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Composite Systems Decisions

With 126 Figures

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The book is dedicated to colleagues

Preface

Traditional *literacy* consists of two phases:

Phase 1. Basic literacy (*i.e.*, to read, to write, to account).

Phase 2. Computer literacy (*e.g.*, to work with computers, to write computer programs).

This book describes the research and educational direction called *Design of composite systems decisions*, which can be considered as an important part of the *third phase* of *literacy*. Let us consider the place and significance of our direction (*i.e.*, design of composite systems decisions). Design of composite systems decisions is a composite direction which implements *combinatorial (modular) synthesis*. This book focuses on composite decisions when a resultant decision consists of some interconnected parts (subdecisions, local decisions) and corresponds to a composite (composable, modular, decomposable) system. Our viewpoint is based on composition of the following: systems engineering and life-cycle engineering, computer science, applied mathematics and applied combinatorial optimization, and various application domains (*e.g.*, engineering, management, computer science, and social science). The material can be considered as the continuation of the author's monograph *Combinatorial Engineering of Decomposable Systems* (Kluwer, 1998) with the basic orientation to various application domains (engineering, information technology, management). The book consists of the four parts:

Part I. *Issues of Information Technology*, including information, specialists, solving frameworks. Evidently, this part involves *Decision-making Technology*, including problem analysis, problem structuring, evaluation of alternatives, selection of the best alternatives, and analysis of the results, *i.e.*, basic *paradigm of decision making* by H.A. Simon (*e.g.* [759, 762]). Note our direction extends traditional *decision making paradigm* by the special attention to generation (synthesis) of composite decisions on the basis of *hierarchical combinatorial synthesis*: (a) selection of the best local decisions and (b) composition of the local decisions into a resultant composite global decision. The efforts are based on *combinatorial engineering* and hierarchical morphological multicriteria design, which were proposed in recent years by the author (*e.g.* [494, 497]).

Part II. *Systems Approaches* (analysis, synthesis) and *systems engineering* are basic *active* generalized methodologies to describe/to model, to design, to redesign contemporary complex and multidisciplinary systems in engineering, management, social life, *etc.* Thus, we examine system modeling, analysis, synthesis and basic paradigms as a *product life cycle* and corresponding problems in *life-cycle engineering* (*e.g.*, design/management of life cycle). The following basic system *technological* problems are examined:

1. hierarchical combinatorial system modeling;
2. system design as a combinatorial synthesis of composite systems;
3. revelation of system bottlenecks;
4. redesign/improvement of a system;
5. multistage design of systems, trajectory design;
6. system evaluation; and
7. system evolution for composite systems.

Here, a special chapter is targeted to issues of system development/ evolution.

Part III. *Applied Systems Decisions* illustrates the usage of the above-mentioned design approaches to *technological problems* in many domains: synthesis of software, evaluation and redesign of buildings, planning of medical treatment, design of a multistage immunoassay technology, *etc.* The applications described can be used as a set of basic analogues for future extension and improvement.

Part IV. *Educational Issues* is an additional crucial part of our direction and is targeted to three educational courses.

The book is oriented to applied researchers, students, and practitioners in many domains. Concurrently, the material will be of interest to various scientists (*e.g.*, mathematicians, computer scientists, economists, social engineers). The book can be used as a text for some courses (*e.g.*, systems engineering, system design, life-cycle engineering, engineering design, combinatorial synthesis) at the level of undergraduate (a compressed version), graduate/PhD levels and for continuing education. Note, special student team research projects can be included into educational plans. The student teams above can involve students of different professional domains. Further, the material will be useful for modular curriculum design.

The draft version of the book was written in Israel (Beer Sheva, Tel Aviv) in 2000–2004, and the final version was prepared in Moscow, Russia.

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1. IEEE, permission in respect of the following article (for Chapters 3 and 7):

M.Sh. Levin, Modular System Synthesis: Example for Composite Packaged Software. *IEEE Trans. on SMC, Part C*, 35(4), 544–553, 2005.

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