IFAC International Federation of Automatic Control

2011 No. 4 August

Newsletter

XVIIIth IFAC World Congress
Milan, Italy, August 28 – September 2, 2011

Contents:

The opening ceremony on August 28th, as well as the banquet of September 1st, will take place in the Milano Congress Center MiCo. The congress technical sessions from Monday 29 August to 2 September, as well as the closing ceremony of September 2nd, will be held at UCSC (Universita' Cattolica del Sacro Cuore).

A rough timetable is given below

TIME SLOT	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	TIME SLOT	Friday
08:30 09:30		Plenary	Plenary	Plenary	Plenary	08:30 10:30	Technical Session
09:30 10:00		Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	10:30 11:00	Coffee Break
10:00 12:00		Technical Session	Technical Session	Technical Session	Technical Session	11:00 13:00	Technical Session
12:00 13:30		Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	13:00 14:30	Lunch
13:30 15:30		Technical Session	Technical Session	Technical Session	Technical Session	14:30 16:00	Historical Plenary
15:30 16:00		Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	16:15 20:30	Closing Ceremony and Farewell Reception
16:00 18:00		Technical Session	Technical Session	Technical Session	Technical Session		
18:15 19:15	Opening Ceremony and Welcome Reception	Plenary	Plenary	Plenary			
19:15 19:30							
19:30 20:00							
20:00 22:30					Banquet		

■ At MiCo – Milano Congressi Center   ■ ■ At Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore

The technical program consists of five Plenary Lectures, four Parallel Plenary Lectures, 26 parallel sessions (regular, invited and interactive), and three Panel Sessions.

In the afternoon of Friday, September 2nd, prior to the closing ceremony, a historical plenary panel session will take place: Plugging into the Origins of IFAC: the IFAC World Congress of 1960.

The program is complemented with a set of cultural events to be held during the midday lunch break.

For more detail you are cordially invited to visit the Congress website www.ifac2011.org

IFAC General Assembly
Milan, Italy, August 29, 2011
IFAC Council- and Related Meetings
Milan, Italy, August 26 – September 3, 2011

The time of the triennial IFAC World Congress is also the time, when the IFAC General Assembly, consisting of the National Member Organizations from more than 50 countries come together to listen when IFAC Officers and Officials report on the activities of the past three years. The NMO delegates take decisions on issues and motions presented, they consider the financial figures presented by the Treasury and vote on the indemnification of the Treasurer.

One of the most important tasks then is to vote in the new team of Officers and Officials, who are entrusted with managing the Federation from 2011 to 2014.

In addition to the delegates from IFAC's National Member Organizations, representatives of organizations from non-IFAC countries are invited to the General Assembly as observers.

In the days preceding the General Assembly, the various IFAC Committees and Boards as well as the Council meet to give account and to sum up the business of the triennium from 2008 - 2011. In the days following the General Assembly, the newly elected and appointed IFAC officials meet for the first time again in their respective Committees and Boards. There is always great care taken that on the one hand, continuity is preserverd, while on the other hand, new developments and trends are heeded.

Needless to say how proud and grateful IFAC can be that all these services to IFAC are voluntary and unpaid. The only constant cost factors for the Federation are the

- operation of the Secretariat, where lean but efficient management with the best staff and excellent cutting edge electronic equipment is the rule.

- the operation of IFAC PapersOnLine

- the IFAC Foundation

In the next issues of the IFAC Newsletter we will bring further reports on the administrative meetings and introduce the new operative persons who will be elected and appointed in Milan.

In this Newsletter, we should like to present to you another large group of volunteers working for and within IFAC. Technical Board Chair and Vice-President Iven Mareels will present this group of people, who are the many members of IFAC Technical Committees.

reviewing, reading proposals and expressing value judgments. However there are opportunities for organizing workshops, introducing new ideas, and developing new activities.

For example

How does IFAC improve its www-presence?
How do we in IFAC start webinars?
Is there room for an IFAC TC LinkedIn grouping?

How do we make use of modern communication technology to represent a true picture of the field to the broad community (really if we do this, it is not for the specialists, but for the non-specialist audiences that we should cater).

So, what is in it for you?

First there is the knowledge that you work with excellent colleagues for the furthering of automation and control, to ensure quality conferences are held and quality publications represent the true effort and progress in the field. Perhaps more important is that you build your own career, and improve your own promotion prospects by being associated with a world class organization. (We realize that IFAC perhaps does not recognize very formally all the efforts of all volunteers. If that is an aspect we need to improve, we would like to hear about this, and know how and what recognition would be most beneficial.) Even more important however is that we build careers for up-and-coming young researchers and through IFAC make a difference.

The future for IFAC is indeed bright. Control and automation are at the focal point of so many activities, now more than ever authorities and companies, industries and organizations more broadly are starting to see the benefit of making infrastructure smart, at scales never imagined before. IFAC should be well placed to inform these discussions and create immense impact in such diverse areas as biomedical engineering, biotechnology, geo-engineering and perhaps most important of all, sustainable living on our planet. The fact that IFAC draws its volunteers from across the globe, and is an organization truly without borders, or national identity, should be an enormously important asset to be able to provide meaningful input in the global debate around sustainability.

Comments, opinions and volunteering effort are welcome!

Iven Mareels
Vice-President
Chair of the Technical Board

IFAC and its Volunteer Work Force

Iven Mareels

At the heart of the IFAC is the conference organization work of the Technical Board. The entire Technical Board is supported through a large body of volunteers, about 1600 strong. These people represent a significant part of the world effort in research and development across the broad area of control and automation. Their main work is to ensure that there are appropriate conferences, workshops and symposia to disseminate widely progress in control and automation. IFAC conferences need to reach a broad audience as well. Appropriateness is therefore not only expressed through technical competence (a sine qua non for an IFAC conference). IFAC workshops and conferences are equally there to facilitate participation and communication and ensure that the expertise of the community is represented in the right fora, so that decision makers and „consumers" of automation are informed of progress in the field, what can and cannot be done (the latter being more important than the former).

Clearly IFAC has a number of significant advantages compared to similar organizations around the world. First the barriers to participation are minimal. Secondly, and in line with the first advantage, IFAC embraces all aspects of the domain of automation and control, from the esoteric theory to appropriate implementation, and socio-economic impact of automation and control. It can do better in terms of industry participation, and that is one area where the TB is going to pay attention to in its next triennium. Finally, it is truly a worldwide organization, global and without borders, without political persuasion being purely motivated by knowledge, and engineering.

To illustrate the simplicity of individual participation, note in particular that there is no personal fee associated with belonging to the IFAC family, as the organizational fee burden is currently carried by 51 National Member Organizations (NMOs) (not quite a united nations, but nevertheless a substantial multi-national representation) that ensure that IFAC is a properly registered and functioning organization.

However, participating and volunteering do entail significant responsibility as well. It is not sufficient to say, I am interested. There is work to be done. As we are all volunteers with a bit more than a 9 to 5 job already, volunteering is about giving back to the community above and beyond normal duties. IFAC has to rely on the old saying „many hands make light work", meaning that as you/we volunteer, IFAC expects--- no…relies on a minimal time commitment and that guidelines are going to be followed. All efforts are coordinated through Technical Committees and Coordinating Committees, overseen by a Board. IFAC must rely on all volunteers to chip in appropriately, and hence when you say I am in, means you are going to contribute, and others are going to rely on this effort. The main effort is indeed in

2011 Fellows Elected

In this Newsletter we continue introducing the Fellows elected in 2011 to our readers.

Jian Song

Dr. Jian Song is a distinguished scientist in the fields of control theory, system engineering and aerospace technology. He received the Candidate of Science (PhD equivalent) in 1960 from MBTY, and a Doctor of Science in 1990 from the Moscow National Technical University.

He is a member of China's Academy of Sciences and a foreign member of the National Academy of Engineering (US), Russian Academy of Sciences, Swedish Royal Academy of Technical Sciences (IVA), and others. Lack of space does not allow to list all of them.

Over the last four decades, he has accomplished tremendous achievements in the fields of control theory, guided missile and aerospace technology, and population control theory. He made significant contributions to the development of S&T and environmental protection in China. It was Song who first proposed nation building through technology and education in 1995 which has become one of the three key national development strategies. He also made great contributions to a diverse array of disciplines including optimal control, distributed parameter systems control described by partial differential equations, engineering cybernetics, and population control theory. He formulated and proved the "Theorem of Double-edged Limit of Total Fertility Rates," which is an important theorem in demography and provides a scientific foundation for formulation of China's family planning program. He initiated and successfully carried out the "Sparks Program" aimed at alleviating rural poverty and developing rural/township enterprises throughout China. He also initiated and guided the implementation of the "Torch Program", which has spearheaded the development of high-tech industries across China, as well as the "863 Program" (high-tech research) and "Climbing Program" (fundamental science research).

For his academic accomplishments and scientific/ engineering contributions, Song has been conferred a number of honors and awards both at home and abroad. He is among the first to be awarded „Most Distinguished Young Scientist" award in China. In 1987, Song was conferred the highest National Award for Scientific and Technological Progress for his achievements in population control study. In the same year, he became the recipient of the Albert Einstein Award, the highest honor from the International Association for Mathematical Modeling. Other honors he received included China's National Natural Science Prize in 1982, the 1982 National Prize for Excellent Scientific Publications for revising „Engineering Cybernetics," a milestone work in cybernetics embracing the phenomenal development, and the very special HLHL Award in 1998 for his outstanding achievements in science.

Song has authored and co-authored thirteen books and published more than 100 scientific articles.
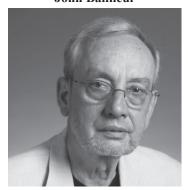
Shankar P. Bhattacharyya

Shankar P. Bhattacharyya was born in Yangon, Myanmar on June 23, 1946. He obtained the B.Tech (Hons.) degree in Electrical Engineering from IIT, Bombay in 1967 and the M.S. and Ph.D degrees in Electrical Engineering from Rice University (Houston, TX, USA) in 1969 and 1971 respectively. From 1971-80 he was with the Federal University in Rio de Janeiro where he established Brazil's first graduate program in Control Engineering at COPPE and also served as Head of the Electrical Engineering Department.

He has held an NRC-NASA Reseach Associateship (1974-75), a Senior Fulbright Lecturership (1989), and the Boeing-Welliver Faculty Fellowship (1998). At present he is the Robert M. Kennedy Professor of Electrical Engineering at Texas A & M University in College Station, TX, USA. He is a Fellow of the IEEE and a Fellow of the International Federation of Automatic Control (IFAC).

Prof. Bhattacharyya's contributions to Control Theory span forty years and include the first solution of the multivariable servomechanism problem (1970, 1972), the theory of robust and unknown-input observers (1976,1978), a numerically efficient pole-assignment algorithm based on Sylvester's equation (1981), the determination of the parametric stability margin (1986), generalizations of Kharitonov's Theorem (1987, 2011) and the Hermite-Bieler Theorem (1999), the demonstration of the fragility of high order and optimal controllers (1997), modern synthesis of PID and fixed order controllers (2001, 2008), the Bode equivalent of the Nyquist criterion (2010) and most recently a new approach to model and identification-free, measurement-driven approach to the synthesis and design of general circuits, systems and networks. He has coauthored six books and over 200 journal and conference papers.

Shankar Bhattacharyya is also an international concert artist and has performed Indian classical music on the sarod in many countries.

John Baillieul

John Baillieul's research deals with robotics, the control of mechanical systems, and mathematical system theory. His PhD dissertation, completed at Harvard University under the direction of R.W. Brockett in 1975, was an early work dealing with connections between optimal control theory and what has recently been called "sub-Riemannian geometry." After publishing a number of papers developing geometric methods for nonlinear optimal control problems, he turned his attention to problems in the control of nonlinear systems modeled by homogeneous polynomial differential equations. Such systems describe, for example, the controlled dynamics of a rigid body. His main controllability theorem applied the concept of finiteness embodied in the Hilbert basis theorem to develop a controllability condition that could be verified by checking the rank of an explicit finite dimensional operator. In looking for additional ways in which the mathematical machinery of algebraic geometry could be used to address problems in engineering, Baillieul began a collaboration with C.I. Byrnes on the bifurcation and stability theory of large-scale electric energy system dynamics. A significant discovery was that solutions to the lossless load-flow equations could be exactly enumerated as a result of identifying and isolating some spurious solutions of dimension higher than zero.

During the mid 1980's, Baillieul collaborated with M. Levi to develop a control theory for rotating elastic systems. Baillieul and Levi's basic results on the stability of equilibrium configurations of rotating elastic spacecraft have provided the foundation for a great deal of subsequent research in the area. At about the same period in his career, Baillieul wrote a number of papers on motion planning and control of kinematically redundant manipulators. Combined with the spacecraft work, this led naturally to work on problems associated with anholonomy in planning motions for robots which have elastic joints and other components which store energy. This work led naturally to applying the methods of dynamical systems theory and classical geometric nonlinear control theory to problems of current technological interest including problems or fluid structure interactions, microelectromechanism dynamics, adaptive optics, and network mediated control of large scale device arrays.

His most recent work has dealt with the interplay between communications and information theory and control. He was among the first to articulate a version of the now well-known data-rate theorem--which gives a simple bound in terms of open-loop pole locations on the data-rate that must be sustained in a closed loop system in order for it to be stable. Together with Keyong Li, he has gone on to explore source coding of feedback signals which are designed to provide optimally robust performance in the face of time-varying feedback channel capacity. Motivated by this work, Baillieul has been led to other challenges in the design and operation of networked control systems. He was a pioneer in applying ideas from the theory of graph rigidity to cooperative control of multiple autonomous mobile robot formations. Graph theory is now regarded as perhaps the single most important enabling abstraction for the design of decentralized control algorithms for networks of mobile robots. The work on formation rigidity that has followed the 2003 CDC paper of Baillieul and Suri is an important piece of this abstraction.

Baillieul's most recent work deals with decision making in mixed teams of humans and intelligent automata and in particular in laying the foundation of action-mediated communication within such teams. John Baillieul is a Fellow of the IEEE and a Fellow of SIAM.

The IFAC Foundation

The IFAC Foundation, created in 2004, is a not-for-profit organization that accepts donations from individuals and organizations that wish to contribute to the mission of IFAC. Like IFAC, the goal of the IFAC Foundation is to support development of automation and automatic control science, technology and education that benefits the global economy and human life.

The IFAC Foundation is organized and operated under appropriate regulations to qualify as a charitable organization. Operations are carried out by the IFAC Foundation Board of Trustees.

Funds donated to the Foundation have recently been used for the following purposes:

– support of authors from developing countries, to allow them to present their papers at the IFAC World Congress in Milan, Italy
– organization of the 2011 Asian School of Automatic Control - Advances in Automatic Control Systems for Sustainable Industries (see the report below)
– organization of the Regional Control Course for Central America (see the report on this page.

If you wish to learn more about the IFAC Foundation, go to the Foundation website at

http://foundation.ifac-control.org/

The 2011 Asian School of Automatic Control
Advances in Automatic Control Systems for Sustainable Industries
Bangkok, Thailand, January 19 – 21, 2011

Goals

The main goal of this program is to provide seminal material to raise the possibilities to create, promote or consolidate research and educational groups dealing with automatic control theory and technology from developing countries in the South East Asian region. The ultimate objectives of the course should be to provide the participants with an overview of the main principles and technologies for the latest development of control. In addition, this event provides a forum for discussion of new ideas, research, development and applications, including techniques and methods to stimulate and inspire pioneering works in control engineering. Particularly, recent issues in the application of control technology in some areas of special local interest will be emphasized.

Social Impact

Besides improving the knowledge in the development of control system, by attending the course, the participants and the control community are also given more opportunity to have access to the latest information in research, technology and applications in the field of control systems. Moreover, the interaction during the course with leading persons in the subject could also be used as starting point to establish international linkages with other institutions and to create new research opportunities as part of improving the quality of research and teaching in the regions and to comply to the international standards.

Objectives

a. To promote the cooperation of IFAC and ACA and AUN/SEED-Net and ECTI Thailand and their programs on education to the South East Asian countries

b. To establish a network of graduate students and/or young faculty staff with interest in automatic control from universities of the South East Asian countries

c. To disseminate lectures on advances on automatic control systems and engineering applications which address the key issues in the South East Asian countries

d. To provide an opportunity for further collaboration in automatic control education & research between universities of the South East Asian countries

e. To introduce IFAC to professors, researchers and students with an aim to encourage Asian countries' automatic control societies to become IFAC national member organizations.

The following lectures were presented:
Day 1
History of Control Theory during 1960-1990: Robust and H-infinity Control (Professor Hidenori Kimura)
Overview of Intelligent Control Systems (Professor Marzuki Bin Khalid)
Biological Control as a Promising Area of Control in Future (Professor Hidenori Kimura)
Fuzzy Control (1) (Professor Marzuki Bin Khalid)

Day 2
Fuzzy Control (2) (Professor Marzuki Bin Khalid)
Model Predictive Control (1) (Prof. Wook Hyun Kwon)
Building Control Subject to Earthquake Excitation (Professor Suchin Arunsawatwong)
Model Predictive Control (2) Professor Wook Hyun Kwon

Day 3
Control Engineering and Management (Professor Chang Chieh Hang)
From Fuzzy Control To Disruptive Innovation (Professor Chang Chieh Hang)
Design of Fractional Control Systems by the Method of Inequalities (Professor Suchin Arunsawatwong)
Closing address (Professor Hidenori Kimura)

IFAC Regional Course Advanced Control for Central America
San José, Costa Rica
23 – 25 February, 2011

The IFAC Regional Course on Advanced Control for Central America was held from 23 – 25 February, 2011 at the School of Electrical Engineering of the Universidad de Costa Rica, in San Jose, Costa Rica.

On the first day, sessions started with two sets of presentations of all Central American countries. First, each representative exposed the role of automatic control, as well as the state of the art in research. As a conclusion, in all countries there is a need for action that empowers research as it is practically inexistent at present time. There is a lack of organizational structures in addition to the high difficulty of having resources to pursue research.

In a second session, representatives who are in close touch with industry had investigated the status and level of automation in the respective countries. It turns out that there is some level of automation but it is being deployed by external companies from Europe or the USA that bring solutions.

The first lecture on the second day was given by Professor César de Prada, Universidad de Valladolid, Spain on the subject: Sugar Industry, Raising the Automation Possibilities, Advantages of Applying Modern Control Approaches, etc.

The lectures on the third day dealt with the following subjects:
Wastewater Treatment Systems and the Important Role of Instrumentation and Control, by Professor Gustaff Olsson, Lund University.
Modern Energy Systems, specifically Hydrogen Fuel Cells and the Current State of the Art on Controlling such Systems, by Professor Jordi Riera, Polytechnic University of Catalunya, Spain.

On the last day of the course, the morning session started with the following lecture:
Application of Advanced Control Techniques in Different Domains (Power Plants, Rolling Processes and Marine Applications), by Reza Katebi, Univ. of Strathclyde, Scotland.

In the concluding discussion following the Friday session, various commitments were identified. All participants agreed that their countries have poor, if any, development in research and need to progress in this respect. It is recognized that it is very difficult to progress at national level. Therefore, cooperation among the Central American countries is required. A Central American Association of Automation would have several benefits:

– Creation of a network of people with different expertise, all related to automatic control
– At graduate level, work towards a homogenization of the control courses that are offered at the different universities. This will help to establish common specialization courses, joint master courses development and possible doctoral activities
– Organization of specific courses where some specialists could be invited
– Creation of a web page where activities, participants, national contact points, etc. are shown

In its closing remark, the organization thanked the IFAC Foundation for the opportunity of organizing such an event. It had represented the unique chance for the area to move one step ahead on unifying common interests and goals for the development of the Automatic Control field in the area.

Prof. Victor M. Alfaro Ruiz
Universidad de Costa Rica
Dr. Ramon Vilanova i Arbos
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain

Title	2011	Place	Further Information
IFAC WORLD CONGRESS – 18th Milano 2011	August 28 – Sept. 02	Milan Italy	http://www.ifac2011.org/ e-mail: info@ifac2011.org
SAE/IFAC Intl. Symposium Future Active Safety Technology towards zero-traffic-accident – FAST-zero'11	September 05 – 08	Tokyo Japan	http://www.fast-zero11.info/ e-mail: fast-zero11@ics-inc.co.jp

Title	2012	Place	Further Information
IFAC Workshop Embedded Guidance, Navigation and Control in Aerospace	February 13 – 15	Bangalore India	http://www.ifac-egnca.org/ e-mail: EGNCA2012@aero.iisc.ernet.in
7th Conference on Mathematical Modelling Mathmod 2012	February 15 – 17	Vienna Austria	http://www.mathmod.at/
IFAC Conference Advances in PID Control	March 28 – 30	Brescia Italy	http://pid12.ing.unibs.it e-mail: pid12@ing.unibs.it
IFAC Conference Embedded Systems, Computational Intelligence and Telematics in Control – CESCIT	April 03 – 05	Wuerzburg Germany	http://:www7.informatik.uni-wuerzburg.de/cescit e-mail: not yet available
IFAC Symposium Information Control Problems in Manufacturing – INCOM 2012	May 23 – 25	Bucharest Romania	http://www.incom12.ro e-mail: incom12@cimr.pub.ro
IFAC Conference Programmable Devices and Embedded Systems – PdeS 2012	May 23 – 26	Brno Czech Rep.	http://www.pdes2012.feec.vutbr.cz/ e-mail: pdes2012@feec.vutbr.cz
IFAC Workshop Automatic Control in Offshore Oil and Gas Production	May 31 – June 1	Trondheim Norway	http://www.ifac-oilfield.no/
IFAC Conference Analysis and Design of Hybrid Systems – ADHS 2012	June 06 – 08	Eindhoven Netherlands	http://adhs12.org/ e-mail: info@adhs12.org
IFAC Workshop Dynamics and Control in Agriculture and Food Processing – DYCAF	June 13 – 16	Plovdiv Bulgaria	http://dycaf-2012.tu-plovdiv.bg e-mail: altaneva@tu-plovdiv.bg
IFAC Symposium Advances in Control Education - ACE 2012	June 19 – 21	Nizhny Novgorod Russia	http://ace2012.ru/ e-mail: ifac.ace2012@gmail.com
IFAC Sympsoium Robust Control Design – ROCOND	June 20 – 22	Aalborg Denmark	http://www.rocond12.org/
IFAC Conference Analysis and Control of Chaotic Systems – CHAOS 12	June 20 – 22	Cancun Mexico	http://www.ipicyt.edu.mx/Chaos12/chaos12.html e-mail: not yet available
IFAC Workshop Time Delay Systems (IFAC-TDS-2012)	June 22 – 24	Boston MA, USA	http://www.coe.neu.edu/IFACTDS2012/main.htm e-mail: not yet available
American Control Conference – in co-operation with IFAC -	June 27 – 29	Montreal Canada	http://a2c2.org/conferences/acc2012/index.php
IFAC Symposium Advanced Control of Chemical Processes – ADCHEM-2012	July 10 – 13	Singapore Singapore	http://www.adchem2012.org/ e-mail: ivan@adchem2012.org
IFAC Symposium System Identification – SYSID 2012	July 11 – 13	Brussels Belgium	http://www.sysid2012.org/ e-mail: secretariat@sysid2012.org

FORTHCOMING EVENTS (ctd.)

Title	2012	Place	Further Information
17th Intl. Conference (cosponsored by IFAC) Methods and Models in Automation and Robotics – MMAR 2012	August 27 – 30	Miedzyzdroje Poland	http:// not yet available e-mail: not yet available
IFAC Symposium Fault Detection, Supervision and Safety for Technical Processes – – SAFEPROCESS	August 29 – 31	Mexico City Mexico	http://safeprocess2012.unam.mx/ e-mail: SafeProcess12@iingen.unam.mx
IFAC Symposium Power Plants and Power Systems Control	September 02 – 05	Toulouse France	http://www.pppswc2012.org e-mail: not yet available
IFAC Symposium Robot Control – SYROCO 2012	September 05 – 09	Dubrovnik Croatia	http://www.syroco2012.org/ e-mail: syroco2012@syroco2012.org
IFAC Symposium Control in Transportation Systems – CTS'12	September 12 – 14	Sofia Bulgaria	http://hs27.iccs.bas.bg/
IFAC Symposium Manoeuvring and Control of Marine Craft – MCMC'2012	September 19 – 21	Arenzano Italy	www.mcmc2012.issia.cnr.it
IFAC Workshop Discrete Event System Design – DeSD	October 01 – 04	Campos do Jordao Brazil	http://www.desdes.uz.zgora.pl e-mail. DESDes@iie.uz.zgora.pl
Title	**2013**	**Place**	**Further Information**
IFAC Symposium Advances in Control Education	August 28 – 30	Sheffield UK	http:// not yet available e-mail: not yet available
IFAC Symposium Automatic Control in Aerospace – ACA 2013	September 02 – 06	Wuerzburg Germany	http://www7.informatik.uni-wuerzburg.de/aca2013 e-mail: aca2013@informatik.uni-wuerzburg.de
IFAC Symposium Nonlinear Control Systems – NOLCOS	September 04 – 06	Toulouse France	http:// not yet available e-mail: not yet available

Computer Aided Systems Theory – EUROCAST 2011
13th International Conference (co-sponsored by IFAC)
Canary Islands, Spain, 6 – 11 February, 2011

The conference took place in the Elder Museum of Science and Technology of Las Palmas, Canary Islands, Spain from February 6-11 2011 following the approach tested in the last conferences as an international computer related Conference with a strong interdisciplinary character.

There were various specialized workshops devoted to Systems Theory and Applications, chaired by Pichler (Linz) y Moreno Díaz (Las Palmas); Computation and Simulation in Modelling Biological Systems, chaired by Ricciardi (Napoli); Intelligent Information Processing, chaired by Freire (A Coruña); Traffic Behaviour, Modelling and Optimization, chaired by Galán-Moreno, Rubio-Royo and Sánchez-Medina (Las Palmas); Computer Vision and Image Processing, chaired by Sotelo (Madrid); Mobile and Autonomous Transportation Systems, chaired by García-Rosa and De Pedro (Madrid); Computer Aided System Optimization, chaired by Huemer and Lunglmayr (Klagenfurt); Modelling and Control of Mechatronics Systems, chaired by Schlacher and Scheild (Linz); Heurist Problem Solving, chaired by Affenzeller and Jacak (Hagenberg) and Raidl (Vienna); Model Based Systems Design, Simulation and Verification, chaired by Ceska (Brno); Biomimetic Software Systems, chaired by Braun (Sydney) and Klempous (Wroclaw) and Chaczko (Sydney); Computer Based Methods for Clinical and Academic Medicine, chaired by Klempous (Wroclaw) and Rozenblit (Tucson); Mobile Computing Platforms and Technologies, chaired by

Mayrhofer and Holzmann (Linz) and Modelling and Design of Complex Digital Systems by Signal Processing Methods, chaired by Astola (Tampere), Stankovic (Nis) and Moraga (Asturias, Dormund). The chairpersons of the workshops, with the counselling of the International Advisory Committee, selected nearly 200 extended abstracts for oral presentation at the meeting. The two workshops with particular success were Heuristic Problem Solving and Modelling and Control of Mechatronics Systems.

There were three plenary invited speakers, Prof. Markus Schwaninger from St. Gallen "Modeling the Economic Crisis: System-Dynamics-Based Approach to Prevention," Prof. Jerzy Rozenblit from Tucson "Models and Techniques for Computer Aided Surgical Training" and Prof. Luigi Ricciardi from Naples "Uncertainty, Probability, Functionality."

With the additional help of the session chairpersons, a final selection has been made of papers personally presented at the conference, final full versions of which are to be included in the volume to be published by Springer Verlag, as in previous events.

Sad news is recent to Eurocast and to the international scientific community. Prof. Luigi Ricciardi passed away May 7 in Naples. We all have lost a great mathematical scientist and a friend. Eurocast is particularly indebted to him for his collaboration since 1993.

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