



**UNIVERSITI TEKNIKAL MALAYSIA MELAKA**

**HUMAN POWERED ENERGY HARVESTING ELECTRONIC  
DEVICE**

This report submitted in accordance with requirement of the Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka (UTeM) for the Bachelor's Degree of Electronic Engineering Technology (Industrial Electronics) with Honours

by

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2015

## DECLARATION

I hereby, declared this report entitled “Human Powered Energy Harvesting Electronic Device” is the results of my own research except as cited in references.

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## **APPROVAL**

This report is submitted to the Faculty of Engineering Technology of UTeM as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Bachelor's of Electronic Engineering Technology (Industrial Electronics) with Honours. The member of the supervisory is as follow:

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(MR. MOHD FAUZI BIN AB RAHMAN)

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**TAJUK: Human Powered Energy Harvesting Electronic Devices**

**SESI PENGAJIAN: 2014/15 Semester 1**

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## **ABSTRAK**

Projek ini membentangkan tentang kepelbagaian fungsi, keupayaan tubuh badan manusia untuk menghasilkan tenaga pasif dari hasil pergerakan tubuh dan tenaga ini dapat dibekalkan dalam jangka yang lama kepada peranti mudah alih dan peranti elektronik. Jangka masa sesuatu peranti elektronik sangat penting dan mempunyai banyak kelebihan berbanding peranti yang mempunyai kemampuan terhad. Melalui projek ini, satu sumber tenaga persekitaran iaitu tenaga yang dihasilkan manusia daripada langkah dalam kasut apabila mereka berjalan atau berlari dan tenaga ini disimpan di dalam bentuk tenaga elektrik. Berdasarkan ciri-ciri tenaga, tenaga yang dihasilkan melalui manusia, kaedah penukaran dan litar penyimpanan telah direka dan diuji bagi kegunaan peranti elektronik yang mempunyai penggunaan tenaga yang rendah.

## **ABSTRACT**

This project presents a fully functional, self-sufficient body-worn energy harvesting system for passively capturing energy from human motion, with the long term vision of supplying power to portable, wearable, or even implanted electronic devices. Extended lifetime of electronic devices is very important and also has more advantages in systems with limited accessibility. From this project, one form of ambient energy sources: human power generated from a shoe insole when a person is walking or running and its conversion and storage into usable electrical energy. Based on source characteristics, electrical-energy-harvesting, conversion, and storage circuit were designed, built, and tested for low power electronic applications.

## **DEDICATION**

To my beloved parents  
My supervisor,  
and to all my friends,  
Thanks for all support and ideas.



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First I would like to express my grateful to ALLAH S.W.T. as for the blessing given that I can complete my final year project. In preparing this paper, I have been involved with many people in helping me to complete this project.

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# TABLE OF CONTENT

Abstrak	i
Abstract	ii
Dedication	iii
Acknowledgement	iv
Table of Content	v
List of Tables	vi
List of Figures	vii
List Abbreviations, Symbols and Nomenclatures	viii
<b>CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Project overview	1
1.2 Problem statement	2
1.3 Objectives	2
1.4 Scope project	3
1.5 Project outline	4
<b>CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW</b>	<b>5</b>
2.1 Introduction	5
2.2 Generic models of energy harvesting	6
2.2.1 Kinetic motion energy (vibration)	6
2.2.2 Solar energy	8
2.2.3 Heat energy	8
2.3 Overview of micro-generators	9
2.3.1 Piezoelectric	10
2.3.2 Electrostatic	11
2.3.3 Electromagnetic	14
2.4 Piezoelectric materials	14
2.4.1 Piezoelectric polymer films	14
2.4.2 Piezoelectric transducer disc	16

2.5	Piezoelectric connection	18
2.6	Conclusion	21
<b>CHAPTER 3: METHODOLOGY</b>		<b>22</b>
3.1	Introduction	22
3.2	Planning	24
	3.2.1 Data collection	24
	3.2.2 Hardware requirement	25
3.3	Implementing	38
	3.3.1 Implement the project	38
3.4.	Conclusion	41
<b>CHAPTER 4: RESULT &amp; DISCUSSION</b>		<b>42</b>
4.1	Introduction	42
4.2	Testing and checking	42
4.3	Analysis	44
	4.3.1 Analyse the performance	44
4.4	Voltage-resistance-current-power measurement data	46
4.5	Voltage-resistance analysis	48
4.6	Current-resistance analysis	50
4.7	Load-resistance analysis	52
4.8	Conclusion	54
	4.8.1 Mobile phone battery	54
<b>CHAPTER 5: CONCLUSION &amp; FUTURE WORKS</b>		<b>56</b>
5.1	Conclusion	56
5.2	Future works	57
<b>REFERENCES</b>		<b>58</b>
<b>APPENDICES</b>		

## LIST OF TABLES

2.3	Advantages and drawbacks of converters	10
4.4	Analysis measurement value	47
4.5	Voltage-Resistance Analysis	48
4.6	Current-Resistance Analysis	50
4.7	Load resistance analysis	52

## LIST OF FIGURES

2.1.1	Possible power recovery from body-cantered sources with total power for each action listed	7
2.3.2	Power management control circuit to develop VEH	12
2.4.2	Piezoelectric component	17
2.5.1	V-I graph of parallel and series connection	18
2.5.2	V-I graph of parallel and series combination	18
2.5.3	Possible connection for piezoelectric transducer	19
2.5.4	2-layer bending element poled for series operation	20
2.5.5	3-layer bending element poled for parallel operation	20
3.1.1	SLDC Phase	22
3.1.2	Steps of Methodology	23
3.2.1	Piezoelectric transducer disc schematic diagram	24
3.2.2.1	Piezoelectric Transducer	26
3.2.2.2	Basic concept of piezoelectric transducer disc	26
3.2.2.3	Basic concept of bridge rectifier : AC-DC	28
3.2.2.4	The output of half-cycle (positive) rectifier circuit	28
3.2.2.5	The output of half-cycle (negative) rectifier circuit	29
3.2.2.6	2KBP005M Bridge Rectifier	30
3.2.2.7	Front view of the pair of shoes	30
3.2.2.8	Side view of shoe	31
3.2.2.9	The insole of the shoe	31
3.2.2.10	Strap of the LED indicator	32
3.2.2.11	Agilent oscilloscope	33
3.2.2.12	Decade Resistance Box	34
3.2.2.13	Basic description of Digital Multimeter	35
3.2.2.14	Digital Multimeter (DMM)	35
3.2.2.15	Basic skill for soldering process	36
3.2.2.16	Soldering tools set	36

3.2.2.17	Multitools set	37
3.3.1.1	Piezoelectric transducer in parallel connection	38
3.3.1.2	Soldering wire process	38
3.3.1.3	Rub the glue on shoe sole	39
3.3.1.4	The piezoelectric transducer disc on the shoe sole with connection with bridge rectifier	39
3.3.1.5	Inside the shoe	40
3.3.1.6	User steps on the shoe sole	40
4.2.1	Testing with LED indicator strap	43
4.2.2	LED indicator response	43
4.3.1.1	The connection for analyzing	44
4.3.1.2	User step on the shoe sole	44
4.3.1.3	Measurement on the oscilloscope	45
4.5	Output voltage (mV) against Resistance ( $\Omega$ ) graphs	49
4.6	Output current (mA) against Resistance ( $\Omega$ ) graphs	51
4.7	Output power (mW) against Resistance( $\Omega$ ) graph	53

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS, SYMBOLS AND NOMENCLATURE

AC	-	Alternater current
DC	-	Direct current
DMM	-	Digital Multimeter
LCD	-	
LED	-	Light Emitting Diode
MEMS	-	
MMPT	-	Maximum Power Point Tracker
SDLC	-	System Development Life Cycle
PMCC	-	Power Management Control Circuits
PZT	-	piezoceramic
PVDF	-	piezopolimer
RMS	-	Root-Mean-Square
VEH	-	vibration energy harvester
V <sub>pp</sub>	-	Voltage Peak-to-Peak
V <sub>rms</sub>	-	Voltage root-mean-square
R	-	resistor
$\Omega$	-	Ohm
$\mu\Omega$	-	micro-Ohm
m $\Omega$	-	milli-Ohm
k $\Omega$	-	kilo-Ohm
V	-	voltage
$\mu$ V	-	micro-volt
mV	-	milli-volt
kV	-	kilo-volt
I	-	curremt
$\mu$ A	-	micro-Ampere
mA	-	milli-Ampere

P	-	Power
$\mu$ W	-	micro –Watt
mW	-	milli- Watt
kW	-	kilo- Watt
Hz	-	Hertz
MHz	-	MegaHertz
GHZ	-	GigaHertz
kg	-	kilogram
$\mu$ m	-	micro-meter
mm	-	millimetre
$^{\circ}$ C	-	degree Celsius
H	-	Hour



# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Project overview

Human energy harvesting is a process of captures small amounts of energy that can be generate from the human body. Perhaps the most energy abundant and readily utilized form of ambient human power is walking. In this project, the user developed the shoe sole embedded with piezoelectric transducer disc. The piezoelectric shows the ability to transform electrical into mechanical energy and conversely, mechanical into electrical energy.

A piezoelectric transducer disc is flexible shapes and sizes. So that, it is easy to be embedded in the sole because of its geometry and harvesting of the energy. Furthermore, the piezoelectric transducer disc cheap compared to others. But, it has relatively low charge coefficients. That is why it must be supported from the mechanical energy to its fullest potential. As a motivation, this project helps electronic devices are no longer restricted by the periodic maintenance that batteries demand.

## **1.2 Problem statement**

Most of the current portable products are conquered by rechargeable batteries and they will remain as the main source for this kind of consumer products. However, there are some disadvantages of batteries which are to either replace or recharge them periodically. The replace of a primary battery means that the portable product's user has to carry with another one while the recharge of the secondary battery, means that the electrical network has to be accessible to the portable product's user. The mobility of the portable is restricted by the duration of the battery. And as power requirements of most modern electronic portable devices are decreasing, it is possible to use the energy harvesting from human body activity in order to control these devices.

## **1.3 Objectives**

The main aim of this project is to harvest energy from human powered to electronic device. In order to achieve the targeted aim, a few objectives as follows have been identified

- i. To investigate the piezoelectric transducer disc for energy harvesting.
- ii. To design the conversion circuit for shoe-insole based on piezoelectric transducer disc.
- iii. To test and evaluate the energy harvesting by piezoelectric transducer disc in the shoe insole.

## 1.4 Scope project

The main flow of the project scope starts with energy harvesting, vibration (human), electro-mechanical transducer, piezoelectric and lastly piezoelectric transducer disc in the shoe sole. The chart contains characteristic of the project. This is some explanations of the main items of this project:

i. Energy harvesting by vibration

Vibration energy harvesting systems that convert ambient mechanical energy in the environment to usable electrical energy represent a promising emerging technology to achieve autonomous, self-renewable, and maintenance-free operation of wireless electronic devices and systems. A complete energy harvesting system comprises three main components: an energy harvester that converts the mechanical vibrations into electrical energy, an energy harvesting interface circuit that conditions and regulates the energy, and an energy storage element that stores the intermittent harvested energy.

ii. Piezoelectric

Piezoelectric systems can convert motion from the human body into electrical power. Piezoelectricity is the power produced from the piezoelectric effect. This process entails the change of the polarization of the piezo-material, generally crystal, when applying a mechanical force. Most of the piezoelectricity sources produce power on the order of milli-watts, too small for the system application, but enough for small devices.

iii. Piezoelectric polymer thin films

The piezoelectric materials such as polymer thin films are well-known for their sensing and actuating capabilities. These structures have the ability to control the shape, vibration and stability of the structural components due to their direct and converse piezoelectric effects.

## **1.5 Project outline**

This project report contains five chapters. Chapter one states the overview and the introduction of the project which inclusive of project background, project objectives, problem statement, and scope of work. Chapter two explains on the project literature review, while chapter three discusses on the overall project methodology. Chapter four elaborates on the project results and discussions. The last chapter, chapter five concludes the whole research work and states recommendation for the future research work.

## **CHAPTER 2**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.1 Introduction**

In this chapter, a general model of a pairs of shoes with piezoelectric will be explained followed by a brief explanation of the function and the characteristic of the piezoelectric fibre composites that suitable in this project. An overview of this topic is important due to fact that the piezoelectric is used to convert the mechanical energy into electrical energy by receive the energy by the vibration contact with the piezoelectric components. Followed by the brief explanations about the analytical model of the piezoelectric harvester a one of the medium that can produce energy to become a electronic device charger. In this topic, differences between the electrostatic, electromagnetic and the piezoelectric will be explained.

## **2.2 Generic models of energy harvesting**

### **2.2.1 Kinetic motion energy (vibration)**

Vibration energy harvesting systems that convert ambient mechanical energy in the environment to usable electrical energy represent a promising emerging technology to achieve autonomous, self-renewable, and maintenance-free operation of wireless electronic portable devices and systems. (Rao, et al., 2011). A perfect energy harvesting system consist of three main components; an energy harvester that converts the mechanical vibrations into electrical energy, an energy harvesting interface circuit that conditions and regulates the energy, and an energy storage element that stores the intermittent harvested energy.

Energy harvesting is the conversion of ambient energy into usable electrical energy. When compared to energy stored in common storage elements, such as batteries and capacitors; the environment represents a relatively infinite source of available energy. Researchers have been working on many projects to generate electricity from human power, such as exploiting, cranking, shaking, squeezing, spinning, pushing, pumping, and pulling. (Yildiz, 2011).

Several types of flash lights were powered with wind up generators in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Further versions of these devices, such as wind-up cell phone chargers and radios, became commercialized in the market. The commercially available Freeplay's wind-up radios require 60 turns in one minute of cranking, which produces for the storage of 500 Joules of energy in a spring. The spring system drives a magnetic generator and efficiently produces enough power for about an hour of radio play.

Tapping directly into the biological processes that turn fat into energy is beyond currently available technology. However, energy might be harvested indirectly from everyday human activity or might be intentionally energized by a human. Indeed, market for years. At the same time, there has been a significant body

of research on human generated power which can find potential applications particularly in low power biomedical applications.

The related systems need to be wearable and typically consists of sensors, signal conditioning electronics and wireless transmission technology. (Cain, et al., 2011). More power allows longer operation, higher sampling rates, and wireless transmission over a longer distance, and support of additional features. Therefore powerful, low weight and packed energy storage devices and energy harvesting from the human body are crucial technologies for long-lifespan and reliable operation. Power may be recovered passively from body heat, breathing, blood pressure, arm motion, typing, and walking or actively through user actions such as winding or pedaling. In cases where the devices are not actively driven, only some power can generally be harvested without inconveniencing or annoying the user.

A summary of the potential power sources and the total power from various body-centered actions is provided in Figure 2.1.1.

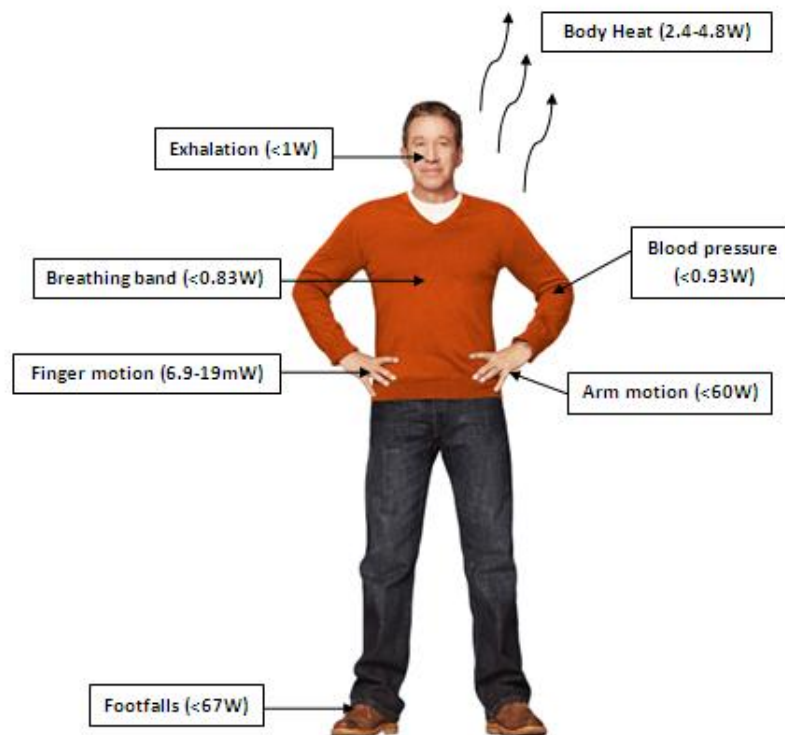


Figure 2.1.1: Possible power recovery from body-centered sources with total power for each action listed. (Cain, et al., 2011).

### **2.2.2 Solar energy**

Energy from the sun can be used to heat homes through passive solar design, solar hot water systems, solar space heating and electrical generation (photovoltaic or PV). It is renewable energy source that does not contribute to green house gasses. Compared to fossil fuel-generated electricity, each kilowatt of PV electricity annually offsets up to 16 kilograms of nitrogen oxides, 9 kilograms of sulfur dioxides, and 2,300 kilograms of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). (K, 2009)

Photovoltaics solar panels change solar radiations (insolation) into direct current (DC) electricity. When referring to electrical generation, insolation is described at watts per square meter. On a normal day, the total insolation is about 1,000 watts per meter square. By measuring the insolation, the peak sun hours can be recorded. Peak sun hours vary throughout the year and can be affected by the Earth's position relative to the sun, location of site (latitude), atmospheric condition, and any obstructions at a given site (shade). Photovoltaic solar systems typically consists several panel wired together (array), electrical disconnects, over-current protection (circuit breaker or fuses), inverter, junction box, and other specialized equipment depending on application (grid-tied, off-grid, battery-backup).

### **2.2.3 Heat energy**

Thermo-electric (TE) materials offer the opportunity to generate electricity from waste heat. However, due to the temperature refer to the Figure of Merit (ZT), the average efficiency of thermo-electric materials is relatively low and varies across the operating temperature range (100-500 degrees C). (Tervo, et al., 2009). While current thermo-electric generators are able to get high efficiencies within a relatively small temperature range, their efficiency is still too low for practical, commercial applications and their thermo-electric properties can rapidly degrade due to elevated temperatures, under thermal cycling, and as the result of the differential thermal expansion effects of different thermo-electric materials that make-up these devices. Highly efficient nano-structured and functionally graded