



# Sparking Innovation in the Classroom With Mechatronics and the IoT

# Mission Statement



NI equips engineers and scientists with systems that accelerate productivity, innovation, and discovery.

# Grand Engineering Challenges



Advance  
Personalized Learning



Make Solar  
Energy Economical



Advance  
Health Informatics



Enhance  
Virtual Reality



Reverse-Engineer  
the Brain



Engineer  
Better Medicines



Provide Access  
to Clean Water



Develop Carbon  
Sequestration Methods



Restore and Improve  
Urban Infrastructure



Secure  
Cyberspace



Manage the  
Nitrogen Cycle



Provide Energy  
From Fusion



Prevent Nuclear  
Terror

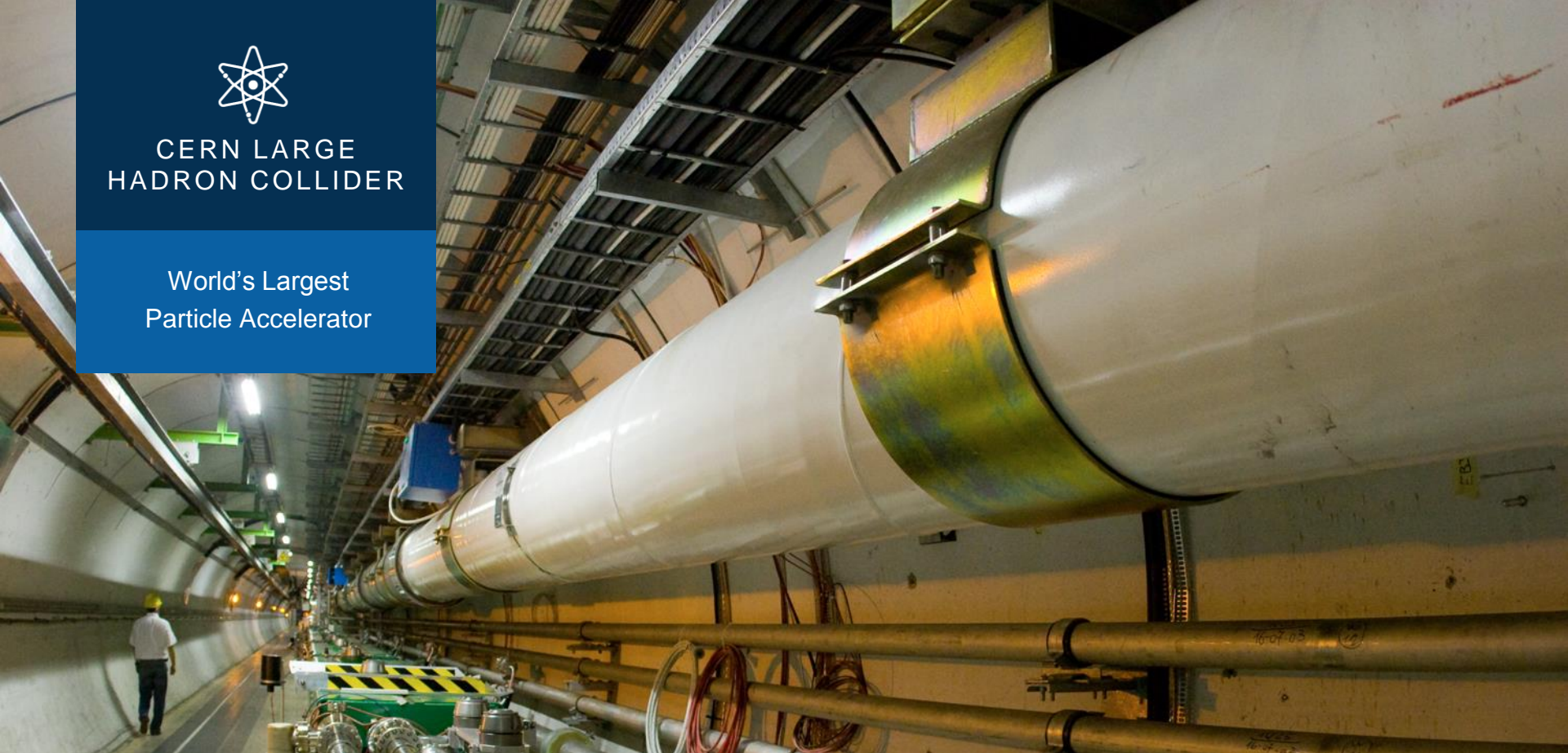


Engineer the Tools  
of Scientific Discovery



CERN LARGE  
HADRON COLLIDER

World's Largest  
Particle Accelerator





IEEE Spectrum

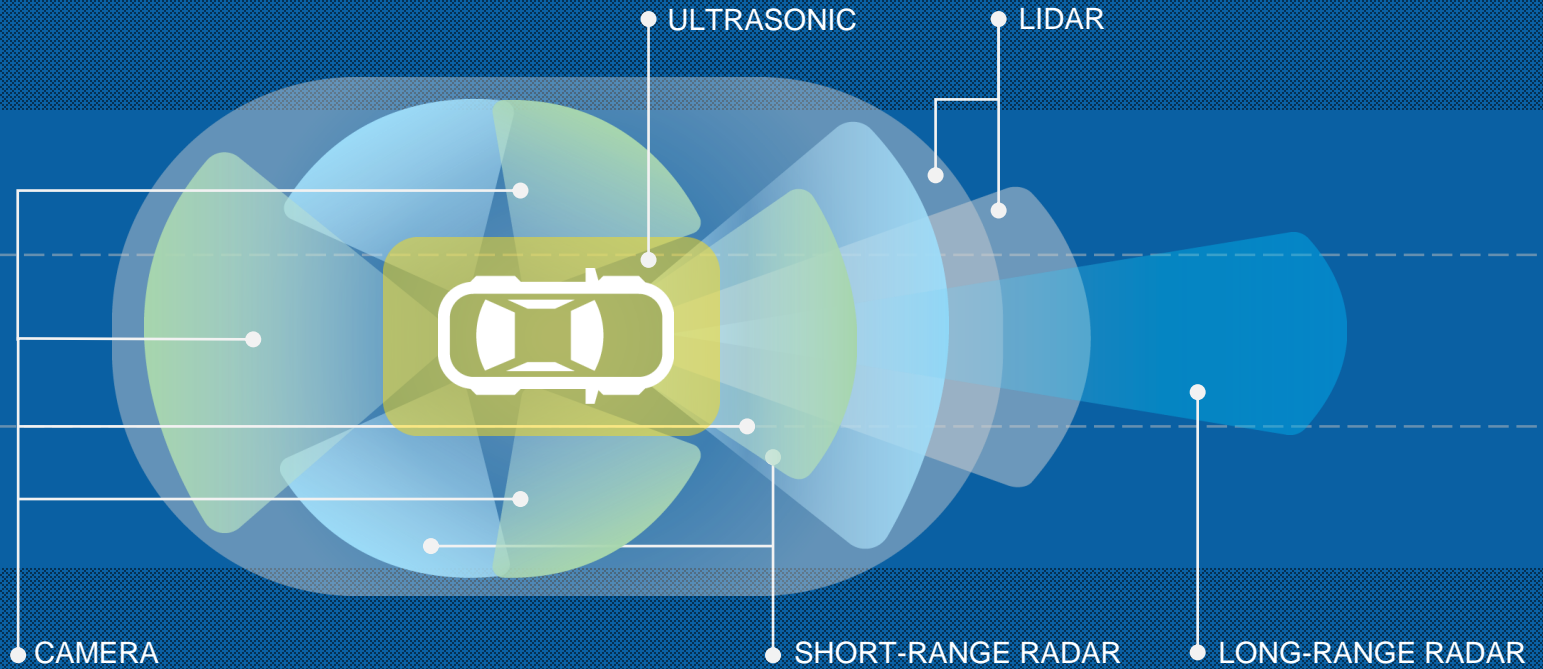
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2020 will be the year when  
5G Goes from Theory to Reality

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# Autonomous Vehicle



# Student Focus Is on Engineering Systems



More capability defined in software



Functions change rapidly



Increasingly complex to design and test





# How Do We Prepare Students for Engineering System Design?

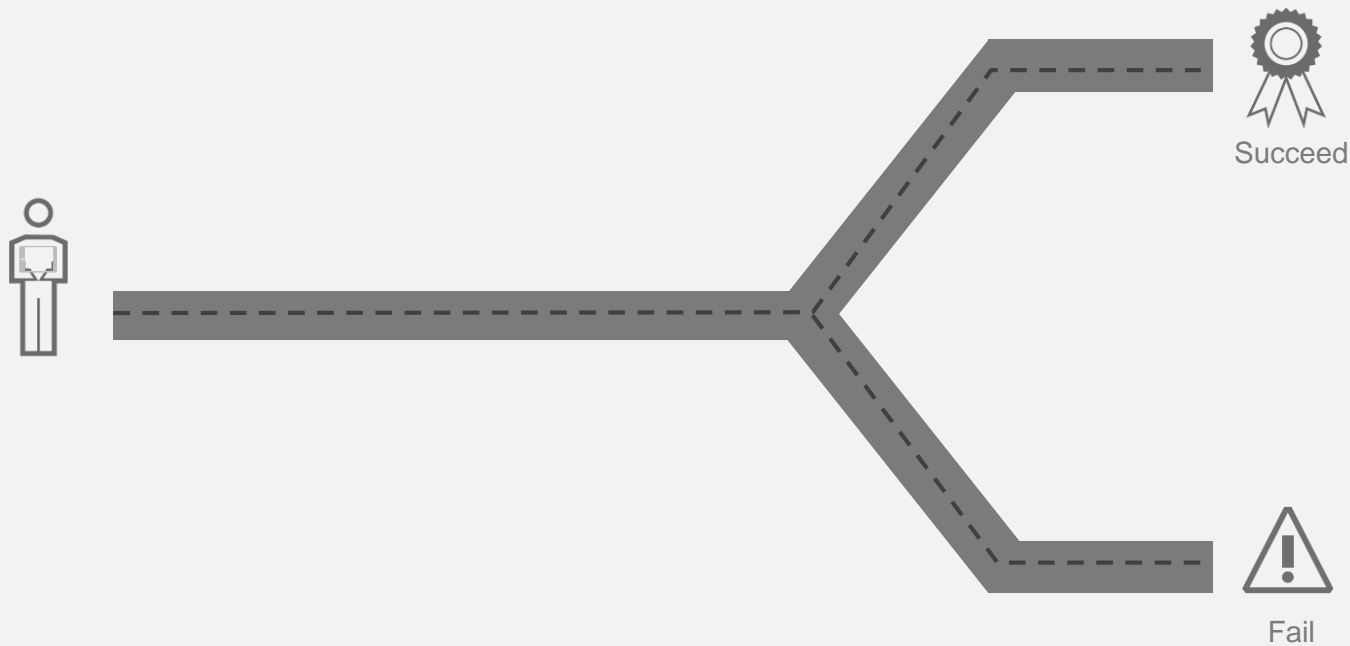
A blue-tinted photograph of an engineering laboratory. In the foreground, a man and a woman are looking at a computer monitor. The desk is cluttered with various electronic equipment, including a power supply unit, a breadboard with components, and numerous connecting wires. In the background, other lab equipment and windows are visible.

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To Accelerate Engineering System Design,  
the Rate of Discovery Matters

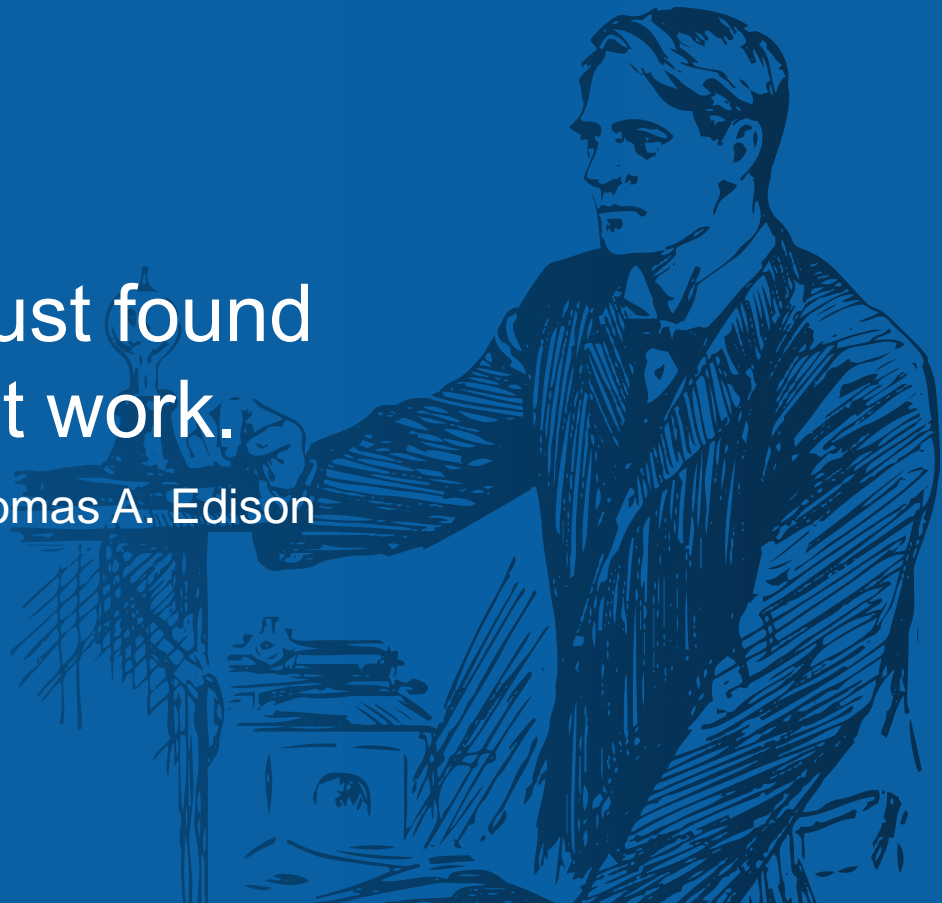
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# A Common Misconception

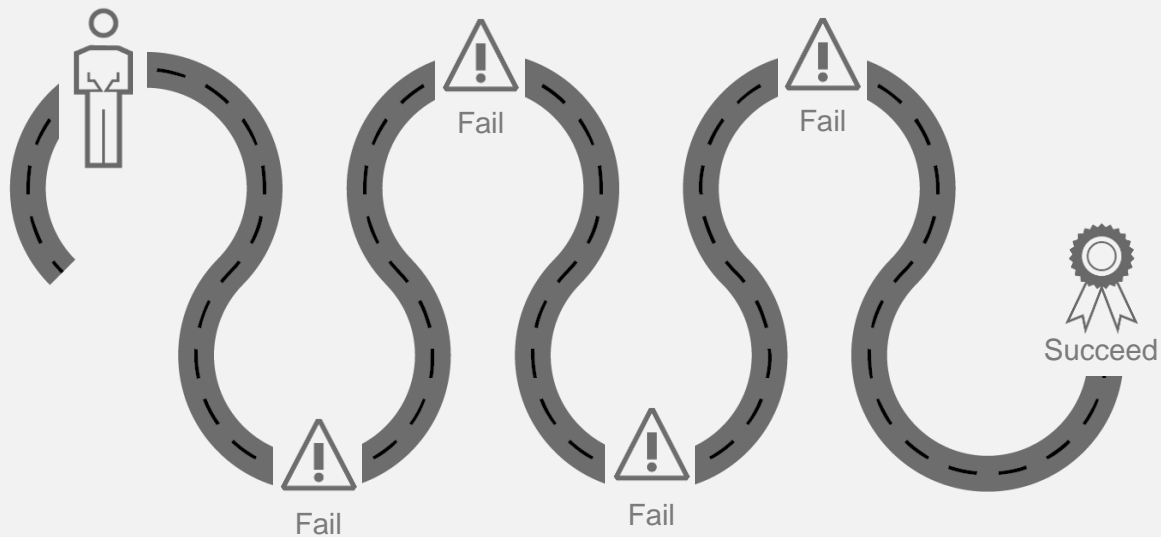


I have not failed. I've just found  
10,000 ways that won't work.

—Thomas A. Edison

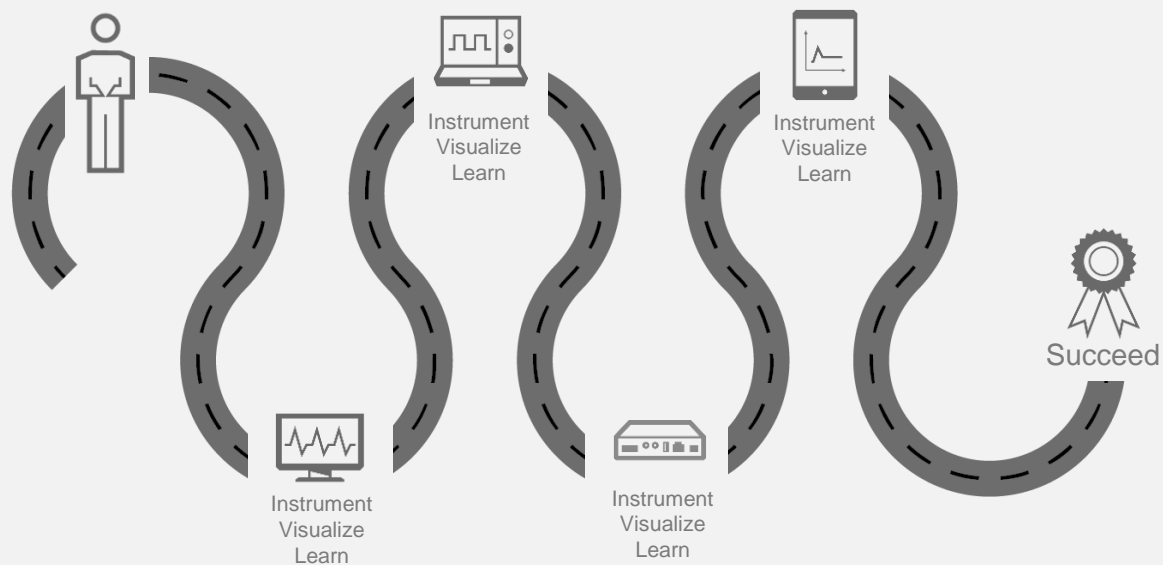


# True Path to Success





# True Path to Discovery

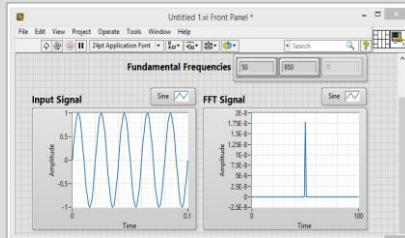


# Accelerating Engineering System Design

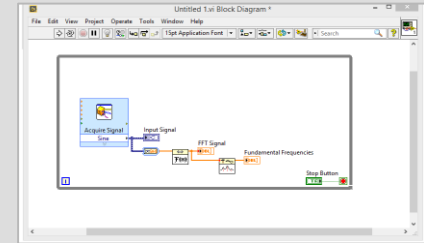
Rapid assembly of system  
through modular I/O



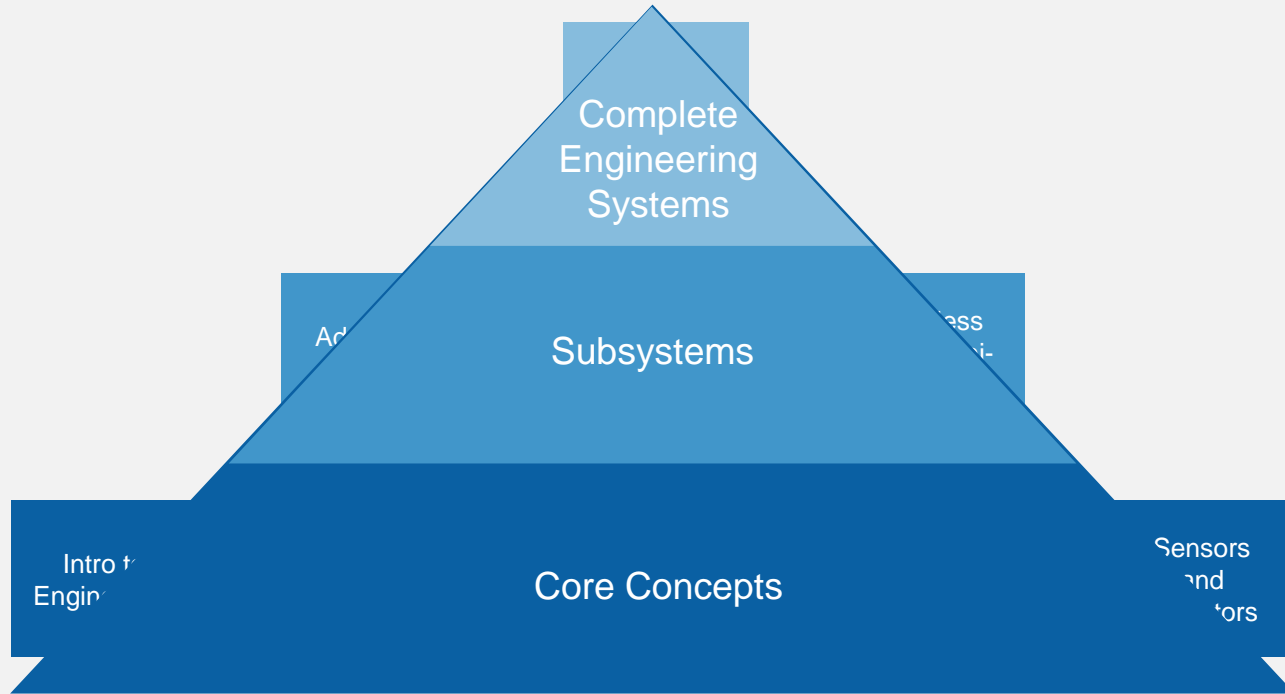
Instant insight at every step  
through virtual instrumentation



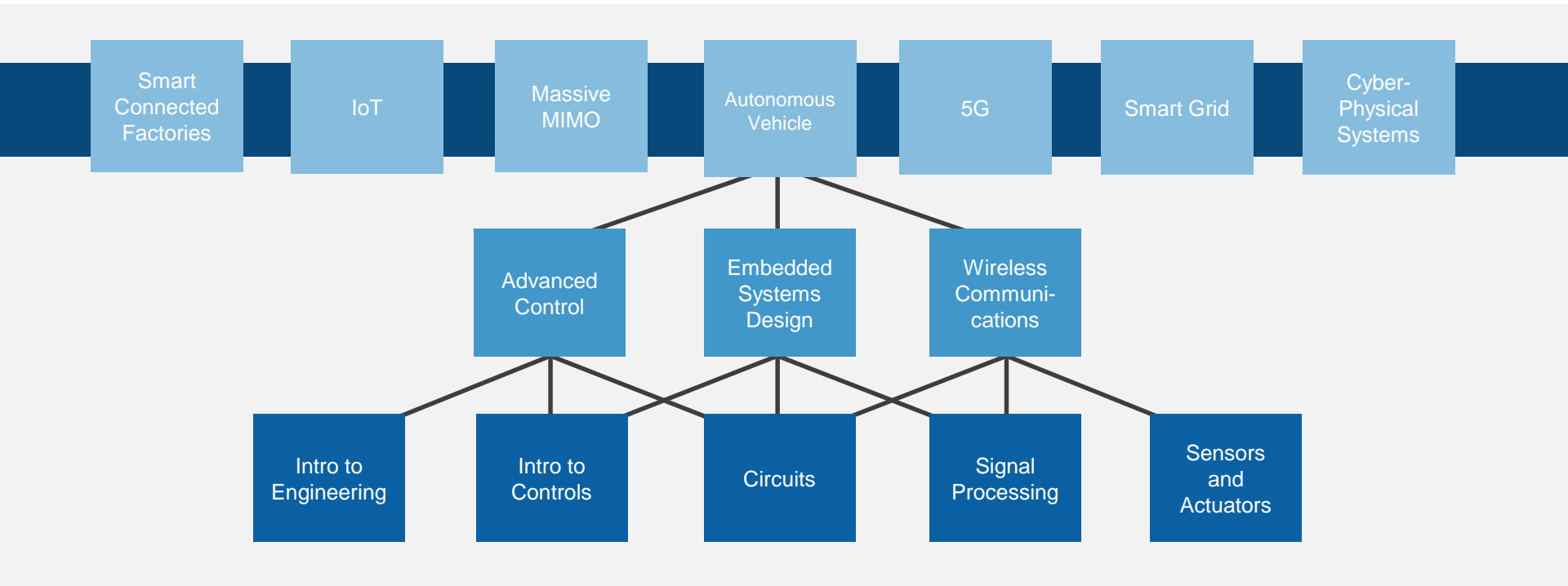
Software at a schematic-level  
overview to integrate system



# Path to Engineering System Design



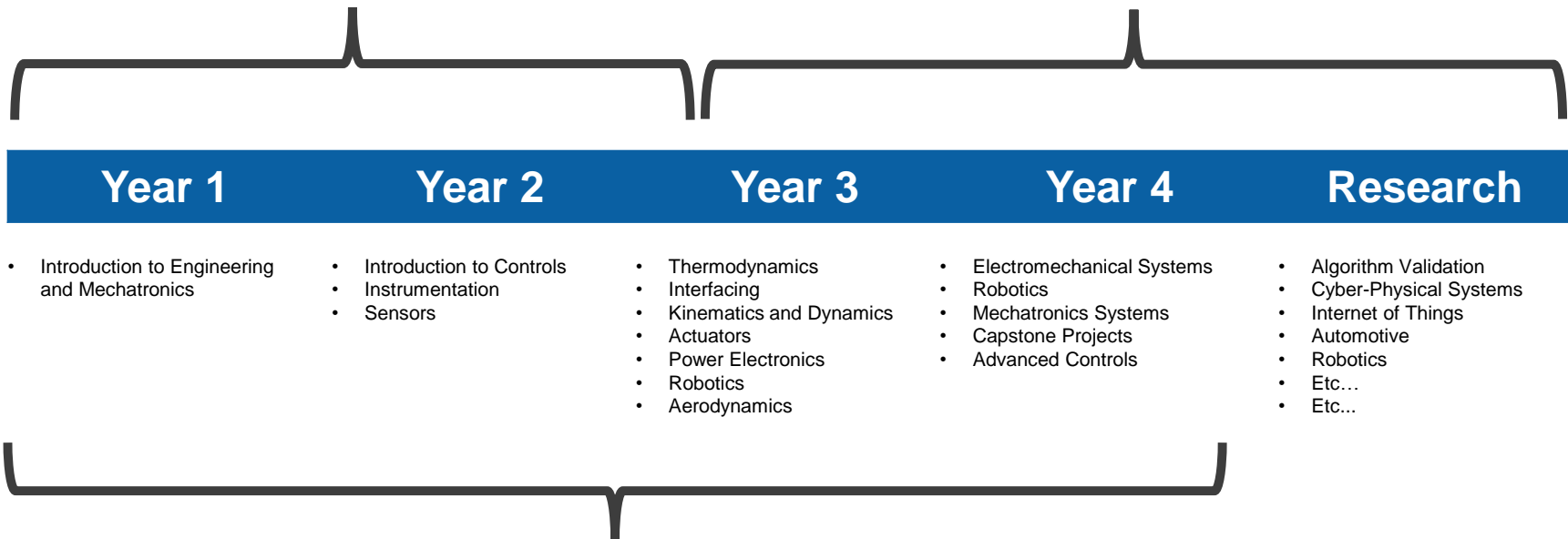
# Path to Engineering System Design



# Focus on Key Courses for Controls and Mechatronics

Foundational concepts

Subsystems and multidisciplinary systems



Broad set of topics with a focus on  
instrumentation, controls, and mechatronics



# Challenges in Accelerating Controls and Mechatronics Education

- Students excited by ambitious projects; less excited by foundational topics
- Limited laboratory time to build true understanding
- Differences in theory from laboratory results drive student confusion
- Students do not retain understanding of foundational concepts, which leads to difficulties in later multidisciplinary classes

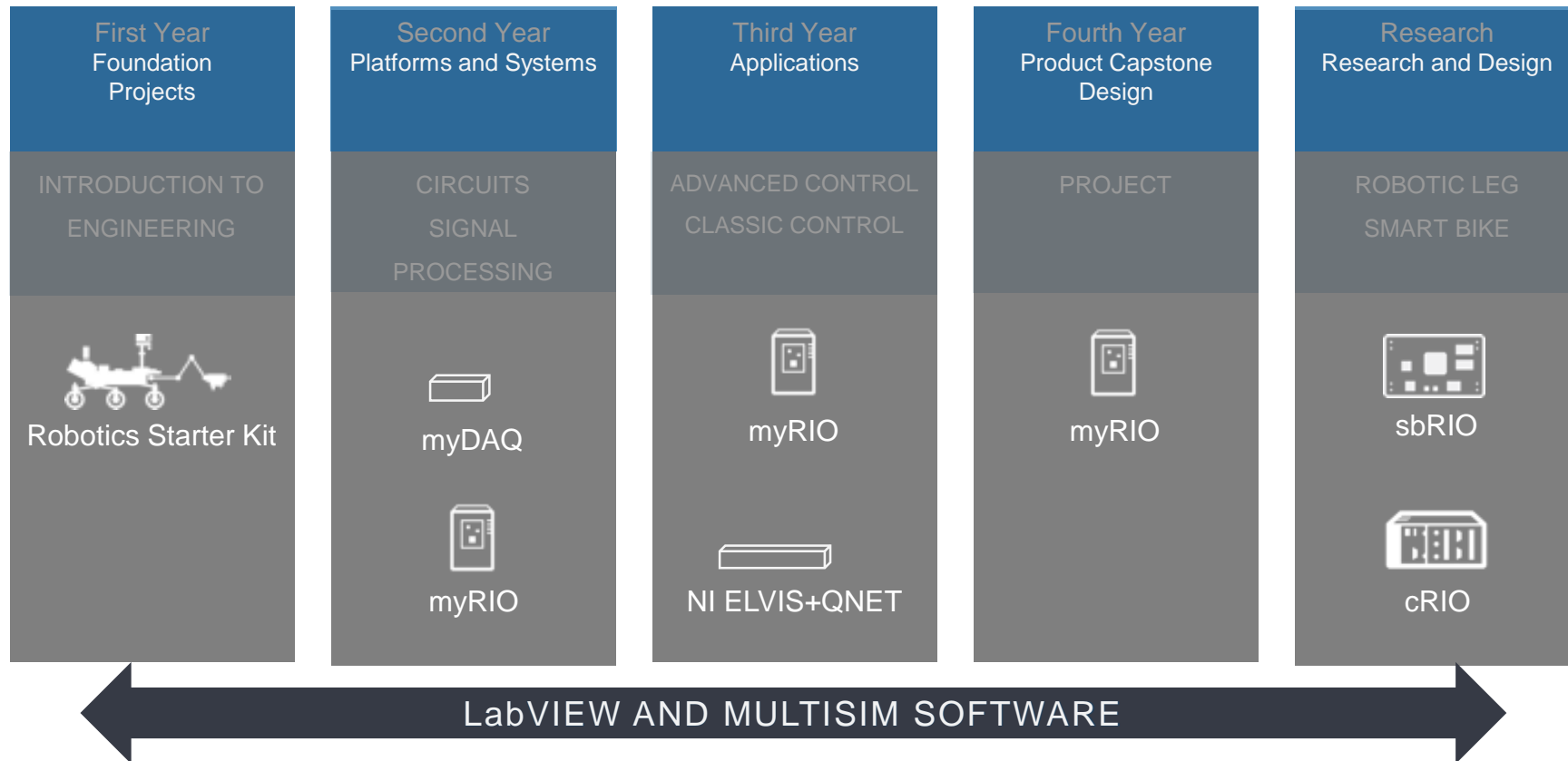
# Tsinghua University

## Success Story

- No. 1 ranked engineering program in the world (*US News*)
- Advanced controls and mechatronics topics taught in **Automation Program**
- Challenged to rapidly build student understanding of engineering topics toward outcome of complex design
- Students spent more time learning “new tools” each semester rather than focusing on engineering
- Built program on foundation of LabVIEW and Multisim software along with myRIO and NI ELVIS
- Program improved student engagement and employability and advanced robotics capstone projects



# Tsinghua University



First Year  
Foundation  
Projects

High-Level  
Abstraction



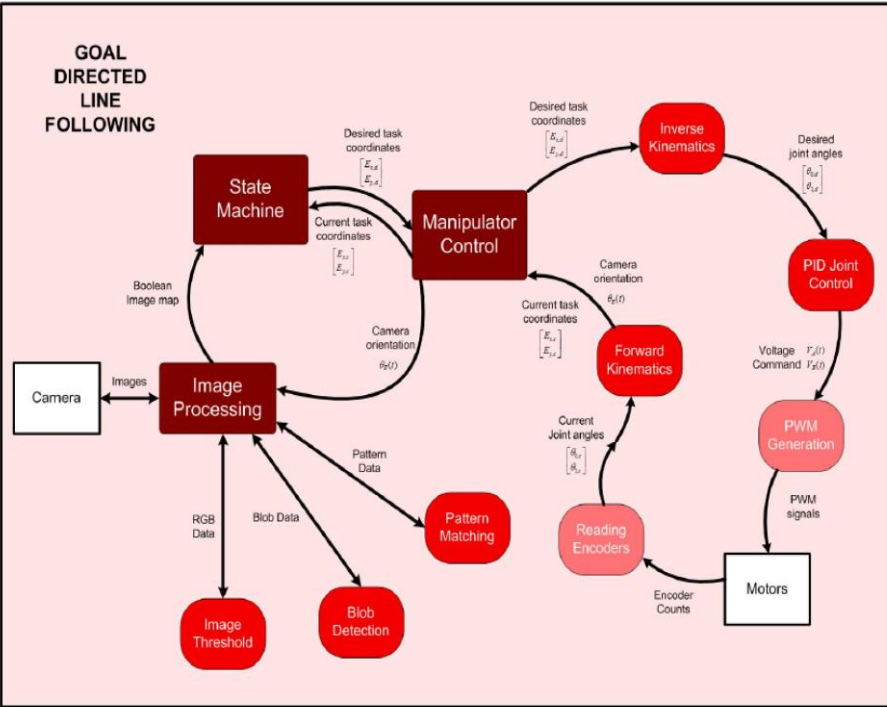
Mechatronic  
Systems



# Challenge: Goal-Directed Line Follower

- Create a vision algorithm that centers on a line that will represent a road
- Create a control algorithm that uses the feedback from the vision application you created to make setpoints for a manipulator arm to achieve
- Create a user input mechanism that allows for new paths to be provided as the system is following already-created paths

# GOAL DIRECTED LINE FOLLOWING



## First Year Goal-Directed Line Following

Vision  
Control  
Component Integration

PID  
Inverse/Forward Kinematics  
Path Planning  
Blob Detection



