

[54] **TWO WIRE CURRENT TRANSMITTER RESPONSIVE TO A RESISTIVE TEMPERATURE SENSOR INPUT SIGNAL**

[75] Inventor: **Earl A. Grindheim**, Minneapolis, Minn.

[73] Assignee: **Rosemount Inc.**, Eden Prairie, Minn.

[*] Notice: The portion of the term of this patent subsequent to Jan. 20, 1998, has been disclaimed.

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Related U.S. Patent Documents

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U.S. Applications:

[60] Division of Ser. No. 14,748, Feb. 24, 1970, Pat. No. 3,859,594, which is a continuation of Ser. No. 661,988, Aug. 21, 1967, abandoned.

[51] Int. Cl.³ **G01K 7/24**

[52] U.S. Cl. **73/362 AR**

[58] Field of Search **73/362 AR; 323/75 H, 323/75 N; 340/210, 186; 324/98, 99**

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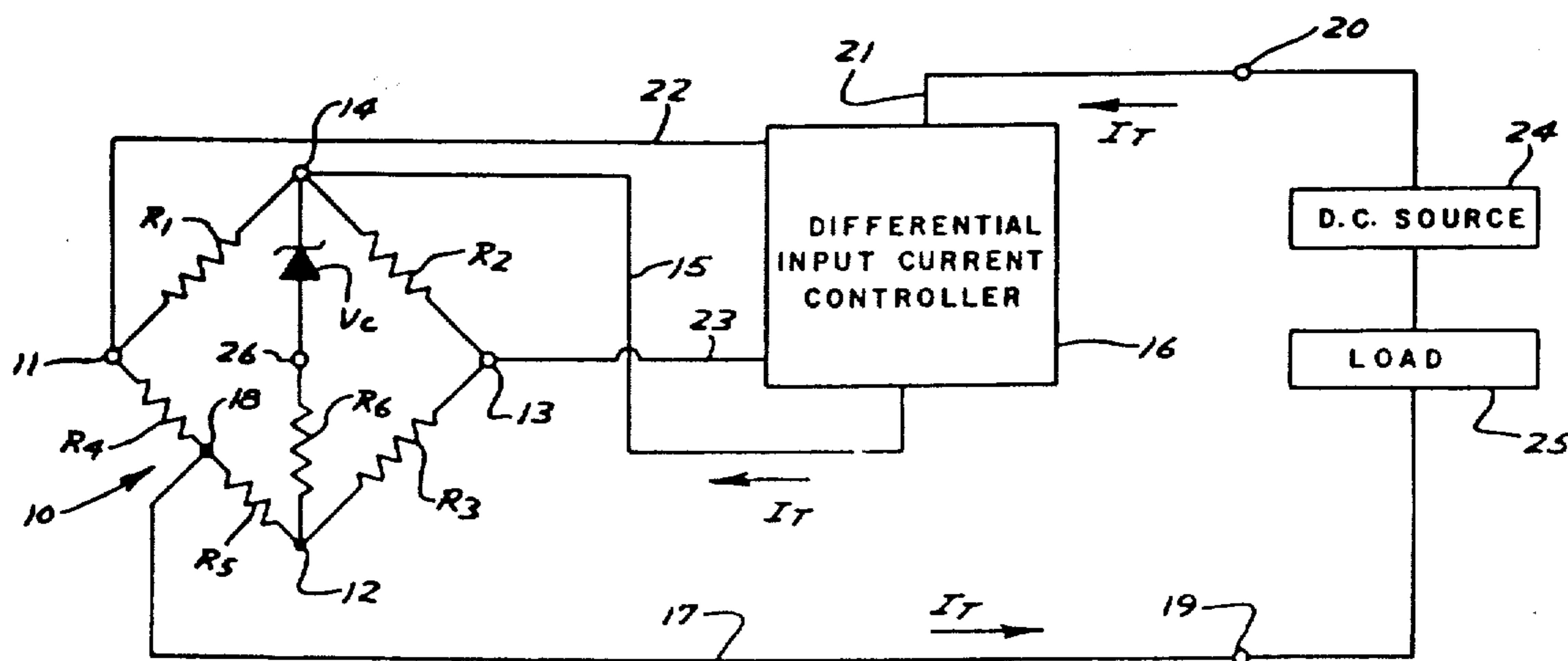
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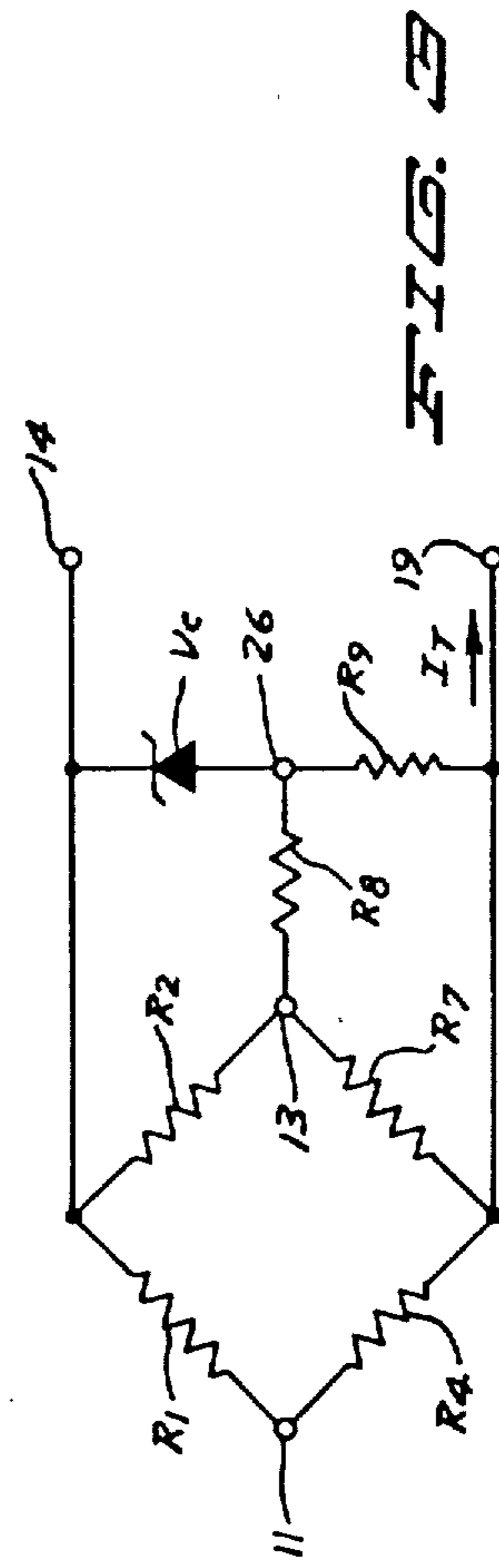
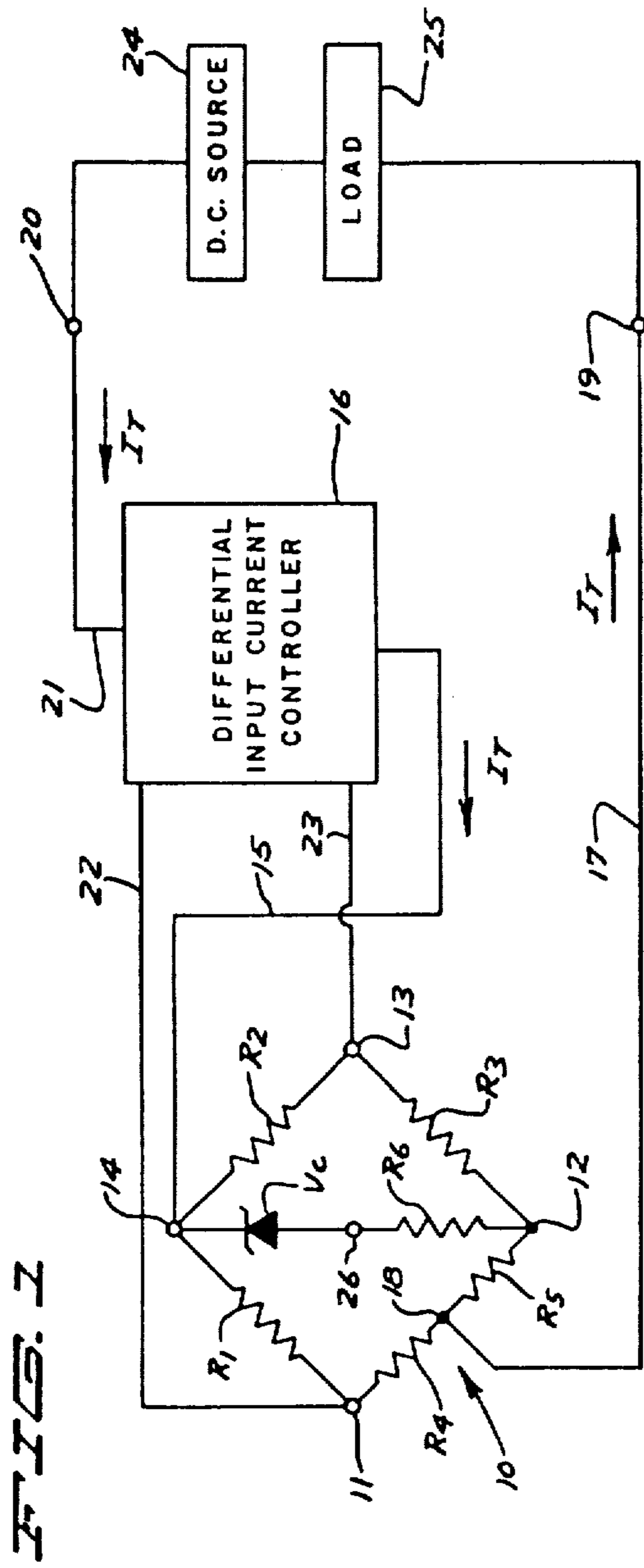
Primary Examiner—S. Clement Swisher
 Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Neuman, Williams, Anderson & Olson

[57] **ABSTRACT**

Circuitry including a resistance sensor is excited by an external power source. A reference voltage is established, the voltage developed across the sensor resistance is compared at an amplifier input with a reference voltage signal and the voltage across a feedback resistor, and the total current drawn through the circuitry adjusts as a function of the sensor resistance to give a balanced amplifier input. Total current may be made a linear function of sensor resistance or a non-linear function by proper selection of certain resistors.

12 Claims, 3 Drawing Figures





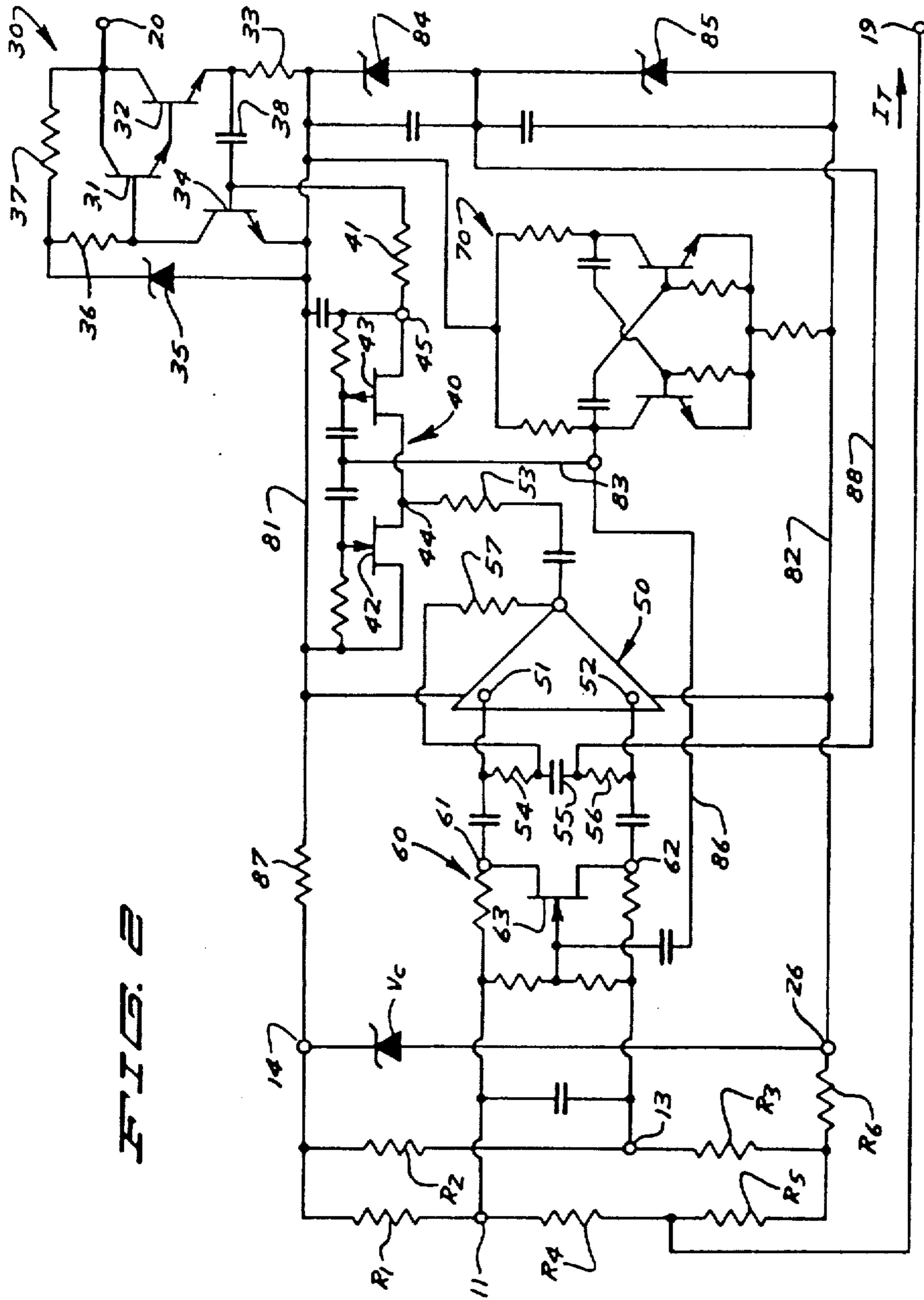


FIG. 2

TWO WIRE CURRENT TRANSMITTER RESPONSIVE TO A RESISTIVE TEMPERATURE SENSOR INPUT SIGNAL

Matter enclosed in heavy brackets [] appears in the original patent but forms no part of this reissue specification; matter printed in italics indicates the additions made by reissue.

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a Division of my copending application Ser. No. 14,748, filed Feb. 24, 1970 for Two Wire Current Transmitter Responsive To A Resistance Sensor Input Signal now U.S. Pat. No. 3,859,594 which in turn is a continuation of my application Ser. No. 661,988, filed Aug. 21, 1967 for Remote Measuring System Utilizing Only Two Wires For Supplying Current To The Sensing Circuitry And Adjusting The Current Flow So That It Is Representative Of A Variable Condition, now abandoned.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

This invention relates to modulation or control of an electrical current which is dependent on the resistance of a sensing element where the two wires which carry power to the sensing circuitry are also used as the signal current transmission means. The measurement is one in which direct current power is supplied to remotely located sensing and current modifying circuitry which acts to control the total current flow proportional to a measurand.

2. Description of the Prior Art

The problem of conversion of a measurand (where "measurand" refers to the quantity or physical variable being measured) to an electrical signal and subsequent transmission of that signal to recorder and control equipment which may be located some distance away has been handled in many ways in the past. In general four-wire systems have been used where power is supplied via two of the wires and a voltage signal is transmitted via the other two wires. One of the voltage signal leads may be common to one of the power leads for some of these systems. Such a system typically requires use of an amplifier and/or other signal conditioning equipment at the point of measurement in order to supply an accurate signal representative of the measurand. The advantages of using the same two wires for power supply and information transmission has long been recognized and various designs of transmitting equipment have evolved. The prior art approach for force transducers where direct current power and signals are required has been to supply sufficient current to rebalance the force being measured by current through an electromagnetic arrangement. A small amount of current is routed through a null sensing circuit and amplifier which in turn controls the main current supply to the force balance coil. Such circuitry is widely used in industrial pressure measurements and an example is described in U.S. Pat. No. 3,274,833.

For temperature sensing transmitters self-balancing circuits using a motor driven potentiometer have commonly been used. Examples of various designs which have been developed in the past are given in the chapter titled "Measuring and Transmission Methods" of the book Handbook of Applied Instrumentation, McGraw-

Hill Book Co., 1964, Library of Congress Catalog Card No. 62-21926. Those various designs all employ electromechanical elements of one type or another, to achieve self-balancing circuitry operating from a resistance signal or thermocouple signal. In almost all cases a two phase motor is relied on to provide adjustment of a potentiometer or variable condenser to achieve a balance condition. In one example, the current from a thermocouple passes through the field of a permanent magnet deflecting a beam against a calibrating spring. Beam deflection is sensed by other circuitry which supplies a high level, direct current signal suitable for transmitting to a recorder. A portion of the signal is shunted through a feedback coil which opposes the force caused by the thermocouple current thereby maintaining a balanced condition.

Since these previous designs have all required electromechanical devices they have the disadvantages of rather slow response, limited life associated with a loss of resolution where frictional contacts are involved, and poor performance under adverse environments such as wide variations in temperature, excessive humidity and dust.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

This invention comprises a resistance network resembling a bridge arrangement including a first resistor which changes resistance in response to a measurand and a second resistor which has one end connected to the output of an amplifier controlled current regulator. The output of the bridge is fed to the amplifier input with the correct polarity to always insure a balanced condition at the amplifier input terminals due to opposing signals arising from the first resistor and the feedback current through the second resistor. The circuit is self-balancing and the total current drawn by the circuit is proportional to the measurand value. In one embodiment linearization of the relation between measurand and total current is provided by having the feedback current effectively adjust the bridge excitation in addition to balancing the bridge.

The resulting circuit does not require electromechanical devices such as rotary or linear motors and is free of the disadvantages of such devices. Conversion or transduction of a measurand signal into a direct current signal is accurately accomplished with a minimum of components resulting in a high performance transmitter having long life and high reliability.

It is therefore a primary object of this invention to provide a nonmechanical self-balancing circuit responsive to a measurand where the total current drawn by the circuit is proportional to the measurand.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a schematic showing the basic circuit of the invention helpful in understanding the invention and the manner in which it is used.

FIG. 2 is a circuit schematic showing details of a preferred embodiment useful for practicing the invention.

FIG. 3 is a schematic showing an alternate arrangement of some of the basic circuit components.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Referring to the drawings and the reference notations thereon FIG. 1 shows a closed series network 10 of

resistors R_1 through R_5 connected in an arrangement which somewhat resembles a conventional bridge. Resistor R_1 is adjacent R_2 and opposite R_3 and the series combination of R_4 and R_5 is opposite R_2 and R_4 being connected to R_1 at signal output terminal 11 and R_5 connected to R_3 at junction 12. Signal terminal 13 is between R_2 and R_3 and the cathod of Zener diode V_c is connected to terminal 14 between R_1 and R_2 . The symbol V_c designates a source of reference voltage having a voltage level of V_c volts. The anode of Zener diode V_c is connected to one end of R_6 at terminal 26 and the other end of R_6 is connected to junction 12. Total current drawn by the network 10 is designated I_t and is shown as being received by line 15 which connects the output of a differential input current controller 16 to terminal 14. The total current I_t leaves network 10 by line 17 which connects junction 18 between R_4 and R_5 to power return terminal 19. The total current I_t is supplied to the current controller 16 from input terminal 20 which is connected to 16 by line 21. The signal terminals 11 and 13 connect to current controller 16 by lines 22 and 23 respectively. Controller 16 responds to a voltage difference between lines 22 and 23 in such a manner to reduce any such voltage to substantially zero by adjustment of total current I_t and there is substantially zero current drawn by lines 22 and 23. A direct current source 24 and a load 25 are shown serially connected across terminals 19 and 20.

In operation a change in one or more of the resistors R_1 through R_5 as a result of a measurand change ("measurand" refers to the quantity or physical variable being measured such as temperate or strain) gives rise to a voltage signal between lines 22 and 23 which causes the controller to adjust the current level I_t to reduce the voltage signal to zero. The change in current I_t is thus a measure of change in resistance of one or more of the resistors R_1 through R_5 and this change in current is monitored by load 25 which may be a recorder for example. For an understanding of the circuit response assume that R_6 is zero. In this case the voltage across terminal 14 and junction 12 is a constant value V_c regardless of the current flow through diode V_c . Accordingly the voltage on line 23 is held constant by V_c so long as the ratio between R_2 and R_3 does not change. Then assuming R_1 is constant and R_4 is allowed to vary, the voltage on line 22 will rise with an increase in R_4 . In order to have a self balancing response this increase in voltage on line 22 must give rise to an increase in current I_t from controller 16. The increase in current will not affect the voltage on line 23 (since it is assumed that for this example R_6 is zero) however it will have an opposing effect to the voltage on line 22 since it will give a change in voltage across resistor R_5 of opposite sign to the change in voltage across R_4 due to the assumed increase in resistance of R_4 . Then to consider the effects of a finite value of R_6 assume R_6 to be of value such that the voltage drop across R_6 is small compared to V_c . Then an increased current through the series combination of V_c and R_6 , caused by an increase in R_4 for example, raises the voltage on line 23 by an amount proportional to the increase in voltage across R_6 . The same percent increase would also be felt as a part of the voltage change on line 22. Since the voltage on line 22 is assumed to be greater than that on line 23 due to an increase in R_4 the effect of the increased voltage across R_6 is to require still more current I_t to flow to reduce the voltage difference to zero between lines 22 and 23. Since R_6 introduces a correction or adjustment based

upon the change in current I_t its effect is a higher order effect and it may be used as such to selectively shape the relation between current I_t and resistor R_4 for example. Analysis of the network 10 gives the following expression between I_t and the various resistors shown:

$$I_t = \frac{V_c [R_2(R_4 + R_3) - R_1 R_3]}{R_1 [R_5(R_2 + R_3) + R_6(R_3 + R_5)] - R_2 R_4 R_6} \quad (1)$$

It may be noted that if R_6 is zero the relation between I_t and R_4 is linear and further that if R_6 is not zero the current I_t will respond to positive changes in R_4 in an increasingly sensitive manner. It may also be noted that an increasing R_2 would result in I_t increasing at a less than linear rate if R_6 is finite. An increasing R_1 or R_3 would give a decreasing current I_t and the rate of decrease would reduce whether or not R_6 was zero however the magnitude of reduction depends somewhat on R_6 .

As a further example consider linearization of the relation between I_t and temperature when a platinum resistance thermometer is used as the measurand sensing instrument. Picking R_4 as the thermometer the relation between resistance and temperature is

$$R_4 = R_0(1 + \alpha T - \beta T^2) \quad (2)$$

for temperatures 0° Celsius and higher, where R_0 is the resistance at 0° C., T is temperature in degrees Celsius and α and β are constants. Substituting expression (2) into expression (1), expanding terms and solving for the condition causing disappearance of terms involving T^2 in the numerator gives

$$R_6 = \frac{R_2 + R_3}{\frac{R_2}{R_1} \left[\frac{R_0}{R_5} \left(\frac{\alpha^2}{\beta} - 2 \right) - 1 \right]} - 1 \quad (3)$$

Accordingly it is only necessary to satisfy expression (3) to achieve a linear relation between total current I_t and temperature when a resistance thermometer such as platinum is used as R_4 . Similar analysis may be made for the case where R_2 is a platinum thermometer. If the rate of resistance change as a function of temperature increases, as it does for a nickel wire thermometer for example, the element may be shunted by a constant resistance to linearize the response and it may then be used in place of R_4 with a zero value for R_6 . A thermistor or thermistor network involving a series-shunt combination of resistors having a negative change of resistance with temperature would preferably be used in place of R_1 or R_3 .

In some cases it is desirable to have more than one resistor respond to the measurand. Resistance strain gage measurements commonly employ at least two resistors, one increasing with strain and one decreasing, and these would be preferably located in adjacent positions of network 10. If a temperature difference as sensed by two thermometers having like characteristics is to be measured these resistance thermometers would also be located in adjacent portions of network 10, for example in place of R_4 and R_3 . A range or span adjustment can be conveniently made by adjustment of magnitude of R_5 and zero may be adjusted by R_3 for example.

In some instances it is desirable to use the circuitry shown for converting a low level voltage signal such as

a thermocouple output to a controlled current signal. A thermocouple or other voltage signal may be introduced in series with one of the resistors R_1 through R_5 or by connection in series with, or across, current controller signal lines 22 and 23. Resistor R_4 may be selected to be temperature responsive also so that it serves as a reference junction compensation for a thermocouple having its reference junction adjacent R_4 . In all such cases the differential input current controller responds to a voltage signal across lines 22 and 23 in such a manner to reduce that voltage to zero and the resulting current drawn by the circuit and available for measurement across load 25 bears a predetermined relation to the voltage signal and its origin.

A detailed schematic of a differential input controller together with network resistors R_1 through R_6 and reference voltage V_c is shown in FIG. 2. The system of FIG. 2 is a carrier amplifier type controller giving a high degree of freedom in choice of direct current voltage levels throughout the circuit. While a "straight" DC or non-carrier type controller may be used the carrier amplifier type controller generally gives overall higher performance than would be available with a direct current coupled amplifier.

The network resistors R_1 through R_6 and reference voltage V_c are connected in FIG. 2 in the same arrangement of FIG. 1 however the main supply of controller feedback current is now delivered to the network at terminal 26 between R_6 and the anode of Zener diode V_c . The circuit is arranged to receive direct current power at terminal 20 which connects to a current controller stage designated generally at 30. The current is controlled by stage 30 in response to a signal from a demodulator 40 which in turn connects to the output of a differential amplifier 50. Amplifier 50 responds to the signals across network terminals 11 and 13 which are coupled to amplifier 50 by a modulator 60. Modulator 60 and demodulator 40 are synchronously driven by a multivibrator 70 which is a square wave, symmetrical, free-running type multivibrator. The modulator 60 and demodulator 40 may be referred to as choppers and the multivibrator is a specific example of a chopper driver generating a wave form commonly referred to as chopper drive. The total current drawn by the circuit is effective in obtaining a zero voltage difference across network terminals 11 and 13 in the same manner as described with reference to FIG. 1 and consequently the current I_t which would be measured by a serially connected load as was shown in FIG. 1 is accurately described by expression (1) when the circuit is operating in a balanced condition.

Current controller 30 includes a pair of transistors 31 and 32 having their collectors connected to input power terminal 20. These transistors form a Darlington amplifier since the emitter of 32 connects through resistor 33 to power line 81 which line is the main source of power from the other circuit elements. Controller 30 also includes transistor 34 and Zener diode 35 which operate to give a substantially constant current in the base to emitter circuits of 31 and 32 even though the input power supplied to terminal 20 may vary considerably in voltage level. The base of transistor 31 connects to the collector of 34 and connects through resistor 36 to the junctions between the cathode of Zener diode 35 and resistor 37. The other end of resistor 37 connects to input terminal 20. The emitter of transistor 34 and anode of diode 35 connect to line 81 and the base of transistor 34 connects to the output of demodulator 40 through

resistor 41. A capacitor 38 is connected between the base of transistor 34 and the emitter of transistor 32 in order to shunt any high frequency components that may appear at transistor 34.

The demodulator 40 includes an N-channel field effect transistor 42 connected in series with a P-channel field effect transistor 43 at junction 44. The source of transistor 42 connects to line 81 and the source of transistor 43 connects to resistor 41 at demodulator output terminal 45. Resistors are respectively connected from gate to source of transistors 42 and 43 and the transistors are alternately made conducting and non-conducting by a capacitively coupled output signal on line 83 which is connected to the output of multivibrator 70. A positive signal on line 83 cuts off transistor 43 and turns on transistor 42 thereby effectively referencing the output of amplifier 50 to power line 81. The alternate negative signal on line 83 cuts off 42 and turns on 43 thereby coupling the output of amplifier 50 to the output terminal 45 of demodulator 40.

Amplifier 50 is a direct current integrated circuit differential amplifier having its output capacitively coupled to resistor 53 and thence to junction 44. Input power is obtained from line 81 and power return is to line 82. Amplifier signal input terminals 51 and 52 are capacitively coupled to modulator output terminals 61 and 62 respectively. The series combination of resistor 54, capacitor 55 and resistor 56 is connected between input terminals 51 and 52. The output of amplifier 50 is D.C. connected to the junction between resistor 54 and capacitor 55 by means of degenerative feedback resistor 57. This degenerative feedback of direct current signals insures that unwanted error signals such as thermoelectric potentials at the input terminals will have little effect on the amplifier control signal. An alternating voltage signal from modulator 60 will be amplified independently by amplifier 50 because of the capacitive coupling of both input and output terminals. The amplifier 50 is operated from a balanced voltage supplied by lines 81 and 82 which is maintained substantially constant by series connected Zener diodes 84 and 85. These diodes are of the same type and same voltage breakdown. The junction between the cathode of 85 and the anode of 84 is connected to the junction between capacitor 55 and resistor 56 at the input to amplifier 50 by line 88 thereby maintaining the input of amplifier 50 midway between the voltage on lines 81 and 82.

Modulator 60 includes field effect transistor 63 which is alternately made conducting and non-conducting by the multi-vibrator output capacitively coupled to the gate of transistor 63 from line 86. The output connections of transistor 63 connect directly to modulator output terminals 62 and 61 respectively. These output terminals are resistance coupled to network output terminals 11 and 13 respectively so that a D.C. output signal arising at terminals 11 and 13 from a network unbalance is alternately shorted and applied across amplifier terminals 51 and 52 at the frequency established by multivibrator 70.

Multivibrator 70 receives power from line 81 and has a power return to line 82. The multivibrator includes a pair of transistors oscillating in a continuous manner and, as shown, is of conventional design which requires no elaboration.

The basic operation of the circuit of FIG. 2 is similar to the description given in reference to FIG. 1. Amplifier 50 and current controller 30 function to maintain zero voltage between network terminals 11 and 13 and

the total current drawn by the circuit is related to the network resistors R₁ through R₆ and reference voltage V_c by expression (1). Amplifier 50 and multivibrator 70 are each powered between lines 81 and 82 which are maintained at substantially constant voltage by Zener diodes 84 and 85. Consequently the current component drawn by these elements is active in the network balance since the current return is from line 82 through linearizing resistor R₆ and current feedback resistor R₅ to output terminal 19. This current component is typically small and relatively constant and the main signal current is developed by virtue of a network unbalance resulting in a change in current through Zener diodes 84 and 85 and thence over line 82 through resistors R₆ and R₅ to output terminal 19. Resistor 87 couples power from line 81 to the cathode of reference source V_c which in turn supplies the network in the manner described with reference to FIG. 1. Resistor 87 substantially blocks the balancing current supplied from controller 30 from passing through reference element V_c thereby minimizing any change in V_c which might otherwise be caused by relatively large changes in current through V_c.

As an example of operability it was desired to deliver an output current varying from 10 to 50 milliamps for a temperature change from 0° C. to 100° C. as measured by a platinum resistance thermometer. A sensor resistance of nominally 100 ohms at 0° C. was selected and was simulated by a manually variable resistor substituted for R₄. Other network resistor values were 1.008 ohms for R₅, 2.26 ohms for R₆, 90.78 ohms for R₃ and 6187.2 ohms for each of R₁ and R₂. Reference source V_c was a IN-827 Zener diode having a nominal voltage of 6.2 volts and Zener diodes 84 and 85 were type IN-4739 controlling at about 8.4 volts each. Resistor 87 was 1850 ohms and the input voltage from the D.C. source 24 was approximately 60 volts. Amplifier 50 was a type 709C direct current operational amplifier manufactured by Fairchild Semi-conductor, Mountain View, California and the other components were of size and type to maintain the various circuit elements within their design ranges of operation.

When resistance R₄ was varied to correspond to the well known resistance change of platinum with temperature the results of Table 1 were obtained.

TABLE 1

Simulated Temperature	Resistance R ₄	Current I _r
0 deg. C.	100.00 ohms	10.000 ma
25 deg. C.	109.92 ohms	19.999 ma
50 deg. C.	119.77 ohms	30.000 ma
75 deg. C.	129.55 ohms	40.004 ma
100 deg. C.	139.25 ohms	50.001 ma

The results in Table 1 are one example of the close agreement which is obtained between a measurand and output current for the circuits herein disclosed. Although the example was for a current range of 10-50 ma for a 100 ohm temperature sensor and a 100° C. range it is apparent that the circuits are suitable for operation over a wide range of variables and the current range achieved may also be selected over a wide range while using the circuits which are described and illustrated herein.

An alternate schematic of the general network shown in FIG. 1 is shown in FIG. 3. The network of FIG. 3 is substantially equivalent to network 10 and the operation follows the same formula relating total cur-

rent, reference source V_c and the resistors making up the network. The network of FIG. 3 was derived from 10 by transformation of the "wye" circuit comprising R₃, R₅, and R₆ of FIG. 1 to the "delta" circuit comprising resistors, R₇, R₈, and R₉ of FIG. 3. Expression (1) may also be applied to the network arrangement of FIG. 3 where the following transformations apply:

$$R_7 = \frac{R_5 R_6 + R_5 R_3 + R_3 R_6}{R_6} \quad (4)$$

$$R_8 = \frac{R_5 R_6 + R_5 R_3 + R_3 R_6}{R_5} \quad (5)$$

$$R_9 = \frac{R_5 R_6 + R_5 R_3 + R_3 R_6}{R_3} \quad (6)$$

The network arrangement of FIG. 3 may be substituted directly into the circuit of FIG. 1 or the circuit of FIG. 2 by connecting terminals 11, 13, 14 and 19 to the terminals of like numbers in FIG. 1 or FIG. 2 and disconnecting the corresponding networks shown in those Figures. The current derived from differential input current controller 16 may be applied directly to terminal 14 as shown in FIG. 1 but in the preferred embodiment the major portion of the controlled current is delivered to the network at terminal 26 as was shown in the circuit description of FIG. 2.

What is claimed is:

1. A resistance-to-current converter system comprising:
 - a. a sensing resistor responsive to a variable physical condition to be indicated,
 - b. a bridge including said resistor, said bridge having input and output junctions and being balanced only when said resistor has a predetermined value, whereby the bridge voltage developed at said output junctions is a function of the deviation of the resistor from said predetermined value as a result of a change in said physical condition, said bridge further comprising voltage reference means connected across said input junctions to stabilize the voltage thereacross,
 - c. a D-C amplifier whose input circuit is connected to the output junctions of said bridge whereby the impedance in the output circuit of the amplifier varies as a function of said bridge voltage,
 - d. a direct-voltage source providing an operating voltage both for said bridge and said amplifier,
 - e. a load connected in series with said source and having an output current flow therethrough resulting from variations in said resistor and hence indicative of said condition,
 - f. a voltage regulator,
 - g. a pair of wires connecting said series-connected source and load through said regulator across both the output circuit of said amplifier and the input junctions of said bridge, whereby the operating voltage of said amplifier is stabilized despite variations in said output current flow through said load resulting from variations in the value of said resistor,
 - h. a feedback resistor connected in series with said load to produce a feedback voltage, and
 - i. means to feed said feedback voltage into the arm of said bridge containing said sensing resistor in series opposition to the voltage produced by the sensing resistor to rebalance the bridge, whereby the out-

put current is accurately proportional to changes in said resistor.

2. A converter system as set forth in claim 1 [, further including] wherein said voltage reference means comprises a Zener diode connected across said input junctions to stabilize the voltage thereacross.

3. A system as set forth in claim 1 wherein said regulator is constituted by a transistor having its emitter and collector in series with one of said wires, a reference voltage being applied to the base of said transistor.

4. A system as set forth in claim 1, wherein said resistor is a temperature-responsive element, and said load is a read-out device to indicate the temperature sensed by said element.

5. A system as set forth in claim 4 wherein said resistor is made of platinum.

6. A system as set forth in claim 4 wherein said resistor and amplifier are located in a first location, whereas the load and D-C source are located at a remote second location.

7. An electrical current transmitting system comprising a pair of current terminals adapted for connection to a load and power source that are in series; a resistance network means connected in series with said current terminals to be powered and excited solely there-through and including a first resistor which varies in resistance value as a function of temperature, for providing a first variable D.C. voltage signal which depends on a reference voltage and varies as a function of the temperature to be measured; means connected to said resistance network means to generate said reference voltage; a feedback resistance means connected to said resistance network means; means to be powered solely through said terminals connected to the feedback resistance means and to the current terminals to establish a current flow path between said terminals and to provide a known portion of current flowing between said terminals through said feedback resistance means to provide a second D.C. voltage signal which is a function of the current through said current terminals including an amplifier means having a voltage input portion and an output portion providing an output signal which is a function of the voltage at said voltage input portion, and current control and adjustment means coupled to said output portion to receive the output signal and to adjust the current in said current flow path between said terminals as a function of said output signal; and means to couple said resistance network means and said feedback resistance means to said voltage input portion to provide a voltage at said input portion of said amplifier means which is a function of said first and second voltage signals.

8. The combination of claim 7 further characterized in that [a] said voltage reference means is connected to said resistance network means in series with said feedback resistance means between said terminals to provide [a] said reference voltage for said resistance network means.

9. The combination of claim 8 wherein said voltage reference means includes a fixed resistance and a semiconductor reference element in series with said fixed resistance, the series combination of said reference element and fixed resistance being connected across said first resistor so that an increase in excitation voltage across said first resistor is provided as a result of an increased current through said voltage reference means.

10. The combination as specified in claim 7 wherein said feedback resistance means includes a second resistor, said resistance network means further includes third and fourth resistors, said first, second, third and fourth resistors being connected in a symmetrical bridge ar-

angement having one end of said first resistor connected to one end of said third resistor to provide a first voltage terminal, and one end of said second resistor being connected to one end of said fourth resistor to provide a second voltage terminal, and wherein the other ends of said first and second resistors are connected to one of said current terminals and the other ends of said third and fourth resistors are connected together to the other current terminal, said feedback resistance means further including fifth and sixth resistors, and [a] said voltage reference means for providing a reference voltage for said resistance network means including a voltage reference element having one end connected to the junction of said third and fourth resistors and the other end connected through said fifth resistor to [the other] said one of said current terminals and through said sixth resistor to said second voltage terminal.

11. The current transmitting system of claim 7 wherein said feedback resistance means comprises a second resistor, said resistance network means further including third, fourth and fifth resistors, all of said resistors being connected in a closed series loop having the first resistor connected between the second and fourth resistors and the third resistor connected between the second and fifth resistors and the fourth and fifth resistors connected together, [and] said voltage reference means comprises a voltage reference element, and a sixth resistor connected in series with said voltage reference element between the junction of said fourth and fifth resistors and the junction of said second and third resistors, one of said current terminals being connected to the junction of the fourth and fifth resistors to carry a first portion of the current to said resistance network means, and the junction of the voltage reference element and the sixth resistor being connected to said one current terminal to carry a second portion of the current from said one terminal to the resistance network means, said last-mentioned junction being connected through portions of said resistance network means to the other of said current terminal.

12. An electrical current transmitting system comprising:

a load;

a power source connected in series with said load and serving as the sole source of power for said electrical current transmitting system;

a first resistor which varies in resistance value as a function of a physical condition;

a bridge including said first resistor and having input and output junctions and being balanced only when said first resistor has a predetermined value;

voltage reference means coupled across said input junctions to stabilize the voltage thereacross;

a direct current amplifier having inputs connected to said output junctions whereby the amplifier output signal is controlled by the signals at said output junctions;

a voltage regulator coupled to said input junctions and responsive to said amplifier output signal;

a pair of wires connecting the series combination of said load and said power source to said voltage regulator and to said bridge;

a feedback resistor connected in series with said load to produce a feedback voltage; and

means to couple said feedback voltage into the arm of said bridge containing said first resistor in series opposition to the voltage produced by said first resistor whereby the bridge is effectively balanced for varying values of said first resistor.

* * * * *

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO. : Re. 30,597
DATED : May 5, 1981
INVENTOR(S) : Earl A. Grindheim

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent are hereby corrected as shown below:

On the Title page,

Change notice printed in patent from "The portion of the term of this patent subsequent to Jan. 20, 1998 has been disclaimed" to read -- The portion of the term of this patent subsequent to Jan. 7, 1992 has been disclaimed.--

Signed and Sealed this

Twenty-fourth Day of August 1982

[SEAL]

Attest:

GERALD J. MOSSINGHOFF

Attesting Officer

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks