

**PSI 3442**

Sensores e Atuadores

06/11/2023





# Programa da aula

- Entender o papel dos sensores e atuadores em sistemas embarcados
- Livro Texto Pág. 179-207



# What is a sensor? An actuator?

- A sensor is a device that **measures** a physical quantity
- → □ Input / “Read from physical world”
  
- An actuator is a device that **modifies** a physical quantity
- → □ Output / “Write to physical world”



# Sensors and Actuators – The Bridge between the Cyber and the Physical

- Sensors:

- Cameras
- Accelerometers
- Gyroscopes
- Strain gauges
- Microphones
- Magnetometers
- Radar/Lidar
- Chemical sensors
- Pressure sensors
- Switches
- ...

- Actuators:

- Motor controllers
- Solenoids
- LEDs, lasers
- LCD and plasma displays
- Loudspeakers
- Switches
- Valves
- ...

- Modeling Issues:

- Physical dynamics
- Noise
- Bias
- Sampling
- Interactions
- Faults
- ...



# Self-Driving Cars



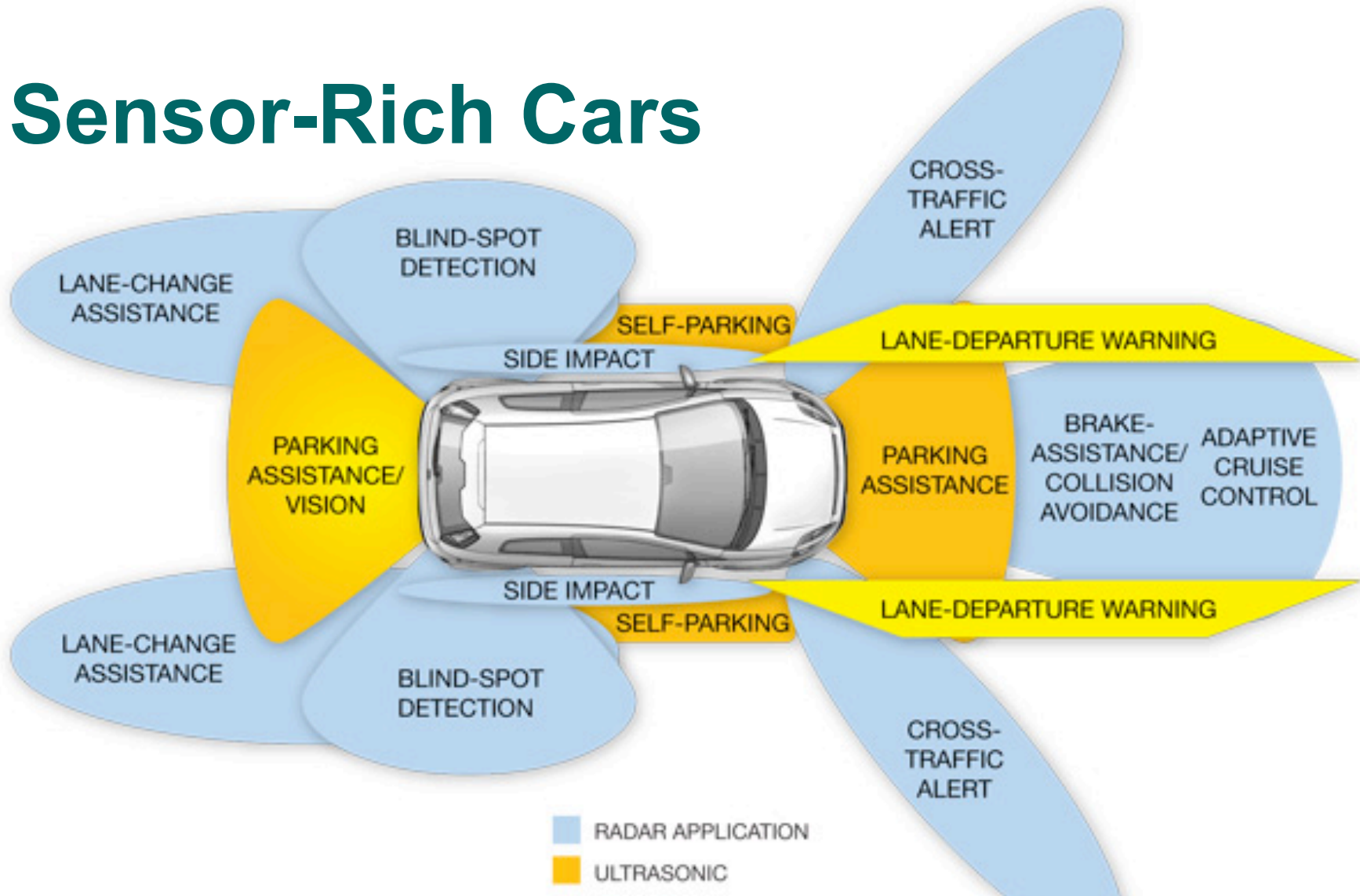
Berkeley PATH Project Demo,  
1999, San Diego.

Google self-driving car 2.0





# Sensor-Rich Cars



- Source: Analog Devices

detection, parking assistance, collision avoidance, and other driver aids (courtesy Analog Devices).





# Sensor-Rich Cars

## GPS (global positioning system)

combined with readings from tachometers, altimeters and gyroscopes to provide the most accurate positioning

**Cost: \$80-\$6,000**

**Ultrasonic sensors** to measure the position of objects very close to the vehicle

**Cost: \$15-\$20**

**Odometry sensors** to complement and improve GPS information

**Cost: \$80-\$120**

**Central computer** analyzes all sensor input, applies rules of the road and operates the steering, accelerator and brakes

**Cost: ~50-200% of sensor costs**

## Lidar (light detection and ranging)

monitor the vehicle's surroundings (road, vehicles, pedestrians, etc.)

**Cost: \$90-8,000**

**Video cameras** monitor the vehicle's surroundings (road, vehicles, pedestrians, etc.) and read traffic lights

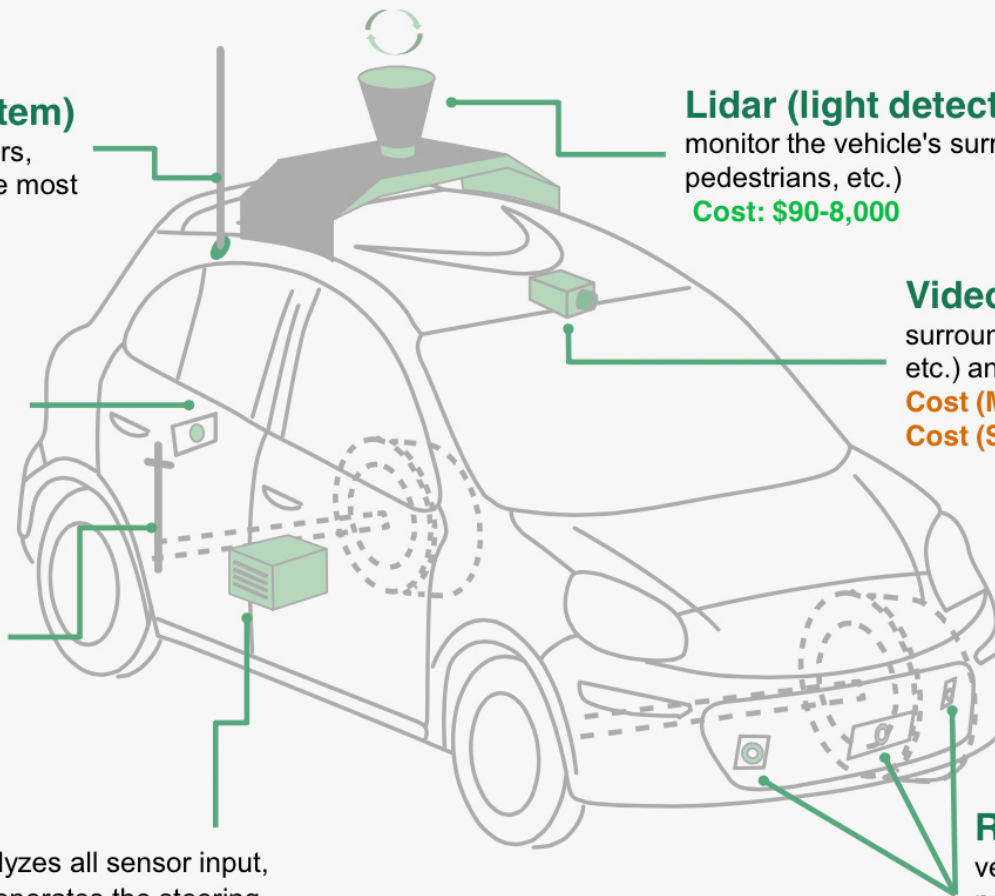
**Cost (Mono): \$125-\$150**

**Cost (Stereo): \$150-\$200**

**Radar sensors** monitor the vehicle's surroundings (road, vehicles, pedestrians, etc.)

**Cost (Long Range): \$125-\$150**

**Cost (Short Range): \$50-\$100**



- Source: Wired Magazine



# Magnetometers

- A very common type is the Hall Effect magnetometer.
- Charge particles (electrons, 1) flow through a conductor (2) serving as a Hall sensor. Magnets (3) induce a magnetic field (4) that causes the charged particles to accumulate on one side of the Hall sensor, inducing a measurable voltage difference from top to bottom.
- The four drawings at the right illustrate electron paths under different current and magnetic field polarities.

Edwin Hall discovered this effect in 1879.

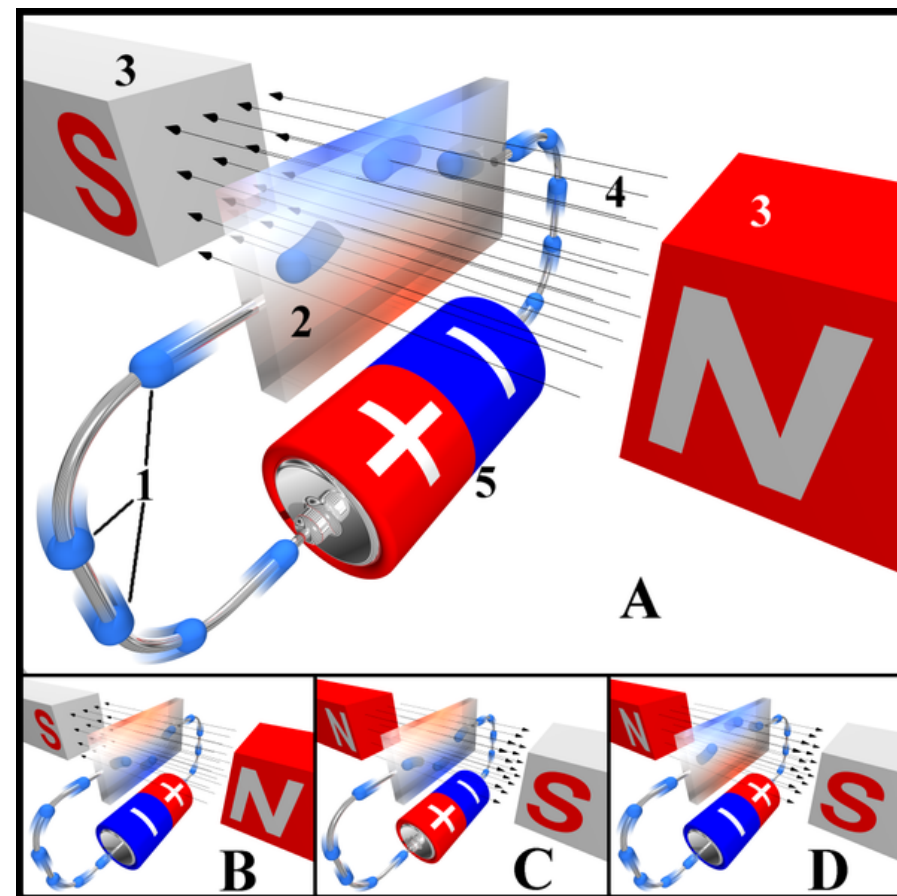


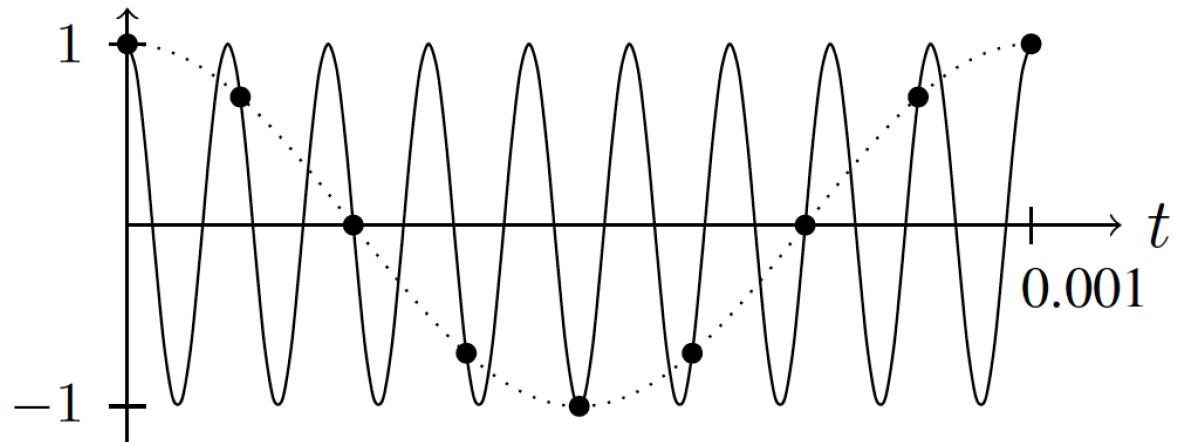
Image source: Wikipedia Commons



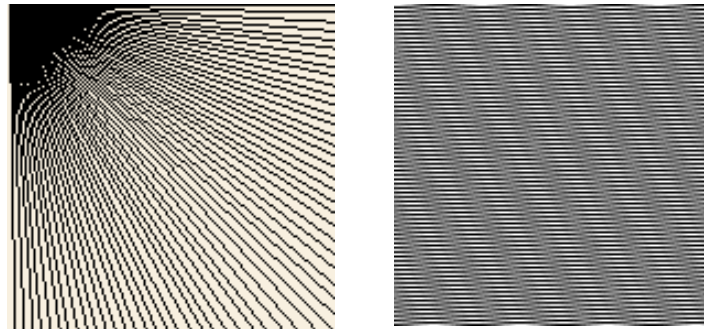


# Aliasing

- Sampled data is vulnerable to *aliasing*, where high frequency components masquerade as low frequency components.
- Careful modeling of the signal sources and analog signal conditioning or digital oversampling are necessary to counter the effect.



A high frequency sinusoid sampled at a low rate looks just like a low frequency sinusoid.



Digitally sampled images are vulnerable to aliasing as well, where patterns and edges appear as a side effect of the sampling. Optical blurring of the image prior to sampling avoids aliasing, since blurring is spatial low-pass filtering.



# Roadmap

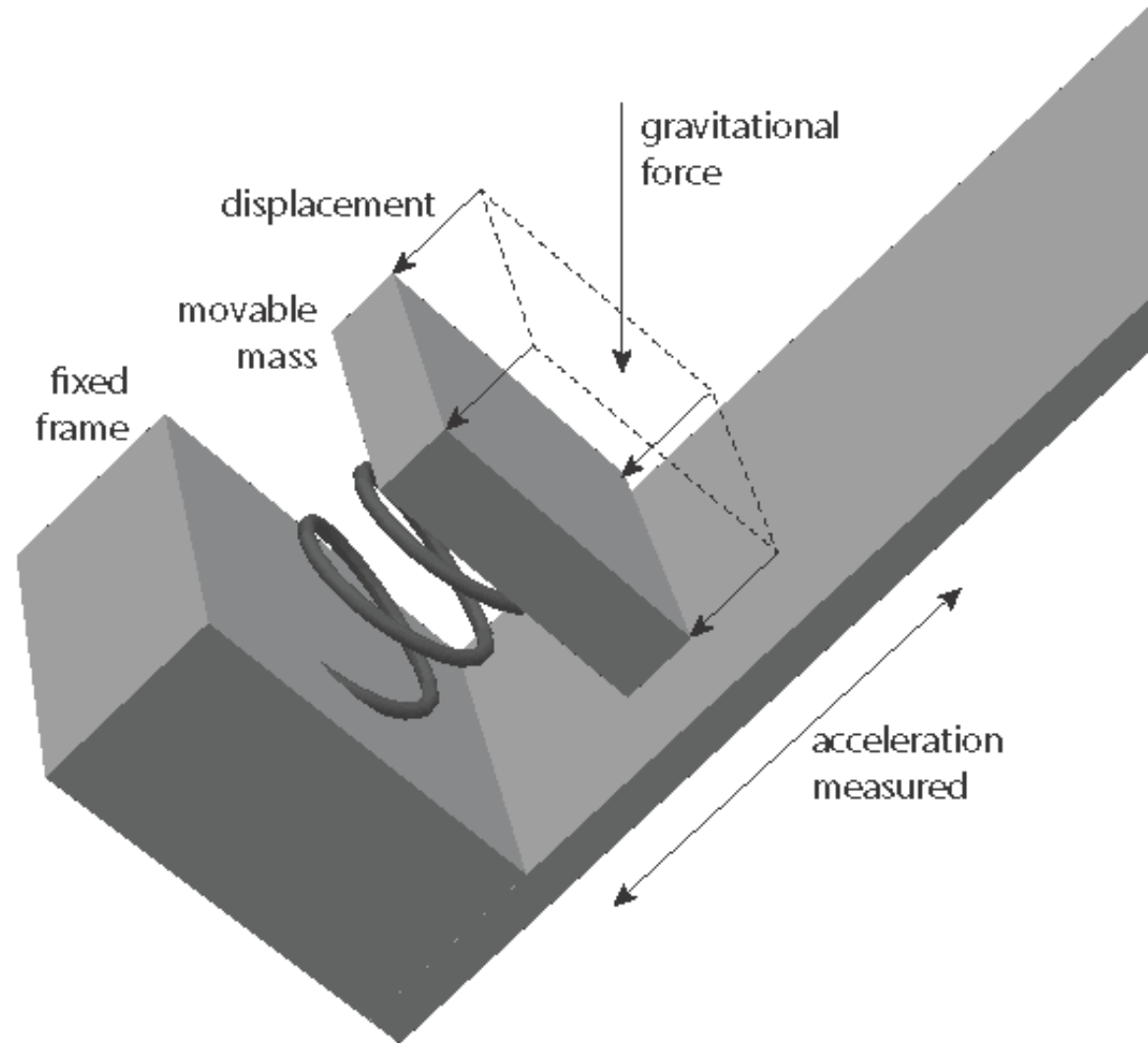
- ❑ How Accelerometers work
- ❑ Affine Model of Sensors
- ❑ Bias and Sensitivity
- ❑ Faults in Sensors
- ❑ Brief Overview of Actuators



The most common design measures the distance between a plate fixed to the platform and one attached by a spring and damper. The measurement is typically done by measuring capacitance.

# Accelerometer

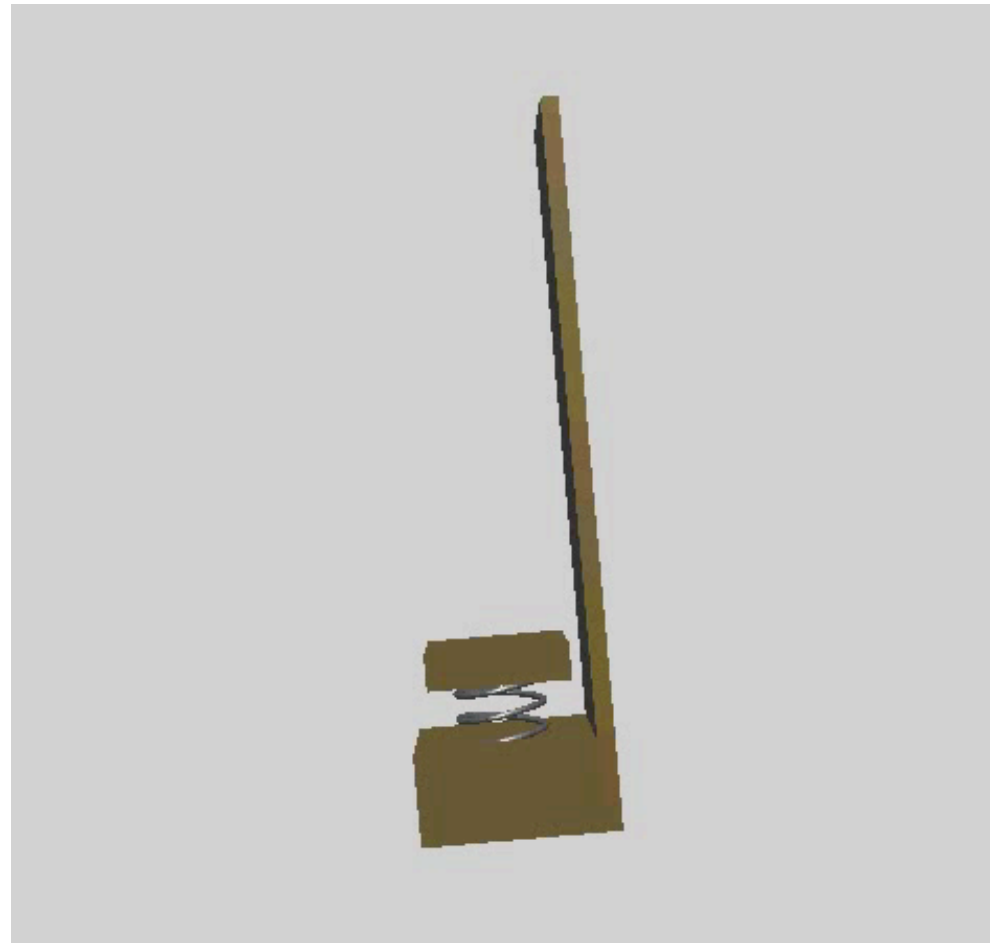
- Uses:
  - Navigation
  - Orientation
  - Drop detection
  - Image stabilization
  - Airbag systems





# Spring-Mass-Damper Accelerometer

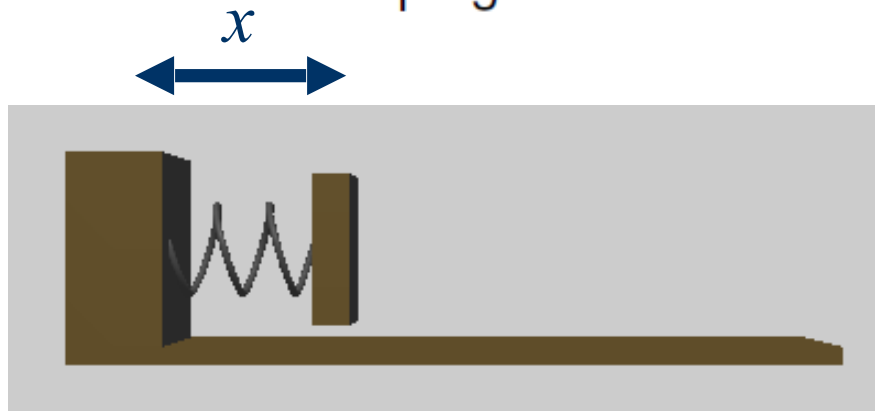
- By Newton's second law,  
 $F=ma$ .
- For example,  $F$  could be the Earth's gravitational force.
- The force is balanced by the restoring force of the spring.





# Spring-Mass-Damper System

- mass:  $M$
- spring constant:  $k$
- spring rest position:  $p$
- position of mass:  $x$
- viscous damping constant:  $c$



Force due to spring extension:

$$F_1(t) = k(p - x(t))$$

Force due to viscous damping:

$$F_2(t) = -c\dot{x}(t)$$

Newton's second law:

$$F_1(t) + F_2(t) = M\ddot{x}(t)$$

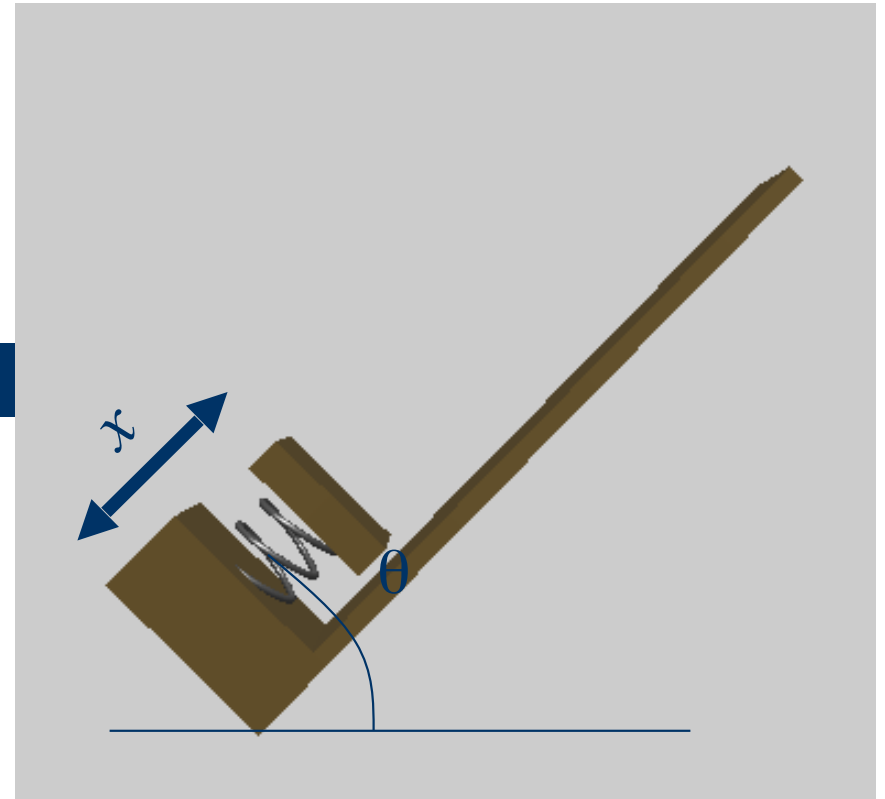
or

$$M\ddot{x}(t) + c\dot{x}(t) + kx(t) = kp.$$

Exercise: Convert to an integral equation with initial conditions.



# Measuring tilt



Component of gravitational force in the direction of the accelerometer axis must equal the spring force:

$$Mg \sin(\theta) = k(p - x(t))$$

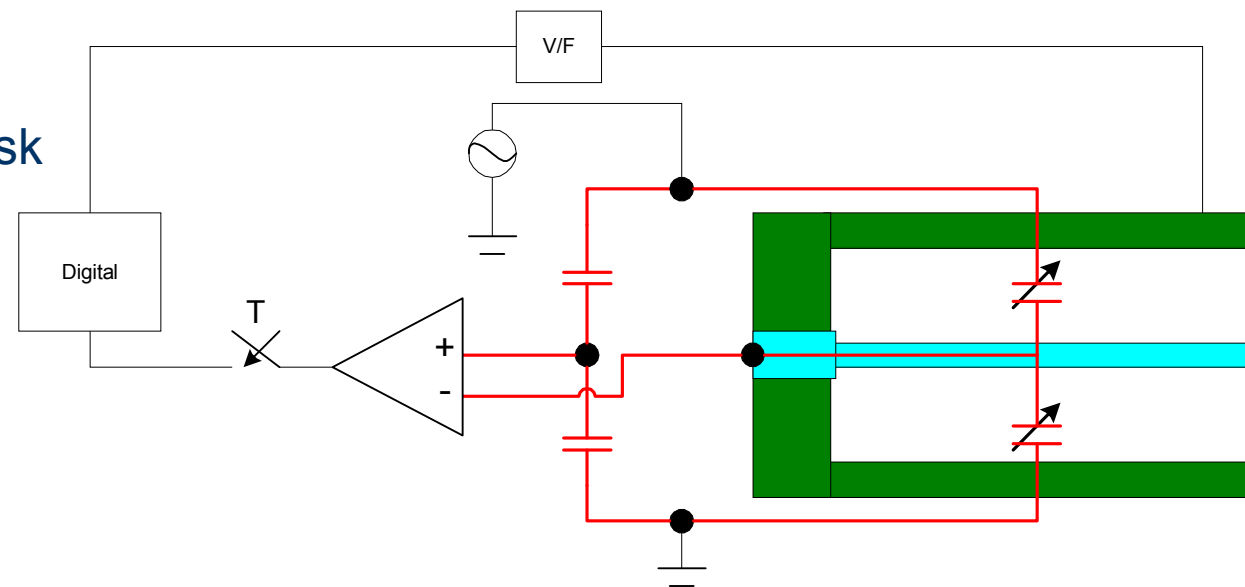
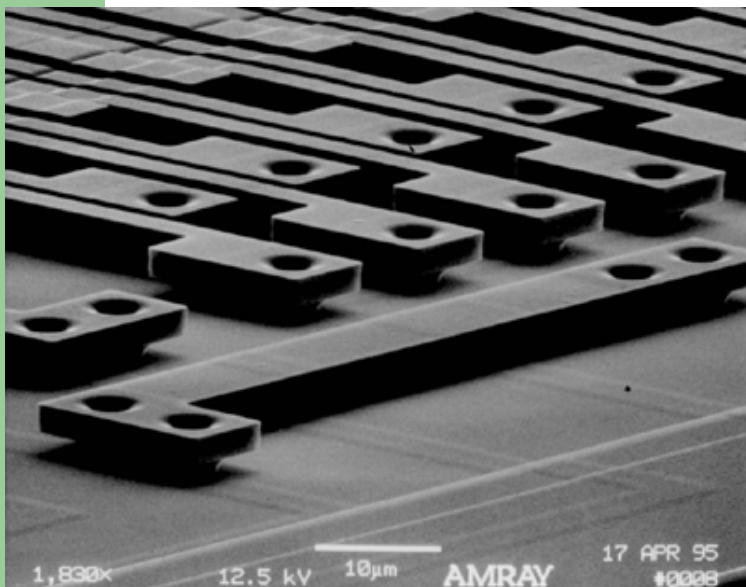
Given a measurement of  $x$ , you can solve for  $\theta$ , up to an ambiguity of  $\pi$ .





# Feedback dramatically improves accuracy and dynamic range of microaccelerometers.

- The Berkeley Sensor and Actuator Center (BSAC) created the first silicon microaccelerometers, MEMS devices now used in airbag systems, computer games, disk drives (drop sensors), etc.



M. A. Lemkin, "Micro Accelerometer Design with Digital Feedback Control", Ph.D. dissertation, EECS, University of California, Berkeley, Fall 1997



# Difficulties Using Accelerometers

- Separating tilt from acceleration
- Vibration
- Nonlinearities in the spring or damper
- Integrating twice to get position: Drift

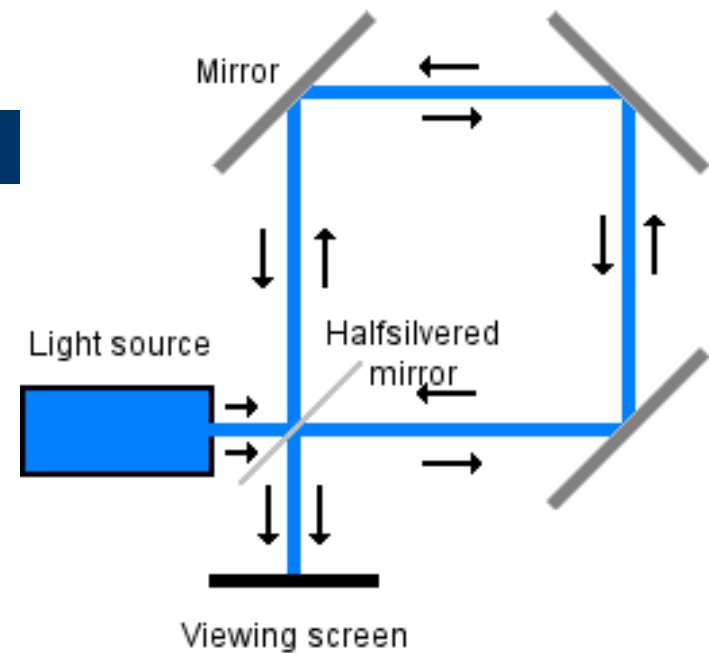
$$p(t) = p(0) + \int_0^t v(\tau) d\tau,$$

$$v(t) = v(0) + \int_0^t a(\tau) d\tau.$$

Position is the integral of velocity, which is the integral of acceleration. Bias in the measurement of acceleration causes position estimate error to increase quadratically.



# Measuring Changes in Orientation: Gyroscopes



- Optical gyros: Leverage the Sagnac effect, where a laser light is sent around a loop in opposite directions and the interference is measured. When the loop is rotating, the distance the light travels in one direction is smaller than the distance in the other. This shows up as a change in the interference.

Images from the Wikipedia Commons



Dead reckoning  
plus GPS.

# Inertial Navigation Systems

- Combinations of:
  - GPS (for initialization and periodic correction).
  - Three axis gyroscope measures orientation.
  - Three axis accelerometer, double integrated for position after correction for orientation.
- Typical drift for systems used in aircraft have to be:
  - 0.6 nautical miles per hour
  - tenths of a degree per hour
- Good enough? It depends on the application!



# Design Issues with Sensors

- Calibration
  - Relating measurements to the physical phenomenon
  - Can dramatically increase manufacturing costs
- Nonlinearity
  - Measurements may not be proportional to physical phenomenon
  - Correction may be required
  - Feedback can be used to keep operating point in the linear region
- Sampling
  - Aliasing
  - Missed events
- Noise
  - Analog signal conditioning
  - Digital filtering
  - Introduces latency
- Failures
  - Redundancy (sensor fusion problem)
  - Attacks (e.g. Stuxnet attack)



# Sensor Calibration

- Affine Sensor Model
- Bias and Sensitivity
- Example: Look at ADXL330 accelerometer datasheet





# SPECIFICATIONS

$T_A = 25^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $V_S = 3\text{ V}$ ,  $C_X = C_Y = C_Z = 0.1\ \mu\text{F}$ , acceleration = 0 g, unless otherwise noted. All minimum and maximum specifications are guaranteed. Typical specifications are not guaranteed.

**Table 1.**

| Parameter  | Conditions         | Min     | Typ           | Max | Unit                               |
|--|--------------------|---------|---------------|-----|------------------------------------|
| <b>SENSOR INPUT</b>                                | Each axis          |         |               |     |                                    |
| Measurement Range                                  |                    | $\pm 3$ | $\pm 3.6$     |     | g                                  |
| Nonlinearity                                       | % of full scale    |         | $\pm 0.3$     |     | %                                  |
| Package Alignment Error                            |                    |         | $\pm 1$       |     | Degrees                            |
| Inter-Axis Alignment Error                         |                    |         | $\pm 0.1$     |     | Degrees                            |
| Cross Axis Sensitivity <sup>1</sup>                |                    |         | $\pm 1$       |     | %                                  |
| <b>SENSITIVITY (RATIOMETRIC)<sup>2</sup></b>       | Each axis          |         |               |     |                                    |
| Sensitivity at $X_{OUT}$ , $Y_{OUT}$ , $Z_{OUT}$   | $V_S = 3\text{ V}$ | 270     | 300           | 330 | mV/g                               |
| Sensitivity Change Due to Temperature <sup>3</sup> | $V_S = 3\text{ V}$ |         | $\pm 0.015$   |     | %/ $^\circ\text{C}$                |
| <b>ZERO g BIAS LEVEL (RATIOMETRIC)</b>             | Each axis          |         |               |     |                                    |
| 0 g Voltage at $X_{OUT}$ , $Y_{OUT}$ , $Z_{OUT}$   | $V_S = 3\text{ V}$ | 1.2     | 1.5           | 1.8 | V                                  |
| 0 g Offset vs. Temperature                         |                    |         | $\pm 1$       |     | mg/ $^\circ\text{C}$               |
| <b>NOISE PERFORMANCE</b>                           |                    |         |               |     |                                    |
| Noise Density $X_{OUT}$ , $Y_{OUT}$                |                    |         | 280           |     | $\mu\text{g}/\sqrt{\text{Hz}}$ rms |
| Noise Density $Z_{OUT}$                            |                    |         | 350           |     | $\mu\text{g}/\sqrt{\text{Hz}}$ rms |
| <b>FREQUENCY RESPONSE<sup>4</sup></b>              |                    |         |               |     |                                    |
| Bandwidth $X_{OUT}$ , $Y_{OUT}$ <sup>5</sup>       | No external filter |         | 1600          |     | Hz                                 |
| Bandwidth $Z_{OUT}$ <sup>5</sup>                   | No external filter |         | 550           |     | Hz                                 |
| $R_{FILT}$ Tolerance                               |                    |         | $32 \pm 15\%$ |     | k $\Omega$                         |
| Sensor Resonant Frequency                          |                    |         | 5.5           |     | kHz                                |



# Design Issues with Sensors

- Calibration
  - Relating measurements to the physical phenomenon
  - Can dramatically increase manufacturing costs
- Nonlinearity
  - Measurements may not be proportional to physical phenomenon
  - Correction may be required
  - Feedback can be used to keep operating point in the linear region
- Sampling
  - Aliasing
  - Missed events
- Noise
  - Analog signal conditioning
  - Digital filtering
  - Introduces latency
- Failures
  - Redundancy (sensor fusion problem)
  - Attacks (e.g. Stuxnet attack)



# Faults in Sensors

- Sensors are physical devices
- Like all physical devices, they suffer wear and tear, and can have manufacturing defects
- Cannot assume that *all* sensors on a system will work correctly at *all* times
- Solution: Use redundancy
- → □ However, must be careful *how* you use it!



# Violent Pitching of Qantas Flight 72 (VH-QPA)

- An Airbus A330 en-route from Singapore to Perth on 7 October 2008
- Started pitching violently, unrestrained passengers hit the ceiling, 12 serious injuries, so counts it as an accident.
- Three Angle Of Attack (AOA) sensors, one on left (#1), two on right (#2, #3) of nose.
- Have to deal with inaccuracies, different positions, gusts/spikes, failures.

[Rushby, 2002]





# A330 AOA Sensor Processing

- ❑ Sampled at 20Hz
- ❑ Compare each sensor to the median of the three
- ❑ If difference is larger than some threshold for more than 1 second, flag as faulty and ignore for remainder of flight
- ❑ Assuming all three are OK, use mean of #1 and #2 (because they are on different sides)
- ❑ If the difference between #1 or #2 and the median is larger than some (presumably smaller) threshold, use previous *average* value for 1.2 seconds
- ❑ Failure scenario: two spikes in #1, first shorter than 1 second, second still present 1.2 seconds after detection of first
- ❑ Result: flight control computers commanding a nose-down aircraft movement, which resulted in the aircraft pitching down to a maximum of about 8.5 degrees



# How to deal with Sensor Errors

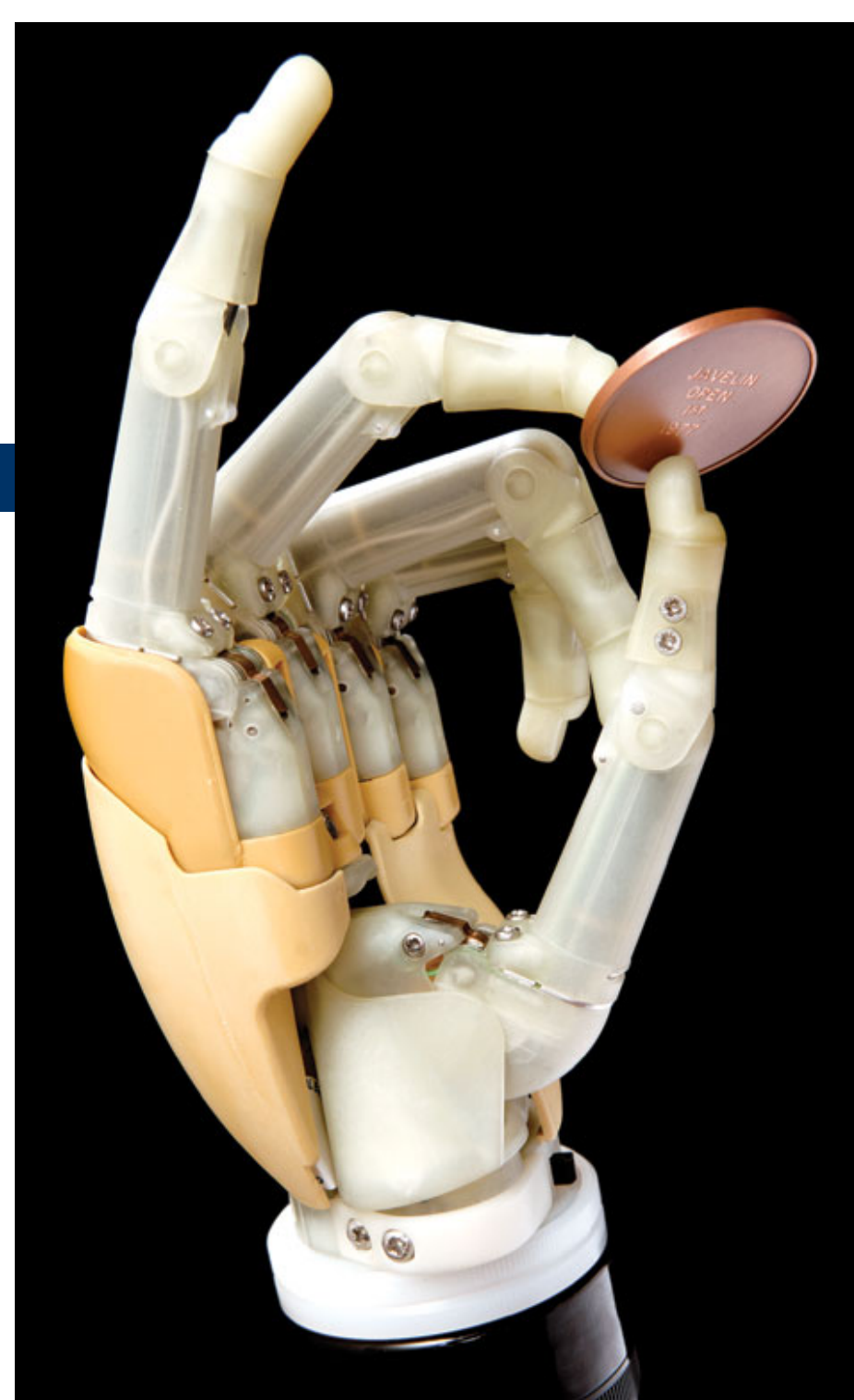
- Difficult Problem, still research to be done
- Possible approach: Intelligent sensor communicates an
- **interval**, not a point value
- • Width of interval indicates confidence, health of sensor





# Motor Controllers

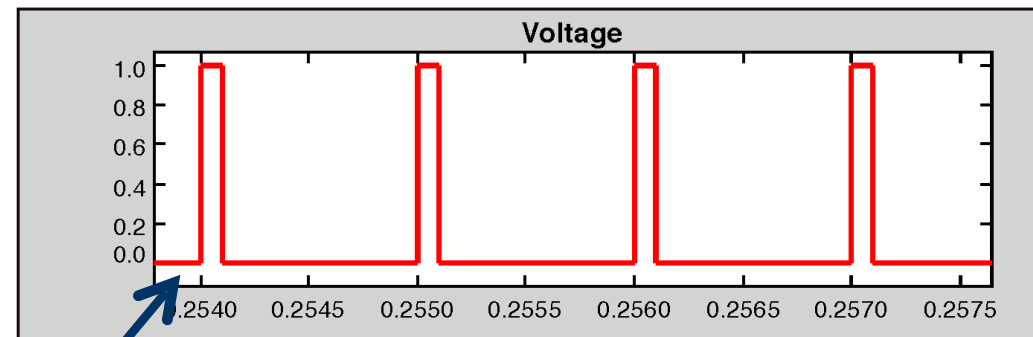
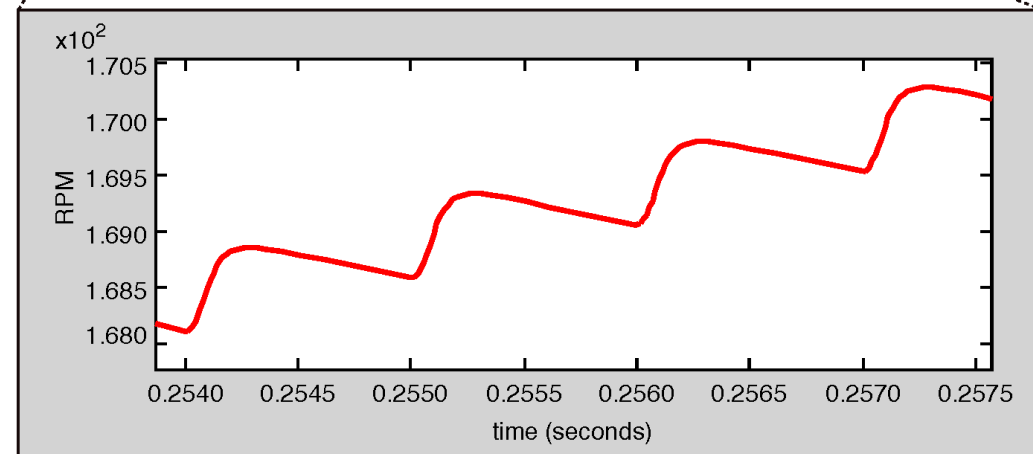
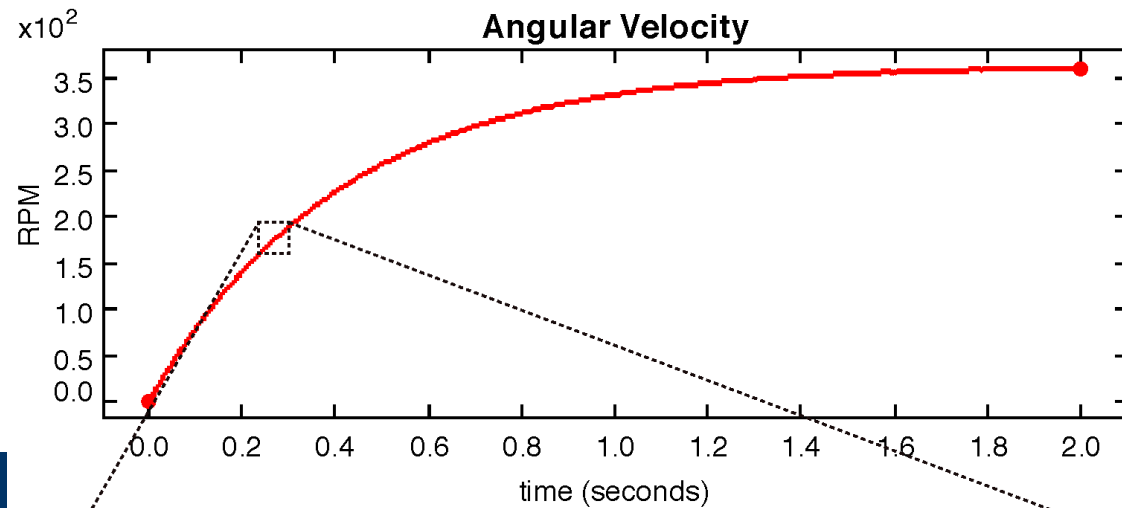
- Bionic hand from Touch Bionics costs \$18,500, has and five DC motors, can grab a paper cup without crushing it, and turn a key in a lock. It is controlled by nerve impulses of the user's arm, combined with autonomous control to adapt to the shape of whatever it is grasping. Source: IEEE Spectrum, Oct. 2007.





## Pulse-Width Modulation (PWM)

• Delivering power to actuators can be challenging. If the device tolerates rapid on-off controls (“bang-bang” control), then delivering power becomes much easier.



Duty cycle around 10%



# Model of a Motor

- Electrical Model:

$$v(t) = Ri(t) + L \frac{di(t)}{dt} + k_b \omega(t)$$

Back electromagnetic  
force constant

Angular velocity

- Mechanical Model (angular version of Newton's second law):

$$I \frac{d\omega(t)}{dt} = k_T i(t) - \eta \omega(t) - \tau(t)$$

Moment of  
inertia

Torque  
constant

Friction

Load  
torque



# Summary for Lecture

- ❑ Overview of Sensors and Actuators
- ❑ How Accelerometers work
- ❑ Affine Model of Sensors
- ❑ Bias and Sensitivity
- ❑ Faults in Sensors
- ❑ Brief Overview of Actuators