

Michael John Watts

Qualifications

PhD	Computational Intelligence	University of Otago	2004
BSc (Hons), First Class	Information Science	University of Otago	1996

Employment History / Professional Positions

- **2012 – present:** Academic Head of Programme, Information Technology, Auckland Institute of Studies, Auckland, New Zealand
- **May-June 2014:** Visiting lecturer at Huanggang Normal University and Xuzhou Institute of Technology, China. Taught Database Technology and Object-Oriented Programming
- **2010 – 2012:** Research fellow (ARC Senior Research Associate), School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Adelaide, Australia
- **2007 – 2009:** Post-doctoral fellow, School of Biological Sciences, University of Sydney, Australia
- **2008:** Visiting Research Fellow, National Centre for Advanced Bio-Protection Technologies, Lincoln University, New Zealand
- **2004 – 2007:** Post-doctoral fellow, National Centre for Advanced Bio-Protection Technologies, Lincoln University, New Zealand
- **2002 – 2004:** Senior Teaching Fellow, Department of Information Science, School of Business, University of Otago, New Zealand
- **2000 – 2002:** Teaching Fellow, Department of Information Science, School of Business, University of Otago, New Zealand
- **1997:** Part-time research assistant, Department of Information Science, School of Business, University of Otago, New Zealand.

Research Summary

- Senior Member of the IEEE
- Peer-reviewed publications: **78**
- Other publications: **21**
- h-index: **18**
- Google Scholar citations profile: <http://tinyurl.com/77zufzd>
- See [page 7](#) for complete list of publications
- Associate editor for four international journals
- Examiner of international Doctoral and Master's theses
- Reviewer for 23 international journals
- Reviewer for 17 international conferences
- Research expertise in: computational intelligence, data mining, soft computing and ecological informatics

Teaching Summary

- Teaching experience: Fundamentals of computer programming; Computational intelligence; Data mining; Business intelligence; Information security; OOP; Database systems.
- Experience supervising Doctoral students

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Research Expertise

- Data mining
- Soft computing
- Artificial neural networks
- Evolving Connectionist Systems
- Applications of computational intelligence and machine learning
- Evolutionary algorithms
- Knowledge discovery
- Ecological modelling
- Intelligent methods for ecological informatics
- Intelligent methods for bioinformatics

Technical Expertise

- object oriented design
- relational database design
- programming in C++, C#, Python, SQL, T-SQL, PHP and MATLAB

Teaching Experience

- **2015 – 17:** Course co-ordinator of “Fundamentals of Computer Programming”, introductory programming course using Python in Information Technology Programme, Auckland Institute of Studies.
- **2013 – 15, 2017:** Course co-ordinator of “Database Engineering I”, introductory database design course in Information Technology Programme, Auckland Institute of Studies.
- **2014:** Visiting lecturer at Huanggang Normal University and Xuzhou Institute of Technology, China. Taught Database Technology and Object Oriented Programming.
- **2013:** Course co-ordinator of “Business Intelligence”, third year data warehousing and data mining course in Information Technology Programme, Auckland Institute of Studies.
- **2012:** Course co-ordinator of “Information Systems Security”, third year security course in Information Technology Programme, Auckland Institute of Studies.
- **2003:** course co-ordinator of “Knowledge and Information”, second year data processing course in the Department of Information Science, School of Business, University of Otago, New Zealand
- **2000 – 03:** course co-ordinator of “Intelligent Information Systems”, third year computational intelligence course in the Department of Information Science, School of Business, University of Otago, New Zealand
- **2000–03:** course co-ordinator of “Advanced Knowledge Engineering”, fourth year computational intelligence course in the Department of Information Science, School of Business, University of Otago, New Zealand

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Postgraduate Student Supervision

PhD Students

- Wei Cui, Auckland University of Technology, thesis title "*Fast Moving Object Recognition using NeuCube*" 2017
- Akshay Raj Gollahalli, Auckland University of Technology, thesis title "*A software development environment for Spiking Neural Network applications across computer platforms*" 2017
- Mariona Roiges, Lincoln University, thesis title "*The structure of global invasive species assemblages and their relationship to regional habitat variables: converting scientifically relevant data into decision relevant information*". 2015
- David Pontin, thesis title "*Factors influencing the occurrence of stinging jellyfish (*Physalia spp.*) at New Zealand beaches*", graduated 2009
- Joel Pitt, thesis title "*Modelling the spread of invasive species across heterogeneous landscapes*" graduated 2008

Master's Students

- Hui Wang, Auckland University of Technology, thesis title "*The Earliest Pedestrian Recognition using Deep Learning* 2017.

Theses Examined

PhD / Doctoral Theses

- Reggio Hartono, *Adaptive Methods for Spatiotemporal Stream Data Mining*. Auckland University of Technology, 2017
- Tufail Muhammad, *Selecting, Quantifying, Optimizing and Understanding Visualization Techniques: A Computational Intelligence-Based Approach*. Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute of Engineering Sciences and Technology, Pakistan, 2015
- Simon Dacey, *Computational Land Use Management of Public Spaces in New Zealand*. Unitec Institute of Technology, New Zealand, 2015
- Wen Liang *Personalized Modeling for Medical Decision Support and the Case Study of Stroke Data*. Auckland University of Technology, New Zealand, 2013
- Anju Verma *Ontology Based Personalized Modeling for Chronic Disease Risk Evaluation and Knowledge Discovery: An Integrated Approach*. Auckland University of Technology, New Zealand, 2009

Master's Theses

- SiMing Li, *Evaluation and Improvement of Current Computational Tools for Metabolomics Data Analysis*. Auckland University of Technology, New Zealand, 2017
- Datong Gu, *Cross Models for Twin Recognition*. Auckland University of Technology, New Zealand, 2015

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- Vivienne Breen, *Detection of Susceptibility to Multiple Sclerosis from Single Nucleotide Polymorphism Data*. Auckland University of Technology, New Zealand, 2013

Professional Affiliations, Memberships and Service

- Senior Member of the [Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers](#) (IEEE) and [Computational Intelligence Society](#) (IEEE CIS)
- Member of the [IEEE CIS standards committee](#) 2011-15
- Member of the [IEEE CIS social media subcommittee](#) 2011-14, vice-chair 2012, 2014-17
- Member of the [IEEE CIS curriculum subcommittee](#) 2012-15
- Member of the [IEEE CIS Neural Network Technical Committee](#) 2013-15
- Member of the Evolving Intelligent Systems Technical Committee IEEE Systems, Man and Cybernetics Society
- Member of the [International Neural Network Society](#) (INNS)
- Full member of the [Institute of Information Technology Professionals](#) (IITP), New Zealand
- Associate member of the [Knowledge Engineering and Discovery Research Institute](#) (KEDRI), Auckland University of Technology, New Zealand

Distinctions

- Best Paper, CITRENTZ 2017 conference, 2017
- Special Mention, Best Paper category, CITRENTZ 2016 conference, 2016
- Best poster award, Neuro-Computing and Evolving Intelligence Conference, 2003
- University of Otago Postgraduate Scholarship, University of Otago, 1998
- University of Otago Postgraduate Award, University of Otago, 1997
- Department of Information Science Summer Scholarship, November 1996 – January 1997
- Department of Information Science Summer Scholarship, November 1995- January 1996

Academic Journal Activities

Editorial Positions and Activities

- Associate editor, IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks and Learning Systems, 2015-present
- Associate editor, Complex and Intelligent Systems, 2015-present
- Associate editor, Evolving Systems, 2014-present
- Associate editor, Soft Computing, 2013-present
- Special issue editor of Evolving Systems: Applications of Kasabov's Evolving Connectionist Systems, 2013
- Co-guest editor, International Journal on Information Technology (IJIT) special issue on “Biometric Recognition and SVM”, 2005

Service as a Reviewer

- Sensors, 2017
- Evolving Systems, 2016
- International Journal of Applied Earth Observation and Geoinformation, 2015
- Applied Soft Computing, 2012, 2014
- Fuzzy Sets and Systems, 2012
- IEEE Transactions on Evolutionary Computation, 2012
- Annals of Forest Science, 2012
- World Journal of Modeling and Simulation, 2012

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- European Journal of Wildlife Research, 2011
- Sports Biomechanics, 2011
- Ecological Informatics, 2011-12
- Medical and Veterinary Entomology, 2011
- International Journal of Advanced Computer Science and Applications (IJACSA), 2010-11
- IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks and Learning Systems, 2003, 2009-13
- Crop Protection, 2010
- Entomologia Experimentalis et Applicata, 2008, 2010
- Journal of Engineering Science and Technology, 2008
- Biological Control, 2008
- Journal of Advanced Computational Intelligence and Intelligent Informatics (JACIII), 2006-7, 2015
- IEEE/ACM Transactions on Computational Biology and Bioinformatics, 2007
- IEEE Transactions on Industrial Informatics, 2005-7
- IEEE/ACM Transactions on Computational Biology and Bioinformatics, 2006
- International Journal on Computational Intelligence and Applications (IJCIA), Special Issue on “Neurocomputing and hybrid methods”, 2004
- Soft Computing, special issue on “Soft Computing and Bioinformatics and Medical Informatics”, 2004

Conference Activities

Organisation, Session Chair, Invited Speaker

- Organiser, chair and reviewer, special session on “Applications of Computational Intelligence in Ecological Informatics and Environmental Modelling”, World Congress on Computational Intelligence (WCCI) 2016
- Program committee member, International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI) 2016
- Organiser, chair and reviewer, special session on “Applications of Computational Intelligence in Ecological Informatics and Environmental Modelling”, World Congress on Computational Intelligence (WCCI) 2014
- Awards chair, International Joint Conference on Neural Networks (IJCNN) 2013
- Organiser, chair and reviewer, special session on “Computational intelligence in ecological informatics” International Conference on Neural Information Processing (ICONIP) 2008
- Program committee member, International Conference on Intelligent Computing (ICIC), 2007, 2006
- Session co-chair, *Evolutionary Approaches for Supervised Learning*, International Joint Conference on Neural Networks, 2006
- Session chair, *Neural Networks and Nonlinear Systems*, International Conference on Intelligent Computing (ICIC), 2005
- Invited speaker, Workshop on Evolutionary Computation and Computational Intelligence in teaching, Congress on Evolutionary Computation, 2002
- Organising Committee member, Artificial Neural Networks and Expert Systems (ANNES), 2001

Service as a Reviewer / Program Committee Member

- Computer and Information Technology Research and Education New Zealand (CITRENZ) 2017
- Data Mining in Cybersecurity (DMC) 2015
- KES 2010
- ICONIP 2008
- Pacific Asia Conference on Information Systems (PACIS), 2007
- Congress on Evolutionary Computation (CEC), 2001-2, 2004, 2006-7
- International Joint Conference on Neural Networks (IJCNN), 2007, 2014-15
- IEEE Symposium on Computational Intelligence in Bioinformatics and Computational Biology (CIBCB), 2004-7, 2013-14
- 6th International Conference on Hybrid Intelligent Systems and 4th Conference on Neuro-Computing

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- and Evolving Intelligence (HIS-NCEI 06'), 2006
- 5th Australasia-Japan Joint Workshop on Intelligent and Evolutionary Systems, 2001

Positions Held at Departmental Level

- Bio-Protection and Ecology, Lincoln University
 - Chair, post-doctoral fellow group, January 2006 – February 2007
 - Deputy Chair, post-doctoral fellow group, February 2005 – January 2006
- Department of Information Science, University of Otago
 - Convenor, Information Science Postgraduate Group, July 2001 – June 2002
 - Convenor, Knowledge Engineering Laboratory seminar series, July 2001 – 2002
 - Webmaster, Knowledge Engineering Laboratory, 1999 – 2002

Positions Held at Institutional level

- Chair of Timetabling Committee, Auckland Institute of Studies, August 2014 – present
- Student Intellectual Property Policy Consultative Group, University of Otago, April – December 2002
- Divisional Representative, Graduate Research Student Liaison Committee, University of Otago, January 2000 – June 2002
- Webmaster, Graduate Research Student Liaison Committee, University of Otago, October 2001 – June 2002

Community Service

Public Outreach

- Computational Intelligence Blog, 2010-present, <http://computational-intelligence.blogspot.com/>
- Twitter <http://www.twitter.com/DrMikeWatts>

Cultural Participation and Development

- Operated and maintained the English – Māori Translator website: <http://kel.otago.ac.nz/translator/> 1998-2004 (now discontinued)

Other Community Service

- Participant in the Third and Fourth International Science Festival “The Global Village” Expo, June 28-30, 1999 and July 1-16, 2000, Dunedin, New Zealand

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List of Publications

Theses

Watts, M.J. Evolving connectionist systems: characterisation, simplification, formalisation, explanation and optimisation. PhD thesis, University of Otago, New Zealand. 2004.
<http://hdl.handle.net/10523/1489>

Book Chapters

Watts, M.J. and Kasabov, N.K. Hybrid Evolutionary-, Constructive-, and Evolving Fuzzy Neural Networks. In: *Handbook on Computational Intelligence*. World Scientific (2015) pg 745-772.

Worner, S.P., Eschen, R., Kenis, M., Pains, D., Saikonen K., Suiter, K., Singh, S., Vanninen, I., **Watts, M.J.** Detecting and interpreting patterns within regional pest species assemblages using self-organizing maps and other clustering methods. In: *Pest risk modelling and mapping for invasive alien species*. R.C. Venette, ed. CAB Direct (2015) pg 97-114.
<http://www.cabdirect.org/abstracts/20153099615.html>

Watts, M.J. , Bianconi, A., Serapiao, A.B.S., Govone, J.S., and von Zuben, C.J. The Effectiveness of Artificial Neural Networks in Modelling the Nutritional Ecology of a Blowfly Species. In: *Ecological Modelling*. W-J Zhang, ed. Novascience Press. (2011) pg 97-114.

Watts, M.J. Towards a formalisation of evolving connectionist systems. In: *Artificial Neural Networks*. S.J. Kim, ed. Novascience Press. (2010).

Watts, M.J. and Worner, S.P. Modelling Insect Habitat Suitability with Artificial Neural Networks. In: *Insect Habitats: Characteristics, Diversity and Management*. Edina L. Harris and Newell E. Davies, eds. Novascience Press. (2010) pg 163-196.

Watts, M.J. and Kasabov, N. Neuro-genetic tools and techniques. In: *Neuro-Fuzzy Techniques for Intelligent Information Processing*. N. Kasabov and R. Kozma, eds. Heidelberg, Physica Verlag (1999) pg 97-110.
http://www.aut.ac.nz/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/10695/neuro-gen.pdf

Kasabov, N., Kozma, R., Kilgour, R., Laws, M., Taylor, J., **Watts, M.** and Gray, A. Hybrid connectionist-based methods and systems for speech data analysis and phoneme-based speech recognition. In: *Neuro-Fuzzy Techniques for Intelligent Information Processing*. N. Kasabov and R. Kozma, eds. Heidelberg, Physica Verlag (1999) pg 241-264.
http://www.aut.ac.nz/_data/assets/pdf_file/0013/10750/nik-nfft.pdf

Journal Articles

Cope, R., Ross, J.V., Wittmann, T.A., **Watts, M.J.**, Cassey, P. Predicting the risk of biological invasions using environmental similarity and transport network connectedness. *Risk Analysis* (2017), doi:10.1111/risa.12870

Watts, M.J. , Fordham, D.A., Akcakaya, H.R., Aiello-Lammens, M. and Brook, B.W. Tracking metapopulation range margin changes using geographical centroids of patches weighted by population size and density. *Ecological Modelling* (2013) 269 61-69.
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0304380013004031>

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Worner, S.P., Gevrey, M., Eschen, R., Kenis, M., Pains, D., Singh, S., Suiter, K. and **Watts, M.J.** Self-organising maps and other methodologies for pest prioritisation. *Neobiota* (2013) 18 83-102.
http://www.pensoft.net/J_FILES/9/articles/4042/4042-G-3-layout.pdf

Fordham, D.A., Akcakaya, H.R., Brook, B.W., Rodriguez, A., Alves, P.C., Civantos, E., Trivino, M., **Watts, M.J.**, and Araujo, M.B. Adapted conservation measures are required to save the Iberian lynx in a changing climate. *Nature Climate Change* (2013) 3(10) 899-903.
<http://www.nature.com/nclimate/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/nclimate1954.html>

Haby, N.A., Prowse, T.A.A., Gregory, S., **Watts, M.J.**, Delean, S., Fordham, D.A., Foulkes, J. and Brook, B.W. Scale dependency of metapopulation models used to predict climate change impacts on small mammals. *Ecography* (2013) 36 832-841.
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1600-0587.2012.07749.x/abstract>

Prowse, T.A.A., Johnson, C.N., Lacy, R.C., Bradshaw, C.J.A., Pollak, J.P., **Watts, M.J.** and Brook, B.W. No need for disease: testing extinction hypotheses for the thylacine using multi-species metamodels. *Journal of Animal Ecology* (2013) 82(2) 355-364.

Bianconi, A., Dalgaard, T., Manly, B.F.J., Govone, J.S., **Watts, M.J.**, Nkala, P., Habermann, G., Huang, Y., Serapião, A.B.S. Methodological difficulties of conducting agroecological studies from a statistical perspective. *Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems* (2013) 37(4) 485-506.
<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/10440046.2012.712941#.UkyWhj8qPI9>

Harris, J.B.C., Fordham, D.A., Mooney, P.A., Pedler, L.P., Paton, D.C., Stead, M.G., **Watts, M.J.**, Araújo, M.B. & Akçakaya, R. Managing the long-term persistence of a rare cockatoo under climate change. *Journal of Applied Ecology* (2012) 49 785-794.
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1365-2664.2012.02163.x/abstract>

Fordham, D.A., **Watts, M.J.**, Delean, S., Brook, B.W., Heard, L., and Bull, M. Managed relocation as an adaptation strategy for mitigating climate change threats to the persistence of an endangered lizard. *Global Change Biology* (2012) 18(9) 2743-2755.
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1365-2486.2012.02742.x/abstract>

Fordham, D.A., Akcakaya, H.R., Araujo, M.B., Elith, J., Keith, D., Pearson, R. G., Auld, T., Mellin, C., Morgan, J., Regan, T., Tozer, M., **Watts, M.J.**, White, M., Wintle, B., Yates, C. and Brook, B.W. Plant extinction risk under climate change: are forecast range shifts alone a good indicator of species vulnerability to global warming? *Global Change Biology* (2012) 18 1357-1371.

Watts, M.J. and Worner, S.P. Using artificial neural networks to predict the distribution of bacterial crop diseases from biotic and abiotic factors. *Computational Ecology and Software* (2012) 2(1) 70-79.
[http://www.iaees.org/publications/journals/ces/articles/2012-2\(1\)/using-artificial-neural-networks-to-predict-the-distribution.pdf](http://www.iaees.org/publications/journals/ces/articles/2012-2(1)/using-artificial-neural-networks-to-predict-the-distribution.pdf)

Lam, A.Y.S., **Watts, M. J.**, Wu, D. and Estévez, P.A. IEEE CIS Social Media: Have you joined our online community? *IEEE Computational Intelligence* (2012) 7(1) 4-5,79.

Bradshaw, C.J.A., McMahon, C.R., Miller, P.S., Lacy, R.C., Verant, M.L., Pollack, J.P., Fordham, D.A., **Watts, M.J.**, Prowse, T.A.A. and Brook, B.W. Dynamics of bovine tuberculosis in Australian swamp buffalo based on coupled epidemiological and demographic models. *Journal of Applied Ecology* (2012) 49(1) 268-277.
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1365-2664.2011.02081.x/abstract>

Fordham, D.A., Wigley, T.M.L., **Watts, M.J.**, and Brook, B.W. Strengthening forecasts of climate change impacts with multi-model ensemble averaged projections using MAGICC/SCENGEN 5.3. *Ecography* (2012) 35 4-8.

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<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1600-0587.2011.07398.x/abstract>

Bianconi, A., Govone, J.S., Manly, B.F.J. and **Watts, M.J.** The use of a multivariate statistical procedure in analysing the germination process of two bean cultivars, compared with a univariate approach. *Proceedings of the International Academy of Ecology and Environmental Sciences* (2011) 1(2) 70-76.

[http://www.iaees.org/publications/journals/piaees/articles/2011-1\(2\)/The-use-multivariate-statistical-procedure.pdf](http://www.iaees.org/publications/journals/piaees/articles/2011-1(2)/The-use-multivariate-statistical-procedure.pdf)

Watts, M.J. and Worner, S.P. Improving cluster-based methods for investigating potential for insect species establishment: region-specific risk factors. *Computational Ecology and Software* (2011) 1(3) 138-145.

[http://www.iaees.org/publications/journals/ces/articles/2011-1\(3\)/Improving-cluster-based-methods.pdf](http://www.iaees.org/publications/journals/ces/articles/2011-1(3)/Improving-cluster-based-methods.pdf)

Watts, M.J. , Li, Y., Russell, B.D., Mellin, C., Connell, S.D. and Fordham, D.A. A novel method for mapping reefs and subtidal rocky habitats using artificial neural networks. *Ecological Modelling* (2011) 222(15) 2606-2614.

Pontin, D.R., Schliebs, S., Worner, S.P. and **Watts, M.J.** Finding relevant data in noisy, complex ecological times series: a comparison of two feature selection methods. *Ecological Modelling* (2011) 222(10) 1657-1665.

Watts, M.J. Using data clustering as a method of estimating the risk of establishment of bacterial crop diseases. *Computational Ecology and Software* (2011) 1(1) 1-13.

<http://www.iaees.org/publications/journals/ces/articles/2011-1%281%29/Using-data-clustering-as-a-method-of-estimating-the-risk.pdf>

Watts, M.J. A decade of Kasabov's Evolving Connectionist Systems: A Review. *IEEE Transactions on Systems, Man and Cybernetics Part C - Applications and Reviews* (2009) 39(3) 253-269.

<http://ecos.watts.net.nz/Literature/Watts.pdf>

Watts, M.J., Worner, S.P., Estimating the risk of insect species invasion: Kohonen self-organising maps versus k-means clustering. In: *Ecological Modelling* (2009) 220(6) 821-829.

Watts, M.J. and Worner, S.P. Comparing Ensemble and Cascaded Neural Networks that Combine Biotic and Abiotic Variables to Predict Insect Species Distribution. In: *Ecological Informatics* (2008) 3(6) 354-366.

Watts, M.J. and Worner, S.P. Using Artificial Neural Networks to Determine the Relative Contribution of Abiotic Factors Influencing the Establishment of Insect Pest Species. In: *Ecological Informatics* (2008) 3(1) 64-74.

Watts, M.J. and Worner, S.P. Comparison of a Self Organising Map and Simple Evolving Connectionist System for Predicting Insect Pest Establishment. In: *International Journal of Information Technology*. (2006) 12(6) 35-42.

http://www.icis.ntu.edu.sg/scs-ijit/1206/IJIT-1206_05.pdf

Watts, M.J. ANN Rule Extraction using Evolutionary Programmed Fuzzy Membership Functions. In: *International Journal of Information Technology: Special Issue on Evolutionary Algorithm and Advanced Learning System* (2005) 11(10) 45-53.

http://intjit.org/cms/journal/volume/11/10/1110_6.pdf

Watts, M.J. Fuzzy Rule Extraction from Simple Evolving Connectionist Systems. In: *International Journal of Computational Intelligence and Applications, Special Issue on Neuro-Computing and Hybrid Methods for Evolving Intelligence* (2004) 4(3) 299-308.

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Ghobakhlou, A., **Watts, M.J.** and Kasabov, N.K. Adaptive speech recognition with evolving connectionist systems. In: *Information sciences* (2003) 156(1-2): 71-83.

Moyle, S. and **Watts, M.J.** Neural Nets Raise the Roof. *IEEE Intelligent Systems*, January-February 2003, Vol. 18, Issue 1. IEEE Computer Society, 2003, 8-10.

Kasabov, N.K. and Kozma, R. and **Watts, M. J.** Phoneme-based speech recognition via fuzzy neural networks modeling and learning. In: *Information Sciences*, (1998) 110(1-2): 61-79.

Kasabov, N., Kim, J, **Watts, M.J.** and Gray, A. FuNN/2 - A fuzzy neural network architecture for adaptive learning and knowledge acquisition in multi-modular distributed environments. In: *Information Sciences* (1997) 101(3-4): 155-175.

http://www.aut.ac.nz/_data/assets/pdf_file/0012/10362/funn96_20.pdf

Refereed Conference Papers

Watts, M.J., Cabiling, D. and Choe, K.W. (2017) Student Impressions of Laptops for Information Technology Students. In: Proceedings of the 30th Annual CITRENZ Conference 2017.

Abdelhamid, N., Cabiling, D., **Watts, M.J.**, and Choe, K.W. Intelligently Derived Features that Influence Students' Perceptions on e-Textbooks. In: Proceedings of the 30th Annual CITRENZ Conference 2017.

Cabiling, D., Kumar, R., Choe, K.W. and **Watts, M.J.** MOODLE: An Analysis of its Utilisation, Benefits, Problems and IT Support as Perceived by the Students of Auckland Institute of Studies. In: Proceedings of the 30th Annual CITRENZ Conference 2017.

Han, B. and **Watts, M.J.** (2016) Predicting the Academic Performance of International Students on an Ongoing Basis. In: Proceedings of the 29th Annual CITRENZ Conference 2016 pg 48-53.

Watts, M.J., Albakry, K., Choe, K.W., Han, B., Hookings, A., Fonua, H., Kumar, R., Ahmadi, K., and Ketu'u, S. (2016) A Student Laptop Roll-out for International Information Technology Students. In: Proceedings of the 29th Annual CITRENZ Conference 2016 pg 76-80.

Watts, M.J. (2016) Sleep Learning and Max-Min Aggregation of Evolving Connectionist Systems. In: Proceedings of the International Joint Conference on Neural Networks (IJCNN) 2016 pg 4325-4330.

Watts, M.J. (2014) Evolving Connectionist Systems can Predict Outbreaks of the Aphid *Rhopalosiphum padi*. In: Proceedings of the International Joint Conference on Neural Networks (IJCNN) 2014 pg 646-650.

Bianconi, A., **Watts, M. J.** , Huang, Y., Serapião, A. B. S., Govone, J. S., Mi, X., Habermann, G. and Ferrarini, A. (2014) Applying Computational Intelligence Methods to Modeling and Predicting Common Bean Germination Rates. In: Proceedings of the International Joint Conference on Neural Networks (IJCNN) 2014 pg 658-662.

Watts, M.J. and Worner, S.P. Predicting the Distribution of Fungal Crop Diseases from Abiotic and Biotic Factors using Multi-layer Perceptrons. In: Proceedings of ICONIP 2008, LNCS 5506 pg 899-906.

Pontin, D.R., Worner, S.P. and **Watts, M.J.** Using Time Lagged Input Data to Improve Prediction of Stinging Jellyfish Occurrence at New Zealand Beaches by Multi-Layer Perceptrons. In: Proceedings of ICONIP 2008, LNCS 5506 pg 907-914.

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Worner S.P., **Watts M.J.**, Pitt J.P.W. & Gevrey M. Being prepared: ecological informatics and computational intelligence methods applied to invasive insect risk assessment. International Congress of Entomology, 6-11 July, Durban, South Africa, 2008

Pontin, D.R., **Watts, M.J.** and Worner, S.P. Using Multi-Layer Perceptrons to Predict the Presence of Jellyfish of the Genus *Physalia* at New Zealand Beaches. *International Joint Conference on Neural Networks 2008, Hong Kong, June 1-6, 2008*. pg1171-1176

Worner, S.P. and **Watts, M.J.** Null Model Analysis of a Self Organising Map of Invasive Species Distributions. *5th International Conference on Ecological Informatics (ISEI5) Novel Computational Techniques for Improved Management, Understanding and Forecasting of Complex Ecological Data December 4 – 6, 2006, Santa Barbara, CA, USA 2006*.

Watts, M.J. and Worner, S.P. Null-model Validation of MLP Input Contribution Analysis in Ecology. 6th International Conference on Hybrid Intelligent Systems (HIS 06) and 4th Conference on Neuro-Computing and Evolving Intelligence (NCEI '06). 13-15 December, AUT Technology Park, Auckland, New Zealand

Worner, S.P., **Watts, M.J.** and M. Gevrey. 2006. Bootstrapping a self organising map model to estimate the uncertainty in assemblages of alien invasive species. *Proceedings Management of sustainability and ecological modelling. International Congress of Ecological Modelling, August 28 - September 1, Ube -Yamaguchi, Japan 2006*. pg 206-207 (2006)

Watts, M.J. and Worner, S.P. Using MLP to Determine Abiotic Factors Influencing the Establishment of Insect Pest Species. In: *Proceedings of 2006 International Joint Conference on Neural Networks (IJCNN 2006), Vancouver, Canada*, pg 3506-3511 (2006)

Watts, M.J. Nominal-Scale Evolving Connectionist Systems. In: *Proceedings of 2006 International Joint Conference on Neural Networks (IJCNN 2006), Vancouver, Canada*, pg 4057-4061 (2006)

Watts, M.J. ANN Rule Extraction using Evolutionary Programmed Fuzzy Membership Functions. In: *Proceedings of 2005 International Conference on Intelligent Computing (ICIC 2005), Hefei, PRC* pg 2517-2526 (2005).

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