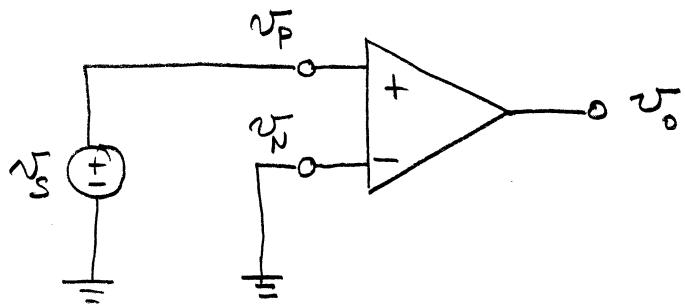


4-7 The Comparator.



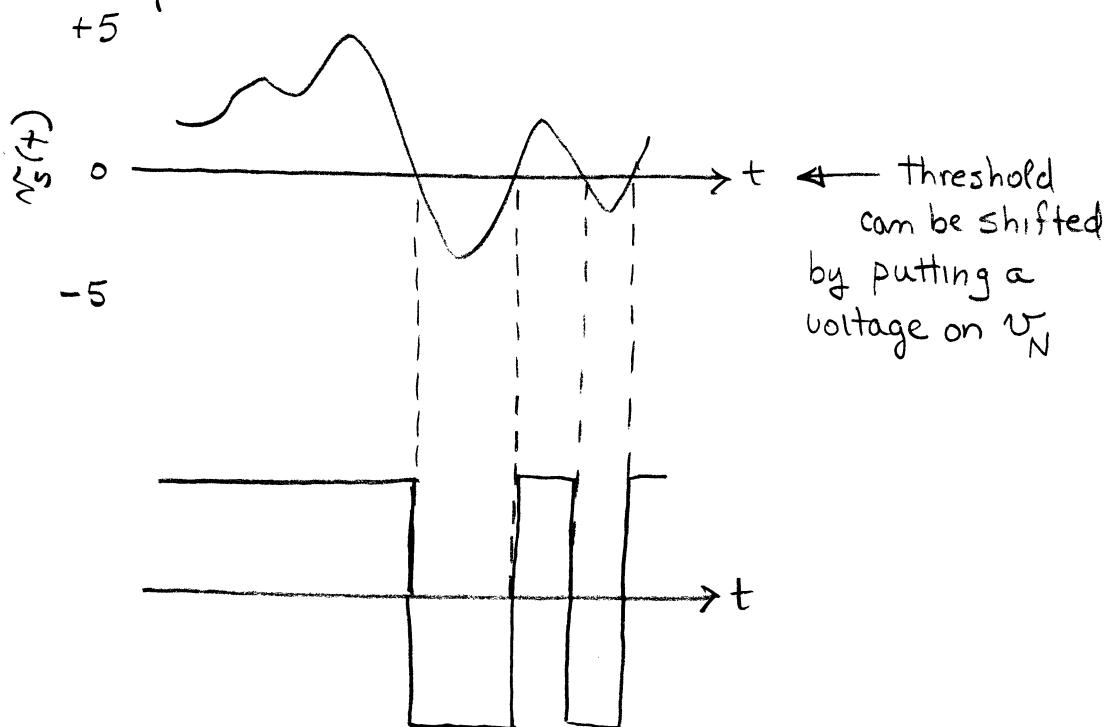
A device that discriminates between two unequal voltages is called a comparator.

The circuit shown above is called a zero crossing detector.

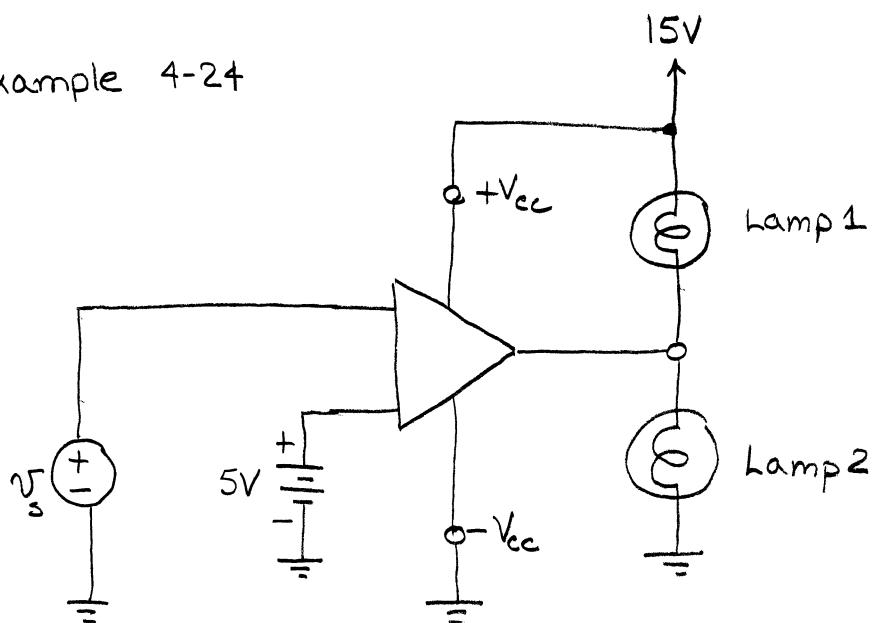
If $V_P > V_N$ then $V_O = +$ saturation

$V_P < V_N$ then $V_O = -$ saturation

Input/output signals.



Example 4-24



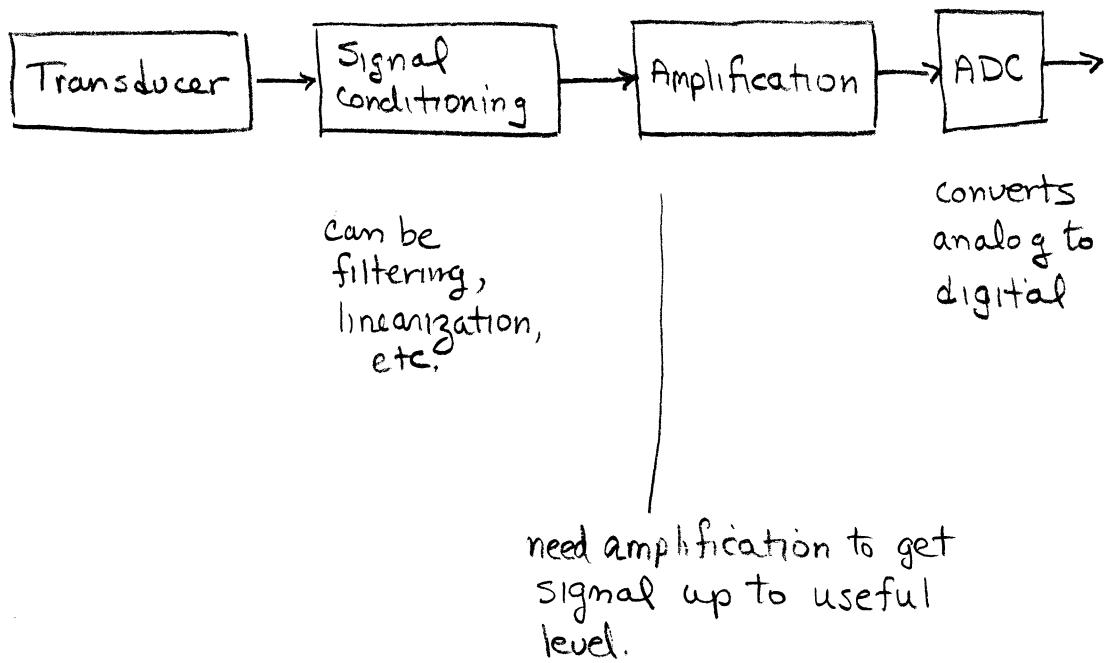
No feedback so this is a comparator.

The threshold (switching point) is at $V = +5$ volts.

When $V_s < +5$ volts $V_o = 0 \Rightarrow$ Lamp 1 ON
Lamp 2 OFF

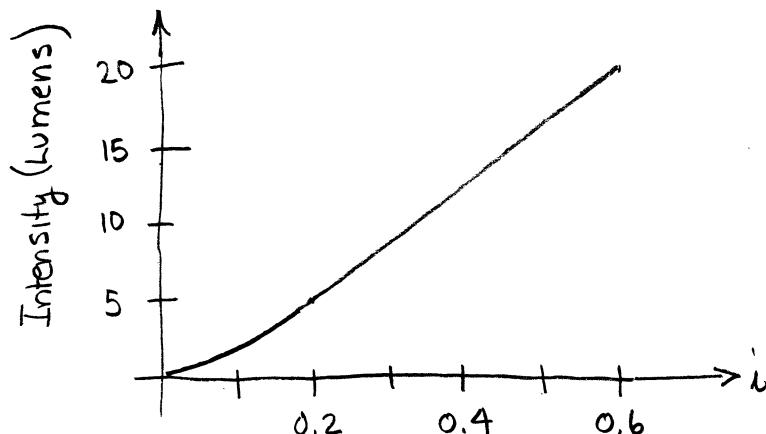
$V_s > +5$ volts $V_o = +15 \Rightarrow$ Lamp 1 OFF
Lamp 2 ON

Instrumentation Systems



Example

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Voltage (mV)

Characteristics of photocell transducer

Need to measure 5-20 lumens input to a 0-5V ADC

We need to convert

$$\begin{array}{ccc} 5 \text{ lumens} & \rightarrow & 0.2 \text{ mV} \rightarrow 0 \text{ volts} \\ \underbrace{20 \text{ lumens}}_{\text{physical input}} & \rightarrow & \underbrace{0.6 \text{ mV}}_{\text{from transducer}} \rightarrow \underbrace{5 \text{ volts}}_{\text{to ADC}} \end{array}$$

This requires an amplifier with a DC offset

The amplifier gain necessary is

$$K = \frac{\text{desired output}}{\text{transducer output range}} = \frac{5-0}{(0.6 - 0.2) \times 10^{-3}} = 1250$$

This is a lot of gain so we implement it as two amplifiers

