

Design and Implementation of Maximum Power Point Tracking Using Fuzzy Logic Controller for Photovoltaic for Cloudy Weather Conditions

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Abstract: The maximum power point tracking (MPPT) is a process which tracks maximum power point from array input, varying the ratio between the voltage and current delivered to get the most power it can. This paper proposes Maximum Power Point Tracking (MPPT) of a photovoltaic system using Fuzzy Logic Algorithm. For efficient utilization of solar energy, the PV panel should track the maximum power point (MPP) under various weather conditions. Boost converter increases output voltage of the solar panel and converter output voltage depends upon the duty cycle of the MOSFET present in the boost converter. The change in the duty cycle is done by Fuzzy logic controller by sensing the power output of the solar panel. Fuzzy logic controller (FLC) provides an adaptive nature, fast response, good performance and ability to handle non-linear characteristics. The proposed controller is aimed at adjusting the duty cycle of the DC-DC converter switch to track the maximum power of a solar cell array. MATLAB/SIMULINK is used to develop and design the PV array system equipped with the proposed MPPT controller using fuzzy logic.

Keywords: MPPT, Fuzzy Logic Control, DC-DC Converter, Photo voltaic systems.

I. INTRODUCTION

Recently, energy generated from clean, efficient, and environmentally friendly sources has become one of the major challenges for engineers and scientists. Among all renewable energy sources, solar power systems attract more attention because they provide excellent opportunity to generate electricity while greenhouse emissions are reduced. And solar energy is viewed as clean and renewable source of energy for the future. So the use of Photovoltaic systems has increased in many applications. The efficiency of solar cells depends on many factors such as temperature, insulation, spectral characteristics of sunlight, dirt, shadow, and so on. Changes in insulation on panels due to fast climatic changes such as cloudy weather and increase in ambient temperature can reduce the photovoltaic (PV) array output power. Therefore a maximum power point tracking algorithm is required to increase the efficiency of the solar panel as it has been found that only 30-40% of energy incident is converted into electrical energy. The design of DC-DC converter (Boost converter) helps in increasing the output of the panel thus increasing the efficiency and the output voltage using proper control technique [4]. This paper deals with the development of a fuzz logic control for MPPT to track the maximum power point and also compensate for fluctuating power during cloudy weather[5-7]. The block diagram of proposed main circuit is shown in Fig 1. The simulation is done in MATLAB/SIMULINK.

II. MAXIMUM POWER POINT TRACKING

Maximum Power Point Tracking is an electronic system that operates the Photovoltaic (PV) modules in a manner that allows the modules to produce all the power they are capable of. The maximum power point of a solar panel depends on

both the panel radiation level, load characteristics. Under Partial shading conditions it is possible to have multiple local maxima, but overall there is still only one true maximum power point P_{max} as shown in fig 2. It is essentially the operating point where the load curve and panel output meet at a maximum point. When the load is directly connected to the panel, the operating point may not be reaching at the maximum point. Hence boost I DC-DC converter helps the output voltage to be boosted to the V_{mpp} or the voltage at maximum power point.

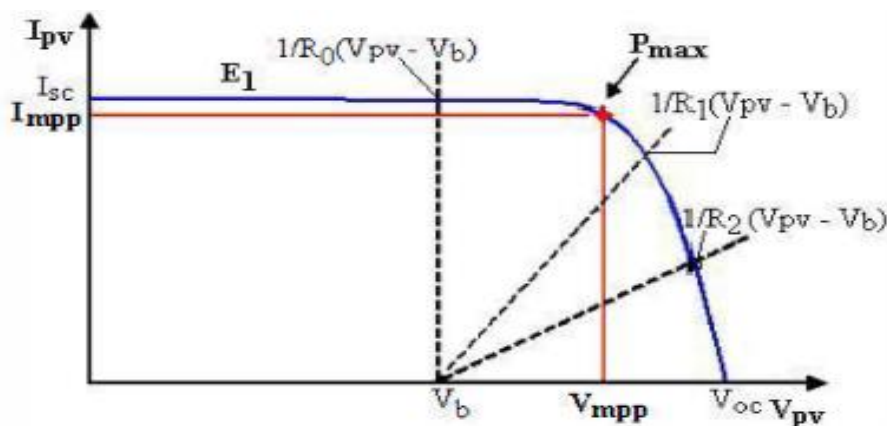


Fig. 2. V-I characteristics of a solar panel

The control of the switching pulses of the MOSFET to reach its maximum point i.e. the modification of the duty cycle to maximize the voltage is to be done. Panel VI and PV characteristics change when the insulation (solar radiation) varies.

A. MPPT Using Fuzzy Logic:

The concept of the control system can be explained by Fig 2. The objective of the system is to push the operating point towards the point P_{max} using controller. The advantage of fuzzy control is that it is robust, fast and responds instantaneously to atmospheric changes. The inputs to the fuzzy logic system will be error (E) and Change in Error (C). The output will be the Change in Duty Cycle (dD) at sampling instant k [5]. The fuzzy logic consists of the following stages: fuzzification, rule base, inference system and defuzzification. Fig 3 shows the flowchart of fuzzy logic controller.

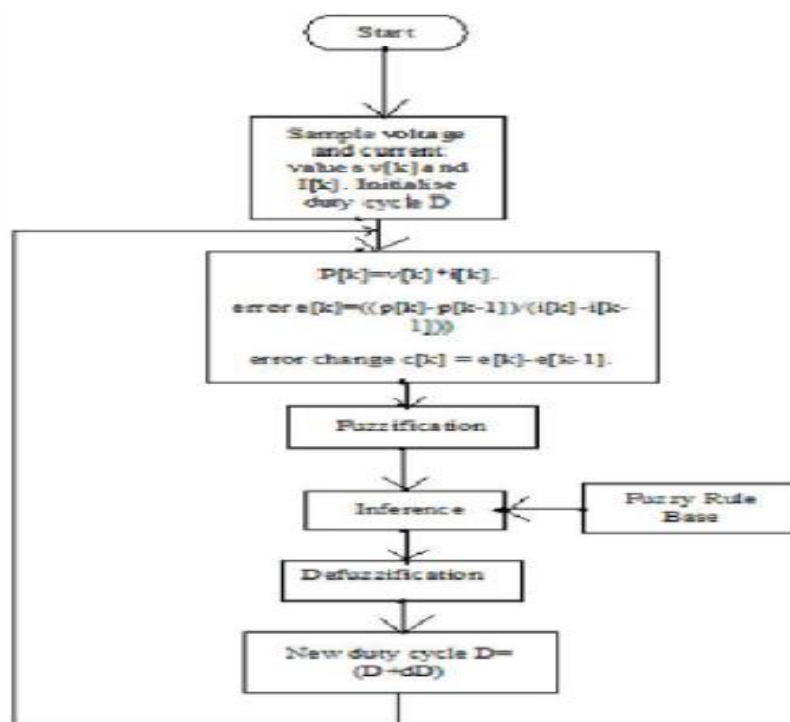


Fig. 3. Flowchart of fuzzy logic controller

B. Fuzzification:

The fuzzification is the process of converting the system actual inputs values error (e) and change of error (ce) into fuzzy membership function. The Fuzzy variables are divided into 5 linguistic hedges: Negative Big (NB), Negative Small (NS), Zero (ZE), Positive Small (PS) and Positive Big (PB). The membership functions are chosen as shown in Fig 4, Fig 5 & Fig 6 show that the linguistic hedges of change in error and change in duty cycle respectively.

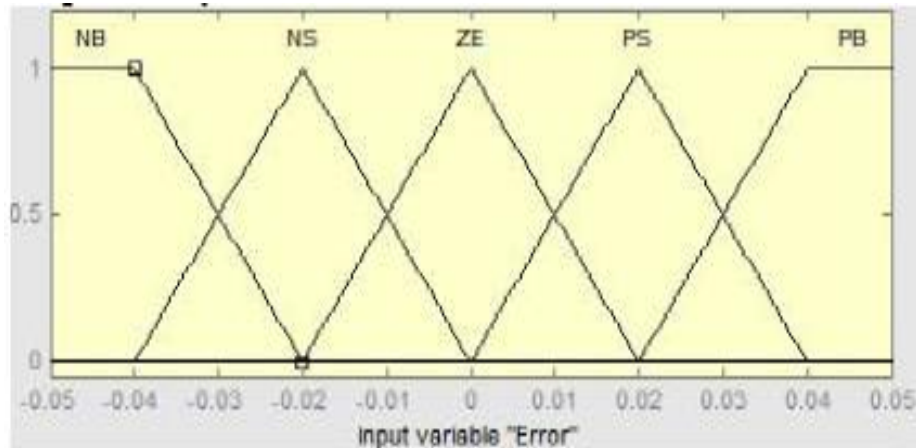


Fig. 4. Linguistic hedges of error

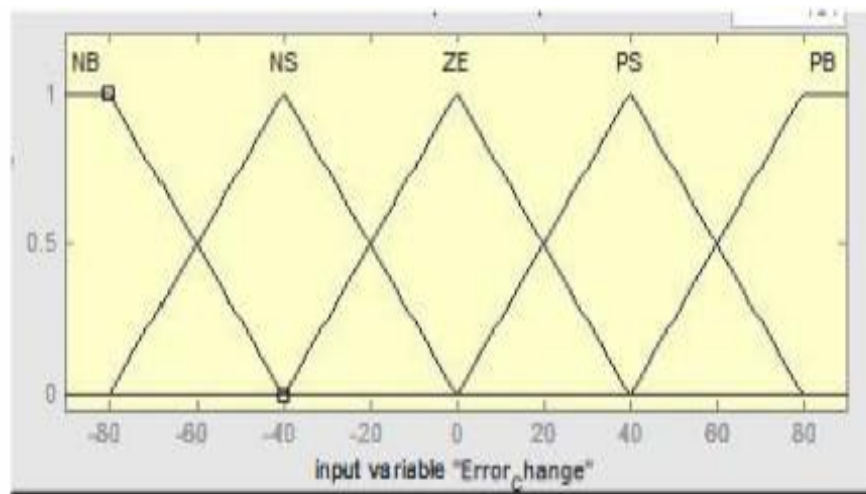


Fig. 5. Linguistic hedges of change in error

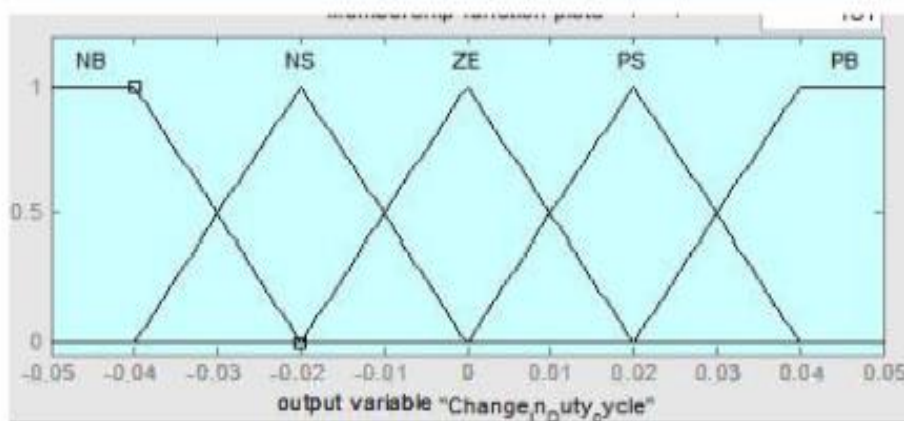


Fig.: 6. Linguistic hedges of change in duty cycle

C. Inference Method:

Table 1 gives the rules of the FLC .The output for each fuzzy input is tabulated in the form of a rule base. The rule base uses Mamadani implication. Fuzzy inference engine is an operating method that formulates a logical decision based on the fuzzy rule setting and transforms the fuzzy rule base into fuzzy linguistic output.

TABLE I. Fuzzy RULE BASE

CE	NB	NC	ZE	PS	PB
E					
NB	ZE	ZE	NB	NB	NB
NS	ZE	ZE	NS	NS	NS
ZE	NS	ZE	ZE	ZE	PS
PS	PS	PS	PS	ZE	ZE

D. Defuzzification:

It should be noted that, the output of fuzzy controller is a fuzzy subset. As the DC/DC converter control requires a non-fuzzy value of duty cycle, defuzzification is required. This means, defuzzification converts the inferred fuzzy control action into a numerical value at the output by forming the union of the outputs resulting from each rule.

III. SIMULATION MODEL OF THE PROPOSED SYSTEM

Fig.7 shows the MATLAB Simulink model of the proposed system. PV is connected to the boost converter. Input of the boost converter is output current from the PV model and boost converter delivers the voltage depending on the switching time of IGBT switch. Output of the converter is given by the following equation 4.

$$V_{out}/V_{in} = 1/(1 - D) \quad (1)$$

D is duty cycle adjusted with the help of FLC by sensing the output power of the solar panel. FLC algorithm is coded to vary duty cycle of the switch and generates 20kHz switching pulses.

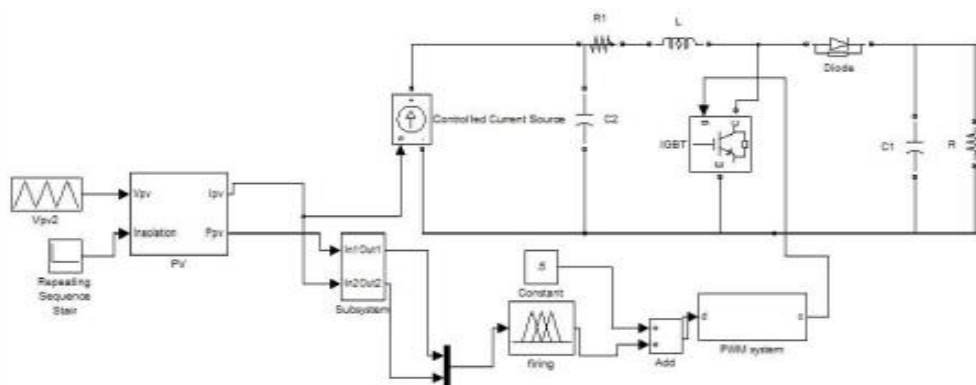


Fig. 7. Model of MPPT system

MOSFET is turned ON and turned off by the pulses given from Fuzzy controller. The proposed controller compares the $p[k]$ and $p[k-1]$, it decides the operating point, whether it lies left or right side of the maximum point of PV curve [4][6] in Fig.2, hence accordingly changes the duty cycle.

IV. SIMULATION RESULTS AND VALIDATION DISCUSSIONS

A. Solar Panel:

The photovoltaic panel is modelled based on its equivalent circuit. The insolation is considered a constant at 1000 w/m^2 the panel is driven by voltage which is considered to be a triangular function Fig 8. So that output voltage of solar panel varies from 0-8V. Maximum current obtained from the panel is 0.62 A. The corresponding characteristics of the solar panel are given in Fig 9 and Fig 10.

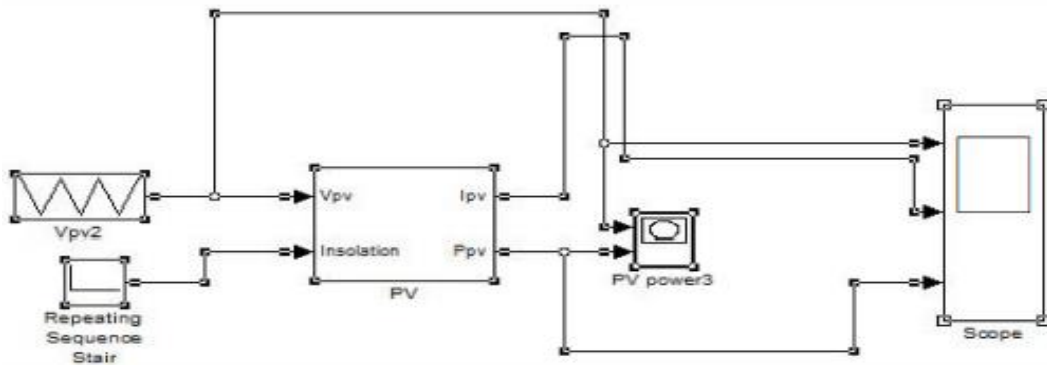


Fig. 8. Solar panel Model in SimulinkPower Vs output voltage

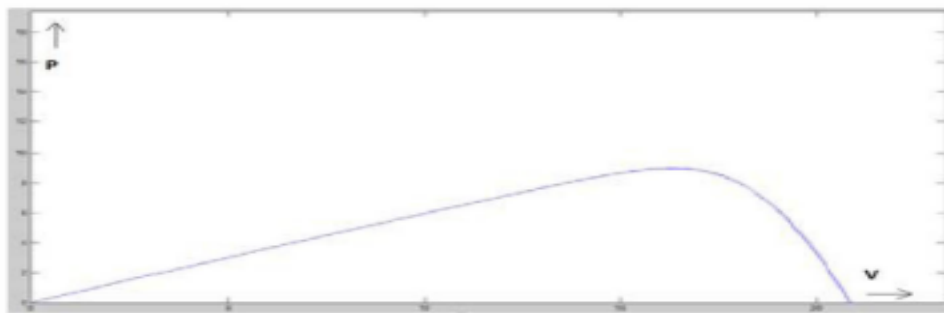


Fig. 9. Power Vs output voltage

Referring to the solar panel characteristics, boost converter design is done. Frequency of operation of MOSFET is selected as 20KHz. Inductor and capacitor values are selected by considering

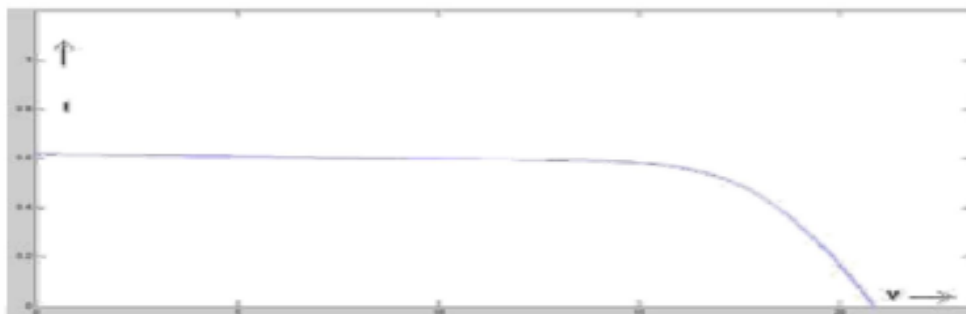


Fig. 10. Voltage Vs Current output of solar panel

V_{in} (0-8V) and V_{out} limited to 17 Volts. The panel output is compared without fuzzy based MPPT controller and with fuzzy MPPT controller. The results are shown in Fig. 11 & 12.

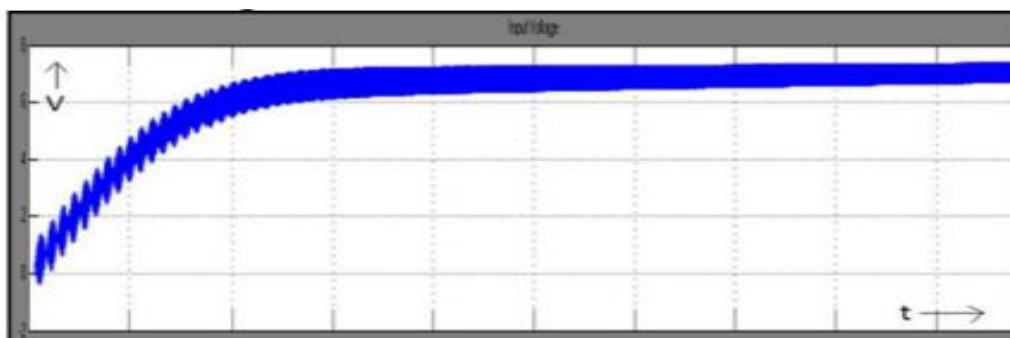


Fig. 11. Output voltage of the solar panel without MPPT.

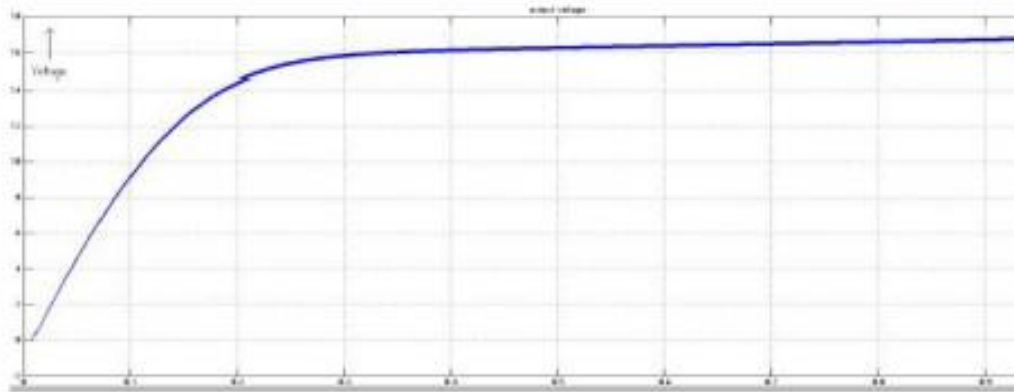


Fig. 12. Output of the solar panel with MPPT FLC under cloudy weather conditions

V. CONCLUSION

This paper presents the design and simulation for maximum power point tracking (MPPT) for photovoltaic system, which includes a high-efficiency boost converter with fuzzy logic algorithm. The converter can draw maximum power from the PV panel for a given solar insolation and temperature by adjusting the duty cycle of the converter. Thus improves the efficiency of the PV system and reduces low power loss and system cost.

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