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Electrical Conductivity Control System in Pakcoy Plant based on Fuzzy Logic Control

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ABSTRACT Along with increasing consumption of vegetables as a fulfillment of nutrition in the community, it provides a breakthrough to create a new method of growing vegetables, namely using a system of growing vegetables using water called the hydroponic system. In the hydroponic system using the Nutrient Film Technique (NFT), the NFT technique is a hydroponic cultivation method where roots grow in a shallow nutrient layer and are circulated to get nutrients, water, and oxygen continuously. One of the important things that measure the success of a hydroponic system is the provision of nutrients to plants correctly. The nutrient solution concentration that plants need requires several different electrical conductivity. This study controlled the pakcoy plant using fuzzy logic, consisting of 2 inputs, a TDS sensor and an ultrasonic sensor. At the same time, the output given by the control of this system is the length of the pump opening. The pump for output is divided into 3, and the first is the pump for water, the second is the pump for nutrition A and the last is the pump for nutrition B. In this system, hydroponic nutrient control in pakcoy plants has been tried using fuzzy logic control with a success rate of $\pm 70\%$. This shows that the system's experiment can run well, namely maintaining hydroponic nutrients in pakcoy plants.

INDEX TERMS Hydroponic, electrical conductivity, fuzzy logic.

I. INTRODUCTION

Agriculture is an important sector to fulfill nutritional needs in Indonesia. One of the agricultural sectors is vegetables. Vegetables contain nutrients that are needed to meet the body's dietary needs. Vegetables are essential in rational nutrition, thanks to the rich content of nutrients and energy, especially as a favorable influence on the functions of the physiologic human organism [1] [2]. This is the reason why vegetable production increases every day. Vegetable production in Indonesia in 2011 reached 11,394,891. The value of vegetable production in Indonesia is still lower than the consumption of vegetables per society's capital. Lack of vegetable needs [3]. Imported commodities fulfill this. This data indicates that the consumption of vegetables for the Indonesian people continues to increase. For this reason, vegetable farming needs to be increased to meet vegetable needs. In Indonesia, there are still many farmers who use conventional vegetable farming. Traditional cultivation of vegetables is still not optimal to meet vegetable production. The constraint in traditional agriculture is the limited land for growing vegetables. So a new method of growing vegetables with a narrow area that can produce

vegetables according to the target is needed. Vegetable cultivation with limited land can be done with a hydroponic system [4] [5]. The hydroponic system is a cultivation system using a solution of nutrients and oxygen as a substitute for soil [6] [7] [8]. The hydroponic system can be done throughout the year regardless of the season. Therefore, the crop yields are not feared to fall in addition to hydroponic cultivation. This makes hydroponic cultivation an innovation to develop vegetables in regulating the nutrients needed by plants. Hydroponic growing media can use water, stone, and coconut fiber media to provide a more optimal method [9] [10].

One of the hydroponic cultivation systems is the Nutrient Film Technique (NFT) hydroponic system [11]. The NFT hydroponic system is a hydroponic cultivation system that continuously flows the nutrient solution dissolved in water without using a timer to pump. These nutrients flow into canals through the plant roots and return to the water reservoir [12] [13]. NFT technique is the most successful, and many have high efficiency [14] [15]. In addition, planting the land with this system is not easily damaged, easy to clean, and becomes a watering system that can re-circulate

the nutrient solution. In vegetable pakcoy in a hydroponic system, the electrical conductivity value is 900-1400 ppm or, if converted to the E.C. value, it is in the range of 1.3-2mS/cm.

An important factor that affects the rapid growth of hydroponic plants is the provision of proper nutrition and accordance with pakcoy plants from seedling to harvest stage [16]. In the research that Faizal has carried out with the title "Plant Age Identification System of Outdoor Hydroponic Cultivation Based on Digital Image Processing" [17] and "Internet of Things for Monitoring and Controlling Nutrient Film Technique (NFT) Aquaponic" [18]; there is no method to determine the accuracy of nutrients that must be given to vegetables during the planting period. This is why research on nutritional control using fuzzy logic needs to be done to ensure that vegetables can be given nutrients according to their needs and can be done automatically. Because improper nutrition it will result in plants experiencing growth slowdown and even financial losses for hydroponic cultivators due to crop failure. The nutrient solution concentration expresses the suitability of the nutrient solution in water and the usefulness of nutrients in plants. Electrical conductivity is the ability of a solution to conduct an electric current; the electric current in a nutrient solution is carried by the ions contained therein. High conductivity indicates that the nutrient solution is getting more concentrated so that the availability of nutrients increases, and vice versa; low conductivity indicates a low nutrient solution so that nutrients are reduced. In this study, the sensor used to determine the conductivity in the nutrient solution is a TDS analog sensor. TDS is the amount of material dissolved in the air. These materials can be carbonates, bicarbonates, chlorides, sulfates, phosphate, nitrate, calcium, magnesium, sodium, organic ions, colloid compounds, and others [19]. The TDS sensor has two legs, namely the anode and cathode, to measure the value of electrical conductivity in plant nutrients. The TDS sensor is used to measure the concentration of the nutrient solution in measuring the use of the TDS sensor. It is done by providing four variables. First, the TDS sensor measures nutrient A, second measures nutrient B, third measures 500 ml of plain water mixed with nutrients A and B, and lastly measure 1000 ml of plain water mixed with nutrients A and B. In testing water with nutrients A and B, nutrients A and B are separated by the same size because if nutrients A and B are directly mixed, the solution in the nutrient reservoir will decrease. It can cause vegetables to experience problems in growth. Ultrasonic sensors are used to determine how high the water level in the hydroponic nutrient reservoir is. The sensor used is the ultrasonic sensor HC-SR04 used for distance measurement [20]. Fuzzy logic control is used to maintain a constant nutrient solution in vegetable growth, preventing an excessive increase or decrease in the electrical conductivity value of the nutrient solution [21]. Fuzzy logic control is one of the soft computing components used for decision-making based on membership degree values [22] [23]. The purpose

of this research is to control the nutrients in the hydroponic system on pakcoy plants can be given exactly as needed, and the system can be controlled automatically.

This research is divided into six parts: Chapter 1, which is an introduction; chapter 2 materials and methods; Chapter 3, the results obtained; chapter 4 discussion, chapter 5 conclusions, and chapter 6 references.

II. MATERIAL AND METHOD

A. EXPERIMENTAL SETUP

The test in this study used mini hydroponics with a nutrient reservoir size of 30 cm high and 20 cm in diameter. TDS sensors and ultrasonic sensors are employed to acquire the best results. Furthermore, hydroponic plants are placed in a place exposed to sunlight to grow well.

1) MATERIALS AND TOOL

This study used several types of equipment, namely a mini hydroponic system, NFT with 18 holes, TDS Meter V1.0. The TDS meter sensor is used to determine the level of electrical conductivity in nutrient solution reservoirs, ultrasonic sensor input is used to detect how high the volume of water contained in nutrient reservoirs, and Arduino Uno as a microcontroller connect input and output. The TDS sensor is placed into the nutrient solution reservoir to measure the nutrient solution contained therein easily. The ultrasonic sensor is placed 10 cm above the nutrient solution reservoir to determine how high the volume is in the nutrient solution reservoir. The outputs of the two sensors use three relays to control three mini pumps: the first mini pump to circulate ordinary water, the second mini pump to circulate nutrient A, and the third mini pump to circulate nutrient B. The three mini-pumps will flow to the nutrient reservoir based on the results of the Fuzzy Logic control.

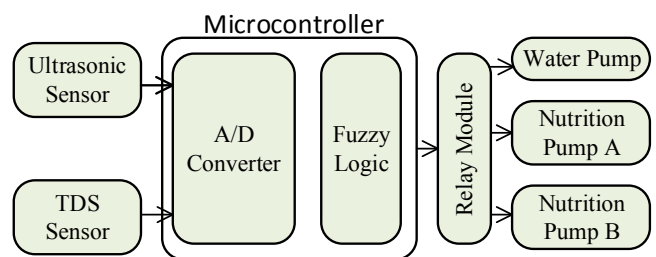


FIGURE 1. Hydroponic nutrient control block diagram

2) EXPERIMENT

After the tool's design is complete, testing of the TDS sensor and the ultrasonic sensor is carried out on a hydroponic nutrient reservoir connected to a mini hydroponic system.

B. THE DIAGRAM BLOCK

In this study, the value of the electrical conductivity of the nutrient solution was detected by the TDS sensor while the ultrasonic sensor detected the value of the water level. The readings from the two sensors will enter the Arduino Uno as

a data processor that will convert analog data to digital data. Furthermore, digital data from the high volume of water and nutrient concentration will be controlled using fuzzy logic to drive a mini pump to the hydroponic nutrient reservoir in the event of a shortage or excess of nutrients. The block diagram of this system can be seen in **FIGURE 1** and **FIGURE 2**.

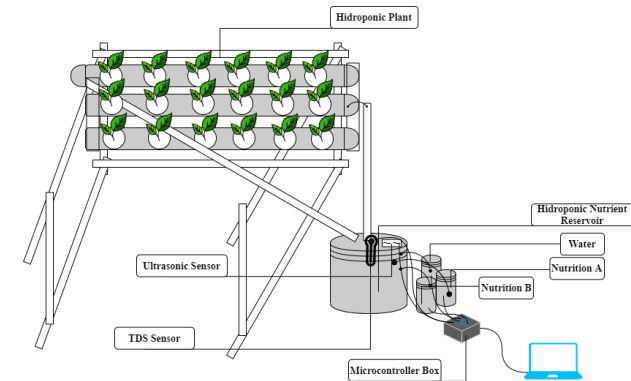


FIGURE 2. Hydroponic Control System Design

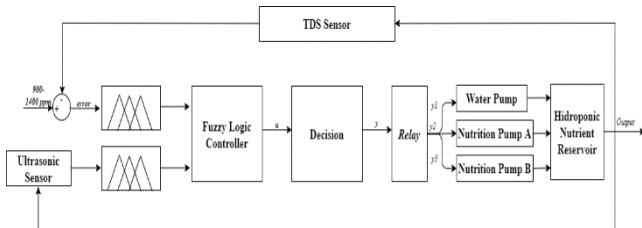


FIGURE 3. Block Diagram of Fuzzy Logic Control System

There are several steps that the fuzzy logic controller program must take to produce a good control system in controlling pakcoy nutrition as needed. The block diagram is as shown in **FIGURE 3**. The first step taken by Arduino UNO is the initialization process. Then the TDS sensor will work to detect electrical conductivity, while the ultrasonic sensor will work to detect the volume of water in the nutrient reservoir. The data of the electrical conductivity value and the volume of water produced by the two sensors will be used as input by the microcontroller. Then the main control uses fuzzy logic. The mini pump will be driven to the hydroponic nutrient reservoir if the nutritional value in the reservoir is considered less or more.

C. FUZZY LOGIC CONTROLLER

The fuzzy logic controller used in this study uses two types of parameters taken from the TDS sensor and ultrasonic sensor. The TDS sensor will produce a TDS error value obtained by calculating the difference between the TDS sensor readings and the setpoint determined from the conductivity value of the pakcoy plant. And the ultrasonic sensor will produce the volume value obtained by multiplying the hydroponic nutrient area (*A*) multiplied by the height (*h*).

$$ErrorTDS = SetPoint - SensorTDS \tag{1}$$

where TDS error shows the result of the given setpoint value and the TDS sensor is the output.

$$Volume = A * h \tag{2}$$

On the other hand, the volume represents the product of the area and the height.

$$\mu [x] = \begin{cases} 0, & x \leq a \\ \frac{x-a}{b-a}, & a \leq x \leq b \\ \frac{c-x}{c-b}, & b \leq x \leq c \\ 0, & c \leq x \end{cases} \tag{3}$$

$$z^* = \frac{\int_z \mu(z)z dz}{\int_z \mu(z)dz} \tag{4}$$

The parameters used are expressed in fuzzy sets that represent each parameter in the fuzzy set. The fuzzy set is formed in a triangular curve with membership functions that provide clues about mapping parameter points into membership degrees, as shown in **FIGURE 4 (a-b)**. To get the degree of membership ($\mu [x]$) is calculated using Eq.3.

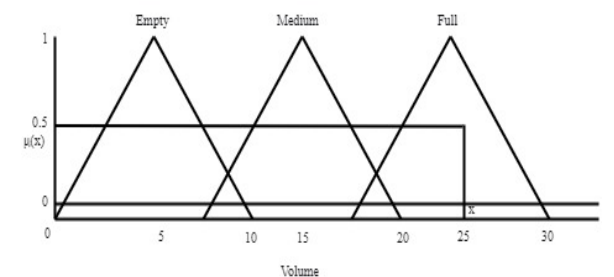
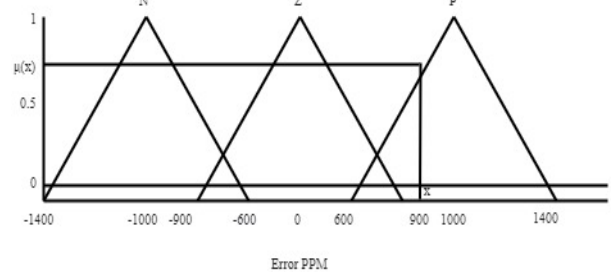


FIGURE 4. Membership function on fuzzy logic input (a) errorPPM, (b) Volume

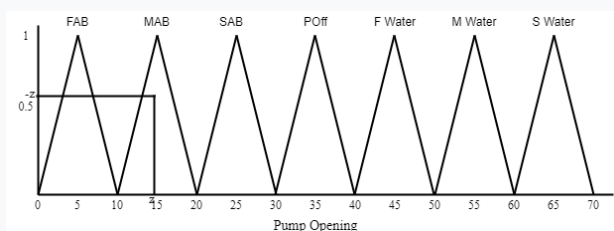


FIGURE 5. Membership function on fuzzy logic output

The defuzzification process Eq. 4 uses the centroid method by getting the center point (z) of the output curve in FIGURE 5. The value is converted with an **if-then** algorithm for decision-making by giving a command to the microcontroller, which is the length of the pump opening activated in milliseconds where each pump will flow into the hydroponic nutrient reservoir.

The pump opening system uses two parameters presented in a triangular curve in FIGURE 4 (a) and (b). The error ppm value of Eq.1 reduces the setpoint by reading the sensor results while the volume is obtained from Eq.2.

III. RESULT

Researchers measured electrical conductivity using a TDS sensor compared to a manual TDS meter in this study. This experiment was carried out with three trials. The first experiment tested the system when increasing and decreasing the PPM value of nutrient fluids by adding nutrients A and B to the hydroponic nutrient solution reservoir. The second experiment is to test the volume of the nutrient solution using an ultrasonic sensor. The last investigation in testing the electrical conductivity value using fuzzy logic was carried out offline.

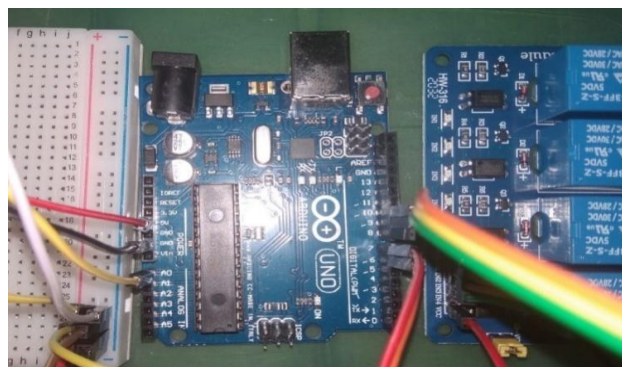


FIGURE 6. Circuit Design

1) THE CIRCUIT DESIGN

FIGURE 6. shows the results of the circuit design. TDS sensor to detect the quality of the conductivity in the nutrient solution and ultrasonic to detect the volume in the nutrient solution reservoir. Both are inputs that are connected to the Arduino Uno microcontroller. Then use fuzzy logic as the main controller to give an output command in the form of the length of the pump opening to increase or decrease the conductivity of the hydroponic nutrient solution.

In FIGURE 7. The comparison graph of the TDS sensor before and after being calibrated has an error percentage of about 0.26%.

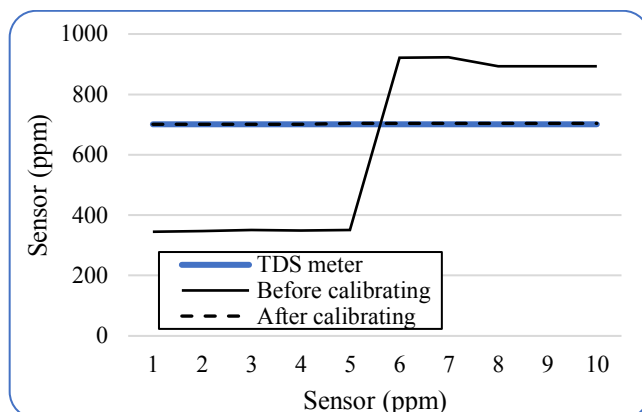


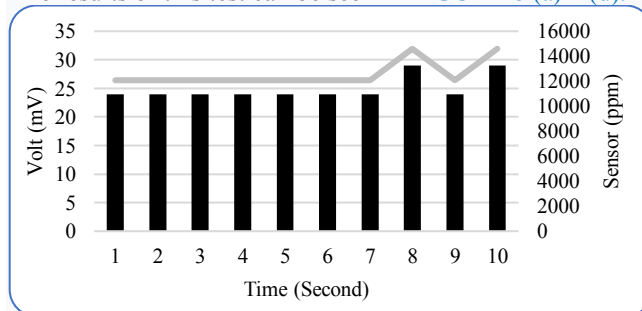
FIGURE 7. Comparison chart before and after TDS sensor calibration

2) TESTING OF SENSOR AND FUZZY LOGIC CONTROL

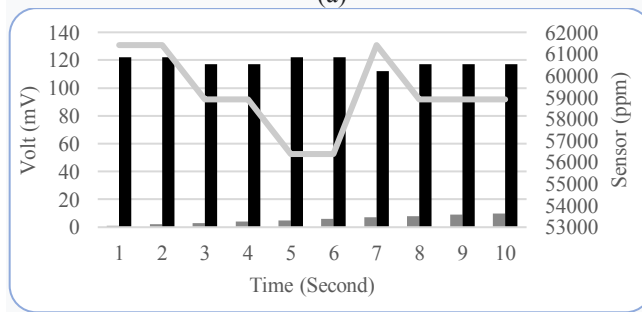
The first experiment using a TDS sensor was carried out to test the electrical conductivity of water when not given A.B. mix nutrition and after being given nutrition. Four nutritional rules are considered in this test, namely:

- (a) Value of ppm in nutrient solution A
- (b) Value of ppm in nutrient solution B
- (c) Value of ppm in water (500ml) mixed with nutrients A and B (15ml)
- (d) Value of ppm in water (1000ml) mixed with nutrients A and B (15ml)

The results of this test can be seen in FIGURE 8 (a) – (d).



(a)



(b)

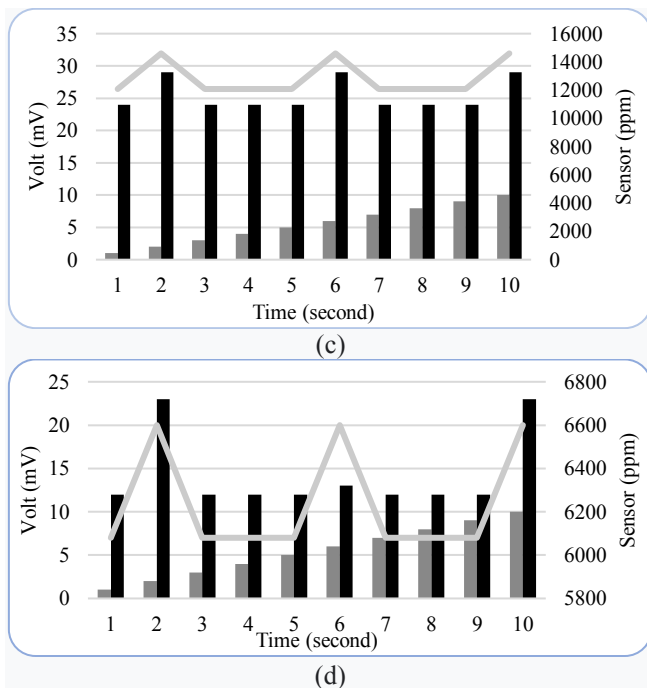


FIGURE 8. Testing the TDS Sensor with Several Nutritional Rules (a) Value of ppm in nutrient solution A, (b) Value of ppm in nutrient solution B, (c) Value of ppm in water (500ml) mixed with nutrients A and B (15ml), (d) Value of ppm in water (1000ml) mixed with nutrients A and B (15ml)

The test results show that the TDS sensor works optimally to read the electrical conductivity in a hydroponic nutrient solution. FIGURE 8 (a) and (b) show that the PPM value is high; this happens because the nutrients have not been mixed with the water. FIGURE 8 (c) shows the opposite result, showing a lower PPM value. This happens because of mixing nutrients AB mix 15 ml with 500 ml of water. While in FIGURE 8 (d), the PPM value is reduced because the mixture of water given is more, namely 1000 ml, and A.B. mix nutrients as much as 15 ml. Based on some of these results, it can be concluded that the concentration of the solution will change the value of the electrical conductivity produced.

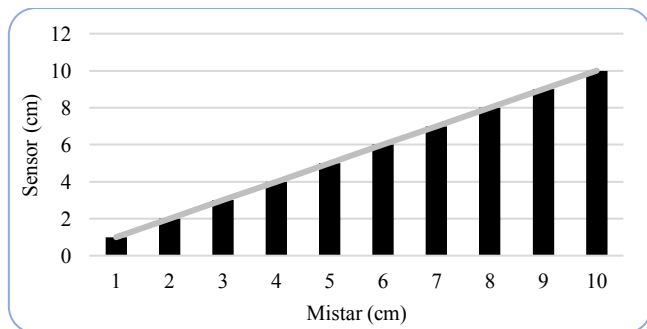


FIGURE 9. Testing the Altitude Sensor

The next test is testing the nutrient reservoir using an ultrasonic sensor. This test is carried out by placing the ultrasonic sensor on top at a distance of 30 cm from the bottom. Then data collection is done through Arduino Uno.

The results of this test can be seen in FIGURE 9, which shows that the response of the ultrasonic distance sensor to the depth that represents the volume of water has an error rate of 1.5%.

The test was then conducted for 40 days using a fuzzy logic controller. The results of this test indicate that the PPM value can be maintained in the range of 900-1400 ppm, as shown in FIGURE 10. This indicates that the system can run as desired and can maintain nutrition with a success rate of $\pm 70\%$.

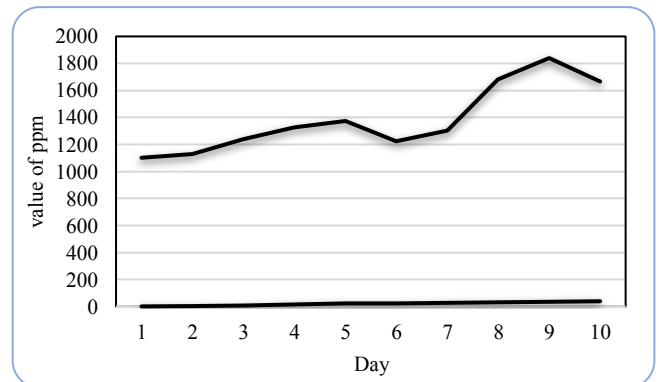


FIGURE 10. Average value of PPM pakcoy

IV. DISCUSSION

The TDS sensor can detect nutrient solutions with various concentrations based on the measurement results. An error value of 1.5% is obtained; the results are still feasible because the tolerance limit is 10%. Using fuzzy logic control, the entire hydroponic system has maintained pakcoy nutrition according to the planting period. In this study, the TDS sensor is often re-calibrated every month due to the long data collection following the planting period from Pakcoy, so for further research, it is recommended to replace the TDS sensor.

In this study, hydroponic nutrient control uses fuzzy logic to maintain pakcoy nutrition during the growing period. It cannot be controlled remotely because it has not used the Internet of Things system.

Behind the shortcomings of this research, this tool has the benefit of helping hydroponic cultivators more easily without having to check the ppm value and volume of nutrient solution every day.

The performance of this job is also compared to others work. Mathawee Fuangthong found that controlled electrical conductivity in plants can work well [24]. Then Dania Eridani said the use of TDS sensors could provide nutrients to the hydroponic system [25].

V. CONCLUSION

This research has developed an NFT hydroponic system using fuzzy logic control. The sensor system consists of a TDS sensor to measure the electrical conductivity of the nutrient solution to determine the PPM needed by pakcoy plants during the growing period to harvest. The TDS sensor



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APPENDIX

THE LISTING PROGRAM ARDUINO UNO ON THE TDS SENSOR

To conduct experiments on the TDS sensor, first, calibrate the sensor. There are several steps to calibrate the TDS sensor:

- Upload the code listing to the Arduino board, as seen in Pseudocode 1.
- Clean the TDS sensor probe, then dry with an absorbent cloth. Then insert the probe into a buffer solution with a known TDS value. Stir the solution slowly and wait for the reading to stabilize.
- Press the "Enter" command to enter calibration mode

Pseudocode: 1. Listing program Arduino UNO on the TDS sensor

```

1. #include <Wire.h>
2.
3.
4. float teg[10];
5. double tds, konduktifitas;
6. float rata_rata_teg;
7. void setup() {
8.     // put your setup code here, to run once:
9. }
10. void loop() {
11.     // put your main code here, to run repeatedly:
12.     for ( int i=0; i<10; i++){
13.         int val = analogRead(A0);
14.         teg[i] = val * (5.0/1023);
15.     }
16.     rata_rata_teg = (teg[0] + teg[1] + teg[2] + teg[3] + teg[4] + teg[5]
17.         + teg[6] + teg[7] + teg[8] + teg[9])/10 ;
18.     delay(1000);
19.     lcd.clear();
20.     tds = (211.2254 * rata_rata_teg) - 144.1466;
21.     konduktifitas = (0.3442 * rata_rata_teg) - 0.253;
22.     Serial.print(rata_rata_teg);
23.     Serial.print(tds);
24.     Serial.print(konduktifitas);
25.     delay(1000);
    }

```