

The Use of Power Electronics in Harvesting Solar Energy - Malaysia



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WHERE WE ARE?



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OUR LABORATORIES



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Renewable and non-Renewable Energy



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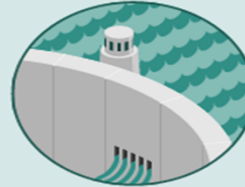
Introduction: Renewable and Non-Renewable Energy Sources



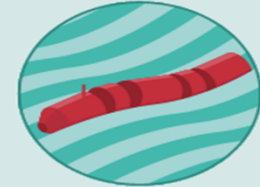
WIND ENERGY



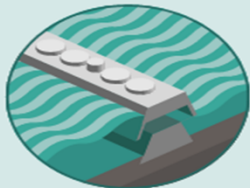
SOLAR ENERGY



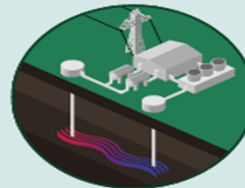
HYDROELECTRICITY



WAVE POWER



TIDAL POWER



GEOTHERMAL ENERGY



BIOMASS ENERGY



COAL PLANT



GAS PLANT



OIL PLATFORM



NUCLEAR PLANT

very rare type of uranium, U-235.

Source: <https://www.behance.net/bhj>



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Power Electronics – Enabling Technology



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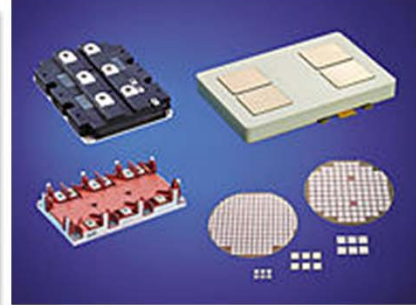
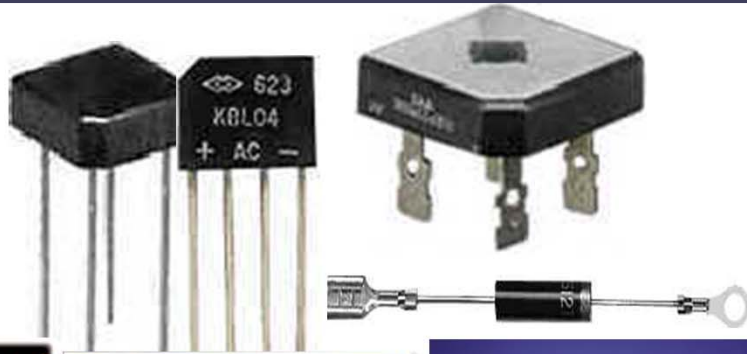
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Power Electronics – Enabling Technology

The study of **processing**, and of **controlling**, the **flow of electrical energy**, by supplying voltages and currents to the load or vice-versa. It is the technology that allows the use of **solid state electronics** and the use of **high switching frequency** for **energy conversion circuits**, which is the key to a **smaller, lighter, and more efficient power processors**.

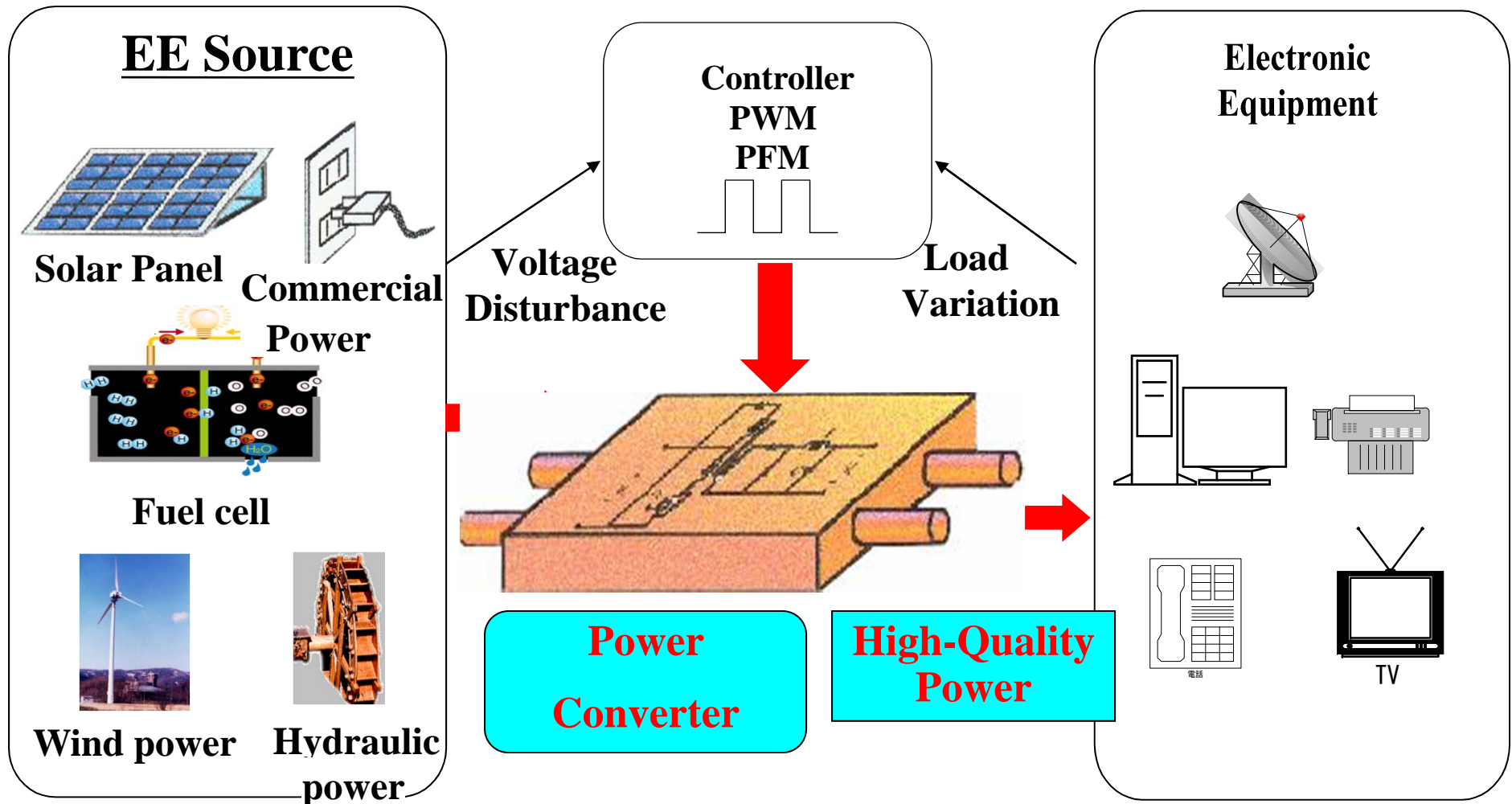
Power Electronics – Enabling Technology (con't)



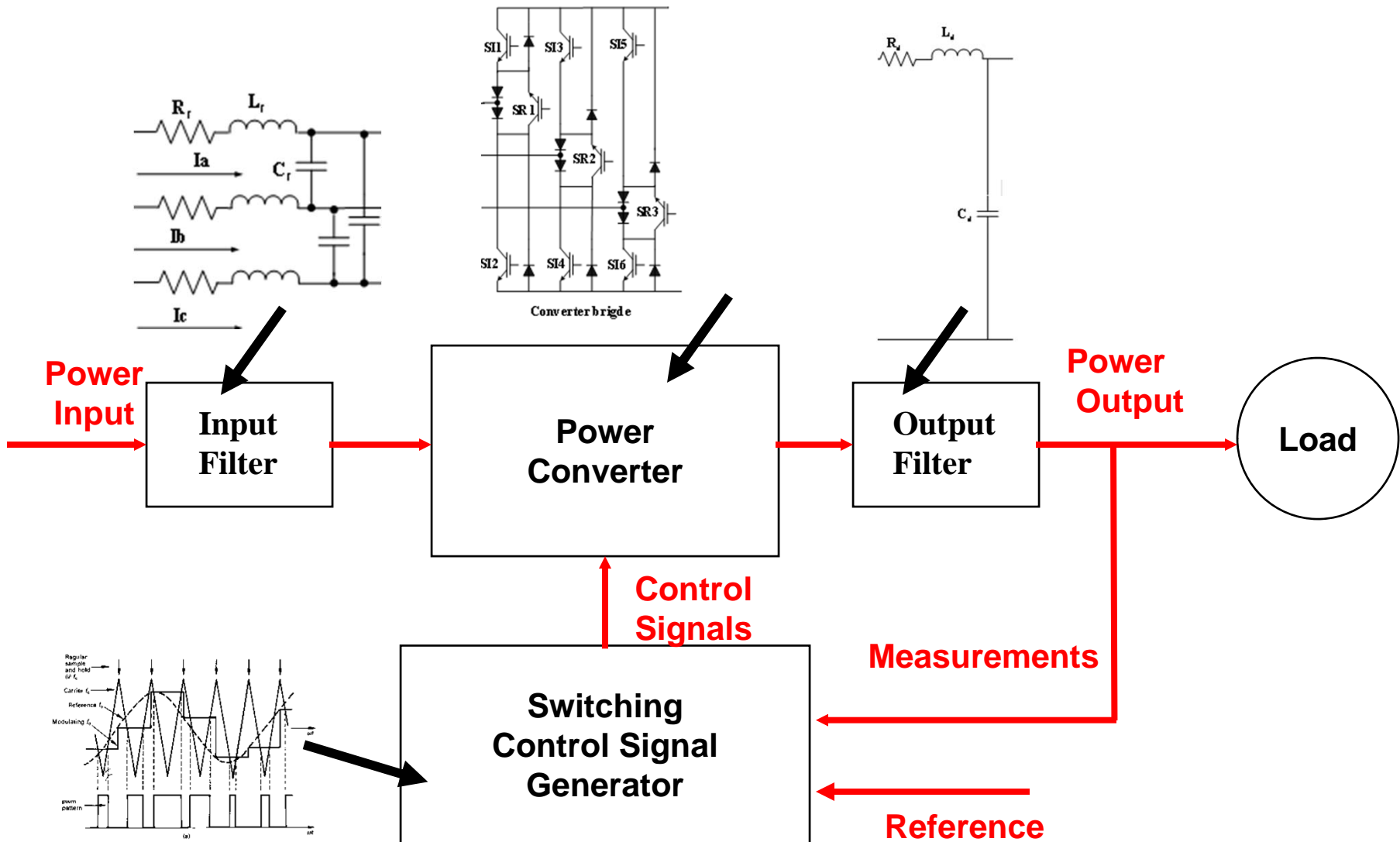
Silicon carbide (SiC) and gallium nitride (GaN) VS IGBT

- Higher voltages
- more rugged with longer lifetimes, and
- switch much faster than conventional semiconductor devices.
- Silicon-carbide inverters attained 99 percent efficiency (two percent higher than conventional converters)

Power Electronics – Enabling Technology (con't)

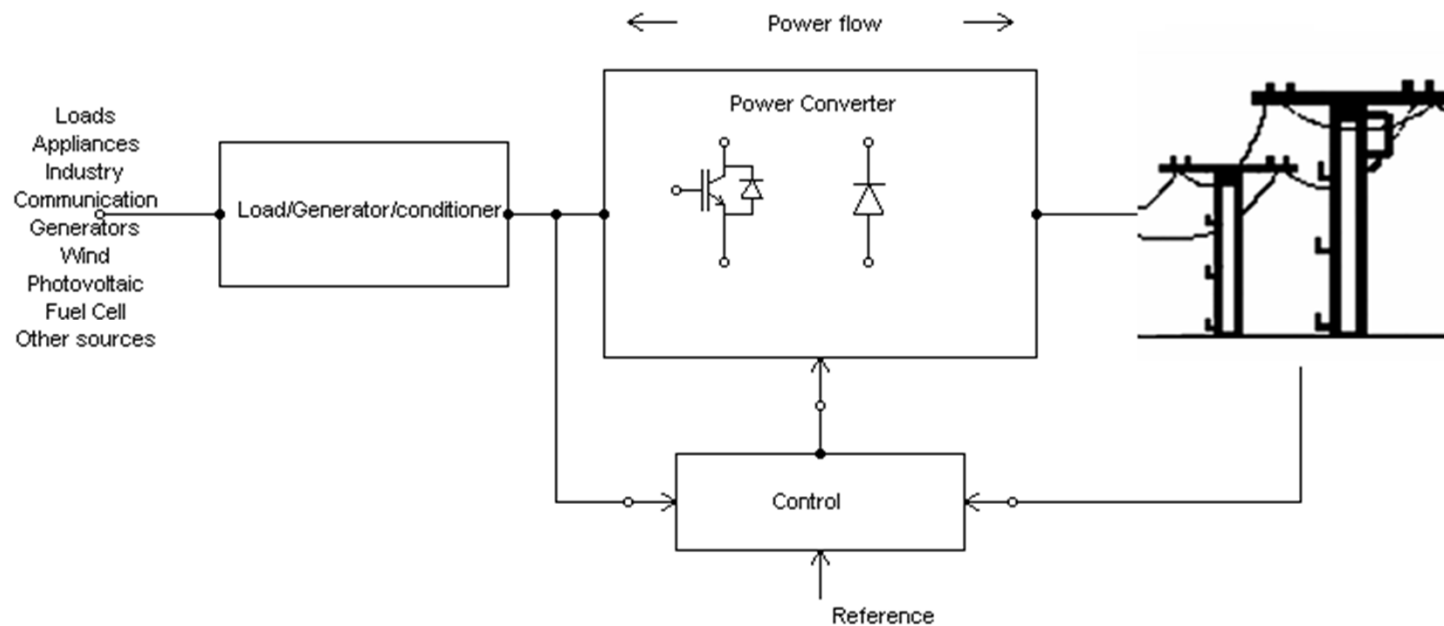


Power Electronics – Enabling Technology (con't)



Power Electronics Application for Renewable Energy Systems

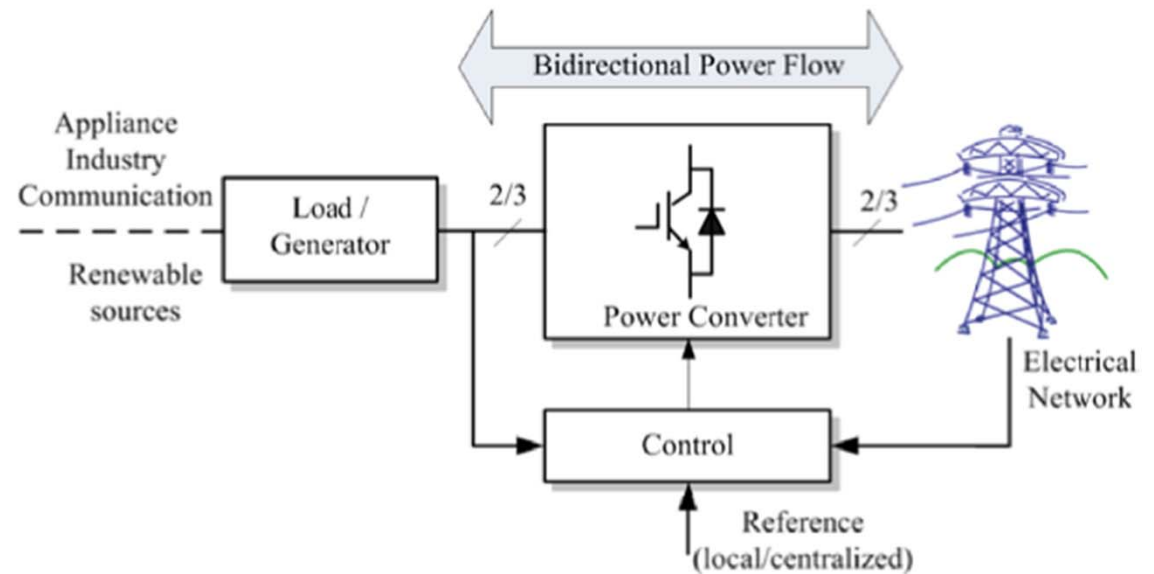
... is to **convert energy**, from one stage into another stage, to the grid (alternative voltage), with the highest possible **efficiency** and the **lowest cost**, while maintaining a **superior performance**.



Typical Power Electronics System for Renewable Energy

Important issues for the Power Converter

- Reliability
- Efficiency
- Cost
- Volume
- Protection
- Power electronics enabling technology
- Control active and reactive power
- Ride-through and monitoring





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Solar PV System

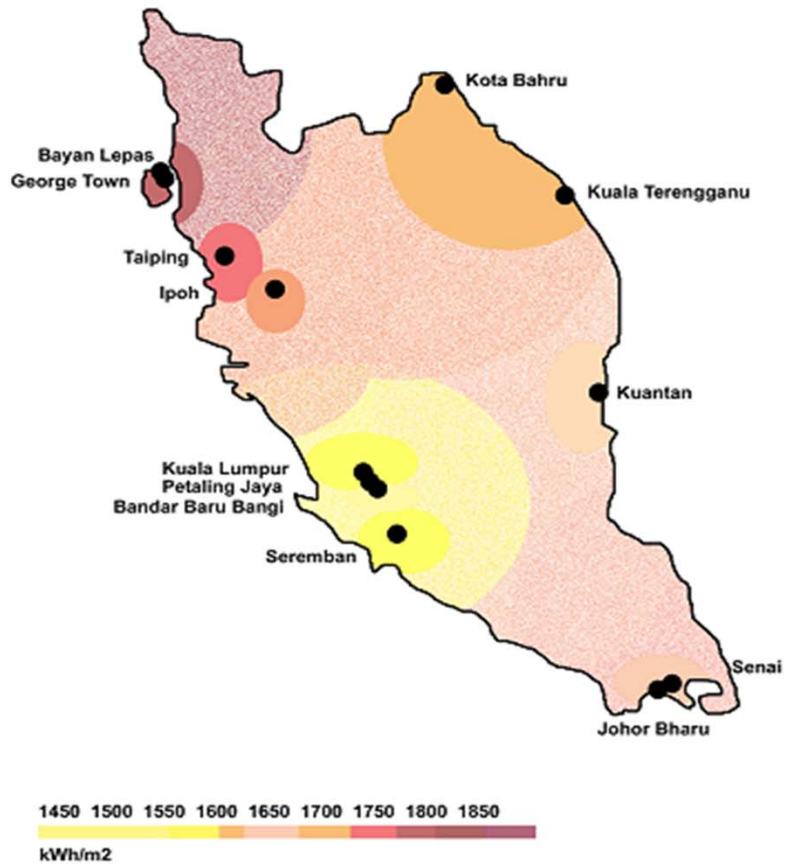


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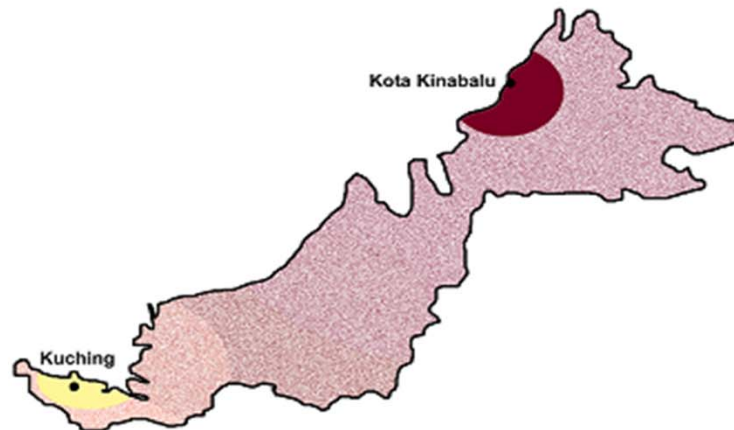


Solar Irradiance in Malaysia



Irradiance (Yearly average value - global)

Kuching	1470 kWh/m2
Bandar Baru Bangi	1487 kWh/m2
Kuala Lumpur	1571 kWh/m2
Petaling Jaya	1571 kWh/m2
Seremban	1572 kWh/m2
Kuantan	1601 kWh/m2
Johor Bharu	1625 kWh/m2
Senai	1629 kWh/m2
Kota Bahru	1705 kWh/m2
Kuala Terengganu	1714 kWh/m2
Ipoh	1739 kWh/m2
Taiping	1768 kWh/m2
Georg Town	1785 kWh/m2
Bayan Lebas	1809 kWh/m2
Kota Kinabalu	1900kWh/m2



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Grid Connected and Off Grid PV System

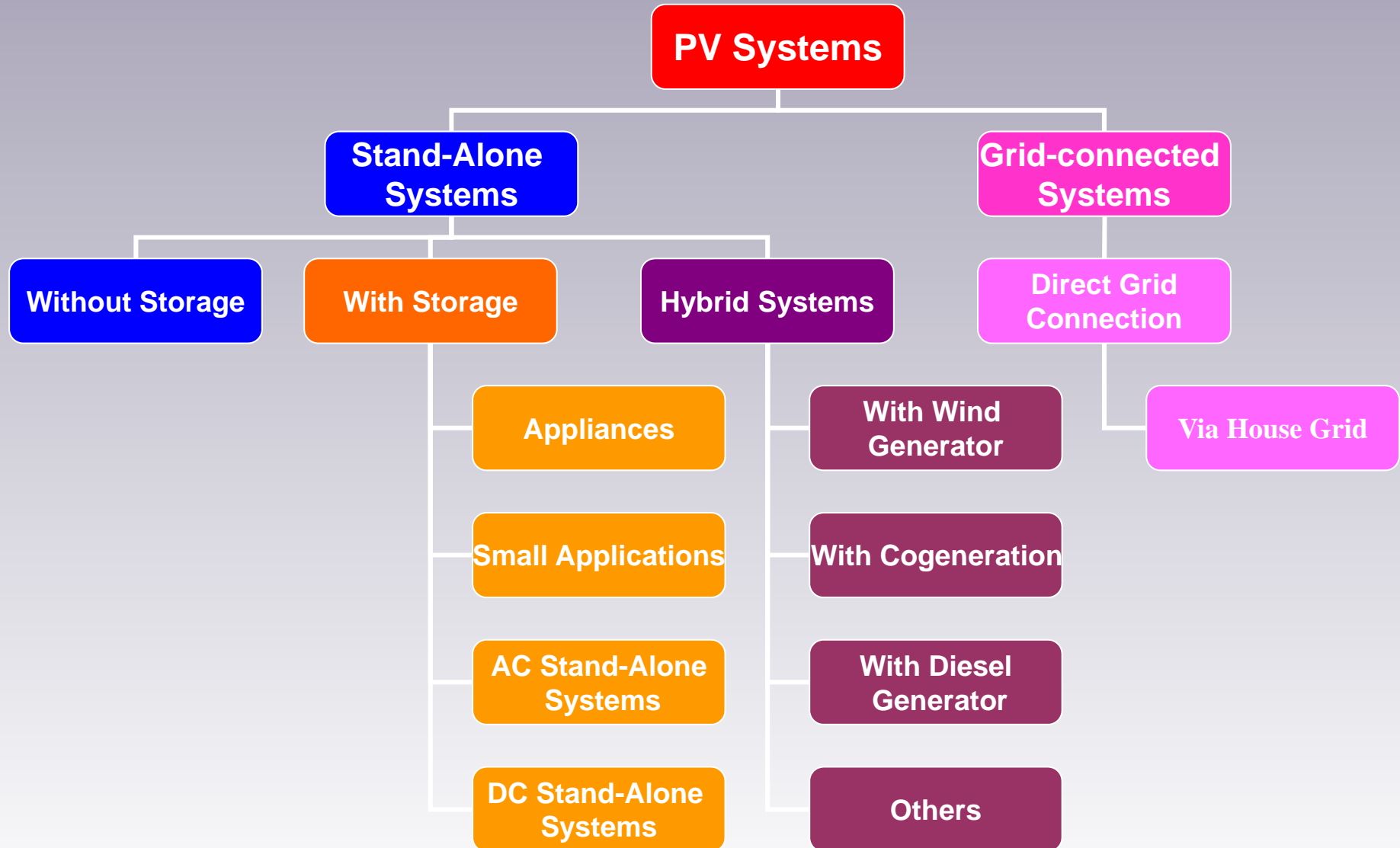


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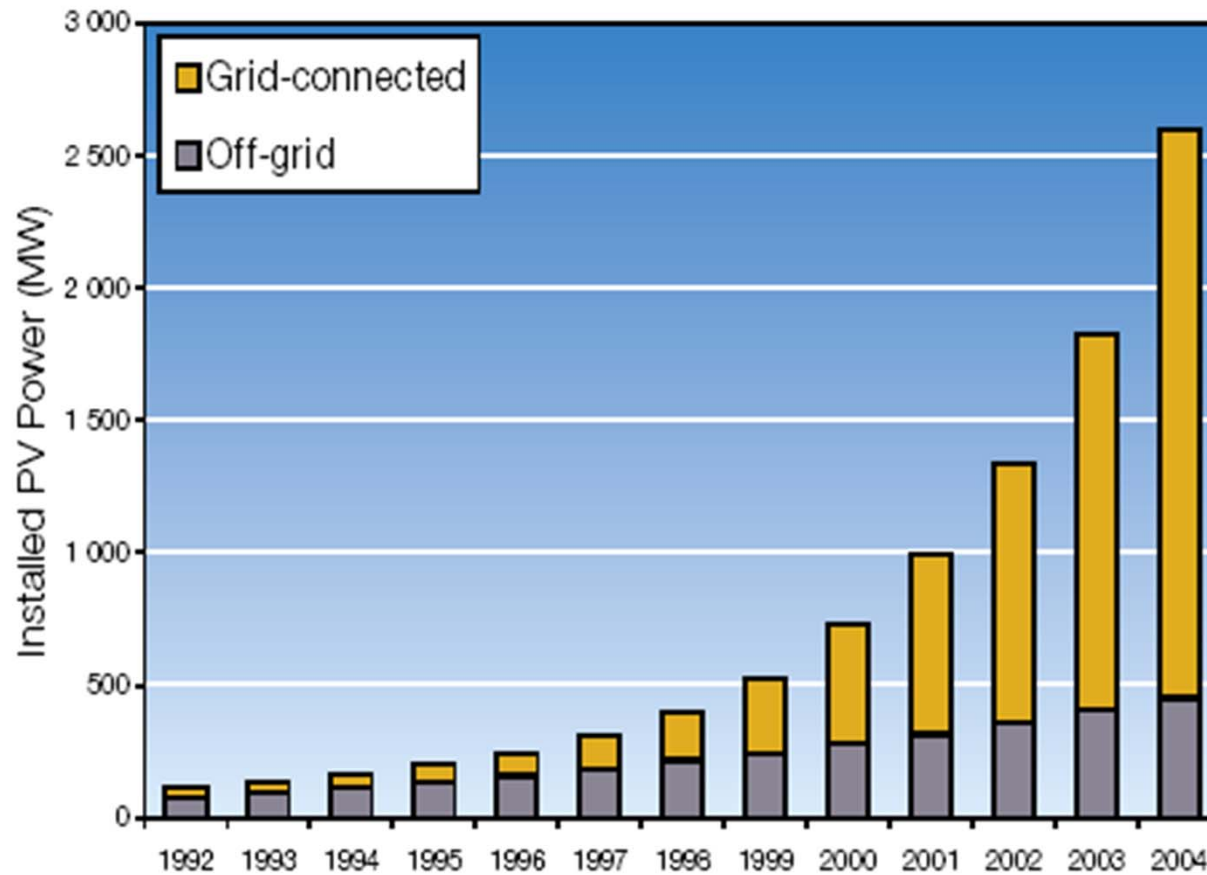
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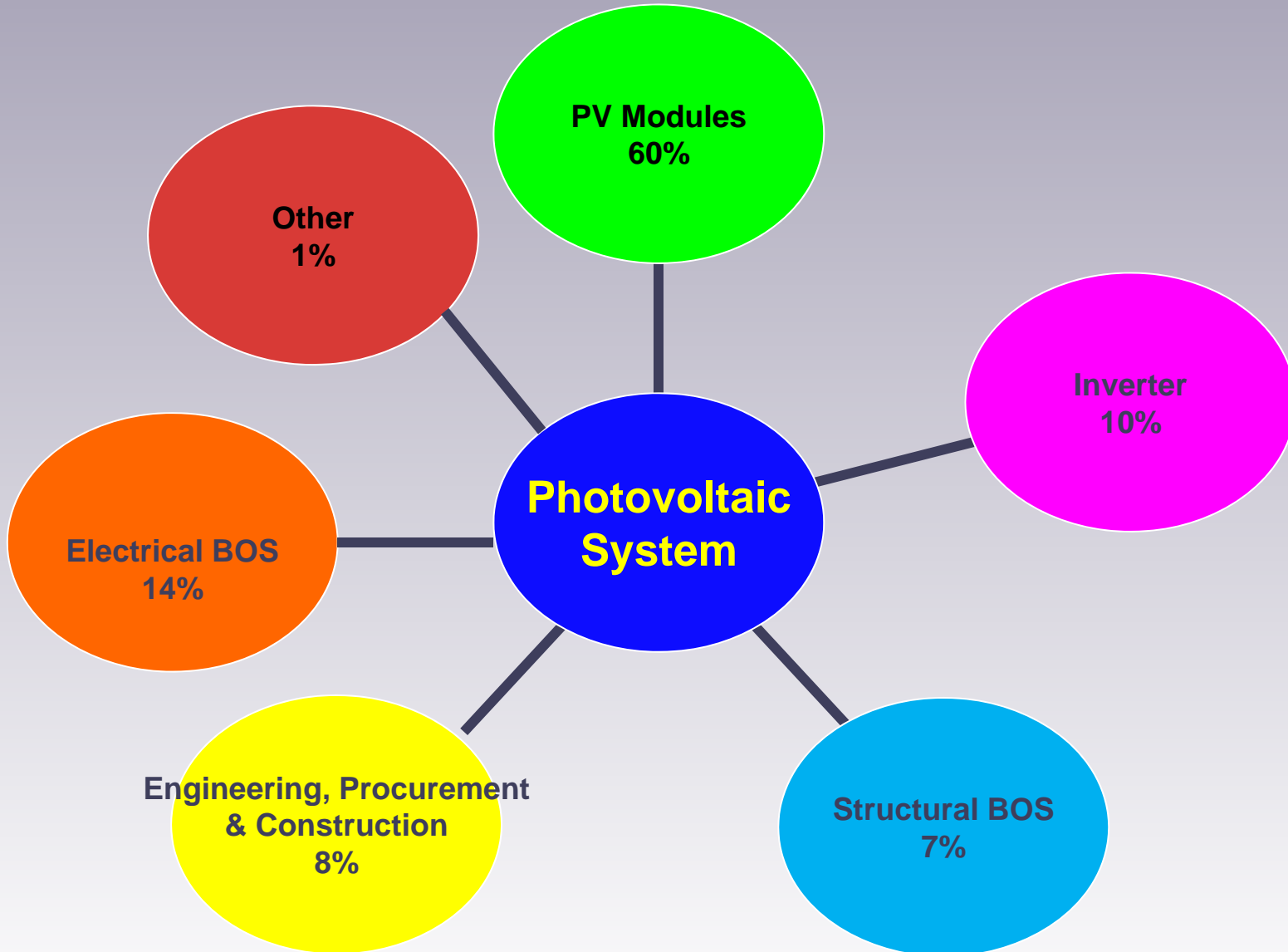
Solar PV Systems



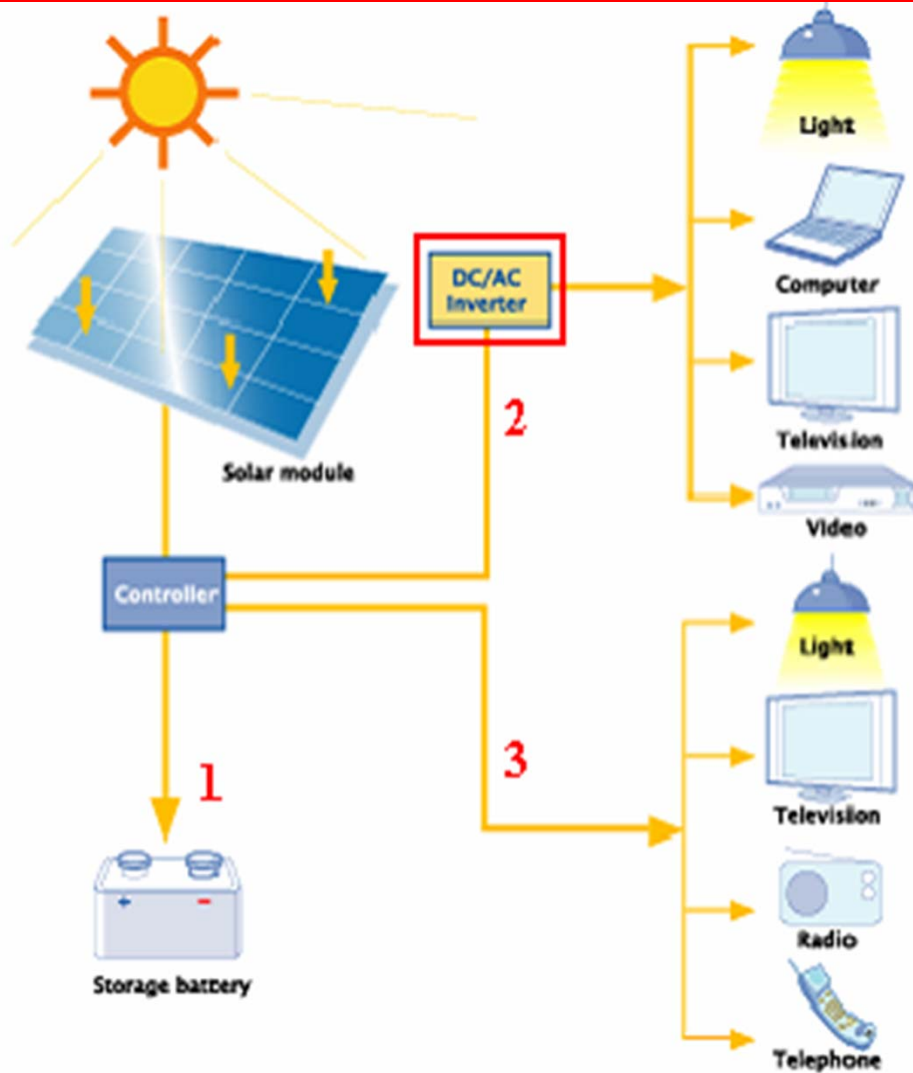
Cumulative grid-connected and off-grid PV power installed in countries reporting, under IEA PVPS program, 1992-2004



Cost PV Systems

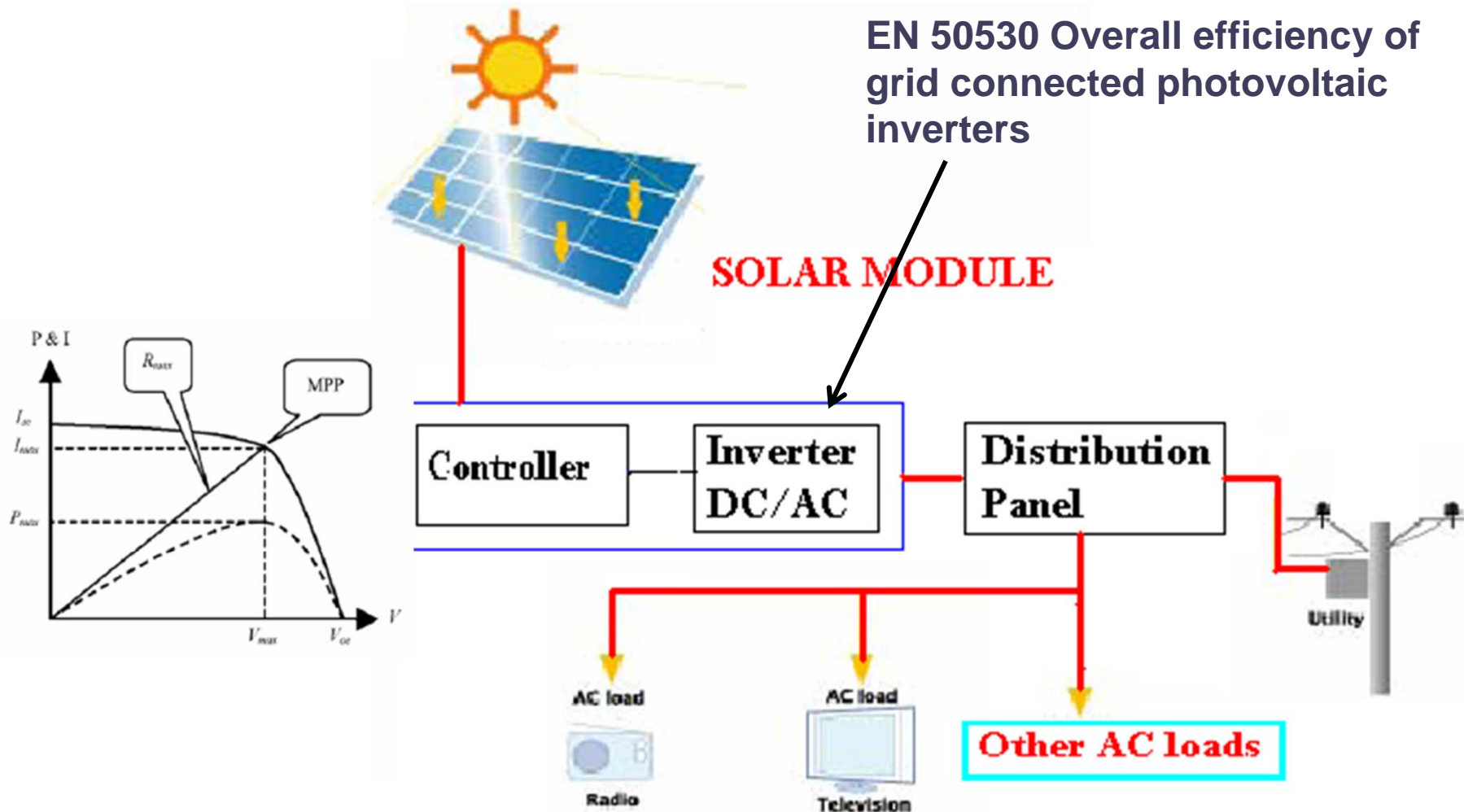


PV Stand Alone System



- Off-grid
- Suitable for isolated areas
 - Island
 - Eco-tourism
- Storage battery needed

Grid-Connected PV Inverter System





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PV Inverter



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PV INVERTERS

Commercial PV inverter efficiency for state of the art brand products is **98% and higher** (98.8% reported).

Market share for **string inverters is estimated to be 42%** (mostly for residential, small and medium commercial applications).

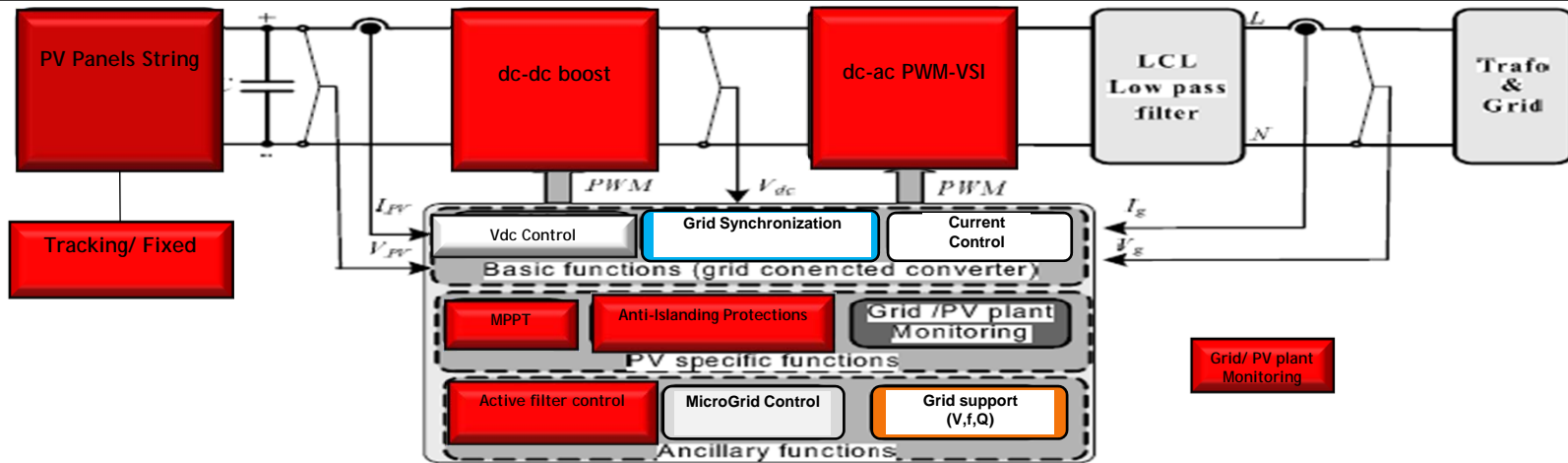
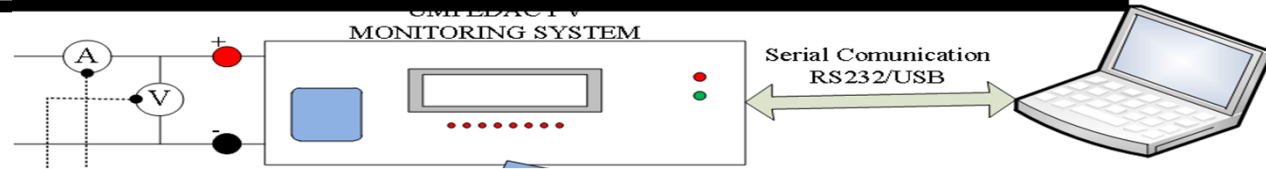
Central inverters ~ 54% (large commercial and utility-scale systems).

Micro-inverter is about ~1%. 2 GWp of DC-DC converters – power optimizer (2016).

New Trends of Inverters

- New features for **grid stabilization and optimization of self consumption.**
- Storage unit** included in the inverter.
- Utilization of **innovative semiconductors (Sic or GaN)** which allow very high efficiencies and compact design.

GRID-CONNECTED PV INVERTER SYSTEM



Basic functions – common for all grid-connected inverters

- Grid current control
 - THD limits imposed by standards
 - Stability in case of grid impedance variations
 - Ride-through grid voltage disturbances (not required yet!)
- DC voltage control
 - Adaptation to grid voltage variations
 - Ride-through grid voltage disturbances (optional yet)
- Grid synchronization
 - Required for grid connection or re-connection after trip.

PV specific functions – common for PV inverters

- Maximum Power Point Tracking – MPPT
 - Very high MPPT efficiency in steady state (typical > 99%)
 - Fast tracking during rapid irradiation changes (dynamical MPPT efficiency)
 - Stable operation at very low irradiation levels
- Anti-Islanding – AI as required by standards (VDE0126, IEEE1574, etc)
- Grid Monitoring
 - Operation at unity power factor as required by standards
 - Fast Voltage/frequency detection

Ancillary Support – (future?)

- Voltage Control
- Frequency control
- Fault Ride-through
- Q compensation
- DVR

Evolution of Inverter Features 1990-2000



1980s - bulky, heavy, difficult to install, unreliable, efficiency 85% - 90%; strictly, devices for converting DC to AC

1991 - the early 1990s saw the 1st large scale series production of PV inverters

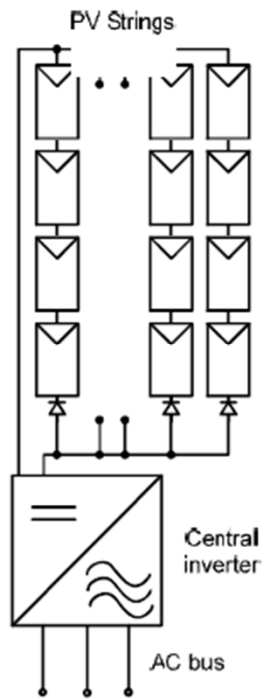
1995 1st string inverter; allows connection of modules in series, modular systems, higher systems efficiency and reliability

Late 1990s Basic data acquisition system, “plug and play” installation

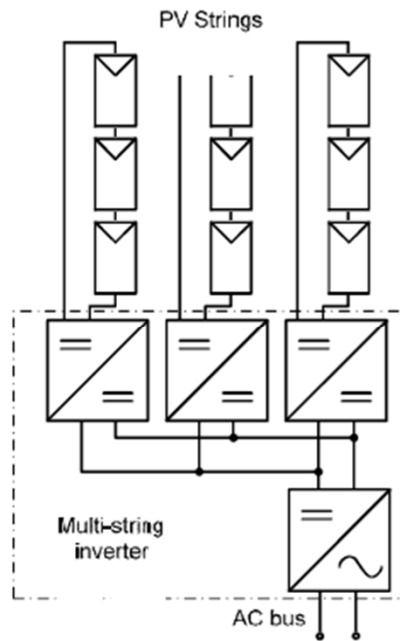
- Transformerless and high frequency designs reached $\eta \geq 95\%$;

Reliability improved, warranties 2 to 5 years.

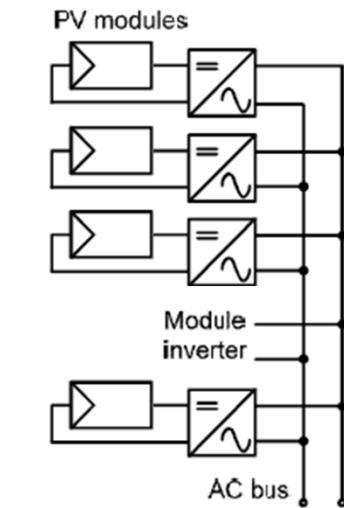
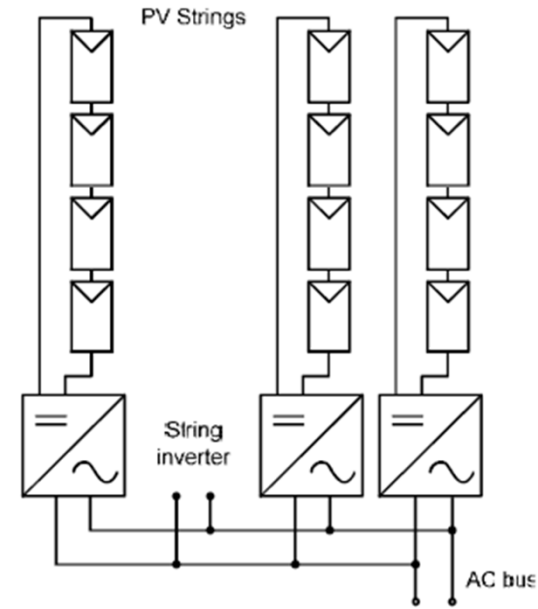
PV Systems configuration



Central Inverters



String (Multi) Inverters

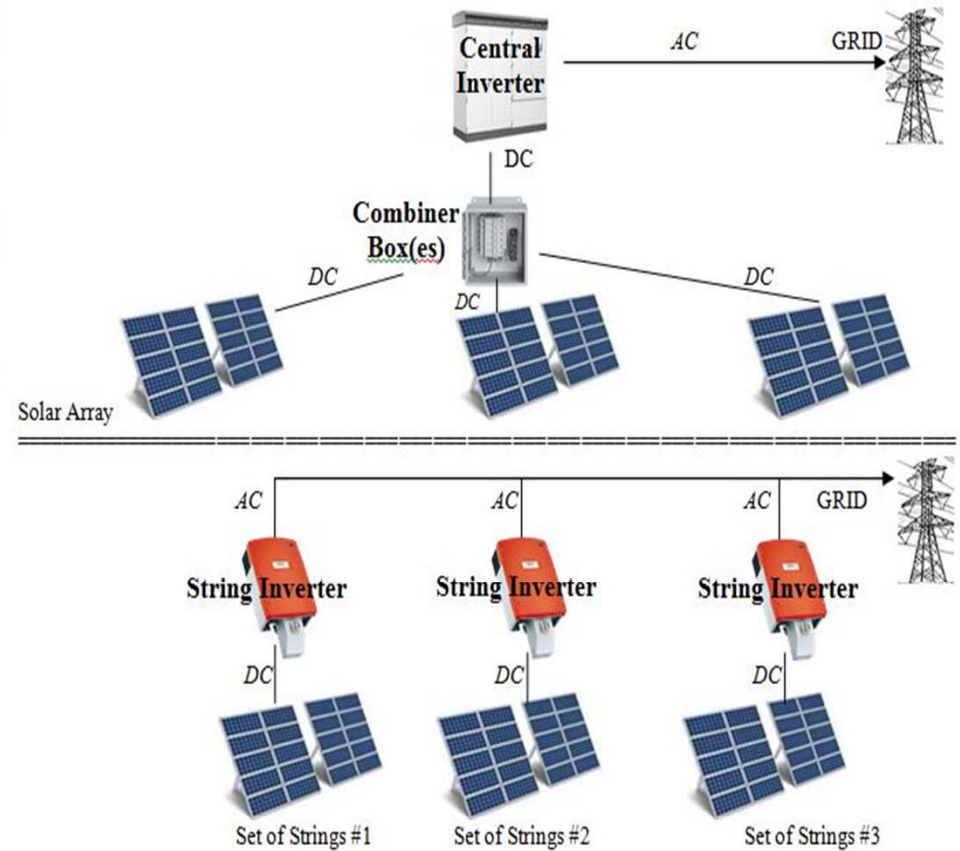


Module Inverters

PV Central & String Inverters



<http://www.pennenergy.com>

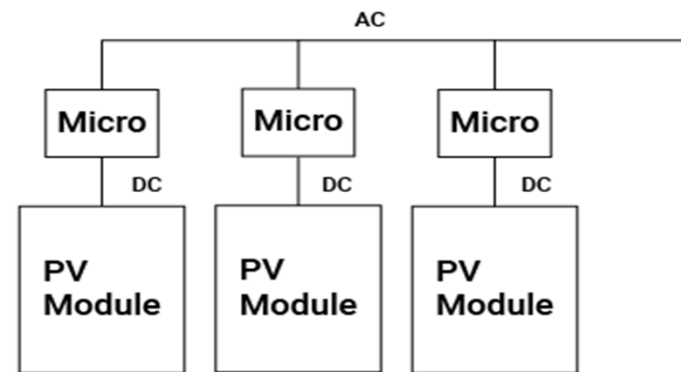


<http://cenergypower.com>

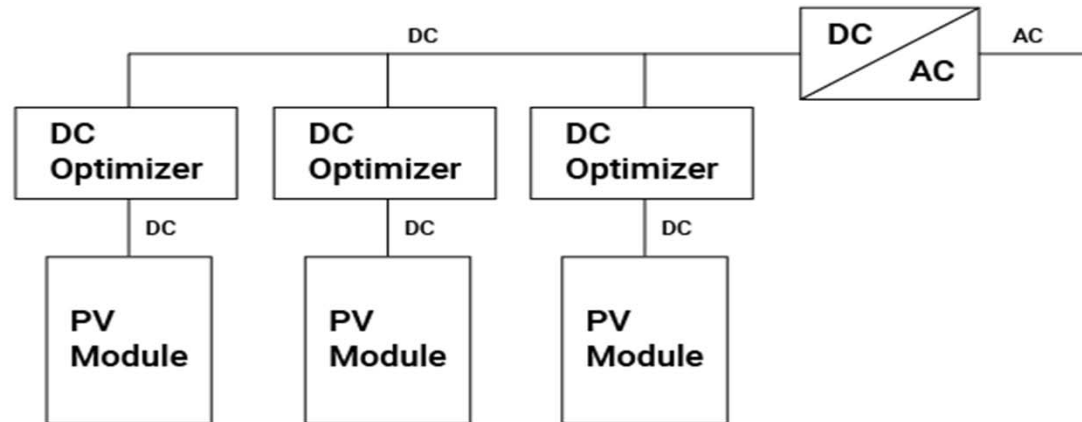
Micro inverter Vs DC Optimizer



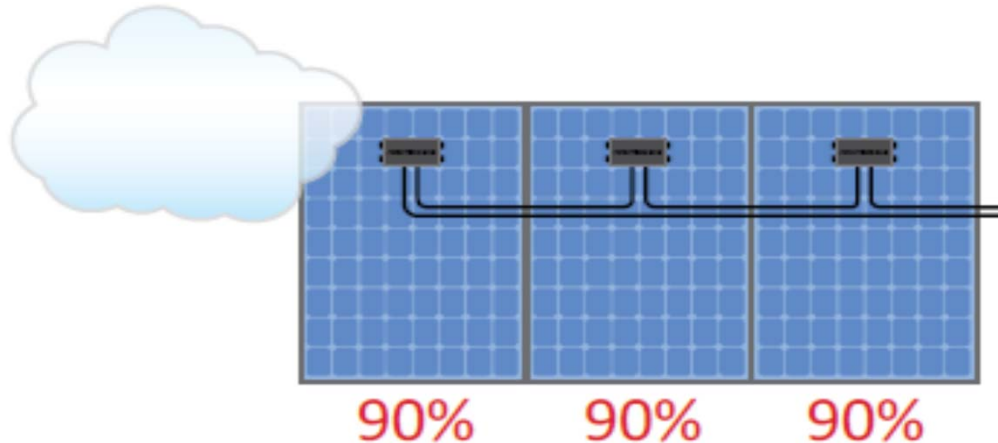
Micro Inverter System



DC Optimizer System

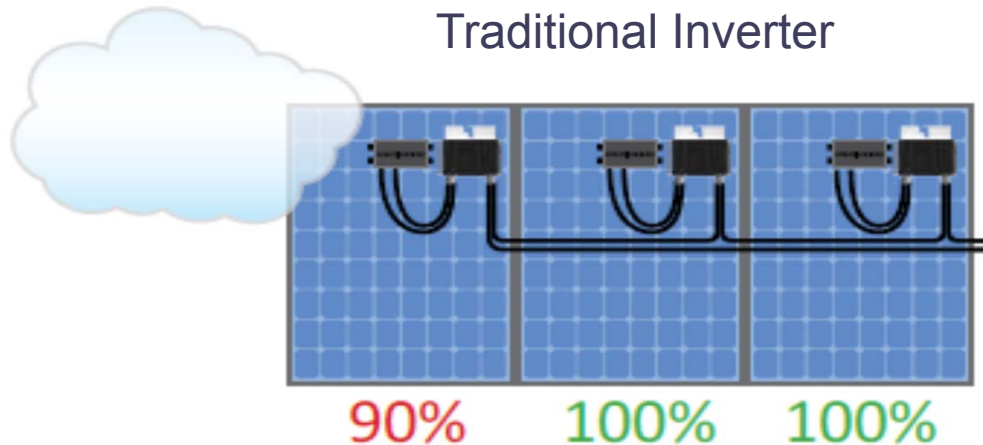


Traditional Inverter Vs DC optimizer



- Weak modules reduce the performance of all modules in the string/bypass.
- Power losses due to module mismatch.

Traditional Inverter



- Maximum power produced and tracked from each module individually.
- 2%-10% more energy from the PV system.

DC Optimizer

Source: SolarEdge Technologies, Inc.

PV Inverters

Central (“String”) Inverters

Typical Cost: \$0.18-\$0.25/W

10-15 year warranty Modules are connected in a series

The entire array is jeopardized by one module

9% shading can result in 54% array performance loss

Micro Inverters

Located on each module

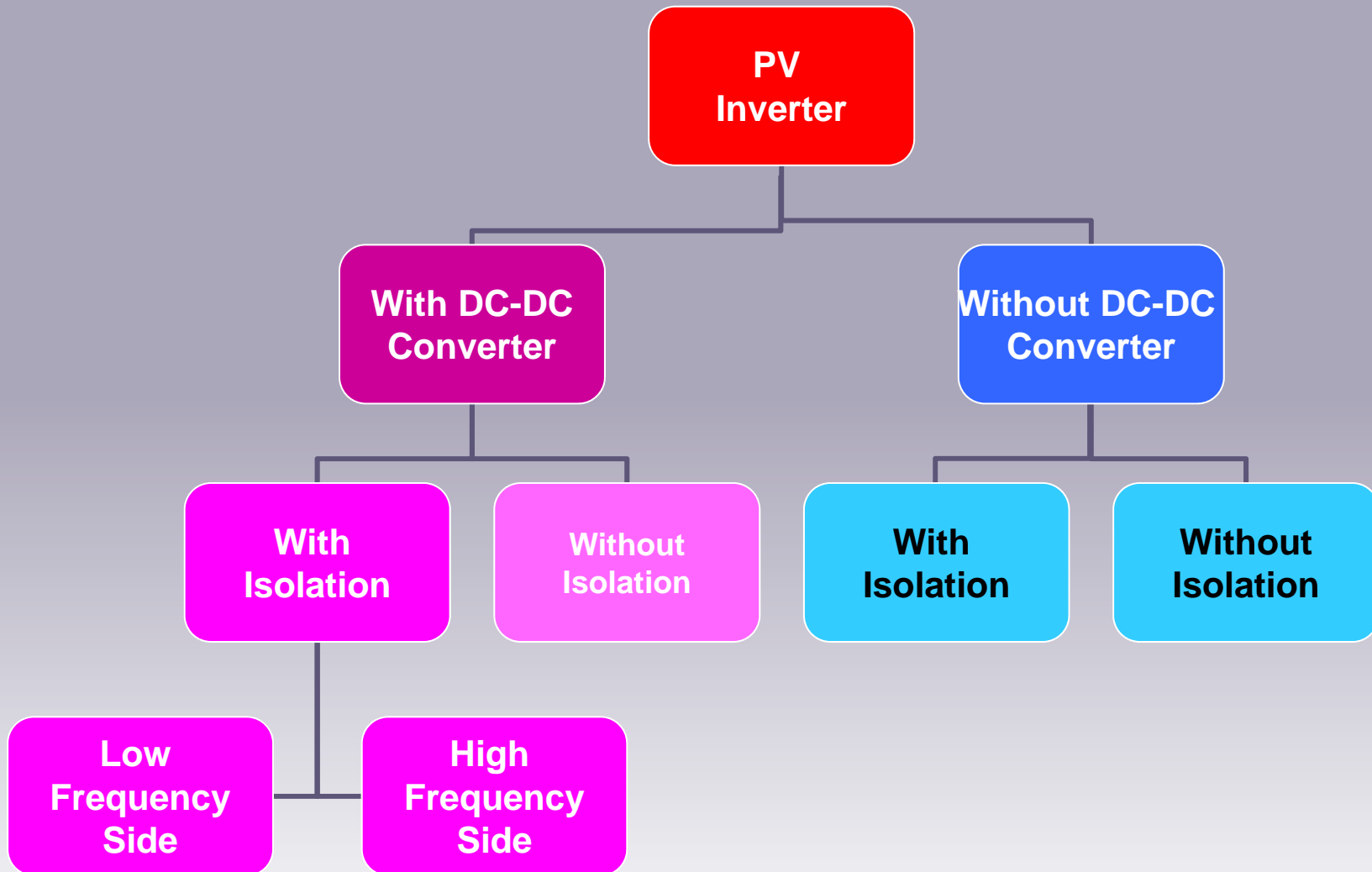
Typical Cost: \$0.35-\$0.45/W

20-25 year warranty

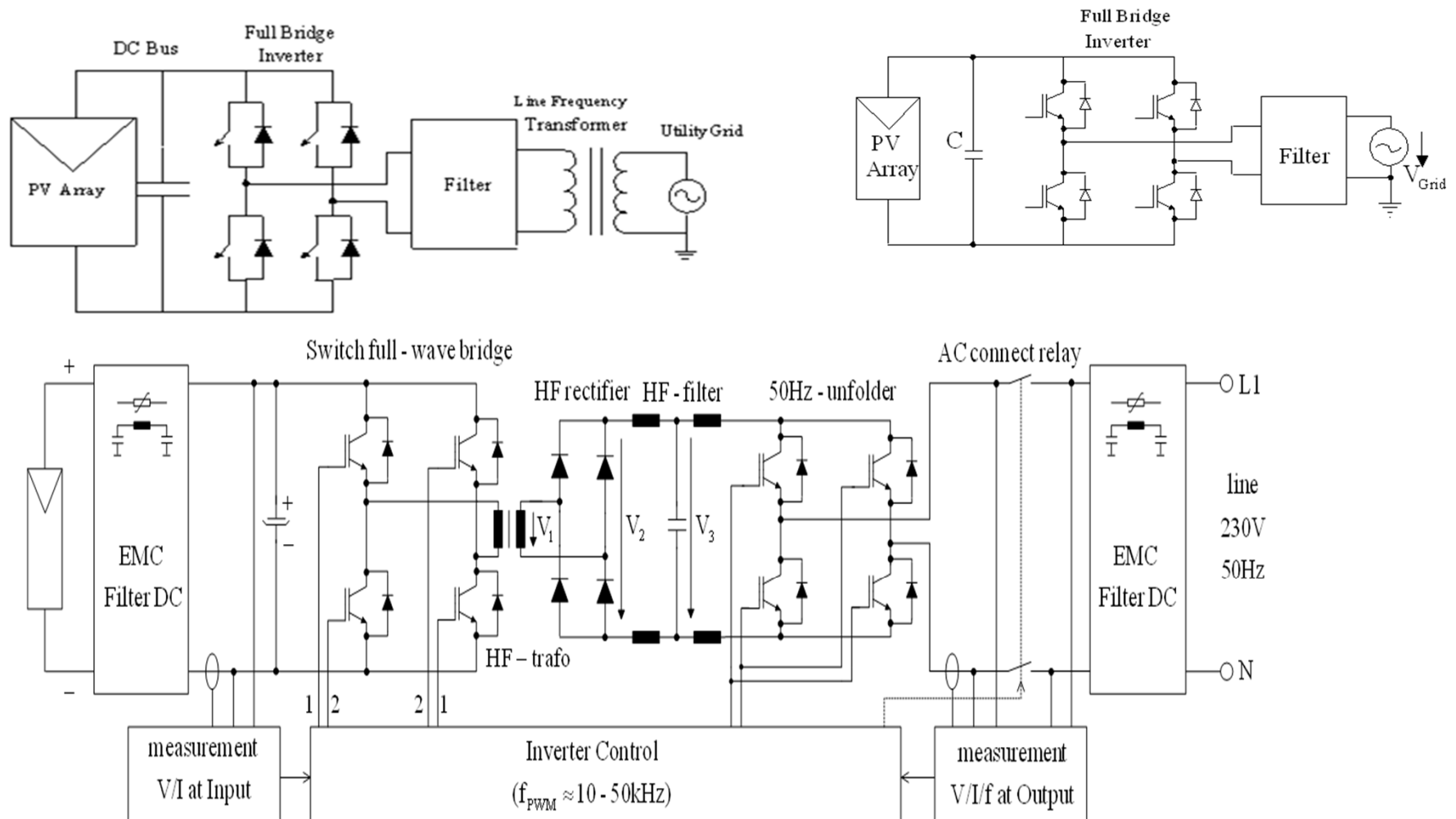
Easily pinpoint issues (independently controlled modules)

Source: www.renewablegreenenergypower.com

Power Configurations of PV Inverters



PV grid Connected Inverter





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High-Efficiency DC-to-DC Converter with Low Input Current Ripple for Maximum Photovoltaic Power Extraction

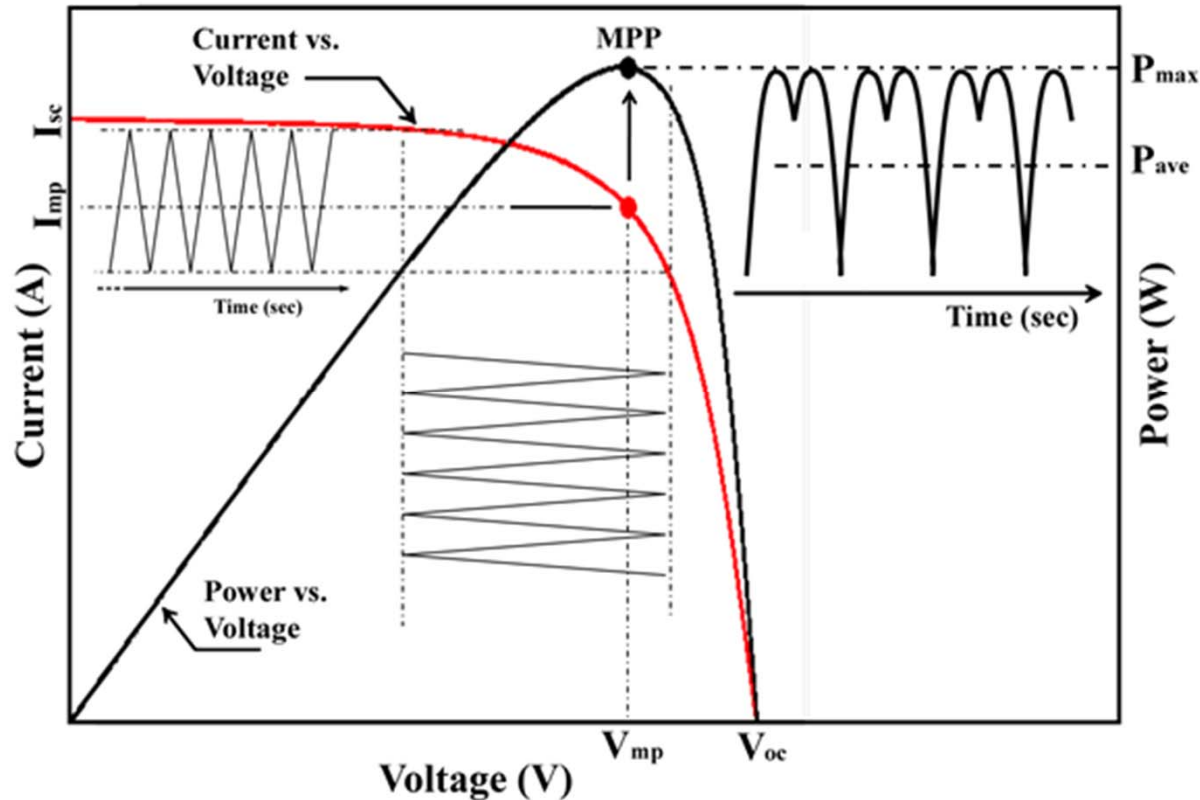


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EFFECT OF INPUT RIPPLE CURRENT ON THE PV POWER



Current with 5% ripple of I_{mppt} would result in 2.7% power drop.

Current with 8% ripple of I_{mppt} would result in 6.83% power drop.



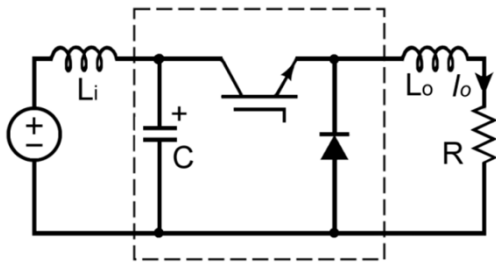
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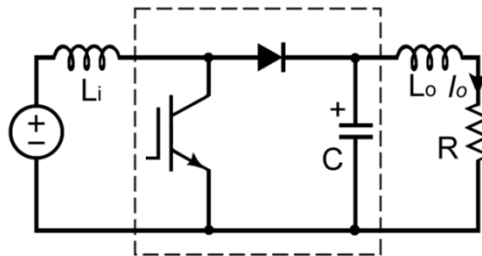


DC-TO-DC SWITCHING CONVERTERS

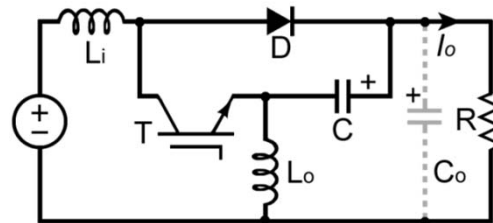
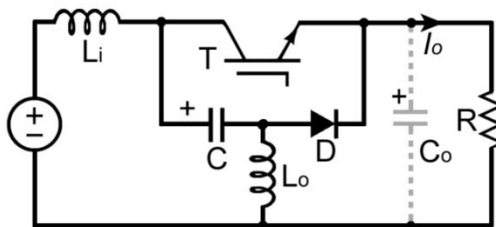
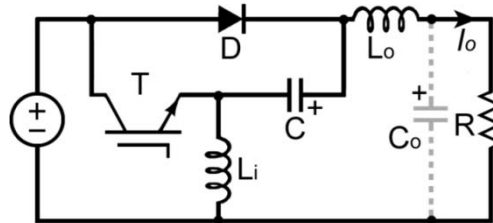
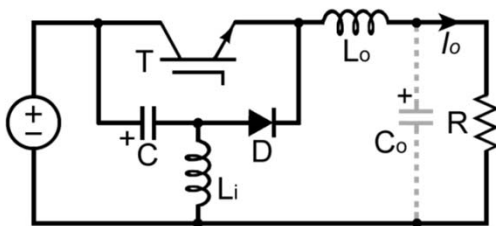
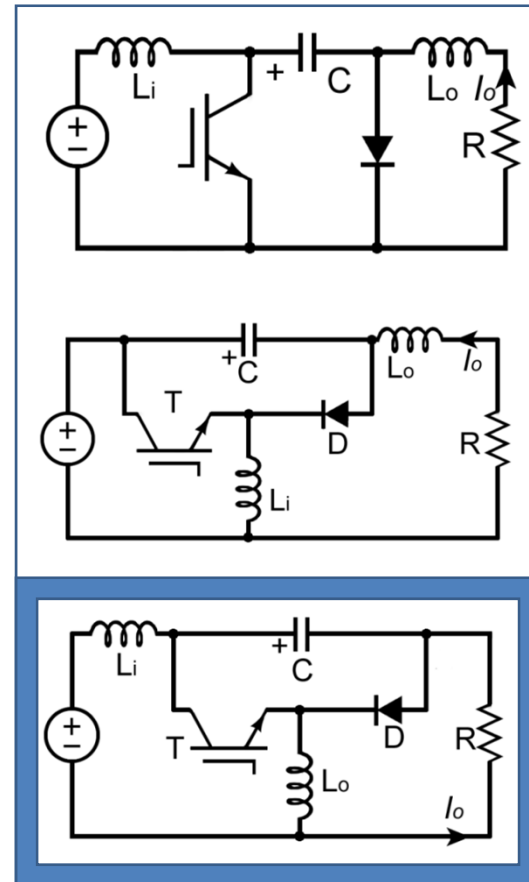
Step-down



Step-Up



Step-Up/Down

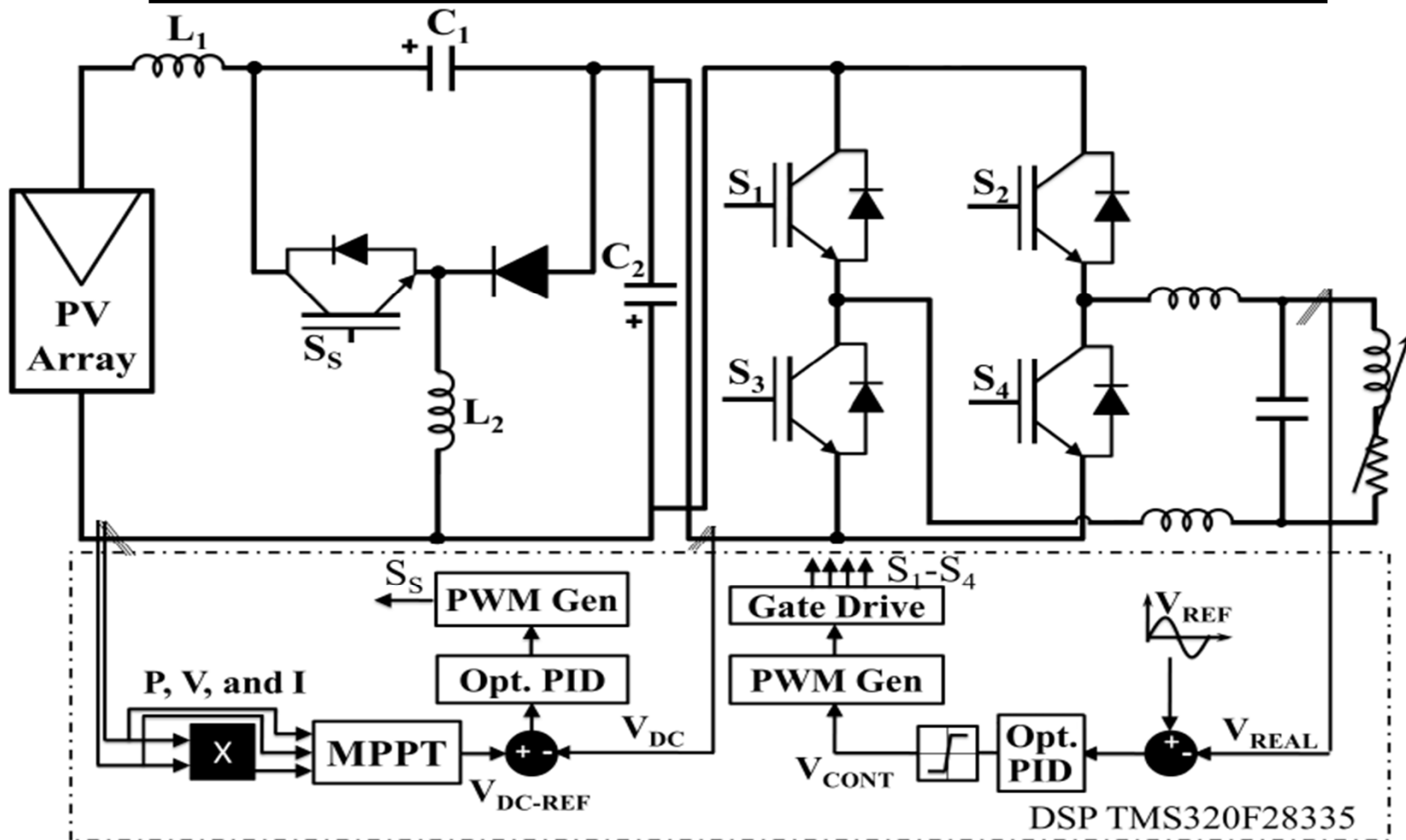


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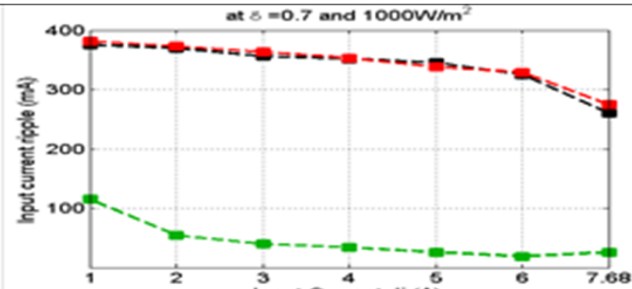
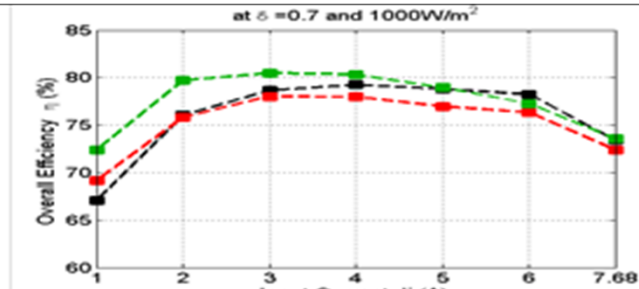
C

D

DC-TO-DC D type With Inverter



EFFICIENCY & RIPPLE CURRENT VS INPUT CURRENT, IRRADIATION, AND DUTY CYCLE



Cuk



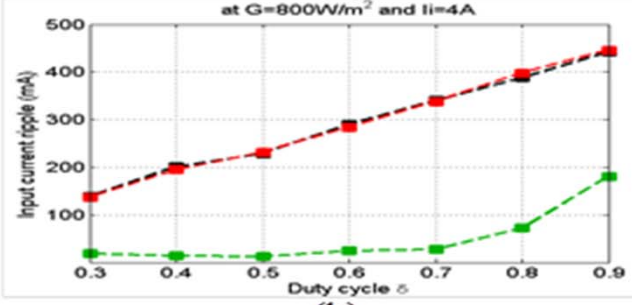
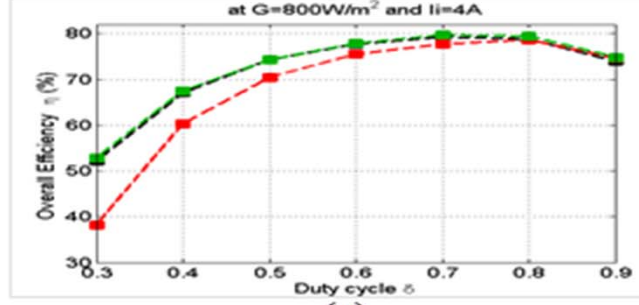
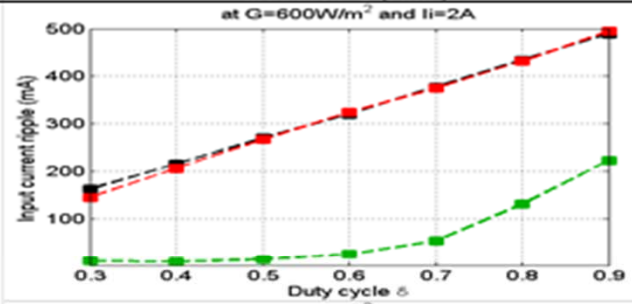
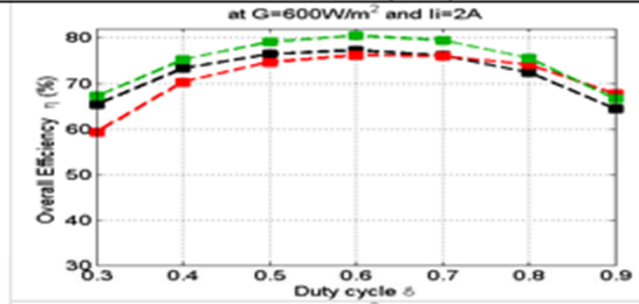
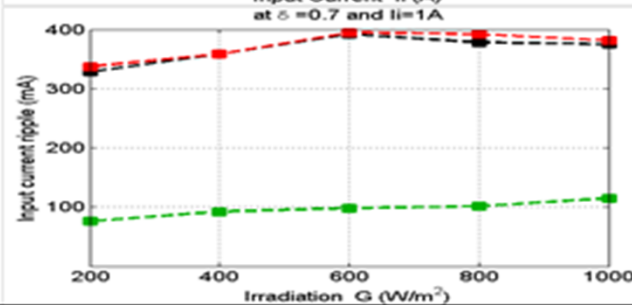
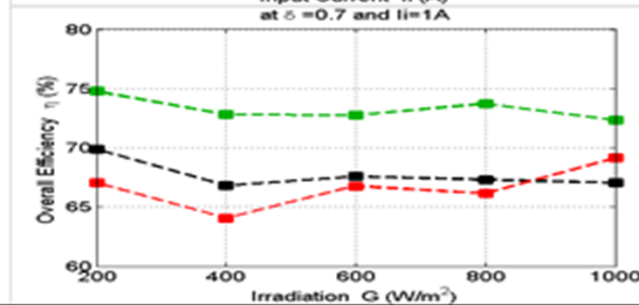
C



D



/



(a)

(b)

Practical results for (a) overall efficiency and (b) input ripple current.



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Single Phase PV Inverter System with Isolating Transformer

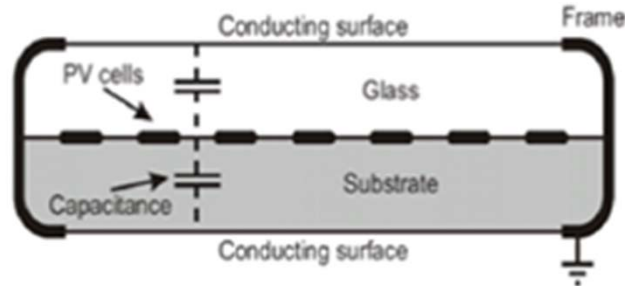


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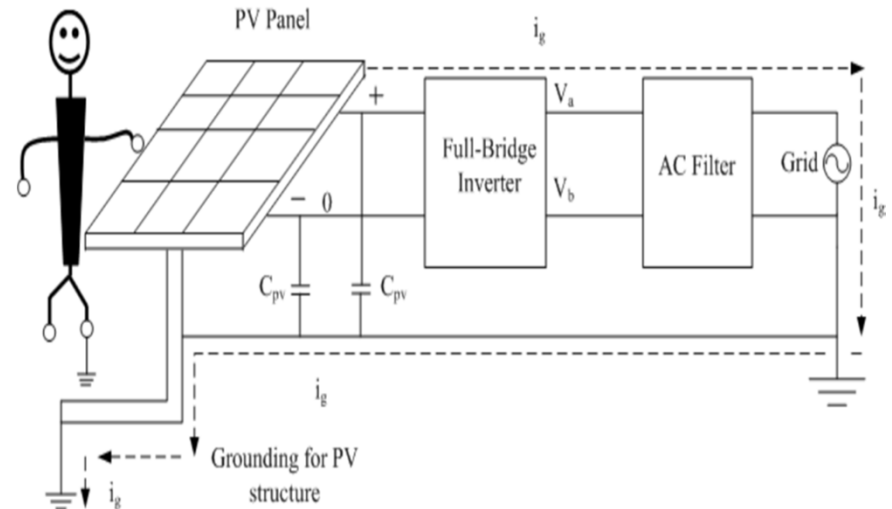
Common Mode Current & Parasitic Capacitance



- High efficiency (>95%)
- Leakage current problem
- Safety issue

Crystalline-silicon cells 50 – 150 nF/kWp
 Thin-film cells up to 1uF/kWp (Increase under Conditions e.g humidity, dust or installation mode)

- Problems: i) Common mode voltage
 ii) Leakage current



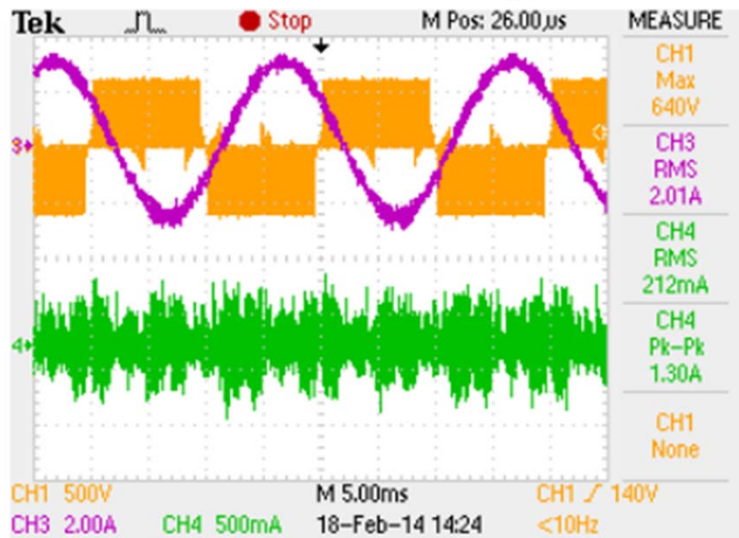
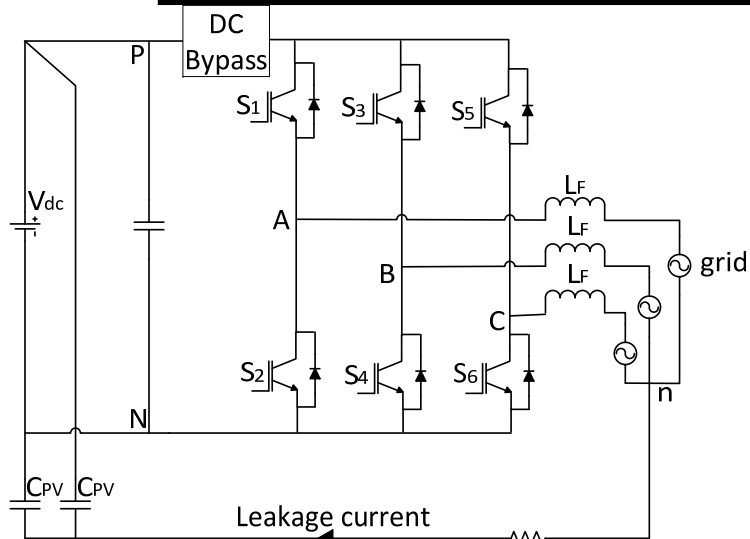
• German standard, VDE0126-1-1, the amplitude of ground leakage current must be less than 300mA r.m.s to avoid electrical hazard when the PV array is touched .

$$\frac{(V_{a0} + V_{b0})}{2} - \text{common mode voltage}$$

In motor application, the common-mode voltage results in

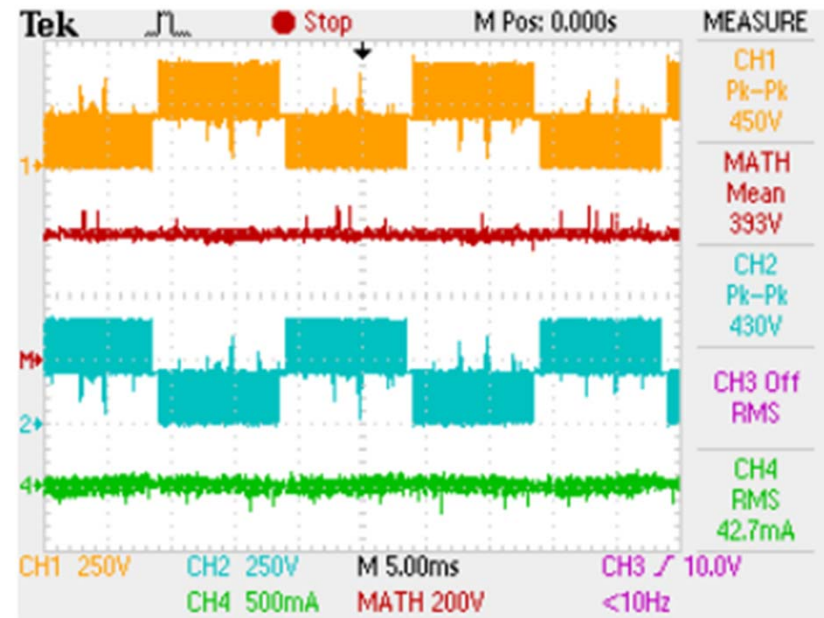
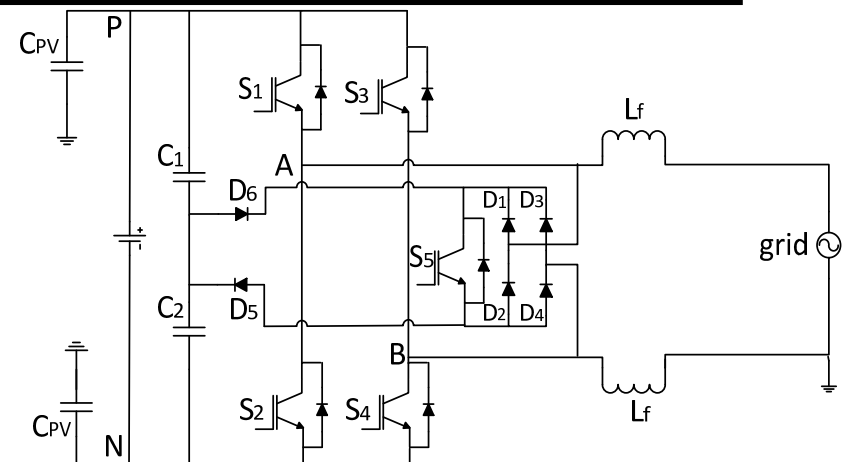
- causing fault activation of current detection circuits and desired electromagnetic interference (EMI).
- damage to motor bearings

MDPWM & HBZVR-D



TDS 2024B - 2:11:43 PM 2/18/2014

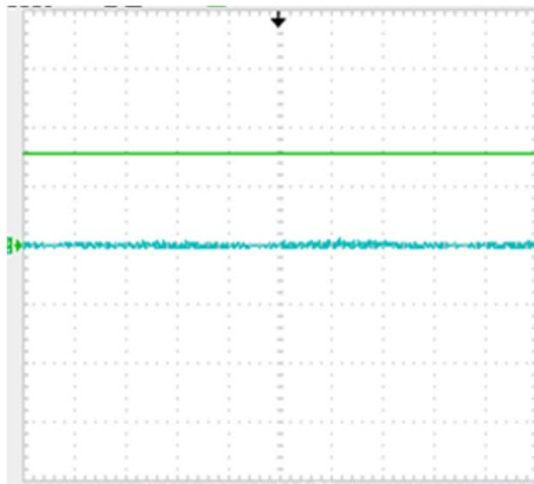
Proposed Three Phase Modified Discontinuous PWM



TDS 2024B - 2:34:22 PM 5/14/2013

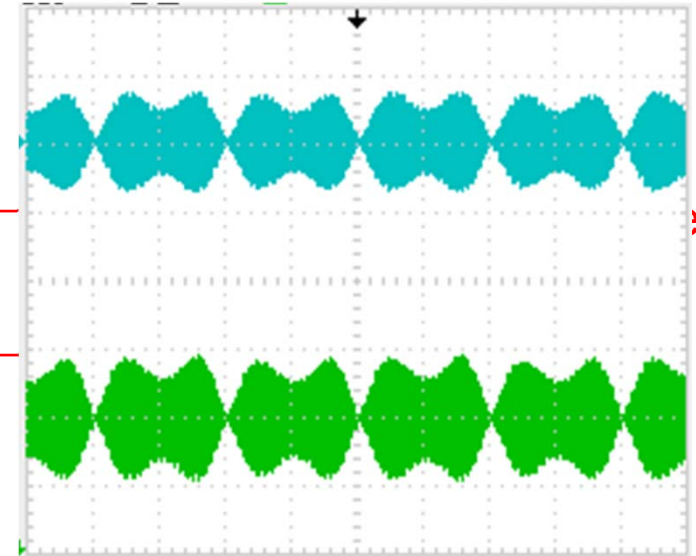
H-bridge zero-voltage state rectifier with diode (HBZVR-D)

Common Mode Voltage & Ground Leakage Current



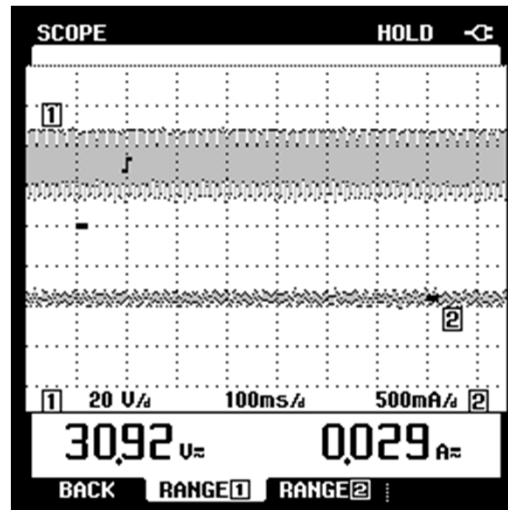
Bipolar Switching
H-Bridge Inverter

Common Mode
Voltage
Ground Leakage
Current



Unipolar Switching
H-Bridge Inverter

Unipolar Switching
HB-ZVR Inverter



Common Mode
Voltage
Ground Leakage
Current



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Maximum Power Point Tracking



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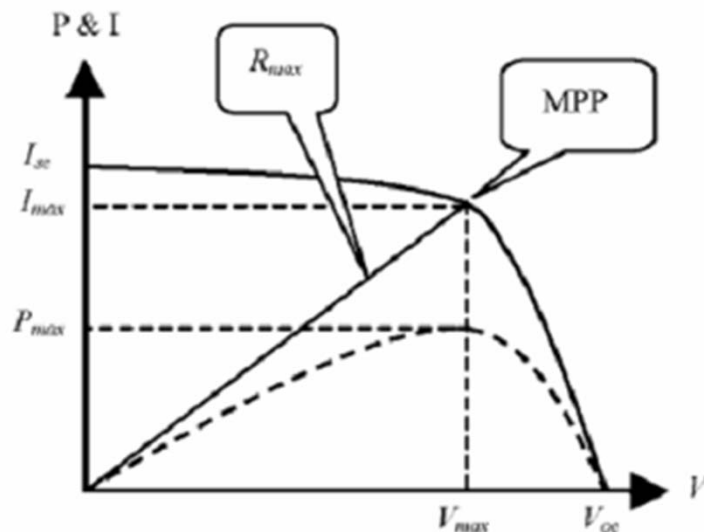
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Maximum Power Point Tracking

The DC power input to an inverter depends on which point in the current voltage (I-V) curve of the PV array it is working at. Ideally, the inverter should operate at the maximum power point (MPP) of the PV array.

The MPP is variable throughout the day, mainly as a function of environmental conditions such as irradiance and temperature, but the inverter directly connected to the PV arrays has an MPP tracking that can be defined as a method to extract maximum power from the PV arrays.



Three methods commonly used:-

- 1) Constant Voltage
- 2) Perturbation & Observation
- 3) Incremental Conductance



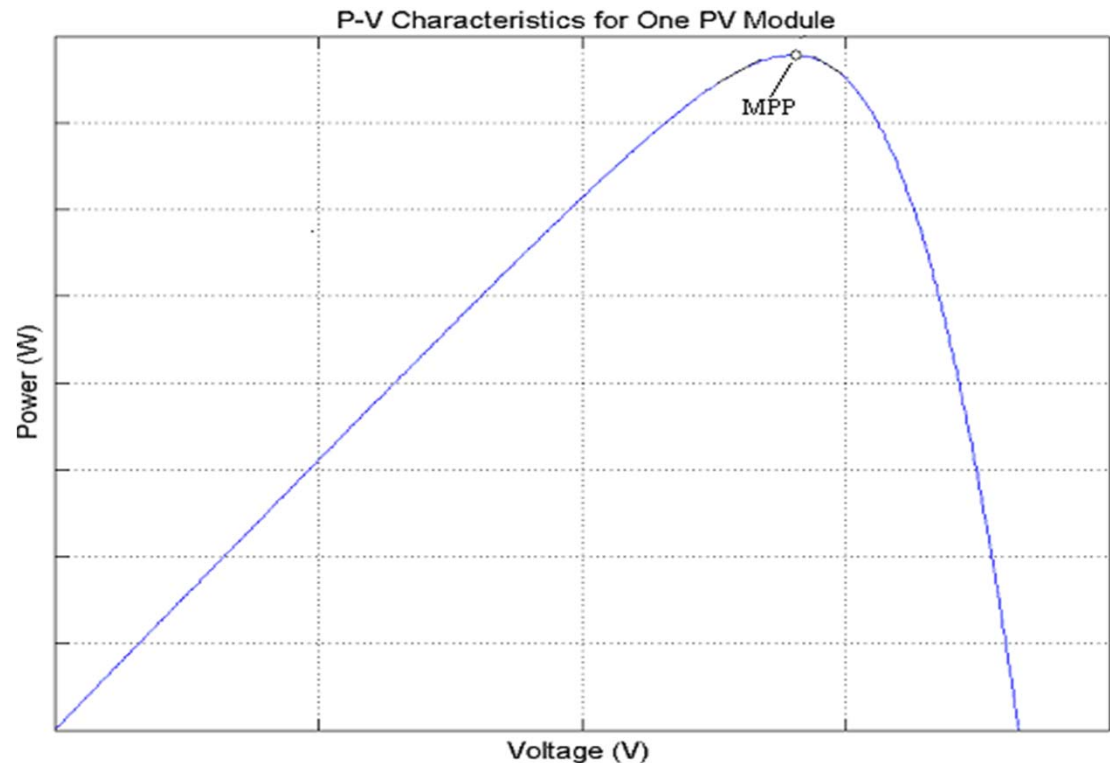
Perturbation and Observation Method

Hill climbing MPPT method

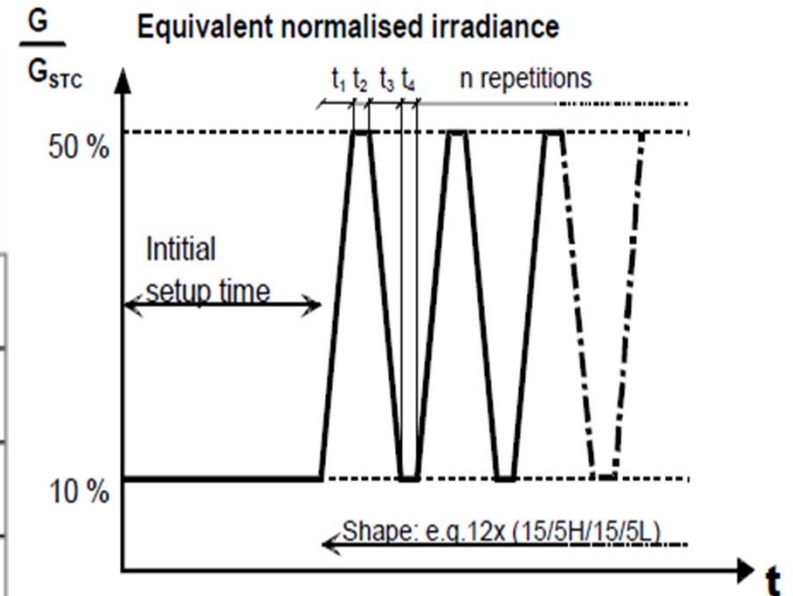
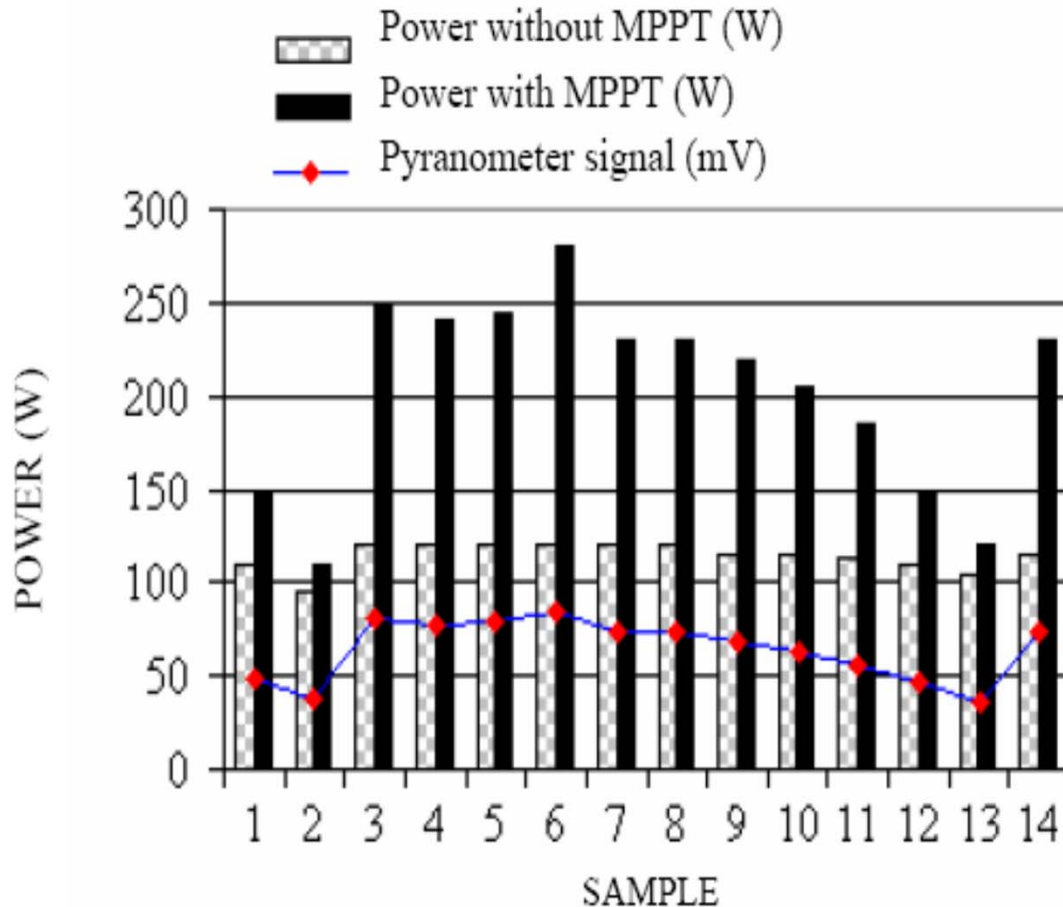
Current, and voltage, measured
Power calculated & compared
to the previous perturbation
cycle, and changes made to the
duty cycle

$\Delta P > 0$, duty cycle increased

$\Delta P < 0$, duty cycle decreased



With & Without Maximum Power Point Tracking



EN 50530 Overall efficiency of grid connected photovoltaic inverters

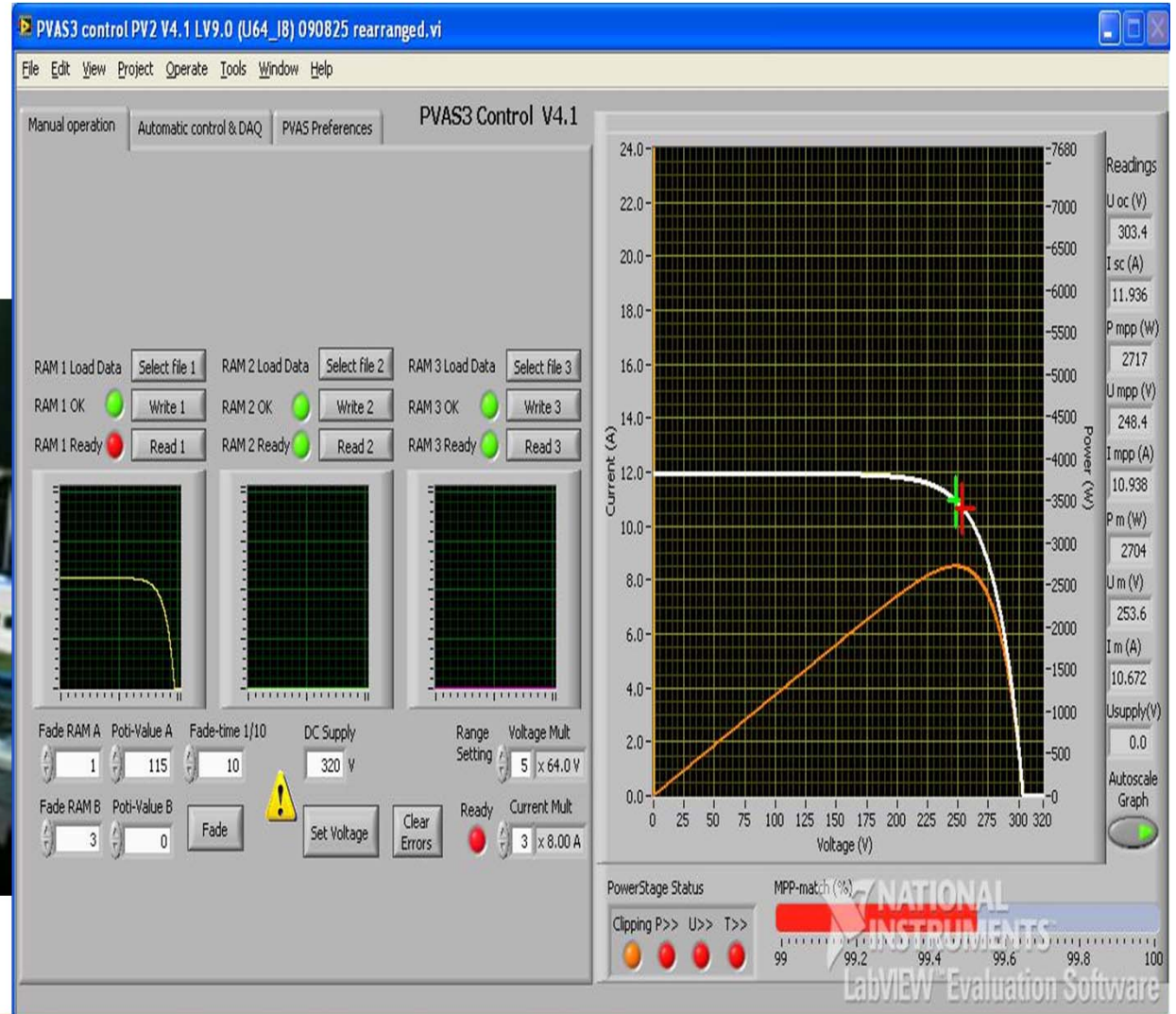


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Maximum Power Point Tracking



ISSUES: TO HARVEST MAXIMUM POWER

By using P&O in the situation, more probably **local maximum point** is tracked. Then, maximum power cannot be harvested from the panels.

Solutions of the issues

• **Machine learning method**, the method uses machine learning technique to determine the global MPP in a period of time.

Disadvantages: **learning method requires powerful computing units.**

• **MPPT distributions**, the method is to **decentralize the MPPT function to a local tracker which is attached on each panel.**



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Anti-Islanding System



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Non Islanding Requirements

1. Utilities, along with the PV distributed resource owner, can be found liable for electrical damage to customer equipment connected to their lines, resulting from voltage or frequency excursions to beyond the acceptable ranges.
2. Islanding may create a hazard for utility line-workers or the public by causing a line assumed to be disconnected from all energy sources to remain energized.
3. Re-closing into an island may result in re-tripping the line or in damaging the distributed resource equipment or other connected equipment, owing to out-of-phase closure.
4. Islanding may interfere with the manual, or the automatic, restoration, of normal service by the utility.

Test 7: Anti Islanding

Table: International and Malaysian Standard of Disconnection and Reconnection time

Standard	IEC 61727	Malaysia
Disconnection time	$\leq 0.1s$	$\leq 0.6s$
Reconnection time	$\geq 5 \text{ min}$	$\geq 2 \text{ min}$

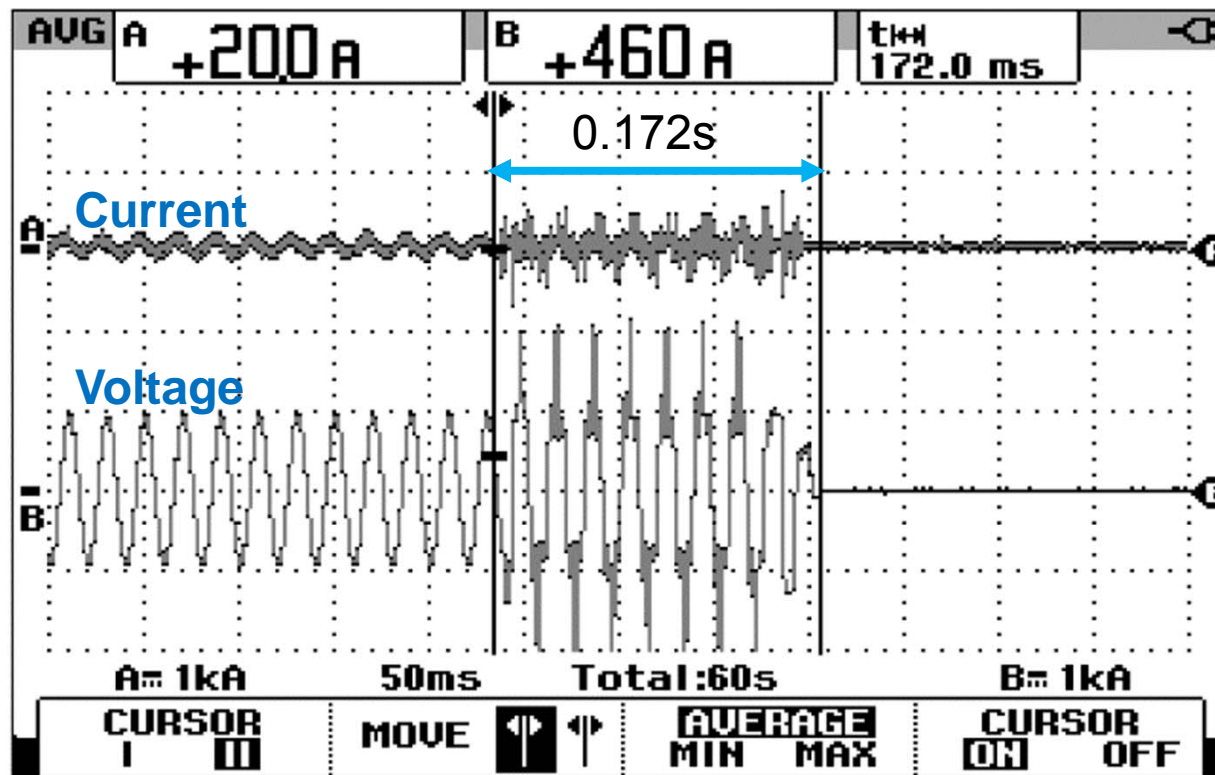
(a) Low Power Inverter $\leq 10kW$

Standard	IEC 61727	Malaysia
Disconnection time	$\leq 0.1s$	$\leq 0.6s$
Reconnection time	$\geq 5 \text{ min}$	$\geq 5 \text{ min}$

(b) High Power Inverter $> 10kW$

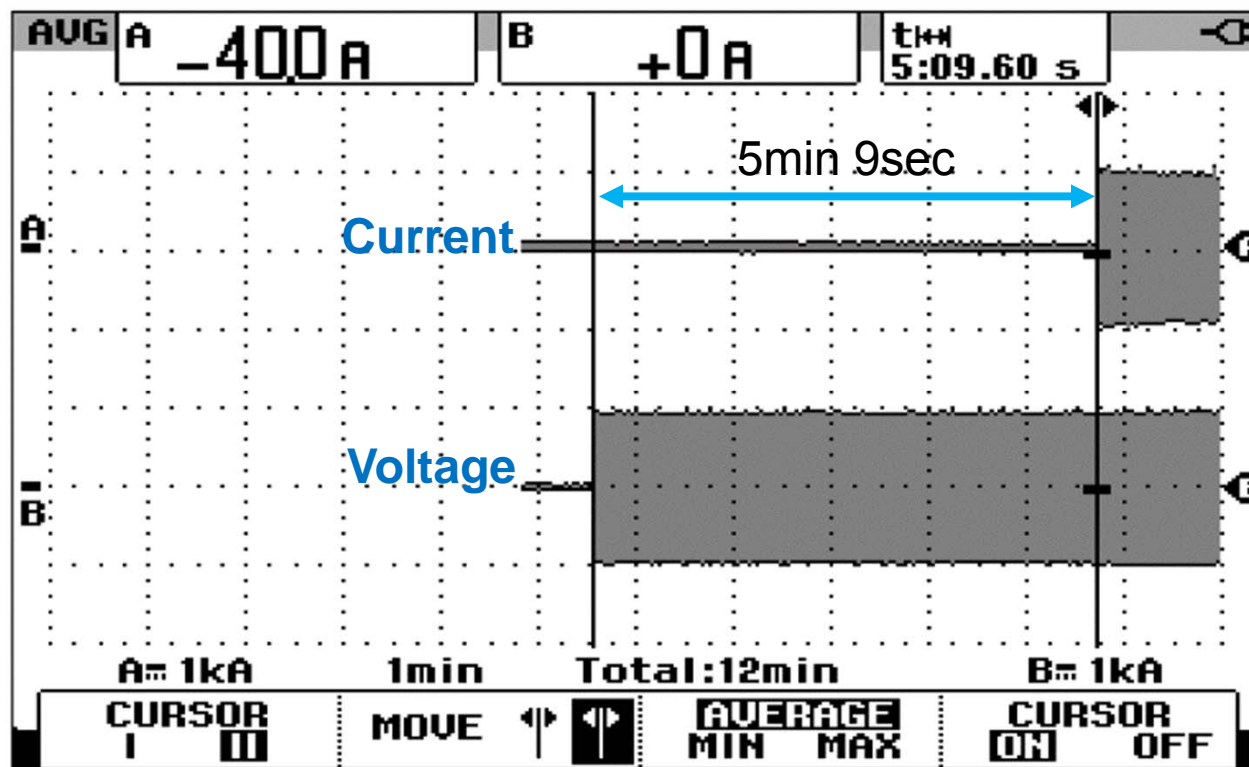
Test 7: Anti Islanding

Disconnection time



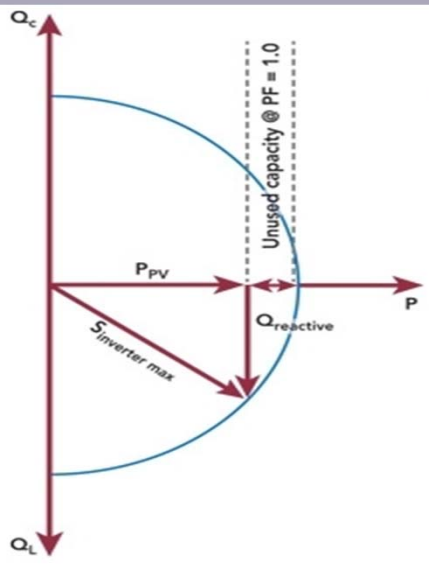
Test 7: Anti Islanding

Reconnection time



Next Generation PV Inverter Performance

Less weight
Compact
Ease of handling
Better heat dissipation



Manufacturing Design

Higher Efficiency

Additional Safety Features

- Centralized safety management (real-time indication of the system's DC voltage).
- Arc fault detection and interruption (arc within the string)
- When inverter shut down, power optimizer in safety modes.

New Generation Inverter

Better Reliability

Mean time between failure

- Currently 5 to 10 yrs
- Target > 10 yrs, by: improving quality control, better heat dissipation, reducing complexity

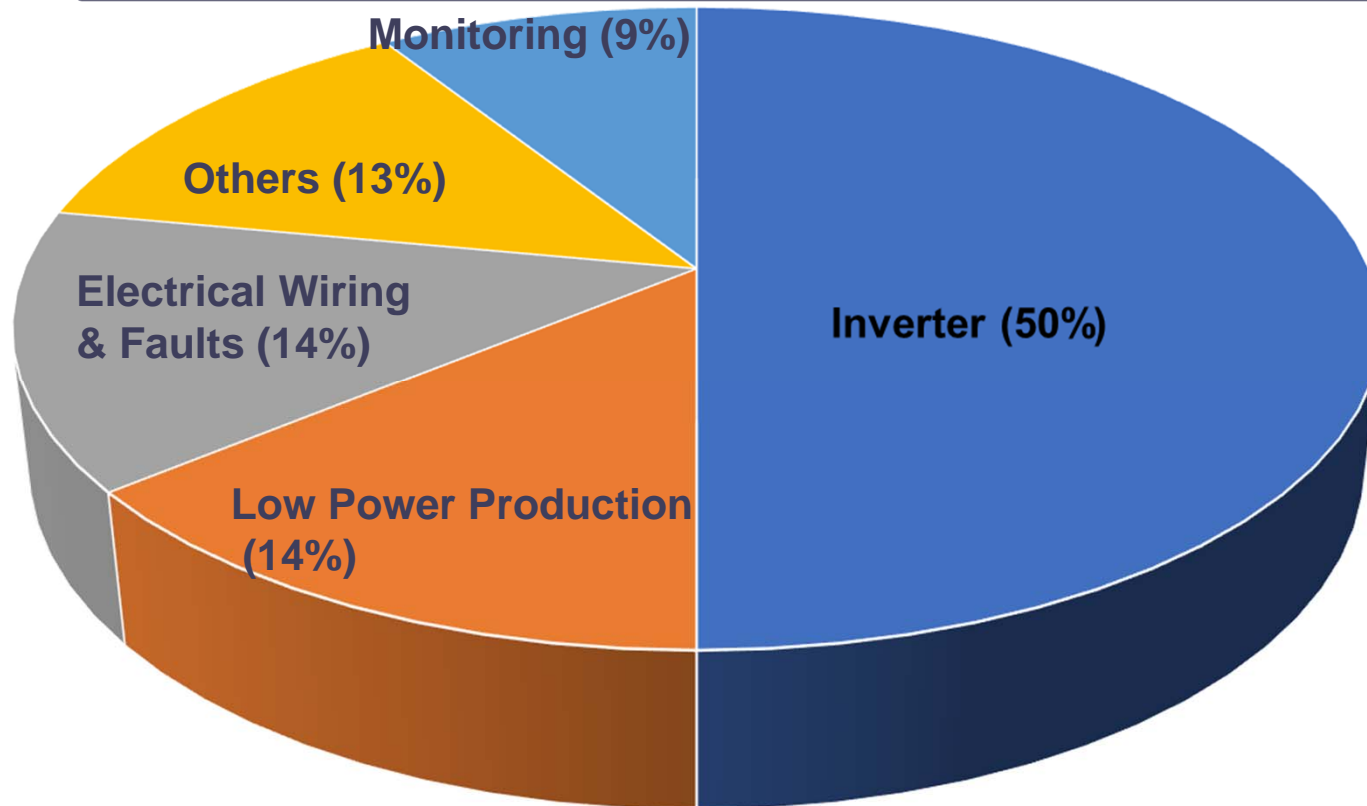
Advanced Communication Capabilities

Universal Communication Std., relaying more comprehensive system information (cloud based monitoring platform), enabling advanced diagnostic features & communication with the utility, smart energy management, supporting grid stability.

Lower Cost

50% reduction from the current price by increased production volume & learning-curve improvement

PV Inverter Power Conversion Reliability (Residential, Commercial and Utility)



“Other” includes roof leaks/water in conduit/boxes, damaged tiles, dirty array, rattling modules, bird/rodent issues, and other damage.

AC subsystem comprises everything between the inverter and the generation meter.

Sources: A status review of photovoltaic power conversion equipment reliability, safety, and quality assurance protocols, Peter Hacks et al. Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews Volume 82, Part 1 February 2018, Pages 1097-1112

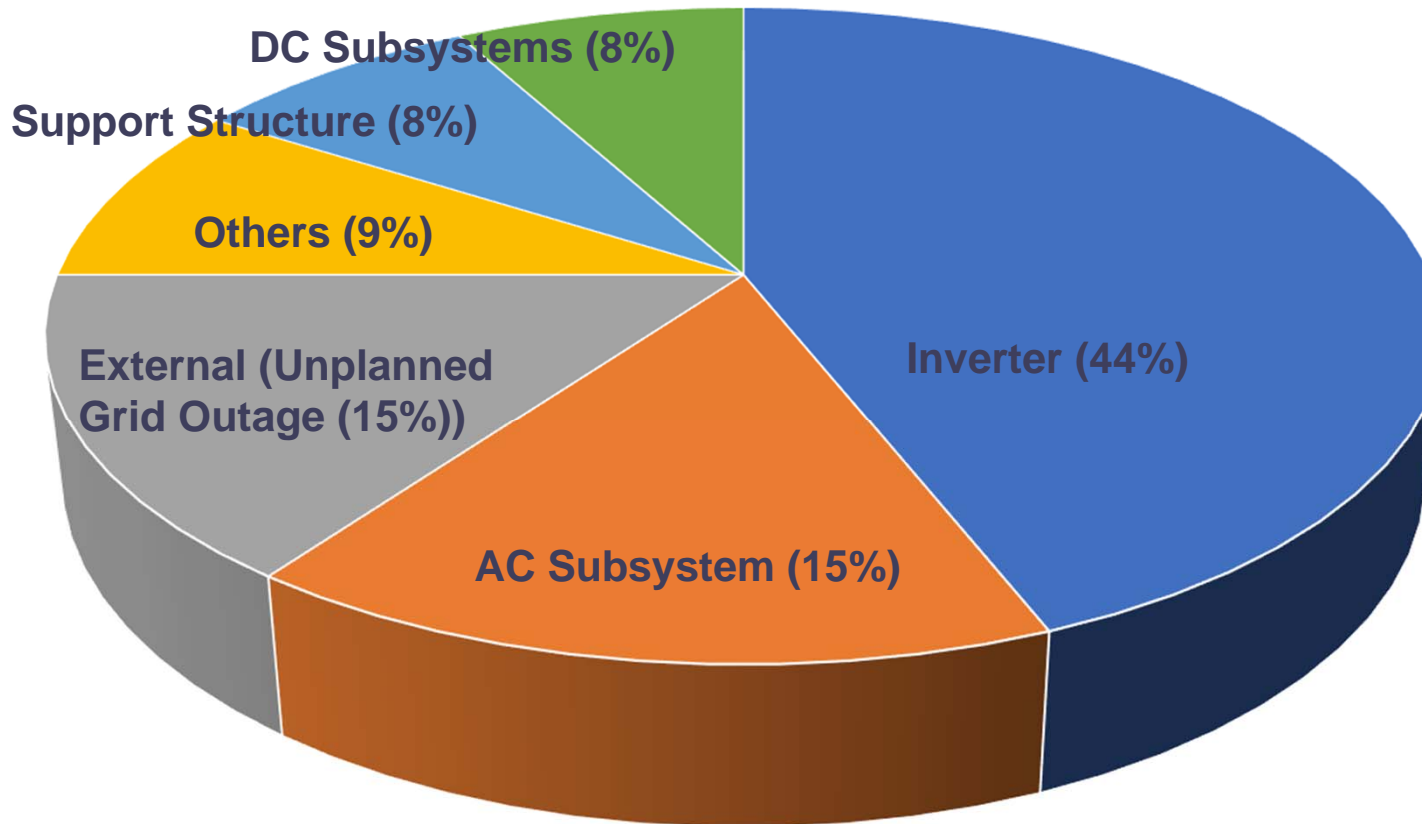


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PV Inverter Power Conversion Reliability (Commercial & Utility)

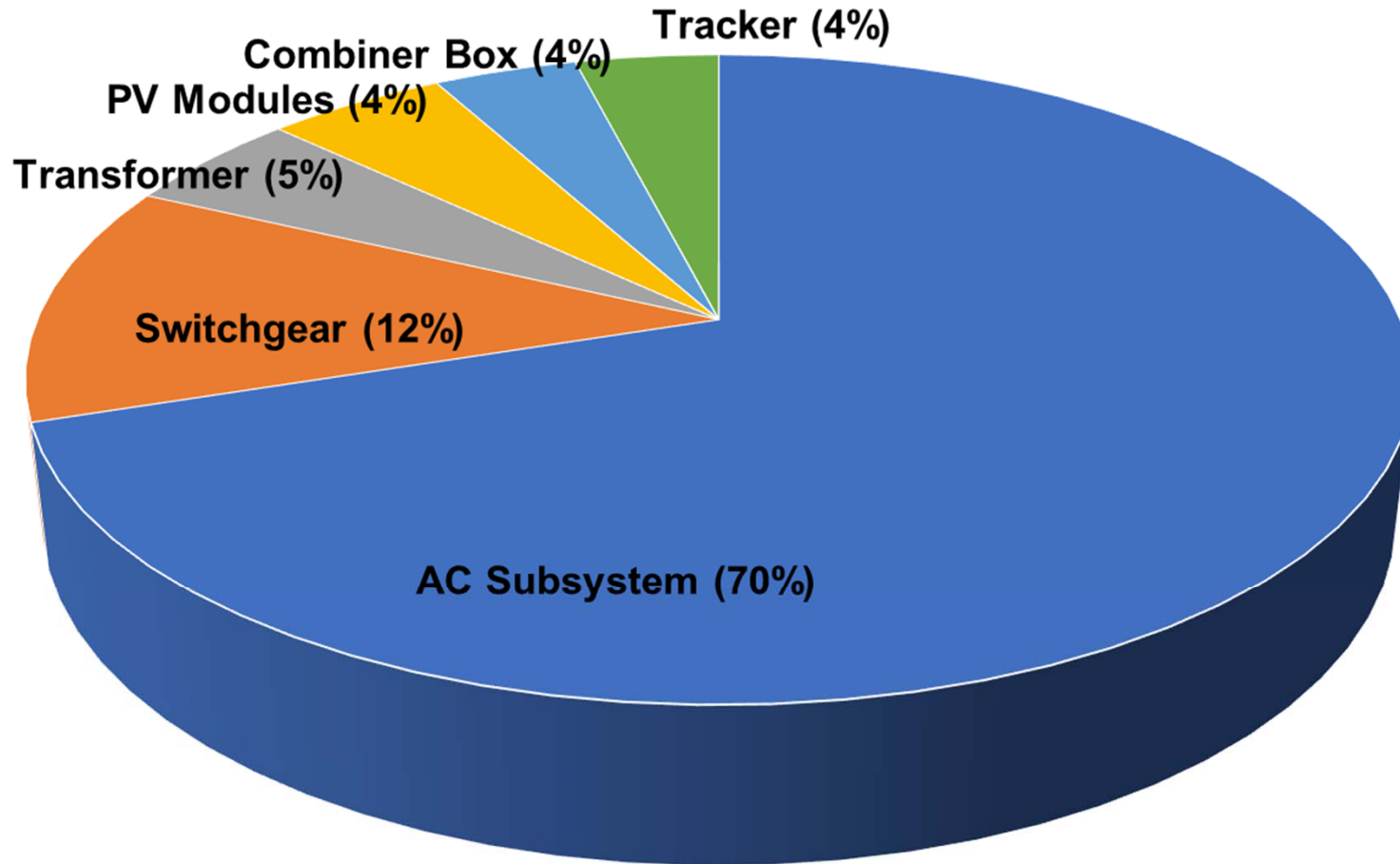


“Other” includes roof leaks/water in conduit/boxes, damaged tiles, dirty array, rattling modules, bird/rodent issues, and other damage.

AC subsystem comprises everything between the inverter and the generation meter.

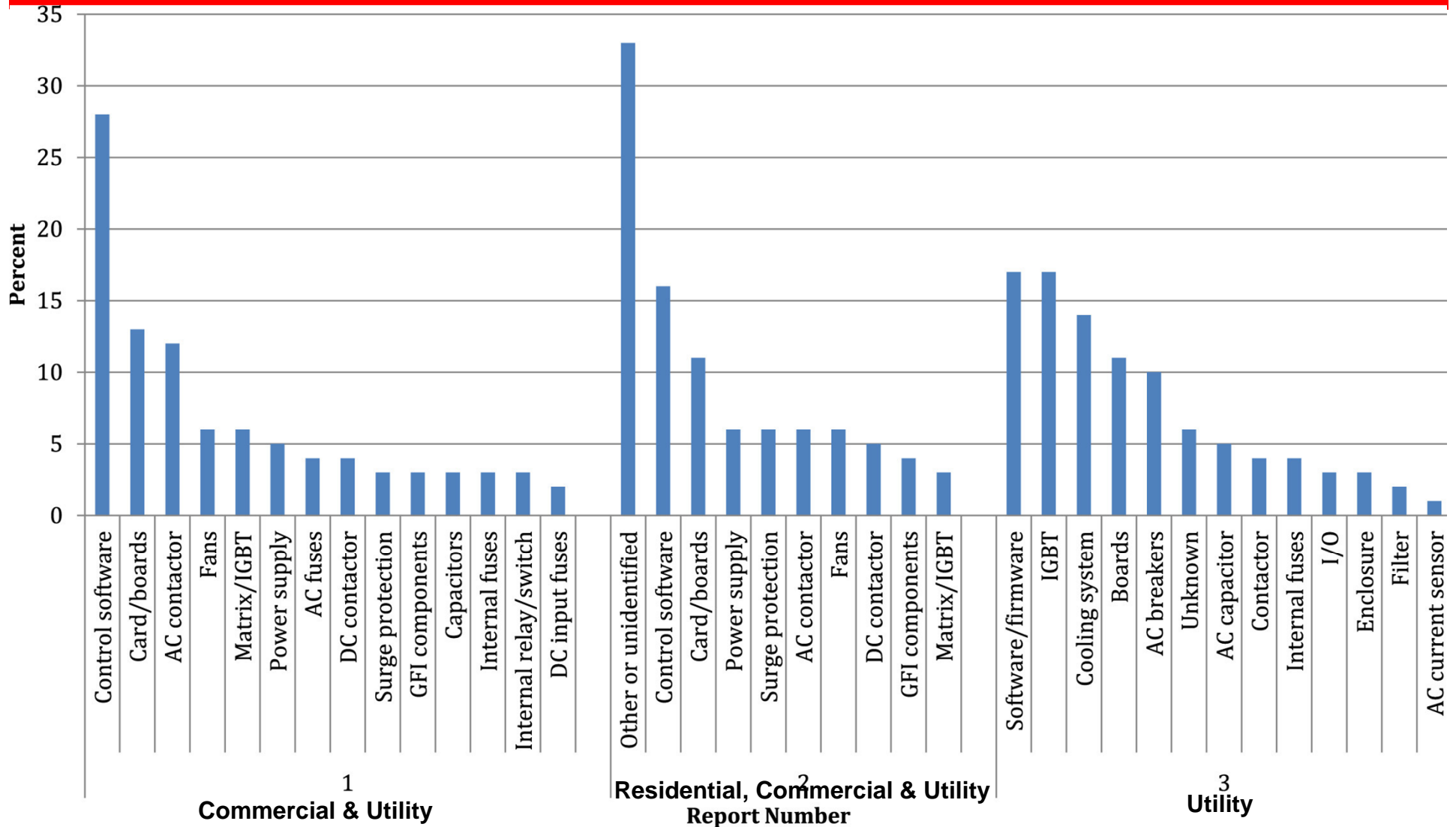
Sources: A status review of photovoltaic power conversion equipment reliability, safety, and quality assurance protocols, Peter Hacks et al. Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews Volume 82, Part 1 February 2018, Pages 1097-1112

PV Inverter Power Conversion Reliability Utility



Sources: A status review of photovoltaic power conversion equipment reliability, safety, and quality assurance protocols, Peter Hacks et al. Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews Volume 82, Part 1 February 2018, Pages 1097-1112

PV Inverter Power Conversion Reliability



Sources: A status review of photovoltaic power conversion equipment reliability, safety, and quality assurance protocols, Peter Hacks et al. Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews Volume 82, Part 1 February 2018, Pages 1097-1112

GFI-Central Management Server



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PV Modules



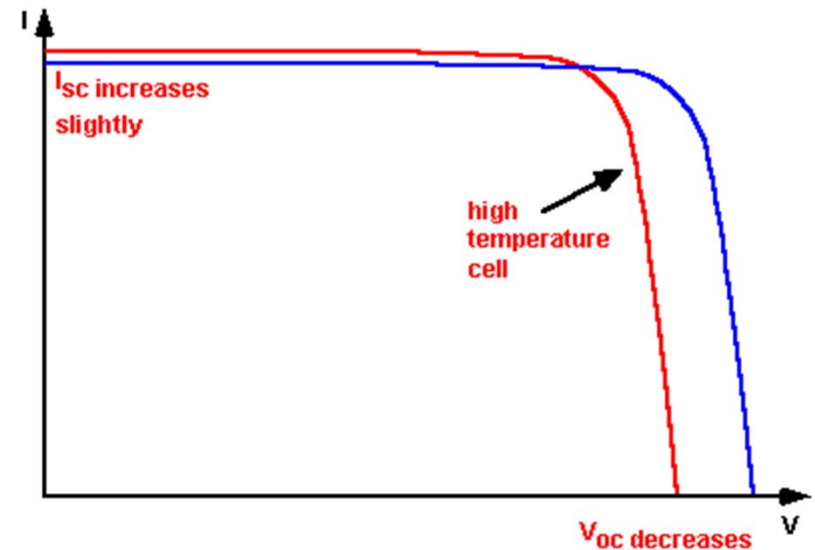
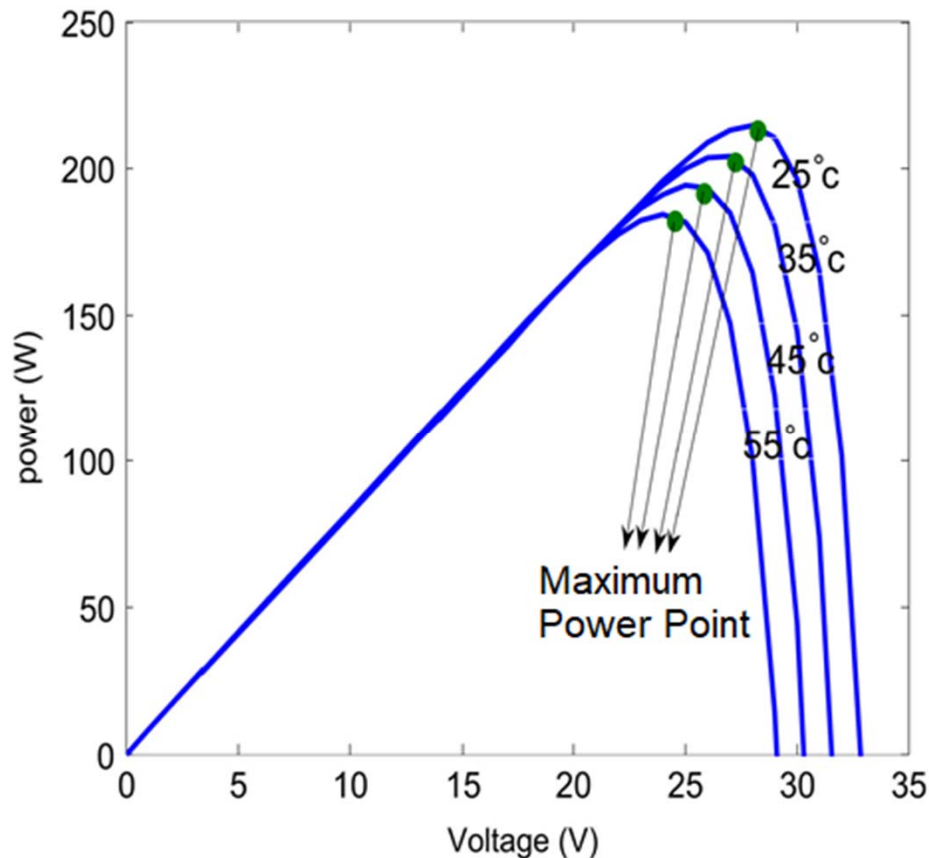
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External Factors Influencing PV System Performance

Temperature



The hotter the cell material is, the more resistance there is and the slower the electrons can move through it. The parameter most affected by an increase in temperature is the open-circuit voltage.



External Factors Influencing PV System Performance

Degradation types used for the evaluation of the failures.

Delamination,

Defect backsheet,

Defect junction box, Junction box detached,

Frame breakage/bown/defect,

Discolouring of pottant,

Cell cracks,

Burn marks,

Potential induced shunts (often named PID),

Potential induced corrosion (often with thin-film modules),

Disconnected cell or string interconnect ribbon,

Defective bypass diode/wrong dimensioned,

Corrosion/abrasion of AR coating,

Isolation failure,

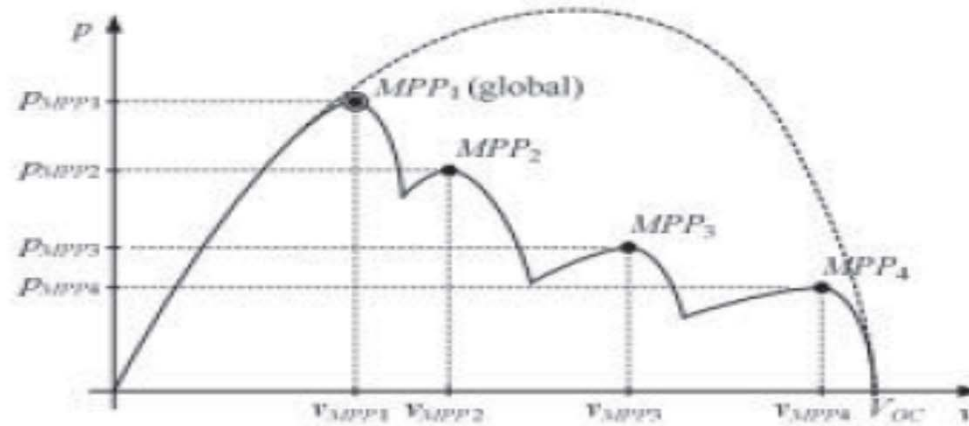
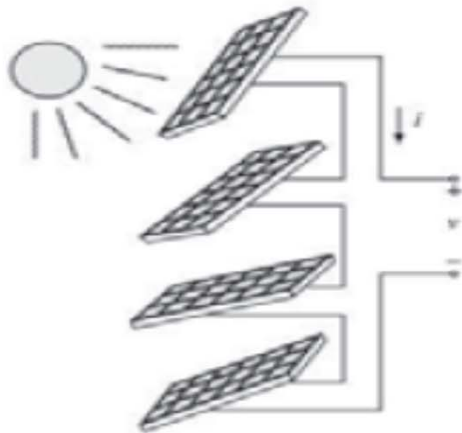
CdTe: back contact degradation

Hail -> glass breakage/cell breakage,

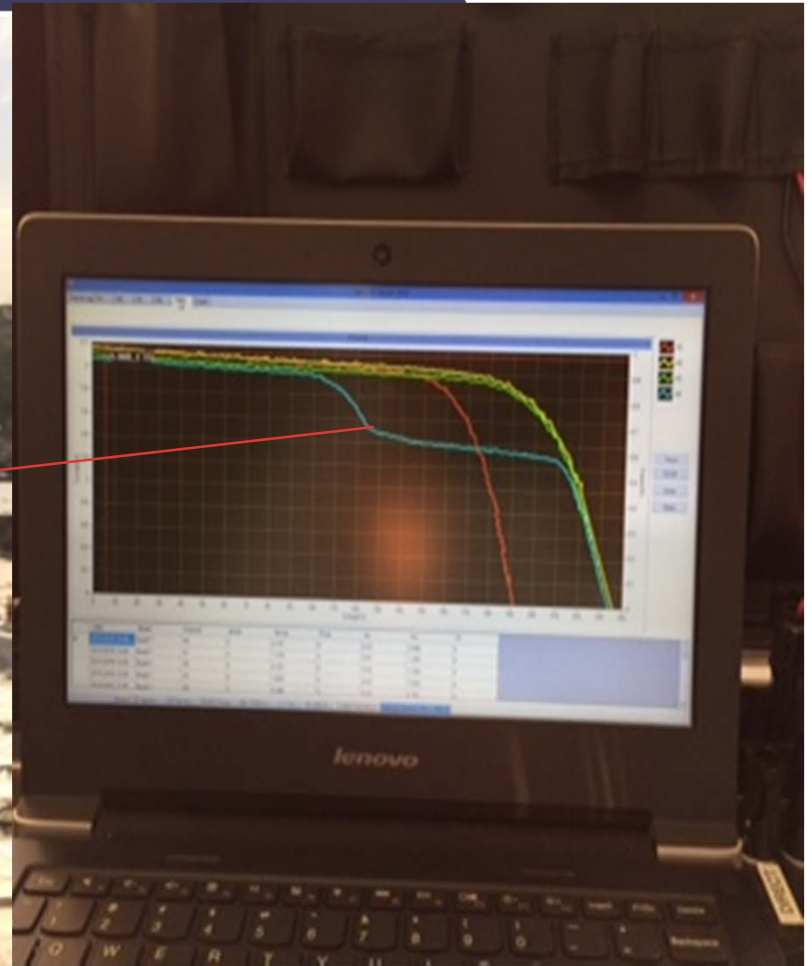
Direct lightning stroke -> defect glass/frame and defect bypass diodes,

Animal -> bite/corrosion/dirt , Biofilm soiling, Dust soiling.

External Factors Influencing PV System Performance

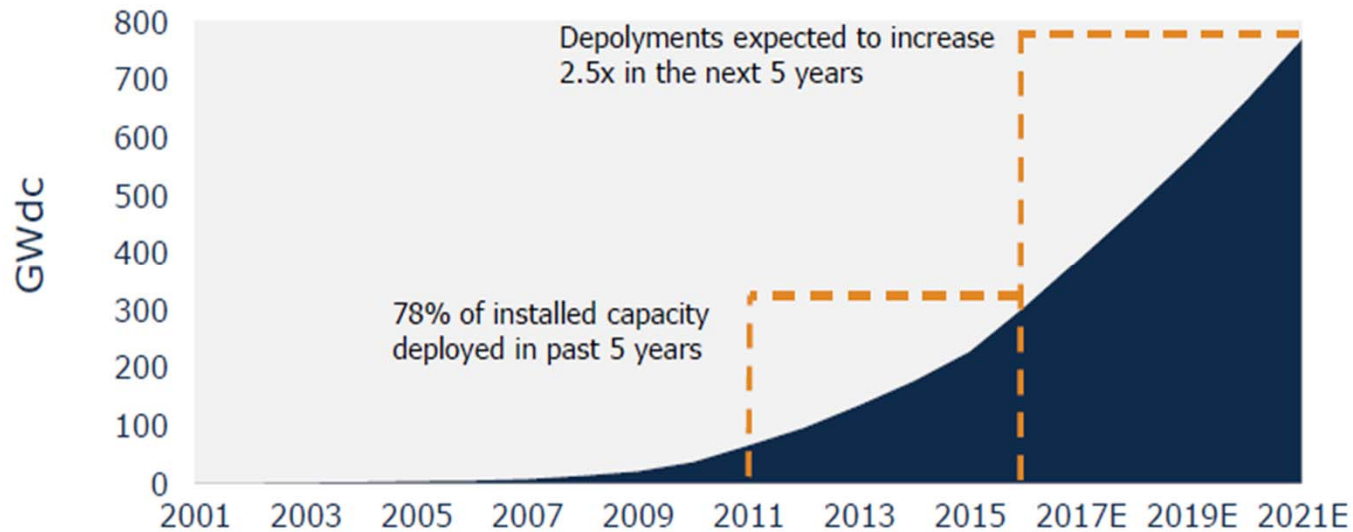


External Factors Influencing PV System Performance



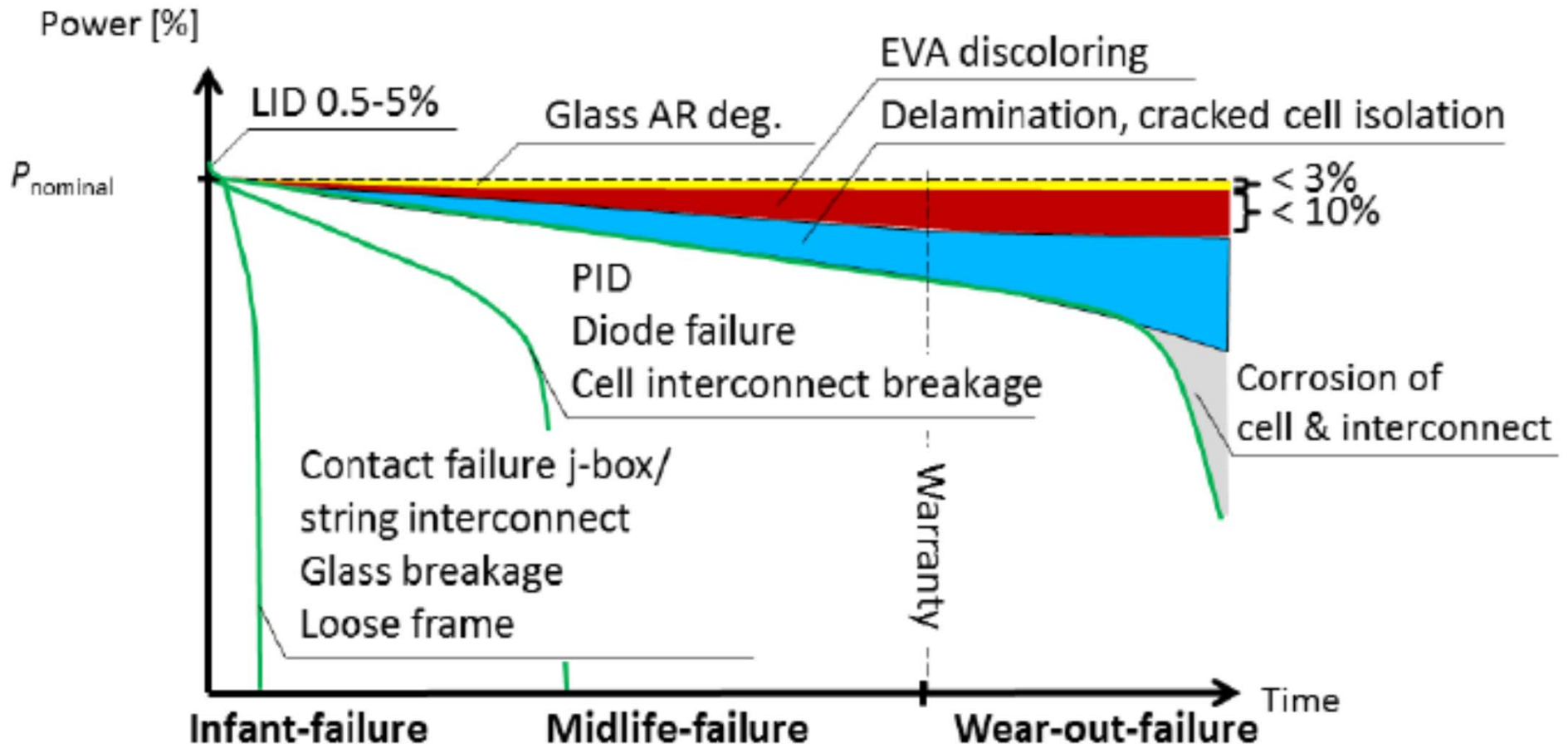
The angle of the sun changes through the year, trees and other barriers may become shading issues in different seasons. It all depends on the size, height, and proximity of surrounding barriers.

CUMULATIVE INSTALLED GLOBAL PV CAPACITY & GLOBAL BLENDED MODULE PRICE



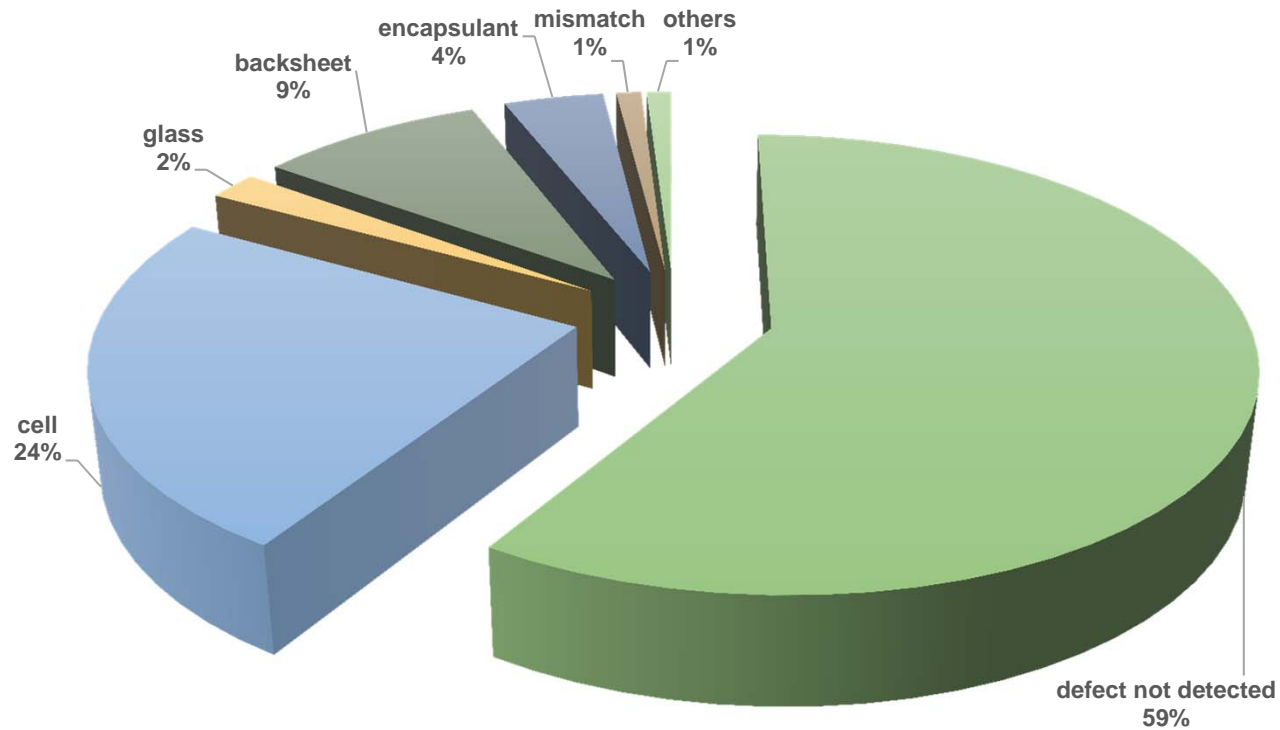
Source: GTM Research

AGING MECHANISMS LEADING TO PV MODULE DEGRADATION

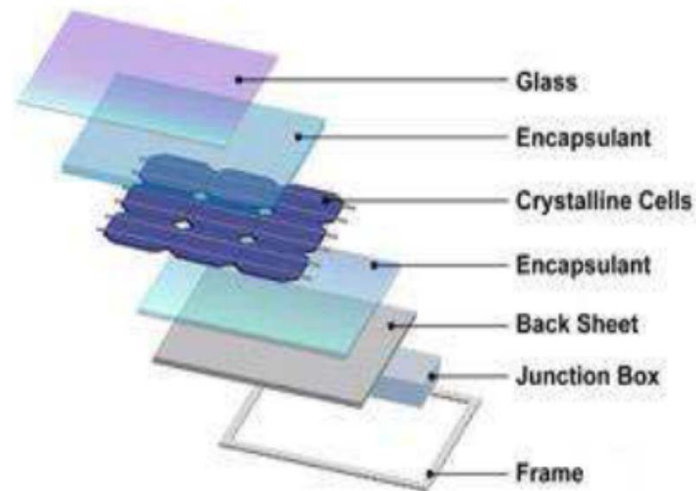


Source: IEA PVPS 2014

Failure Categorization



Glass/Superstrate	Broken, etched, hazed glass
Encapsulant	Discoloration/delamination
Cell/Interconnect	Corrosion, hot spot, broken interconnect, snail trails, cracks, burn marks
Backsheet	Cracking, yellowing, delamination



Failure Categorization



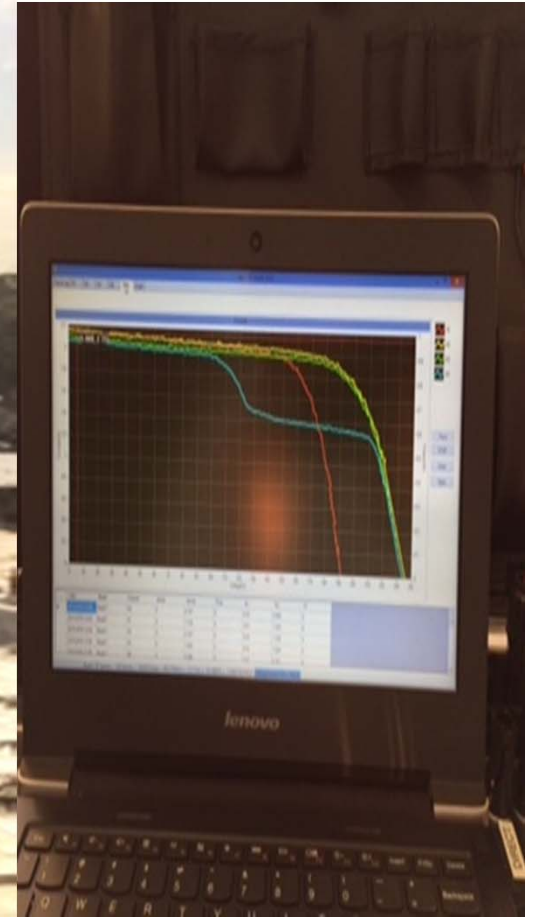
Glass/glass module with specific ionomer encapsulant type that has proven to have insufficient adhesion, showing delamination and corrosion.

IEA-PVPS T13-09:2017

30 CHANNEL PV TRACER – OUR PRODUCT



External Factors Influencing PV System Performance



The angle of the sun changes through the year, trees and other barriers may become shading issues in different seasons. It all depends on the size, height, and proximity of surrounding barriers.

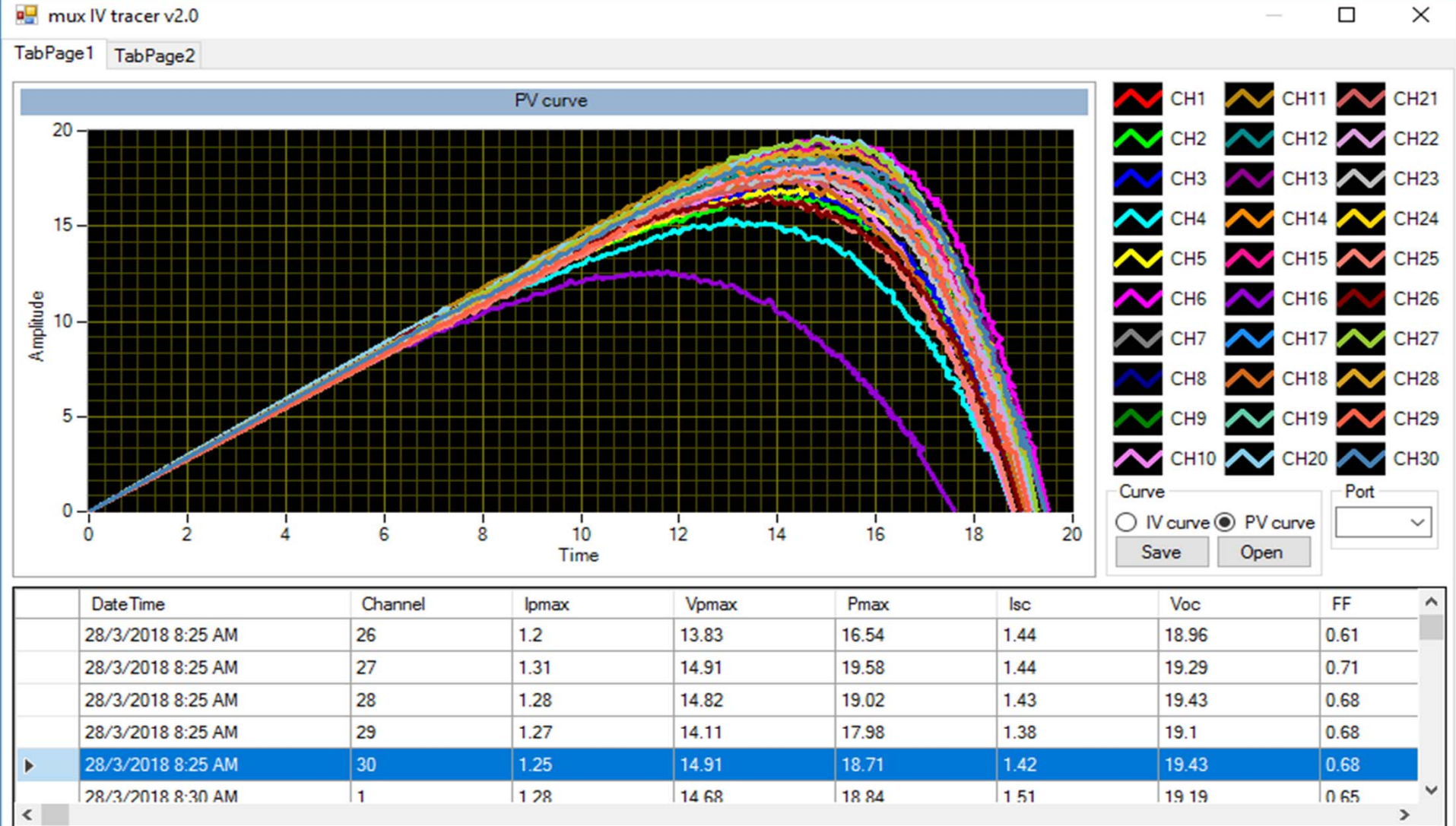


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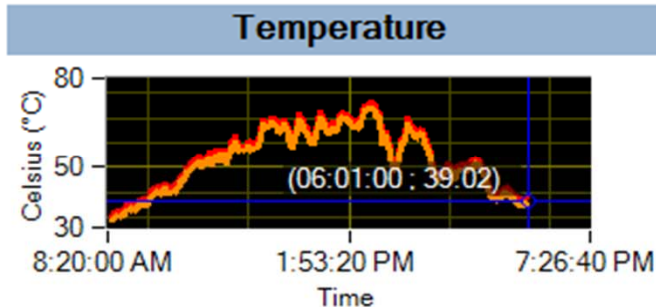
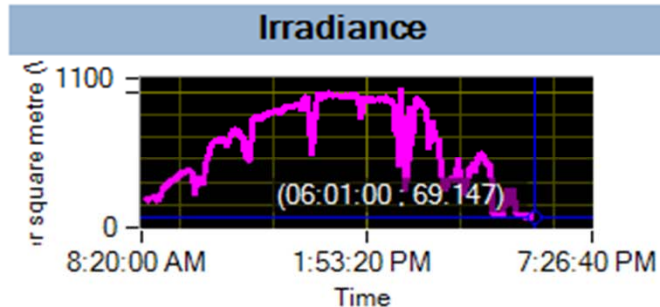
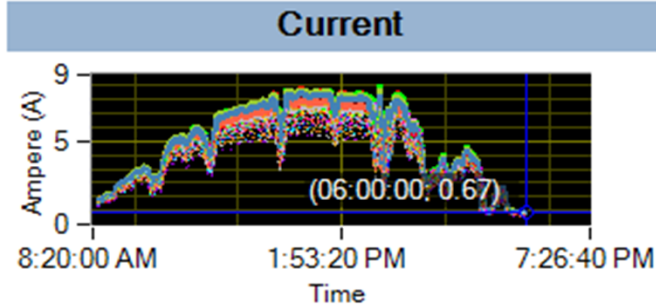
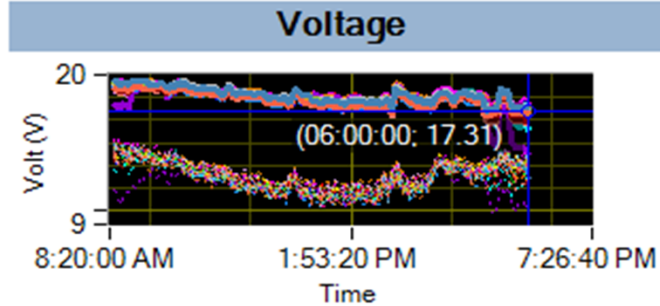
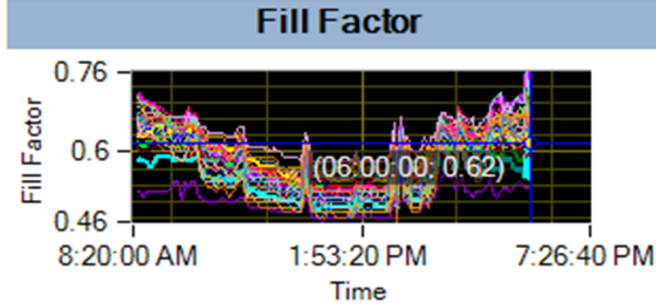
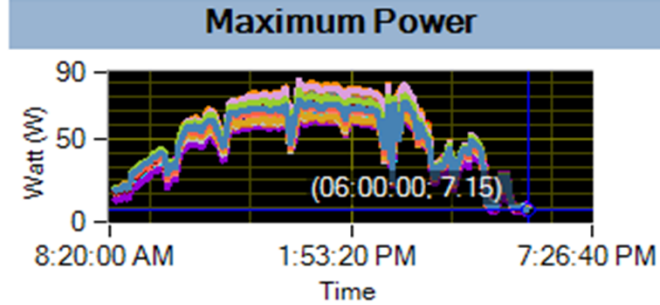
Solar PV Module Performance



Solar PV Module Monitoring

mux IV tracer v2.0

TabPage1 TabPage2



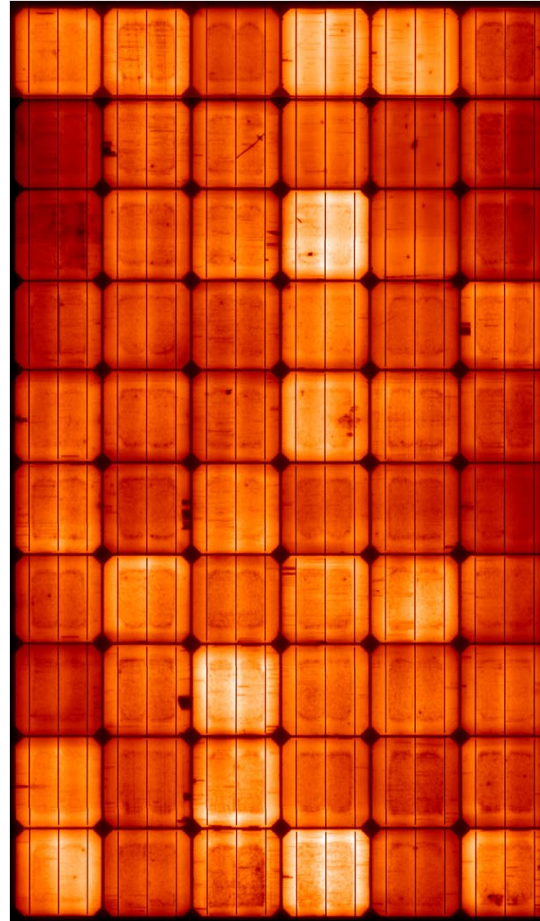
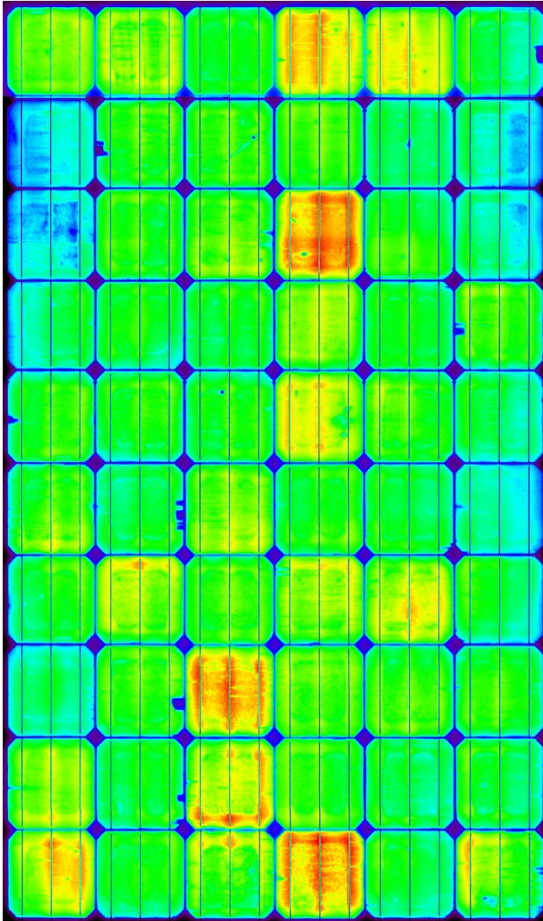
Legend

CH1	CH11	CH21
CH2	CH12	CH22
CH3	CH13	CH23
CH4	CH14	CH24
CH5	CH15	CH25
CH6	CH16	CH26
CH7	CH17	CH27
CH8	CH18	CH28
CH9	CH19	CH29
CH10	CH20	CH30

Voc (line solid) T1=39.02
 Vpmax (line dot) 120
 Isc (line solid) 0
 Ipmax (line dot) 120

Irradiance=69.1468466 T2=37.42

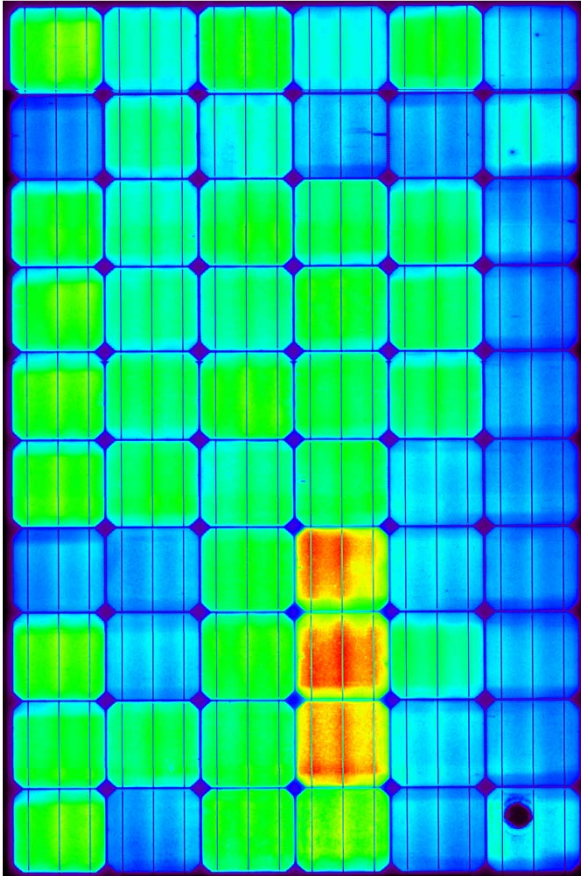
Electroluminescence imaging and Power measurement test on PV Module according to IEC 61215



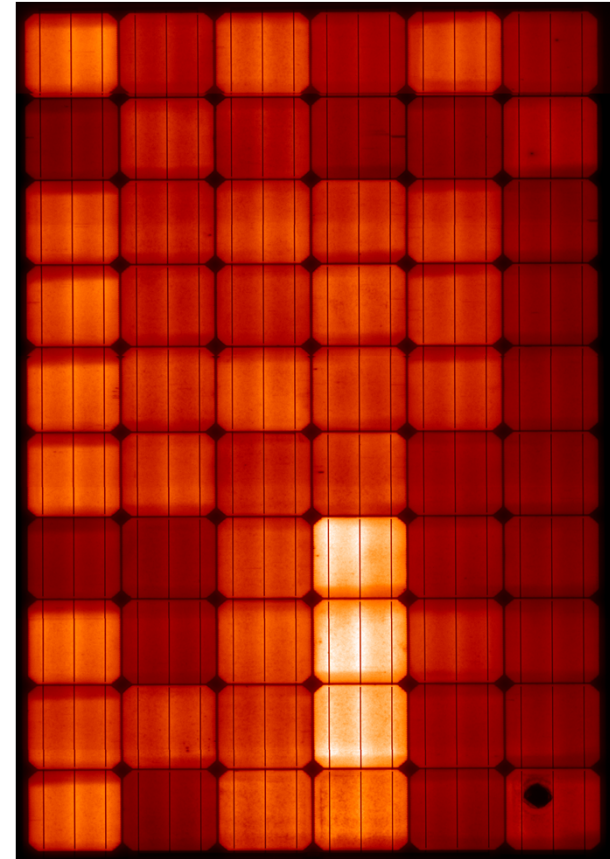
Blue coloured cell indicates lower performance; Green indicates medium, and yellowish red indicates the highest performance.

Higher brightness indicates the higher performance: Dark spots, lines or areas are the damages within cells.

Electroluminescence imaging and Power measurement test on PV Module according to IEC 61215



Blue coloured cell indicates lower performance; Green indicates medium, and yellowish red indicates the highest performance.



Higher brightness indicates the higher performance: Dark spots, lines or areas are the damages within cells. The Large black spot at the right end corner cell is hot spot damage.

Conclusions

- ❑ Power electronics has developed along path driven by development in power switching device and power converter topologies.
- ❑ The challenges for power electronics in the renewable energy are to find technical solutions to the least possible cost for large series production.
- ❑ The lowest cost design is only possible by combining the knowledge and efforts of several disciplines and by close cooperation between component, module, and system designs.
- ❑ Many of the future contributions of Power Electronics to the renewable energy will continue to result from unanticipated breakthroughs in materials and devices that are creatively applied to control and process the flow of electrical energy.

THANK YOU