



# HALL MAGNETIC SENSOR DEVICES

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# Why HALL MAGNETIC SENSORS?

- High measurement range: from <10µT to >20T
- High spatial resolution: <1µm
- Broad bandwidth: DC to >1MHz
- Vector sensitivity
- Compatible with IC technologies
- Good performance cost ratio



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# Outline

- The Hall Effect
- Magnetic Sensitivity
- Technology and Geometry
- Horizontal and Vertical Hall Devices
- 3-Axis Hall Magnetic Sensor
- Parasitic Effects

# **The Hall Effect**



Edwin Hall:

"On a new action of the magnet on electric current" Am.J.Math. 2 (1879) pp.287-92

 $V_{\rm H} \propto I \cdot B$ 

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B **Lorentz Force:**  $F = eE + e[v \times B]$  $v_{dn} = \mu_n E_e$  $\boldsymbol{J}_n = q\mu_n n \boldsymbol{E}_e$ **Electron Drift:**  $e[\boldsymbol{v}_d \times \boldsymbol{B}] + e\boldsymbol{E}_H = 0$ Force || **z** = 0:  $oldsymbol{E}_{Hn} = rac{1}{qn} [oldsymbol{J} imes oldsymbol{B}]$ Hall Electric Field:  $E_{Hn} = \mu_n [E \times B]$  $\boldsymbol{E}_{H} = -R_{H}[\boldsymbol{J} \times \boldsymbol{B}]$  $R_{Hn} =$ Hall Coefficient: qn

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# **The Hall Electric Field**

Hall Voltage &  
Magnetic Sensitivity  
Hall Voltage: 
$$V_H = \int_{S_1}^{S^2} E_H \, dw$$
  
 $V_H = E_H w$   
 $E_{Hn} = \mu_n [E \times B] \Rightarrow V_H = \mu_n \frac{V}{l} w B_\perp \Rightarrow V = RI = \frac{1}{q\mu_n n} \frac{l}{wt} I$   
 $V_H = S_V V B_\perp$   
Voltage-Related Sensitivity:  
 $S_V \approx \mu_n \frac{w}{l}$   
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 $V = RI = \frac{1}{qn_t} \frac{l}{nt} R_H$   
 $V_H = S_I I B_\perp$   
Current-Related Sensitivity:  
 $S_I \approx \frac{1}{qn_t} \approx \frac{R_H}{t}$ 

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### **Geometrical Factor of Hall Voltage**



Short – circuiting effects by the electrodes!

$$G_{\rm H} = V_{\rm H} / V_{\rm H\infty} \longrightarrow V_{H} = G_{H} \frac{R_{H}}{t} IB_{\perp}$$
  
Typically,  $G_{\rm H} \approx 0.3 \dots 0.7$ 

### **Magnetic Sensitivity**

• Absolut Sensitivity:

$$S_A = \left| \frac{V_H}{B_\perp} \right|_c$$

 Relative Sensitivity Current-related:

Voltage-related:

$$S_{I} = \frac{S_{A}}{I} = \left| \frac{1}{I} \frac{V_{H}}{B_{\perp}} \right| \quad S_{V} = \frac{S_{A}}{V} = \left| \frac{1}{V} \frac{V_{H}}{B_{\perp}} \right| = \frac{S_{I}}{R_{in}}$$
$$S_{I} = G_{H} \frac{|R_{H}|}{t} \qquad S_{V} = \mu_{H} \frac{w}{l} G_{H}$$

S<sub>/</sub>[V/AT]: 10 ... 1000

S<sub>v</sub> [V/VT]: 0.01 ... 0.05 (Si CMOS); 0.3 (GaAs); 1 ... 5 (InSb) 9

# Shapes of Hall Devices



# **Positions of Hall Devices**



### **GaAs Hall Device**



# **High-mobility 2DEG Hall plate**



### Silicon (Horizontal) conventional planar in Hall Device

- Sensitive to the perpendicular field component **B**
- CMOS Technology: N-Well
- Depletion layer isolation





### **INTUITIVE:** GENESIS OF THE VERTICAL HALL DEVICE



BY CONFORMAL MAPPING:



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### **Multi-axis Hall magnetic sensors**

# Conventional: 3 Hall plates



Integrated: Single Chip

> VH + HH

> IMC - Hall

- difficult alignment of axes
- pure spatial resolution
- many wires

- perfect alignment
- high resolution
- shared wires

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# **SENIS 3-axis Hall Probe S**





#### Hall Probe S for H3A Magnetic Field Transducers

Hybrid 1-, 2-, 3-axis Hall Probe



### **SENIS 3-Axis Integrated Hall Sensor**



Magnetic field sensitive volume: 100μm x 100μm x 10μm

### **Integrated 3-Axis Hall Probe**



#### Sensing part composed of two types of micro-Hall sensors

- 4 planar Hall sensor the perpendicular B-component
- 8 vertical Hall sensors the in-plane B-components
- Mutual orthogonality: 0.1°

#### 3D spatial resolution: 150 $\mu m$

### **SENIS fully integrated 3D Hall sensor**



#### **Precise 3D magnetic field measurements**

- from militeslas up to tens of tesla
- in the frequency range from DC to 30 kHz
- $\bullet$  spatial resolution of about 150  $\mu m$
- die dimensions: 4300  $\mu m$  x 640  $\mu m$  x 550  $\mu m$

#### Sensing part composed of two types of micro-Hall sensors

- a planar Hall sensor the perpendicular B-component
- 8 vertical Hall sensors the in-plane B-components

### SENIS fully integrated 3D Hall probe in a ceramic package



SENIS fully integrated 3D Hall probes in ceramic packages





#### Fully integrated 3-Axis Hall Probe HL, HM, HS



### SENIS Very Thin fully integrated 3D Hall probes



### **Probe Holders**

# **Parasitic Effects in Hall Devices**

- Offset
- Noise

...

- Planar Hall effect
- Non-linearity
- Temperature dependence
- Stress dependence
- Inductive effects



# Offset in a Hall Device



CAUSES: ASYMETRY DUE TO

- NY XY
- GEOMETRY
- · DOPING
- · TEMPERATURE GRAD.
- MECHANICAL STRESS
- · SURFACE EFFECTS

TYPICAL VALUES: B. ~ 5... 50 mT

### **OEMF:**

# **Offset-Equivalent Magnetic Field**

 $OEMF = V_{off} / S_A$ 

V<sub>off</sub>: Output offset voltage [V]

*S*<sub>A</sub>: Absolute magnetic sensitivity [V/T]

Basic OEMF:

- Si integrated Hall elements: 5mT 50mT
- High-mobility Hall elements: ca. 1mT

### **Offset Fluctuations and Noise**



Figure 1. Gaussian Distribution of Noise Amplitude

- $\sigma^2$ : Variance
- σ: Standard deviation

 $v_{nRMS}$ : Root Mean Square noise voltage

 $v_{nP-P}$ : Peak-to-Peak noise voltage

 $V_{nRMS} = \sigma$  $V_{nP-P} \approx 6 V_{nRMS}$ 

### Noise Voltage Spectral Density of a Hall Device





### Noise Spectral Density and Noise Voltage

RMS noise voltage:



### **NEMF:**

### **Noise-Equivalent Magnetic Field**

 $NEMF = V_n / S_A$  or  $NEMFSD = V_nSD / S_A$ 

 $V_n$ : Output noise voltage [V]  $V_n$  SD: Noise voltage spectral density [V/VHz]  $S_A$ : Absolute magnetic sensitivity [V/T]

NEMF[T] – depends on the frequency bandwidth NEMF Spectral Density [T/VHz] – a detailed spec.

### **Typical values of NEMF SD**

Thermal noise region, at room temperature:

• integrated silicon Hall elements: about 100nT/VHz;

• GaAs epitaxial or 2DEG Hall elements: about 20nT/vHz;

• high-mobility thin-film InSb Hall elements: about 1.5nT/VHz.
# **Parasitic Effects in Hall Devices**

- Offset
- Noise

...

- Planar Hall effect
- Non-linearity
- Temperature dependence
- Stress dependence
- Inductive effects

# Planar Hall Effect



# MR Model of the Planar Hall effect



# **Summary**

- Hall Plate:
  4 Contacts, *B* ⊥ Plate
- Hall Voltage:

$$V_H = V B_\perp = S_I I B_\perp$$



• Errors: Offset, Noise, Planar Hall Effect, ...

# Where to get more information

R S Popovic: "Hall Effect Devices" 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, 2004

Institute of Physics Publishing, IOP, Bristol and Philadelphia





# HALL MAGNETIC SENSORS - SIGNAL PROCESSING

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### Hall Devices



**GaAs Hall Device** 

(a) CP (b) N-well  $N^+$ **Depletion Layer** P-Substrate Integrated **Horizontal Hall Device** 

B

- C1

#### Integrated **Vertical Hall Device**



# Outline

- Amplification of the Hall voltage
- Reducing offset, low-frequency noise, planar Hall effect, inductive effects, ...
- Reducing angular errors
- Amplification of the magnetic signal
- Experimental Results



# Amplifying the Hall voltage

S: absolute magnetic sensitivity of the transducer

*Va*: total artifact signal (noise voltage, offset, ...)

Resolution limit: when S · B ≈ Va, i.e. Bres ≈ Va / S

#### **Magnetic Resolution Limit**

The magnetic resolution limit – when Signal to Artifact Ratio ≈ 1 Bres ≈ Artifact-Equivalent Magnetic Field, AEMF = Va / S Va: artifact signal (noise voltage, offset drift, ...)
S: absolute magnetic sensitivity

- DC resolution: limited by
  - offset (if can not be zeroed)
  - offset drift (thermal, aging, ... )
  - offset fluctuations (BW: ~ 0.1Hz to 10Hz)
- AC resolution: limited by noise
  - noise (thermal and 1/f)
  - bandwidth



# Amplifying the signal of a bridge-type sensor



# Noise model of a transducer



## The Complex Model is Simplified



#### NOISE VOLTAGE (RTI) vs FREQUENCY



Example: INA 163 &  $v_{n_s} \ll v_{n_ai}$ 

OFFSET IN A HALL DEVICE VA  $V_{HO} \equiv V_H \text{ at } B=0$  $B_0 \equiv apparent$  $B_{meas} \text{ at}$ B=0VHO CAUSES: ASYMETRY DUE TO · GEOMETRY · DOPING . TEMPERATURE GRAD. · MECHANICAL STRESS · SURFACE EFFECTS TYPICAL VALUES: Bo ~ 5 ... 50 mT

# **MR Model of the Planar Hall effect**





#### Reducing Offset and Noise: Orthogonal-Parallel Coupling of Hall Elements



1 × Hall:  $Vnoise1 = \sqrt{4kTR\Delta f}$ ; 2 × Hall:  $Vnoise2 = Vnoise1 / \sqrt{2}$ ; ....

N × Hall: *VnoiseN* = *Vnoise1* /  $\sqrt{N}$ 



# SENIS integrated orthogonally coupled Hall elements

## Reducing Offset and 1/f Noise by Current Spinning

# « Switched Hall » or « Spinning Current » Technique





### **Spinning-Current Hall Sensor System**





## **Comparing Chopping with Spinning Current Technique**



## Residual Offset of Chopping (1)



- Due to charge injection at the input chopper
- Causes a typical offset of a few μV
- Input spikes  $\Rightarrow$  bias current (a few tens of pA)

## **Chopper With Guard Band**



- During guard-band, output is shorted [15,16] or tri-stated [17]
- Residual offset ~ 200nV!
- Slightly worse noise performance

Smart Sensor Systems '02 Kofi A.A. Makinwa

## 1/f noise reduction in a Hall device by the spinning-current



# SENIS integrated vertical Hall device: Noise voltage spectral density with spinning current





# **Reducing inductive effects**

- Biasing by a constant current
- Spinning current

- Minimizing inductive loops
- Compensating inductive loops



# **Fully integrated 3D Hall probe**



#### **Precise 3D magnetic field measurements**

- from militeslas up to tens of tesla
- in the frequency range from DC to 30 kHz
- $\bullet$  spatial resolution of about 150  $\mu m$
- die dimensions: 4300 μm x 640 μm x 550 μm

#### Sensing part composed of two types of micro-Hall sensors

- a planar Hall sensor the perpendicular B-component
- 8 vertical Hall sensors the in-plane B-components

# **1ppm 2T Two-Axis Hall Transducer**





#### Amplifying the magnetic signal: the concept of 2 IMC - Hall



Magnetic Flux Concentration Gain:  $G_{MC} = B_{Hall} / B_{ext}$  $G_{MC} = 1 \dots 10$ 



Integrated Magnetic Concentrators (IMC)

Single Axis IMC Hall ASIC

### Measured NEMFsd CSA-1V (Sentron)



#### **Application: Low Cost Current Sensor**



#### **PHYSICAL LIMIT OF RESOLUTION**

(Thermal) Noise-Equivalent Magnetic Field spectral density: NEMFsd,min  $\geq \sqrt{4 k T R_H} / (G_{MC} S_V V_b)$ 

k – Boltz. constant; T – abs. temp.;  $R_{\rm H}$  – resistance of Hall;  $G_{\rm MC}$  – magn. gain of IMC;  $S_{\rm V}$  - volt-rel. sensitivity;  $V_{\rm b}$  - bias volt. NEMFsd,min ≥  $\sqrt{4 \ k \ T}$  / ( $G_{\rm MC} \ S_{\rm V} \ \sqrt{P_{\rm b}}$ )

 $P_{\rm b}$  : bias power of Hall,  $P_{\rm b} = V_{\rm b} I_{\rm b}$ For  $S_{\rm V} = 0.05$  (contemporary max for Si Hall) and T = 300K:

#### NEMFsd,min $\geq$ 82 nT/ $\sqrt{\text{Hz mW}}$ / $G_{MC}$

# **Electromagnet for calibrating Hall probes**





$$S_V \approx \mu_n \frac{w}{l}$$

# Magnetic Sensitivity Vector

Since

 $V_H = S_V V B_\perp$  and  $V_H = S_I I B_\perp$ 



 $V_H = \mathbf{S} \cdot \mathbf{B}$  (the scalar product of  $\mathbf{S}$  and  $\mathbf{B}$ )

**S** : Magnetic Sensitivity Vector of a Hall device

$$U_{out} = S_X \cdot B_X + S_Y \cdot B_Y + S_Z \cdot B_Z$$
## **Magnetic Sensitivity Tensor**

 $\langle \mathbf{D} \rangle$ 

1 - axis Hall magnetic sensor:

$$V_1 = S_1 \cdot B \quad \Longrightarrow \quad V_1 = (S_{1X} \quad S_{1Y} \quad S_{1Z}) \begin{pmatrix} B_X \\ B_Y \\ B_Z \end{pmatrix}$$



3 - axis Hall magnetic sensor:

$$\begin{pmatrix} V_1 \\ V_2 \\ V_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} S_{1X} & S_{1Y} & S_{1Z} \\ S_{2X} & S_{2Y} & S_{2Z} \\ S_{2X} & S_{3Y} & S_{3Z} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} B_X \\ B_Y \\ B_Z \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow V_3 = (S_3) B \Rightarrow B = (S_3)^{-1} V_3$$

 $(S_3)$ : Magnetic Sensitivity Tensor of a 3-Axis Hall Probe

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## Calibrating the magnetic sensitivity tensor in an electromagnet





## A tool for calibrating the magnetic sensitivity tensor





## Calibration of the magnetic sensitivity tensor of a 3D Hall probe in the mapper





## Calibration of the Magnetic Sensitivity Tensor - an example

... and after Calibration  $\begin{bmatrix} S \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 100002 & 0.0298746 & -0.00891582 \\ -0.103873 & 100038 & 0.0110116 \\ 0.0138412 & -0.0328856 & 100041 \end{bmatrix}$  $\begin{bmatrix} S \end{bmatrix} \approx Ss \bullet \begin{bmatrix} I \end{bmatrix} \qquad S_s = 100 \text{V/T}$ 

#### **Definition of the angular errors of a probe**

**TILT** is the angle of rotation around the y-axis; **ROLL** is the angle of rotation around the z-axis; **PITCH** is the angle of rotation around the x-axis.

## Measurement of the angular errors of a 3D probe - an example



 $\bullet \bullet \bullet$ 

$$\begin{split} B_{c} \cdot S_{x} &= \sqrt{\frac{U_{xx}^{2} + U_{xy}^{2} + U_{xz}^{2} + \sqrt{\left(U_{xx}^{2} + U_{xy}^{2} + U_{xz}^{2}\right)^{2} - 4 \cdot U_{xy}^{2} \cdot U_{xz}^{2}}{2}}{2} \\ x_{r} &= \arcsin\left(\frac{U_{xy}}{B_{c} \cdot S_{x}}\right) \\ x_{t} &= \arcsin\left(\frac{U_{xz}}{B_{c} \cdot S_{x}}\right) \end{split}$$

# Up-dated classification of magnetic measurement technologies\*

