

An Android Application for Accident Alert

Sreesanthi Bhaskar¹, Jithu Moncy George², Ria Varghese³, Abitha Shanavas⁴, Ajith Ravindran⁵

UG Scholar, Department of ECE, Saintgits College of Engineering, Kottayam, Kerala, India¹²³⁴

Assistant Professor, Department of ECE, Saintgits College of Engineering, Kottayam, Kerala, India⁵

ABSTRACT: The number of deaths due to accidents occurring in our country are increasing day by day. Most of them could have been avoided if it was informed to the concerned at the right time. To eliminate such a tragic situation we propose a project named ACCI-ALERT that focuses on sending an information to the concerned when an accident occurs. The idea is to install a pressure sensor on the body of the vehicle. The sensor will get activated when the pressure on the vehicle exceeds a certain level. The sensor output will be given as a trigger to a monostable multivibrator which powers the Bluetooth module. An incorporated application on the user mobile phone is paired with the Bluetooth dongle. It sends a distress message or call to the provided number when the information is passed. Acci-Alert requires minimum hardware and is more economical. It can be easily incorporated into the vehicle and since it uses a mobile app for communication and hence it is more user friendly.

KEYWORDS: Bluetooth module, pressure sensor, MIT App inventor 2

I. INTRODUCTION

Traffic accidents are one of the leading causes of fatalities. An important indicator of survival rate after an accident is the time between the accident and when emergency medical personnel are dispatched to the accident location. The road accident take place frequently which causes loss of life because of the poor emergency facilities. It also becomes difficult to get necessary help in isolated areas and also during the mid night. By eliminating the time between when an accident occurs and when the first responders are dispatched to the scene decreases mortality rates, we can save lives. Our project will provide an optimum solution to this draw back. "Acci-Alert" attempts to inform the authorities and relatives when an accident occurs. It has a pressure sensor attached to the vehicle whose output is provided to a relay through a triggering circuit. The output from the relay activates the Bluetooth module which is already paired with the user mobile. The android application on the user mobile sends message to the given numbers of authorities and relatives in case of an accident. Acci-alert thus helps the victims at the critical time. It is also user friendly and cost effective. Acci-alert uses simple modules like the pressure sensors and Bluetooth module whereas the existing projects use complex and costlier elements like the GPS and GSM modules. Its accuracy may depend on the number of pressure sensors on the body of the vehicle and the poor network connectivity may lead to its inefficiency. The use of android application on the now common mobile phones make it more comfortable for the users and its low cost make them affordable.

During the literature survey of this project, similar technologies were found to be existing but are more complex and not cost effective. Technological approaches for detecting and monitoring fatigue levels of driver fatigue continue to emerge and many are now in the development, validation testing, or early implementation stages. Previous studies have reviewed available fatigue detection and prediction technologies and methodologies. Accident avoidance and detection on highways is about advanced technologies in cars for making it more intelligent and interactive for avoiding accidents on roads. By using ARM7 this system becomes more efficient, reliable & effective. There are very less number of systems implemented on human behaviour detection in or with cars. In this paper, we describe a real-time online safety prototype that controls the vehicle speed under driver fatigue. The purpose of such a model is to advance a system to detect fatigue symptoms in drivers and control the speed of vehicle to avoid accidents. The main components of the system consist of number of real time sensors like gas, eye blink, alcohol, fuel, impact sensors and a software interface with GPS and Google Maps APIs for location[4].

Speed is one of the basic reasons for vehicle accident. Many lives could have been saved if emergency service could get accident information and reach in time. Nowadays, GPS has become an integral part of a vehicle system. Accident Detection and Reporting System using GPS, GPRS and GSM Technology proposes to utilize the capability of a GPS receiver to monitor speed of a vehicle and detect accident basing on monitored speed and send accident location to an Alert Service Center. The GPS will monitor speed of a vehicle and compare with the previous speed in every second through a Microcontroller Unit. Whenever the speed will be below the specified speed, it will assume that an accident has occurred. The system will then send the accident location acquired from the GPS along with the time and the speed by utilizing the GSM network.

Accident detection systems help to reduce fatalities stemming from car accidents by decreasing the response time of emergency responders. Smartphones and their onboard sensors (such as GPS receivers and accelerometers) are promising platforms for constructing such systems. Using Smartphones to Detect Car Accidents and Provide Situational Awareness to Emergency Responders paper provides three contributions to the study of using smartphone-based accident detection systems. First, we describe solutions to key issues associated with detecting traffic accidents, such as preventing false positives by utilizing mobile context information and polling onboard sensors to detect large accelerations. Second, we present the architecture of our prototype smartphone-based accident detection system and empirically analyze its ability to resist false positives as well as its capabilities for accident reconstruction. Third, we discuss how smartphone-based accident detection can reduce overall traffic congestion and increase the preparedness of emergency responders.

Smartphone-based accident detection applications provide several advantages relative to conventional in-vehicle accident detection systems, *e.g.*, they are vehicle independent, increasingly pervasive, and provide rich data for accident analysis, including pictures and videos. Building a smartphone-based wireless mobile sensor network for accident detection system is hard, however, because phones can be dropped (and generate false positives) and the phone is not directly connected to the vehicle. In contrast, conventional in-vehicle accident detection systems rarely incur false positives because they rely on sensors, such as accelerometers and airbag sensors, that directly detect damage to the vehicle.

Solution approach → Use on board sensors and physical context information to detect car accidents. This paper shows how smartphones in a wireless mobile sensor network can capture the streams of data provided by their accelerometers, compasses, and GPS sensors to provide a portable “black box” that detects traffic accidents and records data related to accident events, such as the G-forces (accelerations) experienced by the driver. We also present an architecture for detecting car accidents based on Wreck Watch, which is a mobile client/server application we developed to automatically detect car accidents. The figure shows how sensors built into a smartphone detect a major acceleration event indicative of an accident and utilize the built-in 3G data connection to transmit that information to a central server. That server then processes the information and notifies the authorities as well as any emergency contacts.

In the event of an accident, the smartphone will experience the same forces and accelerations experienced by the occupants of the vehicle. Moreover, if the smartphone remains stationary relative to the vehicle during the collision, it is possible to use the data gathered from the smartphone to recreate and model the forces it experienced. In this case, the smartphone can provide data much like that gathered by vehicular ECUs[5].

Smartphones are often carried in some form of pocket attached to a person. In these cases, the smartphone would experience the same forces as vehicle occupants, and could thus provide more information than in-vehicle systems by recording the forces experienced by occupants rather than just the vehicle itself. When this directionality and movement is combined with speed and location information from the GPS receiver, it is possible to fully reconstruct the accident, including any secondary impacts.

II. FEATURES & WORKING

Acci-Alert is basically a safety device whose role comes to play in dire situations such road accidents that occur in rural areas especially during the night hours when chances of arrival of help are slim. The small size and simplicity of the device enables it to be compatible with any on road car model. The device can be easily installed on vehicles. Low cost of the device makes it affordable for people of all classes. The Acci-Alert system is user friendly as it just requires to install an app on the user mobile and give the important numbers for contact after installation.

Prior to installing the device on the car, the user must download and install the Acci-Alert app on his/her mobile phone and pair the Bluetooth module inside the device with his/her mobile phone by selecting the device in the Bluetooth settings. The MAC id of the Bluetooth module used in the corresponding Acci-Alert device is entered in the program of the app at the time of manufacturing. The MAC id of each Bluetooth module is different. The app will run only if the programmed MAC id is detected. After this process, the device can be installed on the vehicle.

On detection of collision by the pressure sensor, the Bluetooth module will be driven by the monostable multi vibrator for five seconds, during which the app in the user's phone will detect the Bluetooth module. The much essential time is saved no transfer of data between the Bluetooth module and the phone is necessary. Upon detection of the Bluetooth module, the app will take location of the user and send it to a preset number (be it to the police, ambulance service or

close relatives) as a distress message from the mobile phone in the form of text message. The working is shown in Fig:3 .

The crash sensors used in the device is similar to the crash sensors used in air bags. These are known to work without fail. Also the Bluetooth module and the necessary circuitry is encased within a protective casing which prevents it from damage to an extend. Therefore, the working of the device is guaranteed in the case of an accident.

Components

The main components used in Acci-Alert are pressure sensor, Bluetooth module and a monostable multivibrator using NE555.

1) Pressure Sensor: The pressure sensor used here is Keystudio crash collision sensor. When this sensor is in normal mode, its output is a high signal. When the collision occurs, the output becomes a low signal.

2) Triggering Circuit: The low signal from the pressure sensor is given as trigger to the monostable multi-vibrator. The monostable multivibrator is made using NE 555 and necessary circuitry[6].

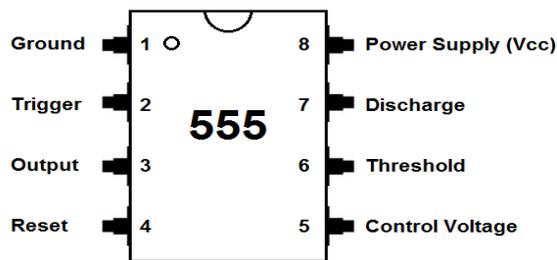


Fig.1:DIP pin Diagram of 555

3) Bluetooth module: The Bluetooth module used is HC-05. (Fig: 2) . It is used to bring a connection between the acci alert app on the mobile phone and the pressure sensor output when it detects some accident.



Fig.2:Blue Tooth Module

Block Diagram

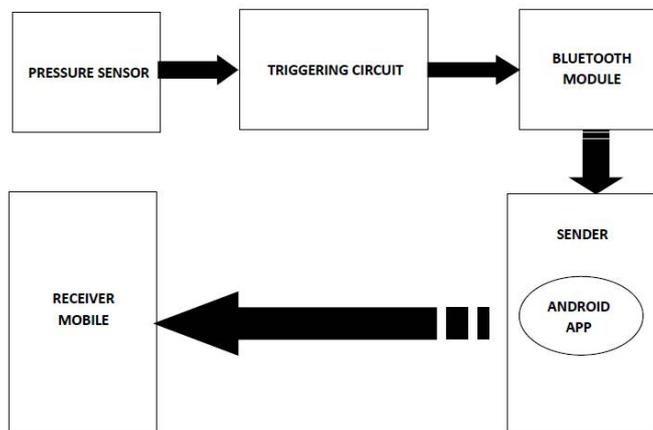


Fig.3:Block Diagram

Circuit diagram

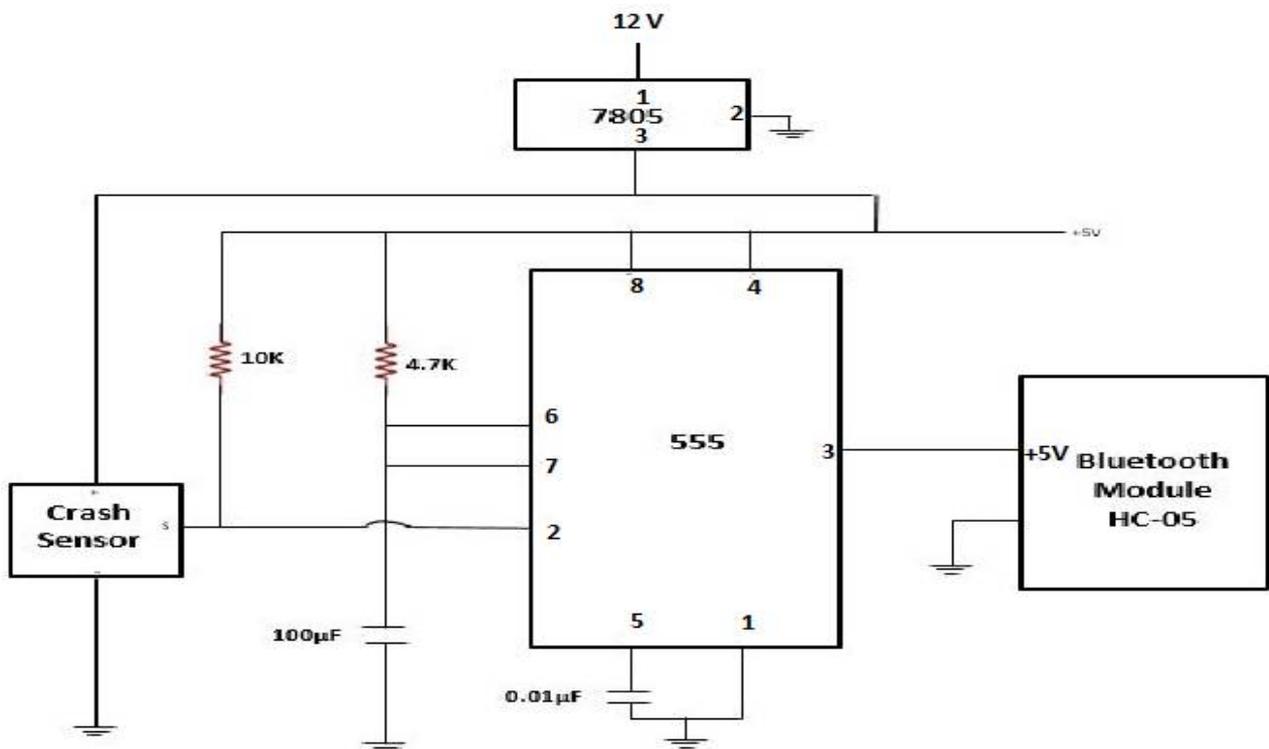


Fig.4: Circuit Diagram

Software

The main part of the device is the mobile application. The application was programmed using MIT app inventor2. MIT App Inventor is a blocks-based environment for creating Android mobile apps. An App Inventor project consists of a set of components and a program specifying their behavior. Components include visible user interface items (e.g., buttons, images, and text boxes) and non-visible items used in the app (e.g., camera, speech recognizer, GPS sensor). The program is written in a blocks language [3].

Blocks languages, in which programs are constructed by connecting blocks resembling puzzle pieces, are increasingly used to introduce novices to programming [2]. The App Inventor programming environment has three key parts:

- The Component Designer: You use it to select components for your app and specify their properties.
- The Blocks Editor: You use it to specify how the components will behave (e.g., what happens when a user clicks a button).

- An Android device with which you can actually run and test your app as you are developing it. If you don't have an Android device handy, you can test the apps you build by using the Android emulator that comes with the system [1].

The application for acci-alert is designed in such a way that it will run if the mobile phone detects the Bluetooth device with the MAC id specified in the program.

Once the required Bluetooth module is detected, the application obtains the location of the user by using the GPS of the phone. In order for the device to work, the Bluetooth and GPS of the user's mobile phone must be kept on while in the vehicle.

On opening the app, the option for setting the mobile number to which the distress message is to be sent will appear. The number can be set here once at the time of installation. In the event of an accident, a text message is sent to the preset number containing the location (latitude and longitude) of the user.

Algorithm of Acci-Alert Application

- Step1: Start
- Step2: Create 2 screens
- Step3: In the Screen1 when the button 'Tab' is clicked, open Screen2 'SMS'
- Step4: In Screen1, if Bluetooth client is not enabled, notify the status 'Enable the Bluetooth' and if Bluetooth client is enabled, check for device address
- Step5: If it is not the required device address, Clock 'Timer Always Fires' will get triggered and if it is, mobile will connect to the device and open the screen 'SMS'
- Step6: In Screen2, set up a text box to enter the required number and save it in 'TinyDB'

- Step7: In Screen2, as a screen initialization set up, check whether the Bluetooth client is enabled
Step8: If it is enabled, send the acci-alert text message to the saved phone number

III.APPLICATIONS & ADVANTAGES

Acci-alert can be used on all kinds of land based vehicles, like trucks, cars, auto rickshaws, bikes, etc.The Acci-Alert relays the occurrence of accident to the authorities and relatives and hence it ensures the faster arrival and help. This is a boon to the victims in the isolated areas. This project proves to be better than the currently available methods due to its low cost and easy installation. The set-up is less complex as it replaces the current methodologies like GPS, GSM modules, etc with an equivalent mobile application. It is user-friendly and can be easily incorporated into any vehicle.

IV.LIMITATIONS AND FUTURE SCOPE

The accuracy of the device depends upon the performance and the number of sensors used. The product efficiency is greatly affected by the network service. Also the device won't work if the mobile phone is damaged/destroyed in the accident.The device can be further upgraded by incorporating an alarm which will go off after the accident to alert nearby civilians.

V.CONCLUSION

The prototype of Acci-Alert device was able to be made using HC-05 bluetooth module, Keyestudio crash collision sensor and a multivibrator circuit(using NE555).Also, the mobile application was developed using MIT App Inventor2. The Acci-Alert is a project proposal that is used to avoid the accidental fatalities that goes unknown. The project concentrates to ensure the faster arrival of necessary help to the victim after an accident occurs. As the deaths due to the delay in informing the concerned at the right time after an accident occurs is increasing, Acci-Alert is expected to decline this number of fatalities into a considerable amount. The product is designed in such a way that it can be easily installed and is more user friendly. The Android application that replaces the complex hardware and the low cost makes it different from the similar currently existing products.

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