Supervisor's review of PhD thesis

Topic: Higher Order Neural Unit Adaptive Control and Stability Analysis

for Industrial System Applications

PhD candidate:: Ing. Peter Mark Beneš

Peter M. Beneš became my student since early of his studies at CTU in Prague. At the very beginning,

I supervised Peter's Bachelor's thesis, where he became familiar with very fundamentals of

computational intelligence algorithms and in particular with the neural networks, fuzzy rule-based

systems, and their up-to-date techniques of implementation (in Python).

During his Master's studies, Peter inclined to further investigation of data-driven approaches of

system approximation and control algorithms. In his Master's thesis, Peter derived and implemented an

adaptive algorithm of system approximation with real application to hoist deceleration, and he

proposed and simulated his first adaptive control solution. And this was the adaptive control concept

that he further followed and systematically developed during his PhD studies.

As an aside during his Master's studies, Peter was taking his active part during short-term visiting

research at Tohoku University in Japan (and again later during his PhD studies), and he also helped

with experimental study resulting in an impact factor publication (author's publication [8] in the

thesis).

Then, Peter continued in developing adaptive nonlinear control with polynomial neural architectures.

At first years of his PhD and aside of his regular teaching duties, Peter designed and implemented the

nonlinear adaptive control of HW experiment in the laboratory of automatic control. Also, he had

programmed the adaptive simulation software in Python that was available as open-source, and that

was later used in several defended theses by other students.

Then, Peter successfully designed and implemented HW solution for data-driven control of the lateral

skew of experimental roller rig in cooperation with the Department of Automotive, Combustion Engine

and Railway Engineering.

Aside from the proper investigation and applications of nonlinear MRAC control with polynomial

neural units (HONUs), he researched and significantly extended the fundamental concept of nonlinear

time-variant state-space representation of HONUs. Peter proposed novel nonlinear time-variant state-

space representations of HONUs and extended it to control loops with HONUs with possible real-time

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adaptation.

The main theoretical contributions of Peter's thesis are several concepts of (BIBO and BIBS) stability

of nonlinear adaptive control loops with HONUs, where the most impressive property is the instant

evaluation of a nonlinear control loop stability. At the same time, the common Lyapunov approach is

lagged, which corresponds to the fact that the Lyapunov technique serves to stabilization while the

proposed stability conditions represent the stability of a nonlinear system as such. The methods have

been theoretically derived and validated by simulations as well as via real experiments.

Unfortunately, Peter did not become a faculty member during his studies. During his full-time studies

(red diplomas for both Bc. and Ing.) he was working in Schindler company, and later he was found and

hired by the division of railway automation in Siemens, where he continues his career as a senior

manager in R&D department, and where he also implemented the (already published) control algorithm

and its HW solution for a real world railway application.

Nevertheless, Peter's research and publication activity significantly supported our research projects at

FS, CTU in Prague, including the Centre of Advanced Aerospace Technologies.

As regards Peter's focused research topic, Peter is the very first (soul) author of 1x international

journal paper, 1x book chapter, 3x Springer book series chapters, 1x IEEE prestigious conference

paper.

(I am not mentioning other papers involving winning and top awarded papers at student conferences at

CTU as well as outside CTU).

In total, Peter contributed as the author or co-author of at least 21 publications, including 1x IF journal

(2.197), 2x international journal, 2x book chapter (IGI), 3 x Springer book series chapters, and several

prestigious conferences (2x IEEE IJCNN, IEEE SSPD).

After the defense of his Ph.D. thesis, I agree with appointing the Ph.D. degree to Ing. Peter. M. Beneš.

In Prague, January 1, 2020

doc. Ing. Ivo Bukovský, Ph.D.