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Stability and control theory: Maxwell's contribution. (Stabilità e controllo: il contributo di Maxwell.)

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J.C. Maxwell published in 1868 an article entitled On Governors, where he investigates the dynamical behavior of certain mechanical devices, also called speed regulators, which were largely employed at his time for industrial and scientific applications. Maxwell's paper is frequently quoted as a fundamental contribution to the beginning of the mathematical theory of automatic control. Here, we discuss its significant aspects, in the light of the most recent developments. (orig.)

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