

Engin 103
March 13, 2008

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Introduction to LabVIEW

-LabVIEW: background for HW1 questions 4 and 5. **How to locate different functions within the Front Panel** (user interface: inputs and outputs quantities) **and within the Block Diagram** (programmer interface: operations, analysis).

-Things belonging to the Front Panel will be found under **Controls palette**, abbreviation is C, which can be brought up by 'right-clicking' (click on the mouse's right button) on the Front Panel.

-Things belonging to the Block Diagram will be found under **Functions palette**, abbreviation is F, which can be brought up by 'right-clicking' on the Block Diagram.

-Things to operate VI (Virtual Instruments) will be found under **Tools palette**, abbreviation is T, which can be brought up by clicking on Window, then select 'Show Tools Palette'

For example, where to locate 'Array'?. We start by guessing whether this is an input/output or an operation, it is more of a numeric input utility, so right-click on the Front Panel to bring up the Controls palette (C), then select sub-palette All Controls, then select sub-palette Array and Cluster, to find Array in the first button. So the complete location for Array reads C/All Controls/Array and Cluster.

For example where to locate 'Reciprocal'?. This is more of an operation (getting the reciprocal of x is doing $1/x$). So right-click on the Block Diagram to bring up the Functions palette (F), then select All Functions, then Numeric, and find Reciprocal under button $1/x$. So the location for Reciprocal is F/All Functions/Numeric

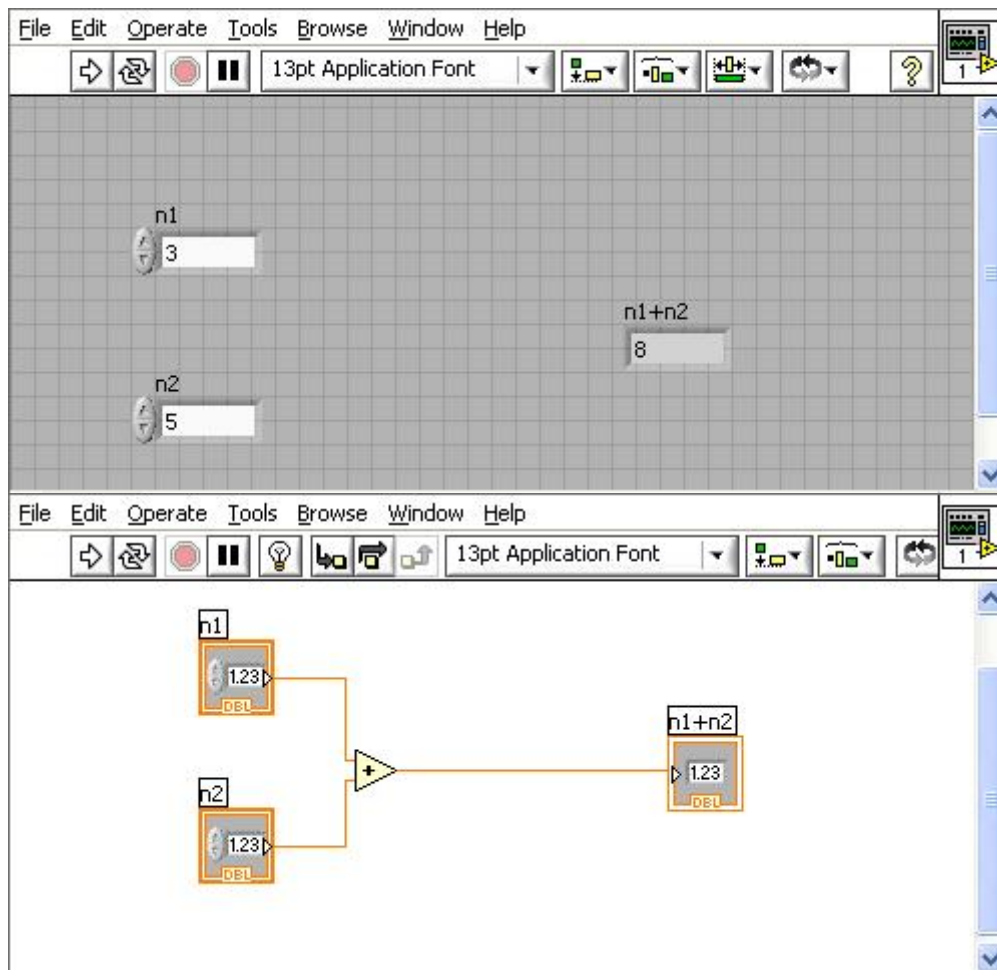
-As a background to changing values on a Numeric Control, we make a simple addition VI. We will need two inputs (Numeric Controls) and one output (Numeric Indicator) in the Front Panel, where the user will input the numbers she/he would like to add, where she/he will read the result, respectively. We should label the inputs as n1 and n2, and the output as n1+n2. This is necessary to identify identical elements on the Block Diagram, and as part of the user interface. **Label** can be entered by typing into the blank box that is shown when an element is placed in the Front Panel. The blank box can be brought up by right-click on the element and select '**Show Label**'. To edit labels, select the Text tool, under Tools Palette, then click on the label.

To tell LabVIEW how to produce the output from these inputs, the programmer goes to the Block Diagram to place the addition operation (F/All Functions/Numeric), then wire the inputs n1 and n2 into the left terminals of the addition by selecting the **wiring tool** (under T), click to start, click to end, double-click to finish a wiring. Note that since the addition is

commutative, $n1$ and $n2$ can be individually connected to either the left upper terminal or the left lower terminal of the addition operator. Should we have a division, the upper terminal is divided by the lower terminal, or the left terminals are different. In a subtraction, the upper terminal is subtracted by the lower one.

If we need to remove any piece of wire, use the **Select tool** (arrow under T) to select that piece, then hit 'backspace' on the keyboard.

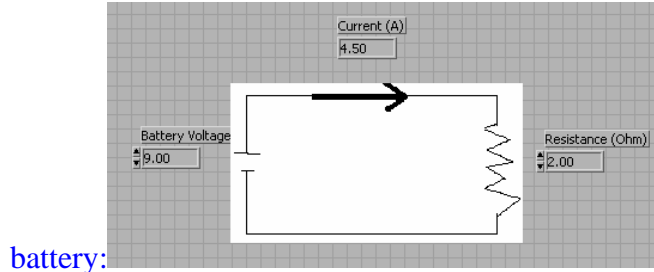
Then it comes to put in values into the Numeric Controls to test our addition VI: using the **Operate Value tool** (finger, under T) and click on the left handles to increase or decrease by an integer unit. To run the VI, click on the **Run button** (right arrow in the upper left corner), the results should show as expected. If we would like to scan through different inputs and outputs without having to hit the Run button every time we change the inputs, then use **Run Continuously** (found to the right of the Run button). Under this mode, the VI should be stopped before any modification can be made.



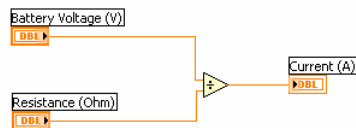
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CW5: Introduction to LabVIEW

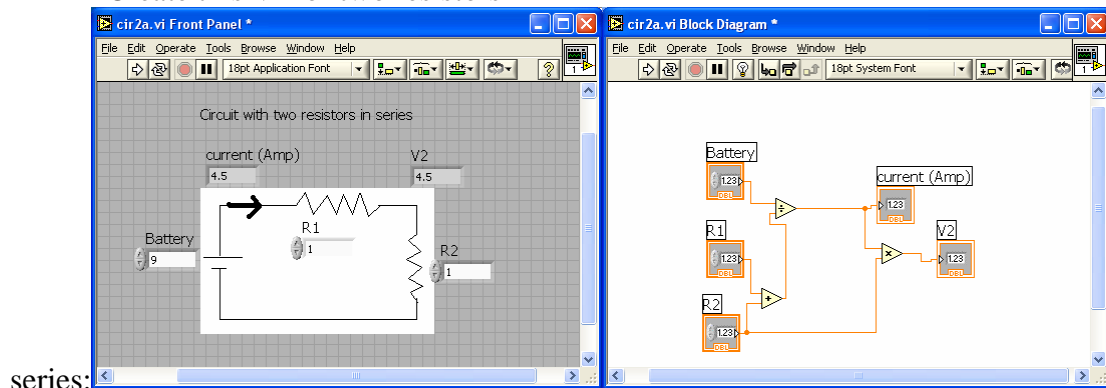
a) Create this VI with one resistor and one



battery:

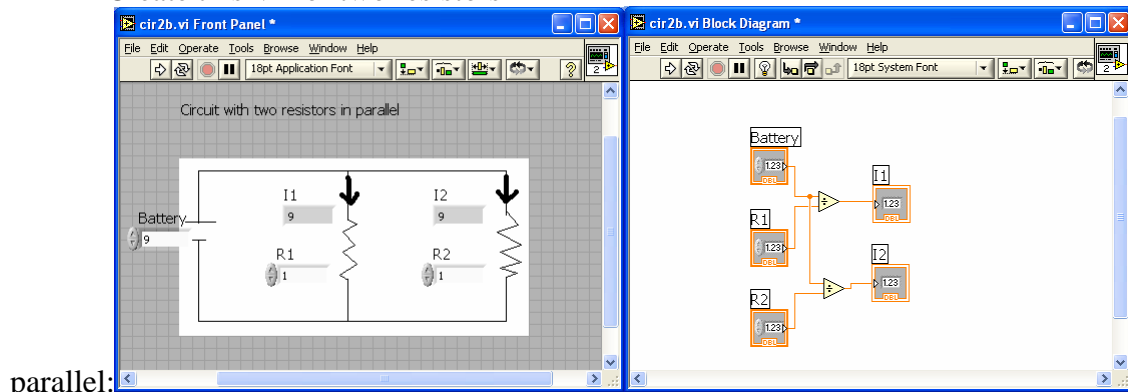


b) Create this VI for two resistors in



series:

c) Create this VI for two resistors in



parallel:

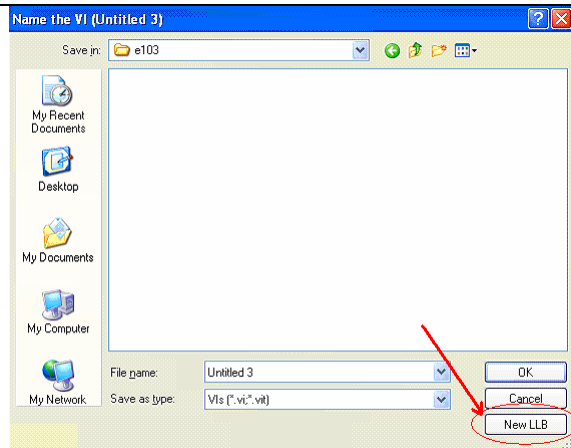
By alphabetical order of the last names, the first two students in each team will submit LabVIEW LLB file cw5_XX_a.llb, the next two students will submit LabVIEW LLB file cw5_XX_b.llb, to the *files* folder in the server. Each LLB file should contain three VI's corresponding to parts a, b, c of this CW. Please

uploaded to the server today to receive credit.

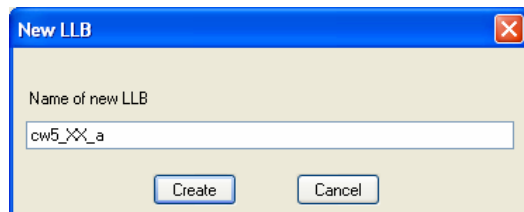
Save each VI into a LLB file (LabVIEW library) as follows:

Creating library file cw5_XX_a.llb and saving part a) in there.

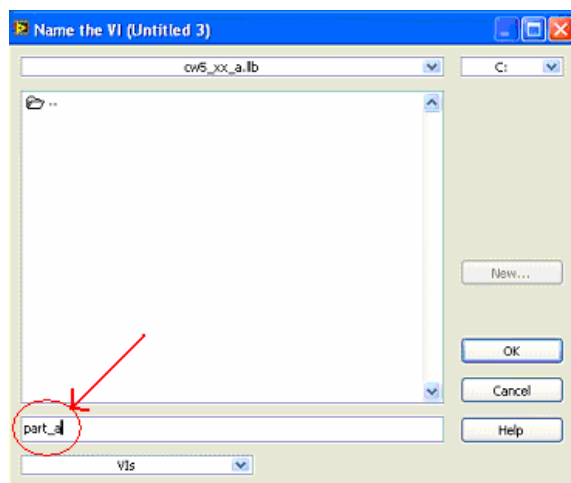
Saving part b) or c) into cw5_XX_a.llb



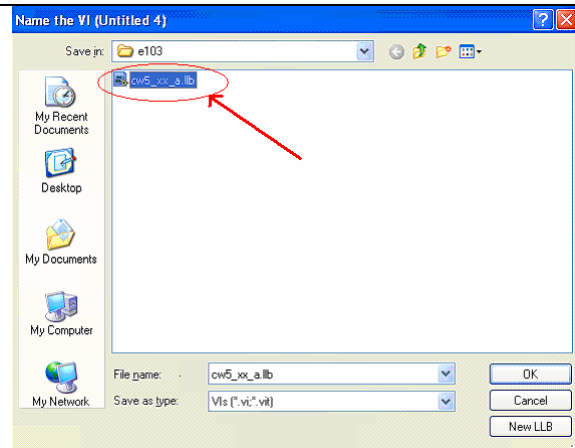
After select Save, click on New LLB



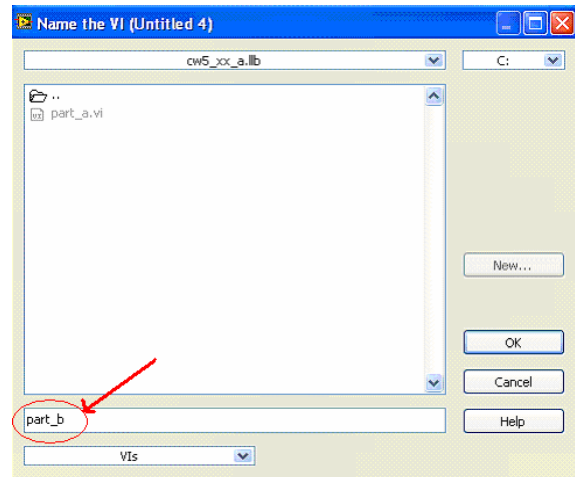
Type in "cw5_XX_a", where XX is the two digit team number, and "a" or "b" based on your subgroup within the team. Then click Create.



Type in the file name for the VI: in this



After select Save, double click on the library you created cw5_XX_a.llb



Type in the file name for the VI: in this case "part_b". Then click OK

case “part_a”. Then click OK	
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Circuit Analysis with LabVIEW I (see also link in the e-syllabus). Example: a VI that solves a simple electrical circuit with one battery and one resistance:

Developing a Virtual Instrument consists of the following steps:

1) Define the problem you want to solve, specify what will be the inputs and the outputs. The inputs are the battery voltage V (in Volts) and the resistance of the light bulb R in (in Ohms). The output is the current flowing in the circuit I (in Amps)

2) Determine the equations or operations needed to produce the outputs from the inputs
We need an equation that gives I in terms of V and R . It is Ohm's law:
 $I = V/R$

3) Implement the controls and indicators and graphs in the Control Panel and the operations in the Block Diagram

Control panel: enter a numeric control for V , another one for R ; a numeric indicator (without handle on the left side) for the current I

Block Diagram: enter the “divide” operation, then wire V and R to this operator, and the output to I

4) Fix any error and implement modifications as needed

If there is a broken wire, that needs to be fixed

If there is no error, the arrow on the upper left corner (“Run”) is not broken

5) Test the final results against expected theoretical values.

Enter $V=9V$; $R=2$ Ohm, I should read 4.5 A

In circuits with more than one resistor, if the output does not agree with our calculation, the Block Diagram needs to be revised.

Insert a text box by clicking on “A” (Edit Text) in the tool palette

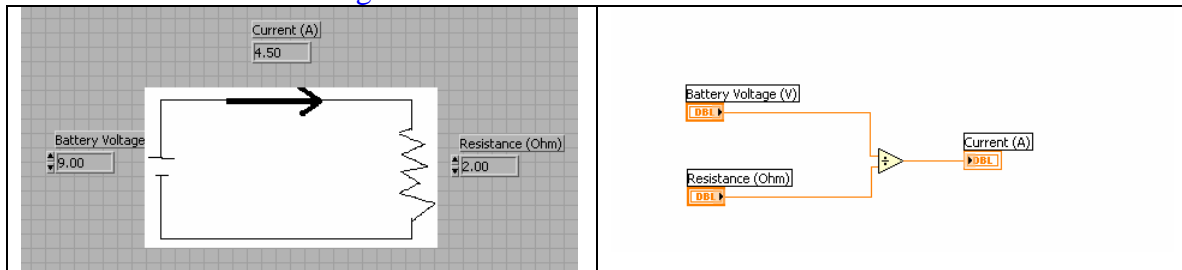
Insert a circuit diagram made in Paint by selecting (using the dotted rectangle in Paint left menu), then Edit/Copy; then in the Front Panel of LabVIEW, Edit/Paste

Front Panel: enter two numeric controls, label them as V and R ; enter one numeric indicator, label it as I

Block Diagram: enter the “Divide” operator from Arith/Compare/Numeric Group V and R together with the “Divide” on the left side of the Block Diagram, and the I on the right.

Check if the “Run” button is continuous

Enter values in the Numeric Controls V and R boxes and check the result at the numeric indicator I box after clicking on the “Run” button.



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Circuit Analysis with LabVIEW II (see also link in e-syllabus)

Example: a VI that solves a simple electrical circuit with one battery and two resistors in series.

1) Define inputs: V; R1; R2

Define outputs: V2 (voltage across R2); and I (current for this circuit of 2 resistances in series)

2) Equations: $I = V / (R1 + R2)$; $V2 = I * R2$

3) Front Panel: Circuit diagram using Paint; then enter three numeric controls for V, R1, and R2; two numeric indicators for V2 and I

Block Diagram: order elements for least number of cross wires (to facilitate the debugging process), group V, R1, R2 on the left, I and V2 on the right

Enter an “add” operator, a division (both for producing I from V, R1 and R2 using the given equation), and a “multiply” to produce V2 from I and R2.

Use “Connect Wire” in the tools palette to connect the elements

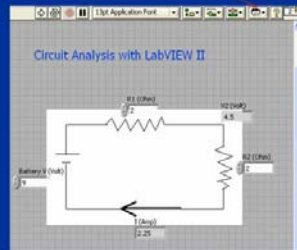
4) Check for errors.

5) Testing: enter V=9 V; R1=2 Ohm; R2=2 Ohm; I should read $9/4=2.25$ Amp; and V2 should read $2.25*2=4.5V$

LabVIEW Circuit #2

Step 1

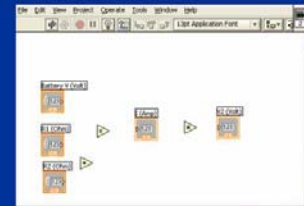
Make a sketch of the circuit shown using Paint, then copy into LabVIEW Front Panel. Put in 3 numeric controls for V and R1 and R2 (type in label after each insert), 2 numeric indicators, one for I, one for V2. To show icons on top of circuit, select circuit, then "reorder"/"move to back"



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Step 2

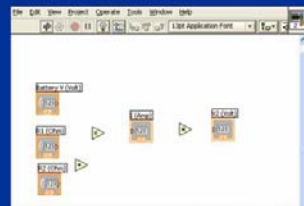
In the Block Diagram arrange the inputs in the left, output in the right, and put in the relevant operations:



5

Step 2

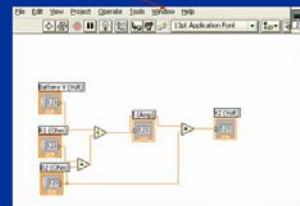
In the Block Diagram arrange the inputs in the left, output in the right, and put in the relevant operations:



5

Step 3

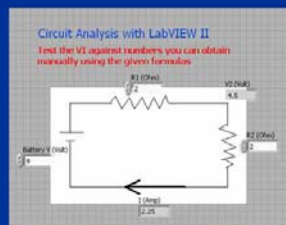
To complete the VI, use the Wiring Tool (in Tools Palette Window or View/Show Tools Palette) to connect the icons



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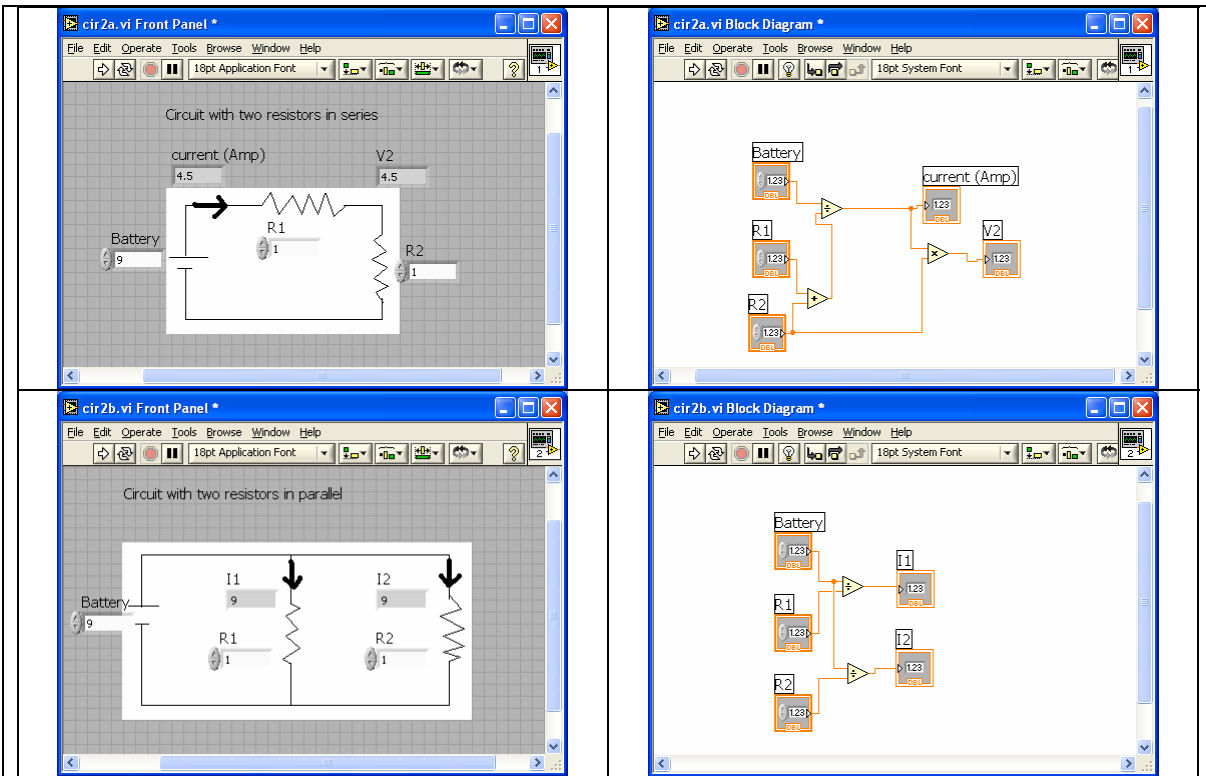
Step 4

Check the VI's results against numbers you can obtain from the formulas and using "easy numbers" such as $V=9V$, $R1=1\text{ Ohm}$, $R2=3\text{ Ohm}$, then $I=V/(R1+R2)=2.25A$ and $V1=I \cdot R2=6.75V$. This may be trivial here, but it is very important to do this check when we work with a larger circuit!



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To compare how much current is flowing through each resistor when they are connected in series or in parallel, we can set up the two Virtual Instruments below:



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LOGBOOK: [example of a logbook page](#)

- Use a quadrille notebook; number all pages; date all entries
- Write your notes for all activities, thoughts, problems and solutions, and learning conclusions related to Engin 103. You should write down progress, outcomes, and conclusions on projects and teamwork; conclusions from class work (including LabVIEW) and homework.
- In addition you should answer in the logbook all questions listed in these notes in blue, as shown below:

25) What is the difference between a Numeric Control and a Numeric Indicator? List examples of each category using the two examples shown above, that is, Circuit Analysis with LabVIEW I and II. What happens if you wire into a Numeric Control?

26) To implement V/R : should I wire V to the upper left terminal of the Divide operation or to its lower left terminal? Why? How do you save existing numeric values within the Front Panel? (if no extra action is taken next time you open the VI, the Front Panel boxes only show default values of zeros)

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