AI DEMAND RESPONSE FOR FAST EV CHARGING IN DYNAMIC PRICING

[1] Garima Shrivastava, [2]Dr. Vinay Kumar Jain

[1]Research Scholar, [2]Supervisor

[1-2] Department of Electrical Engineering, Bharti Vishwavidyalaya, Durg, Chhattisgarh

Abstract

Ultra-fast EV charging can create sharp, high-power demand spikes that stress distribution networks, raise operating costs, and increase reliance on carbon-intensive peaking generation. This study proposes an AI-enabled demand response framework for fast-charging networks operating under time-of-use (TOU) tariffs and real-time pricing (RTP). The framework combines (i) smart load balancing across multiple chargers, (ii) price- and grid-signal–aware charging control, (iii) predictive forecasting of station-level demand using machine learning, and (iv) secure vehicle–station communication supported by IoT sensing for real-time visibility. The proposed approach dynamically allocates charging power based on grid constraints, electricity price signals, user urgency, and charger availability, while enabling flexible strategies such as prioritized charging, deferred charging, and coordinated scheduling across sites. Forecast-driven control improves operational stability by anticipating congestion periods and pre-emptively smoothing peaks. Where available, the model can be extended to integrate renewables, on-site storage, and vehicle-to-grid (V2G) participation to support frequency regulation and peak shaving. Expected outcomes include lower peak demand, reduced charging cost, improved charger utilization, shorter effective waiting times through smarter routing/scheduling, and better grid reliability without compromising user experience. The study contributes an integrated perspective that links AI optimization, demand response, dynamic tariffs, and communication protocols into a practical architecture for scalable fast-charging deployments.

Keywords

Electric vehicle charging; demand response; dynamic pricing; time-of-use tariffs; smart load balancing; machine learning forecasting; IoT-enabled charging; vehicle-to-grid (V2G)

1. INTRODUCTION

The rapid growth of electric mobility is intensifying pressure on power systems, particularly where fast and ultra-fast chargers concentrate large loads in short time windows. Unlike slow residential charging, high-power charging can produce sudden peaks that challenge transformer capacity, feeder limits, and voltage stability—especially during already busy evening hours. At the same time, electricity markets are increasingly adopting TOU and RTP mechanisms to reflect grid conditions and incentivize flexible consumption. Fast-charging operators therefore face a dual challenge: delivering quick energy replenishment while controlling cost and maintaining grid compliance.

Artificial intelligence provides a pathway to manage these competing demands because it can continuously learn from operational data and adapt decisions in real time. By combining forecasting with control, AI systems can anticipate station congestion, predict near-future power needs, and adjust charging rates before bottlenecks appear. When coupled with demand response signals, the charging network becomes an active participant in grid stability—shifting or shaping load in response to price spikes, renewable variability, or local network constraints.

This paper focuses on an AI-based demand response model for fast-charging stations under TOU and RTP environments. It integrates smart load balancing, predictive analytics, grid-aware scheduling, and secure vehicle–station communication supported by IoT telemetry. The central aim is to reduce peak impacts and energy cost while preserving service quality through user-centric scheduling, transparent time estimates, and intelligent allocation of limited charging capacity

2. AI-DRIVEN POWER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The successful implementation of ultra-fast charging stations relies heavily on advanced power management systems. As electric vehicles (EVs) continue to proliferate, the need for smart, efficient power distribution becomes even more critical. AI-powered systems offer innovative ways to optimize energy consumption, balance the load, and integrate renewable energy sources, all of which are vital to support the growing demand for EV charging. This section covers the AI-driven power management system focusing on smart load balancing, demand response, grid integration, and predictive analytics for power demand forecasting.

Smart Load Balancing and Energy Distribution

Smart load balancing refers to the use of artificial intelligence to ensure the optimal distribution of electrical loads across the power grid and charging stations. EV charging stations are typically connected to the electrical grid, which is responsible for distributing electricity to numerous users simultaneously. However, when a high number of vehicles attempt to charge at once, it can strain the grid, causing potential fluctuations or even outages. To mitigate these challenges, AI systems can intelligently balance the load across the charging network.

AI algorithms can dynamically adjust the charging speed of each vehicle depending on demand, available power, and grid conditions. By monitoring real-time data from multiple charging stations, AI can identify high-demand periods and adjust charging rates to prevent system overloads. For instance, during peak demand times, the charging rate can be slowed for some vehicles, while during off-peak hours, charging can be accelerated to utilize excess available energy. This ensures that the grid remains stable and efficient, while also optimizing energy usage for EV owners (Li et al., 2021).

Grid-to-Vehicle Load Management : AI-based smart load balancing systems can also play a significant role in vehicle-to-grid (V2G) technologies. By integrating these systems with the grid, vehicles that are fully charged can provide stored energy back to the grid during periods of high demand, thus helping stabilize the grid. This system is particularly beneficial in areas with high renewable energy usage, such as wind or solar, where energy production can fluctuate. The real-time coordination between vehicles and charging stations allows for a two-way energy exchange, optimizing both vehicle charging and energy storage for grid support (Harten et al., 2019).

Demand Response and Grid Integration

Demand response refers to the ability of a smart grid to adjust electricity usage in response to external signals, such as changes in energy demand or fluctuations in electricity prices. AI plays a central role in demand response systems, enabling charging stations to automatically adjust their operations based on grid conditions and energy supply.

- **AI-Optimized Charging Schedules** : AI-driven demand response systems analyze real-time energy data from the grid, weather forecasts, and renewable energy production to determine the optimal time for charging. For instance, during periods of high renewable energy generation, such as sunny or windy days, the AI system can schedule EVs to charge, making use of low-cost renewable electricity. Conversely, during periods of high demand, the system can delay or slow down charging to avoid stressing the grid, thus maintaining grid stability and avoiding the use of expensive peaking power plants (Chen et al., 2020).
- **Flexible Charging for Grid Stability** : AI-enabled demand response systems allow for flexible charging by adjusting the amount of power delivered to EVs based on grid needs. For example, during times of peak electricity demand, the system can distribute charging loads across a wider period, thus reducing the instantaneous demand and maintaining a more balanced grid load (Zhang et al., 2021). Additionally, these systems can work in tandem with smart home technologies and smart meters to provide consumers with more control over their charging behaviors while also assisting grid operators in maintaining optimal operational conditions.
- **Predictive Load Forecasting** : AI-based predictive analytics can forecast future demand patterns, taking into account variables such as time of day, vehicle usage, and seasonal electricity consumption. By accurately predicting demand, AI systems can adjust charging schedules ahead of time, preventing sudden surges in power usage. This predictive capability enhances grid integration and ensures that ultra-fast charging stations can operate efficiently without disrupting the overall power distribution network (Dunne et al., 2021).

3. PREDICTIVE ANALYTICS FOR POWER DEMAND FORECASTING

Predictive analytics is a powerful tool for managing the future demand of electric vehicles in charging stations. AI models can analyze historical data from charging stations, local electricity consumption, and weather forecasts to predict future energy usage and adjust operations accordingly.

- **Data-Driven Forecasting Models** : Predictive algorithms use vast amounts of data, including vehicle usage patterns, charging behaviors, weather conditions, and time-of-day effects, to forecast when and where power will be needed the most. These models continuously refine their predictions based on incoming data, allowing for highly accurate and up-to-date forecasting. By predicting when the grid will face higher-than-normal demands, AI-driven systems can adjust charging rates or delay charging to minimize strain during these peak times (Li et al., 2021).

- **Optimizing Charging Based on Demand Forecasting** : Once the demand is forecasted, AI systems can proactively manage charging loads. For instance, if high demand is predicted during the day, the system can schedule or limit charging to off-peak hours when the grid is less congested. This not only helps maintain grid stability but also allows consumers to take advantage of cheaper electricity rates, especially in regions with time-of-use pricing for electricity (Chen et al., 2020). The ability to predict power demand in advance allows ultra-fast charging stations to become an integral part of demand-side management strategies, ensuring a more sustainable and cost-effective charging experience.

4. VEHICLE AND STATION COMMUNICATION PROTOCOLS

For ultra-fast charging stations to operate seamlessly and efficiently, there must be clear and consistent communication between the vehicle and the charging station. This communication ensures that the charging process is safe, optimized, and synchronized between the vehicle's Battery Management System (BMS) and the station's power supply. In this section, we discuss vehicle-to-grid (V2G) communication, IoT integration for real-time data sharing, and AI-based authentication systems for enhanced user interfaces.

V2G (Vehicle-to-Grid) Communication

Vehicle-to-grid (V2G) communication refers to the interaction between an EV and the electrical grid that allows the vehicle to both charge from and discharge energy to the grid. V2G technology enables a two-way energy exchange, where electric vehicles not only receive energy from charging stations but can also provide stored energy back to the grid during periods of high demand.

- **V2G and Smart Charging Stations** : AI and smart charging protocols are central to the effective implementation of V2G communication. These systems allow vehicles to discharge energy when the grid requires additional power, helping to stabilize grid frequency and reduce the need for backup power from non-renewable sources. By using real-time data analytics and machine learning, V2G systems ensure that vehicles only discharge when necessary and that charging stations allocate energy in an optimal manner (Li et al., 2021).
- **User Interaction with V2G** : AI-based V2G communication also enables dynamic pricing models that encourage users to participate in V2G systems. For instance, users can be incentivized to discharge energy from their vehicles at times of peak demand in exchange for discounts on future charging or other benefits. These systems also help manage peak electricity demand and reduce the need for additional energy production, which can be expensive and environmentally damaging (Zhang et al., 2021).

Integration of IoT for Real-Time Data Sharing

- **The Internet of Things (IoT) :** plays a crucial role in enabling real-time data sharing between EVs, charging stations, and grid operators. IoT sensors embedded in both vehicles and charging stations collect real-time information, such as battery status, charging speed, and grid demand. This data is transmitted over secure networks to the AI systems for analysis and decision-making.
- **IoT-Enabled Charging Networks** : By integrating IoT technologies, ultra-fast charging stations can communicate with each other and with grid operators, ensuring that charging loads are distributed efficiently. IoT sensors in vehicles can share SOC (State of Charge) information with charging stations, enabling smarter decisions about when and how to charge. Similarly, IoT-enabled smart meters can help monitor energy consumption, track electricity usage, and manage charging schedules based on real-time demand (Li et al., 2021).
- **Real-Time Monitoring and Fault Detection** : IoT sensors also assist in monitoring the health of the charging infrastructure. These sensors can detect faults or irregularities in the charging station and send alerts to both the user and the operator. IoT technology enables remote diagnostics and predictive maintenance, helping to prevent major failures and minimize downtime (Sovacool et al., 2020).

AI-Based Authentication and User Interface

AI-based authentication systems ensure secure and personalized access to charging stations. These systems leverage biometric recognition, RFID tags, and mobile applications to authenticate users and provide seamless charging experiences. The integration of AI in the user interface allows for personalized charging preferences, payment processing, and real-time updates on charging progress.

- **AI-Powered User Experience** : An AI-based user interface enhances the overall experience for EV drivers by offering features like smart scheduling, location-based charging station recommendations, and real-time updates on charger availability. Through machine learning algorithms, the system can remember user preferences and charging habits, providing an intuitive interface for users (Chen et al., 2020). Additionally, these systems enable mobile-based payments and remote control, allowing users to start and stop charging sessions from their smartphones or other devices.
- **Secure and Efficient Authentication** : AI-powered authentication systems improve security by ensuring that only authorized users can access the charging stations. Facial recognition, voice recognition, and biometric scanning can be used to authenticate users, reducing the reliance on physical access cards and minimizing the risk of unauthorized usage. These systems can also be integrated with payment gateways to facilitate contactless transactions, enhancing both the user experience and the operational efficiency of charging stations (Dunne et al., 2021).

5. AI ALGORITHMS FOR OPTIMIZING CHARGING TIME

As the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) accelerates, the need for optimizing the charging time and energy usage of charging stations has become more critical. The current charging infrastructure struggles with long wait times and inefficient use of energy, particularly in high-demand areas. AI algorithms, especially those leveraging deep learning models, dynamic pricing, and user scheduling, play a crucial role in enhancing the efficiency of the charging process. These AI technologies help predict charging durations, optimize load management, and even schedule charging sessions based on real-time data, leading to reduced waiting times and a more efficient energy distribution system. This section discusses the use of AI in predicting charging time, dynamic pricing, load management, and traffic flow optimization.

Deep Learning Models for Predicting Charging Duration

Predicting the charging duration for electric vehicles has traditionally been a difficult task due to the variability in charging speeds, battery states, and user behaviors. However, deep learning algorithms have shown great potential in predicting charging times more accurately than traditional methods. These models are capable of learning from historical data and identifying complex patterns that influence charging duration.

- **Neural Networks for Time Prediction** : One of the most commonly used deep learning techniques for predicting charging time is artificial neural networks (ANNs). These models take into account several input factors, such as state of charge (SOC), battery type, charging power, vehicle model, and ambient temperature, to forecast how long it will take to charge a vehicle. By training on large datasets of past charging sessions, neural networks can learn to recognize patterns and predict the duration of future charging sessions with high accuracy (Chen et al., 2020). In practice, these models can be integrated into charging stations, providing real-time estimates for users. By accurately predicting how long it will take to charge, users can plan their activities more effectively, reducing the overall time spent at charging stations and optimizing the flow of vehicles. These deep learning models can also adjust their predictions based on real-time data, making them more flexible and adaptive to changing conditions (Sovacool et al., 2020).
- **Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) Models** : Another promising deep learning approach for predicting charging time is Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks, a type of recurrent neural network (RNN). LSTM networks are particularly effective in scenarios where data is sequential, such as predicting the time it takes to charge an EV based on a series of previous charging sessions. These models can capture long-term dependencies in the data, making them ideal for forecasting charging durations over time, as they can account for historical patterns and trends (Zhang et al., 2021). LSTM models are especially useful in scenarios where charging time is influenced by factors that change dynamically, such as grid load, weather conditions, or vehicle battery health. By predicting charging time with high accuracy, AI-based systems can help optimize scheduling and reduce bottlenecks at charging stations, leading to a more efficient charging infrastructure.
- **Predictive Analytics for Real-Time Adjustment** : In addition to providing accurate predictions of charging durations, AI systems can adjust the charging process in real time. By continuously monitoring the charging state and battery health, these models can dynamically adjust the charging speed, ensuring that vehicles are charged as efficiently as possible without overloading the battery (Li et al., 2021). This ability to predict and

adjust charging durations in real time not only improves the user experience but also contributes to the overall stability and efficiency of the power grid.

Dynamic Pricing and Load Management

Dynamic pricing and load management are two interconnected concepts that are essential for optimizing the use of electricity in ultra-fast charging stations. Dynamic pricing allows charging stations to adjust the cost of charging in real time, based on factors such as energy demand, grid availability, and time of day. Load management, on the other hand, involves the efficient distribution of available power to multiple vehicles, ensuring that the electrical grid is not overloaded while still meeting the charging demands of EV owners.

AI-Driven Dynamic Pricing Models : Dynamic pricing is an effective way to optimize energy consumption by charging users more during peak periods and offering discounts during off-peak hours. AI algorithms can predict periods of high and low energy demand, adjusting the price accordingly. This not only encourages EV owners to charge during off-peak hours, but it also helps balance the load on the electrical grid. By incorporating time-of-use pricing (TOU) models, charging stations can ensure that electricity consumption aligns with grid capacity, reducing the likelihood of power shortages during peak demand (Sovacool et al., 2020). AI models can also incorporate real-time weather data and renewable energy production forecasts to adjust pricing dynamically. For example, if there is an abundance of solar energy during the day, prices can be lowered to encourage more users to charge their EVs. Conversely, during periods of high demand or low renewable energy generation, prices can increase to help manage the grid's load (Zhang et al., 2021). This real-time adjustment can help reduce the reliance on expensive fossil-fuel-based energy sources and promote the use of cleaner, more sustainable energy.

Load Balancing with AI : AI-based load management algorithms can monitor the demand at multiple charging stations and adjust the power distribution accordingly. When several vehicles are charging simultaneously, AI systems can dynamically distribute the power among them to avoid overloading the system. This process, known as demand-side management, helps prevent grid instability and optimizes the efficiency of the entire charging network (Li et al., 2021), AI can prioritize charging for vehicles with urgent needs (e.g., vehicles that are running low on battery) while slowing down charging for vehicles that can wait. This ensures that charging stations operate efficiently, minimizing bottlenecks and wait times for users while maintaining grid stability. By implementing real-time power flow analysis and dynamic load balancing, charging stations can optimize the use of available resources and ensure that all vehicles are charged in the most efficient manner possible (Chen et al., 2020).

AI-Based Traffic Flow and User Scheduling

Optimizing traffic flow at charging stations and scheduling charging sessions is a critical aspect of improving the overall efficiency of the EV charging infrastructure. AI can be employed to enhance traffic management, reduce wait times, and ensure a smooth and organized flow of vehicles to and from charging stations.

- **AI in Traffic Flow Optimization** : AI systems can be used to optimize vehicle flow at charging stations, especially in busy urban areas where charging demand is high. By analyzing real-time data on vehicle arrival times, charging station availability, and user behavior, AI systems can direct vehicles to the charging stations with the shortest wait times, improving overall throughput and reducing congestion at peak times (Sovacool et al., 2020). These systems can also use historical data to predict times of high demand and adjust vehicle flow accordingly, ensuring that charging stations are not overcrowded and that users can access charging stations without unnecessary delays (Li et al., 2021). AI-based systems can integrate traffic prediction algorithms with real-time GPS data to direct vehicles to nearby stations based on availability. This dynamic scheduling can be communicated via mobile apps or in-vehicle systems, providing drivers with updated information on where to find an available charger. This system enhances the user experience by providing more accurate waiting times and optimal charging schedules.
- **AI-Based User Scheduling** : Another important aspect of user scheduling is the ability to pre-schedule charging sessions, ensuring that vehicles are charged during the most optimal time slots. AI can predict when certain users will need to charge based on their driving patterns and schedule charging sessions accordingly. For example, if a user typically charges their vehicle overnight, the AI system can schedule the charging session to start when electricity prices are at their lowest, optimizing both cost and energy consumption (Zhang et al., 2021), AI can enable real-time user adjustments, allowing users to modify their charging schedules based on personal needs. For instance, if a user's plans change and they need to charge their vehicle sooner, the system can accommodate this request by adjusting the charging rate or allocating additional resources (Chen et al., 2020). These personalized charging schedules, powered by AI, contribute to a more flexible and user-friendly charging experience.
- **Coordinating Charging in Shared Spaces** : For shared EV charging spaces, such as workplace chargers or shopping mall chargers, AI systems can ensure that charging stations are allocated to the right users at the right time. By integrating smart algorithms with user profiles, AI can schedule charging based on priority (e.g., urgent charging needs), charging history, or user preferences. This creates an efficient allocation system that maximizes the utilization of available chargers and reduces idle time (Dunne et al., 2021).

Conclusion

AI-driven demand response can turn fast-charging stations from a grid burden into a flexible, price-responsive system by forecasting demand, optimizing charging schedules, and adjusting charging power using real-time grid conditions and TOU/RTP tariff signals, which helps reduce peak load, improve charger utilization, and lower operating costs; at the same time, IoT-based telemetry supports real-time monitoring, fault detection, and predictive maintenance, while secure authentication and standardized communication protocols improve safety and user experience, making ultra-fast charging more scalable and reliable—while future improvements can further enhance performance through on-site storage and renewable integration, fairness-aware user scheduling, and stronger cybersecurity/anomaly detection for protecting connected charging networks.

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