

Students to Publish Online Process Control Text

In Fall 2006, Professor Peter Woolf and lecturer Barry Barkel at the University of Michigan have radically revised the senior process control course (ChE 466). In contrast to previous years, the students have constructed an online wiki textbook to provide a modern, accurate, and free resource for the greater chemical engineering community. In revising the course with both industry and student feedback, the faculty have eliminated many of the hand calculation tools such as Laplace transforms from the class, replacing them instead with numerical methods in Mathematica, Matlab, and Excel. As a result, students are now learning advanced control concepts such as multiple-input multiple output control strategies and nonlinear dynamics. In response to industry needs, we have also included sections on statistical process control and P&ID design. If you are interested in tracking the progress of the Michigan Chemical Process Dynamics and Control Open Textbook, go to <http://controls.engin.umich.edu> and see for yourself.