

Process Control Design

Solutions for PASI Workshops



This document contains solutions for most of the workshops in the Lesson on "Process Control Design" presented at the PASI Course at Iguazu Falls on August 16-25, 2005. The workshops are designated by the main topic and the workshop number within the topic.

The following table of contents enables you to quickly find the solution you seek.

Workshop No.	Торіс	Page No.		
	_			
	Defining the Control Problem			
1	Control Design Form for a Distillation Tower	No solution		
2	Control Design Form for a Fired Heater	No solution		
3	Information for design from a Flowsheet	No solution		
4	Strategies for Reduced Variance	3		
5	Assumption in Benefits Calculation	4		
6	Optimum Variance for Several Performance Correlations	5		
	Single-Loop Feedback Control			
1	Large range in a Manipulated variable	7		
2	Using the Optimum manipulated variable	8		
3	Minimizing flow to waste	9		
4	Heat Exchanger Control - Three designs	10		
5	Distillation Tower Pressure Control - Using Cooling Water	11		
6	Distillation Tower Pressure Control - Using Refrigeration	12		
7	PH Control for Strong Acid/Base	13		
	Interaction			
1	Operating Window for a Blending Process	14		
Controllability				
1	Controllability of a Mixing Process	15		
2	Controllability of Boiler Temperature and Pressure	16		
3	Controllability of Flash Temperature and Pressure	17		
4	Controllability of a CSTR	18		
Integrity				
1	Integrity of Controls for a Head Box	20		
2	Integrity of Controls for a Distillation Tower - Energy Balance	21		
3	Integrity of Controls for a Distillation Tower - Material Balance	23		
4	Integrity of Controls for a 4x4 Process	24		
5	Effect of Regulatory Controls and Operating Conditions on Integrity	25		

Directionality and Performance			
la	Directionality for single Set Point Change	26	
1b	Directionality for disturbance through manipulated variable process	28	
1c	Directionality for one-way interaction	29	
1d	Considering Input Directionality in Decoupling	30	
2	Analysis of a distillation tower with tray temperatures	31	
	Short-Cut Design Procedures		
1A	Selecting Controlled Variables for Seven Categories of Objectives	32	
1B	Selecting Manipulated Variables	46	
1C	Check if Achieving Control Objectives is Possible	47	
1D	Eliminating Unacceptable Design Candidates	48	
2	Maleic Anhydride Feed Vaporizer	50	
3	Fuel Gas Distribution	52	
4	Vapor Compression Refrigeration	54	
5	Flash Separation Process	56	
6	CSTR with Recycle	59	
7	Two Units with Intermediate Storage	67	
8	Liquid-Liquid Decanter	69	
9	Hydrocracker - Packed Bed Reactors with Exothermic Reaction	70	
10	Optimize Preheat	71-73	

Defining the Control Problem

DEFINING THE PROBLEM: Workshop 4

Two process examples show the benefit of reduced variability, the fired heater reactor and the boiler. Discuss the difference between the two examples. Can you think of another example that shows the principle of each?



DEFINING THE PROBLEM: Workshop 4

The principle involves using the entire distribution to evaluate performance. This is the same for both examples.

They differ in the actions taken to improve performance.

 In <u>Case A</u> the action involved reducing the variability (through improved control) and taking advantage of the reduced variance by changing the set point closer to an inequality constraint. Some process examples include

i. Maximizing the production of an existing process by operating near equipment limitation (distillation tray hydraulics, pumping, hest transfer, etc.)

ii. Operating near limits to reduce manufacturing costs, for example, minimum distillation pressure and minimum disillation reflux ratio (that achieves desired separation)

DEFINING THE PROBLEM: Workshop 4

The principle involves using the entire distribution to evaluate performance. This is the same for both examples.

They differ in the actions taken to improve performance.

 In <u>Case B</u> the action involved reducing the variability (through improved control) while maintaining the variable average at its desired value. Some process examples include

i. Reducing variability in key product qualities (paper thickness, polymer molecular weight, and the color of ink or paint.

Note that the customer requires the <u>same quality all of the time</u>. If the paper jams in your printer because it is too thick, you will not appreciate the supplier telling you that you obtained "extra" paper.

Defining the Control Problem

DEFINING THE PROBLEM: Workshop 5



Discuss an important assumption that is made on the procedure proposed for calculating the average process performance. (Hint: consider dynamics)

How would you evaluate the assumption?

DEFINING THE PROBLEM: Workshop 5



Note that the histogram summarizes the dynamic plant data. The data contains no information on the frequency content.

The "Process Performance" correlation is nearly always based on steady-state behavior of the process.

The key assumption is that each instant of the dynamic operation represents a <u>"quasi-steady state</u>", in which the process performance correlation is valid.

Defining the Control Problem

DEFINING THE PROBLEM: Workshop 6

The following performance vs. process variable correlations are provided. All applications require the <u>same average value</u> for the process variable (see arrow). What is the best distribute for each case? (Sketch histogram as your answer.)



DEFINING THE PROBLEM: Workshop 6

Any distribution with the required mean value for the variable will have the same process performance, because the performance is linear with the variable!



А

DEFINING THE PROBLEM: Workshop 6

A narrow distribution about the average value will yield the highest average profit!

This is the typical process situation.

В

С



DEFINING THE PROBLEM: Workshop 6

A broad distribution about the average value will yield the highest average profit!

This is not the typical process situation.





Single-loop Control, Workshop #1



Single-loop Control, Workshop #2

The consumers vary and we must satisfy them by purchasing fuel gas. Therefore, we want to control the pressure in the gas distribution network. Design a control system. By the way, fuel A is less expensive.



Single-loop Control, Workshop #2

The two valves are calibrated so that A opens from 0-50% of signal and valve B opens from 50-100% of signal.



Single-loop Control, Workshop #3

Design a controller that will control the level in the bottom of the distillation tower and send as much flow as possible to Stream A



A = downstream unit processing (profitable) B = waste (costly, minimize this!)





You can add valve(s) and piping.



It is not typical to adjust a stream flow to control its temperature; if the temperature is important, likely the flow rate is also. But, the design will function



Single-loop Control, Workshop #6

Class exercise: Distillation overhead system. Design a pressure controller. (Think about affecting U, A and ΔT)



You can add valve(s) and piping.

Single-loop Control, Workshop #6

Class exercise: Distillation overhead system. Design a pressure controller.

Affecting A



Single-loop Control, Workshop #6

Class exercise: Distillation overhead system. Design a pressure controller.

Affecting A



Single-loop Control, Workshop #7

The following control system has a very large gain near pH = 7. For a strong acid/base, performance is likely to be poor. How can we improve the situation?



Single-loop Control, Workshop #7

Variable structure control (valve-position controller) can provide good control over a large range because the high frequency disturbances are corrected using the high resolution, small valve.



Interaction



Multivariable Interaction, Workshop #1





CONTROLLABILITY : Workshop 1

Answer based on process insight for the mixing process.

We can plot the operating window, which is shown in the figure. We see that the window is a line, operations off of the line are not possible. Clearly, the process is not controllable; i.e., we cannot achieve arbitrary values of the temperature and concentration.



CONTROLLABILITY : Workshop 1

A more formal approach would be to linearize the process model about the operating point and evaluate the gain matrix.

$$\begin{bmatrix} C_{A} \\ T' \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} (C_{A1} - C_{A2})_{s} \alpha_{1} & (C_{A1} - C_{A2})_{s} \alpha_{2} \\ (T_{1} - T_{2})_{s} \alpha_{1} & (T_{1} - T_{2})_{s} \alpha_{2} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} F_{1} \\ F_{2} \end{bmatrix}$$
$$\alpha_{1} = \frac{F_{2s}}{(F_{1s} + F_{2s})^{2}}$$
$$\alpha_{2} = \frac{F_{1s}}{(F_{1s} + F_{2s})^{2}}$$

with

We observe that the gain matrix has dependent rows and columns. Therefore, the matrix is singular, and the system is not controllable.

CONTROLLABILITY : Workshop 2

The sketch describes a simplified boiler for the production of steam. The boiler has two fuels that can be manipulated independently. We want to control the steam temperature and pressure. Analyze the controllability of this system and determine the loop pairing.



CONTROLLABILITY : Workshop 2

The pressure and temperature of saturated steam are related through equilibrium; see the steam tables. It is not possible to control T and P to independent values.



CONTROLLABILITY : Workshop 3

The sketch describes a simplified flash drum. A design is proposed to control the temperature and pressure of the vapor section. Analyze the controllability of this system and determine if the loop pairing is correct.



CONTROLLABILITY : Workshop 3

The question is whether the temperature and pressure of this twophase system are independent. For a multicomponent system, the variables are independent, as shown in the standard figure below, with P1<P2<P3.

Also, we see that valve v1 affects the temperature and v5 affects the pressure.

Therefore, the system is controllable, in at least the steady-state sense.



Fraction of light key



CONTROLLABILITY	
non-isothermal CSTR	
• Are the CVs independently controllable?	Solution continued on
• Does interaction exist?	next slide
$A \rightarrow B + 2C$	



Using the symbol N_i for the number of moles of component "i" that reacts, we have the following.

$$N_B = -N_A \qquad N_C = -2N_A$$

Because of the stoichiometry,

$$N_C = 2 N_B$$

and the system is not
controllable!



For output contraction, both MVs affect both CVs, but the CVs are related through the physics and chemistry. We can change both CVS, but we cannot move the CVs to <u>independent</u> values!



In this case, multivariable feedback control is not possible; the system is uncontrollable!



Integrity Workshop 1

The process in the figure is a simplified head box for a paper making process. The control objectives are to control the pressure at the bottom of the head box (P1) tightly and to control the slurry level (L) within a range. The manipulated variables are the slurry flow rate in ($F_{\rm lin}$) and the air vent valve opening.



Integrity Workshop 1

The key factor in analyzing this system is the open-loop dynamics which are discussed qualitatively below.

1. For an increase in the slurry flow in (with the vapor valve constant) both the level and the pressure at the bottom of the head box increase. At the new steady state, the flows in and out are equal; since the flow out depends on P1, it must increase.

2. For an increase in the opening of the vapor valve (with constant slurry flow in) the pressure P decreases. At the new steady state, the flows in and out are equal; thus P1 must be unchanged. P1 is constant because the level and pressure P change in compensating directions.

As a result, there is no steady-state causal relationship between the vapor valve and the flow out $F_{\rm low}$, although this is the fastest influence on the flow out, not requiring a change of the slurry inventory. However, we want the fast respose for tight control of P1.

Pairing the loops as shown in the following figure involves pairing on a relative gain of zero.

This is probably the best control design, but requires a monitoring program to ensure that the level controller is functioning (in automatic with the manipulated variable not at an upper or lower bound). If the level controller is not functioning, the P1 controller must be placed in manual and an alarm annunciated to inform the operator.

For model, see McAvoy, T., IEC PDD, 22, 42-49 (1982)

Integrity Workshop 1



Integrity Workshop 2

The following transfer function matrix and RGA are given for a binary distillation tower. Discuss the integrity for the two loop pairings.



Integrity Workshop 2





The pairing in the accompanying figure has good integrity. If one loop is placed in manual, the sign of the controller gain for stabilizing control will be unchanged.

There is no guarantee that one loop with the same tuning will be stable for both statuses (on/off) of an interacting loop.



Integrity Workshop 2

An example of stable multiloop control with pairing on a negative relative gain. (The bottoms (XB) controller has a sign opposite needed to stabilize the single-loop situation.)



Integrity Workshop 3

The following transfer function matrix and RGA are given for a binary distillation tower. Discuss the integrity for the two loop pairings.





Both of the designs in the figures have acceptable integrity. That does not mean that

- Their dynamic performance is acceptable
- If one controller is in manual, the other will be stable in single-loop

Integrity Workshop 4

We will consider a hypothetical 4 input, 4 output process.

- How many possible combinations are possible for the square mutilioop system?
- For the system with the RGA below, how many loop pairings have good integrity?

	mv1	mv2	mv3	mv4
CV1	0	1	0	0
CV2	1.83	0	0	83
CV3	83	0	0	1.83
CV4	0	0	1	0

Integrity Workshop 4

The number of loop pairings for an nxn process is n!. For the 4x4 system, the number of loop pairings is 4! = 4*3*2*1 = 24.

Only one loop pairing for the following RGA.

	mv1	mv2	mv3	mv4
CV1	0	(1)	0	0
CV2	(1.83)	0	0	83
CV3	83	0	0	(1.83)
CV4	0	0	(1)	0

Integrity Workshop 5

The table presents RGA(1,1) for the same 2x2 process with different level controllers (considered "part of the process") and different operation conditions. What do you conclude about the effects of regulatory level controls and operating conditions on the RGA?



Integrity Workshop 5

We note that the RGAs in this exercise are evaluated with a specific level control design. Therefore, the level controllers, or more generally some regulatory controllers, are "part of the process".

We observe that the level control design has a very strong effect on the RGA and therefore, the interaction and integrity.

Also, we observe that the operating conditions, here the product purities, have a strong effect on the interaction and RGA. We observe that <u>in this case</u>, the sign of the RGA does not change for changes in the operating conditions.

Directionality & Performance Workshop 1

Prove the following important results.

- A. For a single set point change, RDG = RGA
- B. For a disturbance with same effect as an MV, the RDG = 0 to 2.0 (depending on the output variable)
- C. For one-way interaction, RDG = 1
- D. Decouple only for unfavorable directionality, i.e., large RDG

Directionality & Performance Workshop 1

A. For a single set point change, RDG = RGA

$$\int_{0}^{\infty} E_{iML}(t)dt = RDG_{ij} \quad f_{tune} \quad \int_{0}^{\infty} E_{iSL}(t)dt$$

Evaluate the RDG and integral errors for this special case, Set point change: $Kd_1 = \Delta SP_1$ $Kd_2 = \Delta SP_2 = 0$

 $\int E_1(t)dt$

 $\int E_2(t)dt$

What is the RDG equal to in this case?



Directionality & Performance Workshop 1

A. For a single set point change, RDG = RGA

$$\int_{0}^{\infty} E_{iML}(t)dt = RDG_{ij} \quad f_{tune} \quad \int_{0}^{\infty} E_{iSL}(t)dt$$
Evaluate the RDG and integral errors for this special case.

Set point change: $Kd_1 = \Delta SP_1$ $Kd_2 = \Delta SP_2 = 0$

CONCLUSIONS

• The RDG=RGA for this disturbance

$$\int E_1(t)dt = RGA_{11} * f_{\text{detune}} * \int E_{SL}$$

$$\int E_2(t)dt = RGA_{22} * \left(\frac{K_{21}}{K_{11}}\right) f_{\text{detune}} * \left(\int E_{SL2}\right)$$

Directionality & Performance Workshop 1

B. For a disturbance with same effect as an MV, the RDG = 0 to 2.0 (depending on the output variable)

$$\int_{0}^{\infty} E_{ML}(t) dt = RDG \quad f_{tune} \quad \int_{0}^{\infty} E_{SL}(t) dt$$

Evaluate the RDG and integral errors for this special case, Disturbance through MV process: $K_{d1} = K_{11}$ $K_{d2} = K_{22}$

 $\int E_1(t)dt$

 $\int E_2(t)dt$

Directionality & Performance Workshop 1 B. For a disturbance with same effect as an MV, the RDG = 0 to 2.0 (depending on the output variable) $\int_{0}^{\infty} E_{ML}(t)dt = RDG \ f_{tune} \ \int_{0}^{\infty} E_{SL}(t)dt$ Evaluate the RDG and integral errors for this special case, Disturbance through MV process: $K_{a1} = K_{11} \ K_{a2} = K_{22}$ $\int E_1(t)dt = RGA_{11}(K_{D1} - \frac{K_{D2}K_{12}}{K_{22}})f_{detune} * (-\frac{TI_1}{K_{11}K_{c1}})_{SL}$ $= (RGA_{11}/RGA_{11})f_{detune} * \int E_{SL1} = f_{detune} * \int E_{SL1}$ $\int E_2(t)dt = RGA_{22}(K_{D2} - \frac{K_{D1}K_{21}}{K_{11}})f_{detune} * (\frac{TI_2}{K_{22}K_{c2}})$ = 0

Directionality & Performance Workshop 1

B. For a disturbance with same effect as an MV, the RDG = 0 to 2.0 (depending on the output variable)

 $\int_{0}^{\infty} E_{ML}(t) dt = RDG \ f_{tune} \ \int_{0}^{\infty} E_{SL}(t) dt$

$$\label{eq:constraint} \begin{split} Evaluate the RDG and integral errors for this special case, \\ Disturbance through MV process: $K_{d1} = K_{11}$ $K_{d2} = K_{22}$ \end{split}$$

CONCLUSIONS

- The RDG ≈ 1 for this disturbance
- For disturbances through the MV process, the control performance will be likely close to single-loop

$$\int E_1(t)dt = f_{\text{detune}} * \int E_{SL1}$$

 $\int E_2(t)dt = 0$

Directionality & Performance Workshop 1				
C.	For one-way interaction, RDG = 1			
	$\int_{0}^{\infty} E_{ML}(t) dt = RDG$	f_{tune}	$\int_{0}^{\infty} E_{SI}$	L(t)dt
Evaluate the RDG and integral errors for this special case,				
	One-Way Interaction:	$K_{12} \neq$	0	$K_{21} = 0$

 $\int E_1(t)dt$

 $\int E_2(t)dt$



Directionality & Performance Workshop 1

D. Decouple only for unfavorable directionality, i.e., large RDG





D. Decouple only for unfavorable directionality, i.e., large RDG



Directionality & Performance Workshop 1

D. Decouple only for unfavorable directionality, i.e., large RDG

Decoupling - Deciding when to decouple

$\frac{\int \mathbf{E}_{dec} dt}{\int \mathbf{E}_{SL} dt} = 1.$	$0 \qquad \qquad \frac{\int \mathbf{E}_{\mathbf{ML}} dt}{\int \mathbf{E}_{\mathbf{SL}} dt}$	= (RDG)(f _{tune})
(RDG)(f tune)	Interpretation	Decision
< 1	Favorable interaction	Do not decouple
≈ 1	No significant difference	Do not decouple
> 1	Unfavorable interaction	Decouple (Caution regarding robustness)



Directionality & Performance Workshop 2

a. Controllability in the s-s



b. Loop pairings with good integrity.



Directionality & Performance Workshop 2

c. For the pairings with good integrity, is the interaction favorable or unfavorable?

$$RDG_{T4} = 1.8 \left[1 - \frac{(-0.65)(0.048)}{(0.004)(0.55)} \right] = -23.7$$
$$RGD_{T14} = 1.8 \left[1 - \frac{(0.004)(0.23)}{(-0.65)(0.045)} \right] = 1.8$$

Since the magnitude of the RDG's is large compared with 1.0, the system has unfavorable interaction, and we recommend decoupling.

(The RGA is not large, so sensitivity should not be a major issue.)

Short-Cut Design Procedures

Structured, Short-cut Control Design

Class Workshop 1: Develop a comprehensive set of control design guidelines

Some hints:

- Define the objectives first! Consider the seven categories of design objectives
- Insure that the goals are possible for the process!
- Integrate principles from single-loop and interaction topics
- Use all process insights!

Structured, Short-cut Control Design



Workshop 1A. Guidelines for Selecting Controlled Variables

These guidelines offer assistance for engineers in selecting variables to be measured and used in control and monitoring in the process industries. The guidelines are presented in the seven categories of control objectives proposed by Marlin (2000).

- 1. Safety
- 2. Environmental Protection
- 3. Equipment Protection
- 4. Smooth operation
- 5. **Product Quality**
- 6. Profit
- 7. Monitoring and Diagnosis

The order of the categories represents the relative importance of each element, i.e., safety is the highest priority. While no list of categories can represent every control objective in every process plant, nearly all control objectives fall naturally in one of the seven.

Defining the control objectives is the key initial step in proper control system design. The engineer should thoroughly review the process to identify relevant objectives in each of the seven categories. The engineer should define the objectives without specifically offering control designs during the initial review. Only after the entire set of objectives is understood should design begin.

The following presentation discusses each category. First, a brief discussion is given. Second, guidance is given on typical objectives in process plants. In many cases, process sketches are provided. Finally, a quick summary is presented on some innovative, new concepts that have reached industrial application.

This presentation is not meant to be comprehensive, a goal that would be unachievable because of the diversity of processes and materials in the process industries. The presentation provides many typical objectives, so that the engineer will have a foundation of issues to be addressed in all plants. The engineer will build on this foundation and uncover novel issues using proven problem solving techniques, e.g., Woods (1994) and Fogler and LeBlanc (2000).

Many important topics are not discussed here because of space limitations. Two of the most important are noted below.

- Sensors The selection of the sensor for each measured variable is an important topic that would require extensive materials. Key issues in sensor selection include accuracy, reproducibility, reliability, safety, and cost. Some reference material is available at http://www.pc-education.mcmaster.ca/instrumentation/go_inst.htm, as well as many other resources.
- Inferential Variables Often, an onstream sensor for an important variable is not available or is extremely expensive. In these cases, the engineer should investigate whether a surrogate or inferential variable can be calculated using more easily measured variables. The choice of inferential variable (or calculation, if multiple inferential sensors

are used) can be made based on theory (See Marlin (2000), Chapter 17) or on historical process data (see Kresta, J., T. Marlin, and J. MacGregor, Selection of Inferential Variables Using PLS with Application to Distillation, *Comp. Chem. Eng.*, 18, 597-611 (1994)).

1. Safety

Safety of people in the facility and the surrounding neighborhood is of paramount importance. The entire plant design, including but not limited to control design, should reduce the likelihood of a hazard event to a very low value; a typical threshold used in practice is lower than one event in 10^6 person-years, e.g., one person working for 10^6 years or 10^3 people working for 10^3 years. Typical causes of hazardous events and controlled variables to reduce the probability of an event occurring are given in this section.



2. Environmental Protection

Process plants handle large quantities of material, so that if even a small percentage is hazardous, the effluents from a plant have the potential to cause harm to the environment outside of the manufacturing facility. Major reductions in hazardous emissions result from modifications to process chemistry and flowsheet structure. However, control contributes to the reduction of undesired effluents by monitoring and introducing corrective actions when needed.



operating variables, for example, air flow to the biological reactors.	
 2. Emissions to the air can be undesirable as well. For example, incomplete combustion of fuel can create smoke; however, smoke (opacity) can be measured and nearly eliminated by achieving the desired excess air to a combustion process. We also note that having a deficiency of air in a combustion system can be hazardous. The uncombusted (or partially combusted) fuel can be mixed with air from a leak in the combustion can occur. 	Flue gas Unsafe Unsafe Steam Radiation Air Fuel Unsafe Unsafe Unsafe Unsafe Unsafe Unsafe Unsafe
	FIGURE 2.6
3. In some jurisdictions, flaring fuel is prohibited. A control system must control pressure by diverting fuel gas for immediate use in the process.	producing units
4. The Kyoto Protocol requires reductions in many effluents. One natural manner for reducing emissions is to increase the efficiency of existing processes. For example, a 1% increase in boiler efficiency, by improved control of excess air, results in a 1% reduction in CO_2 .	See the following WEB sites. <u>http://www.ec.gc.ca/pdb/ghg/kyoto_protocol_e.cfm</u> <u>http://unfccc.int/2860.php</u>
Similarly, reductions in heating or cooling recycles, increased reactor yields to reduce feed flow and other improvements contribute directly to reduced effluents as well.	

3. Equipment Protection

Typically, process equipment is physically robust. However, operation outside of recommended regions of variables can lead to serious damage. The costs for equipment damage can be large, both in repair to the equipment and in lost production while the process is being repaired. Control systems are used to maintain acceptable values for key variables and if undesired regions occur due to upsets, to shutdown the equipment to prevent damage.
 Flow is an important variable. a. Some pumps require a continuous flow, and no 	
pump should be operated for a long time with no flow rate. Therefore, controls often ensure a continuous flow by opening a recycle when the net flow through the process is too low.	
b. Compressors are used for the flow of gases and in vapor compression refrigeration systems. Centrifugal compressors have required minimum flows; lower flows can lead to unstable flows, high frequency oscillations, and severe damage. Recycle flows are required to ensure the minimum flow is exceeded.	b. Compressor with minimum flow anti-surge control
c. Fired heaters usually require a minimum flow rate to prevent excessive heating of the tubes and decomposition of fluids in the pipes.	Compressor
d. Some chemical reactors require a minimum flow rate, for example, a packed bed to prevent excessive temperatures	F_{feed}
2. High temperature can damage even high quality steels.	
a. The maximum metal temperatures can be exceeded in fired heaters. They are measured with thermocouples welded to the pipes and by optical pyrometers.	
b. Special equipment can have limits on temperature and rate of change of temperature, for example, a glass lined, steel CSTR.	
3. Pressure always has a range of acceptable values.	Pressure relief valve
a. Vessels with pressures above atmospheric are designed for a range, with the maximum never exceeded.	
b. We should also guard against low pressures, which can cause a vessel to collapse.	CW CW Dump to safe location



4. Smooth Operation

Process plants are subject to continual disturbances in nearly all input streams. A well-designed control system should reduce the effects of these continuous disturbances on all important variables. In addition, the operations personnel appreciate a plant that operates smoothly, i.e., all trend plots show (nearly) straight lines. While the following objectives are not strictly required to achieve the higher priority objectives (or the lower priority either), good designs at this stage will improve the performance of controls for all other objectives. In addition, the controllers for this objective do not conflict with other controllers; because the controllers achieving smooth operation are generally lower in the control hierarchy and are directed by controllers for other objectives. The typical implementation approach involves the cascade control structure.





5. **Product Quality**

Most processing plants desire to achieve strict quality specifications on the material produced. Usually, this is a product for sale, but it could be an effluent for release to the environment or a utility stream, such as steam, that will be used in an integrated plant. Since the purpose of the facility is to make the product, success depends on excellent quality control.

Not all plants make a final product for sale; some plants make intermediate products that are used in subsequent steps to ultimately make a final product. Control of the intermediate products is also important, even if poor intermediate quality can be rectified in subsequent manufacturing steps, because these corrections usually involve increased cost and lower production capacity.

1. Product quality is related to its final use	
a. In some cases, qualities are directly related to a stream composition; thus, the selection of measured variable is obvious. For example, the quality of ethylene for use in polymerization is measured by impurities of components like acetylene, ethane and methane.	
b. In other cases, the performance must be measured directly, because it is a complex function of many material components. For example,	
 fuel properties are measured in test engines for octane tensile strength of fiber is tested 	



6. Profit

For commercial endeavors, profit is required. In other facilities, such as waste water processing, no option exists to not operate the plant; however, profit maximization is equivalent to a cost minimization, and every plant benefits from achieving its goals at as low a cost as possible.

Maximizing the profit involves many engineering functions, such as feed purchasing, price negotiation, and process equipment design. Here, we will concentrate on the actions possible after the process flowsheet and equipment have been defined. We do not want to degrade the achievement of higher priority goals; therefore, the approaches presented here are usually implemented slowly, to prevent unfavorable interaction.





7. Monitoring and Diagnosis

Typically, a plant contains many sensors that are not used for closed-loop control; in fact, more sensors are normally installed for monitoring and diagnosis than for feedback control. In general, the sensors provide considerable information, but no one sensor provides a unique indication that a specific problem has occurred, or is likely to occur in the near future. Thus, some diagnosis is required and this diagnosis involves people applying problem-solving techniques.

In general, there are two distinct categories of monitoring and diagnosis. The first category involves issues that occur relatively rapidly and must be corrected quickly to prevent a hazard, equipment damage or large economic loss. The plant personnel near the equipment, i.e., the plant operators, will perform these rapid diagnostics and implement corrective actions. When actions are required quickly, an alarm can be generated using the measured value. An alarm activates a blinking light and an audio signal to the operator. After the operator acknowledges the alarm, the audio signal is stopped and the light associated with the alarm variable remains on (without blinking) until the variable returns to its acceptable range.

The second category involves slower changes that can be monitored periodically. Often, engineers perform the diagnosis and plan the corrective action, because the correction can involve temporarily taking a unit out of service for repair, catalyst regeneration, or cleaning. Typically, daily reports are generated that summarize the performance of all key units. The reports can contain values of measured variables, calculated values that summarize equipment performance (e.g., heat transfer coefficients) and values that summarize process performance (e.g., yields, energy/feed, etc.). One important calculation involves material balances on the process.





Workshop 1B. Guidelines for Selecting Manipulated Variables

Most manipulated variables in the process industries are easily identified and naturally provided in the process design. However, the principles of strong, precise, and fast feedback action, along with high profit, leads to some special designs. A few general issues are discussed in the following.

a. Remote actuation - Most processes are managed from a remote, centralized control room, where most personnel and the control computing equipment are located. If the response of the feedback must be implemented rapidly and reliably, the final element must be adjustable from the control room. This is nearly always the case for automatic control. Some final elements are changed very infrequently, for example, a valve that determines the source of feed material from several storage tanks; a person could adjust these valves manually.

b. Strong effect - This is essentially a "large steady-state gain". We can determine the gain from the product of the gain between the adjusted variable (usually flow rate) and the controlled variable and the gain between the controller output and the adjusted variable. Typically the gain should be in the range of 1 (% controlled variable)/(%controller output). Note that in this equation, the range of the controlled variable should be the typical range over which control is applied. If the gain is too small, the control system cannot correct for large disturbances or achieve a range of desired set points.

c. Good Precision - The manipulated variable should achieve "close" to the value commanded by the controller. Naturally, an exact implementation is not achievable, and the meaning of "close" varies depending on the process application. When the final element is a control valve, friction impedes the movement of the valve and can lead to dead band and hysteresis. In addition, a valve with a large maximum flow rate (i.e., a larger valve") generally has poorer precision.

d. Fast response - Feedback performance is better for fast dynamics between the final element and the controlled variable (sensor). This is an important factor in deciding which final element to adjust for feedback of a specific controlled variable.

e. Linear process dynamics - The typical feedback controller is linear, with constant tuning parameters. This controller will function best when the process is also linear, so that the closed-loop behavior of the system is relatively constant over the range of operation.

f. High profit - In some cases, the cost for manipulating one final element may be different fro a similar final element. For example, using a hot process stream for reboiling may have not net cost, if the stream must be cooled for subsequent processing. The alternative of using steam from a fired boiler is much more costly, as fuel is required in the boiler.

Workshop 1C. Is the Desired Control Performance Achievable?

This issue is addressed in the topics of controllability and optimization-based control design. The approaches using linear dynamic models will not be repeated here. However, a steady-state flowsheet can be helpful for processes that normally operate at steady state.

The advantage for using a flowsheeting simulation is the natural inclusion of non-linear behavior. In addition, commercial steady-state flowsheets are widely available, low cost and easily used.

Non-linear behavior is important as the operation deviates form the point of linearization. Thus, the flowsheet gives a better indication of the range of achievable behavior, albeit in the steady state. Often, the simulator is used to determine the largest disturbance that can be compensated with the equipment in the design. The disturbance can be increased until one (or more) manipulated variable reaches a bound (e.g., maximum reflux flow rate) or another equipment limitation is encountered (e.g., maximum vapor flow rate in a section of a distillation tower).

Workshop 1D. Eliminate Unacceptable Loop Pairings?

In most design procedures, we eliminate many unacceptable designs using limited data and simple calculations or rules. This enables us to consider a problem with many potential solutions and to concentrate the available time and resources on evaluating the most promising designs in greater detail.

While we seek to narrow our search quickly, we must be cautious. When we use simple calculations and guidelines, we limit our solution of "conventional" designs. This limitation may be acceptable in some cases, but we could miss opportunities for substantial improvement in some cases. Here, we will concentrate on process insight, guidelines and simple calculations for design. We will accept the possibility of missing a very good design; however, the section on optimization-based control design addresses a more thorough screening procedure that should converge to all good candidates.

Before presenting these guidelines, we offer a caution: the guidelines are often violated in practical control. The solutions to the design cases in this lesson provide many examples. This situation results from the multi-objective nature of the design problem. The highest priority objective can change, depending on the situation. Therefore, guidelines always have the caveat, "With all other considerations equal".

With the preceding caution in mind, we present a few steps that can be used to test candidates.

- a. **Is performance achievable**? For short-cut analysis, we will concentrate of steady-state behavior.
 - i. The number manipulated variables must be equal to or greater than the number of controlled variables.
 - ii. The linear gain matrix must be invertible, i.e., its determinant must exist. (Other tests are available and can be used in the optimization-based approach; here, we concentrate on simple calculations.)
 - iii. The largest expected disturbances must be compensated by the manipulated variables, as evaluated using a steady-state flowsheet.
- **b. Favorable dynamics** The basics of feedback support the following guidelines.

i. The feedback dynamics should be fast, especially the dead times.

- ii. Disturbances should pass through processes with large time constants.
- iii. Disturbances should occur at frequencies much larger than the critical frequencies of the feedback loop.
- iv. Inventories should be large enough to attenuate changes in flows to critical units.
- **c.** Achieve integrity We use steady-state gain information at this step.

i. Avoid control designs with loop pairings on negative relative gain elements.ii. Avoid control designs with loop pairings on zero relative gain elements

- iii. If a design has a loop paired on a negative or zero RGA element, an "interlock" should be implemented to ensure that appropriate loops are "off" simultaneously to retain stability.
- **d.** Interaction and performance Select designs with modest and favorable interaction, f possible.
 - i. Avoid designs with loop pairings on very small positive (e.g., 0.15) elements. Very small elements indicate a much larger effective process gain in the multiloop system, which will require retuning the controllers as loops change from on to off.
 - ii. Avoid designs with loop pairings on very large RGA elements. Large elements indicate a much smaller gain in the multiloop system, which usually cannot be compensated by a large controller gain because of stability.
 - iii. Select designs with favorable interaction for key disturbances. This can be determined using the RDG.
- e. Minimize effects of disturbances Some disturbances are inevitable, os that their effects should be minimized.
 - i. Control the "process environment", as measured by inexpensive, fast and reliable sensors. By controlling these variables, the deviations of critical variables, such as product qualities are reduced. This concept is referred to using two terms; **inferential control** or **partial control**.
 - ii. Where an appropriate secondary variable exists, apply cascade control to reduce the effects of some disturbances.
 - iii. Where an appropriate sensor for a disturbance exists, apply feedforward control to reduce the effects of some disturbances.
 - iv. Apply averaging level control where appropriate to reduce the effects of changing flow rates.

Short-cut Control Design Workshop 2

Class Workshop: Design controls for the Butane vaporizer which is the first unit in a Maleic Anhydride process.



Short-cut Control Design Workshop 2

Some useful information about the plant.

- Essentially pure butane is delivered to the plant periodically via rail car.
- Essentially pure butane is delivered to the plant periodically via rail car. Butane is stored under pressure. The "feed preparation" unit is highlighted in the figure. The goal is to vaporize the appropriate amount of butane and mix it with air. After the feed preparation, the mixed feed flows to a packed bed reactor; effluent from the reactor is processed in separation units, which are not shown in detail. Heat is provided by condensing steam in the vaporizer. Air is compressed by a compressor that is driven by a steam turbine. There is an explosion limit for the air/C4 ratio. Normal is 1.6% butane, and the explosive range is 1.8% to 8.0% 2. 3.
- 5 6

You are asked to design a control system for the process in the dashed box. You should

- Briefly, list the control objectives for the seven categories. а
- Add sensors and valves needed for good control. Sketch the loop pairing on the figure. Provide a brief explanation for your design. ь
- c. d.
- If you feel especially keen, include "control for safety" in your design. This would include the following items (among others). alarms safety shutdown systems e.

 - pressure relief
 failure position for valves

Short-cut Control Design Workshop 2

Table 1. Control objectives

Control Objective		
1.	Safety	Control pressure in vaporizer Control pressure in reactor and downstream vessels Prevent explosive composition in the reactor feed
•	Environmental protection	Send any vent gas with hydrocarbons to flare for combustion
•	Equipment protection	 Ensure air flow to compressor See safety above.
•	Smooth operation	Control the liquid level in the vaporizer because it is open-loop unstable Control the feed/production rate with the air flow rate to mixing point Adjust the steam flow to achieve the desired vaporizer pressure and reduce disturbances to the butane flow
•	Product quality	
•	Profit	
•	Monitoring and Diagnosis	Monitor pressure drop across the packed bed reactors Compare the butane temperature and pressure to check the pressure sensor Compare the ratio of steambutane to check for steam losses via leaks. Compare butane/air ratio as a check on the analyzer

The key vaporizer variable is pressure, because of safety issues due to material limits of the steel. Note that the temperatures are low, so that the temperature is not a limiting factor.

Because the feed is a pure component and is boiling in the vaporizer, the temperature and pressure are related; only one can be specified independently¹. Therefore, both cannot be controlled with feedback controllers. The pressure is important and the pressure sensor is fast; therefore, we control pressure. S the pressure response is as fast as the temperature response, a cascade design $(PC \rightarrow TC \rightarrow v2)$ is NOT appropriate. Since



Short-cut Control Design Workshop 2

Valve	Failure position	Valve positioner recommended?	
v1	Closed - prevent liquid carryover to	No, because tight level control is not required	
	reactor. May have to have	and loop has no dead time.	
	recirculation line from pump back to		
	storage.		
v2	Closed – lower pressure in vaporizer	Yes, because tight pressure control is	
	vessel.	important and dynamics could be a couple of	
		minutes (heating the coils).	
v3	Closed - Safe low concentration of	No, if the loop is fast.	
	butane in reactor feed. Note that this		
	closes outlet to the vessel; therefore,	Yes, if the loop is slow compared with the	
	safety relief valves must prevent high	safety issues.	
	pressure.		
v4	Open - Dilute the butane with air to	No, because the loop is fast.	
	yield low (safe) concentration. This		
	also protects compressor from running	Yes, if the valve has strong unbalanced forces	
	without air flow.	or sticking.	
v5	Open – lower pressure	No, loop is fast	

Short-cut Control Design Workshop 3

Class Workshop: Design controls for the fuel gas distribution system.



Short-cut Control Design Workshop 3

flow	manipulated	dynamics	range (% of total flow)	cost	
producing	no	fast	0-100%	n/a	i
consuming	only one flow	fast	0-20%	very low	i
generation	yes	?	0-100%	low	
purchase	yes	?	0-100%	medium	i
disposal	yes	?	0-100%	high	I

Complete the blank entries in the table based on engineering judgement for the processes in the figure.

Complete a Control Design Form for the problem. Specifically, define the dynamic and economic requirements.

Hint: To assist in defining the proper behavior, plot all fuel gas flows vs. (consumption - production) on the x-axis.

c. Design a multiloop control strategy to satisfy the objectives. You may add sensors as required but make no other changes.

d. Suggest process change(s) to improve the performance of the system.

Short-cut Control Design Workshop 3

Fuel gas header pressure control - The pressure of the fuel gas header is a crucial variable for the entire plant because many units produce or consume the gas and disturbance in the header can affect many units simultaneously.

The completion of the table is

generation	slow
purchase	fast
disposal	fast

a.

b.

The control design should be constructed to control pressure tightly while operating the system is an efficient manner. Efficiency is achieved by 1) purchasing only when necessary, 2) disposing only when necessary, and 3) vaporizing only when necessary.

Two solutions using the split range concept are presented because many valves are adjusted to control a single variable. Since four valves are manipulated, the split range approach is modified to prevent a four-way split; no more than a two-way split is used. The selection between the two solutions would depend on plant experience on the speed of response of the vaporizer for typical disturbances.

Solution assumes that the vaporizer dynamics are fast enough to tightly control pressure. In this design, the normal pressure controller is a split range which adjusts the consuming and fuel vaporization valves. For large upsets, a single pressure controller adjusts the desored valve; to prevet competition with the normal controller, this controller has a set point that is slightly higher than the desired pressure. Thus, this controller only opens the disposal valve when the pressure (slightly level and Also, a single controller adjusts the purchase valve; to prevent competition, this controller has a set point which is slightly wert much desired pressure. These two controller implement extreme, but necessary, actions when the pressure deviates significantly from the desired value.

Solution II assumes that the vaporizer dynamics are too slow for control of the header pressure. The normal pressure controller is a split range which adjusts the consuming fuel and the purchase valves; both of these provide extremely fast dynamic responses. For large upsets, a single pressure controller adjusts the disposal valve, to prevent competition with the normal controller, this controller has a set point that is slightly <u>higher</u> than the desired pressure. Thus, this controller only opens the disposal valve when the pressure is (alphtly) elevated. To reduce the expense fuel purchase, a valve position controller is provided to slowly reduce the purchasing (when it exists) by vaporizing the less expense liquid fuel.





Short-cut Control Design Workshop 4

Class Workshop: Design controls for the refrigeration system.



Short-cut Control Design Workshop 4

Refrigeration is very important for industrial processes and our daily comfort in the summer. In industry, it is used to provide cooling when the temperatures are below the temperature of cooling water. The controlled objective could be a temperature (heat exchanger), a pressure (condenser) or any other variable that could be influenced by heat transfer.

Refrigeration can consume large amounts of energy for the heat transfer, especially at low temperatures. Thus, the control system should provide the desired control performance at the lowest energy input possible.

Before designing the controllers for this exercise, you might need to quickly review the principles of vapor recompression refrigeration.

This exercise involves the simple, single stage refrigeration circuit in Figure 1.

- A. Develop a regulatory control design for this system which satisfies the demands of the consumers. Two consumers are shown as a heat exchanger (T3) and a condenser (P2); naturally, many others could exist. Part of your design should provide control for the two consumers shown in the figure. Provide a brief explanation for each controller.
- B. Add necessary controls to minimize the energy consumption to the turbine while satisfying the consumers' demands. Explain your design.

In both parts of this question you may add sensors and add and delete valves

Short-cut Control Design Workshop 4

Refrigeration circuit - This single-stage refrigeration process has most of the elements of a more complex multistage process.

a. Generally, a refrigeration system is provided to satisfy the varying demands of process consumers. Controllers to satisfy the consumers adjust the flow of liquid refrigerant to heat exchangers where the refrigerant vaporizes as heat is transferred. In Figure a, the temperature and pressure controllers use single-loop PI controllers to adjust the flows of the appropriate liquid refrigerant.

b. The design in a above could be quite inefficient. The first step would be to remove unnecessary valves which create pressure drops that would increase energy consumption. The eliminated valves are circled.

The next step is to maximize the cooling water which will reduce the exhaust pressure, again reducing energy consumption. Finally, the power to the compressor should be just enough to satisfy the process, or stated another way, the refrigerant should be just cold enough to satisfy the process requirements. The process requirements are indicated by the liquid refrigerant valves to the consumers. The most open valve should be (slightly) below 100% to allow the controller to respond to higher frequency disturbances. This is determined by a signal select and valve position controller. The valve position controller adjusts the compressor speed, which is cascaded to the steam flow (power source). The completed design is shown in Figure b.







Short-cut Control Design Workshop 5

1. Safety - Maintain vessel pressure below 1200 kPa 2. Environmental protection - Prevent release of hydrocarbons to the atmosphere 3. Equipment protection - Ensure that liquid flows through the pump 4. Smooth operation - When possible, make slow adjustments to liquid product product flow rate 5. Product quality - Maintain the liquid product at 10 ± 1 mole% L. Key. 6. Profit - Minimize the use of the expensive steam for heating 7. Monitoring and diagnosis - Provide atmrs for immediate attention by operating personnel				
$\begin{bmatrix} F1\\ T6\\ A1\\ P1\\ dL_1/dt \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0\\ .0708\\00917\\ .567\\0113 \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{array}{cccc} 0 & 2.0 \\ .85 &44 \\11 &44 \\ 6.80 & 1.39 \\136 & .31 \end{array}$	0 0 0 179	$\begin{array}{c} 0 \\19 \\ .043 \\ -5.36 \\0265 \end{array} v 4$	Here is the process gain matrix calculated at the nominal operation.





Short-cut Control Design Workshop 5

The effects of v1 and v2 are identical, within a constant. Here, we remove v1 (arbitrarily).





The pairings with positive RGA elements also have good dynamics and range

Short-cut Control Design Workshop 5

Our process insight indicated that T6 is an important variable. However, we recognized that P1, A1 and T6 cannot be controlled independently. Should we ignore T6?

No! The temperature is an important part of the process environment, and it can be measured quickly and at low cost. Our process insight indicates that the temperature provides an indication of the composition.

Thus, T6 is a good "inferential" or "partial control" variable. It can be controlled and reset by AC-1 in a cascade structure.



Short-cut Control Design Workshop 6

Class Workshop: Design controls for the CSTR with recycle.



Workshop 6

The following is a brief consideration of the first four levels of the temporal decomposition for the CSTR with recycle design problem.

Level 1 - flow and inventory

- i) The feed tanks have periodic deliveries of material and continuous outflow to the process. Therefore, it is not possible or necessary to control the level. The tanks must be large enough so that they neither overflow nor go empty for expected delivery and outflow policies.
- ii) The feed to the reactor is a combination of fresh feed and recycle. The flow and inventory design must consider this factor to prevent oscillations caused by interactions. Also, there seem to be several possible ways to control the flow to the reactor since there are valves in the fresh feed, recycle flow and combined flow.
- iii) There is no option for the disposition of the reactor effluent; it must proceed directly to the flash drum.
- iv) The vapor product comes from a small drum inventory and flow fluctuations can be expected. Since the control objectives allow for variability in the product rate, this is not likely to be a concern.
- v) Two liquid levels are non-self-regulatory and should be controlled via feedback to prevent them from exceeding their limits. Also, one vapor space pressure, while theoretically self-regulating, can quickly exceed the acceptable pressure of the equipment; therefore, the pressure should also be controlled.

Level 2 - process environment

vi) Several manipulated variables (v1, v2, v3, v4, v7) and all disturbances affect the reactor temperature and reaction rate.

Level 3 - product quality

vii) There appear to be several manipulated variables that affect the flash product quality, A2.

Level 4 - profit

viii) There are no objectives specified to increase profit beyond controlling product flow rate and quality. However, there appear to be extra manipulated variables, or at least extra valves in the process. This inconsistency must be resolved.

Since no severe difficulties were identified in the third step, we proceed to the fourth step where we begin to design the control structure. Since we anticipate strong interaction among variables due to the process recycle, process decomposition is not applied. However, the control is designed according to the five-level temporal hierarchy. The overall structure is first selected; then, enhancements are added; finally, algorithms and modes are chosen.

Level 1 - flow and inventory

The first decision is usually the flow controller which determines the throughput in the process. Usually, this controls either the feed rate or the production rate. The control objectives state that

the production rate does not have to be maintained invariant, which is fortunate since controlling the vapor flow from a flash drum would be difficult without allowing the pressure to vary excessively. For this process and objectives, the feed rate, F1, will be controlled. Any of three valves, v1, v3, or v4, could be adjusted to control F1. From the overview, it is realized that the v4 may be adjusted to control the liquid level control in the flash drum, so this is eliminated from consideration as a manipulated variable for controlling F1. Either of the remaining valves may be adjusted to control F2. Somewhat arbitrarily, we will select v1 as the manipulated variable; this selection has the minor advantage that the fresh feed can be reduced to zero and the system can be operated on total recycle for a short time. The remaining valve v3 is not needed and could be removed; in the example, we will simply maintain the valve position constant at its base case value.

The reactor level must be controlled since it is non-self-regulating and the residence time affects the chemical reaction. The outlet flow is manipulated to control the level because the inlet flow has already been selected as the feed flow controller. The outlet flow is affected by both valves v5 and v6; thus, there are one controlled and two manipulated variables. We shall select valve v6 to maintain the highest pressure in the heat exchanger which tends to prevent vaporization. The redundant valve, v5, will not be adjusted.

The liquid level in the flash must also be controlled within limits, and no objective compels tight or averaging control. Tight level control is selected since the level control is part of the recycle process and the entire process would not attain steady-state operation until the level attains steady state. The valve v4 was allocated to control the level when the feed flow was designed.

The final issue at this level of the hierarchy is the pressure control of the flash drum. The vapor valve, v8, is selected to give fast control of pressure.

In summary, the following allocation of controlled and manipulated variables have been made at this point.

<u>controlled</u>	manipulated
F1	v1
L1	v6
L2	v4
P1	v8

Levels 2 - process environment

The reactor environment is affected by the flow rates and temperatures of the incoming streams. The fresh feed flow rate was specified to satisfy objectives at Level 1 of the hierarchy, but the total flow rate, F2, and the inlet temperature, T4, are available for reactor control, unless we chose to iterate and change the earlier decision. Of these two variables, only the inlet temperature, T4, is directly influenced by the manipulated valve, v2, although the total flow may be (and is) influenced through the recycle. The valve v7 would affect the reactor inlet temperature, but the dynamics would be slow because of the dynamics in the flash liquid inventory. Also, we can look ahead to the need to control the flash temperature, where v7 would give fast dynamics. Thus, we chose to adjust v2 to control reactor environment.

Level 3 - product quality

The flash composition is to be controlled because it is the key measure of product quality, and it is controlled directly, without a temperature cascade, because the composition sensor is continuous with fast dynamics. The proper choice for the manipulated variable would be the heating oil valve v7 since it gives fast feedback dynamics over a large range of operation.

In summary, the following allocation of controlled and manipulated variables have been made at levels 2 and 3.

<u>controlled</u>	manipulated
reactor	v2
A2	v7

A reactor variable to be controlled has not yet been selected and could be temperature or concentration. Two alternative designs will be evaluated, temperature control and reactor concentration control.

Level 4 - optimization

There are no optimization objectives in the Control Design Form. The control design to this point has allocated all manipulated variables, except for v3 and v6 that were found to be redundant for the previous control objectives. These valves provide no additional process flexibility, except that of controlling some intermediate pressures in liquid flow lines. There seems to be no reason to control these pressures, and ordinarily, these valves would normally be eliminated to save equipment and pumping costs. In this case, the valves will simply be retained at their base case percent opening.

To complete this step, enhancements to the basic structure of controller pairings is considered. For this simple process, the enhancements will be restricted to cascade and feedforward, and each controlled variable is discussed individually.

- F1 The flow process is very fast, and the control design needs no enhancement. A PI controller is appropriate for this process with nearly no dead time and significant high frequency noise.
- L1 The process has little or no dead time, and the pump pressure is relatively constant. Thus, no cascade or feedforward is required, although a level-flow cascade may be used. The algorithm selected is a PI with tight tuning because the level influences the residence time, and zero steady-state offset is desired.
- L2 The process has little or no dead time, and the pump pressure is relatively constant. Thus, no cascade or feedforward is required, although a level-flow cascade may be used. The algorithm is a PI with tight level tuning.
- P1 The process is fast, and the pressure should be maintained at its set point since it affects the flash product compositions. Therefore, a PI controller is selected.
- A2 The concentration of A in the product stream is the key product quality and is affected by the disturbance in T8. Note that a cascade is not possible because there is no causal relationship between the valve v7 and the measured variable T8. A feedforward

controller is possible because the criteria for feedforward would be satisfied. However, as a preliminary decision, no enhancement will be selected because of the relatively fast feedback dynamics. This decision will be evaluated at the completion of this study. The feedback controller should have a PI or PID algorithm depending on the dynamics, fraction dead time, and measurement noise.

Finally, the reactor environment control options are evaluated to determine the best control design. Each is discussed briefly below.

Design I - Figure 25-7

T5 - The reactor temperature is affected by several disturbances. These disturbances influence other measured variables before the reactor temperature measurement responds; thus, the potential for enhancements exists. For example, the measured fresh feed temperature, T3, could be a feedforward variable and the feed temperature T3 could be a secondary cascade variable. As a preliminary decision, the single-loop design T56 v2 is chosen with a PI algorithm. The resulting control of F1, T5 and A2 is controllable, as can be verified using the gains in equation (25-2)

Design II - Figure 25-8

A1 - A more direct measure of the reactor operation is the concentration of A, which can be controlled by adjusting valve v2, although with slow dynamics. Therefore, the cascade design A16T46v2 is selected, which gives good responses to temperature disturbances. The resulting control of F1, A1, and A2 is controllable, as can be verified using the gains in equation (25-2).

Level 5 – Monitoring

All processes should be monitored for short term operation and longer term performance diagnostics. Shorter term issues involve alarms for critical variables, like the liquid levels and the flash drum pressure. Some of the longer term issues involve the reaction rate which is influenced by impurities in the feed; recognition of poor feed characteristics would enable the engineer to trace the cause of the poor feed and take actions to prevent recurrence of such conditions. To monitor the product rate, the flow measurement F5 should be accurate. If the density of the stream changes significantly, the conversion of sensor signal to the flow rate should be corrected based on a real-time sensor or laboratory data of density. Another monitoring goal would involve the performance of the heat exchangers, which might foul over time. The measurements of the flows, temperatures and valve positions enable some monitoring; for example, if the hot oil valve position increases over time at relatively constant production rate, the heat exchanger is most likely fouling. The lack of hot oil flow measurements prevents a complete check on the data; thus, the addition of flow and temperature sensors might be appropriate so that heat transfer coefficients can be calculated.

Designs I and II are now complete. To evaluate their performances and select a final design, the dynamic performance of the process with each design was determined. In both cases, the process begins at the same initial steady state and is subjected to a change in feed impurity which reduces the reaction rate (frequency factor) to 90% of its base case value. The response of Design I is

shown in Figure 25-9. The operation of the process, especially the recycle flow rates, changes dramatically. The reason for this large change can be understood from process principles. The feed flow and the product purity remain unchanged. Therefore, the <u>rate</u> of production of B, $Vk_{0}e^{-E/RT}C_A$, must return to its initial value when steady state is attained. Since the reactor temperature and volume are maintained at their constant set points (in the steady-state) the concentration of the reactant must increase to compensate for the impurity. Because of the low "single-pass" conversion in the reactor, a large recycle flow rate change accompanies the change in concentration. For successful operation, the process equipment, pumps, pipes and valves, would have to have very large capacities, and thus, the plant design would be costly.

The response of Design II is shown in Figure 25-10. After a transient, the process returns to nearly the same operating conditions, with the reactor concentration and volume at their initial values. To return the concentration to its set point, the A1 controller increased the reactor temperature, thus maintaining the production rate of B constant. This response returns to steady-state faster, satisfies all performance objectives for F5 and A2, and would not require excessive equipment capacity.

Control Design II should be evaluated for all disturbances in the CDF; these others are discussed briefly here but not plotted. It performs well for the +20EC disturbance in T2, with only very small deviations in the compositions and product flow. The system experiences a rather large, but brief, disturbance when T8 increases in a step of 20EC. The maximum allowable short term variations in the product flow, F5, and the product composition, A2, are reached or slightly exceeded. If plant experience indicated that this disturbance occurred frequently, a feedforward compensation for changes in T8 adjusting v7 could be added to Design II. Finally, the response of a change in desired product increases slowly as the recycle system responds, finally attaining steady-state. This is a direct result of the problem definition, since short term variation in the product rate was stated to have negligible influence on the process performance in the CDF.

The IAE for the product quality variable (A2) is 7.11 for Design I and 6.62 for Design II. Since Design II has good performance for the key quality variable, has well behaved dynamics for all variables, satisfies the control objectives, and requires equipment with smaller capacities, it is selected as the better control design for this process.



Design I







Design II





Short-cut Control Design Workshop 7

Class Workshop: Design controls tank with by-pass.



Short-cut Control Design Workshop 7

Control objectives:

- 1. Control the level in the bottom of the Unit 1 tower
- 2. Control the flow rate to Unit 2
- **3.** Cool any flow to the tank, which has an upper limit for material stored
- 4. Reheat any material from the tank to Unit 2, which requires heated feed
- 5. Minimize the heating and cooling

Disturbances:

The flows from Unit 1 and to Unit 2 cannot be adjusted by this control system. They are typically not equal, and either can be larger at a specific time.

Short-cut Control Design Workshop 7

This example demonstrates how split range and signal select can be combined in control designs to achieve good control performance. A more efficient alternative approach would be to provide the maximum allowable direct flow from unit 1 to unit 2. The maximum direct flow between units would be limited by either the availability from unit 1 or the demand for unit 2, with the limiting condition changing as unit operations changed. A control system to automatically maximize the direct flow while always achieving proper level and flow control would be desirable. Such a system is shown in Figure 22-11, where both the level and flow controllers have split range outputs. Both controller outputs are send to the low signal select which determines the proper signal to manipulate the direct flow valve, which in this example is the smallest signal (resulting in the smallest flow rate). Thus, one controller will adjust the direct flow valve, and the other controller will continue to increase its output until it adjusts the flow to the tank (for level control) or flow from the tank (for flow control), as appropriate. The resulting design is given in Figure a, and the operations for the two situations are summarized below.

how each valve is adjusted				
relative flows	<u>v100</u>	<u>v110</u>	<u>v200</u>	net flow
unit 1 flow > unit 2 flow	by FC	by LC	closed	to storage
unit 1 flow < unit 2 flow	by LC	closed	by FC	from storage

With this control system, the plant personnel need only input the set points to the level controller (normally 50% of range) and the flow controller (required flow to unit 2). The system automatically adjusts the valves as described to meet the level and flow requirements while minimizing flows to and from storage, thus minimizing energy use.



Short-cut Control Design Workshop 7

Short-cut Control Design Workshop 8

Class Workshop: Design controls for a decanter.



Short-cut Control Design Workshop 8

Control Objectives:

- 1. Pressure in the vessel
- 2. Interface level in the vessel
- 3. Flow rate(s) How many can be controlled independently?

Disturbances:

The following additional information is provided about the variability of the process operation; the feed flow is 1400-2600, the percent overhead in feed is 1-5%, and the pressures are essentially constant.

Process information:

You may assume that the flows are proportional to the square root of the pressure drop and the valve % open; the valves are all 50% open at the base case conditions.

Short-cut Control Design Workshop 8

However In the process, a change in the flow into the vessel requires an immediate change in the flow out because the inventory is (essentially) incompressible. Thus, the pressure controller must adjust a valve with a range large enough to respond to the change of feed rate. Valve 2 is much too small for this purpose, while valve 3 is large enough. The liquid level controller adjusts for changes in the ratio of light to heavy material in the feed, which can be accomplished by adjusting valve 2.





Short-cut Control Design Workshop 9



Control Objectives

- 1. Prevent runaway reaction
- 2. Control "total conversion", weighted average bed temperature (T1, T2, ..)
- 3. Prevent too high/low temperature in any bed
- 4. Minimize fuel to fired heater

Short-cut Control Design Workshop 9

The control objectives for this process present a complex set of goals. The amount of conversion in a bed depends on the conversion in the other beds.

While multiloop control is always possible, Model-Predictive Control is recommended for this process. The measured and manipulated variables are shown in the figure.





Short-cut Control Design Workshop 10

Control objectives:

- 1. Maintain TC at a desired value (set point)
- 2. Maintain feed flow at a desired value (set point)
- 3. Minimize the fuel to the fired heater

Disturbances:

F9, F7, T7 and T5 change frequently and over large magnitudes

Short-cut Control Design Workshop 10

Minimize fuel consumption - This design is to achieve selected regulatory control objectives with minimum fuel consumption. The control of flow and heater outlet temperature are straightforward with the feed FC single-loop controller and the TC to FC cascade controllers.

Achieving minimum fuel consumption requires 1) a measurement indicating the fuel consumption, 2) a manipulated variable, and 3) an algorithm to locate the optimum operating conditions. The fuel flow could be used as a measure of the consumption, but it would increase (decrease) as the process flow increased (decreased). Process knowledge allows us to recognize that the fuel consumption would be minimized when the temperature to the furnace was maximized. Thus, the measure is the temperature increase across the heat exchangers, T2-T1. The adjusted variable is the split of flow between the two heat exchangers, FA/FB. (FA is through the top exchanger, FB through the bottom.) Note that FA+FB is controlled by the feed flow controller.

The algorithm cannot be a simple PI because the sign of the process gain, $\Delta(T2-T1)/\Delta(FA/FB)$, changes sign depending on the ratio value. Thus a search algorithm must be used. A suitable algorithm is described in Section 26.2 of Marlin (2000) which continually adjusts the ratio to maximize the measured estimate of plant profit. The control design is given in the figure.



Short-cut Control Design Workshop 10

Key principles in Direct Search Optimization

P	roblem Definition	
	- Measure of profit	max T2-T1
	- Manipulated variables	v2 and v3
•	<u>Experimental design</u>	
	- Select the complexity of model	linear
	- Calculate using noisy data	least squares
	- Decide on direction and	sign (slope)
	size of move	constant
Short-Cut Design Procedures



Manipulated variable, flow ratio

Short-cut Control Design Workshop 10

Parameters are tuned for specific application

Execution ∆t	achieve S-S	quick response
ΔΧ	Signal/noise small	small process change
memory	reduce noise	small oscillations