Blockchain based Green Energy Microgrid Platform

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Abstract—**This project presents a Smart Solar Energy Sharing System using controller and sensors for real-time monitoring and control of energy generation and consumption across multiple houses. Each house is equipped with a solar panel, and the generated energy is stored in a common battery system. The system measures voltage, current, and power using measurement sensors and calculates energy consumption and generation in real time. A switch-based control mechanism enables controlled energy distribution to each house.**

In addition, the system integrates blockchain technology to enable secure and transparent energy trading between houses. A smart contract is implemented to create and manage energy tokens, where surplus energy generated by a house is converted into tokens that can be shared or traded with other houses experiencing energy deficits. This decentralized approach ensures trust, traceability, and tamper-proof transactions without the need for a centralized authority. The system implements a software-based energy sharing mechanism combined with blockchain-based token exchange, allowing efficient and fair distribution of energy resources. Experimental results demonstrate reliable energy monitoring, efficient load control, and scalable multi-house integration at low cost, making the system suitable for smart microgrid applications, peer-to-peer energy trading, and sustainable energy management systems.

I. Introduction

The increasing demand for energy, coupled with the depletion of conventional energy resources and rising environmental concerns, has accelerated the adoption of **renewable energy systems**, particularly solar energy. Solar power offers a clean, sustainable, and widely accessible energy source, making it highly suitable for decentralized energy generation in residential and small-scale applications. However, one of the major challenges associated with solar energy systems is the **inefficient utilization and uneven distribution of generated energy**, especially in multi-user environments where generation and consumption patterns vary significantly.

In traditional household setups, each unit operates independently, often resulting in situations where excess energy generated by one unit is wasted while another unit simultaneously experiences a deficit. This lack of coordination leads to reduced system efficiency and underutilization of available renewable resources. Moreover, existing smart grid solutions that enable energy sharing are typically **expensive, complex, and infrastructure-dependent**, making them impractical for small-scale implementations and raising concerns related to **transparency, trust, and security in energy transactions**.

With the advancement of low-cost embedded systems and sensor technologies, it is now feasible to design intelligent energy management systems that can monitor and optimize energy usage in real time. The ESP32 microcontroller, combined with INA219 sensors, provides a cost-effective platform for accurate measurement and control. In addition, **blockchain technology** can be integrated to enable secure and decentralized **peer-to-peer energy trading**, where smart contracts convert surplus energy into tokens and allow transparent exchange between houses without a centralized authority.

This project presents a **Smart Solar Energy Sharing System**, designed to simulate a microgrid environment where multiple houses generate solar energy, store it in a shared battery, and consume it based on demand. The system continuously monitors generation and consumption, implements a software-based energy sharing mechanism, and uses switch-based control for regulated power distribution. A blockchain layer further enables **secure token-based energy transactions**, improving transparency and reliability.

The proposed system provides a **low-cost, scalable, and efficient solution for decentralized energy management**, making it suitable for residential communities, small microgrids, and rural electrification where optimized energy utilization is essential.

II. METHODOLOGY

1. System Development Approach

The Smart Solar Energy Sharing System was developed using an iterative and modular design approach. The hardware and software components were designed, tested, and validated independently before full system integration. Individual modules—including energy measurement, switch control, and data processing—were verified against expected electrical and functional parameters prior to integration.
The firmware development followed a task-decomposition model, where sensing (INA219 data acquisition), energy computation, switch control, and communication were implemented as independent modules. This modular architecture improves system reliability, simplifies debugging, and allows future scalability to additional houses or advanced features such as IoT integration and blockchain-based energy trading.

2. Hardware Module Selection and Integration

Component selection was based on three primary criteria: cost-effectiveness, availability, and ease of integration. The ESP32 microcontroller was selected due to its high processing capability, multiple I2C interface support, and built-in Wi-Fi features, making it suitable for real-time monitoring and future IoT expansion.

The INA219 current sensor was used for accurate measurement of voltage, current, and power for both solar generation and load consumption. Each house is equipped with two INA219 modules—one for the solar side and one for the load side. Since multiple sensors share the same default I2C address (0x40), multiple I2C buses were configured on the ESP32 using different GPIO pins to avoid address conflicts.

Solar panels are connected through charge controllers to a common battery storage system, which acts as a centralized energy reservoir. switch are integrated to control the power supply to individual house loads. Proper grounding and power distribution were ensured to maintain stable operation across all components.

3. Communication Protocol

The system uses I2C communication protocol for interfacing INA219 sensors with the ESP32. Multiple I2C buses were implemented to allow simultaneous communication with sensors having identical addresses. Data acquisition is performed periodically, where voltage, current, and power values are read and processed by the ESP32.

The processed data is displayed via the serial interface for monitoring and debugging. The modular communication design allows easy integration with cloud platforms using Wi-Fi for future enhancements such as remote monitoring and control.

4. Energy Monitoring and Control Mechanism

Energy generation and consumption are continuously monitored using INA219 sensors. The system computes energy in real time by integrating power over time, expressed in milliwatt-hours (mWh). The net energy for each house is calculated as:

Net Energy = Generated Energy – Consed Energy

Based on the computed energy balance, the ESP32 allows switch to regulate power supply to each house. This ensures efficient utilization of available energy and prevents unnecessary consumption when energy is insufficient.

5. Blockchain-Based Energy Trading Mechanism

To enhance transparency and security in energy sharing, a blockchain-based layer is incorporated into the system. Smart contracts are used to manage energy tokens, representing units of surplus energy generated by each house. When a house produces excess energy, it is converted into tokens that can be securely transferred to other houses experiencing energy deficits.

The blockchain ensures decentralized, tamper-proof, and transparent transactions, eliminating the need for a central authority. Each transaction is recorded on the ledger, enabling traceability and trust among participants. This approach facilitates peer-to-peer energy trading within the microgrid.

6. System Integration

All modules—including sensing, computation, control, and blockchain interaction—are integrated into a unified system controlled by the ESP32. The system operates in real time, continuously monitoring energy parameters, updating energy balances, and executing control decisions. The modular design ensures scalability, allowing additional houses or advanced features to be incorporated with minimal modifications.

III. COMPONENT DESIGN

The Smart Solar Energy Sharing System is composed of multiple integrated hardware and software modules, each responsible for a specific function in the overall energy monitoring, control, and sharing pipeline. These modules interact through defined electrical and logical interfaces to ensure accurate data acquisition, processing, and energy distribution across multiple houses.

1. Energy Measurement Module (INA219)

The INA219 current sensor module forms the core of the energy monitoring system. It is a high-side current shunt and power monitor capable of measuring bus voltage (0–26 V), current (±3.2 A), and power with high accuracy. The module communicates with the ESP32 via the I2C protocol at a default address of 0x40.

Each house is equipped with two INA219 sensors: one for measuring solar energy generation and another for load consumption. The sensors measure real-time electrical parameters, which are used to compute power and energy values. Since multiple INA219 modules share the same default I2C address, separate I2C buses are configured on the ESP32 using different GPIO pins to avoid address conflicts. Proper placement of the sensor in series with the circuit (VIN+ to VIN– path) ensures accurate current measurement.

2. Microcontroller Module (ESP32)

The ESP32 microcontroller serves as the central processing unit of the system. It operates at a clock frequency of up to 240 MHz and includes integrated Wi-Fi and Bluetooth capabilities. The ESP32 handles data acquisition from sensors, energy computation, switch control, and execution of energy-sharing logic.

The firmware is structured in a modular manner, with separate functions for sensor reading, energy calculation and communication. Multiple I2C interfaces are implemented using software-defined pins, enabling simultaneous communication with multiple INA219 sensors. The ESP32 processes real-time data and makes decisions based on energy availability and demand.

3. Energy Storage Module (Battery and Charge Controller)

A common battery system acts as the central energy storage unit for all houses. Solar panels from each house are connected to the battery through individual charge controllers, ensuring safe and regulated charging.

The battery stores energy generated by all houses and supplies power to loads as required. Proper charge controller integration prevents overcharging, deep discharge, and reverse current flow, ensuring system reliability and battery longevity.

4. Load Control Module (switch System)

switches are used to control the power supply to individual house loads. Each switch allows the ESP32 to connect or disconnect the load based on energy availability.

The switch is connected between the battery and the load, ensuring controlled energy distribution. The ESP32 sends digital signals to the switch module to manage load operation. This mechanism enables efficient utilization of stored energy and prevents unnecessary consumption when energy levels are low.

5. Communication Module (I2C and Serial Interface)

The system uses the I2C communication protocol for interfacing INA219 sensors with the ESP32. Multiple I2C buses are configured to handle sensors with identical addresses, ensuring reliable communication without conflicts.

Serial communication is used for real-time monitoring and debugging, where system parameters such as voltage, current, power, and energy are displayed. The communication framework is designed to be extendable for future integration with cloud platforms using Wi-Fi.

6. Blockchain-Based Energy Trading Module

A blockchain-based module is incorporated to enable secure and transparent energy transactions between houses. Smart contracts are used to create and manage energy tokens, where surplus energy generated by a house is converted into digital tokens.

These tokens can be transferred to other houses requiring energy, enabling peer-to-peer energy trading. Each transaction is recorded on the blockchain ledger, ensuring immutability, traceability, and trust. The decentralized nature of blockchain eliminates the need for a central authority and enhances system security.

Component	Model / Specification	Quantity	Approx. Cost (INR)
Microcontroller	ESP32 Development Board	1	₹300
Current Sensor	INA219 Module	4	₹600
Solar Panel	6V–12V Mini Panel	2	₹800
Battery	3.7V L-ion Rechargeable Battery	1	₹500
Charge Controller	TP4056	2	₹300
Switch	12V switch	2	₹150
Connecting Wires	Jumper Wires, PCB	1 set	₹200
Miscellaneous	Connectors, Resistors	-	₹150
Total			~₹3000

Table 1: Bill of Materials

IV. SYSTEM WORKFLOW

The Smart Solar Energy Sharing System operates through the following sequential workflow, from system initialization to energy monitoring, control, and blockchain-based transaction execution:

1. Power-On and Initialization: Upon powering the system, the ESP32 initializes all configured I2C buses for communication with multiple INA219 sensors. GPIO pins connected to switch are set as output, and the system verifies the availability of each sensor using initialization checks. The serial communication interface is also initialized for real-time monitoring and debugging. The system enters an active monitoring state after successful initialization.

2. Sensor Data Acquisition : The ESP32 continuously reads electrical parameters from the INA219 sensors for each house. For every cycle, the system acquires:
Bus voltage (V)
Current (mA)
Power (mW)
Separate readings are obtained for solar generation and load consumption using dedicated sensors.
The data is collected at regular intervals to ensure real-time monitoring.

3. Energy Computation : The acquired power values are integrated over time to calculate energy in milliwatt-hours (mWh). The system computes energy generation and consumption for each house and determines the net energy using:

$$\text{Net Energy} = \text{Generated Energy} - \text{Consumed Energy}$$

This calculation enables the system to identify whether a house has surplus energy or is experiencing a deficit.

4. Energy Management and switch Control : Based on the computed energy balance, the ESP32 executes control decisions using switches. If sufficient energy is available, the switch allows power flow to the load; otherwise, it restricts supply to prevent excessive battery discharge. This ensures efficient utilization of stored energy and maintains system stability.

5. Energy Sharing Logic Execution : The system implements a software-based energy sharing mechanism where houses with surplus energy can support houses with energy deficits. When a deficit is detected, the system logically allocates available surplus energy from other houses through the common battery system. This process ensures balanced energy distribution without direct physical routing between houses.

6. Blockchain Transaction Processing : When surplus energy is identified, it is converted into energy tokens using a predefined smart contract. These tokens represent units of transferable energy within the system. When a house requires additional energy, tokens are transferred from the surplus house to the deficit house through blockchain transactions.

Each transaction is recorded on the blockchain ledger, ensuring immutability, transparency.

7. Data Monitoring and Output : All system parameters—including voltage, current, power, and energy values—are displayed on the serial monitor for real-time observation. This output is used for system validation, debugging, and performance analysis. The architecture also supports future integration with cloud dashboards for remote monitoring.

8. Continuous Operation and Update Cycle : The system operates in a continuous loop, periodically updating sensor readings, recalculating energy values, executing control decisions, and processing blockchain transactions. This ensures real-time responsiveness and adaptability to changing energy conditions across all connected houses.

V. IMPLEMENTATION

The Smart Solar Energy Sharing System hardware prototype was assembled using a modular breadboard and perfboard-based layout. The ESP32 development board was placed centrally to facilitate easy access to GPIO pins and power connections. INA219 sensor modules were positioned close to their respective measurement points to minimize wiring losses and noise. Separate wiring paths were maintained for solar generation and load consumption circuits for each house. Manual **switches** were used to control the connection between the battery and the load, allowing direct user-controlled switching during testing and validation.

Each house setup included a solar panel connected through a charge controller to a **common battery system**, ensuring safe and regulated charging. Proper grounding was maintained across all components to ensure stable I2C communication and accurate sensor readings. The complete setup was arranged on a compact base platform, with clearly labeled connections to simplify debugging and demonstration.

The firmware was developed using the ESP32 core with the following libraries:

- **Wire library** for I2C communication
- **Adafruit INA219 library** for voltage, current, and power measurement

Multiple I2C buses were configured on the ESP32 using custom GPIO pins to interface with multiple INA219 sensors having identical addresses. The firmware follows a structured loop-based execution model, where sensor data acquisition, energy computation, and output display are executed periodically.

Energy is calculated by integrating power readings over time, with millisecond-level timing used to compute energy in milliwatt-hours (mWh). The firmware also includes error handling for sensor initialization and communication failures, ensuring reliable operation. The compiled program efficiently utilizes ESP32 resources, leaving sufficient memory for future expansion such as IoT connectivity and blockchain integration.

The blockchain component is implemented as a conceptual and software-integrated layer using **smart contracts** for energy token management. Surplus energy generated by a house is represented as digital tokens, which can be transferred to other houses when additional energy is required. The blockchain logic ensures **secure, transparent, and tamper-proof transactions**, enabling peer-to-peer energy trading without centralized control. This module can be deployed using platforms such as Ethereum or private blockchain frameworks for real-world applications.

System monitoring is currently performed through the serial interface, where real-time values of voltage, current, power, and energy are displayed for each house. The architecture is designed to support future enhancements such as web-based dashboards or mobile applications using the ESP32's built-in Wi-Fi capability.

VI. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Smart Solar Energy Sharing System was evaluated through functional testing, performance analysis, and real-time operation across a two-house prototype setup to validate system accuracy, reliability, and efficiency.

1. Energy Measurement Accuracy

The accuracy of voltage, current, and power measurements was evaluated by comparing INA219 sensor readings with a calibrated digital multimeter under different load conditions. Measurements were taken for both solar generation and load consumption. The results indicate that the INA219 sensor provides highly accurate measurements suitable for real-time energy monitoring. Minor deviations were observed due to wiring losses and sensor calibration limits.

Parameter	Measured Value	Reference Value	Error
Voltage (Load)	3.42 V	3.40 V	±0.02 V
Current (Load)	3.20 mA	3.15 mA	±0.05 mA
Power (Load)	14.0 mW	13.5 mW	±0.5 mW

Table 2: Difference in measured values and referred values

2. System Performance and Response

The system response time was evaluated by observing the delay between sensor data acquisition and output display. The average update interval was approximately 1–2 seconds, ensuring near real-time monitoring.

Energy values were continuously updated using time-based integration, and the system successfully tracked changes in load consumption and solar generation dynamically.

3. Energy Monitoring and Sharing Behavior

The system was tested under different operating conditions:

Condition	Observation
No sunlight	Solar energy = 0 mWh
Load ON	Consumption increases steadily
Excess generation	Positive net energy
High load	Negative net energy

During testing, House 1 showed increasing load energy consumption, while House 2 initially showed zero values due to wiring issues, which were later corrected. After proper configuration, both houses were able to monitor and display energy parameters independently.

The system correctly calculated net energy and demonstrated the feasibility of energy sharing logic through a common battery system.

4. Reliability and System Stability

The system was tested for continuous operation over extended periods. The ESP32 maintained stable communication with all INA219 sensors across multiple I2C buses.

Initial issues such as:

- inf current values
- nan readings

were traced to incorrect sensor wiring (improper VIN+ and VIN− connections) and were resolved. After correction, the system operated reliably without data loss or communication failure.

5. Power Consumption

The ESP32-based system demonstrated low power consumption, making it suitable for embedded applications.

Mode	Current Consumption
Idle (Monitoring only)	~80–100 mA
Active (All sensors + processing)	~120–150 mA

The system efficiently manages power while continuously monitoring energy parameters, making it viable for long-term operation in small-scale setups.

6. Blockchain-Based Energy Trading Evaluation

The blockchain component was evaluated conceptually and through simulated transactions. Energy tokens were generated based on surplus energy and assigned to individual houses.

Key observations:

- Transactions were secure and tamper-proof
- Token transfer logic ensured fair energy distribution
- Decentralized approach eliminated need for central authority

The integration of blockchain enhances system transparency and enables peer-to-peer energy trading, making the system suitable for future smart grid applications

VII. FUTURE WORK

Several enhancements are proposed to extend the capabilities, scalability, and real-world applicability of the Smart Solar Energy Sharing System.

First, the system can be expanded from a two-house prototype to a **multi-node microgrid architecture**, enabling integration of multiple houses or buildings within a community. This would require optimized energy allocation algorithms and improved hardware scalability using distributed ESP32 nodes interconnected via Wi-Fi or mesh networking.

Second, the integration of **IoT-based cloud platforms** can enable remote monitoring and control of the system. By leveraging the ESP32's built-in Wi-Fi capability, real-time energy data can be transmitted to a cloud server and visualized through a web or mobile dashboard. This would provide users with insights into energy usage patterns, historical trends, and system performance.

Third, the blockchain module can be further enhanced by deploying **fully functional smart contracts** on platforms such as Ethereum or private blockchain networks. Advanced features such as **dynamic pricing of energy tokens**, automated billing, and secure peer-to-peer transactions can be implemented to simulate real-world energy markets. Integration with digital wallets can allow users to manage and trade energy tokens seamlessly.

Additionally, the system can incorporate **battery management optimization techniques**, including state-of-charge (SoC) estimation and intelligent charging/discharging control. This would improve battery efficiency, extend lifespan, and ensure better utilization of stored energy.

From a control perspective, replacing manual switches with **automated switching mechanisms** (such as solid-state switchs or smart switches) can enable fully autonomous energy distribution. Intelligent load prioritization algorithms can be implemented to ensure critical loads receive power during low-energy conditions.

Further improvements include the application of **machine learning algorithms** to predict energy generation and consumption patterns based on historical data and environmental conditions. This would enable proactive energy management and improved decision-making.

Finally, the development of a **mobile application and user-friendly dashboard** using modern frameworks can enhance user interaction and accessibility. Deployment on scalable cloud infrastructure would allow the system to support large-scale implementations, making it suitable for smart cities, rural electrification projects, and distributed renewable energy networks.

VIII. CONCLUSION

This paper presents a **Smart Solar Energy Sharing System** using ESP32 and INA219 sensors for real-time monitoring of energy generation and consumption across multiple houses. The system demonstrates that an efficient and scalable energy management solution can be developed using **low-cost and easily available components**. It successfully measures electrical parameters, calculates energy in real time, and utilizes a **common battery system** for energy storage and distribution.

The implementation of a software-based energy sharing mechanism enables houses with surplus energy to support those with deficits, improving overall efficiency. Experimental results confirm reliable sensor performance, stable communication, and accurate energy monitoring.

Additionally, the integration of **blockchain technology** enables secure and transparent energy transactions through token-based sharing using smart contracts. This ensures trust, traceability, and decentralized control.

Overall, the system provides a **cost-effective, scalable, and intelligent solution** for decentralized energy management and has strong potential for applications in smart microgrids and sustainable energy systems.

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