The initial phase of this activity, supported by this grant, is now complete. A panel meeting was held in June 2000 and the input from that meeting is being used by a writing committee to generate the panel report. An initial draft of the report was distributed to the controls community in January 2001. It is anticipated that the final version of the report, to be published by SIAM, will be available in July 2001.
Panel on Future Directions in Control, Dynamics, and Systems

AFOSR Grant F49620-00-1-0237

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Final Report
1 April 2000 – 30 November 2000

1 Objectives

A Panel on Future Directions in Control and Dynamical Systems has been formed and is preparing a report to provide a renewed vision of future challenges and opportunities in the field, along with recommendations to government agencies, universities, and research organizations for how to insure continued progress in areas of importance to the industrial and defense base. The report will be published by SIAM and be made available to the controls community as well as government agencies. The intent of the report is to raise the overall visibility of research in control and dynamical systems, highlight its importance in applications of national interest, and indicate some of the key trends which are important for continued vitality of the field.

2 Status of Effort

The initial phase of this activity, supported by this grant, is now complete. A panel meeting was held in June 2000 and the input from that meeting is being used by a writing committee to generate the panel report. An initial draft of the report was distributed to the controls community in January 2001. It is anticipated that the final version of the report, to be published by SIAM, will be available in July 2001.

More information of the (ongoing) activities of the panel are available on the web:

http://www cds.caltech.edu/~murray/cdspanel/

3 Accomplishments

In this section we describe the accomplishments of the panel to date.

3.1 Establishment of the Panel and Initial Activities

The panel is chaired by Prof. Richard Murray (Caltech) and was formed with the help of an organizing committee consisting of Prof. Roger Brockett (Harvard), Prof. John Burns (VPI), Prof. John Doyle (Caltech) and Dr. Gunter Stein (Honeywell). The panel members are:
Karl Astrom, Lund Institute of Technology  
Stephen Boyd, Stanford  
John Burns Virginia Tech  
Gunter Stein, Honeywell  
John Guckenheimer, Cornell  
Pramod Khargonekar, University of Michigan  
P. S. Krishnaprasad, University of Maryland  
Jerold Marsden, Caltech  
Richard M. Murray (chair), Caltech  
Pravin Varaiya, UC Berkeley  
Siva Banda, AFRL  
Roger Brockett, Harvard  
John Doyle, Caltech  
Munzer Dahleh, MIT  
Charles Holland, DDR&E  
P. R. Kumar, University of Illinois  
Greg McRae MIT  
George Meyer, NASA  
William Powers, Ford

A web site was established for the Panel to provide a central repository for materials generated by the Panel. A bulletin board was also established as part of the web site to solicit suggestions and comments on the Panel’s activities. To date, fourteen postings have been placed on the bulletin board.

Messages announcing the formation of the panel were sent to the IEEE Control Systems Magazine and the Systems, Control and Signal Processing E-letter.

3.2 Panel Meeting: 15-16 June 2000

The Panel on Future Directions in Control and Dynamical Systems held a meeting on 16-17 July 2000 at the University of Maryland, College Park. The meeting was attended by members of the panel and invited participants from the academia, industry, and government. A total of 47 people attended the meeting.

The agenda for the meeting, including copies of presentations and output from the meeting, is available on the web:

http://www.cds.caltech.edu/~murray/cdspanel/meeting-16jun00

The homepage and agenda for the meeting are attached as an appendix to this report. A summary of the meeting was also produced and is available on the web.

After the meeting, a mailing list was established to inform interested parties about the progress of the report. This mailing list is used to send out occasional messages regarding major stepping stones as the panel report is written, with a low e-mail volume (approximately one message every two months). The list is moderated, so postings are controlled and will remain relatively infrequent.

The mailing list was announced on the Systems, Control and Signal Processing E-letter and over 100 people are currently signed up on the mailing list. Individuals can add their names to the mailing list by sending a message to majordomo@caltech.edu with the following line in the body of the message:

subscribe cds-panel-announce

3.3 Writing Committee Meeting: 19-20 October 2000

In order to write the report, a small writing committee has been established. The committee consists of Prof. Stephen Boyd (Stanford), Prof. Roger Brockett (Harvard), Prof. John Burns (VPI), Prof. John Doyle (Caltech) and Dr. Gunter Stein (Honeywell). This group met on 19-20 October 2000 in Chicago Illinois to generate an outline of the report and a draft of its executive summary. Prof. Stephen Boyd (Stanford), Prof. Munther Dahleh (MIT) and Prof. Alan Laub (UC Davis) joined the writing committee for portions of the meeting.
The meeting was successful in meeting its goals and an outline of the report, including overall themes and summary recommendations, was produced. This draft report was posted on the Panel web page and distributed to Panel members in early January. After minor revisions, the report was distributed to the Panel mailing list for additional comment. A draft copy of the report is attached as an appendix.

4 Personnel Supported

None (all funds were used to support participant costs for meetings).

5 Publications

None.

6 Transitions

The Panel's activities have been widely publicized, including the following:

- Two postings to the Systems, Control and Signal Processing E-letter announcing the formation of the Panel and the mailing list.

- An announcement of the Panel in the IEEE Control Systems Magazine.

- Frequent updates of the Panel web site, including postings of the June Panel meeting agenda, presentations and summary, and the draft report.

- Multiple mailings to the Panel mailing list to announce drafts of the report.

- Distribution of the Panel meeting summary to the organizers of the European Commission Workshop on Future and Emerging Control Systems, held in June 2000.

In addition, several meetings were held to discuss the results of the panel. These meetings has included researchers from universities, industry labs, government labs, and funding agencies and have been a principal mechanism for soliciting input on the Panel's activities.

- 15-16 June 2000 Panel meeting, with representatives from academia, government and industry.

- 22 August 2000 discussion of the Panel meeting at the AFOSR Contractor's meeting.

- 19-20 October 2000 Writing Committee meeting.

- 14 February 2001 discussion with government program managers (AFOSR, ARO, ONR, NSF, AFRL, DARPA).

- 15 March 2001 summary of the Panel's activities at a DARPA-sponsored workshop on Human Control of Semi-Autonomous UAV Systems.
The Panel on Future Directions in Control and Dynamical Systems is preparing a report to provide a renewed vision of future challenges and opportunities in the field, along with recommendations to government agencies, universities, and research organizations for how to insure continued progress in areas of importance to the industrial and defense base.

- Bulletin Board for Public Discussion
- Panel Meeting: 16-17 June 2000 [Summary]
- Draft Panel Report (14 Jan 01) [pdf]

Panel Overview and Charter

A panel has been formed to take on the task of putting forward a vision of future challenges and opportunities in the field of control and dynamical systems. The audience for the report includes decision makers in government and industry, program managers who are putting together new programs involving control and dynamical systems, and the research community itself. The report will be published by SIAM and be made available to the controls community as well as government agencies. The intent of the report is to raise the overall visibility of research in control and dynamical systems, highlight its importance in applications of national interest, and indicate some of the key trends which are important for continued vitality of the field.

The panel will be responsible for soliciting input from the broader control and dynamical systems
community and consists of recognized leaders in the technical community with a broad view of science and engineering. The panel will initially span the following areas of application:

- Aerospace and transportation
- Information and networks
- Materials and processes
- Biology and medicine
- Environmental science
- Robotics and intelligent machines

Additional areas may be added as needed to build a compelling vision for the future of control and dynamical systems research.

Panel Membership

The panel is chaired by Prof. Richard Murray (Caltech) and was formed with the help of an organizing committee consisting of Prof. Roger Brockett (Harvard), Prof. John Burns (VPI), Prof. John Doyle (Caltech) and Dr. Gunter Stein (Honeywell). The panel members are:

Karl Astrom  
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Stephen Boyd  
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Munzer Dahleh  
MIT

John Guckenheimer  
Cornell

Charles Holland  
DDR&E

Pramod Khargonekar  
University of Michigan

P. R. Kumar  
University of Illinois

P. S. Krishnaprasad  
University of Maryland

Greg McRae  
MIT

Jerrold Marsden  
Caltech

George Meyer  
NASA

Richard M. Murray  
(chair)  
Caltech

William Powers  
Ford

Gunter Stein  
Honeywell

Pravin Varaiya  
UC Berkeley

Bulletin Board

A bulletin board has been established to allow researchers to enter comments that will be distributed to the panel and used in putting together the report. We encourage all interested parties to post items on the bulletin board and respond to other items that they are interested in.

| Post Item | View Items |

Additional Information

This section contains additional information that we have collected as part of the panel's activities.
Related Papers and Reports

- NSF Workshop for High School Teachers and Mathematics and Science, 27 June 2000 (ACC)
- European Commission Workshop on Future and Emerging Control Systems, 19 June 2000 [meeting, report]
- Workshop on Future Directions in Systems and Control Theory, Cascais, Portugal June 1999
- NSF/CSS Workshop on New Directions in Control Engineering Education, October 1998

- Smart Jet Engines: Case History of a Multidisciplinary Research Project, Ed Greitzer, 2000 ACC (PDF, 6M)
- New Issues in the Mathematics of Controls, R. W. Brockett
- New Technological Vistas for Systems and Controls: The Example of Wireless Networks, P. R. Kumar
- The Mathematics of Systems and Control: From Intelligent Control to Behavioral Systems, J. M. Schumacher
- Outline of 1988 Fleming report

Other Panel Reports

Here are some links to reports from other panels (in different subject areas)

- Condensed-Matter and Materials Physics: Basic Research for Tomorrow's Technology
- Harnessing Light: Optical Science and Engineering for the 21st Century
- Airborne Geophysics and Precise Positioning: Scientific Issues and Future Directions

Mailing List

A mailing list has been created for people who are interested in receiving announcements regarding the Panel for Future Directions in Control and Dynamical Systems. This mailing list will be used to send out occasional messages regarding major stepping stones as the panel report is written, so the e-mail volume should be no more than a few messages a month. The list is moderated, so postings are controlled and will remain relatively infrequent.

If you would like to subscribe to the mailing list and receive additional message regarding the panel activities, send a message to majoromo@caltech.edu with the following line in the body of the message:

subscribe cds-panel-announce

Panel Meeting Agenda

16-17 June 2000
University of Maryland

Meeting Objectives

- Obtain input from members of the control and dynamical systems community and the applications community that will be used as the basis for the panel’s recommendations
  - Identify future application areas of significant importance to the industrial and defense base that are enabled by control and dynamical systems theory and practice
  - Identify a list of vignettes highlighting past successes and future opportunities
  - Identify the possible organizational structures (universities, university-industry collaboration, funding agencies) that might be required to take move the field forward
- Decide on next steps for producing the report

Agenda

Friday morning
8:00  Continental Breakfast
8:30  Welcome, Richard Murray
8:45  Overview of Fleming report, John Burns
9:00  Perspectives: Doyle, Stein, Sastry, Brockett
  - Provide a vision for some of the future challenges and opportunities in control and dynamical systems research
  - Describe some of the key issues to be addressed by the subpanels
10:20 Charge to subpanels
10:30 Discussion break
11:00 Breakout session: introductions & opportunities
  - Introduction of subpanel members
  - Overview presentation of the area by invited speakers
12:00 Lunch and discussion

Friday afternoon
1:30  Breakout sessions
4:00 Preliminary reports from subpanels: opportunities & challenges
   • List of current and future technology areas central to economic and national defense interests
   • Ideas for new types of training and organizational structures in academia, government, and industry

5:00 Adjourn

Saturday morning
8:00 Continental breakfast
8:15 General session: discussion of new groups and possible re-assignments
8:45 Breakout sessions
10:00 Break
10:30 Breakout sessions
12:00 Lunch

Saturday afternoon
1:30 Report from subpanels (15 minutes each + 5 minutes discussion)
   • Updated list of technology areas and organizational structures
   • List of possible vignettes describing past successes and future opportunities, with identified individuals to provide details
   • List of required next steps for generating draft panel report

3:30 Break
4:00 General session: discussion of main themes and next steps
5:30 Adjourn
Opportunities in Systems and Control: Report of the Panel on Future Directions in Control and Dynamical Systems

Richard M. Murray (chair)

DRAFT: v0.6, Sun Jan 14 13:24:06 2001

Abstract

The field of automatic control provides the principles and methods used to design systems that maintain high performance by automatically adapting to changes in the environment. Aircraft auto-landing systems and sophisticated guided weapons, for example, automatically adjust control surfaces to adapt to changing winds and changes in weight and loads, to accurately and reliably follow prescribed trajectories. Routing protocols in communication networks adapt to changing congestion, queue levels, and network traffic.

Automatic control traces its roots to the beginning of the industrial revolution, where simple governors were used to automatically maintain steam engine speed despite changes in loads, steam supply, and equipment. In the early 20th century the same principles were applied in the emerging field of electronics, yielding feedback amplifiers that automatically maintained constant performance despite large variations in vacuum tube devices. Over the last forty years, the field has seen huge advances, leveraging technology improvements with breakthroughs in the underlying principles and mathematics. Automatic feedback control systems now play critical roles in many fields, including manufacturing, electronics, communications, transportation, computers and networks, and many military systems. The enabling role automatic feedback control technology plays is, however, sometimes unseen: the control methods are hidden in the computer code that carries out the automatic adjustments, or obscured by the difficult mathematics underlying it.

As we stand on the threshold of the 21st century, the opportunities for, and use of, automatic control principles and methods is about to explode. In this new world computing will be ubiquitous, more and more devices will include embedded, cheap, high performance processors and sensors, and wireless networks will greatly enhance information exchange. This will make possible the development of machines with a degree of intelligence and reactivity that will change everyone's life, both in terms of the goods available and the environment in which they live.

Of course new developments will require a significant expansion of the basic tools set of automatic control. The complexity of the control ideas involved in the operation of the internet, autonomous systems, or an enterprise-wide supply chain system are on the boundary of what can be done with available methods, so new developments must be vigorously pursued.

The purpose of this report is to spell out some of the exciting prospects for the field in the current and future technological environment and to explain the critical role we expect it to play over the next decade.
Panel Membership

Richard M. Murray (chair)
California Institute of Technology

Karl Astrom
Lund Institute of Technology

Pramod Khargonekar
University of Michigan

Stephen Boyd
Stanford University

P. R. Kumar
University of Illinois

Siva Banda
Air Force Research Laboratory

P. S. Krishnaprasad
University of Maryland

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Pravin Varaiya
University of California Berkeley
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1 Executive Summary

Rapid advances in computing, communications, and sensing technology have put the field of Systems and Control in an unprecedented period of opportunity to contribute to the economic and defense needs of the nation. Combined with new challenges in modeling and control of large-scale, complex systems such as materials processing, active control of fluids, and global environmental change; control of distributed, networked systems such as the power grid, the internet, and the financial system; and cooperative control of multi-agent systems that arise in future combat systems, supply chain management, and electronic marketplaces, the field is poised to make great advances in both theory and application, building on its heritage of rigor and impact. This report provides a vision for the field of Systems and Control and describes some of the concrete steps required to take advantage of the tremendous opportunities that lie ahead.

Who we are and what we’ve done

Control systems engineering traces its roots to the industrial revolution, where the Watt flyball governor (Figure 1) was used to regulate the speed of steam turbines, enabling the safe, reliable, consistent operation that was required for rapid spread of the steam-powered factory.

Over the past 40 years, the advent of analog and digital electronics has allowed control technology to spread far beyond its initial applications, and made it an enabling technology in many applications. Visible successes include the guidance and control of aerospace vehicles in the 1960s (e.g., guided missiles, advanced fighter aircraft, satellites). Other less obvious, but very important, successes include:

- Disk drive head positioning control systems, which are used to rapidly and accurately move the disk drive heads to the correct position on the disk, and then maintain very tight tracking tolerances despite external vibrations, component variation, etc.

- Positioning stages for integrated circuit (IC) steppers, which rapidly position and align the
wafers used to manufacture ICs during the lithography step, to an extraordinary accuracy.

- A variety of important industrial process control systems maintain high product quality by monitoring hundreds of sensor signals and making adjustments to hundreds of valves, heater, pumps, and other actuators.

The enormous advances over the last 20 years in computing power, data networks, sensors, and actuators have important implications for control systems. Before 1980 or so most applications of advanced control engineering were in expensive, usually military, systems. But now, with the wide availability and low cost of embedded processors and other parts of the electronics infrastructure (such as network interfaces, A/D and D/A converters), many applications have shifted to commercial. One example is automotive engine control; another is positioning and control of the read and write heads on CDROMs, DVDs, and disk drives.

Current control technology is very effective for systems with many actuators and sensors, with dynamics approximately described by differential equations. As an example of a challenging design problem that can be handled by current methods, consider a modern aircraft, perhaps tailless, with blended wing and body, and multiple redundant control surfaces (say, 20), and vectored thrust (i.e., the ability to control the direction as well as the level of thrust from its engines). For sensing, the aircraft might be equipped with a variety of sensors including gyros, accelerometers, and multiple GPS receivers. The dynamics of the aircraft might vary substantially, depending on flight conditions (altitude, cruise speed, angle of attack). Obviously designing a reliable, robust and high performance MIMO feedback controller for such a system is quite challenging. In 1985, it would have been impossible. Today, it is standard practice.

The new environment

As we look forward, the opportunities for new applications of control and new advances in control are many. The advent of ubiquitous, distributed computation, communication, and sensing systems have begun to create an environment in which we have access to enormous amounts of data, and the ability to process and communicate that data in ways that were unimaginable 20 years ago. This will have a profound effect on control, especially as our software systems begin to interact with our physical systems in much more integral ways.

At the same time, control of large-scale, interconnected systems involving physical, chemical, biological, and information science are becoming a reality. New advances in microstructural processing of materials, molecular and biological computing, quantum limits of computation and communications, and control of turbulent flow will rely on the use of feedback and the integration of sensing, actuation, and computation into devices and systems.
In all of these areas, a common feature is that system level requirements far exceed the achievable reliability of the components. This is precisely where feedback (in its most general sense) plays a central role, since it allows the system to ensure that it is achieving its goal, through correction of its actions based on sensing its current state. The challenge to the field is to go from the traditional view of control systems as an interconnected set of components, to realizing control systems as a heterogeneous collection of physical and information systems, with intricate interconnections and interactions.

Vision for the future

The rich heritage of rigorous work in systems and control theory and the emergence of new technological opportunities with immense impact creates enormous challenges and opportunities for the field. The techniques that have been developed are central to the successful development of new systems of increasing complexity and interconnectivity that achieve exceptional levels of reliability and performance. Cheap, ubiquitous computation, communications, and sensing creates opportunities and the ideas of robustness and performance that lie at the heart of controls will be the dominant challenges of getting these systems to work.

In moving forward, it is essential that controls maintain its connection with mathematics and increase its interaction with computer science. These two fields are central to all applications of controls technology and we must work to both incorporate more of the techniques from these fields into our discipline and to make the results from our fields more accessible to domain experts from these fields and others. At the same time, we should continue to maintain the healthy interaction with the many other fields that has been an essential part of the controls community.

Overview of Recommendations

In order to deliver on this vision, this report outlines a number of recommendations for funding agencies, academic institutions, and researchers:

1. Increase opportunities for interaction between controls and computer science
   - Control-oriented techniques for insuring reliable operation in presence of dynamics and uncertainty are critical for future software-enabled applications
   - Current approaches in software engineering and control synthesis are not sufficient; need to merge ideas from computer science and control theory

2. Aggressively explore applications of control to large-scale, distributed systems
   - Paradigm shift in the role of software interacting with networked systems and control of phenomena that involve complex physical phenomena
   - Essential to explore these opportunities and develop needed insights, framework, theory and tools

3. Support educational, research, and infrastructure initiatives to make systems and control technology more accessible
   - Develop new courses and training modules aimed at non-experts; export systems and control concepts and tools
   - Better training for systems and control experts working in a multi-disciplinary (team) context; support interaction with domain experts
4. Maintain support for theory and interaction with mathematics
   - Strength of the field relies on our close contact with rigorous mathematics; increasingly important in the future
   - This is in danger of eroding due to the rapid advances of technology and the drive towards rapid implementation.

The basis of these recommendations, and the impact if they are implemented, is detailed in the remainder of the report.

[Note] The remainder of this report is in outline form. Over the next 3–6 months, we will be soliciting input from the panel and from members of the systems and control community to fill in the various sections. A short description of intent is provided at the top of each chapter to guide the writing and maintain a consistent message throughout the report.
2 Overview of the Field

[Note] This section will provide an introduction to modern control, through examples and successes. This is the chapter that you give to your colleagues in other fields (or congressional staffers) when they are trying to understand that control is about, why it is important, and where it is headed. Vignettes may be included as sidebars to provide more information and insight into the main text. The target length for this chapter is 20 pages.

2.1 What is control?

A. Control = algorithms plus feedback in engineered systems
   1. Last 50 years: careful attention to completeness and correctness

B. Control technology includes modeling, sensing, actuation, computation (together)
   1. Dynamics and stability
   2. Careful attention to being correct

C. Control is about making engineered systems behave in a desireable fashion
   1. Feedback as a tool to change dynamics
   2. Feedback as a tool to manage uncertainty
      a. Very powerful: (explain)
      b. Other major paradigms as well
         (1) Statistics
         (2) Digital circuits
   3. Explicit framework for description of uncertainty
      a. Important for all of engineering; we have developed powerful tools for dealing with this
      b. Feedback has forced us to do this; unmanaged uncertainty can lead to catastrophic failure
   4. New techniques for (control-oriented) modeling, ID
   5. Integration of software into physical systems
      a. control configured design
      b. online reconfiguration

D. How is this different than physics and computer science?
   1. Modeling of interaction is different; input/output approach allows new insights
      a. Disturbance rejection
      b. Model reduction (for control)
      c. Robust interconnection between subsystems
   2. Software interacting with the physical environment
      a. [Hard] Real-time nature of the problem
      b. Vehicles as peripherals vs computers as implementation medium
      c. Robust interconnection between subsystems

2.2 Examples

A. Everyone familiar with thermostats, cruise control, homeostasis, precision guided weapons

B. In fact: *much* more ubiquitous, *much* more critical disk drives and
CDROMS, IC manufacturing [eg XY stepper], numerically control machine tools, TCP [w/ forward reference to testimonial], wireless power control [eg CDMA], flight controls, power grid (perhaps distinguish between those that require sophisticated tools versus basic ideas; break apart?)

1. Basic ideas of feedback: ...
2. Sophisticated applications: ...
3. Opportunities for doing much more by extending application of control tools
4. Control is sometimes simple, but *finding* it requires the framework and theory
5. Detailed example: flight controls

D. Messages to make sure we capture in above
1. What have we done: industrial revolution, last 40 years
2. Control is central to many things, mostly hidden
3. Robustness is a key element
4. Rigorous approach is essential (?) [need to define what "rigor" is]
5. Not just control theorists doing control

2.3 Opportunities and challenges now facing us

A. New environment
1. Ubiquitous, distributed computation, communications, sensing
2. Large-scale, interconnected systems involving physical, chemical, biological, information sciences, integrated with algorithms and feedback
3. System-level requirements far exceed achievable reliability of components
4. Complexity requires exploration of essential physics
5. Current approach to design of these systems will not solve the problem

B. Vision for the future
C. Approach
D. Maintenance of rigor [challenge]
   a. New respect for heuristics

2.4 Overarching themes

Systems and control technology is a key enabling technology of the industrial world

Systems and control poised to enable advances in many critical new areas

Cheap, ubiquitous computation, communication, sensing creates opportunities and challenges

Interaction with computer science and mathematics is essential

Systems and control must be made more accessible
3 Applications, Opportunities, and Challenges

[Note] This chapter will give a more detailed view of some of the upcoming challenges, split into different application areas. Each section should be something that an expert in that area would view as credible (which means that we should get experts to help write it). As in the previous chapter, we may want to include vignettes to describe some of the ideas and give a better sense of the role control plays in the various application areas.

3.1 Aerospace and Transportation
3.2 Information and Networks
3.3 Biology and Medicine
3.4 Materials and Processing
3.5 Environment
3.6 Robotics and Intelligent Machines
4 Recommendations

4.1 Increase opportunities for interaction between controls and computer science

4.2 Aggressively explore applications of control to large-scale, distributed systems

4.3 Support educational, research, and infrastructure initiatives to make systems and control technology more accessible

4.4 Maintain support for theory and interaction with mathematics