Utilization of the Image Processing Concept for Serially Communicating an Image in Li-Fi Environment Using MATLAB

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Abstract—This paper is based on the implementation of MATLAB programming for processing an image and then interfacing it with a Li-Fi (Light-Fidelity) transmitter and receiver circuit. Also Arduino programming is used here for interfacing of the hardware circuits with control signals that facilitate the serial communication. Image processing program should be given to both transmitter and receiver circuit. Data transmission rate is calculated from oscilloscope and performance of the network is observed.

Keywords—Li-Fi, LED array, Arduino Mega, Photo-Transistor, MATLAB, Amplifier circuit.

I. INTRODUCTION

Radio communication technique such as Wi-Fi which means Wireless Fidelity had been used for a long time to upload and download a file in internet. The major drawback of Wi-Fi is the limited bandwidth. This causes the system to use a little spectrum for transmitting and receiving data. Professor Harald had introduced a new communication technique called Light Fidelity by using low cost LED bulbs. In this method, white light rays acts as carrier wave which has a wide bandwidth and high luminous intensity. The modulating signal is the digitized data that contains streams of 1's and 0's. The high frequency LED light amplifies and flickers according to the data stream. Thus the emitted light carries the message of streams. The technique is very simple. When we send 1 the LED bulbs are ON and when we send 0 the LED bulbs are off. The flickering of light is so quick that a human eye can not follow it. The transmitted data is then passed through an atmospheric channel like air and then received by a light detector such as photo transistor. The signal is then demodulated into original data. After proper amplification by transistor amplifier the received signal is then recovered perfectly.

An image can be represented by a function f(x,y) so that the resulting image has M rows and N columns. Representing the image by a matrix. Each element of the array is called pixel. The pixels are transmitted according to the control signal of the Arduino Mega to the amplifier circuit. The MATLAB program enables us process the image and then interface it with the transmitter and receiver circuit. The major advantage of it is that it has huge number of built in functions that can be easily used in Arduino and interfaced with hardware circuits.

II. PROPOSED BLOCK DIAGRAMS

Fig.01: Li-Fi Transmitter Block Diagram

Fig.02: Li-Fi Receiver Block Diagram
III. PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BLOCK DIAGRAMS

On the basis of the block diagrams, the concept is visualized in PROTEUS circuit simulator. Both the transmitter and receiver circuit contains a common emitter transistor amplifier. Photo transistor is used as light detector in the receiver circuit.

The simulated configurations are then practically implemented for image communication.

IV. MATLAB PROGRAMMING FOR PROCESSING THE IMAGE

For sending laptop program, first we have to read the image. Common function to read an image in MATLAB is `imread('filename')`. The image is converted from rgb image into gray image. This is done so because if we want send a rgb color image we will have create 3 vector fields which makes the programming quite complex. After reading the image file the serial COM port 25 is selected to interface the program code with Arduino Mega. The baudrate of Arduino is selected as 9600 and then the whole image matrix is transmitted with a pause of 0.001s and fwrite function.

In the receiving laptop program, first the COM port 2 of the Arduino Mega is selected through which the bits are received. Then the command of receiving 10 bits at a time is given. The bits are then
received until the whole matrix is transmitted. The bits are also stored in matrix form by creating the rows and columns from the array. The constructed image from the matrix is then shown on the screen.

V. ARDUINO PROGRAMMING FOR SERIAL COMMUNICATION

Arduino module sends data serially. A program is loaded in the module for the image data using sketch_Arduino 1.0.5 IDE software. In this implementation, COM port 25 is used to send the upcoming data bit by bit from the sending MATLAB program. The data after converting into a serial bit stream than transferred through the output pin of Arduino mega to the input of transistor amplifier circuit which contains the LED array.

\[\text{Then micro controller of Arduino Mega modulates the data with the LED array light through the loaded program.}\]

\[\text{Modulated light rays pass through the atmospheric channel like air.}\]

\[\text{At receiver, photo-transistor sense the white light rays and produce current signal that goes to transistor amplifier.}\]

\[\text{Both transmitter and receiver use same common emitter configuration. Hence, the 180° shifted modulated signal is again shifted by 180° in the receiver circuit which means that there is no change in transmitted and received data streams.}\]

\[\text{Transistor amplifies the received signal with considerable gain and send it to the PC via USB to Serial port(TTL).}\]

\[\text{The received signal from TTL is then processed via MATLAB program in receiver PC.}\]

VII. RESULTS

We connect an oscilloscope terminal to observe how the bits are received in the receiver circuit. The measured oscillogram is shown below:

VI. OPERATION OF THE TRANSMITTER AND RECEIVER CIRCUIT COMPONENTS

Starting from the transmitter circuit the whole process is accomplished according to the following steps:

Fig. 07: Loaded Program in Arduino Mega

Fig. 08: Received Data Oscillogram
2.5 bits are received in 250 micro seconds. Therefore, in one second the data received are 
\((2.5/250 \times 10^6) = 10,000\) bits which is equal to 
1.22kB/s. The results are tabulated below:

Table 01: System Performance Analysis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measured Property</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Data speed</td>
<td>1.22kBps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum Distance</td>
<td>30cm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fig. 09: Li-Fi Environment in the Laboratory

In this point to point communication network shown above, the whole image array takes approximately 8.2 seconds to transfer from the 
transmitter laptop to the receiver laptop. When the transmitter circuit sends bits it shows 'ready..sending' and when the receiver circuit 
receive bits it shows 'go..receiving' on the MATLAB command window. After sending the 
whole image the sender MATLAB window confirms it by displaying 'finished' while the 
receiver MATLAB window shows 'showing results'. The transmitted and received images are 
shown below:

Fig. 10: Transmitted Image

Fig. 11: Received Image

VIII. CONCLUSION

The received image is gray because we transmitted a gray scale equivalent of the color 
image. However, it is possible to send a color image by creating RGB vector fields in 
MATLAB sending program and doing the same for detection of bits in the receiver MATLAB 
program. But such kind of task is complex
require more time to process the image. Besides, power line frequencies and atmospheric noise signals also weaken the transmitted light and cause the receiver circuit to encounter some delay to detect the bits. Another limitation of the system is that it can serve only the luminous area that is lighted the LED array. But this ensures greater security of the system. Finally, the most important fact is that it costs very low. By using image processing technique through this kind of optically amplified network, it will be possible to reduce the shortage of bandwidth available in Wi-Fi technology and research can be done on the multiple object detection in one frame to control mechanisms. High speed video signal transfer and interference signals on the channel can also be investigated which can replace the traditional Wi-Fi system in near future.

IX. REFERENCES


