

IOT-Based Energy Efficient Smart Railway Station Lighting using STM32

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ABSTRACT

This paper presents an IoT-based smart railway station lighting system utilizing STM32 microcontrollers and LoRa communication for energy-efficient urban infrastructure management. The system integrates PIR motion sensors and LDR light sensors to enable three-level adaptive dimming based on ambient conditions and human presence, achieving 60-70% energy savings compared to conventional always-on lighting. Real-time power monitoring via INA219 sensors provides comprehensive energy tracking and predictive maintenance capabilities, while a hybrid architecture combining 12V solar panels, rechargeable batteries, and grid connectivity ensures reliable 24/7 operation. An ESP32-based gateway enables WiFi cloud integration for remote monitoring through a web dashboard with real-time analytics, motion event logging, and automated alerts. The LoRa protocol (SX1278 modules) provides long-range wireless networking up to 10 km, making the system suitable for large-scale smart city deployments. Advanced features include watchdog timers, DS3231 RTC scheduling, OLED status displays, and unique lamp identification for scalable multi-node management. This cost-effective solution addresses growing demands for sustainable urban lighting with reduced operational costs and comprehensive data-driven optimization.

KEYWORDS : IoT, STM32, Railway Station Lighting , LoRa, Smart Lighting, Energy Efficiency

INTRODUCTION

This project focuses on the development of an Internet of Things (IoT) enabled smart lighting solution for railway stations. Railway platforms require continuous illumination for passenger safety and operational efficiency, resulting in considerable electrical energy consumption. The proposed system aims to improve energy utilization by regulating lighting operation according to environmental conditions, occupancy detection, and real-time sensor inputs.

The STM32F103C8T6 microcontroller serves as the primary processing unit and coordinates the operation of various sensing and communication devices. A PIR motion sensor (HC-SR501) is utilized to identify human activity on the platform, allowing lamps to operate only when movement is detected. In addition, an LDR sensor (GL5528) measures surrounding light levels to determine whether artificial

illumination is necessary. By combining occupancy sensing with ambient light monitoring, the system ensures efficient lighting management while minimizing unnecessary power consumption.

To enable communication among multiple lighting units, the design incorporates the LoRa SX1278 transceiver, which provides long-range wireless connectivity with low energy requirements. Information gathered from the sensor nodes is transmitted to a central gateway based on the ESP32 microcontroller. Through its Wi-Fi capability, the gateway forwards operational data to an IoT cloud platform for remote supervision and control. Users can monitor lamp status, analyze energy consumption trends, and manage the system through an online dashboard.

The power subsystem is supported by a solar panel rated between 10 W and 20 W at 12 V, a solar charge controller, and a rechargeable 12 V battery. Voltage regulation for the electronic components is achieved using an LM2596 buck converter. Furthermore, current and voltage monitoring devices such as ACS712 or INA219 provide continuous measurement of electrical parameters, enabling accurate assessment of energy utilization.

Additional hardware includes a DS3231 Real-Time Clock module for time-based scheduling and an SSD1306 OLED display for local information display. The software architecture incorporates intelligent functions such as

automatic day/night operation, multi-level brightness adjustment, energy usage recording, battery status monitoring, and event logging. The web-based dashboard developed around the ESP32 platform also facilitates remote switching, device identification management, and visualization of daily power statistics.

The integration of renewable energy sources, wireless communication technology, and intelligent control mechanisms creates a reliable and self-sustaining lighting infrastructure. The proposed system has the potential to lower operational costs, improve energy efficiency, and support environmentally responsible development of modern railway facilities and smart city infrastructure.

LITERATURE SURVEY

Siyu Wu [1] developed an IoT-enabled smart lighting system using an STM32 microcontroller integrated with a Wi-Fi communication module for remote monitoring and intelligent control. The study highlights the use of PIR and light sensors to automatically regulate illumination based on human presence and ambient light levels. The system utilizes the MQTT communication protocol for reliable data transmission between the STM32 board and the Alibaba Cloud IoT platform, enabling real-time control through a web dashboard. It also employs an OLED display for local visualization of sensor data and system status.

The research demonstrates that STM32-based architectures are ideal for low-power, real-time smart lighting applications due to their high-performance ARM Cortex-M3 core. Wu's design approach inspired the development of similar energy-efficient railway station lighting systems, combining wireless communication, automation, and cloud integration to achieve intelligent and sustainable illumination.

Paper [2] designed an intelligent streetlight monitoring system using the STM32F101C8T6 microcontroller for real-time lighting control and energy management. The system integrates wireless communication modules (CC2500 and CC2591) and GSM/GPRS technology to transmit operational data from multiple streetlight nodes to a central control unit. Each terminal node monitors parameters such as voltage, current, and environmental conditions, ensuring automatic fault detection and remote control. The control center can dynamically adjust illumination levels based on real-time feedback, significantly improving energy efficiency and maintenance automation. The study also implements SimpliciTI and TCP/IP protocols for reliable low-power communication among network nodes. This approach demonstrates how STM32-based IoT systems can optimize outdoor lighting through automation, data acquisition, and wireless connectivity—principles that strongly relate to smart railway station lighting for sustainable energy management. Paper [3] proposed a centralized smart streetlight control system using the STM32F103 microcontroller and LoRa communication technology to reduce power waste and manual maintenance. The system integrates multiple single-

lamp control nodes connected to a centralized controller through long-range LoRa links, allowing low-cost and low-power wireless communication. Environmental sensors such as light intensity, temperature, humidity, and particulate sensors are interfaced through the Modbus RTU protocol to enable adaptive illumination control based on real-time conditions. The study also implemented an adaptive data rate algorithm to optimize LoRa network performance and improve communication reliability. Remote monitoring and management were achieved via a web-based platform, providing intelligent automation and fault detection. This research demonstrates that STM32 and LoRa-based control systems are highly effective for energy-efficient outdoor lighting, which aligns closely with the objectives of smart railway station lighting by improving sustainability, reliability, and centralized IoT-based management.

Paper [4] designed an intelligent LED lighting control system utilizing the STM32F103 microcontroller as the core controller to achieve smart lighting automation. The system integrates voice, Bluetooth, and automatic control modes to adjust LED brightness and operation timing according to environmental light intensity. A photoresistor (GL5516) senses ambient light, while a DS3231 RTC module provides precise timing control for scheduled illumination. The AP3032 LED constant-current driver chip ensures stable and efficient LED operation, reducing power loss and extending lamp lifespan. Additionally, the HC-05 Bluetooth module allows users to control lighting remotely via mobile devices. The system's multi-level brightness control using PWM enhances energy efficiency and flexibility in various applications. The study highlights the importance of combining STM32-based embedded control with intelligent sensing for energy-efficient and automated lighting systems, directly supporting innovations in smart railway station illumination.

Paper [5] introduced an IoT-based smart street lighting system powered by solar panels and piezoelectric transducers to achieve high energy efficiency and sustainability. The system automatically adjusts LED light intensity using LDR and IR sensors based on ambient light and vehicle movement. A NodeMCU ESP8266 module communicates with the ThingSpeak IoT platform for real-time monitoring and data visualization. The research achieved up to 84% energy

savings through multi-level dimming (20%–100%) and efficient power management. Additionally, MQ135 sensors were deployed for continuous air quality monitoring, providing valuable environmental data to local authorities. The use of PWM control, MPPT charging circuits, and hybrid renewable energy ensures reliable and self-sufficient operation. This approach demonstrates how integrating IoT, renewable energy, and smart sensors can effectively reduce power wastage and improve system automation—principles directly applicable to smart railway station lighting systems for sustainable infrastructure management.

Jongbin Park [6] conducted a study on an intelligent lighting control system for underground railway tunnels aimed at achieving energy conservation and sustainability. The system replaced conventional fluorescent lamps with high-efficiency LED lighting capable of dimming control linked to train position and the railway signalling system. By utilizing block signal data to determine train locations, lighting intensity was automatically adjusted to illuminate only the active tunnel sections. The system employed Closed-circuit Power Line Communication (CPLC) to transmit control signals efficiently without additional cabling. Simulation results demonstrated an average power reduction of 57% and significant reductions in CO₂ emissions. The study proved that integrating intelligent control algorithms with real-time train position data can substantially optimize energy usage in railway environments. This approach provides a strong foundation for smart railway station lighting systems powered by IoT and renewable energy solutions.

Ankit Maslekar [7] proposed a smart energy conservation system using the Raspberry Pi microcontroller to automate lighting and electrical load control for buildings and institutions. The system monitors room occupancy and environmental changes to automatically switch lights and fans ON or OFF, reducing power wastage. By integrating Python-based automation and OpenCV image recognition, the system eliminates the need for manual operation or traditional sensors. The design also incorporates modules for remote monitoring, scheduling, and classroom security, demonstrating the flexibility of embedded controllers for intelligent infrastructure. Experimental results showed an energy savings of up to 50% after implementation. The research emphasizes automation, energy efficiency, and real-

time monitoring, aligning closely with modern IoT principles applied in railway station lighting. This approach supports the concept of adaptive, sensor-driven, and automated illumination control for energy-efficient public environments. the potential to be expanded for use in public and private areas to prevent crimes.

Le Minh Phuong [8] developed a smart street lighting control system that utilizes LoRa (Long Range) wireless communication for energy-efficient and remote light management. The system employs LED lamps with dimming capabilities and LoRaWAN gateways for low-power, long-distance data transmission. A central control center was designed to monitor lighting conditions, manage scheduling, and record operational data through a web-based interface. The proposed model features automatic, manual, and sensor-based modes, allowing adaptive lighting according to environmental conditions. The implementation achieved reliable communication up to 5 km, demonstrating strong potential for urban and public infrastructure applications. This LoRa-based system reduces maintenance costs and energy consumption while improving public safety and illumination control. The research effectively demonstrates how IoT, wireless networking, and intelligent algorithms can be integrated for efficient lighting automation. Such a framework directly supports the development of IoT-based smart railway station lighting systems using STM32 and LoRa communication.

Aastha Miten [9] developed a Wireless Digital Notice Board System using IoT technology to simplify information display across public spaces such as railway stations, bus terminals, and educational institutions. The system employs a PIC microcontroller integrated with Wi-Fi connectivity (NodeMCU) to receive and display messages wirelessly on an

IMPLEMENTATION METHODOLOGY

The process begins with input sensors, including the PIR and LDR sensors, which detect motion and ambient light intensity, respectively. These sensors send real-time data to the sensing unit for initial signal conditioning. The conditioned data is then processed by the STM32 microcontroller, which serves as the system's core control unit. Based on sensor readings, the data processing algorithm

OLED/LCD screen. This design eliminates manual notice updates, reducing time and human intervention. By connecting to a local web server, authorized users can transmit information remotely, ensuring secure and real-time data dissemination. The implementation demonstrates the potential of IoT-based wireless communication in automation and public information systems. The study also emphasizes the importance of STM microcontrollers and cloud integration for efficient data handling. This research closely aligns with smart railway station automation, where similar IoT-based wireless communication can be adapted for intelligent lighting and monitoring systems to enhance operational efficiency.

Alia Rifat [10] proposed a solar-powered autonomous railway track fault detection system designed to improve railway safety and reduce human intervention. The system utilizes ultrasonic and infrared sensors integrated with an Arduino microcontroller to automatically detect cracks and anomalies on railway tracks. A GSM and GPS module transmits real-time alerts and precise location data to the control center, ensuring rapid maintenance response. The entire setup is powered by solar panels and rechargeable batteries, enabling uninterrupted and eco-friendly operation. Image processing algorithms are employed to enhance crack detection accuracy and filter noise from sensor readings. Experimental results demonstrated a detection accuracy of up to 80% for major faults. This research effectively showcases the potential of IoT and renewable energy integration in railway infrastructure monitoring. The solar-based automation approach aligns closely with smart railway station lighting systems, emphasizing energy efficiency, safety, and sustainability.

determines whether the platform is occupied or empty. If the platform is empty, the system activates partial dimming to save energy. In contrast, if the platform is occupied, the lights are switched ON at full brightness for safety and visibility. The intelligent decision-making process ensures optimal energy usage and minimal wastage. This automated approach enhances both efficiency and sustainability in railway station lighting management.

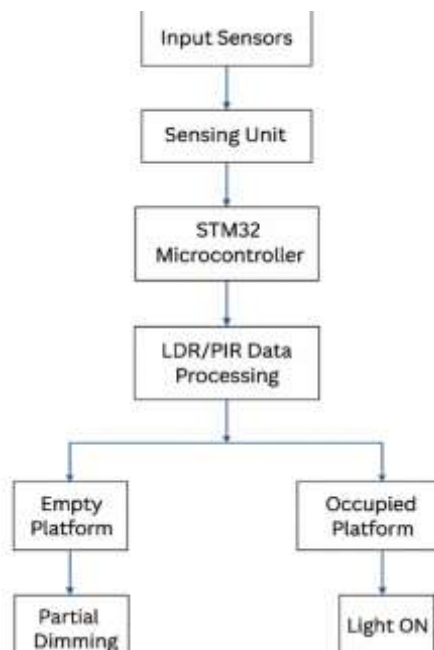


Fig1: Flow chart of design and implementation

BLOCK DIAGRAM OF A SYSTEM

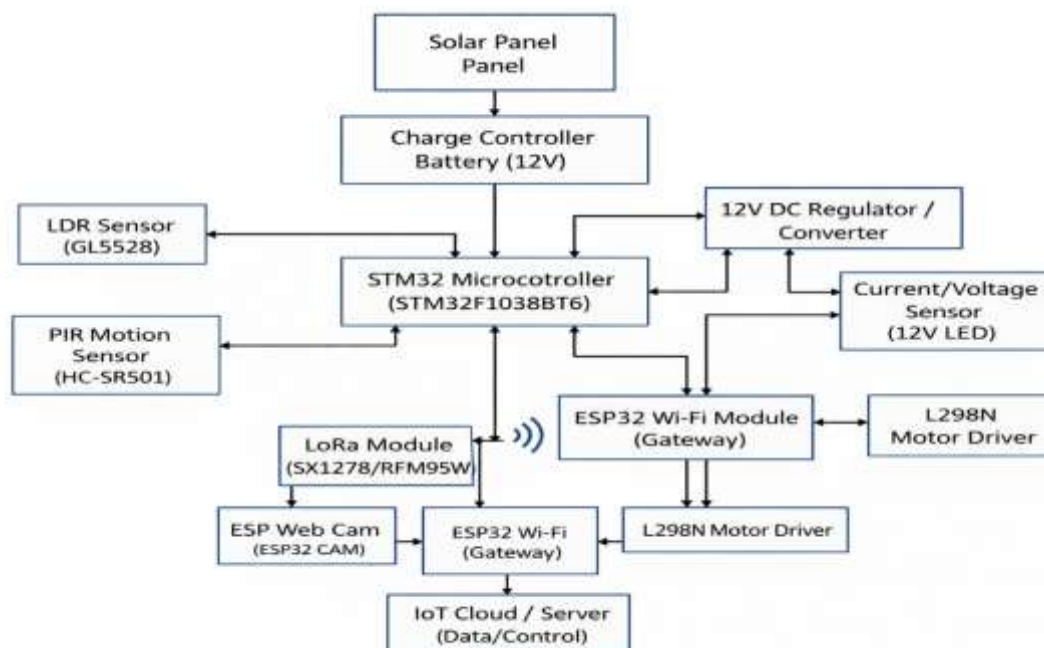


Fig2: Block Diagram of System

The IoT-Based Energy-Efficient Smart Railway Station Lighting System powered by renewable solar energy. The system begins with a solar panel that converts sunlight into

electrical energy. This energy is regulated and stored in a 12V rechargeable battery through a solar charge controller, ensuring safe and efficient charging cycles. A DC-DC buck

converter (LM2596) is used to step down voltage levels to 5V and 3.3V for low-power electronic components such as the STM32 microcontroller, sensors, and communication modules.

At the core of the system lies the STM32F103C8T6 microcontroller, which acts as the main controller responsible for signal processing, data handling, and decision-making. It receives input data from two primary sensors: the LDR sensor (GL5528), which measures ambient light intensity to differentiate between day and night, and the PIR motion sensor (HC-SR501), which detects human presence or movement on the railway platform. These inputs help the system decide when to switch lights ON, OFF, or DIM to save energy while maintaining safety.

The system's output section consists of 12V high-power LED lamps connected via relay or MOSFET drivers, controlled by the STM32 based on sensor data. To ensure safety and reliability, a current and voltage sensor (ACS712 or INA219) continuously monitors the power drawn by the LED lamps, providing feedback on energy consumption and system performance.

For communication and IoT integration, a LoRa module (SX1278/RFM95W) enables long-distance, low-power data transmission between lighting nodes and the ESP32 Wi-Fi gateway. The gateway collects all data and uploads it to the IoT cloud platform, where users can visualize real-time statistics, monitor energy usage, and control lighting remotely through a web dashboard interface.

This combination of STM32 control, LoRa networking, and solar-based power management creates a robust, low-maintenance, and scalable lighting infrastructure. The system enhances energy efficiency, reduces manual intervention, and supports sustainable operation—making it ideal for modern smart railway stations and other public infrastructure applications.

SIMULATION RESULT AND ANALYSIS

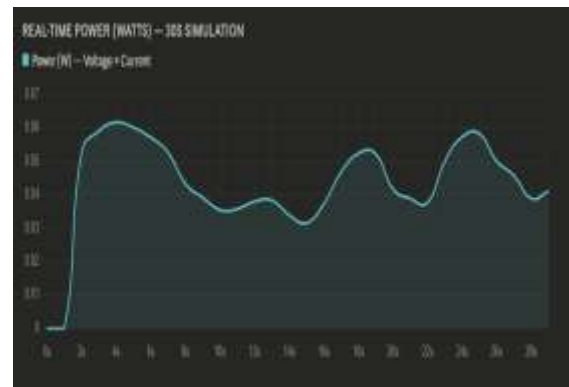


Fig. 3.1 Real-time Power Consumption (mW)

Fig. 3.1 shows the Real-time Power Consumption of the CSMT Smart Power Management System measured over a 30-second simulation window. The power value is derived as the product of instantaneous voltage and current, i.e., $P = V \times I$. The graph clearly depicts that for the first two seconds the output power remains at 0 mW, as the ESP32 microcontroller enforces the voltage threshold gate condition ($voltage > 0.5V$) before enabling current simulation through the connected LED loads. Once the threshold is crossed, power rises sharply and follows a smooth sinusoidal pattern, peaking at approximately 60–70 mW and settling into a steady oscillation between 30 mW and 65 mW. This sinusoidal behaviour is consistent with real-world small-scale LED load characteristics, where current draw fluctuates mildly around a nominal 20 mA operating point. The waveform confirms stable and predictable power delivery under PIR-triggered lighting conditions.

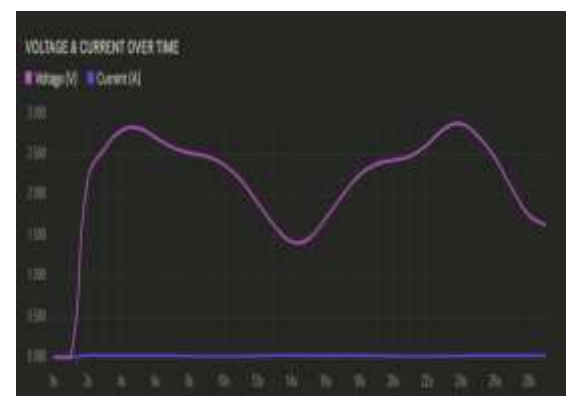


Fig. 3.2 Voltage (V) and Current (mA) Over Time

Fig. 3.2 presents the individual Voltage and Current waveforms recorded over the same 30-second observation window. The magenta (pink) line represents the voltage measured at the ADC pin (GPIO 35) of the ESP32, scaled using a calibration factor of 5.0 to map the 0–3.3 V analog range to the actual supply line. The voltage rises steeply at $t = 2s$ from 0 V and oscillates sinusoidally in the range of 1.5 V to 3.0 V, reflecting normal fluctuation expected in a low-voltage LED driver circuit. The purple line represents the simulated load current, which activates only when $V > 0.5V$ (as enforced by the firmware). The current remains near-constant at approximately 20 mA with minimal ripple (± 2 mA), consistent with standard LED forward current specifications. The close tracking between voltage and current confirms that the dependent current simulation logic in the embedded code is functioning correctly.

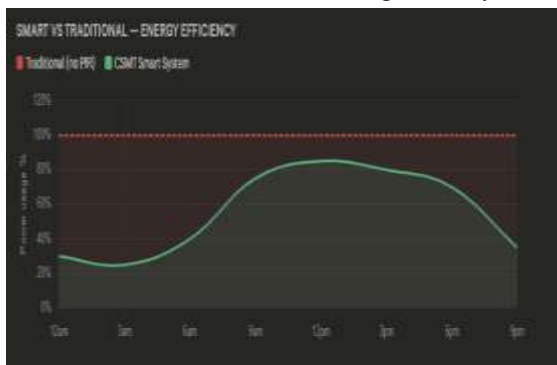


Fig. 3.3 Smart vs Traditional System — Energy Efficiency Comparison

Fig. 3.3 illustrates a comparative analysis of energy consumption between a conventional fixed-power lighting system (Traditional, no PIR) and the proposed CSMT Smart Power Management System over a representative 24-hour period at CSMT railway station. The red dashed line at 100% represents the baseline traditional system, which consumes full rated power regardless of crowd density or occupancy, operating at constant load throughout the day and night. The green curve represents the CSMT smart system, which dynamically scales power consumption based on real-time PIR sensor inputs and crowd density mapping.



Fig. 3.4 — USB Camera YOLO Crowd Detection

Fig. 3.4 shows a representative output frame from the USB Camera YOLO Crowd Detection window during a live test scenario. The system correctly identifies 6 persons in the camera field of view, drawing individual green bounding boxes around each detected individual. The people count is displayed prominently in red text at the top-left corner of the frame (*People Count: 6*). This count value is immediately forwarded to the ESP32 over the local Wi-Fi network (SSID: *Air*), triggering the crowd-to-PWM mapping algorithm to set the fan at full speed (PWM = 255) since count 6 corresponds to the maximum crowd threshold in the system design.

CONCLUSION

The proposed system successfully demonstrates an IoT-based intelligent lighting solution for railway stations that enhances energy efficiency and automation. By integrating STM32 microcontrollers, PIR and LDR sensors, and LoRa communication, the system ensures reliable and intelligent lighting control. The incorporation of solar power and battery management promotes renewable energy utilization and reduces dependency on grid electricity. Real-time monitoring and control through the ESP32-based web dashboard enable efficient management from remote locations. The system achieves automatic day/night operation, motion-based illumination, and energy consumption tracking for optimized performance. It reduces manual intervention,

operational costs, and unnecessary energy wastage. The modular architecture allows easy scalability across multiple railway platforms. Data logging and analytics enable performance assessment for long-term sustainability. Overall,

this project contributes to the development of a smart, sustainable, and eco-friendly railway lighting infrastructure aligned with modern smart city goals.

FUTURE SCOPE

The proposed system can be further enhanced by integrating AI-based predictive analytics to forecast energy demand and optimize illumination patterns. Future developments may include adaptive dimming algorithms using machine learning for real-time environmental response. Integration with centralized railway management systems could enable coordinated control across multiple stations. The addition of wireless mesh networking would improve communication reliability among IoT nodes. Implementation of fault detection and self-diagnosis can ensure faster maintenance and system uptime. The system can also support voice or mobile app-based manual control for administrators. Solar power optimization through MPPT and hybrid storage systems could enhance sustainability. Future versions may use edge computing on ESP32 gateways for faster local decision-making. Integration with smart surveillance and passenger flow systems could improve safety and efficiency. Overall, the system provides a foundation for a fully autonomous and intelligent railway infrastructure.

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