CSE350 Project Report

Project Name: Automated Dam Control System with Manual Control and Rainfall sensing

Group Members:

- Maidul Islam (ID: 22299312)
- Kowshik Roy (ID: 22299425)
- Aarya Ibteda Foyez (ID: 22201509)
- Md. Mubin Ibne Azad (ID: 22101150)

Automated Dam Control System with Manual Control and Rainfall Sensing

***Abstract*—This report details the design and implementation of an automated dam control system. The system utilizes conductivity-based water level sensors and a rain sensor to automatically adjust the dam gate, alongside a manual override option. The core control logic is realized using digital integrated circuits, including Schmitt triggers for signal conditioning, AND and OR gates for decision-making, and a D-type flip-flop for maintaining the gate state. A 555 timer-based actuation circuit controls the gate motor via an L293D driver, providing timed open and close operations. The physical prototype incorporates conductivity probes for water level detection and a dedicated rain sensor. The system is designed to automatically open the gate during heavy rainfall when the water level is near high and to close the gate when the water level drops below a normal high level. A manual mode allows for direct operator control. The performance and initial testing of the physical prototype are discussed.**

I. Introduction

Efficient water management through automated dam control systems offers significant advantages for flood control, irrigation, and water resource management. This project focuses on the design, construction, and initial testing of a physical automated dam control system. The system employs conductivity-based water level sensors to monitor the reservoir's water level and a rain sensor to anticipate increased water inflow. The control logic is implemented using standard digital integrated circuits, and the gate actuation is achieved using a DC motor driven by an L293D motor driver, controlled by 555 timer circuits for timed operation. A manual override feature is integrated for operational flexibility and safety.

II. Implementation

The automated dam control system's physical prototype comprises several key functional blocks:

A. Water Level Sensing Block

Conductivity-based water level sensors were constructed using pairs of parallel conductive probes positioned at two critical levels: Low and High-Normal. When the water level reaches a pair of probes, the conductivity of the water completes a circuit. These sensor signals are fed into 74HC14 hex inverting Schmitt trigger ICs to provide clean, digital logic levels ($L_{LOW\_ST\_OUT}$ and $L_{NORMAL\_ST\_OUT}$).

B. Manual Override Switch Block

A manual override functionality is implemented using three distinct SPST switches, each connected with a pull-down resistor. These switches allow the operator to directly command the gate to open (MAN_OPEN_CMD), close (MAN_CLOSE_CMD), or to engage the automatic control mode (MAN_AUTO_MODE).

C. Core Digital Control Logic Block

The central control logic is implemented using a 74HC74 dual D-type flip-flop and various logic gate ICs (74HC08 AND, 74HC32 OR, 74HC04 NOT). The output of the flip-flop ($GATE\_STATE\_Q$) dictates the gate's state (HIGH = Open, LOW = Closed), with its complement ($GATE\_STATE\_NOT\_Q$) also utilized.

D. Gate Actuation Motor Control Block

The physical gate is actuated by a DC motor controlled by an L293D motor driver IC. The control signals for the L293D are generated by two 555 timer ICs configured as monostable multivibrators. These timers produce timed pulses to drive the motor for a predetermined duration when an open or close command is initiated. The rising edge of $GATE\_STATE\_Q$ triggers the opening timer, and the rising edge of $GATE\_STATE\_NOT\_Q$ triggers the closing timer, utilizing RC differentiator circuits for pulse generation. The outputs of the 555 timers ($TIMER\_OPEN\_PULSE\_ACTIVE$ and $TIMER\_CLOSE\_PULSE\_ACTIVE$) determine the direction and enable the motor via the L293D.

E. Status Indication Block

Two LEDs provide visual feedback on the gate's status: a green LED illuminates when the gate is in the open state ($GATE\_STATE\_Q$ is HIGH), and a red LED illuminates when the gate is in the closed state ($GATE\_STATE\_NOT\_Q$ is HIGH). Current-limiting resistors are used to protect the LEDs.

III. System Design Considerations/Rationale

This section outlines the reasoning behind key design choices made during the development of the automated dam control system.

A. Digital Logic Implementation (74HC Series)

The 74HC series of digital integrated circuits was chosen for its compatibility with a 5V power supply, its relatively low power consumption, and its robust noise immunity, particularly the Schmitt trigger inputs on the 74HC14 which are crucial for conditioning the potentially noisy signals from the conductivity-based water level sensors. The availability and cost-effectiveness of these standard logic gates also played a significant role in their selection for implementing the core control logic.

B. Conductivity-Based Water Level Sensing

Conductivity probes were selected for water level detection due to their simplicity of construction and relatively low cost. This method provides a direct indication of whether the water has reached a specific physical level. The use of parallel probes enhances reliability by increasing the contact area with the water.

C. 555 Timer for Actuation Control

The 555 timer IC was chosen to provide timed pulses for controlling the DC motor. This approach allows for a controlled and consistent duration of motor operation for opening and closing the gate, preventing over-actuation and simplifying the control mechanism compared to continuous motor drive. The monostable configuration ensures a fixed-duration pulse each time it is triggered.

D. L293D Motor Driver

The L293D H-bridge motor driver IC was selected for its ability to control the direction of a DC motor and its compatibility with the logic levels of the 555 timers and other digital ICs in the system. It provides the necessary current driving capability for a small DC motor and includes built-in protection diodes.

E. Manual Override

The inclusion of a manual override using physical switches was deemed essential for safety and operational flexibility. It allows operators to directly control the gate regardless of the automatic system's state, which is crucial for maintenance, emergency situations, or specific operational requirements. The use of separate switches for open, close, and auto mode prevents accidental simultaneous activation of conflicting commands.

IV. Circuit Diagram

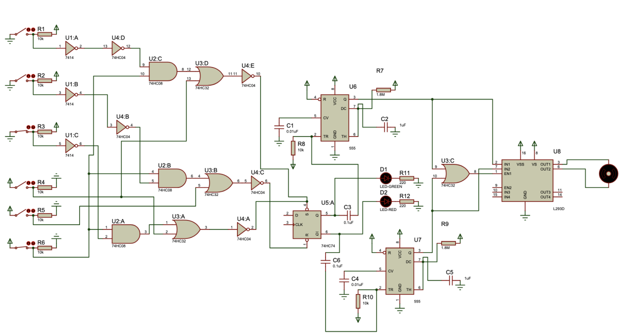

Fig. 1. Circuit Diagram of the Automated Dam Control System

V. Results and Discussion

Initial testing of the physical prototype has demonstrated the successful implementation of the core control logic and actuation mechanisms. The conductivity-based water level sensors effectively detect the water reaching the defined levels, providing the necessary input signals to the digital control circuitry. The rain sensor, when activated, correctly influences the gate opening behavior under the specified low water level condition in automatic mode.

The manual override switches allow for direct control of the gate, bypassing the automatic logic as intended. The 555 timer circuits provide consistent timed pulses to the motor driver, resulting in controlled opening and closing of the gate. The status indicator LEDs offer clear visual feedback on the current gate state.

Further testing under various simulated and real-world conditions will be necessary to fully evaluate the system's robustness, reliability, and response time. Calibration of the water level sensors and optimization of the motor actuation timing may be required for optimal performance. The power consumption and long-term durability of the components will also need to be assessed.

VI. Conclusion

The successful construction and initial testing of the physical automated dam control system demonstrate the feasibility of using digital logic and basic electronic components for effective water management. The system's ability to automatically respond to water level and rainfall conditions, combined with the manual override capability, provides a flexible solution for dam control. Continued testing and refinement will be crucial to ensure the system's reliable and efficient operation in real-world applications.