



NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL  
INSTITUTE OF INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY AND AUTOMATION

**AUTOMATION:  
MODEL PREDICTIVE CONTROL  
IN MANUFACTURING PLANTS**

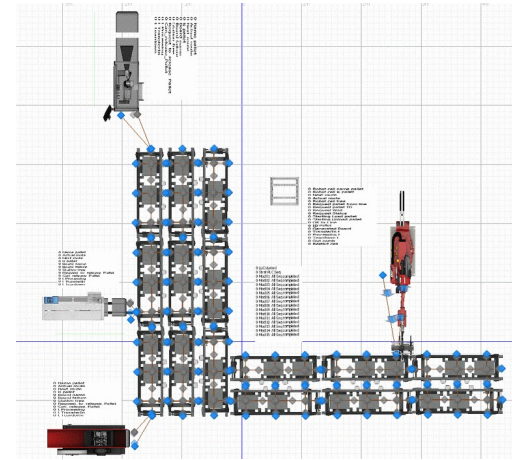
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**Andrea Cataldo**

# Andrea Cataldo

- ITIA – CNR (Researcher)

Institute of Industrial Technology and Automation  
National Research Council – Italy



- ABB Corporate Research Italy (Industrial researcher)



- Foster Wheeler Italiana (Control engineer)



## Outline

- What does Automation mean?
- Who is a Control Engineer? What does he do?
- Advanced Control System: a case study

# What does Automation mean?

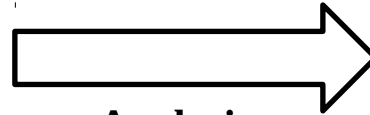
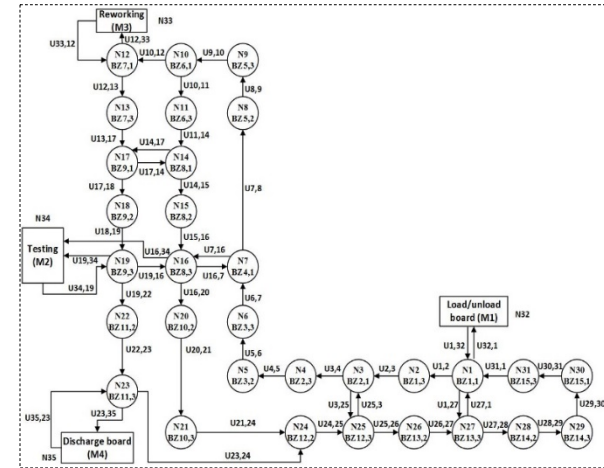


# Who is a Control Engineer? What does he do?

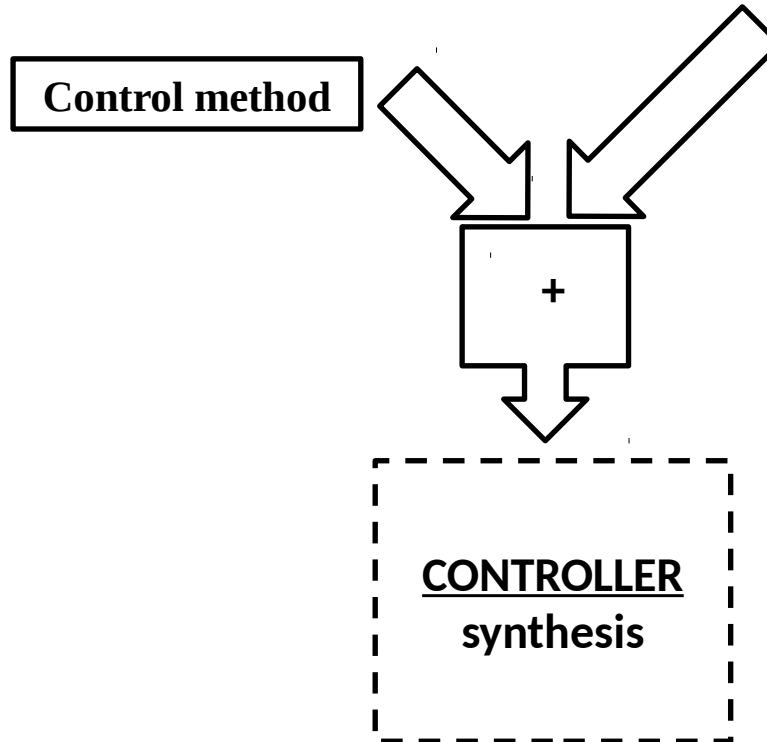
Real Plant



Mathematical Model



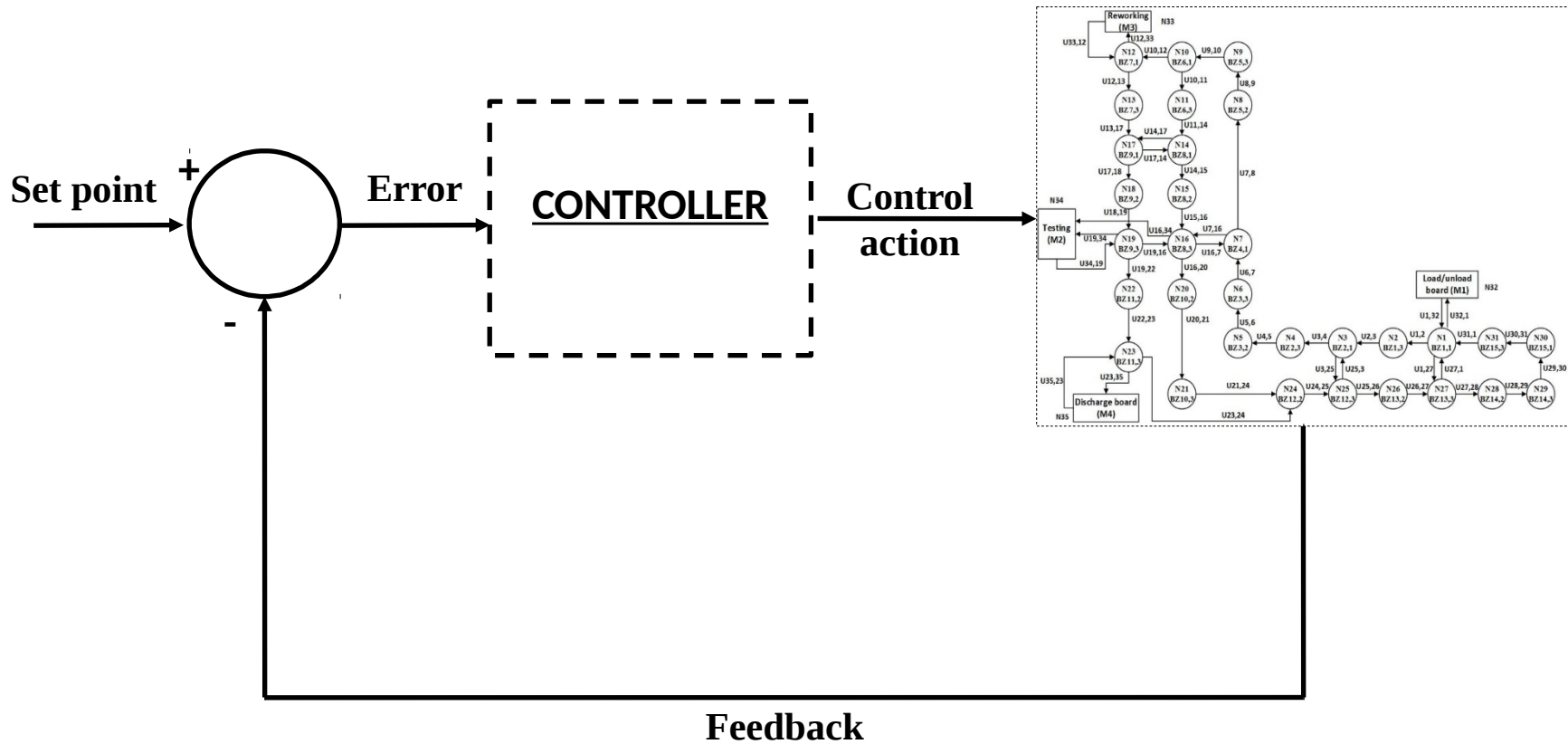
Analysis  
Modelling



# Who is a Control Engineer? What does he do?

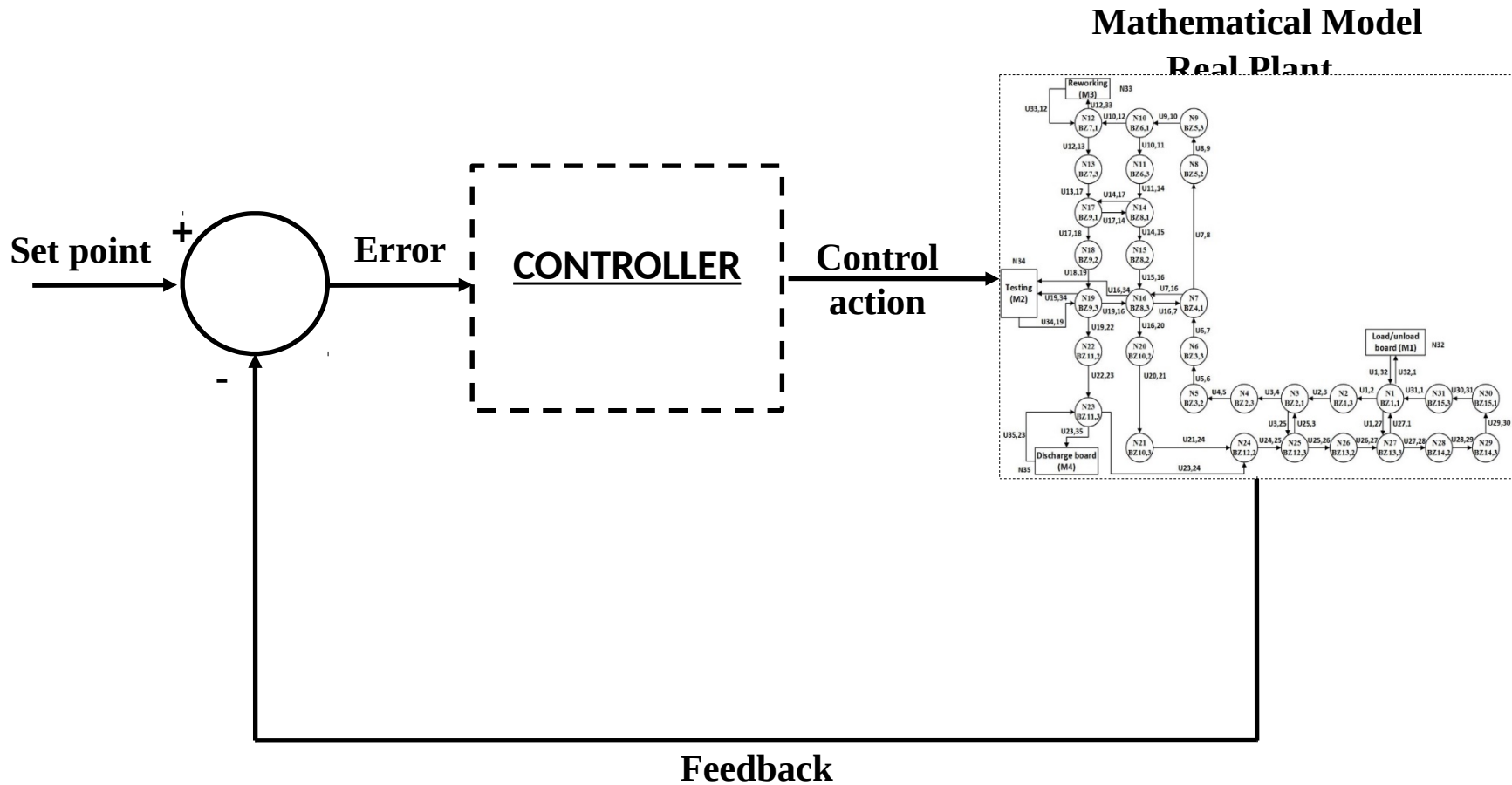
## Simulation

### Mathematical Model



# Who is a Control Engineer? What does he do?

## Implementation



# Advanced Control System: a case study

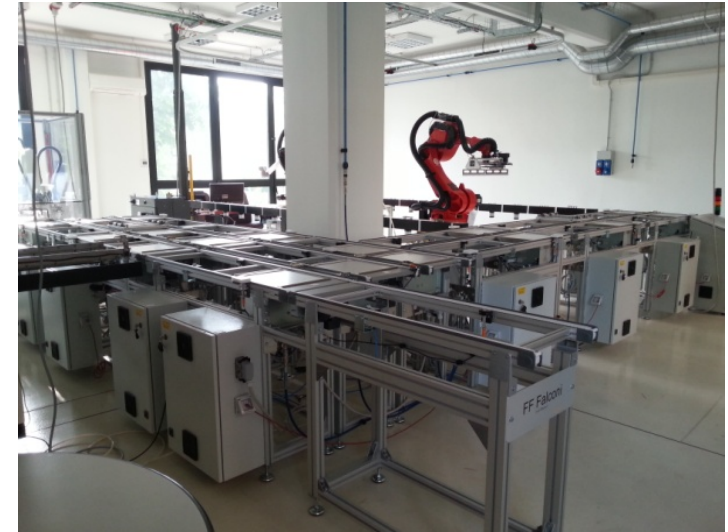
## (Dynamic pallet routing in a manufacturing transport line)



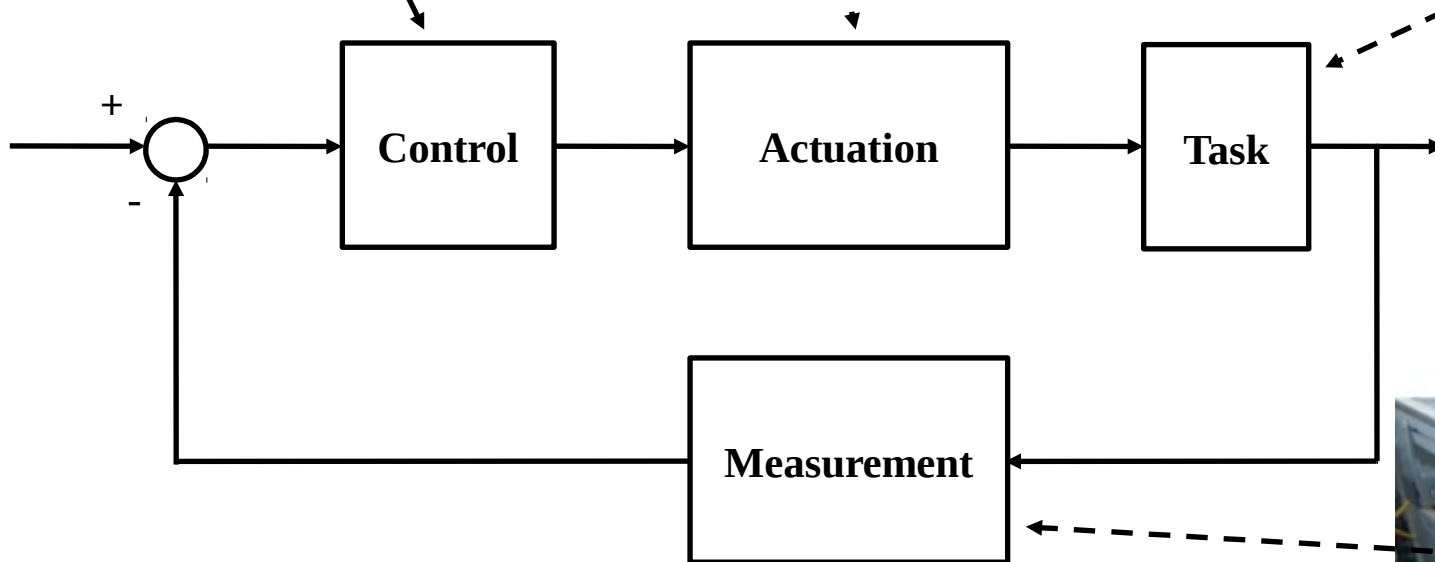
De-manufacturing pilot plant – ITIA CNR, Via A. Corti 12, Milan (Italy)



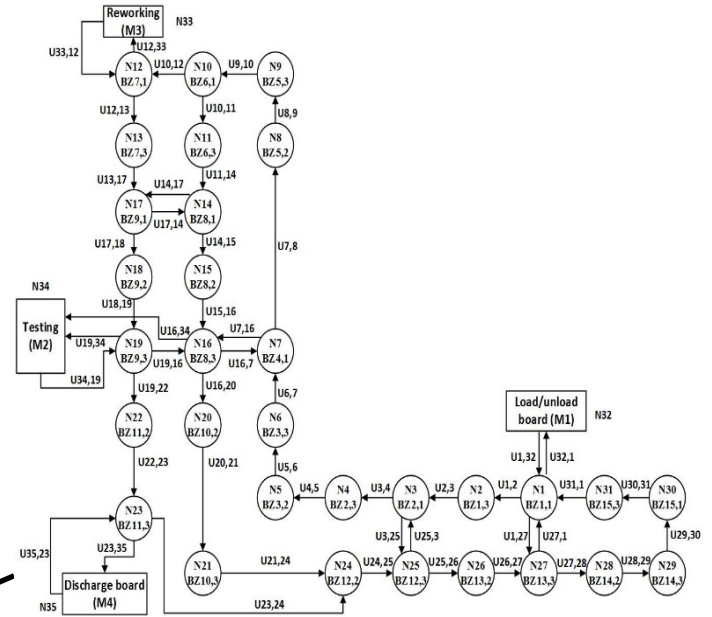
# Control Systems Design



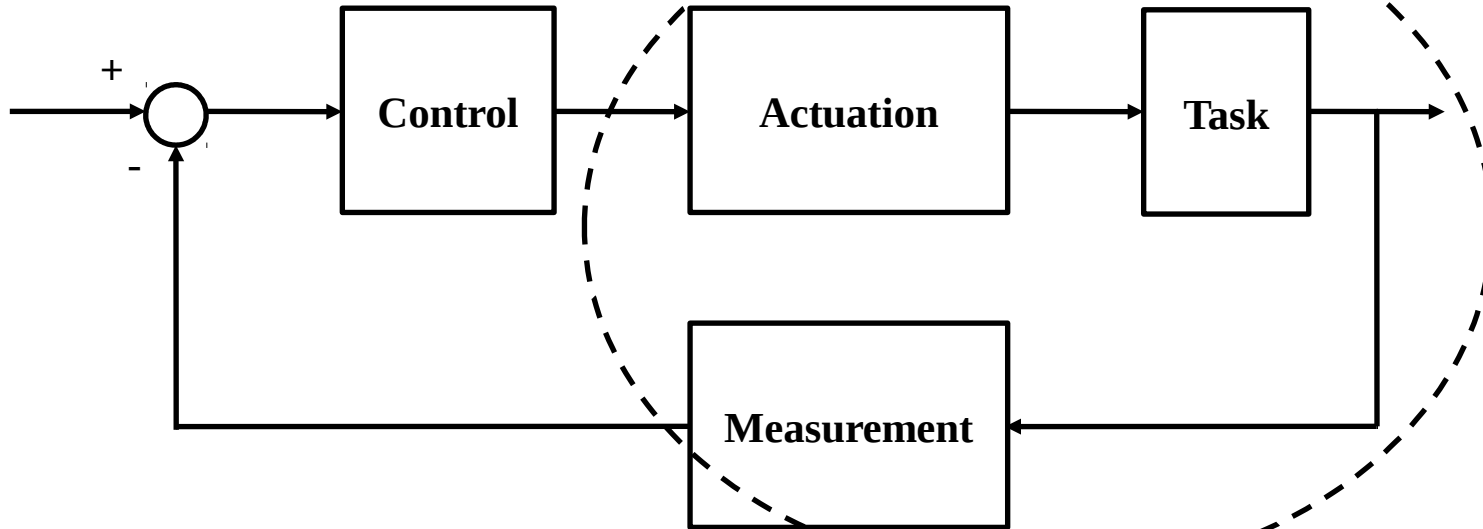
**Control law**  
*(TBD)*



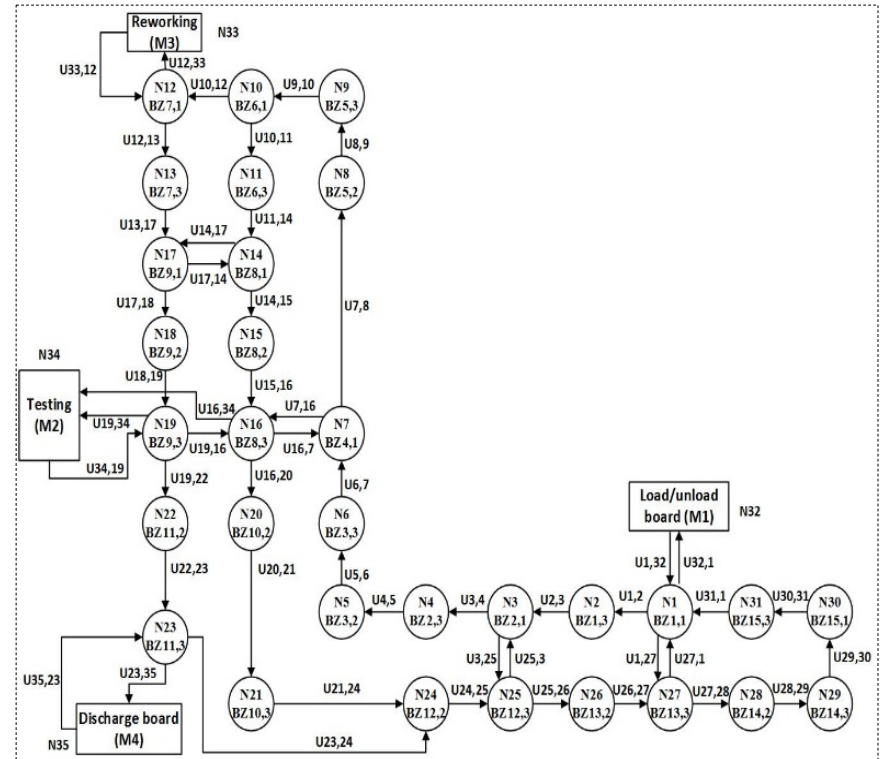
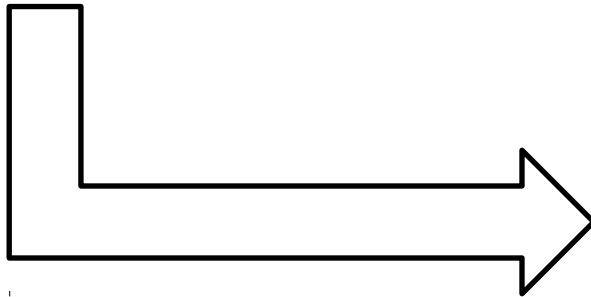
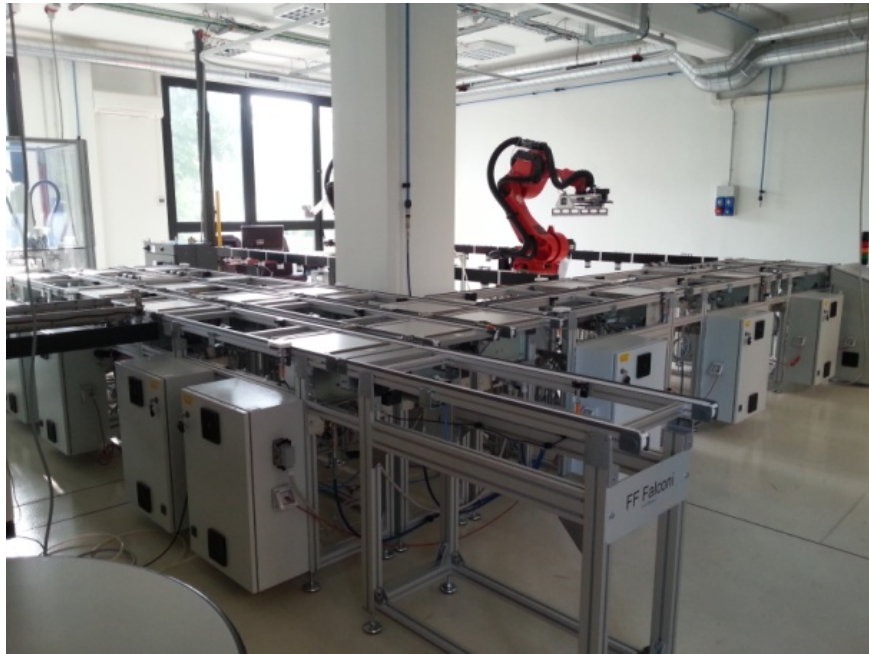
# Control Systems Design



**Control law**  
*(TBD)*



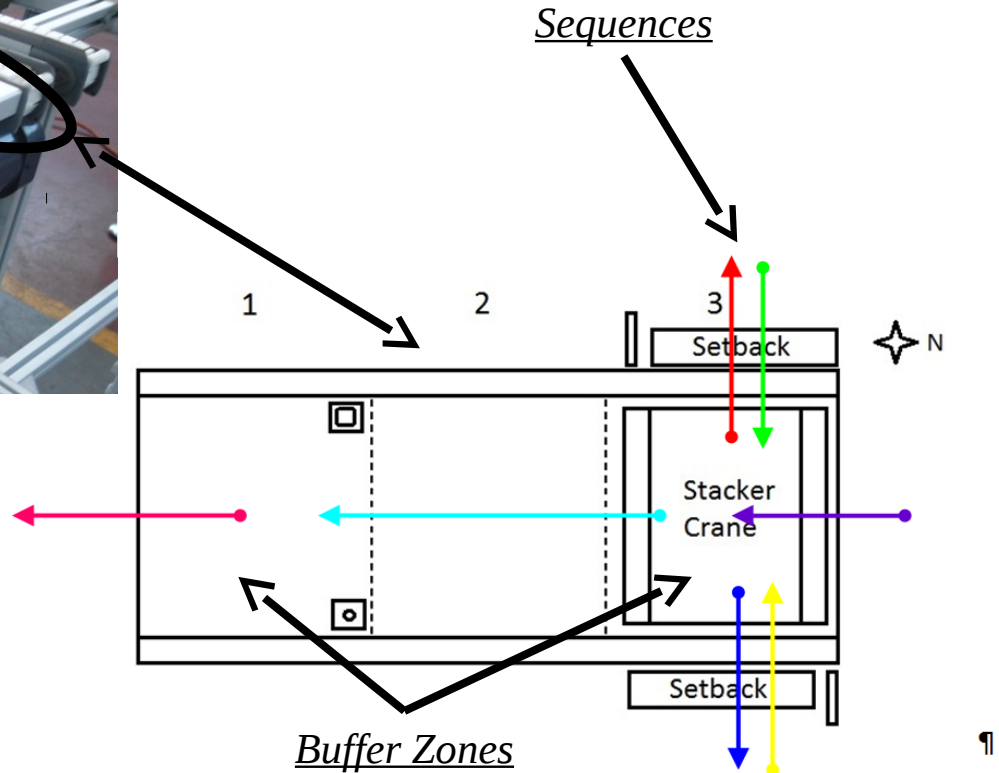
# System Modelling



# Buffer Zones and control Sequences



The generic pallet transport module



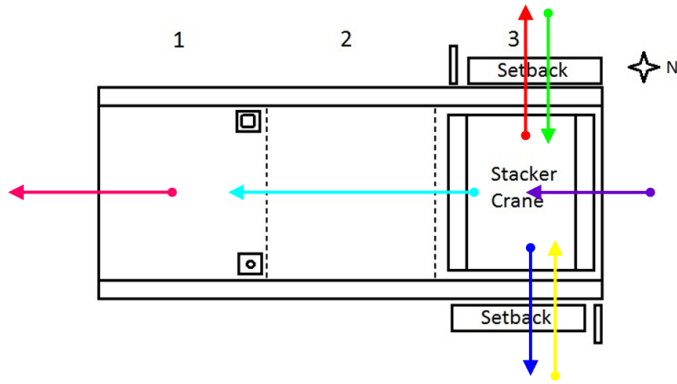
Sequences: ¶

- → S2: → from-Stacker-crane#1→ → → to-Piston-lock ¶
- → S3: → from-Piston-lock → → → to-Next-Module ¶
- → S28: → from-External-Right-(Setback-Right) → to-Stacker-crane#1-(Setback-Left) ¶
- → S27: → from-External-Left-(Setback-Left)° → to-Stacker-crane#1-(Setback-Right) ¶
- → S6: → from-Stacker-crane#1→ → → to-External-Right ¶
- → S26: → from-Stacker-crane#1-(Setback-Right)° to-External-left-(Setback-Left) ¶
- → S19: → from-Previous-Module→ → → to-Setback-Right ¶



# The Sequences technique implementation

Module#1¶



Sequences:¶

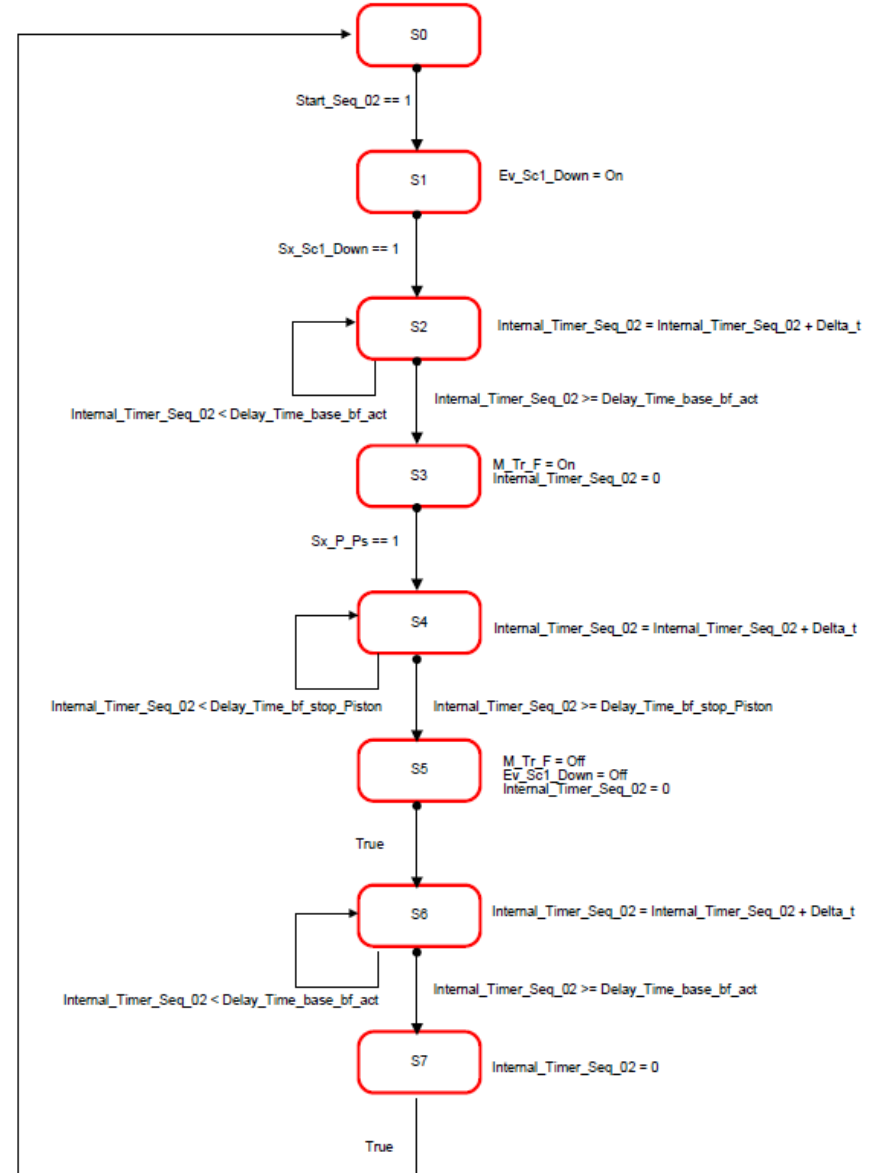
- → S2: → from Stacker-crane #1 → → → to Piston-lock¶
- → S3: → from Piston-lock → → → to Next-Module¶
- → S28: → from External-Right (Setback-Right) → to Stacker-crane #1 (Setback-Left)¶
- → S27: → from External-Left (Setback-Left) → to Stacker-crane #1 (Setback-Right)¶
- → S6: → from Stacker-crane #1 → → → to External-Right¶
- → S26: → from Stacker-crane #1 (Setback-Right) → to External-Left (Setback-Left)¶
- → S19: → from Previous-Module → → → to Setback-Right¶



36 different Sequences →

*Finite State Machines – Automata  
(Hybrid systems course – Prof. Prandini)*

Seq 2: Stacker Crane 1 - Piston lock



# The Sequences technique implementation

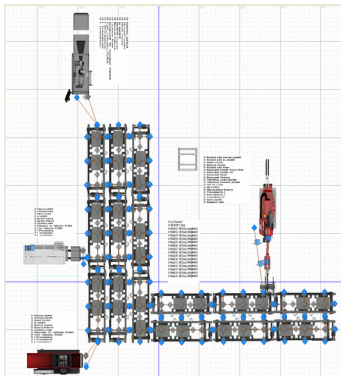
SIMIO simulation platform

```

// Arc Transitions
// *****
switch (M4_FSM_variable_state) {
case 0: {
// From State 0 to State 1
if (FTC_In == true) {
M4_FSM_variable_state = 1;
}
} break;
case 1: {
// From State 1 to State 2
if (Drilling_processed == true) {
M4_FSM_variable_state = 2;
}
} break;
case 2: {
// From State 2 to State 0
if (FTC_Out == true) {
M4_FSM_variable_state = 0;
}
} break;
}
} //switch

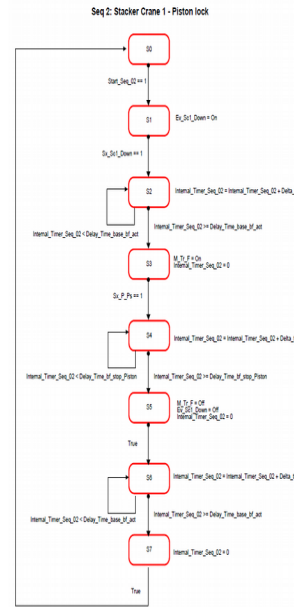
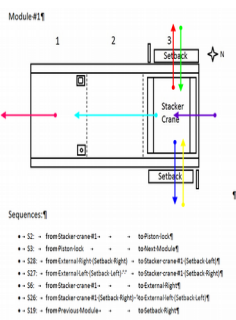
// Output
// *****
switch (M4_FSM_variable_state) {
case 0: {
// Output State 0
}
} break;
case 1: {
// Output State 1
Start_drilling = true;
}
} break;
case 2: {
// Output State 2
}
} break;
}
} //switch
    
```

C# Sw code



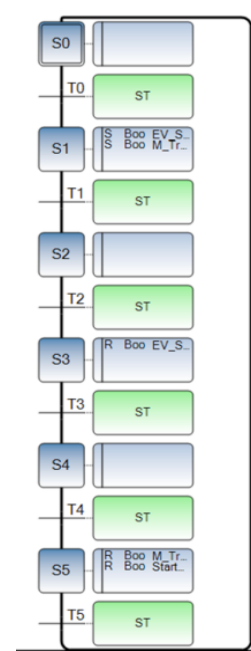
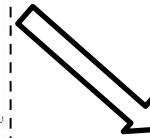
Dynamic Discrete Event simulation model (SIMIO)

The methodological aspect



Transport line shop floor

(Low level control implementation)



IEC 61131-3 standard

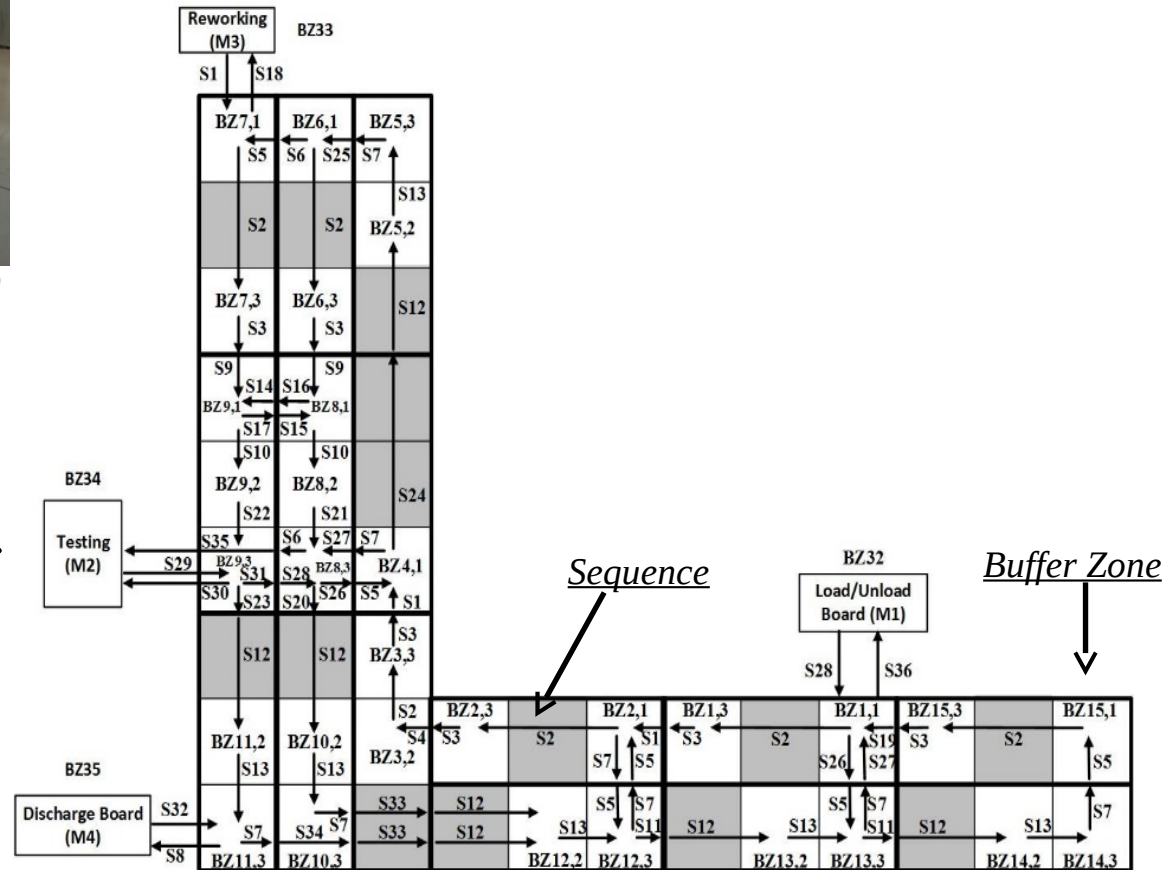
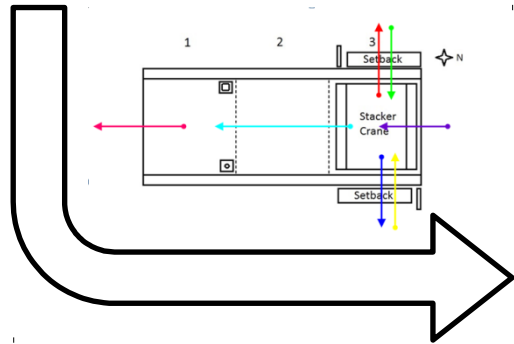
(Sequential Functional Chart)



PLC

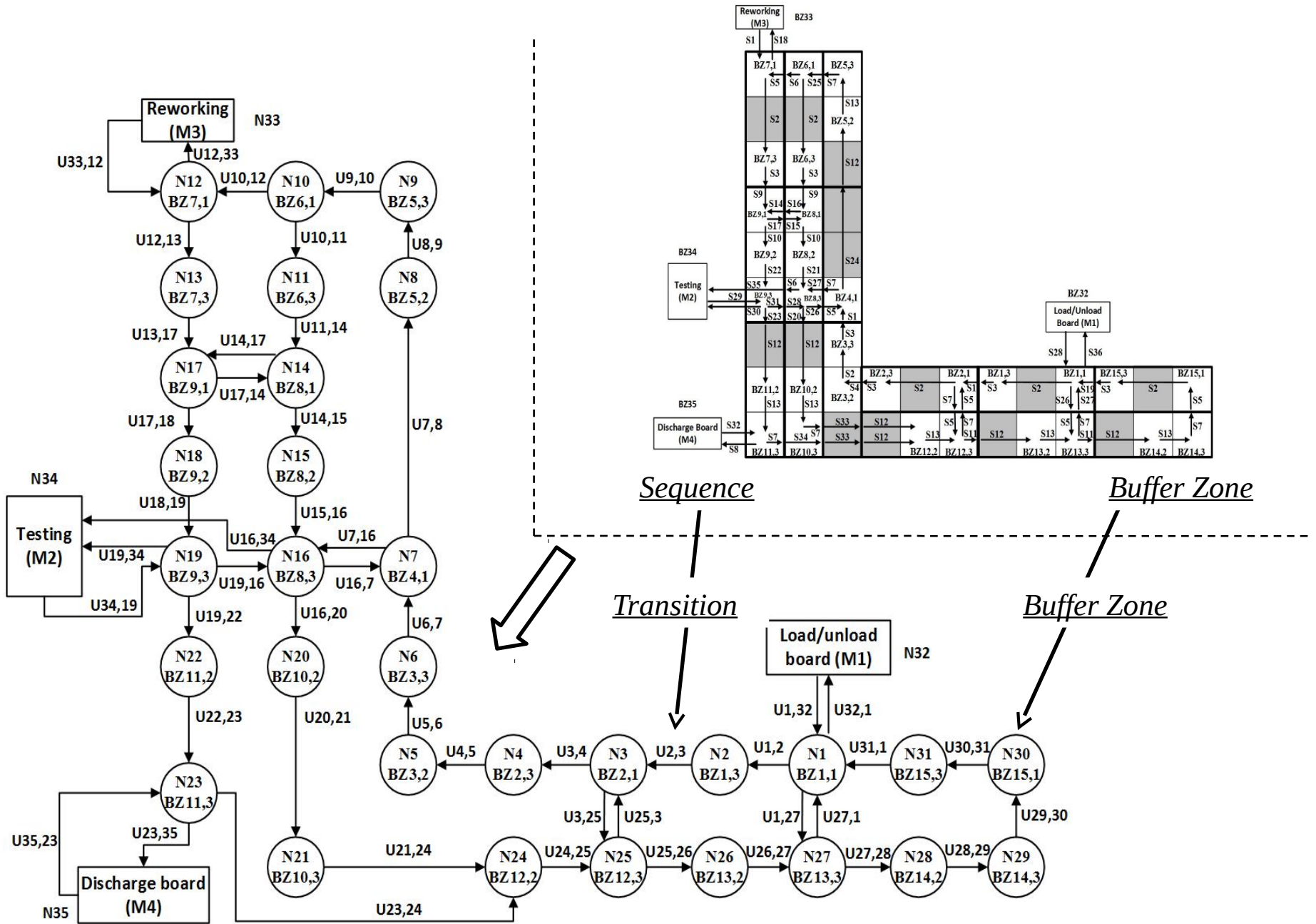
(Isagraf - Rockwell)

# The Buffer Zones model



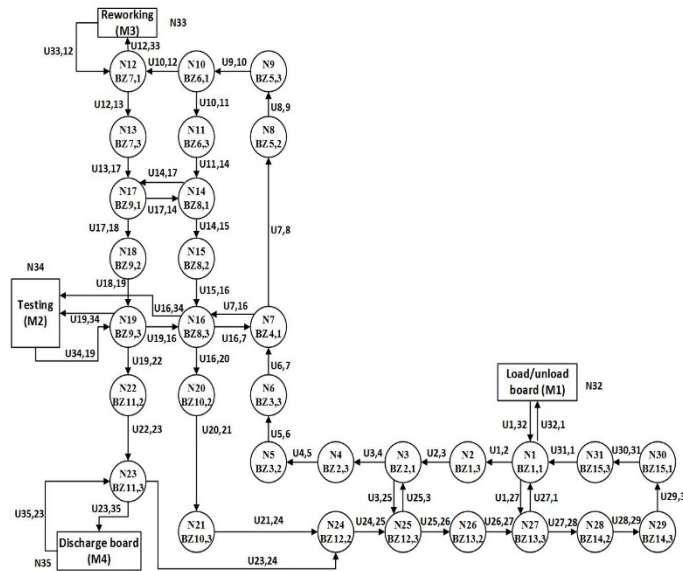
Buffer Zones model

# The transport line abstract description





# The High Level Control System design: main concepts



Propositional calculus



**Input:** pallet Target  
**Output:** Transition

$$\begin{aligned}
 x(t+1) &= Ax(t) + B_1u(t) + B_2\delta(t) + B_3z(t) + B_5 \\
 y(t) &= Cx(t) + D_1u(t) + D_2\delta(t) + D_3z(t) + D_5 \\
 E_2\delta(t) + E_3z(t) &\leq E_4x(t) + E_1u(t) + E_5
 \end{aligned}$$

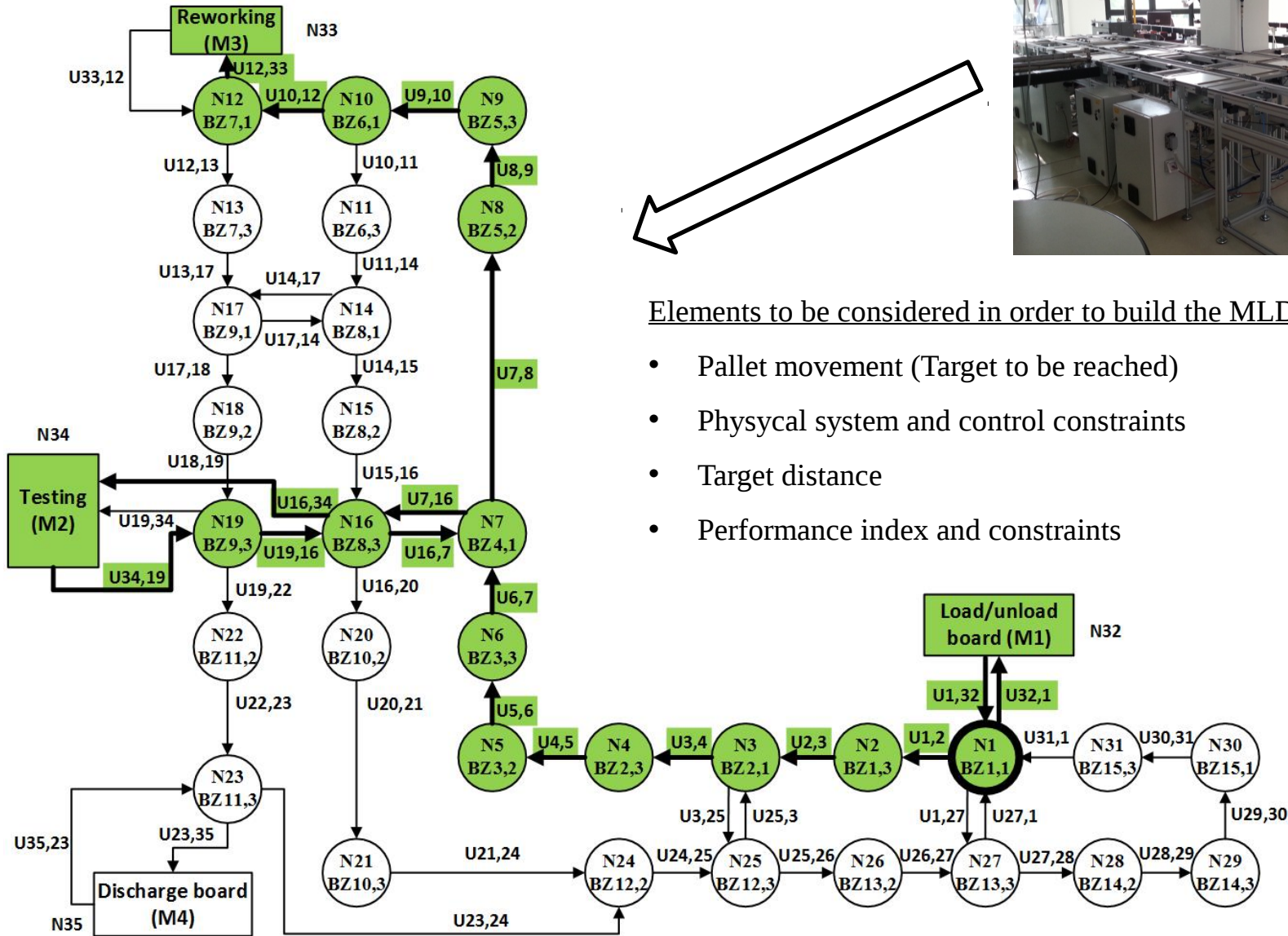
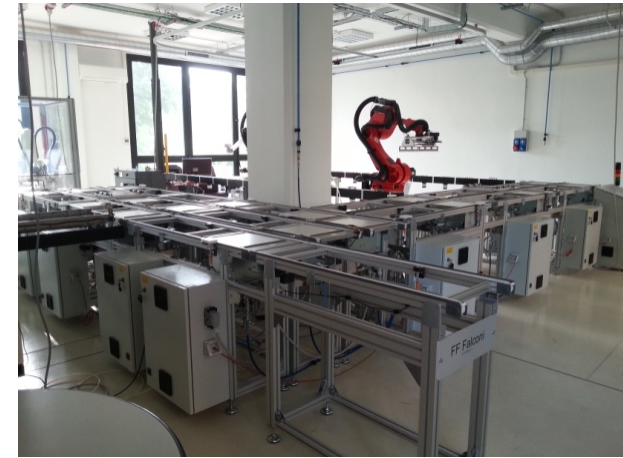
Continuous and binary variables  $x \in \mathbb{R}^{n_r} \times \{0, 1\}^{n_b}$ ,  $u \in \mathbb{R}^{m_r} \times \{0, 1\}^{m_b}$   
 $y \in \mathbb{R}^{p_r} \times \{0, 1\}^{p_b}$ ,  $\delta \in \{0, 1\}^{r_b}$ ,  $z \in \mathbb{R}^{r_r}$

The transport line Mixed Logical Dynamic (MLD) model



The transport line Model Predictive Controller (MPC)

# From the manufacturing plant to the MPC design: main concepts



## Elements to be considered in order to build the MLD model

- Pallet movement (Target to be reached)
- Physical system and control constraints
- Target distance
- Performance index and constraints

# The MPC design: system modelling and MLD formulation

Pallet movement (Target to be reached)

$$Tp_i(k+1) = Tp_i(k) + \sum_{j \in I_{i,in}} Tp_i(k) \cdot u_{j,i}(k) - \sum_{j \in I_{i,out}} Tp_i(k) \cdot u_{i,j}(k), i = 1, \dots, 31$$

Physical system and control constraints

$$X_{i1}(k) \wedge \prod_{j \in I_{i,in}} (u_{i,j}(k)) \rightarrow X_{i1}(k+1) = 0 \quad U_n(k) + U_m(k) \leq 1$$

Target distance

$$Tp_i(k) \xrightarrow[\text{Pallet distance}]{x_i(k) = f(Tp_i(k))} x_i(k)$$

(Linear function - H. Paul Williams, pag. 182; Sherali 2001)

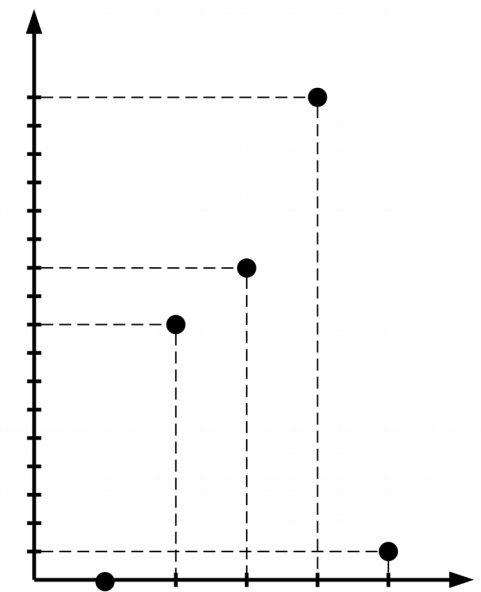
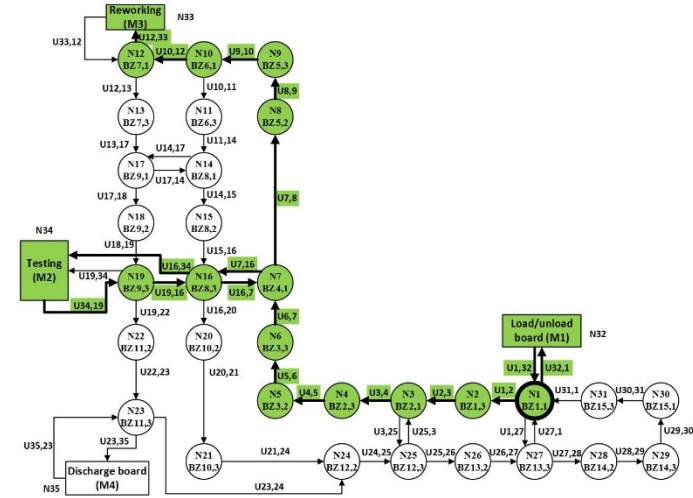
Performance index

$$y_i(k) = C_i \cdot x_i(k)$$

Pallet distance from the Target

$$J = \sum_{h=1}^{RH} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^{35} (Q_y \cdot y_i(k+h)) \right] + \sum_{i=32}^{35} (Q_x \cdot x_i(k+h)) + \sum_{(i,j) \in I_u} Q_u \cdot u_{i,j}(k+h-1)$$

$$\begin{aligned} x(k+1) &= Ax(k) + B_u u(k) + B_{aux} w(k) + B_{aff} \\ y(k) &= Cx(k) + D_u u(k) + D_{aux} w(k) + D_{aff} \\ E_x x(k) + E_u u(k) + E_{aux} w(k) &\leq E_{aff} \end{aligned}$$



# The de-manufacturing transport line: MILP formulation

By re-arranging into the canonical form it comes:

$$J = \min C'x'$$

s. t.

$$A'x' \leq b' \quad \left. \vphantom{A'x' \leq b'} \right\} x' = [x'_z x'_b]^T \in Z_+^n$$

$$x'_z \geq 0$$

$$x'_z \text{ int.}$$

$$x'_b \in \{0,1\}$$

**IP problem formulation**

$$\min \{ c'x' : A'x' \leq b', x' \in Z_+^n \}$$

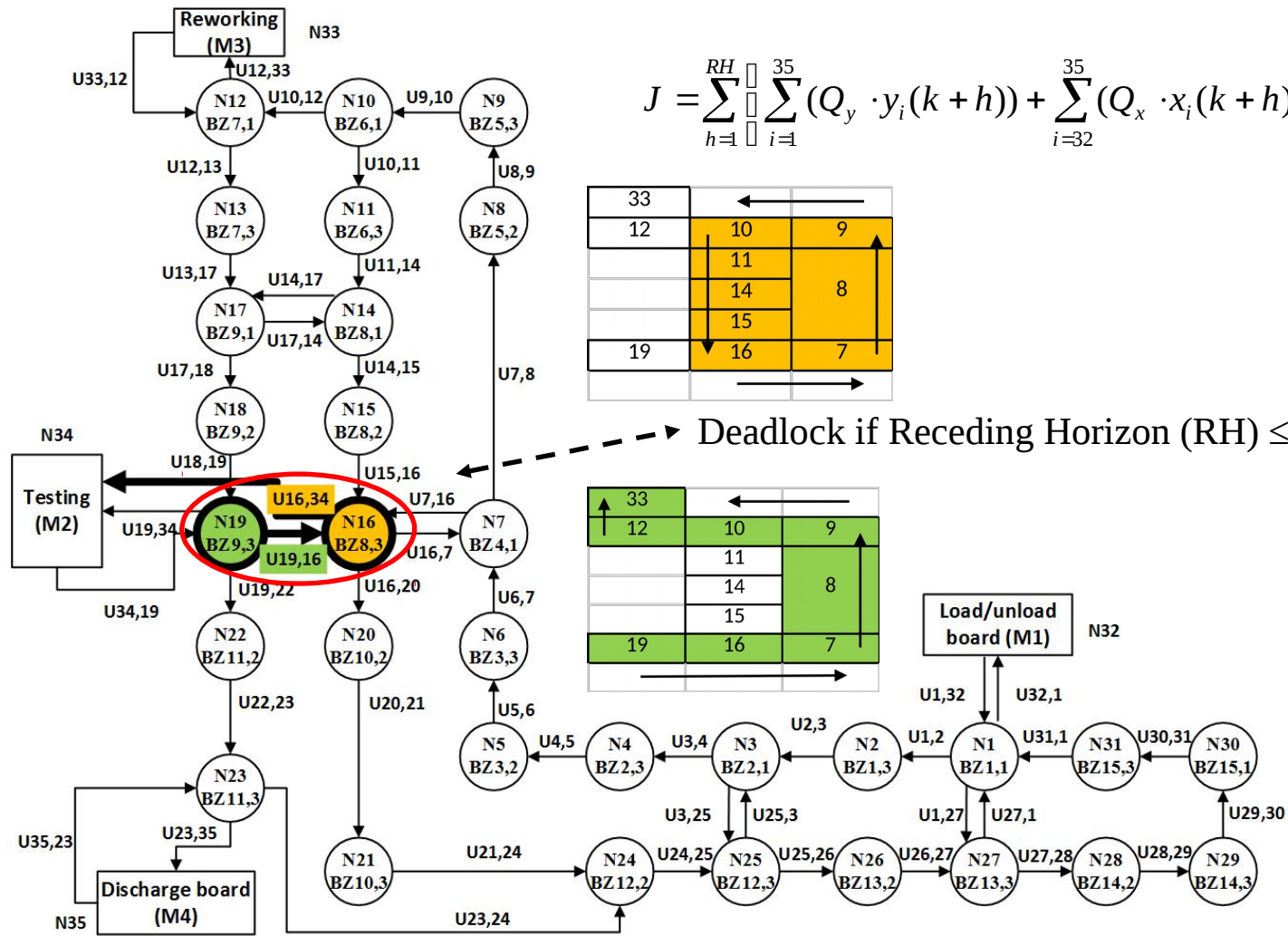


$$u(t) = v_t^*(0)$$

Optimal solution  
(Receding horizon philosophy)

# The MPC algorithm: Basic formulation

$$J = \sum_{h=1}^{RH} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^{35} (Q_y \cdot y_i(k+h)) + \sum_{i=32}^{35} (Q_x \cdot x_i(k+h)) \right]$$

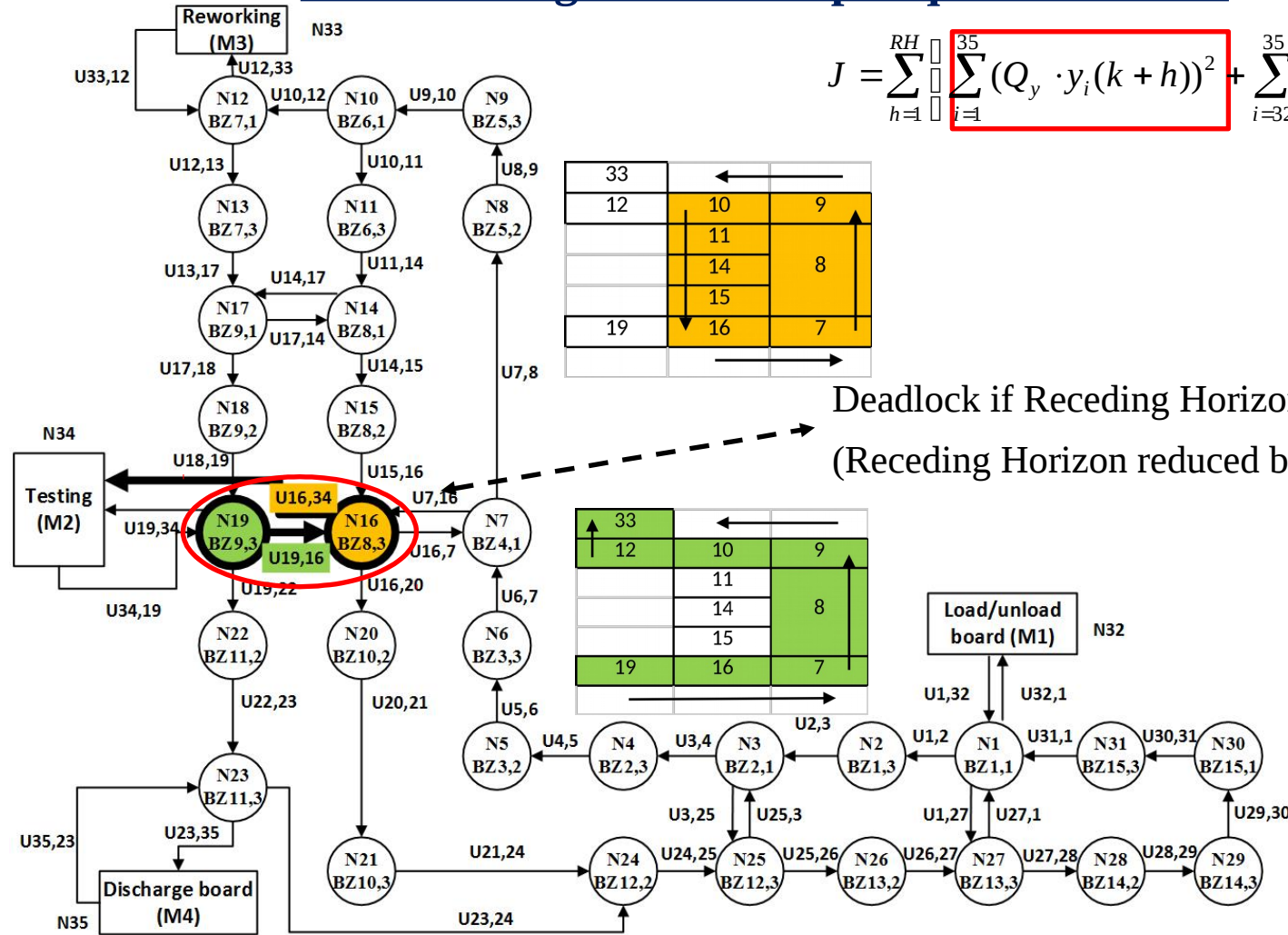


Deadlock if Receding Horizon (RH) ≤ 8

Passi	1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8		9	
Nodi	19	16	19	7	16	8	7	9	8	10	9	11	10	14	12	15	33	16
Obiettivi	M3	M2	M3	M2	M3	M2	M3	M2	M3	M2	M3	M2	M3	M2	M3	M2	M3	M2
Valori distanze dai Target	7	1	7	2	6	7	5	6	4	5	3	4	2	3	1	2	0	1
Valore calcolato nella J Lineare	8		9		13		11		9		7		5		3		1	
Valore calcolato nella J Lineare (con deadlock)	8		8		8		8		8		8		8		8		8	
Progressivo valore J Lineare	8		17		30		41		50		57		62		65		66	
Progressivo valore J Lineare (con deadlock)	8		16		24		32		40		48		56		64		72	

# The MPC algorithm: Output quadratic term

$$J = \sum_{h=1}^{RH} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^{35} (Q_y \cdot y_i(k+h))^2 + \sum_{i=32}^{35} (Q_x \cdot x_i(k+h)) \right]$$

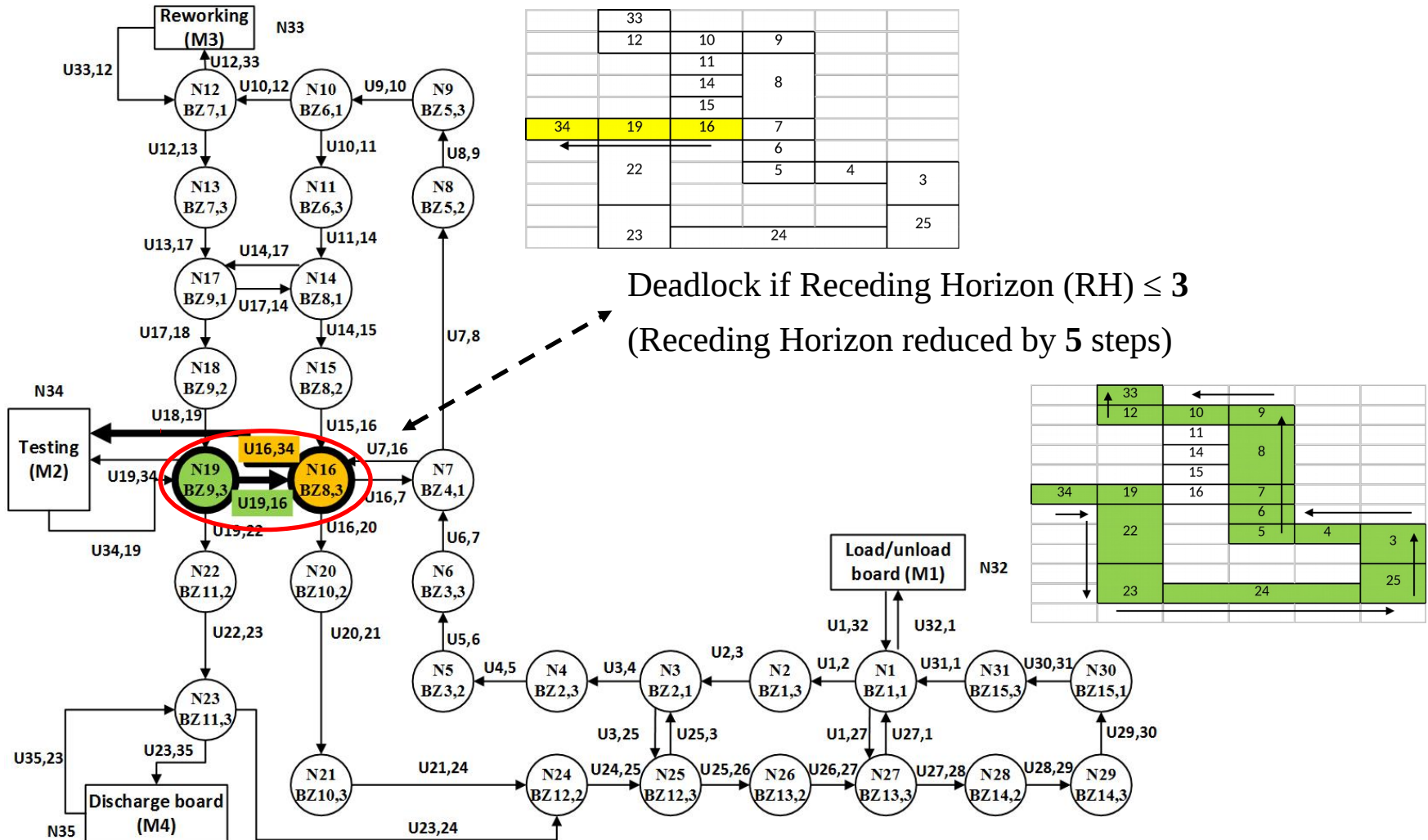


Deadlock if Receding Horizon (RH) ≤ 6  
(Receding Horizon reduced by 2 steps)

Passi	1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8		9	
Nodi	19	16	19	7	16	8	7	9	8	10	9	11	10	14	12	15	33	16
Obiettivi	M3	M2	M3	M2	M3	M2	M3	M2	M3	M2	M3	M2	M3	M2	M3	M2	M3	M2
Valori distanze dai Target	7	1	7	2	6	7	5	6	4	5	3	4	2	3	1	2	0	1
Valore calcolato nella J Lineare	8		9		13		11		9		7		5		3			1
Valore calcolato nella J Lineare (con deadlock)	8		8		8		8		8		8		8		8			8
Progressivo valore J Lineare	8		17		30		41		50		57		62		65			66
Progressivo valore J Lineare (con deadlock)	8		16		24		32		40		48		56		64			72
Valore calcolato nella J Quadratica	50		53		85		61		41		25		13		5			1
Valore calcolato nella J Quadratica (con deadlock)	50		50		50		50		50		50		50		50			50
Progressivo valore J Quadratica	50		103		188		249		290		315		328		333			334
Progressivo valore J Quadratica (con deadlock)	50		100		150		200		250		300		350		400			450

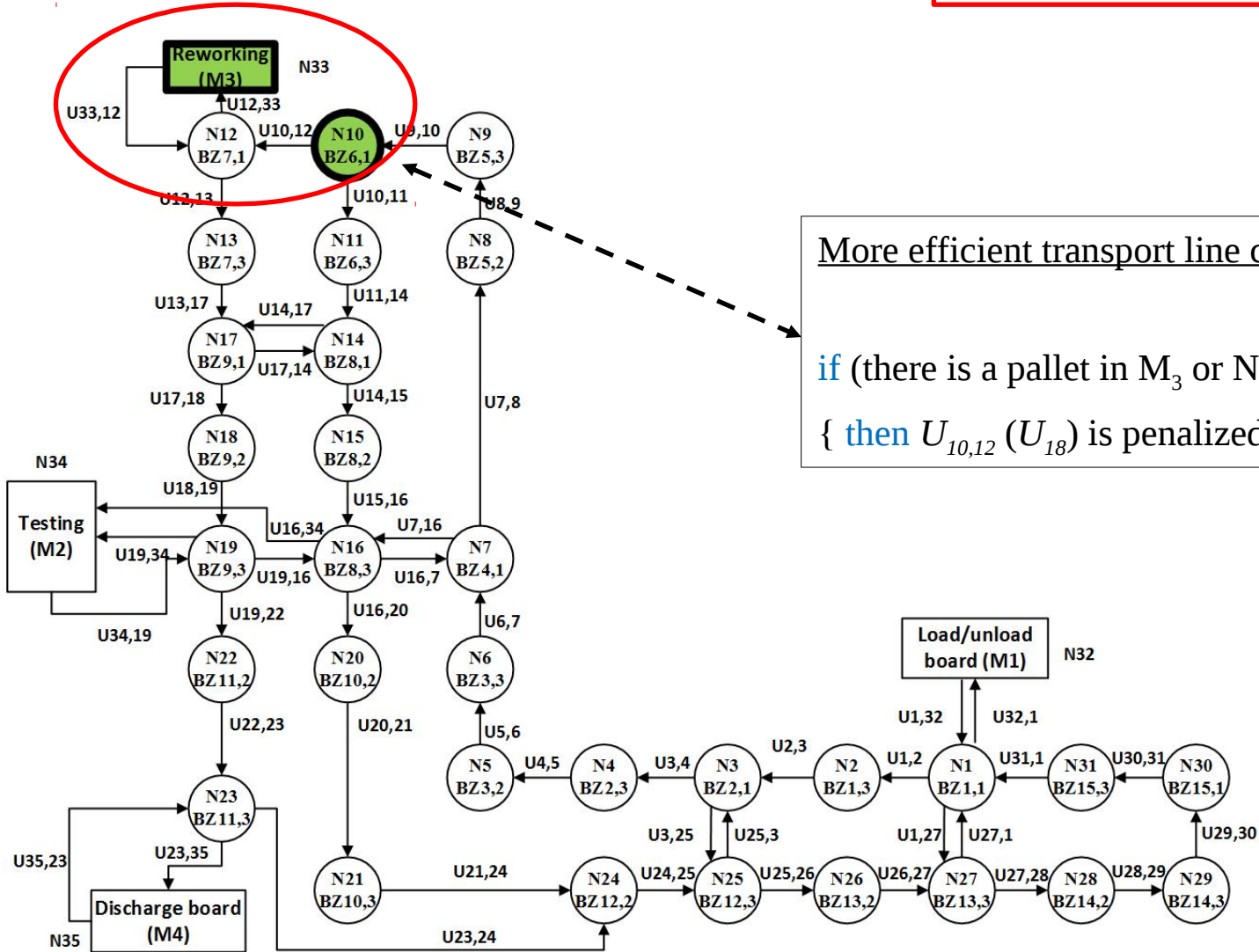
# The MPC algorithm: Integral control action

$$J = \sum_{h=1}^{RH} \sum_{i=1}^{35} (Q_y \cdot y_i(k+h))^2 + \sum_{i=32}^{35} (Q_x \cdot x_i(k+h)) + \sum_{i=1}^{31} (q_{Ni} \cdot N_i(k+h))$$



# The MPC algorithm: Off-limit zone

$$J = \sum_{h=1}^{RH} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^{35} (Q_y \cdot y_i(k+h))^2 + \sum_{i=32}^{35} (Q_x \cdot x_i(k+h)) + \sum_{i=1}^{31} (q_{Ni} \cdot N_i(k+h)) + k_1 \delta_1 U_{14} + k_1 \delta_1 U_{26} + k_1 \delta_1 U_{33} + k_2 \delta_2 U_{18} + k_3 \delta_3 U_{34} \right]$$



More efficient transport line control  
 if (there is a pallet in M<sub>3</sub> or N<sub>12</sub>)  
 { then U<sub>10,12</sub> (U<sub>18</sub>) is penalized in J }





# MPC testing

