

CURRICULUM VITAE - ROBERT IVOR JOHN

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

I am currently Professor of Operational Research and Computer Science and Head of the Automated Scheduling, Optimisation and Planning (ASAP) in the School of Computer Science at the University of Nottingham (start date February 1st 2013). I am also a Senior Member of IEEE, Fellow of the British Computer Society and elected member of the EPSRC college.

Research Profile

In the field of type-2 fuzzy logic, my work is widely recognised by the international fuzzy logic community as leading in the aspects of theoretical foundations, as well as practical applications. My work has produced many fundamental new results that have opened the field to new research, enabling a broadening of scope and application. I have over 150 research publications of which circa 50 are in international journals. My papers are very well cited, with the seminal paper ‘Type-2 Fuzzy Sets Made Simple’ [35] having over 800 citations on Google Scholar. This paper is amongst the top 1% most cited papers on the ISI Web of Science with over 400 citations. Another paper, ‘Interval Type-2 Fuzzy Sets Made Simple’ [30] with over 150 citations in ISI (308 Google Scholar), also makes the top 1%. These two papers are in the leading journal in the field - IEEE Transactions on Fuzzy Systems, which has an impact factor of 4.26, placing it 5th out of 111 in ISI category Computer Science (Artificial Intelligence). My paper with Simon Coupland [27] won Best Paper award in that journal in 2007, for defining a new geometric approach to modelling fuzzy sets. Other journal articles appear in leading journals such as: the Journal of Approximate Reasoning, European Journal of Operations Research, Fuzzy Sets and Systems and Information Sciences. I have an h-index of 23 on Google Scholar.

Grants awarded:

- EPSRC (Principal Investigator (PI)): Towards a Framework for Modelling Variation - EPSRC EP/C542215/1 – Grant value: £145,356
- EPSRC (PI): Uncertainty Modelling in Technologies for the Elderly - EP/F013167/1 – Grant Value: £45,447
- DTI (PI): Improving customer demand and cost forecasting methods - TP/5/DAT/6/1/H025E – Grant value: £380,000
- DTI KTP (PI): Knowledge Transfer Partnership with Park Air – KTP008844 – Grant Value: £127,966
- DTI KTP (PI): Knowledge Transfer Partnership with GoMad – KTP006865 – Grant Value: £145,000
- Lachesis (PI): Data Perspective – Grant Value: £250,000
- Royal Society (PI): Incoming Travel Grant – Grant Value: £13,000
- EPSRC (Co Investigator): IMI: Improving the Cost Model Development Process (COSTMOD) - GR/M58818/01 – Grant Value: £293,531
- EPSRC (CI): Workshop on the Future of (UK) Fuzzy Systems Research - EP/E058388/1 – Grant Value: £12,026
- HIRF (CI): Hardware Implementation of a Type-2 Fuzzy Logic System - Grant value: £16,028
- Royal Society (CI): Collaboration with Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics - JP100800 - Grant value: £12,000

The full version of the curriculum vitae provides a detailed breakdown of evidence of esteem. I have played a leading role in the United Kingdom fuzzy logic community for many years and made a significant impact on the international fuzzy logic community. Some highlights:

- Plenary talk at the World Congress on Computational Intelligence in 2006 - the largest and most prestigious conference in the field.

- Part of a national team (with Bristol, Edinburgh and Essex) that was awarded the right to hold the prestigious FUZZ-IEEE conference in London in 2007. I presented the proposal and was Vice Chair of the conference. This is the most important conference in the world for fuzzy logic.
- Vice Chair of the Fuzzy Technical Committee (FTC) of the IEEE Computational Intelligence Society.
- Member of the Editorial Board of the International Journal of Cognitive Neurodynamics, International Journal for Computational Intelligence and the International Journal of Information and Systems Sciences.

Management & Leadership

I have a strong track record in leadership and management in research. I led the growth of the Centre for Computational Intelligence (CCI – www.cci.dmu.ac.uk) at De Montfort University since the year 2000 to where it is now recognised as a leading Computational Intelligence group in Europe. This, I believe, provides evidence of successful strategy development and implementation.

- The group has more than doubled in size to fourteen academic staff, covering a diverse set of computational intelligence theories and application areas.
- The CCI now has 32 PhD students (both full time and part time, self funded and on grants).
- The CCI has a MSc in Intelligent Systems and Intelligent Systems and Robotics (FT, PT and DL).
- The Centre contributed 10 staff (out of 26) to the UoA 23 in RAE 2001 as part of the largest submission in DMU, earning the most income from the exercise. Audits carried out by externals in the lead up placed my four papers as the best in the submission and the CCI was highlighted in the panel report.

I was Head of the School of Computer Science and Informatics at De Montfort University which meant that I carried out the usual activities of managing budgets, developing staff, dealing with HR issues and working with the executive and Dean to take the department and the faculty forward. In this role I have exhibited leadership in a variety of ways. My philosophy is that of developing a team environment through consultation and providing opportunities for staff to grow and develop. A department plan has been implemented, built around a strategy of building on the two successful research groups in the Department, innovative teaching and improving the student experience. I formed a Departmental Management Group which, in consultation with all staff, developed the research and the learning and teaching strategies. Some key achievements:

- Validated new Masters programmes in Computer Games Programming (CGP) and Business Intelligence Systems and Data Mining (BIDM). The latter being supported by the leading software provider in the field (SAS). This supports the strategy of improving Masters numbers (which were high at 190 in the last academic year) and increasing overseas recruitment.
- Consolidated the undergraduate portfolio to a much ‘tighter’ cohesive offering, making appropriate use of sharing modules.
- Building on the very successful MSc Intelligent Systems Distance Learning course (currently 56 students) the Department is extending the DL offering with a new MSc in the Computing area and BIDM will go DL in 2012.
- The £250K CGP Studios, with state-of-the-art games machines, provides a great new innovative environment for undergraduate and postgraduate students and research. I developed the proposal and business plan.

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Personal Information

Qualifications

B.Sc. (Hons) Mathematics First Class – Leicester Polytechnic – 1979

M.Sc. Statistics – UMIST – 1981

Ph.D. in Type-2 Fuzzy Systems – De Montfort University – 2000

Current Employment – University of Nottingham

Professor of Operational Research and Computer Science (February 2013 – Present)

Previous Employment – De Montfort University

Senior Lecturer (1989 – 1994)

Principal Lecturer (1994 – 2003)

Head of Division of Artificial Intelligence and Computer Modelling (Sept 2002 – July 2006)

Reader in Computer Science (January 2003 – June 2005)

Professor in Computer Science (June 2005 – January 2013)

Head of Department of Informatics (September 2008 – August 2012)

Head of the School of Computer Science and Informatics (August 2012 – January 2013)

Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Technology (September 2011– January 2013)

Previous Employment

Softserv Ltd (Technical Director) (1986 – 1988)

Systems Designers (Senior Systems Engineer) (1985 – 1986)

British Gas (Senior Scientist) (1981 – 1985)

Research Profile

External Examiners & Committee Memberships

- An elected member of the EPSRC College.
- Was, for 4 years, Vice Chair of the Fuzzy Technical Committee (FTC) of the IEEE Computational Intelligence Society. This is a very prestigious committee that drives the fuzzy logic aspects of the Society. I co-chair a special task force on ‘Extensions to Type-1 Fuzzy Sets’ which has organised a number of two special sessions at FUZZ-IEEE 2004-2007 and edited a special issue of IEEE Transaction on Fuzzy Systems.
- Member of the ‘Future in Fuzzy Sets and Systems’ Task Force of the IEEE Technical Committee on Granular Computing
- Active member in the Spanish National Network in Decision Making (REDEMAP II - TIN2004-21700-E: Preference Modelling and Aggregation) for the period 2005-2006
- Invited member of the BISC Special Interest Group on Fuzzy Logic and the Internet.
- Was external member of Southampton Institute Research Degrees Committee.

- Was external examiner to the various MSc Computing programs at the University of Ulster.
- Currently external examiner to the MSc Business Intelligence Sheffield Hallam University.
- Currently external examiner to the MSc Intelligent Agents University of Westminster.

Conference Organisation

- Area Chair for Type-2 Fuzzy Systems at Fuzz-IEEE 2013
- Was part of a national team (with the universities of Essex, Aberystwyth and Bristol) that was awarded the right to hold the prestigious FUZZ-IEEE conference in Imperial College, London in 2007. I presented the proposal and was Vice Chair of the conference. This is the most important conference in the world for fuzzy logic.
- Conference co-chair for the Recent Advances in Soft Computing 2002 conference.
- Co-organising the 2011 IEEE Symposium on Advances in Type-2 Fuzzy Logic Systems
- Conference Chair and organiser for EUSFLAT2001 organised on behalf of the European Society of Fuzzy Logic and Technology and held at De Montfort University. This conference is one of the leading European Fuzzy Logic Conferences and was attended by approximately 150 delegates. Plenary speakers included Professor Zadeh - the founder of fuzzy logic. This led to a special issue of Fuzzy Sets and Systems (one of the top fuzzy logic journals) [36].
- The Recent Advances in Soft Computing series conferences at De Montfort University in 1998, 1999 and 2000 were organised by the Centre for Computational Intelligence and I acted as Conference Chair. These averaged about 60 attendees from all over the world. Two of the conference proceedings were published by Springer-Verlag [146, 147].
- Member of various program committees:
 - EUROFUSE 2001 Workshop on Preference Modelling and Application;
 - ISDA2001 and ISDA2002
 - International Conference on Hybrid Intelligent Systems (HIS 2003),
 - RASC (98,99,2000 and 2003),
 - FUZZ-IEEE 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007 ,2008, 2009, 2010
 - UKCI 2004, 2005, 2008,
 - PPSN2006, 2008, 2010
 - FLINS08
 - 2007 IEEE Symposium Series on Computational Intelligence (SSCI 2007)
 - 2006 IEEE International Conference on Granular Computing)
 - Robots in Education 2010
 - 2011 IEEE Symposium on Computational Intelligence in Industry (CII 2011)
 - Intelligent Systems 2010
 - FLINS 2010
 - Area Chair for FUZZ-IEEE 2010
 - IFSA/EUSFLAT 2010

- European Conference on Modelling and Simulation 2010
- Symposium on Mathematics of Uncertainty: Theory & Applications 2010
- Organised special sessions at NAFIPS 2001, FUZZ-IEEE 2002, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012.

Invited Talks

- Invited to give a plenary talk at the World Congress on Computational Intelligence in 2006. This conference, organised by the IEEE combines three conferences every four years - FUZZ-IEEE, CEC and IJCNN.
- Invited speaker at Essex University, Oxford Brookes University and Leicester University.
- Keynote Speaker at UKCI 2010
- Invited speaker at the BISC Workshop on Fuzzy Logic and the Internet held at the University of Berkeley. This workshop was by invitation only and included Professor Zadeh, James Keller (Editor in Chief IEEE Transactions on Fuzzy Systems) and Professor Burhan Turksen (ex President of NAFIPS).
- Funded to give a talk on type-2 fuzzy logic to staff and students at the University of Granada in Spain - the premier fuzzy logic group in Spain.
- Funded to give a talk on type-2 fuzzy logic at the University of Pamplona, Spain.
- Led type-2 fuzzy logic workshop BCS SigAI 2007.

Editorships & Reviewing

- Member of the Editorial Board of: the International Journal of Cognitive Neurodynamics, Grey Systems: Theory and Application, Turkish Journal of Fuzzy Systems
- Edited a special issue of the Information Sciences Journal [145].
- Edited a special issue of the Journal of Knowledge Based Intelligent Engineering [40].
- Edited a special issue of Fuzzy sets and Systems [36].
- Have been a referee for a number of journals including IEEE Transactions on Fuzzy Systems, the Journal of the O.R. Society, IEEE Transactions on Signal Processing, IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks, International Journal of Electrical Engineering Education, International Journal of Systems Science, FUZZ-IEEE conference and various other conferences.
- Member of the editorial board of the International Journal for Computational Intelligence and Information and Systems Sciences.
- Associate Editor of the International Journal of Information & Systems Sciences
- Assistant Director of the McLeod Institute of Simulation Sciences (De Montfort University)

PhD Supervisions

I am currently supervising five Phd students

I have successfully supervised the following 21 PhD students to completion (11 as first supervisor) :

1. Anne Chisnall. Grounded Theory for Knowledge Acquisition (2nd Supervisor) (1997)
2. Gary J. Mooney. Fuzzy User Modelling and the World Wide Web (1st Supervisor) (2000)
3. M.L. Nasir. Forecasting Corporate Bankruptcy using Artificial Neural Networks (1st) (2000)
4. Geraldine Clarke. Consumer Attitudes to the Higher Application Process (1st) (2000)
5. Rafee Ebrahim. Fuzzy Logic Programming (1st) (2003)
6. Dmitri Doubovitsky. Fuzzy Logic and Image Analysis (1st) (2005)
7. Laurence Tyler. Biologically Inspired Mobile Robots (2nd) (2005)
8. Paul Baguley. Fuzzy Logic for Cost Modelling (2nd) (2005)
9. Simon Coupland. Geometric Fuzzy Logic Systems (1st) (2006)
10. Mousa Al Akhras. Quality of Media Traffic over Lossy Internet Protocol Networks: Measurement and Improvement (1st) (2007)
11. Abdul Manaf Mohd Rasol. An Agent-Based Framework for Forest Planning (2nd) (2007)
12. Hasan Al Serhan. Extraction of Arabic Word Roots: An Approach Based on Computational Model and Multi-Backpropagation Neural Network (2nd) (2008)
13. Shihadeh Algrainy. A Morphological Syntactical Analysis Approach for Arabic Textual Tagging (2nd) (2008)
14. Eric Goodyer. The Biomechanical Properties of the Human Vocal Fold (1st) (2009)
15. Simon Miller. Stochastic Search and Fuzzy Modelling for Real-World Complex Problems (1st) (2010)
16. Hussam Hamrawi. Type 2 Alpha Cut (2nd) (2011)
17. Majid Almaraashi. Learning of Type-2 Fuzzy Logic Systems using Simulated Annealing (1st) (2012)
18. Sarah Greenfield. Type-2 Fuzzy Logic: Circumventing the Defuzzification Bottleneck (2nd) (2012)
19. Roland Stelzer. Autonomous Sailboat Navigation (1st) (2012)
20. Youdtchai Lertworaprachaya. Fuzzy Decision Support Applied to Machine Maintenance (2nd) (2012)
21. Chrysostomou charalambos. Characterisation and Classification of Protein Sequences by Using Enhanced Amino Acid Indices and Signal Processing-Based Methods (2nd) (2013)

Grants & Consultancy

- EPSRC (Principal Investigator): Towards a Framework for Modelling Variation - EPSRC EP/C542215/1 – Grant value: £145,356
- EPSRC (PI): Uncertainty Modelling in Technologies for the Elderly - EP/F013167/1 – Grant Value £45,447
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- DTI KTP (PI): Knowledge Transfer Partnership with Park Air – KTP008844 – Grant Value £127,966
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- Royal Society (CI): Collaboration with Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics - JP100800 - Grant value: £12,000

I also received other funding from the EU on part of a larger project (ELVIL). I am an international scientific adviser to OPTIMIST-RRT (OPTIMisation: using Intelligent Simulation Tools - Robust & Real-Time extensions) which has a grant value of 10 Million Swedish Kroner.

I have conducted various paid consultancy projects for British Gas, Guardian PLC, Donnisthorpe Ltd, NCR, Manx Telecom, Context Ltd and Barclays Bank. These projects ranged over a variety of topics in statistics, fuzzy logic, soft computing and knowledge based systems.

Teaching

Throughout my career I have always considered teaching to be important. The approach I adopt is that of ‘active learning’. That is, I believe computing and statistics is best taught by active participation by the student developing their understanding and skills in an incremental manner. Students learn by being stretched mentally at an appropriate level for the course they are undertaking. As my research has flourished I have used it to inform teaching, where at all possible. For example, a Masters module on artificial intelligence uses my work on medical image classification as a case study.

I have taught numerous modules at both undergraduate and postgraduate level. It would not be appropriate to list them all. They can be categorised in the following way:

- Undergraduate modules on statistics for our Mathematics and Management Science Students.
- Undergraduate modules on operations research for our Mathematics and Management Science Students.
- Various undergraduate modules on artificial intelligence (fuzzy logic, neural networks and genetic algorithms).
- Modules on artificial intelligence for MSc Computing, MSc Information Technology and MSc Digital Signal Processing.

Recently I was instrumental in developing a number of undergraduate computational intelligence modules covering various aspects of computational intelligence including knowledge based systems, artificial neural

networks, genetic algorithms and fuzzy logic. I have supervised many undergraduate and postgraduate projects in a variety of topics including fuzzy logic and neural networks.

I jointly led the development of BSc(Hons) Management Science and drove the development of a new advanced MSc in Computational Intelligence and Robotics for start in 2004.

References

International Journals

- [1] Yang, Y., John, R. and Liu, S. (2012) Some extended operations of grey sets. *Kybernetes*, 41 (7), pp. 860-873, DOI: 10.1108/03684921211257711
- [2] Almarashi, M., John, R. and Ahmadi, S. (2013) Learning of type-2 fuzzy logic systems by simulated annealing with adaptive step size. *Lecture Notes in Electrical Engineering*, 130, pp. 53-64 URI: <http://hdl.handle.net/2086/7314> ISSN: 1876-1100
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- [10] Zhou Shang-Ming, Chiclana Francisco, John Robert I. and Garibaldi Jonathan (2011) Alpha-Level Aggregation: A Practical Approach to Type-1 OWA Operation for Aggregating Uncertain Information with Applications to Breast Cancer Treatments. *IEEE Transactions on Knowledge and Data Engineering*, 23 (10) pp1455–1468, DOI: 10.1109/TKDE.2010.191
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Book Chapters and International Conferences

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