
Development of a simulation model for a small scale renewable energy system

**Dissertation submitted in fulfilment of the requirements for the degree
Master of Engineering in Computer Engineering at the Potchefstroom campus of the
North-West University**

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November 2012

Declaration

I, Martinus Gerhardus de Klerk hereby declare that the dissertation entitled “Simulation model of a small scale renewable energy system” is my own original work and has not already been submitted to any other university or institution for examination.

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Signed on the 21th day of November 2012 at Potchefstroom.

Acknowledgements

First and above all, I praise God, the almighty for providing me this opportunity and granting me the capability to successfully complete my Masters.

I have been indebted in the preparation of this dissertation to my supervisor, Prof. W.C. Venter of the North West university, whose patience and kindness, as well as his academic experience, have been invaluable to me.

I would like to thank HySA Infrastructure for providing financial support during these postgraduate years.

Abstract

In this dissertation I present my approach and findings regarding the development of a simulation model for a small scale renewable energy system.

A brief introduction provides the reader with the background as to why there is a need for such a simulation package. The project objectives, research methodology and the research contributions originating from the project is also described.

A literature study was done on all the relevant technologies constituting the renewable energy system as well as the techniques required to model the system. A system breakdown identified the various sub modules as well as how they interface with each other.

The simulation model was tested by using Alexander bay, South Africa, as a case study. The results obtained from the various modules were discussed and found to correlate with what was expected.

Although not contained within the project's scope, an additional analysis of the effect of the wind data's resolution on the probable power output of a wind turbine was performed leading to a hypothesis regarding the estimation of a more accurate probable power output extrapolation from data with a coarse resolution.

Keywords: *Renewable energy, Wind, Solar, Optimal tilt, Weibull, Resolution analysis*

Contents

List of Figures	viii
List of Tables	xi
List of Acronyms	xii
1 Introduction	1
1.1 Introduction	1
1.2 Background	2
1.3 Purpose of research	3
1.3.1 Primary objective	3
1.3.2 Secondary objective	4
1.3.3 Project demarcation	5
1.4 Research methodology	5
1.5 Dissertation outline	6
2 Literature study	8
2.1 Overview	8
2.2 Software	9
2.2.1 Existing simulation packages	9

2.2.2	Integrated design environment	9
2.3	Solar	9
2.3.1	Photovoltaic Panels	10
2.3.2	Shading	15
2.3.3	Optimal Tilt	17
2.3.4	Solar Irradiance	19
2.4	Wind	22
2.4.1	Wind Turbines	22
2.4.2	Wind speed modelling	24
2.4.3	Data resolution	34
3	Component modelling	36
3.1	System modelling	36
3.2	Functional Architecture	37
3.3	Hardware modelling	40
3.3.1	PV panel	40
3.3.2	Wind turbine	43
3.3.3	Battery bank	46
3.4	Environmental data	48
3.4.1	Solar	48
3.4.2	Wind	49
3.5	Verification and validation	52
4	Simulation Results	53
4.1	Model results	54
4.1.1	Optimal tilt	54

4.1.2	PV Panels	55
4.1.3	PV panel array shading	57
4.1.4	Wind analysis	57
4.1.5	Wind turbine	60
4.1.6	Probable wind power output	63
4.1.7	Battery bank	67
4.2	Data resolution analysis	68
4.2.1	DRAS Anomaly	73
4.3	Integrated model results	75
5	Conclusion	76
5.1	Verification and Validation	77
5.2	Research contribution	78
5.3	Recommendations and future work	78
	Bibliography	79
	Appendices	
A	Code	84
A.1	FFT implementation in Matlab	84

List of Figures

1.1	Hydrogen South Africa (HySA) family structure	2
1.2	High level block diagram of a hybrid renewable energy system [1]	4
1.3	Simplified waterfall life-cycle model [2]	6
2.1	Exploded view of a solar array	10
2.2	Schematic representation of a conventional solar cell [3]	11
2.3	PV module array row spacing [3]	16
2.4	SBR Latitude regions [4]	17
2.5	Solar angles [5]	18
2.6	Hukseflux SR03 pyranometer [6]	20
2.7	Incident solar irradiation angles	21
2.8	Daily variation in solar insolation	21
2.9	Vestas V112-3MW Wind turbine Courtesy of Vestas Wind Systems A/S [7]	22
2.10	The energy extracting stream-tube of a wind turbine [8]	23
2.11	Wind turbine type comparison [9]	25
2.12	Technical document depicting one of the WASA towers [10]	26
2.13	Histogram illustration with a bin width Δx of $2\frac{m}{s}$ for 12 bins	27
2.14	Weibull probability curve overlaid on the data's normalised histogram .	28
2.15	Weibull probability curves for a variable shape parameter	29

2.16	Weibull probability curves for a variable scale parameter	30
2.17	An energy extracting actuator disc and stream-tube [8]	32
2.18	Power curve of wind turbine	33
2.19	Wind turbine power probability graph	35
3.1	Simplified functional flow of the simulation program	37
3.2	Intermediate level functional architecture diagram	39
3.3	Architectural analysis of F/U 3 - Optimization module	40
3.4	Wind turbine power curve comparison	44
4.1	Optimum tilt interface	54
4.2	PV panel user interface	56
4.3	Screen capture of the PV array shading module	58
4.4	Raw data histogram for Site WM01 for the month of December	59
4.5	Comparison of MLE and CFM Weibull curves	60
4.6	Power curve of a Vestas V52-850kW wind turbine at different sound levels [11].	62
4.7	6 th Order polynomial generated wind turbine power curve	63
4.8	Monthly mean power outputs from LabView	64
4.9	Wind turbine power curve alongside the Weibull PDF	65
4.10	Screen capture of the battery bank user interface	67
4.11	Monthly data representation for various sampling resolutions	69
4.12	Resolution effects on Weibull probability curves	70
4.13	Monthly power probability comparison for various data resolutions	71
4.14	3D Representation of the resolution's effects on the mean power calculations	72
4.15	Differences in mean probable power output due to varying resolution	73

4.16 FFT	75
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List of Tables

2.1	PV technology summary	14
3.1	PV Panel nomenclature	41
3.2	Typical power law exponent values for varying terrain	46
3.3	Battery bank nomenclature	46
3.4	Optimal tilt nomenclature	49
3.5	Parameter estimation method comparison	51
4.1	PV panel power output comparison	56
4.2	Weibull parameters comparison	61
4.3	CFM and MLE Weibull curve deviations from the raw data histogram	61
4.4	Mean monthly power output comparison	66
4.5	Trend line gradients	73

List of Acronyms

CSP Concentrating solar thermal power

HySA Hydrogen South Africa

IDE Integrated Development Environment

MLE Maximum Likelihood Estimation

NASA National Aeronautics and Space Administration

PDF Probability Density Function

PEM Proton Exchange Membrane

PGM Platinum Group Metals

PV Photovoltaic

SSE Surface meteorology and Solar Energy

VI Virtual Instrument

WASA Wind Atlas of South Africa