

5 Basic Components of Control Systems

Chapter 1 presented the three basic components of control systems: sensors/transmitters, controllers, and final control elements. In that chapter, we learned that these components perform the three basic operations of every control system: measurement (M), decision (D), and action (A).

The present chapter takes a brief look at the sensor/transmitter combination, the M component, followed by a more detailed study of control valves, the A component, and feedback controllers, the D component. Appendix C presents numerous diagrams, schematics, and other figures to aid in the presentation of different types of sensors, transmitters, and control valves. Thus Appendix C complements this chapter, and the reader is encouraged to read it along with this chapter.