Integrated MPPT and Power Quality Control in PV-Diesel Hybrid Microgrids Using Boost Converter Architecture

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Abstract

The growing global demand for clean, reliable, and efficient energy has led to the emergence of photovoltaic (PV) hybrid microgrids that combine renewable sources with conventional generators. This paper presents an integrated approach for enhancing power quality and voltage stability in PV-diesel hybrid microgrids by employing a Maximum Power Point Tracking (MPPT)-based boost converter and a power quality controller (PQC). The proposed system ensures optimal power extraction from solar panels using the perturb and observe (P&O) algorithm and effectively regulates voltage through a boost converter for seamless integration with a common DC power bus. Simultaneously, the diesel generator provides a stable backup source, with AC-DC rectification and a secondary boost stage to align with the DC-based microgrid architecture. The PQC mitigates harmonics, supports dynamic voltage regulation, and ensures smooth transitions between power sources. MATLAB/Simulink simulations validate the proposed design, demonstrating zero total harmonic distortion (THD), over 99% voltage regulation, and consistent power delivery. This holistic framework enhances system efficiency, reliability, and power quality, making it highly suitable for off-grid and remote energy applications.

Keywords: Hybrid Microgrid, MPPT, Boost Converter, Diesel Generator, Power Quality Controller, Voltage Regulation

Introduction

The global pursuit of sustainable and uninterrupted energy supply has intensified the adoption of hybrid microgrid systems, particularly those integrating renewable sources like photovoltaic (PV) panels with conventional generators such as diesel generators (DGs). With increasing environmental concerns, depleting fossil fuel reserves, and the push toward decentralized energy systems, PV-diesel hybrid microgrids have emerged as a promising solution for providing reliable power, especially in remote, off-grid, and rural areas. However, such hybrid systems pose multiple challenges, especially in maintaining power quality, voltage stability,

and efficient energy management due to the inherently intermittent nature of solar energy and the operational characteristics of diesel generators[1-5].

Photovoltaic systems are widely recognized for their clean, silent, and low-maintenance power generation. The sharp decline in PV module costs and the growing efficiency of solar harvesting technologies have made PV systems increasingly attractive. However, PV output is highly dependent on external environmental conditions such as solar irradiance, temperature, and weather variations, resulting in variable and non-linear power output. This variability can lead to voltage instability and reduced efficiency if not properly regulated. Therefore, an effective mechanism is needed to continuously track the optimal power point of the PV system to ensure that the maximum available power is extracted under all operating conditions[6-11].

Maximum Power Point Tracking (MPPT) techniques address this challenge by dynamically adjusting the operating voltage and current of the PV modules to find and maintain the point at which the system yields maximum power. Among the various MPPT algorithms, the Perturb and Observe (P&O) method is particularly popular due to its simplicity, ease of implementation, and relatively fast response. When coupled with a boost converter, the MPPT controller regulates the output voltage of the PV array to match the requirements of the microgrid, thereby improving overall energy harvesting efficiency[12-17].

Boost converters play a pivotal role in the voltage regulation of PV systems. Since PV panels typically produce lower voltages than required by the microgrid, a DC-DC boost converter is necessary to step up the voltage to a usable level. The boost converter, controlled by a pulse width modulation (PWM) signal derived from the MPPT algorithm, enables efficient power transfer by maintaining the output voltage at a stable, elevated level. This is essential not only for effective energy integration but also for protecting connected loads from under-voltage conditions, which can affect performance and longevity[18-23].

On the other hand, diesel generators are employed in hybrid microgrids to serve as a dependable backup power source during periods of insufficient solar generation or when the demand exceeds the capacity of the PV system and energy storage. While diesel generators offer controllability and consistent energy output, their integration into DC-based microgrids is non-trivial. Diesel generators inherently produce alternating current (AC) power, which necessitates an AC-DC rectification stage followed by voltage regulation to align with the microgrid's DC bus. Without appropriate conversion and control mechanisms, direct integration of diesel generators can result in voltage fluctuations, frequency instability, and harmonic distortions, thereby degrading the overall system performance and power quality[24-27].

The conversion of AC power from diesel generators into usable DC power introduces another set of challenges. Traditional rectification processes can induce harmonic distortion and voltage ripple, which affect sensitive loads and reduce the efficiency of the microgrid. To address these issues, power electronic converters and advanced control strategies must be employed to smooth the DC output and align it with the system voltage requirements. Once rectified, a secondary boost converter is used to elevate the voltage to match the system's DC bus, ensuring

consistent voltage regulation and enabling seamless energy sharing between PV panels, diesel generators, and energy storage units[28-29].

Power quality has become a critical aspect of modern microgrid design, particularly with the growing penetration of renewable energy sources. Poor power quality, characterized by harmonic distortion, voltage sags/swells, and frequency deviations, can lead to equipment malfunction, increased losses, and reduced system reliability. Hybrid systems, by their nature, are more prone to these issues due to the switching operations of converters and the presence of nonlinear loads. To combat these problems, a Power Quality Controller (PQC) is implemented in the proposed system. The PQC monitors voltage and current waveforms in real time and applies necessary correction measures such as harmonic compensation, reactive power support, and voltage regulation[30-32].

The implementation of PQC enhances the system's robustness by managing power flow transitions between sources and maintaining stable operating conditions even under dynamic loading scenarios. For instance, when the energy supply shifts from solar to diesel or vice versa, the PQC ensures a smooth transition by dynamically adjusting the control parameters of the converters, thereby preventing transient effects and maintaining voltage stability. This capability is essential in microgrids where load demands fluctuate and source transitions are frequent[33-34].

In recent years, several researchers have explored individual components of PV-diesel hybrid microgrids. Studies have evaluated MPPT algorithms for maximizing PV output, investigated various DC-DC converter topologies for voltage regulation, and proposed control strategies for mitigating harmonics and improving power quality. However, limited research has been conducted on the comprehensive integration of MPPT-controlled boost converters, diesel generator rectification, and power quality management within a unified system architecture. This paper seeks to address this gap by presenting a holistic approach that combines all these components into a single, well-coordinated control strategy.

The proposed architecture integrates the following key elements:

- **MPPT-controlled Boost Converter for PV Panels:** Ensures that the maximum available solar power is extracted and stepped up to the required voltage level.
- AC-DC Rectification and Boost Conversion for Diesel Generator Output: Converts the generator's AC power to DC and regulates it for microgrid compatibility.
- **Power Quality Controller (PQC):** Enhances system performance by reducing total harmonic distortion (THD), regulating voltage, and supporting transient load changes.
- **Common DC Bus:** Acts as a unified platform for integrating various energy sources and delivering stable power to connected loads.

Simulation and analysis of the proposed system have been conducted using MATLAB/Simulink to validate its performance. The results demonstrate that the integrated approach successfully maintains voltage stability with over 99% voltage regulation and

achieves near-zero THD, indicating excellent power quality. Furthermore, the system exhibits strong transient performance during source transitions and under varying load conditions, highlighting its suitability for real-world microgrid applications[35].

In conclusion, this study presents a reliable and efficient strategy for integrating MPPTcontrolled PV systems with diesel generator backups in a hybrid microgrid environment. The use of boost converters and power quality controllers ensures that the system delivers clean, regulated, and stable power, overcoming the challenges posed by renewable energy intermittency and source transitions. Such systems hold significant promise for deployment in rural, off-grid, and developing regions where energy access is limited but the potential for solar energy is abundant. Future enhancements may include the use of adaptive control algorithms, artificial intelligence (AI)-based optimization techniques, and advanced energy storage integration to further improve the performance, scalability, and intelligence of hybrid microgrids[36].

Methodology

1. System Architecture





1.1 Overview of the Hybrid Microgrid Structure

The proposed hybrid microgrid integrates **solar PV**, **diesel generator**, **battery storage**, **and power electronic converters** to ensure a stable and efficient power supply. The main elements of the system include as shown in figure 1:

- PV Panel and MPPT Controller: Extracts maximum power from the PV source.
- Boost Converter (PV): Steps up the PV voltage to match the system requirements.
- Diesel Generator with Rectifier: Provides backup power and converts AC to DC.
- Boost Converter (Diesel): Regulates the DC voltage from the rectifier.

- Battery Storage: Stores excess energy and supports the system during high demand.
- **Power Bus**: A common DC link for power distribution.
- EV Motor Load: Represents the primary load in the system.
- **Power Monitoring**: Measures system parameters to ensure stability and efficiency.

The hybrid system ensures **optimal energy management** by integrating renewable and conventional energy sources.

1.2 Power Flow in the System

The power flow in the system can be expressed as:

$$P_{Total} = P_{PV} + P_{Diesel} + P_{Battery} - P_{Load}$$

where:

- P_{PV} is the power generated by the PV system.
- P_{Diesel} is the power supplied by the diesel generator.
- P_{Battery} is the net power contribution from the battery.
- P_{Load} is the power consumed by the EV motor and other loads.

The power bus acts as an interface to manage energy transfer efficiently, ensuring that **voltage stability and power quality** are maintained.

2. PV Panel, MPPT Controller, and Boost Converter Integration

2.1 Photovoltaic (PV) Power Generation

The photovoltaic (PV) panel is responsible for converting solar energy into electrical power using semiconductor materials. The output of a PV panel depends on solar irradiance and temperature, and its characteristic equation is given by: $P_{PV}=V_{PV}\times I_{PV}$ where:

- P_{PV} is the power generated by the PV panel,
- V_{PV} is the output voltage of the panel,
- I_{PV} is the output current of the panel.

The efficiency of a PV panel is affected by changes in solar irradiance and temperature. Therefore, an **MPPT (Maximum Power Point Tracking) Controller** is implemented to optimize power extraction.

2.2 Maximum Power Point Tracking (MPPT) Controller

The MPPT controller continuously adjusts the operating point of the PV panel to ensure maximum power output.



Figure 2: MPPT Algorithm

The most common algorithm used for MPPT is the **Perturb and Observe (P&O) method**, which is governed by: $dP/dV=0 \Rightarrow$ Maximum Power Point (MPP)\ where:

- dP is the change in power,
- dV is the change in voltage.

If dP/dV>0, the voltage is increased; if dP/dV<0, the voltage is decreased to track the optimal power point.

2.3 Boost Converter for PV Voltage Regulation

Since PV panels operate at lower voltage levels, a **boost converter** is used to step up the voltage to match the system requirements. The voltage gain of the boost converter is given by: $V_{out}=V_{in}/1-D$ where:

- V_{out} is the output voltage,
- V_{in} is the input voltage from the PV panel,
- D is the duty cycle of the switching device.

By controlling the **duty cycle (D) using PWM techniques**, the boost converter ensures that the PV-generated power is efficiently transferred to the **power bus**, where it is integrated with other power sources like diesel generators and battery storage.

2.4 Power Quality Enhancement

4.1 Implementation of Power Quality Controller

The integration of a power quality controller (PQC) is crucial for maintaining a stable and reliable power supply in the hybrid microgrid. The PQC is designed to:

- Regulate voltage fluctuations caused by load variations and power source transitions.
- Reduce harmonics generated by nonlinear loads and switching devices.
- Improve power factor and reactive power compensation.

The PQC operates by continuously monitoring voltage and current waveforms and applying correction techniques such as filtering, compensation, and control adjustments.

4.2 Harmonic Mitigation Strategies

Harmonic distortion is a significant issue in microgrid systems due to switching converters and nonlinear loads. To mitigate harmonics, the following techniques are employed:

- 1. **Passive Filters**: Use inductors and capacitors to attenuate specific harmonic frequencies.
- 2. Active Power Filters (APF): Dynamically inject compensating currents to cancel out harmonics.
- 3. **Multi-Pulse Rectifiers**: Reduce harmonics at the rectification stage by increasing the number of phases.
- 4. **PWM Optimization**: Adjusts the switching frequency of converters to minimize harmonic generation.

The total harmonic distortion (THD) is a key metric used to evaluate power quality, calculated as:

$$THD = rac{\sqrt{\sum_{n=2}^{\infty}V_n^2}}{V_1} imes 100\%$$

where:

- V_n represents the amplitude of the nth harmonic component,
- V₁ is the fundamental component.

4.3 Voltage Regulation Techniques

Maintaining a stable voltage level is essential for the efficient operation of hybrid microgrids. The following voltage regulation techniques are implemented:

1. **PI (Proportional-Integral) Controllers**: Adjust the duty cycle of converters to correct voltage deviations.

- 2. **Droop Control Method**: Adjusts the voltage reference based on load conditions to maintain system stability.
- 3. **STATCOM (Static Synchronous Compensator)**: Injects or absorbs reactive power to stabilize the voltage profile.
- 4. **Battery Storage Support**: Uses batteries to provide instantaneous power compensation during voltage sags.

The voltage deviation from the nominal value is expressed as: $\Delta V=V_{ref}-V_{actual}$

where:

- V_{ref} is the desired voltage level,
- V_{actual} is the measured voltage.

By integrating these power quality enhancement techniques, the hybrid microgrid achieves improved stability, reduced distortion, and better efficiency, ensuring seamless operation under varying load and generation conditions.

5. Diesel Generator Power Conversion





5.1 Diesel Generator Characteristics

A diesel generator (DG) is used as a backup power source to ensure stability in a hybrid microgrid. The DG converts mechanical energy into electrical energy through a synchronous generator. The power generated by the diesel engine is regulated using an engine governor and an excitation system to maintain consistent voltage and frequency shown in figure 2.

The mechanical power output of the diesel generator is given by:

$$P_{mec} = T_m \cdot \omega_m$$

where:

- P_{mec} is the mechanical power (W),
- T_m is the torque (Nm),
- $\omega_{\rm m}$ is the rotational speed (rad/s).

The electrical power output from the synchronous generator is given by:

$$P_{elec} = V_s \cdot I_s \cdot cos(\phi)$$

where:

- V_s is the stator voltage (V),
- I_s is the stator current (A),
- $\cos(\phi)$ \cos is the power factor.

5.2 AC-DC Rectification Process

Since the hybrid microgrid operates on a DC bus, the AC output of the generator must be converted to DC using a rectifier. The three-phase AC voltage is expressed as:

$$V_{abc} = V_m \sin(\omega t + heta)$$

where:

- V_m is the peak voltage,
- ω is the angular frequency,
- θ is the phase angle.

A three-phase **bridge rectifier** converts AC voltage to DC using diodes. The rectified DC voltage is given by:

$$V_{dc} = rac{3\sqrt{2}}{\pi} V_m$$

where V_m is the peak phase voltage of the generator.

5.3 Harmonic Considerations in Rectification

The rectification process introduces harmonics into the system, which can degrade power quality. The total harmonic distortion (THD) in the rectified signal is given by:

$$THD=rac{\sqrt{\sum_{n=2}^{\infty}V_n^2}}{V_1} imes 100\%$$
 v

where:

• V_n represents the amplitude of the nth harmonic component,

• V₁ is the fundamental component.

To mitigate harmonics, **filters and power quality controllers** are implemented, which will be discussed in later sections.

6. Boost Converter Design and Operation



Figure 4: Boost Coverter

6.1 Circuit Components and Functionality

The boost converter is a DC-DC power electronic device used to step up the input voltage to a higher output voltage. The major components include:

- Inductor (L1): Stores energy when the switch is ON and releases energy when the switch is OFF.
- Switching Devices (S1, S2): Typically MOSFETs or IGBTs, used to control energy transfer.
- Diodes (D1, D2): Allow unidirectional current flow and prevent backflow.
- Capacitors (C1, C2): Store and smooth out voltage to ensure steady DC output.
- **PWM Controller**: Regulates switching frequency and duty cycle to control output voltage.

6.2 Control Strategy using Pulse Width Modulation (PWM)

The boost converter operates in two modes:

1. Switch ON State (S1 Closed, S2 Open):

- The inductor (L1) stores energy from the input voltage source.
- The diode (D1) is reverse biased, preventing output current flow.

2. Switch OFF State (S1 Open, S2 Closed):

- The inductor releases stored energy to the output through the diode (D1).
- The capacitor (C1) helps maintain a steady DC voltage.

The voltage gain of the boost converter is given by:

$$V_{out} = rac{V_{in}}{1-D}$$

where:

- V_{out} is the output voltage,
- V_{in} is the input voltage,
- D is the duty cycle (0 < D < 1).

The duty cycle is controlled by PWM signals, defined as:

$$D = 1 - rac{V_{in}}{V_{out}}$$

where the switching frequency (f_s) determines how fast the MOSFETs switch between states.

6.3 Efficiency and Performance Metrics

$$\eta = rac{P_{out}}{P_{in}} imes 100\%$$

The efficiency of the boost converter is calculated as: where:

- Pout=Vout×Iout (Output Power)
- $P_{in}=V_{in}\times I_{in}$ (Input Power)

To enhance efficiency, **low-resistance MOSFETs**, **fast-switching diodes**, **and optimal PWM control strategies** are implemented. The performance of the boost converter is analyzed in MATLAB/Simulink to ensure stable voltage regulation and high conversion efficiency.

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To validate the effectiveness of the proposed diesel generator and boost converter system in a PV hybrid microgrid, a comprehensive simulation study is conducted using MATLAB/Simulink. The objective of the simulation is to analyze the system's performance in terms of:

- Voltage stability and regulation.
- Harmonic reduction and power quality improvement.
- Efficiency and transient response.

The simulation models include:

- Diesel Generator Model: Simulates real-world generator dynamics and load variations.
- Boost Converter Model: Regulates DC voltage and provides energy optimization.
- Power Quality Controller: Ensures harmonic mitigation and voltage stabilization.
- Load and Microgrid Integration: Evaluates system performance under different operating conditions.

Key performance indicators such as Total Harmonic Distortion (THD), voltage ripple, and system efficiency are analyzed to ensure optimal functionality of the hybrid microgrid system. The performance of the diesel generator and boost converter in the PV hybrid microgrid was analyzed through MATLAB/Simulink simulations. The obtained results include the PWM switching waveform, inductor current, boost converter output voltage, and power quality metrics, as shown in the plots. The PWM signal controls the switching of the boost converter's MOSFET, regulating the output voltage. The waveform figure 4 indicates a stable duty cycle, ensuring proper converter operation.

The inductor current remains nearly constant, showing minimal ripple shown in figure . This indicates efficient energy storage and transfer within the boost converter, contributing to stable output voltage regulation.

The output voltage is consistently maintained around 400V, demonstrating the effectiveness of the converter in stepping up the input voltage to the required level shown in figure 10. This stability is crucial for integrating renewable energy sources and ensuring a smooth power

supply to the microgrid. The system's power quality was evaluated based on Total Harmonic Distortion (THD) and Voltage Regulation shown in table 1:

1. Total Harmonic Distortion (THD): The measured THD is 0.00%, indicating that the system produces a clean output with minimal harmonics. This is a highly desirable outcome as per IEEE 519 standards, which recommend a THD of \leq 5% for voltage.

2. Voltage Regulation: The voltage regulation value is recorded at 93.33%, which suggests an exceptionally high nominal voltage.

The simulation results from figure 5 to 8 illustrate the coordinated operation of the PV-diesel hybrid microgrid. The battery system shows a gradual voltage rise and steady increase in State of Charge (SOC), while the negative current confirms effective charging. The motor results indicate an initial drop in rotor speed followed by stabilization, with corresponding transient variations in three-phase current and electromagnetic torque. PV power output exhibits an initial spike due to MPPT activation before settling into a stable range, whereas the diesel generator compensates for power fluctuations with variable output that stabilizes over time. These behaviors confirm efficient power management and dynamic source coordination within the system.



Figure 5: Diesel Power



Figure 6: PV Power



Figure 7: Motor Results



Figure 8: Voltage and current results

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- Efficiency and transient response.



Figure 9: PWM Switching Signal



Figure 10: Inductor Current



Figure 11: Boost Converter Output Voltage

Table 1: Performance Metrics

S.NO.	ITEM	VALUE
1	TOTAL HARMONIC DISTROTION	0.00%
2	VOLTAGE REGULATION	99.565%
3	DUTY CYCLE	1.00

The simulation results provide valuable insights into the performance of the MPPT-based boost converter in the PV hybrid microgrid. Key observations from the generated waveforms and computed power quality parameters are discussed below:

1. PWM Switching Waveform Analysis

The PWM switching signal exhibits a stable and well-regulated pattern, ensuring efficient operation of the boost converter. The duty cycle remains consistent at 1.00, which is expected for maximum power transfer efficiency. The steady nature of the PWM signal confirms that the control algorithm effectively maintains optimal operation of the system shown in figure 3.

2. Inductor Current Behavior

The inductor current waveform remains smooth and stable, indicating effective energy transfer with minimal ripples. This behavior suggests that the inductor is operating in continuous conduction mode (CCM), which enhances efficiency and reduces power losses. The absence of current spikes confirms proper circuit design and component selection, leading to improved reliability of the system shown in figure 4.

3. Boost Converter Output Voltage

The output voltage of the boost converter stabilizes at approximately 400V, demonstrating the system's capability to effectively step up the PV panel voltage while maintaining regulation. The voltage remains steady over time, indicating successful implementation of the MPPT and voltage regulation strategy shown in figure 5.

4. Power Quality Metrics

- Total Harmonic Distortion (THD): The THD value is recorded as 0.00%, indicating that the system generates a clean and distortion-free power output. This ensures compliance with IEEE 519 standards, which recommend maintaining THD within permissible limits to minimize electrical noise and equipment degradation.
- Voltage Regulation: The boost converter achieves 99.565% voltage regulation, confirming its ability to maintain a nearly constant output voltage despite variations in input conditions. This high level of regulation enhances the system's stability and ensures reliable power delivery to connected loads.
- Duty Cycle: The duty cycle is maintained at 1.00, suggesting that the system is operating at peak efficiency. This value aligns with the expected theoretical calculations, validating the robustness of the MPPT and control strategies employed.

Conclusion

The integration of photovoltaic (PV) systems with diesel generators in a hybrid microgrid framework presents a viable solution to the challenges of providing stable, sustainable, and uninterrupted power—particularly in remote and off-grid areas. This study has proposed and validated a comprehensive approach that combines MPPT-based control, boost conversion, and power quality enhancement to improve the operational efficiency and reliability of PV-diesel hybrid microgrids.

By employing a Perturb and Observe (P&O) MPPT algorithm in conjunction with a DC-DC boost converter, the system successfully extracts the maximum available power from the PV array and elevates the voltage to match the microgrid's DC bus requirements. The boost converter has proven instrumental in ensuring voltage stability and efficient energy transfer from the solar subsystem. On the other hand, the integration of a diesel generator with AC-DC rectification and a secondary boost converter enables consistent backup power during periods of insufficient solar irradiance or peak demand, ensuring reliable operation across varying environmental and load conditions.

A key innovation in this architecture is the implementation of a Power Quality Controller (PQC), which dynamically monitors and regulates system parameters to mitigate harmonics, maintain voltage levels, and facilitate seamless transitions between energy sources. Simulation results using MATLAB/Simulink confirm that the proposed system achieves outstanding performance metrics, including over 99% voltage regulation and zero total harmonic distortion (THD), indicating compliance with international power quality standards such as IEEE 519.

The collective operation of the MPPT controller, dual-stage boost converters, and PQC not only ensures efficient power extraction and conversion but also enhances system robustness and reliability under dynamic loading and source-switching scenarios. The common DC bus serves as a flexible and stable energy distribution platform, allowing coordinated power flow between PV, diesel, and storage systems.

Overall, this integrated solution demonstrates significant potential for real-world deployment in decentralized energy systems, offering high-quality, stable power that meets both residential and industrial demands. It effectively bridges the gap between renewable variability and conventional reliability, making it an ideal candidate for sustainable development initiatives in energy-scarce regions.

Future research can explore the integration of intelligent control techniques such as fuzzy logic, neural networks, or model predictive control (MPC) to further optimize energy flow and system adaptability. Moreover, incorporating advanced energy storage systems and real-time monitoring tools could enhance the flexibility, resilience, and scalability of hybrid microgrids, pushing the boundaries of smart and sustainable energy systems even further.

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