

MPPT based Charge Controller for Off Grid Small Wind Machine using PWM Technique

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ABSTRACT

Wind is the most promising renewable source. However its erratic behavior hampers the output especially when the energy generated is to be stored safely and used as per demands. The paper reveal the charging battery with maximum power point tracking (MPPT) considering battery safety. The main task of wind power charge controller is to control the flow of charge to and from the battery and protect it from over charging and deep discharging. It regulates flow of charge by monitoring the battery voltage and wind variations continuously. The charge controller developed takes care of weak winds while battery charging and improves the efficiency. Upon fully charging the charge controller disconnects the battery from wind panel to avoid excess charging thus the battery life is increased.

Further the performance of the wind charge controller is evaluated and the results shows that use of PWM technique with MPPT increases the efficiency of charge controller up to 92% under different laboratory conditions as compared to normal charge controllers without MPPT having efficiencies up to 52 to 60%.

Keywords

Battery safety, charge controller, Maximum power tracking, Off-grid small Wind mill.

1. INTRODUCTION

The existing charge controllers are based on analog electronic components like operational amplifiers to amplify the input electrical signal, transistors which are used as switch, silicon controlled rectifiers which passes high current through them and MOSFETs which acts as electronic switch at high current. However the input available power is not tracked and the conversion efficiencies are low. The charge conversion efficiency also can be increased. The effort is made to develop such charge controller using MPPT /PWM techniques.

2. SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE

The basic blocks of the wind power charge controller system analyzed here are shown in Fig.1. Since the wind mill power fluctuates with wind velocity, the generator output voltage varies continuously. The dc voltage is then regulated to obtain constant voltage by controlling the duty cycle ratio of a DC to DC converter. The suitable battery bank of 12V/24V/48V is to be connected at charge controller output. The proposed system will switch off the supply from wind station on complete charging of battery and again switch ON the supply on discharging below certain minimum voltage level to avoid battery from over charging and deep charging respectively. The system is microcontroller based which shall provide accurate results depending upon input variation; it will be user friendly system with LCD display on board.

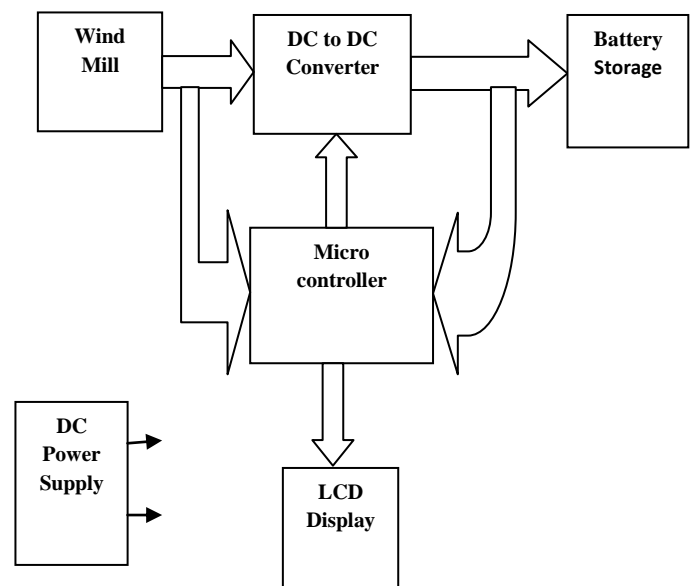


Figure 1: Block diagram of wind power charge controller

3. SYSTEM DESIGN

The System Schematic Diagram is shown in Fig.2.

The main parts of system are mentioned as follow

- DC to DC converter
- Microcontroller
- Charging current detection of circuitry
- Voltage detection of wind mill and battery circuitry
- LCD Display
- DC power supply

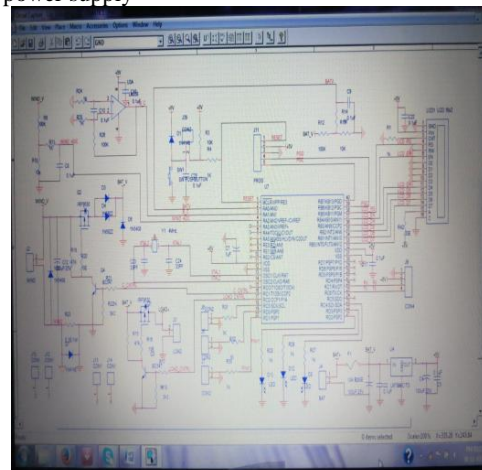


Figure 2: System schematic diagram

4. EXECUTION PROCESS

A typical execution of the program is illustrated in flow chart given in figure 3.

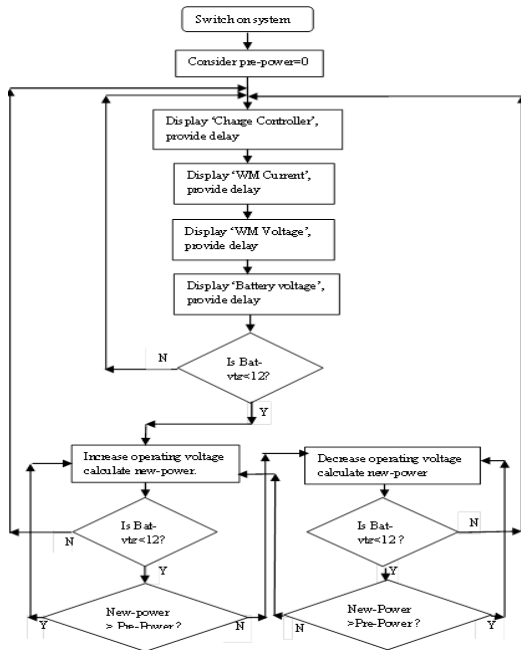


Fig 3: General flow chart

5. HARDWARE LABORATORY SET-UP

A laboratory set up with variable speed drive is used for varying input conditions equivalent to real life small wind machines for testing of MPPT based charge controller .Fig 5 explains the test set up .The performance of the device is evaluated based on actual measurements of input /output conditions.

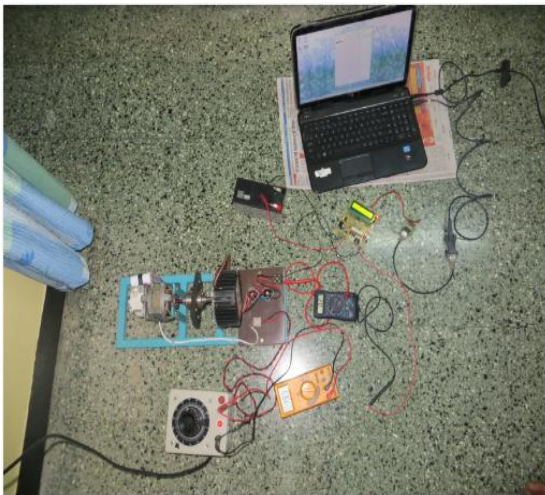


Fig 4: Laboratory testing setup

6. RESULTS

1) Graph of Generator RPM Vs Generator O/P Current

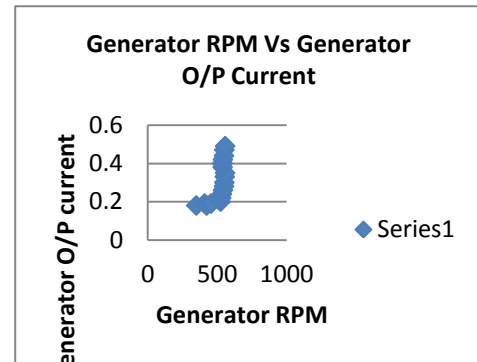


Figure 5: Graph of Generator RPM Vs Generator O/P Current

2) Graph of Generator RPM Vs Generator O/P Voltage

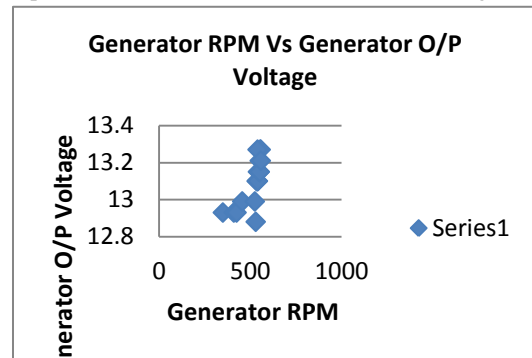


Fig 6: Graph of Generator RPM Vs Generator O/P Voltage

3) Graph of Generator O/P Current Vs Generator O/P Power

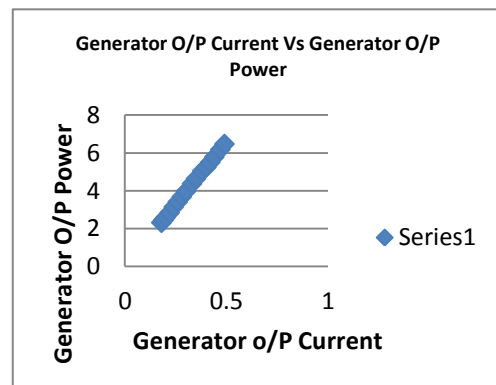


Figure 7: Graph of Generator O/P Current Vs Generator O/P Power

4) Graph of Charge controller I/P Current Vs Efficiency

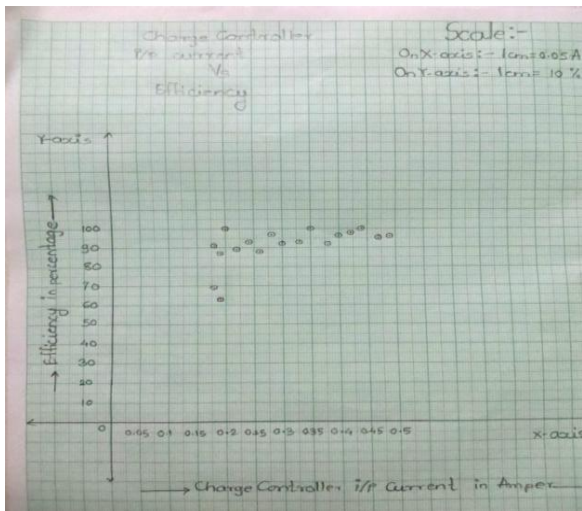


Fig 8: Graph of Charge controller I/P Current Vs Efficiency

5) Graph of Charge controller I/P Voltage Vs Efficiency

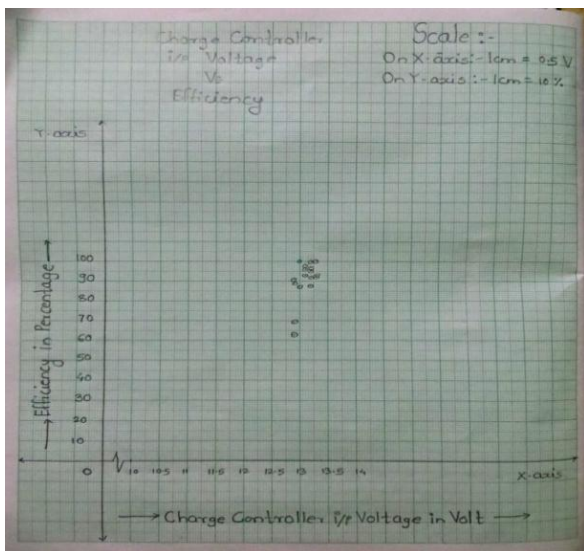


Figure 9: Graph of Charge controller I/P Voltage Vs Efficiency

7. CONCLUSION

The effort made by research work by using PWM technique exploits the opportunity of increasing the battery life & its safety. In a off-grid system in addition to limiting the voltage this charge controllers makes arrangement to an alternative load source to increase the system efficiency. This MPPT technique improves the quantity of service in off-grid system. Further the results shows that use of PWM technique with MPPT increases the efficiency of charge controller up to 92% under different laboratory conditions as compared to normal charge controllers without MPPT having efficiencies up to 52 to 60%. The care has been taken to avoid the battery deep discharge in design of charge controller circuit. The main aim of charge controller circuit is to increase the safety of battery.

8. REFERENCES

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