

# MetaSocieties in Metaverse: MetaEconomics and MetaManagement for MetaEnterprises and MetaCities

**W**ELCOME to the first issue of IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON COMPUTATIONAL SOCIAL SYSTEMS (TCSS) of 2022. We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to our associate editors, reviewers, authors, and readers for your great support and effort devoted to IEEE TCSS. Happy New Year to you all, and cheers to health, happiness, and high-producing in 2022!

The past 2021 was a very productive year. We have published 131 papers with 1500 pages in six issues. According to the latest update of CiteScoreTracker from Elsevier Scopus released on December 4, 2021, the Citesore of TCSS has reached a historical high of 7.9, compared to 6.1 for 2020. In addition, IEEE TCSS was added to the ISI Web of Science Sources Citation Index Expanded (SCIE) database in April 2021, and all articles published by TCSS since 2018 have been indexed by SCIE. We view all these progress as essential steps to our task of improving the impact and reputation of TCSS.

In this issue, we publish four regular papers, and a Special Issue on Collaborative Edge Computing for Social Internet of Things Systems, which includes 24 articles. Moreover, we would like to discuss the topic of MetaSocieties in Metaverse, which runs parallel with real societies, and greatly expands the living and working space for humans. Through the virtual–real interactions and closed-loop feedback with real societies, MetaSocieties can provide description, prediction, and prescription for the real societies.

## I. SCANNING THE ISSUE

1. “A Grammar-Based Behavioral Distance Measure Between Ransomware Variants” by *H. Van Dyke Parunak*

This article aims to study the effective attribution of ransomware attacks, which requires a way to characterize different variants and estimate their similarity to one another. Since ransomware deliberately discloses itself and interacts explicitly with the victim, the behavioral trace can offer a richer characterization. Motivated by the insights from behavioral linguistics, the author proposes a measure based on the representation of the attack behavior in a context-free grammar about the ransomware analysis as dialogue for attribution and reconnaissance project. After the summarization of the grammar, the author presents a series of increasingly refined grammatical distance measures and illustrate the performance on actual attacks. The results show that the relative distances among a

set of seven representative attacks generated by these measures are in agreement with the general understanding of these attacks as they have been analyzed in the literature, and justify the more sophisticated measures proposed in this article.

2. “An Overview of Correlation-Filter-Based Object Tracking” by *Shide Du and Shiping Wang*

This article provides a comprehensive survey on some representative and latest correlation-filter-based object tracking methods, and compares their respective strengths and weaknesses under the theoretical and experimental analyses. The authors divide these correlation-filter-based object tracking methods into four categories according to the characteristics including categorized features, space weight factors, scale factors, and expert strategies. Extensive experiments on benchmark datasets with 11 tracking challenges are performed and discussed. This article aims to present a detailed framework and some enlightenments of object tracking, and provide some insights for the readers to comprehend and improve the involved tracking algorithms.

3. “Social Phenomena and Fog Computing Networks: A Novel Perspective for Future Networks” by *Shanshan Tu, Muhammad Waqas, Sadaqat Ur Rehman, Talha Mir, Zahid Halim, and Iftekhar Ahmad*

This article presents a novel paradigm that considers the context of social phenomena. The authors categorize the social phenomena into two main groups to integrate with fog computing from social interactions’ continuous development. In this regard, the first contribution addresses the social relationship between the end-users and fog nodes based on personal benefits. The social relationship considers trust, reciprocity, incentives, and selfishness mechanisms. The second contribution describes the group-based social behavior, i.e., centrality, community, and colocation in fog computing networks (FCNs). They also discuss the impact of social phenomena on FCNs in network performance, resource allocations, security, and privacy.

4. “Game Starts at GameStop: Characterizing the Collective Behaviors and Social Dynamics in the Short Squeeze Episode” by *Xiaolong Zheng, Hu Tian, Zhe Wan, Xiao Wang, Daniel Dajun Zeng, and Fei-Yue Wang*

This article investigates the characteristics of the collective behaviors and social dynamics from the evolutions of topological structure, discussed topics, and user sentiment polarity (SP) by constructing dynamic interaction networks, modeling the topic, and analyzing the user sentiment. The authors find that the topological structure of the interaction

network evolves toward a more efficient direction, the discussed topics change more centralized, and the user sentiment tends to be more positive and divergent. And they reveal that part of GameStop's stock price is explained by the social media activity, popularity of the dominant topic, topic cohesiveness, SP of users, and sentiment divergence between interacted users on r/wallstreetbets.

## II. METASOCIETIES IN METAVERSE: METAECONOMICS AND METAMANAGEMENT FOR METAENTERPRISES AND METACITIES

### A. *MetaEnterprises and MetaCities*

The artificial society, computing experiment, parallel execution theory (the ACP theory) [1]–[4] and cyber–physical–social systems (CPSSs) technology [5] provide an important theoretical and technical foundation for the development of MetaEnterprises and MetaCities. MetaEnterprises and MetaCities can be regarded as the mapping of real enterprises and cities in the virtual cyberspace. They are virtual enterprises and cities running parallel to real enterprises and cities, which can realize the description of real enterprises and cities. Corresponding to the human, material, organizations, scenarios, and other elements in real enterprises and cities, there are various virtual elements such as virtual human, virtual objects, virtual organizations, and virtual scenarios in MetaEnterprises and MetaCities. These virtual elements in MetaEnterprises and MetaCities can be used to analyze and evaluate the decision-making scenarios with computational experiments approach so as to realize the prediction of real enterprises and cities [5]. Through the interaction and feedback between MetaEnterprises/MetaCities and real enterprises/cities, we can realize the prescription of decision-making in real enterprises and cities, so as to effectively improve the efficiency and effect of various decisions in real enterprises and cities.

MetaEnterprises and MetaCities can greatly improve the decision and operation efficiency of real enterprises and cities. Since real enterprises and cities are typical complex systems involving societies and humans, it is often difficult to establish a sufficiently accurate mathematical model for them, and even impossible to establish a model that can analytically predict their short-term behavior. As such, it is extremely difficult to analyze their characteristics, predict their behavior, control their development, and conduct experimental research on them. Therefore, when studying such complex systems, the traditional “single world” view that takes real enterprises and cities as the only reference and standard is no longer working, and we should adopt the “multiple worlds” view [1]. With such a view, the degree of approaching the real enterprises and cities is no longer the only standard when modeling real enterprises and cities. The model is regarded as a “reality,” which is a possible alternative form and implementation mode of the real enterprises and cities. That is, the complex systems of real enterprises and cities are only one of the possible realities, and their behavior is “different” but “equivalent” to that of the model. MetaEnterprises and MetaCities are consistent with real enterprises and cities in terms of scale, behavior, and system characteristics, and can provide an effective means to

realize the above “multiple world” view. Based on MetaEnterprises and MetaCities, we can predict all possible directions for future development of the enterprises and cities, as well as various impacts of any small adjustment of decision-making on enterprises and cities, so as to continuously optimize the decision-making of enterprises and cities and prescribe the future development direction for enterprises and cities. In addition, many different computational experiments can be designed and repeated in MetaEnterprises and MetaCities, and even various accelerated experiments, stressing experiments, and limit experiments can be carried out. As such, solutions with safety, reliability, and robustness can be provided for real enterprises and cities, so as to improve the feasibility, effectiveness, economic performance, and real-time decision-making in real enterprises and cities.

As such, in the near future, any real enterprise or city will have one or even more corresponding MetaEnterprises and MetaCities with different functions in Metaverse, and they are linked through CPSS. Before any major decisions or operations in real enterprises and cities, numerous computational experiments should be first conducted in MetaEnterprises and MetaCities, to analyze, evaluate, and optimize the decision-making processes as well as the master skills and resources required for a successful real execution in the shortest time, with the least energy and cost. This will greatly improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the decisions of real enterprises and cities.

### B. *MetaEconomics for MetaEnterprises and MetaCities*

In MetaEnterprises and MetaCities, the virtual human and organizations will run independently of those in real enterprises and cities and do not need to follow the existing economic models and theories. The behavior and operation mode of these virtual humans and organizations may generate new economic models and theories. We call it MetaEconomic, which can provide a new way for us to think and understand various real economic problems. The MetaEconomic system can be regarded as the virtual economic system corresponding to the real economic system. With the computational economic experiment approach, small economic data in the real economic system can be converted into large virtual economic data in the MetaEconomic system, and then artificial intelligence algorithms such as machine learning, deep learning, and reinforcement learning can be used to transform virtual economy big data into deep intelligence. Through the virtual–real interaction, closed-loop feedback, and parallel execution between the MetaEconomic system and the real economic system, the unification of contradiction between Jean-Baptiste Say's Law (i.e., supply creates its own demand) and John Maynard Keynes' Law (i.e., demand creates its own supply) of markets can be realized. Moreover, a new virtual–real philosophy for supply and demand, i.e., supply creates largely its own demand actually in real markets versus demand creates largely its own supply artificially in virtual markets, will be created [6].

In the MetaEconomic system of MetaEnterprises and MetaCities, there are many software-defined entities and

virtual human resources such as knowledge robots or advanced digital assistants, to describe, predict, and prescribe the operation of the real economic system [7]. For example, in the MetaEconomic system of MetaEnterprises, we can create three knowledge robots for one human employee for a particular position in the real enterprise, and the human employee will cooperate with the three knowledge robots to improve his/her knowledge and skills, so as to better meet the requirements of the position. Specifically, the first robot can provide a detailed description of the function and nominal activities for the position. With the description of the job, the second robot will predict possible events and outcomes for the job through computational experiments with artificial intelligence algorithms. According to the results of the computational experiments, the third robot can prescribe the human employee with the best practices and optimal plans or actions for specific situations.

The MetaEconomic system runs parallel with the real economic system, and these virtual and real economic systems can be regarded as a parallel economic system [8]. Through parallel management of the parallel economic system, the optimal economic operations of the real economic system can be achieved. First, the MetaEconomic system can provide a detailed description of the knowledge needed in the real economic system, as well as economic theories, procedures, processes, and related operations. As such, it can be used by managers of real enterprises and cities for the purpose of learning and training. Second, since numerous and repeated computational experiments can be easily conducted in the MetaEconomic system, any real economic decisions or proposals in enterprises and cities can be evaluated and tested in the MetaEconomic system of MetaEnterprises and MetaCities before implementation. Moreover, the results of the computational experiments can also provide predictions for the future economic states of enterprises and cities. Third, the MetaEconomic system of MetaEnterprises and MetaCities will emulate the real economic system of real enterprises and cities and provide prescriptions for the real economic system. Through the parallel execution and closed-loop of the virtual and real economic systems, monitoring and management of the real economic system can be realized.

### C. MetaManagement for MetaEnterprises and MetaCities

Since MetaEnterprises and MetaCities run in virtual cyberspace, the existing management mode fails to work. Therefore, for MetaEnterprises and MetaCities, we must adopt the MetaManagement mode. MetaManagement can realize the management of real enterprises and cities through the management of MetaEnterprises and MetaCities.

In MetaEnterprises and MetaCities, the organizational structure is no longer the centralized hierarchical structure widely used in real enterprises and cities, and they are organized with the form of blockchain-based distributed autonomous organization (DAO), which has the characteristics of distributed and decentralized, autonomous and automated, and organized and ordered [9], [10]. Therefore, the MetaManagement for MetaEnterprises and MetaCities is mainly the management

of DAOs corresponding to MetaEnterprises and MetaCities. The smart contract based on blockchain has the characteristics of automatic execution and nontampering [11], [12], and can provide an intelligent and efficient solution for MetaManagement. In the MetaManagement mode based on smart contract, the management system, management mode, management rules, and incentive mechanism design for MetaEnterprises and MetaCities are stored on the blockchain in the form of smart contract. When the execution conditions of these smart contracts are met, they will automatically execute without manual intervention, which greatly improves the real time, automation, and intelligence level of MetaManagement.

In addition, the MetaManagement for MetaEnterprises and MetaCities runs in parallel with the real management for real enterprises and cities, and through their closed-loop feedback, the evaluation and optimization of real management decisions can be realized. First, according to the management decisions of real enterprises and cities, the corresponding MetaManagement rules of MetaEnterprises and MetaCities are constructed. Second, the MetaManagement rules are automatically implemented through smart contracts in MetaEnterprises and MetaCities, and according to the operation results, the MetaManagement rules are continuously adjusted, so as to achieve the expected MetaManagement effect. Finally, the adjusted MetaManagement rules are used to optimize the real management decisions, so as to realize the parallel management for real enterprises and cities, as well as MetaEnterprises and MetaCities, through the closed-loop feedback of MetaManagement and real management.

### D. MetaSocieties in Metaverse: Toward Parallel Societies

With the development and successful applications of ACP and CPSS theories and methods, as well as the rise of emerging technologies such as blockchain [13], [14], artificial intelligence, the Internet of Things, virtual reality, and augmented reality, MetaSocieties in Metaverse has become an extremely important and indispensable part of human's work and life. The MetaSocieties running in the virtual cyberspace can effectively break the space, time, and economic restrictions of humans, and create a new way of life, work, and communication for humans in real societies. Furthermore, as the mapping of real societies in virtual space, MetaSocieties can verify and evaluate the decisions in real societies using computational experimental approaches in MetaSocieties, and prescribe various decision-making in real societies through virtual-real interaction, closed-loop feedback, and parallel implementation of the two societies. In addition, nonfungible tokens (NFTs) [15], [16] breaks the value gap between MetaSocieties and real societies, and provides an effective way for the value interaction and transmission between these two societies.

MetaSocieties greatly expands the living and working space for humans, and humans can interact with each other not only in real societies but also in MetaSocieties, or even virtual-real interactions. In the future parallel societies, the MetaSocieties and the real societies will run in parallel [17], [18]. That is, any human, enterprise, and city in the real societies will have

corresponding virtual human, virtual enterprise, and virtual city, respectively, in the MetaSocieties. The changes of the real societies will affect the MetaSocieties, and the changes of the MetaSocieties will also bring the changes to the real societies.

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