



# **Process Control and Instrumentation – Basic Introduction**

**Sub : Process Control And  
Instrumentation**

hello friends welcome to engineering tutorial

so today we are going to start a new topic a new subject

which is related to electrical electronics

and instrumentation engineering basically the instrumentation

engineering so the subject is process control

and instrumentation so this is the basic introductory video where we

will discuss the basic concepts and then we will

move on with the in-depth analysis of each of those

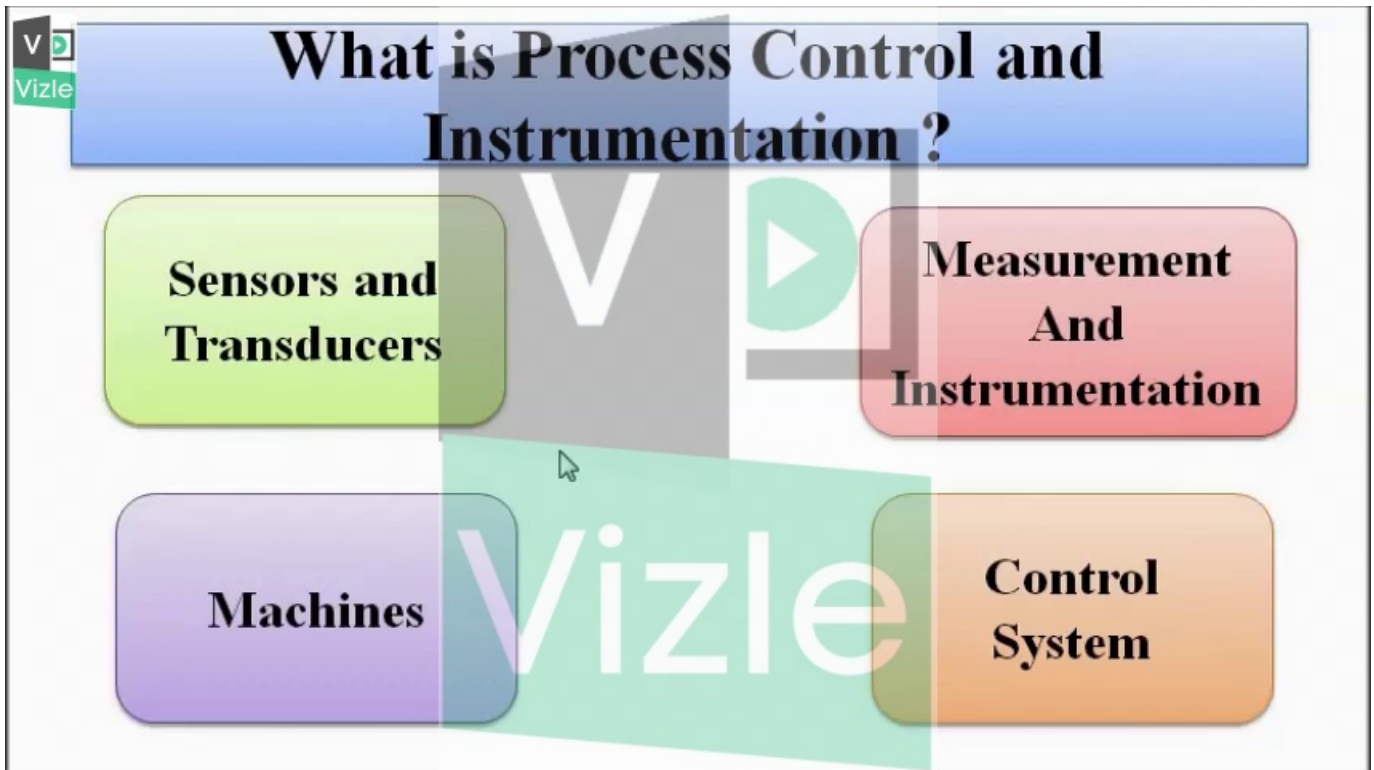
concepts which we are going to cover so the first important

thing is to understand what this subject is all about what are we going to study

in a short way

so process control and instrumentation it is the you can say the

combination of four different fields of



electrical and instrumentation engineering also electronics

electrical electronics and instrumentation engineering

so those four fields are first sensors and transducers

measurement and instrumentation the electrical and electronics measurement

and instrumentation that electrical machines in general machines

not only electrical other mechanisms are also used such as

hydraulic pneumatic so all of those come into play

not just electrical in general machines so

a little bit of mechanical engineering will also come into play

basic some concepts will come into play and then control system

so these four fields combined together form this okay

so it is the grouping amalgamation of these four

fields and these four form the important blocks building blocks of

process control and instrumentation so how these different fields come into

play we will discuss okay so

process control and instrumentation so the name itself it represents

what is involved here process control instrumentation so first let us discuss

what is a



# What is a Process ?

- A systematic series of actions or operations producing an end result or product.
- Ex- *Energy generation from fuels, water, wind etc.*  
*Power Transmission and distribution*  
*Product Manufacturing, Packaging and Distribution*  
*Food Processing*

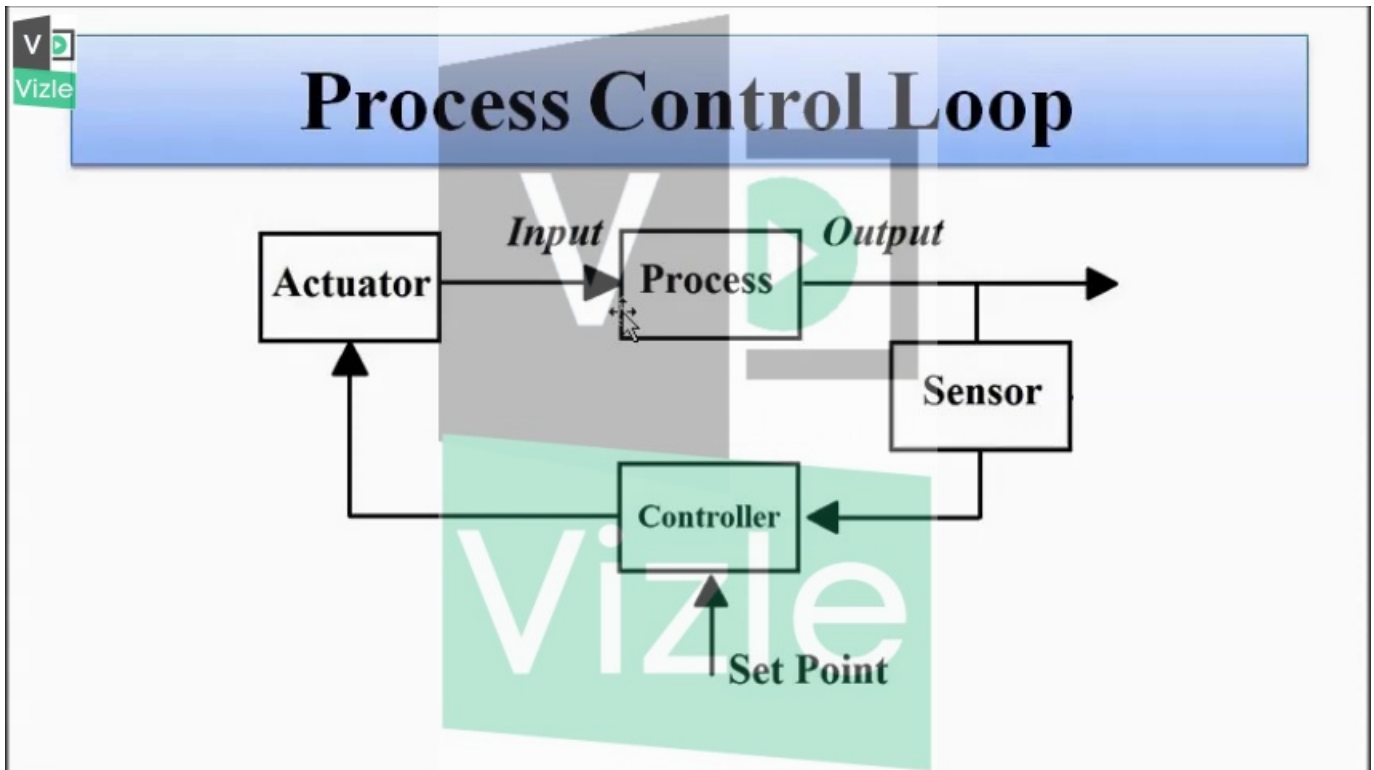
process so basically it is a systematic series of actions or operations which gives us an end product an end result okay so a nber of operations performed either simultaneously or one after the another in any way which takes some input or many inputs and give us one or more products result so that constitutes a process various basic examples of process we can take first energy generation from fuels the power plants be it thermal power plants or hydro electric power plants or in the nuclear power plants the energy generation that is an example of a process and it has a lot of you know sub processes involved in it which gives us this final result which is energy input is fuels output is energy then power transmission and distribution the energy which is produced the transmission of that

the distribution of that power that is also an example of a process the electricity that we get in our houses so that is the end result and the energy which is generated the transmitting of that so the energy is the input the power generated is the input and the electricity that we get in our homes that is the end result then various manufacturing of products be it our mobile phones smartphones or be it anything manufacturing of any product any electrical or electronic gadget or simple any gadget starting from a match stick toothpicks or chairs whatever so manufacturing of that from the raw materials to get the end product that is a process the packaging and distribution also come into play there so that also constitutes the individual processes then food processing the food processing industry you know a lot of processed foods we get starting from chips or any burgers pizzas whatever the mechanized ones okay which are not done by the human beings directly but with the help of machines so a lot of mechanized food processing industries are there which produce various processed foods so the raw materials form the input and the final output which is the packaged food or drink whatever the beverage juices or anything that is the end result so these are some of the basic examples of process now the main objective of process control what why do we need this so the main objective of process control

and instrumentation is to ensure that we get the output as we desire the way we want it to be okay to ensure that that we get the output the way we want to be that is the purpose that is the job of the process control and instrumentation system suppose we are giving some input let us say 2 just for a simple example we are giving input 2 and we want an output 20. so so to design such a system so that we get an output close to 20 that is the job of the process control u you we will never get an output equal almost equal to 20 we will get somewhere closer to that it can be 18 it can be 19 it can be 19.5 it can be 19.8 it can be 21 it can be 22 so we may not get the exact output but in real processes in real life process control systems we never get the exact output there will always be some error so it is the job of the process control and instrumentation system to minimize that error okay to keep it as low as possible the output which we are getting should not deviate from the desired output by a long margin to minimize the error to keep the actual output as much as close to the desired output that is the job of the process control system so you get the whole picture why do we need a process control system to get an output close as much as possible to the output which we want the actual output should be close to the desired output okay so then is the process control loop so here all these blocks the building

blocks of process control and instrumentation get

involved okay let us see how so this is the block the process block



here we give an input and we get the output

in the old days where there were no sensors

controllers or actuators whatever it was simple as that this block was

only involved input we get we give the input we get

the output the output may not be close to the output which we

want but that's the way it was because there were no sensors controllers

actuators whatever okay now with the

coming of new technologies new sensors microcontrollers

different types of actuating mechanisms the concept of process control loop came

into play now in order to maintain the quality of

the product different industries they employ process

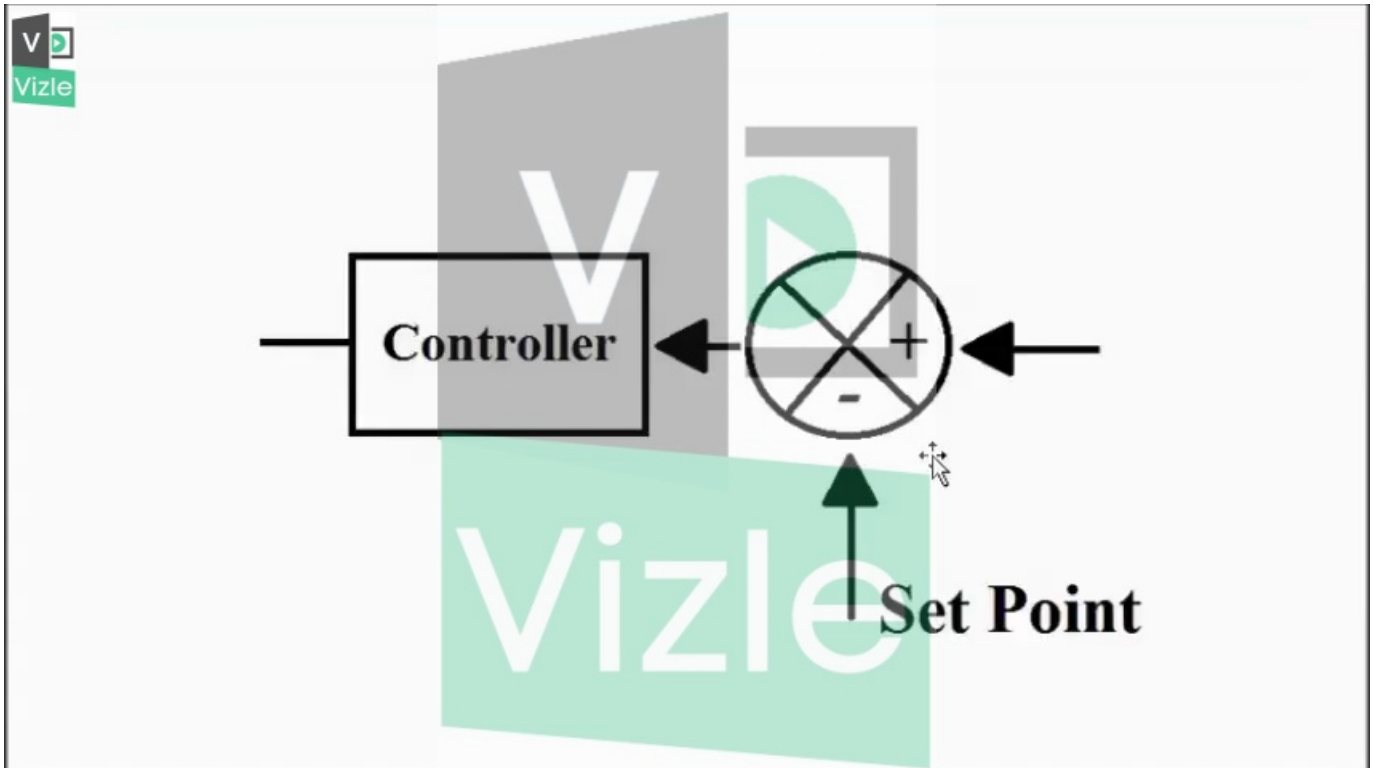
control systems to ensure that their product always has

the same quality every time

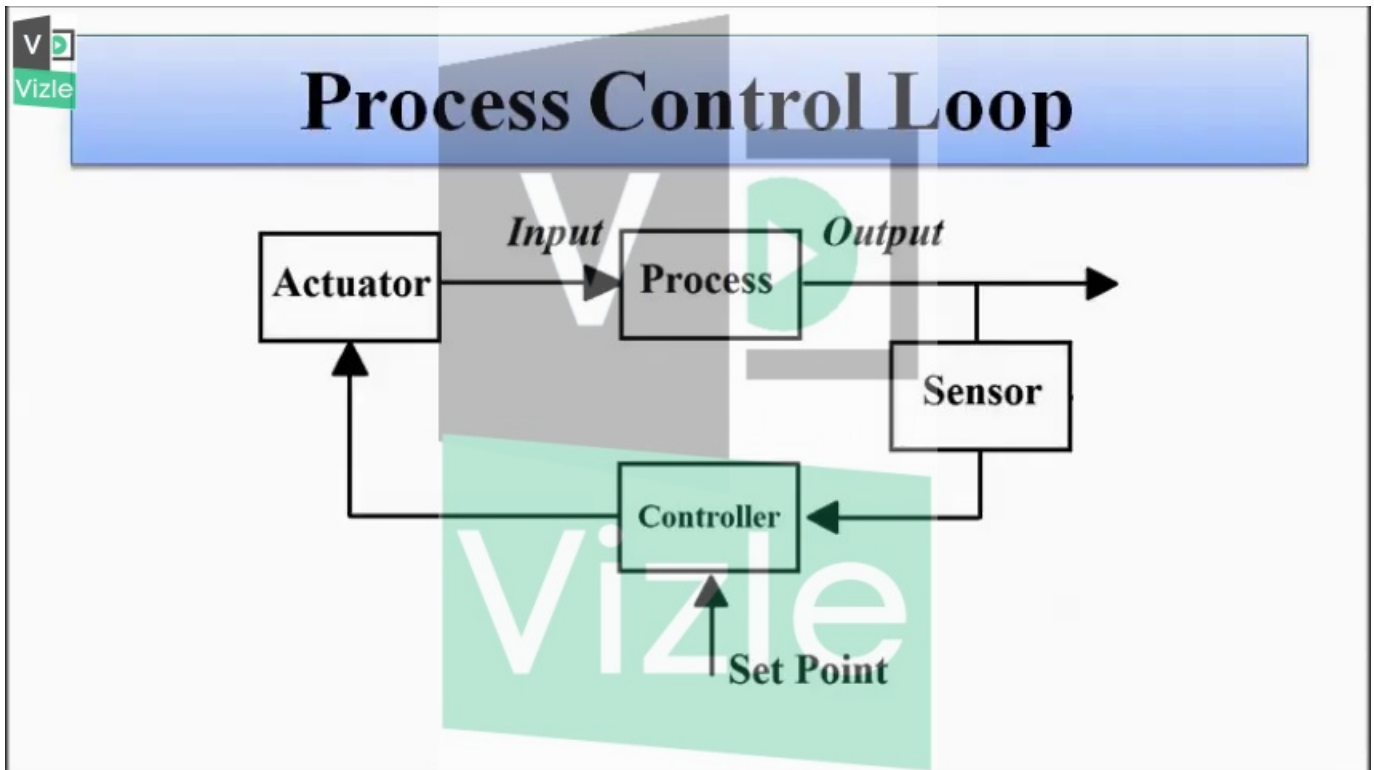
so suppose we are giving the input to the process this block it can be



anything it can be a simple chemical reaction  
a chemical plant or any manufacturing plant or energy generation plant  
whatever and we are getting an output okay  
so we gave the input to the process block and we are getting the output  
now this output which this block produces the process output it is  
measured by a sensor okay  
so that sensor it senses the output it measures the output and gives it to a  
controller block basically a microcontroller is used in  
to nowadays this controller is given with a parameter called as set  
point now set point is the output which we  
want okay set point is the output which we want  
this output is the actual one so the controller compares the set point  
or the output which we want with the actual output and calculates  
the deviation okay the actual controller block looks



something like this this is the actual output this is the set point so the this block it is also called as error block and control systems it determines the difference which is called as the error signal that error signal is fed to the controller



and depending on the nature of error the magnitude of the error the controller gives a signal to the actuator to adjust the input value okay to adjust the input value so that the actual output comes close to the output which we want that is the set point value this is a simple explanation of a process control loop now each of these blocks is a vast field in itself actuators process sensor controller these are you know they're the they are a basic you know this subject in itself themselves microprocessor microcontroller sensors and transducers then actuators which electrical machines or basic machines come into play so this is a you know explanation of the process control loop in short now we all know that we have discussed about sensors transducers and also about electrical machines there are different playlists

you can watch them but here we will just discuss them in short okay

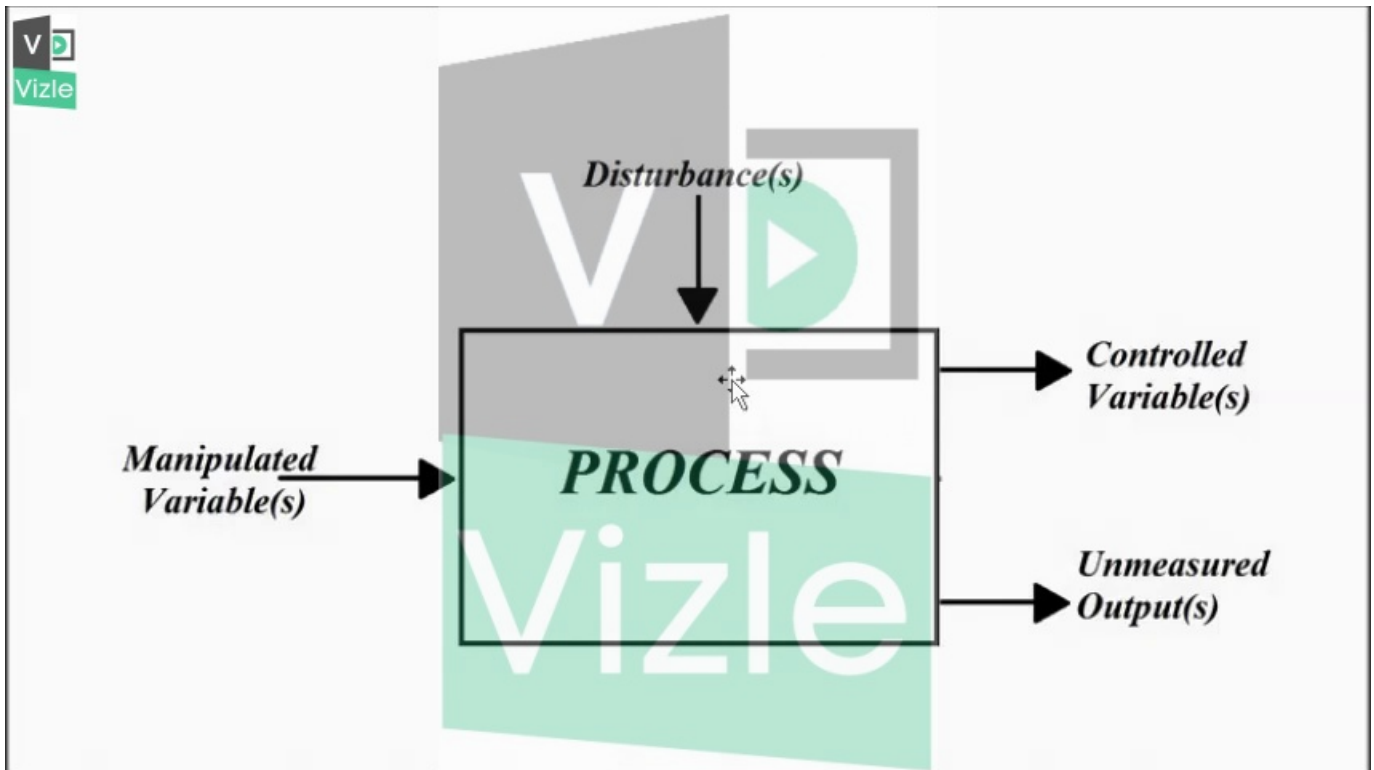
what do they do here from the point of view of process control

instrumentation so before that we must understand what a process

basically looks like in a process this whole block be it

anything starting from you know processed food

manufacturing or manufacturing of any electronic gadget



or anything the input which is used to

get the output which we want which is a varied or which is adjusted

that is called as the manipulated variable

okay it is the input which is used to get the output which we want or which

directly influences or controls the output that is called as the manipulated

variable then the unnecessary inputs which

in you know indirectly become a part of the process

okay cause any fluctuations in the output these are the unnecessary inputs

those are called as disturbances we will discuss them with the help of

examples now i am not going into examples otherwise

it will create some confusion now just understand what i am saying in terms of

basic definition controlled variable is the output which

we want okay the parameter which we want to

control that is the control variable and also

sometimes in a process we get various other by-products of the process which we don't want or we may use it for some other purpose but it is not directly related to the process it is a by-product of the process that is the unmeasured output okay so these are the various things involved in the process now let us discuss each of these individual blocks in short first sensor and transducer i've already discussed it many times in biomedical and sensors

# Sensor and Transducer

- It is an element which senses or detects or responds to the input quantity or parameter and produces an equivalent *output signal in same form (sensor) or different form (transducer)*.
- Ex – *RTD, Thermistor, Thermocouple* (for temperature measurement), *Bourdon Tube, Bellows* (for force and pressure measurement) etc.

transducers so it is an element which senses or detects or any change in the input parameter or quantity for which we have installed it to measure it and produces an output signal in the same form or in a different form when it gives us an output in the same form it is called as a sensor and when generally it gives us an output in electrical form or a different form that is called as a transducer so you can watch the sensors and transducers playlist there i have discussed these things in detail so i will not go into much detail here so basic examples are rtd thermistor thermocouple which are used for measurement of temperature bottom tube bellows which are used for force and pressure measurement then the controller



Vizle

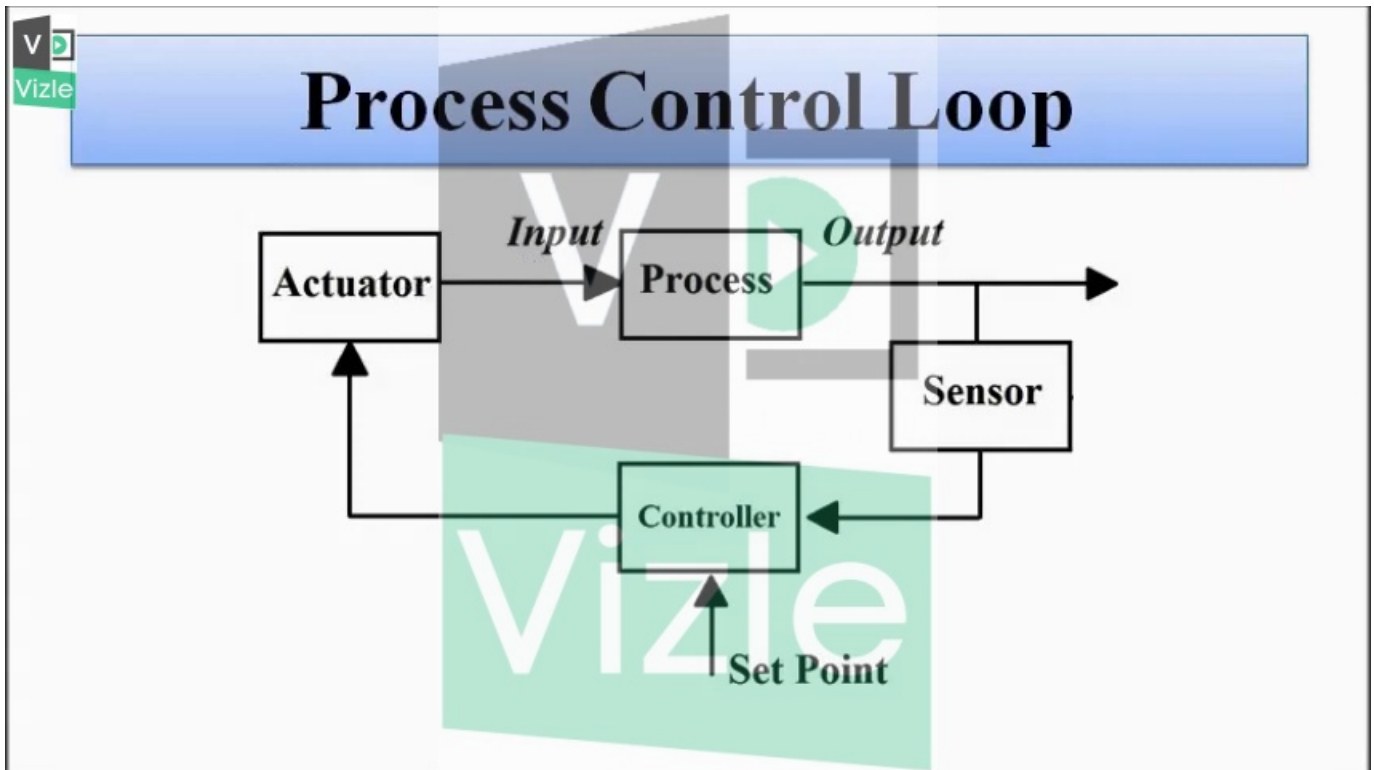
# Controller

- Controllers are devices that take the sensor output and make the necessary adjustments to the manipulated variable with the help of actuator to keep the output under control.
- Ex- *Microcontrollers, PLC* etc.



so the controllers they are basically you know devices that take the output of the sensor compare that output with the set point value here they compare it with the set point value and make the necessary changes to the manipulated variable with the help of the actuator





so basically the controllers that are used


now it is a microcontroller various types of microcontroller configurations

are available depending on the requirement

suitable microcontrollers are used plc scada they are also used they are very


so they are very advanced things i am not

going into detail there will discuss it



# Controller

- Controllers are devices that take the sensor output and make the necessary adjustments to the manipulated variable with the help of actuator to keep the output under control.
- Ex- *Microcontrollers, PLC* etc.



so the controller basically influences the manipulated variable with the help of the actuator depending on the sensor output then we have is the actuator so the manipulated variable has to be changed with the help of some



# Actuator

- Actuators act as control elements which respond to the controller output to make the necessary adjustments to the input or manipulated variable.
- Ex – *Valves, Solenoids, Relays, Motors, Ram and Piston* etc



mechanism okay so

that element which changes the manipulated variable the input

variable on the command of the microcontroller

is called as the actuator okay it can be mechanical mechanism hydraulic mechanism

pneatic mechanism or electrical mechanism

it can also be electromechanical so there are various combinations there

basic examples of actuators are the machines the basic machines it can be

hydraulic pneatic or electrical valves are used solenoids are used

relays are used motors are used ram and piston

arrangements are used they are basically used for pneatic and hydraulic the ram

and piston arrangement so that is the job of the actuator so

the other parameters associated with here is the input variable



# Input Variable

- These are the various inputs to the process. They convey the effect of surroundings on the process.
- They are of two types: *Manipulated variables* and *Disturbance variables*
- We have *control or regulation over manipulated variables* but *not over disturbance variables*.

so there are various inputs to the process

now two types of inputs are there as i said here

first is the manipulated variable which directly controls the output variable or

the control variable then the unnecessary inputs called as

disturbances so the various



# Output Variable

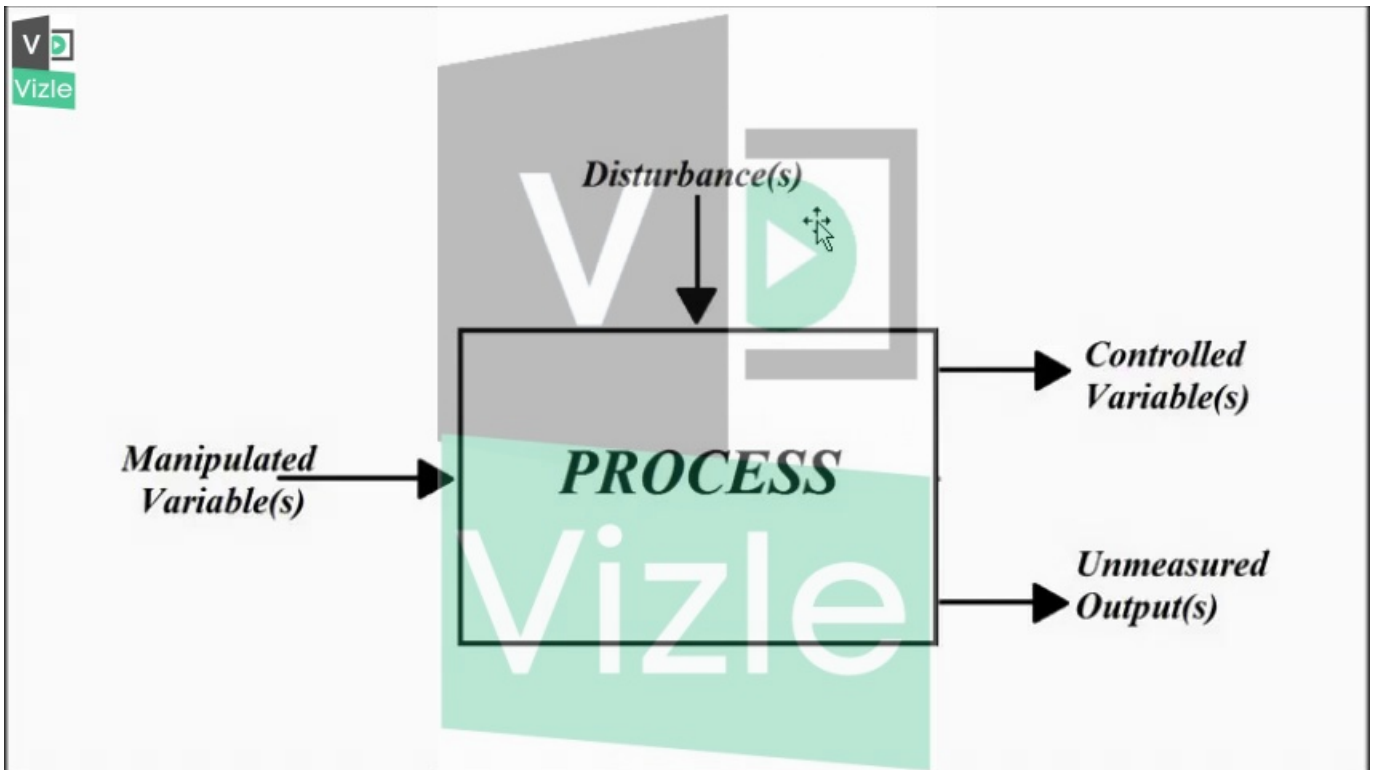
- These are the various output products or results of the process.
- They are of two types: *Measured variables* and *Unmeasured variables*
- The *measured variables are monitored with the help of measuring elements* while *unmeasured variables are not*.

input variables they are controlled or regulated you know

the manipu they're manipulated to give us the necessary

output variable that is why it is called as manipulated variable

disturbance variables are not within our control



okay they unnecessarily affect the process

then we have is the output variable so the output variable which we want to

control or which we desire to control that is

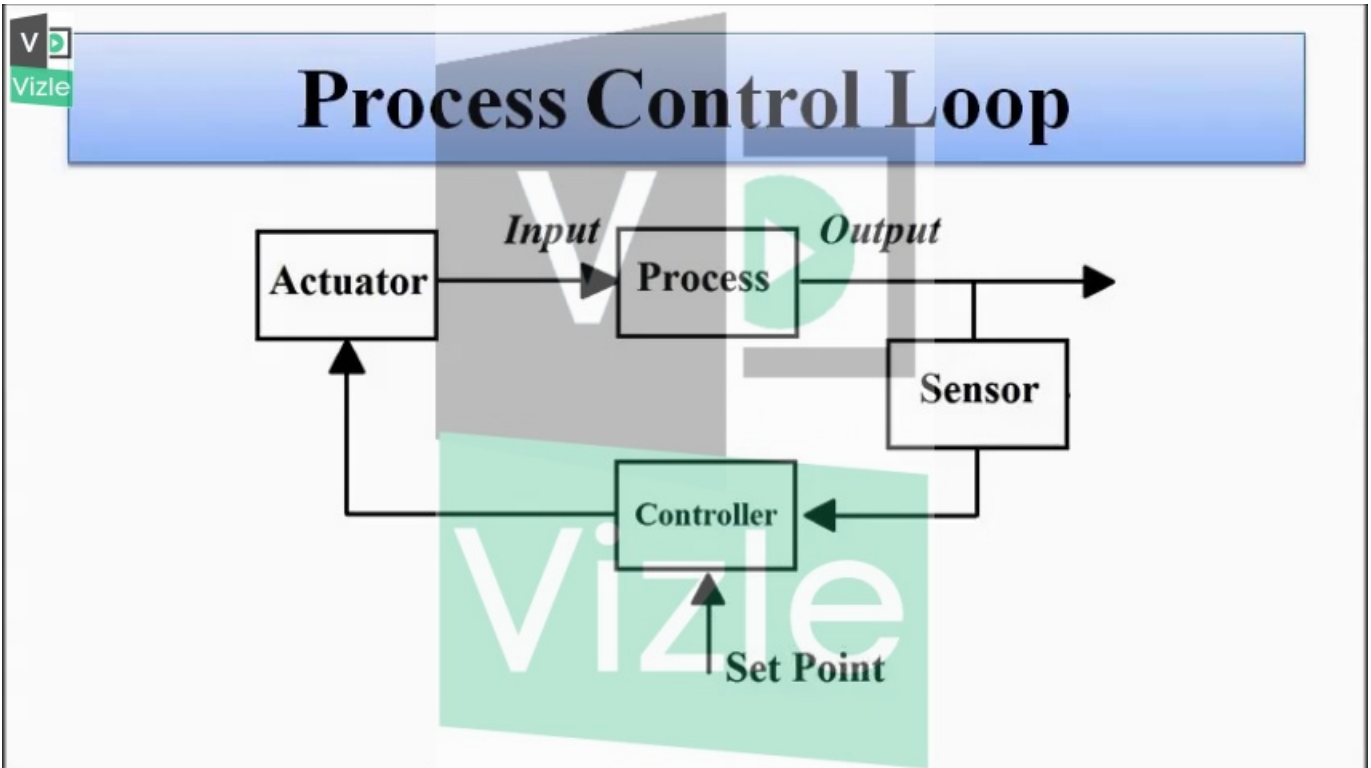
the control variable and the byproducts which

which are a result of the process that is the unmeasured output okay

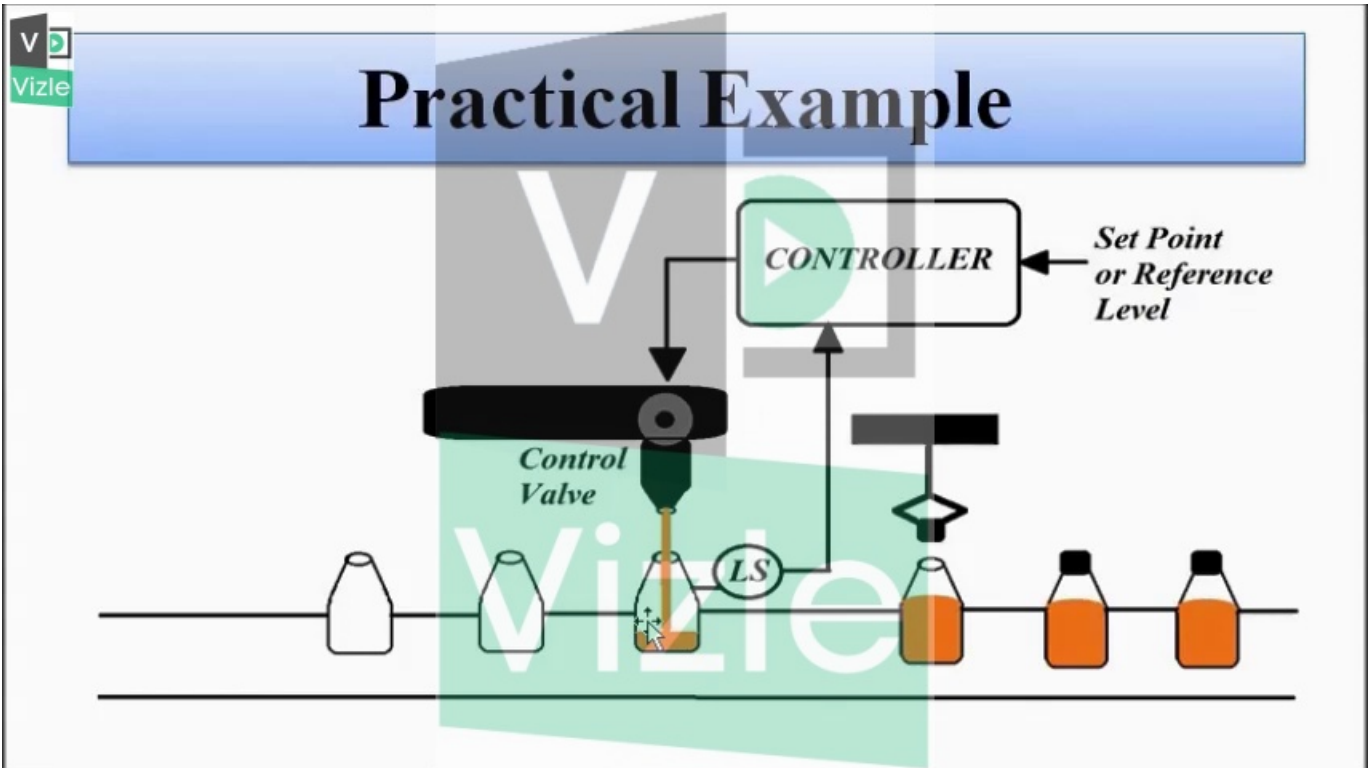
and then we have is this set point so the set point is the desired value of

the output which we want okay as i said it is the output which we

want that is defined by the set point so it acts as a reference



okay for the controller to keep the output within a specified range now let us understand this with the help of a simple example so we'll take the example of you know the packaging of any beverage or juice in the food processing industry



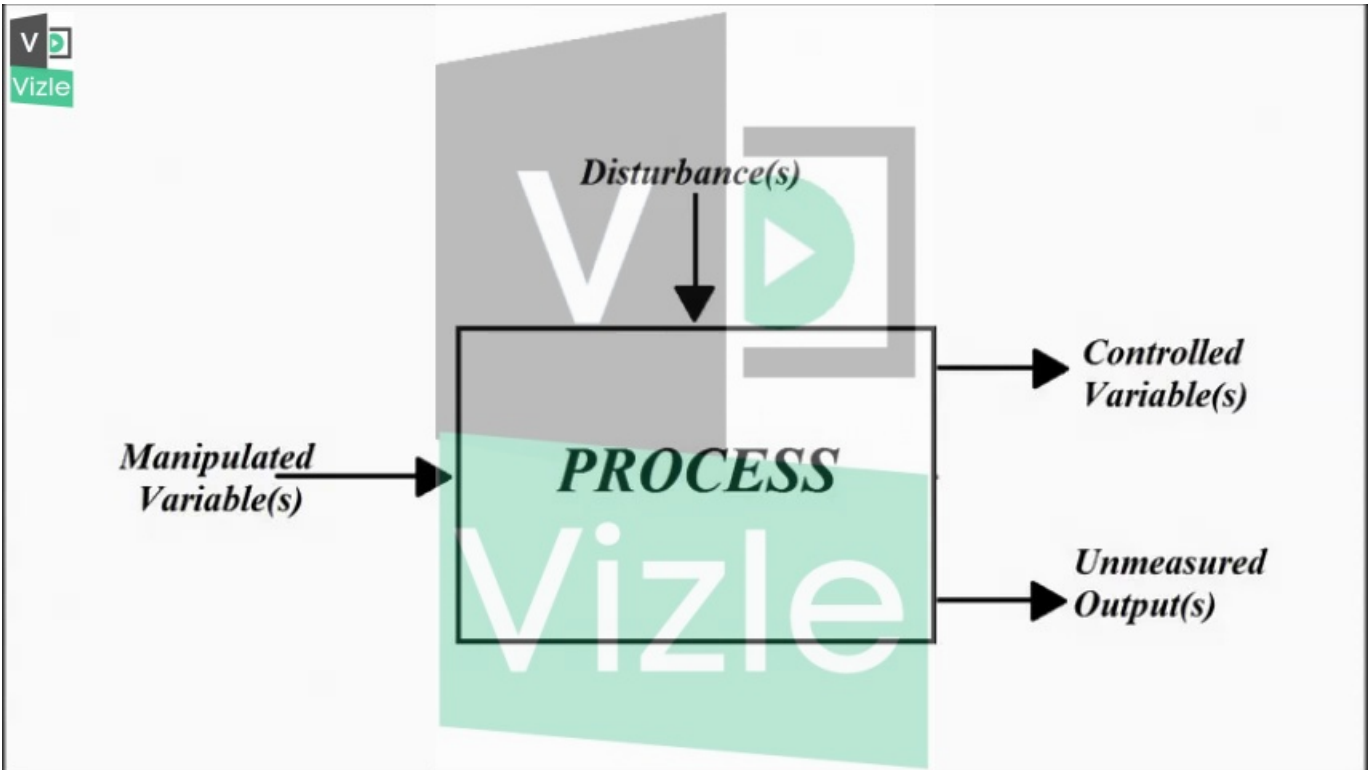
that we have suppose we have a mechanism where ah you know the bottles they are filled with let's say orange juice now you may have noticed that in all the packaged drinks the the liquid or the drink the beverage it it is always filled to the same level okay all the bottles in a particular stack or crate they always are filled to the same level identical they are identical in their you know the level to which they are filled so how does that happen if it is done by any han being there will always be some minor difference some will be filled completely to the tops and in some cases there will be some gap left if it is done by a han being there will always be a margin of error the margin of error will always be huge



but when it is done by a machine then  
the drinks they are always filled to the same level  
okay so here the the error it is less so how does that happen let us just take  
a simple example so what happens is that the  
bottles they are filled with a particular juice or drink let us say  
orange juice so there is a level sensor which  
detects the level of juice in a particular container or  
particular bottle then it sends that signal to the  
controller a microcontroller let's say in this case  
the microcontroller is fed with a set point or reference signal  
which gives us which which gives it the information  
of the level up to which each of these bottles  
should be filled so depending on that the controller adjusts the  
valve which through which the juice flows through the bottle so it regulates  
the position of the valve which adjusts the flow rate of the juice  
flowing into the bottle so when the juice reaches the level  
which is defined by the set point the valve stops  
the flow of juice stops and it moves on okay so the level sensor continuously  
measures the level of the juice in the bottle  
as it reaches the level defined by the set point  
the controller issues a signal the control valve closes and the flow rate  
of the flow of juice into the bottle stops so  
all these bottles are filled up to the same level  
with orange juice so that is a basic example  
so here the output variable which we want to

control is the liquid level or the level of orange juice in the bottles  
that is the controlled variable the output variable  
which we want to control that is the output control variable okay  
the liquid level in the bottle is the output control variable the  
orange juice how we are controlling it how are we  
controlling the level of orange juice in the bottle  
with the help of this control valve regulating the flow rate of the juice  
so the variable through which we are controlling the output  
that is the level of juice in the bottle that is the manipulated variable so the  
manipulated variable in this case is the flow rate of the juice which is  
controlled using the control valve that is the flow rate the input  
manipulated variable so here the control valve is the  
actuator the controller can be a microcontroller  
set point or reference is the level up to which we want to  
fill the bottle it can be anything it can be in terms of  
centimeters or it can also be in terms of volume  
so there are different parameters that we want to  
that we can decide depending on the manufacturer or the industry  
industry standards so a level sensor in this case can be a potentiometric  
level sensor it can also be a capacitive level sensor  
so there are many choices so what type of sensor is being used that is the  
choice of the industry so the level sensor detects the level of juice in the  
bottle continuously measures it measures it  
sends the signal to the controller as the juice reaches the level defined  
by the set point the controller issues a signal to the

control valve the control valve closes flow of juice to the bottle stops so  
that is the basic example of a simple example of a simple  
process control loop used in industry ok  
so this is all about the basic concepts related to  
process control and instrumentation okay so in the upcoming videos we'll discuss  
some more concepts related to it so i hope you like this  
video and please subscribe my channel engineering tutorial  
for more such videos related to electrical electronics instrumentation



and communication engineering have a great day thank you very much



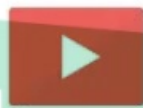
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