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# Mathematical Method for Parameters Calculation of electric Characteristic of Photovoltaic Module

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**Abstract—** The study of photovoltaic systems (PV) in an efficient manner requires a precise knowledge of the I-V characteristic curves of PV modules. An accurate current-voltage (I-V) model of PV modules is inherently implicit and non-linear and calls for iterative computations to obtain an analytical expression of current as a function of voltage. In this paper, numerical approaches are proposed to forecast the PV modules performance for engineering applications. The proposed approaches were implemented in a Matlab script and the results have been compared with the datasheet values provided by manufacturers in standard test conditions (STC). These approaches permit to extract the unknown parameters and also allow quantifying the effects of module temperature and irradiance on key cells parameters. In this work, a comparative study of the performance characteristics for different modules thin films and solid is analyzed by a single-diode equivalent circuit using four- and five-parameter models and two diode model.

**Keywords-** PV modules; Parameter extraction; Four parameter model; Five parameter model; Two diode model; Environmental conditions.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The photovoltaic (PV) modules are generally rated under standard test conditions (STC) with the solar radiation of 1000 W/m<sup>2</sup>, cell temperature of 25°C, and solar spectrum of 1.5 by the manufacturers. The parameters required for the input of the PV modules are relying on the meteorological conditions of the area. The climatic conditions are unpredictable due to the random nature of their occurrence. These uncertainties lead to either over- or underestimation of energy yield from PV modules. An overestimation up to 40% was reported as compared to the rated power output of PV modules [1, 2]. The growing demand of photovoltaic technologies led to research in the various aspects of its components from cell technology to the modeling, size optimization, and system performance [3–5]. Modeling of PV modules is one of the major components responsible for proper functioning of PV systems. Modeling provides the ways to understand the current, voltage, and power relationships of PV modules [6–8]. However, the estimation of models is affected by various intrinsic and extrinsic factors, which ultimately influence the behavior of current and voltage. Therefore, perfect modeling is essential to estimate the performance of PV modules in different environmental conditions. Hernanz et al. [9] compared the performance of solar cells with different models and pointed out that the manufacturers did not provide the values of the resistance in series and parallel of the manufactured cell.

Photovoltaic energy systems have become a key area of research in the recent times. The output of PV module mainly depends on solar irradiance and module temperature. There are many mathematical models in the literature for obtaining the characteristics of photovoltaic module. The mathematical model is expressed in terms of equivalent circuit. The parameters of the equivalent circuits are light generated current ( $I_{pv}$ ), diode reverse saturation current ( $I_0$ ), series resistance ( $R_s$ ), shunt resistance ( $R_{sh}$ ) and diode ideality factor ( $a$ ). All these parameters are calculated using the values available in PV datasheet [10].

This paper presents the modeling of electrical response of illuminated PV modules using analytical four-parameter model, an algebraic and analytical five parameter model and two-diode model. The accuracy of the simulation results is verified by comparing it with published data provided by manufacturers of three PV modules of different types (mono-crystalline, multi-crystalline, and thin-film).

## 2. PV MODULE MODELS

An electrical circuit with a single diode (single exponential) is considered as the equivalent photovoltaic cell in the present article. Two different models drawn from the equivalent electrical-circuit are studied: namely four- and five-parameter models compared with the two-diode model.

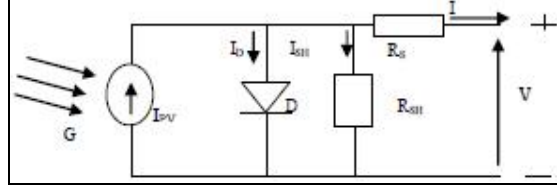


Figure.1. PV-cell equivalent-circuit models: single-diode model [11].

An output current equation of I-V characteristic using this model can be written as:

$$I = I_{pv} - I_0 \cdot \left( \exp \left( \frac{V + R_s \cdot I}{V_T} \right) - 1 \right) - \left( \frac{V + R_s \cdot I}{R_{sh}} \right) \quad (1)$$

Where

- $I_{pv}$  Photocurrent
- $I_0$  Cell saturation current
- $R_{sh}$  Shunt resistance
- $R_s$  Series resistance
- $V_T$  the thermal voltage ( $V_T = a \cdot N_s \cdot k \cdot T / q$ )
- $N_s$  Number of cells in series
- $a$  Ideal factor of the PV diode
- $q$  Electron charge ( $1.60281 \times 10^{-19}$  C)
- $k$  Boltzmann's constant  $= 1.38066 \times 10^{-23}$  J/K
- $T$  Cell operating temperature

### 2.1. Four-parameter model

The four-parameter model studied in this work has been used elsewhere [12, 13]. Assuming  $R_{sh}$  as infinite and neglecting it in Equation (1), the four-parameter model is obtained as follows:

$$I = I_{pv} - I_0 \cdot \left( \exp \left( \frac{V + R_s \cdot I}{V_T} \right) - 1 \right) \quad (2)$$

The unknown parameters are denoted at STC as  $I_{pv n}$ ,  $I_{0 n}$ ,  $a_n$  and  $R_{sn}$ ; where the "n" subscript refers to the reference operating conditions. The short circuit current can be found when  $V=0$

$$I_{sc n} = I_{pv n} \quad (3)$$

The following equations are used to calculate the other parameters at STC [12].

$$a_n = \frac{K_v - \frac{V_{oc n}}{T_n}}{V_{T n} \cdot \left( \frac{K_i}{I_{pv n}} - \frac{3}{T_n} - \frac{E_g}{k T_n^2} \right)} \quad (4)$$

$$I_{0 n} = \frac{I_{pv n}}{\exp \left( \frac{V_{oc n}}{V_{T n}} \right) - 1} \quad (5)$$

$$R_{sn} = \frac{V_{T n} \cdot \ln \left( 1 - \frac{I_{mp n}}{I_{pv n}} \right) + V_{oc n} - V_{mp n}}{I_{mp n}} \quad (6)$$

Where  $E_g$  is the band gap of the material The parameters can be found at any other operating conditions by using following equations:

$$I_{pv} = \frac{G}{G_n} [I_{pvn} + K_i (T - T_n)] \quad (7)$$

$$I_0 = I_{0n} \left( \frac{T}{T_n} \right)^3 \exp \left[ \left( \frac{q \cdot E_g}{a \cdot k} \right) \left( \frac{1}{T_n} - \frac{1}{T} \right) \right] \quad (8)$$

$$R_s = R_{sn} \quad (9)$$

$$a = a_n \cdot \frac{T}{T_n} \quad (10)$$

This model is implemented as follows: Eqs. (3)–(6) are used to find values of the four parameters under reference conditions. These four parameters are corrected for environmental conditions using Eqs. (7)–(10) and used in Eq. (2), which relates cell current to cell voltage. From Eq. (2) either cell current or voltage could be calculated provided that the other is known. Alternatively, cell current and voltage could both be calculated at the maximum-power point.

#### Accuracy test:

For example the above model equations are used to simulate Shell SP70 module in order to test its performance in fitting the I–V curve at standard test conditions ( $E = 1000 \text{ W/m}^2$ ;  $T = 25^\circ \text{C}$ ), The specifications of this module is given in Table 1.

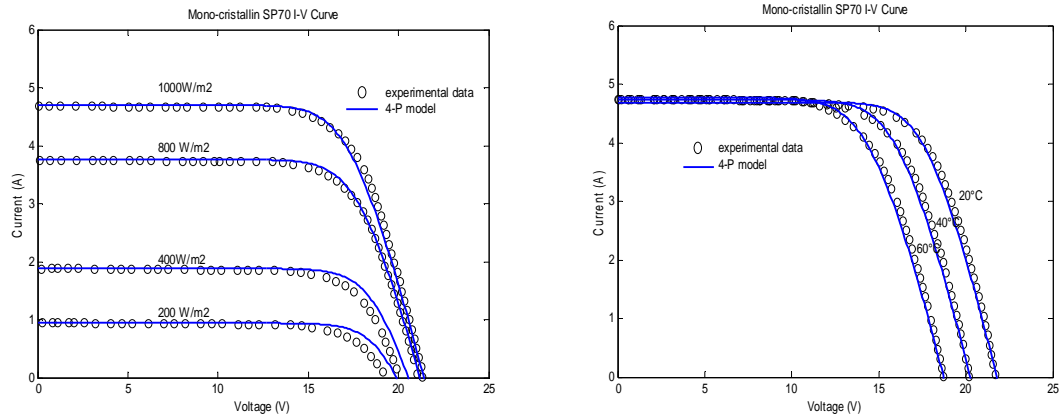


Figure.2. I(V) characteristic for Shell SP70 module using the 4-P model and for various irradiances and temperatures.

We can see in Figure. 2 that the model fits the I–V curve at the standard test conditions is accurate compared with the curve given by the manufacturer. However, the differences become apparent when conditions are farther away from the reference conditions.

#### 2.2. Five-parameter model

As given in Eq. (1), the five-parameter model is an implicit non-linear equation, which can be solved with a numerical iterative method such as Newton Raphson method [14]. However, this requires a close approximation of initial parameter values to attain convergence. Alternatively, the parameters may be extracted by means of analytical methods. Some of the analytical methods are studied elsewhere [14-17].

The five parameters  $I_{pv}$ ,  $I_0$ ,  $R_s$ ,  $R_{sh}$ , and  $m$  are calculated at a particular temperature and solar-irradiance level from the limiting conditions of  $V_{oc}$ ,  $I_{sc}$ ,  $V_{mp}$ ,  $I_{mp}$  and using the following definitions of  $R_{so}$  and  $R_{sho}$ :

$$R_{so} = - \left. \frac{dV}{dI} \right|_{V=V_{oc}} \quad (11)$$

$$R_{sh0} = - \left. \frac{dV}{dI} \right|_{I=I_{sc}} \quad (12)$$

Where  $R_{s0}$  and  $R_{sh0}$  are the reciprocals of the slopes at the open-circuit point and short-circuit point, respectively. The values of these resistances are not usually provided by module manufacturers. The other parameters are calculated as follows. The following equations are used to calculate the five parameters required.

$$I_{pv} = I_{sc} \left( 1 + \frac{R_s}{R_{sh}} \right) + I_0 \cdot \left( \exp \left( \frac{I_{sc} \cdot R_s}{V_T} \right) - 1 \right) \quad (13)$$

$$I_0 = \left( I_{sc} - \frac{V_{oc}}{R_{sh}} \right) \cdot \exp \left( - \frac{V_{oc}}{V_T} \right) \quad (14)$$

The value of the diode ideality factor ( $a$ ) may be arbitrarily chosen. Many authors discuss ways to estimate the correct value of this constant. Usually,  $1 \leq a \leq 2$  and the chosen value depend on other parameters of the I-V model. As it's given in [18], there are different opinions about the best way to choose  $a$ . Because  $a$  expresses the degree of ideality of the diode and it is totally empirical, any initial value of  $a$  can be chosen in order to adjust the model. The value of  $a$  can be later modified by using the proposed iterative method, in order to improve the model fitting [19].

$$a = \frac{V_{mp} + R_{s0} \cdot I_{mp} - V_{oc}}{V_T \left[ \ln \left( I_{sc} - \frac{V_{mp}}{R_{sh}} - I_{mp} \right) - \ln \left( I_{sc} - \frac{V_{oc}}{R_{sh}} \right) + \frac{V_{mp}}{I_{sc} - \frac{V_{oc}}{R_{sh}}} \right]} \quad (15)$$

$$\text{Where : } R_{sh} = R_{sh0} \quad (16)$$

The  $R_s$  and  $R_{sh}$  resistances are calculated by iterative methods. The relation between  $R_s$  and  $R_{sh}$ , may be found by making the maximum power calculated by the I-V model, equal to the maximum experimental power from the datasheet ( $P_{\max,m} = P_{\max,e}$ ) at the ( $V_m$ ;  $I_m$ ) point. In the iterative process,  $R_s$  must be slowly incremented starting from  $R_s = 0$  and for every iteration, the value of  $R_{sh}$  is calculated simultaneously:

$$P_{\max,m} = V_{mp} \times \left( I_{pv} - I_0 \cdot \left( \exp \left( \frac{V_{mp} + R_s \cdot I_{mp}}{V_T} \right) - 1 \right) - \left( \frac{V_{mp} + R_s \cdot I_{mp}}{R_{sh}} \right) \right) = P_{\max,e} \quad (17)$$

$$R_s = R_{s0} - \frac{V_T}{I_0} \exp \left( - \frac{V_{oc}}{V_T} \right) \quad (18)$$

$$R_{sh} = \frac{V_{mp} + R_s \cdot I_{mp}}{I_{pv} - I_0 \cdot \left( \exp \left( \frac{V_{mp} + R_s \cdot I_{mp}}{V_T} \right) - 1 \right) - \frac{P_{\max,e}}{V_{mp}}} \quad (19)$$

The initial condition for the shunt resistance  $R_{sh}$  can be found when considering the initial value of  $R_s=0$  [20, 21]

$$R_{sh,min} = \frac{V_{mp}}{I_{sc} - I_{mp}} - \frac{V_{oc} - V_{mp}}{I_{mp}} \quad (20)$$

In the proposed iterative method, the series resistance must be slowly incremented starting from a null value. Adjusting the I-V curve to match the cell reference condition requires finding the curve for several values of series and equivalent shunt resistances. The Newton-Raphson method was used in the proposed iterative method due to the ability to overcome undesired behaviors [22]. The flowchart of the proposed iterative method to adjust the I-V output characteristics of the solar cell is shown in Figure 3.

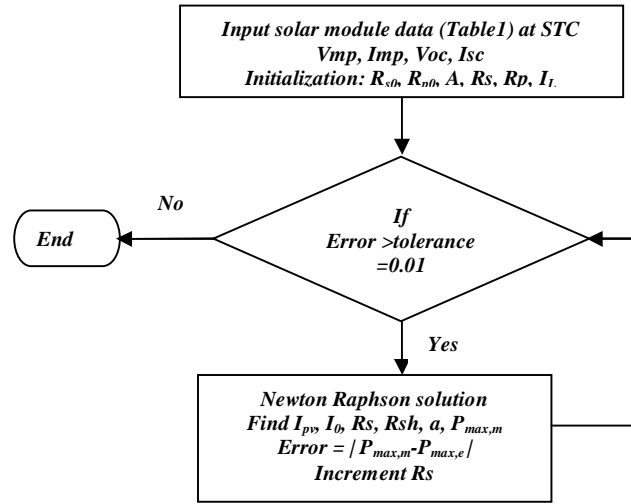


Figure3. Flowchart of the proposed iterative method to adjust the I-V output characteristics of the solar cell.

#### Accuracy test:

The accuracy is validated by comparing the results to the experimental I-V data extracted from the manufacturer datasheets (figs4).

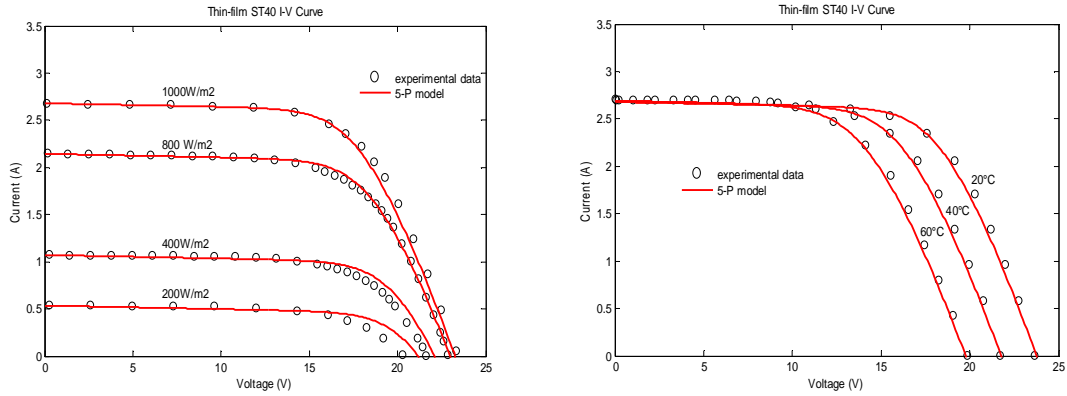


Figure.4. I(V) characteristic for Shell ST40 module using the 5-P model and for various irradiances and temperatures.

As an illustration, the IV characteristics of one of the PV modules, Shell ST40 (thin-film) is compared with the experimental result in Figure.4. A good agreement was observed between the simulated and the experimental data at higher irradiance and deviate from the actual at low irradiance.

#### 2.3. Two-diode model

The two diode model (Fig.5) equation of the I-V curve is expressed as [23]:

$$I = I_{pv} - I_{01} \cdot \left( \exp \left( \frac{V + R_s \cdot I}{V_{T1}} \right) - 1 \right) - I_{02} \cdot \left( \exp \left( \frac{V + R_s \cdot I}{V_{T2}} \right) - 1 \right) - \left( \frac{V + R_s \cdot I}{R_{sh}} \right) \quad (21)$$

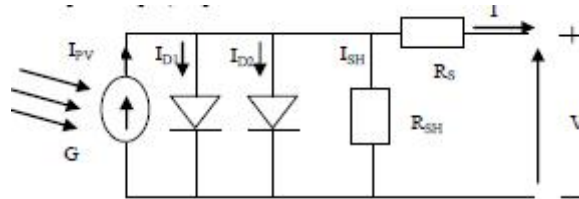


Figure.5. PV-cell equivalent-circuit models: two-diode model

Where the diode factors  $a_1=1$  and  $a_2$  can be derived from:

$$\frac{a_1 + a_2}{p} \geq 1 \quad (22)$$

Where, p can be chosen greater than 2.2.

The rest of parameters can be deduced from the following equations [23]:

$$I_{pv} = I_{sc} \quad (23)$$

$$I_{01} = I_{02} = \frac{I_{sc} + K_i \cdot \Delta T}{\exp\left(\frac{q \cdot (V_{oc} + K_v \cdot \Delta T)}{k T \cdot (a_1 + a_2) / p}\right) - 1} \quad (24)$$

Rs and Rsh are calculated by iterative method, similar to the procedure proposed by [24], where the relation between Rs and Rsh is chosen to verify that the calculated maximum power is equal to the experimental one ( $P_{max,m} = P_{max,e}$ ) at ( $V_m, I_m$ ) point.

The Rs value is found by a slow incrementation by the same manner as the above subsection.

The expression of Rsh can be written as:

$$R_{sh} = \frac{V_{mp} + R_s \cdot I_{mp}}{I_{pv} - I_{01} \cdot \left( \exp\left(\frac{V_{mp} + R_s \cdot I_{mp}}{k T}\right) + \exp\left(\frac{V_{mp} + R_s \cdot I_{mp}}{(p-1)k T}\right) + 2 \right) \frac{P_{max,e}}{V_{mp}}} \quad (25)$$

**Accuracy test:**

Fig. 6 compares some of the results obtained at different operating conditions using the two diode model.

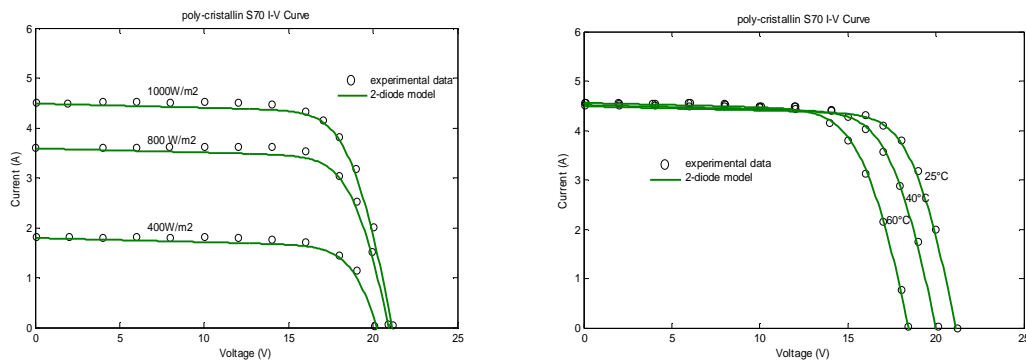


Figure.6. I(V) characteristic for Shell S70 module using the 2-D model and for various irradiances and temperatures.

It can be seen that the two-diode model is strongly agrees to experimental data for the poly-crystalline module.

### 3. COMPARISON RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The modeling methods described in this paper are validated by measured parameters of selected PV modules. The experimental (V, I) data are extracted from the manufacturer's datasheet. Three different modules of different brands/ models are utilized for verification; these include the multi- and mono-crystalline as well as thin-film types. The specifications of these modules are summarized in Table.1

TABLE.1 STC specifications for the three modules.

Parameters	Symbol	Poly-crystalline			Thin-film
		Shell SP70	Shell S70	Shell ST40	
Rated power	$P_{mp}$ (W)	70	70	40	
Open circuit voltage	$V_{oc}$ (V)	21.4	21.2	23.3	
Short circuit current	$I_{sc}$ (A)	4.7	4.5	2.68	
Voltage at maximum power	$V_{mp}$ (V)	16.5	17.0	16.6	
Current at maximum power	$I_{mp}$ (A)	4.25	4.12	2.41	
Temperature coefficient of open-circuit voltage	$K_v$ (mV/°C)	-76	-76	-100	
Temperature coefficient of short-circuit current	$K_i$ (mA/°C)	2	2	0.35	
Number of cells	$N_s$	36	36	36	



Figs. 7, 8 compare some of the results obtained at different operating conditions using the four parameter, five parameter and two diode models.

Fig (7) shows the I-V curves for modules for different levels of irradiance. It can be seen that, despite the modeling curves do not match experimental data in all points, the tow diode model strongly agrees to experimental data than the four-parameter and five-parameter models for all types of modules, except for the thin-film (ST40) module at low irradiance of about  $200 \text{ W/m}^2$  where the five-parameter modeled curve is closer to the experimental data than four-parameter and tow diode models.

The performances with varying T are shown in Fig (8). In this case, G is kept constant at  $1000 \text{ W/m}^2$ . It can be noted that all three methods show good general agreement with the experimental data. However, a close inspection reveals that the tow diode method yields the most accurate results at all T.

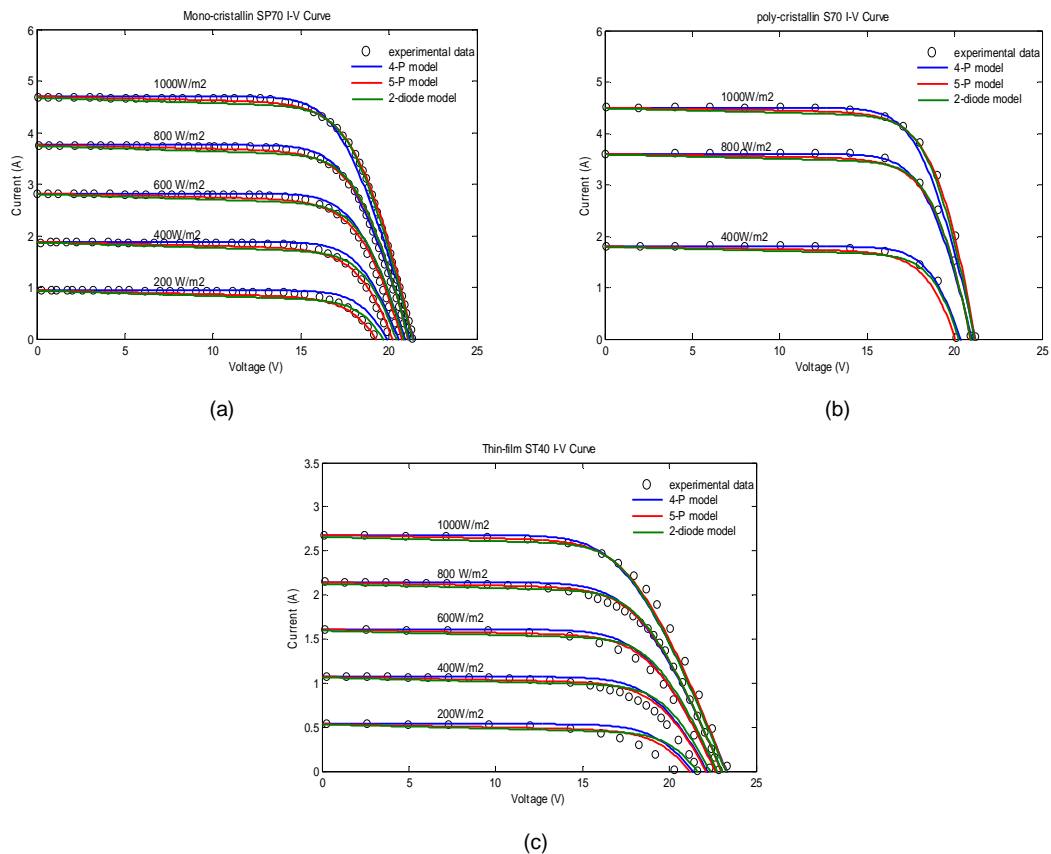
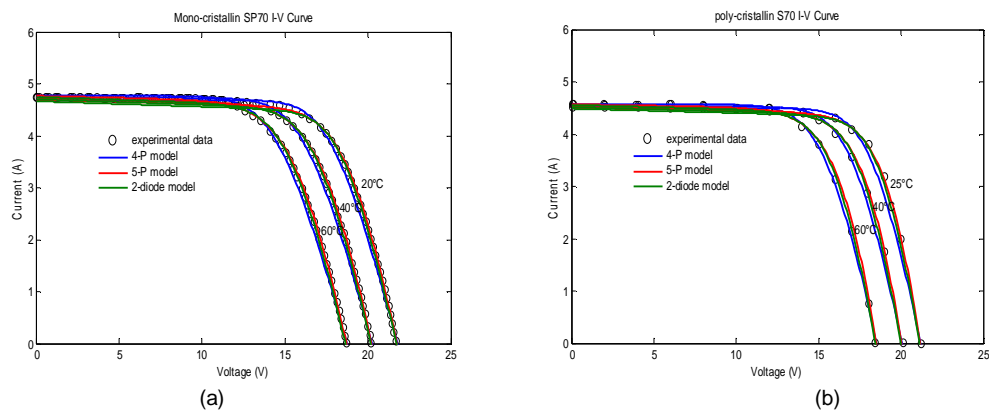
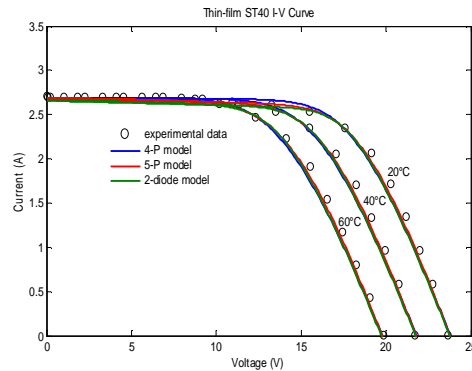


Figure.7. The I-V characteristics at varying irradiance (a) SP70, (b) S70, (c) ST40.







(c)

Figure.8. The I-V characteristics at varying temperature (a) SP70, (b) S70, (c) ST40.

Table.2 shows the parameters used for the four-parameter model. Four parameters are calculated namely,  $I_0$ ,  $I_{PV}$ , ideality factor ( $a$ ) and  $R_s$ . In the five parameter model, the additional calculated parameter is the shunt resistance;  $R_{sh}$ . and the two-diode model has more variables, the actual number of parameters computed is four because  $I_{01}=I_{02}=I_0$  while  $a_1=1$  and  $p$  can be chosen arbitrarily, i.e.  $p \geq 2.2$ .

The two-diode model and the five parameter model exhibit similar results at STC. This is to be expected because both models use the similar max power matching algorithm to evaluate the model parameters at STC. However, at low irradiance, more accurate results are obtained from the two-diode model.

The value of  $R_{sh}$  accounts for the effects of leakage current in the p-n junction; its value is known to be relatively large, i.e. in the  $k\Omega$  ranges [25]. Considering  $R_{sh}$  greatly affects the shape of the curve in the region between the short circuit point and MPP [26], this explains why the tow diode model tends to underestimate  $I$  at lower voltages, as observed in Fig. 7 and 8. This idea is reflected well by the five parameter method, where the computed value of  $R_{sh}$  is substantially larger than that of two-diode model for all modules.

TABLE.2 computed model parameters at STC

Parameters	Mono-crystalline	Poly-crystalline	Thin-film
	Shell SP70	Shell S70	Shell ST40
<u>Four parameter model</u>			
$I_{PV}$ (A)	4.7	4.5	2.68
$I_0$ (A)	$6.95284 \times 10^{-10}$	$7.44601 \times 10^{-10}$	$1.4202 \times 10^{-8}$
$a$	1.022	1.018	1.322
$R_s$ ( $\Omega$ )	0.631	0.455	1.616
<u>Five parameter model</u>			
$I_{PV}$ (A)	4.715	4.505	2.696
$I_0$ (A)	$8.7645 \times 10^{-8}$	$9.910 \times 10^{-8}$	$1.0292 \times 10^{-8}$
$a$	1.3	1.3	1.3
$R_s$ ( $\Omega$ )	0.4	0.22	1.51
$R_{sh}$ ( $\Omega$ )	133.131	189.026	266.548
<u>Two diode model</u>			
$I_{PV}$ (A)	4.7	4.5	2.68
$I_{01}=I_{02}$ (A)	$4.206 \times 10^{-10}$	$4.999658 \times 10^{-10}$	$3.074866 \times 10^{-11}$
$R_s$ ( $\Omega$ )	0.51	0.34	1.71
$R_{sh}$ ( $\Omega$ )	94.964	119.588	204.849192

Tables 3-6 present values of performance parameters under variation of irradiances and temperature levels for SP70 and ST40 modules.

TABLE.3. Relative errors of three models at different irradiances ( $T = 25^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) for SP70 module.

Irradiance ( $\text{W/m}^2$ )	Parameters	Measured data	4-P model	5-P model	2D model
1000	Pmax	70.07	70.5	70.11	70.22
	Voc	21.33	21.39	21.35	21.34
	Isc	4.682	4.7	4.7	4.675
800	Pmax	56.13	57.61	55.95	56.38
	Voc	21.03	21.18	21.07	21.13
	Isc	3.752	3.76	3.76	3.74
400	Pmax	27.53	29.62	26.76	27.12
	Voc	19.92	20.53	20.19	20.43
	Isc	1.882	1.88	1.88	1.87
200	Pmax	13.17	14.72	12.08	11.99
	Voc	19.12	19.81	19.25	19.65
	Isc	0.9472	0.94	0.94	0.935

TABLE.4. Relative errors of three models at different temperatures ( $E = 1000 \text{ W/m}^2$ ) for SP70 module.

Temperature ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ )	Parameters	Measured data	4-P model	5-P model	2D model
20	Pmax	71.54	72.23	71.76	71.82
	Voc	21.71	21.77	21.70	21.70
	Isc	4.743	4.69	4.69	4.665
40	Pmax	64.77	65.29	65.15	65.38
	Voc	20.18	20.26	20.25	20.24
	Isc	4.736	4.73	4.73	4.705
60	Pmax	57.94	58.34	58.54	58.86
	Voc	18.71	18.69	18.68	18.67
	Isc	4.743	4.77	4.77	4.745

TABLE.5. Relative errors of three models at different irradiances ( $T = 25^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) for ST40 module.

Irradiance ( $\text{W/m}^2$ )	Parameters	Measured data	4-P model	5-P model	2D model
1000	Pmax	40.21	40.03	39.99	40.04
	Voc	23.29	23.30	23.27	23.26
	Isc	2.677	2.68	2.68	2.658
800	Pmax	31.71	33.04	32.68	32.97
	Voc	22.85	23.02	22.99	23.04
	Isc	2.149	2.144	2.144	2.126
400	Pmax	15.34	17.26	16.4	16.7
	Voc	21.63	22.17	22.11	22.35
	Isc	1.074	1.072	1.072	1.063
200	Pmax	6.967	8.611	7.615	7.655
	Voc	20.28	21.33	21.17	21.61
	Isc	0.537	0.536	0.536	0.5316

TABLE.6: Relative errors of three models at different temperatures ( $E = 1000 \text{ W/m}^2$ ) for ST40 module.

Tempetaure (°C)	Parameters	Measured data	4-P model	5-P model	2D model
20	Pmax	41.29	41.36	41.27	41.3
	Voc	23.65	23.80	23.76	23.75
	Isc	2.702	2.678	2.678	2.656
40	Pmax	36.36	36.09	36.19	36.29
	Voc	21.7	21.79	21.77	21.75
	Isc	2.702	2.685	2.685	2.663
60	Pmax	31.49	30.93	31.21	31.34
	Voc	19.87	19.77	19.76	19.75
	Isc	2.706	2.692	2.692	2.67

#### 4. CONCLUSION

The present paper has proposed the investigation of the performance of four-parameter, five-parameter and tow-diode models. These models used to predict the electrical response of illuminated mono-crystalline Shell SP70, poly-crystalline S70 and thin-film ST40 PV modules for various operating conditions. The accuracy of the proposed models is evaluated using practical data from manufacturers of three different types of PV modules. Its performances are compared with the experimental values given by the constructors of the different modules. It has been found that, the tow-diode model is better when subjected to variations in irradiance and temperature. And gives better accuracy for reconstructing the electrical characteristics of mono-crystalline and poly-crystalline PV modules, but for thin-film PV module the five parameter model is closer to the experimental data at the low irradiance.

In terms of accuracy, a generic statement cannot be easily made as to which of the method has the best performance. That is, there is no one model that performs best in all the parameter prediction. Accordingly, the proposed study may help in the development of new photovoltaic systems by reducing costs and time as well as a better understanding of their performance

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