


## Paper Mill behind the Unusual Case

### where PRC Authors Called Taiwan "Republic of China"


Nowadays, the name "Republic of China" is not widely used to refer to Taiwan in academic articles, except for the those by Taiwan authors. However, the name was found 4 times on an article [1] with no Taiwan authors were listed.



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## Energy Reports

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### Optimal long-term prediction of Taiwan's transport energy by convolutional neural network and wildebeest herd optimizer

Shunyu Yao <sup>a,\*</sup>, Yi-Peng Xu <sup>b</sup>, Ehsan Ramezani <sup>c,\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> School of Sciences, Nanchang University, Nanchang, Jiangxi, 330000, China  
<sup>b</sup> School of Mathematical Sciences, Tiangong University, Xiqing, Tianjin, 300387, China  
<sup>c</sup> Department of Electrical Engineering, Amir Kabir University of Technology, Tehran, Iran



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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
<p><i>Article history:</i>            Received 2 November 2020            Received in revised form 6 December 2020            Accepted 16 December 2020            Available online 21 December 2020</p> <p><i>Keywords:</i></p>	<p>In this paper, an optimized model based on Convolutional neural network (CNN) models is proposed for transport energy forecasting in Republic of China (Taiwan). This study employs various self-reliant parameters including individual, gross domestic product, vehicle registrations' number, value of passenger transport, and oil price for modeling. To provide an optimized result of CNN, it is combined with newly defined wildebeest herd optimization algorithm and the model is called WHO/CNN. The model results are compared with multiple regression model and the basic CNN to show its higher</p>

The article [1] was co-authored by Shunyu Yao with Nanchang University (People's Republic of China, PRC), Yipeng Xu with Tiangong University (PRC), and Ehsan Ramezani with Amir Kabir University of Technology (Iran).

Authors from the PRC seldom call Taiwan "Republic of China" (RoC), because the PRC government and their people consider Taiwan a part of their country instead of another China. On the articles published on Elsevier with PRC authors and without Taiwan authors, Taiwan was never called RoC, except the article [1].

And authors from other nations, except for those having strong political relationship to Taiwan, usually do not call Taiwan "Republic of China", either. Iran has stronger political relationship to PRC than Taiwan, the Iranian authors may prefer Taiwan instead of RoC.

Indeed, on this article [1], the authors called the name "Taiwan" for most of the time, expect for 4 times, they called Taiwan "Republic of China". The 5GH Team has no details about why the authors did so, but the team also concerns about the coauthorship of this article and the others.

DOI	Submitted	Co-authors	Funding
10.1016/j.egy.2020.12.034	2020-11-02	Shunyu Yao (Nanchang University, PRC), Yi-Peng Xu (Tiangong University, PRC), <a href="#">Ehsan Ramezani (Amir Kabir University of Technology, Iran)</a>	
10.1016/j.egy.2020.11.168	2020-08-12	Ruijing Shi (Xinjiang University, PRC, and Xinjiang Institute of Engineering, PRC), Weiqing Wang (Xinjiang University, PRC), Zhi Yuan (Xinjiang University, PRC), Xiaochao Fan (Xinjiang University, PRC), <a href="#">Ehsan Ramezani (Amir Kabir University of Technology, Iran)</a>	Natural Science Foundation of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region of China (2017D01A26, 2016D01C062), the National Natural Science Foundation of China (51666017, 51667019, 51667020) and the 63rd general program of China Postdoctoral Science Foundation (2018M633608)
10.1016/j.egy.2021.04.058	2021-01-23	Kai Sun (Xi'an University of Posts and Telecommunications, PRC), Tuo Zhao (Xi'an University of Posts and Telecommunications, PRC), Zhaolin Li (Shaanxi Normal University, PRC), Lu Wang (Shaanxi Normal University, PRC), Ruichen Wang (Xi'an University of Posts and Telecommunications, PRC), Xijie Chen (Xi'an University of Posts and Telecommunications, PRC), Qing Yang (), <a href="#">Ehsan Ramezani (Amir Kabir University of Technology, Iran)</a>	National Natural Science Foundation of China (Grants No. 12004302) and Natural Science Foundation of Shanxi Province, China (2019JQ-105)

Until recently, Ehsan Ramezani, the third author of the article [1], has published 3 academic articles, according his Google Scholar profile [2]. All these 3 articles [1, 3-4] were published on "Energy Reports", an Elsevier title, and submitted within a short period between August, 2020 and January, 2021. Except for Ehsan Ramezani, these articles have no author in common, and all the co-authors were from China, thousands of kilo-meters away from Iran, raising concerns about their "cooperations".

Concerns on other issues about these articles [1, 3-4] were also raised. A PubPeer post [5] suggests that the article [1] cited several irrelevant references, and it also earned several irrelevant citations from other articles. Besides, the 5GH Team found some tortured phrases, like "climate alteration" and others, on the article [3]. Either the irrelevant citations or the tortured phrases are indicators of paper-mill articles.

The publications by Yipeng Xu, the second author of the article [1], are also problematic. According to the ResearchGate records, Yipeng Xu has published 25 articles until recently. Most of them were published in 2021 (14) and 2022 (9), one article was published in 2020, and one other was published in 2023. No further publications by XU after 2023 were found. Please find Reference [6] for details about these publications.

Most of these articles were co-authored by "researchers" from both PRC and other nation(s), mostly Iran, Saudi Arabia and other West Asia countries. The co-authors were affiliated to different universities across the main land of PRC, including top university, like Sun Yat-Sen University and others. Most of these co-authors cooperated with XU for only ONE time, with handful of them were listed on multiple articles. For some articles, authors from more than 4 distinct institutions were listed.

Yipeng Xu was affiliated to three institutions on the above-mentioned articles, namely, Tiangong University, Chongqing Technology and Business University, as well as Inner Mongolia University of Science and Technology. But the 5GH Team found no information about

XU on the websites of these universities, nor did the team find information about Chen She with Tiangong University, a "core author" of the Xu's articles, suggesting neither Xu nor She was a leader of a researcher group. Therefore, their cooperations with huge number of international authors during a short period are questionable, and these cooperations may be indicators of paper mill.

Publications by Yipeng Xu					
DOI	Journal	Year	Order	Xu's Affiliation(s)	Co-authors
10.1007/s10257-022-00615-x	Information Systems and e-Business Management	2023	Corresponding	Tiangong University	Wen Sun (Sun Yat-Sen University), Chen She (Tiangong University), Mohammad Khalilzadeh (CENTRUM Católica Graduate Business School, Peru, and Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, Peru), Hui-Zhen Mao (Southwestern University of Finance and Economics), Yi-Peng Xu
10.1016/j.suscom.2022.100827	Sustainable Computing: Informatics and Systems	2022	Corresponding	Tiangong University	Dong Pan (Southwest Minzu University Information and Educational Technology Center), Bei-Ning Wu (Anhui Normal University), Yi-Liu Sun (Nanjing University of Science and Technology), Yi-Peng Xu
10.1016/j.egy.2022.02.154	Energy Reports	2022	Co-first, Corresponding	(a) Chongqing Technology and Business University, (b) Tiangong University	Ping Ouyang (Chongqing Technology and Business University), Yi-Peng Xu, Lu-Yu Qi (Chongqing Technology and Business University, and Tiangong University), Hasan Jafari (Islamic Azad University, Iran)
10.1016/j.spc.2022.05.005	Sustainable Production and Consumption	2022	Co-first	(a) Inner Mongolia University of science and technology, (b) Tiangong University	Yi-Peng Xu, Run-Hao Liu (Inner Mongolia University of science and technology), Meng-Zhuo Shen (Nanjing Audit University), Zheng-Ang Lv (Central South University), Supat Chupradit (Chiang Mai University, Thailand), Ahmed Sayed M. Metwally (King Saud University, Saudi Arabia), Mika Sillanpaa (University of Johannesburg, South Africa, and Aarhus University, Denmark), Qian Qian (Kunming University of Science and Technology)
10.1016/j.jleo.2022.168581	Optik	2022	Co-first, Corresponding	Tiangong University	Ru-Jia Wang (Jiangsu University of Technology), Yi-Peng Xu, Chen She (Tiangong University), Mahyuddin Nasution (Universitas Sumatera Utara, Indonesia)
10.1002/adts.202100410	Advanced Theory and Simulations	2022	Third	Tiangong University	Wenming Cui (Shandong University of Finance and Economics), Li-Cai Zhao (National Taiwan University of Science and Technology, Taiwan), Yi-Peng Xu, Mina Mamlooki (University of Mohaghegh Ardabil, Iran)
10.1016/j.seta.2021.101688	Sustainable Energy Technologies and Assessments	2022	Co-first	Tiangong University	Zhen-Zhen Wu (Weifang University of Science and Technology), Yi-Peng Xu, Zhi-Lin Cheng (Tiangong University), Hong-Wei Sun (Weifang University of Science and Technology), Behnaz Papani (Texas A&M University, United States), Seyed Sajad Sajadi (Arak University of Technology, Iran), Farah Qasim (Lebanese French University, Iraq)
10.1016/j.icheatmasstransfer.2021.105787	International Communications in Heat and Mass Transfer	2021	Co-first	Tiangong University	Xue-De Luan (Weifang University of Science and Technology), Yi-Peng Xu, Hamdi Ayed (King Khalid University, Saudi Arabia, and University Sousse, Tunisia), Mahmoud M. Selim (Prince Sattam bin Abdulaziz University, Saudi Arabia, and Suez University, Egypt)
10.1016/j.scs.2022.103699	Sustainable Cities and Society	2022	Co-first, Corresponding	(a) Inner Mongolia University of science and technology, (b) Tiangong University	Yi-Peng Xu, Run-Hao Liu (Inner Mongolia University of science and technology), Lu-Yuan Tang (University of Chinese Academy of Sciences), Hao Wu (Shandong University of Science and Technology), Chen She (Tiangong University)
10.1016/j.energy.2022.123198	Energy	2022	Corresponding	Tiangong University	Kun Li (Weifang University of Science and Technology), Yi-Zhe Ding (Sichuan University), Chen Ai (Nanchang University), Hongwei Sun (Weifang University of Science and Technology), Yi-Peng Xu, Navid Nedaie (University of Tabriz, Iran)
10.1080/17455030.2021.2019351	Waves in Random and Complex Media	2022	Corresponding	Tiangong University	Jia-Ning Yu (Renmin University of China), Chen She (Tiangong University), Yi-Peng Xu, Shahab Esmaeili (Sharif University of Technology, Iran)
10.1016/j.est.2021.103763	Journal of Energy Storage	2021	Co-first	Tiangong University	Xin Liu (XPeng Inc.), Yi-Peng Xu, Hamdi Ayed (King Khalid University, Saudi Arabia, and University Sousse, Tunisia), Yahya Ali Rothan (Jazan University, Saudi Arabia), Mahmoud M. Selim (Prince Sattam bin Abdulaziz University, Saudi Arabia, and Suez University, Egypt)
10.1016/j.energy.2021.122800	Energy	2021	Co-first, Corresponding	Tiangong University	Jian Wang (CAS Institutes of Science and Development, and Shanwei Institute of Technology), Yi-Peng Xu, Chen She (Tiangong University), Ping Xu (Guangzhou Sport University, and Shanwei Institute of Technology), Hamid Asadi Bagal (Islamic Azad University, Iran)
10.1016/j.ast.2021.107299	Aerospace Science and Technology	2021	Co-first	Tiangong University	Qingji Tian (Weifang University of Science and Technology), Yi-Peng Xu, Nidal H. Abu-Hamdeh (King Abdulaziz University, Saudi Arabia), Abdullah M. Abusorrah (King Abdulaziz University, Saudi Arabia), Mahmoud M. Selim (Prince Sattam bin Abdulaziz University, Saudi Arabia and Suez University, Egypt)
10.1016/j.egy.2020.12.034	Energy Reports	2020	Second	Tiangong University	Shunyu Yao (Nanchang University), Yi-Peng Xu, Ehsan Ramezani (Amir Kabir University of Technology, Iran)
10.1016/j.egy.2021.08.134	Energy Reports	2021	Co-first	Tiangong University	Li-Na Guo (Yantai Nanshan University), Chen She (Tiangong University), De-Bin Kong (Yantai Nanshan University), Shuai-Ling Yan (Hengshui University), Yi-Peng Xu, Majid Khayatnezhad (Islamic Azad University, Iran), Fatemeh Gholinia (University of Mohaghegh Ardabil, Iran)
10.1016/j.egy.2021.02.028	Energy Reports	2021	Corresponding	Tiangong University	Jiaying Feng (Harbin University of Science and Technology), Xiaoguang Luo (Harbin University of Science and Technology), Mingzhe Gao (Harbin University of Science and Technology), Adnan Abbas (Harbin University of Science and Technology), Yi-Peng Xu, Somayeh Pouramini (University of Mohaghegh Ardabil, Iran)
10.1016/j.egy.2021.04.042	Energy Reports	2021	Co-first	Tiangong University	Yi-Peng Xu, Jing-Wen Tan (South China Normal University), Ding-Ju Zhu (South China Normal University), Ping Ouyang (Chongqing Technology and Business University), Bahman Taheri (Islamic Azad University, Iran)
10.1016/j.egy.2021.08.111	Energy Reports	2021	Corresponding	Tiangong University	Xin Yu (Nanchang University), Chen She (Tiangong University), Farid Gholizadeh (Islamic Azad University, Iran), Yi-Peng Xu
10.1016/j.egy.2021.04.046	Energy Reports	2021	Co-first	Tiangong University	Ping Ouyang (Chongqing Technology and Business University), Yi-Peng Xu, Lu-Yu Qi (Tiangong University), Si-Ming Xing (Chongqing Technology and Business University), Hadi Fooladi (Islamic Azad University, Iran)
10.1016/j.egy.2021.11.225	Energy Reports	2021	Last	Tiangong University	Jian Wang (CAS Institutes of Science and Development, and Shanwei Institute of Technology), Rui Jia (Beijing Jiaotong University), Jing Liang (Tiangong University), Chen She (Tiangong University), Yi-Peng Xu
10.1016/j.egy.2021.04.016	Energy Reports	2021	Co-first	Tiangong University	Yi-Peng Xu, Ping Ouyang (Chongqing Technology and Business University), Si-Ming Xing (Tiangong University), Lu-Yu Qi (Tiangong University), Majid khayatnezhad (Islamic Azad University, Iran), Hasan Jafari (Islamic Azad University, Iran)
10.1016/j.egy.2021.10.098	Energy Reports	2021	Corresponding	Tiangong University	Li Sun (Nanjing Tech University), Xue-Feng Han (Nanjing Tech University), Yi-Peng Xu, Navid Razmjoo (Tafresh University, Iran)
10.1016/j.egy.2021.08.198	Energy Reports	2021	Corresponding	Tiangong University	Chen She (Tiangong University), Rui Jia (Beijing Jiaotong University), Bei-Ning Hu (Hainan University), Ze-Kun Zheng (Hangzhou HFI Health Network Technology Co., Ltd.), Yi-Peng Xu, Dragan Rodriguez (Case Western Reserve University)
10.3390/en11454597	Energies	2021	Co-first, Corresponding	Tiangong University	Zi-Xuan Yu (South China University of Technology), Meng-Shi Li (South China University of Technology), Yi-Peng Xu, Sheraz Aslam (Cyprus University of Technology, Cyprus), Yuan-Kang Li (Tiangong University)

On one article [7] of Xu's publications, a fictitious author Dragan Rodriguez with Case Western Reserve University was listed. Several articles, including [8] and others, by Rodriguez were retracted due to Authorship-for-Sale and other issues.

With these reasons, the 5GH team believes a paper mill behind this matter, and it likely targeted an Elsevier title "Energy Reports". 10 of 25 articles by Xu were published on this Elsevier journal. And the team is asking for any input about identities for Xu and She.

[1] 10.1016/j.egy.2020.12.034

[2] Ehsan Ramezani's Google Scholar Profile

<<https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=lkJqhuoAAAAJ&hl=en&oi=ao>>

[3] 10.1016/j.egy.2020.11.168

[4] 10.1016/j.egy.2021.04.058

[5] A PubPeer Post on Article [1]

<<https://pubpeer.com/publications/7889B35DCD9910A707F002043FB1EC>>

[6] RoC.excel </WuGH/2024/RoC.excel>

[7] 10.1016/j.egy.2021.08.198

[8] 10.1016/j.bspc.2023.104645

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