From Idea to Reality: The Design and Development of Solar Mobile Chargers as a Commercial Product

Vinay Sapkal, Mrunmayee Naik, Meet Nahar, Yash Nagrale, Kripa Naik, Sakshi Naik, Mital Nakawal.
Department of Engineering, Sciences and Humanities (DESH), Vishwakarma Institute of Technology, Pune, 411037, Maharashtra, India

Abstract — The proliferation of mobile devices in recent years has transformed the way we communicate, work, and access information. As the demand for portable power solutions grows, there is a pressing need to develop sustainable and environmentally friendly charging alternatives. Solar-based solar mobile chargers have emerged as a promising solution, harnessing the abundant energy of the sun to power electronic devices. This research paper presents a detailed investigation into the development and research of solar-based solar mobile chargers. It explores the various aspects of charger design, efficiency optimization techniques, and practical implementation considerations. Additionally, the paper examines the potential benefits, challenges, and prospects associated with solar charging technology.

Index Terms- Solar energy, mobile charger, sustainability, human-centric, cost-effective.

I. INTRODUCTION

The exponential growth of mobile devices in recent years has led to high demand for portable and sustainable charging solutions. Solar energy-based mobile chargers have emerged as a promising technology, utilizing abundant and renewable energy from the sun to power electronic devices. This research paper provides a comprehensive introduction to solar energy-based mobile chargers, exploring their significance, working principles, advantages, and challenges. The paper aims to shed light on the potential of solar energy as a clean and efficient power source for mobile charging, promoting a sustainable and eco-friendly approach to meet the ever-increasing power demands of modern society. The rapid advancement of technology, coupled with the increasing reliance on mobile devices, has revolutionized our lives. However, the limited battery life of these devices poses a challenge, especially in situations where grid electricity is unavailable or inconvenient. Solar energy-based mobile chargers offer an alternative solution, harnessing the sun's energy to provide portable and sustainable power. This section introduces the research topic, highlights the significance of solar energy-based mobile chargers, and outlines the objectives of the paper. Solar energy-based mobile chargers operate on the principle of photovoltaics, where solar panels convert sunlight into electrical energy. This section provides a detailed explanation of the working principles behind solar panels, including the photovoltaic effect and the composition of solar cells. It explores the role of materials such as silicon in the conversion of solar energy into usable electrical energy. The section also discusses the integration of charge controllers and battery systems to ensure efficient and reliable charging.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Solar panels use the photoelectric effect to convert solar energy into electricity. The panels are made of silicon cells, which release electrons when light falls on them. Monocrystalline and polycrystalline are the two cellular structures of silicon used in solar panels. Lithium-ion batteries are rechargeable batteries that move lithium ions between the negative and positive electrodes during charging and discharging, respectively. An electrolyte provides the conductive medium for the ions to move. The wireless solar mobile charger consists of a transmitter and receiver circuit. The transmitter circuit has a copper wire coil, a Z44 MOSFET, resistors, and a switch with batteries, while the receiver circuit has a copper wire coil, a rectifier circuit consisting of 4 diodes and one capacitor, and a 5V voltage regulator. The current generated in the receiver coil is alternating current, which is converted to direct current by the rectifier circuit. Mobile phones charge on a 5V DC, which is provided by the voltage regulator. [1].

the research paper emphasizes the significant potential of solar energy in India due to its favorable location and climate. The paper highlights the benefits of solar energy, such as zero energy-production costs, low transmission losses, versatile installation options, environmental friendliness, energy security, economic impact, easy installation, and long-term durability. India's solar power program is recognized as the world's third-fastest expansion, with cumulative solar photovoltaic installation capacity and steady growth in solar power generation. The state-wise distribution of solar installations and the achievement of the initial solar power target for 2022 are discussed, along with the subsequent increase in the target to 100 GW. The three forms of solar energy utilization, including large-scale grid-connected plants, rooftop solar power generation, and off-grid solar power, are explained, with tables showcasing the installed capacity in each category. The renewable energy policy framework in India, encompassing various acts, policies, initiatives, and projects, is also briefly outlined, highlighting the government's efforts to promote solar power generation.[2]

The paper discusses the use of solar photovoltaic (PV) arrays to generate electricity from solar irradiance. It mentions that the output of solar panels is affected by weather conditions and proposes operating the PV array at the maximum power point (MPP) to improve its output. Several MPPT (Maximum Power Point Tracking) algorithms are described, including offline techniques such as curve fitting, constant voltage method, and lookup table method, as well as online techniques like the perturb and observe algorithm, centroid analogy algorithm, hill climbing algorithm, hybrid algorithms, and fuzzy logic control algorithm. The paper also mentions different types of converters used in PV systems, including boost converters, buck-boost converters, CUK converters, DC-DC fly chopper circuits, LUO converters, SEPIC converters, multilevel inverters, three-level DC-DC converters. Each type of converter has its advantages and is used to step up or step down the voltage levels in the system. [3].

The paper discusses the importance of renewable energy resources, specifically solar energy, and the need for innovation in solar energy technology to overcome its limitations. It highlights the advantages of solar energy, such as reducing carbon emissions and clean air, but also discusses the weaknesses of current solar energy technologies. The weaknesses mentioned include the intermittent and fluctuating nature of solar power, limited adaptability in different regions, high initial costs of solar power generation, the low conversion efficiency of solar cells, space requirements for solar collectors, dependence on sunlight availability, and the impact of air pollution on solar cell performance. To address these weaknesses and improve the efficiency of solar energy, several innovations in solar energy technology are mentioned like solar trees, thin solar film, concentrated photovoltaic technology (CPV), and many more. [4]

The presented paper is a systematic literature review (SLR) focused on renewable energy sources (RES) and renewable energy technologies (RET). It aims to advance our understanding of effectively utilizing RES. The review began in December 2017 and the publication search started in March 2018. The search strategy followed the guidelines of Kitchenham, a well-known researcher in the field of systematic reviews. The study utilized prominent databases to collect relevant articles. The search terms were derived from key terms related to the topic area and research objective. The inclusion criteria for selecting papers included factors such as peer-reviewed status, English language, empirical research, and publication year between 2009 and 2018. After applying the inclusion and exclusion criteria in two rounds, a total of 42 articles were selected for the review. The article search and selection process involved multiple researchers, ensuring consensus in the selection. Data extraction and analysis were performed to identify relevant information from the selected studies. The extracted data included details such as review date, title, authors, references, relevance to the research theme, and year of publication. Content analysis was used to characterize the focus of each study. The inter-rater agreement between researchers was assessed using the κ coefficient, indicating a good agreement. The quality of the selected studies was assessed based on predefined criteria. The criteria included clarity of aims and objectives, addressing the research context adequately, and sufficiency of research outcomes for the review's purpose.[5]

The proposed circuit in the study is a series-series (SS) resonant inductive power transfer (IPT) converter designed as a cell phone charger. The circuit utilizes a self-driven frequency control based on the IC NP1392 to operate a half-bridge inverter. A full bridge diode is used for rectification and to supply the load with pulsating DC. The resonant equivalent circuit of the SS topology is derived using the equivalent T network. The analysis and design of the circuit are based on the coil compensation scheme to ensure resonant operation in both the primary and secondary circuits. The equivalent circuit consists of series capacitors (C1 and C2), leakage inductances (L1-Lm and L2-Lm), and a center inductance (Lm) determined by the coupling factor (K) between the primary and secondary coils. The AC input voltage (Vs) is the fundamental voltage of the half-bridge inverter, and RL represents the load resistance. The analysis simplifies the circuit to a simplified equivalent circuit, where the equivalent resistance (Re) and reactance (Xe) are defined. The gain (A) of the circuit is obtained by relating the input voltage (Vs) and output voltage (Vo) with the equivalent resistance (Re). The resonant operation in the primary circuit is assured if XL1 equals XC1, and the quality factor (Q) is defined as XL1 divided by Re. By combining the equations and solving for XC1, the design parameters for the SS resonant converter can be obtained, including the values of capacitors (C), inductors (L), and coupling factor (K). The study presents the analysis and design equations for the proposed SS resonant converter, which, according to the authors, have not been presented in the literature before. The design process and resulting parameters are provided based on the given specifications, and a prototype with solid-state components is described. [6]

The proposed model in the project consists of various components interconnected to achieve wireless power transfer. The project proposes a wireless power transfer system using solar energy. It utilizes an Arduino Nano as the controller, includes components such as a relay, LCD display, and ESP8266 Wi-Fi module, and employs inductive coupling for wireless power transfer. The methodology involves solar energy conversion, power transfer through inductive coupling, and voltage regulation for charging mobile devices. The methodology of the project involves the conversion of solar energy into electrical energy using the solar panel. The energy is then transferred to the transmitter circuit, which includes a BD139 transistor, capacitors, and resistors. The transmitter circuit is connected to the inductive coil, and at the receiver side, inductive coupling is established. The power transfer occurs wirelessly through mutual inductance. The receiver side includes a voltage regulator to maintain a fixed 5V output, which can be used to charge a mobile phone. [7]

III. METHODOLOGY

Components used:

Solar panel:

A solar panel, also known as a photovoltaic (PV) module or solar module, is an assembly of photovoltaic cells that convert sunlight into electrical energy. It is a key component of solar photovoltaic systems and plays a crucial role in harnessing solar energy for various applications.

LM358 operational amplifier

The LM358 is a widely used dual operational amplifier (op-amp) integrated circuit (IC) that belongs to the LM3xx series of op-amps. It is a low-power, general-purpose op-amp that offers a combination of high gain, low input bias current, and low offset voltage

1N4007 diode

The 1N4007 is a popular rectifier diode widely used in various electronic circuits. It belongs to the 1N400x series of diodes, which are general-purpose rectifiers designed to convert alternating current (AC) to direct current (DC). The 1N4007 diode is the highest voltage variant in this series and is capable of handling a maximum repetitive reverse voltage of 1000 volts.

Light emitting diodes

A Light Emitting Diode (LED) is a semiconductor device that emits light when an electric current passes through it. LEDs are widely used in various applications due to their energy efficiency, durability, compact size, and versatility

Universal bus connector

A universal bus connector could refer to connectors such as USB (Universal Serial Bus), which is a widely used interface for connecting peripherals such as keyboards, mice, printers, and external storage devices to a computer. USB connectors are designed to be compatible with various devices and are considered a universal standard for connectivity.

Zener diode

A Zener diode is a special type of diode that is designed to operate in the reverse breakdown region of its voltage-current characteristic curve. Unlike a regular diode, which is designed to conduct current in the forward direction and block current in the reverse direction, a Zener diode is specifically designed to have a well-defined breakdown voltage.

7805 voltage regulators

The 7805 is a popular type of linear voltage regulator that provides a regulated output voltage of +5 volts. It is part of the 78xx series of voltage regulators, which are commonly used in electronic circuits to provide a stable and constant DC voltage.

Resistors

Resistors are passive electronic components that are widely used in electronic circuits to control the flow of electric current. They are designed to provide a specific resistance value, which determines the amount of current that can pass through them.

Lithium-ion batteries

Lithium-ion batteries, often abbreviated as Li-ion batteries, are rechargeable energy storage devices that use lithium ions as the primary charge carriers. They are widely used in various applications, including portable electronics, electric vehicles, and renewable energy systems.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

A. Advantages

Solar energy-based mobile chargers offer numerous advantages over traditional charging methods. This section highlights the benefits of using solar energy for mobile charging, including:

a. Renewable and Sustainable: Solar energy is an abundant and renewable resource, reducing dependency on fossil fuels and minimizing carbon emissions.

b. Portability: Solar chargers are compact and portable, enabling users to charge their devices on the go, even in remote areas without access to electricity.

c. Cost Savings: Once the initial investment is made, solar energy is essentially free, reducing long-term charging costs.

d. Environmental Impact: Solar energy-based chargers have a significantly lower environmental footprint compared to conventional charging methods.

B. Challenges and Limitations

While solar energy-based mobile chargers offer promising solutions, they also face certain challenges and limitations.

This section discusses the key obstacles and considerations, including:

a. Intermittent Sunlight Availability: Solar charging efficiency is affected by varying weather conditions and limited sunlight availability.

b. Charging Time: The charging speed of solar-based chargers may be slower compared to traditional methods, especially under suboptimal sunlight conditions.

c. Energy Storage: Efficient energy storage is essential to ensure uninterrupted power supply, especially during periods of low sunlight.

d. Design Considerations: Solar chargers need to be designed to be lightweight, durable, and user-friendly, while maintaining efficiency and compatibility with different devices.

V. FUTURE SCOPE

This section explores the latest advancements and ongoing research in solar energy-based mobile chargers. It discusses innovative technologies such as flexible and transparent solar panels, integration with energy storage systems, and advancements in charging efficiency through maximum power point tracking (MPPT) algorithms. Additionally, it highlights the potential for integrating solar chargers with emerging technologies like wearable devices and the Internet of Things (IoT). The section concludes by outlining the future prospects and potential applications of solar energy-based mobile chargers.

VI. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this research paper presents a comprehensive investigation into the development and research of solar-based solar mobile chargers. By exploring charger design, efficiency optimization techniques, and practical implementation considerations, this study contributes to the existing knowledge in the field. The paper emphasizes the importance of sustainable and portable charging solutions in meeting the increasing demand for mobile power. It underscores the need for further advancements in solar charger technology to overcome challenges and unlock the full potential of solar-based mobile charging

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