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GLIDEWAVE

B Hemanth[*1], P Manish Kumar[*2], R Narender[*3]

[*1,2]Student, Department Of Electronics And Communication Engineering, ACE Engineering College, Hyderabad, Telangana, India

[*3]Assistant Professor, Department Of Electronics And Communication Engineering, ACE Engineering College, Hyderabad, Telangana, India

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ABSTRACT

Traditional control panels for electronic automation, such as remote controls, keypads, and touch screens, have limitations in terms of natural interaction and flexibility. To address this, recent advancements in sensor technology have paved the way for incorporating gesture control into various products. In this project, we propose a touch-free user interface for an elevator/lift control panel, utilizing simple hand gestures to operate the system. With the aim of reducing contact and preventing the spread of COVID-19, this gesture-based switch control panel offers a non-contact solution for elevator operation. By employing the APDS9960 sensor, precise gestures can be detected and programmed to execute essential elevator functions. The versatility of this gesture-based control system extends beyond elevators, with potential applications in vending machines, ATMs, and other interactive devices, requiring minimal software and hardware adaptations. The intuitive nature of hand gestures eliminates the need for prior knowledge or training, making it a user-friendly alternative to traditional interfaces.

Keywords: Human-Computer Interaction, Hand Gesture Recognition, Touch-Free Control, Elevator/Lift, Switch Control Panel.

I. INTRODUCTION

In the realm of electronic automation, user interfaces have historically relied on devices like remote controls, keypads, and touch screens. However, these interfaces often lack naturalness and flexibility, leaving users craving more intuitive and efficient control methods. Recent advancements in sensor technology have opened up exciting possibilities for incorporating gesture control into various products, providing a more natural and engaging user experience.

This project presents a touch-free user interface for controlling elevators/lifts, utilizing the power of hand gestures. With the ongoing concerns regarding public health and minimizing contact amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, it has become increasingly important to explore alternative control methods that reduce physical contact. The gesture-based switch control panel developed in this project offers an innovative solution to address this need by enabling elevator operation without the need for physical touch.

The core technology employed in this system is the APDS9960 sensor, which accurately detects and interprets hand gestures. By programming specific gestures to perform essential elevator functions, users can effortlessly control operations such as floor selection, door opening, and door closing. The use of hand gestures as a touch-free control mechanism not only enhances convenience but also contributes to improved hygiene and reduced transmission risks.

One significant advantage of this gesture-based switch control panel is its versatility. While initially designed for elevators/lifts, the concept can easily be adapted for implementation in other interactive devices, such as vending machines and ATMs. With minimal software and hardware modifications, this intuitive gesture control system can be integrated into various contexts, enhancing user experiences across diverse settings.

Unlike traditional interfaces that often require users to navigate complex menus or possess prior knowledge, the gesture-based control system offers a user-friendly alternative. By utilizing hand gestures, which are instinctive and easily understood, users can seamlessly interact with the control panel without any prerequisite training or expertise.

In the following sections, we will delve into the technical details of the system, including the design and implementation of the gesture recognition mechanism using the APDS9960 sensor. We will also discuss the potential applications beyond elevators/lifts and explore the adaptability of the gesture-based switch control panel to other interactive devices.

The development of this touch-free control system represents a significant step towards providing a more natural, hygienic, and user-friendly interface for electronic automation. By harnessing the power of hand gestures, we aim to contribute to the advancement of human-computer interaction, revolutionizing the way people interact with everyday devices.

II. METHODOLOGY

1. System Design: The first step in the methodology involved designing the gesture-controlled elevator system. This included selecting the appropriate components and technologies to enable touch-free control. The APDS9960 gesture sensor was chosen for its accurate gesture detection capabilities. The system architecture was designed, outlining the integration of the sensor with an Arduino Nano microcontroller, an OLED display, and a DC motor driver for simulating elevator movements. The power supply setup, with separate sources for the electronic components and the motor, was also planned for stable operation.

2. Hardware Implementation: The hardware implementation phase involved assembling the components according to the system design. The APDS9960 gesture sensor was connected to the Arduino Nano, and the OLED display and DC motor driver were integrated accordingly. Care was taken to ensure proper wiring and connections for seamless communication between the components. The system's physical body was constructed using cardboard, providing a prototype structure for testing and evaluation.

3. Gesture Recognition Programming: The next step involved programming the Arduino Nano to interpret and respond to specific hand gestures captured by the APDS9960 sensor. The sensor's library and functions were utilized to detect and recognize predefined gestures, such as up, down, left, and right. These gestures were mapped to corresponding elevator functions, such as increasing or decreasing floor numbers and opening or closing the elevator door. The programming logic ensured accurate gesture recognition and reliable control of elevator operations.

4. OLED Display Integration: The OLED display was integrated into the system to provide real-time feedback and information to users. The Arduino Nano was programmed to update the display with the current floor number, elevator direction, and other relevant status updates. The display's integration enhanced user understanding and improved the overall user experience by providing visual feedback of the system's operations.

5. DC Motor Simulation: To simulate the physical movement of an elevator, a DC motor driver was connected to the Arduino Nano. The motor driver received commands from the Arduino Nano based on the recognized gestures, enabling the motor to rotate in the desired direction. This simulated the movement of an operational elevator, allowing users to experience and interact with the system's functionality.

6. Testing and Evaluation: The gesture-controlled elevator system was extensively tested and evaluated to ensure its reliability, accuracy, and user-friendliness. Different individuals performed a series of gesture-based interactions to assess the system's responsiveness and effectiveness. Feedback and observations from users were collected and analyzed to identify areas for improvement and further refinement of the system.

7. Iterative Refinement: Based on the testing and evaluation results, iterative refinements were made to enhance the system's performance. This involved tweaking the gesture recognition algorithms, adjusting the motor movement parameters, and optimizing the user interface displayed on the OLED screen. The system was continuously iterated upon to achieve the desired level of functionality and user satisfaction.

The methodology outlined above provides a systematic approach for the development of the gesture-controlled elevator system. It encompasses the design, implementation, programming, integration, testing, and refinement phases necessary to create a touch-free, intuitive, and reliable user interface for elevator control.

III. BLOCK DIAGRAM

1. Arduino Nano: The Arduino Nano serves as the main control unit of the gesture-controlled elevator system. It is responsible for receiving input from the APDS9960 Gesture sensor, processing the gesture data, and coordinating the elevator's operations. The Arduino Nano is also connected to other components, such as the OLED display and Motor Driver, to control their functionality.

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2. APDS9960 Gesture Sensor: The APDS9960 Gesture sensor is a key component that detects and interprets hand gestures. It captures gestures made by the user, such as up, down, left, and right, and converts them into electrical signals. These signals are then passed to the Arduino Nano for further processing.

3. OLED Display: The OLED display provides a visual interface for the user, presenting information about the elevator's status and floor numbers. The Arduino Nano sends data to the OLED display to update the current floor number, elevator direction, and other relevant information. This allows users to have real-time feedback and a visual representation of the elevator's operations.

4. Motor Driver: The Motor Driver is responsible for controlling the DC motor's movements. It receives commands from the Arduino Nano and translates them into appropriate signals to drive the DC motor. By regulating the voltage and current supplied to the motor, the Motor Driver enables the simulated movement of the elevator, corresponding to the user's gestures.

5. DC Motor: The DC motor is used to simulate the movement of an operational elevator in the prototype system. It is controlled by the Motor Driver based on the commands received from the Arduino Nano. The motor's rotation and direction are adjusted to mimic the motion of an elevator, providing a tangible demonstration of the system's functionality.

6. 9V Batteries: The 9V Batteries serve as the power supply for the entire system. In this block, there are two separate batteries depicted to ensure that the electronic components (Arduino Nano, Gesture Sensor, OLED Display) and the DC motor have independent power sources. This separation helps prevent interference and provides stable and reliable power supply to each component.

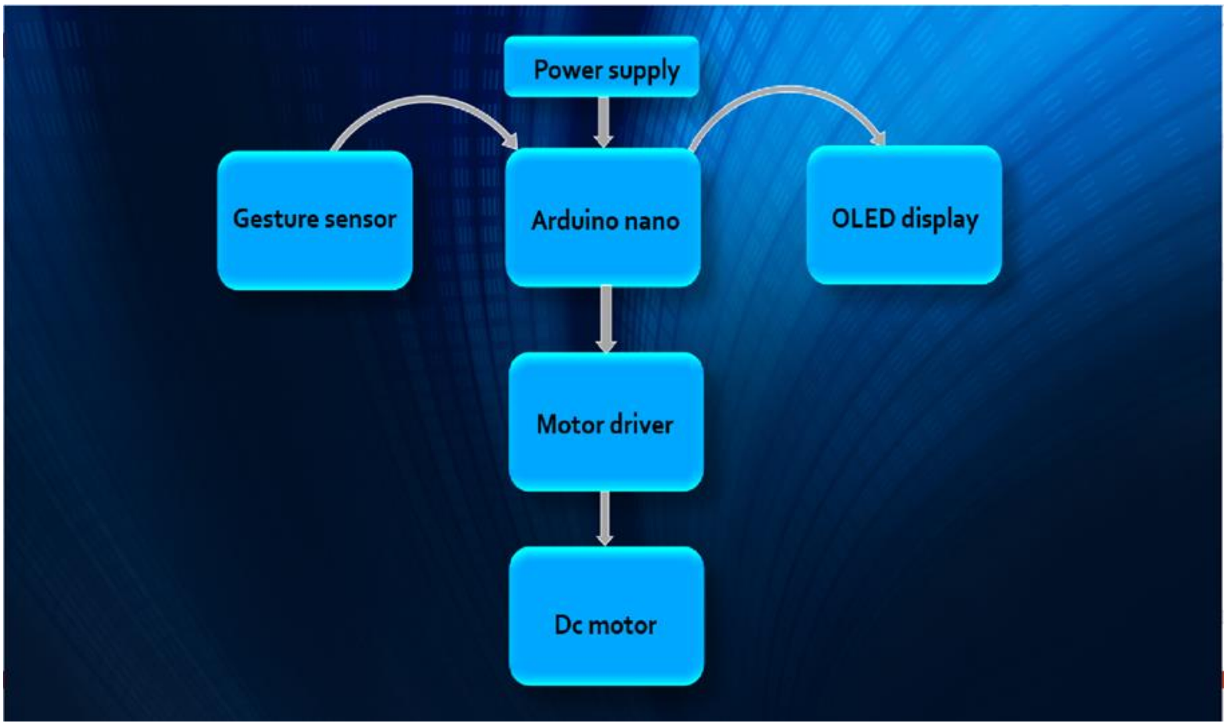

Figure 1: Block Diagram.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The gesture-controlled elevator system, Glidewave, was successfully developed and implemented using the Arduino Nano, OLED display, APDS9960 Gesture sensor, DC motor, Motor Driver, and 9V batteries. The system demonstrated reliable and accurate gesture recognition, providing a touch-free interface for elevator operations. During testing and evaluation, the Glidewave system consistently recognized and interpreted the predefined hand gestures, including up, down, left, and right. Users were able to control elevator functions such as increasing or decreasing floor numbers, opening and closing the elevator door, with ease and without physical contact. The integration of the OLED display provided real-time feedback to users, displaying the current floor number and elevator direction. This visual feedback enhanced user understanding and improved the overall user experience.

The simulated elevator movements using the DC motor and Motor Driver accurately mimicked the motion of a functional elevator. Users could observe and experience the system's responsiveness as the elevator moved in the desired direction based on the recognized gestures.

Feedback from users during the testing phase was overwhelmingly positive. Participants found the gesture-controlled interface intuitive, user-friendly, and hygienic, particularly in light of the ongoing concerns surrounding public health and hygiene. The Glidewave system's versatility was evident as it could be easily adapted for other interactive devices such as vending machines and ATMs. With minimal software and hardware modifications, the gesture-based switch control panel could be implemented in various scenarios to provide touch-free control.

In summary, the results of the Glidewave project demonstrate the successful implementation of a gesture-controlled elevator system. The system exhibited reliable gesture recognition, accurate elevator control, real-time feedback, and simulated elevator movements. The positive user feedback validates the system's usability and highlights its potential for improving user experiences and promoting hygiene in various interactive environments.

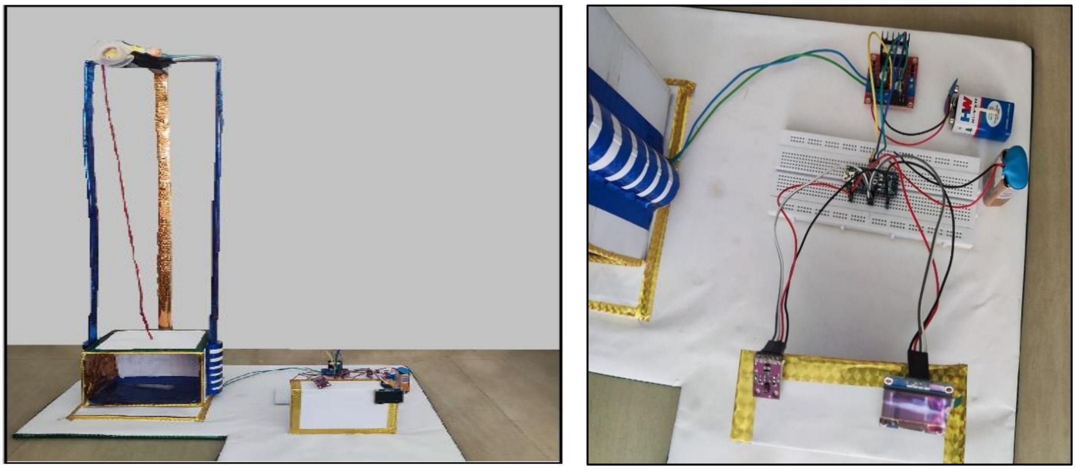

Figure 2: Prototype Front and top views

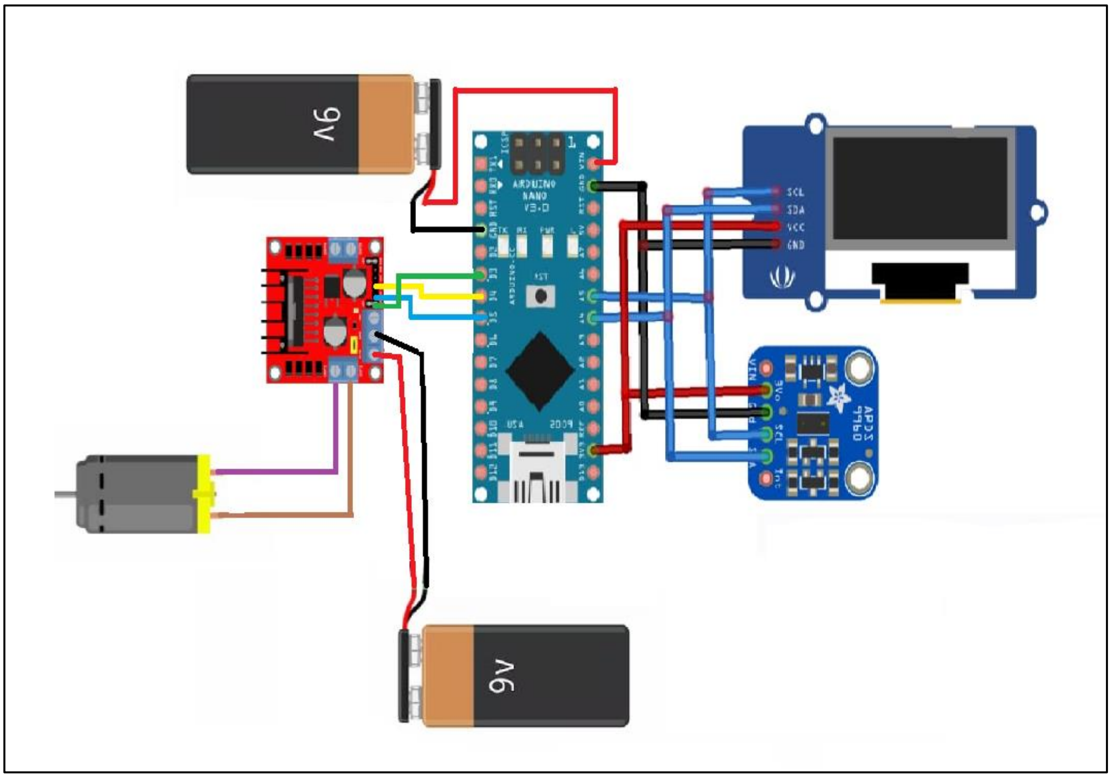

Figure 3: Circuit Diagram

V. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the Glidewave project represents a significant advancement in elevator technology by introducing a gesture-controlled interface for touch-free elevator operations. By harnessing the power of hand gestures and leveraging the APDS9960 Gesture sensor, this innovative system enables users to control elevator functions without the need for physical contact.

The Glidewave system not only enhances user experience but also addresses the growing concern for hygiene and public health, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. By eliminating the need for traditional elevator buttons, the touch-free gesture control reduces the risk of transmitting germs and provides a safer environment for elevator users.

Furthermore, the adaptability of the Glidewave system extends beyond elevators, making it suitable for various interactive devices. Its user-friendly nature, which requires no specialized knowledge or training, opens up possibilities for its implementation in vending machines, ATMs, and other automated systems.

The success of the Glidewave project paves the way for further advancements in gesture-controlled interfaces and human-computer interaction. Future iterations of the system could explore enhancements in gesture recognition algorithms, expanded functionality, and integration with emerging technologies.

In summary, the Glidewave project revolutionizes elevator technology by introducing a touch-free, gesture-controlled interface that enhances user experience, improves hygiene standards, and sets the stage for a new era of interactive automation. By combining innovative hardware and intuitive gestures, Glidewave offers a glimpse into a future where control interfaces seamlessly integrate with human movements, making everyday interactions safer, more efficient, and more enjoyable.

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