



International Journal of Research Publication and Reviews

Journal homepage: www.ijrpr.com ISSN 2582-7421

Smart EV Charging Station, BMS, Fire Safety, Predictive Maintenance”

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ABSTRACT :

The growing adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) demands an efficient and sustainable charging infrastructure. Smart EV charging stations (SEVCS) play a pivotal role in managing the complex charging needs of electric vehicles, optimizing energy use, and enhancing user experience. A key aspect of these charging stations is the integration of a robust Battery Management System (BMS) to ensure the health and longevity of EV batteries, minimize energy loss, and provide accurate diagnostics for optimal charging performance. Additionally, fire safety mechanisms must be embedded into SEVCS to detect and mitigate potential risks associated with charging processes, preventing accidents and ensuring user safety.

This paper proposes the integration of predictive maintenance (PdM) within smart EV charging stations, utilizing advanced data analytics and machine learning algorithms to monitor the operational health of the system, including chargers, batteries, and electrical components. By analyzing patterns and detecting anomalies, the system can predict failures before they occur, reducing downtime and maintenance costs. Furthermore, the combination of BMS, fire safety protocols, and PdM creates a resilient, sustainable, and user-friendly EV charging infrastructure that contributes to the seamless integration of electric vehicles into urban mobility solutions. The findings highlight the significant role of smart technology in advancing the efficiency, reliability, and safety of EV charging stations, paving the way for future developments in the sustainable transportation ecosystem

INTRODUCTION :

The rapid growth of electric vehicles (EVs) has driven the urgent need for advanced and intelligent charging infrastructure. Smart EV charging stations have emerged as a key solution, offering features like real-time monitoring, dynamic load balancing, and integration with renewable energy sources to enhance energy efficiency and grid stability. At the heart of every EV is a Battery Management System (BMS), which plays a critical role in monitoring battery health, managing charge cycles, and ensuring optimal performance and safety. However, the increased energy density of EV batteries also brings elevated fire risks, making it essential to incorporate robust fire safety measures such as thermal sensors, automatic shutoff systems, and fire suppression technologies within both the vehicle and charging infrastructure. To maintain the reliability and longevity of these systems, predictive maintenance is becoming increasingly vital. By leveraging data analytics and sensor feedback, predictive maintenance helps detect potential failures early, reducing downtime and ensuring consistent performance. Together, these technologies form a comprehensive, intelligent framework for the safe, efficient, and scalable expansion of electric vehicle ecosystems. The global transition towards electric vehicles (EVs) is accelerating, driven by environmental concerns, government incentives, and advancements in clean energy technology. With this shift comes a growing need for a reliable and efficient EV charging infrastructure. As EV adoption rises, it is essential to develop smart systems that not only meet the energy demands but also ensure safety, sustainability, and seamless user experiences. Smart EV charging stations are a key innovation in modern mobility. Unlike traditional chargers, smart chargers offer dynamic load management, real-time monitoring, and remote control capabilities. These stations can communicate with the grid, prioritize energy distribution, and even schedule charging based on electricity rates or renewable energy availability. Such intelligence enhances energy efficiency, reduces operational costs, and supports large-scale EV integration. The Battery Management System (BMS) is vital for the performance and safety of EVs. It monitors the state of charge, temperature, and voltage of battery cells, ensuring balanced operation and protection against critical failures. A well-designed BMS prolongs battery life, optimizes energy usage, and prevents hazardous conditions like overcharging or overheating. As battery technologies evolve, the role of advanced BMS becomes increasingly important. With high-capacity lithium-ion batteries.

LITERATURE SURVEY :

1. The BMS is essential for safe and efficient battery operation. As described by Piller et al. (2001), a BMS monitors cell voltage, temperature, and current to ensure optimal performance and safety. Recent studies have highlighted the importance of advanced state-of-charge (SOC) and state-of-health (SOH) estimation techniques using Kalman filters, neural networks, and machine learning models (Zhang et al., 2018). Research continues to improve the accuracy and reliability of these systems, especially under dynamic charging conditions.
2. Fire safety has become a critical topic as battery energy density increases. Thermal runaway events in lithium-ion batteries are well-documented, with studies by Larsson et al. (2017) demonstrating the consequences of uncontrolled heat propagation. Research by Wang et al. (2020) suggests the use of early detection systems, including gas sensors and temperature monitoring, in charging stations and EV batteries. Fire suppression methods, such as aerosol-based systems and flame-retardant materials, have also been investigated to reduce the severity of such incidents.
3. Predictive maintenance is gaining attention as a way to enhance reliability and reduce downtime in EV charging systems. Studies such as those by Lee et al. (2014) show how condition monitoring, machine learning, and data analytics can be used to detect early signs of wear or failure in electrical components. Implementation of predictive algorithms helps in timely maintenance interventions, ultimately improving operational efficiency and reducing lifecycle costs.

RESEARCH METHOD :

Hardware: Sensors like flame sensors, smoke detectors, and thermal sensors (e.g., MLX90614 for noncontact temperature sensing) are used to detect heat signatures.

1. Predictive Maintenance System: **Function:** Uses data from the sensors (e.g., current, voltage, temperature, and power) to predict failures or maintenance needs. This system continuously monitors the charging station's components to predict when they may need servicing, reducing downtime and increasing efficiency.

How it Works: Machine Learning (ML) models analyze sensor data over time to identify patterns indicating wear and tear (e.g., battery degradation, sensor malfunction). Alerts are sent when components are predicted to fail, prompting preventative maintenance before an actual failure occurs.

2. IoT Communication (ESP8266 NodeMCU): **Function:** Provides wireless communication between the charging station and cloud-based platforms for remote monitoring and management. **Data Transfer:** Real-time data (battery status, charging progress, environmental parameters) is uploaded to the cloud via the ESP8266 Wi-Fi module.

User Interaction: The system can be controlled remotely through a mobile app or web dashboard, enabling users to monitor their charging progress and receive alerts.

3. Charging Base Station: **Function:** The interface where the electric vehicle (EV) connects for charging.

Power Control: The charging base ensures that the right voltage and current are supplied to the EV's battery based on its requirements. **User Interaction:** Includes a QR code scanner for user authentication before starting the charging process. The user scans the QR code with their mobile app to authenticate and begin charging.

4. Solar Charging System: **Function:** Powers the charging station using solar energy, making the system eco-friendlier and energy-efficient.

Solar Panels and MPPT (Maximum Power Point Tracking): The solar panel setup converts sunlight into electricity, and the MPPT controller optimizes the solar power output to charge the EV efficiently.

Energy Storage: The system can store excess solar power in batteries for later use during non-sunny hours, ensuring the charging station operates 24/7.

5. Sensors (Temperature, Humidity, and Power Measurement): **Temperature & Humidity Sensors:** DHT11 or DHT22 sensors monitor the ambient temperature and humidity at the charging station, ensuring safe environmental conditions for both the EV and charging system. **Current & Voltage Sensors (e.g., INA219):** Measure the power being supplied to the EV during the charging process. The system uses this data to monitor energy consumption, battery health, and overall system performance.

6. QR Code Authentication: **Function:** Ensures secure and seamless user access to the charging station. **How It Works:** Users scan a unique QR code to authenticate and start the charging process. The system checks the user's credentials (via a cloud server) before allowing access to the charger. The QR code provides an added layer of security to prevent unauthorized usage.

7. Cloud Platform (IoT Cloud): **Function:** The cloud serves as the central hub for monitoring, storing data, and analyzing sensor inputs. **Real-Time Monitoring:** Data from the charging station (e.g., temperature, battery status, charging progress) is uploaded to the cloud, where users and operators can access it via a web dashboard or mobile app.

8. Predictive Analytics: The cloud platform runs machine learning algorithms to analyze the data and predict 4 maintenance needs, component wear, or potential issues with the charging station.

Functional Workflow of the Smart EV Charging Station:

1. **User Authentication:** The user scans the QR code with their mobile app. The app communicates with the cloud platform to verify user credentials.
2. **Charging Station Activation:** The Raspberry Pi Pico controls the relay that manages the flow of electricity from the charging station to the EV. The station's sensors (temperature, humidity, fire) verify safe operating conditions before activating the power supply.
3. **Charging Process:** The MPPT controller ensures that solar energy is utilized to charge the EV, optimizing the power supply for efficiency.
4. **The Battery Management System (BMS)** ensures that the EV's battery is charged according to the optimal charging curve (based on the state of charge and battery health).

5.Data Logging and Remote Monitoring: Real-time data (voltage, current, temperature) is sent to the IoT cloud platform. The user and system administrators can monitor charging status remotely via a mobile app or web dashboard. Fire Safety Checks: Fire and smoke sensors are continuously monitored during the charging process. If an anomaly is detected, the system automatically stops the charging process and triggers an alarm.

6.Predictive Maintenance: The system uses machine learning algorithms to analyze historical sensor data and predict when maintenance or repairs are required. Predictive maintenance alerts are sent to operators, who can schedule maintenance before a failure occurs.

7.Completion of Charging: Once charging is complete, the system sends a notification to the user and disables the charger. The user can disconnect their EV safely.

APPLICATIONS :

Urban and Public Charging Infrastructure:

Smart EV charging stations equipped with advanced BMS and fire safety systems can be deployed across cities to meet the growing demand for EV charging. These stations ensure efficient energy management, preventing overloads or faults while ensuring user safety in public spaces.

Predictive maintenance applications allow operators to proactively address potential system issues, ensuring high uptime and reduced maintenance costs, which is crucial for urban areas with high charging station traffic.

Fleet Management for Electric Vehicles:

Commercial fleets, such as those used for delivery or shared mobility services, can benefit from smart charging stations with integrated BMS and predictive maintenance. By managing multiple vehicles simultaneously, fleet operators can optimize charging schedules based on battery health data and predictive analytics, reducing operational costs and improving fleet availability.

The use of fire safety mechanisms ensures that large fleet charging operations are safe from fire hazards, which is especially important for high-volume fleet charging stations.

Residential and Home Charging Solutions:

For residential applications, smart charging stations with BMS provide homeowners with detailed information about battery health, charge levels, and energy consumption. This enables efficient energy usage, while fire safety measures ensure peace of mind.

Predictive maintenance tools help homeowners monitor their charging systems and receive alerts for any required maintenance or potential issues, reducing the risk of failures or breakdowns.

Integration with Renewable Energy Sources:

Smart EV charging stations can be integrated with renewable energy sources such as solar or wind power. BMS helps manage the energy flow between the grid, EVs, and renewable sources, ensuring efficient energy use while maintaining battery health.

Predictive maintenance applications can monitor renewable energy integration, optimizing the charging schedule to take advantage of peak solar or wind energy production, further reducing operational costs and environmental impact.

Retail and Commercial Applications:

In retail environments, such as shopping malls or large commercial centers, smart EV charging stations can attract eco-conscious customers by providing efficient charging solutions. BMS ensures that customer EV batteries are charged optimally, while predictive maintenance ensures the station's uptime and efficiency.

Fire safety features reduce the risk of electrical hazards, providing a safer environment for customers and preventing potential damage to assets.

CONCLUSION :

The integration of a Smart EV Charging Station with Battery Management System (BMS), Fire Safety, and Predictive Maintenance provides a comprehensive solution to the growing demand for electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure.. This contributes to longer battery life, reduced energy waste, and improved overall charging efficiency Fire Safety: With the increase in the number of EVs, ensuring the safety of charging stations is paramount. Incorporating fire safety mechanisms, such as fire-resistant materials, automatic fire detection, and suppression systems, mitigates the risk of potential fires due to battery failures, electrical faults, or other hazards, ensuring the protection of both the infrastructure and the people using it. Predictive Maintenance: Using IoT-based predictive maintenance systems enables proactive monitoring of the charging station's equipment and infrastructure. Through real-time data collection and machine learning algorithms, maintenance needs can be anticipated before they lead to breakdowns or failures.

This minimizes downtime, improves service reliability, and reduces operational costs. In conclusion, combining these technologies enhances the operational efficiency, safety, and longevity of the EV charging infrastructure, ultimately contributing to the growth of the electric vehicle ecosystem.

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