PARAMETER EXTRACTION OF SINGLE-DIODE PV-MODULE MODEL USING ELECTROMAGNETISM-LIKE ALGORITHM

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Abstract: The performance of photovoltaic (PV) module mainly depends on the parameters of electrical equivalent circuit of module. The parameters are unknown and sensitive to meteorological condition of PV location. Thus, an accurate estimation method should be used to extract the parameters. In this paper, an evolutionary algorithm proposed to optimize the parameters under various operation conditions. The root mean square error between the computed current based estimated parameters and experimental PV output current is proposed as a fitness function to obtain the optimal solution. The results are verified by seven different experimental I-V sets under various meteorological conditions. Furthermore, the results are verified by another work, which based on analytical method that proposed in literature. The results refer to high consistency with realistic data. In addition to that, the proposed method offers an average root mean square error and average absolute error under seven operation conditions were 0.07248 and 0.05316, respectively.

Keywords: Electromagnetism-like, Photovoltaic, Single diode model, evolutionary algorithm, PV-module.

1. Introduction

The electrical energy (EE) is one of the most important factor for development any society in the world. Therefore, the EE demand is increasing for realizing the requirements of modern life [1, 2].
In the fact, the conventional EE resources comprise many disadvantages such as, environmental pollution and fluctuation of fuel prices worldwide. Furthermore, the fuel resources are gradually being lead to depletion [3]. Thus, the researchers are focusing on clean, environmental friendly, renewable and sustainable resources for electrical energy. Solar energy is represented one of the most popular source for generating electrical energy using photovoltaic (PV) technology. However, the modeling of PV array/module plays an essential role in the performance and productivity of PV systems.

The modeling of PV module can be considered by estimating the parameters of the electrical equivalent circuit of PV module.

In general, there are three main PV modeling methods namely; analytical, numerical, and artificial intelligent (AI) methods. In analytical method, the parameters of PV module under real operating condition is derived in terms of them under standard test condition (STC) based on manufacturer data [4] It is worth to mention that some key points that belong to I-V curve are used in analytical methods. The advantages of analytical method are simple and it needs to less computation time as compared to other methods [5]. The inaccurate parameter estimation is represented the main drawback of analytical method, because the PV performance is influenced by environmental conditions [6]. Moreover, the accuracy of estimation is strongly dependent on the key points of I-V curve. A simple PV module model based on the correlation that correlated the parameters of PV module and meteorological variables (ambient temperature and solar irradiance) proposed by Tamer et al. in [7]. An analytical method proposed by Lim et al. [8] to estimate the parameters of single diode PV module model using I-V curve and extensive computation.

On the other hand, another method such as numerical has been proposed by [9-13] to overcome the drawback of analytical method. The numerical method is more accurate than analytical method, because it utilized all the I-V curve points. The Newton Raphson and Levenberg-Marquardt algorithms are widely used in PV module modeling as numerical methods [9, 10, 12-14]. The main drawbacks of numerical method that it needs to extensive computation as well as the accuracy of estimation depends on the type of fitting algorithm, the cost function, and the initial values of the extracted parameters. A compound methods proposed by [15, 16], these methods combine between analytical and numerical methods to estimate the parameters of PV module. The drawbacks of both analytical and numerical methods are presence in compound method as well as to the complexity of method.

In this paper, a robust evolutionary algorithm is called electromagnetism-like (EM) algorithm is used to extract the optimal parameters of PV module based on experimental data. Experimental I-V data for seven different meteorological conditions used to validate the results of the proposed model. In addition, the results verified with another model that proposed in literature based on many statistical tools.
2. Optimization of PV module model’s parameters

As aforementioned, the modeling of PV module affects on the designing and planning of PV systems productivity. Thus, accurate modeling is important target for researchers those work in PV field. However, accurate estimation of PV module parameters leads to accurate module modeling. It is worth to mention that the PV module parameters are sensitive to solar cell temperature and solar irradiance.

2.1 Single Diode PV Module Model

The electrical equivalent circuit of single diode PV module model is illustrated in Fig. 1. The output current of PV module can be depicted by:

$$I_m = I_{ph} - I_o \left[ \exp \left( \frac{V + I_m R_s}{V_t} \right) - 1 \right] - \frac{V + I_m R_s}{R_p}, \quad (1)$$

where; $V$ and $I_m$ are the output voltage (V) and the current (A) of PV module, respectively, $I_o$ and $I_{ph}$ are the diode saturation current (A) and photocurrent (A), respectively, $R_s$ and $R_p$ are the series and parallel resistances (Ω), respectively, and $V_t$ is the diode thermal voltage and expressed by:

$$V_t = \frac{a B T_c}{q}, \quad (2)$$

where; $a$ is the diode ideality factor, $B$ is the Boltzmann’s constant (1.3806503E-23 J/K), $T_c$ is the cell temperature (K) and $q$ is the electron charge (1.60217646E-19 C). According to eqn (1) and (2), the five parameters ($a, R_s, R_p, I_o,$ and $I_{ph}$) affects on the productivity of PV module. The single diode model is used in this paper, because it offers simple computation with satisfactory level of accuracy.

2.2 Formulating the Parameters estimation problem

The parameters of PV module are unknown and variable with solar cell temperature and solar irradiance. Thus, the parameter estimation problem can be represented as optimization problem, where an evolutionary algorithm is used to find the optimal parameter values. The root mean square error between the computed PV module current and experimental current over n data set of I-V points is represent as objective function of optimization problem. The objective function that utilized to optimize the parameters of single diode PV module model is formulated as,
\[
\sum_{i=1}^{n} X_{j}^{G} = X_{j\text{L},i} + \text{rand}(X_{j\text{H},i} - X_{j\text{Li}})
\]

where; \( f \) is the objective function, \( I_e \) and \( V_e \) are the experimental PV module output current (A) and voltage (V), respectively, and \( n \) is the length of the I-V data points.

### 3. EM Algorithm For Optimizing PV Module Model’s Parameters

In this paper, electromagnetism-Like algorithms is utilized to model a PV module. Electromagnetism-Like (EM) algorithm is a population-based search algorithm utilizes the attraction and repulsion mechanism to move the D-dimensional individual vectors toward the global optimal values. EM comprises four stages namely, initialization, local search strategy, calculation of exerted force, and new population generation [20].

#### 3.1 Initialization

The first step of EM algorithm is the generation of a population randomly. This population consists of \( N \) individual vectors while each vector comprises \( D \) parameters that are required to be optimized. The \( D \)-dimensional individual vectors are initialized to be distributed uniformly between the corresponding upper \((X_{j\text{H}})\) and lower \((X_{j\text{L}})\) limits of the search domain as depicted in Eq. 4.

\[
X_{jLi}^{0} = X_{j\text{L},i} + \text{rand}(X_{j\text{H},i} - X_{j\text{Li}})
\]

where \( \text{rand} \) is a random number within \([0, 1]\) interval.

As shown in Eq. 4, the initial population is described as \( S^G = [X_i^G] \), \( G = 0 \). Where \( X_i = [X_{j,i}] \), \( i \) is the index of the individual vector in population \( S \) (\( i = 1,2, \ldots, N \)), \( j \) is the index of the parameter in the individual vector (\( j = 1,2, \ldots, D \)), and \( G \) is the number of generation (\( G = 1,2, \ldots, G_{\text{max}} \)). The objective function value for each individual vector in the population is calculated and then the best function value is specified.

#### 3.2 Local Search

The local search procedure is used to explore the neighborhood of the \( D \)-parameter of the individual vector [21]. Two control parameters are used in the local search strategy namely LSITER and \( \delta \). The LSITER is the number of the iteration that the local search repeats and \( \delta \) is a multiplier factor for the neighborhood search. The local search of EM algorithm can be described as follows;

The maximum step length for each parameter of the individual vector is calculated first by subtracting the corresponding lower limits from the upper limits. After that, \( \delta \) is used to weight the difference.

Secondly, each individual vector is improved by searching the coordinates, whereas the individual vector \( X_i^G \) is stored in a temporary vector \( y_j \) and the last vector is moved by adding the random step length to the initial value of \( y_j \).

After that, the individual vector \( X_i^G \) is replaced by \( y_j \) if the objective function value of \( y_j \) is less than \( X_i^G \) vector within the iteration of local search.
Eventually, the neighborhood search for the individual vector $i$ ends and the new best individual and its objective function value are updated.

### 3.3 Calculation of Exerted Force

In this stage, the total force exerted on each $D$-dimensional individual vector by all other $D - 1$-dimensional individual vectors in the population is calculated. Here, each $D$-dimensional individual vector will have $N - 1$ $D$-dimensional individual vectors exerting force on it. The force exerted on an individual vector $X_i^G$ by another individual vector $X_j^G$ that is calculated based on the charges of these vectors [22]. The charge of $i$ individual vector $X_i^G$ is computed by,

$$q_i^G = \exp \left[ -D \left( \frac{f(X_i^G) - f(X_j^G)}{\sum_{k=1}^{N} f(X_k^G) - f(X_j^G)} \right) \right], \quad i = 1, 2, \ldots, N \text{ and } G = 1, 2, \ldots, \text{MAXITER} \quad (5)$$

Where $X_j^G$ is the current best individual vector for $G$ generation, $f(X)$ is the objective function value for individual vector $X$ and MAXITER is the maximum number of generation. The $D$-dimensional force vector $F_{ij}^G$ exerted on the individual vector $X_i^G$ by an individual vector $X_j^G$ that is computed by,

$$F_{ij}^G = \begin{cases} (X_j^G - X_i^G) \frac{q_i^G q_j^G}{\|X_j^G - X_i^G\|} & \text{if } f(X_j^G) < f(X_i^G) \\ (X_i^G - X_j^G) \frac{q_i^G q_j^G}{\|X_j^G - X_i^G\|} & \text{if } f(X_j^G) \geq f(X_i^G) \end{cases} \quad (6)$$

If the objective function value of the individual vector $X_i^G$ is better than the individual vector $X_j^G$, then $X_j^G$ will attract $X_i^G$, otherwise it will repel $X_i^G$. Therefore, individual vectors with relatively good objective function values attract other individual vectors. Meanwhile the individual vectors with worse objective function values repel the others. The total force $F_i^G$ exerted on the individual vector $X_i^G$ by all other individual vectors in the population is calculated by,

$$F_i^G = \sum_{k=1, k \neq i}^{N} F_{ik}^G, \quad i = 1, 2, \ldots, N \quad (7)$$

### 3.4 Generating new population

After the total force exerted on, an individual vector $X_i^G$ is computed, the new $D$-parameters individual vector is generated, as in Eq. (8), by moving $X_i^G$ along the direction of $F_i^G$ by a magnitude that is randomly selected from the range $[0, 1]$.

$$X_i^t = X_i^t + \lambda \frac{F_i}{\|F_i\|} R, \quad \lambda = 1, 2, \ldots, N \quad (8)$$

The $R$ is a vector has components refer to the allowed feasible movement towards the lower or upper limit of the $j$th parameter of individual vector based on the $j$th value of the total force vector which is greater or less than zero [21].
The last three stages of EM algorithm are repeated until the maximum number of iteration (MAXITER) is reached or a good fitness value is obtained. Fig. 2 shows the flow chart of EM-algorithm.

![Flow chart of EM-algorithm](image)

### 4. Results

An experimental I-V data performance of a multicrystalline Kyocera KC 120-1 photovoltaic module is used in this research. The manufacturer specification of PV module are illustrated in Table 1.

The typical design space of series resistance (Rs), parallel resistance (Rp), ideality factor of diode (a), saturation current of diode (Io), and photocurrent are chosen to be within the range {0.01, 2} Ω, {100, 5000} Ω, {1, 2}, {1e-12, 1e-5} A, and {1, 8} A, respectively [23, 24].

The effectiveness and results accuracy of the proposed modeling method is verified by comparing the results with experimental I-V data and another analytical model that proposed in the literature in [7]. The comparison is achieved under seven various operational conditions.
with solar irradiance levels were 118.28, 148, 306, 711, 780, 840, and 978 W/m² with corresponding PV cell temperature 318.32, 321.25, 327.7, 324.21, 329.1, 331.42, and 328.56 K [7]. The data collected at Subang meteorological station in Subang Jaya, Klang Vally, KualaLumpur, Malaysia with latitude 3.12° north and longitude 101.6° east.

Four statistical tools used as evaluation criteria in the comparison; the criteria are root mean square error (RMSE), mean bias error (MBE), coefficient of determination ($R^2$), and absolute error (AE). The RMSE refers to the standard deviation between the experimental and computed currents for a given voltage value in the I-V curve under a specific operational conditions as follows:

$$\text{RMSE} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} (I_c - I_e)^2}$$  \hspace{1cm} (9)

Where, $I_c$ is the computed PV module current by the proposed model (A), $I_e$ is the experimental PV module current (A), and $n$ is the length of the data set of I-V points. The MBE is another evaluation criteria that used to evaluate the performance of the proposed model under n-data set of I-V points. The MBE is defined by:

$$\text{MBE} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} (I_c - I_e)$$  \hspace{1cm} (10)

The third criterion is $R^2$ that reflects the level of variation in the experimental I-V data. The high consistency between the experimental and simulation results leads to $R^2$ value close to 1. $R^2$ can be formulated by:

$$R^2 = 1 - \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} (I_c - I_e)^2}{\sum_{i=1}^{n} (I_c - \bar{I_e})^2}$$  \hspace{1cm} (11)

Where $\bar{I_e}$ is the arithmetic mean value of experimental current under n-data set of I-V points and it is calculated by:

$$\bar{I_e} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} I_e$$  \hspace{1cm} (12)

The last criteria used for evaluation the results is AE which is the absolute difference between the experimental and computed current for a given voltage value belong to I-V curve under a specific operation condition. Therefore the AE can be formulated by:

$$AE = |I_c - I_e|$$  \hspace{1cm} (13)

The unknown PV module model parameters are $R_s$, $R_p$, $\alpha$, $I_p$, and $I_o$. Thus, the dimension of the current optimization problem is chosen to be five as the parameters of PV module. In the meanwhile, the population size (N) and maximum number of iteration (MAXITER) are set to be 10D and 500, respectively. The control parameters $S$ and LSITER are assumed 0.01 and 30, respectively to obtain better results according to many attempts of running the algorithm. The five extracted parameters of single diode PV module’s model based on EM algorithm under various operational conditions are tabulated in Table 2.

The I-V and P-V curve under seven operation conditions are shown in Fig. 3 and Fig. 4, respectively. According to Fig. 3, the results of the proposed model are more close to experiment data. Thus, the proposed modeling method is effectiveness to extract the parameters of single diode PV module’s model.
A detailed comparison between the proposed modeling method and the method proposed by Tamer et al. in [7] is illustrated in Table 3. According to Table 3, the RMSE, MBE, and AE values of the proposed method are always less than those offered by [7]. The proposed method exhibits average value of RMSE, MBE, and AE around 0.072, 0.007, and 0.053, respectively. On the other hand, the method proposed by [7] offered 0.381, -0.042, and 0.188 for average RMSE, MBE, and AE, respectively. Furthermore, the R² values offered by the proposed method is greater than and more close to 1 than obtained from the method proposed by [7] under various operation conditions. The average R² of the proposed method and [7] are 0.990 and 0.909, respectively.

Fig. 5 shows the evolution of fitness function over the generation number for seven operation conditions that denominated from G1 to G7. The proposed algorithm to estimate the parameter is fast and offered low final fitness function value, especially for low irradiance cases, because these cases has less I-V points.

| Characteristics | Value |
|-----------------|-------|
| Maximum power at STC (P_{max}) | 120 WP |
| Open-circuit voltage (V_{oc}) | 21.5 V |
| Short-circuit current (I_{sc}) | 7.45 A |
| Voltage at maximum power point (V_{mp}) | 16.9 V |
| Current at maximum power point (I_{mp}) | 7.1 A |
| Number of cells connected in series | 36 |
| Temperature coefficient of I_{sc} (\alpha) | 1.325 mA/K |
| Temperature coefficient of V_{oc} (\beta) | -77.5 mV/K |

| Solar Radiation (W/m²) | Cell Temperature (K) | a     | R_S   | R_P   | I_{ph} | I_o    |
|------------------------|----------------------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|
| 118.28                 | 318.32               | 1.50820 | 1.18128 | 183.89179 | 0.92907 | 7.42E-06 |
| 148                    | 321.25               | 1.40056 | 0.39518 | 139.23065 | 1.00000 | 4.2E-06 |
| 306                    | 327.7                | 1.35890 | 0.59146 | 5000     | 1.95218 | 6.04E-06 |
| 711                    | 324.21               | 1.28946 | 0.53042 | 403.12163 | 4.38625 | 2.76E-06 |
| 780                    | 329.1                | 1.38019 | 0.26630 | 100      | 5.03144 | 9.92E-06 |
| 840                    | 331.42               | 1.31699 | 0.21956 | 100      | 5.36415 | 7.31E-06 |
| 978                    | 328.56               | 1.36288 | 0.21769 | 100      | 6.24685 | 8.88E-06 |

Table 1: The key specifications of the PV module.
Fig. 3. I-V curve of PV module under various operating conditions.

Fig. 4. P-V curve of PV module under various operating conditions.
Table 2: RMSE, MBE, R², and average error of the proposed and Tamer’s models under various operation conditions.

| Solar Radiation (W/m²) | EM-Model RMSE | EM-Model MBE | EM-Model R² | Average of AE | Tamer-Model RMSE | Tamer-Model MBE | Tamer-Model R² | Average AE |
|------------------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|------------------|----------------|---------------|------------|
| 118.28                 | 0.04738       | 0.00224      | 0.96566     | 0.03433       | 0.07009          | 0.04244        | 0.92485       | 0.04780    |
| 148                    | 0.01863       | 0.00035      | 0.99547     | 0.01541       | 0.13896          | 0.12083        | 0.74812       | 0.12157    |
| 306                    | 0.03704       | 0.00137      | 0.99598     | 0.02769       | 1.17084          | -1.01480       | 0.96186       | 0.09778    |
| 711                    | 0.03779       | 0.00143      | 0.99883     | 0.02638       | 0.17704          | -0.00784       | 0.97429       | 0.09720    |
| 780                    | 0.10517       | 0.01106      | 0.99319     | 0.07061       | 0.34138          | -0.06938       | 0.92826       | 0.25034    |
| 840                    | 0.11232       | 0.01262      | 0.99322     | 0.08622       | 0.14513          | 0.08737        | 0.98868       | 0.10011    |
| 978                    | 0.14903       | 0.02221      | 0.99052     | 0.11145       | 0.62289          | 0.54534        | 0.83446       | 0.56613    |
| Average                | 0.07248       | 0.00733      | 0.99041     | 0.05316       | 0.38090          | -0.04229       | 0.90865       | 0.18796    |

Fig. 5. Evolution of fitness function of various operation conditions over the generations.

5. Conclusions

An electromagnetism-like algorithm is used to estimate the parameters of PV module as a single diode model under various meteorological conditions. Five decision variables (α, Rs, Rp, Ip, and Io) are optimized based on objective function that represented as the root mean square error between the experimental and computed PV output current for a realistic set of I-V data points. Experimental I-V data under seven different levels of solar irradiance and ambient temperature are used. The proposed method offers I-V characteristics more close to experimental values than other methods that proposed in literature. The proposed method exhibits an average mean bias error and coefficient of correlation under seven different operation conditions were 0.00733 and 0.99041, respectively.
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