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IOT Based detection and prevention of unauthorized use of electric fence system

Srushti Kishor Patil[1], Prathmesh Anil Kolte[2], Anandsing Sanjay Rajput[3], Prof. Hemraj V. Dhande[4], Prof. Dr. Hemant T. Ingle[5]

[1,2,3] UG students, [4,5] Asso. Prof. E&TC Engg. Dept, GF's Godavari College of Engg. Jalgaon, Maharashtra, India, 425001

srustipatil392@gmail.com, anandrajput7067@gmail.com, prathameshkolte4@gmail.com, hemrajd99@gmail.com[4]

Abstract *- Electric fences are widely used in agricultural fields, industrial premises, and restricted areas for perimeter protection. However, unauthorized use, tampering, and accidental contact with electric fences can lead to safety hazards, property damage, and misuse of electrical energy. This paper presents an IoT-based smart hardware system designed to detect and prevent unauthorized use of electric fences through real-time monitoring, control, and alert mechanisms. The proposed system integrates a microcontroller-based unit with voltage and current sensors, motion detection modules, relay control circuits, and wireless communication technology such as Wi-Fi or GSM. The hardware continuously monitors fence status, power consumption, and intrusion attempts. If unauthorized activation, wire cutting, bypassing, or abnormal current flow is detected, the system immediately disconnects the fence power supply using an automated relay mechanism and sends instant alerts to the owner or security personnel through a mobile application or SMS.*

Keywords: *IOT, electric fence, unauthorized*

1. INTRODUCTION

Electric fences began to be implemented ever since the early 1930s and they were used to control livestock in the United States of America and New Zealand. An ignition coil of a car was used to build the first electric fence in the year 1936-1937 by an inventor called Bill Gallagher. [1] The electric fence is very versatile and one of its functions was in providing effective security solutions implemented in many applications [2] Electric fences are mostly used in agriculture. Whereas standard fences are constructed to just form a physical barrier, electric fences are constructed to form both psychological and mental barriers. The mental barrier is accomplished by introducing an electric shock through the fence wire that both repels the animals and makes them less likely to contact the fence again. a) Military bases, borders and high security installations.

b) Industrial sites and factories.

c) Remote warehouses and builders yards.

d) Cellular phone antenna sites.

e) Electricity transformer, sub-stations and electricity pylons.

f) Housing Estates.

g) Private Houses.

h) Car lots.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

A hardware system to detect and prevent unauthorized electric fence use relies on monitoring the fence's electrical characteristics, integrating sensors like fiber optic, vibration, or IR sensors, and employing microcontrollers to process data and trigger alarms or deterrents like GSM/Wi-Fi notifications. Key technologies include impedance analysis for detecting cuts, fiber optic sensing for pinpoint accuracy without false alarms, and integration of multiple sensors on a single fence structure. Advanced systems can also incorporate visual monitoring via cameras and provide remote control and real-time alerts to users via mobile applications. Similarly, Fiber Optic Sensing: Systems like fiber optic vibration sensors convert the fence itself into a detection zone by monitoring signal changes from vibrations or tampering, offering high accuracy and minimal false alarms.

Physical Sensors: Infrared (IR), Passive Infrared (PIR), and ultrasonic sensors can be strategically placed along the fence to detect motion or breaches.

Electric Fence Alarms: The electrical fence itself provides a deterrent with a non-lethal pulse, and integrated alarms within the system can provide immediate alerts when breaches occur.

Instant Alarms and Notifications: When an intrusion is detected, the system can activate audible/visible alarms and send alerts via wireless modules (GSM, Wi-Fi) to users or monitoring stations.

Automated Deterrents: Systems can be configured to trigger additional security measures, such as automatic lighting in the breached area.

Remote Monitoring: Mobile applications can provide real-time monitoring and control of the smart fence, allowing users to receive alerts and manage the system from afar.

3. PROBLEM STATEMENT

The problem is that traditional electric fences lack robust, real-time detection and prevention of unauthorized use, leading to security breaches, property damage, and potential theft, as they do not provide immediate alerts or act proactively against intrusion attempts like cutting or climbing. Existing systems often fail to differentiate between legitimate interactions and malicious intent, creating security gaps that this project aims to address with a hardware-based solution that detects and actively prevents unauthorized access.

Details of the Problem:

- **Lack of Real-Time Alerts**: Traditional fences, even with basic sensors, may not provide instantaneous alerts to the owner or security personnel when an intrusion is detected.
- **Vulnerability to Physical Tampering**: Intruders can attempt to cut or climb the fence, which can go undetected until a breach occurs.
- **Insufficient Intruder Differentiation**: Existing systems may not effectively differentiate between a legitimate animal or human interacting with the fence and an actual security threat.
- **Reactive vs. Proactive Measures**: Most systems are reactive, failing to prevent unauthorized access and instead only reacting after a breach has happened or is in progress.
- **Potential for Damage**: Unauthorized use can involve cutting wires or short-circuiting the fence, which can cause damage to the fence itself and potentially harm people or animals if not handled correctly.

Limited Monitoring: A lack of sophisticated hardware means a limited ability to monitor fence conditions for voltage, current

4. PROPOSED SYSTEM

- **Fence Energizer & Circuit**: A central energizer delivers high-voltage, low-amperage pulses to the electric fence wires, creating a deterrent effect when an intruder completes the circuit.
- **Impedance Sensors**: Monitor changes in the electrical characteristics of the fence (impedance) to detect attempts to cut or bypass it.
- **Vibration/Motion Sensors**: Detect vibrations caused by climbing or cutting, or motion through the use of infrared (IR) or ultrasonic sensors placed along the fence line.
- **Microcontroller:** A microcontroller (e.g., Arduino) acts as the brain of the system, receiving input from the sensors.
- **Communication Module**: When a sensor is triggered, the microcontroller activates a communication module (GSM, Wi-Fi) to send an instant alert to a registered mobile number or control center.
- **Alarm & Deterrent**: In addition to the electrical shock, the system can trigger an audible alarm or activate automatic lighting in the breached area to further deter intruders.
- **Video Integration** : The system can integrate with CCTV cameras, which can then automatically pan and tilt to the location of the detected intrusion for visual verification.

Power Management: Some systems can incorporate features like battery backup or solar power to maintain functionality even during a power

5. METHODOLOGY

1.Detection Methodology

The system continuously monitors the electric fence's operational parameters to identify deviations from normal behavior.

- Electrical Monitoring: The core principle is to monitor the fence's electrical signal. A successful intrusion—such as cutting a wire or touching the fence—causes an interruption or a significant change in the fence's impedance or voltage.
- Vibration Sensors: Mounted along the fence, these sensors detect the vibrations caused by cutting or sawing attempts to breach the fence line.
- Fiber Optic Cables: Embedded within or near the fence, these fibers detect physical pressure changes from climbing or tampering, providing highly localized and accurate alerts.
- Magnetic Contact Sensors: These are placed on gates and access points to detect unauthorized opening or tampering attempts.
- AI and Algorithms: Advanced systems use algorithms, like FenSense's /nav FICID algorithm, to analyze continuous changes in the fence's electrical signal and differentiate between normal operations and malicious activity.

2. Prevention Methodology

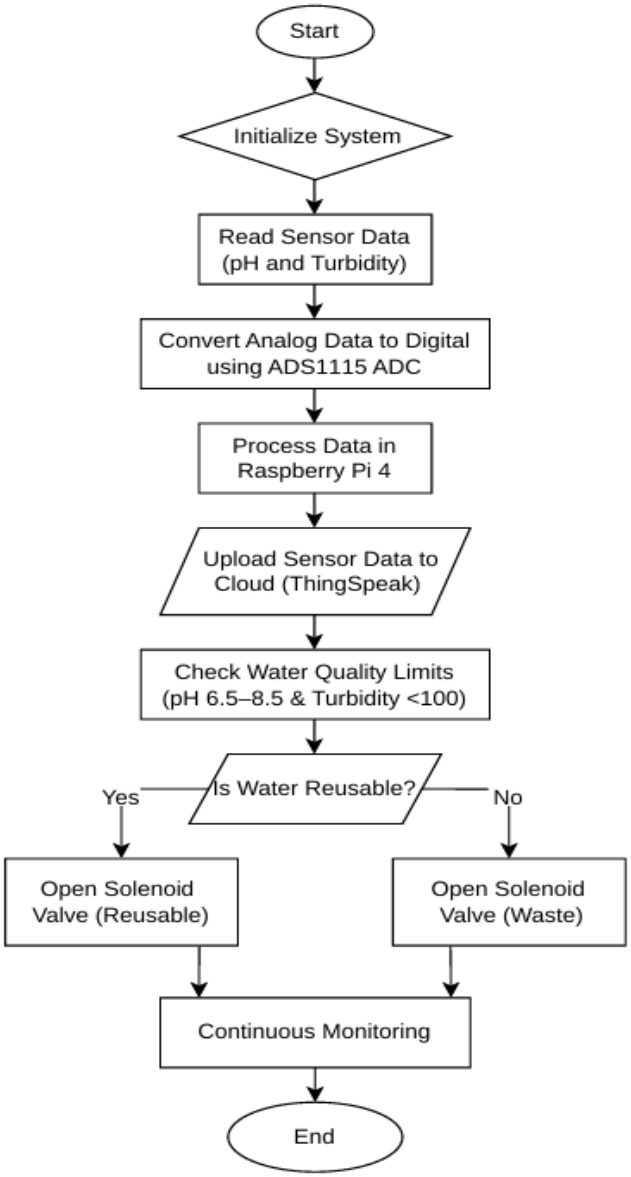
Once an unauthorized activity is detected, the system initiates immediate preventive and deterrent measures.

- Alarms and Alerts: When an intrusion is detected, the system triggers an instant alarm, alerting security personnel.
- Deterrent Pulse: The electric fence itself acts as a primary deterrent by delivering a safe, non-lethal pulse when an intrusion is detected. Some systems are designed to activate alarms if the fence is earthed or if a wire is breached for a specified duration.
- Automated Responses: Depending on the system, responses can include automated activation of lights, alarms, or even remote communication to control access points.
- Remote Monitoring: The system can be integrated with a mobile or web platform, allowing remote monitoring of the perimeter and providing real-time alerts directly to a user's device.

3. System Components

- Microcontroller: An Arduino or similar microcontroller processes sensor data and controls system responses.
- Sensors: A combination of electrical, vibration, and fiber optic sensors.
- Communication Module: A GSM or Wi-Fi module to send alerts to users or control centers .
- Power Supply: A stable power source, such as a rechargeable battery, to ensure continuous operation.

Flowchart



6. HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE REQUIREMENT

Hardware

- Electric Fence Energizer: Generates high-voltage pulses to secure the fence.
- Intrusion Sensors: Detect fence cutting, climbing, vibration, or wire breakage.
- Control Unit: Processes sensor data and controls system actions.
- Communication Module: Sends alerts through GSM, Wi-Fi, or network.
- Alarm System: Activates siren, buzzer, or warning lights during intrusion.
- Power Supply: Provides stable power with proper grounding support.

Software

- Firmware: Monitors sensors and detects unauthorized activity.
- Alerting System: Sends SMS or mobile notifications instantly.
- Data Logging: Stores intrusion records and system status.
- Configuration Tools: Adjust sensitivity and thresholds.
- Integration Software: Connects with CCTV or security monitoring systems.

7. EXPECTED RESULT

From implementing this system, we expect:
Active deterrence: The clear presence of an electric fence and warning signs creates a strong psychological and physical deterrent that discourages unauthorized access before it happens. The non-lethal but powerful electric shock serves as an active barrier.
Instant intrusion detection: The hardware provides immediate alerts the moment an intrusion is attempted.
Real-time monitoring and alerts: Sophisticated hardware, such as controllers with IoT and network connectivity, provides real-time monitoring of the fence's status. This can include:
Audio-visual alarms on-site. Remote alerts sent via SMS, email, or a mobile app.
Integration with a centralized security control room. Pin point location of intrusion:
More advanced systems can identify the specific zone where the breach occurred. Hardware with this capability allows security teams to respond precisely to the threat, improving response time and effectiveness.

8. CONCLUSION & FUTURE SCOPE

8.1. Conclusion

This project presents a low-cost IoT-based system for detecting and preventing unauthorized use of electric fences. Using sensors, Raspberry Pi Zero, and real-time alert mechanisms, the system improves security and safety through automatic detection, power cutoff, and remote monitoring. The proposed solution is affordable, reliable, and suitable for agricultural and residential applications. It demonstrates the effective use of embedded systems and IoT technology for smart perimeter security.

8.2. Future scope

The system can be improved by adding AI-based threat detection, camera monitoring, and facial recognition for better security. GSM, 4G, or LoRa communication can provide connectivity in remote areas. Solar power support and advanced sensors can increase reliability and efficiency.
Future upgrades may also include mobile applications, smart home integration, blockchain-based event logging, and compact commercial product development for wider practical use.
The system can also be scaled for large residential complexes and smart city applications.

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