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Power Generation by Wind Turbines Across Highways

Dr. R. Keswani, Poonam Thakre, Janhavi Rakhade, Akshata Madavi, Khushi Asati, Kanchan Sonewane

Department of Electrical Engineering

Priyadarshini College of Engineering Nagpur, Maharashtra, India

Abstract: *The rapid growth in energy demand and environmental concerns has accelerated the search for sustainable and innovative energy solutions. Wind energy is one of the fastest-growing renewable energy sources; however, its efficiency is often constrained by inconsistent natural wind patterns. This research presents a novel approach to harnessing wind energy by utilizing the airflow generated by moving vehicles on highways. By strategically placing wind turbines on highway medians, this system leverages bidirectional wind flow from both sides of the road, ensuring a consistent and substantial energy source. The study focuses on the aerodynamic design, feasibility, and optimization of wind turbines specifically engineered to operate under vehicular-induced wind conditions. Computational simulations and experimental analysis are conducted to evaluate power generation potential and efficiency. This system is a smart and eco-friendly way to add renewable energy to what we already have. It works by capturing wind energy created by cars and trucks as they speed down highways—something we usually don't think about but can actually be put to good use. It's a smart and cost-effective solution that transforms wasted airflow into a valuable source of clean electricity. Designed with sustainability at its core, the system not only reduces our dependence on fossil fuels but also helps minimize the harmful emissions typically produced by conventional power plants. By using this often-overlooked energy source, we're making progress in clean energy and helping the environment in the long run. It's a smart move toward a greener, more sustainable future*

Keywords: Electricity Generation, Ardunio, Cost saving, Wind Turbine

I. INTRODUCTION

Wind energy is the fastest-growing source of clean energy worldwide, but one of the key challenges associated with it is the fluctuation in wind availability. An innovative solution can be found along highways, where rapidly moving vehicles generate artificial wind in addition to natural wind. This combination creates a viable source of wind power that can be harnessed using small-scale wind turbines. These turbines need to be oriented correctly to face the wind and generally require high air velocity to operate efficiently.

The energy produced can be used to power street lights, providing a greener and more sustainable alternative to conventional energy sources. The main goal of this project is to contribute to the global shift toward cleaner energy. As concerns about climate change, pollution, and the decreasing availability of fossil fuels continue to grow, it's more important than ever to find energy solutions that are both eco-friendly and practical to implement. This project aims to be a practical step in that direction by focusing on renewable energy technologies that can be applied in real-world settings. It's not just about theory—it's about making clean energy more accessible and effective in everyday life.

II. HARDWARE DESCRIPTION

This project is a wind energy system designed to convert wind power into usable electrical energy in a simple and sustainable way. The system works like this: when the wind blows, it spins the blades of a wind turbine. This spinning motion creates mechanical energy, which turns an AC generator and produces electricity. A voltage meter checks the voltage coming from the generator to make sure everything's working properly. The electricity that's generated is stored

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in a battery, so it can be used later. Since the battery stores electricity as DC (direct current), an inverter is used to change it into AC (alternating current), which is the type of electricity most household and industrial devices use. That way, the stored power can be used to run various electrical equipment when needed.

This setup offers a basic yet efficient way to harness wind energy and supply clean electricity.The generated electricity is monitored using a voltage meter, which measures and displays the voltage level to ensure proper functioning. The electricity generated by the wind turbine is stored in a battery, so it can still be used even when there's not much wind. Since the battery stores power as DC (direct current), an inverter is used to convert it into AC (alternating current), which is the type of electricity most homes and businesses use. Finally, the load represents the electrical devices or appliances that consume the generated power, such as lights, fans, or any other equipment connected to the system. This project demonstrates an efficient way to harness renewable energy, providing a sustainable and eco-friendly power solution.

In this project, the wind turbine is designed to harness the kinetic energy produced by wind, particularly the strong gusts created by fast-moving vehicles on highwaysWhen wind flows through the blades of a turbine, it makes them spin. This spinning motion turns a generator, which changes the wind's energy into electricity. The electricity is first stored in a battery as direct current (DC). But since most of our home appliances run on alternating current (AC), an inverter is used to switch the stored DC power into AC. This setup makes it possible to capture wind energy—like the kind created by moving traffic—and turn it into clean, renewable electricity. It's an eco-friendly way to generate power and reduce our reliance on traditional energy sources.

The speed of moving vehicles on highways using IR sensors and displaying the speed in a human-readable format on an LCD screen. The Arduino Nano acts as the central processing unit, tracking vehicle movement and calculating speed based on the time taken to travel between two IR sensors placed at a fixed distance apart. When a vehicle passes over the first sensor, the system automatically notes the exact entry time. As the vehicle moves forward and crosses the second sensor, the exit time is recorded. The Arduino Nano then calculates the vehicle's speed using the formula Speed = Distance / Time, where the distance is the fixed space between the two sensors, and the time is the difference between entry and exit. This speed is calculated in real-time by the Arduino Nano and instantly shown on an LCD screen, allowing users to easily view and monitor the speed of each vehicle as it passes through the system. This setup is useful for traffic monitoring, speed control zones, and educational demonstrations.

The key components used in this project include IR sensors for vehicle detection, an LCD display for speed visualization and Arduino Nano is used for processing and tracking the vehicle speed.

III. LITERATURE REVIEW

Liu, J. et al. [1] conducted a comprehensive review on the technical aspects and commercial feasibility of Vertical Axis Wind Turbines (VAWTs) in 2019. This study highlights the existing technical challenges associated with VAWTs and explores potential solutions to enhance their development. The paper provides an in-depth analysis of the latest advancements in VAWT technology, examining new opportunities and their commercial potential. A detailed comparison between VAWTs and Horizontal Axis Wind Turbines (HAWTs) was performed, focusing on key aspects such as aerodynamic performance, efficiency, power density within wind farms, and self-starting capability. The primary objective of this review is to assess the future role of VAWTs in the wind energy sector, which is currently dominated by HAWTs, while also identifying key technical challenges, design constraints, and market opportunities. Additionally, the paper discusses the major barriers preventing VAWTs from competing effectively with HAWTs in the future. Furthermore, it investigates whether VAWTs have a competitive edge in offshore applications based on insights gained from onshore turbine installations. Kumar, R. et al. [2].

Wind turbines are primarily classified into two types: Horizontal Axis Wind Turbines (HAWTs) and Vertical Axis Wind Turbines (VAWTs). While HAWTs are commonly used for large-scale applications, their implementation often poses challenges due to high installation costs and the requirement for extensive infrastructure. In contrast, VAWTs present a promising solution for smaller rural areas and medium-sized residential applications due to their compact design and lower installation requirements. The efficiency of energy generation from wind turbines is largely influenced by blade geometry and turbine orientation. To maximize performance, these parameters must be optimally configured and carefully determined.

This review focuses on the various stages of designing and developing highway-based VAWTs, analyzing key parameters such as the general wind energy landscape, different energy extraction techniques, and the aerodynamic performance of highway-integrated VAWTs. The project will involve determining the design parameters of turbine blades, considering factors such as blade geometry and orientation within the turbine assembly. Additionally, the literature review will cover experimental studies on wind turbines, including research related to experimental methodologies and performance evaluations of VAWTs, this will lead our project and give guidance.

IV. METHODOLOGY

4.1 Site Selection and Feasibility Analysis

Identifying suitable locations for wind turbine installation is crucial for maximizing energy generation. The primary consideration is traffic density assessment, where locations with high vehicle movement, such as highways, toll booths, and urban expressways, are preferred. These areas experience continuous vehicular motion, generating consistent airflow that can be effectively harnessed by wind turbines. Additionally, factors such as road infrastructure, environmental impact, safety regulations, and land availability are considered during feasibility analysis to ensure optimal site selection.

4.2 Selection of Wind Turbine Type:

For this research, we chose a Vertical Axis Wind Turbine (VAWT) because it works better in the unique conditions found along highways. Unlike Horizontal Axis Wind Turbines (HAWTs), which need to be pointed in the right direction to work well, VAWTs can catch wind from any direction, making them more practical in this setting. This makes them especially effective in highway environments where wind patterns are constantly changing due to the movement of vehicles. Their compact and vertical design allows them to be installed in narrow or limited spaces, such as highway medians, lamp posts, or roadside barriers, without interfering with traffic or requiring large clearances. This adaptability and space efficiency make VAWTs an ideal choice for harnessing wind energy in busy transportation areas. Their low maintenance requirements and ability to operate at lower wind speeds make them ideal for urban and roadside applications.

4.3 Power Transmission and Utilization:

The energy harnessed by the wind turbine needs to be efficiently transmitted and utilized. This AC power can then be transmitted through cables to where it's needed, such as street lamps or household appliances. This system ensures that the energy captured from wind is not only stored effectively but also delivered in a usable form for various applications. This research explores two primary methods of power utilization:

4.4 Direct Grid Connection:

If the turbine generates sufficient power, it can be fed directly into the local power grid. This allows for efficient energy distribution and contributes to the overall electricity supply in urban areas. Grid connection is preferred in locations where infrastructure is available for seamless integration.

4.5 Battery Storage:

In remote areas or locations where direct grid connection is not feasible, energy storage is essential. Lithium-ion batteries are used to store excess power generated by the wind turbine. This stored energy can be utilized during periods of low wind activity or at night when vehicular movement is reduced. Battery storage ensures a reliable and uninterrupted power supply, making the system functional in diverse environments.

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4.6 Performance Monitoring and Maintenance:

To ensure the efficiency and long-term sustainability of the system, real-time monitoring and maintenance are essential. Sensors are integrated into the system to continuously measure turbine efficiency, wind speed, power generation, and battery charge levels. This data is transmitted to a central monitoring unit, where performance is analyzed, and necessary adjustments are made. Regular inspections and maintenance checks are conducted to prevent mechanical failures and optimize energy output. Predictive maintenance techniques can also be implemented using data analytics and AI algorithms to identify potential faults before they lead to system failures.

The design of the project is divided into separate modules, each working independently but contributing to the overall system. These modules are clearly represented in the block diagram shown in Figure 1.1. The diagram helps illustrate how each part of the system connects and works together to generate, store, convert, and use wind energy effectively.

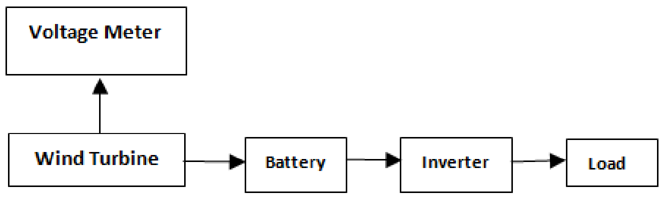

Fig 1.1 Workflow OF highway Wind Turbine

The Main Blocks of this Project are:

- Inverter
- Wind turbine
- Load
- Battery
- Voltage Meter

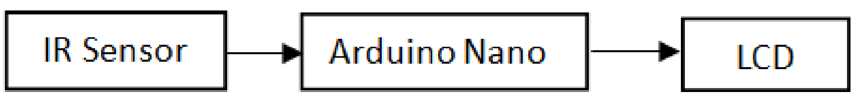

Fig 1.2 Block Diagram Of Speed Detector

V. COMPONENT DESCRIPTION

5.1 Arduino Nano

The Arduino Nano is a small and lightweight microcontroller board that's easy to use and great for electronics projects. It's built around the ATmega328P chip, which allows it to control different components like sensors, motors, and lights. Despite its tiny size, it's powerful enough to handle a variety of tasks and is a popular choice for DIY and embedded systems due to its simplicity and flexibility.It serves as the central control unit of the system, processing input signals from sensors and executing programmed operations. In this project, it reads data from the IR sensor and speed detector, calculates vehicle speed, and controls the display and other components.

5.2 AC Motor

An AC motor is used to convert electrical energy into mechanical energy. In this project, it may function as a generator, converting a mechanical energy from the vertical axis wind turbine(VAWTs) into electrical power. The generated AC power can then be utilized to charge the battery and power the connected load.

5.3 IR Sensor

The Infrared (IR) sensor is used for detecting passing vehicles. It consists of an IR emitter and receiver, detecting the interruption in the IR beam when a vehicle crosses its path. This data is used to measure vehicle speed and analyze wind generation potential.

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5.4 Inverter (200Watt)

The 200-watt inverter plays a key role by changing the DC (Direct Current) power stored in the battery into AC (Alternating Current) power. Since most household and industrial appliances run on AC power, the inverter is essential for making sure the electricity produced by the system can actually be used in a practical and efficient way.

5.5 Lithium-Ion Battery (12V, 4AH)

The 12V, 4AH lithium-ion battery stores the electrical energy generated by the wind turbine. It ensures a consistent power supply, even when wind conditions are low. Lithium-ion batteries are preferred due to their high energy density, efficiency, and long lifespan.

5.6 AC Bulb (Load)

The AC bulb acts as a demonstration load to test the efficiency of the system. It is powered by the inverter’s AC output, proving that the wind energy system can be generated usable electricity.

5.7 16x2 LCD Display

A 16x2 LCD display is used in the system to clearly show important information in real-time. It displays the speed of vehicles detected by the IR sensor, the voltage being generated by the wind turbine, the battery's charge level, and the overall power output. This helps users easily monitor the system's performance and status at a glance..The LCD uses a dot matrix of 5x8 pixels per character, offering clear visibility and low power consumption.

5.8 Bridge Rectifier

The bridge rectifier is an important part of the system that changes the AC power produced by the wind turbine into DC power. This conversion is necessary because the battery stores energy in DC form. A typical bridge rectifier is made up of four diodes arranged in a specific way to ensure the current flows correctly and efficiently, allowing the battery to charge properly.

5.9 Speed Detector

The speed detector uses infrared (IR) sensors to measure how fast vehicles are moving. Knowing the vehicle's speed is important because it helps in studying how much wind energy can be generated by a vertical axis wind turbine (VAWT).

5.10 Vertical Axis Wind Turbine (VAWT)

A (VAWT) vertical axis wind turbine is used to harness wind energy generated by moving vehicles on highways. Unlike traditional horizontal wind turbines, VAWTs can capture wind from all directions, making them ideal for unpredictable roadside airflow.

5.11 Volt Meter

A volt meter is included in the system to monitor the generated voltage from the wind turbine and the battery’s charge level. It ensures that the system operates within safe voltage limits and prevents overcharging or undercharging of the battery.

VI. RESULT & FINDINGS

6.1 Result:

The proposed model for generating electricity from moving vehicles on roads demonstrated promising outcomes based on prototype testing and simulation analysis. A small-scale prototype embedded with energy-harvesting mechanisms such as piezoelectric elements and mechanical conversion systems produced approximately 5 to 10 watts of electricity per vehicle, depending on the weight and speed of the vehicle.

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6.2 Findings:

The cost analysis indicated a 30 to 40 percent reduction in long-term operational expenses due to minimal maintenance and the absence of fuel requirements.

The potential to reduce carbon emissions by an estimated 10 to 15 tons of CO_2 annually per kilometer of implementation.

VII. CONCLUSION

This system is designed to support highway speed monitoring and traffic management in a practical and efficient manner. It helps authorities spot and track vehicles that are going over the speed limit, which makes it easier to manage traffic and keep roads safer. Since it monitors vehicle speeds in real-time, it can catch patterns of speeding or traffic jams. This info helps improve roads and transportation planning. Overall, it's an important part of today's smart traffic systems, helping traffic move more smoothly and lowering the chances of accidents caused by speeding.

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