Summary
This course offers an introduction to the analysis of large-scale dynamical systems and the design of control schemes when approaches based on centralized computations are inapplicable.

Content
Advances in technology and telecommunications are steadily broadening the size of systems that can be controlled. Examples are smart grids, which are perceived as the future of power generation, and networks of sensors and actuators, which enable monitoring and control of processes spread over large geographical areas. As an alternative to centralized regulators, that are often impractical for large-scale systems, decentralized and distributed approaches to control have been developed since the 70’s. Particular attention has been recently given to distributed control architectures based on model predictive control which are capable to cope with physical constraints.

The first part of the course will focus on classical results on stability analysis of large-scale systems, decentralized control and decentralized controllability. Then, distributed control design methods will be covered. In the last part of the course, more emphasis will be given on distributed regulators based on optimization and receding horizon control. Recent advances on decentralized and scalable design of local controllers will be also presented, together with applications to microgrids.

Outline:
- Introduction to large-scale systems and multivariable control
- Stability analysis of large-scale systems
- Design of decentralized and distributed controllers for unconstrained systems
- Decentralized and distributed model predictive controllers
  - Approaches to the scalable design of control architectures

Note
The course will be offered in partnership with the International Graduate School on Control (IGSC) of the European Embedded Control Institute (EECI) and, therefore, open to external students. External students should contact edee@epfl.ch.

Keywords
Large-scale systems, decentralized control, distributed control.

Learning Prerequisites

Decentralized and Distributed Control
Required courses
Basics of control theory (required), multivariable control (recommended).

Learning Outcomes
By the end of the course, the student must be able to:

• Analyze large-scale systems and design control architectures.