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Modular Voltage Equalizer Topology with Reduced Number of Switch Count for Enhancing the Energy Yield During Partial Shading Conditions For PV System

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Partial Shading Condition (PSC) is one of the obstacles to the usage of PV devices, as with the activation of bypass diodes, the overall power extraction potential from PV is significantly reduced. Various types of modular voltage equalizer (VE) topologies have been identified in the literature, but the key concern is the increase in the number of control switches and other components, with an increase in the number of series-connected PV modules. In this paper, modular VE topology has been proposed to equalize the voltages between solar modules during PSCs, based on the hybrid combination of inductor and capacitor as storage elements. The key advantages of the proposed approach are open-loop control with fixed duty cycle and frequency, as well as the design simplicity. The simulation results show that for complex

IV. Experimental Results

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Contents

I. Introduction

With the advent of cheap solar cells and the high number of researches in the area of building integrated photovoltaic systems (BIPV) and curved rooftop solar plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs), the probability of partial shading conditions (PSCs) on PV panels for such systems is very high [1]. The power-voltage (P-V) curve will exhibit one particular maximum power point (MPP) under normal shading conditions, with the use of traditional converter topologies such as boost, etc. However, the bypass diodes are added in parallel across each solar module to prevent the hotspot phenomenon during PSCs, which not only dramatically decreases the overall power extraction potential of PV but also produces multiple peaks on the P-V curve [2], as shown in Fig. 1. Different types of circuit-based topologies have been presented in the literature to increase the energy yield during PSCs [3].

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