

ANN-BASED NON-INVASIVE JAUNDICE MEASUREMENT SYSTEM USING
OPTICAL TECHNIQUE

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To my beloved father and mother who have never stopped praying for me,

Ali Darji and Shaidah Rusdan

And my encouraging husband and children

Muhammad Afiq Akmal bin Kassim and children Nur Azzahra Faiha binti

Muhammad Afiq Akmal and Nur Azzahra Aisyah binti Muhammad Afiq Akmal



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ABSTRACT

Jaundice is a common condition in neonates and occurs due to an increase in the concentration of bilirubin in the body. The conventional method of detecting this condition is through an invasive procedure which extracts blood samples from the neonate's vein in order to assess the concentration value of bilirubin. However, this method might be traumatizing for neonates. The research undertaken in this work mainly focused on a non-invasive jaundice detecting system that utilized optic energy to minimize neonates' discomfort relative to the conventional method. In this system, the blue LED with electromagnetic spectrum wavelength, 470nm was used as a transmitter. The transmitter sent a spectrum of optic energy to the bilirubin, resulting in reflected optic energy which was measured using a photodiode. The measured data was then captured using an microcontroller and transferred to the computer for further classification of 'normal' or 'jaundice' status using the Artificial Neural Network. To assess the developed system, the optical energy reflection values detected in voltage units were mapped to the bilirubin concentration values. Based on that, it was decided if the condition of the neonate had been classified correctly, whether normal or jaundiced. The jaundice meter prototype developed in this study was tested among 44 patients, and the validation results showed an accuracy of 90% with JM103. This research concluded that the proposed system can be used as an alternative method of assessing bilirubin concentration among neonates.

ABSTRAK

Jaundis adalah penyakit yang biasa dihadapi oleh bayi baru lahir dan disebabkan oleh peningkatan tahap bilirubin di dalam badan. Kaedah konvensional untuk mengesan penyakit ini adalah melalui prosedur invasif yang memperoleh sampel darah dari urat bayi untuk menilai nilai tahap bilirubin yang di dalam darah bayi. Penyelidikan yang dijalankan dalam karya ini terutamanya tertumpu kepada sistem pengesanan jaundis yang tidak invasif dengan menggunakan tenaga optik untuk mengurangkan ketidakselesaan neonate berbanding dengan kaedah konvensional. LED biru dengan gelombang spektrum elektromagnetik 470nm digunakan sebagai alat pemancar cahaya. Pemancar ini menghantar spektrum tenaga optik kepada bilirubin dan menghasilkan pantulan tenaga optik yang diukur dengan fotodiod. Data yang diukur diambil menggunakan board pengawal mikro dan dipindahkan ke komputer untuk klasifikasi, sama ada normal atau berstatus jaundis menggunakan rangkaian saraf tiruan. Berdasarkan kepada sistem pengesanan ini, nilai refleksi tenaga optik yang dikesan oleh sistem dalam bentuk voltan telah dipetakan ke nilai tumpuan *bilirubin* dengan 100% telah di klasifikasi untuk menentukan keadaan bayi, sama ada normal atau jaundis. Prototaip meter jaundis yang dibangunkan dalam kajian ini telah diuji oleh 44 pesakit, dan hasil ujian menunjukkan kadar pengesanan dengan JM103 ialah 90%. Kajian ini menyimpulkan bahawa sistem yang dicadangkan boleh digunakan sebagai cara alternatif untuk menilai tahap *bilirubin* bayi.

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LIST OF SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS

%	-	Percentage
mg/dL	-	Miligram per Decimel Liter
μm	-	Micrometer
nm	-	Nanometer
ANN	-	Artificial Neural Network
LED	-	Light Emitting Diode
RGB	-	Red Green Blue
RMSE	-	Root Mean Square Error



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PERPUSTAKAAN TUNKU TUN AMINAH

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

Jaundice is the one of the most common conditions among neonates [1]. It causes yellow discoloration in the skin and eyes of neonates as a result of excess bilirubin in the blood. Under normal conditions, bilirubin is excreted in the liver to become conjugated bilirubin which is a water-soluble composition of the human body. However, neonates' livers cannot excrete bilirubin successfully as their organs are still too new and weak to conform to the external and internal environments. Jaundice commonly appears within the first 24 hours after birth [2]. Jaundice that lasts for more than 14 days is diagnosed as prolonged jaundice [2]. This diagnosis is often accompanied by and confirmed via other clinical tests. Sick neonates with high concentrations of bilirubin-displacing metabolites, and premature neonates that have impaired blood-brain barriers are prone to severe hyperbilirubinemia, which in turn can cause permanent brain damage (kernicterus). Kernicterus could lead to devastating disabilities, such as hearing impairment, athetoid cerebral palsy, and speech impairment. Some neonates with kernicterus do have normal cognitive levels, however, they lack control over their bodily abilities [3].

Generally, the normal level of bilirubin in the blood is less than 1.0 mg/dL (17 $\mu\text{mol/L}$), while levels above 2-3 mg/dL (3451 $\mu\text{mol/L}$) result in jaundice [4]. Besides, the pale appearance of the skin, discharge of dark urine, and chalky stools have also been used to help identify neonates who might have jaundice [5]. In Malaysia, 60% to 70% of healthy

neonates were found to have experienced jaundice, which normally occurs during the first week after birth [5].

In most hospitals, the conventional method of diagnosing jaundice and measuring bilirubin is invasive in nature [6]. The research undertaken in this work is mainly focused on a non-invasive jaundice monitoring system utilizing an optics-based method to minimize the discomfort of neonates, relative to the conventional method. This is due to the fact that a system that is non-invasive in nature, which offers painless, safe procedures and does not require the drawing of blood samples or urine samples for laboratory tests in the monitoring of a neonate patient's condition, is often desirable.

Thus far, biomedical researchers worldwide have suggested a number of methods to address the trade-offs in traditional clinical practices. A robust and non-invasive technique for jaundice detection has been the subject of extensive research in recent years. Over the years, several non-invasive methods have been developed to assess the extent of jaundice such as icterometer devices made of clear plastic. These devices provide inaccurate results and are often time consuming as extra time is required for comparative reasons [7]. For non-invasive optical imaging approaches, reflectance spectroscopy uses multiple polynomial regression, neural networks, and supports vector regression but it involves too much analysis and requires a bulk-sized system [8]. Moreover, the commonly used product on the market is quite expensive because it involves a wide range of optical spectrum.

Although research on non-invasive jaundice detection systems is relatively established [9], the system proposed in this study is capable of detecting the jaundice condition of the neonate through the use of an electromagnetic spectrum wavelength of 470nm by an optical method. Based on this method and an Arduino Uno based prototype system utilizing the artificial neural network (ANN) classification technique, the prototype system detects the optical energy spectrum reflected by the bilirubin as most of the spectrum of the optical energy transmitted is absorbed by the bilirubin. The prototype system with its photodiode sensor determines this reflection value as voltage value to be

mapped to the bilirubin concentration to alert the user if the bilirubin value is above normal levels. This system of detecting the bilirubin would be less painful for the neonate. The prototype can be a suitable alternative for neonate patients in rural areas; as the prototype is portable, it avoids the need for patients to undergo invasive jaundice tests in distant hospitals.

1.2 Problem Statement

To date, most hospitals are still using the conventional method to determine bilirubin concentrations [10]. These conventional clinical methods are either through the drawing of blood samples (phlebotomy technique) or via observation of plasma clotting [10]. They have several drawbacks such as unnecessary blood loss, an increased risk of inflammation of bone (osteomyelitis), and infection at the sampling site [11-13].

The blood drawing process can be painful to the patients, especially for the neonates. In newborn neonates diagnosed with jaundice, blood samples need to be consistently drawn until their bilirubin levels return to normal. This is likely to cause anxiety to parents who have to go through the ongoing process. It must also be mentioned that there are several types of non-invasive devices available in the market with the ability to determine one's bilirubin concentration. However, none of these non-invasive devices manage to replace the above mentioned conventional methods [14-16]. These devices are not reliable and lack accuracy due to differences in the patients' skin color [17-19].

Therefore, this research takes into account the use of ANN classification technique to classify the data collected by the developed non-invasive jaundice detecting device prototype in order to increase its reliability on different patients' skin color. The basis of the methodology of ANN lies its ability to self-learn as well as find patterns and relationships within large quantities of collected bilirubin data [20]. Therefore, ANN can enable the construction of prototypes that meet the task of predicting and forecasting levels of bilirubin based on wavelength from unknown skin samples. The ANN technique can extract the required medical information from raw bilirubin data as well as assign and

predict classes of the bilirubin data to its expected category, whether it normal or jaundiced. Thus, it assists in medical decision-making in combination with medical expertise.

1.3 Aim and Objectives

1.3.1 Aim

The development of a non-invasive jaundice detection system using optical sensor and ANN classification technique and aims to provide a less traumatizing ,time consuming alternative to the invasive method of bilirubin detection system used on newborns currently and improve accuracy.

1.3.2 Objectives

The objectives for this research are:

1. To develop a prototype of a non-invasive jaundice detecting system for a newborn.
2. To implement the ANN classification technique in the developed non-invasive jaundice detecting system to improve the detecting performance.
3. To validate the accuracy of developed ANN-based on the non-invasive jaundice detecting system.

1.4 Scope of Research Study

The scope of this research is as listed:

1. The prototype jaundice detecting system was developed using blue led as light source with a wavelength of 470nm.
2. The prototype was developed using an Arduino Uno board embed with ANN classification technique. Next, the ANN classification system was developed and analyzed using MATLAB ANN toolbox.

3. The clinical data collection was done by pediatric doctor, Dr Hairin Anisa Tajuddin in Johor Bahru and data was collected from the subjects' foreheads.
4. The analysis used data from 80 subjects, where 60 subjects' data were used as training data, 12 subjects' data for validation and 8 subjects' data for testing.
5. In this study, the validation of the prototype system was performed by comparing the results of the system with the results obtained from a Drager Jaundice Meter, JM103.

1.5 Significance of Research

The significance of this research is as stated below:

1. The development of a prototype jaundice detecting system which is based on optical energy and can be considered as a non-invasive jaundice system. The proposed system has been proven to be applicable to newborn babies without any harm.
2. The classification technique deployed in the prototype is based on ANN which is considered as a new approach. The proposed system can classify jaundice and non-jaundice conditions of a newborn baby based on three measurements taken.

1.6 Thesis Outline

This thesis is organized as follows. Chapter 1 discusses the use of non-invasive jaundice monitoring systems based on the optical technique. It also states the problem statement, aims, objectives and main scope of the research study.

Next, the literature review is stated in Chapter 2. Observations and research information on jaundice, bilirubin and the history of non-invasive techniques are provided to determine the flow of previous findings.

Based on the previous findings, the suitable circuit of the jaundice prototype meter was constructed with a processing algorithm. The latter deployed an ANN classification technique to increase its accuracy in detecting the test sample, as elaborated in Chapter 3.

Once the circuit was ready to be used, experiments were conducted among the research subjects and the results obtained were compared with invasive test results. The results are discussed in Chapter 4.

Lastly, in Chapter 5, all the information and data collection are analyzed. These could provide beneficial findings to the medical field. This chapter also includes some recommendations for the future research in this field.



CHAPTER 2

2.1 Overview

This chapter provides an overview of literature review related to this research. Section 2.2 and Section 2.3 discuss the human skin structure with the component underneath the skin. A review of previous works involving the non-invasive detection of bilirubin is elaborated in Section 2.4, followed by the ANN data classification in Section 2.5. In Section 2.6, the previous works on ANN jaundice detection applications are explored thoroughly.

2.2 Human Skin Properties

Human skin is an inhomogeneous structure divided into three main layers, namely, epidermis, dermis, and subcutaneous tissue [21]. Figure 2.1 shows the cross sectional image of human skin layer. The epidermis layer is the outer part and the thinner layer that covers the dermis layer. The epidermis consists of two further layers: living cells and non-living cells. It is also known as the blood free layer; therefore, it receives the nutrients from the dermis layer. The dermis is known as the blood-rich layer and lies sheltered under the epidermis. The connective tissues are present in this layer, where it consists of elastic fibers and collagen fibers. Besides, numerous sensory nerves are also present in this layer. Meanwhile, subcutaneous tissues are the thickest among these three tissues; it contains fats to absorb nutrients and provide energy. These three layers have different thicknesses depending on the individual.

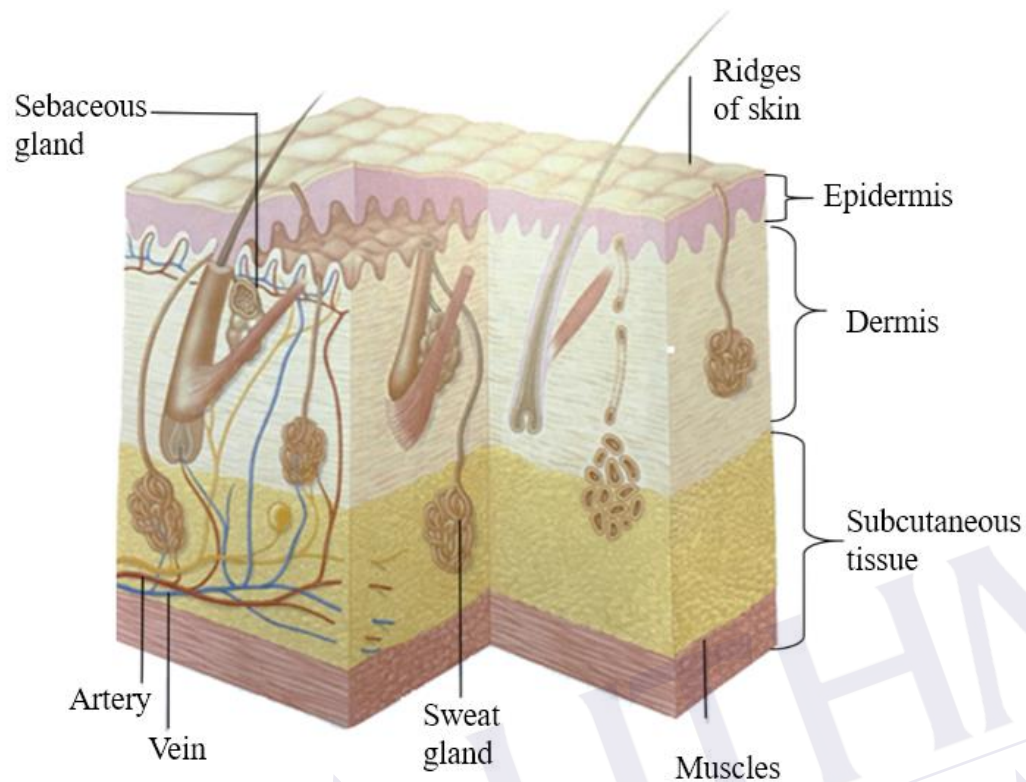


Figure 2.1: The human skin structure [21]

The knowledge of skin structure and properties is important in understanding the operating principle of optical energy reflection. The optical properties in each particular layer are different. Each layer has a different thickness and structure. The skin modeling previously used in Monte Carlo simulation was divided into seven layers as presented by Meglinski and Matcher [22]. In epidermis layer, it was divided into two layers, namely, stratum corneum and living epidermis, whereas the dermis layer was divided into four layers: papillary dermis, upper blood net dermis, reticular dermis and deep blood net dermis. The deepest layer consists of subcutaneous tissues. In studies on light penetration into the skin, these seven layers are considered. The thickness of each skin layer is presented in Table 2.1.

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APPENDIX G

LIST OF PUBLICATIOAN AND AWARD

1. Nurashlida Ali, Siti Zarina Mohd Muji and Zurina Zainal Abidin, “ A Review of Non-Invasive Jaundice Detection Using Optical Technique in Neonates” , *International Journal of Advancements in Electronics and Electrical Engineering (IJAEEE)*, 2014 , 3(4) , pp 26-28 .
2. N.Ali, S.Z.M.Muji, A Joret, R. Amirulah, N.Podari and N.F.Dol Risep , “Optical Technique for Jaundice Detection”, *ARNP Journal of Engineering and Applied Sciences*, 2015 , 10(20) , pp 9929-9933.
3. Siti Zarina Mohd Muji, Mohd Fauzi Zakaria and Nurashlida Ali, Book Chapter for Arduino and Proteous, *Electrical & Electronic Engineering : Theory and Application Series 1: Embedded System, Mechatronic and Image Processing*, 2015, Penerbit UTHM
4. Nurashlida Ali and Siti Zarina Mohd Muji, Non-Invasive Jaundice Monitoring System Using Optical Technique ,*National Innovation and Invention Competition Through Exihibition (iCompex '15)* , Jitra , Politeknik Sultan Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah(POLIMAS),(Gold).
5. Siti Zarina Mohd Muji, Nurashlida Ali, Nurul Afiqah Izahar, Noran Azizan Cholan, Mohd Helmy Abdul Wahab, Azmi Sidek and Suhaila Sari, Non-Invasive Jaundice Meter, *Innovative Research, Invention & Application EXPO 2017 (I-RIA 2017)* , Sintok, Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM), (Bronze).

6. P.M Dr Siti Zarina Mohd Muji, Prof. Dr Ruzairi Abdul Rahim, Dr Marlia Morsin, Dr Hairin Anisa Tajuddin, Dr Farhanani Mahmud, Dr Nor Shahida Mohd Shah, Azmi Sidek, Mohd Helmy Abdul Wahab, Nurashlida Ali, NN Jaundice Meter, *The International Conference and Exhibition on Inventions by Insitutions of Higher Learning 2017(PECIPTA '17)*, Kuala Terengganu, Stadium Tertutup Kompleks Sukan Negeri Gong Badak Kuala Nerus, (Gold).
7. P.M Dr Siti Zarina Mohd Muji, Nurashlida Ali, Hairin Anisa Tajuddin, Mohd Helmy Abdul Wahab, Ariffuddin Joret, Marlia Morsin, Azmi Sidek, Nor Shahida Mohd Shah, Nur Anida Jumadi, Ruzairi Abdul Rahim, Abdul Rahman Bahasa, Jaundice Optical Device, *International Conferences and Exposition on Inventions by Institutions of Higher Learning 2019 (PECIPTA '19)*, Batu Pahat, Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia (UTHM), (Silver).



PTTA UTHM
PERPUSTAKAAN TUNKU TUN AMINAH

APPENDIX H

VITA

The author was born in April 23, 1989, in Batu Pahat, Johor, Malaysia. She went to Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Canossion Convent, Kluang, Johor, Malaysia for her secondary school. She pursued her degree at the Universiti Kuala Lumpur British Malaysian Institute (BMI), and graduated with the B.Eng. Technology (Hons) in Medical Electronics in 2013. Upon graduation, she worked in the procurement department at Kluang, Johor. She continued her studies in Masters of Electric and Electronic at Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia (UTHM). This is her thesis as supported by PM Dr Siti Zarina Mohd Muji and Dr Ariffuddin Joret as lecturers who have never given up on her. Thank you for all doa' for her to finish her thesis.