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IoT-Enabled Solar Power Monitoring and Fault Detection System

Kadirvel G¹, Arul Selvan K², Kishore Deepan P³, Thulasi Kumar G⁴

Assistant Professor, Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering, The Kavary Engineering College
(Autonomous), Mecheri, Salem, Tamil Nadu, India¹

UG Students, Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering, The Kavary Engineering College
(Autonomous), Mecheri, Salem, Tamil Nadu, India^{2,3,4}

ABSTRACT: The principal objective of this venture is to find an exceptionally exact sunlight based energy checking, Fault recognition and Position following of sun powered charger. A sun powered charger assembles sun oriented energy, then, at that point, and it changes it converted to electrical energy, then stores it in a battery. voltage will be estimated by voltage sensor. The encompassing temperature and mugginess will be estimated by temperature and dampness sensor. The light force will be estimated by LDR (Light Dependence Resistor). The current, voltage, stickiness, temperature, LDR (Light Dependence Resistor) values will be shipped off Node Microcontroller unit which has inbuilt WIFI so it moves the qualities over Internet of things in ThingSpeak and shows the qualities in chart. LDR values confounded against voltage and current quantities. This issue identification and will be displayed in ThingSpeak portal. Situating the sunlight powered charger move using Servo motor as per the LDR value.

KEYWORDS: Solar Energy Optimization, IoT Based Monitoring, Real time Energy Analytics

I. INTRODUCTION

Solar energy has emerged as one of the most reliable and sustainable sources of electricity, with applications in residential, industrial, and commercial sectors. However, despite its benefits, solar power systems often face efficiency losses and operational challenges due to environmental conditions, faulty components, and lack of real-time monitoring. A poorly monitored solar system may experience reduced energy output, undetected faults, and increased maintenance costs, limiting its effectiveness and long-term viability. To overcome these challenges, modern IoT-based solar monitoring and fault detection systems have been introduced, integrating real-time data acquisition, AI-driven analytics, and automated fault diagnosis to enhance energy management. This project focuses on developing an IoT-enabled solar power monitoring system that utilizes ESP32 microcontrollers, various sensors, and cloud-based analytics to track key parameters such as temperature, voltage, current, and light intensity. The collected data is transmitted to IoT platforms like ThingSpeak and Blynk, where it is analyzed to detect performance fluctuations, efficiency drops, and potential system failures. This real-time monitoring approach allows for early fault detection, reducing unnecessary maintenance expenses and improving overall system performance. One of the major components of this system is the ESP32 microcontroller, a powerful, low-cost, and energyefficient device that facilitates sensor integration, wireless communication, and real-time data processing. Along with DHT11 sensors for temperature and humidity monitoring, LDR sensors for light intensity measurement, voltage sensors for energy tracking, and current sensors for load management, the system provides a comprehensive view of the solar panel's efficiency and health status. The use of servo motors for solar tracking further ensures that the panels adjust their position based on sunlight direction, maximizing energy absorption and improving overall power output. Traditional solar power systems are often static and require manual inspections, leading to inefficiencies in detecting system malfunctions. The introduction of AI-powered fault detection algorithms in this project allows the system to learn from historical data, detect abnormal patterns, and predict failures before they occur. By implementing machine learning models, the system can classify various types of faults such as panel degradation, wiring issues, shading losses, and inverter malfunctions. This predictive maintenance strategy not only extends the lifespan of the solar panels but also ensures that the energy generation remains consistent and optimized. Another key advantage of this IoT-based solar monitoring system is its ability to provide remote accessibility. Users can monitor real-time energy statistics through cloud dashboards on their smartphones or computers, receiving instant alerts and notifications in case of system anomalies. This makes solar

energy management more user-friendly and automated, eliminating the need for frequent manual interventions and allowing for data-driven decision-making.

OUTLINE OF THE PROJECT:

Managing a solar power system can be a complex task, but with IoT-based automation and real-time monitoring, it becomes effortless. Traditional solar systems require manual checks, troubleshooting, and maintenance, which can be time-consuming and inefficient. However, this system simplifies everything by automating energy tracking, fault detection, and remote monitoring. With the ESP32 microcontroller at its core, the system continuously collects real-time data on voltage, current, temperature, and light intensity from sensors and sends it to ThingSpeak and Blynk IoT platforms. This allows users to monitor their solar system's performance from anywhere using a smartphone or computer. One of the key aspects of ease of use is the automated fault detection mechanism. Instead of manually inspecting the system for failures, AI algorithms analyze performance data and detect issues such as low energy output, faulty wiring, or panel degradation. When an anomaly is found, the system sends instant notifications, helping users take action before the problem escalates. This eliminates unnecessary maintenance efforts and reduces system downtime. Another user-friendly feature is the automated solar tracking system, which adjusts the panel's position based on sunlight direction. Instead of relying on a fixed panel setup, the system uses servo motors controlled by LDR sensors to maximize energy absorption throughout the day. Since this adjustment happens automatically, users don't need to manually reposition their solar panels, ensuring higher efficiency with zero effort. For quick insights, the system includes an LCD display, which provides real-time updates on energy output and system status. Additionally, the IoT dashboards on ThingSpeak and Blynk display easy-to-understand graphs, live data trends, and automated energy reports. Whether it's a homeowner checking their rooftop solar system or a business managing a large-scale solar farm, the interface is designed to be intuitive and accessible to all users. Installation and setup are also hassle-free, requiring only basic wiring and sensor connections. The system is designed to be plug-and-play, meaning that once installed, it operates automatically with minimal maintenance.

II. LITERATURE SURVEY

Patel, R., Sharma, P. (2021), This paper proposed an IoT-based smart transformer monitoring system to detect real-time voltage, current, and temperature variations. The system utilizes wireless communication and cloud storage for continuous monitoring, reducing dependency on manual inspections. The study demonstrated that predictive maintenance strategies improve the reliability of transformers by preventing unexpected failures. The authors also discussed sensor integration with AI-based fault prediction models. The research concluded that IoT-enabled monitoring enhances system efficiency, fault detection, and longevity of electrical power systems, especially in remote and industrial applications. Wang, L., Chen, Z. (2020), This paper investigated machine learning algorithms for transformer fault detection. Their study introduced predictive analytics using Support Vector Machines (SVM) and Artificial Neural Networks (ANNs) to classify transformer faults such as overheating, oil degradation, and insulation breakdown. The system achieved 94% accuracy in identifying failures before they caused power outages. The research emphasized the role of big data analytics and real-time monitoring in enhancing predictive maintenance. The authors concluded that ML-based diagnostics significantly improve fault detection efficiency, reduce maintenance costs, and extend transformer lifespan. Kumar, S., Das, R. (2019), This paper explored the application of solar energy in transformer protection systems. The study focused on solar-powered IoT-based monitoring systems that ensure continuous operation even during power failures. The authors integrated solar panels, DC-DC converters, and battery storage to power temperature and oil-level sensors. The results showed that renewable energy integration reduces transformer failures due to power supply interruptions. The study concluded that a solar-powered monitoring system is a cost-effective and sustainable approach to improving power grid reliability and ensuring efficient transformer operation in remote areas. Lee, H., Tan, J. (2018), This paper analyzed advanced cooling techniques to prevent transformer overheating. Their study developed an automated fan and liquid cooling system, controlled by real-time temperature sensors and microcontrollers. The proposed system dynamically adjusts cooling intensity based on thermal stress conditions. The research highlighted that active cooling reduces overheating risks by 40% compared to conventional cooling methods. The authors concluded that integrating smart cooling with IoT-based monitoring enhances transformer reliability, prevents failures, and minimizes energy losses in power distribution networks. Singh, A., Verma, P. (2021), This paper proposed an IoT-enabled smart transformer monitoring system that continuously tracks voltage, current, temperature, and oil level. The study used wireless sensor networks (WSN) and a cloud-based platform to provide real-time transformer health status. The system helps detect anomalies such as overvoltage,

overheating, and oil leaks, enabling predictive maintenance and reducing power failures. The research demonstrated that early fault detection through IoT can reduce downtime by 50% and improve transformer efficiency. The authors concluded that real-time remote monitoring is crucial for ensuring the reliability and safety of power distribution systems. Zhao, L., Wei, Y. (2020), This paper developed a deep learning-based fault detection system for transformers using Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) and Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks. The system analyzed historical sensor data to detect early signs of faults such as winding insulation breakdown, overheating, and oil degradation. Experimental results showed that the CNN-LSTM model achieved 96% accuracy in predicting transformer failures. The study concluded that integrating AI and IoT-based monitoring significantly improves fault detection speed and predictive maintenance strategies, reducing operational costs and extending transformer lifespan. Gupta, R., Sharma, M. (2019), This paper explored the role of smart grid technologies in transformer protection and efficiency enhancement. They integrated IoT-based sensors, cloud computing, and smart meters to create a real-time data acquisition system. The proposed system enhances power load balancing and ensures optimal voltage regulation. The study showed that integrating smart grids with transformer monitoring improved fault detection by 45% and reduced energy losses. The authors concluded that smart grid-enabled transformer protection systems are essential for modern power distribution networks, ensuring efficiency, stability, and sustainability. Ahmad, N., Khan, S. (2018), This paper proposed a solar-powered active cooling system for transformers, integrating thermal sensors, IoT modules, and an AI-driven cooling mechanism. The system automatically adjusts fan speed and oil circulation based on real-time temperature fluctuations. Results showed a 35% reduction in overheating incidents, leading to improved efficiency and durability of transformers. The study highlighted that solar energy-driven cooling not only reduces power consumption but also enhances sustainability. The authors concluded that AI-integrated renewable energy solutions are vital for smart transformer management, particularly in remote and high-temperature regions. Raj, P., Bansal, K. (2017), This paper developed an IoT-based predictive maintenance model for transformers, using real-time data analytics and machine learning algorithms. The system continuously monitors voltage spikes, temperature variations, and oil levels, predicting potential faults before they occur. The research found that real-time monitoring reduced transformer failures by 60% and improved response time for preventive actions.

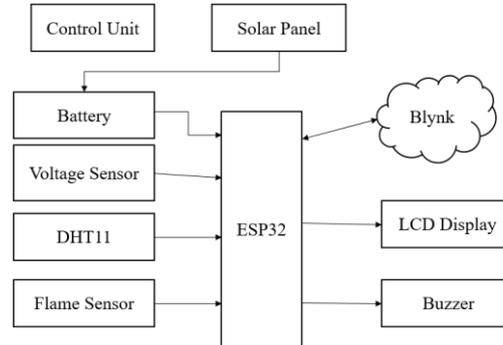
III. IMPLEMENTATION

3.1 EXISTING SYSTEM

- Traditional solar PV systems mainly focus on power generation but lack real-time monitoring and require manual inspection to check system performance.
- Conventional systems do not include advanced fault detection mechanisms, making it difficult to identify overheating, short circuits, or fire hazards at an early stage.
- Many existing solar setups operate without MPPT technology, resulting in reduced efficiency and lower energy extraction from solar panels.
- Battery charging and system parameters such as voltage, current, and environmental conditions are often not continuously monitored, leading to poor energy management and reduced battery life.
- Existing systems generally lack IoT-based remote monitoring and alert systems, making maintenance time-consuming and less reliable.

3.2. PROPOSED SYSTEM

- The proposed system develops an IoT-Enabled Solar Power Monitoring and Fault Detection System for real-time monitoring of solar panel performance and system parameters.
- It integrates Maximum Power Point Tracking (MPPT) to improve solar energy efficiency by extracting maximum power under varying environmental conditions.
- The system continuously monitors voltage, current, battery charging status, temperature, and humidity using multiple sensors for efficient energy management.
- A flame sensor and alert mechanism (buzzer) are incorporated to detect fire hazards and abnormal conditions, enhancing system safety.
- The ESP32 microcontroller with Blynk IoT platform enables remote monitoring, data visualization, and instant alert notifications through a smartphone application.



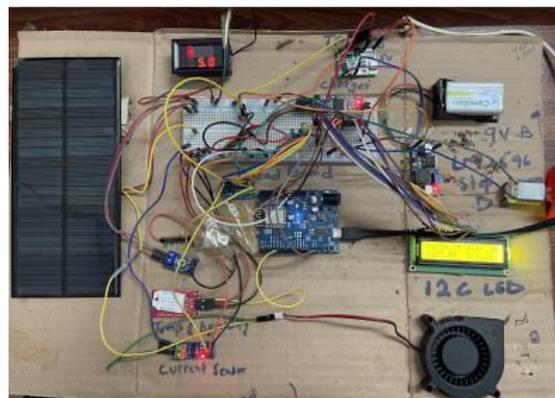
IV. WORKING

The proposed system architecture is meticulously designed to seamlessly integrate IoT and AI technologies, thereby enhancing the monitoring and control capabilities of solar panel systems. Comprising several key components, each fulfilling a vital role, the architecture ensures the overall functionality and effectiveness of the system.

1. Arduino-based Sensor Nodes: At the core of the system, Arduino-based sensor nodes serve as the primary data collection units. These nodes are equipped with an array of sensors including temperature, humidity, voltage, current, tilt angle, and light intensity sensors. Their primary function is to gather real-time environmental data from the solar panel installation. The Arduino microcontroller efficiently processes the sensor data, ensuring its readiness for transmission to the IoT platform.

2. ESP8266 Wi-Fi Modules: The ESP8266 Wi-Fi modules are instrumental in facilitating wireless communication between the Arduino-based sensor nodes and the IoT platform. They serve as the backbone for transmitting sensor data over Wi-Fi networks, thereby enabling seamless connectivity and remote monitoring of the solar panel system. One of the key aspects of the ESP8266 Wi-Fi modules is their robust performance, ensuring reliable data transmission essential for real-time monitoring and control. Their ability to consistently transmit data without interruption is vital for maintaining a continuous flow of information about the solar panel system's performance and status.

3. ThingSpeak IoT Platform: Integral to the system's functionality, the ThingSpeak IoT platform serves as the centralized hub for storing, visualizing, and analyzing data. Its user-friendly interface streamlines data management tasks and offers valuable insights into the solar panel system's performance without resorting to complicated processes or interfaces. ThingSpeak's intuitive design facilitates efficient data management, allowing system operators to navigate and access critical information effortlessly. This simplicity in interface design enhances operational efficiency, enabling swift decision-making based on real-time data.



Moreover, ThingSpeak boasts a suite of robust data analytics tools, empowering users to derive actionable insights from sensor data. These tools facilitate comprehensive analysis, uncovering trends, patterns, and anomalies crucial for optimizing system performance and implementing proactive maintenance strategies. Leveraging advanced analytics capabilities, operators can identify potential issues early on, mitigating downtime and maximizing energy generation.

ThingSpeak's robust data storage capabilities ensure the secure storage of sensor data in a centralized repository. This centralized storage not only guarantees data integrity but also facilitates easy retrieval and analysis of historical data for long-term trend identification. Furthermore, the platform's support for seamless integration with other IoT devices and platforms enhances interoperability and scalability. This interoperability allows for the integration of additional sensors or third-party applications, thereby expanding the system's capabilities and functionalities as needed. In essence, the ThingSpeak IoT platform plays a pivotal role in our system architecture, providing a centralized platform for efficient data management, visualization, and analysis. Its user-friendly interface, powerful analytics tools, robust data storage capabilities, and interoperability make it an indispensable tool for optimizing the performance and reliability of solar panel installations.



V. CONCLUSION

Implementing a solar panel monitoring and recommender system can be a highly effective tool for maximizing the performance of solar panel systems. Through continuous monitoring of energy output and environmental conditions, this system can promptly identify any issues and offer recommendations for improvement, leading to higher efficiency and reduced costs. The monitoring aspect of the plan involves gathering information on energy production, system performance, and environmental factors such as temperature and sunlight intensity, current, and humidity. After collecting this data, it is thoroughly analyzed to recognize patterns and trends and any abnormalities that may signify issues with the system. The recommender feature of the system employs the collected data to suggest improvements such as the percentage of charge coming and remaining in the battery, replacing defective components, or upgrading the system to a more efficient model. In general, a solar panel monitoring and recommender system can offer various advantages to solar panel owners, including enhanced energy efficiency, reduced expenses, and better system performance. By utilizing the power of data analysis and machine learning, these systems can ensure that solar panel systems operate at their peak performance, both currently and in the future.

VI. FUTURE SCOPE

Solar panel monitoring and recommender systems are gaining significance as solar power continues to expand. These systems offer valuable insights into the performance of solar panels, identify faults and potential issues, and provide recommendations for optimizing their efficiency. This response outlines possible areas for future development in this field. The field of solar panel monitoring is ripe for continued innovation and development. Future research efforts should focus on several key areas, including the development of more sophisticated algorithms for predictive maintenance and fault detection, the optimization of energy output and performance prediction through machine learning, and the creation of recommender systems that provide tailored suggestions to users for enhancing the performance of their solar panel systems. Furthermore, efficient data visualization tools and user interfaces are critical for facilitating easy access and comprehension of the significant amount of data generated by solar panel monitoring systems. By addressing these research areas, stakeholders can enhance the efficiency and performance of solar-based systems and make informed decisions to optimize their energy output.

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