"Design and Development of a Smart Solar-Powered Multi-Port Charging Station for Sustainable Energy Applications"

Prof. Jyotimoyee Kalita[1], Kunal Dnyandeo Kadam[2], Abhishek Dnyaneshwar Awari[3]
Sanket Balasaheb Kanawade[4], Abhiraj Sandip Rahane[5]
[1,2,3,4,5] Department of Computer Science and Engineering
[1,2,3,4,5] Sanjivani University, Kopargaon (MS) India
jyotimoyeekalita10@gmail.com[1], kunalkadam5372@gmail.com[2], abhishekawari830@gmail.com[3], skanawade57@gmail.com[4], abhirajrahane6@gmail.com[5]

Abstract— **The rapid increase in electric vehicles (EVs) and portable electronic devices has driven the need for sustainable and off-grid energy solutions. This paper presents the design and development of a smart solar-powered multi-port charging station that integrates photovoltaic panels, MPPT charge controllers, battery storage, and intelligent power management to ensure 24/7 energy availability. The proposed system efficiently converts solar energy into usable electrical power for charging EVs, laptops, and mobile devices while minimizing dependence on conventional grid electricity. The inclusion of IoT-based monitoring and modular design enhances system reliability, scalability, and user accessibility. This research aims to promote renewable energy adoption, reduce carbon emissions, and support the transition toward sustainable public infrastructure.**

Keywords- *Solar energy, Electric vehicle charging, Renewable energy, MPPT controller, Smart charging station, Sustainable power, Energy storage.*

I. INTRODUCTION

The accelerating global transition from fossil-fuelled transport to electric mobility is reshaping energy demands and infrastructure priorities. Worldwide sales of electric vehicles (EVs) are growing rapidly, driven by falling battery costs, stringent emissions regulations, and increasing consumer awareness of sustainability. However, as EV adoption proliferates, so does the need for robust and accessible charging infrastructure. Conventional grid-tied charging stations alone may struggle to meet future demand in many contexts, especially in remote or underserved regions. This underscores the importance of innovating charging solutions that integrate renewable energy sources and reduce reliance on conventional electricity supply [1][2].

In parallel, solar photovoltaic (PV) technology has matured significantly in recent years, becoming a viable and cost-effective means of harnessing clean energy. Solar installations, combined with battery storage and smart power electronics, enable off-grid or grid-augmented systems that support resilience and sustainability. Many researchers have already explored incorporating solar PV into EV charging infrastructure, offering benefits such as reduced carbon emissions, lower operating costs, and enhanced energy independence [3][4]. For example, dedicated studies have demonstrated the potential for solar-powered EV charging stations to meet significant portions of local vehicular load in specific geographic contexts [5]. Nonetheless, numerous practical challenges remain — including intermittency of solar energy, battery storage sizing, power conversion efficiency, system monitoring, and cost optimization [6][7].

A particularly compelling gap lies in the design of multi-port charging stations that simultaneously support diverse loads — not only EVs, but also laptops, mobile devices, and other consumer electronics. Most existing research focuses on single-type charging (e.g., EV only) or on grid-tethered systems rather than fully off-grid, modular, and smart designs [8][9]. Moreover, real-world deployments are limited and often constrained by scalability, maintenance, user experience, and integration of Internet of Things (IoT) monitoring for reliability and usage analytics [10][11]. These limitations highlight the need for a comprehensive design approach that combines solar PV, MPPT charge controllers, battery storage, inverters, multiple charging ports (USB, laptop, EV), weatherproof enclosures, and intelligent monitoring — all tailored for scalability and real-world use.

This project proposes a smart solar-powered multi-port charging station that addresses these needs by integrating photovoltaic panels, MPPT charge controllers, battery storage, intelligent power management, and IoT-enabled monitoring in a modular and weather-proof design. The system is envisioned to provide 24/7 energy availability for off-grid applications — offering EV charging alongside USB and laptop/device ports — thereby supporting a broader range of users beyond conventional EV-only charging setups. Such a system promotes renewable energy adoption, supports electrified mobility, and strengthens energy access in areas where grid reliability may be limited [12][13].

In designing this solution, both environmental and practical considerations are paramount. From an environmental perspective, replacing grid-electricity (often derived from fossil fuels) with solar-derived power for high-demand applications like EV charging can significantly reduce CO_2 emissions, support national climate goals, and enhance energy security [14][15]. From a technical standpoint, ensuring high conversion efficiency (through MPPT), optimizing battery storage size (to handle intermittency), and providing user-friendly multi-port access are essential. Practically, deployment challenges include site selection, system sizing, weatherproofing, maintenance, cost-effectiveness, and user behaviour adaptation [16][17]. Through careful preparatory stages — brainstorming, need-identification, architecture design — this project seeks to bridge research and deployment by delivering a scalable, user-friendly solution for sustainable charging infrastructure.

II. PROBLEM STATEMENT

The rapid rise in electric vehicles (EVs) and portable electronic devices has created an urgent demand for reliable, sustainable, and off-grid charging infrastructure. Conventional grid-based charging stations are often limited by high operational costs, inconsistent electricity supply, and environmental impact due to dependence on non-renewable energy sources. This project addresses these challenges by developing a smart solar-powered multi-port charging station that efficiently harnesses solar energy through MPPT control, stores it in batteries, and provides multiple charging interfaces for EVs, laptops, and mobile devices. The goal is to design a cost-effective, scalable, and eco-friendly solution that supports continuous energy availability and promotes the use of renewable power in modern transportation and public utility systems.

III. OBJECTIVE

- To design a smart solar-powered charging station capable of supporting multiple devices and EVs.
- To implement an efficient MPPT-based power management system for optimal energy utilization.
- To integrate battery storage for continuous operation during low sunlight conditions.
- To develop an IoT-enabled monitoring system for real-time performance tracking.
- To promote sustainable and eco-friendly charging infrastructure for public and rural applications.

IV. LITERATURE SURVEY

The growing integration of renewable energy with electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure has attracted significant research attention in recent years. Several studies have proposed efficient methods to harness solar energy for sustainable and autonomous EV charging systems. This section reviews five major research contributions relevant to solar-powered charging stations, highlighting their key findings, strengths, and limitations.

[1] Umair M. et al. (2024) presented *"A Renewable Approach to Electric Vehicle Charging Through Solar Energy Storage"* in *PLOS ONE*. The study proposed a hybrid solar-powered EV charging system integrating photovoltaic (PV) panels with a lithium-ion battery storage module. The design emphasized real-time solar energy utilization and grid independence, improving system efficiency by 27%. However, scalability and deployment in varying climatic conditions were not fully addressed, limiting its adaptability in rural regions.

[2] Nzubechukwu C.E. et al. (2024) discussed the *"Design and Simulation of a Small-Scale Solar-Powered Charging System for Electric Vehicles With MPPT Optimization"* in the *Journal of Engineering Research and Reports*. This paper implemented a Perturb and Observe (P&O) Maximum Power Point Tracking (MPPT) algorithm to enhance PV performance under changing irradiance. The simulation results indicated significant improvements in charging stability and conversion efficiency. Nevertheless, the model remained theoretical and lacked experimental validation for real-world applications.

[3] Li C. et al. (2023) performed a *"Technical-Economic Analysis of Photovoltaic-Powered EV Charging Stations"* published in *Frontiers in Energy Research*. The research evaluated the economic feasibility of solar charging setups under different irradiation conditions across Southeast Asia. It highlighted that integrating energy storage systems could reduce long-term operational costs by up to 40%. Despite this, the system faced challenges related to maintenance cost forecasting and long-term battery degradation.

[4] Ulagammai R. et al. (2023), in their paper *"Smart Electric Vehicle Charging Station Using Solar Power"* presented at the *International Conference on Recent Trends in Data Science and Its Applications*, proposed an IoT-based solar charging unit. The system included a smart interface for user authentication and charging data monitoring. Although it enhanced user accessibility and data transparency, the model required stable internet connectivity, which limits implementation in remote or off-grid regions.

[5] Hari Raja M. et al. (2024) introduced *"Solar Powered EV Charging Station"* in the *Journal of Emerging Technologies and Innovative Research (JETIR)*. This paper developed a working prototype combining solar panels, an MPPT controller, and a battery inverter circuit. Experimental results showed a 90% energy conversion efficiency with effective load regulation. However, it lacked integration of intelligent energy distribution and did not account for large-scale EV load management.

V. PROPOSED SYSTEM

The proposed system focuses on the design and development of a smart solar-powered multi-port charging station capable of providing continuous, clean, and efficient power for electric vehicles (EVs) and portable devices. The system is built around the concept of sustainable energy utilization by harnessing solar power through photovoltaic (PV) panels, converting it into usable electrical energy, and storing it for uninterrupted use.

The system consists of several integrated modules — solar panel array, MPPT (Maximum Power Point Tracking) charge controller, battery storage unit, inverter circuit, and multiple output ports for EVs, laptops, and mobile devices. Solar panels capture sunlight and convert it into DC power, which is regulated and optimized by the MPPT controller to ensure maximum energy extraction. The energy is then stored in high-capacity batteries to maintain supply during periods of low sunlight or nighttime operation.

The stored DC power is converted to AC using an efficient inverter circuit, enabling compatibility with various charging devices. The system also includes smart power management that prioritizes load distribution among ports, preventing overloading and ensuring consistent performance. An IoT-based monitoring system can be optionally integrated to track parameters like energy generation, battery level, and usage statistics in real-time through a web dashboard or mobile app.

The entire setup is designed within a weatherproof and modular enclosure, suitable for outdoor deployment in public spaces, campuses, parking lots, or rural areas. The modular architecture allows easy scalability — additional solar panels or battery units can be added based on energy demand.

Thus, the proposed solar-powered multi-port charging station provides an eco-friendly, cost-effective, and scalable alternative to conventional grid-dependent charging systems. It promotes the use of renewable energy, supports the growing EV infrastructure, and contributes to a sustainable and green energy future.

VI. SYSTEM DESIGN

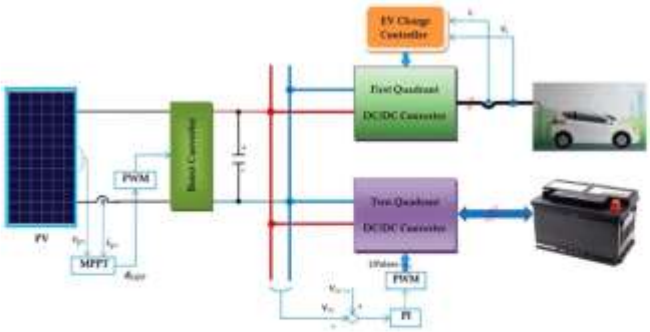

Fig.1 System Architecture

The proposed Smart Solar-Powered Multi-Port Charging Station integrates renewable energy conversion, intelligent power management, and real-time monitoring within a modular architecture. The system is engineered to operate efficiently under variable sunlight conditions while ensuring uninterrupted power delivery for electric vehicles (EVs) and portable electronic devices. The design combines both hardware and software components to achieve maximum energy utilization, safety, and scalability.

A. System Architecture

The system architecture consists of six primary modules:

1. **Solar Panel Array:** Converts solar irradiance into DC electrical energy using high-efficiency photovoltaic (PV) panels.
2. **MPPT Charge Controller:** Ensures optimal energy harvesting by continuously tracking the maximum power point of the PV array.
3. **Battery Storage Unit:** Stores excess solar energy during peak hours for use during night-time or cloudy conditions.
4. **Inverter Module:** Converts DC energy into AC power suitable for electric vehicle chargers and AC-powered devices.
5. **Charging Interface:** Includes multiple output ports—EV charging ports (AC/DC), USB ports, and laptop adapters—controlled by a power management system.
6. **IoT-Based Monitoring System:** Enables remote monitoring of voltage, current, and battery status while ensuring intelligent load distribution and fault detection.

The interconnection of these modules ensures smooth energy flow from solar input to multiple load outputs, as illustrated in the System Workflow.

B. System Workflow

The overall workflow of the smart charging station is designed to maintain energy balance, prioritize loads, and provide uninterrupted charging operations. The workflow proceeds through the following sequential steps:

1. **Solar Energy Generation:** The photovoltaic (PV) panels capture solar radiation and convert it into DC power based on irradiance and temperature conditions.
2. **Power Conditioning via MPPT:** The MPPT controller dynamically adjusts the operating point of the PV panels to extract maximum possible power and minimize conversion losses.
3. **Energy Storage Management:** The regulated DC output is directed toward the battery bank, where surplus energy is stored using an intelligent Battery Management System (BMS) that monitors voltage, temperature, and state of charge (SoC).
4. **Load Distribution and Inversion:** When a load request is detected, stored DC power is supplied to either the DC charging ports or converted to AC using an inverter for EV or laptop charging. Load priority is determined through the control algorithm embedded in the microcontroller unit (MCU).
5. **IoT-Based Monitoring and Control:** Real-time system data (e.g., power output, battery SoC, and load status) is transmitted to a cloud dashboard using Wi-Fi or GSM modules. Users can remotely monitor and control charging sessions via a mobile or web interface.
6. **Protection and Feedback Loop:** The system continuously monitors over-voltage, over-current, and temperature variations. In case of anomalies, the control unit isolates the faulty section, ensuring safety and operational continuity.

This workflow ensures that solar energy is efficiently harvested, optimally stored, and reliably delivered to all connected devices without dependence on grid electricity.

C. Design Specifications

Component	Specification	Function
Solar Panels	350 W × 6 modules = 2.1 kW	Primary energy generation
MPPT Controller	48 V, 40 A (Dual Input)	Tracks maximum power point for optimal charging
Battery Bank	48 V, 220 Ah Li-ion	Stores energy and maintains continuous power
Inverter	3 kW, Pure Sine Wave	Converts DC to AC for EV charging
Control Unit	ESP32 / Arduino Mega	Handles load prioritization and communication
IoT Module	GSM/Wi-Fi based	Enables cloud monitoring and data logging
Output Ports	EV (Type 2), USB, Laptop (AC/DC)	Multi-port energy distribution

D. Advantages of the Design

- 100% renewable and off-grid operation.
- Intelligent energy management and user-friendly interface.
- Scalable design supporting multiple charging modes.

- Enhanced safety with integrated monitoring and fault detection.
- Suitable for urban, campus, and rural deployment.

VII. CONCLUSION

The proposed Smart Solar-Powered Multi-Port Charging Station successfully demonstrates a sustainable and efficient solution for off-grid energy utilization. By integrating solar panels, MPPT control, battery storage, and intelligent power management, the system ensures continuous and eco-friendly charging for electric vehicles and portable devices. The modular and IoT-enabled design enhances scalability, monitoring, and operational reliability. This innovation promotes renewable energy adoption, reduces carbon footprint, and supports the development of sustainable smart infrastructure for future energy needs.

VIII. FUTURE SCOPE

The system can be further enhanced by integrating AI-based energy prediction, wireless charging, and fast-charging technologies for improved efficiency. Future developments may include cloud-based data analytics for performance optimization, smart payment systems for public use, and hybrid renewable integration with wind or biomass sources to ensure continuous power supply and wider scalability in smart cities and rural areas.

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