AI-Based Patient Care Wheelchair

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***Abstract*—The advancement of Internet of Things (IoT) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies has significantly improved healthcare monitoring and assistive mobility systems. This paper presents the design and development of an AI-based patient care wheelchair that integrates real-time health monitoring with intelligent mobility support. The system utilizes an ESP32 microcontroller as the central processing unit, connected with sensors such as the MPU6050 for motion and tilt detection and the MAX30102 sensor for monitoring blood oxygen saturation (SpO_2) and heart rate. The collected data is processed and transmitted wirelessly via Wi-Fi to a mobile application, enabling remote monitoring by caregivers. The system is capable of detecting abnormal conditions such as sudden tilt or low oxygen levels and generates instant alerts to ensure timely assistance. Additionally, the wheelchair movement is controlled using a motor driver and DC motors, allowing users to navigate independently through mobile-based commands. The proposed solution is cost-effective, reliable, and user-friendly, addressing the limitations of traditional wheelchairs by combining safety, healthcare monitoring, and mobility in a single platform. This system enhances patient independence and provides continuous supervision in healthcare environments.**

***Index Terms*—Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), Smart Wheelchair, Health Monitoring, ESP32, Assistive Technology.**

I. Introduction

The rapid advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the Internet of Things (IoT) has significantly transformed modern healthcare systems by enabling real-time monitoring, remote diagnostics, and intelligent assistive devices. Among these advancements, smart mobility solutions such as intelligent wheelchairs have gained considerable attention for improving the quality of life of elderly and physically challenged individuals. Traditional wheelchairs primarily provide mobility support but lack features such as health monitoring, safety detection, and remote accessibility, which are essential in critical healthcare scenarios.

Recent research has focused on integrating IoT-based health monitoring systems with wearable sensors to track vital parameters such as heart rate, oxygen saturation (SpO_2), and body movement in real time [1], [2]. Microcontrollers like ESP32 have been widely adopted due to their low power consumption and built-in wireless communication capabilities [3], [4]. Additionally, motion detection sensors such as MPU6050 are extensively used for fall detection and posture monitoring [5], [6]. Smart wheelchair systems with enhanced features like joystick control, voice commands, and obstacle detection have also been proposed [7], [8]. However, most existing systems focus on either mobility or monitoring independently, lacking an integrated solution.

Several studies have attempted to combine mobility with healthcare monitoring using IoT frameworks [9]–[11]. These systems enable real-time data transmission to cloud platforms, allowing caregivers to monitor patient conditions remotely. Despite these developments, challenges such as high cost, system complexity, limited real-time responsiveness, and lack of user-friendly interfaces still persist [12], [13]. Furthermore, many existing solutions do not provide efficient emergency alert mechanisms for critical conditions such as low oxygen levels or sudden tilts.

To address these limitations, this paper proposes an AI-based patient care wheelchair that integrates real-time health monitoring, motion detection, and intelligent mobility into a single platform. The system uses an ESP32 microcontroller along with sensors such as MAX30102 for SpO_2 and heart rate monitoring and MPU6050 for motion and tilt detection. The collected data is processed and transmitted via Wi-Fi to a mobile application, enabling remote monitoring and control. The system also incorporates an alert mechanism to notify caregivers during abnormal conditions.[14] [15].

The rapid advancement of Internet of Things (IoT) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies has significantly enhanced modern healthcare systems by enabling real-time monitoring, remote supervision, and intelligent decision-making. Smart healthcare solutions are increasingly being developed to improve patient care, especially for elderly and physically challenged individuals who require continuous monitoring and mobility assistance. Traditional mobility devices such as wheelchairs provide only basic movement support and lack integrated systems for health monitoring and safety assurance.

Recent research has focused on IoT-based healthcare monitoring systems that utilize wearable sensors to track vital parameters such as heart rate, oxygen saturation (SpO_2), and physical activity in real time. These systems provide continuous data collection and remote accessibility, improving patient supervision and reducing the burden on caregivers [16], [18]. Additionally, embedded systems using microcontrollers such as ESP32 have been widely used due to their efficient processing capabilities and built-in wireless communication features, making them suitable for healthcare applications.

Intelligent wheelchair systems have also been developed by integrating IoT and embedded technologies to enhance mobility and user interaction. These systems incorporate features such as automated control, real-time monitoring, and connectivity with mobile or cloud platforms [17].

Furthermore, assistive devices with fall detection and emergency alert mechanisms have been proposed to ensure patient safety during critical situations [19]. The integration of AI in healthcare systems has further enabled predictive analysis and intelligent decision-making, improving the overall efficiency of patient monitoring systems [20].

Despite these advancements, challenges such as lack of integration between mobility and health monitoring, high system cost, and limited real-time responsiveness still exist. Therefore, there is a need for a unified, cost-effective solution that combines intelligent mobility with continuous health monitoring.

The proposed solution aims to provide a cost-effective, reliable, and user-friendly system that enhances patient independence while ensuring continuous healthcare supervision. By combining IoT and embedded technologies, this work contributes to the development of smart healthcare assistive devices suitable for real-world applications.

II. Literature Survey

In recent years, IoT-based healthcare monitoring systems have gained significant attention for enabling real-time tracking of patient health parameters. Several studies have proposed systems that use wearable sensors to monitor vital signs such as heart rate, oxygen saturation (SpO_2), and body temperature. These systems improve remote patient monitoring and reduce the need for continuous physical supervision [1], [2], [16], [18]. The integration of cloud platforms further enhances accessibility and allows caregivers to monitor patient conditions from remote locations [23], [24].

Microcontroller-based embedded systems play a crucial role in healthcare applications. Devices such as ESP32 are widely used due to their low power consumption, high processing capability, and built-in Wi-Fi communication features. These controllers enable efficient data acquisition, processing, and transmission in real-time systems [3], [9], [18]. Additionally, wireless communication protocols have improved system reliability and scalability in healthcare monitoring applications [11], [20].

Motion detection and fall detection systems are essential for ensuring patient safety, especially for elderly individuals. Sensors such as accelerometers and gyroscopes, including MPU6050, are commonly used to detect sudden movements, tilt, and posture changes. These systems help in identifying emergency situations and triggering alerts to caregivers [5], [6], [19], [21]. However, most of these systems operate independently and are not integrated with mobility devices.

Smart wheelchair systems have been developed to enhance mobility and independence for physically challenged individuals. These systems incorporate features such as joystick control, automated navigation, and obstacle detection to improve user experience [7], [8], [17], [22]. Some advanced models also utilize computer vision and AI techniques for semi-autonomous or fully autonomous navigation [4], [22].

Recent research has attempted to integrate health monitoring with smart mobility systems. These integrated systems combine sensors, microcontrollers, and IoT frameworks to provide real-time health data along with mobility support [9], [10], [23], [24]. Such systems enable continuous monitoring and improve patient safety by providing timely alerts and remote access to health information [14], [15].

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has also been introduced in healthcare systems to enhance decision-making and predictive analysis. AI-based models can analyze patient data to detect abnormal conditions and predict potential health risks, improving overall system efficiency [20], [25].

These intelligent systems contribute to proactive healthcare management and reduce response time during emergencies.

Despite these advancements, several challenges remain in existing systems. Many solutions are expensive, complex, and not easily accessible to common users [12], [13].

There is also a lack of complete integration between mobility assistance and health monitoring features, leading to fragmented systems [14], [15]. Furthermore, issues such as network dependency, limited real-time responsiveness, and lack of user-friendly interfaces reduce the effectiveness of these technologies.

Overall, the literature indicates that while individual technologies such as IoT-based health monitoring, motion detection, and smart wheelchair systems have been extensively developed, there is still a need for a cost-effective, integrated solution. The proposed AI-based patient care wheelchair aims to bridge this gap by combining mobility, health monitoring, and safety features into a single unified system.

III. Proposed System Architecture

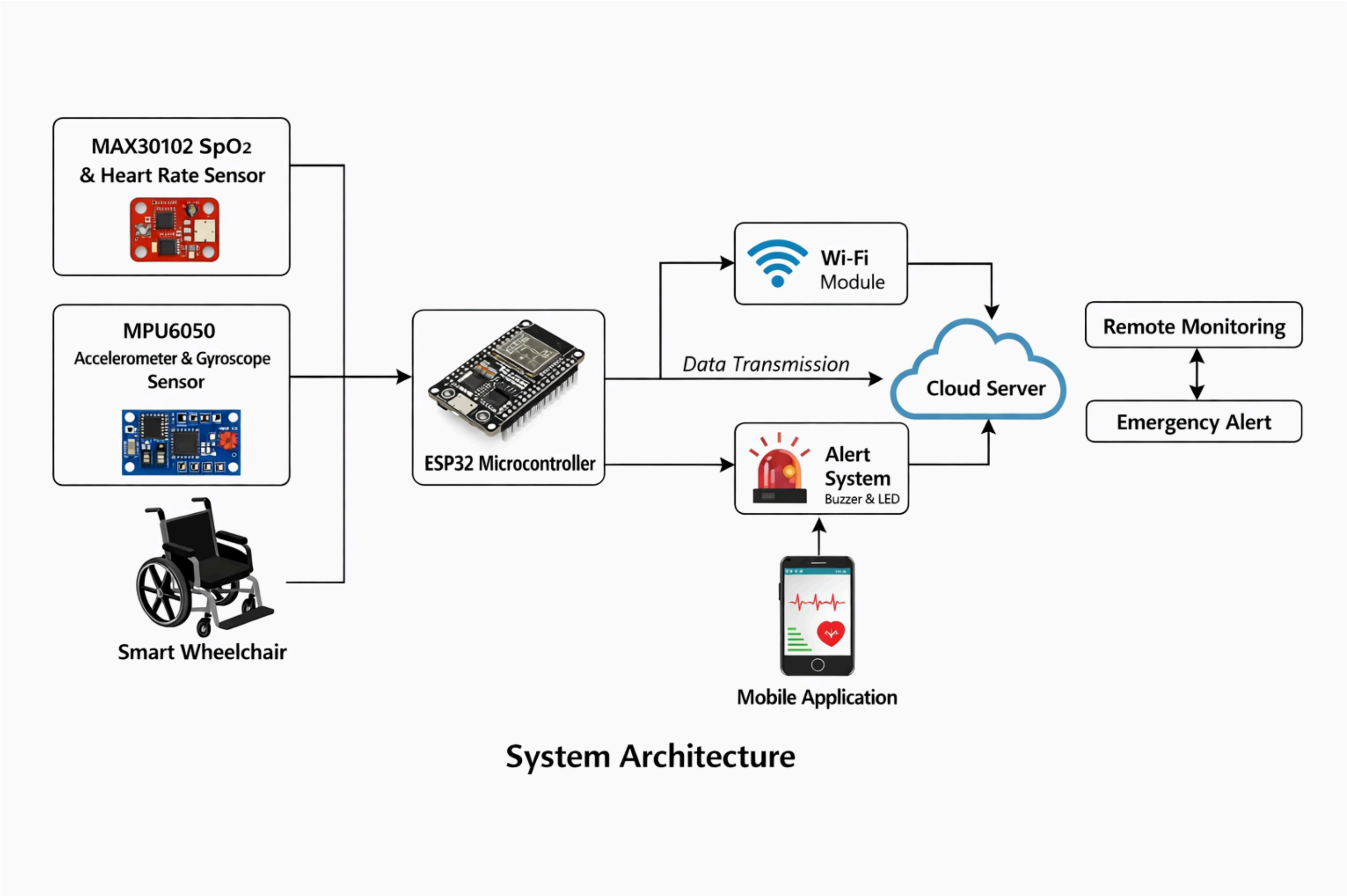

Fig. 1. System Architecture

The system architecture of the proposed AI-Based Patient Care Wheelchair is designed to integrate health monitoring, motion detection, and smart mobility using IoT technology. The architecture consists of multiple interconnected modules that work together to ensure real-time monitoring and safe operation.

1. Sensor Module

The system includes two primary sensors:

- **MAX30102 Sensor**: Measures vital health parameters such as blood oxygen saturation (SpO_2) and heart rate.
- **MPU6050 Sensor**: Detects motion, acceleration, and tilt of the wheelchair.

These sensors continuously collect real-time data from the patient and surrounding environment and send it to the processing unit.

2. Processing Unit (ESP32 Microcontroller)

The ESP32 microcontroller acts as the central unit of the system. It performs the following functions:

- Collects data from sensors via I2C communication
- Processes and analyzes the data
- Compares values with predefined threshold limits
- Makes decisions based on abnormal conditions

It also controls communication and motor operations.

3. Communication Module (Wi-Fi)

The ESP32 uses its built-in Wi-Fi module to transmit data to a cloud server. This enables:

- Real-time data transmission
- Remote monitoring of patient health
- Connectivity with mobile applications

4. Cloud Server

The cloud server stores and manages patient data. It acts as an intermediate layer between the hardware system and the user interface. It allows:

- Secure data storage
- Continuous monitoring
- Data accessibility from anywhere

5. Mobile Application (User Interface)

The mobile application provides an interface for caregivers and users to:

- View real-time health data (SpO_2, heart rate)
- Receive emergency alerts
- Monitor system status

It enhances usability and enables remote supervision.

6. Alert System

An alert system (buzzer/LED/mobile notification) is activated when abnormal conditions occur, such as:

- Low oxygen levels
- Sudden tilt or fall detection

This ensures immediate response and patient safety.

7. Smart Wheelchair (Mobility System)

The wheelchair is equipped with motors controlled by the ESP32. Based on user commands from the mobile app:

- The wheelchair moves forward, backward, left, or right
- Provides independent mobility to the patient

IV. Methodology

A. System Design Approach

The proposed system is designed using a modular architecture that integrates sensing, processing, communication, and control units into a unified platform. Each module performs a specific function and collectively contributes to the overall operation of the smart wheelchair. The modular design ensures scalability, ease of maintenance, and efficient system integration. The system primarily consists of a sensor module, processing unit (ESP32), communication module, control unit, and user interface.

B. Data Acquisition

The data acquisition process involves collecting real-time physiological and motion-related data using sensors. The MAX30102 sensor is employed to measure vital parameters such as blood oxygen saturation (SpO_2) and heart rate. Simultaneously, the MPU6050 sensor captures acceleration and angular velocity data to detect motion and tilt. These sensors continuously acquire data and transmit it to the ESP32 microcontroller through the I2C communication protocol, ensuring reliable and synchronized data transfer.

C. Data Processing and Analysis

The ESP32 microcontroller processes the raw data received from the sensors and converts it into meaningful parameters. The system applies predefined threshold values to analyze the data. For instance, safe limits are defined for oxygen levels and tilt angles. The processed data is continuously evaluated to identify any deviations from normal conditions. This step is crucial for ensuring timely detection of potential health risks or unsafe situations.

D. Decision-Making Mechanism

A rule-based decision-making mechanism is implemented to enable real-time response. The system compares the processed sensor values with predefined thresholds. If the oxygen level falls below the safe limit or if excessive tilt is detected, the system classifies the situation as abnormal. Based on this analysis, appropriate actions such as alert generation or stopping the wheelchair movement are initiated. This mechanism ensures quick and reliable system response without delay.

E. IoT Communication

The system utilizes the built-in Wi-Fi capability of the ESP32 for IoT-based communication. The processed data is transmitted to a mobile application or cloud server in real time. This enables remote monitoring of patient health by caregivers. The communication module also facilitates the transmission of emergency alerts in case of abnormal conditions. This feature enhances accessibility and ensures continuous supervision.

F. Mobility Control Mechanism

The mobility of the wheelchair is controlled using a motor driver (L298N) and DC motors. The ESP32 generates control signals based on user inputs received from the mobile application. These signals are sent to the motor driver, which controls the direction and speed of the motors. The wheelchair can perform movements such as forward, backward, left, and right, allowing the user to navigate independently.

G. User Interface

A mobile application is used as the user interface for system interaction. It displays real-time health data, including SpO_2 and heart rate, and provides control options for wheelchair movement. Additionally, the application generates notifications in case of emergency conditions. This interface improves usability and allows caregivers to monitor and control the system remotely.

H. System Integration

All hardware and software components are integrated into a single system to ensure seamless operation. Sensors, microcontroller, motor driver, and communication modules are interconnected and powered by a stable power supply. The integration process ensures proper coordination between data acquisition, processing, communication, and control functions.

I. Testing and Validation

The system is tested under various conditions to evaluate its performance and reliability. Sensor accuracy, communication efficiency, motor control, and alert mechanisms are verified individually and collectively. The testing process helps in identifying errors and improving system performance to ensure reliable real-time operation.

J. Overall Working Flow

The system operates in a continuous loop where sensor data is collected, processed, and analyzed in real time. Based on the analysis, the system either continues normal operation or generates alerts in case of abnormal conditions. Simultaneously, user commands are processed to control wheelchair movement. This continuous cycle ensures uninterrupted monitoring and control.

V. Result

The proposed AI-based AR-driven personal avatar system The proposed AI-Based Patient Care Wheelchair was successfully designed and implemented, and its performance was evaluated under various test conditions. The system demonstrated reliable operation in monitoring vital health parameters such as blood oxygen saturation (SpO_2) and heart rate using the MAX30102 sensor. The MPU6050 sensor effectively detected motion and tilt, enabling accurate identification of unsafe conditions such as sudden tilting or potential falls. The ESP32 microcontroller efficiently processed sensor data and ensured real-time transmission through Wi-Fi to the mobile application. The results confirmed that the system provides accurate and continuous monitoring with minimal delay, making it suitable for real-time healthcare applications.

Furthermore, the mobility functionality of the wheelchair was tested using motor driver control, and smooth directional movements were achieved in forward, backward, left, and right directions. The alert system was successfully triggered during abnormal conditions such as low oxygen levels and excessive tilt, ensuring timely notification to caregivers. Although minor delays were observed due to network latency, the overall system performance remained stable and reliable. The results indicate that the proposed system effectively integrates health monitoring, safety detection, and smart mobility, making it a practical and cost-effective solution for patient care applications.

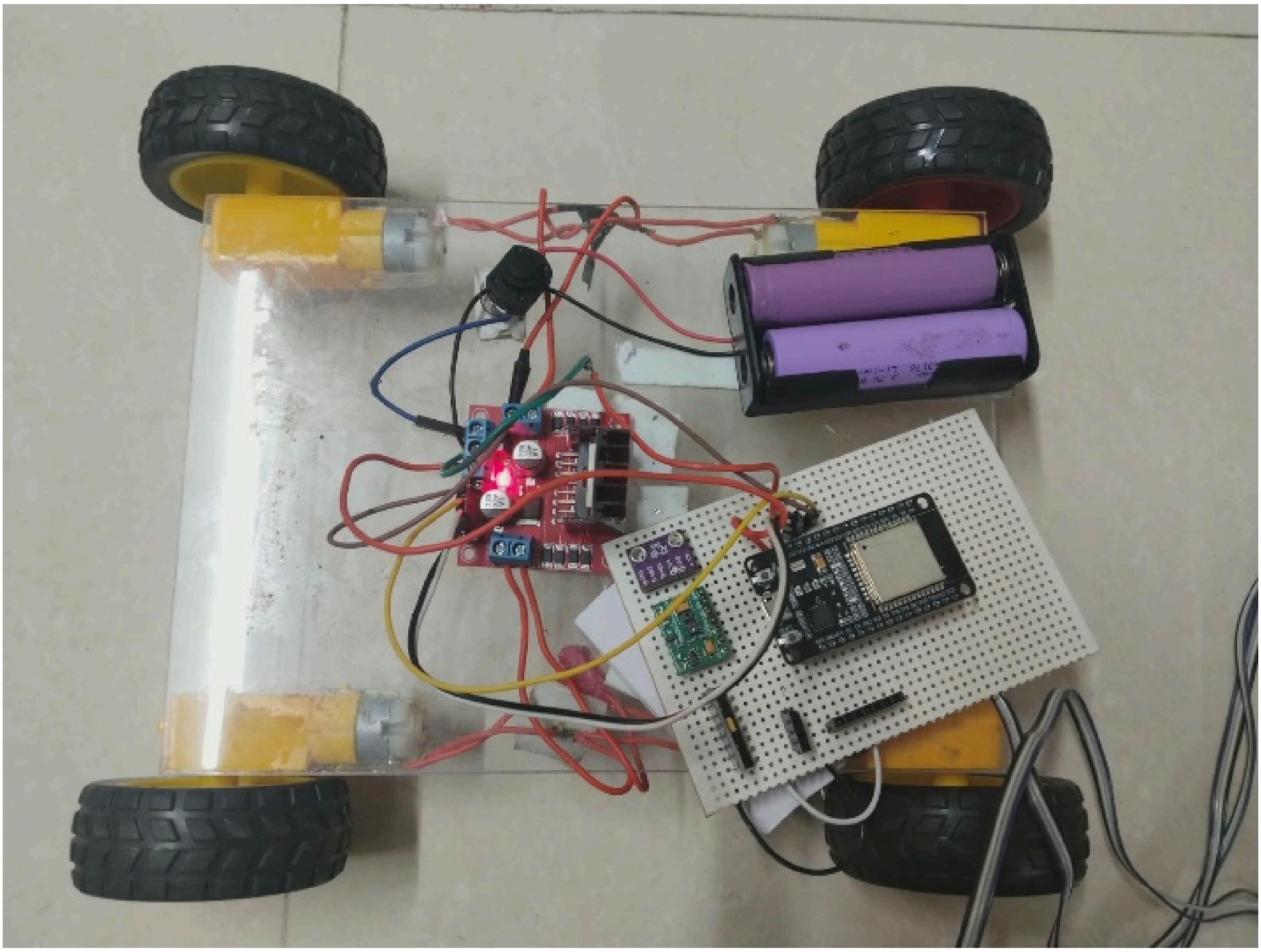

Fig. 1. Prototype Model of AI-Based Patient Care Wheelchair (Without Enclosure)

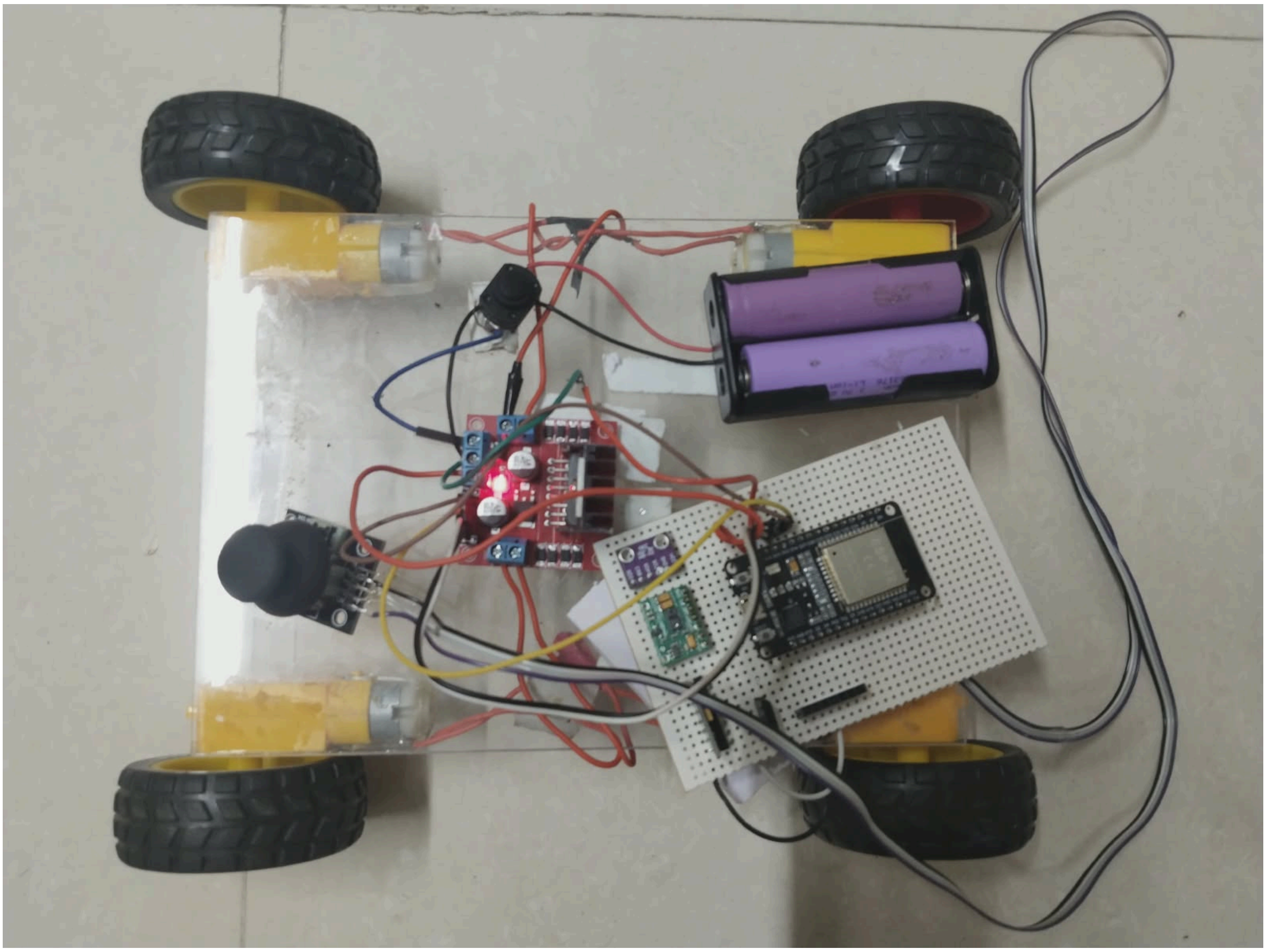

Fig. 2. Prototype Model of AI-Based Patient Care Wheelchair

Fig. 2. Key Features Interface of AI-PitchAR System

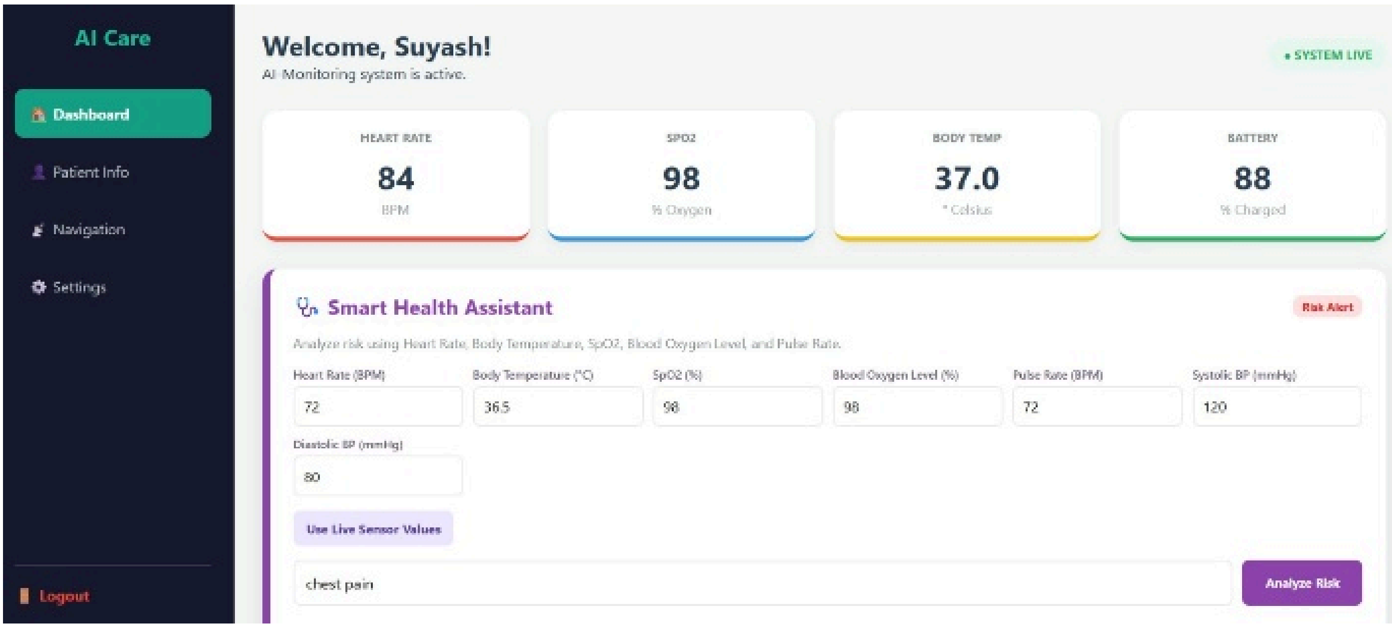

Fig. 3. AI-Based Patient Care Wheelchair Dashboard Overview (Real-Time Health Monitoring Interface).

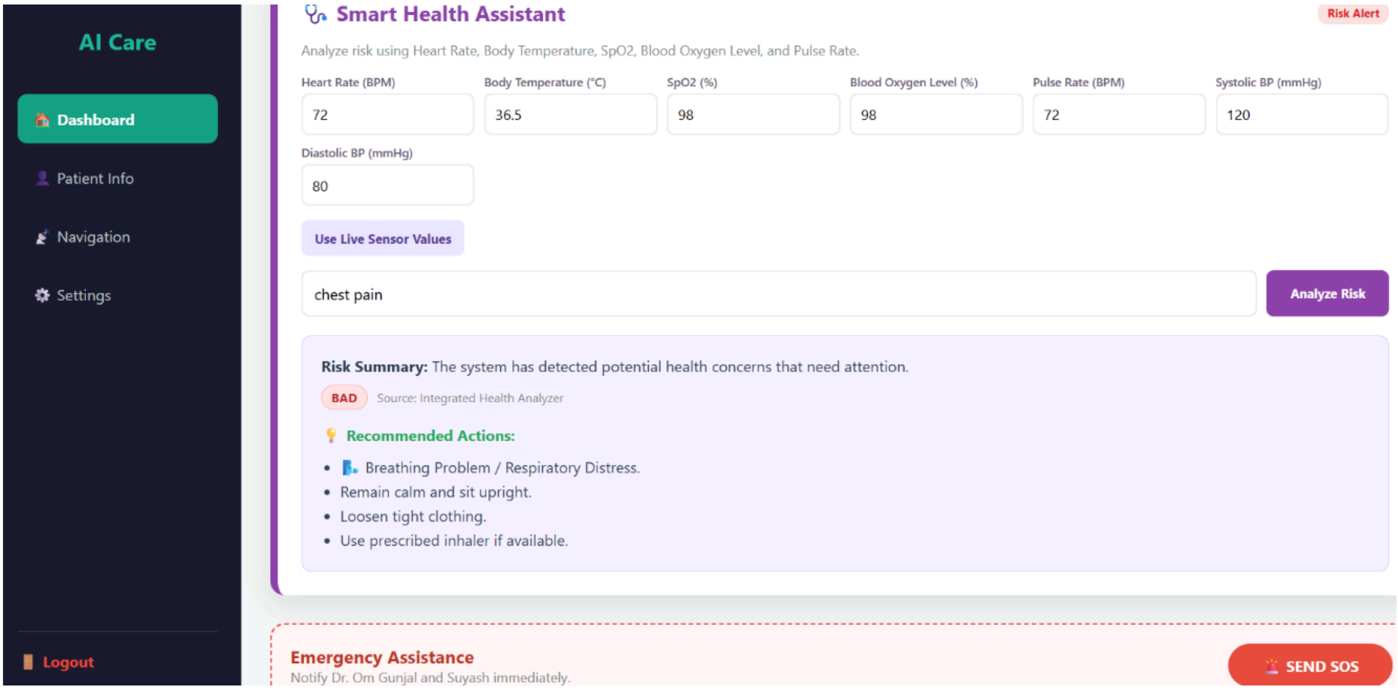

Fig. 4. Smart Health Assistant Interface Showing Risk Analysis and Alert Generation.

VI. Conclusion

The proposed AI-Based Patient Care Wheelchair successfully integrates real-time health monitoring, motion detection, and intelligent mobility into a single, efficient system. By utilizing IoT technology and embedded systems such as the ESP32 microcontroller along with sensors like MAX30102 and MPU6050, the system is capable of continuously monitoring vital parameters and detecting unsafe conditions such as low oxygen levels and excessive tilt. The implementation of wireless communication enables remote monitoring through a mobile application, enhancing accessibility and timely response from caregivers. Additionally, the mobility control mechanism allows users to navigate independently, improving their overall quality of life. The system demonstrated reliable performance, accuracy in data monitoring, and effective alert generation during testing. Overall, the proposed solution addresses the limitations of traditional wheelchairs by providing a cost-effective, user-friendly, and intelligent healthcare assistive device suitable for modern patient care environments.

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