



# Optimization with Differential Algebraic Equations:

Parameter Estimation and Optimal Control

**Prof. Karl Ezra Pilario, Ph.D.**

Process Systems Engineering Laboratory  
Department of Chemical Engineering  
University of the Philippines Diliman

# Outline

- Review: Differential Equations
- Optimization with DAEs
- Orthogonal Collocation
  - **Parameter Estimation**
  - Optimal Control

## PARAMETER ESTIMATION

Given a real data set of  $\mathbf{u}(t)$  and  $\mathbf{y}(t)$ , *find all parameter values within  $\mathbf{f}(\cdot)$  and  $\mathbf{g}(\cdot)$  that fits the data.*

## OPTIMAL CONTROL

Given a fully known  $\mathbf{f}(\cdot)$  and  $\mathbf{g}(\cdot)$ , *find  $\mathbf{u}(t)$  that achieves a desired trajectory in  $\mathbf{y}(t)$  while satisfying other constraints.*

# Parameter Estimation

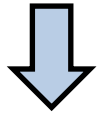
## Optimization with DAE

Minimize:  $\Psi(t, \mathbf{x}(t), \mathbf{y}(t), \mathbf{u}(t))$

Subject to:  $\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{f}(t, \mathbf{x}(t), \mathbf{u}(t))$  States

$\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{g}(t, \mathbf{x}(t), \mathbf{u}(t))$  Outputs

and  $h_i(t, \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{y}) \leq 0 \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, m$



## Parameter Estimation

$$\min \Psi = \sum_{i=1}^N (\mathbf{y}_{\text{actual},i} - \mathbf{y}_{\text{sim},i})^2$$

- Must have a data set of  $\{t_i, \mathbf{y}_{\text{actual},i}\}$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, N$
- Must ensure that times  $t_i$  are included in the ContinuousSet in Pyomo DAE.

## Example:

Consider the reaction  $A \rightarrow B \rightarrow C$ , modeled by the following ODEs:

$$\frac{dA}{dt} = -k_1 A$$

$$\frac{dB}{dt} = k_1 A - k_2 B$$

with initial conditions:  $A(0) = 1, B(0) = 0$ . Fit the ODEs to the following experimental data set and find  $k_1$  and  $k_2$ :

| Time | 0.1   | 0.2   | 0.3   | 0.4   | 0.5   | 0.6   | 0.7   | 0.8   | 0.9   | 1.0   |
|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| A    | 0.606 | 0.368 | 0.223 | 0.135 | 0.082 | 0.050 | 0.030 | 0.018 | 0.011 | 0.007 |
| B    | 0.373 | 0.564 | 0.647 | 0.669 | 0.656 | 0.624 | 0.583 | 0.539 | 0.494 | 0.451 |

**Reference:** Pyomo Workshop December 2023

# Outline

- Review: Differential Equations
- Optimization with DAEs
- Orthogonal Collocation
  - Parameter Estimation
  - **Optimal Control**

## PARAMETER ESTIMATION

Given a real data set of  $\mathbf{u}(t)$  and  $\mathbf{y}(t)$ , *find all parameter values within  $\mathbf{f}(\cdot)$  and  $\mathbf{g}(\cdot)$  that fits the data.*

## OPTIMAL CONTROL

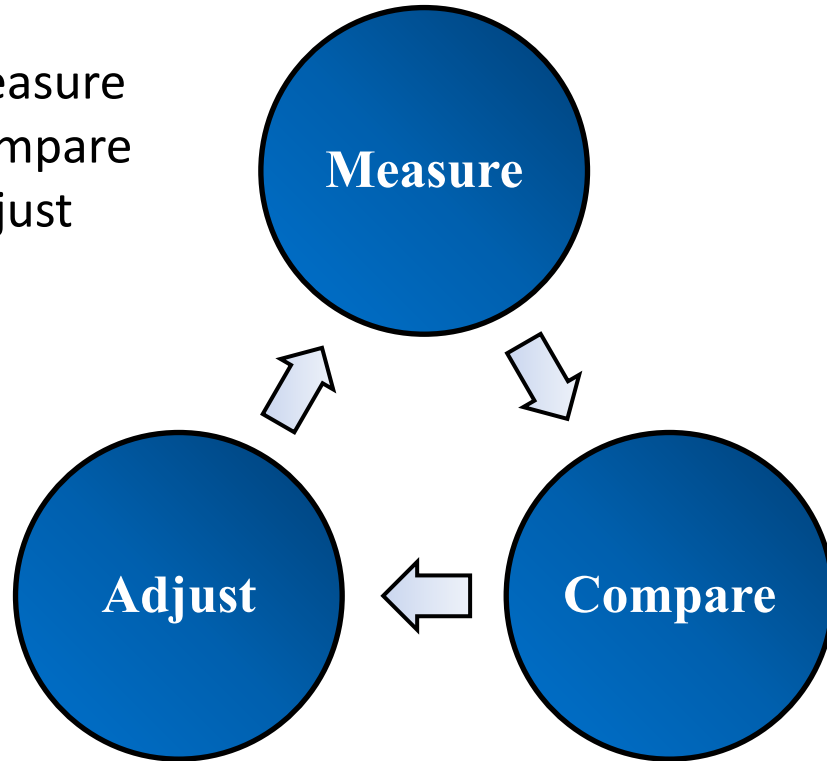
Given a fully known  $\mathbf{f}(\cdot)$  and  $\mathbf{g}(\cdot)$ , *find  $\mathbf{u}(t)$  that achieves a desired trajectory in  $\mathbf{y}(t)$  while satisfying other constraints.*

# Review: ChemE 182

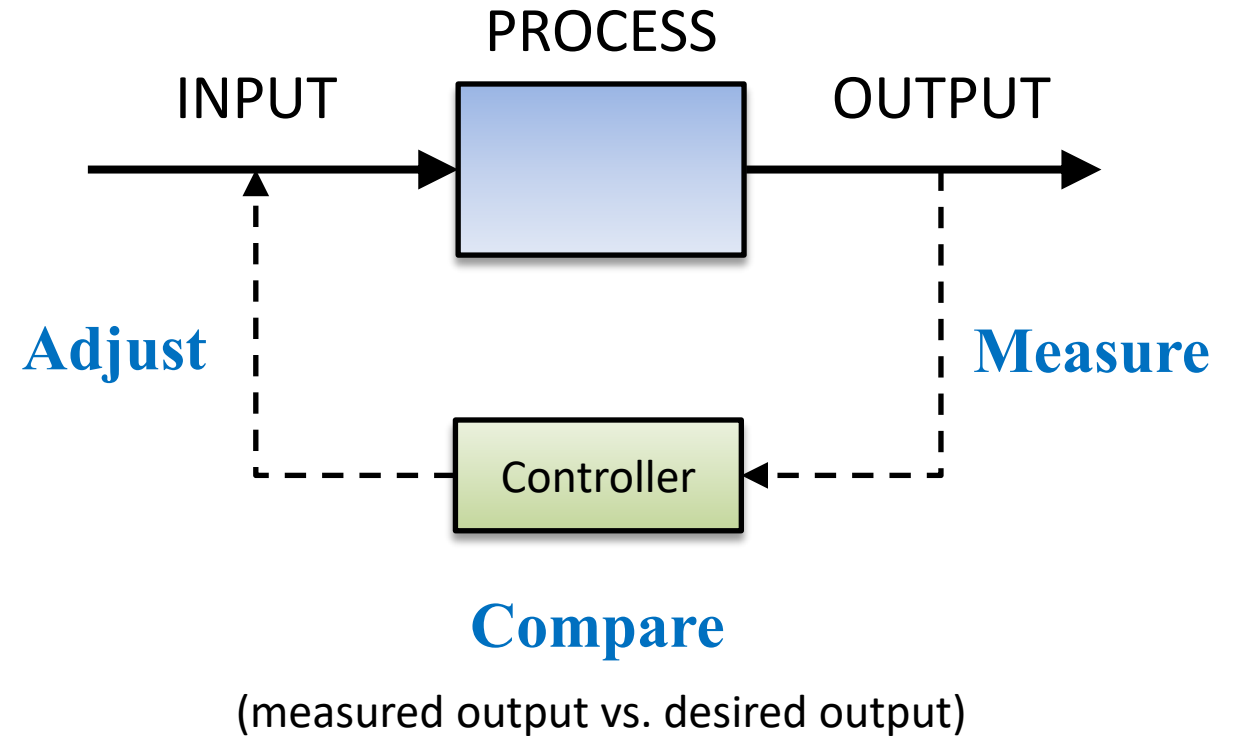
## What is a basic process control system?

The key elements needed for process control to occur are:

- Measure
- Compare
- Adjust



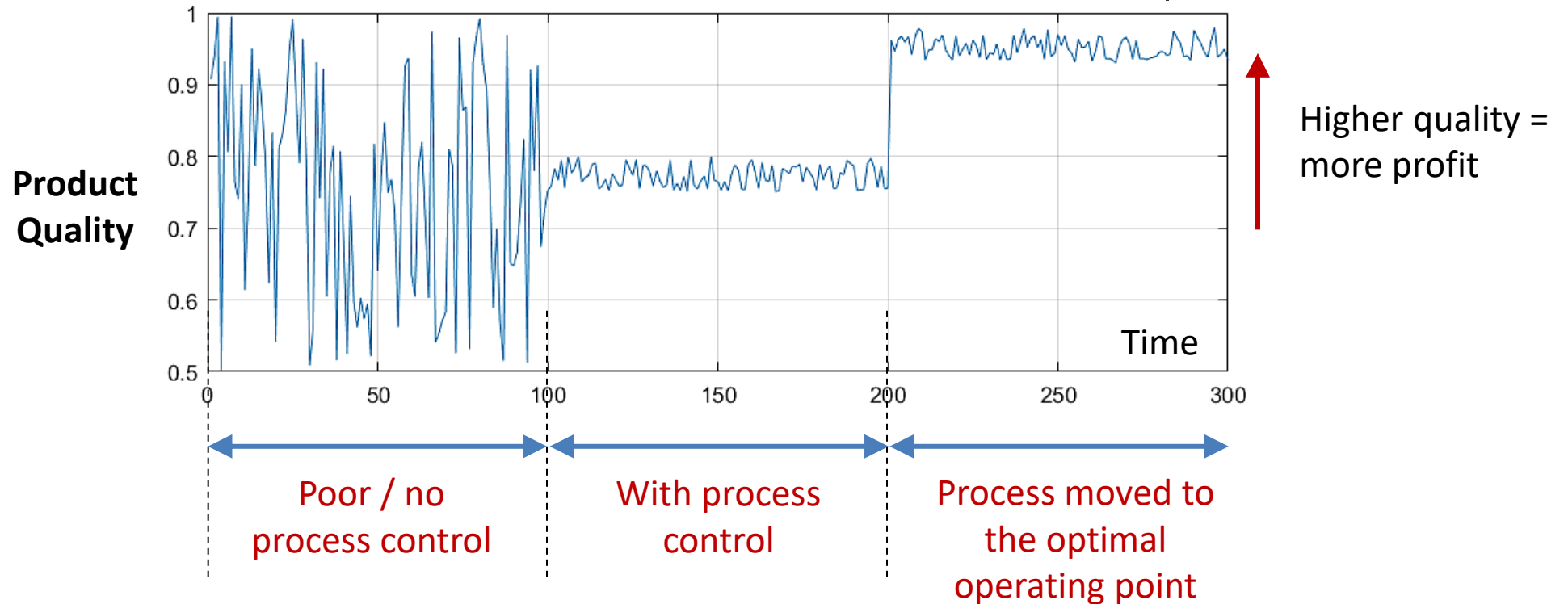
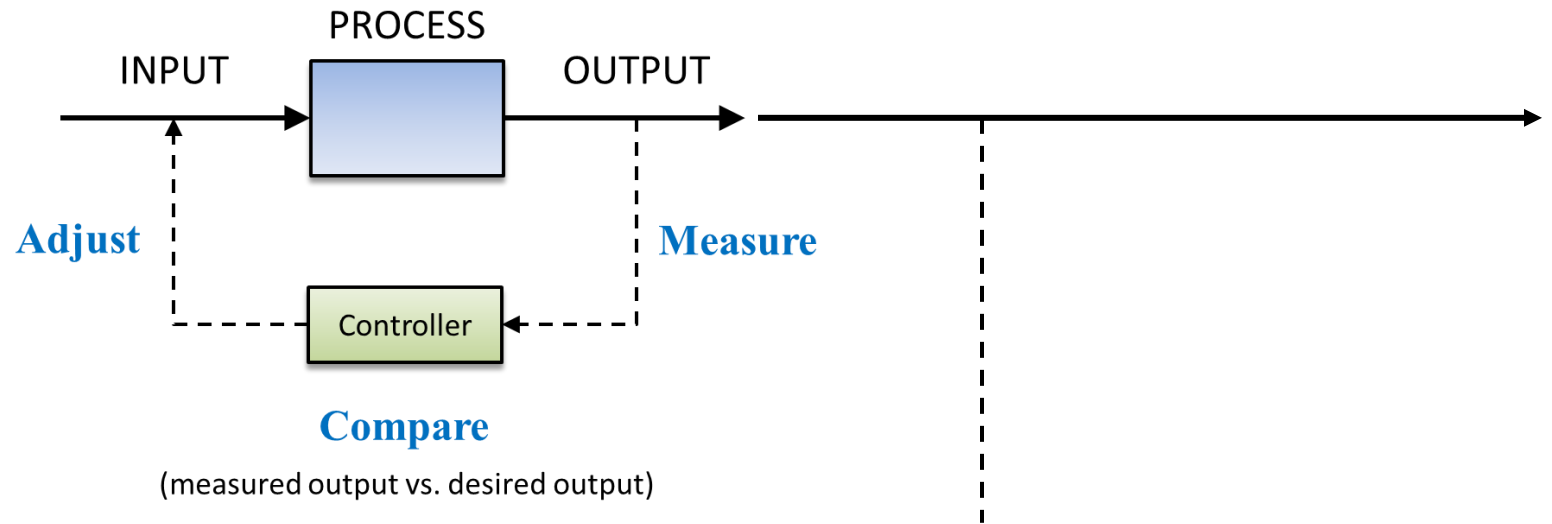
A basic illustration of process control:



# Review: ChemE 182

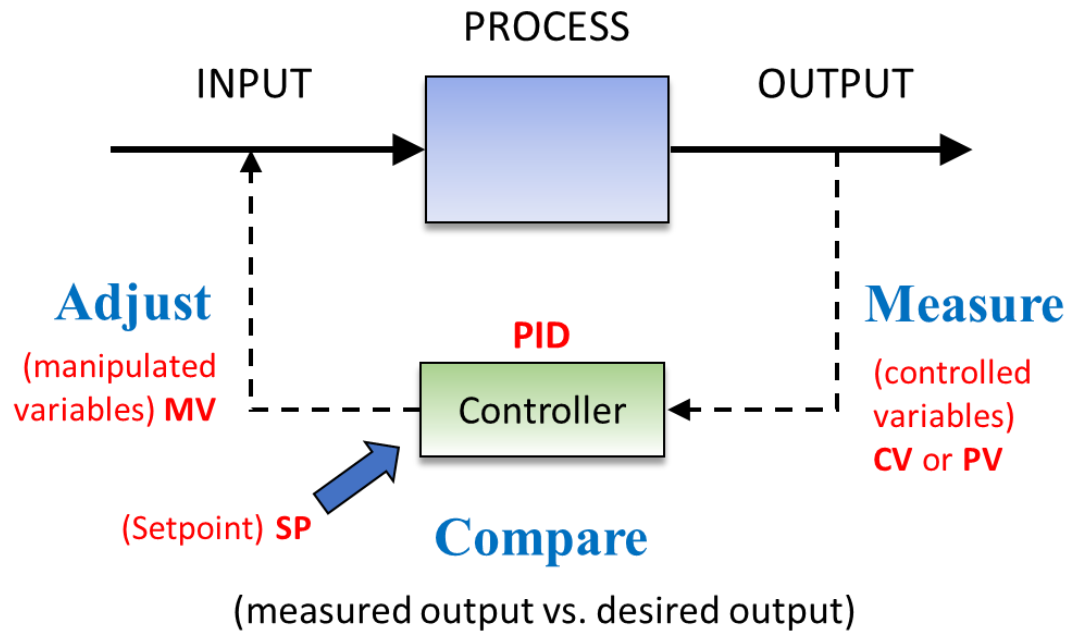
## Why do we need process control?

- Reduce variability in the output
  - Higher profit
- Plant safety
- Environmental Compliance



# Review: ChemE 182

## SISO control versus MIMO control



**\*ChemE 182 only deals with SISO control and linear ODEs.**

### Controlled Variables (CVs)

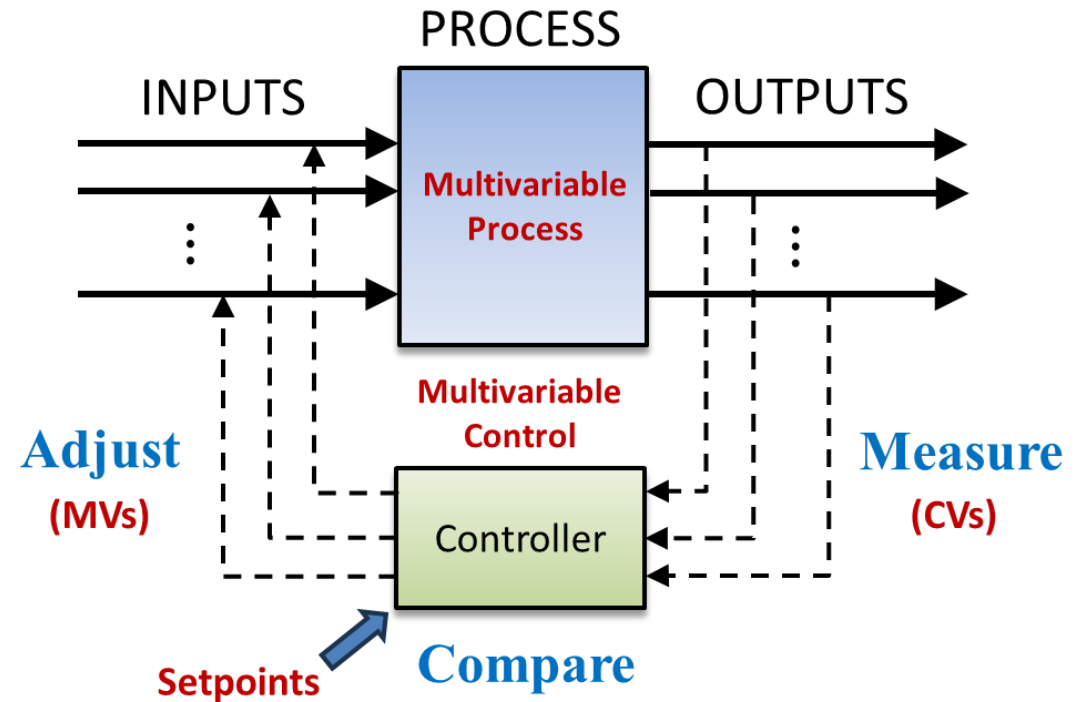
the outputs that we desire to control (keep constant or follow a setpoint)

### Manipulated Variables (MVs)

the inputs that we adjust to achieve desired CV trajectories.

### Disturbance Variables (DVs)

other inputs that cause the CVs to deviate from their setpoint.

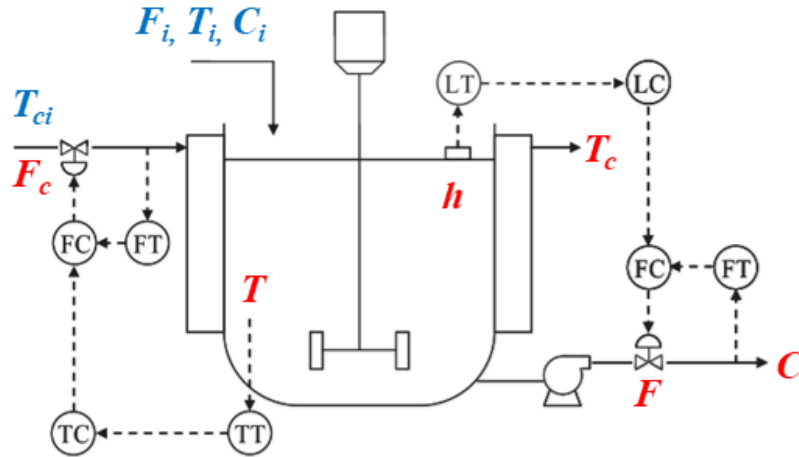


**\*Can deal with a system of nonlinear ODEs/PDEs.**

- **This can be done using either:**
  - Multi-loop PID control
  - Model Predictive Control

# Optimal Control

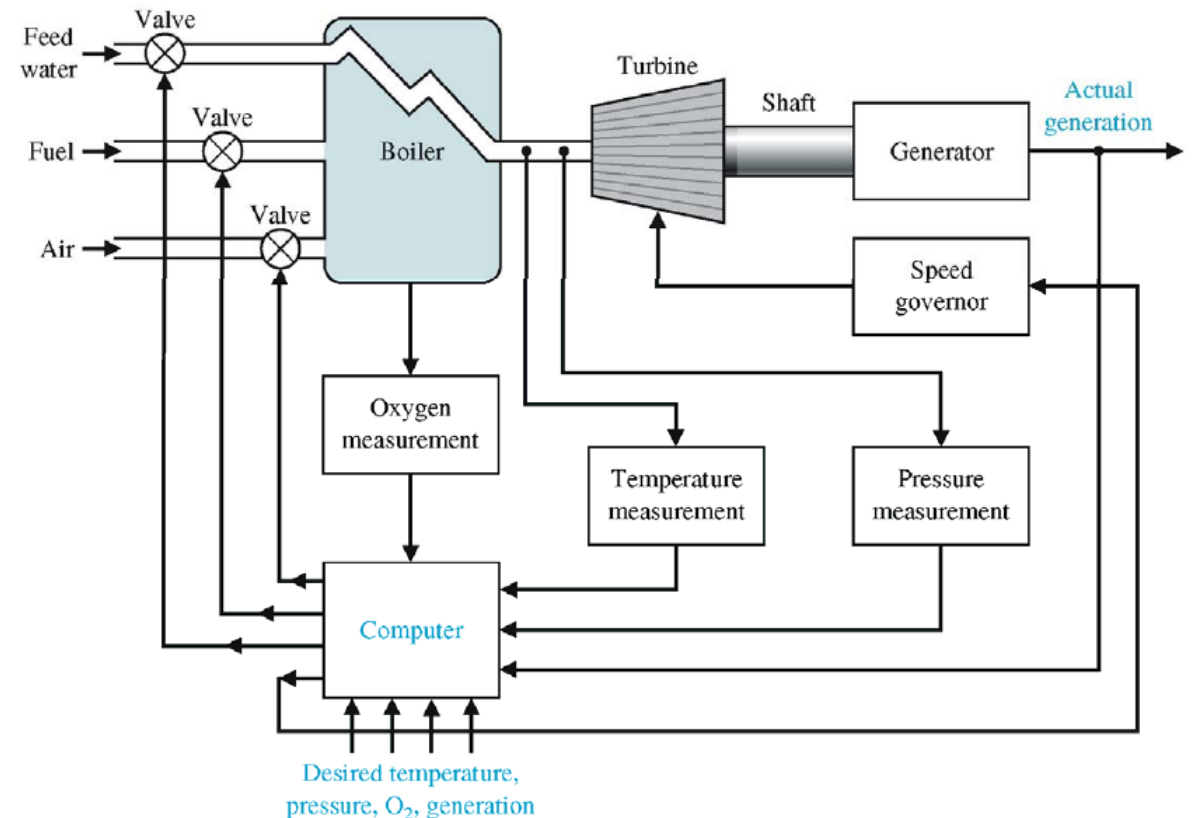
## Multi-loop PID control



- 2 cascade control loops = **4 PID controllers**
- 10 variables: **4 inputs** ( $F_i, T_i, C_i, T_{ci}$ ) + **6 outputs** ( $F_c, T, T_c, h, F, C$ )
- PID is still SISO, so we must select **pairs of CV-MVs** to connect.
- Download Link:  
<https://www.mathworks.com/matlabcentral/fileexchange/65091-cascade-controlled-cstr-for-fault-simulation>

## Model Predictive Control

- Control can be centralized or decentralized to subsystems.
- Solve a big optimization problem to get control actions.
- Requires a computer model of the actual system.





# Optimal Control

## Optimization with DAE

Minimize:  $\Psi(t, \mathbf{x}(t), \mathbf{y}(t), \mathbf{u}(t))$

Subject to:  $\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{f}(t, \mathbf{x}(t), \mathbf{u}(t))$  States

$\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{g}(t, \mathbf{x}(t), \mathbf{u}(t))$  Outputs

and  $h_i(t, \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{y}) \leq 0 \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, m$

## Notation:

$\Delta \mathbf{y}_{k+1}$  Deviation from setpoint at time  $k + 1$

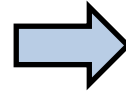
$\Delta \mathbf{u}_k$  Amount of control effort at time  $k$

$\mathbf{Q}$  State weight matrix

$\mathbf{R}$  Control input weight matrix

$P$  Prediction horizon

$M$  Control horizon



## Model Predictive Control

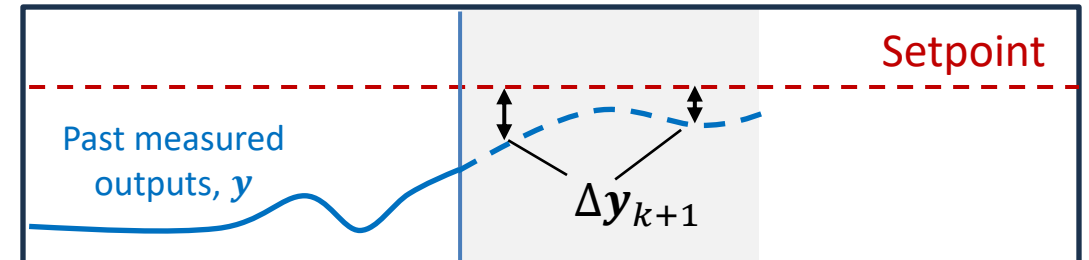
Minimize:  $\sum_{k=0}^P [\Delta \mathbf{y}_{k+1}^T \mathbf{Q} \Delta \mathbf{y}_{k+1} + \Delta \mathbf{u}_k^T \mathbf{R} \Delta \mathbf{u}_k]$  Weighted sum of squares:  $\mathbf{v}^T \mathbf{W} \mathbf{v}$

Subject to:  $\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{f}(t, \mathbf{x}(t), \mathbf{u}(t))$  States

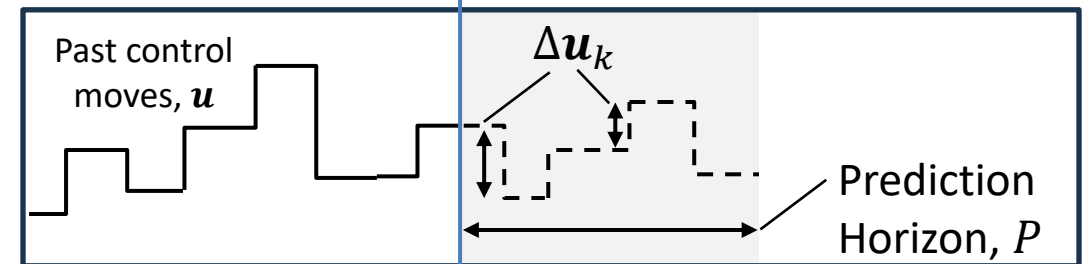
$\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{g}(t, \mathbf{x}(t), \mathbf{u}(t))$  Outputs

and  $h_i(t, \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{y}) \leq 0 \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, m$

Output,  $\mathbf{y}$

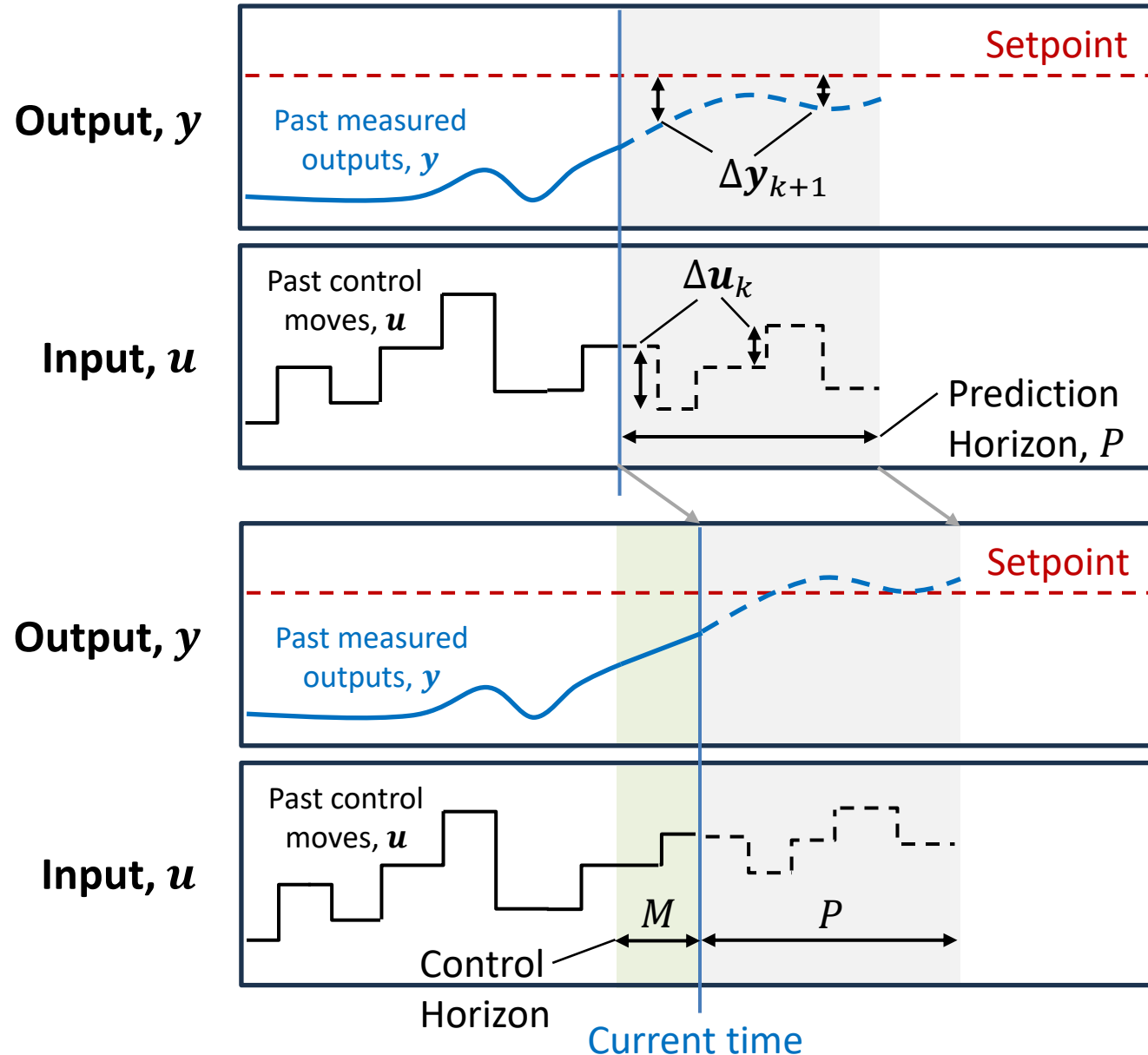


Input,  $\mathbf{u}$



Current time

# Optimal Control



## Model Predictive Control

Minimize: 
$$\sum_{k=0}^P [\Delta y_{k+1}^T \mathbf{Q} \Delta y_{k+1} + \Delta u_k^T \mathbf{R} \Delta u_k]$$

Subject to:  $\dot{x} = f(t, x(t), u(t))$  States

$y = g(t, x(t), u(t))$  Outputs

and  $h_i(t, x, u, y) \leq 0 \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, m$

## MPC Algorithm

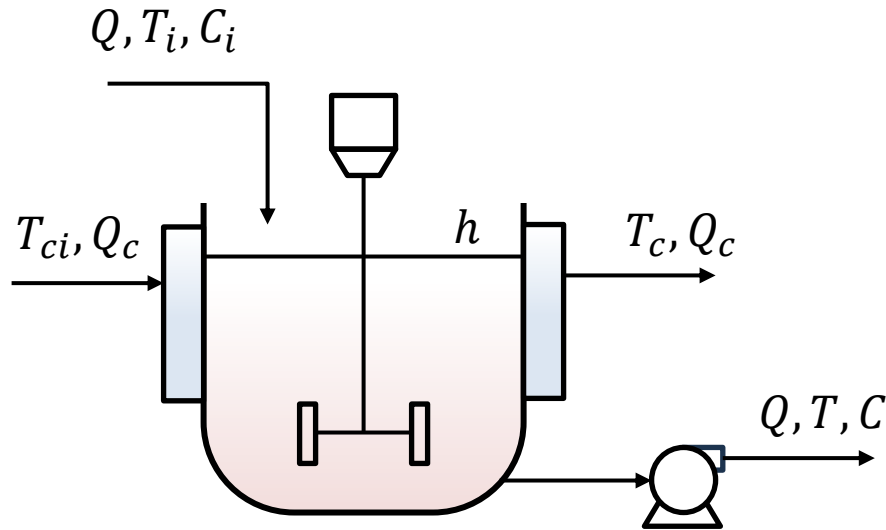
**Set:** Prediction Horizon, Control Horizon, Process Model, Setpoints and Constraints,  $\mathbf{R}$  and  $\mathbf{Q}$ .

### Steps:

1. Solve NLP for  $u$  within the prediction horizon,  $P$ .
2. Apply the  $u$  within the control horizon,  $M$ , only.
3. Roll the horizon  $M$  steps forward:  $k \leftarrow k + M$ .

# Optimal Control: Example

## Optimal Control of a Jacketed CSTR



$$\frac{dC}{dt} = \frac{Q}{V} (C_i - C) - a k C$$

$$\frac{dT}{dt} = \frac{Q}{V} (T_i - T) - \frac{\Delta H_r a k C}{\rho C_p} - b \frac{U A}{\rho C_p V} (T - T_c)$$

$$\frac{dT_c}{dt} = \frac{Q_c}{V_c} (T_{ci} - T_c) + b \frac{U A}{\rho C_{pc} V_c} (T - T_c)$$

The model of a constant hold-up, jacketed CSTR carrying out an exothermic first-order reaction  $A \rightarrow B$  is given. Simulate an MPC for a single prediction horizon of  $P = 10$  min that aims to decrease  $C$  from 0.1 mol/L to 0.05 mol/L by manipulating  $Q_c$  under:

- Normal case
- Fouling at 5 min ( $b$  decreases from 1.00 to 0.05)
- Catalyst decay at 5 min ( $a$  decreases from 1.00 to 0.05)

| Parameter      | Description               | Value  | Units     |
|----------------|---------------------------|--------|-----------|
| $Q$            | Inlet Flow rate           | 100.0  | L/min     |
| $V$            | Tank Volume               | 150.0  | L         |
| $V_c$          | Jacket Volume             | 10.0   | L         |
| $\Delta H_r$   | Heat of reaction          | -2e5   | cal/mol   |
| $U A$          | Heat transfer coefficient | 7.0e5  | cal/min/K |
| $k_0$          | Arrhenius factor          | 7.2e10 | 1/min     |
| $E/R$          | Activation Energy         | 1e4    | K         |
| $\rho, \rho_c$ | Density                   | 1000   | g/L       |
| $C_p, C_{pc}$  | Heat capacity             | 1.0    | cal/g/K   |

### Inputs:

$C_i$  = inlet concentration of A  
 $T_i$  = inlet temperature  
 $T_{ci}$  = inlet coolant temp.  
 $Q_c$  = coolant flow rate

### Outputs:

$C$  = outlet concentration of A  
 $T$  = outlet temperature  
 $T_c$  = outlet coolant temp.

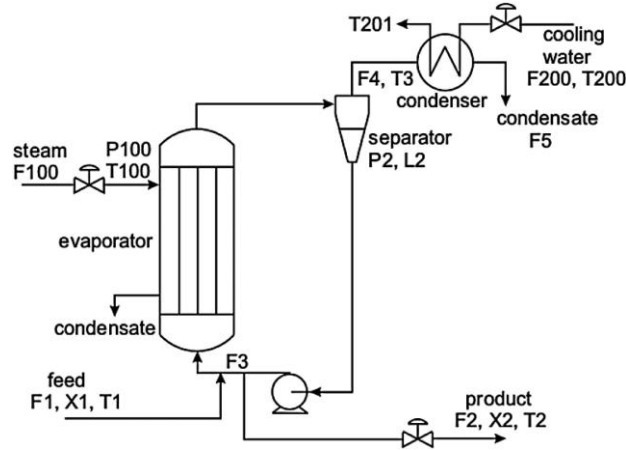
# Optimal Control: Example

## Optimal Control of an Evaporator

$$\frac{dL_2}{dt} = \frac{F_1 - F_4 - F_2}{20}$$

$$\frac{dX_2}{dt} = \frac{F_1X_1 - F_2X_2}{20}$$

$$\frac{dP_2}{dt} = \frac{F_4 - F_5}{4}$$



**Ref:** Pilario and Wu (2025). “Fast Mixed Kernel Canonical Variate Analysis for Learning based Nonlinear Model Predictive Control.” *Chemical Engineering Research and Design*.

- Control  $X_2$  by manipulating  $F_3$ ,  $P_{100}$ ,  $F_{200}$  simultaneously.
- Use a surrogate machine learning (ML) model instead of DAEs.
- The proposed method (middle) has the best control performance among the three ML models being compared.

$$T_2 = 0.5616P_2 + 0.3126X_2 + 48.43$$

$$T_3 = 0.507P_2 + 55.0$$

$$F_4 = \frac{Q_{100} - 0.07F_1(T_2 - T_1)}{38.5}$$

$$T_{100} = 0.1538P_{100} + 90.0$$

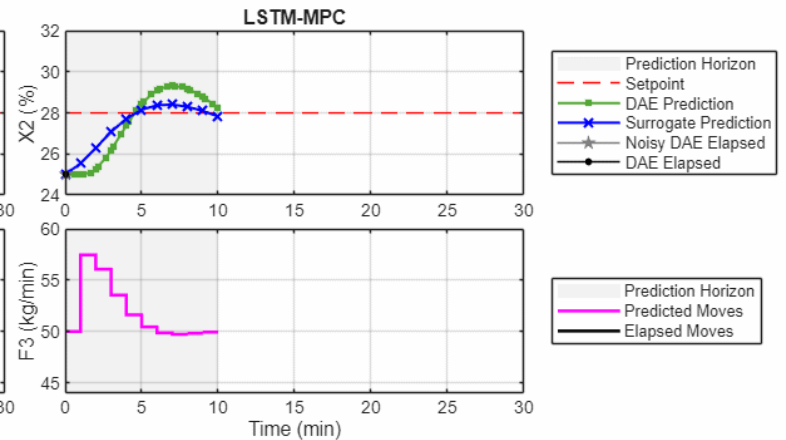
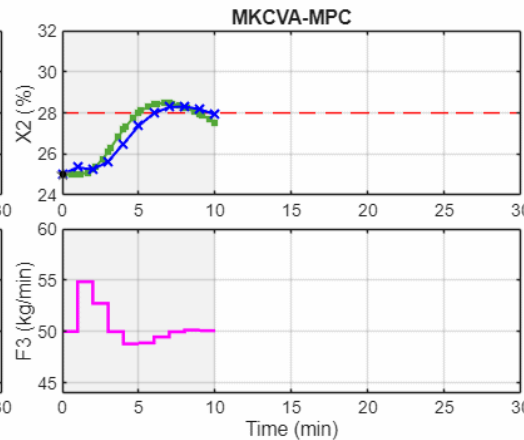
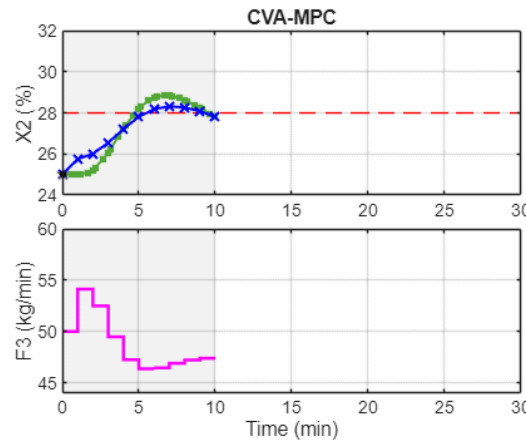
$$Q_{100} = 0.16(F_1 + F_3)(T_{100} - T_2)$$

$$F_{100} = Q_{100}/36.6$$

$$Q_{200} = \frac{0.9576F_{200}(T_3 - T_{200})}{0.14F_{200} + 6.84}$$

$$T_{201} = T_{200} + Q_{200}/0.07F_{200}$$

$$F_5 = Q_{200}/38.5$$



# Outline

- Review: Differential Equations
- Optimization with DAEs
- Orthogonal Collocation
  - **Parameter Estimation**
  - Optimal Control

## PARAMETER ESTIMATION

Given a real data set of  $\mathbf{u}(t)$  and  $\mathbf{y}(t)$ , *find all parameter values within  $\mathbf{f}(\cdot)$  and  $\mathbf{g}(\cdot)$  that fits the data.*

## OPTIMAL CONTROL

Given a fully known  $\mathbf{f}(\cdot)$  and  $\mathbf{g}(\cdot)$ , *find  $\mathbf{u}(t)$  that achieves a desired trajectory in  $\mathbf{y}(t)$  while satisfying other constraints.*