


# What is Embedded Systems?

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## The past and the future

"I think there is a world market for about five computers", Tomas J Watson Sr, IBM 1943

"There are no reasons for any individuals to have a computer in their home", Ken Olson, Digital Equipment 1977

"The current rate of progress cannot continue much longer", various computer technologists, 1950

... ..

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## Evolution of electronics

Technology scaling continues according to Moore's law:  
~ 2X increase in functionality every 2 years. Multicore  
~ 65nm in 2005, 45 nm in 2007, 32 nm in 2009, ...?

Example

From Intel 4004, 1971: 2300 transistors, 108 kHz  
To Pentium 4, 2000: 42 MTransistors, 1.5 GHz

Software and Electronics provide nearly unbounded opportunities:

Ubiquitous computing, Smart-its,  
Societal telematics, Cyber-physical systems, ...

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## Definition (IEEE)

### Embedded computer system:

A computer system that is part of a larger system and performs some of the requirements of that system; for example, a computer system used in an aircraft or rapid transit system.

Hidden in products, not thought of as computers.

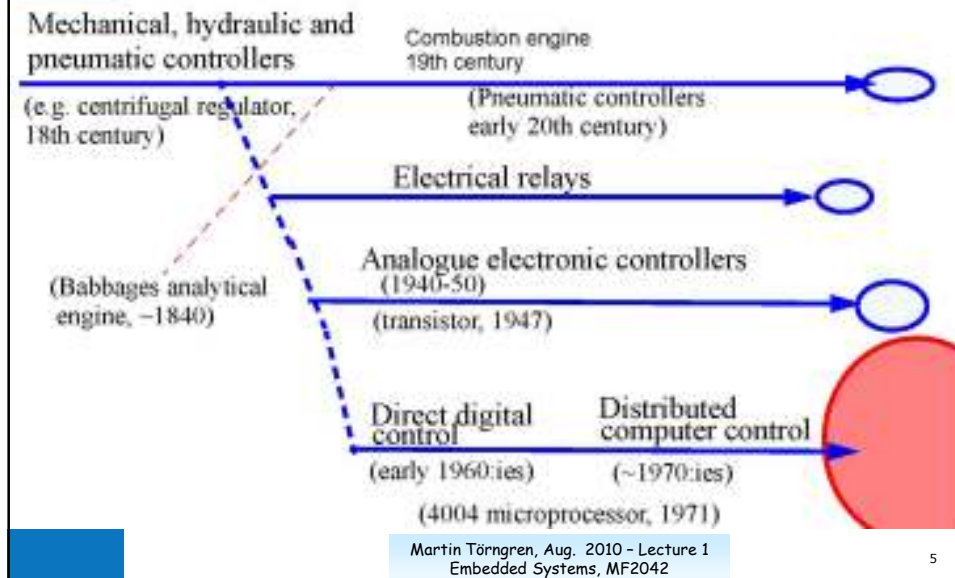
Designed to perform a few dedicated functions.

Tight integration & interaction with its environment.

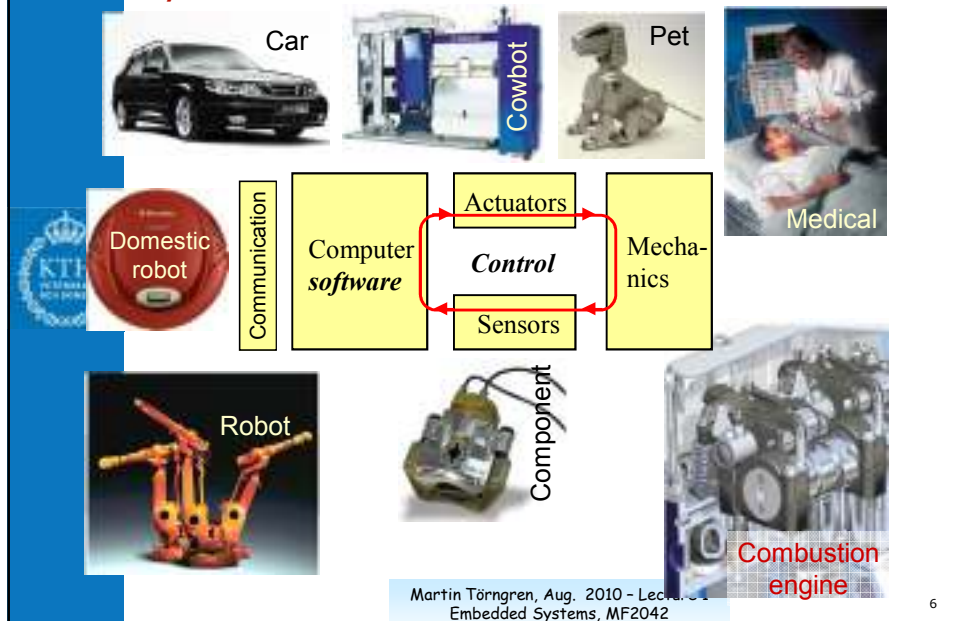
Function, Performance, Dependability and Cost



## Alternative implementation technologies and evolution



## Mechatrical products and embedded systems





## Key issues and characteristics

- Basic terms
  - Embedded system, Control system, Mechatronics
- Main characteristics
  - Multiple views
  - Product, tools, Processes and Organizations
- Issues:
  - The step from Control design to implementation
  - Concurrent programming and Distributed systems
    - Real-time operating systems, Controller Area Network
  - Design space, Testing and V&V



## Concurrency and scheduling

You are at home and deeply involved in preparing tomorrow's lab for the MF2042 course!

Suddenly the following things happen:

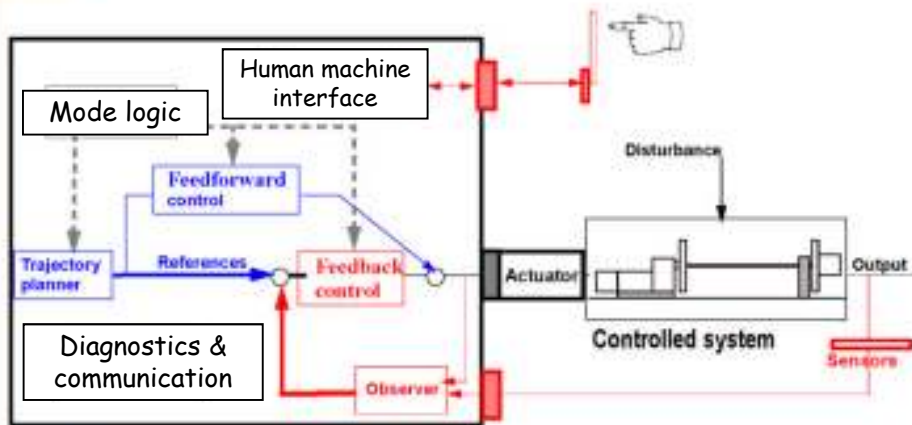
- The telephone is ringing.
- Someone is knocking on the door.
- The alarm is ringing from the kitchen.
- You still have not fixed your troubling computer.

Many activities ... and only one Processor. →  
Scheduling!

Scheduling algorithm: FPS, EDF, FIFO, SJF, ...

Managing task states, transitions, and meeting system requirements.

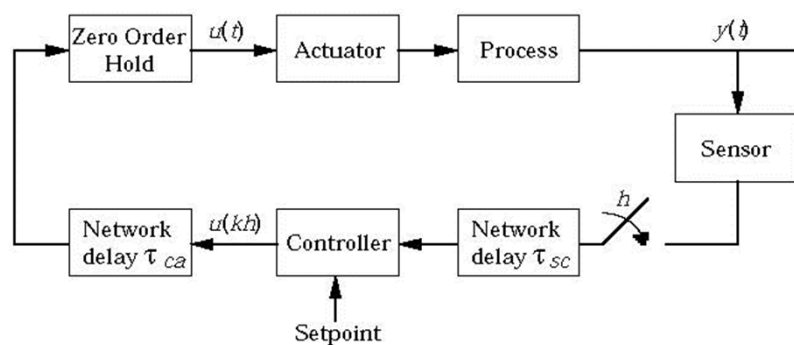
## Control systems



Note: Controller code is usually a small part of the total amount of code

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## Control systems are real-time systems!

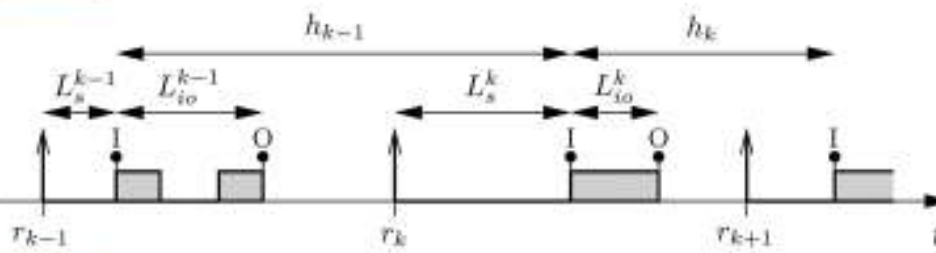


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## Time variations in embedded control systems

- Time varying period and sampling periods



Source: Course book Figure 1.5

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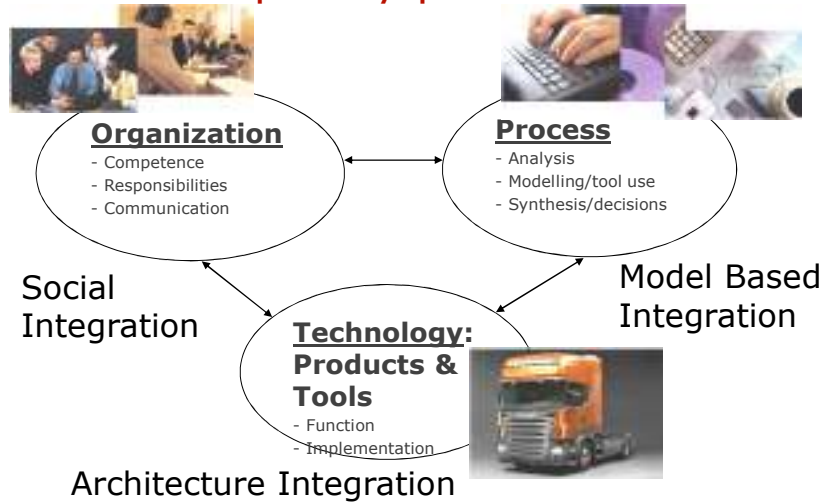
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## Development of advanced multidisciplinary products



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## The Embedded Systems Revolution

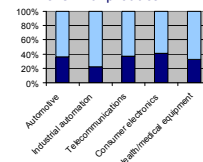
- The vast majority (98%) of processors in the world are hidden as Embedded systems
  - > 4 billion embedded processors sold (~2006)
  - >10% annual growth rate
- Increased innovation
  - 90% of future innovations will stem from advances in Embedded Systems
  - From expensive HW to cheap electronics with embedded SW
  - Product upgrades
  - Life-cycle impact
- Added Value

Lines of code in mobile phone apps. (e.g., address book) \*\*



\*\*Source: Swedsoft

Share of the value of Embedded Systems in the final product \*



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## Embedded control systems – Opportunities, innovation and challenges!

- Embedded systems are often developed just like they were 20-30 years ago
- From single processor to distributed systems
- Methodology and theory is lagging behind
- Lack of skilled embedded systems engineers
- Human abilities are challenged
- A case for research, cooperation between academia and industry