

Detection of Human Under Earthquake Rubble

S Lourdu Jame, Y Jeyashree, S.Srikantan, P. Jais Duraimani, Mohamed Dhageer

Abstract—Natural calamities like earthquake, flood, volcanic eruptions, landslides, avalanches, etc are unavoidable circumstances. Occurrence of such natural ailments is unpredictable causing huge damage to resources and structures which is unavoidable. Measurement, eleven hour detection, precautionary and rescue methods are only possible options. A proper rescue can do milestones in saving life of people under such circumstances. In Messina region of New York death tolls were 5000 during earthquake, nearly half the population. In Utharkhand during 2013 a landslide caused lots of people buried under earth. Newspaper report stated that if people were detected earlier death tolls would have been quite low. In this paper we design a rescue robotic platform which can act more quickly in detection location mapping diagnosing status post earthquake, avalanches and landslides. The robot platform designed is for disaster management system during avalanches, earthquakes, and landslides for accurate and faster detection of human trapped inside without live interaction and not causing damage due to increased load of rescuer on them while detection using a robotic platform controlled remotely.

Keywords- Microwave Doppler sensor, GPS, Raspberry PI, IoT, Stepper motor, WiFi.

I. INTRODUCTION

In modern era due to high population index cities are densely populated in a country makes any disaster, much more deadly. Complexity to deploy rescue teams increases as the large number of huge, vast infrastructures of a city and reduces the effectiveness of the rescue teams greatly. Disaster sites are complex and dangerous. In human rescuer weight of man walking on collapse to detect can cause threat to buried humans. There is a great threat to rescue workers as well as survivors in such debris and ruins. A rescue robot can be of great help to detect human beings. The weight of human rescuer overloads and the pressure of human struck beneath heavy structures increases beyond bearable pressure causing death. So a human with walk stick or detector is a poor solution. Similar happens to acoustic detectors and optical devices. The Rescue Robot can navigate deep into the rubble to search for victim by the use of temperature sensor but they are prone to go out of range. In recent days dogs are employed more to detect human trapped under building rubble but dogs sense by smell and are prone to detect dead bodies earlier than alive people due to high sensed smell.

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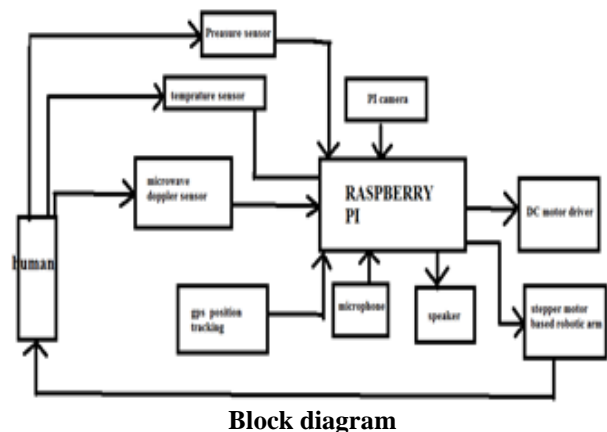
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measurement values on dead bodies than alive humans and consumes time under situation when each minute may count a death toll.

The exact location is very important to rescue the people and to save more lives. So the life saving devices are very needed to protect or save people from earth quake in an efficient manner with a short span of time. Microwave radar based systems have very high accuracies in human detection with long range of detection. GPS can be used to track location information.

II. OBJECTIVE

Design an apparatus for rescuing victims buried (or) trapped under earthquake rubble a robotic system which will be really effective to solve the problem has been designed and tested in a test environment.



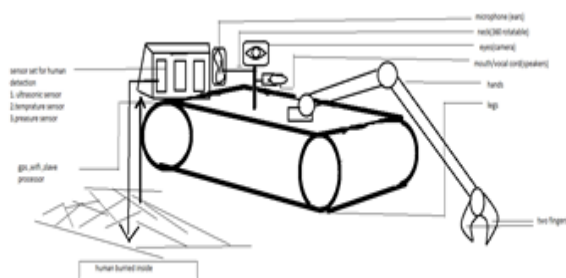
III. METHODOLOGY

1. Human-controlled robotics system:

It is a human-robot interfaced system capable of doing multiple processes that a human does and modification in structure for specification purpose can act much better than a human without loss of life. Reason for development of human system:

- Direct human intervention is not possible in many cases.
- The worker or rescuer may be at risk of impairment or losing life.
- Worker may unknowingly cause damage or impairment to human or structures in proposed site
- Level of sensing, recovery, fast action or response of a human is poor as compared to specifically designed human-robot system.

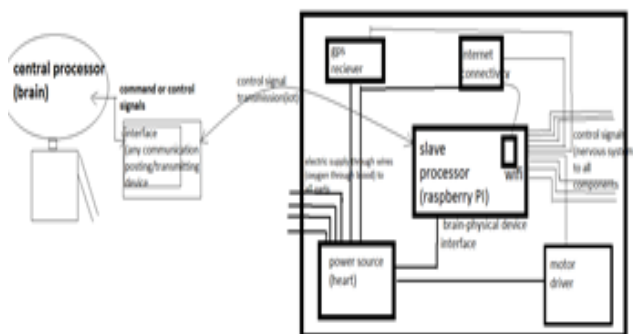
Human	Human-Robot interfaced system
eyes	Camera
ears	Microphone
mouth	Speaker
hands	Stepper motor based function specific hand structure(mop type hand for avalanche removal)
legs	Stepper motor based function specific leg structure(rover type for movement through cluttered structures)
Other sensors(nose-smell sensor, temperature and pressure sensor-skin surface and other aux sensor)	Sensor are function specific like ultrasonic sensor , temperature and pressure sensor ,Gps
Human brain	Human brain interfaced through IoT concept



Why not a humanoid robot:

1. Cost of making a humanoid robotic structure which can self-think is very high.
2. It takes years to develop a human equivalent. While human-robotic interfaced system takes very less time to develop and least cost while efficiency increases.

So a robotic platform equivalent to human physique in action with additional function specific features operated by human brain is much better than human as well as pure humanoid robots taking into performance, economic, controllability, ease of making, lesser duration of production modification.



2. Detection of human:

Existing systems used PIR sensor for human detection. Live human body emits thermal radiation it is received and manipulated by the PIR sensor to detect humans. The

common PIR motion sensors widely used in burglar alarms and security lights which detects only movements within its detection range. Although the range of sensing is not poor but sensitivity lags a lot as emitted radiations from human body gets attenuated and insufficient to trigger levels of PIR sensor. We deploy microwave Doppler sensor which has a very high range of access and works on Doppler principle. Instead of sniffing the black body radiation from a moving person, this sensor uses a “microwave Doppler radar” technique to detect moving objects.

In recent earthquake in Canada microwave based radar system developed by NASA has been deployed after when dogs weren't able to detect. The device was immovable worked on radar communication and has very high level of sensitivity. Microwave based human detection techniques are far superior than other detection methods. We design web page operable by far user and work based on IoT concept in prototype model while while radar communication is preferred in real-time system.[2]

Microwave Doppler sensor used in prototype model has a sensitivity range of ~7 meters. When triggered, its TTL-level output (OUT) pin will switch from LOW (0 V) to HIGH (3.3 V) for a finite time (2 to 3 s) before returning to its idle (LOW) state.

3. slave processor and connected sensors:

I. RASPBERRY PI:

It is a higher capability controller equivalent to minicomputer with core ARM Cortex A7 Video Core IV GPU as its processor and with 1GB ram memory. Raspian OS is the software used as operating system which can be loaded in a sim card and inserted in the controller for booting the device. It has in-built WiFi device and 40 pins among which 32 are GPIO and sensors can be connected to it. It receives measurements and sensed values from various sensors which it processes on to determine low or high on output sensors while simultaneously transmitting data to user. Various sensors can be soldered and programmed in python to retrieve values or to spit out for functioning of output sensors. Any display device can be connected to program it or run the program while a vnc media layer as display portal connected through WiFi is ideal choice.[6]

II. USB CAMERA:

Camera is used to record video and live stream it to far away user. User instead of going to the location views it through web page. Raspberry Pi camera has been specifically developed for interfacing to this controller and has high clarity of 5Mp working without buffering issues as in webcam. It acts as eyes to the proposed system [4]

III. SPEAKER :

It acts like electric signal to sound converter. Like a human having vocal cord whose moments produces various sounds a speaker consists of aluminum foil. Aluminum foil moves as a response to electrical signal producing sound of various tone according to its input electrical signal levels. It acts like a mouth capable of communicating. It is used for detector to



communicate with trapped humans as well as rescuers.

IV. MICROPHONE:

It is similar to a speaker having a mechanism which vibrates as that of an eardrum in humans according to sound level. The vibrations are converted into equivalent electrical impulses which are transmitted to a processor.

V. DC MOTOR DRIVE and DC motor:

The L293D is a 16-pin Motor Driver IC which can control a two sets of DC motors simultaneously in any direction. The L293D is designed to provide bidirectional drive currents of up to 600 mA. A motor driver uses a larger chip or discrete FETs which are able to handle larger amounts of current and higher voltages than the standard 5V/3.3V from a microcontroller pin. Two wheels are driven by a pair of DC motors which are interfaced to the Arduino Yun through L-293 dual H-bridge.

VI. STEPPER MOTOR:

Stepper motor provides predefined motion in steps for each excitation. Stepper motor is made to provide robotic arm feature. When a button in a web page is clicked, control signals are transmitted which decide forward or backward motion. In case of landslides and avalanches, it is used for removing mud or glacier iteratively, hence reducing weight thus pressure on a buried person.

4. Acquiring location and health status:

I. GPS:

It is essential to track exactly the location of the trapped human for the rescue process. Whenever the Robot platform is instructed to shift the position, Raspberry Pi polls the GPS sensor to get the restored GPS position and then when it is instructed to send the GPS tracking, then this location is sent to the Data queue of the cloud service bus. This data is later acknowledged by an Android application which loads the UI accordingly.

This NMEA string result from the GPS receiver consists of various guidelines distinguished by factors like longitude, latitude, altitude, time, etc. [5]

II. TEMPERATURE:

Temperature is an important parameter for assessing the health status of a person. LM35 temperature sensor is used. The temperature limits for survival range from 28-41 above or below which Hyperthermia occurs. Under such situation, immediate rescue would be required.

III. PRESSURE SENSOR:

Human body bearable pressure ranges till 70 times atmospheric pressure that is 140 pounds per sq inch above which life is not possible due to very high weight on body. BMP180 pressure sensor is used to measure the pressure on human. It is barometric type.

The values from temperature and pressure sensor are used to monitor health status of individual to know how long he can sustain as well as emergency rescue requirements.

5. structure and movement:

Disaster location has collapsed structures and ruins, hence the surface is cluttered and highly uneven. Motion or

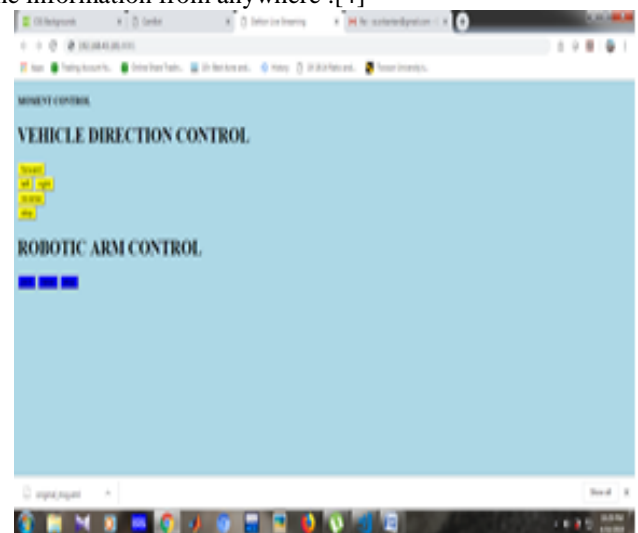
locomotion in such situations is much complex and requires specific designs. We use a rover type structure which are made of beads for prototype model for propulsion in such odd rising and valley surfaces. Rover is coupled to DC motor which is interfaced with Raspberry Pi. At a particular webpage, moment buttons will be available, clicking on them can move through such cluttered surfaces. [7]

6. IoT, web page development and accessing content:

A webpage of particular address is created with live streaming, motion controls and arm control using HTML and PHP. Details of temperature, pressure and health status is also displayed.

The information to Raspberry Pi is posted on an internet platform through WiFi connection which is accessible from anywhere around the world by typing the portal address. Since network availability may not be present post disaster in such sites, a radar based communication is suggested in a real time system.

By typing the port address on a browser, anyone can access the information from anywhere. [4]



Controlpage:



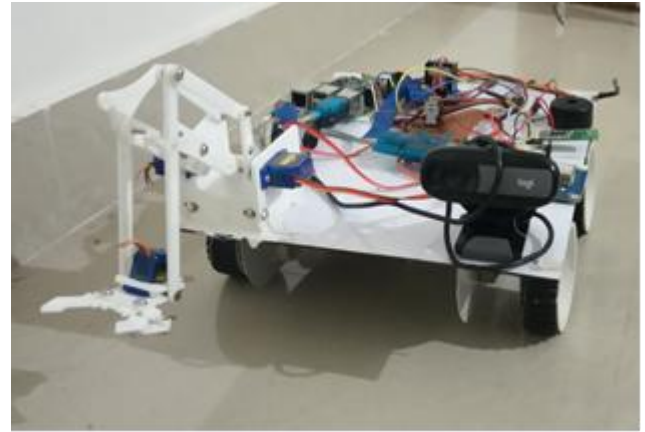
Videolivestream page:

WEBPAGE OF PROTOTYPE MODEL:

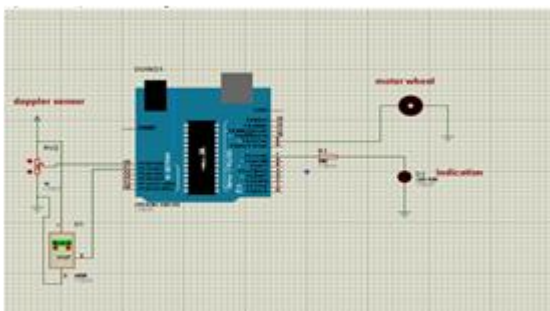


IV. WORKING

Microwave Doppler sensor attached to RASPBERRY PI sense probability of rescuing victims buried (or) trapped under earthquake rubble. If not detected then using GPS based mobile control system its motion is controlled to move to adjacent area for human life detection in adjacent area. Motion is through H-bridge drive circuit through dc motor for propulsion. If detected then RASHBERRYPI sends data to the central system or mobile phone and using GSM service sends data about location of target person under debris to far away user and an alert signal to rescuers. Simultaneously RASHBERRY PI switches on web cam which captures images of current position and surrounding. If humans are detected / pictures of humans are captured then again it sends alert signal. These data is sent to far away host computer using IOT .

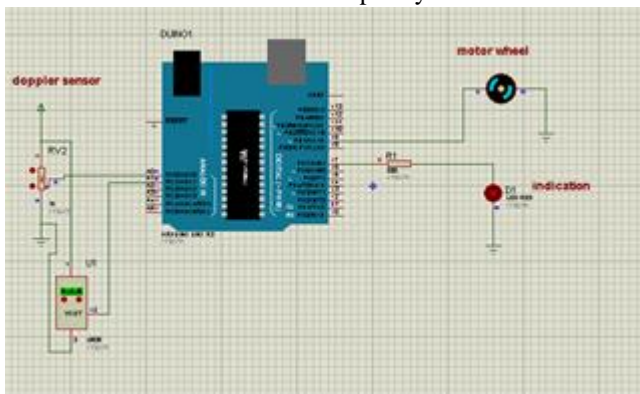


V. SIMULATION & RESULTS



A simple simulation of dopplersensors and temperature Sensor interfaced with controller is completed in Proteus software .When the distance of victim raised below preset value buzzer sirens and wheel stops.

Arduino controller is used for simplicity.



We can see that buzzer sirens when Doppler get excited by presence of human in the second image. Distance of human from sensor can be varied by varying using + and - symbol displayed near Doppler sensor.

VI. CONCLUSION

A prototype model of robotic system capable of human live detection post earthquake with location tracking ,live streaming ,environmental condition monitoring is done using raspberry PI as intermediate processor. The proposed system has covered advantages of many existing systems and tested. The system is also capable of doing rescue operations in landslides and avalanches .In real time system it is better to adopt radar communication rather than IOT based as Internet connectivity will be poor in these sites.

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