



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

European Journal of Control

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/ejcon

Editorial

Special issue on the European Control Conference 2021



This special issue contains a selection of papers originally presented at the European Control Conference (ECC) 2021 held in Rotterdam, The Netherlands, on June 29–July 2, 2021. ECC'21 continued the tradition of the ECC series, which has a long and rich history starting with the first ECC organized in Grenoble, France, in 1991. This conference series, addressing wide-spectrum control topics, was the first major initiative of the European Control Association (EUCA), which was setup in 1990 by various members of the Systems and Control community from across Europe. EUCA's main goal was the promotion of initiatives that enhance scientific exchange, disseminate information, and coordinate research networks and technology transfer in the field of Systems and Control within the Union. EUCA's second major initiative came in 1995 with the launch of the *European Journal of Control* (EJC), the scientific journal that would serve as EUCA's main channel for disseminating important contributions in the field of Systems and Control.

This special issue connects these two major EUCA's initiatives, ECC and EJC, in a novel way. It is a new initiative, starting with ECC'21, to offer the very best papers that are submitted to the ECC a possibility to directly publish in EJC.

The ECC'21 was the second ECC organized online due to the worldwide pandemic. Although held in cyberspace, ECC'21 was a successful and vibrant conference with 387 regular papers, 25 invited session papers positioned in 5 invited sessions, 14 extended

abstracts, 2 tutorial sessions and 7 impressive (semi)plenary lectures. The overall acceptance rate of the regular and invited session papers was 64%. For the extended abstracts it was 58%. There were lively interactions between the participants discussing the past, present, and future of the appealing research field of Systems and Control.

For the selection of the very best papers of the ECC'21 for this special issue, we, the Guest Editors, started from the reviewers' evaluations and the final review scores of the papers accepted for presentation at the conference. The selection was made based on the reviewers' evaluations and our own assessments. The authors of the selected papers submitted a (slightly) extended version of the conference paper, which was evaluated in a further review round for EJC. This led to eventually 26 papers being included in the Special Issue that is in front of you now.

We hope you enjoy the Special Issue!

Guest Editors Special Issue and Program Chairs ECC'21.

Thomas Parisini*
Maurice Heemels
Jacqueline Scherpen
Editor-in-Chief EJC.

*Corresponding author.