PREFACE

This issue of Numerical Algebra, Control and Optimization is dedicated to Professor Helmut Maurer on the occasion of his 65th birthday. Professor Maurer has made many outstanding contributions to the field of optimal control, particularly in terms of sufficient optimality conditions, sensitivity analysis, and computational methods for singular and state-constrained optimal control problems. Professor Maurer also has a keen interest in solving practical optimal control models arising in applications such as robotics, economics, chemistry and biomedical engineering.

Professor Maurer was awarded a PhD from University of Cologne in 1972 for a thesis titled "Numerical solution of singular control problems". After graduation, he spent one year at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver as a postdoctoral research fellow. He returned to Germany in 1974 and joined the University of Wuerzburg, where he obtained the Habilitation qualification in 1977. Professor Maurer then joined the Institute for Computational and Applied Mathematics at the University of Muenster and stayed there until his retirement in 2010. During his career, Professor Maurer supervised over 130 diploma and doctoral students.

Friends, colleagues and students of Professor Maurer appreciate his warm personality and great spirit of collaboration and collegiality. His research outputs include over 100 international journal papers and a number of keynote lectures at international conferences. Professor Maurer is also an Associate Editor of Journal of Industrial and Management Optimization (JIMO).

This special issue contains 9 high-quality papers celebrating Professor Maurer's exceptional career achievements. The papers cover a wide range of theoretical and applied topics in optimal control. We sincerely thank the authors for contributing an excellent selection of papers to this special issue. We also thank the reviewers for their thorough evaluations of the papers submitted.

On behalf of the authors in this special issue, we thank Professor Maurer for his outstanding contributions to the field of optimal control and wish him every success in the future.

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