

AN INFRARED OPTICAL TOMOGRAPHY BASED ON INDEPENDENT  
COMPONENT ANALYSIS FOR MEASUREMENT IN TURBID LIQUID

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The thesis is dedicated  
to my parents Mohd Khairi Jusoh and Rohani Jaafar  
who made enormous sacrifice in order to educate and guide me,  
to my siblings Nur Aina, Harithan, Abdul Hannan and Laila Fajriyah  
who provide a lot of motivation to me,  
to my nephew Amirul Amsyar  
who cheered me a lot and  
to all my friends  
who always support me.

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## ABSTRACT

Process tomography is a tool that provides an unperturbed way to examine and investigate the internal behaviour of flow process. The tool has successfully made a beneficial contribution in measuring parameters such as mass flow rate, concentration profile and particle sizing. Among the parameters that can be inspected using tomography technique is the turbidity level of water. Most of the turbidimeters in the market are in the form of point sensor, which means the meter needs to be put on the water sample. This kind of measurement is unsuitable for industrial flow since it disturbs the flow. The investigation in distinguishing the spatial distribution in two-phase flow attracts a major interest in industry. In beverage industry, the existing of gas bubble in opaque liquid such as milk has degraded the quality of product. This thesis presents an investigation into the application of optical tomography through the use of Independent Component Analysis (ICA) method to estimate turbidity level of water and explore the presence of gas bubble in contaminated water. The system consists of eighteen infrared transmitters and eighteen receivers in which the light projection is designed in fan beam mode. An ICA algorithm has been implemented to analyse the data and the LabVIEW software was used to construct 18 x 18 pixels of concentration profile. In water turbidity experiment, several volumes of green colour ingredients were mixed together with pure water for varying the turbidity level of the water. For gas bubble's investigation, three types of flow conditions were studied: low bubble flow, medium bubble flow and high bubble flow. The behaviour of gas bubbles was investigated in contaminated water in which the water sample was prepared by adding 25 ml of colour ingredients into 3 liters of pure water. The result shows that the application of ICA has enabled the system to estimate the turbidity level and detect the presence of gas bubbles in contaminated water. This information is expected to provide vital information on the flow inside the pipe and hence, could be very significant in increasing the accuracy of the process industries.

## ABSTRAK

Proses tomografi ialah satu kaedah yang membolehkan pemeriksaan dan penyiasatan dijalankan terhadap keadaan dalaman proses pengaliran melalui teknik tanpa gangguan. Alat ini telah berjaya dimanfaatkan dalam mengukur parameter seperti kadar aliran jisim, profil taburan dan saiz zarah. Di antara parameter yang boleh diukur melalui proses tomografi adalah kadar kekeruhan air. Kebanyakan alat pengukur kadar kekeruhan air di pasaran adalah dalam bentuk penderia sesentuh di mana penderia itu perlu diletakkan di dalam air. Cara ini tidak sesuai dalam bidang industri pengaliran kerana ia mengganggu pengaliran. Penyiasatan tentang pengaliran dua fasa yang mengalir mendapat perhatian yang tinggi dalam industri. Dalam industri minuman, kehadiran buih gas dalam cecair legap seperti susu telah menurunkan kualiti produk. Tesis ini mengemukakan satu penyiasatan tentang aplikasi tomografi cahaya melalui kaedah Analisis Komponen Bersendiri (ICA) untuk menjangka tahap kekeruhan air dan kehadiran buih gas dalam air yang telah dicemari. Sistem ini mempunyai lapan belas pemancar infrared and lapan belas penerima di mana unjuran cahaya direka dalam bentuk kipas. Algoritma ICA telah digunakan untuk menganalisis data dan perisian LabVIEW digunakan untuk membina profil taburan berpixel 18 x 18. Dalam eksperimen kekeruhan air, beberapa isipadu pewarna makanan berwarna hijau telah dicampurkan ke dalam air bersih untuk mengubah tahap kekeruhan air itu. Dalam penyiasatan buih gas, sebanyak tiga jenis pengaliran telah dikaji: pengaliran buih rendah, sederhana dan tinggi. Penyiasatan gas buih dilakukan dalam air yang telah tercemar di mana air itu disediakan melalui campuran 25 ml isipadu bahan pewarna ke dalam 3 liter air bersih. Keputusan menunjukkan bahawa penggunaan ICA membolehkan sistem menjangka tahap kekeruhan air dan mengesan buih gas di dalam air yang telah dicemari. Informasi ini dijangka dapat memberi maklumat penting tentang keadaan pengaliran dalam paip dan seterusnya memberi manfaat dalam meningkatkan ketepatan dalam industri proses.

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AC	-	Alternating Current
ADCP	-	Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler
ANN	-	Artificial Neural Network
BSS	-	Blind Source Separation
CCD	-	Charge-Couple Device
CT	-	Computrised Tomography
DAS	-	Data-Acquisition System
DI	-	Digital Input
DO	-	Digital Output
ECT	-	Electrical Capacitance Tomography
EIT	-	Electrical Impedance Tomography
EPA	-	Environment Protection Agency
ERT	-	Electrical Resistance Tomography
GUI	-	Graphical User Interface
ICA	-	Independent Component Analysis
INWQS	-	Interim National Water Quality Standards
L	-	Length
LED	-	Light Emitting Diode
MIT	-	Mutual Inductance Tomography
MOSFET	-	Metal Oxide Semiconductor Field Effect Transistor
NI	-	National Instrument
NMRT	-	Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Tomography
NTU	-	Nephelometric Turbidity Unit
PCA	-	Principal Component Analysis
PCB	-	Printed Board Circuit
PIC	-	Peripheral Interface Controller
PT	-	Process Tomography



PVC	-	Premature Ventricular Contraction
RX	-	Receiver
RX1	-	Receiver 1
RX2	-	Receiver 2
RX3	-	Receiver 3
RX4	-	Receiver 4
RX5	-	Receiver 5
RX6	-	Receiver 6
RX7	-	Receiver 7
RX8	-	Receiver 8
RX9	-	Receiver 9
RX10	-	Receiver 10
RX11	-	Receiver 11
RX12	-	Receiver 12
RX13	-	Receiver 13
RX14	-	Receiver 14
RX15	-	Receiver 15
RX16	-	Receiver 16
RX17	-	Receiver 17
RX18	-	Receiver 18
SNR	-	Signal Noise Ratio
TI	-	Texas Instrument
TSS	-	Total Suspended Solids
TX	-	Transmitter
TX1	-	Transmitter 1
TX2	-	Transmitter 2
TX3	-	Transmitter 3
TX4	-	Transmitter 4
TX5	-	Transmitter 5
TX6	-	Transmitter 6
TX7	-	Transmitter 7
TX8	-	Transmitter 8
TX9	-	Transmitter 9

TX10	-	Transmitter 10
TX11	-	Transmitter 11
TX12	-	Transmitter 12
TX13	-	Transmitter 13
TX14	-	Transmitter 14
TX15	-	Transmitter 15
TX16	-	Transmitter 16
TX17	-	Transmitter 17
TX18	-	Transmitter 18
USB	-	Universal Serial Bus
VAC	-	Volts Alternating Current

## LIST OF SYMBOLS

ms	-	Millisecond
ns	-	Nanosecond
ml	-	Milliliter
°	-	Degree
$X$	-	Matrix of mixture of source signal
$A$	-	Mixing matrix
$S$	-	Matrix denoting a source signal
$W$	-	Un-mixing matrix
$\hat{S}$	-	Estimation of source signal
$S(t)$	-	Original Signal
$w^+$	-	Temporary variable used to calculate weight vector
$w^T$	-	Transpose of weight vector
$x$	-	Input data
$E\{\dots\}$	-	Averaging over all column-vectors of matrix $x$
$g$	-	Derivative of non-quadratic used in the contrast function $f$ or solving ICA problem
$H(s_1, s_2)$	-	conditional entropy where the entropy of $s_1$ conditional on $s_2$
$H(s_1), H(s_2)$	-	Entropy of $s$
$I(s_1, s_2)$	-	Mutual information
$R_N$	-	Total number of linearly independent voltage
$n$	-	Total electrode
V	-	Volt
$I$	-	Output of light's intensity
$I_0$	-	Input of light's intensity
$l_1$	-	Path length of light travel through the material 1 (mm)
$l_2$	-	Path length of light travel through the material 2 (mm)

$l_3$	-	Path length of light travel through the material 3 (mm)
$l_4$	-	Path length of light travel through the material 4 (mm)
$a$	-	Regression-estimated coefficients
$b$	-	Approximately equal to value of 1
l	-	Liter
$\alpha_1$	-	Attenuation coefficient for material 1 ( $\text{mm}^{-1}$ )
$\alpha_2$	-	Attenuation coefficient for material 2 ( $\text{mm}^{-1}$ )
$\alpha_3$	-	Attenuation coefficient for material 3 ( $\text{mm}^{-1}$ )
$\alpha_4$	-	Attenuation coefficient for material 4 ( $\text{mm}^{-1}$ )
$\alpha_w$	-	Attenuation coefficient for water ( $\text{mm}^{-1}$ )
$\alpha_a$	-	Attenuation coefficient for air ( $\text{mm}^{-1}$ )
$l_w$	-	Pipe diameter (mm)
$l_a$	-	Length of small bubble (mm)
$V_R$	-	The receiving sensor voltage (V)
$V_T$	-	The voltage of receiver when there is no beam attenuation (V)
$exp(-al)$	-	Exponential value
$V_{R1}$	-	Receiver RX1 voltage (V)
$V_{R2}$	-	Receiver RX2 voltage (V)
$V_{R3}$	-	Receiver RX3 voltage (V)
$V_{R4}$	-	Receiver RX4 voltage (V)
cm	-	Centimetre
mm	-	Millimetre
nm	-	Nanometre
$\Omega$	-	Ohm
k $\Omega$	-	Kilo ohm
$\lambda_p$	-	Peak wavelength (nm)
V/ $\mu$ s	-	Volt per microsecond
MS/s	-	Mega samples per second
Xt	-	Signals from receivers
$K$	-	Average value
$M$	-	Turbidity factor
$M_{e,f}$	-	Turbidity factor for transmitter $e$ and receiver $f$

$P$	-	Pixel
$P_{r,c}$	-	Pixel at row ( $r$ ) and column ( $c$ )
$u$	-	Path length of light that has crossed the pixel (cm)
$t$	-	Total length from transmitter to receiver (cm)

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## CHAPTER 1

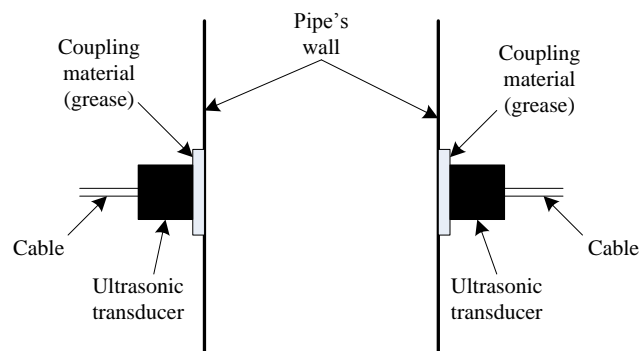
### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Introduction to process tomography

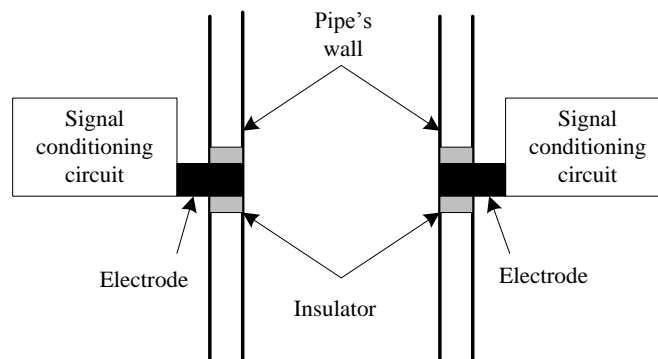
The word ‘tomography’ is the combination of Greek words in which ‘tomos’ means slice and ‘graph’ means image (Williams and Beck, 1995). In other words, tomography can be defined as a process of getting a slice of a picture. The expansion of tomography comes from the idea where the x-ray technology is utilized in order to scan and obtain the internal body image without cutting the subject. The tomography technique has been extensively used in the medical field since 1970s where it started by getting the image of tissue based on the x-ray attenuation coefficient (Dyakowski *et al.*, 2000).

After being successfully used in the medical field, the technique looks like to have a great potential to expand in the other field since it promises an unperturbed way to examine some substances. Hence, tomography has been introduced to the industrial field and successfully provided huge contributions in imagining and identification of the various flow patterns and boundaries. A tomography system consists of several sensors which are located externally around the pipeline or process vessel to unravel the inside condition without disturbing the process flow (Ibrahim, 2000). It offers an ability to get a real-time cross-sectional image and obtain analytical information about internal behaviour of the process (Bennett *et al.*, 2002). The technique also has an ability to assist in optimising the process design by identifying the material distribution and movement in the process vessels or pipelines (Abdul Rahim, 1996).

The concept of tomography can be implemented by installing several sensors around the pipe. Then, the output signals from the sensors will be taken to create the reconstructed image on a computer by using suitable algorithm (Rahmat, 1996). The location of sensors either outside or fixed to the inner pipe wall depends on the type of sensor and the parameter that has to be collected for further analysis. Ultrasonic and optical sensors, for example can be positioned outside the pipe as shown in Figure 1.1 since the signal from the sensor can penetrate the pipe wall. However, certain type of sensor such as electrode and capacitance sensors has to be fitted to the inner pipe wall in order to detect the condition of electrical charge between the moving particles as shown in Figure 1.2.



**Figure 1.1:** The configuration of an ultrasonic sensor when it is mounted to the pipe (Nor Ayob *et al.*, 2010)



**Figure 1.2:** The electrode sensor installed to the pipe wall (Rahmat *et al.*, 2010)



Initially, researchers in tomography focused only on a single modality which made use of a single type of sensor, although innovation and development within this area have grown rapidly with promising prospect. In reality, the system is not bounded and limited to a single modality only. It has made great progress with the introduction of a new method called 'dual modality' system in the year 1996 for improving the observation process (Qiu *et al.*, 2007). Dual modality means two types of sensor has been installed and worked separately in the same pipe cross-section (Johansen *et al.*, 1996). With this development, image reconstruction between the two different types of sensors can be compared where sensors can be compared to observe which sensor shows better outcome. Dual modality technique also has designed to solve some problems occurring in the single modality system where it sometimes gives unsatisfactory result and lacked vital information regarding the image quality (Hasegawa *et al.*, 2001).

## 1.2 Problem Statement

Investigation regarding single-phase flow using tomography method has been conducted for various applications such as milk processing industry and environment field. A research carried out by Sharifi and Young (2013) have applied electrical resistance tomography (ERT) system for measuring the flow and velocity profile information of a single flow in a horizontal pipe. The research used saline and milk solution as single phase solution where the change of flow conductivity is investigated. ERT also has been chosen by Nijland *et al.* (2010) where they successfully measured the soil moisture and plant water use based on the spatial patterns data. The system has the capability of making the measurement in shallow and rocky condition. Other than that, the system also can be used to investigate the vegetation subtracts water from a depths down to 6 m and below.

Tomography method has the potential to estimate the turbidity level of water using optical sensor based on Beer-Lambert's law. In sale marketing area, the turbidity sensor is usually designed in point sensor mode, which means the sensor has to collect or be placed in a water sample in order to measure the turbidity level. However, this sensor is not appropriate in flow industrial process since it cannot measure directly from the pipe and has disturbed the flow process. Hence, a new design for predicting the turbidity water level is proposed using a non-invasive technique based on the use of independent component analysis (ICA) method.

The distinguishing of spatial distribution of two-phase flow is widely used in large-scale application such as oil and nuclear industry to provide better understanding of the flow process (Johansen *et al.*, 1996; Schleicher *et al.*, 2008). Two-phase flow can be liquid-gas, gas-solid and solid-liquid. Investigation on gas bubble behaviour in industry such as food and pharmaceutical are essential, since the existence of unwanted bubbles can reduce the quality of product (Detsch and Sharma, 2000; Pilon *et al.*, 2004). Previous research on bubble measurement in the tomography field was conducted by Rzasa (2009), Fazalul Rahiman (2012) and Jin *et al.* (2013) using pure water as a liquid. Generally, in the chemical sector, the unwanted gas bubbles were in the form of opaque liquid such as oil and paint.

Therefore, this thesis focuses on two-phase flow by exploring the gas bubbles behaviour in contaminated water.

### **1.3 Research Objectives**

#### **Aim**

The aim of this research is to utilise the offline optical tomography system for estimating the turbidity level of water and bubble detection in the contaminated water based on the Independent Component Analysis (ICA) method.

#### **Specific Objectives:**

- (i) To develop an optical tomography system, synchronise hardware as well as software and to utilize the LabVIEW software for data analysis.
- (ii) To investigate the application of the fan beam projection and optical attenuation model in the system.
- (iii) To investigate the performance of the ICA method in estimating the turbidity level of water and detecting the gas bubbles in contaminated water.

### **1.4 Research Methodology**

The optical tomography system consists of eighteen transmitters and eighteen receivers for estimating the water turbidity level and gas bubble detection in contaminated water. The sensors are mounted around a 100 millimeter (mm) of acrylic pipe and fan beam projection is utilized. The transmitters are operated in sequence timing mode where each transmitter has its own pulse duration. Mathematical modelling for both experiments has been made. For water turbidity level, two models are introduced; pure water and contaminated water. In gas bubble investigation, three types of modelling are investigated; no bubble, a single bubble and double bubbles.

This research has implemented an Independent Component Analysis (ICA) algorithm for separating the transmitter's signal from the receivers. ICA has formed the matrix containing the exponential value where the value can be used for analysing the turbidity level and gas bubble, but the matrix is formed in an arbitrary row. Hence, the matrix row has to be rearranged based on the transmitter sequence before calculating the  $K$  value. Several volumes from 5 millimeter (ml) to 35 ml are added to 3 liter of pure water and the  $K$  value is calculated for analysis. For gas bubble investigation, five types of air opening flow condition are selected which are a single bubble, double bubble, 25% of air opening, 50% of air opening and 100% of air opening. The bubble flow is conducted in 25 ml of contaminated water. The investigation is also performed in pure water for bench-marking purpose.

### **1.5 Research Scope and Limitation**

Several scopes of the work are:

- (i) Eighteen infrared transmitters and eighteen receivers have been applied in this research.
- (ii) Fan beam projection is utilized as light projection mode.
- (iii) Each transmitter has its own pulse duration ranging from one millisecond (1 ms) to eighteen millisecond (18 ms).
- (iv) The energy of light is assumed to attenuate when it travels in a water medium. The scattering and refraction effect are considered negligible in this research.
- (v) The volume of green food colouring is from five millilitres (5ml), 15 ml, 25 ml and 35 ml. The volume is added to three litres of pure water in order to pollute the water.
- (vi) Five types of flow have been used to investigate the behaviour of bubbles flow; a single bubble, double bubble, 25% of air opening, 50% of air opening and 100% of air opening.

In this research, the experiment for estimating the water turbidity level is done by polluting 3 liters (l) of pure water with several volumes of green food colouring. The

selected volume of food colouring is from 5 ml until 35 ml. For gas bubble experiment, the research is done by investigating the presence of gas bubble in 25 ml of green contaminated water. The limitation of this research is the experiment cannot be performed in 35 ml of green contaminated water. This is due to the fact that the ICA cannot separate the source signals properly since the water sample is too dark.

## **1.6 Significant Findings**

The main significant finding of this research is the application of the Independent Component Analysis (ICA) method in the optical tomography system for estimating the level of water turbidity and detecting the gas bubble in contaminated water. This research utilizes eighteens infrared Light-Emitting Diode (LED) for transmitting the light and eighteen receivers for detecting the light. The LabVIEW software is used to analyse the data and create the concentration profile for the turbidity level and gas bubble. The result shows that the ICA method has an ability to estimate the water turbidity level and detect the gas bubble in contaminated water by analysing the  $K$  value. The  $K$  value increased when the level of turbidity water increased. The analysis for gas bubble experiment also has been made where the bubble location can be estimated based on the highest  $K$  value of the pixels in the cross section of the pipe.

## **1.7 Organization of the Thesis**

Chapter 1 discusses about the overall project which consists of an overview about process tomography, problem statement, aim and objectives and finally, the scopes of the study.

Chapter 2 presents the literature review on process tomography, turbidity measurement, and the concept of ICA. Several types of sensor and projection modes are also discussed in this chapter.

Chapter 3 elaborates the mathematical modelling of optical tomography system. This chapter discusses the fan beam projection, optical attenuation model for the light and also explained the implementation of the ICA process.

Chapter 4 describes the hardware and software development. The hardware development includes the transmitter and receiver circuit, sensor jig and pipe. The data-acquisition system (DAS) and the LabVIEW software are discussed as the software component.

Chapter 5 presents the results and analysis of varying the colour of the water and bubbles flow.

Chapter 6 provides the conclusion, suggestion and recommendation for future works.

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