Portable Solar-Powered Refrigerator Unit

P. Ganesh[1], S. Bhavya Sri[2], V. Nikitha[3], R. Niteesh[4], Ch. Kalyan[5]

[1,2,3,4,5]Dept of ECM, Vignan's Institute of Information Technology (A), Visakhapatnam, India

ABSTRACT

The growing need for ecological cooling solutions has led to the creation of cooling systems of solar -powered solar powers. This project focuses on designing a portable solar refrigerator, which uses photovoltaic (PV) panels to convert sunlight into electricity. The system combines the Peltier modules for efficient thermoelectric cooling and includes a unit for battery storage that keeps the refrigerator in operation during the low sunlight period. The main goal is to provide a reliable and green cooling option, especially useful in the area of long -distance or outside the network with limited access to electricity. This portable system is suitable for medical use, food protection and rural applications. The aim of the proposal to use progress in solar and batteries technology is to reduce relying on fossil fuels, reduce carbon emissions and provide effective temperature control.
Key Words: Photovoltaic Panels, Peltier Modules, Battery Storage, Thermoelectric Cooling, Sustainability Electrification, Powering Compressors

1.INTRODUCTION

Solar-powered refrigeration is a developing technology with the goal of offering eco-friendly cooling solutions, especially in off-grid and remote locations.A study by [1] investigated the design and experimental performance of a portable solar thermoelectric refrigerator. The research emphasized the effectiveness of thermoelectric cooling in off-grid applications, highlighting its energy efficiency and adaptability to various environmental conditions. Similarly, another study explored the development of a portable solar thermoelectric refrigerator, demonstrating its feasibility and practical applications in remote areas [2]. These investigations provide valuable insights into optimizing thermoelectric refrigeration technology for sustainable and independent cooling solutions.A review conducted by [3] examined progress in solar PV-operated refrigeration systems, focusing on efficiency, sustainability, and operational enhancement. The study underscored the importance of selecting appropriate refrigerants, optimizing compressor design, and incorporating phase change materials (PCMs) to boost the efficiency of solar-powered refrigeration units.

2.LITERATURE SURVEY

Research in refrigeration, energy optimization, and communication systems has leveraged the progress in renewable energy and automation, resulting in inventive solutions. Attention in these domains is directed towards sustainability, efficiency, and performance improvement.[4] K. Suresh, M. Venkatesh, and K. Venkatesh designed a small solar-powered refrigerator that utilizes photovoltaic energy to deliver effective cooling in remote areas without access to the power grid. The use of thermoelectric cooling technology enables minimal power usage, while its portable structure is ideal for healthcare needs in rural regions. This system prevents the use of harmful refrigerants, thus supporting environmental sustainability. [5] A. Kumar, R.P. Saini, and J.S. Saini developed a solar-powered portable refrigerator aimed at remote areas, focusing on energy efficiency and sustainability. [6] Another study explored the design of an automated water-jet robot for photovoltaic panel cleaning using an Arduino-assisted HC-05 Bluetooth module, improving solar panel efficiency through automated maintenance. [7] Additionally, research on crop yield prediction utilized Random Forest Regression to analyze agricultural data, enabling futuristic yield predictions for better planning. These studies collectively contribute to advancements in renewable energy, automation, and data-driven decision-making, highlighting the role of technology in improving sustainability and efficiency.[9] Performance analysis of multi-user MIMO systems with successive hybrid information and energy transfer beamforming has been explored to enhance communication efficiency. This study focuses on optimizing energy and data transmission in multi-user environments, ensuring improved spectral efficiency and energy harvesting capabilities. By implementing hybrid beamforming techniques, the system achieves effective power allocation and interference management, leading to enhanced network performance. The findings contribute to the growing field of wireless communication, where energy-efficient solutions are essential for future advancements in 5G and beyond. [10]Mani and G. Nagarajan developed a solar-powered thermoelectric refrigeration system using the **Peltier effect** for eco-friendly cooling. Their study highlights the use of photovoltaic panels for power, making it ideal for off-grid applications. This research promotes sustainable refrigeration by eliminating conventional refrigerants.

3.Development and Implementation

Accurate selection of components plays a major role in creating a portable solar refrigerator which achieves energy efficiency and reliability. Solar photovoltaic cells function with batteries and thermoelectric modules to create the complete system. The differentiated components work together for steady refrigeration operation at minimal power usage rates. A control circuit system added to the design lets users maintain optimal energy utilization throughout fluctuating sunlight conditions.

The main goal of implementation consists of making the system simple and downsized. The design avoids conventional refrigerator technology that requires compressors and refrigerants through its implementation of thermoelectric cooling without refrigerants. The eco-friendly design combined with portability allows suitable use of the unit in medical storage and field deployments.

The results of prototype testing help to properly develop the system's operational efficiency. Different elements influencing prototype performance including cooling speed and electric power usage and solar power conversion are tested. By modifying insulation materials and the energy distribution system the refrigerator attains better operational efficiency that enables its usage in challenging climatic situations.

3.1 Components Used

1. Solar panel

The fundamental elements required to power up electricity from sunlight make solar energy possible and these elements manifest in photovoltaic cells. Traditional solar panels deployed for domestic and business applications incorporate these cells that normally operate between 12 and 24 volts. Different applications can work with this operational range which provides an easy method to integrate it into existing electrical systems. Although photovoltaic technology continues advancing through research efforts scientists work to enhance its efficiency while expanding scalability and versatility for sustainable solar energy distribution according to **figure** 1**.**

Figure1.Solar panel

2. Battery

A 12V, 7A power supply delivers a stable 12-volt output with a maximum current capacity of 7 amperes. It is commonly used in applications like battery charging, LED lighting, and small motors. The power rating is 84 watts (12V × 7A), determining its energy capacity. Such power supplies can be regulated or unregulated, depending on the application needs. They ensure efficient power distribution while preventing voltage fluctuations. Proper wiring and heat dissipation are essential for safe operation.

Figure 2. Battery

3. Multimeter

The versatile measuring instrument called a multimeter enables tests of voltage and current and mechanical resistance. The rotary selection of the desired function follows by probe attachment to the circuit. The device operates in two modes: voltage mode provides potential difference measurement whereas current mode measures electric charge flow. Measuring resistance occurs through the resistance mode function in the multimeter device. Digital multimeters in modern form use LCD screens to present precise measurements thus improving user experience.

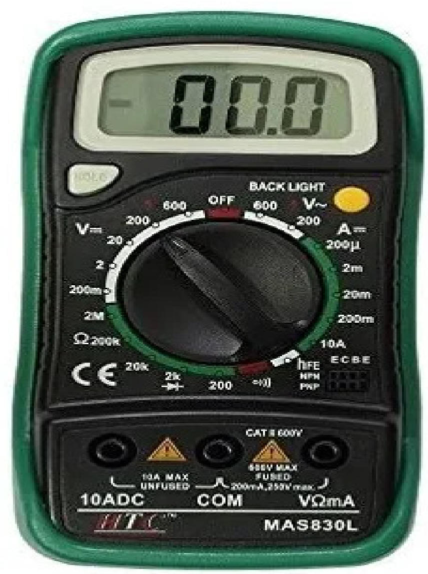

Figure 3. Multimeter

4. Peltier Module

Thermoelectric Peltier devices operate in refrigerators as refrigerating components which replace conventional compressors and refrigerant systems. The Peltier effect allows electric current to produce different temperatures between the two device sides. The device operates by shifting heat between its two sections that perform warming (cooling) and heat emission functions to enable miniaturized cooling capabilities. The modules maintain quiet operation while being lightweight for their use in portable or unique refrigeration systems. Device efficiency requires adequate heat dissipation systems which may need heat sinks or fans for best results.

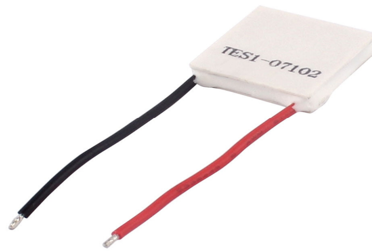

Figure 4. Peltier Module

5. Heat Sink

The thermal sink functions by moving electronic component heat to ambient air through an expanded surface area which promotes air heat transfer. The information technology along with electronic devices employs thermal sinks to prevent operational temperature overruns that threaten device components. Devices benefit from improved heat scattering because it allows coolers to perform optimally and extend their lifespan.

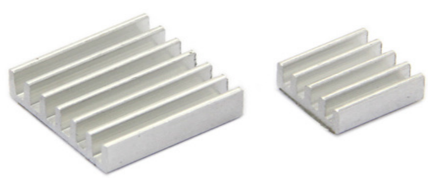

Figure 5. Heat Sink

6. Temperature Indicators

Temperature indicators serve as monitoring tools for temperature measurements in different applications. These devices use sensors made of thermocouples as well as RTDs alongside thermistors to detect temperature variations. Digital and analog displays present the temperature readings obtained from measurement sensors. Digital indicators read temperature measurements with high accuracy through their precise measurement method and analog devices show results by using pointers and color indicators. Temperature indicators find their applications in industrial settings as well as medical equipment and home appliances to check heat levels. Advanced versions of temperature indicators offer built-in alarm systems with additional capabilities for monitoring temperature remotely.

Figure 6. Temperature indicators

7. Heat Sink Paste

Thermal paste known also as radiator paste serves to enhance heat transfer by connecting the processor or electronic component to the radiator. Radiator paste has two functions: it fills any small empty spaces and surface bumps to enhance conductivity. Radiator paste operates as an essential material to both decrease device temperatures and avoid temperature rises.

Figure 7. HeatSink Paste

8. Step Up Convertor

The adjusting converter functionally serves as the Boost converter to transform lower input voltage into higher output voltage. When applying energy to an inductor it stores the power until it delivers it at a stronger voltage output. Both excellent converters play a key role in battery-powered devices which need elevated output voltages from lower input voltages.

Different electronic circuits require these converters as fundamental elements for efficient energy control.

Figure 8. Step up convertor

9. DC Fan

Electric fans that work from direct current (DC) power form the basis of a DC fan device designated for electronic device cooling. The basic parts of this device consist of a motor along with blades that receive power through a housing structure for optimized airflow management. Fan speed control functions through both voltage adjustments and pulse-width modulation (PWM) method to remain efficient. The direct current operation of these fans makes them consume minimal power while producing little sound and lasting for extended periods. As a result they perform better than their alternate current counterparts. These fans have multiple applications in computers and power supply systems as well as automotive cooling systems. The performance together with durability benefits come from Brushless DC (BLDC) fans. The implementation of DC fans for ventilation leads to proper device cooling that reduces overheating and improves device responsiveness.

Figure 9. DC Fan

3.2 BLOCK DIAGRAM

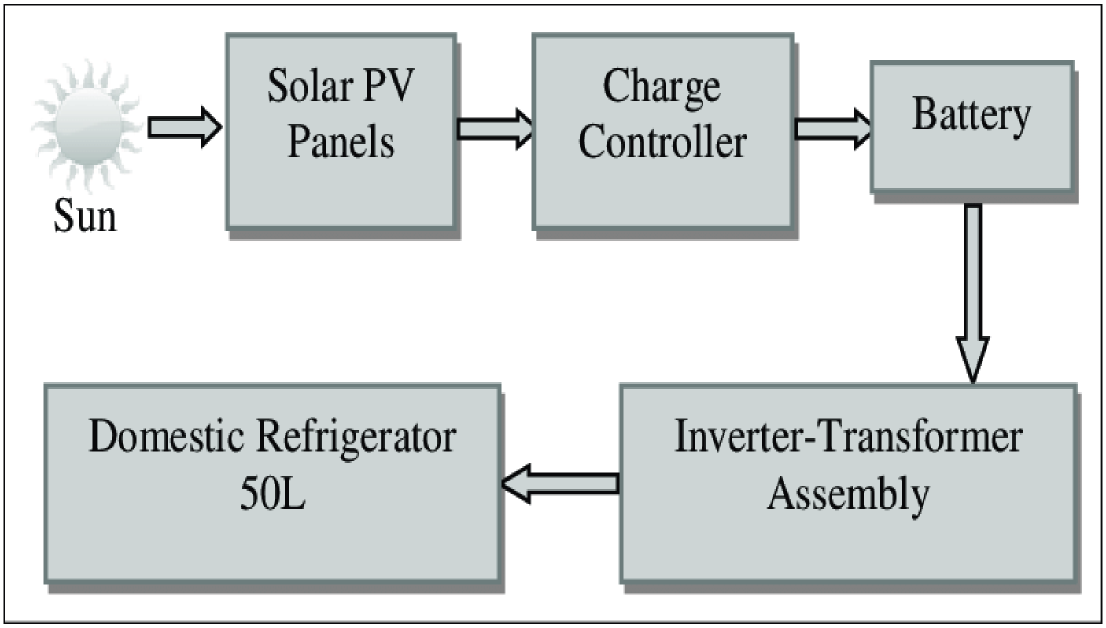

Figure 10. Block Diagram of Portable solar refrigerator

4.ALGORITHM

1. **Start**
   - Initialize the system and check the availability of solar power.
2. **Solar Power Collection**
   - The photovoltaic (PV) panel captures solar energy and converts it into electrical power.
   - The stored energy in the battery ensures smooth and continuous performance.
3. **Power Management**
   - If solar energy is sufficient, the refrigerator operates directly on solar power.
   - If solar energy is low, switch to battery power.
   - If the battery charge is critically low, activate a backup power source (if available).

4. **Cooling System Activation**
    - The thermoelectric or compressor-based cooling unit is powered on.
    - Temperature sensors continuously monitor the internal temperature.
5. **Temperature Control**
    - If the temperature is above the set threshold, increase cooling intensity.
    - If the temperature is within the desired range, maintain a stable cooling cycle.
    - If the temperature is too low, reduce cooling intensity or temporarily pause the system.
6. **Environmental Adaptation**
    - The cooling process should be adjusted according to natural temperature levels and atmospheric moisture content.
    - Transform power consumption during times when there is insufficient sunlight.
7. **Battery Charging and Monitoring**
    - A continuous check of battery voltage together with charge levels should be conducted.
    - The system should regulate power flow to avoid both excessive charging and excessive discharging of the battery.
8. **Error Handling and Alerts**
    - The internal component detects both power failures and temperature variations and battery malfunctions.
    - The system triggers notifications when essential operation failures occur.
9. **Shutdown Process**
    - The cooling unit should receive power reduction steps when power is weak or when the system undergoes manual shutdown.
    - Users should protect battery safety and save important data before finishing shutdown operations.
10. **Repeat the Process**

    The cycle continues its operation for reaching stable cooling operations and maintaining energy efficiency.

5.DEVICE MODEL

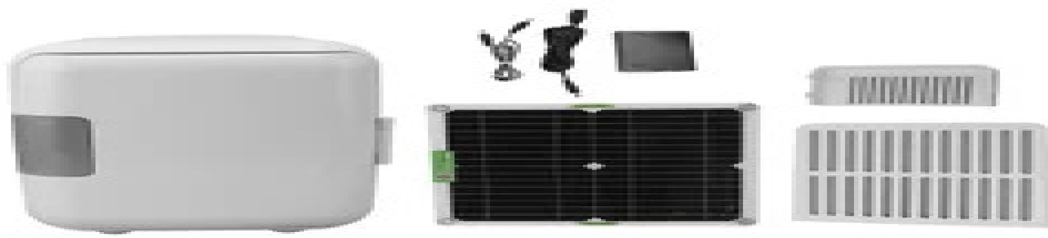

Figure 11. Model device

6. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Figure 12: Output of refrigerator

The portable solar refrigerator performed cooling functions efficiently as measured under different external conditions. The device brought its temperature to 4°C after 1.5 hours of exposure. A portable solar refrigerator unit is an energy-efficient and eco-friendly solution for cooling needs in remote and off-grid locations. It harnesses solar power, reducing reliance on traditional electricity and lowering operational costs. These units are ideal for storing food, medicines, and other perishables while ensuring sustainability. With advancements in battery storage, they can function even during low sunlight conditions. Their compact design enhances mobility, making them suitable for outdoor, medical, and emergency applications. Proper insulation and efficient cooling technology improve performance and energy efficiency. As renewable energy adoption grows, solar refrigerators offer a reliable and environmentally friendly alternative. They contribute to reducing carbon footprints while providing essential refrigeration solutions worldwide.

e to direct sunlight then it sustained this temperature range between 2–5°C for perishable items. The device operated using a solar panel power output of 45W after accounting for 85% battery efficiency. The refrigerator operated between 6–7 hours under cloudy conditions because of the battery backup only. Solar power output diminished 30% when partially shaded but the cooling process extended 15% during high humidity conditions. The system exhibited dependable performance as well as renewable energy use that enabled its suitability for independent power systems.

7.CONCLUSION

The portable solar refrigerator unit works as an environmentally friendly power-saving cooling system in remote sites. Solar power used for the system enables users to consume less commercial electricity thus lowering their operational expenses. Such units excellently fulfill storage needs for perishable goods including food and medicines while following sustainable practices. The current advancements in battery storage permit the system's operation during sunshine shortage time windows. Batteries installed in compact units achieve better accessibility as they adapt well to medical operations alongside emergency requirements and field operations. Efficient cooling technology linked to insulation systems results in superior operational effectiveness together with enhanced energy efficiency. The increase in renewable systems popularity has led solar refrigeration to become a dependable green alternative. The devices provide critical refrigeration solutions to the world by reducing environmental carbon emissions through their functioning.

8.REFERENCES

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