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Computing with Words (CW or CWW) - A Paradigm Shift

Computing with Words (CW or CWW) is a system of computation which adds an important capability to traditional systems of computation—a capability to compute with information described in a natural language. Traditional systems of computation do not have this capability. The importance of CW derives from the fact that much of human knowledge is perception-based and is described in a natural language.

CW has important applications to decision analysis, question-answering systems, system modeling, specification and optimization, and mechanization of natural language understanding. What is important to note is that CW opens the door to a wide-ranging enlargement of the role of natural languages in scientific theories.

Lotfi A. Zadeh is a Professor in the Graduate School, Computer Science Division, Department of EECS, University of California, Berkeley. In addition, he is serving as the Director of BISC (Berkeley Initiative in Soft Computing). He is an alumnus of the University of Tehran, MIT and Columbia University. He held visiting appointments at the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ; MIT, Cambridge, MA; IBM Research Laboratory, San Jose, CA; AI Center, SRI International, Menlo Park, CA; and the Center for the Study of Language and Information, Stanford University. His earlier work was concerned in the main with systems analysis, decision analysis and information systems. His current research is focused on fuzzy logic, computing with words and soft computing, which is a coalition of fuzzy logic, neurocomputing, evolutionary computing, probabilistic computing and parts of machine learning.

Professor Zadeh is a Fellow of the IEEE, AAAS, ACM, AAI, and IFSA.

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