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SMART WASTE MONITORING SYSTEM FOR SUSTAINABLE SMART CITIES

Ashish Kumar[1], Ankit Thakur[2], Bhavana L[3], Neelesh Kumar Rana[4],Mr Nagabhivaranath K A,[5] Dr Krishna Kumar P R[6]*

[1,2,3,4]Students Dept of CSE,SEA College of Engineering & Technology,Bangalore-560049.

[5,6]Faculty, Dept of CSE,SEA College of Engineering & Technology,Bangalore-560049.

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***Corresponding Author: Ashish Kumar**
Students Dept of CSE,SEA College of Engineering & Technology,Bangalore-560049.

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ABSTRACT

As urban centers face escalating waste management challenges due to increased population density and consumption, traditional waste collection methods prove increasingly inefficient. The emergence of Smart Waste Management Systems (SWMS) offers a transformative approach for addressing these challenges through the integration of cutting-edge technologies. This abstract presents an overview of SWMS, which harnesses Internet of Things (IoT) sensors, data analytics, and machine learning algorithms to enhance waste management processes. By equipping waste bins with IoT sensors, SWMS provides real-time data on fill levels and waste types, enabling optimized collection routes and schedules. Machine learning models predict waste generation patterns and optimize resource allocation, reducing operational costs and minimizing environmental impact. Additionally, SWMS promotes greater transparency and efficiency by facilitating better monitoring and management of waste disposal practices. The abstract highlights the potential of SWMS to improve urban sanitation, lower carbon footprints, and contribute to sustainable city development. The Smart Waste Management System using Arduino and Load Cell presents an innovative approach to addressing the inefficiencies of traditional waste collection methods. This system is designed to monitor the fill levels of waste bins in real-time, leveraging Arduino microcontrollers and load cells for precise weight measurement. By continuously tracking the weight of the waste accumulated in bins, the system can provide accurate data on when bins are full, thereby optimizing the scheduling of waste collection services. This not only reduces unnecessary collection trips, saving time and resources, but also prevents overflow, maintaining cleanliness in public and private spaces. This smart waste management system exemplifies how IoT technologies can be harnessed to create more sustainable and efficient urban infrastructure, contributing to cleaner cities and a reduction in the environmental impact of waste management practices.

KEYWORDS: Arduino Uno, Load cell H711.

INTRODUCTION

Smart Waste Management System involves activities and Actions required to manage waste from its inception to its final disposal. One of the main concerns with our environment or locality has been solid waste management which impacts the health and environment of our society. This smart waste management involves collection of waste bins from a particular locality once the bin is full. It is achieved by attaching a load cell, an electro- mechanical sensor used to measure force or weight under the bin which detects the weight of it and displays it in the LCD connected. Arduino Uno is an open-source microcontroller board based on the Microchip ATmega328P microcontroller and Arduino IDE is software for detecting and printing the weight of the bin. The IDE uses C++ language and requires the necessary libraries to be included. The benefits of this technology are: Efficiency and provides optimized routes thereby reducing the fuel consumption and labour costs. Better recycling rates and reduced landfill use decrease environmental pollution.

It provides municipalities and waste management companies with valuable insights to improve services. Helps in identifying areas where waste reduction and recycling efforts need to be focused. This research, which uses the Arduino, load cell weight sensor HX711 with ADC and LCD with interface which detects the weight of bin is efficient and provides optimized routes and schedules reduce fuel consumption and labour costs.

Overall, smart waste management using Arduino and IoT is a promising solution that addresses the inefficiencies of traditional waste management methods. By embracing this technology, cities can move towards more sustainable waste practices, reduce operational costs, and create cleaner, healthier environments for their inhabitants.

RELATED WORK

The system typically involves placing sensors in waste bins to monitor their fill levels. These sensors, connected to an Arduino microcontroller, collects data of the volume of waste in the bin. The data is then transmitted via IoT to a centralized server or cloud platform where it is analyzed. The system can predict when a bin is likely to be full and send notifications to waste collection services, ensuring collection. This prevents overflow and reduces the number of unnecessary collection trips, thus saving fuel and reducing carbon emissions [1][7][8].

In urban areas, waste management is a critical issue due
to the rapid growth in population and urbanization, leading to increased waste generation. Conventional methods often struggle with inefficiencies such as irregular waste collection, overflowing bins, and high operational costs. This situation not only causes environmental pollution but also deteriorates the quality of life.

The integration of smart technology allows for better resource allocation and route optimization for waste collection trucks. By analyzing data patterns and trends, the system can generate the most efficient routes, reducing travel time and fuel consumption. This not only lowers operational costs but also minimizes the environmental impact of waste collection activities [7].

In addition to efficiency, smart waste management systems can contribute to sustainability goals. The data collected can be used to track and analyze waste generation patterns, helping authorities to design more effective waste reduction and recycling programs. This can lead to better waste segregation at the source, increased recycling rates, and reduced landfill use [11].

Smart waste management using Arduino and IoT (Internet of Things) represents a modern approach to tackling the challenges associated with traditional waste management systems. The concept of smart waste management leverages the power of IoT to create more efficient, effective, and sustainable waste management systems.

This paper highlights the use of Arduino as a cost-effective solution for implementing smart waste management systems. Arduino's open-source nature and affordability make it an attractive option for small-scale deployments or in developing countries. The study demonstrates how Arduino can be integrated with various sensors and communication modules (such as GSM, Wi-Fi) to create a reliable, low-cost waste monitoring system [10].

LITERATURE SURVEY

Karimi, Kaivan, and Gary Atkinson [2] present a "What the Internet of Things (IoT) needs to become a reality," which discusses the various technicalities of the Internet of Things (IoT). The authors explain different categories and building blocks of IoT. They also note that though the development of IoT is happening at a slow pace, it will soon touch every aspect of our life in less than a decade.

D. Xu, W. He and S. Li, present an "Internet of Things in Industries: A Survey," which discusses the promising opportunity of the Internet of Things (IoT) in industrial applications.

The authors also discuss the key applications of IoT in industries and its future trends.

Gay, W. and Gay, W. presents a “DHT11 sensor. Advanced Raspberry Pi: Raspbian Linux and GPIO Integration” which describes framework the working of DHT11 sensor. The authors explain how the sensor is fast cost-effective and can easily connect to microcontrollers.

Schwartz, Marco. Presents an “Internet of Things with ESP8266” which explains the process of building lowcost applications using esp8266. The author also talks about configuring an ESP8266 to the cloud and other networkable modules.

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PROPOSED METHOD

Existing Solution:

Smart waste management improves traditional methods by integrating technology to enhance efficiency and sustainability. Traditional methods, like manual collection, landfilling, and incineration, are often inefficient and environmentally harmful. Traditional waste management methods primarily relied on manual processes and lacked the technological advancements that define modern systems. Waste collection was typically carried out by workers going door- to-door, using basic carts or trucks to gather waste from households and businesses.

This method was labor- intensive and often inconsistent, with the quality of service depending heavily on the availability of personnel and resources. Once collected, waste was commonly disposed of in open dumps, which were essentially unregulated areas where waste was left exposed. These dumps were breeding grounds for pests and sources of unpleasant odours, which often led to the contamination of soil and water sources due to the uncontained spread of pollutants.

Waste segregation, which is crucial for efficient recycling and disposal, was almost non-existent in traditional systems. Waste from households and businesses was typically mixed, combining organic waste, recyclables, and hazardous materials. This lack of segregation made subsequent processing and disposal more challenging and environmentally harmful.

Public awareness and education regarding waste management were generally low. There was little emphasis on reducing waste production or promoting practices like reuse and recycling. Waste was often viewed as an out-of- sight, out-of-mind issue, leading to widespread littering and improper disposal practices. The public's limited understanding of the environmental and health impacts of poor waste management further exacerbated these issues.

Overall, while traditional waste management methods served their purpose in a less urbanized and industrialized world, they were marked by inefficiencies, significant environmental degradation, and public health risks. The transition to more advanced, technology-driven systems aims to address these shortcomings, offering more sustainable, efficient, and environmentally conscious solutions.

In contrast, smart methods use IoT-enabled waste bins, automated sorting, and data analytics to optimize collection routes, reduce operational costs, and lower environmental impact. By combining real- time data and advanced technologies, smart waste management creates more responsive, cost-effective, and eco-friendly waste systems.

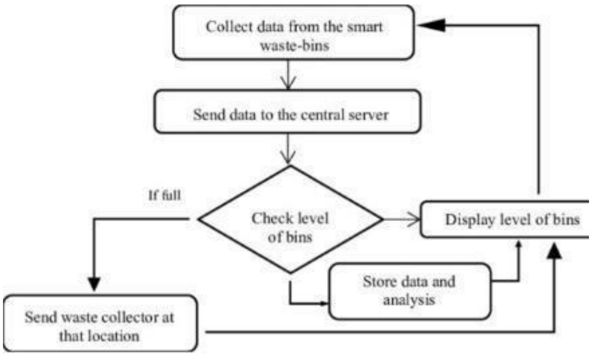

Fig.1 Block Diagram of IoT model

The diagram illustrates a smart waste management system that uses data collected from smart waste bins. Initially, data from these bins is sent to a central server where the fill levels of the bins are checked. If a bin is found to be full, the system automatically dispatches a waste collector to that specific location to empty it. If the bin is not full, the system simply displays the current level of waste in the bin. Additionally, the data is stored for analysis, which can help in optimizing future waste collection processes. This approach ensures that waste is collected efficiently, reducing unnecessary trips and maintaining clean surroundings.

Furthermore, the system stores all the collected data for further analysis. This analysis can be used to optimize waste collection schedules, predict when bins are likely to be full based on historical data, and improve overall operational efficiency. By using this smart waste management system, waste collection becomes more efficient, reducing unnecessary trips for waste collectors and ensuring that resources are used effectively.

OPERATING SYSTEM

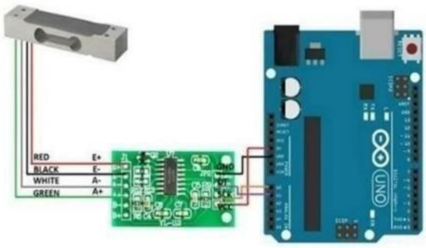

Fig.2 Load Cell Weight Sensor with HX711 ADC Converter connected to Arduino Uno board.

A smart waste management system using Arduino and a load cell involves creating a setup where the weight of waste in a bin is monitored in real-time. The load cell, connected to an

HX711 amplifier, measures the waste's weight, which is processed by the Arduino. This data can be displayed on an LCD or sent wirelessly using a Wi-Fi module (such as ESP8266 or ESP32) to a remote server or cloud service for further analysis and monitoring.

The system is calibrated to ensure accurate weight measurements, and thresholds can be set to trigger alerts when the bin is near full capacity. This setup optimizes waste collection by providing real- time data, allowing for efficient scheduling of waste collection routes, reducing unnecessary trips, and minimizing environmental impact.

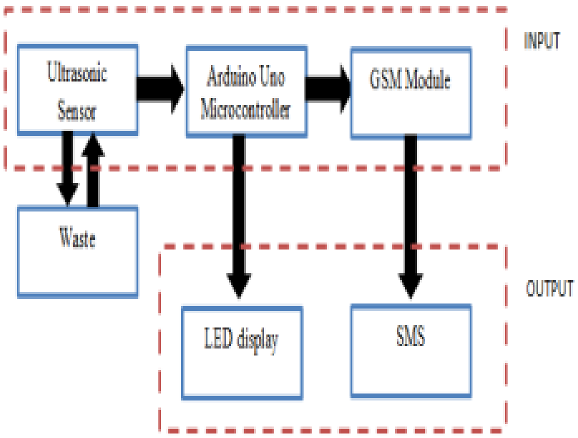

Fig.3 System Architecture using IoT

The block diagram represents a smart waste management system that uses an Arduino Uno microcontroller, integrated with various components to monitor and report the fill levels of a waste bin. The system begins with an ultrasonic sensor, which is responsible for detecting the level of waste inside the bin. This sensor measures the weight of the bin where the load cell is placed below the bin determining how full the bin is.

The data from the load cell is then sent to the Arduino Uno microcontroller, which processes this information. Depending on the fill level, the Arduino triggers two possible outputs. One output is an LED display, which visually indicates the current waste level, making it easy for passersby or maintenance staff to see if the bin is nearing capacity. The other output is managed by a GSM (Global System for Mobile Communications) module, which is also controlled by the Arduino.

The GSM module is responsible for sending SMS alerts when the bin reaches a certain level of fullness. These alerts are sent to designated recipients, such as waste management personnel, who can then arrange for the bin to be emptied. This system effectively combines real-time monitoring and communication to ensure timely waste collection and prevent overflow, thereby promoting a cleaner and more efficient waste management process.

Fig 4. The block diagram illustrates a system using a load cell, an HX711 amplifier, and an Arduino microcontroller.

The process begins with the load cell, which detects the weight applied to it and converts it into an electrical signal. This signal is typically very small, so it is passed through the HX711, a precision 24-bit analog-to-digital converter, which amplifies the signal to a level that can be processed by the Arduino.

The Arduino receives the amplified signal from the HX711, processes the data to calculate the exact weight, and then sends this information to an LCD display. The LCD screen provides a visual output of the weight, allowing users to easily read and monitor the measurements in real-time. This setup is commonly used in digital weighing scales and other applications where accurate weight measurement is essential.

ALGORITHM

The system uses the load cell to measure the weight of the waste in the bin. As the waste accumulates, the weight increases. The Arduino reads the weight data from the load cell via the HX711 amplifier. If the weight exceeds a predefined threshold (indicating the bin is full or nearly full), the system sends a notification to the server via the Wi-Fi module. You can also implement local alerts using a buzzer or LED [4].

Initialization and Setup: Start by initializing the Arduino environment, setting up the load cell with the HX711 amplifier, and configuring the Wi-Fi module. The load cell needs to be calibrated to ensure accurate weight readings.

This involves reading raw data from the load cell, applying a calibration factor, and converting it into a readable weight value. The Wi-Fi module is also configured to connect to a specified network.

Continuous Weight Monitoring: The system enters an infinite loop where it continuously reads the weight from the load cell. The Arduino requests data from the HX711 amplifier and processes it to get the current weight in kilograms. This weight is then stored in a variable for further use.

Check for Threshold Exceedance: The algorithm checks if the current weight exceeds a predefined threshold, representing a near- full bin. If the weight exceeds this threshold, the system triggers an alert. This could involve

sending a notification or turning on an indicator LED.

Data Transmission: At regular intervals, the system sends the weight data to a remote server or cloud platform. The Wi- Fi module connects to the server, and the Arduino sends the data using an HTTP POST request. The server can then store and analyze the data to optimize waste collection routes.

Display Weight Locally: Optionally, the current weight can be displayed on an LCD screen connected to the Arduino.

The display is updated every time the weight is read, providing a real- time view of the bin's status.

Loop Continuation: The system continues this loop indefinitely, periodically sending weight data and checking the bin's status. This ensures continuous monitoring and real-time updates [9][12][14].

```
#include "HX711.h" #include
<ESP8266WiFi.h>
#define LOADCELL_DOUT_PIN 2
#define LOADCELL_SCK_PIN 3
#define THRESHOLD1 1000 // Example value for 75% full
#define THRESHOLD2 1300 // Example value for 100% full
HX711 scale;
const char* ssid = "your_SSID";
const char* password = "your_PASSWORD";
const char* server = "http://your-server.com/update"; void setup() { Serial.begin(9600);
scale.begin(LOADCELL_DOUT_PIN, LOADCELL_SCK_PIN);
scale.set_scale();
scale.tare(); // Reset the scale to 0
while   (WiFi.status()  !=WL_CONNECTED)          { delay(500);
Serial.println("Connecting to WiFi...");
}
```

```
Serial.println("Connected to WiFi");
}
if (weight >= THRESHOLD2) { sendData("full");
} else if (weight >= THRESHOLD1) { sendData("nearly full");
}
delay(5000); // Delay for 5 seconds before next reading
}
void sendData(String status) { WiFiClient client;
if (client.connect(server, 80)) {
String postData = "status=" + status + "&weight=" + String(scale.get_units());
client.println("POST/updateHTTP/1.1");                    client.println("Host:your-server.com");
client.println("Content-Type: application/x-www-form-
urlencoded");
client.println("Content- Length:"+String(postData.length()));
client.println(); client.println(postData);
}
client.stop();
}
```

RESULTS

During the testing phase all the components were performed as intended thereby confirming the effectiveness of the design. The Arduino board, which serves as the central processing unit of the system, was successfully connected to the software without any issues. This seamless connection is crucial because it ensures that the Arduino can effectively communicate with the software, process the data from the sensors, and perform the required operations.

The results of the test cases were as expected. The Arduino board was successfully able to connect to the software. The load cell sensor returned accurate results while measuring the weight of the bin. All results obtained were as expected. Hence the application is working correctly as designed.

Fig.4 Displaying the weight of the bin using weight sensor attached to the bin

Fig.5 Final weight of the bin displayed in LCD

CONCLUSION AND FUTURE ENHANCEMENT

Conclusion

Smart waste management using Arduino and IoT offers a highly efficient and sustainable approach for handling waste. By integrating IoT sensors with Arduino, weight of waste bins can monitor fill levels in real-time, enabling optimized collection routes and reducing unnecessary trips. Overall, Arduino and IoT-based smart waste management represents a significant advancement toward smarter, greener cities.

Finally, as the world faces increasing environmental challenges, the adaptability and scalability of Arduino- based systems will be crucial. Customizable modules that can be tailored to the specific needs of different regions, whether urban or rural, developed or developing, will ensure that smart waste management systems can be effectively implemented on a global scale.

In conclusion, the future of smart waste management systems using Arduino and IoT is bright, with immense potential to transform how we manage waste. By embracing advanced technologies, fostering public engagement, and focusing on sustainability, these systems can address the pressing waste management challenges of our time while contributing to a more sustainable and efficient world. As these systems continue to evolve, they will undoubtedly play a critical role in shaping the smart cities of the future, where technology and innovation work hand in hand to create cleaner, healthier, and more lively environments for all.

Future Enhancements

Future enhancements for smart waste management systems using Arduino and load cells could focus on several key areas to improve efficiency, scalability, and reliability. One potential enhancement is the integration of machine learning algorithms to predict waste generation patterns based on historical data, allowing for more dynamic and optimized waste collection schedules.

Another area of improvement could involve enhancing the communication technologies used in these systems. While many current systems rely on GSM or Wi- Fi for data transmission, future systems could incorporate more advanced and energy-efficient protocols like LoRaWAN or 5G to ensure more reliable long-range communication, especially in urban environments with high interference.

Developing systems that can operate autonomously during disasters (e.g., floods, earthquakes) to ensure continued waste management services. This can include features like emergency power supplies, ruggedized hardware, and adaptive communication protocols

Open-Source Platforms for Collaboration: Promoting the development of open-source platforms where communities and developers can share designs, code, and best practices for Arduino-based smart waste management systems. This would accelerate innovation and enable wider adoption of these technologies globally.

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