

**INTERNET OF THINGS BASED REAL-TIME WATER QUALITY
MONITORING SYSTEM FOR WATER STORAGE TANK**

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**A project report submitted in partial fulfilment of the
requirements for the award of Bachelor of Engineering
(Honours) Mechatronics Engineering**

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May 2021

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this project report is based on my original work except for citations and quotations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously and concurrently submitted for any other degree or award at UTAR or other institutions.

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ABSTRACT

Water leaving the treatment plant should be safe and of good quality, but contamination could easily happen along the distribution pipelines. This is due to factors like rusty pipes that cause heavy metals to leach and dissolve in water, damaged or broken pipes that let soil and other contaminants or sewage enter the water. Sediments, scale and algae could also build up on water storage tanks over time. In order to keep track of water quality, this study is aimed to develop a real-time water quality monitoring system in water storage tanks that can be implemented in society, residential areas and restaurant and food service industry by utilizing Internet of Things (IoT) technology. This system employs sensors to collect water quality parameters (pH, temperature, TDS and turbidity), transmits the data wirelessly and uploads it to cloud so users can monitor remotely. The intelligent system can alert users at real-time in case of failing water quality.

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LIST OF SYMBOLS / ABBREVIATIONS

%	percentage
±	plus-minus
μ	micro
A	ampere
°C	degree Celsius
G	giga
Hz	Hertz
K	kilo
KB	kilobyte
km	kilometre
ppm	parts per million
m	milli
mg/L	milligram per liter
V	voltage
ρ	density, kg/m ³
2G	second-generation cellular network
3G	third generation
4G	fourth generation
5G	5 th generation mobile network
AC	Alternating current
ADC	Analog to Digital Converter
BNC	Bayonet Neill-Concelman
CSS	Cascading Style Sheets
DO	Dissolved Oxygen
EC	Electrical Conductivity
GPRS	General Packet Radio Services
GUI	Graphic User Interface
HTTP	Hypertext Transfer Protocol
I/O	Input/Output
I2C	inter-integrated circuits
IDE	Integrated Development Environment

IoT	Internet of Things
IP	Internet Protocol
LAN	Local Area Network
LoRa	Long range
LoRaWAN	Long Range Wide Area Network
MQTT	Message Queuing Telemetry Transport
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Unit
NTP	Network Time Protocol
PCB	Printed Circuit Board
pH	potential of Hydrogen
PHP	Hypertext Pre-processor
RF	Radio frequency
RTC	Real-Time Clock
Rx	Receive
S/m	Siemens per meter
SD	Secure Digital
SG	Specific Gravity
SPI	Serial Peripheral Interface
TCP/IP	Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol
TDS	Total Dissolved Solids
Tx	Transmit
UART	Universal Asynchronous Receiver-Transmitter
UDP	User Datagram Protocol
WHO	World Health Organizations
WSN	Wireless sensor network

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 General Introduction

Malaysia is facing water scarcity and its water resources are expected to reduce by 20-30% between 2025 and 2030 (Soong, 2019). Malaysia is considered rich in water resources due to its abundant annual rainfall with about 97% of raw water supply derived from surface water sources which is mainly from its 189 river basins (WWF, 2020). However, factors like rapid population growth and, development of metropolitan areas, industrialization alongside with increment of irrigated agriculture contribute to rising water pollution and water demand which induce deterioration in water quality (Food and Agriculture Organization, 2007). Moreover, with greater social development and better education, the expectations of people in general have boosted in terms of water quality as they are well aware that the rising economic development will negatively affect the environment which in turn impact their health and living standards.

Water quality parameters like pH, temperature, turbidity, dissolved oxygen (DO), Total Dissolved Solids (TDS), conductivity and nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus) can be tested and monitored to determine the quality of public water supply. Water from public water supply system and sampling stations in Malaysia is safe as it complies with the World Health Organizations (WHO) standard (Is Kuala Lumpur tap water safe to drink, n.d.). As water from rivers and dams enters water treatment plant will undergo multiple stages of treatment from coagulation and flocculation, sedimentation, filtration to disinfection, water leaving the treatment plant should be safe and of good quality, but contamination could easily happen along the distribution pipelines. This contamination in the pipes is due to factors like rusty pipes that cause heavy metals to leach and dissolve in water, damaged or broken pipes let soil and other contaminants or sewage enter the water as well as stagnant water in pipes that could act as a breeding place for bacteria. Furthermore, when there is a water disruption in the distribution system, for example during pipe repair where the supply is opened up, the loose deposits in the pipe is stirred and flowed along the pipe and discharged as discoloured tap water. On top of that, water

stored in the storage tank could have sediments and dirt deposited onto walls and inner structure bars. After a prolonged period of time, the turbidity and taste of water could be affected.

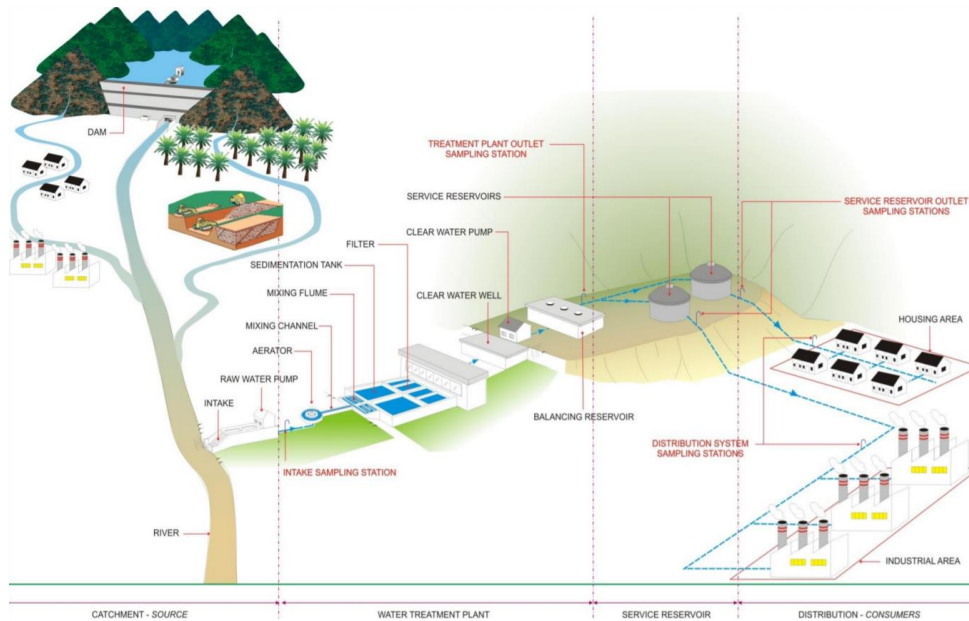


Figure 1.1: Schematic Diagram of a Public Water Supply System (Mohd Talha, 2019)

IoT is a thriving trend as the technology of internet is expanding exponentially especially with the recently developed 5G network which promises greater speed. In recent years, there have been many researches on developing IoT water quality monitoring systems in various fields, from aquaculture to rivers and sampled drinking waters. IoT is different from conventional monitoring systems because the sensors take measurements automatically without the need of human intervention and it also has the capability to store and upload the data to a cloud server in which users could access and interact with at anytime and anywhere with internet access.

This project is to design and develop a system that is able to conduct real-time water quality monitoring system, upload the data to cloud platform, display the result data to users in graphical format and make relative deductive reasoning to determine the water quality based on measured data. With the implementation of this IoT water quality monitoring system, the public including society residents and eateries could easily keep an eye on the water they consume daily as well as detect any undesirable conditions with the water promptly. This hardware system would

apply a microcontroller as the heart of the embedded system, five sensors (pH, turbidity, TDS, temperature and voltage) and an RF module for transmission of data signals. A software application would be developed as a cloud platform for users to view and control the data.

1.2 Importance of the Study

Rivers and streams contribute to 98% of total water usage in Malaysia, which makes river quality monitoring crucial. Table 1.1 shows the water resources in Malaysia with its contributions in volume. Urbanization and rapid development have caused severe pollution to rivers including domestic and industrial sewage, effluents from livestock farms, oil spills as well as sedimentation due to housing development. The Department of Environment (DOE) has performed river water quality monitoring in 477 rivers based on three parameters: Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD), Suspended Solids (SS) and Ammoniacal Nitrogen (NH₃-N). Based on Figure 1.2 below, 11% of the rivers are polluted in 2017, while the percentage of clean rivers has reached an all-time low of 46% in 10 years (Department of Environment, 2018).

Table 1.1: Water resources in Malaysia (Food and Agriculture Organization, 2007)

Annual rainfall	990 billion m ³
Surface runoff	566 billion m ³
Evapo-transpiration	360 billion m ³
Groundwater recharge	64 billion m ³
Surface artificial storage (dams)	25 billion m ³
Groundwater storage (aquifers)	5,000 billion m ³

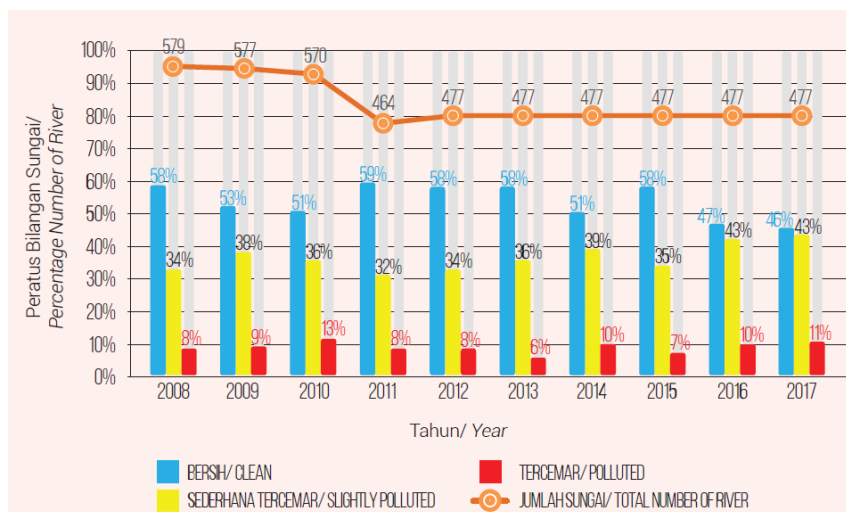


Figure 1.2: Malaysia: River water quality Trend, 2008-2017 (Department of Environment, 2018)

It is obvious that the more polluted the river water, the worse the water quality will become despite government's efforts in enhancing water treatment to remove the increasing organic pollutants and sewage from domestic, industrial and commercial activities. Moreover, water that travels hundreds of miles through the distribution pipes are easily contaminated primarily due to damaged or rusty pipes and water disruption as discussed earlier. To act as an additional safety measure for housing society and food service industry, this monitoring system can be implemented with the help of advanced IoT technology to provide real-time monitoring and can replace the conventional monitoring system that requires the hassle of collecting water samples and sending to laboratories.

1.3 Problem Statement

Water quality monitoring is important as there is a growing concern that the drinking water quality is deteriorating due to contamination of water bodies from industrial waste, sewage, wastewater, chemical pesticides and fertilizers. Although public water systems install water purifying treatments and monitoring systems, water coming out from the treatment plants could be safe but water is easily contaminated along distribution network due to household plumbing and service lines.

Malaysia's water supply does not contain E.coli bacteria anymore and is safe for drinking (Malaymail, 2018). However, most Malaysians do not drink directly from tap water as the water sometimes contain bad smell, taste and is even brown which is caused by rusty pipelines. Therefore, the locals usually install water filters and often boil water before drinking. However, filtering and boiling water do not completely eliminate all bacteria as substances like lead, nitrates, and pesticides are not affected (WebMD, 2020). Sediments could also accumulate and microorganisms would grow in water in storage tanks as shown in Figure 1.3 below. This results in stagnation of water. Stagnation is a slow process in which the deposits and bacteria cause water to be separated into layers. Stagnant water further attracts insects and crustaceans (Henderson, 2015). There are also rare and usually uncontrollable contaminations due to dead animals or even dead bodies but could have been detected earlier if there were water monitoring systems installed. A dead body was discovered in a water tank which served some 200 condominium residents in Kuala Lumpur. They drank and bathed with the water for five days until the body was found (Baker, 2015).



Figure 1.3: Dirty water storage tank due to deposits and sedimentation
(Starawaterhygiene, 2020)

The conventional water quality monitoring is carried out by collecting water samples and sending them to laboratories for testing. This process is slow, expensive and wastes manpower. To cope with the problems stated above, a real-time water quality monitoring system is implemented to check the water quality using various sensors.

1.4 Aim and Objectives

In this project, the aim is to develop a real-time water quality monitoring system in water storage tanks that can be implemented in society, residential areas and restaurant and food service industry by utilizing Internet of Things technology. The objectives of the project are:

1. Design and develop an embedded system architecture to perform real-time water quality monitoring based on parameters such as pH, turbidity, temperature and Total Dissolved Solids (TDS).
2. Integrating IoT into real-time water quality monitoring system to allow users to observe water quality remotely and alerts users through electronic devices such as smartphones or laptops, when water quality is poor.
3. Develop GUI to display the water quality in a graphical format for greater visual interactions.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The scope of this study is to develop an embedded system that is able to perform real-time water quality in water storage tanks with the integration of IoT. This project is separated into two parts in which the first part is on developing the hardware of the system and the second part is implementing IoT into the system by creating a GUI for users to view data and control particular sensors.

The limitation of this project is the cost of sensors. This is because there are many other parameters such as free chlorine and oxidation reduction potential (ORP) that need to be tested for water quality. Due to budget constraint, the sensors are decided to be pH, turbidity, TDS and temperature.

The second limitation of this project is on the smooth data transmission between two RF modules. Since most water storage tanks are located on rooftops of residential buildings, physical barriers like the storage tank itself and concrete walls will block the signal and reduce the communication range.

1.6 Contribution of the Study

The contribution of the study is to enable residential and restaurant owners to monitor the water quality of water storage tanks remotely through Internet of Things (IoT) technology and modify the system settings when necessary.

1.7 Outline of the Report

This report provides the introduction, problem statement, aim and objectives of the project in Chapter 1, followed by literature review of research papers of the similar topic in Chapter 2. Chapter 3 describes the methodology applied in the implementation of IoT water quality monitoring system while Chapter 4 is about analysis or results obtained. Finally, Chapter 5 illustrates the conclusion of the project and recommendations for future work.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

The blooming of IoT technology and the growing concerns over deteriorating water quality have sparked many researches on developing IoT based monitoring system. The working principle and function of the developed IoT water quality monitoring system are somewhat similar but there are distinct differences in the system architecture, parameters and sensors used, cloud platform, data transmission protocol and Graphical User Interface (GUI) used. To design a good quality model, many researches were reviewed.

A general water quality monitoring system has been summarized to a hierarchy diagram in Figure 2.1 after reviewing various research papers. Firstly, the quality of water is measured by sensors and the parameters will depend on the application but the common parameters used are temperature, turbidity, pH, dissolved oxygen and conductivity. The time of sensing depends on the program of microcontroller that the sensors are connected to. Typical microcontrollers used are Arduino based ATmega328 chip (Sabari et al, 2018) and Raspberry Pi 3 (Gopavanitha and Nagaraju, 2017) that has built-in Wi-Fi capability. The microcontrollers will feed the data to cloud server via gateway. A gateway is a networking hardware for telecommunications networks to enable data flow between one network and the other. The gateway used depends on the wireless communication protocol such as GSM, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, Zigbee, LoRa and LTE. Das and Jain (2017) used ESP8266 to connect to Wi-Fi, Liu et al (2018) applied LoRa gateway to connect to LoRaWAN while Sujay et al (2018) connected to 2G and 3G internet data using GPRS module (SIM 800L). The cloud server will store the data and display to end users via GUI or application. The selection of hardware is based on factors like cost, power consumption and coverage range of communication protocol.

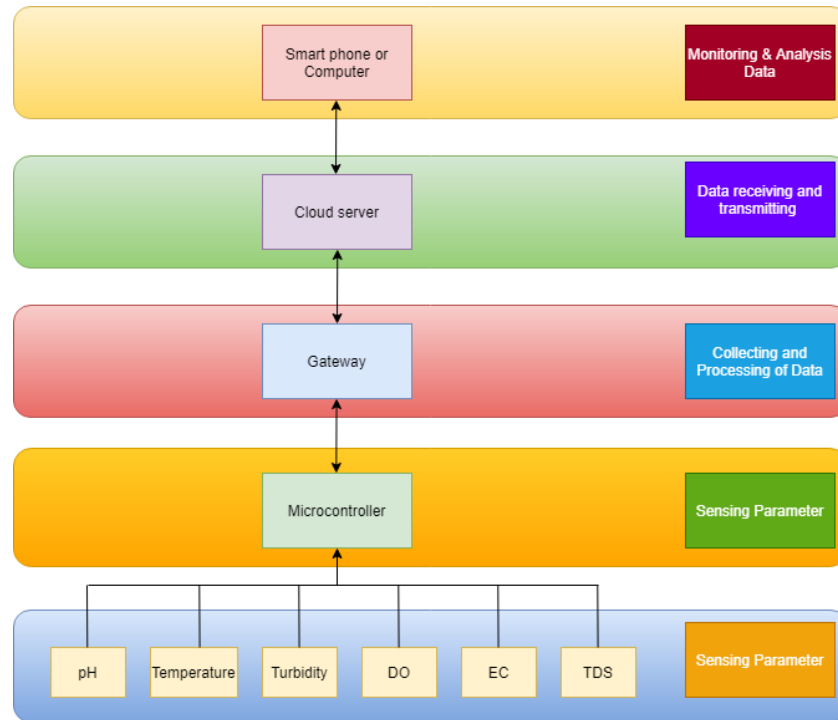


Figure 2.1: Hierarchy of general IoT water quality monitoring system

Protocol	Coverage range	Data rates	Power consumption
ZigBee	Short (10–20 m)	Low (20 Kbps–250 Kbps)	Low
Z-Wave	Short (30 m)	Low (40 Kbps–100 Kbps)	Ultra - low
INSTEON	Short (50 m)	Very Low (38.4 Kbps)	Low
Wavenis	Long (1 km)	Low (4.8 Kbps–100 Kbps)	Low
Wi-Fi	Medium (30–100 m)	High (typical 100–300 Mbps, up to 7 Gbps)	High
6LowPAN	N/A	N/A	Low
LoRaWAN	Very Long (15 km)	Very Low (0.3 Kbps–50 Kbps)	Low
NB-IoT	Very Long (10–15 km)	Medium (2 Mbps)	Ultra - low

Figure 2.2: Summary of some relevant IoT communication protocols (Cheng and Han, 2018)

2.2 Hardware

2.2.1 Embedded Board

Sabari et al (2020) employed Arduino ATmega 328 as the core controller. The Arduino Uno development board communicates with ESP8266 module as the Wi-Fi module to upload data to cloud. Arduino Uno was used because it could output 5 V which is the input voltage needed by the sensors (Temperature-DS18B20, Flow sensor-YF-S201, Turbidity sensor-TSW-20M), so no external voltage regulators were needed. Moreover, Arduino is open source and has many libraries available online with wide range of useful example codes that could greatly reduce development time. On the other hand, Liu et al (2018) used Arduino Pro Mini which has a smaller form factor than Uno and has only 3.3 V regulator on board. They implemented LoRaWAN communication protocol using LoRa module that is best suited for long range transmission and battery operated applications with very low power consumption.





Next, Ajith et al (2020) used NodeMCU development board as the microcontroller that has built in Wi-Fi chip of ESP8266 to send data obtained from sensors (temperature, pH, humidity, CO₂, dissolved oxygen and soil moisture) to Firebase cloud. NodeMCU supports TCP/IP protocol and can be programmed and developed using ESPlorer IDE (Lua language) and Arduino IDE (C/C++ language). The difference between NodeMCU and Arduino is that NodeMCU can be used as the main embedded board (data processing center) as well as a gateway module to connect to the cloud unlike Arduino that requires Arduino Ethernet Shield or ESP8266 module.

Apart from that, Memon et al (2020) used WeMos D1 Mini development board that uses ESP8266EX as the microcontroller. It has two clock speeds available that are 80 MHz or 160 MHz which means it can execute up to 80 or 160 million instructions per second. Arduino only runs at 16MHz but it has eight analog input pins while WeMos only has one. This means that more than one WeMos boards are required if more than one analogue water quality parameters are needed.

Besides this, Gopavanitha and Nagaraju (2017) applied Raspberry Pi 3 B as the core controller of their system. It was used because it has plenty of GPIO pins (26pins) to interface with five sensors and a motor for controlling flow of water

using solenoid valve. Raspberry Pi is a powerful device that can function as a computer with onboard Wi-Fi and Bluetooth so it can be setup as a gateway to directly forward and analyse the sensed data to the server. It is also programmable using C++, C, Python, Java, and Ruby. However, since it is designed to run operating systems unlike Arduino, it takes longer time to startup and has higher power consumption.

Table 2.1: Advantage (s) and disadvantage(s) between embedded boards

Embedded Board	Advantage (s)	Disadvantage (s)
Arduino board (Uno, Pro Mini) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plenty of libraries and examples available - Wide operating voltage (3.3 V and 5 V) - Affordable cost (\$22) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Requires external gateway connect to the internet
NodeMCU ESP8266 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Built-in Wi-Fi module - Easy to code - Low cost (\$8) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Less libraries available - Only 3.3 V operating voltage
WeMos D1 Mini 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Combination of Arduino and NodeMCU - Easy to code - Built-in Wi-Fi module - Low cost (\$6) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Only 1 analog input pin
Raspberry Pi 3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Built-in Wi-Fi module and Bluetooth - Supports multiple languages - Supports complex tasks and multitasking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High cost (\$35) - Slow startup time - High power consumption

2.2.2 Multiparameter sensor

There are various multiparameter sonde sensors in the market that can sample and measure multiple water quality parameters within one instrument probe. These sondes are extremely expensive that are applied in industry levels for long-term deployment and requires large data storage. Chen and Han (2018) applied Aqua TROLL 600 multiparameter probe that can measure dissolved oxygen (DO), temperature, turbidity, pH and oxidation reduction potential (ORP) and log the data into the internal SD card or upload the data to Wi-Fi server via Rs485 serial port Modbus protocol. Therefore, this system does not require external development board. Budiarti et al (2019) deployed YSI 600R sensor that is capable of measuring temperature, conductivity, TDS, salinity, DO saturation, DO, and pH. They used Raspberry Pi 3 to process and transmit data collected into MQTT database using SQLite and MQTT protocols.

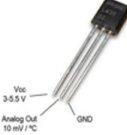


2.2.3 Temperature sensor

Madhavireddy and Koteswarrao (2018) used LM35 to detect the surrounding temperature as it is not waterproof and cannot be immersed in water. It produces an output voltage that is linearly proportional to temperature ($^{\circ}\text{C}$) so it does not need calibration like other linear temperature sensors that measures temperature in Kelvin. It has wide measuring range of -55°C to 150°C with about $\pm 1^{\circ}\text{C}$ (National Semiconductor, 2000).

Memon et al (2020) applied DS18B20 to measure temperature of water. It is a waterproof and direct-to-digital sensor with temperature range of -55°C to 125°C and accuracy of $\pm 0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ (Maxim Integrated, 2002). Most importantly, its programmable capability with 9-bit to 12-bit resolution makes it ideal for IoT remote water quality monitoring system.

Pande, Warhade and Komati (2017) deployed DHT22 sensor that could measure surrounding temperature and humidity with internal chip to perform analog-to-digital conversion. It is made of two parts, a capacitive humidity sensor and a thermistor.

Table 2.2: Advantage (s) and Disadvantage (s) of Reviewed Temperature Sensor



Temperature sensor	Advantage (s)	Disadvantage (s)
LM35 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Calibrated directly in °Celsius - Low current drain - Low cost 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not waterproof - Require signal conditioning circuit
DS18B20 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Waterproof - Wide temperature range - Digital (one wire) interface 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Require microcontroller with ADC capability
DHT22 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Low power consumption - Wide temperature range - High accuracy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not waterproof - Capacitive humidity sensing has limited long term stability

2.2.4 Turbidity sensor

Dandekar et al (2018) tested turbidity of water using TSD-10. Turbidity is a quantifiable reading of relative clarity of a solution optically in nephelometric turbidity units (NTU) (Turbidity and Water, n.d.). TSD-10 are typically applied in wash water of washing machines and dishwashers, so it is suitable for this research that targets residential society. It measures the amount of transmitted light and scattered light when it meets suspended particles to determine turbidity. It has a testing range of 0 NTU to 4000 NTU and wide operating temperature from $-10\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ to $90\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ (Amphenol, 2019).

Osman et al (2018) applied SEN0189 turbidity sensor by DFRobot. It has the same operating principle as that of TSD-10, except that it can be configured in analog or digital mode. Water turbidity data can be continuously logged when in analog mode. Its analog output is from 0-4.5 V and a formula is provided to convert the output to NTU unit (0-3000 NTU). It consumes more current (max 40 mA) and operates within temperatures of $5\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ to $90\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ (DFRobot, n.d.).

Table 2.3: Advantage (s) and Disadvantage (s) of Reviewed Turbidity Sensor



Turbidity sensor	Advantage (s)	Disadvantage (s)
TSD-10 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cheap - Wide operating temperature range - Wide measuring range of NTU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unable to submerge in water
SEN0189 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Can be configured into analog/ digital mode - Readily available in market 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unable to submerge in water

2.2.5 pH sensor

pH is a quantifiable reading of amount of free hydrogen and hydroxyl ions in a liquid. It is important as water that has pH lower than 7 (acidic) is likely to be contaminated and may be unsafe to drink (Cirino, 2018). Osman et al (2018) utilized PH-4502C analog pH sensor from DIYMORE. A full pH range from 0 to 14 is measurable by the sensor and it operates at temperature of 0 to 60 °C. Its probe is a hydrogen ion sensitive glass bulb and the output in mV will depend on the changes in the relative hydrogen ion concentration between internal and external of the glass bulb (Omega, n.d.). Its breakout board has a port for the BNC connection with the probe as well as a port specifically for connection of temperature sensor, DS18B20 to log the temperature (DIYMore, 2020).

Memon et al (2020) used SEN0161 analog pH meter by DFRobot that is specially designed for Arduino controllers. Powered by 5 V, it also has a measuring range of 0 to 14 pH with accuracy of ± 0.1 pH and measuring temperature of 0-60 °C. It also has BNC connector and needs to be re-calibrated in buffer solution during each use (DFRobot, n.d.).

Table 2.4: Advantage (s) and Disadvantage (s) of Reviewed pH Sensor

pH sensor	Advantage (s)	Disadvantage (s)
 <p>PH-4502C</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Low cost - Has port on breakout board to connect to DS18B20 (Temperature sensor) - Low cost (\$17.99) - Fast response time (≤ 5 s) 	-
 <p>SEN0161</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High accuracy (± 0.1 pH) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Medium cost (\$29.50) - Slower response time (≤ 60 s)

2.2.6 EC sensor

Pure water is not a good conductor of electricity. Electrical Conductivity (EC) is the measure of water's capability to carry an electric current measured in Siemens per meter [S/m] (Lenntech, n.d.). Since salts and heavy metals have high conductivity, water with high EC indicates that the water contains high concentrations of harmful substances. Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) counts the sum of ions in the liquid and its relation with EC is by $TDS \text{ (ppm)} = 1000EC \text{ (mS/cm)}$ (Lenntech, n.d.).



Osman et al (2018) deployed Atlas Scientific EZO conductivity circuit that is known for its accurate scientific-grade conductivity measurements of EC, TDS, Specific Gravity (SG) and salinity of water. The EC was read in unit of $\mu\text{S/cm}$ and TDS in ppm. It has accurate reading range of 0.07-500,000+ $\mu\text{S/cm}$ with $\pm 2\%$ accuracy and fast response time of 1 reading per sec. The resolution will automatically scale up such that it will only output first 4 digits, for example, resolution is 1.0 $\mu\text{S/cm}$ for EC of 1000-9000 $\mu\text{S/cm}$. The data protocol used is UART and I2C and it is compatible with Arduino and Raspberry Pi (AtlasScientific, n.d.).

Chen and Han (2018) applied Aqua TROLL 600 multiparameter probe that has EC sensor with measuring range of 0 to 350,000 $\mu\text{S/cm}$. The sonde will perform relevant calculations to determine TDS and salinity values from the EC value

measured (In-Situ, 2018). Then it will log the data into the internal SD card or directly send it to Wi-Fi Server using Modbus Protocol.

EC is essential for water quality parameters, but due to budget constraints not many researches applied EC nor TDS. When EC is used by the few researchers, they tend to select sophisticated, high end mutiparameter sensors to save time and improve accuracy of the readings. An EC sensor by DFRobot without any controller costs \$69.90 which is more expensive than the Atlas Scientific EZO conductivity circuit (DFRobot, n.d.).

Table 2.5: Advantage (s) and Disadvantage (s) of Reviewed EC Sensor

EC sensor	Advantage (s)	Disadvantage (s)
Atlas Scientific EZO conductivity circuit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Affordable price (\$59.99) -Wide accurate reading range (0.07 – 500,000+ $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$) - High resolution (0.1 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Resolution will change according to output value
Aqua TROLL 600 multiparameter probe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Wide accurate reading range (0 – 350,000+ $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$) - High resolution (0.1 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Extremely high cost (\$1195.00) - Industry standard, not feasible for small researches

2.3 Software

The software involved in the monitoring system includes the data transmission protocol with the respective gateway module used and cloud service provider.

2.3.1 Data transmission protocol with the respective gateway module (hardware) used

A communication protocol is a system of rules that enable two or more units (node) in a network to transmit information or data for communications purpose. There are various types of wireless communication protocols for IoT devices such as Zigbee,

Z-Wave, Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE), LoRa, Sigfox, Thread that are of low power as well as Wi-Fi and 3G/4G cellular that are of high power.

Dandekar et al (2018) employed 2G/3G communication to send the data to WWW web page written using PHP and Java SQL to display the water quality parameters. The GPRS module or gateway used was SIM800L that provides the communication has a data rate of 56kb/s – 114kb/s and can support SMS messaging and broadcasting, internet application for smart devices wirelessly and point-to-point (P2P) service.

Pasika and Gandla (2019) applied Wi-Fi using ESP8266 module that has contains Wi-Fi chip with TCP/IP stack and a microcontroller chip. It uses Rx and Tx serial transceiver pins to receive data from Arduino Mega (core controller) and send data over Wi-Fi to the IoT application via SPI and UART.

Faustine et al (2014) used WSN RF transceiver based on Zigbee communication because it is low cost consumes little power at data rate of 250kbps at 2.4 GHz. A wireless connection between WSN sensor nodes and WSN gateway node is achievable by applying XBee Pro Series 2 module from Digi. The operation mode is in a point to multipoint topology due to its low latency between remote WSN sensor nodes and gateway node.

Liu et al (2018) used LoRa module to send data packets from end node sensors to the gateway wirelessly, then gateway undergoes LoRaWAN communication layer to the central server over a backbone IP-based network. LoRa is suitable for outdoor IoT applications that requires long range communications and low power.

2.3.2 Cloud Server

Pasika and Gandla (2019) used ThingSpeak server that collects data from end node sensors via ESP8266 and display them over the application. It enables the data to be reviewed for analysing historical data in software environment and interpreted with MATLAB code.

Budiatri et al (2019) built a Python-based MQTT2DB application to allow the data to be sent to this database using MQTT protocols. A web-based UI was created using PHP and HighChart Javascript to display graphs of live sensor data.

Liu et al (2018) used MQTT Broker as the protocol to send data from gateway to MongoDB cloud database. The backend network is Node.js and the cloud database design was written using HTML, JavaScript, CSS and Bootstrap.

2.4 Summary of Literature Review of Internet of Things Based Water Quality Monitoring System from Different Author (s)

Table 2.6: Comparison of system architectures for water quality monitoring systems

Authors	Parameters	MCU and wireless module	Power Supply	Data logging interval	Potential Application Scenario	Special features
Liu et al (2018)	Temperature, turbidity, pH, conductivity	Arduino Pro Mini, LoRa module	Solar	30 minutes	Fresh water sources such as rivers, streams, lakes	Sleep-Awake mode
Jerom, Manimegalai and Ilayaraja (2020)	DO, temperature, humidity, pH, CO2, soil moisture	NodeMCU ESP8266	Battery	1 hour	Surface water (rivers, streams, lakes)	-Sleep-Awake mode -Deep learning algorithm to process and send only significant change in data to database
Budiarti et al (2019)	YSI 600R multiparameter (Turbidity,	Raspberry Pi 3 Model B	Adapter Input 5 Volt and 12 Volt.	24 hours	River water source (At the intake are on the water gate)	-Web Scraping technique to obtain passive

	chlorine, TSS, pH, DO) WTW IQ SensorNet 2020 XT (passive sensor)					sensor data
Dandekar et al (2018)	Turbidity, pH, temperature, conductivity	ARM 7 LPC2148, SIM800L(GPRS)	Solar, Backup battery	Unknown	Residential Society, Hospitals, Chemical Laboratories and Agricultural Purposes	Unknown
Chowdury et al (2019)	pH, turbidity, temperature, conductivity, flow	Arduino Mega, ESP8266	Unknown	Unknown	River water and reservoir at remote places	Artificial neural networks for the prediction of water quality parameters
Memon et al (2020)	pH, turbidity, temperature, ultrasonic	WeMos D1 with built-in Wi-Fi	Micro USB 5VDC	5 minutes to 1 hour (Depending on different sensors)	Drinking water (industry, home, shopping mall, campus and	Unknown

					laboratory)	
Das and Jain (2017)	pH, conductivity, temperature	LPC2148, ESP8266	Power supply adapter	Unknown	River water	Unknown
Kawarkhe and Agrawal (2019)	Temperature, pH and flow	GSM	Battery	Unknown	Residential water tanks	SMS to alert when values not within specified range
Pasika and Gandla (2019)	Turbidity, pH, temperature, ultrasonic	Arduino Mega, NodeMCU ESP8266	Adapter	10 seconds	Residential water storage tank	Unknown
Madhavireddy and Koteswarrao	pH, water level, CO2, temperature	ESP8266	Adapter	1 minute	Drinking water	Unknown
Jia et al (2017)	oxidation reduction, temperature, conductivity, pH and light and oxygen	myRIO ship controller, TOOM wireless communication	12V battery	24 hours	Surface water (rivers, streams, lakes)	Smart unmanned ship with GPS and video surveillance to cruise along the lake

Chen and Han (2018)	Multiparameter (Temperature, pH, DO, salinity, ORP, turbidity)	None (using multiparameter sonde), USB serial to Wi-Fi Server	50W solar panel, 2 internal D-cell alkaline battery	15 minutes	Surface water in smart city	Video surveillance and smart probe without external microcontroller
Sabari et al (2020)	Turbidity, pH, temperature, flow	Arduino Mega, ESP8266	Power supply	Unknown	Pollution control and agriculture.	
Pande, Warhade and Komati (2017)	Turbidity, pH, temperature, water level	WeMos D1 with built-in Wi-Fi	Unknown	Unknown	Smart cities, big housing societies and water storage tanks at the top of building	Has motor to refill water tank when water level is below threshold
Osman et al (2018)	pH, turbidity, conductivity, temperature	Arduino UNO, Serial communication (UART) to computer	Power supply	11 hours	Unknown	Buzzer notification whenever the value of a water quality parameter exceeds the safe ranges

Faustine et al (2014)	pH, DO, EC, temperature	Arduino Mega, XBee, SIM900	3.7 V 6 AH rechargeable polymer lithium ion battery, 10 W solar panel	20 minutes	Surface water (rivers, streams, lakes)	Sleep mode
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CHAPTER 3

METHODOLOGY AND WORK PLAN

3.1 Project Planning and Milestones

Final year project is divided into two stages in which Part 1 is on background research, prototype design and preliminary data carried out in May 2020 trimester whereas Part 2 is on development of fully functional prototype with completed software, cloud server platform and mobile app (GUI) carried out in Jan 2021 trimester.

In FYP1, problem statement and objectives were defined based on the project title. A complete background research was executed to identify problem statement and objectives. Then, literature review was carried out for seven weeks to gather information on the methodologies used by other researchers to monitor water quality and allow the data to be uploaded to Internet and be visible to other users remotely. A first stage prototype was developed to be used for preliminary testing and data gathering. The data was analysed and problems encountered during the process were evaluated and solutions were suggested to resolve them.

In FYP2, the hardware devices, programming language, cloud server platform and GUI to view the logged data were finalized before proceeding to build a fully functional prototype. Since there were changes in the system architecture, the new circuit was designed and the hardware devices were connected using jumper wires and breadboard. The hardware was tested with the relevant code while the code was continuously being modified. The data uploading and user request functions were later combined with the code and tested numerous times to ensure they work properly as desired. Then, the finalized circuit design was designed using Eagle software, followed by design of Printed Circuit Board (PCB). Due to Movement Control Order, the PCB was fabricated from home and the hardware components were soldered onto the PCB. Tests and debugging process were carried out and after ensuring the hardware and software design work as preferred, the float where all the hardware components are placed were designed using Solidworks.

3.2 System Architecture Block Diagram

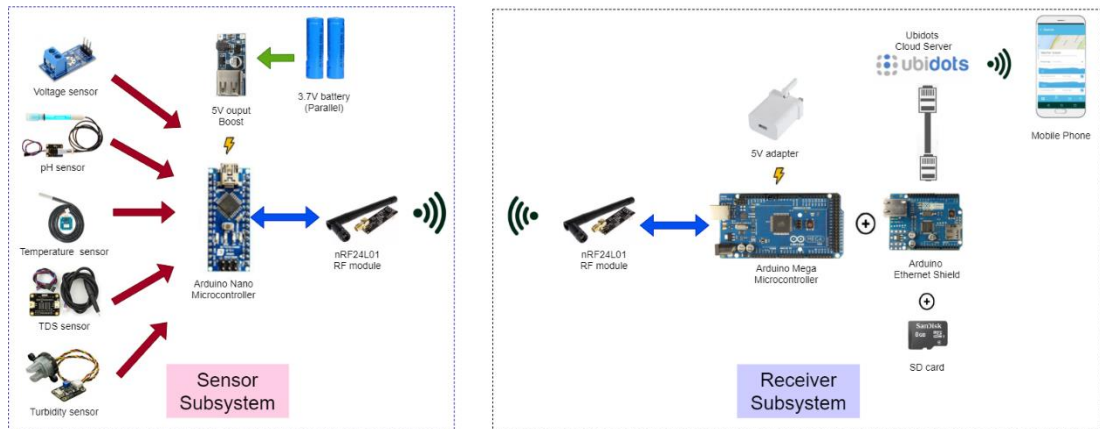


Figure 3.1: Block Diagram of Water Quality Monitoring System

Based on Figure 3.1, the system consists of two subsystems in which each subsystem is controlled by its own microcontroller, Arduino Nano and Arduino Uno respectively. This is because the subsystem that is responsible for measuring water quality parameters will be placed in water storage tank that is typically placed on rooftop of building or remote area where wired connection to the Internet is not possible. This subsystem is called the sensor subsystem in which it is responsible for collecting water quality parameters using sensor and then communicate and send the collected data to the other subsystem (receiver) via wireless radio frequency. The receiver side subsystem would be placed indoor close to a router in which the Arduino Ethernet shield would function as a gateway to upload the received data to a cloud server platform.

The sensor subsystem uses Arduino Nano as the microcontroller and there will be four sensors: pH sensor, temperature sensor, TDS sensor, turbidity sensors to log the water quality parameters and a voltage sensor will be added to monitor the voltage level of the batteries used to power the subsystem. Two 3.7V lithium ion rechargeable batteries arranged in parallel connection are used to power this subsystem. A boost converter is applied to step up the battery voltage to 5V as 5V is the operating voltage of Arduino Nano and other sensors. After logging all five data, nRF24L01 (RF) module will transmit the data to the receiver subsystem. Then, it will enter listening mode to wait for any user requests from receiver subsystem and return

to writing mode when the next log cycle is reached. The process will be repeated as long as the subsystem is powered.

In the receiver subsystem, the microcontroller used is Arduino Mega and it is connected to a gateway module which is Arduino Ethernet shield. This shield is connected to the router via an RJ45 cable. This subsystem is always listening to data from sensor subsystem and if there is data, it will upload the data to the cloud platform. Ubidots cloud server is used as it provides simple and secure connection during real-time transmission and receiving data from the cloud. An SD card is used to store the logged data temporarily in case of interrupted internet connection and the microcontroller will upload the stored data when internet connection is available. Whenever user requests to log real time data or change time interval to log the data, user may make these requests on the Ubidots App using mobile devices or Ubidots website. The receiver subsystem will constantly check the cloud for these user requests and send them to sensor subsystem via RF module. This subsystem is powered by 5V power supply using an adapter.

3.3 Solution Selection

3.3.1 Arduino Nano

The microcontroller used in sensor subsystem is Arduino Nano as shown in Figure 3.2 which has ATmega 328 as the core controller. Arduino Nano is selected because it is much smaller (18 x 45 mm) but has similar functions as compared to an Arduino Uno. Arduino Nano has 14 digital I/O pins and 8 analog pins which can meet the I/O requirements (4 analog, 1 digital) of this project. It outputs 5V, so all four sensors used to collect water quality parameters could be directly powered by it without any external power source. It runs at 16 MHz clock speed and has a flash memory of 32 KB that is enough for the program code of the subsystem. The maximum DC current per I/O pin is 40 mA. The Arduino Nano works with a Mini-B USB cable instead of a standard one. The reason for selecting Arduino Nano is due to its small size, and since Arduino is an open source platform, it has many libraries available online for sensors like TDS sensor and temperature sensor that could greatly reduce development time. Arduino Nano also supports wide range of communication protocols such as UART, SPI and I2C.

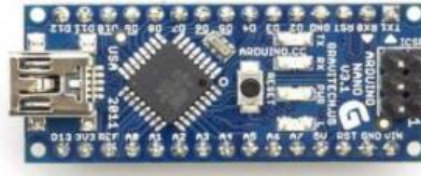


Figure 3.2: Arduino Nano (Elektorstore, n.d.)

3.3.2 pH Sensor

Figure 3.3 shows the pH sensor used with model name of pH Sensor Module V1.1. This sensor has an operating voltage of 5V and response time of less than 1 minute. The accuracy is ± 0.1 pH at 25 °C which makes it ideal for this project as the pH of water is critical and any change will affect the water quality. The measuring temperature ranges from 0 to 60 °C. Its laboratory-grade probe is made up of a pH glass electrode and a silver chloride silver reference electrode that can be used to measure the pH value of aqueous solution from 0 to 14. When the probe is immersed into water, hydrogen ions in the water exchange for other positively charged ions on the glass bulb and thus an electrochemical potential is created across the bulb. The electronic amplifier in the breakout board detects the difference in electrical potential between the two electrodes generated and amplify the output analog signal, so the pin needs to be connected to the analog pin of microcontroller for analog to digital conversion. A formula is applied to convert the digital millivolt to pH units.



Figure 3.3: pH sensor (Model: PH Sensor Module V1.1) (Banggood, n.d.)

3.3.3 TDS Sensor

Figure 3.4 shows the Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) sensor used in the project with the model name of SKU:SEN0244 from DFRobot. It measures the total concentration of dissolved content including inorganic and organic substances in

water. This sensor is applicable in domestic water, hydroponics and other fields where cleanliness of water is concerned. TDS is an important water parameter as high concentration of dissolved solids could mean there are harmful contaminants from human activities like iron, manganese, bromide, arsenic and sulphate. This sensor can operate from 3.3 V to 5.5 V and has an analog voltage output of 0 to 2.3 V. The AC signal avoids the probe from polarization and therefore could ensure long lasting of the probe and stability of output. It has a measuring range of 0 to 1000 ppm with an accuracy of $\pm 10\%$ full scale reading at liquid temperature of 25 °C.



Figure 3.4: TDS sensor (Model: SKU:SEN0244) (DFRobot, 2020b)

3.3.4 Turbidity Sensor

Figure 3.5 shows the turbidity sensor used in this project with model name of SKU: SEN0189 from DFRobot. Turbidity is the optical characteristic or measurement of a liquid's Total Suspended Solids (TSS). This sensor can be configured to display measurement in analog output (0 - 4.5 V) or in digital output (high or low level signal). In this project, analog output is used so a conversion to digital signal is required. The operating voltage is 5 V with response time of less than 550 ms. The sensor works by projecting a light and measuring the amount of light transmittance and scattering rate. The units of turbidity is in Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU). A low light transmittance indicates that the water is very cloudy and the output voltage would be low. Formula is provided by the manufacturer to convert the measured output voltage into units of NTU. This sensor can operate in water temperature from 5 °C to 90°C. The top of the probe is not waterproof so only the bottom part of probe is submerged in the water.



Figure 3.5: Turbidity sensor (Model name: SKU: SEN0189) (DFRobot, 2020d)

3.3.5 Temperature Sensor

Figure 3.6 shows the temperature sensor used with the model name of DS18B20 from Maxim Integrated. It is used due to its ability to be submerged fully in water at long hours coupled with its programmable capability with 9-bit to 12-bit resolution that makes it ideal for IoT system without requiring external components. It is a direct-to-digital sensor with temperature range of $-55\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ to $125\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ and accuracy of $\pm 0.5\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$.



Figure 3.6: Temperature sensor (Model: DS18B20) (Ebay, 2021)

3.3.5 Voltage Sensor

Figure 3.7 shows the voltage sensor used for measuring the voltage of batteries used in the system. This sensor works based on voltage divider circuit that consists of two resistors of resistances $30\text{ k}\Omega$ and $7.5\text{ k}\Omega$ respectively. The sensor's interface with Arduino is through analog pin.



Figure 3.7: Voltage sensor (Osoyoo, 2018)

3.3.6 Arduino Mega 2560

Figure 3.8 shows the microcontroller used in the receiver subsystem. The Arduino Mega is based on the ATmega2560. This board has 54 digital I/O pins, 16 analog inputs and 4 UART ports. It operates at 5V, and can have an input voltage of 6-20V. Arduino Mega can be powered up by direct connection to USB cable (computer or AC-to-DC adapter), DC power jack or via Vin power pin from batteries. The maximum DC current per I/O pin is 20mA. The reason for selecting this device instead of Arduino Uno is because of its 256KB flash memory that is sufficient to store the program code for the receiver subsystem. It is also compatible with the Arduino Ethernet shield. The Arduino Mega has 4 KB EEPROM, 8 KB SRAM and runs at a clock speed of 16 MHz.



Figure 3.8: Arduino Mega (Arduino store, n.d.)

3.3.7 Arduino Ethernet Shield

This shield as shown in Figure 3.9 is used as the gateway module for Arduino Mega to connect to the Internet. An RJ45 network cable is used to connect the shield to the router to provide Local Area Network (LAN) access. This is called Ethernet connection where data transmission is through network cable, unlike Wi-Fi that is wireless which allows Internet access while users could move freely around a space. Ethernet is selected in this project because the receiver subsystem responsible for data uploading to the cloud is designed to be placed indoor and therefore it is not necessary to move the subsystem around the indoor area to connect to the Wi-Fi. On top of that, Ethernet offers greater speed with faster data transfer and more secured connection with less interference.

The shield operates in 5 V and is based on the Wiznet W5100 ethernet chip with internal 16K buffer that is capable of providing TCP and UDP. It has a

connection speed of 10 or 100Mb and the communication protocol with Arduino Uno is SPI. Another advantage of this shield is that it has an onboard micro-SD card slot which eliminates the need for external SD shield like other development boards like ESP32. The SD library is also available and since the SD card shares the SPI bus with Arduino Mega, only one could be active at the same time.

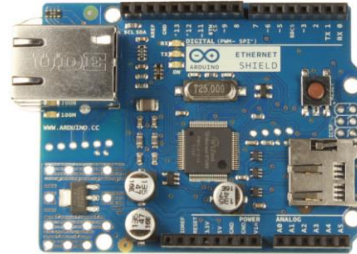


Figure 3.9: Arduino Ethernet Shield (Distrelec, n.d.)

3.3.8 Radio-Frequency Transceiver Module

Figure 3.10 shows the nRF24L01 RF transceiver module used for the wireless communication between the sensor subsystem and the receiver subsystem. This module operates in free license 2.4G ISM band (2400MHz ~ 2524MHz), and can be configured into point to point application (125 different independent channels at one place) or star network (6 networks at a time). The operating voltage ranges from 2.7 V to 3.6 V and the operating current ranges from 7.0 mA to 12.3 mA depending on the RF output power. This variation of the nRF24L01 module has a duck antenna and an RFX2401C chip that has PA (Power Amplifier) and LNA (Low-Noise Amplifier). The amplification of the RF signal has allowed much better transmission range of up to 1000 meters in open space.



Figure 3.10: RF transceiver module (Elecrow, 2020)

3.4 Solution Selection (Software)

3.4.1 Arduino IDE

Figure 3.11 shows the snapshot of Arduino Integrated Development Environment (IDE). It is an open source cross-platform application for operating systems like Windows, Linux or MAC that allows code to be written in C or C++ programming. The IDE allows code to be edited, compiled and uploaded to the microcontroller. The main code (sketch) when compiled, will generate a Hex file which contains all instructions that are understood by the microcontroller. Two separate sketches (sensor subsystem and receiver subsystem) are to be written and uploaded to each subsystem.

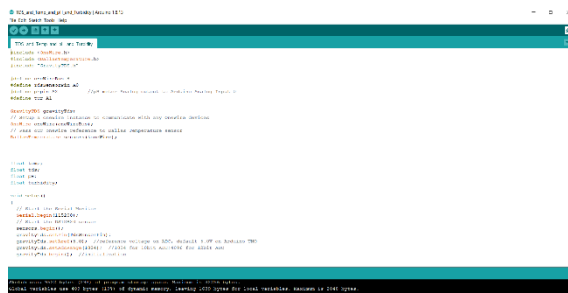


Figure 3.11: Snapshot of Arduino IDE

3.4.2 Proteus

Figure 3.12 shows the snapshot of Proteus. It is a software that can perform circuit schematic, simulation and Printed Circuit Board (PCB) designing. It will be used in to design the schematic for the receiver subsystem.

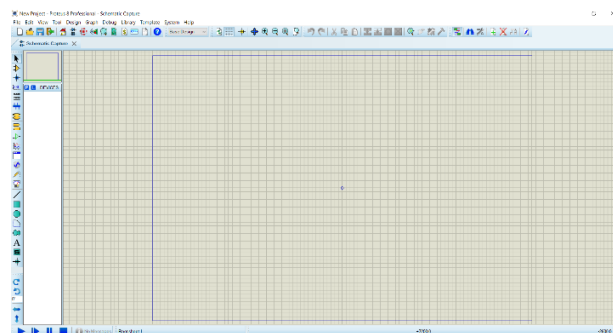


Figure 3.12: Snapshot of Proteus

3.4.3 Eagle

Figure 3.13 shows the snapshot of Eagle software. Eagle is a software that lets PCB designers connect schematic diagrams, component placement, PCB routing, and comprehensive library content. It will be used in designing the schematic and PCB of the sensor subsystem.

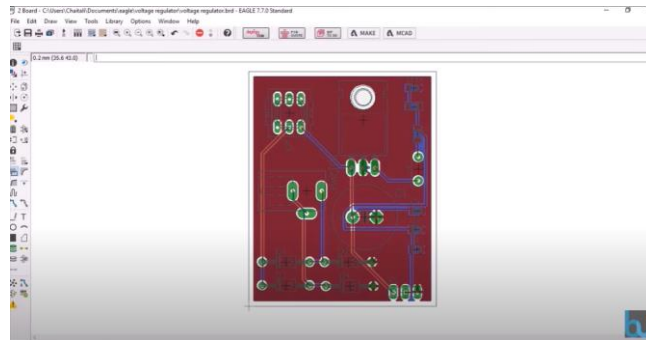


Figure 3.13: Snapshot of Eagle

3.4.4 Solidworks

Figure 3.14 shows the snapshot of Solidworks software. Solidworks is used to design the float platform and the base for the casing of hardware devices for sensor subsystem. Before designing, calculations are computed to determine the size of the float platform.

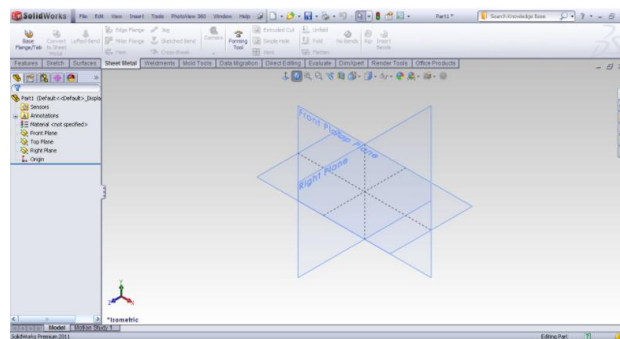


Figure 3.14: Snapshot of Solidworks

3.4.5 Ubidots Cloud Server

Figure 3.15 shows the snapshot of data displayed on the Ubidots cloud server. This cloud platform is chosen because it supports HTTP/MQTT/TCP/UDP protocols and provides simple, secured data sending and uploading as well as interactive visualisations (widgets). Furthermore, the capacity for free version (4000 dots per day for data ingestion and 50,000 dots per day for data extraction) is sufficient for the water quality monitoring system to work as required. This cloud provides two types of data representation, i.e. static dashboard and dynamic dashboard. Static dashboards display the data obtained from predetermined devices and variables, whereas dynamic dashboard is used for Human Machine Interface (HMI) where users can input control or modify parameters of the system remotely via the cloud without physically interfering with the system. Ubidots cloud also has alert features like SMS, email, voice call or Telegram notifications that will be triggered when the event conditions predefined are met.

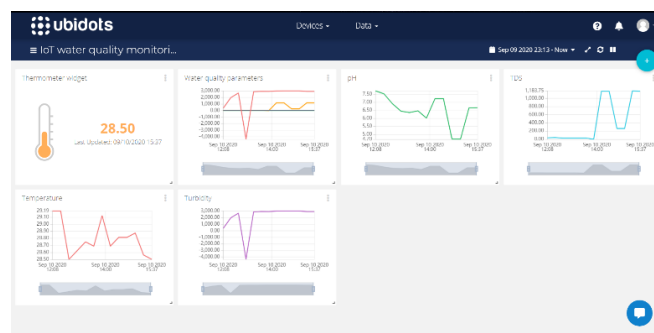


Figure 3.15: Snapshot of Ubidots Cloud Server

3.4.6 Ubidots Android Mobile App

Figure 3.16 shows the snapshot of Ubidots mobile application. Ubidots Android Mobile App is a GUI that allows users to remotely view the system data in graphical format as well as input to control and modify the settings of system provided that internet connection is available.

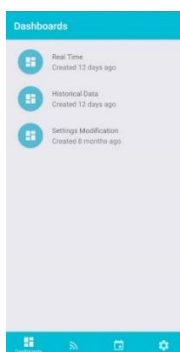


Figure 3.16: Snapshot of Ubidots Dashboard in Mobile App

3.5 Hardware design

3.5.1 Circuit Diagram and Pin Connection

Table 3.3 shows the pin connections for both sensor and receiver subsystems while Table 3.4 shows how each sensor module is powered based on its operating voltage and current. For sensor subsystem, Arduino Nano, pH, temperature, TDS and turbidity are required to be powered by 5 V, while the nRF101 is powered by 3.3 V. The operating voltages and currents by each sensor module is tabulated in Table 3.4. Arduino Nano is powered by two 3.7 V 18650 lithium ion batteries arranged in parallel via a 5 V USB boost converter. This boost converter can output a stable 5 V to Arduino Nano with a maximum output current of 600 mA to ensure the board functions properly. The parallel connection of batteries are used to increase the amp-hour capacity so the system could be powered longer. For receiver subsystem, Arduino Mega is powered by a 5 V adapter through the USB mini-B port.

To save battery and reduce power consumption, all sensors are not turned on the whole time so they are not directly connected to 5V pins. They will only be turned on when taking reading of the water quality. Turbidity and pH sensors are powered by IRF520N MOSFETs. This is because their operating currents are higher than what the Arduino Nano digital output pins could provide (40mA maximum), so they cannot be powered by digital I/O pins directly. Based on the datasheet of IRF520N, only 2V is required at the gate (V_{GS}) to fully turn on the MOSFET. According to Appendixes Figure A-1, the graph shows that with 5V gate voltage, it is able to deliver about 4A which is enough to turn on the sensors. Resistors of 100 Ω

are placed in series with the gate pins of both MOSFETs to limit the current to the gate since Arduino digital I/O pins can only source a maximum of 40 mA to the gate.

On the other hand, temperature and TDS sensors consume less currents and can be powered by the digital I/O pins (D2 and D4) of Arduino Nano respectively. This not only saves space to achieve small solution, but also saves costs as MOSFETs are not needed. Next, two 100 μ F decoupling capacitors are used across the power supply line (VCC and GND) of nRF24L01 modules for both subsystems to smoothen and eliminate power supply noises as RF signals are very sensitive to these noises. Figure 3.17 shows the schematic diagram of sensor subsystem while Figure 3.18 illustrates the schematic diagram of receiver subsystem. The schematic for sensor subsystem is drawn using Eagle software because PCB will be designed from the schematic. Eagle has all the necessary libraries for the components used. However, the receiver subsystem does not require fabrication of PCB so its schematic is drawn using Proteus for better illustration as compared to that of Eagle. The connection between the Arduino Ethernet shield and Arduino Mega is not shown in the schematic as they are compatible such that the Ethernet shield can be plugged onto the Mega board directly.

Table 3.3: Pin connections between Arduino boards and modules

Module	Module Pins	Arduino Pins
pH sensor	Power pin Data pin GND pin	5V (Nano) A0 Drain (MOSFET)
Temperature sensor	Power pin Data pin GND pin	D2 (Nano) D3 (Nano) GND (Nano)
TDS sensor	Power pin Data pin GND pin	D4 (Nano) A1 (Nano) GND (Nano)
Turbidity sensor	Power pin Data pin GND pin	5V (Nano) A2 (Nano) Drain (MOSFET)

Voltage sensor	Analog Pin GND pin	A3 (Nano) GND (Nano)
nRF24L01	Power pin GND pin CE pin CSN pin SCK pin MOSI pin MISO pin	3.3V GND D7 D8 D13(Nano)/D52(Mega) D11(Nano)/D51(Mega) D12(Nano)/D50(Mega)

Table 3.4: Operating voltage and current of each sensor module and its powering method

Module	Operating Voltage (DC)	Operating Current	Powered by (Output voltage, Max current)
pH sensor	5V	8.88mA (rms)	5V pin (5V, 200mA)
Temperature sensor	3 - 5V	0.54mA	Digital Pin (5V, 40mA)
TDS sensor	3.3 – 5.5V	3 – 6mA	Digital Pin (5V, 40mA)
Turbidity sensor	5V	40mA (max)	5V pin (5V, 200mA)
nRF24L01	3.3VDC	30mA	3.3V Pin (3.3V, 50mA)

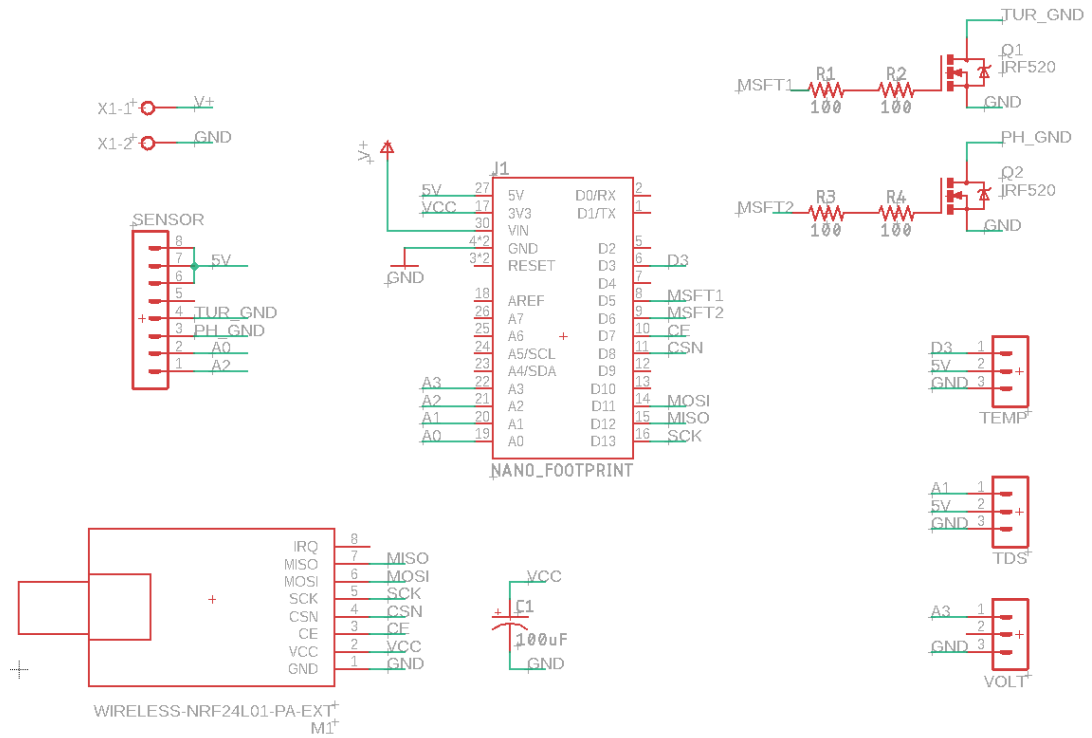


Figure 3.17: Schematic of sensor subsystem of IoT Water Quality Monitoring System

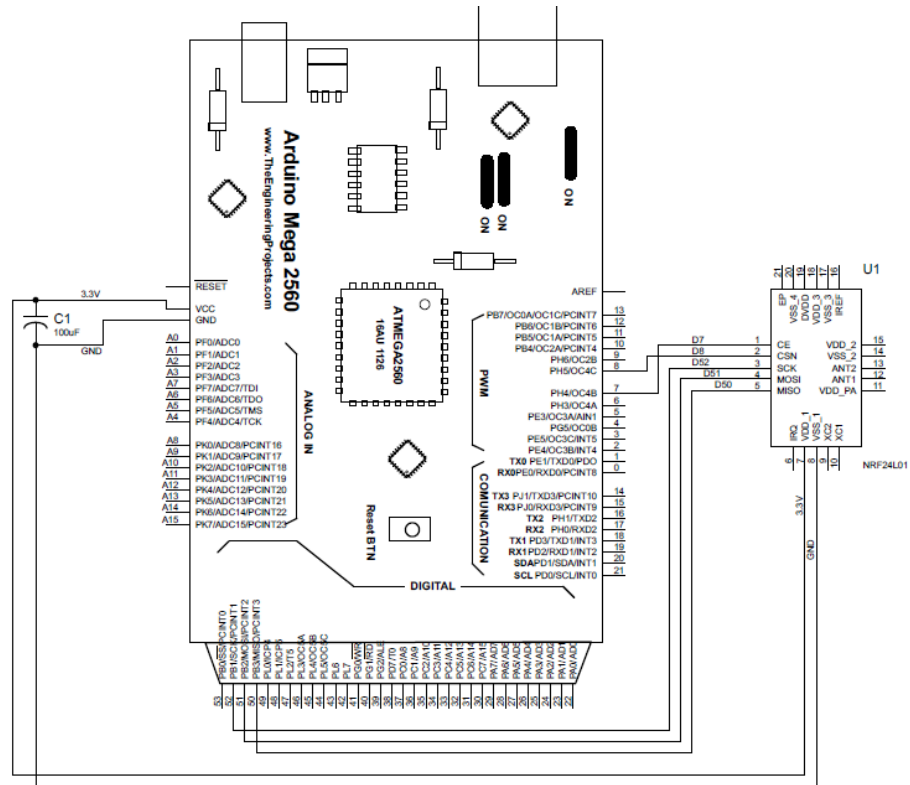


Figure 3.18: Schematic of receiver subsystem of IoT Water Quality Monitoring System

3.5.2 PCB Design

Figure 3.19 shows the PCB layout of the sensor subsystem. The size of the PCB is 10cm by 6 cm. The red route represents the top layer routing while the blue route represents the bottom routing. This view shows placement of each component and connections with the Arduino Nano. Next, Figure 3.20 shows the top layer and bottom layer of the fabricated PCB. The smeared dirt marks on the surface are due to remaining ink from laser printer after performing the heat transfer method instead of the chemical method used in the laboratory. Figure 3.21 shows the PCB with components soldered on it.

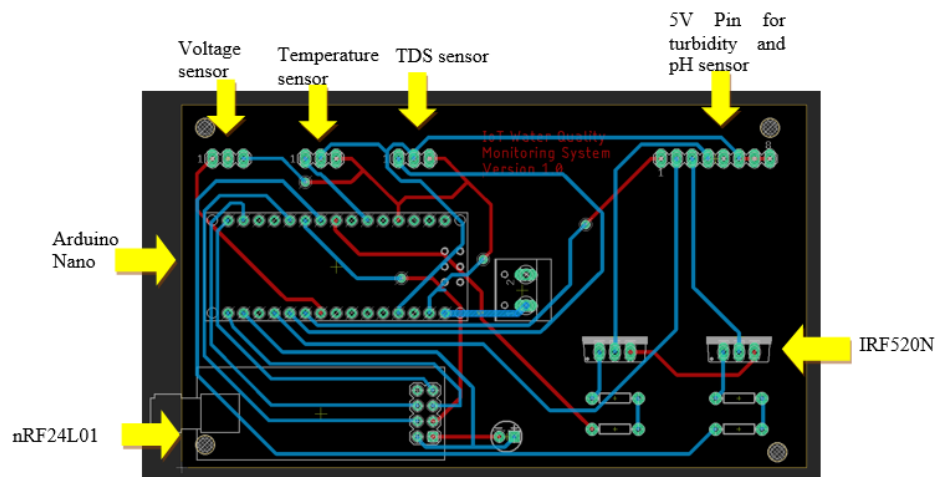


Figure 3.19: PCB Layout of Sensor subsystem

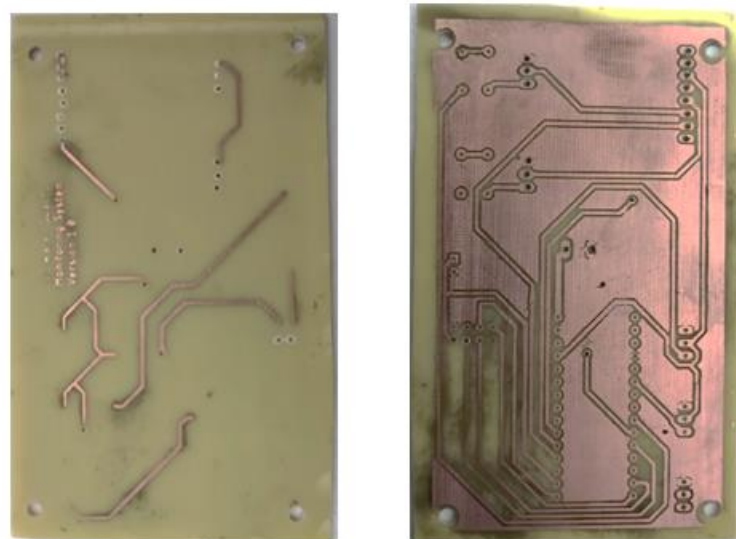


Figure 3.20: PCB Top View (Left) and Bottom View (Right)

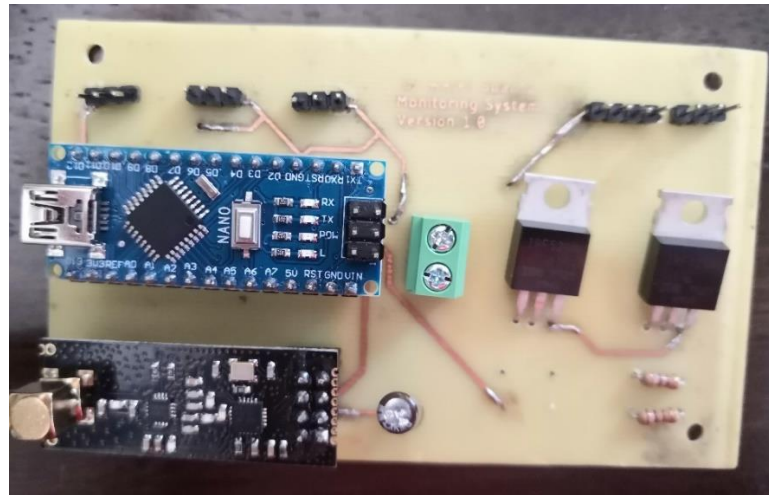


Figure 3.21: PCB with components soldered

3.5.3 Float design

A float where all the hardware components are placed above it so that the whole prototype could float on the water surface of the water storage tank is designed using Solidworks as shown in Figure 3.22. The float will be made from PVC pipes of diameter 5 cm. An acrylic sheet of dimension 29.7 cm by 42 cm will be placed above the float to support the junction box (IP65 rating: Water resistant) of dimension 16 x 13.5 x 7.7 cm that stores all electronic components. The 3D CAD model of the entire sensor subsystem is shown in Figure 3.23. To ensure that the designed float can indeed float perfectly on the water surface, calculations are performed based on the Archimedes' principle to determine if the planned dimensions of the PVC pipe can generate enough buoyant force. The calculations are shown in the following page.

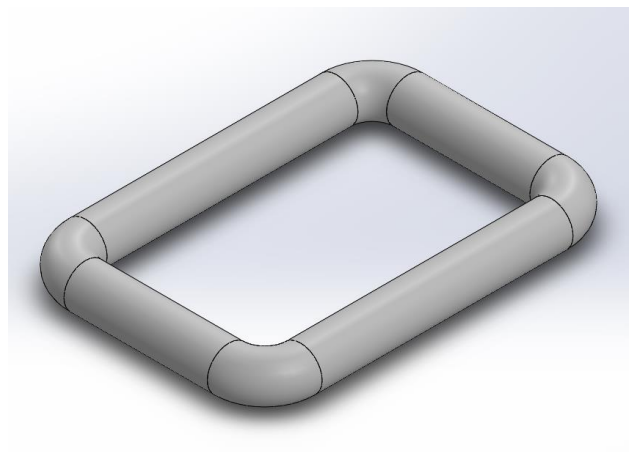


Figure 3.22: PVC Pipe Float Design

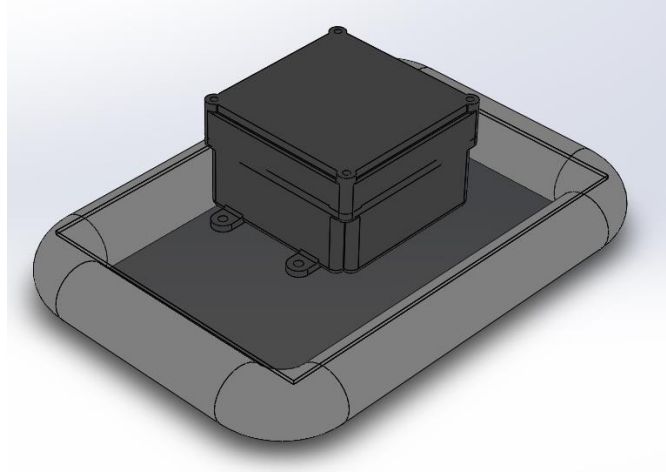


Figure 3.23: Sensor Subsystem Design

$$\rho_{\text{acrylic sheet}} = 1.18\text{g/cm}^3$$

$$\rho_{\text{PVC}} = 1.38\text{g/cm}^3$$

$$\rho_{\text{water}} = 1\text{g/cm}^3$$

$$\rho_{\text{acrylic}} = 1.18\text{g/cm}^3$$

$$\rho_{\text{air @ } 30^\circ\text{C}} = 0.0011644\text{g/cm}^3$$

Length of PVC float = 47cm

Width of PVC float = 35cm

Inner diameter of PVC pipe = 5cm

Outer diameter of PVC pipe = 6.03cm

Acrylic sheet (A3 size) (L×W×H) = 42cm×29.7cm×0.4cm

Assuming the entire PVC float is made up of 4 cylindrical pipes (2 long and 2 short) and ignoring the 90° PVC elbow in calculation, and since the PVC pipe is hollow,

$$\begin{aligned} V_{\text{float}} &= 2(\pi r_{\text{outer}}^2 h_{\text{length}} - \pi r_{\text{inner}}^2 h_{\text{length}}) + 2(\pi r_{\text{outer}}^2 h_{\text{width}} - \pi r_{\text{inner}}^2 h_{\text{width}}) \\ &= 2 [\pi h_{\text{length}}(r_{\text{outer}}^2 - r_{\text{inner}}^2)] + 2 [\pi h_{\text{width}}(r_{\text{outer}}^2 - r_{\text{inner}}^2)] \\ &= 2[(\pi \times 47) (3.015^2 - 2.5^2)] + 2[(\pi \times 22.94) (3.015^2 - 2.5^2)] \\ &= 1248.13\text{cm}^3 \end{aligned}$$

Volume of air contained in PVC pipe

$$\begin{aligned} &= 2 [\pi h_{\text{length}} r_{\text{inner}}^2] + 2 [\pi h_{\text{width}} r_{\text{inner}}^2] \\ &= 2[(\pi \times 47) (2.5^2)] + 2[(\pi \times 22.94) (2.5^2)] \\ &= 2746.54\text{cm}^3 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Mass of acrylic sheet} &= \rho_{\text{acrylic}} V_{\text{acrylic}} \\
 &= 1.18(29.7 \times 42 \times 0.4) \\
 &= 588.77\text{g}
 \end{aligned}$$

Measured mass of junction box (with electronic components) = 650g

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Total mass of load} &= 588.77\text{g} + 650\text{g} \\
 &= 1238.77\text{g} \\
 &= \mathbf{1.24\text{kg}}
 \end{aligned}$$

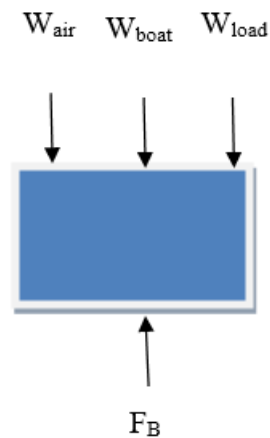


Figure 3.24: Free Body Diagram of Sensor Subsystem

Figure 3.24 above shows the free body diagram of the the sensor subsystem and the maximum mass of load that can be supported by the designed float platform is calculation based on the equilibrium of forces as shown below.

$$\Sigma F = 0$$

$$F_B - W_{\text{float}} - W_{\text{air}} - W_{\text{Load}} = 0$$

Just before the PVC float is fully submerged, volume of water displaced = $V_{\text{PVC}} + V_{\text{air}}$

$$F_B - W_{\text{float}} - W_{\text{air}} = W_{\text{Load}}$$

$$F_B/g - m_{\text{float}} - m_{\text{air}} = m_{\text{Load}}$$

$$\rho_{\text{water}} \times (V_{\text{float}} + V_{\text{air}}) - \rho_{\text{PVC}} V_{\text{float}} - \rho_{\text{air}} V_{\text{air}} = m_{\text{Load}}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 m_{\text{Load}} &= 1(1248.13 + 2746.54) - 1.38(1248.13) - 0.0011644(2746.54) \\
 &= 2269.05\text{g} \approx 2.27\text{kg}
 \end{aligned}$$

The mass of load that can be sustained without sinking is 2.27kg, but the actual measured mass of load is 1.24kg. Therefore, the designed PVC float is more than enough to sustain the weight of load without submerging.

3.6 Software Development

3.6.1 Overall Program Flow Chart

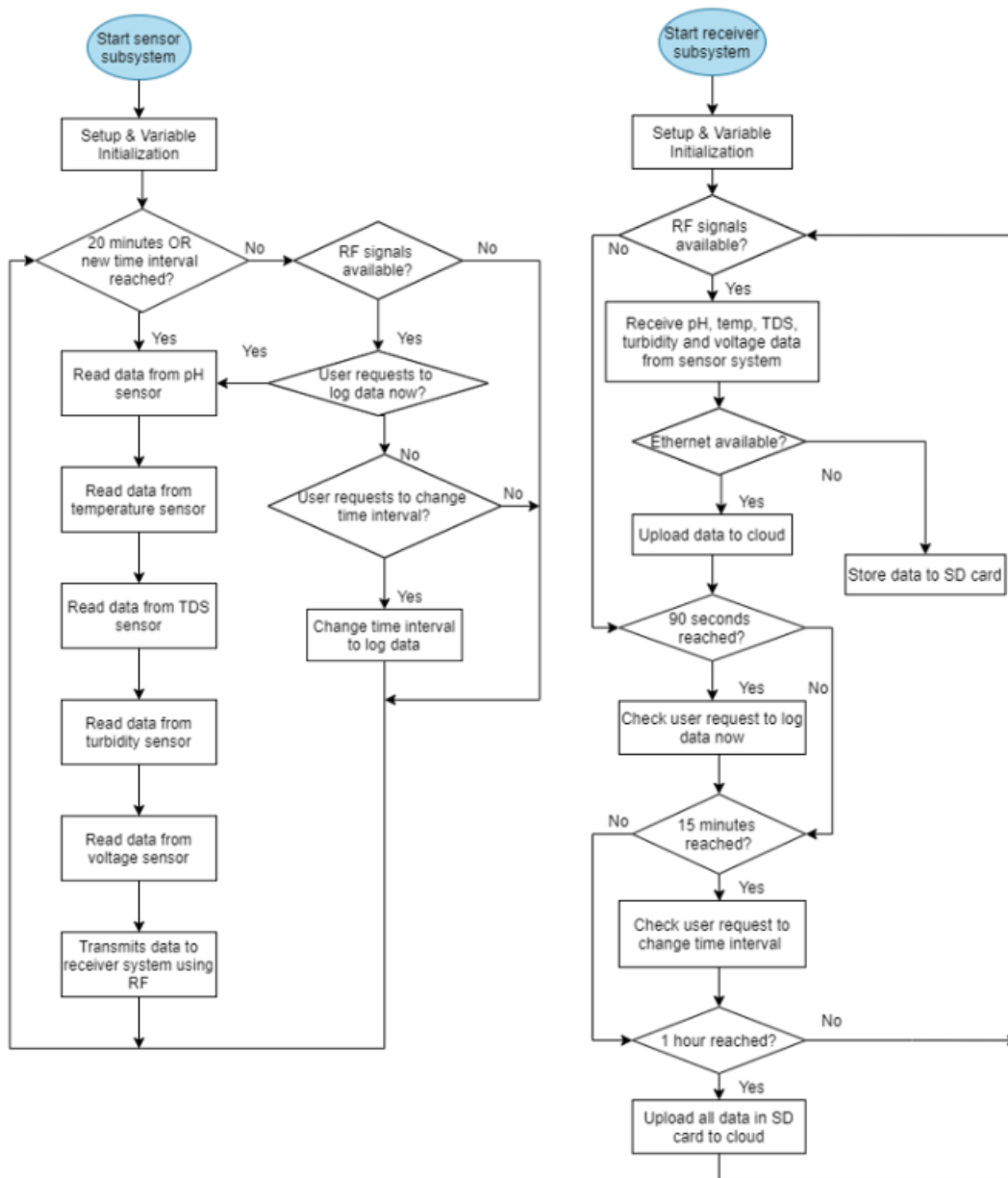


Figure 3.25: Water quality monitoring system flowchart

Figure 3.25 shows the logic flow of the water quality monitoring system for water storage tank. The left side of the flowchart represents that of sensor subsystem while the right side of the flowchart represents that of receiver subsystem. Both subsystems would begin with setting up when the microcontrollers are powered up such as initialization of sensor power and pins, initialization of RF modules, Ethernet, Ubidots cloud and SD card.

The sensor subsystem would then begin polling where the microcontroller would check if 20 minutes is reached using counter. If so, it would turn on the sensors one by one and take reading. When all five sensors have taken the reading, the RF module would enter writing mode and transmits all data to the receiver system. Once all data has been transmitted, the RF module would return to listening mode where it would wait for any signals from receiver system to update user requests like log real time data or change time interval to log data. If there is a change in time interval, the 20 minutes counter would be replaced with the new time interval. The program would continue polling from the beginning.

On the other hand, the receiver subsystem also begin polling where the RF module would listen for any data transmitted from sensor subsystem. If so, the microcontroller would check if Ethernet connection is available. If it is available, it would upload the data the Ubidots cloud. If not, it would store the data into SD card. Then, the microcontroller would return to the loop and check the cloud if user has requested to log real time data. This operation would be repeated every 90 seconds. Next, there would be a counter to count for every 15 minutes to check for user request to change time interval. Lastly, if 1 hour has reached, the microcontroller would check if there is any data stored in the SD card. If so, it would read the SD card and upload the data to Ubidots cloud provided there is Ethernet connection.

3.6.2 Sensor Subsystem

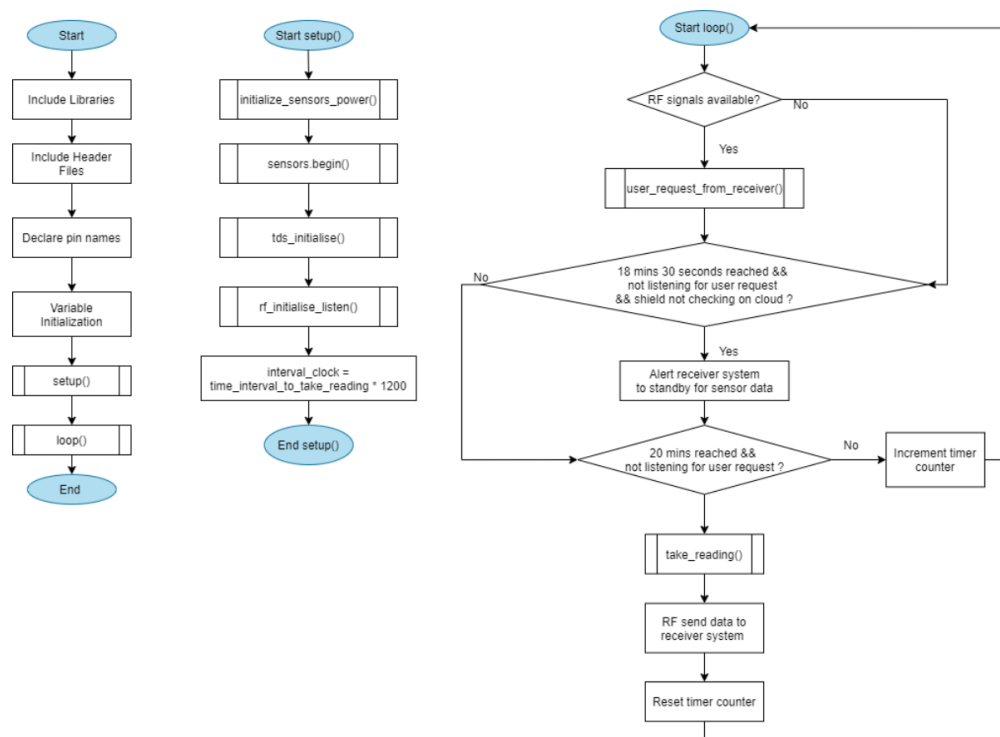


Figure 3.26: Arduino Nano main program flowcharts

Figure 3.26 shows the flowchart of main program for Arduino Nano that includes `setup()` and `loop()`. The main program begins with including libraries needed to execute the code like RF24, OneWire and DallasTemperature (for DS18B20 temperature sensor). A header file named GravityTDS.h is included for TDS sensor. After that, all I/O and digital power pins for sensors are defined followed by declaration of global variables to store the sensor values and counters. The microcontroller will then execute `setup()` function. The `setup()` function is to set up all sensor modules interface settings with the microcontroller at the beginning and to define I/O pins configuration. Temperature and TDS sensors are powered by digital output pins while pH and turbidity sensors are powered by MOSFETs, so there will be four digital output pins defined as output pins to output 5V. The `sensors.begin()` function is to start up the library for temperature sensor. Next, `tds_initialise()` is used to set the reference voltage and resolution of ADC. The RF module is set to listening mode initially to listen for any signals from receiver subsystem. An equation is used to define the counter to count interval of 20 minutes and is shown below:

$$\text{interval_clock} = \text{time_interval_to_take_reading} \times 1200 \quad (3.1)$$

where,

`interval_clock = counter`

`time_interval_to_take_reading = 20 (default)`

Once `setup()` is completed, the `loop()` function will run continuously as long as the microcontroller is being powered and reset button is not pressed. The microcontroller will listen to RF signals from receiver subsystem. If so, it will call the function `user_request_from_receiver()`. If no RF signals are received, the microcontroller will check if 18 minutes and 30 seconds is reached and the receiver subsystem is not busy checking on cloud. If so, it will send an alert to receiver so that it can standby for incoming data and not perform other operations or the data sent might not be received properly. The counter of 20 minutes is achieved by multiplying the time interval (20 minutes by default) by a constant 1200. Here the constant represents 1 minute because the whole loop is paused by 50 ms (`delay(ms)`) and 1200 multiplied by 50 ms is 60000 or 60 seconds. In other words, counter will increment by 1 for each loop run and 20 minutes will be reached when the loop runs for 1200 times. By that time, the microcontroller will call the function `take_reading()` to take reading from the sensors, then send the values using RF to receiver subsystem. The counter would be cleared and the program loop will run repeatedly again.

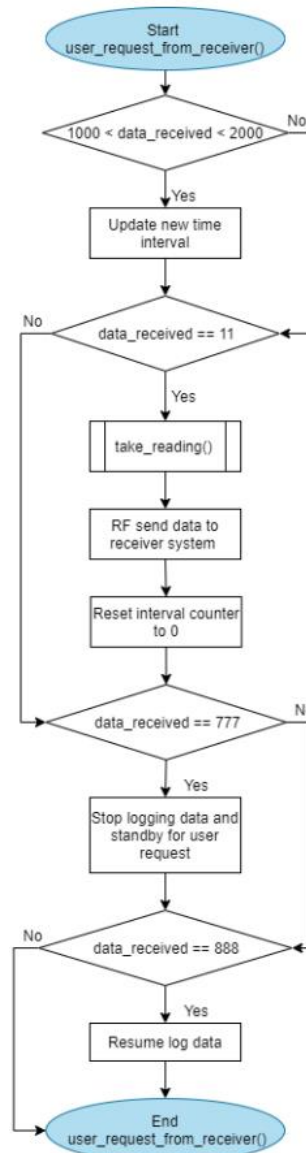


Figure 3.27: User Request from Receiver flowchart

Figure 3.27 shows the flowchart of the function `user_request_from_receiver()`. This function will run when the RF is in listening mode and the microcontroller is not performing logging data operations. The microcontroller will execute different operations depending on the values received by RF module. If the value received is within the range of 2000 to 3000, it means that user has requested to change time interval and the new interval is found by subtracting the value by 2000. The microcontroller will update this value to the global variable `time_interval_to_take_reading`. If the data received is equal to 11, it means that user has turned on the switch on Ubidots cloud to request to log real time data. The microcontroller will now call the function `take_reading()` to take reading from the

sensors and then send these data to the receiver subsystem. The counter will be reset to 0. If the data received is equal to 777, the microcontroller will not execute the `take_reading()` function and only listen to signals from receiver subsystem. To rephrase it, the microcontroller is locked from reading data from sensors. Lastly, if the data received is equal to 888, the microcontroller is unlocked and can resume the `take_reading` function. This prevents the sensor subsystem from missing signals from receiver subsystem while it is performing `take_reading()` function.

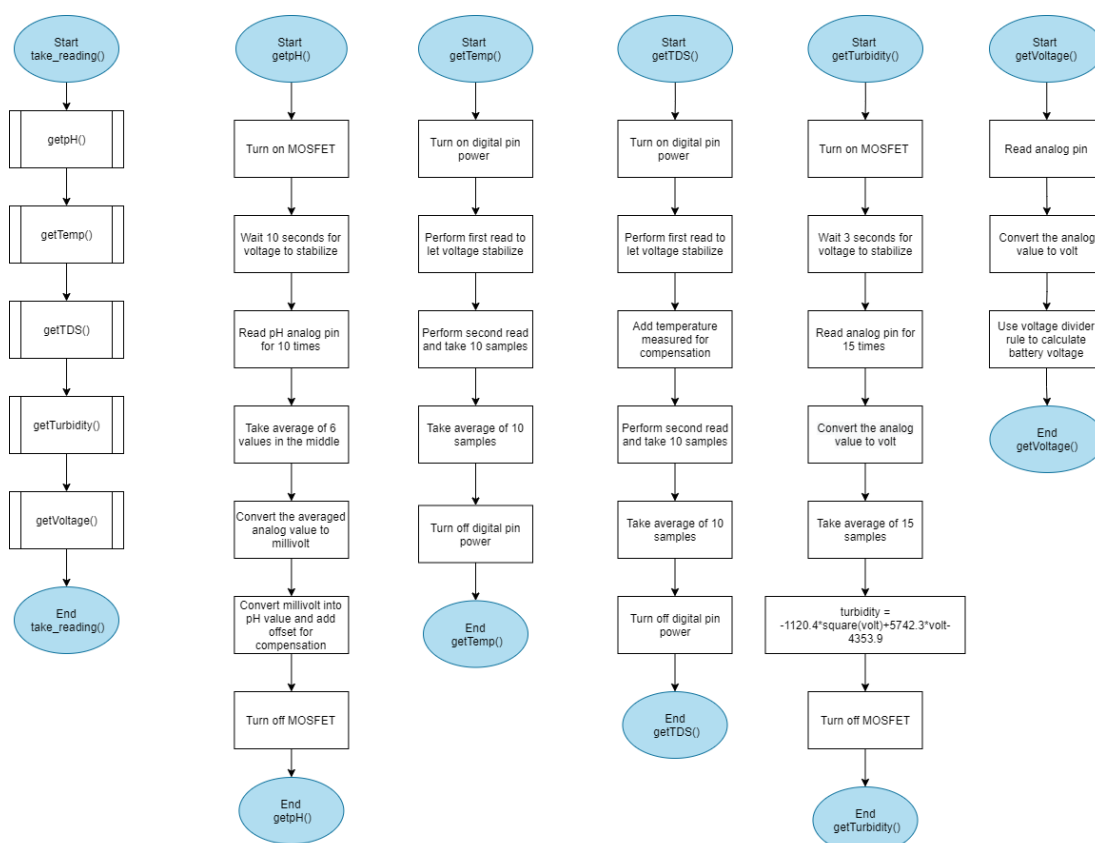


Figure 3.28: Sensor flowcharts

Figure 3.28 above shows the flowcharts of the function `take_reading()` and its subfunctions. Every time each subfunction is called, the digital output power pin associated with the sensor will be set to high to turn on the sensor and will be set low at the end of each subfunction. When `take_reading()` is running, it will first execute the `getpH()` function. 10 sample readings are taken to improve the accuracy. The averaged analog value is converted to millivolt by the 10-bit internal ADC and amplified before adding an offset value to compensate for the difference between actual pH value and the measured pH value. Secondly, the `getTemp()` function will

perform first read while allowing the voltage at the power pin to stabilize. The first value is wrong, so a second read is necessary and at this time, 10 digital samples will be taken and the values are averaged to get a better accuracy. No calculation is required to convert the raw data because the Dallas Temperature library is utilized. Thirdly, getTDS is executed similarly, two reads are performed whereby the first read outputs an incorrect value. Since TDS is affected by temperature, the temperature value obtained earlier is included in the function as a compensation to read the TDS value. The function to read TDS analog value is accomplished using the predefined function from the GravityTDS header file. Again, the second read is repeated 10 times to get the average value. Next, getTurbidity() is run and 15 analog samples are taken. An equation is provided to convert the measured output voltage value into the related turbidity value in units of NTU. The detailed explanation of conversion of analog values will be discussed in the section of calibration of sensor in Chapter 4. Lastly, getVoltage() will be called to obtain the analog value sensed and this value will be converted to voltage that corresponds to voltage across the 7.5 k Ω resistor. A simple voltage divider equation will be applied to calculate the voltage of batteries used.

3.6.3 Receiver Subsystem

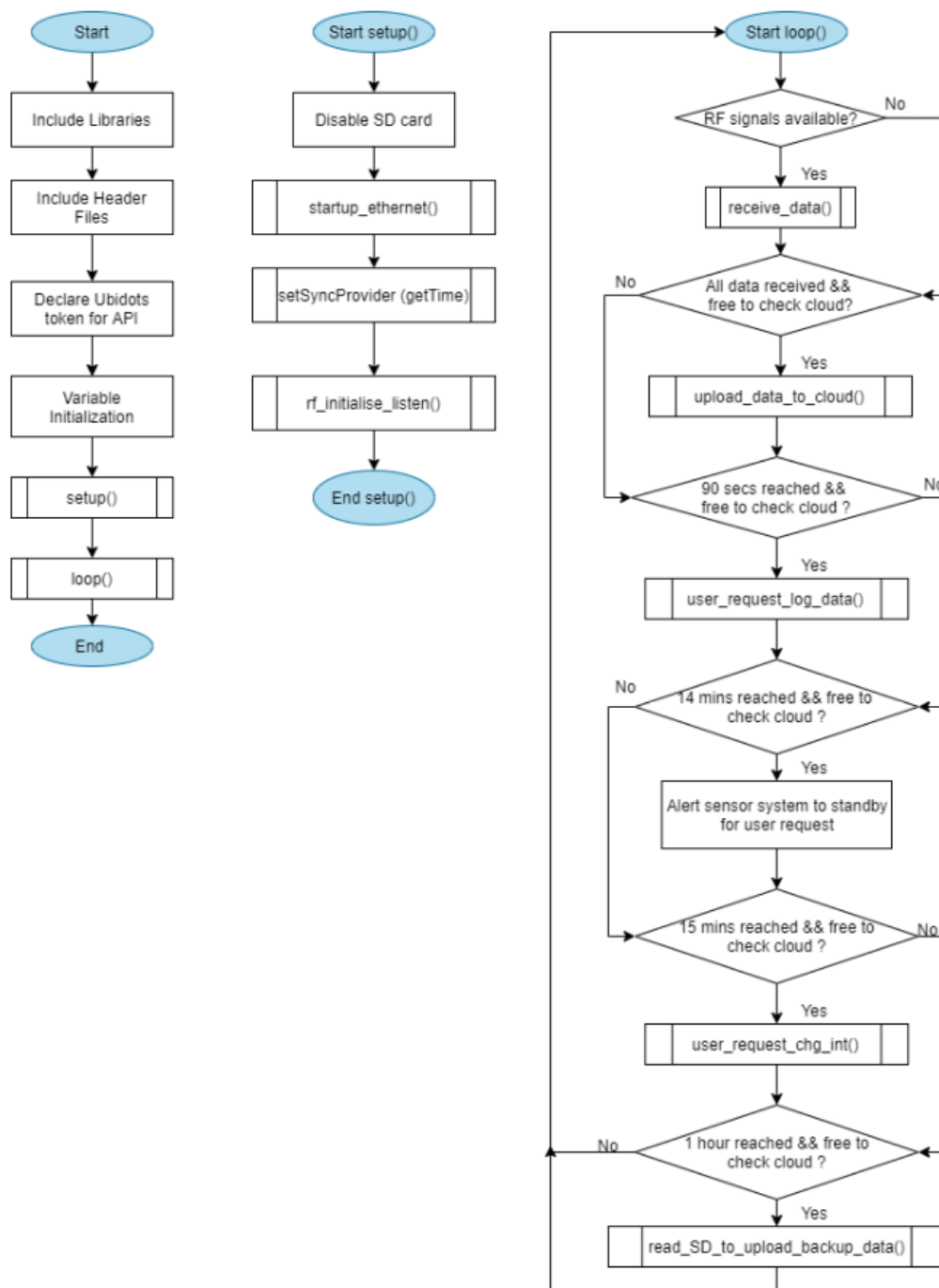


Figure 3.29: Arduino Mega main program flowcharts

Figure 3.29 shows the flowchart of main program for Arduino Mega that includes `setup()` and `loop()`. The main program begins with including libraries needed to execute the code like RF24, SPI (for communicating with Ethernet shield), Ethernet, Ubidots Ethernet, SD and TimeLib. After that, the token to access Ubidots

Application Programming Interface (API) and the API label for variables are defined. The MAC address of Ethernet shield is defined, followed by declaration of global variables to store the sensor values and counters. The microcontroller will then execute `setup()` function. The `setup()` function is to disable the SD card first and then start up the Ethernet connection. This is because the WIZnet W5100 Ethernet chip and micro SD card socket share the same SPI bus and having both devices enabled at the same time will cause data being sent to the other device unintentionally which results in data corruption. Once the Ethernet UDP library has been initialized with proper network connection, it is time to call the function `setSyncProvider(getTime)` to get the current date and time from NTP server. The last operation in the `setup()` is to initialize the RF module to listening mode to listen for any incoming data from sensor subsystem.

Once `setup()` is completed, the `loop()` function will run continuously as long as the microcontroller is being powered and reset button is not pressed. The microcontroller will first listen to RF signals from sensor subsystem. If all sensor data has been received and the microcontroller is not performing other operations such as checking on the Ubidots cloud for user request, it will upload the data to cloud. If no RF signals are received, the microcontroller will check if 90 seconds is reached. If so, it will go to cloud to check for the on-off switch state to find out if user has requested to log real time data. Since the microcontroller is set to check for user request to change time interval every 15 minutes, it will send an alert to sensor subsystem during the 14th minute so that it can standby for incoming signals and not perform other operations or the new time interval sent might not be received properly. When 15 minutes is reached, the microcontroller will execute the function `user_request_chg_int()`. Finally, if 1 hour is reached, the microcontroller will enable SD card to check if any content is stored in the card and upload the backup data to cloud. All of the counters (90 seconds, 14 minutes, 15 minutes and 1 hour) are achieved by using the similar method used by sensor subsystem as mentioned earlier.

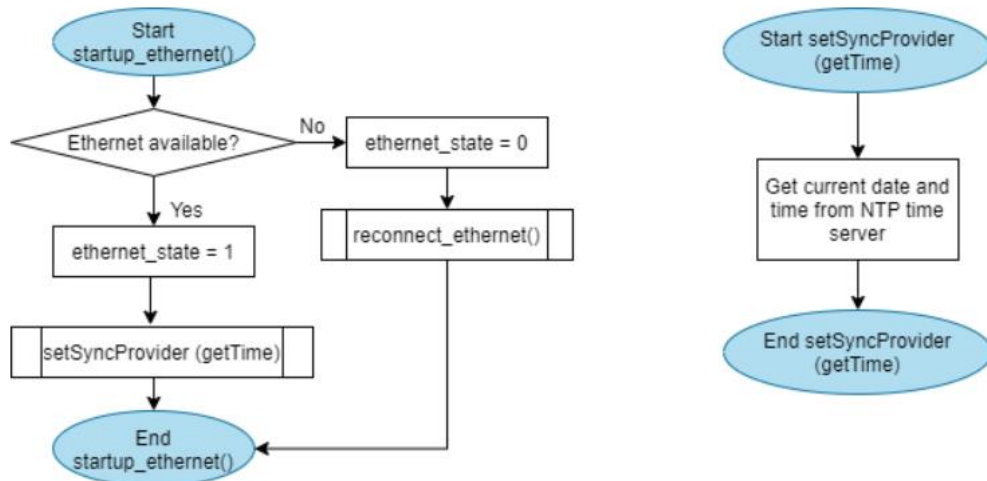


Figure 3.30: Ethernet start up and obtain current current date and time flowcharts

Figure 3.30 shows the two flowcharts under `setup()`. The `startup_ethernet()` function is called every time the Ethernet shield requires Ethernet connection (to get current date and time from NTP server and to upload data or check Ubidots cloud). If there is proper Ethernet connection, the microcontroller will get the current date and time from the NTP time server. The NTP time server will return a timestamp (48 bytes long) which is the number of seconds elapsed since the NTP epoch (01 January 1900). This function is only required to run once during the beginning of `setup()` to keep track of the current date and time and the microcontroller will automatically subtract the seconds elapsed since the NTP epoch from the timestamp in the packet received. Hence, when Ethernet is suddenly disconnected during the uploading of data to cloud, the microcontroller will store the data to the SD card along with the current date and time so that when Ethernet becomes available for back up data to be uploaded to cloud, user can still monitor the back up data with the corresponding date and time.

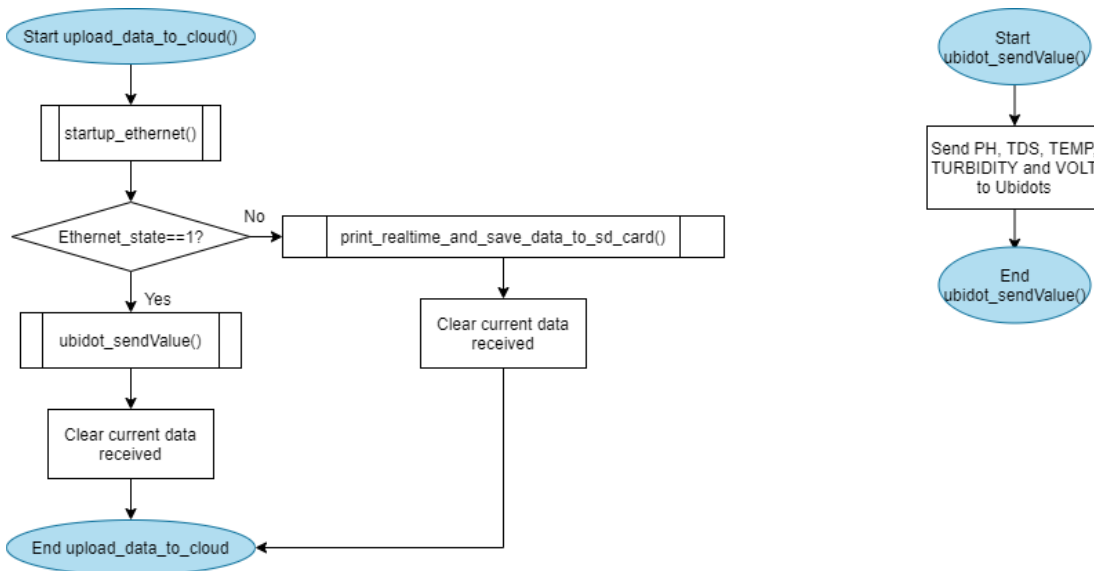


Figure 3.31: Upload data to cloud flowcharts

Figure 3.31 shows the flowcharts of the code that will run when sensor data is received by Arduino Mega and ready to be uploaded to cloud. In the function `upload_data_to_cloud()`, the microcontroller will first run `startup_ethernet()` to check if Ethernet is available. If `Ethernet_state` is equal to 1, the subfunction `ubidot_sendValue()` is called to send or post data to the cloud. If `Ethernet_state` is 0 (Ethernet unavailable), the microcontroller will execute the function `print_realtime_and_save_data_to_sd_card()` which will be discussed in the following paragraph.

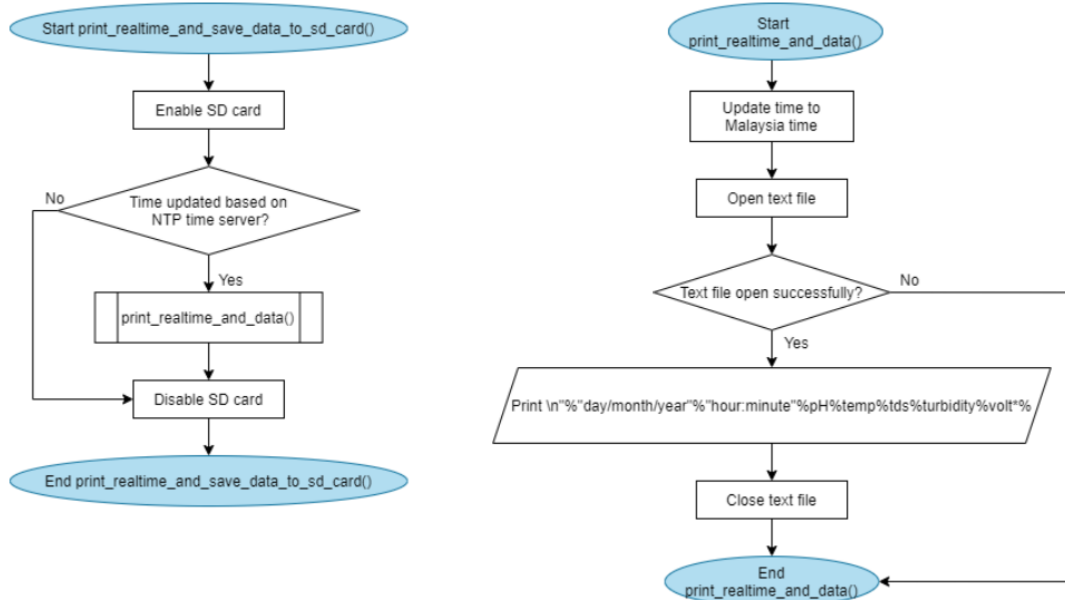


Figure 3.32: Data storing in SD card flowcharts

Figure 3.32 shows the flowcharts of storing back up data into SD card. In the function `print_realtime_and_save_data_to_sd_card()`, the microcontroller will first enable the the SD card. If the current date and time has been updated based on the NTP epoch, it will call the subfunction `print_realtime_and_data()`. Since the updated time is Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), a conversion is needed to convert it to Malaysia time. Then, a text file is opened and the time and sensor data are printed according to the format: `\n"%day/month/year"% "hour:minute"% pH%temp%tds%turbidity% volt*%.` After that, the text file is closed and SD card is disabled.

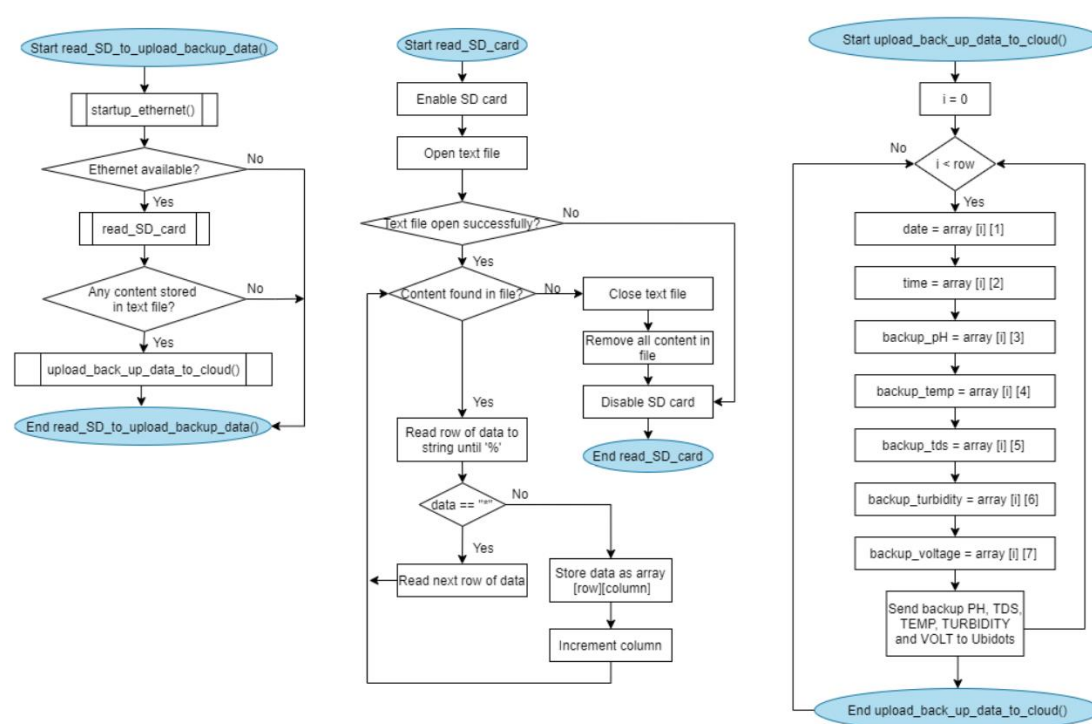


Figure 3.33: Uploading of SD card data to cloud flowcharts

Figure 3.33 shows the flowcharts of uploading back up data in SD card to Ubidots cloud. The first function, `read_SD_to_upload_backup_data()` will be executed every 1 hour. This is to ensure all back up data stored in SD card be sent to cloud and cleared every 1 hour so that user can examine if there has been any unusual water quality in the past 1 hour. The microcontroller will first check if Ethernet connection is available and if so, it will proceed to read the data in SD card by calling the function `read_SD_card()`. In this subfunction, SD card is first enabled

and the text file is opened. If the text file is not empty, the microcontroller will read the data and store each data as an array such that the first and second array are date and time while the following arrays belong to back up pH, back up temperature, back up TDS and back up turbidity respectively. A character ‘*’ added to the end of every row of data during print_realtime_and_data() acts as an indication of end of line, so when the microcontroller reads the data until ‘*’, it will go to the next line and continue reading the data. If all data has been read and stored into arrays, the text file is closed, all content is removed and the SD card is disabled. Then, the subfunction upload_back_up_data_to_cloud() is called. The back up data is sent or posted to the cloud one by one.

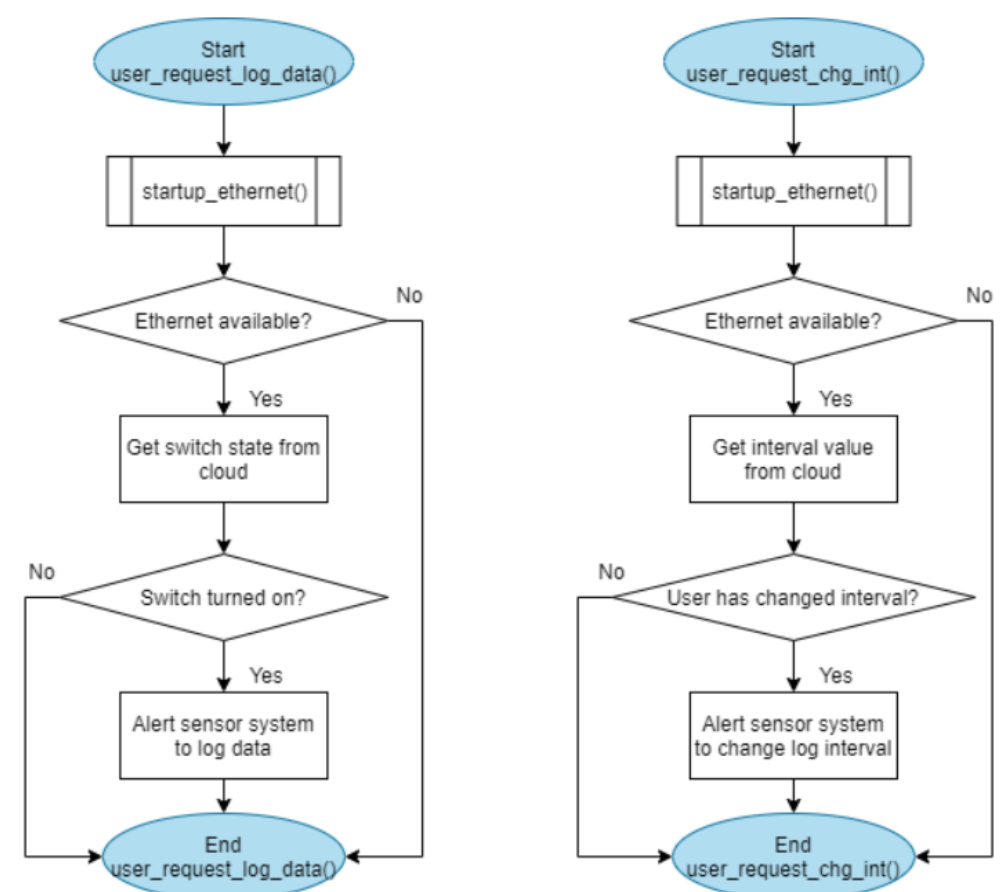


Figure 3.34: User request log data and change time interval flowcharts

Figure 3.34 shows the flowcharts to check user request to log real time data or change time interval using the widgets in the cloud. The first function,

`user_request_log_data()` is executed every 90 seconds and starts off with checking if Ethernet connection is available. If so, the microcontroller will get the switch state from cloud and if switch is turned on, it will send an alert using RF signals to sensor subsystem to log real time data. The second function, `user_request_chg_int()` is run every 15 minutes and will also start off by checking the availability of Ethernet. If yes, it will get the value of time interval from the cloud compare it with 20. If the value is not equal to 20 (default), it will send an alert using RF signals to sensor subsystem so that it could update the new time interval to log data.

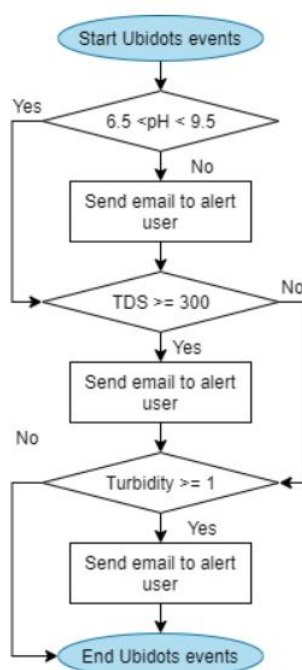


Figure 3.35: Email notifications by Ubidots flowchart

Figure 3.35 shows the flowchart of email notifications that will be sent when Ubidots detects that the new sensor data uploaded does not meet the standard for safe water quality parameters. If any of the parameters is out of the defined range, Ubidots server will send email to the user so that the user can manually inspect the water tank as soon as possible.

3.7 Prototype Costing

Table 3.5 below shows the individual costs of each component and the quantity used in the prototype. The total cost of the finished prototype would cost RM 484.80.

Table 3.5: Prototype Costing

Component	Unit Price (RM)	Quantity	Total Cost (RM)
Arduino Mega Board	42.50	1	42.50
Arduino Nano Board	16.90	1	16.90
W5100 Ethernet Shield	22.80	1	22.80
nRF24L01	14.90	2	29.80
pH Sensor Module v1.1	86.99	1	86.99
DS18B20 Temperature Sensor	12.90	1	12.90
DFR3067 TDS Sensor	69.50	1	69.50
DFR3044 Turbidity Sensor	51.90	1	51.90
IRF520n Power Mosfet	5.00	2	10.00
Switch	0.90	1	0.90
18650 Double Two Slot Battery Holder	1.80	1	1.80
18650 3.7V 3800mAh Battery	6.89	1	6.89
5V Output USB Boost Regulator	3.40	1	3.40
IP65 Junction Box	34.69	1	34.69
Acrylic Sheet A3 Size	24.50	1	24.50
PVC Pipe	13.20	1	13.20
PVC Elbow	2.20	4	8.80
5V Output USB Boost Regulator	3.40	1	3.40
MicroSD card	11.80	1	11.80
5V Adapter	13.90	1	13.90
Cable Tie	0.085	6	0.51
Jumper Wires	2.30	1	2.30
Pin Headers	1.00	1	1.00
Hot Glue Stick	1.50	1	1.50
L Shaped Bracket	0.43	4	1.72
Screw and Nut	1.80	4	7.20
Mini Breadboard	1.80	1	1.80
PCB Stand	0.40	4	1.60
100Ω Resistor	0.10	2	0.20
Capacitor 100μF	0.20	2	0.40
Total (RM)			484.80

3.8 Safe Water Quality Parameters for Drinking Based on WHO Standards

To determine if a water body is safe for consumption, the World Health Organizations have set several international standards as a guideline for the safety of consumers. The designed system in this project will be triggered to alert users when the water quality does not meet the standards as mentioned below.

Firstly, pH is the measurement of hydrogen ion concentration to identify the corrosivity of water. The direct health effects from ingesting excessive acidic water are not perceivable, but an acidic water could affect the degree of corrosion of metals especially in plumbing or piping systems that would increase consumption of metals. The optimum pH is often in the range of 6.5 to 9.5 (World Health Organization, 2007).

Secondly, World Health Organization (2003) stated that the presence of inorganic salts and organic matter might affect the taste of water. Although there is no recent data on health effects caused by ingestion of excessive TDS, there have been associations between health impacts due to hardness of water such as cancer, coronary heart disease, cardiovascular disease and arteriosclerotic heart disease. Water that is hard contains high concentration of calcium and magnesium. Figure 3.16 shows the reference chart of water in different TDS values. There are four categories for the determination of palatability of drinking water:

- (i) Excellent: less than 300 ppm
- (ii) Fair: between 600 and 900 ppm
- (iii) Poor: between 900 and 1200 ppm
- (iv) Unacceptable: greater than 1200 ppm

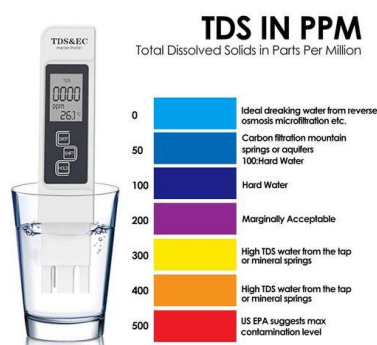


Figure 3.36: TDS reference chart (Basilla, 2021)

Thirdly, high turbidity due to suspended chemical and biological particles could indicate unsafe and displeasing of water supplies. Water supplies in households and storage are targeted to ideally score less than 1 NTU. Higher disinfection doses should be imposed if turbidity goes above 1 NTU because between 1 to 100 NTU, free chlorine residuals could be produced that may affect the activation of bacterial indicators and cause rising diarrhoeal cases (World Health Organization, 2017). Figure 3.37 shows the appearance of water at different turbidity levels.

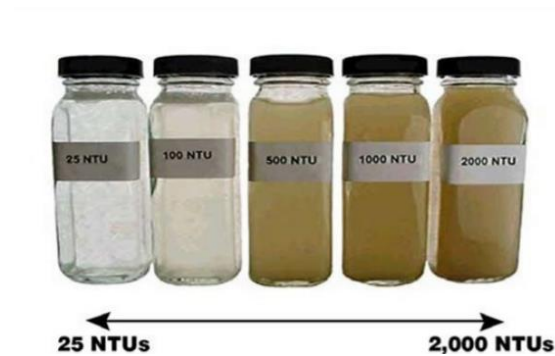


Figure 3.37: Turbidity levels (Smith, 2010)

Lastly, water temperature is not of a great concern compared to other water parameters, except that increasing temperature above 16 °C will lead to increase in growth of micro fungi on the internal walls of piping systems that could affect the taste of the water. According to Canadian standards, the ideal temperature is 16 °C but this is not achievable in Malaysia due to the weather (Safe drinking water foundation, 2016).

3.9 Summary

To summarize Chapter 3, the Gantt chart of FYP1 and FYP2 had been planned out beforehand and the progress of project development was followed accordingly. The hardware devices and software platform were selected for building the prototype. PCB was designed and fabricated and a PVC float platform was built. For software development, the flowcharts of both sensor and receiver subsystems were outlined.

CHAPTER 4

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Sensor Calibration and Benchmark Test

In this project, three sensors required calibration to minimise any measurement uncertainty to ensure the accuracy of the readings obtained. These sensors were pH sensor, TDS sensor and turbidity sensor. Benchmark tests were carried out simultaneously with the calibration to verify the readings taken by the sensor. Calibration was not required for temperature sensor, only the benchmark test was carried out.

4.1.1 pH Sensor Calibration and Benchmark Test

Buffer powder to make standard solutions of pH 4.01, 6.86 and 9.18 was purchased. The buffer powder was each dissolved in 250 ml distilled water to achieve the standard pH. The benchmark test was performed simultaneously with the calibration of pH sensor by applying a pH meter that was also capable of measuring a pH range of 0 – 14.

Firstly, the pH sensor was connected to Arduino Nano and the sample code for the sensor was uploaded to the board. Secondly, the probes of the pH sensor and the pH meter were washed with distilled water and wiped with absorbent paper before immersing them into the pH 6.86 solution. The “CAL” button on the pH meter was pressed and held until the display reading of 6.86 flickered and then a value close to 6.86 was displayed. During the test, the solution measured by the pH meter was pH 6.78 as shown in Figure 4.1. The value obtained by the pH sensor was observed from the Serial monitor of the Arduino IDE. The difference between the value from the sensor and the value from the meter was noted as “Offset”. During the test, the offset value was 0.37. This value was changed in the code from the initial 0.00 value to 0.37. Then, the microcontroller will now add this offset value to the formula below when reading the analog signal from the pH electrode:

$$\text{pHValue} = 3.5 * \text{Voltage} + \text{Offset} \quad (4.1)$$



Figure 4.1: Calibration and benchmark test of pH sensor at pH 6.86 standard solution

The probes of pH sensor and pH meter were washed, then immersed into the pH 4.01 solution. Here the pH meter after calibrated returned a value of 4.01 as shown in Figure 4.2. The pH value obtained by the pH sensor was observed and when the values stabilize, the potentiometer on the breakout board of the pH sensor was adjusted until the value stabilized at around 4.01. The acidic calibration has completed.



Figure 4.2: Calibration and benchmark test of pH sensor at pH 4.01 standard solution

Finally, the process as mentioned previously was repeated for pH 9.18. The pH value obtained by pH meter was 9.18 as shown in Figure 4.3. Thus, the potentiometer was adjusted until the pH value measured by the pH sensor stabilized at around 9.18. The calibration and benchmark test for pH sensor was completed.



Figure 4.3: Calibration and benchmark test of pH sensor at pH 9.18 standard solution

4.1.2 Turbidity Sensor Calibration

The turbidity sensor was calibrated by adjusting the trimmer potentiometer of the sensor as shown in Figure 4.4 below. The resistance will decrease or increase when turning the potentiometer clockwise or anticlockwise respectively. The resistance is used to limit the analog signal captured by the light detector.



Figure 4.4: Trimmer potentiometer on Turbidity Sensor

Since this sensor was configured to output analog signals, the signals captured by the sensor will undergo ADC conversion by the Arduino Nano to output a voltage value. The ADC conversion equation is shown below:

$$V_{IN} = \frac{V_{REF} \times ADC}{1023} \quad (4.2)$$

where,

V_{IN} = Input Voltage, V

V_{REF} = Reference Voltage, V

ADC = Converted Input Voltage

V_{IN} is the converted voltage from the turbidity sensor and the turbidity value in unit of NTU can be computed from the equation below:

$$NTU = -1120.4 (V_{IN})^2 + 5742.3(V_{IN}) - 4352.9 \quad (4.3)$$

where,

V_{IN} = Input Voltage, V

NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Unit, NTU

Equation 4.3 is obtained from the curve of graph of relationship between turbidity and voltage as provided by the manufacturer of the turbidity sensor, DF Robot. The graph is shown in Figure 4.5 below.

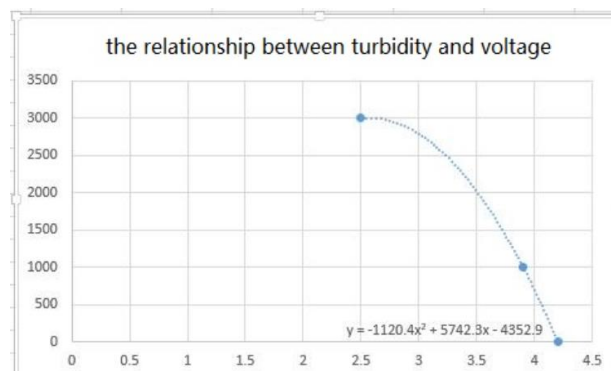


Figure 4.5: Graph of Turbidity versus Voltage

A cup of clear filtered water (0 NTU) was used and the turbidity sensor was submerged into it. The output voltage obtained was observed through the Serial monitor of Arduino IDE after uploading the sample code to the Arduino Nano. The trimmer potentiometer was adjusted until the output voltage was 4.2 V which corresponds to 0 NTU as shown in Figure 4.6. Any voltage larger than 4.2 will be 0 NTU as well. The maximum value of NTU that can be measured by the sensor is

3000 NTU, so any voltage below 2.5 will correspond to 3000 NTU according to the graph.

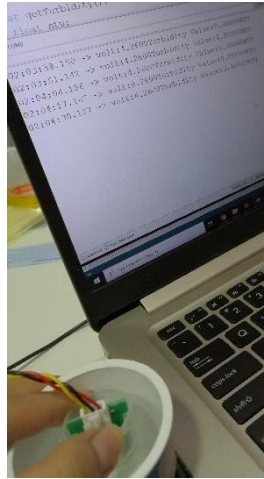


Figure 4.6: Calibration of Turbidity Sensor in Clear water (0 NTU)

Due to budget constraint of the project, turbidity meter was not able to be purchased as a single meter costs around RM 400 – RM 600. To verify the reading measured by the turbidity sensor, a solution mixed with Milo powder was used. The measured voltage was 0.45 V which corresponds to 3000 NTU as shown in Figure 4.7 below.

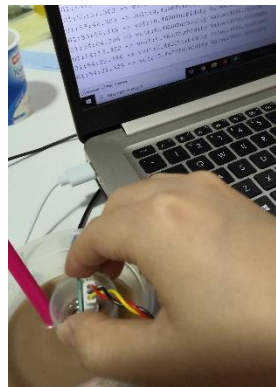


Figure 4.7: Verification using Milo solution (3000 NTU)

4.1.3 Temperature Sensor Benchmark Test

Calibration was not required for DS18B20 temperature sensor, but benchmark test was carried out using a digital thermometer with waterproof probe. Since the thermometer has a lower accuracy of ± 1 °C than that of the sensor (± 0.5 °C), when

immersing both probes into ice as shown in Figure 4.8, the sensor outputs 0.5 °C while the thermometer outputs 1 °C. This showed that the sensor is more accurate than the benchmark thermometer as ice (freezing point) should be 0 °C. On the other hand, when testing with clear water at room temperature, the temperature measured was 29 °C while the thermometer measured 30.3 °C as shown in Figure 4.9. The difference in temperature was 1.3 °C which gave a percentage error of 4.3 %.



Figure 4.8: Benchmark test of temperature sensor in ice



Figure 4.9: Benchmark test of temperature sensor in clear water at room temperature

4.1.4 TDS Sensor Calibration and Benchmark Test

Calibration of TDS sensor could be performed through the code provided by DFRobot. The temperature sensor, DS18B20 was also connected to act as temperature compensation to improve accuracy. A standard buffer solution of electrical conductivity (EC) of 1413 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ was used as shown in Figure 4.10. Since the TDS value is half of the electrical conductivity value, that is: $\text{TDS} = \text{EC} / 2$, the buffer solution has a TDS value of about 707 ppm. While EC changes with temperature, the table that shows the change in EC value with the change in temperature provided by the manufacturer of the buffer solution, Hanna Instruments was referred.



Figure 4.10: Standard buffer solution of EC 1413 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ or 707 ppm

Both the probes of the temperature and TDS sensors were cleaned and wiped dry with absorbent paper before being inserted into the buffer solution. The sample code was uploaded to Arduino Nano and Serial monitor was opened. The temperature of the buffer solution measured by the temperature sensor was about 30 °C, and this corresponded to EC of 1548 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ or 774 ppm. After that, an input command “enter” was keyed in and the code would enter calibration mode. Then, the input command "cal:tds value" which in this case was "cal:774" was keyed in. The Serial monitor would then print a note to inform that the calibration was successful. Finally, the input command of “exit” was keyed in and the calibration had been completed. The serial monitor for calibration is shown in Figure 4.11 below.

```

00:26:13.049 -> >>>Enter Calibration Mode<<<
00:26:13.049 -> >>>Please put the probe into the standard buffer solution<<<
00:26:13.049 ->
00:26:13.049 -> 755ppm
00:26:21.681 -> 30.37°C
00:26:21.681 ->
00:26:21.681 -> >>>Confrim Successful,K:0.94, Send EXIT to Save and Exit<<<
00:26:21.681 -> 755ppm
00:26:30.300 -> 30.37°C

```

Figure 4.11: Serial monitor for Calibration of TDS sensor

4.2 Project prototype developed

The hardware prototype developed consists of two subsystems: sensor subsystem and receiver subsystem.

4.2.1 Sensor subsystem prototype

A water resistant junction box was used to place all electronic components to protect them from water ingress or water splashed around the prototype. The PCB, batteries and sensor modules are able to fit in the junction box as shown in Figure 4.12, though there is limited space for the sensor module breakout board but the selected junction box was the best bargain given the amount of cost allocated for this project.

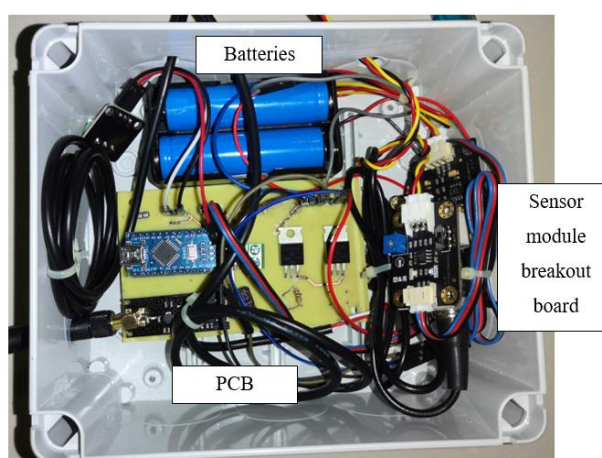


Figure 4.12: Electronic hardware system in junction box

Based on Figure 4.12, two batteries arranged in parallel connection are located at the top of the box and a 5V USB boost converter will power up the

PCB from the Arduino Nano located at the centre of the box. The right side of the box is where the sensor module breakout boards are placed. Six holes of different sizes were drilled to allow the four sensor probes and antenna of nRF24L01 to pass through the junction box as well as to place the main switch for the electronic system. The size of holes depend on the diameter of the probes and wires and the holes were later sealed with silicone sealant and hot glue to prevent water from entering into the box.

In order to place the box on the float with even weight distribution, the box was adjusted to be placed in the middle and above an acrylic sheet. Four L-brackets were used to fasten the junction box and acrylic sheet. The L-brackets were directly screwed and fixed in place using electric screwdriver. Next, six nylon cable ties were used to fasten the acrylic sheet to the PVC float. As for the float, PVC pipe was cut into four segments based on the dimensions calculated and joined by 90° PVC elbows glued using PVC solvent cement. After that, four holes of different sizes were drilled on the acrylic sheet to allow the pH, temperature, TDS and turbidity probes to pass through and immerse in water. The probes were then fixed and glued especially the turbidity sensor as its top is not waterproof. The final prototype of the sensor subsystem is shown in front, top and side views in Figures 4.13 to 4.15 below.

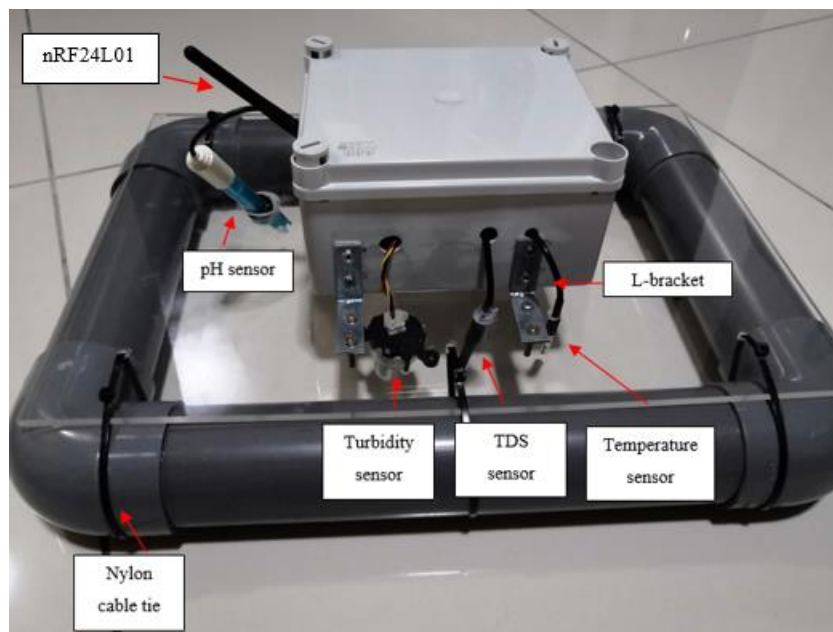


Figure 4.13: Sensor Subsystem Prototype Front View

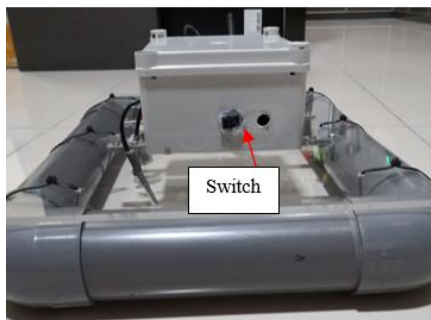


Figure 4.14: Sensor Subsystem Prototype Side View



Figure 4.15: Sensor Subsystem Prototype Top View

4.2.2 Receiver Subsystem Prototype

The receiver subsystem is placed indoor next to the router which consists of Arduino Ethernet shield with Arduino Mega powered by 5 V adapter as shown in Figure 4.16. The two-way communication is through the RF module and data received by this subsystem will be uploaded to the cloud via the Ethernet connection from the RJ45 Ethernet cable.

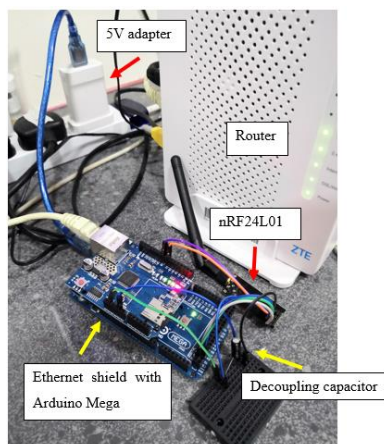


Figure 4.16: Receiver Subsystem Prototype

4.3 Prototype Performance

4.3.1 Data Upload and Monitoring On Ubidots Cloud

The receiver subsystem is designed to work such that when data from sensor subsystem is received and internet connection is available, it would upload the data to Ubidots cloud. The data will be stored in Ubidots database and is displayed via the graphical user interface (GUI) or dashboard and can be accessed through the Ubidots website or its mobile application. The number of variables created for this project in the cloud are 12 in which five variables (purple coloured) are real-time sensor data and the other five variables are for backup sensor data (green coloured) whilst the remaining two are log real-time data state (yellow coloured) and time interval (red coloured). Figure 4.17 below shows the variables created in the cloud, where each variable is issued a unique API key so that the sensor data will be stored to the correct variable. The time and date at the time of upload will be captured.

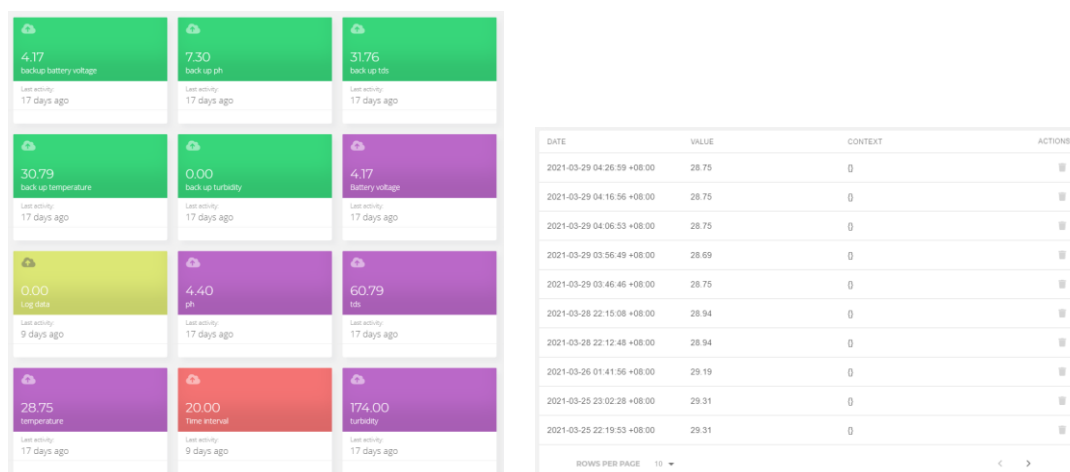


Figure 4.17: Ubidots cloud database

The dashboard is where the data will be visible to users and displayed in graphical format where the duration range of data is modifiable. Figure 4.18 shows the snapshot of dashboard for displaying real-time or latest set of data while Figure 4.19 is for displaying historical data. These static dashboard views are from the Ubidots website viewed from laptop.

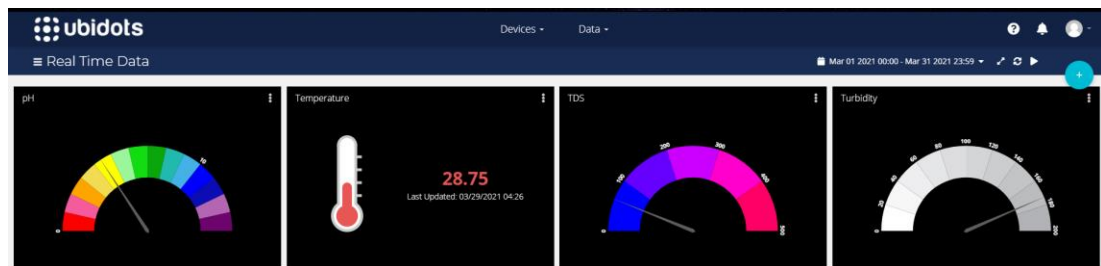


Figure 4.18: Snapshot of dashboard for displaying real-time (latest) data

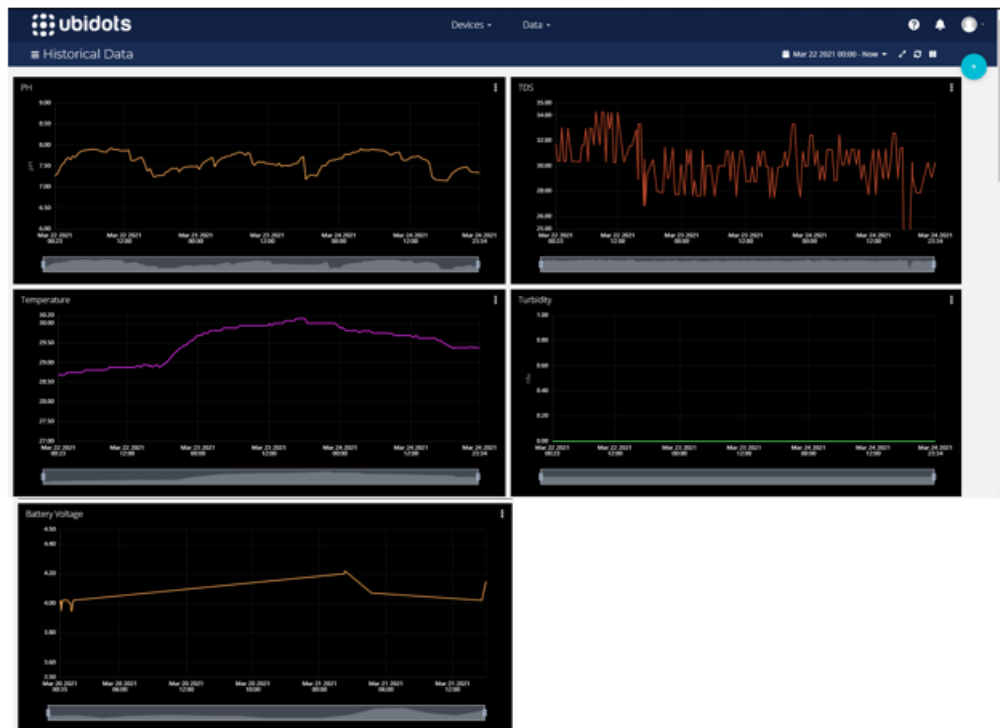


Figure 4.19: Snapshot of dashboard for displaying historical data

Link to view real-time data:

https://stem.ubidots.com/app/dashboards/public/dashboard/uxpVWc33_Jrq6XjBgb7cYPU-qJvHfUL9Jsy4BNX9hZ8?datePicker=true

Link to view historical data:

<https://stem.ubidots.com/app/dashboards/public/dashboard/2FutOe6Zb196JXU4-1Nq4zKUH3bbaGusp8nTC6vGmEw?datePicker=true>

4.3.2 User Request to Log Real-Time Data or Change Time Interval

There is also dynamic dashboard designed for user interface where user could modify the system settings by either request to log real-time data or change the time interval to log data. The default setting is that the log data switch is not turned on and the slider for time interval is set to 20 minutes as shown in Figure 4.20. User can slide the slider as desired to change the time from 0 minute to 60 minutes.

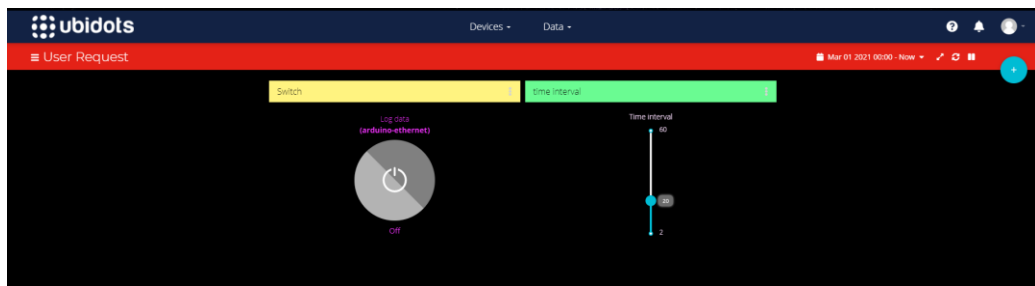


Figure 4.20: Snapshot of dashboard for user input to request to log real-time data or change time interval

Link to view user request:

<https://stem.ubidots.com/app/dashboards/public/dashboard/4D4Vn5UqJUs325cq3W9y06St3Suy9ZWAsI50-zmR-ul?datePicker=true>

4.3.3 Ubidots Mobile Application

User may also perform the similar operations earlier (view graphical data or modify user request) by accessing the Ubidots mobile application from mobile phone. Figure 4.21 below shows the snapshot of dashboard in mobile application view.

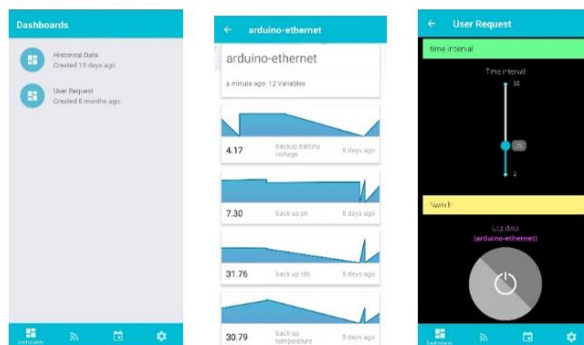
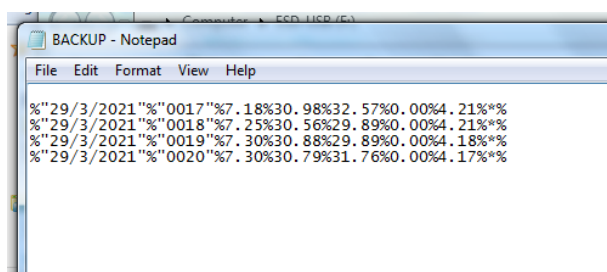


Figure 4.21: Snapshot of dashboard accessed through Ubidots mobile application

4.3.4 Data Storage in SD Card and Reupload to Ubidots cloud

When internet connection is not available upon receiving sensor data, the receiver subsystem will automatically save the data to the micro SD card attached to the Ethernet shield. The communication interface with the card is in the SPI protocol and the SD library is needed for coding in Arduino. The micro SD card used has a storage capacity of 8 gigabytes. The data will be stored in text file in a specified format as shown in Figure 4.22 below. The microcontroller will check the content of SD card every 1 hour and if there is backup data found while internet connection is back, it will upload the data to the five backup variables in the cloud as shown in Figure 4.23. These data will be available in the historical data of dashboard and displayed in table format. The content in the text file will be erased after successful upload of backup data.

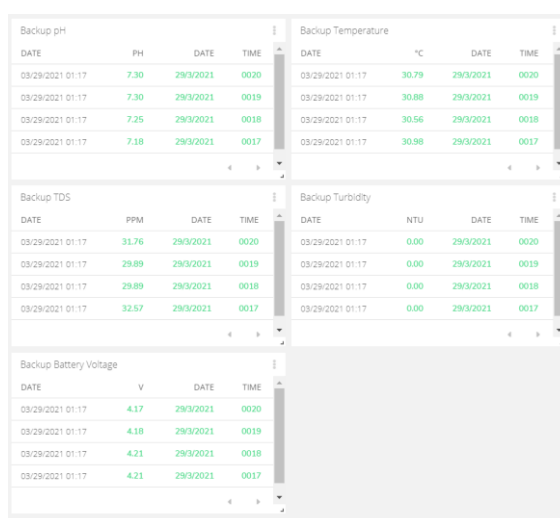


```

% "29/3/2021" % "0017" % 7.18 % 30.98 % 32.57 % 0.00 % 4.21 % %
% "29/3/2021" % "0018" % 7.25 % 30.56 % 29.89 % 0.00 % 4.21 % %
% "29/3/2021" % "0019" % 7.30 % 30.88 % 29.89 % 0.00 % 4.18 % %
% "29/3/2021" % "0020" % 7.30 % 30.79 % 31.76 % 0.00 % 4.17 % %

```

Figure 4.22: Data stored in text file of SD card



Backup pH			
DATE	PH	DATE	TIME
03/29/2021 01:17	7.30	29/3/2021	0020
03/29/2021 01:17	7.30	29/3/2021	0019
03/29/2021 01:17	7.25	29/3/2021	0018
03/29/2021 01:17	7.18	29/3/2021	0017

Backup Temperature			
DATE	°C	DATE	TIME
03/29/2021 01:17	30.79	29/3/2021	0020
03/29/2021 01:17	30.88	29/3/2021	0019
03/29/2021 01:17	30.56	29/3/2021	0018
03/29/2021 01:17	30.98	29/3/2021	0017

Backup TDS			
DATE	PPM	DATE	TIME
03/29/2021 01:17	31.76	29/3/2021	0020
03/29/2021 01:17	29.89	29/3/2021	0019
03/29/2021 01:17	29.89	29/3/2021	0018
03/29/2021 01:17	32.57	29/3/2021	0017

Backup Turbidity			
DATE	NTU	DATE	TIME
03/29/2021 01:17	0.00	29/3/2021	0020
03/29/2021 01:17	0.00	29/3/2021	0019
03/29/2021 01:17	0.00	29/3/2021	0018
03/29/2021 01:17	0.00	29/3/2021	0017

Backup Battery Voltage			
DATE	V	DATE	TIME
03/29/2021 01:17	4.17	29/3/2021	0020
03/29/2021 01:17	4.18	29/3/2021	0019
03/29/2021 01:17	4.21	29/3/2021	0018
03/29/2021 01:17	4.21	29/3/2021	0017

Figure 4.23: Backup data in table format available in historical data dashboard of Ubidots

4.3.5 Real Time Notification

An alert notification sent via email will be triggered whenever any of the value of water quality parameters is out of the predefined safe range. Figures 4.24 to 4.26 below show the snapshot of emails received when the water in the tank was deliberately mixed with apple cider vinegar, soil and acid pH buffer powder to decrease the pH and increase the turbidity and TDS values. These three parameters fell out of the range and therefore three emails were sent to alert user to inspect the water.

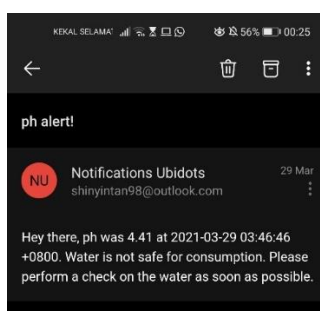


Figure 4.24: Notification email to alert user on pH parameter

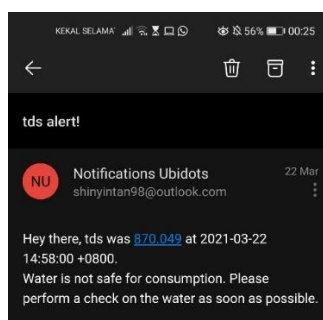


Figure 4.25: Notification email to alert user on TDS parameter

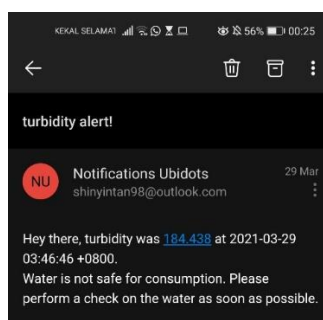


Figure 4.26: Notification email to alert user on turbidity parameter

4.4 Problem Encountered and Improvement During and After Data Collection

The official data collection was carried out from 22nd March 2021 to 25th March 2021. On 21st March 2021 when the sensor subsystem prototype was first placed into a large storage container filled with water to simulate the environment for real water storage tank, there was a problem encountered and it was solved before being deployed for official data collection.

The problem faced was that the pH sensor could not return the correct value due to ground loop. When placed in standard buffer solution for calibration and also tested in cup water, the pH sensor could function well as intended. However, there was error in reading when placed in the water tank. This was because the pH sensor was connected to a different point of ground (Drain pin of MOSFET). A voltage proportional to the current and the electrode resistance develops across the drain pin to the source pin of MOSFET. The currents created by ground loops were unstable, so pH readings kept fluctuating around 5 instead of around 7. After determining the problem was due to MOSFET, the MOSFET was changed to a relay module to turn on and off the pH sensor but the problem still existed as shown in Figure 4.27 and 4.28. Therefore, it was solved by turning on the pH sensor for 24 hours. However, this has led to large drain in battery current that caused the batteries intended to last for five days to drop to only three hours.

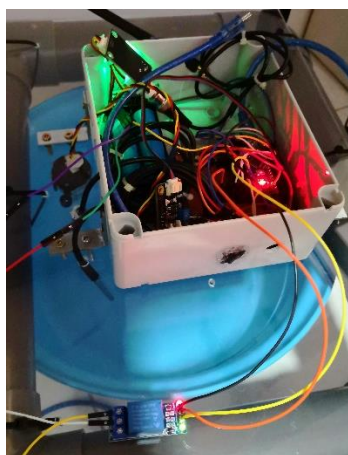


Figure 4.27: MOSFET changed to relay module

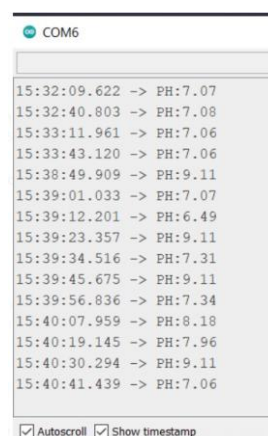


Figure 4.28: pH value still fluctuating despite changing MOSFET to relay module

4.5 Data Analysis

During the data collection period, a total of four water quality parameters were being monitored which were pH, temperature, TDS and turbidity. Battery voltage was being monitored only on the first day because 5 V adapter was used to power the subsystem after that to reduce the hassle of having the recharge the batteries every three hours. The water was changed partially every day at 6pm to simulate the water flow in and out of the water storage tank. The interval to log data was set to 20 minutes on 22nd March 2021, changed to 25 minutes on 23rd March 2021 and then to 40 minutes on 24th March 2021. All of the graphs could be found in Appendix C of this report. Towards the end of data collection, the water was intentionally polluted by adding apple cider vinegar, acid pH buffer powder and a few spoonfuls of soil to simulate the environment where water is polluted and is not safe for consumption.

4.5.1 pH

Since the water used was directly from the tap, it was logic to obtain values around 7 to 8. This indicated that the pH of water was safe as the optimum pH is in the range of 6.5 to 9.5 according to the World Health Organization (WHO). The pH of water was observed to have dropped every time when the water was being changed every day around 6pm. Besides this, the pH also change slightly with time. This was due to the surrounding air that contains carbon dioxide (CO_2) and when given the chance to be absorbed by water (H_2O), a weak acid known as carbonic acid (H_2CO_3) will be produced. Benchmark test was carried out to verify the pH value obtained and is shown in Figures 4.29 and 4.30 below. When the tank was added with impurities as mentioned earlier, the pH dropped as shown in Figures 4.31 and 4.32.



Figure 4.29: pH of 7.57 captured by sensor



Figure 4.30: pH of 7.58 captured by pH meter

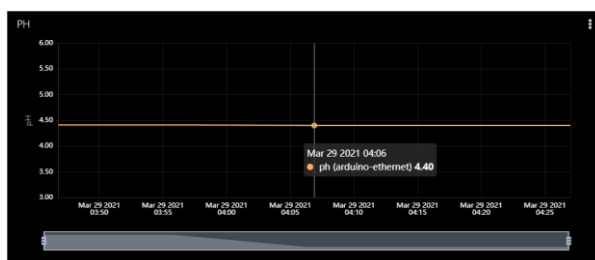


Figure 4.31: pH of 4.40 captured by sensor
(with impurities)



Figure 4.32: pH of 4.33
captured by pH meter

4.5.2 Temperature

The temperature generally remained constant throughout the day and only varied due to relocation of the water storage tank and change of surrounding temperature. On the 22nd March 2021, the tank was placed in the bathroom for data collection so temperature was the lowest at 28.88 °C. At around 6pm on the same day, the water tank was relocated to the living room near the window. At the same time, water was changed. Temperature went up to 29.00 °C and was slowly increasing to peak at 30.12 °C on the next day afternoon. This was because of heat trapped in the wall of building that had slowly dissipated through and affected the surrounding temperature as well as the water temperature. It then rained from afternoon till night time on the 24th March 2021 and the water temperature decreased gradually due to drop in surrounding temperature. The water temperature then remained constant in the evening from 7 pm to 11 pm. Benchmark test was carried out to verify the temperature value obtained and is shown in Figures 4.33 and 4.34 below. The benchmark test for addition of impurities is shown in Figures 4.35 and 4.36 below. Since the impurities were obtained at room temperature upon being added, the temperature of water remain unchanged.

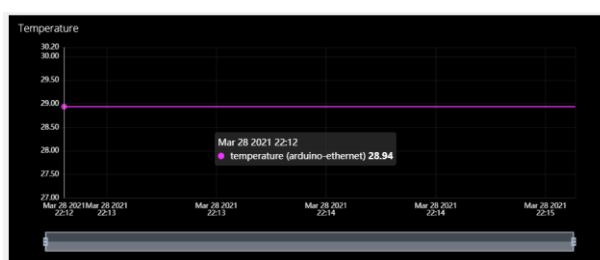


Figure 4.33: Temperature of 28.94 °C
captured by sensor



Figure 4.34: Temperature of 30.3 °C
captured by thermometer

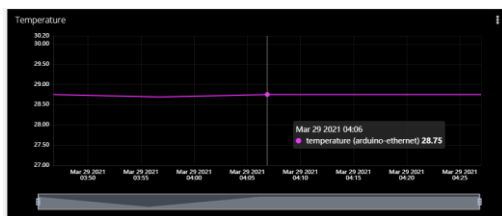


Figure 4.35: Temperature of 28.75 °C captured by sensor (with impurities)



Figure 4.36: Temperature of 30.3 °C captured by thermometer

4.5.3 TDS

The TDS of water generally fell within the range of 26 to 35 ppm during data collection. These values are well within the range of safe water quality (less than 300 ppm) based on WHO standards. The slight fluctuation in TDS values were due to temperature change and evaporation which could cause concentration and mobility of ions to vary. Benchmark test was carried out to verify the TDS value obtained and is shown in Figures 4.37 and 4.38 below. The TDS rose to 58.44 ppm when water was added with impurities and the results are shown in Figures 4.39 and 4.40 below. The increase of TDS value was due to the high content of dissolved calcium and magnesium in apple cider vinegar.



Figure 4.37: TDS of 31.78 ppm captured by sensor



Figure 4.38: TDS of 32 ppm captured by TDS meter

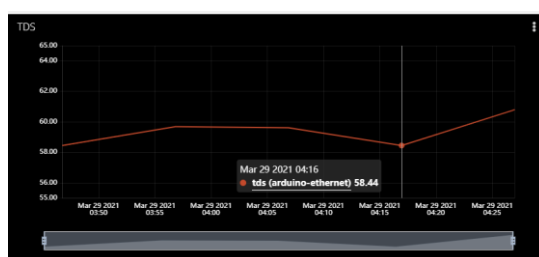


Figure 4.39: TDS of 58.44 ppm captured by sensor (with impurities)



Figure 4.40: TDS of 54 ppm captured by TDS meter

4.5.4 Turbidity

The turbidity of water according to WHO standards should ideally score less than 1 NTU for water supplies in households and storage. Therefore, the turbidity of water remained at 0 NTU throughout the entire data collection. This proved that the water was safe. However when impurities were added, the turbidity level climbed to about 161.22 NTU as shown in Figure 4.41 as the water had become very murky.

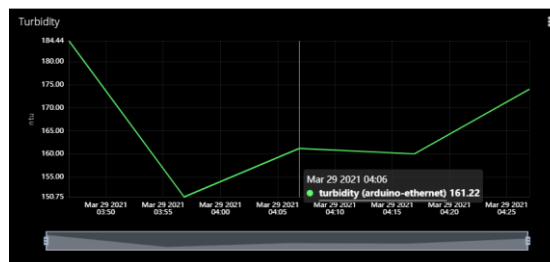


Figure 4.41: Turbidity of 161.22 NTU captured by sensor (with impurities)

4.5.5 Battery voltage

Battery voltage was monitored when batteries were used to power the subsystem. Since the batteries were tested before deploying for official data collection, the duration they could last had been known as about 3 hours. Thus, batteries were replaced for recharge every 2 and a half hours and thus the battery voltage never dropped to critical value of 3.5 V and stayed at minimum of 4.02 V only.

4.6 Summary

To summarize Chapter 4, sensor calibration was performed to ensure the sensor data was accurate and the performance of prototype and IoT cloud platform developed were evaluated. All the system features were tested and they could work properly as intended. A problem related to pH sensor was found and it was solved before deploying the system for data collection. The data collection that lasted for five days was successful with the results being verified by benchmark meters.

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Conclusion

In conclusion, this project has successfully developed an Internet of Things water quality monitoring system in water storage tank that can monitor four water quality parameters, i.e. pH, temperature, TDS and turbidity. This system is able to capture the data of these parameters at real-time and allow user to monitor at any time while being remotely away from the water storage tank. The two-way communication between the sensor subsystem placed in the tank and the receiver subsystem placed indoor is made possible by using RF modules with maximum transmission range of 1 km in open space. The sensor subsystem uses Arduino Nano as the microcontroller due to its compact size and lightweight while also being able to support the software development of the sensors used. On the other hand, the receiver subsystem uses Arduino Mega with Etherney shield to receive sensor data and upload to cloud server.

The IoT platform used in this project is Ubidots because it supports 4,000 dots per day that is more than enough for the normal operation of the developed system. The system will log five sensor data (four water quality parameters and battery voltage data) every 20 minutes by default. Additional features such as real-time notification in the case of failing water quality, preview of historical data in graphical format and user request to control the data logging as well as request to change time interval have also been implemented successfully. The monitoring and controlling of system could also be made via Ubidots mobile application accessed from mobile phone.

A problem related to the pH sensor was encountered when deploying the prototype for data collection. This problem was solved and discussed in Chapter 4. To sum up, all objectives in this project have been achieved successfully. The developed system is able to perform real-time water quality monitoring, alert user when water quality fails, its system settings can be modified by users and the historical data can be tracked and monitored via cloud platform and mobile application.

5.2 Limitation of the prototype

There are several limitations to this project. Firstly, since the sensor subsystem is battery-powered, the system have been initially designed to sustain for about five days. However after facing ground loop issue with the pH sensor, the sensor had to be turned on the whole time which caused the overall power consumption to increase drastically and the batteries could only last about three hours. As mentioned earlier, the junction box could fit the electronic components just right so it could not hold more batteries to increase the capacity.

Secondly, the system is unable to predict future water quality based on the water quality parameter data collected such as pH, temperature, TDS and turbidity. This is because Artificial Intelligence or machine learning algorithm are not implemented to forecast when the water storage tank will get dirty due to sedimentation of scales. Users have to decide when they should wash the tanks on their own by observing the change in data collected.

Next, due to cost constraint, only four water quality parameters are being monitored. However, there are plenty other water parameters that are essential to be monitored to determine the safety of water consumed. Examples of these parameters are ammonia, chlorine and dissolved oxygen.

5.3 Recommendation for Future Work

In future, there could be some improvements to enhance the functionality and performance of this IoT water quality monitoring system. The first recommendation is to install solar panel outside of the water storage tank to allow for self-sustainability.

Secondly, the implementation of machine learning algorithm is recommended for predictive analysis of data so that it could automatically alert users as to when they should inspect and deep clean their water storage tanks.

Thirdly, more sensors could be added to the system such as ammonia sensor, chlorine sensor and dissolved oxygen sensor as they are also equally important in determining the safety of water in water storage tanks.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: Datasheet

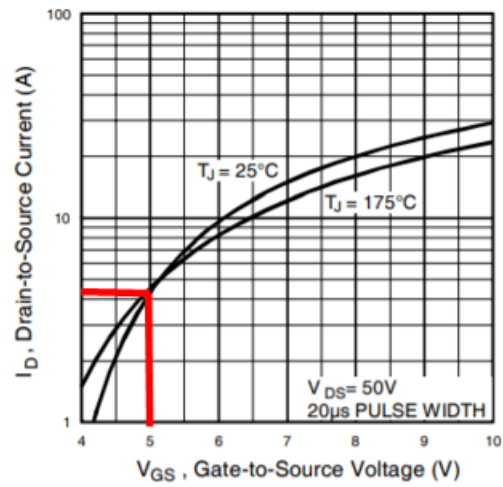


Fig 3. Typical Transfer Characteristics

Figure A-1: IRF520N V_{GS} versus I_{DS} Characteristics

APPENDIX B: Prototype Built

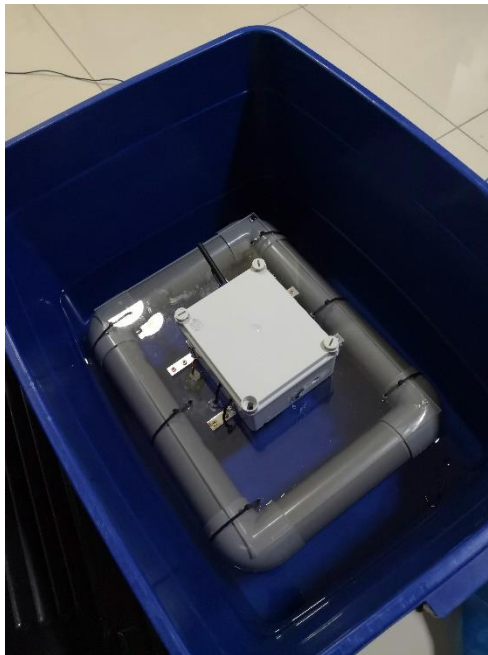


Figure B-1: Prototype placed in water storage tank for data collection



Figure B-2: Prototype placed in water storage tank containing polluted water

APPENDIX C: Graphs

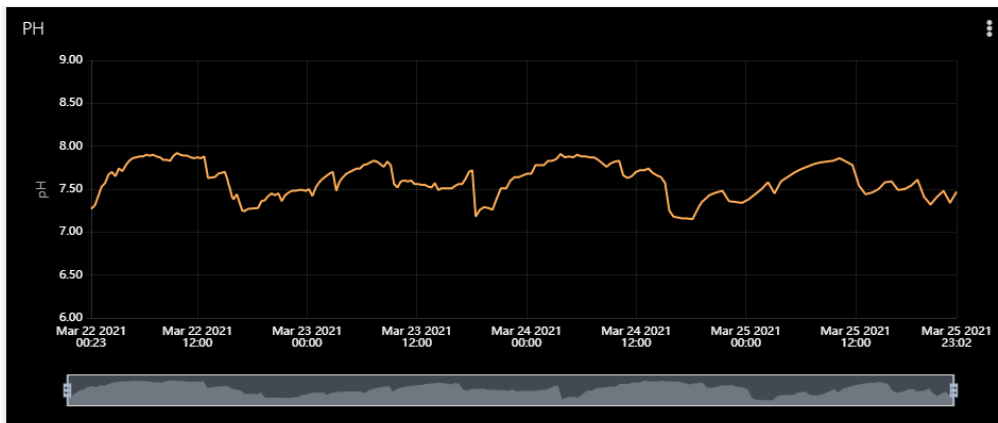


Figure C-1-1: pH Graph from 22-03-2021 to 25-03-2021

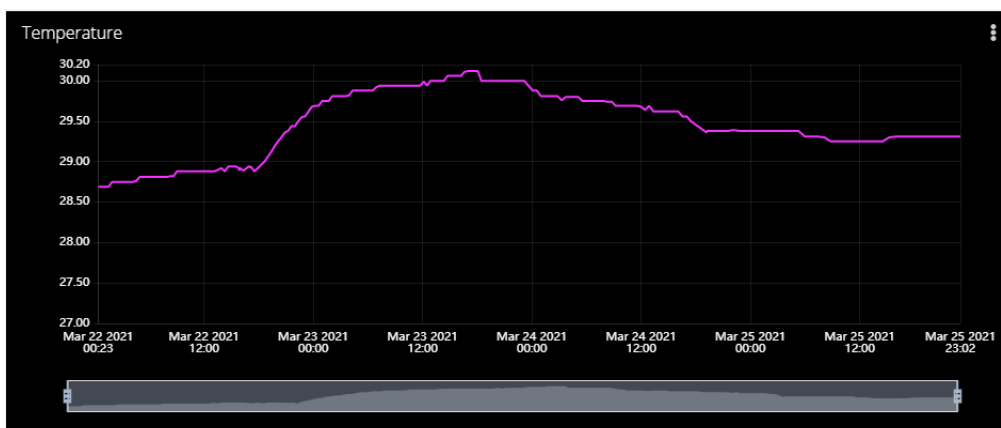


Figure C-1-2: Temperature Graph from 22-03-2021 to 25-03-2021

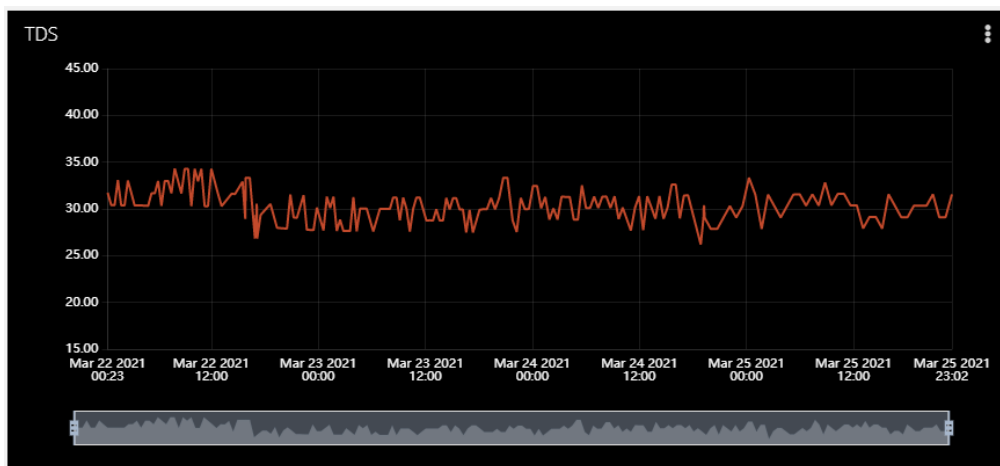


Figure C-1-3: TDS Graph from 22-03-2021 to 25-03-2021



Figure C-1-4: Turbidity Graph from 22-03-2021 to 25-03-2021

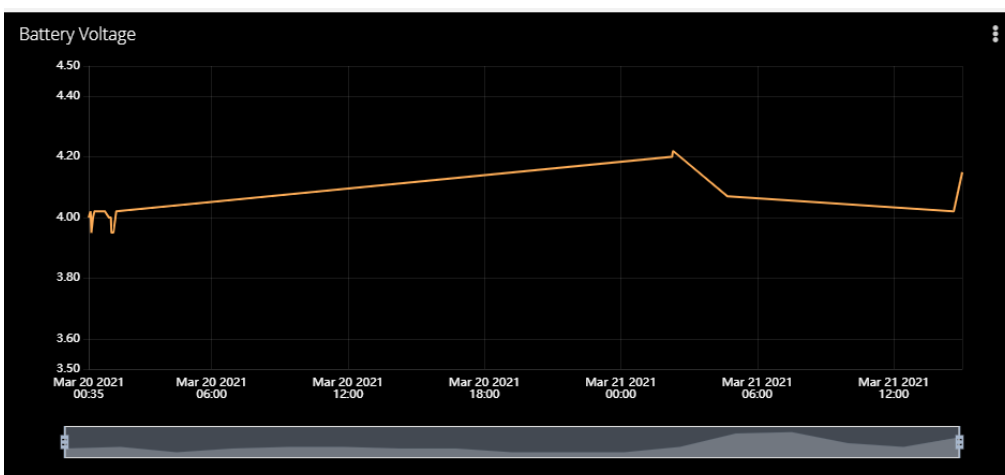


Figure C-1-5: Battery Voltage Graph from 20-03-2021 to 21-03-2021

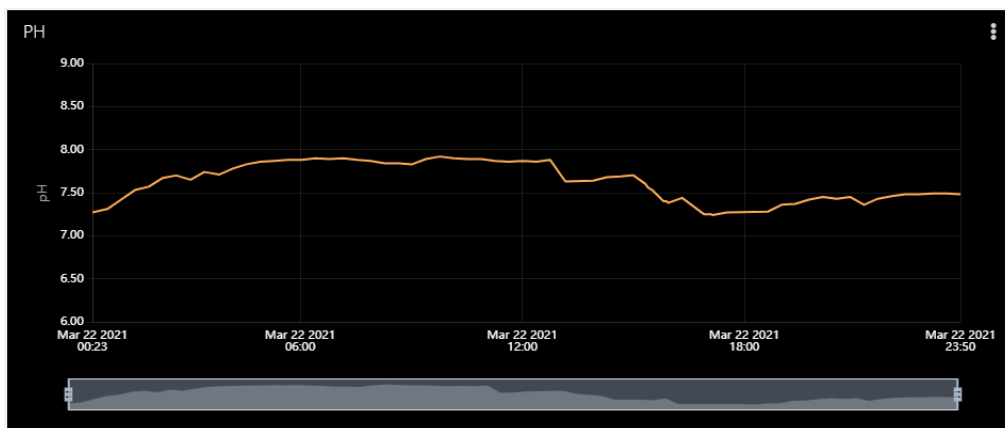


Figure C-2-1: pH Graph on 22-03-2021

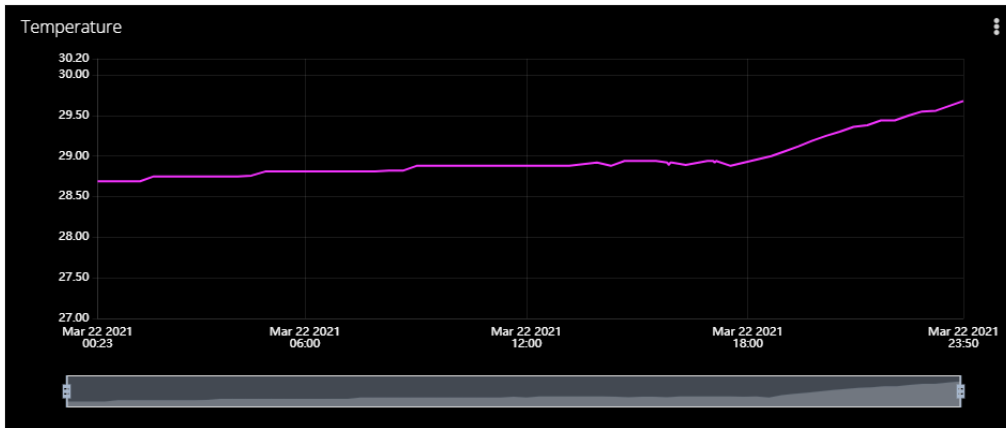


Figure C-2-2: Temperature Graph on 22-03-2021

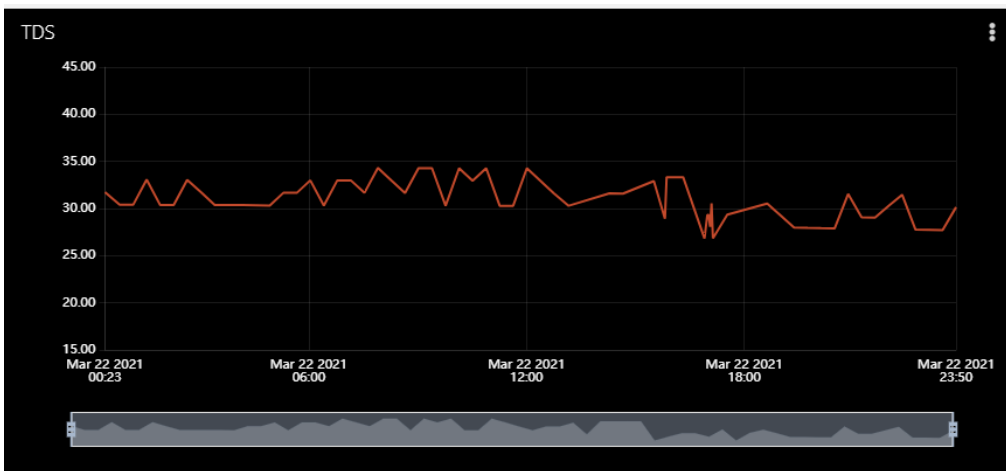


Figure C-2-3: TDS Graph on 22-03-2021

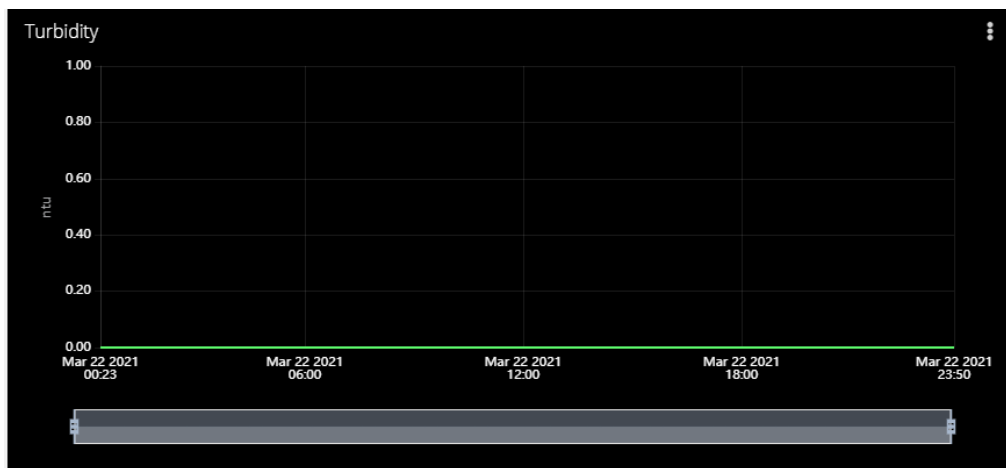


Figure C-2-4: Turbidity Graph on 22-03-2021

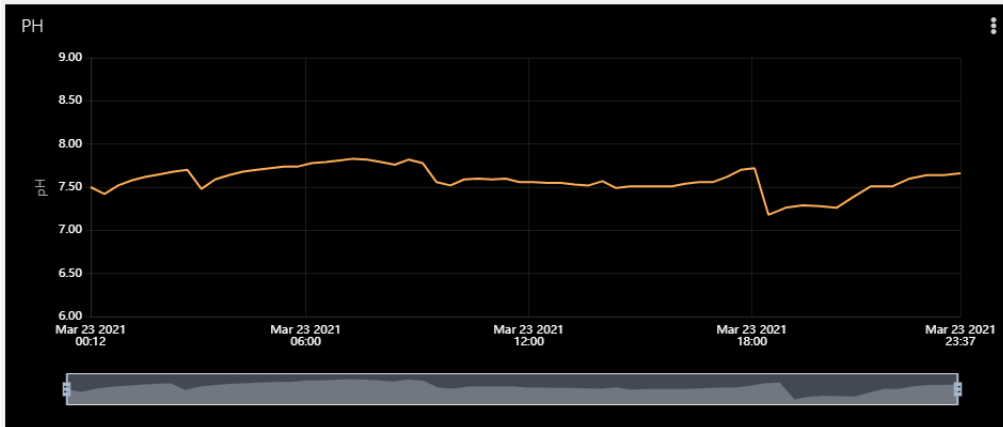


Figure C-3-1: pH Graph on 23-03-2021

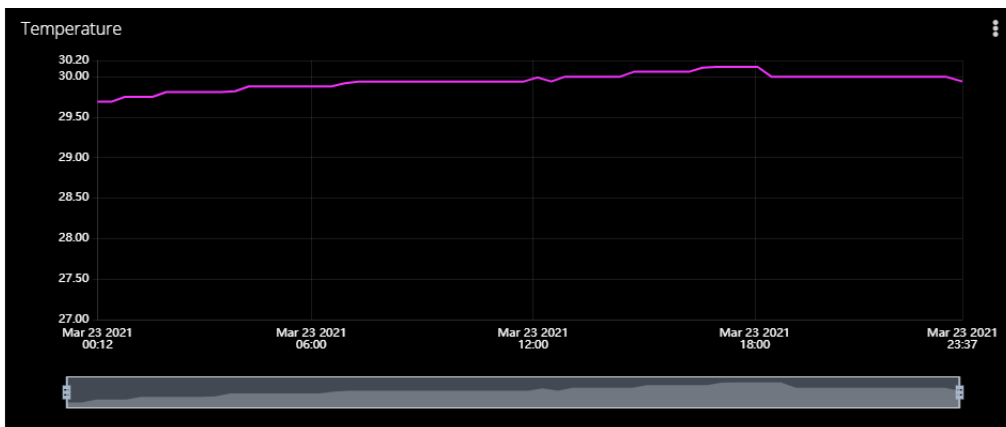


Figure C-3-2: Temperature Graph on 23-03-2021

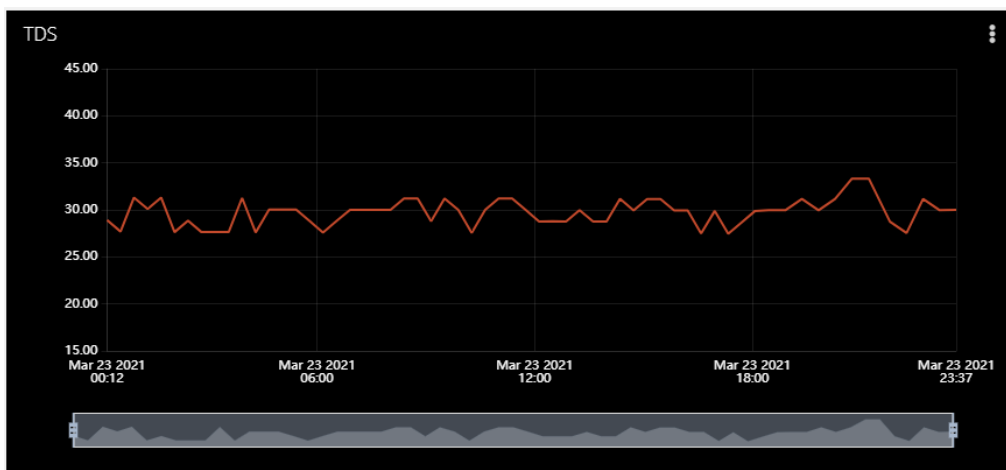


Figure C-3-3: TDS Graph on 23-03-2021



Figure C-3-4: Turbidity Graph on 23-03-2021

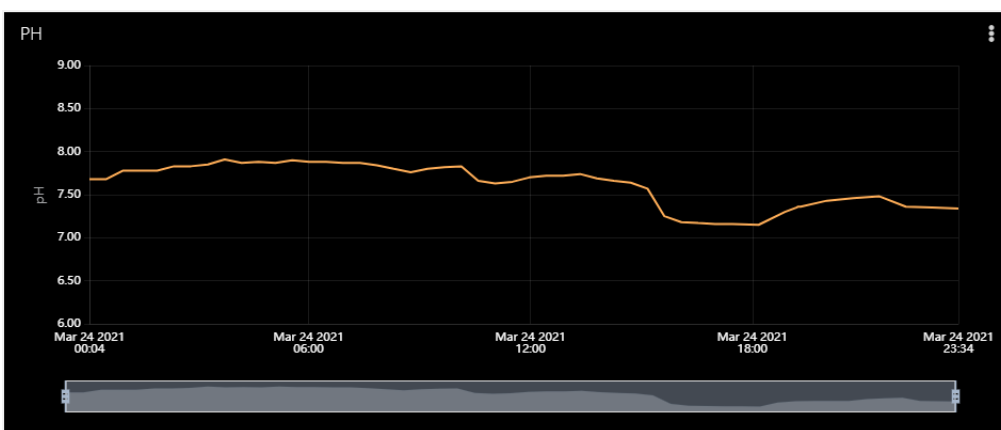


Figure C-4-1: pH Graph on 24-03-2021

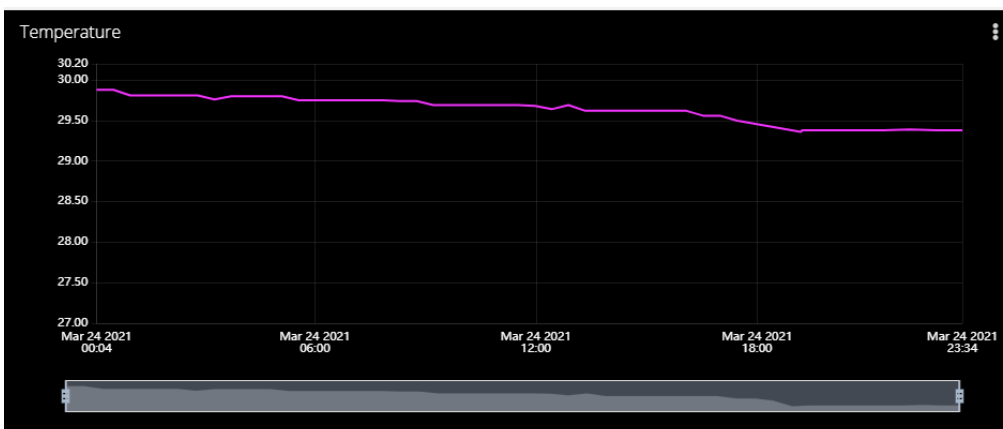


Figure C-4-2: Temperature Graph on 24-03-2021

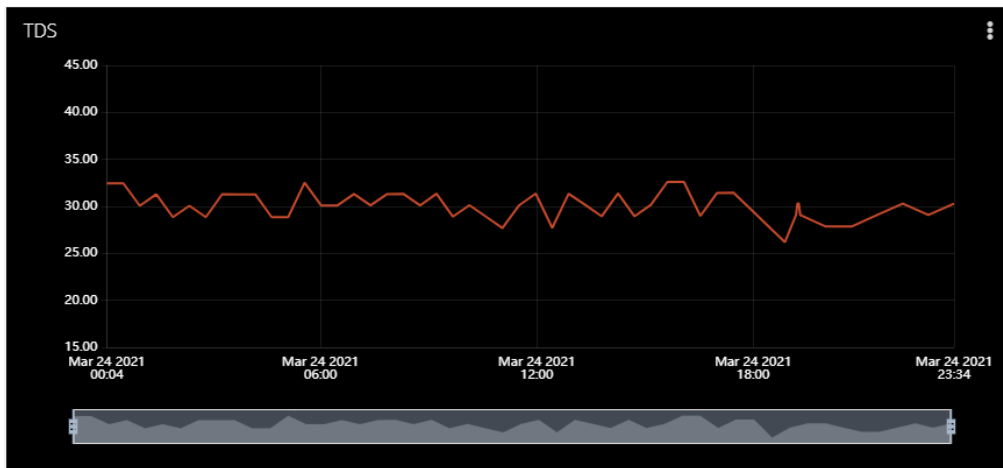


Figure C-4-3: TDS Graph on 24-03-2021



Figure C-4-4: Turbidity Graph on 24-03-2021

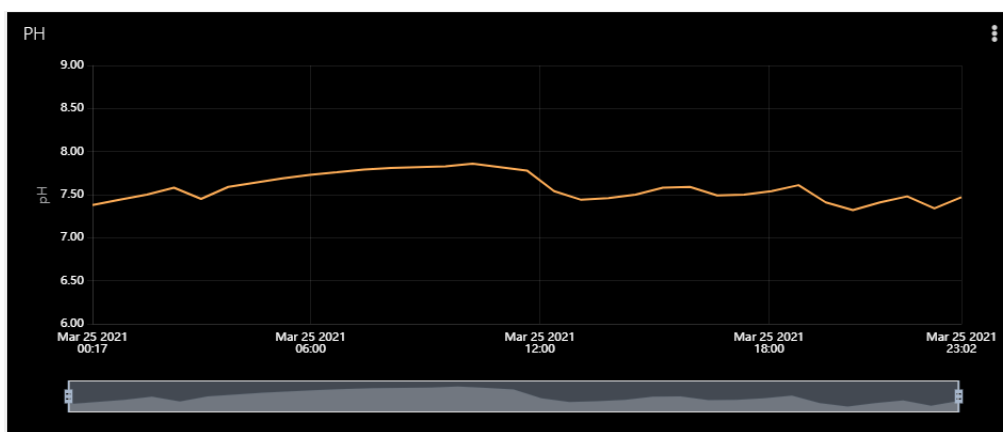


Figure C-5-1: pH Graph on 25-03-2021

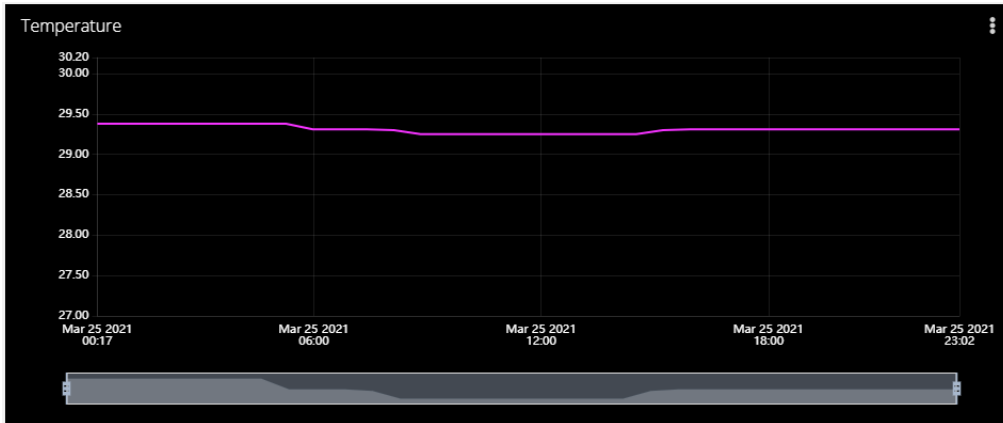


Figure C-5-2: Temperature Graph on 25-03-2021

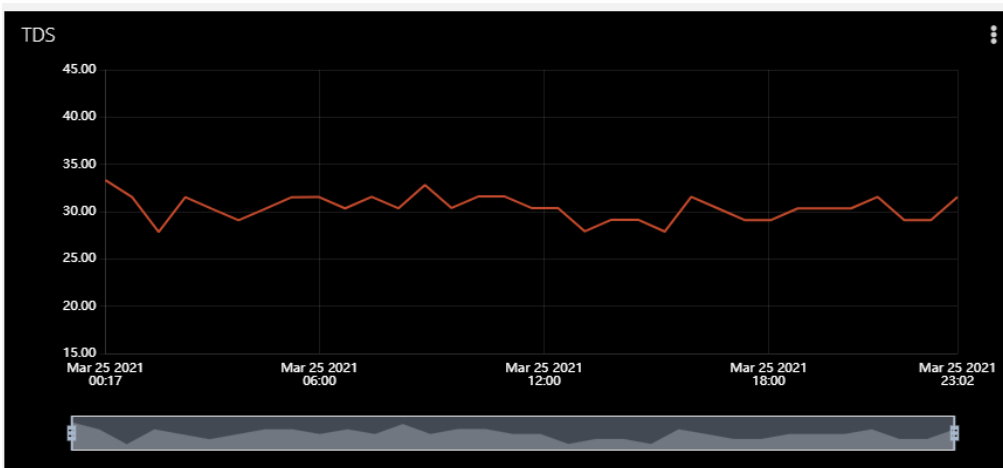


Figure C-5-3: TDS Graph on 25-03-2021



Figure C-5-4: Turbidity Graph on 25-03-2021

APPENDIX D: Coding of Sensor Subsystem

```
#include <SPI.h>
#include <nRF24L01.h>
#include <RF24.h>
#include <OneWire.h>
#include <DallasTemperature.h>
#include "GravityTDS.h"

#define pHPin A0
#define TdsPin A1
#define TurbidityPin A3
#define voltagePin A4
GravityTDS gravityTds;
OneWire oneWire(5);
DallasTemperature sensors(&oneWire);
//#define ph_power 9
#define ph_power 10
#define tds_power 3
#define tur_power 9
#define temp_power 2

RF24 radio(7, 8); // CE, CSN
const byte address[6] = "00001";

long time_interval_to_take_reading = 20;
long interval_counter = 0;
long interval_clock;
int waiting_for_user_request = 0;
int alert_state = 0;
float ph_offset = 0.37;
float volt_offset = 0.2;

//Variables
float temp;
float tds;
float pH;
float turbidity;
int interval;
```

Figure D-1-1: Arduino Nano Main Program (1)

```

void setup()
{
  Serial.begin(9600);
  initialize_sensors_power();
  sensors.begin();
  tds_initialise();
  rf_initialise_listen();
  interval_clock = time_interval_to_take_reading * 1200;
}

void loop()
{
  if (radio.available())
  {
    user_request_from_receiver();
  }

  if ((interval_counter >= interval_clock - 900) && (waiting_for_user_request == 0) && (alert_state == 0))
  {
    alert_state = 1;
    Serial.println("Stop any checking on cloud");
    rf_alert(555);
  }

  if ((interval_counter >= interval_clock) && (waiting_for_user_request == 0))
  {
    alert_state = 0;
    interval_counter = 0;
    take_reading();
    send_data();
    rf_alert(666);
  }
  interval_counter++;
  Serial.println(interval_counter);

  delay(50);
}

```

Figure D-1-2: Arduino Nano Main Program (2)

```

void tds_initialise()
{
  gravityTds.setPin(TdsPin);
  gravityTds.setAref(5.0); //reference voltage on ADC, default 5.0V on Arduino UNO
  gravityTds.setAdcRange(1024); //1024 for 10bit ADC;4096 for 12bit ADC
  gravityTds.begin(); //initialization
}

void initialize_sensors_power()
{
  pinMode(ph_power, OUTPUT);
  pinMode(tds_power, OUTPUT);
  pinMode(tur_power, OUTPUT);
  pinMode(temp_power, OUTPUT);
}

void rf_initialise_listen()
{
  radio.begin();
  radio.openReadingPipe(0, address);
  radio.setPALevel(RF24_PA_MIN);
  radio.startListening();
}

void rf_initialise_write()
{
  radio.begin();
  radio.openWritingPipe(address);
  radio.setPALevel(RF24_PA_MIN);
  radio.stopListening();
}

```

Figure D-2: Sensors and RF Module Initialization

```

void take_reading()
{

    getpH();
    Serial.print("PH:");
    Serial.println(pH);
    delay (1000);
    getTemp();
    Serial.print("Temp:");
    Serial.println(temp);
    delay (1000);
    getTDS();
    Serial.print("TDS:");
    Serial.println(tds);
    delay (1000);
    getTurbidity();
    Serial.print("Turbidity:");
    Serial.println(turbidity);
    delay (1000);
    getVoltage();
    Serial.print("Battery Voltage:");
    Serial.println(voltage);
    delay (1000);
    Serial.println("Data taken");
}

```

Figure D-3-1: Take Sensors Reading Program

```

void getpH()
{

    digitalWrite ( ph_power, HIGH);
    delay(10000);
    unsigned long int avgValue; //Store the average value of the sensor feedback
    float b;
    int buf[10],temp;
    float pHValue;

    for(int i=0;i<10;i++) //Get 10 sample value from the sensor for smooth the value
    {
        buf[i]=analogRead(pHPin);
        delay(10);
    }
    for(int i=0;i<9;i++) //sort the analog from small to large
    {
        for(int j=i+1;j<10;j++)
        {
            //Convert
            if(buf[i]>buf[j])
            {
                temp=buf[i];
                buf[i]=buf[j];
                buf[j]=temp;
            }
        }
    }
    avgValue=0;
    for(int i=2;i<8;i++) //take the average value of 6 center sample
        avgValue+=buf[i];
    pH=(float)avgValue*5.0/1024/6; //convert the analog into millivolt
    pH=3.5*pH + ph_offset; //convert the millivolt into pH value
    digitalWrite ( ph_power, LOW);
}

```

Figure D-3-2: Take pH Reading Program

```

void getTemp()
{
    digitalWrite (temp_power, HIGH);
    delay(1000);
    sensors.requestTemperatures(); // perform first read (wrong value) to let digital pin voltage stabilize
    temp = sensors.getTempCByIndex(0);
    delay(4000);
    temp = 0;
    sensors.requestTemperatures(); // perform second read and save the value
    for(int i=0; i<10; i++) // get 10 samples and average out
    {
        temp = temp + (sensors.getTempCByIndex(0));
        delay (500);
    }
    temp = temp/10;
    digitalWrite (temp_power, LOW);
    delay(10000);
}

```

Figure D-3-3: Take Temperature Reading Program

```

void getTDS()
{
    int x = 0;
    digitalWrite (tds_power, HIGH);
    delay(1000);
    gravityTds.setTemperature(temp); // set the temperature and execute temperature compensation
    gravityTds.update(); //sample and calculate
    tds = gravityTds.getTdsValue(); // perform first read (wrong value) to let digital pin voltage stabilize
    delay (4000);
    tds = 0;
    gravityTds.setTemperature(temp); //perform second read and save the value
    gravityTds.update();
    for(int i=0; i<10; i++) // get 10 samples and average out
    {
        tds = tds + (gravityTds.getTdsValue());
        delay (100);
    }
    tds = tds/10;
    digitalWrite (tds_power, LOW);
    delay(1000);
}

```

Figure D-3-4: Take TDS Reading Program

```

void getTurbidity()
{
    float volt = 0;
    digitalWrite (tur_power, HIGH);
    delay (3000);
    for(int i=0; i<15; i++) // get 15 samples and average out
    {
        volt += ((float)analogRead(TurbidityPin)/1023)*5;
        delay (500);
    }
    volt = volt/15;
    volt = round_to_dp(volt,6);
    Serial.print("volt:");
    Serial.print(volt,6);
    turbidity = -1120.4*square(volt)+5742.3*volt-4353.9;

    if(volt < 2.5){
        turbidity = 3000;
    }else if (volt>4.2){
        turbidity = 0;
    }
    digitalWrite (tur_power, LOW);
}

float round_to_dp( float in_value, int decimal_place )
{
    float multiplier = powf( 10.0f, decimal_place );
    in_value = roundf( in_value * multiplier ) / multiplier;
    return in_value;
}

```

Figure D-3-5: Take Turbidity Reading Program

```

void getVoltage()
{
  int value = 0;
  float vout = 0;
  float R1 = 30000.0;
  float R2 = 7500.0;
  value = analogRead(voltagePin);
  vout = (value * 5.0) / 1024.0;
  voltage = (vout / (R2/(R1+R2))) ;
  voltage = voltage - volt_offset;
}

```

Figure D-3-6: Take Voltage Reading Program

```

void send_data()
{
  rf_initialise_write();
  rf_send_data_to_ethernet_shield (pH+1000);
  rf_send_data_to_ethernet_shield (temp+2000);
  rf_send_data_to_ethernet_shield (tds+3000);
  rf_send_data_to_ethernet_shield (turbidity+4000);
  rf_send_data_to_ethernet_shield (voltage+5000);
  rf_initialise_listen();
  Serial.println("Sent successfully");
}

void rf_send_data_to_ethernet_shield (float a)
{
  for (int counter = 0; counter<200; counter ++ ) // KEEP SEND DATA FOR 2 SECONDS
  {
    float data = a;
    radio.write(&data, sizeof(data));
    delay(10);
  }
}

void rf_alert(float b)
{
  rf_initialise_write();
  for (int counter = 0; counter<800; counter ++ ) // KEEP SEND DATA FOR 10 SECONDS
  {
    float data = b;
    radio.write(&data, sizeof(data));
    delay(10);
  }
  rf_initialise_listen();
}

```

Figure D-4: RF Send Data Program

```

void user_request_from_receiver()
{
    float data_received;
    Serial.print("User has requested a change");
    radio.read(&data_received, sizeof(data_received));

    if ((data_received > 1000) && (data_received <2000))
    {
        time_interval_to_take_reading = data_received - 1000;
        interval_clock = time_interval_to_take_reading * 1200;
        Serial.print(" in time interval and the new time interval is ");
        Serial.println(time_interval_to_take_reading);
    }
    else if ((data_received > 10) && (data_received < 20))
    {
        delay(8000);
        Serial.println(" to log data now");
        take_reading();
        send_data();
        rf_alert(666);
        interval_counter = 0;
        waiting_for_user_request = 0;
        alert_state = 0;
    }else if (data_received == 777)
    {
        Serial.println ("Stop logging data and standby to receive user request");
        waiting_for_user_request = 1;
    }else if (data_received == 888)
    {
        Serial.println ("Back to logging data");
        waiting_for_user_request = 0;
    }
}
}

```

Figure D-5: User Request Program

APPENDIX E: Coding of Receiver Subsystem

```

#include <Ethernet.h>
#include <UbidotsEthernet.h>
#include <SPI.h>
#include <nRF24L01.h>
#include <RF24.h>
#include <SD.h>
#include <TimeLib.h>

#define TOKEN "BBFF-qlN4zJ9FuUeTm5BGY5eV2nafIOMmgF"
#define PH "ph"
#define TDS "tds"
#define TEMP "temperature"
#define TUR "turbidity"
#define VOLT "battery-voltage"
#define BACKUPPH "back-up-ph"
#define BACKUPTDS "back-up-tds"
#define BACKUPTEMP "back-up-temperature"
#define BACKUPTUR "back-up-turbidity"
#define BACKUPVOLT "back-up-battery-voltage"

char const * DEVICE_LABEL = "arduino-ethernet";
char const * time_int = "time-interval";
char const * log_data = "log-data";

byte mac[] = {0xDE, 0xAD, 0xBE, 0xEF, 0xFE, 0xED};
IPAddress ip(129,6,15,28);
EthernetUDP ethernet_UDP;
unsigned int localPort = 8888;
RF24 radio(7, 8); // CE, CSN
const byte address[6] = "00001";

Ubidots client(TOKEN);
time_t prevDisplay = 0;
byte messageBuffer[48];
File myFile;

```

Figure E-1-1: Arduino Mega Main Program (1)


```

//Variables
float temp = 0;
float tds = 0;
float pH = 0;
float turbidity = 0;
float voltage = 0;
float back_up_temp =0 ;
float back_up_tds = 0;
float back_up_pH = 0;
float back_up_turbidity = 0;
float back_up_voltage = 0;

int row = 0;
int column = 0;
int ethernet_state = 0;
int sd_data_found = 0;
String data;
String sd_array[20][7];
int track_command_interval = 0;
int count_5_data = 0;
int free_upload_state = 0;

int sensor_system_log_interval = 20;
int thirty_sec_check_log_data = 1800; // set to 10 seconds
int fifteen_min_check_interval = 18000; // set to 15 min

unsigned long one_hour = 72000;
unsigned long counter_one_hour = 0;
int counter_30_sec = 0;
int counter_15_min = 0;
float log_data_1=0;
float change_interval;
int busy_to_check_cloud = 0;

```

Figure E-1-2: Arduino Mega Main Program (2)

```

void setup()
{
  Serial.begin(9600);
  disable_sd();
  startup_ethernet();
  ethernet_UDP.begin(localPort);
  setSyncProvider(getTime);
  rf_initialise_listen();
}

```

Figure E-1-3: Arduino Mega Main Program (3)

```

void loop ()
{
  if (radio.available())
  {
    receive_data();
  }

  if ((pH>0)&&(temp > 0) && (tds > 0) && (turbidity >= 0) &&(busy_to_check_cloud == 0 ))
  {
    Serial.println("Uploading data to cloud");
    upload_data_to_cloud();
  }

  //alerts sensor system to standby for user request
  if ((counter_15_min >= fifteen_min_check_interval - 1200)&& (busy_to_check_cloud == 0)&&( free_upload_state==0))
  {
    free_upload_state = 1;
    rf_alert_sensor_system(777);
    Serial.println("Sending alert to sensor system to stop logging data and wait for user request");
  }
  // check change in time interval every fifteen minutes
  if((counter_15_min >= fifteen_min_check_interval) && (busy_to_check_cloud == 0))
  {
    counter_15_min = 0;
    free_upload_state = 0;
    Serial.println("Checking user request to change time interval ");
    user_request_chg_int();
  }

  // check log data
  if((counter_30_sec >= thirty_sec_check_log_data)&&(busy_to_check_cloud == 0))
  {
    counter_30_sec = 0;
    Serial.println("Checking user request to log data now ");
    user_request_log_data();
  }

  // upload sd card data
  if (( counter_one_hour == one_hour)&& (busy_to_check_cloud = 0))
  {
    counter_one_hour = 0;
    upload_data_to_cloud();
    upload_backup_data();
  }
  counter_30_sec++;
  counter_15_min++;
  counter_one_hour++;
  delay(50);
}

```

Figure E-1-4: Arduino Mega Main Program (4)

```

void rf_initialize_listen()
{
  radio.begin();
  radio.openReadingPipe(0, address);
  radio.setPALevel(RF24_PA_MIN);
  radio.startListening();
}

void rf_initialize_write()
{
  radio.begin();
  radio.openWritingPipe(address);
  radio.setPALevel(RF24_PA_MIN);
  radio.stopListening();
}

```

Figure E-2: RF Initialization Program

```

void startup_ethernet()
{
  Serial.print(F("Starting ethernet..."));
  if (!Ethernet.begin(mac))
  {
    Serial.println(F("failed"));
    ethernet_state= 0;
    reconnect_ethernet();
  } else
  {
    Serial.println(Ethernet.localIP());
    ethernet_state = 1;
    ethernet_UDP.begin(localPort);
    setSyncProvider(getTime);
  }
  /* Give the Ethernet shield a second to initialize */
  delay(2000);
  Serial.println(F("Ready to go"));
}

void reconnect_ethernet() // reconnect to ubidot server
{
  int x = 0;

  while (!Ethernet.begin(mac))
  { x ++;
    Serial.println("Attempting MQTT connection...");
    // Attempt to connect
    if (!Ethernet.begin(mac))
    {
      Serial.println(F("failed"));
      ethernet_state = 0;
    } else
    {
      Serial.println(Ethernet.localIP());
      ethernet_state = 1;
    }
    delay(20);

    if (x == 1)
    {
      break;
    }
  }
}

```

Figure E-3: Ethernet Connection Program

```

void receive_data()
{
  float data;
  radio.read(&data, sizeof(data));
  Serial.println(data);
  if ((data >1000) && (data <2000))
  {
    pH = data;
    pH = pH - 1000;
    Serial.print("pH is ");
    Serial.println (pH);
  }else if ((data >2000) && (data <3000))
  {
    temp = data;
    temp = temp - 2000;
    Serial.print("Temperature is ");
    Serial.println (temp);
  }else if ((data >3000) && (data <4000))
  {
    tds = data;
    tds = tds - 3000;
    Serial.print("TDS is ");
    Serial.println (tds);
  }else if ((data >=4000) && (data <5000))
  {
    turbidity = data;
    turbidity = turbidity - 4000;
    Serial.print("Turbidity is ");
    Serial.println (turbidity);
  }else if ((data > 5000) && (data <6000))
  {
    voltage = data;
    voltage = voltage - 5000;
    Serial.print("Battery voltage is ");
    Serial.println (voltage);*/
  }else if (data == 555)
  {
    Serial.println ("Standby to receive data");
    busy_to_check_cloud = 1;
  }else if (data == 666)
  {
    Serial.println ("Now free to perform other operations");
    busy_to_check_cloud = 0;
  }
  else
  {
    Serial.println ("Noise received");
  }
}
}

```

Figure E-4: RF Receive Sensor Data Program

```

void upload_data_to_cloud()
{
  startup_ethernet();
  Serial.print("Ethernet state is ");
  Serial.println(ethernet_state);
  if (ethernet_state == 0)
  {
    Serial.println("Ethernet is unavailable, sending data to SD card");
    print_realtime_and_save_data_to_sd_card();
    clear_current_data();
  }else if (ethernet_state == 1)
  {
    Serial.println("Ethernet is available, sending data to cloud");
    ubidot_sendValue();
    clear_current_data();
  }
  delay(1000);
}

void ubidot_sendValue ()
{
  /* Sending values to Ubidots */
  client.add(PH, pH);
  delay(2000);
  client.add(TDS, tds);
  delay(2000);
  client.add(TEMP, temp);
  delay(2000);
  client.add(TUR, turbidity);
  delay(2000);
  client.add(VOLT, voltage);
  delay(2000);
  client.sendAll();
}

```

Figure E-5: Upload Data to Ubidots Cloud Program

```

void clear_current_data()
{
  pH = 0;
  tds = 0;
  temp = 0;
  turbidity = 0;
  voltage = 0;
}

```

Figure E-6: Clear Current Sensor Data Program

```

void user_request_log_data()
{
  startup_ethernet();
  if (ethernet_state ==1)
  {
    log_data_1 = client.getValue(DEVICE_LABEL, log_data);
    Serial.println(log_data_1);
    delay(10);
    if (log_data_1 >= 1)
    {
      Serial.println("User has requested to log data now");
      busy_to_check_cloud = 1;
      log_data_1 = 0;
      rf_alert_sensor_system(11);
    }
    else
    {
      Serial.println("User did not request to log data now");
    }
  }
  else
  {
    Serial.println("No internet, cannot check log data state");
  }
}

```

Figure E-7-1: User Request Program (1)

```

void user_request_chg_int()
{
  startup_ethernet();
  if (ethernet_state ==1)
  {
    Serial.println("Checking new time interval as requested by user from cloud");
    change_interval = client.getValue(DEVICE_LABEL, time_int);
    Serial.println(change_interval);
    delay(10);
    if (change_interval != sensor_system_log_interval)
    {
      sensor_system_log_interval = change_interval;
      Serial.print("Time interval has changed to ");
      Serial.println(sensor_system_log_interval);
      rf_alert_sensor_system (sensor_system_log_interval+1000);
      change_interval=0;
    }
  }
  else
  {
    Serial.println("No internet, cannot update change in time interval");
  }
  rf_alert_sensor_system(888);
}

```

Figure E-7-2: User Request Program (2)

```

void rf_alert_sensor_system(float a)
{
  rf_initialise_write();

  for (int counter = 0; counter<500; counter++) // continue sending data for 10 seconds
  {
    float data = 0;
    data = a;
    radio.write(&data, sizeof(data));
    delay(20);
  }
  rf_initialise_listen();
}

```

Figure E-8: RF Alert Sensor Subsystem to Standby Program

```

void print_realtime_and_save_data_to_sd_card()
{
  enable_sd();
  initialize_sd();
  if (timeStatus() != timeNotSet) { // check if the time is successfully updated
    if (now() != prevDisplay) { // update the display only if time has changed
      prevDisplay = now();
      print_realtime_and_data(); // display the current date and time
    }
  }

  disable_sd();
}

void disable_sd()
{
  pinMode(4, OUTPUT);
  digitalWrite(4, HIGH);
}

void enable_sd()
{
  pinMode(4, OUTPUT);
  digitalWrite(4, LOW);
}

void initialize_sd()
{
  while (!Serial) {
    ; // wait for serial port to connect. Needed for native USB port only
  }

  Serial.print("Initializing SD card...");

  if (!SD.begin(4)) {
    Serial.println("initialization failed!");
    while (1);
  }
  Serial.println("initialization done.");
}

```

Figure E-9-1: SD Card Program (1)

```

void print_realtime_and_data()
{
    int current_day = 0;
    int current_hour = 0;
    // update time to malaysia time
    if(hour()+8 >24)
    {
        current_hour = hour()+8;
        current_hour = current_hour - 24;
        current_day = day()+1;
    }else{
        current_hour = hour()+8;
        current_day = day();
    }

    myFile = SD.open("backup.txt", FILE_WRITE);
    if (myFile) {
        Serial.print("Writing to test.txt...");

        myFile.println();
        myFile.print ('%');
        myFile.print ('');
        myFile.print(current_day);
        myFile.print ('/');
        myFile.print(month());
        myFile.print ('/');
        myFile.print(year());
        myFile.print ('');
        myFile.print ('%');
        myFile.print ('');
        printextradigit(current_hour);
        printextradigit(minute());
        myFile.print ('');
        myFile.print ('%');
        print_parameter(pH);
        print_parameter(tds);
        print_parameter(temp);
        print_parameter(turbidity);
        print_parameter(voltage);
        myFile.print ('');
        myFile.print ('%');
        // close the file:
        myFile.close();
        Serial.println("done.");
    } else {
        // if the file didn't open, print an error:
        Serial.println("error opening test.txt");
    }
    delay (1000);
}

```

Figure E-9-2: SD Card Program (2)

```

void printextradigit(int digits)
{
    // add colon character and a leading zero if number < 10
    if(digits < 10)
    {
        myFile.print ('0');
        myFile.print(digits);
    }else
    {
        myFile.print(digits);
    }
}

void print_parameter(float data)
{
    myFile.print(data);
    myFile.print ('%');
}

```

Figure E-9-3: SD Card Program (3)


```
void read_SD_card()
{
  enable_sd();
  initialise_sd();
  myFile = SD.open("backup.txt");

  if (myFile) {
    // read from the file until there's nothing else in it:
    while (myFile.available()) {
      sd_data_found = 1;
      String data = myFile.readStringUntil('#');
      Serial.println (data);
      if (data == "")
      {
        column = 0;
        row ++;
      }else
      {
        sd_array[row][column] = data;
        column++;
      }
    }
  }
  myFile.close();
  SD.remove ("backup.txt");
} else
{
  Serial.println("error opening test.txt");
}
disable_sd();
}
```

Figure E-9-4: SD Card Program (4)

```

time_t getTime()
{
    while (ethernet_UDP.parsePacket() > 0) ; // discard packets remaining to be parsed
    Serial.println("Transmit NTP Request message");
    // send packet to request time from NTP server
    sendRequest(ip);
    // wait for response
    uint32_t beginWait = millis();
    while (millis() - beginWait < 1500) {
        int size = ethernet_UDP.parsePacket();
        if (size >= 48) {
            Serial.println("Receiving NTP Response");
            // read data and save to messageBuffer
            ethernet_UDP.read(messageBuffer, 48);
            // NTP time received will be the seconds elapsed since 1 January 1900
            unsigned long secsSince1900;
            // convert to an unsigned long integer the reference timestamp found at byte 40 to 43
            secsSince1900 = (unsigned long)messageBuffer[40] << 24;
            secsSince1900 |= (unsigned long)messageBuffer[41] << 16;
            secsSince1900 |= (unsigned long)messageBuffer[42] << 8;
            secsSince1900 |= (unsigned long)messageBuffer[43];
            // returns UTC time
            return secsSince1900 - 2208988800UL;
        }
    }
    // error if no response
    Serial.println("Error: No Response.");
    return 0;
}
/*
  helper function for getTime()
  this function sends a request packet 48 bytes long
*/
void sendRequest(IPAddress address)
{
    // set all bytes in messageBuffer to 0
    memset(messageBuffer, 0, 48);
    // create the NTP request message
    messageBuffer[0] = 0b11100011; // LI, Version, Mode
    messageBuffer[1] = 0;         // Stratum, or type of clock
    messageBuffer[2] = 6;         // Polling Interval
    messageBuffer[3] = 0xEC;      // Peer Clock Precision
    // array index 4 to 11 is left unchanged - 8 bytes of zero for Root Delay & Root Dispersion
    messageBuffer[12] = 49;
    messageBuffer[13] = 0x4E;
    messageBuffer[14] = 49;
    messageBuffer[15] = 52;

    // send messageBuffer to NTP server via UDP at port 123
    ethernet_UDP.beginPacket(address, 123);
    ethernet_UDP.write(messageBuffer, 48);
    ethernet_UDP.endPacket();
}

```

Figure E-10: Get Time from NTP Server Program

```

void upload_backup_data()
{
  startup_ethernet();
  if (ethernet_state == 0)
  {
    Serial.println("Ethernet not available, cannot send data to back up cloud");
  }
  else if (ethernet_state == 1)
  {
    Serial.println("Ethernet available, reading data stored in SD card");
    read_SD_card();
    if (sd_data_found == 1)
    {
      Serial.println("Data found in SD card, sending to cloud");
      sd_data_found = 0;
      upload_back_up_data_to_cloud();
    }
    else
    {
      Serial.println("SD card is empty");
    }
  }
  delay(1000);
}

```

Figure E-11-1: Upload Backup Data Program (1)

```

void upload_back_up_data_to_cloud()
{
  char date[13] ;
  char time_[7];
  char contextProg[30];

  for (int i = 0; i < row; i++)
  {
    sd_array[i][1].toCharArray(date, 13); // [0][0] store date
    sd_array[i][2].toCharArray(time_, 7); // [0][1] store time
    sprintf(contextProg, "\"Date\":%s, \"Time\":%s", date,time_);
    Serial.println(contextProg);
    back_up_pH = sd_array[i][3].toFloat();
    back_up_tds = sd_array[i][4].toFloat();
    back_up_temp = sd_array[i][5].toFloat();
    back_up_turbidity = sd_array[i][6].toFloat();
    back_up_voltage = sd_array[i][7].toFloat();

    client.add(BACKUPPH, back_up_pH,contextProg);
    client.sendAll();
    client.add(BACKUPTDS, back_up_tds,contextProg);
    client.sendAll();
    client.add(BACKUPTEMP, back_up_temp,contextProg);
    client.sendAll();
    client.add(BACKUPTUR,back_up_turbidity,contextProg);
    client.sendAll();
    client.add(BACKUPVOLT, back_up_voltage,contextProg);
    client.sendAll();

    Serial.println(i);
    Serial.println("done");
  }
}

```

Figure E-11-2: Upload Backup Data Program (2)