



Control of Spacecraft and Aircraft

By Arthur E. Bryson

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Here a leading researcher provides a comprehensive treatment of the design of automatic control logic for spacecraft and aircraft. In this book Arthur Bryson describes the linear-quadratic-regulator (LQR) method of feedback control synthesis, which coordinates multiple controls, producing graceful maneuvers comparable to those of an expert pilot.

The first half of the work is about attitude control of rigid and flexible spacecraft using momentum wheels, spin, fixed thrusters, and gimbaled engines. Guidance for nearly circular orbits is discussed. The second half is about aircraft attitude and flight path control. This section discusses autopilot designs for cruise, climb-descent, coordinated turns, and automatic landing. One chapter deals with controlling helicopters near hover, and another offers an introduction to the stabilization of aeroelastic instabilities. Throughout the book there is a strong emphasis on the mathematical modeling necessary for designing a good feedback control system. The appendixes summarize analysis of linear dynamic systems, synthesis of analog and digital feedback control, simulation, and modeling of flexible vehicles.

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