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Advanced Control Algorithms for a Horizontal Three-Phase Separator in a Hardware in the Loop Simulation Environment

Autores:

Aimacaña Cueva, Lady Elizabeth

Gahui Auqui, Oscar Jonathan

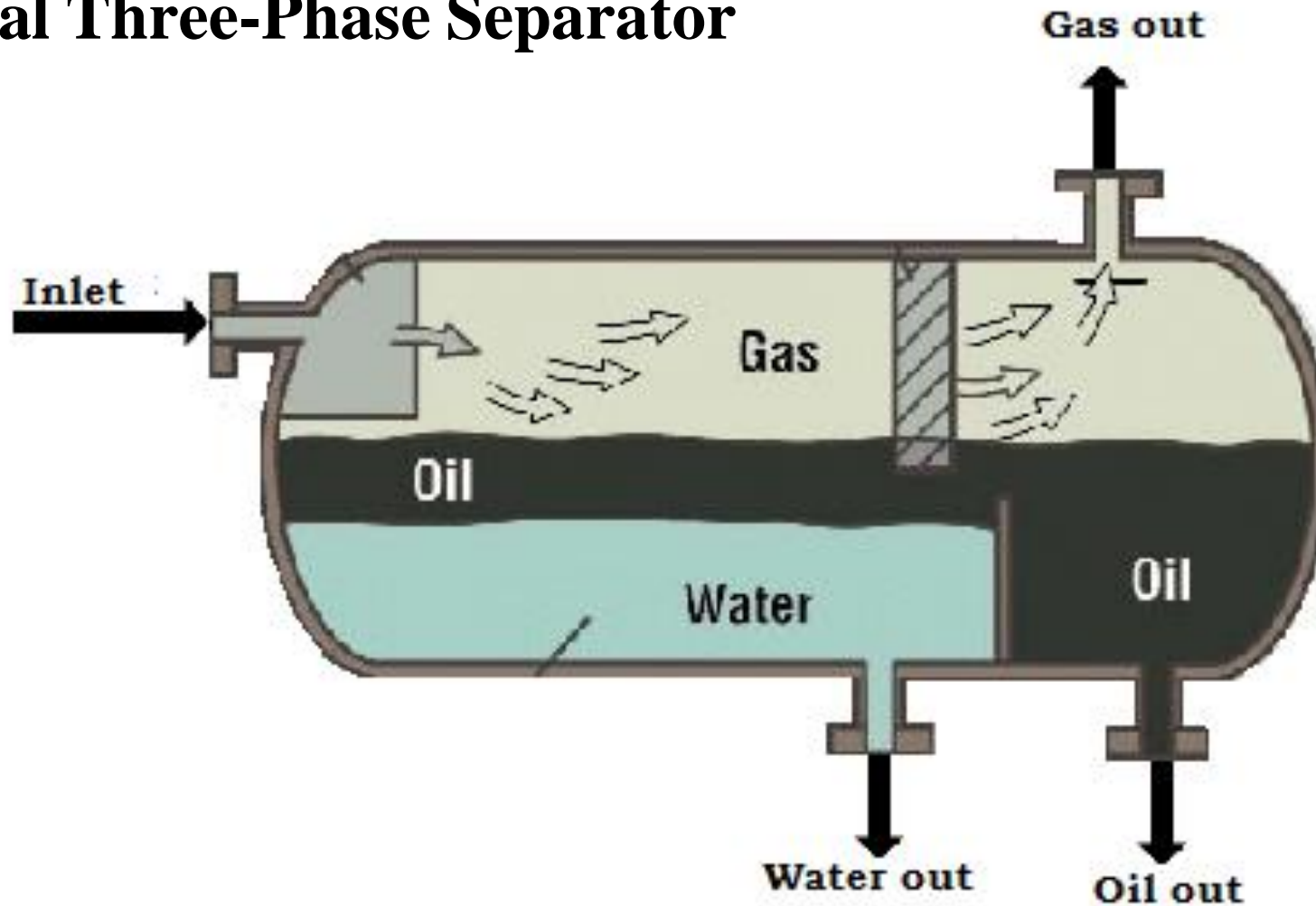
Tutor. Ing. Llanos Proaño, Jacqueline del Rosario

Co-Tutor. Ing. Ortiz Villalba, Diego Edmundo



- Introduction
- Mathematical Modeling
- Hardware in the Loop
- Controllers Design
- Results
- Conclusions

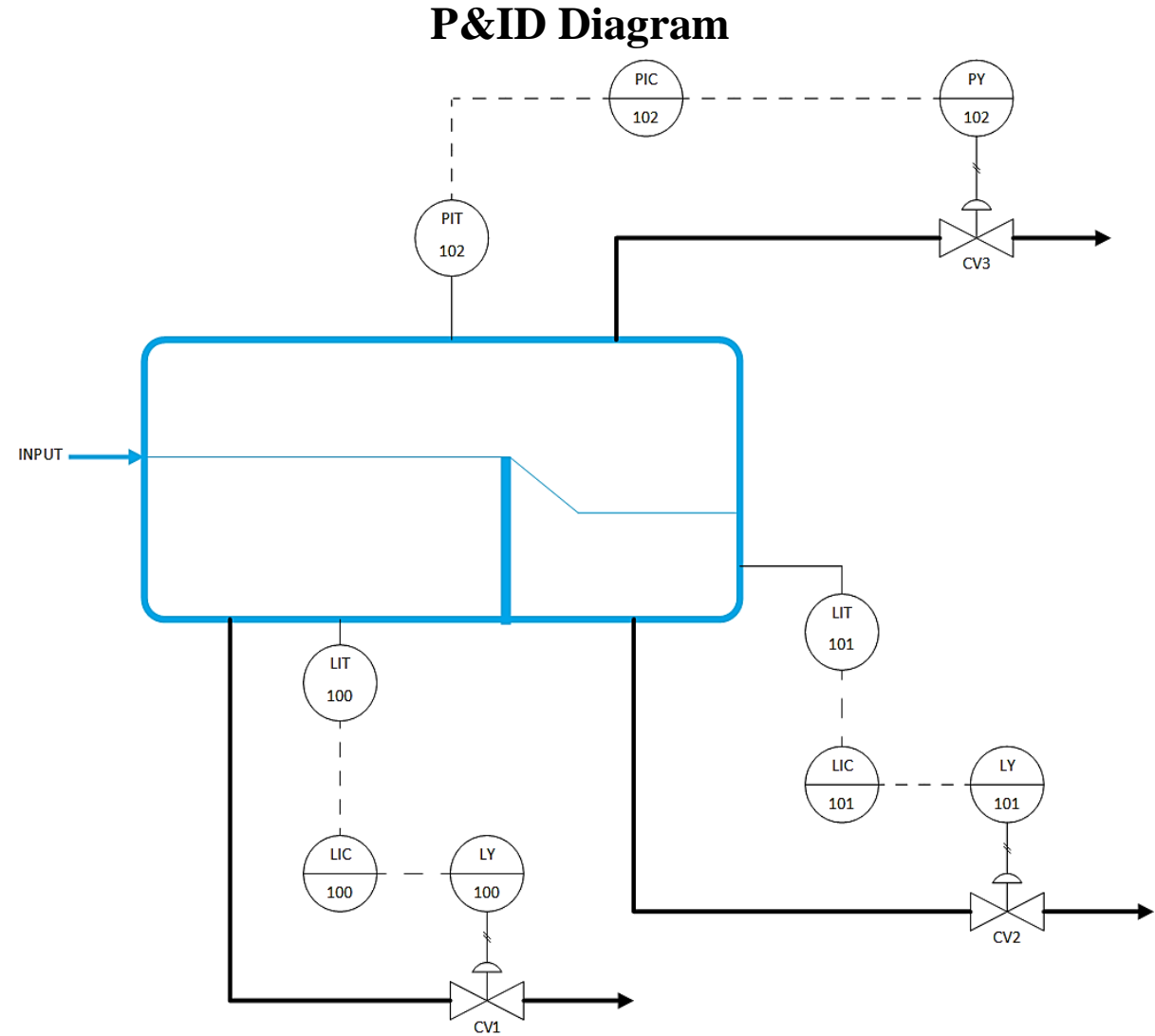
Horizontal Three-Phase Separator



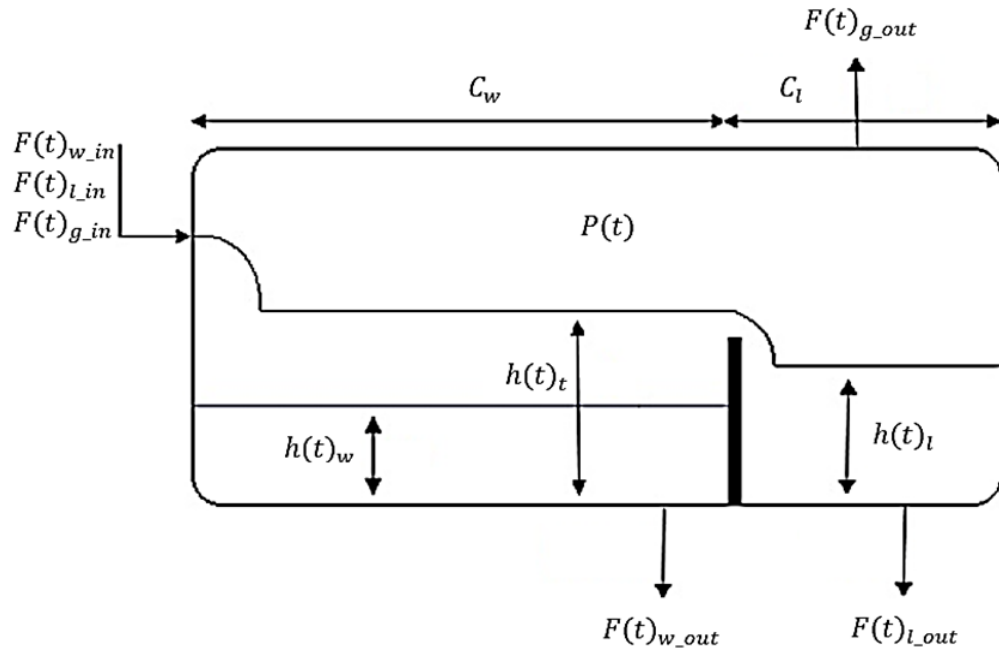
Horizontal Three-Phase Separator Variables

Manipulated Variables		
$F(t)_{w_in}$	Water Flow	[m/s]
$F(t)_{l_in}$	Oil Flow	[m/s]
$F(t)_{g_in}$	Gas Flow	[m/s]

Controlled Variables		
$h(t)_w$	Water Level	[m]
$h(t)_l$	Oil Level	[m]
$P(t)$	Pressure	[bar]



Three-phase separator schematic diagram



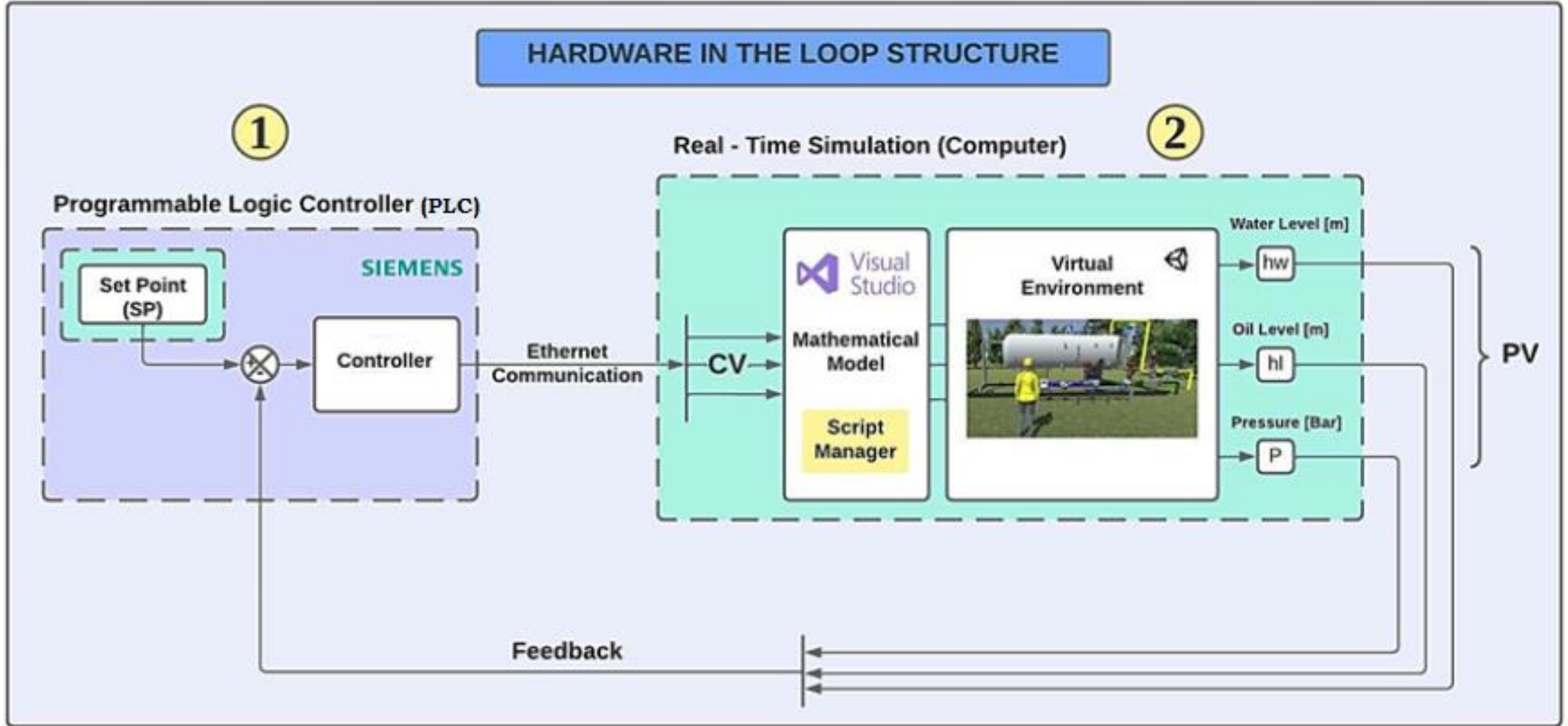
$$\frac{dh(t)_w}{dt} = \frac{F(t)_{w_in} - F(t)_{w_out}}{2C_w \sqrt{(D - h(t)_w)h(t)_w}}$$

$$\frac{dh(t)_t}{dt} = \frac{F(t)_{w_in} + F(t)_{l_in} - F(t)_{vert_out} - F(t)_{w_out}}{2C_w \sqrt{(D - h(t)_t)h(t)_t}}$$

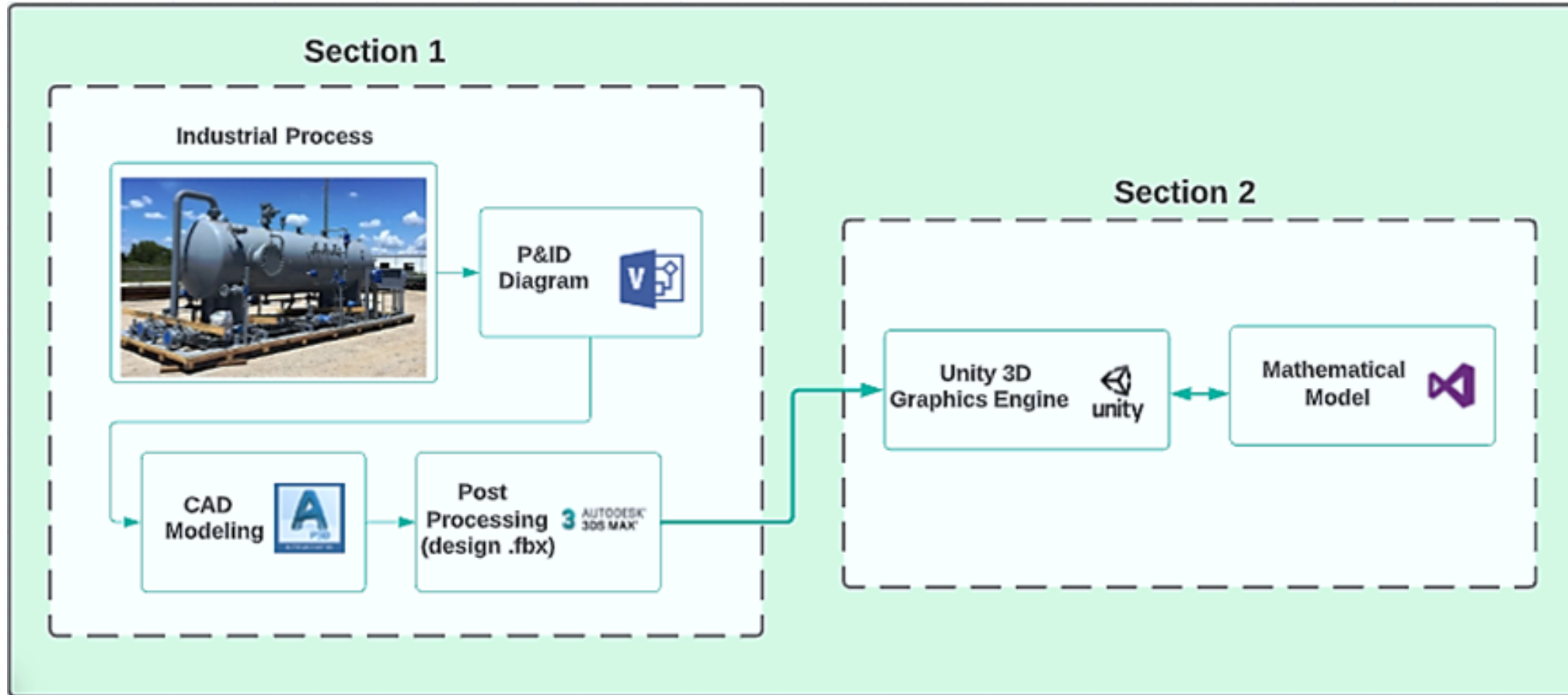
$$\frac{dh(t)_l}{dt} = \frac{F(t)_{vert} - F(t)_{l_out}}{2C_l \sqrt{(D - h(t)_l)h(t)_l}}$$

$$\frac{dP(t)}{dt} = \frac{P(t) [F(t)_{g_in} - F(t)_{g_out} + F(t)_{l_in} - F(t)_{l_out} + F(t)_{w_in} - F(t)_{w_out}]}{V_{3\phi} - V(t)_w - V(t)_l}$$

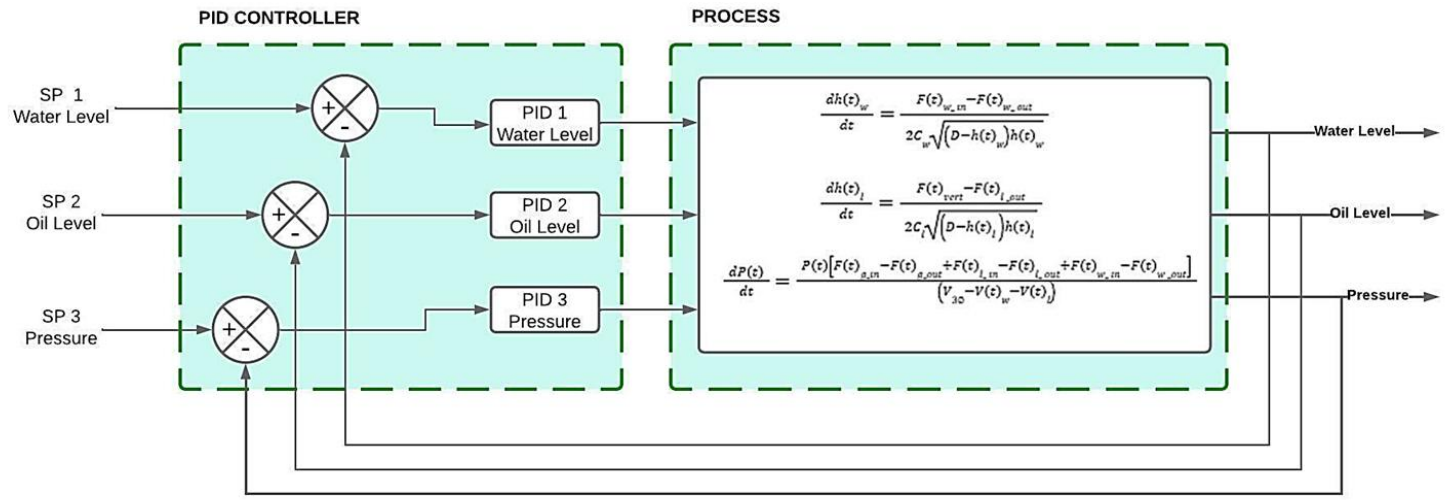
Hardware in the Loop



Methodology



PID Controller



Lambda Tuning Method

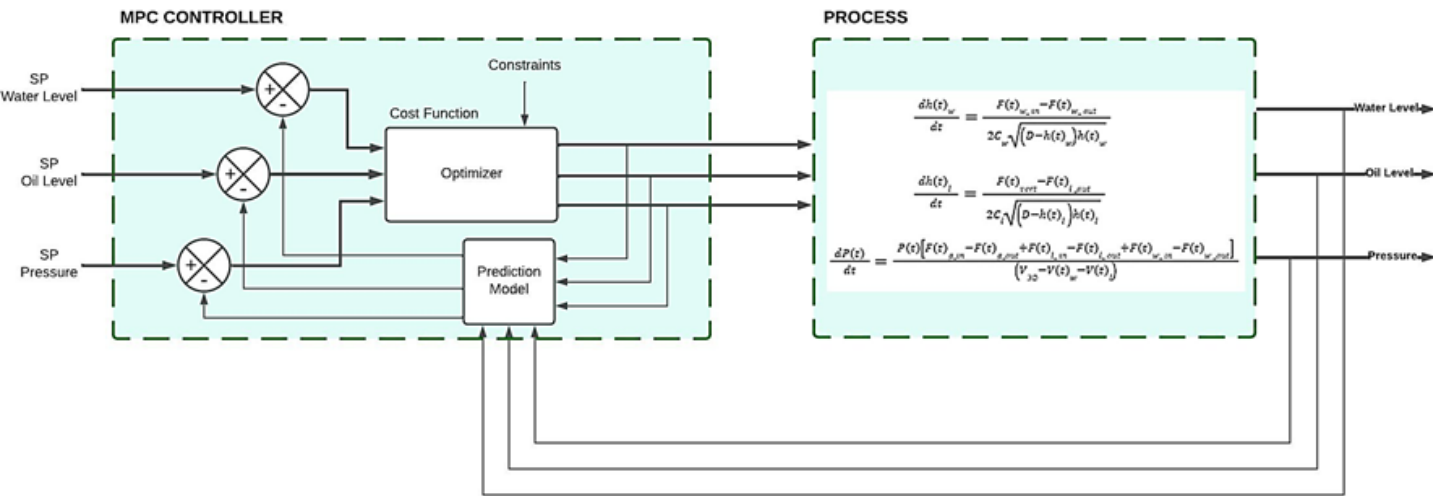
$$G(s) = \frac{k}{1 + Ts} e^{-\tau s}$$

$$U(s) = K_p e(s) + K_i \frac{e(s)}{s} + sK_d e(s)$$

$$K_p = \left(\frac{1}{k} \right) \left(\frac{\frac{\tau}{2} + \lambda}{\frac{\tau}{2} + \lambda} \right) \quad K_i = \frac{K_p}{T + \frac{\tau}{2}}$$

$$K_d = \frac{\tau \lambda}{\tau + 2\lambda} \quad \lambda = T$$

MPC Controller



MPC Algorithm

$$J(k) = \sum_{i=N_w}^{N_p} \delta_1(k) \left[\hat{h}_w(k+i|k) - h_{wd}(k+i|k) \right]^2 + \dots$$

$$\delta_2(k) \left[\hat{h}_l(k+i|k) - h_{ld}(k+i|k) \right]^2 + \dots$$

$$\delta_3(k) \left[\hat{P}(k+i|k) - P_d(k+i|k) \right]^2 + \dots$$

$$\sum_{i=0}^{N_c-1} \lambda_1(k) [\Delta u_1(k+i-1)]^2 + \lambda_2(k) [\Delta u_2(k+i-1)]^2 + \dots$$

$$\lambda_3(k) [\Delta u_3(k+i-1)]^2$$

Weights

$$\delta_i(k) \quad i = 1, 2, 3, 4, \dots$$

$$\lambda_i(k) \quad i = 1, 2, 3, 4, \dots$$

Constraints

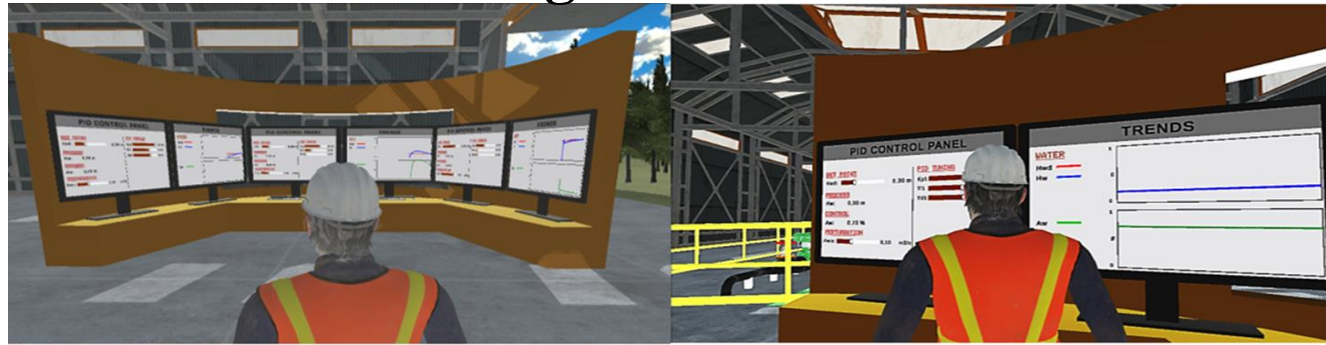
$$h_{w\min} \leq h_w \leq h_{w\max} \quad h_{l\min} \leq h_l \leq h_{l\max} \quad P_{\min} \leq P_w \leq P_{\max}$$

$$\Delta u_{\max} \leq \Delta u_1 \leq \Delta u_{\max} \quad \Delta u_{\max} \leq \Delta u_2 \leq \Delta u_{\max} \quad \Delta u_{\max} \leq \Delta u_3 \leq \Delta u_{\max}$$

Virtual Environment

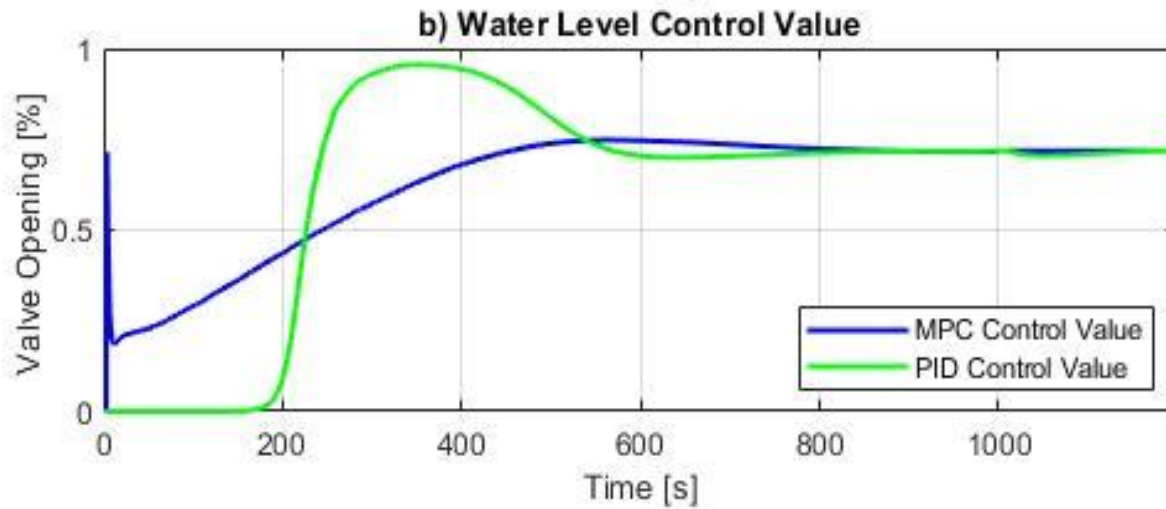
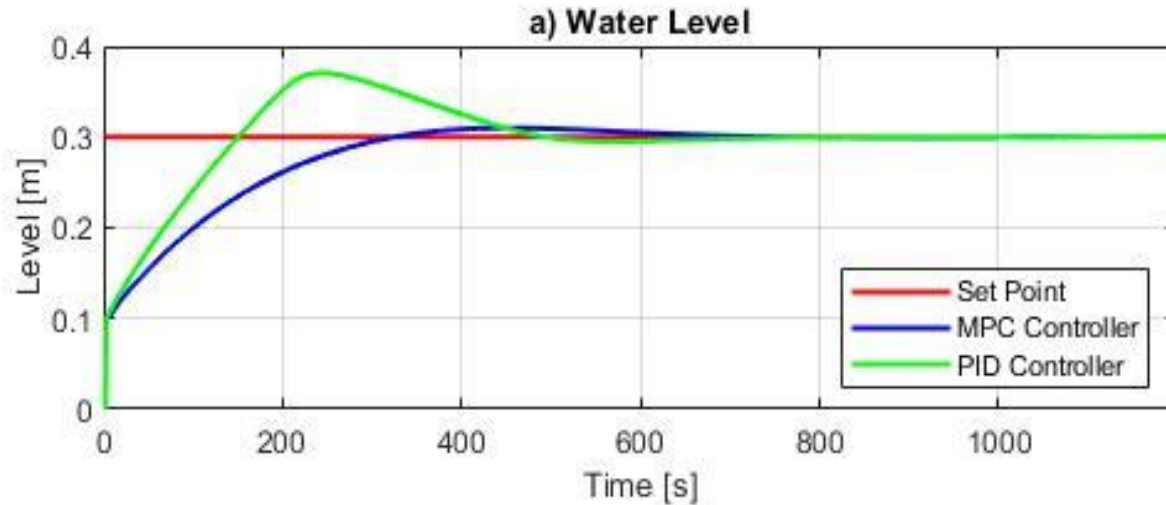


Monitoring and Control Area



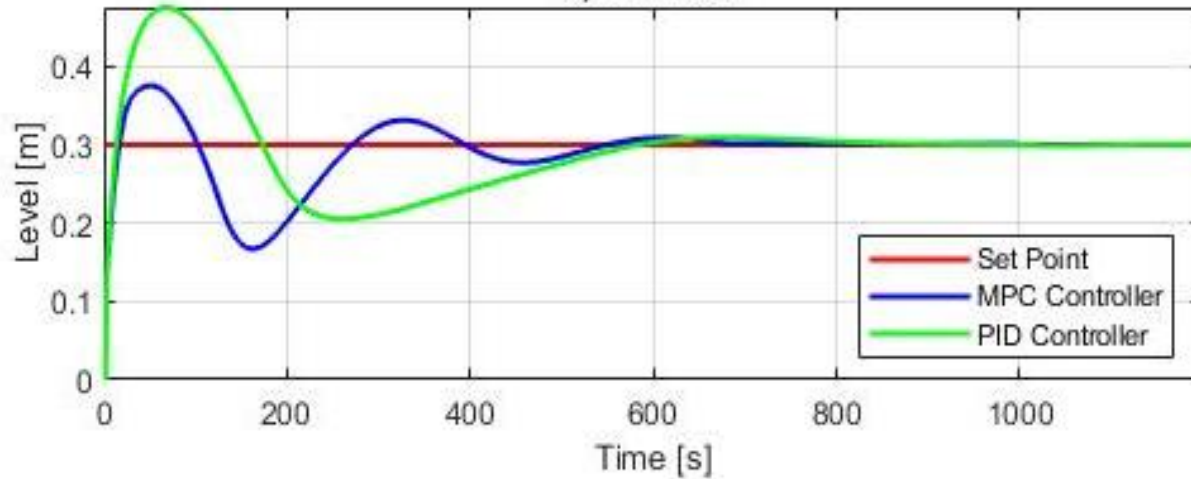
HIL Implementation



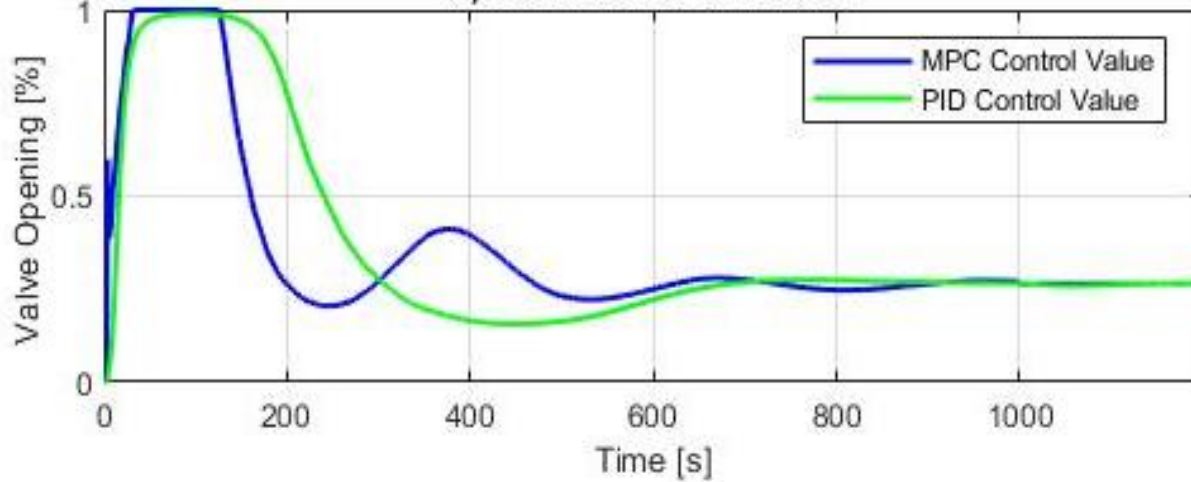


Parameters	PID Controller	MPC Controller
	Water Level	Water Level
Overshoot [%]	20	0
Settling time [s]	750	625
Steady-state error [m]	2.9×10^{-4}	1.17×10^{-5}

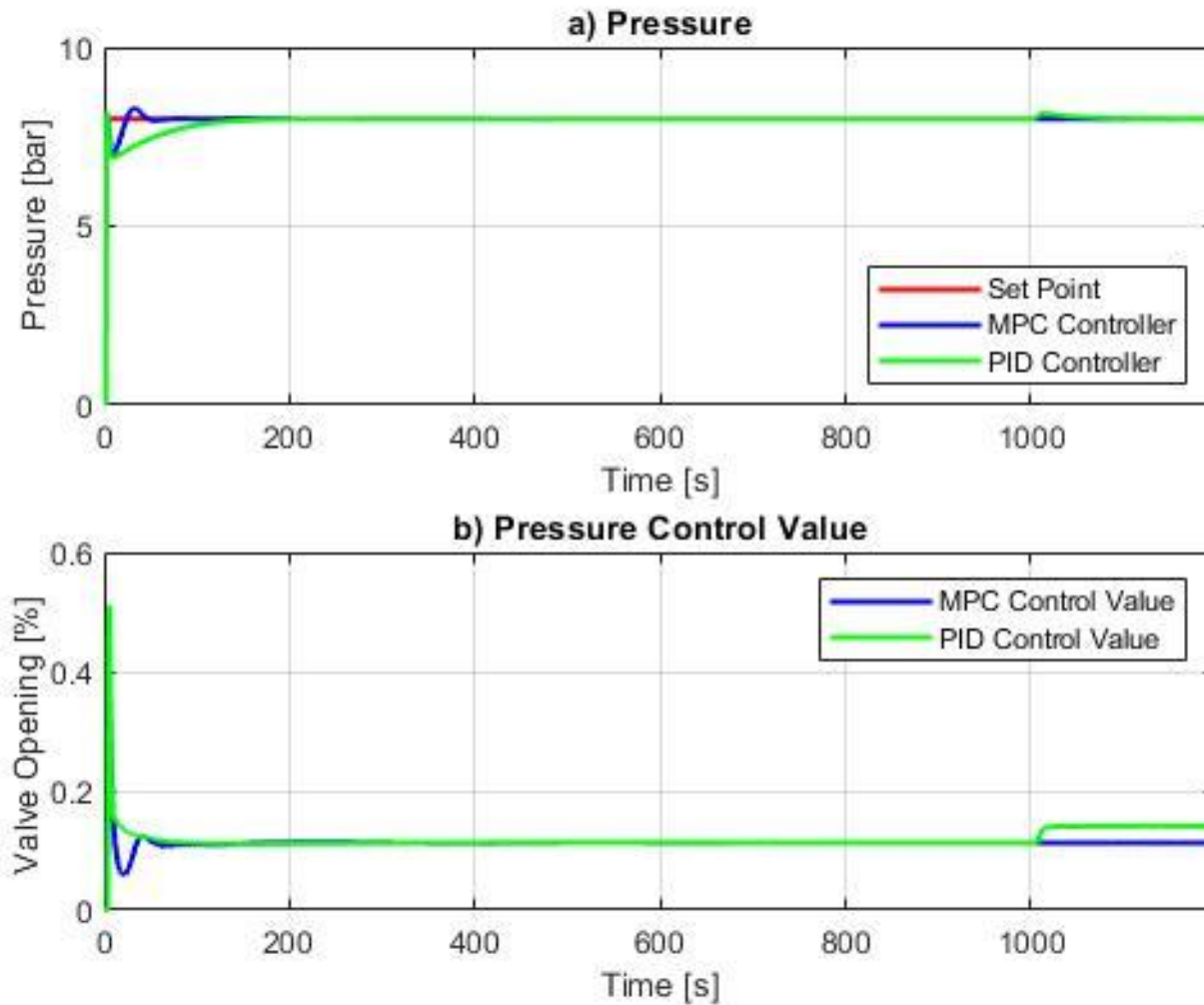
a) Oil Level



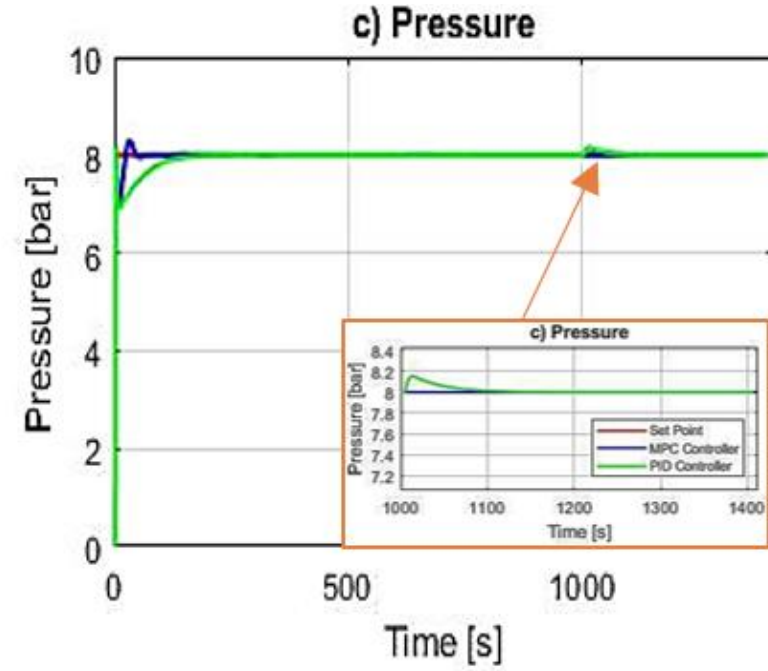
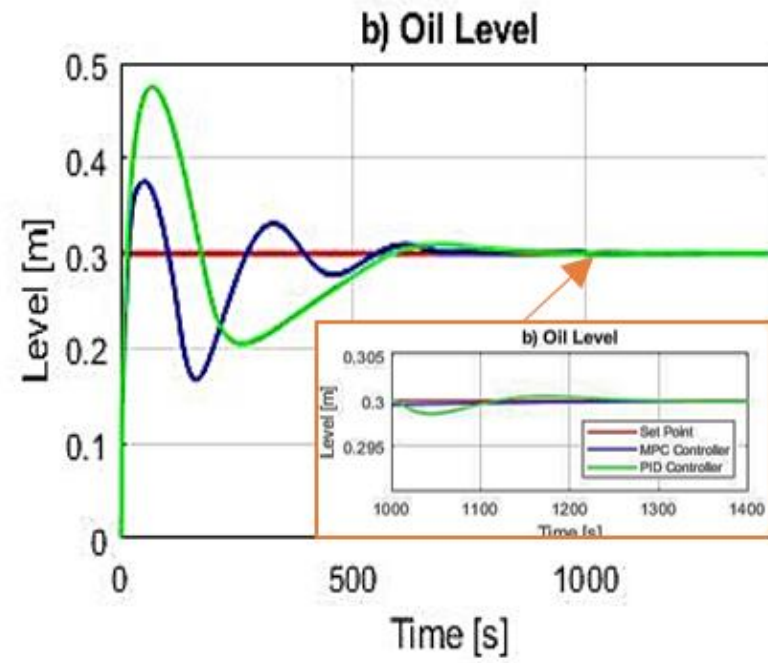
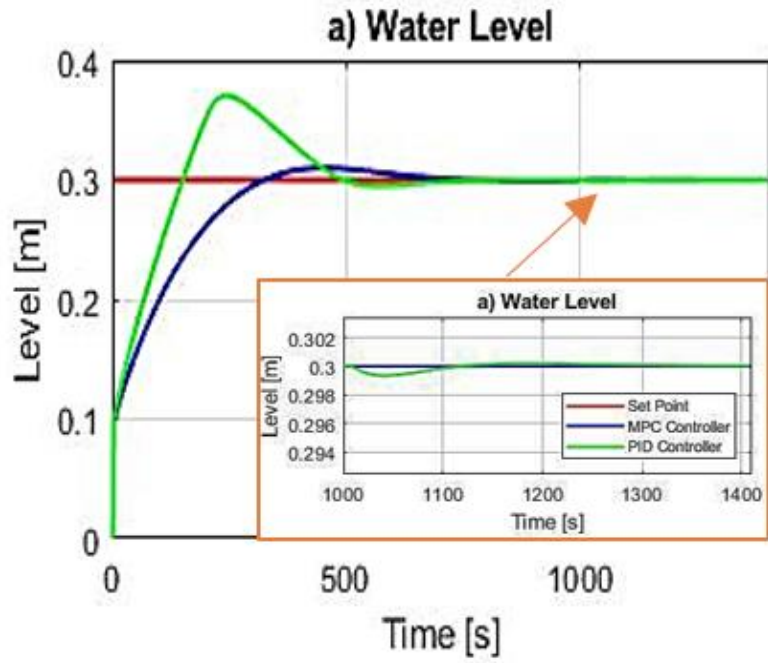
b) Oil Level Control Value



Parameters	PID Controller	MPC Controller
	Oil Level	Oil Level
Overshoot [%]	56.6	16.6
Settling time [s]	890	675
Steady-state error [m]	6.6×10^{-4}	2.7×10^{-4}



Parameters	PID Controller	MPC Controller
	Pressure	Pressure
Overshoot [%]	1.25	3.75
Settling time [s]	188	55
Steady-state error [bar]	3.1×10^{-3}	5.92×10^{-5}



- The proposed HIL system is flexible enough and allows not only to connect the PLC control device but any other device as it would only change the programming of the control algorithms depending on the language that handles the controller device. Moreover, it is flexible to implement any control algorithm, including advanced controllers.
- The MPC controller has a better performance as it has an average overshoot of 6.78% among the three variables compared to PID controller whose average overshoot is 25.95%. It also has a lower settling time than the traditional controller and a minimum steady-state error. Therefore the MPC controller has a better response in nonlinear and multivariable processes.
- Regarding the control value, it is observed that with the MPC controller, the control valves have a better response because their control value is smoother compared to the control values of the PID controller, which are a little more abrupt. Thus, by implementing the MPC controller, longer life of the actuators can be achieved.
- Regarding the disturbance analysis, it is determined that the MPC controller does not show variations and remains at the set point, which is not the case with the PID controller when the disturbance occurs.