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EE200 Users Guide

For TI-92 Plus Calculators
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This version of the EE200 Users Guide applies to version 1.0 of the EE200 software.

September 7, 2000

author’s note to EE200 users –

Writing software for the use of a large group of people – college students, in this case – can be a lesson in humility. The user interface which seems so manifestly obvious and intuitive to its programmer is, not infrequently, a puzzle to many potential users. EE200 version 1.0 may turn out to be no better than most software in this respect. Nevertheless I’m convinced that, for those freshman and sophomore engineering students who are willing to try out EE200 by running the four examples in this short manual, the program will prove to be useful.

Naturally I believe the program is useful because I wrote it, but there is more to it than that. The program was developed while I myself was taking the first circuit analysis course sequence at Oregon State University. I wrote it, initially for my own use, because I found myself making more errors than I wanted to on homework and exams, and taking so long to work out solutions that I didn’t have time to go back and check my work. It frustrated me that even when I could write down the correct equations, I still missed getting the right answer because of arithmetic or algebra mistakes.

I have earned a living as a computer programmer for thirty years, so I am used to relying on computers to make up for my own weaknesses in memory, arithmetic, and higher math. The TI-89 and TI-92 Plus “calculators” – actually pocket-sized computers more powerful than the PCs of a few years ago – provide plenty of resources for the EE200 program to help me avoid errors, speed up my work, and give me the time to check my answers.

EE200 has already proved valuable to me in sophomore-level circuits courses. I hope that it will be as helpful to others undertaking similar coursework. I would especially like to hear users’ comments. I invite you to send your questions needing immediate answers to me at help@unit-smart.com, and any other suggestions or complaints to author@unit-smart.com. I look forward to hearing from you.

Dave Conklin
August 26, 2000
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