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Artificial Neural Networks and Machine Learning – ICANN 2019

Theoretical Neural Computation

28th International Conference on Artificial Neural Networks
Munich, Germany, September 17–19, 2019
Proceedings, Part I

1
Part I

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Artificial Neural Networks and Machine Learning – ICANN 2019


Theoretical Neural Computation


28th International Conference on Artificial Neural Networks
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Proceedings, Part I

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Preface

The fast development of machine learning methods is influencing all aspects of our life and reaching new horizons of what we have previously considered being Artificial Intelligence (AI). Examples include autonomous car driving, virtual assistants, automated customer support, clinical decision support, healthcare data analytics, financial forecast, and smart devices in the home, to name a few, which contribute to the dramatic improvement in the quality of our lives. These developments, however, also bring risks for significant hazards, which were not imaginable previously, e.g., falsification of voice, videos, or even manipulation of people's opinions during elections. Many such developments become possible due to the appearance of large volumes of data ("Big Data"). These proceedings include the theory and applications of algorithms behind these developments, many of which were inspired by the functioning of the brain.

The International Conference on Artificial Neural Networks (ICANN) is the annual flagship conference of the European Neural Network Society (ENNS). The 28th International Conference on Artificial Neural Networks (ICANN 2019) was co-organized with the final conference of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Innovative Training Network European Industrial Doctorate "Big Data in Chemistry" (<http://bigchem.eu>) project coordinated by Helmholtz Zentrum München (GmbH) to promote the use of machine learning in Chemistry. The conference featured the main tracks "Brain-Inspired Computing" and "Machine Learning Research." Within the conference the First International Workshop on Reservoir Computing as well as five special sessions were organized, namely:

Artificial Intelligence in Medicine

Informed and Explainable Methods for Machine Learning

Deep Learning in Image Reconstruction

Machine Learning with Graphs: Algorithms and Applications

BIGCHEM: Big Data and AI in chemistry

A Challenge for Automatic Dog Age Estimation (DogAge) also took place as part of the conference. The conference covered all main research fields dealing with neural networks. ICANN 2019 was held during September 17–19, 2019, at Klinikum rechts der Isar der Technische Universität München, Munich, Germany.

Following a long-standing tradition, the proceedings of the conference were published as Springer volumes belonging to the *Lecture Notes in Computer Science* series. The conference had a historical record of 494 article submissions. The papers went through a two-step peer-review process by at least two and in majority of cases by three or four independent referees. In total, 503 Program Committee (PC) members and reviewers participated in this process. The majority of PC members had Doctoral degrees (88%) and 52% of them were also Professors. These reviewers were assigned 46 articles. The others were PhD students in the last years of their studies, who

reviewed one to two articles each. In total, for the 323 accepted articles, 975 and 985 reports were submitted for the first and the second revision sessions. Thus, on average, each accepted article received 6.1 reports. A list of reviewers/PC Members, who agreed to publish their names, are included in these proceedings.

Based on the reviewers' comments, 202 articles were accepted and more than 100 articles were rejected after the first review. The remaining articles received an undecided status. The authors of the accepted articles as well as of those with undecided status were requested to address the reviewers' comments within two weeks. On the basis of second reviewers' feedback, another 121 articles were accepted and the authors were requested to include reviewers' remarks into the final upload. Based on these evaluations, diversity of topics, as well as recommendations of reviewers, special session organizers, and PC Chairs, 120 articles were selected for oral presentations. Out of the total number of 323 accepted articles (65% of initially submitted), 46 manuscripts were short articles with a length of five pages each, while the others were full articles with an average length of 13 pages.

The accepted papers of the 28th ICANN conference were published as five volumes:

Volume I Theoretical Neural Computation

Volume II Deep Learning

Volume III Image Processing

Volume IV Text and Time series analysis

Volume V Workshop and Special Sessions

The authors of accepted articles came from 50 different countries. While the majority of the articles were from academic researchers, the conference also attracted contributions from manifold industries including automobile (Volkswagen, BMW, Honda, Toyota), multinational conglomerates (Hitachi, Mitsubishi), electronics (Philips), electrical systems (Thales), mobile (Samsung, Huawei, Nokia, Orange), software (Microsoft), multinational (Amazon) and global travel technology (Expedia), information (IBM), large (AstraZeneca, Boehringer Ingelheim) and medium (Idorsia Pharmaceuticals Ltd.) pharma companies, fragrance and flavor (Firmenich), architectural (Shimizu), weather forecast (Beijing Giant Weather Co.), robotics (UBTECH Robotics Corp., SoftBank Robotics Group Corp.), contract research organization (Lead Discovery Center GmbH), private credit bureau (Schufa), as well as multiple startups. This wide involvement of companies reflects the increasing use of artificial neural networks by the industry. Five keynote speakers were invited to give lectures on the timely aspects of intelligent robot design (gentle robots), nonlinear dynamical analysis of brain activity, deep learning in biology and biomedicine, explainable AI, artificial curiosity, and meta-learning machines.

These proceedings provide a comprehensive and up-to-date coverage of the dynamically developing field of Artificial Neural Networks. They are of major interest both for theoreticians as well as for applied scientists who are looking for new

innovative approaches to solve their practical problems. We sincerely thank the Program and Steering Committee and the reviewers for their invaluable work.

September 2019

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The simultaneous recording of the time series formed by the sequences of neuronal discharges reveals important features of the dynamics of information processing in the brain. Experimental evidence of firing sequences with a precision of a few milliseconds have been observed in the brain of behaving animals. We review some critical findings showing that this activity is likely to be associated with higher order neural (mental) processes, such as predictive guesses of a coming stimulus in a complex sensorimotor discrimination task, in primates as well as in rats. We discuss some models of evolvable neural networks and their nonlinear deterministic dynamics and how such complex spatiotemporal patterns of firing may emerge. The attractors of such networks correspond precisely to the cycles in the graphs of their corresponding automata, and can thus be computed explicitly and exhaustively. We investigate further the effects of network topology on the dynamical activity of hierarchically organized networks of simulated spiking neurons. We describe how the activation and the biologically-inspired processes of plasticity on the network shape its topology using invariants based on algebro-topological constructions. General features of a brain theory based on these results is presented for discussion.

Unsupervised Learning: Passive and Active

Jürgen Schmidhuber

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I'll start with a concept of 1990 that has become popular: unsupervised learning without a teacher through two adversarial neural networks (NNs) that duel in a mini-max game, where one NN minimizes the objective function maximized by the other. The first NN generates data through its output actions while the second NN predicts the data. The second NN minimizes its error, thus becoming a better predictor. But it is a zero sum game: the first NN tries to find actions that maximize the error of the second NN. The system exhibits what I called "artificial curiosity" because the first NN is motivated to invent actions that yield data that the second NN still finds surprising, until the data becomes familiar and eventually boring. A similar adversarial zero sum game was used for another unsupervised method called "predictability minimization," where two NNs fight each other to discover a disentangled code of the incoming data (since 1991), remarkably similar to codes found in biological brains. I'll also discuss passive unsupervised learning through predictive coding of an agent's observation stream (since 1991) to overcome the fundamental deep learning problem through data compression. I'll offer thoughts as to why most current commercial applications don't use unsupervised learning, and whether that will change in the future.

Machine Learning and AI for the Sciences— Towards Understanding

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In recent years machine learning (ML) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) methods have begun to play a more and more enabling role in the sciences and in industry. In particular, the advent of large and/or complex data corpora has given rise to new technological challenges and possibilities.

The talk will connect two topics (1) explainable AI (XAI) and (2) ML applications in sciences (e.g. Medicine and Quantum Chemistry) for gaining new insight. Specifically I will first introduce XAI methods (such as LRP) that are now readily available and allow for an understanding of the inner workings of nonlinear ML methods ranging from kernel methods to deep learning methods including LSTMs. In particular XAI allows unmasking clever Hans predictors. Then, ML for Quantum Chemistry is discussed, showing that ML methods can lead to highly useful predictors of quantum mechanical properties of molecules (and materials) reaching quantum chemical accuracies both across chemical compound space and in molecular dynamics simulations. Notably, these ML models do not only speed up computation by several orders of magnitude but can give rise to novel chemical insight. Finally, I will analyze morphological and molecular data for cancer diagnosis, also here highly interesting novel insights can be obtained.

Note that while XAI is used for gaining a better understanding in the sciences, the introduced XAI techniques are readily useful in other application domains and industry as well.

Large-Scale Lineage and Latent-Space Learning in Single-Cell Genomic

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Accurately modeling single cell state changes e.g. during differentiation or in response to perturbations is a central goal of computational biology. Single-cell technologies now give us easy and large-scale access to state observations on the transcriptomic and more recently also epigenomic level, separately for each single cell. In particular they allow resolving potential heterogeneities due to asynchronicity of differentiating or responding cells, and profiles across multiple conditions such as time points and replicates are being generated.

Typical questions asked to such data are how cells develop over time and after perturbation such as disease. The statistical tools to address these questions are techniques from pseudo-temporal ordering and lineage estimation, or more broadly latent space learning. In this talk I will give a short review of such approaches, in particular focusing on recent extensions towards large-scale data integration using single-cell graph mapping or neural networks, and finish with a perspective towards learning perturbations using variational autoencoders.

The Gentle Robot

Sami Haddadin

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Enabling robots for interaction with humans and unknown environments has been one of the primary goals of robotics research over decades. I will outline how human-centered robot design, nonlinear soft-robotics control inspired by human neuromechanics and physics grounded learning algorithms will let robots become a commodity in our near-future society. In particular, compliant and energy-controlled ultra-lightweight systems capable of complex collision handling enable high-performance human assistance over a wide variety of application domains. Together with novel methods for dynamics and skill learning, flexible and easy-to-use robotic power tools and systems can be designed. Recently, our work has led to the first next generation robot Franka Emika that has recently become commercially available. The system is able to safely interact with humans, execute and even learn sensitive manipulation skills, is affordable and designed as a distributed interconnected system.

Contents – Part I

Associative Memory

| | |
|---|----|
| Bidirectional Associative Memory with Block Coding: A Comparison of Iterative Retrieval Methods | 3 |
| <i>Andreas Knoblauch and Günther Palm</i> | |
| Stability Analysis of a Generalized Class of BAM Neural Networks with Mixed Delays | 20 |
| <i>Chaouki Aouiti, Farouk Chérif, and Anis Zeglouli</i> | |
| Dissipativity Analysis of a Class of Competitive Neural Networks with Proportional Delays | 32 |
| <i>Chaouki Aouiti, Farouk Chérif, and Farid Touati</i> | |
| A Nonlinear Fokker-Planck Description of Continuous Neural Network Dynamics | 43 |
| <i>Roseli S. Wedemann and Angel R. Plastino</i> | |
| Multi-modal Associative Storage and Retrieval Using Hopfield Auto-associative Memory Network | 57 |
| <i>Rachna Shriwas, Prasun Joshi, Vandana M. Ladwani, and V. Ramasubramanian</i> | |
| Chaotic Complex-Valued Associative Memory with Adaptive Scaling Factor Independent of Multi-values | 76 |
| <i>Hiroaki Goto and Yuko Osana</i> | |

Brain Activity Analysis and Inspired Computing

| | |
|--|-----|
| A Comparative Analysis of Preprocessing Methods for Single-Trial Event Related Potential Detection | 89 |
| <i>Wajid Mumtaz, Lukáš Vařeka, and Roman Mouček</i> | |
| Sleep State Analysis Using Calcium Imaging Data by Non-negative Matrix Factorization | 102 |
| <i>Mizuo Nagayama, Toshimitsu Aritake, Hideitsu Hino, Takeshi Kanda, Takehiro Miyazaki, Masashi Yanagisawa, Shotaro Akaho, and Noboru Murata</i> | |
| Detection of Directional Information Flow Induced by TMS Based on Symbolic Transfer Entropy | 114 |
| <i>Song Ye, Keiichi Kitajo, and Katsunori Kitano</i> | |

| | |
|---|------------|
| Brain-Inspired Hardware for Artificial Intelligence: Accelerated Learning in a Physical-Model Spiking Neural Network | 119 |
| <i>Timo Wunderlich, Akos F. Kungl, Eric Müller, Johannes Schemmel, and Mihai Petrovici</i> | |
| Distinguishing Violinists and Pianists Based on Their Brain Signals | 123 |
| <i>Gianpaolo Coro, Giulio Masetti, Philipp Bonhoeffer, and Michael Betcher</i> | |
| Capsule Networks | |
| Research on Image-to-Image Translation with Capsule Network | 141 |
| <i>Jian Ye, Qing Chang, and Xiaotian Jia</i> | |
| Multi-View Capsule Network | 152 |
| <i>Jian-wei Liu, Xi-hao Ding, Run-kun Lu, Yuan-feng Lian, Dian-zhong Wang, and Xiong-lin Luo</i> | |
| Advanced Capsule Networks via Context Awareness | 166 |
| <i>Huu Phong Nguyen and Bernardete Ribeiro</i> | |
| DDRM-CapsNet: Capsule Network Based on Deep Dynamic Routing Mechanism for Complex Data | 178 |
| <i>Jian-wei Liu, Feng Gao, Run-kun Lu, Yuan-feng Lian, Dian-zhong Wang, Xiong-lin Luo, and Chu-ran Wang</i> | |
| Embedding Systems | |
| Squeezed Very Deep Convolutional Neural Networks for Text Classification | 193 |
| <i>Andréa B. Duque, Luã Lázaro J. Santos, David Macêdo, and Cleber Zanchettin</i> | |
| NeuroPower: Designing Energy Efficient Convolutional Neural Network Architecture for Embedded Systems | 208 |
| <i>Mohammad Loni, Ali Zoljodi, Sima Sinaei, Masoud Daneshtalab, and Mikael Sjödín</i> | |
| Swap Kernel Regression | 223 |
| <i>Masaharu Yamamoto and Koichiro Yamauchi</i> | |
| Explainable Methods | |
| Model-Agnostic Explanations for Decisions Using Minimal Patterns | 241 |
| <i>Kohei Asano, Jinhee Chun, Atsushi Koike, and Takeshi Tokuyama</i> | |

| | |
|--|------------|
| NARPCA: Neural Accumulate-Retract PCA for Low-Latency High-Throughput Processing on Datastreams | 253 |
| <i>Cristian Axenie, Radu Tudoran, Stefano Bortoli, Mohamad Al Hajj Hassan, and Goetz Brasche</i> | |
| An Evaluation of Various Regression Models for the Prediction of Two-Terminal Network Reliability | 267 |
| <i>Sabina-Adriana Floria, Florin Leon, Petru Caşcaval, and Doina Logofătu</i> | |
| Capsule Generative Models | 281 |
| <i>Yifeng Li and Xiaodan Zhu</i> | |
| Evaluating CNNs on the Gestalt Principle of Closure | 296 |
| <i>Gregor Ehrensperger, Sebastian Stabinger, and Antonio Rodríguez Sánchez</i> | |
| Recovering Localized Adversarial Attacks | 302 |
| <i>Jan Philip Göpfert, Heiko Wersing, and Barbara Hammer</i> | |
| On the Interpretation of Recurrent Neural Networks as Finite State Machines | 312 |
| <i>Christian Oliva and Luis F. Lago-Fernández</i> | |
| From Single Neurons to Networks | |
| Neural Field Model for Measuring and Reproducing Time Intervals | 327 |
| <i>Weronika Wojtak, Flora Ferreira, Estela Bicho, and Wolfram Erlhagen</i> | |
| Widely Linear Complex-Valued Autoencoder: Dealing with Noncircularity in Generative-Discriminative Models | 339 |
| <i>Zeyang Yu, Shengxi Li, and Danilo Mandic</i> | |
| NatCSNN: A Convolutional Spiking Neural Network for Recognition of Objects Extracted from Natural Images | 351 |
| <i>Pedro Machado, Georgina Cosma, and T. Martin McGinnity</i> | |
| Deep Semantic Asymmetric Hashing | 363 |
| <i>Mian Zhang, Cheng Cheng, and Xianzhong Long</i> | |
| A Neural Network for Semi-supervised Learning on Manifolds. | 375 |
| <i>Alexander Genkin, Anirvan M. Sengupta, and Dmitri Chklovskii</i> | |
| Neural Network Theory | |
| Counting with Analog Neurons. | 389 |
| <i>Jiří Šíma</i> | |

| | |
|---|-----|
| On the Bounds of Function Approximations | 401 |
| <i>Adrian de Wynter</i> | |
| Probabilistic Bounds for Approximation by Neural Networks | 418 |
| <i>Věra Kůrková</i> | |
| New Architectures | |
| Tree Memory Networks for Sequence Processing | 431 |
| <i>Frederik Diehl and Alois Knoll</i> | |
| On Deep Set Learning and the Choice of Aggregations | 444 |
| <i>Maximilian Soelch, Adnan Akhundov, Patrick van der Smagt, and Justin Bayer</i> | |
| Hilbert Vector Convolutional Neural Network: 2D Neural Network on 1D Data | 458 |
| <i>Nasrulloh R. B. S. Loka, Muthusubash Kavitha, and Takio Kurita</i> | |
| The Same Size Dilated Attention Network for Keypoint Detection | 471 |
| <i>Yuan Chang, Zixuan Huang, and Qiwei Shen</i> | |
| Gradient-Based Learning of Compositional Dynamics with Modular RNNs | 484 |
| <i>Sebastian Otte, Patricia Rubisch, and Martin V. Butz</i> | |
| Transfer Learning with Sparse Associative Memories | 497 |
| <i>Quentin Jodelet, Vincent Gripon, and Masafumi Hagiwara</i> | |
| Linear Memory Networks | 513 |
| <i>Davide Bacciu, Antonio Carta, and Alessandro Sperduti</i> | |
| Reinforcement Learning | |
| A Multi-armed Bandit Algorithm Available in Stationary or Non-stationary Environments Using Self-organizing Maps | 529 |
| <i>Nobuhito Manome, Shuji Shinohara, Kouta Suzuki, Kosuke Tomonaga, and Shunji Mitsuyoshi</i> | |
| Cooperation and Coordination Regimes by Deep Q-Learning in Multi-agent Task Executions. | 541 |
| <i>Yuki Miyashita and Toshiharu Sugawara</i> | |
| Boosting Reinforcement Learning with Unsupervised Feature Extraction | 555 |
| <i>Simon Hakenes and Tobias Glasmachers</i> | |

| | |
|--|------------|
| A Multi-objective Reinforcement Learning Algorithm for JSSP. | 567 |
| <i>Beatriz M. Méndez-Hernández, Erick D. Rodríguez-Bazan, Yailen Martinez-Jimenez, Pieter Libin, and Ann Nowé</i> | |
| A Reinforcement Learning Approach for Sequential Spatial Transformer Networks. | 585 |
| <i>Fatemeh Azimi, Federico Raue, Jörn Hees, and Andreas Dengel</i> | |
| Deep Recurrent Policy Networks for Planning Under Partial Observability. . . | 598 |
| <i>Zixuan Chen and Zongzhang Zhang</i> | |
| Mixed-Reality Deep Reinforcement Learning for a Reach-to-grasp Task . . . | 611 |
| <i>Hadi Beik Mohammadi, Mohammad Ali Zamani, Matthias Kerzel, and Stefan Wermter</i> | |
| FMNet: Multi-agent Cooperation by Communicating with Featured Message Network | 624 |
| <i>Jiheng Jiang, Shuangjiu Xiao, and Linling Xun</i> | |
| Robots | |
| Inferring Event-Predictive Goal-Directed Object Manipulations in REPRISE. | 639 |
| <i>Martin V. Butz, Tobias Menge, Dania Humaidan, and Sebastian Otte</i> | |
| On Unsupervised Learning of Traversal Cost and Terrain Types Identification Using Self-organizing Maps. | 654 |
| <i>Jan Faigl and Miloš Prágr</i> | |
| Scaffolding Haptic Attention with Controller Gating | 669 |
| <i>Alexandra Moringen, Sascha Fleer, and Helge Ritter</i> | |
| Benchmarking Incremental Regressors in Traversal Cost Assessment. | 685 |
| <i>Miloš Prágr and Jan Faigl</i> | |
| CPG Driven RBF Network Control with Reinforcement Learning for Gait Optimization of a Dung Beetle-Like Robot. | 698 |
| <i>Matheshwaran Pitchai, Xiaofeng Xiong, Mathias Thor, Peter Billeschou, Peter Lukas Mailänder, Bingwong Leung, Tomas Kulvicius, and Poramate Manoonpong</i> | |
| Spiking Networks | |
| Training Delays in Spiking Neural Networks | 713 |
| <i>Laura State and Pau Vilimelis Aceituno</i> | |

| | |
|--|------------|
| An Izhikevich Model Neuron MOS Circuit for Low Voltage Operation | 718 |
| <i>Yuki Tamura, Satoshi Moriya, Tatsuki Kato, Masao Sakuraba, Yoshihiko Horio, and Shigeo Sato</i> | |
| UAV Detection: A STDP Trained Deep Convolutional Spiking Neural Network Retina-Neuromorphic Approach. | 724 |
| <i>Paul Kirkland, Gaetano Di Caterina, John Soraghan, Yiannis Andreopoulos, and George Matich</i> | |
| Autonomous Learning Paradigm for Spiking Neural Networks | 737 |
| <i>Junxiu Liu, Liam J. McDaid, Jim Harkin, Shvan Karim, Anju P. Johnson, David M. Halliday, Andy M. Tyrrell, Jon Timmis, Alan G. Millard, and James Hilder</i> | |
| Multi-objective Spiking Neural Network Hardware Mapping Based on Immune Genetic Algorithm | 745 |
| <i>Junxiu Liu, Xingyue Huang, Yongchuang Huang, Yuling Luo, and Su Yang</i> | |
| The Importance of Self-excitation in Spiking Neural Networks Evolved to Recognize Temporal Patterns | 758 |
| <i>Muhammad Yaqoob, Volker Steuber, and Borys Wróbel</i> | |
| Theoretical Neural Computation | |
| Estimating and Factoring the Dropout Induced Distribution with Gaussian Mixture Model. | 775 |
| <i>Jingo Adachi</i> | |
| Sequence Disambiguation with Synaptic Traces in Associative Neural Networks. | 793 |
| <i>Ramon H. Martinez, Oskar Kviman, Anders Lansner, and Pawel Herman</i> | |
| Robust Optimal-Size Implementation of Finite State Automata with Synfire Ring-Based Neural Networks | 806 |
| <i>J      Cabessa and Ji         </i> | |
| A Neural Circuit Model of Adaptive Robust Tracking Control for Continuous-Time Nonlinear Systems | 819 |
| <i>Pavlo Tymoshchuk</i> | |
| Author Index | 837 |

Author Index

- Adachi, Jingo 775
Akaho, Shotaro 102
Akhundov, Adnan 444
Al Hajj Hassan, Mohamad 253
Andreopoulos, Yiannis 724
Aouiti, Chaouki 20, 32
Aritake, Toshimitsu 102
Asano, Kohei 241
Axenie, Cristian 253
Azimi, Fatemeh 585
- Bacciu, Davide 513
Bayer, Justin 444
Beik Mohammadi, Hadi 611
Betcher, Michael 123
Bicho, Estela 327
Billeschou, Peter 698
Bonhoeffer, Philipp 123
Bortoli, Stefano 253
Brasche, Goetz 253
Butz, Martin V. 484, 639
- Cabessa, Jérémie 806
Carta, Antonio 513
Çaşcaval, Petru 267
Chang, Qing 141
Chang, Yuan 471
Chen, Zixuan 598
Cheng, Cheng 363
Chérif, Farouk 20, 32
Chklovskii, Dmitri 375
Chun, Jinhee 241
Coro, Gianpaolo 123
Cosma, Georgina 351
- Daneshtalab, Masoud 208
de Wynter, Adrian 401
Dengel, Andreas 585
Di Caterina, Gaetano 724
Diehl, Frederik 431
Ding, Xi-hao 152
Duque, Andréa B. 193
- Ehrensperger, Gregor 296
Erlhagen, Wolfram 327
- Faigl, Jan 654, 685
Ferreira, Flora 327
Fleer, Sascha 669
Floria, Sabina-Adriana 267
- Gao, Feng 178
Genkin, Alexander 375
Glasmachers, Tobias 555
Göpfert, Jan Philip 302
Goto, Hiroaki 76
Gripon, Vincent 497
- Hagiwara, Masafumi 497
Hakenes, Simon 555
Halliday, David M. 737
Hammer, Barbara 302
Harkin, Jim 737
Hees, Jörn 585
Herman, Pawel 793
Hilder, James 737
Hino, Hideitsu 102
Horio, Yoshihiko 718
Huang, Xingyue 745
Huang, Yongchuang 745
Huang, Zixuan 471
Humaidan, Dania 639
- Jia, Xiaotian 141
Jiang, Jiheng 624
Jodelet, Quentin 497
Johnson, Anju P. 737
Joshi, Prasun 57
- Kanda, Takeshi 102
Karim, Shvan 737
Kato, Tatsuki 718
Kavitha, Muthusubash 458
Kerzel, Matthias 611
Kirkland, Paul 724
Kitajo, Keiichi 114

- Kitano, Katsunori 114
 Knoblauch, Andreas 3
 Knoll, Alois 431
 Koike, Atsushi 241
 Kulvicius, Tomas 698
 Kungl, Akos F. 119
 Kurita, Takio 458
 Kůrková, Věra 418
 Kviman, Oskar 793
- Ladwani, Vandana M. 57
 Lago-Fernández, Luis F. 312
 Lansner, Anders 793
 Leon, Florin 267
 Leung, Binggwong 698
 Li, Shengxi 339
 Li, Yifeng 281
 Lian, Yuan-feng 152, 178
 Libin, Pieter 567
 Liu, Jian-wei 152, 178
 Liu, Junxiu 737, 745
 Logofătu, Doina 267
 Loka, Nasrulloh R. B. S. 458
 Long, Xianzhong 363
 Loni, Mohammad 208
 Lu, Run-kun 152, 178
 Luo, Xiong-lin 152, 178
 Luo, Yuling 745
- Macêdo, David 193
 Machado, Pedro 351
 Mailänder, Peter Lukas 698
 Mandic, Danilo 339
 Manome, Nobuhito 529
 Manoonpong, Poramate 698
 Martinez, Ramon H. 793
 Martinez-Jimenez, Yailen 567
 Masetti, Giulio 123
 Matich, George 724
 McDaid, Liam J. 737
 McGinnity, T. Martin 351
 Méndez-Hernández, Beatriz M. 567
 Menge, Tobias 639
 Millard, Alan G. 737
 Mitsuyoshi, Shunji 529
 Miyashita, Yuki 541
 Miyazaki, Takehiro 102
 Moringen, Alexandra 669
 Moriya, Satoshi 718
- Mouček, Roman 89
 Müller, Eric 119
 Mumtaz, Wajid 89
 Murata, Noboru 102
- Nagayama, Mizuo 102
 Nguyen, Huu Phong 166
 Nowé, Ann 567
- Oliva, Christian 312
 Osana, Yuko 76
 Otte, Sebastian 484, 639
- Palm, Günther 3
 Petrovici, Mihai 119
 Pitchai, Matheshwaran 698
 Plastino, Angel R. 43
 Prágr, Miloš 654, 685
- Ramasubramanian, V. 57
 Raue, Federico 585
 Ribeiro, Bernardete 166
 Ritter, Helge 669
 Rodríguez-Bazan, Erick D. 567
 Rubisch, Patricia 484
- Sakuraba, Masao 718
 Sánchez, Antonio Rodríguez 296
 Santos, Luã Lázaro J. 193
 Sato, Shigeo 718
 Schemmel, Johannes 119
 Sengupta, Anirvan M. 375
 Shen, Qiwei 471
 Shinohara, Shuji 529
 Shriwas, Rachna 57
 Šíma, Jiří 389, 806
 Sinaei, Sima 208
 Sjödin, Mikael 208
 Soelch, Maximilian 444
 Soraghan, John 724
 Sperduti, Alessandro 513
 Stabinger, Sebastian 296
 State, Laura 713
 Steuber, Volker 758
 Sugawara, Toshiharu 541
 Suzuki, Kouta 529
- Tamura, Yuki 718
 Thor, Mathias 698

Timmis, Jon [737](#)
Tokuyama, Takeshi [241](#)
Tomonaga, Kosuke [529](#)
Touati, Farid [32](#)
Tudoran, Radu [253](#)
Tymoshchuk, Pavlo [819](#)
Tyrrell, Andy M. [737](#)

van der Smagt, Patrick [444](#)
Vařeka, Lukáš [89](#)
Vilimelis Aceituno, Pau [713](#)

Wang, Chu-ran [178](#)
Wang, Dian-zhong [152](#), [178](#)
Wedemann, Roseli S. [43](#)
Wermter, Stefan [611](#)
Wersing, Heiko [302](#)
Wojtak, Weronika [327](#)
Wróbel, Borys [758](#)
Wunderlich, Timo [119](#)

Xiao, Shuangjiu [624](#)
Xiong, Xiaofeng [698](#)
Xun, Linling [624](#)

Yamamoto, Masaharu [223](#)
Yamauchi, Koichiro [223](#)
Yanagisawa, Masashi [102](#)
Yang, Su [745](#)
Yaqoob, Muhammad [758](#)
Ye, Jian [141](#)
Ye, Song [114](#)
Yu, Zeyang [339](#)

Zamani, Mohammad Ali [611](#)
Zanchettin, Cleber [193](#)
Zeglaoui, Anis [20](#)
Zhang, Mian [363](#)
Zhang, Zongzhang [598](#)
Zhu, Xiaodan [281](#)
Zoljodi, Ali [208](#)