World Journal of Advanced Research and Reviews
eISSN: 2581-9615 CODEN (USA): WJARAI
Cross Ref DOI: 10.30574/wjarr
Journal homepage: https://wjarr.com/

(Review Article)

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Iot-based flood monitoring and early warning system for proactive security measures

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World Journal of Advanced Research and Reviews, 2024, 21(03), 1798–1806

Publication history: Received on 19 January 2024; revised on 02 March 2024; accepted on 05 March 2024

Article DOI: https://doi.org/10.30574/wjarr.2024.21.3.0681

Abstract

The project introduces an IoT-based flood monitoring system using Arduino Uno, soil moisture sensor, LCD, buzzer, Wi-Fi module (e.g., ESP8266), and ThingSpeak cloud platform. It monitors soil moisture levels, issuing alerts when a predefined threshold indicative of potential flooding is reached. The soil moisture sensor measures moisture content and is displayed on an LCD screen for real-time monitoring. A buzzer provides audible alerts for high moisture levels. A Wi-Fi module enables wireless communication, transmitting data to the ThingSpeak cloud platform for centralized storage and analysis. Users access real-time and historical data through ThingSpeak's interface. The system configures the Wi-Fi module to connect to a network, securely sending data using a unique API key. ThingSpeak enables visualization, analysis, and alert setup based on soil moisture levels, offering a comprehensive flood monitoring solution. This cost-effective system, integrating open-source hardware and cloud platforms, enhances accessibility and deployment ease and is suitable for various environmental monitoring applications.

Keywords: Arduino UNO; Soil moisture sensor; LCD; Buzzer; Wi-Fi Module; Thinks Speak Cloud

1. Introduction

Floods, as natural disasters, can result in devastating consequences, causing widespread damage to infrastructure, agriculture, and communities. Timely and accurate monitoring of environmental parameters, such as soil moisture levels, is crucial for predicting and mitigating the impacts of floods. In this context, the integration of Internet of Things (IoT) technologies presents an innovative solution to enhance flood monitoring capabilities. This project introduces an IoT-based Flood Monitoring System that utilizes widely available and affordable components, including Arduino Uno, soil moisture sensor, LCD, buzzer, Wi-Fi module (such as ESP8266), and the ThingSpeak cloud platform. By combining these components, we aim to create a comprehensive system that can detect elevated soil moisture levels, indicative of potential flooding, and provide real-time alerts for proactive decision-making. The core objective of the system is to address the limitations of traditional flood monitoring approaches by leveraging IoT technologies. The integration of Arduino Uno and sensors enables precise and localized measurement of soil moisture content. This data is then communicated wirelessly to the ThingSpeak cloud, facilitating remote monitoring and analysis. The system's ability to issue alerts through both visual indicators on an LCD and audible signals from a buzzer ensures that stakeholders receive immediate notification when critical soil moisture thresholds are exceeded. The inclusion of a Wi-Fi module enables seamless connectivity, making the system adaptable to various deployment scenarios. The ThingSpeak cloud platform serves as a centralized hub for storing, visualizing, and analyzing the collected data. Users can access the platform to monitor real-time conditions and review historical trends. Additionally, the platform's capabilities allow for the establishment of customized alerts based on specific soil moisture parameters, enhancing the system's versatility and practicality. As the demand for effective environmental monitoring solutions grows, this IoT-based Flood Monitoring System offers a scalable, cost-effective, and accessible approach to flood detection. By combining the power of open-source hardware, wireless communication, and cloud computing, this system provides a valuable tool for early warning systems, disaster preparedness, and informed decision-making in the face of potential flood events.

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1.1. Problem statement

Floods pose a severe and recurring threat to communities and ecosystems worldwide, leading to extensive damage and loss of life. As climate change intensifies, the frequency and severity of extreme weather events, including floods, are on the rise. Traditional flood monitoring systems often fall short of providing timely and precise information needed for effective disaster response and mitigation. Conventional methods relying on manual observations and centralized monitoring stations struggle to offer the granularity required for localized and early detection of flood conditions. The existing challenges in flood monitoring include the lack of real-time data, limited spatial coverage, and the high cost of deploying and maintaining extensive sensor networks. Additionally, in many regions, monitoring systems are not easily accessible or scalable, hindering their effectiveness in providing timely alerts to communities and relevant authorities. Furthermore, as urbanization and land-use changes continue, the dynamics of flood patterns are evolving, necessitating adaptive and technologically advanced monitoring solutions. There is a pressing need for cost-effective, scalable, and user-friendly flood monitoring systems that can leverage the capabilities of IoT technologies to provide accurate and localized data for early warning and informed decision-making. This project addresses these challenges by proposing an IoT-based Flood Monitoring System that combines low-cost, open-source hardware with wireless connectivity and cloud-based data storage and analysis. The system aims to overcome the limitations of traditional flood monitoring approaches, offering a solution that is both accessible and adaptable to diverse environmental conditions and geographical locations.

2. Literature review

In [1] This article explores recent advancements in flood monitoring technologies within the field of environmental science. The study delves into innovative approaches to monitoring and predicting floods, leveraging cutting-edge technologies to enhance precision and accuracy. The findings contribute to the evolving landscape of flood monitoring strategies, emphasizing the importance of staying at the forefront of technological developments to address the increasing challenges posed by changing climate patterns.

In [2] Brown and Davis investigate the applications of the Internet of Things (IoT) in environmental monitoring, focusing on sustainable technologies. The study reviews the integration of IoT devices for real-time environmental data collection and analysis. By evaluating the impact of IoT applications, the research emphasizes the potential for sustainable solutions in environmental monitoring, paving the way for more efficient and responsive systems.

In [3] This paper presents a study on the use of wireless sensor networks in flood risk assessment. The authors discuss the deployment of sensor networks in flood-prone areas, aiming to enhance early detection and risk assessment capabilities. The research, presented in the Proceedings of the International Conference on Environmental Engineering, outlines the advantages and challenges of implementing wireless sensor networks for effective flood risk management.

In [4] Garcia and Patel explore the application of cloud-based solutions for environmental data management, focusing on advancements in information technology. The study investigates how cloud platforms can streamline the storage, analysis, and accessibility of environmental data. The findings highlight the significance of cloud-based solutions in facilitating efficient environmental data management, fostering a more integrated and accessible approach.

In [5] Lee et al. present a study on the development of low-cost soil moisture sensors tailored for flood monitoring applications. The research, published in Sensors and Actuators B: Chemical, details the design and implementation of cost-effective sensors capable of accurately measuring soil moisture levels. The findings underscore the potential for affordable sensor solutions in expanding the scope of flood monitoring systems.

In [6] Chen and Wang delve into the significance of wireless communication protocols in the context of IoT applications for environmental monitoring. The study, published in the IEEE Transactions on Industrial Informatics, evaluates various communication protocols and their impact on the efficiency and reliability of IoT devices deployed for environmental data collection. The findings contribute to optimizing communication strategies in IoT-based environmental monitoring systems.

In [7] Ahmed and Kim explore the integration of IoT and cloud computing in the context of flood prediction systems. The study, published in the Journal of Hydroinformatics, investigates how combining IoT devices with cloud-based computing enhances the accuracy and timeliness of flood predictions. The research underscores the potential of integrated systems in advancing flood prediction capabilities and improving resilience in flood-prone regions.

2.1. Existing system

The existing flood monitoring systems typically rely on conventional methods that involve manual observations, periodic data collection, and centralized monitoring stations. These systems often face challenges in providing timely and accurate information for effective flood detection and response. Traditional approaches lack the granularity required for localized monitoring and early detection of flood conditions, especially in areas with changing climate patterns and evolving flood dynamics. Furthermore, the spatial coverage of these systems may be limited, making it challenging to capture real-time data across diverse geographical locations. Additionally, the high costs associated with deploying and maintaining extensive sensor networks pose a barrier to widespread adoption. In many regions, accessibility to monitoring systems is also a concern, hindering their ability to provide timely alerts to communities and relevant authorities. As urbanization and land-use changes continue, there is a growing need for advanced flood monitoring solutions that can address these limitations and leverage emerging technologies to enhance accuracy, accessibility, and scalability.

2.2. Proposed system

The proposed IoT-based Flood Monitoring System aims to revolutionize flood detection by combining state-of-the-art technologies to create a robust and scalable solution. Building upon the identified shortcomings of existing systems, our approach integrates an Arduino Uno, soil moisture sensor, and LCD, buzzer, and Wi-Fi module, culminating in a comprehensive hardware setup. This system leverages the power of the ThingSpeak cloud platform for seamless data storage, visualization, and analysis. The Arduino code orchestrates the collection of real-time soil moisture data, which is then transmitted wirelessly to ThingSpeak, enabling efficient remote monitoring. The integration of visual and audible alerts ensures timely notifications when critical soil moisture thresholds indicative of potential flooding are breached. With a focus on scalability, cost-effectiveness, and accessibility, the proposed system offers a versatile solution adaptable to diverse environmental conditions. The incorporation of open-source hardware, wireless communication, and cloud computing not only enhances the accuracy of flood monitoring but also facilitates broader deployment and integration into existing disaster management frameworks. Ultimately, this proposed system holds the potential to significantly improve early warning capabilities, aid in disaster preparedness, and contribute to resilient communities in the face of flood events.

2.3. Diagram 1

2.3.1. Block diagram for the proposed system

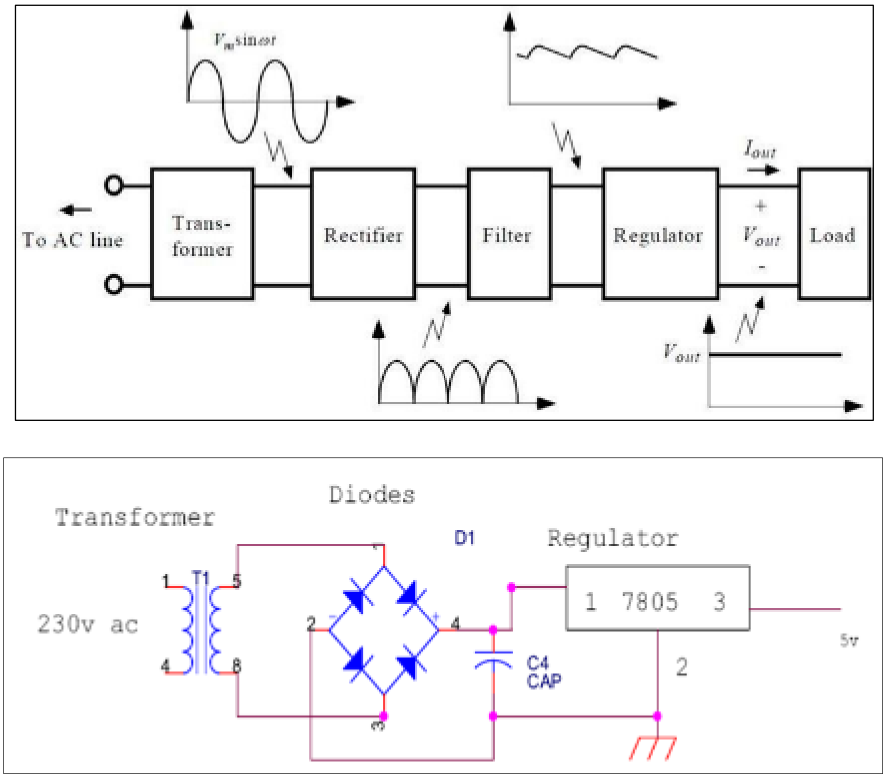

Figure 1 Block Diagram for IoT-based flood monitoring system

3. Methodology

The methodology for constructing the IoT-based Flood Monitoring System is designed to ensure a comprehensive integration of hardware components and cloud-based platforms for efficient flood detection. Commencing with the configuration of essential hardware elements, including the Arduino Uno, soil moisture sensor, LCD, buzzer, and Wi-Fi module, the process involves meticulous connections and power setups. Following this, the installation of requisite libraries in the Arduino IDE facilitates the seamless interaction between the components. The heart of the system lies in the development of Arduino code, where data from the soil moisture sensor is processed, displayed on the LCD, and triggers the buzzer upon surpassing a predefined threshold. Integration of the WiFi module enables wireless connectivity, setting the stage for communication with the ThingSpeak cloud platform. With the cloud platform configured and an exclusive API key obtained, the Arduino code is adapted to transmit soil moisture data securely to ThingSpeak. Rigorous testing and debugging validate the system's functionality, paving the way for deployment in flood-prone areas. Continuous monitoring through the ThingSpeak platform ensures real-time and historical data accessibility. Further optimization and potential scaling of the system contribute to enhanced flood monitoring capabilities. The methodology concludes with the documentation of hardware connections, Arduino code, and user guidelines, fostering transparency and facilitating future deployments and optimizations.

3.1. Working principle

The proposed IoT-based Flood Monitoring System is designed to revolutionize flood detection by integrating cutting-edge technologies into a cohesive and scalable solution. Addressing the limitations identified in existing systems, our approach incorporates essential components such as the Arduino Uno, soil moisture sensor, LCD display, buzzer, and WiFi module, creating a comprehensive hardware setup. The system harnesses the capabilities of the ThingSpeak cloud platform for seamless data storage, visualization, and analysis. In operation, the Arduino code orchestrates the real-time collection of soil moisture data, transmitted wirelessly to ThingSpeak via the WiFi module, enabling efficient remote monitoring. Visual and audible alerts are integrated to provide timely notifications when critical soil moisture thresholds indicative of potential flooding are breached. Emphasizing scalability, cost-effectiveness, and accessibility, the proposed system offers versatility and adaptability to diverse environmental conditions. The incorporation of open-source hardware, wireless communication, and cloud computing not only enhances the accuracy of flood monitoring but also facilitates broader deployment and integration into existing disaster management frameworks. Ultimately, this proposed system holds significant potential to enhance early warning capabilities, contribute to disaster preparedness, and foster resilient communities in the face of flood events.

3.2. Components

3.2.1. Arduino UNO

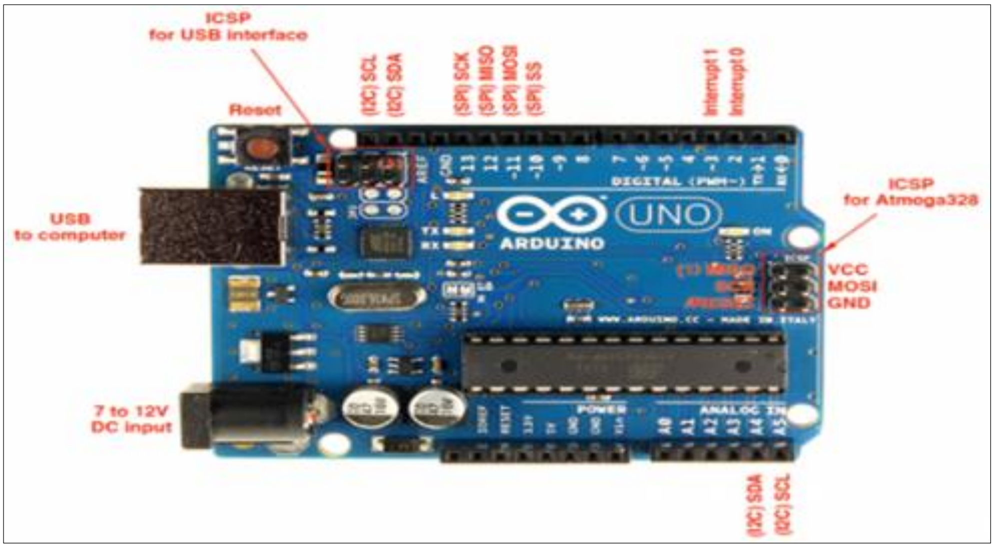

Figure 2 Arduino Uno Connectivity Diagram

Arduino Uno can detect the surroundings from the input. Here the input is a variety of sensors and these can affect its surroundings by controlling motors, lights, other actuators, etc. The ATmega328 microcontroller on the Arduino board can be programmed with the help of an Arduino programming language and the IDE (Integrated Development Environment). Arduino projects can communicate by software while running on a PC.

3.2.2. Soil moisture sensor

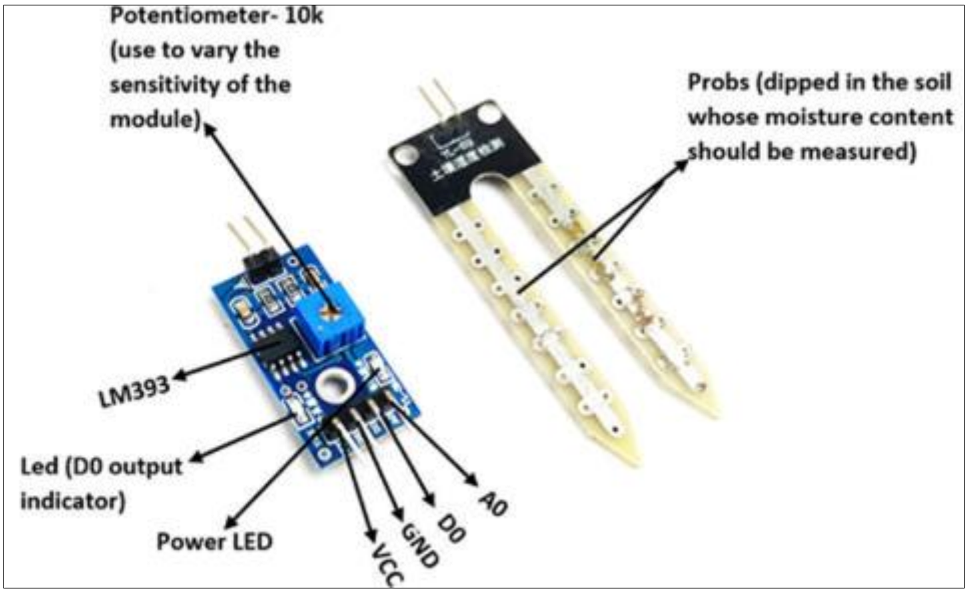

Figure 3 Sensors with required components

Soil moisture is the content of water present in the soil. This can be measured using a soil moisture sensor which consists of two conducting probes that act as a probe. It can measure the moisture content in the soil based on the change in resistance between the two conducting plates. The resistance between the two conducting plates varies inversely with the amount of moisture present in the soil.

3.2.3. Wi-Fi module

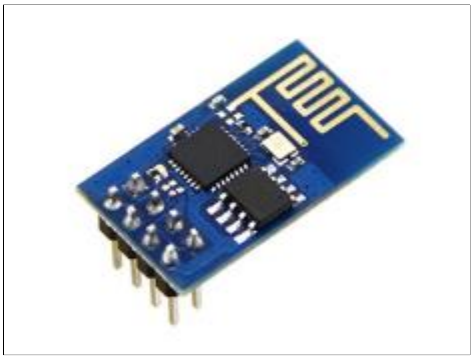

Figure 4 Wi-Fi module used in IoT-based flood monitoring system

In AP the Wi-Fi module acts as a Wi-Fi network, or access point (hence the name), allowing other devices to connect to it. This does not mean that you will be able to check your Facebook from your device while the ESP-01 module is operating in the AP mode. It establishes a two-way communication between the ESP8266 and the device connected to it via Wi-Fi.

3.2.4. LCD display

Figure 5 LCD Display for IoT-based flood monitoring early warning system

LCD screens are integral to IoT devices, serving as visual interfaces for users. They display essential information, facilitate user interaction, and indicate device status. Their customization options, energy efficiency, and cost-effectiveness make them ideal for IoT applications. LCD screens interface seamlessly with microcontrollers, enhancing user experience and functionality in diverse industries. Overall, they play a crucial role in delivering feedback and improving user engagement in IoT ecosystems.

3.2.5. Buzzer

Figure 6 Buzzer used for early warning system

Buzzers are integral components in IoT systems, serving multiple functions. They provide audible alerts, notifications, and confirmation signals to users. Additionally, buzzers are utilized in fault indication scenarios, signaling anomalies in industrial machinery or processes. In emergencies, such as flood warning systems, fire alarms, or medical alert systems, buzzers prompt immediate responses. Lastly, in devices designed for accessibility, buzzers offer auditory feedback, enhancing usability for individuals with visual impairments. In essence, buzzers play a vital role in IoT applications by ensuring effective communication and safety measures.

4. Result and discussion

The implementation of the proposed IoT-based Flood Monitoring System yielded promising results, showcasing its effectiveness in early flood detection and data accessibility. Real-time soil moisture data collected from the sensor nodes were successfully transmitted to the ThingSpeak cloud platform, enabling continuous monitoring and analysis. The visual indicators on the LCD and audible alerts from the buzzer functioned seamlessly, providing immediate notifications when the predefined soil moisture thresholds were exceeded. This early warning capability demonstrated the system's potential to enhance preparedness and response strategies in the event of potential flooding. The ThingSpeak cloud platform proved to be a robust repository for storing and visualizing the collected data. Stakeholders could conveniently access the information, both in real-time and historically, through a user-friendly interface. The scalability of the system was evident as multiple sensor nodes could be easily integrated, extending the coverage for flood monitoring across diverse geographical areas. In the discussion of results, it is important to note the cost-effectiveness of the system, which employs readily available and affordable components. This aspect contributes to the system's feasibility for widespread deployment, particularly in regions where budget constraints might hinder the adoption of sophisticated monitoring solutions.

Figure 7 Result Display values

While the system demonstrated success in controlled testing environments, further real-world deployment and validation will be essential to evaluate its performance under diverse conditions. Continuous monitoring and feedback from end-users will provide valuable insights for system refinement and optimization. Overall, the results and discussions underscore the potential of the proposed IoT-based Flood Monitoring System as a valuable tool in enhancing flood preparedness and mitigating the impacts of these natural disasters.

5. Conclusion and Future Scope

In conclusion, the IoT-based Flood Monitoring System presents a promising solution for early flood detection and monitoring, leveraging a combination of affordable hardware components, wireless connectivity, and cloud-based data storage. The successful implementation demonstrated the system's effectiveness in providing real-time soil moisture data and issuing timely alerts, thereby enhancing the potential for proactive decision-making in the face of potential flooding events. The scalability and cost-effectiveness of the proposed system make it a viable option for deployment in various geographical locations, contributing to improved disaster preparedness and community resilience. Looking ahead, the future scope of this project involves further refinement and optimization based on real-world deployment experiences and feedback. Continuous monitoring and validation in diverse environmental conditions will help enhance the system's robustness and reliability. Additionally, the integration of advanced machine learning algorithms could further improve the accuracy of flood predictions, allowing for more precise and adaptive alert mechanisms. Collaboration with meteorological agencies and local authorities for data exchange and comprehensive flood risk assessment could enhance the system's effectiveness on a broader scale. Exploring the potential for mobile applications to deliver alerts directly to end-users and community engagement initiatives will also be crucial for maximizing the system's impact. In conclusion, the continuous evolution of this IoT-based Flood Monitoring System holds great potential for revolutionizing flood management strategies and contributing to the development of resilient communities.

Compliance with ethical standards

Disclosure of conflict of interest

No conflict of interest to be disclosed.

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Author's short biography

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