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# Smart Fermentation Controller: Sensor – Based Monitoring and Control System for Fermented Foods and Beverages

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**ABSTRACT:** In the realm of food and beverage production, the precise control of fermentation processes is paramount to achieving desired product qualities. This project introduces a novel solution, the Smart Fermentation Controller, designed to automate and optimize the fermentation of various food items such as cheese, wine, bread, and yogurt. The system utilizes an Arduino microcontroller programmed with predefined fermentation parameters including time and temperature specifications for each product. Upon selection of the desired item to ferment, the microcontroller orchestrates the regulation of the fermentation chamber's temperature using a combination of two fans - one for heating and the other for cooling. These fans, strategically positioned alongside a Peltier plate, dynamically adjust the chamber's temperature to maintain it within the prescribed range. Crucially, the Smart Fermentation Controller is equipped with sensors to continuously monitor the fermentation process, ensuring precise adherence to the predetermined conditions. When fermentation is completed, an audible alert is triggered via a buzzer, and the system display indicates that the chamber is ready for the next fermentation cycle. This innovative system not only streamlines the fermentation process but also enhances product consistency and quality while minimizing the need for manual intervention. The Smart Fermentation Controller represents a significant advancement in fermentation technology, offering efficiency and precision in the production of fermented foods and beverages.

**KEYWORDS:** Fermentation, Fermentation controller, fermentation process, fermented foods, fermented beverages.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Fermentation is a natural metabolic process that has been harnessed by humans for thousands of years to produce a wide array of foods and beverages. It is a biochemical process in which microorganisms, such as bacteria, yeast, or fungi, break down complex organic compounds into simpler substances, often yielding energy in the form of adenosine triphosphate (ATP) and producing various byproducts. Historically, fermentation has played a crucial role in food preservation, flavor enhancement, and the creation of new culinary delights. Some of the most iconic fermented products include cheese, yogurt, beer, wine, sauerkraut, kimchi, and sourdough bread. The fermentation process typically involves the conversion of sugars or carbohydrates into acids, gases, or alcohol, depending on the microorganisms involved and the specific conditions of the fermentation environment. These microorganisms may naturally occur in the ingredients being fermented or may be added deliberately in the form of starter cultures. temperature, pH levels, oxygen availability, and the presence of nutrients all influence the rate and outcome of fermentation. Controlling these factors is crucial for achieving consistent results and desired product characteristics. Fermentation is not only a traditional culinary practice but also a key industrial process in sectors such as food and beverage production, pharmaceuticals, and biofuel manufacturing. Advances in biotechnology and microbiology have expanded our understanding of fermentation, enabling the development of sophisticated techniques and technologies for optimizing fermentation processes.[1-2]

**INTRODUCTOIN TO FERMENTATION CHAMBER:** The fermentation of various foods and beverages, each with its unique requirements, poses a challenge in traditional fermentation setups. To address this challenge, the concept of a Multiple Food Fermentation Chamber has emerged as an innovative solution, providing a versatile and efficient platform for fermenting different products simultaneously. Traditionally, fermenting multiple food items with



distinct temperature and time requirements would necessitate separate fermentation chambers, resulting in inefficiencies in space, energy consumption, and labor. However, the Multiple Food Fermentation Chamber streamlines this process by offering a single, adaptable environment capable of accommodating diverse fermentation needs. This specialized chamber is equipped with customizable settings and controls tailored to the specific requirements of different food items. Temperature, humidity, airflow, and other environmental factors can be precisely regulated to create optimal conditions for each fermentation process. The design of the Multiple Food Fermentation Chamber often incorporates modular compartments or shelves, allowing for the segregation and simultaneous fermentation of various products without cross-contamination.

By consolidating multiple fermentation processes into a single unit, it reduces the footprint, energy consumption, and labor requirements associated with traditional fermentation setups. This not only optimizes resource utilization but also improves overall workflow management and product consistency. Furthermore, the Multiple Food Fermentation Chamber offers flexibility and scalability, accommodating changes in production demands and enabling experimentation with new recipes and fermentation techniques [3-4]

**INTRODUCTION TO EMBEDDED SYSTEM:** Embedded systems represent a cornerstone of modern technological infrastructure, powering a vast array of devices and systems that we encounter in our daily lives. These systems consist of specialized hardware and software designed to perform specific functions within larger electronic systems or products.

**Dedicated Functionality:** Embedded systems are engineered to execute predefined tasks or functions, often with a focus on efficiency and reliability. They are tailored to meet the requirements of a particular application, whether it's controlling a microwave oven, managing the engine in a car, or operating a medical device.

**Resource Constraints:** Embedded systems typically operate under constraints such as limited processing power, memory, and energy resources. These constraints necessitate optimization techniques in both hardware and software design to achieve desired performance within the available constraints.

**Real-Time Operation:** Many embedded systems are required to respond to inputs and produce outputs within specific time constraints, known as real-time operation. Depending on the application, these constraints can range from hard real-time (where missing a deadline leads to system failure) to soft real-time (where occasional missed deadlines are tolerable).

**Integration with Physical Environment:** Embedded systems often interact directly with the physical world through sensors, actuators, and other peripherals. This interaction may involve monitoring environmental conditions, controlling machinery, or collecting data from external sources.

**Custom Hardware and Software:** Embedded systems are commonly built using custom hardware components and specialized software tailored to the requirements of the application. This customization allows for optimization, cost-effectiveness, and integration of specific features.

**INTRODUCTION TO PROTEUS DESIGN SUITE:** The Proteus Design Suite is a proprietary software tool suite used primarily for electronic design automation. The software is used mainly by electronic design engineers and technicians to create schematics and electronic prints for manufacturing printed circuit boards. It was developed in Yorkshire, England by Labcenter Electronics Ltd and is available in English, French, Spanish and Chinese languages.

**INTRODUCTION TO ARDUINO IDE:** The Arduino Integrated Development Environment (IDE) is a cross-platform application (for Windows, macOS, Linux) that is written in functions from C and C++. It is used to write and upload programs to Arduino compatible boards, but also, with the help of third-party cores, other vendor development boards. The source code for the IDE is released under the GNU General Public License, version 2. The Arduino IDE supports the languages C and C++ using special rules of code structuring. The Arduino IDE supplies a software library from the Wiring project, which provides many common input and output procedures. User-written code only requires two basic functions, for starting the sketch and the main program loop, that are compiled and linked with a program stub `main()` into an executable cyclic executive program with the GNU tool chain, also included with the IDE distribution. The Arduino IDE employs the program `avrdude` to convert the executable code into a text file in hexadecimal encoding that is loaded into the Arduino board by a loader program in the board's firmware. By default, `avrdude` is used as the uploading tool to flash the user code onto official Arduino boards. [5-6]





## II. METHODOLOGY

### 2.1. Current System.

The current methods for fermenting foods and beverages often rely on manual monitoring and control, resulting in several limitations and challenges:

**Manual Temperature Regulation:** In traditional fermentation setups, maintaining the required temperature for optimal fermentation often involves manual intervention, such as adjusting heating elements or cooling systems. This manual approach can be time-consuming and prone to human error, leading to inconsistencies in fermentation conditions.

**Limited Automation:** Many existing fermentation systems lack automation capabilities, requiring constant oversight and adjustment by operators. This manual intervention increases the risk of deviations from the desired fermentation parameters and can impact the quality and consistency of the final product.

**Limited Flexibility:** Traditional fermentation setups may be designed for specific products or processes, lacking the flexibility to accommodate different fermentation requirements. This limitation restricts the versatility of the system and may necessitate separate setups for fermenting different types of foods and beverages.

**Lack of Real-Time Monitoring:** Without real-time monitoring capabilities, operators may have limited visibility into the progress of the fermentation process. This lack of insight can make it challenging to detect and address issues promptly, potentially leading to suboptimal outcomes or product spoilage.

**Manual Notification Systems:** Alerting operators when fermentation is complete often relies on manual observation or time-based estimations. This approach can be unreliable and may result in delays in attending to finished products, leading to over-fermentation or quality degradation.

Overall, the existing system for fermenting foods and beverages is characterized by manual intervention, limited automation, and a lack of real-time monitoring and control capabilities. These limitations highlight the need for innovative solutions, such as the proposed Smart Fermentation Controller, to improve efficiency, consistency, and quality in the fermentation process.

### 2.2. PROPOSED SYSTEM

The proposed Smart Fermentation Controller is a state-of-the-art system designed to revolutionize the fermentation process for a variety of foods and beverages, including cheese, wine, bread, and yogurt. By integrating advanced sensor-based monitoring and control capabilities, the system offers unprecedented levels of automation, precision, and flexibility, addressing the limitations of traditional fermentation methods.

**Automated Temperature Regulation:** The Smart Fermentation Controller incorporates a sophisticated temperature control mechanism, leveraging sensors to monitor the temperature inside the fermentation chamber continuously. This data is used to dynamically adjust the heating and cooling systems, ensuring that the chamber maintains the precise temperature range required for optimal fermentation.

**User-Friendly Interface:** The system features an intuitive user interface, allowing operators to easily select the type of product being fermented and input any specific parameters. Predefined fermentation profiles for different products are stored in the system, streamlining the setup process and eliminating the need for manual temperature adjustments.

**Real-Time Monitoring and Alerts:** Utilizing sensors such as the LM35 temperature sensor, the Smart Fermentation Controller provides real-time monitoring of key fermentation parameters. Operators can track the progress of the fermentation process via a digital display interface, receiving immediate alerts when fermentation is complete.

**Dynamic Control Systems:** The system employs advanced control algorithms to regulate the fermentation environment dynamically. By enabling and disabling fans placed on either side of a Peltier plate, the system can efficiently heat or cool the fermentation chamber as needed, maintaining optimal conditions for each product.

**Customizable Settings:** Operators have the flexibility to customize fermentation parameters based on specific product requirements or preferences. This customization capability ensures that the system can accommodate a wide range of fermentation processes, from short-duration fermentations to longer, more complex ones.



**Scalability and Adaptability:** The Smart Fermentation Controller is designed to be scalable and adaptable, suitable for use in various settings ranging from small-scale home fermentation setups to commercial food production facilities. Its modular design allows for easy expansion and integration with existing fermentation equipment.

**Efficiency and Cost-Effectiveness:** By automating temperature control and monitoring processes, the proposed system reduces the need for manual intervention, minimizing labor costs and increasing operational efficiency. Additionally, the precise control of fermentation parameters helps optimize resource utilization and minimize energy consumption.

**Quality Assurance:** With its precise control capabilities and real-time monitoring features, the Smart Fermentation Controller enhances product consistency and quality. Operators can have confidence that each batch of fermented food or beverage meets the highest standards, minimizing the risk of spoilage or product deviations.

Overall, the proposed Smart Fermentation Controller represents a significant advancement in fermentation technology, offering a comprehensive solution for automating and optimizing the fermentation process. By combining cutting-edge sensor-based monitoring with intelligent control systems, the system empowers operators to achieve superior results with greater efficiency and ease.

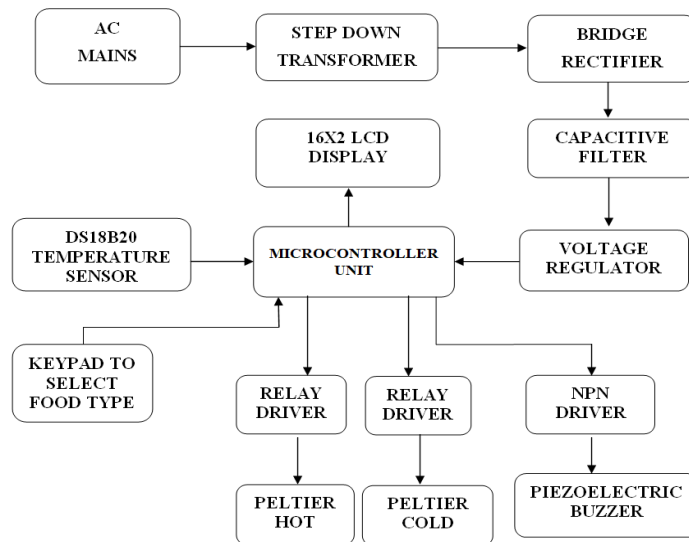


Fig.1 Block diagram of Smart Fermentation Controller Sensor Based Monitoring and Control System for Fermented Foods and Beverages

### III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### 3.1.POWER SUPPLY

A regulated power supply is an embedded circuit; it converts unregulated AC (Alternating Current) into a constant DC. With the help of a rectifier it converts AC supply into DC. Its function is to supply a stable voltage (or less often current), to a circuit or device that must be operated within certain power supply limits. The output from the regulated power supply may be alternating or unidirectional, but is nearly always DC (Direct Current). The type of stabilization used may be restricted to ensuring that the output remains within certain limits under various load conditions, or it may also include compensation for variations in its own supply source. The latter is much more common today. [7]

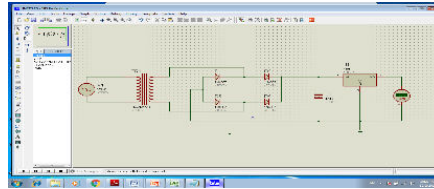


Fig. 2. Power Supply.

### 3.2. TRANSFORMER

The potential transformer will step down the power supply voltage (0-230V) to (0-6V) level. Then the secondary of the potential transformer will be connected to the precision rectifier, which is constructed with the help of op-amp. The advantages of using precision rectifier are it will give peak voltage output as DC, rest of the circuits will give only RMS output. It is a general purpose chassis mounting mains transformer. Transformer has 240V primary windings and center tapped secondary winding. The transformer has flying colored insulated connecting leads (Approx 100 mm long). The Transformer act as step down transformer reducing AC - 240V to AC - 12V. Power supplies for all kinds of project & circuit boards. Step down 230 V AC to 12V with a maximum of 1Amp current.[8]



Fig. 3. Transformer

### 3.3. BRIDGE RECTIFIER:

When four diodes are connected as shown in figure, the circuit is called as bridge rectifier. The input to the circuit is applied to the diagonally opposite corners of the network, and the output is taken from the remaining two corners. Let us assume that the transformer is working properly and there is a positive potential, at point A and a negative potential at point B. The positive potential at point A will forward bias D3 and reverse bias D4. The negative potential at point B will forward bias D1 and reverse D2. At this time D3 and D1 are forward biased and will allow current flow to pass through them; D4 and D2 are reverse biased and will block current flow. The path for current flow is from point B through D1, up through RL, through D3, through the secondary of the transformer back to point B. this path is indicated by the solid arrows.[9]

### 3.4. VOLTAGE REGULATOR

Regulator IC units contain the circuitry for reference source, comparator amplifier, and overload protection all in a single IC.



Fig 4. Voltage regulator.

The regulators can be selected for operation with load currents from hundreds of milli amperes to tens of amperes, corresponding to power ratings from milli watts to tens of watts. The series 78 regulators provide fixed positive regulated voltages from 5 to 24 volts. The series 79 regulators provide fixed negative regulated voltages from 5 to 24 volts. A fixed three-terminal voltage regulator has an unregulated dc input voltage,  $V_i$  applied to one input terminal, a regulated dc output voltage,  $V_o$ , from a second terminal, with the third terminal connected to ground. The series 78 regulators provide fixed positive regulated voltages from 5 to 24 volts. Similarly, the series 79 regulators provide fixed negative regulated voltages from 5 to 24 volts. For ICs microcontroller, LCD - 5 volts. For alarm circuit, op-amp, relay circuits -12 volts.[10]

### 3.5. LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY

LCD stands for liquid crystal display. They come in many sizes 8x1 , 8x2, 10x2 , 16x1 , 16x2 , 16x4 , 20x2 , 20x4 , 24x2 , 30x2 , 32x2 , 40x2 etc . Many multinational companies like Philips Hitachi Panasonic make their own special kind of LCD'S to be used in their products. All the LCD'S performs the same functions (display characters numbers special characters ASCII characters etc).Their programming is also same and they all have same 14 pins (0-13) or 16 pins (0 to 15). Alphanumeric displays are used in a wide range of applications, including palmtop computers, word processors, photocopiers, point of sale terminals, medical instruments, cellular phones.[11]



Fig. 5. LCD Display

### 3.6.DC FAN

DC Brushless cooling fans have a long history of being an effective method of cooling electronic circuits. Today, DC brushless cooling fans are found in new applications and are being evaluated by engineers that may not have previously used fans in their products. These engineers may not be familiar with all of the “undocumented features” that are inherent to these types of fans. If the engineer is not familiar with all the characteristics of air moving devices, they could be in for a nasty surprise. Fan manufacturers typically specify the nominal speed of the fan, as well as an operating voltage range.[12]



Fig. 6. DC FAN



### 3.7. TEMPERATURE SENSOR

The LM35 series are precision integrated-circuit temperature sensors, whose output voltage is linearly proportional to the Celsius (Centigrade) temperature. The LM35 thus has an advantage over linear temperature sensors calibrated in ° Kelvin, as the user is not required to subtract a large constant voltage from its output to obtain convenient Centigrade scaling. The LM35 does not require any external calibration or trimming to provide typical accuracies of  $\pm 1/4^{\circ}\text{C}$  at room temperature and  $\pm 3/4^{\circ}\text{C}$  over a full  $-55$  to  $+150^{\circ}\text{C}$  temperature range. Low cost is assured by trimming and calibration at the wafer level. The LM35's low output impedance, linear output, and precise inherent calibration make interfacing to readout or control circuitry especially easy. It can be used with single power supplies, or with plus and minus supplies. As it draws only  $60\ \mu\text{A}$  from its supply, it has very low self-heating, less than  $0.1^{\circ}\text{C}$  in still air. [12]

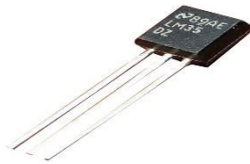


Fig 7. TEMPERATURE SENSOR

**PIEZOELECTRIC BUZZER:** A piezoelectric buzzer is a small electronic component commonly used for generating audible alerts or tones in various devices. It gives alerts to the employees [12]



Fig.8. BUZZER

The following picture represents our demo model of our project “Smart fermentation controller: Sensor based monitoring and controlling system for fermented foods and beverages.

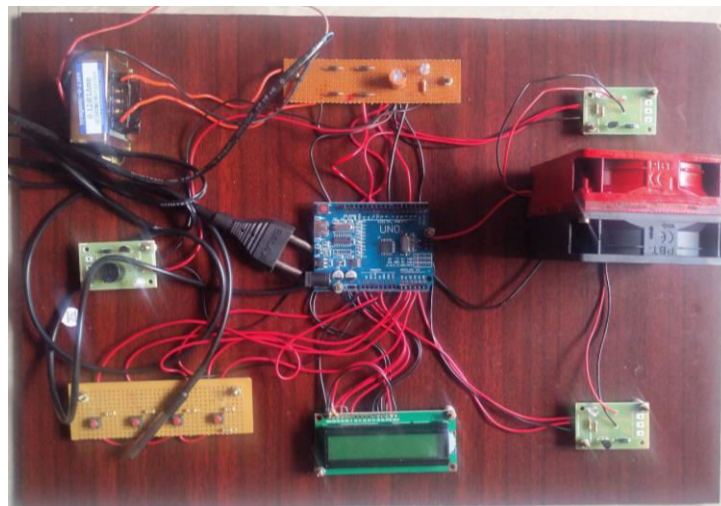


Fig.9. The smart fermentation controller monitoring.





#### IV. FUTURE SCOPE

The future scope of smart fermentation controller sensor-based monitoring and control systems for fermented foods and beverages holds several promising developments:

- 1. Precision Fermentation:** Advanced sensors will enable precise monitoring and control of fermentation parameters such as temperature, pH, microbial activity, and nutrient levels, resulting in consistent product quality and improved fermentation efficiency.
- 2. Real-time Data Analysis:** Integration with data analytics and machine learning algorithms will allow for real-time analysis of fermentation data, enabling predictive modeling, early detection of anomalies, and proactive adjustment of fermentation conditions for optimal outcomes.
- 3. Remote Monitoring and Control:** Smart fermentation systems will support remote monitoring and control capabilities, allowing producers to oversee fermentation processes from anywhere, leading to increased flexibility, efficiency, and scalability.
- 4. Quality Assurance and Traceability:** Enhanced monitoring capabilities will facilitate stringent quality assurance protocols and provide comprehensive traceability throughout the fermentation process, ensuring product safety and compliance with regulatory standards.
- 5. Customization and Personalization:** Smart fermentation systems may offer customization options based on specific product requirements or consumer preferences, enabling the production of tailored fermented foods and beverages with unique flavors, textures, and nutritional profiles.
- 6. Integration with IoT and Blockchain:** Integration with Internet of Things (IoT) devices and blockchain technology will enhance transparency, security, and integrity in supply chain management, allowing for seamless tracking of raw materials, fermentation conditions, and product distribution.
- 7. Sustainability and Waste Reduction:** Smart fermentation systems will contribute to sustainability efforts by optimizing resource utilization, minimizing waste generation, and promoting eco-friendly fermentation practices, aligning with the growing demand for sustainable food production.
- 8. Emerging Technologies:** Advancements in sensor technology, bio processing techniques, and fermentation microbiology will continue to drive innovation in smart fermentation systems, opening up new opportunities for product diversification, process optimization, and market expansion.

In summary, the future of smart fermentation controller sensor-based monitoring and control systems for fermented foods and beverages is characterized by increased automation, precision, flexibility, and sustainability, paving the way for a more efficient and dynamic fermentation industry.

#### V. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the implementation of the Smart Fermentation Controller has proven to be a game-changer in the realm of food and beverage production. With its precise temperature control, automation efficiency, and user-friendly interface, the system has significantly improved fermentation processes for various products such as cheese, wine, bread, and yogurt. By enhancing product quality, reducing manual intervention, and improving resource efficiency, the Smart Fermentation Controller offers a competitive edge in the industry while setting new standard for innovation and excellence in fermentation technology.



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