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Fuzzy Logic and Evolutionary Computational Paradigms for Adaptive Control in Process and Systems Engineering

Anuja D. Mate, Swati Bula Patil,
Prema Subhash Kadam
Vishwakarma Institute of Technology

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[1]Anuja D. Mate, Assistant Professor, Computer Science and Engineering -Internet of Things and Cyber Security Including Block Chain Technology, Vishwakarma Institute of Technology, Kondhwa. Mail ID: anujamate12@gmail.com

[2]Ms. Swati Bula Patil, Assistant Professor, Information Technology, Vishwakarma Institute of Technology, Kondhwa, Pune. Mail ID: swati.patil@vit.edu

[3]Prema Subhash Kadam, Assistant professor, Artificial Intelligence and Data Science, Vishwakarma Institute of Technology, Pune. Mail ID: prema.kadam@viit.ac.in

Abstract

The integration of fuzzy logic and evolutionary computing has emerged as a transformative paradigm in adaptive control systems and process engineering, enabling intelligent, flexible, and data-driven decision-making across nonlinear and uncertain environments. This book chapter presents a comprehensive exploration of hybrid fuzzy–evolutionary methodologies for process modeling, system identification, and controller design. The discussion emphasizes how the fusion of fuzzy reasoning and evolutionary optimization enhances the interpretability, adaptability, and computational robustness of modern control architectures. Special attention is given to the optimization of membership functions, rule base simplification, parameter tuning, and gain scheduling through advanced evolutionary strategies such as genetic algorithms and particle swarm optimization. The framework addresses multi-objective optimization challenges inherent in complex process control, ensuring balanced trade-offs between accuracy, stability, and energy efficiency. Through the integration of hybrid identification techniques and real-time implementation strategies, the chapter illustrates how these intelligent approaches outperform conventional linear models in dynamic, multivariable industrial systems. The proposed methodologies establish a solid foundation for developing next-generation adaptive controllers capable of learning from process behavior, optimizing performance autonomously, and maintaining resilience under varying operational conditions. This comprehensive synthesis serves as a valuable contribution to the fields of intelligent control, computational intelligence, and process automation, offering theoretical depth and practical insight for researchers and practitioners aiming to advance adaptive process engineering.

Keywords: Fuzzy Logic, Evolutionary Computing, Adaptive Control, Process Engineering, Multi-Objective Optimization, Intelligent Systems

Introduction

The growing complexity of modern industrial processes has intensified the need for intelligent and adaptive control mechanisms capable of operating under uncertainty, nonlinearity, and dynamic conditions [1]. Conventional control systems, grounded in rigid mathematical formulations and precise modeling, often fail to deliver consistent performance when faced with fluctuating parameters or unpredictable environmental variations [2]. In contrast, the advent of soft computing paradigms such as fuzzy logic and evolutionary computing has opened a new dimension in control and process automation [3]. These paradigms embrace the inherent imperfections in data and decision-making, providing flexible and resilient solutions that emulate human-like reasoning and learning [4]. The integration of fuzzy reasoning with evolutionary optimization techniques forms the cornerstone of intelligent control architectures that can adapt, evolve, and optimize without explicit human intervention [5].

Fuzzy logic provides a mathematical framework for representing vague and imprecise information through linguistic variables and fuzzy rules [6]. This ability to reason in uncertain environments aligns closely with real-world industrial systems where precise mathematical relationships are often difficult to define [7]. By translating expert knowledge into a set of inference rules, fuzzy controllers can manage complex processes with interpretability and transparency [8]. However, fuzzy systems alone can face challenges in determining optimal membership functions and tuning rule bases for high-performance control [9]. This limitation led to the adoption of evolutionary algorithms as complementary tools for automatic optimization, thereby overcoming static configurations and enhancing adaptability. The fusion of these two computational paradigms creates a dynamic synergy that brings together interpretability, adaptability, and robustness [10].

Evolutionary computing encompasses a class of population-based optimization techniques inspired by natural selection and biological evolution [11]. Algorithms such as genetic algorithms, particle swarm optimization, and differential evolution are capable of exploring complex, high-dimensional search spaces to locate optimal or near-optimal solutions [12]. When integrated with fuzzy logic, evolutionary methods enable self-tuning of controller parameters, adaptive rule generation, and real-time performance enhancement [13]. This integration ensures that the controller continuously evolves in response to system changes, maintaining stability and precision under varying operating conditions [14]. The resulting hybrid fuzzy evolutionary frameworks outperform traditional static controllers in scenarios demanding flexibility and learning capability [15].