IARJSET ISSN (O) 2393-8021, ISSN (P) 2394-1588

International Advanced Research Journal in Science, Engineering and Technology

Impact Factor 8.066 ⋇ Peer-reviewed / Refereed journal ⋇ Vol. 11, Issue 12, December 2024

DOI: 10.17148/IARJSET.2024.111262

LITERATURE SURVEY ON OIL SKIMMER

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Abstract: An oil skimmer is a device designed to remove oil or other hydrocarbon substances from the surface of water, commonly used in industrial processes, environmental remediation, and oil spill cleanups. Its primary function is to separate and recover oil from water to mitigate environmental damage, enhance water quality, and reclaim valuable oil for reuse. Oil skimmers are widely used in industries like manufacturing, refineries, shipyards, and wastewater treatment plants. They are instrumental in maintaining regulatory compliance and ensuring the sustainable operation of facilities.

Keywords: Oil Skimmer, Oil Recovery, Hydrophobic, IoT, Sensors, Wastewater

I. INTRODUCTION

Oil contamination in water bodies is a significant environmental and industrial challenge, arising from various sources such as oil spills, industrial discharges, and wastewater. The presence of oil in water not only disrupts aquatic ecosystems but also poses health risks and hampers industrial processes. To address this issue, oil skimmers have emerged as an effective and efficient solution.

An oil skimmer is a device designed to remove oil and other hydrocarbon substances floating on water, helping to mitigate environmental damage, improve water quality, and recover valuable resources. These devices are widely used in industries such as petrochemicals, shipping, wastewater treatment, and manufacturing, as well as in emergency responses to oil spills in oceans and rivers.

The functionality of an oil skimmer is based on the natural property of oil to float on water due to its lower density. By exploiting this principle, oil skimmers efficiently separate the oil layer from the water, ensuring minimal water loss during the process. This makes them an environmentally friendly and cost-effective tool for oil recovery.

1.3 BACKGROUND

The presence of oil in water has long been a concern due to its harmful impact on the environment and industrial processes. Oil pollution can originate from diverse sources, such as industrial discharges, accidental spills, transportation activities, and natural seepages. These pollutants often accumulate on the surface of water, disrupting aquatic ecosystems, endangering marine life, and affecting water quality. Managing and mitigating oil contamination is a critical aspect of environmental conservation and industrial waste management.

Historically, various methods have been employed to separate oil from water, including chemical dispersants, bioremediation, and mechanical recovery. While chemical and biological methods are effective in specific scenarios, they often introduce secondary environmental challenges, such as chemical residues or long processing times. Mechanical recovery, particularly through oil skimming, offers a direct and efficient approach with minimal ecological side effects.

The development of oil skimmers has evolved over time, with early designs focusing on basic separation techniques and modern systems incorporating advanced materials and automation. The principle of oil skimming leverages the lower density and surface tension of oil, allowing it to float on water. Skimmers are engineered to selectively capture this floating oil layer, leaving the water relatively undisturbed.

Oil skimmers have found widespread application in industries such as petrochemical plants, manufacturing facilities, shipyards, and wastewater treatment plants. In addition, they play a vital role in responding to environmental disasters like oil spills, where rapid and efficient oil recovery is essential to minimize damage. The integration of innovative materials, such as oleophilic and hydrophobic surfaces, has further enhanced the efficiency of oil skimmers, enabling them to handle a wide range of oil viscosities and environmental conditions.

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II. LITERATURE REVIEW

DFRobot, "SEN0204 Capacitive Liquid Level Sensor Datasheet,"[1] has proposed that , This datasheet provides technical specifications for the SEN0204 capacitive liquid level sensor, a highly precise and reliable device used to detect liquid levels without direct contact. Its non-invasive design makes it suitable for applications involving corrosive or hazardous fluids. The document highlights key features, such as compatibility with various liquid types, high sensitivity, and adjustable detection range. It serves as a critical reference for integrating capacitive sensing technology into automated systems, including oil-water separation mechanisms. This resource ensures accurate implementation of level sensing in real-time applications.

Arduino, "Arduino IDE Documentation,"[2] has proposed ,The Arduino IDE documentation offers a comprehensive guide for programming and deploying Arduino-based systems. It provides insights into IDE features, libraries, and tools that facilitate microcontroller programming. The documentation is instrumental for projects requiring real-time control and automation, such as oil spill cleanup systems. By leveraging this resource, developers can write, debug, and upload code efficiently, ensuring robust integration of sensors, actuators, and communication modules. Its user-friendly interface supports iterative development and prototyping, making it invaluable for IoT-based environmental monitoring solutions.

YF-S201, "Flow Sensor Datasheet: Specifications and Calibration," [3] has proposed that,The YF-S201 flow sensor datasheet outlines essential details regarding its functionality, calibration, and application in fluid dynamics. It describes the sensor's hall effect mechanism, enabling precise flow rate measurement in various systems. The document includes calibration procedures, electrical specifications, and operational guidelines. This sensor is particularly useful in automated oil-water separation setups for monitoring inlet and outlet flow rates. Understanding its characteristics ensures accurate data acquisition and system performance optimization, making the datasheet a crucial reference for integration into environmental engineering applications.

X. Wang et al., "Advancements in Oil-Water Separation Techniques: A Review," Chemical Engineering Journal, vol. 426, 2021 [4] proposed This review explores recent advancements in oil-water separation techniques, emphasizing innovative materials and methodologies. It discusses membrane technology, surface modifications, and adsorption-based solutions for enhanced separation efficiency. The authors highlight the importance of environmental sustainability and energy efficiency in designing separation systems. The paper provides a foundation for understanding the state-of-the-art technologies in oil spill recovery, serving as a guide for researchers and engineers to develop improved skimming mechanisms. Its insights are pivotal for addressing hydrodynamic challenges and achieving high recovery rates in real-world applications.

M. Singh and A. Patel, [5] . This paper examines the role of IoT in enhancing environmental monitoring during oil spill cleanup operations. The authors propose a framework integrating sensors, cloud computing, and real-time analytics to improve decision-making and efficiency. Case studies demonstrate the effectiveness of IoT systems in tracking oil spill dynamics and optimizing resource deployment. The paper underscores the benefits of automation and connectivity in minimizing environmental impact and operational costs. Its findings are instrumental for developing smart oil skimmer boats equipped with real-time monitoring and control capabilities.

J. Tanaka et al., [6]. This study focuses on optimizing skimmer designs to improve oil recovery efficiency. The authors analyze various skimmer configurations and their performance under different conditions, considering factors like hydrodynamics and oil viscosity. The findings highlight the significance of design parameters, such as drum material, rotation speed, and surface modifications, in maximizing recovery rates. This research offers practical insights for developing efficient skimming mechanisms tailored to specific spill scenarios. It serves as a valuable reference for designing next-generation oil recovery systems with improved environmental and economic outcomes.

P. K. Roy et al., [7]. This review addresses the hydrodynamic challenges encountered in oil spill recovery operations. The authors discuss the impact of turbulent water conditions, oil properties, and equipment design on recovery efficiency. Strategies to mitigate these challenges, including advanced modeling and adaptive technologies, are explored. The paper emphasizes the need for robust skimmer designs capable of withstanding adverse marine environments. Its insights are crucial for engineers and researchers aiming to enhance the performance and reliability of oil spill cleanup systems in dynamic conditions.

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T. Chen and R. Zhang, [8] proposed that This paper investigates energy-efficient solutions for oil spill recovery systems, focusing on renewable energy integration and low-power technologies. The authors propose innovative designs for pumps, skimmers, and sensors that minimize energy consumption while maintaining high recovery rates. Case studies demonstrate the feasibility of solar-powered skimming systems and optimized control algorithms. The findings highlight the potential for sustainable recovery operations with reduced environmental impact. This research provides a framework for developing eco-friendly oil spill cleanup technologies, aligning with global energy conservation goals.

L. S. Davis, [9] proposed that This article explores the application of automation in oil spill response systems, emphasizing the role of robotics and advanced control algorithms. The author reviews technologies such as autonomous surface vehicles, drones, and automated skimming mechanisms. Case studies illustrate the effectiveness of these technologies in reducing response times and improving recovery efficiency. The paper also discusses challenges in integrating automation, including reliability and cost considerations. Its findings provide a roadmap for leveraging automation to enhance oil spill cleanup operations, ensuring faster and more effective environmental protection.

K. E. Brown et al.,[10]. proposed that This paper focuses on the design and development of portable oil skimmers for small-scale spill operations. The authors evaluate various skimmer types, including disc, drum, and belt mechanisms, highlighting their advantages and limitations. Design parameters such as portability, power requirements, and recovery efficiency are analyzed. The study provides practical insights for developing lightweight and cost-effective skimmers suitable for localized spill scenarios. Its findings contribute to the advancement of skimming technologies, particularly for industries and regions requiring flexible and easily deployable recovery solutions.

P. Kumar et al., [11] proposed that This review addresses the challenges of oil-water separation in turbulent conditions, focusing on the impact of flow dynamics and fluid properties. The authors examine the limitations of conventional separation techniques and propose advanced methods, such as coalescence and dynamic filtration. Experimental studies and computational models are presented to evaluate the performance of these methods. The findings highlight the importance of tailored separation systems for achieving high efficiency in turbulent environments. This paper serves as a critical resource for researchers developing robust solutions for complex oil spill scenarios.

T. Wilson and S. Hall,[12] proposed that **,** This study investigates the development and application of hydrophobic and oleophilic coatings for oil recovery systems. The authors discuss the synthesis and characterization of advanced materials with selective oil absorption capabilities. Experimental results demonstrate the effectiveness of these coatings in enhancing the performance of skimming and separation devices. The paper highlights the potential for integrating such materials into existing recovery systems to improve efficiency and reduce environmental impact. Its findings provide a foundation for advancing material science in oil spill cleanup technologies.

A. Gupta and R. Verma, [13] proposed that ,This paper evaluates the economic and environmental benefits of modern oil recovery systems. The authors present a comparative analysis of traditional and advanced recovery technologies, emphasizing cost-effectiveness and sustainability. Case studies highlight the reduction in waste and environmental damage achieved through efficient oil recovery methods. The paper also discusses policy implications and incentives for adopting green technologies. Its findings underscore the importance of integrating economic and environmental considerations into the design and deployment of oil spill response systems.

X. Liu et al., [14] proposed that This article explores the role of real-time monitoring in enhancing oil spill recovery operations. The authors discuss the integration of sensors, data analytics, and visualization tools for tracking recovery progress and system performance. Case studies demonstrate the effectiveness of real-time monitoring in identifying bottlenecks and optimizing resource allocation. The paper highlights the potential for improving decision-making and response times through advanced monitoring technologies. Its findings are essential for developing smart recovery systems with enhanced operational efficiency and transparency.

A. Smith and L. Johnson,[15] proposed that**.** This paper examines the design and development of oil skimmers for industrial applications, focusing on performance optimization and durability. The authors evaluate various skimmer designs, including weir, disc, and belt types, under different industrial conditions. Experimental results highlight the importance of material selection, power efficiency, and maintenance requirements in achieving reliable performance. The study provides valuable insights for designing robust skimming solutions tailored to specific industrial needs. Its findings contribute to the advancement of oil recovery technologies in industrial settings.

A. Sharma et al., [16] proposed that , This paper explores the integration of IoT technologies in oil spill cleanup operations, focusing on connectivity, data analytics, and automation. The authors propose an IoT-based framework for real-time monitoring and control of recovery systems. Case studies demonstrate the effectiveness of IoT solutions in improving response times and resource efficiency. The paper also discusses challenges in implementing IoT, including data security

III. METHODOLOGY

The design and development of the oil skimming system involve several integrated components aimed at efficient oil recovery and monitoring. The boat hull is constructed using lightweight and durable materials such as fiberglass to ensure buoyancy and support for a payload of 12-15 kg. The skimming mechanism employs a drum coated with oleophilic material that rotates to collect oil from the water surface, which is then directed to a storage tank. Propulsion is achieved through 12V DC motors, enabling both manual and automated navigation modes.

The monitoring system includes flow sensors installed on the inlet, outlet, and oil recovery pumps to measure water intake, oil recovered, and water discharged. Capacitive sensors are strategically placed to detect the oil-water interface, ensuring complete separation before discharge. Real-time data from these sensors is displayed on a 16x2 LCD screen for monitoring and analysis.

The control system is built around an Arduino Uno microcontroller, which manages motor control, pump operation, and data acquisition. L298N motor drivers are used to regulate propulsion, while relays control the operation of the inlet, outlet, and oil recovery pumps. Communication with the system is facilitated by a Bluetooth module, allowing remote control via a mobile application. Testing is conducted in a controlled water tank environment with simulated oil spills, measuring parameters such as oil recovery rate, water discharge quality, and energy consumption to evaluate system performance.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The oil skimming system demonstrated promising results in terms of efficiency and usability. The oil recovery rate averaged 85% under simulated conditions, highlighting the effectiveness of the oleophilic drum mechanism. Water discharged from the system met environmental standards, with minimal residual oil content, indicating the success of the separation process. Energy efficiency was also notable, with the system operating for approximately four hours on a fully charged 12V, 5000mAh battery.

The integration of real-time monitoring systems significantly enhanced operational accuracy and ease of use. The flow sensors provided precise measurements of water intake, oil recovery, and water discharge, while the capacitive sensors ensured reliable detection of the oil-water interface. The lightweight and portable design of the boat makes it suitable for deployment in diverse environments, including industrial water treatment and environmental cleanup operations.

However, certain limitations were identified during testing. The system's efficiency decreased in turbulent water conditions, which could be addressed through improved stabilization mechanisms. Additionally, the initial cost of integrating advanced sensors and automation systems may pose a barrier to widespread adoption, though this can be offset by the long-term benefits of reduced labor and enhanced performance.

V. CONCLUSION

The automated oil-skimming boat presents a practical and efficient solution for addressing oil spill challenges in both industrial and environmental contexts. Its advanced skimming mechanism, real-time monitoring capabilities, and dual-mode operation make it a versatile tool for oil recovery and water purification. Future improvements could focus on enhancing performance in rough water conditions, integrating renewable energy sources for sustainable operation, and further reducing the cost of sensor and automation systems to increase accessibility.

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