

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

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It was discovered that  $600 \text{ ft}^3/\text{min}$  of fresh air flows into a room containing  $20000 \text{ ft}^3$  of air. The mixture, which is made practically uniform by circulating fans, is exhausted at a rate of  $600$  cubic feet (cfm). If the room contains no fresh air initially.

- develop a model for the amount of fresh air at any time  $t$  in the room,
- Calculate the time at which 90% of the air in the room will have become fresh.
- With the aid of Microsoft Excel, Plot the dynamic response of the amount of fresh air in the room for  $t = 0$  to  $t = 6 \text{ hr}$  using a step time of  $5 \text{ min}$ . The response (graph) should be made to occupy an entire sheet alone.
- Using the dynamic response plotted in c), determine the steady-state value of the amount of fresh air in the room, and
- Comment on the result obtained in d)

### Solution

② Let  $y$  represent fresh air  
But,

Rate of Accumulation = Rate of Inflow  
- Rate of Outflow

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = 600 - 0.03y$$

rate of Inflow =  $600 \text{ ft}^3/\text{min}$

rate of Outflow =  $\frac{600}{20000} \times y = 0.03y$

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = -0.03(y - 20000)$$

$$\frac{dy}{(y - 20000)} = -0.03 dt$$

$$\ln(y - 20000) = -0.03t + C$$

$$y - 20000 = \frac{-0.03}{-0.03} e^{-0.03t + C}$$

$$y - 20000 = y_0 e^{-0.03t}$$

$$y = 20000 + y_0 e^{-0.03t}$$

If the room contained no fresh air  
 $y = 0$ ,  $t = 0$

$$0 = 20000 + y_0$$

$$y_0 = -20000$$

$$y = 20000 - 20000 e^{-0.03t}$$

$$y = 20000(1 - e^{-0.03t})$$

This is the model for the amount  
air at any time  $t$ .

b) (at) Room contains  $20000 \text{ ft}^3$  of air  
 90% of 20000  
 $= 18000 \text{ ft}^3/\text{min}$

from the model

$$y = 20000(1 - e^{-0.03t})$$

$$= 18000 = 20000(1 - e^{-0.03t})$$

$$e^{-0.03t} = \left[ \frac{18000}{20000} - 1 \right]$$

$$e^{-0.03t} = 0.1$$

$$-0.03t = \ln(0.1)$$

$$-0.03t = -2.303$$

$$t = \frac{-2.303}{-0.03}$$

$$t = 76.77 \text{ min.}$$

d) From the dynamic response plotted, the steady-state value of the amount of fresh air in the room is  $20,000 \text{ ft}^3$  of air.

e) It was noticed that the the value of amount of fresh air steadily increase until it got to  $20,000 \text{ ft}^3$  of air. Therefore despite the increase in time the amount of fresh air remained  $20,000 \text{ ft}^3$  giving the steady-state value. In conclusion,  $20,000 \text{ ft}^3$  of air is the maximum air for the room.