

Laboratory Worksheet #11

PD Control and Type Casting Exercise

Exercise 1: Type Casting Calculations in the Motor Control Algorithm

In Laboratory 6 of the Course Material, download the `worksheet_11.c` file. Looking through the file, you can see six (plus a 16-bit version) different expressions that represent the same equation but have different typecasting of the variables in the equation. One of the expressions is a two byte form of `temp_motorpw` and is included as a further example of potential problems. For reference, the different expressions are shown below.

```
error = desired - actual;

/* 1st control algorithm equation */
temp_motorpw = pw_neut + kp*(error) + kd*(error - prev_error);
/* 2nd control algorithm */
temp_motorpw = pw_neut + (signed long)kp*(error) + kd*(error - prev_error);
/* 3rd control algorithm equation */
temp_motorpw = (signed long)(pw_neut + kp*(error) + kd*(error - prev_error));
/* 4th control algorithm equation */
temp_motorpw = pw_neut + kp*(signed int)(error) + kd*(signed int)(error - prev_error);
/* 5th control algorithm equation */
temp_motorpw = (signed long)pw_neut + (signed long)(kp*(error)) + (signed long)(kd*(error - prev_error));
/* 6th control algorithm equation */
temp_motorpw = (signed long)pw_neut + (signed long)kp*(signed long)(error) + (signed long)kd*(signed long)(error - prev_error);

prev_error = error;
```

`temp_motorpw` is the calculated pulsewidth to be implemented
`pw_neut` is the pulsewidth when the blimp is heading in the desired direction
`kp` is the proportional gain constant of the control algorithm (use a value of 30 for the calculations)
`kd` is the derivative gain constant of the control algorithm (use a value of 30 for the calculations)
`desired` is the reading from the input desired heading
`actual` is the latest heading measurement
`prev_error` is the previous calculation of the difference between desired and actual headings

The following four cases represent different physical conditions for the blimp. Based on the numbers provided, calculate the resulting value of `temp_motorpw` (use a calculator). Run the `worksheet10.c` code after editing the appropriate variables and compare your calculation with results from the different algorithms. Indicate which algorithms provide the expected answer. Remember, negative results are possible. Use a proportional gain of $K_p = 30$ and a derivative gain of $K_d = 30$. Record which typecasting algorithms are consistent with your calculation.

Case 1: `center_motorpw`=2765, `prev_error`=-1760, `desired`=1800, `actual`=3500 (blimp is turned too far to the right)

`temp_motorpw` (calculated) = _____

Algorithms that provide a correct result: _____

Case 2: `center_motorpw`=2765, `prev_error`=1760, `desired`=3500, `actual`=1800 (blimp is turned too far to the left)

`temp_motorpw` (calculated) = _____

Algorithms that provide a correct result: _____

Case 3: `center_motorpw`=2765, `prev_error`=-250, `desired`=50, `actual`=250 (blimp is turned too far to the right)

`temp_motorpw` (calculated) = _____

Algorithms that provide a correct result: _____

Case 4: `center_motorpw`=2765, `prev_error`=20, `desired`=3500, `actual`=1800 (rudder fan is at full power, but blimp is turning slower than desired)

`temp_motorpw` (calculated) = _____

Algorithms that provide a correct result: _____

Exercise 2: Code execution

Based on your observations, **implement one of the typecasting algorithms in your code** where the pulsewidth is determined for the steering servo. You will need to work with long variable typecasting. Refer to the gondola_info sheet for suggestions on refining your code. Download your code to the microcontroller on a gondola. Set a desired heading of 135° (SE) and a proportional gain constant of 12. Fill in the first two columns in the table below, correcting your error is necessary so that it is bounded $-180^\circ < \text{error} < 180^\circ$.

Run your code and manually position the gondola at the heading directions indicated in the table and fill in the table using output from your code. You will need to print both the 'raw' (before limit correction) calculated pulsewidth and the 'corrected' (after limit correction) pulsewidth. As indicated in the table, record both calculated temp_motorpw before you check for pulsewidth limits and the actual pulsewidth after limits are enforced. Again, remember that the 'raw' pulsewidth can be a negative number. Note, since you are holding the gondola stationary, the differential gain term is zero (previous_error-current_error = 0).

Heading	Heading Error	Manually calculated temp_motorpw	Program calculated temp_motorpw (before limit correction)	Final temp_motorpw (after limit correction)
0.0°				
45.0°				
90.0°				
135.0°				
180.0°				
225.0°				
270.0°				
315.0°				

When complete, insert Worksheet 11 in your laboratory notebook. Worksheets are required when the notebooks are graded. Perform any necessary calculations on the left page of the notebook where the worksheet is placed. Keep individual copies of the worksheet for your own records.