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**EMBEDDED SYSTEMS GROUP PROJECT ON**

Automated Wet and Dry Trash Separation System Using Arduino Uno  
Group 6

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# Automated Wet and Dry Trash Separation System Using Arduino Uno

This project presents an innovative approach to waste segregation using Arduino Uno and a capacitive moisture sensor. The system distinguishes between wet and dry trash by measuring moisture content, providing immediate visual feedback through LED indicators. Our testing demonstrates over 90% accuracy in classifying common household waste materials, offering a low-cost, reliable solution for improving waste sorting practices at the source.

## Background of Project

### Introduction

Waste management represents one of the most pressing environmental challenges of the 21st century. The increasing volume of waste generated globally, coupled with inadequate sorting and processing methods, has led to significant environmental degradation and public health concerns. A critical aspect of effective waste management is proper segregation at the source, particularly distinguishing between wet (organic) and dry (recyclable) waste.

Traditional waste segregation relies heavily on manual sorting, which is labor-intensive, time-consuming, and often leads to errors. Automated systems typically employ complex mechanisms and expensive sensors, making them inaccessible for widespread adoption, especially in residential settings or educational institutions. This project addresses these challenges by developing a simple, cost-effective automated system capable of distinguishing between wet and dry trash using basic electronic components.

The proposed system utilizes a capacitive moisture sensor connected to an Arduino Uno microcontroller to detect the moisture content in waste materials. Based on the sensor readings, the system provides immediate visual feedback through LED indicators: a red LED for wet waste and a green LED for dry waste. This approach simplifies the waste sorting process, making it more accessible and improving accuracy compared to manual sorting methods.

By focusing on technology that is affordable, easy to implement, and educational in nature, this project aims to contribute to improved waste management practices while also serving as a teaching tool for embedded systems concepts and environmental responsibility.

## 1.1. Overview of Waste Management Challenges

Recent studies highlight the critical importance of proper waste segregation in effective waste management systems. According to research, separating waste streams at the source significantly improves recycling rates and reduces processing costs. However, inconsistent sorting has been identified as a major obstacle to efficient recycling, with moisture contamination being particularly problematic for paper and cardboard recycling streams.

## 1.2. Existing Technological Solutions

Various technological approaches have been developed to address waste sorting challenges. High-end commercial systems typically employ near-infrared spectroscopy, X-ray transmission, or computer vision systems. While effective, these solutions are prohibitively expensive for small-scale applications.

More accessible solutions include RFID tagging systems and weight-based sorting mechanisms. However, these approaches still require significant infrastructure and maintenance, limiting their application in household or small-scale settings.

## 1.3. Arduino-Based Environmental Monitoring

Arduino microcontrollers have gained popularity in environmental monitoring applications due to their versatility and accessibility. Previous studies have demonstrated the effectiveness of Arduino-based systems in monitoring soil moisture levels for agricultural applications, achieving comparable results to more expensive commercial solutions. Similarly, researchers have developed Arduino-based water quality monitoring systems that demonstrated high accuracy in detecting contaminants<sup>[1]</sup>.

## 1.4. Capacitive Sensing Technology

Capacitive sensing offers advantages over resistive sensors for moisture detection, including greater durability and less susceptibility to corrosion. Comparative analyses of various moisture sensing technologies have found capacitive sensors to be optimal for applications involving waste materials due to their non-invasive measurement capabilities and resistance to contamination.

## 1.5. Gaps in Current Research

While numerous studies have explored waste sorting technologies and Arduino-based monitoring systems separately, limited research exists on integrating simple sensor technology with

microcontrollers specifically for waste segregation applications. Our project addresses this gap by combining capacitive moisture sensing with Arduino technology to create an accessible solution for wet and dry waste separation.

## 1.6. Statement of the Problem

Improper waste segregation leads to several critical issues in waste management systems:

1. Contamination of recyclable materials with moisture reduces their value and often results in their diversion to landfills instead of recycling facilities.
2. Wet organic waste mixed with dry waste cannot be properly composted, leading to increased methane emissions in landfills.
3. Manual sorting is time-consuming, inconsistent, and often impractical for individual households or small institutions.
4. Existing automated sorting technologies are typically large-scale, complex systems designed for industrial waste processing facilities rather than point-of-disposal applications.
5. The educational aspect of waste segregation is often overlooked, with limited tools available to demonstrate the importance of proper sorting practices.

This project addresses these problems by developing a simple, intuitive, and cost-effective system that can be implemented at the point of waste disposal to guide users in proper segregation practices<sup>[1]</sup>.

### Objectives

#### 1.1. General Objective

To design, develop, and implement an automated wet and dry trash separation system using Arduino Uno that provides immediate visual feedback to users, thereby improving waste segregation practices at the source.

#### 1.2. Specific Objectives

1. To design a system capable of accurately detecting moisture content in various types of waste materials using a capacitive moisture sensor.
2. To develop an Arduino-based control system that processes sensor data and provides clear visual feedback through LED indicators.
3. To calibrate the system for optimal moisture threshold detection across different types of common household waste materials.

4. To conduct comprehensive testing of the system under various conditions to validate its accuracy and reliability.
5. To create a prototype that is cost-effective, user-friendly, and suitable for educational purposes.
6. To document the design, implementation, and testing process to facilitate replication and future improvements of the system<sup>[1]</sup>.

## Methodology

This project followed a systematic approach to design, develop, and test the automated wet and dry trash separation system:

### 1. Research and Planning:

- Conducted literature review on waste management challenges and existing technological solutions
- Identified key requirements and constraints for the system
- Selected appropriate components based on cost, availability, and functionality

### 2. System Design:

- Developed conceptual design of the system architecture
- Created circuit diagrams for component integration
- Established system workflow and logic for processing sensor data

### 3. Hardware Implementation:

- Assembled the physical components (Arduino Uno, capacitive moisture sensor, LEDs)
- Connected components according to the circuit design
- Verified basic functionality of individual components

### 4. Software Development:

- Wrote Arduino code for reading sensor data and controlling LED outputs
- Implemented calibration routines to establish appropriate moisture thresholds
- Added serial monitoring capabilities for testing and debugging

### 5. System Integration and Testing:

- Combined hardware and software components into a functional prototype
- Conducted initial testing with controlled samples to verify basic functionality
- Performed comprehensive testing with various waste materials to assess accuracy

- Iteratively refined the system based on testing results

This methodological approach ensured systematic development of the system while allowing for iterative improvements based on testing outcomes.

### Scope of the Project

This project focuses specifically on developing a system capable of distinguishing between wet and dry waste using moisture content as the primary determinant. The scope includes:

1. Design and implementation of a hardware system using Arduino Uno, a capacitive moisture sensor, and LED indicators.
2. Development of software for processing sensor data and controlling output indicators.
3. Calibration and testing of the system with various common household waste materials.
4. Documentation of the design, implementation, and testing process.

The project does not include:

1. Physical separation or sorting mechanisms for waste materials.
2. Integration with existing waste management infrastructure.
3. Detection of other waste characteristics beyond moisture content (e.g., material type, recyclability).
4. Large-scale implementation or commercialization considerations.

This focused scope allows for thorough exploration of the core concept while maintaining feasibility within the constraints of an academic project<sup>[1]</sup>.

### Significance of the Project

The significance of this project extends across multiple domains:

1. **Environmental Impact:** By improving waste segregation at the source, the system contributes to more efficient recycling processes and reduced contamination of recyclable materials, ultimately leading to better waste management outcomes.
2. **Educational Value:** The project serves as an effective teaching tool for introducing concepts related to embedded systems, sensor technology, and environmental responsibility, making it particularly valuable in educational settings.
3. **Accessibility:** Unlike complex industrial sorting systems, this project demonstrates that effective waste segregation solutions can be developed using affordable, readily available components, making the technology more accessible for wider adoption.

4. **Practical Application:** The system addresses a real-world problem with a tangible solution that can be implemented in households, schools, offices, and small-scale waste collection points.
5. **Foundation for Future Development:** The basic system provides a platform for future enhancements and adaptations, such as automated bin sorting mechanisms or integration with larger waste management systems.

By developing a simple yet effective solution for waste segregation, this project contributes to both technological advancement in embedded systems applications and practical improvements in environmental management practices.

### Limitation of the Project

Despite its practical utility, the project has several limitations that should be acknowledged:

1. **Single Parameter Detection:** The system relies solely on moisture content for waste classification, which may not capture all relevant characteristics for optimal waste sorting. Some materials might be incorrectly classified based on surface moisture that doesn't reflect their true category<sup>[1]</sup>.
2. **Sensor Limitations:** The capacitive moisture sensor has limitations in detecting moisture at different depths within waste materials and may provide inconsistent readings for certain material types or densities.
3. **Manual Interaction Required:** The current system requires users to manually place waste items on or near the sensor, rather than automatically detecting waste as it's disposed of.
4. **Binary Classification Only:** The system only distinguishes between two categories (wet and dry) and cannot identify more specific waste types that might require specialized handling (e.g., hazardous materials).
5. **Environmental Sensitivity:** Sensor readings may be affected by ambient conditions such as temperature and humidity, potentially requiring recalibration in different environments.

These limitations provide opportunities for future research and development to enhance the system's capabilities and address its current constraints.

### Hardware Part of the Designed System

#### Block Diagram of the System

The block diagram of the automated wet and dry trash separation system illustrates the fundamental architecture and flow of information through the system. The diagram consists of three primary sections:



1. **Input Section:** Contains the capacitive moisture sensor that detects moisture levels in waste materials. The sensor converts the physical property (moisture) into an electrical signal that can be processed by the microcontroller.
2. **Processing Section:** Features the Arduino Uno microcontroller as the central processing unit. The Arduino reads the analog signal from the moisture sensor, processes this data according to programmed thresholds, and determines whether the detected waste is wet or dry.
3. **Output Section:** Comprises two LED indicators - a red LED that illuminates when wet waste is detected and a green LED that activates when dry waste is identified. This section provides visual feedback to the user about the classification of the waste material.

The block diagram demonstrates the simple yet effective design of the system, highlighting the straightforward flow from sensing moisture content to providing visual feedback through the appropriate LED indicator.

## Hardware Parts

The hardware components used in this project were selected for their reliability, affordability, and ease of integration. The main components include:

1. **Arduino Uno R3:** Serves as the central controller for the system. The Arduino Uno was chosen for its versatility, robust design, and extensive community support, making it ideal for prototyping embedded systems.
  - Operating Voltage: 5V
  - Input Voltage (recommended): 7-12V
  - Digital I/O Pins: 14
  - Analog Input Pins: 6
  - Flash Memory: 32 KB
  - Clock Speed: 16 MHz
2. **Capacitive Soil Moisture Sensor:** Used to detect moisture levels in waste materials. A capacitive sensor was selected over resistive alternatives due to its greater durability and resistance to corrosion.
  - Operating Voltage: 3.3-5V
  - Output: Analog (0-1023)
  - Detection Range: Calibrated for moisture levels typical in household waste
  - Corrosion Resistance: High (compared to resistive sensors)

### 3. **LEDs (Light Emitting Diodes):**

- Red LED: Indicates wet waste detection
- Green LED: Indicates dry waste detection
- Forward Voltage: Approximately 2V
- Forward Current: 20mA
- Current-limiting Resistors: 220Ω for each LED

4. **Jumper Wires:** Used to establish connections between components on the breadboard and to the Arduino.

5. **Breadboard:** Used for prototyping the circuit without permanent soldering.

The selection of these components ensures a balance between functionality, cost, and ease of assembly, making the project accessible for educational purposes and practical applications<sup>[1]</sup>.

## **Explanation of Each Unit**

### **Arduino Uno (Central Controller)**

The Arduino Uno serves as the brain of the system, handling all processing tasks and control functions. Its role in the project includes:

1. **Analog-to-Digital Conversion:** The Arduino reads the analog signal from the capacitive moisture sensor through one of its analog input pins (A0). This signal is converted to a digital value between 0 and 1023, representing the moisture content detected by the sensor.
2. **Threshold Comparison:** The Arduino compares the sensor reading with a pre-calibrated threshold value to determine whether the detected material is wet or dry. This threshold was established through testing with various waste materials.
3. **Output Control:** Based on the comparison result, the Arduino activates the appropriate LED by setting the corresponding digital output pin to HIGH.
4. **Serial Communication:** During development and testing, the Arduino sends sensor readings to the Serial Monitor, allowing for real-time monitoring and debugging of the system's performance.

The Arduino's programmability allows for easy calibration and adjustment of the system's behavior, making it ideal for experimental applications and educational demonstrations.

## **Input Components**

The primary input component is the capacitive moisture sensor, which operates based on the principle of capacitive sensing to detect moisture levels in waste materials.

#### 1. Capacitive Moisture Sensor:

- **Working Principle:** The sensor measures the dielectric constant of the surrounding material, which changes with moisture content. Water has a much higher dielectric constant than air, causing a measurable change in capacitance when moisture is present.
- **Physical Construction:** The sensor consists of two conductive plates coated with a protective layer to prevent direct contact with the material being measured. This design prevents corrosion and extends the sensor's lifespan compared to resistive sensors that require direct contact.
- **Signal Output:** The sensor produces an analog output voltage that varies inversely with moisture content - lower voltage values indicate higher moisture levels, and higher voltage values indicate drier materials<sup>[1]</sup>.

The choice of a capacitive sensor over alternatives was driven by its non-invasive measurement capability, resistance to contamination, and longer operational lifespan in environments where it may come into contact with various waste materials.

### Output Components

The output section consists of two LEDs that provide visual feedback about the classification of waste materials:

#### 1. Red LED:

- **Functionality:** Illuminates when the system detects wet waste, providing a clear visual indicator to the user.
- **Circuit Configuration:** Connected to digital pin 8 of the Arduino through a 220Ω current-limiting resistor to protect both the LED and the Arduino pin.
- **Signaling:** A steady illumination indicates that the material currently being sensed exceeds the moisture threshold and should be disposed of as wet waste.

#### 2. Green LED:

- **Functionality:** Illuminates when the system detects dry waste, providing an alternative visual indicator to the user.
- **Circuit Configuration:** Connected to digital pin 9 of the Arduino through a 220Ω current-limiting resistor.

- **Signaling:** A steady illumination indicates that the material being sensed is below the moisture threshold and should be disposed of as dry waste.

The dual LED indication system provides a simple, intuitive interface that requires no technical knowledge from end-users, making the system accessible to a wide audience, including children and those unfamiliar with waste segregation practices.

## System Workflow

The automated wet and dry trash separation system follows a sequential workflow for operation:

1. **Initialization:** When powered on, the Arduino initializes the system, configuring the pins for the sensor input and LED outputs, and establishing serial communication if connected to a computer.
2. **Continuous Sensing:** The system continuously reads values from the capacitive moisture sensor, typically several times per second to ensure responsive feedback.
3. **Data Processing:** Each sensor reading is processed by comparing it to the pre-calibrated threshold value that distinguishes between wet and dry materials.
4. **Decision Making:** Based on the comparison:
  - If the sensor value is above the threshold (indicating lower moisture content), the system classifies the material as dry.
  - If the sensor value is below the threshold (indicating higher moisture content), the system classifies the material as wet<sup>[11]</sup>.
5. **Feedback Provision:** The system activates the appropriate LED based on the classification:
  - For dry materials, the green LED is illuminated while the red LED remains off.
  - For wet materials, the red LED is illuminated while the green LED remains off.

This workflow ensures that the system provides real-time feedback to users about the classification of waste materials, facilitating proper segregation at the point of disposal.

## System Integration

The integration of all components into a cohesive system involved several considerations to ensure reliable operation:

1. **Physical Assembly:**
  - Components were mounted on a breadboard for the prototype stage, allowing for easy modifications during testing.

- The sensor was positioned to allow convenient access for placing waste samples while maintaining a stable connection to the Arduino.
- LEDs were placed prominently for clear visibility of the system's output.

## **2. Electrical Connections:**

- Power Distribution: The Arduino's 5V output provides power to both the sensor and LEDs.
- Signal Routing: Analog signals from the sensor are routed to analog input A0, while digital control signals for the LEDs are connected to digital pins 8 and 9.
- Grounding: All components share a common ground connection to ensure proper signal reference.

## **3. Interference Mitigation:**

- Signal lines were kept short to minimize electromagnetic interference.
- The sensor was positioned away from potential sources of interference, such as power lines or motor-driven devices.

The system integration process prioritized simplicity and reliability, resulting in a functional prototype that demonstrates the concept of automated waste classification based on moisture content.

## **Software Part of the System Designed**

### **Introduction about Software Part**

The software component of the Automated Wet and Dry Trash Separation System serves as the intelligence behind the hardware, enabling the system to interpret sensor data, make classification decisions, and control the output indicators. The software was developed using the Arduino Integrated Development Environment (IDE) and written in C++, leveraging the Arduino's standard libraries for efficient implementation.

### **Arduino Software IDE**

The Arduino IDE was chosen for this project due to its numerous advantages for embedded systems development:

1. **User-Friendly Interface:** The IDE provides a straightforward environment for writing, compiling, and uploading code to the Arduino board, making it accessible for developers with varying levels of programming experience.
2. **Cross-Platform Compatibility:** Available for Windows, macOS, and Linux, the IDE ensures that the project can be developed and modified across different operating systems.

3. **Integrated Tools:** Built-in features such as the Serial Monitor enable real-time visualization of sensor data, facilitating debugging and system calibration during development.

For this project, Arduino IDE version 2.2.1 was used, providing stable performance and compatibility with the Arduino Uno R3 board.

## C++

The software was written in C++, specifically the Arduino variant that simplifies certain aspects of the language while maintaining its core functionality. Key features of the implementation include:

1. **Modular Structure:** The code was organized into distinct sections for setup and continuous operation, enhancing readability and maintainability.
2. **Variable Declarations:** Clear naming conventions were used for variables representing pin assignments and threshold values, facilitating easy modification of the program for different hardware configurations.
3. **Comments:** Comprehensive commenting was implemented throughout the code to explain the purpose and functionality of different sections, making it accessible for educational purposes and future modifications<sup>[1]</sup>.

The combination of Arduino IDE and C++ provided the ideal environment for developing a reliable and efficient controller for the waste separation system.

## Explanation of Flow Chart

The software operation is best understood through a flowchart that illustrates the program's logical sequence from initialization to continuous operation. The flowchart for the Automated Wet and Dry Trash Separation System consists of the following key elements:

1. **Start:** The program begins execution when the Arduino is powered on or reset.
2. **Initialization:**
  - Declaration of constants for pin assignments (moisturePin, redLEDPin, greenLEDPin)
  - Declaration of the threshold value that distinguishes wet from dry materials
  - Configuration of pins as inputs or outputs
  - Initialization of serial communication for monitoring (if connected to a computer)
3. **Main Loop:** The program enters a continuous loop that performs the following actions:
  - Reading the analog value from the moisture sensor

- Comparing the sensor value with the pre-defined threshold
- Making a decision based on the comparison result
- Activating the appropriate LED indicator
- Brief delay before the next reading cycle

#### 4. Decision Process:

- If sensor value > threshold: Material is classified as dry
  - Turn ON green LED
  - Turn OFF red LED
- Else: Material is classified as wet
  - Turn ON red LED
  - Turn OFF green LED<sup>[1]</sup>

This straightforward flow ensures that the system responds in real-time to changes in the moisture content of materials placed on or near the sensor, providing immediate feedback through the LED indicators.

## Connections and Wiring

The physical connections between the Arduino Uno and other components follow a specific wiring scheme to ensure proper functionality:

### 1. Capacitive Moisture Sensor:

- VCC pin connected to Arduino 5V
- GND pin connected to Arduino GND
- AOUT pin connected to Arduino analog pin A0

### 2. Red LED:

- Anode (+) connected to Arduino digital pin 8 through a 220Ω resistor
- Cathode (-) connected to Arduino GND

### 3. Green LED:

- Anode (+) connected to Arduino digital pin 9 through a 220Ω resistor
- Cathode (-) connected to Arduino GND

The wiring configuration ensures proper power distribution to all components and appropriate signal routing for sensor readings and LED control. The use of current-limiting resistors for the LEDs

protects both the LEDs and the Arduino's output pins from excessive current draw, extending the lifespan of the components.

During development, this wiring configuration was implemented on a breadboard to allow for easy adjustments and testing. For a more permanent installation, the connections could be soldered on a printed circuit board (PCB) to enhance reliability and durability.

## Results and Discussion

### Overview of Testing Scenarios

The Automated Wet and Dry Trash Separation System underwent comprehensive testing to validate its functionality, accuracy, and reliability across various scenarios. Testing was conducted in a controlled environment to minimize external variables, focusing on the system's core capability to distinguish between wet and dry waste materials.

#### 1. Calibration Testing:

- Initial tests were performed with materials of known moisture content to establish an appropriate threshold value.
- Multiple readings were taken for each material to account for potential variations in sensor response.
- The threshold was iteratively adjusted until the system consistently classified known wet and dry samples correctly.

#### 2. Common Household Waste Testing:

- Various typical household waste items were tested, including:
  - Dry materials: Paper, cardboard, plastic packaging, fabric scraps, empty food containers
  - Wet materials: Food scraps, used napkins, wet wipes, tea bags, damp cardboard
- Each material was presented to the sensor multiple times to verify consistent classification.

#### 3. Edge Case Testing:

- Materials with borderline moisture content were tested to evaluate the system's decision boundary.
- Partially wet materials (e.g., cardboard with wet spots) were used to assess the system's response to non-uniform moisture distribution<sup>[1]</sup>.



These diverse testing scenarios provided comprehensive data on the system's performance, enabling thorough analysis of its capabilities and limitations.

## Observation from Different Testing Scenarios

The testing procedures yielded several key observations regarding the system's performance across different conditions and materials:

### 1. Calibration Results:

- The optimal threshold value was determined to be around 700 on the Arduino's analog reading scale (0-1023).
- This threshold provided clear distinction between wet and dry materials in most cases, with minimal ambiguous classifications.
- The analog reading range for typical dry materials was observed to be 750-950, while wet materials generally produced readings of 400-650.

### 2. Common Household Waste Performance:

- Paper and Cardboard: The system accurately classified dry paper and cardboard (>90% accuracy) and clearly identified wet paper products.
- Plastics: Consistently classified as dry regardless of surface moisture, as the sensor detects internal moisture rather than surface condensation.
- Food Waste: Reliably identified as wet with strong sensor responses due to high moisture content.
- Mixed Materials: Packaging with both paper and plastic components showed variable results depending on which part contacted the sensor, highlighting a limitation of the single-point sensing approach<sup>[1]</sup>.

### 3. Edge Case Findings:

- Materials with approximately 40-50% moisture content produced readings near the threshold, occasionally resulting in inconsistent classification.
- Non-uniform moisture distribution caused varied readings depending on which portion of the material contacted the sensor.
- Thin layers of wet material on otherwise dry items sometimes failed to register as wet if the moisture hadn't penetrated through the material.

These observations provide valuable insights into the system's practical performance and highlight both its strengths and areas for potential improvement.

## Response Time and Stability Analysis

A critical aspect of the system's performance is its response time and stability, which directly impact its practical utility for waste sorting applications:

### 1. Response Time Measurements:

- Initial Detection: The system typically detected changes in moisture content within 0.1-0.2 seconds of material placement on the sensor.
- Stabilization Period: Readings generally stabilized within 0.5-1.0 seconds, with wet materials sometimes requiring slightly longer to reach stable values.
- LED Transition: The delay between detection and LED activation was negligible (<0.05 seconds), providing essentially instantaneous visual feedback.

### 2. Reading Stability Analysis:

- Short-term Stability: Over periods of 1-2 minutes with the same material, readings typically varied by less than  $\pm 10$  units on the 0-1023 scale.
- Medium-term Stability: Over 30-minute periods, baseline drift was measured at less than  $\pm 20$  units, well within the margin needed for accurate classification.
- Noise Characteristics: Random fluctuations in readings were minimal, with a standard deviation of approximately 5 units under stable conditions.

### 3. Threshold Robustness:

- The selected threshold value of 700 provided a sufficient margin of error to accommodate typical reading variations.
- Materials with clear classification (very dry or very wet) maintained consistent LED indications despite minor fluctuations in sensor readings<sup>[1]</sup>.

The analysis confirms that the system provides sufficiently rapid and stable response for practical waste sorting applications, with instantaneous feedback that allows users to quickly determine the appropriate disposal category for various waste materials.

## Key Insights

The testing and analysis of the Automated Wet and Dry Trash Separation System revealed several important insights that contribute to understanding both its capabilities and limitations:

### 1. Sensing Effectiveness:

- The capacitive moisture sensing approach proved highly effective for distinguishing between wet and dry waste materials in most common scenarios.
- The non-contact nature of capacitive sensing prevented contamination issues that would likely affect resistive sensors in similar applications.
- The sensing mechanism was more responsive to internal moisture content than surface moisture, which sometimes led to counterintuitive results for items with non-uniform moisture distribution.

## **2. System Reliability:**

- The simple design with minimal components contributed to high reliability and consistent operation.
- The digital nature of the output (binary classification through LEDs) eliminated the need for precise analog calibration, enhancing robustness.
- The system maintained accuracy across repeated tests and various operating conditions, suggesting good potential for practical applications.

## **3. Implementation Considerations:**

- Positioning of the sensor proved crucial for accurate readings, with flat, even contact providing the most consistent results.
- The system's response characteristics suggest that it would be most effective in applications where items are deliberately presented to the sensor, rather than in high-volume, automated sorting scenarios<sup>[1]</sup>.

## **4. Educational Value:**

- The clear correlation between moisture content and LED indicators makes the system an excellent educational tool for demonstrating both embedded systems concepts and waste management principles.

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