



UNIVERSITY
OF APPLIED SCIENCES

BASIC CONTROL SYSTEMS

03 BLOCK DIAGRAMS

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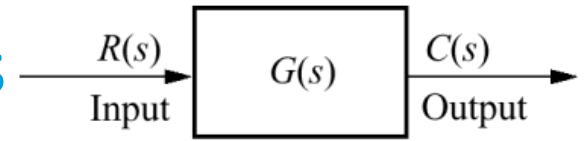
NOVEMBER 2025



WHERE STUDENTS MATTER



Normalisation & definitions

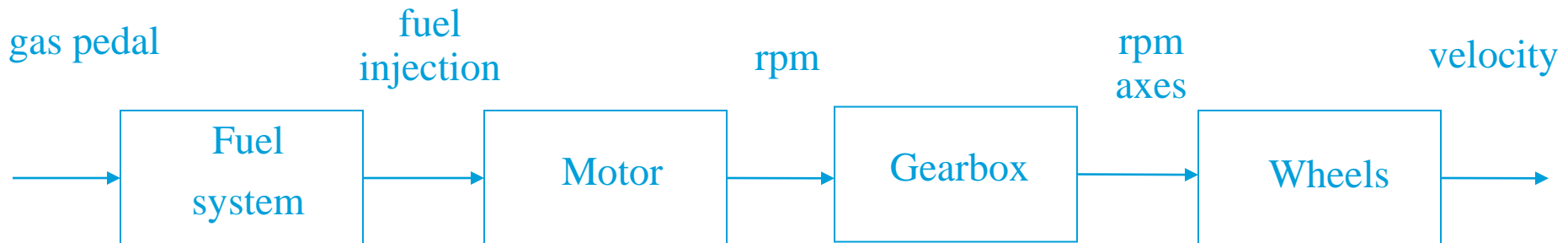
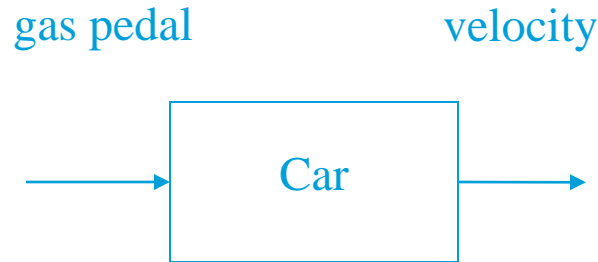
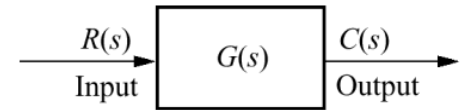


- Only **one input** and **one output**
- Output signal changes as a function of the input signal
 - ✓ Formula: $H = Y / X$ (transfer function)



- ✓ This means also that: $Y = H \cdot X$
- Process → sub processes → several boxes

Example of block diagram with several subprocesses

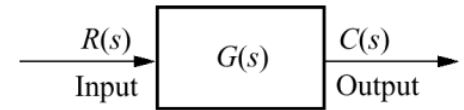




Block diagram

Why using a block diagram?

- Blocks draw easier than real physical systems
- Systems look alike (analogy)
- Block diagram easier to read
- Easier to manipulate and calculate

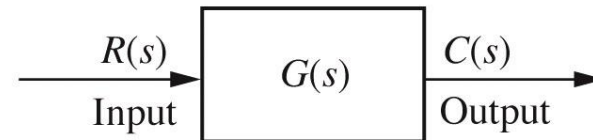


- Block properties
- Rules

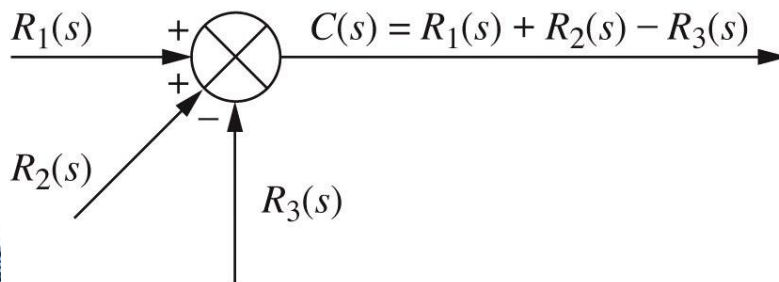
Elements involved:



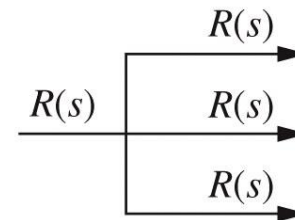
Signals



Block (system)



Summing junction

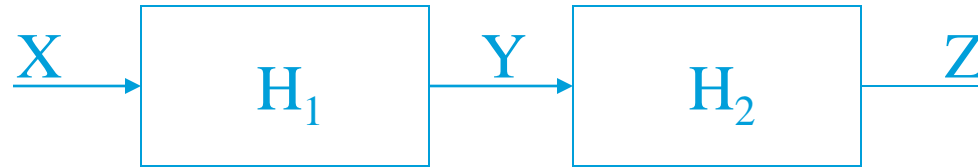
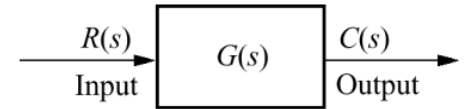


Pickoff point



Block properties

1. Series



$$Y = H_1 \cdot X$$

$$\text{and } Z = H_2 \cdot Y$$

$$\text{hence } Z = H_1 \cdot H_2 \cdot X$$

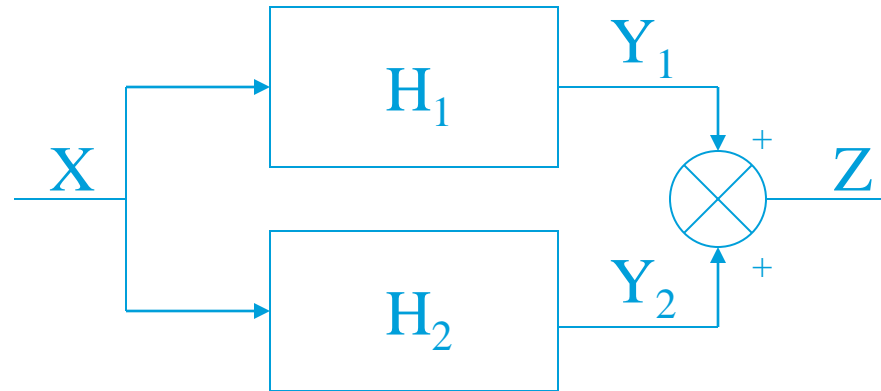
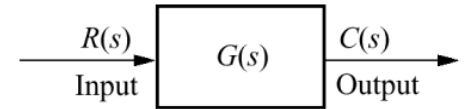
$$H_{\text{new}} = H_1 \cdot H_2$$





Block properties

2. Parallel



$$Y_1 = H_1 \cdot X,$$

$$Y_2 = H_2 \cdot X \text{ and}$$

$$Z = Y_1 + Y_2 =$$

$$Z = (H_1 + H_2) \cdot X$$

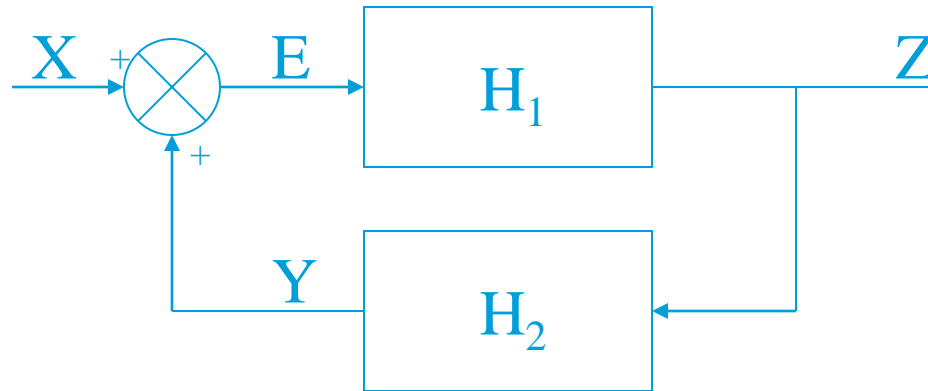
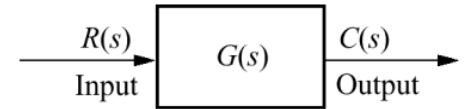
$$H_{\text{new}} = H_1 + H_2$$





Block properties

3. Positive feedback



$E = X + Y$ and $Y = H_2 \cdot Z$, hence

$$E = X + H_2 \cdot Z$$

$Z = H_1 \cdot E$, hence

$$Z = H_1 \cdot (X + H_2 \cdot Z) \Leftrightarrow$$

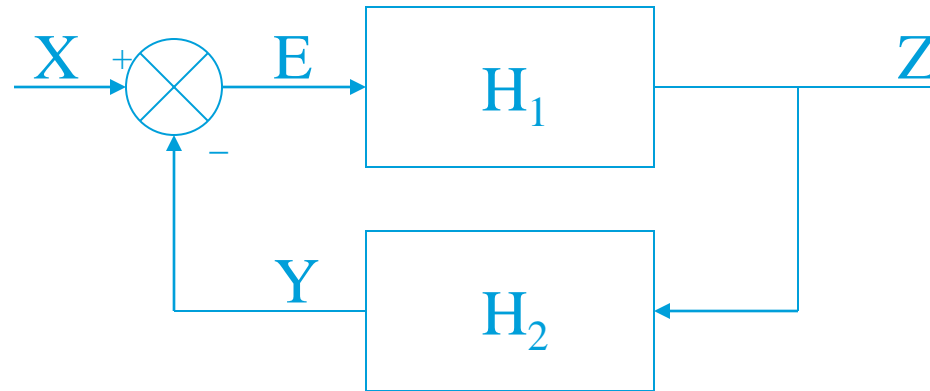
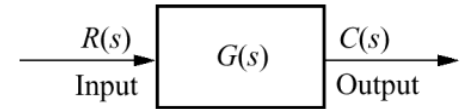
$$Z = [H_1 / (1 - H_1 \cdot H_2)] \cdot X$$

$$H_{new} = \frac{Z}{X} = \frac{H_1}{1 - H_1 \cdot H_2} = \frac{H_{forward}}{1 - H_{loop}}$$



Block properties

4. Negative feedback



$E = X - Y$ and $Y = H_2 \cdot Z$, hence

$$E = X - H_2 \cdot Z$$

$Z = H_1 \cdot E$, hence

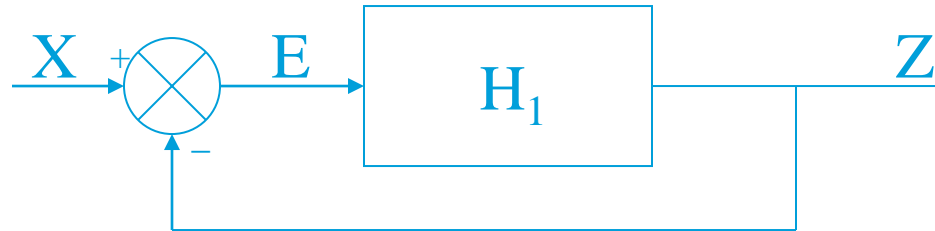
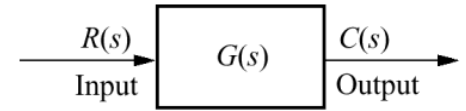
$$Z = H_1 \cdot (X - H_2 \cdot Z) \Leftrightarrow$$

$$Z = [H_1 / (1 + H_1 \cdot H_2)] \cdot X$$

$$H_{new} = \frac{Z}{X} = \frac{H_1}{1 + H_1 \cdot H_2} = \frac{H_{forward}}{1 + H_{loop}}$$

Block properties

5. Unity feedback



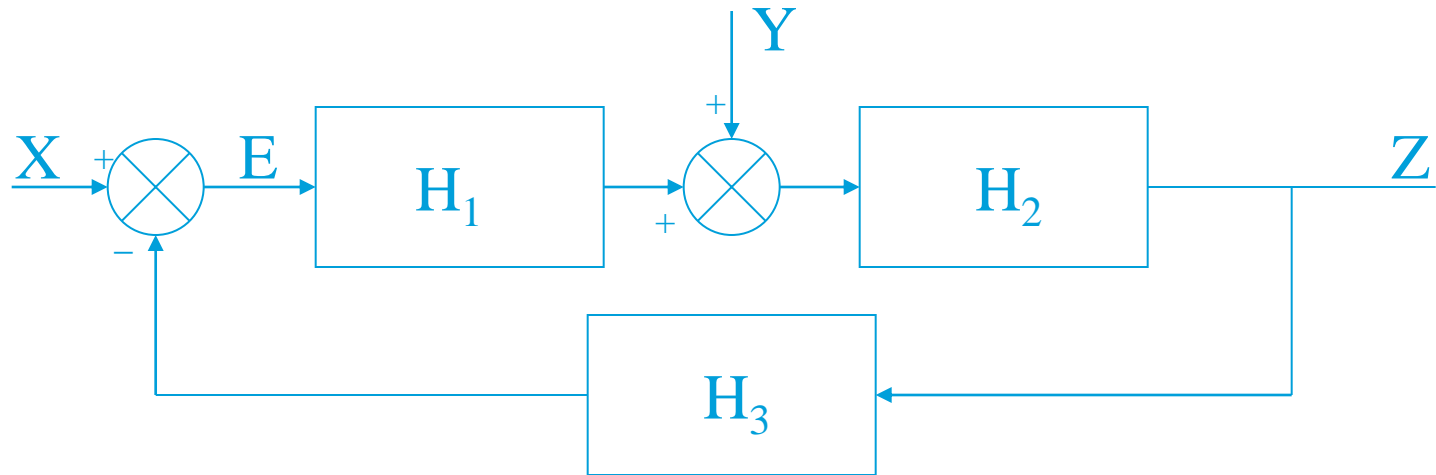
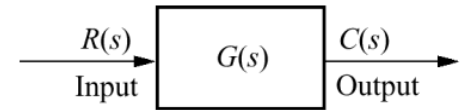
Special case of feedback: $H_2 = 1$, so

$$H_{new} = \frac{H_1}{1 + H_1}$$



Block properties

6. Disturbance



now $E = X - H_3 \cdot Z$

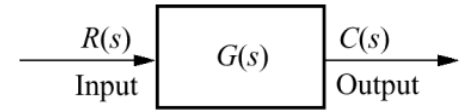
and $Z = H_1 \cdot H_2 \cdot E + H_2 \cdot Y$, this gives:

$$Z = \frac{H_1 \cdot H_2}{1 + H_1 \cdot H_2 \cdot H_3} \cdot X + \frac{H_2}{1 + H_1 \cdot H_2 \cdot H_3} \cdot Y$$

$$Z = H_{control} \cdot X + H_{disturbance} \cdot Y$$



Block properties summary



- Series

$$H_{new} = H_1 \cdot H_2$$

- Parallel

$$H_{new} = H_1 + H_2$$

- Positive feedback

$$H_{new} = H_1 / (1 - H_1 \cdot H_2)$$

- Negative feedback

$$H_{new} = H_1 / (1 + H_1 \cdot H_2)$$

- Alternative way to calculate H_{new} for negative feedback

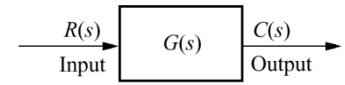
$$H_{new} = \frac{H_{forward}}{1 + H_{loop}}$$

- Disturbance

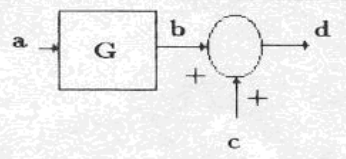
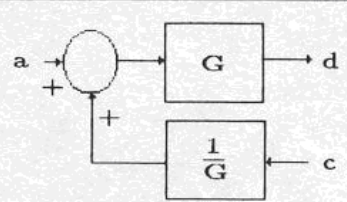
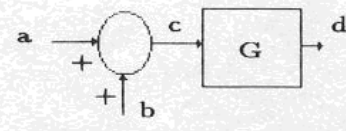
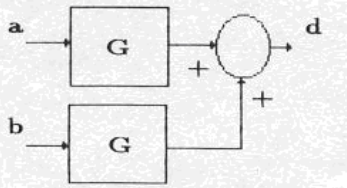
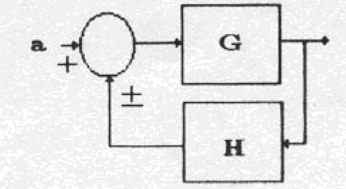
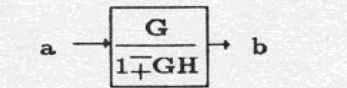
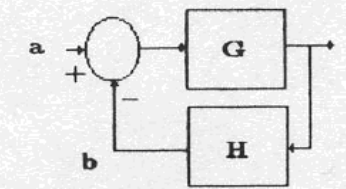
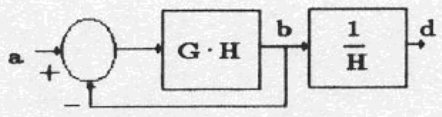
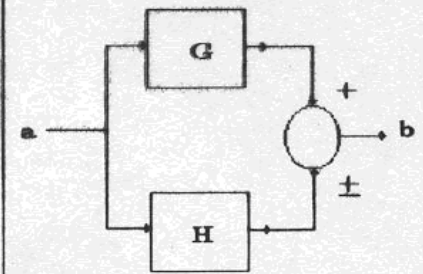
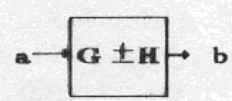
$$Z = \frac{H_1 \cdot H_2}{1 + H_1 \cdot H_2 \cdot H_3} \cdot X + \frac{H_2}{1 + H_1 \cdot H_2 \cdot H_3} \cdot Y$$

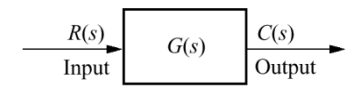
$$Z = H_{control} \cdot X + H_{disturbance} \cdot Y$$

More rules to modify block diagrams



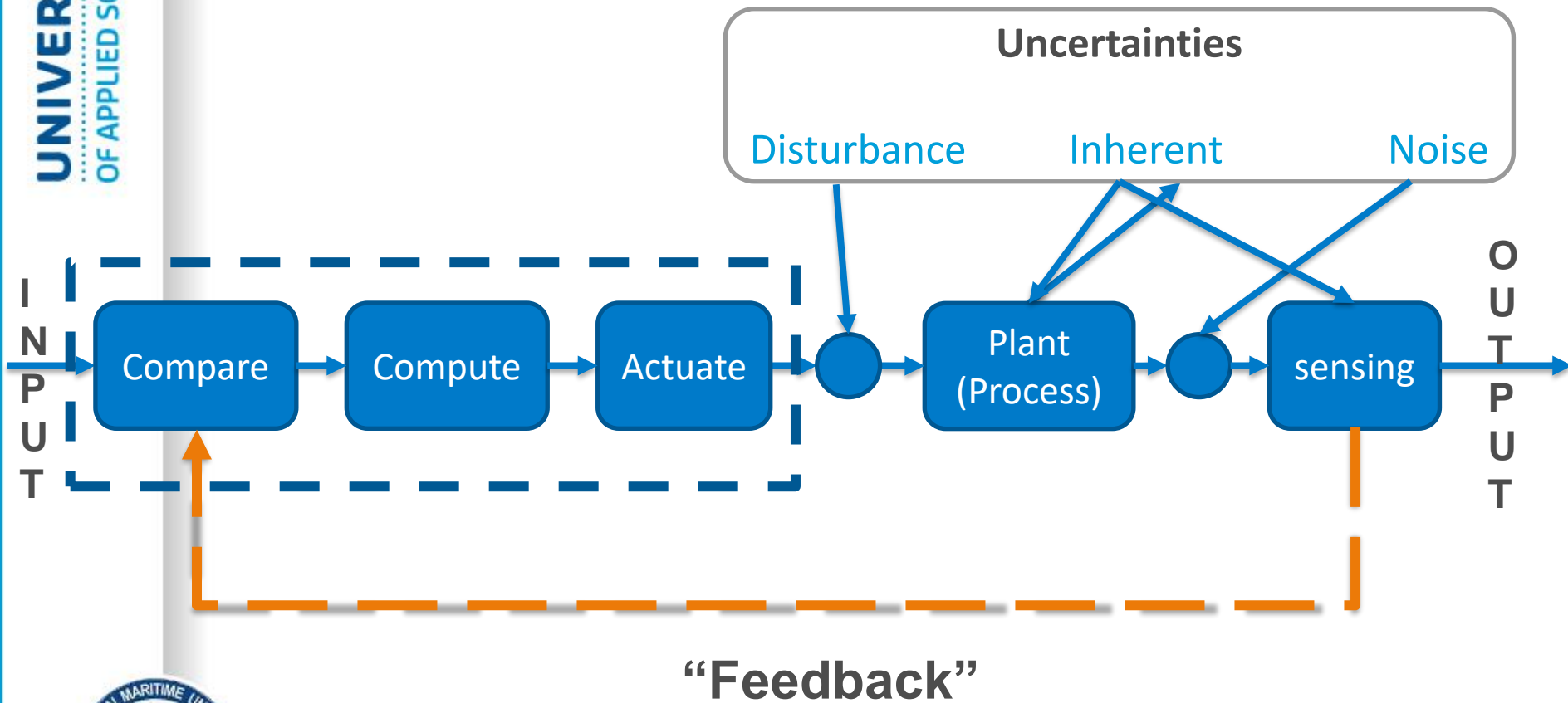
NR	Original block diagram	Alternative block diagram	Manipulation
1			Exchanging elements
2			Combining elements
3			Regroup summing junction
4			Move pickoff point
5			Move pickoff point

6			Move summing junction
7			Move summing junction
8			Eliminate feedback loop
9			Remove element from feedback loop
10			Combining elements

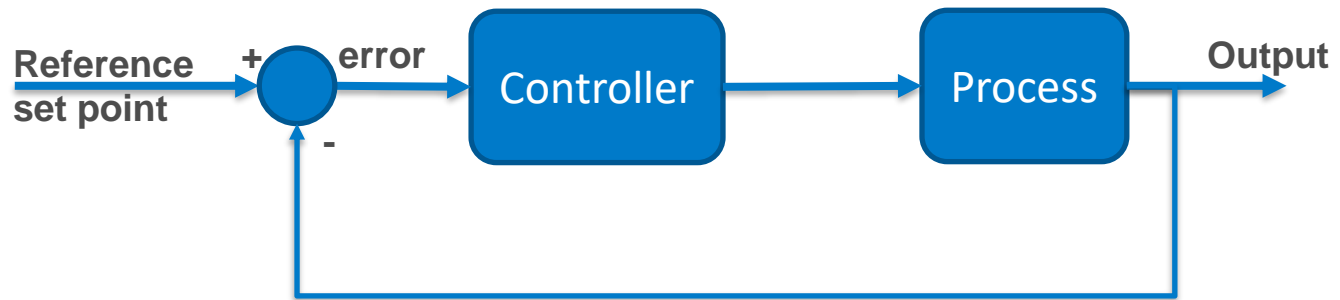




THE STANDARD MODEL WHY? AND WHY NOT?



THE STANDARD MODEL WHY? AND WHY NOT?



Why unit feedback?

- By playing with block diagram, all LTI system can be represented in this form
- Simple & convenient
- The “error” is quite straight forward, just output-input

Why not unit feedback?

- It is mathematically correct, however you are manipulating physical signals. Many times the physical systems and signals are not easily manipulatable.



Practice!

Solve exercises together with your team!





HOMEWORK

Stage ONE exercise:

- Problem 9

Test exam 3:

- Problem 1

Test exam 4:

- Problem 1

