Modelling and control summaries



by Anthony Rossiter 1st order responses 2: Step response

Assume a standard time constant form for a 1st order model with constant coefficients, output y(t) and input u(t).

 $T\frac{dy(t)}{dt} + y(t) = K u(t)$

STEP RESPONSE: A step in the input u(t) corresponds to sudden changes in the input value: (i) a tap being switched on; (ii) a switch going from off to on; (iii) a heater having the kW setting changed, etc. For convenience, compute the <u>unit</u> step response with zero initial conditions.

$$\begin{cases} u(t) = 0 & t < 0 \\ u(t) = 1 & t \ge 0 \end{cases} \quad L[u(t)] = \frac{1}{s}$$



OUTPUT STEP RESPONSE (u(t)=1 and x(0)=0)To confirm this solution, substitute
$$x(t)$$
 into the
original differential equation and verify that it
satisfies both the equation and the initial
condition that $x(t)=0$ when $t=0$. $L[Ku] = K/s$
 $L[x(t)] = X(s)$
 $L[x(t)] = X(s)$
 $L[x(t)] = X(s)$ \Rightarrow $[sT+1]X(s) = K/s$
 $X(s) = \frac{K/T}{s(s+1/T)} = \frac{K}{s} - \frac{K}{s+1/T}$ $T \frac{dx}{dt} + x = K \times 1 \Rightarrow x(t) = K(1-e^{-\frac{t}{T}})$
 $x(T) = K(1-e^{-1})$
 $x(3T) = K(1-e^{-2})$
 $x(3T) = K(1-e^{-3})$ $x(2T)=0.86K$
 $x(3T) = K(1-e^{-3})$ Steady-state = K=2.5 $x(3T) = K(1-e^{-3})$
 $1-e^{-1} = 0.63, 1-e^{-2} = 0.86$
 $1 e^{-3} = 0.95, 1-e^{-4} = 0.98$ $x(T) = 0.63K$ $x(T)=0.63K$ $x = 0.5$ $x(T) = 0.5$ $x(T) = 0.5$ $x(T) = 0.5$

The rate of convergence to steady-state is explicitly linked to the time constant T.



First order step responses are characterised by simple observations.

- 1. Response begins at zero and finishes at gain*input magnitude.
- 2. Use multiples of T on the time axis, then the curve is invariant (0% at 0 sec, 63% at T sec, 86% at 2T sec, 95% at 3T sec, etc.).