

Advanced MPPT Control Techniques for Efficient Solar Photovoltaic (PV) System

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Abstract: This study evaluates centralized and distributed Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO)-based Maximum Power Point Tracking (MPPT) for photovoltaic (PV) systems under uniform and partial shading conditions, with comparison against the conventional Perturb and Observe (P&O) algorithm. Simulation results demonstrate that PSO provides superior maximum power point tracking, higher power extraction, reduced oscillations, and effective global MPP identification under changing irradiance. In the centralized configuration, PSO achieves 72.92 W at uniform irradiance and 69.57 W under partial shading, outperforming P&O. The distributed PSO-MPPT configuration further enhances performance by independently optimizing individual PV sub-modules, thereby reducing mismatch losses. It achieves a minimum settling time of 13 ms and power improvements of 4.43% under uniform irradiance and up to 20% under partial shading. Overall, the proposed PSO-based distributed MPPT approach offers an efficient, flexible, and reliable solution for high-performance photovoltaic energy conversion systems.

Keywords: PSO-MPPT; Distributed MPPT; Partial Shading; Photovoltaic Systems; P&O Algorithm.

I. INTRODUCTION

The solar energy production is the fastest growing area in the renewable energy sector. India's installed solar capacity is 36.8 GW at the end of the first quarter of 2020 as reported by Aarushi Koundal (2020), world solar installations will continue with faster growth rates as forecasted by HIS Markit (2020). The world cumulative capacity has reached 583GW by 2019 and may approach a capacity of 750GW as forecasted by IRENA (2020).

Solar PV systems are mainly classified as standalone and grid connected systems. The standalone systems are designed to operate independently from the utility grid. It is also designed to supply isolated loads especially in domestic electrification with DC/AC power for a specific size. Battery is used for energy storage. The grid connected solar PV systems are designed to connect or operate in parallel with the electricity utility grid.

The big challenge which lies in PV power production is to tackle the nonlinear characteristics of solar PV source. The V-I characteristics of solar photovoltaic module depends on the irradiance and temperature associated with it. In a day solar photovoltaic module is subjected to different irradiance and temperature levels because of sun's orientation, weather/climatic conditions and partial shading such as passing clouds, neighbouring trees and buildings. If PV module is directly connected to the load impedance mismatch occurs between load and photovoltaic panel which leads to less energy harvesting. This type of power transfer may lead to oversizing of the PV array and hence the overall cost of a given application. Extract the maximum available power from the photovoltaic module by making it operate at the efficient voltage, a maximum power point tracker is provided in the solar photovoltaic system. It is an electronic subsystem, composed of maximum power point (MPP) tracking algorithm-based computation system along with a DC-DC power converter, which helps PV panel to operate at maximum power point (MPP). During load variation or the sunlight variation there is only one point at which the PV module exhibits MPP. At MPP, PV panel resistance (R_{pv}) is equal to load resistance (R_L), which is known as optimum solar PV resistance R_{pvopt} . A DC-DC converter is used for the purpose of impedance matching between load and the PV source. When it is connected between the PV module and the load, the PV panel's operating voltage is decided by the load resistance (R_L) and duty cycle (D). Thus, under



different loading and atmospheric conditions the duty cycle can be adjusted to change R_{pv} to match R_{pvopt} in order to extract maximum electric power from the PV panel.

The overall efficiency of a PV system is depending on the efficiency of the individual PV array, DC-DC converter and the implemented MPPT algorithm. The efficiencies of the PV panel and the converter are not easily improved because they depend on the type of hardware technology. But efficiency of MPP tracking can be increased easily by introducing a new control MPPT algorithm to track true maximum power point. This paper presented the investigation of particle swarm optimisation based MPPT technique in partially shaded solar PV system. Under the non-uniform solar insolation conditions, the photovoltaic power system exhibits a peculiar property of multimodal V-I and V-P characteristics because of the presence of multiple local maxima and a global maximum power point. The presence of such non ideal power characteristic makes the conventional MPPT algorithms not suitable to track the actual global maximum power point successfully. In normal maximum power point tracking methods, all the PV panels are connected to single maximum power point tracker to extract the maximum power. If any fault occurs in the PV panel or low irradiance in some part of the panel cause reduction of solar power generation. In order to address this issue, this research work proposes and investigates the application of Distributed Maximum Power Point Tracking technique (DMPPT) along with the Particle Swarm Optimisation (PSO) approach to capture the optimum global maximum power point effectively.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

A detailed literature survey has been carried out in the area of solar PV standalone system implemented in domestic electrification

Mohamed Saleem Abdul Kareem & Manimaran Saravanan (2016) has presented a new method for accurate estimation of five parameters of PV panel and effective estimation of maximum power point under static and dynamically varying environmental conditions. This method uses Gauss-Seidel iterative method for solving nonlinear equations of solar PV panel and proposed two new equations to find the ideality factor and shunt resistance of PV panel model. The PV model proposed yields good results at STC and under varying environmental conditions.

Mohamed *et al.* (2018) have presented an algorithm for modelling and estimating maximum power point (MPP). This algorithm required only two information such as open circuit voltage (VOC) and short circuit current (ISC) of the PV module. Frequent sampling of panel operating voltage and current are used to estimate MPP via Newton-Raphson (NR) method. Determination of MPP enables the PV system to deliver maximum available power.

Joshi *et al.* (2018) have presented new boost converter in solar-powered electric vehicle application. The voltage regulation of the DC link using battery along with the MPPT is implemented by controlling the switching signals of the new boost converters. The power-sharing analysis between battery and PV array along with battery charging are carried out. Adopting new boost converter rises the benefits in solar powered vehicles.

Hussain, Zohaib & Babaei (2019) have presented the buck -boost converter based solar charge controller for battery charging application. The proposed model exhibited a less oscillation during switching of MOSFET. Effective charging is accomplished under the charismatic characteristics of PV array under various irradiance and temperature levels.

Shahdadi *et al.* (2019) have presented improved fast terminal slip sliding mode control (SMC) for maximum power point tracking. The availability and stability conditions of SMC had been investigated. This study presented the robustness of SMC to the uncertainty of parameters. The proposed technique is recommended for commercial choice for solar PV systems.

Sunar *et al.* (2017) have claimed that intelligent MPPT techniques such as fuzzy logic control MPPT and artificial neural network MPPT achieved good performances, fast tracking and no overshoot in grid connected PV system under all type of climatic conditions.

Allouche *et al.* (2018) have presented a sugeno fuzzy MPPT method. In this work maximum power voltage-based control and direct maximum power (DMP) are used to control the output PV voltage to the reference PV voltage.



Kapumpa *et al.* (2017) have presented fuzzy control MPPT for 1MW standalone PV plant. Generally, FLC MPPT algorithm considered the error $e(t)$ and the change in error $de(t)/dt$ as inputs. Differentiation of error not only increases the complexity of computation but also introduce error.

Khanam *et al.* (2018) have proposed the artificial neural network based MPPT to estimate the irradiance and temperature from array's voltage and current signals in order to determine the optimum peak operating point. This MPPT technique gives a good performance. But, the indirect estimation of solar irradiance and temperature introduced lagging in MPPT performance.

Koochaksaraei *et al.* (2019) have proposed an Adaptive Neuro-Fuzzy Inference System based MPPT controller. The proposed MPPT helps to transfer maximum power to the load. The duty cycle of the two-switch flyback inverter, which has been connected between the solar panel and the load, were generated with the aid of the proposed ANFIS method. Simulation results showed the accuracy and high efficiency of the proposed tracker.

Priyadarshi *et al.* (2020) have introduced an adaptive neuro-fuzzy inference system-particle swarm optimization (ANFIS-PSO)-based hybrid MPPT method to acquire rapid and maximal PV power with zero oscillation tracking. In this work the inverter control strategy was implemented by a space vector modulation hysteresis current controller to get quality inverter current by tracking accurate reference sine-shaped current.

III. PARTICLE SWARM OPTIMISATION (PSO) MPPT TECHNIQUE

In this research work particle swarm optimisation based MPPT technique is proposed to address partial shading issues. Perturbation is done based on the concept of particle swarm optimization. The flowchart of the proposed MPPT scheme is shown in the Figure. 6.5. The PSO algorithm maintains a swarm of individuals (called particles), where each particle represents a candidate solution. Particles follow a simple behaviour, emulate the success of neighbouring particles and its own achieved successes. The position of a particle is therefore influenced by the best particle in a neighbourhood P_{best} as well as the best solution found by all the particles in the entire population G_{best} as discussed by Zheng Yibin *et al.* (2016).

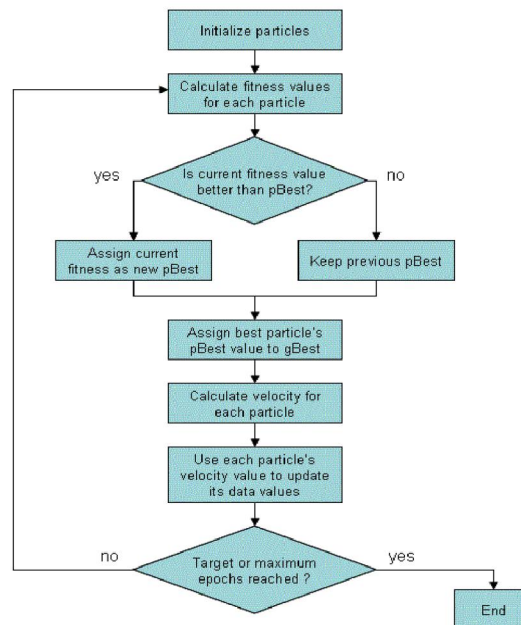


Figure 1 Flowchart of particle swarm optimisation MPPT technique

The following steps describe the working of PSO MPPT algorithm:

1. The figure shows that the perturbation in duty cycle is computed by two different terms: First, the difference between the previous duty cycle $di(k)$ and the local best particles P_{best} . Second, the difference between the previous duty cycle



$di(k)$ and the global best particle $Gbest$. Thus, the power converter tracks the two best $Pbest$ and $Gbest$ at the same time. As a result, the tracking spaces are searched to obtain an optimal solution with a faster speed.

2. Once the particle reaches MPP, the velocity of particles is practically zero. Hence, at steady state there is no oscillations in MPP tracking. These steady-state oscillations are very critical because it is one of the major reasons for the reduced MPPT efficiency of conventional algorithms.

3. In the case of rapid fluctuations in the environmental conditions, the P&O method loses the direction of new MPP and tracking will be driven into a wrong direction. However, the proposed PSO method works with three duty cycles for proceeding MPP tracking in right direction. Since the operating power information is obtained from all three duty cycles, it never loses the direction of MPP in rapid fluctuations.

4. In the condition of partial shading, the V-P characteristic curve is characterized by multiple peaks. As a result, the P&O method is most likely to trap at local maxima. On the other hand, the PSO method works based on a searching scheme. Hence, it still tracks the global peak correctly.

IV. PROPOSED MODEL

The simulation of centralised and distributed MPPT system is done in MATLAB/Simulink environment which are shown in Figures 2 and 3. The figure illustrates a MATLAB/Simulink PV system with MPPT control under unequal irradiance conditions of 1000 and 800 W/m². Two PV modules feed an MPPT DC-DC converter, while voltage, current, and power are measured using scopes, displays, and product blocks. The model evaluates PV performance and power extraction under partial shading.

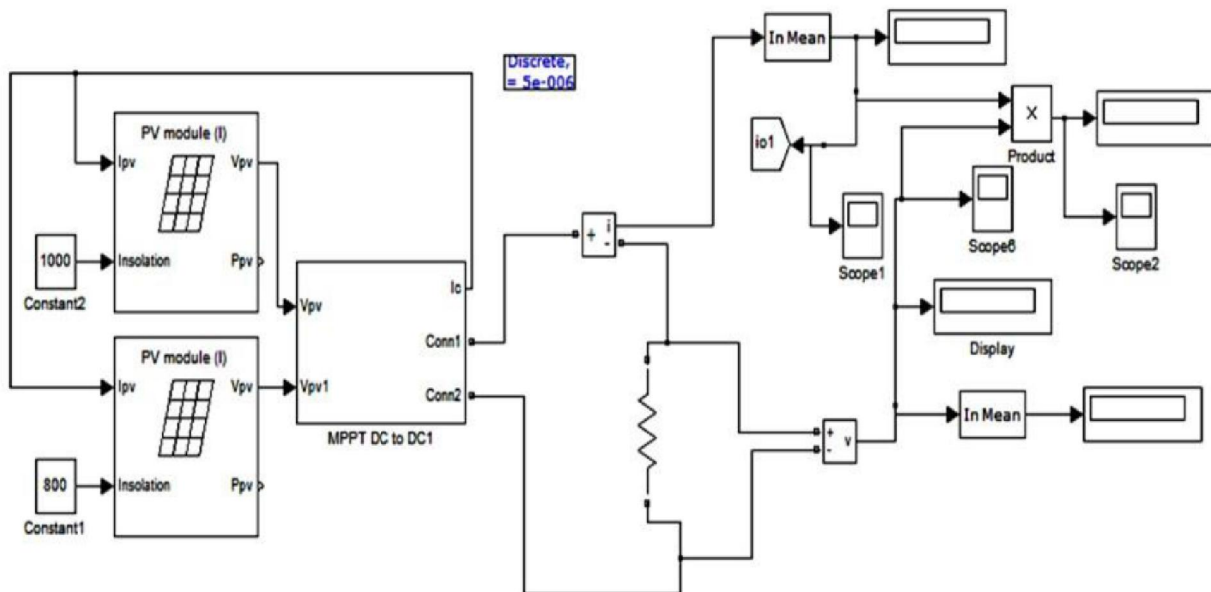


Figure 2 Simulation model of centralised PSO MPPT



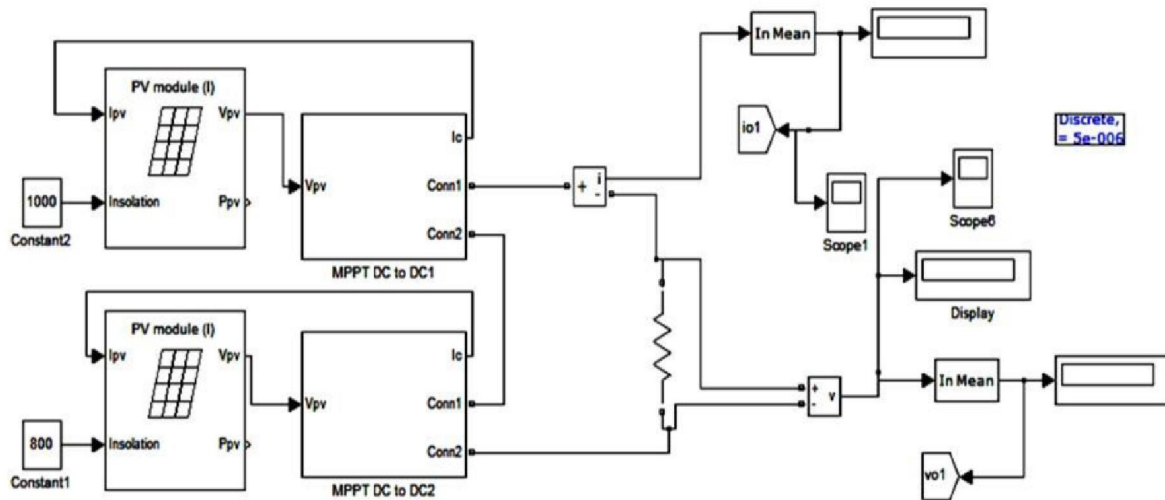


Figure 3 Simulation model of PSO based distributed MPPT

V. RESULT ANALYSIS & DISCUSSION

The MATLAB m-file coding is done for PSO MPPT algorithm. The simulated wave forms of power and voltage of PV system are given in Figures 4 and 5. The comparative results of P&O and PSO MPPTs in CMPPT configuration is tabulated in Tables 1. and comparative result of P&O and PSO MPPTs in DMPPT configuration is tabulated in Table 2.

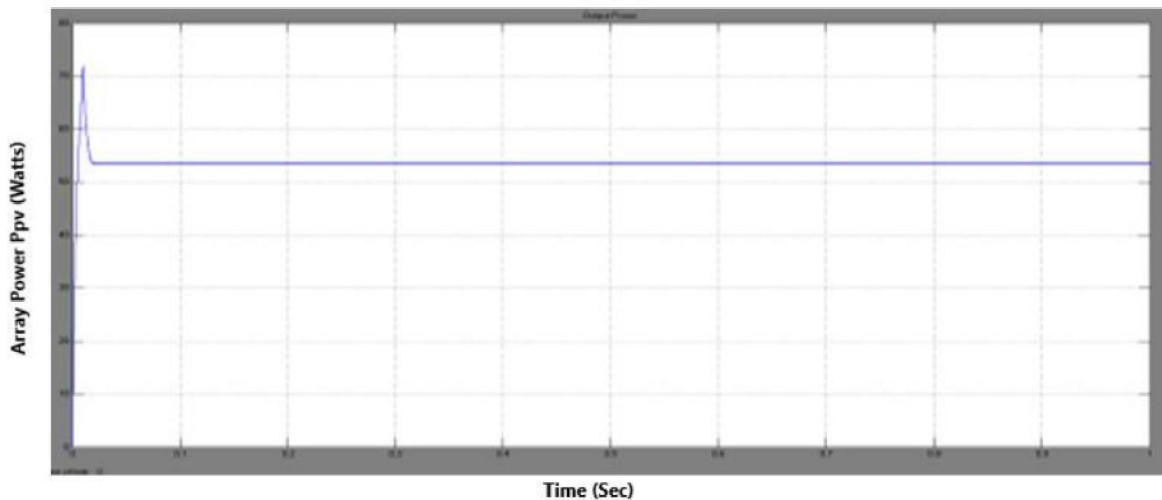


Figure 4 Simulated power output of centralised PSO MPPT



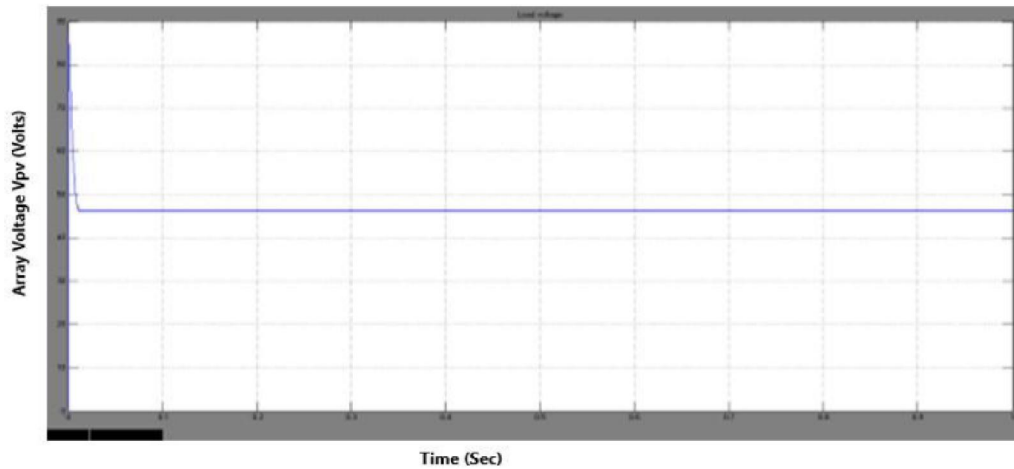


Figure 5 Simulated voltage output of centralised PSO MPPT

Table 1 Comparison of MPPT techniques in CMPPT configuration

Solar Panels Irradiance Level	System Output Voltage (Volts)		System Output Power (Watts)	
	P&O	PSO	P&O	PSO
Panel1:1000W/m ² Panel2:1000W/m ²	52.4	53.6	70.5	72.92
Panel1:1000W/m ² Panel2:700W/m ²	51.5	52.7	67.2	69.57

The output voltage waveforms of individual impedance matching boost converter are shown in Figures.6 and 7.

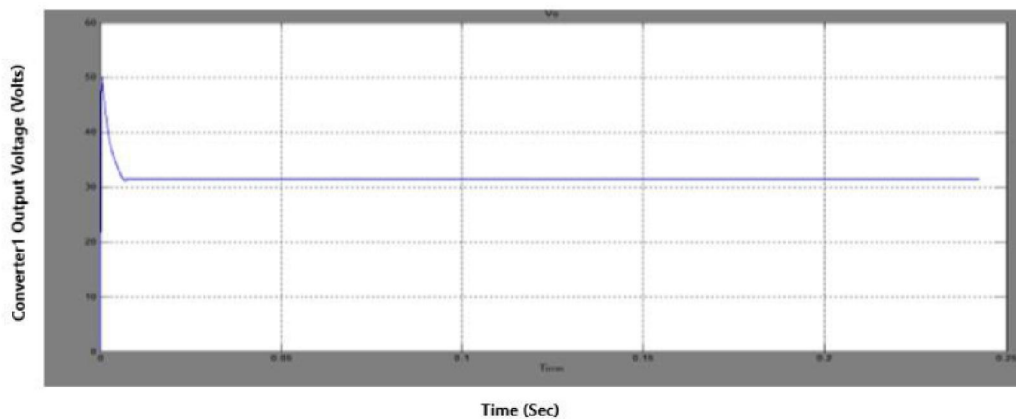


Figure 7 Simulated output voltage of boost converter 1



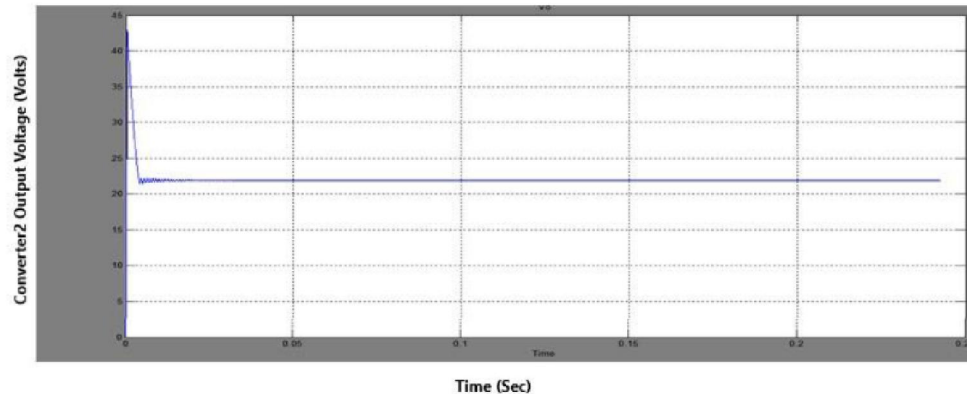


Figure 8 Simulated output voltage of boost converter 2

The overall output voltage waveform of PV system when the panels are connected in series is shown in Figure. 9.

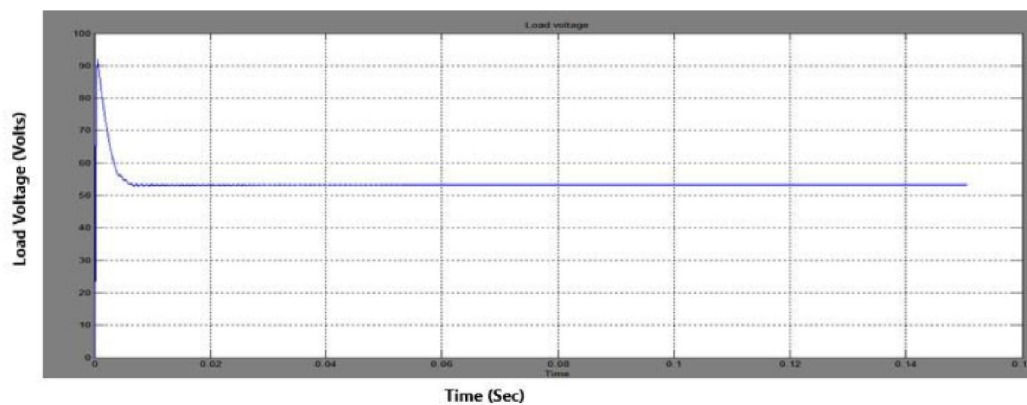


Figure 9 Simulated overall output voltage of partially shaded system

The output power obtained from PSO and P&O MPPT techniques are compared and shown in Figure. 10. The obtained voltage and power values for Distributed MPPT system in PSO MPPT technique are tabulated. Simulation results show that the proposed distributed PSO based MPPT lowest settling time to stabilize the power output at 13ms. The improvement of power extraction is 4.43% at uniform insolation and it is in the range 4.91% to 20% under partially shaded condition.

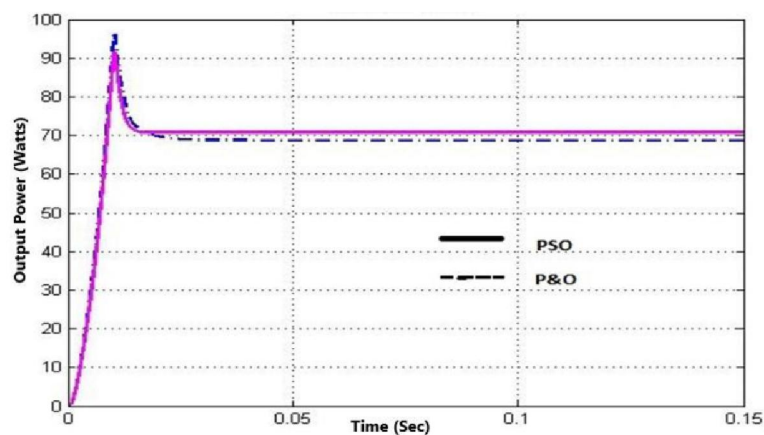


Figure 10 Simulated output power comparison of PSO and P&O MPPT techniques



The obtained voltage and power values for Distributed MPPT system in PSO MPPT technique are tabulated in Table 4.

Table 4 System output values in distributed PSO MPPT configuration

Solar Panels Irradiance Level	System Output Voltage(Volts)	System Output Power(Watts)
Panel1:1000W/m ² Panel2:1000W/m ²	52.88	73.34
Panel1:1000W/m ² Panel2:700W/m ²	51.64	71.13

VI. CONCLUSION

This paper investigated the performance of the PSO-based MPPT technique and compared it with the conventional P&O algorithm. The results demonstrated that PSO offers superior tracking performance, including faster MPP convergence, negligible oscillations at the operating point, and effective global maximum power point tracking under varying irradiance and partial shading conditions. The proposed distributed MPPT configuration enables independent operation of PV sub-modules at their optimum power levels, thereby reducing mismatch losses and improving system flexibility, scalability, and overall lifetime. The PSO algorithm required approximately 520 ms for initial MPP tracking and nearly 60 ms for retracking under changing conditions. These results confirm that PSO-based MPPT is a reliable and efficient solution for high-performance photovoltaic energy conversion systems.

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