Smart Energy Meter Analyzer Using IOT and Machine Learning

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Abstract - This paper presents a Smart Energy Meter Analyzer that integrates IoT (Internet of Things) and Machine Learning (ML) to monitor and classify power consumption in real-time. The system employs three current transformers (CTs) connected to an ESP32 microcontroller to measure current across three load phases, converting readings to power (W) and energy units (kWh). Data is transmitted via MQTT protocol to a cloud-based dashboard, which visualizes live consumption metrics (wattage, frequency, and units) and employs a Random Forest classifier to predict consumption classes: Low, Average, or High. The ML model, trained on a balanced dataset of 4 input features (watt1, watt2, watt3, unit), achieves accurate classification, enabling users to identify inefficiencies and optimize energy usage. Experimental results demonstrate the system's effectiveness in real-world scenarios, with live hardware data updates and predictive alerts for high consumption. This work bridges IoT-based sensing with ML-driven analytics, offering a scalable solution for smart energy management.

Key Words: Smart Energy Meter, IoT, Machine Learning, Random Forest, MQTT, ESP32, Current Transformers, Power Consumption Classification.

1.INTRODUCTION

Energy consumption monitoring is critical for optimizing resource usage and reducing costs in residential and industrial settings. Traditional energy meters lack real-time analytics and predictive capabilities, limiting proactive energy management. This paper addresses these gaps by proposing a **Smart Energy Meter Analyzer** that combines **IoT hardware** with **ML-based classification** to provide actionable insights.

In the modern age of digitalization and sustainability, efficient energy consumption has become a vital concern across residential, commercial, and industrial domains. Traditional energy meters only log cumulative usage without offering real-time insights or load-specific analysis. This paper introduces a novel approach that combines the capabilities of **Internet of Things (IoT)** for real-time data acquisition and **Machine Learning (ML)** for intelligent classification of energy usage.

The core hardware consists of an **ESP32 microcontroller** paired with **three current transformers (CTs)**, enabling precise current measurement for three individual electrical loads. Power (in watts) is calculated using real-time current values, and energy consumption in units (kWh) is derived based on the ON time and wattage. This data is visualized on an **LCD module** and simultaneously transmitted over the internet using **MQTT protocol** to a remote IoT dashboard, enhancing accessibility and control.

The proposed system also integrates a **Random Forest algorithm** to classify energy usage patterns. A dataset containing watt1, watt2, watt3, and unit as input features is used to train the model, which predicts the overall consumption category as **Low**, **Average**, or **High**. This intelligent classification allows users to understand usage trends, detect anomalies, and take informed decisions to reduce electricity costs and environmental impact.

This paper details the system design, implementation, and performance evaluation of the smart energy analyzer. It aims to provide a low-cost, scalable, and intelligent solution for modern energy management systems.

The system architecture comprises:

1. **Hardware Layer**:
   - **ESP32 microcontroller** interfaced with **three CT sensors** to measure current across three load phases.
   - Calculations for **instantaneous power (W)** and **cumulative energy (kWh)** based on current readings and time.
   - **LCD display** for local monitoring and **Wi-Fi module** for MQTT-based data transmission.
2. **Software Layer**:
   - **Flask-based web application** (see main.py, dashboard.html) with real-time dashboards showing live sensor data (current, power, units) and ML predictions.
   - **Random Forest model** (trained on Balanced_Three_Class_Consumption_Dataset.xlsx) to classify consumption into three categories, triggering alerts for high usage.
3. **Communication**:
   - **MQTT protocol** (via mqtt.eclipseprojects.io) streams data from hardware to the cloud, while **Socket.IO** enables live updates on the web interface.

2. BLOCK DIAGRAM

Loads (Appliances):

- Three individual electrical appliances are connected to the system.
- Each load is monitored separately to track its energy consumption.

Current Transformers (CTs):

- Each appliance's current is sensed using dedicated current transformers (CT1, CT2, CT3).
- These CTs provide analog signals corresponding to the current consumed by each load.

ESP32 Microcontroller:

- Acts as the central processing unit.
- It reads analog signals from the CTs, calculates the corresponding current, power (watt1, watt2, watt3), and total unit consumption over time.
- It also determines the frequency of the power supply.
- This data is then processed and transmitted for display and further use.

LCD Display:

- Displays real-time readings including watt1, watt2, watt3, frequency, and units consumed.
- This helps users to visualize consumption directly from the hardware interface.

MQTT IoT Panel App:

- The ESP32 sends the energy data over Wi-Fi using the MQTT protocol.
- The data is then viewed remotely through an IoT dashboard or mobile application, allowing users to monitor power usage from anywhere.

Machine Learning Module:

- The same energy data is sent to a backend system where a trained **Random Forest classifier** predicts the class of power consumption.
- Input features: watt1, watt2, watt3, and unit.
- Output classes: Low, Average, or High power consumption.
- This provides intelligent analysis of energy usage trends.

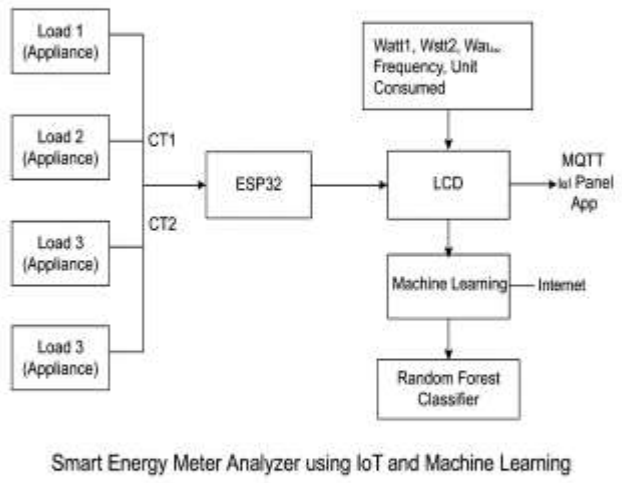


Fig. 1 Block Diagram

3. LITERATURE REVIEW

With the growing global emphasis on sustainable energy management and smart grid technologies, significant research has been conducted on intelligent energy monitoring systems that incorporate Internet of Things (IoT) and Machine Learning (ML) techniques. This section reviews the key contributions in the areas of smart metering, IoT-based energy monitoring, and ML-driven energy analytics.

IoT-Based Energy Monitoring Systems: IoT-enabled smart meters have revolutionized the way energy data is collected and monitored. In [1], the authors proposed a real-time energy monitoring system using ESP8266 and current sensors, which enabled wireless data transmission to a cloud platform. Similarly, [2] developed a system that uses CT sensors with Arduino and publishes energy data to a web server for visualization. These systems successfully demonstrated the feasibility of IoT-based remote monitoring but lacked intelligent analysis or classification features.

Smart Energy Meters with Load Profiling: In [3], an energy meter with load profiling capability was introduced using current and voltage sensors, where the load patterns were logged for later analysis. However, such systems often required manual interpretation of the logged data and were not equipped to provide automatic consumption classification or optimization suggestions.

Machine Learning for Energy Consumption Prediction:
Recent research focuses on integrating ML algorithms for intelligent insights. The work in [4] applied support vector machines and k-nearest neighbors (KNN) algorithms to predict household energy usage patterns. A Random Forest-based prediction model was proposed in [5] for classifying energy usage levels into predefined categories. These approaches show the effectiveness of supervised ML models in understanding energy trends but often depend on large, complex datasets and high-end computational platforms.

Hybrid Systems with IoT and ML:
Few integrated solutions have been proposed where IoT hardware interfaces directly with an ML classifier for real-time decision-making. In [6], the authors developed a smart home energy manager using MQTT protocol for data transmission and decision trees for consumption prediction. However, such implementations are rare and often constrained by hardware complexity or high cost.

Research Gap:
While numerous solutions exist either for data acquisition (IoT) or energy prediction (ML), few integrate both in a cost-effective and hardware-efficient manner. Most lack real-time classification at the edge or require cloud-dependent analytics. Additionally, many studies do not account for multiple load-specific monitoring within a single system.

4. FLOWCHART

The flowchart illustrates the process of the Smart Energy Meter Analyzer using IoT and Machine Learning:

1. Start – System initialization.
2. ESP32 Initialization – The ESP32 board powers on and sets up all sensors and Wi-Fi.
3. Read Current from CT Sensors – Three current transformers read individual currents from three loads.
4. Calculate Power (Watt1, Watt2, Watt3) – Power consumption is computed for each load.
5. Measure Frequency – System monitors supply frequency.
6. Calculate Unit Consumption – Based on power and ON time, energy usage in units is computed.
7. Display on LCD – All data (Watt1, Watt2, Watt3, Frequency, Units) is shown on the LCD.
8. Send Data via MQTT – All readings are published to an IoT dashboard via MQTT over the internet.
9. ML Prediction (RF Model) – Trained Random Forest model predicts power consumption class: Low, Average, or High.
10. Display Result on Web Interface – Prediction is visualized in the web dashboard.
11. End / Repeat – Loop continues for real-time monitoring.

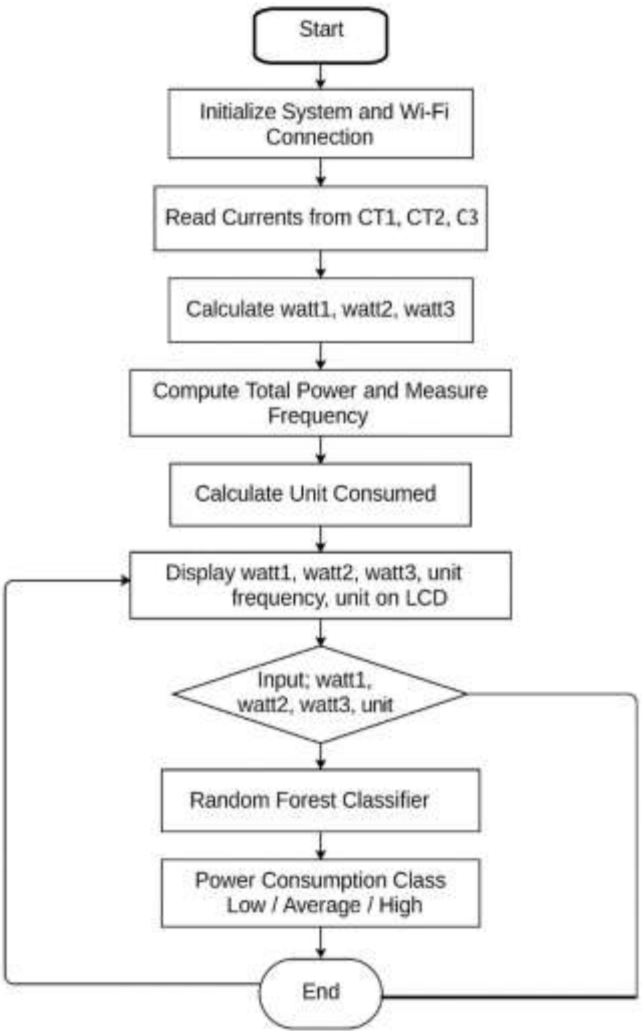


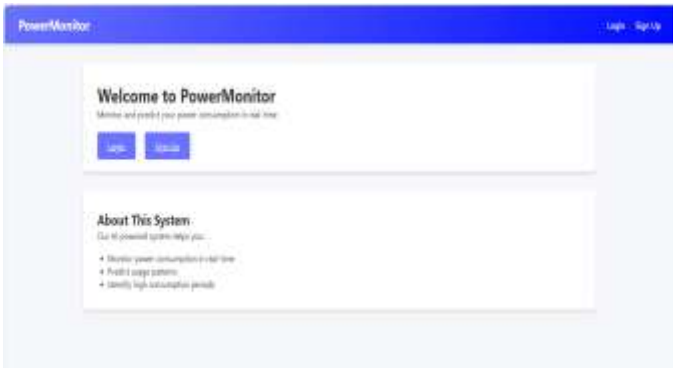
Fig. 2 Flowchart

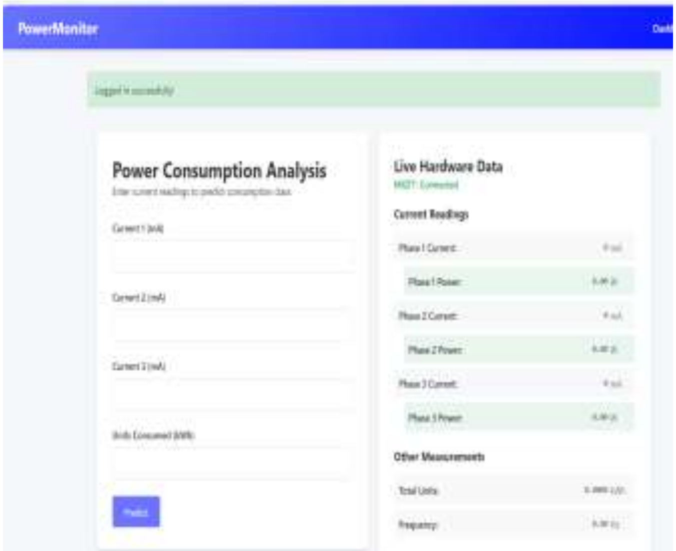
International Journal of Scientific Research in Engineering and Management (IJSREM)
Volume: 09 Issue: 05 | May - 2025 SJIF Rating: 8.586 ISSN: 2582-3930

5. RESULTS

HARDWARE SETUP

ML PPREDICTION WEBPAGE





6. CONCLUSIONS

The **Smart Energy Meter Analyzer using IoT and Machine Learning** provides an efficient and intelligent solution for monitoring and analysing energy consumption in real time. This project successfully integrates hardware components like **ESP32** and **current transformers** with a software stack that includes **MQTT-based IoT communication** and **Random Forest-based machine learning prediction**. Key conclusions drawn from the implementation are:

1. **Accurate Load Monitoring**: The system accurately measures the current and power consumption of three separate loads, providing real-time insights into energy usage.
2. **Energy Unit Calculation**: Based on cumulative ON time and power, the system reliably calculates total energy consumed (in kWh), allowing users to track electricity usage effectively.
3. **IoT Integration**: By using MQTT, all energy metrics are transmitted to an IoT dashboard, enabling remote monitoring, logging, and visualization through the internet.
4. **Machine Learning-Based Classification**: The Random Forest algorithm classifies consumption behavior into **low**, **average**, and **high** categories, offering an intelligent layer for energy analysis and potential optimization.
5. **User-Friendly Interface**: With LCD output and a web dashboard, the system is intuitive for end-users to interact with and understand consumption trends.
6. **Scalability and Practical Use**: The modular nature of the system allows for scaling to more loads or integration into commercial and residential energy management platforms.

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