Remote Health Monitoring System using Wireless Body Area Network

By MD. Zahidul Islam, Sazzad Hossain Rafi & MD. Murad Miah

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REMOTEHEALTHMONITORINGSYSTEMUSINGWIRELESSBODYAREANETWORK

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Remote Health Monitoring System using Wireless Body Area Network

Md. Zahidul Islam [α], Sazzad Hossain Rafi [σ] & Md. Murad Miah [ρ]

Abstract- The rapid increase of wireless technologies and body area networks has enabled the continuous healthcare monitoring of patients from a remote location using various sensors. This paper describes a remote health monitoring system using WBAN where different sensors are used to collect a patient's vital signs. Once the data is received, the captured data are evaluated by the Arduino and sent to the patient's Android Smartphone using a Bluetooth module and a newly developed android application named Health Monitoring App. Data can be accessed by the patient himself, by doctor or patient's family members. In critical conditions such as when body temperature and pulse rate goes beyond a predefined value or patient fall down, then application from patient's smart phone triggers a message to deliver to the doctor or relatives with the location of the patient using built-in GPS in patient's phone. This remote health monitoring system is very feasible and cost-effective for a developing country like Bangladesh.

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I. Introduction

Body area networks (BANs), also referred to as body sensor networks (BSNs), can be used for patient health monitoring. Wireless body area networks sense physiological activities of a human using a collection of sensor nodes which are smaller in size and have less power consumption. Then the data have to send to a microcontroller for further processing [1]. Body area networks benefit from the advancement of smart and inexpensive health monitoring systems [2]. They can also use as diagnostics, maintenance for specific health conditions and remote health observation. Body area networks employ features which are better suited for patient health monitoring compare with traditional wireless sensor networks (WSNs) [3]. Wireless body area networks are two types: in-body and on body. Both are frequently used for constant monitoring of the vital signs of a patient with proper diagnosis [4, 5].

II. Remote Health Monitoring System

In our developed system, a patient is monitor by the doctor or his family members from a remote place. The device will able to take data or vital signs such as body temperature, pulse rate, sense patient falling condition then send it to a microcontroller. Microcontroller further process the data, send to the patient's smart phone through a Bluetooth device. Where an android application used to check the data and this application will send a message to doctor or relative's phone after predefined time interval including information about body temperature, heart rate, body movement condition and patients location from Google map automatically. If heartbeat rate, body temperature goes higher than a predefined value or patient fall down then an automatic emergency message will go to doctor's or relative's phone from patient's mobile application using mobile networks.

There will be a couple of sensors like temperature sensor, pulse sensor, accelerometer and gyroscope sensor to detect the patient's temperature, heart rate and body movement information. For this system, sensors, Arduino Nano and a power source have used. An Arduino is use to evalute captured data and send to the patient's smartphone. The patient can move from one place to another with the device. Developed health monitoring system contains both a hardware part and a software part. The operation of our health monitoring system is shown below with a flow chart.

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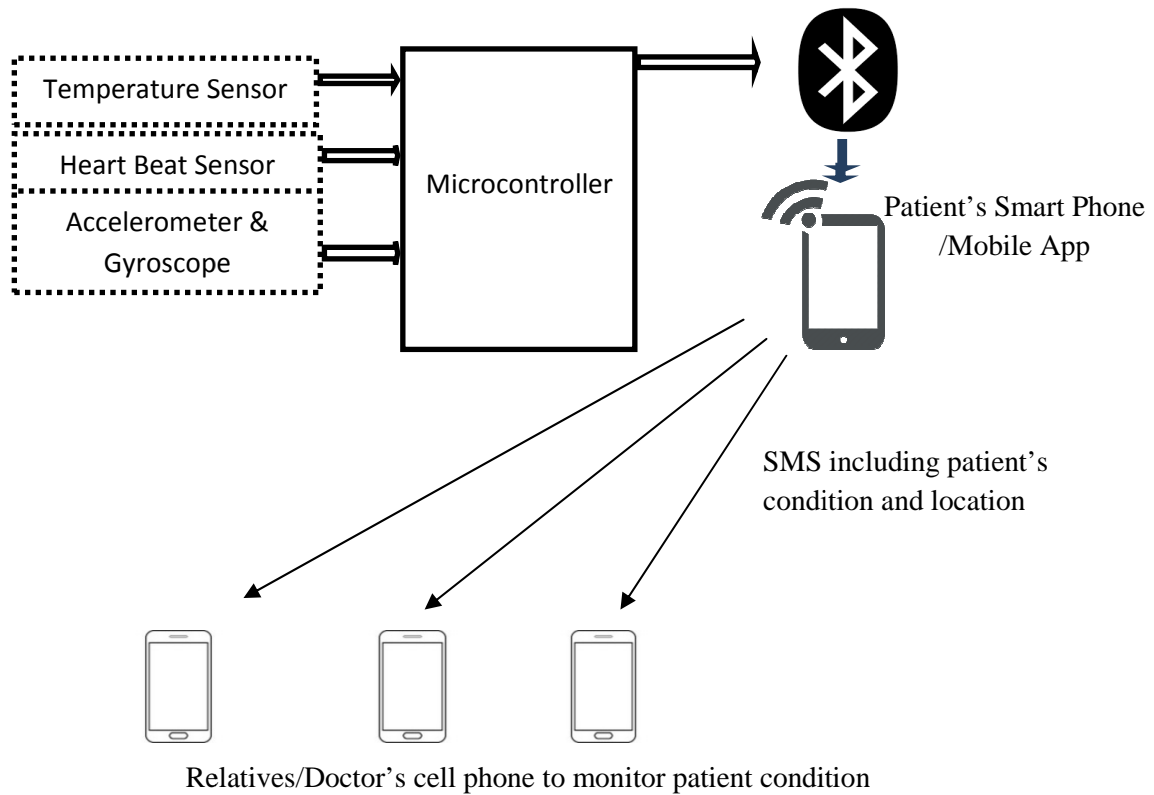*e-mail: zahidul@du.ac.bd*

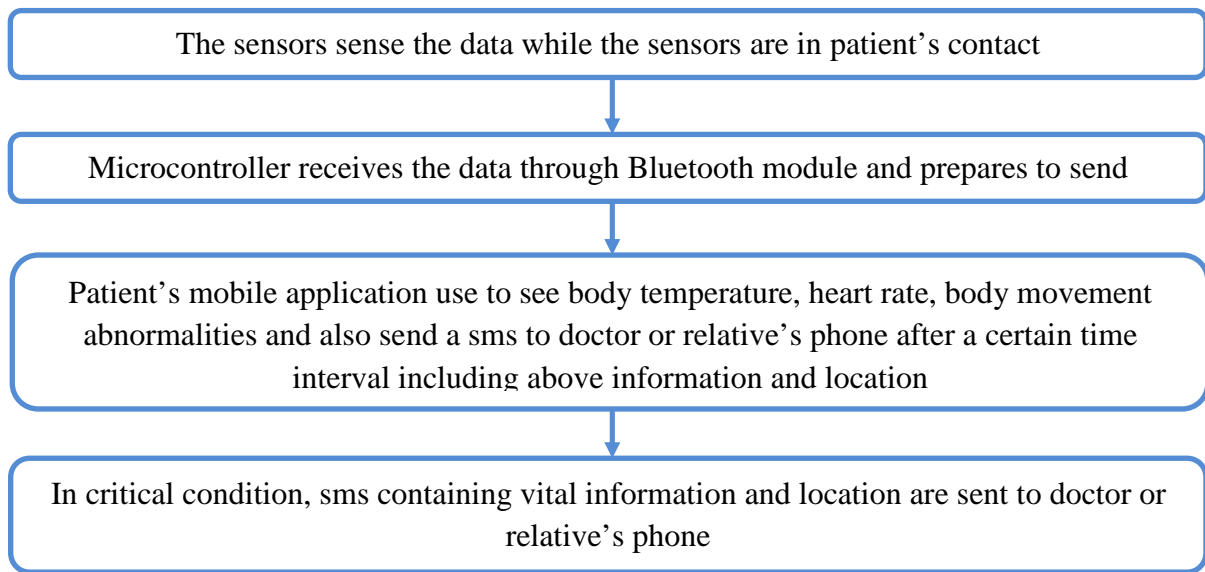*Figure 1:* Block diagram of health monitoring and Alerting System.

Figure 2: Flow chart showing the operation of the remote health monitoring system.

III. PARAMETERS ESTIMATION AND CALCULATION

a) Body Temperature

LM35 temperature sensor is use to measure the temperature. LM35 is a precision IC temperature sensor with its output proportional to the temperature. Let p is the value collected from Arduino analog pin and q is a variable.

$$q = \frac{p*5000}{1024} \qquad (1)$$

$$\text{Celsius value} = \frac{q}{10} \qquad (2)$$

We can convert this Celsius value to Kelvin & Fahrenheit value.

$$\frac{C}{5} = \frac{F-32}{9} = \frac{K+273}{5} \qquad (3)$$

Where, C = Celsius value, F = Fahrenheit value, K = Kelvin value

As we get Celsius value, we can convert this to Fahrenheit value. As normally we use Fahrenheit to measure our body temperature. So it is necessary to convert from Celsius to Fahrenheit.

$$F = \frac{9*C}{5} + 32 \qquad (4)$$

$$K = C + 273 \qquad (5)$$

By using those data, we can easily convert from one unit to another.

b) Heart Beat Per Minute (BPM)

The heartbeat sensor is based on the principle of photoplethysmography. It measures the change in volume of blood through any organ of the body which causes a change in the light intensity through that organ. The flow of blood volume is decided by the rate of heart pulses and since light is absorbed by blood, the signal pulses are equivalent to the heartbeat pulses. Pulse sensor SEN11574 is a very common sensor for measuring pulse rate. By just clipping the sensor to fingertip we can collect heart rate data.

c) Body Movement

If someone's body movement is abnomal then this device can detect the movement condition or fall. To detect normal or abnormal movement, MPU-6050 Accelerometer and Gyroscope has used in this system. The MPU6050 has an embedded 3-axis MEMS gyroscope, a 3-axis MEMS accelerometer. It is useful for some motion detection. For detecting how fast the acceleration is changing, we have used the concept of Standard deviation. Standard Deviation of the X-axis acceleration, Y-axis acceleration, Z-axis acceleration was measured by the function of a second. There arrive almost ten values in per second.

The formula for Standard deviation:

$$\text{Standard deviation} = \sqrt{\Sigma(x - \bar{x})^2 * \frac{1}{n}} \qquad (6)$$

Where, x = acceleration of a certain moment, $\bar{x}$ = average acceleration for a single second, n = number of acceleration data in a single second.

By using standard deviation, we can take some decision about the pattern of body movement. If the person is walking than the x, y, z-axis acceleration is different from standing. By taking data in different condition and analyzing them, we can decide normal, abnormal body movement or falling situation.

IV. SYSTEM IMPLEMENTATION

a) Hardware Implementation

Wireless Body Area Network (WBAN) has been implemented here using Fritzing [6]. Various mathematical equations have been used to determine some parameters which are needed to analyze. Temperature sensor, Pulse sensor, Accelerometer and gyroscope sensor is connected the microcontroller. The microcontroller then sends the data to the patient's Smartphone. By using GPS, we can also detect the patient's location.
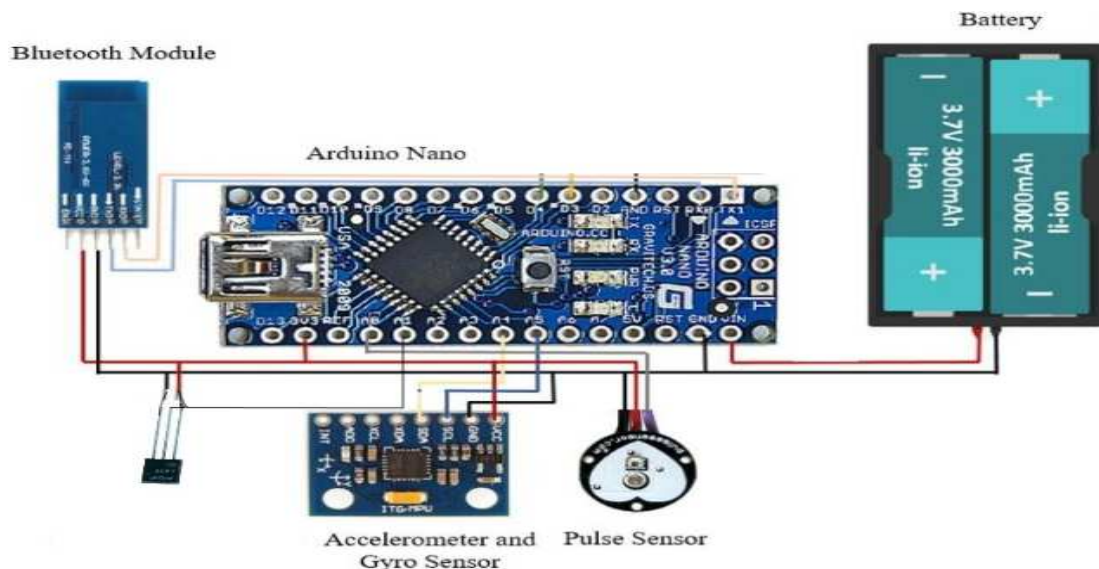

Figure 3: Implementation of hardware for remote patient monitoring system.

b) Development of Mobile Application

The primary task of our project was to take data from the sensors. The captured data are evaluated by the Arduino and sent to the patient's phone. A mobile application is needed to receive the data from a microcontroller and to send SMS to a doctor or relative's phone. Our fundamental objective was to give a stage to the patient, doctor, and family members to

communicate simply without being available by physical. We have mainly focused on developing countries people where majority use Android device. Therefore it was another reason to choose Android mobile application. We have selected the name, 'Health Monitoring' for android the app. One app will belong to the patient only which will display his health parameters in real time as well as send vital information including patient's location via SMS service. Android Studio is .

used here to create an android application that will receive data from Arduino through Bluetooth device. Android Studio is the official Integrated Development Environment (IDE) for Android app development, based on IntelliJ IDEA. On top of IntelliJ's powerful code editor and developer tools, Android Studio offers even more features that enhance the productivity of the Android apps.
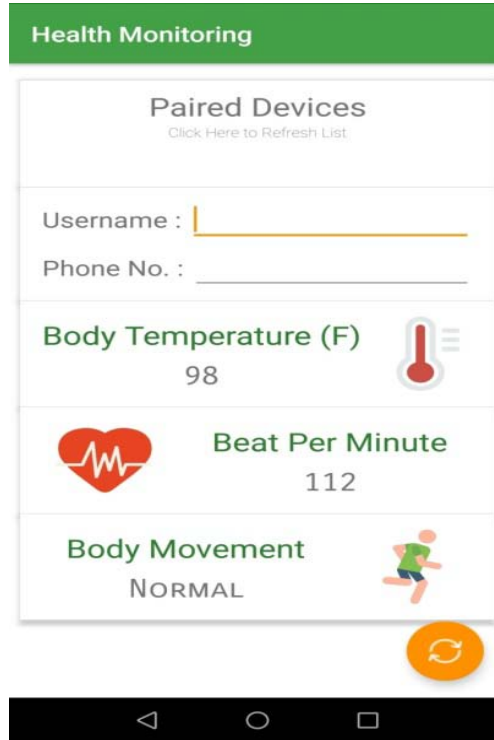
Figure 4: 'Health Monitoring' app to receive data from a microcontroller via Bluetooth module.

V. Results and Analysis

To verify whether our device is giving a better output or not we compared the outcome with the result that we get from a thermometer. As we are taking temperature and pulse rate, we need to make sure that our device produces an almost accurate output. We do the same process for falling condition analysis.

Table 1: Comparing the output with expected output (Body Temperature).

Temperature using Thermometer	Temperature using Device	Percentage of Error
98F	99F	1.02%
100F	101F	1.00%
97F	98F	1.03%
98F	99F	1.02%

Table 2: Comparing the output with expected output (Pulse Rate).

Pulse Rate (Manually)	Pulse Rate Using Device	Percentage of Error
60 bpm	65 bpm	8.33%
70 bpm	75 bpm	7.14%
75 bpm	78 bpm	4.00%
76 bpm	80 bpm	5.26%
110 bpm	112 bpm	1.82%

Table 3: Comparing the output with expected output (Fall Detection).

Number of trial for fall detection	Number of Success	Number of Failure	Percent of Success
50	41	09	82%

In this developed system, there is an option of SMS that is send to the doctor's or family member's emergency phone number. It is an auto-generated message. An automatic message will send if the sensor value exceeds a value. The conditions for triggering an SMS: (i) If Body Temperature is greater than 101 Degree Fahrenheit (ii) If Pulse Sensor Value is more than 120 or less than 60 and (iii) If Body Movement is abnormal.
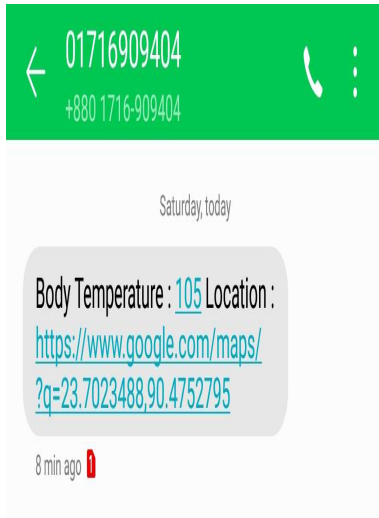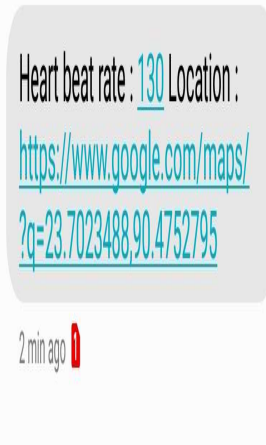

Figure: SMS for body temperature.

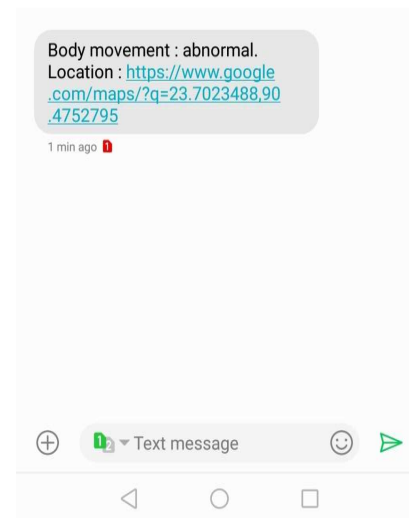*Figure:* SMS for heart beat rate.

Figure: SMS for body movement/Falling condition.

VI. FEASIBILITY ANALYSIS

Feasibility analysis is used to aid the decision of whether or not to proceed with the proposed system. This system is independent and easy to use. Therefore it can be used at home or any remote location. In our country, the government and NGO's give a specific amount of money for healthcare development purpose. If patients use this device, that will be very cost effective and efficient for a developing country like ours.

VII. COST ANALYSIS

In developed countries like ours, there is few health monitoring devices which are very expensive. Our purpose is to make a device which is suitable for developing countries. See below for the total cost of this remote health monitoring system.

Components	Price (BDT)	Price (USD)
Arduino Nano	600.00	7.10
LM-35 temperature sensor	60.00	0.72
SEN-00162pulse sensor	1550.00	13.70
MPU-6050(3-Axis Accelerometer & Gyroscope Sensor)	180.00	2.15
HC-05 Bluetooth module	280.00	3.34
Total Price	2670.00	28.00

VIII. CONCLUSION

Human body temperature, heart rate, body movement are the most important thing to analyze one's body condition. This paper illustrates and focuses on the sensors and their output result and remote patient monitoring. By this way, it is possible to know patient's body condition within a moment with exact location tracking system. People from anywhere and anytime can monitor patient especially elderly aged people. As there is not much complexity, it is easy to use. Because of being software-based, it has become very feasible.

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