
Editorial

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It is especially exciting to write this editorial: It is an opportunity to share with the readers some exciting and topically diverse works that share the themes of *information* and *decisions*. It is also an opportunity to reflect on how diversity enriches thoughts and ideas. I hope the reader will find value and joy in the papers of this special issue of the *International Journal of Information and Decision Sciences (IJIDS)* on 'Decision and logistics'.

Papers in this special issue are topically diverse but all share two common threads: they all deal with information and decision. The paper by Abbas and Chergui is on the impact of Pareto optimality concept on revised TOPSIS. They took a theoretical approach to investigate cases where a preference relation changes when delimiting the choice of optimal alternative(s) in an efficient restrictive area. The authors introduced the extended TOPSIS Nadir method and demonstrated its reliability. Mortula et al. present a graphic and geographic information system (GIS)-based system to monitor spatiotemporal variation of water quality in a municipal water distribution network. The authors demonstrate how spatial and temporal variations and, possibly, causes can then be monitored or identified and thus used to aid distribution and management of municipal water. Using real world data, the authors demonstrated the utility of their model to assess potential risks of water degradation over time (i.e., when different sources of water are used) and space (i.e., different areas of the city). Bouchahma et al. used a combination of computer vision and machine learning to formulate an open-source decision aid system that uses shapes and colours of herb leaves to help scientists classify herb plants. Such classification can aid in the selection of suitable herbs and foods for use in such applications as food preparation, cosmetics, and medicine. Although the system was developed using Oman-native herbal plants, the authors noted the robustness of their system whereby it can be extend for use with other native plants as well as standard plant or leaf datasets. Abu-Lebdeh et al. demonstrated the efficacy of genetic algorithms (GAs) for real-time urban traffic control. The authors used an off-line experimental approach to test the suitability of micro-genetic algorithms (m-GAs) to solve very large combinatorial traffic control problems, and establish relationships between time to convergence and problem size. Given the limit on time to generate suitable solution, a careful choice of GA operators and parameter values becomes all the more important to achieve most of the worth of the near-optimal control solutions.

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