

Comprehensive Review of Gas Sensor Technologies: Fundamentals, Applications, and Microcontroller Integration

Osama Gamal Mahmoud¹, Herlina Abdul Rahim^{1*}, Nur Athirah Syafiqah Noramli² and Aisyah Mohd Akram³

^{1*} Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, 81310 Skudai, Johor, Malaysia

² School of Electrical Engineering, College of Engineering, Universiti Teknologi MARA, Shah Alam, Selangor, Malaysia

³ Regional Development & Strategy, Siemens Energy, Cyberjaya, Selangor

Corresponding author* email: herlina@utm.my

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ABSTRACT

This paper presents a detailed review of gas sensing technologies, covering a wide range of sensor types and their implementations across various industries. It discusses the fundamental principles, construction, and functionality of sensors, highlighting critical aspects such as sensitivity, selectivity, and signal processing. Microcontroller integration using simulation tools and practical wiring setups is also described, showcasing real-world implementations. A novel sensor design concept based on existing components is introduced, suggesting new directions in the evolution of gas sensors.

Keywords: Gas sensor, instrumentation, characteristics of gas sensor

1. Introduction

Gas sensor technology, a cornerstone in industrial instrumentation, has evolved significantly, paralleling advancements in materials science and electronics [1]. The genesis of gas sensors can be traced back to early chemical detection methods, which have since transformed into complex systems employing sophisticated principles for gas detection. These developments have been underpinned by research in semiconductor physics, nanotechnology, and microfabrication techniques, leading to enhanced sensitivity, selectivity, and miniaturization of sensors.

In the industrial realm, gas sensors are indispensable for hazard prevention, especially in environments with potential exposure to toxic or explosive gases. Their relevance extends to environmental monitoring, where they are essential tools for tracking air pollutants and greenhouse gases, contributing significantly to initiatives in air quality management and climate change mitigation. In healthcare, gas sensors find applications in breath analysis, offering non-invasive diagnostic capabilities that align with contemporary trends in medical technology.

This project embarks on an extensive exploration of gas sensor technologies. It scrutinizes various types, their structural differences, and functional characteristics. The discourse extends to the operational principles of these sensors, encompassing both traditional and emerging technologies. Integration strategies of gas sensors with other devices are elucidated, employing simulation tools and microcontroller platforms for practical demonstrations. Additionally, the report ventures into the realm of innovation, proposing conceptual designs for new gas sensor types using existing components. This investigation not only enriches the understanding of current gas sensor technologies but also charts a sensor technology but also charts a trajectory for future advancements in this vital field.

2. Background

The evolution of gas sensor technology dates to the early 20th century, initially focusing on detecting harmful gases in mining environments. As scientific understanding deepened, the 1950s and 1960s saw significant advancements, particularly with the introduction of semiconductor-based sensors [2]. These were pivotal in detecting a wide range of gases with greater sensitivity and specificity.

The scientific basis of gas sensors is rooted in the interaction between gas molecules and sensor materials. This interaction leads to measurable physical or chemical changes, forming the core principle of gas detection. The progress

in nanotechnology and microfabrication in recent decades has been instrumental in enhancing the performance and reducing the size of these sensors.

In industrial settings, gas sensors have become indispensable for ensuring workplace safety, especially in chemical and petrochemical industries. Environmentally, they play a crucial role in monitoring air quality and detecting greenhouse gases, aligning with global efforts in environmental conservation. In the medical field, the application of gas sensors for breath analysis has opened new avenues in non-invasive diagnostics, aligning with trends towards patient-friendly technologies [3].

The future of gas sensor technology appears promising, with potential advancements including the integration of Internet of Things (IoT) for real-time monitoring and the application of artificial intelligence for enhanced data analysis and predictive capabilities.

3. Theory of Gas Sensors

The fundamental principles of gas detection in sensors involve the response to the presence of different gases, based on chemical or physical changes. When a target gas interacts with the sensor, it triggers a change, which can be a variation in electrical resistance, light absorption, or a chemical reaction. For example, semiconductor-based sensors detect gases through changes in electrical resistance when gases interact with the sensor's surface. Electrochemical sensors, on the other hand, rely on chemical reactions that produce an electrical current. The nature of the interaction is determined by the type of gas and the sensor's material, making specificity and sensitivity crucial aspects. This interaction is then translated into a measurable signal, which is processed to determine the presence and concentration of the gas.

Gas sensors are diverse in their design and function, catering to specific detection needs [4] as shown in Figure 1. Electrochemical sensors excel in environments requiring high sensitivity and specificity, ideal for gases like carbon monoxide, hydrogen sulfide, and oxygen. Semiconductor sensors, using metal oxides, are versatile for a wide range of combustible gases. Infrared sensors leverage the unique infrared absorption characteristics of gases, particularly effective for carbon dioxide and hydrocarbon detection. Photoionization Detectors (PIDs) are valuable for detecting low concentrations of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), while catalytic bead sensors are commonly used for detecting combustible gases through a catalytic oxidation process. Each sensor type presents a unique set of advantages and limitations, shaped by its operating principle, sensitivity, and environmental adaptability.

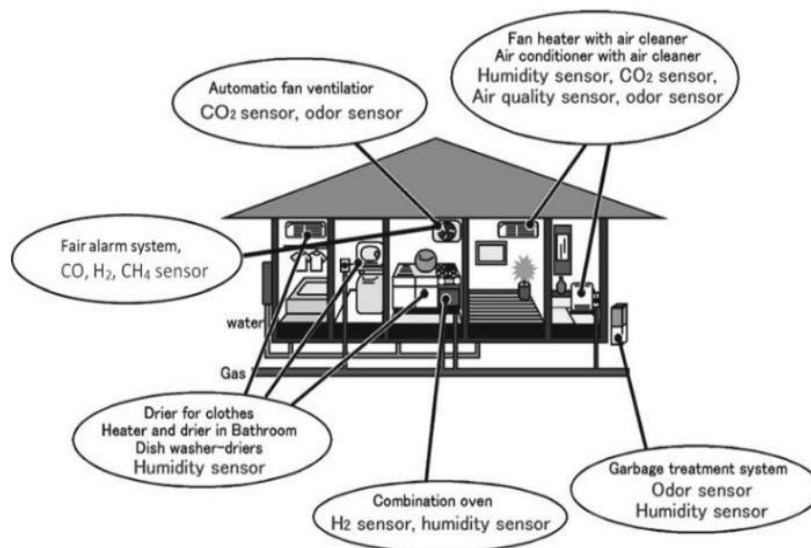


Figure 1. Different types of gas sensors installed at different locations around a home [4]

Gas sensors are designed to detect specific gases and can vary based on the type of gas they are meant to detect. Key types include sensors for oxygen, carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, ammonia, chlorine, hydrogen sulfide, nitrogen oxide, volatile organic compounds, methane, hydrocarbons, and hydrogen. Different technologies underpin the function of gas sensors.

3.1 Electrochemical Sensors

Electrochemical gas sensors operate on a principle involving an electrochemical reaction, typically oxidation or reduction, that occurs when a target gas meets a working electrode (Figure 2). These sensors are composed of a few

critical components: a working electrode (also known as the sensing electrode), a counter electrode, and often a reference electrode, all of which are immersed in an electrolyte within a housing. This housing is designed with a gas-permeable membrane that allows the target gas to pass through while keeping the liquid contained. When the target gas diffuses through this membrane, it reaches the working electrode, where the electrochemical reaction takes place. Depending on the type of gas, this reaction can either be an oxidation process, where electrons move from the working electrode to the counter electrode, or a reduction process, with electrons flowing in the opposite direction. This electron flow generates an electrical current that is proportional to the concentration of the gas being detected. The resulting current is then amplified and processed, yielding a quantitative measure of the gas concentration.

One of the key characteristics of electrochemical gas sensors is their linear response to the concentration of target gases, which simplifies calibration and enhances the precision of low concentration measurements. However, these sensors can exhibit cross-sensitivity, meaning they might respond to gases other than the target gas. This is usually managed through the use of filters and bias voltage to ensure accuracy.

Another important consideration is the effect of temperature on the sensor's performance. The rates of the chemical reactions in electrochemical sensors are temperature-dependent, which can influence their sensitivity and accuracy. Therefore, incorporating some form of temperature compensation is recommended for reliable performance across various environmental conditions.

Electrochemical gas sensors are versatile and find applications in a wide range of industries, including medical, environmental monitoring, and industrial safety, due to their high sensitivity, selectivity, and relative affordability. Recent advancements have also enabled the miniaturization of these sensors, further expanding their potential applications as shown in Figure 3.

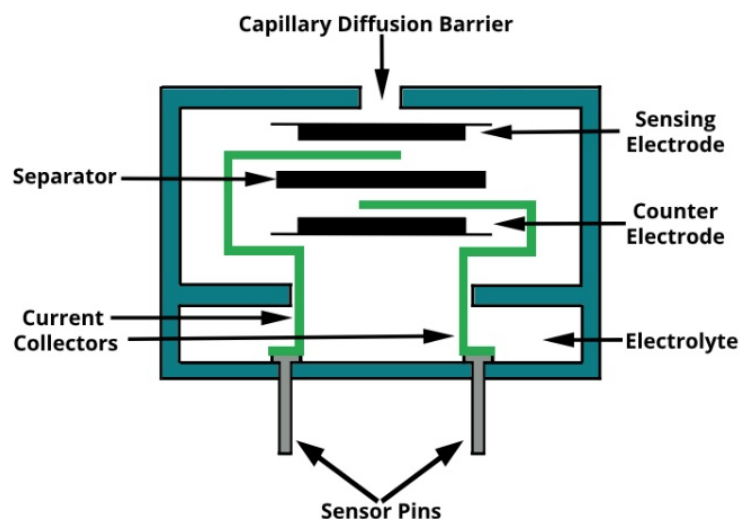


Figure 2. Structure of an Electrochemical Gas Sensor

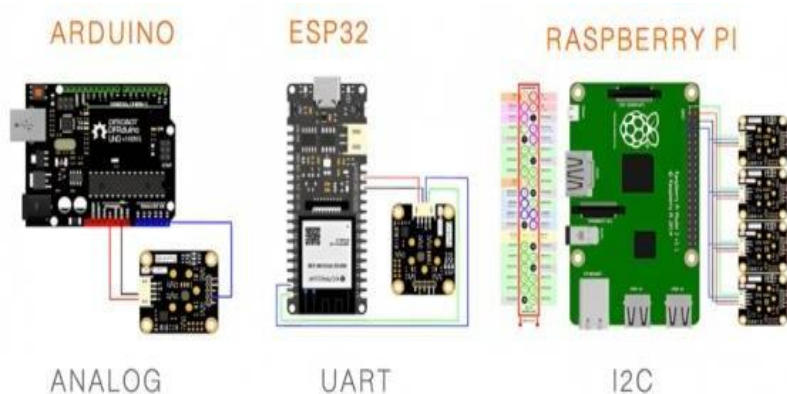


Figure 3. The connection for the sensor with Arduino, ESP32, and Raspberry Pi

3.2 Photoionization Detectors (PID)

Photoionization Detectors (PIDs) are specialized gas sensors that are particularly effective in detecting volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and a wide range of other gases. The core working principle of a PID involves the use of an

ultraviolet (UV) light source. This UV lamp emits photons with sufficiently high energy to ionize gas molecules present in the sample air. When these high-energy photons collide with gas molecules, they knock off electrons, leading to the formation of positively charged ions and free electrons as shown in Figure 4.

As these charged particles are created, they generate a current by moving towards electrodes within the sensor. The strength of this current is directly proportional to the concentration of the gas being detected. PIDs are designed to measure this current and convert it into a readable output, typically displayed in parts per million (ppm) or parts per billion (ppb), providing an indication of the concentration level of the target gas [5].

PIDs are particularly sensitive to VOCs, which makes them invaluable in fields such as environmental monitoring, industrial hygiene, and leak detection in the chemical and petroleum industries. One of the key advantages of PIDs is their rapid response time [6], allowing for almost instantaneous detection and analysis of gas presence. They can detect a broad spectrum of compounds, especially those with ionization energies lower than the energy of the UV lamp's photons.

However, PIDs do have certain limitations. They lack specificity, meaning they cannot distinguish between different types of VOCs, and their performance can be affected by humidity and temperature fluctuations [7]. Despite these limitations, PIDs are widely used in various sectors for their ability to detect low concentrations of a broad range of VOCs quickly. Their applications span from environmental monitoring to the chemical industry, oil and gas sector, and emergency response, particularly for detecting hazardous gas leaks or concentrations.

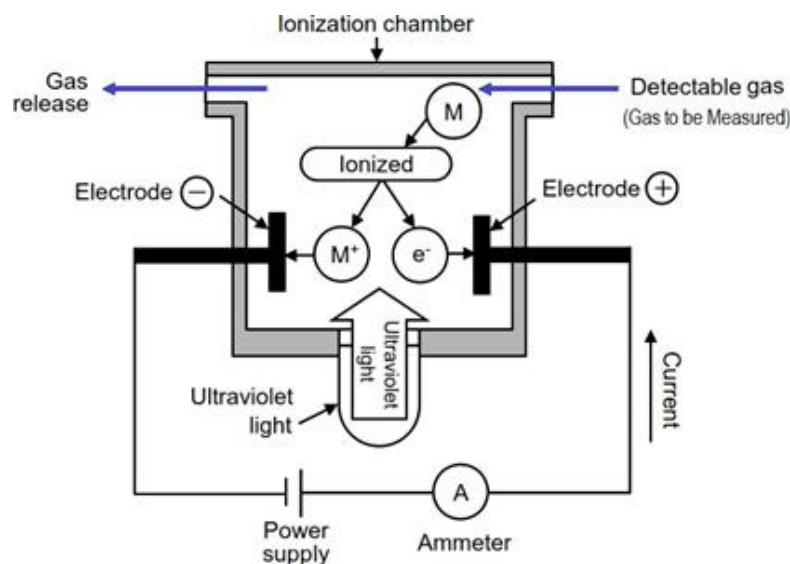


Figure 4. PID's structure [7]

3.3 Solid-State/Metal Oxide Semiconductor (MOS) sensors

Solid-State/Metal Oxide Semiconductor (MOS) sensors are a type of gas sensor widely used for detecting a variety of gases, particularly at high temperatures (Figure 5). The fundamental operating principle of these sensors relies on the conductivity changes in a metal oxide material when exposed to certain gas molecules. Typically, these sensors employ a thin film of metal oxide material, such as tin oxide (SnO₂), which is heated to a high temperature by an integrated heating element.

When the target gas interacts with the surface of the heated metal oxide, it causes a change in the surface electron concentration. For example, in the presence of reducing gases like carbon monoxide or hydrocarbons, these gases react with oxygen ions on the sensor surface, releasing electrons back into the metal oxide material. This change in electron concentration alters the electrical conductivity of the metal oxide layer. The degree of conductivity change is directly related to the concentration of the target gas, allowing the sensor to measure the gas concentration.

Solid-State/MOS sensors are known for their high sensitivity to a range of gases, particularly at low concentrations. They are widely used in various applications, including air quality monitoring, leak detection in industrial settings, and as part of domestic gas alarms. These sensors are relatively low-cost and offer a long operational life, making them suitable for continuous monitoring applications.

However, MOS sensors do have some limitations. They typically require a high operating temperature to function effectively, which can lead to higher power consumption. Additionally, they can be sensitive to humidity and may have cross-sensitivity to other gases, potentially affecting accuracy. Despite these challenges, the robustness and versatility of Solid-State/MOS sensors make them a popular choice for gas detection in a wide range of applications.

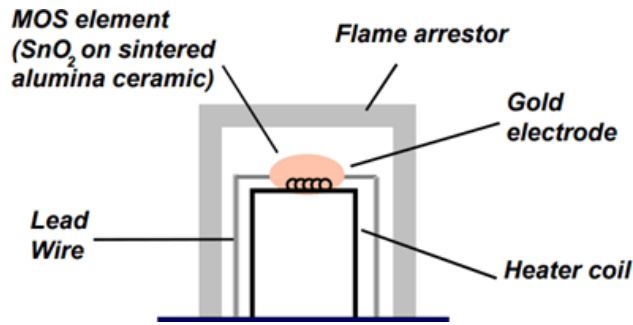


Figure 5. Schematic of MOS Sensor

3.4 Catalytic Sensors

Catalytic sensors, often referred to as catalytic bead sensors or palliators, are widely used for detecting combustible gases such as methane, propane, and hydrogen (Figure 6). The fundamental principle of these sensors is based on the catalytic oxidation of gas on the surface of an active element, typically a bead coated with a catalytic material like platinum.

The sensor comprises two beads: a catalytic (active) bead and a compensating (reference) bead. Both beads are typically made of a porous material, like alumina, and are coated with a thin layer of catalytic material. The active bead is exposed to the target gas, while the reference bead is treated to inhibit catalytic activity. Each bead is incorporated into an electrical circuit where it acts as one arm of a Wheatstone bridge as shown in Figure 7.

When a combustible gas meets the catalytic bead, it oxidizes, generating heat. This heat causes a change in the electrical resistance of the bead. The reference bead, not being exposed to the gas, does not change in temperature, allowing for compensation of environmental factors like ambient temperature. The difference in resistance between the active and reference beads leads to an imbalance in the Wheatstone bridge, which is detected as a change in voltage. This voltage change is proportional to the concentration of the combustible gas.

Catalytic sensors are appreciated for their reliability and simplicity in detecting lower explosive limits (LEL) of a wide range of combustible gases. They are commonly used in industrial safety applications to monitor environments where there is a risk of gas leaks that could lead to explosions.

However, these sensors have limitations. They can be poisoned or inhibited by certain substances like silicone or lead, which can bind to the catalytic surface and reduce its effectiveness. Additionally, they require oxygen to operate correctly since the detection principle is based on the oxidation of the gas. In environments with low oxygen levels, their performance may be compromised.

Despite these limitations, catalytic sensors remain a cornerstone in gas detection, particularly in industrial safety applications due to their proven track record of reliability and effectiveness in detecting a wide range of combustible gases.

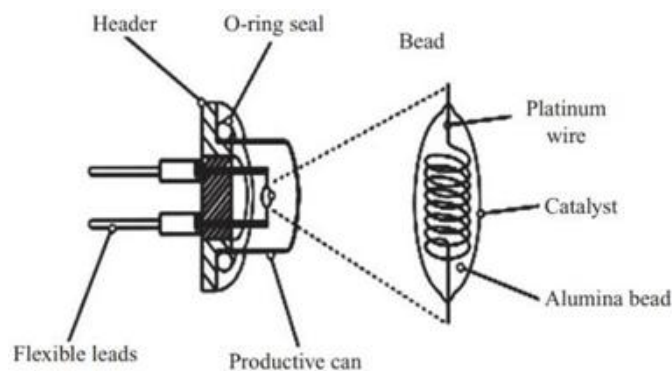


Figure 6. Schematic of Catalytic Sensor

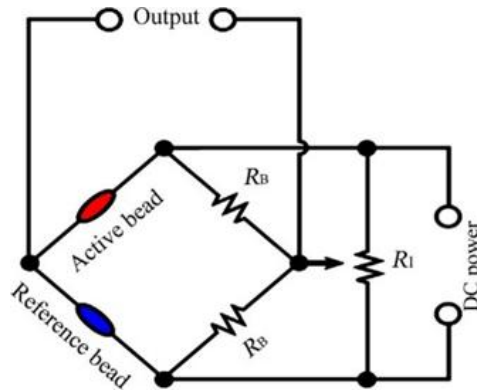


Figure 7. A catalytic sensor used in a Wheatstone bridge

3.5 Infrared (IR) sensors

Infrared (IR) sensors are advanced gas detection devices that utilize infrared absorption spectroscopy to identify and measure specific gas concentrations. The core principle of these sensors hinges on the unique characteristic of gases to absorb infrared light at specific wavelengths. Each gas has a distinctive spectral fingerprint, which these sensors exploit for detection (Figure 8).

The sensor consists of an infrared light source, which emits light across a range of wavelengths. When this light traverses through a sample of air, any gas present in the sample absorbs infrared light at its characteristic wavelengths. The amount of light absorption is indicative of the gas concentration. This light, after passing through the gas sample, reaches a detector on the other side. The detector measures the intensity of the transmitted light and compares it with the intensity of the light source.

By analyzing the difference in intensities, IR sensors can accurately calculate the concentration of the target gas. The key advantage of these sensors is their selectivity; they can specifically detect certain gases by targeting their unique absorption spectra.

This makes IR sensors particularly useful in applications where the detection of a specific gas is crucial, such as carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, methane, and other hydrocarbons.

Additionally, IR sensors offer the benefit of non-contact measurement, enabling remote sensing capabilities. They are generally low maintenance, not requiring frequent calibration or suffering from degradation due to gas exposure, unlike some other sensor types.

Infrared (IR) sensors, while highly effective in certain applications, do have inherent limitations (Figure 9). Notably, they are not suited for the detection of all gas types. This limitation stems from the fact that some gases lack significant absorption characteristics in the infrared spectrum, rendering them undetectable by IR sensors. Additionally, the accuracy of these sensors can be compromised in the presence of other gases that absorb infrared light at wavelengths similar to the target gas. Such interference can lead to erroneous readings and measurement inaccuracies.

Despite these constraints, IR sensors are extensively utilized across various sectors. Their practical applications span from environmental monitoring to industrial safety, as well as in heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems, and automotive emissions control. The primary strength of IR sensors lies in their ability to detect gases that exhibit strong infrared absorption reliably and selectively, making them an indispensable tool in these domains.

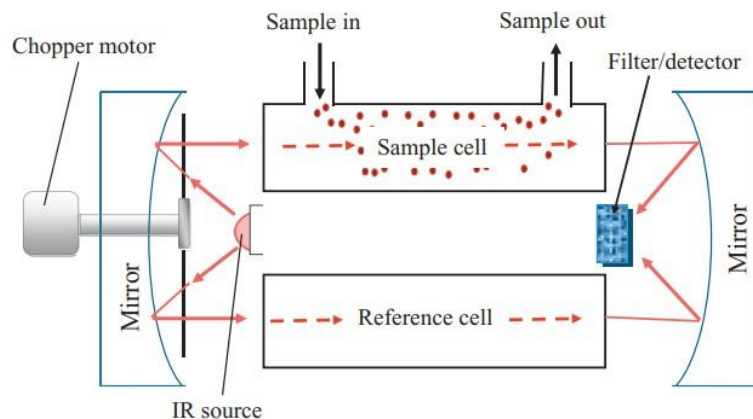


Figure 8. Schematic of IR Sensor

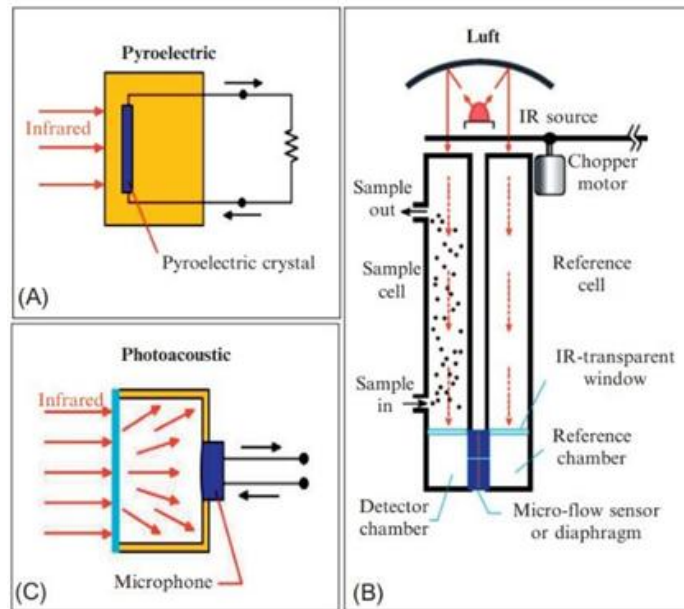


Figure 9. Different types of detectors, (A) pyroelectric, (B) luft, and (C) photoacoustic, are used to convert electromagnetic radiation energy into electrical impulses.

3.6 Laser, Zirconia, and Holographic sensors

Laser, Zirconia, and Holographic sensors represent the forefront of gas detection technology, each utilizing distinct principles for specific applications. Laser sensors, employing tunable diode laser absorption spectroscopy (TDLAS), emit a laser beam tuned to wavelengths absorbed by the target gas. The concentration of the gas is determined by measuring the amount of light absorption. These sensors are renowned for their high accuracy and selectivity, making them ideal for applications such as trace gas monitoring in industrial processes, environmental surveillance, and scientific research. Their ability to detect low concentrations and suitability for remote sensing over long distances set them apart.

Zirconia oxygen sensors operate based on the properties of solid electrolyte oxygen concentration cells, using zirconium dioxide (ZrO₂) as a ceramic electrolyte (Figure 10). At elevated temperatures, ZrO₂ becomes ionically conductive, allowing oxygen ions to traverse through the zirconia. This makes them particularly valuable in automotive emissions control, combustion control in industrial settings, and oxygen purity analysis. They are prized for their rapid response, accuracy, and robustness, even in challenging environments.

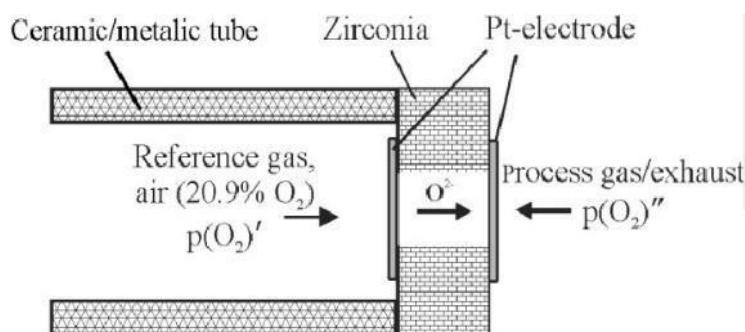


Figure 10. Zirconia oxygen sensor

Holographic sensors, on the other hand, utilize the principles of holography. They detect changes in chemical environments by observing alterations in a hologram's structure, which in turn affects the light it reflects or transmits. These sensors are gaining ground in environmental monitoring, medical diagnostics, and food quality control. They stand out for their potential high sensitivity and specificity and offer the capability for real-time, non-invasive measurements.

Together, these advanced sensor technologies offer a versatile toolkit for a myriad of applications, from industrial safety to environmental monitoring and medical diagnostics. While Laser, Zirconia, and Holographic sensors represent cutting-edge advancements in gas detection, they also come with complexities and may be more costly compared to conventional sensors. Their specific operational requirements and calibration needs are considerations for their optimal

performance. Nonetheless, their unique advantages and innovative approaches significantly enhance the capabilities and scope of gas detection technology.

4. Technical Characteristics

Understanding the technical characteristics of gas sensors, which encompass both static and dynamic aspects, is crucial for choosing the appropriate sensor for specific applications and accurately interpreting sensor data. Static characteristics include sensitivity, the sensor's capacity to detect minor changes in gas concentration, and selectivity, which refers to its ability to identify a particular gas amidst a mix of other gases. The range is another static characteristic, indicating the minimum and maximum gas concentrations the sensor can detect effectively. Accuracy is a critical factor that determines how closely the sensor's readings align with the actual gas concentrations. This aspect can be influenced by sensor drift and calibration over time. Resolution, the smallest detectable change in gas concentration, and the sensor's response time to stabilize after exposure to a gas, are also key static parameters.

On the dynamic front, the characteristics focus on the sensor's responsiveness to changes in gas concentration and environmental conditions. Response time in dynamic terms includes the sensor's speed in reacting to gas presence (response time) and returning to baseline levels when the gas is removed (recovery time). Repeatability is vital for consistency in results under identical conditions across multiple tests. Long-term stability is about how the sensor maintains its accuracy and sensitivity over extended use. Over-range performance relates to the sensor's behavior when exposed to gas levels exceeding its maximum range, with some sensors capable of tolerating such conditions without damage. Cross-sensitivity addresses how the sensor's response might be influenced by gases other than the target gas. Lastly, environmental factors such as temperature, humidity, and pressure can impact sensor performance, with dynamic characteristics including the sensor's resilience under varying environmental conditions.

Altogether, both static and dynamic characteristics provide a comprehensive view of a gas sensor's capabilities and limitations. This understanding is fundamental for the effective selection and application of gas sensors in various detection scenarios, ensuring reliable and accurate monitoring of gas concentrations as shown in Table 1 [3].

Table 1. A comprehensive overview of the key static and dynamic characteristics of different gas sensors [3].

Characteristic	Electrochemical	PID	MOS	Catalytic	Infrared (IR)	Laser	Zirconia
Sensitivity	High	High for VOCs	High	High for combustible gases	High	Very High	High for oxygen
Selectivity	Varies	High for specific VOCs	Moderate	Low	High	Very High	High for oxygen
Range	Depends on specific sensor	Varies	Wide	Limited to combustible gases	Varies	Varies	Limited to oxygen
Accuracy	High	High	Moderate	High	Very High	Very High	Very High
Resolution	High	High	High	Moderate	High	Very High	High
Response Time	Fast	Very Fast	Moderate	Fast	Fast	Very Fast	Fast
Repeatability	Good	Good	Moderate	Good	Excellent	Excellent	Good
Long-Term Stability	Good	Moderate	Good	Good	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Over-range Performance	Moderate	Moderate	Poor	Good	Good	Good	Good
Cross-Sensitivity	Low to moderate	Moderate	High	High	Low	Low	Low
Environmental Factors	Sensitive to temperature and humidity	Sensitive to temperature and humidity	Very Sensitive to temperature and humidity	Sensitive to temperature and humidity	Less Sensitive to environmental factors	Moderate Sensitive to environmental factors	Sensitive to environmental factors

5. Literature Review

The papers by Rezende et al., 2019, and Jianhai Sun et al., 2013, both make significant contributions to the field of photoionization detectors (PIDs) but with different focal points and outcomes. Rezende et al. concentrate on miniaturizing

PIDs for gas chromatography, achieving smaller detectors without sacrificing performance, which results in faster analysis and lower detection limits. In contrast, Jianhai Sun et al. aim to enhance PID performance through structural innovations, specifically by integrating a novel "nozzle" structure and an annular accelerating electrode in the ionization chamber, leading to ultra-low background noise and improved sensitivity for low-concentration gas detection. While in the [5] emphasize compact design, the author in [4] focusses on enhancing sensitivity and rapid response, showcasing different but complementary advancements in PID technology.

The author in [6] offers a critical review of experimental techniques applicable in the study of conductometric gas sensors based on semiconducting metal oxides. The authors focus on evaluating and modeling sensor performance in realistic conditions using a combination of phenomenological and spectroscopic techniques. They provide a detailed analysis of the achievements and limitations of various experimental methods, using selected examples to demonstrate the proposed approach. The paper aims to set objectives for future research in this domain, emphasizing the need for more comprehensive and realistic testing methods to advance the understanding and development of metal oxide-based gas sensors. This work is a significant contribution to the field, particularly in guiding future research and development efforts in gas sensor technology.

The authors in [7] discuss various methods for gas detection. For chemiresistive methods, they explore how changes in electrical resistance of MOFs are used to detect gases. In capacitive methods, the focus is on the change in capacitance induced by gas adsorption on MOFs. Optical methods are detailed as well, where the interaction of gases with MOFs leads to changes in optical properties, such as luminescence or colorimetric changes. Each of these methods leverages the unique properties of MOFs for effective gas sensing.

As discussed in [8] an innovative approach to NO₂ gas sensing using MoS₂-based optoelectronic sensors. The method involves utilizing red light illumination to match the direct band gap of single-layer MoS₂, which enhances the sensitivity and detection limit of the sensor. The study reports significant advancements in NO₂ gas detection, achieving a sensitivity of 4.9 %/*ppb* and a detection limit as low as 0.1 *ppb*. This approach far exceeds the

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's requirements for NO₂ gas detection at *ppb* levels. The research contributes notably to the field of gas sensor technology, especially in the context of optoelectronic enhancements for improved sensor performance.

The author in [9] introduces a unique approach to CO₂ gas detection using graphene-based electroluminescent (EL) sensors. The authors developed this sensor by integrating graphene as a sensing material in the EL structure. They fabricated the sensor using screen-printing and drop-coating methods, focusing on its sensitivity to CO₂ at various concentrations and its selectivity against other gases like ammonia, ethanol, and toluene. The study demonstrates the sensor's effectiveness in detecting CO₂, providing insights into its potential for practical applications in gas sensing.

The paper [10] introduces an innovative carbon dioxide (CO₂) sensor based on alternating-current electroluminescent (AC-EL) devices, incorporating a graphene gas-sensing layer. This sensor operates at room temperature and is fabricated using screen- printing and chemical vapor deposition (CVD). It demonstrates high responsiveness to CO₂ in concentrations ranging from 100– 1000 ppm, distinguishing itself with notable selectivity against other gases like NH₃, C₂H₅OH, and C₇H₈. Its sensing mechanism relies on the resistance change in the graphene layer due to charge transfer processes between CO₂ and the graphene surface. The research highlights the sensor's repeatability, reproducibility, and accuracy, suggesting a promising new direction in gas sensor technology based on EL principles.

The research [11] focuses on developing gas sensors using ZnO nanoparticles, ZnO/CuO, and Al-ZnO/CuO nanocomposites, prepared through co-precipitation and sol-gel methods. The study explores their structural and morphological characteristics using XRD, Raman spectroscopy, HRTEM, and SEM. Notably, the Al-ZnO/CuO nanocomposite sensor exhibits excellent gas sensing performance, especially for ammonia detection at room temperature, marked by high response, good stability, and rapid response and recovery times. XRD and Raman analyses confirm the composite formation without any alloy phase, indicating the successful integration of materials while maintaining their distinct properties. This work underscores the potential of Al- ZnO/CuO nanocomposites in enhancing gas sensing applications.

6. Methodology

In this section, a systematic approach is detailed, employed for the integration and evaluation of the MQ2 gas sensor with the Arduino V4.0 board. The procedures and techniques used are outlined, encompassing the setup, and wiring of the sensor to the Arduino board, followed by programming of the microcontroller for data collection and analysis. This section aims to provide a comprehensive and replicable description of the methods, ensuring a clear understanding of the processes for gas detection and monitoring in various environments.

6.1 MQ2 gas sensor

The MQ2 sensor, a semiconductor device for detecting flammable gases, changes its resistance in the presence of target gases as shown in Figure 11 and 12 respectively. This change in resistance alters the voltage across the sensor,

which is then processed by the operational amplifier. The amplifier's output can trigger a response, such as lighting an LED to indicate the detection of gas. Additionally, the output signal is made available through a connector, which can be interfaced with a microcontroller or other devices for further processing or to trigger alarms.



Figure 11. MQ2 sensor

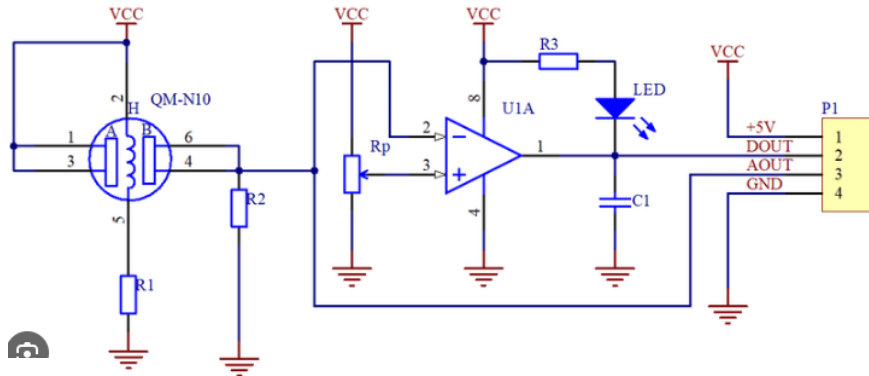


Figure 12. Circuit schematic of MQ2

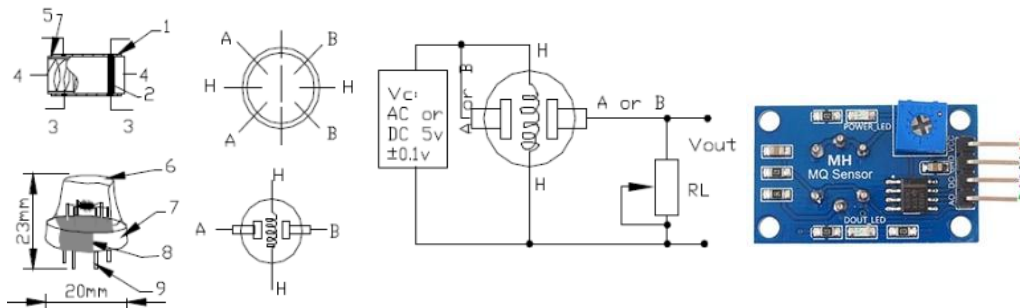


Figure 13. MQ2 sensor pin diagram

The module typically has four pins as shown in Figure 13 such as VCC for power, GND for ground, a digital output that goes low when gas is detected, and an analog output that provides a variable voltage depending on the gas concentration. The onboard potentiometer allows for adjusting the sensor's sensitivity. The RL resistor, positioned near the digital out LED, is part of the circuit that helps to indicate when the digital threshold has been reached.

As shown in Figure 14, the graph represents the sensitivity characteristics of the MQ2 sensor, detailing its response to various gases. The sensor's resistance ratio (R_S/R_0), which is a measure of resistance in a gas compared to clean air, varies for different gases. A higher R_S/R_0 ratio indicates greater sensitivity. The graph shows that the sensor is most sensitive to LPG, hydrogen, and methane, with a notably higher response at lower concentrations. In contrast, the response to CO and alcohol is less pronounced. This data is crucial for calibrating the sensor in applications where these gases need to be detected, as it informs about the sensor's response pattern to different concentrations of gases.

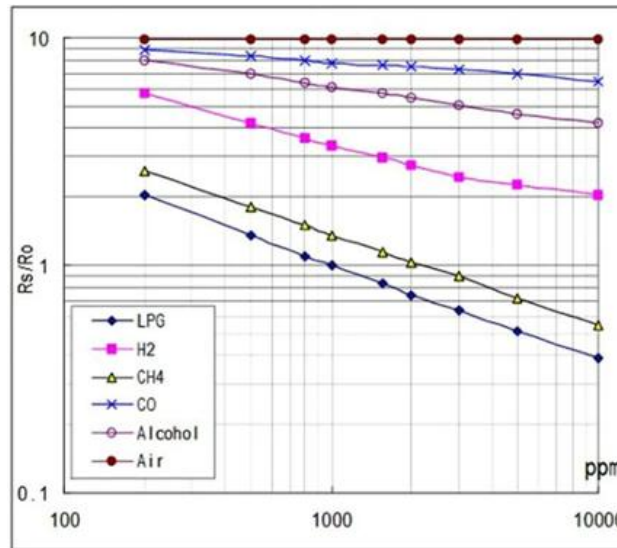


Figure 14. The sensitivity characteristics of MQ2

6.2 Integration and Programming of Gas Sensors with Microcontroller Systems

Integrating an MQ2 gas sensor with an Arduino V4.0 board involves establishing a physical connection and programming the board for data acquisition (Figure 15 and 16). The MQ2 sensor, designed for smoke and flammable gas detection, connects to the Arduino with its VCC pin to the 5V supply, GND pin to a ground, and analog output to an analog input like A0. Programming in the Arduino IDE includes initializing the sensor's pin, reading its output, and optionally converting this to concentration values. Data can be displayed on the Arduino's serial monitor or an external display, facilitating real-time monitoring of gas concentrations.

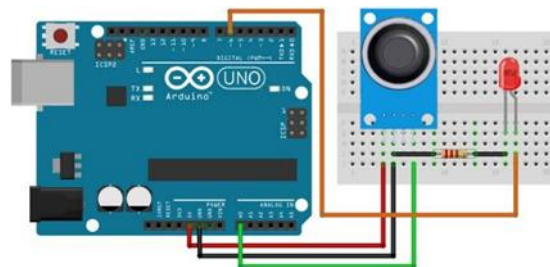


Figure 15. Circuit connection for MQ2

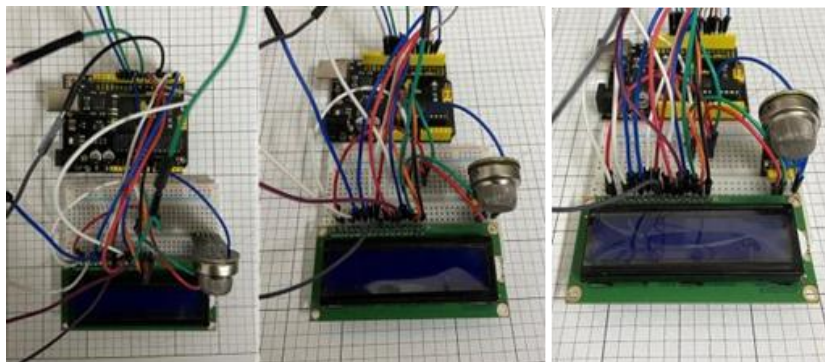


Figure 16. Circuit connection for testing

The experimental results demonstrate the MQ2 sensor's swift detection capabilities as shown in Figure 17. When exposed to certain gases, the sensor's resistance changes rapidly, indicating a quick reaction to the presence of gas. This rapid response is crucial for applications that require immediate alerts, such as safety and environmental monitoring. The data suggests that the sensor is not only sensitive to gas presence but also recovers quickly to baseline levels after the gas dissipates, showcasing its potential for reliable and responsive gas detection in various settings.



Figure 17. Circuit connection for testing

7. Conclusion

This report effectively synthesizes a comprehensive understanding of gas sensor technologies, with a special focus on the MQ2 gas sensor integrated with an Arduino V4.0 board. It encompasses a detailed examination of various sensor types, their distinctive properties, applications, and the intricacies of connecting these sensors to microcontrollers for practical use. Additionally, the report highlights the sensitivity and selectivity of the MQ2 sensor in detecting different gases, the programming approaches for data acquisition, and the sensor's vital role in safety and environmental monitoring. Conclusively, it acknowledges the scope for future advancements in sensor technology, integration methodologies, and digital innovations, underscoring the dynamic nature of this field and its significance in various applications.

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