

**Module Description, available in: EN***Model predictive control***General Information****Number of ECTS Credits**

3

**Module code**

TSM\_PredContr

**Valid for academic year**

2025-26

**Last modification**

2024-10-08

**Coordinator of the module**

Konrad Stadler (ZHAW, stdl@zhaw.ch)

**Explanations regarding the language definitions for each location:**

- Instruction is given in the language defined below for each location/each time the module is held.
- Documentation is available in the languages defined below. Where documents are in several languages, the percentage distribution is shown (100% = all the documentation).
- The examination is available 100% in the languages shown for each location/each time it is held.

|                      | Lausanne |  |  | Lugano | Zurich   |  |  |
|----------------------|----------|--|--|--------|----------|--|--|
| <b>Instruction</b>   |          |  |  |        | X E 100% |  |  |
| <b>Documentation</b> |          |  |  |        | X E 100% |  |  |
| <b>Examination</b>   |          |  |  |        | X E 100% |  |  |

**Module Category**

TSM Technical scientific module

**Lessons**

2 lecture periods and 1 tutorial period per week

**Entry level competences****Prerequisites, previous knowledge**

- Linear Algebra
- Differential equations
- Basic feedback control and dynamic systems
- Basic programming skills in Matlab or Python or equivalent
- General affinity to mathematics(!)

## Brief course description of module objectives and content

Model Predictive Control (MPC) is an optimisation-based approach to control systems and processes. The general mathematical formulation of MPC allows it to be applied to a broad range of systems and considers system constraints intrinsically. The advances in optimisation methods and available computational power have made MPC a valuable alternative to classical control approaches also for fast dynamic systems. Today, MPC applications can be found from the original chemical process control systems to the control of frequency converters with sampling periods down to a few microseconds.

This module focuses on introducing MPC from the theoretical basics to the use of tool kits to support the implementation and generation of working code. As the classical frequency domain control methods are not considered here, this module does not need in-depth knowledge of control systems. A general affinity to mathematics and programming skills are beneficial.

## Aims, content, methods

### Learning objectives and acquired competencies

The student is able to

- formulate an optimisation problem and solve it with appropriate tool kits
- formulate model predictive control problems
- apply MPC concepts to real world systems and generate executable code which runs on their control systems

### Contents of module with emphasis on teaching content

Basic concepts ( 3W)

- Introduction to state space models in continuous and discrete time
- Introduction to optimisation (linear quadratic programs) using tool kits like YALMIP
- Introduction to optimisation with constraints

Basic MPC (3W)

- Linear MPC problem formulation
- Receding horizon concepts
- Limits of MPC

MPC Extensions and examples (5W)

- Reference tracking
- Error free tracking
- Nonlinear optimisation and MPC with nonlinear models
- Buck converter control (explicit MPC) -- optional
- Energy management (scheduling) -- optional

Real-time implementation(3W)

- From problem to code using tool kits like ACADO

### Teaching and learning methods

Lectures with homework assignments which are a mix of theoretical exercises and programming assignments.

### Literature

Comprehensive lecture notes are available.

## Assessment

### Additional performance assessment during the semester

The module does not contain an additional performance assessment during the semester

### Basic principle for exams

As a rule, all the standard final exams for modules and also all resit exams are to be in written form

#### Standard final exam for a module and written resit exam

Kind of exam

written

Duration of exam

120 minutes

Permissible aids

*Aids permitted as specified below:*

**Permissible electronic aids**

Personal PC with Matlab/Simulink

**Other permissible aids**

Open book

**Exception: In case of an electronic Moodle exam, adjustments to the permissible aids may occur. Lecturers will announce the final permissible aids prior to the exam session.**

#### Special case: Resit exam as oral exam

Kind of exam

oral

Duration of exam

30 minutes

Permissible aids

*Aids permitted as specified below:*

**Permissible electronic aids**

Personal PC with Matlab/Simulink

**Other permissible aids**

Open book