

DHT Sensor Documentation - Raspberry Pi 5 Integration

El Mehdi Adnani Kadmiri

July 17, 2025

1 Description

The DHT sensor (e.g., DHT11 or DHT22) is used for measuring temperature and humidity. It includes a thermistor and a capacitive humidity sensor to generate calibrated digital output.

2 Applications

- Weather stations
- Home automation
- Greenhouse monitoring
- IoT environmental sensing

3 Working Principle

The DHT sensor measures temperature and humidity and sends the data as a digital signal via a single data pin. The sensor requires specific timing to read the data signal, which is parsed into two values: temperature and humidity.

4 Wiring Diagram

DHT Pin	Raspberry Pi Pin	Function
VCC	3.3V or 5V	Power
GND	GND	Ground
DATA	GPIO4	Data Signal

5 Libraries Used

Python: Adafruit_DHT

This library simplifies interaction with DHT sensors.

- Install via pip: `pip install Adafruit-DHT`
- Usage: `humidity, temperature = Adafruit_DHT.read_retry(sensor, pin)`

C: WiringPi and Custom Protocol

There is no official WiringPi support; bit-banging and timing logic are used in custom C implementations.

- GPIO access: `wiringPiSetupGpio()`
- Signal parsing: Requires microsecond timing

6 Python Code Example

```
import Adafruit_DHT

sensor = Adafruit_DHT.DHT11
pin = 4

humidity, temperature = Adafruit_DHT.read_retry(sensor, pin)

if humidity is not None and temperature is not None:
    print(f"Temp={temperature:.1f}C~Humidity={humidity:.1f}%")
else:
    print("Sensor~failure~-Check~wiring.")
```

7 C Code Example

```
#include <wiringPi.h>
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <stdint.h>

#define MAX_TIMINGS 85
#define DHT_PIN 4

int data[5] = {0,0,0,0,0};

void read_dht_data() {
    uint8_t laststate = HIGH;
    uint8_t counter = 0;
    uint8_t j = 0, i;

    data[0] = data[1] = data[2] = data[3] = data[4] = 0;

    pinMode(DHT_PIN, OUTPUT);
    digitalWrite(DHT_PIN, LOW);
    delay(18);
    digitalWrite(DHT_PIN, HIGH);
    delayMicroseconds(40);
    pinMode(DHT_PIN, INPUT);

    for (i = 0; i < MAX_TIMINGS; i++) {
        counter = 0;
        while (digitalRead(DHT_PIN) == laststate) {
            counter++;
            delayMicroseconds(1);
            if (counter == 255)
                break;
        }
        laststate = digitalRead(DHT_PIN);
        if (counter == 255) break;
        if ((i >= 4) && (i % 2 == 0)) {
            data[j / 8] <= 1;
        }
    }
}
```

```

                                if (counter > 16) data[j / 8] |= 1;
                                j++;
                            }
                        }

    if ((j >= 40) && (data[4] == ((data[0] + data[1] + data[2] + data[3] + data[4] + data[5] + data[6] + data[7]) / 8)))
    {
        float humidity = data[0];
        float temperature = data[2];
        printf("Humidity = %.1f%% Temperature = %.1f *C\n", humidity, temperature);
    } else {
        printf("Data not good, skip\n");
    }
}

int main(void) {
    if (wiringPiSetupGpio() == -1)
        return 1;
    while (1) {
        read_dht_data();
        delay(2000);
    }
    return 0;
}

```

8 Conclusion

The DHT sensor offers a compact and easy-to-use solution for measuring environmental temperature and humidity, making it perfect for Raspberry Pi-based monitoring systems.