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Data-Driven Process Discovery and Analysis

Paolo Ceravolo, Maurice van Keulen, María Teresa Gómez-López

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379

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Data-Driven Process Discovery and Analysis

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Revised Selected Papers

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Preface

The rapid growth at which organizations and businesses process data, managed via information systems, has made available a big variety of information that consequently has created a high demand for making data analytics more effective and valuable. Today, these new data analyzing techniques have to cope with the continuous advancements in the digital transformation course. Blockchain infrastructures bring trusted transactions to interorganizational procedures. The growing maturity level of Artificial Intelligence solutions conveys the integration of various analyzing techniques and cultures. IoT technologies bring traceability to potentially any human-in-the-loop process. The eighth and ninth editions of the International Symposium on Data-driven Process Discovery and Analysis (SIMPDA 2018, 2019) were conceived to offer a forum where researchers from different communities could share their insights in this hot new field. As a symposium, SIMPDA fosters exchanges among academic researchers, industry experts, and a wider audience interested in process discovery and analysis.

Submissions cover theoretical issues related to processing representation, discovery, and analysis, or provide practical and operational examples of their application. To improve the quality of the contributions, the symposium is structured towards fostering discussion and stimulating improvements. Papers are pre-circulated to the authors, who are expected to read them and make ready comments and suggestions. After the event, authors have the opportunity to improve their work by extending the presented results. For this reason, authors of accepted papers were invited to submit extended articles to this post-symposium volume. We received 25 submissions and 6 papers were accepted for publication.

The current selection of papers underlines the most relevant challenges that were identified, and proposes novel solutions for facing these challenges.

In the first paper, “Designing Process-Centric Blockchain-based Architectures: A Case Study in e-voting as a Service,” Emanuele Bellini et al. study a solution to put into operation Business Process Management on a Blockchain-based infrastructure to develop a diverse set of execution and monitoring systems on Blockchain, and define appropriate methods for evolution and adaptation.

The second paper, by Berti and Van der Aalst, is titled “Extracting Multiple Viewpoint Models from Relational Databases,” and presents an advanced methodology for coping with discovering multiple viewpoints in relational databases collecting event log data.

The third paper by Cancela et al., “Standardizing Process-Data Exploitation by means of a Process-Instance Metamodel,” proposes the use of a Business-Process Instance Metamodel as an interface between the applications that produce the data and those which consume the data making their data structures independent and, by consequence, their set up less expensive.

The fourth paper by Hinkka et al., “Exploiting Event Log Event Attributes in RNN Based on Prediction,” discusses a method for giving a trade-off between prediction accuracy and training time in RNN predictions over business process cases. This trade-off is achieved by enriching the vectors imputing the RNN using the groups obtained by clustering techniques. This experimental analysis shows that having event attribute clusters encoded into the input vectors outperforms having the actual attribute values in the input vector.

The fifth paper by Martinez-Gil et al., “General Model for Tracking Manufacturing Products Using Graph Databases,” presents a case study on product manufacturing where a graph database is exploited to reduce response times in tracking the process execution.

The sixth paper by Rafei et al., “Supporting Confidentiality in Process Mining Using Abstraction and Encryption,” presents an approach for supporting data encryption in Process Mining. Using abstraction, the authors hide confidential information in a controlled manner while ensuring that the desired Process Mining results can still be obtained.

We gratefully acknowledge the research community that gathered around the problems related to process data analysis. We would also like to express our deep appreciation for the referees’ hard work and dedication. Above all, thanks are due to the authors for submitting the best results of their work to SIMPDA.

We are very grateful to the Università degli Studi di Milano and IFIP for their organizational support.

March 2020

Paolo Ceravolo
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