



Elke Zimoch :: Section Controls :: Paul Scherrer Institut

Accelerator Controls

JUAS 2021

Why talking about Accelerator Controls?

Soon in the future (and once upon a time):
Scientist **Dr. Example Guy** wants to do
VeryImportantMeasurement_OneDotOne
for that he creates some actuators and detectors
Super_Creative_HardwareSolution
puts it into the accelerator
and calls the Controls Group
“Please make it run”.

I want to teach you a
minimum awareness about the control
system that «runs» the accelerator ...



Table of Content



- What is an Accelerator Control System?



- Accelerator Control Systems Architecture



- Examples of Control Systems



- Control System Parts and Pieces



- Borderlands of Control Systems



- Conclusion

What is an Accelerator Control System?

Searching Wikipedia:

The collage consists of several overlapping screenshots of Wikipedia pages:

- Control system (disambiguation)**: Shows the article title and navigation tabs (article, discussion, edit this page, history).
- Industrial control system**: Shows the article title and a snippet of text: "is a general term that control systems used in supervisory control and data distributed control systems system configurations such as PLC) often found in the astructures. [2]".
- Control theory**: Shows the article title, a redirect notice "(Redirected from Control Theory)", and a paragraph: "This article is about control theory in engineering. For control theory in linguistics, see *control (linguistics)*. For control theory in psychology and sociology, see *control theory (sociology)* and *Perceptual control theory*." Below this, it says "Control theory in control systems engineering deals with the control of continuously operating dynamical systems in engineered processes and machines. The objective is to develop a control model for controlling optimum manner without delay or over".
- Automation**: Shows the article title and a snippet of text: "The experiments conducted with particle accelerators are not regarded as part of accelerator".
- Wikipedia Sidebar**: A vertical sidebar on the left with links: Main page, Contents, Featured content, Current events, Random article, Donate to Wikipedia, Wikipedia store, and Interaction.
- Wikipedia Logo**: The globe logo with the text "WIKIPEDIA The Free Encyclopedia" appears in multiple locations.

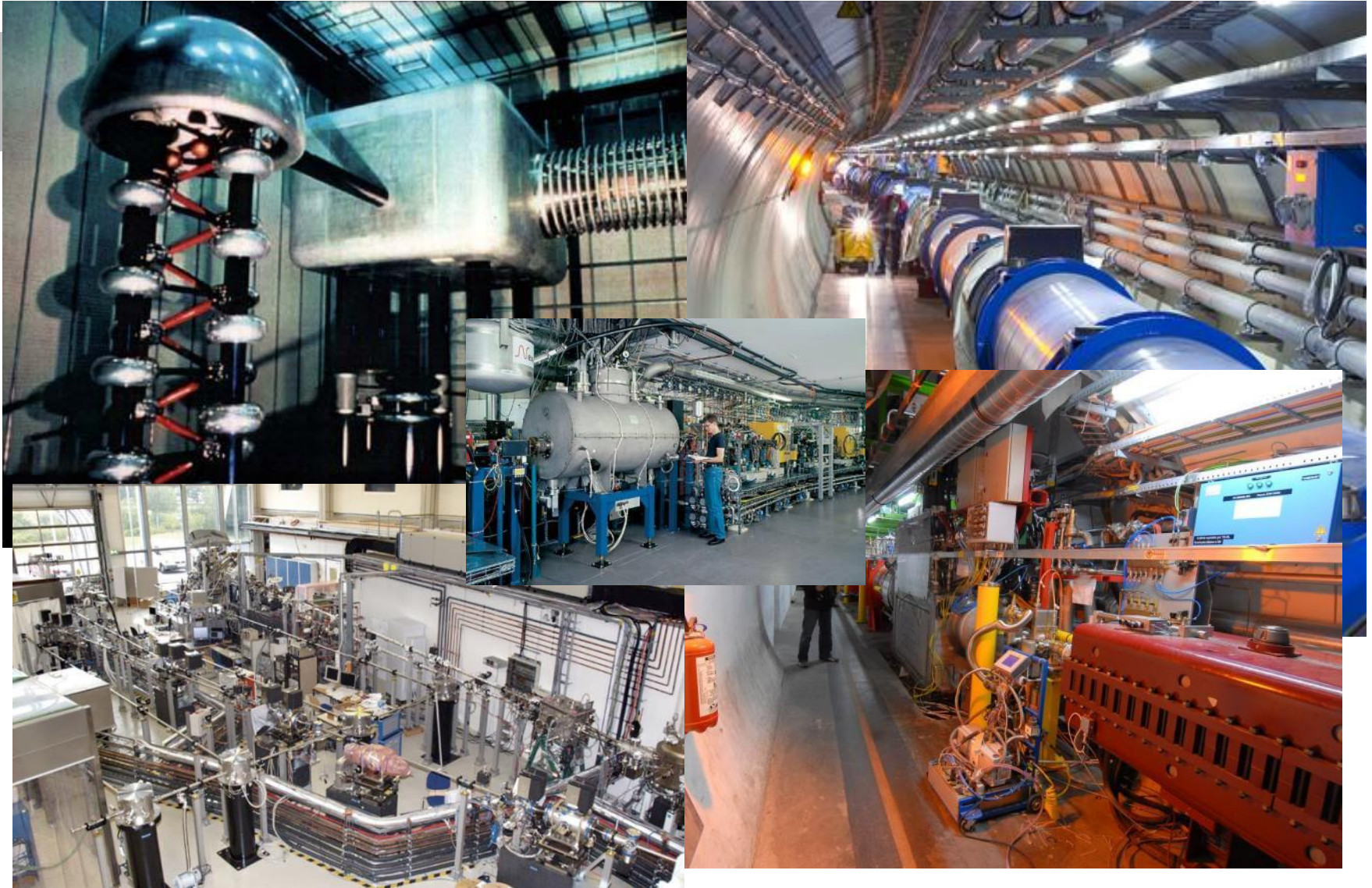
What ~~is~~ ^{does} an Accelerator Controls System (1/6)

- Controls the accelerator (Source, Magnets, RF)
- Provides diagnostics information (BPMs, Cameras)
- Monitors environment (Vacuum, Temperature)
- Feedback programs for beam parameters (orbit feedback)
- Makes “the machine” running and controllable ...

... reliable, with good performance, flexible ... economical
safe (without producing black holes and destroying the
world)

What does an Accelerator Control System? (2/6)

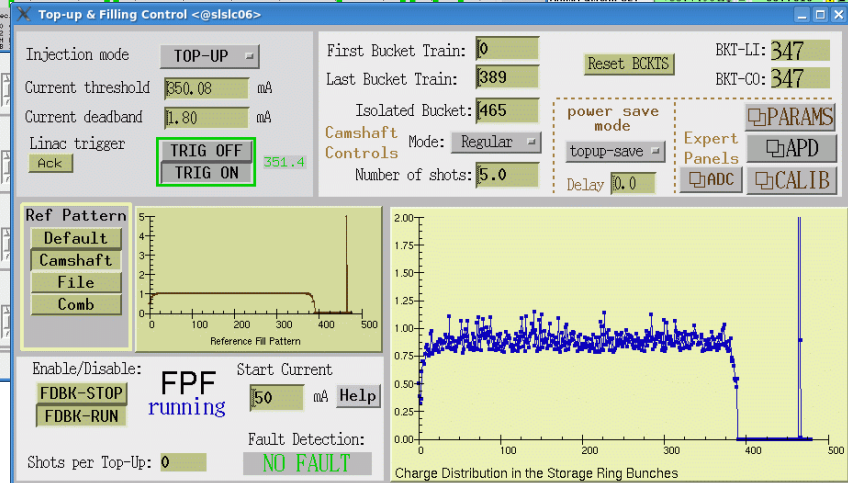
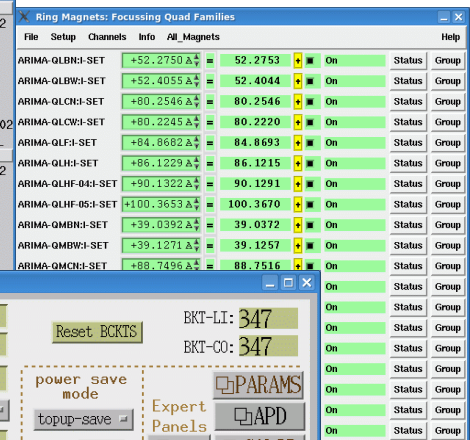
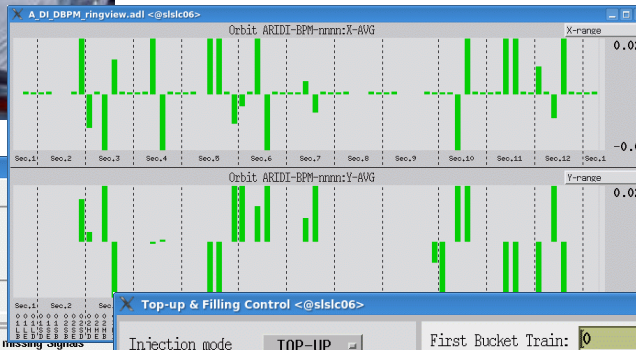
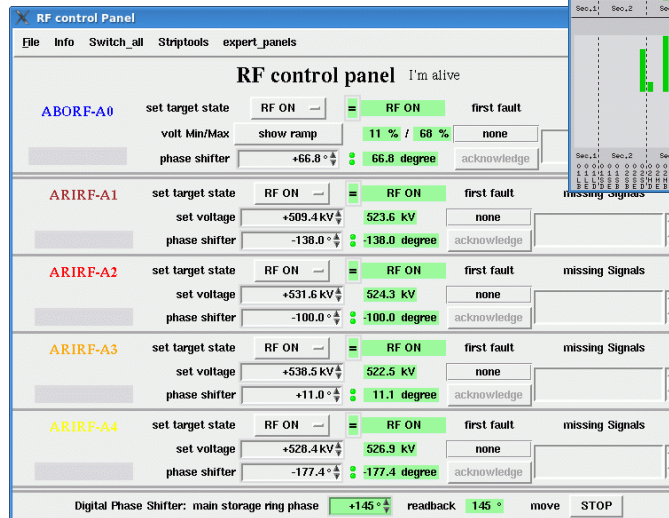
Controls the accelerator hardware:



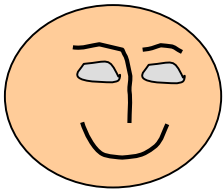
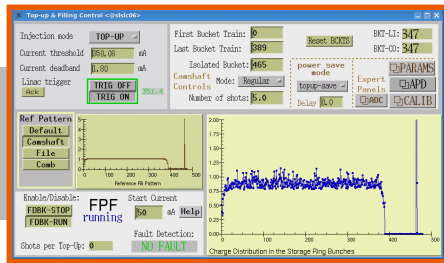
What does an Accelerator Control System? (3/6)



Make the accelerator controllable
... from a Control Room
... using Computer Systems



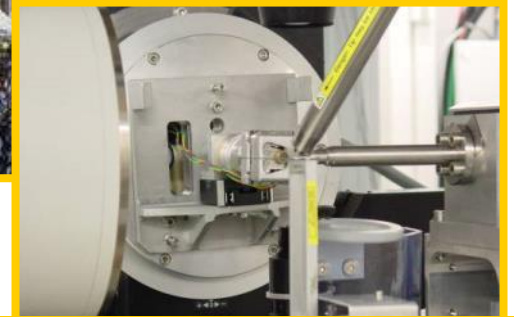
What does an accelerator control system? (4/6)



Operator
in Control Room

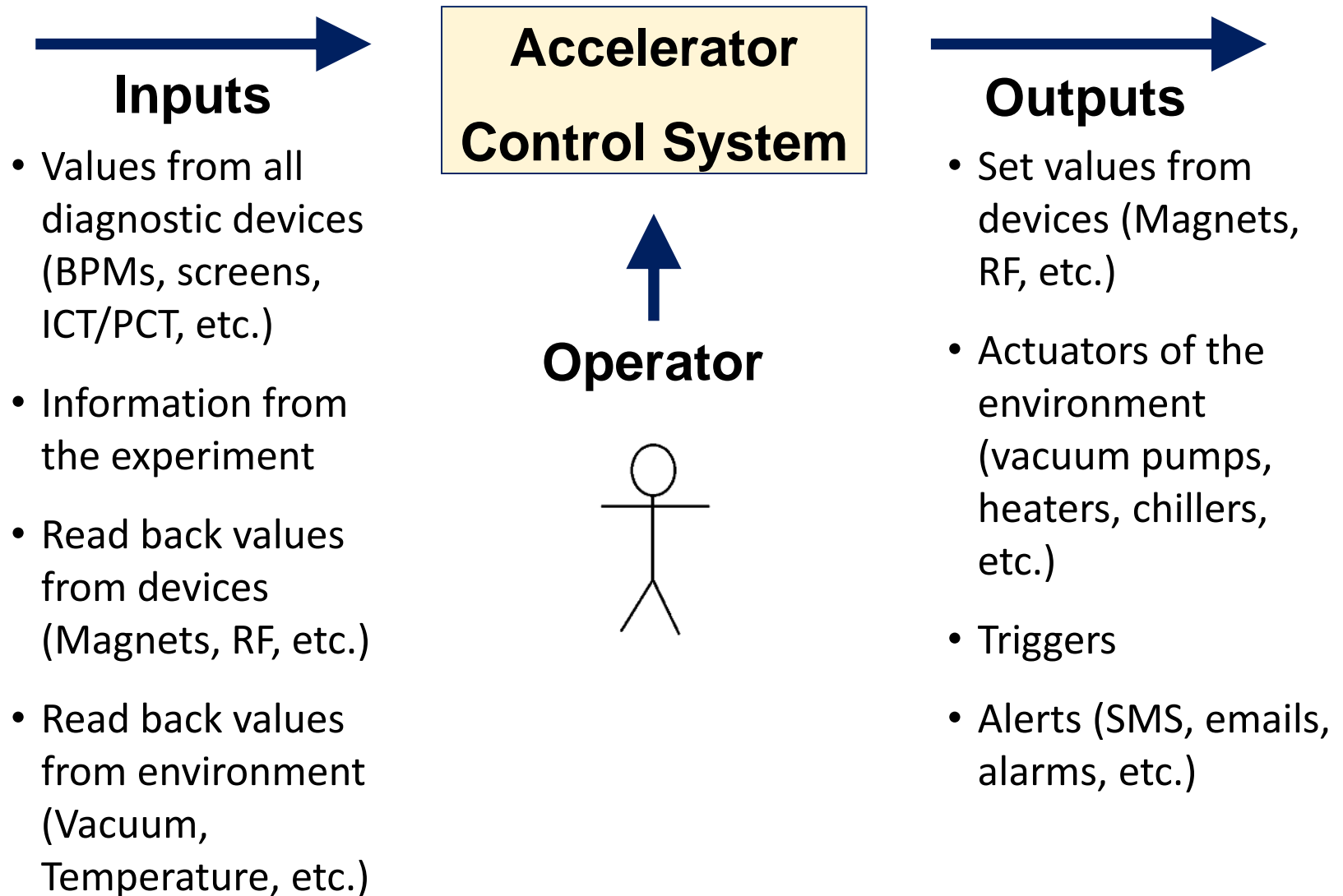


Control System



The control system connects the operator with the accelerator.

What does an Accelerator Control System? (5/6)



The **Accelerator Control System**

- does provide a keyhole view on the accelerator
- is the only way to access any component remotely



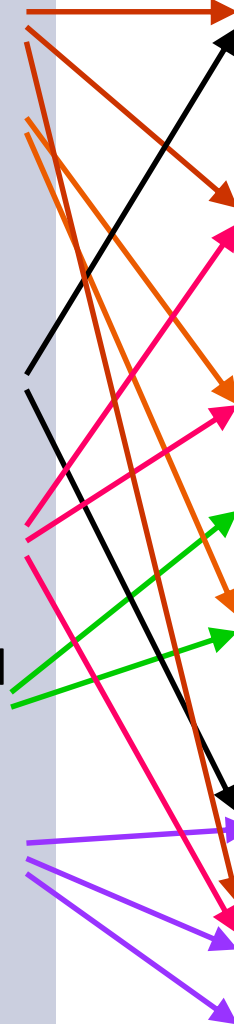
Who uses an Accelerator Controls System

Who they are

- Accelerator Physicists
- Operators (technical Staff, in most cases no theoretical background knowledge)
- System Experts (Vacuum Experts, RF Group, ...)
- Experiment Users (not necessary Physicists)
- Sponsors (Politicians, General Public, etc.)
- Control System Specialists (Computer Scientists, Physicists, Nerds)

What they want from the system

- Access to ALL functions of the hardware (full control)
- Implementation of complex algorithms
- Easy and intuitive usage
- Low cost, low manpower
- Safe usage and reliable alarm handling
- Easy maintainable
- Easy extensible
- **fun**



What is the Technical Environment?

Control Systems (one way or another) have to deal with ...

- **Distributed** end points and processes
- **Data Acquisition** (front end hardware)
- **Real-time** needs (where necessary)
- **Process control** (automation, feedback, PID controller)
- **Central Services** (Archive, Databases, Name Resolution)
- **Data transport** (control system protocol, network)
- **Security** (who's allowed to do what from where?)
- **Time synchronization** (time stamps, cycle ids, etc.)

that is:

Computers (in different flavors) and
Computer Environment

What is an Accelerator Controls System

Definition:

An **Accelerator Control System** is a **computer environment** that allows **remote access** to the accelerator hardware with a lot of **different functionality** to satisfy the requirements of several **different user groups**.

In addition a modern
Accelerator Control System:
tries to unify the access to different
hardware
(one way to rule them all)

[illegible]

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- What is an Accelerator Control System?



- Accelerator Control Systems Architecture



- Examples of Control Systems



- Control System Parts and Pieces

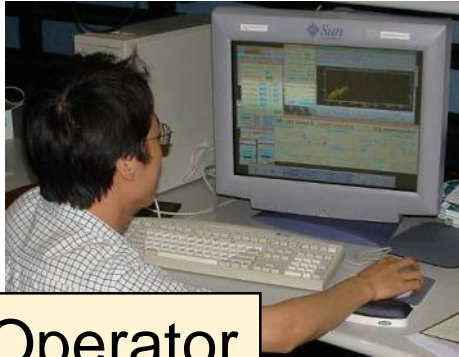


- Borderlands of Control Systems

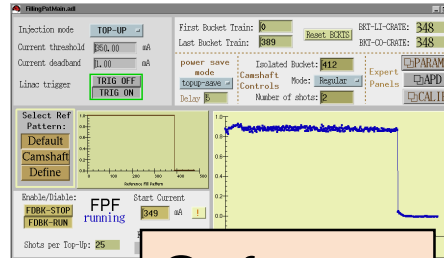


- Conclusion

Requirements of an Accelerator Control System



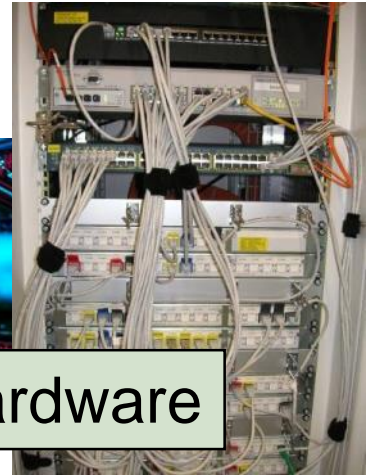
Operator



Software



Hardware



- reliable
- good performance
- flexible
- easy maintenance



Experiment Scientist

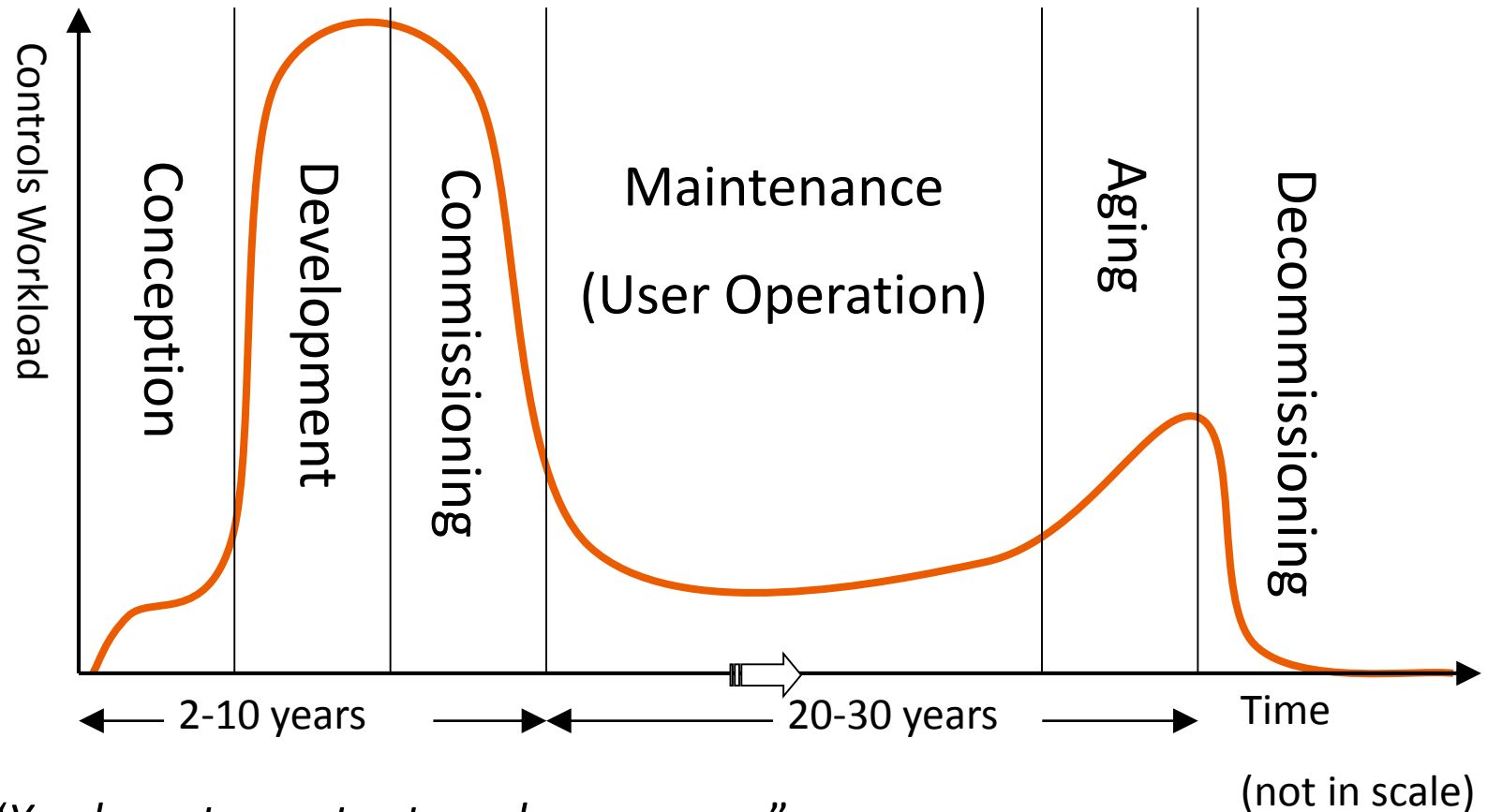


Accelerator

?

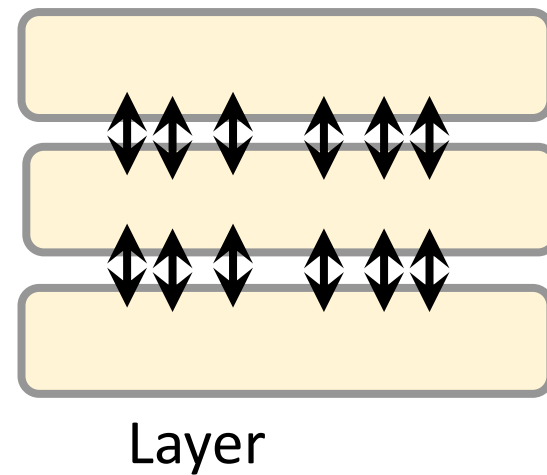
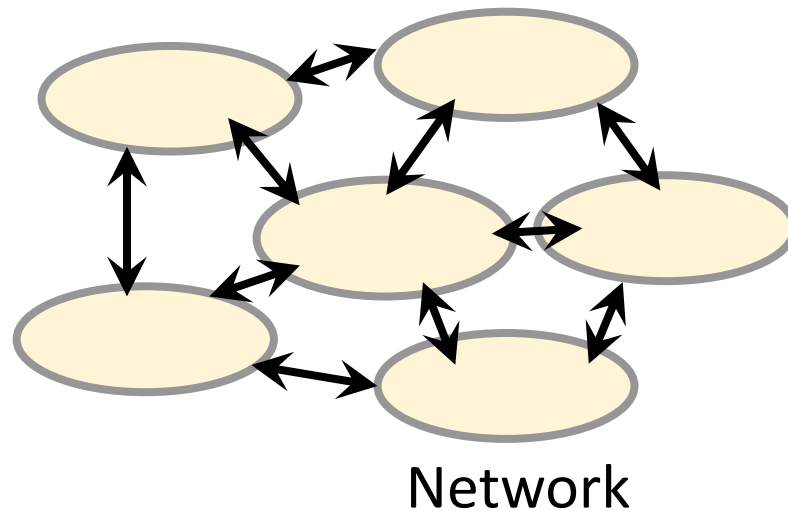
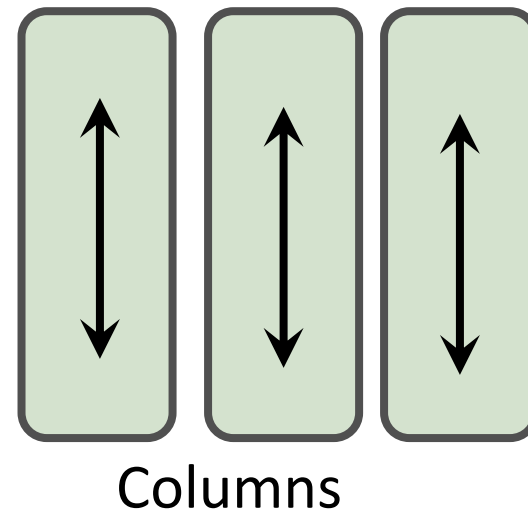
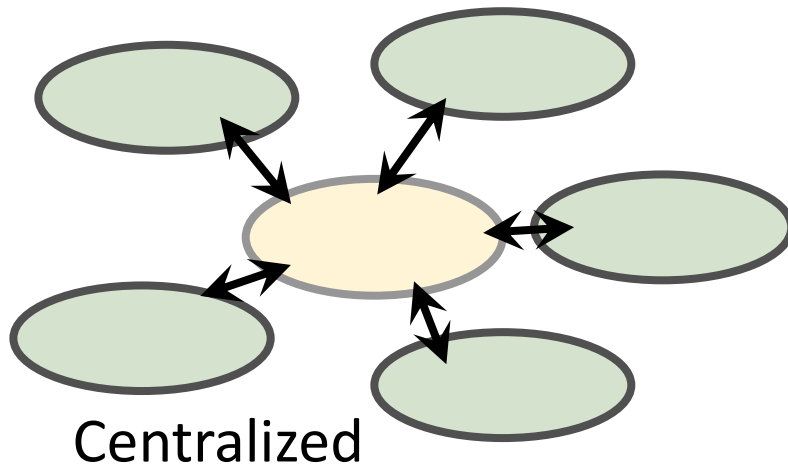
Why is easy Maintenance important?

Controls System Lifecycle:

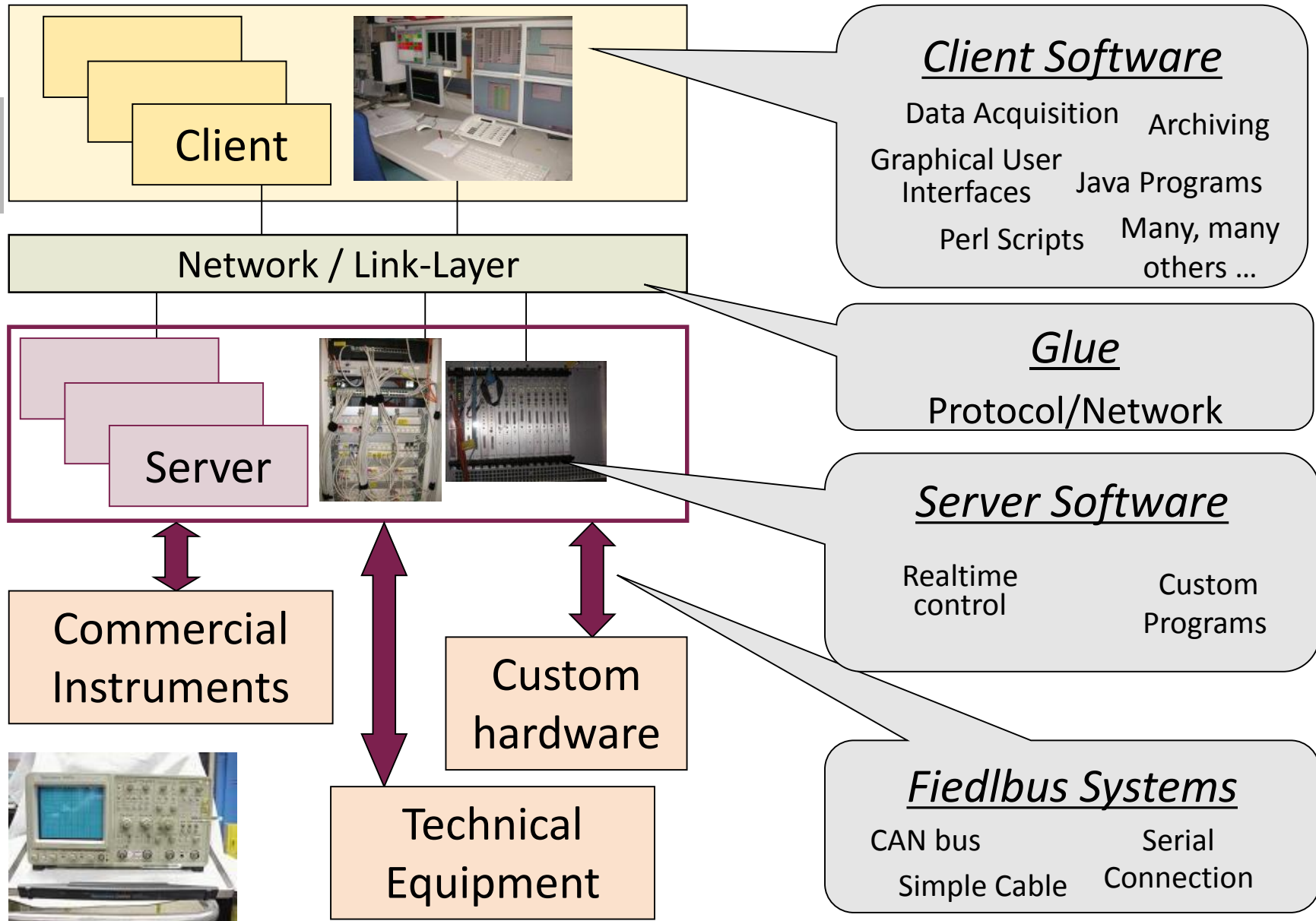


- “You have to run to stay where you are”
- Workload never got to zero during accelerator lifetime
- Normal accelerator lifetime ~ 30 to 40 years

Possible Architectures



(Standard) Control System Layer Model



Where is Physics in there?

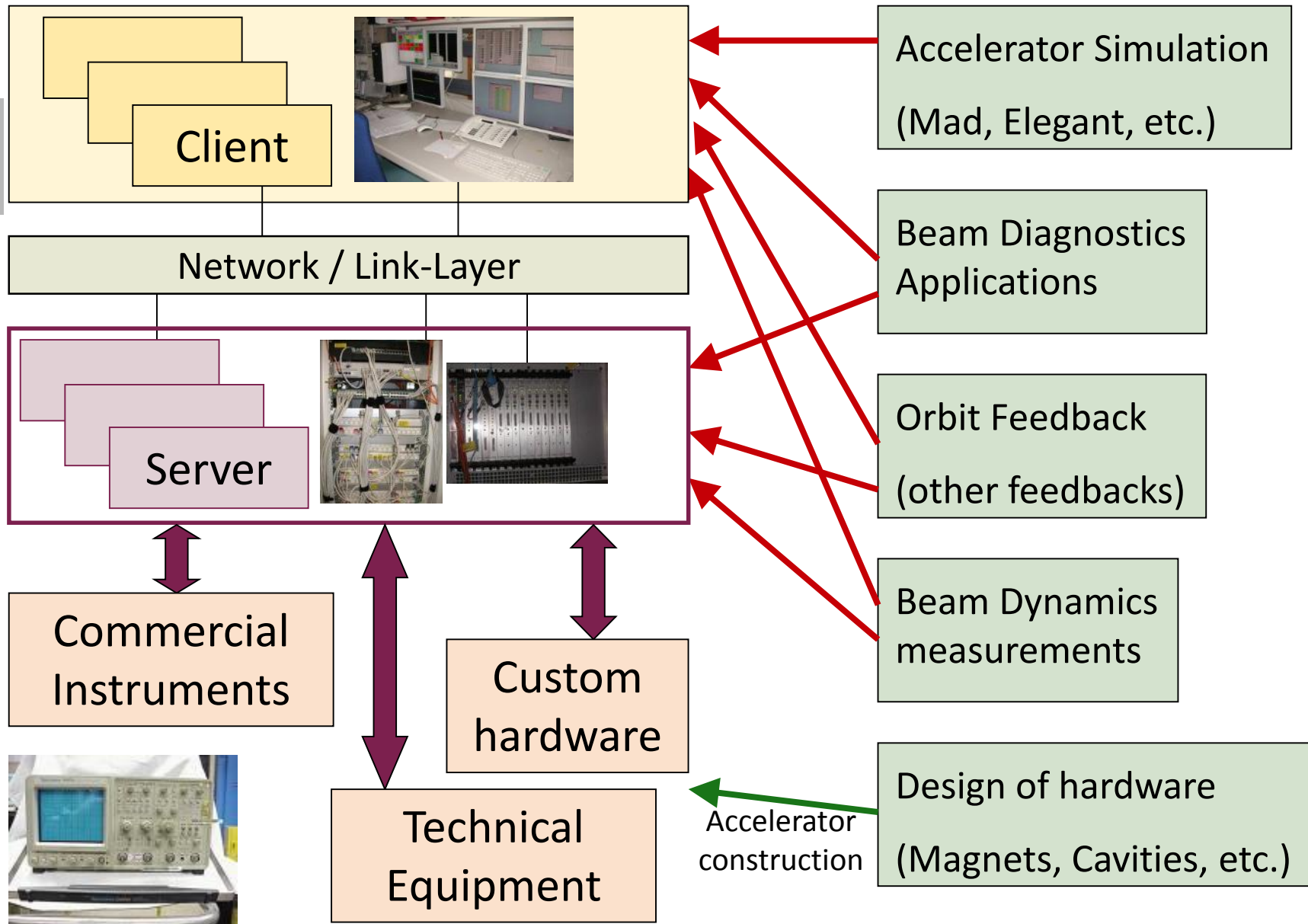


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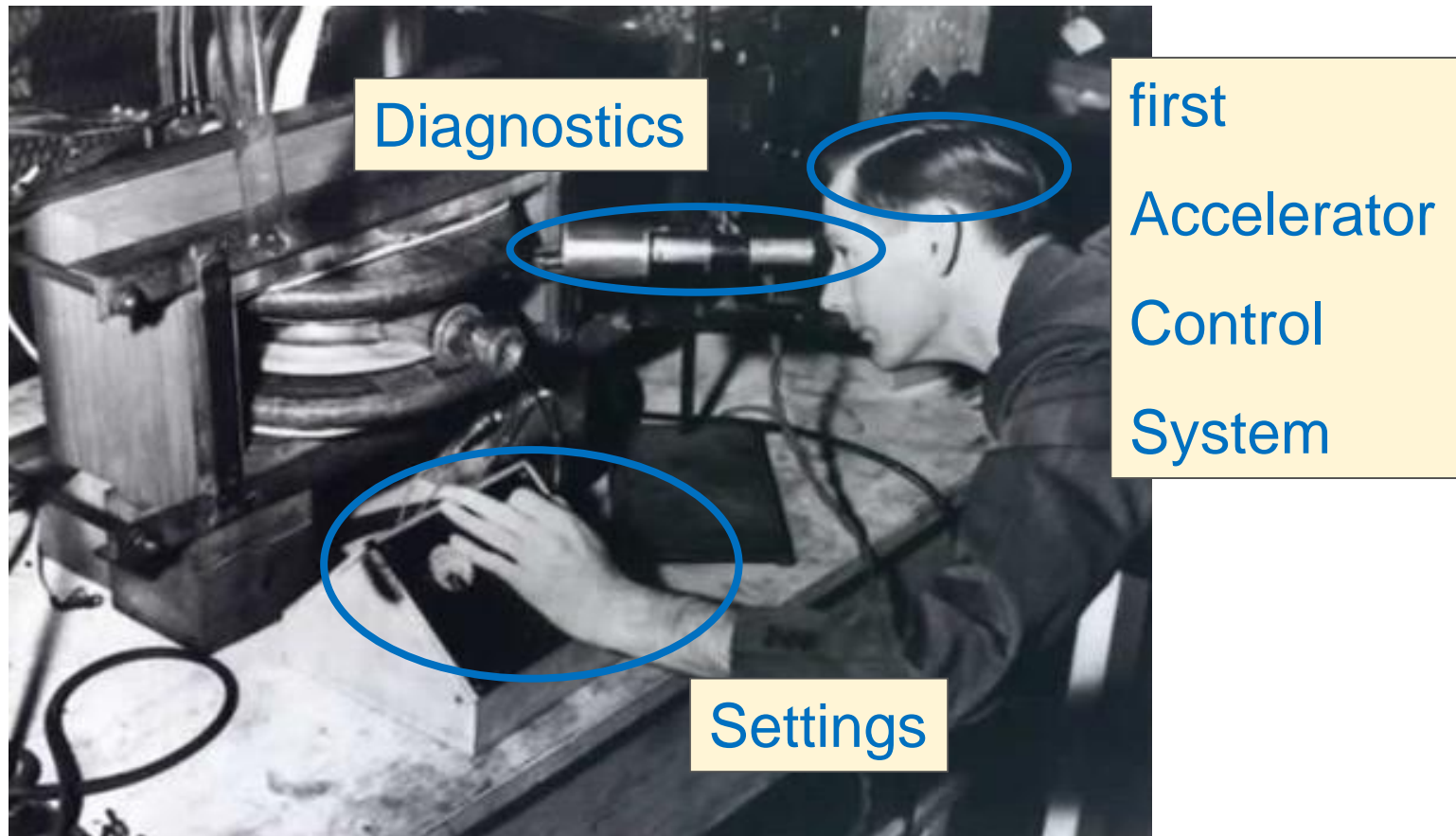


- Borderlands of Control Systems



- Conclusion

History of Accelerator Controls (1/3)



Donald Kerst with the first betatron, invented at the University of Illinois (USA)
in 1940

History of Accelerator Controls (2/3)



AGS control room, circa 1966



© 1974 CERN

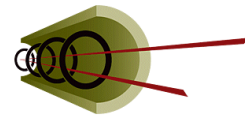
History of Accelerator Controls (3/3)

International Conference on Accelerator and Large Experimental Physics Control Systems (ICALEPCS)

First held in 1987 in Villars-sur-Ollon (Switzerland), hosted by CERN.

The term "Control Systems" in ICALEPCS is broadly interpreted to include:

- all components or functions, such as processors, interfaces, field-busses, networks, human interfaces, system and application software, algorithms, architectures, databases, etc.
- all aspects of these components, including engineering, execution methodologies, project management, costs, etc.



ICALEPCS 2001
NOVEMBER 27-30, 2001 SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA



Solutions: Different Control System Examples

System Name:

EPICS
TANGO



Collaborations:
Used at more than one Lab

Pro:
Bugs are already found

Contra:
Complicated to adapt
to your problems

DOOS
ACS



Single Site Systems:
Developed and used in one Lab

Pro:
Your problems solved
perfectly

Contra:
You are on your own
(no one can help)

SCADA
(WINCCOA)



Commercial System

Pro:
Outsource your problems

Contra:
Expensive

What is EPICS?



- **EPICS** (**E**xperimental **P**hysics and **I**ndustrial **C**ontrol **S**ystem)
 - is a set of software tools and applications
 - supports distributed control systems for large research facilities like accelerators
 - uses Client/Server and Publish/Subscribe methods
 - uses the Channel Access (CA) network protocol
- In 1989 started a collaboration between Los Alamos National Laboratory (GTA) and Argonne National Laboratory (APS) (Jeff Hill, Bob Dalesio & Marty Kraimer)

GTA: Ground Test Accelerator
APS: Advanced Photon Source
- More than 150 licenses agreements were signed, before EPICS became Open Source in 2004

Who uses EPICS (Very Incomplete List)?

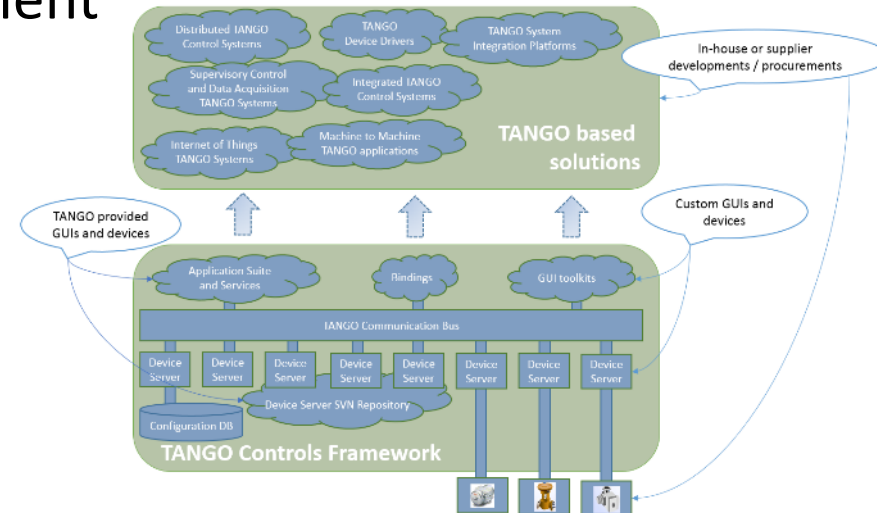


What is Tango?



- **TANGO (T**aco **N**ext **G**eneration **O**bjects)

- is a strictly object oriented toolbox for Control System development
- is a set of software tools and applications
- supports distributed control systems for accelerators



- Started in 2001 with three collaborators, now there are 49



Who is using Tango?



India 1

South Africa 1

Russia 6

3



17



1



2

6



2

3

5



1

3

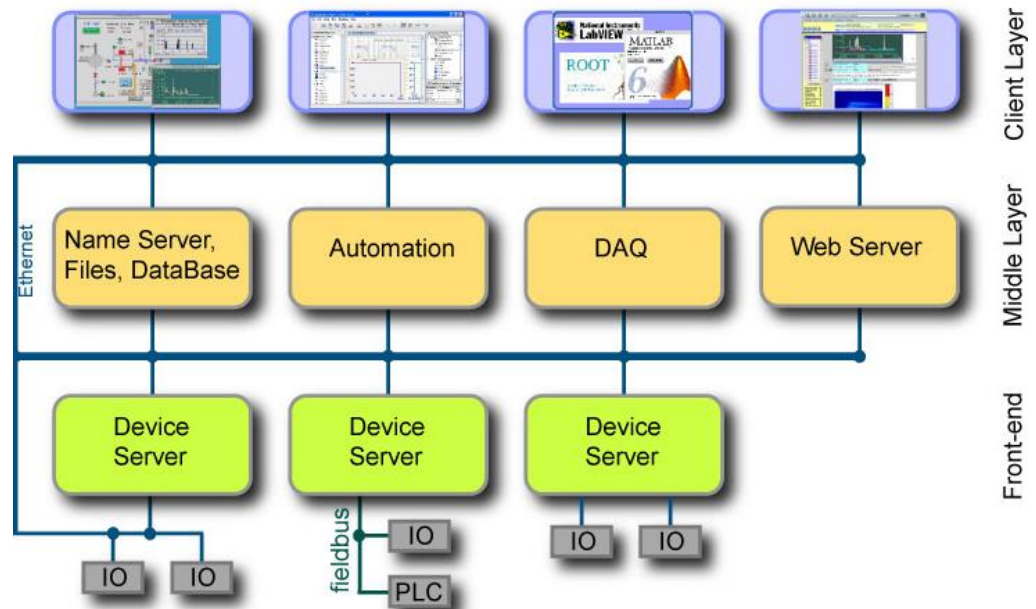
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What is DOOCS (at DESY)?

DOOCS (Distributed Object Oriented Control System)

- strictly object oriented system design (C++ and Java)
- Class libraries as building blocks

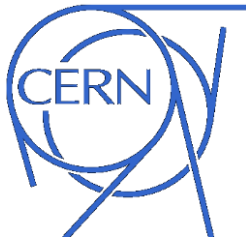
DOOCS.



- Build for FLASH, now used for European XFEL

<https://doocs-web.desy.de/index.html>

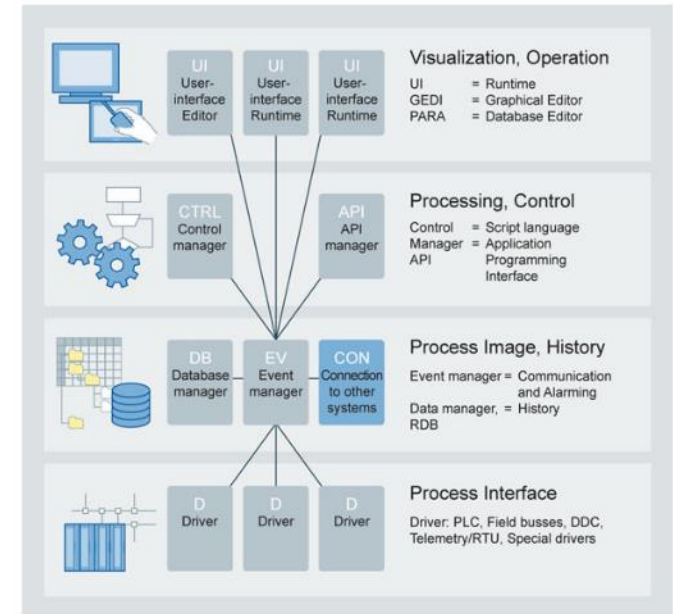
What is PVSS now WinCC-OA (at CERN)?



WinCC Open Architecture

former **PVSS II** (Prozessvisualisierungs- und Steuerungssystem 2)

- is an industrial SCADA product
- from the Austrian company ETM
- (bought by Siemens AG in 2007)



SCADA = Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition

(commercial software systems used extensively in industry for the supervision and control of industrial processes)

http://www.etm.at/index_e.asp

http://www.etm.at/index_e.asp

- At DESY:
Tango, EPICS, and DOOCS mixed
- At PSI:
ACS – EPICS migration
- At PSI (former SLS beamline):
Tango beamline at EPICS accelerator
- There are gateways between the systems



By Evan Swigart

The choice for one system is not exclusive

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Technical Requirements

Use open source
firmware/software.

- You can change things and you have control of further developments

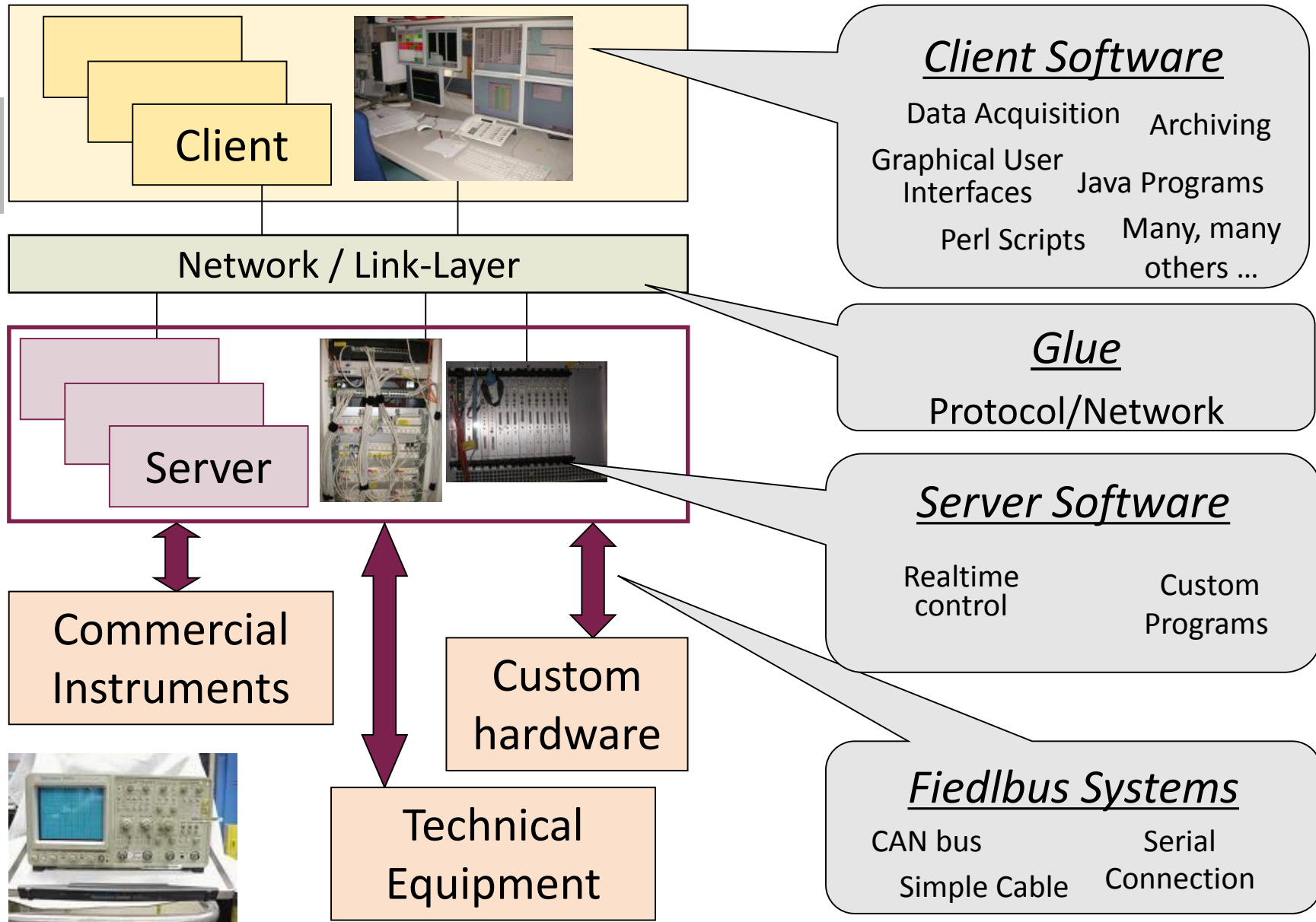
Use commercial solutions
based on open standards
developed and sold by a
large number of companies

- Don't become dependent on single companies with proprietary solutions

Use standards with a long
life-time (20 years+)

- Keep long lifecycles of accelerators in mind

Reminder: Control System Layer Model



High Level Software: Clients



Usually clients run in a

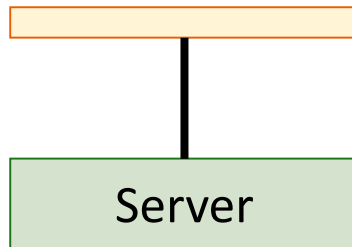
control room

and are used by

operators

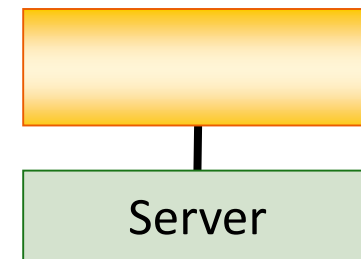
Where is the logic? Where are the computations?

Thin Client



Only display of results

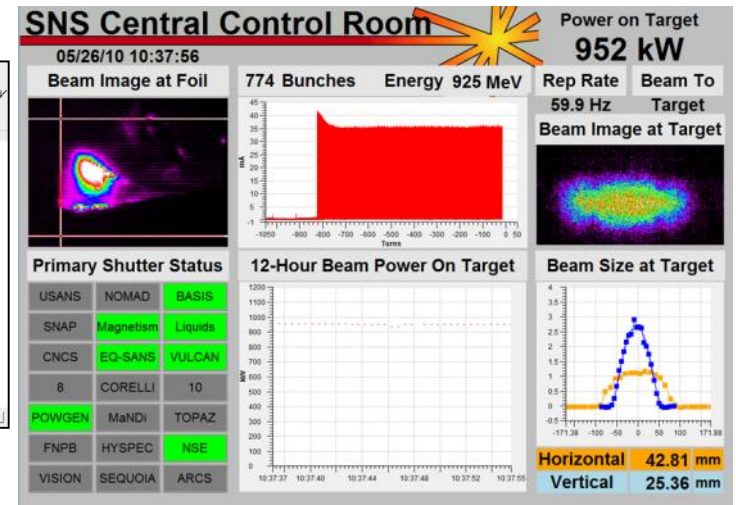
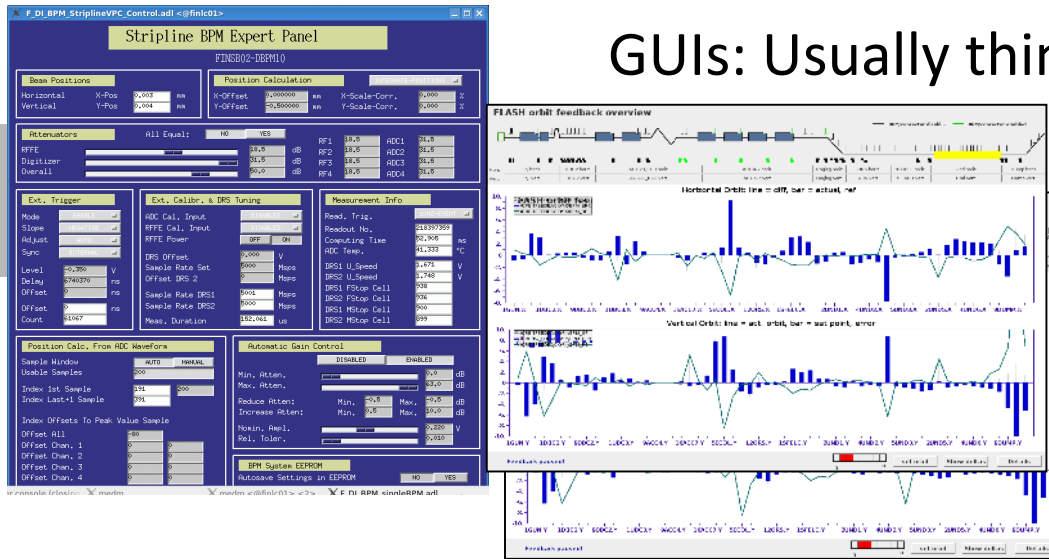
Fat Client



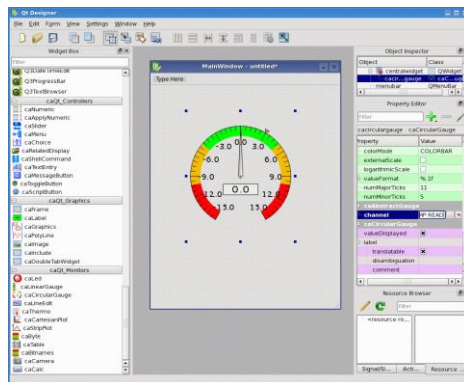
Production of results

High Level Software: Graphical User Interfaces

GUIs: Usually thin clients



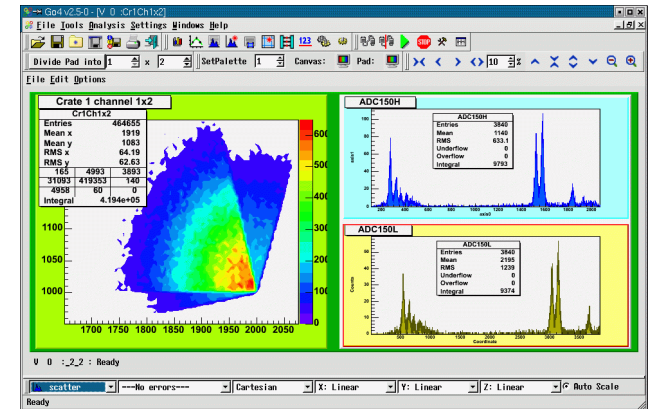
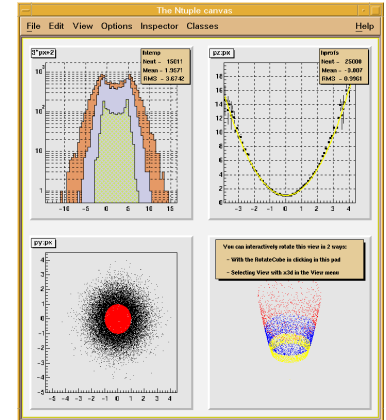
Example for an Editor



PSI is using a GUI builder called caQtDM (EPICS based):
<http://epics.web.psi.ch/software/caqtdm/>

Examples for accelerator science applications:

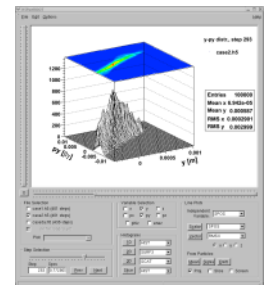
- Tune measurement and correction
- Orbit correction
- Beam based magnet alignment
- Parameter scans
(to find optimal working points)
- Filling pattern measurements
and correction
- Correlation Plots



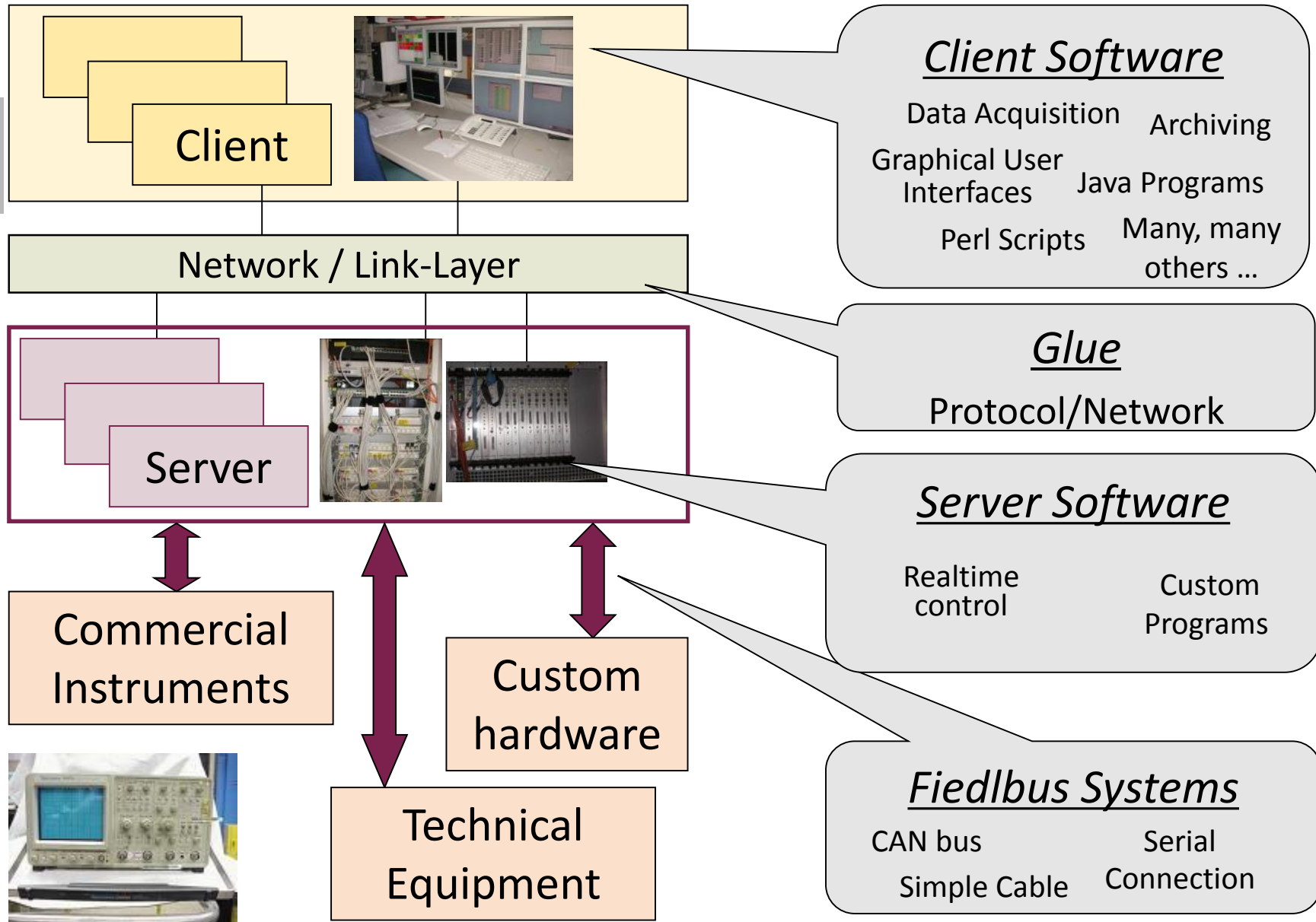
... general data analysis of accelerator data

Usually fat clients,

usually written by scientists (not by controls experts)



Reminder: Control System Layer Model



The Cheap Solution: PC based

user interface



Server Hardware

PC



field bus
(ethernet,
serial, USB,
firewire, ...)



PCs are cheap, have standard
network interfaces and support
other field busses

PCs life cycles are short compared
to accelerators (no spares
available after some time)

The Classic Solution: VME based

user interface



Server Hardware

VME
(Operating System:
e.g. vxWorks)



Ethernet

Dumb
Hardware

VME cards life cycle is long,
VMEbus is an open standard,
Supported by Industry

VME is expensive,
special operating system
(VxWorks)

Cable or
field bus
(analog I/O,
digital I/O,...)



What is a VME Computer?

- VME is an abbreviation for **V**ERSA**m**odule **E**urocard
- Industry Computer based on VMEbus
- Developed since 1980
- It is not a PC
- Real-time capable (i.e. delays are calculable)
- Common used operating system is VxWorks from Wind River company (open source alternative: RTEMS)
- Expensive (~800 Euro per interface card)



VME Crate



VME Card:
Eurocard size
VMEbus interface

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/VMEbus>

A serial interface solution: Picotux based

user interface



Ethernet

Server Hardware

Linux PC



Example for tiny computers with single interface

Cheap and tiny solution,
Supports distributed devices

All commercial chips have slightly
different architecture (maintenance),
life cycle yet unknown

Serial
interface
(RS232, ...)



The Embedded Solution: Device Integrated CPU

user interface



Ethernet

Low cost, have standard network interfaces and support distributed devices

All commercial chips have slightly different architecture (maintenance), life cycle yet unknown

Embedded Hardware

=

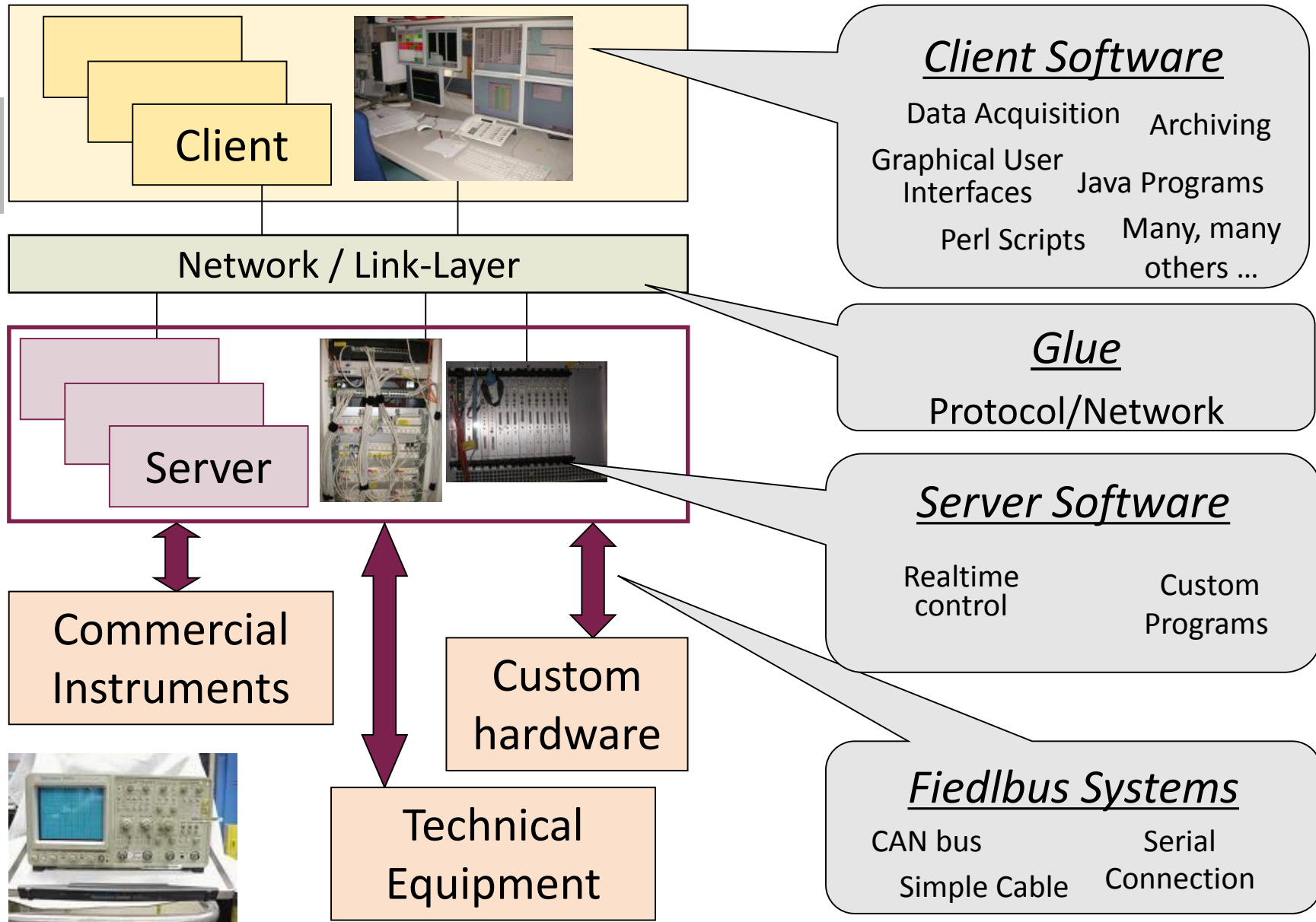
Server Hardware

+

Instrument



Reminder: Control System Layer Model

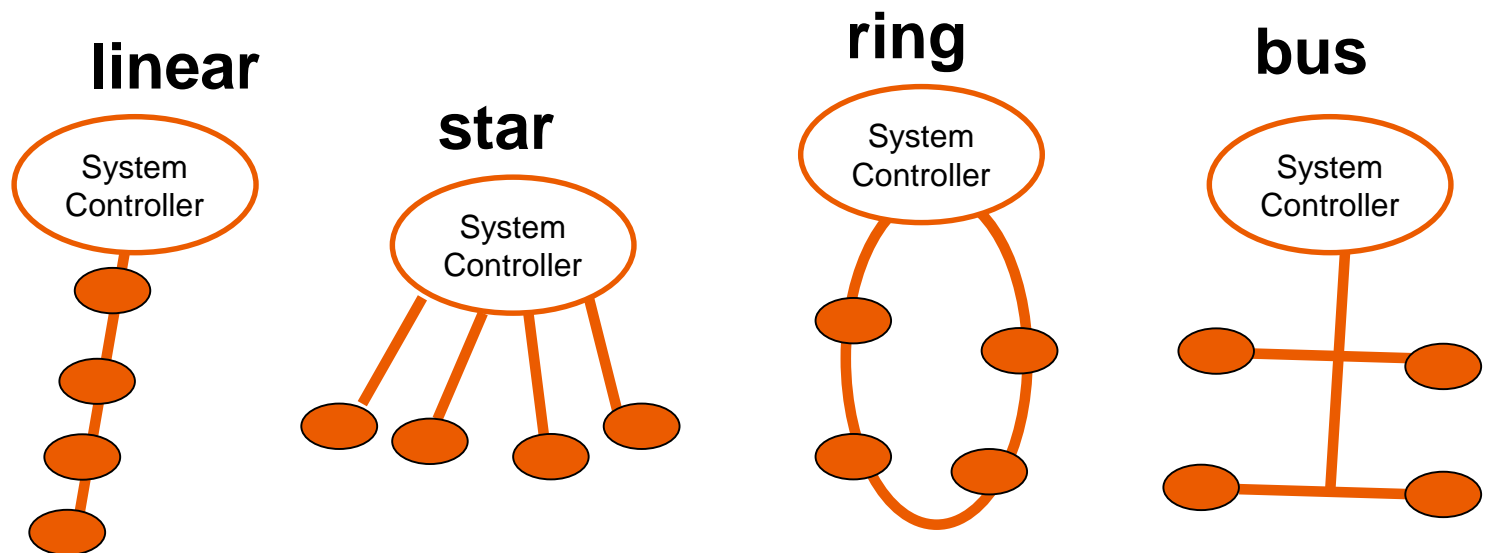


What are PLCs?

- **PLC (Programmable Logic Controller)**
 - is a digital computer used to connect “dumb” devices
- the PLC is designed
 - for multiple inputs and outputs
 - extended temperature ranges
 - immunity to electrical noise
 - resistance to vibration and impact
 - as a real time system
- Programs are typically stored in battery-backed or non-volatile memory
- Products from different providers can **NOT** be mixed!



- Field busses connect hardware to servers
- A lot different busses available with different purposes and different specifications as
 - number of allowed devices
 - speed
 - allowed cable length
 - topology (ring, star, linear, ...)



Some example field bus systems:

- **CANbus** (Controller area network)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CAN_bus



- **PROFIBUS** (Process Field Bus)

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Profibus>



- **IEEE 1394** (Firewire)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/IEEE_1394

- **EtherCAT** (Ethernet based real time bus)

<https://www.ethercat.org/en/technology.html>



Difference to Ethernet and USB?

Field busses are real time capable (IEC 61158 specification)

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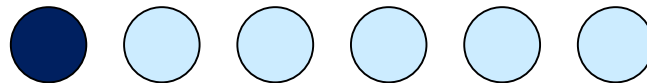
Accelerator Control Systems have fussy borders.

Some example for these borders are:

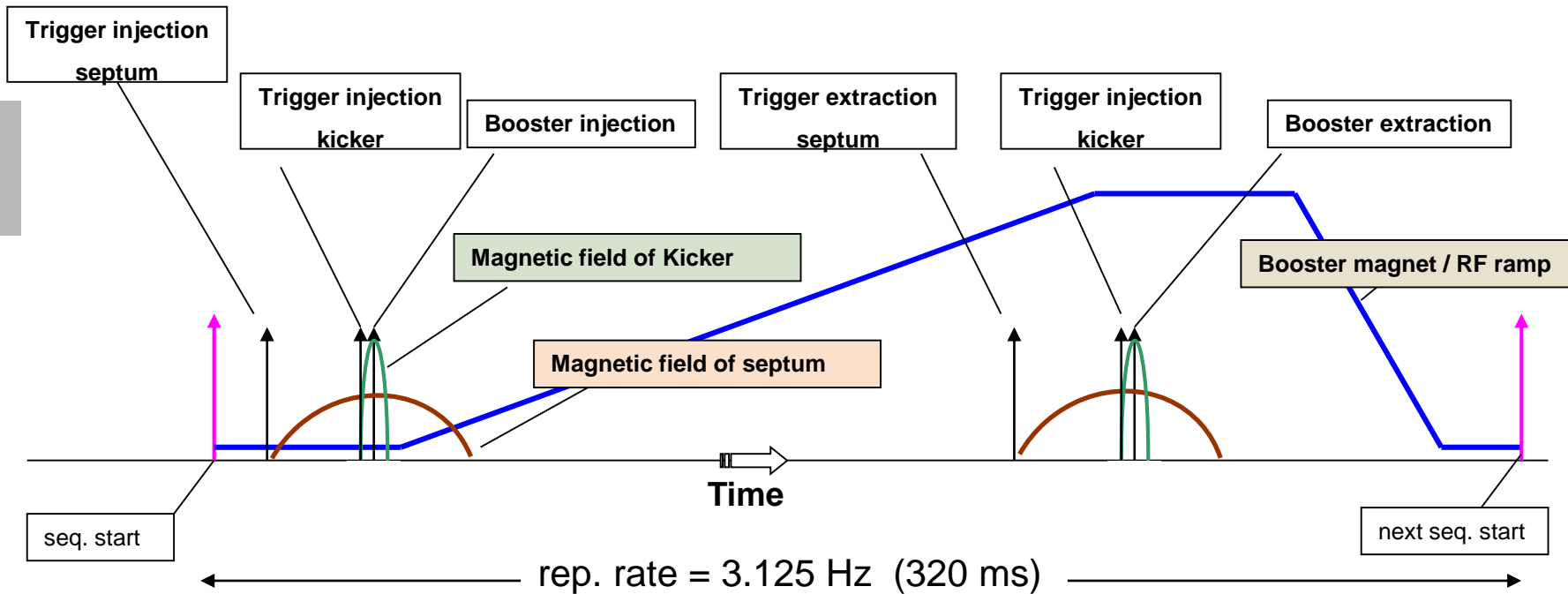
1. Timing and Synchronisation
2. Feedback Systems
3. Interlock-, Alarm-, and Machine Protection Systems
4. Experiment Data Acquisition
5. Relational Databases
6. Relationship of IT (Information Technology) and Controls

For example

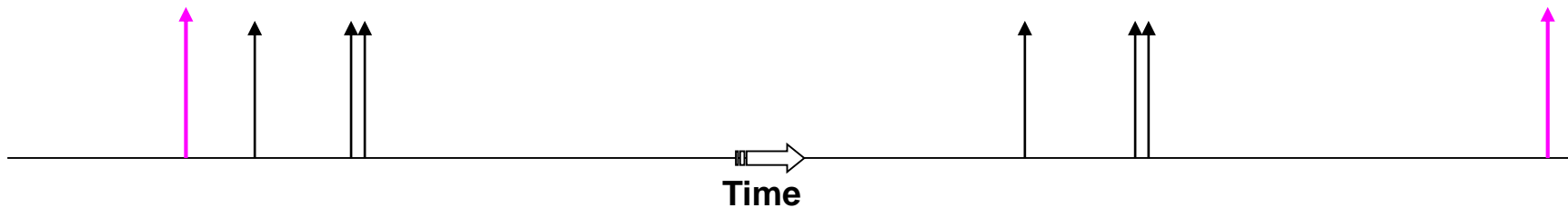
1. Timing and Synchronisation



Why Synchronize?



Event sequence for booster synchronization:



Solutions for Timing Systems

- Master oscillator + delay cables
(1 trigger and measured cable lengths)
- Master oscillator + digital delay generators
(<https://www.thinksrs.com/products/DG535.htm>)
- (Master oscillator +) event generators/receiver cards in computers (PC , VME, μ TCA)
(<http://www.mrf.fi/>)
- Timing and synchronization is needed to run an accelerator
- Various solutions available and used

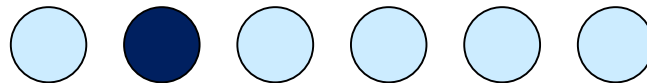


Timing and synchronization can be part of the Control System.

Clarify who is responsible for timing and synchronization to avoid problems!

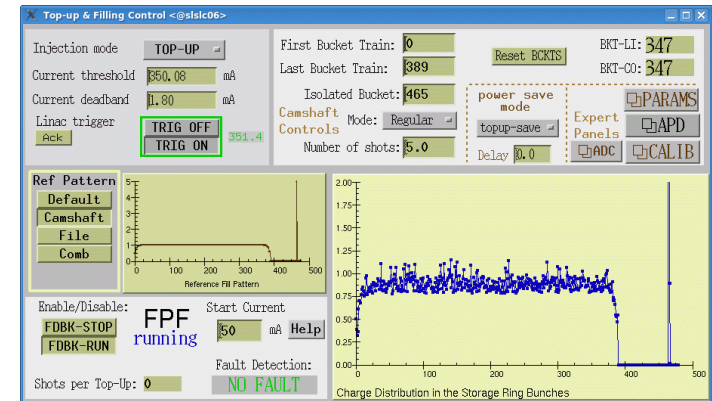
For example

2. Feedback Systems



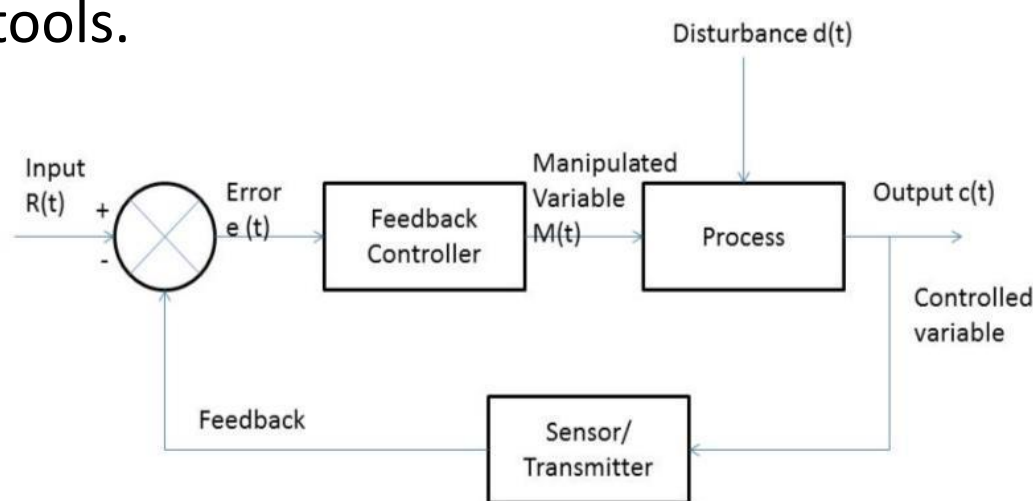
For example:

- Orbit Feedback (Position)
- Energy Feedback
- Filling pattern Feedback



If it needs to be fast, it needs separate cables!

Slow feedbacks can be realised with standard control system tools.



Example: Orbit Feedback

Needed for beam position stability.

Measurement (once in a time):

- Measure beam response matrix
(complete orbit for different corrector magnet settings)
- Invert the matrix
(normally not possible analytical, use numerical methods)
a stable method is singular value decomposition (SVD)

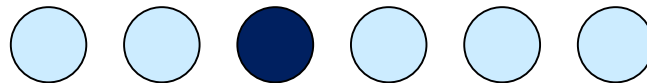


Feedback during runs:

- Measure the beam position and correct it with the appropriate set of correctors

For example

3. Interlock-, Alarm-, and Machine Protection Systems



What are Interlocks?

Everything is fine (No Alarm)

Example: Vacuum pressure $1\text{e-}10$ mbar

Something is strange (Warning)

Example: Vacuum pressure $1\text{e-}7$ mbar

Something is wrong (Error)

Example: Vacuum pressure $1\text{e-}6$ mbar

Stop it or suffer from severe
consequences (Interlock)

Example: Vacuum pressure $1\text{e-}5$ mbar

Automatic beam dump executed

Go on working

Alarm states

Alert people to take
some actions

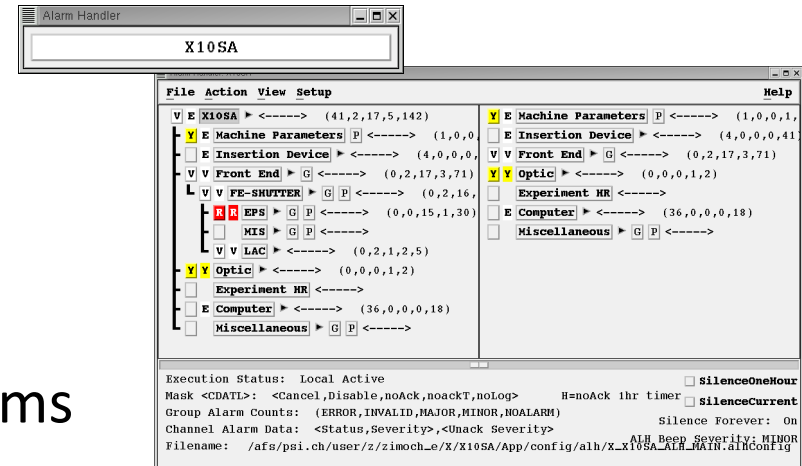
Interlock

Automatic reaction needed

Murphy's law:

Anything that can go wrong
will go wrong.

- Alarms help to avoid Real Problems
- Alarms help to find problems
- Example:
 - Beam position more than 1 mm of from reference
 - Vacuum pressure higher than $1e-6$ mbar
 - Orbit Feedback Program not running
- People should react on alarms



EPICS Alarmhandler

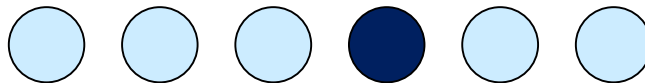
Interlock Systems

- Interlock Systems have to be
 - taking automatic actions (no people involved) - fast
 - Reliable (99% might not be enough)
 - as simple as possible (see Murphy's law)
- Avoid computers in Interlock Systems
 - Decouple “**running**” the accelerator (=Control System) from “**stopping**” the accelerator (=Interlock System)
- There can/will be more than one Interlock System in an accelerator (local, global, different goals, etc.), for example:
 - Vacuum Interlock
 - Equipment Protection System
 - local RF Interlock Systems

Clarify who is responsible for Interlock Systems to avoid problems!

For example

4. Experiment Data Acquisition



- **EIGER X 9M Detector**

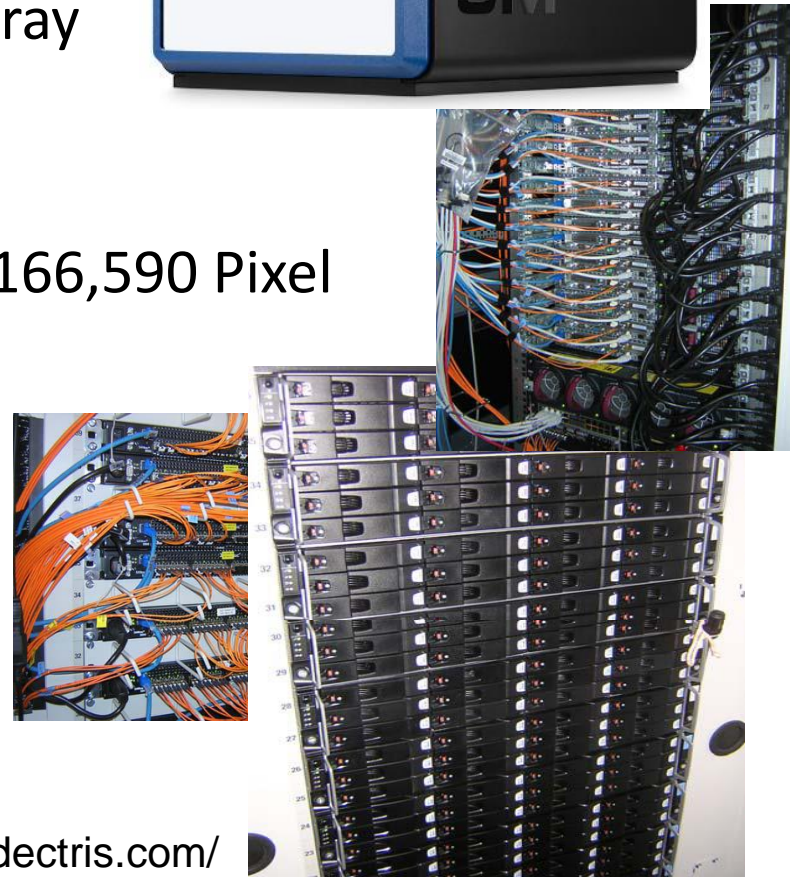
(Synchrotron-Beamline at SLS):

- two-dimensional hybrid pixel array detectors, which operate in single-photon counting mode
- composed of $3110 \times 3269 = 10,166,590$ Pixel
- maximum frame rate 238 Hz
ca. 10 MB \rightarrow 2.3 GB/s
 \rightarrow **more than 8 TB per hour**

(5 years ago:

2 TB in 8 hours with Pilatus)

<https://www.dectris.com/>



Data Acquisition (Examples)

- The Large Hadron Collider will produce roughly 15 petabytes (15 million gigabytes) of data annually – enough to fill more than 1.7 million dual-layer DVDs a year!
 - GRID computing to allow access



Is Data Acquisition Controls?

- Data Acquisition requires
 - Network infrastructure
 - Computer storage infrastructure
 - Server infrastructure for data access
 - Environment (e.g. Grid) for data access
 - Manpower for setup and maintenance
- Detectors
 - can provide information about **accelerator** (beam position)
 - need to be adjusted to **accelerator** setup (connection to control system needed)
- Some detectors (e.g. BPMs) are part of the **accelerator** anyway

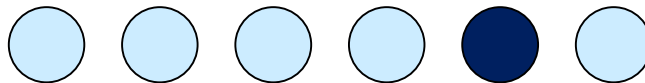
Not
necessary

Yes its
needed

Has to be discussed to avoid problems!

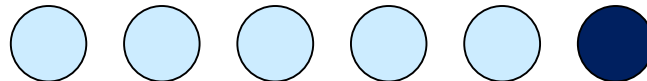
For example

5. Relational Databases



For example

6. Relationship of IT (Information Technology) and Controls



Who is Responsible for What?

- Most large research institutes have a Controls Group in addition to a IT Group
- Why separate IT from Controls?

IT

- Office PC installation
- Operating Systems for Office applications
- Infrastructure (network cables)
- Central Services (Computing Cluster, Server Room ...)

Controls

- Accelerator computer installation
- Integration of accelerator hardware
- Control Room applications
- Distributed processes

Databases, Timeserver, Network, Security

Controls is dependent on IT.

Responsibilities have to be discussed to avoid problems!

Table of Content



- What is an Accelerator Control System?



- Accelerator Control Systems Architecture



- Examples of Control Systems



- Control System Parts and Pieces



- Borderlands of Control Systems



- Conclusion

Summary: What is Accelerator Controls

- It is hard to define – but every Accelerator has one
- It is organized in layers separating hardware from applications
- It is (has to be) a distributed system, involving some network protocols
- The borders are not clearly defined
 - For example: Where starts the hardware responsibility (PLCs, embedded systems)?

Definition:

An **Accelerator Control System** is a **computer environment** that allows **remote access** to the accelerator hardware with a lot of **different functionality** to satisfy the requirements of several **different user groups**.

Bad news: There is no book on Accelerator Control Systems

Good news: You can find some things in the Internet

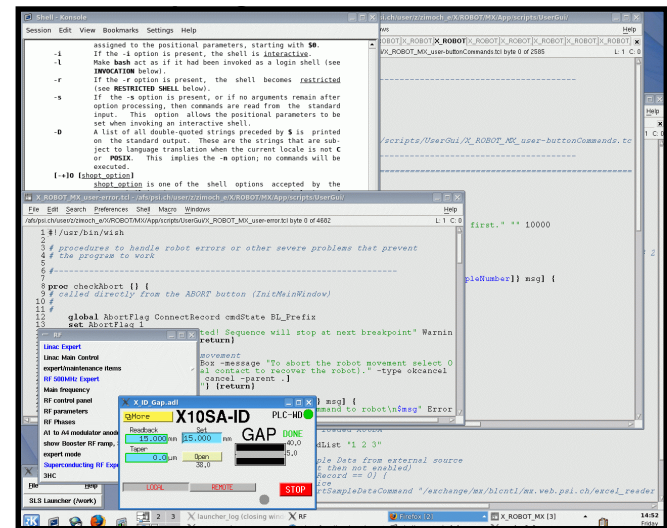
- ICFA Newsletter Number 47 (December 2008) on Control System:
http://icfa-usa.jlab.org/archive/newsletter/icfa_bd_nl_47.pdf
 - EPICS: <https://epics-controls.org/>
 - Tango: <http://www.tango-controls.org/>
 - CERN Controls Group: <https://be-dep-co.web.cern.ch/>
 - PSI Controls Group: <http://epics.web.psi.ch/>
- ...search the institute web pages ...
- International Conference on Accelerator and Large Experimental Physics Control Systems (ICALEPCS): <https://www.icalepcs.org/>

What to Learn as a Controls Guy?

1. Be curious about what your customers do (accelerator physics, experiments, medical treatment, etc.)
2. Enjoy programming
 - Script Language (python or similar)
 - Object Oriented (Java, C++, etc.)
3. Enjoy computer environments
 - Useful skills include (non-essential)
 - Basic knowledge in Accelerator Physics or general Physics
 - Database structures/sql commands
 - Linux and/or Windows administration
 - Network administration
 - PLC, FPGA or DSP programming (nearly electronics)
 - Graphical User Interface design

Quick test:

Do you feel comfortable with this



The
End

