Implementation of Fuzzy logic control based MPPT for Photovoltaic system with Silicon Carbide (SiC) boost DC-DC converter

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Abstract: In recent days, photovoltaic (PV) system is the most promising renewable energy technologies and the PV cell has to operate at the optimum operating point to deliver maximum power. In order to obtain maximum power from PV, a maximum power point controller is required. This paper presents the simulation and hardware implementation of fuzzy logic (FL) maximum power point (MPPT) controller with FPGA technology for photovoltaic system. The MPPT algorithm is implemented for a Silicon carbide (SiC) MOSFET based boost DC-DC converter which provides fast switching, low losses and high voltage gain. The proposed MPPT algorithm is implemented on a SPARTAN/FPGA board platform based on the model developed and executed in MATLAB/SIMULINK. The entire system designed and implemented to hardware was successfully tested on a laboratory prototype PV array. The experimental results show the effectiveness and feasibility of the proposed controller and the results were satisfactory.

Keywords: Photovoltaic panel, Maximum power point tracking control, Silicon carbide, Fuzzy logic control, Field Programmable Gate Array.

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1. Introduction

Nowadays, photovoltaic system has an increased importance in electrical power generation system, since it is an inexhaustible and broadly available energy resource. An important characteristic of photovoltaic panels is that the available maximum power is provided only in a single operating point given by a voltage and current known, called maximum power point [1, 2]. Another drawback is that the position of maximum power point is not fixed and it moves according to the varying irradiance, the varying temperature and load. Because of the relatively expensive cost of this kind of energy we must extract the maximum of power of photovoltaic panels. This requires a mechanism for the tracking of the maximum power point called maximum power point tracking so that

maximum power is generated effectively [3, 4]. The schematic representation of the proposed photovoltaic power generation system is shown in Figure.1. In the literature, many classical methods and controllers have been widely developed and implemented to track the maximum power point [5, 6]. This paper has proposed a fuzzy control with FPGA technology design and implementation for MPPT. The advantage of the fuzzy logic control is that it does not need any mathematical model of the system. In addition, it simplifies while dealing with nonlinearities in systems. Moreover, FPGA is suitable for faster implementation and control which can be programmed to do any type of required digital functions [7, 8]. It has the ability to operate faster than a microcontroller chip. Because of the flexibility in FPGA, additional functionality user interface controls can and be

incorporated into the FPGA minimizing the requirement for additional external components [9, 10]. Hence, fuzzy MPPT control is implemented using FPGA. The solar panel is rarely connected directly to a load, the DC-DC converter is necessary and it acts as a suitable interface between the photovoltaic panel and the load allowing to track the maximum power point based on MPPT control providing a duty cycle by exciting the boost converter's electronic switch [11, 12]. There are several DC-DC converters employed for this purpose. But, this paper presents a DC-DC boost converter based on SiC MOSFET and a fast recovery diode for freewheeling action. The proposed SiC based converter can operate at high switching frequency and high temperature operation. Power converters made with Silicon Carbide (SiC) devices offer higher power density due to its higher blocking voltage capability, lower on state resistance and higher thermal conductivity when compared to their conventional power electronics devices [13]. Therefore, SiC MOSFET is chosen for the boost converter.

This paper presents the simulation and hardware implementation of fuzzy logic controller (FLC) using FPGA for PVMPPT. A significant advantage of the proposed controller is that it has been coded in VHDL and programmed into a single FPGA [14, 15]. The performance of the fuzzy logic controller is tested for stand-alone PV system under various operational conditions, such as changing solar radiance, temperature and load. The simulations are verified with experimental results.



Figure 1 Schematic representation of modeled Photovoltaic power generation system

2. Modelling Of Solar Cell

A solar cell is the building block of a photovoltaic panel. A photovoltaic panel is developed by connecting many solar cells in series and parallel. A single photovoltaic cell can be modeled by utilizing current source, diode and two resistors as shown in Figure 2.



Figure 2: A single solar cell circuit model

The equation for a photovoltaic cell is given by

$$I = I_{lg} - I_{os} * \left[exp \left\{ q * \frac{V + I * R_s}{A * k * T} \right\} - 1 \right] - \frac{V + I * R_s}{R_{sh}} \dots (1)$$

$$I_{os} = I_{or} * \left(\frac{T}{T_r}\right)^3 * \left[exp \{ q * E_{go} * \frac{1}{T_r} - \frac{1}{A * k} \} \right] \dots (2)$$

$$I_{lg} = \{ I_{scr} + K_i * (T - 25) \} * \lambda \dots (3)$$

$$I = N_p * I_{lg} - N_p * I_{os} * \left[exp \left\{ q * \frac{V}{N_s} + I * \frac{R_s}{N_p} \right\} - 1 \right] - \frac{V * \left(\frac{N_p}{N_s}\right) + I * R_s}{R_{sh}} \dots (4)$$

Where I & V: Photovoltaic cell output current and voltage;

Ios: PV cell reverses saturation current;

T: Solar cell temperature in Celsius;

- k: Boltzmann's constant, 1.38*10⁻¹⁹ J/K;
- q: Electron charge, $1.6*10^{-23}$ C;
- K_i: Short circuit current temperature coefficient at Iser;
- λ : Solar cell irradiation in W/m^2;
- Iscr: Short circuit current at 25 degree Celsius;
- Ilg: Light-generated current;
- E_{go}: Band gap for silicon;
- A: Ideality factor;
- T_r: Reference temperature;
- Ior: Cell saturation current at Tr;
- R_{sh}: Shunt resistance;
- R_s: Series resistance;

The P-V and V-I characteristics for a photovoltaic cell are shown in Figures. 3 & 4. It can be seen that the photovoltaic cell operates as a constant current source at low values of operating voltages and a constant voltage source at low values of operating current. Electrical specifications of solar panel are: open circuit voltage: 21V, short circuit current: 5.5A, total no of cells in series: 36 and solar cell temperature: 30 degree Celsius. The input irradiation is shown in Figure.5. Between 0 and 1 s, the irradiation is $200W/m^2$, between 1 and 2 s it is $600 W/m^2$, while from 2 s onwards it is $1000W/m^2$



Figure.5. Input – Time varying irradiation



Figure. 6.P-V characteristics of a typical PV module for varying solar irradiance.



Figure. 7. I-V characteristics of a typical PV module for varying solar irradiance.



Figure.8. Input – Time varying temperature

The P-V output characteristic of PV module with varying irradiation at constant temperature is shown in Figure .6. The I-V output characteristic of PV module with varying irradiation at constant temperature is shown in Figure .7. When the irradiation increases, the current output increases and

the voltage output also increases. This results in net increase in output power with increase in irradiation at constant temperature. The time varying temperature signal is shown in Figure.8. Between 0 and 1 second, the temperature of 25 C is applied and it is increased to 35 C and 45 C.



Figure. 9. P-V characteristics of a typical PV module for varying temperature



Figure.10.I-V characteristics of a typical PV module for varying temperature.



Figure 11: Simulink model of the photovoltaic panel

The P-V output characteristic of PV module with varying temperature at constant irradiation is shown in Figure.9. The I-V output characteristic of PV module with varying temperature at constant irradiation is shown in Figure .10. When the operating temperature increases, the current output increases marginally but the voltage output decreases drastically results in net reduction in power output with rise in temperature. Simulink model of the photovoltaic panel is shown in Figure.11.The photovoltaic panel voltage is about 21.75V and the photovoltaic panel current is about 5.45A as shown in Figure.4. Photovoltaic panel output power is about 100W is shown in Figure.3.

3. Maximum Power Point Tracking

The output efficiency of а photovoltaic cell is very low. In order to increase the efficiency, different methods are analyzed to match the source and load properly. Therefore, one such method is the Maximum Power Point Tracking control technique. This technique is used to obtain the maximum possible output power from a varying source. In the photovoltaic systems, the V-I curve is non-linear, so it is difficult to get matched with the load. This technique is used for boost converter whose switching duty cycle is varied using a maximum power point tracking algorithm [16, 17]. A boost converter is used on the load side and a photovoltaic panel is used to power this converter. Various MPPT techniques are available in the literature [18, 19], but this paper focuses on fuzzy logic control based MPPT implemented using FPGA.

3.1Fuzzy logic control based MPPT

Several methods of tracking the optimal point of operation have been discussed in the literature but the approach of artificial intelligence in the case of fuzzy logic is implemented to improve the controller performance and the pursuit of maximum power point by simulation and

modeling of a controller based on fuzzy logic control system. Block diagram of fuzzy logic control MPPT based photovoltaic power generation system is shown in Figure.12. The fuzzy theory based on fuzzy set and fuzzy algorithm provides a general method of expressing linguistic rules so that they may be processed quickly. The advantage of the fuzzy logic control is that it does not strictly need any mathematical model of the system. Hence, many complex systems can be controlled without knowing the exact mathematical model of the system. In addition, fuzzy logic simplifies the design when dealing with nonlinearities in systems. Fuzzy controller design includes the following elements:

- Determine the fuzzy controller input variables and output variables.
- Design the control rules of fuzzy controller.
- Establish fuzzification and Defuzzification method.
- Select the domain of fuzzy controller input and output variables as well as determine the parameters.
- Prepare the application of fuzzy control algorithm.
- Choose a reasonable sampling time of fuzzy control.



Figure 12.Block diagram of fuzzy logic control based photovoltaic power generation system.

The inputs of the FLC are:

 $\Delta P = I(k) - P(k-1) \dots (5)$

and the output equation is:

 $\Delta D = D(k) - D(k-1)\dots(7)$

Where ΔP is the PV array output power change, ΔI is the array output current

change, and ΔD is the boost converter duty cycle change. The variable inputs and outputs are divided into four fuzzy subsets: PB (Positive Big), PS (Positive Small), NB (Negative Big) and NS (Negative Small). Therefore, the fuzzy rule algorithm requires 16 fuzzy control rules; these rules are based on the regulation of hill climbing algorithm, fuzzy rules are shown in Table1. To operate the fuzzy combination, Mamdani's method with Max-Min is used. Figure. 13 shows the FLC based MPPT.

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1 anie 1. Elizzy logic rii	PC

e/de	NB	NS	PS	PB
NB	PB	PB	NB	NB
NS	PS	PS	NS	NS
PS	NS	NS	PS	PS
PB	NB	NB	PB	PB





Figure.13. Block diagram of the FLC based MPPT





Fig.17. Membership functions: output ΔD



Figure 18: Circuit diagram of boost converter



Figure 19: Simulink model of the fuzzy MPPT control of SiC DC - DC boost converter based photovoltaic power generation



Figure .20: Gate pulse of SiC MOSFET



Figure .22: Input current of boost converter

From the behavior of the controller inputs and output, the shapes and fuzzy subset partitions of the membership function of both input and output are shown in Figures.15-17. Flow chart of the FLC based MPPT is shown in Figure.14. The centre of

Where ΔD is the fuzzy controller output and Di is the centre of Max-Min composition at the output membership function.

4. SiC Mosfet Based Boost DC-DC Converter

A single photovoltaic cell produces voltage of low level. In order to boost up the voltage, a DC-DC boost converter is used. In order to use this DC-DC converter for high voltage and high frequency area algorithm (COA) is used in the defuzzification stage to convert the fuzzy subset duty cycle changes to real numbers.

$$\Delta D = \frac{\sum_{i}^{n} \mu(D_{i}) D_{i}}{\sum_{i}^{n} \mu(D_{i})} \qquad \dots \qquad (8)$$

applications, Choppers are static DC-DC converters for generating variable DC voltage source from a fixed DC voltage source. It is used to step up the input voltage to a required output voltage without the use of a transformer. Silicon Carbide (SiC) device is most preferred because of larger current carrying capability, higher voltage capability, high blocking operating temperature and less static and dynamic losses than the traditional silicon (Si) power switches [20-22]. The control strategy lies in the manipulation of the duty cycle of the switch which causes the voltage change. The

circuit diagram of the designed boost converter is shown in Figure.18.

The active switch in the boost converter is a 1200V SiC MOSFET. A fast recovery diode is used as the freewheeling diode. The input and output capacitor is selected as $C_1 =$ $470\mu F$ and $C_2 = 330 \mu F$, 450 V. The inductance value is 2mH, 15 A. The functioning principle of the boost consist to excite the switch (SiC MOSFET) transistor with a duty cycle D produced by the MPPT control, when the switch is closed the inductor L is loading during T(D) time, afterwards the switch is opened the inductor supplies the load R through the diode during (1-D)T. For a DC-DC boost converter, the input-output voltage relationship for continuous conduction mode is given by:

$$\frac{V_0}{V_{in}} = \frac{1}{1 - D}$$
 (9)

Where, D is the duty cycle since the duty ratio "D" is between 0 and 1. Simulink model of the fuzzy MPPT control of SiC

DC- DC boost converter based photovoltaic power generation is shown in Figure.19. The DC- DC boost converter output voltage is about 42 Volts and input current of DC-DC boost converter is about 5.5 amps as shown in Figures.21- 22.The gate pulse of SiC MOSFET switch with 50 % duty cycle is shown in Figure.20.

5. Experimental Setup of Photovoltaic Power Generation

The hardware set-up for fuzzy MPPT control based photovoltaic power generation is shown in Figure.23. In the experimental test conducted on photovoltaic panel with resistive load is shown in Figure.24. Photovoltaic panel specification is shown in table 2.It was observed photovoltaic panel output current and output voltage at various temperatures is shown in Table 3. The P-V and V-I characteristics for a photovoltaic panel are shown in Figure.25.



Figure.23.Hardware set-up for fuzzy MPPT control based photovoltaic power generation system



Figure 24.Experimental setup on photovoltaic panel

Voc	21.16 V		
I _{sc}	5.87 A		
P _{max}	95.32 W		
Insolation W/m ²	1000W/m^2		
System efficiency	76.72 W		

Table 2.	Speci	fication	of PV	Panel
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Table 5. Voltage and current of F V at unrefent time interva	Table 3. Voltage and	current of PV	at different tim	e intervals
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Time	Voltmeter in volts	Ammeter in amps	Power in Watts
10 am	19.5	5.0	98
11 am	20	5.1	102
12 pm	20.3	5.2	103
1 pm	20.2	5.2	103
2 pm	20	5.1	102
3 pm	19	5.0	95



Figure 25: P-V & V-I characteristics of a photovoltaic panel



Figure 26: The logic diagram in Xilinx software for the FLC. **50 % duty cycle**



Figure.27. PWM output for 50% duty ratio



Figure 28.Input and Output voltage of SiC boost converter using fuzzy MPPT.



Figure 29. Output voltage ripple of SiC boost converter for 50% duty cycle Output voltage ripple of SiC boost converter is about 1.2 % as shown in Figure.29

Table 4: Experimental result of SiC and Si boost converter output voltage ripple for various duty

		L L	JULIC		_
	S.NO	Duty Cycle %	Si Output voltage ripple %	SiC Output voltage ripple %	
	1	40	4.8	1.5	
	2	50	4.1	1.2	
	3	60	3.9	1.1	
	4	70	3.7	0.9	
Output vottage ripple in percentage					& O MPPT & C MPPT uzzy MPPT
	400	600	800 10	000	

Solar irradiance in W/m^2

Figure 30. Output voltage ripple Vs Solar irradiance for various MPPT techniques.

5.1 Implementing Fuzzy Logic Controller on FPGA

The fuzzy logic controller for MPPT is implemented on the FPGA board. Then, the DC-to-DC is hooked up and connected to FPGA. Figure.26 shows the logic circuit diagram in Xilinx ISE 14.1 software for the FLC and other components. The inputs of the controller are the error and change in error. ΔP is the PV array output power change, ΔI is the array output current change, and ΔD is the change in duty cycle. The output of the controller is connected with a PWM module designed on the FPGA. The experimental PWM frequency of the modulating signal is about 50 KHz. The output of the PWM is examined using DSO by changing the values of the FLC as shown in Figure. 27.

6. Results and Discussion

The hardware for the proposed boost converter is developed using SiC MOSFET (SCT 2080KE) and fast recovery diode (MUR 3060). The input to the converter is 19.5V and an output voltage of 40.9 V is obtained which is shown in Figure.28.The SiC MOSFET switches at 50 KHz with 50 % duty ratio. The output of the converter is examined using DSO by varying the FLC inputs and the change in the duty cycle of the PWM output.. Table 4 shows the comparison of SiC and Si boost converter output voltage ripple for various duty cycle and it is found that SiC based converter provides a reduced output voltage ripple for all the duty ratios. Figure 30 shows the comparison of various MPPT techniques for output voltage ripple calculation. Bv employing fuzzy based MPP technique, it is observed that the output voltage ripple is reduced compared to other techniques. Therefore, FPGA based fuzzy logic controller with SiC boost converter is best suited for photovoltaic applications

7. Conclusion

This paper has proposed maximum power point tracker using fuzzy control implemented on FPGA Spartan-3E board for PV system. The proposed MPPT controller with SiC boost converter is tested and the results were compared with the conventional system. It is observed that the fuzzy logic control with SiC boost converter resulted in reduced output voltage ripple of 1.2 % for 50 % duty ratio. The entire system is designed, implemented and tested on a laboratory prototype PV array. The experimental results show the effectiveness and feasibility of the proposed system. Therefore the fuzzy MPPT control with SiC boost converter is more appropriate for photovoltaic power generation system.

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