Photovoltaic System Design for Grid Applications with Various Power Point Monitoring Techniques

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Alternative energy sources are here to stay. They have become an integral part of the energy portfolio. The purpose of using renewable energy sources is to reduce the pessimistic environmental impacts associated with non-renewable energy sources such as coal, oil and natural gas. The use of renewable energy sources not only leads to cost savings in the long term, but also helps protect the environment from fossil fuels. At the government level, energy saving information campaigns should be launched to make people aware of the importance of energy saving. In addition, power companies should gradually rely on the use of renewable natural resources, because they are abundant and will never run out. Social media can play a key role in this by educating people about energy sources and how to use them. Colleges and universities should teach a compulsory subject on conservation and use of energy

NOMENCLATURE

Parameters	*Formula*	Value
Panel data at standard test condition		
Each module peak power	P_{Max}	Watts
Open circuit voltage	V_{OC}	Volts
Short circuit current	I_{SC}	Amp
Voltage at peak power	V_{MP}	Volts
Current at peak power	I_{MP}	Amp
Maximum system voltage	V_{MSYS}	Volts
By pass diode current	I_{BPS}	Amp
Irradiance (STC)	I_{STC}	$1000 \ W/m^2$
Temperature (STC)	T_{STC}	25^0C
Air mass (STC)	AM	1.5
Life time of panel	t	30Years

INTRODUCTION

In the past few decades, the usage of solar electricity keeps on increasing for household, industries, vehicles, satellite systems, solar updraft tower, fuel production and water pumping systems etc. [1-3]. The incident of solar radiation in the form of heat is used to generate the electrical energy. PV effect is the phenomenon used to convert sun light energy to direct current. When solar energy falls over the active surfaces of the PV panel, it starts absorbing heat energy and further resulting in the recombination of electrons and holes. Solar technology is one of the most useful and popular technology because of no additional sources such as water, fuel, transportation is required as well as it is not consisting of any rotating parts [4-6].

The major advantage of solar power plant is it requires less operating and maitainence cost, but the cost of installation is more. The installation cost of plant is minimized by using different PV technologies. The major consequence we are facing is a discontinuous power supply from central grid. During this situation to overcome this discontinuity diesel generator were used for backup supply.

However, it produces hazardous inflammable gases and is having a direct effect on environment. Moreover, the cost of generation is also more [7-8]. Therefore, the most popular renewable and eco-friendly source is solar.
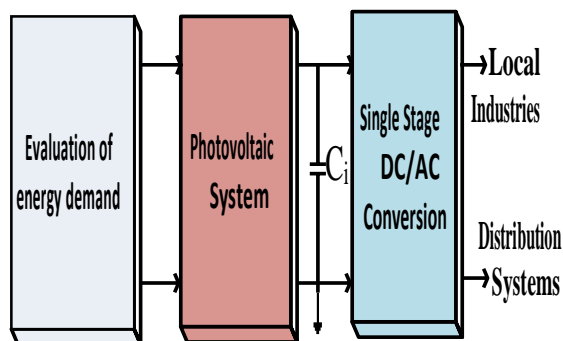

Fig.1. Block diagram of 5MWP solar plant

A general analysis has been conducted to find installation of solar power plant in gulf countries and the analysis of various reports revealed that at present PV technology is not economical for gulf countries due to less efficiency, electricity tariff and higher cost. Globally many researchers have focused on solar systems and they concluded that solar power generation is the best solution for increasing population and electrical usage appliances [7]. In India, national action plan on climate change planned to install an overall eight solar plants all over the country. Among those eight plants, Jawaharlal Nehru plant is consisting the higher rating of 20,000.00MWp for grid-connected applications. In India, state electricity boards and private manufacturing companies are concurring to buy 4% - 8% of total required electricity from renewable energy is considered as a major step in the implementation of solar power plants [2], [9].

My study is focusing on the Coimbatore district in Tamilnadu, where a 5MWp solar power plant is used to supply electrical energy for electrical manufacturing company. There the solar energy used for manufacturing and utilizing the products such as boilers, air pre-heaters, control relays, electrostatic precipitators, steam generators, gas turbines, piping systems and fabric filters etc. The remaining energy obtained from these solar power plants are supplied to the local substations. The installation and performance parameters are evaluated in detail on "Table 2". This paper also aimed on 5MWp plant working under different seasonal variation conditions and its power production. In addition to that, efficiency of the plant is evaluated over the time from 2014 to 2016. Here we are using three types of tracking technologies for enhancing and maximizing the power under partial shading conditions and this plant is carrying five incomings sources and two outgoing sources that were explained in detail in the upcoming section.

I.   ENERGY DEMAND IN COIMBATORE ZONE

A basic survey was done in peelamedu, the northern most part of Coimbatore city in the state of Tamil Nadu from 2011 to 2013 for meeting the energy demand of local industries and substation. After the survey, monthly energy demand for each industry for different types of equipment's usage and their energy absorption was calculated. After the completion of survey estimation, a 5MWp power plant is installed near to the industry and rural areas. The energy demand evaluation diagram of 5MWp solar plant is shown in the below "Fig.1".

II.   DESIGN OF PROPOSED PV-PLANT

Considering all the requirements a 5MWp power plant was installed for giving continuous power supply and to meet the rapidly increasing consumer needs. The newly installed plant was covering an area of 182,109sqmm, in that panel installation area is nearly 101,171sqmm and the remaining area is used for power handling room and storage application. The ambient temperature variation is from 260 0C to 43.7 0C. The 5MWP solar plant consist of ten panels and the rating of each panel is 500KW. The installation layout of the solar plant is shown in "Fig.2".

A.   PV-Array design

The entire PV panels are divided in to 10 panels and each panel rating is 500KW.Based on PV materials usage and array tracking techniques these plants are classified as three types, first one is single axis tracking, second is seasonal tracking and the third most is fixed axis tracking plants [10]. The parameters of PV array are evaluated and is shown in detail in "Table 1".

Table 1. Basic speciation's of solar PV at standard conditions

Parameters	2M-Fixed	1M-Fixed	1M-Seasonal	1M-Single axis
Peak Power (Pmax)	230Wp	280Wp	280Wp	280Wp
Open circuit voltage (Voc)	36V	41.2V	42V	42V
Short circuit Current(Isc)	8.3A	8.7A	8.4A	9A
Voltage at peak power point(Vmp)	29V	35V	35V	35V
Current at peak power point(Imp)	7.6A	8A	7.72A	7.72A
Fuse current rating	15A	7.5A	7.5A	7.5A
Max system voltage	1000V	800V	800V	800V
By pass diode current rating	15A	7.5A	7.5A	7.5A
Insolation	1000w/m^2	1000w/m^2	1000w/m^2	1000w/m^2
Temp	250C	250C	250C	250C
AM	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
PV-Technology	mono	poly	mono	Mono
Life time	25 years	20 years	25 years	25 years

B.   One MWp single axis tracking array solar plant

Generally, auto tracking is classified as single axis and dual axis tracking. In this solar plant single axis tracking, mono crystalline (pure) silicon cells are used. Depending on the time and the varying solar radiation intensity every day the array is rotated automatically [11]. From morning 6am to 9am it is 450, afternoon from 9am to 3pm follows sun ray's incident angel and evening 3pm to 6pm it is -450. After 6pm it starts back tracking and comes to initial position.
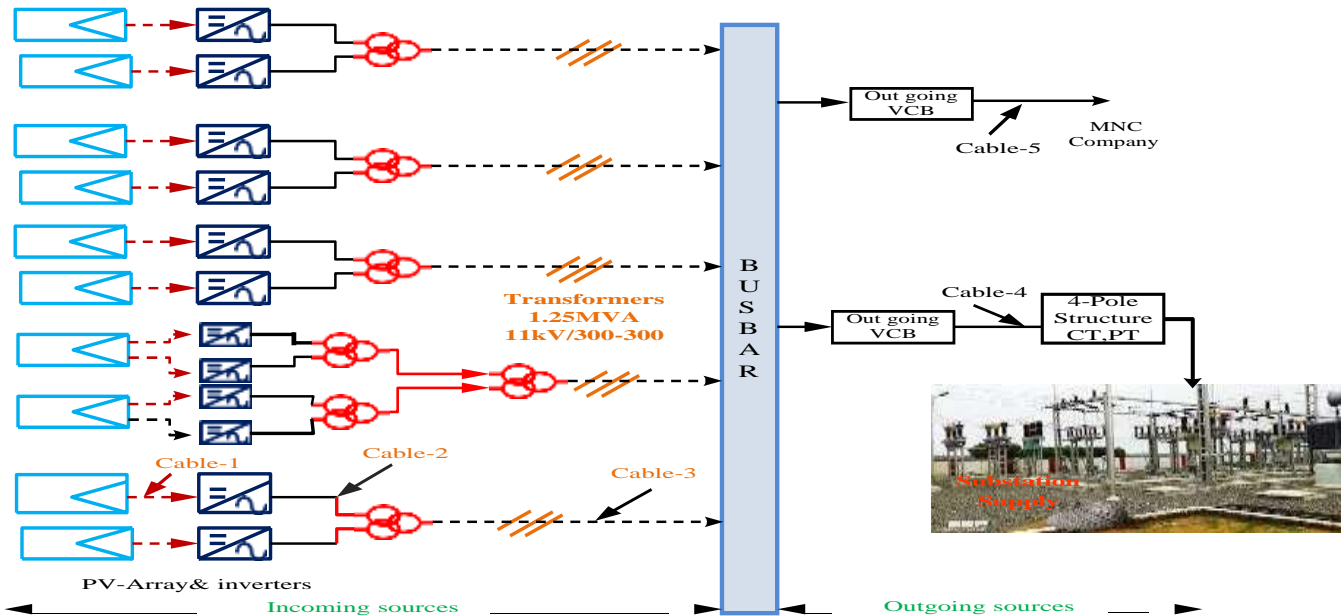
Fig. 2 Different Maximum Power Point Tracking Techniques

The array consists of 3600 number of panels, each single panel is consisting of 72 cells and 20 panels are equal to 1 string and two strings are equal to one structure. Each module is supplying 280watts DC power. Voltage at peak power point (Vmp) is 35V and a maximum peak current of 7.72A, with an overall lifespan of 25years. In this 1MWp single axis tracking array solar plant eight 0.5HP variable frequencies drive induction machines are used for giving supply to the grid.

C. Auto axis tracking

Solar collector and array tracker should be in north-south direction tube supporting of flat rectangular shape solar panels and in that one pier is supported to earth. A linear actuator is mounting on footing separate from the pier footing and it is supported from earth. The actuator may be installed in horizontally or vertically. A torsion tube inserted in between the solar sections joints and its shape is square. All the sections of solar panels joined with single swaged. In this tracking, the position of the sun is determined by using three light dependent resistors. One is used for collector position with respect to sun, second one is used to detect cloud condition and third one is used to detect day or night. The resultant error signal is given to electronic controller, which operates horizontal single axis tracking drive [12-13]. Based on sun ray's incident angel, the single axis horizontal drive is used to move sections of solar panel and this controller gives acceptable accuracy. The accuracy of this controller is depending on magnitude of sun radiations [6]. The principle operation of single axis tracker and axis representation is shown in below "Fig. 3(a), (b)".

The life span of the plant is 20 years and it is 130 fixed north-east. If any damage in cells, the entire array will get shunt down.
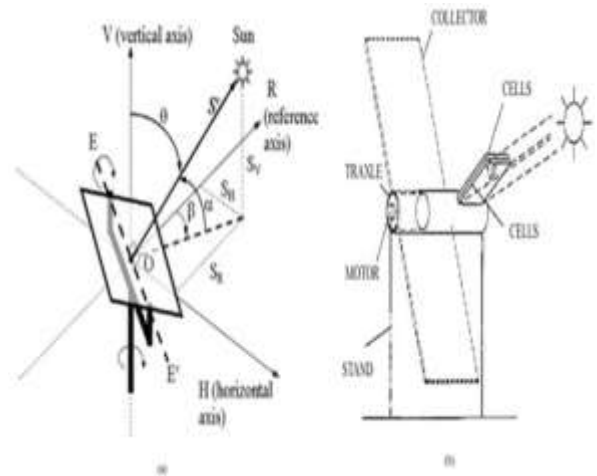

Fig. 3. Single axis array tracking, [6]

D. 1Mw Seasonal tracking array

In this each module rating is 230W, number of modules consist of 3600 and number of structures 180. The peak voltage and current ratings are 35V, 7.72A. The technology using in this array is mono crystalline. Each panel consist of 72cells and one string is equal to 20 panels. Here four months once manual tracking is applied. The life span of this 1MWp plant is 25 years. Based on the season the solar panels are moves from north to south. This process is carried out by four months once and mechanism is done with different panel tilt angel. The seasonal tilt has four slots in the direction of north-south. The slots are divided as (Jan-April, May-Aug, and Sep-Dec). Based on season the solar panels tilted in first season 280, second season 130 and third season 20. This is the best tracking compare to fixed axis array tracking and it improves plant efficiency and power generation without additional plant installation.

applications. XLPE (cross linked polyethylene) is used as

E. 2Mw fixed tilt array

This array is designed based on mono crystalline and life span of this array is 25 years. Each panel consist of 60cells and each sting consists of 24 panels. Rating of each module is 230W and number of modules 8832.

III. INVERTER DESIGN AND ITS COMPONENTS

The rating of each inverter for 5MWp plant is 500KW, number of inverters required for 5MWp is 12. Input DC-voltage of the inverter is 800V and output AC-Voltage of the inverter is 300V. The inverter output voltage is given to the three-phase transformer to step up the inverter output voltage. The conversion efficiency of each inverter is 37.5% and total no of power conditioning units are required for 5MWP plant is12.

a. Air circuit breaker

This circuit breaker is used in between the inverter and transformer. This breaker protects the transformer from over and short circuit currents. The main advantages of this circuit breaker are no chance of fire caused by fluids, Arc quenching is faster than the air blast circuit breaker. The arc quenching time is same for low as well as high current ratings. The cost and maintenance of air circuit breaker is less compare to other circuit breakers. The voltage rating of air circuit breaker is less than 450V, operated current rating is 1250A.The no of air circuit breakers used in 5MWP are 10 and this air circuit breaker arc contacts materials are made with carbon and breaker operating time period is 1 to 3 cycles.

b. Vacuum circuit breakers

In 5MWp plant the vacuum circuit breaker is used in middle of the incoming and outgoing sources of the bus bar and it is shown in "Fig.2". The arc quenching time period is more compare to air circuit breaker. This circuit breaker is consisting of fast, repeated operation and it is maintenance free. Vacuum circuit breakers are light weight and compact in size. Generally vacuum means '0' torque or '0' mm of Hg pressure. The incoming vacuum circuit breakers are 5 and outgoing vacuum circuit breakers are 2. The voltage and current rating of vacuum circuit breaker is 11kV, 630A.

c. Designing of transformers and cables

The 3- incoming transformers required 5(same rating) and the type of transformer is central tapped. The rating of the transformers is 1.25MVA, Primary and secondary voltages are 300/11KV. The type of connection is used is Dyn11yn11. The remaining current transformers (CT'S) and potential transformers (PT'S) deign details are given in "Table 2". Based on incoming and outgoing voltage sources, there are three types of cables are used. Cable-1 and cable-2 are used in between PV-Panels and inverters [8-9]. Cable-3 is used in between the incoming transformer and bus bar and cable-4, 5 is used in between the bus bar and substation. The rating of each cable mentioned in below Table.3. The armoured cables are designed by using aluminum or cupper material and it is abbreviated as aluminum wired armoured cables. It is a hard-

covered power cable and using for power supply mains. These cables are used for 11kV and 33kV rating

insulation for all power rating cables and it is well suited for medium voltage applications [14]. It is a most popular polymeric insulation for underground cables and 3-runs per phase armoured cable is shown in "Fig.4". A cable without outer covering steel wire armour is called unarmoured cables. The ratings of unarmoured cables are 300V and it does not consist of cross-linked polyethylene insulation material [15-17]. The designs of armoured and unarmoured cables are shown in "Fig.4".

Table 2. Design details of CT'S and PT'S

Transformers	CT'S	PT'S
Voltage rating=11kV/415V	Incoming CT's=5	Incoming PT's =5
	Outgoing t/f's=3	Outgoing t/f's =3
Apparent power=100kVA	Total CT's=8 (same rating)	Total no of PT's=13
connection=Dyn11	Type of CT= CT-75/1-1A	-
Total=1	Core one=CL: 0.2, 5VA	Core 1; CL; 0.2, 100VA
	Second core= CL: SP10, 75VA	Core 2; CL; 3P, 100VA

3-Runs per Phase

Fig. 4. 3-Runs per phase unarmoured cables [10]

d. String monitoring box

The major component of solar power system is string-monitoring box. It is used to high level of system monitoring purpose, it combines the multiple no of DC sources coming from the solar arrays, and it converts single DC source. The output of string monitoring box is connected to inverter through an air circuit breaker. For different rating solar panels, the technical data of string monitoring box is shown in "Table.4". The basic features of string monitoring box are, based on functionality, it consists of standard and intelligent combiner box. For with standing all environmental conditions the SMB is manufactured by using polycarbonate. SMB is an anti-reflected UV-ray, acids, alcohols etc.
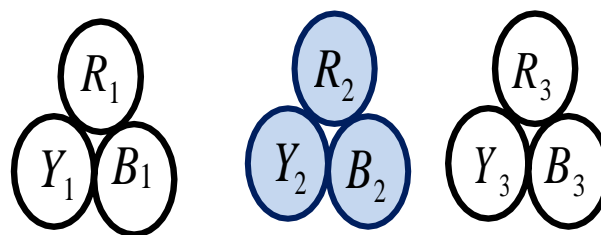
Table 3. Design of cables for 5MWp solar plant

	In between	Area of cable	Cable material	Type of cable	Rating of cable	No of cables
Incoming Cables	PV-Inverter	1C*120sqmm	Copper	Armoured	800DC	10
	Inverter-ACB	1C*300sqmm	Copper	Un armoured	300AC	12
	ACB-Transformer	1C*300sqmm	Copper	Un armoured	300AC	10
	Transformer-Bus bar	1C*185sqmm	Aluminium	Armoured, XLPE	11kV	5
Outgoing cables	Busbar-Load1	1C*400sqmm	Aluminium	Armoured, XLPE	11kV	1
	Busbar-Load2	1C*400sqmm	Aluminium	Armoured, XLPE	11kV	1

Table 4. Parameters of string monitoring box

16-inputs and 1-output string monitoring box	
Number of strings in each SMB	16
Rating of switch monitoring box	1000V, 40kA
Isolator switch rating	400A, 1000V
SMB Enclosure box	Polyester
Monitoring connection type	Shunt
Current measuring capacity	25A
Voltage measuring capacity	1000V
Auxiliary voltage supply	10-60V
Withstand temperature	20-700C

IV. ANALYSIS OF SYSTEM PERFORMANCE

Based on plant power generation data, reporting time interval (τ) on daily, monthly and yearly basis, noting time period (τ_n) in between one minute to ten minutes as per IEC STD 61724 are recorded. From the reporting time interval, PV-Array output energy is calculated as,

$$E_{PA} = T_n * \sum_T P_A \quad \text{KWh}$$

(1)

In recorded time interval energy fed in to the grid is calculated as,

$$E_g = T_r * \sum_T P_g \quad \text{KWh}$$

(2)

Daily DC-energy output of the photovoltaic array, energy fed in to the grid and useful energy is calculated as,

$$E_{p,d} = T_r * \sum P_{P,A} \quad \text{KWh}$$

(3)

$$E_{g,d} = T_r * \sum P_g \quad \text{KWh}$$

(4)

$$E_{U,A} = E_{p,d} + E_{g,d} \quad \text{KWh}$$

(5)

Based on above calculation, the monthly and yearly energy is calculated and it is shown in Fig.6. Plant load factor is calculated from each individual plant and its comparative performance for different PV-arrays with different orientations is shown in Table.5. In PV-array, yield is used to compare the present operation of plant

$$Y_{PVA,T} = \int_T \frac{I_i}{I_{STC}} * dt \quad \text{KWh/ (KWh-day)}$$

(6)

$$Y_{PVA,T} = \frac{T *(\sum_r \frac{I_i)}{day}}{I_{STC} \int} \quad \text{KWh/ (KWh-day)}$$

(7)

For different PV-array tracking panels yield is calculated as daily output energy of the PV-array with respect to the array installed capacity.

$$Y_{PVA,d} = \frac{E_{PVA,d}}{P_{OUT,A}} \quad \text{KWh/ (KWh- day)}$$

(8)

Final yield of PV-array is defined as useful energy of the array with respect to the installed capacity and is calculated as,

$$Y_{PVf,d} = \frac{E_{USE,day}}{P_{PV,I}} \quad \text{KWh/ (KWh-day)}$$

(9)

V. PERFORMANCE RESULTS OF 5MWP SOLAR PLANT

Based on the availability solar energy the monthly wise analysis from January to June of a 5MWp plant power generation for different solar panels under partial shading and full sunny condition is calculated experimentally and is shown in "Fig.6". The 5MWp solar plant is broadly classified into five individual plants. The first plant is 1MW fixed array plant and is again classified in to two plants, with each plant rating is 500kW and it gives 491kW and 470Kw output power. Load factor of this 1MW fixed array individual plants are 0.982, 0.94 and it consists of up to 184 strings. All strings are serially connected and are having 11 string monitoring boxes. The detailed parameters such as load factors and number of strings are given in "Table. 4" along with the other major 4 plants.

The maximum useful power generation and no of units with respect to rated capacity. At specified time period, the yield of the PV-array is calculated as, generated (low as well as high) on daily basis are recorded and shown in the below "Table 6". Based on total energy generation year wise efficiency is calculated.

maximum sun irradiations observing and it generates maximum power with 93.8% efficiency.

Fig. 6. Monthly energy production

Table 5. Individual plant load performance

S. No	Plant type	Rating of the plant	String number	No of Strings in a box	Plant Load factor
1	1st MW FIXED	(491+470) kW	1-184	49-60	0.982,0.9
2	2nd MW FIXED	(507+475) kW	185-368	37-48	1.04,0.95
3	3rd MW SEASONAL TILT	(470+508) kW	369-548	25-36	0.94,1.10
4	4th MW FIXED	(538+470) kW	549-728	13-24	1.076,0.9
5	5th MW AUTO TRACKING	(475+497) kW	729-908	1-12	0.95,0.99

Table 6. Day, year wise 5MWp no of units generated and its efficie

CONCLUSION

This study was conducted to unravel the coimbatore power demand and to found design and implementation of different types array tracking techniques and rating of solar panels are explained. The monthly and yearly solar power generation is calculated and its corresponding efficiency is evaluated experimentally. The power system components are inverters, cables, transformers and circuit breakers analyzed theoretically as well as practically. Moreover, from

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