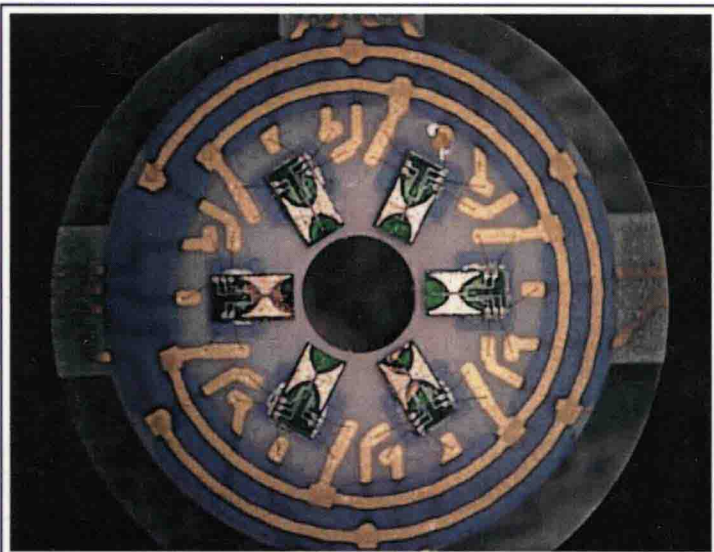


SERIES IN SENSORS

Resistive, Capacitive, Inductive, and Magnetic Sensor Technologies



Winncy Y. Du



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To my late parents: Xianmin Du (杜贤民) and Shujie Chao (曹淑杰)

who not only gave me life, but also taught me how to live;

To my dear brothers: Chengzhi Du (杜承志) and Yingzhi Du (杜英志)

who never ask me for anything, but always give me everything;

To my beloved husband: Scott Yelich

who enriches my life and multiplies my efforts.

Preface

Resistive, capacitive, inductive, and magnetic (RCIM) sensors comprise more than 70% of the sensor market today. For many years, there has been a strong need for a comprehensive book on RCIM sensors that combines the most important physical principles, designs, and practical applications of the RCIM sensors. This book was designed to fill that need. It is based on sensor information that the author has collected over the years, her research work, and lecture materials she has developed while teaching sensor technology-related courses with the Department of Mechanical Engineering at San Jose State University.

This book is a complete and comprehensive overview of RCIM sensing technologies. It contains six chapters beginning with RCIM sensor characteristics and terminology (Chapter 1), followed by resistive (Chapter 2), capacitive (Chapter 3), inductive (Chapter 4), and magnetic (Chapter 5) sensors. Sensor signal characteristics, noise types, bridge and compensation circuits, passive/active filters and signal conditioning are also covered (Chapter 6). The unique features of this book include: (1) *Completeness*: It covers all the dominating principles for RCIM sensors. For instance, on electromagnetic sensors alone (including inductive and magnetic sensors), more than 15 different physical laws, phenomena, and effects are presented. No other single book or review paper has such a complete coverage of inductive/magnetic sensing principles. (2) *Conciseness*: Many sensing principles involve abstruse theories and complex mathematical equations, some of which could fill an entire book. Here, each principle and its associated mathematical model and theory are described in a way that makes it easy for readers to follow and understand. In addition, many useful illustrations are provided to help readers visualize the material. (3) *Comprehensiveness*: Unlike some sensor books that are either too theoretical or too practical, this book provides a good balance. The mathematical equations have been chosen based on which equations have the most influence on the sensor's performance, whereas the practical examples have been selected based on which examples best represent a typical scenario or cover a new area of application. (4) *Practicality*: The calculation examples and exercise problems provided are realistic and represent real-world sensor data and performance. Each parameter value and every curve presented in the examples or exercise problems are from experiments performed by the author, published research papers, or manufacturers' testing data. This allows readers to learn theory along with the true levels of sensor performance.

The information provided in this book will not only help readers to understand RCIM sensors, but also to understand many other types of sensors quickly and efficiently since there are many overlaps in terms of principles, material characteristics, noise types, design considerations, sensor circuitry and signal conditioning. The book is interdisciplinary in nature and will be helpful in subjects or courses such as sensor technologies and principles, applied physics, semiconductor materials and applications, engineering design, mechatronics, robotics, automatic control using sensor feedback, nondestructive inspection (NDI) technologies, analog signal

processing, sensor circuitry, and instrumentation and measurements. This book is intended for advanced undergraduate and graduate-level engineering students. It would also be a useful reference for professional engineers at all levels and scientists involved in sensor research and development.

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