Happy New Year from the ISA Birmingham Executive Committee!!!!!!!

May you have the happiest and best New Year ever in 2020!!!!!

This is the beginning of another new year and the ISA Birmingham Section invites you to participate in our programs, training class, and plant visit this coming year. This is an opportunity for you to gain experiences, develop new skills, expand prior abilities and move forward in your professional development. ISA would like to be a part of your technical knowledge expansion and wants to be of assistance to you as you improve your ability to perform your job. Take advantage of the opportunities to learn from our technology exchange, expand your leadership ability, develop new skill sets, and enhance advancement possibilities in your employment.

Next ISA Birmingham Section Meeting: Tuesday, January 14, 2020, (Details to follow – please mark your calendar)
Celebrating Excellence Award Nominations are Open!

This is your opportunity to nominate our rockstar members, superstar sections, and distinctive divisions. The Celebrating Excellence awards salute our members, sections, and divisions for their outstanding technical contributions, volunteer service, and mentorship. Submit a nomination today!

View Criteria  Nominate Now!

Nominations accepted through 15 March 2020

Elevate the Extraordinary to Fellow

ISA elevates to Fellow only a select few members who have made extraordinary contributions in the science or engineering fields of automation. Submit a nomination to recognize the difference-makers in our profession.

View Criteria  Nominate Now!
2020 Short Course 50th Anniversary

The ISA Birmingham Section is proud to present the 50th Annual “Fundamentals of Industrial Automation, Instrumentation, and Control” training class. This popular and successful event will take place on May 5 – 7, 2020, in the offices of Revere Control Systems in Hoover.

The instructors for the classes will again come from our own area and are experienced control system practitioners with years of background and knowledge.

Early Bird Opportunity to register: The registration fee before March 1, 2020, is $795.00, with another $100.00 discount available for ISA members. After this date, the fee is a very reasonable $895.00 ($795.00 for ISA members), for a valuable three day course led by industry subject matter experts.

Please use the link below to register for the class and to obtain additional information on logistics, housing, schedule, instructors, etc.

https://www.isa.org/events-conferences/events-calendar/event-details/?productId=66931208

Brochures, schedules, and additional information may also be obtained by contacting Gerald Wilbanks at gwilbankspe@charter.net or by phone at (205) 566-9801.
The ISA Birmingham Section is among the various units of the society which provides a scholarship endowment that is available to a student in District 3 (Southeast). This is a real opportunity for a person to obtain assistance in their education costs and is funded by the local section. Much more information is available from the ISA web site (www.isa.org) or from Elizabeth Clarkin (epclarki@southernco.com) or Yao Wang (ywang@southernco.com).

Apply for an ISA Scholarship!

University students who have outstanding potential in fields related to automation should apply for an ISA scholarship. For details and eligibility requirements, click here. All applications must be submitted no later than 17 February 2020.

Mark Your Calendar:

➢ ISA Birmingham Section Technical Meeting: Tuesday, January 14, 2020, 4:00 PM, W. G. Yates Company, Topic TBD.

➢ Engineering Council of Birmingham Dinner: February 20, 2020 Harbert Center – Birmingham, AL

➢ 50th Annual Short Course: May 5 – 7, 2020 Revere Control Systems Birmingham, AL
Honors and Awards Dinner: Tuesday, May 12, 2020
Recognition of the award recipients for 2019, presentation of all former ISA Birmingham Section Presidents, and introduction of the officers for 2020 – 2021.

Anyone with suggestions as to program topics and presentations, should contact Mark Isbell at misbell@wgyates.com, with ideas and suggestions.

Dilbert Funnies

ISA Birmingham Leaders 2019 – 2020

Visit the ISA Birmingham web site:
www.isa.org/birmingham
Matt’s – Word for the Day

Esurient

i-ˈsûr-ē-ənt

adjective

Hungry or Greedy

"He skipped breakfast, so by lunch he was positively esurient."
• "Don't be so esurient when it comes to money — there's dignity in having what you need and no more."

Technical Brain Teaser

The control algorithm for a flow control loop is under consideration. It is determined that the flow must be maintained near set point with little or no offset and the signal will be rapid response and noisy. The best choice of control modes for this loop will be:

a. Proportional Mode  
b. Integral plus Derivative  
c. Proportional plus Integral  
d. Proportional plus Integral plus Derivative

Scroll Down for the Correct Answer

Answer

The signal for a flow loop will be fast changing and the criteria states the signal is noisy also. Since the controller output contribution from derivative control is based on the rate of change of the error (difference between measurement and set point), this will give an unstable output.
One drawback to proportional only control is the offset from set point, so provision must be made to drive the measurement back to the desired value.

Noisy signal eliminates derivative need.
To get to set point, integral is needed.

Answer is C  Proportioned plus Integral