



Industrial Automation

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Dr. Jean-Charles Tournier

Spring 2025

Agenda for Today

- Course Overview
 - Lecturers
 - Course Organization
 - Schedule

- Introduction to Automation Systems:
Automation & Plants, Sensors & Actuators

Dr. Jean-Charles Tournier
CERN
Geneva



Dr. Philipp Sommer
ABB Corporate Research
Baden, AG

Jean-Charles Tournier

Short Introduction



- Background in Software Engineering
 - PhD in Computer Science 2005
- R&D in Power Grid Automation
 - ABB, 2007-2011
- Development of large Control Systems
 - CERN, since 2011
- Industrial Automation Lecturer
 - EPFL, since 2013

Philipp Sommer

Short Introduction



- Background in Computer Engineering and Communication Networks
 - PhD in Electrical Engineering and Information Technology, ETH Zürich, 2011
- R&D in Wireless Sensor Networks and Industrial Internet of Things
 - CSIRO, Brisbane, Australia, 2011–2014
 - ABB Corporate Research, Baden-Dättwil, Switzerland, since 2014
- Industrial Automation Lecturer
 - EPFL, since 2021

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Control Theory

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Programmable Logic Controllers (PLCs)

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SCADA

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OSI Layers / Internet Protocols

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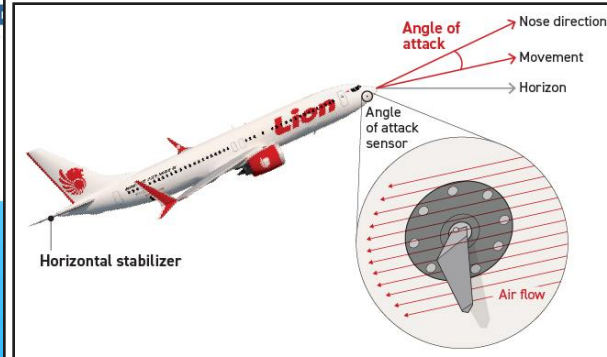
Fieldbus

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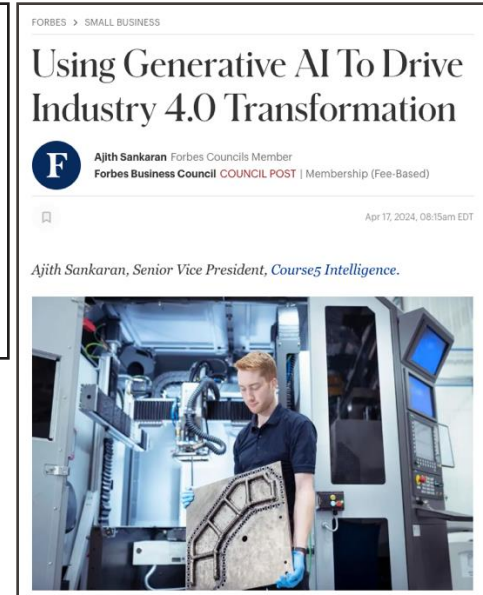
Industry Trends and Challenges



[src: [wired.com](https://www.wired.com)]

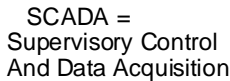


[src: [politico.com](https://www.politico.com)]

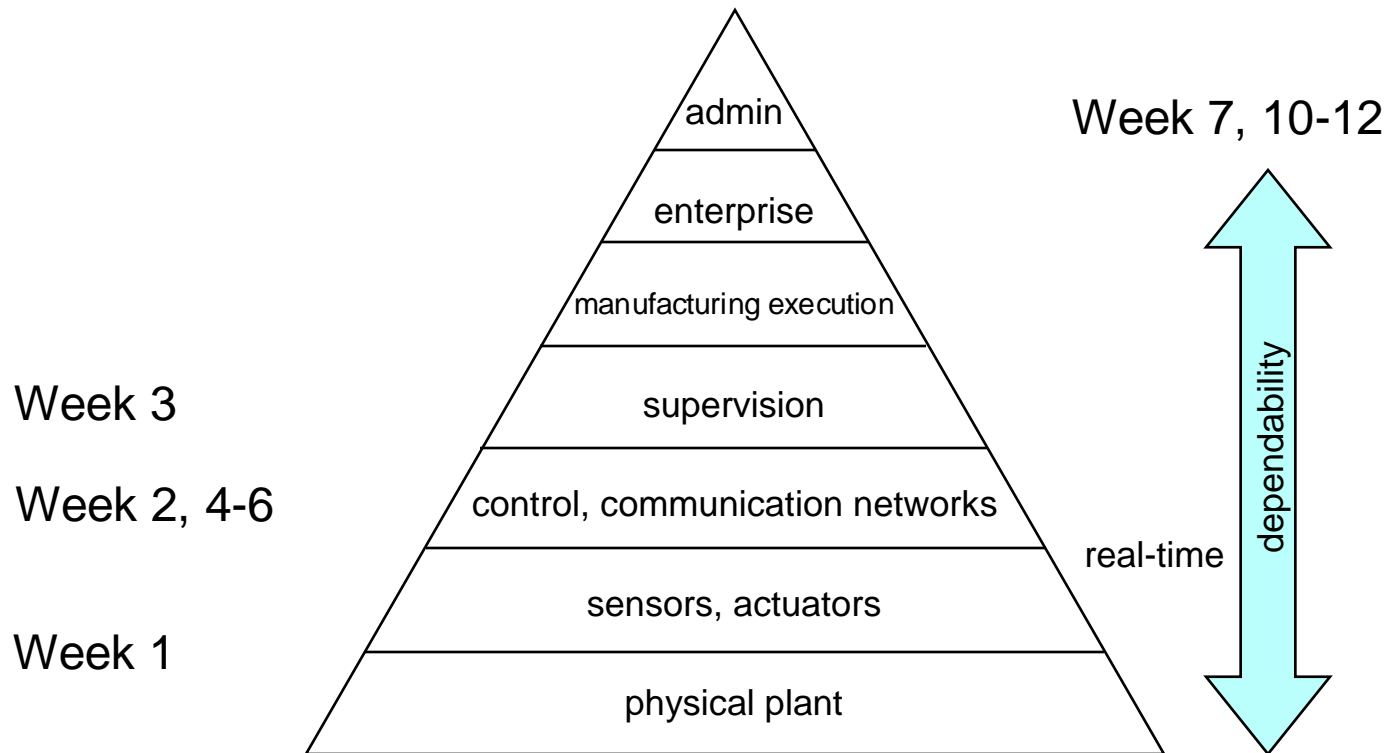


[src: [forbes.com](https://www.forbes.com)]

- Raise interest for industrial automation systems
- Understand industrial control systems (purpose, structure, HW/SW, communication networks/protocols)
- Methods and trade-offs in real time systems
- Understand terms in publications and standards
- Be able to analyze a plant and propose automation solutions
- Compare automation solutions with other domains
- Analyze reliability, availability and safety of systems
- Become productive in an industrial company or utility rapidly



Automation Hierarchy and Course Chapters



Lecture + exercise lessons

11 x (2 + 1) h

Group project

20h

Lab at
Siemens

7h

All components are part of the course. Project to be completed in groups.

Course Material on Moodle:

- Course slides and questions to prepare for exam
- Link to lecture notes
- Exercises (not mandatory, no submission)
- Link to recordings of lectures from 2021 (SWITCHtube)

Teaching Assistant: Guokai Chen

Week	Date	Lecturer	Topic
1	18-Feb-25	PS	Introduction: Automation & Plants, Sensors & Actuators
2	25-Feb-25	PS	PLCs + Control
3	4-Mar-25	JCT	Human Interface and Supervision (SCADA) + Project presentation
-	11-Mar-25		School Trip
4	18-Mar-25	PS	Industrial communication networks, field bus
5	25-Mar-25	PS	Industrial Communication Protocols
6	1-Apr-25	PS	Programming PLCs
7	8-Apr-25	JCT	Dependability Analysis 1
8	15-Apr-25		Siemens Workshop (Option 1)
-	22-Apr-25		Easter Break
9	29-Apr-25		Siemens Workshop (Option 2)
10	6-May-25	JCT	Dependability Analysis 2
11	13-May-25	JCT	Dependable Architecture
12	20-May-25	JCT	Real-Time + Safety Evaluation
-	26-May-25		Siemens Workshop (Option 3)
13	27-May-25	JCT + PS	Project Presentation

Lab at Siemens in Renens:

- Hands-on introduction to PLC programming
- The lab is offered on three different dates:
 - April 15th, April 29th and May 26th
 - approx. 08:30 – 16:30 (to be confirmed later)
- Students need to be registered for one date
 - Registrations through Moodle, will be announced later
 - Please let us know asap when you cannot make it / need to reschedule



Project (Group work)

Project assignment to be presented in Week 3

- Propose the architecture of the automation system for a chocolate powder factory:
 - Select sensors, actuators, controllers, network architecture, etc.
 - Give guidelines for the user interface (mock-up)
 - Dependability analysis of the plant



- Stamatios Manesis, George Nikolakopoulos, “Introduction to Industrial Automation”, CRC Press

