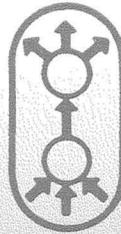


R.J. Marks II, "Message from President: IEEE Neural Networks Council,"
1991 International Joint Conference on Neural Networks, Singapore, November 18-21 (1991).

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THE INSTITUTE OF
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ON NEURAL NETWORKS

WESTIN STAMFORD
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NOVEMBER 18-21, 1991

Message from

PRESIDENT IEEE Neural Networks Council

Welcome to the Singapore IJCNN!

After nearly a decade of deliberation, the jury is in. Neural Networks are an extraordinary engineering tool and are here to stay.

Here's why.

First, neural networks have been thrown at everything, and have stuck on some important areas. From brokers in commodity trading to power engineers controlling VAR flow, neural networks have been indisputably established and are currently used as viable tools in a number of applications. Secondly, useful dedicated hardware is here. The software and emulator boards on which we learned are looking less and less attractive to the serious neural smith who battles more and more grandiose problems.

As in any fast moving cutting edge technology, neural networks practitioners are uncovering and exploring new and related areas in intelligent systems. One of the most promising is the coupling of neural networks to fuzzy systems. After a few decades of living only on journal pages, fuzzy systems have recently established themselves via market place presence. The neural network looks as if it can help firm this presence.

Another related discipline is the genetic algorithm and related evolutionary programming. Like neural networks, the terminology used here relates only loosely to the biological counterpart, not unlike reference to 'rabbit ears' or an 'electronic eye'.

Genetic algorithms and fuzzy nets look quite promising. As a technology, they are roughly where neural networks were a decade ago. Like neural networks, they will be placed through a boot camp of comparison, application and implementation. I look forward to working with you to put them through their drills. As in evolutionary programming, only the fittest will survive.

Happy networking,

Robert J. Marks II