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Predictive And Optimizing Energy Management Of Photo Voltaic Fuel Cell Hybrid Systems With Short Time Energy Storage

P. Madhu sudhakar
M.Tech student
Annamacharya college of Engg & Tech.
Rajampet,kadapa(dist),A.P., India

B. Murali Mohan
Asst. Professor
Annamacharya college of Engg & Tech
Rajampet,kadapa(dist) A.P.,India

Abstract

The hybrid system composed of a Photovoltaic (PV) array and a Proton exchange membrane fuel cell (PEMFC) is considered. Two operation modes, the unit-power control (UPC) mode and the feeder-flow control (FFC) mode, can be applied to the hybrid system. Renewable energy is currently widely used. One of these resources is solar energy. The photovoltaic (PV) array normally uses a maximum power point tracking (MPPT) technique to continuously deliver the highest power to the load when there are variations in irradiation and temperature. In order to overcome these inherent drawbacks, alternative sources, such as PEMFC, should be installed in the hybrid system. By changing the FC output power, the hybrid source output becomes controllable. Therefore, the reference value of the hybrid source output must be determined. The proposed operating strategy with a flexible operation mode change always operates the PV array at maximum output power and the PEMFC in its high efficiency performance band, thus improving the performance of system operation, enhancing system stability, and decreasing the number of operating mode changes. A simulation software known as MATLAB SIMULINK has been used to simulate the system performance.

Index Terms- Distributed generation, fuel cell, hybrid system, microgrid, photovoltaic, power management.

I.INTRODUCTION

The photovoltaic (PV) array normally uses a maximum power point tracking (MPPT) technique to continuously deliver the highest power to the load when there are variations in irradiation and temperature. Renewable energy is currently widely used. One of these resources is solar energy. The disadvantage of PV energy is that the PV output power depends on weather conditions and cell temperature, making it an uncontrollable source. Furthermore, it is not available during the night. The hybrid system can either be connected to the main grid or work autonomously with respect to the grid-connected mode or islanded mode, respectively. In the grid-connected mode, the hybrid source is connected to the main grid at the point of common coupling (PCC) to deliver power to the load. When load demand changes, the power supplied by the main grid and hybrid system must be properly changed. The power delivered from the main grid and PV array as well as PEMFC must be coordinated to meet load demand. The hybrid source has two control modes: 1) unit-power control (UPC) mode and feeder-flow control (FFC) mode. In the UPC mode, variations of load demand are compensated by the main grid because the hybrid source output is regulated to reference power.

The present operating strategy is to coordinate the two control modes and determine the reference values of the UPC mode and FFC mode so that all constraints are satisfied. This operating strategy will minimize the number of operating mode changes, improve performance of the system operation, and enhance system stability.

II. SYSTEM DESCRIPTION

A. Structure of Grid-Connected Hybrid Power System

The system consists of a PV-FC hybrid source with the main grid connecting to loads at the PCC as shown in Fig. 1.The photovoltaic [3], [4] and the PEMFC [5], [6] are modeled as nonlinear voltage sources. These sources are connected to dc–dc converters which are coupled at the dc side of a dc/ac inverter. The dc/dc connected to the PV array works as an MPPT controller. Many MPPT algorithms have been proposed in the literature, such as incremental conductance INC), constant voltage (CV), and perturbation and observation (P&O). The P&O method has been widely used because of its simple feedback structure and fewer measured parameters [7]. The P&O algorithm with power feedback control [8]–[10] is shown in Fig. 2.

The maximum power point can be achieved by changing the reference voltage by the amount of ΔV_{ref}.

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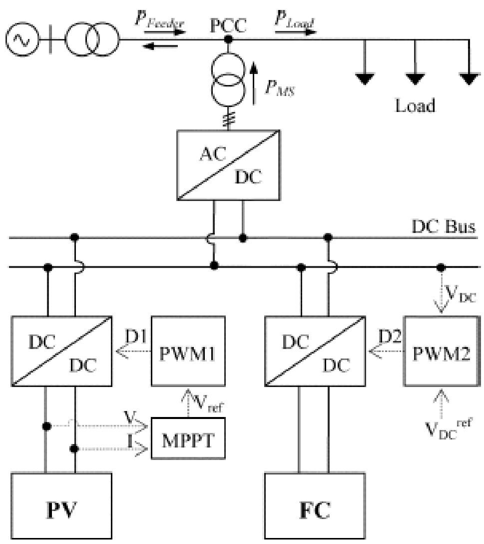


Fig. 1. Grid-connected PV-FC hybrid system.

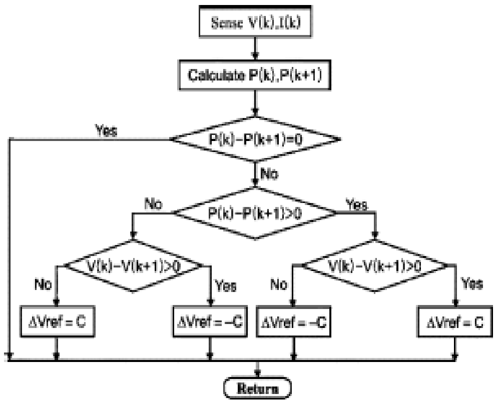


Fig. 2. P&O MPPT algorithm.

B. PV Array Model

The mathematical model [3], [4] can be expressed as

$$I = I_{\text{ph}} - I_{\text{sat}}\left\{\exp\left[\frac{q}{AKT}(V + IR_s)\right] - 1\right\}. \qquad (1)$$

Equation (1) shows that the output characteristic of a solar cell is nonlinear and vitally affected by solar radiation, temperature, and load condition.

Photocurrent I_{ph} is directly proportional to solar radiation G_a

$$I_{\text{ph}}(G_a) = I_{\text{sc}}\frac{G_a}{G_{\text{as}}}. \qquad (2)$$

The short-circuit current of solar cell I_{sc} depends linearly on cell temperature

$$I_{\text{sc}}(T) = I_{scs}[1 + \Delta I_{\text{sc}}(T - T_s)]. \qquad (3)$$

Thus, I_{ph} depends on solar irradiance and cell temperature

$$I_{\text{ph}}(G_a, T) = I_{scs}\frac{G_a}{G_{\text{as}}}[1 + \Delta I_{\text{sc}}(T - T_s)]. \qquad (4)$$

I_{sat} also depends on solar irradiation and cell temperature and can be mathematically expressed as follows:

$$I_{\text{sat}}(G_a, T) = \frac{I_{\text{ph}}(G_a, T)}{e^{\left(\frac{V_{\text{oc}}(T)}{V_t(T)}\right)} - 1}. \qquad (5)$$

C. PEMFC Model

The PEMFC steady-state feature of a PEMFC source is assessed by means of a polarization curve, which shows the nonlinear relationship between the voltage and current density. The PEMFC output voltage is as follows [5]:

$$V_{\text{out}} = E_{\text{Nerst}} - V_{\text{act}} - V_{\text{ohm}} - V_{\text{conc}} \qquad (6)$$

where E_N is the "thermodynamic potential" of Nerst, which represents the reversible (or open-circuit) voltage of the fuel cell. Activation voltage drop Vact is given in the Tafel equation as

$$V_{\text{act}} = T[a + b\ln(I)] \qquad (7)$$

where a,b are the constant terms in the Tafel equation (in volts per Kelvin)

The overall ohmic voltage drop Vohm can be expressed as

$$V_{\text{ohm}} = IR_{\text{ohm}}. \qquad (8)$$

The ohmic resistance Rohm of PEMFC consists of the resistance of the polymer membrane and electrodes, and the resistances of the electrodes. The concentration voltage drop Vconc is expressed as

$$V_{\text{conc}} = -\frac{RT}{zF}\ln\left(1 - \frac{I}{I_{\text{limit}}}\right). \qquad (9)$$

D. MPPT Control

Many MPPT algorithms have been proposed in the literature, such as incremental conductance (INC), constant voltage (CV), and perturbation and observation (P&O). The two algorithms often used to achieve maximum power point tracking are the P&O and INC methods. The INC method offers good performance under rapidly changing atmospheric conditions. However, four sensors are required to perform the computations. If the sensors require more conversion time, then the MPPT process will take longer to track the maximum power point. During tracking time, the PV output is less than its maximum power.

This means that the longer the conversion time is, the larger amount of power loss [7] will be. On the contrary, if the execution speed of the P&O method increases, then the system loss will decrease. Moreover, this method only requires two sensors, which results in a reduction of hardware

requirements and cost. Therefore, the P&O method is used to control the MPPT process. In order to achieve maximum power, two different applied control methods that are often chosen are voltage-feedback control and power-feedback control [8], [9]. Voltage-feedback control uses the solar-array terminal voltage to control and keep the
array operating near its maximum power point by regulating the array's voltage and matching the voltage of the array to a desired voltage. The drawback of the voltage-feedback control is its neglect of the effect of irradiation and cell temperature. Therefore, the power-feedback control is used to achieve maximum power.

The P&O MPPT algorithm with a power-feedback control [9], [10] is shown in Fig. 2. As PV voltage and current are determined, the power is calculated. At the maximum power point, the derivative is equal to zero. The maximum power point can be achieved by changing the reference voltage by the amount of ΔVref.
In order to implement the MPPT algorithm, a buck-boost dc/dc converter is used as depicted in Fig. 3.
The parameters and in the buck-boost converter must satisfy the following conditions [11]:

$$L > \frac{(1-D)^2 R}{2f} \quad ; \quad C > \frac{D}{Rf(\Delta V/V_{\text{out}})}. \qquad (10)$$

The buck-boost converter consists of one switching device (GTO) that enables it to turn on and off depending on the applied gate signal D. The gate signal for the GTO can be obtained by comparing the saw tooth waveform with the control voltage [7]. The change of the reference voltage ΔVref obtained by MPPT algorithm becomes the input of the pulse width modulation (PWM). The PWM generates a gate signal to control the buck-boost converter and, thus, maximum power is tracked and delivered to the ac side via a dc/ac inverter.

III. CONTROL OF THE HYBRID SYSTEM

The control modes in the microgrid include unit power control, feeder flow control, and mixed control mode. The two control modes were first proposed by Lasserter [12]. In the UPC mode, the DGs (the hybrid source in this system) regulate the voltage magnitude at the connection point and the power that source is injecting. In this mode if a load increases anywhere in the microgrid, the extra power comes from the grid, since the hybrid source regulates to a constant power. In the FFC mode, the DGs regulate the voltage magnitude at the connection point and the power that is flowing in the feeder at connection point P_{feeder}. With this control mode, extra load demands are picked up by the DGs, which maintain a constant load from the utility viewpoint. In the mixed control mode, the same DG could control either its output power or the feeder flow power. In other words, the mixed control mode is a coordination of the UPC mode and the FFC mode.

Both of these concepts were considered in [13]–[16]. In this paper, a coordination of the UPC mode and the FFC mode was investigated to determine when each of the two control modes was applied and to determine a reference value for each mode. Moreover, in the hybrid system, the PV and PEMFC sources have their constraints. Therefore, the reference power must be set at an appropriate value so that the constraints of these sources are satisfied. The proposed operation strategy presented in the next section is also based on the minimization of mode change. This proposed operating strategy will be able to improve performance of the system's operation and enhance system stability.

IV. OPERATING STRATEGY OF THE HYBRID SYSTEM

As mentioned before, the purpose of the operating algorithm is to determine the control mode of the hybrid source and the reference value for each control mode so that the PV is able to work at maximum output power and the constraints are fulfilled. Once the constraints (P_{FC}^{low},P_{FC}^{up} and P_F^{max}) are known, the control mode of the hybrid source (UPC mode and FFC mode) depends on load variations and the PV output. The control mode is decided by the algorithm shown in Fig. 7, Subsection B. In the UPC mode, the reference output power of the hybrid source depends on the PV output and the constraints of the FC output. The algorithm determining is presented in Subsection A.

A.Operating Strategy for the Hybrid System in the UPC Mode

In this subsection, the presented algorithm determines the hybrid source works in the UPC mode. This algorithm allows the PV to work at its maximum power point, and the FC to work within its high efficiency band. In the UPC mode, the hybrid source regulates the output to the reference value. Then

$$P_{\text{PV}} + P_{\text{FC}} = P_{\text{MS}}^{\text{ref}}. \qquad (11)$$

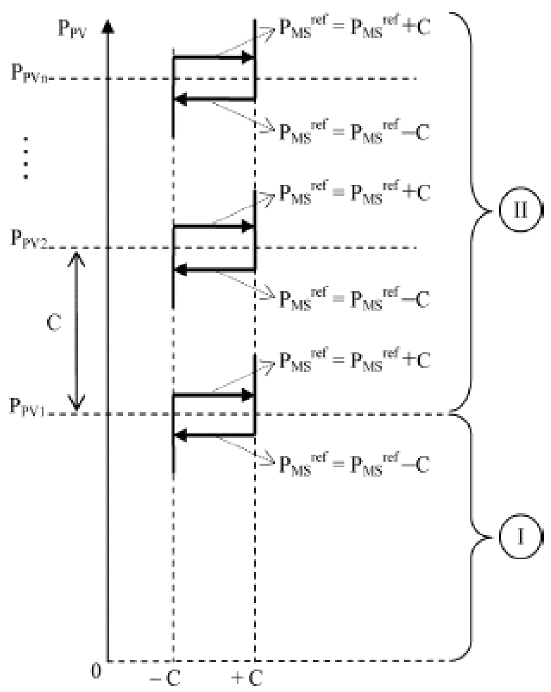
Equation (11) shows that the variations of the PV output will be compensated for by the FC power and, thus, the total power will be regulated to the reference value. However, the FC output must satisfy its constraints and, hence, must set at an appropriate value. Fig. 4 shows the operation strategy of the hybrid source in UPC mode to determine. The algorithm includes two areas: Area 1 and Area 2. In Area 1, is less than, and then the reference power is set at where

$$P_{\text{PV1}} = P_{\text{FC}}^{\text{up}} - P_{\text{FC}}^{\text{low}} \qquad (12)$$

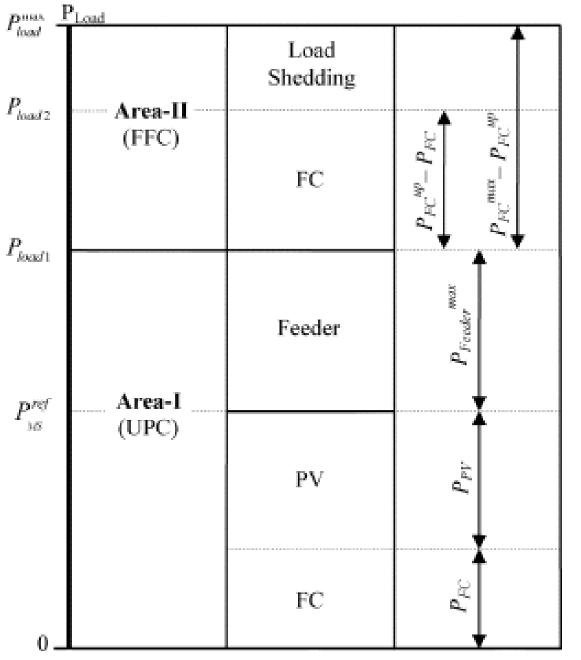
$$P_{\text{MS1}}^{\text{ref}} = P_{\text{FC}}^{\text{up}}. \qquad (13)$$

B. Overall Operating Strategy for the Grid-Connected Hybrid system

It is well known that in the microgrid, each DG as well as the hybrid source has two control modes: 1) the UPC mode and 2) the FFC mode. In the aforementioned subsection, a method to determine in the UPC mode is proposed. In this subsection, an operating strategy is presented to coordinate the two control modes. The purpose of the algorithm is to decide when each control mode is applied and to determine the reference value of the feeder flow when the FFC mode is used. This operating strategy must enable the PV to work at its maximum power point, FC output, and feeder flow to satisfy their constraints. If the hybrid source works in the UPC mode, the hybrid output is regulated to a reference value and the variations in load are matched by feeder power. With the reference power proposed in Subsection A, the constraints of FC and PV are always satisfied. Therefore, only the constraint of feeder flow is considered. On the other hand, when the hybrid works in the FFC mode, the feeder flow is controlled to a reference value



. Hysteresis control scheme for $P^{\text{ref}}_{\text{MS}}$ control.



Overall operating strategy for the grid-connected hybrid system.

and, thus, the hybrid source will compensate for the load variations. In this case, all constraints must be considered in the operating algorithm. Based on those analyses, the operating strategy of the system is proposed as demonstrated in Fig. 7. The operation algorithm in Fig. 7 involves two areas (Area I and Area II) and the control mode depends on the load power.

If load is in Area I, the UPC mode is selected. Otherwise, the FFC mode is applied with respect to Area II. In the UPC area, the hybrid source output.If the load is lower than, the redundant power will be transmitted to the main grid. Otherwise, the main grid will send power to the load side to match load demand. When load increases, the feeder flow will increase correspondingly. If feeder flow increases to its maximum , then the feeder flow cannot meet load demand if the load keeps increasing. In order to compensate for the load demand, the control mode must be changed to FFC with respect to Area II. Thus, the boundary between Area I and Area II is

$$P_{\text{Load1}} = P^{\max}_{\text{Feeder}} + P^{\text{ref}}_{\text{MS}}.$$

When the mode changes to FFC, the feeder flow reference must be determined. In order for the system operation to be seamless, the feeder flow should be unchanged during control mode transition. Accordingly, when the feeder flow reference is set at , then we have

$$P^{\text{ref}}_{\text{Feeder}} = P^{\max}_{\text{Feeder}}.$$

In the FFC area, the variation in load is matched by the hybrid source. In other words, the changes in load and PV output are compensated for by PEMFC power. If the FC output increases to its upper limit and the load is higher than the total generating power, then load shedding will occur. The limit that load shedding will be reached is

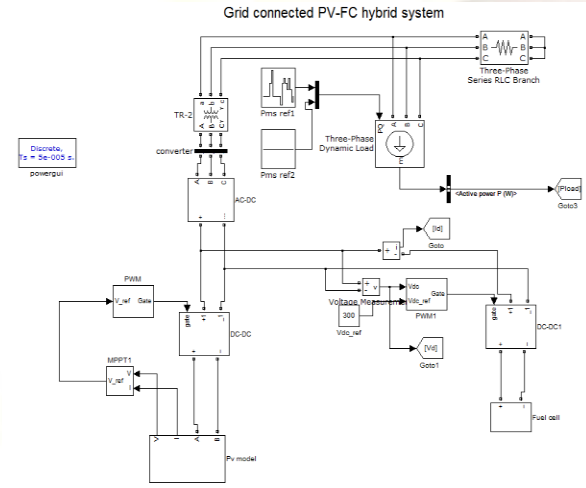
$$P_{\text{Load2}} = P_{\text{FC}}^{\text{up}} + P_{\text{Feeder}}^{\text{max}} + P_{\text{PV}}.$$

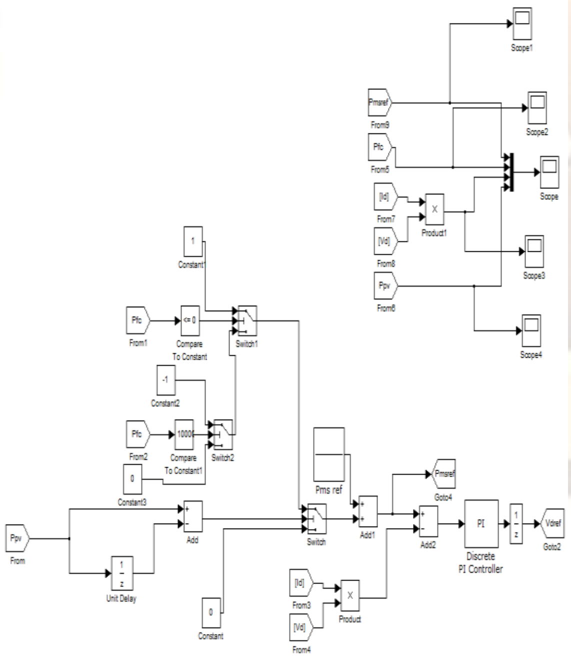
Equation shows that is minimal when PV output is at 0 kW. Then

$$P_{\text{Load2}}^{\text{min}} = P_{\text{FC}}^{\text{up}} + P_{\text{Feeder}}^{\text{max}}.$$

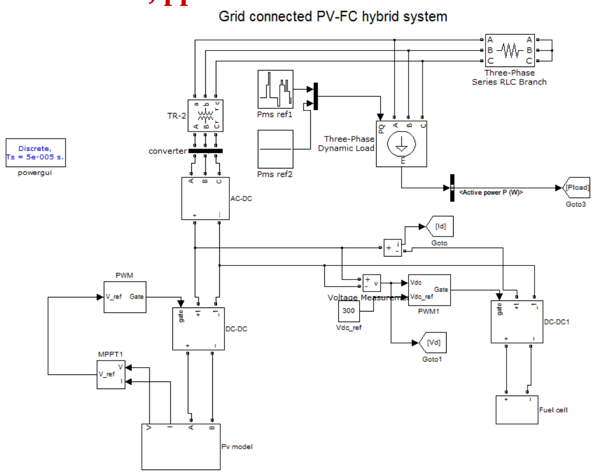
V. SIMULATION RESULT AND DISCUSSION

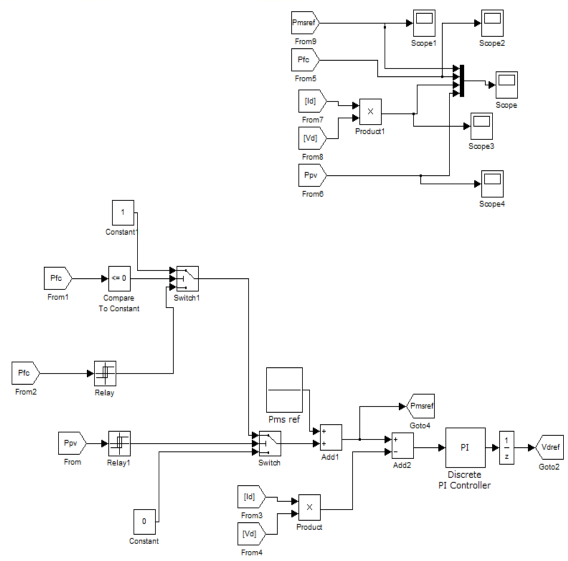
Simulation Block without hysteresis:





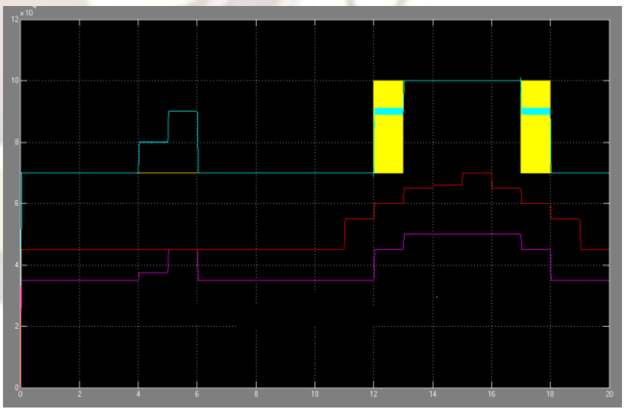
Simulation Block with hysteresis



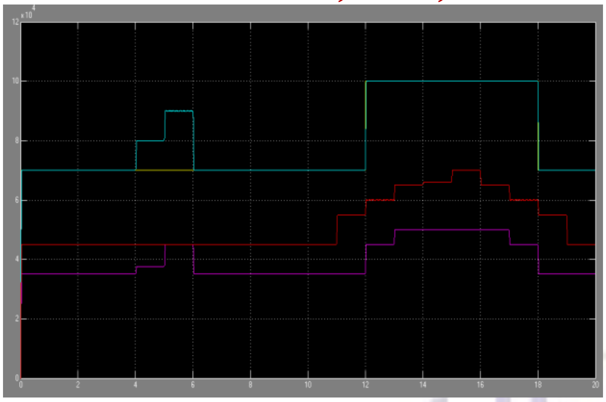


RESULTS:

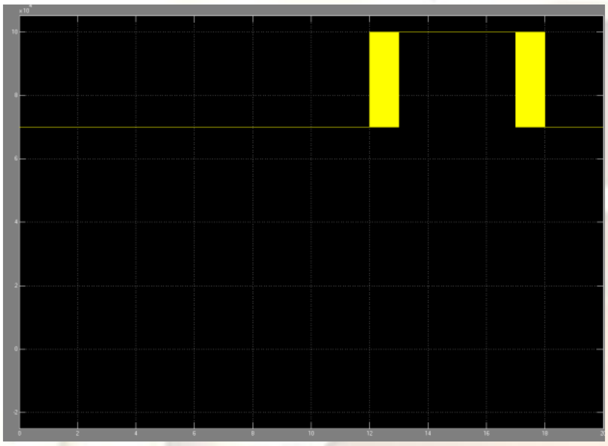
Operating strategy of the hybrid source without hysteresis



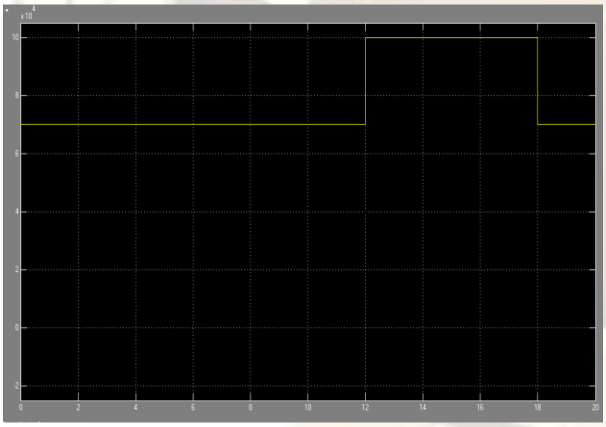
Operating strategy of the hybrid source with hysteresis



P_{MS_REF} without hysteresis

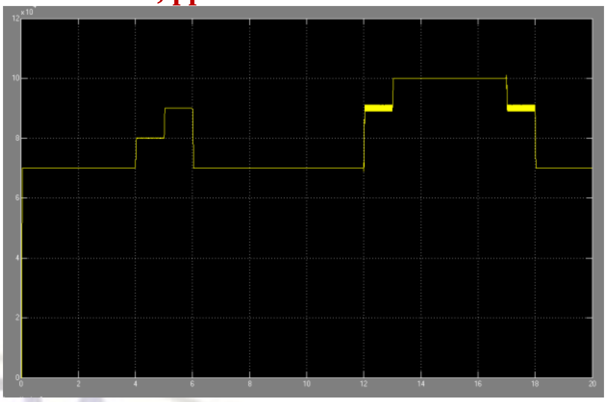


P_{MS_REF} with hysteresis

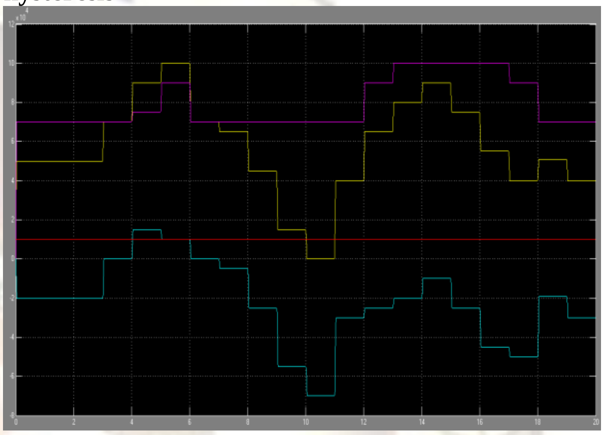


X-axis:TIME Y-axis:POWER

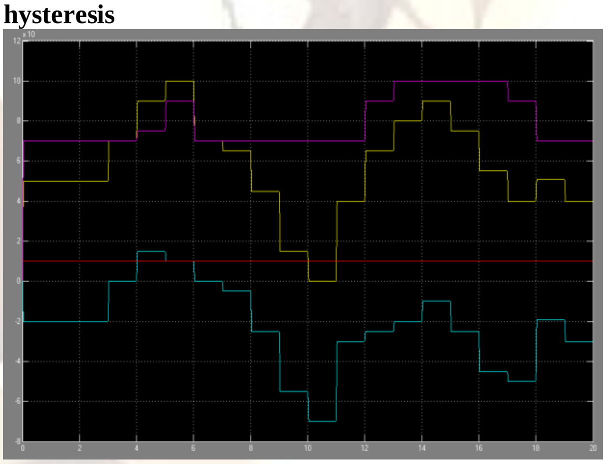
P_{MS} without hysteresis



Operating strategy of the whole system without hysteresis



Operating strategy of the whole system with hysteresis



VI. CONCLUSION

The purposes of the proposed operating strategy presented in this paper are to determine the control mode, to minimize the number of mode changes, to operate PV at the maximum power point, and to operate the FC output in its high-efficiency performance band. With the operating algorithm, PV always operates at maximum output power, PEMFC operates within the high-efficiency range and feeder power flow is always less than its maximum value.

The change of the operating mode depends on the current load demand, PV output and the constraints of PEMFC and feeder power.

With the proposed operating algorithm, the system works flexibly, exploiting maximum solar energy; PEMFC works within a high-efficiency band and, hence, improves the performance of the system's operation. The system can maximize the generated power when load is heavy and minimizes the load shedding area. When load is light, the UPC mode is selected and, thus, the hybrid source works more stably.

It can improve the performance of the system's operation; the system works more stably while maximizing the PV output power.

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