

The 30th Mediterranean Conference on Control and Automation

The 30th Mediterranean Conference on Control and Automation (MED) took place in Vouliagmeni, Greece at the Divani Apollon Palace & Thalasso in the Athenian Riviera from June 28 to July 1, 2022. As 2022 marks the 30-year anniversary of the conference, it is essential to look back and reflect on how MED started and grew over the years.

It was 31 years ago when the idea of launching a conference on control and automation was proposed by Prof. Manolis Christodoulou (recently deceased) during a dinner at his place with Panos Antsaklis, Michael Athans (deceased), George Saridis (deceased), and Kimon Valavanis. The idea was to first organize the conference in Greece and, pending success, rotate it to other Mediterranean countries. Since the very beginning, it was clear that the key to the success of the conference was guaranteeing a high technical quality of contributions by following and implementing the same review standards as in the highest quality control conferences. During the first baby steps of MED, the selection of general chairs and sites was handled informally. However in 1998, the Mediterranean Control Association (MCA) was founded (www.med-control.org) to address the increasing interest of the technical community in MED. The MCA Board is the governing body; its members (who have all served as general chairs of past MEDs) approve proposals for future MEDs. In addition, they use their extensive experience to guide and help MED organizers, sharing best practices. Every conference since the first one in 1993

has been technically cosponsored by the IEEE Control Systems Society, later by the IEEE Robotics and Automation Society, and (in the last five years) by the International Conference on Unmanned Aircraft Systems Association, Inc.

TECHNICAL PROGRAM

The 30th MED was of a hybrid nature (due to COVID-19), allowing for physical presence and remote participation. Despite still-existing “uncertainties,” we received a healthy number of 220 contributed and invited session papers. Following a very thorough and in-depth peer-review process in which each paper had at least three reviews, we accepted a total of 181 contributed and invited session papers, and we assembled a full three-day, top-quality technical program composed of 36 technical sessions. The conference was attended by 175 physically present attendees and 70 virtual participants.

Following the current trends of combining control and systems theory with hardware/software and communication technologies, new developments in robotics and unmanned systems, autonomous systems, mechatronics, cyberphysical systems, and networked systems were included in the topics of interest to strengthen cooperation of control and automation scientists with industry.

Plenary Lectures

MED 2022 included the following four plenary lectures:

- 1) “Data Enabled Predictive Control,” John Lygeros, ETH Zürich
- 2) “Control Intelligence in Agriculture 4.0,” Nick Sigrimis, Agricultural University of Athens and Geosmart.gr

TABLE 1 The contributed and accepted papers per country.

Country	Submitted	Accepted
Italy	31	30
Greece	33	28
Germany	19	18
United States	17	16
Sweden	17	15
France	18	15
India	12	6
Brazil	7	5
Romania	9	5
Russia	7	5
Turkey	6	5
Croatia	5	4
Hungary	4	4
Canada	3	3
United Kingdom	5	3
Austria	2	2
Poland	2	2
Spain	2	2
Tunisia	3	2
Chile	1	1
China	2	1
Cyprus	1	1
Czech Republic	2	1
Denmark	1	1
Iran	1	1
Israel	2	1
South Korea	2	1
New Zealand	1	1
Slovakia	1	1
Switzerland	1	1
Morocco	2	0
Norway	1	0
Totals	220	181

The social agenda included welcome and farewell receptions and the gala dinner next to the sea.

- 3) "High Performance Control for Robots in Extreme Environments," Sandra Hirche, Technical University of Munich
- 4) "Data-Driven MPC: From Linear to Nonlinear Systems With Guarantees," Frank Allgöwer, University of Stuttgart.

Workshops

In addition, the following two workshops were offered on June 28:

- 1) Active Vision Methods in Autonomous Navigation
- 2) Multimodal Sensing for Localization, Planning, and Scene Understanding and Design, Development and Testing of Unmanned Vehicle Systems.

In Memoriam

MED 2022 also included two sessions "In Memoriam" of the following two colleagues who recently passed away:

- 1) Christodoulou, who was one of the founders of the MCA. The session was organized by his long-term colleagues Dr. Petros Ioannou, Dr. Elias Kosmatopoulos, and Dr. George Rovithakis
- 2) Dr. Nikos Karkanias, a regular contributor to MED conferences. The session was organized by his long-term colleagues Dr. Antonis Vardoulakis and Dr. Ioannis Leventidis.

Best Paper Awards

MDPI and *machines* was a Gold Sponsor Exhibitor for MED 2022. They sponsored the Best Paper awards. The first-, second-, and third-place awards were given to the following recipients for their papers:

- » "A Generalized Distributed Analysis and Control Synthesis Approach for Networked Sys-

tems With Arbitrary Interconnections," Shirantha Welikala, Hai Lin, and Antsaklis

- » "Disturbance Decoupling by Dynamic Output Feedback for Linear Impulsive Systems With Periodic Jumps," Elena Zattoni, Naohisa Otsuka, Anna Maria Perdon, and Giuseppe Conte
- » "Assessment of Initial-State-Opacity in Live Bounded and Reversible Discrete Event Systems Via Integer Linear Programming," Francesco Basile, Gianmaria De Tommasi,

Carlo Motta, Stefania Santini, and Alberto Petrillo.

The conference venue was outstanding; it helped participants mix "business and pleasure," swim in the sea, enjoy the several pools within the venue, walk around the bay area, and visit downtown Athens. The social agenda included welcome and farewell receptions and the gala dinner next to the sea. The participants enjoyed all three.

The 2023 version of MED is scheduled to be held in Cyprus. We are looking forward to another successful conference.

Andrea Monteriu
Alessandro Papadopoulos
Maria Prandini
Kimón Valavanis



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