

Adaptive Control of DC-DC Converter Using Simulated Annealing Optimization Method

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Received 18 May 2013; revised 30 October 2013; accepted 10 November 2013

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Abstract

The purpose of this paper is to present a new adaptive control method used to adjust the output voltage and current of DC-DC (DC: Direct Current) power converter under different sudden changes in load. The controller is a PID controller (Proportional, Integrator, and Differentiator). The gains of the PID controller (K_p , K_i and K_d) tuned using Simulated Annealing (SA) algorithm which is part of Generic Probabilistic Metaheuristic family. The new control system is expected to have a fast transient response feature, with less undershoot of the output voltage and less overshoot of the reactor current. Pulse Width Modulation (PWM) will be utilized to switch the power electronic devices.

Keywords

DC-DC Converter, PID Controller, Simulated Annealing

1. Introduction

DC-DC power converters are used in variety of application, including computer systems, office equipment, telecommunication equipment, and other electronics devices. DC-DC converters are electrical circuits that would transfer energy to a load. Electronic switches are used to transfer the energy to energy storage devices and then to load. In DC-DC converters, the switches are either transistors or diodes, whereas capacitors and inductors re-

present the storage devices. The amount of voltage transferred depends on the duty ratios of the switches [1]. The switch is driven by a pulse width modulator PWM. The output signal of the PWM is controlled using a PID controller. The PID gains are tuned using Simulated Annealing optimizers (SA) to improve the transient response of the DC-DC converter.

The simulated annealing optimization method is a statistical optimization technique based on a wide random search to achieve global optimum solution with high probability [2]. The idea is based on mimicking the process of annealing a material and then slowly reducing its temperature until a state of thermal equilibrium, which is characterized by minimum energy.

2. Literature Review

Many researchers have worked in the field of controlling DC-DC conversion; in [3] the authors present an implementation of the dynamic evolution control with linear evolution path for boost DC-DC power converter. This method uses a simple analysis of non linear equation models of the converter to tune the converter controllers. This method is used for digital controller to obtain zero steady state error and wide range of stability.

The authors in [4] presented a genetic algorithm-based PID tuning to optimize the performance of the DC-DC converter. A cascade closed-loop control system was implemented consisting of two loops (outer voltage loop inner current loop). The genetic algorithm was used to optimize the gains of the PID controller for the voltage loop.

In [5], the paper conducted high current applications. A DC-DC converter of two stages was studied. The converter consists of two full-bridge inverters both three phase. In this converter a high power factor at the AC stage and a regulated voltage at the DC load are needed. To solve this issue, a control scheme is designed for both inverters. This control scheme is based on a switching function model.

The application of fuzzy control to DC-DC converters operating at finite switching frequency is compared with several control methods like hysteresis and sliding mode method. One of the disadvantages of this fuzzy control is there is no procedure for designing the control rule and the membership functions [6].

The paper in [7] describes a control design procedure for PWM DC-DC converters when there is a large variation in the input reference. The controller has two components: a linear feedback to improve transient response, and a nonlinear feed forward to reject large input disturbances.

3. DC-DC Converter

DC-DC converters are electronic devices used whenever we want to change DC electrical power voltage from one voltage level to another. They are needed because the DC voltage cannot be simply stepped up or down using a transformer as well as AC voltage [1].

Modern electronic systems require high-quality, small size, light-weight, reliable and efficient power supplies. DC-DC converters use power electronics semiconductor switches operating in “on” and “off” states and this is because there is a small power loss in those states; *i.e.* low voltage in the “on” state, and zero current in the “off” state. In order for the DC-DC converter to be smaller and lighter, the power electronic switches must operate on high operating frequencies. High operating frequencies allow achieving fast dynamic response to rapid changes in the load current and the input voltage [1].

3.1. Step-Down Buck Converter

The step-down DC-DC converter is known as the buck converter which is shown in **Figure 1**. It consists of a dc input V_{in} , a controlled switch S , a diode D , an inductor L , a capacitor C , and a load resistor R .

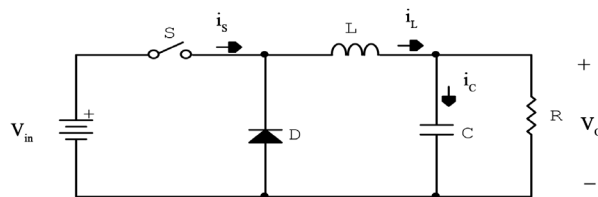


Figure 1. Buck converter circuit diagram.

The switch S is a unidirectional voltage and implemented with power MOSFETs. The relationship between the input and the output voltages and the switch duty ratio D can be illustrated in the following formula with $T = 1/f$ [8].

$$(V_{in} - V_o)DT = -V_o(1-D)T \quad (1)$$

$$\frac{V_o}{V_{in}} = D \quad (2)$$

The buck converter operation can be divided into two periods; one of them when the switch is “on”, and the other when it is “off” [8].

- In the “on” period:

The inductor current can be represented using by:

$$\frac{di_L}{dt} = \frac{V_{in}}{L} - \frac{V_C}{L} \quad (3)$$

and the capacitor voltage can be represented by:

$$\frac{dV_C}{dt} = \frac{i_L}{C} - \frac{V_C}{RC} \quad (4)$$

$$V_o = V_C \quad (5)$$

- In the “off” period:

The inductor current can be represented by:

$$\frac{di_L}{dt} = -\frac{V_C}{L} \quad (6)$$

and the capacitor voltage can be represented by:

$$\frac{dV_C}{dt} = \frac{i_L}{C} - \frac{V_C}{RC} \quad (7)$$

$$V_o = V_C \quad (8)$$

where, i_L is the current through the inductor, V_C is the voltage across the capacitor, V_{in} is the DC input voltage and V_o is DC output voltage.

The above equations can be rewritten in state space as:

During “on” time:

$$\dot{x} = A_1x + b_1V_{in}; \quad V_o = q_1x \quad (9)$$

During “off” time:

$$\dot{x} = A_2x + b_2V_{in}; \quad V_o = q_2x \quad (10)$$

where,

$$\dot{x} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{di_L}{dt} \\ \frac{dV_C}{dt} \end{bmatrix}; \quad A_1 = A_2 = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{-1}{L} & \frac{-1}{L} \\ \frac{1}{C} & \frac{-1}{RC} \end{bmatrix}; \quad b_1 = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{i}{L} \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}; \text{ and } b_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Then from Equations (9) and (10):

$$\frac{V_o(s)}{V_{in}(s)} = \frac{M}{1 + s\frac{L}{R} + s^2LC} \quad (11)$$

where $M = D$.

3.2. Step-Up Boost Converter

The step-up DC-DC converter is known as the boost converter which is shown in **Figure 2**. It consists of a dc input V_{in} , a controlled switch S , a diode D , an inductor L , a capacitor C , and a load resistor R . The switch S is a unidirectional voltage and implemented with power MOSFETs.

The relationship between the input and the output voltages and the switch duty ratio D can be illustrated in the following formula with $T = 1/f$ [9].

$$V_{in}DT = (V_O - V_{in})(1-D)T \quad (12)$$

$$\frac{V_O}{V_{in}} = \frac{1}{1-D} \quad (13)$$

The boost converter operation can be divided into two periods; one of them when the switch is “on”, and the other when it is “off” [9].

- In the “on” period:

The inductor current is:

$$\frac{di_L}{dt} = \frac{-R}{L}i_L + \frac{1}{L}V_{in} \quad (14)$$

and the capacitor voltage is:

$$V_C = V_O = 0 \quad (15)$$

- In the “off” period:

The inductor current is:

$$\frac{di_L}{dt} = \frac{-R}{L}i_L - \frac{1-D}{L}V_C + \frac{1}{L}V_{in} \quad (16)$$

and the capacitor voltage is:

$$\frac{dV_C}{dt} = \frac{1-D}{C}i_L - \frac{1}{RC}V_C \quad (17)$$

$$V_O = V_C \quad (18)$$

where, i_L is current through the inductor, V_C is voltage across the capacitor, V_{in} is DC input voltage and V_O is DC output voltage.

The above equations can be rewritten in state space as:

During “on” time:

$$\dot{x} = A_3x + b_3V_{in}; \quad V_O = 0 \quad (19)$$

During “off” time:

$$\dot{x} = A_4x + b_4V_{in}; \quad V_O = q_4x \quad (20)$$

where,

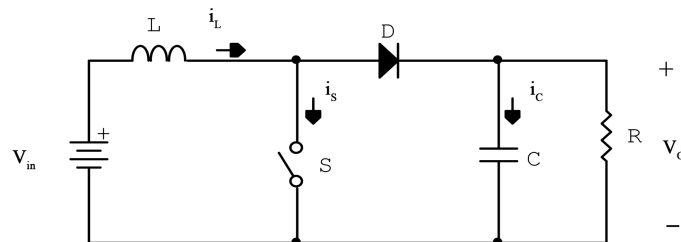


Figure 2. Boost converter circuit diagram.

$$\dot{x} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{di_L}{dt} \\ \frac{dV_C}{dt} \end{bmatrix}; \quad A_3 = A_4 = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{-R}{L} & -\frac{1-D}{L} \\ \frac{1-D}{C} & \frac{-1}{RC} \end{bmatrix}; \quad b_3 = b_4 = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{L} \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Then from the Equations (19) and (20)

$$\frac{V_o(s)}{V_{in}(s)} = \frac{M}{1 + s \frac{L}{R} + s^2 LC} \quad (21)$$

where

$$M = \frac{1}{1-D} \quad (22)$$

4. Control Principles

A DC-DC converter must provide a regular DC output voltage under varying load and input voltage. The converter values change with time, temperature, and pressure so the controller should be a closed-loop controller with negative feedback. The voltage mode-controller is the most commonly used to control the pulse width modulator PWM [10], as shown in **Figure 3**.

In the voltage-mode controller the output voltage is sensed and converted to digital signal using ADC, then it is subtracted from a reference voltage to be fed to a controller; this will generate the control signal of the PWM and the PWM signal will drive the controllable switch (MOSFET) of DC-DC converter. The controller is a PID controller; a Simulating Annealing (SA) optimizer will be used to give an optimum PID controller gains. This will improve the transient response when there is a sudden change in the load of DC-DC converter.

4.1. Simulated Annealing Optimizer

Annealing is the process of heating solid bodies high temperature then allowing it to cool down. The mathematical equivalent of annealing is called simulated annealing and described in [2] [11].

The process of simulated annealing is represented based on the probability of Boltzmann distribution of energy E at temperature T as below [12]:

$$p(E) = \alpha e^{\frac{-E}{KT}} \quad (23)$$

where

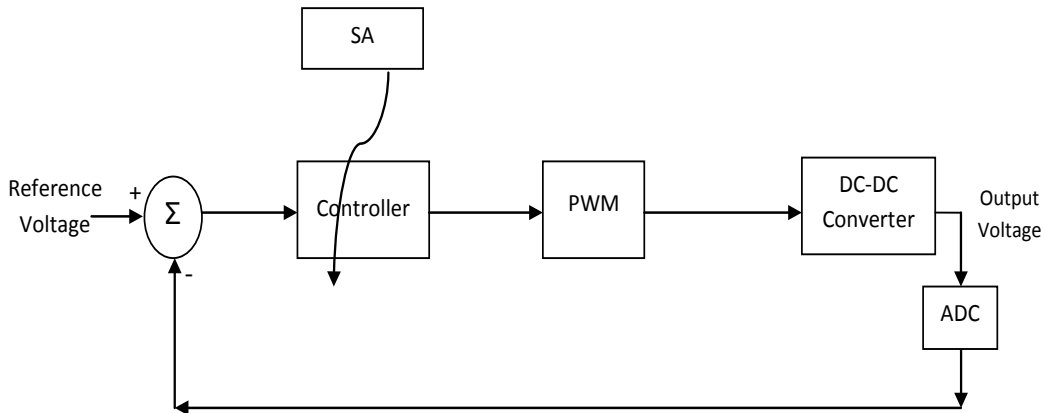


Figure 3. The control system of DC-DC converter.

$$\alpha = \frac{1}{KT} \quad (24)$$

4.2. Simulated Annealing Algorithm

In this paper, Simulated Annealing is used to find the certain values of among a range of (x , y and z) in order to minimize a certain cost function $f(x, y, z)$. The SA algorithm can be summarized as follows [2] [11]:

Step 1: Set initial value of T .

Step 2: Select current set values of x_i , y_i and z_i from their ranges randomly.

Step 3: Compute the cost function $f(x_i, y_i, z_i)$.

Step 4: Select other values of x_{i+1} , y_{i+1} and z_{i+1} from the same ranges.

Step 5: Compute the cost function $f(x_{i+1}, y_{i+1}, z_{i+1})$.

Step 6: If the $f(x_{i+1}, y_{i+1}, z_{i+1}) \leq f(x_i, y_i, z_i)$ then:

$$x_i = x_{i+1}$$

$$y_i = y_{i+1}$$

$$z_i = z_{i+1}$$

Step 7: If the $f(x_{i+1}, y_{i+1}, z_{i+1}) > f(x_i, y_i, z_i)$ then:

If the $\exp\left[\left(f(x_{i+1}, y_{i+1}, z_{i+1}) - f(x_i, y_i, z_i)\right)/T\right] > \text{rand}$ then:

$$x_i = x_{i+1}$$

$$y_i = y_{i+1}$$

$$z_i = z_{i+1}$$

Step 8: Reduce the temperature T .

Step 9: Repeat Step 3 to Step 8 for n times to obtain the optimum solution.

Figure 4 shows the simulated annealing process described above.

In this work the cost function is:

$$f(K_p, K_i, K_d) = \int_0^{T_s} |te(t)| dt \quad (25)$$

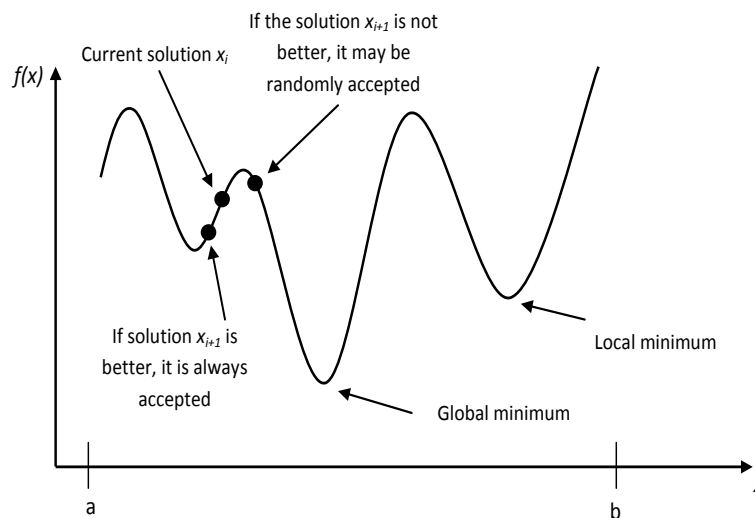


Figure 4. Simulated annealing process.

where:

$$e(t) = V_o(t) - V_{in}(t) \quad (26)$$

5. Results and Discussion [13]

A simulated system of Buck and Boost DC-DC converter was built using MATLAB/SIMULINK toolbox. The DC-DC converter will be controlled using conventional PID controller and this controller will be tuned using Simulated Annealing optimizer. This is used to improve the transient response of the DC-DC converter.

In this work, the Simulated Annealing algorithm is used to tune the gains of the PID controller, which are used to adjust the output voltage and the reactor current. This reduces the undershoot, overshoot and settling time of the output voltage and reduces the overshoot of the reactor current as will be explained next.

5.1. Step-Down Buck Converter Performance

A simulated transient response of a Buck DC-DC converter was built using Matlab Simulink when the load R changed from $100\ \Omega$ down to $5\ \Omega$. In this simulation the circuit parameters are as follow: $V_{in} = 20$ volt, $V_o = 5$ volt, $L = 2$ mH, $C = 1000\ \mu\text{F}$ and the switching frequency $f = 100$ KHz.

Figure 5 shows the transient response for the conventional PID controller. As shown in the figure, the undershoot of the output voltage is 12.5%, the overshoot of the output voltage is 17.3%, the settling time is 14 ms and the overshoot of reactor current is 92.3%.

Figure 6 shows the transient response for the Simulated Annealing optimizer. As shown in the figure, the undershoot of the output voltage is 10.4%, the overshoot of the output voltage is 15.4%, the settling time is 13 ms and the overshoot of reactor current is 82.9%.

Table 1 compares the output based on the conventional PID and the SA output for Buck converter. As can be seen from the table, the output voltage undershoot was reduced, the output voltage over was also reduced. The settling time was slightly reduced and the reactor current over shoot was significantly reduced.

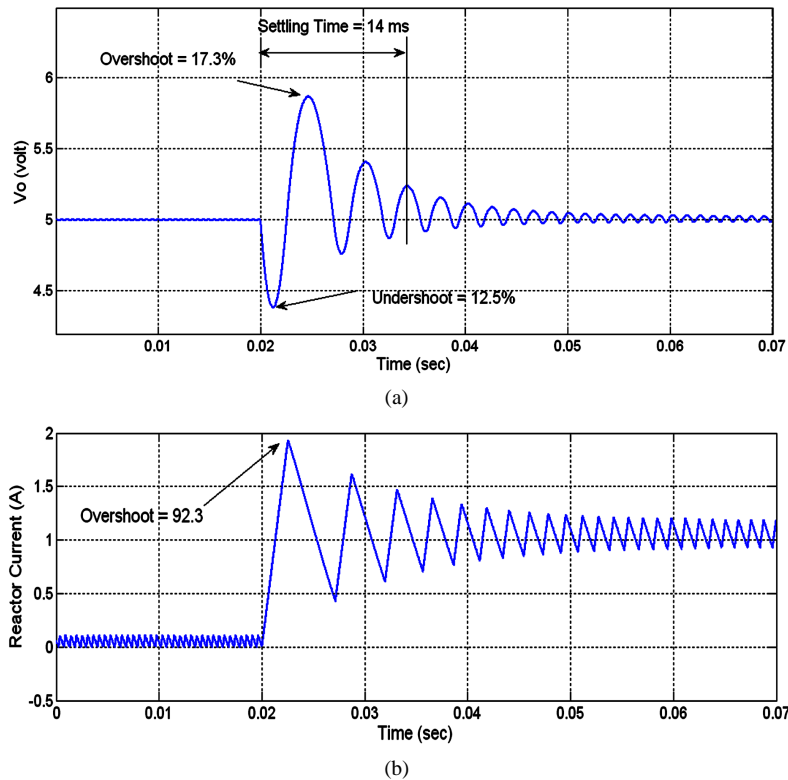


Figure 5. Transient response of conventional PID controller (a) Output voltage; (b) Reactor current.

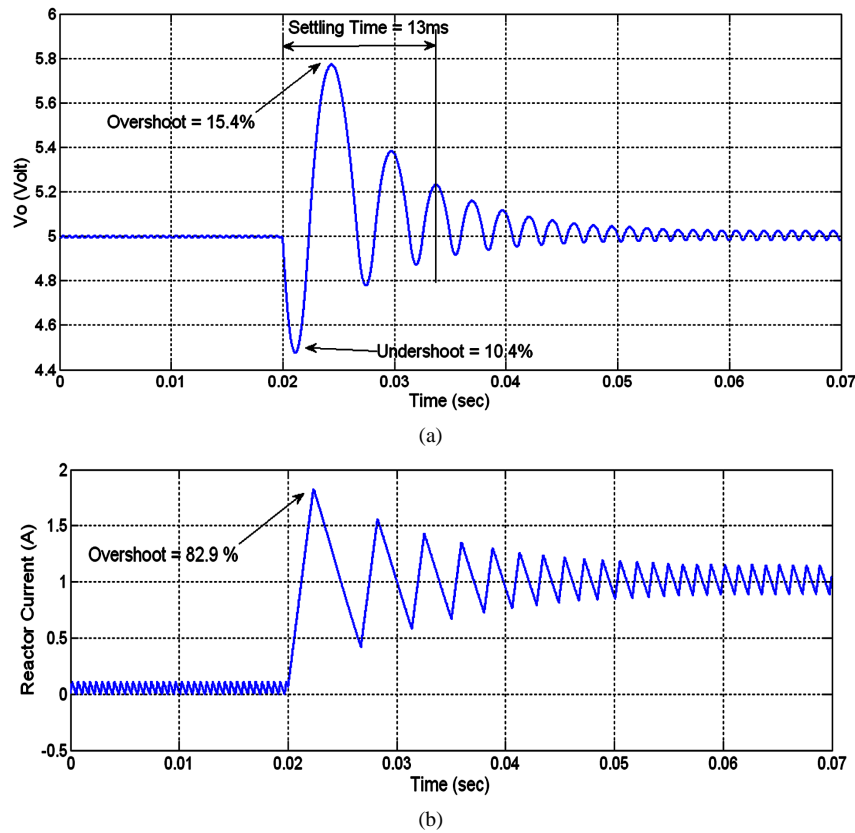


Figure 6. Transient response of the Simulated Annealing optimizer (a) Output voltage; (b) Reactor current.

Table 1. Conventional PID Vs SA output for Buck converter.

	PID	SA	The improvement
The output voltage undershoot	12.5%	10.4%	16.8%
The output voltage overshoot	17.3%	15.4%	11%
Settling time (ms)	14	13	7.1%
The reactor current overshoot	92.3%	82.9%	10.2%

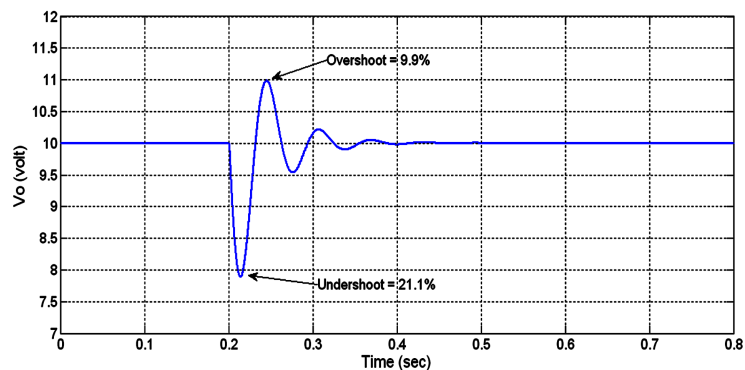
5.2. Step-Up Boost Converter Performance

A simulated transient response of a Boost DC-DC converter was built using Matlab Simulink when the load R changed from $100\ \Omega$ down to $5\ \Omega$. In this simulation the circuit parameters are as follow: $V_{in} = 5$ volt, $V_o = 10$ volt, $L = 2$ mH, $C = 2000\ \mu\text{F}$ and the switching frequency $f = 100$ KHz.

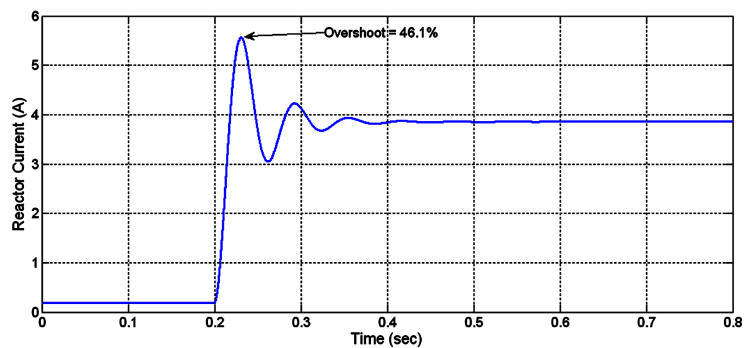
Figure 7 shows the transient response for the conventional PID controller. As shown in the figure, the undershoot of the output voltage is 21.1%, the overshoot of the output voltage is 9.9%, and the overshoot of reactor current is 46.1%.

Figure 8 shows the transient response for the Simulated Annealing optimizer. As shown in the figure, the undershoot of the output voltage is 19.8%, the overshoot of the output voltage is 9.7%, and the overshoot of reactor current is 45.5%. As can be noticed, the improvement is minimal in this case.

Table 2 shows numerical comparison of the results embedded in **Figure 7** and **Figure 8**. And again, seen from the table, the output voltage undershoot was reduced, the output voltage over was also reduced. The settling time was slightly reduced and the reactor current over shoot was slightly reduced as well. These results make the choice of the Boost converter not suitable for this control problem.

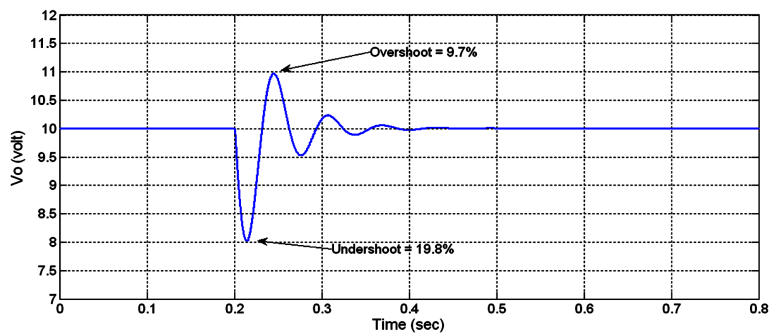


(a)

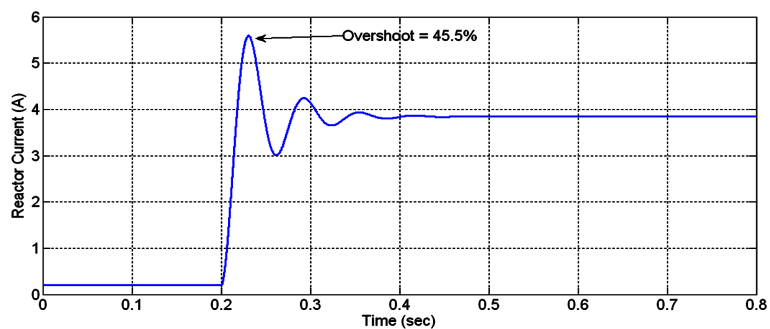


(b)

Figure 7. Transient response of conventional PID controller (a) Output voltage; (b) Reactor current.



(a)



(b)

Figure 8. Transient response of the simulated annealing optimizer (a) Output voltage; (b) Reactor current.

Table 2. Conventional PID Vs SA output for boost converter.

	PID	SA	The improvement
The output voltage undershoot	21.1%	19.8%	6.2%
The output voltage overshoot	9.9%	9.7%	2%
The reactor current overshoot	46.1%	45.5%	2%

6. Conclusions

The DC-DC converter is a widely use power electronics circuit. The DC-DC converter output is affected by some parameters changes as load, input voltage, temperature, and the output voltage. So it is very important to use control system technique to improve the output response. One of the most control technique used is the PID controller. Designing a PID controller is complicated. Therefore, in this work we use the Simulated Annealing Optimizer (SA) to design and tune the PID controller gains.

Simulation results of two types DC-DC converters for sudden changes in the load are obtained. As shown in the simulation and results chapter, SA do an efficient improvement in the output in terms of the output voltage undershot, output voltage overshoot and the reactor current. Though, the buck converter got better results.

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