5ELEN018W - Robotic Principles Lecture 6: Control - Part 1

Dr Dimitris C. Dracopoulos

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A robot needs to move its joints to achieve tasks

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A mobile robot moves to different locations

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In general, everything can be considered as **control**:

- Decisions we make affect (control) our future
- Decision while driving affect (control) the next position and the final location
- Control theory is a big area used not only in engineering and robotics, but in computer science
- Can be seen as what is <u>the best next action to take</u> (given a specific state) so as to achieve (optimise) specific objectives!

An actuator is a device that causes motion.

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Linear motion

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- Rotary

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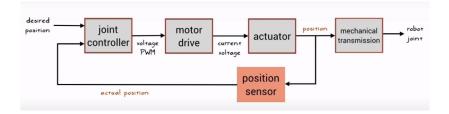
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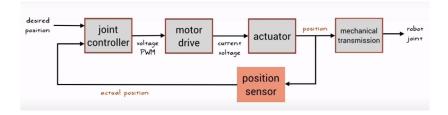
- Hydraulic (using compressed oil)
- Pneumatic (using compressed air)
- Electric (using current)

Components of a Robot Joint Control System



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Components of a Robot Joint Control System



The dynamic system that is to be controlled is called the **plant**.

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Example:

Control of a boiler using a timer

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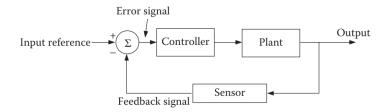
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Closed-loop (Feedback) control

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Block diagram of closed-loop control system:



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How to measure the current error?

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How to measure the current error?

The desired behaviour (reference input) is compared with the current actual output value of the plant:

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$$\theta_e = \theta_d(t) - \theta(t) \tag{1}$$

Error Response - Characteristics of a Good Controller

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An ideal controller would drive the error to 0 instantly and keep it 0 forever.

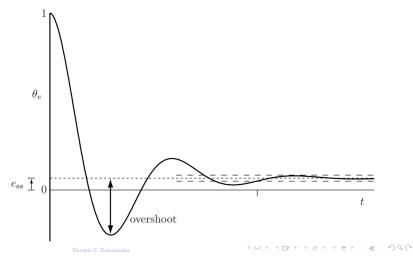
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A good controller achieves an error response $\theta_e(t)$ with:

small or no steady-state error

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- stability: a steady state error is achieved (no oscillations)

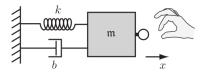
A Surgical Robot - Impedance Control (Mass-Spring-Damper Example)

Simulation of a robot used as a haptic surgical simulator, mimicking the mass, stiffness and damping properties of a virtual surgical instrument in contact with virtual tissue.

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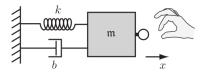


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To simplify, in the case that the robot force f = 0, the above second order differential equation can be written in the equivalent form of an algebraic equation:

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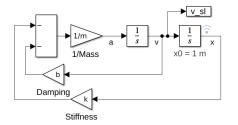
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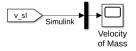
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- One can solve for s, called the poles of the system
- The poles define the response (position) of the system as a function of time

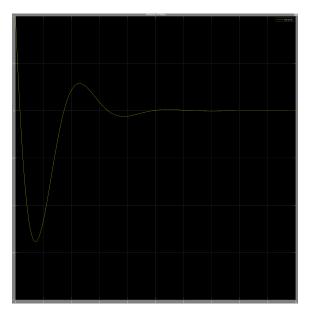
Simulink Model of the Surgical Robot





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Running the Simulink Model



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A common robot control strategy for manipulators:

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A common robot control strategy for manipulators:

- Each joint has its own controller
- Only a few parameters of the software controller need to be changed
- The parameters changed are done in a way so that they can control the different size motors attached to each joint.

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Discrete vs Continuous Dynamic Systems

 Discrete dynamic systems are described by difference equations.

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$$x(n) = 5 * x(n-1) + 6 * x(n-2) + 2$$

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 Continuous dynamic systems are described by differential equations.

Discrete vs Continuous Dynamic Systems

 Discrete dynamic systems are described by difference equations.

$$x(n) = 5 * x(n-1) + 6 * x(n-2) + 2$$

 Continuous dynamic systems are described by differential equations.

$$\ddot{x} = 5 * \dot{x} + 10 * x + 10$$

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Linear vs Non-Linear Control

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- In many cases, a linear model can be developed
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Not possible to linearise complex dynamic systems!