AI-driven IoT system for diagnosing and rectifying issues with solar panels

Kapil Jaiswa[l*1],Ashish Bansal[2],Puja Gupta[2]

[1]SoE, Avantika University, Ujjain

[2]Department of Information Technology, Shri G.S. institute of Technology & Science, Indore

Abstract: Solar photovoltaic (PV) technology has come a long way in recent years because to its many advantages, such as being easy to maintain, reliable, renewable, and having little impact on the environment. However, various photovoltaic flaws may nonetheless manifest, leading to degradation, diminished production impact, or even a spike at various levels. This is conditional on the exterior working conditions and the usual weather changes that might damage production, delivery, or setup. Consequently, measuring the efficiency of PVS electricity generation is crucial. The "Internet of Things" (IoT) refers to a set of innovative technologies that are being rigorously studied to improve fault detection including predictive analysis in environmental monitoring including solar power plant operations. This study's results propose a machine learning-based strategy for assessing power data and anticipating problems to facilitate solar power plant management.The provided data provided by solar power facilities include both the plant's electricity output and meteorological information. The data undergoes initial pre-processing before being used for training with AI. The trained model was capable of identifying both significant and minor mistakes, along with anomalies in the provided data. Traditionally, these identifications need an increased volume of effort for detection and maintenance actions. The study's results indicate that the suggested model yielded 8.9 Mean Squares Errors, 2.98 and Root Mean Squares Errors with the present technique. The figures were obtained by model testing.

Keywords: IoT, Solar Panel, Predictive analysis, Fault Prediction.

Introduction

Solar power has seen substantial breakthroughs as a prominent source of energy from renewable sources in recent decades. This is mostly because to the several advantages it offers, including reliability, environmental resilience, ease of maintenance[1], and efficiency in power generation.Nonetheless, different photovoltaic (PV) flaws may occur due to outdoor working circumstances, periodic climate swings, and possible damages related to manufacture, distribution, or installation. These faults may result in varied levels of degradation, reduced output power, and possibly storm surges. To address these difficulties, it is essential for tracking the power output of solar energy systems. The majority of conventional procedures involve remote surveillance and human examinations. These methods have an assortment of disadvantages, such as the complexity and time required. IoT innovations have become the primary technologies for analyzing maintenance[2] regarding photovoltaic systems along with environmental monitoring in the framework of solar power facilities, with a focus on the necessity for improved fault diagnoses along with predictive analyses.

The IoTs facilitates communication and information sharing among a diverse array of devices, infrastructure, and services. Numerous studies indicate that using the IoT for monitoring PVSs has several advantages, such as enhanced precision and productivity, less human involvement, and therefore lower costs. The integration of MLTs facilitates[3] the analysis of extensive data sets for measurements of electricity, information about the environment, or imaging of photovoltaic panels. The IoTs profoundly influences human everyday life by facilitating the interconnection of many physical things over the internet. This connectivity facilitates data sharing for the monitoring and management of goods from any place globally via an internet connection. This facilitates unparalleled communication[4] across items, persons, even between things themselves. Sensors as well as microcontrollers are vital elements for solar energy monitoring, allowing real-time tracking[5] and efficiency optimization. To improve efficiency along with responsiveness, it is essential to include control systems alongside monitoring systems, allowing for the dynamic modification of panel operations according to real-time data.

To improve efficiency as well as responsiveness, it is essential to include control systems alongside monitoring systems, enabling the dynamic modification of panel activities according to real-time data. Moreover, fault detection is essential for prolonging the lifetime of operating components and sustaining system performance. Recent technical breakthroughs have resulted in the creation of sophisticated and automated techniques for diagnosing faults in photovoltaic plants. Consequently, these technologies improve the dependability and effectiveness of solar energy systems by facilitating real-time problem detection using monitoring[6] devices enabled through the IoT. The continuous delivery of clear information on many parameters, such as energy possibility, extracted energy, fault identification, historical plant analysis, and related energy loss, underpins the enduring use of photovoltaic (PV) tracking systems. The monitored data may be used for defensive maintenance, first warning detection, and assessment of weather variations, among other uses, as an ancillary advantage.

Recently, the acceptance of models using MLTs for the analysis and diagnosis of problems in solar panels has risen. This results from the transfer learning attribute inherent in these models, which exceeds traditional computer vision methods. MLTs serve as useful tools for classifying failures and are advantageous for comprehending the mechanisms of solar cell defect recognition and detection. These assessments not only improve the reliability and longevity of solar panels, however they also assist in managing their deterioration and enhancing their performance. MLTs may evaluate[7] data without the need of pre-established procedures to extract features from the input information. MLTs have the ability to evaluate data.

The suggested technique introduces the most important contribution to be described.

1. The preliminary phase includes the acquisition of the solar the data set using IoT, which has undergone pre-processed so as to remove superfluous information and avert mistakes.
2. Afterwards, the pre-processed architecture may be sent to the designated AI model for flaw identification.
3. The expected performance evaluation outcomes, which include the MSE, as well RMSE.

Background Study :

Presently, solar photovoltaic installations are being developed in substantial numbers globally. To ensure their safety and functioning throughout time, it is essential that these facilities undergo meticulous maintenance and frequent inspections. Current fault detection systems are largely used to protect against certain difficulties, including line-to-line, line-to-ground, arc, and ground faults. Numerous flaws and malfunctions may arise in solar plants, although most are used to mitigate these problems. Notwithstanding the presence of rigorous global standards, solar power plants persistently face significant challenges due to faults that go unnoticed during inspections.

The collection of dirt, debris, and other forms of detritus on solar panel surfaces is a substantial difficulty for solar panel users. The efficacy of a photovoltaic solar panel is compromised when any of its cells are occluded by dirt or dust, resulting in a reduction in the panel's production [6]. This is because the panel has several cells interconnected in series.

The collection of dust on solar panel surfaces may develop for several causes, leading to a reduction in overall efficiency and energy generation capacity. The deposition of dust caused a performance loss ranging from 12.4% through 30.4%, as shown by many studies [7]. Cleaning strategies are essential for improving the efficiency and power production of solar panels in this context [8]. Consequently, the topic of solar module cleaning[9] has been extensively researched for a prolonged duration. In recent years, scholars have proposed and examined several techniques for the cleaning of solar panels [10][11].

A viable technique for cleaning the plate involves hand washing it with water using a soft-fiber scrubber. This operation may need preliminary training and specific equipment, as well as being time-intensive. A prior research compared the effectiveness of manually cleaned solar panels with the performance of solar panel cleaned using a robotic system. The robotic system demonstrated superior efficacy[12] in collecting energy in the prior trial.

Several failure detection methods for solar power installations exist in the literature. The precision, intricacy of the technique, and the network offered are all variable among various approaches. The deficiencies in PVSs are being assessed using data from environmental, climatic, and satellite sources since their debut. The procurement of weather information is unnecessary for a select few detection methodologies. Electroluminescence pictures serve as an alternate technique. Metal connections serving as light-emitting diodes allow solar panels to harness fluctuating currents via the external environment. This approach produces photons with wavelengths approximately equal to or above 850 nm, which may be detected by cameras fitted[13]with Si-CCDs.

To enhance the effectiveness of solar energy systems, an IoT-based the STS solutions has been devised and is now being executed using real-time wireless as well as internet communication capabilities [14]. A concept was presented for an internet-based remote monitoring system using the IoT and fault diagnostics for solar arrays, employing extreme learning machine (ELM) techniques via data gateways including the PVMC website.

Long-Short-Term Memory (LSTM) based models are advantageous for identifying performance degradations in photovoltaic modules. Proposals for Edge Computing-based architectures aim for scalability and functionality; yet, the complicated nature of these systems remains the principal worry [15]. MLT models have shown substantial advancement in recent years, demonstrating considerable efficacy in the analysis and detection of solar panel faults. This is due to their use of a transfer learning capability that exceeds traditional computer vision techniques. MLTs are advantageous for both the categorization of faults and the understanding of the mechanisms via which flaws in solar energy cells are detected. This sort of decision may improve the efficiency and reliability of solar panels, while also assisting in the management of degradation [7]. A recent research used a fuzzy logic-based diagnostic technique to get categorization values from current-voltage data. This technology use the electrical features of crystalline silicon modules to generate electricity. This method may reduce the time and expenses associated with solar energy sources, and it may decrease the financial outlay for operating photovoltaic systems.

Suggested Framework :

The suggested framework evaluates the outputs of solar power plants. The software further forecasts required maintenance and potential problems in these installations. The power input data was used to detect panel flaws, which were then utilized for training the model based on MLTs for predicting future

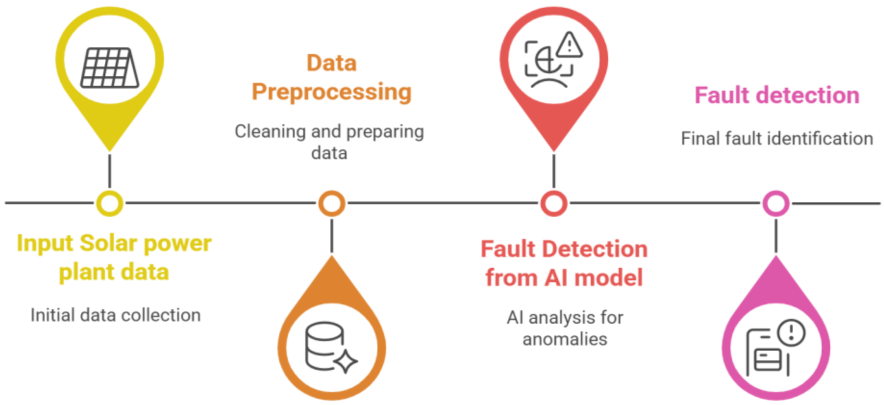

Figure 1: Proposed Framwork

The primary stages are as follows. Initially, all inputs undergo pre-processing before being inputted into the proposed AI model (Decision Tree with Gredient) for training, which then predicts defects based on this training.

1. Input data Pre-processing:

The input data comprises two elements: the data produced by the equipment and the weather information recorded at the site. The below pieces constitute the input data for each dataset.

- Irradiation originating from the photovoltaic plant at a certain day and time
- The plant's harvest results have been acquired.

Before delivering the data for predictive purposes, the following components are evaluated.

1. Identify any missing values.
2. Analyze the datasets in relation to the supplied chronology for the purpose of integration.

2. Model training : The gradient boosting method is used with decision trees to improve overall predictive Commence with the root branches and advance to predicting the classifications of the dataset throughout the development of decision trees.

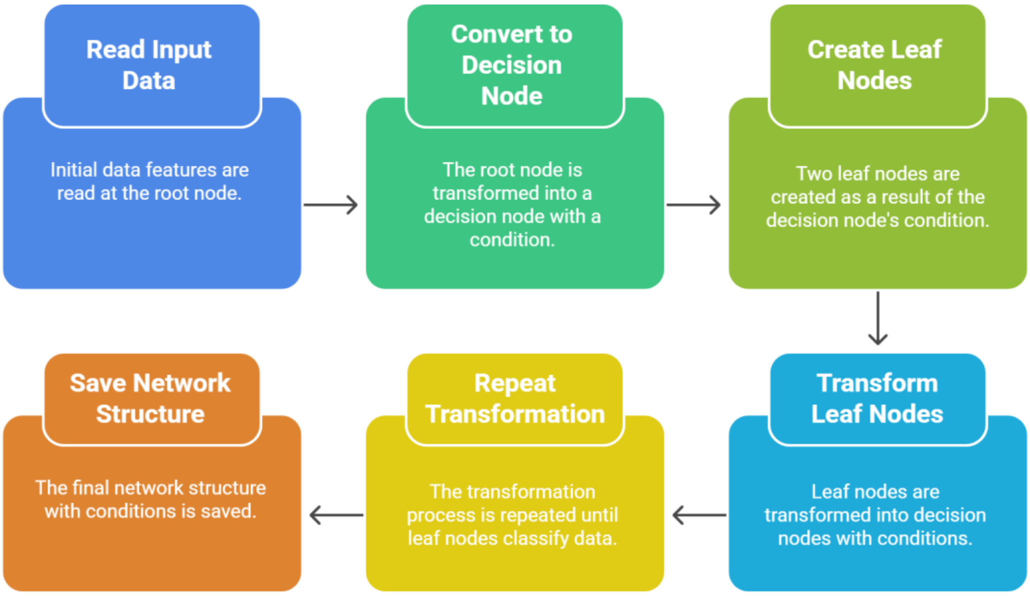

Figure :2 Working model for decision tree in prediction

The method verifies attribute values against other sub-nodes, and decision trees progress to subsequent nodes while traversing branches. This is achieved by contrasting the attribute values of each record inside the actual dataset against the numerical values of the fundamental attributes. The procedure is resumed when reaching the leaf terminals of the trees.

Gradient Boosting methods (GBM) have a vertical growth pattern, indicating that they expand like leaves, unlike other algorithmic trees that grow horizontally. GBM picks leaves that have had significant losses for development. They can mitigate losses more efficiently than level-based methods during foliage growth. Unlike prior boosting techniques that build trees incrementally, Light GBM partitions trees into branches during the construction phase. They choose the leaves exhibiting the greatest delta loss for growth, leading to a reduction in losses relative to level-based methodologies. This is attributable to the leaves being fixed rather than changing. Moreover, the possibility of leaf-wise tree growths augmenting model complexity may result in data overfitting when using restricted datasets.

Workflow of system

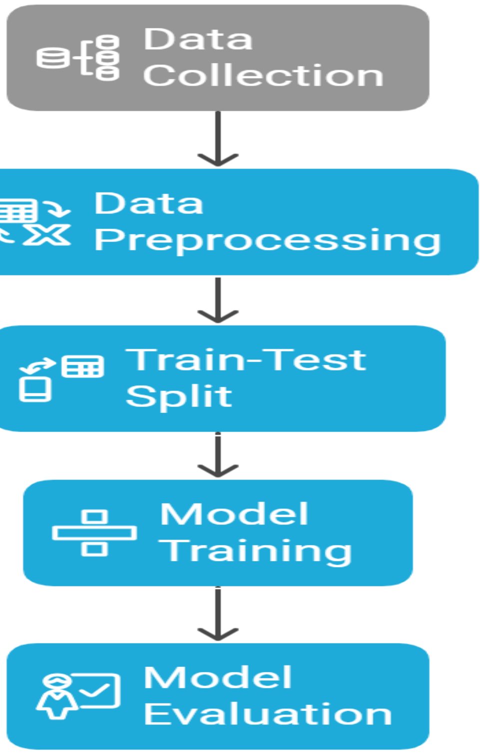

Figure 3: Work Flow of System

Predication of Fault:

The adoption of accurate and regular preventive maintenance processes is essential for ensuring that solar PV facilities maintain optimal both technological and economic performance throughout the long term in the present environment. This is because these strategies aim to ensure the facilities run normally. To promptly detect possible concerns, analytical monitoring methods have been globally established via the assessment of PVS performance. This is accomplished by observing PVSs. Recent discoveries indicate that statistical procedures based on methods such as data mining and machine learning might be advantageous for the early detection and prediction of defects. This undertaking is difficult because of the vast amounts of relevant data produced in solar energy plants as well as the modeling of several complex photovoltaic plant components. The current monitoring operations of PVSs have integrated significant supporting technologies and paradigms, including IoT as well as Machine Learning settings, to efficiently handle extensive database information.

Dataset and Experiment analysis:

The data is broken down into two parts and relates to three solar energy plants in India. It was gathered during a duration of sixty-five days. The data was allocated into eighty percent for training and twenty percent was used for assessment purposes. The particulars of the data set are as follows:

- Information pertaining to electricity production (acquired from an inverter linked to a series of solar panels)
- Environmental data (acquired from the array of sensors on the solar panels)

Practices that are currently in use with the approach that is being promoted. The following measures were employed during the comparison study:

Model	MSE	RMSE
Linear Regression	18.32	3.56800
Non-Linear Model	16.36	4.79
Polynomial Regression	14.21	3.7
Support Vector Machine	390.86	19.77
Gradient Boosting Regressor	09.23	3.86
Recommended Model	8.9	2.98

Figure 4: Model comparison based on error

companies with MSEs RMSEs. Linear regression was implemented to generate an MSE of 18.32 as well as an RMSE of 3.56800. The MSEs were 16.36 and the RMSEs consisted 4.79, as indicated by the Non-Linear Model. RMSE was 3.7, and the MSEs were 14.21 as a result of polynomial regression. The Support Vector Machine generated an MSE of 390.86 and an RMSE of 19.77. RMSEs of 3.86 and MSEs of 09.23 were achieved by the Gradient Boosting Regressor algorithm. The model that was recommended achieved the highest MSEs of 8.9 and RMSEs of 2.98 compared to the current models.

Conclusion :

Researchers have long been investigating the possibility of solar panels as an efficient energy generating source. The generation of power and the output will diminish if the solar panel's surface is compromised in any manner. The panel experiences stress from mechanical as well as chemical environmental factors during field operation, which will unavoidably result in defect development. Natural causes include extreme weather phenomena, wind, solar radiation, and precipitation. This work seeks to provide a methodology using machine learning techniques to assess power data and forecast the maintenance needs and flaws of solar power plants. The data is then trained using the decision tree methodology, which was suggested after the pre-processing of input data from the solar power plant, collected with the aid of the IoT. This is performed to foresee the inadequacies of the data being inputted. Any malfunction of the panel will result in a reduction in power generation. The reasoning used to forecast panel faults is based on a projected power value due to the mismatch between the expected and actual power levels. A fault is presumed to exist if the observed power values are inferior than the predicted power value under standard radiation conditions.In such circumstances, it is possible to anticipate faults in advance, so greatly facilitating the maintenance team's efforts to formulate remedies. At this point, the trained model can detect many of the panel's defects. This is a substantial improvement over the conventional system, which requires considerable work to identify faults and perform maintenance. The model in question attained a mean squared error (MSE) of 8.9 and a root mean squared error (RMSE) of 2.98, reflecting improvements of 12% and 6%, respectively, compared to the prior technique, as shown by the data.

Declaration of interests

The main author (Kapil Jaiswal) conducted the research and drafted the manuscript. The co-authors (Puja Gupta, Ashish Bansal) reviewed the work, provided technical guidance, and approved the final manuscript.

The authors declare that they have no financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

Data availability

The dataset used in this study was collected manually by the first author and is available upon reasonable request.

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