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# Annual performance analysis of different maximum power point tracking techniques used in photovoltaic systems

Y. Chaibi<sup>1\*</sup> , A. Allouhi<sup>2</sup>, M. Salhi<sup>1</sup> and A. El-jouni<sup>3</sup>

## Abstract

This paper presents an annual performance evaluation of three maximum power point tracking (MPPT) methods. The used MPPT techniques (Perturb and Observe, Incremental Inductance and Sliding mode) are evaluated under an annual data of atmospheric conditions of the target site. The main contribution of this work is to consider real fluctuation conditions of solar irradiances, ambient temperatures and wind velocities. It was found that the Sliding mode provides higher energy yields independently of the period. Compared to the basic P&O and the IC techniques, sliding mode has the potential of generating up to 8.18% more electrical energy than other techniques.

**Keywords:** Photovoltaic systems, Maximum power point tracking (MPPT), Annual performance

## 1 Introduction

In the last decades, according to statistic [1], the world energy need exhibits a rapid growth, which caused a huge production of electricity with different polluting sources as natural gas, oil and coal [2]. Nowadays, the excessive use of these fossil sources has a negative effect from both economic and environment point of views. In fact, the economic consequence is presented by the high increase of petroleum's price which leads directly to a rise of the electricity tariff. For the environmental impact, the emission of CO<sub>2</sub> accentuating the damaging effects of climate change remains the major issue [3, 4]. In order to overcome these complications, leader countries in energy production have imposed a new policy that encourages the use of renewable energies due to its clean behavior and limitless quantity [5].

Today, diverse renewable energy sources are developed, such as solar, wind, hydro and geothermal. Due to their huge potential, these sources of energy are being used increasingly in industrial and buildings sectors. Solar energy at the top of renewable energy sources is believed to cover a significant part of energy needs in several countries. More specifically, photovoltaic systems

due to their simple implementation and low maintenance cost, can provide clean and sustainable electricity. Power generated from photovoltaic modules can be used in grid-connected and stand-alone systems [6, 7]. Grid-connected PV systems are developed to operate with the electric utility grid and offer the possibility of covering energy requirements of the structure with capability of selling the rest of produced energy to electricity supplier [8]. Stand-alone PV systems, in turn, are used to supply electricity needed in isolated sites and as well for agricultural pumping [9, 10].

The weakness of PV systems lies in the low conversion efficiency because of the nonlinearity behavior of the PV cell. This requires the use of maximum power point tracking (MPPT) controllers with the aim of forcing the PV panel to operate at its maximum power point (MPP) despite the changes in outdoor climatic conditions [11, 12]. Mathematically, to ensure the function of maximizing the PV power, a derivative of the PV power  $P_{pv}$  with respect to the PV voltage  $V_{pv}$  must converge to zero [13, 14]. For this reason, several algorithms have been developed and improved [15–18]. The most popular one is the classical perturb and observe (P&O) method [19, 20]; this technique is based on perturbing the PV voltage and observing the MPP variation, the history of this method is known by its several improved versions. Starting with the variable step P&O, where the perturbation is adapted to the operating

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point area. As reported in [21], Kullimalla et al. adjusted the step size to raise the tracking speed and to reduce the oscillating, this adaptive method shown an operating point closer to the MPP and presented a fast response compared to conventional algorithms, furthermore, other researchers such as Hong et al. has developed an adaptive step size according to the error [22], this solution presented a high tracking performance with low power losses compared to other P&O algorithms. Although, these improved versions of the P&O have arrived to ameliorate the tracking performance but the oscillating around MPP stills the principal cause of energy losses, especially in fast irradiance change. To overcome this issue, other techniques such as the incremental conductance (IC) are required [23, 24]. The IC tracks the MPP by comparing instantly the conductance with the incremental conductance of the PV module [25]. To perform at the MPP, both quantities must be equal. For this reason, the IC method presented the conventional version with a fixed step adapted to the operating zone [26]. Unfortunately, the fixed step IC shown a low response under fast irradiance change. Then, Incremental Conductance with variable step corrected partially this problem and becomes widely used. Lui et al. [27], Emad et al. [28] used the variable step, where the slope of the P-V characteristic is multiplied with the fixed step, which enhanced the tracking speed and shown a superiority compared to the conventional fixed step algorithms. As a result, most of improved version of this technique corrected partially the problem of oscillation and shown a remarkable performance under fast change of atmospheric conditions.

In order to improve the sensitivity of the PV module at the optimal point, artificial intelligence as fuzzy logic [29, 30]; and neuron network algorithms are used [31, 32]. However, the complexity of these methods makes them hard to implement in real life since they need high-performance calculator to ensure the maximum power tracking operation. Accordingly, to have a good compromise between efficiency and cost, numerical theories such as Backstepping and Sliding mode are employed to build an improved MPPT that satisfy the conditions of both good performance and low-cost [33].

The sliding mode MPPT (SM-MPPT) is a nonlinear control technique based on the design of a control law that forces the system trajectory to reach the sliding surface. Thanks to its advantages such as a robust behavior in the presence of external variation and the simplicity of implementation. In literature, various controllers have been proposed [34–36]. Dahech et al. proposed a robust controller using both the Backstepping and the sliding mode and this hybrid method offered a MPPT controller with high efficiency and low error of tracking [37]. Moreover, an adaptive SM-MPPT has been proposed by Koofigar et al. with the aim objective to overcome all the

problem caused by external uncertainties, this improved method shown a very high performance of tracking even with fast climate variations [38]. Hence, most of MPPT based on sliding mode show a very high performance and stability with fast atmospheric changes.

In this paper, the effect of MPPT algorithm on the net energy output of solar PV modules is investigated. For this end, three different MPPT algorithms are tested on the PV system in Fig. 1. The innovative aspect met in this paper is the utilization of real climatic conditions evaluated for duration of one complete year (8760 running hours). A strong calculation effort has been made, as it was essential to fit hourly data to comply well with the time step used in the simulation process. To the best of knowledge of authors, although there are many published papers comparing various MMPT control techniques, a realistic approach to quantify the differences induced in the associated energy yields is missed. The conclusions outlined in this paper can offer guidelines about the development and cost-effectiveness of MPPT techniques in their design phase.

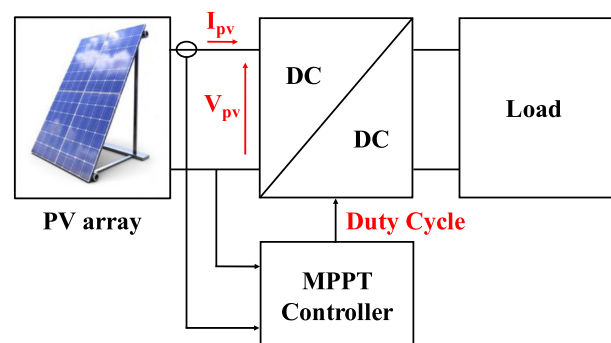
## 2 Methods

### 2.1 PV system modeling

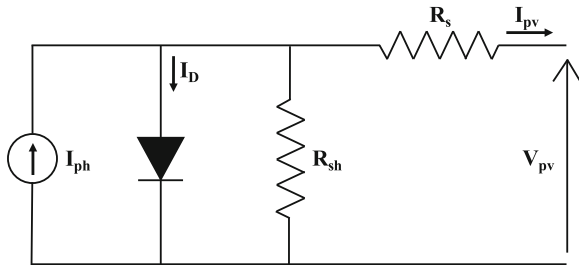
#### 2.1.1 PV module

PV module is a group of cells connected in series or in parallel with the main objective to convert sunlight into electricity via the photodiode operation, the latter is explained by the p-n junction phenomenon and the produced current depends on the received irradiance and temperature [39]. The PV cell is represented electrically by several equivalent circuit models [40, 41]. Fig. 2 shows one of the most used models, which is called the one diode model and composed of a diode in parallel with a current source, shunt and series resistances [39].

By using Kirchhoff's law, the output generated current by the PV module is given by:



**Fig. 1** The used configuration of the PV system



**Fig. 2** Single diode equivalent model of the PV cell

$$I_{pv} = I_{ph} - I_{os} \left\{ \exp \left[ A (V_{pv} + I_{pv} R_s) - 1 \right] \right\} - \frac{V_{pv} + R_s I_{pv}}{R_{sh}} \quad (1)$$

with

$$A = \frac{q}{\gamma k T_{cell} N_{cell}}$$

$I_{ph}$  is the light-generated current with the value depends on irradiance and temperature levels, and this current is expressed by the following equation:

$$I_{ph} = [I_{sc} + K_i (T_{cell} - T_{ref}) \frac{\lambda}{\lambda_{ref}}] \quad (2)$$

From the Shockley equation, the cell reverse current  $I_{os}$  can be presented by the Eq. (3), this current depends only on the temperature variation:

$$I_{os} = I_{or} \left( \frac{T_{cell}}{T_{ref}} \right)^3 \exp \left( \frac{q E_G}{k \gamma} \left[ \frac{1}{T_{cell}} - \frac{1}{T_{ref}} \right] \right) \quad (3)$$

In order to adjust the supply power to the used one, several PV panels are connected in series and in parallel to form a PV array and the total current is given by:

$$I_{pvg} = N_p I_{ph} - N_p I_{os} \left\{ \exp \left[ \frac{A}{N_s} \left( V_{pv} + I_{pv} R_s \frac{N_s}{N_p} \right) - 1 \right] \right\} - \frac{V_{pv} + I_{pv} R_s \frac{N_s}{N_p}}{R_{sh} \frac{N_s}{N_p}} \quad (4)$$

### 2.1.2 DC-DC converter

DC-DC boost converter is an adaptation stage mostly used after the PV array in order to adjust the supplied voltage to the load, another function of this converter is allowing the PV system to perform at its MPP by acting on the cyclic duty  $D$ , this task is executed by the boost capability of delivering an output voltage  $V_{DC}$  larger than the input one  $V_{pv}$  [42]. This voltage is defined as:

$$V_{DC} = \frac{V_{pv}}{1-D} \quad (5)$$

Fig. 3 shows the used configuration of the boost converter. The system in state average values can be written as:

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial v_{pv}}{\partial t} = \frac{1}{C} (i_{pv} - i_L) \\ \frac{\partial i_L}{\partial t} = \frac{1}{L} [v_{pv} - (1-D)v_{DC}] \\ \frac{\partial v_{DC}}{\partial t} = \frac{1}{C_{DC}} [i_L(1-D) - i_o] \end{cases} \quad (6)$$

where,  $v_{pv}$ ,  $v_{DC}$ ,  $i_L$  and  $i_o$  and are respectively the PV voltage, the boost output voltage, the inductor current and the boost output current,  $C$  and  $L$  represent the input capacitor and inductor of the converter and  $C_{DC}$  is the output capacitor.

## 2.2 Examined MPPT techniques

### 2.2.1 Perturb and observe algorithm

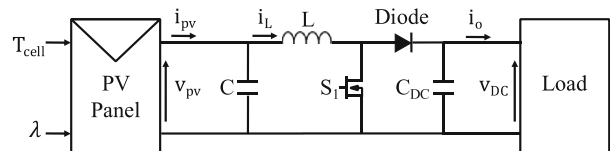
The P&O algorithm is an iterative technique performed by perturbing the measured voltage  $V_{pv}$  with  $\Delta V$  until reaching the PV power  $P_{pv}$  to its MPP. The P-V characteristic is divided into three operating regions as follows [20]:

- If  $\frac{\partial P_{pv}}{\partial V_{pv}} > 0$ : operating point is on the left of the MPP.
- If  $\frac{\partial P_{pv}}{\partial V_{pv}} < 0$ : operating point is on the right of the MPP.
- If  $\frac{\partial P_{pv}}{\partial V_{pv}} = 0$ : operating point is at the MPP.

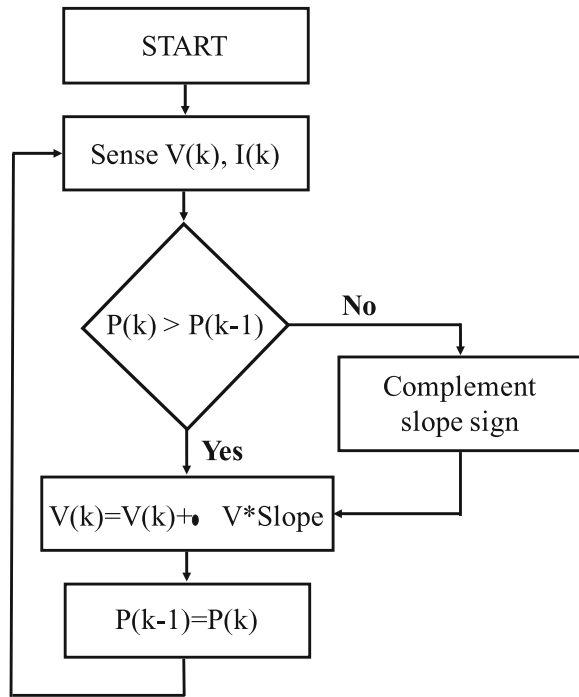
The flowchart of the P&O algorithm is presented in Fig. 4. As can be seen, the process of extracting still working even after reaching the MPP which causes oscillation around this point infinitely [19].

### 2.2.2 Incremental conductance algorithm

The incremental conductance technique is developed to correct partially the oscillation problem caused by different iterative techniques. The idea behinds the IC method is to compare the PV conductance ( $\frac{I_{pv}}{V_{pv}}$ ) with the derivative conductance ( $\frac{\Delta I_{pv}}{\Delta V_{pv}}$ ) instantly [43]. The operating zones are given as follows [23]:



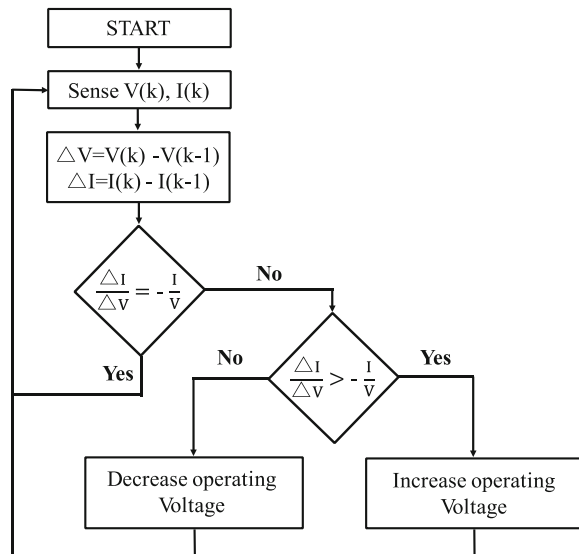
**Fig. 3** The schematic of the DC-DC boost converter



**Fig. 4** The flowchart of the P&O-MPPT method

- If  $\frac{\Delta I_{pv}}{\Delta V_{pv}} > -\frac{I_{pv}}{V_{pv}}$ : operating point is on the left of the MPP.
- If  $\frac{\Delta I_{pv}}{\Delta V_{pv}} < -\frac{I_{pv}}{V_{pv}}$ : operating point is on the right of the MPP.
- If  $\frac{\Delta I_{pv}}{\Delta V_{pv}} = -\frac{I_{pv}}{V_{pv}}$ : the operating point is at the MPP.

Fig. 5 gives the flowchart of the incremental conductance which respects previous conditions. As



**Fig. 5** The flowchart of the IC-MPPT method

reported in a precedent work [26–28], the main advantage of this technique is the good performance under fast-changing climate conditions and a lower oscillation around the MPP comparing to the P&O technique. However, the weakness of this method is the inability to achieve the zero-point condition which causes some power losses [26].

### 2.2.3 Sliding mode MPPT

The sliding mode theory allows to design MPPT controller with a robust behavior in presence of external disturbances such as temperature and irradiance variations. This method consists in varying the state trajectory of the system to a predefined sliding surface [23, 36, 44]. This function is achieved by developing a control law which forces the output  $y = \frac{\partial P_{pv}}{\partial V_{pv}}$  to converge to zero [36].

The methodology of the sliding mode is presented as follows:

First, choosing a sliding surface, also called the switching surface which depends on the relative degree  $r$  of the system and the output  $y$ . For the used PV system in Fig. 3, this surface can be expressed by Eq. (7):

$$\sigma = \dot{y} + \beta y \quad (7)$$

and

$$\dot{\sigma} = \ddot{y} + \beta \dot{y} \quad (8)$$

where  $\dot{y}$  and  $\ddot{y}$  are respectively the first and the second time derivative of the output  $y$  and  $\beta$  is a positive constant. The time derivative of the sliding surface can be written as:

$$\dot{\sigma} = f + gu \quad (9)$$

with

$$u = \frac{1}{1-D}$$

Then, designing of the control law in order to ensure the stability of the system, the Lyapunov function defined by  $V = \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2$  is adopted, only the  $\dot{V} < 0$  allows the stability.

By choosing the dynamic function as:  $\dot{\sigma} = -m \text{sign}(\sigma)$ .

$$\dot{V} = -m|\sigma| \quad (10)$$

From precedent equations, the control law is given by:

$$\begin{cases} u = -\frac{f+m \cdot \text{sign}(\sigma)}{g} \\ D = 1 + \frac{g}{f+m \cdot \text{sign}(\sigma)} \end{cases} \text{ with } m > 0.$$

## 3 Results and discussion

The performance of any PV system depends on its behavior under atmospheric variations such as the change

of irradiance, temperature and wind velocity. For this reason, a PV array composed of 100 PV modules with the technical specifications listed in Table 1 has been simulated under real climatic data of Fez, Morocco.

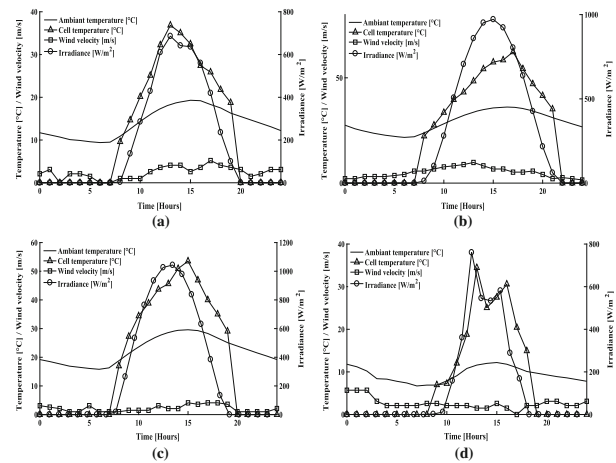
Hourly meteorological data were exported from METENORM software. The first set of results pertains power outputs of PV array on a daily basis. Later, an overall comparison in terms of net energy output generated from PV modules operating with the MPPT techniques is presented.

### 3.1 Daily analysis

In Fig. 6a,b,c,d, climatic variations of the first day of each season are presented. Because the PV system is tested under the change of the irradiance and cell temperature, the cell temperature calculations are based on the model given by Duffie et al. in Eq. (A.1) [45].

Table 2 gives the maximum values of the used climate conditions for each day. As shown from this table, for September 21, the maximum incident irradiance is about  $1043.4 \text{ W/m}^2$ . For the other atmospheric conditions, June 21 recorded the maximum values of the ambient temperature, cell temperature and the wind speed. The corresponding values are respectively,  $36^\circ\text{C}$  for ambient temperature,  $62.27^\circ\text{C}$  for cell temperature and  $9.8 \text{ m/s}$  for the wind speed. In addition, the coldest scenario, presented by December 21 shows minimum values of ambient and cell temperatures as well as incident solar radiations.

In order to evaluate the proposed MPPT controllers, the generated power from the Monocrystalline SM55 PV array is provided in Fig. 7a,b,c,d. This output corresponds to the climatic data previously presented. As can be observed, the SM-MPPT presents a remarkable superiority in terms of level of power tracking and this is true independently of the examined day. However, the P&O MPPT and the IC-MPPT exhibit approximately the same profiles for all the seasons except for the first



**Fig. 6** Different daily atmospheric conditions for **a** March 21, **b** June 21, **c** September 21, **d** December 21

day of the winter because of the rapid fluctuations of cell temperature and irradiance. As seen in the Fig. 7d, the P&O technique shows high tracking performance compared the IC one.

Another performance index to be assessed is the real electric efficiency which can be computed using Eq. (A.2) formulated in the appendix.

According to SAM software [46], the nominal module efficiency of the Mono-Si SM55 is about 12.89%. In Fig. 8a,b,c,d, it is noticed that the SM-MPPT reaches rapidly the steady-state of the efficiency and remains around the nominal value. For the P&O and the IC MPPT, the efficiencies are similar except for the winter day because of the fast changes of temperature and irradiance. Also, the P&O shows slightly better efficiency compared to IC method.

With the same methodology used in the previous paragraphs, the Poly-Si MSX60 PV array with the technical specifications shown in Table 1 is simulated under the same conditions displayed in Fig. 6a,b,c,d. Fig. 9a,b,c,d presents the daily generated power using the examined MPPT techniques. As can be seen in this illustration, the generated power using the SM-MPPT confirms the high tracking performance and stability of this technique even with the Poly-Si technology. In fact, the SM-MPPT is known as a robust controller even with an external disturbance. On the other hand, and especially for the

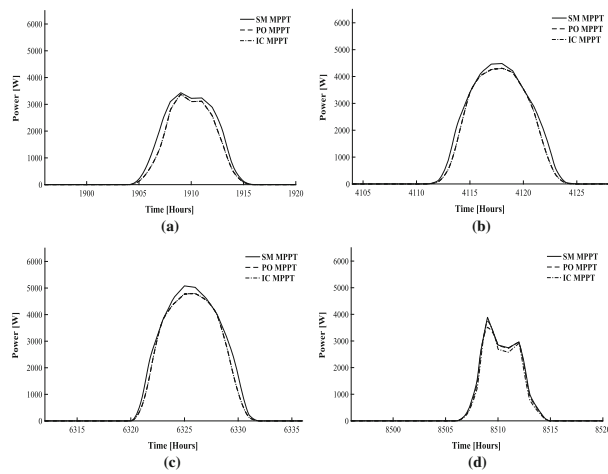
**Table 1** Evaluation data and result (portion)

Parameters	Mono-Si SM55	Poly-Si MSX60
$P_m$ [W]	55	60
$V_m$ [V]	17.4	17.1
$I_m$ [A]	3.15	3.5
$V_{oc}$ [V]	21.7	21.1
$I_{sc}$ [A]	3.45	3.8
$K_f$ [%/K]	0.04	0.06
$K_v$ [%/K]	-0.35	-0.37
$N_{cell}$	36	36
$N_s$	20	20
$N_p$	5	5
$A_m$ [ $\text{m}^2$ ]	0.42	0.55

**Table 2** Maximum values of atmospheric condition for the used days

	March 21	June 21	September 21	December 21
$\lambda_{max}$ [ $\text{W/m}^2$ ]	686.03	971.96	1043.40	760.53
$T_a$ max [ $^\circ\text{C}$ ]	19.20	36	29.6	12.2
$T_c$ max [ $^\circ\text{C}$ ]	36.85	62.27	53.52	34.45
$v_w$ max [m/s]	5.2	9.8	4.1	5.7



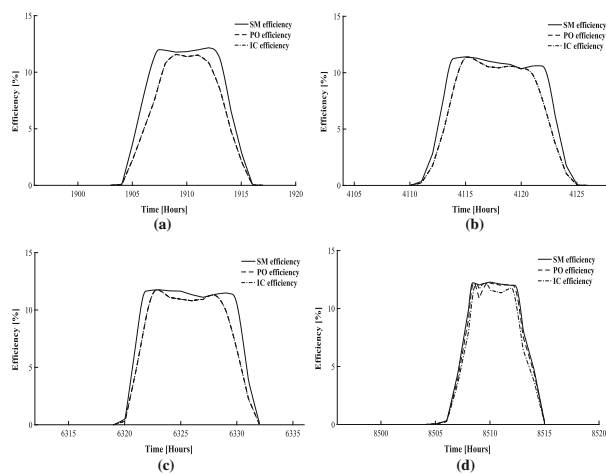


**Fig. 7** Daily generated power using different MPPT techniques on the Mono-Si PV array SM55 for **a** March 21, **b** June 21, **c** September 21, **d** December 21

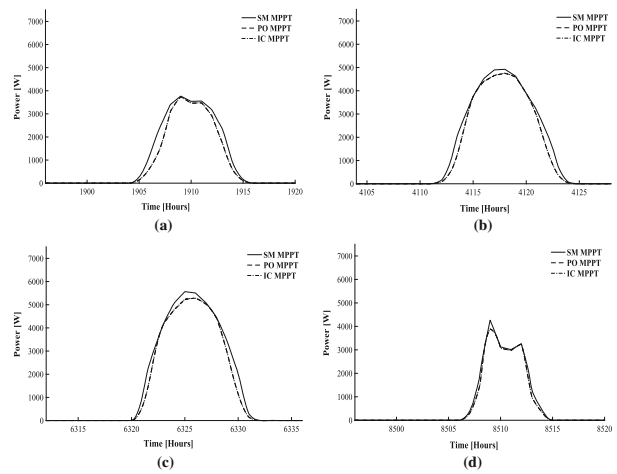
Poly-Si technology, the P&O and the IC methods fit perfectly because of its similar approach followed to pursuit the MPP.

The module efficiency of the MSX 60 is plotted in Fig. 10a,b,c,d. According to SAM software [46], the nominal module efficiency of the MSX60 is given by a value of 10.80%. As can be seen in Fig. 10a,b,c,d, both the P&O and the IC method are identical in all cases of atmospheric variations, but the drawbacks of these methods is the low response to attain the steady-state around the nominal efficiency, which causes a lot of losses comparing to the sliding mode technique.

From this analysis, it was concluded that the sliding mode MPPT presents a very good solution to track the MPP comparing to the P&O and the IC methods. This superiority is proved from the reached efficiency and the



**Fig. 8** Module Efficiencies using different MPPT techniques on the Mono-Si PV array SM55 for **a** March 21, **b** June 21, **c** September 21, **d** December 21

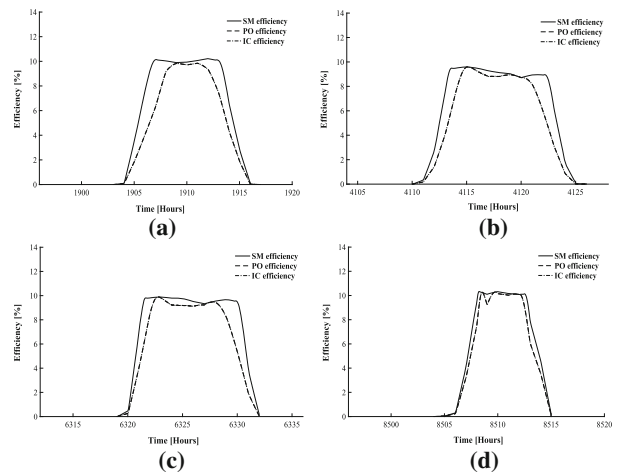


**Fig. 9** Daily generated power using different MPPT techniques on the Poly-Si PV array MSX60 for **a** March 21, **b** June 21, **c** September 21, **d** December 21

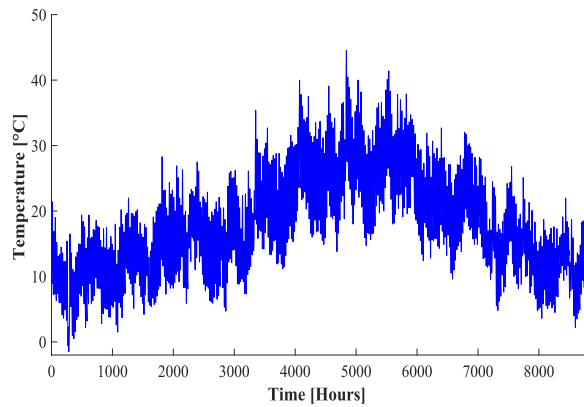
good stability achieved by the SM-MPPT. Furthermore, this MPPT technique has a high tracking speed capability which allows transferring the PV energy with minimum losses.

### 3.2 Annual analysis

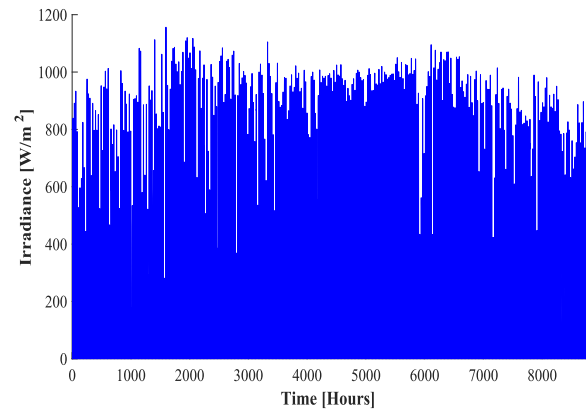
Because the daily analysis evaluates the performance of the PV system in a limited period, it is essential to quantify the net energy output of PV arrays generated in single Typical Meteorological Year. Similarly, meteorological data of Fez are used in the calculations. This location is known with high potential of solar energy and a hot weather in the summer and a cold one in the winter. Figs. 11, 12, 13 and 14 give respectively the annual values of ambient temperature, cell temperature, global incident irradiance and wind velocity. The



**Fig. 10** Module Efficiencies using different MPPT techniques on the Poly-Si PV array MSX60 for **a** March 21, **b** June 21, **c** September 21, **d** December 21



**Fig. 11** Annual database of the ambient temperature [°C]



**Fig. 13** Annual database of the irradiance [W/m<sup>2</sup>]

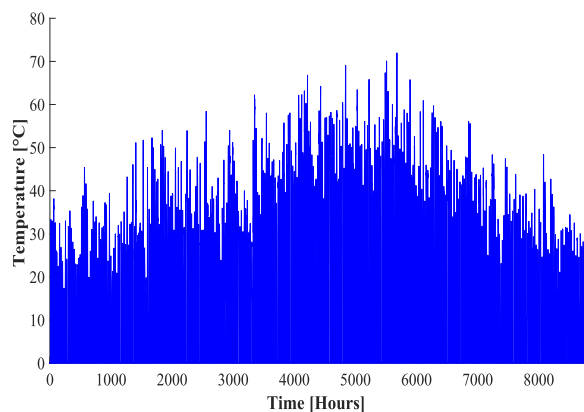
presented data were generated on an hourly basis and fitted using the MATLAB toolbox to comply with the time step of 1 s used in the simulation processes.

As observed in Fig. 11, the annual ambient temperature varies between a maximum value of 44.5 °C and a minimal one of −1.5 °C, this database is characterized by the different profiles of daily weathers (sunny, cloudy and mixed days). Fig. 12 gives the annual cell temperature using the NOCT model [47]; the daily peak of this temperature varies between 17.26 °C and 71.96 °C. Fig. 13 shows the annual irradiance in the same region. The daily peak irradiance changes between a value of 281.1 W/m<sup>2</sup> and 1156 W/m<sup>2</sup>. In Fig. 14, the annual wind velocity is presented; the wind speed interval varies between 0 m/s and 16.5 m/s.

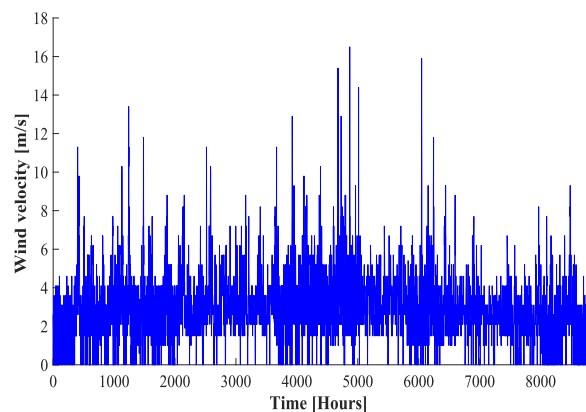
The simulation of the selected MPPT controllers (Sliding mode MPPT, P&O and IC) using the previous data. The annual generated power using the different MPPT techniques considering the two module technologies (Mono-Si SM55 and Poly-Si MSX60) are presented respectively in Fig. 15a,b,c and Fig. 16a,b,c.

By using the output results of the annual generated power, the annual produced energy is calculated using Eq. (A.3) in the Appendix. In Fig. 17, the calculated power is plotted for each technology using the selected MPPT technique; as shown in this figure, the annual produced energy using the SM-MPPT shows a considerable superiority for both technologies comparing to other MPPT techniques, to prove that, the relative gain given by Eq. (A.4) is calculated. These relative gains are presented in Table 3.

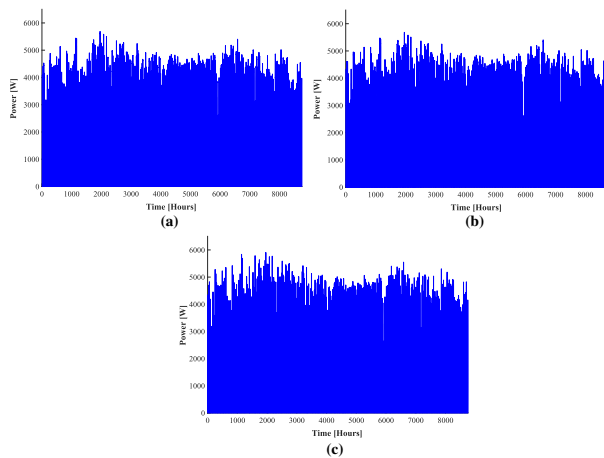
As can be observed, the sliding mode MPPT offers more energy outputs than the other techniques. For the Mono-Si technology, the relative gains generated by using the SM-MPPT compared to of the P&O and IC techniques. More specifically, in terms of yearly energy output, SM-MPPT could achieve up to 8.18% higher energy productions if PO and the IC methods. Moreover, the technology of PV modules seems to have a significant impact on the net relative energy gain induced. Higher rates are observed for the Poly-Si modules. At this point, it is interesting to note that further



**Fig. 12** Annual database of the cell temperature [°C]



**Fig. 14** Annual database of the wind velocity [m/s]

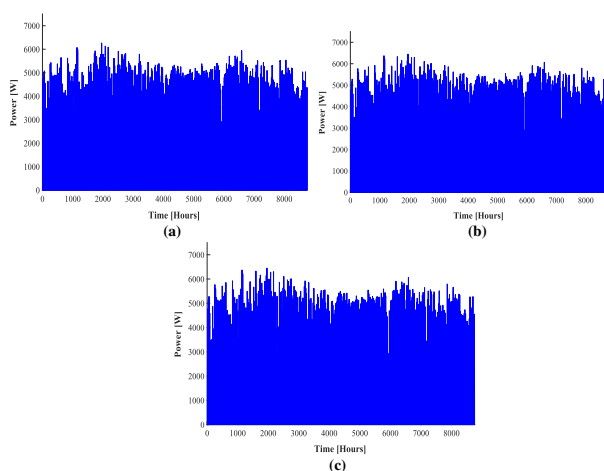


**Fig. 15** Annual generated power using different MPPT techniques on SM55 PV array **a** P&O MPPT, **b** IC MPPT, **c** SM-MPPT

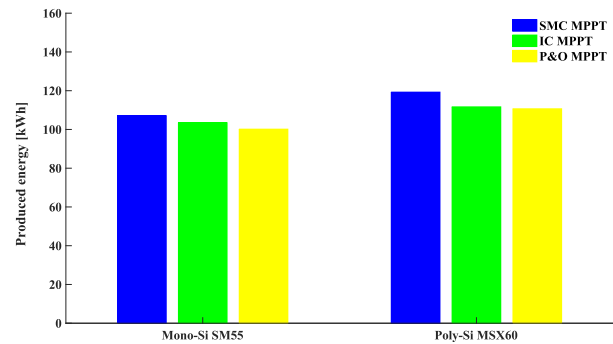
investigations should be undertaken to compare such techniques for other climate conditions and for other PV technologies to gather more information about the choice of a MPPT control technique.

#### 4 Conclusion

This paper examines to what extent the MPPT technique could affect the yearly energy output of a solar photovoltaic field. To draw useful conclusions about this effect, running simulations based on real meteorological and operating conditions is essential. Considering one Typical Meteorological Year for the Moroccan city (Fez), a comparison between three MPPT techniques has been made in terms of daily, annual energy outputs and conversion efficiencies of a solar field comprising 100 PV modules. Poly-crystalline and Mono-crystalline silicon



**Fig. 16** Annual generated power using different MPPT techniques on the Poly-Si MSX60 PV array **a** P&O MPPT, **b** IC MPPT, **c** SM-MPPT



**Fig. 17** Annual produced PV energy using different MPPT techniques for the Mono-Si SM55 and the Poly-Si MSX60 PV arrays

PV technologies have been tested. The total installed capacity is 6 kWp and 5.5 kWp, respectively. The main findings of this work can be summarized as follows:

- SM-MPPT yields the highest energy outputs annually compared to the P&O and IC techniques.
- In terms of yearly energy output, SM-MPPT could achieve up to 8.18% higher energy productions if compared to PO and the IC methods.
- Technology of PV modules has a significant impact on the net relative energy gain induced. Higher rates are observed for the Poly-Si modules.

Further investigations should be undertaken to compare such techniques for other climate conditions and for other PV technologies to gather more information about the appropriate choice of a MPPT control technique.

##### 4.0.0.1 Nomenclatures

$A_m$  module surface [ $m^2$ ]

$D$  duty cycle of the DC-DC converter

$E_{GO}$  band gap for silicon [=1.22 eV]

$I_{pv}$  output current of the PV panel [A]

$I_m$  maximal current at MPP [A]

$I_{or}$  saturation current of the PV panel [A]

$I_{os}$  reverse saturation current of the PV panel [A]

$I_{sc}$  short-circuit current [A]

$I_{sol}$  light photo-current [A]

$k$  Boltzmann's constant

$K_i$  temperature coefficient of  $I_{sc}$  [A/K]

$N_{cell}$  number of cells in series

**Table 3** Relative energy gains in terms of the annual produced energy. Base case: SM-MPPT

	Mono-Si SM55	Poly-Si MSX60
ERG% [P&O]	7	8.18
ERG% [IC]	3.88	7.20



$N_s$  number of modules in series  
 $N_p$  number of modules in parallel  
 $P_m$  maximum power at optimal operating point [W]  
 $q$  electron charge  
 $R_s$  series resistance [ $\Omega$ ]  
 $R_{sh}$  shunt resistance [ $\Omega$ ]  
 $T_c$  cell temperature [K]  
 $T_{ref}$  reference temperature [= 298.15 K]  
 $V_{pv}$  output voltage of the PV panel [V]  
 $V_m$  maximum power voltage at MPP [V]  
 $V_{oc}$  open circuit voltage [V]  
 $\gamma$  ideality factor  
 $\lambda$  solar irradiation [ $W/m^2$ ]  
 $\lambda_{ref}$  reference solar irradiance [=1000  $W/m^2$ ]

## 5 Appendix

The NOCT model temperature is given by the following equation:

$$T_c = T_a + \frac{\lambda}{800} (T_{NOCT} - 20) \times \left( 1 - \frac{\eta_{ref}}{\alpha\tau} \right) \frac{9.5}{5.7 + 3.8v_w} \quad (A.1)$$

where,  $T_a$  is the ambient temperature,  $T_{NOCT}$  is the nominal operating cell temperature defined at ( $\lambda = 800 \text{ W/m}^2$ ,  $T_a = 20^\circ \text{C}$ ,  $v_w = 1 \text{ m/s}$ ),  $\eta_{ref}$  is the reference module efficiency,  $\alpha\tau$  is the transmittance-absorbance product and  $v_w$  is the wind velocity.

The module efficiency is given by:

$$\eta = \frac{P_{pv}}{A_m \lambda} \quad (A.2)$$

The annual produced energy is calculated using the following equation:

$$E_{pv} = \frac{1}{3600} \int_0^T P_{pv} dt \quad (A.3)$$

Where  $T$  is the final second of the year and the step of integration is chosen as 1 s.

The gain relative error is presented as follows:

$$ERG\% = \frac{E_R - E_C}{E_C} * 100 \quad (A.4)$$

where  $E_R$  is the reference energy chosen as the produced energy using the SM-MPPT,  $E_C$  is the compared energy.

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## Authors' contributions

YC and AA proposed the idea and the structure of the paper. YC modeled the proposed PV system under MATLAB. YC and AA wrote the paper. AA, MS and AELJ contributed to reviewing the paper. All authors of this research paper have directly participated in the planning, execution, or analysis of this study. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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## Availability of data and materials

The data used to support the findings of this study have not been made available because it is confidential.

## Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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