
REVIEWED BY ROBERT W. KOLKKA

The text Mathematical Models is the result of the author's construction of a first course in applied mathematics at Rutgers University. Mechanical vibrations, population dynamics, and traffic flow were chosen to illustrate the application of mathematics. The treatment of each area is entirely self-contained, and requires no previous exposure to any of the physical content of the material. A knowledge of a standard calculus sequence and ordinary differential equations is presupposed, but certain critical aspects are reviewed. In each of the three areas the major emphasis is on the nonlinear aspects of the phenomena.

The treatment of mechanical vibrations is basically that which can be found in the first few chapters of any standard "physicist" text on classical mechanics. Newton's laws are presented in the usual manner with the common misconception that the law of momentum of momentum is a subsidiary derived principle, arising from the rate of change of linear momentum coupled with the existence of pairwiseequilibrated forces (prob. 14.4 in text). The spring-mass systems and pendulum problems are presented in detail in full enlightening detail, much more so than in any standard text on the subject. The nonlinear systems are emphasized and analyzed by phase plane methods. The phase plane method presented differs from the standard treatments in that it is complete. Important points such as, for example, distinguishing between isoclines and solution curves, are well clarified. In my opinion, as one who studies rational mechanics (yes, classical mechanics is still alive, well, and living at Lehigh University), the treatment of the pendulum problem is excellent. Comparison (of the phase plane methods) to other methods such as the "Liapunov direct method," etc. are unfortunately omitted, perhaps due to level of presentation and the author's orientation as an applied mathematician.

The mathematical models presented in the section on population dynamics are crude (for those Biologists interested in the text), but they have to be as such, as the author explains in substantial detail. Discrete models are presented, in light of which sections on solving constant coefficient difference equations, both first and second order are set forth in a very straightforward fashion. Continuous models are also used, both density dependent and logistic. Mutualism, competition, and predator-prey models are analyzed in the phase plane in much the same manner as were mechanical systems. The stability analysis presented in this section is quite good, points such as the destabilizing influence of time delays are illustrated.

The approach to traffic flow is that of the continuous one-dimensional model which is contained in a book by G. B. Whitham, as opposed to 12 pages in Whitham's book), as an example, the author consumes sixteen pages to develop \( \frac{d \rho}{d t} + \frac{d \rho}{d x} \neq 0 \), where \( \rho \) is the density and \( u \) the velocity field. Functional relations between the velocity field and density field proposed, and compared with actual data from the Merrit Parkway and Lincoln Tunnel. Steady state car following models are discussed. The most important part, in view of engineering science is that the equation, \( \frac{d \rho}{d t} + C \frac{d \rho}{d x} = 0 \), is discussed in total entirety; linearization and the consequences thereof are examined. The method of characteristics is examined thoroughly, with a detailed discussion of shocks. Inclusion of problems, such as: traffic light turns green, uniform traffic stopped by a red light, and effect of traffic being stopped momentarily, helps elucidate matters.

The overall presentation is greatly enhanced by the inclusion of innumerable figures and illustrations throughout the book. The book serves its purpose well, and it should be noted that although the techniques are developed in light of the chosen topics, they apply to many facets of engineering science. Systems analysis in population dynamics is exactly the same as it is in engineering controls, and traffic flow serves as an excellent introduction to gas dynamics.

AUTOMATIC CONTROL SYSTEMS, by Richard M. Phelan.

REVIEWED BY S. H. JOHNSON

The books reviewed for this Journal are usually in print and some have been for years. In this case a publisher has provided the journal with a galleys copy of a yet-to-be-released textbook on classical control system design. The book review process does not readily accommodate either such a document or the publishers hope that a review will promptly appear in the journal. There are two difficulties. The only compensation granted the reviewer is the copy of the book reviewed. A proof copy is considerably less compensatory than the final hardbound volume. Reviewers are usually slow as is the entire process. It is not unusual for a year to elapse from reviewers receipt of a book to publication of a review. There is also a shortage of the reader's point of view: from a proof copy, no judgments can be made concerning appearance, paper and printing quality, or physical construction. The most noteworthy attribute of one recently reviewed book was that its pages fell out after modest use. The above notwithstanding, a review follows.

This book is described by the publisher as being, "a revolu-
Automatic control. Quite the same Wikipedia. Just better. Automatic control in engineering and technology is a wide generic term covering the application of mechanisms to the operation and regulation of processes without continuous direct human intervention. It covers the range of application from a household thermostat controlling a boiler, to a large industrial control system with tens of thousands of input measurements and output control signals. Automatic Control Systems. Lecture-1 Introduction. Dr. Yehia EL Mashad TA: Eng. Ahmed Ù Abdelalim. Automatic control theory. A Course. used for analyzing and designing. automatic control systems. Brief history of automatic control (I). Control means measuring the value of controlled variable of the system and applying the manipulated variable to the system to correct or limit the deviation of the measured value from a desired value. Definitions. Input or Set point or reference. Automatic Control Systems - Part I: Block Diagrams and Transfer Functions. Instructor: Shih-Min Hsu, Ph.D., P.E. 2012. In recent years, control systems have gained an increasingly importance in the development and advancement of the modern civilization and technology. Figure 1-1 shows the basic components of a control system. Disregard the complexity of the system, it consists of an input (objective), the control system and its output (result).