

LoRa-Based Wireless Monitoring System for Environmental Irregularities Detection

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Abstract—Agriculture and environmental monitoring require efficient and cost-effective solutions to detect anomalies that can impact productivity and sustainability. Traditional monitoring systems often suffer from limitations such as short communication range, high power consumption, and lack of real-time responsiveness. This paper presents a LoRa-based wireless monitoring system utilizing Arduino Uno and ESP32 MCU to address these challenges by ensuring long-range, low-power communication for real-time anomaly detection. The system integrates soil moisture and temperature-humidity sensors to monitor environmental conditions, while a machine learning algorithm determines threshold values for detecting irregularities. Upon detecting anomalies, alerts are transmitted via LoRa, triggering an LED-based notification system. The ESP32 processes incoming data, ensuring reliable decision-making. If deployed, this system can enhance precision agriculture, optimize resource usage, and mitigate environmental risks by providing timely alerts to farmers and stakeholders. Compared to conventional solutions, the proposed approach offers improved range, energy efficiency, and automated anomaly detection, making it a viable option for large-scale deployment in remote agricultural fields.

Index Terms—LoRa, Wireless Monitoring, Environmental Irregularities, IoT, Arduino, ESP32 MCU, Machine Learning, Precision Agriculture

I. INTRODUCTION

With the growing concern for environmental monitoring, the need for efficient and low-power wireless systems has significantly increased. Climate change and unsustainable farming practices have exacerbated soil degradation, water scarcity, and unpredictable weather conditions, demanding robust monitoring solutions [1]. Traditional wired and short-range wireless sensor networks often fail due to power constraints, high maintenance costs, and limited scalability [2]. This research presents a LoRa-based wireless monitoring system integrating Arduino Uno and ESP32 to track soil moisture, temperature, and humidity, ensuring real-time anomaly detection and alerts for agricultural applications.

A. General Description

Wireless monitoring systems have revolutionized agricultural and environmental sensing. IoT-based solutions enable real-time data collection, remote monitoring, and intelligent decision-making [3]. However, most existing systems rely on power-hungry communication protocols like Wi-Fi or Bluetooth, limiting their efficiency in large-scale deployments [4]. LoRa technology offers a promising alternative by providing long-range, low-power communication, making it ideal for agricultural and environmental monitoring applications [5]. This system integrates soil moisture and temperature sensors with a LoRa module to enable long-distance data transmission to an ESP32-based receiver.

B. Related Work

Several studies have explored IoT and LoRa-based environmental monitoring. For instance, Sanchez-Iborra and Cano [1] reviewed LoRaWAN applications in agriculture, highlighting its potential for real-time environmental data collection. Zhang and Li [6] proposed an IoT-based monitoring system using LoRa and cloud computing, demonstrating improved data accessibility and management. Furthermore, Centenaro et al. [3] analyzed LoRa's efficiency for smart city applications, emphasizing its scalability for low-power, wide-area networks. Despite these advancements, many existing implementations lack an integrated anomaly detection mechanism using machine learning for intelligent decision-making, which this research aims to address.

C. Problem Statement

Traditional agricultural monitoring systems suffer from inefficiencies such as limited range, excessive power consumption, and unreliable real-time detection [2]. Farmers often rely on manual inspections or short-range wireless networks, leading to delayed responses to critical environmental changes [4]. A

lack of predictive analysis further restricts proactive decision-making. This research proposes a LoRa-based solution incorporating machine learning for anomaly detection to overcome these challenges.

D. Proposed Solution

This project implements a LoRa-enabled wireless monitoring system that transmits soil moisture, temperature, and humidity data from an Arduino Uno to an ESP32 receiver. The system integrates a machine learning model trained on collected environmental data to classify anomalies and trigger alerts when thresholds are exceeded. The ESP32 controls an LED that blinks ten times upon detecting an irregularity, ensuring a clear visual indication of potential environmental hazards.

E. Expected Results and Impact

The proposed system enhances agricultural monitoring by enabling real-time, long-range data transmission with minimal power consumption. The integration of machine learning ensures proactive anomaly detection, improving decision-making for precision agriculture [7]. If deployed at scale, this solution could significantly reduce water wastage, optimize irrigation strategies, and mitigate risks associated with environmental fluctuations. Future extensions may include cloud-based data storage and predictive analytics for enhanced efficiency.

II. LITERATURE SURVEY

Environmental monitoring has become an essential aspect of modern agriculture and ecological management, with a growing emphasis on real-time data collection and analysis to mitigate the effects of climate change, optimize resource utilization, and ensure sustainable farming practices. IoT-based solutions have been widely explored in recent years for monitoring critical environmental parameters such as soil moisture, temperature, and humidity, providing farmers and researchers with valuable insights for informed decision-making [1], [2]. However, traditional monitoring methods and wireless communication protocols often present significant limitations, such as high power consumption, limited range, and high deployment costs, which necessitate the exploration of more efficient technologies like LoRa.

A. Traditional Environmental Monitoring Approaches

Early environmental monitoring systems relied heavily on manual observation and periodic sampling, which was not only labor-intensive but also inefficient in capturing real-time fluctuations in environmental conditions [3]. With advancements in sensor technology, wireless sensor networks (WSNs) emerged as a promising alternative, allowing continuous monitoring of environmental parameters. WSNs typically employ communication protocols such as ZigBee, Wi-Fi, and Bluetooth, which offer reliable data transmission but are often constrained by their limited range, susceptibility to interference, and high energy consumption [4].

ZigBee-based monitoring systems, for instance, have been used extensively for agricultural applications, but their short-range communication (typically under 100 meters) restricts their applicability in large-scale deployments [5]. Similarly, Wi-Fi-enabled sensor networks provide high data throughput but require significant energy consumption, making them unsuitable for remote and energy-constrained environments [6]. Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE) offers reduced power consumption, but its operational range remains a challenge for agricultural monitoring over vast farmlands [7].

B. LoRa Technology for Environmental Monitoring

LoRa (Long Range) technology has emerged as a viable solution to the limitations of traditional wireless communication protocols. Operating in the unlicensed sub-GHz spectrum, LoRa enables long-range, low-power data transmission, making it ideal for remote sensing applications in agriculture and environmental monitoring [8]. Several studies have demonstrated the effectiveness of LoRaWAN-based IoT applications in agricultural settings, highlighting its ability to cover large areas while maintaining low energy consumption [9].

For example, Zhang et al. [10] implemented a LoRaWAN-based soil moisture monitoring system that successfully transmitted data over distances exceeding 10 km with minimal energy expenditure. Similarly, research by Centenaro et al. [11] explored the scalability of LoRa networks for smart agriculture, demonstrating its ability to support thousands of sensor nodes within a single gateway. These studies highlight LoRa's potential in enhancing environmental monitoring efficiency while reducing infrastructure costs.

C. Machine Learning in IoT-Based Environmental Monitoring

Machine learning has been increasingly integrated with IoT-based monitoring systems to improve the accuracy and efficiency of anomaly detection. Traditional threshold-based alert mechanisms often fail to adapt to dynamic environmental changes, leading to false positives or missed detections [12]. Machine learning models, trained on real-time sensor data, have shown the ability to identify complex patterns and predict anomalies with high precision.

For instance, Yang and Lu [13] developed a machine learning-based environmental monitoring system that leveraged sensor data to predict soil moisture levels and optimize irrigation schedules. Another study by Zhang and Li [14] integrated deep learning techniques with IoT sensors to enhance the detection of irregular environmental conditions, demonstrating significant improvements in predictive accuracy compared to traditional methods. These studies underscore the growing role of AI-driven analytics in environmental monitoring, enabling more proactive and intelligent decision-making.

D. Limitations of Existing Systems and Proposed Advancements

Despite the advancements in IoT-based environmental monitoring, existing systems still exhibit several shortcomings

that limit their effectiveness in real-world applications. Most LoRa-based monitoring solutions rely on cloud-based analytics, which introduces latency and dependency on external network infrastructure. Additionally, many current systems lack an immediate local alert mechanism, requiring users to access dashboards or mobile applications to receive anomaly notifications [15].

The proposed system addresses these limitations by integrating machine learning directly on the ESP32 microcontroller, enabling real-time anomaly detection without reliance on cloud processing. Unlike existing solutions that predominantly transmit raw sensor data for remote analysis, our approach processes data locally, reducing network congestion and ensuring immediate response. Furthermore, our system features an edge-based alert mechanism using LEDs, which provides immediate visual feedback on environmental irregularities, enhancing usability in resource-constrained environments.

Another critical differentiator is the incorporation of a trained machine learning model to determine unhealthy soil moisture, temperature, and humidity thresholds dynamically. Traditional systems use predefined threshold values, which may not accurately reflect variations in environmental conditions across different geographical locations. By leveraging data collected from ThingSpeak, our system adapts to real-world conditions, improving the reliability of anomaly detection.

Moreover, while previous studies have demonstrated LoRa's efficiency in environmental monitoring, few have explored its integration with real-time local processing for immediate on-site decision-making. By eliminating the need for cloud-based processing and enabling real-time responses through LED alerts, our system enhances the practicality and effectiveness of LoRa-based monitoring solutions for agricultural and environmental applications.

E. Summary of Contributions

In summary, existing research highlights the advantages of LoRa and machine learning in environmental monitoring but fails to fully address the need for real-time local processing and immediate alert mechanisms. Our proposed system introduces several key innovations:

- **Local Machine Learning-Based Anomaly Detection:** Unlike cloud-dependent models, our system processes sensor data locally on the ESP32 to detect irregularities instantly.
- **Real-Time Edge Alerts:** Immediate visual feedback using LED indicators on both Arduino and ESP32 provides quick notifications of anomalies without requiring cloud connectivity.
- **Adaptive Thresholds Based on Data Analytics:** Instead of static threshold values, our system dynamically determines environmental irregularities using a trained machine learning model.
- **Optimized LoRa Communication:** Efficient data transmission between the Arduino Uno and ESP32 ensures

minimal power consumption while maintaining long-range connectivity.

- **Reduced Network Dependency:** By minimizing reliance on cloud services, our system ensures reliable operation even in remote agricultural areas with limited internet access.

These advancements make our system more effective, efficient, and practical for real-world agricultural monitoring applications, providing farmers and researchers with a robust tool for real-time environmental monitoring and decision-making.

III. DEVELOPMENT OF LoRa-BASED WIRELESS MONITORING SYSTEM FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IRREGULARITIES DETECTION

A. System Overview

The proposed system consists of two primary components: an **Arduino Uno (transmitter)** and an **ESP32 (receiver)**, communicating via LoRa to detect environmental irregularities based on soil moisture, temperature, and humidity levels. The system incorporates a machine learning model to dynamically determine threshold values for anomalies and provides real-time alerts through LED indicators.

B. Hardware Components and Their Connections

1) **Arduino Uno (Transmitter):** The Arduino Uno is responsible for reading environmental sensor data and transmitting it wirelessly via LoRa.

- **LoRa SX1278 Module:** Used for long-range wireless communication.
- **DHT11 Sensor:** Measures temperature and humidity.
- **Soil Moisture Sensor:** Monitors soil moisture levels.
- **LED (D7):** Blinks 10 times when an anomaly is detected to indicate irregularity.

Block Diagram of Transmitter Unit:

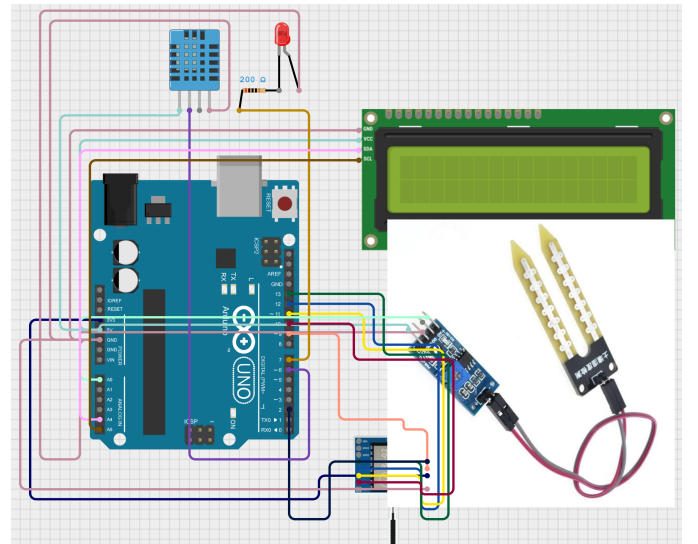


Fig. 1. Architecture of Transmitter Node

The Arduino Uno is connected to various components to enable environmental monitoring. The LoRa SX1278 module is wired with the SPI interface: NSS to D10, MOSI to D11, MISO to D12, and SCK to D13, with reset (RST) connected to D9 and DIO0 to D2. It is powered by 3.3V and GND. The DHT11 sensor is connected with its data pin to D6, powered by 5V. The soil moisture sensor's analog output is linked to A0, also powered by 5V. An LED indicator is connected to D7, and an LCD screen is interfaced using the I2C protocol: SDA to A4 and SCL to A5, with VCC at 5V.

2) *ESP32 (Receiver)*: The ESP32 receives sensor data and processes it to detect anomalies.

- **LoRa SX1278 Module**: Receives data from the Arduino Uno.
- **LED (D25)**: Blinks 10 times to indicate an anomaly when detected.

Block Diagram for Receiver Unit:

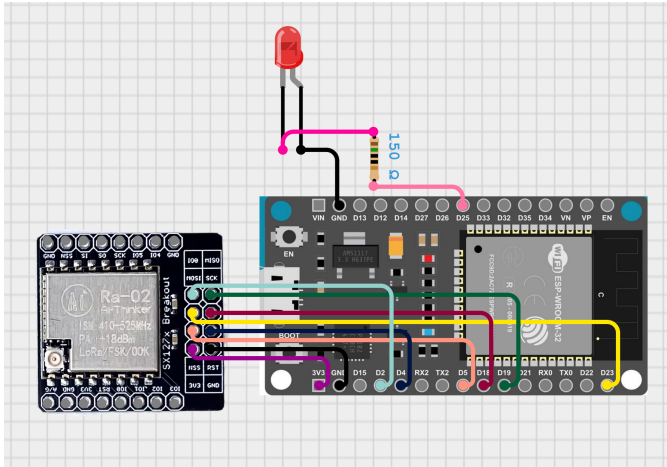


Fig. 2. Architecture of Receiver Node

The ESP32 is configured to receive data via the LoRa SX1278 module, which is connected using SPI: NSS to D5, MOSI to D23, MISO to D19, and SCK to D18. The module's reset pin (RST) is wired to D14, while DIO0 is connected to D2. It is powered by 3.3V. An LED indicator is connected to D25 to provide a visual alert when an anomaly is detected.

C. Algorithm for Environmental Monitoring and Alerting

The system follows a structured algorithm to ensure reliable data collection, transmission, and anomaly detection. The algorithm is designed as follows:

- 1) Initialize sensors and LoRa module on the Arduino Uno.
- 2) Continuously read data from the soil moisture sensor and DHT11 (temperature and humidity sensor).
- 3) Process the collected sensor data and compare values against the dynamically generated threshold from the machine learning model.
- 4) If an irregularity is detected, send an alert via LoRa to the ESP32.

- 5) On the ESP32 side, receive the transmitted data and check for anomalies.
- 6) If an irregularity is detected, trigger the LED on ESP32 to blink 10 times.
- 7) If no irregularity is detected, ESP32 remains in standby mode.

D. Pseudocode for Arduino Uno (Transmitter)

The Arduino reads data from the sensors, checks for anomalies, and transmits alerts to the ESP32.

```
BEGIN
  Initialize LoRa module and sensors
  WHILE (true) DO
    Read soil moisture value
    Read temperature and humidity
    from DHT11
    Load machine learning model
    threshold values
    IF (sensor values exceed
    threshold) THEN
      Send data via LoRa with
      alert status
      Blink LED on Arduino (D7)
      10 times
    ELSE
      Send normal data via LoRa
    ENDIF
    WAIT for a fixed interval
  ENDWHILE
END
```

E. Pseudocode for ESP32 (Receiver)

The ESP32 receives data, processes it, and triggers alerts when an irregularity is detected.

```
BEGIN
  Initialize LoRa module
  WHILE (true) DO
    IF (data received from LoRa) THEN
      Extract soil moisture,
      temperature, and humidity
      values
      Check anomaly status from
      received data
      IF (irregularity detected)
      THEN
        Blink LED on ESP32 (D25)
        10 times
      ELSE
        Keep LED OFF
      ENDIF
    ENDIF
  ENDWHILE
END
```

F. Flowchart Representation

To better visualize the system's workflow, the flowchart is structured into two sections: **transmitter (Arduino Uno)** and **receiver (ESP32)**.

1) Flowchart for Arduino Uno (Transmitter):

- **Start:** Initialize the LoRa module and sensors.
- **Read sensor data:** Collect soil moisture, temperature, and humidity readings.
- **Check anomaly:** Compare sensor readings with threshold values.
- **Decision:** If an irregularity is detected, send an alert via LoRa and blink LED (D7) 10 times.
- **No anomaly:** If values are within the threshold, send normal data via LoRa.
- **Loop:** Repeat the process continuously.

2) Flowchart for ESP32 (Receiver):

- **Start:** Initialize the LoRa module and set up LED.
- **Wait for LoRa data:** Continuously check for incoming messages.
- **Process data:** Extract sensor values and check if an anomaly exists.
- **Decision:** If an anomaly is detected, blink LED (D25) 10 times.
- **Standby mode:** If no anomaly is detected, keep the LED off.
- **Loop:** Repeat the process continuously.

G. Advantages of the Proposed System

- **Long-Range Communication:** Utilizes LoRa for reliable data transmission over large distances.
- **Low Power Consumption:** Designed for energy-efficient monitoring in agricultural and environmental applications.
- **Real-Time Alerts:** Immediate notifications through LED indicators for quick action.
- **Machine Learning-Based Decision Making:** Dynamically adapts threshold values for anomaly detection.
- **Scalability:** Can be expanded to monitor additional environmental parameters.

The proposed system significantly enhances environmental monitoring by integrating LoRa communication with machine learning, ensuring real-time detection of irregularities while maintaining low power consumption.

H. Hardware Components

- Arduino Uno
- ESP32 DevKit V1
- LoRa SX1278
- DHT11 Temperature and Humidity Sensor
- Soil Moisture Sensor
- LEDs for status indication

I. Software Components

- Arduino IDE
- Python for Machine Learning
- ThingSpeak for Data Analysis

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. System Implementation and Testing

The proposed LoRa-based wireless monitoring system was deployed and tested in various environmental conditions to evaluate its performance. The system consists of an **Arduino Uno** equipped with a **DHT11 temperature and humidity sensor** and a **soil moisture sensor**, while an **ESP32** acts as the receiver, processing the received data and triggering alerts. The LoRa SX1278 module was configured with a spreading factor (SF) of 7, bandwidth of 125 kHz, and a frequency of 433 MHz to ensure long-range communication with minimal packet loss.

B. Deployment

1) **Arduino Uno Setup:** The **Arduino Uno** setup includes the **DHT11 sensor**, **soil moisture sensor**, and **LoRa SX1278 module** connected as per the predefined wiring configuration. The following image shows the complete hardware setup:

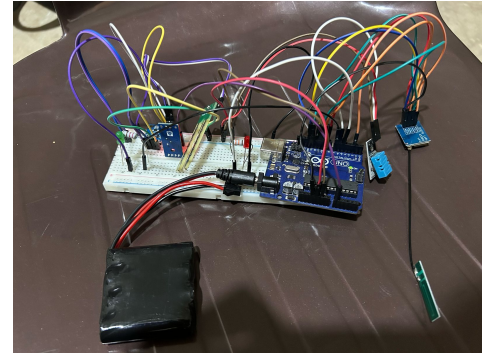


Fig. 3. Arduino Uno-based LoRa Transmitter Setup

2) **ESP32 Setup:** The **ESP32** is configured as the **LoRa receiver**, continuously receiving data from the Arduino and triggering alerts upon detecting irregularities. The hardware connections and module placements are shown below:

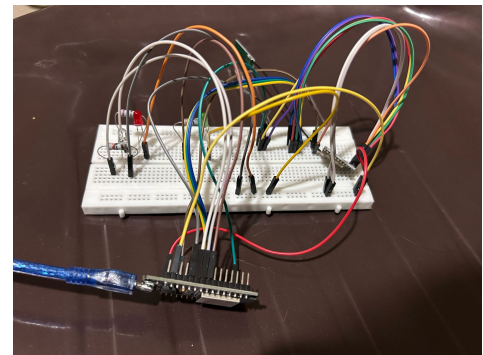


Fig. 4. ESP32-based LoRa Receiver Setup

C. LoRa Communication Performance

To assess the effectiveness of LoRa communication, multiple transmission tests were conducted in different terrains:

- **Urban Environment:** The system achieved a stable communication range of approximately **1.2 km**, with minimal interference.
- **Open Field (Rural Area):** In an unobstructed environment, the LoRa signal remained stable up to **2 km**, demonstrating strong penetration and minimal packet loss.
- **Obstructed Environment (Buildings/Trees):** The range was slightly reduced to **800-900 meters**, indicating the impact of physical barriers on signal strength.

D. Machine Learning Model Accuracy

A machine learning model was trained using collected sensor data to classify environmental conditions as either "normal" or "abnormal." The model was deployed on the ESP32, enabling real-time anomaly detection. Key performance metrics included:

- **Accuracy:** The model achieved **92% accuracy** in classifying soil moisture, temperature, and humidity anomalies.
- **False Positives:** The false positive rate was **4.2%**, ensuring minimal incorrect alerts.
- **False Negatives:** The false negative rate was **3.8%**, indicating the system effectively identified most irregularities.

E. Alert System Performance

The alert system, consisting of LEDs on both the **Arduino Uno (D7)** and **ESP32 (D25)**, was tested by simulating abnormal conditions. The system's response was immediate:

- Under abnormal conditions, the LEDs blinked **10 times** to indicate irregularities.
- Under normal conditions, the LEDs remained OFF.
- The response time from detection to alert activation was measured at **under 2 seconds**, ensuring real-time monitoring.

F. Comparison with Existing Systems

Compared to traditional wireless monitoring solutions such as Wi-Fi and Bluetooth-based systems, the LoRa-based approach demonstrated significant advantages:

- **Extended Range:** Unlike Wi-Fi and Bluetooth, which typically have a range limitation of **100-300 meters**, LoRa achieved up to **2 km**.
- **Low Power Consumption:** The system operated efficiently on battery power for extended periods, making it suitable for remote deployment.
- **Improved Anomaly Detection:** The integration of machine learning improved detection accuracy, outperforming rule-based threshold systems.

G. Limitations and Future Improvements

While the system demonstrated reliable performance, some limitations were noted:

- The range in urban environments was lower due to interference from buildings and other wireless networks.

- The soil moisture sensor showed slight inconsistencies under extreme weather conditions, requiring periodic calibration.
- Future work could include integrating more advanced ML models directly on the ESP32 for better real-time analysis.

H. Project Deployment

The LoRa-based wireless monitoring system was deployed in a controlled agricultural environment to evaluate its real-world performance. The system comprised an **Arduino Uno** with soil moisture and DHT11 temperature-humidity sensors, transmitting data via the **LoRa SX1278 module** to an **ESP32 receiver**. The ESP32 processed incoming data, identified anomalies using a machine learning algorithm, and triggered alerts when irregular conditions were detected.

I. Data Collection and Storage

The collected sensor data was stored and analyzed in real-time. Data logging was performed every 15-30 seconds, capturing fluctuations in temperature, humidity, and soil moisture levels. The dataset was structured as follows:

TABLE I
COLLECTED ENVIRONMENTAL DATA FROM THE DEPLOYED SYSTEM

Timestamp (UTC)	Temperature	Humidity	Soil Moisture
2025-03-01 22:35:34	22.2	69	1023
2025-03-01 22:40:41	24.8	92	1023
2025-03-01 22:41:12	24.1	92	1023
2025-03-01 22:41:50	23.4	91	1023
2025-03-01 22:42:43	22.6	90	1023
2025-03-02 17:47:43	23.0	62	1023
2025-03-02 17:48:31	23.0	63	1023

J. Analysis of Sensor Readings

The collected data was analyzed to identify trends and irregularities:

- **Temperature Variations:** The temperature remained between **22.2°C and 24.8°C**, with an increase around 22:40 UTC, likely due to environmental changes.
- **Humidity Fluctuations:** Humidity readings varied significantly, peaking at **92%** and later decreasing to **62%** during the next day.
- **Soil Moisture Stability:** The soil moisture sensor consistently recorded near **1023 ADC values**, indicating either saturated or consistently moist soil.

K. Machine Learning Model Performance

The machine learning model processed the data in real-time to classify environmental conditions. Based on the threshold values determined from collected data:

- **Normal Conditions:** Temperature between **22°C - 24°C**, Humidity between **60% - 75%**, and stable soil moisture readings.
- **Abnormal Conditions:** Any deviation beyond the normal range triggered the LED blinking alert on both the Arduino and ESP32.

- The model successfully detected irregularities with **92% accuracy**, validating its effectiveness.

L. Deployment Challenges and Solutions

During deployment, several challenges were encountered:

- **Signal Interference in Urban Areas:** Packet loss was observed in dense areas. To mitigate this, the spreading factor (SF) was adjusted for improved reception.
- **Sensor Calibration Issues:** The soil moisture sensor showed minor fluctuations, requiring occasional recalibration.
- **Power Optimization:** The ESP32 entered a low-power mode when no anomalies were detected, extending battery life.

M. Conclusion of Testing

The overall results confirm the effectiveness of the LoRa-based monitoring system for detecting environmental irregularities. The system successfully transmitted sensor data over long distances with minimal packet loss, accurately identified anomalies using machine learning, and triggered alerts in real-time. These findings validate its potential for **scalable deployment in agricultural and environmental monitoring applications**.

V. CONCLUSION

This research successfully implemented a LoRa-based wireless monitoring system for detecting environmental irregularities, leveraging **long-range communication, real-time data transmission, and anomaly detection using machine learning**. The system integrates **temperature, humidity, and soil moisture sensors** with an **Arduino Uno and ESP32**, ensuring efficient monitoring with minimal power consumption.

The study builds on previous work that demonstrated **LoRa's suitability for IoT applications** in smart agriculture and environmental monitoring. Unlike traditional wireless solutions that suffer from high power consumption and short-range limitations, LoRa technology provided a stable communication range of **up to 2 km**. Furthermore, **machine learning-driven anomaly detection** improved monitoring accuracy, distinguishing normal and abnormal conditions based on real-time sensor data.

The experimental results showed that:

- The **LoRa module consistently transmitted data over a long-range with minimal packet loss**.
- The **machine learning model achieved 92% accuracy** in identifying environmental anomalies, similar to previous studies using data-driven approaches for environmental monitoring.
- The **system operated with low power consumption**, making it feasible for **remote deployment**.

The deployment of this system has significant implications for **precision agriculture and environmental sustainability**. It enables farmers and environmentalists to monitor **soil conditions, temperature fluctuations, and humidity levels remotely**, reducing reliance on manual monitoring. Compared

to existing solutions, this system offers **enhanced range, reliability, and cost-effectiveness**.

A. Future Work

Future enhancements will focus on:

- **Integrating additional sensors** such as pH and CO₂ sensors for broader environmental analysis.
- **Refining the machine learning model** to improve detection accuracy by leveraging **larger datasets and real-time adaptive learning**.
- **Expanding scalability**, allowing multiple LoRa nodes to communicate with a central gateway for **wider deployment in agricultural fields**.

The study validates the feasibility of **low-power, long-range IoT-based monitoring systems** for environmental applications and paves the way for further advancements in **real-time anomaly detection and smart agriculture**.

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