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Every Cloud Has a Silver Lining



The COVID-19 pandemic broke out at the beginning of 2020. As of mid-May, there have been more than 4.65M cases reported and 312K deaths. Governments worldwide implement control measures, such as lockdowns, travel restrictions, school closure, and social distancing, in order to prevent further spread of COVID-19. This disease not only threatens people's lives but also impacts economic as well as academic activities. On the other hand, this difficult time gives us an opportunity to think about the important things in our life and ponder the value of our research—has it really contributed to human well-being?

The CIS has launched the COVID-19 initiative to expedite and expand dissemination of research results on computational intelligence helping combat COVID-19. All the IEEE CIS Transactions and Magazine will speed up the review process of the articles that focus on COVID-19. Under this initiative, the IEEE CIM has set up a fast-track special issue on “Computational Intelligence for Combating COVID-19” to present the latest research and development in applying computational intelligence technologies to fight COVID-19.

In this issue, we interview Hussein Abbass from the University of New South Wales, Australia. The founding Editor-in-Chief of IEEE Transactions on Artificial Intelligence talks about this new publication, his life and favorites. The Features includes three articles on computational intelligence and machine learning. The first article reviews the characteristics and causes of dataset shifts, and presents a survey on machine learning techniques for handling off-line mode dataset shifts problems. The second article addresses a desirable feature, namely automatic tuning, for evolutionary machine learning. The third article leverages the relation between depression level and emotion intensity. Three multi-task architectures are employed for concurrently learning the two measures and gain promising performance. In the Columns, the Research Frontier article introduces a strength index to the softmax policy, so as to adjust and assess the strength of Monte-Carlo tree search. This approach is applied to Go programs and achieves state-of-the-art results.

We hope you will enjoy the articles in this issue. I would also like to encourage you to contact me at ckting@pme.nthu.edu.tw with your suggestions and comments. Hope the pandemic will be under control soon and look forward to seeing you at SSCI 2020.

Stay safe and healthy!

Chuan-Kang Ting

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