

A Targeted Overview of Smart Computing Techniques Applied Across Core Branches of Civil Engineering Disciplines

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Abstract

The incorporation of computational intelligence (CI) into civil engineering practice has revolutionized existing practices to allow faster, more adaptable, and evidence-based applications. This review carries out a concise survey of recent progress in smart computing methods - including machine learning, evolutionary algorithms and neural networks - in the main traditional civil engineering subdisciplines (structural, geotechnical, transport, environmental and construction engineering). The focus is made on application-specific considerations, deployment issues, and the general direction future intelligent civil system will take. With the convergence of major developments and strands of research, this contribution is intended to inform practitioners and researchers on new directions of problem-solving using the assistance of computational intelligence.

Keywords: *Computational Intelligence, Smart Computing, Civil Engineering Applications, Structural Engineering, Transportation Systems, Environmental Engineering, Evolutionary Algorithms, Machine Learning, Intelligent Infrastructure, Data-Driven Solutions.*

1.Introduction

In the current technology setting, the usage of an approach towards the use of computational intelligences in the field of civil engineering sciences has brought a paradigm shift in development that has never been seen before. This paradigm shift is nothing short of revolutionary because it is a radical shift in the conventional engineering front by adopting advanced algorithmic generations that simulate the human way of thinking and, at the same time, put the content above the human intelligence as far as data processing, pattern identification, and decision-making abilities are concerned. The development of computation intelligence as one of the pillar technologies of civil engineering applications triggered the dawn of a new age of innovations, and says about innovation in addressing challenging problems of engineering and implement them into practice with the use of complicated learning algorithms, neural networks, and intelligent optimization algorithms(1).

The importance of such evolution in the field of technology cannot be overvalued especially when bearing in mind the complexity of contemporary infrastructure projects and the fact that there is an exponential growth in the amount of data generated in a construction and engineering setting. Work with the present-day civil engineering projects requires advanced analytical tools to analyze extremely large data sets (heterogeneous data streams): sensor data, data on environmental monitoring, complex structural performance statistics and trends in material behaviour. The conservative methods of analysis, though still central to the engineering practice, tend to fail when faced by the multidimensionality of new engineering problems which requires using intelligent computational models that are able to adapt, learn and optimize solutions on the fly.

Use of computational intelligence in civil engineering is not just a technological refitting, but rather exhibits a paradigmatic shift in the way engineers can visualize infrastructure systems, design them, implement and sustain them. This revolution includes other sub branches of civil engineering such as structural-analytical studies, geotechnical research studies, studies of transport system optimization, hydraulic models, and environmental applications of engineering. All these areas have their own set of issues that can use the flexibility of the learning that can take place with computational intelligence approaches, the pattern recognition capabilities of a system and the optimization concepts of such methodologies.

In addition, the development of Industry 4.0 and the digital transformation project provided an environment where smart systems are not optional upgrades but necessary prerequisites of high performance and staying profitable in any engineering practice. The construction sector, known to be conservative and resistant to innovations, is historically facing a rebirth following the proven advantages of the contribution of computational intelligence

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variety of applications, such as better project performance, safer working practice, enhanced resource usage, as well as substantial cost savings throughout the project life cycles.

Applications of computational intelligence in civil engineering can be said to be much broader than mere automation or optimization, but complex predictive modeling, real-time decision support systems, and autonomous control systems embedded in the system that has the capacity to respond to changes in the environment and the project itself(2). The applications exploit more sophisticated algorithms based on artificial neural networks, fuzzy logic systems, evolutionary computation processes and hybrid approaches, which involve a mixture of two or more paradigms of computational intelligence, to solve engineering problems with a greater precision and greater speed.

2. Transcendent Neural Network Systems in Structures Applications

Advances in complex structural analysis, design optimization, and production of structural engineering using highly complex neural network architectures has ushered in a paradigm shift in the manner solving a complex structural problem and performance prediction of a structure has been conventionally solved through the use of conventional computer algorithms. Recent research has shown incredible performance of deep learning networks, especially the convolutional neural network architecture and recurrent neural network structures, in working with multidimensional structural data, such as stress distribution patterns, analyzing the displacement field, and the dynamic response of different loading situations. These sophisticated neural architectures are sophisticated in terms of representing nonlinearity in relations between structural parameters and performance metrics that allow an engineer to devise predictive models to capture material behaviours throughout geometric nonlinearities and time-dependent phenomena that strongly impact structural performance.

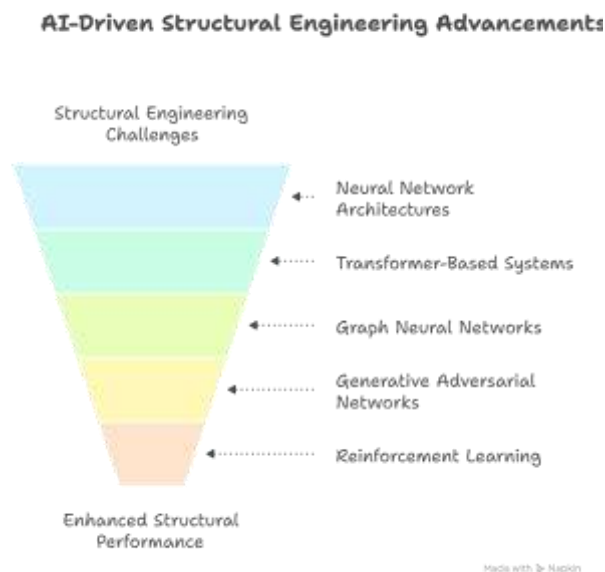


FIGURE 1 AI-Driven Structural Engineering Advancements

With the application of transformer-based architecture and attention mechanism in structural engineering problems, new horizons to comprehend the relationship of long-range dependencies in structural responses and patterns over time within structural health monitoring systems emerged. These architectures are able to analyze the stream data sequences of sensor networks installed on structural systems detecting minor patterns and deviations that could foretell the appearance of structural problems or deterioration. That such networks allow a kind of contextual awareness of much longer duration is precisely what makes them attractive in long term structural monitoring application where deterioration could be prevented by early warning sign and the schedule maintenance also optimized(3).

Recent advances of graph neural networks have been the solution to know complex structural topologies and connectivity patterns in large-scale infrastructure systems. Elements of the structural systems can be represented as nodes and the connection between nodes as edges to provide end-to-end examination of the pattern of load distribution, mechanisms of failures, and system-wide redundancy properties. Structural analysis based on graph

attention networks and graph convolutional networks has shown good results in modeling the structural behavior in extreme loads and optimizing structural designs to improve performance relevant to ever-higher levels of performance and the discovering of critical failure patterns that might not be obvious in terms of classical structural analysis.

Such implementation of the importance of generative adversarial networks on the premise of structural engineering has led to the creation of advanced methodologies regarding optimization in the model of design to be able to search through the expansive design regions and the ability to produce unique structural designs optimized to different performance requirements. The generative models are able to generate designs that are structurally valid and meets the complex constraints with an optimisation of multiple goals such as structural efficiency, material use, environmental impacts, and aesthetics. The adversarial training procedure guarantees that created designs have structural integrity and that they challenge the conventional design practices to come out with the innovative design solutions that might not have come out by optimising the designs in the traditional way.

Moreover, reinforcement learning Algorithms have been applied to structural control systems to ensure that they develop adaptive control strategies that are capable of responding to the changing environmental conditions as well as loading conditions, in real-time. These smart intelligent control systems would be able to acquire the optimal control regimes due to their interaction with the structural system, and would be able to progressively enhance their performance on the basis of the dynamic response measurements and monitoring data of environmental conditions(4). The advantage of the reinforcement learning agents is their ability to adjust to the unexpected and learn through experience, which becomes especially useful when working on various systems fitted with seismic control or wind load mitigation and adapting of the structural systems that have to respond to the changing dynamics of the surrounding environment.

3.Geotechnical Opinions and "Evolutionary Computation

The use of systems of evolutionary calculation in geotechnical engineering has changed the treatment of the problem of complex optimization in the soil-structure interface improvement design foundation and geotechnical parameter estimation problems that have high dimensionality and multimodal solutions. There is strong evidence of genetic algorithms, particle swarm optimization and differential evolution methods being very effective ways of solving geotechnical optimization problems where gradient methods do not work because the objective functions are discontinuous and problems of numerous local optima and complicated relationship between constraints exist. Such evolutionary methods are fantastic in searching large spaces of parameters, finding the globally best estimate of soil parameters, optimum foundation design or stable slope under uncertain conditions.

The adoption of multi-objective evolutionary algorithms has completely changed the way to geotechnical design practice and allowed optimization of conflicting objectives combining either cost minimization plus safety factor maximization or cost minimization plus environmental impact minimization. This means that the algorithms are able to provide solution sets, which are Pareto-optimal and give the engineer more information about trade-offs, making the decision-making process an informed one taking into consideration various needs of the stakeholders and design constraints. This visualization and ability to analyze Pareto frontiers has been of invaluable help to the geotechnical application in such a way that the design choices made have to take into account economic, safety requirements and environmental sustainability goals.(5)

The recent evolvments of hybrid evolutionary algorithms which are a combination of more than one type of optimization algorithm have proven to be an optimal solution to even the complex geotechnical issues with uncertain soil parameters and changing loading conditions. These hybrid methods exploit the good features of various evolutionary algorithms by combining local search methods that can obtain a faster and better convergence rate and the effectiveness of an adaptive parameter control and problem-specific heuristics. The combination of the machine learning methods with evolutionary systems has facilitated the creation of intelligent optimization algorithms that may change their search techniques according to the problem structures and the solutions landscape geometries, and this presents a vast enhancement to the efficiency of the optimization process on a large scale especially on geotechnical applications.

Swarm intelligence algorithms Ant colony optimization Ant colony algorithm Artificial bee colony Artificial bee colony algorithm Swarm intelligence algorithms Ant colony optimization Ant colony algorithm Artificial bee colony Artificial bee colony algorithm The solution of geotechnical problems with discrete decision variables and combinatorial optimization issues has been presented by the application of swarm intelligence algorithms. Testing

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of the structure optimization of pile foundation arrangement, design of soil improvement technique and design of geotechnical construction sequence have shown the bio-inspiration method algorithms to perform very well in solving optimization problems to which classical optimization methods have difficulty due to a large state space of discrete variables and numerous constraints and their interactions. The all-inclusive genius paradigms behind these algorithms allow viable exploration of a solution space together with the sustenance of population diversity and keeping out premature convergence to local optima.

TABLE 1 Application of Evolutionary Algorithms

Algorithm Type	Specific Algorithms	Application Areas	Key Advantages
Evolutionary Algorithms (EAs)	Genetic Algorithm (GA), Differential Evolution (DE)	Soil parameter estimation, foundation design, slope stability	Effective in high-dimensional, multimodal, and non-differentiable problems
Swarm Intelligence Algorithms	Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO)	Soil-structure interface optimization, load-bearing improvement	Fast convergence; good exploration of large solution spaces
Multi-Objective Evolutionary Algorithms	NSGA-II, MOEA/D (not named in text but implied)	Cost vs. safety factor optimization; cost vs. environmental impact trade-off	Generates Pareto-optimal solutions for conflicting objectives
Hybrid Evolutionary Algorithms	GA+PSO, DE+Local Search, etc.	Design under uncertain soil conditions; dynamic loading analysis	Combines strengths of multiple algorithms; faster convergence

Moreover, the invention of quantum-inspired evolutionary algorithms has created a new opportunity to deal with such computationally costly optimization problems of geotechnical engineering in which the corresponding objectives demand a large amount of computer stress to be calculated.

4. Intelligent decision support and fuzzy logic systems in transport engineering

By taking fuzzy logic systems into transportation engineering developments, the complexity of uncertainty, grossness and subjective decision-making process that is inherent in transportation system complexes analysis and management has yielded high functions of superior frames. The application of FIS has been found very useful in the representation of fuzzily linguistic variables and expertise/knowledge which can hardly be quantified by the traditional mathematics demonstrating capable of producing intelligent decision support systems that are able to reason with incomplete representations and uncertain data. Some of the application of fuzzy logic in transportation engineering involve areas such as modeling of traffic flow, traffic route optimization, choice of mode of transport and maintenance of infrastructure where decisions necessitate political consideration, human expertise and qualitative judgment are essential whenever finding optimal solutions(6).

Adaptive neuro-fuzzy inference systems The field of adaptive neuro-fuzzy inference systems has made breakthroughs in the areas of transportation demand forecasts as well as in the ability to predict traffic patterns by implementing the learning capabilities of the neural network with the interpretability and reasoning capabilities of fuzzy logic systems. These type of hybrid intelligent system are able to automatically tune membership functions and rule base on past traffic information and are capable of allowing expert knowledge and domain requirements to be built in. Fuzzy rule bases are interpretable and can guide transportation engineers on the underlying relationships between different factors affecting the traffic patterns and thus formulate more effective traffic management policies and measures of planning and designing of infrastructure.

Recent developments on type-2 fuzzy logic systems have overcome the shortcomings of traditional type-1 fuzzy systems in that they offer an augmented functional capacity to model higher type of uncertainty and imprecision that occur in complex transportation environment. Type-2 fuzzy systems especially the uncertainties in defining the membership functions, weighting rules, and input measurements, which makes them more applicable in transportation compared to the other applications because data quality is significantly variable, and there are more sources of uncertainties especially the environment of the transport. Optimization using interval type-2 fuzzy logic in transportation systems has proved very effective in dealing with—uncertainties in travelling time, demand

variability as well as uncertain disruption phenomena which often affect the performance of transportation networks.

Fuzzy multi-criteria decision-making structures have revolutionized the transportation project evaluation and prioritization procedures because they have offered organized options of involving various competing goals and stakeholder priorities. These structures are able to rank movement options based on a variety of criteria commonly associated with economic efficiency, environmental impact, social equity, and technical ability in a structured way and also allow subjective preferences and unreliable information. The capacity to integrate linguistic tests and qualitative assessment into the quantitative decision-making models has come in very handy in the field of transportation planning as clearly stakeholder views and community preferences play critical roles in determining the acceptability of the project as well as achievement of project feasibility(7).

Moreover, the availability of fuzzy optimization algorithms developed to serve transportation network problems have also permitted the resolving of quite large-scope optimization problems with uncertain parameters and incompatible goals. They may deal with imprecise cost coefficients, uncertain demand pattern, and variable capacity constraints and provide robust the solutions to the parameter changes and uncertainty in the operation. The advent of fuzzy optimization and the development of real time data processing abilities has allowed the creation of adaptive transportation management systems that enable these systems to adapt to changing environment and to keep the performance and level of user satisfaction levels at the same degree of performance.

5.The future application of Machine Learning in Hydraulic and Water Resources Engineering

The use of latest machine learning techniques in hydraulic and water resources engineering has radically changed how complicated hydrological models, water quality projection, and watershed management problems involving the processing of large volumes of spatial and temporal data associating uncertainty and nonlinearity can be approached. The latest Deep learning models, especially long short-term memory networks and gated recurrent units, have proven to be particularly efficient at capturing complex dynamic relationships between variables in a hydrological time series data, allowing to predict streamflow dynamics, precipitation, and flood prediction with a lead time allowing an effective emergency response and flood forecasting.

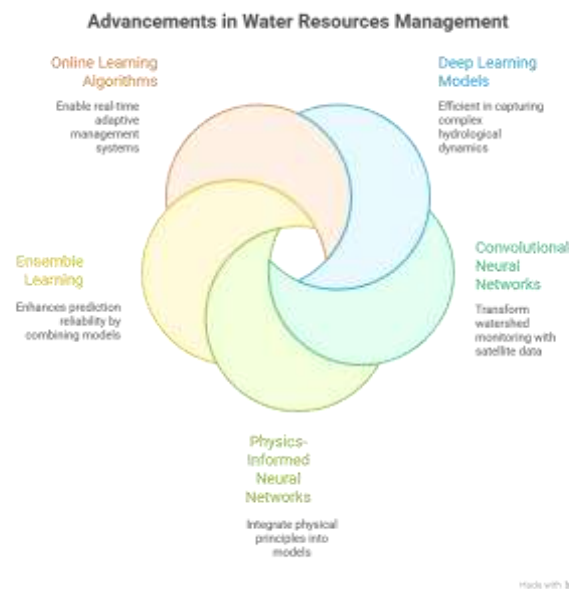


FIGURE 2 Advancements in Water Resources Management

This is because the use of the convolutional neural network to process satellite images and remote sensing data has transformed the watershed monitoring and water resources estimation capabilities because the convolutional neural network can be exploited to automatically extract hydrological features, land use classification, and water quality parameter estimation capacities in multispectral and hyperspectral imagery(8). These deep models have the ability to detect minute variations in watershed properties, locate the source of pollution and determiner the health markers of an ecosystem with spatial and temporal resolution abilities far exceeding conventional ground-

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based monitoring techniques. Automatic processing of large scale geospatial data has allowed the creation of large scale watershed management systems which are capable of monitoring many watersheds and giving advance warning of water quality decline and disturbances to the ecosystem.

The recent advances in physics- informed neural networks have offered new ways of integrating the physical principles and conservation laws into machine learning that is applied to the hydraulic system analysis and water resources modeling problems. Such hybrid frameworks blending the flexibility and the capability to learn of a neural network with the interpretability and the physical consistency of the classical hydraulic models lead to predictive models that are still physical in the sense of retaining the memory of the law of conservation of mass and momentum, and also reflecting complex nonlinear connections that cannot be captured within the simplification of the traditional structured models. The incorporation of physical constraints in neural network based models has been specifically useful in model working process and the physical rules that need to be maintained to make the models reliable and capable of extrapolation especially in cases of groundwater flow models, surface water groundwater processes and models of transport of the contaminants.

Combined with ensemble learning procedures and techniques of model combination, the reliability and effectiveness of hydrological predictions have increased greatly, as the strengths of different modelling methods have been used and the problems and inaccuracies of individual types of models have been minimised. The use of the random forest algorithms, gradient boosting machines and ensemble averaging methods have proved to be superior to deal with heterogeneous data sources, lack of patterns and seasonal variations that define the hydrological data sets. These ensemble methods are useful in convergent or fusing information about various data sources encompassing meteorological observations, satellite measurements and in-situ sensor networks to generate sound predictions that can be precise with different hydrological circumstances and across an array of geographical areas.

Also, advances in online learning algorithms and adaptive modeling frameworks have allowed the construction of water resources management systems working in real-time and able to continually modify their predictions and recommendations using streaming data collected over sensor networks and monitoring systems. Such adaptive systems are able to react to dynamic environmental conditions, constraints of operations and the goals of management and also continue to learn and update the models in order to ensure optimum performance under the conditions. The capacity to cope with non-stationary climate and changing system characteristics has been found vital in the application of water resources where impacts of climate change, changes in land uses, and infrastructure develop constantly change system behavior and response mechanisms.

6. Combination of Computational Intelligence and Industrially 4.0 Technologies

The exposure of the current computational intelligence methodologies to the Industry 4.0 technologies has presented such novel opportunities to transform civil engineering practice with the possibility of developing intelligent, networked, and autonomous systems that are able to manage optimal performances, oversee safety, and achieve superior sustainability of the entire infrastructure lifecycle. The usage of artificial intelligence combined with Internet of Things sensors, blockchain technologies, cloud computing platforms, and digital twin frameworks have made it possible to build the complete digital ecosystem that can monitor, analyze, and optimize the infrastructure systems in real-time, and simultaneously offer stakeholder actionable insights and predictive capabilities in terms of an informed decision-making process.

Edge computing architecture implemented with the help of intelligent algorithms is making the vision of distributed intelligence systems a reality capable to process data locally and network with the centralized platform where their data can be managed providing maximum performance even under limited network connectivity and minimized latency requirements of time-sensitive software. Such intelligent systems, so-called edge-based intelligent systems, are capable of real-time interpretation of sensor readings, development of autonomous control schemes, reaction to emergency situations in real-time, and assimilation of operational experience and sharing of the experience with other systems elements by means of secure data communication links.

The recent developments in everything related to federated learning patterns have solved privacy and security issues regarding the centralized data processing and managed to integrate collaborative learning between multiple systems of infrastructure and enterprises, respectively. Such decentralized learning mechanisms enable individual organizations to keep control of their information and yet contribute to joint intelligence that would serve to the benefit of the whole sector. The use of federated learning in civil engineering achieved the creation of resilient

models that will classify successfully in various physical areas, construction methods, and jurisdiction as well as save sensitive data and retain competitive marketing opportunities of involved parties.

The development of blockchain-based technologies combined with computational intelligence indicates a new level of control over the integrity of data and the creation of correct associations of trust relationships and secure collaboration amid multiple stakeholders within the framework of complex infrastructure projects. Smart contracts are able to automate decision-making processes that some predetermined conditions and instant measurements of real-time system performance, thus they reduce the administrative overhead and allow the management policy to be applied on a project at each phase with uniformity to obtain more consistent responses. The unalterable record of blockchain is able to create reliable audit track and verify compliance as well as performance evaluation in addition to allowing transparent sharing of information relevant among the authorised stakeholders.

Additionally, the introduction of augmented reality and virtual reality interface as well as the smart recommendation systems has shaped the interaction that engineers have with complex elements of infrastructure and visualization tools. Such immersive technology has the ability to place the outcomes of predictive analytics, optimization suggestions, and risk results over genuine, concrete structures, so that one can simply comprehend how complicated systems work and make a decision making procedure with multidisciplinary groups. The capability to conceive of projected states in the future and present conditions and the chances to overcome those particular predicaments have since become priceless when it comes to writing out infrastructure designs, maintain records, and training protocols that involve in-depth knowledge of the system interactions, as well as ways it may result in a failure.

7. Conclusion

The extensive survey of the computational intelligence applications used in the civil engineering areas made in this investigation shows the most dramatic transformation power that intelligent systems have attained in various engineering fields. Three core technologies, including advanced neural network architectures, evolutionary optimization algorithms, fuzzy logic systems and machine learning approach, have been united together to completely change the face of engineering practice by providing solutions to the seemingly unsolvable problems as well as leading to more accurate, efficient and reliable results through traditional engineering solutions. The pieces of evidence provided in the range of structural engineering, geotechnical applications, transportation systems, and hydraulic engineering make much clear that computational intelligence is no longer a supporting measure, which is yet another thing to be offered by engineering work.

This development of intelligent computational frameworks even an advancement in technology is not an isolated case; instead it is an entire paradigm shift towards the data-driven decision-making processes and the ability to handle the uncertainty, complexity and real-time requirements of adapting to the present infrastructure challenges. The above abilities of deep learning architectures to crunch multidimensional structural data, the proficiency of evolutionary algorithms to address complicated geotechnical optimization issues and the success of fuzzy logic systems to address uncertain transportation situations all demonstrate the coming of age of computational intelligence as a fundamental engineering field of study. Those advances have set new standards of performance regarding engineering and this has also introduced new frontiers of innovation and optimization.

Moreover, the combination of computational intelligence and Industry 4.0 tools has generated synergies with another effect of multiplying the value of individual technologies leading to complete digital ecosystems that can autonomously work, continuously learn and self-optimize. The merging of artificial intelligence with IoT sensors, blockchain technologies and digital twin frameworks has created the basis of smart infrastructure systems capable of monitoring their operation, anticipating maintenance related needs, and refining operational parameters without any human input. It is this technology convergence that has been especially useful in dealing with the growing complexity of the current-day infrastructure projects alongside enhancing the safety standards and lowering the levels of environmental impact.

The research results that have been listed in the previous sections of this analysis show the significant importance of the interdisciplinary cooperation of computer scientists, engineers and domain experts in building effective computational intelligence solutions to provide them to civil engineering purposes. The most effective implementations have not come through any single-handed approaches but through the efforts of many minds that integrate a profound knowledge of engineering theories with finely tuned computational techniques to come up with results that are physically realistic as well as exploiting the pattern recognitions and optimization capabilities

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of smart algorithms. Such interdisciplinary approach has been found necessary in the effort to make sure that the applications of computational intelligence meet the real-world engineering issues and not purely theoretical issues that lack much practical application.

In prospective, the new technologies, such as quantum computing, neuromorphic architectures, and explainable artificial intelligence described in this analysis, will likely extend the capacity and use of computational intelligence in civil engineering even further. The promise of quantum algorithms to transform the intractable optimization problems that have plagued the field to date, the energy-efficiency benefits of neuromorphic computation in embedded systems, and the growing level of transparency that explainable AI systems bring all point at the fact that the effects of computational intelligence in the civil engineering sphere are bound to maintain exponentially increasing levels of influence in the next several decades.

Sustainability implications of application of the computational intelligence are another critical aspect that will dominate future research in this area. Computational intelligence is a primary potential driver of the implementation of sustainability goals within the construction sector because the capability of smart systems to optimize designs of whole-lifecycles, taking into consideration the environmental impact and/or the efficiency of resource usage brings a new dimension, sustainability, to the architectural discipline. The combination of the logical foundations of a circular economy and environmental optimization standards in smart decision-making models will be very relevant as the regulatory demand for the responsible use of nature and the social demand of environmental stewardship are constantly changing.

Finally, it is concluded that the extensive overview of this work has been sufficient to determine that computational intelligence has already reached a certain maturity and proven efficiency that warrants its incorporation as one of the essential aspects of the modern civil engineering process. The reported advantages in various fields of application, the potential to resolve optimisation problems that are complex in nature, and the possibilities to interlink it with the emerging technology also mean that computational intelligence will be in the forefront in the development and advancement of the art of civil engineering. The next generation of the civil engineering profession will be critically dependent upon competent integration between human skill and intelligent needed computational processing to produce synergies formed by human innovativeness and the optimization functions of artificial intelligence.

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Conflicts of interest

The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare

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