Collection: 14

Abstract: The research presented in this paper is an effort to better understand the fracture toughness of closed-cell rigid polyurethane (PUR) foams under different loading and temperature conditions. The effect of density (100, 145 and 300 kg/m(3)) and anisotropy (in-plane and out-of-plane loading directions) on both quasi-static and dynamic fracture behavior was also experimentally investigated. The three-point bending (3PB) tests were performed on Single Edge Notched Bend (SENB) samples, at room (25 degrees C) and cryogenic (-196 degrees C) temperatures, and the mode I fracture toughness (K-IC) was calculated from their load-displacement curves. It was

observed that all PUR foam samples, regardless of foam density and loading direction, showed a significant increase in K-IC at the cryogenic temperature. The out-of-plane obtained samples showed a slight improvement in fracture toughness (highlighting an anisotropic behavior), both under quasi-static and dynamic 3PB loads. The dynamic K-IC values were found higher than quasi-static ones, and irrespective of foam density and test condition, a brittle deformation mechanism without plastic deformation was observed for all samples. Finally, empirical formulations for cryogenic and dynamic K-IC based on room temperature mode I fracture toughness were proposed.





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5.	Ancuti, C., Ancuti, C.O., De Vleeschouwer, C., Bovik, A.C. Day and Night-Time Dehazing by Local Airlight Estimation, IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON IMAGE PROCESSING, Volume: 29, Pages: 6264–6275, PubMed ID: 32340946, ISSN: 1057–7149, eISSN: 1941–0042, 2020;	9.34 / Q1
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^{*} The data was obtained from Web of Science - Clarivate Analytics in 05 November 2021



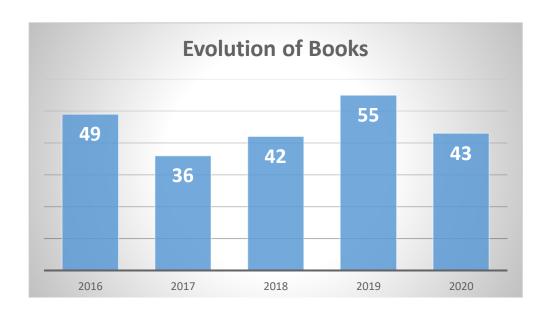
BOOKS





EVOLUTION OF BOOKS UNDER AFFILIATIONS OF UPT 2016 - 2020

A published book is indisputable evidence of research that has been performed, completed, and accepted by peers. Book is also an indicator of achievement of a certain academic standard. Besides communication of a finalised piece of research, the book is the basis for further opinions, views and critiques from fellow professionals and academics separated by time and distance. Most importantly, it represents the only permanent record of scientific work that has been completed.



In this chapter we present the books written by our professors and researchers, published at Romanian publishers as well as at international prestigious publishers.



Books in highlight





EUROPEAN RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REUSE OF STEEL PRODUCTS IN SINGLE-STOREY BUILDINGS

Ana M. Girão Coelho, Ricardo Pimentel, Viorel Ungureanu, Petr Hradil, Jyrki Kesti

Published by: European Convention for Constructional Steelwork, 2020, Pages: 237 ISBN: 978-92-9147-170-6

Short description of the context

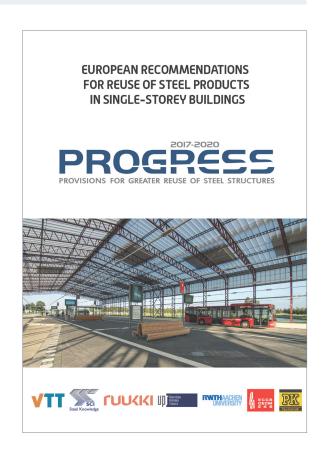
The construction industry needs to develop more sustainable construction practices that lead to a lower carbon footprint and contribute to the circular economy. The 3Rs waste management hierarchy (Reduce–Reuse–Recycle) can be applied in structural engineering to help develop new design approaches and systems that reduce environmental impacts and improve the overall structural efficiency of construction.

Using reclaimed structural steel members on a project is an effective strategy by eliminating the energy required to recycle steelwork into new structural sections.

Purpose and Motivation of the book

The purpose of this publication is to provide recommendations and practical information on the fabrication and detailing of single-storey buildings made from reclaimed steel and on the design of buildings for future demounting and reuse.

These recommendations provide design guidance on the improvement of existing Eurocode based procedures for designs using reclaimed steel products, and provide information on design for future adaptability, demountability and reuse. The emphasis is on single–storey industrial buildings, but the principles can be extended to other types of building. The recommendations are presented as guidelines for the reuse of single storey buildings in the context of Eurocode design.



Summary

The book is divided into three parts:

Part 1: Recommendations for reusing existing single-storey buildings, discusses general technical issues related to the structural use of reclaimed steel from existing single-storey industrial buildings.

Part 2: Recommendations for the design of single-storey buildings to facilitate future deconstruction and reuse cover the design of new buildings with the goals of functionality, ease of fabrication, demountability and future reuse.

Part 3 presents some case studies that illustrate the use of reclaimed steel structures in various EU countries and some of the technical issues that were overcome.

A protocol for condition assessment, sampling and testing of reclaimed steel is given in Appendix A. The derivation of the modified partial factor for the buckling resistance of reused steel members is presented in Appendix B.



EDUCAȚIA PRIN E-LEARNING (E-LEARNING EDUCATION)

Doina BANCIU, Ben-Oni ARDELEAN, Larisa IVAŞCU, Daniel FODOREAN

Published by: Editura Tehnică, Academia Oamenilor de Știință din România, 2020, Pages: 244 ISBN: 978-606-8636-73-3; 978-973-31-2405-4

Short description of the context

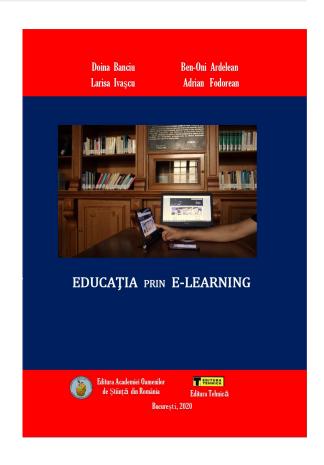
The book is intended to be a user guide both for people involved in the educational process (teachers, tutors, instructors, pupils, students) and for other people who, in the current conditions, need to be informed, communicate and work. Without moving in the community.

Purpose and Motivation of the book

The need to introduce a new line of pedagogical training can be outlined, with an impact on the process of professional-cognitive development "learning - unlearning - relearning", but which also contributes to the establishment of an emotional comfort for each teacher involved. Before learning something new, it is very good to give up, to "learn" from the old professional constructs, to make room for the new ones. This subject is all the more challenging, as the formation of digital skills is an imperative that challenges both time and educational "times", and the expectation is not only of students, but also becomes an expectation of the community, transformed into social pressure. And as the relationship between patience and the digital world is not necessarily a biunivocal one, the personality trait (nn. patience) being perceived rather as an element of conservatism, the adjustment of institutional deadlines but also of personal agendas, to the action complexes reserved for digitization, it becomes the next step.

Summary

This book arose from the desire to support the educational process in Romania during this period in which, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, both teachers and students must quickly adapt to the new conditions of teaching – learning and communication. The use of information and communication technology as a tool for the transmission and



acquisition of knowledge has evolved over time with the evolution and spread of computers and communication networks, especially the Internet. Policies and strategies developed at international and national level for building the information society in conjunction with concrete implementation actions in all areas of activity have led to the development of the skills of most citizens, of all ages, in the use of computers. In this context, the transition to the large-scale e-learning process has found a suitable ground, in most cases, for the construction of new forms of education of children and young people in all schooling systems. But with technology, new theories, methods, and practices have emerged in education. The paper briefly presents the theories and methods of e-learning, practical examples of e-learning systems in universities in several countries resulting from an international study and computer tools in support of online education.





ELEMENTE DE ELECTRONICĂ DE PUTERE

Octavian CORNEA

Published by: Orizonturi Universitare, Timişoara, 2020, Pages: 184 ISBN: 978-973-638-647-3

Short description of the context

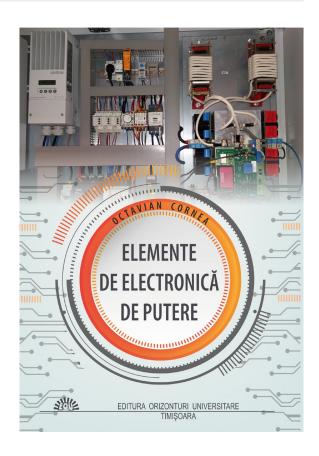
A brief introduction to an area of electrical engineering that has a significant impact on the industry.

Purpose and Motivation of the book

Convincing the students and engineers in Electrical Engineering of current and future importance of power electronics.

Summary

The main categories of power static converters are presented in four chapters, which cover all the possibilities of energy conversion. The basic topologies are included, for which the operating modes are described, important mathematical expressions are given and, where appropriate, explanations are provided in relation to the power electronic converter behavior at the interface with the AC grid.





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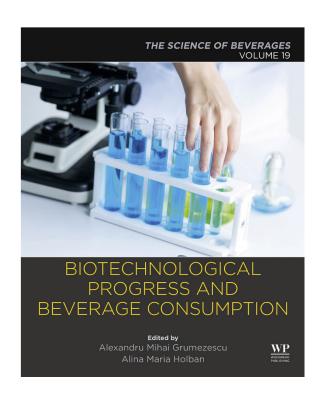
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