# **Black Boxes & White Noise** The Evolution of Automatic Control

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Introduction
Early Ideas
A Discipline Emerges
The Second Wave
Conclusions













### **Application Packages**

Mould Level Control, Continuous Steel Casting, ±3 mm







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Natural Science and Engineering Science Many similarities but also differencies

### **Natural Phenomena**

Analysis Isolate phenomena Simplicity Basic laws

### **Technical Systems**

Synthesis Interaction Complexity System principles



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## **Industrial Process Control**

Windmills Mead	1787
Steam engines	
Watt, Boulton	1788
Maxwell	1868
Routh	1875
Water turbines	
Stodola	1893
Hurwitz	1895



## **Accuracy & Stability**

**PID Control** 

$$u(t) = k \left( e(t) + \frac{I}{T_i} \int_{O}^{t} e(s) \, ds + T_d \, \frac{de}{dt} \right)$$

Honeywell Taylor Instrument Leeds & Northrup Foxboro



## **Flight Control**

The Wright Brothers 1903 Sperry 1912 Fully Automatic transatlantic flight 1947 Apollo 1969



# Minorsky 1922

It is an old adage that a stable ship is difficult to steer.

## **Telecommunication**

SYSTEM	DATE	CHANNELS PER PAIR	LOSS IN DB (3000 MI)	REPEATERS (3000 MI)
1 <sup>st</sup> Transcontinental	1914	1	60	3–6
2 <sup>nd</sup> Transcontinental	1923	1–4	150–400	6–20
Open Wire Carrier	1938	16	1000	40
Cable Carrier	1936	12	12000	200
First Coaxial	1941	480	30000	600

## **The Feedback Amplifier**

Black's patent 1928 Granted 1937 "Singing" = Instability Nyquist 1932 Bode 1945 Network Analysis and Feedback Amplifier Design



$$\frac{V_2}{V_1} = -\frac{R_2}{R_1} \cdot \frac{1}{1 + \frac{1}{A} \left(1 + \frac{R_2}{R_1}\right)}$$

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## **A Discipline Emerges**

Industrial Process Control Telecommunications Flight Control Mathematics Principles Theory Design Methodology Applications

### War Pressures

National Defense Research Committee MIT Radiation Laboratory MIT Servomechanism Laboratory MIT Instrumentation Laboratory MIT Lincoln Laboratory

## **The Black Box Concept**





Abstraction Information hiding

## The Black Box View of Dynamical System



### **The Notion of Transfer Function**



## **System Principles**



## **Two Paradigms**

### Feedback

Open loop Acts only on deviations Market driven Unmeasurable disturbance Less accurate model Feedforward Closed loop Act before deviations occur Planning Measurable disturbance Accurate model

### **Servomechanism Theory**

Foundations Complex variables Laplace transforms Design methodology Frequency response Graphical methods

System Concepts Feedback Feedforward

Analog simulation

Implementation

# Consequences

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# The Second Wave

Feedback from applications Challenging problems New technology New ideas

# **Key Elements**

Reexamination of fundamentals Vital interaction with other disciplines Theory to match new technology

## **Two views of Dynamical Systems**

External Description Electrical engineering Input/Output Black Box Internal descriptions Mechanical Engineering The notion of state



$$\frac{dx}{dt} = f(x,u)$$
$$y = g(x,u)$$

## **"Modern" Control Theory**

Optimal control Computer control Stochastic control Robust control CACE System identification Adaptive control Intelligent control

## **Optimal Control**

Euler Lagrange Pontryagin Hamilton Jacobi Bellman 1707–1783 1736–1813 1962 1805–1865 1804–1851 1957



## **Modeling Disturbances**



Power spectra White noise Innovations

## **Stochastic Control Theory**

- Filtering and prediction
- Merger of calculus of variations and theory of random processes
- Decision making under uncertainty
- Industrial process control



## **System Identification**



MODEL OF PROCESS DYNAMICS AND DISTURBANCES

## **Control of Basis Weight**





# **Dual Control**

 Control actions should be both directing and investigating

Consequences for decision
making decisions under uncertainty

## **Two Principles**

**Certainty Equivalence** (H. Simon 1956) Make the best estimate act as if it was true.

**Dual Control** Control should be investigating as well as directing.

### **Computer Aided Control Engineering**

How to disseminate complicated technology? Conceptual simplicity computational sophistication Combine human intuition with computational power Nice way to package theory

## **Computer Control**



## **Control Design & Process Design**



## **The Internal Model Principle**



# Applications

Energy generation Energy transmission Process control Discrete manufacturing Instrumentation Telecommunication Transportation Heating, ventilation, aircondition Entertainment Physics Biology Economics

## **Mission Critical**

Flight Control Space flight Automotive CD player Camcorder manufacturing



## **The Mercedes A-class**

### Automatic control gives extra freedom to the designer



Unstable behavior improved by Electronic Stabilization Program (ESP)

## **Control and Economics**

### **Committee on Policy Optimisation HSO 1978**

To consider the present state of development of optimal control techniques as applied to macroeconomic policy. To make recommendations concerning the feasibility and value of applying thes techniques within Her Majesty's Treasury. Introduction
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## **Some Challenges**

The gap between theory and practice "Intelligent" systems Man–machine interfaces Technology / society interfaces Academic positioning



# Conclusions

A glimpse of an emerging field Automatic control is pervasive Some system principles Many challenges ahead