Modeling, Design and Simulation of Stand-Alone Photovoltaic Power Systems with Battery Storage

Abd Essalam BADOUĐ* and Mabrouk KHEMLICHE

Automatic laboratory of Setif, Electrical engineering department, university of Setif 1, Maabouda city, 19000 Algeria.
E-mail(s): badoudabde@yahoo.fr, mabroukkhemliche@yahoo.fr
* Corresponding author: Phone: +213 776 104 488; Fax: +213 36 92 51 02

Abstract

Stand alone renewable energy based on photovoltaic systems accompanied with battery storage system are beginning to play an important role over the world to supply power to remote areas. The objective of the study reported in this paper is to elaborate and design a bond graphs model for sizing stand-alone domestic solar photovoltaic electricity systems and simulating the performance of the systems in a tropical climate. The systems modelled consist of an array of PV modules, a lead-acid battery, and a number of direct current appliances. This paper proposes the combination of lead acid battery system with a typical stand alone photovoltaic energy system under variable loads. The main activities of this work purpose to establish library graphical models for each individual component of standalone photovoltaic system. Control strategy has been considered to achieve permanent power supply to the load via photovoltaic/battery based on the power available from the sun. The complete model was simulated under two testing including sunny and cloudy conditions. Simulation of the system using Symbols software was performed and the results of simulation show the superior stable control system and high efficiency. These results have been contrasted with real measured data from a measurement campaign plant carried on electrical
engineering laboratory of Grenoble using various interconnection schemes are presented.

Keywords
Standalone System; Photovoltaic; Lead/acid battery; Modelling; Control; Bond Graph.

Introduction

Renewable energy sources (solar, wind, etc) are attracting more attention as alternative energy sources than conventional fossil fuel energy sources. This is not only due to the diminishing fuel sources, but also due to environmental pollution and global warming problems. Among these sources is the solar energy, which is the most promising, as the fabrication of less costly photovoltaic (PV) devices becomes a reality. With increased penetration of solar PV devices, various antipollution apparatus can be operated such as water purification through electrochemical processing and stopping desert expansion by PV water pumping with tree plantation. However, control problems arise due to large variances of PV output power under different insolation levels. Solar energy is attractive, because it directly converts solar radiation energy into electricity. Its energy conversion and control system are simple and easy to maintain. Being inherently sustainable and eco-friendly, the PV based systems are gaining popularity [1, 2]. Photovoltaic applications can be broadly classified into two categories. One is the standalone system and other is the grid connected system. The standalone system is widely used in remote places where access to electricity is not viable. The standalone configuration can provide a well regulated load voltage but the reliability of power supply cannot be guaranteed [3]. Storage batteries are widely used to improve their liability of the standalone system [4]. The integration of PV system to the grid is rapidly increasing due to the improvement in the power electronics technology. Generally, single phase or three phase voltage source inverters (VSI) are used for interfacing PV system to grid and employs a controller to stabilize the DC bus voltage and regulate the current injected into the grid. Various topologies and control strategies for grid connected inverters have been reported in literature. The grid connected PV systems (GCPV), feeding active power to the grid can be controlled to supply there active power demand of the load [5].

The continuous developments in the sector of photovoltaic applications have rendered
explicitly that the photovoltaic generators constitute a reliable technological and economically viable investment choice. The privileged climate of Algeria gives an enormous potential for the installation of photovoltaic power plants connected to electricity grids or for individual use.

Algeria has successfully completed the plan for electrification for most of the villages through the utility grid. Due to remoteness and cost, for some parts of Algeria it is unlikely that the main grid connection will ever be established. A stand-alone PV system with storage battery will be excellent choice for such areas. Sizing of the PV array, inverter and battery bank for a standalone PV system is an important part of system design. This part requires solar radiation data for the intended geographical location of the site, load demand and manufacturing data for PV modules, inverters and batteries and their operational efficiencies.

In this paper, the PV model, battery model and the DC-AC inverter is implemented. A popular two diode model of PV is used in this work. An equivalent circuit model structure for lead-acid batteries is used to facilitate the battery model part of the system model. Buck-Boost converter interface is used hence it is more suitable for battery charging. The purpose of the buck-boost converter is used to control the power flow from the PV panel to battery and load which requires MPPT control algorithm to find out the peak power of the PV panel. Bond graph algorithm is used for MPP tracking. The complete system is simulated using Symbols software.

**Proposed System**

Figure (1) show a stand-alone photovoltaic centralized system utilized to provide energy for residences sited at remote locations, far from grid distribution lines.

**Figure 1. Proposed configuration**
These systems are composed of a single array of photovoltaic panels, implemented in series and/or parallel connection depending on the power of the system. While using Buck-Boost DC/DC converters with bond graph MPPT for PV array to extract the maximum available power from them. The battery which is of Lead-Acid type is used to store the energy [6], to regulate the DC-Bus voltage through a reversible current DC/DC converter and to supply the load in the stand-alone case when low solar radiation conditions.

The energy produced for PV source is transferred from the DC-Bus to the house load through a DC/AC inverter controlled and filtered by an LC filter, while the excess power feeds the utility grid. Based on the data acquisition (Temperature, Irradiance, DC-Bus voltage…etc) the Supervisory Controller send the commands to the different converters in order to optimize and control the energy.

**Models of the Panels**

The modelling and simulation of photovoltaic system have made a great transition and form an important part of power generation in this present age. PV systems’ modelling however is quite complex. In literature, several computational methods are proposed by several researchers [7-10] for modelling the different components of stand-alone PV systems. Although some of these methods are impractical, complicated and require high computational effort, and some of these modelling was limited to simulation of photovoltaic module characteristics. Other methods are based on software simulation using readymade programs like PSpice, Matlab-Simulink and Labview [11-12].

Automatic data acquisition systems are currently used for both monitoring the system performance and control of its operation. The obtained information can be used to evaluate the plant efficiency during long periods and to optimize future systems in terms of performance and reliability. These systems are based on the use of micro-controller and microprocessor for PV applications [13]. Artificial intelligence techniques are becoming useful as alternate approaches to conventional techniques or as components of integrated systems. These methods used to model PV arrays, to estimate the maximum power point tracker and to predict the produced energy from the system [14]. Recently, interest was given to the modelling and simulation of the whole PV system based on bond graph [15].
Bond graph is an explicit graphical tool for capturing the structures among the physical systems and representing them as an energy network based on the exchange of power [16-17]. Others [18-20] have extended the bond graph concept to represent phenomena such as chemical kinetics and to extract causal models and control structures from the bond graph networks. Bond graph, a graphical modelling language, provides a model formalism that decomposes the system into subsystems that map to the physical connections [21]. The resulting subsystems are essentially physical fields including mechanics, electronics, hydraulics, and chemistry. The time granularity for these domains is usually distinct.

A Photovoltaic (PV) system directly converts sunlight into electricity. The basic device of a PV system is the photovoltaic cell; they may be grouped to form panels or arrays [5,22]. This model is the most classical one found in the literature and involves: a current generator for modelling the incident luminous flux, two diodes for the cell polarization phenomena, and two resistors (Rs and Rsh) for the losses.

For the bond graph representation, the PV generator is then modeled by a flow source $S_f = I_{ph}$ in parallel with two resistors $R_{diode}$ and $R_{sh}$, the whole followed by a serial resistance $R_s$ [8]. (Figure 2).

**Figure 2. Bond graph model of PV with two diodes**

**Buck-Boost DC/DC Converter**

DC/DC converter performance optimization is important to accommodate the growing need for efficiency in portable electronic device battery life and an ever increasing world climate of energy maximization. The equivalent circuit of the converter is illustrated in figure (3).
To ensure the charge and the discharge of the storage battery, the current must be reversible so that the energy transfer would be in the two directions, from the DC-Bus to the battery and vice versa. For that a Reversible current DC/DC converter is necessary, it's realized by associating a boost chopper and a buck one as shown in figure (4).

The bond graph model of converter DC/DC is thus given by the figure (5).

Grid-Connected PV Inverter

Grid-Connected Inverter not only converts the direct current generated by photovoltaic...
cells into alternating current but also connects with the control of the frequency, voltage, current, phase, active and reactive power, etc [9]. So the control of grid connected inverter has always been the focus of the study and the research methods are varied. The topology of Grid-connected inverters is shown below (Figure (6)).

![Figure 6. The structure of inverter (L = 0.47 mH; c = 20μF; r = 0.9Ω)](image)

The transfer functions of inverter:

\[
\Phi(s) = \frac{1}{s^2L + r + \frac{1}{sc}} = \frac{1}{Lcs^2 + rcs + 1} = \frac{1}{9.4 \times 10^{-9}s^2 + 1.8 \times 10^{-5}s + 1} \tag{1}
\]

After transformation:

\[
p(z) = \frac{0.126z + 0.122}{z^2 - 1.6606z + 0.9087} \tag{2}
\]

The bond graph model of the inverter with filter is given by figure (7).

![Figure 7. Bond Graph model of inverter with filter](image)
**MPPT in Stand-Alone PV Systems**

In the literatures, many MPPT techniques have been proposed to achieve the goal for solar and wind energy conversion systems, including the voltage feedback method (VFM), power feedback method (PFM), perturb and observe method (POM), and incremental conductance method (ICM) [10-13]. They are based on load line adjustment under varying atmospheric and load conditions. However, these uncertainties make MPPT less suitable for rapidly changing environmental conditions or parameter variations. Artificial intelligence (AI) methods, such as the neural network and Fuzzy based controller [14-16], have also provided an adaptive mechanism to improve efficiency, and have a robust capability in regard to uncertainties.

![General Scheme for the proposed method](image)

**Figure 8. General Scheme for the proposed method**

As shown in figure (8) the stand-alone PV system includes a solar array, DC/DC converter, resistive load and an MPPT control unit. The PV array converts solar energy to electric energy. In its V-P characteristic curve, there is a maximum point commonly called the maximum power point (MPP), at which the module operates with the maximum efficiency and produces the maximum power output $P_{\text{max}}$. In order to obtain an operating point close to this MPP, a controlled DC/DC converter is usually employed to interface the energy flow from the solar module to the load.

The response time of the maximum PV power tracking due to a step irradiance input reflects the tracking speed of the MPPT method.

**Energy Storage**

There are many different storage technologies that can be utilized with photovoltaic systems. Research is currently being undertaken into the use of ultracapacitors as a means of...
energy storage for photovoltaic systems. Battery technology still remains the most popular choice. Nickel cadmium and nickel metal hydride batteries can be used, but the lead acid battery is still the most widely used storage method for stand-alone photovoltaic systems.

In order to provide a complete charge for the battery an elaborated control strategy must be applied, such that the battery would be charged as fast as possible, within its operation limits, given that the daily generation period for the photovoltaic panels is limited. The batteries in a photovoltaic system operate in a cyclic way, discharging during the night and recharging during the day. The most recommended charging process in this case is the one with constant voltage and current limitation [17]. The bond graph model of the accumulator is shown in figure (9).

![Figure 9. Variation of power according to the tension](image)

Its structure is in conformity with the physical structure of the accumulator: the half-reactions to the anode and cathode are explicit on the left and on the right respectively. The electrolyte, a sulphuric acid diluted mainly dissociated in H+ ions and HSO4-, takes part here in the principal reaction. Very theoretical electrochemical component can be seen like a reversible transformer of chemical energy in electric power. We resorted to an element C multiport which makes it possible to represent a chemical energy transported during displacements of the species (flow) with the associated efforts.

The battery temperature enormously influences the behavior of the characteristic basic operation of the storage system and in particular on its storage capacity.

The following figure (10 and 11) shows that the increase in the temperature is accompanied by an increase moderated with that of the batteries storage capacity. Attention,
this element C multiport does not store energy. This element "C multiport" also will enter the thermal energy exchanged with the environment.

![Figure 10. Influence temperature on the storage capacity](image)

To study the influence of time, one seeks to approach with a close management in real time, state of the battery load, which in its turn is determining for the effective exploitation of the storage system.

![Figure 11. Influence time on the state of the battery](image)

In the loading case, plus the duration of time increases, the batteries load state is below 1. In the case of the discharge, plus the time duration is significant. It is noted that the
state of discharge reaches its maximum value for a long duration discharge.

**Experimental Results**

A prototype MPPT system (figure 12) has been developed using the described method and tested in the laboratory.

The PV array gives a 150W maximum power, a 43.5V open-circuit voltage and a close-circuit current of 4.75A at a solar energy of 1 kW/m² and a temperature of 25°C. The PV array was simulated with two solar energy cases, 65.36mA/cm² (case A) and 24.98 mA/cm² (case B) to test the proposed system under specific atmospheric conditions. Figure (13) and figure (14) plot the V-I and V-P curves under the two cases at 65°C.

The PV array gives a 150 W maximum power, a 43.5 V open-circuit voltage and a close-circuit current of 4.75 A at a solar energy of 1 kW/m² and a temperature of 25 °C.

Figure (15) and figure (16) show the output voltage (CH1) and the current (CH2) wave forms. The solar energy is changed from A to B in Figure11. In Figure 15, the solar energy is changed from B to A. In the case A, the MPP is 27.3 V, 7.75 A and 102.648 W. And for the case B, the MPP is 32.28 V, 2.64 A and 42.61 W.
Figure 13. V-I curve under the case A and B at 65°C

Figure 14. V-P curve under the case A and B at 65°C

Figure 15. Output voltage and current of the PV array, the solar energy is changed from A to B (curve 1; 20 V/Div – 2.5 s/Div), (curve 2; 4 V/Div – 2.5 s/Div)
Figure 16. Output voltage and current of the PV array (the solar energy is changed from B to A) (curve 1; 20 V/Div – 2.5 s/Div), (curve 2; 4 V/Div – 2.5 s/Div)

The operation of bond graph algorithm has been evaluated by the experiments. Figure (17) shows the important characteristics of the experimental bond graph MPPT control, the output power is always less than 800 W without MPPT bond graph control (see figure 20.A) and the output power is always greater than 850 W with MPPT bond graph control (see figure 20.B).

Figure 17. Output power (curve 1; 250 W/Div – 60 s/Div), (curve 2; 480 V/Div – 60 s/Div)

The maximum of the power 850 W at 155 V, the global efficiency (3 %) (Figure 18. A). For a different value of irradiation (1000 W/m², 800 W/m², 600 W/m² and 400 W/m²), the
optimal power rate is obtained for irradiance equal to 1000 W/m² (850 W), corresponding to a
global efficiency equal to 3 % (Figure 21. B).

**Figure 18.** Variation of power according to the voltage (curve 1; 250 W/Div – 5 V/Div), PV
power of MPPT method under step changing irradiance (curve 2; 250 W/Div – 25 V/Div)

As a result of the comparison between the experimental and the simulation and in
order to confirm the established bond graph MPPT control and the obtained simulations, we
belonged to experimental measurements of the power according to the tension and the PV
power of MPPT method under step changing irradiance. The curves obtained are identical to
simulations. We can conclude that there is a similarity and concordance.

**Typical Annual Load Profile Definition**

The typical annual load profile definition was also based on statistical analysis. In this
statistical analysis a sample of 400 houses along with analytical data given by the Sonalgaz
(Algerian society of electricity) were used and it was concluded that there are two peaks
observed on the consumption of electricity in the domestic sector annually; one in summer, which is the highest, and one in winter. On the other hand, autumn and spring periods have more or less the same consumption of electricity which is lower compared to that of summer and winter. Also, another very important thing to notice is that the daily average electricity consumption of a house is around 24 kWh during summer, 21 kWh during winter and 15 kWh during autumn and spring.

To be more precise on the definition of the typical annual load profile this was split into weekdays and weekends for each of the four seasons. The months contained in each season are as follows; Winter: December, January and February; Spring: March, April and May; Summer: June, July and August; and Autumn: September, October and November. Additionally, it should be noted that holiday periods are not considered in the examined typical annual load profile. The typical load profiles for weekdays of spring, autumn and winter are shown in Figures 19, 20 and 21 respectively.
Simulation and Economic Analysis of Standalone PV System

After the proper setting up of the complete model for the standalone PV system a series of simulations were carried out in order to specify the required storage capacity and PV array power needed to cover the load over the time period of a typical year.

The results of the simulation process were recorded in a data file and subsequently processed to evaluate the load coverage achieved by each configuration. The most important results estimated during the simulation are presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Results of the simulation process for the standalone PV system

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>N°</th>
<th>N° of PV</th>
<th>PV power (kW)</th>
<th>N° of batteries</th>
<th>Battery capacity (kWh)</th>
<th>Annual energy deficiency (kWh)</th>
<th>Annual period of energy deficiency (h)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>525</td>
<td>625</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>8.6</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>207</td>
<td>203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>11.3</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>11.7</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>06</td>
<td>01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>11.1</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From the results of Table 1 it can be seen that the systems that achieve 100% annual load coverage over a typical year are those of Configurations 4 and 5. Additionally, it is observed that the system of Configuration 3 is rather acceptable since it has a very low energy deficiency of 18 kWh or 21 hrs per year. It should be noted that two different approaches are considered for these systems with the difference between them being that configuration 5 has
larger energy storage capacity and lower PV array power (smaller size) while Configuration 4 have larger PV array power (larger size) and lower energy storage capacity. This is a very important fact to consider when deciding which is the optimum configuration for the system to be designed. To do so, Configurations 5, 6 and 12 are evaluated in terms of economic viability for a total system life of 25 years.

Conclusions

This work introduced a new stand-alone photovoltaic system topology, based on decentralized structures, which employ a DC-DC converter dedicated to a reduced number of photovoltaic panels, allowing the photovoltaic panels to take full advantage of the energy generated by the photovoltaic panels, which could deliver to the DC bus up to 16% more energy, when compared to centralized systems.

The bond graph tool in multi-field matter seems the best tool adapted to this spot; in addition to its use for the structural analysis and simulation. The found results proved to be interesting because they found curves reveal a similarity between the found results and the results expected (real) in the specifications. The design and simulation of a based MPPT controller was proposed. Compared to the system without MPPT in previous work, the proposed BG-MPPT has improved the transitional state and reduced the fluctuations in the steady state. It has characterized by relatively higher efficacy to those of other algorithms.

The experimental results are quite satisfactory, showing the effectiveness of the bond graph control proposed in improving the power quality and the reliability of the power supply.

Reference


