

Implementation of an Overheat Monitoring and Protection System for Community Empowerment Programs Using Thermocouples

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Abstract: *Induction motors, which operate continuously, such as those used in power plant cooling systems, are at risk of failure that can result in significant losses, such as power outages when the turbine halts due to overheating. Therefore, it is crucial to have a system that monitors the temperature of the induction motor to detect potential overheating and facilitate maintenance. This study aims to design and test a temperature monitoring system for induction motors using thermocouple sensors connected to an LCD display. The methodology begins by identifying issues related to motors running non-stop, followed by a review of relevant literature and system design. Once the system was built, testing was conducted by heating the probe and measuring the temperature with a thermometer to compare the readings with those from the thermocouple sensor. The test results showed that the system accurately displayed the temperature on the LCD, with an error margin that was calculated to evaluate the sensor's accuracy. Based on these results, it can be concluded that the temperature monitoring system functions well and can be used as a reliable overheat detection system for induction motors. This system is expected to simplify maintenance processes and reduce the risk of motor damage caused by overheating. Additionally, the integration of this technology in community-based power plant initiatives could enhance the sustainability and safety of rural energy projects, ensuring a more reliable power supply for community empowerment programs.*

Keyword: *Monitoring, Overheat, Thermocouple*

Introduction

Electric motors are devices that convert electrical energy into mechanical energy. The induction motor is a type of electric motor that operates based on the principle of electromagnetic induction[1]. Unlike other motors, induction motors do not receive an external voltage directly to their rotor. Instead, the current in the stator induces voltage through the air gap in the rotor windings, generating rotor current and a magnetic field, which causes the motor to rotate [17]. Induction motors are widely used in various

industrial applications where mechanical work is required, including driving large blowers for furnace combustion, operating conveyors for material handling, and powering water pumps for cooling systems.

Induction motors play a vital role in powering many industrial processes, converting electrical energy into mechanical power to drive equipment like large-scale fans, pumps, and conveyors[2][3]. Although these motors are generally reliable, they can face operational challenges that may lead to severe damage, especially in continuous

operations. For instance, motors in critical infrastructure, such as power plants or rural development projects, may experience overheating due to prolonged use or improper load management[4]. Overheating is a major concern because it can result in total motor failure, which could lead to costly repairs, operational downtime, and even power outages that disrupt community empowerment initiatives [12].

Temperature is a crucial indicator of a system's heat intensity. High temperatures indicate that an object has accumulated a significant amount of heat, while low temperatures suggest a minimal heat content. This concept is fundamental in understanding the behavior of induction motors[5][6]. When motors run for extended periods, their internal temperature can rise, which, if unchecked, may lead to overheating [7]. Overheating, or overheat, is a condition where a motor exceeds its safe operating temperature, often leading to equipment failure. The primary causes of overheating include excessive load, inadequate cooling, or an imbalance between the motor's capacity and the load it is required to carry.

Overheating in induction motors can be triggered by various factors, including an overload that demands more power than the motor is designed to handle[8]. This can cause the motor's temperature to rise to unsafe levels, affecting its efficiency and longevity. Regular monitoring of the motor's temperature is crucial to prevent overheating and ensure the system's reliability. In industrial and community empowerment contexts, such as rural

energy systems or small-scale manufacturing, preventing motor damage through effective temperature management is critical for maintaining continuous operation and reducing downtime.

To mitigate the risks of overheating, temperature monitoring of induction motors is essential throughout their operation, from startup to shutdown[10]. One effective solution for this is using temperature sensors such as LM35, which are capable of providing real-time temperature data to monitor and prevent overheating. The implementation of such monitoring systems, particularly in community-based programs, ensures that vital infrastructure operates efficiently and without interruption, thereby supporting the sustainability and success of community empowerment initiatives [9].

Literature Study

The research aims to monitor vibrations and temperature increases caused by induction motors, which are critical in various community-driven projects, such as rural electrification and small-scale manufacturing. Vibration and temperature fluctuations in induction motors are monitored regularly, from before the motor starts operation until it is turned off [9]. This ongoing monitoring ensures that the motors used in community empowerment initiatives, which are often vital for local infrastructure, operate efficiently without risking damage due to overheating or mechanical failures.

As industries advance, the integration of automatic control systems has led to the

development of devices that monitor various electrical equipment. In sectors like oil and gas, where motors play a crucial role in the transfer of fluids such as fuel oil between tanks, it is essential to monitor key parameters like temperature and vibration. These parameters can directly affect the safety and reliability of the equipment, which in turn impacts the success of community-driven projects that rely on such equipment. Real-time monitoring systems are thus necessary to ensure optimal performance and to prevent failures that could disrupt local operations [7].

A thermocouple is a sensor that generates a voltage difference due to temperature variations between two different metals at their junction[12]. One metal serves as a reference, while the other acts as the temperature sensor [18]. Thermocouples are widely used in monitoring systems because of their accuracy, reliability, and ability to operate in various temperature ranges, making them suitable for monitoring temperature changes in induction motors used in community empowerment applications.

Temperature is a critical indicator in research and applications requiring stable conditions, particularly when assessing the performance of induction motors [14]. Regular temperature measurements are essential to track temperature variations over time. These measurements can be stored and visualized in the form of graphs, which help monitor the motor's condition and predict potential issues before they escalate. One of the most effective sensors for this task is the type-K thermocouple, known for its precision and versatility in various monitoring systems [15].

The objective of this study is to compare the accuracy of temperature measurement using the resistance method and the K-type thermocouple method for monitoring the rise in motor winding temperatures. Accurate monitoring is essential for community-based initiatives, where overheating could lead to equipment failure, interrupting critical services [16].

The continuous monitoring of power plant systems, such as the temperature of the stator, rotor, and bearings of generator motors, is crucial for ensuring uninterrupted service. This requires operators to work in shifts to back each other up. Without constant monitoring of these parameters, the likelihood of system failures or operational downtimes increases, which can have a significant impact on community infrastructure, especially in rural or underserved areas where power is essential for daily activities [13].

In the monitoring process, data recording media that can capture data continuously from system startup to shutdown is also necessary. This makes maintenance of induction motors more manageable, particularly in remote areas where immediate access to technicians may not always be available.

A data logger is an electronic device used to record data from sensors and instruments. It is typically small in size, battery-powered, portable, and equipped with a microprocessor and internal memory to store data[17]. One of the key benefits of using data loggers is their ability to automatically collect data over long periods, such as 24 hours. Once activated, the data logger can be left to record and monitor system

performance continuously, which is especially useful for community empowerment projects that require constant monitoring of equipment to ensure reliability [11].

The data logger system used in this research is built around an Arduino Nano module, serving as the controller, and an SD card for data storage. The stored measurement data can be displayed in real-time, thanks to the inclusion of an RTC (Real-Time Clock) and an LCD screen to show sensor voltage and current readings each second. The designed data logger is crucial for storing measurement results, and its real-time display and storage features make it an invaluable tool for community-based monitoring and maintenance initiatives [14]

Methodology

This research employs a systematic and comprehensive approach that begins with the identification of core issues related to continuously operating induction motors, particularly in environments where overheating could lead to significant operational failures[18]. The initial phase focuses on diagnosing the primary problem—motor overheating due to extended use without proper temperature monitoring—and understanding its potential impact on performance and safety. Following this, an extensive review of relevant literature is conducted, focusing on existing methods of motor temperature monitoring, failure prevention, and system protection. This literature review provides valuable insights and serves as the foundation for conceptualizing and designing a tailored

monitoring system that can effectively address the identified issues.

Once the conceptual design is completed, the system is constructed with careful attention to its functionality and integration. The device is then subjected to rigorous testing under various conditions to assess its performance, reliability, and accuracy. The testing phase ensures that the monitoring system works as intended, providing real-time temperature readings and alerts for potential overheating.

Additionally, this study is grounded in internationally recognized standards for the protection of induction motors, which ensures that the developed monitoring system complies with global safety and operational guidelines[19]. By adhering to these standards, the system not only offers a practical solution for preventing motor failure but also aligns with best practices in industrial safety and efficiency. This research emphasizes the dual importance of providing effective, community-driven solutions while maintaining compliance with established norms, ensuring that the system is both reliable and applicable to a wide range of real-world applications, particularly in community-based and industrial settings[20].

Table 1. Insulation Class standart

Class Insulation	Temperature
A	105°C
B	130°C
F	155°C
H	180°C

As shown in the table above, the protection standards for motors, according to the National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA), are classified based on their insulation class. Each insulation class has a specific temperature limit, designed to protect the motor from damage caused by excessive heat. Class A has a safe temperature limit of up to 105°C, Class B up to 130°C, Class F up to 155°C, and Class H has the highest safe temperature limit of 180°C. These standards are internationally recognized and serve as a reference for the design and manufacture of electric motors. Therefore, every electric motor produced will specify its insulation class, providing crucial information regarding the motor's ability to withstand certain operational temperatures without damaging its insulation and internal components. By including the insulation class, manufacturers ensure that the motors meet safety and performance requirements in accordance with applicable global standards.

RTD Temperature vs. Resistance Table

For American Curve, Alpha = .00392												1° Celsius Increments											
°C	Ohms	°C	Ohms	°C	Ohms	°C	Ohms	°C	Ohms	°C	Ohms	°C	Ohms	°C	Ohms	°C	Ohms	°C	Ohms	°C	Ohms	°C	Ohms
-100	59.57	-38	84.80	24	109.61	88	133.74	148	157.83	210	180.88	272	203.74	334	226.17	396	248.18						
-95	59.68	-37	85.20	25	109.90	89	134.14	149	158.11	211	181.23	273	204.11	335	226.55	397	248.56						
-90	60.79	-36	85.60	26	110.20	90	134.52	150	158.39	212	181.61	274	204.47	336	226.93	398	248.94						
-85	61.89	-35	86.01	27	110.49	91	134.91	151	158.67	213	181.98	275	204.84	337	227.31	399	249.32						
-80	62.99	-34	86.41	28	110.78	92	135.30	152	158.95	214	182.35	276	205.20	338	227.69	401	249.69						
-75	64.09	-33	86.81	29	111.08	93	135.68	153	159.23	215	182.72	277	205.57	339	228.07	401	249.81						
-70	65.19	-32	87.21	30	111.37	94	136.07	154	159.61	216	183.09	278	205.93	340	228.45	402	250.18						
-65	66.29	-31	87.61	31	111.67	95	136.45	155	160.00	217	183.47	279	206.30	341	228.83	403	250.56						
-60	67.39	-30	88.01	32	111.96	96	136.84	156	160.38	218	183.84	280	206.66	342	229.21	404	250.94						
-55	68.49	-29	88.42	33	112.26	97	137.22	157	160.76	219	184.21	281	207.02	343	229.59	405	251.31						
-50	69.59	-28	88.82	34	112.55	98	137.61	158	161.14	220	184.58	282	207.39	344	229.97	406	251.69						
-45	70.69	-27	89.22	35	112.85	99	137.99	159	161.52	221	184.95	283	207.75	345	230.35	407	252.07						
-40	71.79	-26	89.62	36	113.14	100	138.38	160	161.90	222	185.32	284	208.12	346	230.73	408	252.45						
-35	72.89	-25	90.02	37	113.44	101	138.77	161	162.28	223	185.70	285	208.48	347	231.11	409	252.83						
-30	73.99	-24	90.42	38	113.73	102	139.15	162	162.66	224	186.07	286	208.85	348	231.49	410	253.21						
-25	75.09	-23	90.82	39	114.03	103	139.54	163	163.04	225	186.44	287	209.21	349	231.87	411	253.59						
-20	76.19	-22	91.22	40	114.33	104	139.92	164	163.42	226	186.81	288	209.57	350	232.25	412	253.97						
-15	77.29	-21	91.62	41	114.63	105	140.31	165	163.80	227	187.19	289	209.94	351	232.63	413	254.35						
-10	78.39	-20	92.02	42	114.93	106	140.70	166	164.18	228	187.56	290	210.30	352	233.01	414	254.73						
-5	79.49	-19	92.42	43	115.23	107	141.09	167	164.56	229	187.92	291	210.66	353	233.39	415	255.11						
0	80.59	-18	92.82	44	115.53	108	141.47	168	164.94	230	188.29	292	211.02	354	233.77	416	255.49						
5	81.69	-17	93.22	45	115.83	109	141.86	169	165.32	231	188.65	293	211.39	355	234.15	417	255.87						
10	82.79	-16	93.62	46	116.13	110	142.24	170	165.70	232	189.02	294	211.75	356	234.53	418	256.25						
15	83.89	-15	94.02	47	116.43	111	142.63	171	166.08	233	189.39	295	212.11	357	234.91	419	256.63						
20	84.99	-14	94.42	48	116.73	112	143.01	172	166.46	234	189.77	296	212.48	358	235.29	420	257.01						
25	86.09	-13	94.82	49	117.03	113	143.40	173	166.84	235	190.14	297	212.84	359	235.67	421	257.39						
30	87.19	-12	95.22	50	117.33	114	143.78	174	167.22	236	190.51	298	213.20	360	236.05	422	257.77						
35	88.29	-11	95.62	51	117.63	115	144.16	175	167.60	237	190.88	299	213.56	361	236.43	423	258.15						
40	89.39	-10	96.02	52	117.93	116	144.55	176	167.98	238	191.25	300	213.92	362	236.81	424	258.53						
45	90.49	-9	96.42	53	118.23	117	144.93	177	168.36	239	191.62	301	214.28	363	237.19	425	258.91						
50	91.59	-8	96.82	54	118.53	118	145.31	178	168.74	240	191.99	302	214.65	364	237.57	426	259.29						
55	92.69	-7	97.22	55	118.83	119	145.70	179	169.12	241	192.36	303	215.01	365	237.95	427	259.67						
60	93.79	-6	97.62	56	119.13	120	146.08	180	169.50	242	192.73	304	215.37	366	238.33	428	259.95						
65	94.89	-5	98.02	57	119.43	121	146.46	181	169.88	243	193.10	305	215.74	367	238.71	429	260.33						
70	95.99	-4	98.42	58	119.73	122	146.85	182	170.26	244	193.48	306	216.10	368	239.09	430	260.71						
75	97.09	-3	98.82	59	120.03	123	147.23	183	170.64	245	193.85	307	216.46	369	239.47	431	261.09						
80	98.19	-2	99.22	60	120.33	124	147.61	184	171.02	246	194.23	308	216.82	370	239.85	432	261.47						
85	99.29	-1	99.62	61	120.63	125	148.00	185	171.40	247	194.60	309	217.18	371	240.23	433	261.85						
90	100.39	0	100.02	62	120.93	126	148.38	186	171.78	248	194.98	310	217.54	372	240.61	434	262.23						
95	101.49	1	100.40	63	121.23	127	148.76	187	172.16	249	195.35	311	217.90	373	240.99	435	262.61						
100	102.59	2	100.79	64	121.53	128	149.15	188	172.54	250	195.73	312	218.26	374	241.37	436	262.99						
105	103.69	3	101.18	65	121.83	129	149.53	189	172.92	251	196.10	313	218.63	375	241.75	437	263.37						
110	104.79	4	101.57	66	122.13	130	149.92	190	173.30	252	196.48	314	218.99	376	242.13	438	263.75						
115	105.89	5	101.96	67	122.43	131	150.30	191	173.68	253	196.85	315	219.35	377	242.51	439	264.13						
120	106.99	6	102.35	68	122.73	132	150.68	192	174.06	254	197.23	316	219.71	378	242.89	440	264.51						
125	108.09	7	102.74	69	123.03	133	151.06	193	174.44	255	197.61	317	220.07	379	243.27	441	264.89						
130	109.19	8	103.13	70	123.33	134	151.44	194	174.82	256	197.99	318	220.43	380	243.65	442	265.27						
135	110.29	9	103.52	71	123.63	135	151.82	195	175.20	257	198.37	319	220.79	381	244.03	443	265.65						
140	111.39	10	103.91	72	123.93	136	152.20	196	175.58	258	198.75	320	221.15	382	244.41	444	266.03						
145	112.49	11	104.30	73	124.23	137	152.58	197	175.96	259	199.13	321	221.51	383	244.79	445	266.41						
150	113.59	12	104.69	74	124.53	138	152.96	198	176.34	260	199.51	322	221.87	384	245.17	446	266.79						
155	114.69	13	105.08	75	124.83	139	153.34	199	176.72	261	199.89	323	222.23	385	245.55	447	267.17						
160	115.79	14	105.47	76	125.13	140	153.72	200	177.10	262	200.27	324	222.59	386	245.93	448	267.55						
165	116.89	15	105.86	77	125.43	141	154.10	201	177.48	263	200.65	325	222.94	387	246.31	449	267.93						
170	117.99	16	106.25	78	125.73	142	154.48	202	177.86	264	201.03	326	223.30	388	246.69	450	268.31						
175	119.09	17	106.64	79	126.03	143	154.86	203	178.24	265	201.41	327	223.66	389	247.07	451	268.69						
180	120.19	18	107.03	80	126.33	144	155.24	204	178.62	266	201.79	328	224.02	390	247.45	452	269.07						
185	121.29	19	107.42	81	126.63	145	155.62	205	179.00	267	202.17	329	224.38	391	247.83	453	269.45						
190	122.39	20	107.81	82	126.93	146	156.00	206	179.38	268	202.55	330	224.74	392	248.21	454	269.83						
195	123.49	21	108.20	83	127.23	147	156.38	207	179.76	269	202.93	331	225.10	393	248.59	455	270.21						
200	124.59	22	108.59	84	127.53	148	156.76	208	180.14	270	203.31	332	225.46	394	248.97	456	270.59						
205	125.69	23	108.98	85	127.83	149	157.14	209	180.52	271	203.69	333	225.82	395	249.35	457	270.97						
210	126.79	24	109.37	86	128.13	150	157.52	210	180.90	272													

error in measurement. The difference between the two sets of readings helps assess the accuracy of the research tool. In general, the tool's measurements are close to the values obtained with the thermometer, demonstrating that the research tool provides reliable temperature data, though minor adjustments may be needed for perfect calibration.

Discussions

Based on the tests conducted, the system functions according to the initial concept. The sensor's ability to read temperature works as expected, as evidenced by the temperature readings displayed on the 16x2 LCD. However, when evaluating the sensor's performance through the provided table, it becomes apparent that the accuracy level is slightly lower than desired.

Previous research using the LM35 sensor [17] showed higher accuracy with lower error margins. However, the LM35 sensor's ability to read temperature is not suitable for measuring the higher heat levels generated by electrical motors, as it is not designed to handle the elevated temperatures that induction motors typically produce.

Additionally, the temperature sensor used in this study, a thermocouple, shows slightly lower sensitivity compared to other sensors. This is due to a minor delay in measurement, as the metal sheath at the sensor's tip hinders the heat transfer, causing a slower response time. Despite this, the thermocouple remains a viable option for temperature monitoring in this application, offering sufficient performance for community-focused projects where cost-efficiency and robustness are key.

Conclusion

From the results of the prototype development process, which includes concept design, component procurement, programming, assembly, and testing, it can be concluded that the prototype functions as intended based on the initial concept. The use of thermocouple sensors is preferred due to their higher temperature measurement range. However, a limitation arises from the metal sheath, which slightly reduces the speed of temperature reading. Despite this, the values displayed on the LCD are consistent with the measured values, and no significant issues have been encountered that would affect the overall functionality of the system.

This prototype can be effectively implemented in community empowerment programs, offering an affordable and reliable solution for monitoring temperature in induction motors, thus contributing to improved maintenance practices and reducing the risk of motor damage due to overheating.

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