



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DI BERGAMO

Dipartimento  
di Ingegneria Gestionale,  
dell'Informazione e della Produzione

## Lesson 2.

# Dynamical Systems: Introduction and classification

CONTROL AND MODELING OF  
BIOLOGICAL SYSTEMS

MASTER DEGREE IN  
MEDICAL ENGINEERING

TEACHER

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PLACE

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# Outline

1. Introduction to dynamical systems
2. Classification of dynamical systems

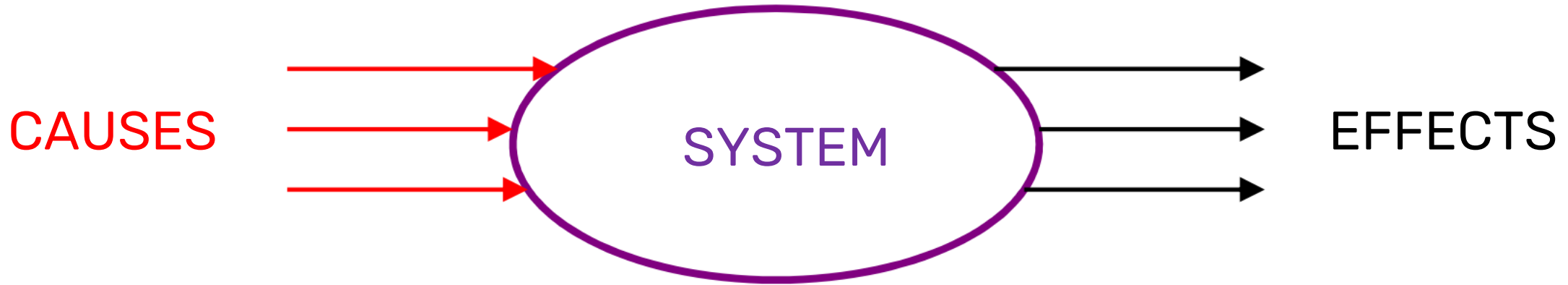


# Outline

- 1. Introduction to dynamical systems**
2. Classification of dynamical systems



# Dynamic Systems

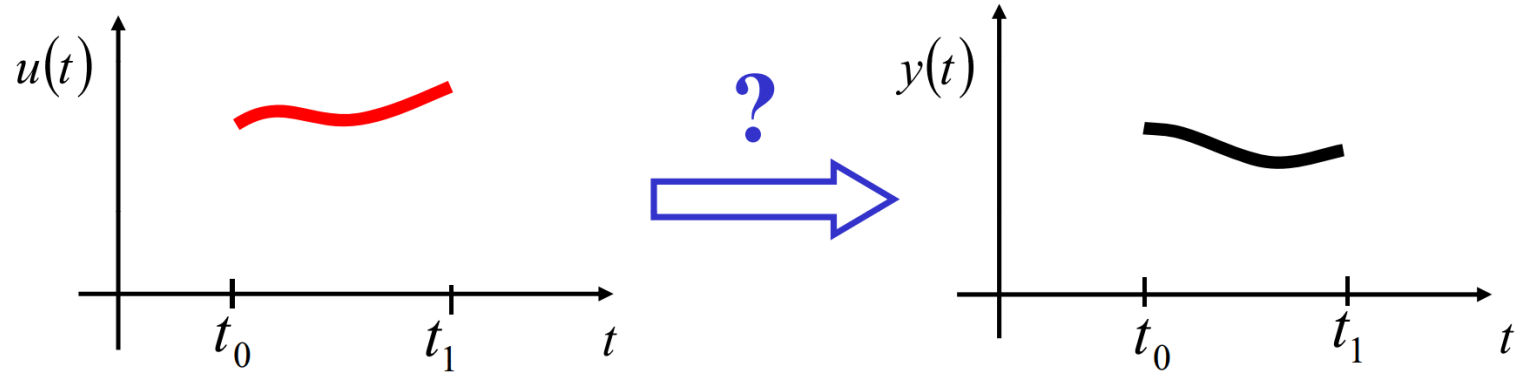
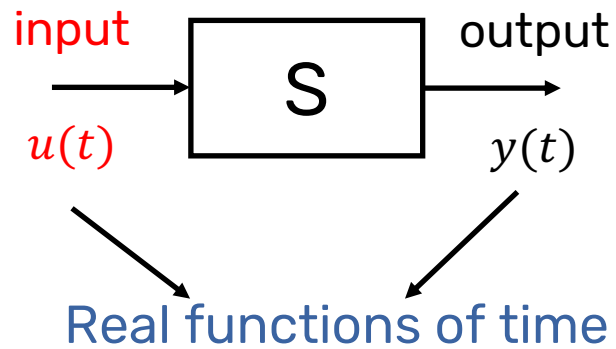


A dynamic system is an agent that interacts with the surrounding world, by means of some **causes (inputs)** operating on it and which determines some **effects (outputs)**, that are the answer of the system to such stimulations.

We need mathematical models to describe systems.

# Dynamic Systems

What does **dynamic** means?



The knowledge of the input at time  $t$  **is not enough** to univocally determine the value of the output at time  $t$ .

We need some kind of memory. What kind of mathematical relation can express it?

# What is a mathematical model?

- **Mathematical models** are mathematical objects that can be used to describe, analyze, simulate the behavior of a dynamic system.
- **Dynamic systems:** phenomena or physical systems whose properties change with time.
  - The spread of an infectious disease: **phenomenon**.
  - Dynamic of an airplane: **physical system**.
- A mathematical model is a **set of equations** that explains the relation between the variable involved in the phenomenon/system.
- They represent only a simplified version of the real phenomena.

# Mathematical Models Classification

- **Continuous-time model:** set of **differential equations** that describes the dynamical behavior of a phenomenon/system over time  $t \in \mathbb{R}$
- **Discrete-time model:** set of **difference equations** that describes the dynamical behavior of a phenomenon/system over time  $t \in \mathbb{Z}$
- **Static model:** simple static equation that describes the behavior of a phenomenon/system without considering the relation between time instants (i.e. Ohm's Law:  $v = R * i$ )

# Example 1: SIR model

- Mathematical models describing the spread of an Infectious Disease (*Kermack and McKendrick, 1927*)
- $S(t)$ : **susceptible** subjects (not infected) at time  $t$
- $I(t)$ : **infected** subjects at time  $t$
- $R(t)$ : **removed** subjects at time  $t$  (either **recovered** or **dead**, cannot be infected again)
- $N$ : constant number of subjects in the population

$$N = S(t) + I(t) + R(t), \forall t \geq 0$$



# Example 1: SIR model

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{S}(t) &= -\frac{\beta S(t)I(t)}{N} \\ \dot{I}(t) &= \frac{\beta S(t)I(t)}{N} - \gamma I(t) \\ \dot{R}(t) &= \gamma I(t)\end{aligned}$$

Infections rate

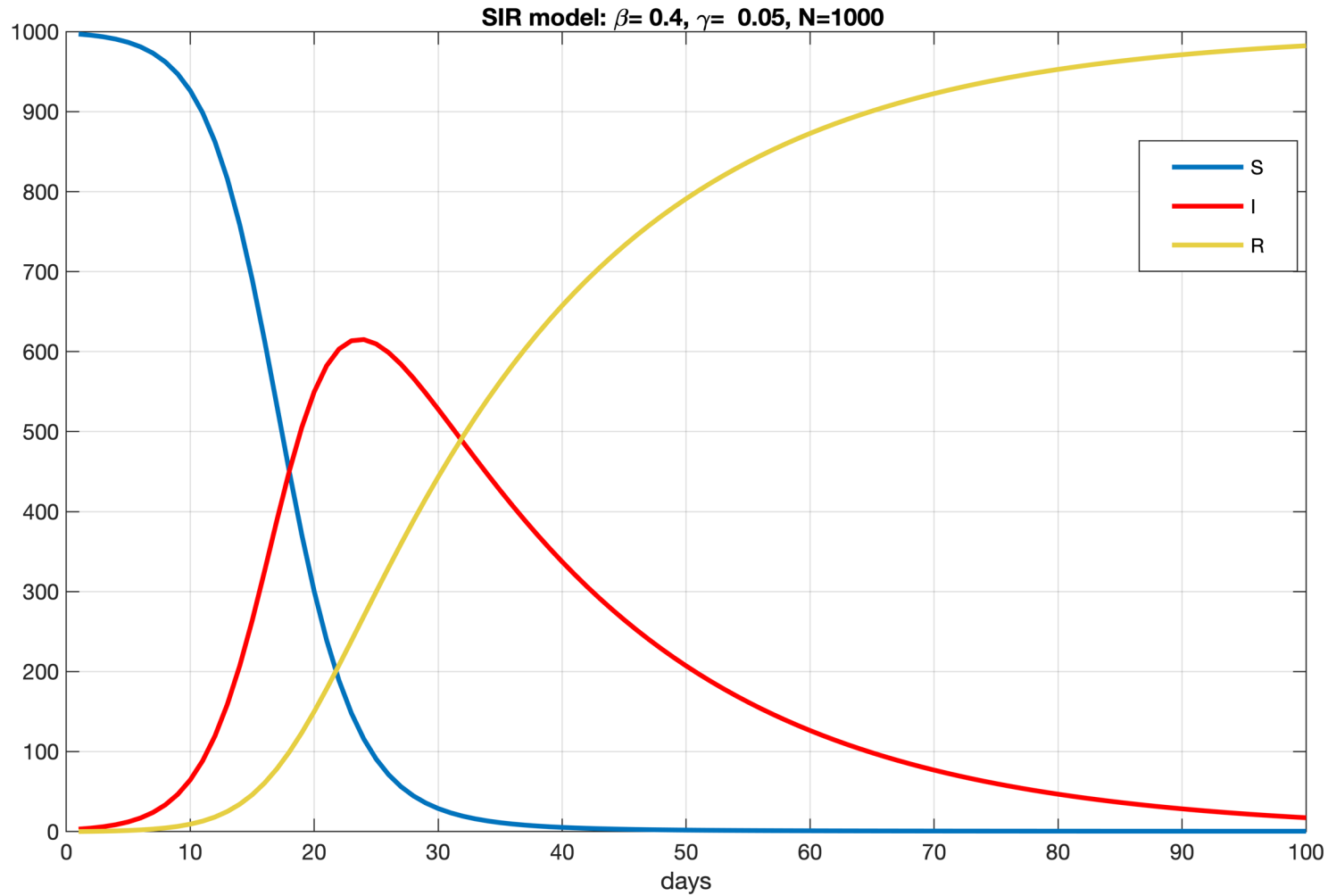
Recovered/death rate

$$R_0 = \frac{\beta}{\gamma}$$

**Basic reproduction number:** the spread of an infectious disease starts if  $>1$

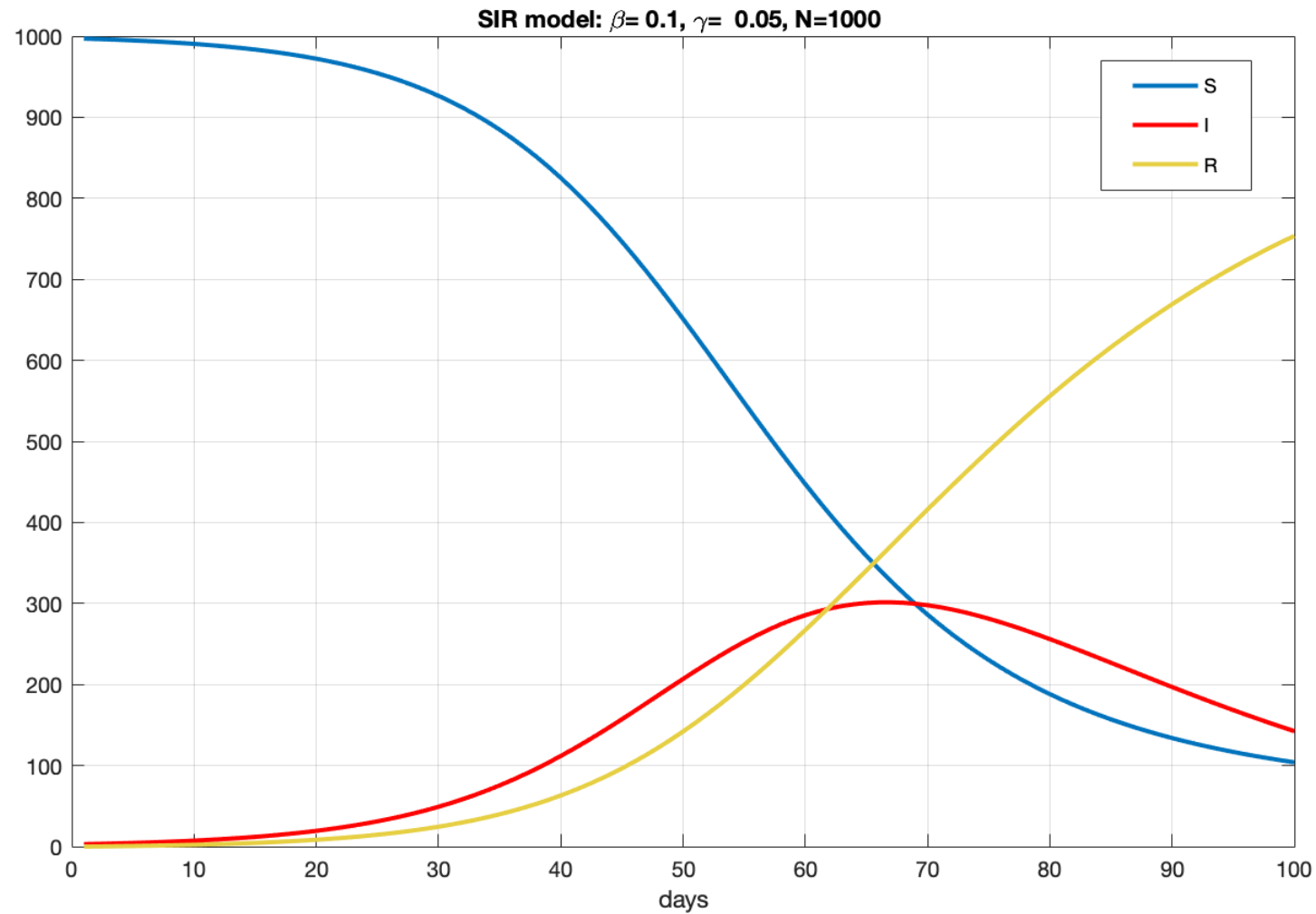
$$\dot{S} = \frac{dS}{dt}, \quad \dot{I} = \frac{dI}{dt}, \quad \dot{R} = \frac{dR}{dt}$$

# Example 1: SIR model



$$\beta = 0.4, \quad \gamma = 0.05$$

# Example 1: SIR model



$$\beta = 0.1, \quad \gamma = 0.05$$

Flattening the curve with  
social distancing...

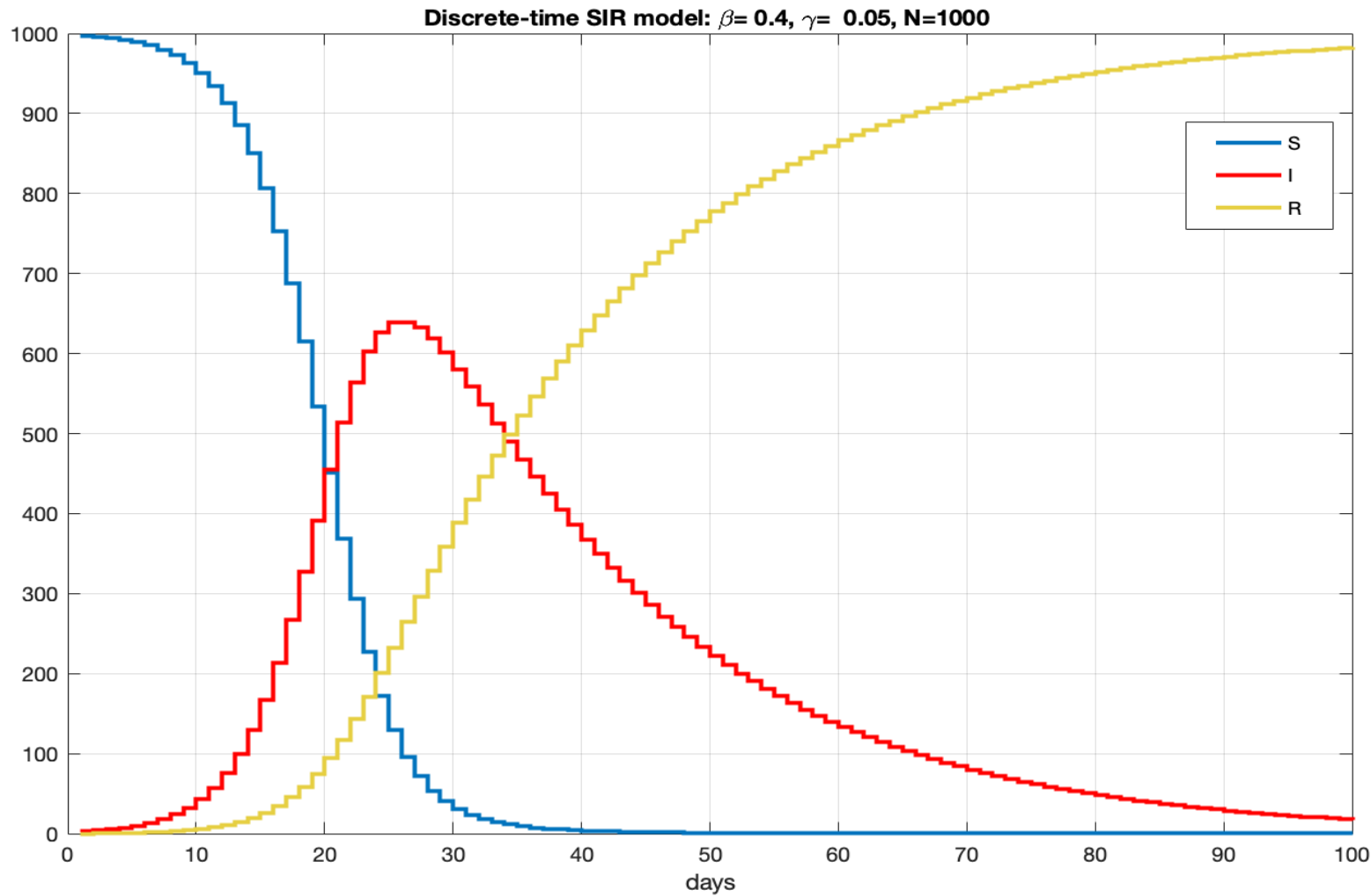
# Example 2: SIR model in discrete time

Difference equations

$$\begin{aligned}S(t + 1) &= S(t) - \frac{\beta S(t)I(t)}{N} \\I(t + 1) &= I(t) + \frac{\beta S(t)I(t)}{N} - \gamma I(t) \\R(t + 1) &= R(t) + \gamma I(t)\end{aligned}$$

**Future values of S, I, R depend on the past**

# Example 2: SIR model in discrete time



$t$  is the time step

In this case  $t = 1$  day

# Example 2: SIR model in discrete time

- SIR models are a simplified mathematical generalization of a certain phenomenon (seasonal flu, COVID, Ebola outbreaks, etc.).
- A lot of assumptions are made in order to make such a model work
  - *$N$  is constant*
  - *Every infected subject needs the same time to recover or die.*
- Without assumption, models would be more complex (i.e. a flight simulators, F1 simulators, weather forecast models, etc.).
- A complex model is not always the best choice.

**“All models are wrong, but some are useful”**



# Input and Output variables

- SIR models are **autonomous systems**: their variables evolve “by themselves”, there is no external action on the system.
- In general, dynamic systems are subject to the action of external signals (that do not depend on the dynamic of the system), which manipulate their behavior.
  - **Controlled Input**: external signals that one can manipulate to make a system behave as one desire. They can be manipulated
  - **Disturbances**: unwanted external signals that one cannot manipulate. They can either be eliminated or not.
- We can also define the **output** of a system as the outcome of the phenomenon that can be measured.

# Take a shower....

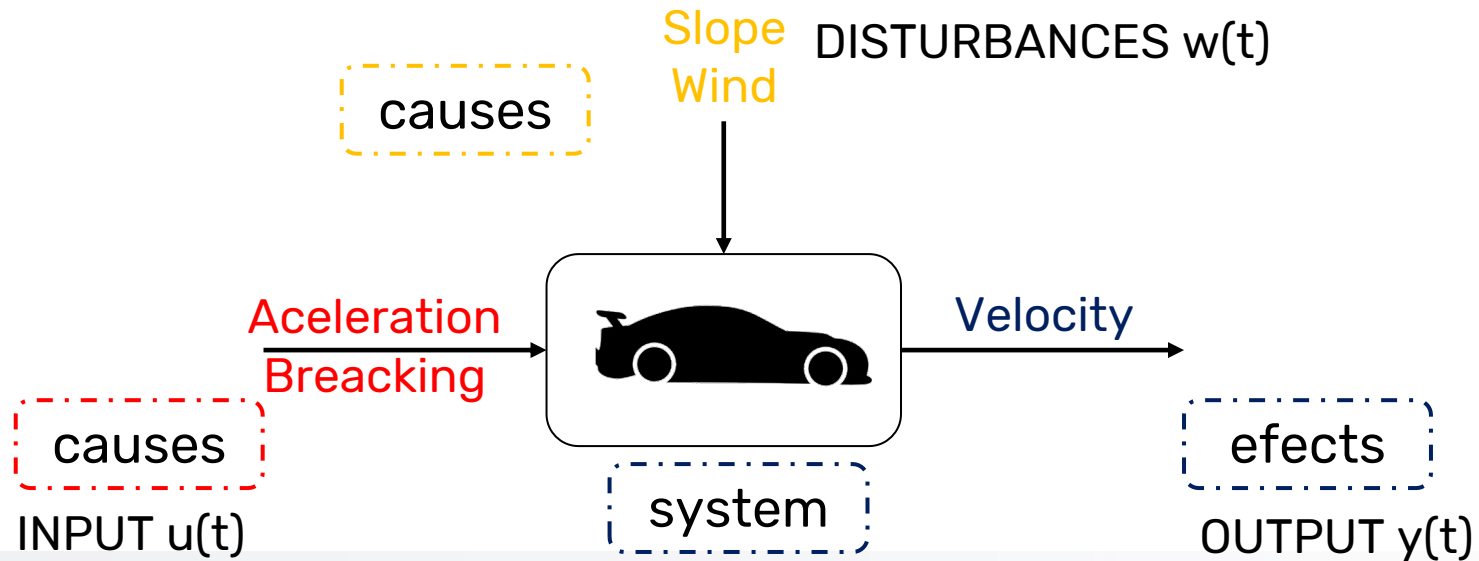


- **Outputs:** Total water flow and temperature.
- **Controlled inputs:** hot and cold water handles position
- **Disturbances:** inlet water flows, temperature

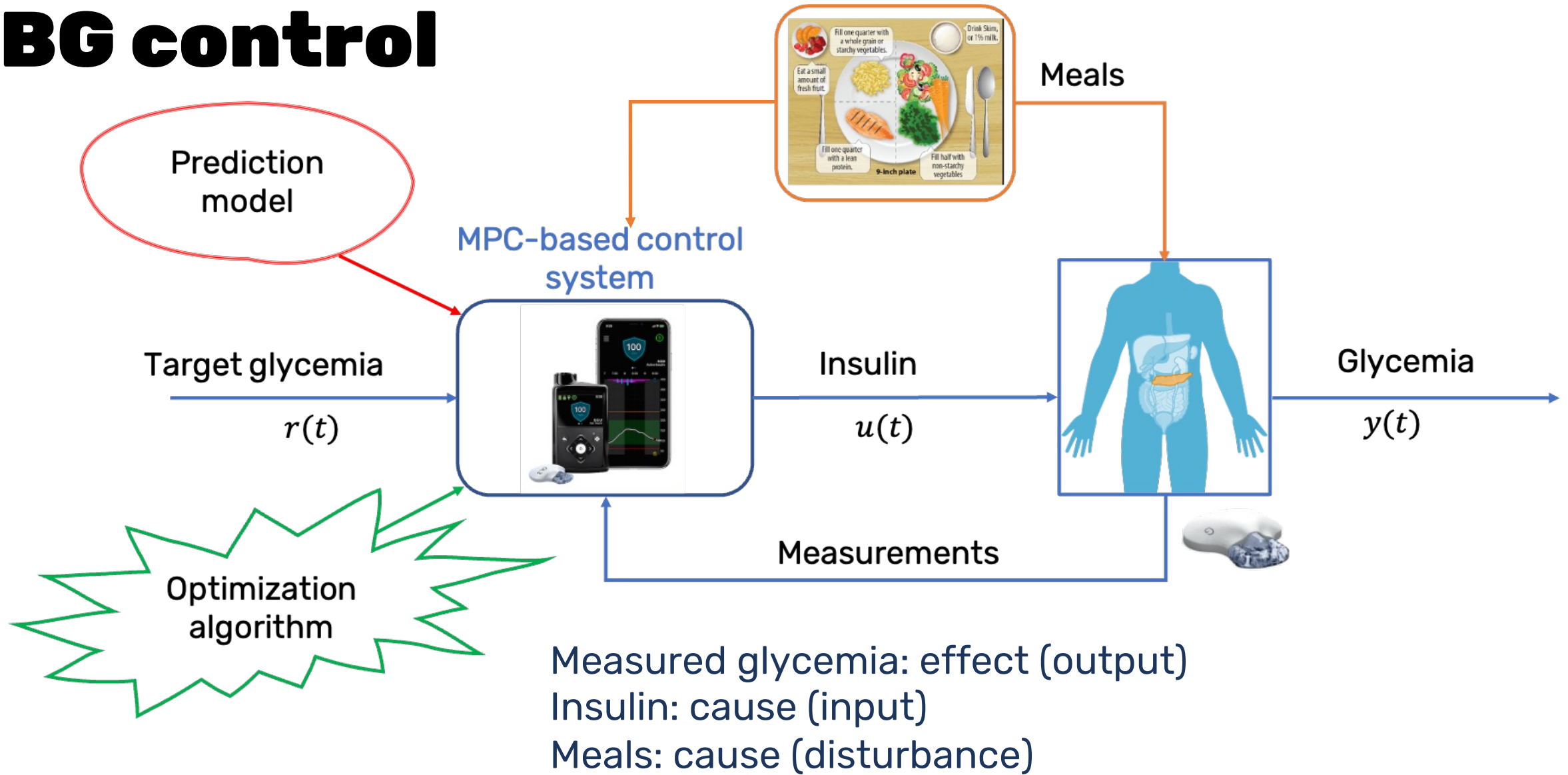


# Drive a car...

Let's suppose we want a model of a car for programming cruise control algorithm



# BG control



# Example 3: SIR model with vaccination

- Let  $v(t)$  define the rate of susceptible subjects vaccinated at time  $t$

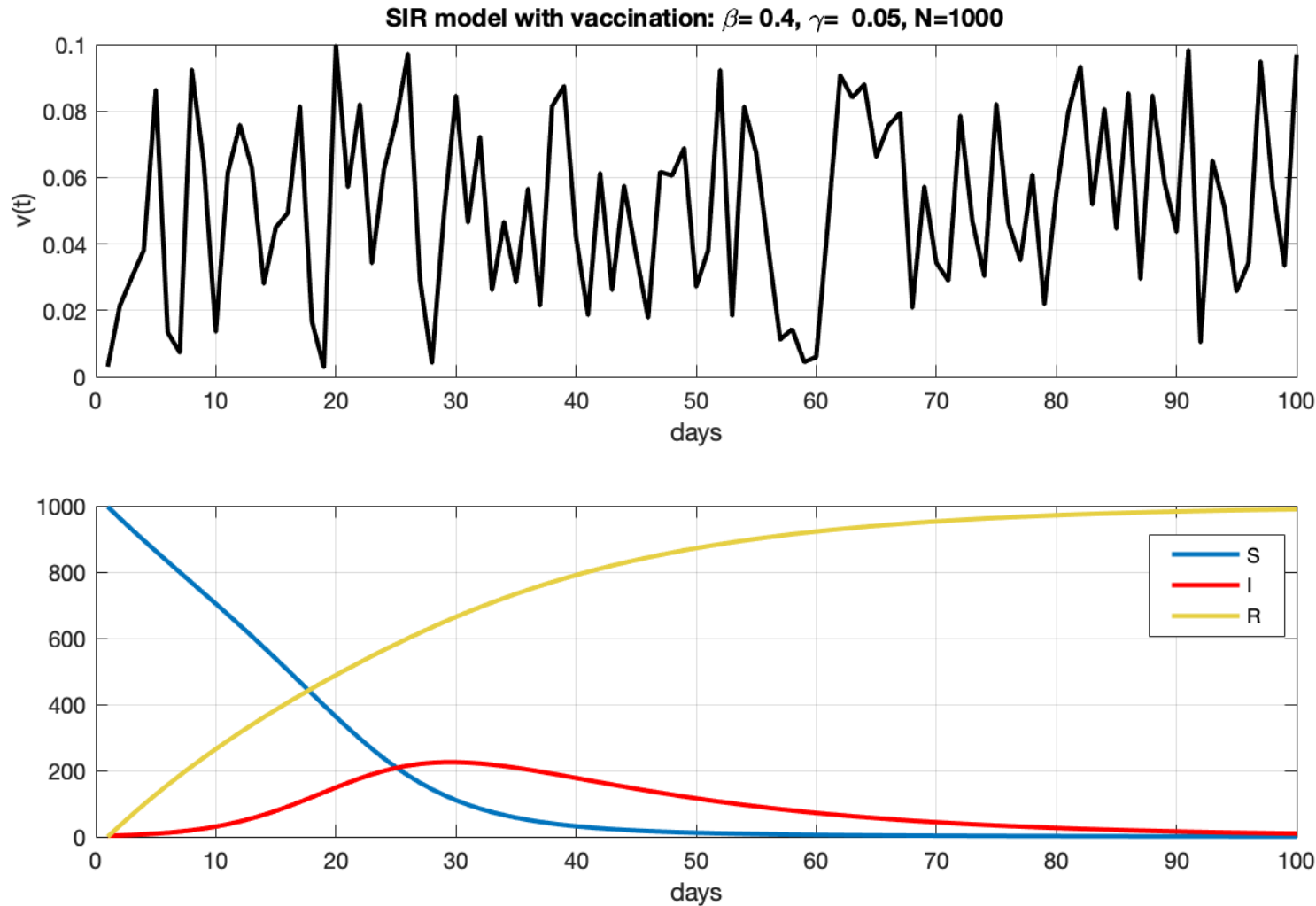
$$\dot{S}(t) = -\frac{\beta S(t)I(t)}{N} - v(t)S(t)$$

$$\dot{I}(t) = \frac{\beta S(t)I(t)}{N} - \gamma I(t)$$

$$\dot{R}(t) = \gamma I(t) + v(t)S(t)$$

- $v(t)$  manipulates the behavior of the SIR system

# Example 3: SIR model with vaccination

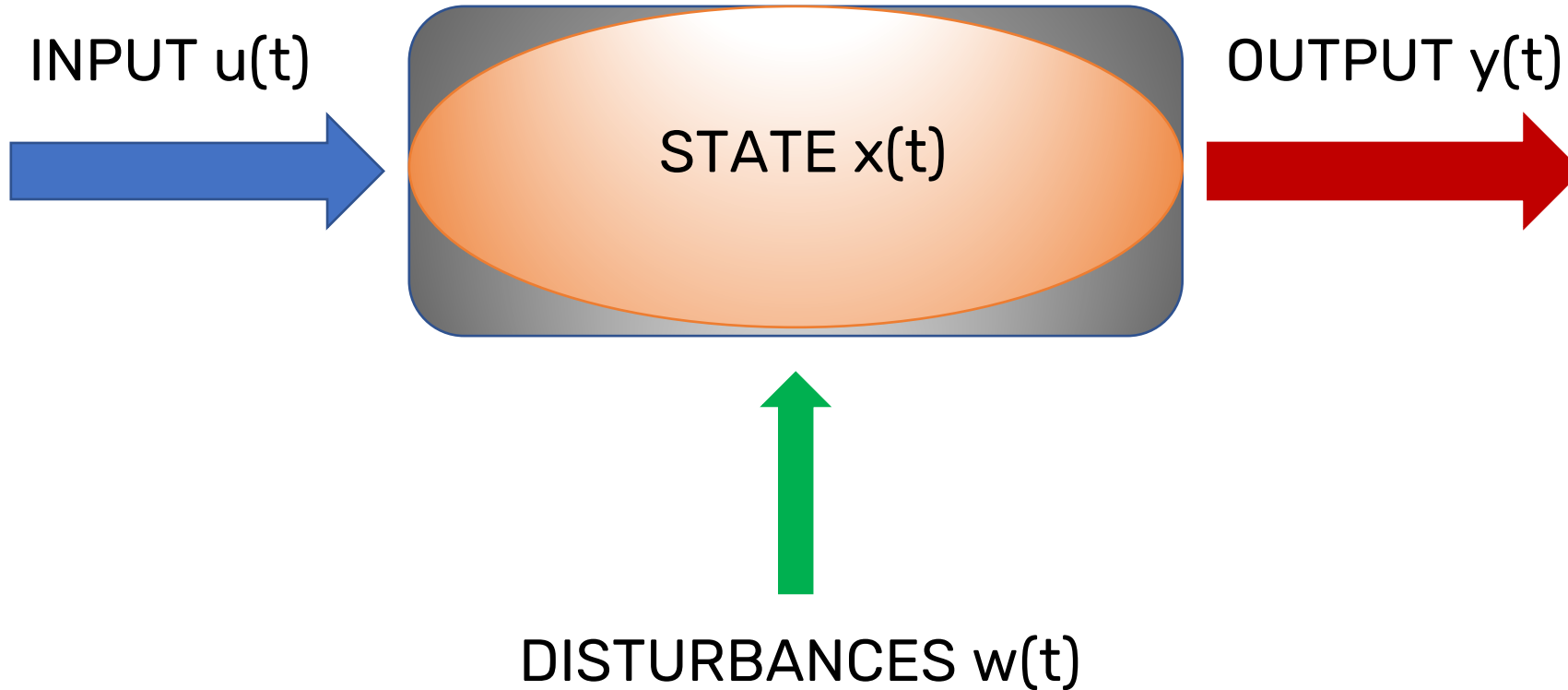


- The number of infected is reduced by manipulating the number of susceptibles through **vaccinations**
- If  $v(t)$  is controlled by a user, it is a **controlled input** of the system

# State variables

- SIR models are characterized by three main variables,  $S(t)$ ,  $I(t)$ ,  $R(t)$ , which perfectly describe the phenomenon/system at a certain time  $t$ .
- These variables are called the **state of the system**.
- These variables are **internal variables** and may be infinite. They provide a **picture** of the system at time  $t$ .
- The state describes the **dynamic** of the system.
- State variables may or may not be measurable. In this last case, we can estimate the state (or a part of it) based on the **known input-output** model.

# Graphical representation



# Generic internal representation

A generic **state-space** continuous time model is described by the following set of equations:

$$\dot{x}(t) = f(x(t), u(t))$$

$$y(t) = g(x(t), u(t))$$

Where:

$x \in \mathbb{R}^n$  is the **state** of the system

$u \in \mathbb{R}^m$  is the **input** of the system

$y \in \mathbb{R}^p$  is the **output** of the system

$f(\cdot, \cdot) : \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  is the **state equation** (a system of eq. in fact)

$g(\cdot, \cdot) : \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^p$  is the **output transformation**

# Generic internal representation

- For our SIR model:

$$x(t) = \begin{bmatrix} S(t) \\ I(t) \\ R(t) \end{bmatrix}, \quad u(t) = v, \quad f(x(t), u(t)) = \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{\beta S(t)I(t)}{N} - v(t)S(t) \\ \frac{\beta S(t)I(t)}{N} - \gamma I(t) \\ \gamma I(t) + v(t)S(t) \end{bmatrix}$$

- We can also define an output  $H(t)$  as the number of known infected

$$y(t) = H(t), \quad g(x(t), u(t)) = aI(t) + b(S(t) + R(t))$$

Where  $a$  is the rate of the reported case and  $b$  is the rate of diagnosis errors.



# Dynamical System Identification

Models that describe complex phenomena are not easy to be found.

To create a model a very **good knowledge of the problem** is required as well as a **good knowledge of the dynamical system theory**.

An alternative is to use specific sets of **input-output data** obtained from experiments, to infer the underline models by means of specific algorithms.

## ***DYNAMICAL SYSTEM IDENTIFICATION***



# Outline

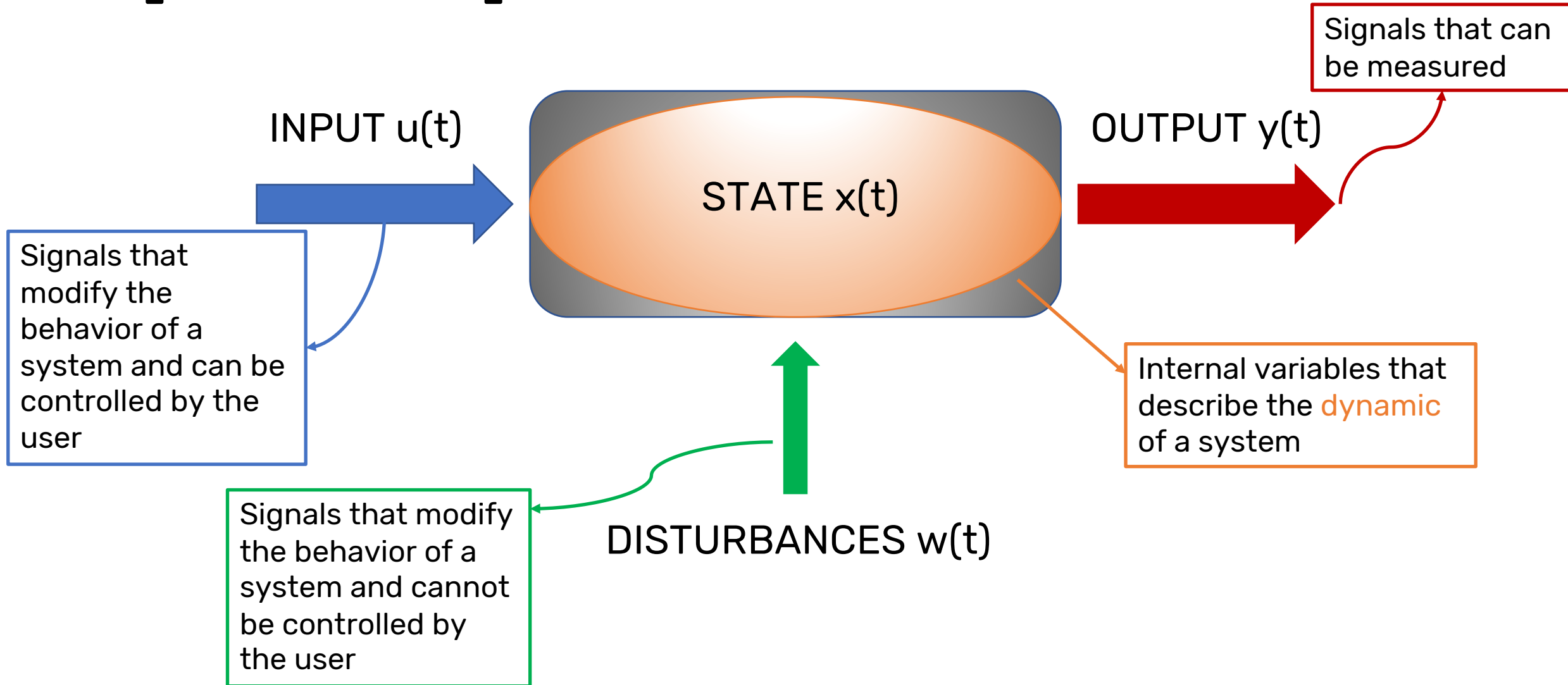
1. Introduction to dynamical systems
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# What is a mathematical model?

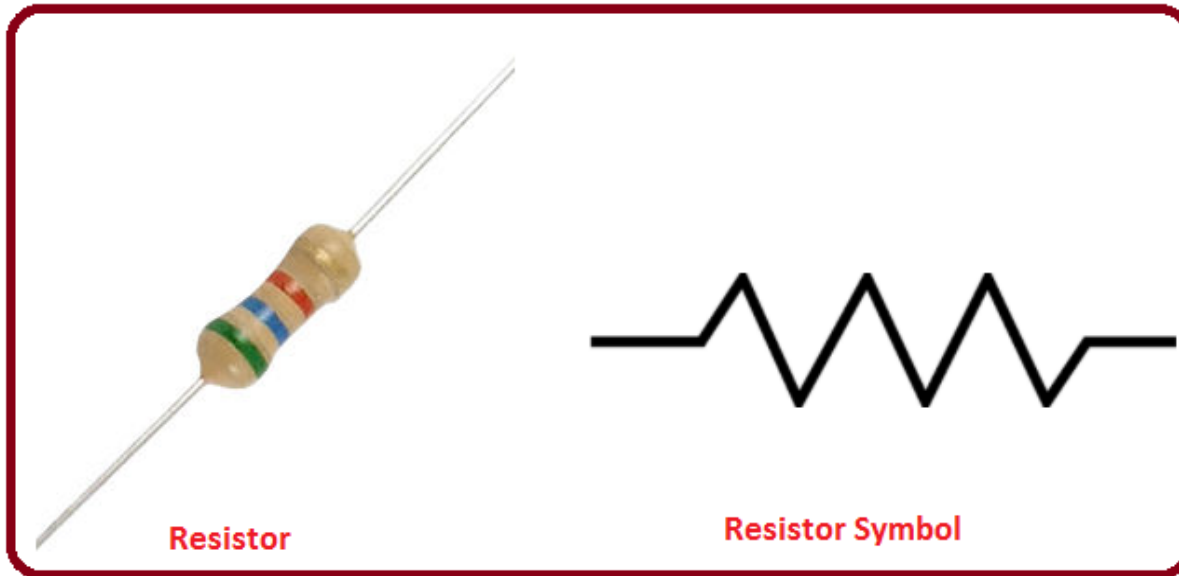
- **Mathematical models** are mathematical objects that can be used to describe, analyze, simulate the behavior of a dynamic system
- **Dynamic systems:** phenomena or physical systems whose properties change with time.
  - The spread of an infectious disease: **phenomenon**.
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- They represent only a simplified version of the real phenomena.

# Graphical representation



# Static vs dynamical systems

In a **static system** it is enough to know  $u(t)$  in order to compute  $y(t)$ . The past has no effect on their evolution.



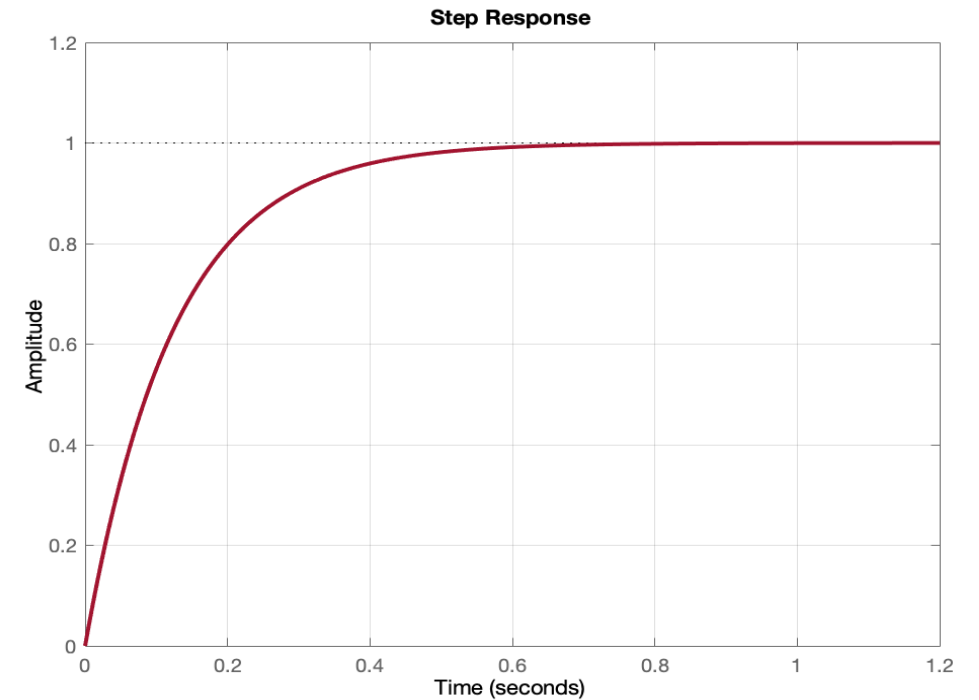
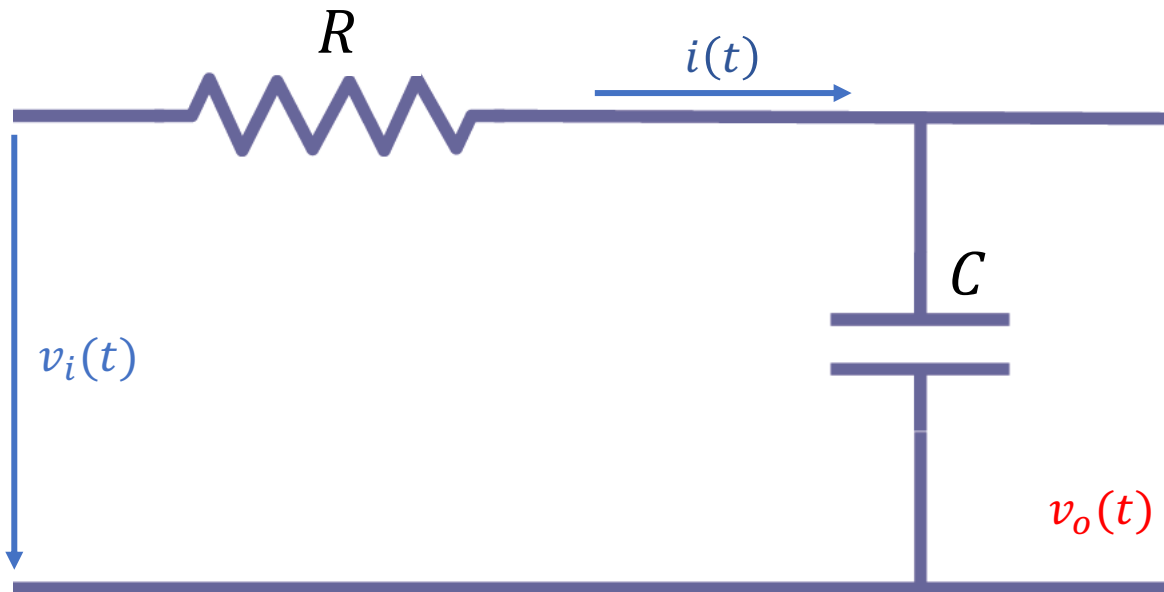
Ohm's law

$$v(t) = Ri(t)$$

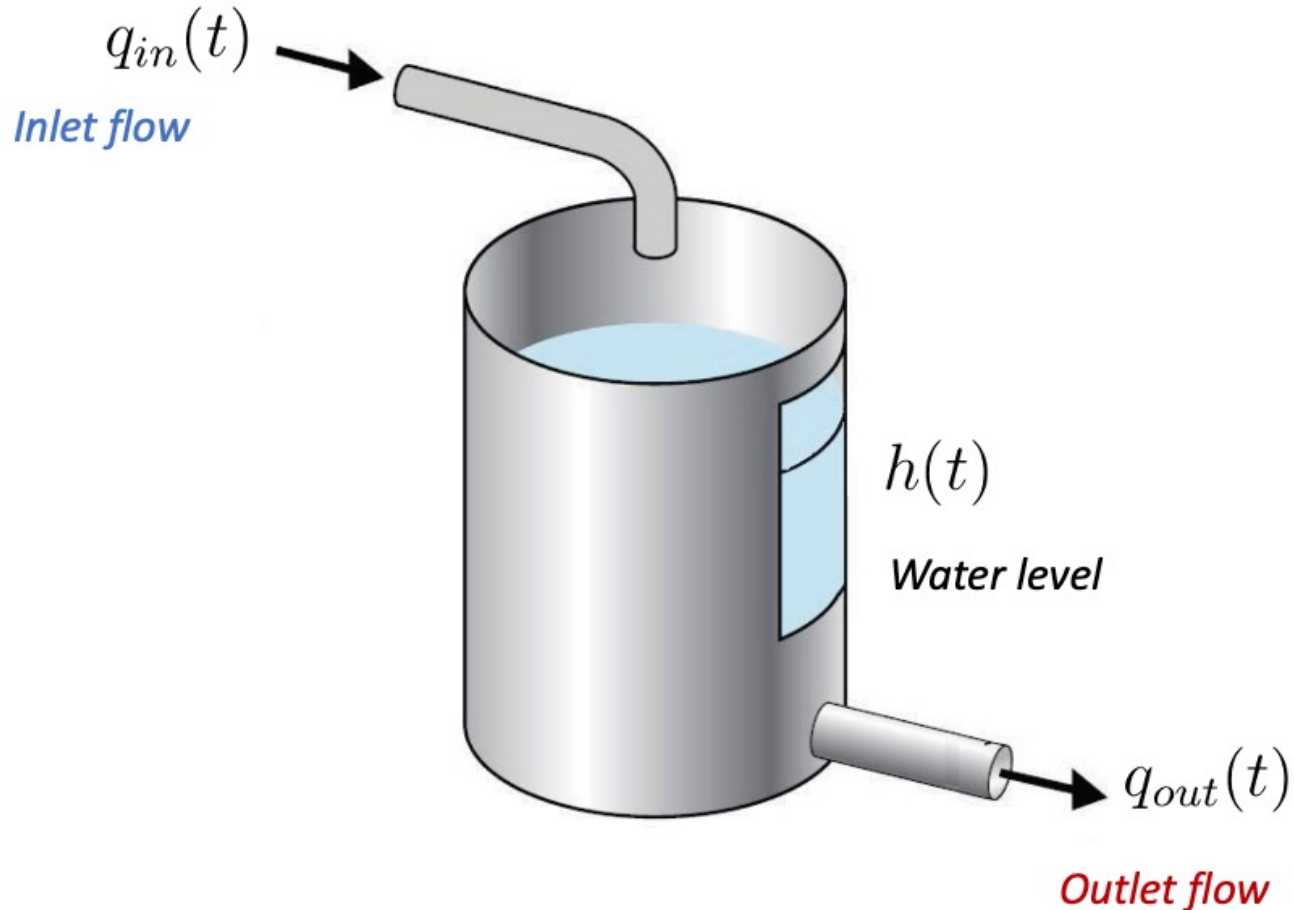
Given  $i(t)$  it is always possible to compute  $v(t)$

# Static vs dynamical systems

In a **dynamical system** there is a sort of memory: one needs to know the past state in order to compute the new one.



# Example: water tank

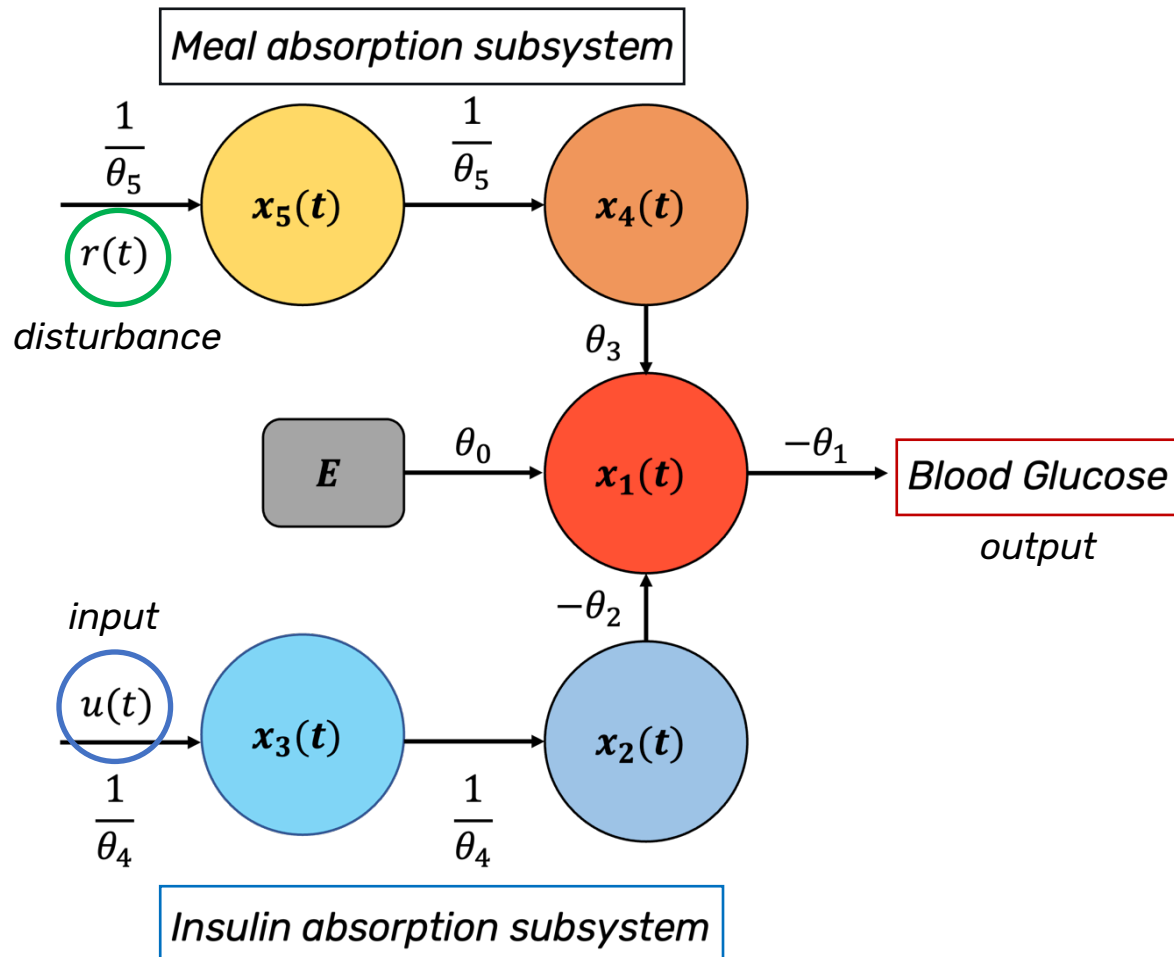


$$\begin{aligned}q_{in}(t) - q_{out}(t) &= A \frac{dh(t)}{dt} \\ q_{out}(t) &= \kappa \sqrt{h(t)}\end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{dh(t)}{dt} = -\frac{\kappa \sqrt{h(t)}}{A} + \frac{q_{in}(t)}{A}$$

$h(t)$  State (internal variable) of the system

# Example: blood glucose-insuline model



$$\frac{dQ_g(t)}{dt} = -\frac{1}{\theta_5} Q_g(t) + \frac{1}{\theta_5} Q_{sto}(t)$$

$$\frac{dQ_{sto}(t)}{dt} = -\frac{1}{\theta_5} Q_{sto}(t) + \frac{1}{\theta_5} r(t)$$

$$\frac{dG(t)}{dt} = \theta_0 - \theta_1 G(t) - \theta_2 Q_i(t) + \theta_3 Q_g(t)$$

$$\frac{dQ_i(t)}{dt} = -\frac{1}{\theta_4} Q_i(t) + \frac{1}{\theta_4} Q_{i_{sub}}(t)$$

$$\frac{dQ_{i_{sub}}(t)}{dt} = -\frac{1}{\theta_4} Q_{i_{sub}}(t) + \frac{1}{\theta_4} u(t)$$



# State variables

In a dynamical system knowing  $u(t)$  is not enough to determine  $y(t)$ .

A dynamical system has some kind of memory:

- the value of the output depends on the actual state
- The value of the actual state depends on the previous state.

A dynamical system is fully characterized by its input, its output and its state.

These are the **signals** of system.



# State variables

The state variables  $x(t)$  are the internal variables whose initial condition  $x(t_0)$  represent the minimum information necessary to compute the output  $y(t)$  that corresponds to a certain input  $u(t)$ .

$$\dot{x}(t) = f(x(t), u(t))$$

$$y(t) = g(x(t), u(t))$$

The dimension of the state  $n$ , i.e.  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , defines the **order** of the system.

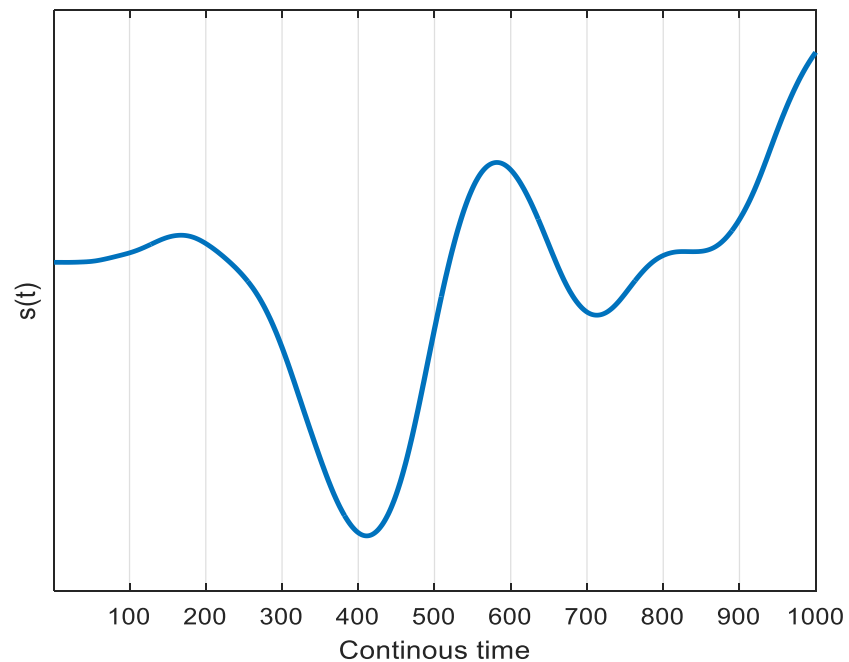
➤ For instance a SIR model is a system of **order 3** since:  $x(t) = \begin{bmatrix} S(t) \\ I(t) \\ R(t) \end{bmatrix}$

# Continuous vs Discrete signals

A signal is a **real function** of **time**

Continuous signal

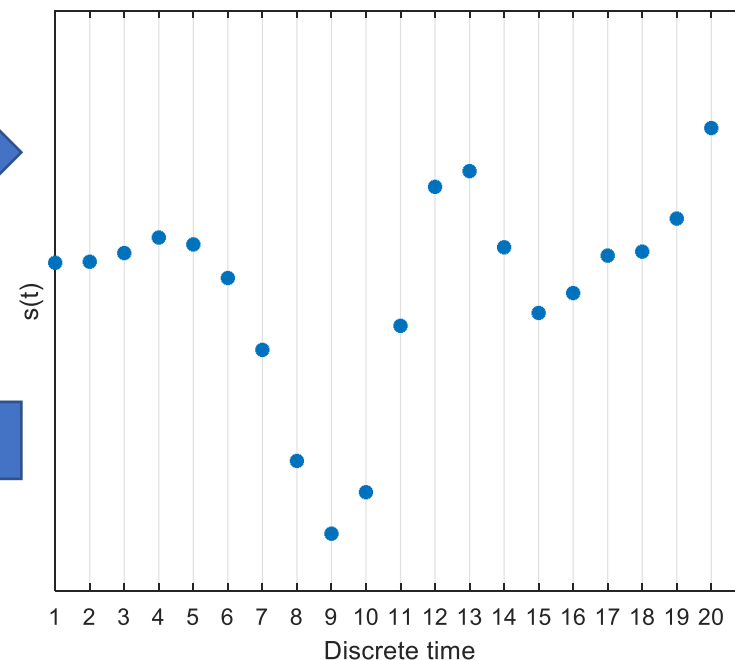
Discrete signal



$$s : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

Sampling

Reconstruction

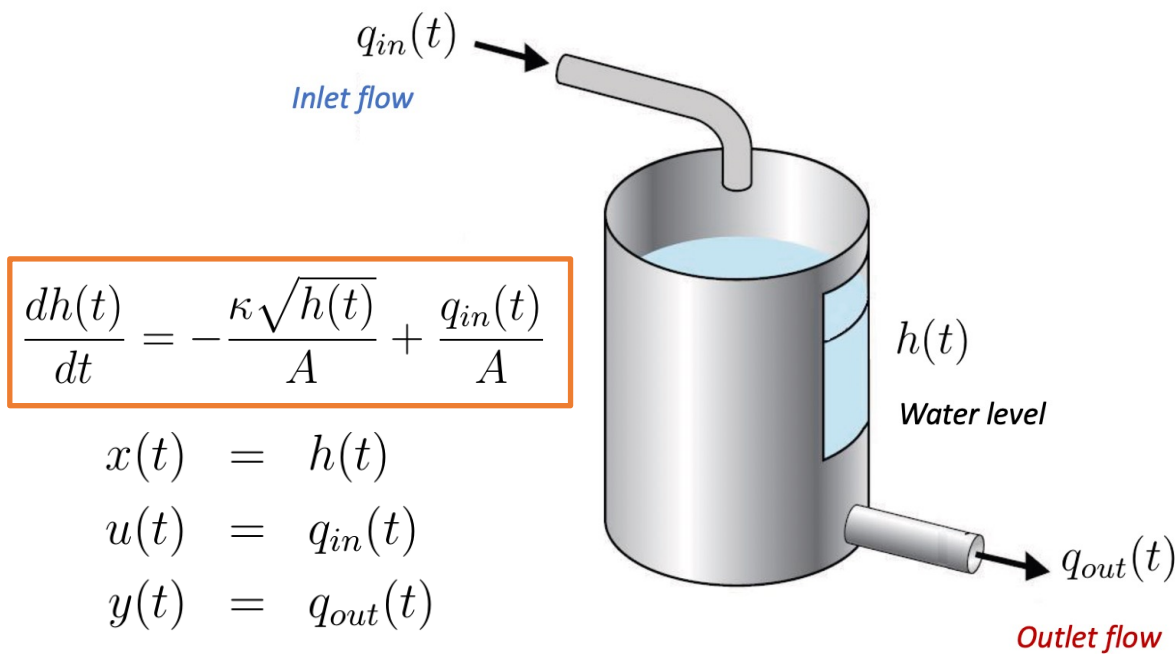


$$s : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

Only possible only in certain cases.

# Continuous-time models

- States, inputs and outputs are continuous signals.
- Usually employed to represent physical system (reality is continuous).
- Representation: a set of **differential equations**



$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dx(t)}{dt} &= -\frac{\kappa\sqrt{x(t)}}{A} + \frac{u(t)}{A} \\ y(t) &= \kappa\sqrt{x(t)}\end{aligned}$$

Output transformation

State equation

# Discrete-time models

States, inputs and outputs are **discrete** signals.

Most employed models in practice: **reality is continuous, but sensors/actuators work in discrete time.**

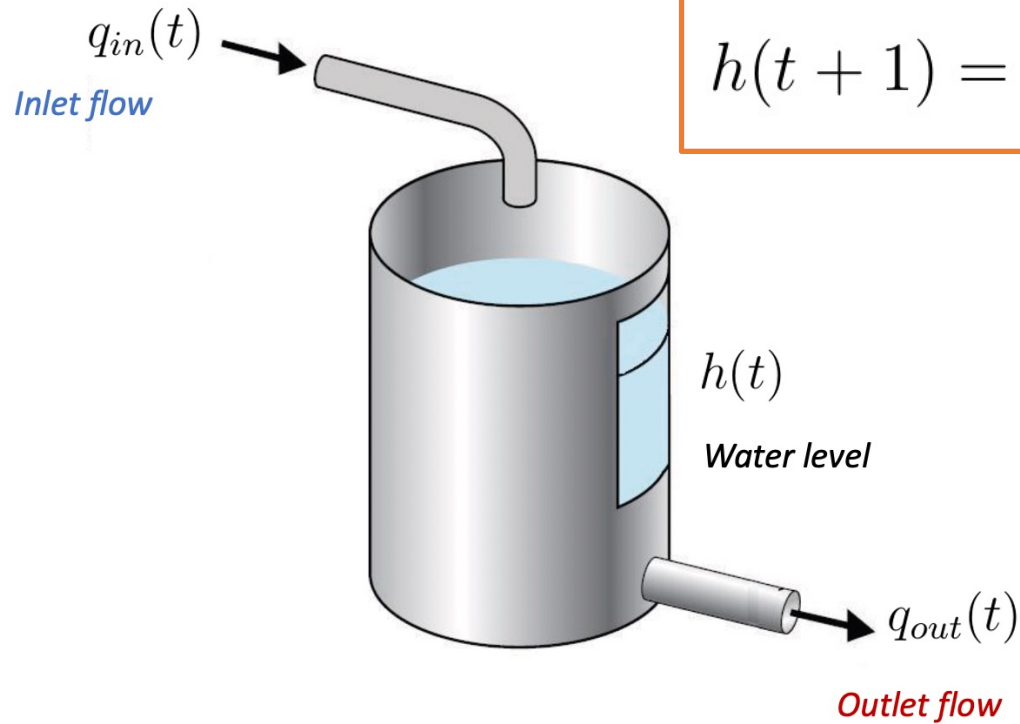
- It is impossible to store an infinite number of data (continuous signal).

Representation: a set of **finite-difference equations.**

Also called **digital models.**



# Discrete-time water tank



$$h(t+1) = h(t) + \frac{\Delta t}{A} \cdot (q_{in}(t) - q_{out}(t))$$

State:  $x(t) = h(t)$   
Input:  $u(t) = q_{in}(t)$   
Output:  $y(t) = q_{out}(t)$

$$\begin{aligned} x(t+1) &= x(t) + \frac{\Delta t}{A} (u(t) - \kappa \sqrt{x(t)}) \\ y(t) &= \kappa \sqrt{x(t)} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} V(t+1) &= V(t) + q_{in}(t) \cdot \Delta t - q_{out}(t) \cdot \Delta t \\ A \cdot h(t+1) &= A \cdot h(t) + q_{in}(t) \cdot \Delta t - q_{out}(t) \cdot \Delta t \end{aligned}$$

# Discrete-time models

- Discrete-time models are less general than the continuous one, because, typically, they strongly depend on the sampling interval  $\Delta t$ .
- There exist techniques that allow to go from continuous time to discrete time (with  $\Delta t$  known), but not vice versa.
- Both representations are important. The most useful one depends on the purpose of the modelization.

# State-space representation

$$\begin{aligned}x(t+1) &= f(x(t), u(t)) \\ y(t) &= g(x(t), u(t))\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}t &\in \mathbb{Z} \\ x(0) &= x_0\end{aligned}$$

$x \in \mathbb{R}^n$  is the **state** of the system

$u \in \mathbb{R}^m$  is the **input** of the system

$y \in \mathbb{R}^p$  is the **output** of the system

**n**: order of the system

$f(\cdot, \cdot) : \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  is the **state equation** (a system of eq. in fact)

$g(\cdot, \cdot) : \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^p$  is the **output transformation**



# Classifications

A system is called **strictly proper** if the output transformation only depends on the value of the state. Otherwise, is said **proper**.

$$\begin{aligned}x(t+1) &= f(x(t), u(t)) \\ y(t) &= g(x(t), u(t))\end{aligned}$$

PROPER

$$\begin{aligned}x(t+1) &= f(x(t), u(t)) \\ y(t) &= g(x(t))\end{aligned}$$

STRICTLY PROPER

# Classifications

- A system is called **linear** if  $f(\cdot)$  and  $g(\cdot)$  are linear functions of the state and the input. Otherwise, is said **non-linear**.
- A system is called **time variant** if  $f(\cdot)$  and  $g(\cdot)$  depends explicitly on the value of  $t$ . Otherwise is said **time-invariant**.

$$\begin{aligned}x(t+1) &= f(x(t), u(t)) \\ y(t) &= g(x(t), u(t))\end{aligned}$$

TIME-INVARIANT

$$\begin{aligned}x(t+1) &= f(x(t), u(t), t) \\ y(t) &= g(x(t), u(t), t)\end{aligned}$$

TIME-VARIANT

# Classifications

Last, but not least, we classify a system based on the dimension of its input and output

- A system is called **SISO (Single Input-Single Output)** if the input and the output are scalar, i.e.  $u(t) \in \mathbb{R}, y(t) \in \mathbb{R}$
- A system is called **MISO (Multi Input-Single Output)** if the input dimension is  $>1$  and the output is scalar, i.e.  $u(t) \in \mathbb{R}^m, y(t) \in \mathbb{R}, m > 1$
- A system is called **SIMO (Single Input-Multi Output)** if the input is scalar and the output dimension is  $>1$ , i.e.  $u(t) \in \mathbb{R}, y(t) \in \mathbb{R}^p, p > 1$
- A system is called **MIMO (Multi Input - Multi Output)** if the input and output dimensions are  $>1$ , i.e.  $u(t) \in \mathbb{R}^m, y(t) \in \mathbb{R}^p, m > 1, p > 1$

# Example 1: water tank

$$\begin{aligned}x(t+1) &= x(t) + \frac{\Delta t}{A}(u(t) - \kappa\sqrt{x(t)}) \\y(t) &= \kappa\sqrt{x(t)}\end{aligned}$$

- The system is nonlinear.
- The system is time-invariant.
- Order: 1 (only one state)
- SISO system: only one input and one output
- Strictly proper: the output transformation does not depend on  $u(t)$

# Example 2: 4 water tanks

$$\mathbf{x}(t) = \begin{bmatrix} h_1(t) \\ h_2(t) \\ h_3(t) \\ h_4(t) \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{u}(t) = \begin{bmatrix} q_a(t) \\ q_b(t) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{y}(t) = \begin{bmatrix} h_1(t) \\ h_2(t) \end{bmatrix}$$

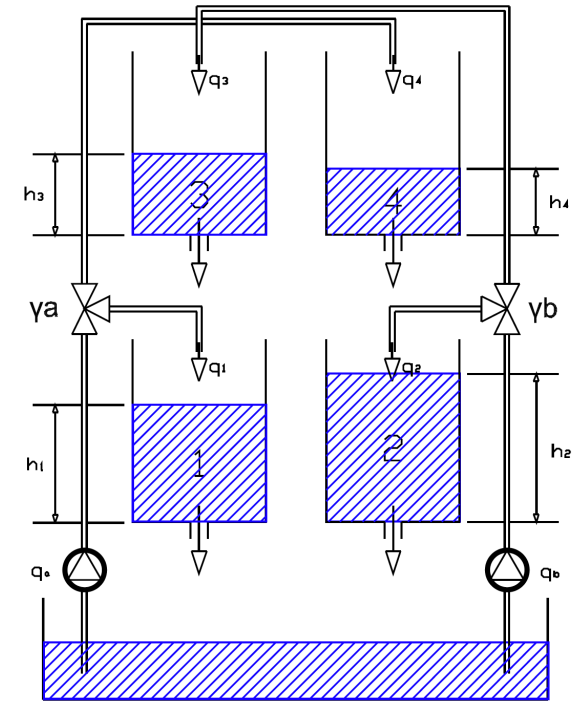
$$h_1(t+1) = h_1(t) - \frac{\Delta t}{S} (a_1 \sqrt{2gh_1(t)} + a_3 \sqrt{2gh_3(t)} + \gamma_a q_a(t))$$

$$h_2(t+1) = h_2(t) - \frac{\Delta t}{S} (a_2 \sqrt{2gh_2(t)} + a_4 \sqrt{2gh_4(t)} + \gamma_b q_b(t))$$

$$h_3(t+1) = h_3(t) - \frac{\Delta t}{S} (a_3 \sqrt{2gh_3(t)} + (1 - \gamma_b) q_b(t))$$

$$h_4(t+1) = h_4(t) - \frac{\Delta t}{S} (a_4 \sqrt{2gh_4(t)} + (1 - \gamma_a) q_a(t))$$

- The system is nonlinear.
- The system is time-invariant.
- Order: 4
- MIMO system: 2 input and 2 output
- Strictly proper: the output transformation does not depend on  $\mathbf{u}(t)$



# Example 3: SIR with vaccination

$$S(t+1) = S(t) - \frac{\beta S(t)I(t)}{N} - v(t)S(t)$$

$$I(t+1) = I(t) + \frac{\beta S(t)I(t)}{N} - \gamma I(t)$$

$$R(t+1) = R(t) + \gamma I(t) + v(t)S(t)$$

$$y(t) = aI(t) + b(S(t) + R(t))$$

$$\mathbf{x}(t) = \begin{bmatrix} S(t) \\ I(t) \\ R(t) \end{bmatrix}, \quad u(t) = v(t),$$

- The system is nonlinear.
- The system is time-invariant.
- Order: 3
- SISO system: only one input and one output
- Strictly proper: the output transformation does not depend on  $u(t)$

# Example 4: bg-insuline model

$$x_1(t) \quad \frac{dG(t)}{dt} = \theta_0 - \theta_1 G(t) - \theta_2 Q_i(t) + \theta_3 Q_g(t)$$

$$x_2(t) \quad \frac{dQ_i(t)}{dt} = -\frac{1}{\theta_4} Q_i(t) + \frac{1}{\theta_4} Q_{i_{sub}}(t)$$

$$x_3(t) \quad \frac{dQ_{i_{sub}}(t)}{dt} = -\frac{1}{\theta_4} Q_{i_{sub}}(t) + \frac{1}{\theta_4} u(t)$$

$$x_4(t) \quad \frac{dQ_g(t)}{dt} = -\frac{1}{\theta_5} Q_g(t) + \frac{1}{\theta_5} Q_{sto}(t)$$

$$x_5(t) \quad \frac{dQ_{sto}(t)}{dt} = -\frac{1}{\theta_5} Q_{sto}(t) + \frac{1}{\theta_5} r(t)$$

- The system is linear.
- The system is time invariant.
- Order: 5
- MISO system: 2 inputs and 1 output
- Strictly Proper: the output transformation does not depend on  $u(t)$

$$y(t) = G(t)$$

$u(t)$  = *insuline infusion (controllable input)*

$r(t)$  = *meals (non – controllable input, disturbance)*

# Example 5

$$\begin{aligned}x_1(t+1) &= 2x_2(t) - u(t) \\x_2(t+1) &= x_1(t) \\y(t) &= x_1(t) + t \cdot u(t)\end{aligned}$$

- The system is linear.
- The system is time variant.
- Order: 2
- SISO system: only one input and one output
- Proper: the output transformation depends on  $u(t)$



# State variables

- The number of states variables  $n$  determines the **complexity of the system**.
  - ❑ A more complex system can model the same phenomena more accurately.
- With a fixed complexity the order of the system is uniquely determined.
- There are different choices of the state variables that define the same input-output relation, even if the order is always the same.
- The minimum number of states is called **minimal representation**, and equals the number of differential (difference) equations describing the phenomenon.
- Sometimes the context provides criteria (physic, for example) for the selection of the state variables.



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