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## Nyquist's Contributions to Control and Communication

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# Nyquist's Contributions to Control and Communication

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September 1993

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<i>Author(s)</i> Karl Johan Åström	<i>Supervisor</i>
	<i>Sponsoring organisation</i>
<i>Title and subtitle</i> Nyquist's Contributions to Control and Communication	
<i>Abstract</i> Slides from two lectures given at the commemoration of the Nyquist Hall at Karlstad Institute of Technology. The first lecture presents Nyquist's stability criterion and discusses its consequences for the field of Automatic Control. The second lecture (in Swedish) gives a shorter but broader presentation of Nyquist's contributions to communication and control.	
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<i>Classification system and/or index terms (if any)</i>	
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The report may be ordered from the Department of Automatic Control or borrowed through the University Library 2, Box 1010, S-221 03 Lund, Sweden, Fax +46 46 110019, Telex: 33248 lubbis lund.

# **Nyquist's Contributions to Automatic Control**

**K. J. Åström**

*Department of Automatic Control  
Lund Institute of Technology*

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Nyquist's Idea**
- 3. Automatic Control**
- 4. An Example**
- 5. Conclusions**

# **Introduction**

Degrees of scientific fame

Practically all engineering students  
all over the world learn about:

Nyquist's Stability Criterion  
The Nyquist Curve  
The Nyquist Frequency  
Nyquist Noise

## **Natural Science and Engineering Science**

Many similarities but also differences

**Understand  
Natural Phenomena**  
Analysis  
Isolate phenomena  
Look for basic laws

**Understand  
Technical Systems**  
Synthesis  
Interaction  
Look for system principles

Nyquist's work a good illustration (feedback, information)

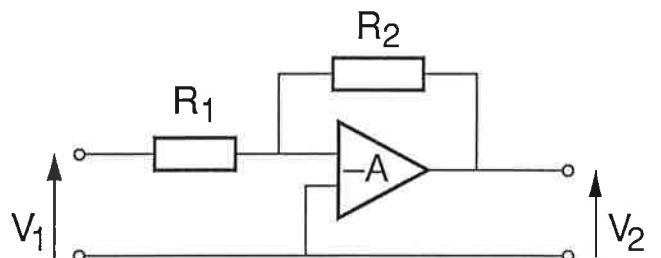
1. Introduction
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## Telecommunication in the 1930's

### Background

Long lines  
 Need for repeaters  
 Feedback amplifier  
 The problem with "singing"  
 (instability)  
 What is it?  
 What does it depend on?  
 How can it be avoided?

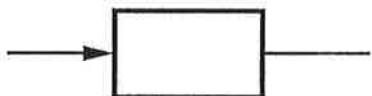
### The Feedback Amplifier



$$\frac{V_2}{V_1} = -\frac{R_2}{R_1} \cdot \frac{1}{1 + \frac{1}{A} \left( 1 + \frac{R_2}{R_1} \right)}$$

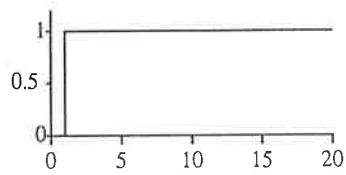
# How to Describe Behaviour of a Dynamical System

The black box view

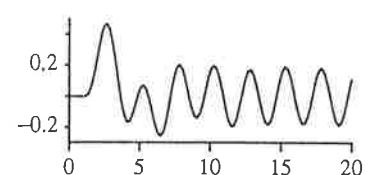
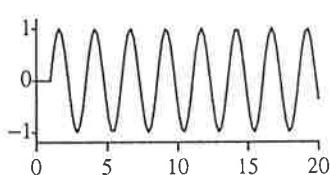
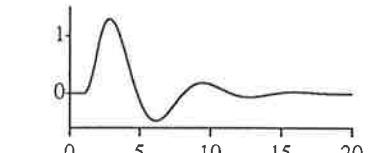
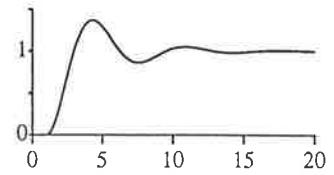


Linearity  
Superposition  
Sinewaves suffice

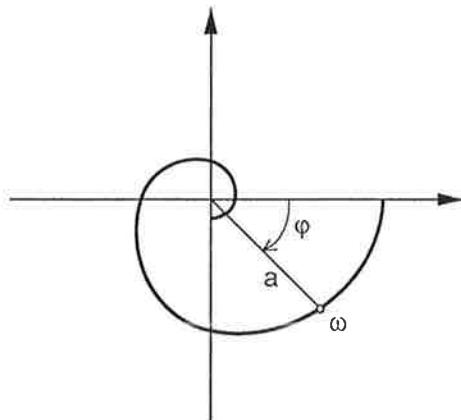
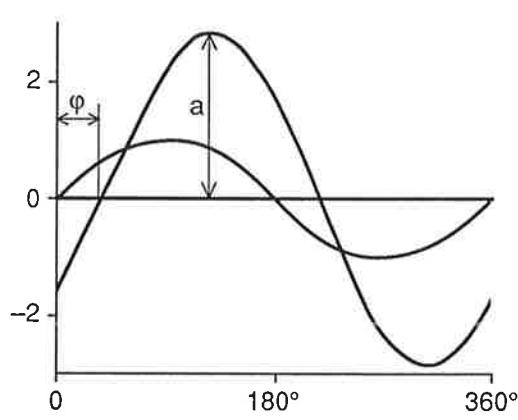
Input



Output

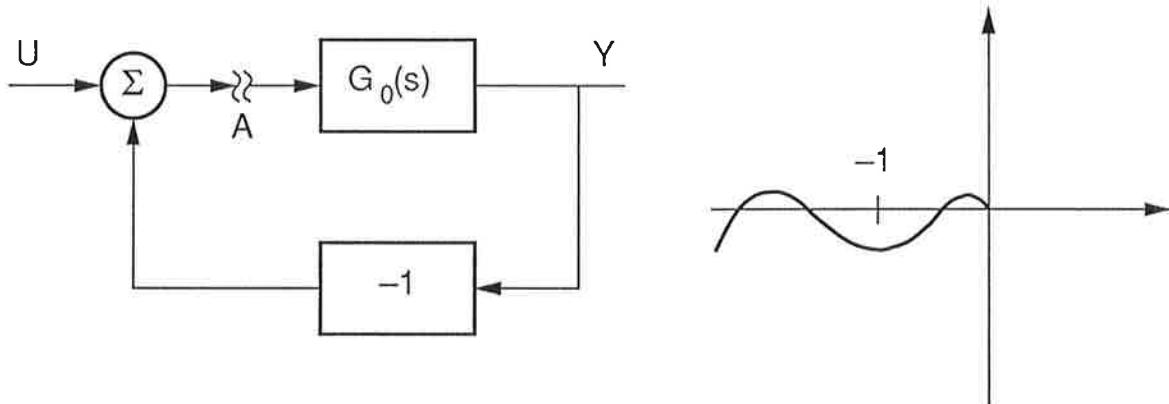


## The Nyquist Curve



Can be determined experimentally !

# Nyquist's Stability Criterion



## Use of Nyquist's Stability Criterion

Tool for analysis

Insight and understanding

Design method

Measure Nyquist curve of process

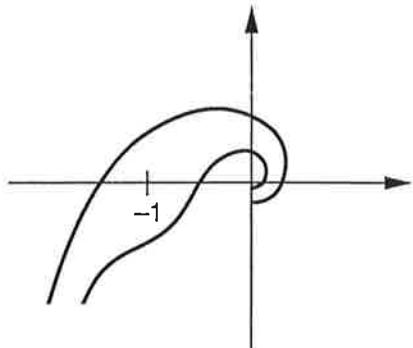
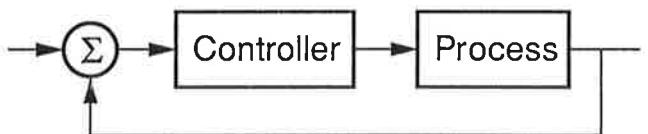
Choose controller's Nyquist curve

Implement controller

Evaluate by measurement

Install system

Replaces trial and error



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- 

## A Historical Note

Early use of feedback and observation of "singing"

Windmills ≈1720

Steam engines (Watt) ≈1770

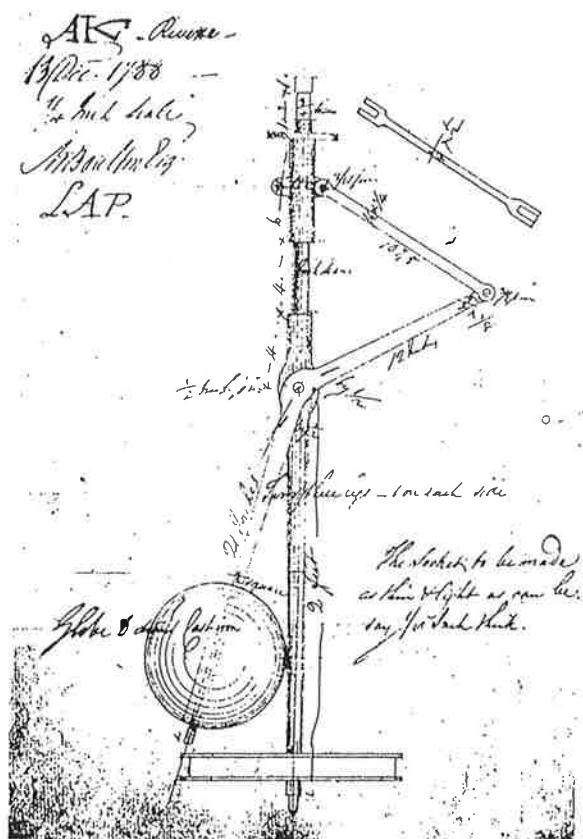
Maxwell

Turbines 1886

Flight control 1905

Wright Brothers, Sperry  
Telephones

Why were similarities not discovered until 1940 ?



## **Automatic Control Emerges a Discipline**

Driving forces	System principles
Inspiration	Feedback
Telecommunication	Feedforward
Industrial automation	
Flight control	
Where?	System theory
MIT (Nyquist was there!)	Design methods
USSR	Application experience
England	Education
	IFAC 1957
	Conferences, Journals

## **A Dynamic Development**

<b>Landmarks</b>	<b>Applications</b>
Servomechanism theory 1945	Transportation
Proliteration of applications	Energy generation
Paradigm shift $\approx$ 1960	Energy transmission
Space missions	Process Industry
Computer control	Manufacturing
New foundation	Entertainment
Current challenges	Biology
Intelligent systems?	Economics?

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## **Impact of Nyquist's Criterion at ASEA**

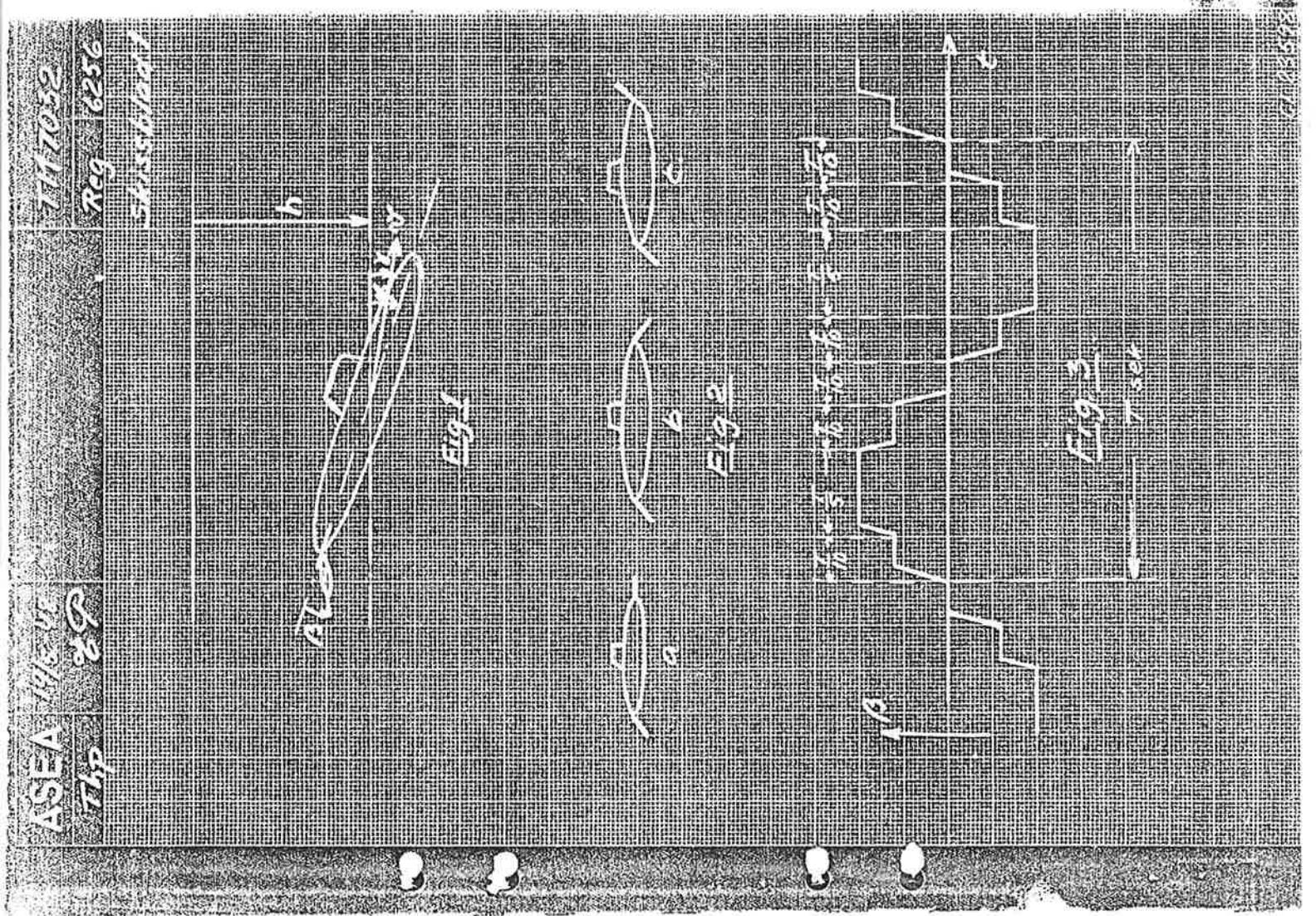
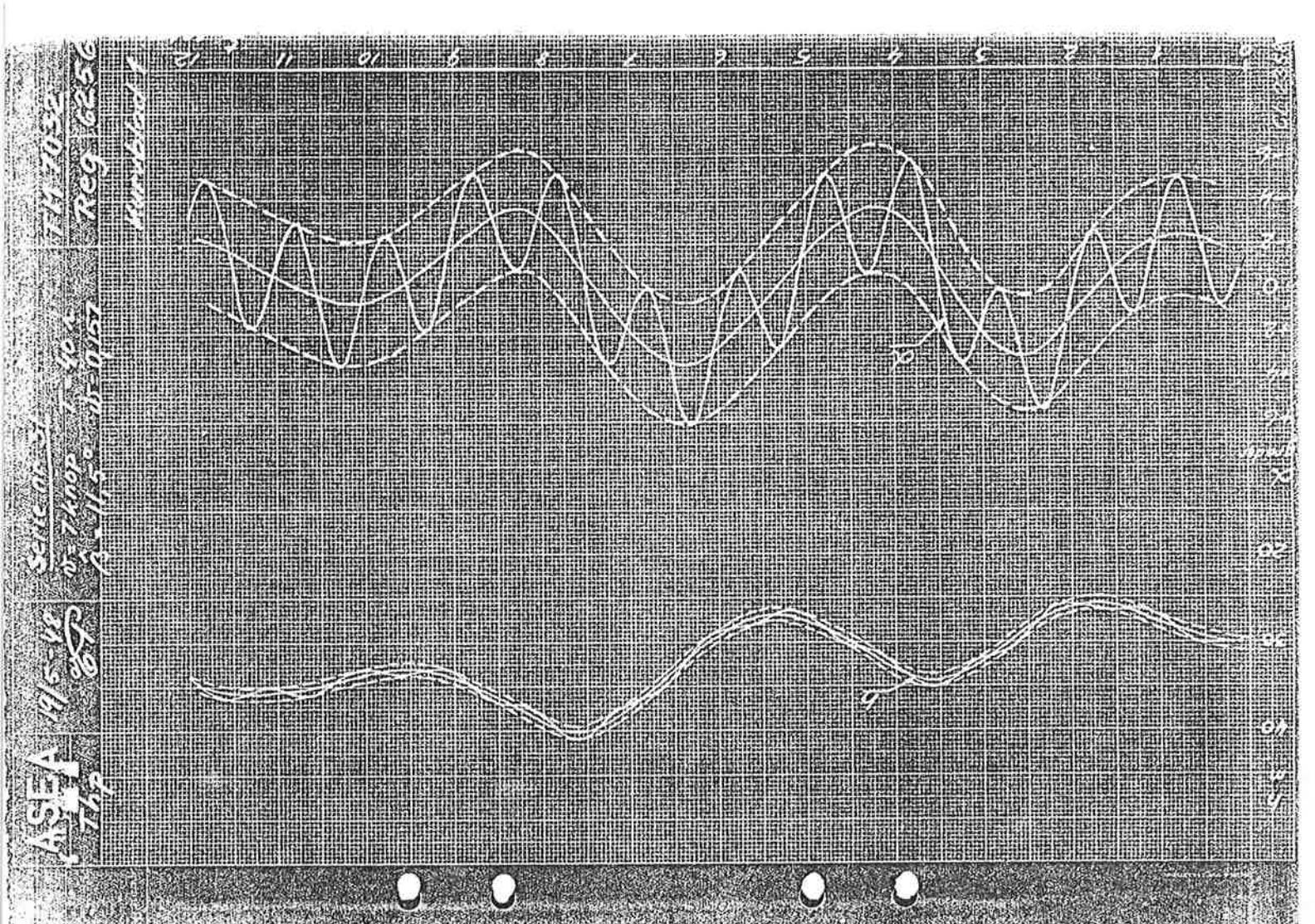
From Bell Labs to Västerås – A long journey

H. Nyquist, Regeneration Theory, *Bell System Technical Journal*, Vol 11, 1932, pp. 126–147.

Regeneration or feed-back is of considerable importance in many applications of vacuum tubes. The most obvious example is that of vacuum tube oscillators, where the feed-back is carried beyond the singing point. Another application is the 21-circuit test of balance, in which the current due to the unbalance between two impedances is fed back, the gain being increased until singing occurs. Still other applications are cases where portions of the output current of amplifiers are fed back to the input either unintentionally or by design. For the purpose of investigating the stability of such devices they may be looked on as amplifiers whose output is connected to the input through a transduce. This paper deals with the theory of stability of such systems.

Aage Garde och Erik Persson, Automatisk djupstyrning av ubåtar, *Aseas Tidning*, 1960, Årgång 52, Häfte 7, sid 127.

Allmän beskrivning av Aseas system för automatisk djupstyrning av ubåtar. Funktionen och konstruktionen beskrivs i detalj, och slutligen ges några exempel på driftresultat.



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## Conclusions

- ✧ Nyquist created many useful ideas and concepts
- ✧ Important for telecommunication and control
- ✧ Grew from study of a particular problem
- ✧ Impact far outside the original field
- ✧ Very proper to dedicate this Hall to him

Professor A. Engström:

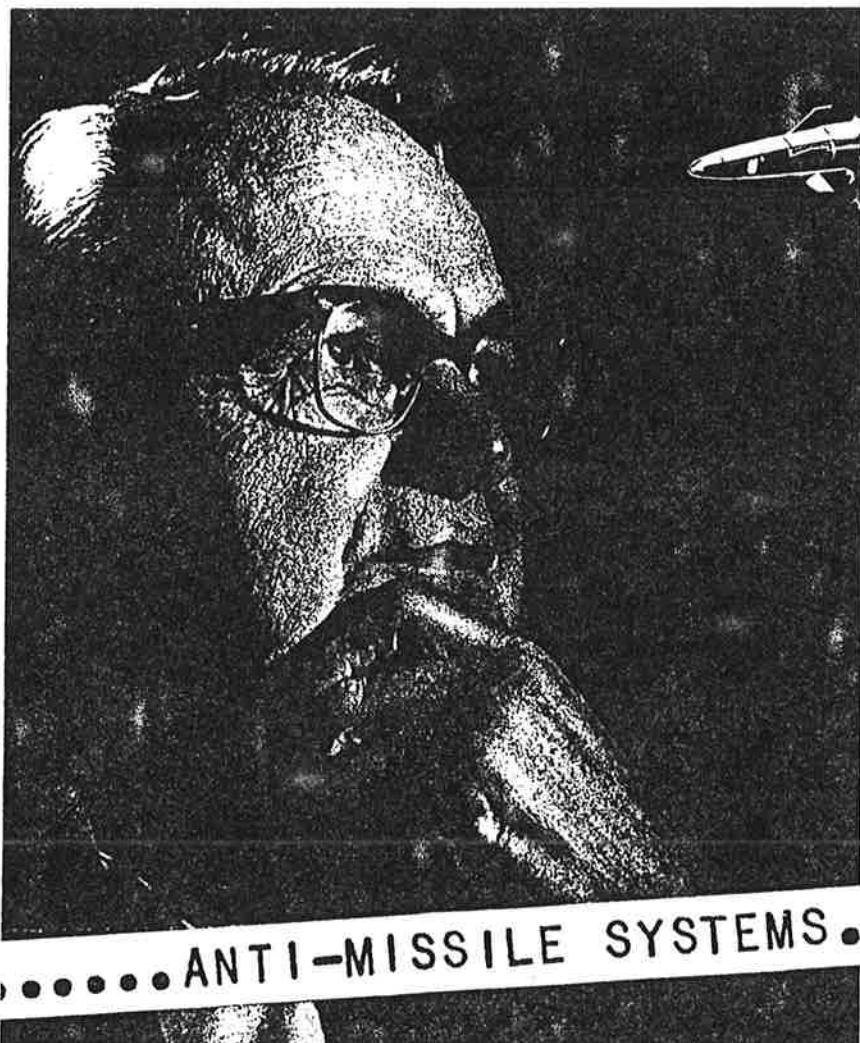
"Det mest karakteristiska för forskningsverksamheten inom livsvetenskaperna är att den blir i allt högre grad tvärvetenskaplig. Den spänner över matematik, reglerings-teknik, molekylärbiologi, farmakologi, klinik osv. Detaljkunskaperna ger oss möjligheter att analysera funktionerna mer grundläggande genom att sätta samman de olika reglersystemen allt ifrån molekylär upp till organ- och individnivå. Det är här det teoretiska systemtänkandet kommer in i bilden och kan öka förståelsen för hur levande materia fungerar."

# Harry Nyquist

En pionjär inom ingenjörsvetenskapen

K. J. Åström

*Lunds Tekniska Högskola*



A Research Project of Dr. Harry Nyquist,

## Kort biografi

7 februari 1889 Nilsby	Viktiga idéer
Emigrerar till USA 1907	Banbrytande vetenskapliga artiklar
BS Univ North Dakota 1915	Tekniska system
Ph.D. Yale 1917	138 patent
AT&T Engineering 1917	IRE Medal of Honor
Bell Labs 1934	Ballantyne Medal Franklin Institute
Pensionerad 1954	M. J. Kelley Award AIEE
Konsult	Rufus Oldenberger Award ASME

## Viktiga bidrag

Telegrafteknik	Nyquistkriteriet
Telekommunikation	Nyquistkurvan
Informationsteori	Nyquistfrekvensen
Reglerteknik	Nyquists brus

# Naturvetenskap och teknikvetenskap

Många likheter men också skillnader

**Förstå  
fenomen i naturen**  
Analys  
Isolering  
Grundprinciper

**Förstå  
tekniska system**  
Syntes  
Komplexitet  
Systemprinciper

Nyquists arbeten en utmärkt illustration  
(återkoppling, information)

## Slutord

- ❖ Gratulerar till nya lokaler
- ❖ Trevligt att hylla bygdens söner
- ❖ Andra tider