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Deep Learning Approaches for Electric Vehicle Charging and Smart Grid Coordination: A Review

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| Peer Review Information | Abstract |
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| <p><i>Submission: 16 Aug 2023</i></p> <p><i>Revision: 29 Aug 2023</i></p> <p><i>Acceptance: 12 Sept 2023</i></p> <p>Keywords</p> <p><i>Electric Vehicles, Smart Grid, Deep Learning, Parallel CNN, EV Charging Optimization, IoT, Intelligent Transportation Systems.</i></p> | <p>The rapid growth of electric vehicles (EVs) has created major challenges for modern power systems, including increased energy demand, grid instability, and efficient charging management. Integrating EVs with smart grids and intelligent transportation systems requires advanced computational frameworks capable of handling dynamic and large-scale data. Artificial intelligence, particularly deep learning and optimization techniques, has emerged as an effective solution for optimizing EV charging operations. Parallel Convolutional Neural Networks (PCNNs) and hybrid architectures such as CNN-LSTM and reinforcement learning models have demonstrated strong performance in load forecasting, charging prediction, and real-time energy management. AI-driven charging systems improve grid efficiency by enabling intelligent scheduling, demand response, and adaptive charging control. Optimization approaches significantly reduce peak load demand and minimize grid stress during large-scale EV integration. PCNN models enhance system performance through parallel processing and multi-dimensional feature extraction from IoT sensors, traffic systems, and smart grid data. Furthermore, reinforcement learning-assisted frameworks effectively manage uncertainties in EV charging behavior, improving decision-making in dynamic environments. These intelligent approaches support seamless coordination between smart grids and transportation systems, contributing to efficient, scalable, and sustainable EV charging infrastructures.</p> |

Introduction

The global transition toward sustainable energy and transportation systems has accelerated the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) as a viable alternative to conventional fossil fuel-based vehicles. Governments and industries worldwide are promoting EV deployment to reduce carbon emissions, improve air quality, and achieve energy sustainability goals. However, the rapid increase in EV adoption poses significant challenges for existing power grid infrastructures, particularly in terms of load

management, grid stability, and efficient energy distribution.

One of the primary challenges associated with EV integration is the uncoordinated charging behaviour of vehicles, which can lead to peak load demand, voltage fluctuations, and grid congestion. Traditional power systems are not designed to handle such dynamic and unpredictable energy consumption patterns. Therefore, the integration of EV charging infrastructure with smart grids and intelligent transportation systems (ITS) has become essential to ensure efficient and reliable energy

management. Smart grids enable bidirectional communication, real-time monitoring, and automated control, while ITS provides traffic-aware insights that can influence charging demand and scheduling.

The Internet of Things (IoT) plays a crucial role in enabling this integration by providing a network of interconnected sensors, smart meters, and communication devices that collect real-time data from EV charging stations, grid components, and transportation systems. This data is used to monitor system conditions, predict demand, and optimize charging operations. However, the large volume and complexity of data generated by IoT devices require advanced analytical techniques capable of extracting meaningful insights and supporting intelligent decision-making.

Artificial Intelligence (AI), particularly deep learning, has emerged as a powerful tool for addressing these challenges. Deep learning models such as Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN), Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM), and their hybrid variants are widely used for load forecasting, charging demand prediction, and energy optimization. These models can capture complex nonlinear relationships and temporal dependencies in EV charging data, enabling more accurate predictions and efficient resource allocation. For example, hybrid CNN-LSTM models have demonstrated superior performance in predicting EV charging demand by combining spatial feature extraction with temporal sequence modelling.

In recent years, parallel convolutional neural networks (PCNN) have gained attention for their ability to process multiple data streams simultaneously. Unlike traditional CNN architectures, PCNN models utilize parallel convolutional layers to extract features from different data sources, such as traffic patterns, weather conditions, and energy consumption data. This parallel processing capability enhances model efficiency and accuracy, making PCNN suitable for complex smart grid and ITS environments.

Optimization techniques, including reinforcement learning, genetic algorithms, and swarm intelligence, are often integrated with deep learning models to improve decision-making in EV charging systems. These techniques enable dynamic scheduling of charging operations, minimizing energy costs and reducing peak load demand. For instance, reinforcement learning-based approaches can learn optimal charging policies by interacting with the environment and adapting to changing grid conditions.

Furthermore, the concept of Vehicle-to-Grid (V2G) has introduced new opportunities for bidirectional energy exchange between EVs and the grid. AI-driven optimization frameworks can leverage V2G capabilities to balance supply and demand, enhance grid stability, and improve overall system efficiency. However, the implementation of such systems requires robust and scalable models capable of handling uncertainties and ensuring secure communication.

Despite the significant progress in AI-based EV charging optimization, several challenges remain. These include issues related to data privacy, interoperability, computational complexity, and real-time implementation. Additionally, the integration of multiple systems, including smart grids, IoT networks, and transportation systems, requires standardized frameworks and efficient coordination mechanisms.

This paper aims to provide a comprehensive review of deep learning and optimization approaches for EV charging in smart grid environments. It focuses on parallel CNN-based architectures and their role in coordinating smart grids with intelligent transportation systems. The study highlights current advancements, identifies key challenges, and outlines future research directions for developing efficient and intelligent EV charging solutions.

Literature Review

Recent research has focused extensively on the application of deep learning and optimization techniques for electric vehicle (EV) charging in smart grid environments. These studies highlight the importance of integrating intelligent algorithms with grid infrastructure and transportation systems to achieve efficient energy management.

Zhen Zhang et al. (2020) proposed a deep learning-based framework for EV charging demand prediction using Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN). The study utilized historical charging data and grid parameters to model spatial patterns in EV energy consumption. The results demonstrated that CNN-based models significantly improve prediction accuracy compared to traditional statistical methods, enabling better load balancing and reducing grid stress.

Yonghua Song et al. (2021) developed an AI-driven optimization model for coordinating EV charging with smart grid operations. The study employed reinforcement learning techniques to dynamically schedule charging activities based on real-time grid conditions. The findings

indicated that the proposed model effectively minimizes peak load demand and enhances grid stability, especially under high EV penetration scenarios.

Sheng Chen et al. (2022) introduced a hybrid CNN-LSTM model for EV charging load forecasting. The study combined spatial feature extraction (CNN) with temporal sequence learning (LSTM) to capture complex charging patterns influenced by traffic and user behaviour. The results showed superior performance in prediction accuracy and adaptability, making the model suitable for intelligent transportation system (ITS)-integrated smart grids.

Mohsen Esmalifalak et al. (2021) investigated the application of machine learning techniques for optimizing EV charging under uncertain grid conditions. The study utilized optimization algorithms along with predictive models to manage charging demand efficiently. The results demonstrated improved energy distribution and reduced operational costs, highlighting the role of AI in demand-side management.

Xiaoqing Li et al. (2023) proposed a parallel convolutional neural network (PCNN) architecture for EV charging optimization. The model processed multiple data streams, including traffic flow, weather conditions, and grid load, using parallel convolutional layers. The study showed that PCNN significantly enhances feature extraction and improves charging scheduling accuracy, enabling efficient coordination between smart grids and intelligent transportation systems.

Tao Hong et al. (2020) explored machine learning-based load forecasting techniques for EV-integrated smart grids. The study emphasized that accurate prediction of EV charging demand is essential for avoiding grid congestion. Using regression-based and ensemble learning models, the authors demonstrated improved forecasting accuracy, enabling efficient scheduling and reducing peak load demand in smart grid environments.

Yongheng Yang et al. (2021) proposed a deep reinforcement learning (DRL) framework for real-time EV charging optimization. The model dynamically adjusts charging schedules based on grid load, renewable energy availability, and user demand. The study showed that DRL significantly improves grid efficiency and minimizes operational costs by adapting to changing system conditions.

Zhaoxi Liu et al. (2022) developed an AI-based EV charging coordination strategy using optimization algorithms. The study focused on minimizing charging cost and grid load fluctuations by scheduling EV charging during off-peak hours. The results indicated improved

energy efficiency and reduced peak demand, supporting large-scale EV integration into smart grids.

Fangxing Li et al. (2020) analysed the impact of renewable energy integration on EV charging systems. The study proposed an AI-driven control mechanism to manage the variability of renewable sources such as solar and wind. The findings demonstrated that intelligent control strategies improve grid stability and ensure reliable EV charging under uncertain energy supply conditions.

Jianhui Wang et al. (2021) introduced a data-driven optimization framework for EV charging using machine learning techniques. The model utilized real-time IoT data from smart grids and charging stations to optimize charging schedules. The study concluded that AI-based optimization significantly enhances system performance, reduces energy costs, and improves user satisfaction.

Wei Sun et al. (2022) proposed a Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM)-based model for short-term EV charging demand forecasting. The study demonstrated that LSTM effectively captures temporal dependencies in charging behaviour influenced by user patterns and traffic conditions. The results showed improved forecasting accuracy compared to conventional statistical models, enabling better scheduling and grid stability.

Saeed Mohammadi et al. (2021) developed a hybrid CNN-LSTM model for predicting EV charging demand in renewable-integrated smart grids. The study highlighted that combining spatial and temporal feature extraction significantly enhances prediction accuracy. The model effectively handled fluctuations caused by renewable energy sources, improving overall grid performance.

Ali Dehghanian et al. (2021) investigated reliability-based EV charging optimization using machine learning techniques. The study proposed a probabilistic framework that evaluates grid reliability under different charging scenarios. The findings indicated that AI-driven reliability assessment improves decision-making and reduces the risk of system failures.

Chao Lu et al. (2022) explored resilience enhancement in EV-integrated smart grids using machine learning-based fault detection and recovery mechanisms. The study demonstrated that AI models can quickly detect anomalies in charging infrastructure and initiate corrective actions, improving system robustness and minimizing downtime.

Peng Zhang et al. (2020) analysed condition monitoring of EV charging stations using IoT data and machine learning algorithms. The study

focused on predictive maintenance of charging infrastructure, showing that AI-based monitoring reduces maintenance costs and enhances system reliability.

Qinglai Guo et al. (2020) proposed an AI-based intelligent dispatch framework for EV-integrated smart grids. The study utilized real-time IoT data and machine learning algorithms to optimize charging coordination across multiple stations. The results demonstrated improved grid efficiency and reduced charging conflicts, especially in high-density EV environments.

Hossam Gabbar et al. (2021) developed an IoT-enabled smart charging infrastructure integrated with AI analytics. The system utilized distributed sensors and cloud-based processing to monitor EV charging behaviour. AI models were applied for predictive analysis and scheduling, leading to reduced operational costs and improved energy utilization.

Ahmed Abubakar et al. (2022) investigated cybersecurity challenges in EV charging systems and proposed a deep learning-based intrusion detection framework. The study used CNN and recurrent neural networks to detect anomalies in charging data. The results showed high detection accuracy and improved protection against cyber threats in smart grid environments.

Yuan Yao et al. (2022) proposed a deep neural network model for EV charging demand prediction using large-scale IoT data. The study demonstrated that deep learning models outperform traditional approaches in handling nonlinear and dynamic charging patterns, resulting in improved prediction accuracy and system adaptability.

Mojtaba Shahidepour et al. (2021) presented a reinforcement learning-based demand-side management framework for EV charging optimization. The model dynamically adjusted charging schedules to balance supply and demand. The findings showed significant improvements in energy efficiency and peak load reduction.

Haijun Zhang et al. (2021) investigated AI-enabled communication frameworks for EV charging in smart grids. The study proposed an intelligent communication model ensuring low latency and reliable data transmission between EVs, charging stations, and grid operators. The results highlighted improved coordination and real-time responsiveness in EV charging systems.

Tao Hong et al. (2020) analysed probabilistic load forecasting techniques for EV-integrated smart grids. The study demonstrated that machine learning models can effectively handle uncertainties in EV charging demand, leading to

improved prediction accuracy and better grid management.

Zhaoyang Dong et al. (2020) explored big data analytics in EV charging systems using AI techniques. The study emphasized the importance of processing large volumes of IoT data for extracting actionable insights. The findings showed that AI-based analytics significantly enhance decision-making in smart grid environments.

Sami Khairy et al. (2023) proposed an AI-based optimization framework for EV charging coordination with smart grids and transportation systems. The model integrated traffic data and grid load information to optimize charging schedules. The results showed improved energy efficiency and reduced congestion in both grid and transportation networks.

Chao Lu et al. (2022) examined resilience improvement in EV-integrated smart grids using machine learning techniques. The study demonstrated that AI-based fault detection and recovery mechanisms enhance system robustness and reduce downtime during failures.

Ali Tajer et al. (2020) analysed data-driven approaches for anomaly detection in EV charging networks. The study used deep learning models to identify abnormal charging patterns, improving system security and operational reliability.

Yongheng Yang et al. (2021) investigated the integration of renewable energy sources with EV charging using reinforcement learning techniques. The model dynamically adjusted charging based on renewable availability, improving energy efficiency and reducing dependence on conventional power sources.

Fangxing Li et al. (2022) proposed AI-based control strategies for managing EV charging in renewable-integrated smart grids. The study demonstrated that intelligent control mechanisms improve grid stability and optimize energy utilization.

Peng Zhang et al. (2020) explored predictive maintenance of EV charging stations using IoT data and machine learning. The results showed reduced maintenance costs and improved operational efficiency through early fault detection.

Yonghua Song et al. (2023) analysed future trends in EV charging optimization using advanced deep learning models such as parallel CNN and edge AI. The study highlighted that emerging architectures enable efficient multi-source data processing and real-time decision-making, paving the way for next-generation intelligent charging systems.

Comparative Table

| Study | Author (Year) | Technique Used | Application Area | Key Contribution | Limitation |
|-------|----------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | Zhang et al. (2020) | CNN | EV Load Prediction | Improved accuracy | Data dependency |
| 2 | Song et al. (2021) | Reinforcement Learning | Charging Optimization | Reduced peak load | Training complexity |
| 3 | Chen et al. (2022) | CNN-LSTM | Load Forecasting | Spatio-temporal modeling | High computation |
| 4 | Esmalifalak et al. (2021) | ML Optimization + | Demand Management | Cost reduction | Scalability issues |
| 5 | Li et al. (2023) | PCNN | Charging Scheduling | Multi-source data processing | Complex architecture |
| 6 | Hong et al. (2020) | ML | Load Forecasting | Improved prediction | Data variability |
| 7 | Yang et al. (2021) | DRL | Energy Management | Adaptive control | Training cost |
| 8 | Liu et al. (2022) | Optimization | EV Scheduling | Reduced peak demand | Requires real-time data |
| 9 | Li et al. (2020) | AI Control | Renewable Integration | Grid stability | Variability issues |
| 10 | Wang et al. (2021) | ML | Charging Optimization | Cost efficiency | Data dependency |
| 11 | Sun et al. (2022) | LSTM | Demand Forecasting | Temporal accuracy | Overfitting |
| 12 | Mohammadi et al. (2021) | CNN-LSTM | Renewable Forecasting | Improved prediction | Computation cost |
| 13 | Dehghanian et al. (2021) | ML | Reliability Analysis | Risk reduction | Model assumptions |
| 14 | Lu et al. (2022) | ML | Grid Resilience | Fault recovery | Data dependency |
| 15 | Zhang et al. (2020) | ML | Monitoring | Predictive maintenance | Sensor dependency |
| 16 | Guo et al. (2020) | AI Dispatch | Grid Coordination | Efficient scheduling | Complexity |
| 17 | Gabbar et al. (2021) | IoT + AI | Charging Infrastructure | Smart monitoring | Infrastructure cost |
| 18 | Abubakar et al. (2022) | CNN + RNN | Cybersecurity | Threat detection | False positives |
| 19 | Yao et al. (2022) | DNN | Load Prediction | High adaptability | Training cost |
| 20 | Shahidehpour et al. (2021) | RL | Demand Management | Energy efficiency | Scalability |
| 21 | Zhang et al. (2021) | AI Communication | IoT Grid | Reliable communication | Network complexity |
| 22 | Hong et al. (2020) | ML | Forecasting | Uncertainty handling | Data dependency |
| 23 | Dong et al. (2020) | Big Data + AI | Analytics | Insight extraction | Storage overhead |
| 24 | Khairy et al. (2023) | Optimization | Energy Management | Cost reduction | Model complexity |
| 25 | Lu et al. (2022) | ML | Resilience | Fault tolerance | Data dependency |

| | | | | | |
|----|---------------------|----------------|-----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| 26 | Tajer et al. (2020) | Deep Learning | Anomaly Detection | Security improvement | Data preprocessing |
| 27 | Yang et al. (2021) | RL | Renewable Integration | Energy efficiency | Training complexity |
| 28 | Li et al. (2022) | AI Control | Grid Stability | Improved control | Variability |
| 29 | Zhang et al. (2020) | ML | Maintenance | Reduced cost | Sensor reliance |
| 30 | Song et al. (2023) | PCNN + Edge AI | Future Systems | Real-time intelligence | Early-stage research |

Comparative Analysis

The comparative analysis of the 30 selected studies reveals a clear evolution in the application of deep learning and optimization techniques for electric vehicle (EV) charging within smart grid environments. Initially, traditional machine learning approaches such as regression and Support Vector Machines were widely used for load forecasting and basic optimization. However, recent advancements indicate a significant shift toward deep learning architectures, particularly Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN), Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM), and hybrid CNN-LSTM models, which provide superior performance in capturing complex and nonlinear charging patterns. A major trend observed is the increasing adoption of hybrid models that combine spatial and temporal learning capabilities. These models are particularly effective in handling dynamic EV charging behavior influenced by traffic conditions, user preferences, and renewable energy availability. Additionally, reinforcement learning (RL) and deep reinforcement learning (DRL) techniques have gained prominence due to their ability to perform real-time decision-making and adaptive optimization, making them highly suitable for dynamic smart grid environments.

Parallel convolutional neural networks (PCNN) represent a significant advancement in this domain, enabling simultaneous processing of multi-source data such as grid load, traffic flow, and weather conditions. This capability enhances feature extraction and improves the accuracy of charging predictions and scheduling. Furthermore, the integration of IoT with AI has enabled real-time monitoring, predictive maintenance, and intelligent control of EV charging infrastructure. Despite these advancements, several challenges persist, including high computational complexity, dependency on large datasets, scalability issues, and cybersecurity concerns. Moreover, the variability introduced by renewable energy sources adds another layer of complexity to EV charging optimization. Emerging technologies

such as edge AI and PCNN-based architectures are expected to address these challenges by enabling efficient, scalable, and real-time intelligent systems.

Discussion

The integration of deep learning and optimization techniques for electric vehicle (EV) charging in smart grid environments has shown significant advancements in recent years. The reviewed studies highlight that AI-driven approaches, particularly deep learning models such as CNN, LSTM, and hybrid CNN-LSTM architectures, have greatly improved the accuracy of EV charging demand prediction and scheduling. These models effectively capture complex spatial and temporal patterns in EV usage, enabling more efficient energy management and reducing grid stress. Reinforcement learning and optimization techniques further enhance system performance by enabling adaptive and real-time decision-making. These approaches allow EV charging systems to dynamically adjust charging schedules based on grid conditions, renewable energy availability, and user demand, thereby minimizing peak load and operational costs. Additionally, the integration of IoT technologies provides real-time data, which significantly improves the effectiveness of AI models in monitoring and controlling EV charging infrastructure.

However, several challenges remain, including high computational complexity, data dependency, and scalability issues. The integration of renewable energy sources introduces uncertainty and variability, requiring more robust and adaptive models. Furthermore, cybersecurity concerns in IoT-enabled systems pose risks to data integrity and system reliability. Emerging technologies such as parallel convolutional neural networks (PCNN) and edge AI offer promising solutions by enabling efficient multi-source data processing and decentralized intelligence. Overall, continued research is essential to develop scalable, secure, and efficient EV charging systems.

Conclusion

The rapid adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) has significantly transformed the landscape of modern energy and transportation systems, necessitating the development of advanced charging management strategies. This review has explored the role of deep learning and optimization techniques in optimizing EV charging within smart grid environments, with a particular focus on parallel convolutional neural networks (PCNN) and their integration with intelligent transportation systems (ITS). The findings indicate that AI-driven approaches play a crucial role in addressing the challenges associated with large-scale EV integration, including load balancing, grid stability, and efficient energy utilization. One of the key insights from this study is the growing importance of deep learning models in EV charging optimization. Techniques such as Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN), Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM), and hybrid CNN-LSTM architectures have demonstrated superior performance in predicting EV charging demand and managing dynamic energy consumption patterns. These models are capable of processing large volumes of data generated by IoT devices, enabling accurate forecasting and efficient scheduling of charging operations.

In addition to deep learning, optimization techniques such as reinforcement learning, genetic algorithms, and swarm intelligence have been widely used to enhance decision-making in EV charging systems. These techniques enable adaptive and real-time optimization, allowing charging systems to respond effectively to changing grid conditions and user requirements. The integration of renewable energy sources further emphasizes the need for intelligent optimization frameworks capable of managing variability and uncertainty. Parallel convolutional neural networks (PCNN) represent a significant advancement in this domain by enabling simultaneous processing of multiple data streams. This capability is particularly beneficial in coordinating smart grids with intelligent transportation systems, as it allows for the integration of diverse data sources such as traffic patterns, weather conditions, and grid load information. As a result, PCNN-based models improve charging efficiency, reduce congestion, and enhance overall system performance.

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