

FUZZY UNIT COMMITMENT DESIGNED FOR MAXIMUM POWER POINT TRACKING FOR SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC CONVERTER

Y.V .Naga Sundeep¹,Y.Vamsi babu²

¹*Electrical & Electronics Engineering, P B R Visvodaya Institute of Technology & Science,*

²*Electrical & Electronics Engineering, P B R Visvodaya Institute of Technology & Science,*

Abstract— Maximum power point trackers (MPPTs) play a vital role in photovoltaic (PV) systems because they increase the efficiency of the solar photovoltaic system by increasing the power output. MPPT algorithms are necessary because PV arrays have a non linear voltage-current characteristic with a unique point where the power produced is maximum. The output power from the solar panel varies with solar irradiance, temperature and so on. To increase the power extracted from the solar panel, it is necessary to operate the photovoltaic (PV) system at the maximum power point (MPP). This paper presents the Matlab/simulink arrangement of fuzzy logic controller (FLC) MPPT algorithm which is responsible for driving the dc-dc boost converter to track maximum power point (MPP) .This paper also presents the theoretical analysis of variable step size(VSS) of INC MPPT which can effectively improve the tracking speed and accuracy of maximum power.

Index Terms — MPPT -DC-DC Converter- Fuzzy Logic Controller –Photovoltaic (PV) System

I. INTRODUCTION

Energy is the prime mover of economic growth and is vital to the sustenance of a modern economy. Future economic growth crucially depends on the long-term availability of energy from sources that are affordable, accessible and environmentally friendly. Government, industry and independent analyses have shown that cost-effective energy efficiency improvements could reduce electricity use by 27% to 75% of total national use within 10-20 years without impacting quality of life or manufacturing output. Besides India is world's 6th largest electrical energy consumer, accounting 3.4% of global energy consumption..the photovoltaic (PV) system technologies have increasing roles in electric power technologies, providing more secure power sources and pollution-free electric supplies [1]-[4]. Solar photovoltaic is a phenomenon where the solar irradiation is converted directly into electricity through solar cell [5]. The PV array can supply the maximum power to the load at a particular operating point which is generally called as maximum power point (MPP), at which the entire PV system operates with maximum efficiency and produces its maximum power.

A major challenge in the use of PV is posed by its nonlinear current-voltage (I-V) characteristics, which result in a unique maximum power point (MPP) on its power-voltage (P-V) curve. The high initial capital cost of a PV source and low energy conversion efficiency makes it imperative to operate the PV source at MPP so that maximum power can be extracted. The PV maximum output power is dependent on the operating conditions and varies from moment to moment due to temperature, irradiation and load so tracking and adjusting for this maximum power point is a continuous process. In general, a power source is operated in conjunction with a dc -dc power converter, whose duty cycle is modulated in order to track the instantaneous MPP of the PV source.

There are several methods and controllers that have been widely developed and implemented to track the MPP. In the last years researchers and practitioners in PV systems have presented survey or comparative analysis of MPPT techniques. The various MPPT techniques are Perturb and Observe (P&O) method [6]-[9], Incremental Conductance (IC) method [6]-[10], Artificial Neural Network

method [11], Fuzzy Logic method [12], Constant Voltage [13], Three Point weight Comparison [14], short Current Pulse [15], Open Circuit Voltage [16], the temperature method [17]. The most commonly used methods are Perturb and Observe (P&O), incremental conductance and three-point weight comparison.

Among these, incremental conductance (I&C) method is dominantly used in practical PV systems for the MPPT control due to its simple implementation, high reliability, and tracking efficiency [5], [18], [19] I& C technique applies perturbation to the buck-boost DC-DC controller by increasing or decreasing the voltage reference of the PWM (Pulse Width Modulation) signal, subsequently observes the effect on the PV output power. Problem that arises in I&C MPPT method is that the operating voltage in PV panel always fluctuating due to the needs of continuous tracking for the next perturbation cycle.

Hence, in this paper a fuzzy logic based MPPT technique is proposed. The proposed MPPT controller is designed for 1kW solar PV system installed at Cape Institute of Technology. The fuzzy logic based MPPT can track the maximum power point faster and also it can minimize the voltage fluctuation after MPP has been recognized.

II. MATHEMATICAL MODEL OF PHOTOVOLTAIC MODULE

The general model of solar cell can be derived from physical characteristic of the diode, which is usually being called as one diode model. The equivalent circuit of solar cell is shown in Fig.2.1 [20], [21]. Equation 1 shows the Shockley diode equation which describes the I-V characteristics of diode D, where I_D is the diode current I_{sat} is reverse bias saturation current, V_D is voltage across diode n is the solar ideal factor of diode and V_T is thermal voltage.

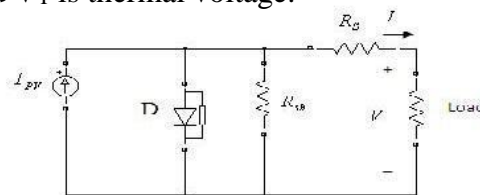


Fig.2.1. Equivalent circuit of a solar cell

Thermal voltage however can be defined as $V = \frac{KT}{q}$(1)

where K is Boltzmann constant ($1.3806503 \times 10^{-23}$ J/K), T is temperature in degrees Kelvin and q is electron charge ($1.6021764 \times 10^{-19}$ C).

To model the I-V characteristic of PV array, equation (3) can be derived from the circuit shown in Fig. 1,

$$I_{PV} = I_0 \left[\exp\left(\frac{V - I R_s}{n V_t}\right) - 1 \right] - \frac{V - I R_s}{R_{sh}} \quad \dots(3)$$

where I_{PV} is the light generated current, I_0 is the reverse saturation current, V is the PV array terminal voltage, R_s is the equivalent series resistance of the array and R_{sh} is the Equivalent parallel resistance. In addition, the I-V characteristic of the PV panel is also depending on the internal characteristics such as the series resistance R_s and parallel resistance R_{sh} . The series resistance is the sum of structural resistance of PV panel and it has strong influence when PV panel act as voltage

source .The parallel resistance Rsh has great when PV panel act as Current source .

The light generated current of the photovoltaic cell depends linearly on the solar irradiation and is influenced by the temperature according to the following equation.

$$I_{pv} = (I_{pv,n} + K_I T)(G/G_{12}) \dots \dots \dots (4)$$

Where $I_{pv,n}$ is the light –generated current at the normal condition(usually 25^0 C and $1000W/m^2$), $T=T-T_n$ (being T and T_n the actual and nominal temperatures [K]), $G[W/m^2]$ is the irradiation on the device surface, and G_n is the nominal irradiation.

The diode saturation current I_0 and its dependence on the temperature is given by,

$$I_0 = \frac{I_{sc,n} \exp\left(\frac{K_I T}{n K_V T}\right)}{\exp\left(\frac{K_I T}{n K_V T}\right) - 1} \dots \dots \dots (5)$$

where a is the diode ideality constant. K_V and K_I is the current and voltage coefficients. $I_{sc,n}$ and $V_{oc,n}$ are the nominal short circuit current and nominal open circuit voltage Fig. 2.2 and 2.3 shows the I-V and P-V characteristics for the XL 6P54G200 PV module at $25 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ and $1000W/m^2$. Table 1 shows the parameter of the XL 6P54G200 PV module.

TABLE I-Parameters of the XL 6P54G200 PV module at $25 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ and $1000W/m^2$

Peak Power (W), P_{MPP}	200
Peak Power Voltage (V), V_{MPP}	27.16
Peak Power Current (A), I_{MPP}	7.89
Open Circuit Voltage (V), V_{oc}	33.64
Short Circuit Current (A), I_{sc}	8.21
Temperature Coefficient of current (mA/ $^\circ\text{C}$), K_i	.003
Temperature Coefficient of voltage (mV/ $^\circ\text{C}$), K_v	-.123
Number of series cells, N_s	54

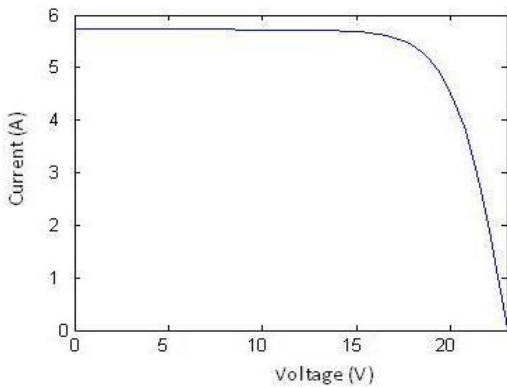


Fig.2.2 I-V Characteristics of 1kW solar PV System

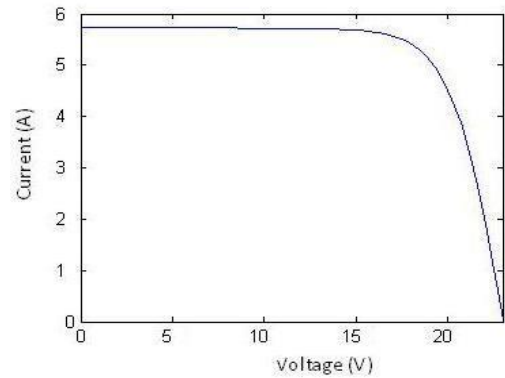


Fig.2.3 P-V Characteristics of 1kW Solar PV System

The PV array contains seven series assemblies with seven series connected PV modules, each with 54 solar cells assemblies of XL 6P54G200 PV Modules. When the modules are wired in parallel, their current rating is increased while the voltage remains constant. When the modules are wired together in series, their voltage is increased while the current remains constant. Hence, in this paper a fuzzy logic based MPPT technique is proposed.. The fuzzy logic based MPPT can track the maximum power point faster and also it can minimize the voltage fluctuation after MPP has been recognized.

III. INCREMENTAL CONDUCTANCE

The incremental conductance (INC) method is based on the fact that the slope of the PV array power curve is zero at the MPP also positive on the left of the MPP and negative on the right, as given by the following equation and corresponding characteristics is shown in fig.3.1.

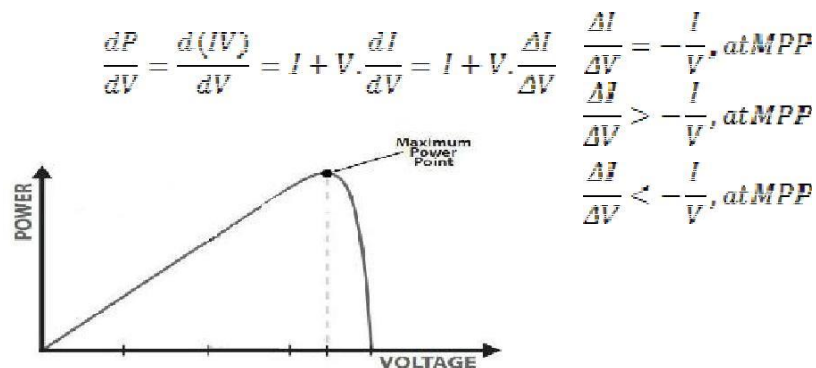


Fig.3.1 Typical power-voltage characteristics of PV array

Fig.3.2 represents the flowchart for INC MPPT algorithm. The PV array terminal voltage can be adjusted relative to the MPP voltage by measuring the incremental conductance (I/V) and instantaneous conductance ($\Delta I/ V$). Once the MPP is reached, the operation of the PV array is maintained at this point unless a change in I is noted. Incase of $dP/dV > 0$, the voltage is increased and in case of $dP/dV < 0$, the voltage is decreased to select the MPP.

IV. PROPOSED METHOD

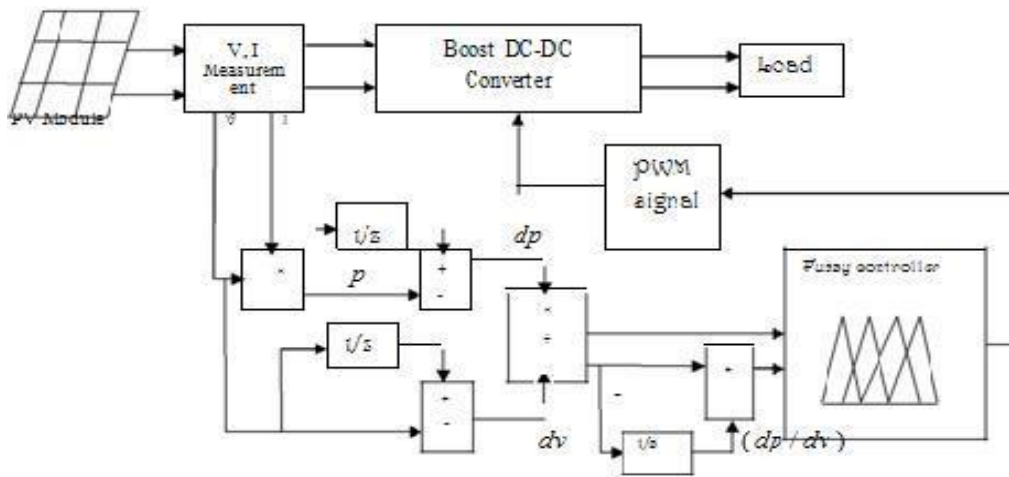


Fig. 4.1 Fuzzy logic based MPPT solar PV panel

The output voltage and current of the PV panel are measured and fed to the fuzzy based MPPT control unit for MPPT tracking. Based on the change of power with respect to change of voltage and current, the fuzzy logic determines the voltage dV reference of the PWM (Pulse Width Modulation) signal. The proposed fuzzy logic based MPPT technique is discussed in section V.

V. REVIEW OF FUZZY LOGIC

Fuzzy logic uses fuzzy set theory, in which a variable is a member of one or more sets, with a specified degree of membership. Fuzzy logic allows us to emulate the human reasoning process in computers, quantify imprecise information, make decisions based on vague and incomplete data, yet by applying a “defuzzification” process, arrive at definite conclusions.

The FLC mainly consists of three blocks

- (i) Fuzzification
- (ii) Inference
- (iii) Defuzzification

(i) Fuzzification:

The fuzzy logic controller requires that each input/output variable which defines the control surface be expressed in fuzzy set notations using linguistic levels. The linguistic values of each input and output variables divide its universe of discourse into adjacent intervals to form the membership functions. The membership value denotes the extent to which a variable belongs to a particular level. The process of converting input/output variables to linguistic levels is termed as Fuzzification.

(ii) Inference:

The behavior of the control surface which relates the input and output variables of the system is governed by a set of rules. A typical rule would be If x is A THEN y is B .

When a set of input variables are read, each of the rules that has any degree of truth in its premise is fired and contributes to the forming of the control surface by approximately modifying it. When all the rules are fired, the resulting control surface is expressed as a fuzzy set to represent the constraints on the output. This process is termed as inference.

(iii) *Defuzzification:*

Defuzzification is the process of conversion of fuzzy quantity into crisp quantity. There are several methods available for defuzzification. The most prevalent one is centroid method, which utilizes the following formula:

$$\frac{\int(\mu(x) x)dx}{\int\mu(x)dx}$$

where μ is the membership degree of output x .

VI.PROPOSED FUZZY LOGIC CONTROLLER

Fuzzy logic is implemented to assist the conventional MPPT technique to obtain the MPP operating voltage point faster and also it can minimize the voltage fluctuation after MPP has been recognized [21],[22].

The proposed fuzzy logic based MPPT controller, shown in Fig. 6.1, has two inputs and one output.

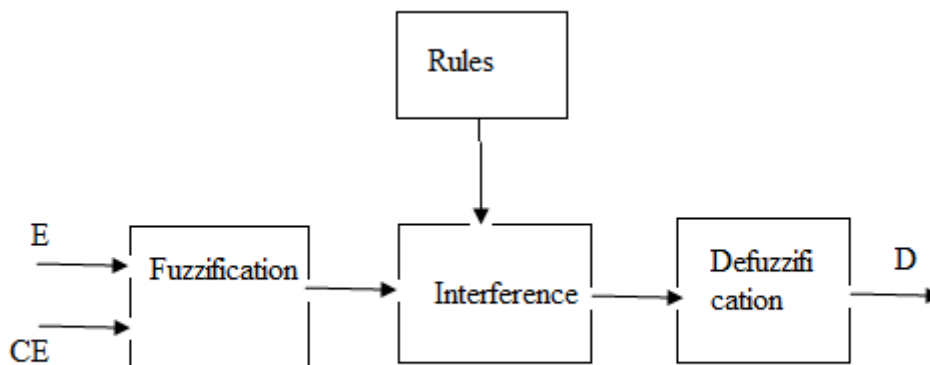


Fig. 6.1 General diagram of a fuzzy controller

In the proposed fuzzy logic based technique the error (E) and changing error (CE) are taken as input variables which are mentioned below with K^{th} sample time.

$$CE(k) = E(k) - E(k - 1)$$

where $P(k)$ is the power of the photovoltaic generator. The input $E(k)$ shows the change of power with respect to the change of voltage. Another input $CE(k)$ expresses the change of error.

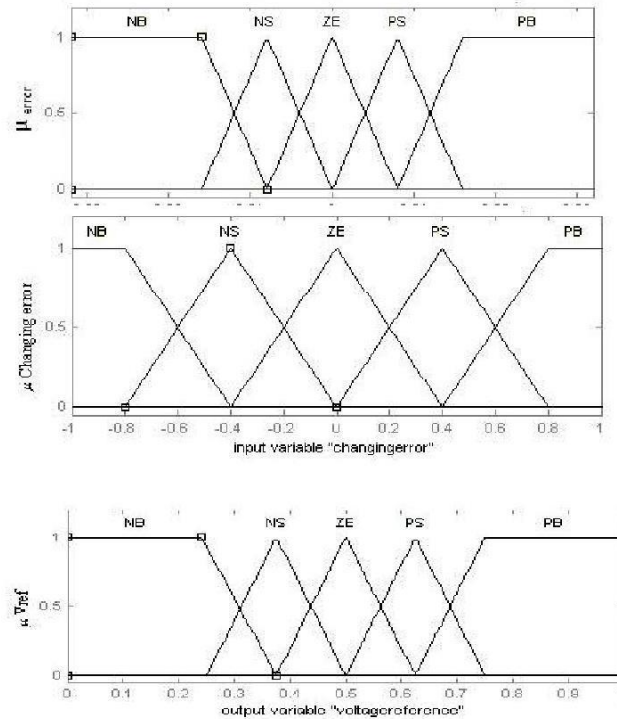


Fig. 6.2 Membership functions of (a) error E (b) Changing error

Table II: Fuzzy Rule Table

E \ CE	NB	NS	ZE	PS	PB
NB	ZE	ZE	PB	PB	PB
NS	ZE	ZE	PS	PS	PS
ZE	PS	ZE	ZE	ZE	NS
PS	NS	NS	NS	ZE	ZE
PB	NS	NB	NB	ZE	ZE

To design the FLC, variables which can represent the dynamic performance of the system to be controlled, should be chosen as the inputs to the controller. In the proposed method, the derivative of the change of power with respect to change of voltage (dP/dV) and change of (dP/dV) are considered as the inputs of the FLC and the voltage reference for modulated signal generation is taken as the output of the FLC. The input and output variables are converted into linguistic variables. In this case, five fuzzy subsets, NB (Negative Big), NS (Negative Small), ZE (Zero), PS (Positive Small) and PB (Positive Big) have been chosen. Membership functions used for the input and output variables are shown in Fig.8. As both inputs have five subsets, a fuzzy rule base formulated for the present application is given in table 2. The performances of fuzzy logic based MPP tracking are able to reduce the perturbed voltage after the MPP operating voltage has been recognized.

VII. SIMULATION RESULTS

The PV module is modeled in MATLAB-SIMULINK using equation (3) with the assumption that the PV module has constant temperature of 25°C. The PV array contains seven series assemblies with seven series connected PV modules, each with 54 solar cells assemblies of XL 6P54G200 PV Modules. The ratings of PV modules are $P_{MPP} \square 200W$, $V_{MPP} \square 27.16V$, $V_{OC} \square 33.64V$ and $V_{OC} \square 7.89 A$ at an Insolation level of $1000W/m^2$ and $25 \square C$ temperature. A pure resistive load is connected to the PV module through the buck boost dc-dc converter. The performance of the proposed technique has been examined for fixed solar radiance at $1000W/m^2$.

Fig.7.1.1, 7.1.2, 7.1.3 shows the results of PV operating voltage, current and power of the triangular and Gaussian membership functions, respectively. And Fig.7.2.1, 7.2.2, 7.2.3 shows the results of PV operating voltage, current and power of the Incremental conductance based MPPT. From this figures, it is observed that the fuzzy can track the maximum power point at 0.01s and also it generates constant voltage without any deviations. The performance of the fuzzy based MPPT technique is compared with the conventional I&C MPPT. It shows that the conventional I&C MPPT tracks the maximum power point at 0.015s and also it does not have the ability to reduce the perturbed voltage.

Hence from the investigation, it is clear that the PV power which is controlled by the proposed fuzzy controller is more stable than the conventional MPPT techniques. From the data given in Table 3, it is observed that the fuzzy can track the maximum efficiency compared to the conventional I&C MPPT techniques.

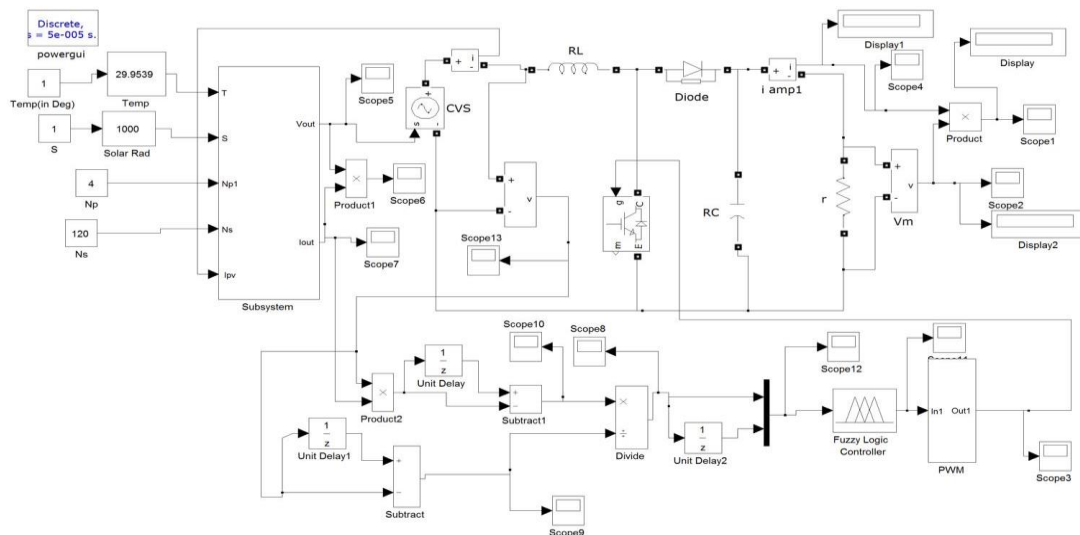


Fig.7.1 FLC Based Simulink Model

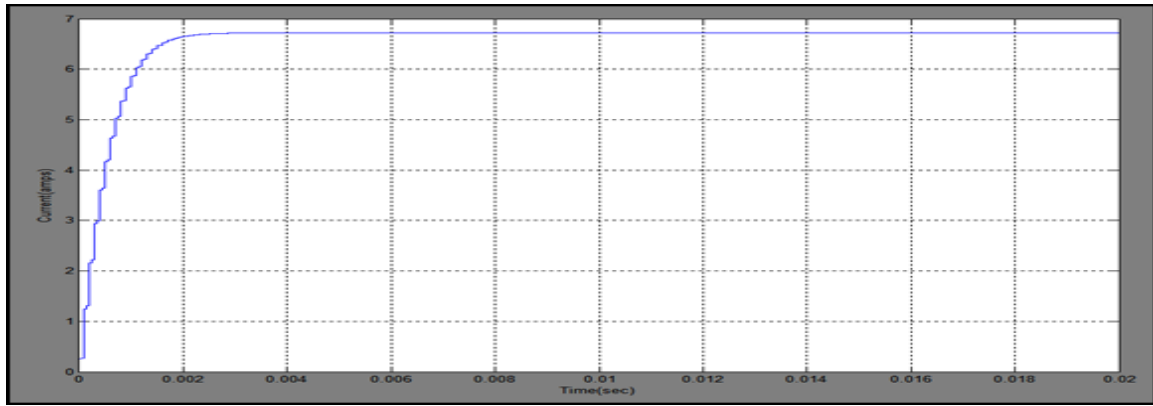


Figure 7.1.2: Output Current of Fuzzy Logic Based MPPT System

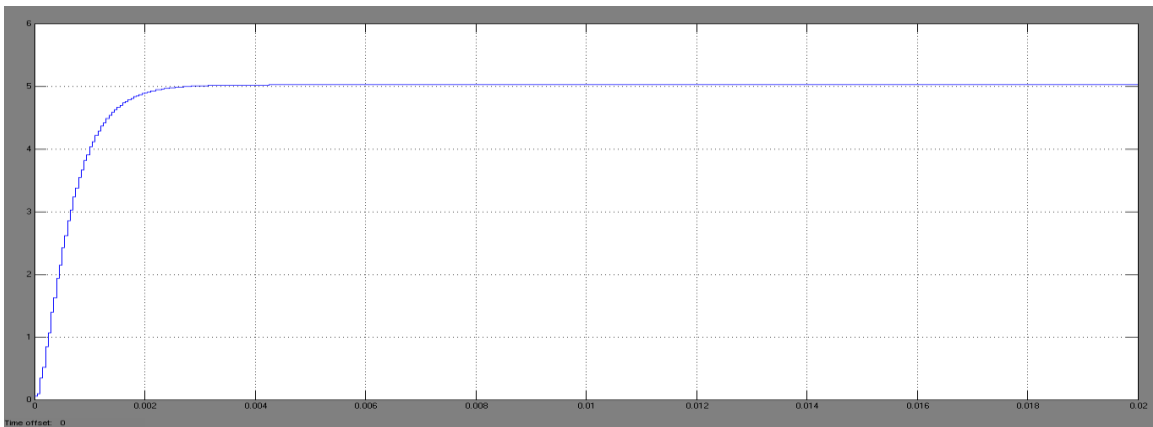


Figure 7.2.2: Output Current Of incremental conductance Based MPPT System

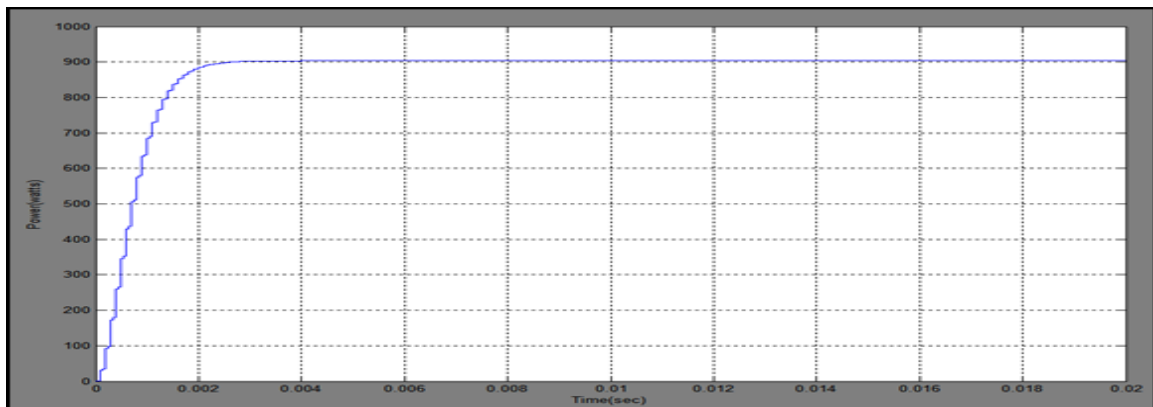


Figure 7.1.3: Output Power Of Fuzzy Logic Based MPPT System

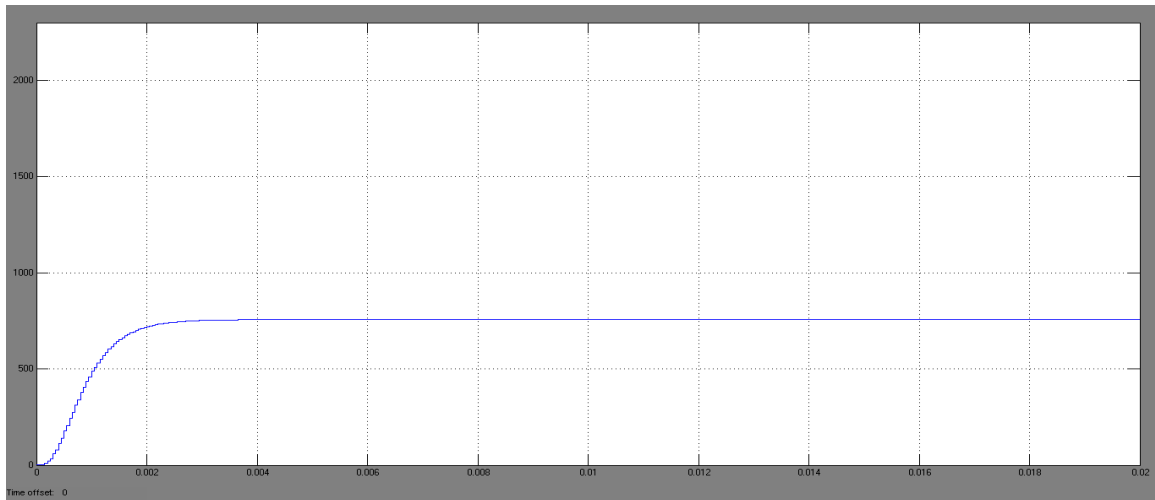


Figure 7.2.3: Output Power Of Incremental conductance Based MPPT System

TABLE III-Power generated as a function of MPPT technique

MPPT METHOD	CURRENT(A)	VOLTAGE(V)	POWER(W)
FUZZY MPPT	6.8	133	905
I&C Method	5.1	151	770

VIII. CONCLUSION

This paper has presented an intelligent MPPT control strategy for the PV system using fuzzy logic controller. The maximum power point tracking technique was simulated using MATLAB/Simulink. The proposed fuzzy logic based MPPT technique can track the maximum power point faster compare to the I&C based mppt technique. It has the capability of reducing the voltage deviations after MPP has been recognized. The simulation results show the efficiency of the fuzzy logic controller in maintaining the stable maximum power point.

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Bibliography:

Y.V.Naga Sundeep was born in 1991. He received B. Tech (EEE) degree from JNT University, Anantapur and M. Tech (Power Electronics) from JNT University, Anantapur. PBR Visvodaya Institute of Technology and Science, Kavali . His research interests are in the areas of Power Electronics and Flexible AC Transmission Systems.

Y.Vamsi Babu was born in 1983. He received B. Tech (EEE) degree from JNT University, Anantapur and Pursuing M. Tech (Power Electronics) from JNT University, Anantapur. PBR Visvodaya Institute of Technology and Science, Kavali . His research interests are in the areas of Renewable energy systems and Flexible AC Transmission Systems.

