Introduction

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Biographical notes: Professor Yugeng Xi was born in 1946. He graduated from Harbin Institute of Engineering in 1968. From 1979 to 1984, he visited the Technical University Munich, Germany, where he received the Dr.-Ing. degree in 1984. Since then, he has been with the Department of Automation, Shanghai Jiao Tong University. He was promoted to professor in 1988 and served as department Head and Dean of the School of Electronics and Information from 1997 to 2001. His research interests include predictive control, large scale and complex systems and intelligent robotic systems. He has published more than 300 journal papers and three books, as well as edited three conference proceedings. He is currently the Vice Chair of IFAC TC 5.4 on Large Scale Complex Systems, the Advisory Committee member of Asian Control Association, the Vice President of Chinese Association of Automation and the editor, associate editor and editorial board member of 11 academic journals, including Control Engineering Practice, Int.J.of Humanoid Robotics, ACTA Automatica Sinica etc.

Professor Shaoyuan Li was born in 1965, and obtained his PhD degree in Automatic Control and Applications from Nankai University of China in 1997 and he was a Post Doctor in the Department of Automation in Shanghai Jiao Tong University from March 1998 to March 2000, and since then he has been professor of this department. His research areas include model-predictive control, adaptive control, intelligent control and industrial applications *et al*. He has directed more than 10 projects supported by the National Nature Science Foundation of China, the High Technology Research and Development Program of China and Shanghai Science and Technology Commission; he got the national science fund for distinguished young scholars of China in 2008. He is an IEEE Senior Member, Vice Director of the Technical Committee on Control Theory, Chinese Association of Automation, Director of Shanghai Association of Automation, and the associate editor of Asian Journal of Control, Int. J. Modelling Identification and Control, *et al*.

We are living in an information era with a rapid development of communication and network technologies. The great amount of information available makes it possible to handle larger and more complex control and optimisation problems. But it also brings great challenges. With the link of communication networks, more and more networked systems appear. The economic and social development has an increasing demand for control and optimisation for the whole system rather than just for the independent

component. Furthermore, information accessing, transmitting and processing are so closely connected with the control and decision procedures that they must be taken into account in the control system design. Focusing on "system control and information processing", "International Journal of System Control and Information Processing" (IJSCIP) will provide a forum for integrating far-reaching research insights and methodologies with new knowledge and novel techniques to meet new challenges.

IJSCIP is a quarterly journal, founded on the idea of the systematic development of modern system control and information processing. Its primary objective is to establish an effective channel for communications among scholars, researchers, and practitioners involved in techniques based on system control and information processing. The terms "system" and "information" are interpreted into diversified concepts, including but are not limited to physical, biological, organisational and other entities. The topics of the journal cover a wide range, from modelling, control and optimisation of large scale networked systems, performance analysis and evolution of complex networks, global optimisation of industrial production systems, sensor network with applications, data-driven control and optimisation techniques, neural networks, fuzzy logic, other heuristic techniques, information fusion, robotics, to case studies of system control and information processing technologies in various application areas.

IJSCIP encourages contributions from both academic research and industrial technology development. It publishes original and innovative papers on the theory, application and design of control systems, and the implementation of information technology in the forms of original papers, review papers, technical reports, case studies, book reviews, notes, commentaries, and news etc. Moreover, special issues devoted to important topics on system theory and information technology will occasionally be organised.

At this moment, we will thank all the Editorial Board members and reviewers for their support for the journal. We hope that the birth of IJSCIP will offer new opportunities to researchers and practitioners to get an up-to-date insight on the development of system control and information processing. And we believe IJSCIP will reach its goal with your support.