# A review on dual-axis solar tracking system

 P. Sivaprasad, P. Dilleswara Rao, P. Vimala, P.Vignesh Department of Mechanical, GMR Institute of Technology, Rajam, India-532127 Dr. Prasanth Kumar Choudhary Assistant Professor, Department of Mechanical, GMR Institute of Technology, Rajam, India-532127

# Abstract

 PV systems are now thought to be the most effective renewable energy source for producing power. the value of solar energy as an environmentally friendly, sustainable, and cost-free energy source. With an emphasis on solar tracking systems, it talks about the continuous investigation and study into improving solar energy harvesting techniques. An overview of solar PV cells, their building materials, various solar PV system types, and solar tracking systems is given in this article. It highlights the efficiency and benefits of dual-axis tracking solar systems over single-axis and fixed systems by focusing on their design and performance analysis. Through this research, solar energy usage is continuously improved. Dual-axis tracking systems not only increase energy efficiency but also help to decrease the total amount of acreage needed for solar power.

**Keywords**—Solar energy, Solar tracking, Dual axis, Arduino, *Light* dependent resistors (LDRs), Servo motors, Tracker mount, Driver, Efficiency

.

# 1.Introduction

An innovative device called a solar tracking system is made to maximize the effectiveness of solar panels by reorienting them to track the sun's path across the sky during the day. Compared to stationary solar panels, this tracking optimizes the quantity of sunlight captured, increasing energy production. One of the most important technologies in the development of solar energy is solar tracking systems. These systems increase energy output and support the

more general objectives of sustainability and energy efficiency by utilizing the sun's full potential. The use of solar tracking systems is anticipated to increase as costs come down and technology advances, contributing to the trend toward renewable energy sources.

These semiconductor-based panels are used in photovoltaic systems to directly convert sunlight into electrical power. A dual axis monitoring system that tracks the sun's movement both vertically and horizontally allows panels to maintain the perfect angle to the light. Panels move from east to west each day to follow the path of the sun across the sky. The panels adjust to the height of the sun as the seasons change. They will constantly be facing the sun thanks to this. These systems are especially effective in areas that receive a lot of sunlight or where the sun's position varies greatly during the year, such those near the equator.

In this work, we These semiconductor-based panels are used in photovoltaic systems to directly turn sunlight into power. In order to keep panels at the best possible angle to the light, a dual axis tracking system monitors the sun's movement both horizontally and vertically. To track the sun's journey across the sky, panels rotate every day from east to west. The height of the sun varies with the seasons, and panels adapt to match it. They will always be angled straight at the sun thanks to this. These systems work particularly well in bright regions or locations, like those close to the equator, where the sun's position fluctuates significantly during the year.

## 1.1. Requirement of Tracking System

The fact that the sun's position changes throughout the day and year necessitates the use of a sun-tracking system. Solar panels or solar collectors are used because being installed in one place does not provide enough sunlight to generate maximum energy. By tracking the motion of the sun through the sky, a sun-tracking system can keep solar panels or solar collectors oriented towards the sun, maximizing the amount of sunlight received and thus increasing energy output



Figure1: Single axis solar tracking system

Solar panels on single-axis trackers revolve in a single direction, typically east-west or northsouth. Throughout the day, the systems change the panels' angle to track the sun's path across the sky. They are a popular option for large solar farms since they are easier to use, less costly, and use less energy than dual-axis systems. They do not account for seasonal variations in the sun's position, despite the fact that they greatly increase energy output (30–35% more than fixed systems). 25–35% more energy is produced than with fixed panels. less expensive and complicated than dual-axis systems. Ideal for locations that receive steady sunlight all year round. unable to adapt to the sun's seasonal variations in angle (greater in summer, lower in winter). A little less effective



Figure2: Dual axis solar tracking system

Solar panels can follow the sun both vertically (as the sun's height changes over the year) and horizontally (as it moves from east to west) thanks to dual-axis trackers, which offer two degrees of rotation. This maximizes energy absorption guaranteeing that panels are always facing the sun. Dual-axis systems work well in areas with different seasonal patterns of sunshine. When compared to fixed systems, they can enhance energy production by 40– 45%. However, because these systems require more sensors, motors, and upkeep, they are more costly and complex. makes sure the panels are always facing the sun in order to maximize the amount of sunlight that is captured. 40–45% more energy is produced than with fixed panels. Perfect for areas that receive different amounts of sunlight throughout the year.

# 2.Literature Review;

This is the literature survey of those below research papers. which we studied about dual axis of solar tracking system.



































# 3.Methodology

## 3.1Materials

 LDR sensors, Stepper motors, Microcontroller, Solar panels, Voltage regulator, Limit switch, Adaptor, AC motor, PMDC Motor, BLDC Motor

## 3.2 Steps involved in dual axis solar tracking system

• Program: Launch the application, specify variables, and set up the input and output ports.

• Read sensors: Examine the light-dependent sensors' (LDRs') values.

• Examine sensors: To ascertain the location of the solar panels, examine the analog values.

- Verify voltages: Verify the fixed voltages in the design configuration.
- Tilt panels: Adjust tilting in accordance with voltages

• Rotate panels: Depending on the voltage differential between the LDR sensors, rotate the panels either clockwise or counterclockwise.

• Stepper motor movement: The microcontroller moves the stepper motors to a new location by turning on driver circuits.



Figure3: daily incident of solar intensity three systems

1. Black Line Dual Axis Tracking<br>• Justification: This system monitors the sun's position all day long, both vertically and horizontally. Consequently, it keeps the solar panels at the ideal angle to get the most sunlight.

• Finding: Throughout the day, the black line exhibits the maximum irradiance, peaking at midday. In comparison to the other methods, this shows the highest efficiency in capturing solar energy.

## 2. Green Dotted Line Single Axis Tracking

• Justification: This system allows for a certain amount of alignment with the sun by tracking its movement along a single axis, which can be either vertical or horizontal. • Finding: The green dotted line is much higher than the fixed-axis system but marginally lower than the black line. When compared to the dual-axis system, it exhibits lower efficiency, but is still superior to a fixed panel in terms of effectiveness.

## 3. Fixed Axis (Dash-Dot Line in Pink)

• Justification: This system does not track the solar panels; instead, it maintains them at a constant angle. The panels are unable to dynamically adapt to the movement of the sun because they are set to the ideal tilt for a typical day.

• Finding: In the morning and late afternoon, when the sun's angle differs greatly from the fixed panel's orientation, the pink line exhibits the lowest irradiance. When the sun is above around noon, the irradiance peak at that time indicates some efficiency.

An overview of the trends

• Less efficient than dual-axis tracking, but still more efficient than a fixed system, is the single-axis system.

• The dual-axis system performs better than the others in terms of continuously capturing solar energy throughout the day.

# 4.Applications

 Dual-axis solar tracking systems continuously align solar panels with the position of the sun to optimize energy generation from solar panels. The main applications are as follows:

## 4.1 Solar Power Plants at the Utility Scale

- Goal: To maximize the production of power in huge solar farms.
- Advantage: Because dual-axis trackers optimize energy production, they are

appropriate for high-energy-demanding projects where space efficiency is crucial.

## 4.2 Solar Systems for Homes

• Goal: To help homeowners boost the effectiveness of their ground-mounted or rooftop solar panels.

• Advantage: Dual-axis tracking might be a wise investment in areas with significant solar energy potential, while being more costly than fixed systems.

## 4.3 Systems for Off-Grid Energy

• Goal: To provide electricity to isolated locations without grid connectivity, including islands, rural settlements, or research outposts.

#### 4.4 Plants Using Concentrated Solar Power (CSP)

• Use: In CSP systems, sunlight is focused onto a small area by mirrors or lenses, producing heat that is used to produce electricity.

• Advantage: The efficiency of the thermal energy generating process is increased by precise alignment with the sun.

#### 4.5 Solar Power

• Goal: Grows crops beneath or next to solar panels, combining agriculture with solar energy production.

• Advantage: Dual-axis trackers maximize sunlight and shade throughout the day, which promotes crop growth and energy production.

4.6 Commercial and Industrial Uses

• Goal: To supply energy to commercial buildings, manufacturers, and warehouses with high energy requirements.

• Advantage: Dual-axis tracking lessens dependency on traditional energy sources by ensuring increased power generation during the hottest parts of the day.

4.7 Projects for Research and Development

• Goal: To investigate cutting-edge solar systems or technologies in practical settings.

• Advantage: Researchers can evaluate the greatest energy potential and advance solar energy technology with dual-axis systems.

4.8 Solar-Powered Plants for Desalination

• Goal: To provide electricity for the desalination of water.

• Advantage: Guarantees that the most solar energy is captured to power the

# 5.Conclusion

Solar tracking technologies have emerged as a major development in photovoltaic (PV) systems due to notable improvements in energy capture and system efficiency. The relative advantages of several solar tracking schemes are discussed in review articles along with their applications in a range of settings, such as water pumping stations and standalone electricity generation systems. Because dual-axis trackers maintain the optimum possible orientation toward the sun throughout the day and year, they perform better. This method is particularly useful for maximizing energy output in applications where efficiency is critical, such as large-scale power generating. Despite their greater initial costs and maintenance requirements, dualaxis trackers show energy benefits of 15% to 30% over fixed panels and single-axis systems. They are therefore ideal for regions with varying

Single-axis trackers, on the other hand, balance cost, complexity, and performance. They are widely utilized in applications like pumping irrigation water, where a 33% increase in energy production can lead to a significant decrease in operating expenses. Because these systems are simpler to install and operate than dual-axis trackers, they are more affordable for medium-sized businesses. The trials also demonstrate the versatility of solar trackers in integrating renewable energy sources into systems that are already in place. For example, incorporating solar trackers and variable-speed pumps into irrigation systems enhances water resource management, reduces dependency on the electrical grid, and maximizes energy efficiency. Furthermore, tracking systems' enhanced self-consumption ratios promote sustainable energy practices by lowering reliance on external power sources.

Economic and environmental variables have a significant impact on the adoption of solar tracking systems. Given the potential for long-term cost reductions and the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, solar tracking is positioned as a critical component in the transition to renewable energy. However, the unique project parameters, geographic location, and budgetary constraints will determine whether to use fixed systems, single-axis, or dual-axis trackers.

## References

1. Taha, M. T., Mohamed, E. O., Abdolsalam, A. M., & Taha, A. B. (2021, February). Control of Single-Axis and Dual-Axis Solar Tracking System. In 2020 International Conference on Computer, Control, Electrical, and Electronics Engineering (ICCCEEE) (pp. 1-6). IEEE.

2. Jadhav, M. K. S., Suryawanshi, M. H. D., Dhangar, M. B. D., Vadnere, M. A. P., & Patil, M. R. B. (2020). DUAL AXIS SOLAR TRACKING SYSTEM WITH MONITORING.

3. Keo, C., Srang, S., & Seng, R. (2023). Performance Investigation of Low-Cost Dual-Axis Solar Tracker using Light Dependent Resistor. *International Journal of Robotics & Control* Systems, 3(4).

4. Said, M. N. A. M., Jumaat, S. A., & Jawa, C. R. A. (2020). Dual axis solar tracker with IoT monitoring system using arduino. Int. J. Power Electron. Drive Syst, 11(1), 451-458.

5. Abdulmula, A. M., Sopian, K., Haw, L. C., & Fazlizan, A. (2019). Performance evaluation of standalone double axis solar tracking system with maximum light detection MLD for telecommunication towers in Malaysia. International Journal of Power Electronics and Drive Systems, 10(1), 444.

6. Hashim, Y. (2020). Design of arduino-based dual axis solar tracking system. Journal on Advanced Research in Electrical Engineering, 4(2), 129-133.

7. Kumar, V., & Raghuwanshi, S. K. (2019, February). Design and development of dual axis solar panel tracking system for normalized performance enhancement of solar panel. In Proceedings of International Conference on Sustainable Computing in Science, Technology and Management (SUSCOM), Amity University Rajasthan, Jaipur-India.

8. Mustafa, F. I., Shakir, S., Mustafa, F. F., & Naiyf, A. T. (2018, March). Simple design and implementation of solar tracking system two axis with four sensors for Baghdad city. In 2018 9th International Renewable Energy Congress (IREC) (pp. 1-5). IEEE.

9. Al-Mamun, M. R., Roy, H., Islam, M. S., Ali, M. R., Hossain, M. I., Aly, M. A. S., ... & Awual, M. R. (2023). State-of-the-art in solar water heating (SWH) systems for sustainable solar energy utilization: A comprehensive review. Solar Energy, 111998.

10. Robles Algarin, C. A., Ospino Castro, A. J., & Naranjo Casas, J. (2017). Dual-axis solar tracker for using in photovoltaic systems.

11. Prakash, M. B., & Govindarajulu, K. (2022). Analysis and Testing of Dual Axis Solar Tracker for Standalone PV Systems Using Worm Gear. Int. J. Mod. Trends Sci. Technol, 8, 1-8.

12. Mpodi, E. K., Tjiparuro, Z., & Matsebe, O. (2019). Review of dual axis solar tracking and development of its functional model. Procedia Manufacturing, 35, 580-588.

13. Masoumi, A. P., Bagherian, V., Tavakolpour-Saleh, A. R., & Masoomi, E. (2023). A new two-axis solar tracker based on the online optimization method: Experimental investigation and neural network modeling. *Energy and AI*, 14, 100284.

14. El Shenawy, E. T., Kamal, M., & Mohamad, M. A. (2012). Artificial intelligent control of solar tracking system. Journal of Applied Sciences Research, 8(8), 3971-3984.

15. Kumar, D. N., Sodisetty, V. P., & Kumar, C. V. Sunflower mimic robot for development of dual axis solar tracking system. Int. J. Recent Technol. Eng, 8(2), 554-557.

16. Alomar, O. R., Ali, O. M., Ali, B. M., Qader, V. S., & Ali, O. M. (2023). Energy, exergy, economical and environmental analysis of photovoltaic solar panel for fixed, single and dual axis tracking systems: An experimental and theoretical study. Case Studies in Thermal Engineering, 51, 103635.

17. Ghassoul, M. (2021). A dual solar tracking system based on a light to frequency converter using a microcontroller. Fuel Communications, 6, 100007.

18. Hoque, S. M. B., Das, B., Hasan, A., & Askary, A. (2019, December). Comparative analysis of dual and single axis solar tracker. In Proceedings of the International Conference on Mechanical Engineering and Renewable Energy 2019 (pp. 11-13).

19. Hamad, B. A., Ibraheem, A. M., & Abdullah, A. G. (2020). Design and Practical Implementation of Dual-Axis Solar Tracking System with Smart Monitoring System. Przeglad Elektrotechniczny, 96(10).

20. Abdul-Ghafoor, Q. J., Abed, S. H., Kadhim, S. A., & Al-Maliki, M. A. (2024). Experimental and numerical study of a linear Fresnel solar collector attached with dual axis tracking system. Results in Engineering, 23, 102543.

21. Batayneh, W., Owais, A., & Nairoukh, M. (2013). An intelligent fuzzy based tracking controller for a dual-axis solar PV system. Automation in Construction, 29, 100-106.

22. Mishra, J., Thakur, R., & Deep, A. (2017). Arduino based dual axis smart solar tracker. International Journal of Advanced Engineering, Management and Science, 3(5), 239849.

23. Malge, S., Bhole, K., & Narkhede, R. (2015, May). Designing of dual-axis solar tracking system with remote monitoring. In 2015 International Conference on Industrial Instrumentation and Control (ICIC) (pp. 1524-1527). IEEE.

24. Shang, H., & Shen, W. (2023). Design and implementation of a dual-axis solar tracking system. Energies, 16(17), 6330.

25. Mohanapriya, V., Manimegalai, V., Praveenkumar, V., & Sakthivel, P. (2021, March). Implementation of dual axis solar tracking system. In IOP Conference Series: Materials Science and Engineering (Vol. 1084, No. 1, p. 012073). IOP Publishing.

26. Hafez, A. Z., Shazly, J. H., & Eteiba, M. B. (2015, April). Comparative evaluation of optimal energy efficiency designs for solar tracking systems. In Proc. Of the third intl. cnf. on advances in applied science and environmental engineering (pp. 134-141).

27. Mamodiya, U., & Tiwari, N. (2023). Dual-axis solar tracking system with different control strategies for improved energy efficiency. Computers and Electrical Engineering, 111, 108920.

28. Mollahasanoglu, M., & Okumus, H. I. (2023). Performance evaluation of the designed twoaxis solar tracking system for Trabzon. IETE Journal of Research, 69(8), 5338-5350.

29. Subramaniam, V. (2018). Real time clock-based energy efficient automatic dual axis solar tracking system. Engineering Journal, 22(1), 15-26.

30. Mustafa, F. I., Shakir, S., Mustafa, F. F., & Naiyf, A. T. (2018, March). Simple design and implementation of solar tracking system two axis with four sensors for Baghdad city. In 2018 9th International Renewable Energy Congress (IREC) (pp. 1-5). IEEE.

31. Qamar, A., Kanwal, A., Amjad, M., Farooq, M., Munir, A., Ahmad, S., & Abdollahian, M. (2024). Advancing sustainable cooling: Performance analysis of a solar-driven thermoelectric refrigeration system for eco-friendly solutions. Case Studies in Thermal Engineering, 60, 104781.

32. Naval, N., & Yusta, J. M. (2022). Comparative assessment of different solar tracking systems in the optimal management of PV-operated pumping stations. Renewable Energy, 200, 931-941.

33. Shahzad, M. W., Nguyen, V. H., Xu, B. B., Tariq, R., Imran, M., Ashraf, W. M., ... & Sheikh, N. A. (2024). Machine learning assisted prediction of solar to liquid fuel production: a case study. Process Safety and Environmental Protection, 184, 1119-1130.

34. Varo-Martínez, M., Fernández-Ahumada, L. M., Ramírez-Faz, J. C., Ruiz-Jiménez, R., & López-Luque, R. (2024). Methodology for the estimation of cultivable space in photovoltaic installations with dual-axis trackers for their reconversion to agrivoltaic plants. Applied Energy, 361, 122952.

35. Ozcelik, S., Prakash, H., & Challoo, R. (2011). Two-axis solar tracker analysis and control for maximum power generation. Procedia Computer Science, 6, 457-462.

36. Boukdir, Y., & Omari, H. E. (2022). Novel high precision low-cost dual axis sun tracker based on three light sensors. Heliyon, 8(12).

37. Cabral, D., Kosmadakis, G., & Mathioulakis, E. (2024). Parametric comparison of a CPVT performance evaluation under standard testing procedures-ISO 9806: 2017 and IEC 62108: 2016-for an automated and manual 2-axis tracking solar system stand. Energy Reports, 11, 1242-1255.

38. Awasthi, A., Shukla, A. K., SR, M. M., Dondariya, C., Shukla, K. N., Porwal, D., & Richhariya, G. (2020). Review on sun tracking technology in solar PV system. Energy Reports, 6, 392-405.

39. Jensen, A. R., Sifnaios, I., Furbo, S., & Dragsted, J. (2022). Self-shading of two-axis tracking solar collectors: Impact of field layout, latitude, and aperture shape. Solar Energy, 236, 215-224.

40. Dekkiche, M., Tahri, T., & Denai, M. (2023). Techno-economic comparative study of grid-connected PV/reformer/FC hybrid systems with distinct solar tracking systems. Energy Conversion and Management: X, 18, 100360.