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RADIO FREQUENCY POWER DETECTOR SINFFER

A graduation project is submitted to the Electrical Engineering Department in partial fulfillment the requirements for the degree of Bachelor of Science in College of Engineering - Electrical Engineering

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Abstract

This project involves the design and implementation of a simple system for detecting radio frequency (RF) signals and analyzing them to display the transmitted text. The system consists of two interconnected devices: a transmitter based on an Arduino Uno and a receiver based on another Arduino equipped with a display screen. The transmitter sends a text input from the user via a wireless transmission module, while the receiver captures the radio signal, extracts the data, and displays it on the screen. The goal of this project is to understand the mechanism of data transmission over radio frequencies and to apply embedded systems concepts in the field of wireless communication.

الخلاصة

يتناول هذا المشروع تصميم وتنفيذ نظام بسيط للكشف عن الإشارات الراديوية (RF) وتحليلها لعرض النصوص المرسلة عبر ها. يتكوّن النظام من جهازين متر ابطين: جهاز إرسال يعتمد على أردوينو Uno ، وجهاز استقبال يعتمد على أردوينو آخر مزود بشاشة عرض. يرسل جهاز الإرسال نصبًا يُدخل من قبل المستخدم عبر وحدة إرسال لاسلكية، بينما يقوم جهاز الاستقبال بالتقاط هذه الإشارة اللاسلكية، واستخلاص البيانات منها، ثم عرضها على شاشة. يهدف هذا المشروع إلى فهم آلية انتقال البيانات عبر الترددات الراديوية، وتطبيق مفاهيم الأنظمة المدمجة في مجال الاتصالات اللاسلكية.

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CHAPTER ONE

1.1 Introduction

In the modern era of rapid technological advancement, wireless communication systems have become a cornerstone in a wide range of applications, from everyday consumer electronics to industrial and security systems. Among the various wireless technologies, Radio Frequency (RF) communication stands out as one of the most widely used methods for transmitting data between devices due to its simplicity, reliability, and cost-effectiveness. RF signals play a crucial role in remote control systems, wireless sensors, Internet of Things (IoT) networks, and many other essential technologies that form the backbone of today's interconnected world.

Building upon this significance, this research focuses on the design and implementation of a simple system capable of detecting RF signals, receiving transmitted data, analyzing it, and displaying the extracted message. The proposed system is composed of two interlinked devices working together: a transmitter and a receiver. The transmitter unit, based on an Arduino Uno board, receives user-inputted text via a Bluetooth module and then transmits it wirelessly using an RF transmitter. The receiver unit, also built using an Arduino board, is equipped with an RF receiver module and a display screen to capture the radio signal, decode it, and present the original text message to the user.

This project serves as a comprehensive educational experience that helps in understanding the fundamental principles behind RF communication. It provides practical exposure to how data is encoded, transmitted through the air, received, and decoded using embedded systems. Moreover, it demonstrates the effectiveness of integrating both software and hardware components in a cohesive environment, highlighting the potential of microcontroller platforms like Arduino in building real-world wireless applications. Through this research, the student aims to gain a deeper understanding of wireless communication mechanisms and to develop the technical and problemsolving skills necessary for implementing simple yet functional RF-based systems. The project also encourages creativity and innovation in designing embedded systems that can process and interpret data autonomously, ultimately contributing to the broader field of wireless and embedded technologies.[1][2]

1.2 Radio Frequency Signals

Radio Frequency (RF) signals refer to electromagnetic waves typically ranging from 3 kHz to 300 GHz. These frequencies are widely used for wireless communication because they can travel long distances through the air and penetrate various obstacles, making them ideal for transmitting information in both indoor and outdoor environments. RF signals are the foundation of many communication technologies, including radio and television broadcasting, mobile phones, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, and satellite communications.

RF signals are generated by oscillators and transmitted through antennas. When a signal is transmitted, it carries data by modulating certain characteristics of the carrier wave, such as amplitude, frequency, or phase. This process is known as modulation, and it allows analog or digital information to be embedded into the RF wave and transmitted over the air.

The basic structure of an RF communication system includes a transmitter, a medium, and a receiver. The transmitter encodes the information and sends it via an antenna as an RF signal. The receiver captures the signal using another antenna and decodes the information. In this project, the Arduino transmitter uses an RF module to convert the user's text input into a modulated RF signal, which is then broadcasted wirelessly. The Arduino receiver, on the other hand, captures the signal using an RF receiver module and demodulates it to retrieve the original text.

Different RF modules operate at various frequencies, such as 315 MHz, 433 MHz, or 2.4 GHz. These modules are often chosen based on range, power consumption, and compatibility with other devices. For simple applications, such as this RF sniffer system, ASK (Amplitude Shift Keying) or FSK (Frequency Shift Keying) modulation techniques are commonly used due to their simplicity and efficiency.

One of the key challenges in RF communication is signal interference and noise, especially in environments where multiple devices operate at similar frequencies. Signal integrity and error handling are important considerations, particularly when transmitting data in real time.

RF signals are an essential part of modern communication systems. Understanding their properties, behavior, and modulation techniques is critical for designing reliable wireless systems. This project demonstrates a basic yet functional implementation of RF signal transmission and reception, offering insights into how data can be transmitted invisibly through the air using embedded systems.[3]

1.3 Types of Radio Frequency Signals

Radio Frequency (RF) signals can be classified into different types based on their frequency range, modulation technique, and purpose of use. Understanding these classifications is essential when designing and implementing wireless communication systems, as each type has unique characteristics that affect its behavior, range, and data capacity.[4]

1.3.1 Based on Frequency Range

RF signals are categorized into several bands, each serving specific applications:

- 1) Low Frequency (LF): 30 kHz 300 kHz Used in applications like AM broadcasting, maritime
 - 3

communication, and navigation systems. Offers long-range communication with low data rates.

- Medium Frequency (MF): 300 kHz 3 MHz Commonly used in AM radio broadcasting.
- High Frequency (HF): 3 MHz 30 MHz Suitable for long-distance shortwave radio and amateur radio communication.
- Very High Frequency (VHF): 30 MHz 300 MHz Used in FM radio, television broadcasts, and two-way communication systems.
- 5) Ultra-High Frequency (UHF): 300 MHz 3 GHz Common in mobile phones, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, GPS, and television.
- Super High Frequency (SHF): 3 GHz 30 GHz Utilized in radar, satellite communications, and high-speed wireless networking.
- 7) Extremely High Frequency (EHF): 30 GHz 300 GHz Used in advanced communication technologies like 5G and experimental data transmission.[5]

1.3.2 Based on Modulation Techniques

RF signals can also be classified by how the carrier wave is modulated to carry information:

- 1) **Amplitude Modulation (AM):** Information is encoded by varying the amplitude of the carrier wave. Simple but prone to noise interference.
- Frequency Modulation (FM): Information is transmitted by varying the frequency. Offers better noise resistance compared to AM.
- Phase Modulation (PM): Information is encoded by varying the phase of the carrier wave.

4) Digital Modulation Techniques: Includes methods like ASK (Amplitude Shift Keying), FSK (Frequency Shift Keying), PSK (Phase Shift Keying), and QAM (Quadrature Amplitude Modulation), commonly used in digital communication systems like Bluetooth and Wi-Fi.[6]

1.3.3 Based on Application and Communication Range

- 1) Short-Range RF: Typically operates at 433 MHz or 2.4 GHz. Used in remote controls, RFID, Bluetooth, and simple RF modules for Arduino.
- 2) Medium-Range RF: Used in walkie-talkies, VHF/UHF radio communication.
- Long-Range RF: Includes satellite communication and HF band communication, suitable for long-distance data transmission across continents.

we use short-range RF signals, specifically in the 433 MHz band, which are commonly supported by inexpensive RF transmitter and receiver modules. These modules use Amplitude Shift Keying (ASK) for modulating the signal, which is simple and efficient for sending small amounts of digital data over moderate distance.[7]

1.4 System Design

The system is designed as a basic wireless communication framework using radio frequency (RF) technology to transmit and receive text data. It is composed of two main components: the Transmitter Unit and the Receiver Unit, both built using Arduino-based embedded systems. The design integrates hardware modules and software logic to create a seamless flow of data from input to display via wireless RF transmission. [8]

1.4.1 Transmitter Unit Design

- The transmitter unit is responsible for receiving input text from the user and broadcasting it wirelessly via an RF module. The core components of the transmitter include:
- Arduino Uno: The microcontroller board serves as the main control unit for processing data and interfacing with the input and transmission modules.
- 3) Bluetooth Module (e.g., HC-05): This module allows the user to wirelessly send text to the Arduino from a mobile device or computer.
- 4) RF Transmitter Module (e.g., 433 MHz): This module converts the received text data into modulated RF signals and transmits them through the air.
- 5) Power Supply: Typically powered via USB or a battery pack to enable mobility.
- 6) The workflow in the transmitter unit begins when the user sends a text message via Bluetooth. The Arduino receives this message, processes it, and then sends it to the RF transmitter module, which broadcasts the data as an RF signal.[9]

1.4.2 Receiver Unit Design

The receiver unit is designed to detect, decode, and display the incoming RF signal. Its key components include:

- Arduino Uno: Acts as the central controller for reading the RF signal and managing data display.
- **RF Receiver Module (e.g., 433 MHz)**: Captures the modulated RF signal and demodulates it into raw data.
- LCD Display (e.g., 16x2 with I2C): Displays the decoded text message for the user to read.

• **Power Supply**: Provides power to all the components of the receiver.

Once the receiver module captures the transmitted RF signal, it passes the raw data to the Arduino. The microcontroller decodes the message and sends it to the LCD screen, where it is displayed in real-time.[10]

1.4.3 Communication Protocol

The system uses simple serial communication between modules (e.g., UART for Bluetooth and digital I/O for RF). The data is transmitted in ASCII format, which simplifies encoding and decoding. The RF transmission uses ASK (Amplitude Shift Keying), a modulation technique suitable for low-data-rate applications and short to moderate transmission ranges.[11]

1.4.4 Advantages of the System

- Low Cost: Utilizes inexpensive components such as Arduino and 433 MHz RF modules.
- 2) Simplicity: Easy to build, understand, and modify.
- 3) Wireless Operation: Enables data transfer without physical connections.
- 4) Educational Value: Demonstrates principles of embedded systems, wireless communication, and data transmission.

This system design provides a practical implementation of RF communication between two embedded devices, showcasing how text data can be sent and received using basic microcontroller platforms and RF modules.[10][11]

1.5 Importance of the Project

The significance of this project lies in its practical demonstration of fundamental wireless communication principles and embedded system integration. In an age where data transmission and wireless connectivity are essential in nearly every domain—from personal devices to industrial automation—understanding the basic mechanisms of radio frequency (RF) communication becomes a crucial educational and technical skill

This project provides a hands-on approach to learning how data can be transmitted through the air using RF signals. By designing a simple system that sends and receives textual data wirelessly, the project illustrates the core concepts behind more complex wireless systems, such as RF, Bluetooth. These systems, though more advanced, operate on similar principles of modulation, transmission, reception, and decoding of signals.

Furthermore, the use of embedded systems such as Arduino enables students and researchers to gain experience in hardware-software integration. The ability to interface various modules (Bluetooth, RF, LCD) and control their behavior through code is a valuable skill in the field of electronics and computer engineering.

From an application standpoint, this project can serve as the foundation for more advanced communication systems, such as wireless sensor networks, IoT applications, or remote-control systems. It introduces problem-solving scenarios such as handling signal noise, optimizing transmission range, and ensuring accurate data decoding—all of which are essential considerations in real-world wireless systems.

- 1. Educationally, the project reinforces core concepts in:
- 2. Digital communication
- 3. Microcontroller programming
- 4. Modulation techniques
- 5. Real-time data processing
- 6. Signal transmission and reception.

1.6 Objectives of the Project

The main objective of this project is to design a simple wireless communication system using RF technology and Arduino-based embedded systems. The specific goals include:

- 1) Building a transmitter and receiver system for real-time text communication via 433 MHz RF modules.
- Interfacing Bluetooth, RF modules, and LCD with Arduino for seamless data flow.
- 3) Demonstrating the basic principles of RF signal modulation and reception.
- 4) Providing a low-cost, educational tool to understand embedded systems and wireless communication.
- 5) Exploring short-range RF performance and its practical applications.

1.7 Reasons for Choosing This Project

- Relevance: RF communication is widely used in modern wireless systems like Bluetooth and Wi-Fi.
- Educational Value: Enhances understanding of embedded systems, signal transmission, and real-time communication.
- Simplicity and Cost: Involves low-cost, easy-to-use components like Arduino and RF modules.
- Hands-On Experience: Offers practical skills in hardware integration and coding.
- Scalability: Can be expanded to more advanced applications like IoT or wireless monitoring.
- Interest in Signal Analysis: Provides basic insight into RF sniffing and data decoding.

CHAPTER TWO

Tools and equipment

In this project, tools and equipment are categorized into two main sections: software tools and hardware components.

2.1 Hardware Components

The hardware section includes all the electronic parts used to construct the transmitter and receiver units. Below is a detailed explanation of each key component.[12]

2.1.1 Arduino Uno (x2)

The Arduino Uno is an open-source microcontroller board based on the ATmega328P. It serves as the central processing unit for both the transmitter and receiver. It is responsible for reading inputs (e.g., text via Bluetooth or RF signals), processing data, and controlling outputs such as sending RF data or displaying text on an LCD. Its ease of use and large community support make it ideal for embedded system applications.[13]

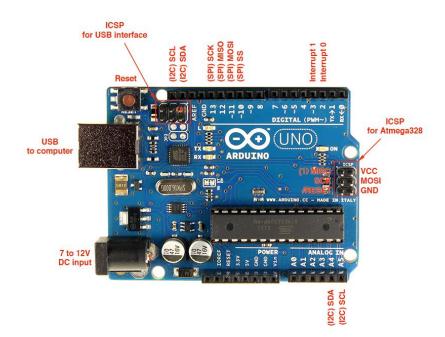


Figure 2–1 The Arduino

2.1.2 RF Transmitter Module (433 MHz)

This module is used in the transmitter unit to send digital data wirelessly. It operates at a frequency of 433 MHz and uses Amplitude Shift Keying (ASK) for modulation. It transmits the text data received from the Arduino over a short to medium range.[14]



Figure 2–2 RF Transmitter Module

2.1.3 RF Receiver Module (433 MHz)

Paired with the RF transmitter, this module is used in the receiver unit to capture incoming RF signals. It demodulates the ASK-modulated signal and converts it back into digital data for further processing by the Arduino.[14]



Figure 2–3 NOT Gate

2.1.4 Bluetooth Module (HC-05)

The Bluetooth module is used to send text wirelessly from a smartphone or computer to the transmitter's Arduino board. It communicates via serial (UART) and allows real-time data input without physical connection.[15]

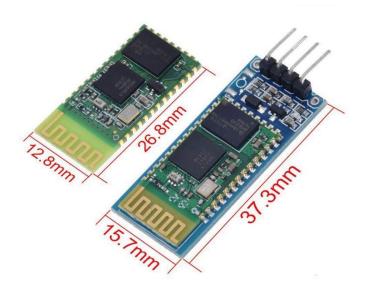


Figure 2–4 Bluetooth Module (HC-05)

2.1.5 Jumper Wires and Breadboard

These are essential for building the prototype circuit without soldering. They allow temporary connections between components and ease the testing process.

2.1.6 Power Supply (USB/Battery)

Both Arduino boards and modules require power. USB cables connected to a computer or portable power banks/battery packs are used to power the transmitter and receiver systems.

2.1.7 LCD Display (16x2 with I2C Module)

The 16x2 LCD display is a widely used alphanumeric screen capable of showing 16 characters per line on 2 lines. It is commonly used in embedded systems projects to provide a simple and clear way to display information such as text, numbers, and status messages.

The standard 16x2 LCD requires multiple data pins (usually 6 to 11 pins) for control and data transmission when connected directly to a microcontroller like Arduino. This can consume many of the microcontroller's input/output pins, which limits the number of other peripherals that can be connected simultaneously.

To overcome this limitation, an I2C (Inter-Integrated Circuit) module is often added as an interface between the LCD and the microcontroller. The I2C module reduces the required wiring to just two data lines — SDA (Serial Data) and SCL (Serial Clock) — in addition to power and ground. This simplifies the wiring significantly and frees up Arduino pins for other uses.



Figure 2–5 The 16x2 LCD display

2.2 **Software Tools**

The software side of the project involves tools and environments used for writing, compiling, and uploading the code:

Arduino IDE: The main programming environment used to write and • upload code to the Arduino boards. It supports C/C++ and provides builtin libraries for serial communication and LCD interfacing.



Figure 2–6 Arduino IDE

- Bluetooth Serial Terminal App: A smartphone app used to send text via • Bluetooth to the transmitter Arduino.
- Fritzing: A software tool used to design circuit diagrams and visualize hardware connections.

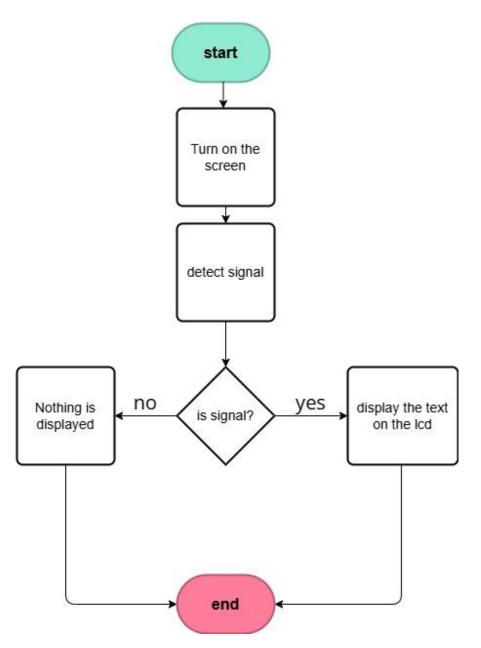
This combination of hardware and software tools enables the complete development and testing of a basic RF communication system that demonstrates the core concepts of wireless data transmission using embedded platforms.

CHAPTER THREE Project building

3.1 Flowchart

This section presents the operational flow of both the transmitter and receiver units of the Radio Frequency Power Detector Sniffer project. Each unit follows a specific set of steps represented in flowcharts to visualize the logic of data transmission and reception.

Transmitter Flowchart:



The transmitter unit is responsible for collecting input from the user and sending it wirelessly through the RF transmitter module. The steps are as follows:

1. Start

The system initializes and powers on.

2. Get Text

The Arduino receives text input from the user via the Bluetooth module (HC-05), typically sent from a mobile phone or computer.

3. Send Text

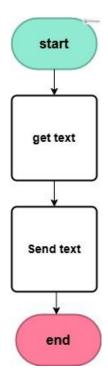
The Arduino transmits the received text wirelessly using the 433 MHz RF transmitter module.

4. End

The transmission process ends once the message is sent.

This process repeats each time new text input is received from the user.

Receiver Flowchart:



The receiver unit constantly listens for incoming RF signals and processes them as follows:

1. Start

The system initializes and powers on.

2. Turn on the Screen

The 16x2 LCD display is powered on and prepared for output.

3. Detect Signal

The Arduino listens for incoming RF signals from the transmitter using the 433 MHz RF receiver module.

4. Is Signal

The system checks whether a signal is detected:

- Yes: If a valid RF signal is detected, the Arduino decodes the text and displays it on the LCD screen.
- **No:** If no signal is detected, the LCD remains blank or unchanged.
- 5. End

The loop ends, and the system continues waiting for the next signal.

This loop allows the receiver to monitor the environment in real-time and display any valid text messages received.

These flowcharts provide a clear understanding of how the system components interact and how the data flows from user input to final display output. They are essential in demonstrating the simplicity and effectiveness of the RF-based communication mechanism implemented in this project.

3.2 Device circuit

Transmitter circuit

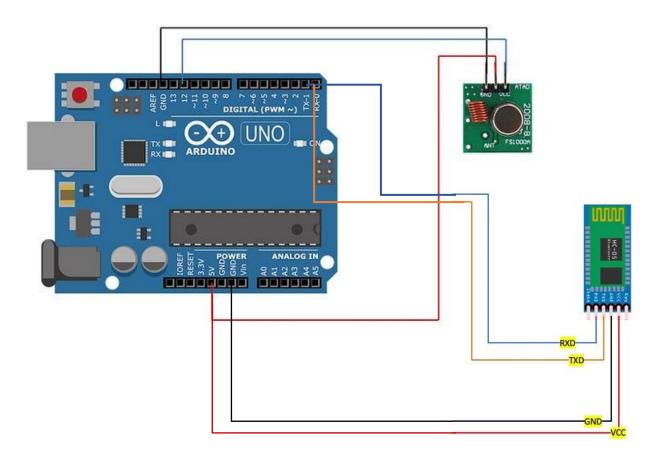


Figure 3–1 Transmitter circuit

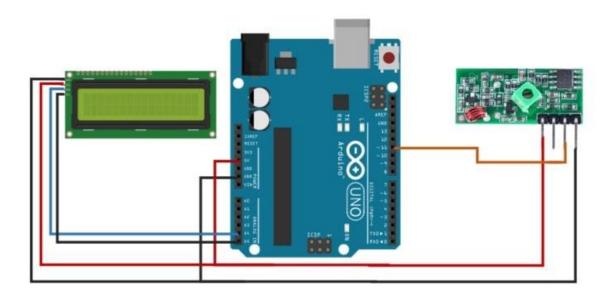


Figure 3–2 Receiver circuit

3.3 The code

Transmitter

```
#include <RH_ASK.h>
#include <SPI.h> // Not actually used but needed to compile
RH_ASK driver;
void setup()
{
   Serial.begin(9600);
   if (!driver.init())
        Serial.println("init failed");
   else
        Serial.println("Ready to send messages!");
}
void loop()
{
   if (Serial.available())
    {
        String inputString = Serial.readStringUntil('\n');
        inputString.trim();
        inputString.replace("*", "");
        inputString.replace("\b", "");
        if (inputString.length() > 0)
        {
            Serial.print("Sending: ");
            Serial.println(inputString);
            driver.send((uint8_t *)inputString.c_str(),
inputString.length());
            driver.waitPacketSent();
        }
   }
}
```

Receiver

```
#include <RH_ASK.h>
#include <SPI.h>
#include <Wire.h>
#include <LiquidCrystal_I2C.h>
LiquidCrystal_I2C lcd(0x27, 16, 2);
RH_ASK driver;
void setup() {
 lcd.init();
 lcd.init();
 lcd.backlight();
 Serial.begin(9600);
 if (!driver.init()) {
   lcd.setCursor(0, 0);
   lcd.print("init failed");
 } else {
   lcd.setCursor(0, 0);
   lcd.print("Receiver ready!");
  }
 delay(500);
}
void loop() {
  uint8_t buf[12] = { 0 };
  uint8_t buflen = sizeof(buf);
 if (driver.recv(buf, &buflen))
 {
   lcd.setCursor(0, 1);
   lcd.print((char*)buf);
   Serial.print("Message: ");
    Serial.println((char*)buf);
    delay(5000);
   memset(buf, 0, sizeof(buf));
   lcd.clear();
   lcd.setCursor(0, 0);
   lcd.print("Receiver ready!");
  }
}
```

3.4 The result

The implemented system successfully demonstrates the transmission and reception of text messages using radio frequency (RF) communication. The project consists of two main units: a transmitter and a receiver, each built using Arduino microcontrollers and essential modules. Through testing and operation, the following results were obtained:

1. Successful Text Transmission

The transmitter unit was able to receive text input from the user via a Bluetooth connection and send it wirelessly through the 433 MHz RF transmitter module. The system responded promptly to input and showed no noticeable delay in sending the signal.

2. Accurate Signal Detection

The receiver unit continuously monitored the environment for RF signals. Once a signal was detected, the system accurately decoded the transmitted message.

3. Reliable Display Output

The decoded message was successfully displayed on the 16x2 LCD screen using the I2C module. The display was clear and readable, and the system handled multiple incoming messages effectively.

4. System Synchronization

Both transmitter and receiver units operated in perfect synchronization. The flow of data from input to output was seamless, demonstrating the effectiveness of the chosen hardware and programming logic.

5. Low Power and Efficient Design

The system components used minimal power, making the entire setup energyefficient and suitable for portable applications.

3.5 The Project Works

The system is composed of two main parts: a transmitter unit and a receiver unit, both built using Arduino microcontrollers. The communication between the two devices takes place through radio frequency (RF) signals.

3.5.1 Transmitter Operation:

The transmitter unit starts by receiving a text message input from the user through a Bluetooth module (HC-05), which is connected to an Arduino Uno. Once the message is received, the Arduino sends the data to an RF transmitter module (433 MHz), which broadcasts the signal wirelessly into the surrounding environment.

3.5.2 Receiver Operation:

The receiver unit, also based on an Arduino, is constantly listening for incoming signals through a 433 MHz RF receiver module. When a signal is detected, the Arduino decodes the transmitted data and extracts the original text message. This message is then displayed on a 16x2 LCD screen using an I2C module, which simplifies the wiring and improves performance.

The entire process happens in real time, allowing the system to demonstrate basic wireless text communication using low-cost and widely available electronic components. The simplicity and reliability of this method highlight the power of embedded systems in RF-based data transmission.

CHAPTER FOUR

4.1 conclusion

In this project, a functional and efficient wireless communication system was designed and implemented using radio frequency (RF) technology and embedded systems. The system, composed of a transmitter and a receiver unit, successfully demonstrated how text messages can be sent wirelessly and displayed in real-time using low-cost components such as Arduino boards, Bluetooth modules, RF modules, and LCD screens.

The transmitter was capable of receiving user input via Bluetooth and sending it over the air using RF transmission. The receiver effectively captured the signal, decoded it, and displayed the message on an LCD screen, showing high reliability and synchronization between both units.

This project not only highlights the basic principles of RF communication but also emphasizes the role of embedded systems in creating real-world applications. It serves as a foundational step toward more complex systems involving wireless data transmission, remote sensing, and real-time monitoring.

The project objectives were successfully met, and the system performed as intended during testing. It opens the door for future enhancements, such as encrypting the data, extending the transmission range, or supporting multi-device communication.

4.2 Recommendations

Based on the results and experiences gained from the development and testing of this project, the following recommendations are suggested for future improvement and expansion:

1. Implement Data Encryption

To enhance the security of the transmitted messages, encryption techniques such as AES or XOR encoding could be applied to protect the data from unauthorized access or interference.

2. Increase Transmission Range

The current RF modules have a limited range. For applications requiring greater distances, higher-powered RF modules or different communication technologies (such as LoRa or Wi-Fi) may be considered.

3. Improve Noise Filtering

Adding error-checking algorithms or signal filtering techniques can reduce the chances of noise interference and improve message accuracy and reliability.

4. Add Message History Storage

Integrating a memory module such as EEPROM or an SD card would allow the receiver to store a log of received messages for future reference or analysis.

5. Use a Graphical Display

Replacing the basic 16x2 LCD with a graphical display (e.g., OLED or TFT) would allow for better visualization and support for longer or multiline messages.

6. Support Multi-Device Communication

Expanding the system to support multiple receivers or transmitters could create a simple RF-based communication network, suitable for IoT or smart device applications.

7. Develop a Mobile App Interface

A dedicated mobile application could improve user interaction and make it easier to send messages to the transmitter with a better user experience.

By applying these enhancements, the system can evolve from a basic communication prototype into a more advanced and practical tool for real-world wireless communication applications.

4.3 Future work

This project has laid the foundation for a basic RF-based wireless communication system using embedded technologies. However, there are several opportunities for future development. One potential improvement is enabling two-way communication, allowing both devices to send and receive messages. Additionally, integrating the system into an Internet of Things (IoT) framework could provide cloud connectivity for remote monitoring and data storage. Advanced features such as automatic frequency scanning, message encryption, and real-time dashboards for visualization can also enhance system performance. The use of more robust communication protocols like LoRa or Zigbee could improve range and reliability. Furthermore, hardware miniaturization and custom PCB design can make the system more compact and suitable for deployment. Finally, optimizing power consumption through sleep modes and energy-efficient components would make the system more practical for mobile and long-term applications. These enhancements will help transform the current prototype into a more advanced and versatile wireless communication platform.

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