



# A new wireless asynchronous data communications module for industrial applications



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## ABSTRACT

All the sensors such as temperature, humidity, and pressure used in industry provide analog outputs as inputs for their control units. Wireless transmission of the data has advantages on wired transmission such as USB port, parallel port and serial port and therefore has great importance for industrial applications. In this work, a new wireless asynchronous data communications module has been developed to send the earth magnetic field data around a ferromagnetic material detected by a KMZ51 AMR sensor. The transmitter module transmits the analog data obtained from a source to a computer environment where they are stored and then presented in a graphical form. In this design, an amplitude shift keying (ASK) transceiver working at the frequency of 433.92 MHz which is a frequency inside the so called Industrial Scientific Medical band (ISM band) used for wireless communications. The analog data first fed into a 10-bit ADC controlled by a PIC microcontroller and then the digital data is sent to the transmitter. A preamble bit string is added in front of the data bits and another bit string for achieving synchronization and determination the start of the data is used. The data arriving at the receiver is taken by the microcontroller and sent to a LCD display as well as the serial port of a computer where it is written in a text file. A Visual Basic based graphics interface is designed to receive, store and present the data in the form of graphical shapes. In the paper, all the work has been explained in detail.

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## 1. Introduction

Wireless communication is a rapidly growing area for quick, easy and high quality data communications in industrial applications. In recent years, the most of the sensor based data collection and transmission processes are based on this technology. Wireless internet, data transfer through devices, automation systems, sensor networks,

etc. are some examples of it. Desiring transfer of more and more data cheaper and faster speeds up the developments in wireless communications sector [1]. Wireless communication is the wide spread application domain in electronics. It needs a carrier wave which makes it possible to transfer information in long distances in air or space. A wide range of the spectrum can be used for choosing the carrier. The most preferable choices may be to use infrared, laser and radio waves [2]. RF waves or signals cover the frequency range between 3 kHz and 3000 GHz. In this range, the spectrum has been divided as VLF, LF, MF, HF, VHF, UHF, etc. In recent years, the studies are concentrated on

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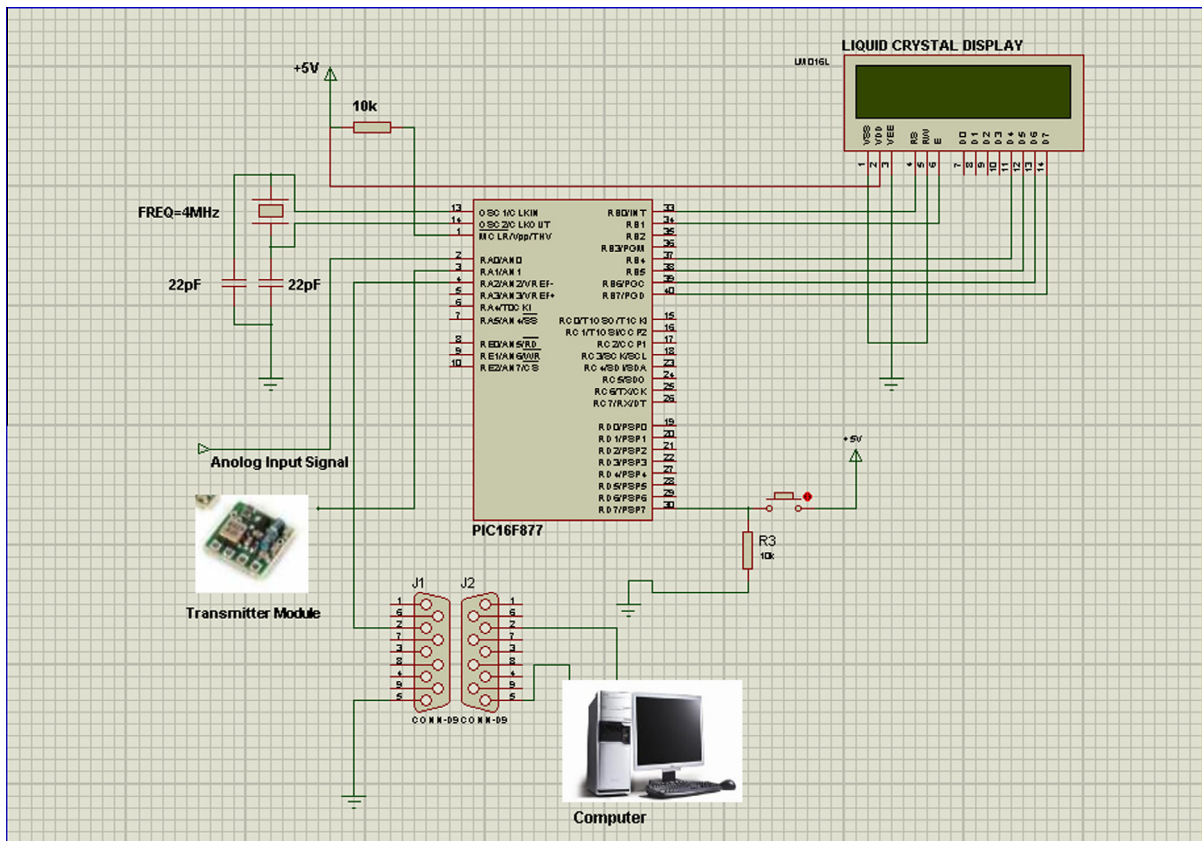


Fig. 1. Transmitter unit.

the application frequency, transmission rate, communications direction (dual or single) and reduction of energy consumption. Different types of receiver and transmitter modules have been designed taken into account the above mentioned variables. Among them ASK transceiver system-on-package (SoP) compact module working at 60 GHz [3,4], 8 Gbps CMOS ASK modulator [5], low-power ASK receiver [6–10], Single-Band RF Front-End (FEM) Module [11], compact radio-frequency (RF)/free space optical (FSO) dual mode wireless communication system [12,13]. Furthermore, low power, variable gain RF transceivers at 900 MHz have also been studied [14–16].

In communications applications only some parts of the bands can be used. Among them, the ISM (Industrial Scientific Medical band) band can be used without any certification or license in case obeying the power limitation rules. In Turkey, the frequencies commonly used in ISM band are 315 MHz, 418 MHz, 433.92 MHz, 868 MHz, 915 MHz, and 2.4 GHz. Today, modules working at these frequencies are effectively used in most technological applications such as measuring internal and external torques in real time within modern ship control systems [17], remote control systems of cars [16] and wireless sensor networks [18].

In this work, a new wireless real time asynchronous data communications module has been developed for sending the earth magnetic field data around a ferromag-

netic material detected by a KMZ51 AMR sensor. It can also easily be used for sensors such as temperature, humidity and pressure producing analog voltage for control units and used mainly in industry. This module can send the sensor voltage at 433.92 MHz with a resolution of 10-bit under the control of user at irregular time intervals. The data received by the receiver module can be stored in a PC. The data is graphically presented in real time by means of the software developed by Visual Basic. The details are given in the following sections of the paper.

## 2. Data communication system

The data communication system developed in this work is composed of two main units as the transmitter unit and the receiver unit. Now, we can analyze these two units in detail in the following sub sections.

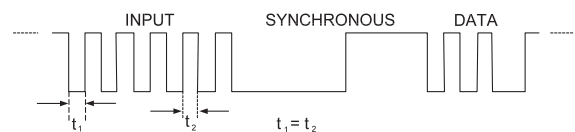


Fig. 2. Sending format.

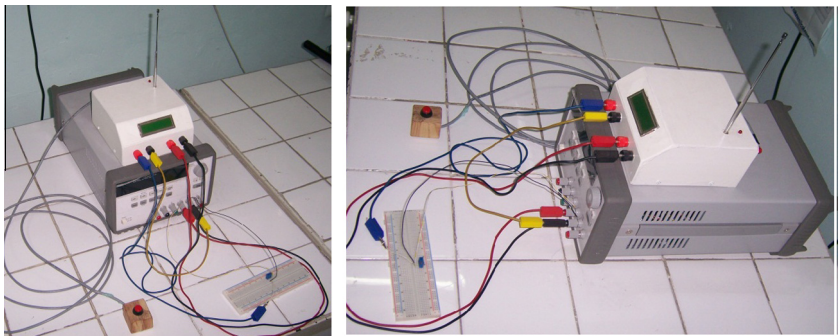


Fig. 3. Photograph of the transmitter unit.

2.1. Transmitter unit

In transmitter unit, the analog signal is converted to a digital data and it is transmitted by a RF module having an ASK modulator with 433.92 MHz oscillator. The transmitter unit is shown in Fig. 1.

The transmitter module (ATX) within the transmitter unit does not have a voltage regulator. It is fed from an external power. ATX module can be operated by a battery. A DIN pin is available at the ATX-34 module for digital data input. The DIN pin is the input from where the data to be

sent by the RF system can be applied by the user. It is needed to convert the analog data to a 10-bit digital data before transmission. To do this, we use the analog-to-digital conversion capability of PIC16F877 microcontroller. The standard data protocol is given in Fig. 2.

Start information is needed at the beginning of a message even if it is the simplest communications system. Start part is a bit string consisting of consecutive 1's and 0's (010101...). Some characters could be chosen as the start part. The durations of 1's and 0's must be equal. In short, the start part provides synchronization for the

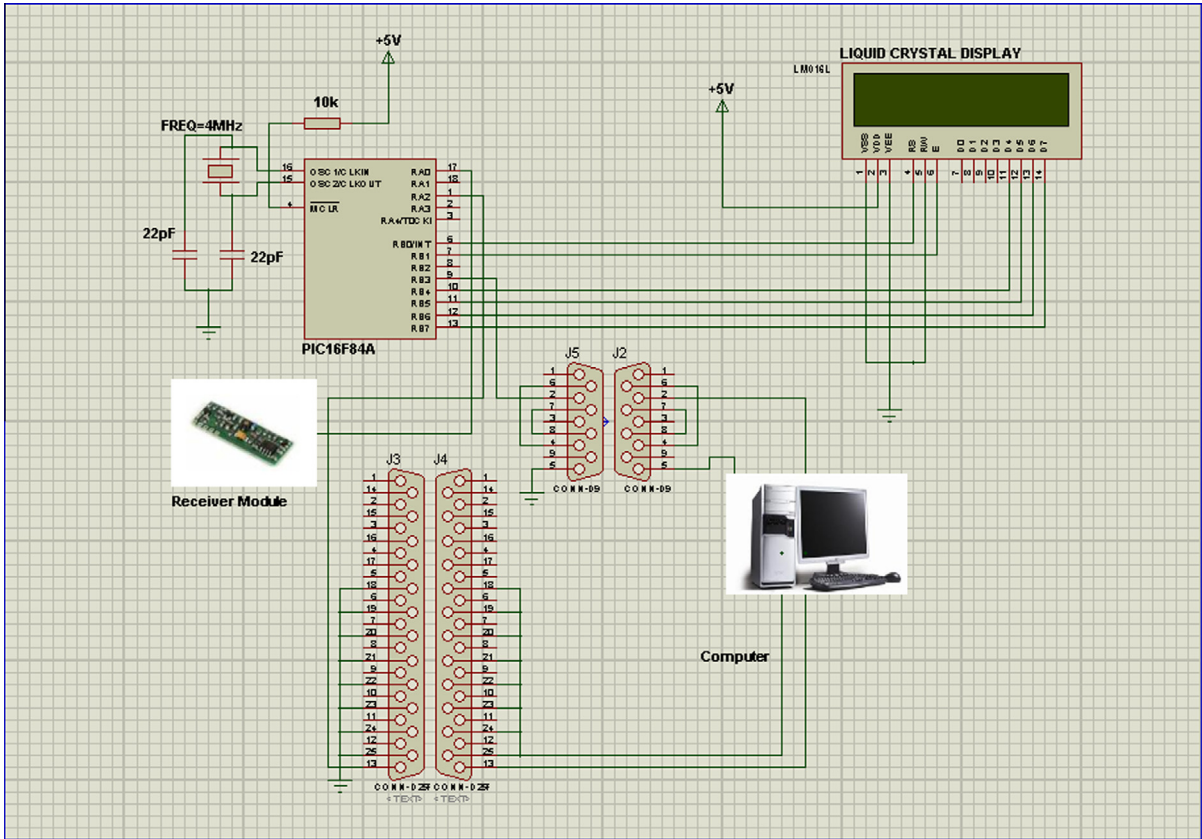


Fig. 4. Receiver unit.





Fig. 5. Block diagram of transmitting and receiving of analog signal.

hardware. Synchronization part of the digital message helps the synchronization of the software. In order to achieve bit synchronization and correctly determine the start of the message, availability of these two parts is important. In this work, characters such as “M”, “G” and “S” are used for start and synchronization parts. Receiver circuit waits until receiving these characters and then extracts the data coming after these parts and sends it to the computer by the microcontroller.

As seen in Fig. 1, first of all the analog data detected is converted to a 10-bit digital form by means of the PIC16F877 microcontroller. And then the microcontroller sends this data to C and D ports. The main purpose here is to write each bit of 10-bit data to the ports of the micro-

controller one by one. By doing so, we can obtain a serial data. In this way, all the bits of the digital data can be sent from A1 port of the microcontroller to transmitter module by using “Serout2” command. ATX-34 transmitter module can send the 10-bit digital data to ARX-34 receiver module by using the standard data protocol shown in Fig. 2.

The analog data can be sent under the control of the user. The data transmission is active as soon as the user pushes the button (Fig. 1). Otherwise, the analog data is converted to a 10-bit digital data and is only displayed at the LCD display. Fig. 3 depicts a photograph of the transmitter unit developed in this work. The control program of PIC16F877A microcontroller written in Pic Basic Pro is given in the Appendix A.

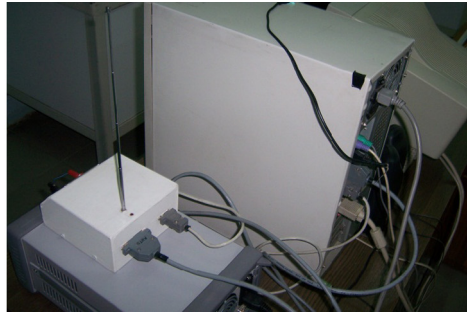


Fig. 6. A photograph of the receiver unit developed in this work.

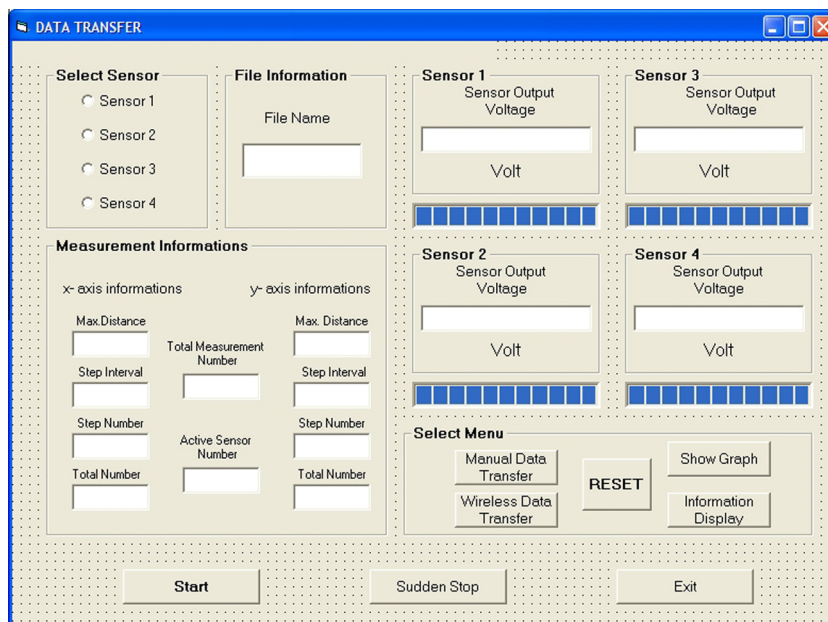


Fig. 7. Program user interface.

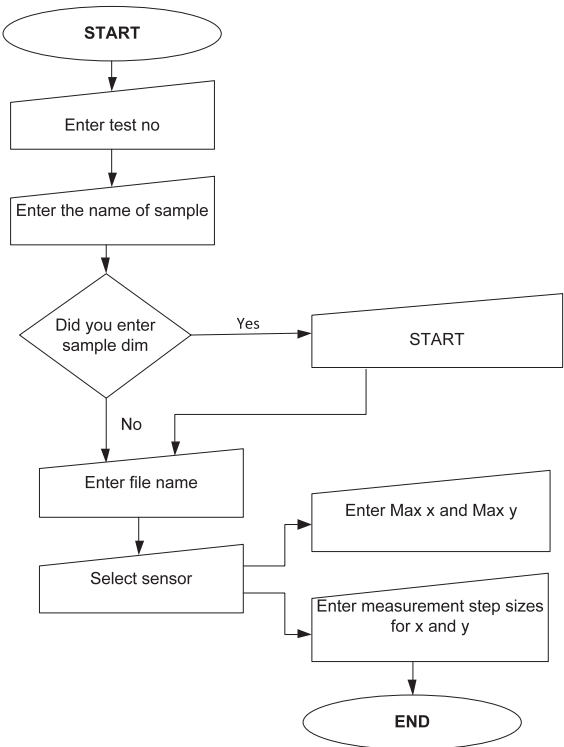


Fig. 8. Flow diagram of the program.

2.2. Receiver unit

In the receiver unit, the 10-bit digital data is received by an ASK type receiver RF module having a 433.92 MHz oscillator and it is sent to the serial port of a PC by means

of a PIC16F84A microcontroller. Fig. 4 shows the receiver unit.

The data coming to the ARX-34 receiver module is also written on the LCD display simultaneously. The 10-bit data stored in PIC16F84A is not sent immediately to the serial port. Instead, a logical-1 signal is sent from the A2 port of the PIC to the parallel port of the PC for synchronization purpose. This helps to start the data storage program which is used to receive the serial data from the serial port. The program sends a character “A” to the PIC16F84A through the serial port and receives the 10-bit data. The block diagram for sending and receiving an analog signal to a computer through a wireless medium is given in Fig. 5.

A photograph of the receiver unit developed in this work is shown in Fig. 6. The control program of PIC16F84A with Pic Basic code is given in the Appendix B.

3. Software

In this work, the analog data is the signal obtained by a KMZ51 AMR sensor. The sensor can move in two dimensions in the x–y plane where a magnetic material is available. It senses the earth magnetic field around the material. The program developed can have the capability to take the data coming from four different sensors. The user interface of the software that we developed here is seen in Fig. 7. It is Visual Basic based software that it enables the user to control data to be entered to the computer through the receiver unit. When the “start” button is pressed, it is requested from user that a test number, name of the test material, dimensions of material and name of the file storing the data have to be entered. If there is no need to enter the dimensions of the material, it can be skipped to last step and the name of the file is requested to enter. Next, the sensor number from which the data is

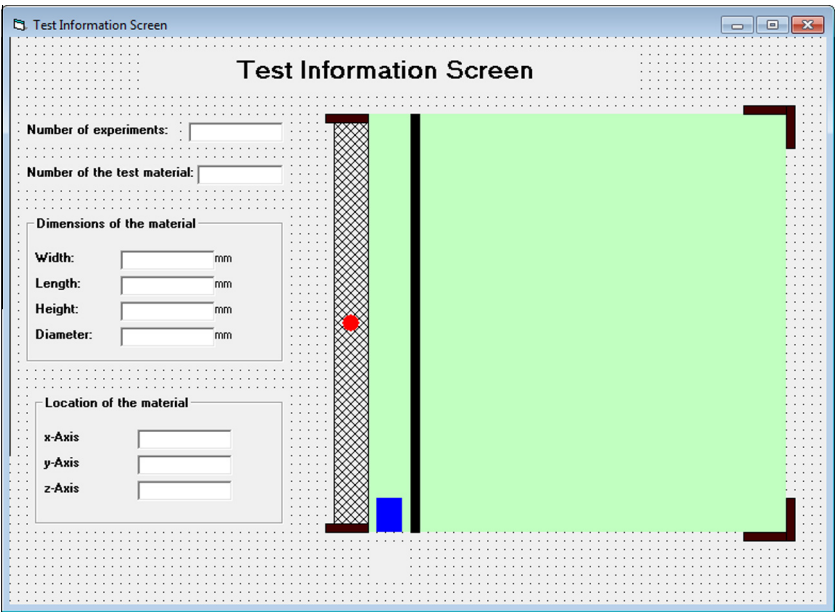


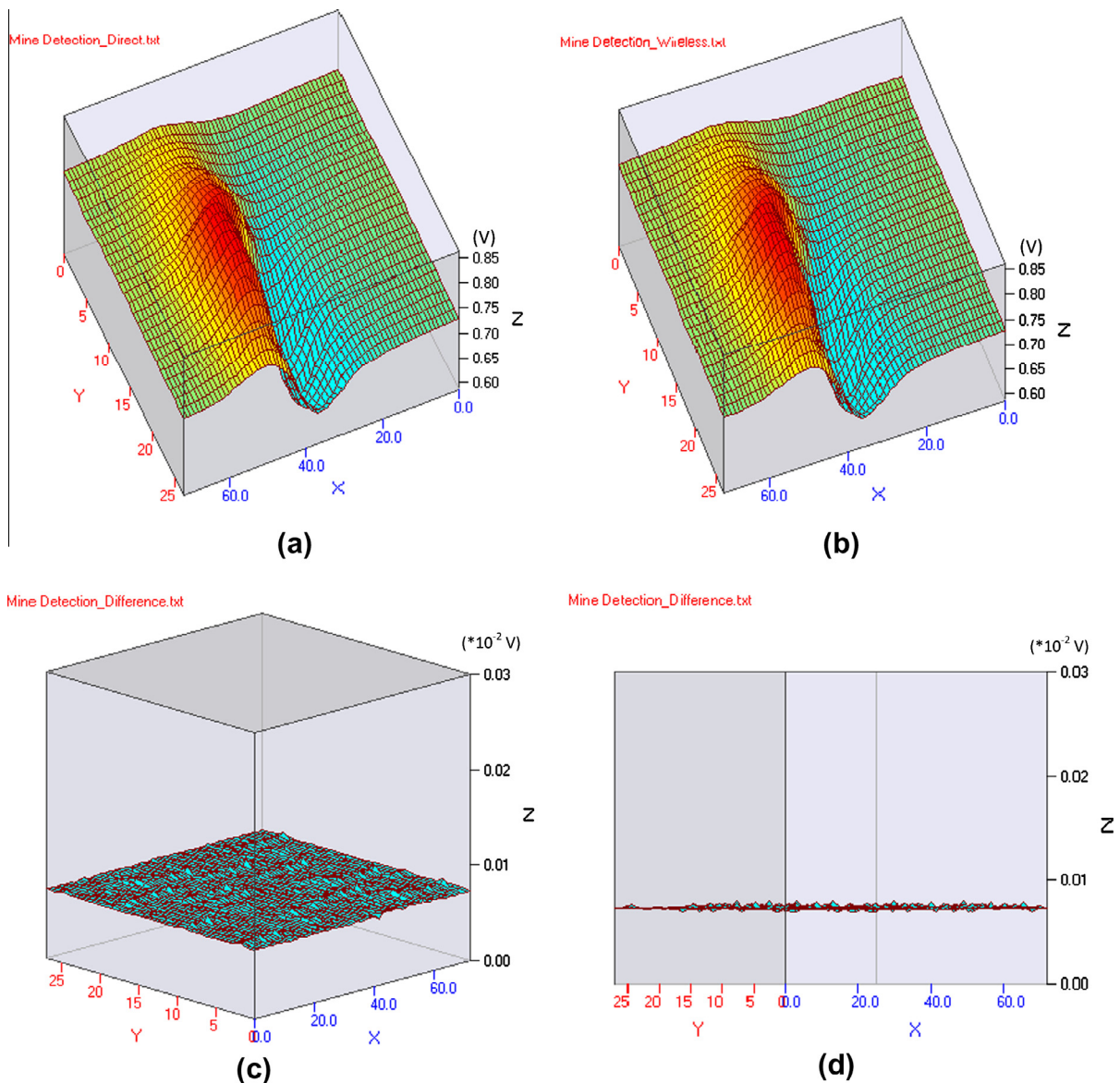
Fig. 9. Test information screen for seeing simultaneously measurement actions.

collected, the dimensions of area to be scanned and step size of data collection are entered. In this way, the program will be ready to transfer sensor data to computer.

After entering the necessary information, the “Get Data” command is waited. For this, a button is used at the transmitter unit. In each Get Data command, the program reads the sensor data, write it to program interface and store it to the opened file. If the user wants to read the magnitude of the sensor voltage without storing it, he/she has to use “Get Data” button. The variations of the sensor voltage detected can be observed by pressing the “Show Graphics” button. The data collected here can simultaneously be plotted in two dimensions. A data collection process can be broken at any time immediately and then it can be started again

from the same point by using “Immediate Stop” button. A user can reach the information of geometric properties of test material, sensor position and instantaneous data visually by pressing the “Information Screen” button. The “Reset” button can reset the sensor to its starting position. The program can be closed by pressing the “Exit” button. A flow diagram related to the operation of the program is given in Fig. 8.

When the information screen command button is pressed, the screen shown in Fig. 9 appears in the computer display. This screen can enable the user to see sensor movement, measurement point, sensor position and general properties of the test material simultaneously.



**Fig. 10.** With respect to the scanning area: (a) changes of signal amplitudes obtained directly, (b) changes of signal amplitudes obtained by wireless transfer, (c) change of the differences between of the signal amplitudes obtained directly and by wireless transfer (top view) and (d) change of the differences between of the signal amplitudes obtained directly and by wireless transfer (cross-sectional view).

Table 1

Frequency (GHz)	Resolution (Bit)	Signal output power (dB m)	Purpose	Range (km)	Reference
60	10 (with parity bit)	12.8	File transfer	1	[4]
8	10 (with parity bit)	26.6	File transfer	0.7	[5]
2	10 (with parity bit)	1.2	File transfer	0.4	[11]
2.5	10 (with parity bit)	15–20	File transfer	0.5	[10]
0.9	10 (with parity bit)	2	File transfer	0.3	[14]
0.43392	10 (Optional)	108	Snapshot analog data transfer	0.1	This work

In the scope of our work, the wireless asynchronous communications module is also tested for proving the data transfer operation. For this purpose, first of all the analog data coming from the KMZ51 AMR sensor after  $x$ - $y$  area scanning for mine detection is recorded to the transmitter unit in directly and wireless transfer, Then the signal amplitudes with respect to the scanning area are plotted (Fig 10a and b). At last, the differences of data obtained by both directly and wireless method is plotted (Fig 10c and d). Hence, it is determined that wireless could be satisfied with the error ration of 0.00977%.

#### 4. Conclusion

In this work, a new real time asynchronous data communications module has been developed. By using this module, an analog data can be transmitted at a frequency of 433.92 MHz to a distance of 100 m without any problem. Transferred data can be converted to a graphical form simultaneously. In order to introduce the advantages and disadvantages of the real-time asynchronous data communications module developed in this work, the technical information related to some of the studies in the literature that are similar to our work are given in Table 1.

As seen from Table 1, the other modules in the literature have been designed for data transfer at low signal power, high frequency and 10-bit resolution (including parity bit). They have not been designed for instantaneous transfer of experimental measurement results. However, their range is longer than ours because of the frequency used. In our system, the data transfer can be achieved with a high accuracy without using a parity bit but with a high signal power. It may be considered that our system has a disadvantage of shorter range due to the low frequency that we used.

This type of product can easily be adapted to temperature, humidity or pressure (hydraulic or pneumatic) controlled systems. Furthermore, the module is appropriate for all kinds of sensor outputs. The data storage program can access four different sensor data simultaneously. It can easily be extended for more than four sensor units if needed. The following properties such as high resolution and being under user control can be considered as advantageous for most applications. As we mentioned, it has a 10-bit resolution and it can be controlled to operate by pressing a button. Our next study will include a cell phone unit to send a SMS message when the data exceeds the desired levels.

#### Appendix A

'Pic basic codes of transmitting'	DEFINE LCD_EREG PORTB 'LCD ENABLE pin connects to PORTB
'*****Define input and output*****'	DEFINE LCD_EBIT 3 'LCD ENABLE pin connects to PORTB.3
TRISA=%00000001 'PORTA.0 Analog input	DEFINE LCD_RSREG PORTB 'LCD RS pin connects to PORTB
TRISB=0 '2*16 LCD output ports	DEFINE LCD_RSBIT 2 'LCD RS pin connects to PORTB.2
TRISC=0	'RW pin is connected to ground.
TRISD=0	
'*****LCD Define*****'	'*****ADC Define*****
DEFINE LCD_DREG PORTB 'LCD DATA pins connect to PORTB	INCLUDE "MODEDEFS.BAS"
DEFINE LCD_DBIT 4 'LCD DATA pins connect to PORTB.4	DEFINE ADC_BITS 10 'ADC 10 BIT
DEFINE ADC_CLOCK 3	
DEFINE ADC_SAMPLEUS 50 'Sampling Time 50 Microsecond	IF PORTC.5=1 THEN
CIKIS VAR WORD 'ADC_DEGER is defined 16 BIT type of WORD	X5=32
BILGI VAR WORD	ELSE

(continued on next page)

**Appendix A** (continued)

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```

VERI1 VAR WORD          X5=0
VERI2 VAR WORD          ENDIF
VERI3 VAR WORD
VERI4 VAR WORD          IF PORTC.6=1 THEN
VERI5 VAR WORD          X6=64
X0 VAR BYTE            ELSE
X1 VAR BYTE            X6=0
X2 VAR BYTE            ENDIF
X3 VAR BYTE
X4 VAR BYTE            IF PORTC.7=1 THEN
X5 VAR BYTE            X7=128
X6 VAR BYTE            ELSE
X7 VAR BYTE            X7=0
X8 VAR WORD            ENDIF
X9 VAR WORD
SYMBOL VERIOUT=PORTA.1  IF PORTD.0=1 THEN
SYMBOL VERIOUT2=PORTA.2 X8=255
ADCON1=%10000010 'Port define for 10 Bit ADC
PAUSE 500              ELSE
LCDOUT $fe,1           X8=0
LCDOUT $fe,$82,"SENSOR CIKISI"
BASLA:                 ENDIF
PORTD.7=0              IF PORTD.1=1 THEN
ADCIN 0,CIKIS 'Read value of ADC by using port AN0
BILGI=CIKIS*48/10      X9=512
                        ELSE
                        X9=0
                        ENDIF
VERI2=0                VERI1=0
'10-bit data is matched port C'
                        VERI5=0
                        VERI3=0
                        VERI4=0

PORTC.0=CIKIS.BIT0
PORTC.1=CIKIS.BIT1
PORTC.2=CIKIS.BIT2
PORTC.3=CIKIS.BIT3
PORTC.4=CIKIS.BIT4
PORTC.5=CIKIS.BIT5
PORTC.6=CIKIS.BIT6
PORTC.7=CIKIS.BIT7
PORTD.0=CIKIS.BIT8
PORTD.1=CIKIS.BIT9
'Collecting each data bit'

VERI1=X0+X1+X2+X3+X4+X5+X6+X7
VERI2=X8+X9

IF VERI2=512 THEN
VERI2=0
VERI2=2
VERI3=255
VERI4=255
ENDIF

IF VERI2=767 THEN
VERI2=0
PAUSE 10
VERI2=255
VERI3=255
VERI4=255
VERI5=2
ENDIF

IF PORTC.0=1 THEN
X0=1
ELSE
X0=0
ENDIF

IF PORTC.1=1 THEN
X1=2
ELSE
X1=0
ENDIF
GOSUB LCD
IF PORTC.2=1 THEN
X2=4
ELSE
X2=0
ENDIF
IF PORTC.3=1 THEN

```

(continued on next page)



**Appendix A** (continued)

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```

X3=8
ELSE
X3=0
ENDIF

IF PORTC.4=1 THEN
X4=16
ELSE
X4=0
ENDIF
    SEROUT2 VERIOUT,813,["A","N","S",VERI4]
    SEROUT2 VERIOUT,813,["A","A","A",VERI5]
    SEROUT2 VERIOUT,813,["A","A","A",VERI5]
    SEROUT VERIOUT2,N2400,[CIKIS]
RETURN
LCD:
LCDOUT $FE,$C1 'Clear LCD data
LCDOUT "CIKIS ",DEC5 BILGI,"mV"
PAUSE 200

```

---

```

VER:
SEROUT2 VERIOUT,813,[REP$AA/5,REP$00/5,REP$FF/5]
    SEROUT2 VERIOUT,813,["M","G","S",VERI1]
    SEROUT2 VERIOUT,813,["M","G","S",VERI1]
    SEROUT2 VERIOUT,813,["G","T","S",VERI2]
    SEROUT2 VERIOUT,813,["G","T","S",VERI2]
    SEROUT2 VERIOUT,813,["A","R","S",VERI3]
    SEROUT2 VERIOUT,813,["A","R","S",VERI3]
    SEROUT2 VERIOUT,813,["A","N","S",VERI4]
RETURN
END

```

---

**Appendix B**


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```

'Pic basic codes of receiving'
INCLUDE "MODEDEFS.BAS"
Define LCD_BITS 4
Define LCD_DREG PORTB
DEFINE LCD_DBIT 4
DEFINE LCD_RSREG PORTB
DEFINE LCD_RSBIT 0
DEFINE LCD_EREG PORTB
DEFINE LCD_EBIT 1
PORTA=0
TRISA=%11111111
TRISB=0
BILGI VAR WORD
BILGI1 var WORD
BILGI2 VAR WORD
BILGI3 VAR WORD
BILGI4 VAR WORD
BILGI5 VAR WORD
KONTROL VAR BYTE
SYMBOL VERIIN=PORTA.0
SYMBOL VEROUT=PORTB.3
SYMBOL VERIIN2=PORTA.2
'received data are collecting and writing form of 10-bits'

MAIN:
BILGI=0
BILGI1=0
BILGI2=0
BILGI3=0

```

---

```

BILGI4=0
BILGI5=0
SERIN2 VERIIN,813,[WAIT ("MGS"),BILGI1]
SERIN2 VERIIN,813,[WAIT ("GTS"),BILGI2]
SERIN2 VERIIN,813,[WAIT ("ARS"),BILGI3]
SERIN2 VERIIN,813,[WAIT ("ANS"),BILGI4]
SERIN2 VERIIN,813,[WAIT ("AAA"),BILGI5]
BILGI=(BILGI1+BILGI2+BILGI3+BILGI4+BILGI5)*48/10

PORTA.3=1
SERIN VERIIN2,N1200,KONTROL
IF KONTROL=65 THEN
SEROUT VEROUT,N1200,[BILGI1]
PAUSE 100
SEROUT VEROUT,N1200,[BILGI2]
PAUSE 100
SEROUT VEROUT,N1200,[BILGI3]
PAUSE 100
SEROUT VEROUT,N1200,[BILGI4]
PAUSE 100
SEROUT VEROUT,N1200,[BILGI5]
PAUSE 100
LCDOUT $FE,1
LCDOUT " SENSOR VOLTAJI"
LCDOUT $FE,$C0," ",DEC5 BILGI,"mV"
'PAUSE 200
GOTO MAIN
END

```

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