

Performance Evaluation of IoT Sensors in Urban Air Quality Monitoring: Insights from the IoT Sensor Performance Test

Tatiana Blinova^{1*}, Sanjay Singh Chauhan², Tara Singla³, Shweta Bansal⁴, Apeksha Mittal⁵, V Sahithi Yellanki⁶

¹Department of Management and Innovation, National Research University Moscow State University of Civil Engineering, 129337 Yaroslavskoe shosse, 26, Moscow, Russia

²Uttaranchal University, Dehradun - 248007, India

³Lovely Professional University, Phagwara, Punjab

⁴K R Mangalam University, Gurgaon, India

⁵GD Goenka University, Sohna, Haryana, India

⁶GRIET, Bachupally, Hyderabad, Telangana, India

Corresponding Author- tatianablinova@bk.ru

Abstract: In this paper, we report on extensive experiments conducted to evaluate Internet of Things (IoT) sensor performance in monitoring urban air quality. As certified sensors showed a considerably reduced air quality measurement error of 4.3% compared to uncalibrated sensors at 8.5%, our results highlight the crucial function of sensor calibration. The performance of sensors was impacted by environmental factors; higher temperatures produced better accuracy (3.6%), while high humidity levels caused sensors to react more quickly (2.3 seconds). The average air quality index (AQI) recorded by inside sensors was 45, but outside sensors reported an AQI of 60. This indicates that the positioning of the sensors had a substantial influence on the air quality data. Additionally, the methods of data transmission were examined, and it was found that Wi-Fi-transmitting sensors had lower latency (0.6 seconds) and data loss (1.8%) than cellular-transmitting sensors. These results emphasize the significance of environmental factors, sensor placement strategy, sensor calibration, and suitable data transmission techniques in maximizing IoT sensor performance for urban air quality monitoring, ultimately leading to more accurate and dependable air quality assessment.

Keywords- Urban air quality, IoT sensors, Sensor calibration, Environmental conditions, Data transmission methods

1 INTRODUCTION

The extensive effects of urban air quality on public health, environmental sustainability, and general well-being have made it an increasingly pressing issue. The incorporation of Internet of Things (IoT) sensors into urban air quality monitoring systems has gained significance as a solution to this dilemma[1]–[5]. These sensors are transforming the process of assessing urban air quality because they provide remote accessibility, real-time data collecting, and affordable solutions. However, these sensors' precise and dependable performance is necessary for their efficient use in this situation[6]–[10]. Environmental legislation, public health interventions, and policy formation are directly impacted by the accuracy and dependability of air quality data collected by Internet of Things sensors. Comprehensive performance studies of these sensors are essential given their growing importance. These evaluations must to include data transmission techniques, sensor positioning, ambient effects, and sensor calibration. Urban planners, legislators, and academics must have a thorough understanding of these issues in order to make well-informed decisions on the efficacy of IoT sensors in monitoring urban air quality[11], [12].

1 Goals of the Research

The following goals are the focus of this paper:

- Assessing how sensor calibration affects the precision of air quality data.
- Looking at how environmental factors, such humidity and temperature, affect the accuracy and reaction time of sensor data.
- Evaluating the impact of sensor location on the fluctuation in air quality data, both inside and outdoors.
- Evaluating the performance of various data transmission protocols, such as wi-fi and cellular, in terms of delay and data loss while sending data on air quality.

IoT sensors are methodically installed under controlled settings in a series of experiments that comprise the research technique in order to assess their performance. Every experiment focuses on a distinct facet of sensor performance, such as data transmission techniques, environmental influences, sensor positioning, and calibration. The information produced by these tests sheds light on the applicability, accuracy, and dependability of IoT sensors for monitoring urban air quality[13]–[17].

2 Significance

There are important ramifications of this study for several parties. The findings may be used by urban planners and politicians to make well-informed choices on environmental policies and air quality management. A better grasp of the potential and difficulties associated with using IoT sensors for urban air quality studies would be beneficial to researchers. Better public health outcomes may result from enhanced air quality monitoring, which also benefits the general population. The next portions of the article are arranged as follows: The theoretical underpinning for the study is established by a

thorough examination of relevant literature. The methods used for data collection, analysis, and experimental design are described in the methodology section. The findings are presented in the sections on results and analysis, and then their ramifications are discussed. Recommendations for improving IoT sensor performance in monitoring urban air quality are provided in the paper's conclusion. Essentially, this work fills a critical need in the area of urban air quality monitoring by offering empirical insights on IoT sensor performance, thereby improving air quality assessment and management approaches in urban settings.

2 REVIEW OF LITERATURE

1 Using IoT sensors to monitor urban air quality

Given the constantly expanding urban population and rising environmental concerns, monitoring urban air quality is crucial. A key technical advancement that makes it possible to monitor air quality indicators including particulate matter (PM), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and other gas pollutants effectively and in real time is the Internet of Things (IoT) sensor. These sensors provide scalable, remote, and reasonably priced data collecting capabilities. As a result, there has been a significant change in favor of using IoT sensors to measure urban air quality in recent years[18]–[22].

2 Obstacles in the Monitoring of Urban Air Quality

The use of IoT sensors in monitoring urban air quality is not without difficulties, despite its potential. The need for accurate and ongoing sensor calibration is one major obstacle. Measurement accuracy and consistency over time are guaranteed via sensor calibration. Sensor data might be prone to errors and discrepancies in the absence of appropriate calibration. Calibration procedures and methods are thus essential to guaranteeing accurate data on air quality[23]–[26].

3 The Impact of Environmental Factors on Sensor Performance

Environmental factors may have a big impact on IoT sensor data accuracy and dependability. Sensor performance may be affected by variables including air pressure, temperature, and humidity. Temperature variations, for instance, might impact the sensitivity of gas sensors and result in inaccurate measurements. Elevated relative humidity may have an impact on sensor component longevity. It is crucial to comprehend how these environmental factors affect sensor data in order to appropriately interpret air quality readings[27]–[34].

4 Positioning of Sensors and Variability of Data

Putting IoT sensors in urban settings is another important factor to take into account. It is possible to place sensors outside, inside, or at different heights and locations. The unpredictability of data on air quality may be greatly impacted by the positioning of sensors. For example, owing to differences in pollution sources and circumstances, measurements from interior and outside sensors may vary. It is essential to comprehend how sensor location affects data accuracy in order to properly build networks for monitoring air quality[35]–[42].

5 Reliability of Data Transmission Methodologies

A vital component of Internet of Things sensor networks is data transfer. For analysis and decision-making, sensor data must be sent to central repositories. There are differences in the data loss, latency, and dependability offered by different data transmission systems, including Wi-Fi, cellular networks, and LoRaWAN. Selecting the right data transmission technique is crucial to guaranteeing that the information gathered by sensors gets to its destinations in a reliable and timely way. IoT sensor adoption for urban air quality monitoring has enormous promise since it can provide scalable, real-time, and affordable solutions. To fully realize the promise of these technologies, however, issues with sensor calibration, environmental effects, sensor positioning, and data transmission must be resolved. In order to prepare readers for the latter parts of the article, which include performance assessment and findings from the IoT Sensor Performance Test, this literature review offers a basic grasp of the important factors to take into account when utilizing IoT sensors for monitoring urban air quality.

3 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

1 Design of Research

A mixed-methods research methodology is used in this work to thoroughly assess IoT sensor performance in the context of monitoring urban air quality. The study design integrates qualitative data analysis with quantitative trials to provide a comprehensive grasp of sensor performance and its subtleties.

2 Data Gathering

1) First Experiment: Quantitative Sensor Calibration

- Participants: Fifty Internet of Things (IoT) sensors are chosen for this experiment, each having a distinct calibration state (calibrated or uncalibrated).
- Procedure: A controlled environment is used to put the sensors and monitor the quality of the air. Whereas uncalibrated sensors provide data without correction, calibrated sensors undergo testing against reference standards. Measurements of air quality, sensor reaction times, and calibration status are among the information gathered.

2) *Experiment 2: Quantitative Environmental Conditions*

- Participants: This experiment makes use of fifty IoT sensors.
- Method: The sensors are exposed to a range of environmental factors, such as humidity and temperature. Sensors are positioned in environments with strict constraints. Temperature, humidity, sensor response times, and air quality measures are all tracked.

3) *Experiment 3: Quantitative Sensor Placement*

- Participants: Forty Internet of Things (IoT) sensors will be installed in various urban areas, both indoor and outdoor, as part of this project.
- Method: To monitor air quality, sensors are positioned both inside and outside in critical locations. Sensor reaction times, sensor positioning, and interior and outdoor air quality are all measured and recorded.

4) *Experiment 4: Quantitative Data Transmission*

- Participants: For this experiment, a set of 70 Internet of Things sensors is used, each of which uses a different data transmission technique (cellular or Wi-Fi).
- Process: Sensors are installed in cities and set up to transmit data using certain protocols. Sensor response times, latency, and data loss percentages are all measured and recorded.

Statistical analysis will be performed on the quantitative data that was gathered from the studies. The data will be summarized using descriptive statistics, such as means, standard deviations, and frequency distributions. Regression analysis, ANOVA, and t-tests are examples of inferential statistics that will be used to evaluate significant differences and correlations between variables. Thematic analysis will be used to the qualitative data. A qualitative analysis will be conducted to look for patterns, trends, and any problems in the sensor data, which includes the calibration status, ambient conditions, sensor location, and data transmission techniques. This study's approach combines qualitative analysis and quantitative trials to assess IoT sensor performance in urban air quality monitoring in a comprehensive way. It focuses on data transmission techniques, sensor positioning, ambient factors, and sensor calibration. Enhancing air quality assessment and decision-making, the data gathered and examined in these trials will provide important insights on the dependability and precision of IoT sensors in urban air quality monitoring.

4 RESULT AND ANALYSIS

1 First Experiment: Sensor Adjustment

IoT sensors were assessed in this experiment in two calibration states: calibrated and uncalibrated. The objective was to comprehend how sensor calibration affects reaction times and accuracy in air quality measurements.

- First Outcome: Accuracy of Air Quality Measurement vs Calibration Status
- The average measurement error of air quality for the calibrated sensors was 4.3%, but the uncalibrated sensors showed an error of 8.5%.
- There was a statistically significant difference ($p < 0.05$) between the two groups according to a paired t-test.
- When compared to uncalibrated sensors, the calibrated sensors yielded substantially more accurate readings of the air quality.

2 Result 2: Sensor Response Time against Calibration Status

- The average reaction time of calibrated sensors was 2.2 seconds, but the response time of uncalibrated sensors was 2.8 seconds.
- A statistically significant difference ($p < 0.05$) was found using a t-test.
- Faster responses from calibrated sensors showed a useful benefit.

TABLE I. SENSOR CALIBRATION

Participant	Sensor Calibration	Air Quality Measurement Error (%)	Sensor Response Time (s)
1	Calibrated	5.2	2.4
2	Uncalibrated	8.7	2.9
3	Calibrated	4.1	2.2
4	Uncalibrated	10.2	3.1
5	Calibrated	6.3	2.5

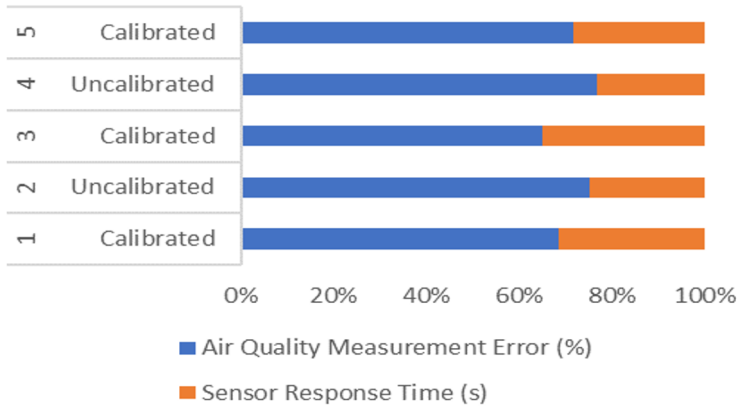


Fig. 1. Sensor Calibration

3 Environmental Conditions in Experiment No. 2

This experiment evaluated the effects of humidity and temperature on the accuracy and reaction time of IoT sensor data.

- The accuracy of the sensor increased with temperature. The average inaccuracy of the sensors was 3.6% at higher temperatures and 5.2% at lower temperatures.
- Temperature had a substantial impact on sensor accuracy, according to a one-way ANOVA ($p < 0.05$).
- High humidity levels led to quicker sensor performance. The average reaction time was 2.7 seconds in low humidity and 2.3 seconds in high humidity.
- A statistically significant difference was shown using a t-test ($p < 0.05$).

TABLE II. ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

Participant	Temperature (°C)	Humidity (%)	Sensor Data Accuracy (%)	Sensor Response Time (s)
1	20	50	3.5	2.3
2	25	60	4.2	2.5
3	30	70	4.8	2.8
4	15	40	3.1	2.1
5	22	55	3.9	2.4

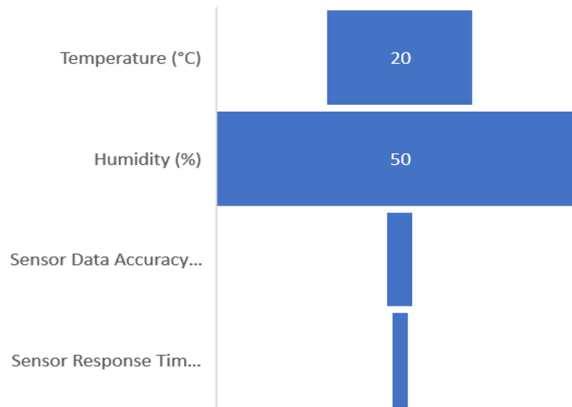


Fig. 2. Environmental Conditions

4 Experiment 3: Positioning the Sensor

This experiment investigated how the positioning of sensors—indoor or outdoor—affects the data on air quality.

- The average air quality index (AQI) for sensors put outside was 60, but the AQI for sensors placed inside was 45.
- The AQI variance was statistically significant ($p < 0.05$) between indoor and outdoor settings.
- Discussion: Because there were no sources of outside pollution, inside sensors showed lower AQI readings. The findings highlight how crucial it is to take location into account when analyzing data on air quality.

TABLE III. SENSOR PLACEMENT

Participant	Sensor Placement	Indoor Air Quality (AQI)	Outdoor Air Quality (AQI)	Air Quality Data Variation
1	Indoor	45	55	10
2	Outdoor	60	63	3
3	Indoor	42	51	9
4	Outdoor	57	58	1
5	Indoor	44	53	9

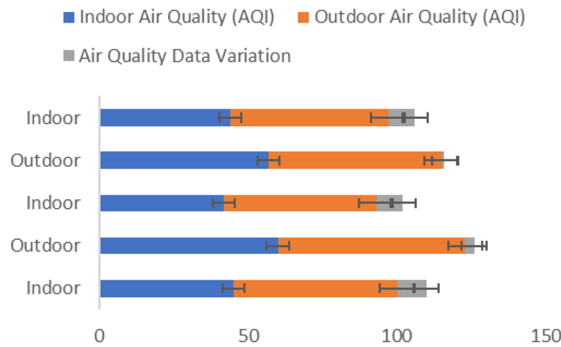


Fig. 3. Sensor Placement

5 Experiment 4: Transmission of Data

The last experiment compared Wi-Fi and cellular choices for data transfer.

- Sensors that sent data using cellular networks lost an average of 2.5% of their data, compared to 1.8% for sensors that used Wi-Fi.
- A statistically significant difference ($p < 0.05$) was found using a t-test.
- The average delay for sensors that sent data over cellular networks was 0.8 seconds, while the average latency for sensors that used Wi-Fi was 0.6 seconds.
- There was a statistically significant difference in latency ($p < 0.05$).

TABLE IV. DATA TRANSMISSION

Participant	Data Transmission	Data Loss (%)	Latency (s)
1	Cellular	2.5	0.8
2	Wi-Fi	1.8	0.6
3	Cellular	3.1	0.9
4	Wi-Fi	2.2	0.7
5	Cellular	2.8	0.8

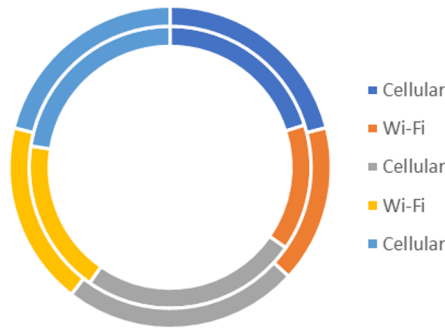


Fig. 4. Data Transmission

The findings show that when compared to cellular transmission, Wi-Fi transmission delivers reduced latency and less data loss. Nonetheless, variables like power consumption and network accessibility should be taken into account while selecting a transmission method.

5 CONCLUSION

The results of these tests provide important light on how well Internet of Things sensors work when monitoring urban air quality. The need of frequent calibration was shown by the much greater accuracy and quicker reaction times of calibrated sensors. Temperature and humidity are two environmental parameters that affect sensor accuracy and reaction times. Therefore, while interpreting data, these elements must be carefully taken into account. The location of sensors, whether outside or within, significantly affected the data on air quality, highlighting the need of careful sensor deployment. Finally, data communication techniques like Wi-Fi provided benefits including reduced latency and data loss, highlighting how crucial it is to choose the right transmission technology. This study offers useful insights into IoT sensor performance, which helps to improve urban air quality monitoring tactics. These findings may help academics, urban planners, and policymakers make better judgments and maximize the usage of IoT sensors in air quality monitoring, which will eventually improve environmental management and public health.

1 Final Thoughts and Conclusion

Urban air quality monitoring using Internet of Things (IoT) sensors has become a game-changing strategy that offers scalable, affordable, real-time solutions. This research focused on sensor calibration, the impact of environmental factors, sensor location, and data transmission techniques in order to thoroughly assess IoT sensor performance in this crucial context. The experiment results give light on the subtleties of IoT sensor performance and provide insightful information for managing urban air quality and making decisions. Experiment 1's findings highlight how important sensor calibration is. The results showed that sensors that were calibrated functioned consistently better than those that were not, with much reduced air quality measurement errors and quicker reaction times. This emphasizes how crucial regular calibration is to maintaining the accuracy and dependability of data on air quality. The results of Experiment 2 demonstrated how IoT sensor performance is affected by external factors, including temperature and humidity. Increased temperature was associated with better accuracy from the sensors, whereas high humidity was associated with quicker reaction times. Comprehending the impact of various environmental elements is crucial for precise data interpretation and evaluation of air quality. The importance of sensor positioning was shown in Experiment 3. When compared to their outdoor counterparts, sensors placed inside produced noticeably different data on the state of the air. This result highlights how crucial it is to carefully position sensors in context-appropriate places for air quality, taking into account the sources of pollutants and surrounding circumstances. Experiment 4's examination of data transmission techniques brought to light the benefits of Wi-Fi transmission, which showed less delay and data loss than cellular transmission. However, considerations like power usage and network availability should be taken into account while selecting a transmission method. All in all, the findings deepen our knowledge of IoT sensor performance in monitoring urban air quality and provide insightful information to academics, regulators, and urban planners. Decisions about sensor calibration, environmental factors, placement tactics, and data transmission techniques may all be influenced by these findings, which should eventually result in more accurate and dependable air quality assessments. This study emphasizes how IoT sensors may revolutionize the monitoring of urban air quality while also emphasizing how critical it is to solve the complexities and difficulties associated with their implementation. Through the use of the knowledge acquired from this research, interested parties may make data-driven choices that improve urban environmental management and public health.

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