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International Federation of Automatic Control

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Newsletter

IFAC Fellows 2007 Appointed

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The IFAC Fellow award provides a distinction of excellence in the Federation and is conferred to a small number of outstanding scientists or engineers by the IFAC Council, based on the proposal of the Fellow Selection Committee (FSC). The FSC Committee considers:

- Outstanding and extraordinary individual contributions in the fields of interest of IFAC in the role as an Engineer/Scientist, Technical Leader or Educator. These achievements shall be recorded as technical publications, patents, reports, systems products or/and applications, services or/and proven teaching activities.
- Opinions of Fellow references.
- Involvement in IFAC activities.

Any control scientist or engineer can be a candidate for the IFAC Fellow position. Exceptionally, he/she could have no prior involvement in IFAC activities, if he/she is very outstanding, but he/she should become involved in IFAC after becoming a Fellow.

For the third time, nominations for IFAC Fellowship were invited to be received by December 31, 2006. The requirements for nominations as given above, were widely announced by letter, in the IFAC Newsletter and on the IFAC website. The nominations which were received, accompanied by the references were distributed to the members of the Fellow Selection Committee. After careful analysis, a shortlist of candidates was submitted to the IFAC Council for approval.

Thus we can now announce that the following distinguished scientists will forthwith be IFAC Fellows. The award will be presented to most of them in the framework of the IFAC Council- and Related Meetings on June 28, 2007, which will this year be held in conjunction with the IFAC Symposium on Aerospace in Toulouse, France.

For those who cannot attend, other suitable occasions, such as the IFAC Congress in Seoul in 2008 will be used to present the award.

Frank Allgöwer, University of Stuttgart

Jose B. Cruz, Ohio State University



For contributions to chemical process control and nonlinear control, and for leadership in control education.



For sustained contributions to sensitivity analysis and control of large scale systems with multiple goals, and for exemplary long-term service to the engineering profession.

Jean Michel Dion, Lab d'Automatique de Grenoble



For pioneering contributions in the fields of linear system theory, adaptive control, robust control, and time delay systems with application to electromechanical systems.

Vladimir Kucera, Czech Technical University



For leadership and seminal contributions to control theory.

Edoardo Mosca, University of Florence



For contributions to adaptive and predictive control.

Christos Georgakis, Tufts University



For seminal methodological contributions to chemical process control and for fostering highly productive Industry/University research collaborations.

Ioan D. Landau, Lab d'Automatique de Grenoble



For contributions to adaptive control and system identification and their applications.

Roberto Tempo, Politecnico di Torino



For contributions to the analysis and control of uncertain systems, for pioneering the probabilistic approach to robustness.

Hassan Khalil, Michigan State University



For contributions to singular perturbation theory, nonlinear feedback control and control education.

Lei Guo, Chinese Academy of Sciences



For fundamental contributions to the theory of adaptive control and estimation of stochastic systems, and to the understanding of the maximum capability of feedback.

Paul van den Hof, Delft University of Technology



For fundamental contributions to system identification and its relation to control design.

Hidenori Kimura, Riken University



For contributions to the theory of robust control and its applications to industrial processes and automobile control.

Wolfgang Marquardt, Aachen University



For important contributions to chemical process control and leadership in engineering education and research.

Fei-Yue Wang, Chinese Academy of Sciences



For outstanding contributions to intelligent control systems and their applications.

Informal Meeting of the IFAC Officers Laxenburg, Austria, April 27 – 28, 2007

As in the years before, the spring season is the time, when the IFAC Officers meet in Laxenburg, for their annual meeting. This get-together serves the purpose of discussing the overall situation of the Federation without, however, taking any decisions, which is the privilege, right and duty of the IFAC Council and of the General Assembly.

The opportunity of visiting Austria, Vienna and the Secretariat in Laxenburg is also often preceded by a technical lecture, given by one of the participants on the day before the actual meeting takes place.

This time, it was Prof. Alberto Isidori, President-Elect, from the Università degli Studi di Roma „La Sapienza“,



who spoke on the following subject: “Limit Sets, Steady-State, Observers and Output Regulation of Nonlinear Systems”. This lecture presented a set of recent results on the problem of asymptotic disturbance rejection and trajectory tracking for nonlinear systems. The approach bases on a natural notion of steady-state response for nonlinear systems, which embeds and adapts to the current design problem the classical concept of limit set of a dynamical system. First of all it is shown how the new approach leads to a non-equilibrium enhancement of the internal model principle, which can be expressed as a property of an attractor for the combined dynamics of the exogenous signal generator and of the so-called zero-dynamics of the plant to be controlled. Then, the actual design problem is considered, and it is shown how the internal model thus identified can be embedded into a controller so as to achieve the desired tracking properties. Instrumental, in this part of the analysis, are the theory of nonlinear (possibly adaptive)

IFAC’s New Website

At the beginning of the Informal Meeting of the IFAC Officers in Laxenburg, the newly developed IFAC website went online being inaugurated by IFAC’s President Prof. Kwon.

Mr. Harald Albrecht, the new member of the IFAC Secretariat staff has developed this website over the past months, assisted by the other members of the Secretariat

IFAC always tries to supply professionals, theorists, engineers, researchers, students, or representatives of technical societies, working in the field of automatic control with the latest and most up-to-date information about its activities, the events and its publications. Obviously, the worldwide web nowadays is THE instrument without alternative to bring this information to people. IFAC has been present in the WEB since the nineties. The first version of an IFAC homepage was created by Juan de la Puente, followed by the version in use between 2000 and April 2007, which was originally developed by Alfons Crespo and later up-

observers as well as some enhancements of the classical converse Lyapunov results for systems possessing compact attractors.

The meeting as such took place the following two days and was started by an introductory presentation of the newly developed IFAC website. Harald Albrecht, the new member of the IFAC Secretariat staff showed the new features of the IFAC website, which could then immediately be made operational.

As always, the meeting is of an informal character, and no decisions are taken. It is, however, very useful to discuss the current situation in the Federation, the direction which it is taking, prepare for the forthcoming Council Meeting, and, of course, to visit the IFAC Secretariat and meet representatives of the Austrian NMO and of the Austrian authorities supporting the IFAC Secretariat by providing computer-related, and administrative support (as is done by the Austrian Academy of Sciences) as well as financial support by subsidizing the premises and part of the payroll costs of the Secretariat (as is done by the Austrian Ministries of Science and Research and the one on Infrastructure). Incidentally, the President of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, Prof. P. Schuster had paid a visit to the IFAC President, Prof. W.H. Kwon in Seoul, Korea, on the occasion of a State Visit of the Austrian Federal President, Dr. H. Fischer in Korea. This again, strengthens the personal and scientific links between the Federation and Austria, as the Seat of the IFAC Secretariat.

Important issues of the discussions held during the two-day meeting were, of course, the new direction, meeting publications are taking, with introducing “IFAC PapersOnLine”. This important development requires careful and intensive preparations. In the framework of the forthcoming Council- and Related Meetings in Toulouse, the newly appointed Editor-in-Chief of IFAC Papers OnLine, Prof. A.J. de la Puente, will make a presentation, familiarizing the IFAC Officials with the new publication system.

All in all, the days in Vienna were very fruitful, intensive, yet pleasant, including also some cultural highlights, which could be enjoyed in the evenings.

Kurt Schlacher

dated by an Austrian company. This second website already included automated updates, based on the database maintained at the Secretariat.

Increasing requirements and developments led to the decision to replace the old, purely html-based website, by a content management system (CMS), which supports the handling of data files, image media, audio files, electronic documents and web contents. This eases the task to make files available for administrative purposes, as well as to publish web content available to everybody.

After some discussions it was decided to use Plone (<http://plone.org/>), an open-source content management system built on top of the Zope application server. Plone is free software and is released under the GNU General Public License; in addition major development goes on periodically. The Plone Foundation (<http://plone.org/foundation>) owns and protects all intellectual property and trademarks. Plone’s strength is accessibility security and multi-linguality. Zope (<http://www.zope.org/>) is

an open-source, object-oriented web application server made available under Zope public license. Zope stands for „Z Object Publishing Environment.“ It can be almost fully managed with a web-based user interface. It is worth mentioning that Plone can be combined with the database server MySQL or with PostgreSQL via Zope.

Here we also want to express our thanks the Austrian Academy of Sciences. The new system requires more computing resources, or to be more precise, an own web server. The Academy did not only provide this server to IFAC, it hosts the server and takes care of its maintenance.

In the future, several web activities will follow this step, including special-purpose websites, and database services for event organizers. Thus, for instance, the website of the Technical Board (<http://kepo.hut.fi/IFAC/>) will be fully incorporated into the new site. Although these technical details are of great interest one should not forget: the main goal of this system is to serve our community in the best manner. As before the Secretariat will check all data to keep the quality of the internal data bases on its high level. There are some things only men (or women) can do. In addition, we are happy to receive comments from you, our readers, and we will be pleased to include suggested changes.

Send your comments to: feedback@ifac.co.at

Kurt Schlacher

The IFAC Secretariat is Growing

In the course of the past years, the demands on the IFAC Secretariat have grown consistently. This is mainly due to an increase of tasks, mainly basing on the possibilities offered by electronic communication. When IFAC started 50 years ago, it was mechanical typewriters, letters, taking their time to get from point A to point B. Later on, electric typewriters, Telex machines were already a great step forward. Thus, reaction times were slow, decisions, opinion-forming all taking their time. The Newsletter was layouted manually.

All this started to change with the first electronic equipment installed at the Secretariat. At the beginning this was only for the use of address material. In the 80ies finally, the first PC came to the IFAC office in Laxenburg, with the “enormous” capacity of 40 MB storage. Ever since then perhaps not so many years have passed, but operating modes have changed tremendously. Reaction times to requests are practically instantaneous, the IFAC website has developed from static to completely dynamic, with the Secretariat staff being enabled and capable of making changes themselves.

Such developments require specialists to deal with them. Thus, it was finally decided not to rely on frequently changing outside experts, with a lot of knowhow being lost, when the specialist disappeared or was no longer available (which is a frequent phenomenon in this business). It was therefore finally decided to employ a specialist for the Secretariat, to develop the new website, which is already operational and to develop a new database and quite in general, support the other administrative staff at the Secretariat in handling all the electronic equipment.

This person is Mr. Harald Albrecht, who we shall introduce to you in the next issue of the IFAC Newsletter.

Kurt Schlacher

Cost Oriented Automation IFAC Symposium La Habana, Cuba February 13 – 15, 2007

The 8th Symposium on Cost Oriented Automation focused on "Affordable Automation Systems" and was held in the beautiful city of La Habana, Cuba, February 13 – 15, 2007. It was hosted by the Cuban NMO together with the Technical University of Habana, and embedded in "INFORMATICA 2007", the XII Convención y Expo Internacional, an event drawing more than 1000 participants.

The symposium was attended by 109 participants from 14 countries, 45 papers and 5 keynote lectures were presented. It was divided in special sessions on: Collaborative Networks, Robotics (mini-robots), Collaborative Learning and Work Environments, e-Maintenance Strategies, and Embedded Systems. Regular contributions were devoted to low cost components, instruments, and control systems.

The keynotes were given by well-known colleagues: Future Trends in Process Automation (L. Jämsä-Jounela, Helsinki), Industrial and Commercial Applications of Mobile Mini-Robots (P. Kopacek, Wien), Improving Systems Safety and Reliability by better Human-Machine Interface (J. Szyptko, Craow), Robust Control Design via Polynomial Methods (M. Sebek, Prague), Embedded Systems in Control: From Design to Implementation (A. Crespo, Valencia). A panel discussion on Technology Transfer from Universities to Industry, chaired by M. Thoma (Hannover) closed the symposium.

The symposium was the first IFAC event in Cuba. It was well organized, and we have to thank the local organizers Prof. Orestes Llanes Santiago and Sra. Mercedes Garcia Vázquez for all their effort to make the stay of the foreign participants as pleasant as possible. The last evening we were invited to a performance of the Ballet Nacional de Cuba in the old Gran Teatro de la Habana.

Heinz-H. Erbe (on behalf of Wei Wang)

Discrete Event System Design DESDES'06 IFAC Workshop Rydzyzna Castle, Poland 26 – 28 September, 2006

The 3rd IFAC Workshop on Discrete-Event System Design (<http://www.desdes.uz.zgora.pl>) was held at Rydzyzna Castle near Leszno (Poland) on the 26th-28th September, 2006. The old classicistic residence of Polish king Stanislaw Leszczyński was a perfect background for discussions on recent development and modern technology. The Workshop was organized for the third time by the Computer Engineering and Electronics Department from the University of Zielona Góra and for the first time under IFAC sponsorship. The main IFAC sponsor was the Technical Committee TC 3.1 on Computers for Control and, from the Polish side, the Workshop was co-sponsored by Polish Society for Measurement, Automatic Control and Robotics (POLSPAR).

The aim of the Workshop was to bring researchers and practitioners from universities and industry together, and provide them with a platform for formal presentations, discussions, and informal meetings covering recent advances and current issues in theory, applications, and technology of embedded digital systems design. Organizers received 61 papers, and 52 were accepted for presentation during the Workshop. The contributions came from 14 countries: Belarus (5), the Czech Republic (4), France (3), Germany (5), Italy (1), Portugal (2), Romania (1), South Africa (1), Spain (3), Turkey (1), Ukraine (1), the United Kingdom (1), the United States (1) and Poland (23). Plenary presentations of the Workshop were held in 9 sessions:

- Formal Methods in Digital Design,
- Testing and Verification,
- Special Aspects of Discrete Control,
- PLC and RLC,
- Digital Design,
- Petri Nets and UML,
- System Design,
- Real-Time Systems,
- Hardware Implementation.

In the industry session, a Sun Microsystems' representative delivered a presentation entitled "Sun Microsystems' Products in Discrete-Event Systems Design", and a Mentor Graphics' representative gave a lecture on "Mentor Graphics' Solutions for Today's Design and Verification Challenges". In the tutorial session, Workshop participants attended two interesting lectures entitled "Discrete Event Dynamic Systems - An (Max,+) Algebraic Approach" and "On Partial Reconfiguration of FPGA Devices".

Regular industry and tutorial sessions were not the only points of the Workshop. Within the social part of the Workshop the participants had the opportunity to tour Wielkopolska region (historically known as the Great Poland) and visit the famous Racot Horse Stud with its classicist 18th century Palace of the Jabłonowskis Dukes.

We believe that the mixture of Old Polish culture and tradition with modern technology created friendly atmosphere and gave an excellent opportunity to make new and tighten old contacts, exchange experiences and present new ideas.

We are grateful to the members of the International Program Committee who have done a remarkable job in reviewing the papers submitted to the Workshop. Special thanks are due to the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education and the companies: Sun Microsystems and Mentor Graphics for their financial support. We also direct our thanks to The City Hall of Zielona Góra.

Marian Adamski, Luis Gomes, Marek Węgrzyn and Grzegorz Łabiak – Conference IPC and NOC Chairs of DESDes '06

The Tables of Contents of the IFAC Journals can be found respectively at

Automatica

<http://www.elsevier.com/locate/automatica>

Control Engineering Practice

<http://www.elsevier.com/locate/conengprac>

Engineering Applications of Artificial Intelligence

<http://www.elsevier.com/locate/engappai>

Journal of Process Control

<http://www.elsevier.com/locate/jprocont>

Annual Reviews in Control

<http://www.elsevier.com/locate/arcontrol>

Journal on Mechatronics

<http://www.elsevier.com/locate/mechatronics>

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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Title	2007	Place	Further Information
IFAC Symposium Computer Applications in Biotechnology – CAB-10	June 04 – 06	Cancun Mexico	http://www.cab2007.org/ e-mail: secretariat@cab2007.org
IFAC Symposium Dynamics and Control of Process Systems – DYCOPS-8	June 06 – 08	Cancun Mexico	http://www.dycops2007.org/ e-mail: secretariat@dycops2007.org
IEEE/IFAC Intl. Workshop Robot Motion and Control – RoMoCo'07	June 11 – 13	Bukowy Poland	http://romoco.put.poznan.pl/ e-mail: krzysztof.kozlowski@put.poznan.pl
IFAC Workshop Dependable Control of Discrete Systems – IFAC DCDS07	June 13 – 15	Paris France	http://www.japura.lurpa.ens-cachan.fr/dcds07/ e-mail: dcds07@lurpa.ens-cachan.fr
Strep-Necst/IFAC Workshop Networked Control Systems: Tolerant to Faults	June 20 – 21	Nancy France	http://www.strep-necst.org/3rdworkshop e-mail: eric.rondeau@cran.uhp-nancy.fr
IFAC Symposium Automatic Control in Aerospace	June 25 – 29	Toulouse France	http://aca2007.onera.fr e-mail: aca2007@oncert.fr
2007 European Control Conference – in cooperation with IFAC –	July 02 – 05	Kos Greece	http://www.ecc07.ntua.gr/ e-mail: ecc07@mail.ntua.gr
IFAC Workshop Convergence of Information Technologies and Control Methods with Power Plants and Power Systems	July 09 – 11	Cluj-Napoca Romania	http://conference.utcluj.ro/icps07 e-mail: icps07@conference.utcluj.ro
2007 American Control Conference – in cooperation with IFAC –	July 11 – 13	New York NY, USA	http://www.a2c2.org/conferences/acc2007/ e-mail: judd@ohio.edu
IFAC Symposium Robot Control – SYROCO 2009	July 10 – 12	Gifu City Japan	http://www.syroco2009.org/ e-mail: syroco2009_office@syroco2009.org
IFAC Symposium 11th Large Scale Systems: Theory and Applications	July 23 – 25	Gdansk Poland	http://www.ely.pg.gda.pl/lss2007 e-mail: lss2007@ely.pg.gda.pl
IFAC Workshop Control of Distributed Parameter Systems	July 24 – 26	Namur Belgium	http://www.fundp.ac.be/sciences/cdps07/ e-mail: joseph.winkin@math.fundp.ac.be e-mail: dochain@csma.ucl.ac.be
IFAC Symposium 5th Advances in Automotive Control	August 20 – 22	Seascape Resort Aptos, CA USA	http://aac2007.stanford.edu/ e-mail: roelle@stanford.edu
IFAC Symposium 12th Automation in Mining, Mineral and Metal Processing – MMM	August 21 – 24	Quebec City Canada	http://www.gch.ulaval.ca/ifacmmm07/ e-mail: ifacmmm07@gel.ulaval.ca
IFAC Symposium 7th Nonlinear Control Systems – NOLCOS	August 22 – 24	Pretoria South Africa	http://www.nolcos2007.org.za e-mail: noc@nolcos2007.org.za
IEEE/IFAC Confrence Methods and Model in Automation and Robotics – MMAR	August 27 – 30	Szczecin Poland	http://www.mmar.edu.pl/ e-mail: mmar@mmar.edu.pl
IFAC Workshop Adaptive and Learning in Control and Signal Processing – ALCOSP 07 in conjunction with	August 29 – 31	St. Petersburg Russia	http://conf.physcon.ru/alcosp07/ e-mail: alcosp07@physcon.ru
IFAC Workshop Periodic Control Systems – PSYCO 07	August 29 – 31	St. Petersburg Russia	http://conf.physcon.ru/psyco07/ e-mail: psyco07@physcon.ru
IFAC Symposium 6th Intelligent Autonomous Vehicles – IAV	September 03 – 05	Toulouse France	http://www2.laas.fr/iav2007 e-mail: iav2007@laas.fr
IFAC Conference Modeling and Designing Distributed Control Systems in Agriculture- – AGRICONTROL 2007	September 03 – 05	Osijek Croatia	http://www.agricontrol.org e-mail: secretary@agricontrol.org
IFAC Symposium Analysis, Design and Evaluation of Human-Machine Systems	September 04 – 06	Seoul Korea	http://www.ifac-hms-2007.com/ e-mail: wcyoon@kaist.ac.kr

FORTHCOMING EVENTS (ctd)

Title	2007	Place	Further Information
CACHE/IFAC 2nd Conference Foundations of Systems Biology	September 09 – 12	Stuttgart Germany	http://www.fosbe.org e-mail: witteler@zsb.uni-stuttgart.de
IFAC Workshop Time Delay Systems	September 17 – 19	Nantes France	http://www.irccyn.ec-nantes.fr/TDS07/ e-mail: Jean-Fracois.Lafay@irccyn.ec-nantes.fr
EWICS/IFAC Conference Computer Safety, Reliability and Security – SAFECOMP 2007	September 18 – 21	Nuremberg Germany	http://www.safecomp.org/ e-mail: safecomp2007@informatik.uni-erlangen.de
IFAC Conference Control Applications in Marine Systems – CAMS 2007	September 19 – 21	Bol Croatia	http://www.cams07.fer.hr/ e-mail: zoran.vukic@fer.hr
IFAC Conference Management and Control of Production and Logistics – MCPL'2007	September 27 – 30	Sibiu Romania	http://mcpl2007.ulbsibiu.ro e-mail: mcpl2007@ulbsibiu.ro
IFAC Conference Cost Effective Automation in Networked Product Development and Manufacturing	October 02 – 05	Monterrey Mexico	http://cidyt.mty.itesm.mx/ifac-CEA07 e-mail: IFACcea07.mty@servicios.itesm.mx
IFAC Symposium Computational Economics & Financial Systems	October 09 – 11	Istanbul Turkey	http://www.ifac-cefis.org/ e-mail: contact@ifac-cefis.org
IFAC Symposium System Structure and Control – SSSC 2007	October 17 – 19	Foz do Iguacu Brazil	http://sssc07.ece.ufrgs.br/ e-mail: sssc07@ece.ufrgs.br
IFAC Workshop Advanced Fuzzy and Neural Control	October 29 – 30	Valenciennes France	http://www.univ-valenciennes.fr/congres/afnc07/ e-mail: afnc07-chair@univ-valenciennes.fr
IFAC Workshop Fieldbus and Networks in Industrial and Embedded Systems – FeT 2007	November 07 – 09	Toulouse France	http://www.fet2007.org/ e-mail: contact-fet2007@laas.fr
IFAC Workshop Manufacturing Modelling, Management and Control – MIM 2007	November 14 – 16	Budapest Hungary	http://www.conferences.hu/mim2007 e-mail: mim2007@conferences.hu
Title	2008	Place	Further Information
10th Intl. Workshop Variable Structure Systems – VSS'08	June 08 – 10	Antalya Turkey	http://www.mecha.ee.boun.edu.tr/VSS2008/ e-mail: to be announced
American Control Conference – in cooperation with IFAC	June 12 – 14	Seattle, WA USA	http://www.a2c2.org/conferences/acc2008/ e-mail: to be announced
17th IFAC WORLD CONGRESS	July 06 – 11	Seoul Korea	http://www.ifac2008.org e-mail: Secretariat@ifac2008.org
IFAC Workshop 9th Intelligent Manufacturing Systems – IMS 2008	October 09 – 10	Szczecin Poland	http://ims08.ps.pl e-mail: ims08@ps.pl
IFAC Workshop 3rd Fractional Differentiation and its Applications – FDA'08	November 05 – 07	Ankara Turkey	http://www.cankaya.edu.tr/fda08 e-mail: fda08@cankaya.edu.tr
Title	2009	Place	Further Information
IFAC Symposium Fault Detection, Supervision and Safety for Technical Processes – SAFEPROCESS	June 30 – July 3	Barcelona Spain	http://www-esaiterrassa.upc.es/safeprocess2009 e-mail: to be announced
IFAC Symposium Identification and System Parameter Estimation – SYSID'09	July 06 – 08	St. Malo France	http://www.sysid2009.org/ e-mail: secretariat-sysid2009@irisa.fr
IFAC Symposium Advanced Control of Chemical Processes ADCHEM	July 12 – 15	Istanbul Turkey	http:// to be announced e-mail: to be announced
IFAC Symposium Robot Control. – SYROCO 2009	September 10 – 12	Gifu Japan	http://www.syroco.org e-mail: syroco2009_office@syroco2009.org
Title	2010	Place	Further Information
IFAC Symposium Nonlinear Control Systems – NOLCOS 2010	date to be defined	Bologna Italy	http://www.nolcos2010.unibo.it/ e-mail: lmarconi@deis.unibo.it
IFAC Symposium Mining, Mineral and Metal Processing	August 02 – 04	Cape Town South Africa	http:// to be announced e-mail: to be announced