

Letter to the Editor

To the Editor:

We have witnessed the following in the recent past:

(a) A considerable growth in the volume (quantity of papers) of the *AC Transactions*.

(b) An increase in CSS dues.

While the above are known facts, the following is my personal opinion. The IEEE is supposed to be an *engineering* and not a mathematical professional society. Thus it should stress first and foremost the engineering applications of science (including mathematics). The same goes for CSS. It should stress first and foremost the engineering, industrial aspects of control systems, as opposed to purely mathematical deliberations (we have SIAM, AMS, and others for that

purpose). Unfortunately, this is not the case in practice. Just looking at the material published in the *AC Transactions*, one can see that most of the material is purely mathematical, with a very remote chance of ever being implemented in actual control systems. To me, the *AC Transactions* has become less and less useful. It is rather a voluminous liability than an asset. I most certainly do not appreciate the increase in dues.

Being a member of the Computer Society (the largest within the IEEE) as well, I would like to draw attention to its membership rules: the basic membership covers the *Computer Magazine* only, and the *Transactions* are extra — for whom-ever chooses it. I find the *Computer Magazine* extremely useful in doing my job. It always has plenty of up-to-date

technical material, presented in a very clear and readable manner.

I propose the following for the CSS:

(1) Adopt the Computer Society model by making the subscription to *AC Transactions* voluntary.

(2) Expand and improve the *Control Systems Magazine*.

(3) Reduce considerably the membership fee.

I furthermore propose to put the above to an overall membership vote. Although the above are my personal opinions, I know from discussions with other members that these opinions are shared by many others.

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The Montana Summer Institute on Current Issues in Adaptive Control

August 15-21, 1984
Montana State University
Bozeman, Montana

The Montana Summer Institute organized by Professors P. V. Kokotovic, P. Ioannou, and D. Pierre aims to offer a relaxed working environment for discussions, presentations of recent results, and comparisons of different approaches in the area of adaptive control with emphasis on the robustness issue.

Detailed presentations of papers will take place during the first two days, August 15 and 16. The weekend—August 17, 18, and 19—will be reserved for discussions and outdoor activities, and during August 20 and 21, there will be time for further discussions, work on joint papers, etc.

Preliminary outlines of papers to be presented should be sent to

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Los Angeles, CA 90089-0781
(213) 743-8082

by May 30, 1984. Inquiries concerning registration and accommodation should be directed to

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