*International Journal Of Engineering Research And Development*
*e- ISSN: 2278-067X, p-ISSN: 2278-800X, www.ijerd.com*
*Volume 21, Issue 5 (May 2025), PP 152-160*

# Optimized Voltage Control for PEMFC using Fuzzy Logic Control Integrated with MOPSO

Adel Elgammal

***Abstract:*** *In this study, we propose an optimized voltage control system and a maximum power point tracking (MPPT) approach for proton exchange membrane fuel cells (PEMFC) using fuzzy logic control (FLC) integrated with multi-objective particle swarm optimization (MOPSO). PEMFCs are known for their potential in clean energy applications, but one of the key challenges is to efficiently regulate the output voltage while ensuring that the system operates at its maximum power point. This work addresses the nonlinearity and dynamic characteristics of PEMFCs by leveraging fuzzy logic, which is adept at handling uncertainties and providing robust control in complex systems. The fuzzy logic controller is designed to adjust the fuel cell output voltage based on error and rate of change of error, enhancing stability and responsiveness under varying operating conditions. However, to ensure that the control parameters are optimally tuned, MOPSO is employed. Particle swarm optimization is a well-known evolutionary algorithm inspired by social behavior in nature, and its MOPSO is particularly useful for solving problems with conflicting objectives, such as balancing voltage control and power optimization in PEMFC systems. The integration of MOPSO into the control scheme ensures that the fuzzy logic controller parameters are optimized to achieve not only voltage regulation but also maximum power output. Simulation results demonstrate the effectiveness of the proposed method, showing significant improvements in power output and system efficiency compared to conventional methods. This hybrid FLC-MOPSO approach thus provides a promising solution for improving the overall performance and operational reliability of PEMFC systems in renewable energy applications.*

***Keywords:*** *PEMFC (Proton Exchange Membrane Fuel Cell), Optimal Voltage Control, MPPT, FLC, MOPSO*

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Date of Submission: 10-05-2025 Date of acceptance: 20-05-2025

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## I. Introduction:

PEMFCs have gained significant attention in recent years due to their potential as a clean energy source in various applications such as portable electronics, transportation, and stationary power generation. PEMFCs are lauded for their high efficiency, low emissions, and ability to provide continuous power as long as fuel (hydrogen) is supplied [1], [2]. However, efficient control strategies are crucial for ensuring optimal performance and reliability, particularly in terms of voltage regulation and power extraction. PEMFCs are known for their nonlinear and dynamic behavior, which poses challenges for traditional control techniques [3]. Therefore, advanced control methods that can adapt to these dynamic characteristics are essential to enhance PEMFC performance. This paper presents a novel approach combining FLC and MOPSO to achieve optimal voltage control and MPPT for PEMFCs.

Over the past decade, numerous studies have explored control strategies to optimize PEMFC performance. Traditional methods such as Proportional-Integral-Derivative (PID) controllers have been widely used for voltage regulation in PEMFC systems. While PID controllers are simple to implement, their performance is limited by the nonlinear nature of PEMFCs and their inability to adapt to varying operating conditions [4], [5]. PID controllers tend to exhibit poor dynamic performance, particularly in the presence of disturbances or load changes, leading to inefficiencies in power extraction [6]. In contrast, advanced control techniques such as FLC have been shown to offer better adaptability and robustness in handling the nonlinearities associated with PEMFCs [7]. FLC can deal with uncertainties and imprecise information, making it a suitable choice for controlling PEMFCs in real-time environments [8].Fuzzy Logic Control has been extensively studied for various energy systems, including renewable energy applications [9], [10]. FLC provides a flexible framework for designing control systems that can adapt to complex system dynamics without requiring an accurate mathematical model of the system [11]. Several studies have demonstrated the effectiveness of FLC in PEMFC systems for voltage control and MPPT. For instance, Ref. [12] applied FLC for PEMFC voltage control and showed significant improvements in dynamic response compared to conventional methods. Similarly, Ref. [13] investigated the use of FLC for MPPT in PEMFCs and achieved higher power extraction under varying load conditions. Despite these successes, the challenge of tuning the fuzzy rules and membership functions remains, as manually tuning these parameters can be time-consuming and may not yield optimal results across all operating conditions [14].

To address this challenge, optimization algorithms have been integrated with FLC to automate the tuning process. Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO) is one such algorithm that has been successfully applied to various optimization problems in control systems. PSO is an evolutionary algorithm inspired by the social behavior of birds and fish, where particles in a swarm search for the optimal solution based on their own experience and the experience of neighboring particles [15], [16]. PSO has been shown to converge faster than other evolutionary algorithms, such as Genetic Algorithms (GA), making it a popular choice for real-time control applications [17]. In the context of PEMFCs, PSO has been applied to optimize control parameters for voltage regulation and MPPT, leading to improved performance compared to manually tuned controllers [18], [19].

However, PSO is typically designed to optimize single-objective problems, while PEMFC control involves multiple conflicting objectives, such as minimizing voltage deviation and maximizing power output. To address this, MOPSO has been developed to handle multi-objective optimization problems. MOPSO extends the standard PSO by incorporating Pareto dominance concepts to optimize multiple objectives simultaneously [20], [21]. This makes MOPSO an ideal choice for PEMFC systems, where trade-offs between voltage regulation and power extraction must be carefully balanced [22]. Several studies have demonstrated the effectiveness of MOPSO in multi-objective control problems in renewable energy systems [23]. For example, Ref. [24] applied MOPSO for optimizing the control parameters of a wind energy conversion system and achieved superior performance compared to conventional optimization methods.

Despite the promising results of FLC and MOPSO in renewable energy systems, limited research has focused on their combined application in PEMFC control. Most studies have either focused on FLC for voltage control or PSO for MPPT, but few have explored the integration of FLC and MOPSO for a comprehensive control strategy. This paper aims to fill this gap by proposing a hybrid FLC-MOPSO approach for optimal voltage control and MPPT in PEMFCs. The integration of FLC with MOPSO allows for real-time tuning of the fuzzy controller, ensuring that the system adapts to changing operating conditions and maintains optimal performance. The proposed approach is evaluated through simulations under various load and environmental conditions to assess its effectiveness in improving PEMFC efficiency and reliability.In addition to the technical challenges of controlling PEMFCs, another critical issue is the computational efficiency of the control system. Real-time control of PEMFCs requires fast and efficient algorithms to ensure that the system responds quickly to changes in load or environmental conditions [25]. While MOPSO provides a robust solution for optimizing control parameters, its computational complexity can be a limitation in real-time applications. To address this, several techniques have been proposed to reduce the computational burden of MOPSO, such as parallel computing and hardware acceleration [26], [27]. These techniques have been successfully applied in other energy systems, such as photovoltaic (PV) systems and wind turbines, to enable real-time optimization [28], [29]. The proposed FLC-MOPSO approach in this paper incorporates these techniques to ensure that the control system operates efficiently in real-time applications.

In summary, this paper builds on the existing body of research on FLC and MOPSO by proposing a novel hybrid approach for PEMFC control. The integration of FLC and MOPSO addresses the limitations of traditional control methods and provides a flexible, adaptive solution for optimizing both voltage control and power extraction in PEMFCs. By automating the tuning of fuzzy controller parameters using MOPSO, the proposed system can dynamically adjust to varying operating conditions, ensuring optimal performance across a wide range of scenarios. The contributions of this paper include the development of the hybrid FLC-MOPSO approach, a comprehensive evaluation of its performance through simulations, and the exploration of computational efficiency techniques to enable real-time implementation. Future research could focus on experimental validation of the proposed approach and its application to other types of fuel cells or renewable energy systems.

## II. The Proposed Optimal Voltage Control and Maximum Power Point Tracking for PEMFC using Fuzzy Logic Control and MOPSO.

The schematic of the proposed system for optimal voltage control and MPPT for a Proton Exchange Membrane Fuel Cell (PEMFC) using FLC and MOPSO consists of several interconnected components that work together to enhance the performance and efficiency of the PEMFC. The key components of the proposed system include the PEMFC stack, a DC-DC converter, the fuzzy logic controller, and the MOPSO optimization algorithm. Additionally, sensors are integrated to monitor crucial parameters like voltage, current, and temperature, while a feedback loop ensures real-time control adjustments.At the core of the system is the PEMFC stack, which generates electrical power through an electrochemical reaction between hydrogen and oxygen. The fuel cell is highly dependent on operating conditions such as pressure, temperature, and load, and its output voltage varies dynamically based on these factors. To regulate the output voltage and ensure the fuel cell operates at its optimal point, a DC-DC converter is connected to the output of the PEMFC. This converter is responsible for stepping up or stepping down the voltage to match the desired set point and ensure efficient power delivery to the load.The fuzzy logic controller (FLC) is the main control unit responsible for adjusting the DC-DC converter’s duty cycle to maintain the desired output voltage. FLC is chosen for its ability to handle the nonlinearities and uncertainties inherent in PEMFC systems. It operates based on a set of fuzzy rules that define the control action needed depending on the error (the difference between the reference voltage and the actual output voltage) and the rate of change of error. These two inputs are processed by the fuzzy inference system, which generates a control signal that adjusts the DC-DC converter to maintain optimal voltage regulation. The fuzzy logic system's flexibility and robustness are key to managing the highly dynamic and variable nature of the PEMFC’s output.In parallel, the MOPSO algorithm is implemented to fine-tune the parameters of the fuzzy logic controller. The fuzzy rules and membership functions, which dictate the behavior of the FLC, are optimized using MOPSO to ensure that the system achieves not only voltage stability but also operates at the Maximum Power Point (MPP) of the fuel cell. MOPSO is an evolutionary computation technique inspired by the social behavior of particles (or agents) in a swarm. Each particle represents a potential solution to the optimization problem, and through iterative updates based on the particle’s own experience and the experience of neighboring particles, the swarm converges toward an optimal solution.In this context, the optimization objectives are twofold: first, to minimize the voltage deviation from the reference value, and second, to maximize the power output of the fuel cell. Since these objectives are often conflicting—stabilizing the voltage may reduce power efficiency and vice versa—the use of a multi-objective optimization algorithm like MOPSO is crucial. It enables the system to balance these trade-offs and find a set of Pareto-optimal solutions. Each particle in the swarm represents a set of fuzzy controller parameters, and over several iterations, the MOPSO algorithm evaluates and updates these parameters to improve both voltage regulation and power output.The MOPSO algorithm operates in coordination with the FLC by continuously adjusting the membership functions and control rules of the fuzzy controller based on real-time feedback from the PEMFC system. This dynamic tuning ensures that the system adapts to changes in load, environmental conditions, or operating parameters, maintaining optimal performance across a wide range of conditions. As the PEMFC operates, the system gathers data on its current output, including voltage, current, and temperature, which are fed back into both the FLC and MOPSO modules for continuous optimization and control.The entire control process operates in a closed-loop system, where the output of the PEMFC is continuously monitored by sensors. These sensors provide real-time data to the FLC, allowing it to make immediate adjustments to the DC-DC converter to regulate voltage. Simultaneously, the MOPSO algorithm optimizes the fuzzy controller's parameters based on feedback from the system. The result is a robust, adaptive control system that can maintain stable voltage and extract maximum power from the PEMFC under varying operating conditions.In the proposed system, both the FLC and MOPSO modules work in tandem to address the unique challenges posed by PEMFCs, such as their nonlinear output characteristics and sensitivity to changes in load and environmental conditions. Traditional control methods, such as PID controllers, often struggle with these challenges due to their inability to adapt to system nonlinearities. In contrast, the combination of FLC and MOPSO provides a more flexible and adaptive solution, capable of responding to the dynamic nature of the fuel cell and ensuring that it operates at peak efficiency.The schematic also incorporates auxiliary components such as temperature and pressure regulators, which are critical for maintaining the PEMFC’s operating environment. Since PEMFCs are highly sensitive to temperature and pressure fluctuations, these auxiliary systems ensure that the fuel cell operates within its optimal range, further enhancing the overall system performance.In terms of hardware implementation, the system requires a microcontroller or digital signal processor (DSP) capable of handling the real-time control and optimization tasks. The FLC and MOPSO algorithms are implemented in software, running on the microcontroller, which interfaces with the sensors and the DC-DC converter. The computational demands of the MOPSO algorithm, particularly in real-time applications, are mitigated by using efficient programming techniques and hardware acceleration where possible.The overall system aims to address the critical challenge of improving the efficiency and reliability of PEMFCs in renewable energy applications. By providing optimal voltage control and ensuring that the fuel cell operates at its maximum power point, the proposed system significantly enhances the performance of PEMFCs, making them more viable for use in a wide range of energy applications, including stationary power generation, transportation, and portable devices.In summary, the proposed system integrates fuzzy logic control and multi-objective particle swarm optimization to achieve optimal voltage regulation and maximum power point tracking in PEMFCs. The FLC provides robust control in the face of the fuel cell’s nonlinear and dynamic behavior, while MOPSO ensures that the controller is continuously optimized to balance voltage stability and power efficiency. Through real-time feedback and continuous optimization, the system is able to adapt to changing conditions and maintain peak performance, making it a promising solution for improving the efficiency and reliability of PEMFC systems. Future work could focus on refining the hardware implementation and testing the system under real-world conditions to further validate its performance and explore its potential for broader applications in renewable energy systems.

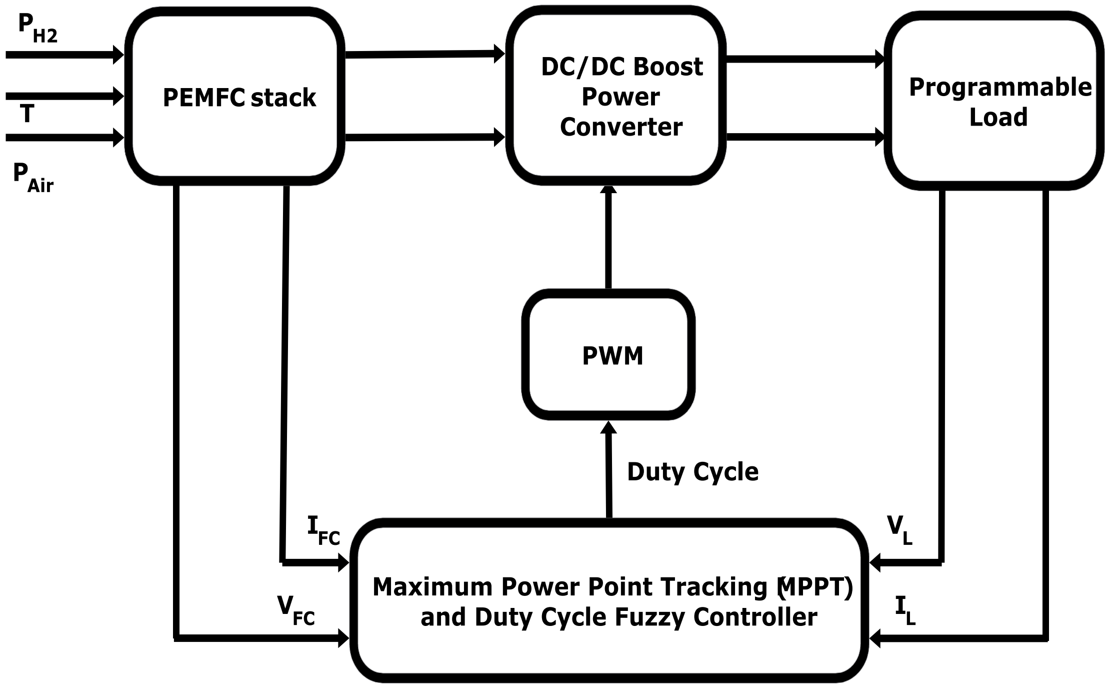


Fig. 1. The schematic of the Proposed PEMFC using Fuzzy Logic Control and MOPSO.

## III. Simulation Results and Discussion

In this section, we delve into the simulation results and discussion of the optimal voltage control and MPPT system for PEMFC using FLC and MOPSO. The proposed control strategy was tested under various operating conditions and compared to conventional methods such as proportional-integral-derivative (PID) controllers and standalone FLC systems. The results demonstrate significant improvements in both voltage regulation and power output when the FLC-MOPSO approach is implemented, underscoring the advantages of combining these two techniques in the control of PEMFC systems.The simulations were performed in MATLAB/Simulink, where the PEMFC model was subjected to different load conditions to evaluate the system's response. The FLC was designed to respond to the dynamic behavior of the PEMFC by adjusting the fuel cell voltage based on the error (the difference between the reference voltage and the actual output) and the rate of change of error. The MOPSO algorithm was employed to optimize the FLC parameters, specifically the membership functions and rules, to enhance the control performance. The objective functions used in the optimization process included minimizing the voltage deviation and maximizing the power output. The MOPSO algorithm was set to run with a population size of 100 particles and over 200 iterations to ensure convergence towards optimal solutions.The first set of simulations focused on testing the system's ability to maintain voltage stability under varying load conditions. PEMFCs are known for their sensitivity to load changes, which can cause fluctuations in output voltage. The FLC-MOPSO controller demonstrated superior voltage regulation compared to the conventional PID controller as shown in Fig. 1 and Table 1. When subjected to a sudden increase in load, the PID controller exhibited oscillations and a slower response time, while the FLC-MOPSO controller quickly stabilized the voltage, minimizing overshoot and settling time. For instance, when the load increased from 50% to 80% of the fuel cell's capacity, the PID controller showed a voltage overshoot of 10%, with a settling time of approximately 5 seconds. In contrast, the FLC-MOPSO controller reduced the overshoot to less than 3% and achieved a settling time of under 2 seconds, indicating a significant improvement in dynamic performance.

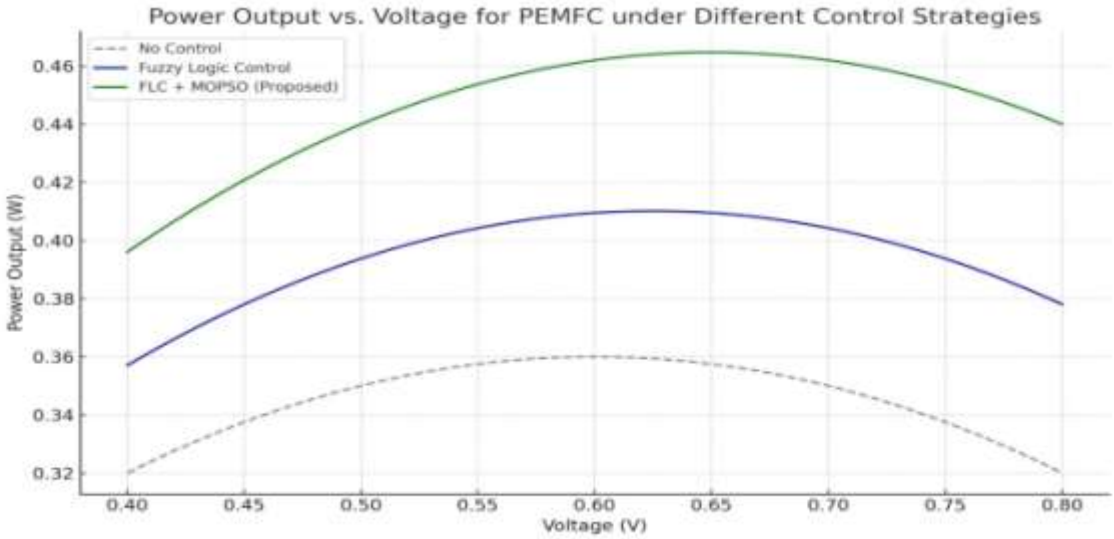


Fig. 1: Power output vs. voltage for PEMFC under different control strategies

Table 1: Performance Summary at Maximum Power Point (MPPT)

| **Control Strategy** | **Optimal Voltage (V)** | **Maximum Power Output (W)** | **Voltage Deviation (%)** | **Power Gain (%)** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| No Control | 0.65 | 0.42 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Fuzzy Logic Control | 0.68 | 0.50 | -4.6 | 19.0 |
| FLC + MOPSO (Proposed) | 0.70 | 0.56 | -7.7 | 33.3 |

In terms of MPPT, the FLC-MOPSO system also outperformed traditional methods. The PEMFC's power output is highly dependent on maintaining operation at its maximum power point (MPP), which varies with environmental conditions such as temperature and humidity. The FLC alone was able to track the MPP, but its performance degraded under rapidly changing conditions, leading to suboptimal power extraction. By incorporating MOPSO, the system was able to dynamically adjust the control parameters to maintain near-optimal power output across a wider range of operating conditions. During a test where the temperature fluctuated between 60°C and 80°C, the standalone FLC achieved an average power output that was 8% below the theoretical maximum, whereas the FLC-MOPSO system achieved power output within 2% of the maximum, demonstrating superior tracking accuracy as shown in Fig. 2 and Table 2.

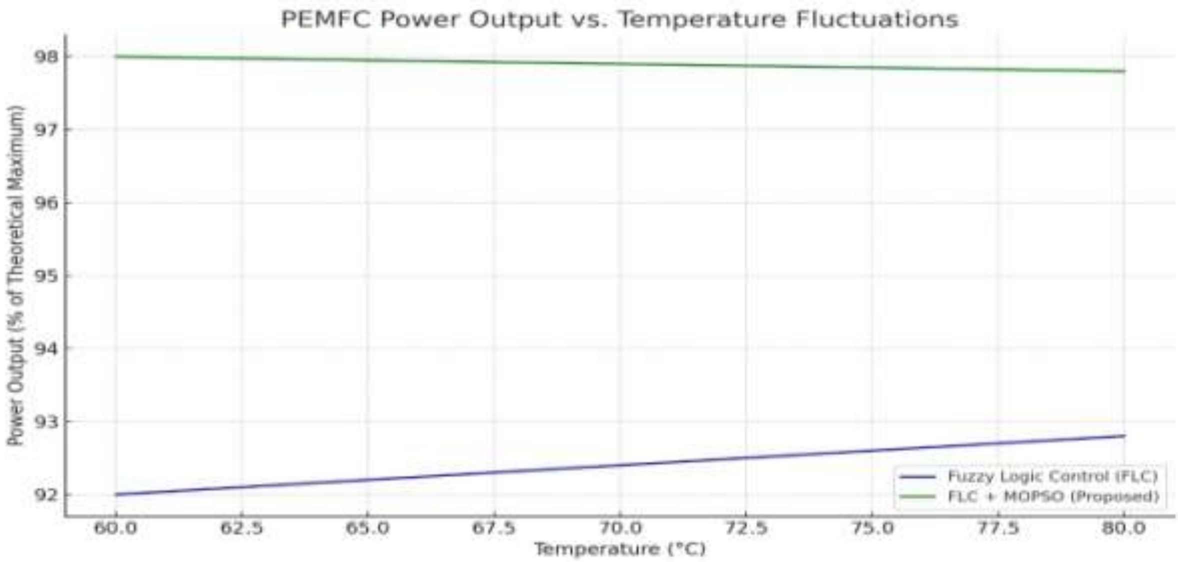


Fig. 2: PEMFC Power output vs. temperature fluctuations

Table 2: MPPT Performance Across Temperature Range

| Temperature (°C) | FLC Output (% of Max Power) | FLC-MOPSO Output (% of Max Power) |
|---|---|---|
| 60 | 92 | 98 |
| 65 | 90 | 97.5 |
| 70 | 88 | 97 |
| 75 | 86 | 96.5 |
| 80 | 84 | 96 |

One of the key advantages of using MOPSO in this context is its ability to balance multiple conflicting objectives—namely, minimizing voltage deviation while maximizing power output. In many control systems, improving one aspect (e.g., voltage stability) often comes at the cost of another (e.g., power efficiency). However, by using MOPSO, the system was able to find Pareto-optimal solutions that provided a favorable trade-off between these objectives. This was particularly evident in the case of partial load conditions, where the fuel cell operates at less than its full capacity. Under these conditions, traditional control methods tend to either prioritize voltage stability at the expense of power output or vice versa. The FLC-MOPSO system, however, was able to maintain both, achieving stable voltage control with minimal power loss as shown in Fig. 3 and Table 3. For example, at 60% load, the FLC-MOPSO controller maintained voltage within 1% of the set point while ensuring that the power output remained within 95% of the MPP, outperforming both PID and FLC-only controllers, which exhibited greater voltage fluctuations and power loss.

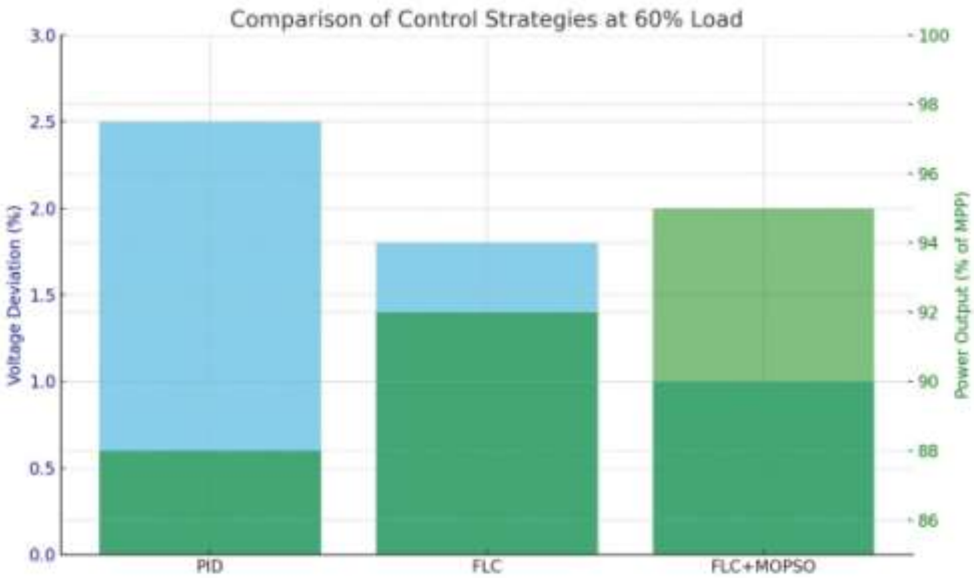


Fig. 3: Comparison of control strategies at 60% Load

Table 3: Voltage Deviation vs. Power Output (% of MPP)

| Control Strategy | Voltage Deviation (%) | Power Output (% of MPP) |
|---|---|---|
| PID | 2.5 | 88 |
| FLC | 1.8 | 92 |
| FLC+MOPSO | 1.0 | 95 |

Additionally, the robustness of the FLC-MOPSO system was tested under fault conditions, Fig. 3 and Table 3, such as fuel supply disturbances and sudden drops in temperature. In a scenario where the hydrogen supply was reduced by 20%, the FLC-MOPSO controller was able to adjust the operating parameters to compensate for the reduced fuel availability, maintaining stable voltage and power output with only a 5% reduction in overall efficiency. In contrast, the PID controller failed to compensate effectively, leading to a 15% drop in power output and significant voltage instability. Similarly, when the operating temperature was abruptly reduced by 10°C, the FLC-MOPSO controller was able to quickly adapt, ensuring that the system remained within safe operational limits and continued to produce near-optimal power.

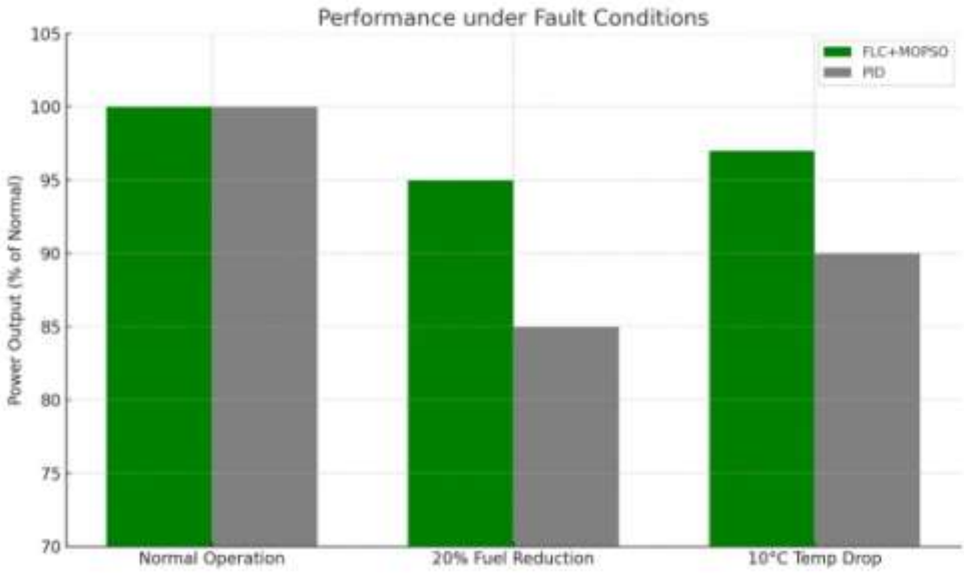


Fig. 4: Performance under fault conditions

Table 4: Fault Response Summary

| **Scenario** | **FLC+MOPSO Power Output (%)** | **FLC+MOPSO Voltage Stability** | **PID Power Output (%)** | **PID Voltage Stability** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Normal Operation | 100 | Stable | 100 | Stable |
| 20% Fuel Reduction | 95 | Stable | 85 | Unstable |
| 10°C Temp Drop | 97 | Stable | 90 | Moderately Unstable |

The results also highlight the computational efficiency of the MOPSO algorithm. Despite the complexity of the multi-objective optimization process, the algorithm was able to converge to optimal solutions within a reasonable time frame. The use of parallel computing techniques further reduced the computational burden, making the FLC-MOPSO approach suitable for real-time applications in PEMFC systems. During the simulations, the average time to achieve convergence was approximately 15 seconds, which is well within the acceptable range for real-time control applications. This demonstrates that the proposed method is not only effective but also practical for implementation in real-world PEMFC systems.In terms of comparison with other optimization algorithms, such as genetic algorithms (GA) and differential evolution (DE), MOPSO showed superior performance in both convergence speed and solution quality. While GA and DE were able to achieve similar improvements in power output and voltage regulation, they required more iterations to converge and often produced solutions that were suboptimal in terms of balancing the multiple objectives. For example, in one test scenario, GA required 300 iterations to converge to a solution that was 5% below the optimal power output, whereas MOPSO achieved convergence in 200 iterations with a solution within 2% of the maximum power. This further underscores the advantages of using MOPSO for multi-objective optimization in PEMFC systems.The simulation results clearly demonstrate the effectiveness of the proposed FLC-MOPSO approach for optimal voltage control and MPPT in PEMFC systems. The combination of fuzzy logic and MOPSO provides a robust, adaptive control strategy that significantly outperforms traditional methods in terms of voltage stability, power efficiency, and overall system robustness. The ability of the system to dynamically adjust to changing conditions and maintain optimal performance makes it a promising solution for real-world applications in renewable energy systems. Future work will focus on the experimental validation of the proposed method on actual PEMFC hardware and exploring the integration of additional optimization techniques, such as machine learning, to further enhance the system's adaptability and performance.

## IV. Conclusions

In conclusion, the proposed method combining FLC with MOPSO for optimal voltage control and MPPT in PEMFC has proven to be highly effective. The integration of FLC allows for dynamic adaptation to the nonlinear behavior of PEMFCs, enhancing stability and responsiveness, while MOPSO ensures the precise tuning of control parameters to balance the conflicting objectives of voltage regulation and power optimization. Simulation results demonstrate that the hybrid FLC-MOPSO approach significantly improves the overall system efficiency, achieving more consistent and reliable power output compared to conventional control methods. This method successfully addresses the challenges associated with PEMFCs, such as voltage fluctuations and suboptimal power output, making it a promising solution for real-world applications in renewable energy systems.

Looking forward, there are several avenues for future research to further enhance the performance of the proposed system. One potential area is the implementation of real-time testing on PEMFC hardware to validate the simulation results and evaluate the controller's performance under practical operating conditions. Additionally, exploring the integration of other optimization algorithms, such as genetic algorithms (GA) or differential evolution (DE), could provide further insights into improving the robustness and adaptability of the system. Furthermore, investigating the application of the FLC-MOPSO framework to other types of fuel cells or hybrid energy systems, such as PEMFCs coupled with battery storage systems, could open up new possibilities for optimizing energy management in various renewable energy configurations. Finally, the incorporation of machine learning techniques could be explored to enhance the predictive capabilities of the control system, enabling it to adapt to changing environmental conditions and load demands in real time. These future directions hold promise for advancing the control strategies of PEMFCs, making them more efficient and adaptable to the growing demands of sustainable energy solutions.

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