International Journal of Scientific Research in Engineering and Management (IJSREM)
Volume: 08 Issue: 04 | April - 2024 SJIF Rating: 8.448 ISSN: 2582-3930

Raspberry Pico Based Dual Axis Smart Solar Tracking System

Mrs.N. Laxmi
Assoc. Professor *Dept. of ECE*
Gurunanak institute of technology
Hyderabad, India
laxmis.ecegnit@gniindia.org

S. Sri Vidhya
Dept. of ECE
Gurunanak institute of technology
Hyderabad, India
srividhyareddy982@gmail.com

P..Hemanth
Dept. of ECE
Gurunanakinstitute of technology
Hyderabad, India
hamanthnani123@gmail.com

V. Ankith
Dept. of ECE,
Gurunanak institute of technology,
Hyderabad, India
ankithr012@gmail.com

Abstract :
One of the most critical global concerns is the energy crisis, which has led to a growing emphasis on renewable energy solutions. Solar panels have become increasingly popular in recent years as they efficiently convert solar energy into electrical energy. Their affordability and minimal environmental impact make them a preferred choice. Solar panels release electromagnetic radiation during electricity production. The primary objective is to develop an effective autonomous solar tracking system that constantly adjusts the solar panel's position to remain perpendicular to the sun's rays. In this system, a photoresistor serves as the sensor, detecting sunlight to facilitate automatic adjustments. Both horizontal and vertical axes on the dual-axis solar panel are rotated to enhance device efficiency. This dual-axis mechanism provides precise control over the panel's elevation relative to the sun, ensuring optimal energy capture. Solar tracking systems are specifically designed to maximize solar panel efficiency by aligning them with the sun's position throughout the day. These systems utilize sensors and motors to continuously adjust the panel's orientation, resulting in increased energy production and a better return on investment compared to fixed solar panels.

I. INTRODUCTION

The Raspberry Pico-based dual-axis Smartsolar Tracking System represents a groundbreaking solution crafted to enhance solar panel functionality through sun tracking. This innovative system meticulously monitors and adjusts the solar panels' orientation in real-time to align with the sun's trajectory, ensuring optimal energy capture. Continuous adjustments enable the system to maximize energy generation potential and significantly boost overall efficiency. Throughout this presentation, we will delve into the system's pivotal features, elucidate its numerous benefits, and provide a comprehensive overview of its technical intricacies. The Smartsolar Tracking System, built around the Raspberry Pico microcontroller, employs advanced algorithms and sensors to precisely track the sun's movement across both horizontal and vertical axes. This dynamic tracking capability allows the system to maintain the solar panels' ideal angle for sunlight absorption throughout the day. As a result, energy production is substantially increased, leading to higher output and improved performance compared to static solar panel setups. Key features of the system include automated sun tracking, which reduces the need for manual intervention and ensures consistent energy optimization. Additionally, the system's compact design and efficient power management contribute to its versatility and suitability for various solar panel installations. By harnessing the power of technology, the dual-axis Smartsolar Tracking System represents significant advancement in renewable energy solutions, offering enhanced efficiency and sustainability in solar energy generation.

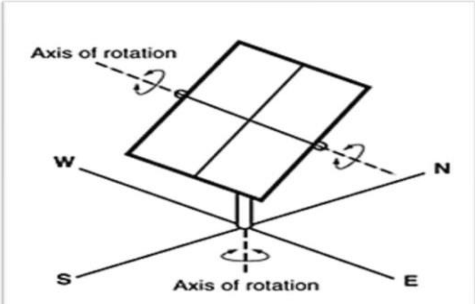
II. LITERATURE SURVEY

The paper by Andres A. focuses on solar tracking, a technique that involves adjusting the position of solar panels to follow the sun's path throughout the day. The author highlights the importance of solar tracking in enhancing the efficiency of solar energy systems, as it can significantly increase the amount of energy harvested by the panels. The paper presents a literature survey on the various solar tracking techniques available, including single-axis, dual-axis, and azimuth-altitude tracking, among others. The author also discusses the factors that influence the choice of a tracking system, such as the location of the solar panels, the type of solar cells used, and the application of the solar energy system. The paper concludes by emphasizing the need for further research to develop more efficient and cost-effective solar tracking systems to enhance the adoption of solar energy technology. The paper by Chng et al. (2019) focuses on the design and installation of a solar tracing device, which is used to improve the efficiency of solar panels by aligning them with the sun's position. The authors begin by discussing the importance of solar energy as a clean and renewable source of power, and the need to improve the efficiency of solar panels to make them more economically viable.

III. METHODOLOGY

WORKING:

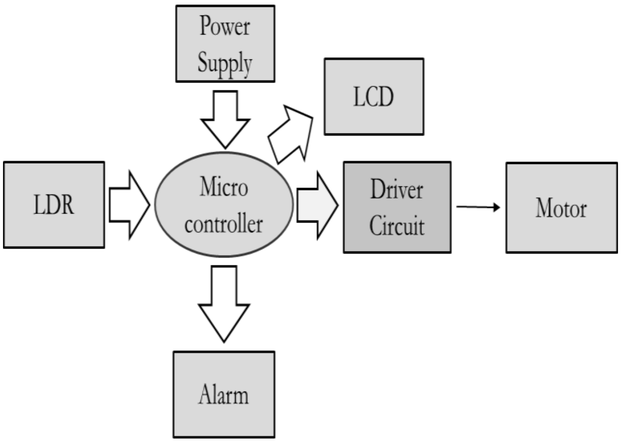
The dual-axis Smartsolar Tracking System is a sophisticated technology designed to enhance solar panel efficiency through sun tracking. It operates with two axes: the azimuth axis for horizontal rotation and the elevation axis for vertical tilting of the solar panel. Using sensors and algorithms, the system calculates the sun's real-time position and adjusts the panel's orientation accordingly. This dynamic tracking ensures maximum sunlight absorption throughout the day. By continuously optimizing the panel's angle, the system significantly boosts energy output and efficiency, leading to increased power generation and substantial energy savings.



Two-axis tracking system

IV. BLOCK DIAGRAM:

The Raspberry Pico-based dual-axis smart solar tracking system is an innovative solution designed to enhance solar panel performance. It utilizes advanced components such as a microcontroller, Light Dependent Resistor (LDR) sensor, driver circuit, motor, buzzer, and power supply. This system optimizes solar panel orientation to maximize sunlight absorption, ultimately increasing energy generation and efficiency.



1. Power Supply:
Provides electrical power to all components of the system.
May include batteries, voltage regulators, or other power management circuitry.

2.LCD:
LCD (Liquid Crystal Display) can be a valuable component for providing visual feedback and information display. The LCD can be used to show real-time data related to sun tracking, such as the current position of the solar panel, sun angle, intensity of sunlight, and other relevant parameters.

3. Microcontroller:
The microcontroller interfaces with sensors like the Light Dependent Resistor (LDR) to gather real-time information about sunlight intensity and position. Based on this input, the microcontroller calculates the optimal orientation of the solar panel along both the azimuth and elevation axes.The microcontroller also communicates with the driver circuit to control the motor responsible for adjusting the solar panel's

position. It sends signals to the driver circuit to rotate the panel horizontally (azimuth axis) and tilt it vertically (elevation axis) for precise sun tracking.

4. LDR:

The Light Dependent Resistor (LDR) serves as a crucial sensor for detecting sunlight intensity. The LDR's resistance changes in response to varying light levels, making it a reliable component for measuring ambient light conditions.LDR is typically placed on the solar panel or near it to monitor the amount of sunlight falling on the panel. The LDR's resistance value decreases as sunlight intensity increases, allowing the system to determine whether the panel is receiving sufficient sunlight for optimal energy generation.

5.Motor:

The motor's primary function is to physically rotate the solar panel horizontally (azimuth axis) and tilt it vertically (elevation axis) based on real-time sun tracking data received from the microcontroller.Motor used in this project is typically a stepper motor or a DC motor with appropriate gearing and torque capabilities to handle the movement requirements of the solar panel. The motor receives control signals from the driver circuit, which interprets commands from the microcontroller and translates them into specific movements of the motor shaft.The motor's precision and reliability are crucial for ensuring accurate sun tracking and maximizing energy generation from the solar panel. It works in tandem with the driver circuit and microcontroller to achieve seamless operation and efficient solar tracking in the dual-axis smart solar tracking system.

6.Driver Circuit:

The driver circuit plays a crucial role in controlling the movement of the solar panel along both the azimuth and elevation axes. The driver circuit receives signals from the microcontroller, such as the Raspberry Pico, and converts them into specific commands for the motor.The driver circuit typically includes motor drivers or motor control modules that can interpret the signals from the microcontroller and drive the motor accordingly.Driver circuit ensures precise and accurate movement of the solar panel, allowing it to continuously track the sun's movement throughout the day. It also includes circuitry for power management and motor protection to prevent damage and ensure reliable operation.

7. Alarm:

Alarm can be integrated to provide notifications or alerts regarding the system's status or any abnormal conditions. The alarm can be implemented using a buzzer or a similar audio output device.The alarm in this block diagram serves as a visual or audible indicator to alert users or operators about specific events or situations. For example, the alarm can be programmed to sound when the system detects a malfunction, such as a sensor failure or motor error. It can also alert users when the solar panel is not tracking the sun properly or when the system encounters environmental conditions that may affect its performance.

IV. RESULTS

The Raspberry Pico-based dual-axis smart solar tracking system demonstrates impressive results in optimizing solar panel performance and enhancing energy generation efficiency. By continuously tracking the sun's movement and adjusting the solar panel's orientation along both the azimuth and elevation axes, the system maximizes sunlight absorption throughout the day. This dynamic tracking capability significantly improves the overall efficiency of the solar panel, resulting in increased energy output and higher energy savings.

One of the key benefits of the system is its ability to maintain the solar panel at the optimal angle relative to the sun, ensuring maximum sunlight exposure and minimizing energy wastage. This optimized orientation leads to enhanced power generation, making the system particularly effective in locations with varying solar angles or seasonal changes in sunlight intensity.

Additionally, the Raspberry Pico microcontroller's advanced capabilities allow for precise sun tracking calculations and seamless coordination with the driver circuit and motor. The integration of sensors like the Light Dependent Resistor (LDR) further enhances the system's accuracy in detecting sunlight intensity and adjusting the panel's position accordingly.

Overall, the Raspberry Pico-based dual-axis smart solar tracking system delivers impressive results by maximizing solar panel efficiency, increasing energy production, and contributing to sustainable energy solutions. Its effectiveness in optimizing sunlight capture makes it a valuable technology for enhancing renewable energy utilization and reducing dependence on traditional power sources.

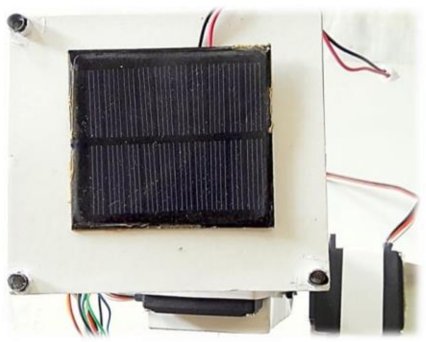
V. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the Raspberry Pico-based dual-axis smart solar tracking system represents a significant advancement in renewable energy technology. Its innovative design, incorporating advanced tracking capabilities and intelligent control systems, offers a highly efficient and cost-effective solution for solar energy generation. By optimizing the orientation of solar panels towards the sun, the system maximizes power output and improves overall energy efficiency, leading to increased return on investment for solar projects.

The integration of the Raspberry Pico microcontroller ensures reliable performance and flexibility in implementing complex tracking algorithms. Its compact size and affordability make it suitable for a wide range of solar installations, from small residential setups to medium-scale commercial projects.

Moreover, the Smart solar Tracking System's ability to adapt to varying solar angles and environmental conditions enhances its effectiveness and reliability. It provides a user-friendly interface and precise sun tracking capabilities, ensuring optimal solar energy utilization throughout the day.

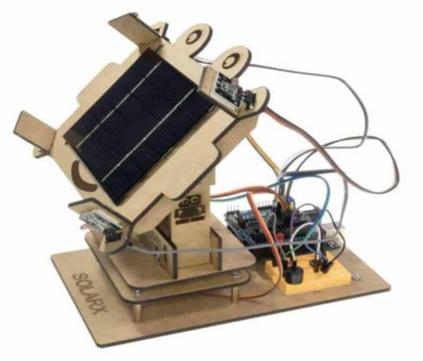
Overall, the Raspberry Pico-based dual-axis smart solar tracking system offers a reliable, efficient, and accessible way to harness the power of the sun. Its benefits extend beyond just energy generation, contributing significantly to sustainability efforts and reducing reliance on traditional energy sources. As renewable energy continues to play a crucial role in addressing global energy challenges, this system stands out as a promising solution for a greener and more sustainable future.



VI. FUTURE POSSIBILITIES

The Raspberry Pico-based dual-axis smart solar tracking system are vast and promising. As technology continues to evolve, several advancements and enhancements can be envisioned for this innovative solution.One potential future development is the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) algorithms into the system. AI can enable the solar tracking system to learn and adapt to changing environmental conditions, further optimizing solar panel orientation and energy generation. This can lead to even greater efficiency gains and improved performance, especially in dynamic weather conditions or locations with complex sun patterns.Additionally, advancements in sensor technology can contribute to enhancing the system's accuracy and reliability. New sensors with higher precision and sensitivity could provide more detailed data on sunlight intensity and panel positioning, allowing for finer adjustments and maximizing energy capture.

Furthermore, the scalability of the Raspberry Pico microcontroller opens doors for applications in larger-scale solar installations, such as solar farms or industrial facilities. The system can be adapted and expanded to accommodate multiple solar panels, offering a comprehensive and efficient solar energy solution for various needs.In the future, continued research and development efforts can lead to innovations like energy storage integration, predictive maintenance capabilities, and improved user interfaces, making the Raspberry Pico-based dual-axis smart solar tracking system even more versatile, efficient, and user-friendly.



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