

SENSOR MATERIAL CHARACTERISATION FOR
MAGNETOMETER APPLICATION

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JUDUL : SENSOR MATERIAL CHARACTERISATION FOR
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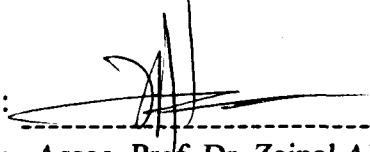
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MAGNETOMETER APPLICATION**

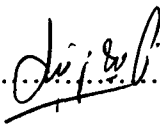
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**A project report is submitted as partial fulfillment
of the requirements for the award of the
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DEDICATION

Special dedication to my beloved husband Khairul Anuar and daughter Nurin Najihah , my parents, my parent-in-laws and my families for all your love, support and care.

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ABSTRACT

AC and DC magnetic field measurements require a highly sensitive and stable magnetic sensor. In order to achieve these requirements, good properties and criteria of magnetic materials are identified. A few types of different magnetic materials have been used to study their characteristics and effect towards magnetic fields. The ring cores made from several different types of magnetic materials are designed having the same dimension so that they can be compared among each magnetic material easily. For this project, single and dual rod cores have been used as a fluxgate sensor core to observe the resulting sensor performance. Both sensors are tested with two magnetic sources; permanent magnet bar and solenoids with different diameters of wires. The output of each fluxgate sensor was processed to identify their relation with the test magnetic field density.

ABSTRAK

Pengukuran dan gangguan medan magnet arus terus dan arus ulang-alik memerlukan penderia medan magnet yang mempunyai kepekaan yang tinggi dan stabil. Untuk menghasilkan penderia tersebut, ciri-ciri bahan magnet yang baik telah dikenalpasti. Beberapa jenis bahan magnet yang berbeza telah digunakan untuk mengkaji ciri-ciri dan kesannya terhadap medan magnet. Teras gelang yang diperbuat daripada bahan-bahan magnet tersebut direkabentuk dengan dimensi yang sama bagi membolehkan perbandingan dibuat dengan mudah. Selain itu, rod tunggal dan berkembar juga telah digunakan sebagai teras penderia fluxgate, untuk melihat prestasi setiap jenis penderia tersebut. Kedua-dua penderia tersebut telah diuji dengan menggunakan dua sumber bahan magnet iaitu bar magnet tetap dan solenoid dengan diameter dawai yang berbeza. Isyarat keluaran bagi setiap penderia fluxgate seterusnya diproses bagi mengenalpasti hubungannya dengan ketumpatan medan magnet.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER	TITLE	PAGE
	DECLARATION	ii
	DEDICATION	iii
	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	iv
	ABSTRACT	v
	ABSTRAK	vi
	TABLE OF CONTENTS	vii
	LIST OF TABLES	x
	LIST OF FIGURES	xi
	LIST OF SYMBOL AND ABBREVIATION	xiii
	LIST OF APPENDICES	xv
I	INTRODUCTION	
	1.1 Foreword	1
	1.2 Problem Statement	1
	1.3 Objectives of The Project	3
	1.4 Scope of Project	4
	1.5 A Review of Magnetic Sensor	3
	1.6 Magnetic Sensor Applications	4
	1.7 Fluxgate Magnetometer	6

II	LITERATURE REVIEW	8
III	THEORETICAL BACKGROUND	
3.1	Introduction	11
3.2	The Present Technology of Magnetic Sensors	11
3.3	Magnetic Materials	14
3.3.1	Classification of Magnetic Materials	14
3.3.2	Magnetic Properties of Ferromagnetic	15
3.3.2.1	Permeability	16
3.3.2.2	Relative Permeability	17
3.3.2.3	Hysteresis	18
3.3.2.4	Saturation Magnetization	20
3.3.2.5	Coercivity	20
3.3.2.6	Curie temperature	21
3.3.2.7	Remanence	21
3.4	Historical Background of Fluxgate Magnetometer	22
3.5	Toroidal Core Fluxgate Sensor	26
3.6	Theory of Fluxgate Operation	28
3.7	Basic Fluxgate Equation	30
3.8	The Fluxgate Output Voltage from Mathematical Model	31
3.9	Excitation Current and the Excitation Method	32
3.10	Pick-up coil and tuning the output signal	32
3.11	The Sensor Core Material and Geometry	33
3.12	The design of fluxgate magnetometer	34
IV	PROJECT METHODOLOGY	
4.1	Sensor Construction	35
4.2	Fluxgate sensor	35
4.3	Measurement of Magnetic Core Permeability	36
4.4	Calibration of the Sensors	42

V	RESEARCH FINDINGS	
5.1	Introduction	44
5.2	Determining B-H Curve of the Ferrite Ring Core	44
5.3	Signal processing of the fluxgate sensor output	48
5.4	Rod Core Fluxgate Sensor Testing	52
VI	CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION	
6.1	Conclusion	61
6.2	Recommendation	62
	REFERENCES	63
	APPENDIX A	65
	APPENDIX B	68

LIST OF TABLES

NO. OF TABLE	TITLE	PAGE
3.1	Categorization of magnetic sensor applications	11
3.2	Magnetic Sensor Technology Field Ranges	12
3.3	Approximate maximum permeabilities for ferromagnetic materials	19
3.4	Magnetic Properties of Ferromagnetic Materials	23
4.1	The configuration of core material	41
4.2	Relative Permeability of core materials	42
5.1	Repeat measurement step with different number of turns.	46
5.2	Data for hysteresis curve in Figure 5.1	47
5.3	Data for V_{in} and frequency of the excitation signal of the Sensor A	48
5.4	Data for V_{in} and frequency of the excitation signal of the Sensor B	50
5.5	Data for V_{in} and frequency of the excitation signal of the Sensor A	51
5.6	The output of Testing 1	53
5.7	The output of Testing 2	54
5.8	The specifications of solenoids	55
5.9	The output of Testing 3	56
5.10	The output of Testing 4	56
5.11	The output of Testing 5	58
5.12	The output of Testing 6	59

5.5	Graph for $V_{in}(p-p)$ for excitation signal versus frequency for Sensor A.	49
5.6	Output signal for Sensor B	49
5.7	Graph for $V_{in}(p-p)$ for excitation signal versus frequency for Sensor B.	50
5.8	The excitation and pickup signal of the fluxgate sensor A	51
5.9	Graph for $V_{in}(p-p)$ for excitation signal versus frequency for Sensor A.	52
5.10	The output of fluxgate sensor in Testing 1	53
5.11	The output of fluxgate sensor in Testing 2	54
5.12	Response characteristics of single core fluxgate sensor using Solenoid A	56
5.13	Response characteristics of single core fluxgate sensor using Solenoid B	57
5.14	Response characteristics of dual core fluxgate sensor using Solenoid A	59
5.15	Response characteristics of dual core fluxgate sensor using Solenoid B	60

LIST OF SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATION

H	-	magnetic field intensity
B	-	magnetic flux density
G	-	Gauss
T	-	Tesla
Hz	-	Hertz
DC	-	Direct current
AC	-	Alternating current
μ	-	permeability
μ_r	-	relative permeability
χ	-	susceptibility
μ_0	-	permeability in vacuum
μ_i	-	initial permeability
M	-	magnetization
H_c	-	coercive force
H_{ci}	-	intrinsic coercivity
M_R	-	remanent magnetization
B_R	-	remanent or residual flux density
B_s	-	saturation flux density
μ_d	-	differential permeability
E_p	-	primary voltage
E_o	-	secondary/output voltage
N	-	number of turns
N_p	-	number of primary winding
V_{sec}	-	Induced voltage

A	-	Cross section area
D	-	Demagnetization factor
f_r	-	resonance frequency
L	-	inductance
C	-	capacitor
l	-	length of coil
D_i	-	inner diameter
D_o	-	outer diameter
R_2	-	outer radius
R_1	-	inner radius
h	-	height of ring core
w	-	width of ring core
r	-	mean radius
I_{max}	-	maximum current

LIST OF APPENDICES

APPENDIX	TITLE	PAGE
A	The derivation of fluxgate equation	65
B	Circuit for measuring ferrite properties	68

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Foreword

In this chapter, the background, purpose, objectives, and the scope of the project are discussed.

1.2 Problem Statement

Magnetic field sensing technology has been driven by the need for improved sensitivity, smaller size, and compatibility with electronic systems. Nowadays, various types and applications of magnetic sensors are produced. The techniques used to produce magnetic sensors encompass many aspects of physics and electronics.

Magnetic properties of the core such as differential permeability, coercive force, and demagnetizing factor were contributed to the sensitivity of the sensor and in producing magnetometer with better performance. This project approached various types of materials with same geometry to compare which is most suitable to be used as the core sensor, in order to produce high sensitivity magnetic field sensor and to compete with existing sensor in the marketplace.

1.3 Objectives of The Project:

This project is motivated by the following objectives:

- i. To be familiar with the state of the art in magnetometer design.
- ii. To identify suitable magnetic field sensor configuration for DC magnetic measurements.

1.4 Scope of Project:

The scopes of the project are as followed:

- i. To implement experimental works that related to magnetic measurements.
- ii. To identify the core materials properties that is most suitable for producing high sensitivity magnetic field sensors.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

Magnetic field sensors play an important and continuously increasing role in many fields of science and of modern technique. Early applications of magnetic sensors were for directions finding or navigation. But today, many more uses have evolved and the technology for sensing magnetic fields has also evolved driven by the need for sensitivity improvement, smaller size, and compatibility with electronic systems.

A number of papers have been published on fluxgate magnetometer, showing different types of configurations and explaining the mechanism, importance and use of each one. The first patent on the fluxgate sensor (in 1931) was credited to H.P. Thomas. Aschenbrenner and Goubau worked on fluxgate sensors from the late 1920s; by 1936 they reported 0.3nT resolution on a ring core sensor. Since the 1980s, magnetic variation stations with fluxgates supported by a proton magnetometer have been used for observing changes in the Earth's magnetic field. Fluxgate compasses are extensively used for aircraft and vehicle navigation. Forster [1] started to use the fluxgate principle for the nondestructive testing of ferromagnetic materials. The fluxgate principle is also used in current sensors and current comparators. Compact fluxgate magnetometers are

used for navigation, detection and search operations, remote measurement of dc currents and reading magnetic labels and marks.

W. Hernandez [2] has been presented a fluxgate magnetometer for high magnetic fields ($<100\mu\text{T}$). He used ferrite as the material of the core and relatively high sensitivity and linearity characteristics have been achieved, which simplified the signal processing circuit. The fluxgate magnetometer used the ring core sensor geometry, which was found to be the best for low noise sensors [3]. This is well suited for elimination of offset and instabilities of the sensor with time and temperature variations.

Fluxgate sensors serve for the measurement of DC and low frequency AC magnetic field in the range of approximately 1nT to 1mT with possible resolution of 50pT. Their principle is based on modulation of the flux in the pick-up coil by changing the permeability of the ferromagnetic core by means of the AC excitation field [4]. According to [4], most of the fluxgate magnetometers work in the feedback mode to improve the sensor linearity and increase the measurement range.

Kurt Weyand and Volker Bosse [5] have developed a new fluxgate magnetometer for measuring both magnetic dc and ac fields, with frequencies up to 2 kHz. The magnetometer has been designed using a pulse-width modulator and has a resolution of 10nT. It is possible to link up ac field quantities with dc field standards in a simple way.

Fluxset sensor is a new type of magnetometer sensor, which belongs to the family of fluxgate sensors. It has been developed and capable of measuring DC and AC (up to 200 kHz frequency) low-level magnetic fields with high accuracy. This device has sensitivity better than 100pT, operates in a wide temperature range, simple and