



**Bachelor Degree in Chemical Engineering**

**Course:**  
**Instrumentation and Control of Chemical Processes**

**CONTROL VALVE SIZING**

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**Rev. 3.5 – May 15, 2012**

**THE CONTROL VALVE SIZING PROBLEM**

**Calculations or choices to do:**

- Capacity (based on the concept of  $C_v$  introduced in the 40's)
- DN
- Inherent characteristic
- Valve type (globe, butterfly, modulating ball, etc.)
- Construction material (depending upon temperature, pressure, corrosive and erosive properties of the fluid)
- Body shape, cap and plug
- Type and size of the actuator, servo-positioning device
- Safety items (e.g., action type in case of failure), reliability, maintenance

# CONTROL VALVE SIZING

## Design case

### KNOWN DATA:

- NPS (NOMINAL PIPE SIZE) OF THE PIPING
- FLUID (LIQUID IN OUR CASE)
- INLET TEMPERATURE  $T_1$
- $\Delta P = (P_1 - P_2)$
- FLOW
  - mass flow rate, volume flow rate
  - design at nominal / max / min flow rate
- MANUFACTURER TABLE

### 1. TO BE CHOSEN:

- VALVE TYPE (GLOBE / BALL / BUTTERFLY)
- TYPE OF INHERENT CHARACTERISTIC
- CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL

### 2. TO BE DETERMINED:

- NPS
- $C_{vn}$

### 3. TO BE CHECKED:

- CAVITATION (calculation of  $\Delta P_c$  or  $\Delta P_{MAX}$ )

Taking suitable data from the  
"MANUFACTURER TABLE"

## MANUFACTURER TABLE

### An example for an angle globe valve

FLOW CHARACTERISTIC	VALVE SIZE		MAXIMUM TRAVEL	PORT DIA.	DESIGNS ED AND ET (FLOW DOWN)				DESIGN ES (FLOW UP)					
					Valve Opening, Percent of Total Travel									
					10	30	70	100	100	70	30	10		
Equal Percentage	DIN	Inches	mm	mm	$C_v$				$F_L$					
	DN 25	1, 1-1/4	19	33.3	.783	2.20	7.83	17.2	.88	.783	1.86	9.54	17.4	.95
	DN 40	1-1/2	19	47.6	1.52	3.87	17.4	35.8	.84	1.54	3.57	17.2	33.4	.94
	DN 50	2	29	58.7	1.66	4.66	25.4	59.7	.85	1.74	4.72	25.0	56.2	.92
	DN 65	2-1/2	38	73.0	3.43	10.8	49.2	99.4	.84	4.05	10.6	45.5	82.7	.93
	DN 80	3	38	87.3	4.32	10.9	66.0	136	.82	4.05	10.0	59.0	121	.89
	DN 100	4	51	111.1	5.85	18.3	125	224	.82	6.56	17.3	103	203	.91
	DN 150	6	51	177.8	12.9	43.3	239	394	.85	13.2	41.1	223	357	.86
	DN 200	8	76	203.2	27.0	105	605	818	.86	25.9	97.8	618	808	.85
						$X_v$				$X_v$				



When  $F_L$  is not present in MANUFACTURER TABLE:



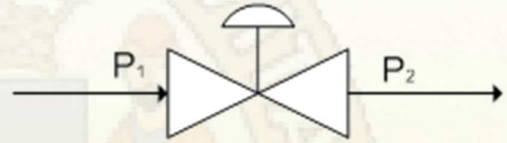
[AnnexD ISA 7501-1985](#)



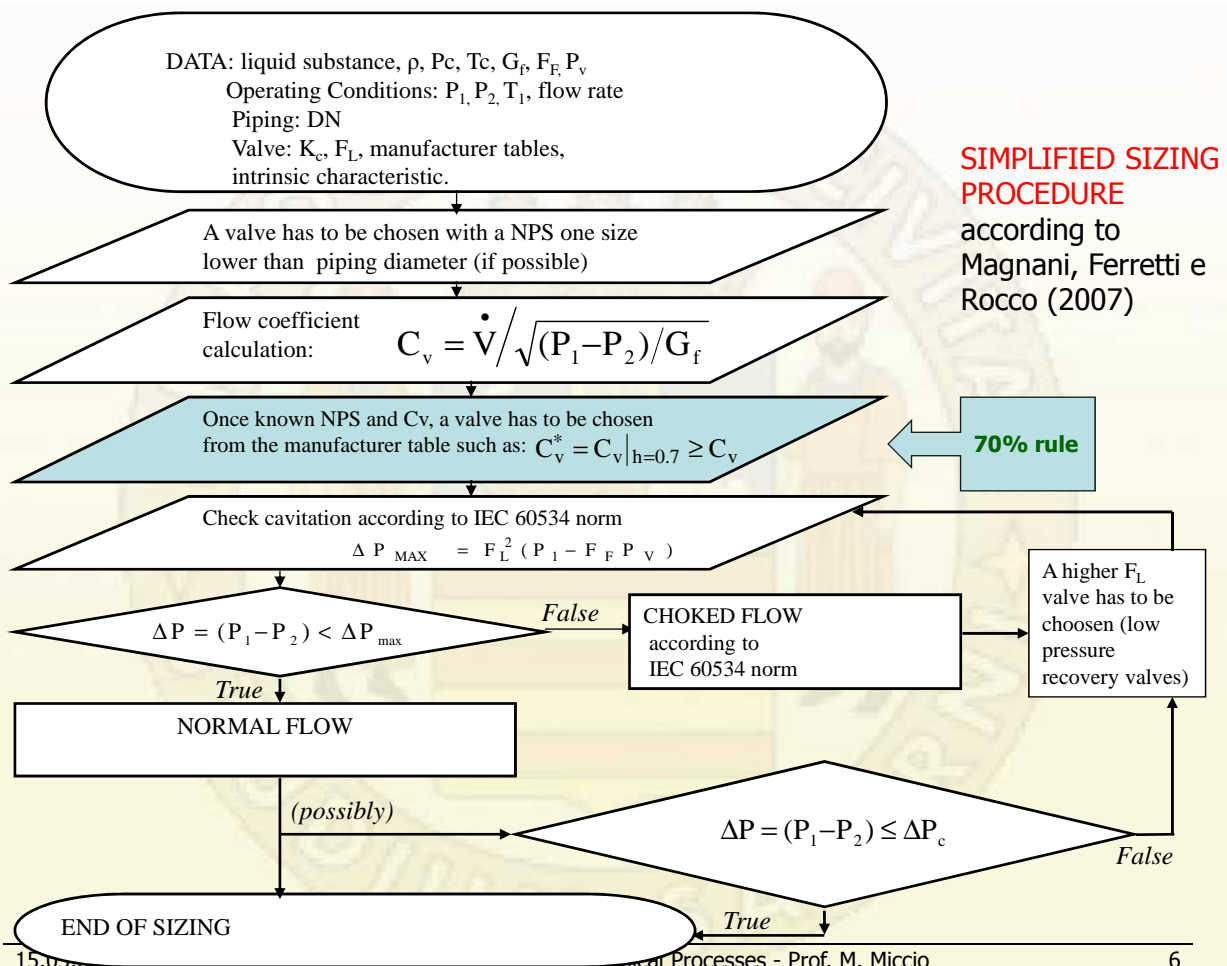
# VALVE SIZING PROBLEM

## 2 different design cases

1. the valve is a stand-alone unit



2. the valve is inserted in an equipment process scheme



# CONTROL VALVE SIZING

## Design case

### Rotary Valves

The simplified procedure presented in the flow chart is valid for globe valves. In fact the rotary valves are not characterized by the travel “h”, but by the opening angle  $\theta$ .

For rotary valves, the simplified sizing procedure is referred to an angle  $\theta^*$ , which corresponds the 70% max opening angle ( $90^\circ$ ):

Strictly  $\longrightarrow \theta^* = (70/100) \cdot 90^\circ = 63^\circ$

In practice  $\longrightarrow \theta^* = 65^\circ$  or  $70^\circ$

### Remarks

- A rotary valve usually has one and only one inherent characteristic.
- Butterfly valves have often an inherent characteristic with an inflection point (such as V-port).
- Modulating ball valves have often an equal percentage inherent characteristic.

# CONTROL VALVE SIZING

## Design case

The MANUFACTURER TABLE: several cases are possible

a) For each NPS, the MANUFACTURER TABLE reports  $C_{vn}$  as well as  $C_v$  values for different values of  $h$  ( $\theta$ )

$\longleftarrow$  Inherent characteristic already known “for points”

b) The MANUFACTURER TABLE only shows the value of  $C_{vn}$  for each NPS, furthermore the manufacturer gives a diagram of  $\phi$  or  $C_v$  as a function of  $h$  ( $\theta$ ).

$\longleftarrow$  For the inherent characteristic use the manufacturer’s diagram

c) The MANUFACTURER TABLE only shows the  $C_{vn}$  value for each NPS

$\longleftarrow$  Use formulas for the inherent characteristic


# INTERACTIVE EXERCISES on the WEB

**Initial exercises** and **reference examples/problems** are interactively available on the WEB.

NOTE:

They work by means of **Mathcad® Calculation Server** without the Mathcad® software installed on your own PC.



 <http://asp.diin.unisa.it>

 [http://asp.diin.unisa.it/MCS/miccio/WEB\\_diagramma\\_PHI\\_EN.xmcd](http://asp.diin.unisa.it/MCS/miccio/WEB_diagramma_PHI_EN.xmcd)

## CONTROL VALVE SIZING PROBLEM

Verify case

### KNOWN DATA:

- VALVE TYPE
- NPS (NOMINAL PIPE SIZE) OF THE VALVE
- NOMINAL FLOW COEFFICIENT  $C_{vn}$
- INHERENT CHARACTERISTIC
- FLUID (LIQUID IN OUR CASE)
- TEMPERATURE  $T_1$
- $\Delta P = (P_1 - P_2)$

### 1. TO BE DETERMINED:

- NOMINAL FLOW RATE ( $h = 1$  OR  $\theta = 90^\circ$ )
- FLOW RATE at a given value of  $h$  OR  $\theta$

### 2. TO BE CHECKED:

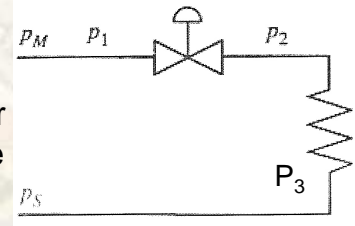
CAVITATION (calcolo di  $\Delta P_c$  or  $\Delta P_{MAX}$ )

# INSTALLED CHARACTERISTIC

## DEFINITIONS:

### INSTALLED CHARACTERISTIC:

It is the relationship between the flow rate and the (linear or rotary) **valve opening** when the valve is inserted in the circuit and influenced by process condition.



PRESSURE DROP across the valve:  $\Delta P_v$

NOMINAL (or RATED) PRESSURE DROP:  $\Delta P_n = \Delta P_v|_{h=1}$

### VALVE AUTHORITY:

It is the ratio between the nominal pressure drop ( $\Delta P_n$ ) across the valve and the total pressure drop of the circuit ( $\Delta P_0$ ).

$$V = \frac{\Delta P_n}{\Delta P_0}$$

The **installed characteristic** will be an implicit function:

$$w(h) = N_1 C_v(h) \sqrt{G_f \cdot \Delta P_v(w(h))} \quad [=] \text{ kg/s}$$

# INSTALLED CHARACTERISTIC

The **circuit** is formed by a **control valve** and an **user** in which all the **pressure drop** is concentrated. A pump supplies the pressure  $P_M - P_S$ , assumed constant.

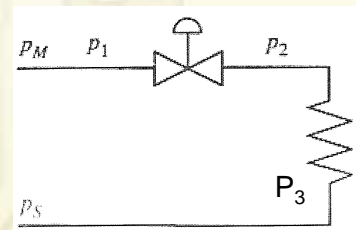
We can evaluate the role of the pressure drop across the valve comparing it with the total pressure drop of the circuit:

- I. it should be high in order to improve the control of the flowrate;
- II. on the other hand. It should be low in order to reduce costs of pump energy.

The aim is to find a good technical compromise solution between these two opposing evidences.

## HYPOTHESES:

- $\Delta P_0 = P_M - P_S = \text{constant}$
- Negligible pressure drop along the pipe:
  - a)  $P_M = P_1$
  - b)  $P_S = P_3$
- User pressure drop as a square function of the velocity and therefore, for incompressible fluid, is a square function of the mass flowrate :  $\Delta P_u = P_2(w(h)) - P_3 = \gamma w^2(h)$
- No accumulation in the circuit



$$\Delta P_v = P_1 - P_2$$

$$\Delta P_0 = \Delta P_u + \Delta P_v$$

# INSTALLED CHARACTERISTIC

With these hypotheses, the installed characteristic equation can be evaluated assuming  $\mathbf{V}$  as parameter.

It is important to evidence the trend of the installed characteristic when changing  $\mathbf{V}$  for a valve having linear or equal percentage inherent characteristic.

travel	nominal travel
$h$	1
$\phi(h)$	1
$C_v(h) = \phi(h) C_{vn}$	$C_{vn}$
$w(h) = N_1 C_{vn} \phi(h) \sqrt{G_f \Delta P(w(h))}$	$w_n = N_1 C_{vn} \sqrt{G_f \Delta P_n}$
$P_2(w(h)) = P_3 + \gamma w^2(h)$	$P_2 = P_3 + \gamma w_n^2$
$\Delta P_v(w(h)) = P_1 - P_2(w(h)) = P_M - P_S - \gamma w^2(h) = \Delta P_0 - \gamma w^2(h)$	$\Delta P_n = \Delta P_0 - \gamma w_n^2$

# INSTALLED CHARACTERISTIC

For:  $\Delta P_v = \Delta P_0 - \Delta P_u$  where  $\Delta P_u = P_2 - P_3$  and  $\Delta P_0 = P_1 - P_3$

$$\Delta P_n = \Delta P_0 - \gamma w_n^2$$

$$\gamma = \frac{\Delta P_0 - \Delta P_n}{w_n^2}$$

$$\Delta P_v[w(h)] = P_1 - P_2[w(h)] = P_1 - P_3 - \gamma[w(h)]^2 = \Delta P_0 - \gamma[w(h)]^2$$

Replacing in previous equation, we have:

$$w(h) = N_1 C_{vn} \phi(h) \sqrt{G_f \left[ \Delta P_0 - \left( \frac{\Delta P_0 - \Delta P_n}{w_n^2} \right) w^2(h) \right]}$$

$$w^2(h) = N_1^2 C_{vn}^2 [\phi(h)]^2 G_f \left[ \Delta P_0 - \left( \frac{\Delta P_0 - \Delta P_n}{w_n^2} \right) w^2(h) \right]$$

$$w^2(h) = \frac{N_1^2 C_{vn}^2 [\phi(h)]^2 G_f \Delta P_0}{1 + N_1^2 C_{vn}^2 [\phi(h)]^2 G_f \left( \frac{\Delta P_0 - \Delta P_n}{w_n^2} \right)}$$

see ch.5 in Magnani, Ferretti e Rocco (2007)



# INSTALLED CHARACTERISTIC

Multiplying and dividing numerator and denominator for  $\frac{\Delta P_n}{\Delta P_0}$  we obtain:

$$w(h) = \sqrt{\frac{N_1^2 C_{vn}^2 [\phi(h)]^2 G_f \Delta P_0 \cdot \frac{\Delta P_n}{\Delta P_0}}{w_n^2 + N_1^2 C_{vn}^2 [\phi(h)]^2 G_f \Delta P_0 - N_1^2 C_{vn}^2 [\phi(h)]^2 G_f \Delta P_n \cdot \frac{\Delta P_n}{\Delta P_0}}}$$

$$w_n = N_1 C_{vn} \sqrt{G_f \Delta P_n} \quad \rightarrow \quad w_n^2 = N_1^2 C_{vn}^2 G_f \Delta P_n \quad \text{replacing:}$$

$$w(h) = w_n \cdot \sqrt{\frac{w_n^2 [\phi(h)]^2 \cdot \frac{\Delta P_0}{\Delta P_n}}{w_n^2 + w_n^2 [\phi(h)]^2 \cdot \frac{\Delta P_0}{\Delta P_n} - w_n^2 [\phi(h)]^2}}$$

# INSTALLED CHARACTERISTIC

After using the **AUTHORITY** definition :  $V = \frac{\Delta P_n}{\Delta P_0}$

$$\frac{w(h)}{w_n} = \sqrt{\frac{[\phi(h)]^2 \cdot \frac{1}{V}}{1 + [\phi(h)]^2 \cdot \frac{1}{V} - [\phi(h)]^2}}$$

Dividing for  $[\phi(h)]^2$  and multiplying for  $V$  in the square root, we have a non-dimensional final eq.:

$$\frac{w(h)}{w_n} = \frac{\dot{V}(h)}{\dot{V}_n} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{1 - V + \frac{V}{[\phi(h)]^2}}}$$

The **installed characteristic equation** simplifies for the particular cases:

☞  $V = 1$   
☞  $\phi(h) = 1$

see ch.5 in Magnani, Ferretti e Rocco (2007)

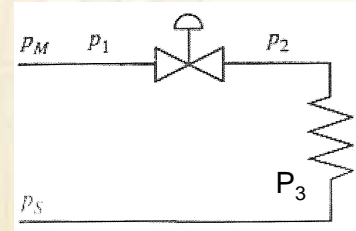




# VALVE SIZING PROBLEM

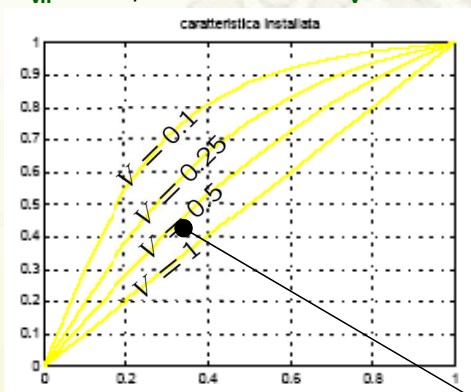
## 2 different design cases

1. the valve is a stand-alone unit
2. the valve is inserted in an equipment process scheme

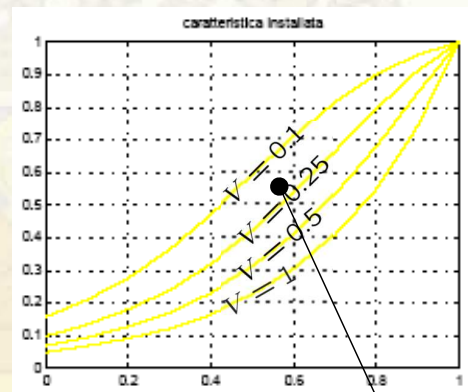


# NOVEL SELECTION CRITERION OF THE CONTROL VALVE

- The selection of the **inherent characteristic** is based on the process requirements of the **installed characteristic**
- $C_{vn}$  is always chosen after the  $C_v^*$  calculation based on the **70% rule**



Linear inherent characteristic



Equal percentage inherent characteristic



### Selection criterion of inherent characteristic

If  $V$  is known *a priori*, the selection is based on the value of  $V$ :

- if  $V > 0.4$ , the **linear** inherent characteristic is chosen
- if  $V \leq 0.25$ , the **equal percentage** inherent characteristic is chosen
- if  $0.25 < V \leq 0.4$ , the **parabolic** or **equal percentage** or "modified" linear inherent characteristic is chosen

If  $V$  is unknown, a **parabolic** or "modified" inherent characteristic is chosen

installed characteristic  
"closer" to linearity

## FLOW FACTOR $K_v$

It is not commonly used.

It defines the volume flow rate of water in  $\text{m}^3/\text{h}$  at  $15^\circ\text{C}$  ( $5\text{-}40^\circ\text{C}$ ) which flows across the valve for a known closure member travel producing a pressure drop equal to 1 bar.

$$K_v = \dot{V} \sqrt{\frac{\Delta P(K_v)}{\Delta P}} \sqrt{\frac{\rho}{\rho_0}} \quad [=] \text{m}^3(\text{H}_2\text{O})/(\text{h}(\text{bar})^{1/2})$$

where:

- $\dot{V}$  = volume flow rate
- $\Delta P(K_v)$  = reference pressure drop (usually 1 bar)
- $\Delta P$  = actual pressure drop
- $\rho_0$  = density of water
- $\rho$  = actual density of the fluid

$$C_v = 1.16 K_v$$

$$K_v = 0.865 C_v$$

## CONTROL VALVE SIZING: other cases/problems

- LIQUID IN LAMINAR REGIME
- COMPRESSIBLE FLUIDS (GAS AND VAPORS)
- TWO-PHASE MIXTURES (LIQUID-GAS MIXTURES)
- PIPE SIZE REDUCTION
- NOISE EVALUATION