

Instrumentation and Automation Symposium

The 6th International IFAC/IFIP/IMEKO Symposium on Instrumentation and Automation in the Paper, Rubber, Plastics, and Polymerization Industries was held on October 27-29, 1986, in Akron, Ohio. It was sponsored by the IFAC Applications Committee with cosponsorship by the IFAC Systems Engineering and Components Committees. One hundred people attended the conference, equally divided between international participants from 14 countries and national participants from the United States. The symposium was hosted by the Industrial Control and Instrumentation Group at the University of Akron with the primary support of the Bailey Controls Company.

After the delegates were welcomed by Professor A. Kaya (Organizer and Chairman) during the Opening Session, the representatives from supporting organizations made their welcoming remarks. Professor A. Van Cauwenberghe spoke on behalf of Professor M. Thoma for the IFAC. IMEKO President G. Toumanoff emphasized the im-

portance of measurements and its relation to the goals of the symposium. Dr. W. Miller (who is also Vice President of IFAC) welcomed the audience on behalf of the American Automatic Control Council. Finally, Professor T. J. Williams, International Program Chairman, presented the highlights of the Symposium Program.

The conference keynote speaker was D. Cannon, President, Bailey Controls Company. He emphasized the rapid changes of microprocessor technology and their effects on control systems, manufacturing procedures, and business ventures.

Two simultaneous sessions were conducted—Pulp & Paper and Rubber & Polymers. These sessions covered the techniques and applications in depth, while the plenary talks enlightened and set the pace for following sessions. The main themes were improved productivity and product quality, which were reflected in papers in terms of: better sensors and new sensing techniques; advanced control and optimization methods; and applications, including dedicated controls as well as plantwide optimization and scheduling.

Forty papers were presented in 10 technical sessions. The topics on modeling and control of different processes addressed the critical issues. A roundtable discussion summarized what was accomplished and future needs were outlined. Microprocessors have played a dominant role in what is needed to meet the challenges set forth for the practitioners to implement control techniques.

There were four plenary sessions on applications of adaptive and predictive control in the pulp and paper industry, adaptive control concepts for plastic processing units, measurement and modeling problems in plastics processing of nonsheet processes, and a survey of users' needs and expected development in sensors for the manufacturing of sheet products.

The International Program Committee met and selected 33 contributed/invited papers and four plenary papers to be published in the proceedings. Although the attendance was less than usual, those who attended were highly pleased with the presentations and other activities.

A. Kaya
General Chairman

1987 CDC

The 1987 IEEE Conference on Decision and Control (CDC) will be held December 9-11, 1987, at the Westin Century Plaza Hotel in Los Angeles, California. The conference will include both contributed and invited sessions in all aspects of the theory and application of systems involving decision, control, optimization, and adaptation.

If you have not already received a copy of the Advance Program, it can be obtained by writing to Mrs. Patsy Kechn, Department of Electrical Engineering, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742.

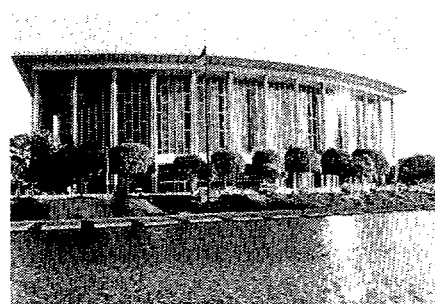
Special arrangements have been made with United Airlines whereby CDC attendees can receive a minimum of 5 percent off any fare for which they qualify and 40 percent off normal coach fares. Just telephone 800-521-4041 and mention account number 7179C.

Two tutorial workshops are being planned: Dave Flamm of The Aerospace Corporation is organizing an "H-infinity" workshop with participants including Steve Boyd, Gunter Stein, and Sanjoy Mitter. K. S. Narendra is organizing a workshop on adaptive control.

The plenary speeches will feature two talks on the Philosophy of Control and Systems Engineering. On Wednesday, December 9, Professor Stephen C. Jacobsen of the University of Utah Center for Biomedical Design will speak on the design and control of very complex mechanical systems. He will highlight his talk with personal thoughts and historical observations on the control of devices such as the 16-degree-of-freedom Utah/MIT dextrous robotic hand, which was designed and built under his direction at the center.

On Friday, December 11, Professor Jan C. Willems of the Mathematics Institute, University of Groningen, will speak about "Paradigms and Puzzles in Modeling Dynamical Systems." This will be a talk dealing with the speaker's ideas on the mathematical and philosophical foundations of system identification or modeling on the basis of observations.

We urge you to attend this premier control conference held in the dynamic and historic setting of Los Angeles. The picture here illustrates a few of the many attractions of the



The Los Angeles Music Center (showing the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion) is the theatrical epicenter of Los Angeles. The Pavilion is the site for the annual Academy Awards ceremony.

Los Angeles area. For further information, contact the General Chairman:

Prof. William Levine
Dept. of Electrical Engrg.
University of Maryland
College Park, MD 20742
Phone: (301) 454-6841