



# Fundamentals of Process Control Theory (3rd Edition)

By Paul W. Murrill

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Long praised for its clear, stylish presentation of the basic principles of process automation, the third edition of Dr. Paul Murrill's classic textbook is now revised and updated for the digital age.

Step by step, with 16 carefully designed self-study units, Murrill walks you through process control theory from basic concepts to advanced control techniques. Now, not only does it reflect the most recent changes in technology, but it also incorporates material from Application Concepts of Process Control, Murrill's much-praised book on putting theory into practice.

Here are classic principles that govern process control, particularly feedback control, as well as recent technologies such as statistical process control and expert systems. New chapters focus on the conceptual framework for an application, offering a practical understanding of the theory, along with specific illustrations on how concepts are implemented.

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## Fundamentals of Process Control Theory (3rd Edition) By Paul W. Murrill Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1391105 in Books
- Brand: Unknown
- Published on: 2000-02-01
- Ingredients: Example Ingredients
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 10.50" h x 7.50" w x 1.00" l, 1.80 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 300 pages

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### **Editorial Review**

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#### **PREFACE TO THE THIRD EDITION**

Fundamentals of Process Control Theory was written in 1981 as a prototype for ISA's Independent Learning Module publication series, and it rapidly became the best-selling book ever published by ISA. With the publication of the second edition in 1991, the strong popular acceptance continued and the book has approached "classic" status. This is especially satisfying for an author.

This textbook is designed for independent self-study. It is for the practicing engineer, first-line supervisor, or senior technician. College, university, and technical school students will also find the material appropriate. Fundamentals of Process Control Theory is designed to teach the basic principles of process automation and demonstrate how these principles are applied in modern industrial practice. Some knowledge of mathematics is necessary, of course, but I have made efforts to prevent the mathematics from being a barrier to study by those without strong math skills. The material is designed as an introductory or first-level course. A quick review into the specific topics covered.

This book is intended to be both theoretical and practical--that is, to show the basic concepts of process control theory and how these concepts are used in daily practice. This is a book about fundamentals, concepts, ideas, principles, theory, and behavior. It is not about hardware and software. To some extent, however, we all know that hardware and software will dictate what "theory" can be used and useful. Thus, the actual implementation of process control theory changes as hardware and software change, and this march of progress has made a third edition necessary. I hope this new edition proves useful to you, the student.

An effort has been made to make this presentation consistent with the various standards and practices used throughout the various worlds of process control and instrumentation. I have attempted to ensure that no significant inconsistency exists with the standards relating to terminology, especially Process Instrumentation Terminology, ANSI/ISA-S51.1-1979 (R 1993), and that is reflected in both the text and the Glossary given in Appendix B. Some minor inconsistencies may be noted with ANSI/ISA-S51.1-1984 (Reaffirmed 1992) Instrumentation Symbols and Identification (referenced and excerpted in Appendix A), in some of the figures of the presentation, but in no case have I found this to lead to confusion for students.

My special thanks goes to all who made the first and second editions of this book so successful. It is my hope that the revisions for the third edition, many of which were suggested by you, will make it even better.

Paul W. Murrill, July 1999

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