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Weather Forecasting using Arduino Based Cube-Sat

M. Rahaman Laskar^{a,*}, R. Bhattacharjee^a, M. Sau Giri^a and P. Bhattacharya^b

^a Calcutta Institute of Engineering and Management,
Tollygunge, Kolkata, West Bengal 700 040, India

^b National Institute of Technology, Agartala, Tripura 799 046, India

Abstract

Weather is the state of atmosphere at a particular time and place with regard to temperature, moisture, air pressure, precipitation etc. Bio organisms need to adapt with the changing atmospheric conditions. It is therefore important to know the atmospheric condition for different applications. The interest is to design an autonomous small cube satellite which can provide the information of weather from anywhere without using Network. Here a hardware model has been designed and implemented. It is possible to provide instant weather report which can be used to compare the data of a place with some different altitude as well as for different time instant. In meteorology, the main objective is to know accurate weather conditions with less human efforts, reliable and efficient data. As the weather varies from place to place and with the altitude, it is difficult to get accurate weather for a particular location. With the advancement of technology, specially embedded system & data acquisition systems, the problem of large set up area and cost has been reduced significantly. Cube-Sat can be set up at home as well as in atmosphere or in space which can provide accurate weather report.

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1. Introduction

People since nineteenth century became able to predict the environmental conditions. The only difference between the primitive and the modern system is that the advancement of technology. The measuring instrument has become miniaturized, efficient, reliable and more accurate to provide instant weather report without manpower. Weather being a natural phenomenon always change with the change of different atmospheric parameters. Still, the average or mean condition can be predicted which ultimately gives the climate of a geographical area for a long time consideration. The most important parameters that affect the atmospheric conditions are air pressure, temperature and humidity. All these parameters are subject to change with change of altitude, day length (intensity of sunlight changes), environmental components (tropical zone, or temperate zone etc.), sun angle at particular spot etc.

In modern system of weather forecasting, the environmental data are sent to a computer based system through a Data Acquisition Systems (DAS). Multiple parameters are multiplexed and finally proceeding through a single channel to the computer to show the data. For Broadcasting, the data taken by the sensors are recorded in satellite based system which communicates through wireless data transmission system and displayed either in a television or in the internet broadcasting media.

*Corresponding author. Tel.: +91-9674599866.

E-mail address: m.rahaman93@gmail.com

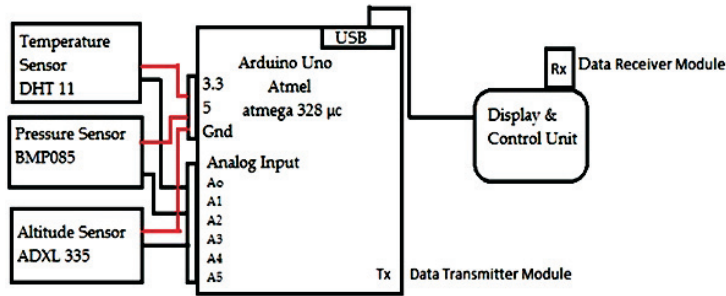


Fig. 1. Block Diagram of the Complete System.

1.1 Literature review

The topic of weather monitoring is not new. However, location based accurate monitoring system without using network is rare^{1,2}. Most of the previous works have shown a complicated hardware system and different devices were made for the analysis of different weather parameters^{3,4}. Satellite based systems in primitive days were not cost efficient. A few works have been done using embedded applications⁵.

The proposed model of the cube satellite is cost efficient, reliable and simplest design ever^{6,7}. The graphical analysis of data taken for 4 months consecutively in Kolkata with the help of gas balloon has shown that this system is working properly. The statistical data obtained from the device for different altitudes and in different times is a unique feature of the device which provides about 90% and above accurate and similar data compared with network based existing system.

1.2 System overview

This proposed system is simple to design. Here, three different sensors are used which are temperature & humidity sensor (DHT11), pressure sensor (BMP085) and Accelerometer (ADXL-335). The data processing unit is an Arduino Uno which is a low cost embedded system platform. The data can be recorded and analyzed in a personal computer or in a simple android based mobile phone with Arduino application installed. To transmit the data, the cube-sat to the monitoring device, a transmitter and receiver module is used. An RF module of 433 MHz is used for this data transmission. A gas balloon has been used to hold & carry the Cube satellite.

2. Working Principle

The data controlling unit is an embedded system platform. Here an Arduino Uno is used. It is powered by 9 V battery & programmed for the specific applications using Arduino open source software (Arduino 1.6.1). The temperature and humidity sensor DHT 11 is connected to Arduino Uno. Pin no. 1, 2 and 4 of DHT11 is connected with Pin no. GND (ground), A0 and 5 V (supply) respectively. DHT11 collects environmental data and send it to the Arduino Uno for digitally processing analysis of data. The pressure sensor BMP085 takes the pressure data from the environment. The connection of BMP085 to the Arduino Uno is done as follows: Vcc to 3.3 V, SDA to A4, SDL to A5 and GND to GND. Accelerometer ADXL 335 is used. The connection of the accelerometer to the Arduino is done as follows; X to A1, Y to A2, Z to A3, pin 5 to Pin 5 (supply), GND to GND. All these modules are set into a cube box of small dimension. A transmitter & receiver module is also connected with the system. An RF transmitter-receiver module of 433 MHz is used for wireless data transmission. The cube-sat can be placed anywhere. The block diagram of the complete system is shown in Fig. 1. Working prototype and model of the cube satellite is shown in Fig. 2.

3. Results and Discussion

Pressure, humidity temperature against variation of altitude in Kolkata has been measured in the month of July, 2015. Table 1 shows the comparison of pressure, humidity and temperature with respect to the variation of altitude.

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