Title: Photovoltaic technology

12.1 Introduction

Photovoltaic (PV) (photo = light, voltaic = electricity: Is (usually) a semiconductor-based technology that converts light energy directly into electricity (DC electrical current and voltage), which either can be used immediately or stored, as in a battery, for later use.

A typical silicon PV cell is composed of the following:

- A thin wafer of silicon doped with phosphorus: (n-type) silicon.
- A thicker layer of silicon doped with boron: (p-type) silicon.
- An electrical field created where these two materials are in contact, called the p-n junction.

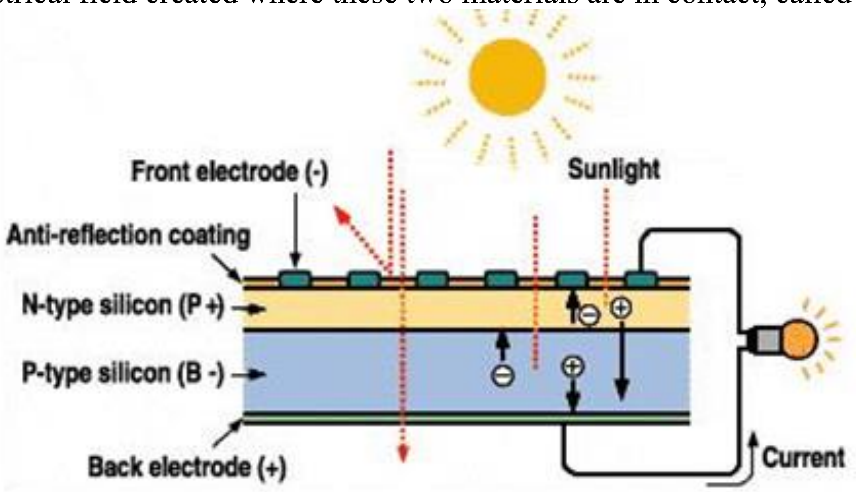

Fig.12.1 show the typical silicon PV cell

Semiconductor materials such as silicon, gallium arsenide, cadmium telluride or copper indium diselenide are used in these solar cells. The crystalline solar cell is the most commonly used variety.

12.2 Solar Cell Types

The following are the different types of solar cells

1- **Silicon Based Solar Cell (90 %) :** One silicon solar cell produces 0.5 volt**.**
2- **Thin Film(10 %) (Cadmium telluride (CdTe), copper indium gallium diselenide (CIGS)) :** Thin-film technology has always been cheaper but less efficient than conventional c-Si technology**.**
3- **Organic Solar Cell** or **plastic solar cell :** is a type of photovoltaic that uses organic electronics, a branch of electronics that deals with conductive organic polymers or small organic molecules

12.3 Module, Panel and Array

Module: PV cells are connected electrically in series and/or parallel circuits to make a module to produce higher voltages, currents, and power levels.

Panel: PV panels include one or more PV modules assembled as a pre-wired, field-installable unit.

Array: A PV array is the complete power-generating unit, consisting of any number of PV modules and panels.

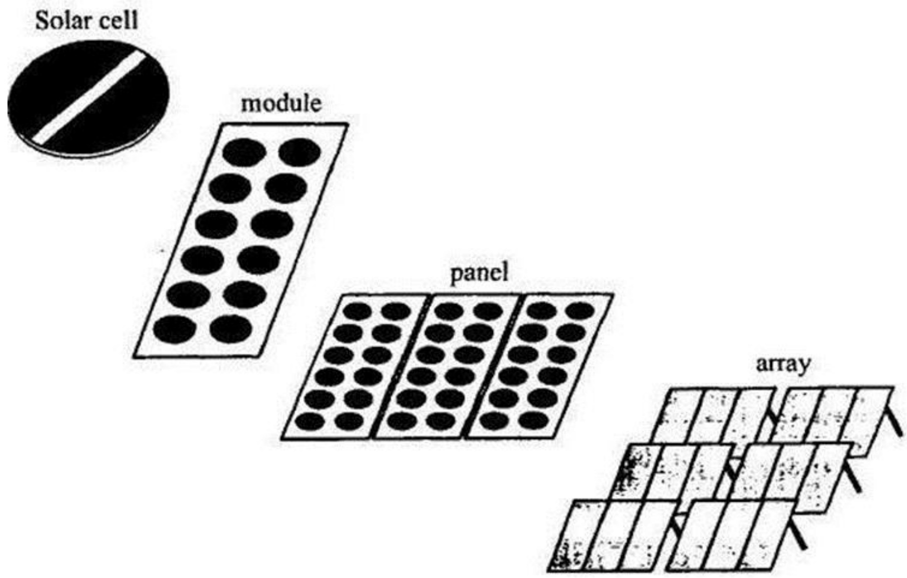

Fig. 12.2 show the main parts of the PV system

12.4 PV array systems and PV applications

Photovoltaic (PV) systems can be grouped into stand-alone systems and grid connected systems. In stand-alone systems the solar energy yield is matched to the energy demand. Since the solar energy yield often does not coincide in time with the energy demand from the connected loads, additional storage systems (batteries) are generally used. If the PV system is supported by an additional power source – for example, a wind or diesel generator - this is known as a photovoltaic hybrid system. In grid-connected systems the public electricity grid functions as an energy store. In Germany, most PV systems are connected to the grid. Because of the premium feed-in tariff for solar electricity in Germany, all of the energy they generate is fed into the public electricity grid. The forecast for the next 40 years is that photovoltaics may provide up to one third of the power supply in Germany. While more and more grid-connected PV systems will be installed in Europe and North America in the coming years, in the long term it is expected that ever-increasing numbers of stand-alone systems will be installed, especially in developing countries. Small individual power supplies for homes - known as solar home systems – can provide power for lights, radio, television, or a refrigerator or a pump. And, increasingly, villages are gaming their own power supplies with an alternating current circuit and outputs in the two-digit kilowatt range.

12.4.1 Stand-alone systems

The first cost-effective applications for photovoltaics were stand-alone systems. Wherever it was not possible to install an electricity supply from the mains utility grid, or where this was not cost-effective or desirable, stand-alone photovoltaic systems could be installed. The range of applications is constantly growing. There is great potential for using stand-alone systems in developing countries where vast areas are still frequently not supplied by an electrical grid. But technological innovations and new lower-cost production methods are opening up potential in industrialized countries as well. Solar power is also on the advance when it comes to mini-applications: pocket calculators, clocks, battery chargers, flashlights, solar radios, etc., are well known examples of the successful use of solar cells in stand-alone applications. Other typical applications for stand-alone systems: (i.e. :consumer products, telecom, leisure, water pumping, lighting & signalling, rural electrification, etc.

- **Components of stand-alone PV system**

Stand-alone PV systems generally require an Energy storage system because the energy generated is not usually (or infrequently) required at the same time as it is generated. (i.e. solar energy is available during the day, but the lights in a stand-alone solar lighting system are used at night). Rechargeable batteries are used to store the electricity. However, with batteries, in order to protect them and achieve higher availability and a longer service life it is essential that a suitable charge controller is also used as a power management unit. Hence, a typical stand-alone system comprises the following main components:

1-PV modules, usually connected in parallel or series-parallel; 2-charge controller; 3-battery or battery bank; 4-load; 5-inverter - in systems providing alternating current (AC) power

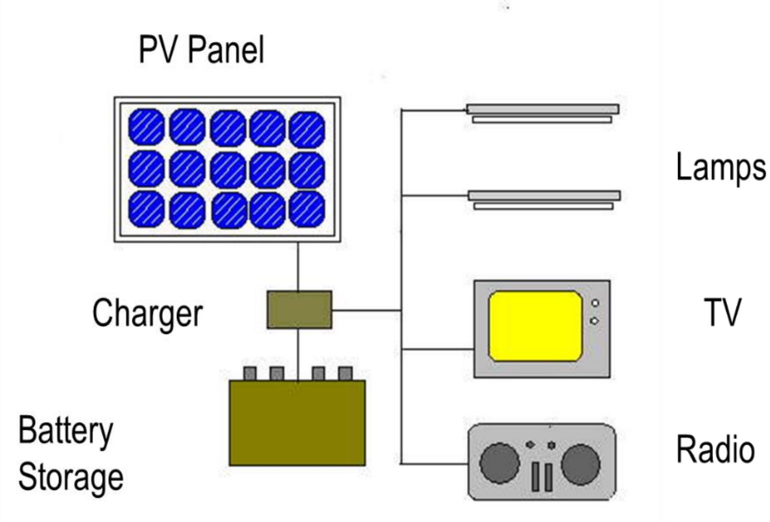

Fig: 12.3 stand-a lone systems

12.4.2 Grid-connected systems

A grid-connected PV system essentially comprises the following components :

1-PV modules/array (multiple PV modules connected in series or parallel with mounting frame.

2- PV array combiner/junction box (with protective equipment) ; direct current (DC) cabling ;
3- DC main disconnect/isolator switch ;
4- inverter ;
5- AC cabling ;
6- Meter cupboard with power distribution system, supply and feed meter, and electricity connection.

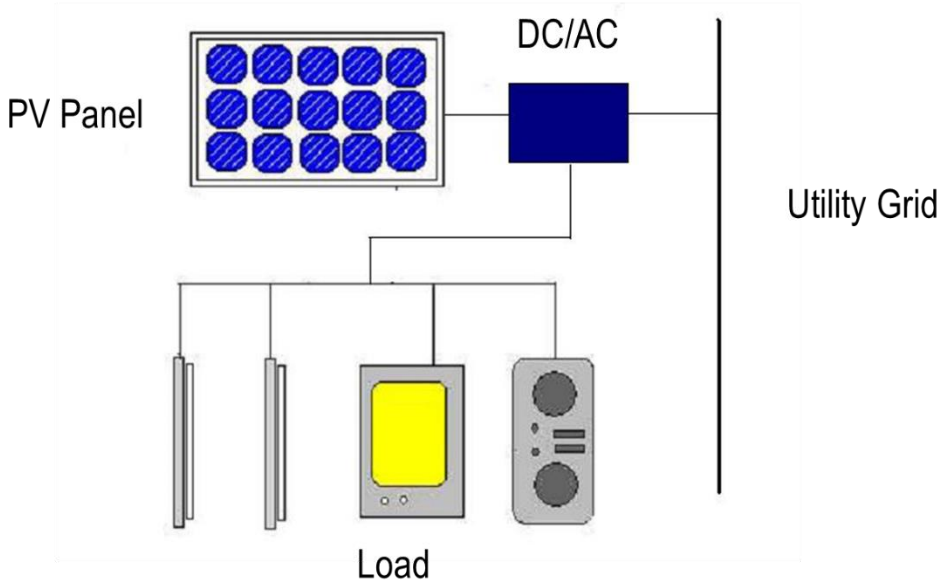

Fig: 12.4 grid-connected PV system

12.5 Effects of Radiation Intensity on Module Output

Solar cell module output is very much governed by the intensity of the solar radiation on a module. Figure 6.3 shows that module output is directly proportional to the solar irradiance. Halving the intensity of solar radiation reduces the module output by half. Lower radiation also lowers the voltage at which current is produced. Look at the I-V curves in Figure 6.3 &.4: a 50 % drop in insolation causes a 50 per cent drop in current. Cloud cover reduces the power output of a module to a third or less of its sunny weather output. During cloudy weather, the voltage of a module is also reduced. In hot, cloudy weather modules charging 12V batteries should be selected so that they maintain a high voltage – make sure they have 36 cells.

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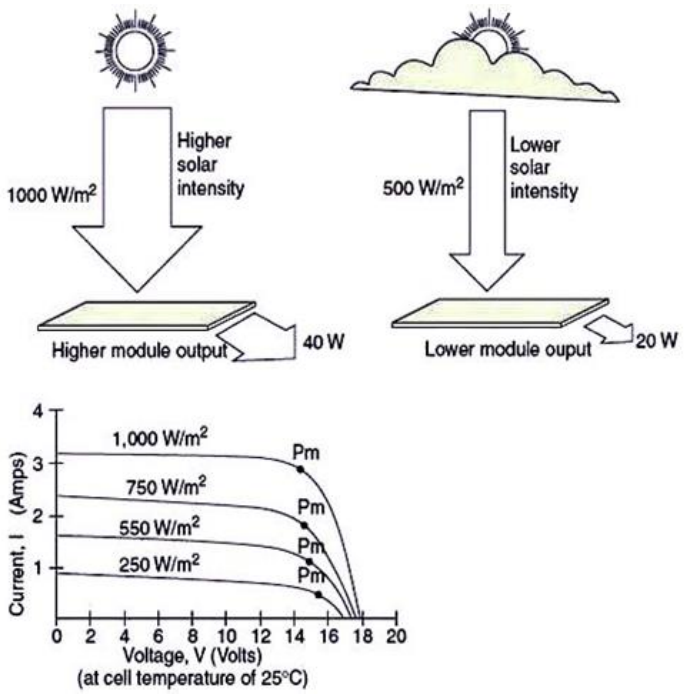


Fig 6.3 shows that module output is directly proportional to the solar irradiance

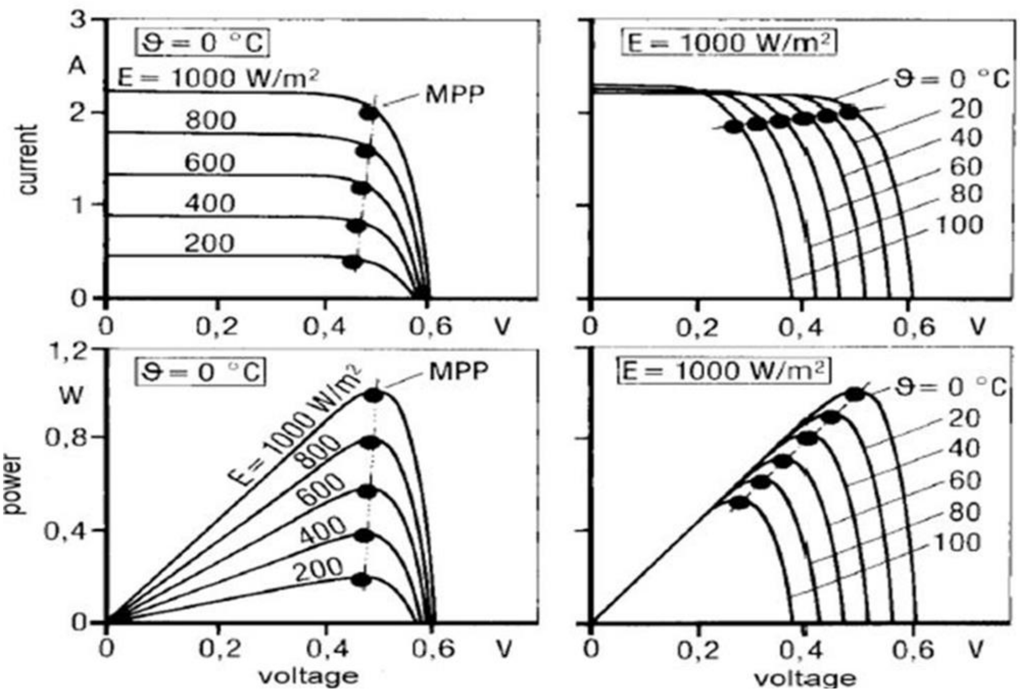


Fig 6.4 Effect of the Temperature and the Solar Radiation on PV output power

12.6 Performance of PV module

PV module is the electricity generator in PV system. PV module consists of a number of solar cells and these cells are connected in series and parallel circuits on a panel (module). The area of solar cell is order of few square inches and the area of the module is order of several square feet. The efficiency of the PV module is the important parameter in the module which represents the ratio between the PV power output and the global solar radiation input. Nowadays, PV modules with 18% efficiency are available in the market with reasonable cost. For example, a SANYO (HIP-215NHE5) PV module has efficiency 17.2%. This module has maximum power output about 215 W when the global radiation is 1000 W/m2 and with area about 1.25 m^2.Table 1 shows the manufacturing specifications of the PV module which are under standard laboratory test conditions (Air mass 1.5, Irradiance = 1000 W/m2, Cell temperature = 25°C) .

The maximum power output (Pmax) of the PV module under the site weather conditions can be estimated by the following equation:

$$P_{max}(G,T_c) = I_{sc}(G) \times V_{oc}(T_c) \times FF \qquad (1)$$

Where Isc is short circuit current, Voc is open circuit voltage, and FF is fill factor .

It is clear from the Eq. 1 that the short circuit current is proportional to the irradiance (G) and the open circuit voltage is proportional to the cell temperature (Tc). The practical short circuit current and practical open circuit voltage at the site are given

$$I_{SC}(G) = I_{SC}(at\ 1kW/m^2) \times G\ (in\ kW/m^2) \qquad (2)$$

$$V_{oc}(T_c) = V_{oc} - 0.0023 \times number\ of\ cells \times (T_c - 25) \qquad (3)$$

The cell temperate (Tc) is determined by

$$T_c = T_a + \frac{NOCT-20}{0.8} G(kW/m^2) \qquad (4)$$

Where NOCT is normal operating cell temperature (usually between 42oC and 46oC), and *T*a is ambient temperature.

Table 1 shows the manufacturing specifications of the PV module

Electrical and Mechanical Characteristics

HIP-215NHE5

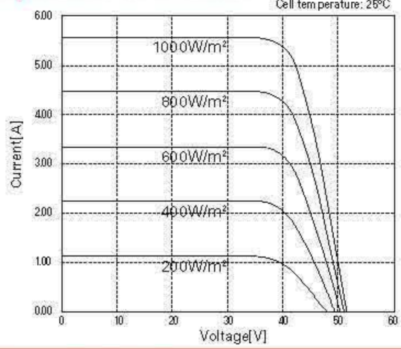
Electrical data

Maximum power (Pmax)	[W]	215
Max. power voltage (Vpm)	[V]	42.0
Max. power current (Ipm)	[A]	5.13
Open circuit voltage (Voc)	[V]	51.6
Short circuit current (Isc)	[A]	5.61
Warranted minimum power (Pmin)	[W]	204.25
Output tolerance	[%]	+10/-5
Maximum system voltage	[Vdc]	1000
Temperature coefficient of Pmax	[%/°C]	- 0.30
Voc	[V/°C]	- 0.129
Isc	[mA/°C]	1.68

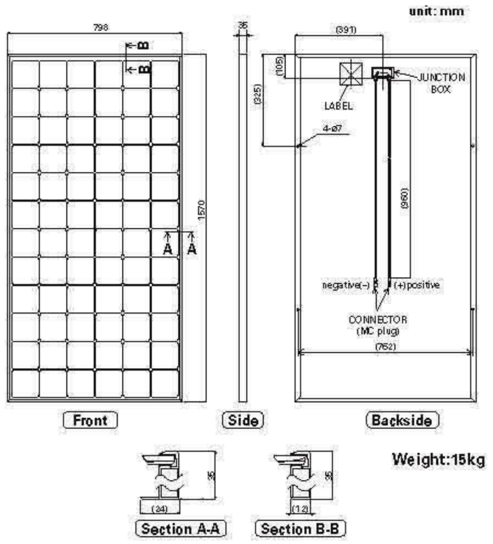
Note 1: Standard test conditions: Air mass 1.5, Irradiance = 1000W/m², Cell temperature = 25°C

Note 2: The values in the above table are nominal.

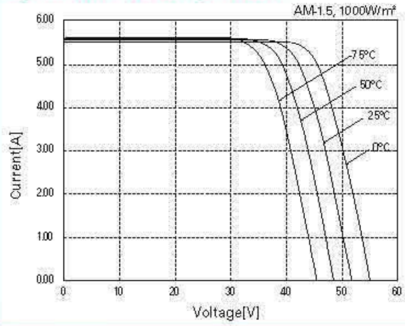
Dependence on irradiance



Dimensions and weight



Dependence on temperature



Certificates

IEC 61215

Electrical Protection Class II

Please consult your local dealer for more information.

Warranty

Power output: 20 years (80% of minimum output power)
Product workmanship: 2 years
(Based on contract terms.)

Example

Determine the parameters of a module formed by 34 solar cells in series, under the operating conditions G=700 W/m^2, and Ta=34oC. The manufacturers values under standard conditions are: Isc = 3A; Voc = 20.4V; Pmax = 45.9 W; NOCT = 43°C.

Solution:

1. Short-circuit current

*I*sc (700 W/m2) =3 x 0.7 = 2.1 A.

2. Solar cell temperature

*T*c = 34 + 0.7 x (43-20)/80 = 54.12oC

3. Open-circuit voltage

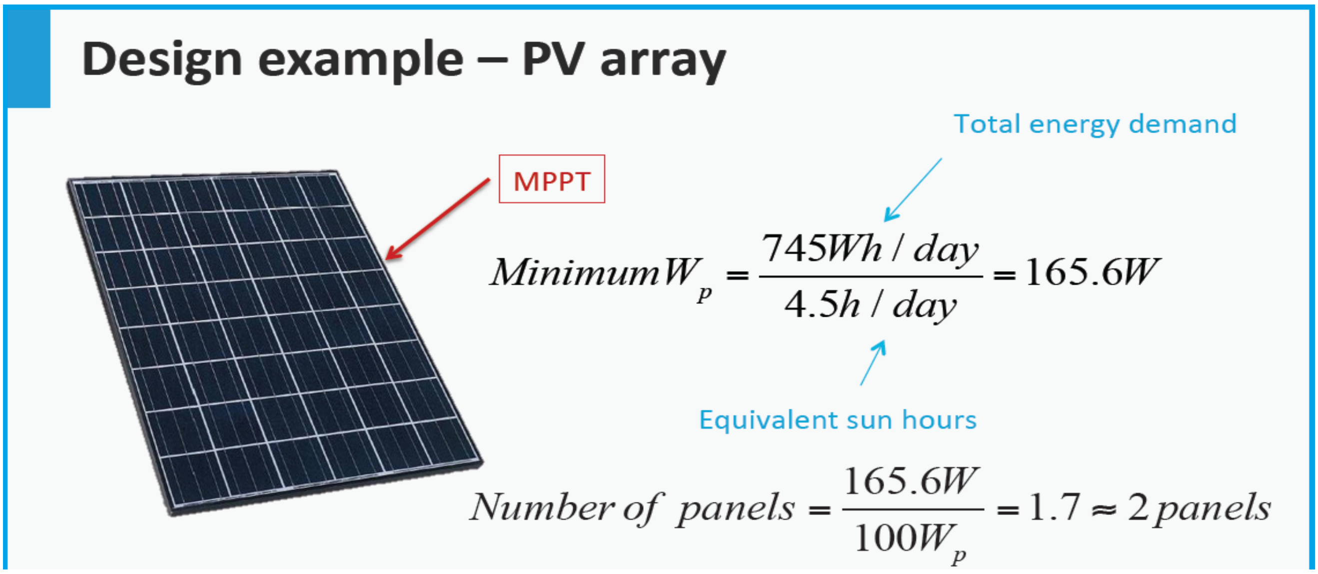
*V*oc (54.12oC) = 20.4 – 0.0023 x 34 x (54.12 – 25) = 18.1 V

4. Maximum power point

FF= 45.9/ (3 x 20.4) = 0.75

*P*max (*G*, *T*c) = 2.1 x 18.1 x 0.75 = 28.5 W

Thus, noting the manufacturer's value of Pmax we see that the module will operate at about 62% of its nominal rating.



. **Example: A house has the following electrical appliance usage:**

- **One 18 Watt fluorescent lamp with electronic ballast used 4 hours per day.**
- **One 60 Watt fan used for 2 hours per day.**

- **One 75 Watt refrigerator that runs 24 hours per day with compressor run 12 hours and off 12 hours.**

The system will be powered by 12 Vdc, 110 Wp PV module.

Determine power consumption demands

Total appliance use = (18 W x 4 hours) + (60 W x 2 hours) + (75 W x 24 x 0.5 hours)
= 1,092 Wh/day
Total PV panels energy needed = 1,092 x 1.3
= 1,419.6 Wh/day.

2. Size the PV panel

2.1 Total Wp of PV panel capacity needed = 1,419.6 / 3.4
= 413.9 Wp
2.2 Number of PV panels needed = 413.9 / 110
= 3.76 modules

Actual requirement = 4 modules
So this system should be powered by at least 4 modules of 110 Wp PV module.

3. Inverter sizing
Total Watt of all appliances = 18 + 60 + 75 = 153 W
For safety, the inverter should be considered 25-30% bigger size.
The inverter size should be about 190 W or greater.

4. Battery sizing
Total appliances use = (18 W x 4 hours) + (60 W x 2 hours) + (75 W x 12 hours)
Nominal battery voltage = 12 V
Days of autonomy = 3 days

Battery capacity = [(18 W x 4 hours) + (60 W x 2 hours) + (75 W x 12 hours)] x 3
(0.85 x 0.6 x 12)
Total Ampere-hours required 535.29 Ah
So the battery should be rated 12 V 600 Ah for 3 day autonomy.

5. Solar charge controller sizing
PV module specification
Pm = 110 Wp
Vm = 16.7 Vdc

Im = 6.6 A
Voc = 20.7 A
Isc = 7.5 A
Solar charge controller rating = (4 strings x 7.5 A) x 1.3 = 39 A
So the solar charge controller should be rated 40 A at 12 V or greater.

Home Work

Calculate the required number of PV module for power plant to add 4Mw generation capacity to the electric grid under Baghdad weather conditions (average daily global radiation is 5000 Wh/m^2 and average ambient temperature is 23^o C). The specification of a PV module under the STD are:

Cell type	Polycrystalline silicon solar cell, 125.5 mm2
Number of cell	72 in series
Maximum power	157 W
Short circuit current	5.37 A
Maximum power point current	4.83 A
Open circuit voltage	43.1 V
Maximum power point voltage	34.6 V
Normal operating cell temperature	43 ^{o}C

References

1- J. A. Duffie and W. A. Beckman" Solar Engineering of Thermal Processes" John Wiley & Sons, Inc., Hoboken, New Jersey , 2013.

2- J. Twidell. and T. Weir " Renewable Energy Resources " Taylor and Francis Group, 2006.