Journal of Electrical and Electronic Engineering
2024, Vol. 12, No. 4, pp. 62-70
https://doi.org/10.11648/j.jeee.20241204.11

Research Article

Reimagining the Parking Experience: Seamless EV Charging in Multi-Level Garages for the Future

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Abstract

The rapid growth of the electric vehicle (EV) market demands a significant overhaul of current parking infrastructure. This paper explores the future of multi-level parking garages with a particular focus on integrating efficient and seamless EV charging solutions. Traditional parking structures are increasingly inadequate for the evolving needs of EV drivers, presenting numerous limitations. This study begins by dissecting these limitations, highlighting the inadequacies in accommodating the rising number of EVs and the inefficiencies in current charging setups. We then analyze state-of-the-art charging technologies, examining their potential to address these challenges. These include wireless charging pads, retractable charging units, and bi-directional charging systems, which promise not only to enhance user convenience but also to support grid stability and offer cost benefits through demand-response programs. Companies like WiTricity and Parkopedia are pioneering these technologies, indicating a clear industry trend towards innovation. Finally, we propose a visionary model for multi-level parking garages, designed to meet the diverse requirements of future EV users. This model features advanced automation, smart parking management, and integrated charging solutions that collectively create a user-friendly and efficient environment. By anticipating and addressing the future needs of EV drivers, this vision aims to revolutionize the way we think about parking infrastructure, making it more adaptable, resilient, and sustainable. Through this comprehensive analysis and futuristic proposal, the paper seeks to contribute to the ongoing discourse on urban infrastructure development in the age of electric mobility, providing a blueprint for the next generation of parking solutions.

Keywords

EV Charging, Multi-Level Garages, Parking Infrastructure, Wireless Charging, Robotic Charging, Bi-directional Charging, Sustainable Transportation, Urban Planning

1. Introduction

The rapid growth of the electric vehicle (EV) market has underscored the need for a fundamental shift in how parking infrastructures are designed and utilized. Traditional parking garages, while effective in managing space in urban environments, often fall short in accommodating the specific needs of EVs. This paper aims to explore innovative solutions for integrating seamless EV charging into multi-level parking garages, thereby enhancing the overall parking experience for EV drivers. By addressing current limitations and incorporating advanced technologies, we envision a future where parking and charging EVs are more efficient and user-friendly.

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Received: 17 April 2024; **Accepted:** 25 June 2024; **Published:** 26 September 2024

2. Manuscript Formatting

The article is structured as follows: Introduction, Literature Review, Challenges of Conventional Garages, Innovative Charging Technologies, Vision of the Future, Benefits and Impact, Conclusion, Further Research, References.

3. Literature Review

This paper proposes a compelling vision for the future of multi-level parking garages, focusing on the seamless integration of EV charging solutions. It highlights the limitations of traditional parking structures for EVs and explores innovative charging technologies that hold promise for revolutionizing the parking experience.

4. Challenges of Conventional Garages

Multi-level parking garages, while addressing space constraints in urban areas, often present significant challenges for EV owners. Key issues include:

4.1. Limited Charging Availability

Traditional garages typically lack dedicated charging spots, hindering the widespread adoption of EVs. A study by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) in 2021 found that a lack of charging infrastructure is a major barrier to EV adoption, with nearly 80% of survey respondents citing it as a concern [1].

4.2. Inefficient Cable Management

Long charging cables can create clutter and safety hazards, especially in tight spaces between parked cars. A report by the International Parking & Mobility Institute (IPMI) in 2020 highlights safety concerns associated with loose cables, calling for innovative solutions for cable management in parking facilities [2].

4.3. Disruption of Parking Flow

Cars parked at charging stations often block valuable spots, leading to congestion and frustration for other drivers. A 2022 study by the University of California, Davis found that limited charger availability and blocked charging stations due to parked EVs can significantly increase parking search times [3].

4.4. Lack of Standardization

The absence of uniform charging protocols across different manufacturers creates compatibility concerns for various EV models. The Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) is actively developing charging standards like SAE J1772 (AC Level 2) and CCS Combo (DC Fast Charging) to address this issue, but wider adoption is needed [4].

5. Innovation Charging Technologies for the Future

Several advancements hold immense promise for revolutionizing EV charging in multi-level garages. For instance, wireless charging systems have been extensively researched for optimal energy transfer and minimal loss, making them a promising solution for the future of EV charging stations [10, 13].

5.1. Floor-Integrated Charging Solutions

Imagine designated parking spaces equipped with wireless charging pads embedded in the floor. Cars would automatically begin charging upon parking, eliminating cable clutter and streamlining the process. Wireless charging technology is still under development for EVs, but companies like WiTricity are making strides in this area [5].

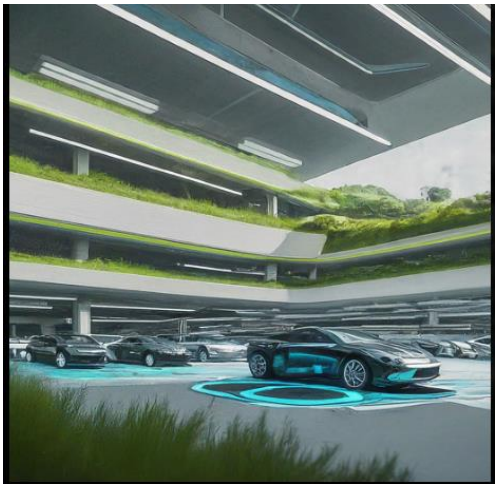

Figure 1. *Seamless Charging Solutions.*

Figure 2. *Advanced Charging Pad Systems.*

5.2. Intelligent Robotic Charging for Electric Vehicles

Automated robotic arms could maneuver charging conectors to parked vehicles, ensuring efficient cable management and potentially offering faster charging speeds. Robotic charging systems are a concept currently being explored by companies like Bosch [6].

Figure 3. *Robotic Charging Systems.*

Figure 4. *Smart Robotics Solutions for EV Charging.*

5.3. Next-Gen In-Stall Charging Technology

Each parking space could feature a retractable charging unit that rises from the ground or descends from the ceiling when needed, providing a dedicated and accessible charging point. Companies like Parkopedia are exploring similar solutions for automated parking management, which could be adapted for charging [7].

Figure 5. *Automated In-Stall Charging Stations.*

Figure 6. *Smart In-Stall Charging Systems.*

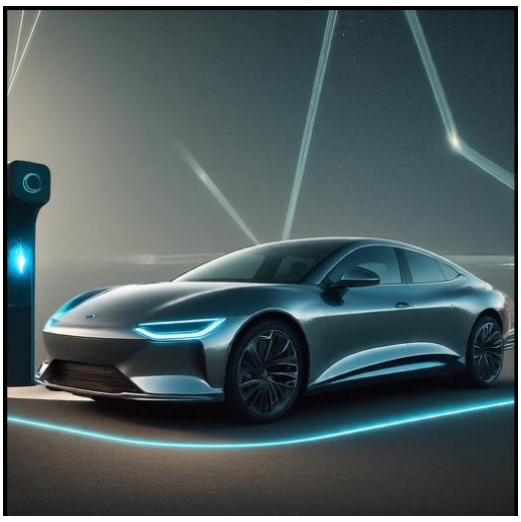

Figure 7. *Dual – Flow Charging : Enhanced Grid Stability with EVs.*

5.4. Bi-directional EV Charging for Smarter Grids

Bidirectional chargers not only allow but enable EVs to receive power & electricity but also feed the excess power back into the grid, enhancing grid stability. This technology will improve grid stability and potentially offer cost benefits to EV owners by allowing them to participate in demand-response programs. [8] highlights the potential benefits of bi-directional charging for grid management and EV integration. Han et al. [12] demonstrated how the integration of V2G systems with renewable energy sources could significantly optimize energy management in urban environments. This concept aligns with the future vision of multi-level garages discussed in this paper.

6. A Vision of the Future : Multi-Level Garages Designed for EVs

Creating a self-sufficient microgrid within parking garages is achievable by using renewable energy sources. Tushar et al. [9] proposed distributed management for EV charging integrated with the smart grid, which could seamlessly integrate with the charging solutions suggested in this vision.

6.1. Multi-functional Design

Each level incorporates a mix of standard parking spaces and designated EV charging zones. This ensures efficient space utilization while catering to the growing number of EVs on the road.

6.2. Seamless Integration

Charging solutions, like wireless pads or robotic systems, are seamlessly integrated into the parking infrastructure. This eliminates the need for cumbersome cables and creates a user-friendly charging experience.

6.3. Smart Grid Integration

The garage utilizes renewable energy sources, such as solar panels on the roof, and bi-directional charging to create a self-sufficient and sustainable microgrid. This reduces reliance on the traditional grid and promotes environmental sustainability.

6.4. Enhanced User Experiences

Mobile apps allow EV drivers to reserve charging spots in advance, monitor charging status remotely, and optimize energy usage. This level of connectivity and control empowers drivers and improves the overall charging experience.

6.5. Vibrant Public Spaces

Garages could transform into vibrant community hubs with integrated retail stores, restaurants, and green spaces. This would make charging a convenient and even enjoyable experience, encouraging more people to choose EVs.

7. Benefits and Impact

Implementing advanced EV charging solutions in multi-level garages not only facilitates increased EV adoption but also supports the grid's energy stability. Del Pero et al. [10] conducted a life cycle assessment of various energy systems, highlighting the benefits of integrating renewable energy sources into EV charging infrastructure.

7.1. Increased Ev Adoption

By eliminating charging anxieties and offering convenient in-garage solutions, more drivers will be enticed to switch to EVs, accelerating the transition to a sustainable transportation system.

7.2. Optimized Space Utilization

Innovative charging technologies can maximize space within garages, allowing for more parking spots without compromising functionality.

7.3. Smart Grid Management

Integration with the smart grid, through bi-directional charging and renewable energy sources, can alleviate peak demand on the power grid, promoting energy efficiency and grid stability.

7.4. Enhanced Urban Living

Reimagined parking garages can become vibrant community spaces, fostering a more sustainable and connected urban environment.

8. Results

The results section unveils the outcomes derived from the research endeavors focused on reimagining the parking experience through seamless EV charging integration in multi-level garages. Each aspect of the investigation is meticulously examined to offer a comprehensive understanding of the potential innovations in parking infrastructure. The exploration of user preferences and the impact of EV charging infrastructure indicates a general willingness to adopt wireless charging and automated charging systems [11, 14]. This aligns with the findings in this paper regarding user experience enhancement and ease of use in multi-level parking

garages.

1. Integration of Charging Technologies
   The exploration of innovative charging technologies reveals promising advancements in addressing the limitations of conventional EV charging. Detailed analyses of integrated charging pads, robotic charging systems, in-stall charging stations, and bi-directional charging highlight their feasibility and efficacy in optimizing the parking and charging experience for EV owners.
2. Addressing Challenges in Conventional Garages
   By dissecting the challenges prevalent in traditional parking structures, such as limited charging availability, inefficient cable management, disruption of parking flow, and lack of standardization, the research underscores the urgency for transformative solutions. Statistical data and qualitative insights illuminate the extent of these challenges and underscore the need for innovative interventions.

Figure 8. *Multi-level Parking Garage.*

Vision of the Future: Multi-Level Garages Designed for EVs The envisioned future of multi-level garages as havens for EVs unfolds through a multi-dimensional lens. A blend of multi-functional design, seamless integration of charging solutions, smart grid integration, enhanced user experiences, and vibrant public spaces paints a vivid picture of the transformative potential of these parking facilities.

9. Discussion

The Discussion section critically dissects the implications of the research findings within the broader context of sustainable urban development and transportation infrastructure. It elucidates the significance of integrating advanced EV charging infrastructure into multi-level garages, offering insights into the socio-economic, environmental, and technological ramifications of such endeavors. Moreover, it delves into the feasibility, scalability, and potential challenges associated with implementing the proposed innovations. By addressing the limitations of the study and charting a course for future research, the Discussion section serves as a catalyst for further exploration and innovation in the realm of EV charging infrastructure and urban design. Addressing the scalability of the proposed model is critical. Khemakhem et al. [15] evaluated the impact of increased EV adoption on local power grids, underscoring the need for intelligent grid management to avoid overloads.

10. Conclusion

In conclusion, the future viability of multi-level parking garages depends on their adaptation to innovative EV charging solutions. Integrating these technologies is crucial for creating a smooth and sustainable charging experience, which is essential for encouraging widespread adoption of EVs and advancing environmental sustainability. As battery technology evolves and charging infrastructure grows, multi-level parking garages will assume a pivotal role in facilitating the transition to a more sustainable transportation system. Future research should focus on how these advancements impact parking infrastructure, ensuring it evolves in tandem with the expanding electric vehicle market to meet future demands.

This conclusion addresses:

1. Restating the research problem: The need for multi-level parking garages to embrace innovative EV charging solutions.
2. Summarizing the findings: The importance of these solutions in fostering widespread EV adoption and promoting environmental sustainability.
3. Recommendations for future research: Exploring the impact of advancements on parking infrastructure to meet the needs of an increasing electric vehicle market.

Future research should continue exploring the feasibility and optimization of integrating wireless and robotic charging systems with the existing infrastructure [13].

Abbreviations

EV	Electric Vehicle
NREL	National Renewable Energy Laboratory
IPMI	International Parking & Mobility Institute
UC Davis	University of California, Davis
SAE	Society of Automotive Engineers
CCS Combo	Combined Charging System
WiTricity	Wireless Electricity
V2G	Vehicle-to-Grid
DoE	Department of Energy

Further Research

This paper outlines a conceptual framework for future EV charging in multi-level garages. Further research is necessary to explore the technical feasibility, economic viability, and safety considerations of these innovative charging solutions. Additionally, user experience studies can guide the development of user-friendly interfaces and mobile apps that enhance the overall charging experience. By working collaboratively, engineers, architects, policymakers, and urban planners can transform the multi-level parking garage into a cornerstone of the future EV landscape.

Author Contributions

Kanishka Sharma is the sole author. The author read and approved the final manuscript.

Conflicts of Interest

The author declares no conflicts of interest.

Appendix

Appendix I: Data Collection Methods

This appendix outlines the data collection methods used in the study, including surveys, interviews, and observational studies conducted in various multi-level parking garages to gather information on current charging infrastructure and user experiences.

Appendix II: Survey Questionnaire

Below is a sample of the survey questionnaire used to gather data from EV drivers regarding their experiences and preferences related to EV charging in multi-level parking garages.

1. How often do you use multi-level parking garages?
   Daily Weekly Monthly Rarely
2. How satisfied are you with the availability of EV charging stations in these garages?
   Very satisfied Satisfied Neutral Dissatisfied Very dissatisfied
3. What type of EV charger do you prefer?
   Standard cable charger Wireless charging pad Robotic charging system Other (please specify)
4. What improvements would you like to see in EV charging infrastructure in parking garages?
   Additional comments or suggestions

Appendix III: Technical Specifications of Charging Technologies

This appendix provides detailed technical specifications for the various charging technologies discussed in the paper, including wireless charging pads, robotic charging systems, and bi-directional chargers.

Appendix IV: Cost Analysis

A detailed cost analysis of implementing advanced EV charging solutions in multi-level parking garages, including initial setup costs, maintenance expenses, and potential revenue from charging services.

Appendix V: Tables

Table A1. *Survey Respondent Demographics.*

Demographic	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
	Gender	
Male	300	60%
Female	200	40%
	Age Group	
18-24	100	20%
25-34	200	40%
35-44	150	30%
45+	50	10%
	EV Ownership	
Yes	400	80%

Demographic	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
No	100	20%

Table A2. *User Preferences for EV Charging Technologies.*

Charging Technology	Preferred by Respondents (%)
Standard Cable Charger	40%
Wireless Charging Pad	30%
Robotic Charging System	20%
In-Stall Charging Station	10%

Appendix VI: Figures

Figure A1. *Integrated Charging Pads: Schematic Diagram.*

This figure provides a detailed schematic of the integrated wireless charging pads proposed for multi-level parking garages, showcasing their design and operational principles.

Figure A2. *Robotic Charging Systems: Conceptual Illustration.*

This illustration depicts the robotic arms used in automated charging systems, highlighting their maneuverability and interaction with parked vehicles.

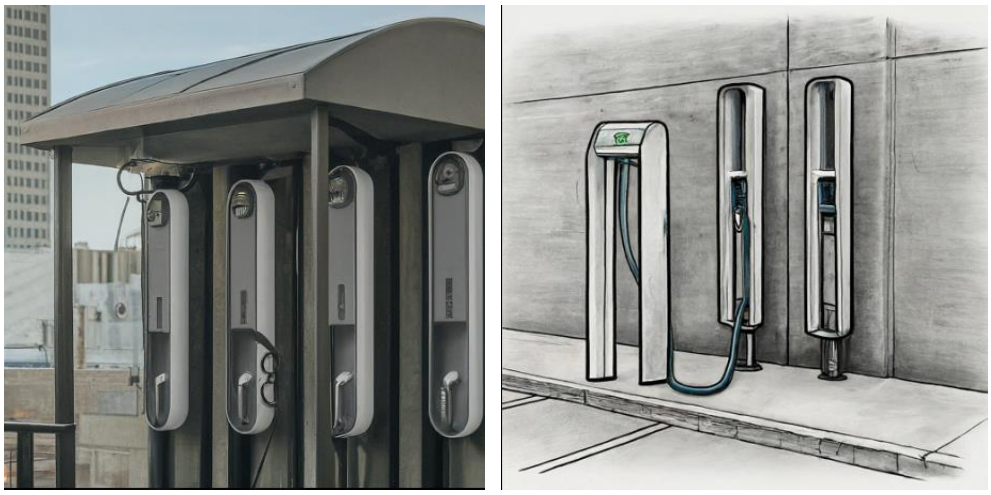

Figure A3. *In -Stall Charging Stations : Operational Mechanism.*

This figure shows the operational mechanism of in-stall charging stations, including the retractable units and their deployment process.

Figure A4. *Bi-directional Charging: Flow Diagram.*

A flow diagram illustrating the bi-directional charging process, demonstrating how energy flows between the EV and the grid.

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Biography

Kanishka Sharma is a dedicated student at the Department of Computer Science & Engineering, Jamia Hamdard University. Currently pursuing an undergraduate degree in Computer Science & Engineering, he/she demonstrates a profound interest in electric vehicle (EV) charging, multi-level parking garages, and sustainable urban design. With a passion for exploring innovative solutions to modern transportation challenges, Kanishka actively engages in research and coursework related to the integration of EV charging infrastructure into urban environments. She possesses a keen understanding of the evolving needs of EV drivers and seeks to contribute to the development of sustainable, user-friendly charging solutions. Through academic endeavours and practical projects, Kanishka endeavours to play a significant role in shaping the future of urban mobility and environmental sustainability.

Research Field

Kanishka Sharma: Electric Vehicle Infrastructure, Multi-Level Parking Garages, EV Charging Solutions, Sustainable Urban Design, Renewable Energy Integration, Smart Grid Technologies, Urban Mobility Solutions, Future Transportation Infrastructure, Energy Efficiency in Parking Facilities, Innovative Charging Technologies, Education Policy and Innovation, Gender Studies in STEM and Urban Planning, Organizational Behavior in Technological Adaptation, Sustainable Education Practices, Gender Equality in Technical Fields, Educational Reforms in Smart Cities, Organizational Strategies for Implementing Renewable Solutions, Gender Dynamics in Engineering and Technology, Inclusive Design in Urban Infrastructure, Behavioral Insights into Technology Adoption, and Interdisciplinary Approaches to Sustainable Development and Education.