Low-energy backup communication system for hydrogen racecar

Jarno Mechele Joey De Smet Robijn Ameye

Faculty of Engineering Technology, KU Leuven - Bruges Campus
Spoorwegstraat 12, 8200 Bruges, Belgium
{jarno.mechele, joey.desmet, robijn.ameye}@student.kuleuven.be

Abstract

Geef een beknopte samenvatting van het uitgevoerde onderzoek. Vermeld de conclusies die zijn getrokken en de mogelijke implicaties daarvan.
geeft probleemstelling,Aanpak,methode,Belangrijkste resultaten,Conclusies en implicaties

Keywords—Low power, Long-range wireless, Embedded systems

I. Introduction

In a race with hydrogen cars, it is important for the pitwall to maintain communication with the car on track. At the pitwall, there must be continuous monitoring of the car's condition and speech communication with the driver. This is crucial for the course of the race. As a result, a backup communication system is required in case the primary system fails. This paper proposes a low-power, long-range wireless solution capable of transmitting and receiving both sensor data and voice signals. The required range of the system is determined by the size of the Le Mans circuit in France, which is approximately 2 km in diameter. This distance therefore defines the minimum communication range needed.

II. Firmware Design and Implementation

This section presents the firmware development for the STM32U5-microcontroller [1], which forms the core of the low-energy backup communication system. The firmware is responsible for real-time handling of LoRa communication, sensor data processing, and voice output via speech synthesis or WAV file playback. To achieve real-time performance, the firmware is built on FreeRTOS [2], as illustraded in Figure-1. This enables clear separation of tasks with different priorities, making development more structured and maintainable.

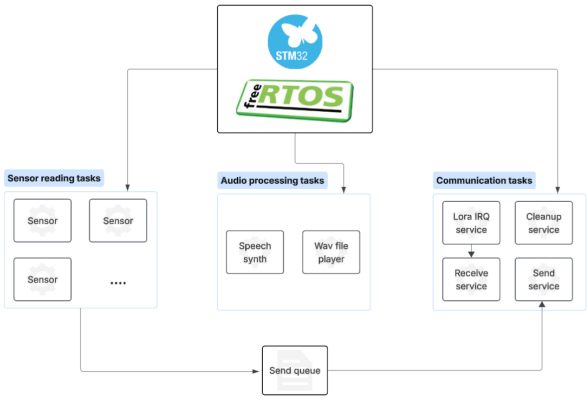

Fig. 1. Firmware system architecture overview

A. Firmware Architecture

As seen on Figure-1, the architecture is organized into three different modules which use inter-task communication mechanisms provided by FreeRTOS.

a) LoRa Communiction Group

This group consists of four different tasks: *Receive*, *Send*, *IRQ Handling* and *Cleanup*. The Recieve task blocks on a semaphore that will be set when the IRQ handling task get interupted by the sx1276-module [3], to notfiy receive/transmit completion.

b) Sensor Management Group

c) Audio Processing Group

d) Power and Memory Management

III. Backend and graphical user interface Design and Implementation

IV. Hardware Design and Implementation

V. Testing

VI. Conclusion

References

[1] STMicroelectronics, *STM32U5-series overview*, 2023. Available: https://www.st.com/en/microcontrollers-microprocessors/stm32u5-series.html
[2] Real Time Engineers Ltd., *FreeRTOS Kernel Reference Manual*, 2024. Available: https://www.freertos.org/Documentation/RTOS_book.html
[3] Semtech Corporation, *SX1276 LoRa Transceiver IC*, 2025. Available: https://www.semtech.com/products/wireless-rf/lora-connect/sx1276