

Systems thinking

Systems are described in terms of their inputs, processes and outputs. They are shown using block diagrams.

Closed loop heating system

When the temperature sensor detects that it is too cold, it sends a signal to the microcontroller. This then turns the heater on. The output signal is fed back to the input, so the system knows when it is warm enough to turn the heater off.

The blocks show the sub-systems. The arrows show the signals.

