

Feedback Control: Some History

1788: James Watt patents the centrifugal governor for controlling the speed of a steam engine. The governor combines sensing, actuation, and control.

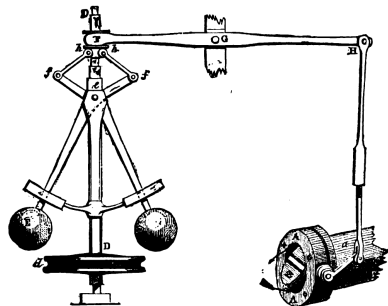


FIG. 4.—Governor and Throttle-Valve.



The original governor kept the engine running at (more or less) constant speed via what is known today as **proportional control**. Many improvements were added to the original design.