

# Introduction to Modern Controls

## Introduction

# The power of controls

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- The power of *feedback controls*: it allows us to make a precision device out of a crude one that works well even in changing environments.
- We also use *prediction and feedforward controls*: as kids, we had learned to wear T-shirts in summer, long sleeves and coats in winter. With such predictive and feedforward controls, the burden of feedback control is greatly lifted.

# Analysis and control of linear dynamic systems

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- **Feedback:** the use of information of the past or the present to influence behaviors of a system

# Why automatic control?

A system can be either manually or automatically controlled. Why automatic control?

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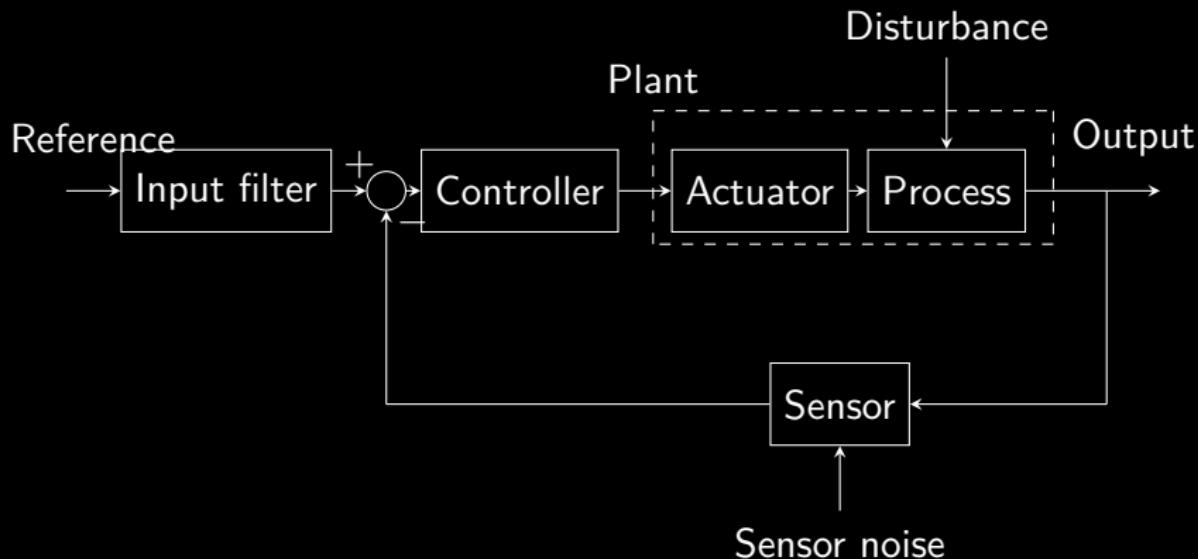
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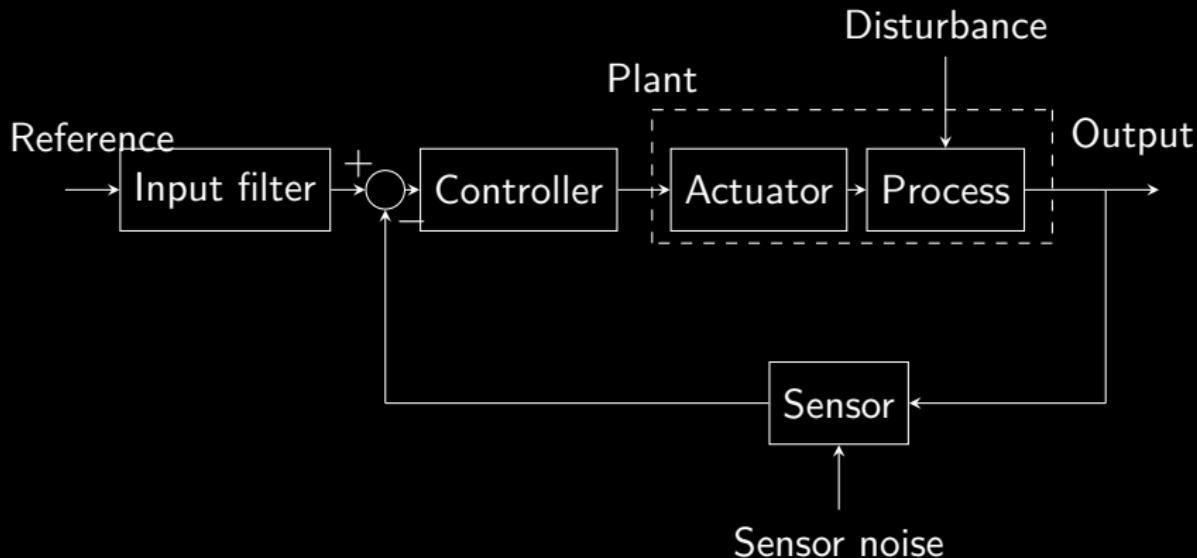
- **Stability/Safety**: difficult/impossible for humans to control the process or would expose humans to risk
- **Performance**: cannot be done “as well” by humans
- **Cost**: Humans are more expensive and can get bored
- **Robustness**: can deliver the requisite performance even if process behaves slightly differently

# Terminologies



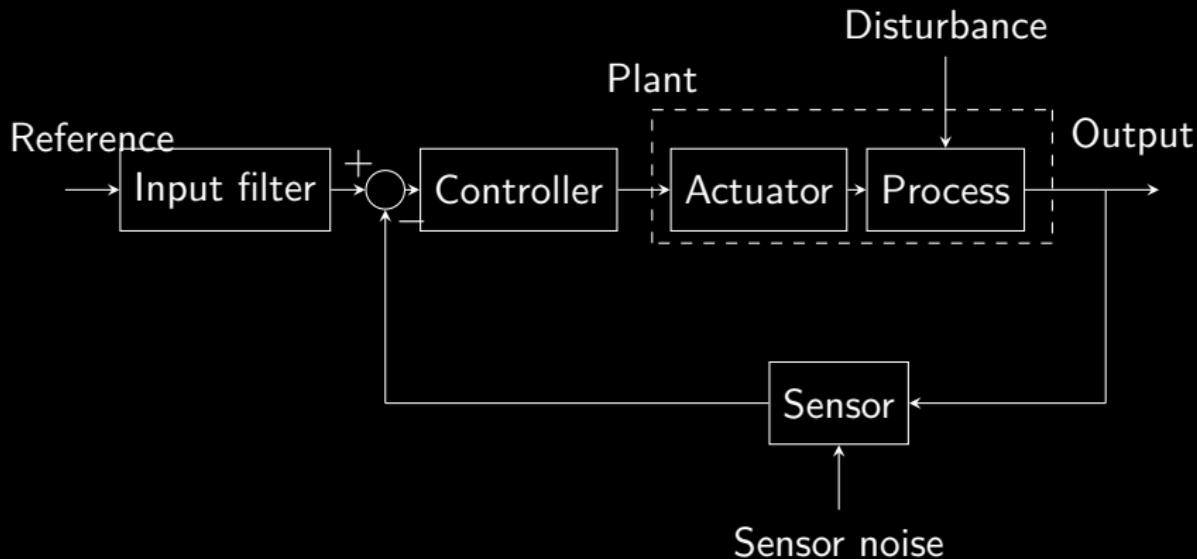
- **Process:** whose output(s) is/are to be controlled

# Terminologies



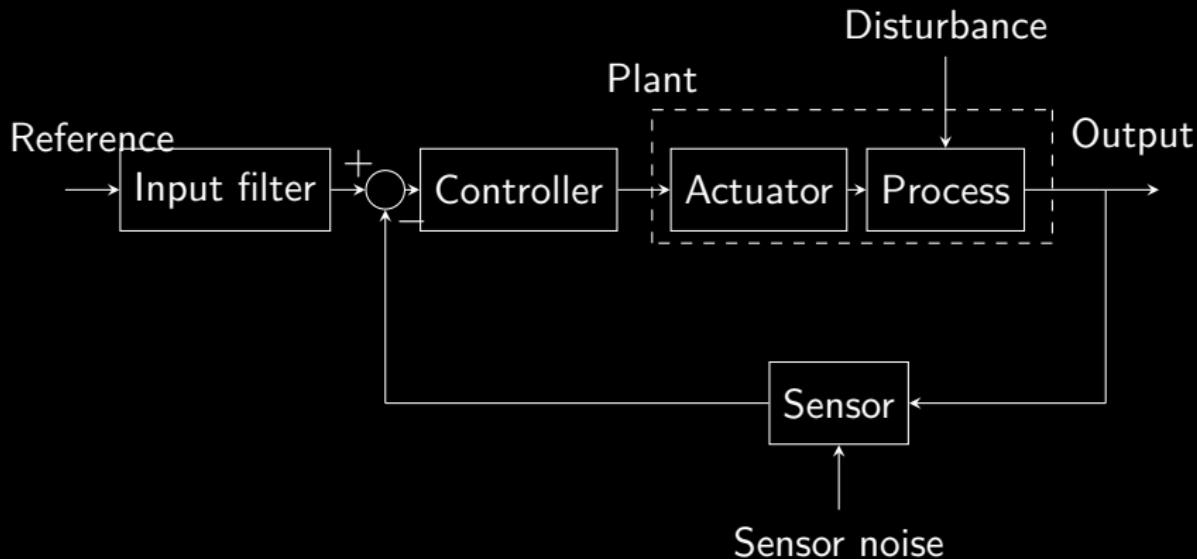
- **Process:** whose output(s) is/are to be controlled
- **Actuator:** device to influence the controlled variable of the process

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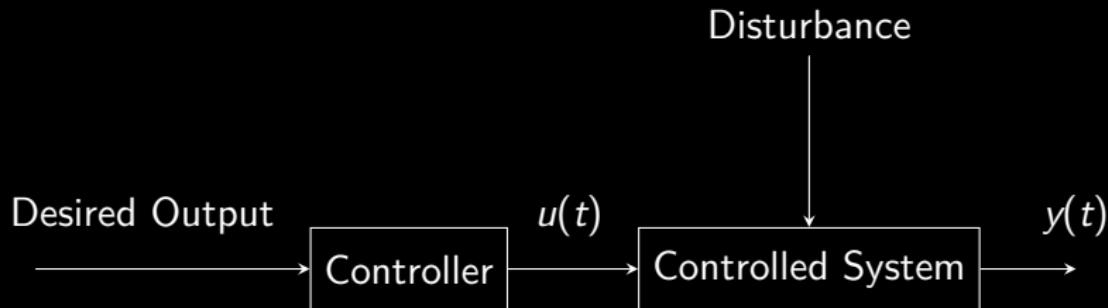
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- **Plant:** process + actuator

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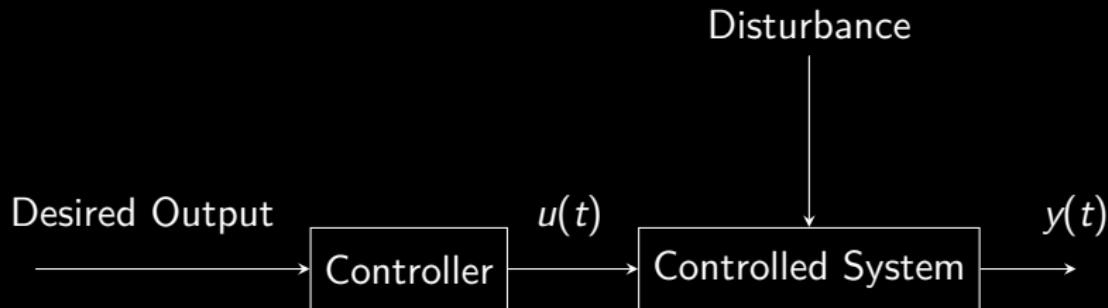
- **Process:** whose output(s) is/are to be controlled
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- **Plant:** process + actuator
- **Block diagram:** visualizes system structure and the flow information in control systems

# Open-loop control v.s. closed-loop control



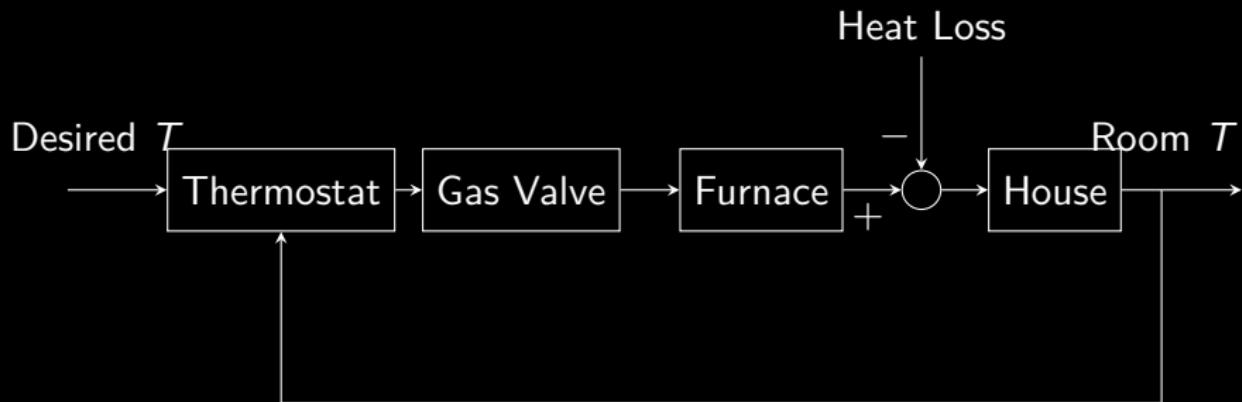
- the output of the plant does not influence the input to the controller

# Open-loop control v.s. closed-loop control



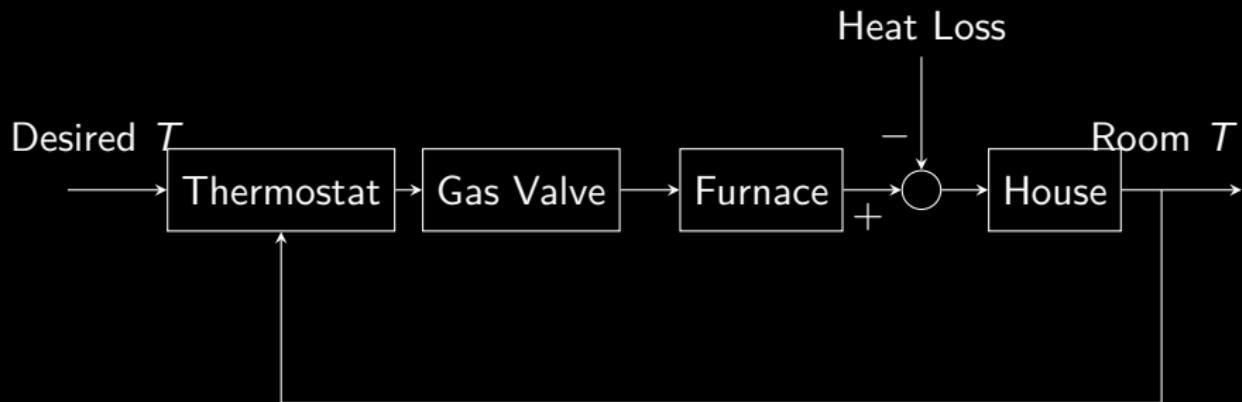
- the output of the plant does not influence the input to the controller
- input and output as *signals*: functions of time, e.g., speed of a car, temperature in a room, voltage applied to a motor, price of a stock, electrical-cardiograph, all as functions of time.

# Open-loop control v.s. closed-loop control



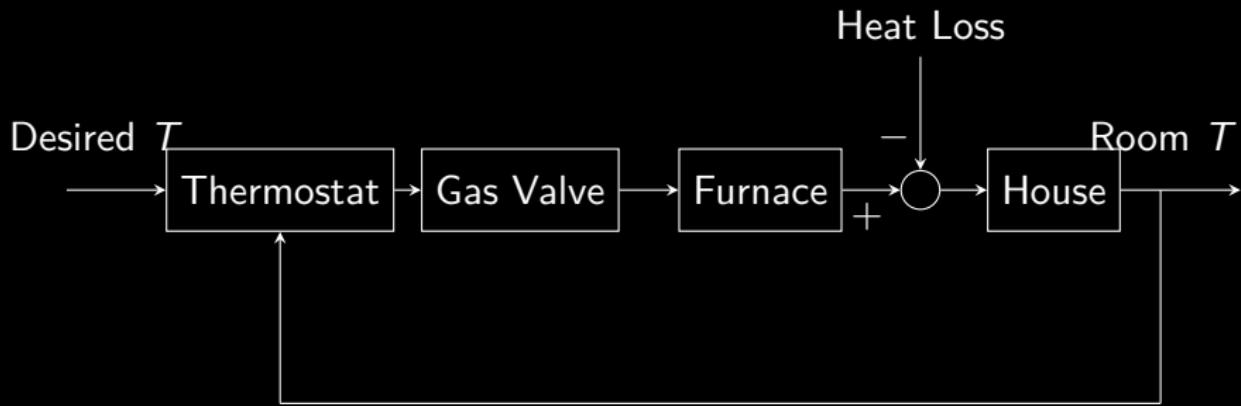
- multiple components (plant, controller, etc) have a closed interconnection

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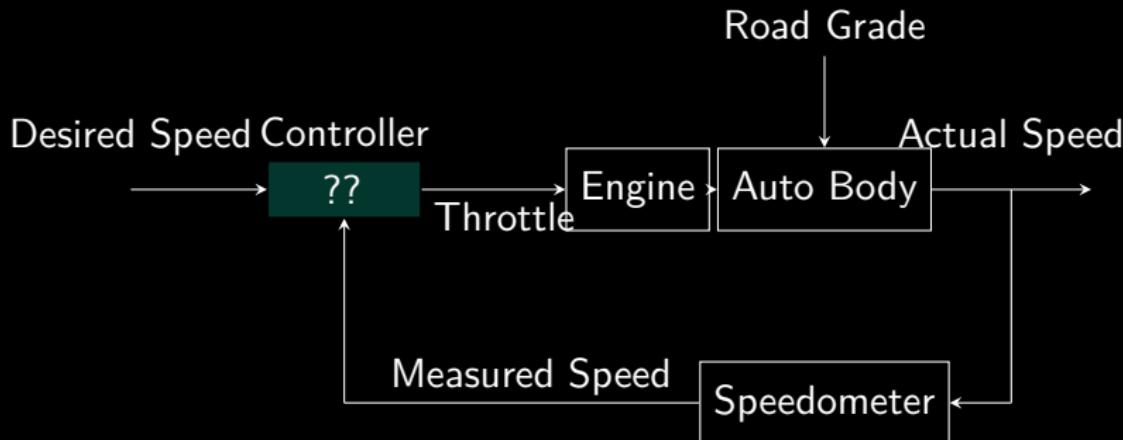


- multiple components (plant, controller, etc) have a closed interconnection
- there is always feedback in a closed-loop system

# Closed-loop control: regulation example



# Regulation control example: automobile cruise control



- What is the control objective?
- What are the process, process output, actuator, sensor, reference, and disturbance?

# Control objectives

- Better stability

There are some aspects of control objectives that are universal. For example, we would always want our control system to result in closed-loop dynamics that are insensitive to disturbances. This is the disturbance rejection problem. Also, as pointed out previously, we would want the controller to be robust to plant modeling errors.

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# Control objectives

- Better stability
- Improved response characteristics
- *Regulation* of output in the presence of disturbances and noises
- Robustness to plant uncertainties
- *Tracking* time varying desired output

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# Means to achieve the control objectives

- Model the controlled plant

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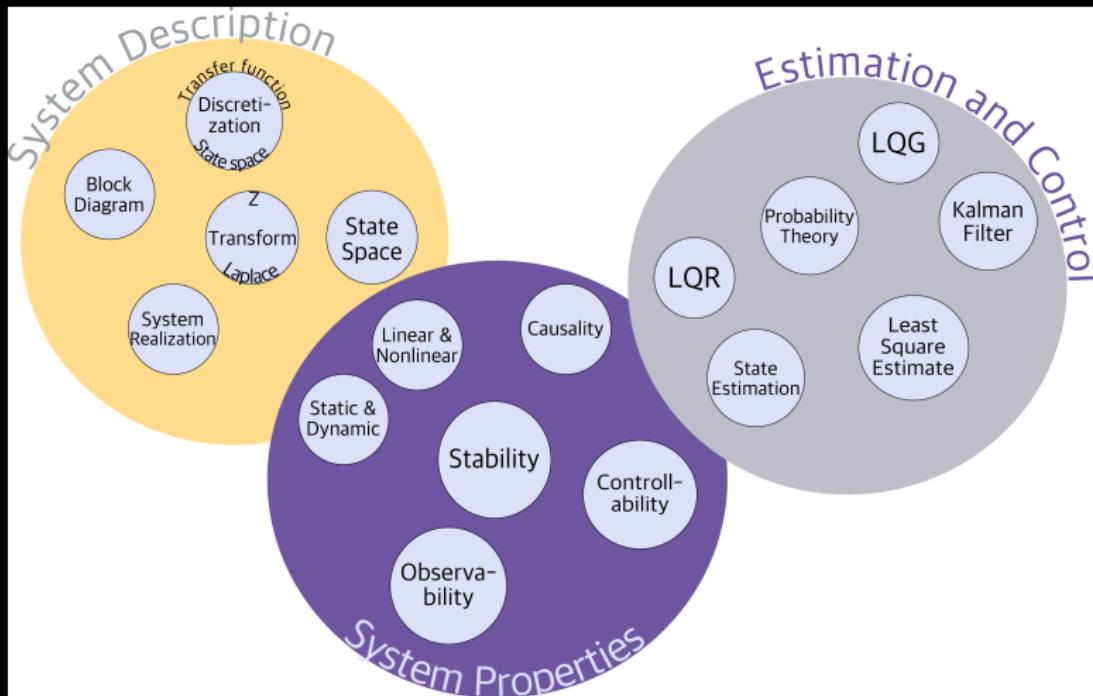
- Model the controlled plant
- Analyze the characteristics of the plant
- Design control algorithms (controllers)
- Analyze performance and robustness of the control system

# Means to achieve the control objectives

- Model the controlled plant
- Analyze the characteristics of the plant
- Design control algorithms (controllers)
- Analyze performance and robustness of the control system
- Implement the controller

# About this course

- a first-year graduate course on modern control systems



- a prerequisite to most advanced control courses

# Textbook

## Introduction to Modern Controls with Illustrations in MATLAB and Python

Xu Chen and Masayoshi Tomizuka



"Introduction to Modern Controls" uses modern computing tools such as MATLAB and Python to teach modern control systems. You will learn how to use state-space methods to make, study, and control dynamic systems. You will explore topics like state-space models and solutions, stability, controllability, observability, state-feedback control, optimal control, observers, observer state feedback controls, least square estimation, Kalman filter, and Linear Quadratic Gaussian optimal control. You will see how these topics work in both continuous- and discrete-time settings. Substantial example codes, figures, and illustrations on physical systems supplement your learning.

Chen and  
Tomizuka

Introduction to Modern Controls  
with Illustrations in MATLAB and Python



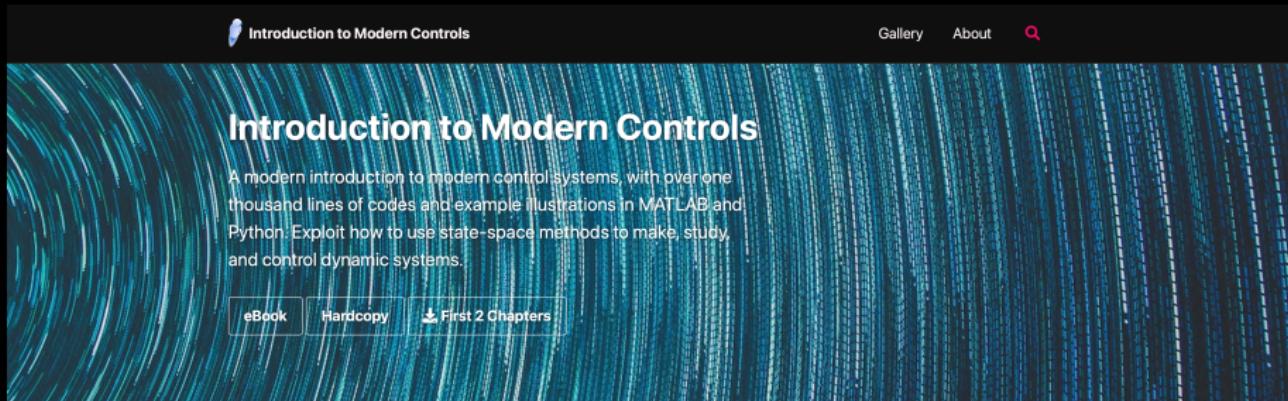
This book is supported by a suite of online resources including source code, lecture slides, lecture recordings, and exercises at the end of each chapter. Read more at <https://mcnp-book.github.io/mcnp/>



## Introduction to Modern Controls with Illustrations in MATLAB and Python

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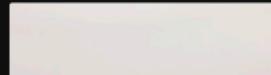
# Textbook



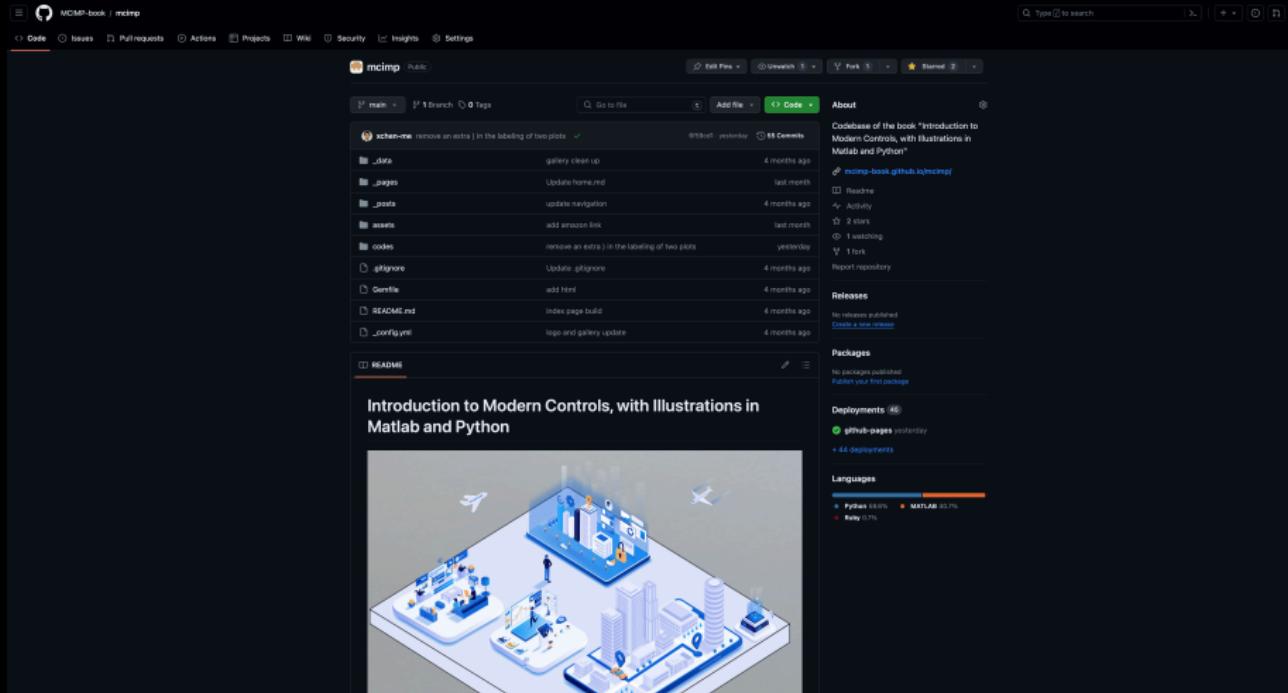
Mod Ctrl Intro (w Matlab & Python)



Overview



# Textbook



# Written materials

- Open-source Course Notes

**University of Washington  
Lecture Notes for ME547  
Linear Systems**

Professor Su Chen  
Brian T. Helfrich Student Research Fellowships  
Department of Mechanical Engineering  
University of Washington  
Version 2022



1

**Aerospace ME547 – Linear System Theory and Application in Control Engineering**

Version 2022 – Updated regularly as new developments allow. Updates are made available on the course website. These specific notes, instead of more general notes, are intended for students in the aerospace engineering program at the University of Washington. The notes are based on the textbook "Aerospace Control Systems" by Brian T. Helfrich, available at <http://www.aerospace.washington.edu/~helfrich/>.

**Disclaimer:**  
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- 8 Frequency domain methods for linear systems
- 9 Frequency domain methods for discrete-time systems
- 10 Robust control
- 11 Adaptive control
- 12 Optimal estimation
- 13 Observers and adaptive robust feedback control
- 14 Linear quadratic Gaussian



**ME547: Linear Systems  
Introduction**

Su Chen  
University of Washington



Topic:

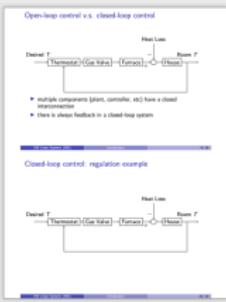
- 1. Introduction of controls
- 2. Introduction of the course
- 3. Repeat the course

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2. Introduction of the course

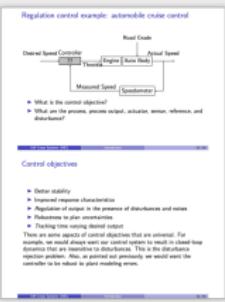
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**Open-loop control v.s. closed-loop control**



- output components (plant, controller, etc) have a closed loop interaction
- there is often feedback in a closed-loop system

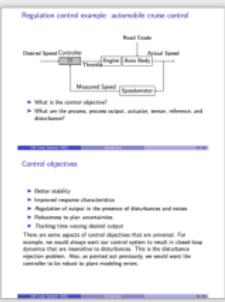
**Closed-loop control – regulation example**



- Output stability
- Impacted response characteristics
- Reduces the sensitivity of the system to the presence of disturbances and noises
- Reduces the time spent understanding the system
- Tracking time varying desired outputs

These are just a few examples of the many advantages that are universal. For example, we should always want our control systems to result in closed-loop regulation rather than open-loop regulation. This is the fundamental distinction between a regulator and a controller. We will see how we can use the controller to be reduced to an open-loop modeling system.

**Regulation control example: automobile cruise control**



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**Control objectives**

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**Means to achieve the control objectives**

- Model the controlled system
- Reduce the characteristics of the plant
- Design control algorithms (controllers)
- Improve performance and robustness of the control system
- Implement the controller



**Topic:**

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**Resources for control education: societies**

- AIAA (American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics)
- IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers)
- ASME (American Society of Mechanical Engineers)
- SAE (Society of Automotive Engineers)
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- SAE (Society of Automotive Engineers)
- ASCE (American Society of Civil Engineers)
- ASEE (American Society for Engineering Education)
- IFAC (International Federation of Automatic Control)
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# Resources for control education: societies

- AIAA (American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics)
  - ▶ Publications: AIAA Journal of Guidance, Control and Navigation
- ASME (American Society of Mechanical Engineers)
  - ▶ Publications: ASME Journal of Dynamic Systems, Measurement and Control<sup>1</sup>
- IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers)
  - ▶ [www.ieee.org](http://www.ieee.org)
  - ▶ Control System Society
  - ▶ Publications:
    - ★ IEEE Control Systems Magazine<sup>1</sup>
    - ★ IEEE Transactions on Control Technology
    - ★ IEEE Transactions on Automatic Control
- IFAC (International Federation of Automatic Control)
  - ▶ Publications: Automatica, Control Engineering Practice

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<sup>1</sup>start looking at these, online or at library

# IEEE Control Systems Magazine

