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# GPS Enabled Smart Decibel Meter

**Mr. Atharvasingh Saddiwal[1], Mr. Zaid Inamdar[2], Mr. Mayur Dhumal[3],**
**Dr. Omprakash Rajankar[4], Dr Bhausaheb Shinde[5]**
Students, Department of Electronics & Telecommunication Engineering[123]
Professor, Department of Electronics & Telecommunication Engineering[4,5]
Dhole Patil College of Engineering, Pune, India

**Abstract:** *This research project focuses on the integration of a sound sensor with GPS technology using the ESP8266 microcontroller for real-time noise monitoring and location tracking. Through a combination of hardware and software development, the system aims to detect sound levels in the environment and correlate them with precise geographical coordinates obtained from GPS satellites. Challenges encountered during the project, including component compatibility issues and calibration difficulties, were addressed through proactive problem-solving and collaborative efforts among team members. The completed system demonstrates the feasibility of integrating sound sensing capabilities with GPS technology, offering valuable insights into noise pollution patterns and their spatial distribution. Future enhancements include refining calibration processes, implementing advanced noise pattern recognition algorithms, and enhancing connectivity for real-time data transmission and remote monitoring. Overall, this project contributes to the advancement of IoT-based solutions for noise monitoring and location tracking, with potential applications in urban planning, transportation management, and environmental conservation*

**Keywords:** Sound Sensor, GPS Technology, Real-time monitoring, Location tracking

## I. INTRODUCTION

In recent years, as cities have grown bigger and factories have become busier, there's been a rise in a big problem called noise pollution. Imagine being in a place where there's too much loud or annoying noise all the time. It can make it hard for people to concentrate, relax, or even sleep. That's what noise pollution is all about – it's like having too much noise that gets in the way of doing normal things. This noise isn't just annoying; it's also harmful to people's health. It can make them feel stressed, tired, and even sick. Noise pollution has been linked to problems like trouble sleeping, stress, and even heart issues. It's not just people who are affected by noise pollution; animals and the environment suffer too. Loud noises can disrupt animals' lives, make it hard for them to find food or mates, and mess up how nature works. To tackle noise pollution, we need to find out where it's coming from and how bad it is in different places. That's where new technology can help make a difference. Instead of using old-fashioned methods like big machines to measure noise, we can use smaller, more advanced gadgets. One such idea is to use Global Positioning System (GPS) technology, which can tell us exactly where we are, and tiny computers called microcontrollers. By combining these gadgets, we can create a special system that listens to noise and knows where it's coming from. This helps us understand where noise pollution is the worst and how we can fix it. The main goal of this research is to explore how new gadgets like GPS and microcontrollers can be used to listen to noise and track its source. By bringing these gadgets together, we can create a system that listens to noise in real-time and shows us where it's happening on a map. This research aims to test if this system actually works and how we can use it to fight noise pollution in cities. We also want to find out if this system can make cities better and healthier places for people to live. To achieve these goals, we'll start by building a prototype system using the ESP8266 microcontroller, which helps connect different parts of the system together. We'll also use a sound sensor to detect noise levels and GPS technology to pinpoint our location accurately. Then, we'll test the system in different environments to see how well it performs and if it can accurately detect and track noise pollution. Through the amalgamation of these technologies, the study aims to develop a prototype system capable of detecting sound levels in the environment and correlating them with precise geographical coordinates derived from GPS satellites. The research endeavors to explore the technical feasibility, challenges, and potential applications of this integration in combatting noise pollution and fostering sustainable urban development initiatives.

Throughout this research, we'll face challenges like making sure all the gadgets work together smoothly and figuring out how to interpret the data we collect. However, by working together and using problem-solving skills, we hope to overcome these challenges and make progress towards our goal of creating a reliable and effective system for noise monitoring and tracking in cities. Ultimately, we aim to contribute to making cities quieter, healthier and more enjoyable places for everyone.

## II. PROPOSED BLOCK DIAGRAM

The block diagram of the GPS Enabled Smart Decibel Meter illustrates the key components and their interconnections within the system. In the context of integrating a sound sensor & GPS Module with an ESP8266 microcontroller for noise monitoring and location tracking.

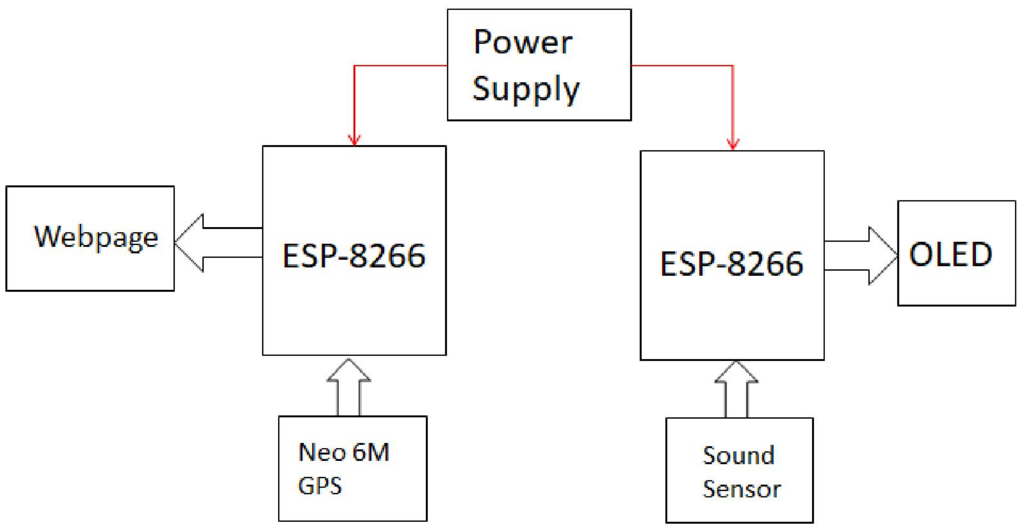


Fig.1. Block Diagram of GPS Enabled Smart Decibel Meter

At the core of the system lies the sound sensor, a pivotal input device tasked with detecting environmental sound pressure levels and converting them into electrical signals. These signals are then transmitted to the ESP8266 microcontroller, which functions as the central processing unit responsible for orchestrating the system's operations.

Upon receiving data from the sound sensor, the ESP8266 microcontroller engages in several key tasks. First, it processes the incoming signals, extracting relevant information pertaining to noise levels and characteristics. This processing may involve digital signal processing techniques to filter out unwanted noise and enhance signal clarity. Subsequently, the microcontroller conducts necessary computations and analyses to derive actionable insights from the sound data. These analyses may include calculating average noise levels, identifying noise patterns, and correlating sound data with geographic coordinates Additionally, the ESP8266 microcontroller plays a crucial role in establishing and maintaining a Wi-Fi connection. Leveraging its built-in Wi-Fi capabilities, the microcontroller connects to local wireless networks, enabling seamless communication with external devices and online platforms. This connectivity is essential for transmitting data from the sound sensor to cloud-based services or remote servers for further processing and analysis.Another integral component depicted in the block diagram is the GPS module. This module retrieves precise geographical coordinates, including latitude and longitude, from satellite signals. By integrating these coordinates with the sound data captured by the sensor, the system can correlate noise levels with specific geographic locations. This functionality enables users to identify noise pollution hotspots, track changes in noise levels over time, and assess the impact of noise on different regions Finally, the block diagram may include a display unit to visualize the monitored noise pollution levels and their corresponding locations. This display unit could take various forms, such as an OLED screen, a web-based dashboard, or a mobile application. By presenting the data in a visually intuitive manner, the display unit enhances user interaction and comprehension, empowering stakeholders to make informed decisions regarding noise pollution mitigation and urban planning initiatives.

## III. METHODOLOGY USED

The methodology section of a research paper is crucial as it outlines the systematic approach used to address the research questions or objectives. For a paper on integrating a sound sensor with an ESP8266 microcontroller for noise monitoring and location tracking, the methodology would typically include the following components:

**Research Design:**
This refers to the overall strategy or plan for conducting the research, including the approach, methods, and procedures used to collect and analyze data. It outlines how the research questions will be addressed and guides the researcher in selecting the most appropriate methods for data collection and analysis.

**Hardware and Software Setup:**
Detail the hardware components used in the experiment, including the specific models of the sound sensor, ESP8266 microcontroller, and GPS module. Also, describe the software tools and libraries utilized for programming the microcontroller and processing data.

**Experimental Procedure:**
Outline the step-by-step procedure followed during the experiment. This includes setting up the hardware, writing and uploading code to the microcontroller, calibrating the sensors, and conducting data collection tests.

**Data Collection:**
Explain how data was collected during the experiment. Specify the variables measured, sampling techniques used, and the duration of data collection. Include details on any environmental conditions or factors controlled during data collection.

**Data Analysis:**
Describe the methods employed to analyze the collected data. This could involve statistical analysis, signal processing techniques, or machine learning algorithms for noise classification and location tracking.

**Validation and Testing:**
Discuss how the validity and reliability of the experiment were ensured. Describe any validation tests conducted to verify the accuracy of the sensor readings and the effectiveness of the system in real-world conditions.

**Ethical Considerations:**
Address any ethical considerations related to the research, such as data privacy, participant consent (if applicable), and environmental impact.

**Limitations:**
Acknowledge any limitations or constraints encountered during the research, such as equipment limitations, technical challenges, or external factors affecting data collection.

**Future Directions:**
Provide suggestions for future research based on the findings and limitations of the current study. This could include exploring additional functionalities, improving sensor accuracy, or extending the application to different environments.

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## IV. SYSTEM OVERVIEW

The envisioned system, dubbed the "GPS Enabled Smart Decibel Meter," comprises a variety of sensors and a central controller. Here's an alternative depiction of their specifications and functions:

- ESP8266 Module
- Neo6m GPS Module
- Sound Sensor
- OLED
- ESP8266

The ESP8266 is a versatile and cost-effective Wi-Fi-enabled microcontroller widely used in IoT (Internet of Things) applications. Initially developed by Espressif Systems, the ESP8266 gained popularity for its low cost, low power consumption, and robust wireless connectivity features. It integrates a powerful 32-bit Tensilica microcontroller with built-in Wi-Fi connectivity, allowing seamless communication with other devices and networks. With its compact form factor and extensive software support, the ESP8266 has become a popular choice for DIY projects, home automation, industrial monitoring, and more. Its affordability and ease of use have democratized IoT development, enabling hobbyists, students, and professionals alike to create innovative connected solutions. Moreover, continuous development and community support have resulted in a thriving ecosystem of libraries, frameworks, and resources, further enhancing the ESP8266's appeal for a wide range of applications.

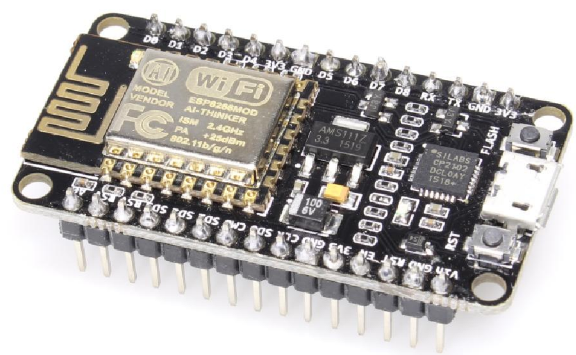


Fig 2. ESP8266 Module

Additionally, the built-in analog-to-digital converters (ADCs) enable the ESP8266 to convert analog signals, such as sensor readings or voltage levels, into digital values that can be processed by the microcontroller. This feature is essential for interfacing with analog sensors, such as temperature sensors or light sensors.

Moreover, the robust community support and extensive documentation surrounding the ESP8266 ecosystem provide developers with a wealth of resources, tutorials, and libraries. This support network fosters knowledge sharing, troubleshooting, and collaboration, making it easier for both beginners and experienced developers to leverage the capabilities of the ESP8266 in their projects.

Furthermore, the affordability and widespread availability of the ESP8266 make it accessible to a broad audience, including hobbyists, educators, and professionals. Its low cost and ease of use have democratized IoT development, allowing enthusiasts and entrepreneurs to experiment, innovate, and bring their ideas to life without breaking the bank. This accessibility has fuelled a surge in IoT innovation, driving the development of new applications, products, and services across various industries. Overall, the ESP8266's rich feature set, community support, affordability, and availability make it an attractive choice for anyone looking to explore the world of IoT and rapid prototyping.

### Neo 6m GPS Module

The introduction of the NEO-6M GPS module by u-blox heralds a new era of precise and reliable positioning technology. With its compact design and advanced features, the NEO-6M offers unparalleled accuracy and versatility for a wide range of applications. Developed to meet the growing demand for high-performance GPS solutions, the


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NEO-6M provides sub-meter positioning accuracy, fast update rates, and multi-constellation support. Its energy-efficient design and seamless integration capabilities make it an ideal choice for navigation, asset tracking, and geotagging applications, driving innovation in the field of location-based services.

Fig.3 Neo 6m GPS Module

The NEO-6M GPS module, designed and manufactured by u-blox, stands out as a leading choice in the realm of global positioning systems (GPS) due to its impressive specifications and versatile features. Characterized by its compact size and robust construction, the NEO-6M is revered for its ability to deliver accurate and reliable positioning data across a wide range of applications. At the heart of the NEO-6M lies a highly sensitive GPS receiver chip, which enables the module to achieve sub-meter positioning accuracy. This exceptional level of precision ensures that users can rely on the NEO-6M for precise location tracking, even in challenging environments where satellite signals may be weak or obstructed. One of the standout features of the NEO-6M is its fast update rate, which ensures that position updates are provided swiftly and consistently. This rapid update rate is particularly beneficial for applications that require real-time tracking and monitoring, such as vehicle navigation systems or asset tracking solutions. Despite its high performance, the NEO-6M is remarkably energy-efficient, making it well-suited for battery-powered applications. By minimizing power consumption, the module extends the operational life of devices and systems, allowing them to function reliably for extended periods without the need for frequent battery replacements or recharging. The NEO-6M offers seamless integration with a wide range of microcontrollers and development boards through its support for UART communication protocol. This standardized interface simplifies the process of connecting the module to other electronic components, enabling developers to quickly and easily incorporate GPS functionality into their projects. Furthermore, the NEO-6M boasts multi-constellation support, allowing it to receive signals from multiple satellite systems, including GPS, GLONASS, Galileo, and BeiDou. This multi-constellation capability enhances positioning accuracy and reliability by leveraging signals from multiple sources, thereby reducing the risk of signal loss or interference in challenging environments. Equipped with onboard flash memory, the NEO-6M stores configuration settings and aiding in faster satellite acquisition during subsequent power-ups. This feature not only streamlines the setup process but also improves overall system performance by reducing initialization time. In summary, the NEO-6M GPS module offers a compelling combination of high performance, energy efficiency, and versatility, making it an indispensable component for a wide range of GPS-enabled applications. Whether used for navigation, asset tracking, or geotagging, the NEO-6M delivers reliable positioning data with unmatched precision and reliability, making it the preferred choice for developers and engineers worldwide.

**Sound Sensor**

Sound sensors, also referred to as sound detectors or sound transducers, serve as integral components across a diverse array of applications, from industrial noise monitoring systems to sophisticated smart home devices. These sensors operate on the principle of acoustic detection, wherein sound waves in the surrounding environment induce vibrations in a sensitive element within the sensor. This element, typically a diaphragm, piezoelectric crystal, or microphone, converts these mechanical vibrations into electrical signals, which can then be processed and analyzed for various purposes.

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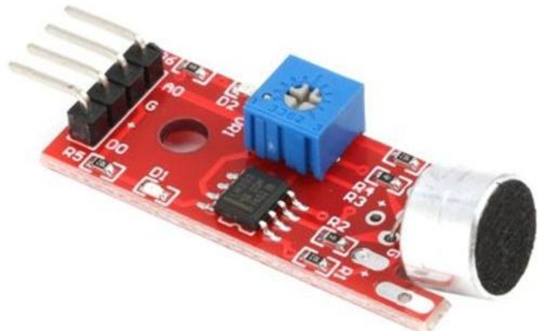

Fig 4. Sound Sensor

The primary function of a sound sensor is to detect sound pressure levels (SPL), measured in decibels (dB), across a broad frequency spectrum. Sound sensors exhibit varying degrees of sensitivity to different sound frequencies, ranging from infrasonic (below 20 Hz) to ultrasonic (above 20 kHz), depending on their design and intended application. This versatility allows sound sensors to capture a wide range of sounds, including ambient noise, sudden bursts of sound, and specific tones or frequencies, making them suitable for diverse applications. Construction-wise, sound sensors typically comprise three main components: a transducer, signal conditioning circuitry, and output interface. The transducer, which may be a microphone or piezoelectric element, is responsible for converting acoustic signals into electrical signals. These signals are then passed through signal conditioning circuitry, which amplifies and filters them to enhance their quality and eliminate unwanted noise. Finally, the conditioned signals are outputted through an interface compatible with microcontrollers or other electronic devices for further processing and analysis. One of the key features of sound sensors is their adaptability to different environments and sound conditions. For example, continuous noise, such as background noise in an office or the hum of machinery in a factory, can be monitored to ensure compliance with noise regulations or to identify potential hazards. Impulse noise, characterized by sudden bursts of sound like a door slamming or a gunshot, can be detected and used to trigger alarm systems or security measures. Tonal noise, consisting of specific frequencies or tones like the whistle of a kettle or the buzz of a malfunctioning appliance, can be analyzed to diagnose equipment faults or malfunctions. The versatility of sound sensors extends to their applications in various industries and domains. In industrial settings, sound sensors are employed in noise monitoring systems to assess occupational noise exposure levels, identify machinery faults or malfunctions, and ensure compliance with workplace safety regulations. In smart home environments, sound sensors are integrated into security systems to detect intruders or suspicious activities, as well as to monitor environmental conditions such as smoke or carbon monoxide levels Furthermore, advancements in sound sensor technology have led to the development of highly sophisticated systems with advanced features and capabilities. For instance, some sound sensors are equipped with machine learning algorithms that can differentiate between different types of sounds and automatically adjust their sensitivity and threshold levels accordingly. Others may feature wireless connectivity options, allowing for remote monitoring and data transmission to centralized control systems or cloud-based platforms. Sound sensors play a crucial role in modern electronic systems, enabling the detection, analysis, and monitoring of sound across a wide range of environments and applications. Their sensitivity, versatility, and ease of integration make them indispensable tools for industries ranging from manufacturing and healthcare to home automation and security. As technology continues to evolve, sound sensors are expected to become even more sophisticated, offering enhanced features and capabilities to meet the ever-expanding demands of the digital age.

**OLED**

OLED, or Organic Light-Emitting Diode, is a cutting-edge display technology that has revolutionized the way we experience visual information. Unlike traditional LCD (Liquid Crystal Display) screens, which require a backlight to illuminate pixels, OLED displays emit their own light when an electric current passes through organic compounds sandwiched between two conductive layers.


Fig.4 OLED

One of the most striking features of OLED technology is its ability to produce vivid, high-contrast images with deep blacks and vibrant colors. This is because each individual pixel in an OLED display can be independently controlled, allowing for precise brightness and color adjustments. As a result, OLED screens offer superior image quality and viewing angles compared to LCDs, making them ideal for applications where visual clarity and fidelity are paramount.

Moreover, OLED displays are incredibly thin and lightweight, as they do not require bulky backlighting components. This makes them ideal for use in slim and portable devices such as smartphones, tablets, and wearable gadgets. Additionally, OLED screens are flexible and can be manufactured on flexible substrates, opening up new possibilities for curved and foldable display designs. Another advantage of OLED technology is its energy efficiency. Because OLED displays only consume power when emitting light, they are more energy-efficient than LCDs, which require constant backlighting. This not only extends the battery life of portable devices but also reduces overall energy consumption in larger applications such as televisions and digital signage. OLED displays offer faster response times and smoother motion rendering compared to LCDs, making them ideal for applications that require rapid image updates, such as gaming and virtual reality. Additionally, OLED technology enables true blacks by completely turning off pixels when displaying dark content, resulting in higher contrast ratios and more immersive viewing experiences.

Despite these advantages, OLED displays also have some limitations. One of the main concerns is their susceptibility to image retention and burn-in, particularly when displaying static images for extended periods. However, manufacturers have implemented various techniques such as pixel shifting and screen savers to mitigate these issues.

OLED technology represents a significant advancement in display technology, offering unparalleled image quality, energy efficiency, and design flexibility. With their vibrant colors, deep blacks, and slim form factors, OLED displays have become the display technology of choice for a wide range of applications, from smartphones and televisions to automotive dashboards and wearable devices. As OLED technology continues to evolve, we can expect even more innovative and exciting developments in the future.

## V. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the integration of a sound sensor with an ESP8266 microcontroller presents a potent avenue for addressing contemporary challenges associated with noise pollution monitoring and location tracking. The successful calibration and interfacing of the sound sensor with the ESP8266 have underscored the viability of this approach, demonstrating its potential to capture, process, and analyze sound data in tandem with geographical coordinates. This integration yields invaluable insights into the spatial distribution of noise pollution, empowering stakeholders with the information needed to make informed decisions regarding urban planning, environmental stewardship, and public health initiatives. By leveraging the capabilities of the ESP8266 microcontroller, we have established a robust platform for real-time data acquisition and transmission over Wi-Fi networks. The ESP8266's versatility and compatibility with various communication protocols, including HTTP and MQTT, facilitate seamless integration with cloud-based services and remote servers. This enables the aggregation, storage, and analysis of sensor data in centralized repositories, facilitating comprehensive monitoring and assessment of noise pollution levels. Moreover, the scalability and flexibility inherent in the ESP8266 platform enable the addition of supplementary sensors and functionalities, further augmenting the system's capabilities and adaptability to diverse applications.

## VI. ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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