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User's Guide to Calibration of Analog Electronic Controllers in HVAC Systems

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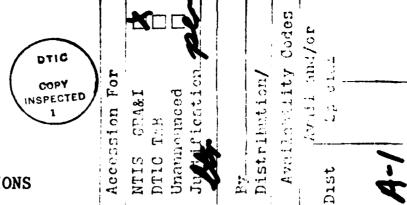
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DEFINITIONS

The calibration of analog electronic proportional controllers requires the knowledge of at least three characteristics of the controller: the action, the setpoint, and the throttling range.

Action. A controller is either direct acting or reverse acting. In a direct acting controller an increase in the input signal results in an increase in the output signal. In a reverse acting controller, an increase in the input to the controller results in a decrease in the output from the controller.

Setpoint. The value to which the control point setting mechanism is set. For example, a humidity controller might be set at 50% relative humidity. The actual measured value of humidity, or control point, may be different from the setpoint.

Throttling range. The change in the input variable required to produce a full scale change in the output variable. For example, if a 10% change in relative humidity results in the output of the controller varying from its minimum to maximum values, the throttling range is 10% rh. See Figure 1.

An additional specification, the ratio, is required to calibrate dual input controllers.

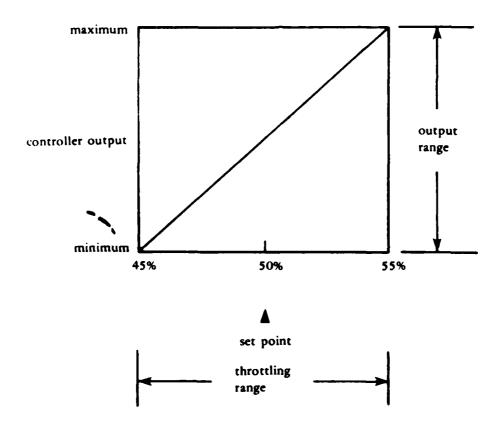


Figure 1. Illustration of control nomenclature.

Ratio. The amount of influence the second controller input has on the output as compared to the influence of the primary controller input.

For example, if the ratio equals 1/2, a one unit change at the second sensor would have the same effect on the output as a 2 unit change at the primary sensor, if the ratio equals 1 both sensors have the same influence, and if the ratio equals 2, a 2 unit change at the second sensor would have the same effect on the output as a one unit change at the primary sensor. Electronic controllers usually permit adjustment of the ratio from a value of about 1/2 to a value of about 20.

Authority. The word AUTHORITY is used by some controller manufacturers to describe the relative influence of two controller inputs on the controller output.

A picture of a two input controller is presented in Figure 2.

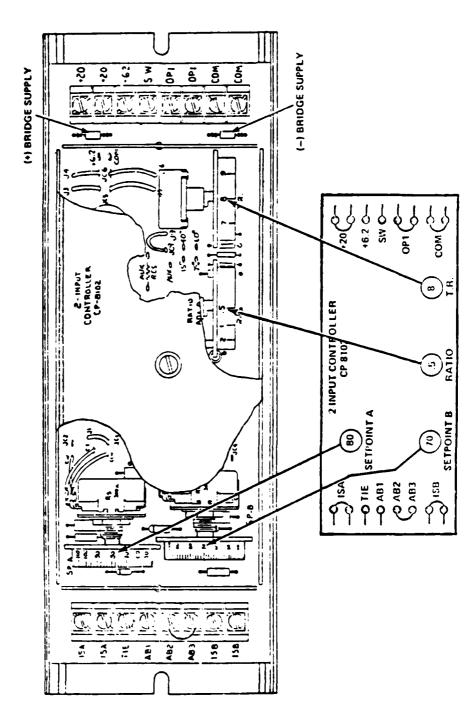


Figure 2. Typical 2-input temperature controller.

GENERAL PROCEDURE

The calibration procedure follows these steps:

- (1) Measure the controller input(s),
- (2) Calculate the predicted controller output,
- (3) Measure the actual controller output, 3 h
- (4) Adjust the controller as required.

During this procedure, controller performance is evaluated at the control point, or actual condition, rather than the setpoint, which is the idealized, desirable condition. This means that only those controllers which are actually out of calibration need to be adjusted controllers that are in calibration need not have any settings or adjustments changed. If a controller cannot be calibrated or will not remain calibrated for a responsble period of time, it is defective and should be repaired or replaced.

Single Input Controllers

First, determine the desired action, setpoint, and throttling range for the controller in question from the plans or specifications for the control system. Remove the cover from the controller and examine the settings on the controller chassis. Verify the action and throttling range setting. Most electronic controllers select action by jumper connections on the circuit board.

Next, measure the controlled variable-mixed air temperature for example. Use a calibrated, independent instrument for this measurement. Then apply these data to the following equation.

$$V_{OUT} = V_{Mid-Point} \pm \left(\frac{S - SP}{TR}\right) \times VR$$
 (2)

where: V_{OUT} = predicted controller output, volts

SP = setpoint, °F, % RH, psi

TR = throttling range, °F, % RH, psi

VR = Voltage range from (minimum
 to maximum) of controller
 output, volts

Voltage midpoint and range are usually adjustable. Commonly used values are 6 volts minimum to 9 volts maximum, for a midpoint value of 7.5 volts and a range of 3 volts. The positive sign is used for direct acting controllers; the negative sign for reverse acting controllers.

Next, measure the actual output voltage of the controller. Compare the measured voltage to the predicted output voltage. If the two values differ by more than about 5%, the controller needs to be calibrated.

Example. A direct acting analog electronic controller is used to control the mixed air temperature (see Figure 3). The controller setpoint is specified to be 55°F and the throttling

range is 4°F. The measured mixed air temperature equals 56.5°F. The predicted controller output voltage (from equation 2) is therefore

$$V_{OUT} = 7.5 + \left(\frac{56.5 - 55}{4}\right) \times 3 = 8.63 V$$

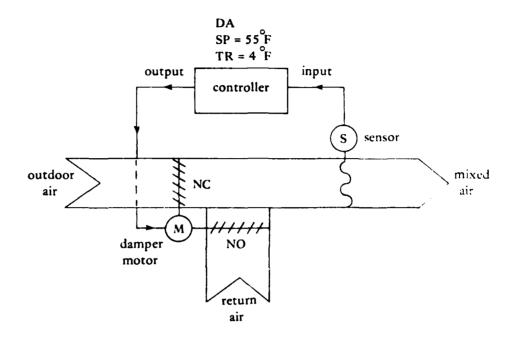
The measured output voltage equals 8.2V, for a difference between predicted and measured values of about 5%. Therefore, the controller should be calibrated.

Calibration Procedure for Single Input Controllers

The calibration procedure for single input controllers is as follows:

Procedure A

- (a) Loosen the set point scale.
- (b) Turn the setpoint adjustment screw until the controller output voltage equals the predicted voltage (8.63 volts in the example)
- (c) Turn the setpoint scale until the indicated value of setpoint equals the desired value (for example, the pointer points to 55°F).
 - (d) Tighten the set point scale.
- (e) Wait for the HVAC system to come back into equilibrium and repeat steps (a) through (d) as a check. Since changing the controller output (Step b) will cause movement of the final control element (e.g., damper or valve), steps a through e may have to be repeated.



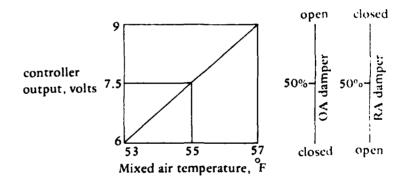


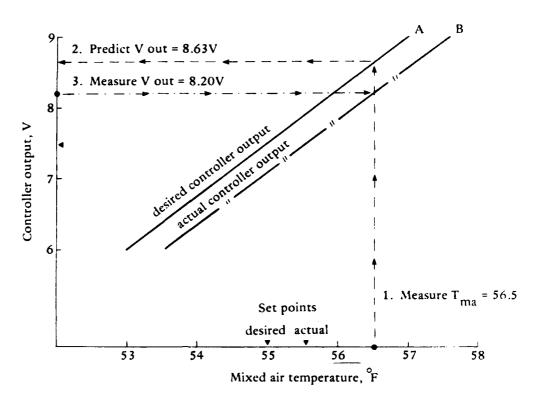
Figure 3. Control of mixed air temperature with single input controller.

A diagram illustrating the calibration procedure is presented in Figure 4.

A second calibration procedure may sometimes prove to be useful.

Procedure B

- (a) Adjust a precision variable resistor or resistance decade box to the value of resistance of the sensor at the setpoint temperature. For example, 1,000 ohm BALCO wire sensing elements, which are frequently used as temperature sensors, have a resistance of 967.83 ohms at 55°F (see Appendix A) so the variable resistor would be set to 967.83 ohms as measured by volt-ohm meter.
- (b) Disconnect the sensor from the controller and connect the variable resistor in its place.
 - (c) Loosen the setpoint scale.
- (d) Turn the setpoint adjustment screw until the controller output voltage equals the mid-point voltage (7.5 volts in the example).
- (e) Turn the set point scale until the pointer is aligned with the desired value of setpoint.
 - (f) Tighten the setpoint scale hold down.
- (g) Check calibration after system has returned to equilibrium conditions.



NOTES:

- (1) Turning the set point adjustment screw shifts curve B upward and aligns it with curve A.
- (2) Prior to calibration, the controller was controlling to a set point of about 55.6 °F, although the set point scale read 55 °F.
- (3) Realigning the set point scale assures that the mid-range controller output occurs at the desired set point.

Figure 4. Diagram of calibration procedure A.

Dual Input Controllers

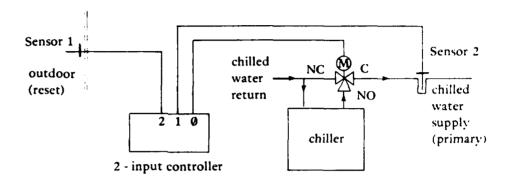
The calibration procedure for two input controllers is slightly more complicated because the setpoint of the controller is automatically changed, or "reset" by the second input to the controller. For example, a two input controller might be used to change the temperature of the water supplied to a chilled water cooling coil based on measurement of outdoor air temperature. This relationship between the variable measured by the first sensor (chilled water temperature) and the variable measured by the second sensor (outdoor air temperature) is called a "reset schedule". Knowledge of the specified reset schedule is required to calibrate a dual input controller. An example of the application of a two-input controller and reset schedule is presented in Figure 5.

The applicable equation for predicting the output voltage of a dual input controller is

$$V_{OUT} = V_{Mid-Point} \pm \left(\frac{S_1 - SP_1}{TR_1}\right) \times VR$$

$$\pm \left(\frac{S_2 - SP_2}{RATI0 \times TR_1}\right) \times VR$$
(3)

where the subscripts 1 and 2 refer to the primary and secondary (or reset) sensors respectively. Most dual input electronic controllers permit independent adjustment of SP₁, SP₂, TR₁ and RATIO.



Chilled water temperature reset

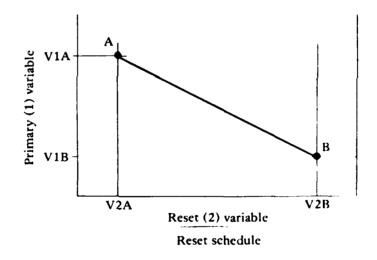


Figure 5. Two input controller Nomenclature.

The values of SP₂ and RATIO are dependent on the characteristics of the reset schedule and should be noted in the schedule data. If the applicable values for SP₂ and RATIO are not available, or if it is desired to change the computed from the following relationships.

The value of RATIO can be calculated from the relationship:

RATIO =
$$\frac{\pm T_{2B}^{-T}_{2A}}{\frac{TR_{1}}{VR} \left(V_{OUT,B}^{-} - V_{UT,A}^{-}\right) \pm \left(T_{1B}^{-} - T_{1A}^{-}\right)}$$
(4)

where the sign of the numerator is (+) if the reset sensor (sensor 2) has a direct action and (-) if the reset sensor has a reverse action. The sign of the second term in the denominator is (+) if the primary sensor (sensor 1) has reverse action and (-) if the primary sensor has direct action. The possible forms of equation 4 are presented in Appendix B.

Conditions "A" and "B" are any two points on the reset schedule.

With knowledge of the value of RATIO, the correct setpoint for the reset variable can be calculated from

$$SP_{2} = T_{2A} \pm \frac{RATIO \times TR_{1}}{VR}$$

$$\times \left(V_{OUT,A}^{-V_{Mid-Point}}\right)$$

$$\pm RATIO \times \left(T_{1A}^{-SP_{1}}\right)$$
(5)

where the sign of the second term is (+) if the reset sensor has reverse action and (-) if the reset sensor has direct action. The algebraic

sign of the third term is (+) if the action of the primary sensor is the same as that of the reset sensor and (-) if the action of the primary sensor is different from that of the reset sensor. The possible forms of equation 5 are presented in Appendix C.

With the knowledge of SP1, TR₁, RATIO, and SP2 in hand, the variables S1 and S2 can be measured and the output voltage of the controller can be predicted using equation 3. If the predicted value of the output voltage differs from the measured value of output voltage by more than 5%, then the controller should be recalibrated.

Example. A two input controller is used to change the setpoint of a controller regulating the temperature of the water supplied to cooling coils (Figure 5a). It is desired to change the chilled water temperature according to the relationship to outdoor temperature illustrated in Figure 6. Reset is used in this application to reduce energy consumption and preclude short cycling of equipment. This example illustrates a reverse action controller since an increase in the reset variable (outdoor air temperature) results in a decrease in the setpoint. Since SP,, SP,, TR, and RATIO are not specified, a few prėliminary calculations are necessary. It is helpful to organize the data into tabular form as shown in Figure 6. Since reverse controller action is desired, both sensor inputs must have the same action. Set both inputs for direct Select one of the primary sensor values as the primary set point (SP_1) . Choose $SP_1 = 45$ °F. Select a reasonable value for the primary throttling range (TR_1) . Choose $TR_1 = 4$ °F. in the previous example, the controller is assumed to be set for $V_{midpoint} = 7.5 \text{ V}$ and Voltage range = 3V. From the information presented in Figures 4 and 5 and Appendix B,

RATIO =
$$\frac{T_{2B}^{-T}_{2A}}{VR} \left(V_{0UT,B}^{-V}_{0UT,A} \right) - \left(T_{1B}^{-T}_{1A} \right)$$

$$= \frac{(60-80)}{\frac{4}{3} (9-6) - (55-45)}$$

$$= \frac{-20}{+4-10} = \frac{20}{6} = 3.33$$

$$TR_2 = RATIO \times TR_1 = 13.33$$
 (7)

(6)

From equation (5)

$$SP_{2} = T_{2A} - \frac{RATIO \times TR_{1}}{Volt Range}$$

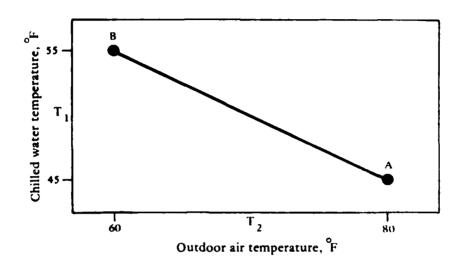
$$\times V_{OUT,A}^{-V} \text{Mid-Point}$$

$$+ RATIO \times \left(T_{1A}^{-SP_{1}}\right)$$

$$= 80 - \frac{3.33 \times 4}{3} \times (6-7.5)$$

$$+ 3.33 \times (45-45)$$

$$= 80 + 6.66 + 0 = 86.6°F$$
(8)



Point	Tcws - "1"	TOA - "2"	Valve Position	Controller Output
A	45	80	open	6
В	55	60	closed	Ų

Table of reset schedule

Figure 6. Reset of chilled water temperature by outdoor air temperature.

Therefore, from equation 3,

$$V_{OUT} = 7.5 + \left(\frac{T_{cws}^{-45}}{4}\right) \times 3 + \left(\frac{T_{0A}^{-86.6}}{13.33}\right) \times 3 + \left(\frac{T_{0A}^{-86.6}}{13.33}\right) \times 3$$
 (9)

Set the chilled water supply temperature controller for setpoint 1 = 45°F, setpoint 2 = 87°F, throttling range = 4°F and RATIO = 3.33.

After operating conditions have stabilized, measure the chilled water temperature (T_1) at a point near sensor 1 and measure the outdoor air temperature (T_2) at a location near the outdoor air sensor. Use independent, calibrated instruments for these measurements. Suppose the measured values of T_1 and T_2 are 49°F and 74°F respectively. Then the output voltage from the controller should be

$$V_{OUT} = 7.5 + \left(\frac{49 - 45}{4}\right) \times 3 + \left(\frac{74 - 86.6}{13.3}\right)$$

 $\times 3 = 7.65V$

If the measured output voltage equaled 7.4 volts, the difference would be

$$\frac{7.65 - 7.3}{7.63} \times 100 = 5\%$$

and the controller should be calibrated.

In the example presented above, the calculated values of both the RATIO and SP₂ were within the capabilities of existing hardware.

In some circumstances however, the calculated values of RATIO or SP, may not be compatible with the performance of the controller hardware, e.g., a value of RATIO = 0.1 or a value of $SP_0 = -40$ °F. If the calculated values of the control parameters fall outside the capability of the controller being used, the values of the independent controller parameters can be changed and/or the reset schedule can be modified until a combination of values is found which falls within the capabilities of the hardware. For example, the value of TR, can be changed and the calculation of TR, and SP, repeated to see if they fall within acceptable limits (but do not make TR, so small as to affect control stability or so large as to affect control accuracy). Sometimes switching which sensor is designated to be the primary sensor and which is designated to be the reset sensor will resolve difficulties with controller capability limitations. Finally, the reset schedule may have to be modified (which usually means making the ranges of the primary and reset variables smaller) to make the desired performance conform to hardware.

Calibration Procedure for Dual Input Controllers

Because the output from a dual input controller is dependent upon two independent inputs, it is convenient to decouple the inputs and adjust each one independent of the other.

(a) Disable sensor 2 (also called sensor B on some controllers). This usually is done by disconnecting the sensor leads. Some controllers require removal of an additional jumper wire. See specific instructions for the type of controller being used.

- (b) Calculate the predicted output voltage, measure the actual output voltage, and adjust the setpoint scale for the primary sensor using the procedures already presented for a single input controller.
- (c) With the primary sensor now calibrated, reconnect the reset sensor. Measure the output voltage of the controller and compare the measured to the predicted value. Any difference now must be due to miscalibration of the reset sensor.
- (d) Loosen the setpoint scale and adjust the setpoint dial for the reset sensor until the measured output equals the predicted output.
 - (e) Tighten the setpoint scale.

The preceding calibration procedure assumes that the throttling range and ratio adjustments are in calibration. If a precision variable resistor or resistance decade box is available, both TR and RATIO can also be checked for calibration. To check throttling range, disconnect the reset sensor and calibrate the primary sensor using procedure B for calibrating single input controllers. Use Equation 9 to calculate the temperatures that would have to be measured by the primary sensor to obtain the extreme values of output voltage. For example,

$$6V = 7.5V + \left(\frac{T_{1,\min} - 45}{4}\right) \times 3$$

and

$$9V = 7.5V + \left(\frac{T_{1,\text{max}} - 45}{4}\right) \times 3$$

$$T_1$$
,min = 43°F and T_1 ,max = 47°F

These values are, of course, equal to the setpoint plus and minus one half the throttling range. Set the variable resistor to simulate 43°F (942.64 Ω for the sensors in the examples) and connect the resistor in place of the primary sensor. The output voltage should be 6V. Repeat for 47°F; the output voltage should be 9V. Adjust the throttling range dial and scale as required to obtain the correct minimum and maximum output values.

After calibrating SP₁, TR, and SP₂, the RATIO adjustment can be checked for accuracy. First, it is necessary to eliminate the influence of the primary sensor. This can be done by setting the primary setpoint (SP₁) to the measured value of T₁ (49°F in this example). A better way is to use a variable resistor connected to the primary sensor input to exactly balance the primary sensor circuit. Again, calculate the temperatures that would have to be measured (this time by the reset sensor) to obtain the extreme values of output voltage. For this example

$$6V = 7.5V + \left(\frac{T_{2,min} - 86.7}{3.33 \times 4}\right) \times 3$$

and

$$9V = 7.5V + \left(\frac{T_{2,\text{max}} - 86.7}{3.33 \times 4}\right) \times 3$$

or

 T_2 ,min = 80.0°F and T_2 ,max = 93.3°F

These values are equal to the reset setpoint plus and minus the value of RATIO times half the throttling range. Set the variable resistor to simulate 80.04°F and connect the resistor in place of the reset sensor. The output voltage should equal 6V. Repeat the procedure for 93.37°F; the output should equal 9V. Adjust the RATIO dial and scale as required to obtain the correct minimum and maximum values of output voltage.

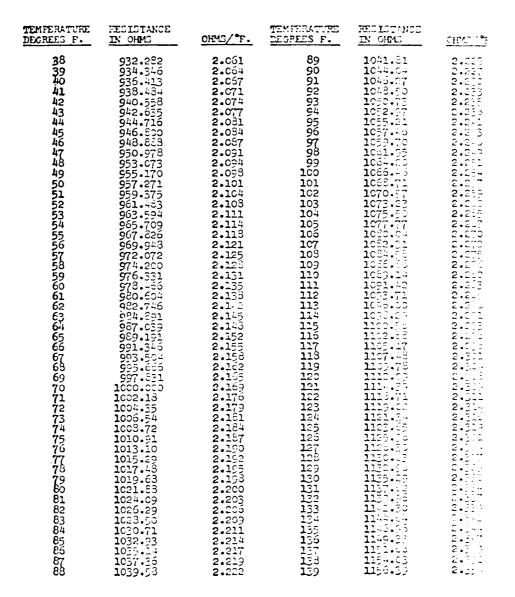
Appendix A

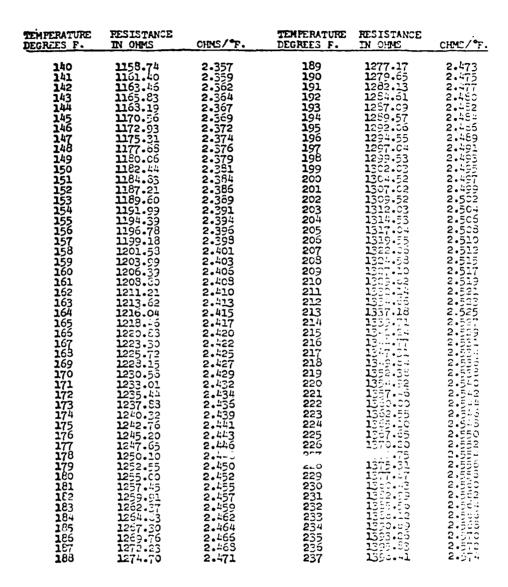
TEMPERATURE VERSUS RESISTANCE DATA FOR BALCO SENSING ELEMENTS

BALCO WIRE SENSING ELEMENT TEMPERATURE VS. RESISTANCE (1000_ ELEMENT CALIBRATED AT 70 F.)

TEMPERATURE DEGREES F.	RESISTANCE IN OHMS	OHMS/F.	TEMPERATURE DEGREES F.	RESISTANCE IN CHMS	OHMS/°F
599265432499 876543240987654324098	763.510 765.253	0.000	- 6	844.751	Friedrich Growth and Friedrich Friedrich Friedrich Growth
7,8	767.060	1.778	-5	040-013	÷**=>
-h7	768 853	1.781		940.552 950.537	1 005
76	770.641	1.784 1.788	• <u>•</u>)	850 1/15	1 323
15	772.532	1.701	-1	854.377	1.030
_h1i	767.069 768.853 770.641 772.432 774.225	1.791 1.794	ñ	856.312	1.035
<u> </u>	776.022	1.797	<u>เกา</u> ทูงู า๋๐าณฑ ≠ 506 № ๑๘	8 58 . 250	1.972
-42	776.022 7777.823 7777.823 7781.432 781.432 785.0551 788.630 750.512 752.337 754.135 757.833 757.833 769.671 803.357	1.200	2	8 60 . 162	1.4.2
-41	779.626	1.603	<u> 3</u>	862.137	1.945
- 40	781.432	1.805	14	8 64.085	1.948
-3 9	783 • 242	1.810	5	8 65.036	1.951
- 38	785.055	1.813	6	8 67 . 991	1.955
- 37	786.871	1. 816	7	8 59 . 949	1. 95 :
- 36	788.690	1.S19	8	871.515	1. 341
-3 5	7 90 . 512	1.822	9	8 73 . 57 4	1.964
-34	7 92•337	1.525	10	875.842	1.565
- 33	794.155	1.829	11	277. 013	1.57.
- 32	795•993	1.832	12	27 9.755	1.97
-31	7 97•833	1.835	13	8 21.765	1.971
-30	799-671	1.835	11 12 13 14 15 16	8 55.7	1.9:1
-29	601.512	1.841	15	855.733	
-20	003.35/ 805.005	1.845	16	857.71u	1.050
-21	805.205 807.056	1.040	17 18 19 20	8 89.709	<u> </u>
-20	808.010	1.001	70	037.103	1.55
-0/1	830.767	1.004	19	693.400	<u> </u>
-02	810.503	7.007	21	623.101	2.00-
-23	81/1 /:02	7.007	22 21	601 • 1 cg	2
~27	816 350	1 867	22	CO1 703	2.01
-20	818.222	1.670	22 23 24	207.152	2.000
- 19	803-910 810-767 812-623 814-492 816-359 818-229 820-102	1.673	25	GC2 - 21	2.25
-18	821,979	1.877	25 26	907-775	2.301
-17	823.859	7.886	27	609.753	2.001 2.002 2.003
- 16	825.7-2	1.883	27 28	911.	2.027
-1 5	827.629	1.885	29	612	2.031
-14	829.513	1.890	36	915.61	2.034
-13	831.411	1.893	ží	917.923	2.037
-12	821-929 821-9259 821-9259 825-7-29 827-629 829-5411 833-320 835-320 835-320	1.7036036925925815814771470370360395935315814711470370360360369359353158147114703703603603650955000	32	0.2775720027830100142010010101010101010101010101010101	
-11	835.205	ī.ēćā	3 3	526.613	2.04-
-10	837.109	1.903	34	924.000	2.047
- 9		1.900	35	926.110	2.051
-8	840.923	1.909	36	920.154	2.3∮କ
-17 -16 -15 -14 -13 -12 -11 -10 -9 -8 -7	840.023 842.035	1.909 1.912	990123345.6733333737	930.021	2.057

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Appendix B

EQUATIONS FOR RATIO

Case 1 - Controller action: Reverse, sensor actions (P/R): direct/direct

RATIO =
$$\frac{\begin{pmatrix} T_{2B}^{-T} & T_{2A} \end{pmatrix}}{\frac{TR_{1}}{\text{Voltage Range}} \begin{pmatrix} V_{\text{OUT,B}}^{-V} & V_{\text{OUT,A}} \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} T_{1B}^{-T} & T_{1A} \end{pmatrix}}$$

Case 2 - Controller action: Reverse, sensor actions: reverse/reverse

RATIO =
$$\frac{-\left(T_{2B}-T_{2A}\right)}{\frac{TR_{1}}{\text{Voltage Range}}\left(V_{\text{OUT,B}}-V_{\text{OUT,A}}\right)+\left(T_{1B}-T_{1A}\right)}$$

Case 3 - Controller action: direct, sensor
actions: direct/reverse

RATIO =
$$\frac{-\left(T_{2B}-T_{2A}\right)}{\frac{TR_{1}}{\text{Voltage Range}}\left(V_{\text{OUT,B}}-V_{\text{OUT,A}}\right)-\left(T_{1B}-T_{1A}\right)}$$

Case 4 - Controller action: direct, sensor

actions: reverse/direct

RATIO =
$$\frac{\left(T_{2B}-T_{2A}\right)}{\frac{TR_{1}}{\text{Voltage Range}}\left(V_{\text{OUT,B}}-V_{\text{OUT,A}}\right)+\left(T_{1B}-T_{1A}\right)}$$

Appendix C

EQUATIONS FOR SP₂

Case 1 - Controller action: reverse, sensor
actions (P/R): direct/direct

$$SP_{2} = T_{2A} - \frac{RANGE \times TR_{1}}{Voltage Range} \times \left(V_{OUT,A} - V_{Mid-Range}\right) + RATIO \times \left(T_{1A} - SP_{1}\right)$$

Case 2 - Controller action: reverse, sensor
actions: reverse/reverse

$$SP_{2} = T_{2A} + \frac{RATIO \times TR_{1}}{Voltage Range} \times \left(V_{OUT,A} - V_{Mid-Point}\right) + RATIO \times \left(T_{1A} - SP_{1}\right)$$

Case 3 - Controller action: direct, sensor
actions: direct/reverse

$$SP_{2} = T_{2A} + \frac{RATIO \times TR}{Voltage Range} \times \left(V_{OUT,A} - V_{Mid-Point}\right)$$
- RATIO \(\times\left(T_{1A} - SP_{1}\right)\)

Case 4 - Controller action: direct, sensor

actions: reverse/direct

$$SP_{2} = T_{2A} - \frac{RATIO \times TR_{1}}{Voltage Range} \times \left(V_{OUT,A} - V_{Mid-Point}\right)$$
- RATIO \times \left(T_{1A} - SP_{1}\right)

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