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Hydrogen Electrolyser Controller – LCD + Safety + Latching

Purpose

Control the electrolyser relay and display key measurements on a 20x4 I2C LCD.

Enforce safety limits with latching faults for pressure/voltage/current.

Behaviour (priority order)

1) Pressure > 6.0 bar → System Fault (latched) → Relay OFF

2) Switch OFF → "Press Switch" → Relay OFF

(auto-recover)

3) Water NOT OK → "Tank Full" → Relay OFF

(auto-recover)

4) Otherwise → RUN → Relay ON, LCD shows

Vin/Iin/VElec/Ielec

Latching rules

• Pressure, Vin, VElec, Iin, Ielec over limits → latch fault. Clear by toggling the switch OFF.

• Switch OFF / Water NOT OK are not latched; system auto-recovers as soon as condition clears.

Display rules

• RUN: show only Vin, Iin, VElec, Ielec (one per line, 2 decimals).

• Any latched or live safety fault: "System Fault".

• Switch OFF: "Press Switch".

• Water NOT OK: "Tank Full".

Limits (edit as required)

• PTank ≤ 6.0 bar (P_MAX_ALLOWED_KPA = 600)

• Vin ≤ 12.0 V

• VElec ≤ 8.0 V

• Iin ≤ 5.0 A

• Ielec ≤ 5.0 A

Notes

- Relay is active-LOW (LOW = ON). It starts OFF at boot.
- The ACS712 current conversion uses (5.0/1023.0) intentionally, as the sensor is ratiometric to the 5 V analog range; using the tracked Vref here can introduce error if the sensor and ADC reference differ. Voltage channels use the measured Vref.
- Pressure mapping follows your proven formula: $\text{pressure_Pa} = (V - 0.48) * 320000$.

I/O summary

- relayPin (D2) : Active-LOW relay drive
- switchPin (D3) : Rocker switch (HIGH = ON)
- levelPin (D4) : NC float to GND, read with INPUT_PULLUP (HIGH = water OK)
- pPin (A1) : DFROBOT pressure sensor analog output
- A3 (Vin), A2 (Iin), A4 (VElec), A5 (Ielec)

Timing

- Serial log: 500 ms
 - LCD refresh: 2000 ms
 - Vref tracking: 1000 ms with exponential smoothing
- */

```
#include <SoftwareWire.h>           // Bit-banged I2C bus
#include <LiquidCrystal_SoftI2C.h>   // 20x4 LCD over SoftwareWire

// I2C LCD (PCF8574)
#define SDA_PIN 8
#define SCL_PIN 9
SoftwareWire swWire(SDA_PIN, SCL_PIN);
LiquidCrystal_I2C lcd(0x27, 20, 4, &swWire);

// Pins
const int relayPin = 2;  // Active-LOW relay output
const int switchPin = 3; // Rocker switch (HIGH = ON)
const int levelPin = 4;  // NC float to GND (use INPUT_PULLUP); HIGH
= water OK
const int pPin      = A1; // Pressure sensor analog output
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// Periodic tasks
const unsigned long serialInterval = 500;    // ms
const unsigned long lcdInterval    = 2000;    // ms
unsigned long lastSerialTime = 0;
unsigned long lastLcdUpdate  = 0;

// Sensor calibration / scaling
const float sensitivity = 0.185; // ACS712 sensitivity (V/A) – adjust
per sensor variant
const float dividerIn   = 3.0;    // Vin divider ratio
const float dividerElec = 3.0;    // VElec divider ratio
int rawOffsetIn = 0;              // Zero-current ADC offset (Iin)
int rawOffsetElec = 0;            // Zero-current ADC offset (IElec)

// ADC reference tracking (Vref)
float Vref = 5.00;                // Running estimate of Vcc in
volts
const unsigned long vrefInterval = 1000; // ms
unsigned long lastVrefCal = 0;         // ms
const float vrefAlpha = 0.10f;        // Exponential smoothing
factor (0..1)

// Pressure filtering and limits
float pTank_kPa = 0.0f;            // Filtered tank pressure
(kPa)
const float pAlpha = 0.15f;         // IIR smoothing for pressure
(0..1)
const float P_MAX_ALLOWED_KPA = 600.0f; // 6.0 bar cutoff

// Electrical safety limits
const float VIN_MAX_V = 12.0f;
const float VELEC_MAX_V = 8.0f;
const float IIN_MAX_A = 5.0f;
const float IELEC_MAX_A = 5.0f;

// Fault latching
enum FaultCode : uint8_t {
    FAULT_NONE = 0,
    FAULT_PRESSURE,
    FAULT_VIN_HIGH,
    FAULT_VELEC_HIGH,
    FAULT_IIN_HIGH,
    FAULT_IELEC_HIGH

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};
bool      faultLatched    = false;
FaultCode latchedReason  = FAULT_NONE;

// Measure Vcc using the internal 1.1 V band-gap (AVR only).
// Returns millivolts. On non-AVR targets, returns 5000 mV.
long readVcc_mV() {
    #if defined(__AVR__)
        ADMUX = _BV(REFS0) | 0b1110;    // Vref = Vcc, MUX=1110 (1.1V
bandgap)
        delay(2);
        ADCSRA |= _BV(ADSC);            // Start conversion
        while (ADCSRA & _BV(ADSC));      // Wait for completion
        uint16_t adc = ADC;
        return (1125300L) / adc;        // = 1.1 * 1023 * 1000 / adc
    #else
        return 5000;
    #endif
}

void setup() {
    // Digital I/O
    pinMode(switchPin, INPUT);           // External pull-ups/downs define
state
    pinMode(levelPin, INPUT_PULLUP);     // NC float to GND → HIGH = water
present
    pinMode(relayPin, OUTPUT);
    digitalWrite(relayPin, HIGH);        // Ensure relay is OFF at startup
(active-LOW)

    // Analog inputs
    analogReference(DEFAULT);
    pinMode(A3, INPUT); // Vin
    pinMode(A2, INPUT); // Iin
    pinMode(A4, INPUT); // VElec
    pinMode(A5, INPUT); // IElec
    pinMode(pPin, INPUT); // Pressure

    // I/O init
    Serial.begin(9600);
    lcd.begin();
    lcd.backlight();

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// Initial Vref calibration (average several band-gap readings)
{
    const int N = 10;
    long sum_mV = 0;
    for (int i = 0; i < N; i++) {
        sum_mV += readVcc_mV();
        delay(5);
    }
    Vref = (sum_mV / (float)N) / 1000.0f;
}

// Zero-current calibration for ACS712 channels (Iin / Ielec)
lcd.clear();
lcd.print("Calibrating...");
long sumIn = 0, sumElec = 0;
for (int i = 0; i < 2000; i++) {
    sumIn += analogRead(A2);
    sumElec += analogRead(A5);
    delayMicroseconds(50);
}
rawOffsetIn = sumIn / 2000;
rawOffsetElec = sumElec / 2000;

// Serial header (CSV-like)
Serial.print("Offset Iin: "); Serial.println(rawOffsetIn);
Serial.print("Offset Ielec: "); Serial.println(rawOffsetElec);
Serial.print("Vref init: "); Serial.print(Vref, 3);
Serial.println(" V");
Serial.println("Time, Switch, Water, PTank(bar), Vin, Iin, VElec,
Ielec, Vref, State");

// Force immediate first LCD update
lastLcdUpdate = millis() - lcdInterval;
}

void loop() {
    const unsigned long now = millis();

    // 1) Track Vref (smoothed) for accurate voltage conversion
    if (now - lastVrefCal >= vrefInterval) {
        lastVrefCal = now;
        const float vNow = readVcc_mV() / 1000.0f;
        Vref = (1.0f - vrefAlpha) * Vref + vrefAlpha * vNow;
    }
}

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}

// 2) Read discrete inputs
const bool switchOn      = (digitalRead(switchPin) == HIGH); // ON
when HIGH
const bool waterPresent = (digitalRead(levelPin) == HIGH);  // HIGH =
water OK

// 3) Read and scale analog channels
// Vin (uses tracked Vref and divider)
analogRead(A3); delayMicroseconds(50);
const int  rawV  = analogRead(A3);
const float Vin  = (rawV * Vref / 1023.0f) * dividerIn;

// Iin (uses 5.0 reference by design; see note in header)
analogRead(A2); delayMicroseconds(50);
const int  rawI  = analogRead(A2);
const float Iin  = ((rawI - rawOffsetIn) * (5.0f / 1023.0f)) /
sensitivity;

// VElec (uses tracked Vref and divider)
analogRead(A4); delayMicroseconds(50);
const int  rawE  = analogRead(A4);
const float VElec = (rawE * Vref / 1023.0f) * dividerElec;

// IElec (uses 5.0 reference by design)
analogRead(A5); delayMicroseconds(50);
const int  rawEc = analogRead(A5);
const float IElec = ((rawEc - rawOffsetElec) * (5.0f / 1023.0f)) /
sensitivity;

// Pressure (volts → Pa → kPa; then IIR smoothing)
analogRead(pPin); delayMicroseconds(50);
const int  rawP  = analogRead(pPin);
const float vP    = (rawP * Vref / 1023.0f);
float pressure_Pa = (vP - 0.48f) * 320000.0f; // Clamp below zero
if (pressure_Pa < 0.0f) pressure_Pa = 0.0f;
const float p_kPa = pressure_Pa / 1000.0f;

if (pTank_kPa == 0.0f) {
    pTank_kPa = p_kPa;
} else {
    pTank_kPa = (1.0f - pAlpha) * pTank_kPa + pAlpha * p_kPa;
}

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}
const float pTank_bar = pTank_kPa / 100.0f;

// 4) Fault evaluation (Pressure > Electrical > Switch > Water)
//   Latch clearing: when user toggles the switch OFF.
if (faultLatched && !switchOn) {
    faultLatched = false;
    latchedReason = FAULT_NONE;
}

const bool overPressure = (pTank_kPa > P_MAX_ALLOWED_KPA);
const bool vinHigh      = (Vin      > VIN_MAX_V    + 1e-6f);
const bool velecHigh    = (VElec    > VELEC_MAX_V  + 1e-6f);
const bool iinHigh      = (Iin      > IIN_MAX_A    + 1e-6f);
const bool iecHigh      = (Ielec    > IELEC_MAX_A  + 1e-6f);

// Pressure has highest priority and latches immediately
if (overPressure) {
    faultLatched = true;
    latchedReason = FAULT_PRESSURE;
}

// If no pressure fault latched, check electrical limits (also latch)
if (!faultLatched) {
    if (vinHigh) { faultLatched = true; latchedReason =
FAULT_VIN_HIGH; }
    else if (velecHigh) { faultLatched = true; latchedReason =
FAULT_VELEC_HIGH; }
    else if (iinHigh) { faultLatched = true; latchedReason =
FAULT_IIN_HIGH; }
    else if (iecHigh) { faultLatched = true; latchedReason =
FAULT_IELEC_HIGH; }
}

// Determine state for relay and LCD
enum { STATE_FAULT, STATE_PRESS, STATE_TANK, STATE_RUN } state =
STATE_RUN;
if (faultLatched) state = STATE_FAULT;
else if (!switchOn) state = STATE_PRESS; // Ask user to turn
switch ON
else if (!waterPresent) state = STATE_TANK; // Water NOT OK (tank
full)
else state = STATE_RUN;

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// Relay control (active-LOW: LOW = ON)
const bool relayOn = (state == STATE_RUN);
digitalWrite(relayPin, relayOn ? LOW : HIGH);

// 5) Serial log (CSV-like)
if (now - lastSerialTime >= serialInterval) {
    lastSerialTime = now;

    Serial.print(now / 1000.0f, 2); Serial.print(", ");
    Serial.print(switchOn      ? "SW=ON"      : "SW=OFF");
Serial.print(", ");
    Serial.print(waterPresent ? "Water=YES" : "Water=NO");
Serial.print(", ");
    Serial.print(pTank_bar, 2 );
Serial.print(", ");
    Serial.print(Vin, 2);      Serial.print(", ");
    Serial.print(Iin, 2);      Serial.print(", ");
    Serial.print(VElec, 2);     Serial.print(", ");
    Serial.print(Ielec, 2);     Serial.print(", ");
    Serial.print(Vref, 3);      Serial.print(", ");

    switch (state) {
        case STATE_FAULT:
            Serial.print("FAULT:");
            switch (latchedReason) {
                case FAULT_PRESSURE:  Serial.print("P>6bar");   break;
                case FAULT_VIN_HIGH:   Serial.print("Vin>12V"); break;
                case FAULT_VELEC_HIGH: Serial.print("VElec>8V"); break;
                case FAULT_IIN_HIGH:   Serial.print("Iin>5A");  break;
                case FAULT_IELEC_HIGH: Serial.print("Ielec>5A"); break;
                default:                Serial.print("Unknown"); break;
            }
            break;
        case STATE_PRESS: Serial.print("PRESS_SWITCH"); break;
        case STATE_TANK:  Serial.print("TANK_FULL");    break;
        case STATE_RUN:   Serial.print("RUN");          break;
    }
    Serial.println();
}

// 6) LCD update
if (now - lastLcdUpdate >= lcdInterval) {

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    lastLcdUpdate = now;
    lcd.clear();

    if (state == STATE_RUN) {
        // Only the four requested values
        lcd.setCursor(0, 0); lcd.print("Vin: ");    lcd.print(Vin, 2);
    lcd.print("V");
        lcd.setCursor(0, 1); lcd.print("Iin: ");    lcd.print(Iin, 2);
    lcd.print("A");
        lcd.setCursor(0, 2); lcd.print("VElec: "); lcd.print(VElec, 2);
    lcd.print("V");
        lcd.setCursor(0, 3); lcd.print("Ielec: "); lcd.print(Ielec, 2);
    lcd.print("A");
    } else if (state == STATE_PRESS) {
        lcd.setCursor(0, 1); lcd.print("Press Switch");
    } else if (state == STATE_TANK) {
        lcd.setCursor(0, 1); lcd.print("Tank Full");
    } else { // STATE_FAULT
        lcd.setCursor(0, 1); lcd.print("System Fault");
    }
}

// Small delay to avoid a fully tight loop
delay(10);
}

```