Module Leader
Dr G Vinnicombe [1]

Lecturer
Dr G Vinnicombe [1]

Lab Leader
Dr G Vinnicombe [1]

Timing and Structure
16 Lectures, Lent Term

Aims
The aims of the course are to:

- make students familiar with “state-space” methods of modelling and analysing dynamic systems. These methods are extremely important for control engineering, signal processing, and related subjects.

Objectives
As specific objectives, by the end of the course students should be able to:

- understand what a state-space model is, and how to obtain such a model;
- relate state-space models to transfer-function models;
- analyse the behaviour and structure of a state-space model;
- have some understanding of feedback design using state-space, transfer function and root-locus techniques, and be able to relate them to each other;
- appreciate the need for and usefulness of state observers, and their role in feedback and other systems.

Content

State-space models (6L)

- Review of second-year material (linear algebra, transfer functions, poles)
- Formulation from physical models
- Linearising nonlinear models
- Relationship to transfer function matrix (multiple inputs/outputs)
- Free and forced responses (state-transition matrix convolution, stability)
- Interconnections of systems

Feedback system design (4L)

- Review of second-year material (frequency responses, controller structures, objectives of feedback
design).
- The root-locus diagram
- Routh-Hurwitz criterion (examples of use).

**State estimation (3L)**

- Observability.
- State observer; Observer design.
- Connections to Kalman filters, sensor fusion etc.

**Control in state-space framework (3L)**

- Controllability.
- State feedback and pole-placement.
- Optimal control.
- State observer combined with state feedback

**Examples papers**

Paper 1: State-space models - issued in week 3  
Paper 2: Root locus - issued in week 5  
Paper 3: Observers and state feedback - issued in week 7

**Coursework**

Inverted pendulum experiment (state feedback). Laboratory report and/or full technical report.

**Learning objectives:**

- State feedback
- Pole placement
- Control design

**Practical information:**

- Sessions will take place in EIEL laboratory, on Wednesdays and Fridays of full term  
- Students will find it helpful to read through the lab sheet in advance of carrying out the experiment.

**Full Technical Report:**

Students will have the option to submit a Full Technical Report.

**Booklists**

Please see the [Booklist for Part IIA Courses](#) for references for this module.

**Examination Guidelines**

Please refer to [Form & conduct of the examinations](#).

**UK-SPEC**

The [UK Standard for Professional Engineering Competence (UK-SPEC)](#) describes the requirements that have
to be met in order to become a Chartered Engineer, and gives examples of ways of doing this.

UK-SPEC is published by the Engineering Council on behalf of the UK engineering profession. The standard has been developed, and is regularly updated, by panels representing professional engineering institutions, employers and engineering educators. Of particular relevance here is the 'Accreditation of Higher Education Programmes' (AHEP) document [5] which sets out the standard for degree accreditation.

The Output Standards Matrices [6] indicate where each of the Output Criteria as specified in the AHEP 3rd edition document is addressed within the Engineering and Manufacturing Engineering Triposes.

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Links
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