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DEVELOPMENT OF AN INTELLIGENT WATER QUALITY MONITORING SYSTEM BASED ON THE ARDUINO PLATFORM FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

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Abstract

This paper presents the development of an intelligent automated water quality monitoring system based on the Arduino microcontroller platform. The proposed system is designed for continuous real-time monitoring of the key physicochemical parameters of water using temperature, pH, turbidity, and water level sensors. Measurement data are transmitted via a GSM communication module, enabling remote monitoring of water bodies and rapid notification of users when abnormal conditions are detected. The developed system is characterized by low implementation cost, ease of operation, high flexibility, and adaptability to various application areas, including agriculture, water supply systems, aquaculture, and environmental monitoring. Experimental evaluation confirmed the reliability of the proposed hardware–software solution, the accuracy of sensor measurements, and the effectiveness of remote data transmission. The proposed intelligent monitoring system represents an affordable and efficient solution for continuous environmental surveillance and sustainable water resource management.



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Keywords: Arduino, water quality monitoring, Internet of Things (IoT), GSM module, pH sensor, turbidity sensor, environmental monitoring, automation, microcontroller, smart monitoring system.

1. Introduction

The rational management of water resources has become one of the most significant challenges facing modern society. Rapid population growth, industrial expansion, intensive agricultural activities, and climate change have substantially affected the quality and availability of freshwater resources worldwide. Continuous monitoring of water quality is therefore an essential component of environmental protection and sustainable water resource management.

Conventional laboratory methods provide highly accurate analytical results; however, they require considerable time, specialized laboratory equipment, and qualified personnel. These limitations reduce the feasibility of frequent monitoring, particularly in remote areas where rapid assessment of water quality is required.

Recent advances in embedded systems, sensor technologies, and automation have enabled the development of compact, low-cost, and energy-efficient environmental monitoring systems capable of operating in real time. Among these technologies, the Arduino platform has become one of the most widely adopted solutions because of its open-source architecture, extensive hardware compatibility, ease of programming, and scalability.

The integration of modern sensor technologies with wireless communication modules makes it possible to continuously monitor multiple water quality parameters and immediately transmit measurement results to responsible users. Such intelligent systems significantly improve the efficiency of environmental



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monitoring while reducing operational costs and minimizing the need for permanent human supervision.

The objective of this study is to develop an intelligent Arduino-based water quality monitoring system capable of automatically measuring the principal physicochemical characteristics of water, processing the collected data, detecting abnormal conditions, and transmitting measurement results to users through a GSM communication network in real time.

2. Materials and Methods

The primary objective of this study was to develop an intelligent system for continuous water quality monitoring capable of automatically measuring the principal physicochemical parameters of water and transmitting measurement results to users in real time. Particular attention was devoted to minimizing implementation costs, improving measurement reliability, and ensuring stable operation under remote environmental conditions.

2.1 Hardware Configuration

The proposed monitoring system is based on the **Arduino Mega 2560** microcontroller, selected because of its large number of analog and digital input/output ports, high processing performance, and ability to interface simultaneously with multiple sensing devices. The open-source hardware architecture of the Arduino platform facilitates future system upgrades and the integration of additional environmental sensors without substantial hardware modifications.

The following sensing modules were incorporated into the prototype:

- pH sensor for acidity measurement;
- turbidity sensor;



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- digital water temperature sensor;
- ultrasonic water level sensor.

Each sensor continuously acquires information related to its corresponding environmental parameter and transmits either analog or digital signals to the microcontroller. The acquired data undergo preliminary processing, including noise suppression, signal filtering, calibration, and conversion into engineering units.

2.2 Software Development

The embedded software was developed using the **Arduino IDE** environment and the **C++ programming language**. The control algorithm performs cyclic interrogation of all connected sensors, processes the acquired measurements, compares the results with predefined threshold values, and generates control signals whenever abnormal conditions are detected.

To enable remote monitoring, the system incorporates a **SIM800L GSM module**, which transmits measurement data through the GSM cellular network. Whenever any monitored parameter exceeds its permissible limit, the software automatically generates an SMS notification containing:

- current sensor readings;
- date and time of the event;
- warning information indicating the detected abnormality.

Simultaneously, all measured values are displayed on a **16×2 LCD module**, allowing local monitoring without requiring additional external devices.

2.3 Reliability Measures

To improve operational reliability, several software protection mechanisms were implemented, including:



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- automatic sensor reinitialization following communication failures;
 - digital filtering of abnormal measurements caused by short-term disturbances;
 - continuous verification of sensor availability;
 - stable cyclic data acquisition and processing.

These mechanisms significantly enhance measurement stability while reducing the probability of false alarms.

2.4 Experimental Procedure

Experimental validation of the proposed monitoring system was carried out under laboratory conditions using water samples with different physicochemical characteristics. The evaluation focused on the following performance indicators:

- measurement accuracy;
- operational stability;
- response time;
- GSM communication reliability;
- correctness of alarm generation.

The experimental results demonstrated that the developed intelligent monitoring system is capable of providing reliable automated control of water quality and can be effectively employed in environmental monitoring, drinking water supply systems, irrigation management, aquaculture, and other applications requiring continuous supervision of water resources.

3. Architecture of the Intelligent Water Quality Monitoring System

The developed intelligent water quality monitoring system is an integrated hardware–software platform designed for continuous real-time assessment of water quality. The primary function of the system is to collect data from multiple sensors, process and analyze the acquired information, compare the measured



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values with predefined environmental standards, and promptly notify users whenever abnormal conditions are detected.

The system adopts a **modular architecture**, allowing straightforward hardware expansion and software modification without significant redesign. This approach improves system flexibility, maintainability, and adaptability for various environmental monitoring applications.

At the core of the monitoring platform is the **Arduino Mega 2560** microcontroller, which coordinates the operation of all peripheral modules, processes incoming sensor data, and controls communication between system components.

3.1 Functional Components

The proposed intelligent monitoring system consists of the following hardware modules:

- Water pH measurement module;
- Turbidity measurement module;
- Digital water temperature sensor;
- Ultrasonic water level sensor;
- SIM800L GSM communication module;
- 16×2 LCD display;
- Audible and visual alarm module;
- Power supply and voltage regulation unit.

Each component performs a dedicated function within the monitoring process, while the microcontroller synchronizes data acquisition and decision-making.



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3.2 System Operation

After power-up, the Arduino microcontroller initializes all connected devices and performs an automatic hardware diagnostic procedure to verify sensor availability and communication status.

Once initialization is completed successfully, the system enters continuous monitoring mode. Sensor measurements are acquired periodically at predefined sampling intervals.

The collected data are processed through several computational stages, including:

- signal filtering;
- elimination of measurement noise;
- averaging of sensor readings;
- calibration;
- comparison with permissible threshold values.

When all measured parameters remain within acceptable ranges, the current readings are displayed on the LCD module and stored for subsequent analysis.

If any monitored parameter exceeds its allowable limit, the system automatically initiates an emergency response procedure. The audible and visual alarm modules are activated, while an SMS notification containing the current water quality parameters, event timestamp, and warning message is transmitted to the responsible user via the GSM communication network.

3.3 Remote Monitoring Capability

The integration of GSM communication technology enables continuous remote supervision of water resources regardless of the operator's geographical location. This capability is particularly valuable for applications involving:

- remote pumping stations;
- irrigation systems;



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- agricultural facilities;
 - aquaculture farms;
 - drinking water supply infrastructure;
 - natural water bodies located in inaccessible regions.

The proposed communication strategy significantly reduces the need for permanent on-site personnel while improving the speed of emergency response.

3.4 Expandability of the System

One of the major advantages of the proposed architecture is its scalability.

Additional environmental sensors can be incorporated into the system with minimal hardware and software modifications. Examples include:

- electrical conductivity (EC) sensors;
- dissolved oxygen (DO) sensors;
- oxidation–reduction potential (ORP) sensors;
- total dissolved solids (TDS) sensors;
- salinity sensors;
- dissolved carbon dioxide sensors.

The modular design therefore enables the monitoring platform to evolve into a comprehensive environmental monitoring system suitable for a broad range of industrial, agricultural, and scientific applications.

Furthermore, the use of the open-source Arduino platform considerably reduces implementation costs, simplifies maintenance, and facilitates future upgrades, making the proposed solution an economically attractive option for long-term environmental monitoring.



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4. Results

4.1 Experimental Evaluation

To assess the performance of the proposed intelligent water quality monitoring system, a series of laboratory experiments was conducted using water samples with different physicochemical properties. The primary objective was to evaluate measurement accuracy, operational stability, response time, and the reliability of GSM-based data transmission.

Prior to the experiments, all sensing devices were calibrated according to the manufacturers' recommendations. Measurements were performed automatically at **30-second intervals**. The collected data were displayed simultaneously on the 16×2 LCD module and transmitted to the user's mobile phone via SMS notifications.

Throughout the experimental period, the developed monitoring system operated continuously without software failures or communication interruptions. All sensors successfully detected variations in water quality parameters, while the average processing time between data acquisition and result presentation remained within a few seconds.

4.2 Discussion

Analysis of the experimental results demonstrated that the proposed intelligent monitoring system successfully detected abnormal water quality conditions whenever at least one monitored parameter exceeded its predefined threshold.

During these events, the embedded control algorithm immediately activated both the audible and visual alarm modules while simultaneously transmitting an SMS notification containing the current sensor readings and the corresponding warning message. The notification process required less than one minute under normal GSM network conditions.



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The experimental investigation also confirmed the reliability of wireless communication. In every test, measurement data were delivered successfully without packet loss or transmission errors, demonstrating the effectiveness of the SIM800L GSM module for remote environmental monitoring applications.

The implemented digital filtering algorithm effectively reduced random measurement fluctuations caused by temporary environmental disturbances, thereby improving the stability and repeatability of sensor readings. Automatic sensor reinitialization further enhanced system robustness by preventing communication failures from interrupting continuous monitoring.

Overall, the obtained results indicate that the proposed Arduino-based intelligent monitoring system provides an effective, low-cost, and reliable solution for real-time water quality assessment. The combination of multiple environmental sensors, embedded data processing, and wireless communication enables continuous monitoring without the need for permanent operator supervision.

Compared with conventional laboratory analysis, the developed system offers several practical advantages, including continuous operation, immediate anomaly detection, low installation cost, ease of maintenance, and high scalability. These characteristics make the proposed platform suitable for applications in drinking water supply systems, irrigation management, aquaculture, industrial facilities, and environmental protection programs.

The experimental findings confirm that the proposed intelligent monitoring platform represents a practical and economically efficient solution for continuous water quality assessment and can serve as a foundation for the development of next-generation smart environmental monitoring systems.



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Conclusion

This study presented the design and implementation of an intelligent water quality monitoring system based on the **Arduino Mega 2560** microcontroller platform. The proposed hardware–software solution enables continuous real-time monitoring of the principal physicochemical parameters of water, including **pH, temperature, turbidity, and water level**, while providing automatic transmission of measurement results through a GSM communication network.

Experimental validation demonstrated that the developed system operates reliably under laboratory conditions and provides accurate, stable, and timely measurements. The integrated data-processing algorithm effectively identifies deviations from predefined threshold values, automatically activates local alarm mechanisms, and promptly informs users via SMS notifications. These features significantly improve the efficiency of environmental monitoring while reducing the need for continuous human supervision.

One of the major advantages of the proposed system is the utilization of the open-source Arduino platform together with commercially available sensing devices. This combination substantially lowers implementation costs, simplifies installation and maintenance, and facilitates future hardware and software upgrades.

The modular architecture allows the monitoring platform to be adapted for a wide variety of practical applications, including:

- drinking water supply systems;
- irrigation management;
- industrial water treatment facilities;
- aquaculture;
- environmental monitoring of rivers, lakes, and reservoirs;
- scientific research and educational laboratories.



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Future research will focus on integrating the developed monitoring system with **Internet of Things (IoT)** cloud platforms to enable centralized data storage, remote visualization of measurement results, automated analytical reporting, and predictive analysis using **artificial intelligence and machine learning techniques**. Such improvements will further enhance decision-making capabilities and contribute to more sustainable management of water resources. In conclusion, the proposed intelligent monitoring system represents an effective, reliable, and economically feasible solution for automated water quality assessment. Owing to its scalability, low implementation cost, and ease of deployment, the developed platform has strong potential for practical application in both research and industrial environments.

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