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Automatic Patient Parameters Monitoring and Alerting System

Swami S. Kulkarni, Sanjyot R. Bhalerao, Prashant R. Bodke
Ritik P. Bhavsar, Prof. Rasika M. Chandramore
Robotics and Automation Department
K.K Wagh Institute Of Engineering Education and Research, Nashik, Maharashtra

Abstract*: This paper presents the conceptual design and prototype development of the Automatic Patient Parameter Monitoring & Alerting System. The APPMAS is designed to enhance patient care through the real-time collection, analysis, and monitoring of vital signs such as heart rate, blood pressure, temperature, and oxygen saturation. The system utilizes sensors and advanced data processing algorithms to detect abnormal patterns or deviations from predefined thresholds. Upon identifying critical changes, the system generates instant alerts to healthcare providers, enabling prompt intervention and reducing the risk of adverse events. This paper discusses the architecture of the system, including sensor integration, data transmission, alert mechanisms, and user interface design. This paper discusses the methodologies, hardware, and software implementations, along with the testing results that validate the prototype's functionality as a proof of concept for the final APMAS system.*

Keywords: Real Time Monitoring, Thresholds, Sensor Integration, Internet of Things.

I. INTRODUCTION

Healthcare systems are increasingly reliant on advanced technologies to monitor patients' vital signs. Continuous monitoring plays a crucial role in detecting changes in a patient's condition, enabling timely medical intervention. With the growing complexity of patient care, manual monitoring can be both time-consuming and prone to human error, highlighting the need for automated solutions. [1]

Vital signs, including heart rate, blood pressure, body temperature, and oxygen saturation, are critical indicators of a patient's health status. Any abnormality in these parameters can signal a medical Therefore, the accurate and real-time monitoring of these vital signs is essential for ensuring effective healthcare delivery.[2]

Traditional methods of monitoring patient parameters involve manual measurements taken by healthcare personnel, often at scheduled intervals. This process can lead to delays in identifying critical changes, and the heavy reliance on staff for continuous monitoring can increase the risk of oversight, especially in high- patient-volume environments. [3,4]

This paper introduces a solution to these challenges by presenting a prototype that dynamically measures the health parameters and gives alerts to emergency situations. The need for automation in healthcare monitoring systems has become more apparent as medical staff face increased workloads and the rising complexity of patient needs [6]. An automated system can continuously track vital signs, detect abnormalities, and alert healthcare providers when immediate attention is required, ensuring faster response times and improved patient outcomes. [7]

An Automatic Patient Parameters Monitoring and Alerting System integrates various components, such as wearable sensors or monitoring devices, data acquisition systems, and alert generation mechanisms. These systems are designed to track and record patients' vital signs and communicate the data to healthcare professionals in real-time. [8,10]

The system relies on non-invasive sensors that collect real-time data from patients. These sensors measure parameters such as heart rate, blood pressure, temperature, and oxygen levels. The collected data is transmitted wirelessly to a central monitoring station or a cloud-based platform, ensuring accessibility by healthcare providers at any given time.

II. PROCESS STAGES

Data Collection

The data is collected from different sensors like temperature Sensors, Pulse Sensors & BP Sensors. This data is used for Further analysis.

System Design

Design the network architecture including sensor data acquisition in its communication networks and central monitoring stations.

Alert mechanism

Implementing automated alert generation when patient health parameters go out of threshold value.

Testing and validation

Test system in a controlled environment to ensure accuracy. Validate alert networks responsiveness. Ensure it can handle increasing data volumes

II. METHODOLOGY

The Automatic Patient Parameter Monitoring & Alerting System is designed to provide real-time health monitoring using an integration of hardware and software components. The core of the system is the PIC 18F4520 microcontroller, which acts as the control unit, interfacing with sensors and communication modules to process and transmit patient health data. Microcontroller (PIC 18F4520) is a main control unit that manages sensor inputs and facilitates communication with the monitoring system.

A. Hardware Components

Sensors:

- Pulse Sensor**:** Measures the patient's heart rate and provides a digital output in real-time.
- LM35 Temperature Sensor**:** Monitors body temperature with high precision and linear output.
- Urine Level Sensor: Tracks urine levels to detect potential abnormalities
- Communication Module**:** A GSM/IoT module ensures data transmission to cloud platforms, enabling remote monitoring by healthcare providers.

Fig. 1. PIC microcontroller

- from normal parameter ranges. When such deviations are detected, the system generates alerts to notify healthcare professionals. These alerts can be delivered through various channels, such as mobile devices, computers, or alarms, allowing for rapid decision-making and intervention. Power Supply: The system includes a regulated power supply using the LM7805 voltage regulator to provide a stable 5V DC for all components.
- Display Unit: A 16x2 LCD display provides immediate access to critical health information by showing real-time data collected from the sensors.
- Alerts**:** A piezoelectric buzzer is used to alert users in case of abnormal health parameters.

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Block Diagram of Automatic Patient Parameter Monitoring & Alerting System

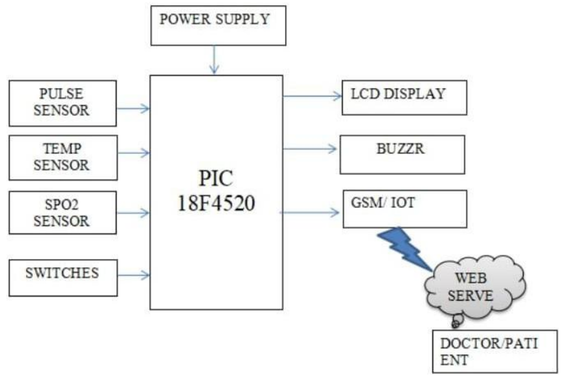

Fig. 2. Block diagram of model

B. Software Implementation

Programming Environment:

The software is developed using the Arduino IDE, which provides a user-friendly platform to program microcontroller (PIC 18F4520) using C++ language. Libraries specific to the components, such as UART communication libraries and sensor interfacing libraries, are integrated to facilitate seamless control and communication with hardware components.

Control Logic:

The system operates using a structured control algorithm that ensures real-time monitoring and decision-making. The control logic is designed as follows:

Main Loop:

- Continuously monitors sensor data, including inputs from the **P**ulse Sensor, LM35 Temperature Sensor, and Urine Level Sensor.
- If any sensor readings deviate from predefined thresholds, the system activates the alert mechanism and sends data to the system.
- The GSM/IoT module transmits patient data to a cloud platform for remote monitoring.

Data Acquisition Algorithm:

The system relies on sensors to capture real-time health data, which is processed and transmitted. The algorithm adapts to dynamic conditions to ensure accuracy and responsiveness. Given below are the sensors that are used for collecting data.

Pulse Sensor:

- Captures heart rate data based on blood flow variations.
- Generates digital signals that are processed by the microcontroller.

LM35 Temperature Sensor:

- Measures body temperature with a linear scale of 10mV/°C.
- Provides analog signals that are converted into digital readings via ADC (Analog-to-Digital Conversion).

Urine Level Sensor:

- Tracks urine levels and alerts when thresholds are breached.

Communication Workflow:

- Transmits the processed data to a system or cloud platform via the GSM/IoT module.
- Alerts are generated through a piezoelectric buzzer when critical conditions are detected.

Algorithm Workflow:
The software logic consists of the following stages:

Initialization:
- System parameters, such as sensor thresholds and communication protocols, are initialized.
- ADC settings are configured to process analog inputs from sensors.

Data Acquisition:
- Sensors continuously gather data, and the microcontroller processes these inputs to detect abnormalities.

Decision Making:
- The system compares sensor outputs against predefined thresholds.
- If any deviations are detected, alerts are triggered, and data is transmitted to remote platforms.

Alert Mechanism:
- Activates the buzzer and sends notifications via GSM/IoT in case of emergencies.

III. TESTING AND RESULTS

Fig. 3. Comparing Oximeter with Smart Watch to check accuracy of reading

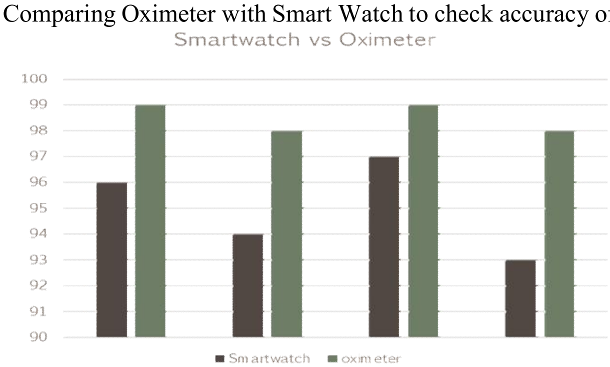

Fig. 4. Comparing readings of different watches

A. Model Testing on Patient

In Manavta Hospital Nashik we get an opportunity to demonstrate our model on ICU patients. We connect all the sensors on the patient body and set up the threshold value and also add an emergency alert number on the GSM module to provide real time alerts in emergency situations.

Our model Successfully provided an alert when patient oxygen levels suddenly drop to 80%. The model helps the doctors to get alert in real time

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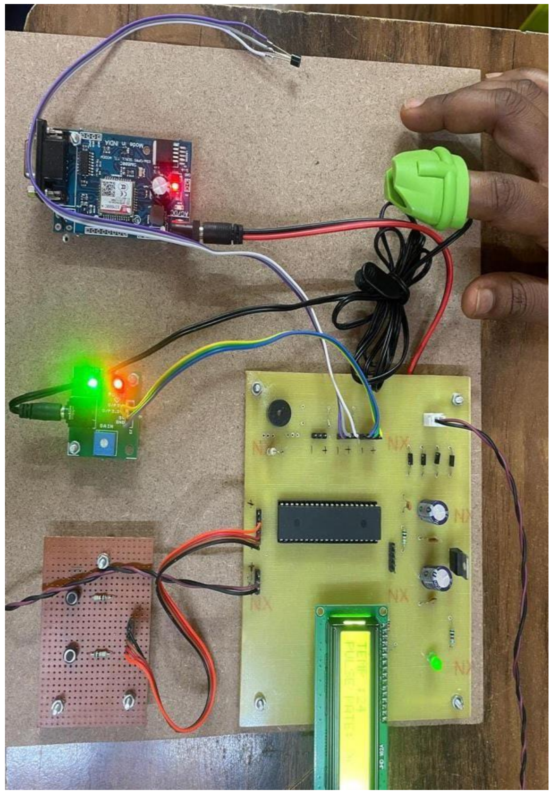

Fig. 5. Model Setup

IV. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

We would like to conclude by emphasizing the significant potential of the Automatic Patient Parameter Monitoring & Alerting System (APMAS) in enhancing real-time patient care. Through the development and testing of this prototype, we have successfully demonstrated how automation can address key challenges in healthcare, such as delayed detection of abnormal health conditions and the need for constant manual monitoring.

The integration of sensors, data acquisition systems, and communication modules within APMAS allows for continuous, non-invasive monitoring of vital signs, such as heart rate, blood pressure, temperature, and oxygen saturation.

By setting predefined thresholds and using advanced data processing algorithms, the system is capable of detecting deviations from normal parameters and generating instant alerts to healthcare providers. This enables prompt intervention, reducing the risk of adverse events and improving patient outcomes.

Testing results, including comparison with traditional monitoring methods and real-time validation in an ICU setting, confirm the accuracy, reliability, and responsiveness of the system. The inclusion of automated alert mechanisms and cloud-based data transmission further supports the system's potential to facilitate remote monitoring, especially in high-patient-volume environments.

The Automatic Patient Parameter Monitoring & Alerting System (APMAS) has demonstrated significant potential in enhancing real-time patient care.

Integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML): Incorporating AI and ML algorithms can enable the system to analyze complex patient data, identify patterns, and predict potential health issues before they become critical. This proactive approach can lead to more personalized and effective patient care.

Expansion of Sensor Capabilities: Integrating additional sensors to monitor a wider range of vital signs, such as blood glucose levels, respiratory rate, and electrocardiogram (ECG) readings, can provide a more comprehensive health assessment. This expansion would allow for early detection of various health conditions, including diabetes and respiratory disorders.

Enhanced Alerting Mechanisms: Developing more sophisticated alert systems that utilize multiple communication channels—such as mobile applications, emails, and automated phone calls—can ensure timely and effective responses from healthcare providers. Implementing feedback loops and interactive communication can further improve the responsiveness and accuracy of alerts.

Integration with Electronic Health Records (EHR): Seamless integration with EHR systems can facilitate the sharing of real-time patient data among healthcare professionals, leading to more coordinated and efficient care. This integration can also assist in tracking patient history and improving decision-making processes

Implementation of Predictive Analytics: Utilizing predictive analytics can help in forecasting potential health deteriorations based on historical and real-time data, allowing for preventive measures to be taken promptly. This approach can be particularly beneficial in managing chronic diseases and preventing hospital readmissions.

Enhancement of User Interface and Experience: Improving the user interface to make it more intuitive and user-friendly can increase adoption rates among healthcare providers and patients. Incorporating features like customizable dashboards, easy navigation, and multilingual support can cater to a diverse user base.

Expansion to Home Healthcare Settings: Adapting the system for home use can empower patients to monitor their health conditions independently, reducing hospital visits and enabling early detection of health issues. This expansion can be particularly beneficial for elderly patients and those with chronic conditions.

Compliance with Healthcare Regulations and Standards: Ensuring that the system complies with healthcare regulations and standards, such as HIPAA in the United States or GDPR in Europe, is crucial for patient privacy and data security. Regular audits and updates can help maintain compliance and build trust among users.

By focusing on these areas, APMAS can evolve into a more robust, intelligent, and user-friendly system, significantly enhancing patient monitoring and care delivery.

V. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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