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*Published in:*  
I E E Transactions on Control Systems Technology

*DOI (link to publication from Publisher):*  
[10.1109/TCST.2011.2174060](https://doi.org/10.1109/TCST.2011.2174060)

*Publication date:*  
2013

*Document Version*  
Early version, also known as pre-print

[Link to publication from Aalborg University](#)

*Citation for published version (APA):*  
Bendtsen, J. D., Trangbæk, K., & Stoustrup, J. (2013). Plug-and-Play Control – Modifying Control Systems Online. *I E E Transactions on Control Systems Technology*, 21(1), 79-93.  
<https://doi.org/10.1109/TCST.2011.2174060>

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# Plug-and-Play Control – Modifying Control Systems Online

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**Abstract**—Often, when new sensor or actuator hardware becomes available for use in a control system, it is desirable to retain the existing control system and apply the new control capabilities in a gradual fashion rather than decommissioning the entire existing system and replacing it with an altogether new control system. However, this requires that the existing controller remains in action, and the new control law component is *added* to the existing system. This paper formally introduces the concept of *Plug-and-Play control* and proposes two different methods of introducing new control components in a smooth manner, providing stability guarantees during the transition phase as well as retaining the original control structure. The applicability of the methods is illustrated on two different practical example systems, a livestock stable climate control system and a laboratory-scale model of a district heating system.

**Index Terms**—Variable structure systems, Youla-Kucera parameterization, Observer-based control

## I. INTRODUCTION

All medium- to large-scale automation systems, such as power plants, refineries, factories, supermarkets or even large ships, are equipped with control systems to handle various automated processes, such as production facilities [1], [2], chemical batch processing [3], climate control [4], or power production [5]. Most practical control systems tend to be designed at the time of commissioning of the plant and quite often rely on PLCs or similar hardware to implement classically designed (and often conservatively tuned) control loops. However, as time goes by and new technology and knowledge becomes available, it may become desirable to introduce new sensor and/or actuator hardware for performance reasons.

The problem here is that a vast majority of control design methodologies are “monolithic” in the sense that they embark from a full-scale model of an uncontrolled (open-loop) system and outputs a full, multi-variable control system, which does not exploit any knowledge or functionality from previous designs. If components or sub-systems are added to existing systems, however, the design in principle has to be re-done from scratch, which is likely to be very expensive in terms of engineering man-hours, operation stop, and commissioning of the new system.

Thus, when new sensor and/or actuator hardware becomes available for use in a control system, it is often desirable to retain the existing control laws and apply the new control capabilities in a gradual, online fashion rather than decommissioning the entire existing control system and replacing it with the new system, [6], [7], [8].

This work is supported by The Danish Research Council for Technology and Production Sciences.

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Furthermore, from an industrial application-oriented point of view, the ability to switch back to an existing, proven control design in case a new, more complex design proves unsatisfactory in practical operation, for instance if uncertainties, nonlinear effects or similar causes the performance to degrade, is a significant advantage. In many cases there may also be other arguments for maintaining the existing control system in place, such as it being part of a safety-critical interlocking circuit.

We hereby define the concept of adding devices to an existing control system while it is running, and having the system (preferably automatically) utilize the new devices online, as “*Plug-and-Play Control*”.

While the idea of expanding a controller by adding to an existing control law is not, as such, new—see e.g., [9], [10]—the subject of incorporating new *signals* or even subsystems into an existing system has not received much attention in the literature before. [11] and [12] used the “Plug and Play” terminology in a networked control framework, but the basic idea was quite different; it revolved around semi-autonomous agents and the emphasis was primarily on fault-tolerance. Furthermore, the overall concept presented in [11] and [12] seems to have more in common with the distributed optimization schemes of [13] than with the control design-oriented methodology proposed here, in the sense that the agents “communicate” through cost negotiations in an attempt to achieve global performance optimization.

Conceptually, Plug-and-Play control is somewhat related to “Windsurfer control” [14], [15], [16]. However, while Windsurfer control also aims for performance improvement by learning more about the plant during online operation, there have so far been no treatments of *structural* updates of the closed loop.

The main contribution of this paper is to *formulate the Plug-and-Play control problem* in a quite general setting. We also propose two possible approaches to the Plug-and-Play control problem, which can be deployed depending on the model information available and other criteria; however, we emphasize that these approaches are merely preliminary suggestions for solutions to the problem.

The general assumption is that the new control laws must be *added* to existing control laws when new sensors/actuators become available, while *leaving the existing control systems in place*. Also, we assume that an existing model is available, either from data-driven or from first-principles modeling.

When a device is added, the first step is to identify a model of it. As long as the new device does not involve significant dynamics, the added model can be identified in a fairly straightforward manner, see e.g., [17]. If, on the other hand, the new device (sensor) involves dynamics, or if the measurement noise of the old and new sensors is correlated, the situation

becomes more difficult. To this end, we briefly present a modified version of the so-called ‘‘Hansen scheme’’ for closed-loop system identification with open-loop-like qualities [18], [19]. With these techniques, it is possible to update the plant model without having to identify everything from scratch, and without having to decommission the plant in order to carry out dedicated experiments.

The paper then discusses two possible approaches to incorporating new devices into an existing control system in an ‘‘add-on’’ manner. The first approach is sensor fusion based, see e.g. [20], [21]. There is a wide range of literature on implementation of controllers based on sensor fusion, see e.g. [22] and the references therein. In the method presented here, however, we specifically address the situation of fusing new measurements with existing ones in order to modify the inputs to an existing controller, such that the overall performance is improved. To that end, an observer-based architecture is proposed, which can be carried out independently of the existing design.

The second method relies on the *Youla-Kucera* parametrization of all stabilizing controllers for a given plant. This methodology has the advantage that the performance transfer function is affine in the design parameter, which means that the design problem has an open-loop-like nature and good performance can thus be expected during the transition between controllers. Furthermore, certain stability guarantees can be given for this approach.

Both methods are tested in actual implementations; a climate control system for a livestock stable and a laboratory model of a district heating system. Note, however, that it is not our intention to provide a rigorous comparison between the methods, only to show that the Plug-and-Play control problem is feasible in practice.

After some preliminaries in Section II and a general problem statement in Section III, we discuss the identification issue in Section IV. Section V then outlines the Youla-Kucera-based control approach, while Section VI presents the sensor fusion-based control approach. Sections VII and VIII show the two practical application examples, and finally, Section IX sums up the conclusions of the work.

## II. PRELIMINARIES

This section briefly recapitulates some basic concepts of coprime factorization and the Youla-Kucera parameterization of stabilizing controllers, which we will use extensively in the sequel; see [23], [24], [19], and [25] for further details. All results presented in this section are valid in either continuous and discrete time. Our notation is standard;  $\mathcal{RH}_\infty^{p \times m}$  is the Banach space of real rational stable transfer matrices mapping  $m$ -dimensional input signals to  $p$ -dimensional output signals, while  $\star$  denotes the so-called *star product* (feedback interconnection) between two LTI systems [26].

Consider the setup in the left block diagram in Figure 1, where  $w \in \mathbb{R}^{m_w}$  denotes external reference/noise input signals and  $z \in \mathbb{R}^{p_z}$  represents performance outputs, e.g., deviations from reference values.  $u \in \mathbb{R}^m$  and  $y \in \mathbb{R}^p$  are controllable inputs and measurement outputs, respectively.  $G$

is the plant under consideration, while  $K$  is a controller. Let  $G$  be partitioned as

$$G = \begin{bmatrix} G_{zw} & G_{zu} \\ G_{yw} & G_{yu} \end{bmatrix} \quad (1)$$

The closed loop is stable iff  $G_{yu} \star K$  is stable. The LTI system  $G_{yu}$  can be factorized as

$$G_{yu} = NM^{-1} = \tilde{M}^{-1}\tilde{N} \quad (2)$$

with  $N \in \mathcal{RH}_\infty^{p \times m}$ ,  $M \in \mathcal{RH}_\infty^{m \times m}$ ,  $\tilde{M} \in \mathcal{RH}_\infty^{p \times p}$ ,  $\tilde{N} \in \mathcal{RH}_\infty^{p \times m}$ . If the factors have no pole-zero cancellations, they are called *right* and *left coprime factorizations*, respectively. Correspondingly,  $K$  can be factorized as

$$K = UV^{-1} = \tilde{V}^{-1}\tilde{U} \quad (3)$$

where  $U \in \mathcal{RH}_\infty^{m \times p}$ ,  $V \in \mathcal{RH}_\infty^{p \times p}$ ,  $\tilde{U} \in \mathcal{RH}_\infty^{m \times p}$ ,  $\tilde{V} \in \mathcal{RH}_\infty^{p \times p}$ . These coprime factorizations can be chosen to satisfy the double *Bezout identity*

$$\begin{bmatrix} \tilde{V} & -\tilde{U} \\ -\tilde{N} & \tilde{M} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} M & U \\ N & V \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} M & U \\ N & V \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \tilde{V} & -\tilde{U} \\ -\tilde{N} & \tilde{M} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} I & 0 \\ 0 & I \end{bmatrix} \quad (4)$$

The *Youla-Kucera parameterization* now states that *all* stabilizing controllers for some fixed system  $G_{yu}$ , and hence for  $G$ , based on some stabilizing  $K$  can be constructed by interconnecting  $K$  with a free, stable parameter system  $Q$ , as indicated in the right block diagram in Figure 1.

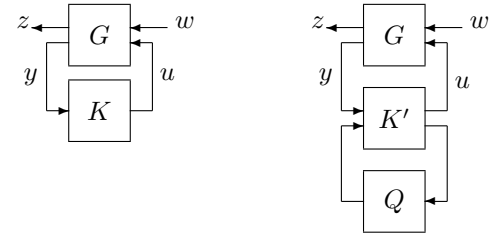


Fig. 1. Left: The interconnection of the system  $G$  and the controller  $K$ . Right: A different stabilizing controller implemented as  $K(Q) = K' \star Q$ , where  $K'$  is an augmented version of  $K$ , and  $Q$  is a Youla-Kucera parameter.

In particular,

$$\begin{aligned} K(Q) &= (U + MQ)(V + NQ)^{-1} \\ &= (\tilde{V} + Q\tilde{N})^{-1}(\tilde{U} + Q\tilde{M}), \quad Q \in \mathcal{RH}_\infty \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

where  $Q$ , which can be any stable system of appropriate input-output dimensions, is called the *Youla-Kucera parameter*. These configurations are illustrated in Figure 2.

As pointed out in [27] and [28], by exploiting the Youla-Kucera parameterization, it is possible to change between two controllers online, say, from a nominal controller  $K_0$  to another controller  $K_1$ , in a smooth fashion by scaling the  $Q$  parameter by a scalar factor  $\gamma \in [0; 1]$  without losing stability.

In fact, if a desired transfer function for a new stabilizing controller  $K_1$  has been obtained,  $K(Q) = K_1$  can be realized from  $K_0$  and  $G$  by factoring  $K_0 = \tilde{V}_0^{-1}\tilde{U}_0 = U_0V_0^{-1}$  and  $K_1 = \tilde{V}_1^{-1}\tilde{U}_1 = U_1V_1^{-1}$  such that

$$\begin{bmatrix} \tilde{V}_1 & -\tilde{U}_1 \\ -\tilde{N} & \tilde{M} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} M & U_1 \\ N & V_1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} M & U_1 \\ N & V_1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \tilde{V}_1 & -\tilde{U}_1 \\ -\tilde{N} & \tilde{M} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} I & 0 \\ 0 & I \end{bmatrix},$$

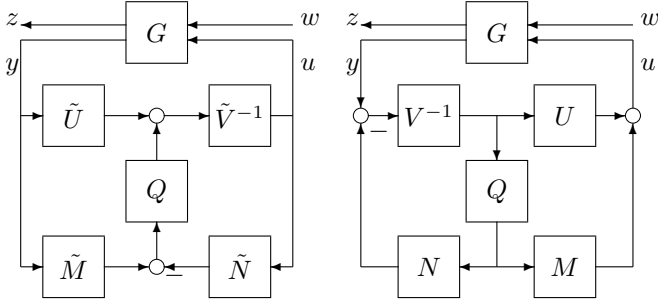


Fig. 2. Left and right coprime factorization-based Youla-Kucera parameterization of all stabilizing controllers.

and setting (see [29])

$$Q = \tilde{U}_1 V_0 - \tilde{V}_1 U_0 = \tilde{V}_1 (K_1 - K_0) V_0. \quad (6)$$

From Figure 2 and using the Bezout identity, it is straightforward to see that

$$\begin{aligned} z &= G_{zw}w + G_{zu}(U + MQ)\tilde{M}G_{yw}w \\ &= G_{zw}w + G_{zu}M(U + Q\tilde{M})G_{yw}w \end{aligned}$$

i.e., the performance transfer function from  $w$  to  $z$  is affine in  $Q$ :

$$T_{zw} = T_1 + T_2 Q T_3 \quad (7)$$

where  $T_1, T_2$ , and  $T_3$  are stable transfer functions—see Figure 3. Thus, given  $G$  and  $K$ , a control design can be carried out by finding a stable  $Q$  that minimizes  $T_{zw}$  in some sense. This is known as a model matching problem [30].

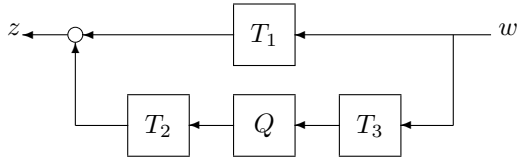


Fig. 3. Performance transfer function  $T_{zw}$ .

Once a  $Q$  has been designed, the affine dependence also means that if  $Q$  is scaled by  $\gamma$  as mentioned above, then the performance will change in a predictable way for all values of  $\gamma$ .

The Youla-Kucera parameterization has a *dual* formulation, which characterizes all (linear) plants stabilized by a (linear) controller. This formulation can be exploited to recast a closed-loop system identification problem (see Figure 4) into an ‘open-loop-like’ problem via the so-called ‘Hansen scheme’ [18]. Doing so often leads to better-posed identification problems, since the input will then be uncorrelated with the noise.

Assume that a controller, factorized as  $K = UV^{-1} = \tilde{V}^{-1}\tilde{U}$  stabilizes the plant we wish to identify, and that some nominal plant estimate  $G$ , factorized as  $G = NM^{-1} = \tilde{M}^{-1}\tilde{N}$ , is known. Let the factorization be chosen to satisfy the Bezout identity (4). Then the dual Youla-Kucera parametrization of all plants stabilized by  $K$  can be represented as shown in Figure 5, where  $S$  is a stable system denoted the dual Youla-Kucera parameter. In the figure,  $v' = (\tilde{M} + S\tilde{U})v_y$

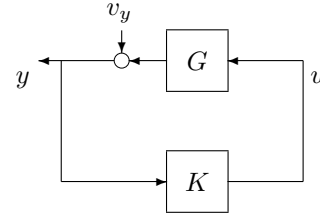


Fig. 4. Closed-loop system identification of a plant  $G$  in closed loop with a controller  $K$ . Due to the feedback, the input  $u$  is correlated with the noise  $v_y$ , making it difficult to identify  $G$  reliably.

is the measurement noise that would normally affect the measurements  $y$ , relocated in the block diagram to affect the output of the dual Youla-Kucera parameter instead, and  $r_1$  and  $r_2$  are external excitation signals.

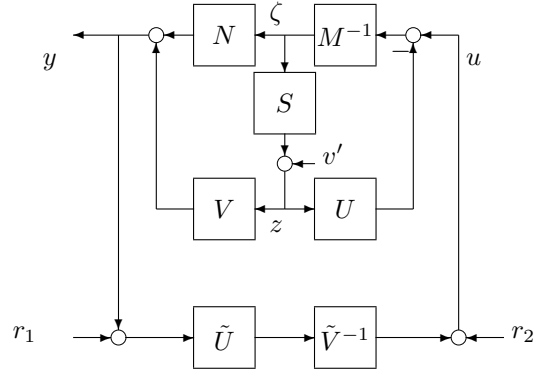


Fig. 5. Dual Youla-Kucera parameterization used for closed-loop system identification

By manipulating the block diagram and using (4), it is possible to check that  $y = G(S)u + v_y$ . Furthermore, from the block diagram, we find the following relations:

$$(N + VS)\zeta = y - Vv' \quad (8)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} (M + US)\zeta &= u - Uv' \\ &= r_2 + \tilde{V}^{-1}\tilde{U}(y + r_1) - Uv' \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

Applying the LTI operators  $\tilde{V}$  and  $\tilde{U}$  to (8) and (9), respectively, subtracting the bottom equation from the top equation and using the Bezout identity then results in

$$\zeta = \tilde{U}r_1 + \tilde{V}r_2 \quad (10)$$

In a similar vein, from the block diagram, we have the relations

$$\begin{aligned} M\zeta &= u - Uv' \\ N\zeta &= y - Vv' \end{aligned}$$

Applying  $\tilde{N}$  to the top expression and  $\tilde{M}$  to the bottom one, subtracting one from the other and using the Bezout identity then results in

$$z = \tilde{M}y - \tilde{N}u \quad (11)$$

and, obviously,  $z = S\zeta + v'$ .  $\zeta$  and  $z$  are thus available from filtered measurements. Furthermore, if  $v_y$  is independent of

$r_1$  and  $r_2$ , then  $\zeta$  is independent of  $v'$  as well. Also,  $S$  is known to be stable. Thus, it can be seen that although  $u$  and  $y$  are measured in closed-loop, the identification of  $S$  becomes equivalent to an open-loop identification problem. We shall utilize this technique in the sequel. See e.g., [19] for more details, but please note that we are using positive feedback control here.

### III. PROBLEM FORMULATION

We now turn our attention to the main problem treated in this paper. As mentioned in the introduction, the objective is to incorporate a new sensor or actuator in an existing control loop without having to re-design the existing system. There can be various reasons for this; for instance, the existing control system might contain supervisory logic that we do not wish to interfere with or replicate. Also, plant operators often tend to be wary of replacing a known, functioning controller with an entirely new replacement. Instead, adding a controller to the original one and slowly turning it on tends to be more appealing in practical applications.

Consider the situations depicted in Figure 6.

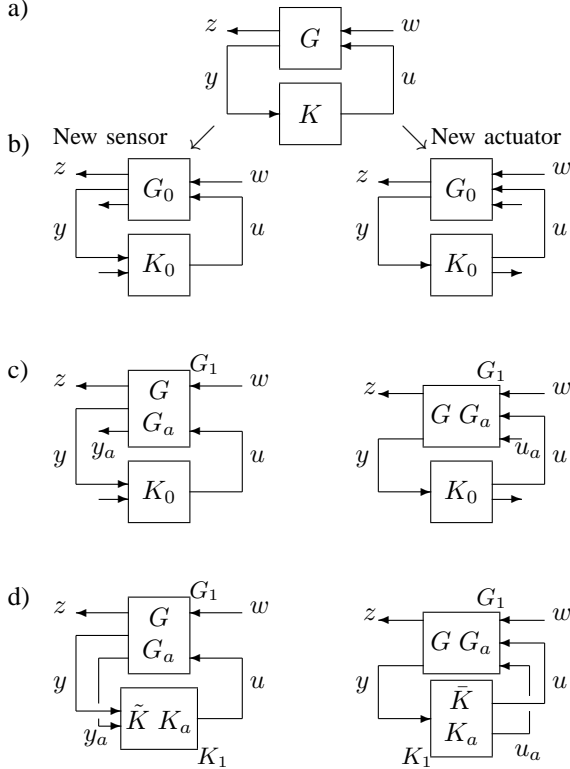


Fig. 6. Plugging in a new sensor (left) or actuator (right).  
a) Initial situation.  
b) The existing system and controller are embedded in a non-minimal realization.  
c) A new sensor (left) or actuator (right) is added, providing access to a new measurement  $y_a$  or a new control signal  $u_a$ , respectively, yielding the extended plant  $G_1$ .  
d) The controller is extended to include the new signal, yielding  $K_1$ .

The left column in the figure illustrates the situation where a new sensor is added, while the right column deals with adding an extra actuator. Let the existing system  $G$  have a minimal

state space realization

$$G = \left[ \begin{array}{c|cc} A & B_w & B \\ \hline C_z & D_{zw} & D_{zu} \\ C & D_{yw} & D \end{array} \right] \quad (12)$$

with  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ ,  $B_w \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times m_w}$ ,  $B \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}$ ,  $C_z \in \mathbb{R}^{p_z \times n}$ ,  $C \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times n}$ ,  $D_{zw} \in \mathbb{R}^{p_z \times m_w}$ ,  $D_{zu} \in \mathbb{R}^{p_z \times m}$ ,  $D \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times m_w}$  and  $D \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times m}$  being constant matrices, and let  $K$  be a stabilizing controller. For the sake of discussion, it will in the following be assumed to be an observer-based state feedback controller of the form

$$K = \left[ \begin{array}{c|c} \frac{A + BF + LC + LDF}{F} & \frac{-L}{0} \end{array} \right] \quad (13)$$

where the matrices  $F$  and  $L$  are chosen such that  $A + BF$  and  $A + LC$  have stable eigenvalues; however, it could in principle be any stabilizing LTI controller.

In both situations, the addition of the new device causes the *structure* of the closed loop to be changed. Since the input-output dimensions have to match, we embed the system and controller in a non-minimal realization before adding the new device (row b)). In the following, we only write out the case of adding a new sensor; adding a new actuator is dual, as also indicated by the use of similar symbols in both columns of Figure 6.

The extended versions of  $G$  and  $K$  become

$$G_0 = \left[ \begin{array}{cc|cc} A & 0 & B_w & B \\ A_{a1} & A_{a2} & 0 & B_a \\ \hline C_z & 0 & D_{zw} & D_{zu} \\ C & 0 & D_{yw} & D \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right] \quad (14)$$

and

$$K_0 = \left[ \begin{array}{c|cc} \frac{A + BF + LC + LDF}{F} & \frac{-L}{0} & 0 \end{array} \right] \quad (15)$$

respectively. The new matrices are assumed to be real, constant matrices of appropriate dimensions chosen to accommodate the dimension of the added sensor signal and any dynamics that might be revealed when adding the new device (represented by  $A_{a1}$  and  $A_{a2}$ ).

Note that  $G \star K = G_0 \star K_0$ , that is, we have not changed the closed-loop transfer function by this state space extension. Note also that  $G_0$  is deliberately chosen such that the states corresponding to  $A_{a2}$  are unobservable.

Next, in row c), the new device is added, which causes  $G_0$  to be replaced by the system

$$G_1 = \left[ \begin{array}{cc|cc} A & 0 & B_w & B \\ A_{a1} & A_{a2} & 0 & B_a \\ \hline C_z & 0 & D_{zw} & D_{zu} \\ C & 0 & D_{yw} & D \\ C_{a1} & C_{a2} & D_{aw} & D_a \end{array} \right] \quad (16)$$

where  $C_{a1}$ ,  $C_{a2}$ ,  $D_{aw}$  and  $D_a$  represent the output map of the new sensor. Note that these parameters are, in general, not known a priori and may thus require identification.

Finally, the problem we are faced with (in row d) of Figure 6) is the following:

**Problem 1** Design an extended controller  $K_1 = [\bar{K} \ K_a]$  (or  $K_1 = [\bar{K}_{K_a}]$ ) that

- utilizes the new measurement  $y_a$  (or control signal  $u_a$ )
- allows a *smooth transition*  $K_0 \rightarrow K_1$ , in the sense that the shift to the new controller should not cause large transients
- retains closed-loop stability throughout the transition
- allows recovering the old controller through the reverse transition  $K_1 \rightarrow K_0$

such that the performance transfer function  $T_{zw}$  is improved in some sense.  $\diamond$

If the above problem is further restricted to be solved with minimal human intervention, we refer to it as *the Plug-and-Play Control Problem*.

#### IV. IDENTIFICATION OF NEW SENSOR

In order to solve Problem 1 in an automated way, it is often required to estimate the new parameters  $A_{a1}, A_{a2}, \dots, D_a$  in the extended description above. Since we are not interested in stopping operation, the new parameter matrices must be identified online, while the plant is in closed-loop operation with the existing controller. Various approaches can be considered; in particular, if the new device is so fast that its dynamics is negligible compared to the general plant dynamics, the corresponding gains can be identified in a straightforward manner, see e.g. [17]. If, on the other hand, the dynamics of the new sensor or actuator is not negligible, it will in many cases be advantageous to identify the new parameters in an open-loop-like setting. We briefly recount a possible approach, first suggested in [31].

##### A. Identifying a new sensor

We focus on steps b) and c) in the left column of Figure 6. The idea is to combine the Hansen Scheme (Fig. 5) with the augmented plant and controller formulations introduced in the previous section, which means that we have to augment the coprime system and controller factors to accommodate the new measurement channels. It is reasonably straightforward to check that the following coprime factorizations correspond to (14)–(15), and satisfy the Bezout identity:

$$\begin{bmatrix} M_0 & U_0 \\ N_0 & V_0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} A + BF & B & -L & 0 \\ F & I & 0 & 0 \\ \bar{C} + \bar{D}F & \bar{D} & \bar{I} & \bar{0} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & I \end{bmatrix} \quad (17)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \tilde{V}_0 & -\tilde{U}_0 \\ -\tilde{N}_0 & \tilde{M}_0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} A + LC & -(B + LD) & L & 0 \\ F & I & 0 & 0 \\ \bar{C} & -\bar{D} & \bar{I} & \bar{0} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & I \end{bmatrix} \quad (18)$$

for the system-controller pair before introducing the new sensor, and

$$\begin{bmatrix} M_1 & U_1 \\ N_1 & V_1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} A + BF & 0 & B & -L & 0 \\ A_{a1} + B_a F & A_{a2} & B_a & 0 & 0 \\ F & 0 & I & 0 & 0 \\ \bar{C} + \bar{D}F & \bar{0} & \bar{D} & \bar{I} & \bar{0} \\ C_{a1} + D_a F & C_{a2} & D_a & 0 & I \end{bmatrix} \quad (19)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \tilde{V}_1 & -\tilde{U}_1 \\ -\tilde{N}_1 & \tilde{M}_1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} A + LC & 0 & -(B + LD) & L & 0 \\ A_{a1} & A_{a2} & -(B_a + LD_a) & 0 & 0 \\ F & 0 & I & 0 & 0 \\ \bar{C} & \bar{0} & -\bar{D} & \bar{I} & \bar{0} \\ C_{a1} & C_{a2} & -D_a & 0 & I \end{bmatrix} \quad (20)$$

for the interconnection with the new sensor (dashed lines indicate which factors the respective matrices belong to).

The following result, which allows open-loop-like identification of the additional dynamics using a surprisingly simple dual Youla-Kucera parameter, was shown in [31].

**Theorem 1:** Consider the augmented plant (16) in closed loop with (15). The new sensor dynamics in the augmented plant  $G_1$  is confined to a dual Youla-Kucera parameter  $S$  in Figure 5 given by

$$S = \begin{bmatrix} A_{a2} & B_a & A_{a1} \\ C_{a2} & D_a & C_{a1} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} A + BF & B \\ F & I \\ I & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad (21)$$

The identification procedure is straightforward; first generate a data sequence by adding excitation signals through  $r_1$  and  $r_2$  in Figure 5, then compute the necessary signals  $\zeta$  and  $z$  by filtering through the relevant factors, and compute the input to the unknown system by filtering  $\zeta$  through the right (known) factor in (21). The left factor in (21) can now be obtained by a standard open loop identification method.

##### B. Simulation example

We illustrate the approach by a simple simulation example inspired by the application example considered in Section VIII, a simplified model of a livestock stable ventilation system. The example in the subsequent example, which concerns changing the control law after adding a sensor, is carried out on an actual stable; in this example, however, we deliberately use a simulation model in order to have a ‘truth’ model available for illustration purposes.

A vertical cross-section view of the stable is shown in Figure 7. The figure gives a basic overview of how the ventilation part of the climate control system operates. Ventilation inlets in the walls of the stable are opened, allowing fresh air to enter. In the roof, a number of ventilation fans expel air to the surroundings. In combination, the inlets and outlets generate an air flow circulating within the stable, yield a comfortable temperature for the livestock in the stable and removes unhealthy gases such as ammonia. A single temperature sensor placed centrally within the stable is used for measurement feedback to a controller that controls the ventilation fan.

The simulation model is based on a simple zone division of the stable - see Figure 8. Air flows in via inlets in the side walls, travels through the stable and exits via a chimney in zone 3. A temperature sensor in zone 2 is used for control of the flow  $q_{out}$  in the figure.

However, the livestock stable is not completely airtight. Due to cracks in the walls etc., extra air tends to leak into the stable. This draft is not revealed by the temperature sensor  $T_2$  because of its location; however, noticing that the livestock avoids

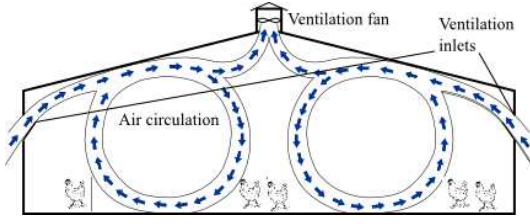


Fig. 7. Sketch of cross-section of the livestock stable. Fresh air enters the stable via inlets in the side, circulates within the stable and is eventually sucked out via the ventilation placed in the roof of the stable.

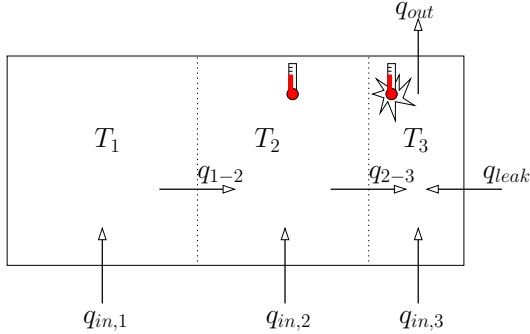


Fig. 8. Model setup used for the livestock stable simulation, with control volumes, air temperatures and airflows indicated. Initially, only  $T_2$  is measured; later, the extra temperature sensor  $T_3$  is installed to detect the temperature decrease caused by the leakage flow.

one end of the stable, the farmer suspects that something is wrong and installs a new temperature sensor,  $T_3$ , at the location indicated in Figure 8. The task is now to identify the system parameters related to the new sensor while the system is operating.

Let  $i = 1, 2, 3$  denote the zone number.  $m_i$  is the air mass in zone  $i$ ,  $q_{in,i}(t)$  is the inlet flow into zone  $i$ ,  $q_{out}(t)$  is the outlet flow, and  $q_{i-j}(t)$  is the air flow from zone  $i$  to zone  $j$  at time  $t$ . In addition, there is a leak flow  $q_{leak}(t)$  into zone 3.

Assuming the air is incompressible, we have the relation

$$q_{out}(t) = \sum_{i=1}^3 q_{in,i}(t) + q_{leak}(t)$$

The inlets are fixed at given positions throughout the simulation. Hence, each inlet flow is given as a certain fixed percentage  $0 < \alpha_i < 1$  of the outlet flow:

$$q_{in,i}(t) = \alpha_i q_{out}(t), \quad q_{leak}(t) = \alpha_4 q_{out}(t)$$

Writing the mass and energy balances for each zone and linearizing the expressions around a suitable operating point,

we obtain the system

$$\dot{x}(t) = \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{\bar{q}_{1-2}}{m_1} & 0 & 0 \\ \frac{\bar{q}_{1-2}}{m_2} & -\frac{\bar{q}_{2-3}}{m_2} & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{\bar{q}_{2-3}}{m_3} & -\frac{\bar{q}_{out}}{m_3} \end{bmatrix} x(t) + \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_1 \frac{\bar{T}_{amb} - \bar{T}_1}{m_1} \\ \alpha_2 \frac{\bar{T}_{amb} - \bar{T}_2}{m_2} \\ (\alpha_3 + \alpha_4) \frac{\bar{T}_{amb} - \bar{T}_3}{m_3} \end{bmatrix} u(t) + w(t) \quad (22)$$

$$y(t) = [0 \ 1 \ 0] x(t) + v(t) \quad (23)$$

Here,  $(\bar{\cdot})$  denotes operating point values and  $x(t) = [T_1(t) - \bar{T}_1, T_2(t) - \bar{T}_2, T_3(t) - \bar{T}_3]^T$ ,  $y(t) = T_2(t) - \bar{T}_2$  and  $u(t) = q_{out}(t) - \bar{q}_{out}$  denote deviations from the operating points ("small-signals"). The animals are assumed to deliver a stochastic heat input with a constant bias, which can be treated as an extra addition to the zone temperature operating point  $[\bar{T}_1, \bar{T}_2, \bar{T}_3]^T$ ; hence,  $w(t)$  and  $v(t)$  can be considered zero-mean noise sequences.

Appropriate parameter and operating point values are substituted into the model, which is sampled using zero-order hold with a sampling period of 10 sec. However, since the leakage flow was not taken into consideration at the design time, and the original temperature sensor is placed in zone 2 (centrally in the stable), the controller is designed based on the  $(x_1, x_2)$ -subsystem

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1(t+1) \\ x_2(t+1) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.9265 & 0 \\ 0.0693 & 0.8892 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1(t) \\ x_2(t) \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} -0.1737 \\ -0.009814 \end{bmatrix} u(t) + \begin{bmatrix} w_1(t) \\ v_2(t) \end{bmatrix} \quad (24)$$

$$y(t) = [0 \ 1] x(t) + v_y(t) \quad (25)$$

This system represents the known model, with known noise statistics

$$R_w = \begin{bmatrix} 0.02 & 0.01 \\ 0.01 & 0.02 \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } R_{v_y} = 0.1$$

An observer-based state feedback controller with  $F = [0.4628 \ 1.8625]$  and  $L = [-0.2307 \ -0.3306]^T$  is applied to maintain the temperature in zone 2 at a setpoint of  $21^\circ\text{C}$ .

When the new temperature sensor is added, it becomes possible to observe the last state in the true simulation model

$$x(t+1) = \begin{bmatrix} 0.9265 & 0 & 0 \\ 0.0693 & 0.8892 & 0 \\ 0.01087 & 0.2657 & 0.6333 \end{bmatrix} x(t) + \begin{bmatrix} -0.1737 \\ -0.009814 \\ -0.213 \end{bmatrix} u(t) + w(t) \quad (26)$$

$$y(t) = [0 \ 1 \ 0] x(t) + v_y(t) \quad (27)$$

$$y_a(t) = [0 \ 0 \ 1] x(t) + v_a(t) \quad (28)$$

with noise statistics

$$R_w = \begin{bmatrix} 0.02 & 0.01 & 0 \\ 0.01 & 0.02 & 0.01 \\ 0 & 0.01 & 0.03 \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } R_{v_y v_a} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.1 & 0.05 \\ 0.05 & 0.07 \end{bmatrix} \quad (29)$$

The state and measurement noise are uncorrelated.

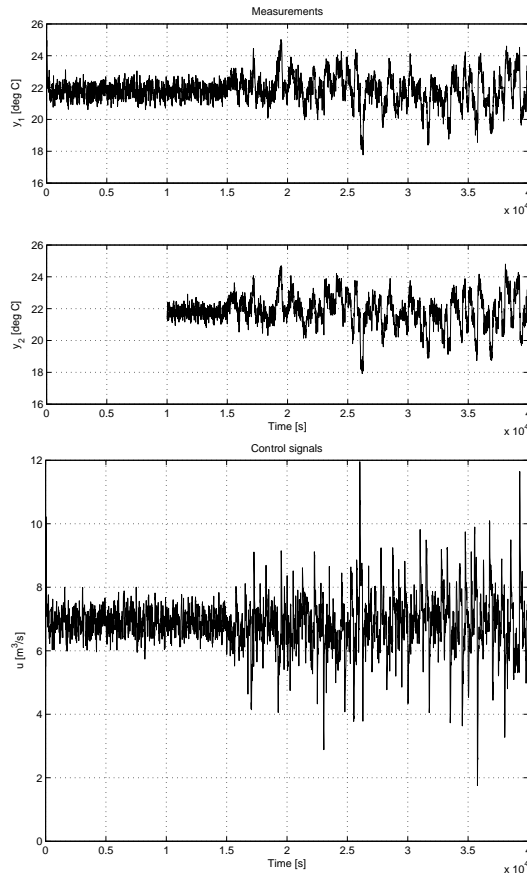


Fig. 9. Closed-loop simulation. The extra temperature sensor  $T_3$  is activated after 2000 samples. Top: temperature measurements; bottom: control signal.

Excitation is added to the reference and the input in the form of steps with a length of 250 seconds. Various levels and periods of excitation are examined. One example is shown in Figure 9.

At 10000 seconds, the new sensor is introduced, and from 15000 seconds onwards, one hundred steps of random amplitude with standard deviation 1 are applied as excitation on the reference and the input. This level of excitation causes deviations in temperature that would be acceptable for a short time. Models of the new sensor is now obtained by:

- Performing a direct system identification on input and output measurements, as if they had been generated in open loop.
- Using the Hansen scheme presented above to extend the model dynamics.

The actual system identification was carried out using Matlab's N4SID toolbox, but any standard system identification procedure could in principle be applied.

Figure 10 compares the results to the actual simulation model. The direct method tends to give a result that would be unreliable for controller design, as in this example. The frequency response of the model produced by the Hansen scheme gets very close to that of the real system, on the other hand.

In order to make a more thorough evaluation of the robustness of the schemes, a number of tests with varying levels

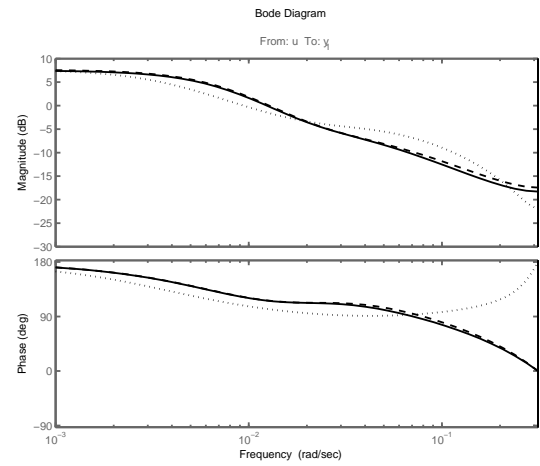


Fig. 10. Bode plots of the identified models. Solid: real. Dashed: Hansen. Dotted: Direct identification. Note how the Hansen scheme provides much improved identification at higher frequencies compared to direct identification.

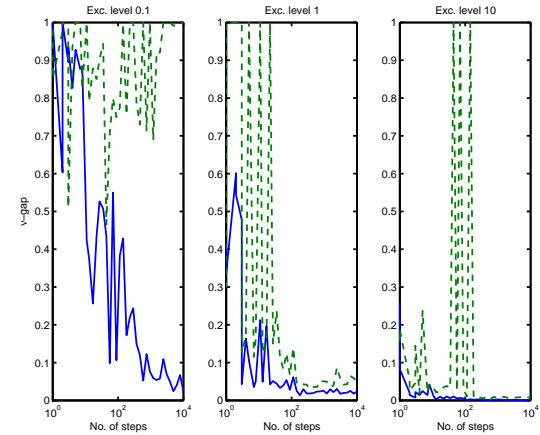


Fig. 11.  $\nu$ -gap between identified models and real system obtained at three different levels of excitation; from left to right, the standard deviation of the excitation signals is 0.1, 1 and 10, respectively. The  $x$ -axis indicates the number of steps in the excitation sequence. Solid: Hansen. Dotted: Direct identification

and lengths of excitation are made. The quality of the models are evaluated by the unweighted  $\nu$ -gap between the identified model and the real simulation model. The  $\nu$ -gap expresses the difference between two transfer functions in terms of their similarity with respect to closed loop operation; that is, if the  $\nu$ -gap between two plant models is small, then a good controller designed for one transfer function will also work well with the other [32].

Figure 11 shows the results for three different levels of excitation. In the leftmost plot, the steps have standard deviation of 0.1, which means that they are hardly distinguishable from the noise level. The  $x$ -axis indicates the number of steps in the excitation sequence. For the Hansen scheme, a few hundred steps are enough to ensure a reliable model. The direct identification method gives basically useless results for any number of steps.

In the middle plot, the excitation has standard deviation 1, just as in the simulation shown above. Now the Hansen scheme



gives reliable results even for a very short excitation sequence, whereas thousands of steps are needed in order for the direct method to yield trustworthy results.

In the rightmost plot, the steps have standard deviation of 10, which would be entirely unrealistic in a real livestock stable. Now only a couple of steps are necessary for the Hansen scheme, but the direct identification method can go wrong even with 30 steps, thus illustrating that closed-loop identification is quite troublesome for systems like the one considered here.

## V. YOULA-KUCERA-BASED CONTROLLER MODIFICATION

Assuming that a model for the added device is in place, we will from now on turn our attention to designing an additive controller that exploits the new information in a meaningful manner.

Note that Problem 1 does not impose any restrictions on how the extension shall be added to the existing control. Indeed, if full access to the internal structure of the existing controller is available, (6) provides a straightforward expression for computing the transfer function needed to shift from the old to the new controller. Although not directly treating Plug-and-Play control, [29] provides convenient state space formulae for realizing a new controller based on an existing one, which may be employed with little to no modification.

However, there are many cases where we wish to introduce the new controller by accessing only the *terminals* of the existing controller. This may for instance occur because the existing controller is implemented in a dedicated microprocessor that does not permit modifications of source code, or the internal states of the controller are not available for other reasons. Accessing only the terminals has the added advantage that it is very easy to remove the control extension again, should the need arise.

In this and the following sections, we suggest two different approaches to Problem 1 that only access the terminals of the existing controller. Motivated by its inherent stability features, the first method of controller reconfiguration utilizes the Youla-Kucera factorization.

Inspecting Figure 2, it is seen that there are two possible ways to modify the Youla-Kucera parameterization in the desired manner. They are shown in Figure 12.

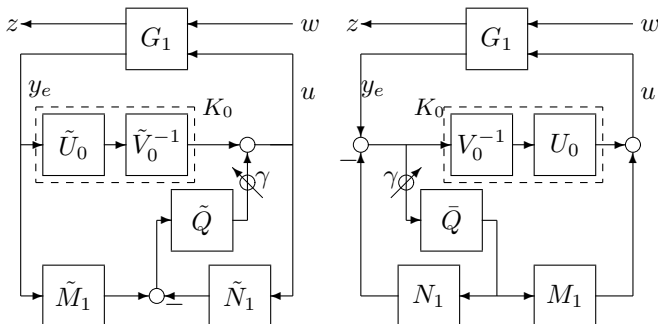


Fig. 12. Controller parameterization modified for connection to terminals of existing controller; note that  $\tilde{Q} \neq \bar{Q}$ .

Recall that, in the case of a new sensor,  $K_0 = [K \ 0]$ ; thus, the original controller is kept in place and is only accessed at the terminals. Stability of  $\tilde{Q}$  resp.  $\bar{Q}$  still implies stability of the closed loop, but now it is no longer *all* stabilizing controllers that can be found by inserting stable  $\tilde{Q}$  resp.  $\bar{Q}$ .

In [33], the following theorem was presented:

**Theorem 2:** Let  $\tilde{M}_1^{-1}\tilde{N}_1$  be a coprime factorization of the LTI system  $G_1$ , and assume that  $K_0 = \tilde{V}_0^{-1}\tilde{U}_0 = U_0V_0^{-1}$  is a stabilizing controller, i.e.  $G_1 \star K_0 \in \mathcal{RH}_\infty$ . Assume a second controller  $K_1 = \tilde{V}_1^{-1}\tilde{U}_1 = U_1V_1^{-1}$  is given. Then

$$G_1 \star K_1 \in \mathcal{RH}_\infty \wedge V_0^{-1}V_1 \in \mathcal{RH}_\infty \quad (30)$$

is equivalent to the existence of a stable  $\tilde{Q}$  such that

$$K_1 = (I + \tilde{Q}\tilde{N}_1)^{-1}(K_0 + \tilde{Q}\tilde{M}_1) \quad (31)$$

i.e., (31) is a parameterization of all stabilizing controllers that include the right half plane pole structure of  $K_0$ .

*Proof:* See [33]. ■

The parameterization above corresponds to the left part of Figure 12. In some cases, the right part is more useful, however, and we therefore present the corresponding theorem:

**Theorem 3:** Let  $N_1M_1^{-1}$  be a coprime factorization of the LTI system  $G_1$ , and assume that  $K_0 = \tilde{V}_0^{-1}\tilde{U}_0 = U_0V_0^{-1}$  is a stabilizing controller, i.e.  $G_1 \star K_0 \in \mathcal{RH}_\infty$ . Assume a second controller  $K_1 = \tilde{V}_1^{-1}\tilde{U}_1 = U_1V_1^{-1}$  is given. Then

$$G_1 \star K_1 \in \mathcal{RH}_\infty \wedge \tilde{V}_1\tilde{V}_0^{-1} \in \mathcal{RH}_\infty \quad (32)$$

is equivalent to the existence of a stable  $\bar{Q}$  such that

$$K_1 = (K_0 + M_1\bar{Q})(I + N_1\bar{Q})^{-1} \quad (33)$$

i.e., (33) is a parameterization of all stabilizing controllers that include the right half plane pole structure of  $K_0$ .

*Proof:* First, assume that a controller  $K_1$  satisfying (32) is given where, without loss of generality, we can assume that the parameterizations given satisfy the double Bezout identity. Define

$$\bar{Q} = \tilde{U}_1 - \tilde{V}_1\tilde{V}_0^{-1}\tilde{U}_0$$

(32) implies that  $\bar{Q}$  is stable. Inserting  $\bar{Q}$  in (33) yields:

$$\begin{aligned} & (K_0 + M_1\bar{Q})(I + N_1\bar{Q})^{-1} \\ &= (K_0 + M_1(\tilde{U}_1 - \tilde{V}_1\tilde{V}_0^{-1}\tilde{U}_0)) \times \\ & \quad (I + N_1(\tilde{U}_1 - \tilde{V}_1\tilde{V}_0^{-1}\tilde{U}_0))^{-1} \\ &= (\tilde{V}_0^{-1}\tilde{U}_0 + M_1\tilde{U}_1 - M_1\tilde{V}_1\tilde{V}_0^{-1}\tilde{U}_0) \times \\ & \quad (V_1\tilde{M}_1 - N_1\tilde{V}_1\tilde{V}_0^{-1}\tilde{U}_0)^{-1} \\ &= (U_1\tilde{M}_1 - U_1\tilde{N}_1\tilde{V}_0^{-1}\tilde{U}_0)(V_1\tilde{M}_1 - V_1\tilde{N}_1\tilde{V}_0^{-1}\tilde{U}_0)^{-1} \\ &= U_1(\tilde{M}_1 - \tilde{N}_1\tilde{V}_0^{-1}\tilde{U}_0)(\tilde{M}_1 - \tilde{N}_1\tilde{V}_0^{-1}\tilde{U}_0)^{-1}V_1^{-1} \\ &= U_1V_1^{-1} = K_1. \end{aligned}$$

Conversely, assume that  $K_1$  is given by:

$$K_1 = (K_0 + M_1\bar{Q})(I + N_1\bar{Q})^{-1} \quad (34)$$

We rewrite (34) as

$$\begin{aligned} K_1 &= (U_0V_0^{-1} + M_1\bar{Q})(I + N_1\bar{Q})^{-1} \\ &= (U_0 + M_1\bar{Q}V_0)(V_0 + N_1\bar{Q}V_0)^{-1} \\ &= (U_0 + M_1\bar{Q})(V_0 + N_1\bar{Q})^{-1} \end{aligned}$$

with  $Q = \bar{Q}V_0 \in \mathcal{RH}_\infty$ , and we see that  $K_1$  is a stabilizing controller by comparing with (5).

In order to prove that  $\tilde{V}_1$  contains the RHP zero structure of  $\tilde{V}_0$ , we rearrange (34) into

$$\tilde{V}_1^{-1}\tilde{U}_1(I + N_1\bar{Q}) = (\tilde{V}_0^{-1}\tilde{U}_0 + M_1\bar{Q})$$

and further into

$$\tilde{U}_1(I + N_1\bar{Q}) - \tilde{V}_1M_1\bar{Q} = \tilde{V}_1\tilde{V}_0^{-1}\tilde{U}_0 \quad (35)$$

Since the left hand side of (35) is stable, so is the right hand side. Due to coprimeness of  $\tilde{U}_0$  and  $\tilde{V}_0$  no RHP cancellations occur when forming the product  $\tilde{V}_0^{-1}\tilde{U}_0$ , and since  $\tilde{V}_1$  is stable, the product  $\tilde{V}_1\tilde{V}_0^{-1}$  itself must be stable. ■

To sum up, we can modify the controller at the terminals to obtain some new desired controller  $K_1$ , provided that we can find coprime factors for  $K_1$  fulfilling the Bezout identity and either (32) or (30). If these assumptions are satisfied, we can either find a stable  $\bar{Q}$  solving

$$\bar{Q}V_0 = \tilde{U}_1V_0 - \tilde{V}_1U_0 = \tilde{V}_1(K_1 - K_0)V_0 \quad (36)$$

or a stable  $\tilde{Q}$  solving

$$\tilde{V}_0\tilde{Q} = \tilde{U}_1V_0 - \tilde{V}_1U_0 = \tilde{V}_1(K_1 - K_0)V_0, \quad (37)$$

respectively. Then we can construct the appropriate controller shown in the block diagrams in Figure 12, and by gradually increasing  $\gamma$  from 0 to 1, the overall behavior from  $y$  to  $u$  changes smoothly from  $K_0$  to  $K_1$  without losing stability for any value of  $\gamma$ .

**Remark 2** The interpretation of the second condition of (32) is that the two controllers have to have the same (closed) right-half plane poles in open loop, as the structure would otherwise cause a RHP pole-zero cancellation. ◁

**Remark 3** Note that for a given desired controller  $K_1$ , it is not given that both (32) or (30) can be fulfilled. In some cases, it will only be possible to satisfy one of them. In such case we can then only pick the corresponding terminal connection in Figure 12. In general, if the number of (plant) outputs is higher than the number of inputs, then (32) is easier to fulfill, and correspondingly (30) is easier to fulfill for a higher number of inputs. ◁

**Remark 4** If for some given desired  $K_1$  we cannot find a stable  $\bar{Q}$  or  $\tilde{Q}$  fulfilling (32) or (30), respectively, one might instead consider finding approximate stable solutions to (36) or (37). ◁

## VI. SENSOR FUSION-BASED APPROACH

In this approach, we replace the inputs to the existing controller with new inputs, which are computed from both the existing and additional measurements. Consider the system shown in Figure 13, which is exactly an implementation of the plant-controller interconnection (12)–(13) before augmentation (albeit ignoring the performance channels).

Now we assume that a new sensor becomes available, which can provide measurements of higher quality of one or more of the plant states, e.g. with less measurement noise. Rather than re-designing and re-commissioning the entire system, we introduce the extra measurements through a pre-filter in the

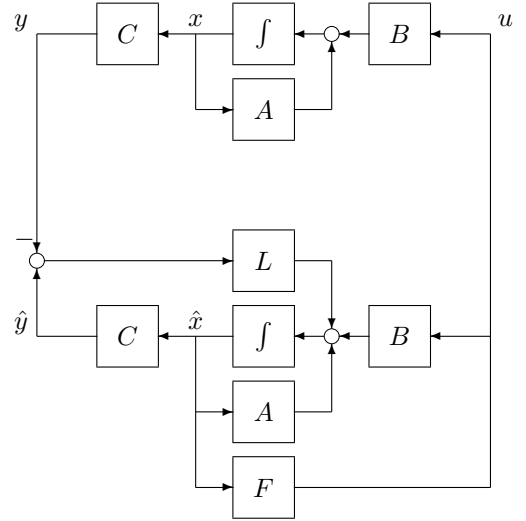


Fig. 13. Existing system  $G$  and controller  $K$ .

hope that the better measurement quality will manifest itself in better closed-loop performance, for instance in terms of better disturbance rejection. Note that it is assumed that the sensor has no significant dynamics, and that a model for it is known.

The augmented system is described by a state space model of the form:

$$G_1 = \left[ \begin{array}{c|c} A & B \\ \hline C & 0 \\ C_a & 0 \end{array} \right] = \left[ \begin{array}{c|c} A & B \\ \hline C_e & 0 \end{array} \right] \quad (38)$$

where  $C_e = \begin{bmatrix} C \\ C_a \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{(p+p_a) \times n}$ . Furthermore, let  $y_e = \begin{bmatrix} y \\ y_a \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{p+p_a}$  denote the extended measurement vector. In order to exploit the new outputs, an additional observer is introduced as shown in Figure 14.

$$\dot{\tilde{x}} = A\tilde{x} + Bu + L_e(C_e\tilde{x} - y_e) \quad (39)$$

$$\tilde{y} = \Gamma\tilde{x} + \Lambda y_e \quad (40)$$

where  $L_e \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times (p+p_a)}$ ,  $\Gamma \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times n}$  and  $\Lambda \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times (p+p_a)}$  are design parameters (see below).  $L_e$  must be chosen such that  $A + L_eC_e$  is Hurwitz; furthermore, it is clear that by choosing

$$\Lambda = \begin{bmatrix} I & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \Gamma = 0$$

we have  $\tilde{y} = y$  and the original closed loop is recovered.

We have the following separation principle for the proposed architecture.

**Theorem 4:** Consider the configuration illustrated by Figure 14, where a system given by the state space model (38) is controlled by an observer based compensator, designed for an original system (12), and the input to the controller is generated by an additional observer of the form (39).

This closed loop system has poles given by the eigenvalues of the two matrices:

$$A + L_eC_e \quad \text{and} \quad \begin{bmatrix} A + BF & BF \\ L(C - \Gamma - \Lambda C_e) & A + LC \end{bmatrix}$$

In the special case where  $\Gamma$  and  $\Lambda$  are chosen to fulfill

$$\Gamma + \Lambda C_e = C \quad (41)$$

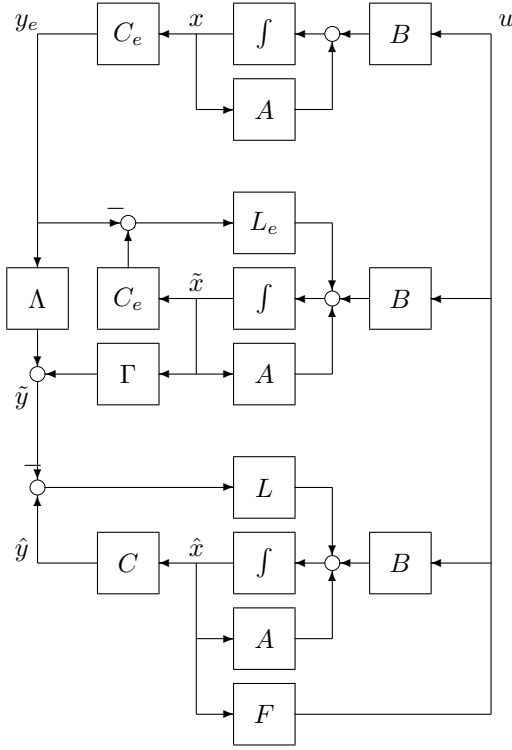


Fig. 14. Architecture for  $G_1 \star K_1$  with additional observer.

the closed loop system satisfies a 'full' separation principle, i.e. the closed loop poles are given by the eigenvalues of the three matrices:

$$A + BF, \quad A + L_e C_e \quad \text{and} \quad A + LC$$

which means that the observer and feedback gains can be designed independently, if only the closed loop poles are of concern.

*Proof:* See [34]. ■

The intuition for the condition (41) is that the new input to the original controller is generated as an interpolation between the original measurements and an estimate of the original measurements based on the original and the new measurements. Therefore, if the new measurements are of a poor quality, i.e., the signal-to-noise ratio is low, we may place stronger emphasis on the old measurements by choosing

$$\Lambda C_e \approx C, \quad \Gamma \approx 0$$

while still satisfying (41). On the other hand, if the new measurements are highly superior to the original measurements, we may choose

$$\Lambda \approx 0, \quad \Gamma \approx C.$$

*Remark 5* Although Theorem 4 suggests that the new observer can be designed independently of the existing controller, it should be noted that the new observer can introduce a significant phase shift, which should be taken into consideration in the design process. In fact, as will be demonstrated in Section VII, it may sometimes be advantageous to choose  $\Gamma$  and  $\Lambda$  such that (41) is *not* satisfied. ◁



Fig. 15. The test setup.

*Remark 6* It should also be noted, that if (41) is not satisfied,  $\tilde{x}$  is still an estimate of  $x$ , whereas  $\hat{x}$  cannot be assumed to be an estimate of  $x$ . Thus, if the original controller depends on a reliable state estimate, then  $\Gamma$  and  $\Lambda$  should indeed be chosen to satisfy (41). ◁

*Remark 7* It is not in itself surprising that a better result can be achieved if (41) is not imposed as a constraint. In that case, the combined new controller, consisting of the original controller and the new observer, is allowed to increase the overall gains of the system, based on the improved measurement situation. The main disadvantage of pursuing a design that does not satisfy (41) is that the link between design parameters and design objectives becomes more complicated, and some sort of optimization procedure will typically be required for the design, which may be non-trivial. To sum up, the optimal choice of  $\Gamma$  and  $\Lambda$  is an open problem. ◁

## VII. DISTRICT HEATING SYSTEM CONTROL

In the following, the methods presented in the two preceding sections will be demonstrated on actual plants, first a laboratory experiment on a district heating system model and then a livestock stable. Note that the methods are not compared directly, since the experiments mainly serve as proof-of-concept.

### A. System description

The test setup shown in Figure 15 is a scaled-down model of a district heating system. The dynamical behavior is similar to a real system, except that the time constants are approximately ten times faster. For further details on pipe lengths etc., see [35].

The configuration used in this example is shown in Figure 16. Note that all the signals in the figure are scalars, sampled with a sampling time of 0.5 seconds.

The heat entering at the supply is distributed to the four consumer branches using six pumps. The two middle consumers have varying consumption, which is modeled by adjustable valves,  $v_1$  and  $v_2$ . In this example, the task of the control system is to maintain constant differential pressures,  $dP_1 = dP_2 = 0.1 \text{ bar}$ .

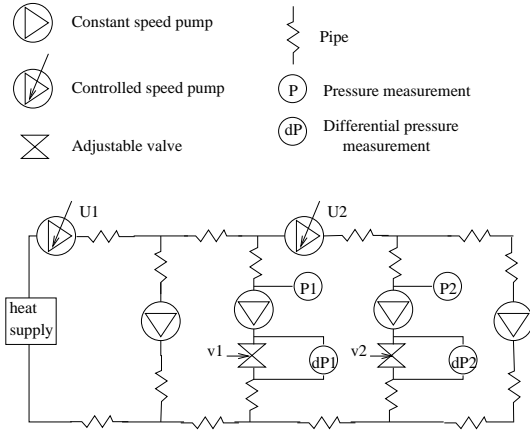


Fig. 16. Structure of the test setup.

The test setup provides measurements of the two valve positions, two differential pressures and two pressures (relative to ambient atmospheric pressure).

The valve movements follow a simulated heat consumption, but are affected by a slew rate and hysteresis, resulting in the behavior seen in the top row of Figure 17 (solid lines). These valve positions are not available to the controller, but can to some extent be estimated from measurements.

The controllers are based on a model obtained through system identification from open loop data. The model consists of a third order innovations model of the transfer function from pump speeds and valve settings to pressures and differential pressures. The valves are modeled as white noise filtered through first order filters, resulting in a model of the form:

$$\begin{aligned} x(t+1) &= Ax(t) + B \begin{bmatrix} U_1^\delta(t) \\ U_2^\delta(t) \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} K_P e_P(t) + K_{dP} e_{dP}(t) \\ K_v e_v(t) \end{bmatrix} \\ y_P(t) &= C_P x(t) + e_P(t) \\ y_{dP}(t) &= C_{dP} x(t) + e_{dP}(t) \end{aligned}$$

where  $x(t) = [x_1(t) \ x_2(t) \ x_3(t) \ v_1^\delta(t) \ v_2^\delta(t)]^T$  are state and valve setting estimates and  $e_P(t)$ ,  $e_{dP}(t)$  and  $e_v(t)$  are innovations (one-step prediction errors) for  $P(t) = [P_1(t) \ P_2(t)]^T$ ,  $dP(t) = [dP_1(t) \ dP_2(t)]^T$  and  $v(t) = [v_1^\delta(t) \ v_2^\delta(t)]^T$ , respectively.  $(\cdot)^\delta$  denotes “small-signals,” i.e., deviations from operating points. The model parameters are as follows:

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 0.721 & -0.00251 & 0.0489 & -0.029 & -0.0497 \\ -0.00669 & 0.69 & -0.00249 & 0.0316 & -0.0327 \\ 0.0921 & 0.0172 & 0.923 & -0.0342 & -0.0826 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0.997 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0.997 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$B = \begin{bmatrix} 0.161 & 0.0544 \\ -0.0592 & 0.17 \\ -0.0593 & -0.0267 \\ 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$K_P = \begin{bmatrix} -0.0123 & -0.00597 \\ -0.0252 & 0.0202 \\ -0.132 & -0.136 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$K_{dP} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.338 & 0.409 \\ -0.362 & 0.268 \\ 1.24 & 1.38 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$C_P = \begin{bmatrix} 1.97 & -1.06 & -0.427 & 0 & 0 \\ 2.51 & 1.16 & -0.471 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$C_{dP} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.478 & -0.473 & 0.0615 & 0 & 0 \\ 0.514 & 0.319 & 0.0766 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Furthermore, the estimated noise covariances are

$$\begin{aligned} E\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} e_P \\ e_{dP} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} e_P \\ e_{dP} \end{bmatrix}^T \right\} &= \\ 10^{-4} \times \begin{bmatrix} 0.192 & -0.0915 & 0.126 & 0.235 \\ -0.0915 & 0.19 & 0.189 & 0.0426 \\ 0.126 & 0.189 & 2.71 & 0.834 \\ 0.235 & 0.0426 & 0.834 & 2.47 \end{bmatrix} \\ E\{e_v e_v^T\} &= 10^{-6} \times \begin{bmatrix} 2.8 & 0 \\ 0 & 2.57 \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

As system identification is not central to this example, we will omit further details; the model will only be used for controller design.

### B. Initial controller

Initially, the differential pressure measurements are not available to the control system, which relies on  $y_P(t) = [P_1(t) \ P_2(t)]^T$  only. Also, the pump  $U_2$  is a constant-speed pump, so the controlled system has 2 outputs and a single input. The controller is designed as an LQG controller penalizing the (estimated) differential pressures, i.e.  $Q_{SF} = C_{dP}^T C_{dP}$ , and the control signal,  $R_{SF} = 10^{-4}$ .

Figure 17 compares open-loop and initial closed-loop operation. The first four plots show the valve positions and the differential pressures. These are not available to the controller, but the observer can to some extent reconstruct them, as shown by the dotted lines. The next plots show the measured pressures and the resulting control signals, i.e. pump speeds.

### C. Adding sensors

Even though the estimates are not very accurate, the controller is able to decrease the variation of the differential pressures. However, the consumers complain about varying supply

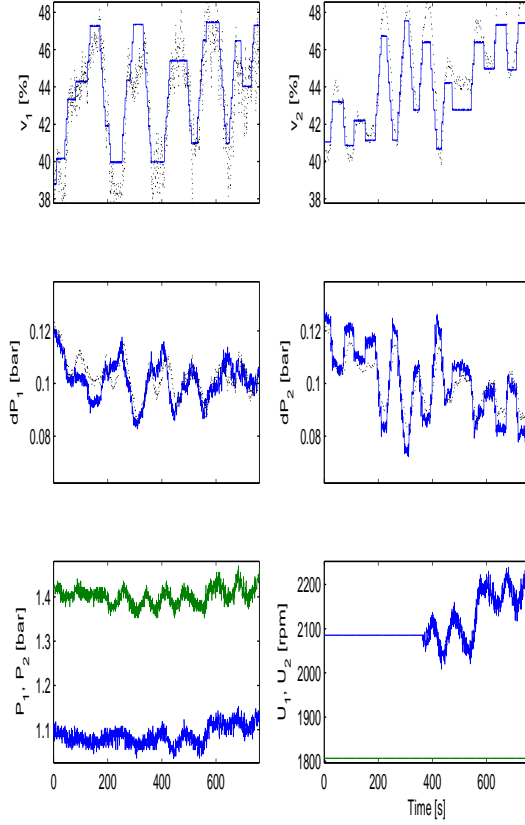


Fig. 17. Performance of initial controller, switched on at 360 s. Full lines indicate measurements, while dotted lines indicate estimates. Top row: valve settings; middle row: differential pressures; bottom row: outputs and control signals

rates, so the differential pressure sensors are added to examine the problem and see if the control can be improved. Thus, the measurement vector is now expanded to  $y_e(t) = \begin{bmatrix} y_P(t) \\ y_{dP}(t) \end{bmatrix}$ .

We first employ the sensor fusion method described in Section VI. We design the new observer gain  $L_e$  as LQ-optimal according to the model. It quickly becomes clear that almost no change in controller behavior can be achieved by fulfilling the 'full' separation constraint (41). Instead, we set  $\Lambda = \begin{bmatrix} I & 0 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\Gamma = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \gamma_v \end{bmatrix}$ , where  $\gamma_v \in \mathbb{R}^{2 \times 2}$  acts as a feedforward gain from the valve position estimates and is found from simulations to yield the same steady state errors as would have been achieved by replacing the internal observer in the original controller.

From the simulations it is also clear that only small improvements will be achieved, and this is indeed also seen in the resulting plot in Figure 18. Comparing with the last half of Figure 17, the changes are difficult to identify (note that the valve sequence is approximately the same). On the other hand, the new measurements improve not just the estimates of the differential pressures, but also the estimates of the valve position (the dotted lines show the estimates in the additional observer).

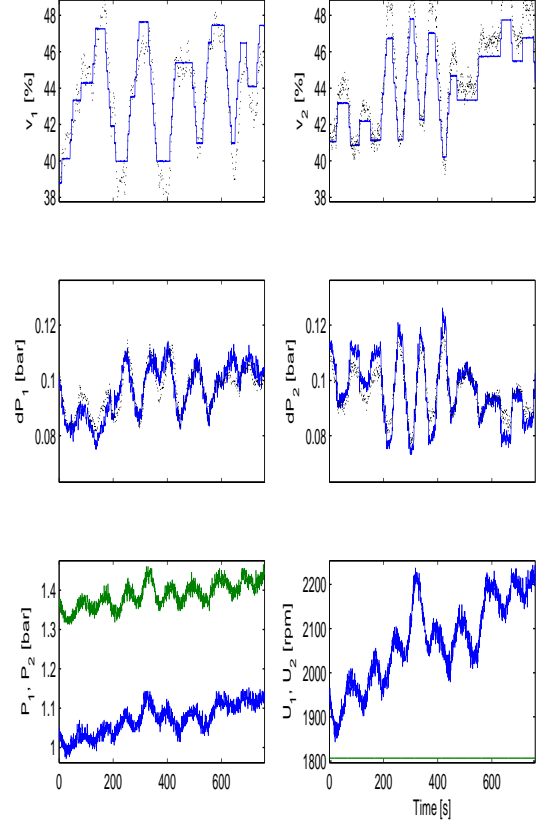


Fig. 18. Performance of controller with additional observer. Full lines indicate measurements, while dotted lines indicate estimates. Top row: valve settings; middle row: differential pressures; bottom row: outputs and control signals

#### D. Adding an actuator

Since the additional sensors revealed a problem with the performance, it is decided to add control capabilities to the  $U_2$  pump, enabling us to control the speed. The sensor fusion filter is removed, and instead the modification method in Section V is applied, choosing the right-side configuration in Figure 12.

An optimal controller  $K_1$  is designed for the system with four measurements and two control inputs. Since the original controller  $K_0$  has an unstable pole in 1.06,  $K_1$  cannot be realized exactly. Instead, the unstable  $\bar{Q}$  found from (36) is approximated by separating the unstable part and flipping the unstable pole inside the unit circle. This results in a somewhat different controller from the optimal, but the theory guarantees stability as long the model is correct, so it is decided to test it.

The result is shown in Figure 19. Between 300s and 400s the scheduling parameter  $\gamma$  is increased from 0 to 1, modifying the controller to use the new sensors and the new actuator. This results in a much better performance, especially for  $dP_2$ .

### VIII. LIVESTOCK STABLE CONTROL

Finally, we document a real-life experiment where the Youla-Kucera-based approach introduced in Section V was employed to utilize a new temperature sensor measurement. The test was carried out on a livestock stable located in North-

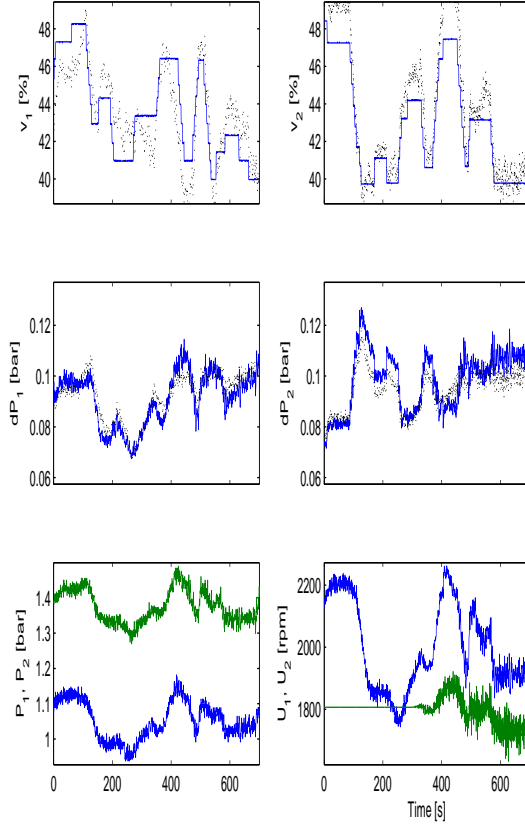


Fig. 19. Performance of controller with terminal addition. Full lines indicate measurements, while dotted lines indicate estimates. Top row: valve settings; middle row: differential pressures; bottom row: outputs and control signals. From time 300s to 400s, the controller is gradually transformed the existing to a new controller that exploits the new measurements. Stability is maintained throughout the transition, and performance is improved, in particular for  $dP_2$  (the deviation from the reference value of 0.1bar is significantly reduced compared to  $t < 300s$ )

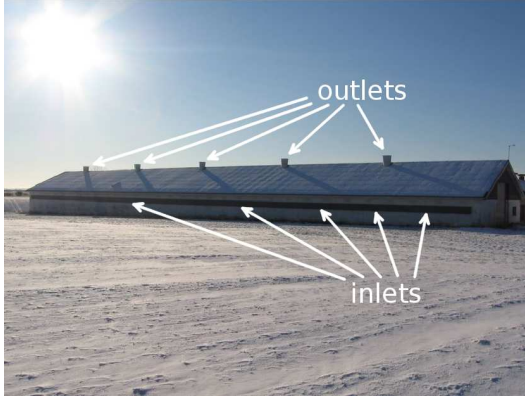


Fig. 20. Photograph of the livestock stable used for the experiments in Section VIII.

ern Jutland, Denmark (Figure 20). See [36] for further details on the test stable and the specific controller implementation.

Figure 21 shows the nominal operation of the existing control system. A single temperature sensor,  $T_0$ , is used for measurement feedback to a PI controller that controls the ventilation fans indicated on the figure. The controller

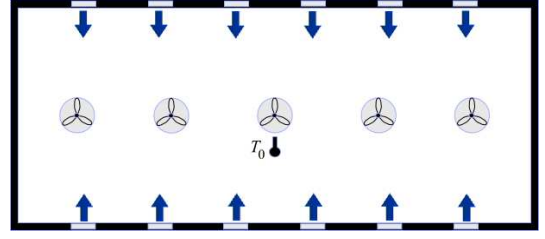


Fig. 21. Sketch of the livestock stable seen from above. The control system initially relies on one centrally placed temperature measurement,  $T_0$ , to control the ventilation fans.

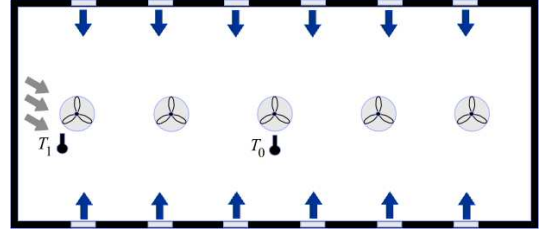


Fig. 22. Sketch of the livestock stable seen from above. The extra temperature sensor  $T_1$  is installed to detect the leakage flow (indicated by the faded arrows to the left).

maintains a fixed temperature. The situation is thus quite similar to the simulation example in Section IV, except that a zone model is not used in the current case.

The livestock stable is not completely airtight. Due to cracks in the walls etc., extra air tends to leak into the stable; in Figure 22, this extra draft is indicated by faded arrows at the left end of the stable. This draft cannot be detected by  $T_0$ , but the farmer observes that the livestock avoids that area and installs a new temperature sensor,  $T_1$ , at the location indicated in the figure.

In the given system, the ventilation rate serves as a single input. We would thus like to reconfigure from a SISO controller to a one-by-two controller. Ideally, we would like zero steady state error on both measurements, but since we have only one actuator, it is necessary to compromise. Since the temperature is lower at the new sensor, it is decided to shift the integral action to this measurement.

The factors are based on a very simple model:

$$G_1 = \begin{bmatrix} G_0 \\ G_a \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{-0.72}{s/1200+1} \\ \frac{-0.88}{s/800+1} \end{bmatrix}.$$

As seen from Figure 23, this model provides a reasonably good fit.

The result of applying the method presented in Section V is shown in Figure 24. In the beginning,  $K_0$  is keeping  $T_0$  at the set point. When  $\gamma$  is increased, the controller moves  $T_1$  to the set point by lowering the ventilation rate.

Note that if we had wished to control the average of the two temperatures instead, this could easily have been achieved by just setting  $\gamma = \frac{1}{2}$ .

## IX. CONCLUDING REMARKS

In this paper, we have considered the control aspect of “Plug-and-Play Control.” The Plug-and-Play Control problem



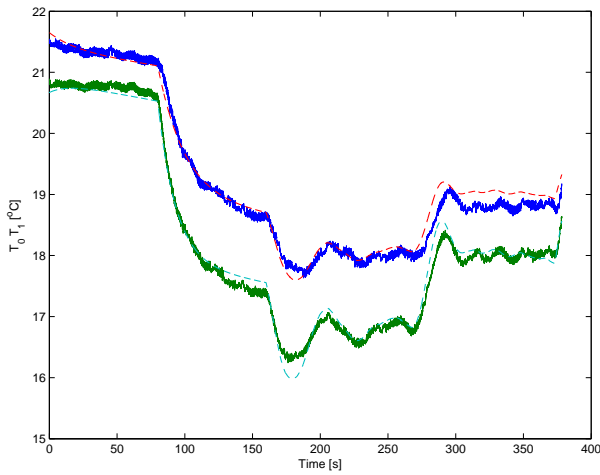


Fig. 23. Temperature measurements (solid) from the stable compared with simple model (dashed). A small drift term has been added to the input to compensate for the ambient temperature.

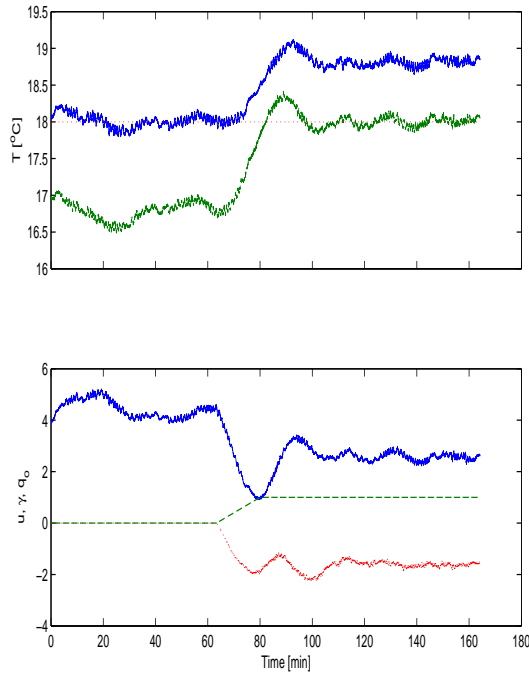


Fig. 24. Measurements from the stable. Top plot: The two temperature measurements (blue:  $T_0$ , green:  $T_1$ ) and the reference (red, dotted). Bottom plot: the scheduling parameter  $\gamma$  (dashed, green), the output of  $M$  (dotted, red), and the resulting control signal (solid, blue).

was formulated as the problem of designing an extended controller  $K_1 = [\bar{K} \ K_a]$  (or  $K_1 = [\bar{K} \ K_a]$ ) that

- utilizes a new measurement (or actuator)
- allows a *smooth transition*  $K_0 \rightarrow K_1$ , in the sense that the shift to the new controller should not cause large transients
- retains closed-loop stability throughout the transition
- allows recovering the old controller through the reverse transition  $K_1 \rightarrow K_0$

such that the performance of the closed loop is improved in some sense, e.g. by decreasing an appropriate norm.

We briefly touched upon a system identification method for identifying parameters associated with the new sensors, which often works well in closed-loop operation.

We then discussed two different approaches to incorporating new control system devices. The first approach relies on a modified Youla-Kucera parametrization of all stabilizing controllers for a given plant. We showed how the additional controller should be implemented while only accessing the terminals of the existing controller, in case the internal state of the existing controller is not available. The Youla-Kucera-based methodology has the advantage that the performance transfer function is affine in the design parameter, which means that the design problem has an open-loop-like nature and good performance can thus be expected during the transition between controllers. On the other hand, the question of actually computing the Youla-Kucera parameter in order to achieve a particular realization of a new controller in the general case remains an open problem.

The other approach presented is based on sensor fusion, in the sense that new measurements are fused with existing ones in order to modify the inputs to the existing controller, such that the overall performance is improved. A separation principle was shown to hold under mild assumptions. As with the aforementioned approach, there is still work to be done; it is not yet clear how to find the optimal weighting between new and old measurements.

Finally, we demonstrated the Plug-and-Play Control concept, as well as the practical feasibility of the proposed methods, on a laboratory-scale model of a district heating system and a livestock stable climate system. In both cases it was possible to improve operation noticeably by exploiting new sensors and/or actuators without discarding the existing control system.

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