



Optimal Control: An Introduction to the Theory and Its Applications (Dover Books on Engineering)

By Michael Athans, Peter L. Falb

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Geared toward advanced undergraduate and graduate engineering students, this text introduces the theory and applications of optimal control. It serves as a bridge to the technical literature, enabling students to evaluate the implications of theoretical control work, and to judge the merits of papers on the subject.

Rather than presenting an exhaustive treatise, *Optimal Control* offers a detailed introduction that fosters careful thinking and disciplined intuition. It develops the basic mathematical background, with a coherent formulation of the control problem and discussions of the necessary conditions for optimality based on the maximum principle of Pontryagin. In-depth examinations cover applications of the theory to minimum time, minimum fuel, and to quadratic criteria problems. The structure, properties, and engineering realizations of several optimal feedback control systems also receive attention.

Special features include numerous specific problems, carried through to engineering realization in block diagram form. The text treats almost all current examples of control problems that permit analytic solutions, and its unified approach makes frequent use of geometric ideas to encourage students' intuition.

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