

Control and Cybernetics

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The Past 20 Years

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The present issue closes the first twenty years of the English-language quarterly **Control and Cybernetics**. We mark this anniversary not only with the different colour of our cover, but also with some special features inside – The moving Frontier Questionnaire, to which we invited a group of scientist working in the areas covered by our journal, the Table of contents of the past 20 Years and the corresponding Author and Subject Indexes.

We have until now published approximately 380 papers, authored by some 350 scientists from around the world. Although these are quite impressive numbers for a relatively low key journal published outside the geographical reach of English language culture, we are far more interested in theoretical quality and practical applicability of papers published in **Control and Cybernetics** than in sheer quantities.

As can be easily concluded from the Subject Index here contained the papers published had been concentrating mainly around such traditional themes as *optimization* and *control theory* in their different forms and problem varieties. With time, however, these traditional domains have been growing and were being complemented by questions from the interface area between optimization and *operations research*, by problems from *modelling* and *data analysis* etc. *Deterministic* formulations ceded at least some room to *stochastic*, *adaptive* or *fuzzy* ones, with many a paper representing the true cutting edge of theoretical advance and applications.

Note especially the diversity and quality of our special issues, which started to appear in 1980s and will be continued at the average pace of one issue per annual volume.

Presently, we publish papers from a very wide area defined by application of mathematics and computer to analysis, forecasting and design of systems from practically all domains of life. In view of existence of numerous narrowly specializing papers we concentrate, of course, on more general contributions. The ecological niche of our journal is also to a large degree determined by the geographical location – between the East and the West and by association with the Systems Research Institute of the Polish Academy of Sciences, where interdisciplinarity and versatility are normal features of work.

Although we have recently passed, together with our country through a turbulent period and conditions are still quite demanding we look forward with optimism to the coming next 20 years and invite all of our Readers and Contributors, past and potential, to our growing community.