

Laboratory guide 1: Introduction to the DC servomotor experimental setup

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1 Activity goal

The purpose of this laboratory activity is to become familiar with the DC servomotor unit used in the next laboratory activities. By the end of this activity, you should be able to implement and configure a Simulink model designed for “real-time simulation” – a simulation that runs in real time and allows direct interaction with a physical device.

2 Experimental setup

The experimental setup consists of:

1) **Quanser SRV-02 servomotor**. This is the physical device to be controlled (*plant*). It consists of a DC motor (① in Fig. 1c) with a built-in *planetary* gearbox (② in Fig. 1c) capable of driving a mechanical load attached to its output shaft (② in Fig. 1b). The mechanical load considered in this course is a simple disc inertia (i.e. *inertial load* – ① in Fig. 1e). An incremental optical encoder is directly connected to the output shaft of the SRV-02 unit for measuring the position of the mechanical load (② in Fig. 1d). A potentiometer (③ in Fig. 1d) is also connected to the shaft through a gear coupling (that includes an anti-backlash mechanism – ③ in Fig. 1b), and can be used as an alternative load position sensor. The DC motor is driven by a linear voltage driver based on a power operational amplifier (① in Fig. 1d). The simplified electrical schematic of the voltage driver is reported in Fig. 2d. It is rather immediate to deduce that the voltage driver behaves – from “Motor Input” to “Motor Current A” output – as a first order low-pass filter with DC gain

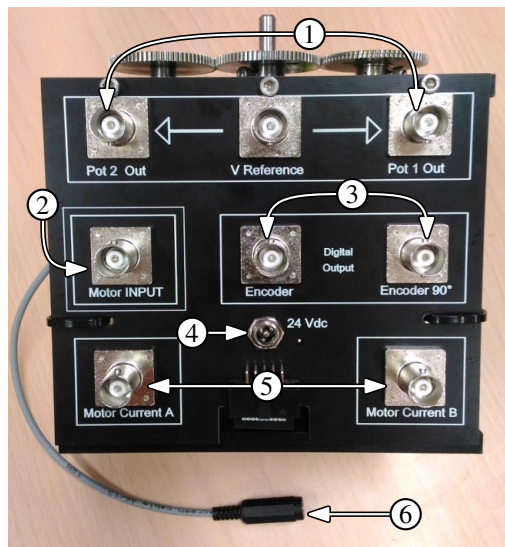
$$k_{\text{drv}} = \frac{R_2}{R_1 + R_2} \left(1 + \frac{R_3}{R_4} \right) \approx 0.6 \quad (1)$$

and cut-off frequency

$$f_c = \frac{1}{2\pi (R_1 // R_2) C_1} \approx 1.2 \text{ kHz} \quad (2)$$

A *shunt resistor* is connected in series to the motor to sense the *armature current* (i.e. the current flowing through the rotor windings).

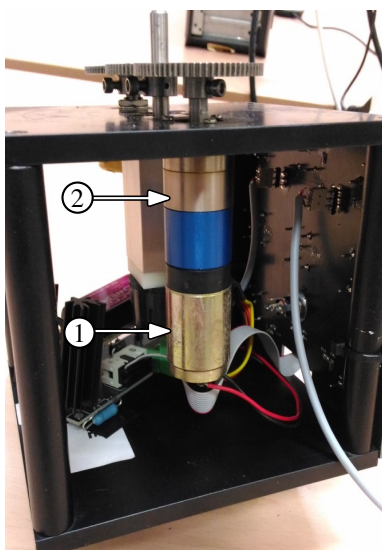
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email: {antonello, ticozzi}@dei.unipd.it



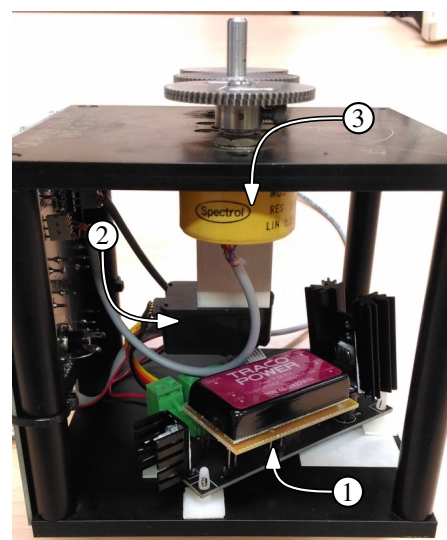
(a)



(b)



(c)

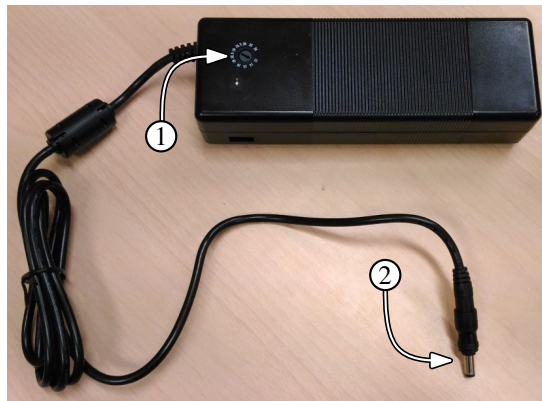


(d)

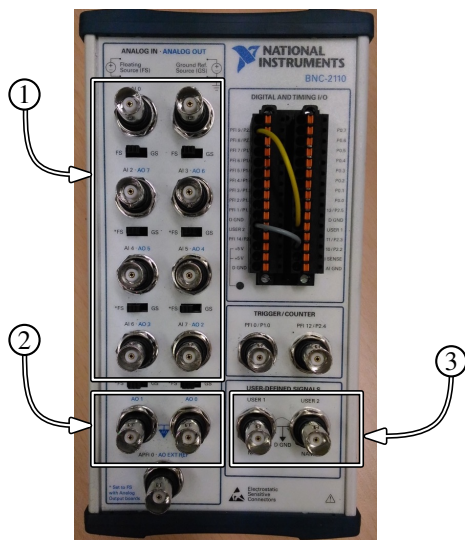


(e)

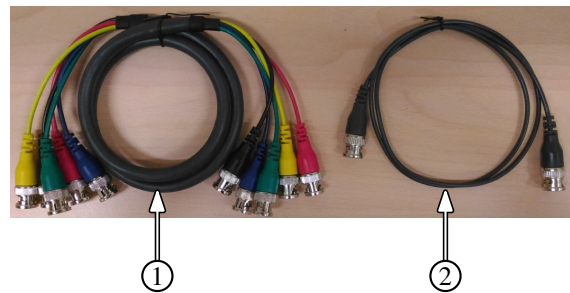
Figure 1: Experimental setup details.



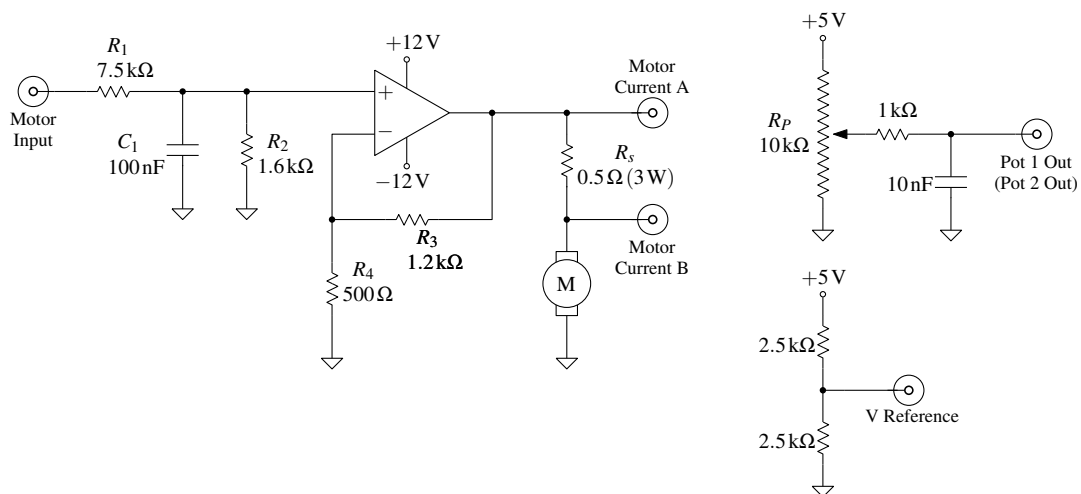
(a)



(b)



(c)



(d)

Figure 2: Experimental setup details (cont'd).

2) National Instruments Data Acquisition Board (NI-DAQ PCI-6221 or PCIe-6321).

The PCI-6221 board (installed on PCFA05 ÷ PCFA12 workstations) supports

- 16 single-ended or 8 differential analog inputs channels with 16 bit ADC resolution, maximum sample rate (per channel) of 250 kS/s and configurable ADC input range (available options: ± 0.2 V, ± 1 V, ± 5 V, ± 10 V).
- 2 analog output channels with 16 bit DAC resolution, fixed ± 10 V output range and maximum sample rate of 833 kiloS/s for single-channel output mode and 740 kS/s for dual-channel output mode.
- 24 digital I/O channels.
- 2 general purpose 32-bit counters/timers that can be used for PWM generation, encoder counting, frequency measurement, event counting, etc.

The PCIe-6321 board (installed on PCFA01 ÷ PCFA01 workstations) has similar specifications to PCI-6221, expect for minor differences such as

- the DAC maximum sampling rates: 900 kS/s for single-channel output mode and 840 kS/s for dual-channel output mode.
- the increased number of general purpose counters/timers: 4 instead of 2.

3) National Instruments BNC-2110 terminal board.

4) **BNC-terminated connection cables** (three single-channel cable + one 5-channel cable for each workbench).

5) **DC power supply** with adjustable voltage output (laptop power adapter).

6) **PC workstation** running **MATLAB/Simulink**. The **Simulink Desktop Real-Time** toolbox (SLDRT) is used to perform a “real-time simulation” that involves a direct interaction with the experimental setup.

The experimental setup parameters that are relevant for simulation and control design purposes are listed in Tab. 1. The nominal values of the parameters are deduced from accompanying data-sheets.

3 Real-time simulation

The MATLAB/Simulink environment will be used throughout the course to support all activities involved in the typical design flow of a control system. Both the implementation and experimental testing of control systems will be conducted within this environment, by resorting to the *Simulink Desktop Real-Time (SLDRT)* toolbox. SLDRT provides a real-time kernel for executing Simulink models on computers running Windows or macOS. It includes library blocks that enable Simulink models to interface with various I/O devices, supporting a wide range of I/O types, including analog and digital signals, encoder/counter inputs, PWM/frequency outputs, and communication protocols such as serial, UDP, and TCP. To run a Simulink model in real time using SLDRT, the model must first be converted into executable code. This code is then automatically loaded into memory and executed by the SLDRT kernel when the “real-time simulation begins”. MATLAB handles the entire conversion process transparently, which consists of two main stages: first, the *Simulink Coder*

| DC gearmotor nominal parameters | |
|---|---|
| Motor type | brushed DC motor |
| Motor id | Faulhaber 2338S006S |
| Nominal voltage | 6 V |
| Nominal output power | 3.23 W |
| Motor efficiency | 0.69 |
| Armature resistance | 2.6 Ω |
| Armature inductance | 180 μH |
| No-load speed | 7200 rpm |
| No-load current | 0.08 A |
| Stall torque | 1.71 N cm |
| Back-EMF constant | 0.804 mV/rpm |
| Torque constant | 7.68×10^{-3} Nm/A |
| Rotor inertia | 3.90×10^{-7} kg m ² |
| Gearbox type | planetary gearbox |
| Gearbox id | Micromotor SA 23/1 |
| Gearbox ratio | 14 |
| Gearbox efficiency | 0.80 |
| Moment of inertia of external 72-tooth gear | 1.4×10^{-6} kg m ² |
| Moment of inertia of extra disc | 3.0×10^{-5} kg m ² |
| Sensors data | |
| Sensor type | optical incremental encoder |
| Sensed quantity | output shaft angular position (incremental) |
| Sensor id | Hewlett-Packard HEDS-5540#A06 |
| Pulses-per-rotation (ppr) ⁽¹⁾ | 500 (all units except "MOTORE 8" and "10") 1024 (on "MOTORE 8" and "10" units) |
| (1) $\times 4$ times larger when adopting a quadrature encoding mode for counting the encoder pulses. | |
| Sensor type | potentiometer "1" |
| Sensed quantity | output shaft angular position (absolute) |
| Sensor id | Spectrol 138-0-0-103 |
| Resistance | 10 k Ω |
| Angle range | ± 176 deg |
| Supply voltage | 5 V |
| Sensor type | potentiometer "2" |
| Sensed quantity | flexible joint angular displacement (absolute) |
| Sensor id | Spectrol 357-0-0-103 |
| Resistance | 10 k Ω |
| Angle range | ± 170 deg |
| Supply voltage | 5 V |
| Voltage driver data | |
| Driver type | linear voltage driver (LM1875 power op-amp) |
| Driver gain | ≈ 0.6 |
| Driver cut-off frequency | ≈ 1.2 kHz |
| I/O board data | |
| Board id | NI PCI-6221 (on PCFA05 \div PCFA12 workstations) NI PCIe-6321 (on PCFA01 \div PCFA04 workstations) |
| ADC range | ± 0.2 V, ± 1 V, ± 5 V, ± 10 V |
| ADC resolution | 16 bits |
| DAC range | ± 10 V |
| DAC resolution | 16 bits |

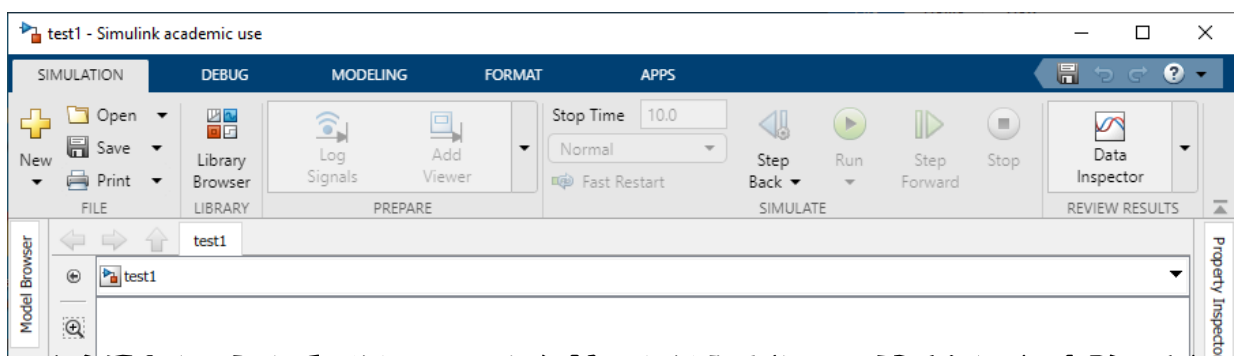
Table 1: Experimental setup data.

toolbox automatically translates the Simulink model into C source code; then, the generated C code is compiled using a supported C compiler.

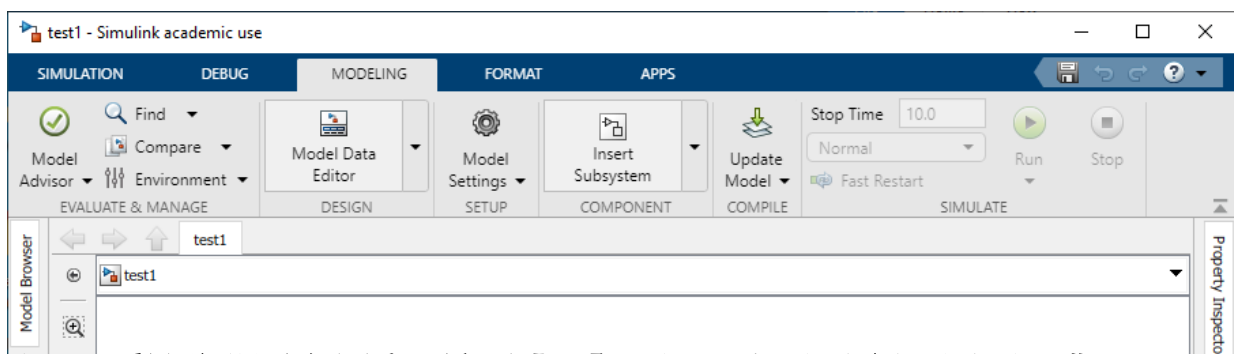
3.1 Configure a Simulink model for Simulink Desktop Real-Time

Follow these steps to set up a Simulink model for real-time execution using the Simulink Desktop Real-Time (SLDRT) toolbox:

- 1) Set the Working Directory: change the current MATLAB working directory to your designated working folder. You can do this using the `cd` command in the MATLAB command window, or by selecting the desired directory in the *Current Directory* field on the MATLAB toolbar.
- 2) Create a New Simulink Model: open a new Simulink model by either selecting *New* → *Model* from the MATLAB toolbar, or by running `slibrowser` from the command window, then clicking the *New Button* in the *Simulink Library Browser* toolbar.
- 3) Save the Simulink Model in the Working Directory: save your model in the working directory by selecting **Save** → **Save as ...** from the **Simulation** tab on the Simulink model window. Since the Simulink Coder generates auxiliary files in the current working directory during code generation, ensure that your model file is saved in the correct directory to prevent auxiliary files from being stored in unintended locations.



- 4) Set Model Parameters for Real-Time Execution with SLDRT: to configure the model for SLDRT, open the *Configuration Parameter* window by clicking **Model Settings** in the **Modeling** tab of the Simulink model window.



4-a) Click the **Solver** node. In the **Stop time** field, enter an appropriate final time. Use `Inf` if you want to run the simulation indefinitely until manually stopped.

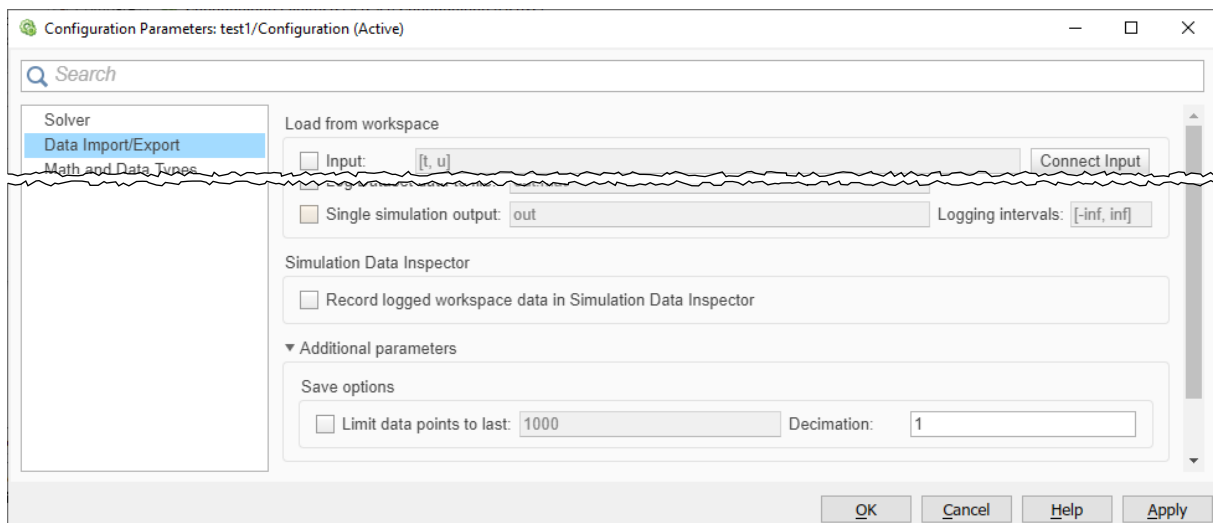
From the **Type** list, select **Fixed-step**, as *Simulink Coder* does not support variable-step solvers.

From the **Solver** list, select an appropriate solver. If the model contains continuous-time blocks, choose a suitable ODE solver, such as ode5 (Dormand-Prince). If the model consists only of discrete-time blocks, select the discrete (no continuous state) solver.

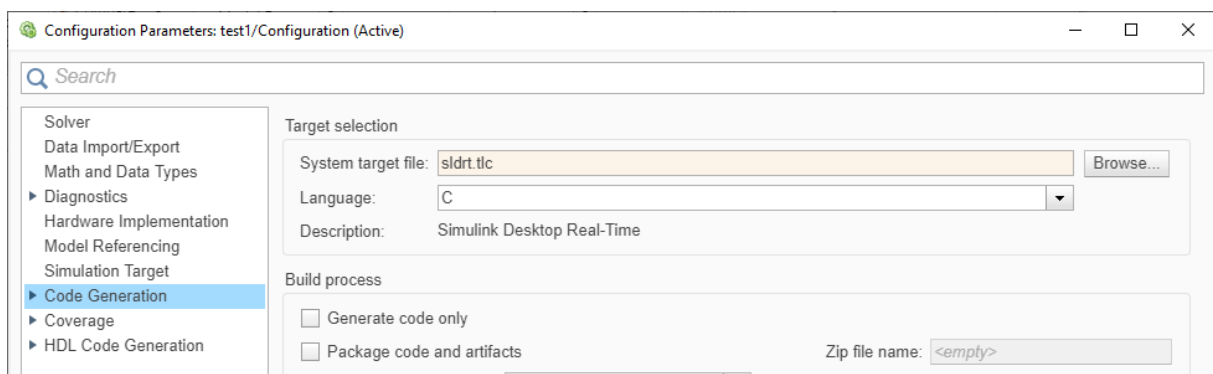
Under **Additional options**, in the **Fixed step size (fundamental sample time)** field, enter a sample time (e.g. 0.001 for a 1 ms sample time). Click **Apply** to confirm the changes.



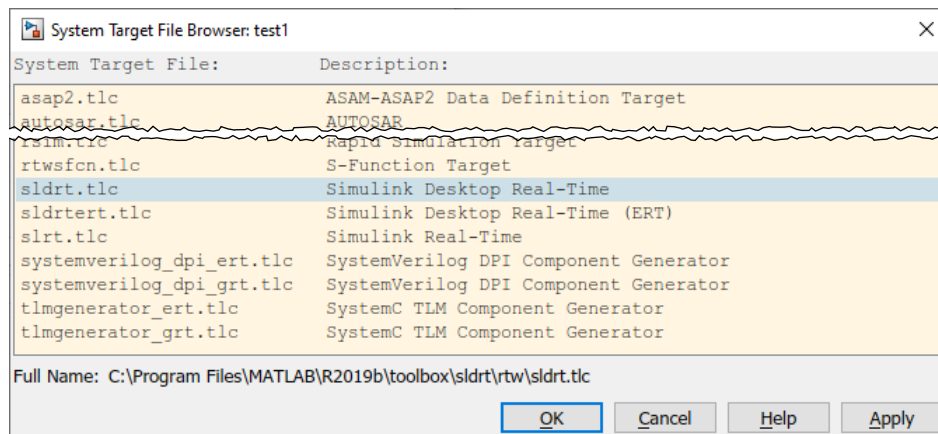
4-b) Click the **Data Import/Export** node. Uncheck **Single simulation output** to export simulation data logged by *Scope* and *To Workspace* blocks as independent variables in the MATLAB workspace. If left unchecked, a single container variable of type `Simulink.SimulationOutput` will be created. Under **Additional parameters**, uncheck **Limit data points to last** to ensure all generated simulation data is saved. Click **Apply** to confirm changes.



4-c) Click the **Code generation** node. In the **Target selection** section, click **Browse** in the **System target file** list.

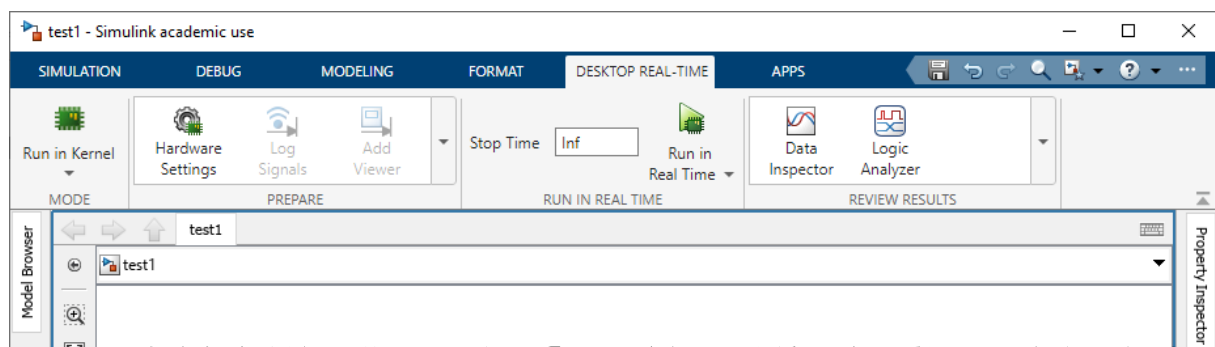


In the **System Target Browser** select `sldrt.tlc` (i.e. the *system target file* for building SLDRT applications), and click **OK**.

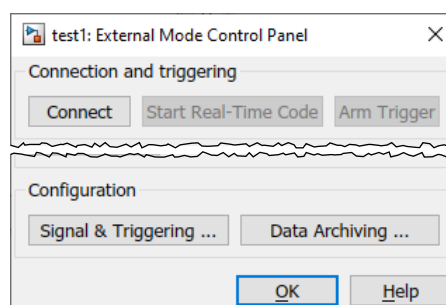


4-d) Click **OK** in the *Configuration Parameter* window to close it and apply all changes.

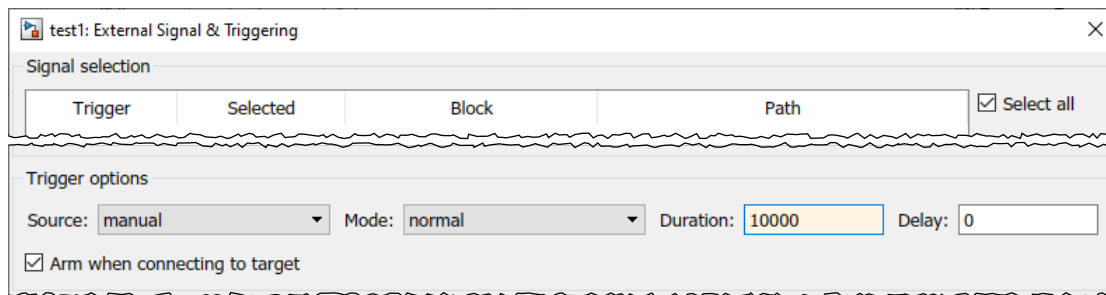
4-e) In the Simulink model window, select **Desktop Real-Time** tab. In the **Mode** section, select **Run in Kernel** to enable real-time execution of the model on the desktop computer.



5) Configure Buffer Size for Data Exchange with Real-Time Application: in the **Prepare** section, click on **Control Panel** to open the *External Mode Control Panel*.



- In the *External Mode Control Panel*, click **Signal & Triggering** to open the *External Signal & Triggering* window.
- In the *Trigger options* section, under the **Duration** field, enter the length (number of sample points) for the buffer used to exchange data between Simulink and the real-time application. For example, if the sample time is 0.001s, setting *Duration* to 10000 samples allows storing 10s of simulation data (from 0s to 9.999s).



- Click **OK** to save changes and close the *External Signal & Triggering* window. In the *External Mode Control Panel*, click **OK** to close the window.

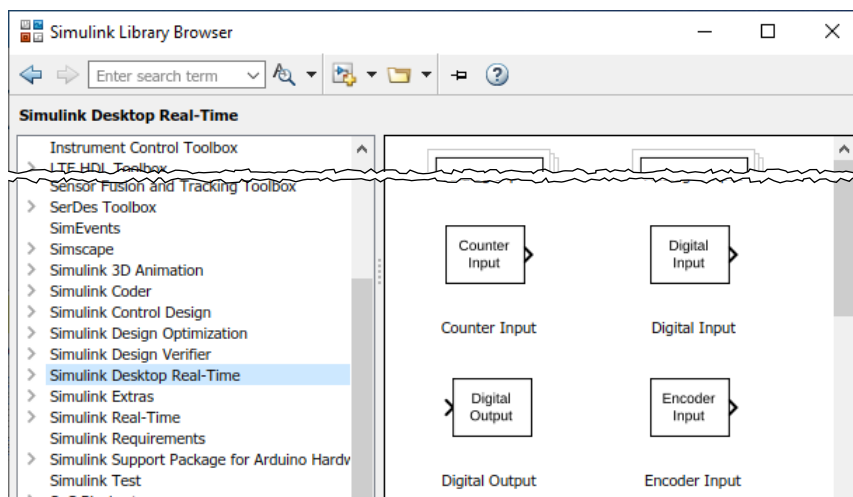
Note: when the buffer is full, it is fully erased before saving new data. This means that the buffer always holds only the last “Duration” samples produced by the simulation.

- 6) Save the Model with the New Configuration: on the **Simulation** tab of the Simulink model window, click **Save** to save the model with the new configuration settings.

3.2 Interface the Simulink model with the hardware

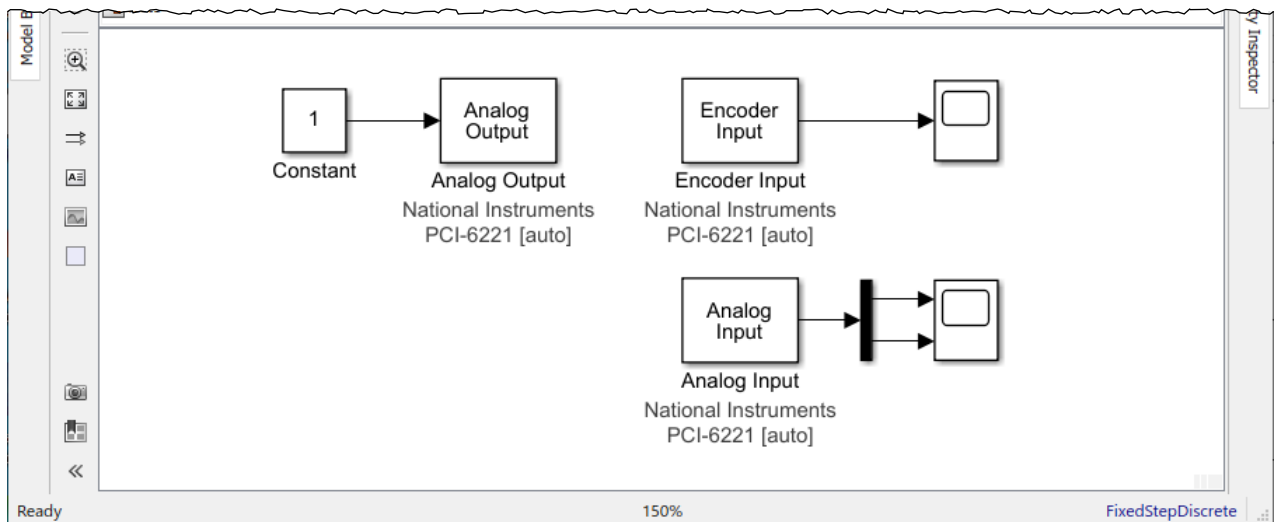
The SLDRT blockset enables the connection of a Simulink model to various I/O device, including the NI-DAQ board installed on the laboratory PC. The following steps show how to use the SLDRT blocks to interface a Simulink model with the Quanser SRV-02 servomotor:

- 1) Adding SLDRT Blocks to the Simulink Model: open the **Simulink Library Browser** and navigate to **Simulink Desktop Real-Time** blockset.



Drag and drop the following blocks into your Simulink model window:

- **Analog Input:** reads values from a specified input channel (or list of channels) of the Analog-to-Digital Converter (ADC) in the selected I/O board.
- **Analog Output:** writes values to a specified output channel (or list of channels) of the Digital-to-Analog Converter (DAC) in the selected I/O board.
- **Encoder Input:** reads data from a specified Encoder Pulse Counter integrated in the selected I/O board.



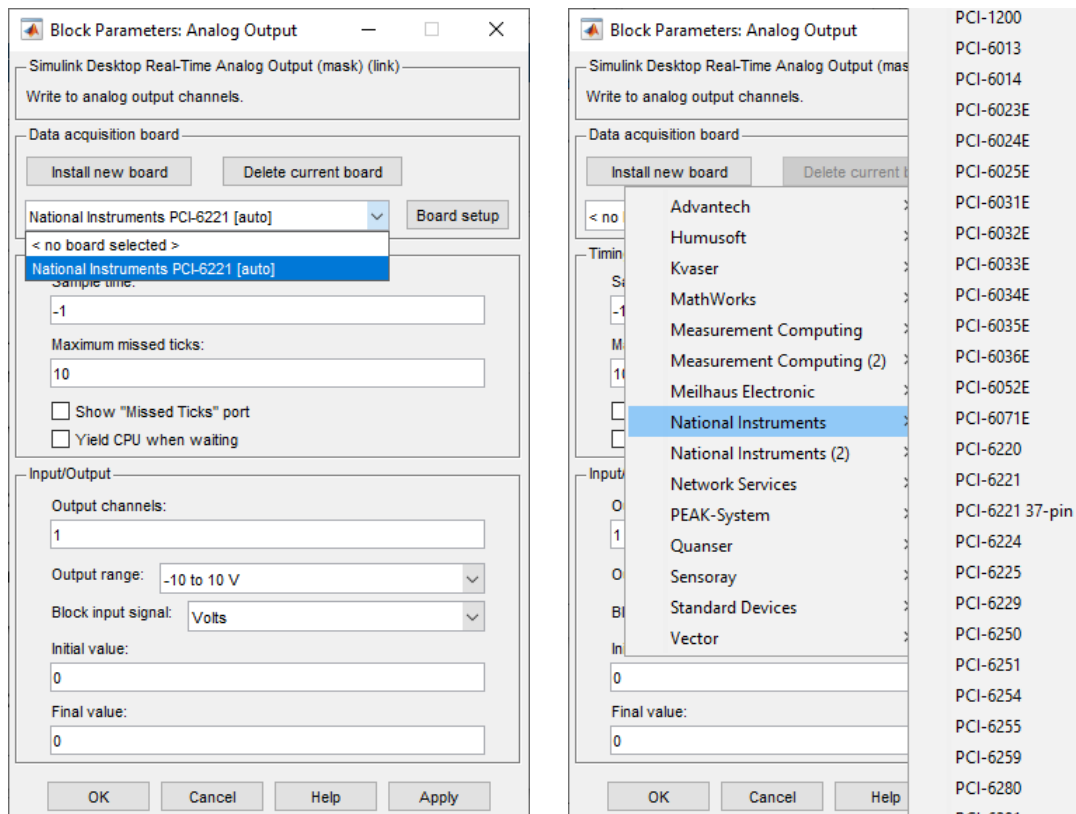
In this example:

- the **Analog Input** block acquires the “Motor Current A” and “Motor Current B” signals from the Quanser SRV-02 unit. These signals can be separated at the block output using a *Demux* block, and then displayed on a *Scope*.
- the **Analog Output** block sends a specified voltage to the Motor Input of the SRV-02 unit. Use a *Constant* block to define the voltage value.
- the **Encoder Input** block retrieves the pulse count from the incremental optical encoder of the SRV-02 unit. A *Scope* can be used to visualize the encoder output.

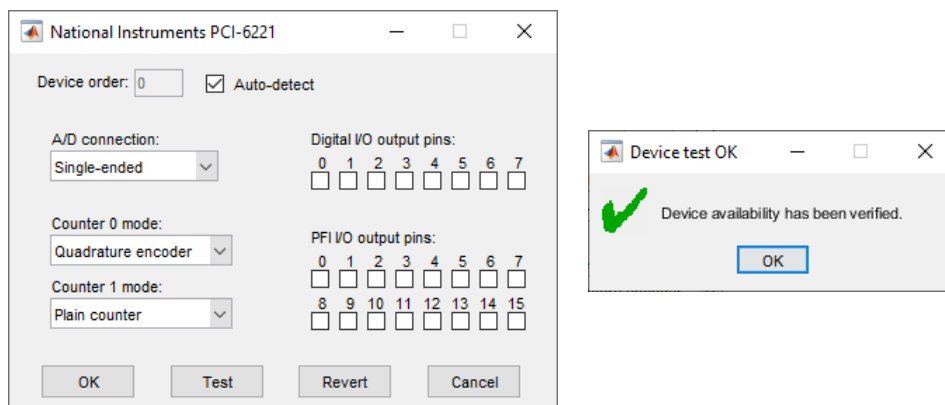
2) Configuring the Analog Output Block: double-click on the *Analog Output* block to open the *Block Parameters: Analog Output* dialog window.

2-a) In the *Data acquisition board* section, specify the I/O board associated with the block (either National Instruments PCI-6221 or PCIe-6321, depending on your workbench):

- if the board is already installed and configured, select it in the drop-down list accessible by clicking the “▼” button, and click the **Board setup** button to check settings.
- if the board is not installed, click **Install new board** and choose the appropriate option.



2-b) A new window will open for board settings. In the **Counter 0 mode** drop-down list, select the **Quadrature encoder** to count both the rising and falling edges of the two encoder outputs (Note: this setting is only relevant for the Encoder Input block configured later). Click **Test** to verify installation. If successful, *Board Test OK* will appear. Click **OK** to confirm.



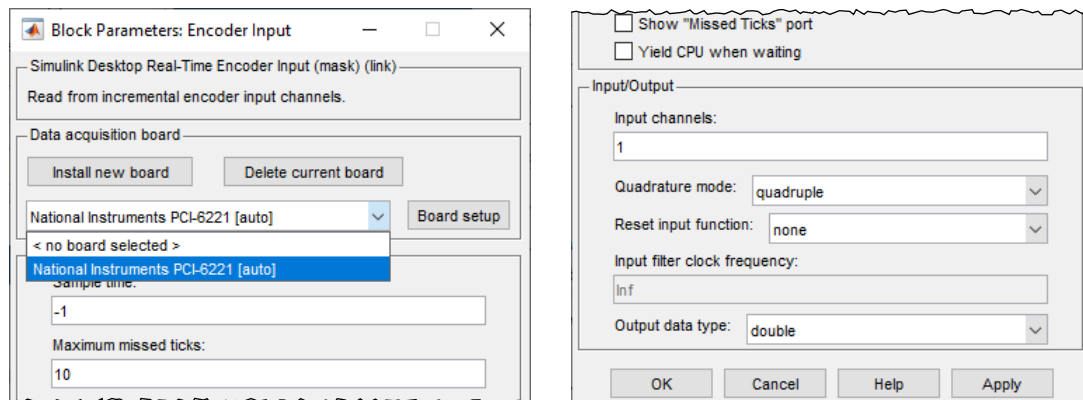
2-c) In the *Timing* section, set **Sample Time** to the desired value in seconds, or leave “–1” to inherit it from the model configuration parameters.

2-d) In the *Input/Output* section:

- specify the DAC channel by entering “1” in the **Output channels** field. This is the DAC channel physically connected to the “Motor Input” of the SRV-02 unit via the “AO 0” connector of the BNC-2110 terminal board.
- set both the **Initial value** and **Final value** to zero to ensure the motor is turned off at the start and end of the simulation.

2-e) Click the **OK** button to confirm and close the *Block Parameters: Analog Output* dialog window.

3) Configuring the Encoder Input Block: double-click on the *Encoder Input* block to open the *Block Parameters: Encoder Input* dialog window.



3-a) In the *Data acquisition board* section, open the drop-down list (click on the “▼” button) and select the previously installed I/O board (either National Instrument PCI-6221 or National Instrument PCIe-6321, depending on your workbench).

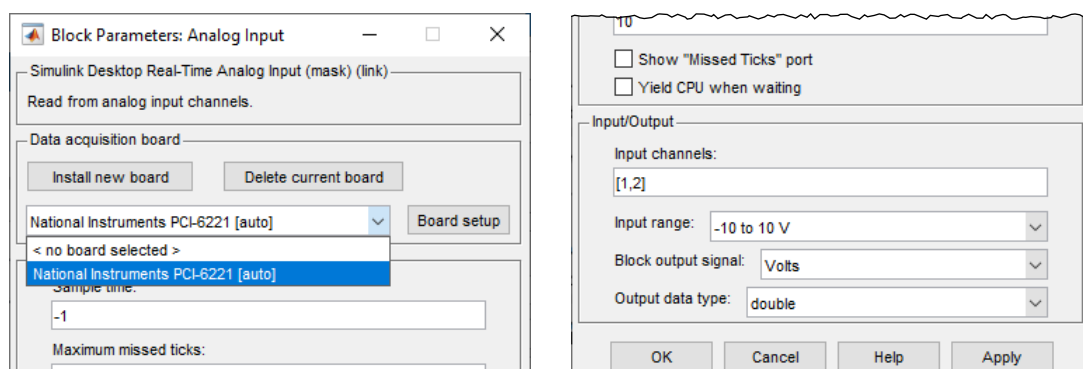
3-b) In the *Timing* section, set the **Sample Time** to the desired value, or leave “-1” to inherit from the model configuration parameters.

3-c) In the *Input/Output* section:

- Enter “1” in the **Input channels** field to use the counter 0, which is configured for counting using a quadrature encoding mode. The counter is connected to the “Encoder” and “Encoder 90°” outputs of the SRV-02 unit via the “USER 1” and “USER 2” terminals of the BNC-2110 terminal board.
- In the **Quadrature mode** drop-down list, select *quadruple* to enable counting with a quadruple encoding mode.
- In the **Reset input function** drop-down list, select *none* to reset the counter only at the beginning of the simulation. This means that the encoder initial position is assumed as the zero position reference.

3-d) Click **OK** to confirm and close the *Block Parameters: Encoder Input* dialog window.

4) Configuring the Analog Input Block: double-click on the *Analog Input* block to open the *Block Parameters: Analog Input* dialog window.



4-a) In the *Data acquisition board* section, open the drop-down list (click on the “▼” button) and select the previously installed I/O board (either National Instrument PCI-6221 or National Instrument PCIe-6321, depending on your workbench).

4-b) In the *Timing* section, set the **Sample Time** to the desired value, or leave “–1” to inherit from the model configuration parameters.

4-c) In the *Input/Output* section:

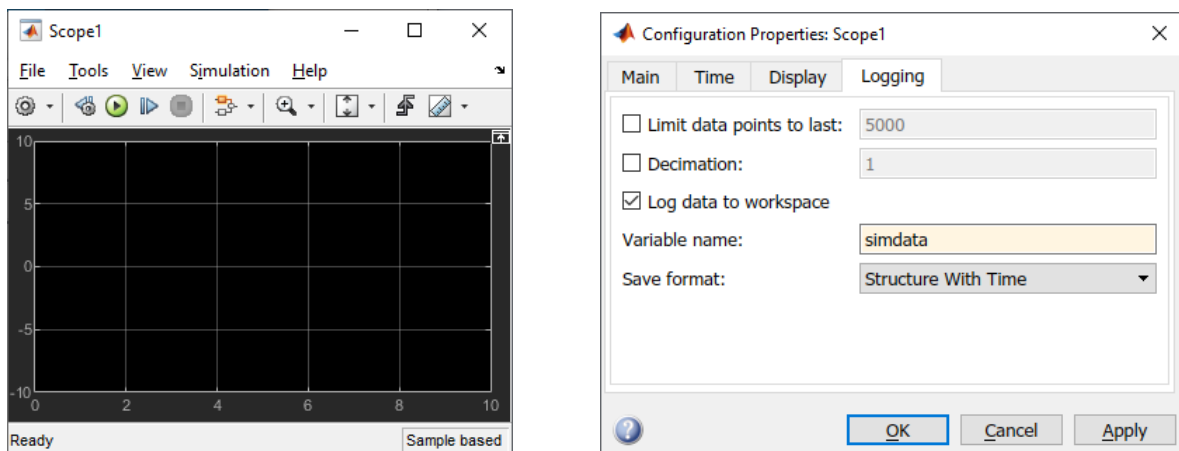
- Enter “[1,2]” in the **Input channels** field to use the first two ADC input channels, which are connected to the “Motor Current A” and “B” outputs of the SRV-02 unit via the “AI 0” and “AI 1” terminals of the BNC-2110 terminal board.
- In the *Input range* drop-down list, select the “–10 to 10 V” option to match with the ± 6 V armature voltage range.
- Click **OK** to confirm and close the *Block Parameters: Analog Input* dialog window.

5) Save the Simulink model before proceeding. Note: it is good practice to save regularly to prevent data loss in case of an accidental MATLAB crash.

3.3 Export simulation results to MATLAB workspace

To export simulation results to the MATLAB workspace, you can use either the *To Workspace* block (found under *Simulink* → *Sinks* in the Simulink Browser), or the *Logging* feature of the *Scope* block. The latter option allows you to log data directly from a Scope block and can be enabled as follows:

1) Double-click on the *Scope* block, and click the **Configuration Properties** button in the Scope toolbar to open the *Configuration Properties* window.



2) Navigate to the **History** tab. Uncheck the **Limit data points to last** checkbox.

Check the **Save data to workspace** checkbox. In the **Variable name** field, enter a name for the variable that will store the logged Scope data in the MATLAB workspace. The variable will be created automatically at the end of the simulation.

3) In the **Format** drop-down list, select the appropriate format.

4) The *Structure With Time* format is recommended, as it stores both time and signal values in a single data structure. The time and data values can be retrieved by referencing the appropriate fields of the data structure: for example, if `simdata` is the name of the variable, use the following MATLAB code to access the time and data fields:

- `t = simres.time` to retrieve the time values.

- `y = simres.signals(n).data(:,m)` to retrieve the m^{th} signal in the n^{th} set of scope axes. If the Scope block contains only a single signal and a single set of axes, you can use the shorthand: `simres.signals.data`.

Note: do not select the *Dataset* format, as it is not supported by the SLDRT.

3.4 Connecting the SRV-02 Unit to the BNC-2110 Terminal Board

Use the BNC-terminated cables to connect the SRV-02 unit with the BNC-2110 terminal board as follows:

- 1) Connect the “AO 0” analog output channel of the BNC-2110 terminal board to the “Motor Input” of the SRV-02 unit. This connection allows the Simulink model to control the motor by sending voltage signals.
- 2) Connect the “Motor Current A” and “Motor Current B” outputs of the SRV-02 unit to the “AI 0” and “AI 1” analog input channels of the BNC-2110 terminal board. These connections allow real-time monitoring of the armature current.
- 3) Connect the “Encoder” and “Encoder 90°” outputs of the SRV-02 unit to the “USER 1” and “USER 2” inputs of the BNC-2110 terminal board. These signals provide the position feedback.

A direct connection is internally established between the two user-defined inputs “USER 1” and “USER 2” and the two (quadrature) inputs of counter 0 through the spring terminal block located in the *Digital and timing I/O* section of the BNC-2110 terminal board.



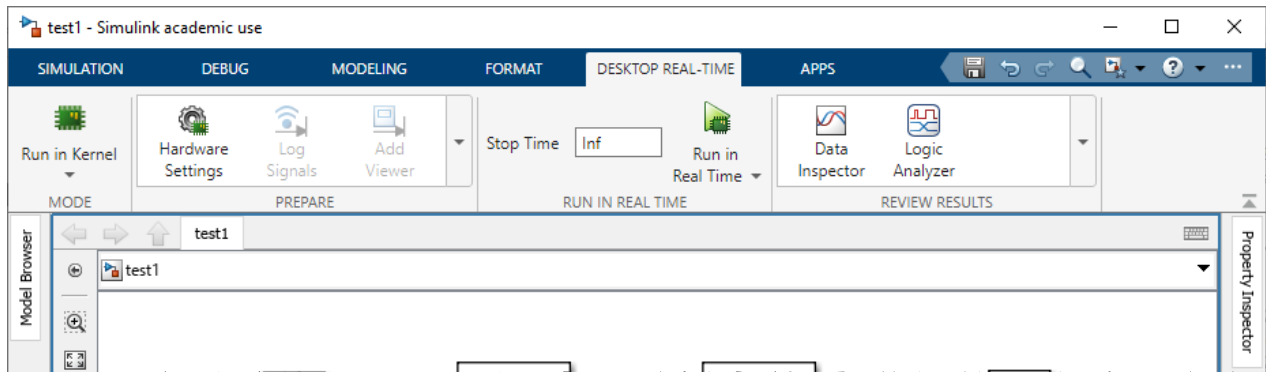
- 4) **⚠ IMPORTANT:** Before proceeding, verify that the regulated output voltage of the power supply adapter is set to 12 V. Connect the power supply to the SRV-02 unit by using the plug-in connector.

⚠ PRECAUTION: when the SRV-02 is turned on, **avoid accidental short-circuits** by ensuring that the voltage driver terminals do not come into contact with conductive materials (e.g., rings, metal clips, etc.).

3.5 Run the Simulink model in real-time

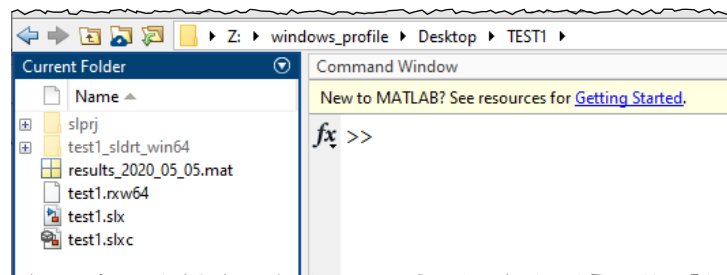
To run the Simulink model in real-time (“real-time simulation”), proceed as follows:

- 1) In the **Simulink Desktop Real-Time** tab of the Simulink model window, click the **Run in Real-Time** button.



This initiates the following sequence of operations:

- **Build:** the Simulink Coder is invoked to convert the Simulink model into a set of C-code source files, stored in the current working directory. Then, a C compiler compiles and links the source files to create the real-time application.



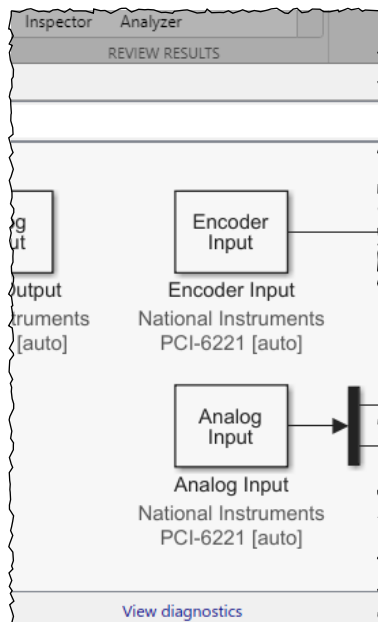
You can manually trigger the Build process by selecting **Run in Real Time** → **Build** from the **Desktop Real-Time** tab.

- **Connect:** the Simulink model is connected with the SLDRT kernel, enabling data exchange for commands, parameters and data logging.

You can manually trigger the Connect operation by selecting **Run in Real Time** → **Connect** from the **Desktop Real-Time** tab.

- **Start:** the real-time application is loaded into memory and executed by the SLDRT kernel. You can manually start the simulation by selecting **Run in Real Time** → **Start** on the **Desktop Real-Time** tab.

Note: you can monitor the build process in the *Diagnostic Viewer* window, accessible via the *View diagnostic* link at the bottom of the Simulink model window.



```

test1
IC:/PROGRA~1/MATLAB/R2019b/rtw/c/src -IC:/PROGRA~1/MATLAB/R2019b/rtw/c/src
IC:/PROGRA~1/MATLAB/R2019b/toolbox/shared/can/src/scanutil -
IC:/PROGRA~1/MATLAB/R2019b/toolbox/sldrt/src -IZ:/windows_profile/Desktop
IZ:/windows_profile/Desktop/LAB_GUIDE_2_FIGS/test1_sldrt_win64 -
IC:/PROGRA~1/MATLAB/R2019b/extern/include -IC:/PROGRA~1/MATLAB/R2019b/sim
IC:/PROGRA~1/MATLAB/R2019b/rtw/c/src -IC:/PROGRA~1/MATLAB/R2019b/rtw/c/src
IC:/PROGRA~1/MATLAB/R2019b/toolbox/coder/rtiostream/src -DTGTCONN -DEXT_
DON_TARGET_WAIT_FOR_START=1 -DEXT_MODE -DUSE_RTMODEL -DMODEL=test1 -DRT
DNCSTATES=0 -DMT=0 -o "sldrt_main.obj"
"C:/PROGRA~1/MATLAB/R2019b/toolbox/sldrt/src/sldrt_main.c"
### Created Simulink Desktop Real-Time module test1.rtw64
C:/PROGRA~1/MATLAB/R2019b/toolbox/sldrt/clang/win64/llvm-link-bca \
-o test1.bc \
test1.obj rtGetInf.obj rtGetNaN.obj rt_nonfinite.obj test1_data
sldrt_main.obj rt_sim.obj ext_svr.obj updown_sldrt.obj \
C:/PROGRA~1/MATLAB/R2019b/toolbox/sldrt/lib/win64/imports.obj
C:/PROGRA~1/MATLAB/R2019b/toolbox/sldrt/lib/win64/sldrtlib.lib
C:/PROGRA~1/MATLAB/R2019b/toolbox/sldrt/clang/win64/llc -mtriple=x86_64-pc
03-03 -filetype=obj -o ../test1.rtw64 test1.bc
Build process completed successfully

```

2) While the simulation is running, you can modify the DC motor armature voltage in real-time by changing the value of the Constant block connected to the Analog Output block.

Due to static friction, the motor shaft may not rotate at low armature voltage levels. Gradually increase the voltage until the shaft begins to spin. Use the Scope to monitor the encoder pulse count and the voltage drop across the shunt resistor.

3) To stop the simulation, click the **Stop** button in the Simulink model toolbar.

