

Principles of Biomedical Instrumentation

This accessible yet in-depth textbook describes the step-by-step processes involved in biomedical device design. Integrating microfabrication techniques, sensors and digital signal processing with key clinical applications, it covers:

- the measurement, amplification and digitization of physiological signals, and the removal of interfering signals
- the transmission of signals from implanted sensors through the body, and the issues concerning the powering of these sensors
- networks for transferring sensitive patient data to hospitals for continuous home-monitoring systems
- electrical and biological tests for ensuring patient safety
- the cost–benefit and technological trade-offs involved in device design
- current challenges in biomedical device design.

With dedicated chapters on electrocardiography, digital hearing aids and mobile health, and including numerous end-of-chapter homework problems, online solutions and additional references for extended learning, it is the ideal resource for senior undergraduate students taking courses in biomedical instrumentation and clinical technology.

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CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi – 110025, India
79 Anson Road, #06–04/06, Singapore 079906

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

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www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107113138

DOI: 10.1017/9781316286210

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First published 2018

Printed in the United Kingdom by TJ International Ltd. Padstow, Cornwall

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Webb, Andrew (Andrew G.), author.

Title: Principles of biomedical instrumentation / Andrew G. Webb.

Other titles: Cambridge texts in biomedical engineering.

Description: Cambridge, United Kingdom ; New York, NY, USA : Cambridge University Press, [2018] | Series: Cambridge texts in biomedical engineering | Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2017024373 | ISBN 9781107113138

Subjects: | MESH: Equipment and Supplies | Equipment Design

Classification: LCC R857.B54 | NLM W 26 | DDC 610.28/4–dc23

LC record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2017024373>

ISBN 978-1-107-11313-8 Hardback

Additional resources available at www.cambridge.org/webb-principles

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Preface

The main aim of this textbook is to provide the tools to understand the function and design of different biomedical instruments and devices, and for the reader to be able to use these tools to envision new and improved future technology and designs. Throughout the book the terms medical and biomedical are used interchangeably, and similarly with the terms device and instrument. With several thousand instruments and devices on the market it is clearly impossible to consider more than a handful in detail. Instead, this book concentrates on the following general approach.

- (i) What is the clinically relevant measurement that needs to be made?
- (ii) What are the pathophysiological mechanisms that give rise to the clinical condition?
- (iii) What are the characteristics (e.g. magnitude, frequency, bandwidth) of the signal to be measured? How accurate and reproducible does the measurement have to be? What are the interfering signals that have to be suppressed?
- (iv) What are the recommended instrumental specifications for the particular device? How does one design the device to meet these specifications?
- (v) How does one test the biocompatibility and electrical safety of such a device, whether it is external or implanted, so that it can operate safely for a number of years?

Traditionally, most of these instruments and devices have been located in a hospital, and patients travel to the clinics for the measurements to be performed by trained personnel. However, this model is changing and nowadays there is an increasing role for what is termed mobile health (m-health), which involves a much greater degree of healthcare being performed by the patients themselves at home. This means that a biomedical device must operate in the patient's home environment without specialized training, as well as transmit the data wirelessly and securely to the physician. This model of **continuous patient monitoring** not only provides a much more complete assessment of the patient's health, but also reduces the number of visits that a patient has to make to the hospital.

The main areas of technological development that have enabled the rapid incorporation of m-health into the healthcare infrastructure are wearable and

implantable devices that can transmit data to the physician via mobile phone networks. The integration of micromachined and microfabricated electronics has enabled much smaller high performance devices to be designed. Classic measurement circuits such as the Wheatstone bridge, which used to consist of small lumped element resistors, can now be produced using integrated circuit technology on a submillimetre scale and integrated with amplifiers and filters on a single chip. The role of integrated digital signal processors (DSPs) has become much more important, and has played a key role in fundamental improvements in devices such as hearing aids. The technical challenges of the trade-off between increased signal processing power, miniaturization and battery life are discussed throughout the book.

ORGANIZATION

The skills needed to design and analyze the performance of biomedical instruments come mainly from an engineering background. This book assumes a basic level of understanding of electrical circuits and signal processing, typical of a second-year undergraduate course. No prior knowledge of clinical pathophysiology is assumed, although a basic course in anatomy would be useful.

Chapter 1 outlines the general principles involved in designing a biomedical instrument or device. An outline of the classification schemes used by regulatory bodies and manufacturers is given, along with a general discussion on the steps involved in the design and regulation process. Finally, the various safety standards for biomedical instrumentation are introduced, including testing of hardware, software and user interfaces.

Chapters 2 to 4 cover the basic building blocks of many types of biomedical instrumentation, namely: (i) the transducer/sensor, (ii) the electronic filters and amplifiers, and (iii) the data acquisition system. Analysis of these building blocks involves basic circuit theory and methods. At the end of each of these chapters, examples of the integration of these analysis tools into a real instrument are included. For example, the designs of sequential elements of a pulse oximeter are covered in sections 2.3 (sensor), section 3.6.1 (signal filtering and filtering) and section 4.5.1 (analogue-to-digital conversion).

Chapter 2 begins with a brief introduction to micro-electro-mechanical system (MEMS) devices, which are widely used in modern biomedical devices. Different types of transducers are then described, based on voltage sensors, optical sensors, displacement/pressure sensors, chemical sensors and acoustic sensors. Practical examples are given for each transducer, specifically a biopotential electrode, pulse oximeter, disposable blood pressure monitor, glucose monitor and hearing-aid microphone, respectively.

Chapter 3 concentrates on the design of passive and active filters, as well as the analysis and design of amplification circuits based on operational amplifiers (op-amps). Common higher order filter geometries such as Butterworth, Chebyshev and Sallen–Key are analyzed. Finally, specific amplification and filtering circuits for a pulse oximeter and glucose monitor are shown.

Chapter 4 outlines the different types of analogue-to-digital converter (ADC) architectures that can be used for biomedical instruments, as well as their respective characteristics in terms of resolution and sampling rates. The concepts of oversampling and digital filtering are summarized in the framework of the delta-sigma ADC. The characteristics of different biosignals are described in order to classify them as either deterministic or stochastic: subdivision into different subgroups is also discussed. Finally, different signal processing algorithms including Fourier transformation and time-domain correlation techniques are summarized. Practical examples of correlation analysis in a Swan–Ganz catheter used for cardiac output measurements, as well as short-time Fourier transformation of electroencephalographic signals, are shown.

Chapter 5 deals with the most common measurement using biopotential electrodes, the electrocardiogram (ECG). The design and placement of electrodes, amplification and filtering circuitry, data acquisition system, and integrated signal processing and analysis algorithms are all discussed. Clinical applications that relate the underlying pathophysiology to changes in the ECG signal are outlined, including the most common heart diseases. Finally, the acquisition and analysis of high-frequency ECG signals are described.

Chapter 6 describes the instrumentation associated with a second measurement technique using biopotential electrodes, electroencephalography (EEG). Applications of EEG measurements to diseases such as epilepsy are outlined, as well as its increasing use in monitoring levels of anaesthesia in the operating theatre using the bispectral index. Finally, applications aiding patients with severe physical injuries to communicate and move via brain–computer interfaces are described.

Chapter 7 covers the basics of digital hearing aid design. Different configurations of microphones, and their use in beam-forming techniques to aid speech comprehension in noisy environments, are described. The important role of DSPs in continuous real-time processing within a very small device is discussed in terms of the design trade-offs of performance versus long battery life. Wireless integration of digital hearing aids with external devices, such as mobile phones, is also outlined.

Chapter 8 concentrates on the general topic of m-health and wireless transmission of biomedical data. The role of smartphones and medically related software applications is described, as well as the increasing use of wearable health-monitoring technology. From a medical device point of view the most important

developments are the designs of implantable devices, which must be able to connect wirelessly with external transmitters and receivers. Several cardiovascular wireless implanted devices are described, as well as continuous glucose monitors and very new devices such as those for measuring intraocular pressure in patients with glaucoma.

Chapter 9 summarizes the safety issues involved with powered biomedical instruments, both in terms of electrical safety and also biocompatibility. The concepts of electrical macroshock and microshock are introduced, as well as methods of designing equipment to minimize the risks of these events occurring. Equipment for carrying out electrical safety testing is described. The safety of implanted devices is discussed in terms of the biocompatibility of the materials used, as well as their electromagnetic safety. Examples of several biological testing procedures such as cytotoxicity and haemocompatibility are given. Finally, the design of medical devices that can also be used in a magnetic resonance imaging scanner is discussed.

PROBLEMS

The majority of the problems are based specifically around the material in this book, and especially those in Chapters 2 to 4 test knowledge of the circuits, analysis tools and mode of operation of each of the sub-blocks within a biomedical instrument. Some questions may require the writing of relatively simple numerical computer code. Studying instrumentation design is not only a question of understanding the current state of the art but also constitutes a platform to envision alternative approaches, and to speculate on which new technologies and improvements may be incorporated in the future. Therefore, especially in Chapters 5 to 9, there are a number of problems that require the use of external sources in order to investigate devices that are not covered specifically in this book. For example, with the knowledge gained from Chapters 2 to 4 how would one design a new technique for harvesting the body's internal energy for powering an implanted sensor (Problem 8.4). In a similar vein, investigating cases of device failure is a good way to see how apparently watertight safety procedures can, in fact, fail and to consider the implications of these failures for future designs (Problem 1.3).

REFERENCE BOOKS

There is a large number of books covering different aspects of the principles and design of biomedical instrumentation and devices. The unofficial 'bible' of general biomedical instrumentation remains *The Encyclopedia of Medical Devices and Instrumentation* edited by J. G. Webster and published by Wiley-Blackwell in 2004, as well as the distilled classic textbook *Medical Instrumentation: Application and Design*, 4th edition, J. G. Webster, John Wiley & Sons, 2010.

In terms of books that concentrate on one specific aspect of design, the list below represents a partial list that have proved very useful in preparing this current volume.

- Chapter 1 Yock, P. G., Zenios, S., Makower, J. *et al.* (eds) *Biodesign: The Process of Innovating Medical Technologies*. Cambridge University Press; 2015.
- Chapter 2 Jones D. P. and Watson. J. *Biomedical Sensors* (Sensor Technology Series). Momentum Press; 2010.
- Chapter 3 Huijsing, J. *Operational Amplifiers: Theory and Design, 3rd edn.* Springer; 2016.
- Chapter 4 Pelgrom, M. J. *Analog-to-Digital Conversion*. Springer; 2013.
- Chapter 5 Crawford, J. & Doherty, L. *Practical Aspects of ECG Recording*. M&K Update Ltd; 2012.
- Chapter 6 Libenson, M. H. *Practical Approach to Electroencephalography*. Saunders; 2009.
- Chapter 7 Popelka, G. R., Moore, B. C. J., Fay, R. R. & Popper, A. N. *Hearing Aids*. Springer; 2016.
- Chapter 8 Salvo, P. & Hernandez-Silveira, M. (eds) *Wireless Medical Systems and Algorithms: Design and Applications (Devices, Circuits, and Systems)*. CRC Press; 2016.
- Chapter 9 Gad, S. C. & McCord, M G. *Safety Evaluation in the Development of Medical Devices and Combination Products, 3rd edn.* CRC Press; 2008.

Abbreviations

| | |
|-------|--|
| AAMI | Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation |
| AC | alternating current |
| ADC | analogue-to-digital converter |
| ADHF | acute decompensated heart failure |
| AF | atrial fibrillation |
| AGC | automatic gain control |
| ANSI | American National Standards Institute |
| ASIC | application-specific integrated circuit |
| ASK | amplitude-shift keying |
| ATP | adenosine triphosphate |
| AV | atrioventricular |
| AVC | automatic volume control |
| BCI | brain–computer interface |
| BcSEF | burst-compensated spectral edge frequency |
| BF | body floating |
| BILL | bass increase at low level |
| BIS | bispectral index |
| BiV | biventricular |
| BSR | burst-suppression ratio |
| BTE | behind the ear |
| BW | bandwidth |
| CAD | computer-aided design |
| CE | Conformité Européene |
| CF | cardiac floating |
| CFR | Code of Federal Regulations |
| CGM | continuous glucose monitor |
| CIC | completely in canal |
| CIED | cardiovascular implantable electronic device |
| CMRR | common-mode rejection ratio |
| CRT | cardiac resynchronization therapy |
| CSF | cerebrospinal fluid |
| DAC | digital-to-analogue converter |
| dB | decibel |

| | |
|--------|---|
| DC | direct current |
| DDD | dual mode, dual chamber, dual sensing |
| DF | directivity factor |
| DI | directivity index |
| DNL | differential non-linearity |
| DRL | driven right leg |
| DSP | digital signal processing |
| EC | European Commission |
| ECG | electrocardiogram |
| EDR | electrodermal response |
| EEG | electroencephalogram |
| EMG | electromyogram |
| EMI | electromagnetic interference |
| EOG | electrooculogram |
| EPROM | erasable programmable read-only memory |
| EPSP | excitatory postsynaptic potential |
| ESI | electric source imaging |
| FCC | Federal Communications Commission |
| FDA | Food and Drug Administration |
| FES | functional electrical stimulation |
| FET | field-effect transistor |
| FFT | fast Fourier transform |
| FIR | finite impulse response |
| FM | frequency modulation |
| FSK | frequency shift keying |
| FT | Fourier transform |
| GBWP | gain bandwidth product |
| GDH | glucose-1-dehydrogenase |
| GFCI | ground-fault current interruptor |
| GHK | Goldman–Hodgkin–Katz |
| GOx | glucose oxidase |
| GPS | global positioning system |
| GSM | global systems for mobile |
| GSR | galvanic skin response |
| HPF | high-pass filter |
| HR | heart rate |
| ICA | independent component analysis |
| ICD | implantable cardioverter–defibrillator |
| ICNIRP | International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection |
| ICU | intensive care unit |

| | |
|--------|--|
| IDE | investigational device |
| IEC | International Electrotechnical Commission |
| IEEE | Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers |
| IHM | implantable haemodynamic monitor |
| IIR | infinite impulse response |
| ILR | implantable loop recorder |
| INL | integrated non-linearity |
| IOL | intraocular lens |
| IOP | intraocular pressure |
| IPAP | implanted pulmonary artery pressure |
| IPSP | inhibitory postsynaptic potential |
| ISM | industrial, scientific and medical |
| ISO | International Organization for Standardization |
| ITC | in the canal |
| ITE | in the ear |
| JFET | junction field-effect transistor |
| KEMAR | Knowles Electronics Manikin for Acoustic Research |
| LA | left arm |
| LBBB | left bundle branch block |
| LED | light-emitting diode |
| LIM | line-isolation monitor |
| LL | left leg |
| LPF | low-pass filter |
| LSB | least significant bit |
| LVDT | linear voltage differential transformer |
| MD | medical device |
| MDRS | medical device radiocommunication service |
| MEMS | micro-electro-mechanical systems |
| MI | myocardial infarct |
| MICS | medical implant communication service |
| MRI | magnetic resonance imaging |
| MSB | most significant bit |
| MUX | multiplex |
| NB | national body |
| NC | normal conditions |
| NEC | National Electrical Code |
| NF | noise figure |
| NFMI | near-field magnetic induction |
| NIDCD | National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders |
| NSTEMI | non-ST-segment elevated myocardial infarction |

| | |
|---------|---|
| OR | operating room |
| PA | pulmonary artery |
| PAC | pulmonary artery catheter |
| PCA | principal component analysis |
| PDF | probability density function |
| PDMS | polydimethylsiloxane |
| PIFA | planar inverted F-antenna |
| PILL | programmable increase at low level |
| PIPO | parallel input, parallel output |
| PISO | parallel input, serial output |
| PMA | pre-market approval |
| P-N | positive–negative |
| PSK | phase shift keying |
| PSP | postsynaptic potential |
| PTFE | polytetrafluoroethylene |
| PVARP | post-ventricular atrial refractory period |
| PVDF | polyvinylidene fluoride |
| PWM | pulse-width modulation |
| QSR | quality-system regulation |
| RA | right arm |
| RAM | random access memory |
| RAZ | reduced amplitude zone |
| RBC | red blood cell |
| RCD | residual-current device |
| RF | radiofrequency |
| RLD | right leg drive |
| ROC | receiver operator characteristic |
| ROM | read-only memory |
| RPM | remote patient monitoring |
| RV | right ventricle |
| S/H | sample and hold |
| SA | sinoatrial |
| SAR | specific absorption rate |
| SAR ADC | successive approximation register ADC |
| SC | single condition |
| SCP | slow cortical potential |
| SELV | separated extra-low voltage |
| SFC | single-fault condition |
| SFDR | spurious-free dynamic range |
| SINAD | signal-to-noise and distortion ratio |

| | |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| SIP | signal input |
| SIPO | serial input, parallel output |
| SISO | serial input, serial output |
| SNR | signal-to-noise ratio |
| SOP | signal output |
| SPL | sound pressure level |
| SpO ₂ | saturation of peripheral oxygen |
| SSVEP | steady state visual evoked potential |
| SVI | single ventricular |
| TARP | total atrial refractory period |
| THD | total harmonic distortion |
| TILL | treble increase at low level |
| UWB | ultrawide band |
| VEP | visual evoked potential |
| VLP | ventricular late potential |
| VOP | venous occlusion plethysmography |
| WCT | Wilson's central terminal |
| WDRC | wide dynamic range compression |
| WMTS | wireless medical telemetry system |