

Article

Realistic Scheduling Mechanism for Smart Homes

Danish Mahmood ¹, Nadeem Javaid ^{1,*}, Nabil Alrajeh ², Zahoor Ali Khan ^{3,4}, Umar Qasim ⁵, Imran Ahmed ⁶ and Manzoor Ilahi ¹

¹ COMSATS Institute of Information Technology, Islamabad 44000, Pakistan; danish_mehmood@comsats.edu.pk (D.M.); tamimy@comsats.edu.pk (M.I.)

² College of Applied Medical Sciences, Department of Biomedical Technology, King Saud University, Riyadh 11633, Saudi Arabia; nabil@ksu.edu.sa

³ Internetworking Program, Faculty of Engineering, Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS B3J 4R2, Canada; zahoor.khan@dal.ca

⁴ Computer Information Science (CIS), Higher Colleges of Technology, Fujairah Campus 4114, UAE

⁵ Cameron Library, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB T6G 2J8, Canada; umar.qasim@ualberta.ca

⁶ Institute of Management Sciences (IMS), Peshawar 25000, Pakistan; imran.ahmed@imsciences.edu.pk

* Correspondence: nadeemjavaidqau@gmail.com; Tel.: +92-30-0579-2728

Academic Editor: Nyuk Hien Wong

Received: 16 January 2016; Accepted: 26 February 2016; Published: 15 March 2016

Abstract: In this work, we propose a Realistic Scheduling Mechanism (RSM) to reduce user frustration and enhance appliance utility by classifying appliances with respective constraints and their time of use effectively. Algorithms are proposed regarding functioning of home appliances. A 24 hour time slot is divided into four logical sub-time slots, each composed of 360 min or 6 h. In these sub-time slots, only desired appliances (with respect to appliance classification) are scheduled to raise appliance utility, restricting power consumption by a dynamically modelled power usage limiter that does not only take the electricity consumer into account but also the electricity supplier. Once appliance, time and power usage limiter modelling is done, we use a nature-inspired heuristic algorithm, Binary Particle Swarm Optimization (BPSO), optimally to form schedules with given constraints representing each sub-time slot. These schedules tend to achieve an equilibrium amongst appliance utility and cost effectiveness. For validation of the proposed RSM, we provide a comparative analysis amongst unscheduled electrical load usage, scheduled directly by BPSO and RSM, reflecting user comfort, which is based upon cost effectiveness and appliance utility.

Keywords: Home Energy Management System (HEMS); appliance scheduling; Binary Particle Swarm Optimization (BPSO); user comfort; appliance classification; Demand Response (DR) programs; time of use pricing; Demand Side Management (DSM)

1. Introduction

Electricity is becoming an integral part of life. It is a scarce resource that needs to be utilized resourcefully. Peaks created due to electricity usage are not only disruptive for power grids but also cause high electricity bills. For a normal home whose electricity consumptions is doubled, line losses increase by a factor of four. A reduction of one kilowatt behaves differently if the upper bound and lower bound is different. Electric power cost savings by lessening consumption from 5 KW to 4 KW is much lower than reducing from 50 KW to 49 KW. Line losses make the major difference [1]. Normalizing electricity consumption to avoid PC peaks is a vital solution for preserving electric power and ultimately reducing its cost.

With the advent of smart grids, there happens a two way communication between electrical entities that makes it possible to reduce peaks utilizing different programs. Confining only to RUs or homes, this two way communication needs a little attention from the consumer to enjoy the liberty of lowering electricity prices. Balanced demand and supply of eclectic power results in stable grid infrastructure. Electricity consumers cannot play with the grid side mechanisms. However, they can manipulate with their own demands to minimize peaks in order to minimize electricity bills that is beneficial to the power company as well. Such manipulation of electricity demand at user premises is termed as HEMS or DSM in literature. DSM deals with any entity that needs to optimize its electricity consumption, while HEMS convents with RU's energy management as the name indicates. Major objectives of a HEMS are: (i) PAR: Normalization of electric load within a given time frame, (ii) system overload prevention: Minimizing risk of system overload, (iii) resourcefulness: Managing resources effectively to yield maximum results out of minimum resources, and (iv) monetary benefits: Most attractive aspect for end user; minimize electricity bills, *etc.*

To achieve these objectives, different strategies are adopted. Scheduling electrical appliances with respect to price of respective time slot or hour is an emerging issue amongst researchers and engineering industries of respective domain. Numerous approaches are designed to schedule appliances for optimum electricity consumption. ToUP, RTP, IBR and CPP are major pricing models that are studied widely to schedule electrical appliances [2], keeping certain objectives, mainly to reduce electricity cost and shave PC peaks on critical hours. The scheduling of appliances directly deal with electricity tariff and consumption pattern. Generally, the pricing scheme under consideration decides the nature of scheduling. Keeping pricing mechanisms in view, we define scheduling techniques in the following two categories:

- Reactive scheduling: Electricity tariff dynamically changes and should be dealt with instantly. Schedule Appliances by forecasting electricity price at TU of appliance and
- Proactive scheduling: Day ahead electricity tariff is known well before time and schedule is made a day ahead.

The former approach deals with the current pricing and makes schedules of electric load accordingly. Different AI methods and ML approaches can be utilized to forecast the price of any desired time slot. According to the price, the power consumption schedule of that specific time slot is developed.

In the later approach, consumers are aware of per hour price of the next day. The hourly price is published by electricity producing or distributing companies well before time and users can benefit from this information accordingly. Companies enjoy stability of grid while users feel comfortable by saving on electricity bills.

Table 1 lists the abbreviations used in this work and Table 2 tabulates the variables and mathematical notations used.

The rest of the paper is organized as: Section 2 reflects the existing literature on the said problem along with critical comments. Section 3 discusses the proposed RSM with subsections of appliance, Time, Threshold and Power utilization framework followed with problem formulation. Section 4 explains PSO and its version BPSO, which is utilized to schedule electrical appliances within respective sub-time slots. In Section 5 simulation results are presented. Initially we find schedules for four sub-time slots deliberating power and cost efficiency proving validity of concept of limiting the scheduling window. Section 6 gives comparative analysis and policy findings regarding unscheduled, scheduled using BPSO and RSM techniques. Moreover, UC is modeled considering the said approaches to use electric load in Subsection 6.3, while system return of investment is modeled in Subsection 6.4. The conclusion is presented in Section 7, which concludes this paper.

Table 1. Nomenclature.

Number of appliances in home	n	Classes of appliances	3 (ADA, ODA, OIA)
Time slot (Hours)	24	Sub-time slot (Hours)	6
Number of sub-time slots	4 (T_1, T_2, T_3, T_4)	Appliances used in T_i	$T_{i,APP} = (n - k)$
Current time	$t_{current}$	Desired sub-time slot	$t_{desired-slot}$
Home occupancy sensor	HO_{SENSOR}	User activity	UA
User preferred time	UP_{time}	Max. threshold for this hour	$th_{current}^{max}$
Min. Threshold for this hour	$th_{current}^{min}$	Max. energy consumption in an hour	$max.EC_{APP}$
Min. energy consumption in an hour	$min.EC_{APP}$	Range of power usage during an hour	$TH_{hour}^{time-slot}$
Range of power usage during a sub-time slot	$TH_{range}^{time-slot}$	Power used by a appliances during an hour	P_a^{KWph}
Scheduling time of T_i	T_{schi}	Power used during T_i	$P_{Ti,APP}$
sub-time slot Cost of T_i	$CT_{(n-k)}^{T_i}$	Sub-time Slot Finish Time	$T_{f1} - - > T_{f4}$
Sub-time slot Start Time	$T_{s1} - - > T_{s4}$	Current time instance and next time instance.	t_{BPSO} and $t_{BPSO} + 1$
Required Temperature	R_{Temp}	Minimum Temperature set by user	$Temp_{min}$
Maximum Temperature set by user	$Temp_{max}$	Charge on Power Bank	PB_{charge}
Required power to consume	PC_{req}	Number of Active Appliances in time slot	$A.APP$
Current position of particle.	$X_{id}(t_{BPSO})$	Current velocity of particle.	$V_{id}(t_{BPSO})$
Inertia weight.	$W(t_{BPSO})$	Max number of iterations.	T_{max}
Local best solution.	P_{id}	Global best solution.	P_{gd}
Cognition parameter set usually as 2.0	C1	Social parameter set at 2.0.	C2
Positive integer between 0.0 to 1.0	$r1; r2$	User Comfort	UC
Appliance Utility	U_{APP}	Cost Effectiveness	E_{cost}
Average Delay	D_{avg}	Cost Savings	C_{saving}
Delay of an appliance	D_{APP}		

Table 2. Abbreviations.

Realistic Scheduling Mechanism	RSM	Particle Swarm Optimization	PSO	Binary Particle Swarm Optimization	BPSO
Kilo Watt	KW	Kilo Watt per Hour	KW_{ph}	Home Energy Management System	HEMS
Real Time Pricing	RTP	Inclined Block Rate	IBR	Critical Peak Pricing	CPP
Demand Side Management	DSM	Artificial Intelligence	AI	Machine Learning	ML
Electric Vehicle	EV	Operation Time Interval	OTI	Desired Time Range	DTR
Photo Voltaic	PV	Renewable Energy	RE	Activity Dependent Appliances	ADA
Occupancy Dependent Appliances	ODA	Occupancy Independent Appliances	OIA	Time of Use	TU
Power Consumption	PC	Occupants Activity	OA	Residential Unit (Apartment of a building)	RU
Home Occupancy	HO	On State	ONS	Off State	OFS
Waiting State	WS	Charging State	CS	Discharging State	DS
User Activity	UA	Microwave Oven	MO	Electric Water Heater	EPH
Power Bank	PB	Refrigerator	REF	Cloth Dryer	CD
Washing Machine	WM	Iron	IR	Television	TV
Heating Ventilating Air Conditioning	HVAC	Water Pump	WP	Micro Grid	MG
Wind Power Generation	WPG	Combine Heat and Power	CHP	Multi-Team PSO	MTPSO
Wind Driven Optimization	WDO	Knapsack WDO	K-WDO	Knapsack PSO	K-PSO
Mixed Integer Linear Programming	MILP	Energy Management System	EMS	Demand Response	DR
Energy Storage System	ESS	Bee Colony Optimization	BCO	Enhanced – Bee Colony Optimization	EBCO
Home Area Network	HAN	Load Management	LM	Appliance Waiting Time	AWT
Peak to Average Ratio	PAR	Mixed Integer non-Linear Programming	MInLP	Real Time Pricing	RTP
Two Tier Pricing	2tp	Residential Energy Management System	REMS	Discrete Time	DT
Genetic Algorithm	GA	Time of Use Pricing	ToUP	Energy Management Model	EMM

2. Related work

Many researchers have scheduled a range of appliances or a single appliance based on pre-established demand charts. Most of the related literature speaks of minimizing the cost, minimizing carbon emissions and finding impact of RE/MGs on pricing and smart grid [4]. Table 3 gives a brief insight of recent trends of research in SG, DSM and Scheduling of appliances.

Further reading for recent trends in DSM, DR programs and HEMS are suggested as [5–7]. In [5], the authors provided a compact survey in terms of HEMS. They discussed challenges in HEMS initially and then presented insight on existing literature regarding modelling of DR programs, multi-objectivity and uncertainty followed by communication infrastructure modelling. Finally they discussed existing research work conducted in response to scheduling and computational complexity. The authors of [6] gave an extensive survey with respect to load management strategies developed in recent years. Authors discussed strategies to meet different objectives relating to the concept of SG. They gave brief literature review regarding power transmission aspect of SG followed with communication protocols regarding communication between SG and RUs for HANs or NANs. After words, various strategies regarding PC peak shavings are elaborated giving insight of existing work done on models like Incentive Based DLC and Dynamic Pricing Based Scheduling Schemes. The authors finally provided a brief comparative evaluation of LM techniques and major challenges contemplating LM in SG.

The authors pointed out a consideration regarding impact of DR programs on load patterns of house hold in [8]. Also they introduced an issue that has not been given proper attention in the literature yet, *i.e.*, sizing of PV and ESS. In this paper the authors gave their insight, reflecting the economic impact of continuous incrementing of PVs and ESSs. An MILP model is developed contemplating HEMS and techno-economical sizing.

Researchers in [21,22] focused on scheduling home electrical appliances keeping the objective function to minimize electricity bills or electricity consumption. Mixed integer programming optimization technique is utilized to schedule house hold electrical appliances in [23] having a PV system installed at home. Installing a micro-grid does not only promise cheaper bills but surplus electricity can be sold to the grid. However, installing a micro-grid may not be feasible financially for the majority of individuals/electricity consumers.

Incorporating WSN for HEMS, the authors in [20] presented a fuzzy logic based residential energy management system that is more efficient in comparison with [24] and [25]. The authors proposed a user feedback module that helps in increased UC having one fixed power threshold for only four smart appliances, *i.e.*, WM, CD, DW and coffee maker. Number of appliances decides the complexity of the scheduling problem along with many other factors. Threshold level can be optimized to enhance UC along with PAR reductions or normalizing load over a 24 hour time span.

Erol-Kantarci *et al.* [24] uses Wireless Sensor Networks in HAN to trigger electrical appliances developing an effective HEMS. If we classify home electrical appliances intelligently, we can achieve the objectives that maximize UC and minimize electricity usage.

The authors in [26] gave a detailed comparative analysis contemplating three different types of renewable energy generations, *i.e.*, PV systems, solar thermal and wind electricity generation techniques. The authors suggested wind electricity generation as the cheapest mode while solar thermal stands at second place. Qela. B *et al.* [27] introduced an ML algorithm for finding efficient schedule considering a single appliance, *i.e.*, HVAC. In this paper, the authors proposed an algorithm that first observes and learns the timings and user patterns of appliances for a certain amount of time and then schedules it accordingly.

Table 3. Recent Trends: State of the art work.

Technique	Domain	Feature	Achievement/ Finding	Comments
Thermal dynamic model [9]	Scheduling HVAC and EV	Exploitation of EVs as dynamic storage facility	Financial gains achieved by utilizing proposed model	Cater only two types of appliances in HEMS
MInLP [10]	REMS	Minimize cost by integrating RE sources with SG	Minimize cost considering UC	OTI interval is much larger than DTI interval, Installation, Ops. and maint. cost neglected
Gradient-based PSO [11]	HEMS for electricity cost minimization	Better solution w.r.t commercial based CPLEX system	Minimized computational costs along with cost of electricity	Impact of UC w.r.t appliance utility is not considered
MTPSO [12]	Integrating Multiple MGs with SG	Better solution search ability for minimizing electricity bills	Minimized operation cost of MG and Electricity cost	Tackle operation cost and neglected maintenance cost
K-WDO [13]	Analysis of EMMs	Minimizing RU's electricity bills and shorten AWT	Comparative analysis of KPSO and KWDO is done. AWT is formulated	Proposed AWT is like a hard threshold, may lead to unwanted PC peaks
Game theory [14]	EMS as Cooperative game	Two dimensional energy trading using EVs between RU and energy provider	Optimal reduction of energy cost at both ends	Using EV as transportation of energy is not UC aware
Cloud based EMS [15]	EMS by forecasting load	Using power in an islanded mode, <i>i.e.</i> , no give no take of power from smart grid is objective	Solves MILP periodically to achieve objectives to minimize energy cost and/or reaching islanded mode	Near to optimal solution w.r.t cost saving
GA based G-DSM [16]	HEMS minimizing energy cost	Devised EMS for 20 homes and single home w.r.t PC peak shavings and cost minimization	Achieved significant improvement in PAR and Cost saving	Trade-off between AWT and cost effectiveness
EBCO, MILP [17]	Stand alone and integrated MG/SG	Minimizing MG operational cost using MILP modelled constraints	Comparative analysis of GA, PSO, BCO and EBCO	Useful for industrial areas as compared with RUs
Greedy Algorithm [18]	HEMS	Reducing electricity cost using cloud based smart meter	Minimized Computational load enough to be utilized in smart meter	UC not discussed
Fuzzy logic [19]	Residential energy schedule Formulation	Performance of WN and load peak minimization	BlueTooth stands best in WN for Smart Grid, UC achieved to a level	Hard Power limiter threshold, can be optimized further
BPSO [20]	HEMS	Minimize Cost by scheduling appliances	Mapped BPSO to minimize electricity cost	UC is compromised
Heuristic modelling [21]	HEMs reflecting different pricing models	PC schedules based on pricing schemes	Combination of RTP and 2tp provides less PC	Appliance utility not explicitly dealt

In this work, a day ahead hourly RTP model is utilized that is published daily by the electricity supplier. Normally, all the n appliances are not needed around the clock, there are many devices that are switched off or are not in use during that time. Moreover, occupancy of the home hugely impacts upon scheduling electrical devices for a day contemplating UC. Applying any optimization technique, be it a nature inspired heuristic algorithm or linear/non-linear optimization model, may result in reduced electricity consumption and shave high demand peaks during high priced hours without considering appliance utility. Applying these algorithms directly results in two options; either a user tries to manage his appliance usage time according to prescribed schedule or pay higher electricity bills. The latter option is not beneficial for either electricity suppliers or users.

Keeping these constraints in view, we classify appliances as well as time (24 h of a day) carefully. On the basis of this time and appliance framework, a Realistic Scheduling Mechanism is formulated that incorporates human presence, human activity and time to schedule appliance reflecting UC and electricity consumption peak shavings.

Problem Statement and Contribution

Scheduling home appliances in such a way that eliminates power demand peaks, intensifies UC and minimizes electricity bills having dynamic hourly electricity tariff is a basic problem. In literature, nature inspired heuristic algorithms are used widely to produce schedules that minimize electricity cost; however, achieving cost minimization by using such techniques often results in compromised appliance usage timings. This is because the scheduling horizon is vast and the algorithm has the liberty to schedule appliances within a 24 hour time span, raising user frustration. What if all RUs assemble their electric load on low price hours to save their electricity bills? The probability of increased demand with respect to supply will be higher, proceeding with higher probability of stifling the grid. Depicting UC, we define it as a state of equilibrium when the user has to pay lower electricity bills without effecting appliance utility or frustration level. Appliance utility refers to the use of electrical appliance within the desired range of time.

Therefore, the objective to achieve is to develop a balance between cost effectiveness and appliance utility up to user satisfaction level along with designing a dynamic power usage limiter that is also beneficial to electricity consumers and suppliers.

To achieve these goals, four major aspects are taken under deliberation; home occupancy, desired time of use of appliances, electricity price at time of use of appliance, and appliance utility with their specific constraints. Based on these parameters, we formulate RSM that classifies household electrical appliances and scheduling window, reducing electricity cost and elevating appliance utility. Scheduling window refers to the time span in which a set of appliances are meant to be scheduled. For each scheduling window, RSM uses BPSO keeping objective of cost minimization.

RSM is composed of algorithms regarding appliance functioning and operability that are utilized by a time modelling algorithm. Appliance classification is depleted by considering utility timings, nature of appliance and human presence. One long time slot (24 h) is divided into four logical sub-time slots that limit scheduling horizon. Each sub-time slot has six mini-time slots of one hour each. In limited scheduling horizon (sub-time slot), only one set of appliances is scheduled, raising appliance utility up to user satisfaction level (to ensure appliance utility part of UC).

For scheduling purposes, we apply BPSO keeping the objective function of minimizing cost for each sub-time slot contemplating electricity price, set of appliances to be scheduled and dynamic power threshold range deliberating PC during each respective sub-time slot. Although computational load increases, it also provides effective scheduling that takes care of user frustration as well as cost effectiveness. Our major contributions in formulating RSM are: (i) appliance classification and functioning algorithms with effective constraints, (ii) packet formats regarding all classes of appliances, (iii) dynamic power limiting threshold range with respect to electricity tariff, and (iv) optimizing scheduling horizon.

One cannot achieve an ideal condition in solving any complex problem. In our proposed scheme, we have to pay a price in terms of computational load. However, this cost is negligible considering the benefits that are achieved. Electricity consumers can have a dedicated processor for scheduling rather than relying on the processing power of a smart meter.

3. System Model: RSM

To develop an efficient HEMS, four entities, *i.e.*, the price at time, the TU, UA in RU and the nature of appliance are key players. A complete system model is defined as in Figure 1 that takes care of said parameters. We consider a home having single occupancy with 10 smart appliances, that can be scheduled. We assume that every appliance is a smart appliance and has a built in sensor for different operations. Moreover, there is a network of sensors that sense different attributes regarding water tank for WP, water temperature for EWH, environmental temperature for HVAC and HO sensors. These sensors communicate their sensed value to control unit. Each appliance establishes its profile in form of a control/advertisement packet, that is transmitted to a scheduler. This advertisement packet has eight fields and is composed of 10 bits as shown in Figure 1 and explicitly in Figure 2.

The first field is of appliance *ID* composed of three bits. In next three bits, it is determined that the appliance belongs to ADA, ODA or OIA class (explained in Subsection 3.1). The fifth field informs us if the appliance is to be scheduled in this sub-time slot as per the user’s preferred time or not. The next field in the advertisement packet is responsible for determining whether the appliance needs a continuous operation without any deferment or not. The seventh field suggests that the device is interruptible or not, while last bit decides an opportunity of a force start regardless of time and final schedule made. The time frame, 24 hour time span, is divided into four equal sized sub-time slots, reducing scheduling window size.

These profiles are gathered at aggregator modules of the control unit. An aggregator module collects these profiles, make sets of appliances regarding respective sub-time slots and verifies appliance threshold for the TU of appliance. These grouped profiles (for four different sub-time slots) are finally fed to the scheduler module of control unit. Prior to these profiles, the scheduler module has two more inputs, *i.e.*, the day ahead price signal from electricity supplier and sensory data regarding environment (temperature outside and inside RU), water temperature in tank and HO. The scheduler module also applies the sub-time slot threshold range to normalize the PC peaks.

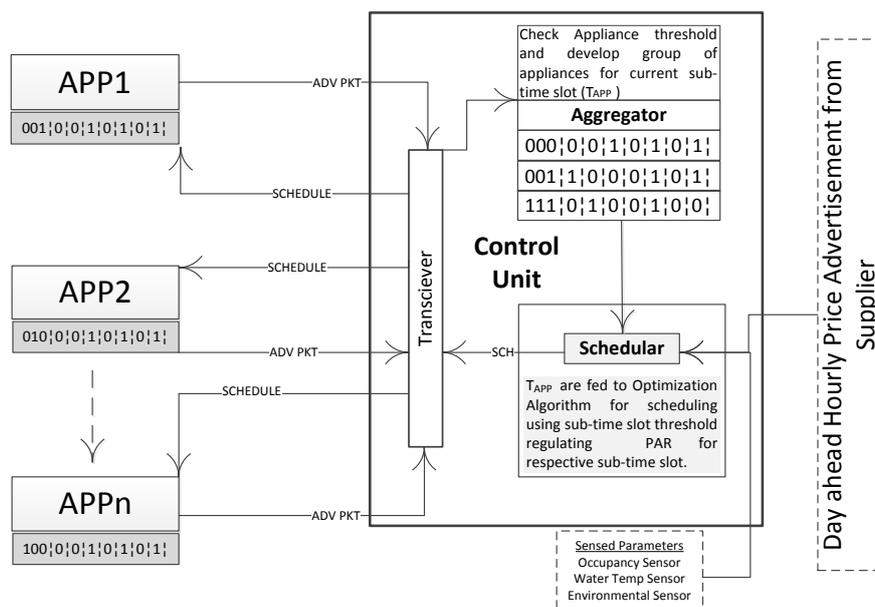


Figure 1. System Model: Realistic Scheduling Mechanism (RSM) Block Diagram.

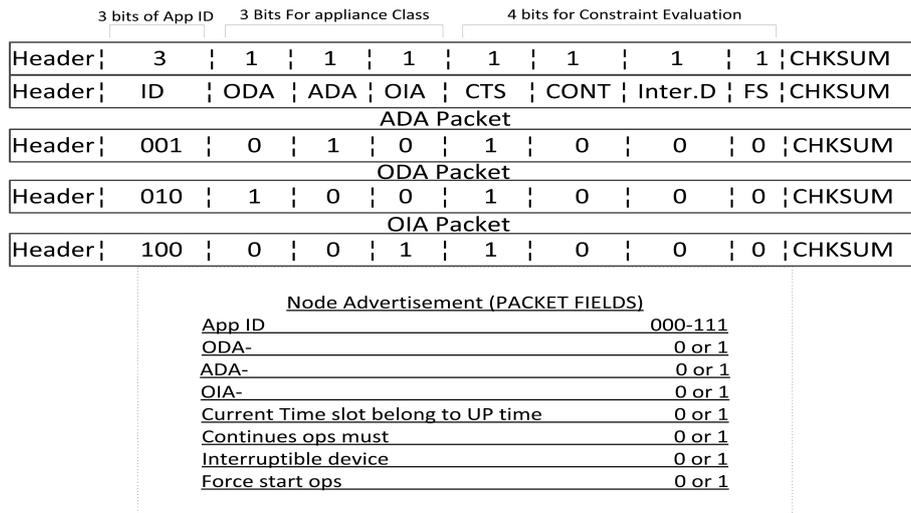


Figure 2. Advertisement packet format: ADA, ODA and OIA classes.

Once appliance, time, threshold and PC modeling is done, we apply BPSO on each sub-time slot to get appliance schedule as Figure 3 representing operability of RSM explains. Considering flow chart illustrated in Figure 3, initially $t_{current}$ and UP_{time} is compared and a sub-time slot is found. Then a set of appliances for that sub-time slot is formulated by using appliance classification algorithms and profiles of each appliance. A power normalizing threshold for each appliance (using Equation (5)) plays an important role for selecting T_{APP} along with UP_{time} . Afterwards, PC limiter is applied using Equation (9) for the whole of the sub-time slot. This maintains the PC balance for both electricity user and provider. Finally, to achieve the objective of minimizing electricity bills, objective functions are fed to BPSO anticipating respective constraints to provide schedules that are user as well as supplier friendly. In this work we have not dealt with efficiency of communication protocol which is used between smart appliances and control unit. We assume that communication protocol works ideally.

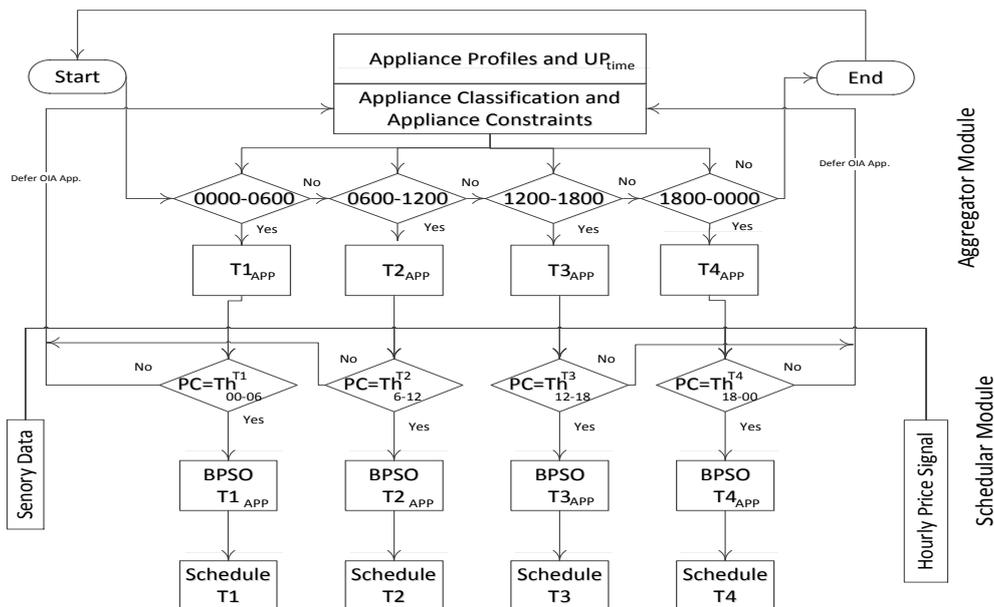


Figure 3. RSM: flow chart.

3.1. Appliance Modelling

Classifying appliances, reflecting the said problem, is a complex task. Classification of appliances deals directly with appliance utility as well as cost effectiveness. Regarding appliance modeling, TU, PC and OA are focused parameters. Based on these parameters, RU’s electrical appliances are classified as

- ADA: This class belongs to those appliances that not only require home presence but also need some activity performed on them. MO, IR, TV, *etc.*, fall in this class.
- ODA: These appliances are the ones that need human presence in RU to be operated. Such devices that are operable only if a home is occupied, fall in this class. For instance, what need is there for HVAC if home is vacant? It is also not necessary to switch on HVAC just on finding a low price hour without considering environmental temperature. Lights, EWH, *etc.*, are the examples of this class.
- OIA: The appliances that can be operable without home presence belong to this class. These appliances are delay tolerant and are meant to be scheduled at low price hours. WM, CD, PB, DW, WP, *etc.*, are some examples of this class which are taken under consideration in this work.

With respect to described parameters and classification of electrical appliances, we can define each appliance separately. It is observed that, low PC appliances do not contribute significantly in high peaks of electricity demand. High PC devices play a vital role in generating peaks of electricity consumption. This is the reason that we take more high PC appliances as a prototype with respect to low PC devices.

Figure 4 depicts the algorithms that are designed for appliance workability raising appliance utility. Each appliance define its class in advertisement packet. The user also defines desired TU of that appliance. It is obvious that all appliances are not needed all together at the same instance. Moreover, an appliance may work multiple times in 24 h span as HVAC, MO and Ls, *etc.* Algorithms for each class are explained in following subsections.

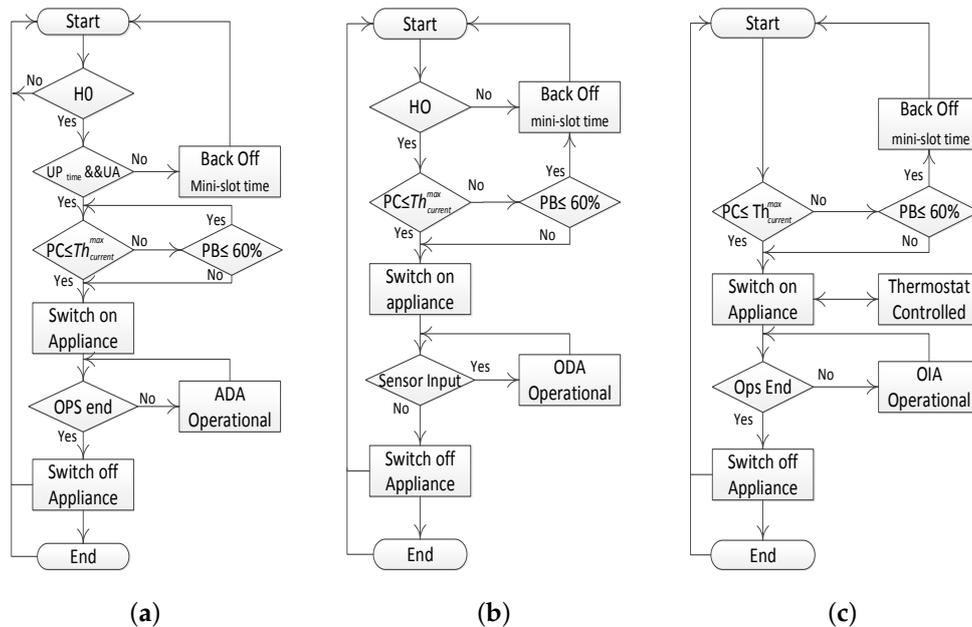


Figure 4. Appliance functioning algorithms. (a) ADA class; (b) ODA class; (c) OIA class.

3.1.1. ADA Modelling

The most important class of appliances that plays vital role in user frustration or comfort is ADA. These appliances as the name indicates needs home presence as well as respective activity performed on that appliances.

Reflecting Figure 4a there are four major thresholds, *i.e.*, HO, desired TU, UA and a PC limit (using Equation (5)). Analysing the algorithm for ADA class, it initializes and checks human presence if, occupancy sensor defines home presence, it will further proceed, otherwise, it will initialize again after a random back off time. If HO is verified, algorithm checks the desired TU and UA of this device. After passing these checks, an algorithm will check PC threshold, otherwise, an algorithm will be set to initialize again after a random back off period. Considering PC threshold check, it checks the overall PC at that specific instance. If it is below the predefined limit (Subsection 3.3), then the appliance will be switched on. If PC, at that instance is higher than power usage limit, the appliance will switch on using PB considering charge on its batteries. These are the conditions which are common amongst the whole appliance range of ADA class. However, each device may have some of its own constraints which are elaborated in a periodic control packet. These limitations tend to raise UC and efficiency in terms of electricity usage.

Normally, a home is occupied for the evening, night and morning time. Electricity appliances of this class are needed mostly in the morning when the user has to prepare for the office and evening when the user comes back from the office. Focusing MO as a vital appliance of ADA, it can remain in ONS, OFS and WS while, state 00 refers to OFS, 10 is WS and 11 defines ONS.

At a given instance of time, MO can be in any of above mentioned state. To register in WS or ONS (Equation (1)), the following constraints must be analyzed.

$$SetMO == [11, 10] \quad (1)$$

Conditions :

```

1: MO ← 00
2: if HOSENSOR == 1 && UA ← 1 && Tcurrent ∈ Tdesired,lot then
3:   MO ← 11
4:   if PC ≤ ThcurrentMax then
5:     MO ← 11
6:   end if
7:   if PC ≥ ThcurrentMax && PB ≥ 60% then
8:     MO ← 11
9:     PB ← 10
10:  end if
11:  if ForceStart == 1 then
12:    MO ← 11
13:  else
14:    if ForceStart ≠ 1 && PB ≤ 30% then
15:      MO ← 10
16:    end if
17:  end if
18:  if MO == 11 then
19:    x < TEMP < y
20:    MO == 10
21:  end if
22:  D < 12omin
23: end if

```

Line 1 expresses the 00 state of microwave oven and it will shift to 11 state if the home occupancy sensor senses presence in the home, and current time slot is the desired time slot. Moreover, some user activity is planned in this time slot as depicted in line 2. In this document, 1 stands for yes or on, while 0 represents no or off. State 11 shifts to state 10 if, power consumption is lower than the threshold of that particular mini-time slot. Considering line 8, if power consumption of the mini-time slot is exceeding the threshold limit, then PB will be consulted. If charge in PB is greater than 60% MO will set in state 10 while PB is shifted to state 10. There is another check, regarding switching to 10 state, *i.e.*, if in advertisement packet or if the option of force start is on, the appliance will be set to 10 state at the prescribed time regardless of PC (line 12). However, if force start option is not set on, and PB charge is less than 30%, MO will remain in 11 state until PC threshold is satisfied (line 15). Mostly,

food is cooked by giving proper attention. The higher the temperature setting of MO is, the higher will be the power consumption resulting in higher power demand. Line 20 limits the temperature range into an upper and lower bound of temperatures, where x and y are the desired limits of MO set by the user. The delay for this appliance is set as 120 min.

3.1.2. ODA Modeling

These are the devices which are needed only when a home is occupied, as the name indicates. Many appliances may fall in this class like HVAC, EWH, Ls, etc. Figure 4b narrates ODA class of appliances, it deals with only three thresholds, i.e., checks the HO, UP_{time} and PC at that instance. This algorithm follows the same procedure as that of ADA class, the only difference is, that it does not precisely follow the user preferred time during respective sub-time slot. It checks different parameters depicted by environmental and temperature sensors. As discussed earlier, these are general conditions that are valid on every ODA. There can be some other constraints on a device level to further optimize the solution.

Let us anticipate that EWH belongs to ODA class, i.e., $EWH \subset ODA$. Performance of EWH depends on hot water storage tank. We assume that tank can contain x litres of water and can keep water warm for T minutes. Moreover, EWH warms x litres of water in HT time, consuming KW/hr power. EWH can be in OFS, ONS or WS where 00 represents OFS, 10 shows WS of appliance and 11 stands for ONS of Appliance.

Framework of EWH is presented in Equation (2):

$$SetEWH == [11, 10] \quad (2)$$

Conditions :

```

1: EWH ← 00
2: if  $HO_{SENSOR} == 1$  &&  $T_{current} \in T_{desired,lot}$  then
3:   EWH ← 11
4:   if  $Temp_{min} \leq R_{Temp} \leq Temp_{max}$  then
5:     EWH ← 11
6:   end if
7:   if  $Temp_{min} \geq R_{Temp} \geq Temp_{max}$  &&  $PC \leq Th_{current}^{Max}$  then
8:     EWH ← 11
9:   end if
10:  if  $PC \geq Th_{current}^{Max}$  &&  $PB \geq 60\%$  then
11:    EWH ← 11
12:    PB ← 10
13:  end if
14:  if ForceStart == 1 then
15:    EWH ← 11
16:  else
17:    if ForceStart ≠ 1 &&  $PB \leq 30\%$  then
18:      EWH ← 10
19:    end if
20:  end if
21:  if EWH == 11 then
22:     $Temp_{min} < R_{Temp} \leq Temp_{max}$ 
23:    EWH ← 10
24:  end if
25:  D < 180min
26: end if

```

Anticipating EWH that belongs to ODA, the initial state is 00 will shift to 11 state if the HO sensor is positive and current sub-time slot is the desired time slot. To shift to state 10, water temperature range is verified as in line 4. If current water temperature rests within the range, state 11 will continue otherwise, as depicted in line 8 to 16, PC threshold is checked, PB state of charge is verified and force start option is checked as being to set to state 10. If force start option is not set on while charge on PB is less than 30%, EWH will remain in WS until above mentioned constraints are fulfilled. Delay is set to 180 min for this appliance (within 6 h of sub-time slot) as ODA class does not require urgent attention and can be utilized to minimize electricity bills without effecting appliance utility. It is assumed that water tank has the ability to keep water warm for 5 h and comfortably usable for 3 h. Hence, it can be

switched on 180 min prior to usage time. This is the time limit where water remains usable without any discomfort. Focusing EWH, it is required only in morning time, hence, it can be scheduled at times such that line 27 is satisfied. In the same way, appliances that lie in ODA class will have almost the same constraints, given that they may have different tolerance levels and comfort zones, *i.e.*, for HVAC, there will some different range of temperature to be set and have to analyse outside along with inside temperature of RU. Figure 2 illustrates advertisement packet format representing ODA class as well.

3.1.3. OIA Modelling

OIA class of appliances are independent of human presence. All they require are certain control signals to become operational without any human interference. OIA class as illustrated in Figure 4c checks only power threshold value. If there is a room for said device to switch on, the algorithm turns that appliance on. This class of appliances mainly shaves electricity demand peaks and resolve different conflicts of TUs regarding other two classes.

We take PB as prototype for this class of appliances. This device can be in three states, *i.e.*, 00 states its OFS, 01 represents CS while 10 refers to its DS.

If PB is in 00 state, it means that normal operation is ongoing. Electricity from supplier is utilized and PB is in OFS. 01 state informs CS of PB. It reflects the time, when batteries are charging *i.e.*, that must be a low pricing hour. Moreover, this is an OIA, hence it can be operational at any instance, once given constraints are fulfilled. 10 state represents DS. Discharging of batteries happen only when it is necessary to use electricity while the electricity price offered from the supplier is high, or needed electric load is exceeding PC limit. During peak pricing hours or peak demand hours, the probability of DS considering PB is maximal than CS. PB framework is presented in Equation (3):

$$SetPB == [00, 01, 10] \quad (3)$$

Conditions :

```

1:  $PB \leftarrow 00$ 
2: if  $PC \leq Th_{current}^{Max}$  &&  $PB_{Charge} \geq 60\%$  then
3:    $PB \leftarrow 00$ 
4: end if
5: if  $PC_{req} \geq Th_{current}^{Max}$  &&  $PB_{Charge} \geq 60\%$  then
6:    $PB \leftarrow 10$ 
7: end if
8: if  $PC_{Charge} \leq 30\%$  &&  $PC \leq Th_{current}^{Max}$  &&  $T_{current} \epsilon T_{desired-slot}$  then
9:    $PB \leftarrow 01$ 
10: end if

```

The initial state of PB is 00 which will remain if the PC of the mini-time slot is less than the PC threshold and charge on PB is greater than or equal to 60% as in line 2. Line 5 expresses that if PC exceeds the threshold and PB_{charge} is greater than or equal to 60%, PB state is set to 10 *i.e.*, discharging state. This means, to remain under threshold level, some of the appliances will start consuming power from PB to minimize grid billing at high load hour. PB is a dual natured appliance, it serves as a mini MG while in 10 state and acts as an ordinary appliance during 01 state. The user defines its operational time (01 state) for charging. If the charge on PB is less than 30% along with PC is under threshold, the state of PB will shift to 01. This OIA needs high electric power to operate; however, it also gives relief to the user in high price and load hours. HEMS may shift some of the load on batteries to ensure appliance utility, PC peaks reduction and lower bills. We assume that RU is equipped with an RE source. This RE scourge charges PB along with two hours of further charging by using electricity provided by the supplier. In this way it is capable of storing 35% of the consumed power and helps in lowering electricity consumption/ billing at high pricing hours. Modelling RE expenditures (Power storage system, installation cost of RE source/s and maintenance around its life cycle) will be dealt with in future works.

3.2. Time Modelling

Scheduling horizon plays an important role in appliance utility and cost minimization. It has a direct influence: as the scheduling horizon is widened, cost will decrease proportionally. However, appliance utility is compromised likewise. Limiting scheduling horizon may lead to less cost effectiveness but it will raise the appliance utility. To include cost effectiveness in limited scheduling horizon, effective appliance grouping representing each logical sub-time slot, will lead to minimized electricity bills.

We, in this work, divide 24 hour time into four prominent sub-time slots *i.e.*, from 00:00 to 06:00 as $T1$, from 06:00 to 12:00 as $T2$, 12:00 to 18:00 as $T3$ and 18:00 to 00:00 as $T4$. We categorize these sub-time slots in accordance with daily routine pattern commonly observed at a normal RU. Each sub-time slot is further decomposed into six equal sized mini-time slots of one hour each. Scheduling window is minimized to a sub-time slot. Hence, there are four scheduling windows within time frame of 24 h.

During any specific interval of time, all the n appliances are not needed. There may be a group of appliances that is operational. Moreover, limiting scheduling window along with precisely developed set of appliances to be used in this sub-time slot, results in more effective scheduling. It is not necessary that an appliance that $\in n$ works only in one sub-time slot. It may be utilized time and again, such as MO or HVAC. For the said reason, we state that, there are " n " appliances in an RU. During $T1$, a set of $T1_{App} = (n - a)$ appliances are to be scheduled. While in $T2$, $T2_{App} = (n - b)$ are in use, similarly $T3_{App} = (n - c)$ and $T4_{App} = (n - d)$ are operational in $T3$ and $T4$ sub-time slots respectively. Where $T1_{App} \in n$, $T2_{App} \in n$, $T3_{App} \in n$ and $T4_{App} \in n$. Subset a is set of those appliances, that are elected to be in OFS for sub-time slot $T1$. Likewise, sets (b) , (c) , (d) are sub sets of appliances that belongs to super set n of all electrical smart devices but not lie in $T2_{APP}$, $T3_{APP}$ and $T4_{APP}$ respectively. These subsets are formed by appliance profiles and UP_{time} . Sets of appliances for sub-time slots are made focusing UP_{time} , appliance profiles and appliance threshold, without considering classification of appliances.

Resident of the home inputs his UP_{time} and duration of use reflecting any specific appliance. A set of appliances that is to be used in certain sub-time slot (*i.e.*, $T1_{App}$) is based upon the appliance classification mechanism as discussed in Section 3. Mathematically we can state as in Equation (4):

$$UP_{time} \subset T, \text{ where, } T = 24h \quad (4)$$

such that

$$UP_{time_i} \subset T_i \&\& T_{i_{APP}} == (n - k) \quad (4a)$$

where,

$$set(a)^{TU} \notin UP_{time_1}, set(b)^{TU} \notin UP_{time_2}, set(c)^{TU} \notin UP_{time_3} \& set(d)^{TU} \notin UP_{time_4} \quad (4b)$$

where $T_i = T1 + T2 + T3 + T4$. UP_{time} defines the sub-time slot of appliances within 24 h time frame. $set(a)^{TU}$ is time of use of appliances that exists in $set(a)$. These sets are formed on checking TU with respect to the next sub-time slot and are variable so that any appliance can work in more than one sub-time slots as per user requirement. Considering any set of appliances, *i.e.*, $T1_{APP} - T4_{APP}$, appliances can deviate within respective mini-slot times of one sub-time slot; however, they are not supposed to shift their sub-time slot, to avoid user discomfort.

3.3. Power Threshold Framework

Limiting power usage and creating a threshold is one of the most critical parts of an effective HEMS. Threshold if modeled carefully, plays an important role in maintaining an equilibrium that not only is beneficial to electricity consumer, but also for power suppliers by stabilizing the smart grid. The grid is vulnerable on high price hours as well as low price hours. It is obvious that at high

price or load hours, the grid may choke. While, if consumers shift their electric loads collectively on low pricing hours, this again will result in choking of electricity supplying company. To tackle these two extremes, an efficient power threshold mechanism is needed that regulates electricity usage.

To accomplish this, we devise two types of thresholds, *i.e.*, appliance threshold and sub-time slot threshold range. For appliance threshold, that is required while switching on any electrical device, we calculate it on the basis of unit price of electricity at that certain hour. This threshold changes as the price of hour changes. Hence, it regulates high demand curves at low or high price hours dynamically, as shown in Equation (5):

$$Th_{current}^{Max} = \left(\frac{max.EC_{A.APP}^{current}}{C_t} \right) \times x \quad (5)$$

$Th_{current}^{Max}$ stands for the threshold calculated for the current hour. $max.EC_{APP}$ is consumption of electricity (in $KWph$) by all electricity appliances that are to be scheduled in that sub-time slot. Whereas C_t depicts the electricity cost of respective hour issued by electricity supplier. x is a variable that can be changed according to needs of electricity consumer. This increases the threshold value of power consumption per hour as per need. We define x as 1.5 in this work. $Th_{current}^{Max}$ is utilized in algorithms that define functionality and operability of electrical appliances (Subsection 3.1).

To calculate maximum electricity consumption, we use Equation (6):

$$max.EC_{A.APP}^{current} = \sum_{a=1}^{A.APP} (P_a^{KWph}) \quad (6)$$

Equation (6) gives the sum of PC by all active appliances in specific mini-time slot. Where P_a^{KWph} stands for the kilowatt per hour PC by an appliance and T_{APP} is number of appliances that are determined for that specific mini-time slot.

The lower boundary of threshold is represented as $Th_{current}^{Min}$ and can be calculated as in Equation (7):

$$Th_{current}^{Min} = \left(\frac{min.EC_{A.APP}^{current}}{C_t} \right) \times x \quad (7)$$

where:

$$min.EC_{A.APP}^{current} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\sum_{a=1}^{A.APP} P_a^{KWph} \right) \quad (8)$$

PC range for an hour can be calculated as the difference between $max.EC_{APP}$ and $min.EC_{APP}$. Mathematically it can be represented as in Equation (9):

$$Th_{hour}^{Time-slot} = PC \begin{cases} Th_{current}^{Max} \\ Th_{current}^{Min} \end{cases} \quad (9)$$

Equation (9) gives PC range of specific hour that deviates between $min.EC_{APP}$ and $max.EC_{APP}$. Per hour maximum and minimum thresholds are defined in Equation (5) and Equation (7) respectively. We use Equation (5) in appliance modelling (Section 3 for switching on an appliance). However, during a sub-time slot, it is not necessary that every hour of the sub-time slot must be occupied even if there is no need to utilize any appliance. For that we need a maximum and minimum threshold value for whole sub-time slot, *i.e.*, six mini-time slots. During these 6 h (mini-time slots), there may be hours where the state of "no electricity consumption" can be achieved without generating PC peaks in other mini-slot times of respective sub-time slot.

Hence for sub-time slot threshold, we calculate minimum and maximum electricity to be utilized in whole sub-time slot (Equation (11) and Equation (12) respectively). That defines the threshold range for specific sub-time slot as in Equation (10):

$$Th_{Range}^{Time-slot} = PC \begin{cases} Th_{range}^{Max} \\ Th_{range}^{Min} \end{cases} \quad (10)$$

where,

$$Th_{range}^{Min} = \sum_{t=1}^6 \left(\frac{min.EC_{A.APP}^t}{C_t} \right) \times x \quad (11)$$

and

$$Th_{range}^{Max} = \sum_{t=1}^6 \left(\frac{max.EC_{A.APP}^t}{C_t} \right) \times x \quad (12)$$

$C_{t(avg)}$ represents the average price during sub-time slot. To calculate maximum and minimum range of PC during a sub-time slot, we use Equation (13) and Equation (14) respectively.

$$max.EC_{A.APP}^t = \sum_{a=1}^{A.APP} (P_a^{KWph}) \quad (13)$$

$$min.EC_{A.APP}^t = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{a=1}^{A.APP} (P_a^{KWph}) \quad (14)$$

3.4. Power Utilization Framework

The day ahead RTP model is utilized that is published online day ahead. As said earlier, there are many devices that may be switched off or are not in use with respect to that sub-time slot. Also, an appliance may be needed at multiple times during a day and occupancy of RU impacts directly on scheduling electrical devices. On the basis of presented modeling of electrical appliances, sub-time slots and power threshold range, we devise PC cost profiles for each sub-time slot in following subsections.

PC Cost During the Allocated Sub Time Slots

$T1$ sub time slot refers to first 6 h of the day where $T1_s = 00:00$ and $T1_f = 06:00$ having six mini-time slots of 1 hour each. During this sub-time slot, appliances under attention belong to $T1_{APP}$. Scheduling time for $T1_{APP}$ can be stated as in Equation (15):

$$T_{sch1} = T1_f - T1_s \quad (15)$$

The amount of power that is consumed during $T1$ by $T1_{APP}$ set of appliances is represented in a vector form as:

$$P_{T1_{APP}} = [p_{i \rightarrow (n-a)}^{T1_s}, p_{i \rightarrow (n-a)}^{T1_{s+1}}, p_{i \rightarrow (n-a)}^{T1_{s+2}}, \dots, p_{i \rightarrow (n-a)}^{T1_f}] \quad (16)$$

where, $i \rightarrow (n-a)$ is the range of appliances that can be switched on during $T1_x$ hour of $T1$. While, $T1_s$ to $T1_f$ refers to six mini-time slots of $T1$. Sum of all the fields of vector (Equation (16)) yields PC of all appliances during $T1$.

Equation (17) ensures that a certain range of power is permissible to be used. It gives maximum and minimum PC limit of $T1_{APP}$ appliances during $T1$ time span.

$$Th_{00-06}^{T1} = PC \begin{cases} Th_{00-06}^{Max} \\ Th_{00-06}^{Min} \end{cases} \quad (17)$$

And we can say that:

$$Th_{00-06}^{Min} \leq P_{T1APP} \leq Th_{00-06}^{Max} \tag{18}$$

As prices can vary every hour and are known to scheduler in advance, total PC cost during T1 is stated as:

$$CT_{(n-a)}^{T1} = \sum_{t=T1_s}^{T1_f} \sum_{n=1}^{(n-a)} P_{T1App(t,n)} C_{T1(t)} \tag{19}$$

We follow the same model as presented for T1 in rest of the sub time slots; T2, T3, and T4.

3.5. Problem Formulation

Accumulative objective function for 24 hour time span "T" is expressed in Equation (20):

$$obj = \min \left((CT_{(n-a)}^{T1}) + (CT_{(n-b)}^{T2}) + (CT_{(n-c)}^{T3}) + (CT_{(n-d)}^{T4}) \right) \tag{20}$$

Such that;

$$(T_{s_i} \leq UP_{time} \leq T_{f_i}) \quad \forall \quad T \in \{T1, T2, T3, T4\}, \tag{20a}$$

$$(n - k) \in Ti_{App} \quad \forall \quad T \in \{T1, T2, T3, T4\}, \tag{20b}$$

$$Th_{m-n}^{Min} \leq P_{TiApp} \leq Th_{m-n}^{Max} \quad \forall \quad T \in \{T1, T2, T3, T4\} \tag{20c}$$

$$Pr_x^T = (1 - \rho) + P_{20a}^{max} \quad \forall a \in n, \quad \forall T \tag{20d}$$

Constraint 'a' represents the user preferred time for whole day logically dividing 24 hour into 4 equal sized time slots to enhance appliance utility ($i \in \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$). The set of appliances formed for each sub-time slot is bound to be operational within respective sub-time slot as depicted in constraint 'b', where, $k = a$ if $i = 1$, $k = 2$ if $i = 2$, $k = c$ if $i = 3$, and $k = d$ if $i = 4$. A dynamic power limiting range is designed which is based upon HO, UA and price at time of use, enforces certain amount of PC during respective sub-time slot in constraint 'c'. In constraint c, $m = 00$ and $n = 06$ if $i = 1$, $m = 06$ and $n = 12$ if $i = 2$, $m = 12$ and $n = 18$ if $i = 3$, and $m = 18$ and $n = 00$ if $i = 4$. Whereas, constraint 'd' tackles the probability of force start option of any appliance.

4. PSO

The PSO algorithm is dependent upon two major functions, *i.e.*, velocity update function and position update function [28]. On every iteration, each particle is subject to move towards a previous best position or global best position. Hence, every new iteration brings new velocity of each particle along with distance of the global best position. This new velocity value is calculated to find next position in n dimensional search space s . Iterations keep repeating until the required solution is achieved. The velocity of a particle is obtained by using the Equation (21):

$$V_{id}(t_{BPSO} + 1) = WV_{id}(t_{BPSO}) + c_1 r_1(t_{BPSO})(p_{id}(t_{BPSO}) - x_{id}(t_{BPSO})) - c_2 r_2(t_{BPSO})(p_{gd}(t_{BPSO}) - x_{id}(t_{BPSO})) \tag{21}$$

where

$$W = (T_{max} - T_{min}) \frac{(0.9 - 0.4)}{T_{max}} + 0.4 \tag{22}$$

And for position update function, we use the Equation (23):

$$X_{id}(t_{BPSO} + 1) = X_{id}(t_{BPSO}) + V_{id}(t_{BPSO} + 1) \tag{23}$$

BPSO for RSM

BPSO is a variant of PSO, with the only difference that, decision variables are binary, *i.e.*, zero and one. The objective function is fed to BPSO that develops schedule for respective sub-time slot considering UC focusing appliances usability and cost of electricity at time of use.

In BPSO, particles are initialized for binary positions randomly.

$$x_i = [x_{i1}, x_{i2}, x_{i3}, \dots, x_{in}] \forall x_i \in (0,1) \quad (24)$$

Position of each particle is defined by:

$$x_{id} = f_x = \begin{cases} 1; & \text{if } rand \geq 0 \\ 0; & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Table 4 represents the simulation control parameters of BPSO for scheduling home appliances.

Table 4. Control setting for Binary Particle Swarm Optimization (BPSO) simulation.

Parameter	c_1 and c_2	r_1 and r_2	i	f
Value	2.0	rand (0,1)	1.0	0.4
Parameter	Swarm	V_{max}	V_{min}	No. of Iterations
Value	10	4	-4	500

Scheduling smart home's electrical appliances by applying nature inspired heuristic algorithms is emerging topic amongst researchers and engineering industries. Vast literature exists that presents recent trends of using and modifying PSO, GA and ANN techniques for the said purpose, *i.e.*, scheduling home appliances for cheaper electricity bills.

5. Simulated Results and Discussions

We consider an RU of a residential building, however, our proposed scheme can be implemented on any home or residential apartment. This RU has single occupancy, one bedroom, one living room, a kitchen and a washroom. For validation of our proposed system, we take assumption of an RU having 10 smart appliances. These appliances are connected to HEMS, while we have knowledge of hourly electricity tariff a day ahead.

Table 5 shows the appliances that belong to a specified class (user defined), duration of operation in 24 h time (user defined), duration of operation in specific sub-time slot (user defined based upon UP_{time}) and their power rating as watt per hour (manufacturer rating). We take these listed appliances for scheduling, aiming to reduce user frustration and maximize appliance utility cost effectively, as discussed in above sections. In all of the mentioned appliances, role of PB is vital. We, in these experiments, include it as another device when it is required to be charged. For DS we calculate its impact which is vital. However, we do not include its technical specifications and assume that, if fully charged with the support of PV system, it can provide 35% of the load. Considering DR program type, we use day ahead dynamic hourly pricing scheme which is published by electricity company day ahead. In this section, 0 stands for the OFS of appliance while 1 respond to ONS of appliances due to the binary nature of applied optimization technique.

Table 5. Appliance power rating and desired time of operation.

Class	Appliance	Ops in T (24 h)	Ops in T1	Ops in T2	Ops in T3	Ops in T4	Power (Wph)
ADA	Microwave Oven	2 h	0 h	1h	0h	1h	4000
ADA	Lights	12 h	1 h	3 h	2 h	6 h	500
ODA	Water Pump	2 h	0h	0h	1h	1h	4000
ODA	HVAC	9 h	4 h	1h	0h	4 h	4000
ODA	EWH	3 h	2 h	0h	0h	1h	4000
OIA	Refrigerator	21 h	6 h	5 h	5 h	5 h	3000
OIA	Clothes Dryer	1h	0h	1h	0h	0h	2000
OIA	Dish Washer	2 h	1h	0h	1h	0h	500
OIA	Power Bank	2 h	0h	0h	2 h	0h	4000
OIA	Washing Machine	2 h	0h	2 h	0h	0h	4000

5.1. Scheduling Sub-time Slots

In the following subsections, results reflecting each sub-time slot are presented to analyze impact of RSM with respect to unscheduled. In the experiments, we also analyzed the role of PB in RSM which gives near to optimum results. In the following Subsections, we compared unscheduled, RSM without PB and RSM with PB for each sub-time slot.

5.1.1. Scheduling T1

T1 represents the time between 24:00 to 06:00. This is the time when home is occupied and occupants are normally taking their sleep. Hence, ODA class of appliances is dominant in $T1_{APP}$ in accordance with UP_{time} and electricity cost per respective hour. EWH, REF and HVAC, etc. do not require special attention, but require HO. For EWH, user require 2 h of operation: one near midnight before going to bed and one right before getting out of bed. REF needs to be run continuously, however, it can be deferred for a maximum of one hour, if load is crossing the threshold. Hence, during this time span, Equation (25) expresses $T1_{APP}$ set of appliances.

$$T1_{APP} = (EWH, REF, HVAC, L, DW) \tag{25}$$

Figure 5a depicts the hourly price advertised for T1. Figure 5b represents the PC pattern considering three approaches, i.e., scheduling with the help of proposed mechanism (with and without PB) and unscheduled. We induced the impact of PB on electricity cost savings. As we can see in Figure 5b,c, during the high price timings, electricity consumption was lower and during low pricing hours, electricity consumption was higher with respect to proposed scheme. However, using PB as a helping source of power at high cost timings, billing is minimum.

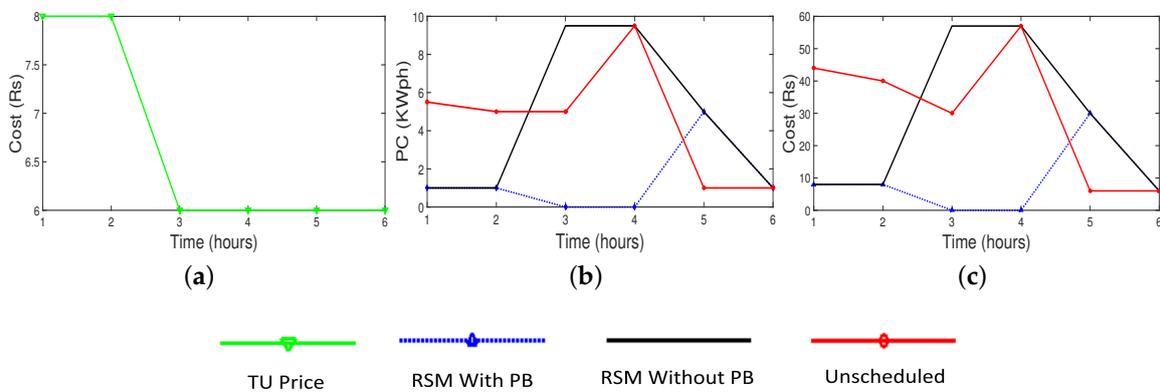


Figure 5. Comparative analysis: RSM and unscheduled cases during T1. (a) Hourly Price During T1; (b) Consumption Comparison; (c) Cost Comparison.

5.1.2. Scheduling T2

T2 represents the time between 06:00 to 12:00. During the first half of the time, the home is occupied as the user gets up, and prepares to reach his work space. After 09:00 the home remains vacant. During the latter half, OIA is major class representing $T2_{APP}$ to ensure UC.

The price per hour of this sub-time slot can be seen in Figure 6a. For the initial three hours, *i.e.*, from 06:00 to 09:00 the price is higher and afterwards, it is 6PKR per kilowatt for the rest of this sub-time slot. PC and cost comparison between scheduled load by RSM without PB, unscheduled load and scheduled by RSM with the support of PB is shown in Figure 6b,c respectively. Without RSM, electricity consumption is higher at high price timings which is lower in scheduled load. At the time when prices are low, scheduled load is higher.

$$T2_{APP} = (MO, CD, WM, HVAC, REF, L) \tag{26}$$

Equation (26) represents appliances in $T2_{APP}$ set.

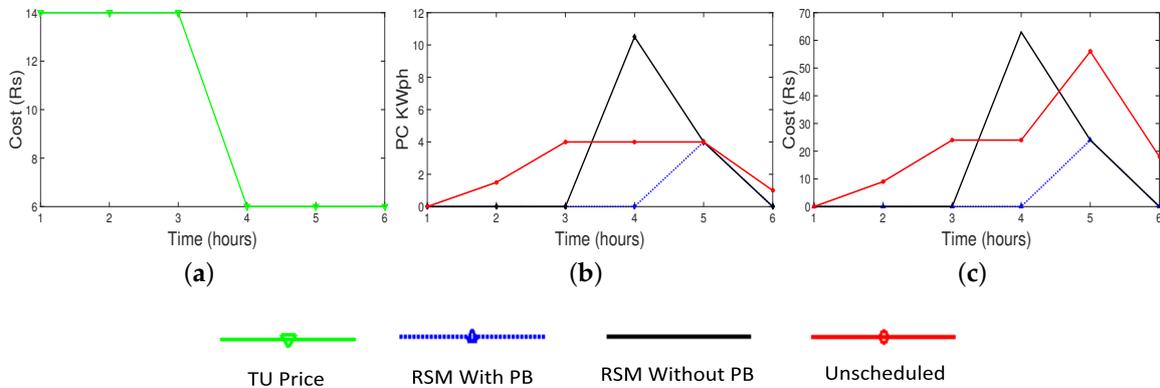


Figure 6. Comparative analysis: Realistic Scheduling Mechanism (RSM) and unscheduled cases during T2; (a) Hourly Price During T2; (b) Consumption Comparison; (c) Cost Comparison.

5.1.3. Scheduling T3

T3 sub-time slot represents the time between 12:00 to 18:00. At this sub-time slot, OIA class of appliances is meant to be scheduled. Normally, office timings are 09:00 to 17:00 and so, the user may reach home after 17:00 ±1 h. During this time slot, $T3_{APP}$ set based upon appliance profiles and UP_{time} is given in Equation (27):

$$T3_{APP} = (DW, REF, PB, WP, L) \tag{27}$$

Figure 7a anticipates the tariff of this sub-time slot. From 12:00 to 15:00 tariff is 6PKR while from 15:00 to 18:00 the price is 14PKR and then 18PKR per kilowatt for last two hours. During high peak hours, minimum load is scheduled by RSM keeping in view that the home is vacant and maximum load is shifted to low price hours to preserve electricity. $T2_{APP}$ set is formulated considering appliance classification and UP_{time} maximizing appliance utility as well as cost savings. On the other side, unscheduled load consume electric power regardless of electricity pricing as shown in Figure 7b. Figure 7c presents the price comparisons between scheduled with RSM, Scheduled RSM with PB and unscheduled load. During high price hours, price is minimal with respect to unscheduled load.

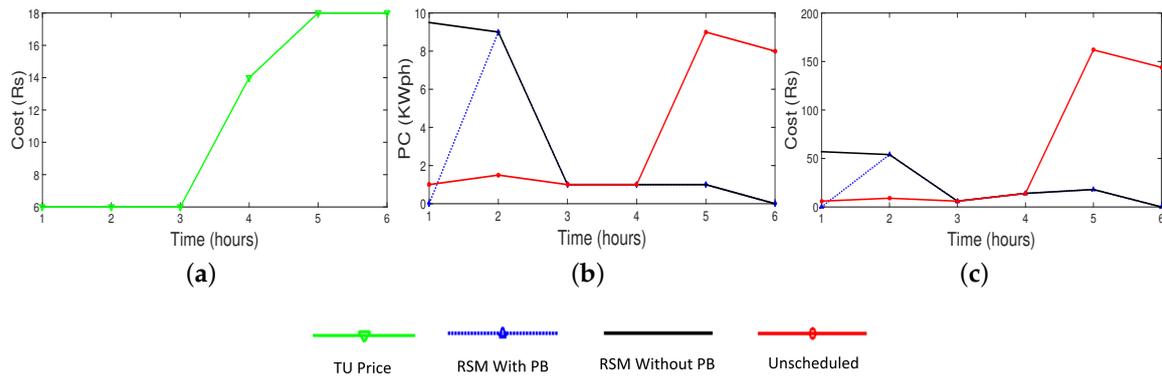


Figure 7. Comparative analysis: RSM and unscheduled cases during T3. (a) Hourly Price During T3; (b) Consumption Comparison; (c) Cost Comparison.

5.1.4. Scheduling T4

T4 represents 18:00 to 24:00. This sub-time slot can be termed as most active sub-time slot of all, as user is available and can turn on any appliance according to his need. Hence appliances from all classes, *i.e.*, OIA, ODA and ADA classes are prominent members of set $T4_{APP}$ as Equation (28) shows:

$$T4_{APP} = (HVAC, REF, EWH, DW, L, MO, WP) \tag{28}$$

Figure 8a depicts the price hours of this sub-time slot. Initial hours are the peak pricing hours whereas price is lower after 22:00. If we analyse PC in this sub-time slot, Figure 8b states that during high pricing hours scheduled load tends to decline however at cheap hours, the load is maximum. Observing unscheduled load, it raises to almost 9KWph during high price hours as can be seen in Figure 8c. Likewise if we compare pricing of these two approaches, Figure 8c clearly states that scheduled cost is much lower than unscheduled cost.

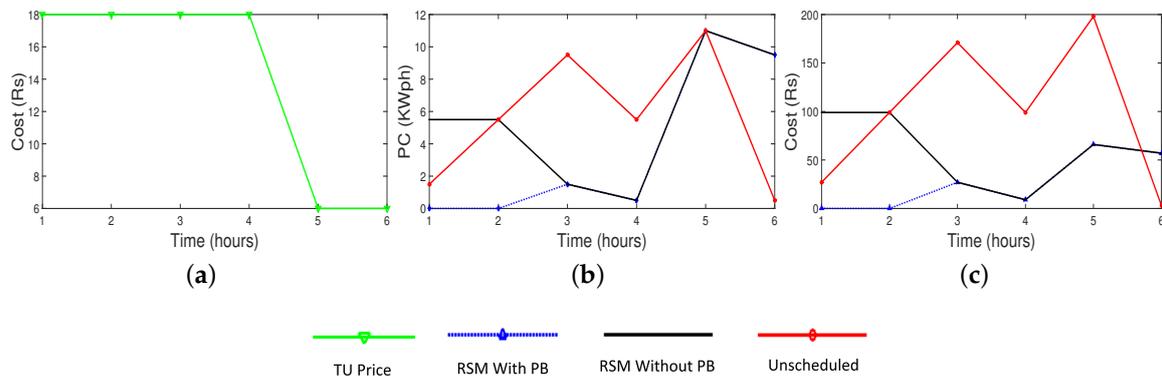


Figure 8. Comparative analysis: RSM and unscheduled cases during T4. (a) Hourly Price During T4; (b) Consumption Comparison; (c) Cost Comparison.

6. Comparative analysis and policy findings

The major aim of any HEMS is to ensure efficient energy consumption. If energy consumption/ electricity bill reduction is focused, appliance utility is compromised. This means that electricity bills are indirectly proportional to appliance utility. Whereas, as discussed earlier, UC is dependent upon both of these objectives, *i.e.*, bill reduction as well as elevated appliance utility. To achieve appliance utility aspect of UC we formulate appliance modeling schemes that ensures operation of an appliance within respective time slot along with different checks and limitations as discussed in Subsection 3.1.

Once appliances are modeled, each respective set of appliances are scheduled within respective sub-time slots by using a nature inspired heuristic algorithm BPSO keeping objective to minimize electricity cost (Subsection 3.2). In the following sub sections we discussed benefits of using proposed scheme focusing both aspects of UC.

6.1. Appliance Utility

Taking account of appliance utility that ultimately effects user frustration, RSM gives better result with respect to unscheduled and BPSO to schedule home appliances in maximizing appliance utility with respect to cost effectiveness. For this comparison, we chose five high PC appliances, which are HVAC, EWH, MO, WP, and CD. Selection of appliance is made in such a way that all classes are represented. HVAC and EWH represents ODA class, MO belongs to ADA class while WP and CD rest in OIA class of appliances. Figure 9a shows the desired time of use for the appliance. This gives maximum appliance utility; however, electricity cost is compromised. Figure 9b gives the optimized schedule of these appliances applying BPSO. Whereas Figure 9c represents schedules of said appliances by applying proposed RSM.

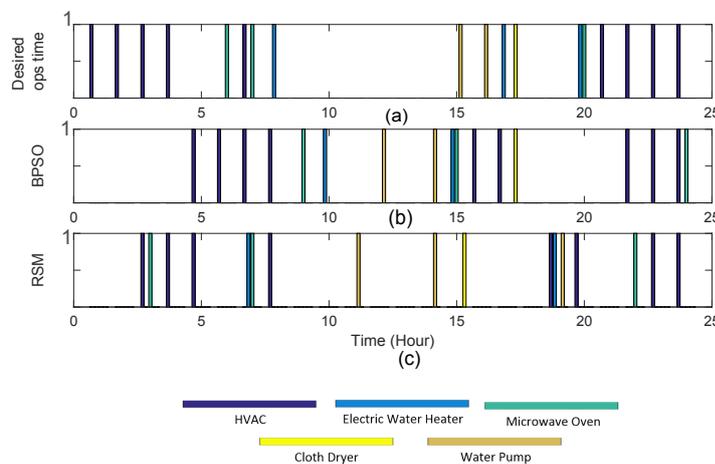


Figure 9. Analysing appliance utility (a) Desired Ops Time; (b) OPS time using BPSO; (c) OPS time using RSM.

If we compare results of HVAC that belongs to ODA class of appliances, (depicted from Figure 9) it is desired to be operational in night timings. BPSO schedules it in the hours where price is minimal and PC threshold is satisfied. RSM (Figure 9c) schedules HVAC optimally due to limited scheduling horizon with limited set of appliances. Focusing last part of day, *i.e.*, in T_4 , HVAC is not scheduled according to desire however, it was not operational in the times when home is vacant in contrast with BPSO as seen in Figure 9b.

Observing MO that represents ADA class of appliances, it is desired to be used at about 08:00 in morning and 20:00 in evening. BPSO schedules it at 09:00 in morning which is affordable and the electricity consumer can bear this change; however, for evening time, it was set operational at 16:00. This time schedule is of no use and cannot be followed (Figure 9) as the home is vacant at that time. RSM takes care of the appliance class and has a limited scheduling window, which gives a schedule that does not completely turn an appliance utility into a void. It schedules MO at 07:00 in morning and 19:00 in evening (Figure 9c). The user can cope with these timings and the utility of appliance is not much compromised.

CD as OIA is scheduled by BPSO and RSM in almost the same range where it was desirable.

6.2. Cost and Consumption Effectiveness

Subsection 6.2 presents the usability of RSM in terms of appliance utility. In this section, we will compare cost and consumption effectiveness of proposed RSM.

Figure 10a–e represents the electricity usage efficiency anticipating different mechanisms. Power load is 100KW ph for 24 hour time span that remains fixed, while the price per hour is variant that makes the major difference in electricity bills. During T1, PC by proposed RSM is 27KW ph and in the rest of the sub-time slots, PC is 15KW ph , 22KW ph and 36KW ph , in accordance with the formation of $T1_{APP}$, $T2_{APP}$, $T3_{APP}$ and $T4_{APP}$ respectively. Figure 10a–d represents cost difference of four sub-time slots amongst unscheduled load, RSM without PB and RSM with PB. Observing Figure 10a, we achieve savings of 10% by using RSM without PB and 65% with PB in T1. Comparing unscheduled usage of electricity appliances, Figure 10b depicts the price comparison amongst proposed and unscheduled load and the price benefit to electricity user reaches 30% and 69% by applying RSM without PB and with PB respectively during T2. RSM manages to use its PB at high price hours. Effective appliance classification and set formation representing each sub-time slot result in operation of appliances in desirable manner, as can be observed in Figure 9. The overall price benefit to user in T3 is 55% if PB is not included while with PB price benefit reaches to 69% as Figure 10c depicts. In T4 price benefit to user is 33% (Figure 10d) by using RSM without PB and achieve cost savings of 52% with PB capability. Table 6 reflects electricity bills for unscheduled, RSM with PB, RSM without PB and BPSO mechanisms.

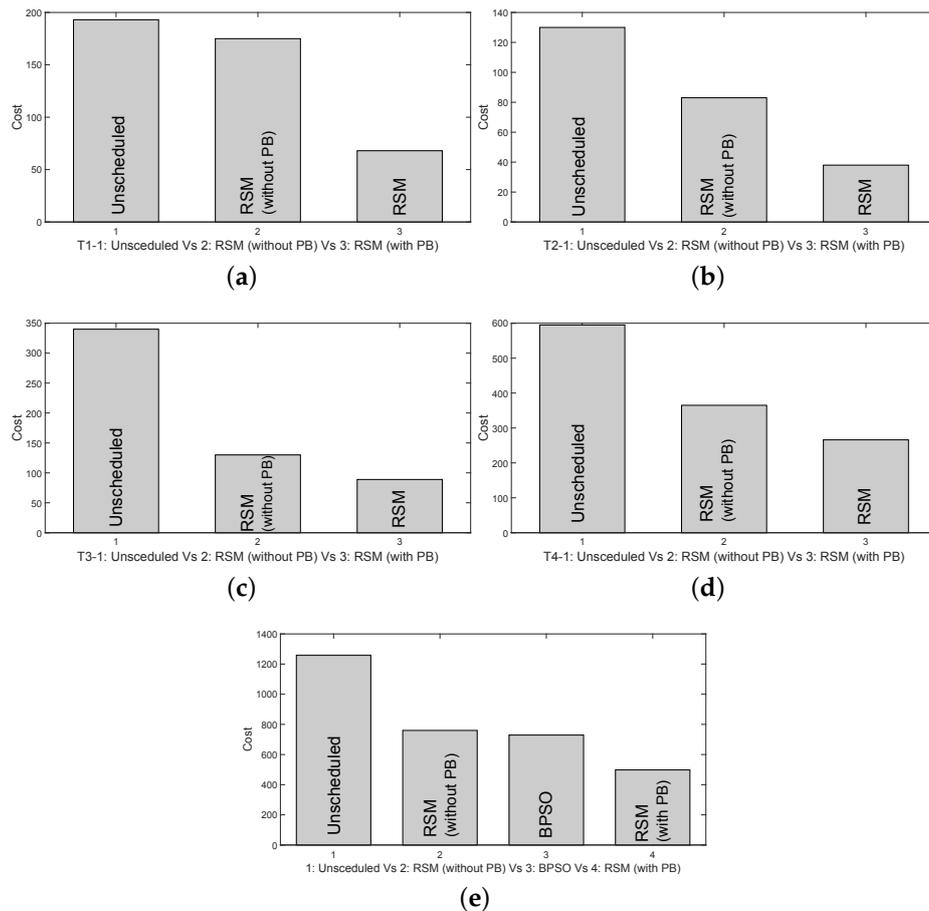


Figure 10. Financial aspects: Unscheduled, RSM and BPSO. (a) Savings in T1; (b) Savings in T2; (c) Savings in T3; (d) Savings in T4; (e) Cost Comparison: 24 h Time.

Table 6. Electricity bills: unscheduled vs. BPSO vs. RSM.

Time	Unscheduled	RSM without PB	RSM with PB	BPSO
T1	193PKR	175PKR	68PKR	
T2	130PKR	90PKR	34PKR	
T3	340PKR	130PKR	88PKR	
T4	595PKR	365PKR	265PKR	
T	1258PKR	760PKR	498PKR	739PKR

Comparing cost offered by unscheduled usage, BPSO and RSM with and without PB (Figure 10e), there is a vital difference between the three methods. Without scheduling, cost is maximum, *i.e.*, 1258PKR, scheduling with BPSO directly reduces the cost to 739PKR, attaining 42% savings. It is proposed that RSM tends to classify electrical appliances in a desirable fashion along with multiple scheduling windows of small time frames, which offer almost same savings as by using BPSO, *i.e.*, 39% if compared with unscheduled load usage. BPSO performs 3% better than proposed RSM which is negligible anticipating UC achieved. However, electricity bill by applying RSM with PB reduces enormously, providing 65% savings in comparison with unscheduled load usage which is 32% more efficient than BPSO.

Figure 11 represents the PC pattern in 24 h. Focusing on an unscheduled pattern, there are seven peaks where electricity consumption is more than 8KWph. Moreover, out of seven, four peaks are at those hours where electricity is most expensive. The ultimate goal is to reduce these peaks to minimize load on the grid as well as bills for electricity consumer. If we schedule appliances using BPSO directly, peaks are trimmed off from those hours where electricity price is high. Instead, BPSO shifts most of the load at the hours where the electricity tariff is cheaper. BPSO shaved electricity consumption peaks from high priced hours, but it uses much more electricity at low priced hours, generating even bigger peaks. The reason behind this is the unrealistic threshold value for 24 h time span. As the electricity tariff declines, threshold increases proportionally and that results in huge amounts of power consumption at low priced hours. This trend also leads to minimizing appliance utility, as discussed in the above sections. Following the behaviour of RSM, equipped with power bank, effective appliance classification and limited scheduling horizon, it trims off the peaks and utilizes electric power in a balanced way. This balance is achieved by having a dynamic power threshold range defining lower and upper boundaries of power consumption during a sub-time slot. This also plays a role in raising appliance utility and reducing user frustration. RSM schedules appliances according to their utility and trim consumptions peaks as well.

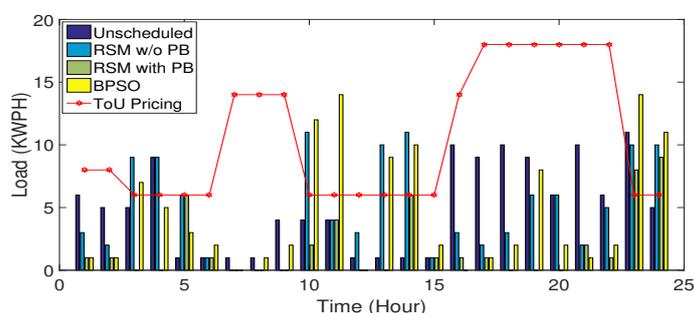
**Figure 11.** Power consumption comparison: RSM, BPSO and unscheduled.

Table 7 reflects the major properties regarding unscheduled, BPSO and RSM approaches for electrical appliance usage.

Table 7. Unscheduled vs. BPSO vs. RSM.

Properties	Unscheduled	BPSO	RSM
Scheduling Window	No Window	$1 \times 24 = 24$ h	$4 \times 6 = 24$ h
Power Limiting Threshold	No Threshold	Constant	Dynamic Range
Appliance Classification	No	No	Yes
Load Balancing	No	Load shift to off peak Hours	Regulating load w.r.t need and price
Appliance Utility	Maximum	Do not Care	Tends to create equilibrium between utility and cost
Shave Cost Peaks	No	Yes	Yes
User Comfort	Compromised	Compromised	Achieve a level of User Satisfaction
Home Occupancy Considered	Yes	No	Yes
Take Care of Electricity producer	No	Only at user premises	Tends to accommodate both ends, <i>i.e.</i> , user and provider
Cost and Electricity Effectiveness	No	good	RSM with PB gives max.
Computational Cost	No	Yes	Maximum

6.3. User Comfort Achieved

As stated earlier, UC achieves a balance between appliance utility and cost of using electricity. We assume that appliance utility carries 60% of total UC while cost saving adds the remaining 40%. UC range lies within 0 and 1. In an ideal case, UC should be 1.

$$UC = U_{APP} + E_{cost} \quad (29)$$

considering unscheduled load scenario when electricity is used without considering electricity cost at time of use hour, the UC achieved is 0.6, *i.e.*, appliance utility is at its maximum while electricity cost hour is totally neglected. However, BPSO takes care of electricity price at time of use without considering appliance utility and gives UC by finding values of appliance utility (U_{APP}) and cost effectiveness (E_{cost}) as in Equation (29). BPSO is 42% cost effective in comparison with unscheduled load cost. Considering E_{cost} its value is 0.16. Finding the value of appliance utility function (Equation (31)), we find average delay (D_{avg}) by Equation (30). It can be observed that average delay is 3 h considering BPSO scheduling.

$$D_{avg} = \frac{\sum_{APP=1}^n D_{APP}}{n} \quad (30)$$

$$U_{APP} = \alpha - \frac{D_{avg}}{T} \quad (31)$$

$$E_{cost} = \beta \times \left(\frac{C_{savings}}{100} \right) \quad (32)$$

where α is 0.6 and β is 0.4. Solving Equation (29) we find that UC achieved by using BPSO at 0.636 while with unscheduled load pattern it was 0.600. UC gain by using BPSO is $0.636 - 0.600 = 0.036$. Considering RSM with PB, average delay of appliances is 1.8 h. This yields an appliance utility value of 0.525. Considering cost analysis, RSM with PB saves 65% of unscheduled electricity bills. Hence, considering cost effectiveness, its value is 0.26. The UC was achieved by using RSM with BP is $0.525 + 0.26 = 0.785$. The total UC gain achieved with respect to unscheduled electric load is $0.785 - 0.6 = 0.185$ which is 0.104 units higher than UC achieved by BPSO scheduling. Figure 12 represents comparative analysis of UC gain amongst unscheduled electric load usage, BPSO scheduling, RSM scheduling and RSM with PB scheduling.

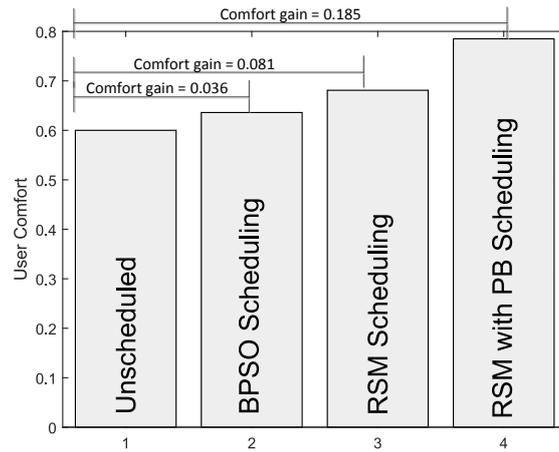


Figure 12. User Comfort Gain: Unscheduled, BPSO, RSM and RSM with PB scheduling.

Impact of Sub-time slots on UC

Scheduling window of T time span allows appliance to be scheduled within 24 hour time. If we apply constraints then it is possible that load shifting can be limited to some period of time with respect to desired operational time of appliance. However, if this T hour time span is divided into some logical partitions, having a specific group of appliances to be operational at each logical sub-time slot, this limits the delay automatically. Hence, the resizing scheduling window slots changes the pricing and appliance utility pattern, *i.e.*, effects over all user comfort. For that purpose, we divide T time span into two, three, four and six sub-time slots, respectively. The results of variations regarding sub-time slots are expressed in Figure 13. Figure 13a refers to electricity bill comparison of RSM with two, three, four and six equal sized sub-times slots within T time span, whereas, Figure 13b expresses impact of variations in sub-time slots by using RSM with PB.

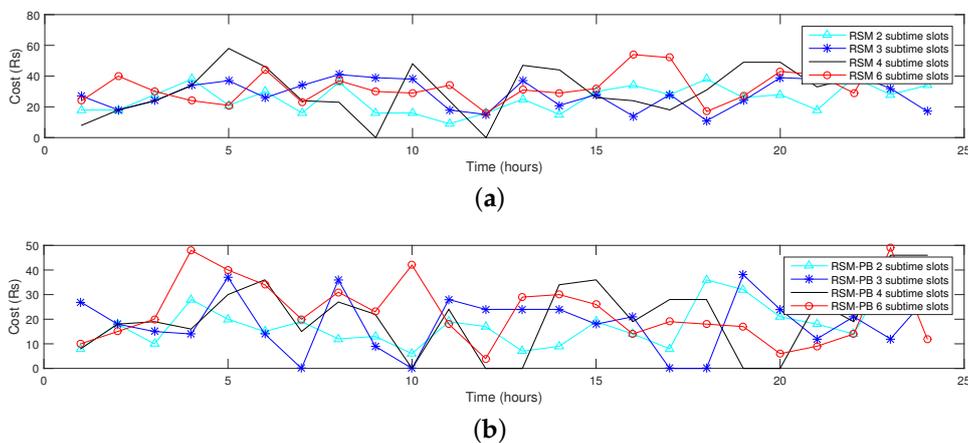


Figure 13. Impact of variation in sub-time slot size on electricity cost. (a) Cost analysis of RSM: two, three, four and six sub-time slots; (b) Cost analysis of RSM with PB: two, three, four and six sub-time slots.

Most economical is RSM having two sub-time slots as can be seen in Table 8. The longer the scheduling window is, the lower the appliance utility will be. Mathematically, it can be stated that scheduling window size and appliance utility are indirectly proportional to each other, *i.e.*, $schedulingwindowsize = 1/applianceutility$ The cost difference of RSM with three and four sub time slots is minimal. The same is the case with the appliance utility function. However, logical division of T into four sub-time slots gives a little more benefit on appliance utility which takes 60% of user

comfort function. Calculating user comfort regarding two, three, four and six sub-time slots, we find it to be 0.768, 0.762, 0.785 and 0.775 respectively. RSM(PB) with six sub-time slots and RSM(PB) with four sub-time slots give a similar level of user comfort. Although there is a cost difference, keeping weight of appliance utility as 60% gives minimal user comfort difference amongst the two. Taking a parameter of maximum comfort gain, logical division of T time span into four equal sized sub-time slots prove its worth with respect to two, three and six sub-time slots. Hence, to ensure optimal user comfort value, we suggest a logical partition of T time span into four equal sized sub-time slots, each having its own set of appliances to be scheduled. Moreover, if we further increase number of sub-time slots, this will result in almost unscheduled load usage pattern.

Table 8. Analysing cost effectiveness of different sub-time slots ϵT .

No of sub-Time Slots	Size of sub-Time Slot	RSM without PB	RSM with PB	User Comfort (With PB)
2	12 h	605PKR	433PKR	0.768
3	8 h	681PKR	445PKR	0.762
4	6 h	760PKR	498PKR	0.785
6	4 h	817PKR	548PKR	0.775

6.4. Installation costs and financial benefits

RSM is formulated focusing on minimal installation costs. This mechanism needs a group of sensors, *i.e.*, water level sensor for water tank, water temperature sensor for EWH, motion sensors for HO and environmental temperature sensors for HVAC along with a processing unit that is capable of generating schedules besides PB and PV generation system. The prices of the sensory parts are negligible with respect to a PB and PV system. PB is an array of rechargeable batteries along with a small scale PV system, therefore it is a major expense in the proposed scheme. Solar generation systems have taken a keen interest in engineering industries in recent years. Massive production of PV panels across the globe reduced the installation cost of such systems at the rate of about 45% per year [29]. The installation cost of a 2KW PV system ranges between 150,000 PKR to 200,000 PKR, with a warranty of life time (20–25 years) offered by different vendors. To analyze investment benefits, there is a widely accepted financial valuation technique, *i.e.*, Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA). The authors in [30] use Equation (33) to calculate Net Present Worth (NPW).

$$NPW = \sum_{t=0}^K \frac{C_t}{(1+r)^t} \quad (33)$$

where C_t refers to cash flow at time t , r stands for the discounted value while K is the life time of installed PV system. [30] gives a brief overview of CBA regarding PV system ranging from 1KW to 3.50KW. PV module producers grants 85% of the initial performance for 20 years, with a derating factor of 0.5% per year for initial 8 years while 1.0% for next 12 years. [30] states that a system comprises of 2.25 KW PV power generation suits optimally for residential purposes and offers better NPW. Overall, the aggregated cost of sensory equipment ranges between 20,000 PKR to 40,000 PKR. Using RSM without PB gives 39% cost benefits with respect to unscheduled load usage. Return of investment will be in approximately 2.5 years considering upper bound of investment. RSM with PB (that has capability of sharing 35% of the load) has a PV system of 2KWH along with two rechargeable batteries ($V_{maxslr125}$ [31]) connected in parallel. Batteries store power from PV during day time or from a power producing company at low pricing hours if needed. Overall, the PB system including inverter, batteries and PV panels ranges between 280,000 PKR to 340,000 PKR. RSM with PB offers savings of 65% and at this rate of savings, the return of investment, taking upper bound of price, is expected to be within approximately 2.4 years.

7. Conclusion and Future Work

Energy consumption in such a manner that not only saves electricity cost but also elevates appliance utility is the major concern in this work. To create a balance amongst cost effectiveness and appliance utility, RSM with PB is proposed that gives UC gain of 0.185 with respect to unscheduled load and 0.149 with respect to BPSO on a scale of 0 to 1. Dynamic threshold range for each mini-time slot and sub-time slot is formulated that normalizes load during T time span. Such results are achieved by classifying appliances effectively within their respective sub-time slot to raise appliance utility and to minimize cost. These sub-time slots are scheduled with the respective set of appliances, keeping cost minimization as an objective.

In this work, we assume that communication between control unit and smart appliances is ideal, which in reality cannot be the case. In the future, we will use IEEE 802.15.4 standard for data transmission.

Acknowledgments: The authors would like to extend their sincere appreciation to the Visiting Professor Program at King Saud University for funding this research.

Author Contributions: Danish Mahmood, Nabil Alrajeh, and Zahoor Ali Khan proposed appliance classification and performed simulations. Umar Qasim, Imran Ahmed, and Manzoor Ilahi contributed in paper writing. Nadeem Javaid, and Danish Mahmood besides proposing system model, also reviewed and refined the paper.

Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

References

1. Nourai, A.; Kogan, V.I.; Schafer, C.M. Load leveling reduces T&D line losses *IEEE Trans. Power Deliv.* **2008**, *23*, 2168–2173.
2. Abushnaf, J.; Rassau, A.; Gornisiewicz, W. Impact of dynamic energy pricing schemes on a novel multi-user home energy management system. *Electr. Power Syst. Res.* **2015**, *31*, 124–132.
3. Auger, A.; Doerr, B. Theory of randomized search heuristics: Foundations and recent developments. World Scientific: Singapore, 2011.
4. Du, P.; Lu, N. Appliance commitment for household load scheduling. *IEEE Trans. Smart Grid* **2011**, *2*, 411–419.
5. Beaudin, M.; Zareipour, H. Home energy management systems: A review of modelling and complexity. *Renew. Sustain. Energy Rev.* **2015**, *45*, 318–335.
6. Mahmood, A.; Javaid, N.; Khan, M.A.; Razzaq, S. An overview of load management techniques in smart grid. *Int. J. Energy Res.* **2015**, *39*, 1437–1450.
7. Vega, A.M.; Santamaria, F.; Rivas, E. Modeling for home electric energy management: a review. *Int. J. Energy Res.* **2015**, *52*, 948–959.
8. Erdinc, O.; Paterakis, N.G.; Pappi, I.N.; Bakirtzis, A.G.; Catalão, J.P. A new perspective for sizing of distributed generation and energy storage for smart households under demand response. *Appl. Energy* **2015**, *143*, 26–37.
9. Nguyen, D.T.; Le, L.B. Joint optimization of electric vehicle and home energy scheduling considering user comfort preference. *IEEE Trans. Smart Grid* **2014**, *5*, 188–199.
10. Anvari-Moghaddam, A.; Monsef, H.; Rahimi-Kian, A. Cost-effective and comfort-aware residential energy management under different pricing schemes and weather conditions. *Energy Build.* **2015**, *31*, 782–793.
11. Huang, Y.; Tian, H.; Wang, L. Demand response for home energy management system. *Int. J. Electr. Power Energy Syst.* **2015**, *31*, 448–455.
12. Liu, Z.; Chen, C.; Yuan, J. Hybrid Energy Scheduling in a Renewable Micro Grid. *Appl. Sci.* **2015**, *5*, 516–531.
13. Rasheed, M.B.; Javaid, N.; Ahmad, A.; Khan, Z.A.; Qasim, U.; Alrajeh, N. An Efficient Power Scheduling Scheme for Residential Load Management in Smart Homes. *Appl. Sci.* **2015**, *5*, 1134–1163.
14. Gao, B.; Liu, X.; Zhang, W.; Tang, Y. Autonomous Household Energy Management Based on a Double Cooperative Game Approach in the Smart Grid. *Energies* **2015**, *8*, 7326–7343.
15. Rottondi, C.; Duchon, M.; Koss, D.; Palamarciuc, A.; Piti, A.; Verticale, G.; Schätz, B. An Energy Management Service for the Smart Office. *Energies* **2015**, *8*, 11667–11684.

16. Khan, M.A.; Javaid, N.; Mahmood, A.; Khan, Z.A.; Alrajeh, N. A generic demand side management model for smart grid. *Int. J. Energy Res.* **2015**, *39*, 954–964.
17. Lin, W.-M.; Tu, C.-S.; Tsai, M.-T. Energy Management Strategy for Microgrids by Using Enhanced Bee Colony Optimization. *Energies* **2016**, *9*, doi:10.3390/en9010005.
18. Ogwumike, C.; Short, M.; Denai, M. Near-Optimal Scheduling of Residential Smart Home Appliances Using Heuristic Approach. 2015. Available online: <http://uhra.herts.ac.uk/handle/2299/15753> (accessed on 15 December 2015).
19. Collotta, M.; Pau, G. A Solution Based on Bluetooth Low Energy for Smart Home Energy Management. *Energies* **2015**, *8*, 11916–11938.
20. Karimi-Nasab, M.; Modarres, M.; Seyedhoseini, S.M. A self-adaptive PSO for joint lot sizing and job shop scheduling with compressible process times. *Appl. Soft Comput.* **2015**, *28*, 137–147.
21. Ogwumike, C.; Short, M.; Abugchem, F. Heuristic Optimization of Consumer Electricity Costs Using a Generic Cost Model. *Energies* **2015**, *9*, doi:10.3390/en9010006.
22. Di, Giorgio, A.; Pimpinella, L. An event driven Smart Home Controller enabling consumer economic saving and automated Demand Side Management. *Appl. Energy* **2012**, *31*, 92–103.
23. Qayyum, F.A.; Naeem, M.; Khwaja, A.S.; Anpalagan, A.; Guan, L.; Venkatesh, B. Appliance Scheduling Optimization in Smart Home Networks. *IEEE Access* **2015**, *3*, 2176–2190.
24. Erol-Kantarci, M.; Mouftah, H.T. Wireless sensor networks for cost-efficient residential energy management in the smart grid. *IEEE Trans. Smart Grid* **2011**, *2*, 314–325.
25. Mahmood, A.; Khan, I.; Razzaq, S.; Najam, Z.; Khan, N.A.; Rehman, M.A.; Javaid, N. Home Appliances Coordination Scheme for Energy Management (HACS4EM) Using Wireless Sensor Networks in Smart Grids. *Proced. Comput. Sci.* **2014**, *32*, 469–476.
26. Dale, M.A. Comparative analysis of energy costs of photovoltaic, solar thermal, and wind electricity generation technologies. *Appl. Sci.* **2013**, *3*, 325–337.
27. Qela, B.; Mouftah, H.T. Observe, learn, and adapt (OLA)—An algorithm for energy management in smart homes using wireless sensors and artificial intelligence. *IEEE Trans. Smart Grid* **2012**, *3*, 2262–2272.
28. Del, Valle, Y.; Venayagamoorthy, G.K.; Mohagheghi, S.; Hernandez, J.C.; Harley, R.G. Particle swarm optimization: basic concepts, variants and applications in power systems. *IEEE Trans. Evol. Comput.* **2008**, *12*, 171–195.
29. IRENA Secretariat. Renewable energy technologies: Cost analysis of solar photovoltaics. *IRENA Power Sector*; **2012** Volume 1. Available online: https://www.irena.org/DocumentDownloads/Publications/RE_Technologies_Cost_Analysis-SOLAR_PV.pdf (accessed on 7 February 2016).
30. Ciabattini, L.; Ferracuti, F.; Grisostomi, M.; Ippoliti, G.; Longhi, S. Fuzzy logic based economical analysis of photovoltaic energy management. *Neurocomputing.* **2015**, *170*, 296–305.
31. Batteries Supply. Available online: <http://batteries.supply/product/vmaxtanks-vmax-slr155-agm-12v-155ah-deep-cycle-sla-rechargeable-battery-for-solar-and-golf-pv-solar-panels-smart-chargers-wind-turbine-and-inverters/> (accessed on 7 February 2016).



© 2016 by the authors; licensee MDPI, Basel, Switzerland. This article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons by Attribution (CC-BY) license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>).