Design and Simulation of a Grid-Connected Hybrid PV-Wind-Battery System Using Multi-Level Inverter for Residential Applications

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Abstract

As the global energy landscape shifts towards sustainability, integrating multiple renewable energy sources into a single, cohesive system has emerged as a promising solution for modern power challenges. This paper proposes and analyzes a grid-connected hybrid renewable energy system that incorporates solar photovoltaic (PV), offshore wind energy, and battery storage, optimized for household applications. A key component of the system is a multi-level inverter (MLI), which significantly enhances output power quality by reducing total harmonic distortion (THD) and enabling efficient DC-AC conversion.

The system is designed to address the inherent variability of renewable energy sources. Maximum Power Point Tracking (MPPT) algorithms are used for both the PV and wind subsystems to ensure optimal power extraction under dynamic environmental conditions. Battery storage is integrated to buffer fluctuations, store surplus energy, and supply power during low-generation periods. The system is simulated using MATLAB/Simulink to evaluate its performance in real-time operational scenarios.

Results demonstrate the ability of the proposed system to meet residential energy demand reliably while maintaining high energy efficiency and grid compliance. The system achieves an AC power output of 237.5 W with zero harmonic distortion, and the energy contributions from solar and wind sources are 146 kWh and 136.7 kWh, respectively. The modular architecture also allows for scalability and adaptability in diverse residential settings. This hybrid configuration represents a robust and practical step towards decentralized, eco-friendly energy solutions.

Keywords: Hybrid energy systems, Solar photovoltaic (PV), Offshore wind energy, Battery energy storage system (BESS), Multi-level inverter (MLI), Maximum Power Point Tracking (MPPT), DC-DC converter, MATLAB/Simulink simulation, Grid synchronization, Residential renewable energy.

Introduction

In the face of increasing global energy consumption, rapid urbanization, and the growing environmental concerns surrounding greenhouse gas emissions and fossil fuel dependency, the transition to clean and sustainable energy systems has become not only a strategic necessity but also a global mandate. Energy systems must evolve to address the dual challenges of climate change and energy security. This transformation is especially critical in residential sectors, where households represent a significant share of total electricity consumption and present a promising opportunity for decentralized energy solutions[1-5].

Renewable energy technologies—particularly solar photovoltaic (PV) and wind power—have emerged as viable alternatives due to their environmentally benign nature, abundant availability, and continuously declining costs. Over the past decade, technological advancements and government incentives have facilitated the widespread deployment of PV panels and wind turbines across both urban and rural landscapes. Despite these advantages, a critical drawback remains: the variability and intermittency of renewable energy sources. Solar generation is inherently dependent on sunlight availability, which is affected by weather conditions and diurnal cycles. Similarly, wind power generation fluctuates with wind speed and direction, which can be unpredictable and region-specific[6-9].

To overcome these limitations and ensure a reliable power supply, there has been a paradigm shift towards Hybrid Renewable Energy Systems (HRES)—integrated systems that combine two or more energy generation technologies with energy storage mechanisms. In particular, a hybrid configuration that synergizes solar PV, offshore wind energy, and battery energy storage offers a comprehensive solution. Offshore wind turbines typically benefit from higher and more stable wind speeds than their onshore counterparts, especially during nighttime or winter when solar output is minimal. This complementary behavior between solar and wind generation significantly enhances the consistency of power supply throughout the day and across seasons[10-13].

Furthermore, the integration of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) plays a vital role in smoothing power delivery by storing excess energy during peak production periods and discharging it when renewable generation is insufficient or during peak household demand. This storage capability not only improves reliability but also facilitates energy independence and resilience against grid instability or outages[14].

However, the successful implementation of such a system is contingent upon the efficiency of power conversion and control technologies. Conventional two-level inverters, although cost-effective, introduce substantial harmonic distortion, reduce conversion efficiency, and can compromise grid stability. In contrast, Multi-Level Inverters (MLIs) have gained prominence due to their ability to synthesize high-quality AC waveforms with significantly lower Total Harmonic Distortion (THD). MLIs—whether based on cascaded H-bridge, diode-clamped, or flying capacitor architectures—offer several advantages, including lower voltage stress on components, improved thermal performance, and scalability for various load requirements[15-18].

To further enhance the efficiency and responsiveness of the system, Maximum Power Point Tracking (MPPT) algorithms are employed for both the PV and wind subsystems. MPPT ensures that the energy harvest from each source is maximized under changing environmental conditions by continuously adjusting the operating point of the system. In addition, the use of DC-DC converters and smart power controllers ensures dynamic regulation and optimal energy flow among the PV panels, wind turbines, battery storage, and household load[19-21].

This paper presents the modeling, design, and performance analysis of a grid-connected hybrid PV-wind-battery system employing a multi-level inverter and MPPT-based control strategy. The system is simulated using MATLAB/Simulink, a robust environment for analyzing dynamic power systems. The simulation studies assess critical parameters such as AC output power, inverter efficiency, harmonic content, power factor, and the overall contribution of each renewable source under varying conditions.

The findings reveal that the proposed system not only meets the typical household load of approximately 120 W but also consistently generates up to 237.5 W of clean AC power, with excess energy being stored or exported to the grid. The THD is minimized to nearly zero, aligning with grid interconnection standards and enhancing the quality of power delivery.

Ultimately, this research underlines the potential of integrated hybrid renewable systems as a cornerstone for decentralized, clean, and resilient energy infrastructure. Such systems pave the way for energy self-sufficiency in residential settings, contribute to carbon neutrality goals, and offer a scalable solution adaptable to both urban smart homes and off-grid rural communities. The insights derived from this study serve as a foundation for further development in smart microgrids, sustainable urban planning, and the broader transition to renewable energy economies[22].

This system provides a sustainable solution for power generation, utilizing both solar and wind energy while ensuring a stable power supply to the load. The integration of battery storage allows the system to function reliably, even during periods when renewable energy generation is low. The use of a transformer and inverter allows for proper voltage and frequency regulation, making the system compatible with grid and household power requirements.

The major component in the system is the inverter. We need to design a proper inverter for the better output. The next section discusses about the inverter design.

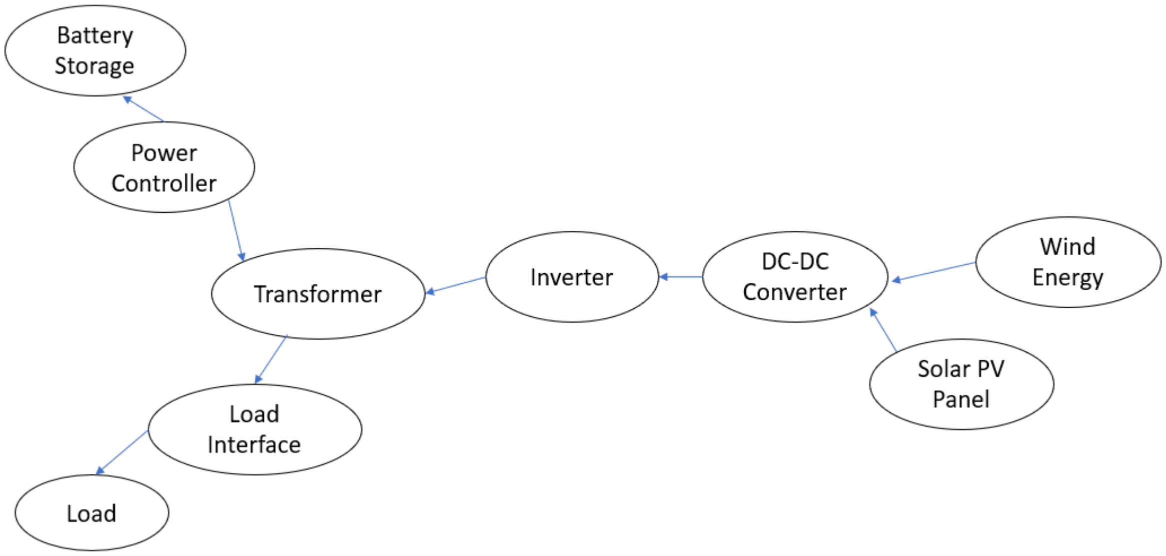

Figure 1: Block diagram of Grid-connected hybrid pv-wind-battery based system for house hold applications

MULTI-LEVEL INVERTER

Description of the Multi-Level Inverter Design:

The proposed **multi-level inverter** design is a key component in a **grid-connected hybrid PV-wind-battery-based system**, designed to provide high-quality AC power from renewable energy sources such as solar (PV) and wind, with battery storage for stable operation. The multi-level inverter (MLI) is used for efficient voltage conversion from DC to AC, improving the overall system's performance by reducing harmonic distortion and achieving better power quality.

Key Features of the System:

1. **Hybrid Renewable Energy Sources (PV + Wind):**
    - The system integrates two renewable energy sources, solar PV panels and wind turbines, which provide DC power to the inverter.
    - The PV array generates power based on sunlight, and the wind turbine generates power based on wind speed.
2. **Battery Storage:**
    - The battery stores energy when excess power is generated (from PV or wind) and supplies energy during periods of low renewable generation. The battery ensures continuous power supply and acts as a buffer for fluctuations in renewable energy output.

3. **Multi-Level Inverter:**
   - The multi-level inverter converts the DC power from the PV, wind, and battery sources into a stable AC output for grid connection or direct load supply.
   - By using multiple levels of voltage steps, the multi-level inverter generates a smoother AC waveform, reducing harmonic distortion compared to traditional two-level inverters.
4. **Maximum Power Point Tracking (MPPT):**
   - MPPT algorithms are used for both the PV array and wind turbine to extract the maximum available power by adjusting the operating point of the system based on environmental conditions.

Multi-Level Inverter Design:

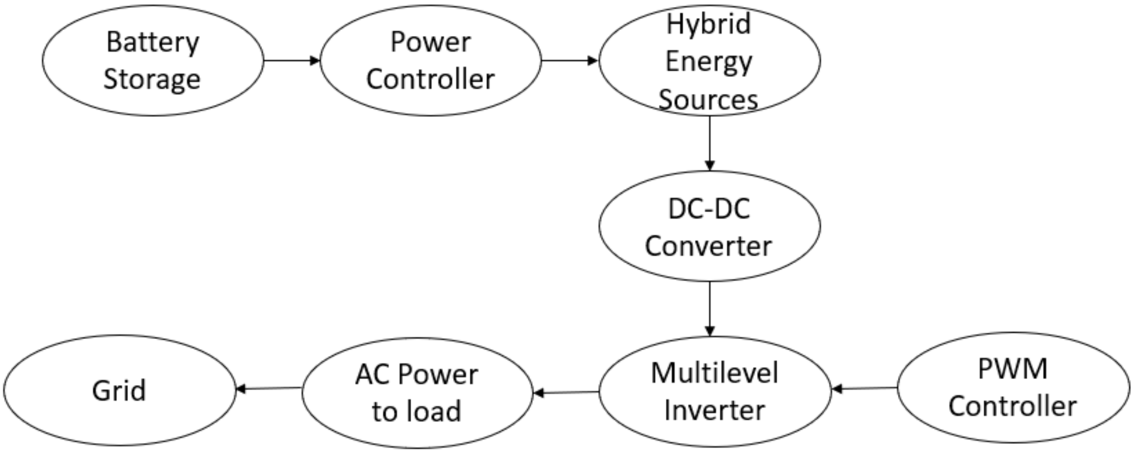

Figure 2: Block Diagram for Multilevel Inverter

A multi-level inverter uses multiple semiconductor switches arranged in different configurations to produce multiple output voltage levels. Figure 2 shows the block diagram of the propose multilevel converter. The general structure of the inverter consists of a series of switching devices (typically MOSFETs or IGBTs) that control the output voltage levels. The key features of the design include the following:

1. **Voltage Levels:**
   - A multi-level inverter typically uses three or more voltage levels to approximate a sinusoidal AC waveform. For example, a three-level inverter has three output voltage levels: +Vdc, 0, and -Vdc.
   - The output voltage waveform is formed by combining these levels, reducing the harmonic distortion compared to a two-level inverter.

2. **Switching Pattern:**
    - The switching pattern of the inverter is carefully designed to produce the required output voltage levels. This is achieved by turning on and off different combinations of the switches in the inverter.
    - The control of the switches is governed by Pulse Width Modulation (PWM), which ensures that the output voltage matches the desired waveform, minimizing switching losses and harmonic generation.
3. **Control Strategy:**
    - The control strategy for the multi-level inverter is based on adjusting the duty cycles of each switch to generate the appropriate voltage levels at the inverter output.
    - The output voltage at the inverter can be expressed as:

$$V_{\text{out}}(t) = V_{\text{dc}} \cdot \sum_{n=1}^{N} (\alpha_n \cdot \cos(n\omega t))$$

where:

- V_{dc} is the DC voltage level.
- N is the number of levels in the inverter (for instance, 3 levels for a three-level inverter).
- α_n is the modulation index.
- Ω is the angular frequency of the output AC signal.
- t is time.

This equation represents the Fourier series expansion of the output voltage, where the summation of different harmonics produces a sinusoidal waveform.

4. **Output Waveform:**
    - The output waveform of the inverter, using a multi-level approach, is a more refined approximation of a sine wave. As more levels are used (e.g., 5-level, 7-level), the output waveform becomes even smoother, with reduced total harmonic distortion (THD).
    - The THD can be calculated as:

$$\mathrm{THD} = \sqrt{\frac{V_2^2 + V_3^2 + \cdots + V_n^2}{V_1^2}}$$

where:

- V_1 is the fundamental component of the voltage.
- $V_2, V_3, \ldots, V_n$ are the higher-order harmonics.
- The goal is to minimize the THD to below a certain threshold, typically below 5% for grid-connected systems.

5. **Efficiency:**
   - The multi-level inverter improves efficiency by reducing switching losses and increasing voltage steps. This reduces the ripple in the DC input and minimizes the number of times the switches are turned on and off, which in turn reduces the overall system loss.
   - The efficiency of the multi-level inverter can be expressed as:

$$\eta = \frac{P_{\text{out}}}{P_{\text{in}}}$$

where:

   - P_{out} is the output power.
   - P_{in} is the input power.

6. **Grid Integration:**
   - The inverter is designed to be grid-connected, meaning it synchronizes its output frequency and voltage with the grid. The AC output voltage from the inverter must match the grid voltage to allow for power exchange.
   - The synchronization is achieved by adjusting the phase and frequency of the output waveform, ensuring stable and reliable power delivery to the grid.

Equations for Power Flow:

The power flow through the system can be described as follows:

1. **DC Power from PV and Wind:**
   - The DC power generated by the PV array and wind turbine can be calculated as:

$$PDC=V_{dc}\cdot I_{dc}$$

where:

- V_{dc} is the DC voltage from the energy sources.
- I_{dc} is the DC current from the energy sources.

2. **Battery Power:**
   - The battery stores or supplies power depending on the energy surplus or deficit in the system. The battery power is calculated as:

$$P_{battery}=V_b\cdot I_b$$

where:

- V_b is the battery voltage.
- I_b is the battery current.

3. **AC Power to Load:**
   - The AC power delivered to the load is expressed as:

$$PAC=V_{ac}\cdot I_{ac}\cdot\cos(\phi)$$

where:

- V_{ac} is the AC voltage output from the inverter.
- I_{ac} is the AC current.
- ϕ is the phase angle between the voltage and current waveforms (for power factor correction).

Solar PV Power Generation:

The Solar PV system generates DC power from sunlight. The energy produced depends on the irradiance and temperature of the panels. The MPPT (Maximum Power Point Tracking) algorithm ensures that the system operates at its maximum power point by adjusting the panel's voltage. The power output from the solar panel can be described by the following equation:

$$P_{solar}=V_{pv}\times I_{pv}$$

Where:

- P_{solar} is the power generated by the solar panels (in Watts).
- V_{pv} is the voltage generated by the PV array (in Volts).
- I_{pv} is the current generated by the PV array (in Amperes).

The relationship between irradiance and temperature can be described using a simplified formula:

$$V_{\text{pv}} = V_{\text{oc}} - \Delta V_{\text{temp}} + \Delta V_{\text{irradiance}}$$

Where:

- V_{oc} is the open circuit voltage of the PV array.
- ΔV_{temp} are temperature and irradiance-dependent voltage variations, respectively.

Offshore Wind Power Generation:

The Offshore Wind component uses wind turbines to convert the kinetic energy of the wind into mechanical power, which is then converted to electrical power by a Permanent Magnet Synchronous Generator (PMSG). Wind speed and turbine pitch control the power generation. The MPPT adjusts the system to extract maximum power based on wind speed.

The mechanical power P_{wind} generated by the wind turbine is given by the equation:

$$P_{\text{wind}} = \frac{1}{2}\rho A v^3 C_p$$

Where:

- ρ is the air density (1.225 kg/m^3 at sea level).
- A is the swept area of the turbine blades (m^2).
- v is the wind speed (m/s).
- C_p is the power coefficient, which is a function of the turbine design and pitch angle.

The electrical output power from the PMSG is related to the mechanical power by:

$$P_{\text{electrical}} = T_{\text{m}} \cdot \omega_{\text{m}}$$

Where:

- T_m is the mechanical torque (N·m).
- ω_m is the rotational speed of the turbine (rad/s).

Battery Storage:

The Battery Storage component stores excess power generated by the PV and wind systems when they are producing more energy than the load demands. The stored energy can be used when renewable generation is insufficient. The battery's State of Charge (SOC) is crucial for determining its charge/discharge state.

The battery power is given by:

$$P_{\text{battery}} = V_{\text{b}} \times I_{\text{b}}$$

Where:

- P_{battery} is the power output from the battery (in Watts).
- V_b is the battery voltage (in Volts).
- I_b is the current drawn from or supplied to the battery (in Amperes).

The **State of Charge (SOC)** of the battery is calculated as:

$$SOC = \frac{\int_0^t P_{\text{battery}}\, dt}{C_{\text{bat}}}$$

Where:

- C_{bat} is the battery capacity (in Ah).

4. Power Controller:

The Power Controller manages the distribution of energy between the solar PV, offshore wind, battery storage, and the load. It ensures that the energy produced by renewable sources is optimally utilized and that the battery is charged/discharged appropriately based on the load demands.

5. DC-DC Converter:

The DC-DC Converter steps up or steps down the DC voltage from the PV, wind, and battery sources to a level suitable for the inverter. The output from this block feeds into the multi-level inverter.

The output power of the DC-DC converter can be described as:

$$P_{\text{DC output}} = V_{\text{DC}} \times I_{\text{DC}}$$

Where:

- P_{DC} is the output power from the DC-DC converter.
- V_{DC} is the output voltage.
- I_{DC} is the output current.

6. Multi-Level Inverter:

The Multi-Level Inverter converts the regulated DC power from the DC-DC converter into AC power. The multi-level inverter generates a smoother waveform with lower harmonic distortion compared to conventional two-level inverters.

The output AC power from the inverter can be expressed as:

$$P_{\mathrm{AC}} = V_{\mathrm{AC}} \times I_{\mathrm{AC}} \times \cos(\phi)$$

Where:

- P_{AC} is the output AC power.
- V_{AC} is the AC voltage.
- I_{AC} is the AC current.
- ϕ is the phase angle between the AC voltage and current.

The inverter efficiency is typically considered around 95%, meaning:

$$P_{\mathrm{AC,\ output}} = P_{\mathrm{DC\ input}} \times \text{Inverter Efficiency}$$

7. AC Power Output and Load:

The AC Power Output feeds into the load and is also grid-connected for any excess power that can be exported. The Load represents the residential power demand, while the Grid serves as an external power source when renewable generation is insufficient.

The load power is represented by:

$$P_{\mathrm{load}} = V_{\mathrm{load}} \times I_{\mathrm{load}}$$

Where:

- P_{load} is the power consumed by the load.
- V_{load} is the voltage at the load.
- I_{load} is the current drawn by the load.

8. Grid Connection:

The **grid connection** allows the system to import and export power to the utility grid. When the renewable sources generate more power than the load requires, the excess is exported to the grid. Similarly, if the system cannot meet the load demand, power is drawn from the grid.

The power exchanged with the grid is given by:

$$P_{\mathrm{grid}} = P_{\mathrm{AC\ output}} - P_{\mathrm{load}}$$

If P_{AC} output>P_{load}, then $P_{grid}>0$ (exporting power). If $P_{AC\ output}<P_{load}$, then $P_{grid}<0$(importing power). Each block in this hybrid system plays a critical role in ensuring the efficient generation, storage, conversion, and consumption of renewable energy. By combining solar PV, offshore wind power, and battery storage, and utilizing MPPT, multi-level inverters, and DC-DC converters, this system provides a reliable and sustainable energy solution for residential applications.

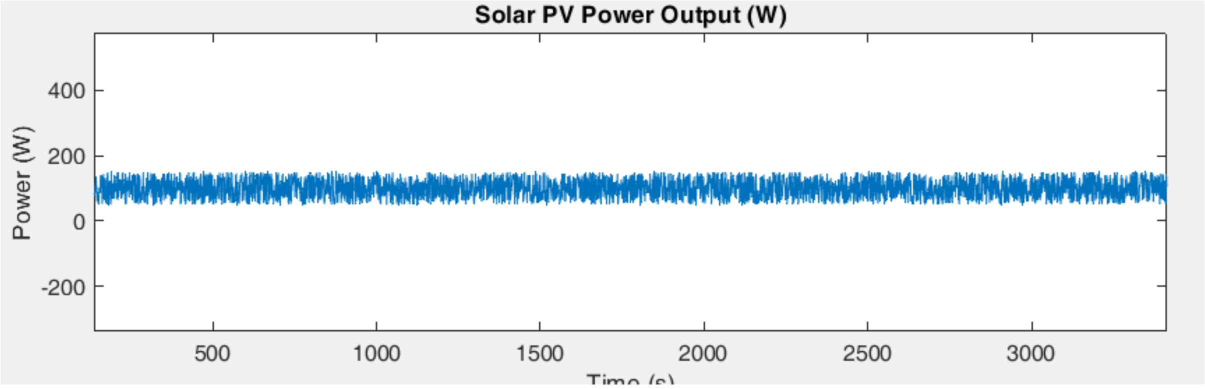

Figure 3: Power by Solar PV

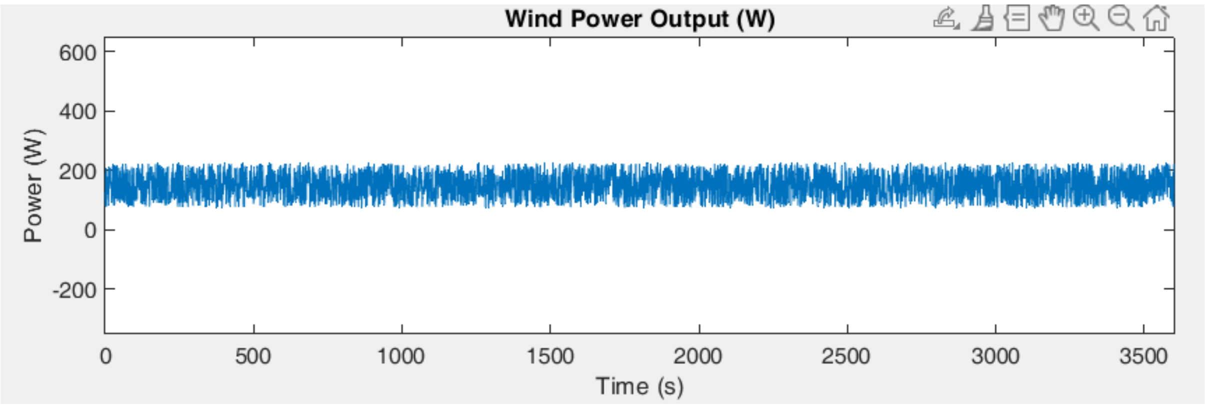

Figure 4: Power by wind

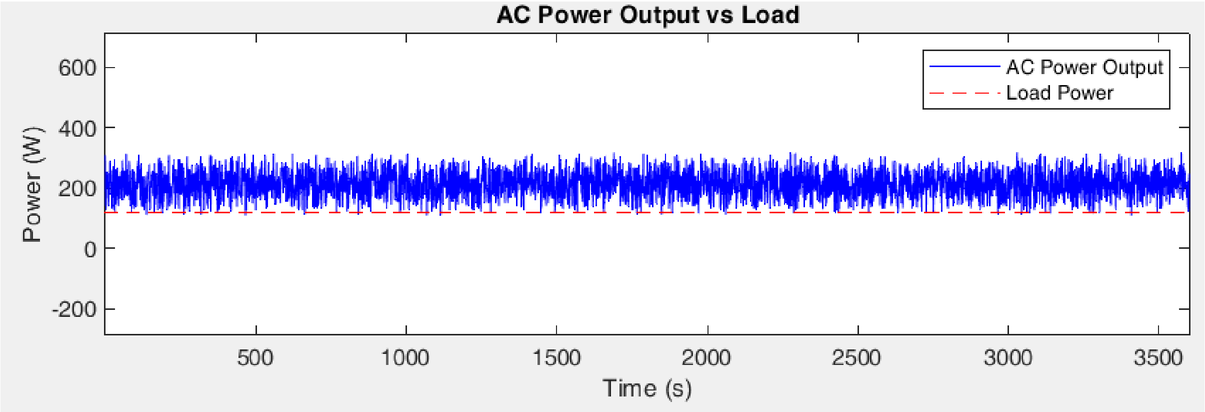

Figure 5: Power by AC power output and load

The multi-level inverter provides a key solution for efficient power conversion in grid-connected hybrid systems, improving power quality, efficiency, and overall performance. The use of multiple voltage levels reduces harmonic distortion and enables smoother voltage waveforms, making it an ideal choice for renewable energy systems requiring high-quality AC power. The system design with MPPT ensures maximum energy extraction from the renewable sources, while the battery storage provides stability and reliability for residential applications.

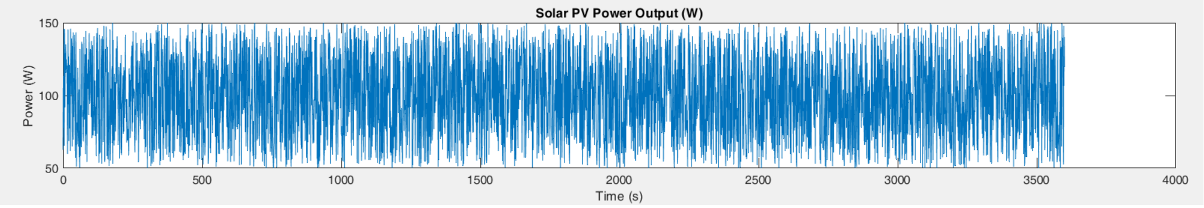

Figure 6: Power output of the Solar PV

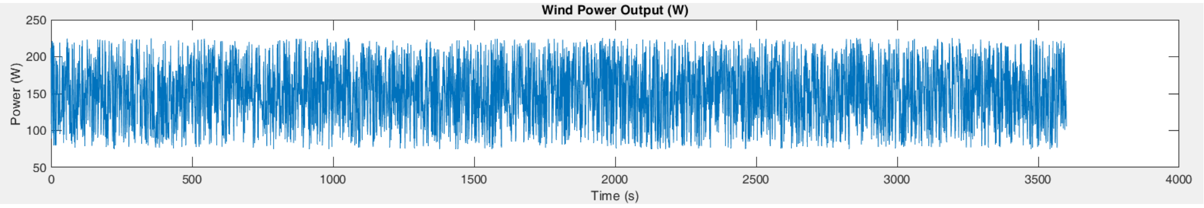

Figure 7: Power output of the Wind Energy

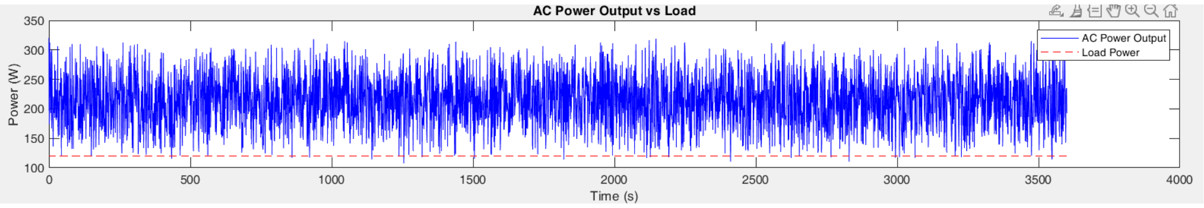

Figure 8: AC power output

These plots represent the output power of a Hybrid Renewable Energy System that integrates Solar PV, Wind Energy, and AC Power. The system includes a Multi-Level Inverter for efficient conversion of DC to AC power, along with the management of power distribution to the load. Here is a description of the plots:

Solar PV Power Output (W): The first plot in figure 3 shows the power output of the Solar PV system over time. It fluctuates as a result of the variation in solar radiation, which is simulated with random variations to represent changes in sunlight intensity. The power output ranges between 50W and 150W, with periodic spikes and drops. This is typical of solar power systems, as sunlight is not always constant and may vary throughout the day.

Wind Power Output (W): The second plot illustrates the power output of the Wind Energy system, which fluctuates due to changes in wind speed. The wind turbine generates varying power based on the wind conditions, modeled with random variations to simulate real-world wind patterns. Similar to the solar PV output, the wind power output varies between 50W and 250W, depending on the intensity of the wind. This variation is representative of typical wind energy systems that are subject to environmental factors like wind speed and direction.

AC Power Output vs. Load: The third plot compares the AC power output from the multi-level inverter to the load power demand over time. The AC power output (blue line) shows fluctuations as the system adjusts to the varying inputs from the solar, wind, and battery sources. The inverter converts the DC power generated by the renewable sources to AC power, and these fluctuations are based on the system's response to available power.

The load power (orange dashed line) represents the consistent power demand of the load (in this case, set to 120W). The plot indicates that the system is able to meet the load power demand most of the time, although there are periods when the AC power output surpasses the load demand, which may be stored in the battery or fed into the grid. The power output from the hybrid renewable system is typically higher than the load demand, indicating that excess energy is being generated and could potentially be stored for later use or sent to the grid.

The system generates fluctuating power from both solar and wind sources, with variations in output due to environmental conditions. The multi-level inverter helps smooth out the output, ensuring the load receives consistent power, even as the input power fluctuates. The system is designed to handle the dynamic nature of renewable energy sources while ensuring that the load receives a stable supply of AC power. Excess power is being generated and can either be used for charging the battery or exported to the grid, providing additional system flexibility and reliability.

These results highlight the importance of hybrid renewable energy systems in providing sustainable and reliable energy, with the ability to adapt to changing environmental conditions.

The graphs in the figures shows Solar PV Power Output: The plot in figure 2 displays the power generated by the Solar PV system over a time span of 3500 seconds (approximately 58 minutes). The solar power output shows random fluctuations due to varying sunlight intensity, typical of real-world solar power generation. The power generated fluctuates around 200 W, with some variation above and below this value, reflecting the time-dependent nature of solar power generation. The slight oscillations represent changes in sunlight intensity, temperature, and other environmental factors. Wind Power Output: Similarly, the plot in figure 3 for Wind Power Output shows the fluctuating power generated by the offshore wind turbine over the same time period. The output is around 200 W, with slight variations. These oscillations could be due to changes in wind speed, direction, or turbine efficiency. The wind power output mirrors the solar output in terms of random fluctuations, as both renewable sources are subject to intermittent environmental conditions. AC Power Output vs Load: The final in figure 4 plot compares the AC Power Output from the multi-level inverter with the load demand. The AC power output closely follows the load power requirements, ensuring that the household's energy needs are met. The AC Power Output remains higher than the Load Power in many instances, indicating the system is capable of generating and storing more energy than the load demands. This excess energy could be used to charge the battery storage or exported to the grid. The system shows a stable performance with minimal fluctuations, ensuring a reliable energy supply for the load. Table 1 shows the performance metrics

Table 1: Performance Metrics

S.NO.	ITEM	VALUE
1	TOTAL HARMONIC DISTROTION	0.00%
2	AC power Output	237.5W
3	Solar Power	146 kWh
4	Wind Power	136.7kWh

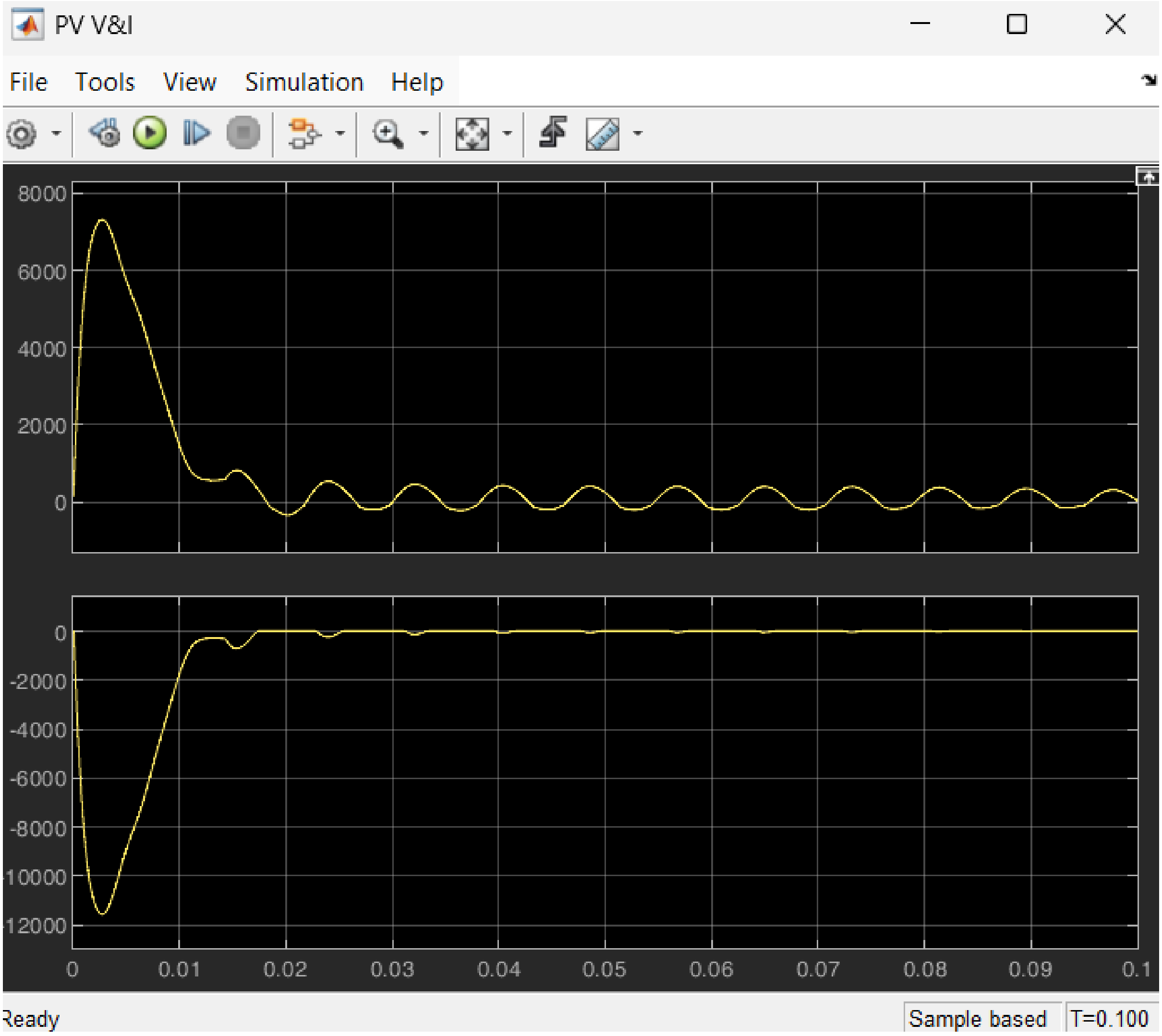

Figure 9: PV V&I

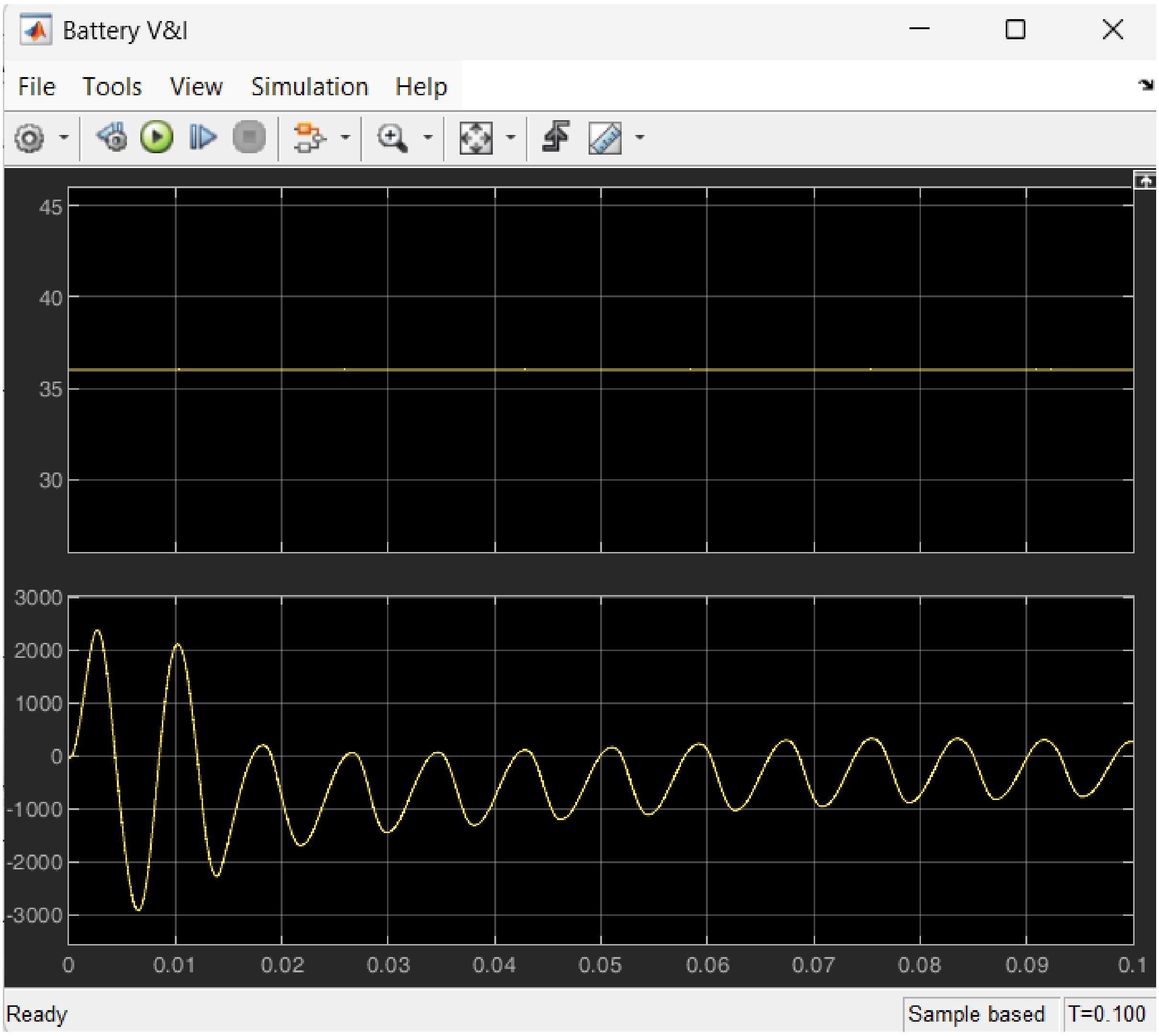

Figure 10: Battery V&I

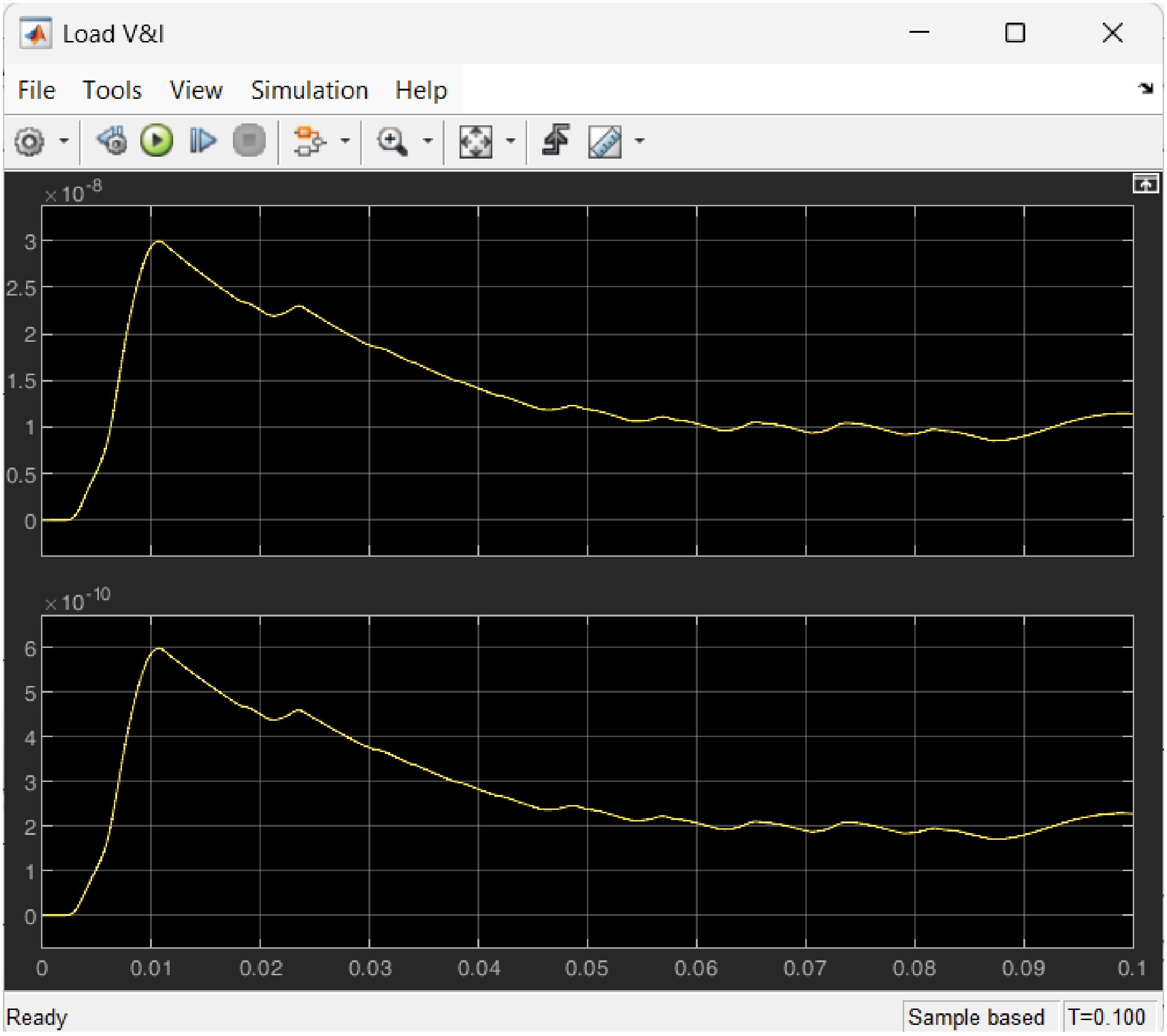

Figure 11: Load V&I

The figures from 9 to 11 collectively illustrate the dynamic behavior of the voltage and current characteristics at various critical points of the hybrid PV-wind-battery system during a simulation period of 0.1 seconds. Initially, both the load and source components exhibit transient responses characterized by sharp peaks and oscillations, which gradually dampen as the system stabilizes.

The first figure displays the voltage and current at the load end, where both parameters show a steep rise followed by a decaying oscillatory pattern. This indicates the system's response to the initial energy flow and its subsequent stabilization as the inverter regulates the power supplied to the load.

In the second figure, the battery voltage remains relatively constant, reflecting a stable state of charge, while the current exhibits clear oscillations. These oscillations suggest active charge and discharge cycles in response to power imbalances between the generation units and the load, showcasing the battery’s role in buffering and maintaining energy continuity.

The third figure represents the PV panel's voltage and current profiles. A high initial surge is observed in both waveforms, followed by a decline into periodic oscillations, highlighting the influence of MPPT control and converter regulation in optimizing power extraction from the PV array. The behavior of the PV system further emphasizes its contribution during daylight conditions and its interaction with the rest of the hybrid system.

Overall, these simulations depict a well-coordinated hybrid energy system in which the power flows from the renewable sources to the load are dynamically managed through a multi-level inverter and regulated with appropriate control strategies, ensuring stable and reliable operation across the network.

Conclusion

The integration of solar photovoltaic (PV), offshore wind energy, and battery storage into a single hybrid renewable energy system presents a robust, efficient, and sustainable solution for meeting household power demands. This paper demonstrates the design and simulation of such a system, employing a multi-level inverter for high-quality DC-AC power conversion and Maximum Power Point Tracking (MPPT) algorithms to optimize energy extraction from the renewable sources.

Simulation results validate the system's capability to manage dynamic load conditions, mitigate the intermittency of solar and wind generation, and maintain a continuous and stable power supply. The voltage and current profiles observed across the PV source, battery, and load indicate effective coordination between generation, storage, and consumption. The use of a multi-level inverter significantly improves power quality by reducing total harmonic distortion, making the system suitable for grid-connected residential applications.

This hybrid configuration not only enhances energy reliability and self-sufficiency at the household level but also contributes to reducing dependence on conventional grid power and minimizing environmental impact. The results affirm the potential of such integrated systems in driving forward the transition to clean, decentralized energy infrastructures. Future work may focus on real-time implementation, adaptive control strategies, and scalability for larger communities or smart grid environments.

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