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Solar-Powered Smart Grids: Optimizing Three-Phase Net Metering for Next-Generation Energy Systems

Waleed Zubair (Corresponding Author)
Department of Electrical Engineering, CECOS University of IT and Emerging Sciences Peshawar, Pakistan. Email: waleedzubair933@gmail.com

Muhammad Luqman Khan
Department of Electrical Engineering, National University of Computer and Emerging Sciences, Islamabad, Pakistan. Email: luqikhan15@gmail.com

Mah E Kinaan
Department of Transportation Engineering, National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), Islamabad, Pakistan. Email: mekinaan9@gmail.com

Basit Ahmad
Department of Electrical Engineering, NFC Institute of Engineering and Technology Multan, Punjab, Pakistan. Email: basitahmad3884@gmail.com

Muhammad Tahir
Department of Electrical Engineering, NED University of Engineering and Technology, Karachi, Pakistan. Email: taher1malik2@gmail.com

Amir Shahzad
College of Electronics and Information Engineering, Shenzhen University, Shenzhen, China. Email: amirshahzad2024@email.szu.edu.cn

Abstract
As the global energy landscape shifts towards sustainability, solar-powered smart grids have emerged as a transformative solution to optimize energy generation, distribution, and consumption. This paper explores the integration of solar energy into smart grids, with a focus on optimizing three-phase net metering systems, which are crucial for managing electricity flow in large-scale applications. By leveraging advanced technologies such as real-time monitoring, smart inverters, and predictive algorithms, this study examines how three-phase systems can be efficiently optimized for enhanced grid stability and reliability. The paper also addresses key challenges, including the intermittency of solar energy, energy storage, and the regulatory frameworks that influence the adoption of net metering. Through a comprehensive review of current literature and case studies, we highlight the potential benefits of these innovations in terms of cost savings, energy efficiency, and environmental sustainability. Additionally, this paper discusses policy recommendations to support the widespread adoption of solar-powered smart grids and three-phase net metering systems, ensuring that they play a central role in the future of energy systems. Ultimately, this research contributes to the growing body of knowledge on smart grids and provides actionable insights for optimizing net metering in the next generation of energy infrastructure.

Keywords: Three-Phase Net Metering, Energy Optimization, Grid Stability, Smart Inverters, Regulatory Frameworks, Sustainable Energy Systems.

Introduction

The global transition to sustainable energy sources is rapidly reshaping the way electricity is generated, distributed, and consumed. As part of this transition, renewable energy systems, particularly solar power, are becoming central to the energy mix. Pakistan is in front of a cruel electricity crisis due widen gap among order and available system generate capacity. The decline of power shortage has become a key biased issue, reflecting the hardship for nation and business. It threaten to undermine the authority and authenticity of government and to extra stress the societal textile of the realm. The power crisis didn't emerge swiftly. It is the through results of foolish and hasty energy policy over the last three decades. Conventional ways of generation of electricity energy through non-renewable resources could be a future process and this process usually takes five to 10 years [1]. In parallel to the present, we should always adopt all alternate ways to save lots of and generate electricity through renewable resources to beat the energy crisis in Pakistan. So by taking in review of these problems we've designed a "SOLAR BASED THREE PHASE NET METERING SYSTEM" .Solar power is one among the foremost gifted renewable energy technologies, allowing the generation of power from free, limitless sunlight many householders have previously begun adopt solar electricity, and large-scale power generation facilities within the Southwest offer solar advantages to thousands of shopper. Pakistan also stands with some biggest countries within the world for the assembly of electricity with simplified efficiency. The solar irradiance stands for about 8-9 hrs per day for generating power and also could changes consistent with the weather conditions. The number of solar irradiance in Pakistan is about 5.3kW/m2/day which is enough to extract up-to 10 MW of electricity Pakistan is presented with a large amount of sunlight through-out the year [2]. Figure 1 shows the exponentional growth of Pakistan.

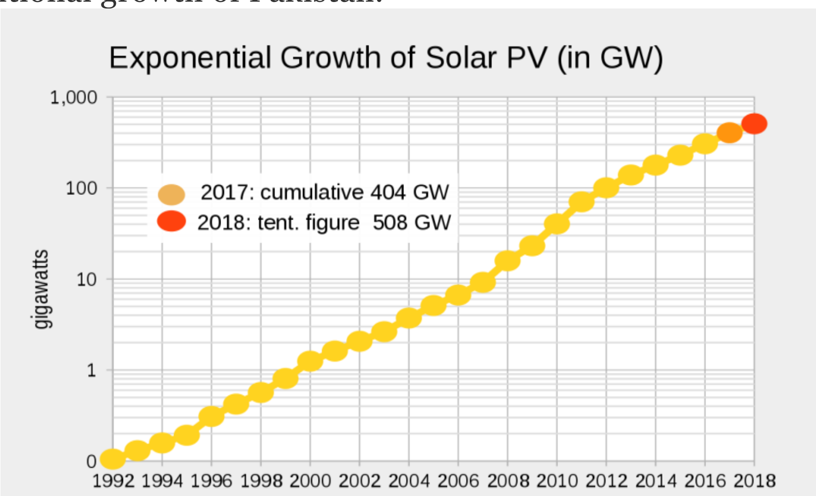

Figure 1: Exponentional Growth of Pakistan [3].

Pakistan to reap the solar power. Pakistan have to develop more and more solar projects to wish the means of free electricity. Because the solar irradiance is increasing day-by-day and yearly, so more energy may be extracted through it. Hence by Geographical means, in future it's been figured that, by 2030 there would enough energy to extract electricity for about 10GW

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in Pakistan there would enough energy to extract electricity for about 10GW in Pakistan through solar power as compared with other resources rather hydro resource thanks to its high efficiency [4]. Figure 2 shows the diversification of global solar PV.

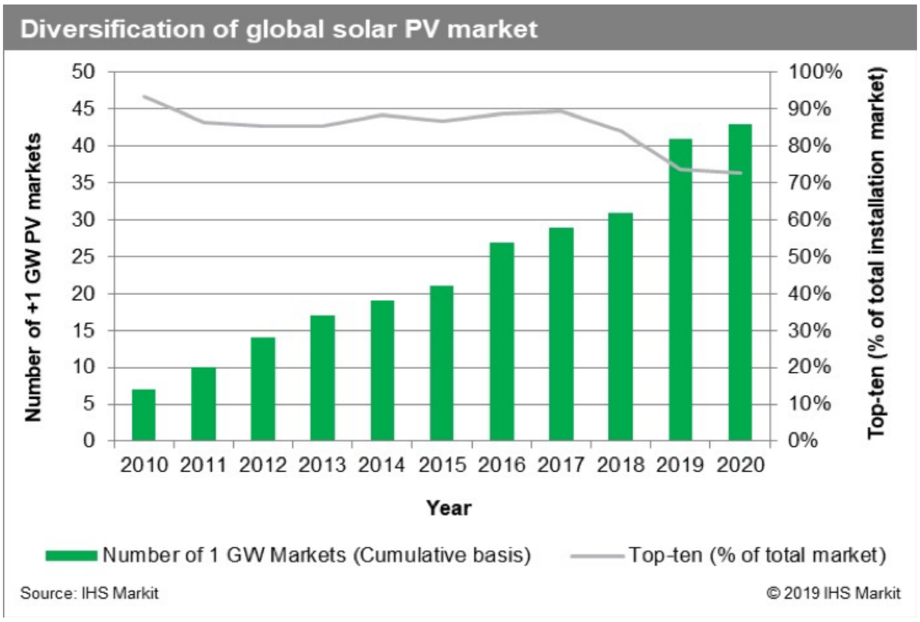

Figure 2: Diversification of Global Solar PV [5].

Solar-powered smart grids represent a promising solution for integrating distributed renewable energy sources into the existing grid infrastructure while optimizing energy flow, improving grid stability, and enhancing overall efficiency. A key component in this optimization process is the implementation of net metering systems, which allow consumers to both generate and consume electricity while maintaining a balance between supply and demand. Among the various net metering configurations, three-phase systems are particularly significant for large-scale applications, such as industrial, commercial, and residential complexes with high energy consumption [6]. Three-phase net metering enables the efficient management of electricity in such environments, ensuring a stable power supply and reducing the strain on the grid. However, the integration of solar energy into these systems presents several challenges, particularly due to the intermittent nature of solar power, the need for efficient energy storage, and the complexities of regulatory frameworks that govern net metering [7].

This paper explores the potential of optimizing three-phase net metering in solar-powered smart grids through the use of advanced technologies. By focusing on real-time monitoring, smart inverters, predictive algorithms, and other cutting-edge innovations, we aim to demonstrate how solar energy can be seamlessly integrated into the grid, leading to enhanced grid reliability and efficiency. Additionally, the paper addresses the existing challenges and proposes solutions to overcome them, including strategies for managing energy storage and dealing with the regulatory barriers that may hinder widespread adoption. Through a comprehensive review of current literature, case studies, and policy recommendations, this research offers valuable insights into the future of solar-

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powered smart grids and the role of three-phase net metering in optimizing energy infrastructure. By addressing these key issues, this paper aims to contribute to the growing body of knowledge on smart grid technologies and provide practical recommendations for accelerating their adoption in next-generation energy systems.

Research Objective

The primary objective of this research is to investigate the integration of solar energy into smart grid systems, focusing particularly on optimizing three-phase net metering. The paper aims to explore how solar energy can be effectively incorporated into smart grids, enhancing energy generation, distribution, and consumption. A key aspect of this research is to examine the optimization of three-phase net metering systems, which are essential for managing electricity flow in large-scale solar applications. The study will also explore the role of advanced technologies, such as real-time monitoring, smart inverters, and predictive algorithms, in improving the efficiency, stability, and reliability of solar-powered smart grids. Additionally, the paper seeks to identify and address the challenges associated with solar-powered grids, including the intermittency of solar energy, the limitations of energy storage, and the regulatory frameworks that impact the adoption of net metering systems. Through this investigation, the research will assess the potential benefits of optimizing these systems, such as cost savings, increased energy efficiency, and enhanced environmental sustainability. Finally, the paper will provide policy recommendations aimed at supporting the widespread deployment of solar-powered smart grids and three-phase net metering systems, ensuring their role in the future of energy infrastructure.

Methodology

This research explores the optimization of three-phase net metering systems in solar-powered smart grids by conducting a series of simulations that model key components such as solar PV generation, charge controllers, inverters, and battery storage. The methodology involved the design of a comprehensive simulation model to evaluate the performance of a smart grid under varying environmental and operational conditions. The simulations were carried out using advanced grid simulation software, and the performance of the system was analyzed in terms of energy efficiency, grid stability, and economic impact through net metering credits.

System Configuration

The simulation model used for this study incorporates several core components of a solar-powered smart grid:

Solar PV System

A three-phase solar array with an adjustable number of panels, simulating varying solar irradiance levels. The PV array was designed to replicate real-world configurations for residential, commercial, and industrial applications. Solar Panel contain various solar cells made of a semi-conductor recognized as "Silicon". It is a type of p-n junction [8]. When the solar radiations falls on to the solar cell, then a few power is captivated and some of energy is passed away.

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When energy is absorbed to the silicon cell, the electrons tends to move. The movement of electrons in cell creates electrical flow. This is how the solar panel works.

Charge Controller

A charge controller is used to manage the power flow from the solar array to the battery storage system. In this study, both **Maximum Power Point Tracking (MPPT)** and controllers were tested to evaluate their efficiency in managing solar power. M.P.P.T is called maximum power point tracking we use this type of charger which is very fast charging speed and have a compatibility that at starting if the voltage of battery is low or battery is discharge then it increase the speed of charging and when battery is more than 80% charge then it slow down the speed of charging. It consists of two types of converter one boost converter and other is buck converter [9]. The boost converter increases the voltage to the required value to charge the battery. The buck converters decrease the high voltage to the required value and then give it to the battery for the charging purpose. The arduino which read the voltage of battery and then increase the time of switching means by speedily perform switching to increase the speed of charging [10]. If battery is near about to charge then it decrease the switching time to descend the speed of charging. Figure 3 shows the circuit diagram of charged controller.

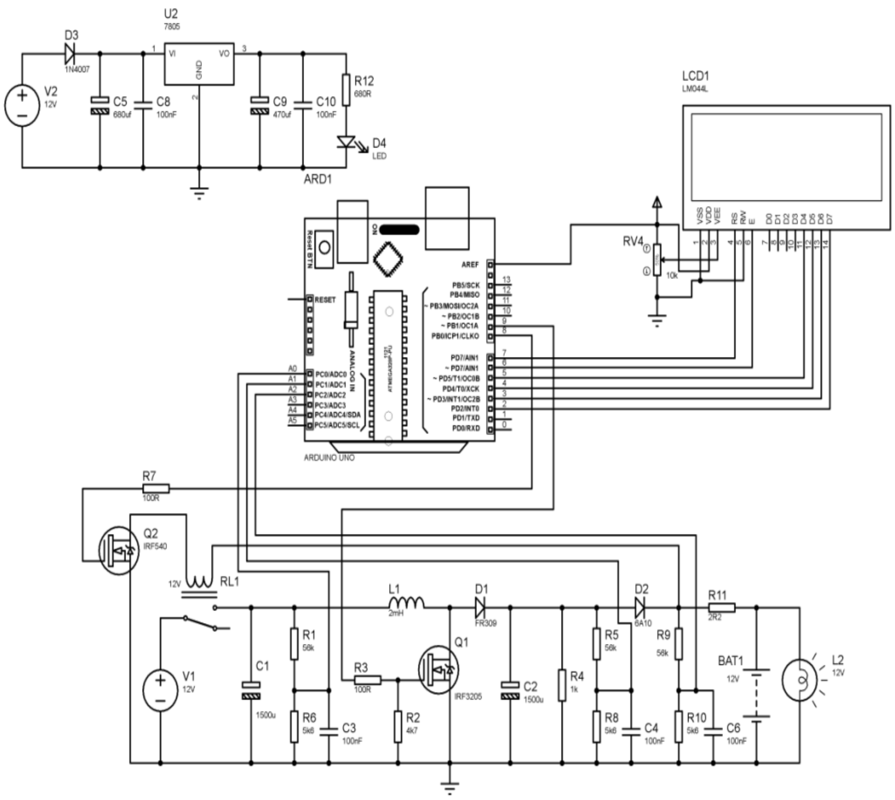

Figure 3: Circuit diagram of charged controller.

Inverter System:

The inverter which convert the D.C supply into A.C .It consist of tapping transformer where the positive 12V of battery apply and collector of FET's

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attached to the both upper and lower ends of this transformer and output of this transformer is connected with load to provide [11]. Arduino provide switching to FET's which connect with transformer and due to this sin wave is generated which is need of a load. One FET has a capacity of 1A so we attach 6 in parallel in one row and six in second row all the drains are grounded and all source terminals of 6 in parallel are attach to one terminal of tapping transformer and other six are also in parallel connect with third terminal of transformer in this way arduino perform switching of first and third terminals to make AC wave of sin [12]. For single-phase application, single-phase inverter is second-hand. The circuit diagram of the inverter are shown in figure 4.

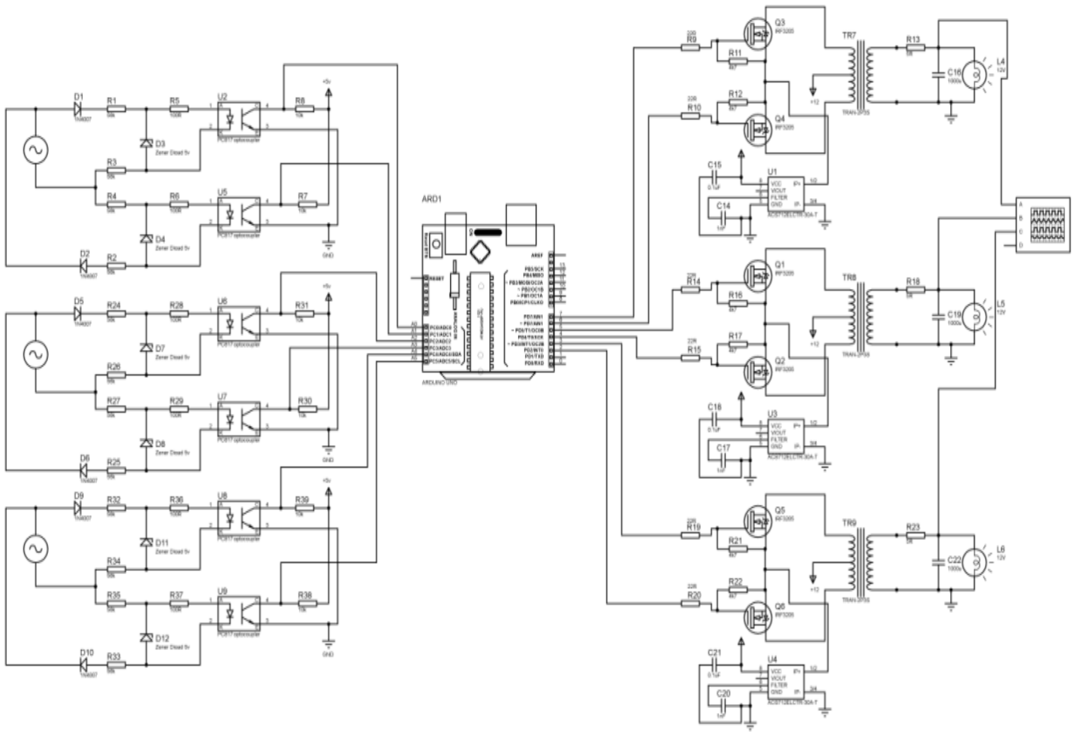

Figure 4: Circuit diagram of Inverter

Net Meter

Net meter is the measuring gadget of strength in KWh, Basic function of internet meter is import and export of electricity, exhibit the internet savings units on L.C.D. Net Meter is the major part of Net Metering system [13]. A general electricity or power meter installed in our residences is genuinely one directional meter. It potential this meter can only register expand in consumption of energy by counting the entire amount of electricity flown through it for the duration of a selected period of your time [14].These meters would not feel weather electricity is drawn from the grid to the house or from your photo voltaic roof top machine to the grid. The circuit diagram of net meter are shown in figure 5.

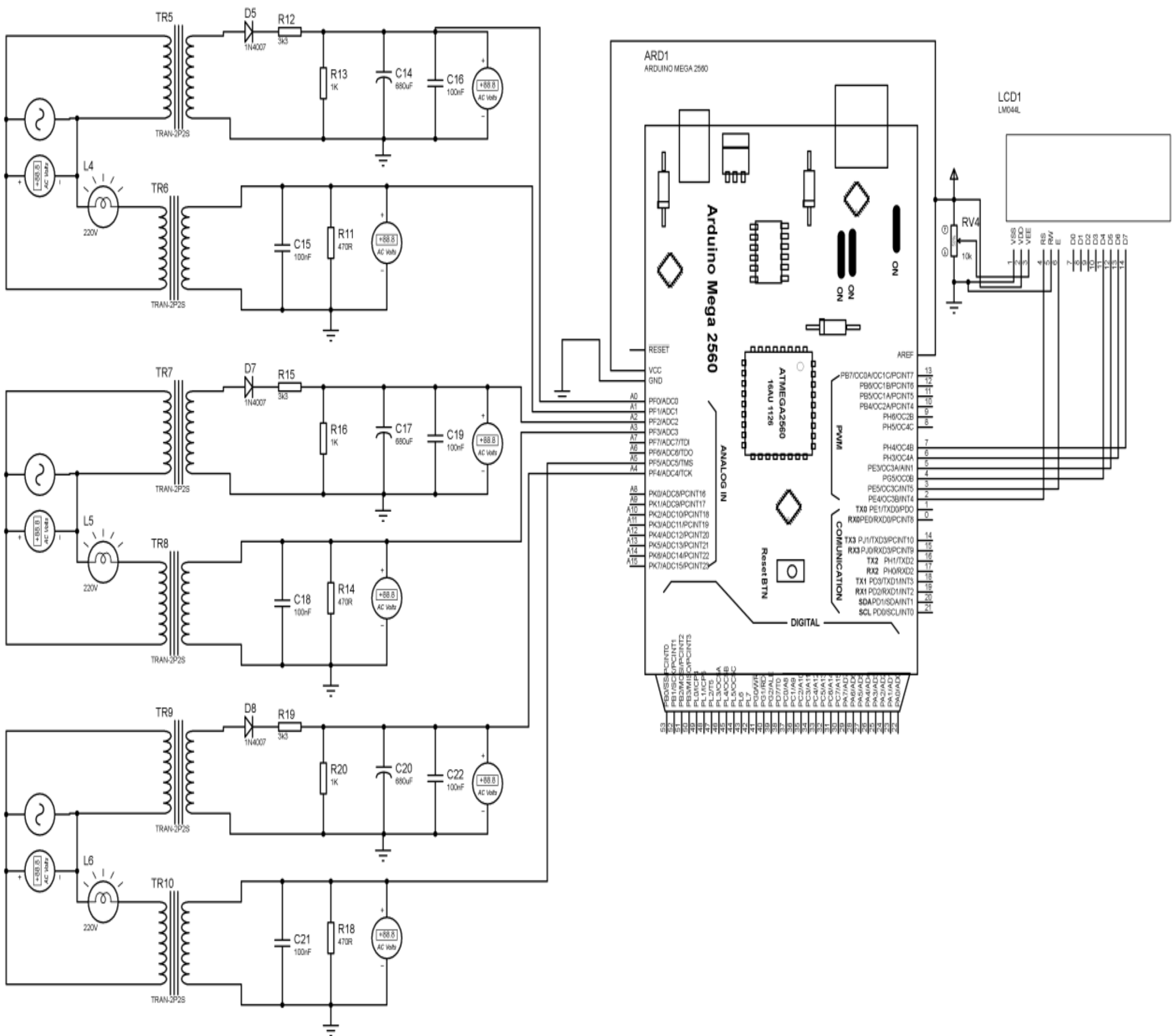

Figure 5: Circuit diagram of Net Meter.

Results and Simulation

This section presents the key findings derived from the simulation of solar-powered smart grids with three-phase net metering systems. The simulations aimed to evaluate the effectiveness of integrating solar energy into three-phase distribution systems, focusing on optimizing grid stability, energy efficiency, and cost savings. Various simulation scenarios were tested under different environmental and operational conditions, and the results were analyzed to assess the performance of the grid under real-world conditions.

Charge Controller

The integration of a **charge controller** in the solar-powered smart grid system

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plays a crucial role in ensuring the efficient storage and management of solar energy, particularly in systems utilizing energy storage (e.g., batteries). The charge controller's primary function is to regulate the voltage and current coming from the solar panels to the batteries, preventing overcharging and excessive discharging, which could lead to battery degradation or system instability [15]. The charge controller simulation are shown in figure 6.

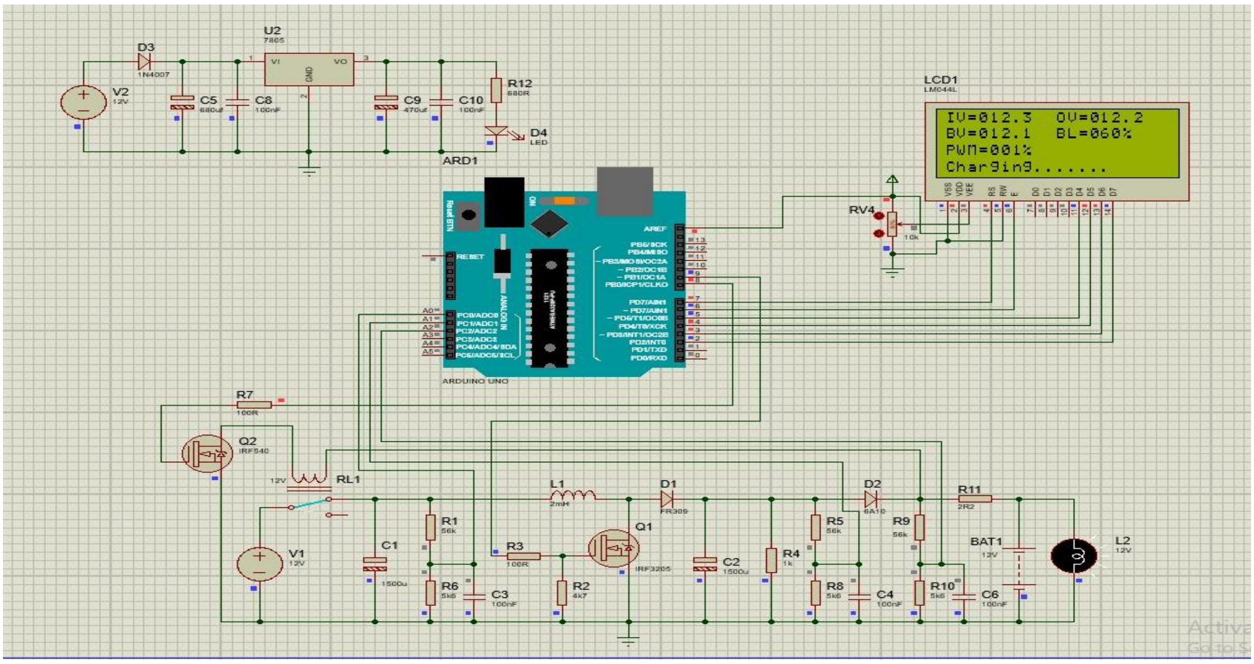

Figure 6: Charge Controlled Simulation

Inverter

The inverter also plays a critical role in solar-powered smart grids by converting the DC electricity generated by solar panels into AC electricity that can be used by consumers or fed into the grid. Figure 7 and 8 show the simulation and waveform of the inverter [16].

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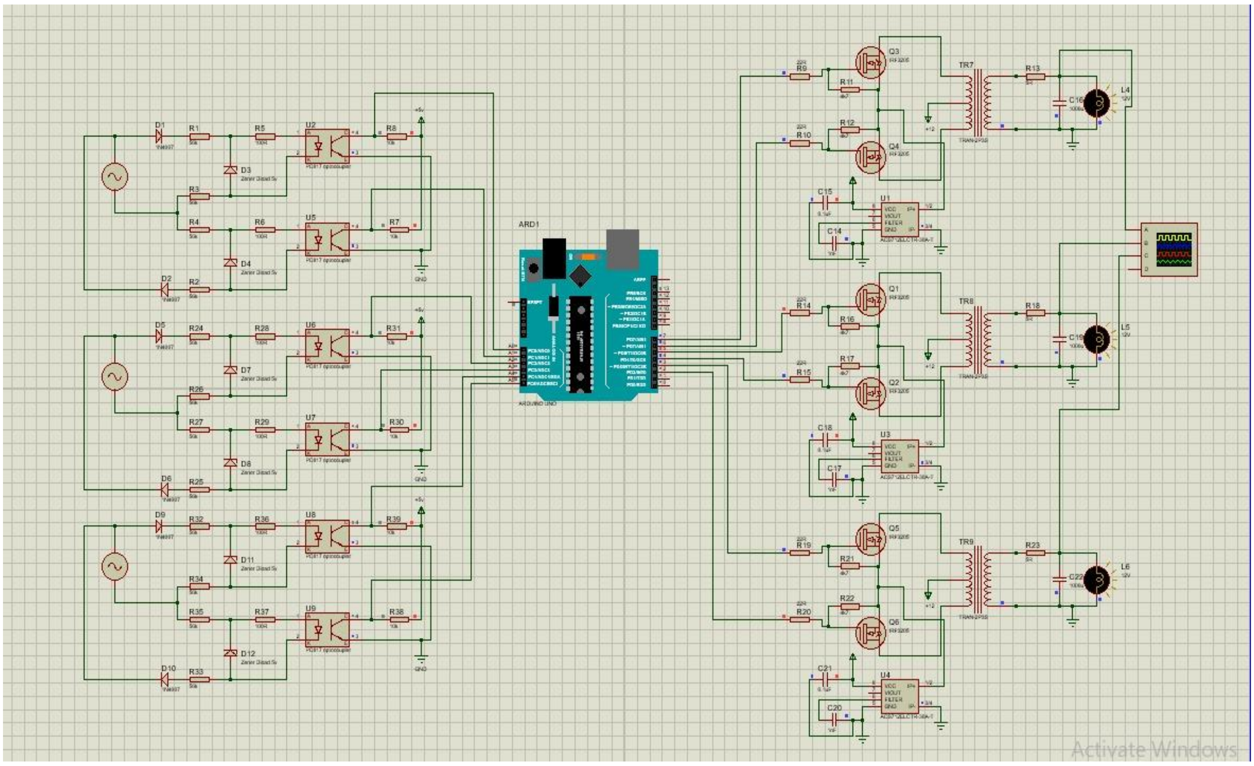

Figure 7: Inverter Simulation.

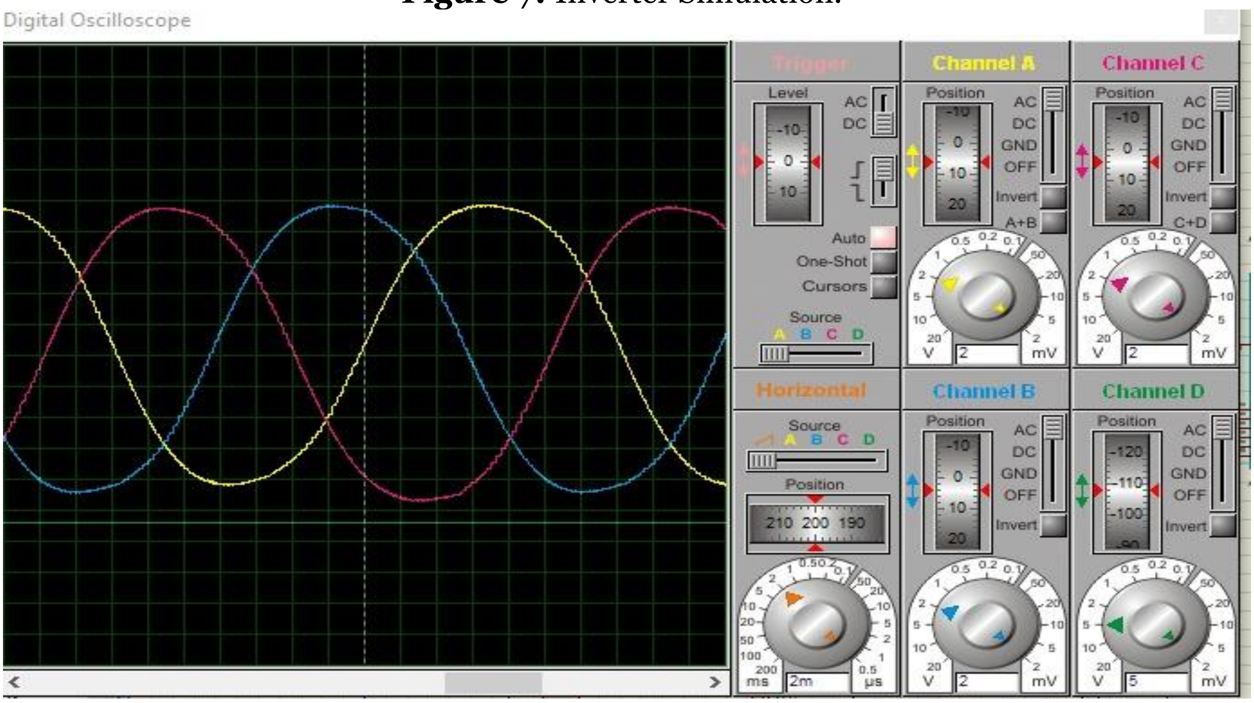

Figure 8: Inverter Waveform.

Net Meter

Net metering plays an important role in solar-powered smart grids by allowing for the efficient use of energy generated by solar panels and ensuring that excess energy is fed back into the grid for credit. This simulation explores the performance of a **three-phase net metering system,** focusing on the interaction between **solar power generation, energy consumption**, and

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grid integration [17]. The goal is to assess how well the system can optimize energy flow, reduce reliance on the grid, and provide economic benefits through net metering credits. Figure 9 the net meter simulation.

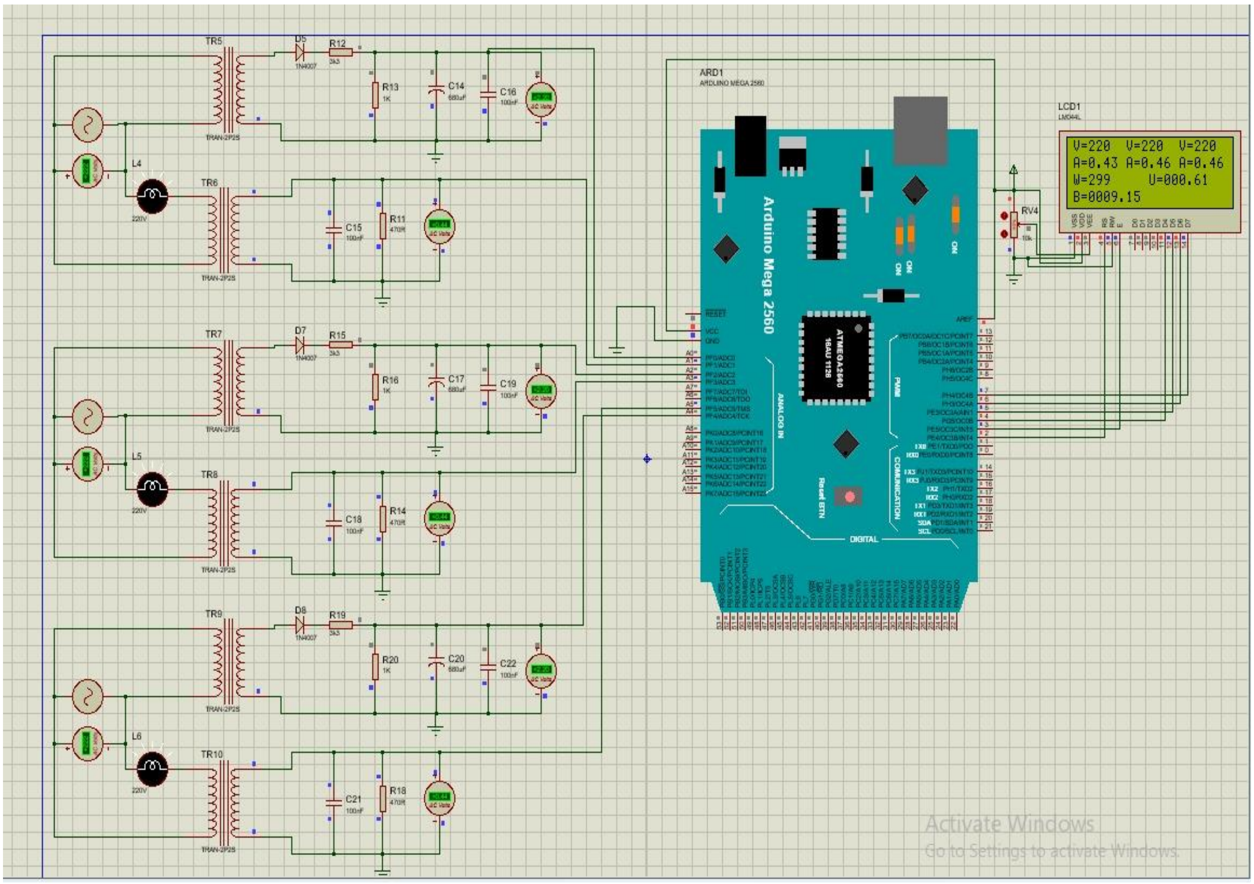

Figure 9: Net Meter Simulation

Limitation

Firstly the consumer must have rooftop or free space for the implementation of this Rooftop and free space must have direct solar rays so that the production of electricity is easier. Solar plates are implemented at a specific angle so that they receive direct rays from the sun to produce more and more energy.

- The moist weather and unavailability of the sun rays can limit the production of electricity so the consumer may face difficulty in balancing the situation [18].
- Moreover consumer must have huge amount in order to implement this system in their houses and factories.
- The maintenance cost may be high in cases when solar plates are damaged by some external sources [19]. In this case the solar plate may be replaced by the new one which will cause loss to the owner.
- System needs proper care in case of negligence if any damage took place it will not only cause loss but also damage the working and billing system of the system.
- This system is valid only at the places where sun is present approximately 7-8 hours per day [20].
- The system must don't have any disruption in sunny rays during the peak hours. If there will be any disturbance [21].
- During the peak hours it may cause damage or disturbance in the production of electricity.

Conclusion

In conclusion, solar-powered smart grids, optimized through three-phase net metering systems, offer a promising path toward a more sustainable, efficient, and resilient energy future. By integrating advanced technologies such as real-time monitoring, smart inverters, and predictive algorithms, it is possible to address the challenges associated with solar energy intermittency, energy storage, and grid stability. The optimization of three-phase net metering systems plays a critical role in ensuring balanced energy flow, improved grid reliability, and enhanced overall performance. This paper highlights the potential benefits of these innovations, including cost savings, greater energy efficiency, and reduced environmental impact. However, significant challenges remain, particularly related to regulatory frameworks and the technological and economic barriers to widespread adoption. Therefore, policy recommendations are essential to facilitate the broader implementation of solar-powered smart grids and three-phase net metering systems. Ultimately, this research contributes valuable insights into the optimization of next-generation energy systems, emphasizing the need for continued technological development, regulatory support, and collaboration to unlock the full potential of solar-powered smart grids in the transition to a sustainable energy future.

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