

Development of Real Time Health Monitoring of Condition of Distribution Transformer using Arduino Technology

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Abstract: *The development of a real-time health monitoring system for distribution transformers using Arduino technology aims to enhance the reliability and efficiency of the electrical power distribution network. This project involves the centralization of transformer control, enabling operators to remotely switch transformers on and off from a control room. Temperature sensors are integrated to monitor and prevent insulation winding failures, while current and potential transformers measure and relay real-time voltage and current data to the control room. The system employs dual relays or magnetic switches to disconnect transformers from the main grid during hazardous conditions, thereby safeguarding the infrastructure. By leveraging IoT platforms, this monitoring system provides continuous insights into transformer health, allowing for proactive maintenance and reducing the risk of unexpected failures. The use of Arduino technology not only ensures accurate and timely data collection but also extends the operational lifespan of transformers, optimizing the overall performance and reliability of the power distribution grid.*

Keywords: Real-time monitoring, Arduino technology, IoT platforms, proactive maintenance

I. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview

Transformers are pivotal components within the electrical power distribution network, serving as essential devices that ensure the reliable supply of electricity across various sectors. In both urban and rural areas, the presence of at least one distribution transformer is ubiquitous, reflecting their critical role in daily operations. The dependency on uninterrupted power supply is profound, with residential, commercial, and industrial activities relying heavily on electricity. Any disruption in power can lead to significant operational standstills and substantial financial losses. Thus, maintaining the health and functionality of these transformers is of paramount importance.

The performance and longevity of transformers can be compromised by a multitude of factors, both internal and external. Common issues include partial discharge, insulation deterioration, overheating, moisture ingress, and system overloads, among others. These contingencies can severely impact the reliability of the power supply. Traditional monitoring systems often fall short, particularly in remote areas where human surveillance is not feasible due to insufficient manpower and logistical challenges. Consequently, transformer failures are frequently detected only after they occur, leading to unplanned outages and extensive downtime.

To address these challenges, the integration of real-time monitoring systems utilizing Arduino technology offers a promising solution. By incorporating sensors to track key parameters such as temperature, voltage, and current, these systems enable continuous monitoring and immediate reporting of transformer conditions. The data collected is processed and recorded, providing valuable insights that facilitate proactive maintenance and timely intervention. This approach not only enhances the operational efficiency of transformers but also extends their service life by preventing damage before it occurs.

Moreover, the advent of IoT platforms and wireless communication technologies, such as GSM, further enhances the capabilities of these monitoring systems. Operators can receive real-time alerts and updates on transformer health via mobile applications, allowing for remote management and rapid response to any abnormalities. This

project focuses on the development of an Arduino-based health monitoring and protection system for distribution transformers, aiming to ensure the stability and reliability of the power distribution network. By leveraging modern technology, the system offers a robust and scalable solution to the challenges faced by traditional transformer monitoring practices.

1.2 Motivation

The motivation for developing a real-time health monitoring and protection system for distribution transformers stems from the critical need to ensure a reliable and uninterrupted power supply in an increasingly electricity-dependent world. Transformers are integral to the stability of power distribution networks, yet their performance is often compromised by various factors that are difficult to monitor and address with traditional methods. Frequent transformer failures, particularly in remote and rural areas, lead to significant operational disruptions and financial losses. Current monitoring systems lack real-time capabilities, making it challenging to detect and mitigate issues promptly. By harnessing Arduino technology and IoT platforms, this project aims to provide a cost-effective, scalable, and efficient solution that enhances the reliability of transformers, reduces downtime, and supports proactive maintenance strategies, ultimately ensuring continuous and stable power delivery to all sectors.

1.3 Problem Definition and Objectives

The reliability and efficiency of electrical power distribution are heavily dependent on the health and performance of distribution transformers. Traditional monitoring systems are inadequate, particularly for transformers in remote locations, as they do not support real-time monitoring and are limited by manual inspections, which are often infrequent and inefficient. This results in delayed detection of issues such as overheating, insulation failure, and system overloads, leading to unexpected failures, costly repairs, and significant power outages. There is a pressing need for a robust, real-time monitoring system that can provide continuous surveillance and immediate alerts to prevent transformer failures and ensure uninterrupted power supply.

- To study and implement a mobile embedded system for real-time monitoring of distribution transformers using Arduino technology.
- To study the integration of sensors for monitoring key parameters like temperature, voltage, and current of transformers.
- To study the development of a GSM-based communication module for remote alerting and data transmission.
- To study and evaluate the effectiveness of IoT platforms for accessing transformer health data anytime, anywhere.
- To study the creation and programming of an Arduino-based system for proactive maintenance and fault detection in transformers.

1.4. Project Scope and Limitations

The scope of this project encompasses the design, development, and implementation of a real-time health monitoring and protection system for distribution transformers using Arduino technology. The system will integrate various sensors to measure critical parameters such as temperature, voltage, and current, providing continuous data collection and monitoring. This data will be processed and recorded, enabling real-time analysis and immediate response to any detected anomalies. The project will also incorporate a GSM module for wireless communication, ensuring that alerts and updates can be sent to operators remotely via mobile applications. By leveraging IoT platforms, the system aims to offer accessibility and control from any location, enhancing the efficiency of transformer management. The ultimate goal is to prevent transformer failures, extend their operational lifespan, and ensure a reliable power supply.

Limitations As follows:

The accuracy and reliability of the monitoring system are dependent on the precision of the sensors and the quality of the data transmission.

The system requires a stable and continuous power supply for both the Arduino and the communication modules, which may be challenging in remote areas.

The initial setup and calibration of the system might be complex and time-consuming, requiring skilled personnel for proper installation and maintenance.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

1. Real-Time Monitoring System for Transformer Health Using IoT Technology

Authors: N. Kumar, A. Gupta, R. Singh

Published in: IEEE Transactions on Power Delivery, 2020

Summary: This paper explores the application of IoT technology for the real-time monitoring of transformer health. The authors designed a system that integrates various sensors to measure temperature, humidity, and oil quality, transmitting data via a wireless network to a central server. The system employs machine learning algorithms to predict potential failures based on historical data. The study highlights the efficiency of IoT in providing continuous monitoring and the benefits of predictive maintenance, which can significantly reduce downtime and maintenance costs. However, the reliance on wireless networks raises concerns about data security and transmission reliability.

2. Smart Transformer Monitoring Using Arduino and GSM Module

Authors: S. Patel, V. Rana, M. Shah

Published in: International Journal of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, 2021

Summary: This research focuses on developing a low-cost, Arduino-based monitoring system for distribution transformers. The system uses sensors to track parameters such as temperature, current, and voltage, with data transmitted through a GSM module to a mobile application. The real-time data allows operators to quickly address any anomalies. The authors emphasize the system's affordability and ease of implementation, making it suitable for widespread adoption in rural areas. One limitation noted is the dependency on GSM network availability, which can be inconsistent in remote regions.

3. Condition Monitoring of Power Transformers Using Embedded Systems

Authors: L. Wang, T. Li, Z. Chen

Published in: Journal of Power and Energy Engineering, 2019

Summary: This paper presents a comprehensive approach to transformer condition monitoring using embedded systems. The authors implemented an embedded system equipped with sensors to monitor operational parameters and used a microcontroller to process and analyze the data. The system provided real-time alerts and periodic reports on transformer health. The study demonstrated the system's effectiveness in early fault detection and prevention. However, it also pointed out challenges related to sensor calibration and the need for regular maintenance to ensure data accuracy.

4. Wireless Sensor Networks for Transformer Monitoring

Authors: D. Smith, J. Brown, E. Williams

Published in: Sensors, 2018

Summary: This research explores the use of wireless sensor networks (WSNs) for monitoring the health of power transformers. The WSNs consist of multiple sensor nodes that collect data on temperature, humidity, and vibration, transmitting the information to a central hub. The system enhances monitoring capabilities by covering a wider area and providing redundant data paths. The authors highlight the advantages of WSNs in terms of scalability and flexibility. However, they also discuss the challenges of energy consumption and the need for efficient power management strategies for sensor nodes.

5. Development of a Transformer Health Monitoring System Using Internet of Things (IoT)

Authors: M. Roy, P. Das, S. Sen

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Published in: International Conference on Smart Grid Technologies, 2022

Summary: This paper details the development of an IoT-based health monitoring system for distribution transformers. The system integrates multiple sensors with IoT modules to continuously monitor and report transformer parameters. The data is processed using cloud-based analytics to provide insights into transformer performance and predict potential failures. The authors highlight the system's ability to improve operational efficiency and reduce maintenance costs through real-time monitoring and predictive analytics. The study acknowledges the challenges of ensuring data security and managing large volumes of data in real time.

Analysis and Comparison

The reviewed papers collectively emphasize the importance of real-time monitoring and predictive maintenance for transformers. The integration of IoT and embedded systems across these studies showcases a trend towards more sophisticated and responsive monitoring solutions. Key benefits include enhanced fault detection, reduced downtime, and cost savings through preventive maintenance.

IoT Integration: Papers by Kumar et al. and Roy et al. underline the role of IoT in enhancing data accessibility and analysis, leveraging cloud computing for advanced analytics.

Cost-Effectiveness: Patel et al. focus on the affordability of Arduino-based systems, making advanced monitoring technologies accessible even in resource-constrained settings.

Embedded Systems: Wang et al. provide insights into the use of embedded systems for data processing and alert generation, highlighting their reliability and real-time capabilities.

Wireless Networks: Smith et al. discuss the advantages of WSNs, such as scalability and redundancy, but also point out the challenges in energy management.

III. REQUIREMENT AND ANALYSIS

Arduino Uno

The Arduino Uno is an open-source microcontroller board based on the ATmega328P microcontroller. It is a versatile platform that offers numerous functionalities, making it ideal for a wide range of projects.

Features:

- Microcontroller: ATmega328P
- Operating Voltage: 5V
- Digital I/O Pins: 14 (6 can be used as PWM outputs)
- Analog Input Pins: 6
- Flash Memory: 32 KB (0.5 KB used by the bootloader)
- SRAM: 2 KB
- Clock Speed: 16 MHz
- Communication Interfaces: UART, I2C, SPI
- Power Supply: USB or external DC source (7-12V)

The Arduino Uno can be powered via USB or an external power supply. It has an automatic power selection feature, ensuring stable operation. The board includes several pins for various functionalities, such as digital input/output, analog input, and specialized functions like PWM, serial communication, and interrupts.

LCD Display

An LCD (Liquid Crystal Display) is widely used for displaying alphanumeric characters and simple graphics in a range of applications.

Features:

- **Display Capability:** 16 characters x 2 lines
- **Microcontroller:** HD44780
- **Advantages:** Low cost, ability to display numbers, characters, and graphics, built-in refreshing controller, ease of programming

Pins and Functions:

- **Power Supply Pins:** Vss (Ground), Vdd (+5V)
- **Control Pins:** RS (Register Select), E (Enable)
- **Data Pins:** D0-D7
- **Additional Pins:** AREF (Analog Reference), Reset

The LCD used in this project can display messages in two lines, each with 16 characters. It uses a 5x7 dot matrix for each character and has built-in capabilities for displaying custom characters and simple animations.

GSM Module

The SIM800L GSM module is a compact and low-cost module used for wireless communication. It supports a range of functionalities, including sending and receiving text messages and connecting to the internet via GPRS.

Features:

- **Communication:** TTL serial, Quad-band GSM/GPRS
- **Voltage:** 3.4V to 4.4V
- **Operating Temperature:** -40°C to +85°C
- **Supported Functions:** Making and receiving calls, sending and receiving SMS, GPRS connectivity

The SIM800L module is essential for remote communication in the project. It transmits the processed data from the Arduino to an internet server, allowing for remote monitoring and control.

Temperature Sensor

Temperature sensors are crucial for monitoring the thermal state of the transformer, ensuring it operates within safe temperature limits.

Features:

- **Type:** Calibrated in Celsius
- **Temperature Range:** -55°C to +150°C
- **Power Supply:** 4V to 30V
- **Advantages:** Low cost, low self-heating, suitable for remote applications

The temperature sensor used in the project provides real-time temperature data to the Arduino, enabling the system to detect overheating and other temperature-related issues.

Current Sensor

Current sensors measure the amount of current flowing through the transformer, providing data essential for detecting overload conditions and ensuring efficient operation.

Features:

- **Bandwidth:** 80 kHz
- **Sensitivity:** 66 to 185 mV/A
- **Noise:** Low noise signal path
- **Resistance:** 1.2 mΩ internal conductor
- **Output Voltage:** Stable offset voltage, nearly zero magnetic hysteresis

These sensors are integrated with the Arduino to continuously monitor the current, ensuring the transformer operates within its designed electrical limits.

Buzzer

A buzzer is an audio signaling device used to alert users of specific events or conditions, such as faults detected in the transformer.

Features:

- **Type:** Piezoelectric
- **Frequency Range:** 3,300 Hz

- **Operating Temperature:** -20°C to +60°C
- **Voltage Range:** 3V to 24V DC
- **Sound Pressure Level:** 85 dBA at 10 cm

In this project, the buzzer sounds an alarm when a fault or abnormal condition is detected, providing an immediate audible warning to nearby personnel.

Relay

Relays are used to control high-power devices with low-power signals, acting as switches that can open or close circuits electronically or electromechanically.

Features:

- **Maximum Current:** 5A
- **Maximum Voltage:** 250V
- **Nominal Voltage:** 12V
- **Coil Resistance:** 2700Ω
- **Operating Voltage Range:** 8.6V to 21.6V

In the project, relays are used to manage the power supply to the transformer and other high-voltage components, ensuring safe and controlled operation of the system.

IV. SYSTEM DESIGN

4.1 System Architecture

The below figure specified the system architecture of our project.

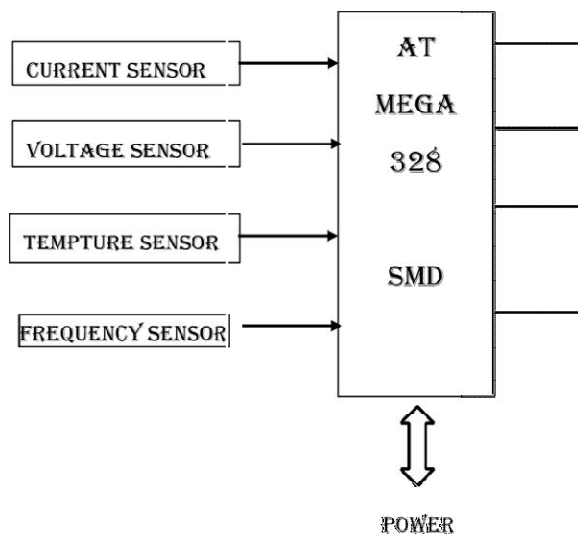


Figure 4.1: System Architecture Diagram

4.2 Working of the Proposed System

The proposed real-time transformer health monitoring system is centered around the Arduino microcontroller, which acts as the core processing unit for the system. Power to the Arduino and its associated components, such as the LCD display, is supplied through a step-down transformer and a power supply circuit. This setup ensures that the high voltage from the main supply is safely reduced to a lower voltage suitable for the Arduino and the sensors, maintaining reliable operation under various conditions.

Sensing and Data Acquisition

The system is equipped with sensors to monitor critical parameters of the transformer: voltage, current, and temperature. These sensors are directly connected to the Arduino, where they continuously gather data on the transformer's operational status. Voltage sensors measure the electrical potential difference, current sensors monitor the flow of electrical charge, and temperature sensors track the thermal condition of the transformer, which is vital for detecting overheating and potential insulation issues. The real-time data collected by these sensors is crucial for assessing the immediate health of the transformer.

Data Processing and Display

Once the sensors collect the data, it is transmitted to the Arduino for processing. The Arduino is programmed with specific algorithms to calibrate and interpret the raw input from the sensors, converting it into meaningful information that accurately reflects the transformer's condition. This processed data is then displayed on a local LCD screen, providing real-time visualization on-site. This immediate access to operational data allows technicians to quickly identify any irregularities and take necessary actions to prevent potential failures.

Remote Monitoring and Data Transmission

In addition to local monitoring, the system includes a GSM module for remote data transmission. The processed data from the Arduino is sent to the GSM module, which then transmits the information to an internet server. This server, programmed to receive and store the data, allows for remote access and long-term monitoring. Authorized personnel can access this data via internet-connected devices, enabling detailed analysis and trend identification over time. This remote monitoring capability is especially beneficial for transformers in remote or difficult-to-access locations, ensuring continuous oversight and proactive maintenance to enhance the reliability and efficiency of the power distribution network.

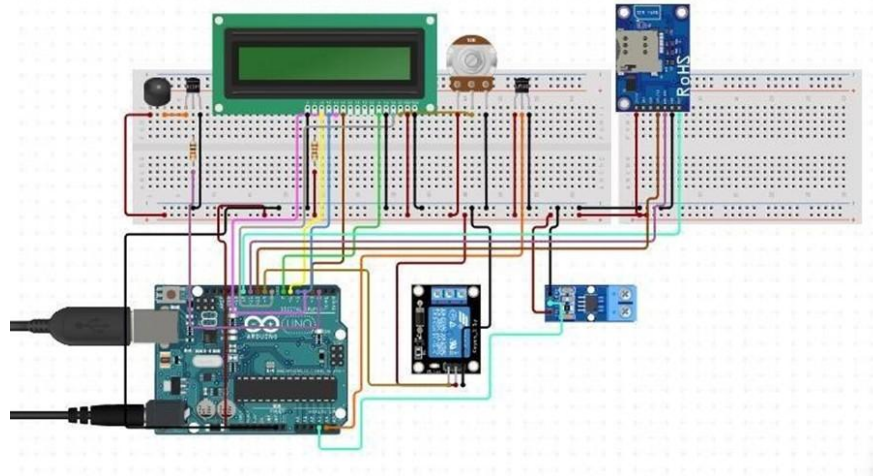


Figure4.2:Circuit Diagram

4.3 Algorithm

Step 1: Start

Step 2: Initialize Arduino

Step 3: Initialize the all sensor and GSM module.

Step 4: Capture data through sensor

Step 5: Process and analyze the data.

Step 6: Analyze the data If any problem in transformer sends the message to control room and act. Otherwise turn of the transformer or stop.

Step7: Check the information, or analyze the data, If no problem then Continue, distribute the current.

4.4 Result

The implementation of the real-time transformer health monitoring system using Arduino technology yields significant benefits in ensuring the reliability and safety of the electrical distribution network. By continuously capturing data from sensors monitoring various parameters such as voltage, current, and temperature, the system provides valuable insights into the operational status of transformers. Through real-time analysis of this data, potential issues or abnormalities in transformer performance can be promptly identified and addressed, thereby minimizing the risk of equipment failure and downtime.

One of the key outcomes of the system is its ability to enable proactive maintenance and troubleshooting. By detecting early signs of problems such as overheating, insulation deterioration, or overload conditions, maintenance personnel can take preventive measures to address these issues before they escalate into critical failures. This not only reduces the likelihood of costly repairs and replacements but also enhances the overall lifespan and efficiency of the transformers.

Furthermore, the system enhances operational efficiency by providing actionable insights for optimized resource allocation and decision-making. By monitoring transformer health in real-time and analyzing historical data trends, grid operators can identify patterns and optimize operational parameters to improve energy efficiency, minimize losses, and ensure optimal performance of the distribution network. Additionally, the system's integration with GSM communication allows for remote monitoring and control, enabling timely response to emerging issues and ensuring uninterrupted power supply to consumers.

Overall, the implementation of the real-time transformer health monitoring system empowers utilities with the tools and capabilities needed to proactively manage and maintain their distribution infrastructure, ultimately enhancing system reliability, reducing operational costs, and improving service quality for end-users.

The below figure specified the output of project of our project.

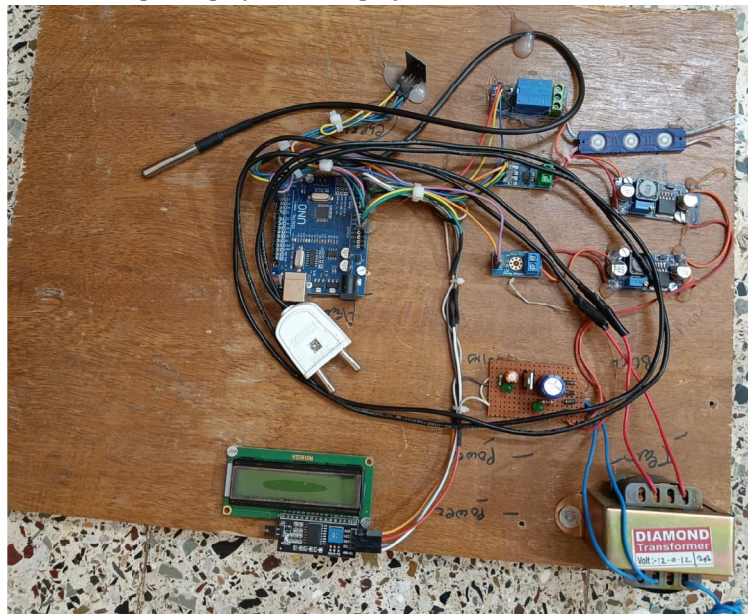


Figure4.3: Output of Project

V. CONCLUSION

Conclusion

In conclusion, the development and implementation of the real-time transformer health monitoring system using Arduino technology represent a significant advancement in the field of electrical distribution network management. By harnessing the capabilities of sensors, microcontrollers, and GSM communication, the system offers utilities a powerful tool for ensuring the reliability, safety, and efficiency of their transformer assets.

Through continuous data capture, analysis, and proactive maintenance, the system enables early detection and mitigation of potential issues, minimizing downtime and optimizing resource utilization. With its ability to provide actionable insights and facilitate remote monitoring and control, the system empowers utilities to make informed decisions, enhance operational efficiency, and deliver uninterrupted power supply to consumers. Overall, the real-time transformer health monitoring system stands as a testament to the transformative potential of IoT technology in revolutionizing the management of critical infrastructure for the modern era.

Future Work

Future work could focus on enhancing the system's predictive capabilities by integrating machine learning algorithms to forecast potential transformer failures based on historical data patterns. Additionally, expanding the system's sensor array to include more comprehensive monitoring of transformer parameters could provide deeper insights into operational conditions. Furthermore, exploring the integration of advanced communication protocols and cybersecurity measures would ensure robust remote monitoring and control capabilities while safeguarding against cyber threats. Finally, efforts to develop standardized protocols for interoperability and data exchange between different monitoring systems could facilitate seamless integration and interoperability across diverse utility infrastructures.

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