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DEPARTMENT: COMPUTER ENGINEERING

It is 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 per minute (cfm). If the room contains no fresh air initially.

(a) develop a model for the amount of fresh air in the room at any time,  $t$ .

To develop the model for the amount of fresh air in the room at any time,  $t$  let  $y(t)$  be the amount of air in  $\text{ft}^3$  at any time ( $t$ ) in the room.

$$\text{Therefore, } \frac{dy}{dt} = \text{fresh air inflow rate} - \text{fresh air outflow rate} \dots (1)$$

From the information provided, fresh air inflow rate =  $600 \text{ ft}^3/\text{min}$

Fresh air outflow rate,

The amount of fresh air flowing out the room is a function of the amount flowing into the room

$$\text{Therefore, } \frac{600}{20000} = 0.03 \text{ min}$$

$0.03$  of  $y(t)$  is the amount of air flowing out =  $0.03 y \text{ ft}^3/\text{min}$

Rewriting equation (1)

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = 600 - 0.03y \dots (2)$$

$$= -0.03y + 600$$

$$= -0.03(y - 20000) \dots (3)$$

Integrating and separating eqn (3)

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

$$(y - 20000)$$

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

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

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

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

In an initial situation  $C = e^C$

$$\therefore y - 20000 = e^{-0.03t} \cdot C \dots (4)$$

$A_0 = 0, y(0) = 0$  since initially there is no fresh air in the room.

Substituting  $y(0)$  and  $t(0)$  in equation (4)

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

$$0 - 20000 = e^0 \cdot C$$

$$0 - 20000 = C$$

$$\therefore C = -20000 \dots (5)$$

Substituting eqn (5) into eqn (4)

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

$$y = 20000(1 - e^{-0.03t}) \dots (6)$$

Equation 6 is the model for the amount of fresh air in the room.

(b) Calculate the time at which 90% of the air in the room will become fresh.

$$90\% = \frac{90}{100} = 0.9$$

$$y = 0.9 \times 20000; \text{ (since the air in the room is } 20000 \text{ ft}^3 \text{ of air)}$$

$$= 18000 \text{ ft}^3$$

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

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

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

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

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

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

$$t = \frac{\ln(0.1)}{-0.03}$$

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

$$= 76.77$$

$$= 76.77$$

$$t = 76.77 \text{ minutes}$$

$$t \approx 77 \text{ minutes}$$

② with the aid of MATLAB, plot the dynamic response of the amount of fresh air in the room for  $t = 0$  to  $t = 6$  using a step time of 5 min  
(Converting  $t$  from hours to minutes, 6 hrs =  $(6 \times 60 \text{ mins}) = 360 \text{ mins}$ )

### Solution

Command Window

Clear all

clc

close all

syms y

syms t

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

$$t = 0:5:360$$

y1 = subs(y)

plot(t, y1)

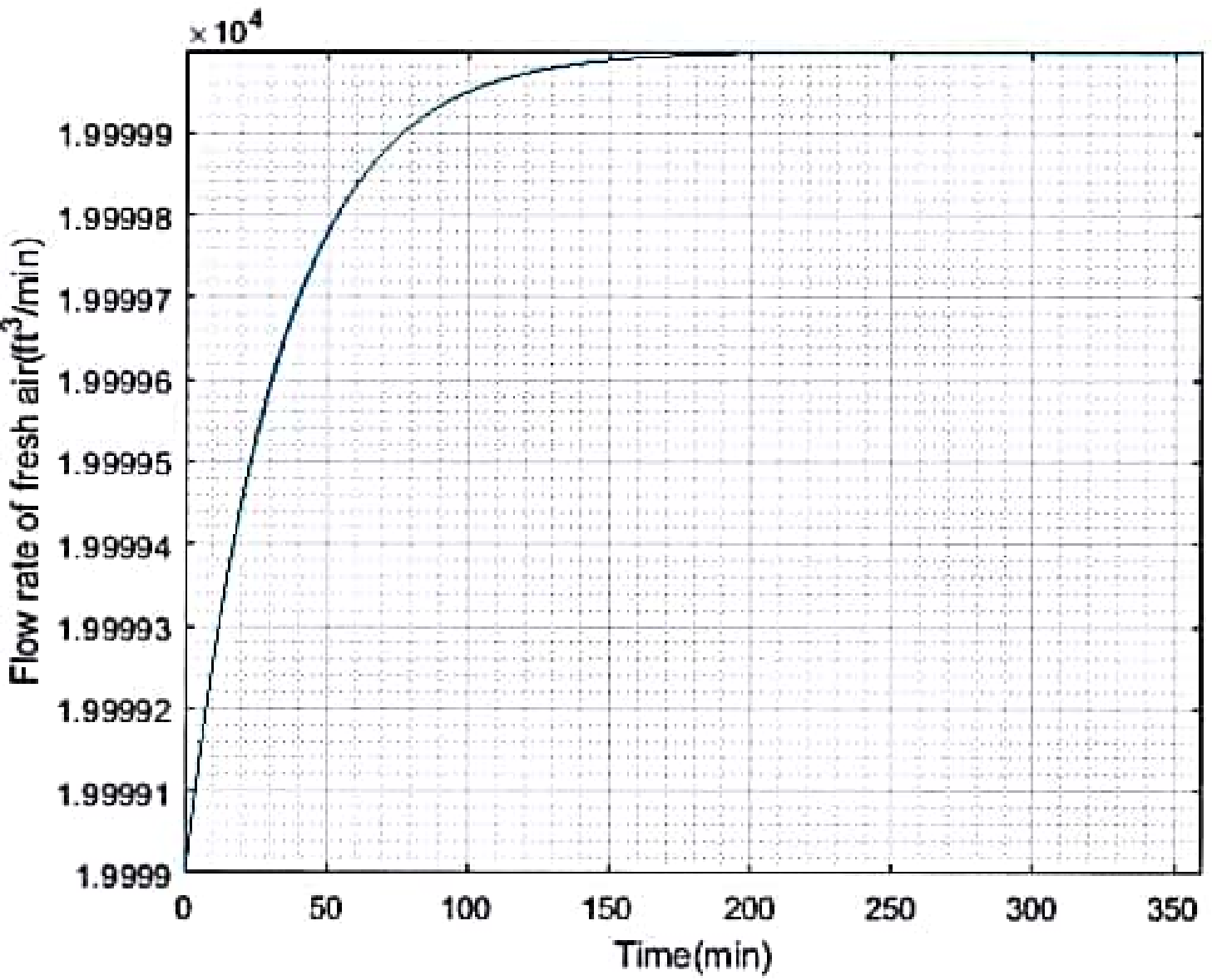
xlabel('Time (min)')

ylabel('Flowrate of fresh air (ft<sup>3</sup>/min)')

grid on

grid minor

axis tight



① Determine the steady-state value of the amount of fresh air in the room  
From the graph, it is observed that the steady-state value is  $2000 \text{ ft}^3$  at  
215 minutes (3 hours and 35 minutes)

② Comment on answer in (d)  
The function gives an exponential approach to the limit of air in the room as  $y$  increases with time. The steady state value is at 215 mins. The model discussed above in a realistic situation might change because mixing can be imperfect.