MODELING AND SIMULATION OF NANOSENSOR ARRAYS FOR AUTOMATED DISEASE DETECTION AND DRUG DELIVERY UNIT

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ABSTRACT

In this paper, the mathematical models required to describe the functionality of nanodevices have been reviewed. Based on these mathematical models sensor equivalent circuits have been developed. An experimental setup is developed to analyze the characteristics of IS Field Effect Transistor (ISFET), nanowire and nanosphere devices. The impact of geometrical properties on device performance is estimated based on the experimental setup. Settling time and surface analyte concentration graphs obtained using the experimental setup is used in designing a nanobio sensor for disease detection. Based on the test results, a mathematical model has been developed in Matlab to model nanodevices. Three different iterations of sensor models are carried out based on the results obtained curve fitting techniques are adopted to generalize the developed sensor model using Savitzky-Golay Filter (SG Filter). The sensors modeled can be used for automated drug detection and delivery unit. In this paper it is proposed to develop a methodology for integrating biosensor models from nanohub.org and Matlab. The model for nanowire based sensor may be developed using basic principles and can be characterized using experimental setup. Sensor array model consisting of 64 nanowires is proposed to develop to detect prostate cancer. A control unit that triggers the sensor array may be developed and can be used in measuring the concentration of analyte solution. The location of nanowire sensors on the 8 x 8 matrix can be distributed using Gaussian distribution function. A new sensor array consisting of planar sensor and nanowire sensor may be developed to increase the sensitivity of the system in detecting prostate cancer. Expert system based on feed forward neural network architecture may be designed and modeled for ovarian cancer classification. A two layered network consisting of sigmoid transfer function and purelin function may be designed. Optimum weights for the layers are to be identified using Back propagation Levenberg-Marquardt (LM) algorithm. Linear Discriminant Analysis (LDA) and Principle Component Analysis (PCA) techniques are to be incorporated into the expert system that classifies the cancer cells based on significant features extracted. A Proportional-Integral-Derivative (PID) controller may be modeled to control the diffusion pump and monitoring of drug diffusion. The output of expert system should drive the PID control for drug diffusion. Field Programmable Gate Array (FPGA) implementation of neural network architecture and PID controller may be designed and developed for optimizing area, speed and power performances. The modules can be integrated to form the automated disease detection and drug delivery unit. The developed sensor model for nanowires match the sensor models available from standard resources with less than 2% deviation. Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) antibody and Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) as biomarkers for detection of prostate cancer based on sensor array is built. The sensor array model achieves 91% efficiency and is superior compared with existing design. The expert system developed correctly classifies ovarian cancer 98% times, with only 2% error. The decision produced by the expert system drives PID controller to activate the diffusion pump, the PID controller has overshoot error of less than 12% with settling time less than 10ms. FPGA implementation of expert system operates at maximum frequency of 293 MHz occupies less than 148
slices when targeted on Virtex 4 FPGA. For real time disease detection and diagnosis, the developed system can be incorporated into a biochip.

**KEY WORDS:** Nanobio Sensors; Disease Detection; Sensor Modelling; Nanowire; PSA

**I. INTRODUCTION**

Exhaustive studies and developments in the field of nanotechnology have been carried out and different nanomaterials have been utilized to detect cancer at early stages [Ludwig, j. *et al* (2005)]. Nanomaterials have unique physical, optical and electrical properties that have proven to be useful in sensing. Quantum dots, gold nanoparticles, magnetic nanoparticles, carbon nanotubes, gold nanowires and many other materials have been developed over the years. Nanotechnology has been developing rapidly during the past few years and with this, properties of nanomaterials are being extensively studied and many attempts are made to fabricate appropriate nanomaterials [Catalona, w. (1996), Ushaa eswaran, *et al* (2006)]. Due to their unique optical, magnetic, mechanical, chemical and physical properties that are not shown at the bulk scale, nanomaterials have been used for more sensitive and precise disease detection. For developing a system to detect disease, software modeling is one of the major requirements. Matlab environment is predominantly used for developing software reference models. Various sensor models (electrical and mechanical) are already inbuilt in Matlab and are readily available for development of automotive and mechanical system [Ushaa eswaran *et al* (2009), (2004), Beckett, m. *et al* (1995)]. There are a large number of nanobio sensors that are being used for medical applications in disease detection. There is a need for a mathematical model of nanobio sensor for developing a software reference model in disease detection using Matlab. Thus in this work, we develop a mathematical model for nanowire, that is used for cancer detection. Section II discusses the geometrical and mathematical models of nanowires. Section III discusses the diffusion capture model that is used for modeling nanosensor, section IV presents the experimental setup for simulation of nanowire sensors and design of biosensors. Section V presents the Matlab models developed based on the simulation results obtained and Savitzky-Golay Filter technique to improve the accuracy of sensor models developed.

**II. DNA SENSORS**

Human genomes have billions of DNA base spheres to sense the DNA sequence. Arrays of sensors are used for genome sensing. Nanobio sensor consists of X-Y array of elements. These elements further consist of pixels called as electronic components [Ludwig, j.(2005)]. Each component is a sensor that can be a nanowire transistor, carbon nanotube, planar transistor etc. Each element has a unique and known DNA sequence (genome) bound to the sensor. As in figure 1, Q1 is one such sequence consisting of ACGAT [Henderson, c. *et al* (1998), Dandachi, n. *et al* (2002) Molina, r. *et al* (2008)] molecule arranged in an order. Each location in the X-Y array has a known sequence attached to it. Figure 1 shows the array of sensors, and the corresponding DNA sequence attached to the sensor.

![Figure 1 Nanosensor array and DNA sensor [Landman, j. *et al* (1998)]](image)

When an unknown DNA sequence is introduced into the XY array, the unknown sequence finds its conjugate in the XY array and binds with the DNA sequence present on the array as shown in Figure 2. Since the DNA sequence at every location along the XY array is known, the binding of unknown
A sequence with known DNA sequence modulates the current in the corresponding element in the XY array.

![Figure 2 DNA strand and sensor response time](image)

Thus by detecting the amount of current change, the corresponding concentration of unknown DNA sequence in a given electrolyte is detected. This is the basic principle of detection in nanobio sensor. Figure 2 shows the change in conduction of sensors due to detection of unknown sequence. There are different kinds of nanobio sensors such as Chem FET, IsFET, Nanowire, Nanosphere, Nanodots and Carbon Nano Tube [CNT]. Sensitivity is one of the major parameter that needs to be considered to select an appropriate sensor for drug delivery. Sensors consist of source and drain regions placed above a gate. Gate consists of receptors that capture the unknown molecules that diffuse across the target molecules. Figure 3 shows the two basic kinds of sensor (ISFET and Nanosensor).

![Figure 3 ISFET and Nanosensor](image)

Current flows between source and drain, and the molecules that are bound to the sensor determine the source-drain current. The sensitivity of such sensor is found to be between molar and few micro molar ($10^{-6}$M) [Landman, j. et al (1998)]. This is a very small value. It is therefore essential that sensors should have higher sensitivity for diseases detection. To improve sensitivity of a sensor for bio applications, CNT where introduced. The sensitivity of CNT sensors compared with nanosensor was increased by several orders of magnitude (femto molar) for biomedical applications. In order to further improve sensitivity, nanodots can also be used. It is found in the available literature that the cylindrical or nanowire sensors are much better than planar sensor. The reason for this lies in the geometry of electrostatics. In a nanowire, the unknown molecules surround the gate consisting of receptor molecules as compared to a planar transistor where the receptor molecules are on top of the plane. Thus there is a higher sensitivity in nanowire. The currents in nanowires are in tens of nanometer dimension, which is very large. The cross section of nanowire sensor is shown in figure 4. The nanowire is immersed in water or pH containing material and the DNA molecules are swimming around in the electrolyte.
In order to understand or model sensor for use in drug delivery applications, it is essential to analyze
the working principle of nanowire sensor and develop mathematical relationships that can be used in
sensor design. A sensor consisting of numerous receptors is shown in figure 4. The unknown
molecules (target) are captured by the receptors as they diffuse along the surface of receptors, only
when the unknown molecule has a conjugate sequence compared to the receptor sequence. It is
essential to establish the relationship between number of molecules detected, current, time involved in
detection and concentration of molecules.

III. DIFFUSION–CAPTURE MODEL [LANDMAN, J. ET AL (1998)]:

There are two equations that explain the diffusion-capture activity in a nanobio sensor. The capture
equation is as shown in (1):

$$\frac{dN}{dt} = k_F (N_0 - N) \rho_s - k_R N$$  \[1\]

$N$ is the number of conjugated molecule, $N_0$ is the initial number of molecules (receptors, blue y
shaped). The number of conjugated is proportional to number of unconjugated molecules and is
determined by $(N_0-N)$, where $k_F$ is reaction constant. There are possibilities of molecules that are
bound to deconjugate due to chemical reaction. The second term $k_R N$ represents the number of
deconjugated molecules ($k_R$ is reverse reaction constant). Deconjugation is very weak in nanobio
sensors, and hence the diffusion equation can be approximated to the equation as shown in (2):

$$\frac{dN}{dt} \approx k_F N_0 \rho_s$$  \[2\]

$\rho_s$ is the surface concentration of the captured molecules. As the molecules present in the electrolyte
diffuse across the receptors, the diffusion equation is given in (3)

$$\frac{d\rho}{dt} = D \nabla^2 \rho$$  \[3\]

$D$ is the diffusion coefficient; $\rho$ is the concentration of molecules. This equation defines that the
molecules have to diffuse around the sensor surface before they could be captured. It is essential to
establish an analytical solution for the above two equations in order to understand the sensitivity of
al (2006)] needs to be solved to understand the behaviour of the sensor. The solution for number of
molecules captured and is given in (4). This work is published in the Imanager journal [Ushaa. S.M.
et al (2010)].

$$N(t) = \rho_0 \left[ \frac{A}{C_0} + \left( \frac{1}{k_F N_0} \right) \right]^{-\frac{1}{2}}$$  \[4\]

The equation (4) is used to compute the number of molecules that have been captured for a certain
period of time. The capacitance $C_0$ is chosen based on different kind of sensor being used. Thus it can
be seen that the dimensionality of sensor influences the number of molecules captured, thereby affecting the sensitivity of the sensor. The above analysis is carried out assuming steady state analysis, i.e. the concentration of diffusion is constant within the outer boundary. In order to model the sensor behaviour in transient state, figure 5 shows a sensor at the centre, and the analyte with unknown molecules (blue). The sensor captures the molecules closer to it and as the distance increases the analyte concentration increases, and the molecules closer to the sensor are being captured (white).

![Figure 5 Diffusion changes](image)

As the boundary of diffusion changes and is time dependent, the factor $W$ is time dependent. The boundary surface increases with time as in figure 6.

![Figure 6 Variable diffusion boundaries](image)

Thus the diffusion concentration is varying with time and the modified equations for $N(t)$ is given in equation (5).

$$C_i = \frac{D}{\sqrt{2\pi D t}} \log \left( \frac{4D_s + a_i}{a_i} \right)$$

$$N(t) = \frac{4\pi D}{a_i^3 \left( \sqrt{6D_s + a_i} \right)^3}$$

For different sensors as shown in figure 7, the factor $W$ changes with the geometry.

![Figure 7 Different types of sensors](image)

Based on the modified equation $N(t)$ given in equation (6), mathematical models for nanowire sensor is developed. The value of $C_i$ for a transient behaviour is given in equation (5).

$$N(t) = \rho \left[ \frac{a}{C_i} + \frac{1}{k_i N_s} \right]^{-3}$$

Choosing appropriate values for $C_i$, the geometries of the sensor, three different sensors can be modelled. For different sensors as shown in figure 7, the factor $W$ changes with the geometry.
IV. EXPERIMENTAL SETUP AND SENSOR CHARACTERIZATION

Based on the mathematical models discussed, biosensor tool available in Nanohub.org is used for simulation of ISFET, nanowire and nanosphere. For a biosensor the most important parameters that are required are:

- Size of micro channel: 5mm x 0.5mm x 50um
- Flow rate of fluid in the channel: 0.15ml/h
- Concentration of antigens in fluid: $2 \cdot 10^{-15} \cdot 6 \cdot 10^{23} \approx 10^9$
- Number of antigens through channel per hour: $1.5 \times 10^4 \times 10^5 \sim 42 \text{ per second}$
- Total area occupied by Antibodies: $5\text{mmx0.5mm} \sim 25 \times 10^{-7} \text{m}^2$
- Target receptor conjugation
- Type of antigen: DNA
- Ratio between total occupied area and Si NW: $2 \times 10^9$
- Mean time between one antigen reacts with one antibody on the Si NW: $<3 \text{ minutes}$

Based on the above parameters, the parameters in the biosensor lab is developed and the models available in the sensor lab are simulated. Figure 8 shows the experimental setup using the biosensors for simulating three different sensors.

V. CHARACTERISTICS OF SILICON NANOWIRE

A silicon nanowire is developed with the following parameters, the VI characteristics of the nanowire is simulated using the biosensor tool. Sensor parameters: Diameter of silicon nanowire: 10nm, Oxide thickness: 5nm, Gate length: 50nm, Channel doping: $1 \times 10^{21} / \text{cm}^3$. Analyte concentration parameter is varied from 0.1 to 1 nmol/L, corresponding changes drain current in the nanowire sensor is determined. Figure 9 shows the graph of concentration vs. device current characteristics for nanowire sensors.

Table 1 shows the equivalents in terms of voltage samples for various sets of iterations carried out. The results have been obtained using Matlab simulations.
Figure 10 shows the graphical display of three different iterations of the sensor model. From the graphs shows that the variation in sensor currents is nonlinear and is also consists of noise.

A work on sensor array design for disease detection and classification is carried out and published in Inderscience Journal [Ushaa. S.M, et al (2011)].

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<th>Concentration in nmol/L</th>
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4.2. Mathematical models for nanowire sensor:

From the results obtained using biosensor lab, a Matlab model is developed for silicon nanowire. The Matlab model is based on the results obtained in Table 1. The experimental setup developed using biosensors lab is used to identify the equivalent current values that flow in the drain of nanowire sensor with changes in analyte concentration. During the experimental setup, 135 different values of analyte concentration are set to identify the variations in drain current. The analyte concentration is varied from 0.1 to 0.5 mmol/L, corresponding drain currents are identified and recorded. The Matlab model is a look up table of these values obtained in the biosensor lab. Figure 10 shows the top level diagram of Matlab model for nanowire sensor.

In order to generalize the sensor models for all possible input conditions, it is required to extend the sensor model for generic inputs. In this work, curve fitting techniques have been adopted to improve the performance characteristics of sensor models. Next section discusses the curve fitting techniques for sensor model development.

VI. CURVE FITTING TECHNIQUES

There are four different steps in curve fitting, they are 1> Data Transformation, 2> Smoothing and filtering 3> Curve Fitting and 4> Residual Analysis.

5.1 Data transformations

Changing variables through data transformations may lead to a simplified relationship between the transformed predictor variable and the transformed response. As a result, model descriptions and predictions may be simplified. Common transformations include the logarithm ln(y), and power functions such as $y^{1/2}$, $y^{-1}$. Using these transformations, one can linearize a nonlinear model, contract response data that spans one or more orders of magnitude, or simplify a model so that it involves fewer coefficients. In this work, as the simulation results obtained are not nonlinear throughout the span of input samples, data transformation techniques are not adopted.

5.1.1 Smoothing and filtering
There are four different filtering types they are: Moving average filter, Savitzky-Golay Filtering, Local Regression Smoothing and Smoothing Splines. Moving average filter smooths data by replacing each data point with the average of the neighboring data points defined within the span. This process is equivalent to lowpass filtering with the response of the smoothing given by the difference equation

\[ y_s(i) = \frac{1}{2N+1} (y(i+N) + y(i+N-1) + \ldots + y(i-N)) \]  

(7)

where \( y_s(i) \) is the smoothed value for the ith data point, \( N \) is the number of neighboring data points on either side of \( y_s(i) \), and \( 2N+1 \) is the span. Limitations of moving average filter are:

- The span must be odd.
- The data point to be smoothed must be at the center of the span.
- The span is adjusted for data points that cannot accommodate the specified number of neighbors on either side.
- The end points are not smoothed because a span cannot be defined.

Savitzky-Golay filtering can be thought of as a generalized moving average. You derive the filter coefficients by performing an unweighted linear least-squares fit using a polynomial of a given degree. For this reason, a Savitzky-Golay filter is also called a digital smoothing polynomial filter or a least-squares smoothing filter. Note that a higher degree polynomial makes it possible to achieve a high level of smoothing without attenuation of data features. The Savitzky-Golay filtering method is often used with frequency data or with spectroscopic (peak) data. For frequency data, the method is effective at preserving the high-frequency components of the signal. For spectroscopic data, the method is effective at preserving higher moments of the peak such as the line width. By comparison, the moving average filter tends to filter out a significant portion of the signal's high-frequency content, and it can only preserve the lower moments of a peak such as the centroid. However, Savitzky-Golay filtering can be less successful than a moving average filter at rejecting noise. Figure 11 shows the filter sensor current samples using Savitzky-Golay filter. From the results shown, it is found that the noise in the sensor currents are filtered and hence improves the performance of the sensor models.

![Figure 11 Savitzky-Golay Filtering of Sensor Currents](image)

Curve fitting requires a parametric model that relates the response data to the predictor data with one or more coefficients. The result of the fitting process is an estimate of the model coefficients. To obtain the coefficient estimates, the least-squares method minimizes the summed square of residuals. The residual for the ith data point \( r_i \) is defined as the difference between the observed response value \( y_i \) and the fitted response value \( y_i^* \), and is identified as the error associated with the data and is given by:
The summed square of residuals is given by

$$S = \sum_{i=1}^{n} r_i^2 = \sum_{i=1}^{n} (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2$$

(9)

where $n$ is the number of data points included in the fit and $S$ is the sum of squares error estimate. The supported types of least-squares fitting include:

- Linear least squares
- Weighted linear least squares
- Robust least squares
- Nonlinear least squares

A linear model is defined as an equation that is linear in the coefficients. For example, polynomials are linear but Gaussians are not. To illustrate the linear least-squares fitting process, suppose you have $n$ data points that can be modeled by a first-degree polynomial.

$$y = p_1 x + p_2$$

(10)

To solve this equation for the unknown coefficients $p_1$ and $p_2$, you write $S$ as a system of $n$ simultaneous linear equations in two unknowns. If $n$ is greater than the number of unknowns, then the system of equations is over determined.

$$S = \sum_{i=1}^{n} (y_i - (p_1 x_i + p_2))^2$$

(11)

Because the least-squares fitting process minimizes the summed square of the residuals, the coefficients are determined by differentiating $S$ with respect to each parameter, and setting the result equal to zero.

$$\frac{\partial S}{\partial p_1} = -2 \sum_{i=1}^{n} x_i (y_i - (p_1 x_i + p_2)) = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial S}{\partial p_2} = -2 \sum_{i=1}^{n} (y_i - (p_1 x_i + p_2)) = 0$$

(12)

The estimates of the true parameters are usually represented by $b$. Substituting $b_1$ and $b_2$ for $p_1$ and $p_2$, the previous equations become

$$\sum x_i (y_i - (b_1 x_i + b_2)) = 0$$

$$\sum (y_i - (b_1 x_i + b_2)) = 0$$

(13)

where the summations run from $i=1$ to $n$. The normal equations are defined as

$$b_1 \sum x_i^2 + b_2 \sum x_i = \sum x_i y_i$$

$$b_1 \sum x_i + n b_2 = \sum y_i$$

(14)

Solving for $b_1$...
Solving for \( b_2 \) using the \( b_1 \) value

\[
b_2 = \frac{1}{n} (\sum y_i - b_1 \sum x_i)
\]  

As you can see, estimating the coefficients \( p_1 \) and \( p_2 \) requires only a few simple calculations.

Extending this example to a higher degree polynomial is straightforward although a bit tedious. All that is required is an additional normal equation for each linear term added to the model.

In matrix form, linear models are given by the formula

\[
y = X\beta + \epsilon
\]  

where

- \( y \) is an \( n \)-by-1 vector of responses.
- \( \beta \) is a \( m \)-by-1 vector of coefficients.
- \( X \) is the \( n \)-by-\( m \) design matrix for the model.
- \( \epsilon \) is an \( n \)-by-1 vector of errors.

Based on the discussions carried out in this section, least squares technique is adopted for interpolation and curve fitting of sensor model results. Sensor data captured using nanohub simulation is imported into Matlab, SG filtering is adopted to smoothen the noise from the sensor model, and is interpolated using least square curve fitting technique. Thus in this work, least square method based curve fitting technique is adopted. Based on the LS method, the residual for the \( i \)th data point \( r_i \) is defined as the difference between the observed response value \( y_i \) and the fitted response value, and is identified as the error associated with the data.

\[
r_i = y_i - \hat{y}_i
\]  

From a given set of data points, the residual is computed as in equation (18), based on the residuals obtained the summed square of residuals is computed as in equation (19)

\[
S = \sum_{i=1}^{n} r_i^2 = \sum_{i=1}^{n} (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2
\]  

Knowing the residual of a curve or set of data points, an equation as given in (20), expresses the relationship between input samples \( x \) and output \( y \).

\[
y = p_1 x + p_2
\]  

Finally the curve fitted data points are obtained as in equation [21]

\[
S = \sum_{i=1}^{n} (y_i - (p_1 x_i + p_2))^2
\]  

[21]

\( x \) is the concentration of analyte solution and \( S \) is the drain current. In this work, the three iterations are expressed in terms of mathematical equations using curve fitting technique i.e \( S_1, S_2 \) and \( S_3 \) are computed and finally the average of three is considered for modelling of sensor as given in equation (22)

\[
S_{\text{final}} = \frac{(S_1 + S_2 + S_3)}{3}
\]  

\[
S_1 = \text{sum}((y_i) - ((p_1 x_i + p_2))^2
\]

\[
S_2 = \text{sum}((y_i) - ((p_1 x_i^2 + p_2))^2
\]

\[
S_3 = \text{sum}((y_i) - ((p_1 x_i^3 + p_2))^2
\]

\[
S_{\text{final}} = \frac{(S_1 + S_2 + S_3)}{3}
\]
The response of nanowire sensor computed based on the model developed is used in detection of various diseases and is used in design of automated drug delivery unit. In order to validate the interpolated sensor model, a new iteration (iteration 4), is considered with change in input parameters as presented in figure 8. The sensor model parameters are varied and a new experiment is conducted to measure the variation in sensor current for different sets of molecular concentration. In figure 12, the graph (blue) is the variation in sensor currents for variation in molecular concentration. Graph (green) is the sensor current obtained based on curve fitting techniques. From the comparison of these two graphs, it is found that the variation in the actual model and the curve fitted model are similar, but there is a scaling difference. This is due to amplification factor in the mathematical equation. In order to improve the linearity between actual models and the mathematical model, SG filtering is adopted on the captured signal from the simulation results. Curve fitting techniques are adopted after filtering, thus eliminate the noise in the captured signal as well as reduce the intensity of scaling factor. The results are obtained based on SG filtering and curve fitting is shown in Figure 12. From the obtained results it is found that the curve fitted model after SG filtering matches with the actual sensor model in terms of both variation and intensity. From the results obtained it is found that the error between actual and improved sensor model is less than 0.8.

VII. CONCLUSION
Automated disease detection and drug delivery unit that can be used for detection and monitoring of cancer is proposed, designed, modeled and implemented in this work. For the first time, a software reference model for the complete unit as a system is developed and analyzed for its functionality. An exhaustive literature review on various diseases and remedies to cure the diseases is carried out. The procedures and methods adopted by doctors to detect and diagnose patients with diseases are explored. Challenges in disease diagnosis is identified and reported in this work. It is found that with the growth in population and with changes in environmental conditions human race is prone to various diseases. In this paper, we have analyzed the mathematical models for nanowire sensors and the variation in sensor properties with geometrical parameters. Experimental setup is developed to simulate three different nanosensors (ISFET, nanowire and nanosphere). Sensitivity of nanosphere is found to be better than nanowire and ISFET, however, it is practically difficult to realize nanosphere. Thus nanowire sensor is selected for system level design (disease detection), nanowire sensor is simulated and its response to variations in analyte concentration is identified. The developed mathematical model is validated against biosensor model, the results shows that both the models have linear variations for changes in analyte concentration, but there is an error of 0.8 (maximum), between
the drain currents of biosensor model and Matlab model. This can be minimized by developing accurate results using the biosensor model for large number of analyte concentration. The mathematical model developed can be used to model different sensors using Matlab. The sensors can be interfaced with signal conditioning circuits and control unit for automated disease detection and drug delivery.

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