Hybrid Computational Intelligent Systems

Modeling, Simulation and Optimization

EDITED BY Siddhartha Bhattacharyya





Hybrid Computational Intelligent Systems

Hybrid Computational Intelligent Systems – Modeling, Simulation and Optimization unearths the latest advances in evolving hybrid intelligent modeling and simulation of human-centric data-intensive applications optimized for real-time use, thereby enabling researchers to come up with novel breakthroughs in this ever-growing field.

Salient features include the fundamentals of modeling and simulation with recourse to knowledge-based simulation, interaction paradigms, and human factors, along with the enhancement of the existing state of art in a high-performance computing setup. In addition, this book presents optimization strategies to evolve robust and failsafe intelligent system modeling and simulation.

The volume also highlights novel applications for different engineering problems including signal and data processing, speech, image, sensor data processing, innovative intelligent systems, and swarm intelligent manufacturing systems.

Features:

- A self-contained approach to integrating the principles of hybrid computational intelligence with system modeling and simulation.
- Well-versed foundation of computational intelligence and its application to real life engineering problems.
- Elucidates essential background, concepts, definitions, and theories thereby putting forward a complete treatment on the subject.
- Effective modeling of hybrid intelligent systems forms the backbone of almost every operative system in real-life.
- Proper simulation of real-time hybrid intelligent systems is a prerequisite for deriving any real-life system solution.
- Optimized system modeling and simulation enable real-time and failsafe operations of the existing hybrid intelligent system solutions.
- Information presented in an accessible way for researchers, engineers, developers, and practitioners from academia and industry working in all major areas and interdisciplinary areas of hybrid computational intelligence and communication systems to evolve human-centered modeling and simulations of real-time data-intensive intelligent systems.

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Hybrid Computational Intelligent Systems Modeling, Simulation and Optimization Siddhartha Bhattacharyya

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Typeset in Sabon by codeMantra The editor would like to dedicate this volume to all those who have inherited the unconscious habit of belittling almost every sincere effort, small or big.



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Preface

Almost every technological innovation in the present times is being driven by intelligence in one form or the other with the advent of computational intelligence. Computational intelligence has made its presence felt in every nook and corner of the world, thanks to the rapid exploration of research in this direction. Computational intelligence is now not limited to only specific computational fields; it has made giant strides into several interdisciplinary fields of science, engineering, medical science, business, and finance including signal processing, smart manufacturing, predictive control, robot navigation, smart cities, sensor design to name a few. Latest advances in evolving soft computing concepts and algorithms toward enabling intelligent solutions to real-life problems have enriched this field of computational intelligence. To add to this, researchers have conjoined different intelligent tools and techniques to evolve hybrid intelligent systems, which results in more efficient alternatives to stand-alone intelligent systems.

Of late, human-centered computing has evolved rapidly to add humancentric components to the hybrid intelligent applications in vogue, thereby aiming at a more human-like realistic approach. Furthermore, in order to envisage efficient, robust, and failsafe applications for intelligent data processing, proper modeling of these data-intensive systems and applications has become a prerequisite. Effective modeling of these hybrid intelligent systems would entail knowledge-based simulation of the systems induced by humancentric factors, thereby making them interactive and responsive. In addition, intelligent agents can also help automate the objective. Although traditional modeling practices are already in vogue, the resultant models need to be optimized for enabling real-time and failsafe operations. Hence, optimization of the modeling and simulation process is also a much-needed affair.

This volume targets to unearth the latest advances in evolving hybrid intelligent modeling and simulation of data-intensive applications for realtime applications.

This volume comprises 23 well-versed contributory chapters entailing different facets of intelligent system modeling and their applications to a wide variety of data- and information-intensive frameworks.

Chapter 1 discusses the issues of generating ratings of the Russian agricultural universities, modeled using their passive, active, and semi-active digital footprints. The results of creating ratings show the areas for increasing the efficiency in implementing the instructions of the President of Russia back in 2012 on the achievement of the indicators for improving the activities of the Russian universities. The method for calculating the passive digital footprint is based on website metrics techniques. The active digital footprint includes information on scientific and educational resources posted on universities' websites in the form of developments, publications, consultations, legal and statutory materials, remote training, custom software, databases, and information about electronic employment agencies and digital marketplaces. The semi-active footprint includes information collected from subordinate educational institutions and processed by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Russian Federation in the form of a self-examination report. The evaluated ratings are compared with an integrated metric, which serves as the indicator of a comprehensive evaluation of the effectiveness of agricultural universities' use of information resources.

Chapter 2 presents a hardware and software model for a mechatronic complex (MC) designed to automate technological processes for performing several technological operations (TO), which include actuating mechanisms (AM), detection, fixation, and storage of moving objects. The manual control mode of the MC implies that the human operator controls the TO using commands on the interactive touch panel (ITP) screen. The automatic control mode differs in that the human operator starts the MC using real and/or virtual buttons, and the rest of the actions occur due to the program embedded in the programmable logic controller (PLC). When performing a working cycle in this mode of operation of the MC, the most difficult technological operation is fixing a moving object. The successful implementation of this operation depends on the prediction and control of the trajectory of movement of the pneumatic AM with nonlinear characteristics. If, as a result of the movements, the central axes of the movable object and the pneumatic gripper are not aligned, then the object with a high degree of probability will not be fixed in the gripper jaws. In this case, the further course of the working cycle is disrupted, which affects the operability of the MC. Thus, for the automatic control mode of the MC, problems arise in finding a balance between the minimum time required for aligning the axes of the moving object and the pneumatic gripper which is controlled by the system timers. This chapter attempts to solve these associated problems by developing a program code for controlling the MC in automatic mode; creating a human-machine interface model and verification of its performance followed by an analysis of the kinematic model, comparison of the obtained experimental results for two control modes, and the assessment of forecasting the moment in time when the axes of the pneumatic gripper and the moving object are aligned.

Soil moisture monitoring is highly significant from the agricultural perspective. The efficient use of water plays an important role in cultivation. Proper water usage can be possible by soil moisture prediction. For better soil moisture content estimation, various parameters have to be considered such as soil moisture, turbidity, pH, temperature, and humidity. The objective of Chapter 3 is to monitor the soil moisture considering these parameters. To accomplish the objective, four different sensors are used in our work, and a comparative analysis between a few machine learning methods is performed for detecting the moisture content in the soil.

As a result of the universality of individual attacks and attacked phenomena in nature, the stability analysis of the predator-prey system has always been one of the research topics in the field of population dynamics. Time delay is a necessary factor to be considered when studying the population change law in the process of species evolution, which has a great impact on the stability of the system. Also, diffusion can represent the distribution state of the population living in the biological space. So, a diffusive ratio-dependent predator-prey system involving two delays is discussed in Chapter 4. The distribution of the eigenvalues corresponding to the linear system is analyzed by taking delay as a Hopf bifurcation parameter. By means of the representation of sets, the conditions for the stability of the system along with the further occurrence of Hopf bifurcation are taken into consideration. The theoretical results are supported by some particular systems and simulations. Besides, the spatial motion behavior of two populations in the food chain is discussed by taking diffusion as the object. Results indicate that the time delay and diffusion have significant effects on the system and spatial motion states of predator and prey populations.

College student health is a social issue and a key to national prosperity and development. Based on the grey GM (1,1) prediction model theory, Chapter 5 conducts a statistical analysis of the physical health test data of a certain grade of a college student, establishes a prediction model of the physical health test scores of the group of college students and the development trend of physical fitness, and discusses the relative residuals. Q test, variance ratio C test, and small error probability P test are used to test the accuracy of the model. Judging from the prediction results, with the strong support of the national labor education system, the overall physical fitness of students is on the rise, and there is room for improvement in the performance of some sports events. Studying college student fitness test data helps to monitor student health, improve fitness, and test the implementation effects of labor education, which has certain practical significance.

The University library is an important channel for students to solve problems and obtain knowledge. Due to different borrowing habits and interests, each student has obvious differences in book borrowing behavior and has a certain borrowing tendency. In order to respond to the call of "national reading" of the two sessions and help library managers carry out book activities better and efficiently, taking university as an example, Chapter 6 adopts the Apriori algorithm of association rules, further discusses the factors affecting students' borrowing through the analysis of the factors affecting the borrowing volume of university libraries and finds out the correlation between book borrowing information. In addition, it also helps to understand students' reading preferences, improves reading literacy, and enables library administrators to make better decisions on book procurement and book recommendation.

The objective of Chapter 7 is to analyze the inspection systems for the recognition of materials by the dual-energy method. The focus of the study is the methods and algorithms to compare bremsstrahlung detectors in inspection systems operating in dual-energy mode. This chapter develops criteria and algorithms for comparing inspection systems with a material recognition option for various bremsstrahlung detectors and experimentally tests them for a betatron with maximum radiation energies of 4 and 7.5 MeV. Based on the analysis of the results of theoretical studies, a set of criteria and algorithms has been developed to compare inspection systems with a material recognition option. To evaluate the effectiveness of the developed criteria and algorithms, a series of experimental studies were conducted to compare the bremsstrahlung detectors manufactured by TSNK (Moscow, Russia) and Detection Technologies (Finland). The test objects consisted of fragments of organics, aluminum, steel, and lead with a mass thickness of 20–120 g/cm².

Computer-aided diagnosis and medical imaging systems have evolved in the past decade to a point where they can partially mimic radiologists and doctors. These systems can learn and differentiate the features and abnormalities in medical images and provide objective evidence with higher diagnostic confidence and faster inference. In Chapter 8, the authors focus on generating medical reports on chest X-ray images, which can be adapted later to work with other diagnostic tools such as ultrasounds and mammograms. The Indiana University dataset provides the CXR images corresponding to various lung and heart ailments, along with well-defined reports and findings. The generation of medical reports mainly consists of two broad tasks. The first task is to treat the problem as a multi-label classification task to obtain accurate tags for a particular image from the visual features. The second task is to generate the reports using these aforementioned tags, which require the use of recurrent neural networks such as hierarchical LSTMs, and improve the accuracy using a co-attention mechanism.

Presently, Internet of Things (IoT) is one of the ways of reducing manual intervention in different domains such as smart appliances and smart detection systems. Smart appliances are widely used technology that can be used in many areas such as in our home or office for providing comfort, energy consumption, security, etc. Such kind of system has become an important and integral part of the modern home automation system. However, there exist some problems such as dedicated interfacing, user authentication, high security, and other related factors. To address these problems, the authors develop a low-power smart home automation system in Chapter 9, which not only controls the home appliances but also increases the security of the entire system. In this work, smart appliances can be easily controlled by using a smartphone. The proposed system and its hardware are based on Arduino with its interface and communication via Bluetooth with peripheral devices and the Android device system. The security and authentication of the system are done through RFID. The efficacy of the proposed system has been judged with respect to reduced time delay, power consumption, and security.

The COVID-19 outbreak has caused a sizable number of fatalities and poses an unprecedented threat to public health. Vaccination may be an effective weapon in halting the pandemic, delaying the spread of the disease, and reducing the severity of the sickness. Although most Indians have been fully vaccinated, a substantial number of Indians still have not received precautionary, even second doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. After huge income/job losses due to this pandemic, most Indians cannot afford the expensive COVID-19 vaccines from a private vaccination clinic. As a result, free Government vaccination center slots are always in great demand. It can be challenging for ordinary Indians to find free-of-cost slots at convenient places using the Indian government's vaccination web portal, 'CoWIN'. Chapter 10 presents an Android application that can check every 15 minutes for available vaccination slots at the user's desired location and send notifications to the user if slots match with user-preferred criteria. The novel feature of this app is that it may send SMS to several ordinary phone users according to their desired vaccination criteria from a single installed instance. The app collected users' feedback, and a usability study is included in this chapter.

Feature selection is a state-of-art research area for machine learning classification where extraneous attributes are removed to reduce the data processing load and increase classification accuracy. The search space for combinations of large dimensions of data becomes complex making the feature selection an optimization problem. Evolutionary algorithms are being increasingly applied to various optimization problems including feature selection as they have proven to be advantageous over traditional search due to their limited requirement of domain-specific information. A solution for the feature selection problem is binary in nature (selection or omission of a feature) and hence is represented as a binary vector of dimension n. Several binary variants of evolutionary algorithms have been proposed to deal with the available discrete solution space. Chapter 11 presents a binary variant of MMBAIS (Multi-Modal Bat Algorithm with Improved Search) which is an enhancement over the Bat algorithm. Each prospective solution

(feature subset), a bat, in Binary MMBAIS is represented as a binary vector rather than the traditional continuous solution space. The proposed algorithm is compared with some of the recent binary evolutionary algorithms; Binary Bat, BP-SOGSA, Binary Crow Search Algorithm, Binary Bat and Differential Evolution, and Binary Gray Wolf Optimization Algorithm over 15 benchmark datasets. Comparative studies illustrate the computational efficiency of Binary MMBAIS for feature selection with respect to the relative weighted consistency measure and classification accuracy over seven machine learning classifiers.

There are millions of people in this world, who have hearing disabilities due to various reasons. Sign languages (SLs) are used to communicate with these people. However, it is not easy to learn or use sign language. So, people face difficulty to interact with them properly. As hearing-impaired people are mostly familiar with SL, it is a visual language that is utilized by hard-of-hearing individuals to convey. Because of the extensive time needed in learning SL, individuals think that it is hard to speak with these specially-abled individuals, creating a communication gap. Chapter 12 attempts to resolve this issue by presenting "Audio to Indian Sign Language Interpreter (AISLI)", which translates English speech to Indian sign language (ISL) in form of Graphics Interchange Format (GIF) and yields letters as the output according to the phrase or word recognized. The Google Application Program Interface (API) is being utilized as the audio acknowledgment engine for the AISLI. The ISL structure is used for the interpretation of the results. It is expected that it will make the process for hearing-impaired individuals to comprehend simpler and speak with others, who do not know the language, using Natural Language Processing (NLP) and Machine Translation as the principal approach.

Pathological image reports are the primary basis of the diagnosis process and a little modification may mislead a doctor. Thus, tamper detection is essential for any medical image. In Chapter 13, a spatial domain-based fragile image watermarking scheme has been proposed for medical color images. This technique is not only useful for tamper detection but also allows to embed the electronic patient reports in the cover image without affecting the regions of interest. These personal reports are encrypted through an auto-generated key and watermark to provide immense privacy and reliability. The size of the watermark and the key are adaptive in nature and this adds a salient feature to this scheme. Moreover, the fragile watermarking process is performed in a reversible way. The proficiency of this proposed methodology is analyzed by means of imperceptibility, robustness, and hiding capacity and finally compared with some state-of-the-art techniques. Hereafter embedding, more than 60 dB average peak signal-tonoise ratio is obtained for applying 0.6 bits per pixel payload on an average. The overall assessment reflects that this scheme is able to provide enhanced hiding capacity, security, and reliability without affecting the region of medical interest of the images.

Preface xvii

Worldwide climate change is significantly influenced by global warming as one of the important factors. The surface temperature of the earth has experienced a steady increase of 0.20 centigrade every decade of the last 30 years. Climate change is happening due to this. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) concurred in Paris that the earth's temperature increase needs to be limited below 20. The most common contributors or features to global warming need to be identified in order to find the reason behind this issue. Establishing a solution model for global warming and climate change as an act of urgency and working toward mitigation by limiting greenhouse gases emission is one of the primary concerns. Chapter 14 provides the trend and correlation of temperature rise and CO_2 emission and explains the different mechanisms driving optimal mitigation. Integrating the climate data and identifying the problem area is one of the objectives of this research. This will help to get a reliable control system that can deal with the global warming issue. This work suggests Green Machine Automation Model (GMAD) architecture and defines how global warming can be controlled using data engineering and analytics. Therefore, environment protection using machine learning (ML) and data engineering is the main contribution of this research work.

Chapter 15 presents an application-oriented methodology to estimate biological age (Abi) with the prediction of the life expectancy of an individual. Segregating collected data based on their different health parameters such as height, weight, blood pressure, body temperature, and Electromyogram (EMG) is the effective gateway to obtaining the biological age compared with the chronological age (Ach) after several trial-and-error methods. Estimation is performed to check the biological age of human beings of different chronological age groups from 21 to 50 years using a neural network algorithm. The decision-making of health status observation of different levels for biologically aged people is another important outcome of this research work. The error percentage for biological age varies from approximately 0.09% to 22.41%, and this estimation is the best fit for adults and middle-aged people. The mean error values of some particular predicted biological age compared to chronological age are 0.08, 0.32, 0.69, and 1.40.

Suicide risk assessment usually includes a conversation between a doctor and a patient. However, due to restricted access to mental health care facilities, clinician availability, absence of understanding, shame, abandonment, and discriminatory treatment associated with mental disorders, a substantial percentage of mentally ill people do not obtain medical help for their condition. Internet access and social media usage, on the other hand, have grown dramatically, allowing specialists and patients to communicate in ways that could contribute to the development of tools for detecting mental health disorders among people on social media. The primary purpose of Chapter 16 is to analyze online Twitter tweets and see what characteristics may indicate suicidal ideation in individuals. Machine learning and natural language processing techniques are used to train our data and test the efficacy of the proposed technique. Several features including linguistic, topic, sentiment, temporal and statistical are retrieved and merged to obtain a high performance in classification. It is observed that there exist significant statistical differences in the datasets for suicidal ideation and non-suicidal users with respect to the different features. Results indicate that the combination of these different features outperforms the accuracy obtained by individual features separately.

Newspapers play a very significant role in society as it keeps the citizens informed about various events happening around them. The news might have a direct or indirect impact on the life of people, especially during a pandemic like COVID. India, in particular, saw a devastating second wave during March-May 2021 where there were concerns like oxygen and medicine shortages, more casualties, and maladministration. In this scenario, analysis of the news articles to mine the important topics becomes pertinent to understanding the role of media during the pandemic. In Chapter 17, 4,902 articles published from 15/3/2021 to 31/5/2021 in five prominent newspapers including The Times of India, The Hindu, Hindustan Times, The Indian Express, and The Deccan Chronicle are extracted and Latent Dirichlet Allocation (LDA) algorithm is applied to discover the important topics. Total nine topics are discovered focussing on resource constraints, bed scams, and various aspects of vaccination. This demonstrates that the media was only focused on presenting the ground reality prevailing during the period rather than discussing other important aspects like the wellbeing and mental health of the citizens. This was important as the second wave saw a lot more casualties and anxiety among the citizens of India.

In Chapter 18, a Fast Converging Flower Pollination Algorithm (FFPA) has been cast off to achieve optimized coefficients for implementing finite impulse response filters. Optimization is performed to minimize the fitness value that measures the weighted mean square error present in the passband and stopband of the designed filters. The hardware efficiency of the filter is calculated by approximating the number of structural adders and multiplier adders. Adder costs of the designed filters are obtained by computing the number of signed power two (SPT) terms present in filter coefficients after quantization stalked by common sub expression (CSE) elimination. Simulation results prove that the desired frequency response is achieved by lessening the word length of coefficients. The proposed algorithm outpaces the Parks McClellan Algorithm and traditional meta-heuristic algorithms like genetic algorithm, particle swarm optimization, differential evolution, cuckoo search algorithm, and flower pollination algorithm. Performance analysis of the designed filter has been shown by filtering a noisy phonocardiogram signal.

Deep learning has significantly helped better results for visual-based speech recognition. However, the majority of the research works focus on

improving only the training model's architecture. In Chapter 19, the authors identify that enhancing the pre-processing techniques also causes a surge in the model's accuracy. This chapter presents architecture-level suggestions to improve accuracy at every stage of the problem. First, the object recognition phase (for the lips) is improved by replacing the generic Haar cascade with BlazeFace. This process helps to cut down unnecessary information from being fed as input to the model. Since most real-time prediction demands the model to differentiate words of different lengths, enhancements to the window-size selection algorithm (pre-processing phase) are proposed. This algorithm dynamically calculates frames required for a specific word using silence detection techniques. In the final training phase, ResNets, GRUs, and LSTM models are employed to compare the results. The datasets obtained are from the Lombard-GRID corpus which consists of over 5,000 videos with 51 unique words. The proposed model improves the accuracy by around 15% more than standard techniques.

A modified Harris Hawks Optimization Algorithm is proposed in Chapter 20 that aims at determining the maximal levels of thresholding for grayscale images. In the recent past, the natural habits and mannerisms of a specific variety of hawks, namely, Harris Hawks, have been extensively observed with keen scientific interest, by researchers. This thorough observation has eventually led to the inception of a novel meta-heuristic algorithm regarded as the Harris Hawks Optimization Algorithm. The HHO algorithm has demonstrated capabilities of handling a wide array of optimization problems with startling efficiency. This chapter aims to suggest certain adaptive and intrinsic modifications that may accentuate and optimize the performance of the algorithm. A comparative analysis of the performance improvements based on realworld statistical benchmarks, such as the Kruskal-Wallis test, confirms the imminent superiority of the proposed algorithm in terms of performance and efficiency.

A precise and efficient technique for tumor segmentation in brain MRI is obligatory to acquire and analyze indispensable details for accurate diagnosis and required treatment planning. Deviations in tumor structure and size are fundamental challenges and choosing an appropriate segmentation technique shows considerable outcomes. Analyzing MRI images is a difficult and time-intensive process with human assessment of tumors in routine clinical applications. The accurate outcome of an automatic technique is crucial for the valuation of MRI images. The nonexistence of automatic tumor segmentation techniques presents a prime challenge since large amounts of MRI Image data are generated and consistently required for the segmentation process. Chapter 21 presents a unique framework for tumor detection with the EMGM model to rationalize the segmentation technique. Typically presented MRI sequences are used for experimental evaluation and obtained results with higher accuracy.

Industry 4.0 has highlighted remaining useful life (RUL) estimation as an important component for predictive maintenance. Prediction of remaining useful life (RUL) provides the estimate of residual time for system breakdown. By knowing the time estimate for upcoming failure, downtime caused due to unscheduled maintenance can be reduced. In real-time scenario, there is a dearth of training records for RUL estimation. Using advanced computer vision techniques, the time series data can be encoded into images to allow machines to visually recognize and classify and learn structures and patterns. The authors have proposed two novel techniques in Chapter 22 for data generation using Auxiliary Classifier Generative Adversarial Network (ACGAN)s for improving the RUL classification. Two ACGANbased RUL techniques viz., time series-based ACGAN, and image-based ACGAN are generated using recurrence plots. Data generated with image ACGAN have disclosed higher similarity to original sensor data while compared to time ACGAN. Image data generated using ACGANs have revealed better generalization of features for improved RUL classification accuracy compared to that of the time series ACGAN. This chapter implements both the time and image-based ACGANs in RUL estimation and classification domain for the first time. The experimental results have showcased higher classification accuracy for RUL prediction using image ACGAN.

Computing algorithms have been developed for solving difficult optimization problems inspired by mimicking natural processes and the application of quantum theory. In the last two decades, Quantum Inspired Evolutionary Algorithms (QIEA) have shown promising results to solve hard problems using classical computers. In Chapter 23, the authors introduce the implementation algorithm of QIEA on a quantum computing machine that is a 5-qubit IBM Noisy Intermediate Scale Quantum (NISQ) system to solve a problem of 100 items knapsack. This chapter describes a practical implementation of the algorithm and compares the results obtained on a quantum machine vis-à-vis results on classical computers. Testing is done using four types of knapsack problems to prove the hypothesis that results on both the quantum and classical computers are comparable in fitness for the test cases.

This volume is a novel attempt to enrich the existing knowledge base on hybrid intelligent system modeling and simulation practices optimized for real-time applications. The editor would feel rewarded if the volume comes to the benefit of budding researchers in exploring the field further in order to unearth indigenous intelligent models and frameworks for the future.

> Siddhartha Bhattacharyya Birbhum, India

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Creating ratings of agricultural universities based on their digital footprint

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I.I INTRODUCTION

The active development of digital technologies, as well as a number of serious restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, has become a driver for rethinking almost all aspects of both global and Russian educational activities. At the same time, the problem of the competitiveness of universities has become especially acute. To increase competitiveness, it was necessary to make significant investments in digital technologies for distance education, which was an obstacle to declining revenues due to lower incomes of consumers of university education as well as a decrease in the number of applicants from other countries. In the transition to self-isolation, the image of universities has become most influenced by their reasonable, effective representation in the Internet space, and not just the quality of educational services, which has become more difficult to control during the pandemic. The representation of universities in the Internet space is called the digital footprint.

As a rule, the concept of a digital footprint is understood as having two types: active and passive.

The active type includes information that is published in the Internet space directly by its owner or by a person authorized by him for this activity. A passive trace reflects information that is collected from his site without his participation and knowledge. In practice, this division is rather arbitrary, since the activities of universities can be displayed from many other sources, particularly those created by automated means. Such a digital trace will be called semi-active.

In our work, under the active digital footprint in relation to agricultural universities in Russia, we mean the amount of data that is posted on the website of each of them in the form of developments, publications, consultations, legal and regulatory materials, distance learning, application software, as well as databases and information about electronic employment agencies (EEAs) and digital marketplaces (DMPs) [1].

As the indicated digital footprints were not taken into consideration, the decree of Russian President was not implemented to achieve the following indicator of improving the activities of Russian universities by 2020: five should be included in the ranking of the 100 best universities in the world. The Accounts Chamber of the country issued a disappointing opinion on the unattainability of the target indicators of the decree, summing up at the end of its implementation period, having analyzed the institutional ratings QS [2] and THE [3] developed in the UK, as well as ARWU [4] used in China, since not a single Russian university participating in the program to implement the presidential decree could get into the first group of the hundred ratings considered above, although large sums were spent on the implementation of the program – over 80 billion rubles [5]. Note that such a result was evident long before the deadline for the completion of the specified program of state support for Russian universities in accordance with the presidential decree [6].

The analysis shows that the main reason for not implementing the decree is that the adopted program, focused on the implementation of the presidential decree, is based on the requirements for the information content of the educational environment in Russia in the field of university education. These requirements are enshrined in the relevant order No. 662 dated August 5, 2013, by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Russian Federation "On Monitoring the Education System". In accordance with the order, these requirements are focused on accounting only for educational activities. In developed countries, scientific research is essential. Such a digital divide could be eliminated by the presence of some integrated scientific and educational environment, the top of which is the formed single digital platform in the form of an information Internet space of scientific and educational resources [7]. In addition, in the context of active digitalization, the image of the university, which influences its ranking, is increasingly dependent on its comprehensive display in the Internet space. That is, the image in these conditions is most determined by the passive digital footprint.

The purpose of this study is to form and analyze the ratings of Russian universities using agricultural universities as an example, on the basis of their digital traces with the calculation of the integral rating. The resulting integral rating is an assessment of a complex indicator of the effectiveness of the use of information, scientific, and educational resources by agricultural universities. The methodology for forming these rankings based on calculated digital traces is the basis for harmonizing Russian and Western approaches to the development of university rankings in the context of the inevitability of the transition to a single digital platform of scientific and educational resources as the digital economy develops, smoothing out the shortcomings of the requirements of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Russian Federation to the assessment of educational organizations.

1.2 METHODOLOGY FOR THE FORMATION OF UNIVERSITY RANKINGS BASED ON THE PASSIVE DIGITAL FOOTPRINT

For this technique, we use the so-called method of sitemetric assessment of universities, based on the analytical capabilities of the SiteAuditor site analysis and audit service program [8]. This program makes it possible to obtain the characteristics of the sites under study that are of interest to us (Table 1.1). The weighting factors in the last column are based on the results of expert judgments [9–11].

The values of indicators included in the "indexation" group were formed according to the metrics of search services included in Bing, Google, Yandex, and Seznam. The values of indicators included in the "directories" group are the result of a simple sum of indices (1-yes, 0-no) of the presence of university sites in the DMOZ, Mail.ru, Rambler TOP, and Yandex catalogs. The values of indicators included in the "problems" group are the result of a simple sum of indices (1-yes, 0-no) from the corresponding characteristics on the Spamhaus (IP) and Yandex.AGS sites. The values of indicators included in the "rating" group were formed on the basis of data from

No.	Group indicators	Number in the group	Weight in %
I	Indexation	4	8,1
2	Directories	4	7,9
3	Problems	2	5,1
4	Alexa rating (global)	I	3,9
5	Alexa rating (local)	I	3,9
6	Google rating PR	I	8,1
7	Yandex rating	I	8,1
8	Social services	3	4,9
9	Links on the website	4	39,9
10	Links from the site	2	10,1
	Total	23	100,0

Table 1.1 Group indicators of the sitemetric method for calculating ratings

Alexa sites (both global and local), Google PR, and Yandex. The values of the "social services" group's indicators were the result of summing up the corresponding characteristics in social networks such as Facebook, Google Plus, and "My World" (Mail.ru). Site link group metrics were generated from relevant sections of Alexa, Google, Linkpad, and Majestic. The values of the indicators of the group of links from the site were determined as the average expression of the total number of corresponding indicators from the sites such as Bung and Linkpad. More detailed studies with detailed calculations can be found in [6,7]. The remaining indicators that can be obtained using the site-auditor program (another 17 indicators from various groups of indicators) were excluded from consideration in this chapter due to their low relevance and/or zero value for all the sites under study.

For the mathematical description of the methodology for evaluating universities on the basis of the considered passive digital footprint, we introduce the following expressions.

- P_2^m the criterion for evaluating the *m*-th university, calculated on the basis of a passive digital footprint;
- d_{rm}^2 the size of the *r*-th indicator of site evaluation, calculated on the basis of a passive digital traces of the *m*-th university;
- q_{rm}^2 the size of the *r*-th indicator of the site assessment, calculated on the basis of a passive digital traces of the *m*-th university;
- ω_r^2 weight of the size of the *r*-th indicator of site evaluation, calculated on the basis of a passive digital traces;

$$q_{rm}^2 = d_{rm}^2 / \max_m d_{rm}^2;$$

Then we get

$$P_2^m = \sum_k \omega_k^2 q_{km}^2$$
(1.1)

In accordance with the abovementioned mathematical description of the methodology for evaluating universities, ten private ratings were formed based on sitemetry data. The obtained private ratings were further summed up with the weights given in Table 1.1. The results of calculations of assessments and ratings of universities obtained on the basis of their passive digital footprint are summarized in Table 1.10.

1.3 METHODOLOGY FOR GENERATING RATING BASED ON A SEMI-ACTIVE DIGITAL FOOTPRINT

The information required to generate ratings based on a semi-active digital footprint has been taken from self-examination reports according to [1]. Due to their large number, Table 1.2 shows only eight indicators as an example. The weights of all indicators in the final rating calculations have been determined by using mathematical statistics methods based on correlation analysis, the Kendall concordance factor, the probabilistic estimation model, and calculating the competency matrix. The calculation results show a high consistency of all ratings, which provide ample opportunities for using any of the abovementioned methods in further research, as well as their combination, such as average grades and ratings.

No.	Indicators	Weight
I	Specific weight of the number of RAS with an academic degree of candidate of sciences in the total RAS number at the university	4.27
2	Specific weight of the number of RAS with an academic degree of doctor of sciences in the total RAS number at the university	4.59
3	Total area of classrooms for training per student	4.70
4	Number of computers per student	4.57
5	University income for all types of activities per RAS member	4.67
6	University income generated by commercial activities per RAS member	4.35
7	Share of the RAS average income at a university, taking into account all types of activities, to the average salary in the region	4.44
8	Number of students studying under the federal budget funding program	4.43

Table 1.2 Groups of indicators for a semi-active digital footprint

In Table 1.2, RAS stands for research academic staff. The mathematical description of the methodology for evaluating universities based on semiactive digital footprints is as follows:

- P_5^m the evaluation criterion of the m^{th} university, calculated on the basis of a semi-active digital footprints;
- d_{bm}^{5} the size of the h^{th} indicator, calculated on the basis of a semi-active digital footprints of the m^{th} university;
- q_{hm}^5 the size of the h^{th} indicator, calculated on the basis of a semi-active digital footprints of the m^{th} university;
- ω_{hm}^5 the size weight of the h^{th} indicator, calculated on the basis of a semi-active digital footprints of the m^{th} university;

$$q_{hm}^5 = d_{hm}^5 / \max_m d_{hm}^5$$

Then, we get:

$$P_{5}^{m} = \sum_{b} \omega_{b}^{5} q_{bm}^{5}$$
(1.2)

The resulting evaluation, with the corresponding ratings of universities based on their semi-active digital footprint, is comparatively given in Table 1.10.

1.4 METHODOLOGY FOR GENERATING RATINGS BASED ON AN ACTIVE DIGITAL FOOTPRINT

As already stated in the Introduction section, in addition to the traditional image role and the role of the university's business card, the role of the abovementioned digital footprint gains significantly greater importance in modern conditions because, with competent, scientifically grounded representation of universities on the Internet – in addition to providing faculty members with qualitatively new opportunities for an enhanced sharing of ideas with each other and their digital interaction with scientific and educational resources – it provides an effective system for introducing this knowledge into the economy and contributes to an increase in the intellectual level of society through the improvement of the education system [6]. Such a triunique role of scientifically grounded representation of universities on the Internet is most fully implemented when creating the above space of information scientific and educational resources (ISERs) on the Internet, integrating the following types of them posted on the websites of universities, scientific institutions, and various consulting centers of the agro-industrial complex: publications, development, consultations, legal and statutory materials, training in a remote format, custom software, and databases. It is these scientific and educational resources that are most in demand in the agricultural economy [6,7,12].

In recent years, in addition to ISERs, these organizations on their websites have started developing, in one way or another, EEAs and DMPs, which reflect modern trends in rendering Internet services in the form of such digital services. Thus, we can consider seven types of ISERs, as well as EEAs and DMPs, as manifestations of an active digital footprint.

In view of the abovementioned reasons, we present the parameter values of this methodology:

Therefore, based on the above data, we present a mathematical description of the method:

- *i* identifier defining the level of ISERs integration, $i \in I$ (Table 1.3);
- *l* identifier specifying the storage form for ISERs, $l \in L$ (Table 1.4);
- n identifier defining the kind of representation of ISERs, $n \in N$ (Table 1.5);

Table 1.3 Indicators of the IR integration

No.	Designation	Weight (%)
1	Unordered list	10
2	Ordered electronic presentation	90
Total		100

Table 1.4 Indicators of the IR storage forms

No.	Designation	Weight (%)
I	Catalog	30
2	Full-format electronic presentation	70
Total		100

Table 1.5 Indicators of the ISER presentation types

No.	Designation	Weight (%)
I	Developments	30
2	Publications	20
3	Databases	5
4	Application software packages	5
5	Remote learnings	5
6	Consultants	30
7	Regulatory information	5
Total		100

	o o	•
No.	Designation	Weight (%)
Ι	Evaluation criteria for ISER representation types	70
2	Private criterion for evaluating IRs based on the DMP's	15

Table 1.6 Particular criteria for evaluating an active digital footprint

status 3 Private criterion for evaluating IRs based on the EEA's status Total 100

Table 1.7 Indicators of the IR evaluation criterion based on the DMP's status

No.	Designation	Weight (%)
I	Unstructured message board	5
2	Structured message board	10
3	Automated search for a trading partner according to a given indicator	20
4	Automated information processes for all trading operations	25
5	Complete automation of e-commerce	40
	Total	100

Table 1.8 Indicators of the IR evaluation criterion based on the EEA's status

No.	Designation	Weight (%)
I	Unstructured message board	10
2	Structured message board	20
3	Electronic employment agency (automated search)	60
4	Links to other employment agencies	10
	Total	100

m – university code, $m \in M$;

 P_i^m – the private criterion for evaluating, calculated on the basis of a active digital traces of the m^{th} university based on the j^{th} indicator, $j \in J$ (Table 1.6);

 P^{m} – the integral criterion for evaluating, calculated on the basis of a active digital traces of the m^{th} university;

- α_i^1 the value weight of the *i*th indicator of the scientific and educational IR integration;
- α_l^2 weight of the *l*th storage form ISERs;

- α_n^3 the value weight of the *n*th indicator of the scientific and educational IR presentation form;
- β_j weight of the *j*th private criterion of assessment, calculated on the basis of a active digital traces (Table 1.6);
- $v_{i\ln 0}^{m}$ the size of ISERs of the *i*th integration level, the *l*th storage form, *n*th presentation kind of the *m*th university;
- $\lambda_{i \text{ln}}^{m}$ the normalized value of the estimation of the size of the ISERs of the *i*th integration level, the *l*th storage form, *n*th presentation kind of the *m*th university;

$$\lambda_{i\ln}^m = v_{i\ln 0}^m / \max_m v_{i\ln 0}^m;$$

- d_{sm}^3 the size of the *s*th indicator of the website evaluation criterion based on the DMP's status of the *m*th university (Table 1.7);
- ω_s^3 the value weight of the *s*th indicator of the website evaluation criterion based on the DMP's status (Table 1.7);
- d_{gm}^4 the size of the g^{th} indicator of the website evaluation criterion based on the EEA's status of the m^{th} university (Table 1.8);
- ω_g^4 the value weight of the *g*th indicator of the website evaluation criterion based on the EEA's status (Table 1.8). Then:

$$P^m = \sum_j \beta_j P_j^m, \qquad (1.3)$$

where
$$P_1^m = \sum_{i,l,n} \lambda_{i\ln}^m \alpha_i^1 \alpha_l^2 \alpha_n^3, P_3^m = \sum_s \omega_s^3 d_{gm}^3,$$

 $P_4^m = \sum_g \omega_g^4 d_{gm}^4$
(1.4)

To demonstrate the underestimation of the active and passive digital footprints, Table 1.9 provides information about the low information content of ISERs on the universities' websites, where the column numbers mean the following indicators: C1 - percentage of websites having this type of ISER, C2 - unordered list, C3 - digital catalog, C4 - unordered fullformat presentation, C5 - ordered full-format digital presentation, ASPs – application software packages, RL – remote learning, and RI – regulatory information.

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Types of ISERs	CI	C2	C3	C4	C5
Developments	85	3,684	391	337	248
Publications	89	18,649	408	344	0
Databases	11	530	45	0	0
ASPs	2	828	2	25	0
RL	12	1,195	0	0	3
Consultants	25	216	43	9	0
RI	89	18,649	408	344	0

Table 1.9 Quality and quantity of ISERs on universities' websites

Table 1.10 Comparison of university ratings based on passive, semi-active, and active digital footprints

University	N1/N2/N3/N4	University	N1/N2/N3/N4
Russian State Agrarian University – MTAA	1/1/16/4	Belgorod State Agrarian University	6/43/10/7
Orel State Agrarian University	2/20/14/5	Krasnoyarsk State Agrarian University	7/22/32/2
Novosibirsk State Agrarian University	3/4/18/28	Saint Petersburg State Agrarian University	8/3/19/34
Bryansk State Agrarian University	4/21/2/20	Saratov State Agrarian University	9/6/11/9
Kazan State Agrarian University	5/28/15/8	Bashkir State Agrarian University	10/19/7/32

1.5 RATING CALCULATION RESULTS

Table 1.10 presents a comparison of the rankings of the first ten universities of the integral ranking (N1) based on the passive (N2), semi-active (N3), and active (N4) digital footprint.

Our analysis of the comparison results shows that the majority of universities virtually do not pay attention to their image. Thus, not a single university from the top-10 of the N1 rating has retained its leadership in the other three ratings. Only three institutions have been included in the leaders of three ratings out of four: Russian State Agrarian University – MTAA, Belgorod State Agrarian University, and Saratov State Agrarian University.

I.6 CONCLUSION

Our research has shown that universities are currently forced by the regulation to develop their websites, focusing only on those resources that are required by regulatory authorities and leaving a largely semi-active digital footprint on the Internet. Therewith, they pay little attention to tools that enhance their active and passive digital footprints. Underestimation of these tools was the reason for not fulfilling the Russian President's instruction to achieve the goal; five Russian universities should be included in the ranking of the 100 best world universities by 2020. However, focusing only on indicators included in the calculations of the most famous university rankings, QS Rankings [2] and Times Higher Education (THE) [3], poses a great threat to the Russian economy. The indicators of these ratings are reflected in the self-survey report [1]. They are taken into account in the form of semi-active digital traces in this article. If in developed countries, thanks to market relations, the transfer of innovations to the economy is well established, in our country it was destroyed during the years of perestroika. Business in Russia is not interested in the indicators from the QS and THE ratings; they need the indicators included in the calculation of the active digital traces [6,13,14].

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Chapter



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