



# Adaptive and Autonomous Aerospace Systems

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Part 2: Adaptive Control

Lect 1: Introduction to adaptive control and main architectures



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AEROSPACE SYSTEMS & CONTROL LABORATORY

- Introduction to adaptive control systems: historical background and new perspectives
- Robust vs adaptive control
- Architectures: direct vs indirect approach
- Model Reference Adaptive Control
- Augmentation approach
- L1 adaptive control

## Historical background

The motivation for the study and implementation of adaptive control systems came from applications in aerospace to reduce wind-tunnel tests and overcome limitations of gain-scheduling.

The history of adaptive control systems is almost as long as the entire field of control systems, as the concept of adaptation is close to the notion of feedback.

- Research in adaptive control started in the early 1950's:
  - fixed-gains controller not sufficient for large flight envelope;
  - development of several adaptive schemes for self-adjustments of controller parameters (MIT rule, sensitivity methods);
  - 1958, R. Kalman, Self-Tuning Controller: Optimal LQR with explicit identification of parameters.



# Introduction to adaptive control systems: historical background and new perspectives

## 1950-1960: flight tests X-15 (NASA, USAF, US Navy)

- Program to bridge the gap between manned flight in the atmosphere and space flight (Mach 4 - 6, at altitudes above 30,500 meters).
- 199 flights beginning June 8, 1959 and ending October 24, 1968.
- Fatal crash on Nov. 15, 1967, X-15A-3.



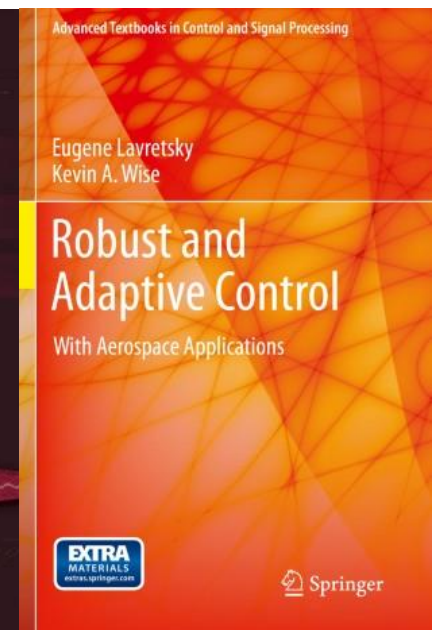
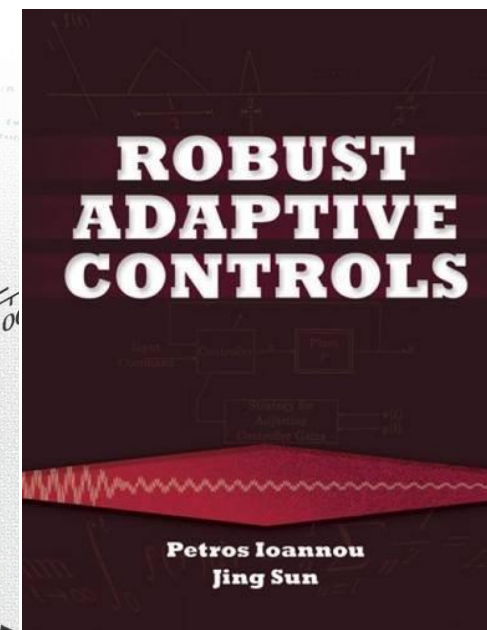
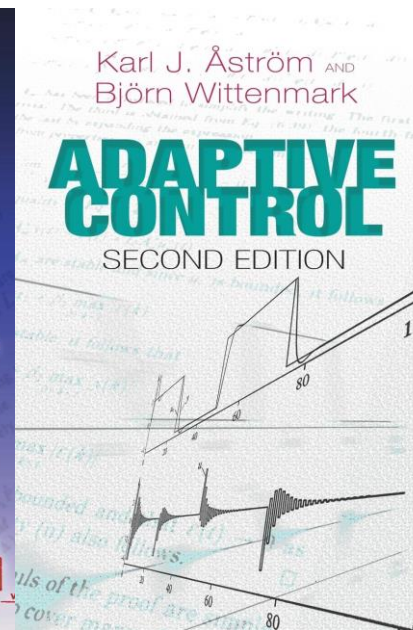
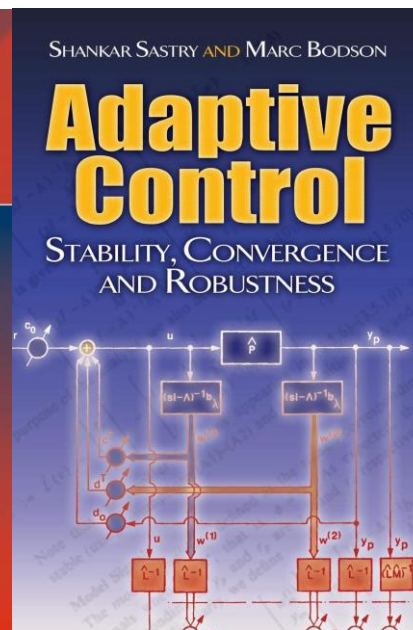
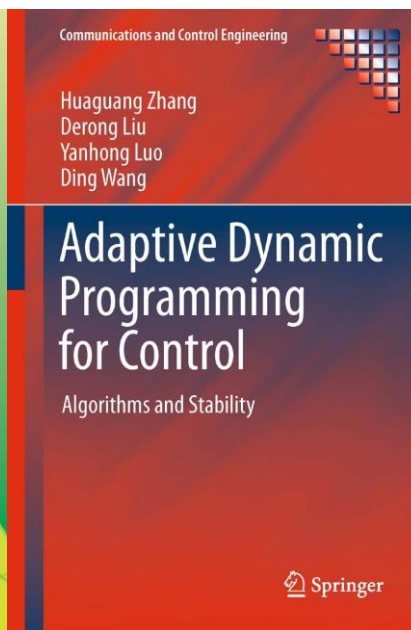
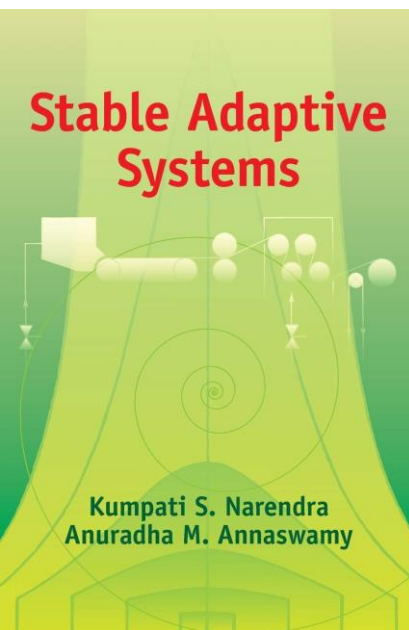
➤ Crash due to stable albeit non-robust adaptive controller - "*Brave era*", Astrom 1985

1970-1990

- Early results found to be suffering from **robustness issues** (“bursting” phenomena).
- Development of a **stability** and **robust** framework for adaptive control.
- Systematic use of **Lyapunov’s approach** for stability analysis of adaptive systems.
- Several seminal results were published in this period addressing control architectures and algorithms for a range of dynamical systems.
- Proof of robustness and parameters convergence through **persistence of excitation**.
- **Robust modifications** to handle non-parametric and time-varying disturbances and unmodelled dynamics.
- *Morse, Narendra, Anderson, Astrom, Wittenmark, Athans, Sastry, Ioannou, Anderson, Annaswamy, Praly, Kokotovic, ...*

# Motivation

1990-today: Previous advancements published in textbooks capturing the details of various solutions ( $\approx 15$  books are now available on the topic...).





# Motivation

Air Force, Navy, and NASA working with industry and academia made significant progress towards maturing adaptive control theory for aerospace applications (RESTORE program, JDAM program).



More recent (theoretical) advancements:

- Adaptive control of **nonlinear systems**
  - Significantly more challenging (backstepping, adaptive observers, immersion and invariance approach, ...)
  - Magnitude and rate saturation on input and states, time-delays, unmodelled dynamics, ...
- Adaptive schemes guaranteeing
  - Fast adaptation and robustness
  - parameters convergence with finite-time persistence of excitation.
  - exponentially stable behavior



Increasing number of adaptive control implementations and results in the last decade.

## Flight Test of Composite Model Reference Adaptive Control (CMRAC) Augmentation Using NASA AirSTAR Infrastructure

Irene M. Gregory<sup>1</sup>  
*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, VA 23681*

Ross Gadiant<sup>2</sup> and Eugene Lavretsky<sup>3</sup>  
*The Boeing Company, Huntington Beach, California 92647*

This paper presents flight test results of a robust without composite adaptive control augmentation. The fl NASA Generic Transport Model as part of the Air Research system at NASA Langley Research Center.

## $\mathcal{L}_1$ Adaptive Controller for Attitude Control of Multirotors

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*Unmanned-Dynamics*

Bill Nesbitt<sup>†</sup>

Evgeny Kharisov<sup>‡</sup>  
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*University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign*

Chengyu Cao<sup>||</sup>  
*University of Connecticut*

In this work we show an theory for attitude control of UAVs. We implement the flight control system on a multirotor to show robustness

## $L_1$ Adaptive Control Design for NASA AirSTAR Flight Test Vehicle

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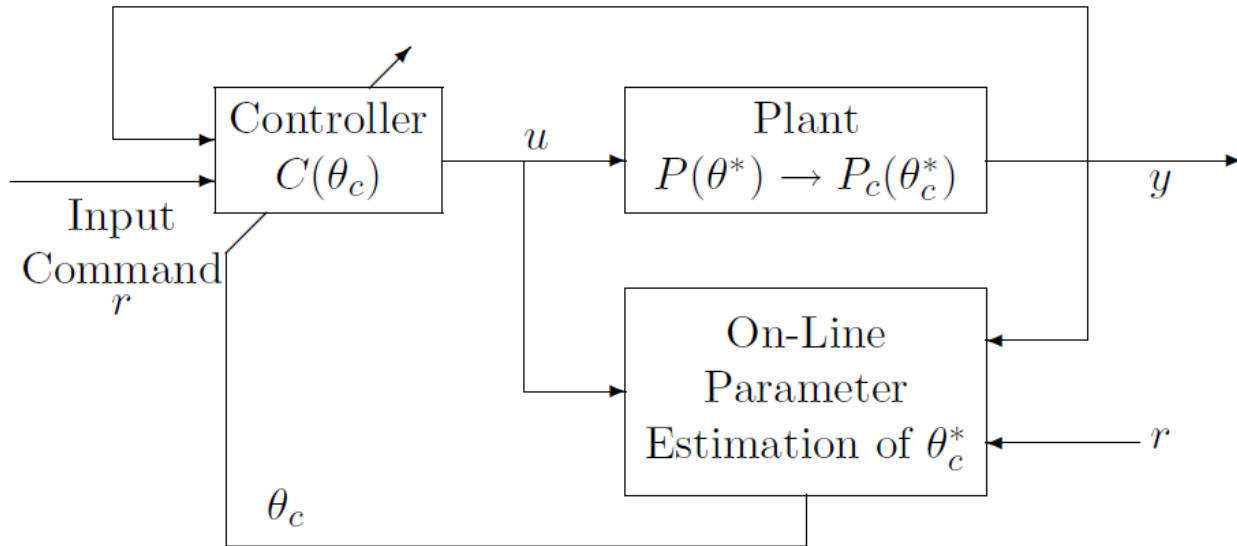
Enric Xargay<sup>3</sup> and Naira Hovakimyan<sup>4</sup>  
*University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, Illinois 61801*

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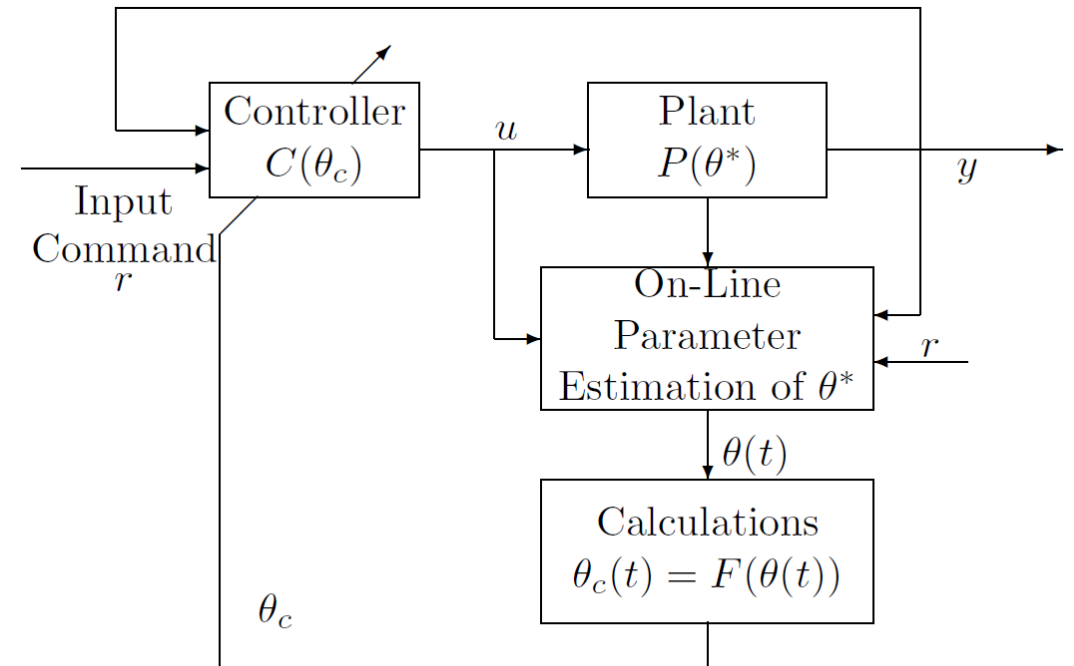
esent a new  $L_1$ adaptive control architecture that directly compensates as unmatched system uncertainty. To evaluate the  $L_1$  adaptive

## Main adaptive architectures and algorithms: direct vs indirect schemes

Direct approach

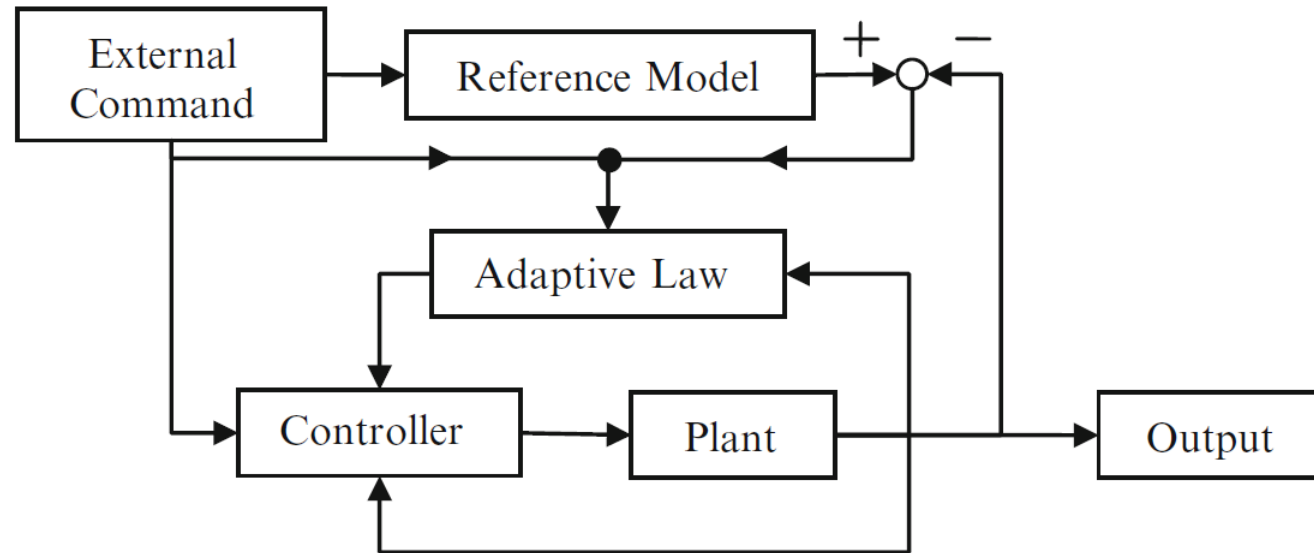


Indirect approach



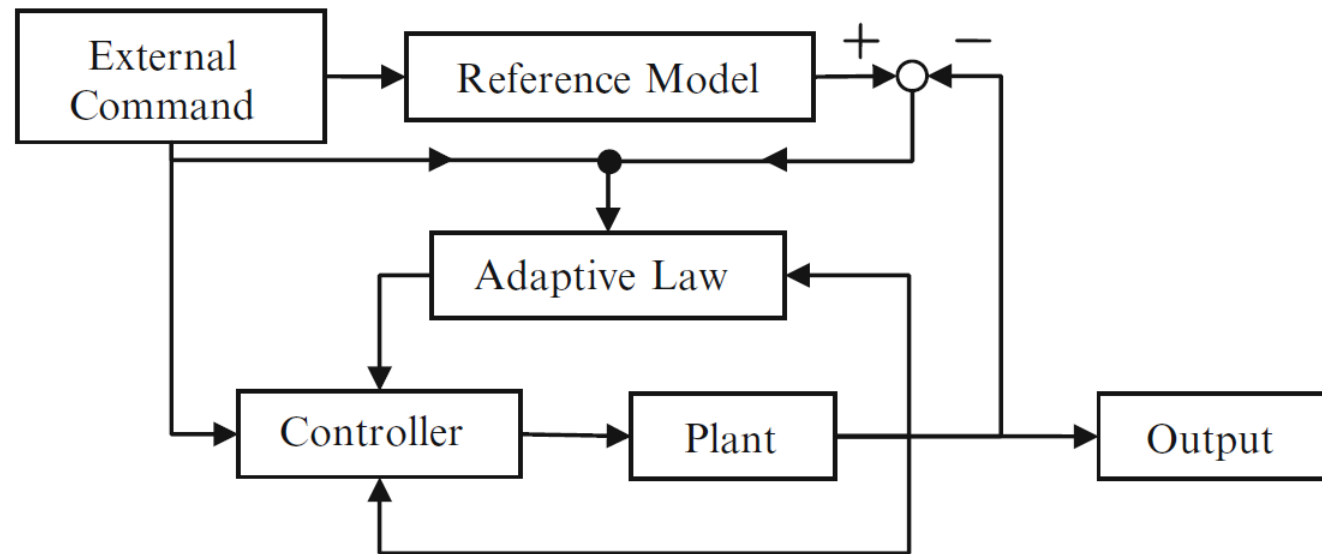
## Model Reference Adaptive Control (direct&indirect)

**Objective:** make the closed-loop system behave as a reference model which embeds control design requirements.



## Model Reference Adaptive Control (direct&indirect)

**Objective:** make the closed-loop system behave (asymptotically) as a reference model, which embeds control design requirements.







Idea: the reference model is based on the

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## Instability issues

Adaptive controllers are designed to control real physical systems.

In real systems, one must consider the presence of both parametric and non-parametric uncertainties

- unmodeled dynamics (e.g., flexibility, friction, actuators and sensor dynamics)
- exogenous disturbances
- actuator saturation
- measurement noise
- sampling delays

The combined presence of these effects, together with lack of **persistence of excitation** (PE), can lead to

- estimated parameters drift slowly as time goes on, and suddenly diverge sharply.
- adaptation has difficulty in distinguishing parameter information from noise.

The use of large adaptive gains to compensate for the lack of **PE** is not recommended in practice, as the control action

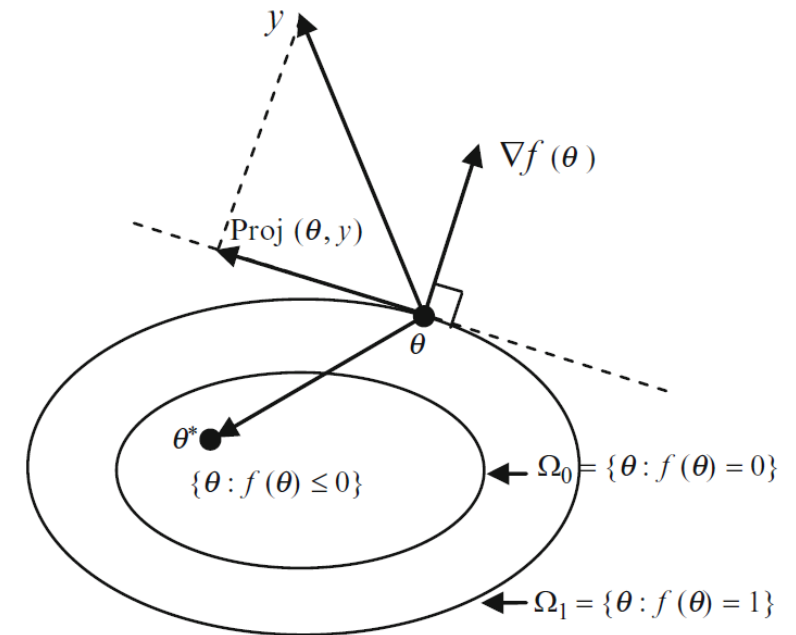
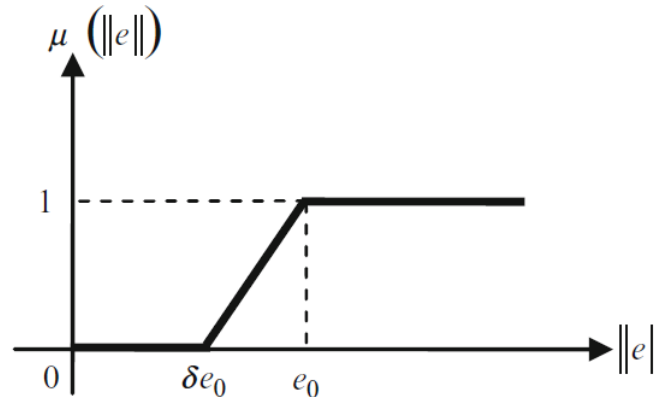
- can excite high-frequency unmodelled dynamics;
  - can reach saturation bounds of the actuators.
- Increasing too much the adaptive gains can lead to **performance degradation**, or worse, **instability**.

## Robust modifications

Several methods have been proposed to counteract the effect of exogenous disturbances.

The corresponding adaptive laws are called **robust adaptive laws**:

- Projection-based
- Deadzone modification
- $\sigma$ -modification
- e-modification

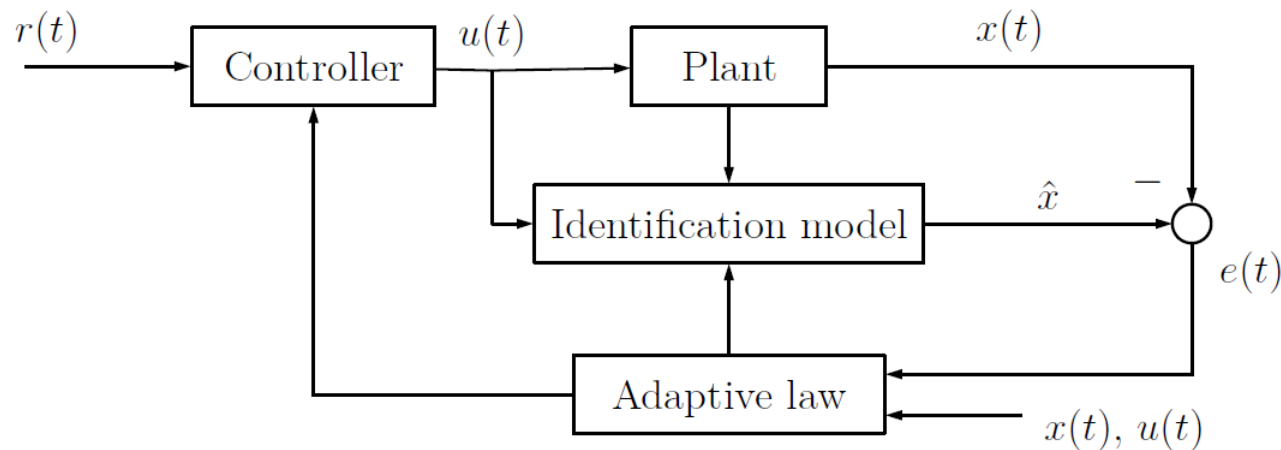




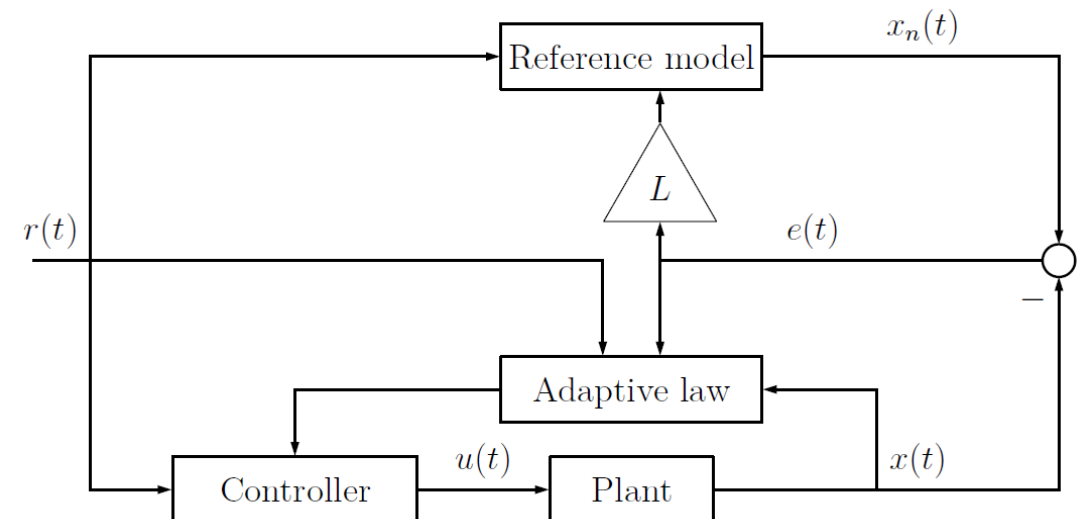
## Transient improvements

The oscillations in the transient phase of standard MRAC can be mitigated by employing different architectures

### Predictor-based MRAC



### Closed-loop reference model MRAC



## L1 adaptive control

Based on PMRAC scheme with the inclusion of a low-pass filter

**Objective:** compensation of only the low-frequency content of the uncertainty within the bandwidth of the control channel.

Effective decoupling adaptation and robustness

