

Preface

This Special Issue of DCDIS-B is dedicated to Professor N.U. Ahmed, a leading scholar and a renowned researcher in optimal control and optimization, on the occasion of his 75th birthday.

Professor Ahmed was born in Khulna, Bangladesh in 1934 and completed his B.Sc from the Dhaka University in 1956. Subsequently, he continued his graduate studies at the University of Ottawa, Canada where he received his M.Sc and Ph.D. degree *summa cum laude* in Electrical Engineering in 1963 and 1965, respectively. Dr. Ahmed joined the University of Ottawa as an Assistant Professor in 1968, was promoted to Associate Professor in 1971 and continued as a full Professor from 1976 until his retirement in 1999. He also served as the Chair of the Department of Electrical Engineering at the University of Ottawa from 1989 to 1992.



Because of his outstanding contributions to mathematical control theories, Professor Ahmed was invited to hold many visiting positions at a number of prestigious institutions in the United States, Canada, Australia, China and Poland, including the University of California at Berkeley, University of California at Los Angeles, the University of New South Wales, the University of Western Australia, the Banach Center in Warsaw, Poland and the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. Since retirement, he has been Professor Emeritus in the School of Information Technology and Engineering (SITE), and also of the Department of Mathematics at the University of Ottawa.

Professor Ahmed's primary field of research is systems and control with special emphasis on optimization of stochastic and distributed parameter systems, impulsive systems, evolution equations and differential inclusions. He has made many important fundamental contributions in