FAMAS (Fast Magnetic Angle Sensor)

the high performance, reliable, robust and low cost magnetic angle sensor to ensure control, safety and extended functionality for consumer electronics and vehicle applications









Company

Our solutions and services help our clients in the automotive, consumer and Test & Measurements industries to create powerful, robust and effective products.





SENIS AG, Switzerland provides advanced smart sensors and instruments for magnetic field and electric current measurements.



Problems and Our Solution

On the market available Sensors

Lack of performance & reliability:

- Restricted magnetic field range
- Low accuracy or low speed
- Slow response
- Noisy

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Insufficient functionality:

- Need an additional AD convertor
- Need angle calculation
- Work with precise positioned magnets
- End-of-shaft or Out-of-shaft

Cost prohibitive:

- Large size
- Need complex production processes
 - Cost for the additional electronics









FAMAS Innovation – Vertical Hall





- The magnetic sensing function of FAMAS is fulfilled by novel (patented) vertical Hall devices, featuring at least 3 times better signal-to-noise ratio than any other vertical Hall device available on the market.
 - FAMAS IC incorporates two such vertical Hall devices with mutually perpendicular sensitivity directions.
 - The direction of the common sensitivity vector of the pair of the vertical Hall devices can be rotated in the plane of the FAMAS die by adequately adjusting the biasing currents of each of the Hall devices.



Ultimately fast measurement update

The (patented) method of magnetic angle retrieval in FAMAS is based on a discrete-time feedback system. The system adjusts the biasing currents of the two vertical Hall devices so that their common sensitivity vector is kept orthogonal to the in-plane component of the magnetic field. In the figure below, a denotes the angle of the magnetic field vector (of the magnet dipole), and β is the actual measured value of this angle (FAMAS output). The actual measured angle (β) is represented by the state (the number of angle steps) of an up-down counter; •

- to a digital-to-analog converter (DAC).
- DAC generates two constant currents, one proportional to the sine, the other to the cosine of the angle β . •
- •
- The amplified voltage a- β updates the state of the up-down counter so as to reduce the difference a- β . •
- The whole signal chain provides an updated output of FAMAS in less than 0.6µs. •





The state of the up-down counter is used as the address of the look-up table, where the digital values of the sin(β) and cos(β) are red, and then fed

These two currents are used as the biasing currents of the two vertical Hall devices. Biased in this way, the two mutually orthogonal vertical Hall devices become a sensor of the angle measurement error (a- β sensor): the sum of their output voltages is proportional to sin(a- β) \approx a- β (for small a- β).





Value Proposition



Accurate

- Highest angular resolution (<0.08°)
- The fastest response (latency <0.6US)
- Highest rotational speed (up to 400'000 rpm)
- Largest magnetic field ranges (20mT...up to 500mT), therefore immune to stray fields
- On-chip correction of sensitivity, offset, noise, drift

Affordable

- small chip size
- standard Si CMOS technology
- no wafer postprocessing required
- no need for additional A/D converter and angle calculation







- Solution that allows very
- competitive price due to:



Feature-rich

- New, patented angle sensor concept
- Instantaneous angle information • (rotary position)
- Constant and changeable rotary speed measurement
- End-of-shaft & Out-of-shaft sensor
- High sensor spatial resolution => works with various magnet sizes
- On-chip parametrization
- SPI, A quad B, UVW outputs





Competition

		Best competitor	
Parameter	FAMAS	combination	
Sensor type	Digital	Digital	
Vsupply [V]	5	3.3 or 5	
lsup [mA]	<15	10	
Toper [ºC]	[-40, 125]	[-40, 150]	
Magnetic field [mT]	20-200	50-200	
Power-up times [ms]	2	2	
Rotational speed [rpm]	400'000	200'000	
	50,000		
	25,000		INL [º]
Angle resolution [°]	0.08	0.1	
	0.35		
	2.8		
Latency	1	3	
	5		
	20		
INL [º] (integ. nonlinearity)	0.3	1	
Vout vs Temp [deg/ºC]	0.03	0.03	
Digital Output [bit]	12	16	







Ready to Market











Summary



