

Design, Sizing and Implementation of a PV System for Powering a Living Room

Marwa Sayed Salem Basyoni¹, Mona Sayed Salem Basyoni², Kawther Al-Dhlan³

^{1,2,3}Computer Science and Engineering College,¹University of Hail, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

¹Modern Science and Arts University (MSA), Cairo, Egypt

Abstract— This paper aims to design size and implement a Photo Voltaic system (PV system) for powering a living room. The required load to be powered by the PV system is completely determined. A comparison between using normal and power saving loads is carried out. The power saving loads is chosen to reduce the overall cost of the required system. The proposed PV system for powering the predetermined load is introduced. Each part of the system is designed and sized based on the load requirement. Finally, the practical implementation for the overall PV system for powering the required load is done. The implemented system works in an efficient way.

Keywords— Design, Sizing, Implementation, PV system.

I. INTRODUCTION

Recent researches focus on renewable energy resources [1, 2]. This is because the already existed energy sources, which mainly based on fuel, are going to run out [3, 4]. There are many types of renewable energy resources [1]. Solar energy is considered the most attractive renewable energy source. This is because it is mainly the source of all other energy sources. In addition it gives higher output power comparing with other renewable energy sources [5, 6]. The main objective of this paper is to use the Photo – Voltaic (PV) system as a renewable energy source instead of the existed energy sources which based on fuel for powering a certain load. The system has to be implemented efficiently to satisfy the load requirements. Thus the load has to be firstly determined. A comparison between normal load and power saving loads is carried out. The power saving loads is chosen to reduce the overall cost of the PV system. The design sizing for each part of the required PV system is presented based on the load requirements. Each part of the PV system is tested practically to check its functionality. Finally the overall PV system is implemented to power the required load.

II. NORMAL LOADS AND POWER SAVING LOADS

The main objective of using the PV system is to power home utilities in the case of light goes out. In emergency cases, it is not required to power the whole home utility. The selected load as a case study in this paper is to power a living room, lamps for both of the kitchen and the bathroom. The utilities which are selected to be powered by the PV system are a LCD TV, Laptops with internet, fan and power saving Lamps. Also, the lighting of both the bathroom and the kitchen are taking into consideration. Table (1) shows some appliances and loads with its power consumption [7]. From table 1, it is obvious that the power saving loads consume less power comparing with the normal loads. For example, the laptop consumes 1 KWH when it is used for 60 hours but the desktop computer with monitor consumes 8KWH. Also the LCD TV uses low power comparing to the standard TV. Thus, the power saving loads is used to reduce the overall cost of the PV system.

The daily energy consumption for a certain load, Wattage * Hours used per day, is calculated as follow [8]:

$$\frac{(\text{Wattage} \cdot \text{Hours used per day})}{1000} = \text{Daily kilo watt hour} \quad (1)$$

The contribution in this paper is to use smart (power saving loads) loads instead of normal loads. Normal loads consume much more power comparing to the power saving loads. Thus by using the power saving loads, the required power reduces. As a result, the overall cost of the required PV system reduces. The system design and sizing are based on calculations.

TABLE 1
SOME APPLIANCES AND LOADS WITH ITS POWER CONSUMPTION

APPLIANCE	HOURS IN USE	KWH USED	MONTHS USED	ANNUAL KWH
Computer - Desktop with Monitor	90	8	12	96
Computer - Laptop	60	1	12	12
Fan – Bath	15	1	12	12
Fan - Ceiling (does not incl. lights)	150	12	6	72
Fan - Table / Box / Floor	71	11	3	33
Lighting - Incandescent, 100 watts	100	10	12	120
Lighting - CFL, 25 watts	100	1	12	12
Television - 27 inch, LCD flat screen	150	18	12	216
Television - 15-27 inch, standard	150	18	12	216

Table (2) shows the difference between using power saving loads and normal loads required for a living room, the used case study. Such loads are assumed to be used for 10 hours per day. The power calculations based on equation (1).

TABLE 2
DIFFERENCE BETWEEN POWER SAVING & NORMAL LOADS IN LIVING ROOM

Used Load (Assume each used 10 hours per day)	Power saving loads power		Normal Load power	
	Watt	Watt-hour/day	Watt	Watt-hour/day
Lighting	4	40	36	360
TV 19"	22	220	80	800
Fan	45	450	60	600
Total	71 W	710 W.H/D	176 W	1760 W.H/D

From table 2, it is obvious that the normal loads require power ten times more than the required power for the power saving loads. Thus the overall cost of the PV system using the power saving loads is predicted to be reduced.

III. PV SYSTEM DESIGN AND SIZING

In this section the design of each part of the PV system is presented. Figure 1 shows the required PV system to be implemented for powering any domestic use [9]. In this paper, it is required to power a living room with the lighting of both the kitchen and bathroom.

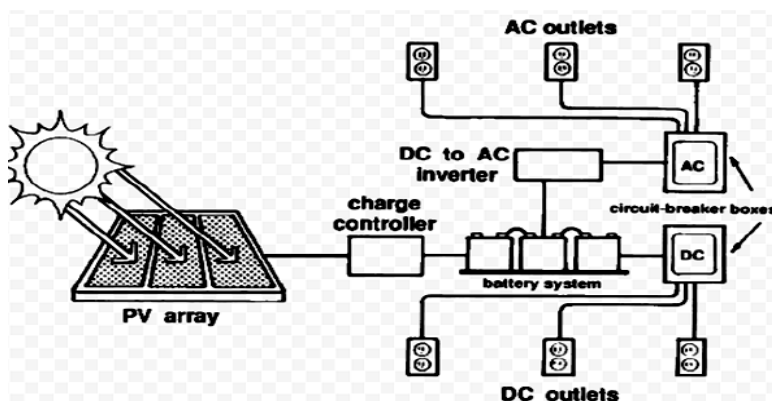


FIGURE 1: THE FUNCTIONAL BLOCK DIAGRAM OF THE REQUIRED PV SYSTEM FOR POWERING BOTH AC AND DC LOADS

3.1 Loads consumption demand

Loads consumption must be determined to be able to determine the specification of PV system components. The loads consumption is determined for the living room utilities. PV system has high power dissipation through its components. Thus a safety margin has to be taking into consideration is the system design [9]. The following calculations show a comparison between the load consumption using normal loads and power saving. This consumption based on powering the main requirements of the living room and the lighting for both the bathroom and the kitchen, one TV, one fan, three light bulbs. The system is designed to power the required loads for 5 hours per day.

3.1.1 Load Consumption using Normal loads:

One 70W LED television 19" used 5 hours per day $70 \times 5 = 350 \text{ Wh}$

One 75W fan used 5 hours per day: $75 \times 5 = 375 \text{ Wh}$

Three-100W light Bulb used 5 hours per day: $3 \times 100 \times 5 = 1500 \text{ Wh} = 1.5 \text{ KWh}$

One 100W Desktop with Monitor used 5 hours per day: $100 \times 5 = 500 \text{ Wh}$

TOTAL DAILY LOAD 2725 Wh /day

3.1.2 Load Consumption Power Saving Loads:

One 22W LED television 19" used 5 hours per day $22 \times 5 = 110 \text{ Wh}$

One 20W fan used 5 hours per day: $20 \times 5 = 100 \text{ Wh}$

Four -4W light Bulb used 5 hours per day: $4 \times 4 \times 5 = 80 \text{ Wh}$

One 60W Lab top used 5 hours per day: $60 \times 5 = 300 \text{ Wh}$

3.1.3 TOTAL DAILY LOAD 590Wh /day

From this calculation, it is obvious that the normal loads consume much more power than the power saving loads. These calculations confirm that using power saving loads reduces the overall cost of the PV system. As it reduces the overall required daily power consumption, it requires less number of solar panel. Also, the requirements of the system components reduce.

Thus the total power consumed by the required loads is 590Wh/day. The system is design to deliver 650 Wh/day as a safety margin for the design.

3.2 Panels' estimation

In this paper, the living room is to be implemented using power saving loads. From loads calculations, the power from the solar panel must be calculated using the following rule [10]:

$$\frac{\text{Daily energy loads consumption}}{\text{hours of usable sunlight during day}} = \text{power of panels} \quad (2)$$

The number of solar panels used varies based on the load requirements. To size the panels, to determine the required number of panels to be used with its required power, the total peak watt produced must be calculated. The peak watt (W_p) [11] produced depends on size of the PV module and climate of site location. In KSA, it enjoys sunshine all the year. In system design, six hours of sunshine all over the day is assumed. Thus, each watt peak (W_p) of solar panel would therefore deliver 6Wh/day. Thus the required power from the solar panel is calculated using equation 2.

The daily energy loads consumption is 650 Wh. The hours of usable sunlight during day is assumed to be 6 hours. Thus the required output power from the solar panel is 109W. Thus a 120W solar panel is used as a safety margin for the design.

3.3 Charge controller Design and Sizing

The charge controller is used in PV system for controlling charging and discharging operation of battery from solar panels. The main objective of charge controller is to regulate the charge to the batteries and preventing any overcharging. When the battery becomes full the charge controller disconnects it from panels [9].

The input power from panels to charge controller is calculating using equation 3, assuming the worst case efficiency of charge controller equals to 85%:

$$\text{Input Power (from panels)} = \frac{\text{Output power}}{\text{Efficiency } (\eta)} \quad (3)$$

Thus the input power to the controller is 141W.

The charge controller rating is calculated by dividing its input power by the maximum voltage of the used solar panel. The maximum voltage of the solar panel is 18V [12]. Thus the rating of the charge controller to be used for the PV system is 7.88A. It is designed to be 10A, 12V as a safety margin for the design.

3.4 Batteries

The battery is used to store the generated energy from the solar panel and deliver it to the load [9]. There are many types of the battery [13]. The dry battery is the type which is used in this paper. It is most common used because it has a long lifetime and it is good in maintenance.

The capacity of battery is measure in ampere-hours (Ah). It is calculated by using equation 4[13]:

$$\text{Capacity (Ah)} = \frac{\text{Daily energy loads consumption(Wh)}}{\text{max panel volt (V)}} \quad (4)$$

Assume that the battery has efficiency of 85 %. To save its lifetime, it is assumed to discharging to 60 % from its value. So the capacity of the required battery to be used in this system is calculated using equation 5.

$$\text{Capacity (Ah)} = \frac{\text{Total Watt-hours per day used by appliances}}{(0.85 \times 0.6 \times \text{nominal battery voltage})} \quad (5)$$

Assuming the worst case of using 85% battery efficiency and 60% depth of discharge and 12V battery, as the total watt – hours per day is 650W, thus the battery storage energy is calculated using equation 5. It is found to be 106Ah. A 120Ah battery is used for design safety.

3.5 The Inverter

The inverter is used to convert direct current (DC) produced from panel, to alternative current (AC) that needs to power the AC loads in home [9]. The efficiency of inverter is in the range of 90% to 95% because the power loss occurs in the conversion process. The efficiency of inverter can be calculated by using equation 6 [13].

$$\text{Efficiency } (\eta) = \frac{\text{Output power (to loads)}}{\text{Input power (come from charge controller)}} \quad (6)$$

Assuming worst case inverter efficiency to be 90%, so the input power to the inverter coming from the charge controller is calculated using equation 7.

$$\text{Input Power (from charge controller)} = \frac{\text{Output power (to loads)}}{\text{Efficiency } (\eta)} \quad (7)$$

The inverter power must be sufficient to handle the total amount of Watts that required by the system. The inverter size should be 25-30% greater than the required watt for the load [13]. To size the inverter, the total power of the used load must be calculated. It is around 118W. Thus a 150W inverter is required for design safety margin.

Thus the requirement of the PV system required to power a 650Wh/day for a living room with the lighting of a kitchen and a bathroom are:

One solar panel with 120W, Charge controller rated at 10A at 12V, a battery with capacity of 120Ah and 12V, Inverter with size greater than 150W

Figure 2 shows the practical components which are used for implementing the PV system

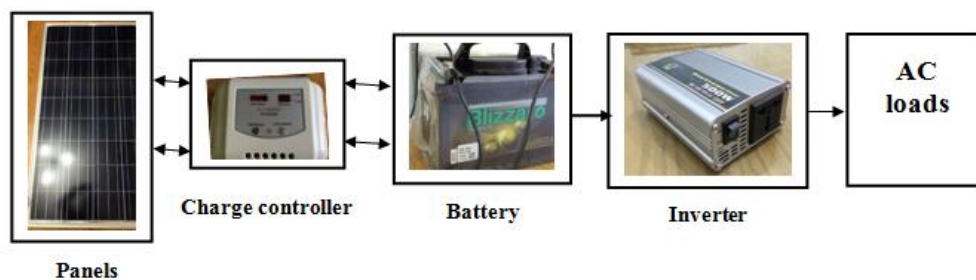


FIGURE 2: THE PRACTICAL COMPONENTS OF THE IMPLEMENTED PV SYSTEM

The PV is implemented and tested. It is working in an efficient way. It powers the loads when the light goes out for 5 continuous hours. There are supporting videos for practical implementation and testing for the PV system.

IV. CONCLUSION

A PV system for powering a living room with the lighting of both the kitchen and the bathroom is implemented. The power saving loads is used instead of the normal loads. It consumes less power. Thus it reduces the overall cost of the PV system. The required load is completely determined. Each part of the PV system is designed and sized. The implemented system is tested. It works effectively. It powers the required load for five continuous hours when light goes out.

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