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B.Sc. THESIS

DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A REAL-TIME OBJECT TRACKING SYSTEM

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Abstract

In recent years, IoT technology has grown significantly and has been able to meet diverse and complex needs in various fields. One of the applications of the Internet of Things is real-time tracking. The positioning and tracking system has provided reliable solutions to ensure the safety of people and vehicles, and also has a significant impact on optimizing the quality of monitoring. This system can be used for a broad range of applications such as traffic management and vehicle tracking/anti-theft system, and finally, traffic routing and navigation. It can be applied in many business cases, like public transportation, so passengers can track their buses and trains by following the vehicle account on social networks.

In this project, a system was developed to accurately determine the location, direction of movement, and speed of moving objects at any given time using SIM808 Module. In this system, each object is equipped with a GPS (Global Positioning System) module that receives its location every two minutes from the satellite and sends it to the software servers via the GSM modem. Software servers analyze the information after receiving it. In this part of the project, a web application was developed to process the transmitted data and then store it in a database and finally convert the stored information to visible to users. This allows you to see the speed, direction of movement, and the object's locations on the map. Furthermore, a heatmap was implemented to show the frequently visited places by users.

Contents

| | | |
|----------|--|-----------|
| 1 | Introduction | 1 |
| 2 | Tracking system components | 4 |
| 2.1 | System design and architecture | 4 |
| 2.2 | System components | 6 |
| 2.2.1 | Hardware components | 6 |
| 2.2.2 | Software components | 8 |
| 3 | Implementation and Performance Analysis | 9 |
| 3.1 | Evaluate Tracking system performance | 10 |
| 3.1.1 | Circuit performance evaluation | 10 |
| 3.2 | Circuit Architecture evaluation | 15 |
| 3.3 | Application | 15 |
| 3.3.1 | Present Information | 16 |
| 4 | Future Work | 17 |
| 5 | Conclusion | 18 |
| | References | 19 |

List of Figures

| | | |
|-----|--|----|
| 2.1 | Block Diagram of Tracking System [6] | 5 |
| 2.2 | Architecture of Tracking System[3] | 6 |
| 2.3 | Arduino Uno board | 7 |
| 2.4 | SIM 808 module | 7 |
| 2.5 | Arduino IDE | 8 |
| 3.1 | Designed Tracking System | 10 |
| 3.2 | Performance of implemented code on Arduino [3] | 11 |
| 3.3 | Read Information diagram [8] | 12 |
| 3.4 | GSM [8] | 13 |
| 3.5 | GSM [8] | 14 |
| 3.6 | SIM 808 - Arduino | 15 |

Chapter 1

Introduction

The concept of the Internet of Things refers to objects with a unique identity and the ability to transmit data over the network, without the need for human interaction and intervention. Its primary purpose is to make objects intelligent and provide a platform through which objects can send and receive information. The Internet of Things (IoT) refers extensively to the development of computing capabilities and network communications of objects, devices, sensors, or any other item that is not typically considered a computer. These smart objects can collect, analyze and manage data remotely [1].

The Internet of Things is a wide range of sensors and actuators that measure and process various environmental conditions. In recent years, IoT technology has grown significantly and has met many complex needs in various fields. Due to the expansion of new technologies, the production of intelligent sensors, the growth of communication technologies, and the complexity of requirements, the Internet of Things has gained a lot of power. It has led to the expansion of intelligent systems in the environment [2].

These systems must interact with each other to have a positive impact on the environment. IoT-based technologies have different requirements compared to other technologies. Typically, these systems have less memory, power consumption, and bandwidth than other systems. Most smart systems are battery-powered and located in a remote location where they cannot be charged continuously. As a result, the power consumption and coverage range for these systems, especially those implemented at the macro level, such as smart farming, smart city and home, and tracking issues, is very important. There are several wireless communication protocols, each with its unique characteristics.

The Internet of Things is a new communication platform for communicating between intelligent objects. The introduction of this platform has provided

new facilities for solving problems, such as locating and tracking moving objects from vehicle attacks at the city, region, or country level. The Internet of Things (IoT) is rapidly gaining access to telecommunications scenarios, and it is expected that the exchange of information in global resource chains will facilitate.

Widely, Internet of Things can be used as the mainstay of pervasive systems and the activation of intelligent environments for ease in identifying objects and retrieving information from the Internet. From a conceptual point of view, the Internet of Things relies on three principles related to intelligent objects' ability: Ability to identify, transfer and interact either among themselves or with other users. Objects are usually classified either individually or as a member of a category.

One of the most important issues today is the tracking of moving objects, which refers to the immediate tracking of a specific moving object's current position. Moving object tracking systems is a solution to many problems, including security issues. It is a technology used to determine the location of an object.

One of the important applications of IoT is tracking systems that are used in various technologies. Tracking systems were developed for the transportation industry. One of the basic needs of the owners of this industry is to check the position of vehicles. The earliest systems for locating were passive systems that stored information in memory and could only be accessed when a vehicle was available. These systems are not suitable for real-time applications because they need to provide information to the user immediately. For solving this issue, active systems were created that allow the use of in-vehicle hardware and remote tracking servers.

Today, the safety of people and vehicles has become a public concern. The tracking system has provided reliable solutions to ensure people's and vehicles' safety. It has a significant impact on optimizing the quality of monitoring and management of public transportation, vehicle movements, people (children and the elderly), or It has every other moving object. Tracking system is a technology that makes it possible to determine the exact position and track of people, vehicles, or any other moving object using various methods such as the Global Positioning System [3].

In addition to vehicles, tracking systems also play an important role in remote monitoring and environmental monitoring applications. For example, tracking animals, humans, and locating objects are some of this system's applications. In human monitoring, this system can be beneficial for the elderly who have certain diseases such as Alzheimer's and are more likely to get lost, or for the safety of children. Families can use this system to find the position of their elderly or child [4].

The system we have implemented in this project can be used in various cases. One of the applications that can be imagined for the Internet of Things is implementing a system that can determine the exact position and path of each moving object at any time. In this project, we intend to build a tracking system that can identify a moving object's exact position and path.

In this project, our communication will be one-way in that the coordinates of the moving object are continuously measured by the GPS module and sent to a server. This module is continually connected to the satellite to get coordinates. GPS data is sent to the Arduino. Finally, the GSM modem sends this information to the software server. In this project, the software servers analyze the information after receiving it, and we will not have a request from the server since our communication will be one-way. In this part of the project, web-based software will be developed to process the submitted information, store it in the database, and finally convert the stored information into a display for users. An application written using stored data displays the location on a map. In this way, the object or person can be found at the current time. In the end, the current position and direction of the person will be displayed on the map. Another application of this system is to obtain high-traffic locations by analyzing the collected information.

In the continuation of this dissertation, we talk about the general architecture of the tracking system and its components. Then, we introduce the implementation method of this system using the mentioned components. Finally, we talk about the results of the system implementation and what can be done in the future based on this project.

Chapter 2

Tracking system components

The main goal of our project is to design and implement a system that can determine the exact position of each moving object at any time. The mentioned system should be cost-effective in addition to proper performance. To design such a system, we must first identify the system requirements and the overall architecture of the system we want. Then we use this architecture to implement the appropriate modules. In this chapter, in section 2.1, we first explain the general design of the tracking system and then in section 2.2, we introduce the components used in this design.

2.1 System design and architecture

In this section, we will design our system. According to the project's requirements, we must specify the transmitter and receiver modules, communication protocol, and application program for displaying information. The primary purpose of a tracking system is to track a specific object and gain its path. The tracking system provides information about the current location and speed of the object.

In this project, our communication has been one-way, in which the coordinates of the moving object are continuously measured and sent to a server. Then, the necessary processing of this information is performed on the server-side. According to the above explanations, we can mention three main parts in this system [5]:

- Obtain the location of a moving object using the GPS module
- Send location information to software servers by GSM modem
- Store location information on the server-side and implement an application to display the object's path on the map

As we have seen, the architecture of our system has four main parts. The first part is about locating the object from the satellite using the GPS module. The second part is related to sending the received information to the server using a GSM modem. The third part is the development of an application that uses the received data to display the location of the object on the map.

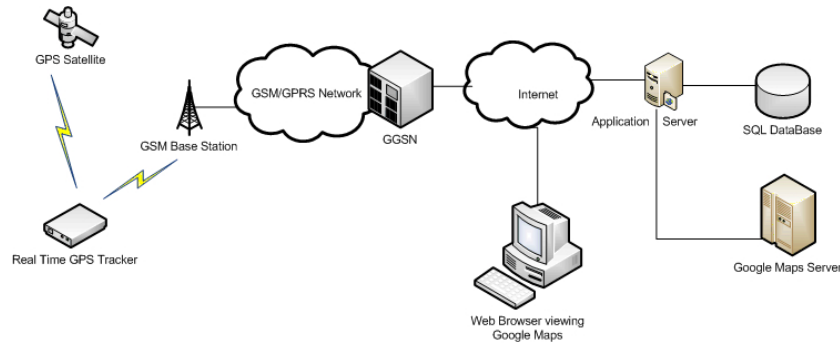


Figure 2.1: Block Diagram of Tracking System [6]

Figure 2.1 shows an overview of the designed system architecture and the relationship between its parts. For selecting the modules, it is necessary to know the task of each section accurately and choose the desired module for it [7].

- In the first part, we need to measure the location of the object continuously. As soon as the object moves, the GPS module consistently receives the moving object's coordinate from the satellite. The signal received from the satellite is weak, so we must use an antenna to amplify the desired signal, and at the end, sends the amplified signal to the Arduino board.
- In the second part, the information received from the GPS module is sent to the server by the GSM modem.
- Software servers analyze the information after receiving them. Our communication in this project is one-way, and we will not have a request from software servers. In this part of the project, web-based software will be developed to process the submitted information and store them in the database. In the last section, this information will be displayed in the designed web page.

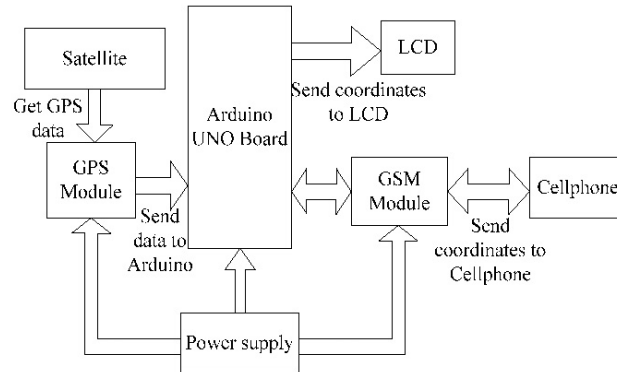


Figure 2.2: Architecture of Tracking System[3]

2.2 System components

In the previous section, we defined the system architecture. Now we will express and introduce the components of this architecture in detail.

2.2.1 Hardware components

The hardware components used to implement this system are:

- Arduino module
- SIM808 module
- GPS antenna
- GSM modem

2.2.1.1 Arduino module

Arduino is an open-source microprocessor suitable for writing applications that interact with the environment and objects outside. This board is ideal for prototyping, and its software and hardware design are freely available to all people. Any interested person, even with a little knowledge and experience in electronics, can use Arduino to do their projects.

Arduino has a simple programming environment that anyone with a little knowledge of C and C++ can program in this environment and run the program written in Arduino. Various sensors can be connected to the Arduino microcontroller and controlled. The microprocessor used on the Arduino board is based on the Arduino programming language and does not require

any additional software or compiler for coding.
Figure 2.3 shows the Arduino Uno board:

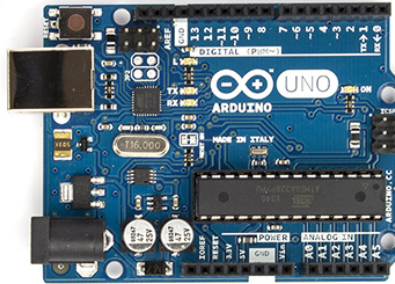


Figure 2.3: Arduino Uno board

2.2.1.2 SIM808 module

The 808 SIM module is a combination of GSM / GPS PRS 9 module and GPS module with 1900 MHz support for data transmission, SMS and voice calling. This module has a SIM card socket in which the SIM card is inserted. Using the GSM / GPRS modem and the 808 SIM module, you can exchange data over the GSM network via the USB interface and access the information of devices located in remote locations.

In figure 2.4, You can see this chip.



Figure 2.4: SIM 808 module

2.2.2 Software components

2.2.2.1 Arduino IDE

The software used for programming is Arduino software, which you can see in Figure 2.5. Using the C language, you can write the required program, and after compiling, the generated hex code is uploaded on the Arduino. There are different libraries that make coding easier. The program is written using this software to receive data from satellite and send it to a mobile phone.

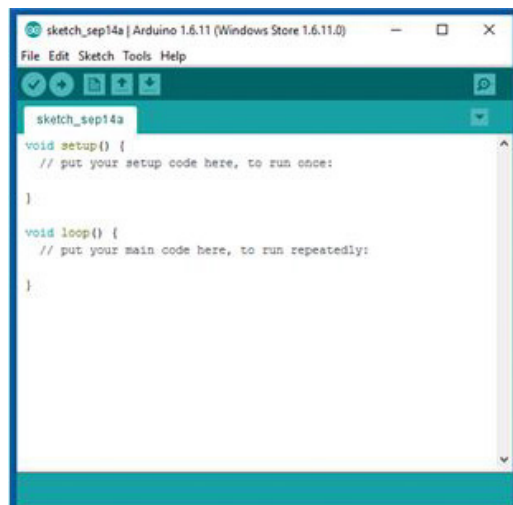


Figure 2.5: Arduino IDE

Chapter 3

Implementation and Performance Analysis

In the previous section, we described the system's general architecture and the modules required to implement the tracking system. In this chapter, we will explain how the different parts are connected, and we will explain the implementation of the system.

The tracking system designed in this project uses Arduino module and the SIM 808, including the GSM and GPS antennas, for tracking. The core of this project is the Arduino microcontroller. The geographical location of object is received using a GPS antenna, and then this information is sent to the webserver using GSM technology. A web application has been developed to view and track an object on a map. This application consists of two parts: Front-end and Back-end. The front-end part has developed using Angular framework, and the Back-end part has developed using Express framework. Initially, the SIM 808 module is initialized to get the location from the satellite. The initial settings of this device are done using AT commands. By connecting the GPS antenna, this module will be able to receive location coordinates from the satellite. Then the settings related to the GPRS network are done.

In figure 3.1 How to connect different modules in the tracking system is shown:



Figure 3.1: Designed Tracking System

3.1 Evaluate Tracking system performance

As mentioned, the hardware part of our system consists of four modules, SIM 808, GSM receiver, GPS receiver, and Arduino microcontroller. This section will explain the implementation of the designed system, how to connect the various components and the implemented code.

3.1.1 Circuit performance evaluation

Before dealing with the modules and how to connect them, it is necessary to observe the system microcontroller performance and processing information in the flowchart. The overall performance of the system was described in the previous section. Now we have a flowchart about the implemented algorithm, and we can have a better understanding of the workflow in the hardware circuit designed and the code written for it.

The following diagram shows the general process of the implemented code on the Arduino.

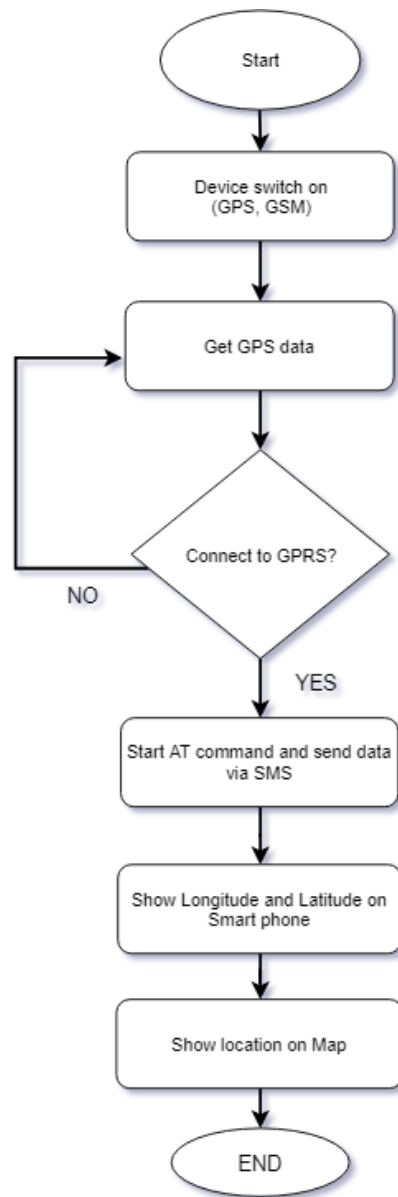


Figure 3.2: Performance of implemented code on Arduino [3]

Firstly, for testing the system, the GPS antenna is connected to the SIM 808 module to receive the object's location (latitude and longitude) from the satellite. For doing this, the Arduino IDE software is used to program the code written on the Arduino board.

The flowchart 3.3 shows how GPS works:

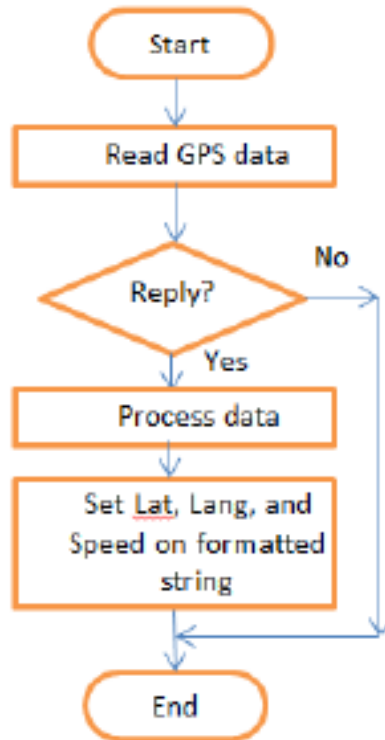


Figure 3.3: Read Information diagram [8]

For sending the object's location to the user via the GSM network, SIM 808 module and the Arduino microcontroller connected to it are used. For connecting 808 SIM module to the GSM network, we use AT commands to program and control it.

The flowchart 3.4 shows how GSM works:

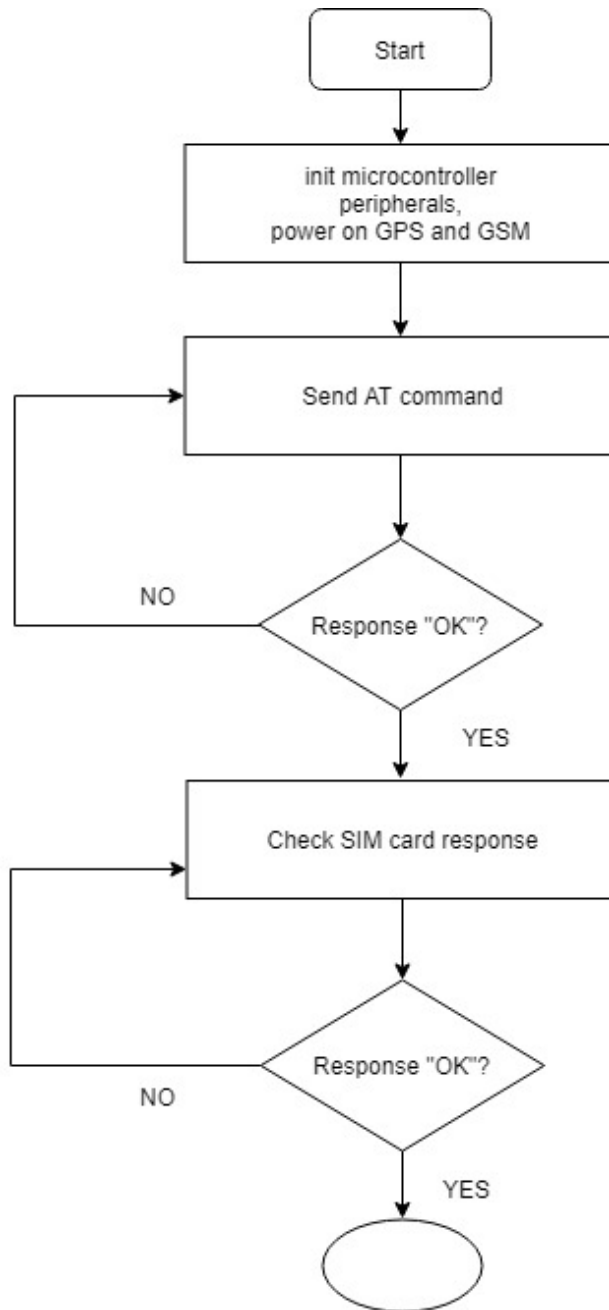


Figure 3.4: GSM [8]

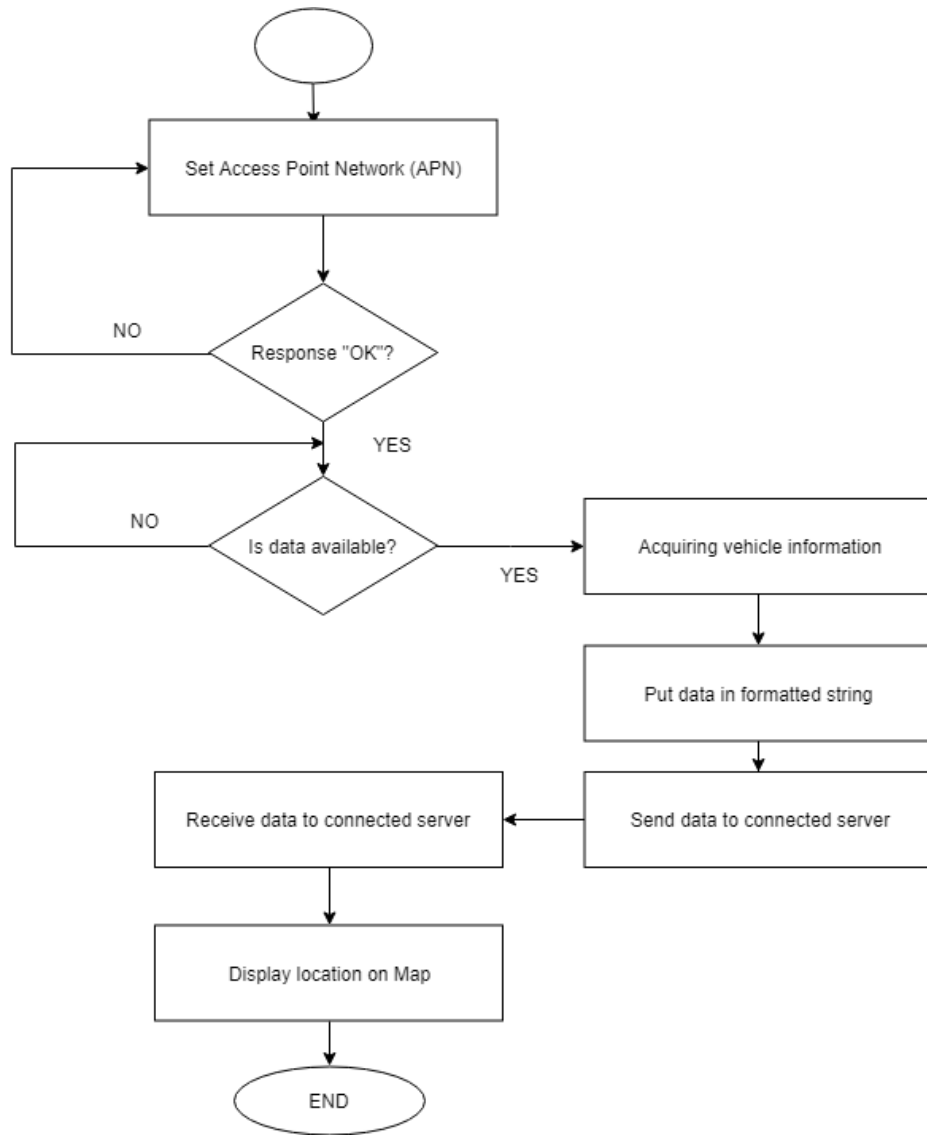


Figure 3.5: GSM [8]

3.2 Circuit Architecture evaluation

In this section, we explain the hardware part of the proposed system. As mentioned in the previous sections, using GPS antenna connected to the SIM 808 module, location information is received from the satellite every two minutes and then sent to the server via the GSM network.

In the following figure, you can see how to connect SIM 808 module to the Arduino.

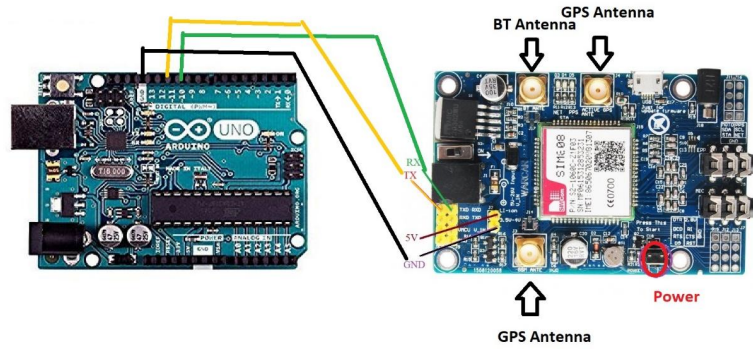


Figure 3.6: SIM 808 - Arduino

The 808 SIM module is connected to the Arduino using a serial interface; it has two TX and RX pins connected to the 10 and 11 Arduino digital pins, respectively. The ground pin of this module is also connected to the ground connection base of the Arduino board. We supply the required voltage of the 808 SIM module through a 9-volt output adapter.

3.3 Application

In the Back-end, a web service with RESTful architecture has been developed, which stores the received data in the database, and the web application receives and displays this information.

REST is a web service architecture that uses HTTP to exchange information between two systems. The basic idea of this architecture is to use HTTP to establish information between machines instead of using complex mechanisms to connect devices.

In this section, we first describe the structure of the database and how to communicate with it. Finally, we explain the written web application that shows the path of the object on the map.

3.3.0.1 Database

We have used Mango database to store information and manage the server. Mango DB is a NOSQL database that runs on various operating systems, including Windows and Macintosh Linux. It also supports most programming languages. Mango DB provides high performance, accessibility, scalability, fast repeatability, and automatic sharing. Due to the NOSQL structure, Mango DB only stores and searches data, thus significantly increasing data acquisition and storage speed.

The database received information from the hardware side. Then we store this information, including latitude, longitude, time, and date.

3.3.1 Present Information

3.3.1.1 Web Application

A web application has been developed to display the information stored in the database. The front-end of this web application is implemented using the Angular framework, and we use Google Maps to show the route.

This web application is available at the following address: [http:// 103.216.62.79](http://103.216.62.79)

Server-side processes were implemented using the Express framework. The server-side code works in such a way that as soon as new data is received from the hardware side, this data is stored in the Mango database. The hardware sends an HTTP request to the server each time it sends new data to the server: `/api/device/add/`

Chapter 4

Future Work

We admit the possible drawbacks and inefficiencies existing in this project, thus we have the following key improvement to-do list:

- Reorganization of the project structure, header files and .c files.
- Reorganization of the project source code for a C unified implementation.
- Usage shared memory techniques to improve the performance of the *NTM* implementation.
- Usage of highly-optimized image libraries such as *OpenCV* for *image rotation*, *image matrix extraction* and general *bitmap processing*.
- Implementation of CUDA kernels for real-to-complex signal conversions.
- Implementation of CUDA kernel to find the number of occurrences of template signal in main signal in *Fourier* based template matching.

Chapter 5

Conclusion

In this project, we analyzed various algorithms for the task of *Image Template Matching*. It is fair to say that there are already highly optimized libraries with template matching capabilities such as *OpenCV*, but as mentioned before, the main purpose of this project is to improve the understanding of the CUDA environment and parallel implementation of highly-demanded computer vision tasks such as template matching. We analyzed two main methods to perform this task:

1. Naive Template Matching
2. FFT Based Template Matching

For further read, please refer to methods such as *Stereo Matching*, *Image Registration* and *Scale Invariant Feature Transform*.

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