

Assignment: Airflow
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Civil Eng
Alison

Solution

1) Develop a model for the amount of fresh air in the room at any time 't'

Solution

Let $y(t)$ be the amount of air at time t . In (ft³) in the room

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = \text{fresh air inflow rate} - \text{fresh air outflow rate}$$

fresh air inflow $\Rightarrow 600 \text{ ft}^3/\text{min}$

fresh air outflow \rightarrow N/B :- the amount flowing out of the room is a fraction of the amount in room

$$\therefore \frac{600}{20000} = 0.03 \text{ min}^{-1}$$

i.e. 0.03 of $y(t)$ is outflow $= 0.03y/\text{min}$

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

$$\begin{aligned} &= -0.03y + 600 \\ &= -0.03(y - 20000) \end{aligned}$$

Thus the equation is separable and can be solved

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

Integration both sides we have

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

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

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

$$\text{Let } e^C = C$$

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

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

At $t = 0$, $y(t) = 0$ since no room had no fresh air

$$y - 20000 = C \cdot e^{-0.03(0)} + 20000 = 0$$

$$y = C + 20000$$

$$C = -20000$$

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

$$y = 20000 (1 - e^{-0.03t}) \quad \text{Answer for the model}$$

b) Calculate the time at which 90% of the air in the room will be fresh

$$90\% = \frac{90}{100}$$

$$y = 0.9 \text{ of } 20000$$

$$= 18000$$

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

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

$$0.9 = 1 - e^{-0.03t}$$

$$e^{-0.03t} = 1 - 0.9$$

$$0.03t = \ln 0.1$$

$$t = \frac{\ln 0.1}{0.03}$$

$$t = 26.77 \text{ min}$$

c) with matlab codes

using 6 hrs $t = 360 \text{ min}$

solu

command window

clear

clc

close all

syms y, t, k

$$y = 20000 * (1 - \exp(-0.03 * t))$$

$$t = 0:5:360$$

$$Yn = \text{subs}(y)$$

plot(t, Yn)

xlabel('Time (min)')

ylabel('Flowrate of Fresh Air (kg/min)')

grid on

5000 ft³/min
~~10000 ft³/min~~

airflow



Determine the steady state value of the amount of fresh air in the room

measured
The steady-state value is 20000 ft³/min at 215 mins of exp. approach

Comment on answer

The graph shows an exponential approach to the limit of 20000 ft³/min as time increases. Also when the steady state value approaches 20000 ft³/min and continues till 360 min (6 hrs). The model discussed becomes more relevant in pneumatic technology, although it may be difficult