

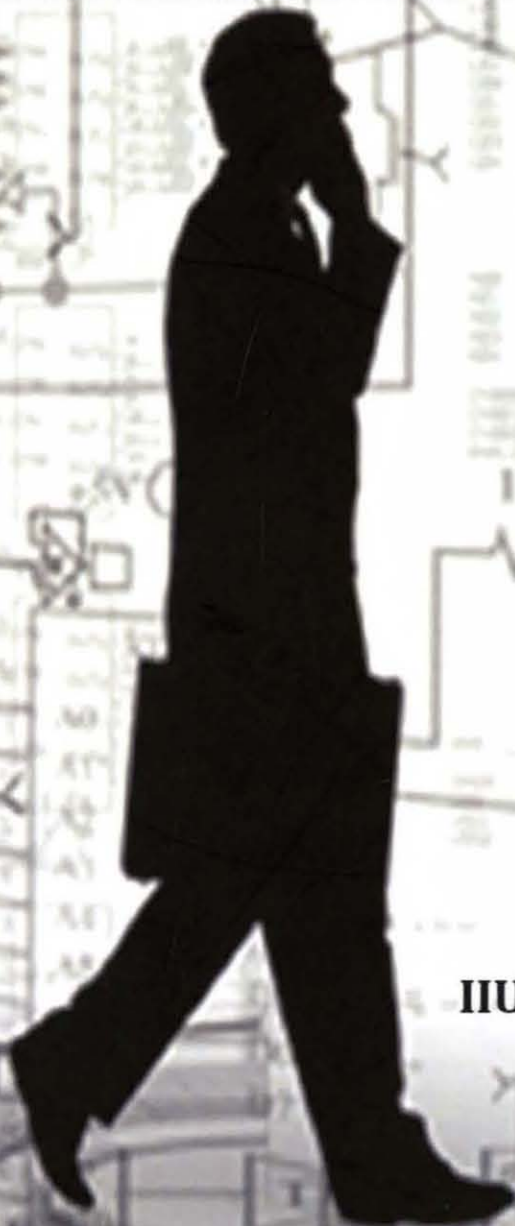
PRINCIPLES OF TRANSDUCER DEVICES AND COMPONENTS

Edited by

Sheroz Khan, International Islamic University Malaysia

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CONTENTS

Chapter		Page No.
1	RC CIRCUIT RESPONSE <i>Atika Arshad, Rumana Tasnim, Sheroz Khan, AHM Zahirul Alam</i>	1
2	RL CIRCUIT RESPONSE <i>Rumana Tasnim, Atika Arshad, Sheroz Khan, Musse Mohamod</i>	7
3	RLC CIRCUIT RESPONSE <i>Rumana Tasnim, Atika Arshad, Sheroz Khan, Musse Mohamod</i>	13
4	CAPACITIVE SENSING FOR NON-CONTACT MEANS OF MEASUREMENT <i>Rumana Tasnim, Atika Arshad, Sheroz Khan, Musse Mohamod, Nazmus Saquib</i>	19
5	SENSORS IN ELECTRONIC APPLICATIONS <i>Rumana Tasnim, Atika Arshad, Sheroz Khan, Musse Mohamod</i>	27
6	CONTACT TYPE AND NONCONTACT TYPE GAS FLOW MEASURING SENSORS <i>Rumana Tasnim, Atika Arshad, Nazmus Saquib, Sheroz Khan, Musse Mohamod</i>	33
7	OUTPUT CONTROL DEVICES: ACTUATORS <i>Rumana Tasnim, Atika Arshad, Sheroz Khan, Musse Mohamod</i>	39
8	INDUCTIVE POWER SYSTEM FOR ENERGY HARVESTING <i>Atika Arshad, Rumana Tasnim, Sheroz Khan, AHM Zahirul Alam</i>	45
9	ON THE ELECTRODE ARRANGEMENTS OF CAPACITIVE SENSOR FOR TWO PHASE GAS FLOW MEASUREMENT <i>Rumana Tasnim, Atika Arshad, Sheroz Khan, Musse Mohamod</i>	53
10	BASIC CONCEPT OF INDUCTANCE FOR INDUCTIVE TRANSDUCERS <i>Atika Arshad, Rumana Tasnim, Sheroz Khan, AHM Zahirul Alam</i>	59
11	MAGNETIC PROPERTIES FOR MAGNETIC TRANSDUCER <i>Atika Arshad, Rumana Tasnim, Sheroz Khan, AHM Zahirul Alam</i>	65
12	MAGNETIC, HYSTERESIS THEORY: APPLICATION PERSPECTIVE <i>Atika Arshad, Rumana Tasnim, Sheroz Khan, AHM Zahirul Alam</i>	71

13	THE PRINCIPLE OF RESISTIVE SENSING <i>Atika Arshad, Rumana Tasnim, Sheroz Khan, AHM Zahirul Alam</i>	75
14	SPIKES BLOCKING AND SURGE PROTECTION <i>Ahmad Lutfi Torla, Sheroz Khan, Asan Gani</i>	83
15	VOLTAGE SUPPLY AND VOLTAGE REGULATION <i>Ahmad Lutfi Torla, Sheroz Khan, Asan Gani</i>	89
16	FULL-WAVE RECTIFICATION OF A LOW-VOLTAGE SOURCE <i>Ahmad Lutfi Torla, Sheroz Khan, Asan Gani</i>	99
17	DESIGN OF DIFFERENTIAL RESISTIVE MEASURING SYSTEM AND ITS APPLICATIONS <i>Deji Abdulwahab, Sheroz Khan, Jalel Chebil</i>	107
18	LINEARIZING TECHNIQUES FOR SENSOR OUTPUT <i>Mohammad Tahir Siddiqi, Sheroz Khan, Ummer Siddiqi</i>	115
19	SENSOR AND SENSOR RESPONSE-ISSUES AND INTERFACING <i>Syed Masrur Ahmmad, Sheroz Khan, Anis Nurashinkin, Md Rasiuddin Khan</i>	119
20	UWB PULSE GENERATION SHAPING AND ANALYSIS <i>Zeeshan Shahid, Sheroz Khan, AHM Zahirul Alam</i>	133
21	POWER SUPPLY POWER-SUPPLY INTERFERENCE IN SMART SENSORS-TO-MICRONROLLER INTERFACE FOR BIOMEDICAL SIGNALS <i>Mohammad Ashraful, Sheroz Khan, Muhammad Ibrahimy</i>	139
22	RESPONSE AND INACCURACY ISSUES OF SENSORS <i>Mohammad Ashraful, Sheroz Khan, Muhammad Ibrahimy</i>	165
23	PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT OF SENSORS RESPONSE USING PIECE-WISE NON-LINEAR (PWL) A/D AND PULSE-WIDTH MODULATION (PWM) A/D TECHNIQUES <i>Ismaila Tijani, Sheroz Khan</i>	175
24	POWER SUPPLY INTERFERENCE IN SMART SENSOR MICROCONTROLLER INTERFACE <i>Ismaila Tijani, Sheroz Khan</i>	185

25	2.45 GHz PASSIVE RFID TAG ANTENNA MOUNTING ON VARIOUS PLATFORMS <i>Abubeker A. Yussuf, Md Rafiqul Islam, Sheroz Khan, Othman O. Khalifa, AHM Zahirul Alam</i>	201
26	ANALYSIS OF HYBRID STEPPER MOTOR PERFORMANCE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF VOLTAGE SUPPLY INTERFERENCE <i>Abdulazeez F. Salami, Wahab A. Lawal, Sheroz Khan, Teddy Surya Gunawan, Sigit Puspito Wigati Jarot</i>	217
27	PC SOUND CARD BASED INSTRUMENTATION AND CONTROL <i>Teddy Surya Gunawan</i>	229
28	PIECE-WISE LINEAR ANALOG TO DIGITAL (PLADC) CONVERTER PROCESS <i>Abdulazeez F. Salami, Wahab A. Lawal, Sheroz Khan, AHM Zahirul Alam</i>	239
29	DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF AN OPTIMAL FUZZY LOGIC CONTROLLER USING EGENTIC ALGORITHM <i>Salami Femi Abdulazeez, Lawal Wahab Adetunji, Sheroz Khan, AHM Zahirul Alam, Momoh Jimoh E. Salami, Shihab Ahmed Hameed, Aisha Hasan Abdalla and Mohd Rafiqul Islam</i>	249
30	DESIGN AND HARDWARE IMPLEMENTATION OF CONDITIONING CIRCUIT FOR ACCURATE READING FROM TRANSDUCERS WITH NONLINEAR RESPONSES <i>Khairul Hasan, Aliza Aini Md Ralib, Ma Li Ya, Atika Arshad, Sheroz Khan</i>	265
31	TRANSDUCERS-TO-MICROCONTROLLER INTERFACES-SOFTWARE SOLUTION APPROACH <i>Lawal Wahab Adetunji, Salami Femi Abdulaziz, Sheroz Khan, AHM Zahirul Alam, Mohammad Rafiqul Islam, Shihab A. Hameed and Aisha Hasan Abdalla</i>	277
32	WAVELET ANALYSIS OF THE ECG SIGNALS FOR THREE COMMON HEART DISEASES IN JORDAN <i>Jalel Chebil, Jamal Al Nabulsi</i>	291
33	FUNCTIONAL ELECTRICAL STIMULATION SYSTEM AND PROFILE FOR WALKING <i>Noreha Abdul Malik</i>	303

34	FUZZY LOGIC BASED TEMPERATURE CONTROL OF THERMOELECTRIC COOLER FOR SINGLE PHOTON AVALANCHE DIODE APPLICATION	311
	<i>Nurul Izzati Samsuddin, Salmiah Ahmad, Nurul Fadzlin Hasbullah</i>	
35	SPECTRUM SENSING FOR COGNITIVE RADIOS	317
	<i>Izyan Munyanti Abu Hanifah, Siti Natrah Che Rus, Sigit Puspito Wigati Jarot</i>	
36	COGNITIVE RADIO VS INTELLIGENT ANTENNA	327
	<i>Siti Rabani Mat Nawati, Nurul Farhah Toha, Khaizuran Abdullah, M. Rafiqul Islam, Sheroz Khan</i>	
37	APPLICATION AND CASE STUDIES OF MAGNETIC INDUCTION	341
	<i>Atika Arshad, Rumana Tasnim, Sheroz Khan, A H M Zahirul Alam</i>	

Chapter 7

OUTPUT CONTROL DEVICES: ACTUATORS

RUMANA TASNIM, ATIKA ARSHAD, SHEROZ KHAN, MUSSE MOHAMOD

7.0 INTRODUCTION

The wide spreading applications of actuators have opened up several possibilities in technical areas. The basic difference between sensor (e.g., thermometer) and actuator can be simply referred as: sensor is able to measure a signal or stimulus obtaining information from the “real world” whereas actuator itself can generate a signal or stimulus (see Figure 7.1). In other word, a transducer can convert a physical phenomenon into an electric signal while an actuator can convert an electric signal to a physical phenomenon.

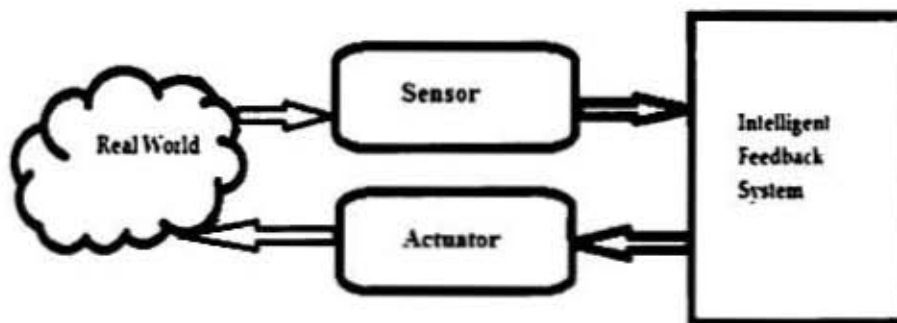


Fig. 7.1: Block Diagram of Actuation Interface

7.1 ACTUATORS BASICS

Actuator is a fundamental part of control and instrumentation systems. Actuators steer particular parts to control the overall process of a system. Such actuators operate on various basic principles. Actuator is basically functioned by any source of energy which is found in the form of an electric current, hydraulic fluid pressure or pneumatic pressure. In the field of electronic engineering, actuators can be referred as subdivided transducers which are capable of converting any input signal e.g. an electrical signal into motion. While actuator operates, continually it gets commands from their controllers. Accordingly it drives a plant for attaining a pre-determined control objective. By using sensors and