Recent Advances in Urban Planning, Sustainable Development and Green Energy

Editors
Nikos E. Mastorakis
Fragiskos Batzias
Claudio Guarnaccia

Proceedings of the 5th International Conference on Urban Sustainability, Cultural Sustainability, Green Development, Green Structures and Clean Cars (USCUADAR ’14)

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Muntean Mihaela-Carmen  
Sorin Dan  
Thomas Panagopoulos
# Table of Contents

**Plenary Lecture 1: Advanced Modelling and Prediction of Physical Polluting Agents**  
*Claudio Guarnaccia*

**Dynamic Modelling and Simulation of the Green Vehicle PICAV**  
*R. Molfino, F. Cepolina, E. M. Cepolina*

**Study of Wind Action Effects on the Solar Panels Placed on Parking Areas**  
*Axinte Elena, Băetu Georgeta, Teleman Carmen, Roșca Victoria, Axinte Andrei*

**A Model to Support Decision for the Valorization of Public Properties in Disuse or Underutilized**  
*Francesco Tajani, Alessandra Oppio, Pierluigi Morano*

**Energy Saving through Building Envelope Innovation: Smart Skin Design**  
*Giovanni Brugnaro, Mauro Caini, Rossana Paparella*

**A Methodological Framework Based on Fuzzy Set Theory for Sustainable Landscape Analysis**  
*Odysseus Manoliadis, Athena Baronos*

**Air Pollution Treatment in Modern Segregated Waste Treatment Facilities**  
*Alessandra Bonoli, Sara Zanni*

**Feasibility Study of the Configuration of Built-Up Urban Areas with the Aim of their Renovation**  
*Sergei I. Matreninskiy, Valeriy Y. Mishchenko*

**Sustainable Design of Efficient Buildings: Analysis of Maintenance Needs of Envelopes in LCA Evaluations**  
*Alessandra Pierucci A., Guido R. Dell’Osso, Gianvito Ferricelli*

**A Holistic Approach to the Management of Human Consumption Towards an Economics of Well-Being**  
*Gandolfo Dominici, Vasja Roblek*

**Study on Energy Efficiency Requirements in Buildings**  
*Cristina Tanasa, Carmen Maduta, Valeriu Stoian, Daniel Dan, Dan Stoian, Simon Pescari*

**The Role of Building Energy Modeling to Ensure Building Sustainability and Quality in a Whole System Design Process**  
*Carlo Zanchetta, Rossana Paparella, Paolo Borin, Cristina Cecchini, Dario Volpin*

**Urban Dynamics and Possibilities of Its Objective Measuring Using Earth Remote Sensing Data**  
*Michael Pondělíček, Vladimíra Šilhánková*

**Impact of Green Roofs on Stormwater Runoff Coefficients in a Mediterranean Urban Environment**  
*Mirka Mobilia, Antonia Longobardi, Joachim Friedrich Sartor*
Preservation and Development through Survey and Drawing Method: The Case of the Large Farmhouses of the Po Valley
Ivana Passamani

Achieving the Nearly Zero Energy Building Concept - A Study based on Practical Experience
Simon Pescari, Valeriu Stoian, Daniel Dan, Dan Stoian

Critical Aspects of Groundwater Management in Dar Es Salam Coastal Plain Development (Tanzania)
Giuseppe Sappa, Giulia Luciani

Public Green Space in Rural Residential Suburbs of Bratislava
Katarína Kristiánová, Katarína Gécová, Eva Putrová

Microclimate and Forma Urbis: The Topicality of Gaetano Vinaccia’s Theoretical Work (1881-1971)
Giovanni M. Chiri, Ilaria Giovagnorio

Life Cycle Assessment for Buildings
Guido R. Dell’Osso

Evaluation of Threats Connected with the Impacts of Climate Change on Towns and Regions
Vladimíra Šilhánková, Michael Pondělíček

Competitive Sustainability: A Multilevel Model for Quantitative Corporate Social Responsibility Evaluation in Small and Medium Textile Companies
Maria Da Graça Guedes, Lino Manuel Urbano

Authors Index
Plenary Lecture 1

Advanced Modelling and Prediction of Physical Polluting Agents

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Abstract: The problem of assessing physical polluting agents, such as air pollution, acoustical noise, electromagnetic fields, etc., is nowadays a relevant issue to be pursued in urban areas. The health damages due to the pollutants has been largely studied in literature and documented with field measurements and surveys. Of course, it is very hard to draft a general and universal approach to any pollutant study, because of the different boundary conditions of each site under investigation. For instance, concerning acoustical noise, it will be shown how the statistical models developed in the second half of the 20th century, have a very different behaviour when tested on a case study and compared with field measurements. This will be the starting point to highlight the need for an advanced modelling of road traffic noise, i.e. the most important source in urban areas. From this point of view, several approaches will be discussed, based on different methods, such as Cellular Automata, Monte Carlo, Traffic Theory, Infinitesimal sources equivalences, etc., in order to give an almost complete overview of the state of the art.

In addition, regression methods will be presented, based on Time Series Analysis method. It will be shown which are the best conditions to perform a trend and periodicity evaluation of the time series, in order to build a robust model, able to properly predict the future slope of the pollutant in a certain time range. This approach has been tested both on acoustic noise levels and CO concentrations, and it can be easily extended to any pollutant. In particular, when a clear seasonal pattern is evidenced, the model can implement the periodicity in its formula and can furnish a good prediction interval. Depending on the dataset, a multiple periodicity can be also detected and implemented, in order to evidence the low and high frequencies of the time series.

Brief Biography of the Speaker: Dr. Claudio Guarnaccia is temporary Professor of Physics at the Civil Engineering Department and is post-doc researcher in Applied Physics at the Industrial Engineering Department of the University of Salerno. He graduated in 2004 and he took the PhD in 2008 in Nuclear Physics, at the University of Salerno, after a period spent at CERN (European Organization for Nuclear Research), in Geneva (Switzerland). Since 2005 he had teaching assistance activities at the Engineering Faculty of University of Salerno. His research interests are focused on the application of the modern Physics methods to engineering, environmental and bio-mathematical problems, in the “Applied Physics” research group headed by Prof. Joseph Quartieri. He is author of more than seventy papers in international journals and conference proceedings, and was invited for several plenary and keynote lectures in various institutes and conferences. He has been chair or member of the committees of a large number of conferences. He is “main researcher” in the “Modelling and Simulation” research group of WSEAS and has several research collaborations with national and international scholars and institutes. He is member of the Italian Association of Acoustics (AIA), the International Commission for the Occupational Health (ICOH), the World Scientific and Engineering Academy and Society (WSEAS), and several other international research communities and organizations.
Authors Index

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Authors</th>
<th>Page Numbers</th>
<th>Authors</th>
<th>Page Numbers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Axinte, A.</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Mastorakis, N.</td>
<td>174</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Axinte, E.</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Matreninskiy, S. I.</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Băetu, G.</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Mishchenko, V. Y.</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baronos, A.</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>Mobilia, M.</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonoli, A.</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Molfino, R.</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Borin, P.</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>Morano, P.</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brugnaro, G.</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>Oppio, A.</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caini, M.</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>Paparella, R.</td>
<td>35, 87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carmen, T.</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Passamani, I.</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cecchini, C.</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>Pescari, S.</td>
<td>80, 117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cepolina, E. M.</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Pierucci A., A. A.</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cepolina, F.</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Pondělíček, M.</td>
<td>94, 156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chiri, G. M.</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>Putrová, E.</td>
<td>132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Da Graça Guedes, M.</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>Roblek, V.</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dan, D.</td>
<td>80, 117</td>
<td>Sappa, G.</td>
<td>123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dell’Osso, G. R.</td>
<td>64, 147</td>
<td>Sartor, J. F.</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominici, G.</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>Šilhánková, V.</td>
<td>94, 156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ferricelli, G.</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>Stoian, D.</td>
<td>80, 117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gécová, K.</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>Stoian, V.</td>
<td>80, 117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giovagnorio, I.</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>Tajani, F.</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iqbal, S.</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>Tanasa, C.</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kristiánová, K.</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>Urbano, L. M.</td>
<td>164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Longobardi, A.</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Victoria, R.</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luciani, G.</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>Volpin, D.</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maduta, C.</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>Zanchetta, C.</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manolaidis, O.</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>Zanni, S.</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>