

Control Systems 1

Johannes Schulte-Vels

19.09.2025

About Me

- Johannes Schulte-Vels (jschul)
- 5. Semester Mechanical Engineering
- Former Informatik II TA
- Working on the **PEGASUS** focus project (ARIS) as a **controls engineer**.
Rotating Detonating Rocket Engine (don't even know yet what that is)
- 3 Fun facts about me:
 - I lie to everyone that I'm 2 meters tall
 - I am 2 meters tall
 - I like to lie



Organisation

Course and Exercise Structure

- **Weekly lecture on Wednesday, 16:15 - 18:00**
- **Weekly Exercises on Friday 10:15 - 12:00**
 - **1. hour:** Theory Recap and example problems
 - **2. hour:** You solve the exercises and can ask questions. Of course you can leave if you do not have any questions or do not want to solve the exercises.
- **Study Center starting from the 3. Week.**
I will be there in the first few weeks. Good to ask questions!
- **The entire course will be held in English.**
However, feel free to ask in **German** as well!

Materials

- Lecture Slides and Lecture Recordings
- **Weekly Problem Sets** for you to solve. Starting from next week.
(**not** to be handed in)
- There won't be any Bonus 😞

Supplementary Materials

- **Script made from TAs** to improve your learning experience (weekly updated on moodle)
- **Jupyter Notebooks and interactive Tools.** (We go through the setup later)
- **CS1 GPT** (also on moodle)

This is all **without guarantee for correctness!**
Though we try our best, and ChatGPT hopefully as well



Materials

Polybox



PW: jschul

Website



<https://n.ethz.ch/~jschul>

Exam Info

- **150 min**
- **MC** and some **open questions**. However you **never** receive partial points.
- Written on **Paper**
- **No calculators allowed**
- **40 Pages** of hand written notes allowed (wth!?)
- **2 Page summary will be provided** (updated during semester)

Personal Tips for Control Systems

- This course may seem very abstract in the beginning (it is kind of)
- **Early incorporation of different subjects:**
 - Linear Algebra II → Systems of ODEs
 - Mechanics III and Thermodynamics → Modeling
 - Analysis III → Laplace Transforms

Don't let this intimidate you! **It's a lot easier than that**

- If you **follow the rules** and let me help you, it will make sense in the end!

Frazzolis Mantra



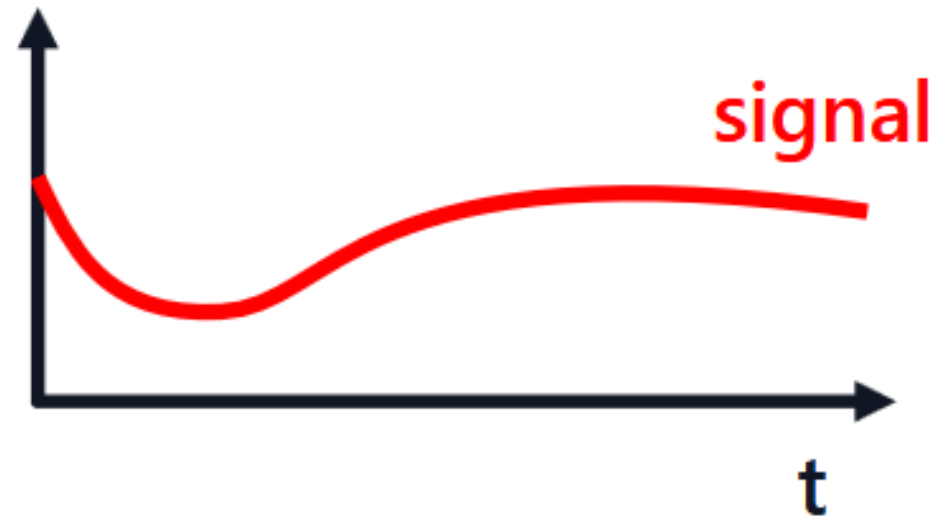
What are Control Systems

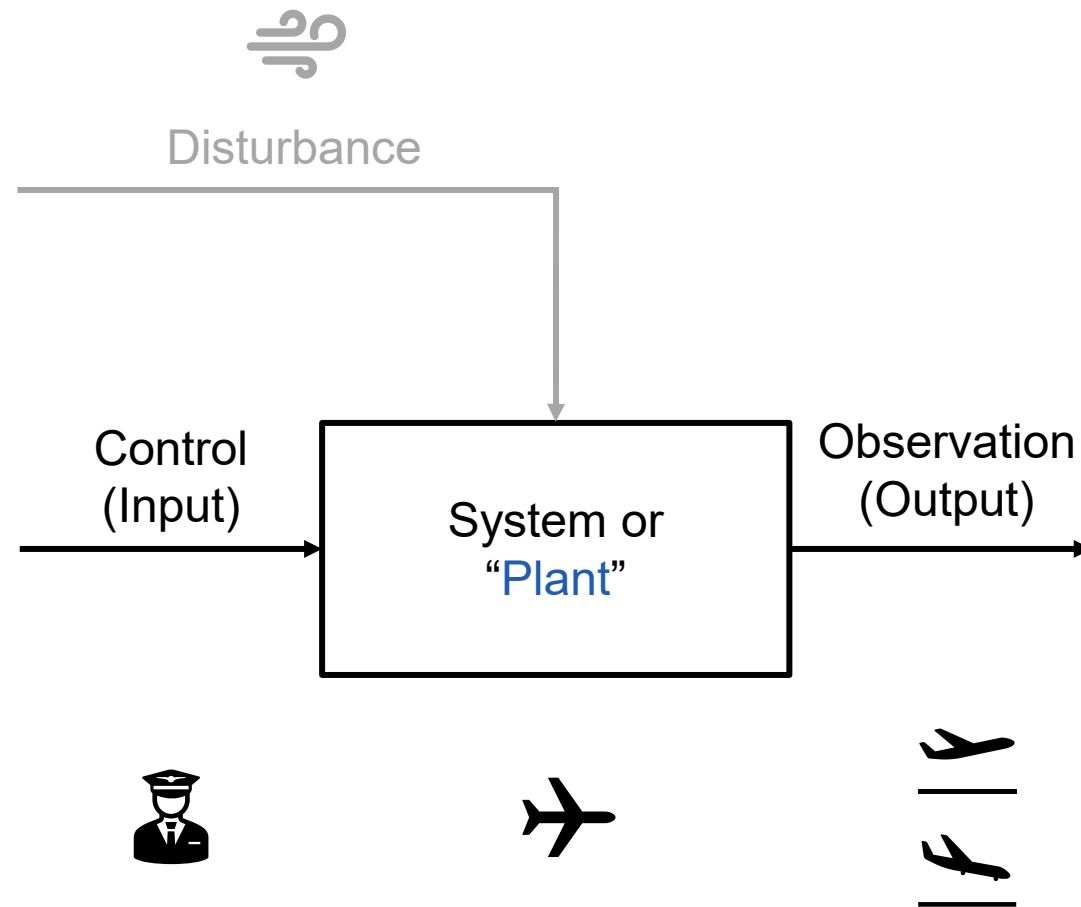
Systems

- **A system is something physical:**
 - Car
 - Plane
 - Etc.
- **We want the system to do a certain thing**
- **A system transforms a signal and maps input to an output**
- We will only look at **Single Input - Single Output systems (SISO)**
But there exist more! (MIMO: Multiple Input – Multiple Output)
- We also will mainly look at **linear systems**

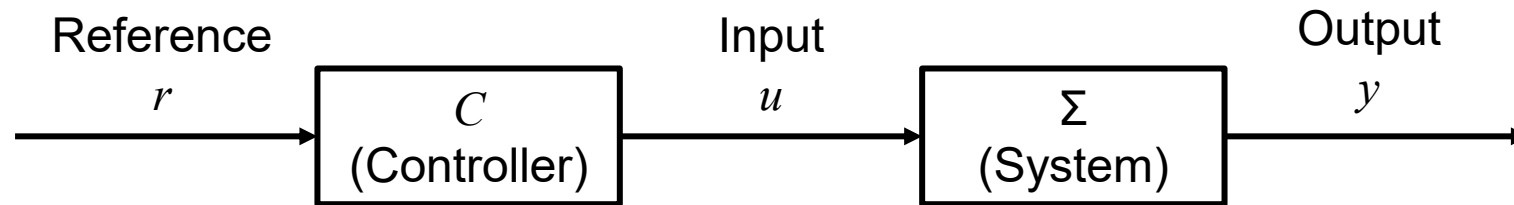
Signals

- Both the input and the output of the system are signals
- Signals:
 - a function of time
 - can be any physical observable

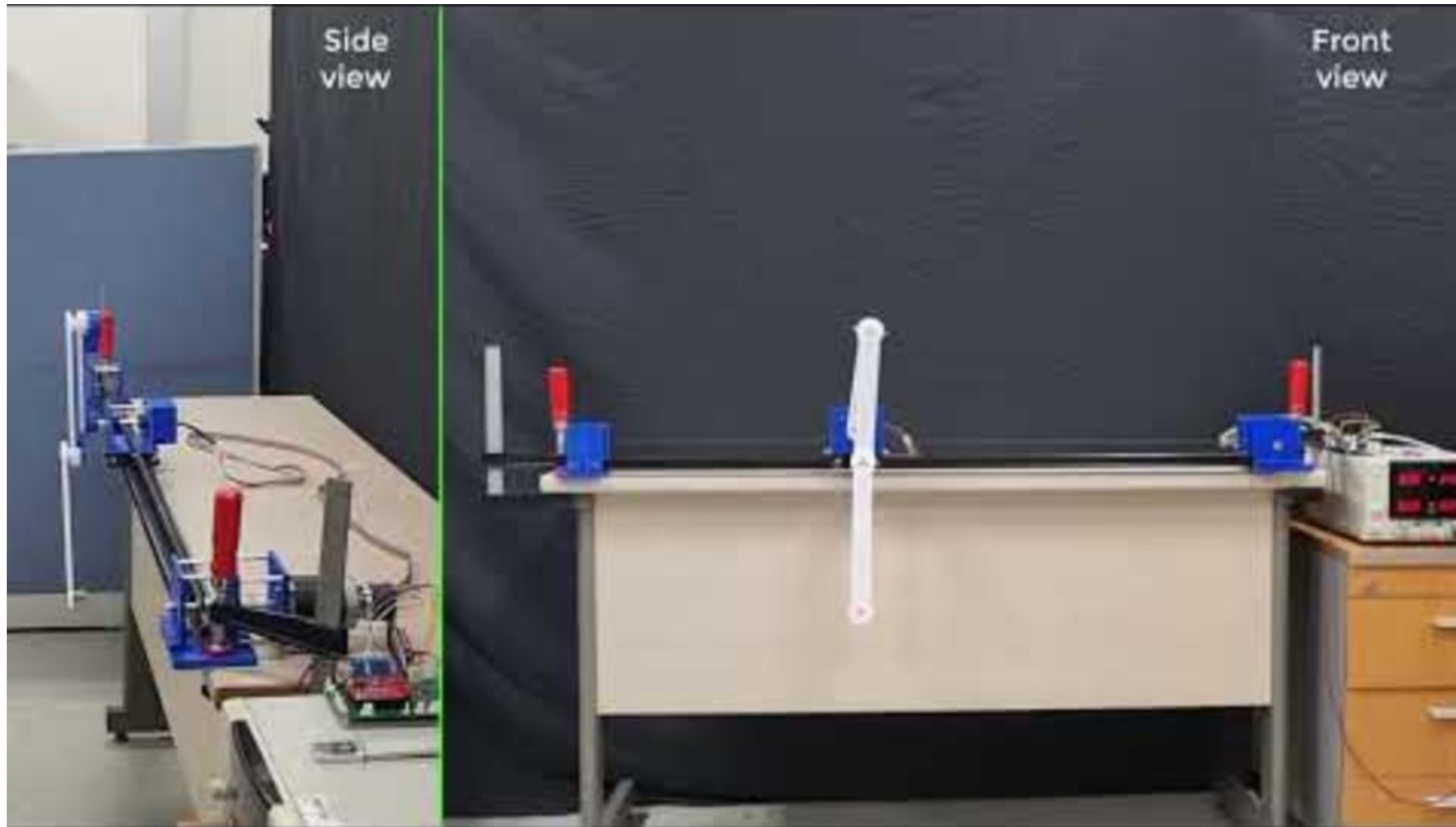




- The objective is to make the System behave in some desired way, given by a reference
- Controller transforms the reference to an input signal



Inverted Pendulum



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rh7JuL3PRSY>

Inverted pendulum

Reference r :

- Some desired angle θ

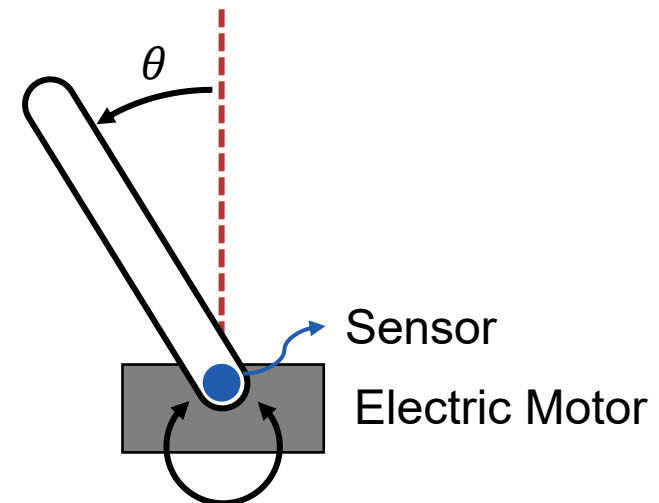
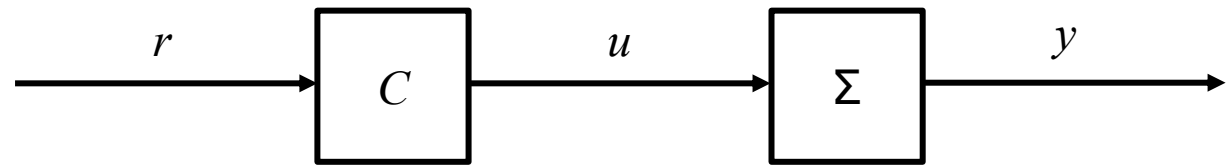
Input u :

- Electrical signal to motor

Output y :

- Current angle θ of pendulum

Open-loop system



Inverted pendulum

Reference r :

- Some desired angle θ

Input u :

- Electrical signal to motor

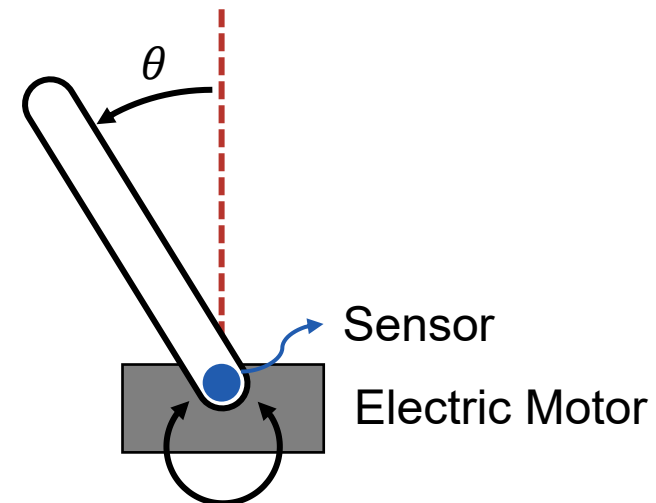
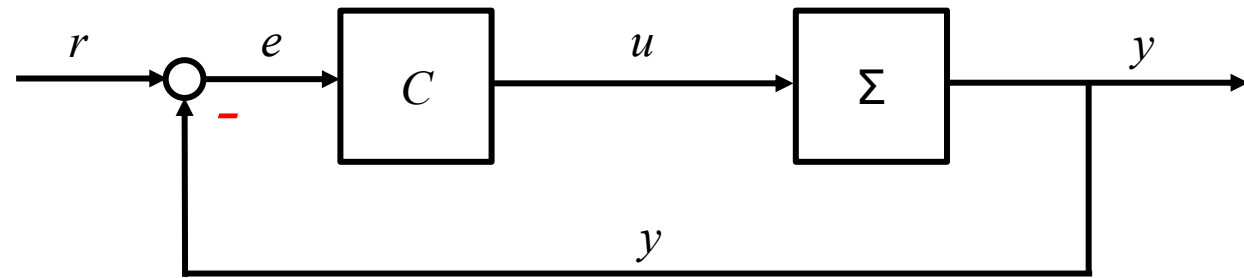
Output y :

- Current angle θ of pendulum

Error e :

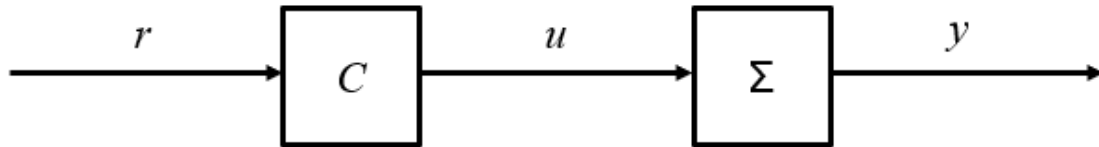
- Difference between reference and current angle $e = r - y$

Closed-loop system
Feedback



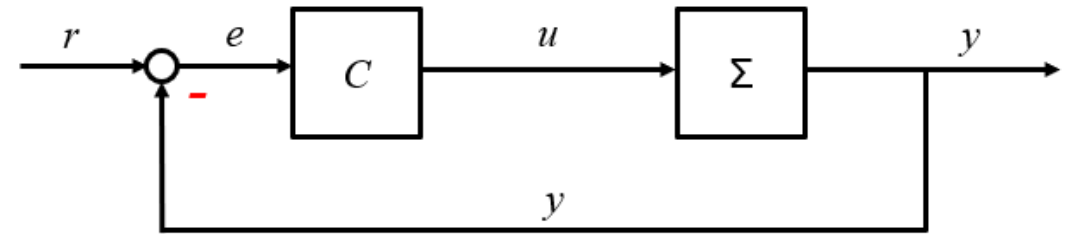
System Comparison

Open-loop system



- No feedback \rightarrow Input doesn't depend on output
- Simple but unprecise

Closed-loop system
Feedback



- Feedback! \rightarrow Input depends on output
- More complex
- Can become unstable (we will later look at what that means)

Our Objects as a Control Engineer

1. Performance:

- Execute the desired task as accurately as possible.

2. Robustness:

- Perform well in the presence of external disturbances, measurement noise, etc.

3. Stability:

- System doesn't blow up, outputs stay under control

Line Follower



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oT3jdxmgo8M>

Quadrcopter Juggle



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3CR5y8qZf0Y>

Cubli



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n_6p-1J551Y

Our Objectives in the Course

1. Modeling:

- Learn how to represent a dynamic system in such a way that it can be treated effectively using mathematical tools.

2. Analysis:

- Understand the basic characteristics of a system (e.g., stability), and how the input affects the output.

3. Synthesis:

- Figure out how to change a system, typically by feedback, in such a way that it behaves in a desirable way.

Thanks

- Thank you to **Nicholas Bartsch** for providing his presentation!
- Thank you to **all of you** for being here and the attention!

Feedback

<https://n.ethz.ch/~jschul/Feedback>

