Topics Course for Winter 2015:
Networked Control Systems

MTH 610, (3 credits).
T TH 10:00-11:15
Room: NH 346

Description: We will cover topics from networked systems theory, a very active area of research in control theory during the last decade, at the intersection of graph theory and dynamical systems. The emergence of cheap sensors and mechanical systems capable of short-range communications and local decision-making has raised a number of control systems questions regarding decentralized control approaches.

These systems called networked dynamical systems are modeled as graphs with a dynamical system at each node. Those dynamical systems communicate and interact with each other via the arcs of the graph and the goal is to study the collective behavior resulting from such communication and interactions.

The course will focus on three main issues: (1) network models (graphs, switching networks), (2) Decentralized Control (communications and control resources in a networked system), and (3) Multi-agent systems (consensus, formation control).

Depending on interest, the second term (Winter 2015) may continue with additional topics in sensing, expand on mobile robotics, or develop hierarchical control systems.

Prerequisites: The preferred prerequisite is Mth 477/577 (Mathematical Control Theory). However, any of the engineering control courses (ME 552, 553, ECE 551, 552) would be more than adequate. Students without control systems background but with sufficient mathematical maturity from courses in differential equations are welcome. Please contact the instructor for details.

Main Textbook: Graph Theoretic Methods in Multiagents networks, by Mehran Mesbahi and Magnus Egerstedt. Many topics will come from this text. Other necessary background and any additional topics will be presented in class.

Place in the curriculum: Counts as part of a 3-term sequence for the MS in mathematics, and for the PhD program in Mathematical Sciences. For other programs please contact your adviser.

Instructor: Prof. Gerardo Lafferriere

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