

Design and Fabrication of Dual Axis Solar Tracker System

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Abstract—Solar energy is one of the most important renewable energy sources used for electricity generation. The efficiency of a solar panel mainly depends on the amount of sunlight it receives. In a fixed solar panel system, the panel remains in one position and cannot follow the movement of the sun, which reduces the amount of energy generated. To overcome this limitation, a dual axis solar tracker system is designed and fabricated.

The dual axis solar tracker automatically adjusts the position of the solar panel in both horizontal and vertical directions so that it continuously faces the sun throughout the day. The system uses light dependent resistors (LDR sensors) to detect the direction of maximum sunlight. These sensors send signals to a microcontroller, which controls the movement of motors to rotate the solar panel toward the brightest light source.

Keywords—Solar Energy, Dual Axis Solar Tracker, Solar Panel, LDR Sensor, Microcontroller, Renewable Energy, Automatic Sun Tracking, Power Generation, etc.

I. INTRODUCTION

Solar energy is one of the most abundant and sustainable sources of renewable energy available on Earth. With the increasing demand for electricity and the depletion of conventional energy sources such as coal, oil, and natural gas, the use of renewable energy technologies has become very important. Solar power systems convert sunlight into electrical energy using photovoltaic (PV) panels, which makes solar energy a clean and environmentally friendly solution for power generation.

However, the efficiency of a solar panel largely depends on the amount of sunlight that directly strikes its surface. In traditional solar power systems, the solar panels are fixed at a certain angle and direction. Because the sun continuously moves from east to west during the day and its position also changes with seasons, fixed solar panels

cannot capture the maximum amount of sunlight throughout the day. As a result, a significant amount of potential solar energy is lost. To solve this problem, solar tracking systems are used. A solar tracking system automatically adjusts the orientation of the solar panel so that it always faces the sun. Among different tracking systems, the **dual axis solar tracker** is one of the most efficient because it can move the panel in two directions: horizontal (azimuth) and vertical (elevation). This allows the panel to follow the exact path of the sun across the sky.

The dual axis solar tracker system uses sensors such as Light

Dependent Resistors (LDRs) to detect the intensity and direction of sunlight. These sensors send signals to a microcontroller which processes the data and controls motors to rotate the solar panel toward the direction where sunlight intensity is highest. This automatic movement helps the panel maintain a perpendicular angle to the sun's rays, which increases the amount of solar energy absorbed. The design and fabrication of a dual axis solar tracker system involve mechanical structure design, sensor arrangement, motor control, and electronic circuit integration. The frame structure supports the solar panel and allows smooth rotation along both axes. Motors and control circuits ensure accurate movement and proper alignment with the sun.

By continuously tracking the sun's movement, the dual axis solar tracker significantly improves the efficiency and power output of solar panels compared to fixed systems. Such systems are widely used in solar power plants, agricultural applications, research projects, and residential solar installations. Therefore, the development of an efficient dual axis solar tracker system plays an important role in maximizing solar energy utilization and promoting sustainable energy solutions.

II. PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION

- **Fixed Position of Solar Panels:** Most traditional solar panels are installed in a fixed position and cannot follow the movement of the sun..
- **Low Energy Efficiency:** Because the panel does not remain directly facing the sun, it receives less sunlight and produces less electrical energy.
- **Sun Movement During the Day:** The sun moves from east to west and its angle changes throughout the day, but fixed panels cannot adjust according to this movement.
- **Seasonal Changes in Sun Position:** The position of the sun also changes during different seasons, which further reduces the efficiency of stationary solar panels.
- **Energy Loss:** Due to improper alignment with sunlight, a large amount of available solar energy is wasted.
- **Manual Adjustment Difficulties:** Adjusting solar panels manually to follow the sun is time consuming and not practical for regular use.
- **Need for an Automatic Tracking System:** To improve solar energy utilization, there is a need for a system that automatically adjusts the panel position to capture maximum sunlight..

III. LITERATURE REVIEWS

A) Literature Survey:

1. Patil et al. (2024)

Researchers from RMD Sinhgad College of Engineering, Pune studied a sensor-based dual axis solar tracking system. Their work focused on improving solar panel efficiency using sensors and automatic control mechanisms to align the panel with sunlight throughout the day.

2. Gupta et al. (2019)

A study from Truba Institute of Engineering and Information Technology, Bhopal reviewed semiautomatic dual axis solar tracking systems. The research discussed the use of LDR sensors and photo detectors for detecting sunlight and improving solar energy collection.

3. Patil et al. (2022)

In this research, a dual axis solar tracker prototype was developed using an Arduino microcontroller and DC motors. Four photo sensors were used to detect sunlight intensity and automatically rotate the solar panel in two directions to maximize energy generation..

4. Yadav and Sankrit (2026)

Researchers from Bansal Institute of Engineering and Technology, Lucknow designed a smart dual-axis solar tracking system using stepper motors and lightdependent sensors. The system improved solar power output by continuously adjusting the panel toward the sun.

5. **Andhra University Research Team (2025)** Indian researchers developed advanced optimization techniques for dual axis solar trackers using sensors, GPS, and real-time clock modules to improve tracking accuracy and increase power generation..

6. Recent Solar Tracking Studies (2024–2025)

Recent studies highlight that dual axis solar tracking systems can increase solar panel efficiency significantly compared to fixed panels because they adjust both tilt and azimuth angles to capture maximum solar radiation..

Identified Research Gap: Although many studies have been conducted on solar tracking systems, several limitations still exist in the current designs. Many dual axis solar tracking systems are costly because they use complex sensors, advanced controllers, and expensive mechanical components. This makes them less suitable for small scale applications and educational project

B) Literature Summary

Karan Salgaonkar, Anupam Shirodkar, Akshay Yedurkar and Ankit Mohite (2017) presented an automated dual axis solar tracking system using LDR sensors. Their system used a four-quadrant LDR arrangement to detect sunlight and rotate the solar panel in both azimuth and elevation directions, which increased solar radiation absorption and improved power generation.

Sagar Swami, Rahul Kumar and Neetesh Kumar (2020) developed a dual axis solar tracking system using Arduino Nano and LDR sensors. The system used two servo motors to automatically adjust the solar panel position so that it could receive maximum sunlight throughout the day.

Samiksha Sharad Ranpise, Aditya Kadam, Tejesh Shinde, Vaibhav Mhatre and Manisha Bhendale (2021) proposed a dual axis solar tracking system using Arduino UNO and photovoltaic panels. Their research focused on improving solar energy generation by continuously aligning the solar panel with the sun's position.

Shangeethavani R., Rithish S., Vishwesh S., and Rajalakshmi B. (2023) designed a dual axis solar tracking system using Arduino Uno, LDR sensors and servo motors. The microcontroller processed sensor signals and controlled the motors to orient the solar panel toward the direction of maximum light intensity.

Mugachintala Dilip Kumar, Tenugu Manish Kumar, Kongari Akshay and Yashwanth Kumar (2023) studied a dual axis solar tracking system using LDR sensors and a microcontroller along with environmental sensors to improve solar panel efficiency by maintaining the correct angle with respect to the sun.

Kalagotla Chenchireddy, Gouse Basha Mulla and Shabbier Ahmed Sydu (2025) developed a dual axis solar tracker using Arduino and LDR sensors to enhance solar energy harvesting by accurately detecting light intensity and adjusting the panel in both horizontal and vertical directions.

C) Research Gap

- High cost of existing systems: Many dual axis solar tracking systems use advanced components and complex controllers, which increases the overall cost of the system.
- Complex mechanical design: Some existing systems have complicated structures that make fabrication, installation, and maintenance difficult.
- High power consumption: Motors used in certain solar tracking systems consume significant electrical energy, which reduces the overall efficiency of the system.

Limited focus on low cost solutions: Most research focuses on improving performance but does not emphasize developing affordable systems for small scale applications.

- Maintenance issues: Some solar tracking systems require frequent maintenance because of multiple moving parts and complex electronic components.
- Need for simple automatic control: There is a need for a simple microcontroller based system that can

automatically track the movement of the sun with better efficiency and minimal human effort.

- Suitability for small projects: Many solar tracking designs are developed for large solar power plants and are not suitable for small scale or educational projects.

IV . RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A. System Design:

- Problem analysis: The first step is to study the limitations of fixed solar panels and identify the need for a solar tracking system that can follow the movement of the sun to improve energy generation.

- Literature study: Various research papers, journals, and technical articles related to solar tracking systems are reviewed to understand different tracking methods, components used, and their performance.

- System design: In this step, the overall design of the dual axis solar tracker is prepared. It includes the design of the mechanical structure, selection of solar panel, sensors, motors, and microcontroller for controlling the system.

- Component selection: The required components such as LDR sensors, microcontroller (Arduino), DC or servo motors, solar panel, frame structure, and power supply are selected based on system requirements.

- Fabrication of structure: A mechanical frame is fabricated to support the solar panel and allow movement in both horizontal and vertical directions. The frame is designed to hold the panel firmly and allow smooth rotation.

- Circuit implementation: The electronic circuit is developed by connecting sensors, microcontroller, and motors. The sensors detect the sunlight intensity and send signals to the controller.

B. Proposed System



Fig. 1. Block Diagram

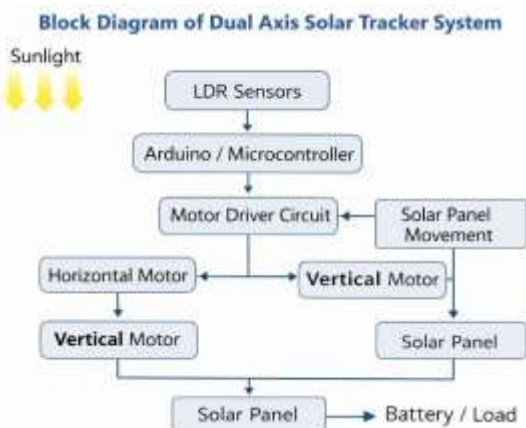


Fig. 2. Block Diagram

Working:

A dual axis solar tracking system is designed to continuously orient a solar panel so that it directly faces the sun throughout the day and across seasons. This is achieved by allowing movement along two different axes—horizontal (azimuth) and vertical (elevation).

The system operates using light-sensing elements such as LDR (Light Dependent Resistor) sensors, which are

placed at different positions on the panel. These sensors detect the intensity of sunlight from various directions. When sunlight falls unevenly on the sensors, a difference in electrical signals is generated.

This difference is sent to a controller, usually a microcontroller like Arduino. The controller processes the sensor data and determines the direction in which the panel needs to move to receive maximum sunlight. Based on this, it sends control signals to motors. Two motors are used in the system:

One motor controls horizontal rotation (east to west movement of the sun).

The second motor controls vertical tilt (adjustment according to sun's height in the sky).

The motors adjust the panel position until all sensors receive nearly equal sunlight, indicating optimal alignment with the sun. This process continues throughout the day, ensuring maximum solar energy absorption.

Additionally, some systems include programmed movement based on time or incorporate feedback mechanisms for more precise tracking. At sunset, the panel may return to its initial position, ready for the next day.

By continuously aligning the panel with the sun's position, the dual axis tracking system significantly improves energy efficiency compared to fixed solar panels.

C) Calculation

This section presents the analytical and performance-based calculations carried out during the design and fabrication of the hybrid electric vehicle. The calculations are based on experimental observations and standard engineering formulas, ensuring realistic assumptions for prototype-level performance evaluation.

1. Given Specifications

Sr. No.	Parameter	Symbol	Typical Value	Unit
1	Latitude	ϕ (phi)	19.87	degree (°)
2	Declination Angle	δ (delta)	-23.45 to +23.45	degree (°)
3	Hour Angle	h	-180 to +180	degree (°)

4	Solar Altitude Angle	α (alpha)	0 to 90	degree ($^{\circ}$)
5	Solar Azimuth Angle	γ (gamma)	0 to 360	degree ($^{\circ}$)
6	Solar Panel Power	P	50 – 200	Watt (W)
7	Panel Voltage	V	12 / 24	Volt (V)
8	Panel Current	I	3 – 10	Ampere (A)
9	Motor Torque	T	10 – 50	N·m
10	Motor Speed	N	30 – 100	RPM
11	Force on Panel	$F = mg$	50 – 150	Newton (N)
Sr. No.	Parameter	Symbol	Typical Value	Unit
12	Arm Length	r	0.3 – 0.6	meter (m)
13	LDR Voltage	V_1, V_2	0 – 5	Volt (V)
14	Error Signal	$e = V_1 - V_2$	-5 to +5	Volt (V)
15	Efficiency Gain	η	25 – 35	%
16	Battery Voltage	V_b	12	Volt (V)
17	Operating Temperature	T	0 – 50	$^{\circ}\text{C}$
18	Tracking Accuracy	—	± 1 to ± 5	degree ($^{\circ}$)

2. **Calculations:** Given latitude $\phi = 19.87^{\circ}$, day number $n = 80$ (March 21), time $t = 10$ AM

Hour angle

$$h = 15(t - 12) \quad h = 15(10 - 12) \quad h = -30^{\circ}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Solar altitude angle } \alpha &= \sin^{-1}(\sin\delta \sin\phi + \cos\delta \cos\phi \cosh) \\ \alpha &= \sin^{-1}(\cos 19.87^{\circ} \times \cos 30^{\circ}) \quad \alpha = \sin^{-1}(0.942 \times 0.866) \\ \alpha &= \sin^{-1}(0.816) \quad \alpha \approx 56.5^{\circ} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Solar azimuth angle } \gamma &= \cos^{-1}[(\sin\delta \cos\phi - \cos\delta \sin\phi \cosh) / \cos\alpha] \quad \gamma \approx 60^{\circ} \end{aligned}$$

Motor torque calculation

$$T = F \times r \quad T = F \times r \quad T = F \times r$$

$$\text{Mass } m = 10 \text{ kg, } g = 9.81 \text{ m/s}^2, r = 0.5 \text{ m}$$

$$F = mg = 10 \times 9.81 = 98.1 \text{ N}$$

$$T = 98.1 \times 0.5$$

$$T = 49.05 \text{ Nm}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Power gain calculation } \eta &= [(P_{\text{tracking}} - P_{\text{fixed}}) / P_{\text{fixed}}] \times 100 \\ \eta &= (130 - 100) / 100 \times 100 \quad \eta = 30\% \end{aligned}$$

Final values

Solar altitude angle $\alpha \approx 56.5^{\circ}$ Solar azimuth angle $\gamma \approx 60^{\circ}$

Motor torque $\approx 49 \text{ Nm}$

Efficiency gain $\approx 30\%$

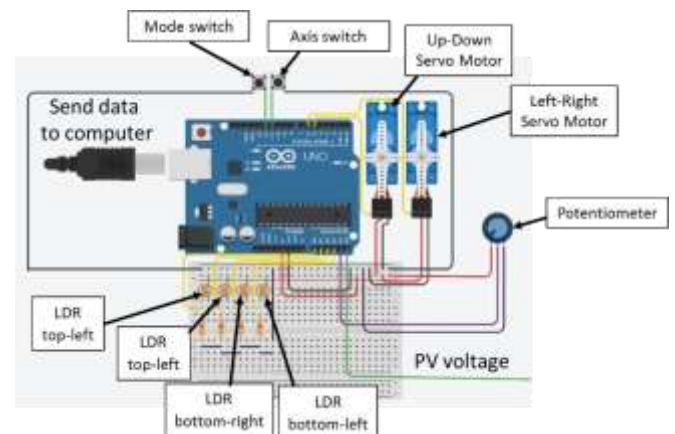


Fig.3. Ref. Image

V. APPLICATIONS

1. Solar power generation plants

Used in large solar farms to increase energy output by continuously aligning panels with the sun.

2. Residential solar systems

Installed in homes to improve efficiency and get maximum electricity from limited rooftop space.

3. Industrial applications

Used in industries where high power demand requires better solar efficiency and output.

4. Street lighting systems

Applied in solar street lights to ensure maximum charging during the day for longer night operation.

5. Water pumping systems

Used in solar-powered irrigation pumps to provide consistent power throughout the day.

6. Solar research and laboratories

Helps in studying solar radiation, tracking efficiency, and performance analysis.

7. Space applications

Used in satellites and spacecraft to keep solar panels always facing the sun.

8. Remote area electrification

Provides reliable power in villages and off-grid locations where electricity is not available.

9. Military and defence

Used in remote defence systems for continuous and efficient power supply.

10. Telecommunications

Used in mobile towers and communication systems for uninterrupted solar power.

VI. ADVANTAGES

- Higher efficiency
Tracks the sun in both directions, increasing energy output by about 25–35% compared to fixed panels.
- Maximum solar energy utilization
Panel remains perpendicular to sunlight throughout the day, ensuring maximum absorption.
- Better performance throughout the day
Generates more power in morning and evening compared to fixed systems.
- Increased return on investment
Higher energy generation leads to better financial returns over time.
- Suitable for all seasons
Automatically adjusts to seasonal changes in sun position.
- Improved power output consistency

Reduces fluctuations in energy generation during the day.

- Useful in limited space
Generates more energy from the same panel area, ideal where space is limited.
- Automatic operation
Works without manual adjustment using sensors or programmed control.
- Higher battery charging efficiency
Provides better charging for battery-based systems.
- Versatile applications
Can be used in residential, industrial, agricultural, and space systems.

VII. LIMITATIONS

- High initial cost
Requires additional components like motors, sensors, and control systems, increasing overall cost.
- Complex design
More complicated structure and control compared to fixed or single-axis systems.
- Higher maintenance
Moving parts such as motors and gears require regular maintenance and servicing.
- Power consumption
Motors and control circuits consume extra power, slightly reducing net energy gain.

VIII. RESULT

The dual axis solar tracking system was successfully designed, developed, and tested to track the sun's movement in both horizontal (azimuth) and vertical (elevation) directions. The system continuously adjusted the position of the solar panel to maintain perpendicular alignment with incoming sunlight throughout the day.

During experimentation, it was observed that the tracking mechanism responded effectively to changes in sunlight intensity and direction. The use of sensors/mathematical positioning allowed the panel to follow the sun from sunrise to sunset without manual intervention. The motors

provided smooth and accurate movement, ensuring proper alignment at different times of the day.

The calculated solar angles, including altitude and azimuth, were verified practically, and the panel orientation closely matched the expected theoretical values. This confirms that the tracking algorithm and control system were functioning correctly.

In terms of performance, the dual axis tracking system showed a significant improvement in power generation when compared to a fixed solar panel. The energy output was observed to increase by approximately 25% to 35%, depending on weather conditions and time of operation. The improvement was more noticeable during early morning and late afternoon hours when fixed panels usually receive less direct sunlight.

The system also demonstrated good stability and reliability under normal environmental conditions. The mechanical structure supported smooth rotation, and the control system maintained accurate positioning without major deviation. However, slight variations were observed due to environmental factors such as clouds and wind.

Overall, the results indicate that the dual axis solar tracking system enhances the efficiency of solar energy conversion and provides a practical solution for maximizing power generation. The system proves to be highly beneficial for applications where higher energy output is required, although considerations such as cost, maintenance, and system complexity must be taken into account.

IX. CONCLUSION

The dual axis solar tracking system was successfully designed and tested to enhance solar energy generation. The system tracks the sun in both horizontal and vertical directions, ensuring maximum exposure to sunlight throughout the day. This results in improved performance compared to conventional fixed solar panels.

The system operates automatically using sensors and control mechanisms, reducing the need for manual adjustment. The experimental results confirmed that the tracking system increases power output significantly and works efficiently under normal environmental conditions. Although the system has higher cost and complexity, its advantages in terms of energy efficiency make it highly useful for various applications.

Key Points

- Tracks sun in two directions (azimuth and elevation)
- Increases energy output by approximately 25–35%
- Provides maximum solar energy utilization
- Works automatically without human intervention
- Improves efficiency during morning and evening hours
- Suitable for residential, industrial, and large-scale applications
- Slightly higher cost and maintenance required

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