



# Synthesis of Voltage PID Controller to Improve INC- MPPT Algorithm for Cascade Regulation of KC200GT Panel-Based Solar System

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## Abstract

This paper proposes the Maximum Power Point Tracking MPPT method based on the Incremental Conductance INC algorithm. The primary goal is to prevent the ripple problem that is occurred in the output responses of the solar panel system. This last includes the KC200GT panel system, while using it to supply a resistive load throughout the DC-DC boost converter. This goal is reached through respecting the two following steps. First, the INC algorithm modified so that it produces an optimal reference voltage rather than a duty cycle control, which is often utilized in the standard INC-MPPT control strategy for controlling the switch button of the DC-DC boost converter. Second, the solar system behavior is modeled by the linear small-signal model for the design of the voltage PID controller. At each sample, a voltage discrepancy is generated as a result of comparing the previous reference voltage to the one delivered by the KC200GT panel where the introduction of the voltage PID controller becoming indispensable. These two steps create the development of a novel strategy that is afterwards known as improved INC-MPPT. The performance assessments of the proposed strategy are carried out by simulation using MATLAB®/SIMULINK software, and the obtained results reveal the crucial importance of including the voltage PID controller to overcome the ripple issue, occurred when applying the standard INC-MPPT control strategy.

**Keywords:** PV system; DC-DC Boost Converter; Maximum Power Point Tracking MPPT; INC algorithm.

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# 1. Introduction

Maximum Power Point Tracking MPPT techniques are typically used in solar systems to extract the maximal power output of KC200GT panels where the Maximum Power Point MPP must be continually followed, regardless of the current climatic conditions like the absolute temperature and the solar irradiation. The MPPT issue has been addressed in several aspects in the literature [1, 2].

Among them, the INC-based algorithm is the most often used one since it is the easiest to implement in the real-world applications [3]. Accordingly, in energy solar domain, many researchers have worked to develop MPPT algorithms methods [4]. They presented a large number of simulations and experimental tests to control the switch of the buck chopper. In addition, they employed a proportional-integral PI controller whose corresponding pulse-width modulation (PWM) has been implemented directly in the buck converter [5]. The experimental results also demonstrated that the incorrect manual selection of the fixed-step size, whether large or small in standard INC-MPPT control strategy is well overcome. This can be accomplished by changing it to a variable-step size that was generated automatically to update the existing duty cycle control, regardless the changing of the two previous climatic conditions. In the same direction, the high-performance adaptive Perturb and Observe P&O algorithm was introduced through [6] in 2011. This enabled the MPP tracking in PV- based micro-grids. To improve the oscillation performances around the MPP, the real-time adaptive control was implemented under a variety of weather conditions. As a result, two main drawbacks that directly affect the required control have appeared, especially in the event of gradual variation of solar irradiation and absolute temperature. Accordingly, the operating point of the preceding system has oscillated around the MPP, resulting in a loss of a more or less important of the available energy. Besides, the INC algorithm can be confusing when the atmospheric conditions change rapidly.

In this paper, it will be illustrated that the negative effects associated with the second drawback mentioned above can be significantly improved. This will be possible by including a voltage PID controller in the inner loop of the overall control system where the output voltage, which is needed to power the resistive load, will be well stabilized. This control design is called also cascade regulation where the MPPT algorithm is operated indirectly, i.e., for a cascade voltage regulation (with respect to a cascade current regulation), the MPPT algorithm must be modified to provide a reference voltage (with respect to a reference current) where it is compared with the actual array voltage (with respect to the actual array current). The resulting voltage discrepancy (with respect to current discrepancy) must be reduced as much as possible using a voltage PID controller (with respect to current PID controller). In fact, the preceding indirect control mode based on the P&O algorithm has recently attracted many scientists.

Among them, Kollimalla & Mishra (2014) developed the indirect P&O-MPPT control strategy the current regulation of the PV panel under solar irradiation variation using a proposed reference current disturbance. Accordingly, the current PI controller proves better power performances over the ones provided by the standard P&O-MPPT control strategy [7]. Also, Harrag & Messalti (2015) generated a variable step-size for the P&O-MPPT control strategy using the genetic algorithm [8]. Accordingly, the Proportional-Integral- Derivative controller

is included for the cascade voltage regulation, providing thus a fast tracking behavior in the presence of several weather conditions. In addition, Babki & Al-Thabiti (2022) proposed a closed-loop system based on a small-signal model for voltage regulation. They were used either, a Proportional controller, equipped with a low-pass filter or a PI controller where its parameters have been designed through applying the Ziegler-Nichols method based on root locus approach [9]. Accordingly, the simulation results show that the proposed control strategy offers better stability characteristics over the one provided by the standard one. Finally, Lasheen et al., (2017) proposed an adaptive reference voltage-based technique for panel, which has been exposed to a radiation profile characterizing by a fast rate of change [10]. With respect of all preceding works, the new control strategy in this paper has two indispensable stages. In the first one, the system mathematical model is of the global solar system is designed using the small- signal principle. Afterward, the MPPT-based INC algorithm is modified, in which an optimal reference voltage is generated through the existing values of solar irradiance and absolute temperature. Finally, the optimal update of the existing duty cycle control is ensured by the proposed-stabilized voltage controller, whose parameters are determined by the trial-and- error approach, which is available in MATLAB® software. The given simulation results by the proposed control strategy will confirm that the desired is captured, even during a rapid variation of the solar irradiance. The remainder of the paper will be organized as follows: The introduction is presented in section1. The equivalent electrical circuit model description is given in section 2. The typical solar power system, modeled by the linear small-signal model is reviewed in Section3. Section4 will be focused on the synthesis of the voltage PID controller, used in the improved INC-MPPT control strategy. The simulation results are shown in section5. Finally, conclusions are drawn in Section 6.

# 2. Modeling of KC200GT panel.

In general, the modeling of the actual behavior of the KC200GT panel is often performed using an equivalent electric circuit having a specific number of diodes, resistors connected between them in series and other resistors connected between them in parallel. Hence, the electrical circuit can be shown in Fig. 1:

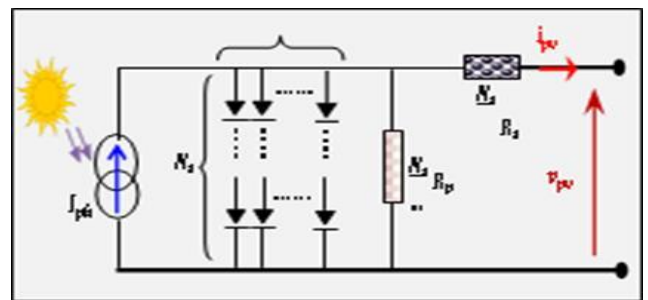


Fig.1 Equivalent-electrical circuit used for modeling the KC200GT panel

According to Fig.1, the nonlinear characteristic  $I - V$  of the KC200GT panel is derived through expressing predicted PV current.  $I_{pv}$  It is defined by [11,12]:

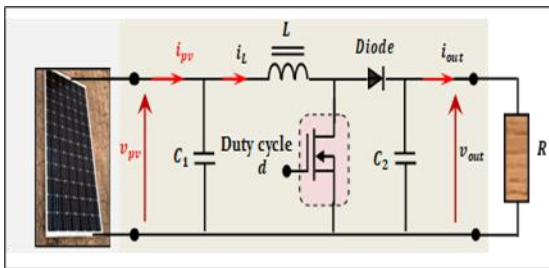
$$I_{pv} = N_p I_{ph} - N_p I_0 \left[ \exp \left( \frac{q(V_{pv} + R_s I_{pv})}{a N_s K T} \right) - 1 \right] - \frac{N_p V_{pv} + R_s I_{pv}}{R_p} \quad (1)$$

$I_{pv}$  : Solar cell current (A).

- $I_{ph}$  : Light generated current (A).
- $I_0$  : Diode saturation current (A).
- $q$  : Electron charge ( $1.6 \times 10^{-19}$  C).
- $K$  : Boltzmann constant ( $1.38 \times 10^{-23}$  J/K).
- $T$  : Cell temperature in Kelvin (K).
- $V_{pv}$  : Solar cell output voltage (V).
- $R_s$  : Solar cell series resistance ( $\Omega$ ).
- $R_p$  : Solar cell shunt resistance ( $\Omega$ ).
- $N_c$  : The number of series cells.
- $N_w$  : The number of series strings.
- $N_p$  : The number of parallel strings.
- $a$  : Diode ideality factor.

### 3. Modeling of global solar system

In general, most real-world applications require more power than the one generated by the basic KC200GT panel. Therefore, the introduction of the DC-DC boost converter becomes essential between it and the electrical device to be powered. Therefore, Fig.2 shows the equivalent electrical circuit describing the interconnection system including the KC200GT panel, the DC-DC boost converter and the resistive load.



The small-signal principle is applied for the linearization step of the preceding nonlinear state-space representation. This aim is achieved through applying some steps, described in [13]. Fig.2. Interconnection system including the KC200GT panel, DC-DC boost converter and the resistive load

From Fig.2, the power required to supply the resistive load is highly dependent on the proper voltage regulation that is provided by the switch (transistor) control of the DC-DC boost converter. Here, the appropriate voltage PID controller must be provided the optimal duty cycle control which then send as a Pulse Width Modulation PWM signal having the prefixed frequency  $f$ . As a result, the controller-synthesis of desired controller requires a prior linear model that associates the output PV voltage  $V_{pv}$  with the input control  $d$ . Accordingly, the corresponding nonlinear state-space representation is given by [13]

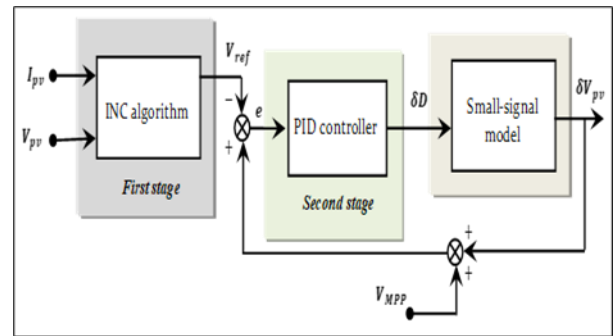
$$\begin{aligned} \dot{V}_{pv} &= \frac{1}{C_1} \cdot I_{PV} - \frac{1}{C_1} \cdot I_L \\ I_L &= \frac{1}{L} \cdot V_{pv} - \left(\frac{1-d}{L}\right) \cdot V_{out} \\ \dot{V}_{out} &= \left(\frac{1-d}{C_2}\right) \cdot I_L - \frac{1}{R \cdot C_2} \cdot V_{out} \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

Therefore, the resulting linear state-space representation is given by

$$\begin{bmatrix} \delta V_{pv} \\ \delta I_L \\ \delta V_{out} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{1}{R_{eq} C_1} & -\frac{1}{C_1} & 0 \\ \frac{1}{L} & 0 & \frac{1-D_{MPP}}{L} \\ 0 & \frac{1-D_{MPP}}{C_2} & -\frac{1}{R C_2} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \delta V_{pv} \\ \delta I_L \\ \delta V_{out} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -\frac{V_{outMPP}}{L} \\ -\frac{I_{LMPP}}{C_2} \end{pmatrix} \delta d \quad (3)$$

### 4. Synthesis of voltage PID controller

The indirect implementation of the previous control strategy, which brings out the new improved INC-MPPT control one, is realized in two different steps. In the first step, the INC algorithm will be adapted, in which the reference voltage  $V_{ref}$  is computed using the existing PV voltage and PV power. This last is compared by the actual PV voltage, providing the voltage error in each sampling time. This error must be minimized in the second stage by the synthesized PID controller whose parameters are designed through the linear small-signal model that is given by ‘(3)’. The general scheme of the improved control strategy is shown in Fig.3 as below



According to Fig.3, it is clear to see that the reference voltage is generated according to the following modified flow-chart, described in Fig.4 as below

Fig.3. General scheme of the improved INC – MPPT control strategy

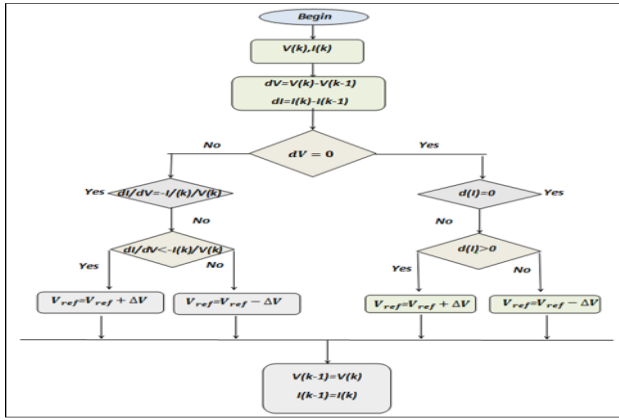


Fig.4. Modified flow-chart used to generate the reference voltage in the improved INC-MPPT control strategy

### 5. Results and Discussion

To demonstrate the effectiveness of the improved INC-MPPT control strategy, the package of MATLAB®/SIMULINK is used. Here, the solar system parameters are summarized in TABLE.I Indeed, The transfer function describing the small-signal model is computed using ‘(3)’. This last associate the duty cycle input variation with the PV voltage output . It is given by

$$F(s) = \frac{1.6827e08 (s+3.333)}{(s+1.835) (s^2 + 63.84s + 5.334e06)} \tag{4}$$

Starting from the preceding transfer function, the synthesis step of the voltage PID controller is performed using the PidTuner function of MATLAB® software. Hence, the tuning parameters are performed using the time domain specification, whose setting parameters are given by

- Response time :  $1.008 \cdot 10^{-3}$
- Transient behavior : 0.5
- PID structure:PIDF
- PID form:Parallel

The resulting transfer function  $K_{PID}(s)$  is given by

$$K_{PID}(s) = 0.0103 + \frac{5.207}{s} + \frac{2.002 \times 10^{-5}s}{1 + 1.65 \times 10^{-6}s} \tag{5}$$

Table 1.Solar system parameters used in simulation result

|                         | Parameter                  | Value                  | Unit     |          |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|----------|----------|
| KC200GT panel           | $I_0$                      | $9.825 \times 10^{-8}$ | A        |          |
|                         | $I_{sc}$                   | 8.214                  | A        |          |
|                         | $V_{oc}$                   | 32.9                   | V        |          |
|                         | $a$                        | 1.3                    | -        |          |
|                         | $R_p$                      | 415.405                | $\Omega$ |          |
|                         | $R_s$                      | 0.221                  | $\Omega$ |          |
|                         | $N_c$                      | 54                     | -        |          |
|                         | $N_s$                      | 1                      | -        |          |
|                         | $N_p$                      | 1                      | -        |          |
|                         | Simplified circuit         | $V_{eq}$               | 51.597   | V        |
|                         |                            | $R_{eq}$               | 3.3242   | $\Omega$ |
|                         | PV Parameters given at MPP | $V_{MPP}$              | 26.3     | V        |
|                         |                            | $V_{out,MPP}$          | 316.34   | V        |
|                         |                            | $I_{MPP}$              | 7.61     | A        |
| $D_{MPP}$               |                            | 0.91686                | -        |          |
| DC – DC boost converter | $L$                        | 0.4                    | mH       |          |
|                         | $C_1$                      | 4700                   | $\mu F$  |          |
|                         | $C_2$                      | 1200                   | $\mu F$  |          |
| Resistive load          | $R$                        | 500                    | $\Omega$ |          |

The Power-Voltage, i.e., (P-V) characteristic of the KC200GT panel is shown in Fig.5 for some varying solar irradiances and absolute temperature. Therefore, it is clear to see that the maximum power at Standard Test Condition STC (i.e.,  $T=25^\circ C$  and  $G=1000W/m^2$ ) is equal to  $P_{max}=200.1 W$ , which is supplied at the PV voltage  $V_{MPP}=26.3 V$ . This peak power is reduced as a function of the reduction, especially of the solar irradiance value. Indeed, the main target is to design the voltage PID controller, by which the dynamic MPP should be well kept up despite any change in the climatic conditions. To verify the controller performances, the preceding two climatic conditions are chosen according the profile given

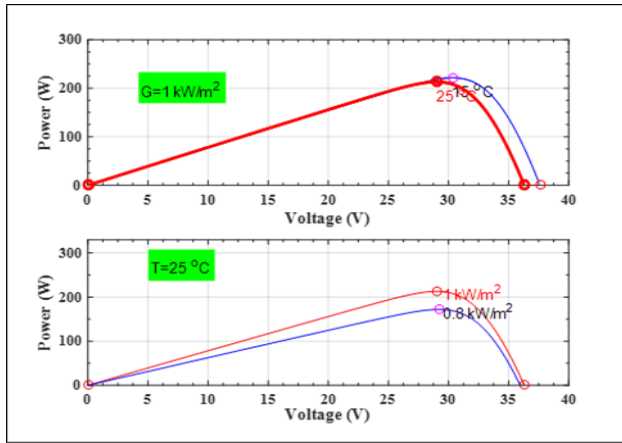


Fig.5. ( $P - V$ ) characteristic of KC200GT panel

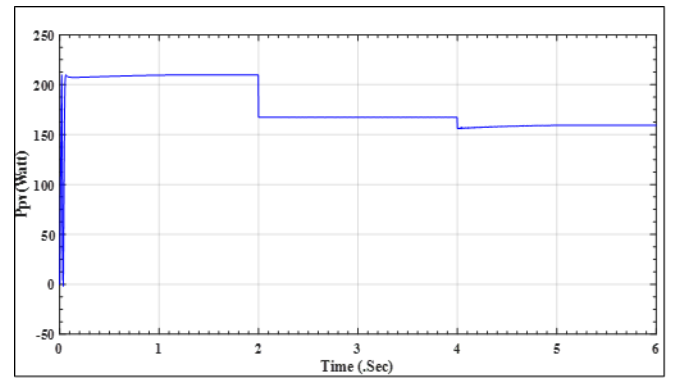


Fig.8. Power output response used to feed the varying climatic conditions

From Figs. 6 and 8, it is clear that the change in PV power response depends heavily on the change in solar irradiance, so they have the same pattern. However, the effect of absolute temperature on the PV power response is slightly more important compared to the effect of solar irradiance. Finally, Obtaining a smooth maximum power response confirms that the ripple problem in the neighbourhood of the MPP is completely avoided, leading to achieve the main target of the proposed control strategy. This last point is achieved by providing the duty cycle control as well as its variation, which are given together in Fig.9 as below

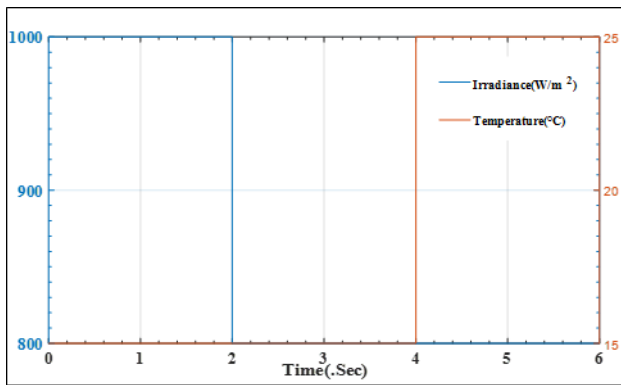


Fig.6. Irradiance and temperature variation

As a result, the tracking dynamic of the reference voltage, vided by the modified INC algorithm, for the improved INC-MPPT control strategy is given by Fig.7 as below

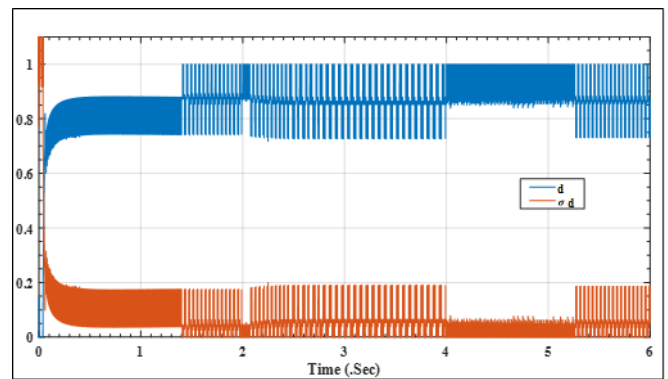


Fig.9. Duty cycle control and the corresponding variation

From Fig. 9, the resulting optimal duty cycle control always varies in the range  $0 < D < 1$ . This confirms the feasibility of the proposed control strategy, as this fluctuation range allows increasing the PV voltage of the KC200GT panel from  $V_{PV} = 26.3 V$  to  $V_{out} = 316.34 W$  at STC.

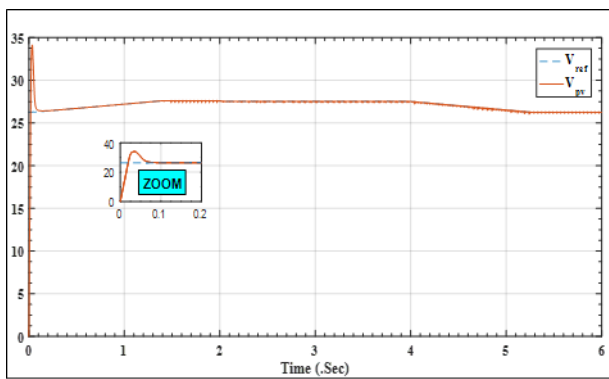


Fig.7. Reference and PV voltages describing the voltage tracking behavior

According to Fig.7, it can be seen that the proposed voltage PID controller is able to track the reference voltage that is previously imposed by the modified INC algorithm. The dynamics in question is characterized in transient-state by a fast rise time and a very acceptable settling time. It also characterized in steady-state by a reduced tracking error. These good dynamic characterizations certainly allow providing the maximum PV power which is shown in Fig.8 as follows

## 6. Conclusions and Recommendations

The improved INC-MPPT control strategy was applied to monitor the solar system based on the KC200GT panel. The corresponding MPP tracking was achieved by performing two separate steps. First, the INC algorithm has previously modified to generate the optimal reference voltage where the existing solar irradiance and absolute temperature are examined. Afterward, the actual solar behavior was modeled by the linear small-signal model, by which the desired voltage PID was synthesized. The simulation results given by the resulting new control strategy have confirmed its efficiency in terms of the tracking dynamic of the reference voltage, the form of the power output and closed loop robustness against the sudden change in atmospheric conditions.

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