

DESIGN OF A NON-DISPERSIVE INFRA-RED (NDIR) BASED CO₂ SENSOR
TO DETECT THE HUMAN RESPIRATORY CO₂

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DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to my beloved parents, elder brother, supervisor, lecturers and friends for their countless love, support and huge encouragement and prayers throughout the journey. Furthermore, I would like give my gratitude to my supervisor because this work would not be possible to finish without her constant support.

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ABSTRACT

Respiratory Carbon dioxide (CO₂) contains substantial amount of information that can be used to diagnose and treat pulmonary diseases. Many devices have been developed for this purpose, such as capnography, vital monitor, peak flow meter, spirometer etc. There are many CO₂ sensor are available in the market but among them NDIR based sensors are considered to be most inexpensive with its accuracy in terms of sensitivity and fast response time. There are commonly two types of technology available for detection; mainstream and sidestream. Mainstream technology is preferable than sidestream because sidestream is not applicable in intubated patients and at the same time it tends to give delay in detection due to longer transmission tube. Most of the NDIR CO₂ sensor are being used for the environmental CO₂ detection and there are very few mainstream NDIR based CO₂ sensor are available in the market. These sensor have a vast number of advantages with some disadvantages as well; such as high response time, thermal noise, temperature increase and others. This project proposed the specification of the electrical circuit of the NDIR CO₂ sensor combined with a gas chamber to detect human respiratory CO₂. To determine the specification of the CO₂ sensor circuit, the components value has been calculated and then the circuit design has been carried out by using Multisim Software. The overall CO₂ sensor circuit has six circuit blocks named oscillator, driver circuit, preamplifier, voltage regulator, rectifier, LPF and each of the blocks were built and simulated in the Multisim software. After the simulation the circuit has been built on breadboard to test the output. An IR source from International Light Technologies (ILT) 4115-2A and pyroelectric photodetector L2100X2020 from laser component were used for this project as NDIR components. After the successful simulation from breadboard a gas acquisition cell has been designed to acquire the human CO₂ gas. The design has been done by using Solid Works software and printed from a 3D printing machine. The material used for this chamber was ABS. After placing all the calculated components with the source and detector the output has been observed on the digital oscilloscope as a capnograph wave form showing the voltage range. These waveforms are being used in a capnometer determining respiratory diseases. The circuit shows a response time of 6 second with less noise and the waveform showed clear view of detected CO₂ without any temperature increase.

ABSTRAK

Karbon dioksida pernafasan (CO_2) mengandungi banyak maklumat yang dapat digunakan untuk mendiagnosis dan merawat penyakit paru-paru. Banyak peranti telah dibangunkan untuk tujuan ini, seperti capnography, monitor penting, meter aliran puncak, spirometer dan sebagainya. Terdapat banyak sensor CO_2 yang terdapat di pasaran tetapi di antara mereka sensor berdasarkan NDIR dianggap paling murah dengan ketepatannya dari segi sensitiviti dan masa tindak balas yang cepat. Terdapat dua jenis teknologi yang sedia ada untuk pengesanan; arus perdana dan sidestream. Teknologi arus perdana lebih baik daripada sidestream kerana sidestream tidak boleh digunakan dalam pesakit yang diintubasi dan pada masa yang sama ia cenderung memberi keterlambatan pengesanan kerana tiub transmisi yang lebih lama. Kebanyakan sensor NDIR CO_2 digunakan untuk pengesanan CO_2 alam sekitar dan terdapat sangat sedikit aliran utama NDIR sensor CO_2 yang terdapat di pasaran. Sensor ini mempunyai sejumlah kelebihan dengan beberapa keburukan juga; seperti masa tindak balas yang tinggi, bunyi terma, kenaikan suhu dan lain-lain. Projek ini mencadangkan spesifikasi litar elektrik sensor NDIR CO_2 yang digabungkan dengan ruang gas untuk mengesan CO_2 pernafasan manusia. Untuk menentukan spesifikasi litar sensor CO_2 , nilai komponen telah dikira dan kemudian reka bentuk litar telah dijalankan dengan menggunakan Perisian Multisim. Litar sensor CO_2 keseluruhan mempunyai enam blok litar yang dinamakan pengayun, litar pemacu, preamplifier, pengawal selia voltan, penerus, LPF dan setiap blok dibina dan disimulasikan dalam perisian Multisim. Selepas simulasi litar telah dibina di atas papan roti untuk menguji output. Satu sumber IR dari International Light Technologies (ILT) 4115-2A dan photodetector pyroelectric L2100X2020 dari komponen laser telah digunakan untuk projek ini sebagai komponen NDIR. Selepas simulasi yang berjaya dari papan roti sel pengambilalihan gas telah direka untuk memperoleh gas CO_2 manusia. Reka bentuk telah dilakukan dengan menggunakan perisian Solid Works dan dicetak dari mesin pencetak 3D. Bahan yang digunakan untuk ruangan ini adalah ABS. Selepas meletakkan semua komponen yang dikira dengan sumber dan pengesanan output telah diperhatikan pada osiloskop digital sebagai bentuk gelombang capnograf yang menunjukkan julat voltan. Bentuk gelombang ini digunakan dalam capnometer yang menentukan penyakit pernafasan. Litar ini menunjukkan masa tindak balas 6 second dengan bunyi kurang dan bentuk gelombang menunjukkan paparan jelas CO_2 yang dikesan tanpa peningkatan suhu.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	TITLE	PAGE
	DECLARATION	ii
	DEDICATION	iii
	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	iv
	ABSTRACT	v
	ABSTRAK	vi
	TABLE OF CONTENTS	vii
	LIST OF TABLES	xi
	LIST OF FIGURES	xii
	LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xv
	LIST OF SYMBOLS	xvii
	LIST OF APPENDICES	xviii
CHAPTER 1	INTRODUCTION	1
1.1	Background of the study	1
1.2	Problem Statement	2
1.3	Objectives	3
1.4	Scope of Study	3
1.5	Significance of Study	4
1.6	Thesis ogranization	5
CHAPTER 2	LITERATURE REVIEW	7
2.1	Gas sensors	7

	2.1.1 Existing gas sensors	8
	2.1.2 NDIR technology	15
	2.1.2.1 Principal of NDIR technology	16
2.2	Related research study	19
	2.2.1 Design of a Respiratory Capnometer	19
	2.2.2 A Mainstream system for human CO ₂	20
	2.2.3 A new real-time capnography for human CO ₂	21
	2.2.4 NDIR measurement CO ₂ at 4.2μm	22
	2.2.5 Complete Gas Sensor Circuit Using NDIR	23
	2.2.6 A low cost MEMS based NDIR sensor	24
	2.2.7 CO ₂ measurement based on Pyro detector	25
	2.2.8 Low power respiratory monitoring device	26
2.3	Components of NDR	28
	2.3.1 Types of IR source	29
	2.3.2 Types of Photodetector	30
	2.3.3 Types of gas cell	31
	2.3.3.1 Dimension of cell	32
	2.3.3.2 Material of cell	33
CHAPTER 3	CIRCUIT DESIGN	35
3.1	Circuit design for CO ₂ sensor	36

	3.1.1 Oscillator and IR-LED Driver Circuit	37
	3.1.2 Voltage regulator and pyroelectric PD	40
	3.1.2.1 Pyroelectric photodetector	41
	3.1.3 Photodetector Preamplifier	43
	3.1.4 Full wave Rectifier	45
	3.1.5 Low Pass Filter	46
3.2	CAD of absorption cell	48
3.3	PCB layout	54
	3.3.1 Copper connection and 3D view	54
CHAPTER 4	RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	57
4.1	Simulation results	59
	4.1.1 Oscillator and IR-LED Driver Circuit	59
	4.1.2 Voltage regulator	59
	4.1.3 Photodetector Preamplifier	60
	4.1.4 Full wave Rectifier	61
	4.1.5 Low pass Filter	61
4.2	Breadboard results	63
	4.2.1 Oscillator and Driver circuit with 4115-2A	63
	4.2.2 Photodetector Preamplifier	64
	4.2.3 Full wave Rectifier	65

	4.2.4 Low pass Filter	66
	4.2.5 Breadboard circuit	67
4.3	Printed gas cell	72
CHAPTER 5	CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS	75
5.1	Conclusion	75
5.2	Recommendations	76
REFERENCES		77

LIST OF TABLES

TABLE NO.	TITLE	PAGE
Table 2.1	Comparison of commonly used CO ₂ sensors [29]	10
Table 2.2	Latest NDIR based CO ₂ sensors	12
Table 2.3	Search of Novelty	13
Table 2.4	Summary of related work	26
Table 2.5	Different types of IR source [39]	29
Table 2.6	Different types of MID-IR Detector [39, 40]	30
Table 2.7	Different types of gas cell	32
Table 3.1	The specification of cylinder	48
Table 3.2	The specification of end cap	49

LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE NO.	TITLE	PAGE
Figure 2.1	Location of Infrared in the Electromagnetic Spectrum [40]	15
Figure 2.2	Schematic of gas chamber [9]	16
Figure 2.3	Relevant spectral distribution of the MID-IR light source, the CO ₂ absorption bands and water vapour [5]	17
Figure 2.4	Mainstream and sidestream technology	18
Figure 2.5	(a) Detecting equipment, (b) Respiratory CO ₂ waveform [12]	20
Figure 2.6	(a) Sensor output, (b) Adapter for sensor [25]	21
Figure 2.7	(a) Designed schematic of optical path length, (b) simulated optical paths [33]	22
Figure 2.8	Complete setup of the thermopile sensor [21]	23
Figure 2.9	Aluminium bench top chamber showing PCBs for IR emitter and thermopile detector [35]	24
Figure 2.10	Experimental setup of the system [37]	25
Figure 2.11	Low-power Portable Respiratory Monitoring Device [43]	26
Figure 3.1	Conceptual diagram NDIR CO ₂ sensor	36
Figure 3.2	Block diagram of overall circuit design	37
Figure 3.3	Circuit design of Oscillator and LED Lamp driver	38
Figure 3.4	Pin configuration of transistor 2N3904	39
Figure 3.5	Pin configuration of op-amp LM741	39
Figure 3.6	Circuit design of Voltage Regulator	40
Figure 3.7	Pin configuration of NCP1117	41

Figure 3.8	Isometric Drawing and the schematic diagram of the detector [54]	42
Figure: 3.9	(a) Schematic of typically used VM pyro detector, (b) Schematic of typically used CM pyro detector [54]	43
Figure 3.10	Circuit design of PD pre amplifier	45
Figure 3.11	Circuit design of Precision Full wave Rectifier	46
Figure 3.12	Circuit design of Low pass filter	47
Figure 3.13	Specification of 3D gas cell	50
Figure 3.14	Specification of cap 1 to hold IR source	50
Figure 3.15	Specification of cap 2 to hold detector	51
Figure 3.16	CAD of gas chamber	51
Figure 3.17	(a) Cap 1-Source holder, (b) Cap 2-Detector holder	52
Figure 3.18	Nasal Cannula	53
Figure 3.19	Copper connection of PCB layout	55
Figure 3.20	3D view of PCB layout	55
Figure 4.1	Result sections of the study	58
Figure 4.2	Simulation output of Oscillator and IR-LED Driver Circuit	59
Figure 4.3	Voltage regulator output	60
Figure 4.4	Simulation output of Photodetector Pre Amplifier circuit	61
Figure 4.5	Bode plot of preamplifier	61
Figure 4.6	Simulation output of Full wave rectifier circuit	62
Figure 4.7	Simulation output of Low pass filter circuit	62
Figure 4.8	Bode plot of LPF	63
Figure 4.9	Oscillator and Driver Circuit output with 4115-2A from breadboard	64
Figure 4.10 (a)	Pre Amplifier output from breadboard	65
Figure 4.10 (b)	Preamplifier with detector from breadboard	65

Figure 4.11	Full wave rectifier output from breadboard	66
Figure 4.12	Low pass filter output from breadboard	66
Figure 4.13	Breadboard circuit	67
Figure 4.14	Sensor output without filtering	68
Figure 4.15	Plotted Sensor output with noise	68
Figure 4.16	Sensor output after filtering	69
Figure 4.17	Plotted waveform of the output after filtering	69
Figure 4.18	Plotted output of Environmental CO ₂	70
Figure 4.19	FFT of noisy signal	71
Figure 4.20	FFT of filtered signal	71
Figure 4.21	Printed gas cell	72
Figure 4.22	Printed cap 1	72
Figure 4.23	Printed cap 2	72

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CO ₂	-	Carbon Dioxide
MIR	-	Mid Infrared
LED	-	Light emitting diode
NDIR	-	Non-dispersive infra-red
Volt	-	Voltage
ICU	-	Intensive care unit
CAD	-	Computer Aided Design
3D	-	Three-Dimensional
UTM	-	Universiti Teknologi Malaysia
PWM	-	Pulse Width Modulation
ANN	-	Artificial Neural Network
UART	-	Universal Asynchronous Receiver/Transmitter.
PPM	-	Parts per meter
COPD	-	Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
DSO	-	Digital signal oscilloscope
DC	-	Direct current
LPF	-	Low pass filter
HPF	-	High pass filter
BPF	-	Band pass filter
ILT	-	International Light Technologies
ABS	-	Acrylonitrile butadiene styrene
CM	-	Current Mode
VM	-	Voltage Mode
IR	-	Infrared
O ₂	-	Oxygen
Cm	-	Centimetre
mA	-	Milliamps
mm	-	Millimetre
mV	-	Millivolt
mW	-	Milliwatt

ms	-	Millisecond
mHz	-	Milli Hertz
Hz	-	Hertz
L	-	Length
D	-	Diameter
C	-	Concentration
A	-	Absorbance
I	-	Intensity of light striking the photodetector
I_0	-	Intensity of light of an empty sample chamber
μF	-	Micro Farad
nF	-	Nano Farad
GND	-	Ground
V_{in}	-	Input Voltage
V_o	-	Voltage
VCC	-	Positive Supply Voltage
VEE	-	Negative supply Voltage
F_c	-	Cut off frequency
N	-	No
Y	-	Yes
NS	-	Not specified

LIST OF SYMBOLS

α	-	Molar absorption co-efficient
μ	-	Micro
Ω	-	Ohm
Π	-	pi
λ	-	Lamda
\pm	-	Plus minus sign
\leq	-	Less than or equal to
\geq	-	Greater than or equal to

LIST OF APPENDICES

APPENDIX	TITLE	PAGE
APPENDIX A	Specification of IR source LIT 4115-2A	82
APPENDIX B	Specification of pyroelectric photodetector L2100X2020	83
APPENDIX C	Specification of LM741 operational amplifier	84
APPENDIX D	Specification of NPN transistor 2N3904	85
APPENDIX E	Specification of voltage regulator NCP1117	86
APPENDIX F	Overall sensor circuit	87

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This chapter highlights the introduction to the topic related to respiratory CO₂ including discussion on the statement of the problem, the objectives of this research, the scope of this research work and its significance and finally the thesis organization.

1.1 Background of the Study

The goal of the research is to design a 'Non-Dispersive Infra-Red (NDIR) based CO₂ Sensor to Detect Human respiratory CO₂'. There are different designs had been done and tested for CO₂ sensor. It is very important to choose the right design and components for building a CO₂ sensor for medical application. In NDIR based design, the selection of source, detector, design of gas chamber and the material selection of the gas chamber plays vital role to get the correct output of the sensor device. In this design, the components were selected in a manner to detect the CO₂ gas correctly. NDIR based sensors considered to be most inexpensive with high accuracy therefore this technology were preferable to design a new sensor with this technology. This design can be considered as a novel gas sensor because the specified circuit design and the selected electronic components used in this design had not been used by any other researcher to implement NDIR sensor.

Respiration is an important physiological process which can maintain the vital signs of people stability. Respiratory diseases, such as asthma, chronic rhinosinusitis, bronchiectasis and obstructive sleep apnea are widely prevalent all around the world. To effectively and accurately assess cardio respiratory functions, respiratory monitoring is the key component during the administration of respiratory diseases and intensive care unit [7, 8]. In this work, the designing section of the NDIR sensor is focused which can be used for detecting CO₂ gas only called single channel CO₂ sensor. The concentration of gas in normal exhaled human breath is around 35,000

ppm to 50,000 ppm, which corresponds to a sea level partial pressure of 26.6 to 38.0 mmHg. It is roughly a factor of 100, higher concentration between inspiration and expiration and CO₂ gas is fairly straight forward to measure [9].

In this work, the sensor circuit designed with mainstream system where the sensor can directly detect the gas and pass it for further processing. Typically, the main components of NDIR are infrared sources (lamps), sample chambers (or light tubes), wavelength filters, and infrared detectors [5]. An infrared ray is radiated onto the respiratory gas from a light-emitting element. A Voltage corresponding to the amount of light which is absorbed by CO₂ contained in the respiratory gas is detected by a light-receiving element, thus detecting the CO₂ [12].

1.2 Problem Statement

Many optical sensor offer high resolution, but can be very expensive depending on the quality of the light source, optical system and the detector used [13]. Most of the NDIR sensors are made for industrial use or environmental CO₂ detection and that is not suitable for respiratory CO₂ detection. As the CO₂ sensors are also being used in medical device therefore NDIR sensors are preferable for medical devices due to its reliable results and a lot of researches are going on this topic. There are two types of technology for detection, one is mainstream and another one is sidestream. Mainstream technology considered better than sidestream technology due to its sensitivity, high response time, no samples removed from breathing circuit and compatibility with intubated patients. Sidestream technology is not applicable to intubated patients and there is huge possibility of tube clogging and delaying of the delivery of CO₂ to sensor location [14]. The NDIR based mainstream CO₂ sensors are not widely available in the market and the available sensors have number of disadvantages likely delay in output, high initializing time, high warm-up time, temperature increase and most importantly noise.

To overcome the problems related to NDIR sensors this study is proposing an electrical design of sensor that is capable to detect the CO₂ using mainstream technology and can be used in any device for respiratory CO₂ detection in future.

Most of the NDIR sensor shows temperature increase due to the thermal detector. To overcome that problem this study is proposing the design along with the component selection which is capable to show less noisy waveform without any physical temperature increase.

For NDIR technique the gas chamber plays a vital role, with the gas chamber the detection of respiratory gas is more accurate. The researches under NDIR spectroscopy poses number of limitations due to the gas chamber. Some of them are having a longer path length or very complex pathlength and also material is another issue related to gas chamber. Complex path length gives incorrect output with delay in detection. Therefore this study is proposing a design of gas chamber which is easy to construct with simple detection pathlength that may overcome the problem related to gas chamber.

1.3 Objectives

The objectives of this proposed work are-

1. To develop an electrical circuit and to simulate circuit diagram of NDIR based CO₂ sensor using Multisim software
2. To build the circuit in breadboard to test the output of the NDIR CO₂ sensor
3. To design the absorption gas chamber for detection of respiratory CO₂

1.4 Scope of Study

The assessment of this sensor circuit is focus on only CO₂ gas detection because this gas is mostly used in the medical devices for monitoring and diagnosing

the respiratory diseases. This type of sensors are typically called single channel CO₂ sensor. Single channel sensors are simple and gives results with accuracy. The detector is compiled with TFC therefore the circuit doesn't show ant temperature increase during detection and because of current mood model, the output remain stable with low noise. In this study, the circuit designs has been done by using Multisim software and the gas chamber design by using solid works software. The output from the breadboard has been received and observed from the DSO which comes in voltage range. This is the typical output range of any CO₂ sensor available in the market. Though this sensor circuit gives result with accuracy as it is using a single channel detector and a source with exactly 4.26 μ m radiation output but still this study poses number of limitations. The output has been traced directly from breadboard where it poses unnecessary noisy signal. For this very advanced signal processing required and a PCB is required to have a robust circuit and stable output. On the other hand, the length of the gas chamber may give delay due to longer pathlength and also the material can be replaced with metal or a reflective pathlength may allow the radiation to reflect more. In this work, the gas chamber has been done with ABS and without any reflective path therefore there is no additional reflection inside the pathlength.

1.5 Significance of the Study

The need for this research is raised because in order to develop a medical device (capnometer) the selection of CO₂ sensor is very important as it needs to be appropriate with the application, monetary value, accuracy, and sensitivity. This proposed research will contribute to the existing knowledge significantly and would play a pivotal role in making better human respiratory CO₂ sensor. This project proposed an electrical circuit design of a sensor based on NDIR spectroscopy technique because it is considered to be very low cost but very sensitive with respect to other available sensors. The use of infrared technology in this study will improve the detection of CO₂ gas. Now a days the infrared technology is the most popular studies and this study is also based on it because of it reliable results. In this study, a Pyroelectric photo detector will be used which has a built in optical filter that blocks all the infrared except the radiation of 4.26 μ m which is the most useful wave length to detect the CO₂ gas. The application L2100X2020 on NDIR spectroscopy will reduce

the thermal noise in a great extent. Because this detector is integrated with TFC which reduces the noise and attenuates the tendency towards natural oscillation with longer amplification. The detection of CO₂ gas reveals the problem associated with heart or lung, CO₂ gas detection is also needed during emergency monitoring and delivering the anaesthesia [24, 25].

1.6 Thesis organization

This thesis consists of 5 chapters. Chapter 1 is an introductory chapter. It presents the background of the study, problem statement, objectives, scope and significance of this research work.

Chapter 2 is literature review and provides brief reviews to the number of topics. Existing CO₂ sensors, explanation of NDIR gas sensors and summary of the studies related to NDIR technique and the materials for gas cell has been carried out extensively, emphasizing on the finding as well as their limitations.

In Chapter 3, the circuit design used to achieve the aforesaid objectives has been described in detail ranging from designing hardware to software as well as from designing project PCB to gas acquisition chamber.

Results and their discussion obtained through this research project have been carried out in Chapter 4.

Conclusively in Chapter 5 summary of the whole work is given including the recommendation for the further research has been presented briefly.

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