Beginning the Third Decade of the Journal of Guidance, Control, and Dynamics

A YEAR ago I wrote about the progress made during the year toward meeting the goals I had set when I took over as Editor-in-Chief. I will do the same this year as the third decade of the *JGCD* begins. The goals are 1) to maintain the quality of the journal, 2) to increase the number of engineering applications-oriented papers, 3) to minimize the time from submission to publication, 4) to increase the international involvement in the journal, and 5) to listen to and respond to everyone's concerns. Let me discuss each item.

To Maintain the Quality of the Journal

This past year I received over 350 submissions to the journal from around the world—about two every business day. Most papers come in near the maximum length of 36 pages, and my job is to perform a quick technical and editorial review and decide which Associate Editor gets the paper or to send it back to the author. I usually process a paper within a day or two of receiving it, and I continue to monitor the progress of the paper through monthly reports from the Associate Editor. This past year I have had the Associate Editors send me copies of the evaluations of all papers for which publication was declined. This helps me to monitor the quality of the review process, as well as making me more aware of the publishability of papers in the technical disciplines we represent. In a sense, I am raising the threshold for accepting papers into the review process. As I explained in last year's editorial, I have very low tolerance for papers that do not follow the submission requirements printed inside the back cover. Authors should be aware that acceptance into the extensive review process is not automatic. By raising the threshold, we are applying our editorial resources to those papers that deserve

With respect to the quality of submitted papers, I have two specific comments that I have not expressed before. The first comment is on the use of references. I regularly get papers in which the Introduction begins as follows: "There have been many articles published on optimal design of widgets, 1-20 and this paper extends the widget suboptimal analysis of Ref. 20." What's wrong with this? References should be used to properly place one's own work and give the perspective of how it contributes to the advancement of knowledge in the field. The proper approach would be to identify the contribution of each of the individual references to the advancement of knowledge in the field and then to describe the contribution of the author's work as the latest building block. Good scholarship demands this. (If the building block is a large step, submit a paper; if it is a medium step, write a Note.) However, it is highly unlikely that it would be necessary to cite 20 references. It is more likely that the previous works have been cited by other authors and only the most recent articles need be referenced in the current paper. We do not need to cite every paper that has solved Kepler's equation since the original work in Newton's Principia. Let's save some trees! And then there is another extreme, where the author cites only his own previous publications. Some may consider this an indication of the author's lack of interest and knowledge about other work. My thought is that, if the author cites only himself, he is writing only to himself and should therefore keep the paper to himself.

My second comment on quality deals with several items about which editors of journals are very concerned. Most recently, an editorial cowritten by 10 editors in the field of heat transfer appeared in the AIAA *Journal of Thermophysics and Heat Transfer* (Vol. 10, No. 4, 1996, p. 553) and was to appear in nine other heat-transfer-related journals. The items of concern are the simultaneous submission of a single article to multiple journals for review, the publication of articles with only incremental advancement over previously established knowledge, and the publication in multiple journals of articles that are essentially identical. As the heat-transfer editors did, I want to remind our contributors of their moral and legal

responsibility to ensure that the work they submit for publication is both original and technically significant. I also recognize the pressure on many individuals to publish, but papers containing small or incremental improvements over existing work, particularly when published by the same author, are clearly not in the best interest of the community, authors, reviewers, or editors. The simultaneous submission or publication of similar papers is against the editorial policies of all journals, and, in addition to being unethical, it is a violation of the copyright statutes and is prohibited by law. I have asked the Associate Editors to keep me informed of any problems in this area; we intend to maintain the highest standard at the *JGCD*.

To Increase the Number of Engineering Applications Papers

One of my goals has been to make the JGCD as engineering applications oriented as practical. Member surveys more than 20 years ago, prior to AIAA final approval for the publication of the JGCD, showed that, if the JGCD were to be established, it should be applications oriented and should provide useful information to the practicing engineer. Our members feel the same today. During the past year we have published several outstanding applicationsoriented papers; in this issue, the paper by Paul Savage ("Strapdown Inertial Navigation Integration Algorithm Design") is an excellent example, providing practical design information worthy of archival publication. We also shall continue to ask authors of more theoretical papers to include a realistic numerical example or a detailed discussion of a possible relevant application. Our Associate Editors, International Advisors, and liaisons with AIAA technical committees will continue to solicit engineering applications papers in their communities. If any of our readers want to propose a particular topic for a paper, please contact me to discuss it. We shall continue striving to make the *JGCD* as relevant as possible to the practicing engineer.

To Minimize the Time from Submission to Publication

The *JGCD* staff has continued to meet our goal of decreasing the time it takes to get a paper published. All of our Associate Editors are committed to speedy reviews. Nearly all of the papers published in the November–December 1997 issue, for example, were submitted to us within the prior 12 months. For recent issues, an average of about 14 weeks elapsed between a paper's being sent to the AIAA and its actual publication. For the typical paper, the longest delays have been in waiting for reviewers' comments and authors' revisions. If these two segments of our community were to act more quickly and if the authors were to follow the submission requirements on the inside back cover, the publication process would move even faster.

To Increase the International Involvement in the Journal

Another goal continues to be the improvement in geographical distribution and quality of internationally submitted papers. As a result of efforts by our newly appointed International Advisors, we have many excellent international papers currently in the review process, and so the appointment of advisors in several countries appears to have had positive benefits for the *JGCD*. I plan to continue to use them in the future. In many instances, the papers are the result of abstracts that had been sent to me by the International Advisor for my comments on the subject matter. Increasing the international distribution of the *JGCD* should also help to alleviate one of the main problems of international contributors, the lack of familiarity with current research efforts elsewhere in the *JGCD* community.

To Listen to and Respond to Everyone's Concerns

Finally, I continue to encourage communication between our readers and any member of the editorial board. During the Guidance, Navigation, and Control Conference last August, I had many

interesting conversations with attendees. Generally, they seemed pleased with our progress in speeding up paper publication, found the book reviews organized by Mike Ross to be informative, and were helpful in suggesting topics for survey and historical papers. I believe we did a good job last year in covering the span of interests of our readers, the special issue in November–December on "Nonlinear Dynamical Systems" being a good example. We can do better, and we are willing to listen. Do not hesitate to contact me directly at the e-mail address given below.

Annual Business

I now turn to annual *JGCD* business. On behalf of the AIAA, I want to thank our retiring Associate Editors, Brij Agrawal of the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School and Stephen Rock of Stanford University, for their unselfish contributions of time and expertise to maintain the quality of the *JGCD*. Each Associate Editor is responsible for evaluating one to two papers per month. This includes his own technical and editorial review, as well as soliciting the aid of several peer reviewers. If the review is positive, the author must then be given directions for revisions and the resulting revised paper reviewed. Ultimately, when all is done, the final accepted manuscript is sent by the Associate Editor to AIAA headquarters. These efforts by the Associate Editors need to be conducted in a timely fashion, while the Editors pursue their own professional careers. Thanks again to these two for all of their help as they join the distinguished group of former *JGCD* Associate Editors.

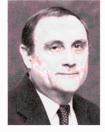
Appointments for three-year terms as continuing or new Associate Editors are as follows: S. N. Balakrishnan, University of

Missouri-Rolla, for papers in estimation, guidance, and control; Arun Banerjee, Lockheed Palo Alto Research Laboratory, for papers in dynamics, slewing and vibration control, and multibody control; Robert Bishop, University of Texas at Austin, for papers in spacecraft design, attitude control and momentum management, and guidance, navigation, and estimation; Christopher Hall, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, for papers in spacecraft design, nonlinear dynamics, and controls; Gary Hartmann, Honeywell Technology Center, for papers in flight controls and avionics, estimation, and navigation; Felix Hoots, General Research Corporation, for papers in astrodynamics; Robert Melton, Pennsylvania State University, for papers in astrodynamics, optimization, and spacecraft design; Vivekanand Mukhopadhyay, NASA Langley Research Center, for papers in structural dynamics, aeroelasticity, and stability and control; and Jurek Sasiadek, Carleton University, for papers in robotics, unmanned vehicles, guidance, navigation, and nonlinear control. The entire editorial team is presented in the following pages.

Finally, this is a peer-reviewed archive journal whose very existence depends on the willingness of experts to volunteer their time to anonymously review submitted papers. Thanks to all of you for your contributions. Following the editorial team is a list of reviewers for the period October 1996 through September 1997. I apologize to any reviewers whose names have been inadvertently omitted.

George T. Schmidt

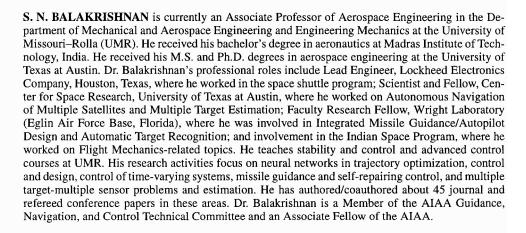
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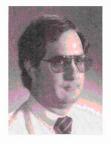
ARUN K. BANERJEE is a Consulting Scientist in the Dynamics and Control Organization at the Lockheed Martin Research Laboratory, Palo Alto. At Lockheed since 1982, his principal work has been in multibody elastodynamics. For his work on motion-induced stiffness of articulated structures, he received the Engineer of the Year award in 1990 from AIAA, San Francisco Chapter, and was invited by the European Space Agency to give a survey lecture in multibody dynamics in 1992. Previously, he worked for Martin Marietta on tethered satellite dynamics and control, and for Northrop on the atmospheric descent of parachuted shuttle boosters. He received a B.S. in mechanical engineering in 1962 from Bengal Engineering College, India, and was a Lecturer from 1964–69 at the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, where he also received a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering in 1969. Subsequently, he obtained a Ph.D. in engineering mechanics from the University of Florida in 1972 and a Master's in controls from Stanford in 1986. His research interests include computational dynamics, slewing and vibration control, and multibody control. Dr. Banerjee is an Associate Fellow of the AIAA.



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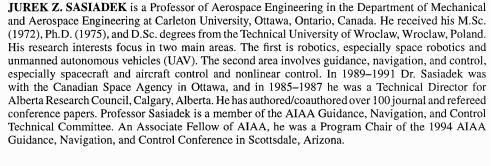
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DONALD T. WARD is a Professor and Interim Head in the Aerospace Engineering Department at Texas A&M University. He received his B.S. in aeronautical engineering from the University of Texas, an M.S. in astronautics from the Air Force Institute of Technology, and a Ph.D. from Mississippi State University (1974), with a dissertation that explored the use of a sailplane as a poststall research and training vehicle. This subject still reflects his primary interest in aircraft flight mechanics and flight test, especially those topics related to nonlinear flight regimes and the related stability and control issues. Dr. Ward is an experimentalist, by both inclination and professional experience, having spent 16 of his 23 years in the Air Force as an Experimental Test Pilot. His first book, Introduction to Flight Test Engineering, was published in 1993. In recent years he has conducted research aimed at better understanding of the wing rock phenomenon. Currently, he is collaborating on an interdisciplinary team from electrical engineering, industrial engineering, and local industry in the development of a fuzzy logic-based advisory system for general aviation pilots. His responsibilities in this development are to generate the engineering simulator and to plan/conduct the flight evaluation of the expert system meant both to make general aviation safer and to make proficiency training more efficient. He and his graduate students are also exploring the use of neural networks as part of the inference engine for this kind of pilot advisory software.



TREVOR W. WILLIAMS received his B.A. from the University of Oxford in 1976, his M.Sc. from the City University in 1978, and his Ph.D. from Imperial College, London, in 1981. He then carried out postdoctoral research on numerical methods for control at Kingston Polytechnic in England and on the control of flexible space structures at NASA Langley Research Center as an NRC Senior Research Associate. Dr. Williams joined the faculty of the University of Cincinnati in 1989, where he is currently Associate Professor of Aerospace Engineering and Engineering Mechanics. He teaches courses in spacecraft attitude dynamics, orbital mechanics, control systems, and the dynamics and control of flexible structures. His current research interests lie in two main areas. The first is the dynamics and control of flexible structures, for instance, problems associated with model truncation and sensor/actuator placement. The second area involves various orbital perturbation and attitude dynamics questions connected with operations of manned and unmanned EVA systems in close proximity to an orbiting station. He has held visiting faculty positions at Phillips Laboratory and NASA Johnson Space Center and is a Senior Member of AIAA and IEEE.