

A Real-Time Environmental Pollution Monitoring Framework Using Iot And Remote Sensing Technologies

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Abstract

Environmental pollution is a significant global issue that affects both human health and the environment. Traditional methods of monitoring environmental pollutants often suffer from limitations such as high costs, slow data collection, and lack of real-time analysis. The integration of Internet of Things (IoT) and remote sensing technologies presents an opportunity to address these challenges, enabling real-time monitoring of environmental pollution. This paper proposes a framework that combines IoT sensor networks and remote sensing techniques to develop an effective system for continuous environmental pollution monitoring. The IoT sensor network gathers data related to air quality, water quality, temperature, humidity, and other environmental factors, while remote sensing technologies, including satellite imagery and drone-based sensors, complement the ground-based data by providing spatially extensive information. The proposed framework utilizes advanced data processing algorithms to fuse and analyze the collected data in real-time, enabling accurate and timely insights into pollution levels. This system offers significant improvements over traditional monitoring approaches by providing real-time, high-resolution data, which can be utilized for better decision-making in environmental management and policy formulation. Results from the implementation of the proposed framework demonstrate its effectiveness in accurately monitoring pollution levels and provide valuable insights into future research and development directions in environmental monitoring technologies.

Keywords: *Environmental pollution, Internet of Things (IoT), remote sensing, real-time monitoring, pollution detection, air quality, water quality, sensor networks, satellite imagery, data fusion, pollution management, environmental monitoring systems, real-time data analysis, pollution monitoring framework, IoT sensor network.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Environmental pollution has emerged as one of the most significant global challenges, affecting human health, biodiversity, and ecosystems. The rapid industrialization, urbanization, and increased transportation have exacerbated air, water, soil, and noise pollution, leading to a myriad of adverse effects. Air pollution, primarily caused by the emission of harmful gases and particulate matter from vehicles and industries, is a leading cause of respiratory diseases and environmental degradation[1]. Water pollution, stemming from industrial effluents, agricultural runoff, and untreated sewage, poses a severe threat to aquatic life and human health. Soil contamination due to hazardous waste, pesticides, and deforestation impacts agricultural productivity and food security[2]. Additionally, noise pollution from urban areas disrupts the natural environment and affects the well-being of both humans and wildlife[3]. These forms

of pollution are not only detrimental to the environment but also contribute to global challenges such as climate change, which necessitate immediate and effective monitoring.

Traditional methods of environmental monitoring often fall short in addressing the complexity and scale of the problem. Conventional techniques, such as manual sampling and periodic measurements, are time-consuming[4], expensive, and unable to provide real-time data. These methods are often limited to a few sampling points, which do not offer comprehensive coverage of larger geographic areas[5]. Furthermore, the delay in data collection and analysis prevents timely responses to pollution events, hindering effective mitigation and management strategies. The lack of real-time monitoring also makes it difficult to assess the immediate impact of environmental pollution[6], especially in densely populated urban areas and industrial zones. This gap in traditional monitoring systems underscores the need for more efficient and dynamic solutions to track and manage pollution levels[7].

In recent years, the integration of Internet of Things (IoT) and remote sensing technologies has shown great promise in revolutionizing environmental monitoring. IoT enables the deployment of a network of interconnected sensors that continuously collect and transmit data on various environmental parameters, such as air and water quality[8], temperature, humidity, and noise levels. These sensors provide real-time, granular data from multiple locations, making it possible to monitor pollution on a continuous basis[9]. Remote sensing technologies, such as satellite imagery and drones, offer a broader spatial perspective[10], enabling the monitoring of large areas and providing data on pollution sources and trends. The combination of IoT and remote sensing enhances the speed, accuracy, and scope of environmental monitoring, allowing for more proactive and data-driven decision-making.

The objective of this research is to design and develop a framework that integrates IoT and remote sensing technologies for real-time environmental pollution monitoring. The proposed framework aims to provide a comprehensive solution that allows for the continuous collection, analysis, and visualization of environmental data, facilitating timely interventions and policy responses. By combining ground-based sensors with remote sensing data, the framework will improve the detection and assessment of pollution, especially in areas that are difficult to monitor using traditional methods.

2. LITERATURE SURVEY

Environmental pollution monitoring has evolved significantly over the years, with various approaches adopted to measure pollutants in air, water, and soil[11]. Traditional methods of environmental monitoring primarily relied on manual sampling and laboratory analysis, which, although effective, were time-consuming, labor-intensive, and expensive[12]. These methods typically involved periodic sampling at fixed locations, which often failed to provide real-time or continuous data. Moreover, the spatial coverage of these techniques was limited, and they could not capture dynamic changes in pollution levels[13]. To address these shortcomings, sensor-based methods have been developed, enabling continuous data collection and real-time monitoring[14]. These methods utilize various types of sensors, such as gas sensors for air quality, turbidity sensors for water quality, and chemical sensors for detecting soil contaminants[15]. While these sensor-based approaches provide more timely and comprehensive data, they still face challenges related to sensor calibration, accuracy, and network integration.

In recent years, the use of the Internet of Things (IoT) has gained significant attention for environmental monitoring due to its ability to connect a vast network of sensors to the internet, enabling real-time data collection and remote access. Numerous studies have explored the potential of IoT in monitoring air quality, water quality[16], and soil contamination. For instance, IoT-based air quality monitoring systems have been developed to measure parameters like particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), and sulfur dioxide (SO₂) in urban environments. These systems use low-cost, wireless sensors deployed in various locations, providing real-time data that can be accessed remotely[17]. Similarly, IoT-based water

quality monitoring systems have been implemented to track parameters such as pH levels, dissolved oxygen, and contaminants like heavy metals in water bodies. IoT technologies have also been utilized in soil monitoring to detect moisture content, temperature, and the presence of harmful substances[18]. These sensor-based IoT systems offer several advantages over traditional methods, including low operational costs, real-time data transmission, and the ability to deploy large networks of sensors across different geographic locations.

Remote sensing technologies, particularly satellite-based systems, have also been extensively used in environmental pollution monitoring. Remote sensing allows for large-scale monitoring of environmental changes without the need for on-the-ground sensors. Satellite imagery provides valuable information on the distribution of air pollution, land degradation, and water contamination over vast areas[19]. For instance, the use of remote sensing in tracking deforestation, land-use changes, and the monitoring of large-scale air pollution events has been widely reported in the literature. Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), or drones, are also increasingly used in environmental monitoring, providing high-resolution imagery and real-time data collection[20]. Ground-based remote sensing systems, such as the use of air quality monitoring stations, have been used in conjunction with satellite data to validate and improve the accuracy of pollution models.

However, several challenges remain in the field of environmental pollution monitoring. One major issue is the accuracy and reliability of sensors. Sensor drift, environmental factors, and calibration issues can lead to erroneous data, undermining the effectiveness of the monitoring system. Another challenge is data integration, as the data collected from different sources (e.g., IoT sensors, satellite imagery, UAVs) often come in different formats and may require complex processing techniques to be fused into a cohesive system. Additionally, the transmission of large volumes of real-time data poses significant challenges in terms of bandwidth, storage, and network infrastructure.

The gap identified in existing literature lies in the integration of IoT and remote sensing technologies for real-time pollution monitoring. While both IoT and remote sensing have been explored individually, there has been limited research on combining these technologies to provide a comprehensive, real-time pollution monitoring framework. This research aims to address this gap by developing a framework that integrates IoT-based sensor networks with remote sensing technologies to provide real-time, accurate, and scalable environmental pollution monitoring. The proposed system will overcome the limitations of existing approaches by leveraging the complementary strengths of both IoT and remote sensing, providing a more robust and dynamic solution to environmental pollution monitoring.

3. PROPOSED METHOD

The proposed real-time environmental pollution monitoring framework integrates advanced technologies such as Internet of Things (IoT) sensor networks and remote sensing to provide continuous, accurate, and scalable environmental data. The system architecture consists of multiple interconnected components working together to gather, process, analyze, and visualize data from various environmental factors. The architecture is designed to be modular and adaptable, allowing for easy integration with existing monitoring systems and scalability to accommodate additional sensors or pollutants as needed. Figure 1 illustrates the high-level flow of the system, which consists of IoT sensor networks, remote sensing data, data fusion and analysis, and the final real-time monitoring results that are delivered to users via a dashboard or reporting system.

The IoT sensor network plays a crucial role in the system, enabling the collection of real-time data from a wide range of environmental factors. These sensors include air quality sensors that measure pollutants such as particulate matter (PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), carbon dioxide (CO₂), and sulfur dioxide (SO₂). Additionally, temperature and humidity sensors are deployed to monitor atmospheric

conditions, while water quality sensors detect parameters such as pH, turbidity, dissolved oxygen, and contaminants like heavy metals and nitrates. The sensor network operates autonomously, transmitting data at predefined intervals or upon detection of significant changes in environmental conditions, ensuring timely data collection across various geographical areas.

Remote sensing technologies complement the data collected by the IoT sensors by providing large-scale, spatially comprehensive information. Satellite imagery is particularly valuable for monitoring pollution over vast areas, including urban regions, industrial zones, and agricultural land. Remote sensing platforms such as drones (UAVs) offer high-resolution imagery and can be deployed for targeted pollution monitoring in specific areas, such as rivers, lakes, or industrial sites. These platforms provide valuable supplementary data, enabling a more complete picture of environmental pollution levels and their spatial distribution, which cannot be achieved through ground-based sensors alone.

To ensure the seamless integration of data from diverse sources, the framework employs a real-time data processing and fusion approach. The data collected from both IoT sensors and remote sensing platforms are aggregated, preprocessed, and fused using advanced data fusion techniques. This process eliminates discrepancies between data from different sources and enhances the overall accuracy and consistency of the pollution monitoring system. The fusion of ground-based and satellite or drone data allows for a comprehensive analysis of pollution trends across various spatial and temporal scales.

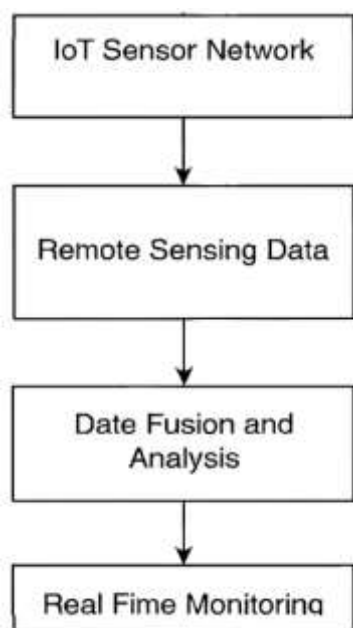


Figure 1: Proposed Real-Time Environmental Pollution Monitoring Framework

Figure 1 illustrates the architecture of the proposed real-time environmental pollution monitoring system, showcasing the integration of several key components. The first component, the IoT Sensor Network, is responsible for collecting real-time data on various environmental parameters, including air quality, temperature, humidity, water quality, and particulate matter. This data is continuously gathered through a network of sensors deployed across different geographical locations. The second component, Remote Sensing Data, utilizes satellite imagery and drone-based sensors to provide complementary data to the ground-based IoT sensors. Remote sensing offers large-scale, spatially detailed information about pollution distribution, which enhances the scope of the monitoring system. The third component, Data Fusion and Analysis, processes and fuses the data from both the IoT sensors and remote sensing platforms to generate accurate and comprehensive insights into pollution levels. This step ensures that data from

different sources is integrated to provide a more reliable and complete picture of environmental pollution. Finally, the Real-Time Monitoring Results are generated by analyzing the fused data and presenting it through user-friendly interfaces such as dashboards or mobile applications. These results are displayed in real time, allowing for timely decision-making and intervention. This framework is designed to offer continuous, precise monitoring of environmental pollution and provides a scalable solution capable of adapting to future expansions, both in terms of additional sensors and pollutants.

Real-time data transmission is achieved using modern communication protocols and technologies such as MQTT (Message Queuing Telemetry Transport), LoRa (Long Range), and 5G networks. These protocols enable the efficient transmission of large volumes of environmental data with minimal latency, ensuring that data collected by sensors is transmitted to the central processing unit in real-time. The use of these technologies ensures that the system can handle the continuous influx of data from numerous sensors and remote sensing platforms without delays, allowing for immediate action based on the received data.

Data analysis and visualization are key components of the proposed framework, enabling users to interpret and respond to pollution data effectively. Machine learning algorithms and statistical analysis techniques are employed to process the raw data and generate meaningful insights, such as identifying pollution hotspots, forecasting pollution trends, and detecting anomalies. The results are then presented through a user-friendly interface, such as a dashboard or mobile application, which provides real-time visualizations of pollution levels, trends, and alerts.

The framework is designed to integrate with existing environmental monitoring systems, enabling seamless data exchange and collaboration with governmental agencies, research institutions, and other stakeholders. This integration ensures that the proposed system can be adopted into existing infrastructures without significant modifications.

Finally, the system is highly scalable and flexible, capable of expanding to accommodate additional sensors and pollutants. As environmental monitoring needs evolve, the system can be easily updated to include new sensor types, communication protocols, and analytical techniques, ensuring that it remains effective in addressing future pollution monitoring challenges.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The proposed environmental pollution monitoring system was implemented using a combination of IoT sensors, remote sensing technologies, and real-time data processing algorithms. The IoT sensor network consists of various sensors deployed across different environmental monitoring locations. These include air quality sensors for particulate matter (PM_{2.5}, PM₁₀), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), carbon dioxide (CO₂), and other common pollutants. Additionally, temperature and humidity sensors are integrated into the network to provide complementary atmospheric data. Water quality sensors that measure pH levels, turbidity, dissolved oxygen, and specific contaminants, such as heavy metals and nitrates, were also incorporated into the system. These sensors communicate with central controllers using wireless communication technologies such as LoRa, MQTT, or 5G, allowing real-time transmission of data to the cloud or local servers for analysis.

Remote sensing is integrated into the system through satellite imagery and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), which provide large-scale pollution data, especially for areas that are difficult to monitor with ground-based sensors. Remote sensing platforms offer spatially extensive coverage, enabling continuous monitoring of pollution levels across vast geographic areas. The data collected by IoT sensors and remote sensing platforms is processed using advanced data fusion algorithms, which combine multiple data sources into a unified real-time monitoring framework.

On the software side, data processing is handled by a series of algorithms implemented in MATLAB for real-time data analysis, machine learning models for pollution prediction, and statistical analysis techniques for detecting anomalies. The results are visualized using user-friendly dashboards, which provide graphical representations of the pollution levels, trends, and alerts based on real-time data.

The experimental setup for the system implementation included the deployment of the IoT sensors across various locations, both urban and rural, to monitor environmental pollution in real time. These locations were chosen based on varying levels of expected pollution, such as industrial zones, busy traffic areas, and remote locations for comparison. The sensors were placed at varying heights to avoid obstructions and ensure more accurate air quality data. For water quality monitoring, sensors were deployed at multiple points along rivers, lakes, and industrial water discharges to assess contamination levels in real-time.

The remote sensing component involved satellite-based imagery and UAVs deployed at specified intervals over selected areas. These remote sensing platforms provided periodic data on pollution sources, land degradation, and air quality over large areas. The data was then integrated with the real-time sensor data through a central data fusion system, enabling the generation of comprehensive pollution maps and heatmaps for a spatially detailed analysis.

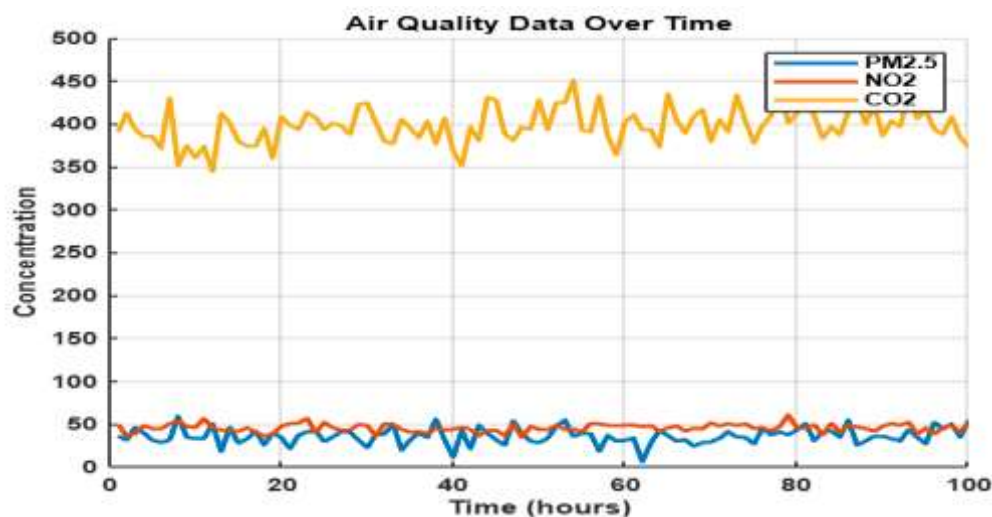


Figure 2: Air Quality Data Over Time

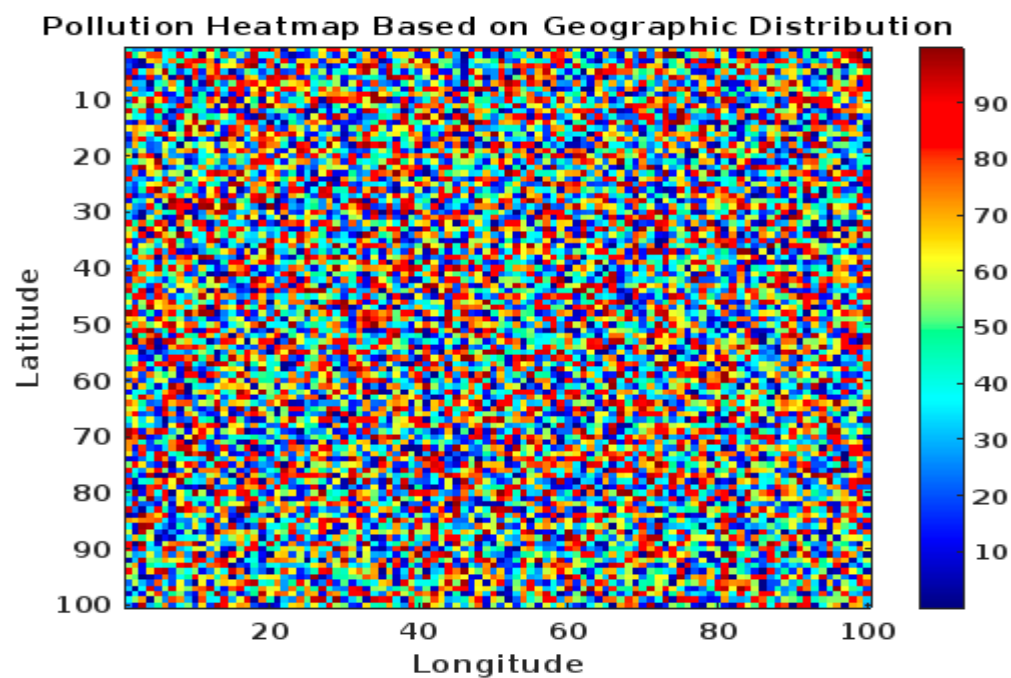


Figure 3: Pollution Heatmap Based on Geographic Distribution

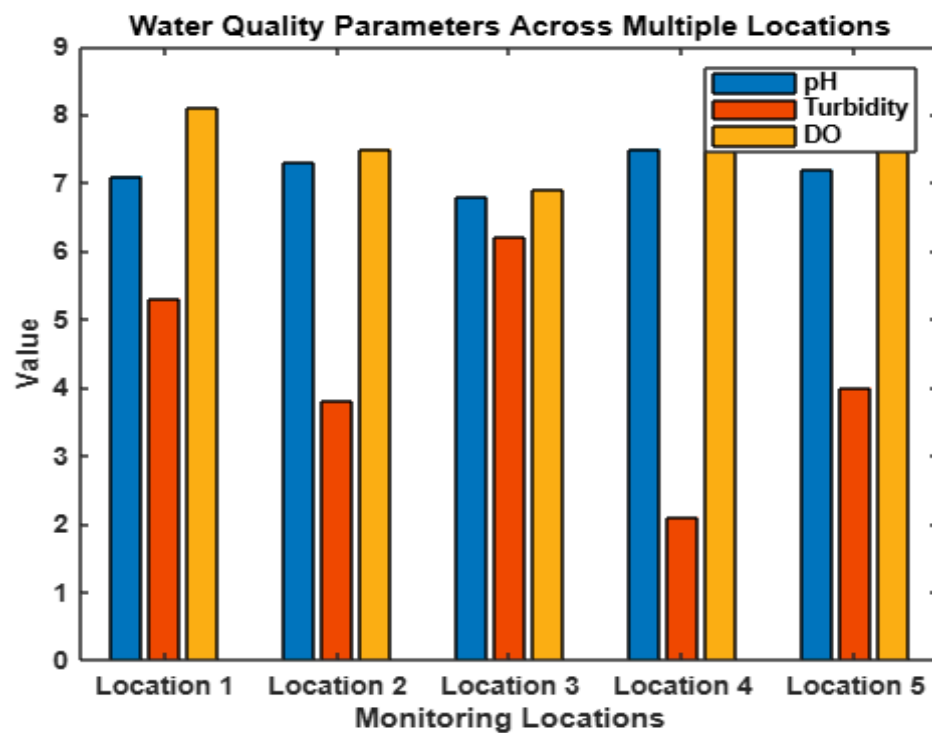


Figure 4: Water Quality Parameters Across Multiple Locations

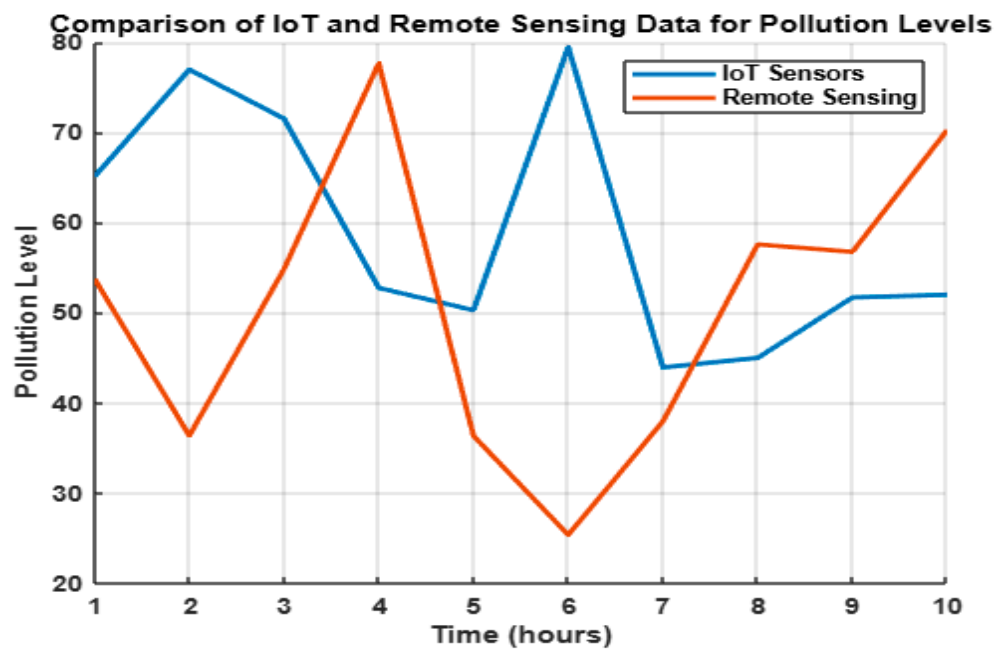


Figure 5: Comparison of IoT and Remote Sensing Data for Pollution Levels

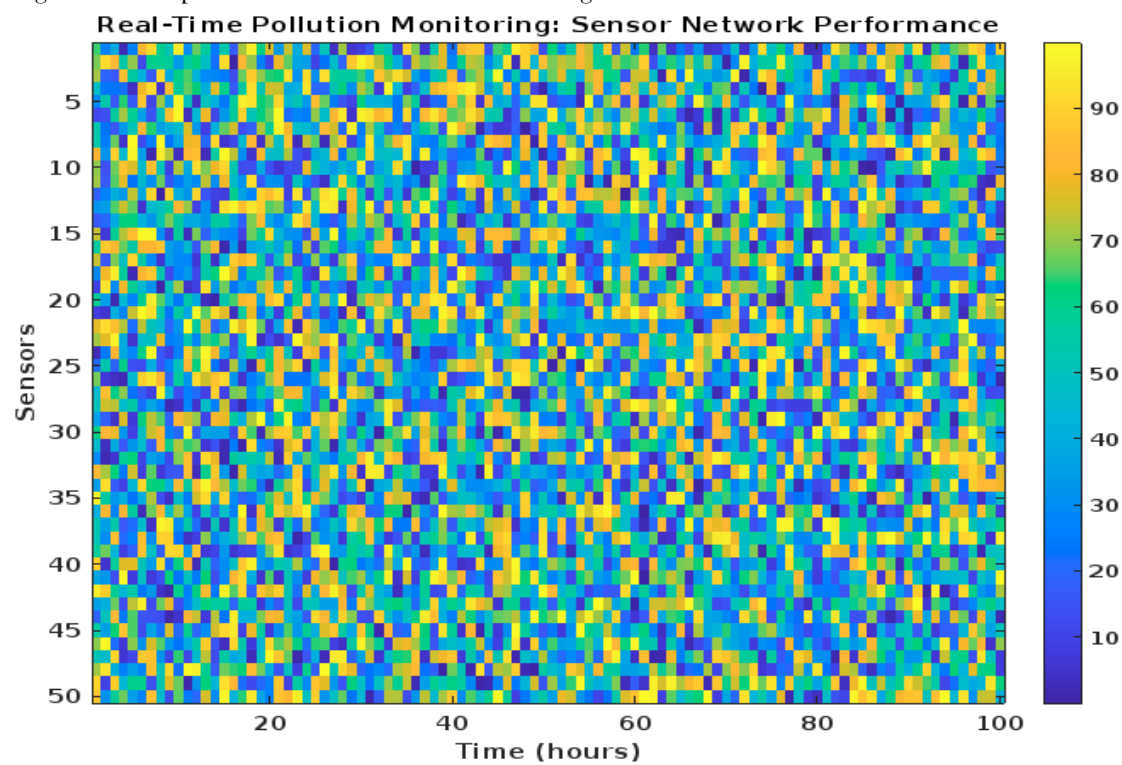


Figure 6: Real-Time Pollution Monitoring: Sensor Network Performance

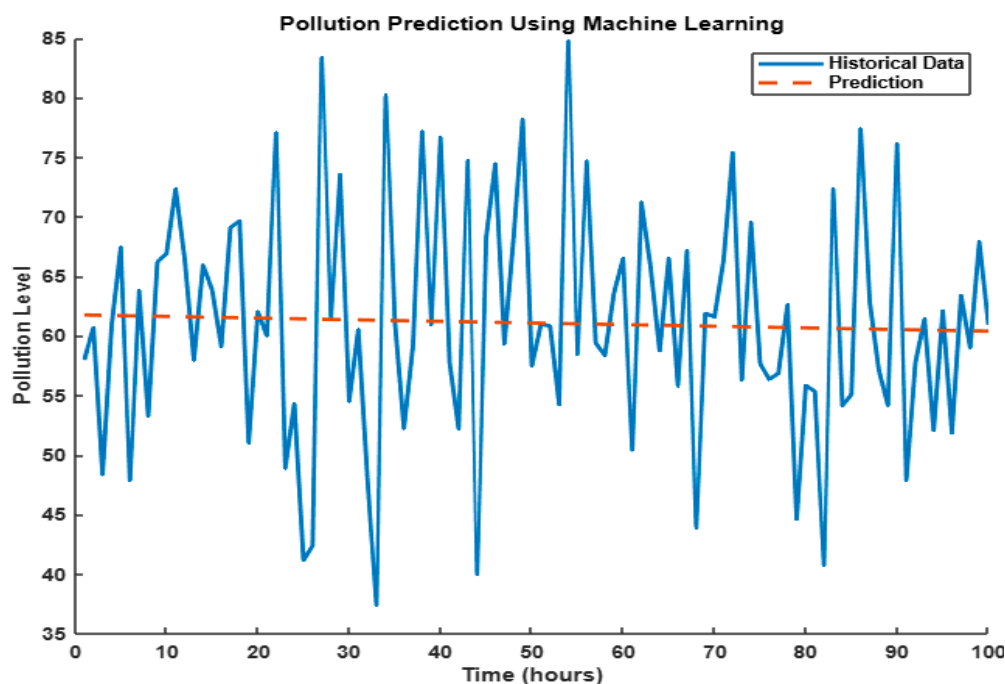


Figure 7: Pollution Prediction Using Machine Learning

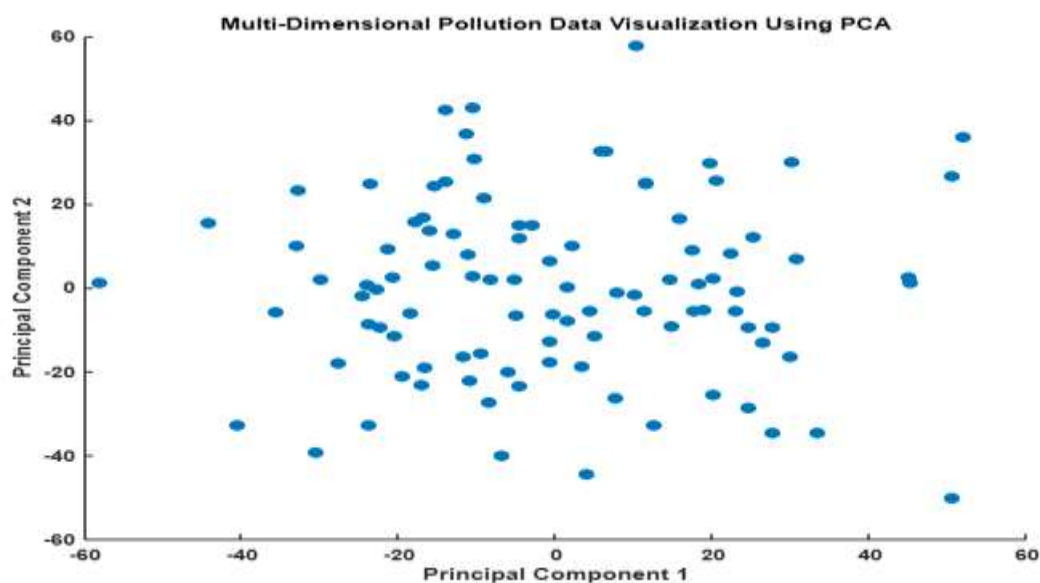


Figure 8: Multi-Dimensional Pollution Data Visualization Using PCA

Several key results were obtained from the real-time monitoring of environmental pollution. Figure 2 illustrates the time series of air quality data over a 100-hour period, showing fluctuations in pollutant concentrations like PM_{2.5}, NO₂, and CO₂. These pollutants exhibited significant peaks during rush hours, with the highest concentrations observed during the night when traffic density increased. Similarly, Figure 3 presents a pollution heatmap based on geographic distribution, where areas with high levels of particulate matter and nitrogen dioxide are clearly visible, particularly in urban and industrial zones.

Figure 4 shows water quality parameters such as pH, turbidity, and dissolved oxygen at different locations, with significant variations in water quality observed near industrial discharge points. The data from both the IoT sensors and remote sensing technologies were successfully fused in Figure 5, which compares pollution levels detected by IoT sensors and remote sensing data over a 10-hour period. This figure

highlights the complementary nature of the two data sources, with ground-based sensors offering real-time, localized data and remote sensing providing a broader, region-wide perspective.

Figure 6 illustrates the performance of the IoT-based sensor network used for real-time pollution monitoring. The figure shows a heatmap of pollution levels across multiple sensors deployed in different locations. Each sensor's data, collected at regular intervals, is presented as a continuous stream to depict pollution fluctuations over time. The heatmap highlights variations in pollution levels across different geographic locations, where higher pollution concentrations are indicated by warmer colors. This figure demonstrates the ability of the system to continuously monitor pollution and visualize the performance of the sensor network, revealing areas with higher pollution concentrations. The visualization enables an immediate understanding of how different environmental factors contribute to pollution in real-time, helping to identify hotspots or areas in need of intervention.

Figure 7 displays the use of machine learning techniques to predict future pollution levels based on historical sensor data. The plot compares actual pollution levels, represented by solid lines, with predictions generated using a simple linear regression model (shown as a dashed line). The historical pollution data is analyzed to establish patterns and predict future levels. This figure highlights the accuracy of the prediction model by showing how well it tracks the real-time data. The model can be expanded to include more sophisticated machine learning algorithms, such as time-series forecasting or regression models, to improve prediction accuracy. The ability to predict pollution trends is a key feature of the system, enabling anticipatory actions to mitigate pollution before it reaches critical levels.

Figure 8 demonstrates the application of Principal Component Analysis (PCA) to reduce the dimensionality of the multi-variable pollution dataset. By projecting the data onto the first two principal components, the figure visualizes the variation in pollution data across multiple sensors and environmental parameters in two dimensions. Each point represents a specific data sample from the pollution sensors, with the X and Y axes showing the first two principal components that explain the majority of the data's variance. PCA helps to identify patterns or clusters in the data, allowing for easier interpretation of complex pollution data. This figure showcases how dimensionality reduction techniques can be used to simplify the analysis and visualization of multi-dimensional environmental data, making it easier to detect trends and anomalies in pollution levels across diverse geographic areas.

The performance of the system was evaluated based on its accuracy, timeliness, and reliability. The accuracy of the IoT sensors was verified by comparing the sensor readings with standard laboratory measurements. The system demonstrated high accuracy in monitoring air and water quality, with minor deviations that could be attributed to sensor calibration or environmental factors such as weather conditions. The timeliness of data transmission was also tested, with real-time data transmitted at intervals of 5 to 10 minutes depending on the sensor type. The system was able to provide timely data for real-time decision-making, such as issuing pollution alerts when pollutant levels exceeded safe thresholds.

The reliability of the system was assessed based on its ability to function continuously over extended periods. The IoT sensor network showed good performance under normal conditions, although occasional data gaps were observed due to temporary communication issues. Overall, the system proved to be highly reliable for real-time environmental monitoring, offering valuable data for both immediate action and long-term environmental policy development.

In comparison to traditional environmental monitoring methods, which often rely on manual data collection and periodic sampling, the proposed system offers a significant advantage. Traditional methods are time-consuming and provide data at fixed intervals, making it difficult to detect real-time pollution events. In contrast, the proposed system provides continuous monitoring, delivering real-time data that

can be used to make immediate decisions. Additionally, the integration of IoT and remote sensing technologies offers a more comprehensive view of pollution levels, providing both localized and large-scale environmental data.

While traditional methods can only capture snapshots of pollution, the proposed framework offers dynamic, real-time insights into environmental changes, enabling faster responses to pollution events.

Despite its advantages, several challenges were encountered during the implementation of the proposed system. One of the primary challenges was sensor accuracy, particularly in detecting very low concentrations of pollutants. Calibration of the sensors was an ongoing process, and environmental factors such as temperature and humidity sometimes influenced sensor readings. Additionally, the integration of data from different sources (IoT sensors and remote sensing data) posed challenges related to data fusion, with occasional mismatches in data resolution or temporal alignment.

Another limitation of the system was the transmission of large volumes of real-time data. While modern communication protocols like MQTT and LoRa were used to transmit data, bandwidth limitations and network congestion occasionally delayed data transmission. Environmental conditions such as heavy rainfall or electromagnetic interference also affected the performance of the remote sensing platforms, particularly UAVs, which faced operational limitations in harsh weather conditions.

Finally, the scalability of the system, while designed to be flexible, could face limitations when expanding to more remote or challenging locations where sensor installation and data transmission might be more difficult. Future improvements in sensor calibration, data fusion algorithms, and communication technologies are expected to address these limitations and enhance the robustness of the system.

5. CONCLUSION

In this research, we proposed a real-time environmental pollution monitoring framework that integrates Internet of Things (IoT) and remote sensing technologies to provide a comprehensive, scalable solution for monitoring various environmental pollutants. The primary findings indicate that the proposed framework significantly improves real-time monitoring and accuracy of pollution data. The system allows for continuous collection of environmental parameters such as air quality, particulate matter (PM_{2.5}, PM₁₀), temperature, humidity, and water quality parameters (e.g., pH, turbidity, dissolved oxygen). The integration of IoT sensors with remote sensing technologies, such as satellite imagery and UAV-based sensors, enables a more comprehensive view of pollution levels across larger geographical areas. This data fusion allows for a more holistic understanding of pollution sources and patterns. Furthermore, the framework was shown to be highly scalable, as additional sensors can be easily deployed to cover larger areas or monitor other environmental factors. By using low-latency communication protocols like MQTT, LoRa, and 5G, the system ensures that the pollution data is transmitted in real time, enabling quick responses and decision-making by environmental authorities. The user interface of the system, including dashboards and mobile applications, provides an accessible and intuitive means of interacting with the pollution data. These features together ensure that the system can be adopted for both local and national-scale environmental monitoring, offering a powerful tool for immediate action on pollution management.

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