



University of Brasília – UnB
Faculty UnB Gama – FGA
Electronic Engineering

Electronic System for Data Acquisition and Control of a Automotive Brake Test Bench

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Brasília, DF

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This work dedicated to all who seek knowledge and truth.

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*“Science, my lad, is made up of mistakes, but they are mistakes which it is useful to
make, because they lead little by little to the truth.”*
(Jules Verne, A Journey to the Center of the Earth)

Abstract

This paper aims to design the automation of a testbench for brake tests. There are already consolidated standards rules for brake system testing, this research project is focused with respect to *SAE J2522* regulation that addresses on brakes tests on passenger vehicles. The major focus of the project is to ensure a resilient solution for the testbench in order to make possible the acquisition of all relevant physical information and to automate the tests.

Key-words: Electronic Instrumentation. Brake Test. Automotive Systems Simulation.

List of Figures

Figure 1 – Schematic for disk brake systems (NICE, 2017)	29
Figure 2 – Brake Tests Diagram of Execution	31
Figure 3 – <i>Crankshaft Position Sensor</i> (REMAN, 2016)	32
Figure 4 – Magnetic Sensor Signal (PETROLHEAD GARAGE, 2014)	33
Figure 5 – Thermocouple characteristic voltage output (BOJORGE, 2014)	34
Figure 6 – Thermocouple Measurement (ECIL, 2016)	35
Figure 7 – Distension (INSTRUMENTS, 2016a)	35
Figure 8 – Wheatstone bridge (INSTRUMENTS, 2016b)	36
Figure 9 – Piezo Accelerometer (UK, 2016)	37
Figure 10 – Instrumentation Amplifier (DESCONHECIDO, 2016)	38
Figure 11 – INA 118 (INSTRUMENTS, 2000a)	38
Figure 12 – ATmega16/32U4 Block Diagram (ATMEL, 2018)	41
Figure 13 – Duty Cycle Examples (RZTRONICS, 2016)	42
Figure 14 – ESD Test Waveform (LITTLELFUSE, 2015a)	43
Figure 15 – Campling action of a uni-directional TVS (RENESAS, 2016c)	44
Figure 16 – Campling action of a bi-directional TVS (RENESAS, 2016b)	44
Figure 17 – $V \times I$ characteristic of a uni-directional TVS (RENESAS, 2016e)	45
Figure 18 – $V \times I$ characteristic of a uni-directional TVS (RENESAS, 2016d)	45
Figure 19 – Project Problem Depuration	50
Figure 20 – Hardware Project Architecture (??)	52
Figure 21 – Tachometer with Adjustable Zero Speed Voltage Output, adapted from (TEXAS INSTRUMETS, 2018)	54
Figure 22 – Speed Acquisition Channel Circuit	56
Figure 23 – Speed Sensor Detection Channel Circuit	57
Figure 24 – 1V2 voltage reference circuit	58
Figure 25 – Temperature Measurement Block Diagram	59
Figure 26 – AD8495 Functional Block Diagram (DEVICES, 2011)	59
Figure 27 – RFI Circuit (??)	61
Figure 28 – Thermocouple Signal Conditioning Circuit	62
Figure 29 – Overvoltage Detection Circuit	62
Figure 30 – INA125 Schematic (INSTRUMENTS, 1997)	64
Figure 31 – Conditioning Circuit for the Load Cell	65
Figure 32 – 16-LFCSP (DEVICES, 2016)	67
Figure 33 – Adafruit ADXL335 - 5V ready (ADAFRUIT, 2018)	67
Figure 34 – Accelerometer Signal Conditioning Circuit	67

Figure 35 – Accelerometer Sensor Detection Circuit	68
Figure 36 – Weg CFW-08 Frequency Inverter (WEG, 2017)	69
Figure 37 – Sallen-Key Active Low Pass Filter (TEXAS INSTRUMENTS, 1999)	71
Figure 38 – PWM to Speed Reference Circuit	72
Figure 39 – PMOS low side driver (ELECTRONICS TUTORIALS, 2018)	73
Figure 40 – Digital Output Circuit	74
Figure 41 – Digital Input Circuit	75
Figure 42 – <i>ATmega32U4</i> pinout (PIGHIXX, 2018)	76
Figure 43 – MCU Core Circuit	77
Figure 44 – Crystal Oscillator Circuit	78
Figure 45 – USB Port Protection Circuit	79
Figure 46 – 5V Power Supply Circuit	80
Figure 47 – 4V1 voltage reference circuit	81
Figure 48 – PCB Top 2D View	82
Figure 49 – PCB Bottom 2D View	82
Figure 50 – PCB 3D View	83
Figure 51 – PCB Top 3D View	84
Figure 52 – PCB Bottom 3D View	85
Figure 53 – Microcontroller Code Map (??)	88

List of Tables

Table 1 – Thermocouples and their operation ranges	34
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List of abbreviations and acronyms

SAE	Society of Automotive Engineers.
GUI	Graphical User Interface.
ABS	Anti-lock Braking System.
CKP	Crankshaft Position Sensor.
GPIO	General-Purpose Input/Output.
SRAM	Static Random-Access Memory
EEPROM	Electrically Erasable Programmable Read-Only Memory.
DIP28	Dual In-line Package 28pins.
ISR	Interruption Service Routine.
IC	Integrated Circuit.
MCU	Microcontroller Unit.
I ² C	Inter-Integrated Circuit.
DAQ	Data Acquisition.
PWM	Pulse Width Modulation.
N-MOSFET	N channel Metal-Oxide-Semiconductor Field-Effect Transistor.
LPF	Low-Pass Filter.
TVS	Transient Voltage Supressor.
OPAMP	Operational Amplifier.
USB	Universal Serial Bus.
UART	Universal Asynchronous Receiver-Transmitter.
USART	Universal Synchronous-Asynchronous Receiver-Transmitter.
ESD	Electrostatic Discharge.
EMI	Electromagnetic Interference.

PCB	Printed Circuit Board.
RFI	Radio Frequency Interference.
DAC	Digital-to-Analog Converter.
ADC	Analog-to-Digital Converter.
SNR	Signal-to-Noise-Ratio.
RTD	Resistance Temperature Detector.

List of symbols

Pa	Pascal: Unit used to measure pressure.
kPa	10^3 Pascal.
MPa	10^6 Pascal.
°C	Celsius Degree: Unit used to measure temperature.
kph	Kilometer per hour: Unit used to measure speed.
m	Meters: SI unit used to measure distance.
cm	10^{-2} Meters.
s	Seconds: SI unit for measuring time.
ms	10^{-3} Seconds.
hp	Horsepower: Unit used to measure power.
kB	KiloBytes: Used to measure memory size.
V	Volts: SI unit for measuring electrical potential.
mv	10^{-3} Volts.
Ω	Omega: SI unit for measuring electrical resistance.
A	Ampere: SI unit for measuring electrical current.
mA	10^{-3} Ampere.
g	Earth gravity acceleration ($9.8m/s^2$).

Summary

1	INTRODUCTION	25
1.1	Purpose of the project	26
1.2	Text Structure	27
2	LITERATURE REVIEW	29
2.1	Working principles of disk brake systems	29
2.2	The <i>SAE J2522</i> regulation	30
2.2.1	Monitored Parameters	30
2.2.2	Brake Tests	31
2.3	Review of basic Electronic Sensors, Devices and Concepts Relevant to this thesys	32
2.3.1	Speed Measurement	32
2.3.2	Temperature Measurement	33
2.3.3	Brake Force Measurement	35
2.3.4	Vibration Measurement	36
2.3.5	Instrumentation Amplifier	37
2.3.5.1	Important features to consider in a amplifier	39
2.3.6	System Controlling	39
2.3.6.1	Microcontroller basic characteristics	40
2.3.6.2	Microcontroller Architecture and Most Important Parts	40
2.3.6.3	Pulse Width Modulation	41
2.3.7	Circuit Protection	42
2.3.7.1	Low Pass Filters	43
2.3.7.2	Transient Voltage Supression Diodes (TVS)	44
2.3.7.2.1	TVS diodes principle of operation	44
2.3.7.2.2	Selecting TVS Diodes	44
3	METHODOLOGY	47
3.1	Lieterature Review	47
3.2	Problem Description	47
3.3	Project Conception	47
3.4	Case Study	47
4	ACQUISITION AND CONTROL SYSTEM	49
4.1	Monitored Parameters	49
4.2	Functional Requirements of the Testbench	49

4.3	Problem Analysis	50
4.3.1	Brake System Simulator	51
4.3.2	Higher Layer Hardware	51
4.3.3	Lower Layer Hardware	51
4.3.3.1	Lower Level Hardware Interfaces	52
4.4	Speed Acquisition Channel	53
4.4.1	CKP Signal Conditioning	53
4.4.1.1	LM2907 Basic Tachometer Circuit	53
4.4.1.2	LM2907 Designed Circuit	55
4.4.2	CKP Sensor Detection	57
4.4.3	1V2 Reference	57
4.5	Temperature Acquisition Channel	58
4.5.1	Thermocouple Signal Conditioning	58
4.5.2	Input Protection and Filtering	59
4.5.3	Thermocouple Sensor Detection	61
4.6	Brake Pressure Acquisition Channel	63
4.6.1	Load Cell Signal	63
4.6.2	Load Cell Signal Conditioning	63
4.6.3	Load Cell Sensor Detection	66
4.7	Vibration Acquisition Channel	66
4.7.1	Accelerometer	66
4.7.2	Signal Conditioning Circuit	67
4.7.3	Sensor Detection Circuit	68
4.8	Speed Reference Output Channel	68
4.8.1	Speed Control	68
4.8.2	Filter characteristics definition	69
4.8.3	Sallen-Key Low Pass Active Filter	71
4.8.4	Complete Circuit	72
4.9	Digital Interfaces	72
4.9.1	Digital Outputs	73
4.9.1.1	Low-side Driver	73
4.9.1.2	Digital Output Circuit	73
4.9.2	Digital Inputs	74
4.10	MCU	75
4.10.1	MCU circuit	75
4.10.1.1	Core Circuit	76
4.10.1.2	Crystal Oscillator Circuit	78
4.10.1.3	USB Port Protection Circuit	78
4.11	Voltage Supplies	79

4.11.1	Power Supplies	79
4.11.1.1	5V Supply	79
4.11.2	Voltage References	80
4.11.2.1	4V1 Reference	80
4.12	Circuit Fabrication and Assembly	81
4.12.1	PCB Design	81
4.12.2	PCB Assembly	82
5	FIRMWARE PROJECT	87
5.1	Microcontroller programming basics	87
5.2	Code Map	87
	REFERENCES	91
	APPENDIX	97
	APPENDIX A – FIRST APPENDIX	99
A.1	Micontroller Code	99

1 Introduction

With the advancement of technology, cars are leaving the factory each time with more power for more affordable prices. In 1995 the best-selling car in Brazil ([HERNANDES, 2017](#)), (*Volkswagen Gol Plus 1.0*), had 49.8hp of maximum power and brand-new would accelerate from nought to 100kph in 22.4 seconds ([CNW, 2017b](#)). On the other hand, the sales champion of 2015 , *Volkswagen Gol 1.0*, had 76hp of maximum power and could do the same task in 13.3 seconds ([CNW, 2017a](#)), almost half the time from the previous. Interisting fact is that even though the latter is 20 years younger, both cars have similar brake systems: disk brakes in the front wheels and drum ones in the back. This enhancement on vehicle accelerations naturally imply on higher top speeds, which should lead to a bigger concern in brake systems effectiveness.

During the development of any solution or enhancement on any technology or product, testing is fundamental. In the matter of brake systems, the fact stated on the previous sentence can also be considered true. On the process of developing more effective brake systems, it is important to perform brake tests.

Although brake tests are so importatant ([ABENDROTH, 1985](#)), performing this tests with full scale vehicles are obviously expensive and this somehow makes extensive testing unfeasible. Also the time required for each test might be a constrain. The automotive industry has being using testbenchs and controlled environments in order to provide relevant and reliant information about quality and performance of automotive systems with lower costs and reduced testing time. Small scale tests do not have the purpose of fully replacing full scale ones, but the savings in costs and time that they could provide can be used for mass testing, and this can already somehow show their utility and relevance ([GARDINALLI, 2005](#)).

Evaluating the brake efficiency of a vehicle as a whole, involves a lot of factors, a small scale test plataform will not provide results that could be used to fully address the quality of a car break system, instead, it is possible to focus the results on the performance of individual componentes of the system such as pads, disks and calipers ([HALDERMAN; MITCHELL, 2016](#)), and evaluating the performance of this components is a good start for evaluating the braking capacity of a brake system.

Governament and legal authorities have been creating strict regulations for manufacturers to follow in order to ensure that cars have a higher standard of safety. Braking tests have been regulated for some time. A international standard for brake testing is the regulation *SAE J2522* ([SAE, 2016](#)), which gives a the description of how break tests should be conducted for systems used in low weight passengers cars. The brake system

is a critical part of an automobile, thanks to this system it is possible to use the latter under safe conditions both in urban and rural areas. There are some ideal requirements that a brake system should be able to attend ([KAWAGUCHI, 2005](#)):

- Reduce the speed of a moving vehicle, increasing the deceleration of the same.
- Stop the vehicle completely.
- Maintain the vehicle speed, preventing unwanted acceleration in downhill paths.
- Keep the vehicle motionless while it is parked.

Another point of view should also be considered during this analysis, the manufacturers point of view. More effective brake systems means more research and probably more expensive materials, generating more cost to manufacturers and consequently more cost to customers. Theoretically this would meant that manufactures need to choose a trade-off between quality and cost. However, the point in which this trade-off is setted is determined by governament regulations. Moreover if there was no general regulations each car manufacturer would have a standard that they judge is sufficient. In Brazil, according to Resolution N.519 ([CONTRAN, 2015](#)) from the National Traffic Council (*CONTRAN - Conselho Nacional de Trânsito*), the minimal requirements of perfomance of brake systems from any vehicle with 750kg or less should meet the following regulations from Brazilian Association of Technical Standards (*ABNT - Associação Brasileira de Normas Técnicas*): *NBR 10966-1, NBR 10966-2, NBR 10966-3, NBR 10966-4, NBR 10966-5, NBR 10966-6, NBR 10966-7* and *NBR 16068*. Most of these regulations are based in the european regulation ECE-13/05.

Considering the importance of regulatory standards, the need for brake tests becomes even more evident as it is mandatory to ensure that brake-systems will attend to regulations requiremementes. Only with extensive testing it is possible to ensure that a particular system will attend to all standards regarding it's category of operation.

Making all these considerations, a *Break-Testbench* can be a useful device for the automotive industry and research. Considering that this device would be able to simulate a replica of real evironments and situations that a brake system is submitted, this testbench could allow manufactures and suppliers to avoid expenses in full scale tests as they would be able to test different parts of the system in a assisted and controlled evironments.

1.1 Purpose of the project

The purpose of this project is to develop, implement and test an electronic instrument system for monitoring and controlling a small scale brake-testbench based on

the information from the international regulation *SAE J2522* ([SAE, 2016](#)). The system should be able to perform brake tests by controlling the mechanical parts while acquiring relevant data with the aid of sensors and transducers.

1.2 Text Structure

The rest of this thesis was divided on chapters briefly explained below.

Chapter 2, Literature Review: This chapter will explore some concepts and aspects of engineering and of brake tests that are considered fundamental to following parts of this paper.

Chapter 3, Methodology: This is where the strategy for developing this paper and the engineering solutions it proposes are discussed.

Chapter 4, Problem Analysis and Project Requirements: On this chapter the problem this project tries to solve will be defined in a specific way and the project requirements, both from hardware and software will be enumerated. Also, based on these requirements the parameters that the final solution will have to monitor in order to meet those requirements will be listed.

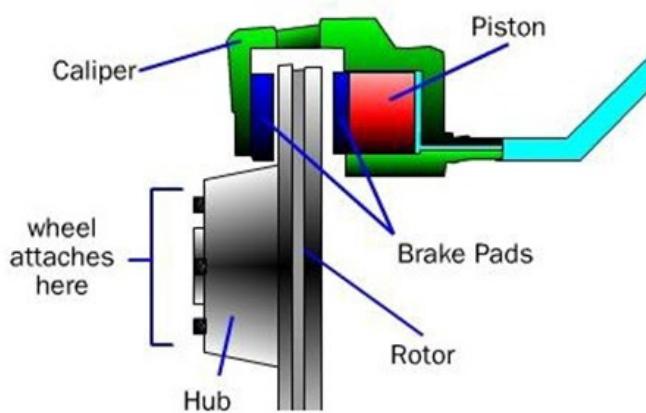
Chapter 5, Hardware Project: This chapter provides a detailed explanation of each of the hardware solutions that were either developed, integrated or implemented on this project.

Chapter 6, Firmware Project: This chapter is basically explaining the code from the bottom layer of the solution (low level hardware).

2 Literature Review

2.1 Working principles of disk brake systems

In general terms, a disc break can be summarized as a type of brake that uses calipers to squeeze pairs of pads against a disc coupled to a shaft in order to create friction. This generated friction ought to retard the rotation of this shaft coupled to the disk. A moving car, or being more specific, a rotating shaft has a certain amount of kinetic energy, the brakes of a car are designed to convert this kinetic energy to heat (through friction) in order to decelerate the car ([LIMPERT, 1999](#)). Figure 1 shows a schematic for a typical disk break.



WORKING OF DISK BRAKES

Figure 1 – Schematic for disk brake systems ([NICE, 2017](#))

As Figure 1 shows, some of the main components of a typical disk brake system and their respective functions are ([CARPARTS, 2018](#)):

- *Caliper*: Fits over the rotor like a clamp, houses the pads and pistons. This part does not tend to wear out quickly, usually, damages on this part are caused by using outworn pads or disks ([GOODYEAR, 2018](#)).
- *Pads*: There are two brake pads on each caliper, this is the part that is effectively in contact with the disk. Pads are used in order to prevent disk wear and caliper wear, this parts are made with specific materials that provide better performance, hence more friction with less dissipated heat. Pads tend to wear out quickly in a vehicle and should be checked and replaced quite often.

- *Piston*: Most of brake discs are activated through a hydraulic mechanism, when the break pedal is pressed the brake fluid goes to the piston and the piston squeezes the to brake pads against the disk.
- *Rotor*: The disk rotor is the main component of the system, it is directly connected to the wheel's shaft. The rotor wears with time, if break pads are replaced accordingly the rotor tends to last more than the pads. Usually a vehicle will undergo more than one brake pads replacement before having its disks replaced.

2.2 The SAE J2522 regulation

More related to this project is the *SAE J2522*, entitled *Dynamometer Global Brake Effectiveness*, at the beginning it already states the it's utility with the following:

“The SAE Brake Dynamometer Test Code Standards Committee considers this standard useful in supporting the technological efforts intended to improve motor vehicle braking systems overall performance and safety”

This regulation ([SAE, 2003](#)) was developed to be used in conjunction with other test standards in order to address the friction of a certain material to check its adequacy for a certain application. It is important to state that this paper is based on the *SAE J2522*, it is not a faithful application of the standard though. This paper is more concerned about the settings of the tests mentioned on the regulation rather than the formulas and criteria for a materials engineering analysis.

All the tests mentioned on the regulation can generalised on repetitive cycles of accelerating the rotor to a specified speed and applying brake force (may vary along the test) until the rotor reaches a lower limit of speed. On the regulation, sometimes the deceleration ratio is also defined but not always. Initial temperature is also defined, some tests can only be performed if the brake parts are under a certain temperature.

2.2.1 Monitored Parameters

According to Regulation *SAE J2522* ([SAE, 2003](#)), in order to perform the brake tests specified it is mandatory to evaluate the following parameters:

- *Temperature of the brake pads*: It is important during the entire test to be fully aware of the temperature of the brake system, firstly by the safety factor (there is a maximum operating temperature for the system), also by the wear of the system that is tied to the temperature therein. Last but not least is the fact that knowing the temperature it is possible to carry out tests based on it, being possible to conduct tests in known temperature ranges.

- *Braking pressure:* The pressure to be measured is the pressure that the brake caliper is applying to the rotor over time, knowing the magnitude of this force means having control over how much the temperature increases according to braking and how much the rotor speed decreases as a function of braking.
- *Rotation Speed:* Without knowledge of rotor speed it would be impossible to determine whether the brake is being effective or how effective it is. Speed monitoring is the most critical parameter for system operation, without it there is no utility to the rest of the equipment.

Another interesting parameter to monitor that is not specified on Regulation *SAE J2522* is the vibration on the caliper, usually when the magnitude of this vibration is considerably high it usually indicates that this part is already worn out ([GOODYEAR, 2018](#)) and it may damage the rotor by bending it over time. Is is also relevant to mention that vibration is measured in terms of g ($9.8 \text{ m} \cdot \text{s}^2$).

2.2.2 Brake Tests

All tests specified on the regulation follow a certain pattern of execution order which is synthesized in Figure 2.

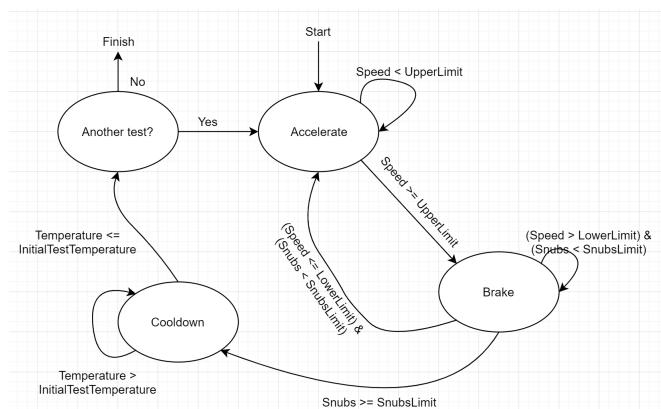


Figure 2 – Brake Tests Diagram of Execution

The system is accelerated to a top speed (**Upper Speed Limit**), than the brake actuates with a known pressure (**Brake Pressure**) until the system reaches a certain speed (**Lower Speed Limit**), this process is repeated for certain number of times (**Snubs**) and after each test the system must rest (**Cooldown**) until the brakes are cooled enough regarding a defined temperature (**Initial Test Temperature**), only after the brakes reach this temperature another test can be performed.

2.3 Review of basic Electronic Sensors, Devices and Concepts Relevant to this thesys

2.3.1 Speed Measurement

As it was specified in Item 2.2.1 from Section 2.2.1, monitoring the rotor speed is mandatory in order to perform brake tests. There are many different ways to measure speed in rotors and shafts. On the automotive environment this measurements are done using magnetic sensors.

The name used for the sensor in the automotive environment is Crankshaft Position Sensor (CKP), it has this name because most of the time this sensor is mounted aligned with the crankshaft and is used to monitor both the speed and the position of the crankshaft. A typical CKP sensor is shown in Figure 3.



Figure 3 – Crankshaft Position Sensor (REMAN, 2016)

This sensor is widely used in the automotive industry to determine the angular position of the vehicle's crankshaft and its rotation speed. There are several types of CKP sensors, the most common are the variable reluctance type because they have low cost and good accuracy (SCHROEDER, 2002).

As the gear in question rotates each tooth of the gear aligns with the variable reluctance sensor, a magnetic flux in the sensor coil changes as the air gap between the sensor and the gear changes. This change in the magnetic field generates induces a voltage pulse at the sensor output. This type of sensors have an analog voltage output where amplitude and frequency vary proportionally to the speed of rotation of a gear, as Figure 4. With this type of sensor it is possible to extract data of linear velocity, angular velocity and angular position. However, only the angular velocity data (frequency) is important to be measured for brake tests specified by the regulation (SAE, 2003).

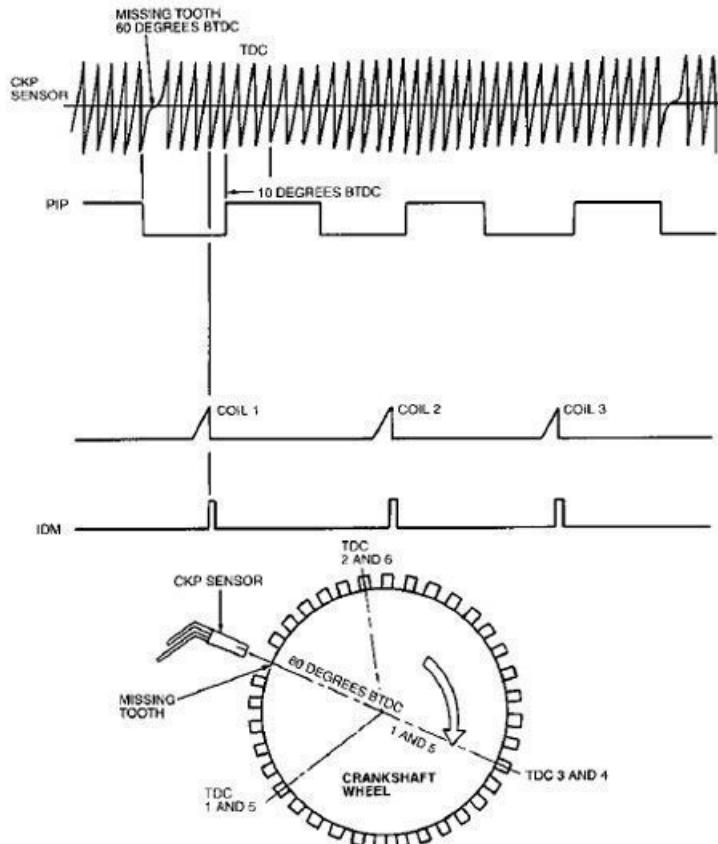


Figure 4 – Magnetic Sensor Signal ([PETROLHEAD GARAGE, 2014](#))

2.3.2 Temperature Measurement

As it was explained in Section 2.1, from a physics point of view a brake can be seen as a device to convert kinetic energy into thermal energy (heat). Whereas, considering this fact it is possible to address that the performance of a break system is therefore directly related to the variation of temperature during braking. Moreover, as it was explained in Item 2.2.1 from Section 2.2.1, *SAE J2522* ([SAE, 2003](#)) specifies that it is mandatory to measure temperature in order to perform brake tests.

According to ([GUMS, 2018](#)), the four main types of temperature transducers are: Thermocouples, RTDs (Resistance Temperature Detectors), Thermistors and Semiconductor based ICs. It is stated by ([NEWTON, 2016](#)) that brake pads from production passenger cars operate at the temperature range from 100°C to 650°C. Among the most common type of temperature transducers, thermocouples operate across the widest temperature range, from -200 °C to 1750 °C ([AMETHERM, 2018](#)). Moreover, regulation *SAE J2522* ([SAE, 2003](#)) states that temperature measurements for performing specified brake tests should be done with a Thermocouple. Taking the sum of all this facts, thermocouples are the reasonable choice for this kind of application.

A thermocouple is a device that has this junction of two different metals and has

a known voltage generated output proportional to the heat transfer on the junction. In theory any combination of two different metals could be used, but there are standardized combinations that produce more stable and predictable voltage outputs (POLLOCK, 1991). This relation between heat transfer and voltage is known not to be linear as Figure 5 shows (E,J,K,T,R,S and B are designators for normalized thermocouples junction types).

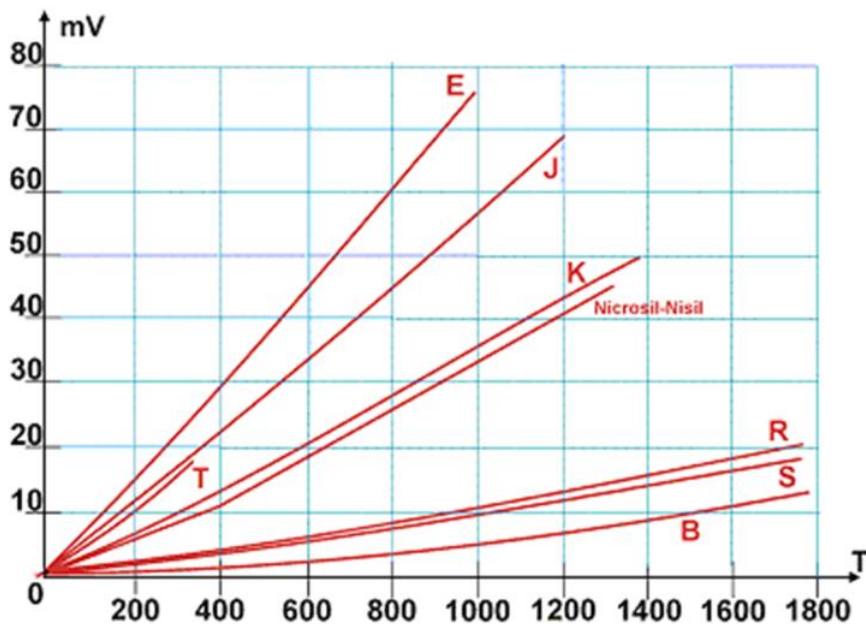


Figure 5 – Thermocouple characteristic voltage output (BOJORGE, 2014)

Thermocouple actually have two junctions, a hot junction (the one that is submitted to heat transfers) and a cold junction (also called reference junction). What the thermocouple really measures is the difference between the temperature of this two junctions, this means that in a hypothetical situation which the hot junction is submitted to a 100°C and the cold junction is submitted to a environmental temperature of 25°C, after thermal equilibrium is reached the thermocouple voltage will be proportional to a temperature of 75°C. Hence the thermocouple will only produce a "real"output voltage when the cold junction is submitted to a 0°C (in some calibrations procedures the cold junction is actually submitted to 0°C) (KINZIE; RUBIN, 1973).

There is a big variety of thermocouples available, table 1 shows the most common thermocouples and their temperature range.

Table 1 – Thermocouples and their operation ranges

Thermocouple Type	Range of Operation (°C)
J	0 a 750
K	-200 a 1250
E	-200 a 900
T	-250 a 350

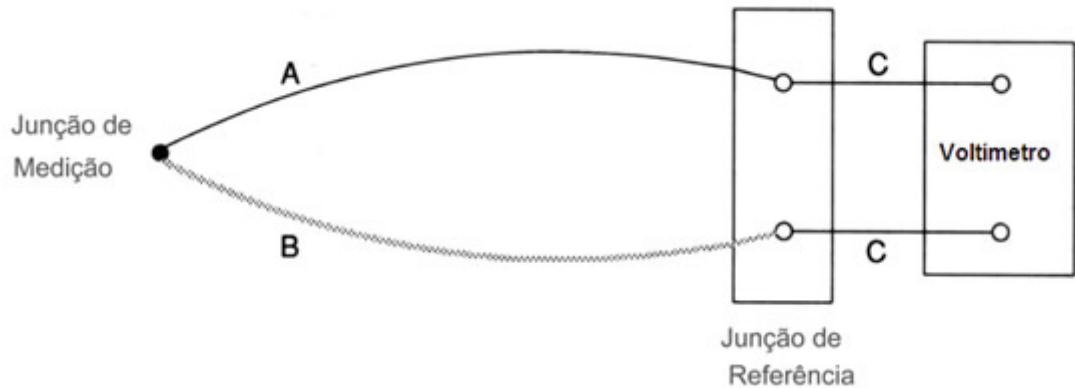


Figure 6 – Thermocouple Measurement (ECIL, 2016)

2.3.3 Brake Force Measurement

Brake pressure can be interpreted as the force that the brake system applies to the disc in a distributed way along the area of the pads. Considering this, in order to find out the break pressure the force applied to the calipers must be measured.

Force transducers can be defined as devices that converts a signal from one physical form to a corresponding signal having a different physical form (PALLÃ; WEBSTER et al., 2012) and they are used with instrumentation of varying complexity. One of the many force transducers is the load cell, they are devices formed by strain gauges which their electrical resistance varies proportionally to their distension. Distension is a quantification of the deformation of a body, it can also be defined as a fractional change of the body of a body. Distension may be negative (compression) or positive (traction).

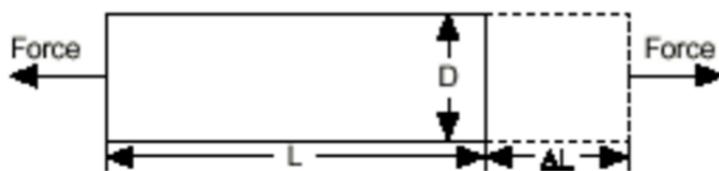


Figure 7 – Distension (INSTRUMENTS, 2016a)

Generally, the length variation in a strain gauge is very small and this makes them very susceptible to measurement errors. As a result, the use of a Wheatstone bridge is very common, it is formed by four resistive arms and an excitation voltage applied to the bridge (WINDOW; HOLISTER et al., 1982).

The voltage output V_O can be obtained from the Equation 2.1, V_O the load cell signal output is a differential pair signal.

$$V_O = \frac{R_3}{R_3 + R_4} - \frac{R_2}{R_1 + R_2} \quad (2.1)$$

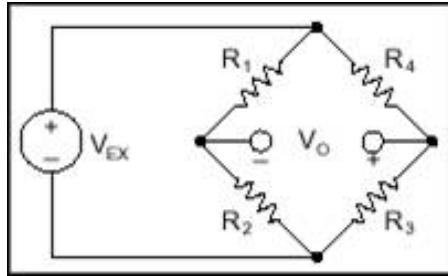


Figure 8 – Wheatstone bridge ([INSTRUMENTS, 2016b](#))

According to ([DILLON; GRIFFEN; WEIHS, 1989](#)) the main advantages and disadvantages of Load Cells are:

- *Accuracy*: usually less than 0.1%.
- *Rigid in Construction*: it is extremely resistant to impact and to any mechanical stress.
- *Calibration*: load cells are usually already calibrated by manufacturers and vendors.
- *Size and Weight*: load cells are bigger and heavier than most force transducers, for applications where size and weight is a important requirement they may not be suitable.

Taking all this characteristics into concern the load cell is the most suitable transducer for a automotive test environment.

2.3.4 Vibration Measurement

Even though measuring vibration is not mandatory in order to perform break tests, it can provide useful data in order to address the wear of the caliper of a disc break, and as excessive vibration can stress the rotor enough to cause it to bend (as explained in Section [2.2.1](#)).

A body is said to vibrate when it describes an oscillatory movement around a reference point ([FERNANDES, 2000](#)). For the measurement of vibration in machines it is more common the measurement of the acceleration as a function of g ($9.8m/s^2$). The same is measured as a function of g as a function of Einstein's Principle of Equivalence, where the acceleration of a reference data is not distinguishable from the gravitational action on it ([JR, 1968](#)).

Accelerometers are sensors that measure acceleration itself, that is, the acceleration that the sensor itself is subjected to. Accelerometers are widely used in the automotive industry, initially only in the Air Bag system and currently even for vehicle stability control.

Currently the most common accelerometers are those based on the piezoelectric effect, this effect discrreves the variation of electrostatic force or electric voltage in a material when subjected to a force.

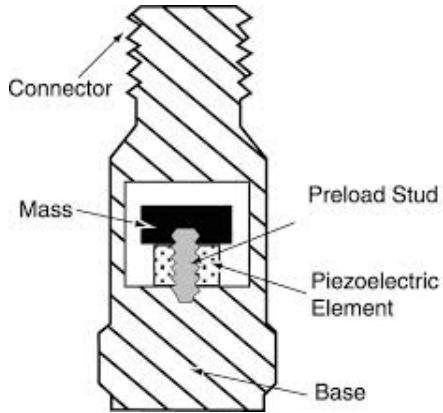


Figure 9 – Piezo Accelerometer (UK, 2016)

By measuring this variation of electrostatic force or electrical voltage it is possible to determine the acceleration that the sensor has undergone. In Figure 9 we can observe that there is a mass in the piezoelectric material, so when the sensor is submitted to some movement, based on the principle of inertia the mass will exert a force of traction or compression which will generate a voltage variation at the sensor output (PATRICK, 2007).

2.3.5 Instrumentation Amplifier

In general, sensors and tranducers have very low voltage output levels (specially passive transducers), and therefore an amplification is fundamental. The most commonly used amplifier circuit in instrumentation engineering is the common joint differential amplifier more commonly refered as *Instrumentation Amplifier* (Figure 10), which is very stable and significantly reduces the output signal noise (WAIT; HUELSMAN; KORN, 1975).

The instrumentation amplifier has two stages, the first stage consists in amplifying both inputs of a sensor, with the gain of this amplification stage controlled by R_{gain} in Figure 10. The second stage consists in taking the difference of the two input signals. If the differentiation happens before the amplification, noise may be so big in the input signals that some signal information might be lost. In the instrumentation amplifier noise and signal is amplified on the first stage, considering that the noise is similar in both inputs the differential stage will take out the noise and only output the difference between both inputs. One advantage of this amplifier is that it has high input impedances, that means it will not drain significant current from the signal, i.e., it will not interfere with the measure (THOMSEN et al., 2003). Another advantage is that the gain of this amplifier

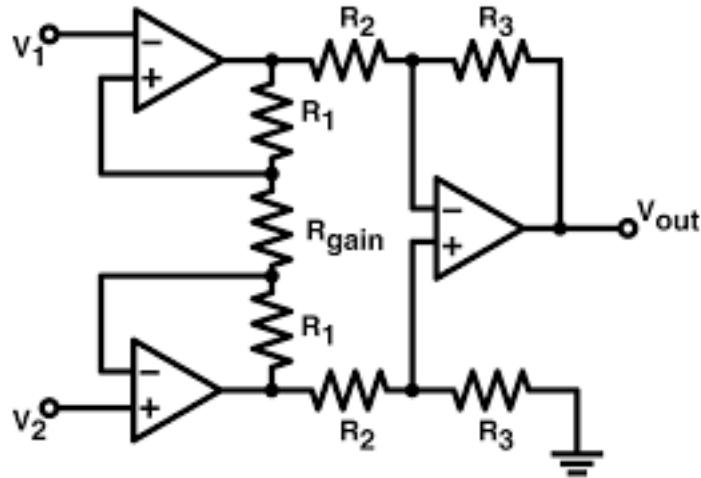


Figure 10 – Instrumentation Amplifier ([DESCONHECIDO, 2016](#))

can be adjusted with just one resistor ([METTINGVANRIJN; PEPER; GRIMBERGEN, 1994](#)).

The gain of the instrumentation amplifier is given by the following [2.3.5 \(COUNTS; KITCHEN, 2006\)](#).

$$V_{out} = (V_2 - V_1) \cdot \left(1 + \frac{2 \cdot R}{R_{gain}} \right) \quad (2.2)$$

Something interesting to notice is that if we take out the R_{gain} (open load), the gain of the amplifier is equal to one. Besides this advantageous behavior of the instrumentation amplifier, it is quite hard to make it work with seven resistors and three operation amplifiers because of components imprecision. Hence, it is more practical to work with ICs that ensure the symmetry of between those components. As an example, there is the Texas Instruments INA118 ([INSTRUMENTS, 2000b](#)), which is one of many encapsulated solutions for the instrumentation amplifier, the schematic of this component is shown in Figure 11.

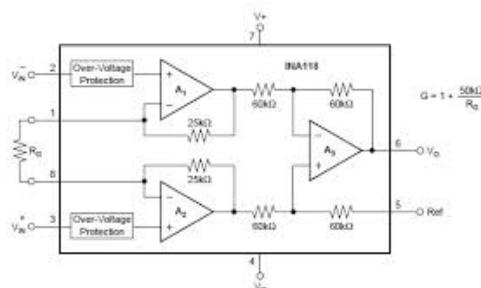


Figure 11 – INA 118 ([INSTRUMENTS, 2000a](#))

2.3.5.1 Important features to consider in a amplifier

There are some important factors when choosing a OPAMP in a certain application, according to (INC.(NORWOOD, 2011)), some of the important features to know in a amplifier are:

- *Common-Mode Voltage Range (CMVR)*: Allowable input voltage range at both inputs before clipping or excessive nonlinearity.
- *Common-Mode Rejection Ratio (CMRR)*: The ratio of common-mode voltage range (CMVR) to the change in the input offset voltage over this range, expressed in dB.
- *Gain Bandwidth Product (GBW)*: The product of open-loop and bandwidth at a specific frequency.
- *Input Bias Current (I_B)*: The current at the input terminals.
- *Operating Supply Voltage Range*: The supply voltage range that can be applied to an amplifier for which it operates within specifications. Many applications implement op amp circuits with balanced dual supplies, while other applications for energy conservation or other reasons, use single-supply.
- *Supply Current*: The current required from the supply voltage to operate the amplifier with no load.

2.3.6 System Controlling

In order to automate break tests a system block that should be able to interface both sensor signals and user commands to the system is needed. Summarizing, this block should be responsible to handle the interface between the electric signals and higher level user instructions.

At the design of this block of the solution a important thing should be considered, data acquisition. According to (NATIONAL INSTRUMENTS, 2018) DAQ (Data Acquisition) can be defined as the process of measuring an electric or physical phenomenon, such as voltage, current, temperature, pressure or sound.

As mentioned in Section (??): "*The system should be able to perform brake tests by controlling the mechanical parts while acquiring relevant data with the aid of sensors and transducers*". There is a type of device that is able to perform data acquisition and system control, the microcontroller.

2.3.6.1 Microcontroller basic characteristics

A microcontroller is a compact computer on a single integrated circuit chip, in most cases a microcontroller (also referred by the acronym MCU) includes a processor, volatile and non-volatile memory, input/output ports and other peripherals. The great thing about the microcontrollers is their low cost, many small appliances that do not require a powerful hardware are only economically viable because of those devices. The components a microcontroller has may vary, it is a responsibility of the project designer to decide the microcontroller that has the best fit (technically and economically) for the project.

Microcontrollers differ from microprocessors only in one thing, MCUs can be used standalone while microprocessors need other peripherals to be used. By reducing the size and cost compared to a design that uses a separate microprocessor, memory, and input/output devices, microcontrollers make it economical to digitally control even more devices and processes. “A microprocessor can be considered the heart of a computer system, whereas a microcontroller can be considered the heart of an embedded system”([ROUSE, 2012](#)).

A great thing about microcontrollers is that they can provide real-time response to events, so for instrumentation they are crucial. With them it is possible to acquire signals with good sampling rates without loss of relevant information ([BARTZ; ZHAKSILIKOV; OGAMI, 2004](#)).

2.3.6.2 Microcontroller Architecture and Most Important Parts

In order to understand how a typical MCU parts are, Figure 12 show the block diagram of the ATmega32U4, a MCU manufactured by Microchip.

The most important blocks of this device are:

- *Timing and Control*: This circuit block represents the part of MCU responsible for maintaining the clock signals and handle time events.
- *Program Flash*: This is a non-volatile memory used to store the code, MCUs can execute code directly from the flash memory.
- *Port Drivers*: These are the device *I/Os (inputs/outputs)*, they can be digital or analog ports (except for outputs which can only be digital).
- *ADC (Analogic to Digital Converter)*: MCUs are by nature digital devices, when acquiring an analog signal, they first make a conversion to a digital value and then copy this data to a register.

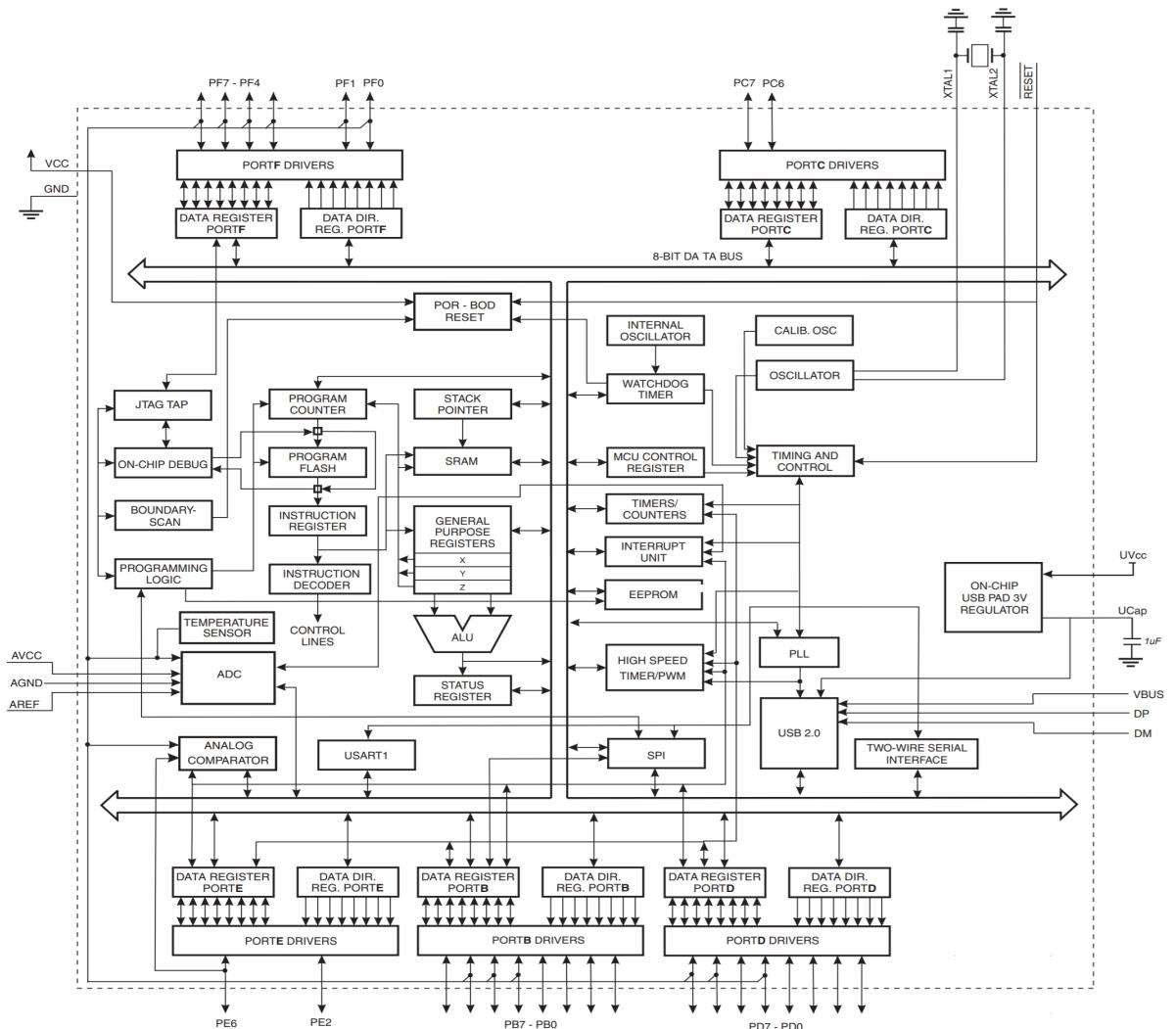


Figure 12 – ATmega16/32U4 Block Diagram ([ATMEL, 2018](#))

- *USB 2.0*: Although not being a common feature, some MCUs include a USB (Universal Serial Bus) port. When interfacing with other USB devices, already having this feature inside the MCU saves space and costs when integrating the MCU in a circuit board.
- *High Speed Timer/PWM*: As mentioned in Item 2.3.6.2, MCUs do not have analog outputs, the high speed is used to generate a special digital output signal which will be explained on Section 2.3.6.3.

2.3.6.3 Pulse Width Modulation

Pulse Width Modulation (PWM), is a way of modulation for encoding information on a digital pulse train signal. There are many ways of encoding and extracting this message in and out of the PWM signal and this type of modulation can be used for a wide variety of applications such as controlling the charge delivered to a load and transmitting information ([STANDARD, 1996](#)). PWM signals have a fixed high and a

fixed low voltage level, there are two parameters that can be varied on a PWM signal: oscillation frequency and duty cycle. Figure 13 shows how a the duty cycle affects a PWM signal.

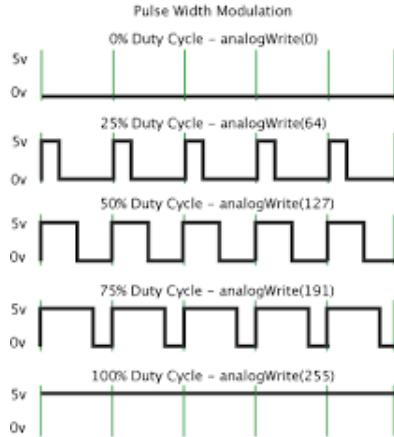


Figure 13 – Duty Cycle Examples ([RZTRONICS, 2016](#))

Duty cycle can be defined mathematically by the Equation 2.3 ([JAMES, 2001](#)), where $D\%$ is the duty cycle in percentage, PW is the pulse width (pulse active time) and T is the wave period.

$$D(\%) = \frac{PW}{T} \quad (2.3)$$

One useful way of using a PWM duty cycle variation is by encoding a analog voltage level proportional into it's percentage ([HOLMES; LIPO, 2003](#)), meaning that 100% duty cycle would represent maximum voltage amplitude and 0% the minimum voltage. This means it is possible to extract a analog voltage level by taking a PWM average level ([ALTER, 2008](#)), this is a practical way for designing digital to analog converters.

2.3.7 Circuit Protection

A important feature of any electronic product/appliance is the immunity against undesired inputs. In DAQ systems this is a relevant issue, the inputs of this systems must be protected from possible damage that may be caused by unintentional/accidental high voltage inputs, surges, etc ([MATHIVANAN, 2007](#)).

According to ([LITTLELFUSE, 2015b](#)), Voltage Transients are defined as short duration surges of electrical energy and are the result of the sudden release of energy previously stored or induced by other means. There are many things that can cause voltage transients (commonly referred just by transients) and those can be divided in two groups:

- Repeatable Transients: Usually caused by the operation of inductive loads such as motors, generators and switching circuits.
- Random Transients: Uncorrelated transients generated by exclusive events such as lightning, ESD and unpredictable events.

In order to enhance energy efficiency, devices are now operating at lower voltages ([SOUZA et al., 2017](#)). With the miniaturization of electronic components, those have become even more sensitive to electrical stress ([LITTLELFUSE, 2015b](#)).

In automotive environment, many of the supporting electrical components of the vehicle can generate transients, specially from inductive load switching. When the inductive load is switched off, the collapsing magnetic field is converted into electrical energy that turns into a transient ([LITTLELFUSE, 2015b](#)).

2.3.7.1 Low Pass Filters

According to ([LITTLELFUSE, 2015b](#)), a ESD pulse (fastest common transient pulse) has an overall duration period of less than 100ns (50% of the peak value) and a rising time that lasts less than 1.2 μ s. Figure 14 shows an example of a ESD Test Waveform.

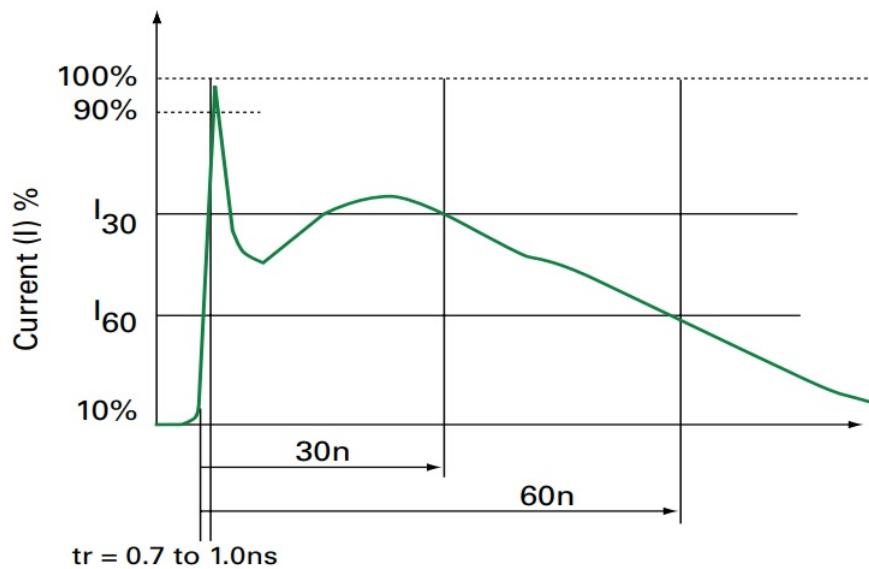


Figure 14 – ESD Test Waveform ([LITTLELFUSE, 2015a](#))

Considering that a signal has a frequency that is lower than the frequency of the transient it is vulnerable to, using a low pass filter to provide suitable attenuation for that transient and still letting the signal frequency on the passband, it is possible to protect that part of the circuit against this particular transient ([STANDLER, 1988](#)).

2.3.7.2 Transient Voltage Supression Diodes (TVS)

2.3.7.2.1 TVS diodes principle of operation

Transient Voltage Supression Diodes or TVS Diodes are nowadays the most popular choice for protection components in circuit due to their fast response, low clamping voltage and longevity. Under normal operation TVS diodes are high-impedance devices, interacting as a open circuit to the protected component, during a transient event the TVS diode junction provides a low-impedance path for the transient current (RENESAS, 2016a).

There are both uni-directional and bi-directional, the first has a operation curve similar as the one from a Zener diode, during positive transients the device limits the input voltage to it's clamping voltage and during negative transients the spike is clamped to the diode drop. On the other hand, bi-directional TVS diodes are always reverse biased during both negative and positive transients. Figures 15 and 16 show respectively the action of a uni-directional TVS and a bi-directional TVS during transient events.

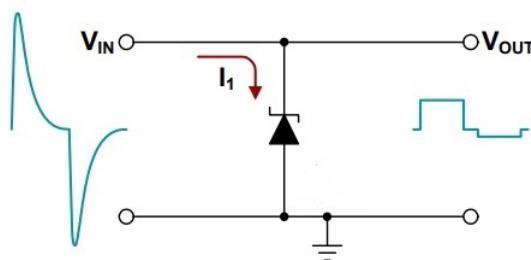


Figure 15 – Campling action of a uni-directional TVS (RENESAS, 2016c)

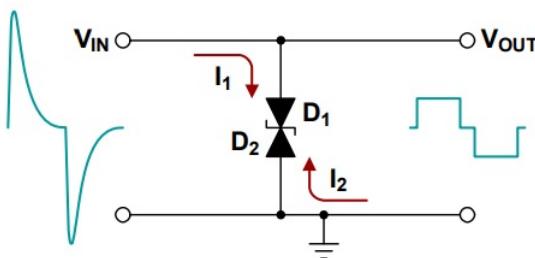


Figure 16 – Campling action of a bi-directional TVS (RENESAS, 2016b)

The *Voltage X Current* curve of both uni-directional and bi-directional TVS diodes can be seen repectively on Figures 17 and 18.

2.3.7.2.2 Selecting TVS Diodes

According to (WALTERS, 2016), the following parameters of TVS devices are important to consider in order to choose one for protecting a particular circuit net:

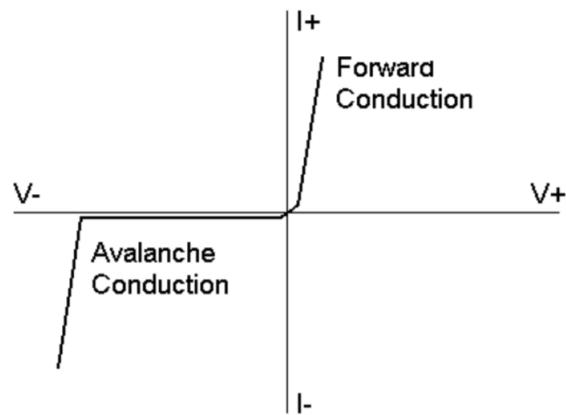


Figure 17 – $V \times I$ characteristic of a uni-directional TVS (RENESAS, 2016e)

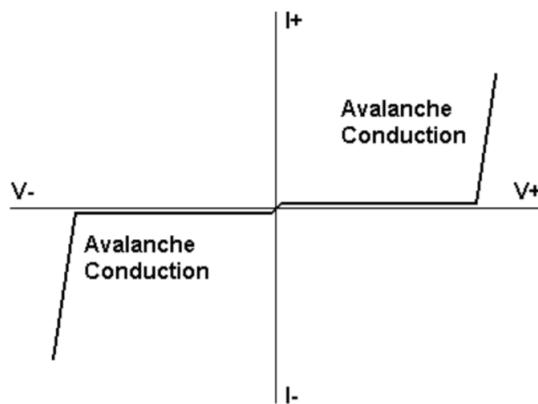


Figure 18 – $V \times I$ characteristic of a uni-directional TVS (RENESAS, 2016d)

- V_C (Clamping Voltage): the voltage limit that the TVS will allow on the point of intended protection. This voltage should be slightly lower than the point of intended protection absolute maximum voltage rating.
- V_{WM} (Rated Standoff Voltage): this is the maximum voltage in which the TVS still works as a high-impedance device. Therefore, the first step when selecting a TVS device is to know the peak voltage at the point of intended protection during normal operation and then select a TVS device with an appropriate V_{WM} .
- P_{PP} (Peak Pulse Power): in order to ensure the durability of the TVS device, the maximum power it needs to dissipate should be known. This P_{PP} is calculated by multiplying the TVS device V_C (Clamping Voltage) and the I_{PP} (Peak Impulse Current, peak current for the transient event).

3 Methodology

In order to achieve the goals of this project the endeavours were divided into three

3.1 Literature Review

This stage can be considered the most important of the whole project because it layers the foundations for development of all that follows. This stage comprehended the knowledge needed in all further stages and steps of the project, even on the further stages of development it was necessary to review some of the information acquired on this part in order to achieve best results. On the Literature Review stage, concepts, components and other necessary information to make the foundations for the project were addressed. For instance it will be on this stage that the brake tests parameters and requirements will be analysed in order to choose the proper solutions for this project.

3.2 Problem Description

This particular stage consisted on the depuration of the problem in question, leading to a study of the requirements that were necessary to ensure in order to develop and execute the project.

3.3 Project Conception

After a deep problem analysis it was possible to address a more detailed solution description, in this stage the general solution was splitted in many smaller ones that were defined according to the requirements of the previous stage. All this solutions were focused in functionality, this is a project of electronic instrumentation, so the goal was not to develop electrical/electronic solutions from the beginning, it was evaluating the requirements and finding a group of components/solutions that combined in a particular and unique way could lead to this project achieving its goals.

3.4 Case Study

After the particular and smaller solutions are developed, tested and considered functional, the general solution of this project will be tested as a whole thing. This being doing a brake test that is capable of proving the functionality and usability of the developed technology.

4 Acquisition and Control System

4.1 Monitored Parameters

As mentioned before this paper will be based in the *SAE J2522* regulations, this regulation says that to evaluate the efficiency of a brake system it is mandatory to monitor temperature on the brake pads, the pressure applied on the disk and the speed of the rotor throughout all the process. Monitoring the vibration is not mandatory but has some advantages.

- *Temperature of brake pads:* During all test it is mandatory to have full knowledge of the temperature of the break pads, firstly because of security reasons (there is upper limit for temperature in any system) and also because of the wear of parts that is related to temperature.
- *Pressure applied on the disks:* Knowing the magnitude of this force means being able to relate the pressure applied and the deceleration, knowing how the pressure applied increases the temperature of the pads and evaluate how this promotes wear of the parts.
- *Rotation speed:* Without knowing how the speed of the rotor varies over time it would be impossible to determine the acceleration and deceleration rates among many other issues.
- *Vibration:* As mentioned before this is not mandatory but rather interesting, measuring vibration makes it possible to determine how the extensive use can wear out the parts and reduce stiffness among other properties. Also it is natural that the system will vibrate during braking, minimal vibration or too much vibration can indicate a fault that in the future could damage the system.

4.2 Functional Requirements of the Testbench

According to the specification of the *SAE J2522* and according to parameters considered to be important, some requirements for the testbench were defined.

1. Measure a braking pressure up to 16 MPa.
2. Apply a braking pressure of at least 300 kPa.
3. Measure temperatures up to 600 °C

4. Measure temperatures with a minimal resolution of 7.5 °C.
5. Accelerate the rotor to a speed up to 200 kph.
6. System must have a sampling period of 50ms.
7. The system hardware must be able to operate under temperatures up to 40°C.
8. System must have two acquisition channels for temperature.
9. System must have at least two channels for braking pressure acquisition.
10. System must have a channel for vibration acquisition.
11. System must have at least two digital outputs to control relays.
12. System must have a channel for acquiring speed.
13. The system must work with real time acquisition.
14. The system must be able to detect when the sensors from the acquisition channels are disconnected.

4.3 Problem Analysis

The project solution can be divided in the structure showed in Figure 19.

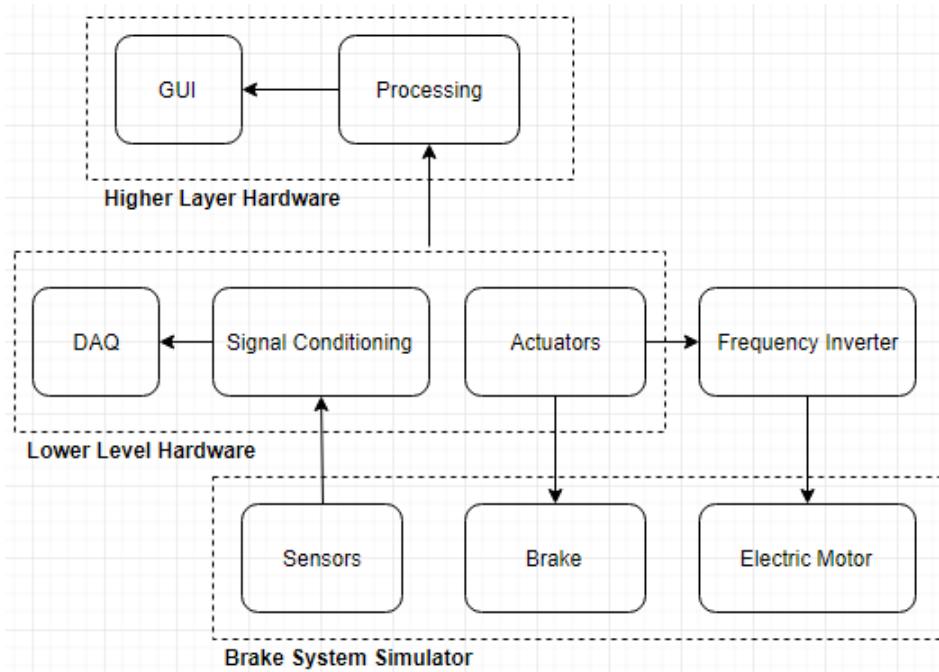


Figure 19 – Project Problem Depuration

4.3.1 Brake System Simulator

The *Brake System Simulator* block as the name says comprehends the hardware responsible for simulating the environment of a brake system, the two basic components are the **Brake** component itself (in this case being a disc brake system and peripherals) and a **Electric Motor** to accelerate the rotor in order to simulate the speed a vehicle wheel might be submitted. A **Transducers/Sensors** block was also added, without acquiring a physical/mechanical quantities such as temperature and pressure, a brake test would be useless because no possible technical analysis could be done afterwards. The **Transducers/Sensors** block was placed inside the *Brake System Simulator* block because the sensors and transducers will be placed around the components of this major block.

4.3.2 Higher Layer Hardware

This layer needs to do all the heavy data processing, *i.e.*, converting and dealing with the information that flows through all the structure. The *GUI* block is the one responsible for acquiring and displaying computer information in a human-friendly format. Although developing this part of the solution is not part of this thesis it is important to understand its importance.

4.3.3 Lower Layer Hardware

This layer of hardware will make the translation from physical/mechanical quantities to computer data and *vice versa*, *i.e.*, converting physical/mechanical quantities to voltage and then to bytes of information and also on the opposite way (bytes to voltage and voltage to physical/mechanical quantities). Transducers signals are not always ready to read, as mentioned in Section 2.3.5, Instrumentation Engineering also involves doing Signal Conditioning to amplify and filter these signals. Controlling the system also involves designing circuits to generate the desired digital and analog output channels.

Based on the matters analysed on the previous sections of this paper a hardware architecture was defined and it is displayed on the following Figure 20.

It is possible to see that each type of transducer will have a specific circuit in order to perform signal conditioning as better as possible according to the type of transducer parameters. Also it is possible to observe that there will be special circuits to interface the MCU with digital outputs and inputs alongside with analog outputs. Regarding the analog outputs, it is also interesting to have a feedback path to the MCU so adjustments can be made in order to guarantee that the analog outputs voltages are correct according to the desired quantities. Moreover, a power supply block should be designed to generate a stabilized voltage to power up all the circuit modules. Last but not least, a communication

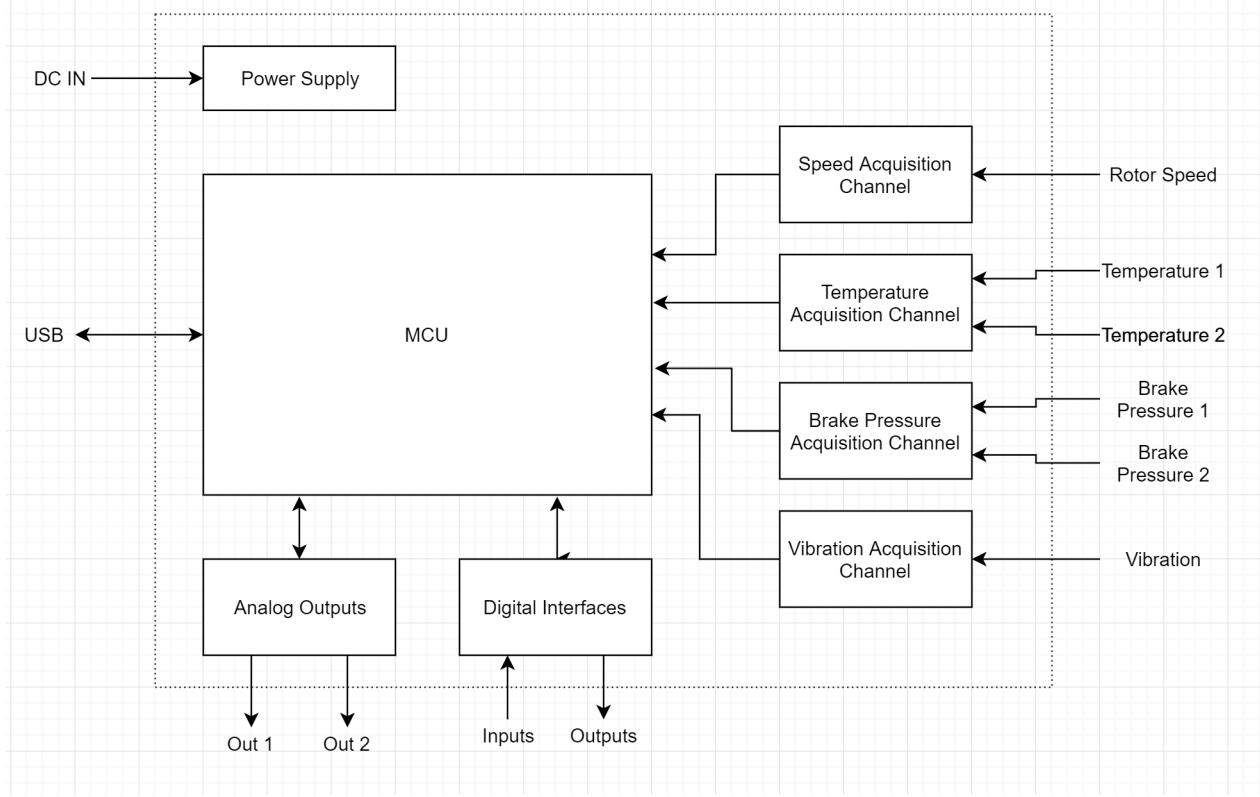


Figure 20 – Hardware Project Architecture (??)

port (USB) was placed, through this port the communication with the upper layer of hardware will be done.

4.3.3.1 Lower Level Hardware Interfaces

Based on the previous considerations and considering possible future usages for the designed product, this are the following hardware interfaces.

- *Sensor Inputs:*
 - Speed Sensor.
 - Temperature Sensor 1.
 - Temperature Sensor 2.
 - Brake Force Sensor 1.
 - Brake Force Sensor 2.
 - Vibration Sensor 1.

- *Digital Interfaces:*
 - Output 1.
 - Output 2.

- Output 3.
- Input 1.
- Input 2.
- Input 3.
- *Analog Outputs:*
 - Output 1.
 - Output 2.
- *Communication Ports:*
 - USB Port 1.

4.4 Speed Acquisition Channel

4.4.1 CKP Signal Conditioning

As mentioned in Section 2.3.1, a CKP sensor has a analog signal with variable amplitude. For this project the only important parameter to extract from the sensor output signal in order to obtain the wheel speed is its frequency (angular velocity). The most practical way to obtain this data is to use a tachometer interface circuit, for this project the LM2907 from *Texas Instruments* ([TEXAS INSTRUMENTS, 2000](#)) will be used. LM2907 is a *frequency-to-voltage* converter with a ground-referenced tachometer input with $\pm 28V$ maximum voltage, making it versatile for many different sensor models.

4.4.1.1 LM2907 Basic Tachometer Circuit

The conditioning circuit for this project was based on the *Tachometer with Adjustable Zero Speed Voltage Output* on Figure 21 suggested by LM2907 datasheet ([TEXAS INSTRUMENTS, 2000](#)).

According to the datasheet ([\(TEXAS INSTRUMENTS, 2000\)](#)), in order to configure the gain of the frequency-to-voltage converter, C1, R1 and C2 must be configured in respect to the following design requirements.

- **C1:** This capacitor is charged and discharged every cycle by a $180\mu A$ typical current source. C1 must not be sized lower than $500-pF$ due to its role in internal compensation.
- **R1:** Higher of R1 values increase the output voltage for a given frequency, but too large will degrade the output's linearity. Because the current pulses are a fixed

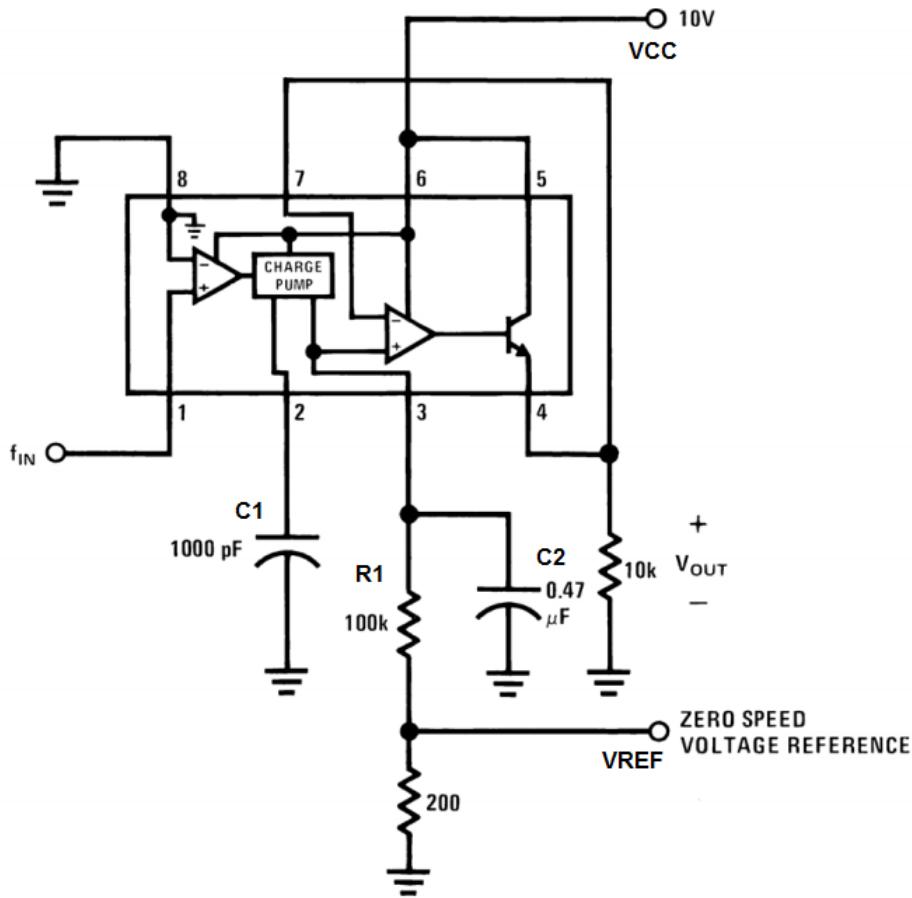


Figure 21 – Tachometer with Adjustable Zero Speed Voltage Output, adapted from ([TE-XAS INSTRUMETS, 2018](#))

magnitude of $180 \mu\text{A}$ typical, R_1 must be big enough to produce the maximum desired output voltage at maximum input frequency. At maximum input frequency the pulse train duty cycle is 100%, therefore the average current is $180 \mu\text{A}$ and $R_1 = V_o(\text{max}) / 180 \mu\text{A}$.

- **C2:** This capacitor filters the ripple produced by the current pulses sourced by the charge pump. Large values reduce the output voltage ripple but increase the output's response time to changes in input frequency.

The output voltage (V_O) can be calculated using Equation 4.1, V_{CC} is the supply voltage and f_{IN} the input frequency.

$$V_O = V_{REF} + (V_{CC} \cdot f_{IN} \cdot C1 \cdot R1) \quad (4.1)$$

As said in Item 4.4.1.1, C2 controls the voltage ripple on the output(V_{RIPPLE}), this ripple is given by Equation 4.2. According to the datasheet, I_2 has a typical value of

180uA.

$$V_{RIPPLE} = \frac{V_{CC}}{2} \cdot \frac{C1}{C2} \cdot \left(1 - \frac{V_{CC} \cdot f_{IN} \cdot C1}{I_2} \right) \quad (4.2)$$

Finally, the last thing to consider is the maximum attainable input frequency, determined by V_{CC} , C1 and I_2 (180uA) in Equation 4.3.

$$f_{MAX} = \frac{I_2}{C1 \cdot V_{CC}} \quad (4.3)$$

4.4.1.2 LM2907 Designed Circuit

The first parameter to be calculated is the maximum frequency, functional requirement from Item 5 in Section 4.2 says the the system should be able to reach 200kph. Hence, to know the relation between frequency and speed on a wheel it's important to know the wheel's diameter.

According to (TODAS..., 2018), the smallest commercial tyre size in terms of diameter in Brazil is the standard 165/70R13 which has a diameter (D) of 561.2mm and the one with the biggest diameter (D) is the standard 265/50R20 having 773mm. Using Equation 4.5 to calculate the overall length of the wheel gives a approximately length of 1.762m for the smaller tyre and a approximately length of 2.428m for the bigger one.

$$C = \pi \cdot D \quad (4.4)$$

Considering this upper limit speed of 200kph, calculated values of tyre circumference length, we have maximum frequencies of approximately 31.52Hz (for the smaller tyre standard) and 22.88Hz (for the bigger tyre standard).

According to (TEXAS INSTRUMENTS, 2000) the input common mode voltage is equal to $V_{CC} - 1.5V$, and as V_{CC} is equal to 5V (check Section 4.11.1.1) the maximum output voltage V_O is equal to 3.5V. Considering a safer upper frequency limit of 60Hz (approximately double of the maximum calculated frequency of 31.52Hz) applied to Equation 4.1 with the $V_{CC} = 5V$, the desired offset voltage V_{REF} (1.225V, check Section 4.4.3) and the maximum output voltage $V_O = 3.5$ gives a time constant ($R1*C1$) of 0.0379. Using commercial resistor and capacitor values it is possible to achieve this time constant using $C1=100nF$ and $R1=374k\Omega$, with this values V_O can be described by Equation ??.

$$V_O = 1.225V + 0.0374 \cdot f_{IN}VHz \quad (4.5)$$

For instance applying the upper frequency value of 31.52Hz calculated previously will give a $V_O = 2.403V$.

According to 4.10, the chosen microcontroller's ADC has a resolution of 10-bit. A analog reference of 5V with 10-bit resolution gives a voltage resolution of 4.88mV. Hence, the calculated voltage ripple of the frequency-to-voltage converter must be less than the ADC resolution. Using values of V_{RIPPLE} , C1, R1, f_{IN} and V_{CC} in Equation 4.2 gives a C2 value of approximately $10\mu F$.

Figure 22 shows the designed circuit for the speed acquisition channel.

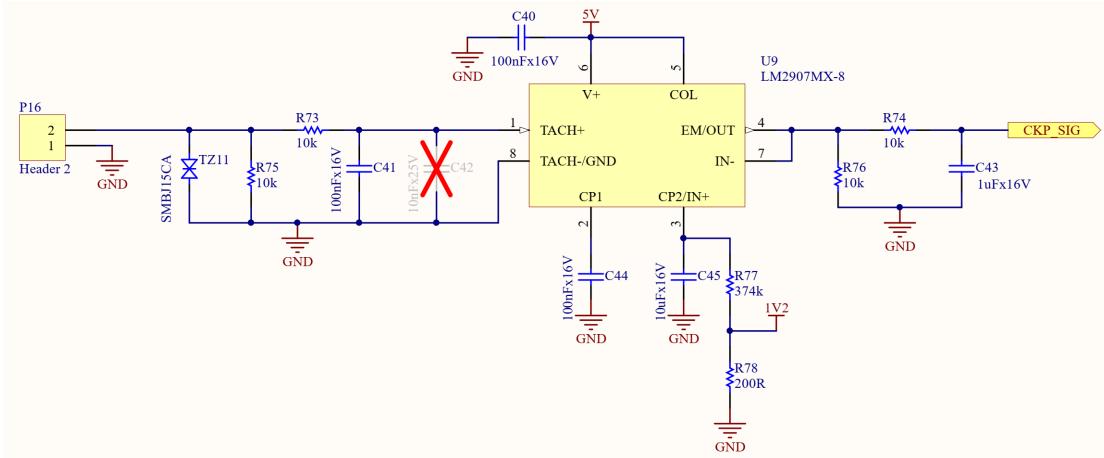


Figure 22 – Speed Acquisition Channel Circuit

In addition to the components from the circuit *Tachometer with Adjustable Zero Speed Voltage Output* on Figure 21, the following features have been added:

- **TVS Diode:** In order to protect the the IC's input the SMBJ15CA TVS diode from *Littelfuse* was added. This diode has a maximum clamping voltage of 26V, the maximum input voltage is $\pm 28V$, thus the TVS will protect the input from overvoltages.
- **LPF at the input:** As the maximum frequency was determined to be 31.52Hz, it is possible to filter all the upper frequencies in order to avoid any noise to enter the circuit. R73, C41 and C42 form a LPF with a cutoff frequency of approximately 160Hz, this cutoff frequency was chosen because at 31.52Hz (maximum calculated input frequency), the attenuation is quite close to 0dB (-0.15dB) and shall not affect the input signal.
- **LPF at the output:** R74 and C43 form a LPF to that is used to filter any external post-conversion noise, it has a approximate frequency of 16Hz.
- **R78:** This resistor is recommended by ?? in order to use the voltage reference functionality.
- item:reference-resistor

4.4.2 CKP Sensor Detection

The detection circuit consists basically of a filtered inverted digital input, a extra cable from the CKP ground will need to be wired in order to detect when the board sensor is connected.

Figure 23 shows the detection circuit for the CKP sensor.

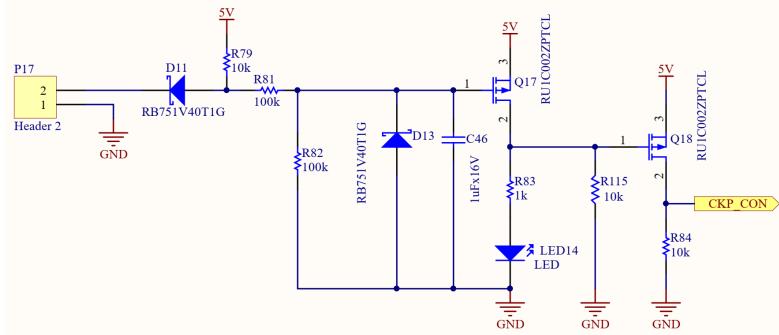


Figure 23 – Speed Sensor Detection Channel Circuit

The working principle of this circuit is this: when ground is connected to the input (sensor connected) the output goes to zero volts and the LED is turned ON, when high level voltage is connected to the input or it is on open load the output goes to high level and the LED turns off. D11 is a diode to guarantee that no transient voltage will flow from the input to the circuit. D13 is a additional protection clamping diode working alongside with the LPF formed by R81 and C46 to protect the Q17's gate.

4.4.3 1V2 Reference

The 1V2 reference from the circuit of Section 4.4.1 is achieved using the LM4040CYM3-1.2 from *Microchip* ([MICROCHIP, 2017b](#)). This is a 1.225V precision voltage reference with a tolerance of $\pm 1.15\%$ and maximum operating output current of 10mA. The only external component needed is a bias resistor which can be calculated using 4.6 ([MICROCHIP, 2017b](#)).

$$R_{BIAS} = \frac{V_S - V_{OUT}}{I_L - I_Q} \quad (4.6)$$

The used V_S *Voltage Supply* will be the 5V obtained in the circuit from Figure 46 in Section 4.11.1.1. According to the datasheet, the minimul operating voltage (I_Q in this case) is 100uA. Moreover, V_{OUT} is naturally 1.225V. The minimum bias current (load current I_L) is of 500nA (according to the ([TEXAS INSTRUMENTS, 2000](#))). Hence, any value of resistance that guarantee that the current that flows through the regulator is less than 10mA is acceptable.

Using a $1\text{k}\Omega$ resistor a current of 4mA can be achieved. Figure 24 shows the circuit for the $1\text{V}2$ reference, the capacitors are just a bypass capacitors recommended by the datasheet.

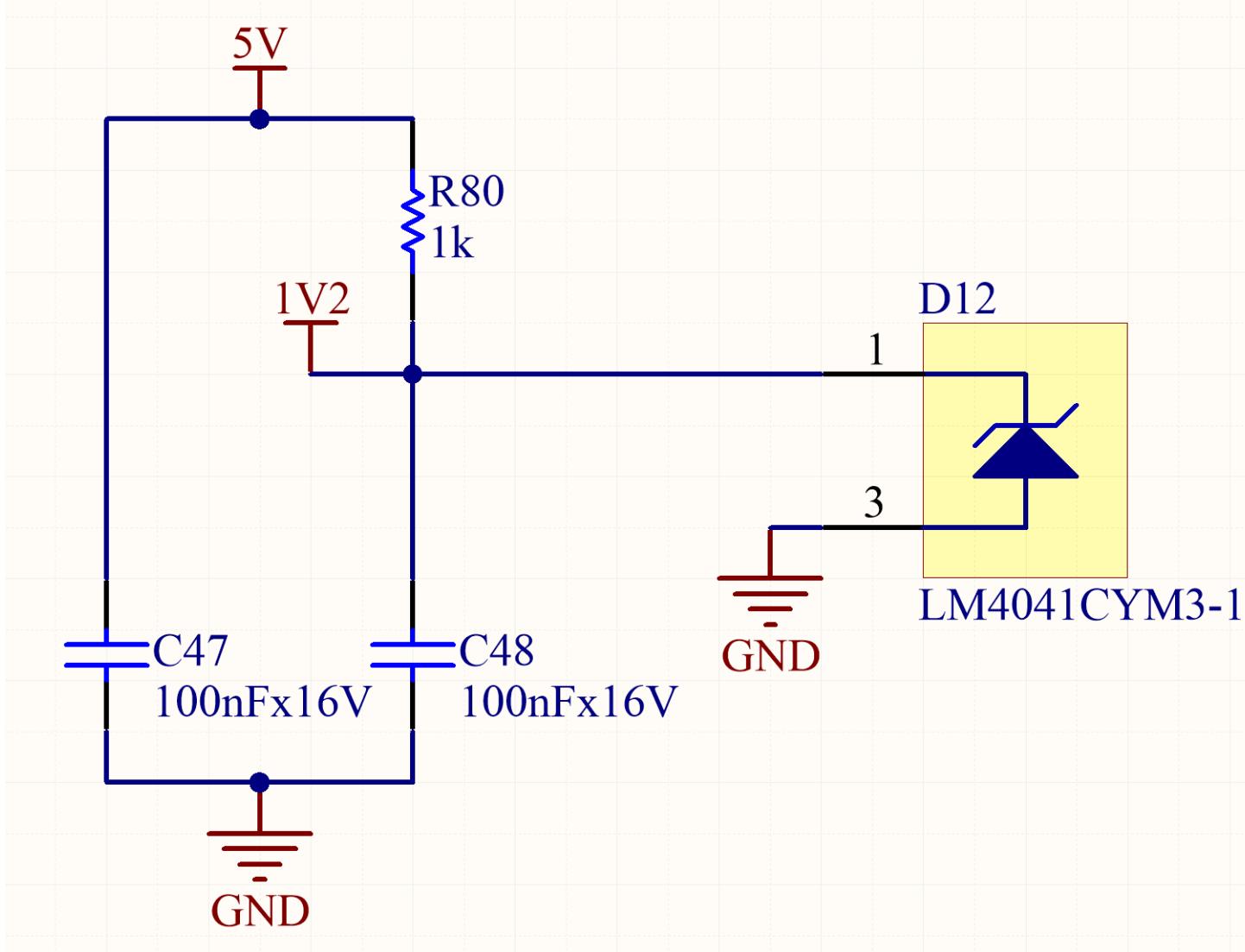


Figure 24 – $1\text{V}2$ voltage reference circuit

4.5 Temperature Acquisition Channel

Figure 25 shows the solution overview for the thermocouple circuit.

The function of each block will be explained in the following sections.

4.5.1 Thermocouple Signal Conditioning

For this project it was defined that thermocouples of type K (formed by the junction of two metal leagues: Alumel and Cromel) would be used in this project. This is because this specific type of thermocouple has a wide range of operation ($-200^\circ\text{C} - 1200^\circ\text{C}$).

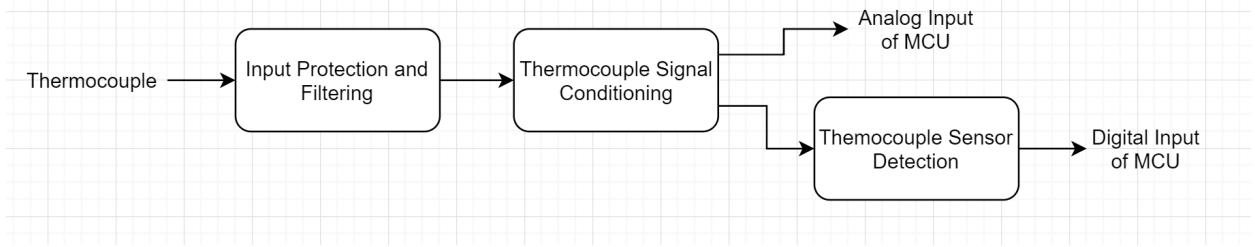
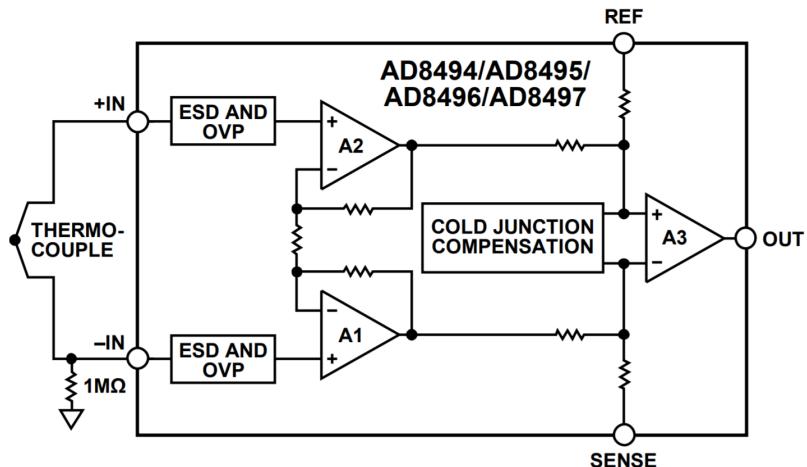


Figure 25 – Temperature Measurement Block Diagram

°C), so according to the requirements they are never too close from the boundary values, a thermocouple of type T or even a type J would not be suitable. Other appealing factor is that this type of thermocouple is quite common so getting eventual replacements would be easier, in comparison with type E thermocouples.

As mentioned in sub-section 2.3.2, besides amplification and linearization, the thermocouple signal also needs cold junction temperature difference compensation. There is an integrated solution from *Analog Device* called AD8495, this IC functional diagram is displayed on Figure 26.

Figure 26 – AD8495 Functional Block Diagram ([DEVICES, 2011](#))

This IC produces a linearized output with a fixed gain of 5mv/°C, it is a quite practical solution as it can be powered with single-supply voltage source and its output saturates to the power supply voltage if the thermocouple is disconnected ([ANALOG DEVICES, 2010](#)).

4.5.2 Input Protection and Filtering

Although this IC already has overvoltage and ESD protection, thermocouples tips can pick a load of unwanted noise and transients. Hence, additional protection and external filtering is also recommended by ([DUFF; TOWEY, 2010](#)). First thing to do is to add current-limiting series resistors, the drawback is doing that is that resistors in the circuit net

increases the overall noise. This type of noise is called Johnson-Nyquist Thermal Noise or more commonly just by Johnson Noise, thermal agitation of electrons in a resistor gives rise to random fluctuations in the voltage across its terminals (ROMERO, 1998). Moreover, it can be calculated using the following Equation 4.7 where K is the Boltzamann's constant $1.38 \cdot 10^{-23}$, R is the resistance in ohms (Ω) and T the temperature in kelvin (300K at room temperature) (BRYANT et al., 2000).

$$\text{Noise}(nv\sqrt{\text{Hz}}) = \sqrt{4 \cdot K \cdot R \cdot T \cdot 10^9} \quad (4.7)$$

Because the protection circuit includes two equal resistors, whose noise is uncorrelated, that is, the two noise sources are independent of each other—the above result must be multiplied by the square root of 2 (the root sum square of the two noise voltages) and it is considered as a general rule design to tolerate additional Johnson Noise from 10 to 30% to the amplifier IC (BRYANT et al., 2000). (DUFF; TOWEY, 2010) suggests using current-limiting resistors of 100Ω , according to the AD8495 datasheet (ANALOG DEVICES, 2010), the choosen amplifier (AD8495) has a voltage noise density of $32\text{nV}\sqrt{\text{Hz}}$. Combining this resistors noise with the amplifier noise will produce a overall noise of $32.485\text{nV}\sqrt{\text{Hz}}$, which is just 1.5% above the amplifier's own noise. Additional protection can be achieved using (TVS) to protect the inputs from differential input overvoltage, considering a bidirectional TVS with a 10V breakdown voltage, the device will theoretically limit the differential voltage between 10V and -10V, the AD8495 has overvoltage protection from -25V to 20V when powered with 5V, so this will successfully protect the amplifier inputs.

With the overloads protection done, another important feature to do is to filter unwanted signals in the inputs to avoid them to be amplified later, this is done by filtering Radio Frequency Interference (RFI), signal lines (specially for low level signals) are quite susceptible to RF interference (COUNTS; KITCHEN, 2006). Interference that occurs on both lines are usually reduced by the amplifiers own CMRR (check Section 2.3.5.1), but only on a limited bandwidth, also the in-amp rectifier cannot filter differential RF interference. The choosen amplifier (AD8495) has a -3dB bandwidth at 25kHz, (DUFF; TOWEY, 2010) suggests setting a common-mode cutoff filter frequency at 160kHz (in order to guarantee the filter will not attenuate signals inside the 25kHz bandwidth). The standard circuit for the RFI filter is displayed on Figure 27, resistors R and capacitors C_C are used to filter common-mode interference. Capacitor C_D is connected across the bridge output to reduce any common-mode rejection errors due to the components mismatch, that way filtering any differential interference. C_D is usually choosen to be ten times larger than C_C (ANALOG DEVICES, 2010).

The -3dB common-mode bandwidth of this filter from Figure 27 is given by Equa-

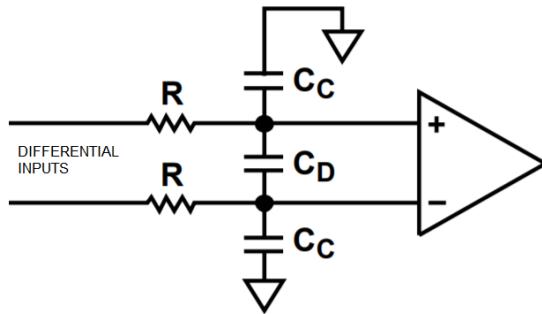


Figure 27 – RFI Circuit (??)

tion 4.8 (COUNTS; KITCHEN, 2006).

$$BW_{CM} = \frac{1}{2 \cdot \pi \cdot R \cdot C_C} \quad (4.8)$$

The -3dB differential bandwidth of this filter from Figure 27 is given by Equation 4.9 (COUNTS; KITCHEN, 2006).

$$BW_{DIFF} = \frac{1}{2 \cdot \pi \cdot R \cdot (2 \cdot C_C + C_d)} \quad (4.9)$$

Using the values for the current limiting resistors (100Ω), Equation 4.8 and the suggested cutoff frequency of 160kHz (DUFF; TOWEY, 2010), it is possible to calculate a value of 10nF for C_C . Choosing a C_D value ten times larger than C_c implies on using a C_D value of 100nF, that used on Equation 4.9 will produce a differential interference filter cutoff frequency of 13kHz.

With all this considerations, the Thermocouple Signal Conditioning Circuit can be seen in Figure 28.

Besides the RFI filter and the amplifier, only a few components were added. First a TVS diode with a standoff voltage of 5V was placed on each of the thermocouple signal tracks. According to (ANALOG DEVICES, 2010), in order to implement sensor disconnection detection a 1M resistor should be added to the the thermocouple negative track. More over a post amplification LPF with a cutoff frequency of aproximately 16Hz was placed in order to filter any remain of noise uncorrelated to the thermocouple signal.

4.5.3 Thermocouple Sensor Detection

A important feature of any acquisition system is to detect when a sensor is disconnected from the the acquisition system input (O'MAHONY; GELFAND; MERRICK, 2011), because a signal acquisition circuit without the signal source will generate outputs that are uncorrelated to what the system was designed to measure/sense on the outside

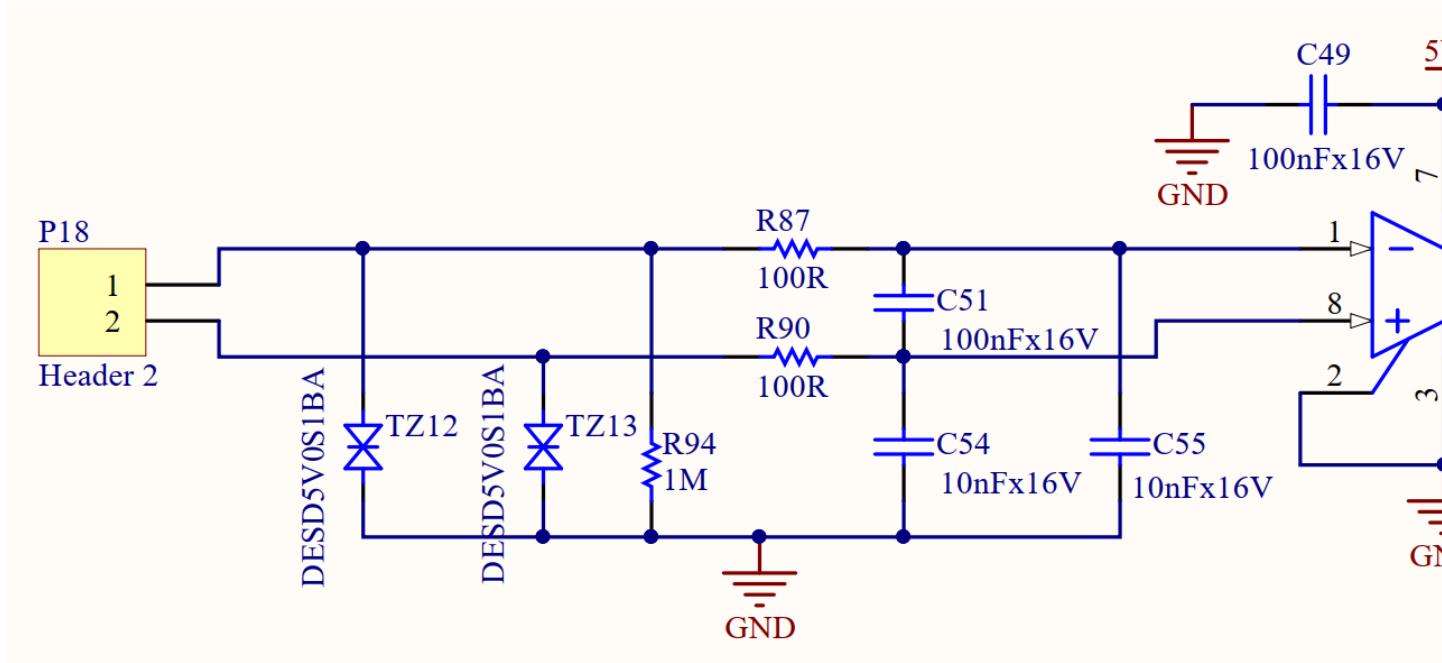


Figure 28 – Thermocouple Signal Conditioning Circuit

world. The AD8495 has a quite useful feature (ANALOG DEVICES, 2010), it offers open thermocouple detection, the inputs of the AD8495 are PNP type transistors, which means that the bias current always flows out of the inputs. This way, the input bias current drives any unconnected output high, which saturates the output to the maximum possible reading, being in this case 1000°C or 5V (considering the fixed $5\text{mV}^{\circ}\text{C}$ gain). In Section 4.2, it was defined that the system must measure temperatures up to 600°C , with the fixed gain of 5mV° this means an output voltage of 3V. The so called *Thermocouple Sensor Detection* must be able to detect whenever the output exceeds 3V. In order to do that, the circuit displayed in Figure 29 was designed.

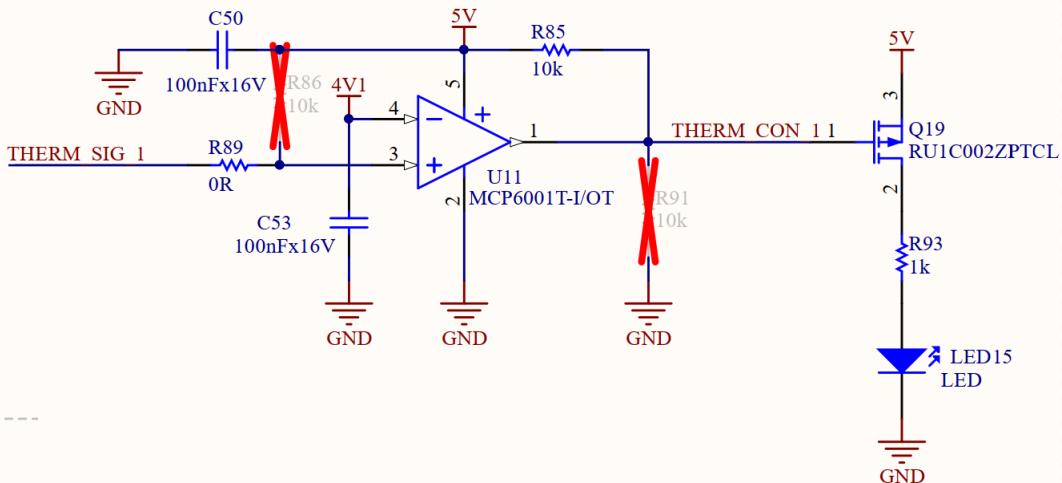


Figure 29 – Overvoltage Detection Circuit

U11 is a OPAMP working as a comparator, whenever the thermocouple signal

is higher than the 4V1 the OPAMP output will saturate to the 5V (the supply voltage applied to the OPAMP). The net 4V1 will be further explained in Section 4.11.2.1, whereas it is a constant voltage produced on the Power Supplies circuit block. The resistor $R85$ is a pull-up resistor used to guarantee that signal will go to high-logic level in case the voltage in the inputs is not present. The capacitors C50 and C51 is just bypass capacitors used to stabilize both the 4V1 and 5V supplies voltage. The PMOS Q19 is used to drive a LED to indicate when the sensor is connected.

4.6 Brake Pressure Acquisition Channel

4.6.1 Load Cell Signal

Load cells have very low output levels, usually from 2 to 3mV/V, and therefore an amplification is fundamental. It is not necessary to know the nature of the strain gauges when a load cell is being calibrated since generally the manufacturers provide a calibration curve based on the signals V_O and V_{EX} of the Figure 8, it is worth noting that these signals can not have the same reference, otherwise it will not be possible to excite the wheatstone bridge correctly.

The most common way to amplify the signal of a load cell is using a instrumentation amplifier. Although it is a widely used configuration, assembling this amplifier using three different operational amplifiers and seven resistors as in Figure 10 may make it inaccurate due to manufacturing imperfections of the components. Another factor that greatly influences the output signal of a load cell is the excitation voltage of its wheatstone bridge, if it varies too much the output will vary greatly as well, which will hamper its calibration.

4.6.2 Load Cell Signal Conditioning

In order to solve these two problems there is a solution widely used in the market which is the *INA125* from Texas Instruments ([INSTRUMENTS, 1997](#)), this IC is an integrated single supply instrumentation amplifier with precision voltage reference. Other good feature of this amplifier is that as it has a great CMRR (*Common-Mode Rejection Ratio* check Section 2.3.5.1) of 100dB, making it very much suitable for conditioning differential pair signals (such as the one from the Load Cell as Subsection 2.3.3 mentions), more information of CMRR in Subsection 2.3.5.1. The only external component needed is a resistor R_G , as shown in Figure 30. This resistor will determine the gain (G) for the amplification according to the Equation 4.10.

$$R_G = \frac{60k\Omega}{G - 4} \quad (4.10)$$

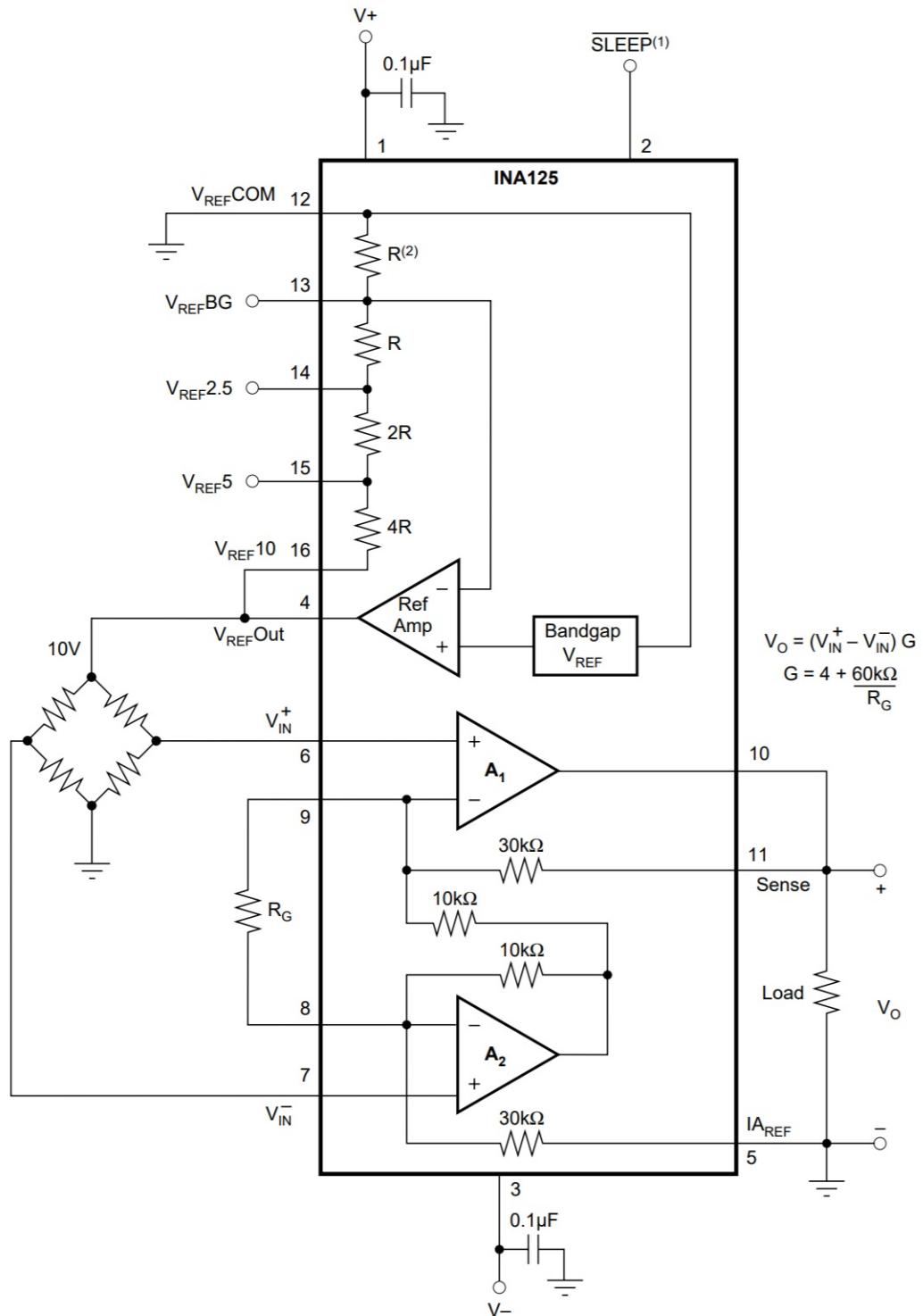


Figure 30 – INA125 Schematic (INSTRUMENTS, 1997)

Taking into account the sensitivity of 2mV/V , this means that if the cell is excited with 2V5 , its output will vary from 0 to 5mV .

Since the analog input of the chosen microcontroller (*Atmega32U4*) is 0 to 5V , we may need to amplify the cell output signal by a factor of 1000 in order to use the most number of bits from the MCU's ADC. Using Equation 4.10, to obtain a gain of amplification ratio of the ideal R_G would be 60Ω , a resistor of this value and minimal tolerance (1%) is not commercially available, the closest one is 60.4Ω . This resistor will generate a gain of approximately 997.378 and cause the IC output to range from about 0V to 4.986V , using 99.72% of the resolution of the microcontroller input.

Figure 31 shows the schematic of the load cell conditioning circuit with the INA125.

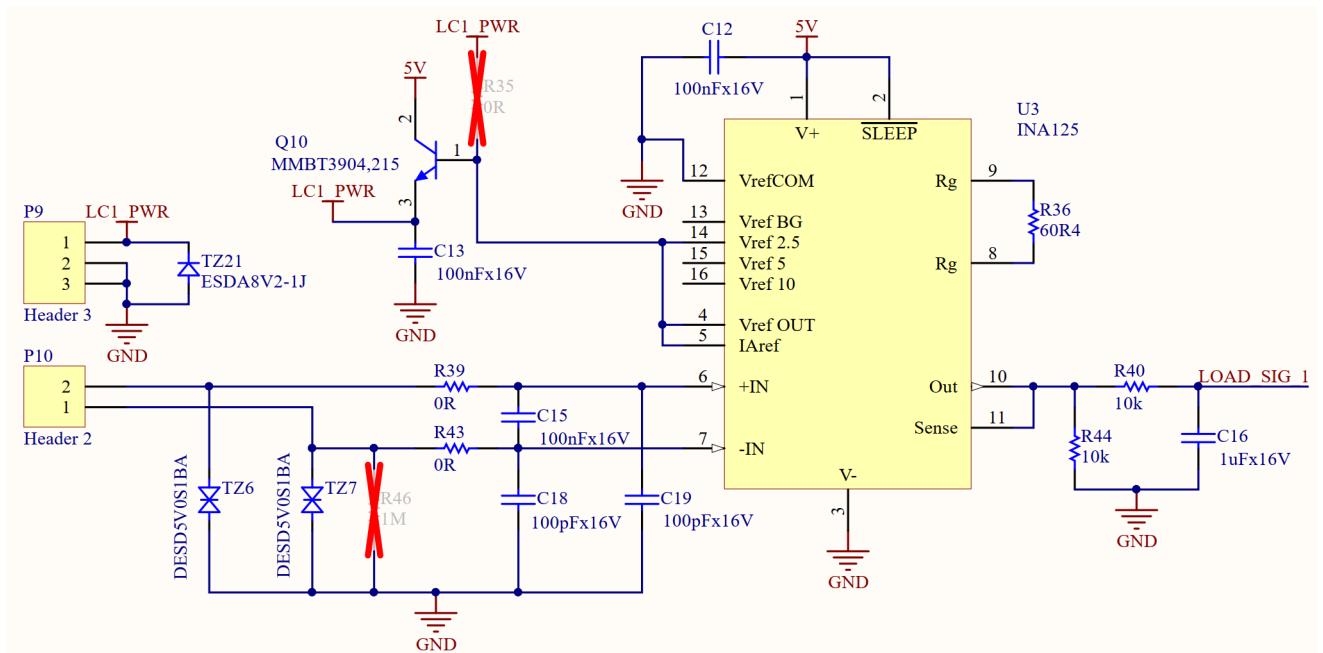


Figure 31 – Conditioning Circuit for the Load Cell

The main components of this circuit are

- *TVS Diodes:* INA125 only has overvoltage protection and not ESD protection so the TVS Diodes were added to ensure that protection.
- *Capacitors C18 and C19:* Bypass capacitors for the signal lines.
- *C15:* A capacitor to filter noise between both lines.
- *R39 and R43:* Jumpers that can be replaced by resistors in case a RFI filter is meant to be implemented using C24, C26 and C27.
- *Q10 and C13:* This NPN transistor is being used to amplify the current from the 2V5 reference from the amplifier. C22 is a bypass capacitor to stabilize the voltage reference signal.

- R_{36} : The gain resistor.
- R_{44} , R_{40} and C_{16} : R_{44} is used to set the impedance from the load cell signal. R_{40} and C_{16} are used to form a LPF with a cutoff frequency of 15.91Hz to filter any remaining noise from the load cell signal.

4.6.3 Load Cell Sensor Detection

As was explained in Subsection 4.6.2, with R_{21} the circuit will saturate the output to the supply voltage when the load cell sensor is disconnected. The circuit to detect this voltage saturation is exact the same from the one used previously on the thermocouple circuit, the circuit schematic and functional explanation can be found in Subsection 4.5.3.

4.7 Vibration Acquisition Channel

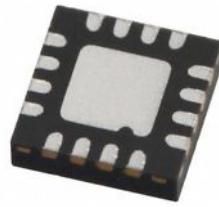
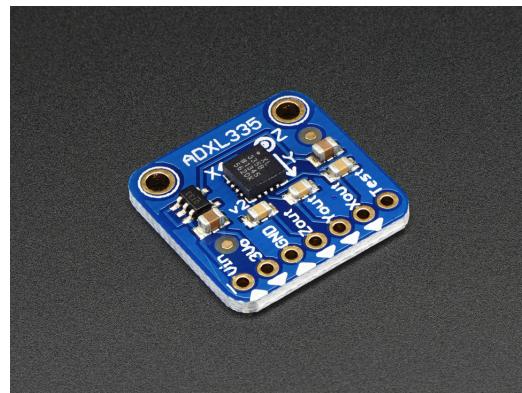
4.7.1 Accelerometer

The chosen accelerometer for this project was the *ADXL335* from *Analog Devices* (DEVICES, 2010). This accelerometer was chosen because it is the cheapest one available with the following characteristics:

- It has 3 axis sensing (easy to install).
- Low power operation ($350\mu A$).
- 10,000 g shock survival.
- 1V8-3V3 Single-supply operation.
- $\pm 3g$ measurements.

When powered up with 3V3 the sensor has a linear voltage output of 0V for -3g and 3V3 for 3g. This sensor is ideal for this project, the only issue is the installation. The sensor comes in a 16-LFCSP IC (Figure 32), and this IC needs to be installed where acceleration is intended to be measured, so an additional board is necessary to install it.

There are already embedded solutions that can solve this issue, such as the *Adafruit ADXL335 - 5V ready* (ADAFRUIT, 2016). This small (19mm x 19mm) board (Figure 33) has the ADXL335 with the capacitors recommended by the datasheet, with a 3V3 voltage regulator so the board can be powered up with 5V and with the mounting holes to fix the board in any surface, making it ideal for this project.

Figure 32 – 16-LFCSP ([DEVICES, 2016](#))Figure 33 – Adafruit ADXL335 - 5V ready ([ADAFRUIT, 2018](#))

4.7.2 Signal Conditioning Circuit

The ADXL335 datasheet ([DEVICES, 2010](#)) says that for a -3g measured acceleration the device output is of 0V and for +3g measurement it is 3V3 voltage. The sensor conditioning circuit is displayed on Figure 34.

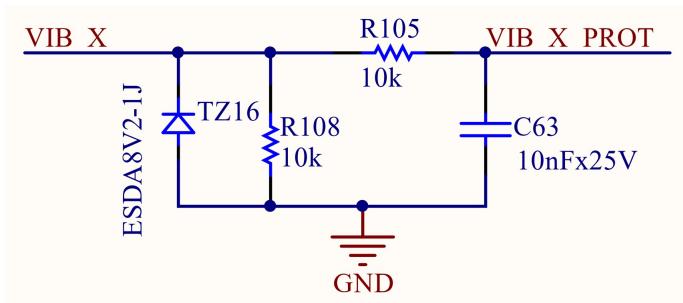


Figure 34 – Accelerometer Signal Conditioning Circuit

The circuit is composed only of a protection and filtering circuit. TZ16 is a TVS with a standoff reverse voltage of 5V, R105 and C63 form a LPF with cutoff frequency of approximately 1.6kHz, which should not intervene with the passband signal.

4.7.3 Sensor Detection Circuit

The chosen solution for the accelerometer (*Adafruit ADXL335 - 5V ready*) has a integrated 3V3 voltage regulator. In Figure 33 it is possible to see that the 3V3 voltage output from the voltage regulator has a connection point on the board. Hence, if a wire is connected to this point and to the main circuit board, whenever this point does not have 3V3 voltage the sensor is disconnected. Moreover, the detection circuit just need to detect when the net is in 0V or 3V3.

The detection circuit can be seen in Figure 35, D14 is a schottky diode used to protect the input from polarity change. TZ19 is a TVS used to protect the circuit from overvoltage, R111 and C66 forms a LPF with cutoff frequency close to 16Hz used to protect the NMOS gate from any fast transients.

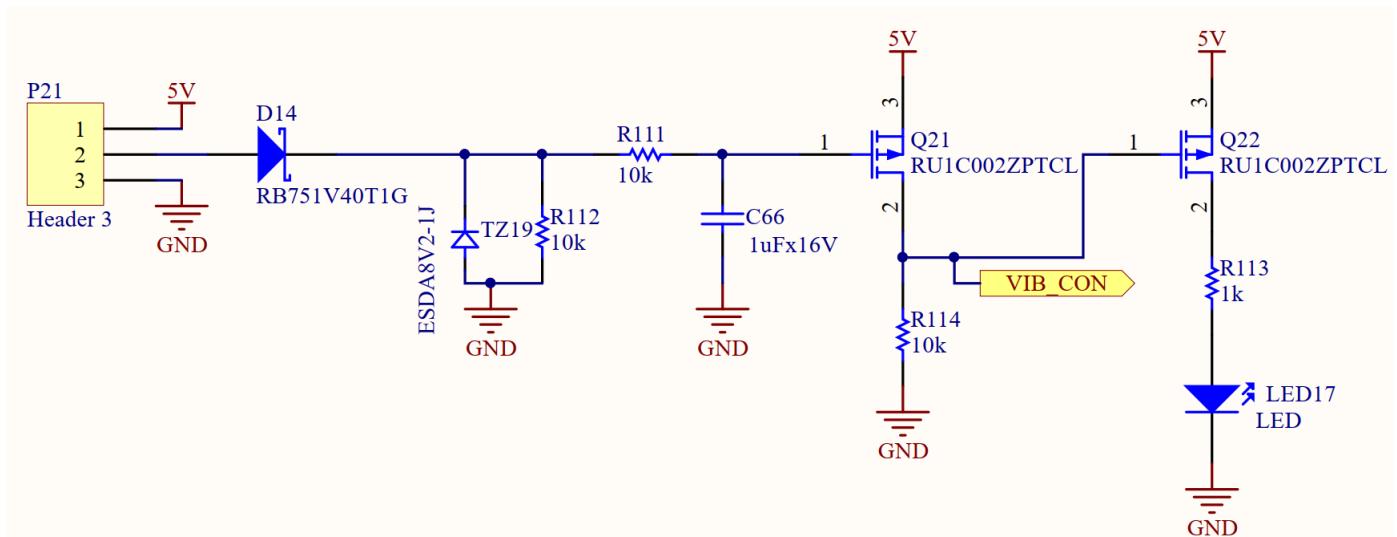


Figure 35 – Accelerometer Sensor Detection Circuit

4.8 Speed Reference Output Channel

4.8.1 Speed Control

For the braketests, somethings as important as measuring the speed of the rotor is controlling it, as mentioned in Subsection 4.3.3. The rotor speed can be controlled in two ways:

- First way is the deceleration of the rotor with the aid of the brake system using the brake pads.
- Second way of controlling it by accelerating the rotor with the aid of the electric motor.

The electric motor used is a alternate current three-phase type, it in order to control it's speed a frequency inverter was used. The frequency inverter has many different controlling interfaces that lead to manipulating the three-phase electric system in order to control the engine's rotationary speed.

In this project the frequency inverter used was the *Weg CFW-08* (shown in Figure 36, according to ([WEG, 2009](#)) there are many port interfaces that can be used to control the desired speed remotely. One of this ways is using one of the device's 0-10V analog input with 8-bit resolution. According to the datasheet, this analog input can be used as a speed reference with programmable gain (0-20), the input parameters are the lower limit speed (when the input is on 0V) and the upper limit speed (when the input is at 10V).



Figure 36 – Weg CFW-08 Frequency Inverter ([WEG, 2017](#))

The issue is that this project is microcontrolled, and MCU's do not have analog outputs, so a DAC circuit will need to be implemented. The MCU output will be a PWM signal, moreover as mentioned in Section ??, a PWM signal can encode information on a pulse train signal and this information can be decoded using a LPF, *i.e.* performing a digital to analog conversion.

4.8.2 Filter characteristics definition

Fortunately the microcontroller has pre-configured PWM (*Pulse Width Modulation*), a PWM signal can encode a analog voltage value proportional to it's duty cycle, and this is usually done with the aid of a low pass filter that will extract this analog voltage from the PWM signal. As said in the previous paragraph the frequency inverter used in this project is the *Weg CFW-08*, and it's analog input has a zero to ten voltage

input with eight bits of resolution. We can calculate the minimal voltage difference that will change the output frequency of the device using Equation 4.11, in which ΔV is the minimal voltage difference, V_{max} is the maximum voltage and "n" is the number of bits of the input resolution.

$$\Delta V = \frac{V_{max}}{2^n} \quad (4.11)$$

As mentioned in Section 4.10, the chosen MCU has a five volts high logic level, this voltage level will need amplification in order to best suit the zero to ten volts input from the frequency inverter. However, as already mentioned in Section 4.8.1 the analog input of the frequency inverter already has a 0-20 programmable gain that will be set to two.

The maximum ripple is the ΔV from Equation 4.11. Equation 4.12 (METIVIER, 2013) gives the necessary $\frac{dB}{decade}$ attenuation to guarantee a PWM converted signal desired ripple.

$$A_{dB} = 20 \cdot \log \left(\frac{V_{RIPPLE}}{V_{PWM}} \right) \quad (4.12)$$

As the V_{PWM} will already be amplified prior to filtering, $V_{PWM} = V_{max}$, this will produce the following Equation 4.13.

$$A_{dB} = -20 \cdot n \cdot \log (2) \quad (4.13)$$

And Equation 4.14 (METIVIER, 2013), is used to calculate the maximum needed cutoff frequency for the further to be designed LPF (*Low-Pass-Filter*) in order to convert the PWM signal to an analog voltage. The slope value is the filter slope and for first order filters and second order filters this slope value is equal respectively to 20dB/decade and 40dB/decade (METIVIER, 2013).

$$f_c = f_{PWM} \cdot 10^{-\frac{A_{dB}}{Slope}} \quad (4.14)$$

It is possible to combine all these equations into one single equation to calculate

the needed cutoff frequency, is this done in Equation 4.15.

$$\begin{aligned}
 f_c &= f_{PWM} \cdot 10^{-\frac{A_{dB}}{Slope}} \\
 f_c &= f_{PWM} \cdot 10^{-\frac{-20 \cdot n \cdot \log(2)}{Slope}} \\
 f_c &= f_{PWM} \cdot 10^{\log\left(2^{\frac{20 \cdot n}{Slope}}\right)} \\
 \text{Knowing :} \\
 x \cdot \log(A) &= \log(A^x) \\
 10^{\log(A)} &= A \\
 \text{So :} \\
 f_c &= f_{PWM} \cdot 2^{\frac{20 \cdot n}{Slope}}
 \end{aligned} \tag{4.15}$$

As shown in Appendix A.1, the default PWM frequency for the defined pins are $f_{PWM} = 490Hz$, also $n = 8$ (number of bits of the ADC from the frequency inverter) and as according to (METIVIER, 2013), a second order LPF is better for converting a PWM signal to voltage and it has by default $Slope = -40dB/decade$, using Equation 4.15 it is possible to calculate a maximum cutoff frequency of 30.625Hz.

4.8.3 Sallen-Key Low Pass Active Filter

The Sallen-Key LPF setup is probably one of the best second order filters architectures available (DORF; SVOBODA, 2014), this setup is displayed on Figure 37.

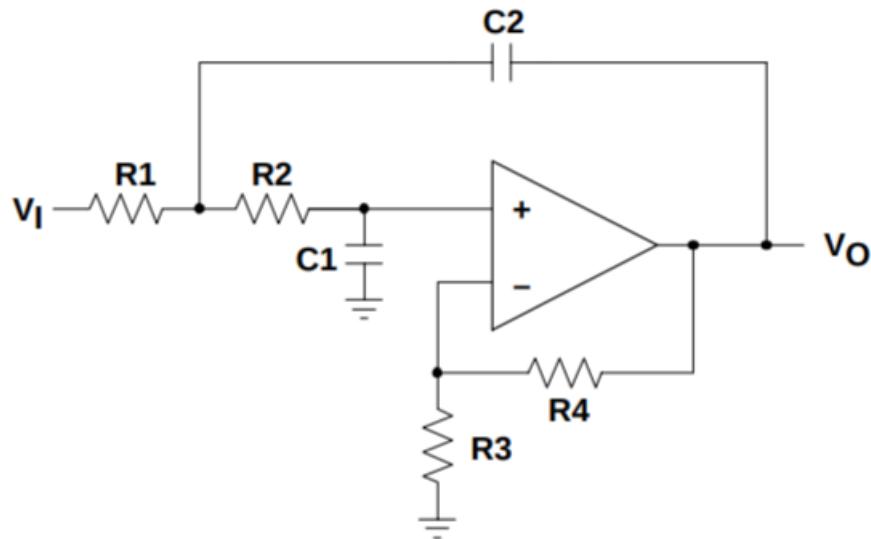


Figure 37 – Sallen-Key Active Low Pass Filter (TEXAS INSTRUMENTS, 1999)

According to (TEXAS INSTRUMENTS, 1999), this filter setup has a cutoff frequency defined by Equation ??.

$$f_c = \frac{1}{2 \cdot \pi \sqrt{R_1 \cdot R_2 \cdot C_1 \cdot C_2}} \quad (4.16)$$

Using values of $R1=100k\Omega$, $R2=100k\Omega$, $C1=100nF$ and $C2=100nF$ means having a cutoff frequency of 15.91Hz

4.8.4 Complete Circuit

Based on all the previously calculations and on (TEXAS INSTRUMENTS, 1999), the final circuit will be the one in Figure 38. Besides the main components of the filter the added components were two bypass capacitors ($C1$ and $C4$), TZ1 is a TVS used to protect the circuit from any transient voltage coming from the cable. Moreover, $R1$ was added to limit the current that is drained from the analog output. The port AOU_1 is a feedback that goes to a analog input of the MCU so the output voltage can be adjusted by varying the duty cycle.

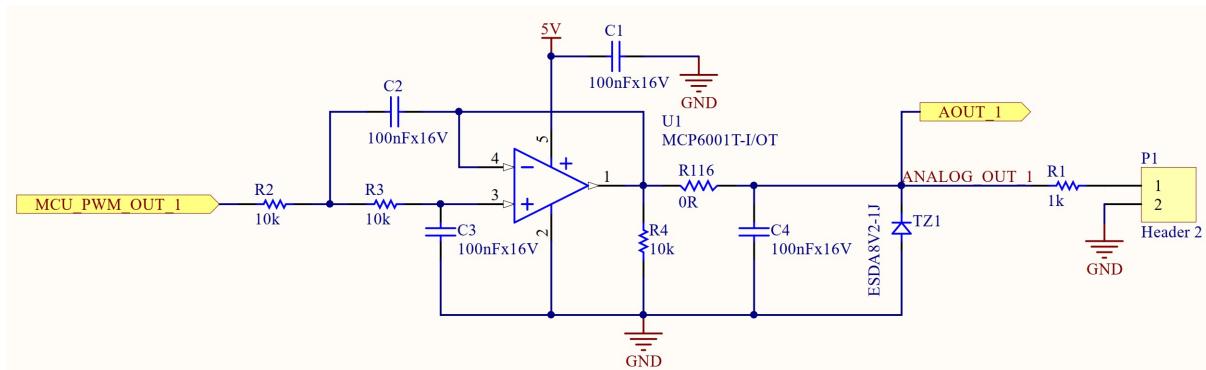


Figure 38 – PWM to Speed Reference Circuit

Although only one analog output is needed, another one will be placed on the PCB in order to allow the circuit to be used on other appliances on possible future projects.

4.9 Digital Interfaces

All sensoring data was obtained using analog channels, some digital channels will be reserved on the board in order to provide another type of sensing and control.

4.9.1 Digital Outputs

4.9.1.1 Low-side Driver

Item 11 from Section 4.2 states that the system must have a digital output channel to control a relay. According to (SONGLE, 2018), a standard 5V relay will have a nominal current of 89.3mA, the microcontroller's datasheet (MICROCHIP, 2018) says that the maximum DC current per I/O pin is 40mA though. Hence it is not possible to activate a relay connected directly to a MCU's I/O pin.

In order to solve this a relay driver circuit needs to be used, in this case a low side mosfet driver similar to the one from Figure (ELECTRONICS TUTORIALS, 2018) will be used.

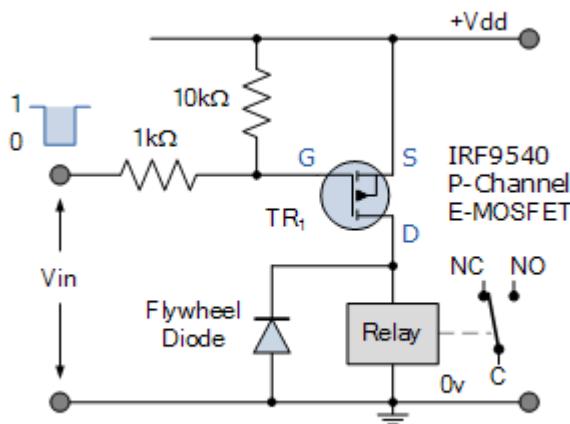


Figure 39 – PMOS low side driver (ELECTRONICS TUTORIALS, 2018)

This is a low-side driver, when the PMOS is submitted to a high logic level (5V) in its gate it will enter on the cutoff region and will not conduct current, hence not activating the relay. On the other hand, when a low logic level (0V) is applied to the device's gate it will enter the saturation region and will conduct current, hence activating the relay.

4.9.1.2 Digital Output Circuit

The digital output circuit will be very similar to the one from Figure 39. The power supply connected to the mosfet will be the 5V source (check Section 4.11.1.1), on the PMOS drain there will be a TVS diode (SMBJ12A from Littlefuse (LITTLEFUSE, 2015)) (check Section 2.3.7.2), this TVS will protect the PMOS from reverse current and from overvoltages. Figure 40 show the equivalent circuit for the digital output.

The selected PMOS is the NDS332P from Fairchild (FAIRCHILD, 1997), it has a maximum operating continuos current of 1A, maximum gate threshold voltage of 1V,

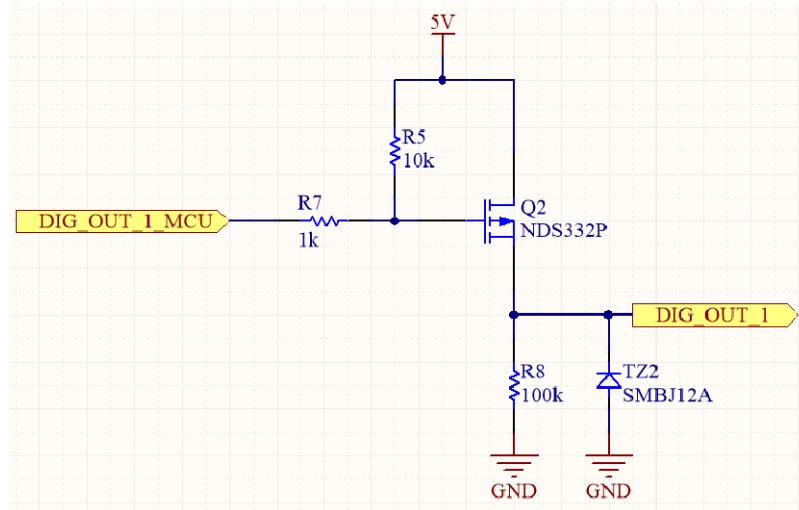


Figure 40 – Digital Output Circuit

maximum drain-source voltage of 20V and maximum gate source voltage of $\pm 8V$. It is adequate for this purpose. Resistor R7 is used to limit the magnitude of the current spike that can occur when a driver switches fast and has to charge or discharge a large gate capacitance. Resistor R5 is a pull-up for the gate, it will ensure that the PMOS will be in cutoff region if there is no input for the MCU. Resistor R8 is optional, for activating relays it is not needed, but other loads may require a pull-down, that is why it was placed on the PMOS drain. It was decided to keep any relay out of the board to save space. Moreover, keeping the relay out of the board gives room for using this digital output for other purposes. Although the project Requirements only specifies two digital outputs, as there were unused MCU digital ports, a third digital output will also be placed on the PCB layout.

4.9.2 Digital Inputs

This project does not have any requirement for digital inputs. However, in order to make the project more versatile for the future, making it able to capture switch states and possible external event, three digital inputs were added to the PCB. Figure 41 show the circuit to interface the digital inputs.

According to (ON SEMICONDUCTOR, 2014), the schottky diode on the input has a reverse voltage of 30V and a forward voltage of 280mV. When a voltage lower than 280mV is present on the input, the voltage on the PMOS gate will be lower than than its threshold (according to device's datasheet (ROHM SEMICONDUCTOR, 2016)) the PMOS will start to conduct current and the signal *MCU_DIN_1* will go to 5V. When the voltege on the input is higher than 280mV, the voltage on the PMOS gate will be higher than the treshold voltage and the PMOS will not conduct current, therefore, because of the pull down resistor R32, the signal *MCU_DIN_1* will go to 0V.

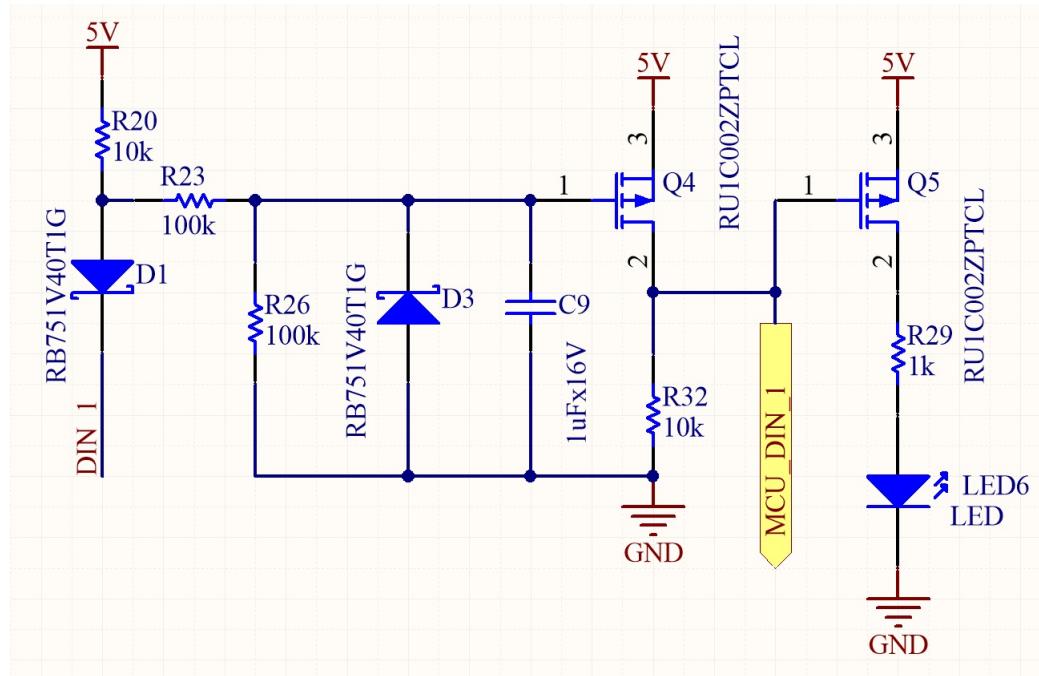


Figure 41 – Digital Input Circuit

4.10 MCU

The chosen MCU for the system is the *ATMEGA32U4* manufactured by *Microchip*. According to ([MICROCHIP, 2017a](#)) and ([MICROCHIP, 2018](#)) the main features of this MCU are:

- *Program Memory (Flash)*: 32KB.
- *Communication Peripherals*: 1-USB, 1-UART, 2-SPI, 1-I2C.
- *ADC*: 12-channels, 10-bit ADC.
- *Operating Voltage Range*: 2.7 to 5.5V.

This microcontroller is widely used in academic environment (specially after the Arduino project started, when microcontroller programming became much more feasible and reachable), and is famous for being easy and reliable to use. The *ATmega32U4* is really versatile and more important it meets this project requirements, listed in Section 4.2. A very useful feature of this MCU is that it has a USB 2.0 controller built-in, this eliminates the need for an additional transceiver circuit. Figure ?? shows the pinout of this device.

4.10.1 MCU circuit

This MCU is the same used on the Arduino Leonardo Board ([ARDUINO..., 2016](#)), whereas, in order to avoid implementation problems the MCU peripheral components were

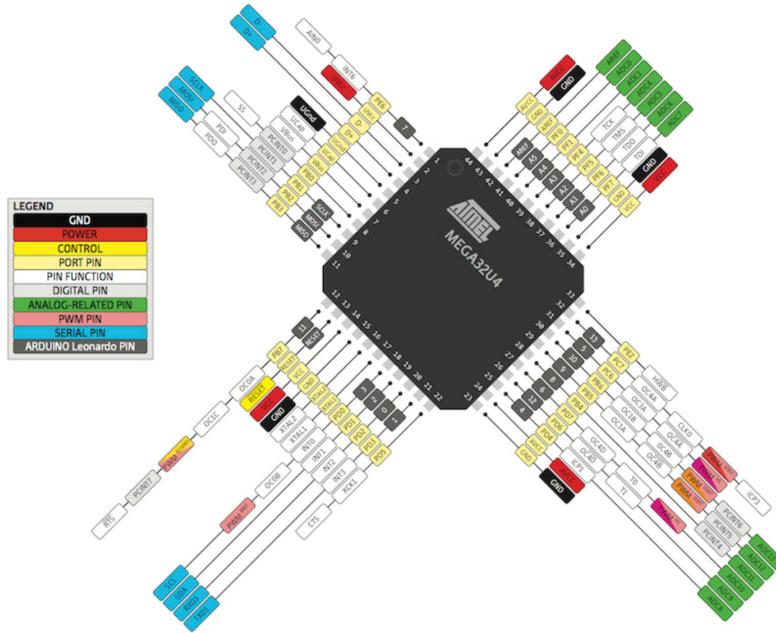


Figure 42 – *ATmega32U4* pinout ([PIGHIXX, 2018](#))

chosen based on the Arduino board schematic ([ARDUINO, 2010](#)). The circuit with all the peripheral components to the ATmega32U4 can be divided in five parts.

4.10.1.1 Core Circuit

Figure 43 shows the core circuit for the MCU.

The components of his circuit and their respective functions are:

- *U7*: The ATmega32U4 chip itself.
- *C28* and *C29*: These are bypass capacitors recommended by the datasheet.
- *S1*, *D7* and *R60*: RST is the reset pin of the MCU, it resets the MCU when low logic voltage is detected. S1 is a push-button used to short circuit the RST pin to ground and reset the MCU. R60 is a pull-resistor used to guarantee that RST pin will remain in high logic voltage when the push-button is not being pressed.
- *R61*: This jumper will be explained in Section 4.10.1.2.
- *L1* and *C32*: These components form a LPF for the AVCC pin, which is the power supply for the MCUs ADC.
- *C33* and *C34*: Both are bypassing capacitors recommended by the datasheet, C33 for the ADC internal voltage supply and C34 for the USB 2.0 controller.
- *R63*: It is a pull-down resistor that enables hardware boot.

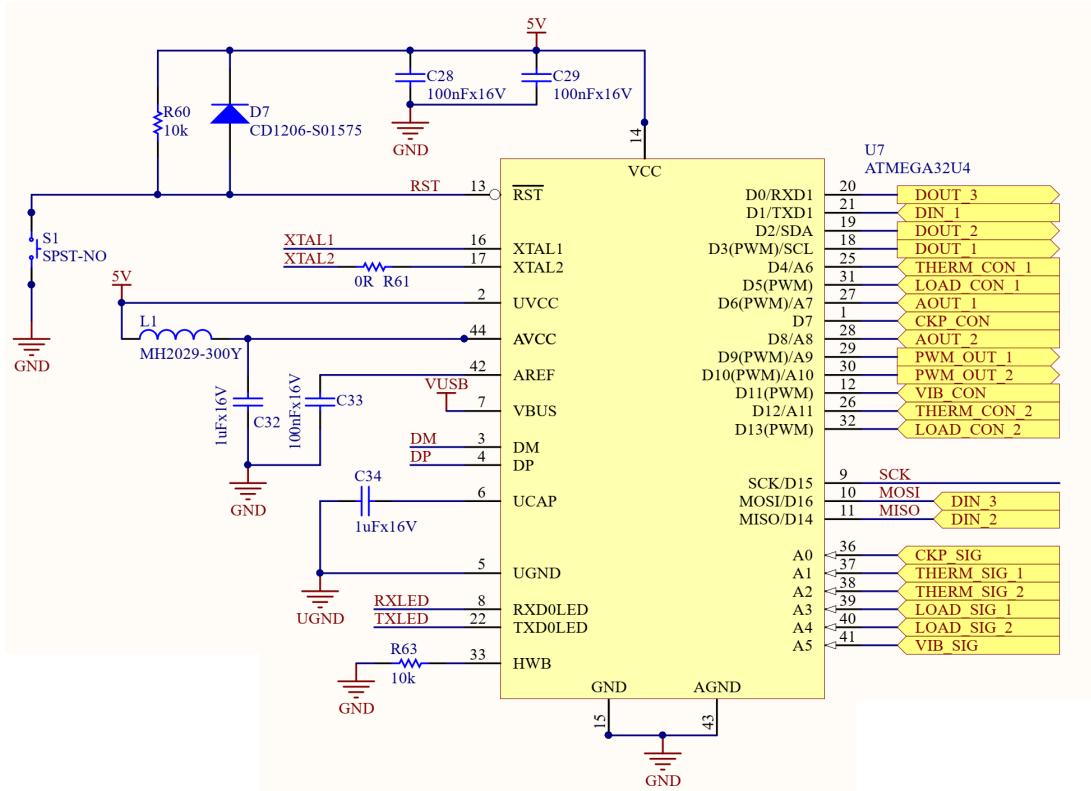


Figure 43 – MCU Core Circuit

The MCU ports were defined as the following:

- *DOUT_1, DOUT_2 and DOUT_3*: Digital Output ports
- *DIN_1, DIN_2 and DIN_3*: Digital input ports.
- *CKP_SIG, THERM_SIG_1, THERM_SIG_2, LOAD_SIG_1, LOAD_SIG_2 and VIB_SIG*: Those are respectively the analog input ports for the signal of: speed sensor, first temperature sensor, second temperature sensor, first force sensor, second force sensor, cibration sensor.
- *CKP_CON, THERM_CON_1, THERM_CON_2, LOAD_CON_1, LOAD_CON_2 and VIB_CON*: Those are digital inputs used to detect if one of the sensors from the previous item were disconnected.
- *PWM_OUT_1, AOUT_1, PWM_OUT_2 and AOUT_2*: Those are respectively: first PWM output, MCU analog input to monitor the first system analog output, second PWM output, MCU analog input to monitor the second system analog output.
- *SCK, MOSI and MISO*: Those are signal used to program the MCU through ISP(In System Programming).

- *XTAL1* and *XTAL2*: Respectively the input and output for the crystal oscillator circuit.
- *VUSB*: This is the supply voltage pin for the USB controller, it is being powered by a external USB host connected to the board.
- *DM* and *DP*: USB data lines.
- *RXLED* and *TXLED*: Pins that goes to low logic level when data is being transmitted and high logic level when not.

4.10.1.2 Crystal Oscillator Circuit

According to (??), in order to work in full-speed mode, the MCU needs a external crystal oscillator with a frequency of 8 to 16MHz and bypassing capacitors from 12 to 22pF on the crystal pins. Based on ([ARDUINO, 2010](#)) besides this capacitor a $1\text{M}\Omega$ bias resistor has been placed between crystal pins. Also a 0R jumper (first mentioned in Item [4.10.1.1](#) from Section [ssec:mcu-circuit](#)) was placed between one of the crystal pins and pin XTAL2 in case a low pass filter is needed (using this resistor and the internal capacitance of the MCU port). The desined circuit for the crystal oscillator is shown in Figure [44](#) (except for the 0R jumper which can be seen in Figure [43](#)).

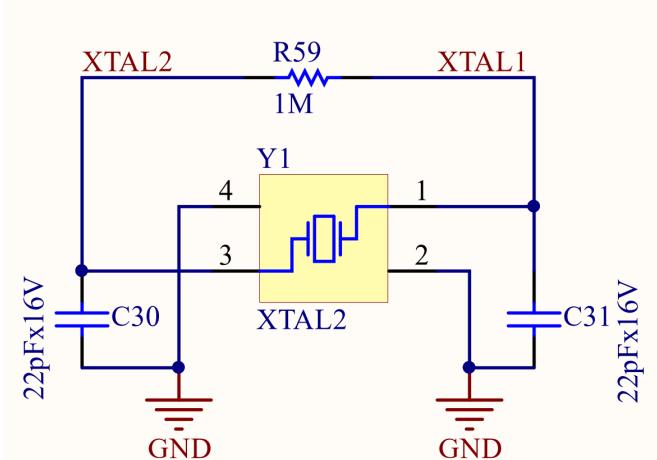


Figure 44 – Crystal Oscillator Circuit

4.10.1.3 USB Port Protection Circuit

The USB Port Protection circuit was entirely based on the on the circuit from Arduino Leonardo, the only component specified by the MCU datasheet are the 22Ω series resistors as shown in Figure [45](#).

L2 and L3 are ferrite beads used to filter high frequency noise. Z1 and Z2 are ESD suppressors, alongside with the series resistors used to protect the MCU's USB data

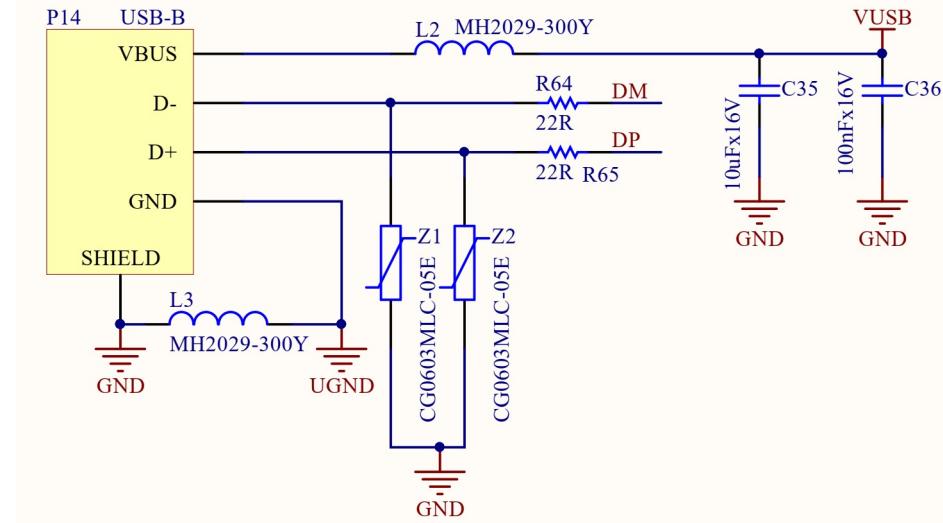


Figure 45 – USB Port Protection Circuit

lines. Finally, C35 and C36 are bypass capacitors used to stabilize the voltage on the USB power line.

4.11 Voltage Supplies

4.11.1 Power Supplies

In order to avoid any interference of the AC line, this project will work with a DC voltage input and any other necessary voltages will be acquired from this higher input voltage supply. There are many different types of voltage regulators, nowadays the most common DC/DC being switching regulators. They are more efficient than linear regulators and consequently they waste less heat, the downside is the cost (due to their consequently) and that they tend to have some ripple at the output (SCHWEBER, 2017). However, as the ripple can easily be filtered and that a switching power supply allows the input voltage to be of a much bigger range, this solution was considered the best for the project.

4.11.1.1 5V Supply

The voltage supply was chosen to be a 5V DC supply because all the components can work with this voltage. The chosen voltage regulator for the 5V supply was the TL2575-05 from *Texas Instruments* (TEXAS INSTRUMENTS, 2014), it has an output up to 1A, voltage drop of 2V, typical efficiency of 88% and can work with a 7 to 42V input. Figure 46 shows the circuit used for the 5V supply.

According to (TEXAS INSTRUMENTS, 2014), the main components to be chosen for the switching regulator are L4, C38 and D9. The inductor and the capacitor are used to form a LPF to transform the PWM output of the switching regulator to a DC

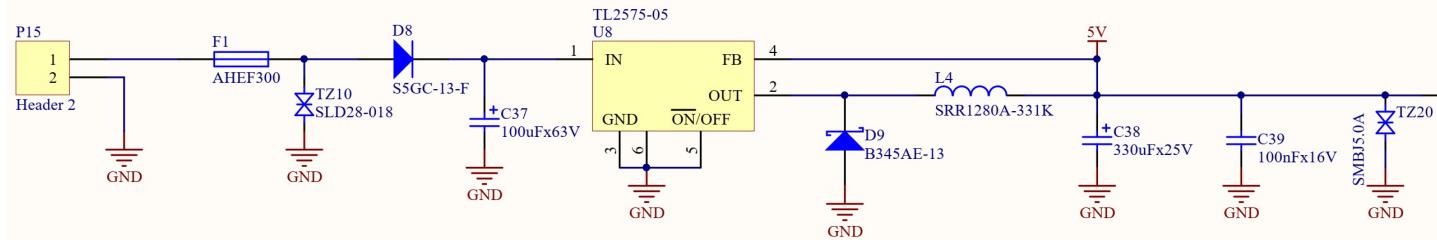


Figure 46 – 5V Power Supply Circuit

voltage. D9 is a flyback diode used to shunt any negative current from the switching to ground and protect the device. The datasheet recommends using a 3A reverse current diode, a 330uH inductor and 330uF capacitor for the 5V regulator.

The other components of the circuit are:

- *TZ10 and TZ20*: TVS diodes to clamp to protect the input and output from ESD.
- *F1 and F2*: resetable fuses, they will limit the current that flows into the circuit and protect the TVS.
- *D8*: A diode to protect the input from inverse polarity.
- *C37*: Input bypass capacitor recommended by the device's datasheet.
- *C39*: Another bypass capacitor on the output to filter any residual noise.

4.11.2 Voltage References

In this project any power supply that the precision and stability of the output voltage is more concerning than the maximum output current will be called a voltage reference.

4.11.2.1 4V1 Reference

As said in Section 4.5.3, the sensor detection circuit needs a 4V1 voltage reference for the comparator. This is achieved using the LM4040-4.1 from *Microchip* (MICROCHIP, 2017b). This is a fixed 4V1 precise voltage reference and according to the datasheet it has a tolerance of $\pm 1.15\%$. Figure 47 shows the circuit for the 4V1 voltage reference.

According to the datasheet the current flowing through the LM4040-4.1 must be never be greater than 15mA, voltage reference pins do need very little current, so a third of this 15mA will be taken as goal. Considering the voltage drop of 0.9V (5V - 4.1V) and the current of 5mA we need a 180Ω resistor in series with the regulator.

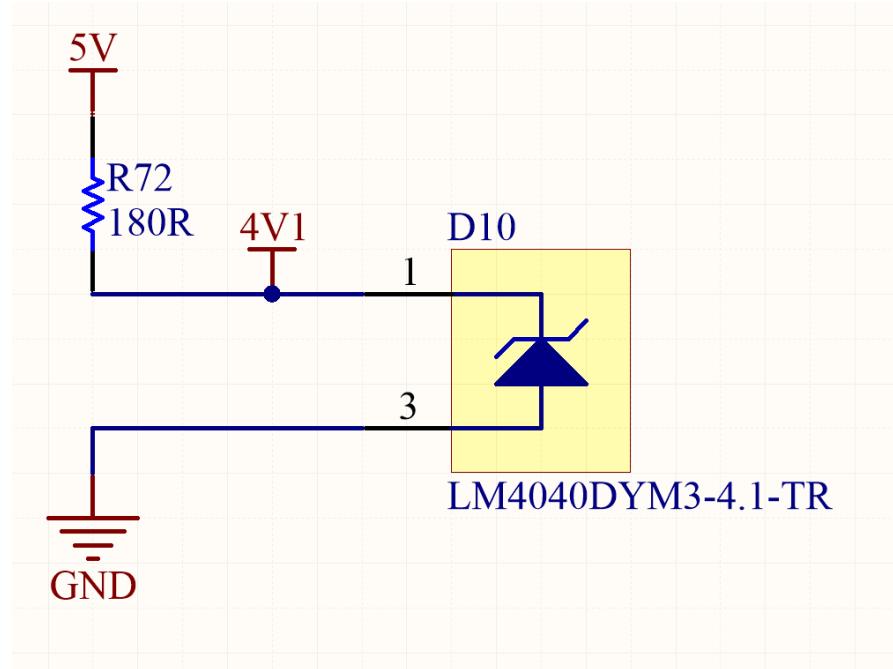


Figure 47 – 4V1 voltage reference circuit

4.12 Circuit Fabrication and Assembly

4.12.1 PCB Design

The PCB layout for this project was developed using the Altium Designer 17 Software (ALTIUM..., 2017). During the layout design some things were considered to ensure functionality:

- Instead of soldering the connectors directly to the board, empty pads for soldering wires were placed, this way connectors can be chosen later and fixed on the board housing instead of on the board.
- Protection devices such as TVS, Fuses and current limiting resistors were placed very close from the terminal pads in order to prevent cooper tracks to be damaged.
- SMT (Surface Mount Technology) was a priority during design in order to save space on the board.
- Cooper tracks width: The width of every track was chosen according to the electrical signal it is carrying.

Figures 48 and 49 shows respectively the top and the bottom side of the board during design, there are almost no cooperless areas, most of empty spaces were replaced by GND planes in order to make the board corrosion faster and to make a stronger gnd connection. Other interesting fact is the width of power supply tracks, it is easy to notice

they are much more thick than normal signal tracks. The board dimmensions are 70mm x 70mm.

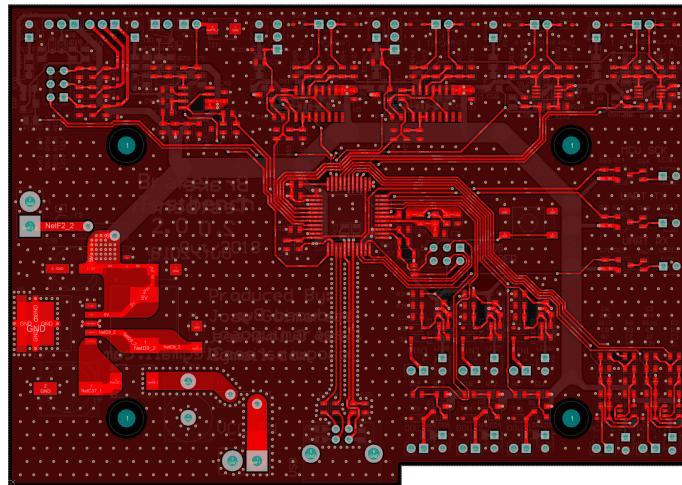


Figure 48 – PCB Top 2D View

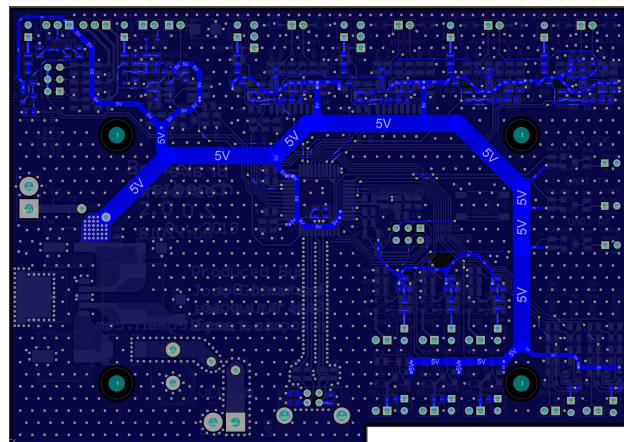


Figure 49 – PCB Bottom 2D View

4.12.2 PCB Assembly

The board was manually assembled as the following pictures show.

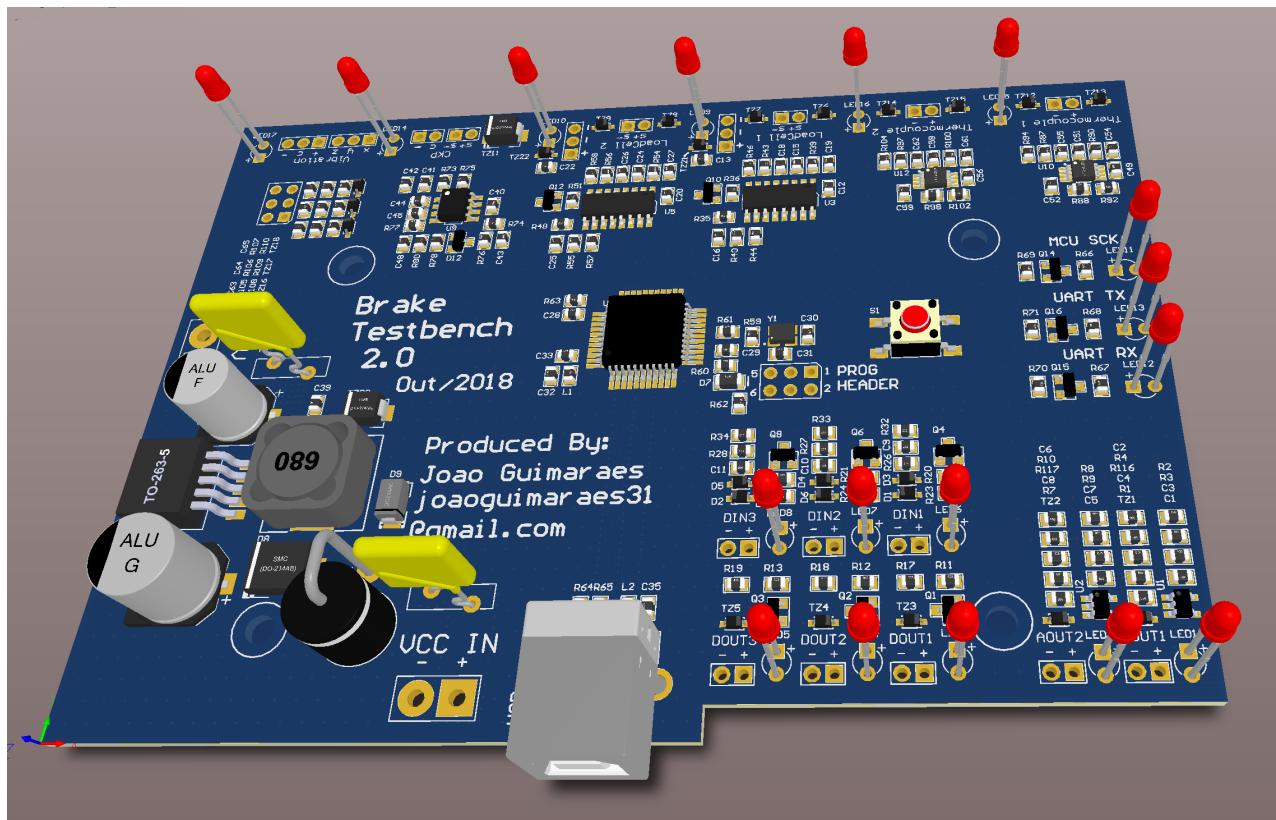


Figure 50 – PCB 3D View

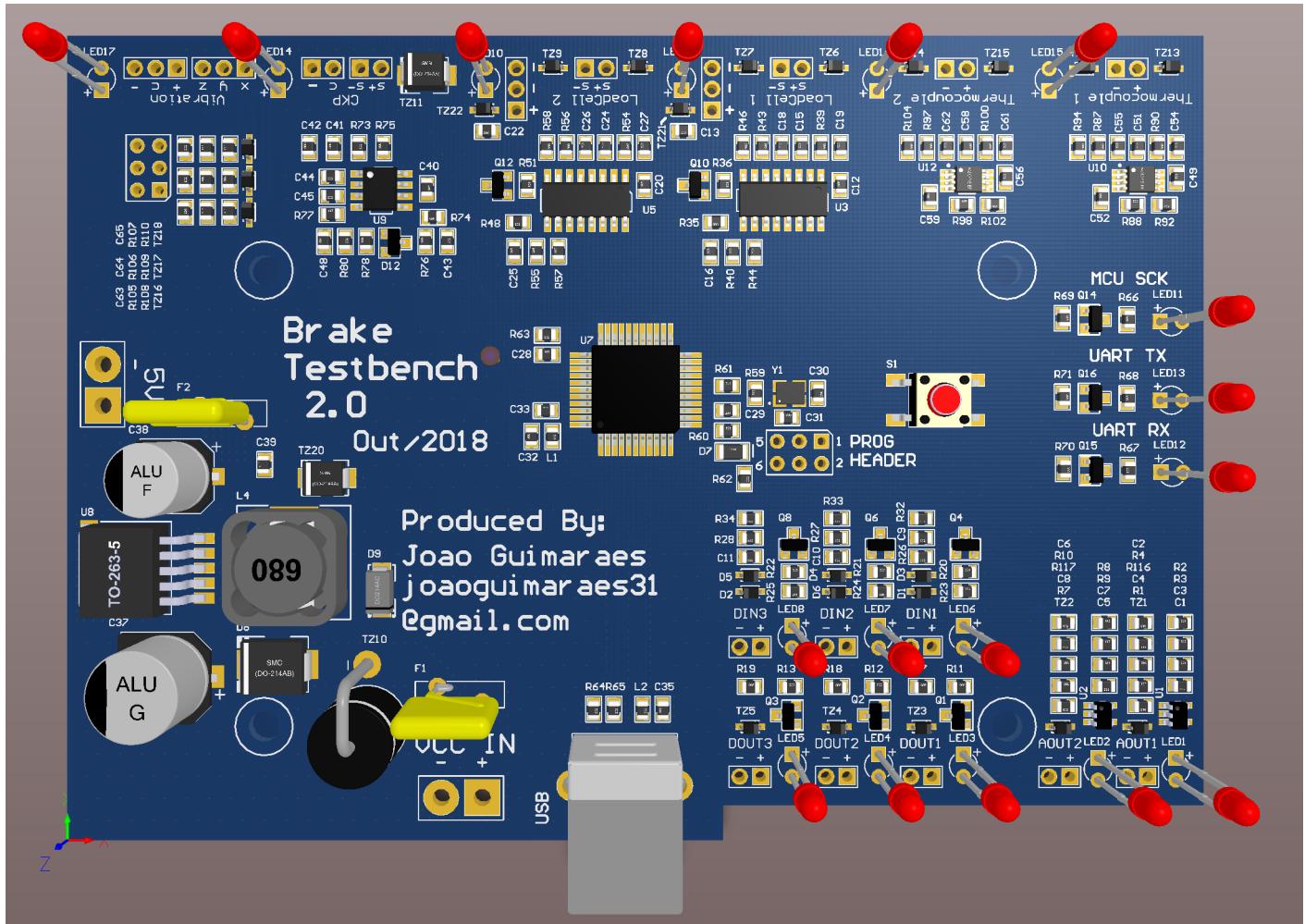


Figure 51 – PCB Top 3D View

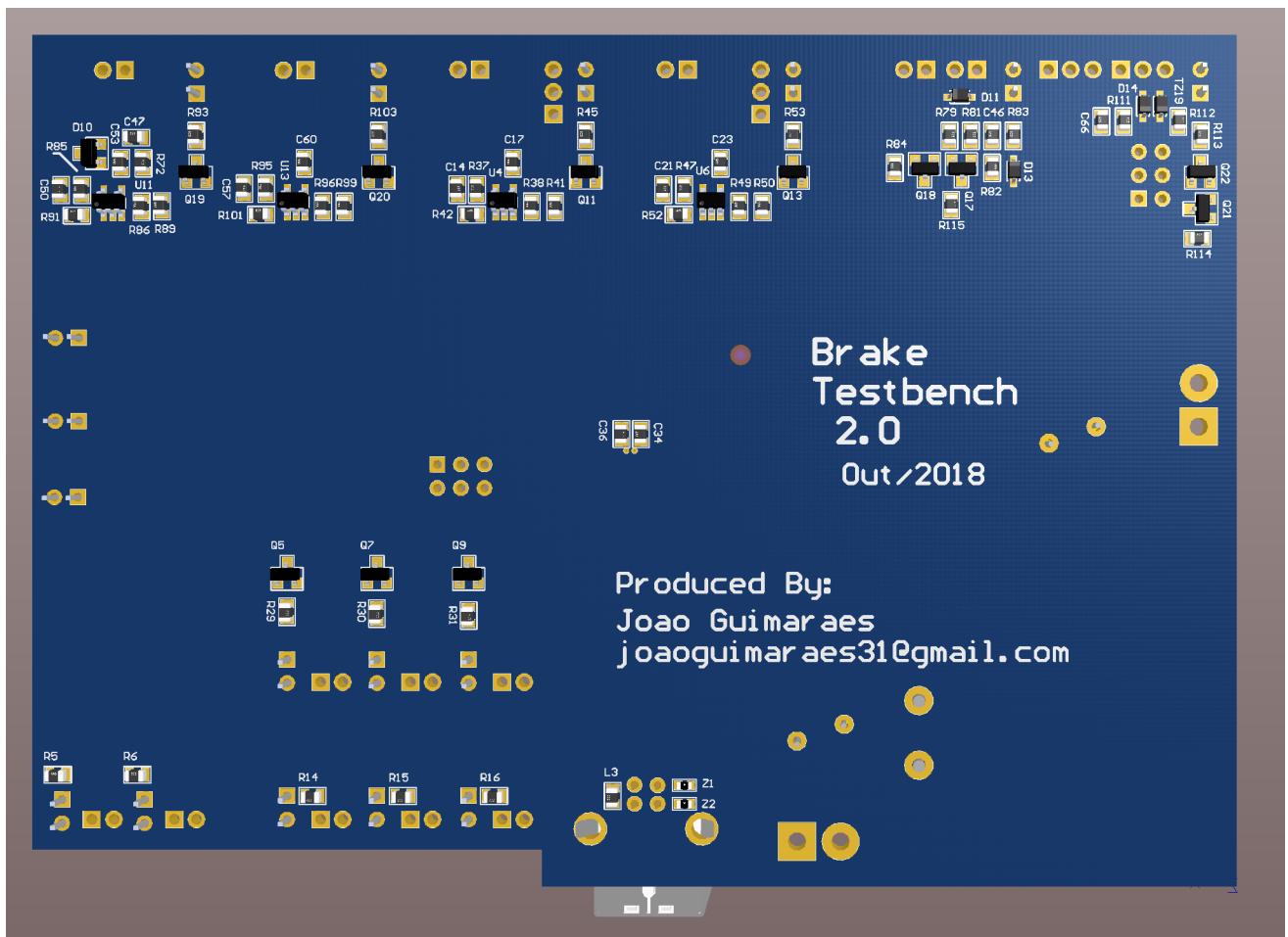


Figure 52 – PCB Bottom 3D View

5 Firmware Project

5.1 Microcontroller programming basics

A microcontroller code is composed basically of two parts:

- *Setup*: This part of the code is only executed once, as the name may indicate, it is used to set properties, configure timers, inputs and other features of the hardware.
- *Loop*: This part of the code is executed continuously or until some condition is reached.

Other important component of a microcontroller code are interruptions. It is possible to interrupt the standard execution of a program when an event happens, or as it is more common to say, when an event triggers an interruption. This event may be a timer overflow, a event triggered by an input change among other things. Interrupt routines are really useful when working with instrumentation and timers, because using interruptions it is feasible to meet real-time requirements in a project ([MUKARO; CARELSE, 1999](#)).

5.2 Code Map

The Figure [53](#) show a functional map of the microcontroller code that can be found entirely in Appendix [A.1](#).

As soon as the microcontroller is turned on it enters in the *Setup*, on this part the following things are setted:

- *Acquisition Timer*: Timer max count value is setted and a interruption service routine is appointed, this timer is used for the analog sampling/reading function.
- *LED Timer*: Same thing done for *Acquisition Timer* is done for *LED Timer*, this timer controls the blinking frequency of the MCU debug LED.
- *Serial Port*: The serial port baud rate is defined and the serial port is opened.
- *Port mapping*: The port mapping is done, *i.e.* digital I/O ports are defined as inputs (high impedance) or as outputs (low impedance) and the analog ports are setted.

After setting up, the code enters in a state in which it waits for a command that can be from three different groups. These commands are coded into ASCII characters ([ASCII, 2017](#)). Table ?? shows all proposed commands.

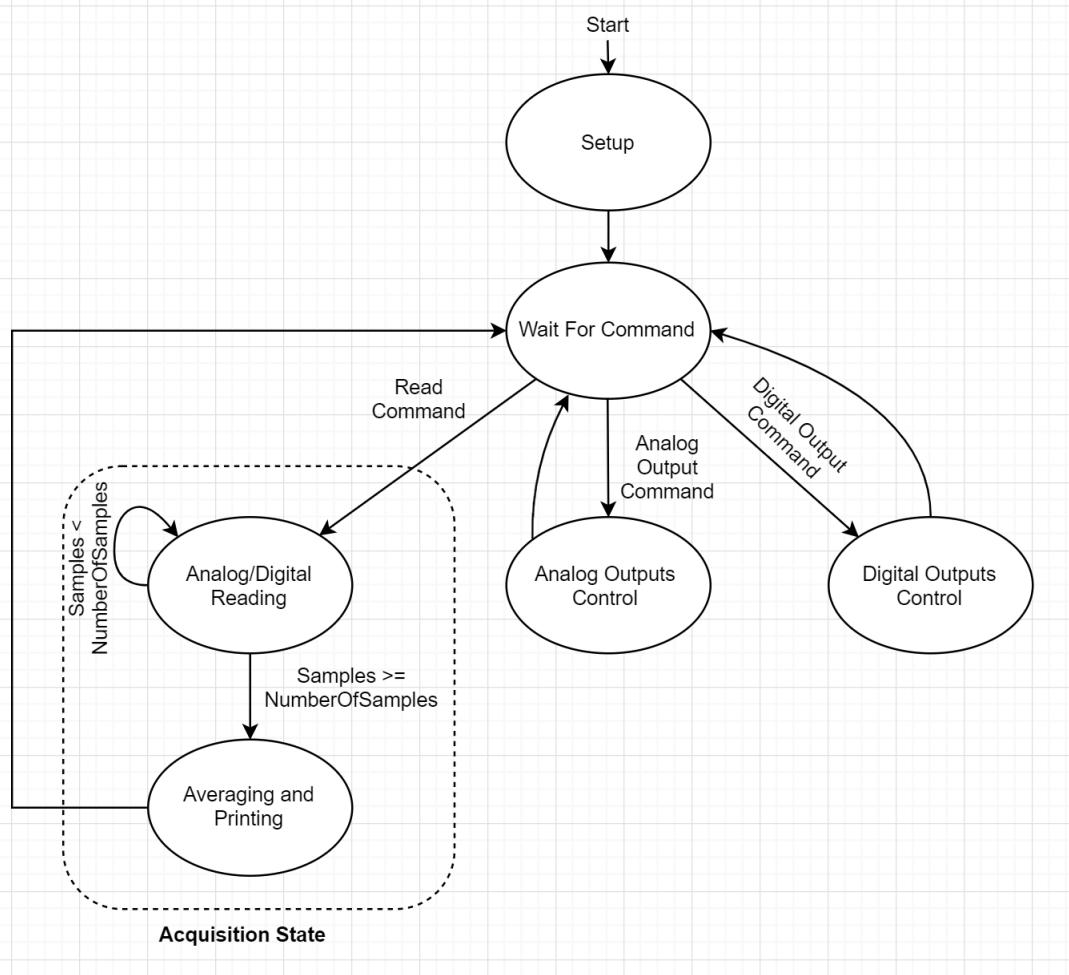


Figure 53 – Microcontroller Code Map (??)

Each group of commands will lead to a specific block described in Figure 53.

- *Digital Output Control:* As mentioned in Section 4.3.3.1, there are three digital outputs on the circuit board. Hence, there will be two commands for each digital channel (on and off) plus a command to turn all the digital outputs off.
- *Analog Output Control:* Commands from this block will set the duty cycle for the MCU PWM outputs that will be converted to analog outputs, as explained in Section 4.8.
- *Acquisition State:* There is only one command that will lead the code to this loop (*Filter Read*). When in this loop, the code will read the analog outputs for a specific number of times (*Number Of Samples*), i.e. sampling the signals. Each samples is summed up and when the desired number of samples is reached, the code divides the sum of all samples by this number, giving a averaged read. Then, this read is printed together with the digital inputs read to the upstream data port.

ASCII	Command	ASCII	Command	ASCII	Command
32	Print Version	65		98	PWM 1 - DT 92%
33	Filter Read	66		99	PWM 1 - DT 96%
34	One Read	67		100	PWM 1 - DT 100%
35	DOUT - Reset	68		101	PWM 2 - DT 0%
36	DOUT 1 - ON	69		102	PWM 2 - DT 4%
37	DOUT 1 - OFF	70		103	PWM 2 - DT 8%
38	DOUT 2 - ON	71		104	PWM 2 - DT 12%
39	DOUT 2 - OFF	72		105	PWM 2 - DT 16%
40	DOUT 3 - ON	73		106	PWM 2 - DT 20%
41	DOUT 3 - OFF	74		107	PWM 2 - DT 24%
42		75	PWM 1 - DT 0%	108	PWM 2 - DT 28%
43		76	PWM 1 - DT 4%	109	PWM 2 - DT 32%
44		77	PWM 1 - DT 8%	110	PWM 2 - DT 36%
45		78	PWM 1 - DT 12%	111	PWM 2 - DT 40%
46		79	PWM 1 - DT 16%	112	PWM 2 - DT 44%
47		80	PWM 1 - DT 20%	113	PWM 2 - DT 48%
48		81	PWM 1 - DT 24%	114	PWM 2 - DT 52%
49		82	PWM 1 - DT 28%	115	PWM 2 - DT 56%
50		83	PWM 1 - DT 32%	116	PWM 2 - DT 60%
51		84	PWM 1 - DT 36%	117	PWM 2 - DT 64%
52		85	PWM 1 - DT 40%	118	PWM 2 - DT 68%
53		86	PWM 1 - DT 44%	119	PWM 2 - DT 72%
54		87	PWM 1 - DT 48%	120	PWM 2 - DT 76%
55		88	PWM 1 - DT 52%	121	PWM 2 - DT 80%
56		89	PWM 1 - DT 56%	122	PWM 2 - DT 84%
57		90	PWM 1 - DT 60%	123	PWM 2 - DT 88%
58		91	PWM 1 - DT 64%	124	PWM 2 - DT 92%
59		92	PWM 1 - DT 68%	125	PWM 2 - DT 96%
60		93	PWM 1 - DT 72%	126	PWM 2 - DT 100%
61		94	PWM 1 - DT 76%	127	
62		95	PWM 1 - DT 80%		
63		96	PWM 1 - DT 84%		
64		97	PWM 1 - DT 88%		

Additional to this commands there are the commands *Print Version* and *One Read*, the first is a command that prints the firmware version, the latter performs one read of the analog inputs and is only used for debugging.

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Appendix

APPENDIX A – First Appendix

A.1 Microcontroller Code

```

//Libraries
#include <TimerOne.h>
#include <MsTimer2.h>
#include <math.h>

//HW DEFINITIONS
//Digital ports
///inputs
#define ADC_CON_0 2
#define ADC_CON_1 3
#define ADC_CON_2 4
#define ADC_CON_3 6
#define ADC_CON_4 7
#define ADC_CON_5 8
///outputs
#define DIG_OUT_PORT_0 9
#define DIG_OUT_PORT_1 10
#define RELAY_OUT_0 11
#define RELAY_OUT_1 12
#define ACQ_LED 13

//Analog Ports
#define PWM_OUT 5

//COMMUNICATIONS DEFINITIONS
#define START_ACQ_BYTE 21
#define STOP_ACQ_BYTE 22
#define MASTER_RESET_BYTE 23
#define NULL_DIGITAL_BYTE 96
#define MAX_DIGITAL_BYTE 111
#define NULL_SPEED_BYTE 155

```

```

#define MAX_SPEED_BYTE           255

//GENERAL DEFINITIONS
#define SET                     1
#define RESET                  0
#define ACQ_LED_BLINK_MS       250
#define SAMPLE_RATE             10
#define NUMBER_OF_SAMPLES        100

//GLOBAL VARS
static boolean acquisitionEnabled=false;
int samples=RESET;
short DIGITAL_OUT_PORTS[]={DIG_OUT_PORT_0,DIG_OUT_PORT_1,RELAY};
short DIGITAL_IN_PORTS[]={ADC_CON_0,ADC_CON_1,ADC_CON_2,ADC_CON_3};

boolean digitalInstruction={RESET,RESET,RESET,RESET};
static float sensorData[]={RESET,RESET,RESET,RESET,RESET,RESET,RESET,RESET};

//Function to write to digital ports
void digitalOutputControl(){
    for(int i=RESET; i<NUMBER_OF_DIGITAL_PORTS; i++){
        digitalWrite(DIGITAL_OUT_PORTS[i], digitalInstruction[i]);
    }
}

//Function to set all digital outputs to low
void resetDigOutputs(){
    for(int i=RESET; i<NUMBER_OF_DIGITAL_PORTS; i++){
        digitalInstruction[i]=RESET;
    }
    digitalOutputControl();
}

//Function to configure Timer 0 - PWM-OUT
void configureTimer0(){
    TCCR0B = (TCCR0B & 0b11111000) | 0x01;
}

```

```

}

//Function to configure Timer 1 - ACQUISITION
void configureTimer1(){
    Timer1.attachInterrupt(timer1_OISR);
    Timer1.initialize(SAMPLE_RATE);
    Timer1.stop();
}

//Function to configure timer 2 - LED
void configureTimer2() {
    MsTimer2::set(ACQ_LED_BLINK_MS, timer2_OISR);
}

//Timer 1 overflow interruption routine
void timer1_OISR(){
    if (samples<NUMBER_OF_SAMPLES){
        if(enableAcquisition==true){
            //Lendo dado analogico
            sensorData[0]=sensorData[0]+analogRead(A0);
            sensorData[1]=sensorData[1]+analogRead(A1);
            sensorData[2]=sensorData[2]+analogRead(A2);
            sensorData[3]=sensorData[3]+analogRead(A3);
            sensorData[4]=sensorData[4]+analogRead(A4);
            sensorData[5]=sensorData[5]+analogRead(A5);
            samples++;
        }
    }
}

//Timer 1 overflow interruption routine
void timer2_OISR(){
    if(enableAcquisition){
        digitalWrite(ACQ_LED_PIN, digitalRead(ACQ_LED_PIN));
    } else{
        digitalWrite(ACQ_LED_PIN, LOW);
    }
}

```

```
//Function to write adc results in serial port
void printResults(int * result){
    Serial.print(result[0]);
    Serial.print(",");
    Serial.print(result[1]);
    Serial.print(",");
    Serial.print(result[2]);
    Serial.print(",");
    Serial.print(result[3]);
    Serial.print(",");
    Serial.print(result[4]);
    Serial.print(",");
    Serial.print(result[5]);
    Serial.print(".");
}

void IOsetup(){
    pinMode(ACQ_LED_PIN,OUTPUT);

    for (int i=0;i<6;i++){
        if (i<4){
            pinMode(DIGITAL_OUT_PORTS[i],OUTPUT)
        }
        pinMode(DIGITAL_IN_PORTS[i],INPUT);
    }

}

void setup(){
    Serial.begin(9600);
    IOsetup();
    digitalWrite(ACQ_LED_PIN,LOW);

    configureTimer0();
    configureTimer1();
    configureTimer2();
    MsTimer2::start();
}
```

```

void loop (){
    if ( samples>=NUMBER_OF_SAMPLES){
        Timer1.stop ();
        static int resultAcq [ 6 ];

        for (int k=0;k<6;k++){
            resultAcq [ counter ] = (int) roundf (
                sensorData [ counter ] );
            if ( sensorData [ counter ]==RESET )
                break;
        }
        samples=RESET;
        Timer1.restart ();

        printResults ( resultAcq );
    }

    if ( Serial . available () ){

        char byteRead = Serial . read ();

        switch ( byteRead ){

            case START_ACQ_BYTE:{
                if ( ! acquisitionEnabled ){
                    acquisitionEnabled=true ;
                    samples=RESET;
                    Timer1.restart ();
                }
                break ;
            }

            case STOP_ACQ_BYTE:{
                acquisitionStop ();
            }
            break ;

            case MASTER_RESET_BYTE:{
                acquisitionStop ();
                resetDigOutputs ();
            }
        }
    }
}

```

```
break;

default:{  
    if (byteRead>=NULL_SPEED_BYT  
        unsigned char speed_byte = by  
        speed_byte=NULL_SPEED_BYT;  
        int speed=RESET;  
        speed = 1023*speed_byte/(MAX_  
        analogWrite(PWM_OUT,speed );  
  
    }else if ((byteRead>=NULL_DIGITAL_BYT  
        for (int i = 3; i>-1; i--) {  
            digit  
        }  
        digitalOutputControl(  
    }  
    break;  
}  
}
```