

This is the final peer-reviewed accepted manuscript of:

Z. Lv, P. Bellavista and H. Song, "Introduction to the Special Issue on Sustainable Solutions for the Intelligent Transportation Systems," in *IEEE Transactions on Intelligent Transportation Systems*, vol. 24, no. 12, pp. 15334-15343, Dec. 2023

The final published version is available online at:  
<https://dx.doi.org/10.1109/TITS.2023.3333128>

Terms of use:

Some rights reserved. The terms and conditions for the reuse of this version of the manuscript are specified in the publishing policy. For all terms of use and more information see the publisher's website.

*This item was downloaded from IRIS Università di Bologna (<https://cris.unibo.it/>)*

***When citing, please refer to the published version.***

# Guest Editorial

## Introduction to the Special Issue on Sustainable Solutions for the Intelligent Transportation Systems

**T**HE Intelligent transportation systems improve the transportation system's operational efficiency and enhance its safety and reliability by high-tech means such as information technology, control technology, and computer technology. In recent years, sustainable development has become an important topic in intelligent transportation's development, including new infrastructure and energy distribution, new energy vehicles and new transportation system, and the development of low-carbon and intelligent transportation equipment. New energy vehicles' development is a significant part of green transportation, and its automation performance improvement is vital for smart transportation.

The development of intelligent transportation and green, low-carbon, and intelligent transportation equipment needs to be promoted, a significant feature of transportation development in the future. For intelligent infrastructure and energy distribution facilities, the electricity for the popular electric vehicles and renewable energy, such as nuclear power and hydrogen power, should be considered.

The strategic development framework of a new generation of green and intelligent transportation includes a comprehensive transportation system, a transportation infrastructure system, equipment, organization system, and decision governance system. Although automated driving technology develops rapidly, it takes time to promote the automatic driving's application to develop low-carbon and intelligent transportation equipment. Low-carbon and intelligent transportation's development involves many technics, and multiple information systems in different fields need to be integrated to ensure effective information circulation and its working. In intelligent transportation system's construction, an ideal plan for its sustainable development and operation is in urgent need currently.

After a rigorous review, 59 papers have been accepted for this special issue. The evaluation process took into consideration factors pertaining to originality, technical quality, presentational quality, and overall contribution. Below is a brief introduction to each of them.

In the paper entitled "Benchmark Analysis for Robustness of Multi-Scale Urban Road Networks Under Global Disruptions" by Wen-Long Shang et al, authors propose a novel Relative Area Index (RAI) based on traffic assignment theory to quantitatively measure the robustness of URNs under global capacity degradation due to three different types of disruptions. They also compare the RAI with weighted betweenness centrality, a traditional topological metric of robustness. Their analysis shows that RAI is a more effective measure of the robustness of URNs when multi-scale URNs suffer from global disruptions. Also, the results highlight the importance of central management when URNs suffer from disruptions. Their novel method may provide a benchmark tool for comparing robustness of

multi-scale URNs, which facilitates the understanding and improvement of network robustness for URNs.

In the paper entitled "A Branch-and-Price algorithm for large-scale multi-depot electric bus scheduling" by Mengyan Jiang et al, authors propose a multi-depot electric bus scheduling model accounting for partial charging, vehicle-depot constraint and constraint on non-service travel and present a branch-and-price solution algorithm enhanced by heuristic procedures. Comprehensive numerical experiments are conducted based on the transit operation cases in Shenzhen, China. The results show that the proposed algorithm can generate high-quality solutions for large-sized problem instances with multiple bus routes and several hundred of timetabled trips.

The proposed approach in the paper entitled "Emission Analysis of Electric Motorcycles and Assessment of Emission Reduction with Fleet Electrification" by Yu-Hsuan Ho et al, incorporates computer vision-based counting of EMs and internal combustion engine motorcycles in combination with ambient pollutant concentration monitoring. The measured pollutant concentration could be apportioned to EMs based on its proportion in the traffic flow. Results show that coarse particle number and PM 1.0 are significantly associated to the number of EMs. Authors also assess the potential change in ambient pollutant concentration through sensitivity analysis on motorcycle fleet electrification.

The paper entitled "2F-TP: Learning Flexible Spatiotemporal Dependency for Flexible Traffic Prediction" by Jie Zhao et al, proposes a novel deep model to effectively model flexible spatiotemporal dependency of traffic flow and offer flexible (multi-step) predictions. Specifically, A dual graph convolution module is designed to capture the local spatial dependency from two perspectives, namely road distance and adaptive correlation. To model the dynamic temporal dependency, a bidirectional gated recurrent layer is designed to capture the forward and backward sequential contexts of historical traffic flow, then combine the derived hidden states with their various contributions learned by a temporal attention mechanism. Finally, a spatial attention mechanism is designed to learn the latent global spatial dependency among all locations to facilitate the prediction.

The paper entitled "Detecting Compromised IoT Devices through XGBoost" by Mauro Cruz et al, proposes a solution to detect these attacks by analyzing abnormal network traffic through machine learning. The proposed model can be used alongside an IoT middleware to detect the occurrence of replication attacks.

The paper entitled "Sustainable and Round-Optimized Group Authenticated Key Exchange in Vehicle Communication" by Zengpeng Li et al, proposes authentication protocols with two diverse factors for Vehicle-to-Vehicle (V2V) and Vehicle-to-Infrastructure (V2I) networks, respectively, without depending on the stumbling block PKI/CA. In addition, a smooth projective hash function (SPHF) (a.k.a., a special case of the designated-verifier zero-knowledge proof system) guarantees any recipient can confirm the authenticity and integrity of the received messages without knowing the authentication factors. Thus, to optimize the communication round,

SPHF is used to design a (group) two-factor authenticated key exchange (AKE) with low-interactive communication rounds.

The paper entitled “Towards Sustainable Transportation: Robust Lane-Change Monitoring with A Single Back View Cabin Camera” by Ming Xia et al, presents BACKWATCH, a novel vehicle-mounted sensing system that uses a back view cabin camera monitoring the steering wheel rotations to track lane-change events. BACKWATCH consists of an encoder network to extract essential visual features of steering wheel rotations, and an inference network incorporating the visual and GPS speed features to detect the resulting lane changes. The proposed system does not rely on precise coordinate alignment between the monitoring device and the vehicle, nor the wearables worn by the driver, and is robust against different drivers, vehicles, driving speeds, and environmental settings.

The paper entitled “Ensemble Deep Learning for Sustainable Multi-Modal UAV Classification” by James McCoy et al, proposes a novel ensemble deep learning framework that has hybrid synthetic and deep features to detect unauthorized or malicious UAVs by using acoustic, image/video and wireless radio frequency (RF) signals.

In the paper entitled “Energy Efficiency Optimization in LoRa Networks - A Deep Learning Approach” by Lam-Thanh Tu et al, the optimal transmit power that maximizes energy efficiency (EE) in Long Range (LoRa) networks is investigated by using the deep learning (DL) approach. Particularly, the proposed artificial neural network (ANN) is trained two times; in the first phase, the ANN is trained by the model-based data which are generated from the simplified system model while in the second phase, the pre-trained ANN is re-trained by the practical data. Numerical results show that the proposed approach outperforms the conventional one which directly trains with the practical data. Moreover, the performance of the proposed ANN under both partial and full optimum architecture are studied. The results depict that the gap between these architectures is negligible. Finally, authors’ findings also illustrate that instead of fully re-trained the ANN in the second training phase, freezing some layers is also feasible since it does not significantly decrease the performance of the ANN.

The paper entitled “Towards Smart Traffic Management with Sensor Placement Optimization in UAV-assisted NOMA IIoT Networks” by Abuzar B. M. Adam et al, describes the 3D placement of multiple unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) in an IIoT network that supports non-orthogonal multiple access (NOMA). UAVs act as decode and forward (DF) relays. The 3D UAV placement problem is formulated which is highly non-convex in the coordinates. Therefore, authors employ an improved adaptive whale optimization algorithm (IAWOA) to handle the problem. Even with its improved performance, IAWOA is not suitable for real-time application. Hence, authors propose path aggregation network (PANet) to handle the 3D UAV placement.

In the paper entitled “A Formal Approach to Design and Security Verification of Operating Systems for Intelligent Transportation Systems Based on Object Model” by Zhenjiang Qian et al, a layered object model is proposed for operating systems in ITSs. The operating system object model is considered as a logic system with variables representing the objects, and a series of logic formulae for security and functional configurations in security of ITSs. A formal method is proposed to verify the operating system security properties and configurations in ITSs. The virtual memory management part of the self-designed operating system is used as an example to illustrate the model.

The paper entitled “Safety Monitoring of Transportation Infrastructure Foundation: Intelligent Recognition of Subgrade Distresses based on B-Scan GPR Images” by Zijin Xu et al, used a deep data augmentation method, e.g. WGAN-GP network, to

augment the original limited B-Scan GPR data of subgrade, and then carried out supervised learning for classification task. First, the dataset was initially enlarged through the traditional methods after noise filtering, gamma transform and other processing methods. Then, the WGAN-GP network was adopted to generate new high-quality B-Scan images. Finally, the intelligent classification of subgrade distresses was realized by ResNet50 model with a satisfactory accuracy of 90.85%.

The paper entitled “Controllable Model Compression for Roadside Camera Depth Estimation” by Jose Jaena Mari Ople et al, is about an evolutionary filter-wise pruning algorithm that generates a smaller neural model with an explicitly defined compression ratio. Authors applied this method to depth estimation models for smart on-field device deployability in ITS applications. It uses multiple genetic algorithms to generate pruned model architectures using evolutionary filter search. Specifically, the model size is manipulated by adding or removing convolution filters. When the model size is bigger, a genetic algorithm searches and deactivates filters that result in minimal performance decrease. Alternatively, if the proposed solution has a smaller model size than required, a genetic algorithm searches and activates filters that result in maximal performance increase. Finally, authors fine-tune the compressed model by following the training procedures of the original model. The resultant compressed models show a minimal discrepancy from the baseline model in terms of performance despite a smaller model size.

The rapid development of the Internet of Vehicles has substantially boosted the prevalence of vehicular social networks (VSN). However, content security has gradually been a latent threat to the stable operation of VSN. The VSN is a time-varying environment and mixed with various real or fake contents, which brings great challenges to the sustainability of VSN. To establish a sustainable VSN, it is of practical value to possess a strong ability for fake content detection. Related works can be divided into the global semantics-based approaches and the local semantics-based approaches, though both with limitations. Leveraging these two different approaches, the paper entitled “Mixed Graph Neural Network-based Fake News Detection for Sustainable Vehicular Social Networks” by Zhiwei Guo et al, proposes a fake content detection model based on the mixed graph neural networks for sustainable VSN.

In the paper entitled “Privacy-Preserving Cross-Area Traffic Forecasting in ITS: A Transferable Spatial-Temporal Graph Neural Network Approach” by Yuxin Qi, a transfer learning framework is proposed to transfer spatial-temporal dependency information for cross-domain traffic state forecasting. The proposed framework incorporates a graph-based deep learning approach and a privacy-preserving multi-source knowledge transfer strategy. The combination of the GraphSAGE and gated recurrent neural network is used to cope with traffic state data with spatial and temporal dependency. Based on hypothesis transfer learning, knowledge, instead of source data, is transferred from data-rich source regions to a data-poor target region, coping with the situation where data in the source region is unavailable.

The paper entitled “Asynchronous Deep Reinforcement Learning for Collaborative Task Computing and On-demand Resource Allocation in Vehicular Edge Computing” by Lei Liu et al, investigates collaborative task computing and on-demand resource allocation. The collaborative computing framework in vehicular edge computing is provided to support deep collaboration and intelligent management of heterogeneous resources widely distributed in vehicles, edge servers and cloud. Based on this framework, the joint optimization problem of distributed task offloading and multi-

resource management is formulated with the aim to maximize the system utility by making the optimal task and resource scheduling policy, the novelty of which lies in the exploration of available vehicle resources and the consideration of service migration. In view of the dynamics, randomness and time-variant of vehicular networks, the asynchronous deep reinforcement algorithm is leveraged to find the optimal solution.

The paper entitled “A Machine Learning Approach for Energy-Efficient Intelligent Transportation Scheduling Problem in A Real-World Dynamic Circumstances” by Jianhui Mou et al, reduces the carbon emissions in the scheduling process and compensates for the energy consumption of various parts of the scheduling when optimizing the carbon emissions of the workshop and the factory. Aiming at the problems of carbon emissions and energy consumption, a new intelligent scheduling strategy is proposed based on the actual transportation dynamic scheduling case of the engine workshop production line. A fuzzy stochastic opportunity constraint programming model with energy consumption is established, and a multi-strategy parallel genetic algorithm based on machine learning is proposed. The effectiveness of the algorithm is verified by example, which can effectively adjust the completion time and energy consumption ratio.

In the paper entitled “Joint Semantic-Instance Segmentation Method for Intelligent Transportation System” by Yujie Li et al, authors propose a new feature extraction network for segmentation by adding an encoder-decoder structure, which can extract the multiscale local feature information from the feature map. In their opinion, the merged multiscale features obtain a better feature matrix, which improves the performance of the segmentation tasks.

The paper entitled “ICN based Efficient Content Caching Scheme for Vehicular Networks” by Divya Gupta et al, introduces an aggregated zero-knowledge proof and blockchain-empowered system for privacy-preserving identity verification in the mixed fleet platooning environment. The correctness proof and the security analysis of the proposed authentication scheme are provided, highlighting its increased security and fast performance in comparison to a single-proof design. The blockchain performs the role of verifier within the authentication scheme, reducing unnecessary communication overhead. Moreover, the blockchain improves system resilience by providing fault tolerance to the decentralized verification process. Platooning records are stored directly on the digital ledger to guarantee data immutability and integrity, while the programmable access control policies ensure data privacy. The experimental results demonstrate that the proposed approach can perform authentication on the order of milliseconds, regardless of the number of proofs, highlighting feasibility for real-world deployment in truck platooning.

The paper entitled “On Minimizing the Age of Information in NOMA-based Vehicular Networks using Markov Decision Process” by Qamar Abbas et al, considers a vehicle-to-infrastructure network where each vehicle in the network has a stream of data for transmission to the roadside unit (RSU). The information from vehicles is collected when they enter the communication range of an RSU as timely as possible. The freshness requirement of these status updates systems is achieved by optimizing the scheduling policy adopted by the vehicles while transmitting their information to the RSU. This paper proposes a hybrid access mechanism consisting of both orthogonal and non-orthogonal multiple access that schedules the transmission of packets from vehicles to the RSU where each vehicle has a finite length queue. The transmission of the packets is modeled using a Markov decision process, where a specific cost function is optimized to collect maximum information from the vehicles in minimum time. OMA gives higher AoI and probability of

packet drops while its outage probability is lower, while NOMA gives lower AoI and probability of packet drops before transmission while the outage probability of NOMA is higher which does not always make NOMA better choice. The proposed hybrid scheduling method outperforms the conventional in optimizing the AoI and packet drops probability by switching between OMA and NOMA.

The paper entitled “Achieving a Decentralized and Secure Cab Sharing System using Blockchain Technology” by Suyel Namasudra et al, proposes a decentralized and secure cab-sharing system using blockchain technology to solve these problems. The proposed scheme uses the blockchain structure to preserve the driver’s and rider’s information. Furthermore, it implements the reputation feature to rate drivers and riders based on their travel history without any centralized authority. The proposed scheme is deployed using the Ethereum platform and functionality is designed using smart contracts.

The paper entitled “Determination of Critical Edges in Air Route Network using Modified Weighted Sum Method and Grey Relational Analysis” by Amreen Ahmad et al, proposes a modified approach based on GRA-WSM, named MA (Modified Approach based on GRA-WSM) for the identification of critical edges that form the backbone of the Chinese air route network. MA is a two-step process: Initially, important nodes are identified using the proposed GRA-WSM, and second, a novel approach is used for the computation of critical edges. Previously, researchers have used edge betweenness centrality measure to identify vital edges. But it took into account the global information of a node. This research work considers different centrality measures as the multi-attribute of the network, to take advantage of each centrality measure. The proposed MA approach aims to minimize the robustness of the network after the removal of some edges and the result is the set of critical edges. The critical edges found by the proposed MA approach are different from the edges that are topologically more important. These findings provide new perspectives on how to better understand other real-world networks.

The paper entitled “An Efficient Vehicle-Assisted Aggregate Authentication Scheme for Infrastructure-less Vehicular Networks” by Haowen Tan et al, proposes a distinctive vehicle-assisted aggregate authentication mechanism for infrastructure-less vehicular networks to deal with unpredictable abnormal situations caused by artificial or natural disasters such as earthquakes and floods. With assistance from the neighboring vehicles, the homomorphic signature involving all requesting vehicles is generated and forwarded to the remaining functional RSUs. Meanwhile, vehicular group communication among the validated entities is enabled. Additionally, the fault-tolerant verification method is adopted such that the ineffective entities can be easily distinguished and removed without interfering with other requesting vehicles.

In the paper entitled “SPSRec: An Efficient Signal Phase Recommendation for Signalized Intersections with GAN and Decision-Tree Model” by Fuliang Li et al, a novel data-driven method is proposed to realize signal phase optimization and recommendation solely using limited amount of real signalized intersection samples. Firstly, all of discrete features related to signal phase design, decoded by one-hot representation, are sampled by the Gumbel-SoftMax distribution, which is a continuous approximation to a multinomial distribution. And with this approximation distribution, the generative adversarial network (GAN) is applied to produce the most acceptable signal phase samples among all acceptable choices, dealing with the problem of too few samples and uneven sample distribution in real word. Thirdly, a decision-tree based classifier is established to realize signal phase recommendation automatically.

The paper entitled “Computation Offloading for Energy and Delay Trade-offs with Traffic Flow Prediction in Edge Computing-Enabled IoV” by Xiaolong Xu et al, proposes a novel GNN model, GWCN, to forecast the traffic flow, and allocate edge resources according to the forecast results. Then, a computation offloading algorithm driven by DDPG is designed to obtain a task offloading scheme for edge servers.

In the paper entitled “Joint Resource Scheduling for UAV-Enabled Mobile Edge Computing System in Internet of Vehicles” by Lu Sun et al, authors construct an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) enabled MEC system, in which the data generated from IoV applications is processed by offloading to UAVs with MEC servers to ensure the efficiency of data processing and the response time of IoV applications. In order to approximate real-world UAV enabled MEC system, authors consider the stochastic offloading and downloading processing time. Moreover, the priority constraints of sensors from the same vehicle are taken into consideration since they have different importance degrees. Then, they propose an Markov network-based cooperative evolutionary algorithm (MNCEA) to search out the optimal UAV scheduling solution to guarantee the shortest response time, in which the solution space is divided into multiple sub-solution spaces with the help of MN structure and parameters. Finally, they construct multiple simulation experiments with different probability distributions to simulate uncertainty factors.

The paper entitled “An Efficient Optimization of Battery-drone-based Transportation Systems for Monitoring Solar Power Plant” by Mahdi Jemmali et al, focuses on improving the efficiency of solar energy plants by proposing a new method to optimize the flying time of battery-based drones to enhance solar plant performance. The proposed method aims to solve scheduling problems that involve monitoring the solar plant within specific time constraints. The main goal is to maximize the drone's minimum total flying time, which can improve the availability and reliability of the solar plant monitoring system. To calculate battery life, time-to-empty values are determined based on battery degradation rates. This problem has been shown to be very difficult to solve. To address this challenge, four categories of enhanced algorithms were developed to schedule drone tasks in managing various activities within large solar parks. The objective is to achieve maximum efficiency in the monitored power plant.

The paper entitled “Personal Mobility in Metaverse with Autonomous Vehicles Using Q-rung Orthopair Fuzzy Sets based OPA-RAFSI Model” by Muhammet Deveci et al, presents an efficient hybrid decision-making model based on OPA and RAFSI methodology under q-ROFSs for evaluating the personal mobility alternatives of AVs in the metaverse using 12 criteria grouped under four main aspects: technological, societal, legal and ethical, and transportation. A novel hybrid model based on q-rung orthopair fuzzy sets (qROFSs) is presented to define the framework, calculate weight coefficients, and rank alternatives. First, the problem is structured. Second, qROFSs-based OPA algorithm calculates criteria weights. q-ROFSs based RAFSI (Ranking of Alternatives through Functional mapping of criterion subintervals into a Single Interval) is used to choose the best alternative among the three. AVs in the metaverse controlled by the same central system are determined as the best alternative.

In the paper entitled “Neural Airport Ground Handling” by Yaoxin Wu et al, a learning-based construction framework is proposed to solve Airport Ground Handling (AGH) problems in an end-to-end fashion. The operation scheduling in AGH involves the interplay among different operations, resulting in an NP-hard problem with complex constraints, including precedence, time windows, and capacity. To improve computation efficiency and mitigate the needs

of domain expertise, the model AGH as a complex multiple-fleet vehicle routing problem (VRP), which is then decomposed into sub-problems in fleets. A neural construction heuristic policy is trained with reinforcement learning to solve all subproblems.

The paper entitled “Coordination and Optimization Control Framework for Vessels Platooning in Inland Waterborne Transportation System” by Wei Tao et al, proposes a large-scale coordinated vessel platooning program to minimize transportation energy costs and optimize traffic efficiency while guaranteeing safety. The proposed method is able to minimize transportation energy costs by coordinating platoon formation using a distributed framework of controllers. The most prominent finding to emerge from this study is that the scheduling strategy combines vessels into vessel platooning, which transportation costs and efficiency are better than a fixed origin route in the waterway network.

The paper entitled “Two-stage Intrusion Detection System in Intelligent Transportation Systems using Rule Extraction Methods from Deep Neural Networks” by Samah Almutlaq et al, proposes a two-stage intrusion detection system (IDS) in Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) to protect against cyber-attacks in Internet of Vehicles (IoVs) networks. Deep learning models have been used in IDSs but their black-box nature limits their use in decision systems and requires powerful processing capabilities. To address these issues, the proposed IDS system uses rule extraction methods from deep neural networks in two stages to analyze network traffic and distinguish between normal and attack traffic. Three variants of rule extraction are proposed, with homogeneous \$DeepRed\$ being the most effective in all cases tested on benchmark datasets, including external network communications and in-vehicle communications. The IDS system combines rule extraction and a two-stage architecture to reduce resource consumption and improve classification accuracy.

The paper entitled “Coordinated Control Strategy of Railway Multisource Traction System With Energy Storage and Renewable Energy” by Hongzhi Dong et al, proposes a configuration of multi-source traction system for urban rail transit, together with a coordinated control strategy considering power profile of the system, based on the existing traction substation,. The proposed system, including conventional traction system, renewable energy source, and energy storage system, have been modelled first. After that, considering the system dynamic performance and energy storage capacity, a coordinated control strategy is designed to manage the system energy flow. The coordinated control strategy considers the substation voltage as control signal which is optimized by proposed performance index.

In the paper entitled “Autonomous Bus Operation Alternatives in Urban Areas Using Fuzzy Dombi-Bonferroni Operator Based Decision Making Model” by Muhammet Deveci et al, four different alternatives, which are the operation of autonomous buses for special uses, the operation of autonomous buses for last-mile uses, the operation of autonomous vehicles in mixed traffic, and the operation of autonomous buses in closed systems, are evaluated based on eleven different criteria, which are grouped under four main aspects. Authors propose an Ordinal Priority Approach (OPA) method for determining the criteria weights and application of Dombi Bonferroni (DOBI) methodology for evaluation of alternatives.

In the paper entitled “Hierarchical Clustering based on Dendrogram in Sustainable Transportation Systems” by Arun Kumar Sangaiah et al, the proposed approach optimizes intergroup communication. Hierarchical clustering divides clusters into sub-clusters, enhancing data storage and processing. Authors promote information sharing by strategically clustering vehicles and forming relevant dendrogram-based clusters. Their method demonstrates

superior Quality of Service (QoS) outcomes, with significant advantages over AIVISN in delay, PDR, overhead, and Dropped packets.

The paper entitled “Decentralized Parallel SGD Based on Weight-Balancing for Intelligent IoV” by Yuan Yuan et al, focus on the basic stochastic gradient descent (SGD) algorithm and propose a decentralized parallel SGD algorithm (DPSGD-WB) for the complex IoV. The algorithm is based on weight-balancing to overcome the difficulty caused by the dynamic and asymmetric connectivity in IoV.

The paper entitled “Crowd Emotion Prediction for Human-Vehicle Interaction Through Modified Transfer Learning and Fuzzy Logic Ranking” by Mohammad Khosravi et al, describes a unique way to assess crowd condition, which expands the scope of human-vehicle interactions. Moreover, they use fuzzy logic ranking to improve the system's ability to detect anomalies in crowds. In order to improve decision-making, a novel deep transfer learning (DTL) technique is applied to the UAV's received frames.

In the paper entitled “Route Planning based on Parallel Optimization in the Air-ground Integrated Network” by Ken Cai et al, authors utilize and improve the trust model to prevent the waste of computation resources. Meanwhile, they introduce a Trusted Parallel Optimization on Route Planning based on Dual-level Grid index to continuously handle the process of route planning in parallel. Considering the evolving traffic condition, they employ a Long Short-Term Memory neural network to periodically predict the weights of roads.

In the paper entitled “Enabling Safe ITS: Single Electrode EEG Classification for Microsleep Detection in VANETs” by AMIT CHOUGULE et al, authors show how sleep staging varies from microsleep prediction in the presented research work. The suggested model uses an attention-based mechanism that combines the advantages of Wavelet transform with Short Time Fourier Transform (STFT) Spectrogram. Furthermore, the research demonstrates a robust deep-learning model with separate “time-dependent” and “time-independent” portions that can capture contexts from a sequence of features while simultaneously learning intra-epoch relations.

In the paper entitled “Sustainable and Transferable Traffic Sign Recognition for Intelligent Transportation Systems” by Weipeng Cao et al, authors propose a novel “knowledge + data” co-driven solution for TSR, which realizes the model's reasoning ability to zero-shot TSR based on prior knowledge of traffic sign design standards.

In the paper entitled “Efficient Visual Tracking based on Fuzzy Inference for Intelligent Transportation Systems” by Shuai Liu et al, authors introduce fuzzy sets into the visual tracking process to assess the quality of the tracking detection map. Fuzzy inference is used to analyze the tracking accuracy, and diversified target apparent features are mined from historical frame information. Based on this, they propose an enhanced template update strategy that adds high-quality matching templates to the template pool. When the quality of the tracking detection map was poor, they matched the template from the constructed template pool to address the challenges of target deformation, occlusion, and background clutter in intelligent transportation scenarios.

In the paper entitled “Transferable Takagi-Sugeno-Kang Fuzzy Classifier with Multi-views for EEG-based Driving Fatigue Recognition in Intelligent Transportation” by Yi Gu et al, a new transferable Takagi-Sugeno-Kang (TSK) fuzzy classifier with multi-views is developed for EEG-based driving fatigue recognition in intelligent transportation. Especially, the view-specific consequent regularizer and the view-shared consequent regularizer with the principle of multi-view learning are constructed in consequent

parameter learning. In view-specific consequent regularizer learning, the strategies of ridge regression, maximum mean discrepancy, manifold regularization is adopted, and the  $2,1\ell$ -norm sparsity constraint is used to simplify fuzzy rules. The principle of multi-view learning consensus and complementarity is adopted in the view-shared consequent regularizer learning. The  $2,1\ell$ -norm sparse constraint is also implemented on the view-shared consequent regularizer to capture the local structure of multi-view data. Finally, the TSK fuzzy classifier in the target domain is constructed based on view-specific regularizers and view weights.

In the paper entitled “Transportation Internet: A Sustainable Solution for Intelligent Transportation Systems” by Hui Li et al, the transportation router is presented to form a large-scale automatic transportation solution based on the established transportation switching and routing models. By separating the control plane and the transport plane of the transportation router, the software-defined transportation (SDT) is presented to further enhance transportation routing and provide Internet-like transportation capabilities such as centralized intelligent control, terminal plug-and-play, and open application ecology.

In the paper entitled “Play&Go Corporate: An End-to-End Solution for Facilitating Urban Cyclability” by Antonio Bucchiarone et al, authors present an end-to-end solution, called Play&Go Corporate, for enabling urban cyclability and its concrete exploitation in the realization of a home-to-work sustainable mobility campaign (i.e., Bike2Work) targeting employees of public and private companies. To evaluate the effectiveness of the proposed solution they developed two analyses: the first to carefully analyze the user experience and any behaviour change related to the Bike2Work mobility campaign, and the second to demonstrate how exploiting the collected data they can potentially inform and guide the involved municipality (i.e., Ferrara, a city in Northern Italy) in improving urban cyclability.

The paper entitled “3D Vehicle Object Tracking Algorithm Based on Bounding Box Similarity Measurement” by Xin Cheng et al, proposes a 3D vehicle object tracking algorithm based on bounding box similarity measurement. The algorithm includes state prediction, temporal association, trajectory management, state update, and other processes. Also incorporated is a vehicle object temporal association method based on a siamese encoder.

In the paper entitled “UAV-Assisted RSUs for V2X Connectivity Using Voronoi Diagrams in 6G Infrastructures” by Andreas Andreou et al, a novel framework is proposed to optimise the network's coverage within the intelligent transportation ecosystem. The proposed method enhanced the roadside units' network by deploying an innovative algorithmic technique that constructs Voronoi diagrams using circles. In addition, the Poison point procedure was used to determine the optimal installation locations for the transceivers. After the required iterations, the simulation results presented a full network coverage for the tested area.

The paper entitled “IIDS: Intelligent Intrusion Detection System for Sustainable Development in Autonomous Vehicles” by Sudha Anbalagan et al, proposes an Intelligent IDS (IIDS) to enhance intrusion detection and categorize malicious AVs using a modified Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) with hyperparameter optimization approaches for IoV systems. The proposed IIDS framework works in a 5G Vehicle-to-Everything (V2X) environment to effectively broadcast messages about malicious AVs. Thus IIDS aids in preventing collisions and chaos, enhancing safety monitoring in the traffic.

In the paper entitled “PAG-TSN: Ridership demand forecasting model for shared travel services of smart transportation” by Jie Li et al, a periodic attentional graph convolutional spatio-temporal network

model is proposed for the demand of traffic analysis in intelligent transportation system, which includes a bicomponent attention graph convolution model and a periodic attentional gated recurrent unit model. The former uses GCN to extract spatial features from pointwise and edgewise graphs; the latter uses the spatial feature vectors extracted from the former with external information as input, and uses GRU to extract temporal features from feature data of different periods. Finally the attention mechanism and POI requirement model are used to integrate the extracted spatio-temporal information to derive prediction results.

The paper entitled “Sustainable Micromobility Management in Smart Cities” by Bernard Fong et al, takes an in-depth look into vehicle-to-infrastructure (V2I) network and a vehicular cloud integrated solution for micromobility sustainability in the context of smart city development. Micromobility’s inherent characteristics, such as reduced carbon emissions and alleviated traffic congestion, improve air quality to meet the sustainable goals of smart cities. Leveraging vehicular communication technologies by using artificial intelligence to optimize micromobility deployment. The design and implementation of real-time data platform that supports the efficient allocation and management of micromobility resources to tackle challenges associated with parking and road congestion in a sustainable smart city environment through adaptability, safety enhancement, and equitable access. Sustainable smart city infrastructure design ensures that micromobility services are accessible to all segments of society from commuters to vulnerable populations.

In the paper entitled “Lightweight Real-time Semantic Segmentation Network with Efficient Transformer and CNN” by Guoan Xu et al, authors propose a lightweight real-time semantic segmentation network called LETNet. LETNet combines a U-shaped CNN with Transformer effectively in a capsule embedding style to compensate for respective deficiencies. Meanwhile, the elaborately designed Lightweight Dilated Bottleneck (LDB) module and Feature Enhancement (FE) module cultivate a positive impact on training from scratch simultaneously.

The paper entitled “A Novel Class-Imbalanced Ship Motion Data-Based Cross-Scale Model for Sea State Estimation” by Xu Cheng et al, proposes a novel class-imbalanced ship motion data-based cross-scale model for SSE. The model consists of three major components: a multi-scale feature learning module, a cross-scale feature learning module, and a prototype classifier module. The multi-scale and cross-scale feature learning modules are designed to learn abundant coarse and fine-level features from the ship motion data. The prototype classifier is utilized to overcome the limitation of the conventional softmax classifier to produce better estimates. Ablation and sensitivity studies, emphasize the critical role of each model component. The findings underscore the model’s robustness and its potential to advance time series classification in diverse domains.

The paper entitled “Scale Region Recognition Network for Object Counting in Intelligent Transportation System” by Xiangyu Guo et al, proposes a scale region recognition network. It has two key components, termed scale level awareness (SLA) module and object region recognition (ORR) module. The SLA module aims to encode the representations at multiple scales, which are beneficial to address the scale variation. The ORR module is designed to suppress background interference through the visual attention mechanism. Extensive experimental results on four crowd counting datasets and five vehicle counting datasets have demonstrated the superiority of the proposed SRRNet in both counting accuracy and robustness compared with the mainstream competitors. Meanwhile, substantial ablation studies have proved the effectiveness of the proposed SLA and ORR modules.

In the paper entitled “Robust Service and Charging Plan for Dynamic Electric Demand-Responsive Transit Systems” by Xin Li et al, a novel two-stage robust model for the design of electric Demand-Responsive Transit routing and partial recharging schedule is proposed to dynamically integrate recharging plans with flexible transit service schedules. A tailored two-phase Adaptive Large Neighborhood Search heuristic exploiting the problem structure is presented. Numerical studies to verify the superior performance in both dynamic and deterministic settings.

In the paper entitled “Using Deep Reinforcement Learning to Automate Network Configurations for Internet of Vehicles” by Xing Liu et al, authors propose a deep reinforcement learning-based approach to automatically configure Internet of Vehicles (IoV) network settings. Specifically, they use a collection of neural networks to convert the observations of a communication environment (channel power gain, cross-channel power gain, etc.) into key features, which are then supplied to a deep Q neural network (DQN) as input for training. Afterward, the DQN selects the optimal network configuration for vehicles in the IoV environment. In addition, their approach considers both centralized and distributed training strategies. The centralized training strategy conducts the DQN training process on a roadside server, while the distributed training strategy trains the DQN on vehicles locally.

In the paper entitled “Sustainability Assessment of Regional Transportation: An Innovative Fuzzy Group Decision-Making Model” by Wen-Long Shang et al, an innovative fuzzy group decision-making model is designed for assessing regional transportation sustainability, focusing on the correlation between various attributes of the evaluation system. The focus of this model is the partitioned Maclaurin symmetric mean operator because of its better applicability when considering attribute correlation and attribute grouping. The modified spherical fuzzy partitioned Maclaurin symmetric mean operator is proposed, which has superior application scope. Its weighted form and special cases are discussed. Then, the extended statistical variance method and the evidence-based Bayes approximation method are used to obtain weight vectors of attributes and experts. In addition, a fuzzy assessment model of sustainable transportation is developed. Finally, a numerical example of regional transportation sustainability assessment and a comparison with previous studies are presented to illustrate the feasibility and universality of this method.

The paper entitled “Multi-Agent Reinforcement Learning for Intelligent V2G Integration in Future Transportation Systems” by Jiawei Dong et al, presents IoV-based motor vehicle (V2V) models for energy trading. A fog-based architecture for real-time EV communication and a system that maximizes energy transfer while considering costs and profits are challenges. The research introduces a computationally efficient double-sided auction for bidding techniques that maximizes social welfare and energy trading volume.

The paper entitled “Intelligent and Fair IoV Charging Service based on Blockchain with Cross-area Consensus” by Dawei Li et al, proposes a blockchain-based intelligent and fair IoV charging service system. According to the multi-factor constraints between vehicles and charging piles, a multi-factor IoV branch and bound algorithm is proposed to intelligently recommend charging piles for vehicles and maximize the overall energy saving. The paper proposes the cross-area consensus protocol to achieve low latency in vehicle communication. In addition, the proposal ensures the fairness between charging and payment through a payment channel protocol based on verifiable encrypted signatures.

In the paper entitled “Sustainable Collaborative Inference in Intelligent Transportation Systems” by Chengwen Luo et al, authors propose BSL, a novel multi-exit split learning-based collaborative

inference system. The key innovation of BSL is the introduction of multi-exit to the split network, enabling network training and collaborative inference between distributed device nodes and the cloud in a split manner. Specifically, BSL allows the device node to dynamically collaborate with the cloud by introducing the edge mode and collaboration mode, ensuring that intelligent services provided to the device will be sustained even if the communication is interrupted, which is crucial in ITS systems.

The paper entitled “Deep Learning-Based Anomaly Detection for Connected Autonomous Vehicles Using Spatiotemporal Information” by Pegah Mansourian et al, presents a prediction-based IDS framework for detecting anomalies and attacks on a CAN bus. Two prediction modules, an LSTM and a ConvLSTM network, are introduced to analyze and predict temporal and spatiotemporal correlations in message contents, respectively. Anomalies are classified using a Gaussian Naïve Bayes classifier based on prediction errors. The proposed IDS is evaluated against other classifiers and existing works using the Car Hacking Dataset. Results show its superior accuracy, achieving almost 100% F-scores and detection accuracy. The paper also includes a comparison of the suggested architectures and their use cases, highlighting the effectiveness of the proposed method in detecting CAN bus anomalies and attacks.

In the paper entitled “A DeepFM-Based Non-Parametric Model Enabled Big Data Platform for Predicting Passenger Car Sales in Sustainable Way” by Weixing Liu et al, authors propose a DeepFM-based nonparametric model (DFMNP) for predicting passenger car sales in sustainable way. They use a big data platform to provide data for the DFMNP model. The DFMNP model uses feature engineering to expand the number of explicit features, a multilayer neural network to extract implicit features, and a Bayesian neural network to replace the neural network with fixed weights for inferring predictive values. In addition, a factorization machine is used in the prediction function to take into account the cross information of implicit features. The combination of the above improvement points can be used to improve the model's expressive and predictive power for unknown data.

In closing, the guest editors would like to thank all the authors, who significantly contributed to this SI and the reviewers for their efforts in respecting deadlines and their constructive reviews. We thank the authors for their contributions, the reviewers for their valuable work, and the editorial team of the journal for their professional support and collaboration.

**Dr. Zhihan Lv**

Associate Professor, Uppsala University, Sweden.  
Email: lvzhihan@gmail.com

**Dr. Paolo Bellavista**

Professor, University of Bologna, Italy.  
Email: [paolo.bellavista@unibo.it](mailto:paolo.bellavista@unibo.it)

**Dr. Houbing Song**

Associate Professor, University of Maryland, Baltimore County, USA.  
Email: [h.song@ieee.org](mailto:h.song@ieee.org)



**Dr. Zhihan Lv** is an IEEE Senior Member, a Fellow of the British Computer Society, a Fellow of the Royal Society for Arts, a Fellow of the Royal Society for Public Health, an ACM Distinguished Speaker, and has received the Career-long Scientific Influence Rankings of Stanford's Top 2% Scientists

five times. He is also a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow, a Clarivate Highly Cited Researcher, an Elsevier Highly Cited Chinese Researcher, and the recipient of the Research.com Computer Science in Sweden Leader Award. He has contributed 300 papers, including more than 100 papers on IEEE/ACM Transactions. He serves as the Editor-in-Chief of Internet of Things and Cyber-Physical Systems (KeAi), an Associate Editor of ACM Transactions on Multimedia Computing, Communications, and Applications, IEEE Transactions on Intelligent Transportation System, IEEE Transactions on Network and Service Management, IEEE Transaction on Computational Social Systems, IEEE Transactions on Network Science and Engineering, and IEEE Consumer Electronics Magazine. He is also a member of the Early Career Advisory Board of the IEEE/CAA Journal of Automatica Sinica. He has held various leadership roles in conferences, serving as General Chair, Co-Chair, or TPC for 50 conferences, including being an Area Chair of ACM MM 2021-2023, Workshop Chair of ACM MM 2023, Online Experience Chair of IEEE VR 2023, and Sponsorship Chair of MobileHCI 2023. He has been a Program Committee member of ACM IUI from 2015 to 2023. He has conducted more than 400 paper reviews and has received over 20 awards from China, Europe, and IEEE. He has also supervised students who have received more than 20 awards. Furthermore, he has won 8 Best Paper awards and has delivered 80 invited talks for universities and companies in Europe and China. He has given 20 keynote talks at international conferences. His research has gained media attention from popular news outlets, including AAAS, SCIENMAG, APNEWS, Fox News, ABC News, and CBS News.



**Dr. Paolo Bellavista's** primary research interests and areas relate to middleware for mobile computing, Internet-of-Things platforms, efficient integrations of sensors-edge-cloud, edge/fog computing, mobile pervasive applications for Industry 4.0 and smart cities/communities.

In addition to national/EU project participation (he is currently the scientific coordinator of the H2020 IoTwins project - <https://www.iotwins.eu/>) and publication activities, among the notable services for his community, he is Editor-in-Chief of the MDPI Computers Journal (2017-) and member of the Editorial Boards of IEEE Communication Surveys and Tutorials (2019-), ACM Computing Surveys (2020-), IEEE Transactions on Computers (2011-2015), IEEE Transactions on Network and Service Management (2011-), IEEE

Transactions on Services Computing (2008-2017), IEEE Communications Magazine (2003-2011), Elsevier Pervasive and Mobile Computing Journal (2010-), Elsevier Journal on Network and Computing Applications (2015-), Springer Journal of Network and Systems Management (2008-), and MDPI Sensors Journal (2017-).

2019, IEEE ICII 2019, IEEE/AIAA ICNS 2019, IEEE CBDCCom 2020, WASA 2020, AIAA/ IEEE DASC 2021, IEEE GLOBECOM 2021 and IEEE INFOCOM 2022.



**Dr. Houbing Song**(M'12–SM'14–F'23) received the Ph.D. degree in electrical engineering from the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA, in August 2012.

He is currently a Tenured Associate Professor, the Director of the NSF Center for Aviation Big Data Analytics (Planning), the Associate Director for

Leadership of the DOT Transportation Cybersecurity Center for Advanced Research and Education (Tier 1 Center), and the Director of the Security and Optimization for Networked Globe Laboratory (SONG Lab, [www.SONGLab.us](http://www.SONGLab.us)), University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC), Baltimore, MD. Prior to joining UMBC, he was a Tenured Associate Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Daytona Beach, FL. He serves as an Associate Editor for IEEE Transactions on Artificial Intelligence (TAI) (2023-present), IEEE Internet of Things Journal (2020-present), IEEE Transactions on Intelligent Transportation Systems (2021-present), and IEEE Journal on Miniaturization for Air and Space Systems (J-MASS) (2020-present). He was an Associate Technical Editor for IEEE Communications Magazine (2017-2020). He is the editor of eight books, the author of more than 100 articles and the inventor of 2 patents. His research interests include cyber-physical systems/internet of things, cybersecurity and privacy, and AI/machine learning/big data analytics. His research has been sponsored by federal agencies (including National Science Foundation, US Department of Transportation, and Federal Aviation Administration, among others) and industry. His research has been featured by popular news media outlets, including IEEE GlobalSpec's Engineering360, Association for Uncrewed Vehicle Systems International (AUVSI), Security Magazine, CXOTech Magazine, Fox News, U.S. News & World Report, The Washington Times, and New Atlas.

Dr. Song is an IEEE Fellow (for contributions to big data analytics and integration of AI with Internet of Things), and an ACM Distinguished Member (for outstanding scientific contributions to computing). He is an ACM Distinguished Speaker (2020-present), an IEEE Vehicular Technology Society (VTS) Distinguished Lecturer (2023-present) and an IEEE Systems Council Distinguished Lecturer (2023-present). Dr. Song has been a Highly Cited Researcher identified by Clarivate™ (2021, 2022) and a Top 1000 Computer Scientist identified by Research.com. He received Research.com Rising Star of Science Award in 2022 (World Ranking: 82; US Ranking: 16). In addition to 2021 Harry Rowe Mimno Award, Dr. Song was a recipient of 10+ Best Paper Awards from major international conferences, including IEEE CPSCCom-