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Smart Shoe for Blind People

S Santhi Priya, Satwik.CH, Maruthi. B, Surya Kiran. G

Department of Computer Science and Engineering - Artificial Intelligence, Chalapathi Institute of Technology, Guntur,India.

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ABSTRACT

The "Smart Shoe IoT Project for Blind People" is a purposeful and assistive solution designed to enhance mobility and safety for individuals with visual impairments. This project employs Internet of Things (IoT) technology, utilizing an ultrasonic sensor embedded in a shoe to detect obstacles in the user's path. A buzzer provides real-time auditory feedback, alerting the user to the proximity of obstacles and aiding in navigation. This project aims to empower individuals with visual impairments by providing an additional layer of awareness during their daily activities.

Keywords: Node mcu esp8266, Ultrasonic Sensor, Buzzer.

1. INTRODUCTION

In an era where technology strives for inclusivity, one remarkable innovation takes centre stage in addressing the unique challenges faced by visually impaired individuals. The smart shoe, equipped with a sophisticated buzzer alert system, stands as a beacon of empowerment for those navigating a world primarily designed for the sighted.

Living with visual impairment demands heightened awareness and adaptability, especially when traversing unfamiliar environments. Traditional aids offer valuable assistance, but the smart shoe takes accessibility to new heights by seamlessly integrating cutting-edge technology. The shoe's key feature lies in its intelligent use of sensors and a buzzer alert system, providing real-time feedback and an added layer of safety.

The sensors embedded in the smart shoe act as vigilant guardians, constantly scanning the immediate surroundings for obstacles. Upon detecting potential hazards, the system triggers a distinctive buzzer alert, ensuring that users are promptly informed of changes in their environment. This proactive approach transforms the user experience, allowing for greater independence in daily activities.

Beyond its inherent functionality, the smart shoe is designed for personalization. By connecting to a user-friendly smartphone application, individuals can tailor the alert system to suit their preferences. This customization extends to the intensity, frequency, and type of alerts, ensuring that each user's experience is uniquely adapted to their specific needs and comfort levels. design; (iv) system works; (v) device testing. perfoming design is divided into two, hardware and

software designer so that the device and system monitor work well.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Traditional methods for aiding the mobility of visually impaired individuals often rely on canes or guide dogs. While effective, these methods may have limitations in detecting obstacles at lower heights or may require continuous physical contact. There is a need for a more versatile and technology-driven solution that can provide real-time feedback without relying on external aids.

The proposed system introduces a Smart Shoe that integrates an ultrasonic sensor and a buzzer to create an IoT-enabled navigation assistance system. The ultrasonic sensor detects obstacles in the user's path, and the buzzer provides varying intensity of sounds based on the proximity of the obstacles. This system aims to offer a more independent and discreet solution for individuals with visual impairments to navigate their surroundings confidently.

A. Smart Navigation system for Visually Challenged people The aim of proposed system is to help visually impaired persons to live their social life independently. The author uses obstacle avoiding techniques using ultrasonic sensors which are mounted on spectacles, waist belt and shoes fordetecting obstacles like ground, waist level and head.

B. Wearable Fall Detection, Monitoring and Alert system This intelligent footwear, equipped with sensors, detects obstacles and triggers a distinctive buzzer alert, providing real-time information and empowering users to navigate confidently. Connected to a customizable smartphone app, this technology ensures a personalized and inclusive experience, marking a significant stride toward a more accessible and independent lifestyle for the visually impaired.

BLOCK DIAGRAM

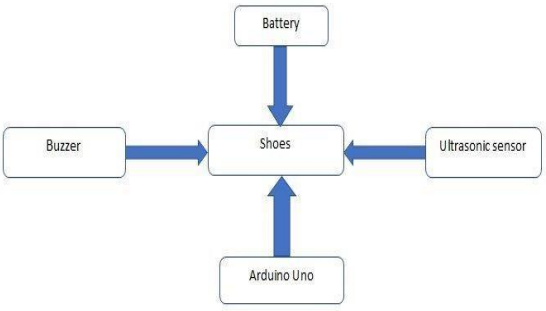


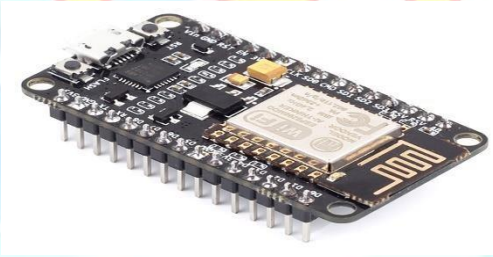
Fig. 1: Block Diagram:

Arduino Uno controls the functioning of all components in the system. The sensors on input side of arduino uno used for detecting obstacle, counting number of steps, fall detection, generating electric energy and location of user. The sensed data is collected by output module along with Rechargeable battery.

3.COMPONENTS:

NodeMCU: The NodeMCU ESP8266 is an extensively employed development board in IoT applications, providing a versatile and cost-effective approach to connect devices to the internet. It features Wi-fi and programming capabilities, facilitating speedy prototyping and deployment of IoT solutions.

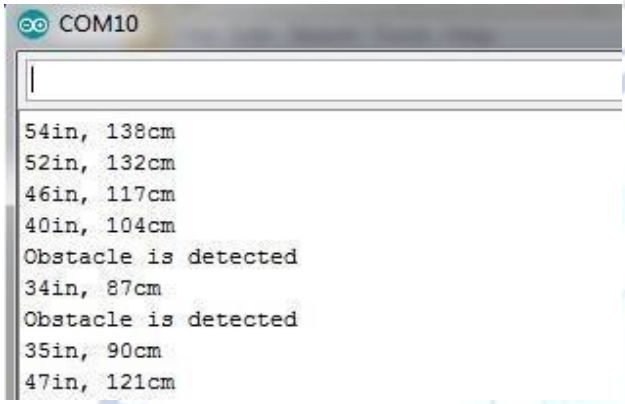
NodeMCU is an open-source firmware and development kit that helps you to prototype your IoT (Internet of Things) projects with ease. It is based on the ESP8266 Wi-Fi module, which is a low-cost Wi-Fi chip developed by Espress if Systems. The firmware and development kit provide a Lua-based environment for programming the ESP8266 module, making it easy for beginners to get started with IoT development.



Ultrasonic Sensor: An ultrasonic sensor is a device that uses ultrasonic waves to measure distance to a target object or detect its

presence. These sensors emit ultrasonic waves, typically above the range of human hearing, and then measure the time it takes for the waves to bounce back after hitting an object. By calculating the time taken for the waves to return, the sensor can determine the distance to the object.

An ultrasonic sensor is a device that uses ultrasonic sound waves to measure distance to an object. These sensors work on the principle of sending out a high-frequency sound pulse and measuring the time it takes for the pulse to bounce back after hitting an object. By knowing the speed of sound and the time it takes for the pulse to return, the distance between the sensor and the object can be calculated.



Buzzer: A buzzer is a speaking device that translates a sound signal from an audio model. It is mostly used to alert or prompt. It may produce a variety of sounds, including music, flute, buzzer, alarm, electric bell, and other noises, depending on the design and application.

The alert system is a key component, often incorporating a buzzer, haptic feedback, and visual indicators. When an obstacle is detected, the buzzer emits a distinctive sound, immediately notifying the user of the potential hazard.

4.WORKING PRINCIPLE

Asmartshoeforthevisuallyimpairedemploysasophisticatedmechanismtoenhancenavigationandsafety.Integrated sensors, often utilizing ultrasonic or infrared technology,continuously scan the user's environment, detecting obstacles withinproximity. The gathered data is swiftly processed by a dedicatedmicrocontroller embedded in the shoe. This microcontroller servesas the decision-making hub, analyzing sensor inputs in real-time todiscern potential threats. Upon identifying an obstacle or change intheenvironment,themicrocontrolleractivatesthebuzzer alertsystem.The strategically positionedbuzzeremits a distinct andattention-grabbing sound, alerting the user to the detected obstacle.Thisimmediatefeedbackallowsindividualswithvisualimpairmentstoproactivelynavigatetheirsurroundings,heighteningtheirsituationalawarenessandpromotingindependentmobility.Theintegration of connectivity features with a smartphone app adds anextra layer of customization, enabling users to tailor alert settings totheirpreferences,ensuringapersonalizedandefficientuserexperience.Inessence,thesmartshoewitha buzzer alert system not only provides crucial real-time information but also fosters a sense of autonomy and confidence in navigating various environments.

The alert system is a key component, often incorporating a buzzer, haptic feedback, and visual indicators. When an obstacle is detected, the buzzer emits a distinctive sound, immediately notifying the user of the potential hazard.

In creating a smart shoe for visually impaired individuals with obstacle detection, the integration of key components is essential. An ultrasonic sensor, designed to measure distances using sound waves, is strategically positioned within the shoe to scan the surroundings. The data collected by the ultrasonic sensor is then processed by a NodeMCU microcontroller, serving as the central processing unit. The NodeMCU interprets the distance data and triggers a buzzer alert system when it identifies potential obstacles in the user's path. The buzzer, acting as an immediate auditory alert, emits a distinctive sound to notify the visually impaired individual about the presence of obstacles. This interconnected system ensures real-time obstacle detection and provides a tangible solution to enhance the user's awareness and safety during navigation.

5.CONNECTIONS

Ultrasonic Sensor Connections:

Connect the VCC (power) pin of the ultrasonic sensor to the 5V pin on the NodeMCU.

Connect the GND (ground) pin of the ultrasonic sensor to the GND pin on the NodeMCU.

Connect the TRIG (trigger) pin of the ultrasonic sensor to a GPIO pin, for example, D1, on the NodeMCU.

Connect the ECHO (echo) pin of the ultrasonic sensor to another GPIO pin, for example, D2, on the NodeMCU.

Buzzer Connections:

Connect the positive (+) terminal of the buzzer to a GPIO pin, for example, D3, on the NodeMCU.

Connect the negative (-) terminal of the buzzer to the GND pin on the NodeMCU.

Power Supply:

Connect the NodeMCU to a power source using a USB cable or an external power supply, ensuring the appropriate voltage.

Once the physical connections are established, programming the NodeMCU involves interpreting the distance data from the ultrasonic sensor. When an obstacle is detected within a predefined range, the NodeMCU triggers the buzzer by activating the GPIO pin connected to it. This comprehensive setup creates an integrated obstacle detection and alert system within the smart shoe, enhancing the safety and awareness of visually impaired individuals during navigation.

Programming Logic:Utilize a programming language compatible with the NodeMCU, such as Arduino IDE with the Arduino language or using Lua with NodeMCU firmware.

Implement code logic that reads distance data from the ultrasonic sensor using the TRIG and ECHO pins.

Set a threshold distance to trigger the buzzer when an obstacle is detected within the specified range.

Calibration and Testing:

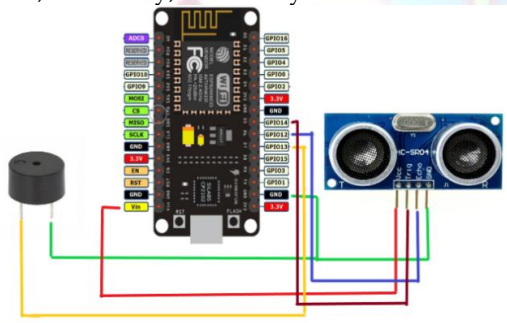
Calibrate the ultrasonic sensor to account for any environmental variables that might affect distance readings, such as temperature or humidity.

Conduct thorough testing in various environments to ensure the system's reliability in detecting obstacles and activating the buzzer appropriately.

Enclosure and Durability:

Consider enclosing the electronics in a protective casing to shield them from external elements and ensure the system's durability in different weather conditions.

Choose materials for the smart shoe that prioritize comfort, durability, and safety for the user.



6. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the challenges faced by visually impaired individuals in navigating obstacles underscore the critical need for innovative solutions. The daily hurdles of avoiding unexpected barriers and hazards necessitate a proactive and reliable approach. Emerging technologies, particularly smart shoes with obstacle-detection sensors, represent a significant stride towards addressing these challenges. By providing realtime feedback about the surroundings, these devices empower individuals with visual impairments to navigate with increased confidence and independence. As these assistive technologies evolve and become more accessible, they hold the promise of not only enhancing obstacle detection but also transforming the broader landscape of accessibility. In the journey towards a more inclusive society, the continuous development of such solutions demonstrates the positive impact technology can have in breaking down barriers and enriching the lives of those with visual impairments.

The integration of a smart shoe with an alerting buzzer for blind individuals marks a significant stride in assistive technology, addressing the challenges of navigating obstacles with innovation and precision. The meticulously designed connections between the ultrasonic sensor, NodeMCU microcontroller, and buzzer create a seamless system that provides real-time feedback about the user's surroundings. This comprehensive solution empowers visually impaired individuals to navigate confidently, offering immediate alerts through a distinctive buzzer sound when obstacles are detected. Considerations such as programming logic, power supply stability, and customization options add layers of adaptability and user-centric design. As technology continues to evolve, the smart shoe with a buzzer alert system emerges not just as a piece of technology but as a transformative tool, enhancing the safety and independence of those with visual impairments in their daily journeys

Conflict of interest statement

Authors declare that they do not have any conflict of interest.

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