

ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA

A gentle introduction to Automatic Control

Faculty of «Electronic Engineering for Intelligent
Vehicles»

Nicola Mimmo

Department of Electrical, Electronics and Information
Engineering «G. Marconi»

Contents

- What are we talking about?
- Why automatic controls?
- Automatic control architecture: humans revealed!
- Automatic control theory: a live coach
- Automatic control design: the best compromise
- Conclusions



Contents

- What are we talking about?
- Why automatic controls?
- Automatic control architecture: humans revealed!
- Automatic control theory: a live coach
- Automatic control design: the best compromise
- Conclusions



What are we talking about?

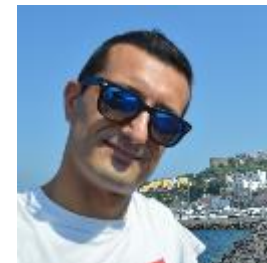
We have an inherent desire to bend life to our wills



What are we talking about?

We have an inherent desire to bend life to our wills

- Meeting friends
- Having beers
- Swimming
- Travelling
- ...



My life

Me
(before the marriage)



What are we talking about?

We have an inherent desire to bend life to our wills

A husband

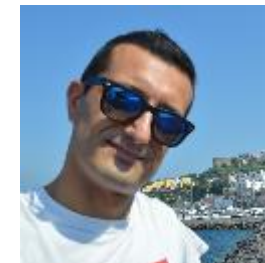
- doing housework
- At her disposal 7/24/365
- Funny
- Intelligent
- Strong
- ...

Her wishes



My wife
(before the marriage)

- Meeting friends
- Having beers
- Swimming
- Travelling
- ...



Me
(before the marriage)

→ My life



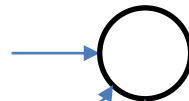
What are we talking about?

We have an inherent desire to bend life to our wills

A husband

- doing housework
- At her disposal 7/24/365
- Funny
- Intelligent
- Strong
- ...

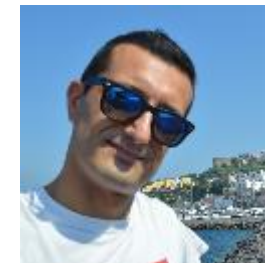
Her wishes



Comparison
Node



My wife
(before the marriage)



Me
(before the marriage)

- Meeting friends
- Having beers
- Swimming
- Travelling
- ...

My life



What are we talking about?

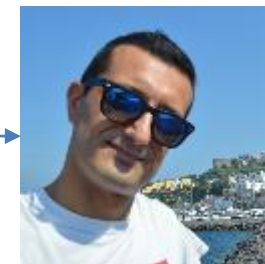
We have an inherent desire to bend life to our wills

A husband

- doing housework
- At her disposal 7/24/365
- Funny
- Intelligent
- Strong
- ...

Her wishes

Comparison
Node



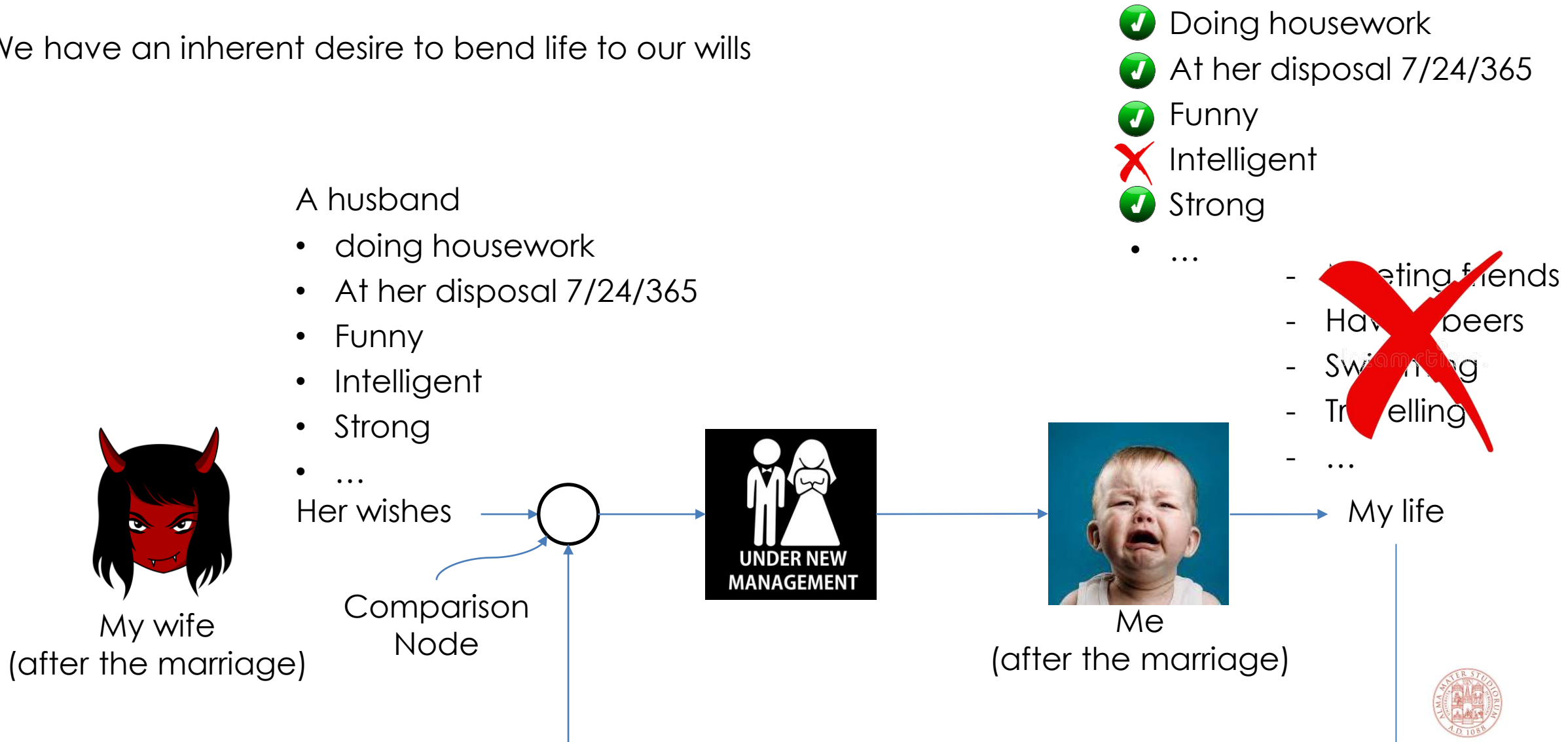
- Meeting friends
- Having beers
- Swimming
- Travelling
- ...

My life



What are we talking about?

We have an inherent desire to bend life to our wills





What are we talking about?

More formally

system

in British English

(ˈsɪstəm  )


NOUN

1. a group or combination of interrelated, interdependent, or interacting elements forming a collective entity; a methodical or coordinated assemblage of parts, facts, concepts, etc

a system of currency



the Copernican system

System

Word Frequency 



in British English

('sɪstəm  )

1. a group or combination of interrelated, interdependent, or interacting elements forming a collective entity; a methodical or coordinated assemblage of parts, facts, concepts, etc

the Copernican system



What are we talking about?

More formally

What are we talking about?

system

in British English

(ˈsɪstəm)  

NOUN

1. a group or combination of interrelated, interdependent, or interacting elements forming a collective entity; a methodical or coordinated assemblage of parts, facts, concepts, etc

a system of currency

the Copernican system

System





Word Frequency 



What are we talking about?

system

in British English


(ˈsɪstəm)  

NOUN

1. a group or combination of interrelated, interdependent, or interacting elements forming a collective entity; a methodical or coordinated assemblage of parts, facts, concepts, etc
a system of currency
the Copernican system

System



Word Frequency 



More formally



What are we talking about?

system

in British English

(ˈsɪstəm  )

NOUN


1. a group or combination of interrelated, interdependent, or interacting elements forming a collective entity; a methodical or coordinated assemblage of parts, facts, concepts, etc

a system of currency

the Copernican system

System





Word Frequency 



What are we talking about?

system

in British English

(ˈsɪstəm)  

NOUN

1. a group or combination of interrelated, interdependent, or interacting elements forming a collective entity; a methodical or coordinated assemblage of parts, facts, concepts, etc

a system of currency

the Copernican system

System



Word Frequency 



More formally



What are we talking about?

system

in British English

(ˈsɪstəm)  

NOUN

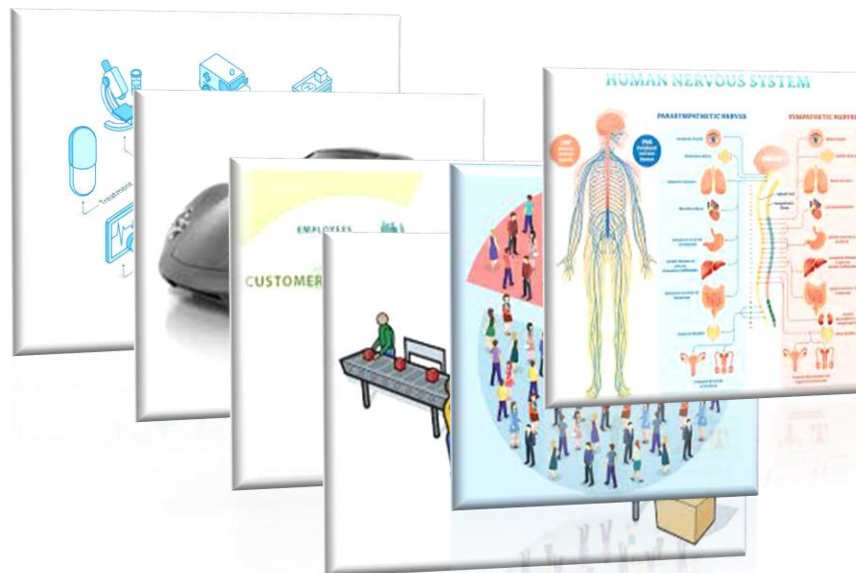
1. a group or combination of interrelated, interdependent, or interacting elements forming a collective entity; a methodical or coordinated assemblage of parts, facts, concepts, etc


a system of currency

the Copernican system

System

More formally





Word Frequency 



What are we talking about?

system

in British English

(ˈsɪstəm)  

NOUN

1. a group or combination of interrelated, interdependent, or interacting elements forming a collective entity; a methodical or coordinated assemblage of parts, facts, concepts, etc

a system of currency

the Copernican system

System

More formally



Word Frequency 





ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA

What are we talking about?

system

in British English

(ˈsɪstəm)  

NOUN

1. a group or combination of interrelated, interdependent, or interacting elements forming a collective entity; a methodical or coordinated assemblage of parts, facts, concepts, etc

a system of currency

the Copernican system

System

(oriented model of)



Word Frequency 

More formally



What are we talking about?

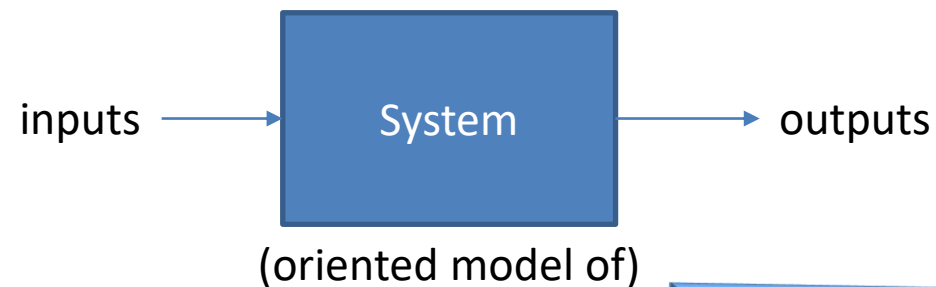
system

in British English

(ˈsɪstəm ⓘ)

NOUN

1. a group or combination of interrelated, interdependent, or interacting elements forming a collective entity; a methodical or coordinated assemblage of parts, facts, concepts, etc
a system of currency
the Copernican system



Word Frequency ●●●●●

More formally



What are we talking about?

system

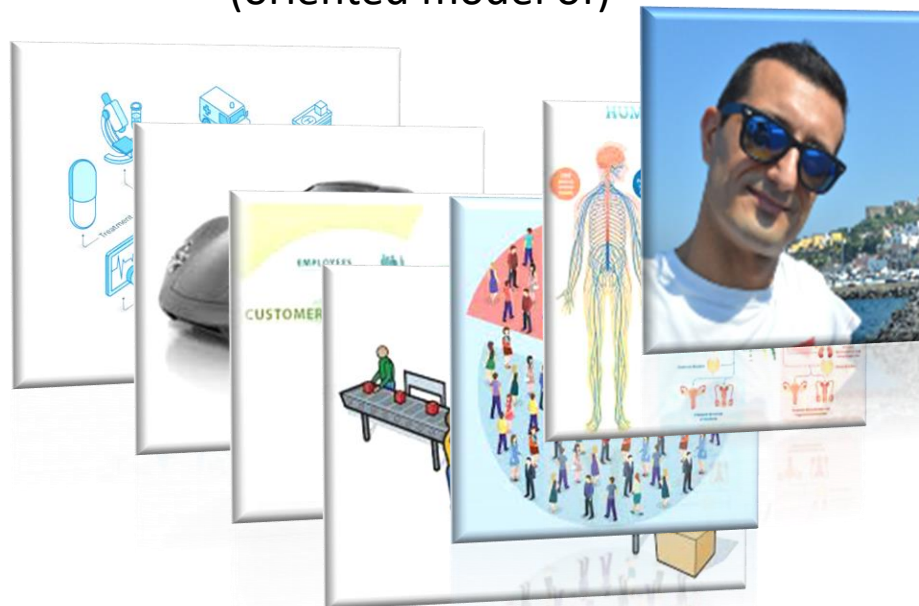
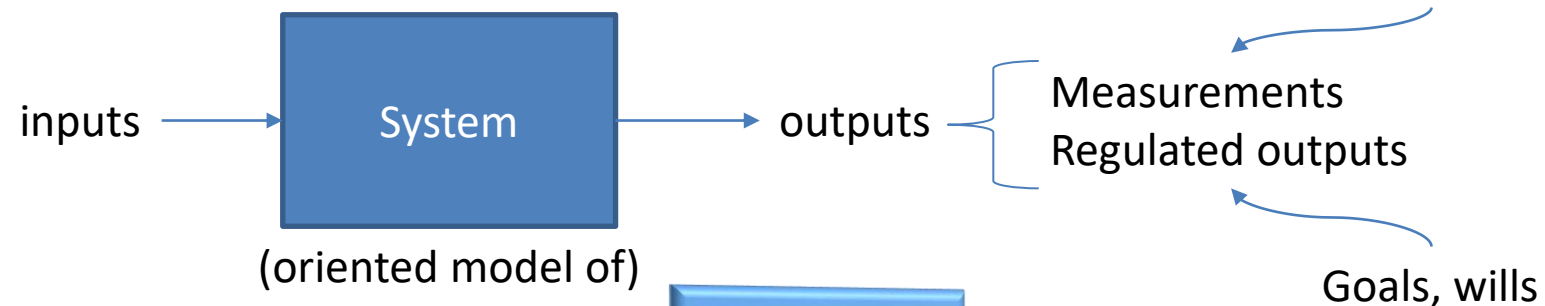
in British English

(ˈsɪstəm ⓘ)

NOUN

1. a group or combination of interrelated, interdependent, or interacting elements forming a collective entity; a methodical or coordinated assemblage of parts, facts, concepts, etc
a system of currency
the Copernican system

Quantitative Evidences



What are we talking about?

system

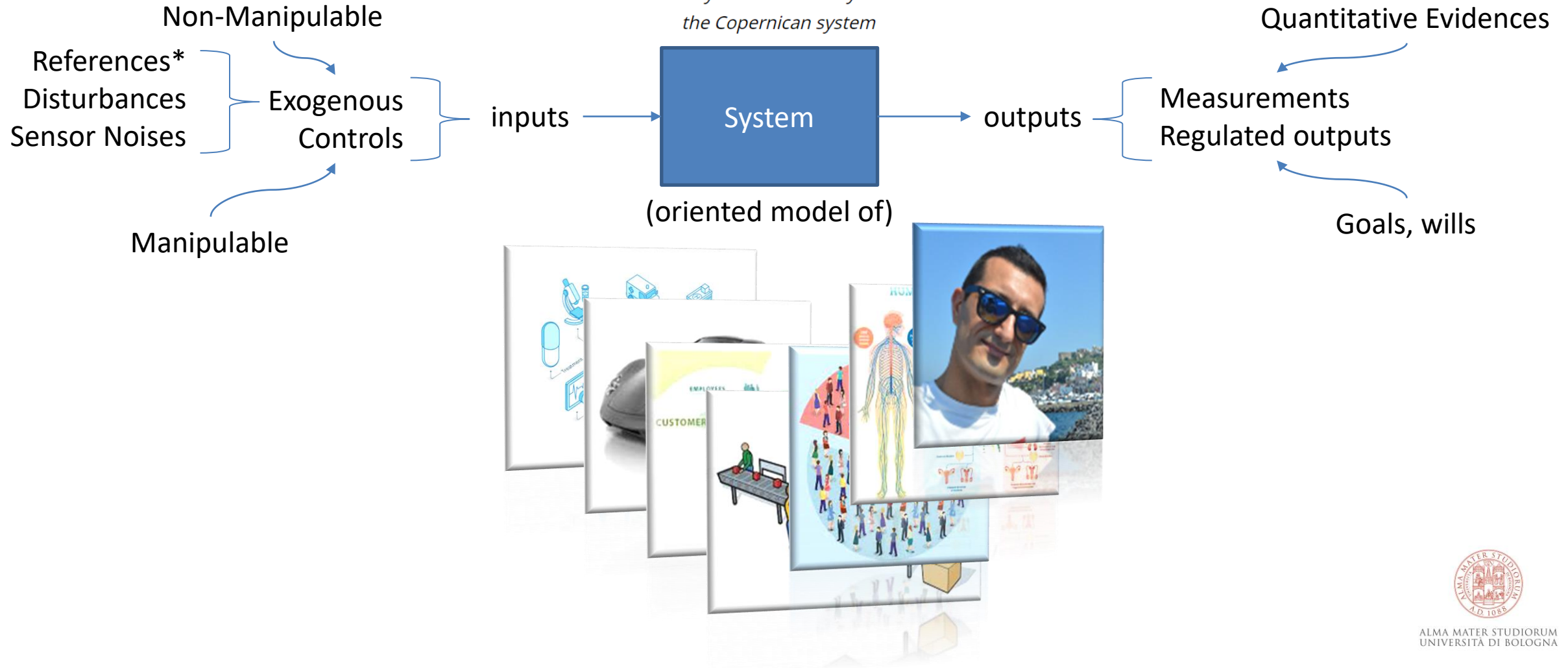
in British English

(ˈsɪstəm ⓘ)

NOUN

Word Frequency ●●●●●



1. a group or combination of interrelated, interdependent, or interacting elements forming a collective entity; a methodical or coordinated assemblage of parts, facts, concepts, etc
a system of currency
the Copernican system



What are we talking about?


system

in British English

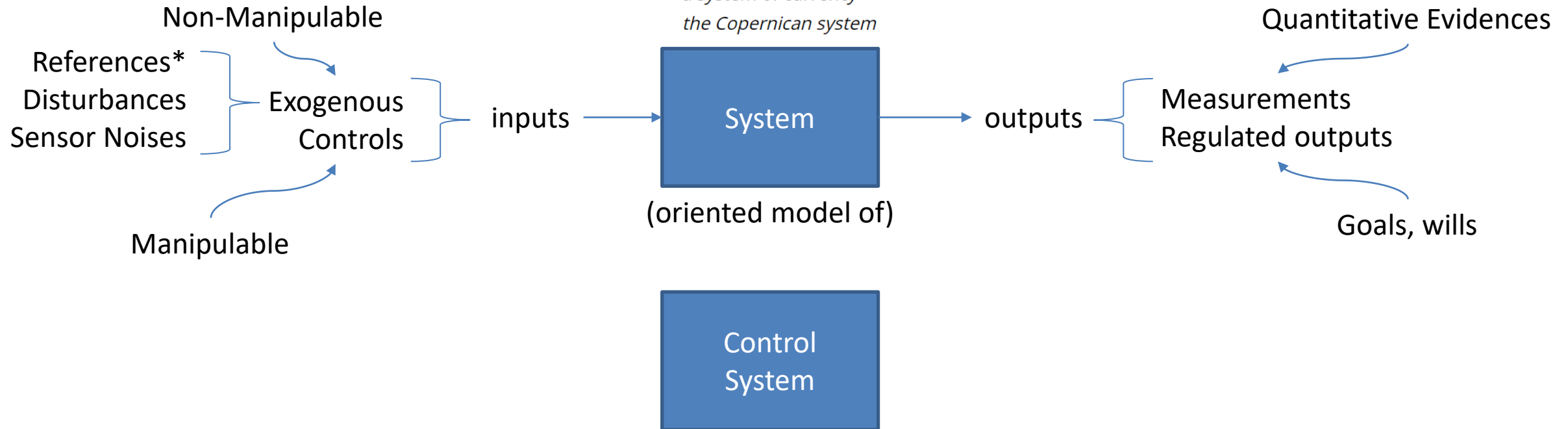
(ˈsɪstəm  )

NOUN

1. a group or combination of interrelated, interdependent, or interacting elements forming a collective entity; a methodical or coordinated assemblage of parts, facts, concepts, etc
a system of currency
the Copernican system

Word Frequency 



More formally



What are we talking about?

system

in British English

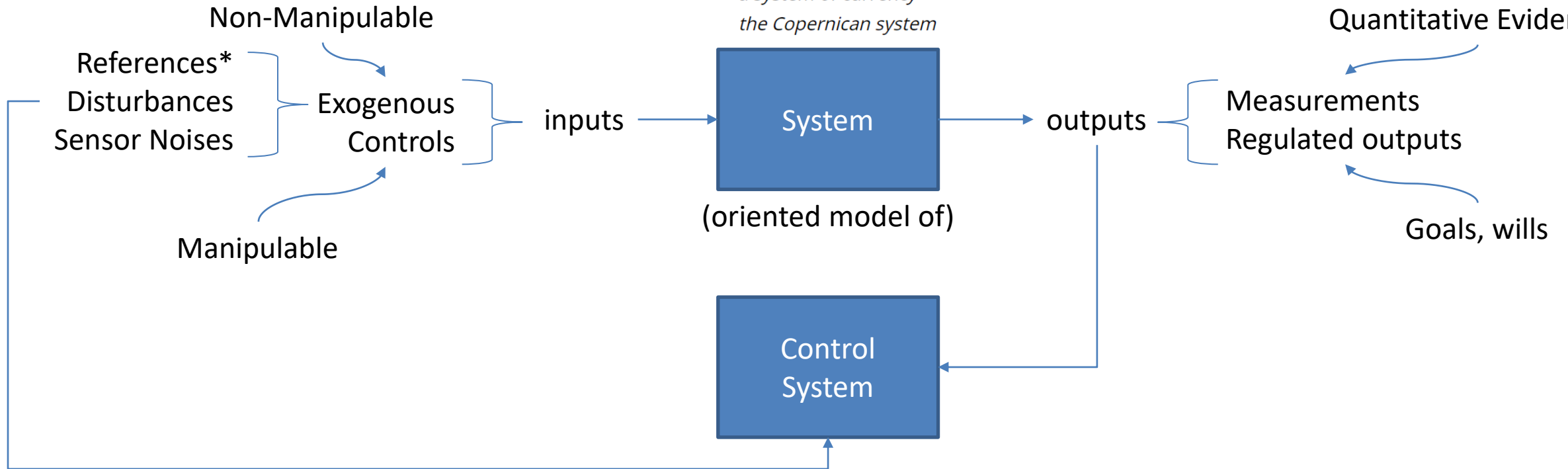
(ˈsɪstəm  )

NOUN

1. a group or combination of interrelated, interdependent, or interacting elements forming a collective entity; a methodical or coordinated assemblage of parts, facts, concepts, etc
a system of currency
the Copernican system

Quantitative Evidences



More formally



What are we talking about?

system

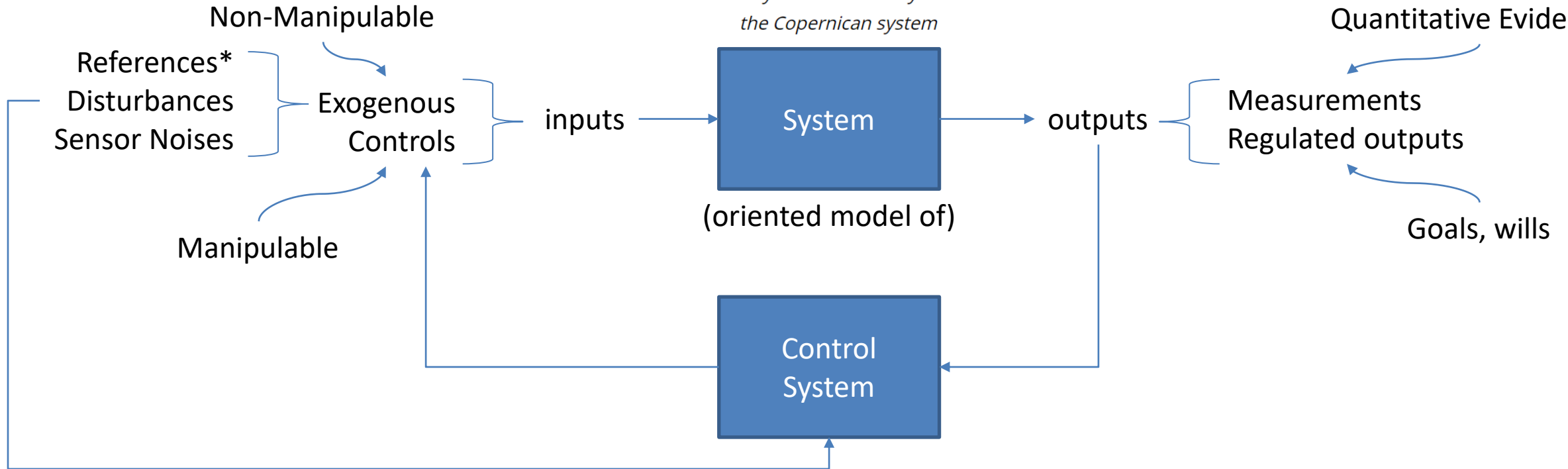
in British English

(ˈsɪstəm  )

NOUN

1. a group or combination of interrelated, interdependent, or interacting elements forming a collective entity; a methodical or coordinated assemblage of parts, facts, concepts, etc
a system of currency
the Copernican system



Quantitative Evidences



What are we talking about?

system

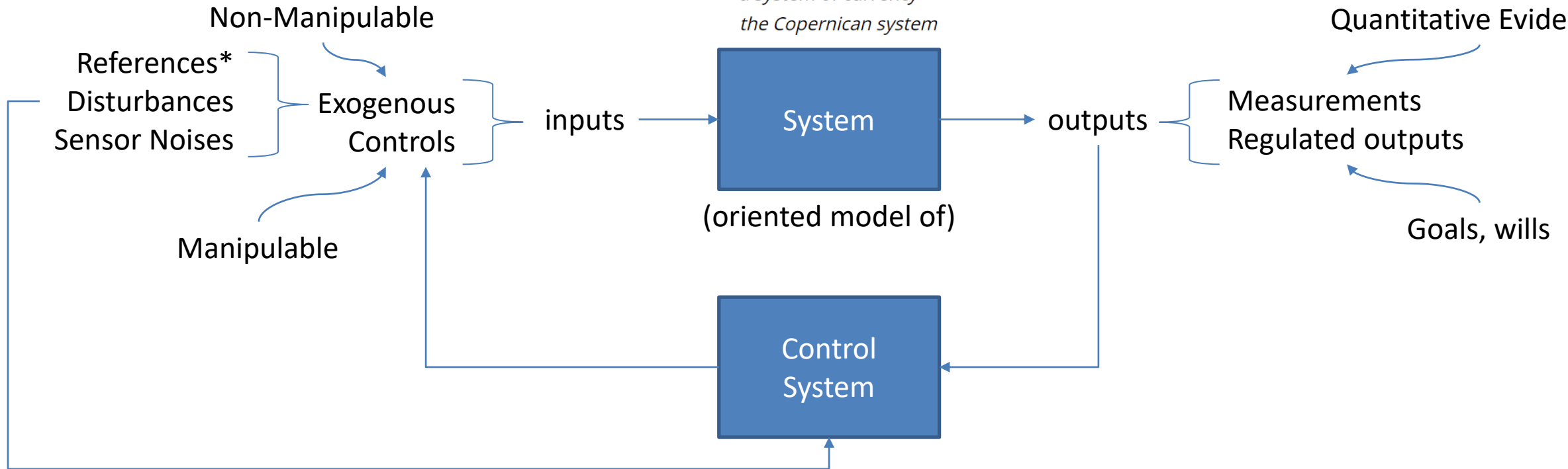
in British English

(ˈsɪstəm  )

NOUN


1. a group or combination of interrelated, interdependent, or interacting elements forming a collective entity; a methodical or coordinated assemblage of parts, facts, concepts, etc
a system of currency
the Copernican system

Quantitative Evidences



Assumption

Bounded exogenous

Word Frequency 



What are we talking about?

system

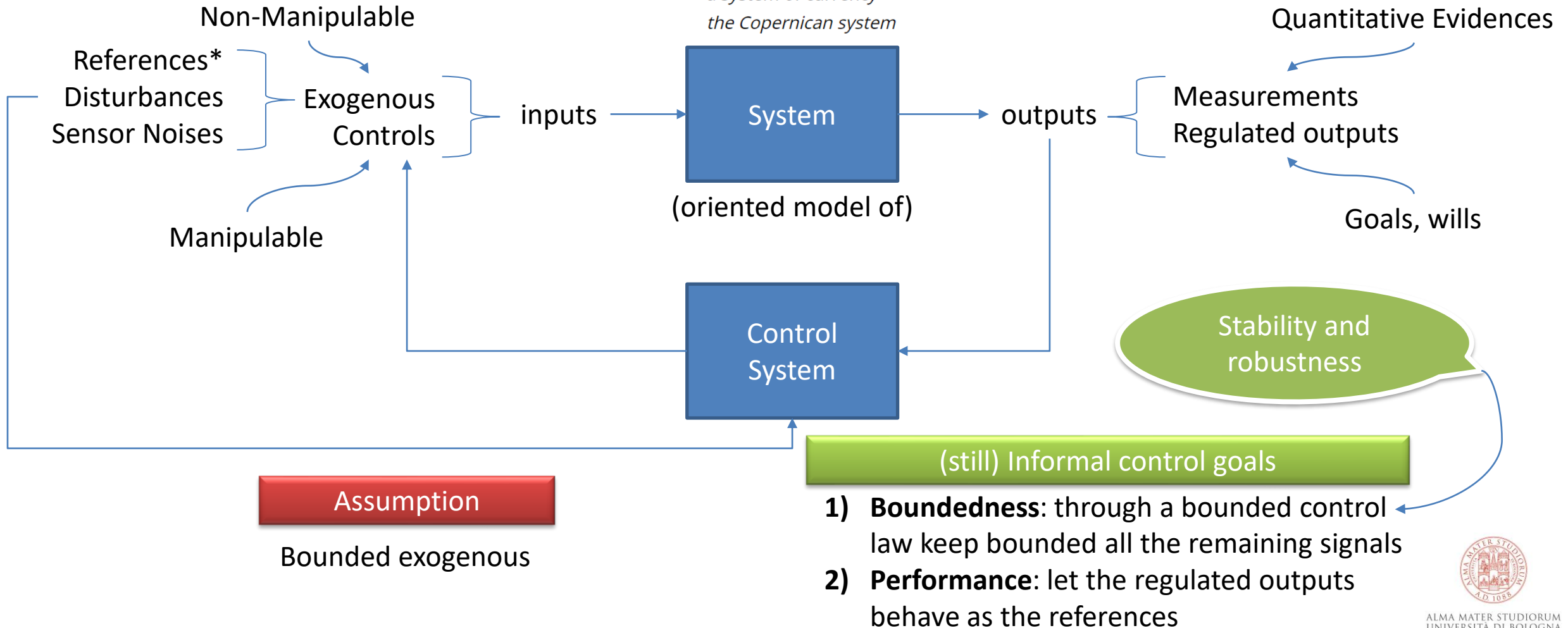
in British English

(ˈsɪstəm ⓘ)

NOUN

1. a group or combination of interrelated, interdependent, or interacting elements forming a collective entity; a methodical or coordinated assemblage of parts, facts, concepts, etc
a system of currency
the Copernican system

Quantitative Evidences





Word Frequency ●●●●●



system

in British English

(ˈsɪstəm  )

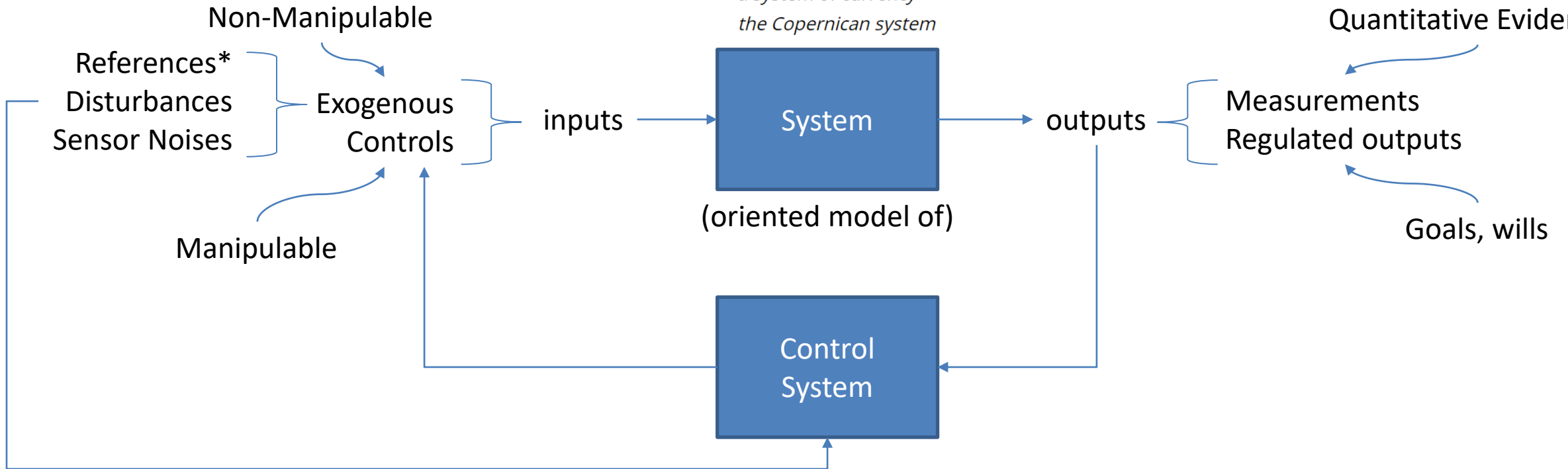
NOUN

1. a group or combination of interrelated, interdependent, or interacting elements forming a collective entity; a methodical or coordinated assemblage of parts, facts, concepts, etc
a system of currency
the Copernican system

Quantitative Evidences



What are we talking about?

More formally




system

in British English

(ˈsɪstəm  )

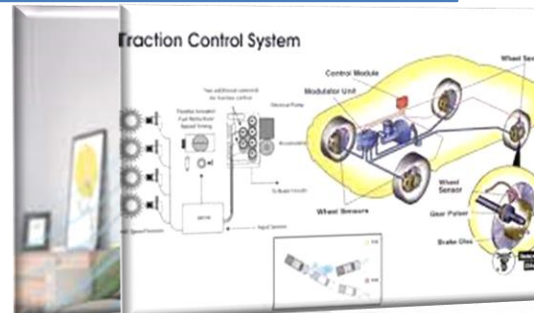
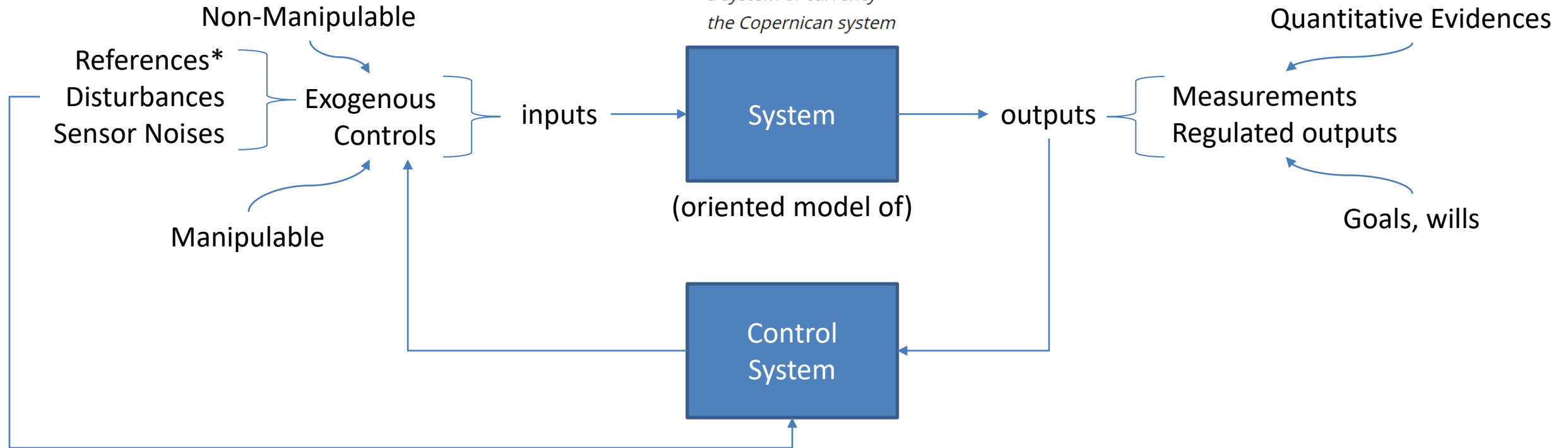
NOUN

1. a group or combination of interrelated, interdependent, or interacting elements forming a collective entity; a methodical or coordinated assemblage of parts, facts, concepts, etc
a system of currency
the Copernican system

Word Frequency 



What are we talking about?

More formally



system

in British English

(ˈsɪstəm  )

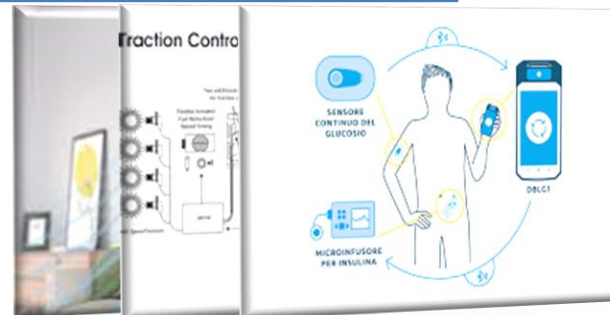
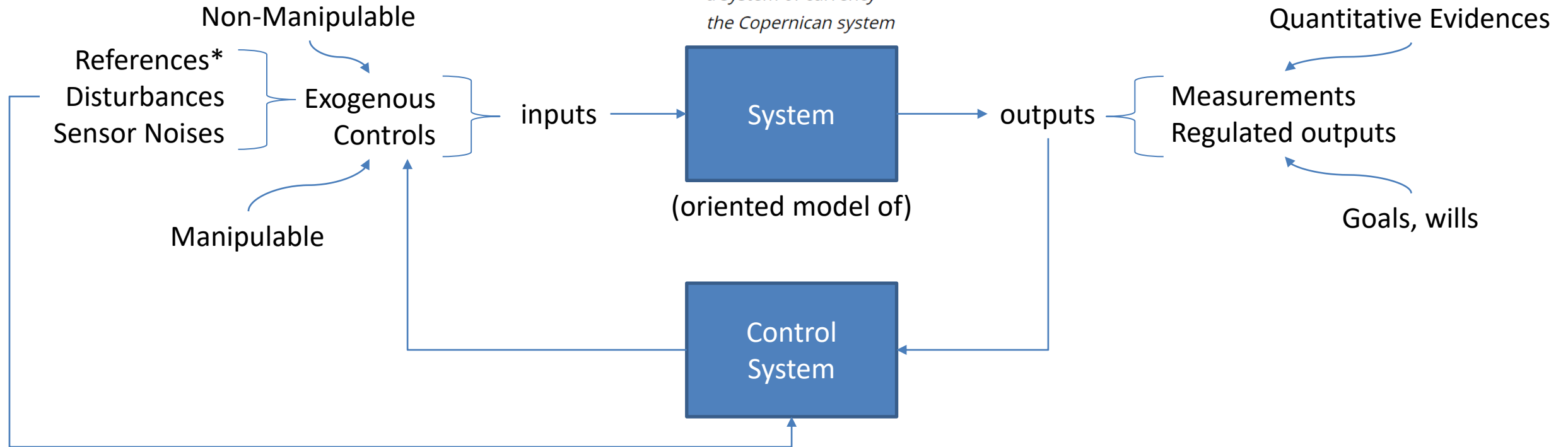
NOUN

1. a group or combination of interrelated, interdependent, or interacting elements forming a collective entity; a methodical or coordinated assemblage of parts, facts, concepts, etc
a system of currency
the Copernican system

Quantitative Evidences



What are we talking about?

More formally



system

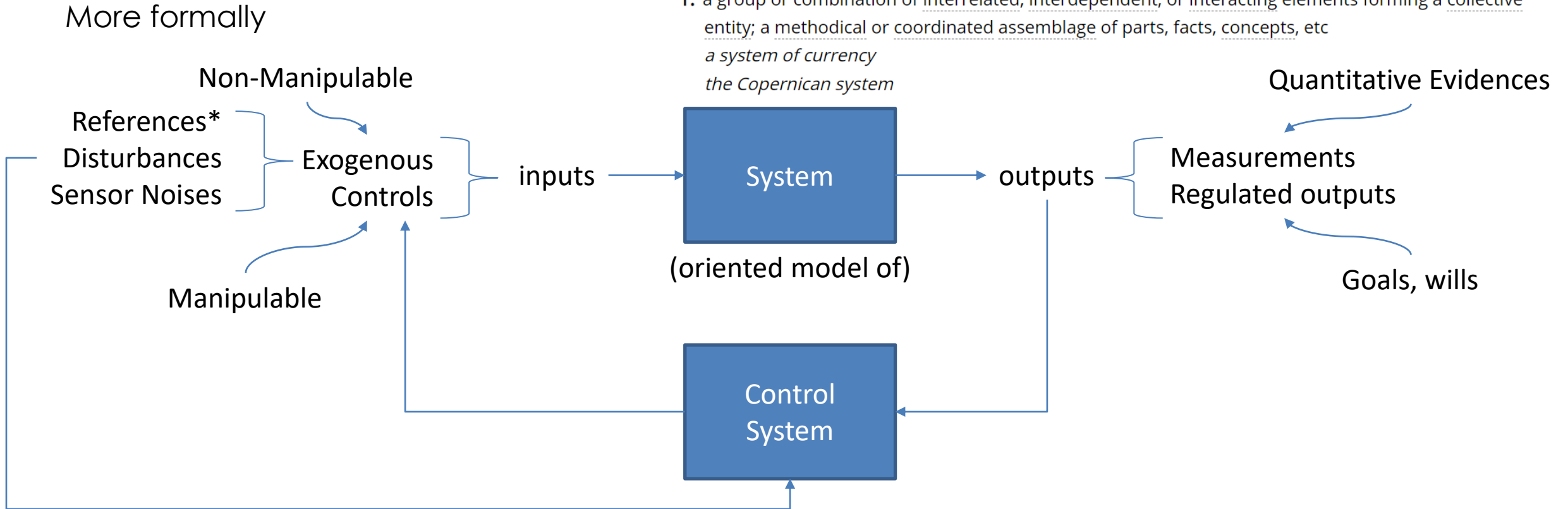
in British English

(ˈsɪstəm  )

NOUN

1. a group or combination of interrelated, interdependent, or interacting elements forming a collective entity; a methodical or coordinated assemblage of parts, facts, concepts, etc
a system of currency
the Copernican system



Quantitative Evidences



What are we talking about?

system

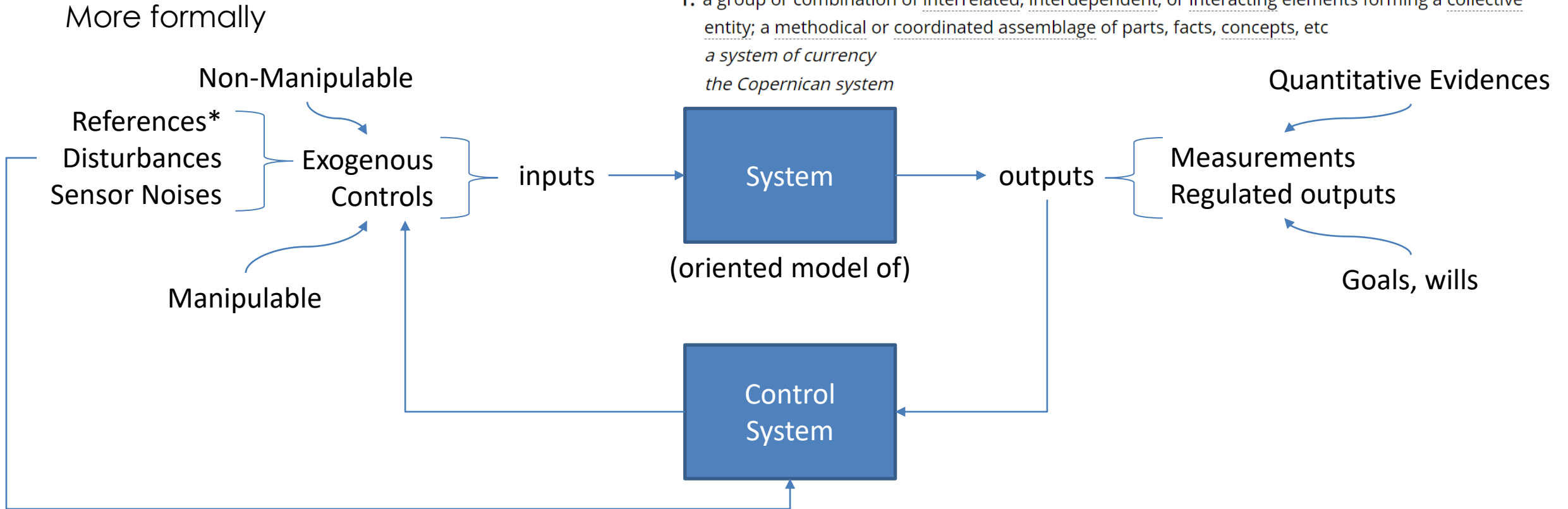
in British English

(ˈsɪstəm  )

NOUN



1. a group or combination of interrelated, interdependent, or interacting elements forming a collective entity; a methodical or coordinated assemblage of parts, facts, concepts, etc
a system of currency
the Copernican system

Quantitative Evidences



system

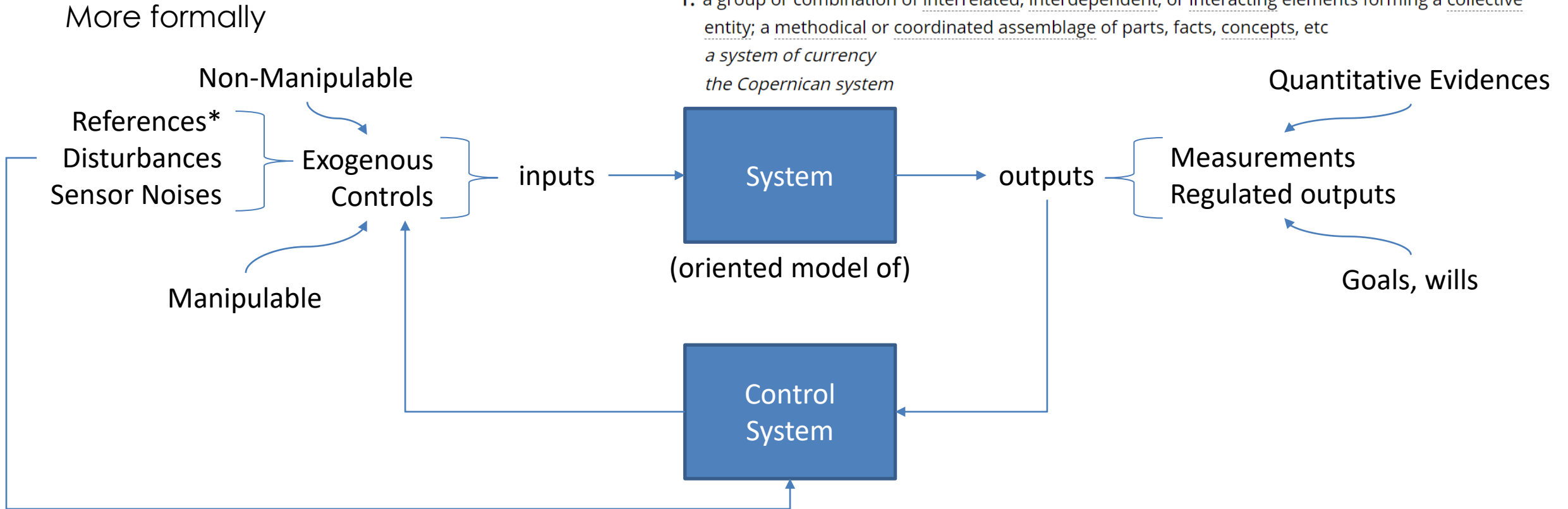
in British English

(ˈsɪstəm  )

NOUN



1. a group or combination of interrelated, interdependent, or interacting elements forming a collective entity; a methodical or coordinated assemblage of parts, facts, concepts, etc
a system of currency
the Copernican system

Quantitative Evidences



system

in British English

(ˈsɪstəm  )

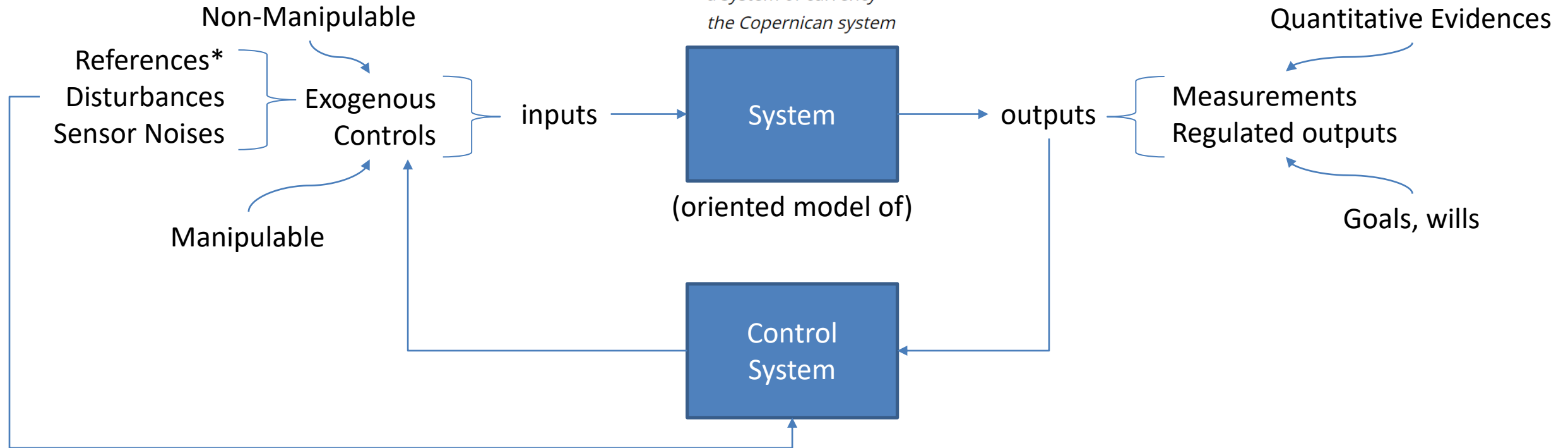
NOUN

1. a group or combination of interrelated, interdependent, or interacting elements forming a collective entity; a methodical or coordinated assemblage of parts, facts, concepts, etc
a system of currency
the Copernican system

Quantitative Evidences

What are we talking about?

More formally



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA

Word Frequency 

Contents

- What are we talking about?
- Why automatic controls?
- Automatic control architecture: humans revealed!
- Automatic control theory: a live coach
- Automatic control design: the best compromise
- Conclusions



Why automatic controls?

Help humans

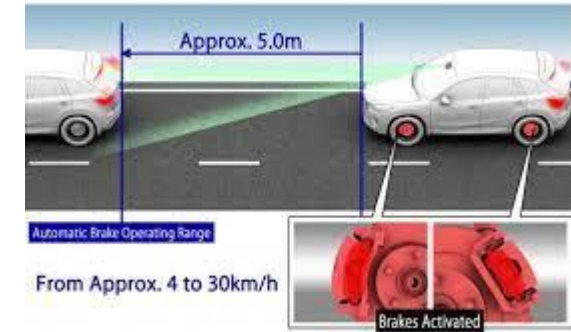
- Support in heavy and repetitive tasks



Why automatic controls?

Help humans

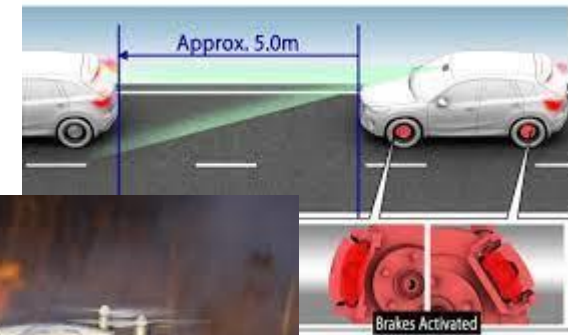
- Support in heavy and repetitive tasks
- Improving Safety



Why automatic controls?

Help humans

- Support in heavy and repetitive tasks
- Improving Safety



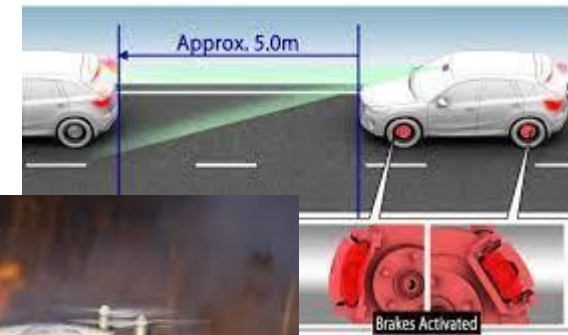
Why automatic controls?

Help humans

- Support in heavy and repetitive tasks
- Improving Safety

Substitute Humans

- Precision tasks



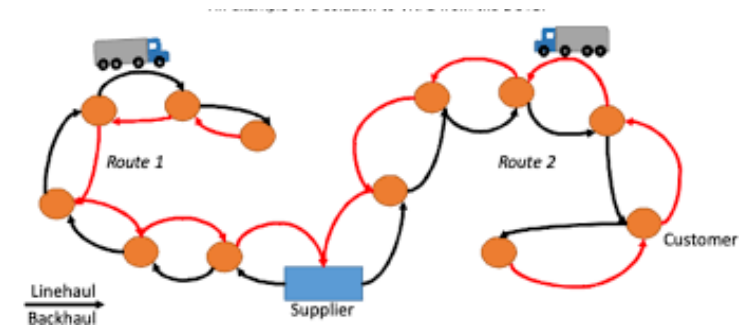
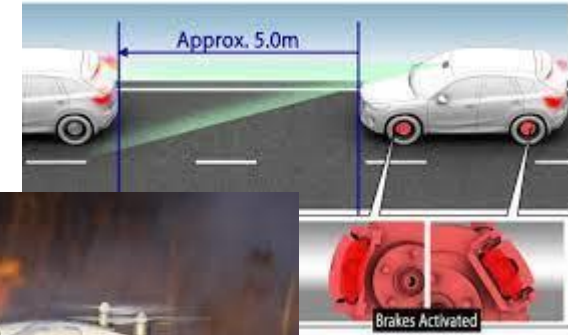
Why automatic controls?

Help humans

- Support in heavy and repetitive tasks
- Improving Safety

Substitute Humans

- Precision tasks
- Optimise solutions to complex problems



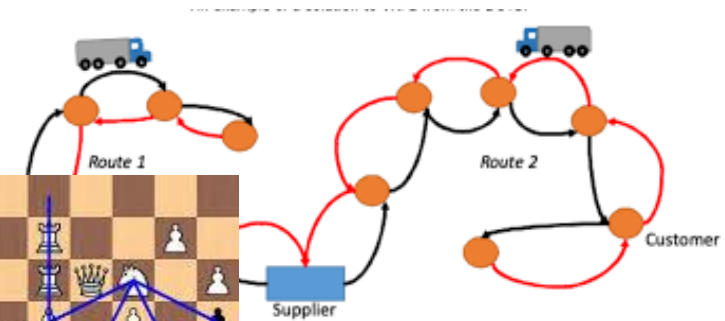
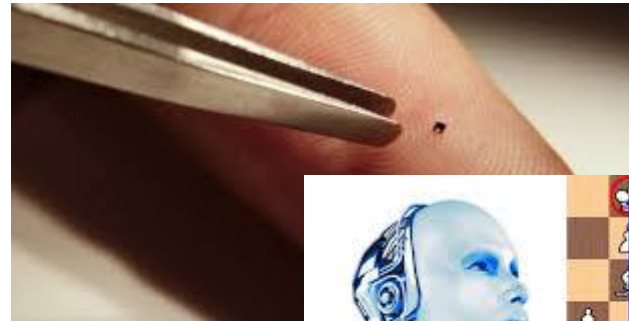
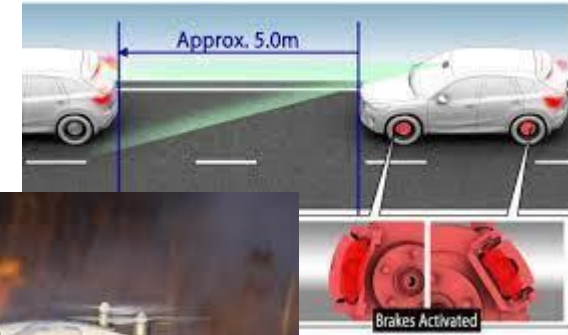
Why automatic controls?

Help humans

- Support in heavy and repetitive tasks
- Improving Safety

Substitute Humans

- Precision tasks
- Optimise solutions to complex problems



Why automatic controls?

Help humans

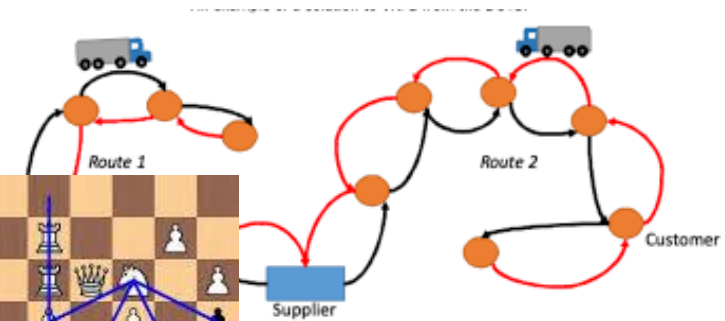
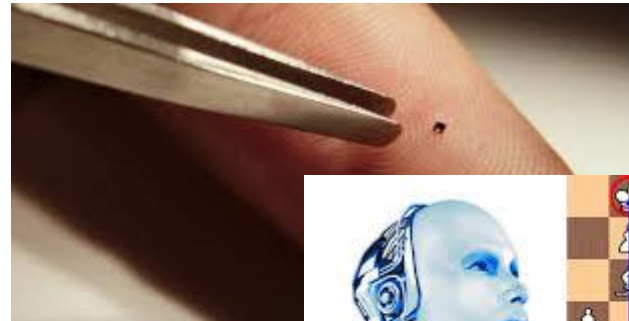
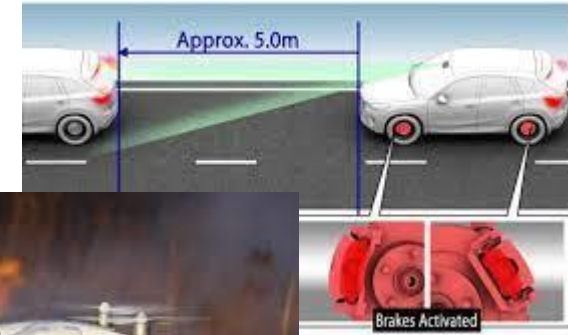
- Support in heavy and repetitive tasks
- Improving Safety

Substitute Humans

- Precision tasks
- Optimise solutions to complex problems

Curiosity

Nowadays, the majority of automatic control systems are implemented through electronics.



Why automatic controls?

Help humans

- Support in heavy and repetitive tasks
- Improving Safety

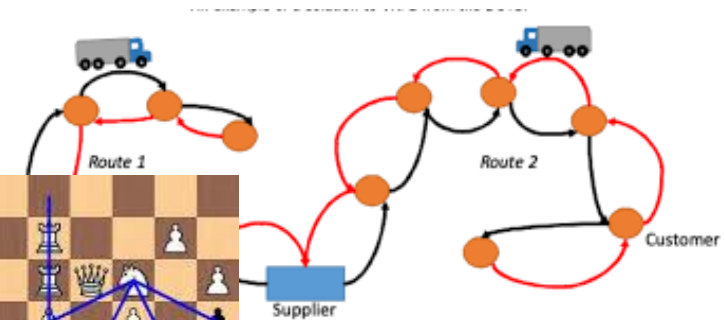
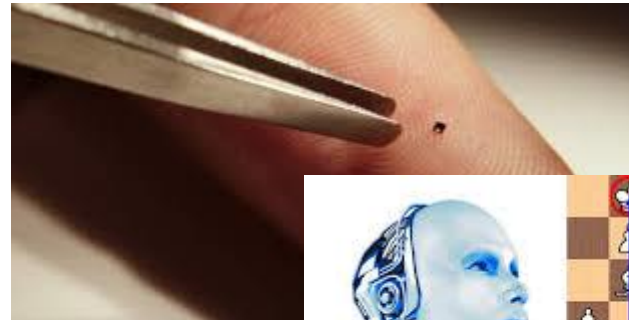
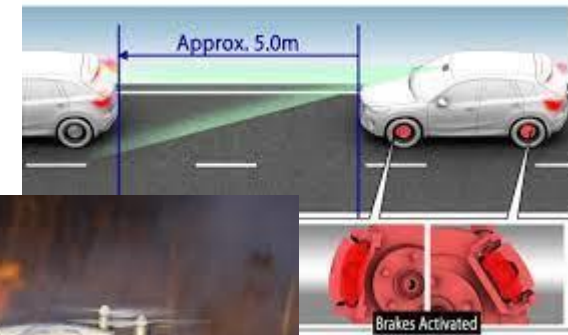
Substitute Humans

- Precision tasks
- Optimise solutions to complex problems



Curiosity

Nowadays, the majority of automatic control systems are implemented through electronics. So, no electronics, no party!



Contents

- What are we talking about?
- Why automatic controls?
- Automatic control architecture: humans revealed!
- Automatic control theory: a live coach
- Automatic control design: the best compromise
- Conclusions



Automatic control architecture: humans revealed!

Let's experimentally build it together



Automatic control architecture: humans revealed!

Let's experimentally build it together: catch a fly!



Automatic control architecture: humans revealed!

Let's experimentally build it together: catch a fly!

1st step: identify the oriented model of the system



Automatic control architecture: humans revealed!

Let's experimentally build it together: catch a fly!

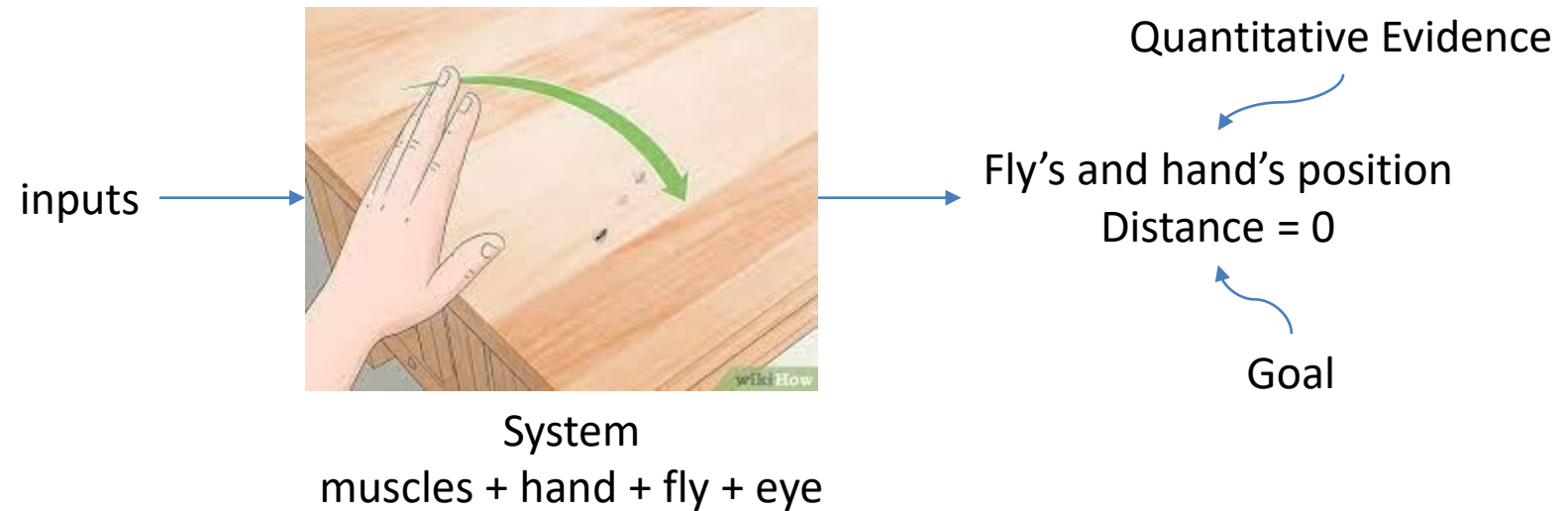
1st step: identify the oriented model of the system



Automatic control architecture: humans revealed!

Let's experimentally build it together: catch a fly!

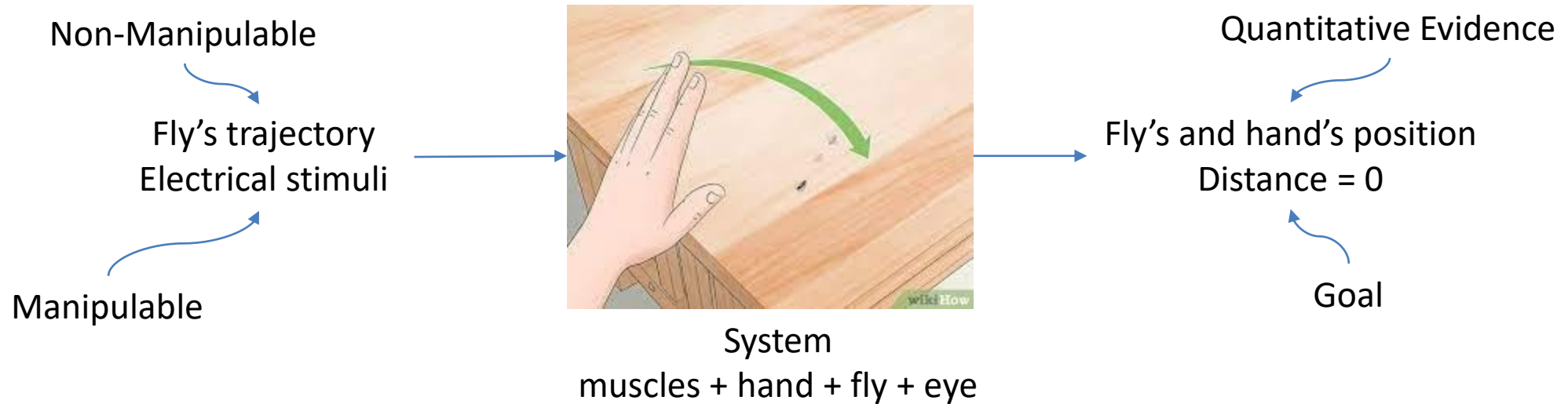
1st step: identify the oriented model of the system



Automatic control architecture: humans revealed!

Let's experimentally build it together: catch a fly!

1st step: identify the oriented model of the system



Automatic control architecture: humans revealed!

Let's experimentally build it together: catch a fly!

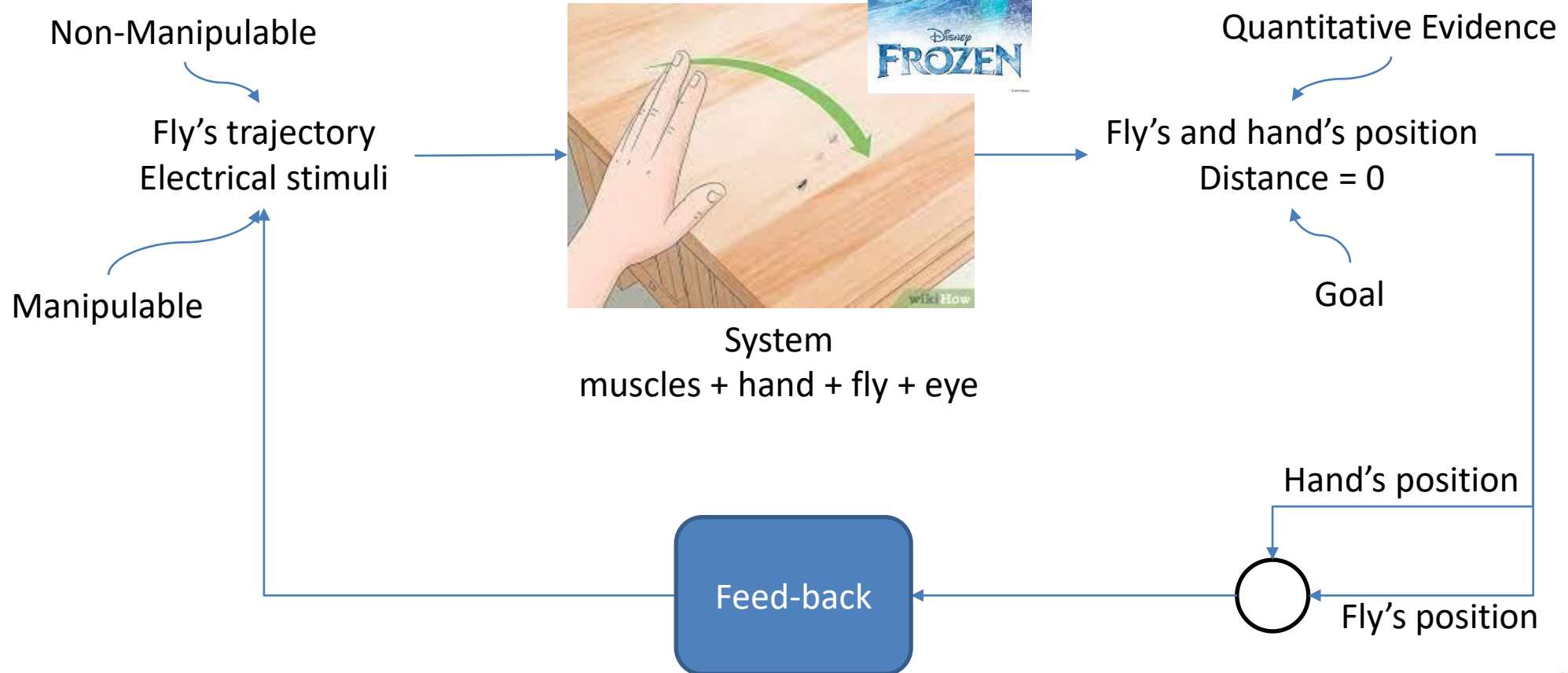
1st test: frozen fly



Automatic control architecture: humans revealed!

Let's experimentally build it together: catch a fly!

1st test: frozen fly



Automatic control architecture: humans revealed!

Let's experimentally build it together: catch a fly!

1st test: frozen fly



Non-Manipulable

Fly's trajectory
Electrical stimuli

Manipulable



System
muscles + hand + fly + eye

Quantitative Evidence

Fly's and hand's position
Distance = 0

Goal



Feed-back

Hand's position

Fly's position



Automatic control architecture: humans revealed!

Let's experimentally build it together: catch a fly!

1st test: frozen fly



Non-Manipulable

Fly's trajectory
Electrical stimuli

Manipulable



System
muscles + hand + fly + eye

Quantitative Evidence

Fly's and hand's position
Distance = 0

Goal



Feed-back

Hand's position

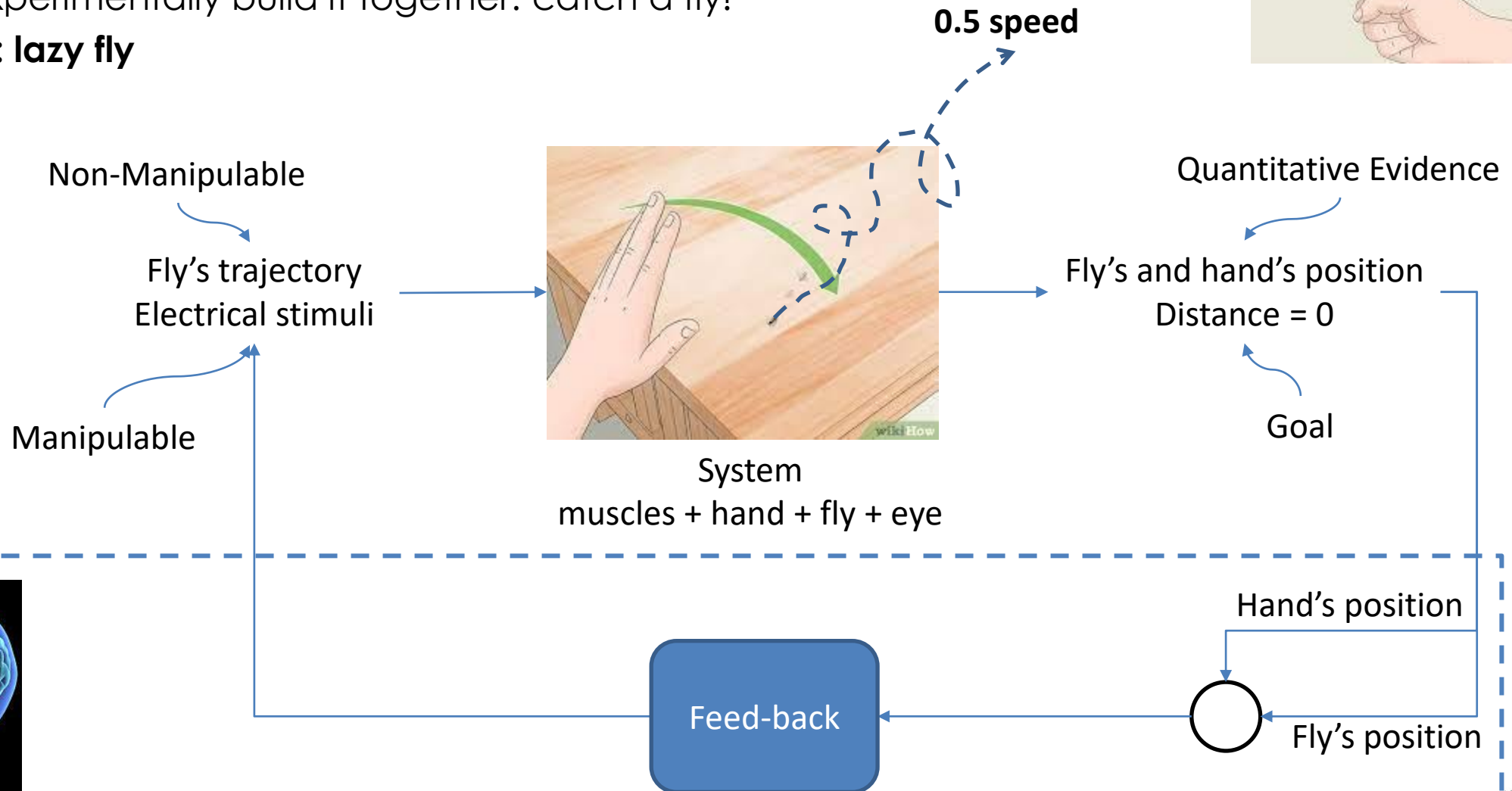
Fly's position



Automatic control architecture: humans revealed!

Let's experimentally build it together: catch a fly!

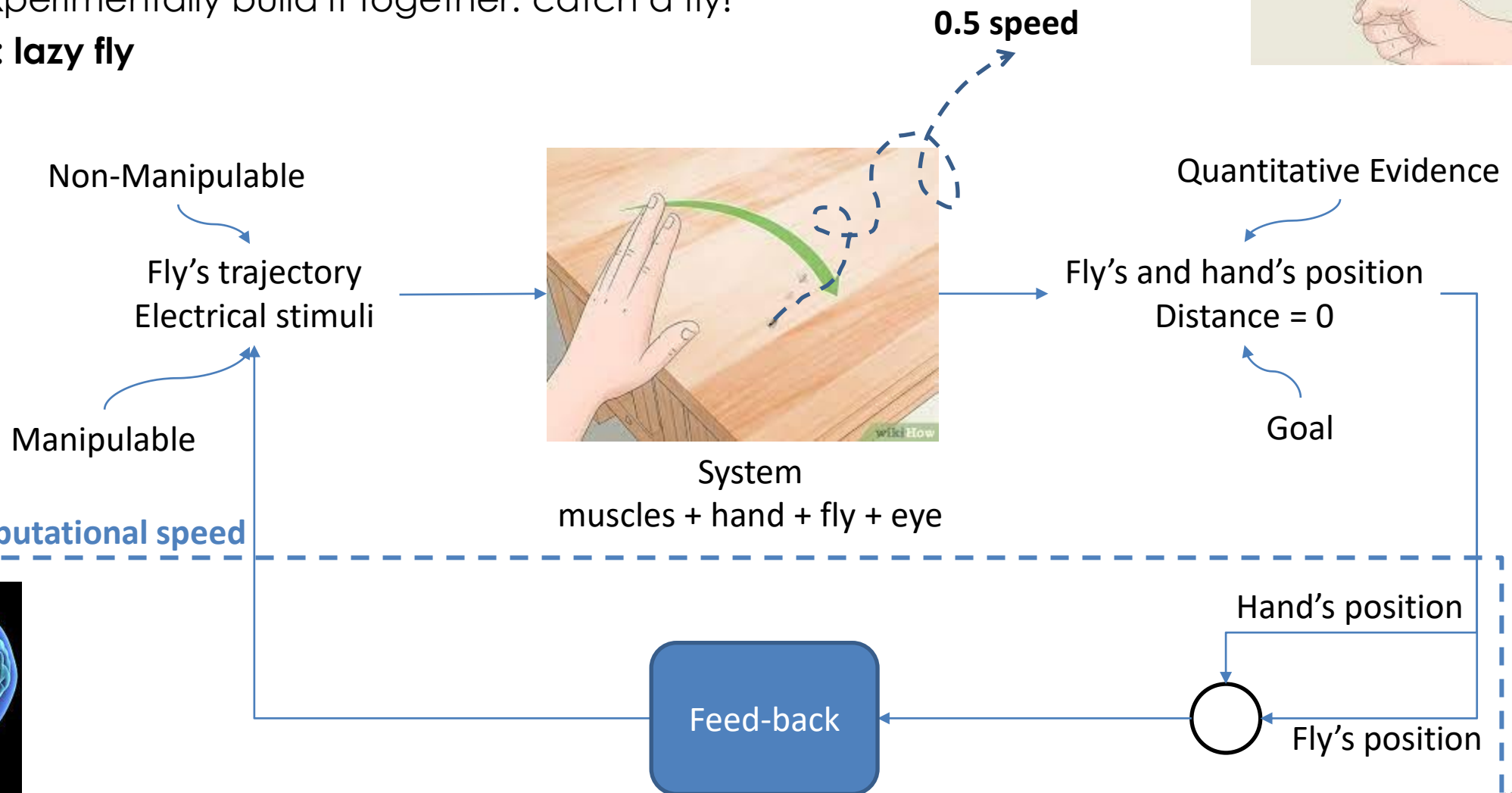
2nd test: lazy fly



Automatic control architecture: humans revealed!

Let's experimentally build it together: catch a fly!

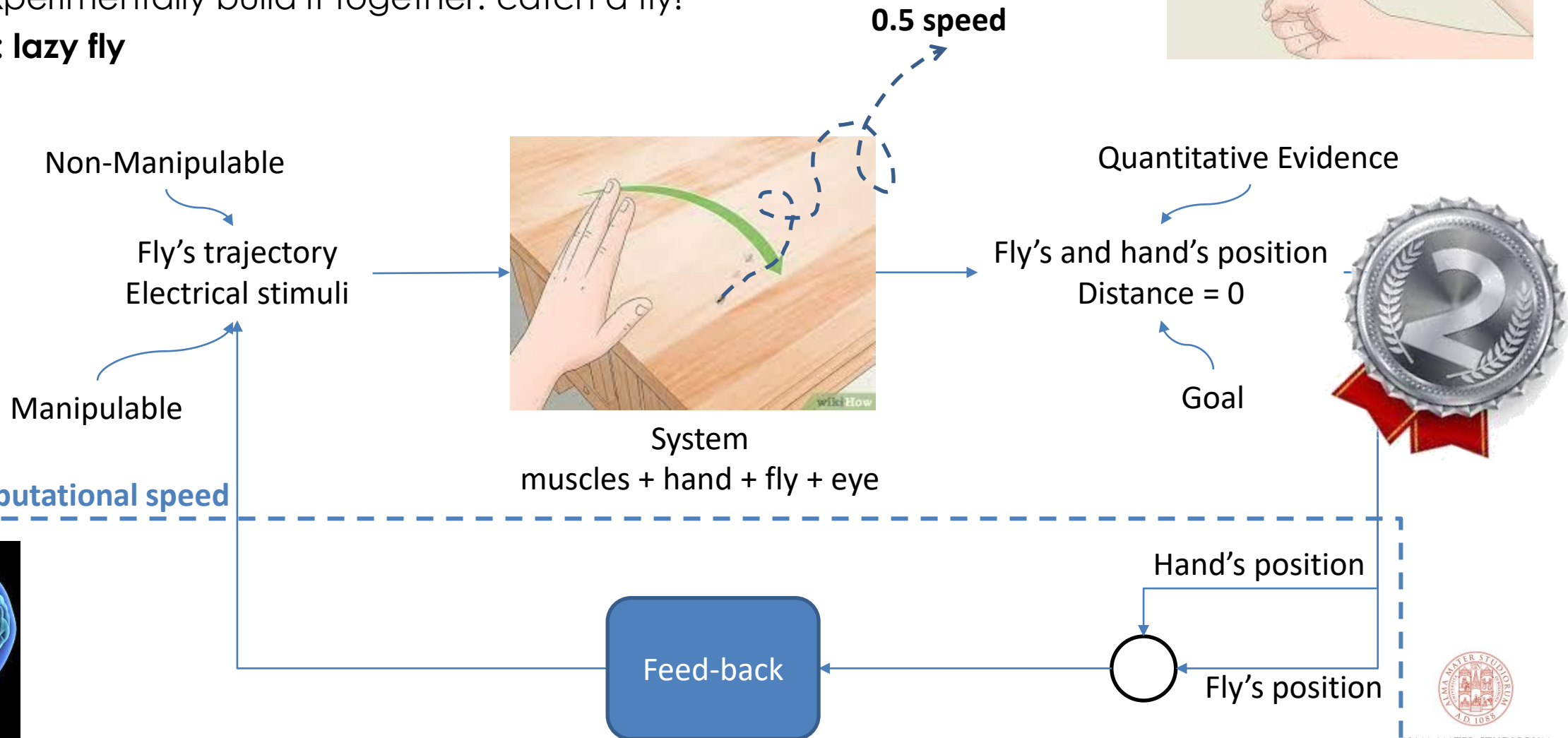
2nd test: lazy fly



Automatic control architecture: humans revealed!

Let's experimentally build it together: catch a fly!

2nd test: lazy fly



Automatic control architecture: humans revealed!

Let's experimentally build it together: catch a fly!

2nd test: lazy fly



0.75 speed

Non-Manipulable

Fly's trajectory
Electrical stimuli

Manipulable



System
muscles + hand + fly + eye

Quantitative Evidence

Fly's and hand's position
Distance = 0

Goal



Bounded computational speed



Feed-back

Hand's position

Fly's position

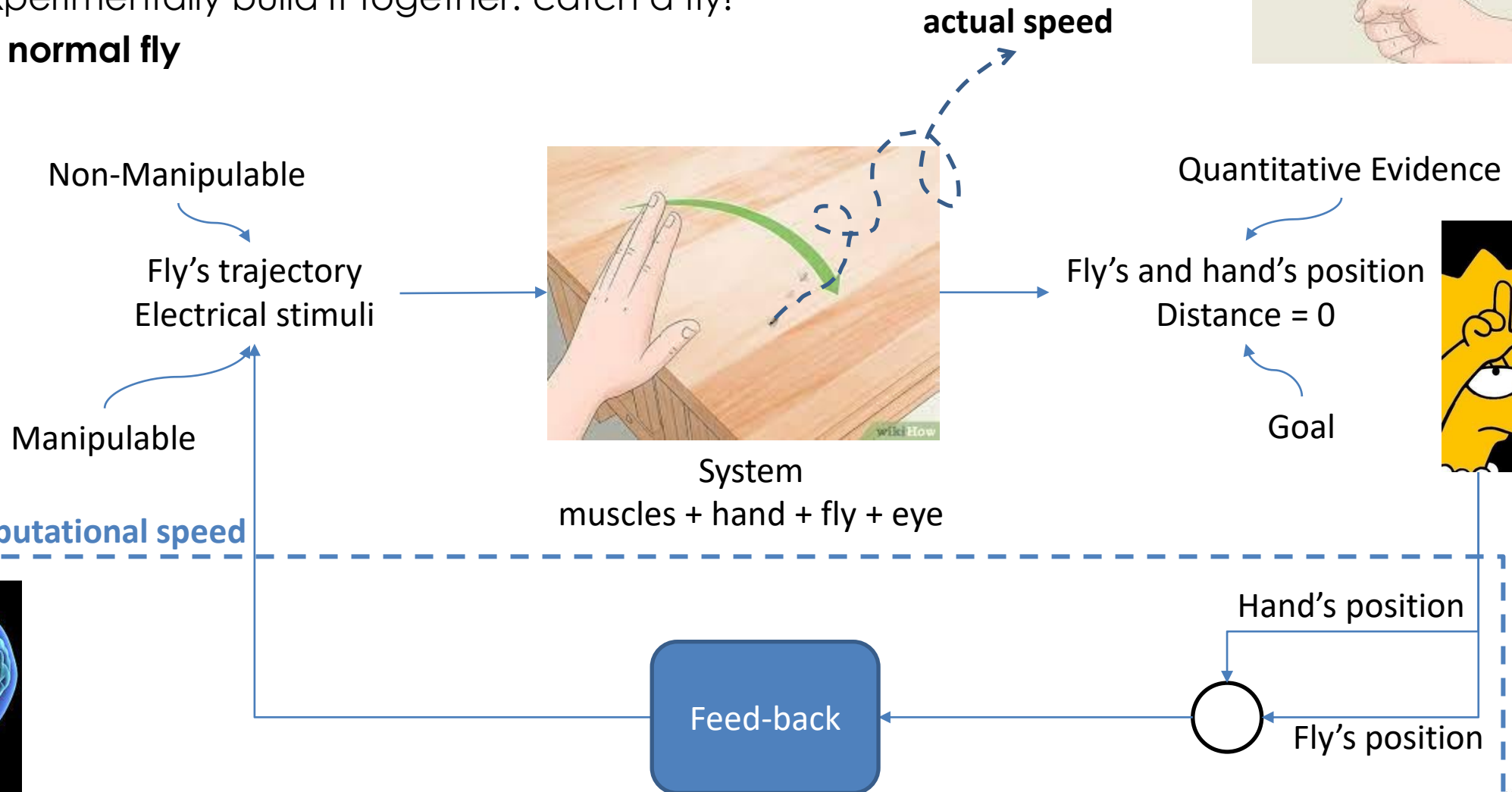


ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA

Automatic control architecture: humans revealed!

Let's experimentally build it together: catch a fly!

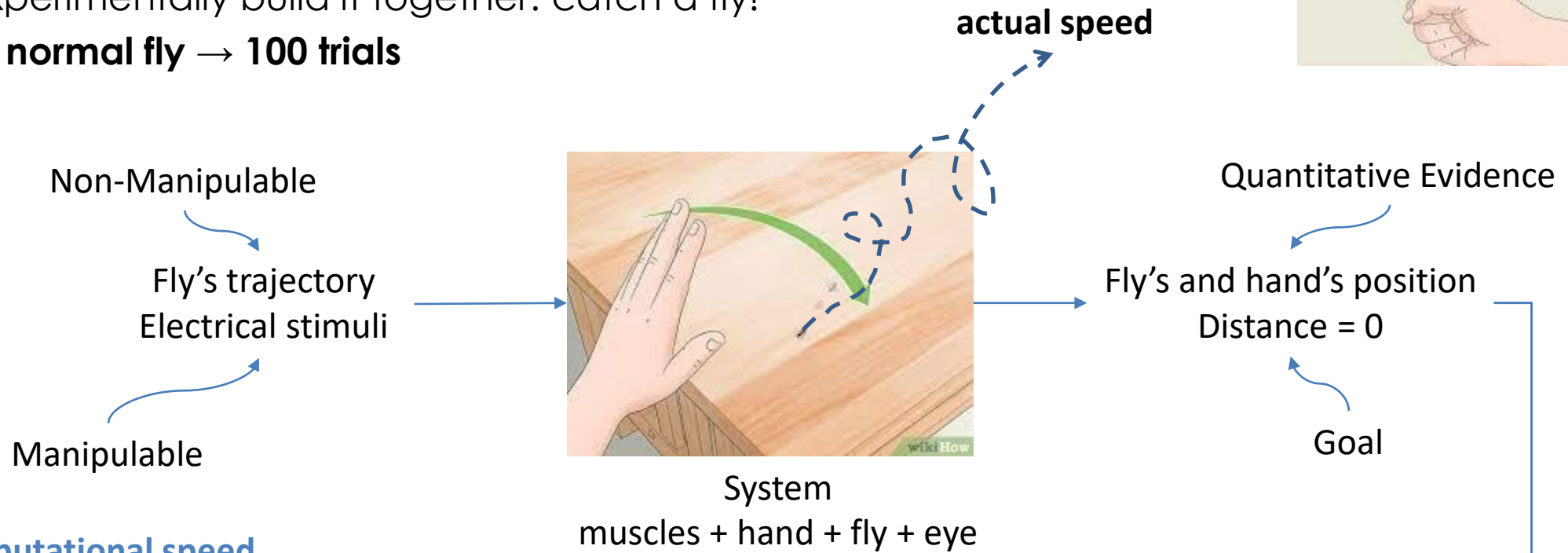
3rd test: normal fly



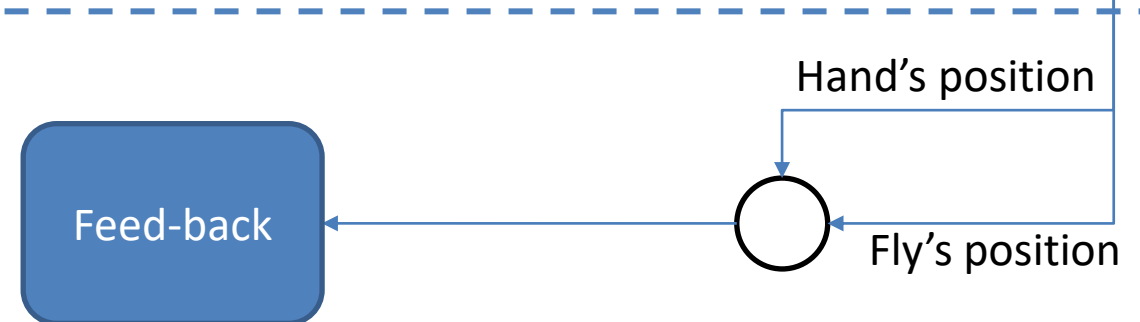
Automatic control architecture: humans revealed!

Let's experimentally build it together: catch a fly!

4th test: normal fly → 100 trials



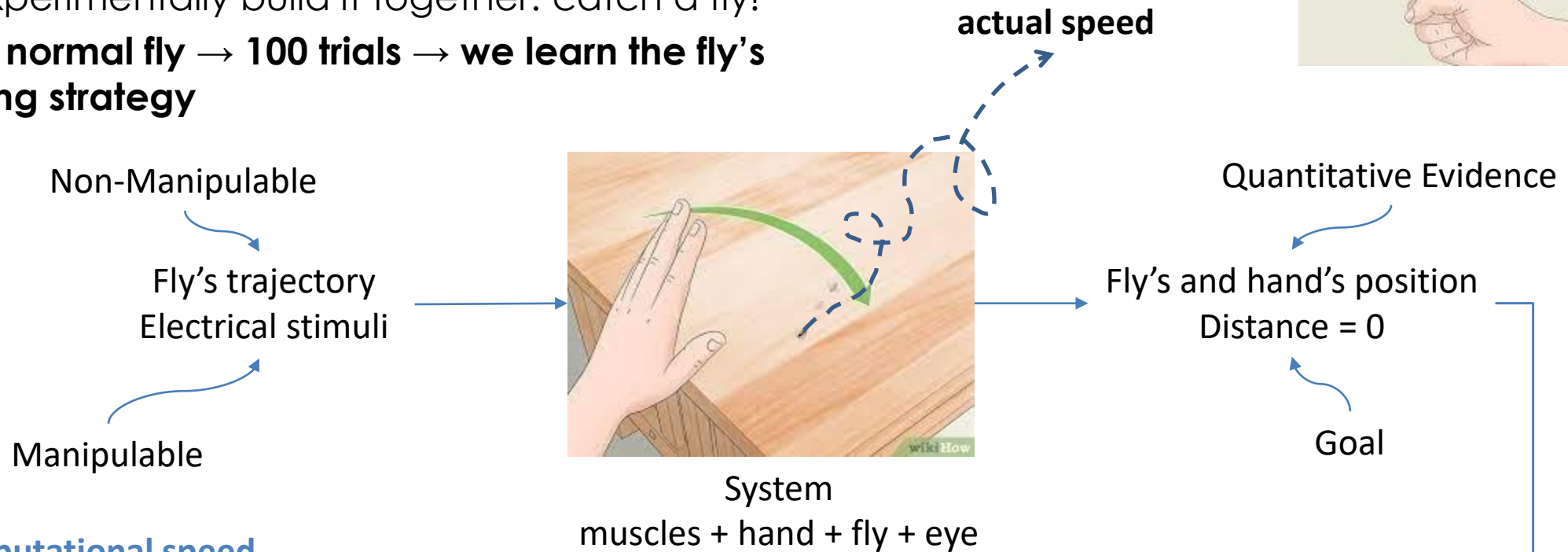
Bounded computational speed



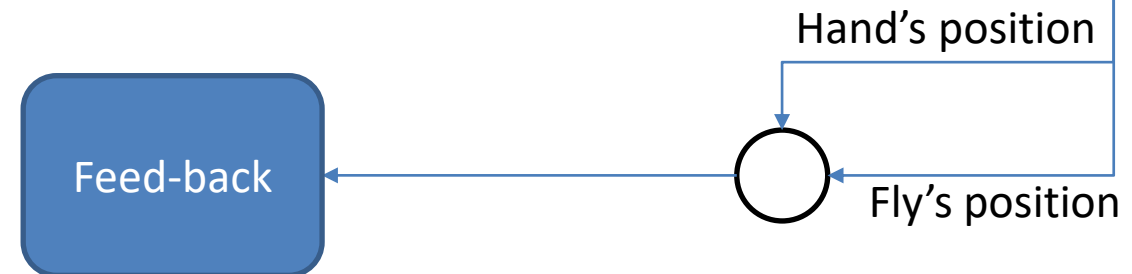
Automatic control architecture: humans revealed!

Let's experimentally build it together: catch a fly!

4th test: normal fly → 100 trials → **we learn the fly's escaping strategy**



Bounded computational speed



Automatic control architecture: humans revealed!

Let's experimentally build it together: catch a fly!
4th test: normal fly → **100 trials** → **we learn the fly's escaping strategy** → **we foresee the future**



Non-Manipulable

Fly's trajectory
Electrical stimuli

Manipulable



System

muscles + hand + fly + eye

actual speed

Quantitative Evidence

Fly's and hand's position
Distance = 0

Goal

Bounded computational speed



Feed-back

Hand's position

Fly's position



Automatic control architecture: humans revealed!

Let's experimentally build it together: catch a fly!
4th test: normal fly → 100 trials → **we learn the fly's escaping strategy** → **we foresee the future**



actual speed

Non-Manipulable

Fly's trajectory
Electrical stimuli

Manipulable



System
muscles + hand + fly + eye

Quantitative Evidence

Fly's and hand's position
Distance = 0

Goal

Bounded computational speed



Feed-forward

Feed-back

Hand's position

Fly's position



Automatic control architecture: humans revealed!

Let's experimentally build it together: catch a fly!

4th test: normal fly → **100 trials** → **we learn the fly's escaping strategy** → **we foresee the future**



actual speed

Non-Manipulable

Fly's trajectory
Electrical stimuli

Manipulable



System
muscles + hand + fly + eye

Quantitative Evidence

Fly's and hand's position
Distance = 0

Goal



Bounded computational speed



Feed-forward

Feed-back

Hand's position

Fly's position



Automatic control architecture: humans revealed!

Let's experimentally build it together: catch a fly!

4th test: normal fly → **100 trials** → **we learn the fly's escaping strategy** → **we foresee the future**



actual speed

Non-Manipulable

Fly's trajectory
Electrical stimuli

Manipulable



System
muscles + hand + fly + eye

Fly's and hand's position
Distance = 0

Goal



Quantitative Evidence

Bounded computational speed

Performance

Feed-
forward

Stability & Robustness

Feed-back

Hand's position

Fly's position



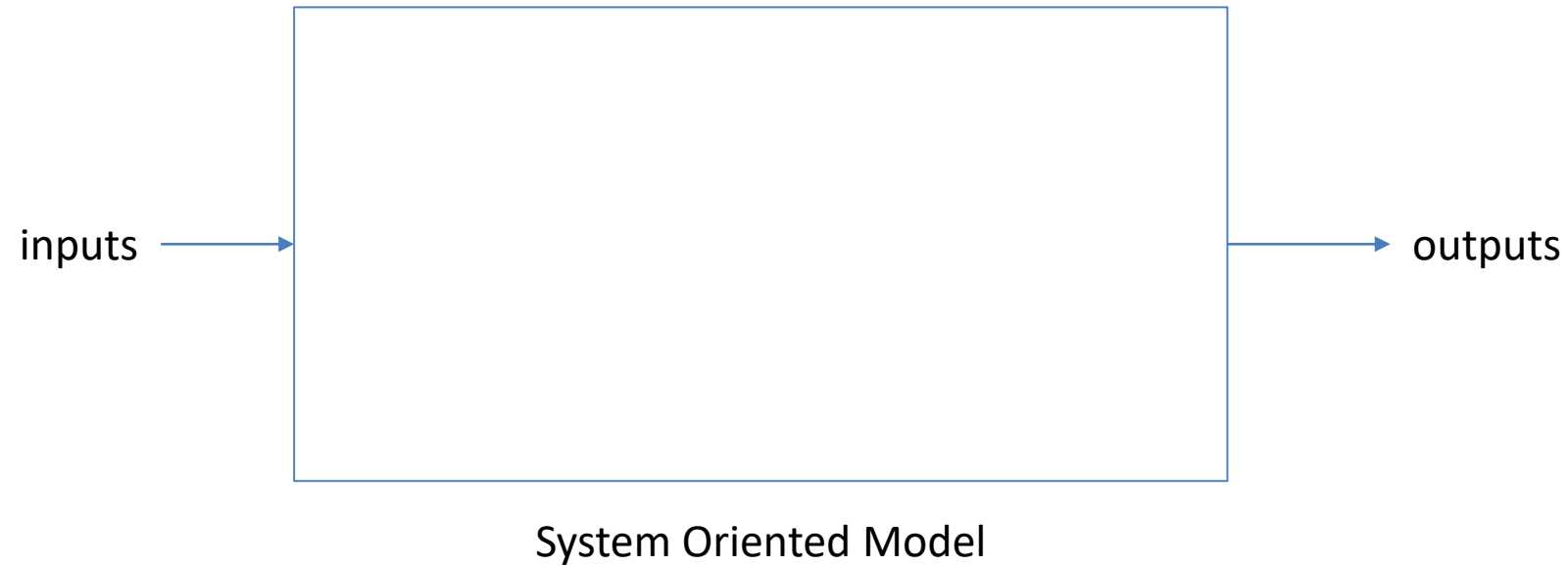
Contents

- What are we talking about?
- Why automatic controls?
- Automatic control architecture: humans revealed!
- Automatic control theory: a live coach
- Automatic control design: the best compromise
- Conclusions



Automatic control theory: a live coach

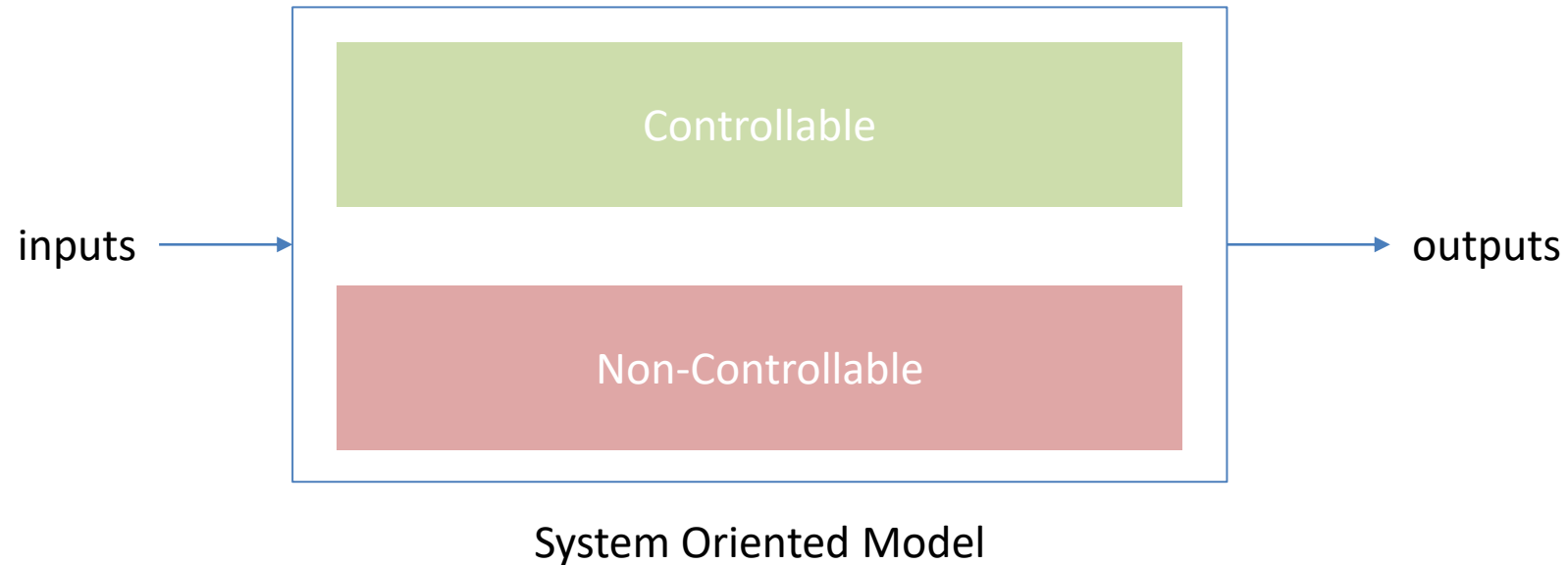
Can we always reach our goals?



Automatic control theory: a live coach

"You can't control everything"

Can we always reach our goals?

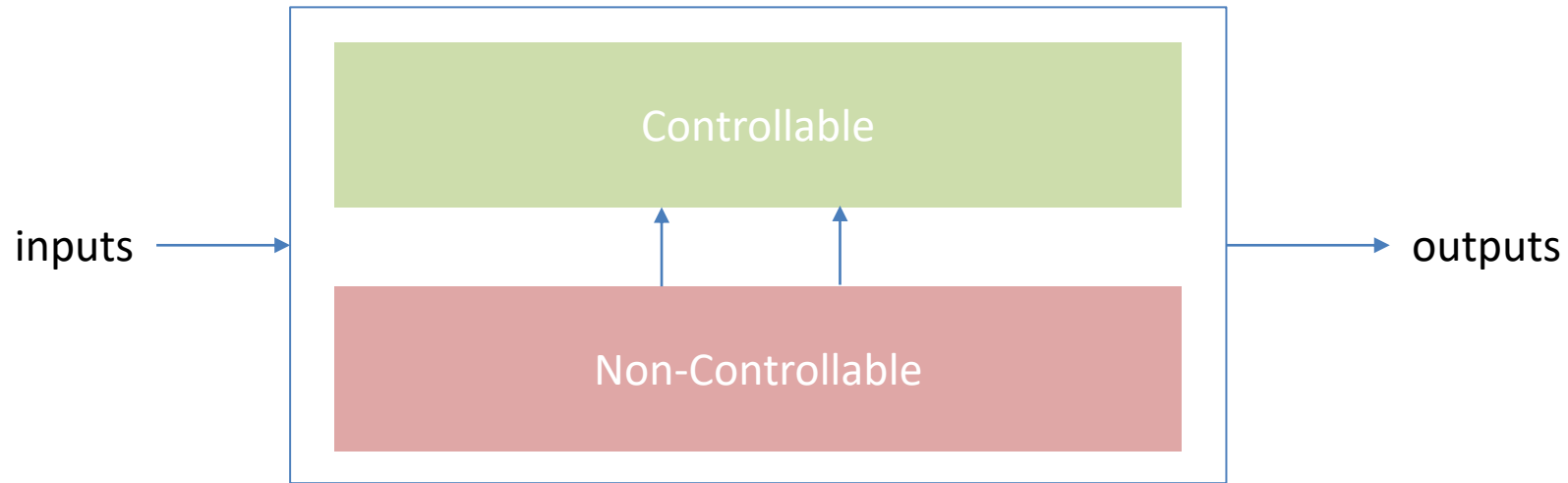


Automatic control theory: a live coach

Can we always reach our goals?

"You can't control everything"

"There is always somebody disturbing you"

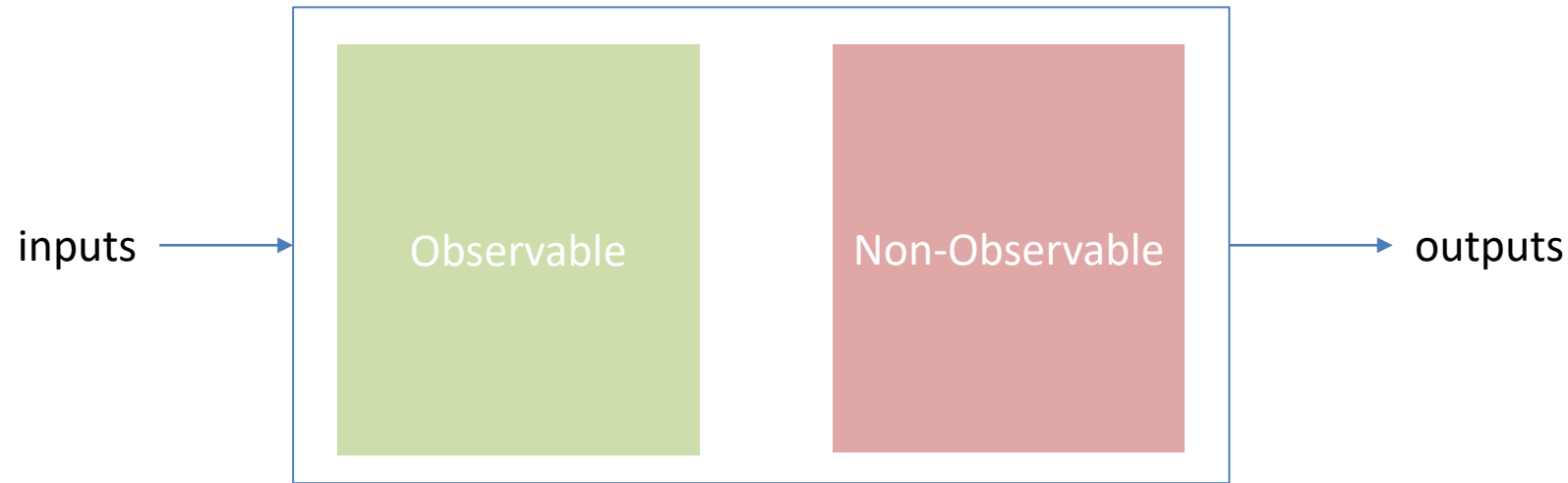


System Oriented Model



Automatic control theory: a live coach

Can we always reach our goals?



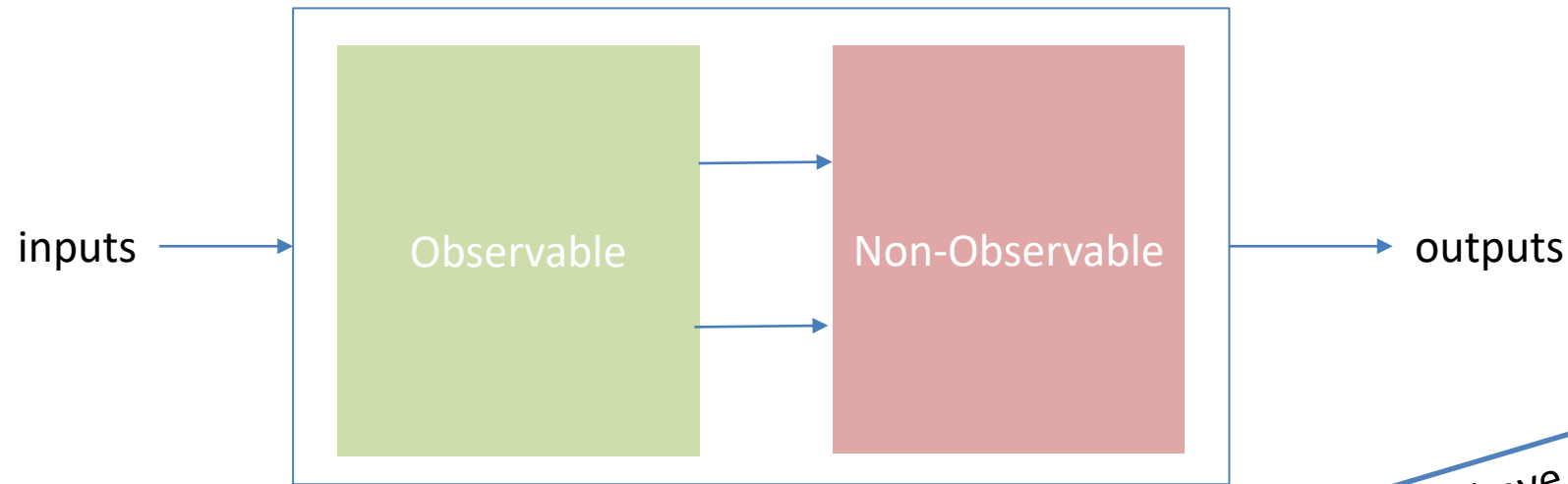
System Oriented Model

"There are phenomena you don't know"



Automatic control theory: a live coach

Can we always reach our goals?



System Oriented Model

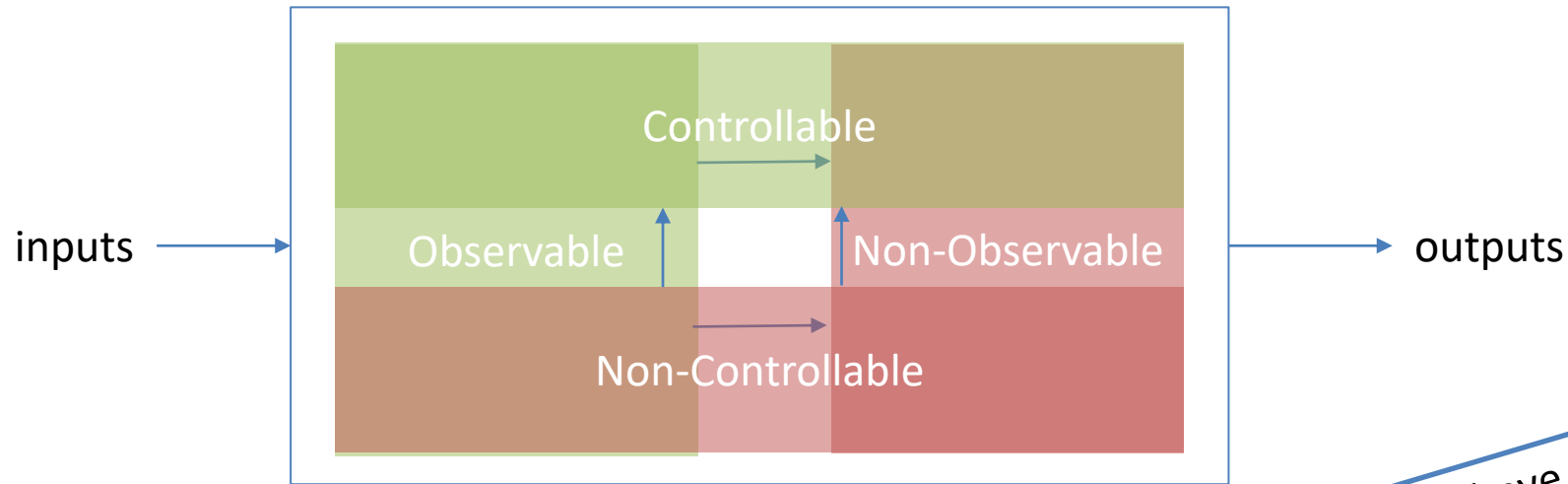
“Your actions may have consequences you don’t see”

“There are phenomena you don’t know”



Automatic control theory: a live coach

Can we always reach our goals?



System Oriented Model

"You can't control everything"

"There is always somebody disturbing you"

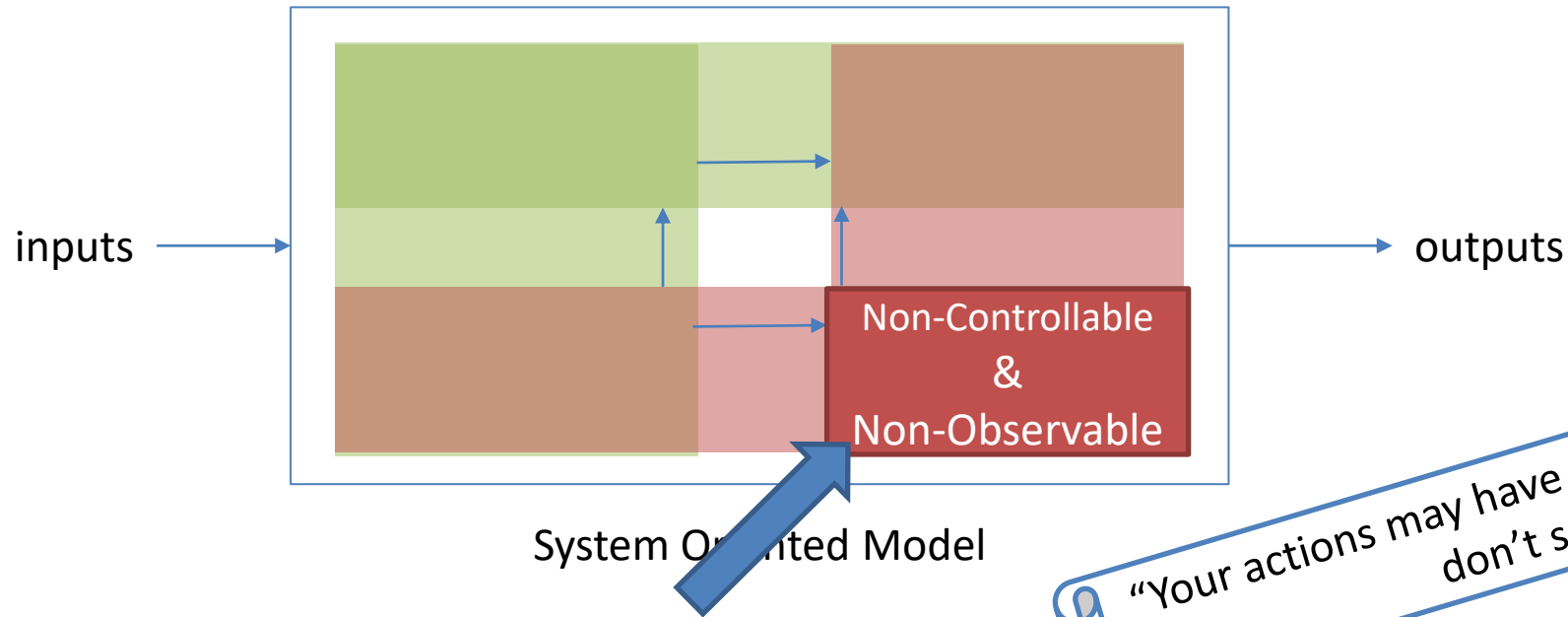
"Your actions may have consequences you don't see"

"There are phenomena you don't know"



Automatic control theory: a live coach

Can we always reach our goals?



You don't know there is a problem and you can not solve it. just don't care!

"You can't control everything"

"There is always somebody disturbing you"

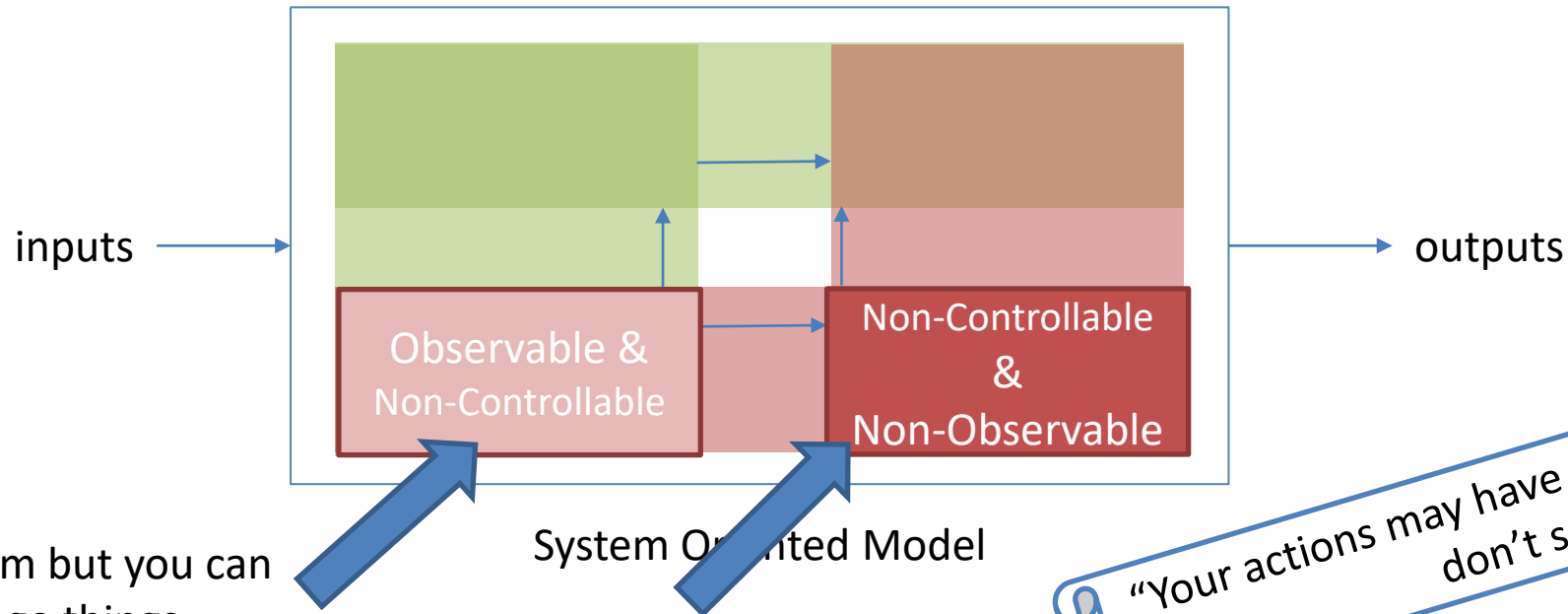
"Your actions may have consequences you don't see"

"There are phenomena you don't know"



Automatic control theory: a live coach

Can we always reach our goals?



You see the problem but you can do nothing to change things. Just don't care!

You don't know there is a problem and you can not solve it. just don't care!

"You can't control everything"

"There is always somebody disturbing you"

"Your actions may have consequences you don't see"

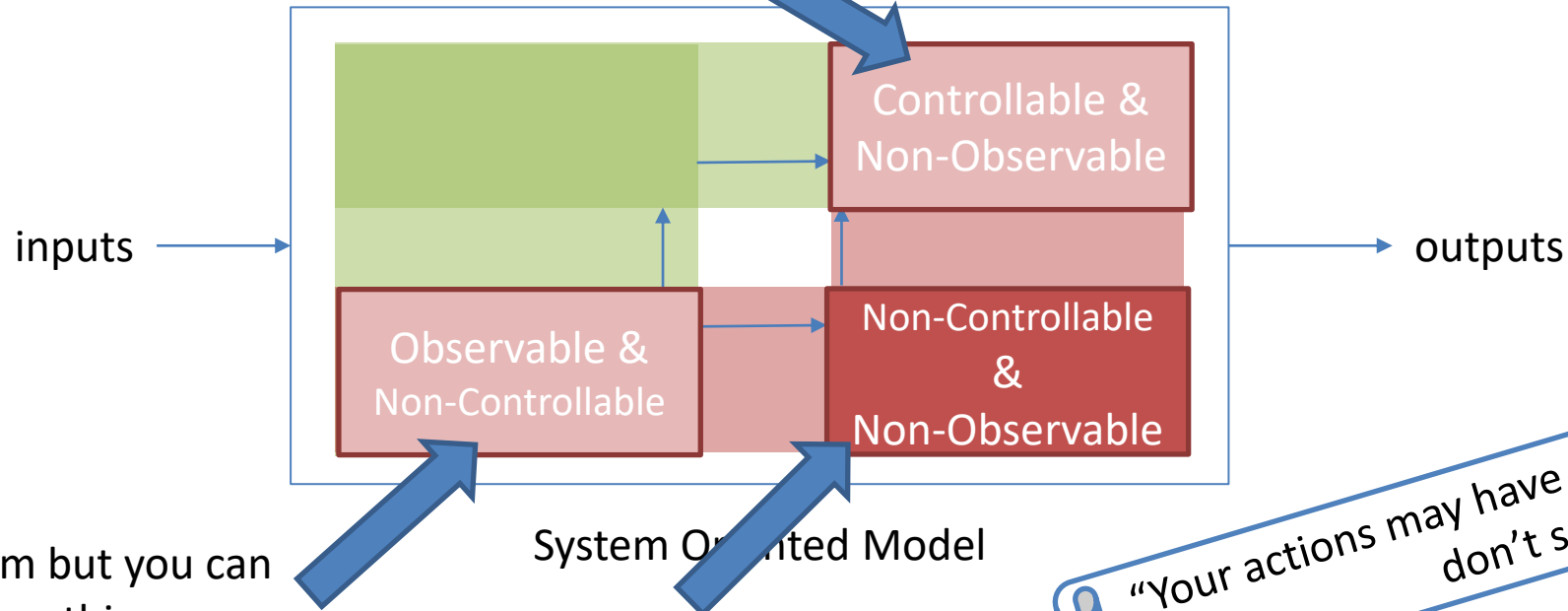
"There are phenomena you don't know"



Automatic control theory: a live coach

Can we always reach our goals?

If your efforts are useless, don't do it!



You see the problem but you can do nothing to change things. Just don't care!

You don't know there is a problem and you can not solve it. just don't care!

"You can't control everything"

"There is always somebody disturbing you"

"Your actions may have consequences you don't see"

"There are phenomena you don't know"



Automatic control theory: a live coach

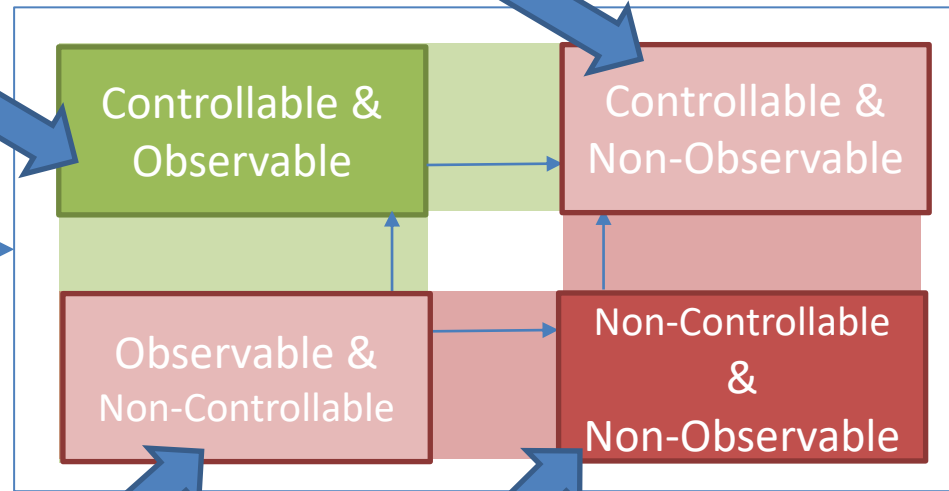
Can we always reach our goals?

If your efforts are useless, don't do it!

The best we can do!

inputs

outputs



System Oriented Model

You see the problem but you can do nothing to change things. Just don't care!

You don't know there is a problem and you can not solve it. just don't care!

"You can't control everything"

"There is always somebody disturbing you"

"Your actions may have consequences you don't see"

"There are phenomena you don't know"



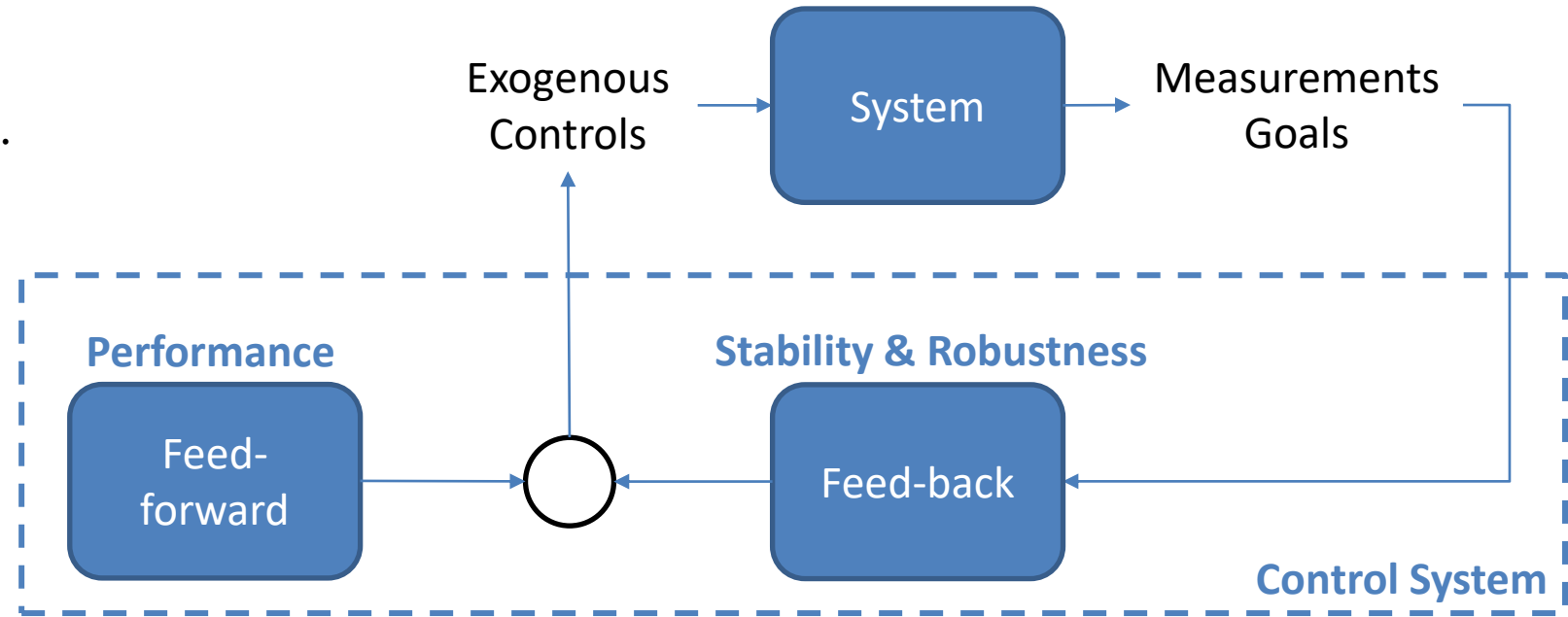
Contents

- What are we talking about?
- Why automatic controls?
- Automatic control architecture: humans revealed!
- Automatic control theory: a live coach
- Automatic control design: the best compromise
- Conclusions



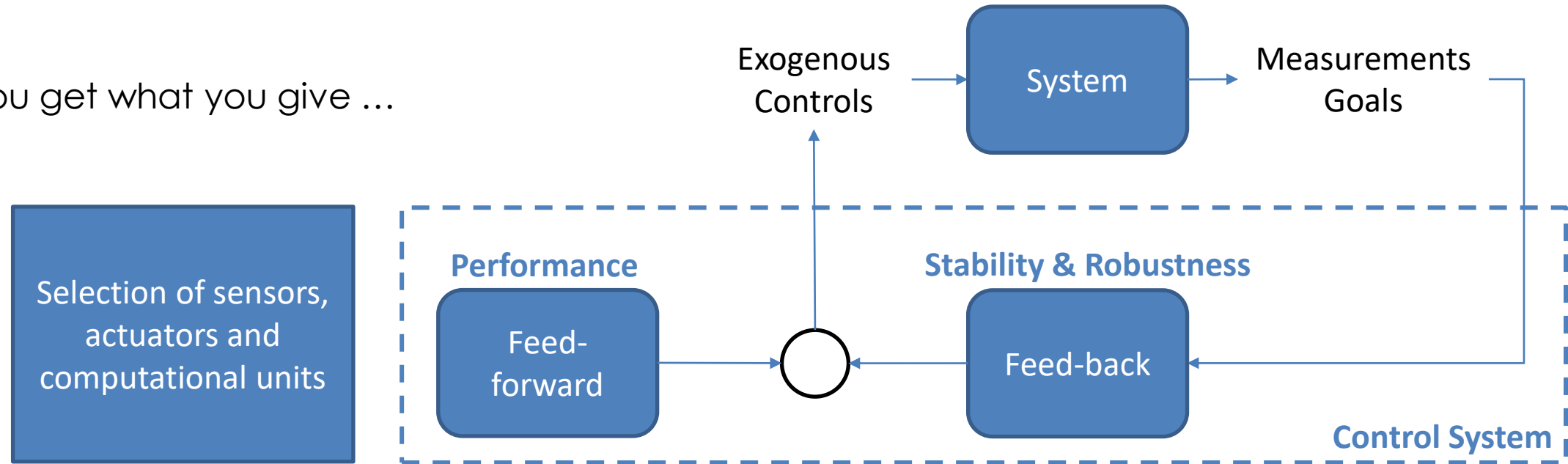
Automatic control design: the best compromise

You get what you give ...



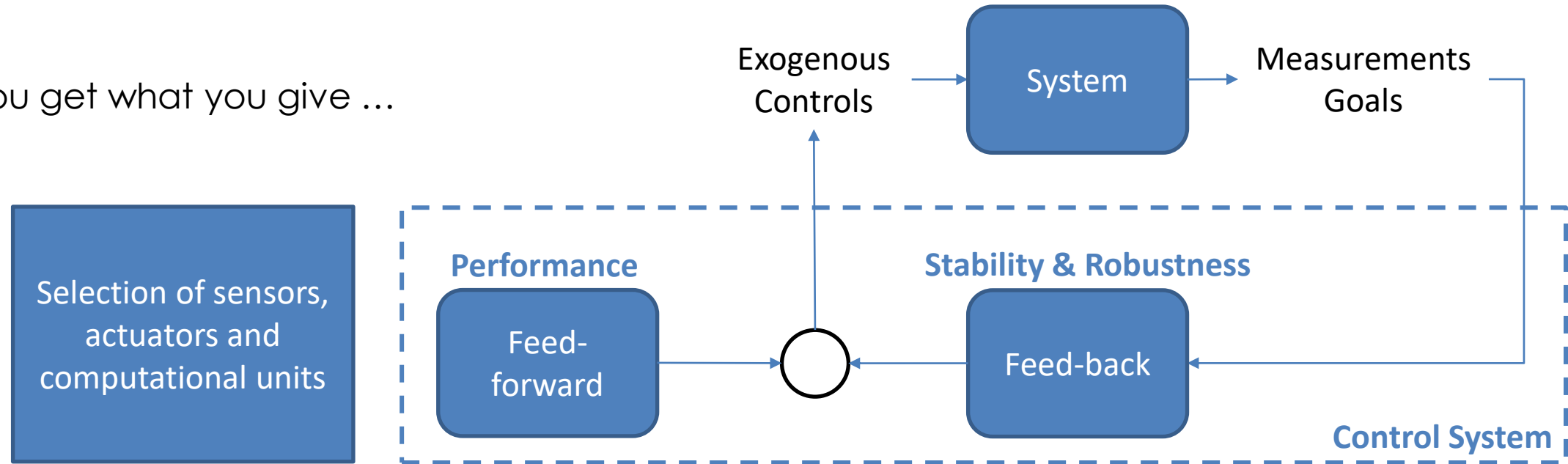
Automatic control design: the best compromise

You get what you give ...



Automatic control design: the best compromise

You get what you give ...

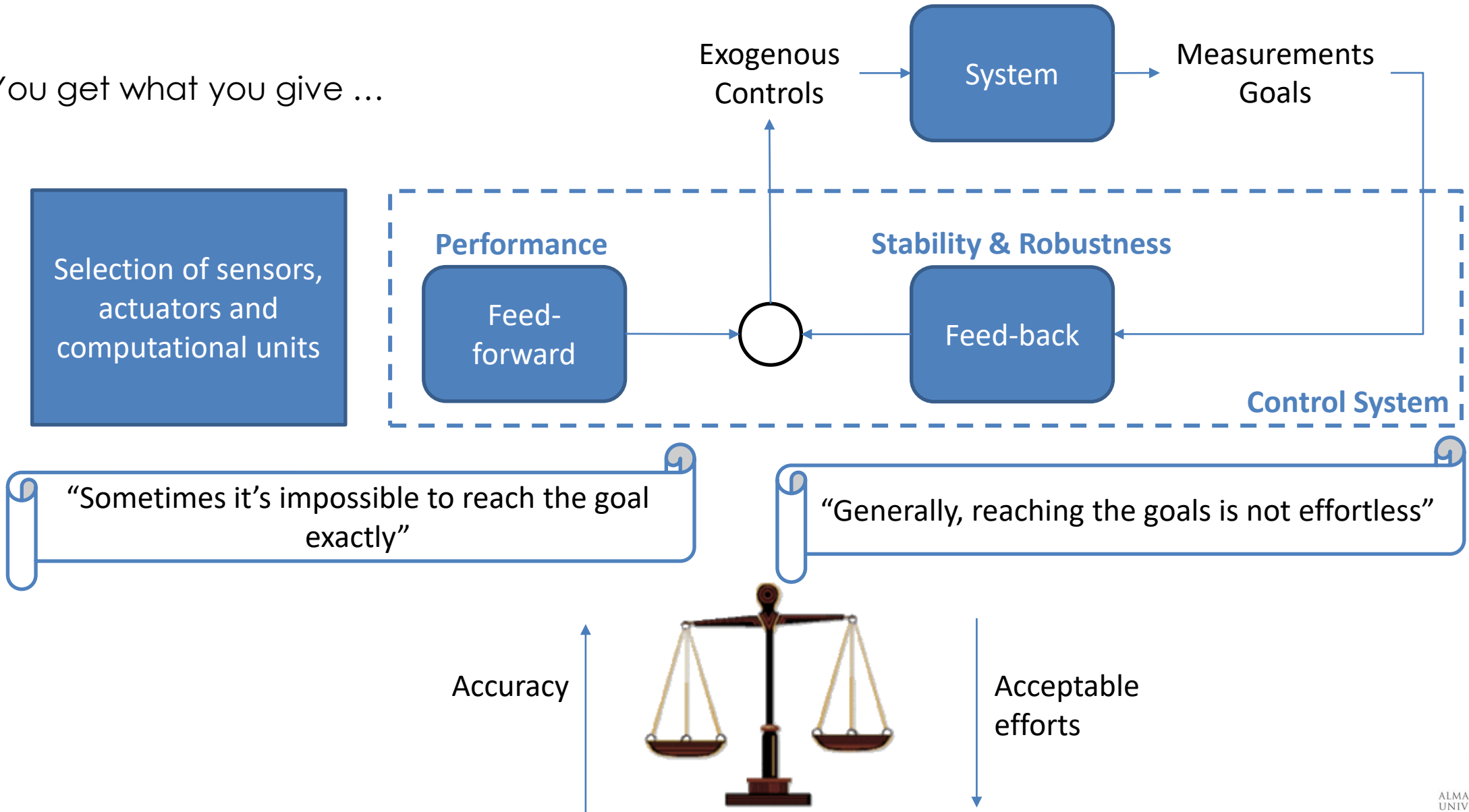


"Sometimes it's impossible to reach the goal exactly"



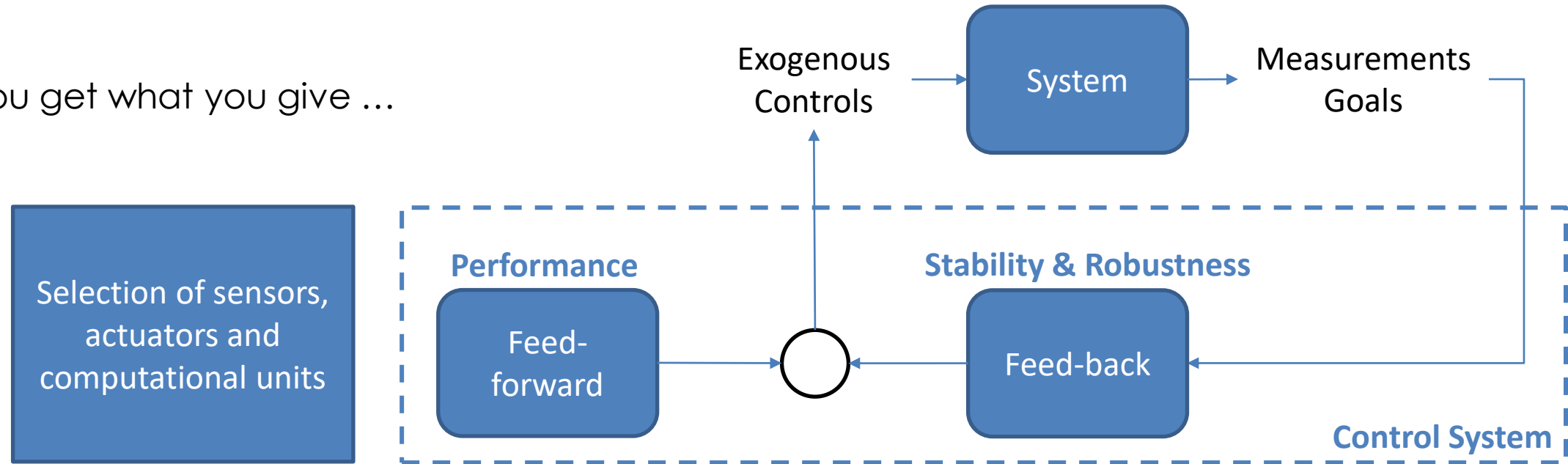
Automatic control design: the best compromise

You get what you give ...



Automatic control design: the best compromise

You get what you give ...



"Sometimes it's impossible to reach the goal exactly"

"Generally, reaching the goals is not effortless"



Accuracy

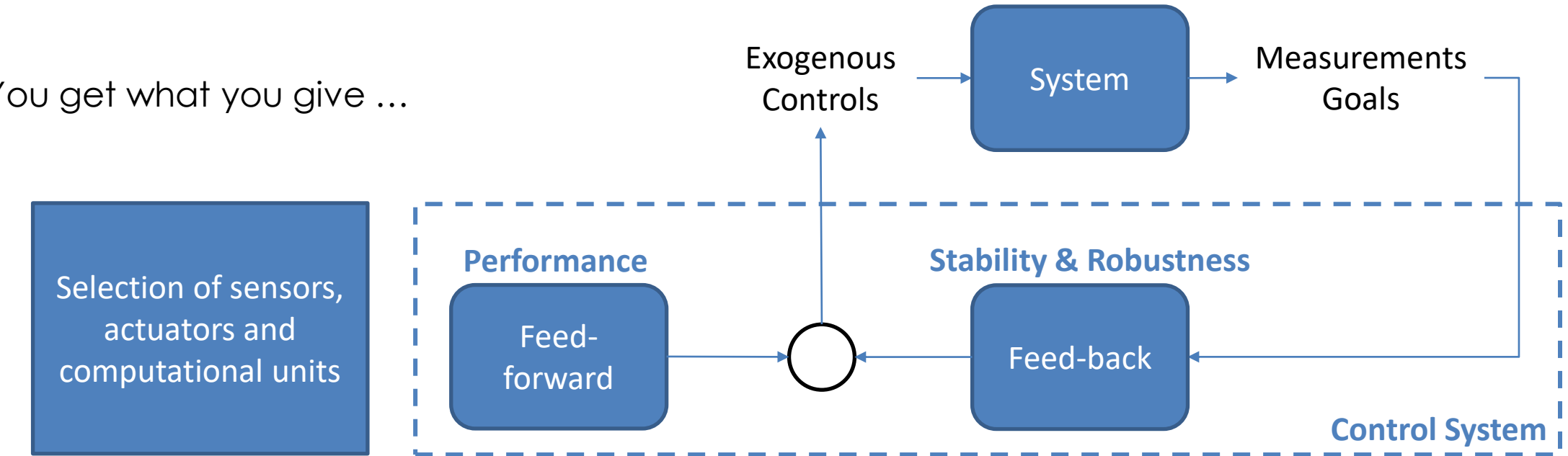


Acceptable efforts



Automatic control design: the best compromise

You get what you give ...



"Sometimes it's impossible to reach the goal exactly"

"Generally, reaching the goals is not effortless"



Accuracy



Acceptable efforts



Contents

- What are we talking about?
- Why automatic controls?
- Automatic control architecture: humans revealed!
- Automatic control theory: a live coach
- Automatic control design: the best compromise
- Conclusions



Conclusions

Automatic Controls

- Were motivated by human needs
- Are applicable in any context
- Their structure represents the way we reason and act
- They tell us what we can do and when no efforts are needed
- Their components depend on a life-inspired compromise



Conclusions

Automatic Controls

- Were motivated by human needs
- Are applicable in any context
- Their structure represents the way we reason and act
- They tell us what we can do and when no efforts are needed
- Their components depend on a life-inspired compromise





ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA

Nicola Mimmo

Department of Electrical, Electronics and Information Engineering «G. Marconi»

nicola.mimmo2@unibo.it

www.unibo.it