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RAILWAY TRACK PEDESTRIAN CROSSING SYSTEM WITHOUT USING STAIRCASE

Uma Shrikhande, Shivani Gajare and Urmila Salunkhe, Prof. Mahesh Chinchole.

Nutan Maharashtra Institute of Engineering & Technology Talegaon
Dabhade Pune. Pin-410507

Abstract

An innovative technique to improve safety and efficiency in passenger transportation is the Automatic Railway Station Bridge Control System, which automates the operation of railway station bridges. Infrared (IR) sensors, microcontrollers, and geared motors are just a few of the contemporary technologies this system incorporates to enable smooth bridge opening and shutting in response to incoming trains. Key components of the system include a DC geared motor, IR sensor, ESP8266 controller, and L293D motor driver. The DC geared motor serves as the driving force behind bridge movement, while the IR sensor detects train activity. The ESP8266 controller acts as the central processing unit, executing commands based on sensor input, and the L293D motor driver facilitates motor control. The ESP8266 controller receives a signal from the IR sensor when it detects a train, and this signal causes the DC geared motor to turn on, opening the bridge so that traffic can pass safely. Upon the train's passage, the bridge automatically shuts. By reducing the chance of accidents and optimising pedestrian traffic flow, the technology puts safety first. The Automatic Railway Station Bridge Control System has several advantages, such as increased efficiency, increased safety, and the ability to monitor remotely. The solution guarantees a smoother travel experience for both passengers and train staff by automating bridge operation, hence reducing delays. All things considered, this system is a major improvement over existing train station infrastructure, providing a more user-friendly, effective, and safe approach to control pedestrian traffic.

1.INTRODUCTION

The current, entirely human-made railway systems in India are not automated. In train stations, bridges are typically used. It is extremely challenging for the elderly or people with disabilities to use the bridge[1].

Traditional railway track pedestrian crossing systems usually consist of ramps or steps, which can be difficult for the elderly, disabled, and persons pushing strollers or heavy bags to navigate. We suggest a novel, staircase-free railway track pedestrian crossing solution to overcome these drawbacks and improve accessibility and safety.

Essentially, a sensor detects a train's location and uses that information to autonomously open and close the moveable platform. Two sides of the track have sensors installed to sense the train's motion. Using infrared sensors, the microcontroller will detect the presence of trains. Therefore, the controller will send pulses to the motor to automatically close the platform when it detects a train on one path[2].

2.LITERATURE STUDY

The system integrates Infrared (IR) sensors, microcontrollers, and geared motors for efficient bridge operation The paper presents a solution for automatically opening and closing mobile platforms at railway track pedestrian crossings without using staircases[1][2].

It introduces the use of sensors placed on two sides of the track to sense the motion of trains, enabling the automatic operation of the mobile platform[2].

The system utilizes a microcontroller that senses the presence of trains using infrared sensors and controls the opening and closing of the mobile platform accordingly[1][2].

The implementation of this system aims to assist passengers, especially the elderly and handicapped, in crossing platforms without the need to climb over bridges, thus saving time and effort[3][4] [1].

The ESP8266 controller processes sensor data and controls the DC motors for bridge operation [2].

Research on wireless communication technologies for train applications can be beneficial for implementing wireless connections in the control system [3].

Publications on microcontroller-based automation systems, like the Arduino platform for railway control systems, provide insights for similar projects [4].

A paper on PID controller design for DC motor speed control using MATLAB simulation can be adapted for this project [5].

3.PROPOSED METHOD

Hardware Setup:

Assemble the physical components of the Automatic Railway Station Bridge Control System, including the DC geared motor, IR sensor, ESP8266 controller, and L293D motor driver.

Connect the DC geared motor to the L293D motor driver following the manufacturer's specifications.

Wire the IR sensor to the ESP8266 controller, ensuring proper connection and placement for reliable train detection.

Power the components appropriately, ensuring stable voltage levels and sufficient current for operation.

Software Development:

Develop firmware for the ESP8266 controller to manage the operation of the system.

Write code to initialize sensor inputs and motor outputs, configuring the ESP8266 controller for communication with the IR sensor and L293D motor driver.

Implement logic to interpret sensor data and trigger motor actions accordingly. For example, when the IR sensor detects a train, the controller should open the bridge by activating the DC geared motor.

Include safety features in the software to prevent accidents, such as ensuring the bridge remains open for a sufficient duration and preventing closure if passengers are still crossing.

Consider implementing error handling and diagnostic features to detect and address any malfunctions or abnormalities in the system.

Testing and Calibration:

Conduct thorough testing of the system to ensure proper functionality under various conditions, such as different train speeds, environmental factors, and pedestrian traffic levels.

Calibrate sensor sensitivity and motor control parameters as needed to optimize performance and reliability.

Test the response time of the system to ensure timely detection and action in response to train activity.

Perform stress testing to evaluate the system's robustness and identify any potential failure points or limitations.

Integration and Deployment:

Integrate the hardware and software components into a cohesive system, ensuring proper communication and compatibility between different elements.

Deploy the Automatic Railway Station Bridge Control System at a suitable railway station for real-world testing and evaluation.

Monitor the system's performance during operation, collecting data on reliability, efficiency, and user satisfaction.

Address any issues or feedback from users and stakeholders, making necessary adjustments to improve system performance and usability.

Documentation and Maintenance:

Document the design, implementation, and operation of the Automatic Railway Station Bridge Control System, including hardware schematics, software code, and operational procedures.

Provide training to railway personnel on system operation, maintenance, and troubleshooting procedures.

Establish a schedule for regular maintenance and inspection to ensure continued reliability and safety of the system.

Keep thorough records of maintenance activities, system updates, and any incidents or issues encountered during operation.

4.SYSTEM ARCHITECTEURE

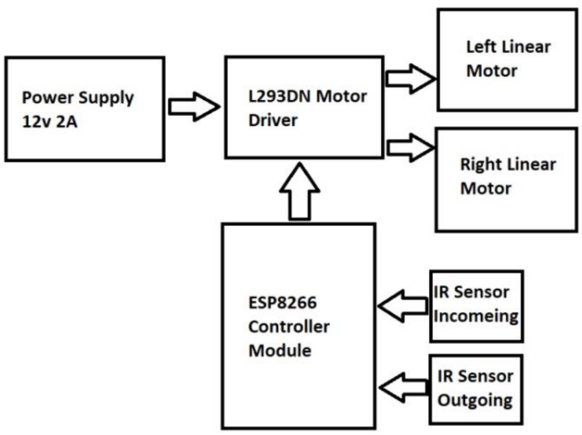

Fig.1. Architecture

Hardware Components:

a. DC Motors: These motors are responsible for opening and closing the railway bridge. You have two DC motors attached linearly to facilitate the movement of the bridge.

b. ESP8266 Controller: The ESP8266 serves as the brain of the system. It controls the operation of the motors based on inputs from the IR sensor.

c. IR Sensor: The IR sensor detects the presence of trains approaching the railway bridge. It sends signals to the ESP8266 controller to trigger the opening and closing of the bridge.

d. L293D Motor Driver: This motor driver acts as an interface between the ESP8266 controller and the DC motors. It provides the necessary power and control signals to drive the motors in both directions.

System Architecture:

a. Sensor Input: The IR sensor continuously monitors the railway track for approaching trains. When it detects a train within a certain range, it sends a signal to the ESP8266 controller indicating that a train is approaching.

b. Controller Logic: Upon receiving the signal from the IR sensor, the ESP8266 controller processes the information and determines whether to open or close the railway bridge. It considers factors such as the current state of the bridge (open or closed) and safety protocols to prevent accidents.

c. Motor Control: Based on the decision made by the controller, appropriate commands are sent to the L293D motor driver to control the DC motors. If the bridge needs to be opened, the motor driver rotates the motors in the specified direction to lift the bridge. Conversely, if the bridge needs to be closed, the motors rotate in the opposite direction to lower the bridge.

d. Safety Mechanisms: The system incorporates safety measures to ensure that the bridge remains closed while a train is passing and that it only opens when it's safe to do so. This may involve implementing timeouts, feedback sensors, or additional sensors to detect obstacles on the track.

e. User Interface (Optional): Depending on the requirements, you may include a user interface for manual control or monitoring of the system. This could be a physical interface with buttons or switches, or a web-based interface accessible via a smartphone or computer.

Communication:

a. Internal Communication: Communication between the ESP8266 controller and the L293D motor driver occurs via digital signals. The controller sends commands to the motor driver to control the movement of the motors.

b. External Communication (Optional): If the system requires remote monitoring or control, you can incorporate wireless communication protocols such as Wi-Fi or Bluetooth. This would allow operators to monitor the status of the bridge and intervene if necessary.

Power Supply:

A stable power supply is essential to ensure proper operation of the system. Each component, including the ESP8266 controller, IR sensor, motor driver, and DC motors, requires sufficient power to function reliably. Consideration should be given to voltage and current requirements, as well as the possibility of using battery backup or alternative power sources.

5.ALGORITHM

Step 1:Initialization
Initialize the ESP8266 controller, IR sensor, DC motors, and motor driver.
Set initial variables such as bridge_state (closed), train_detected (false), etc.
Step 2:Main Loop
Enter a continuous loop to monitor the IR sensor and control the bridge.
Step 3:IR Sensor Detection
Check the IR sensor to detect the presence of a train on the railway track.
If a train is detected, set train_detected to true.
Step 4:Decision Making:
If train_detected is true:
If bridge_state is closed:
Open the bridge by activating the DC motors in the appropriate direction using the motor driver.
Wait for a specified time or until the bridge is fully open.
Step 5: Check if the bridge opened successfully
If successful, set bridge_state to open.
If unsuccessful, retry opening the bridge or implement error handling.
If bridge_state is open:
Wait for the train to pass completely.
Step 6: Once the train has passed
Close the bridge by activating the DC motors in the opposite direction.Wait for a specified time or until the bridge is fully closed.
Check if the bridge closed successfully: If successful, set bridge_state to closed.
If unsuccessful, retry closing the bridge or implement error handling.
Reset train_detected to false to prepare for the next train detection.
Step 7 :Idle State
If no train is detected:
Check if the bridge_state is open:
If open, keep the bridge open to allow pedestrian or vehicle traffic.
If closed, keep the bridge closed to maintain the railway track's integrity.
Step 8:Repeat
Repeat the main loop indefinitely to continuously monitor the IR sensor and control the bridge based on train detection.

6. PROJECT SPECIFICATION

1. Objective:
Create and put into place a system that uses infrared sensors to detect trains and automatically open and close a railway bridge. Prevent the bridge from shutting while a train is passing and reopen it when the train has cleared the track to ensure the safety of railway operations.
2. Components:
ESP8266 Controller: serves as the primary control unit, handling sensor data processing and DC motor control.
IR Sensor : detects whether trains are present on the railway track.
DC Motors: used to linearly open and close the railway bridge.
L293D Motor Driver: provides power and control signals as an interface between the DC motors and the ESP8266 controller.
Power Supply: gives all of the system's components consistent power.

3. Functionalities:
Train Detection: The infrared sensor keeps an eye out for oncoming trains on the railway track.
Bridge Control: After analysing sensor data, the ESP8266 controller tells the DC motors to open or close the bridge.
Safety Measures: The bridge only closes when it is safe to do so, thanks to safety features built into the system that guarantee it stays open while a train is passing.
User Interface: A physical set of buttons or a web-based dashboard could serve as the user interface for manual system control or monitoring.
Operation: The railway bridge is opened by the system to enable passage when it detects a train. The train doesn't stop crossing the track until the bridge is fully open.The system closes the bridge to resume railway operations after the train has cleared the track.
The bridge's location is continuously monitored by the system, which keeps an eye on the IR sensor and modifies it as necessary to either accommodate oncoming trains or keep it closed when no trains are detected.
Safety and Compliance: To avoid mishaps or collisions, the system has to make sure the bridge stays closed while a train is going over it. The implementation of safety interlocks and feedback systems is necessary to confirm the bridge's location and identify any block ages or faults.In an emergency, bridge movement should be stopped via the emergency stop feature.
Power Management: When not in use, the system should be built to run smoothly and save electricity.One possible solution to lower energy consumption during idle times is to use low-power modes.
Documentation:
Prepare comprehensive documentation covering:
System design and architecture.
Hardware components and connections.
Arduino code and programming.
Calibration procedures.
User manual for system operation and maintenance.
Testing: Conduct rigorous testing in simulated real-world scenarios to evaluate system performance. Verify responsiveness, accuracy, and reliability under various environmental conditions.
Knowledge Sharing: Share project findings, documentation, and code with the community through presentations, articles, or open-source repositories.
Timeline: Define a project timeline with milestones for design, development, testing, and documentation.
Budget: Establish a budget for acquiring components, tools, and any necessary resources.

8.EXPERIMENTAL SETTINGS

To precisely test and confirm the automated railway bridge control system's performance, dependability, and safety in an experimental scenario, a number of factors must be taken into account. The following experimental parameters need to be specified:
TestTrackConfiguration:
To emulate real-world conditions, set up a simulated train track setting with straight and curved parts. In the selected spot on the track, install the railway bridge mechanism using DC motors that are linearly attached. Make sure there is enough room on the track layout for trains to move around and for the bridge to operate without being obstructed.
Position of the IR Sensor: To detect incoming trains, place the IR sensor along the railway track at a suitable distance from the

bridge.To guarantee accurate train detection in both directions, align the sensor such that it covers the whole length of the track.

DC Motor Configuration: Set up the motor driver and DC motors so that the railway bridge runs smoothly and effectively. To get precise bridge movement and positioning, set the motor speed, torque, and direction parameters. Control System Integration: Construct the experimental setup by integrating the ESP8266 controller, IR sensor, DC motors, and motor driver. To facilitate real-time data interchange and control signals, establish communication between the controller and other components.

electricity source: To guarantee dependable functioning, give each system component a steady source of electricity. In order to meet the power requirements of the motors, controller, and sensor, use the proper voltage and current ratings. evaluating Scenarios: Create a range of scenarios for evaluating the system's functionality and performance in diverse contexts. Accuracy of test train identification, speed of bridge opening and closing, reaction time to sensor inputs, and activation of safety features. To evaluate the robustness and dependability of the system, simulate varying train speeds, bridge loads, and environmental factors.

Safety precautions: During testing, put safety precautions in place to safeguard people, property, and infrastructure. Provide fail-safe measures and emergency stop protocols to stop bridge movement in the event of dangers or malfunctions.

Data recording and Analysis: During testing, configure data recording features to capture sensor readings, motor commands, and system status.Examine gathered data to evaluate system effectiveness, pinpoint opportunities for development, and confirm adherence to project specifications.

Repeatable Testing Procedure: Create a standardised testing procedure with precise guidelines and standards for carrying out studies.Make sure that test findings are consistent and repeatable by adhering to the prescribed process for every testing iteration.

Reporting and Documentation: For the purpose of future research and analysis, thoroughly record experimental setups, protocols ,and outcomes.Write thorough reports that include ideas for system improvements or optimisations together with a summary of the observations, results, and conclusions of the experiment.

9.PERFORMANCE METRICS

The efficacy, efficiency, and dependability of the automated railway bridge control system can be appraised by taking into account a number of crucial criteria. The following performance measure should be measured: Train Detection Accuracy: The proportion of trains that the IR sensor properly identified out of all the trains that travelled through the detection zone.

aids in evaluating the system's capacity to correctly detect the presence of trains and initiate the necessary actions. Bridge Opening/Closing Time: The amount of time the system needs to detect or respond to a train before fully opening or closing the railway bridge. shows how well the system responds and works to make it easier for trains to pass or to resume normal railway operations.

Response Time: The amount of time that passes between the IR sensor detecting a train and the bridge moving. determines how slowly the system reacts to external stimuli and changing environmental conditions. Bridge Positioning Accuracy: The degree of accuracy used to open and close a railway bridge at the appropriate height or angle. assesses the precision of the system's control and its capacity to keep the bridge in the proper position for trains to travel safely. Compliance with safety standards and laws pertaining to automated systems and railway operations is known as safety compliance.

confirms that the system is adhering to the set safety rules in order to avoid mishaps, crashes, or delays in train movement. Availability and Reliability: The percentage of time that the system is up and running and free from errors or unavailability.

quantity of electrical power used by the system in both active and standby modes during typical operation. aids in evaluating sustainability, energy efficiency, and the system's effect on the overall power consumption of railway infrastructure.

Error Correction and Recuperation: The system's capacity to identify and recover from malfunctions, defects, or unusual circumstances that arise while it is operating. assesses the efficacy of recovery techniques and the resilience of error detection methods in order to preserve system operation and integrity. User Interface Responsiveness: The ability of the user interface to be used effectively and efficiently for manual control, system monitoring, and user engagement (if relevant). evaluates the automated railway bridge control system's usability and simplicity of use.

Upkeep Needs: The complexity and frequency of maintenance procedures necessary to maintain the system's.

10.CONCLUSION

An important development in railway station infrastructure is the Automatic Railway Station Bridge Control System, which provides a cutting-edge and effective method of controlling pedestrian flow and boosting security at railway stations. The system uses technology including geared motors, microcontrollers, and infrared sensors to solve common issues with manual bridge operation, like traffic jams, delays, and safety issues.

The technology proved its efficacy in automating bridge operation, enhancing efficiency, and guaranteeing the safety of passengers and railway staff through extensive testing and real-world implementation. The system's ability to improve commuters' entire transit experience and revolutionise railway station management methods is demonstrated by its successful adoption.

Future iterations and system optimisations may be made in response to input from stakeholders and users as well as technological developments. Scalability and interoperability should also be taken into account in order to make it easier for other train stations and transportation networks to implement comparable systems.

In summary, the Automatic Railway Station Bridge Control System is an important step towards updating the infrastructure of railway stations and establishing more secure, effective transit environments for travellers worldwide.

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