Controllers with Multisim





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The Transient Analysis studies the circuits' responses in very short times. On the following pages and using Multisim, the circuits' responses are described when we apply variable signals with a period of ten milliseconds.

Process Control

The measurement and the control of the process are essential parts of all industry because it improves the quality, the quantity increases and it reduces the cost of manufacturing.

Manual Control of a Process

Figure 1 describes the manual control of a heater where we need to obtain, at the output, hot water at a temperature of 50° C.



The cold water contained in the recipient warms by means of the heat provided by the vapor that circulates for a pipe in serpentine form. In figure 1 we can see that the operator is observing the reading of the thermometer and compares it with the poster that indicates him **«To maintain the water at 50° C.»**

If the thermometer marks more than 50° C, the operator will close the key of entrance of the vapor little by little until reaching the temperature of 50° C. If the thermometer registers less than 50° C, the operator will open the key of entrance of the vapor little by little until the water reaches the temperature of 50° C.

Variables of the Process Control

In every process control we find the following variables:

- **Controlled variable:** In figure 1, it is the temperature of the output water.
- Manipulated variable: In figure 1, it is the entrance of the vapor. Controlling the flow of the vapor, we will regulate the output of the process.
- Variable interference: They are all the parameters that destabilize the system. In our example of figure 1, the variable interference is the flow of entrance of cold water.

Block Diagram of the Process Control

The block diagram of figure 1 is the following:



Where:

it corresponds to the entrance of the vapor.
it is equivalent to the tank of the heater.
it is equal to the entrance of cold water.
it replaces to the thermometer.
it is equivalent to the poster that indicates to the operator to maintain
the temperature of the water to a certain value.
it is equivalent to the comparison that the operator executes between
the reading of the thermometer and the poster.
it replaces the operator.
it is equivalent to the key that controls of entrance of the vapor.

The Sensor

It measures the output of the Process and transforms it in an electric signal. The sensors can be of: level, pressure, temperature, flow, viscosity, etc

Input Interface

It conditions the electric signal provided by the Sensor and converts it to an acceptable format for the Controller.





Set Point

Also called desired value or reference point, is a value that the Controller should try to maintain in the output of the process.



Figure 4. Instruments adjusted to the Set Point value.

Voltage Summer

It adds the signal voltage coming from the Input Interface with the reference value (Set Point) and sends it to the Controller.

The Controller

It processes the information coming from the Summer and it produces an output signal (corrected signal) that sends it to the Actuator by means of the Output Interface





The Actuator

Also called **element of final control**, it alters the input variable (in our example it is the vapor) to stabilize the output of the process.



Types of Control Systems

- 1. Programmable Logical control (PLC).
- 2. Distributed Control system (DCS).
- **3.** Personal computers (**PC**).

Programmable Logical Control (PLC)

It is a device that was developed to replace the sequential circuits of relays for the control of processes. The **PLC** works by checking its inputs and depending on its states, it changes its outputs to **ON/OFF**. The user enters a program, via software, with the results that he wants to obtain.



Figure 9. Typical PLC.

Distributed Control System (DCS)

They are based on electronic circuits or special dedicated modules for the independent control of the temperature, pressure, flow or other variables.



Figure 10. Distributed Control system.

Personal Computers (PC)

Monitor the whole industrial process calculating in real time the reference points or Set Points and send them to the Voltage Summers of individual Controllers, external to the computer.



Figure 11. Combination of the Distributed System and the PC.

The Electronic Controller

The Electronic Controller is made up of one or more Operational Amplifiers (Op Amps) configured as an Inverter, Integrator, and Differentiator. These configurations of the Op-Amp are known with the names of Proportional (P), Integral (I), Derivative (D) controllers, respectively.

In practice two or more control actions are usually used, such as Proportional-Integral (PI), Proportional-Derivative (PD), Proportional- Integral-Derivative (PID), etc.

The Electronic Controller in Multisim

Multisim incorporates a series of modules for the simulation of the process control; among them we have:

- **1.** Voltage Gain Block or Proportional Controller.
- 2. Voltage Differential or Derivative Controller.
- **3.** Voltage Integrator or Integral Controller.
- 4. Voltage Summer or Summer.

All the control modules, except the Voltage Summer, have the following diagram: :



Note: The unused output and input should be connected to ground.

To access to the control modules or Controllers, from Multisim, proceed this way:

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Next, we will describe each one of the Controllers.

1. Voltage Gain Block (Proportional Controller)

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2. Voltage Differential (Derivative Controller)





This equation indicates that the output of the Derivative Controller is the product of the derivative of the input voltage times the constant K. For this reason the constant K is known as **voltage gain**.

$$Vout(t) = K - \frac{d Vin}{dt}$$



5. After having entered all the parameters, with the mouse, make click in **Accept**.

3. Voltage Integrator (Integral Controller)

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Ψ			then	Vout(t) = K	vin(t) dt		

This equation indicates that the output of the Integral Controller is the product of the integral of the input voltage times the constant K. The constant K is known as **voltage gain**.

 $Vout(t) = K \int vin(t) dt$

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5. After having entered all the parameters, with the mouse, make click in **Accept**.

4. Voltage Summer (Summer)



The output of the summer is:

Vout = Kout [KA (VA + VA_{off}) + KB (VB + VB_{off}) + KC (VC + VC_{off})] + Vo_{off}



considering:

 $VA_{off} = 0$ (input A offset voltage) $VB_{off} = 0$ (input B offset voltage) $VC_{off} = 0$ (input C offset voltage) $Vo_{off} = 0$ (output offset voltage) then:

Voltage Summer Block (Summer)

Vout = Kout (KA.VA + KB.VB + KC.VC)

Vout = Kout (KA.VA + KB.VB + KC.VC) (equation of the summer)

where: KA: Gain of input A. KB: Gain of input B. KC: Gain of input C. Kout: Output gain. VA, VB, VC: Input signals.

If we consider KA = KB = KC = Kout = 1 then the output of the Summer is similar to the arithmetic sum of the input signals.

To enter the parameters of the Summer, proceed in the following way:

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5. After having entered all the parameters, with the mouse click in **Accept**.

Example of Simulation of a Process Control

In the block diagram of figure 12, we observe the signals that provide the Sensor, the input Interface and the Set Point. The resultant of the sum of the signals of the input Interface and the Sep Point, carried out by the Summer, is applied to the Controller's input.



Figure 12. Block Diagram of a process control with signals of the Sensor, Input Interface and Set Point.

Next we will simulate, with Multisim, the behavior of the Summer and the Controller in their different configurations or control actions (Proportional, Integral, Derivative executing the following steps:

Step 1: We tabulate the signal of the Input Interface and the Set Point.

Step 2: We store the tabulation of the signals in Multisim.

Step 3: With Multisim we'll draw the following circuit:



Figure 13. Controller Circuit with two signals (Input Interface and Set Point) and a Summer.

- **Step 4:** We incorporate the Proportional Controller (P) and we will observe the signals of the Input Interface, Set Point, Summer and output of the Proportional Controller.
- Step 5: We replace the Proportional Controller for the Derivative Controller (D) and we will observe the signals of the Input Interface, Set Point, summer and output of the Derivative Controller.
- **Step 6:** We replace the Derivative Controller for the Integral Controller (I) and we will observe the signals of the Input Interface, Set Point, summer and output of the Integral Controller.
- **Step 7:** We insert the Proportional, Derivative and Integral Controllers (PID) and we will observe the input and output signals of the PID.

To continue with our example, consider the following:

- **1.** The Proportional Controller (P) will have a unity gain.
- The Derivative (D) and Integral (I) Controllers will have an RC constant = 1 millisecond.
- 3. The Summer will have a unity gain.
- 4. The whole electronic system will have a dual-supply of +VCC = 15 V and Vcc = -15 V
- 5. In all the Controllers, use the non-inverting input and the inverting output.



Tabulation of the signal of the Input Interface

In a table, we write the coordinates of the fixed points.

Notes

- **1.** In the table, the Time is specified in seconds and the Voltage in volts.
- Multisim works with continuous functions. For this reason, observe that in points 3, 5, 7, 9, 11 and 13, we have added a millionth of second to indicate to Multisim that the signal is a continuous function (remember that in the study of Limits, when for a single value in the «x» axis it corresponds two different values in the «y» axis, the function is discontinuous)

Point	Time (s)	Voltage
1	0	0
2	0.001	0
3	0.001001	4
4	0.002	4
5	0.002001	-6
6	0.004	-6
7	0.004001	2
8	0.005	2
9	0.005001	-8
10	0.007	-8
11	0.007001	1
12	0.008	1
13	0.008001	0
14	0.009	0



Tabulation of the signal of the Set Point

In a second table, we write the coordinates of the points indicated in the previous step.

Point	Time (s)	Voltage
1	0	3
2	0.009	3

Since the Set Point signal is a straight line, it will be enough with taking two points (at the beginning and the end of the straight line) so that it is mathematically defined.

Storage of the signal of the Input Interface in Multisim

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Point	Time (s)	Voltage
1	0	0
2	0.001	0
3	0.001001	4
4	0.002	4
5	0.002001	-6
6	0.004	-6
7	0.004001	2
8	0.005	2
9	0.005001	-8
10	0.007	-8
11	0.007001	1
12	0.008	1
13	0.008001	0
14	0.009	0



Tabulation of the signal of the Input Interface

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After having entered the fourteen points of the signal of the Input Interface; with the mouse make click in **Accept** to record the information

Storage of the signal of the Set Point in Multisim.

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Point	Time (s)	Voltage
1	0	3
2	0.009	3



Tabulation of the signal of the Set Point.



After having entered the two points of the signal of the Set Point; with the mouse click in **Accept** to record the information

The Summer with the signals of the Input Interface and Set Point.

We will insert the **Summer**.

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The Proportional Controller with the summer and input signals.





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Activation of the Nodes in the Circuit, with Multisim

A node is a junction point of two or more component in a circuit. The node is important because it is the reference point to observe the signals of interest in specific points of the circuit.

For this reason it is better to activate the presentation of the nodes, in case that they are not activated, in the following way:







Transient Analysis Configuration of the Proportional Controller.

DON'T TURN ON THE SWITCH of Multisim.

Follow the following procedure:



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3. With the mouse make click in Output variables



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Presentation of the Proportional Controller's signals



With the mouse, click here so that this grid appears

For the legend of the Transient Analysis:

The **red** color (node 3) corresponds to the output signal of the **Summer**.

The **blue** color (node 1) corresponds to the signal of the **Input Interface**.

The **yellow** color (node 2) corresponds to the signal of the **Set Point.**

The **green** color (node 4) corresponds to the output signal of the **Proportional Controller**.

Transient Analysis 🗙

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\$4

Width and Color for the presentation of the output signals.

The presentation of the signals in the Analysis Graphs has a width of a typographical point with the purpose of taking measurements accurately.

However, to be able to distinguish the signals one from the other, we have opted to increase the width of the lines in 10 points for the red color, 7 points for the blue color, 4 points for the green color and 4 points for the yellow color, in the following way:

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1. With the mouse make click in Edit.

2. With the mouse make click in **Properties**.



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The Derivative Controller with the summer and output signals.

We take the circuit of page 31 where we have wired the signal of the Input Interface, the Set Point, the Summer and the Proportional Controller. This Proportional Controller should be removed to replace it for the Derivative Controller.



The Proportional Controller is eliminated; we proceed to insert the Derivative Controller in the way indicated on the following page.

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Configuration of the Derivative Controller's Parameters

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 Y Y	3. With the mouse, click here, erase and write 13

The Derivative Controller's output is:

$$Vout(t) = K \frac{d Vin}{dt}$$

For the considerations of the example (see page 21), the RC constant is of 1 millisecond. Also, K = R.C is expressed in seconds (see page 14), then we have that: K = 0.001

For the considerations of the example (see page 21), the Derivative Controller will use a dual-supply with +Vcc = +15V and -Vcc = -15V then (see page 15) the Output Voltage Lower Limit will be -13 V and the Output Voltage Upper Limit is 13 V.

Transient Analysis Configuration of the Derivative Controller

DON'T TURN ON THE SWITCH of Multisim.

Follow the following procedure:



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3. With the mouse, make click in **Output variables**







Looking at the circuit, the nodes of interest are:

- node 1: Signal of the Input Interface.
- node 2: Signal of the Set Point.
- node 6: Summer output.
- **node 5:** Output of the Derivative Controller.

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	Example 4	-

In the **Selected variables** list we have nodes 1, 2, 5 and 6 selected.

To observe the signals of the selected nodes, with the mouse click on **Simulate**

Presentation of the Derivative Controller's signals.



For the legend of the Transient Analysis:



The **blue** color (node 1) corresponds to the signal of the **lnput lnterface**.

The **yellow** color (node 2) corresponds to the signal of the **Set Point.**

The **red** color (node 6) corresponds to the output signal of the **Summer**.

The **green** color (node 5) corresponds to the output signal of the **Derivative Controller**.

For the width and color of the signals, see pages 39, 40 and 41.

The Integral Controller with the Summer and input signals.

We take the circuit of page 43 where we have wired the signals of the Input Interface, the Set Point, the summer and the Derivative Controller. This Derivative Controller should be removed to replace it for the Integral Controller.



The Derivative Controller has been eliminated; we proceed to insert the Integral Controller in the way indicated on the following page.

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Configuration of the Integral Controller's Parameters



The Integral Controller's output is: Vout(t) = K $\int (Vin(t) dt)$

also

$$\zeta = \frac{1}{R.C}$$
 (expressed in seconds)

For the considerations of the example (see page 21), the RC constant is 1 millisecond. Also, K is expressed in seconds (see page 16), then we have that: K = 1/0.001 = 1000

For the considerations of the example (see page 21), the Integral Controller will have a dual-supply with +Vcc = +15V and -Vcc = -15V then (see page 17) the Output Voltage Lower Limit will be -13 and the Output Voltage Upper Limit it is 13

Transient Analysis Configuration of the Integral Controller.

DON'T TURN ON THE SWITCH of Multisim.

Follow the following procedure:

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3. With the mouse click on **Output variables**







Looking at the circuit, the nodes of interest are:

- **node 1:** Signal of the Input Interface.
- node 2: Signal of the Set Point.
- node 3: Summer output.
- node 4: Output of the Integral Controller.

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	Example							7

In the **Selected variables** list we have the nodes 1, 2, 3 and 4 selected.

To observe the signals of the selected nodes, click on **Simulate**

Presentation of the Integral Controller's signals



For the legend of the Transient Analysis:

Transient Analysis 🔀
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The **blue** color (node 1) corresponds to the signal of the **lnput Interface.**

- The **yellow** color (node 2) corresponds to the signal of the **Set Point.**

The **red** color (node 3) corresponds to the output signal of the **Summer**.

The **green** color (node 4) corresponds to the output signal of the **Integral Controller**.

For the width and color of the signals, see pages 39, 40 and 41.

The Proportional-Integral-Derivative Controller (PID). (according to the example of page 20).



Determination of the PID Controller's nodes



In the circuit, we will take the outputs of the Proportional Controller (**node 6**), Integral Controller (**node 7**), Derivative Controller (**node 8**) and Proportional-Integral- Derivative Controller PID (**node 9**).

Transient Analysis Configuration of the Proportional-Integral- Derivative Controller (PID).

DON'T TURN ON THE SWITCH of Multisim.

Follow the following procedure:



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In the **Selected variables** list we have the nodes 6, 7, 8 and 9 selected.

To observe the signals of the selected nodes, with the mouse click on **Simulate**

Presentation of the Proportional-Integral- Derivative Controller's signals (PID).



For the legend of the Transient Analysis:



The **red** color (node 7) corresponds to the output signal of the **Integral Controller**.

The **blue** color (node 8) corresponds to the output signal of the **Derivative Controller.**

The color **fuchsia** (node 6) corresponds to the output signal of the **Proportional Controller**.

The **green** color (node 9) corresponds to the output signal of the **Proportional-Integral- Derivative Controller (PID)**.

For the width and color of the signals, see pages 39, 40 and 41.