

Study of Smart Traffic Signals Using Sensors

Mr. S.S.Rajput¹, Anand B. Chopade², Shaikh. Huzefa³, Shaikh Huzef⁴, Moh. Afzal⁵

¹Lecturer, Dept of Civil Engineering

^{2, 3, 4, 5} Dept of Civil Engineering

^{1, 2, 3, 4, 5} Padm. Dr. V.B. Kolte College of Engineering, Malkapur, Maharashtra, India

Abstract- Traffic congestion is a serious issue in cities owing to the sudden rise in the number of vehicles, causing increased travel time, fuel consumption, and air pollution. This paper proposes a smart traffic signal control system using sensors to optimize traffic flow by adjusting traffic signals based on the real-time density of vehicles. Sensors are placed at road junctions to sense the presence and density of vehicles and send signals to a controller for optimal control of traffic signals. The system changes the green signal time based on traffic density on each road. The proposed method is beneficial in reducing traffic congestion, minimizing waiting time, enhancing the passage of emergency vehicles, and conserving fuel. This paper emphasizes the need for sensor-based intelligent traffic control systems as a reliable solution for managing traffic in modern cities

Keywords: Smart Traffic Signal, Traffic Sensors, Vehicle Density, Intelligent Traffic Control, IoT-Based System, Urban Traffic Management

I. INTRODUCTION

The rapid increase in urbanization and the steady rise in the number of vehicles have resulted in traffic congestion becoming a major problem in contemporary cities. Traditional traffic control systems function on a fixed time cycle and are not capable of adapting to changing traffic patterns, leading to delays, queues, fuel consumption, and air pollution. Unorganized traffic control not only impacts regular commuters but also affects emergency services and public transport.

Traffic density at road intersections changes from time to time depending on peak and non-peak hours, events, and unexpected road conditions. Fixed-time traffic signals do not adjust to changes in traffic density, resulting in inefficient use of road infrastructure. To address these issues, intelligent traffic control systems that can adjust signal times according to traffic density are needed.

In smart traffic signal control systems, sensors are used to detect the presence of vehicles and traffic density on each road leading to the intersection. The information obtained from the sensors is processed by a controller, which allocates

the green time for the traffic signal dynamically depending on the traffic demand.

The purpose of this paper is to discuss the design and functionality of a smart traffic signal control system based on sensors. It also tries to analyze the drawbacks of existing traffic control systems and how a sensor-based automation system can be an efficient solution for smart city development.

II. PROBLEM STATEMENT

The growing number of vehicles and rapid urbanization have led to serious traffic congestion, especially at the intersections of roads in urban areas. The traditional traffic control system follows a fixed time schedule and does not take into account the real-time traffic situation, resulting in inefficient traffic movement, long waiting times, and congestion on roads during peak hours. Roads with low traffic density are sometimes allocated unnecessary green time, and congested roads are overloaded.

Although modern technologies have improved the management of traffic, many cities are still using old traffic management systems because of low automation levels, the absence of real-time monitoring, and high costs of implementation. This has led to increased fuel consumption, air pollution, and delays for emergency services like ambulances and fire departments. The problem being addressed in this project is the requirement for an intelligent traffic signal control system that can change traffic signals dynamically according to real-time traffic density. Through the use of sensor-based traffic detection, this research will provide a cheap and effective solution to the problem of traffic management.

III. OBJECTIVE

- To examine the limitations of conventional fixed-time traffic signal control systems.
- To develop an intelligent traffic signal control system based on sensors to monitor traffic in real-time.
- To sense the presence of vehicles and traffic density at road intersections.
- To control the timing of traffic signals depending on the traffic situation.

- To minimize traffic congestion, waiting time, and fuel consumption.
- For efficient and intelligent traffic management for smart city purposes.

IV. PROPOSED METHODOLOGY

The proposed methodology outlines the approach adopted for designing and analyzing a smart traffic signal control system using sensor technology. The primary aim of this methodology is to efficiently control traffic at road intersections by varying the signal timing based on real-time traffic conditions.

4.1 System Design and Planning

The smart traffic signal system architecture is designed by identifying the main components of the system such as sensors, microcontrollers, and traffic signal units. The design of the intersection is analyzed to identify the placement of sensors for accurate detection of vehicles. The system is designed to work automatically with minimal human interaction.

4.2 Sensor Deployment and Vehicle Detection

Sensors like infrared sensors or ultrasonic sensors are mounted on each road leading to the intersection. These sensors are capable of detecting the presence of vehicles and measuring the traffic density. As soon as a vehicle is detected, the sensor sends a signal to the control unit. This enables the system to continuously monitor the traffic and provides real-time traffic information.

4.3 Data Processing and Traffic Density Estimation

The signals received from the sensors are processed by the microcontroller to estimate the traffic density on each road. The vehicle count and frequency of detection are used to classify the traffic density as low, medium, or high density. The processed information provides the basis for intelligent decision-making in signal control.

4.4 Adaptive Signal Control Logic

On the basis of the estimated traffic density, the adaptive control algorithm calculates the duration of green, yellow, and red lights for each direction. The roads with higher traffic density are allocated more time for the green light, and the roads with lower traffic density are allocated less time for the green light.

4.5 System Testing and Evaluation

The proposed system is then tested for various traffic situations to determine its efficiency. The performance metrics of waiting time, queue length, and traffic clearance rate are measured. The efficiency of the proposed system is compared with the conventional fixed-time traffic signal control system.

V. WORKING PRINCIPLE

The smart traffic signal system works by sensing the real-time traffic situation at a road intersection. Sensors are placed on each lane leading to the intersection to detect the presence of vehicles. Once vehicles approach the intersection, the sensors detect the vehicles and send signals depending on the movement or presence of vehicles.

The signals from the sensors are transmitted to a microcontroller, which is the central control unit of the system. The microcontroller analyzes the data obtained from all sensors and identifies the traffic density on each road. Depending on this data, the microcontroller decides the sequence and time of the traffic signals.

If the traffic density on a particular road is high, the system will provide a longer green signal time to that road. The roads with lower traffic density will be provided a shorter green signal time. The traffic lights (red, yellow, and green) are turned on accordingly by the controller. This process keeps on repeating to adjust to the real-time traffic conditions. The system uses sensor detection and automatic control, which ensures efficient flow of traffic, eliminates unnecessary waiting time, conserves fuel, and optimizes traffic management at intersections.

VI. BLOCK DIAGRAM

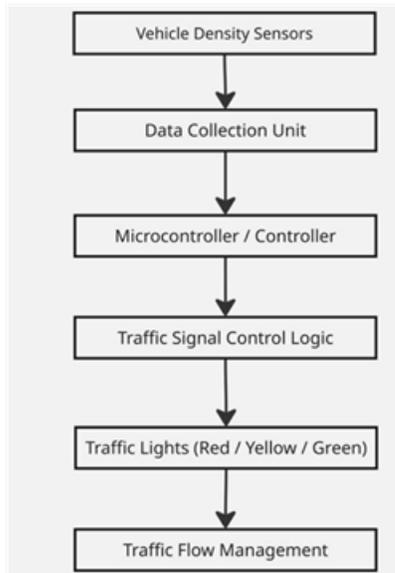


Fig. 1: Block Diagram of Smart Traffic Signal System Using Sensors

6.1 Block Diagram Explanation

The block diagram above shows the overall working of the smart traffic signal system based on the detection of vehicle density. The system works in a sequential manner, from vehicle detection to efficient management of traffic flow. The Vehicle Density Sensors are installed on each road leading to the traffic intersection. The sensors are capable of detecting the presence and number of vehicles on the road. The sensors produce signals depending on the movement or stoppage of vehicles, which indicate traffic density.

The signals are then transmitted to the Data Collection Unit. This unit is responsible for collecting and organizing the data received from the sensors. The unit is also responsible for ensuring that accurate data is available for further processing.

The collected data is then sent to the Microcontroller / Controller, which is the central processing unit of the system. The microcontroller receives the traffic density data from various roads and processes it as per the instructions programmed in it.

On the basis of this analysis, the Traffic Signal Control Logic identifies the correct sequence and timing of the signals. The control logic calculates the time for which the green signal should be on for each road based on the traffic density.

The processed control signals are then transmitted to the Traffic Lights (Red / Yellow / Green). The traffic lights function automatically according to the control logic, enabling vehicles to pass through the intersection efficiently.

Finally, the combined effect of all the blocks leads to Traffic Flow Management, where congestion is minimized, waiting time is reduced to a minimum, and traffic flow is made smoother.

VII. RESULT

The smart traffic signal system based on sensors was tested in varying traffic conditions to assess its efficiency. The system was able to identify the traffic density on each road and change the signal timing accordingly. Roads with higher traffic density were given a longer green signal time, and roads with lower traffic density were given a shorter green signal time.

Compared to traditional fixed-time traffic signals, the proposed system showed that the average waiting time at intersections was reduced, and overall traffic flow was improved. The reduction in unnecessary idling of vehicles led to a reduction in fuel consumption and air pollution. The proposed system also ensured smooth vehicle movement during peak hours and improved priority handling for congested roads.

The results show that the sensor-based traffic signal control system is more efficient and effective in responding to the real-time traffic conditions compared to the conventional traffic signal control system.

Traffic Performance Comparison Table

Parameter	Fixed-TimeSignal	SmartSignalUsingSensors
AverageWaitingTime	High	Low
TrafficCongestion	Highduringpeakhours	Reduced
Fuel Consumption	High	Reduced
Signal Adaptability	Notadaptive	Real-timeadaptive
TrafficFlowEfficiency	Moderate	High

Fig. 2: Performance Comparison Between Fixed-Time and Smart Traffic Signal System

VIII. CONCLUSION

The smart traffic signal system based on sensors is an effective solution to the growing problem of traffic congestion at urban intersections. The proposed system is different from the conventional fixed-time traffic signals because it

dynamically changes the signal timing based on the real-time vehicle density.

The application of sensors and a microcontroller makes it possible to detect traffic conditions accurately and control traffic signals automatically. The system assists in reducing fuel consumption, air pollution, and improving road safety. The system improves the flow of vehicles during peak hours and assists in effective traffic management.

In conclusion, the proposed smart traffic signal system is cost-effective, reliable, and ready for implementation in smart city applications. With further improvements such as IoT integration and camera-based detection, the system can be further enhanced to address more complex traffic scenarios and offer intelligent traffic solutions for smart cities.

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