

Influence of an External Electric Field on the Electric Parameters of a PV Solar Cell under Intense Illumination

Abstract – The performance of a PV solar cell depends on a number of external and internal factors. It then appears imperative that investigations be carried out to identify the factors favourable or unfavourable to the proper operation of the PV cell. It is in this context that we study the influence of an external variable electric field on the electric parameters of a PV solar cell under light concentration of 50 suns. After the presentation of the model of a PV solar cell used in our study and formulated the assumptions, we have established the expressions of electric parameters as function of the external electric field E_0 . Then, by using numerical simulation, we plotted the curves of electric parameters versus the external electric field. From analysis of the curves, it appears that the short-circuit photocurrent density, electric power, fill factor and conversion efficiency increases with the increase in the intensity of the external electric field. On the other hand, it appears a drop in open circuit photovoltage and series resistance with the increase in the intensity of the external electric field.

Keys words: *Electric strength, Electric power delivered, series resistance, conversion efficiency*

1. INTRODUCTION

Today, many researchers are investing in the field of PV solar energy with the aim of increasing the performance of PV cells and reducing their manufacturing cost. Improving or degradation of the performances of a PC cell can also depend on the operating conditions. Indeed, studies have shown that intense illumination improves the performances of PV cell [1, 2] while magnetic field lead to decrease of theirs performances [3, 4]. Other studies has shown that high temperature damaged the performances of PV cells [1, 5], an electric field improve theirs performances [6, 7], and that protons irradiation lead to the damage in those same performances [8]. Works carried out on concentration PV cell show that theirs conversion efficiencies are better than those of ordinaries PV cells (up to 47.1% in laboratory) [9]. Moreover, the multiplicity of electric field sources in our environment (TV antenna, BTS, etc) influence the behaviour of PV cells during theirs operating mode. It is then important for us to take a look at the influence of an external electric field on the performances of a PV solar cell under intense illumination. This study will increase our understanding of the behaviour of the PV cell under intense illumination of 50 suns and in the presence of a variable external electric field.

2. MATHEMATICAL MODELING AND ASSUMPTION

The PV solar cell used for this study is presented on the figure 1 below:

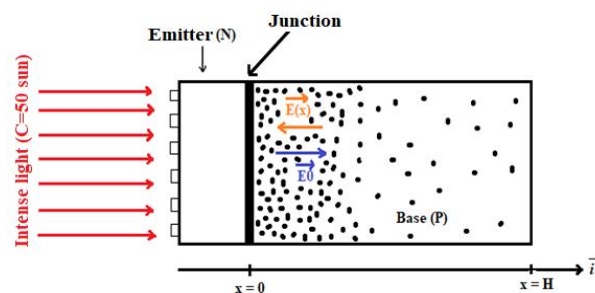


Figure 1: PV cell under concentrated illumination and under external electrical field

The solar PV cell is submitted to a concentrated light of 50 suns. Moreover, this PV cell is under an external variable electric field $\overline{E_0}$. The electric field E_0 is assumed to be uniform in the bulk of the base. Taking into account the mode of illumination of the PV solar cell, we also take into account the electric field induced by the concentration gradient $\overline{E(x)}$ given by the equation below [10]:

$$E(x) = \frac{D_p - D_n}{\mu_n + \mu_p} \cdot \frac{1}{\delta(x)} \cdot \frac{\partial \delta(x)}{\partial x} \quad (1)$$

The PV cell under intense illumination are operating at high temperatures, we assume that the operating temperature is about 325 K. This led us to use electronics, diffusion and mobility parameters at this temperature. We neglected the contribution of the emitter. In our model the photocurrent density is given by the following equation:

$$J_n(x, E_0) = e \cdot D_n \cdot \frac{\partial \delta(x, E_0)}{\partial x} - e \cdot \mu_n \cdot E(x) \cdot \delta(x, E_0) + e \cdot \mu_n \cdot E_0 \cdot \delta(x, E_0) \quad (2)$$

From the above assumptions, we have established the continuity equation of minority charged carriers generated in the base, which is given by:

$$\frac{\partial^2 \delta(x, E_0)}{\partial x^2} + \frac{L_{E_0}}{L_{np}^2} \cdot \frac{\partial \delta(x, E_0)}{\partial x} - \frac{\delta(x, E_0)}{L_{np}^2} = -\frac{C}{D_{np}} \cdot \sum_{i=1}^3 a_i \cdot e^{-b_i \cdot x} \quad (3)$$

With

$$D_{np} = \frac{2 \cdot \mu_n \cdot D_n + \mu_p \cdot D_n - \mu_n \cdot D_p}{\mu_n + \mu_p} \quad (4)$$

$$L_{np}^2 = D_{np} \cdot \tau \quad (5)$$

$$L_{E_0} = \mu_n \cdot E_0 \cdot \tau \quad (6)$$

From the tabulated values of the solar spectrum [13], the coefficients a_i and b_i are given for AM 1.5 as follow:

Tab.1. values of the solar spectrum

$a_1 = 6.13 \cdot 10^{20}$	$a_2 = 0.54 \cdot 10^{20}$	$a_3 = 0.0991 \cdot 10^{20}$
$b_1 = 6630$	$b_2 = 1000$	$b_3 = 130$

The resolution of the equation (3) lead to the expression of the charged carriers density generated in the base $\delta(x, E_0)$.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

For the numerical processing of the equations, we used the following values: $S_b=10^3 \text{ cm/s}$; $\mu_n=1,19 \cdot 10^3 \text{ cm}^2/\text{V.s}$; $\mu_p=376,941 \text{ cm/s}$; $D_n=35,933 \text{ cm}^2/\text{s}$; $D_p=11,379 \text{ cm}^2/\text{s}$; $H=0,03 \text{ cm}$; $C=50 \text{ suns}$; $T=325 \text{ K}$; $S_{i0}=10 \text{ cm/s}$; $S_f=4 \cdot 10^4 \text{ cm/s}$

3.1. Short circuit photocurrent density

The expression of the photocurrent density as a function of the intensity of the electric field is given by the equation (7) below [7]:

$$J_{ph}(E_0) = eD_{np} \left. \frac{\partial \delta(x, E_0)}{\partial x} \right|_{x=0} + e\mu_n E_0 \delta(0, E_0) \quad (7)$$

At the vicinity of the short circuit, the junction dynamic velocity S_F tend to infinite and we obtain the expression of the short circuit photocurrent J_{cc} given by the equation (8) below :

$$J_{cc}(E_0) = eD_{np} \sum_{i=1}^3 k_i \frac{\beta(D_{np} b_i - S_B)(e^{-H(\alpha+b_i)} - \cosh(\beta H)) + [\beta^2 D_{np} - (\alpha D_{np} + S_B)(\alpha + b_i)] \sinh(\beta H)}{(\alpha D_{np} + S_B) \sinh(\beta H) + \beta D_{np} \cosh(\beta H)} \quad (8)$$

$$\text{With: } \alpha = -\frac{L_{E_0}}{2 \cdot L_{np}^2}, \quad \beta = \frac{1}{2 \cdot L_{np}} \cdot \sqrt{\left(\frac{L_{E_0}}{L_{np}}\right)^2 + 4} \quad \text{and}$$

$$k_i = \frac{C \cdot a_i \cdot L_{np}^2}{D_{np} \cdot (1 + L_{E_0} \cdot b_i - (b_i \cdot L_{np})^2)} \quad (9)$$

The figure 2 below show the variations of the short circuit photocurrent as function of the electric field intensity:

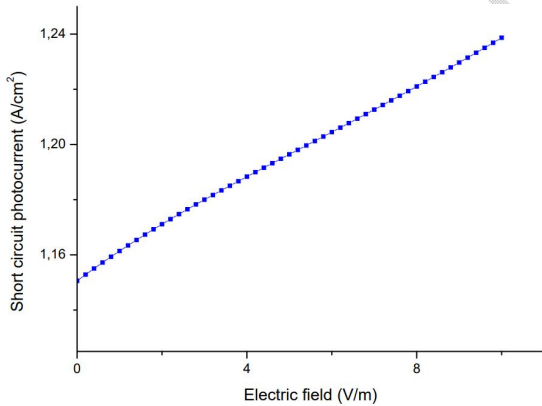


Figure 2: Short circuit photocurrent density versus electrical field intensity

3.2. Open Circuit Photovoltage

The photovoltage through the PV cell is given by equation (10) below [11, 12]:

$$V_{ph}(E_0) = V_T \ln \left[\frac{\delta(0, E_0)}{n_0} + 1 \right] \quad (10)$$

$$\text{With } V_T = \frac{K_B T}{e} \quad \text{and} \quad n_0 = \frac{n_i^2}{N_B} \quad (11)$$

V_T represent the thermal photovoltage, n_0 represent electrons density at thermodynamic equilibrium, N_B is the doping rate of the base ($N_B = 10^{16} \text{ cm}^{-3}$) and n_i the intrinsic concentration ($n_i = 10^{10} \text{ cm}^{-3}$). At the vicinity of open circuit, $S_F \rightarrow S_{F0}$ and we obtain the expression of the open circuit photovoltage given by the following equation (12):

$$V_{co}(E_0) = V_T \ln \left[\frac{D_{np} N_B \sum_{i=1}^3 k_i (\beta (D_{np} b_i - S_B) (e^{-H(\alpha+b_i)} - \cosh(\beta H)) + [\beta^2 D_{np} - (\alpha D_{np} + S_B)(\alpha + b_i)] \sinh(\beta H))}{n_i^2 ([\beta^2 D_{np}^2 + (\alpha D_{np} + S_B)(S_{F0} - \alpha D_{np})] \sinh(\beta H) + \beta D_{np} (S_B + S_{F0}) \cosh(\beta H))} + 1 \right] \quad (12)$$

The figure 3 below presents the variations of the photovoltage as a function of the electric field intensity:

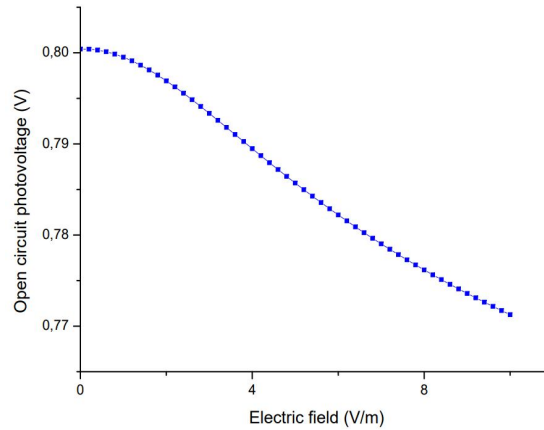


Figure 3: Open circuit voltage versus electrical field intensity

We observe on the figure 3 that the open circuit photovoltage decrease with the increase in the electric field intensity. This can be interpreted by the fact that, in the open circuit situation the junction is block. The illumination mode and the electric force lead to increase of collisions between the charged carriers in the base of the PV cell. Thus, possibilities for recombination of charged carriers increase and lead to decrease in open circuit photovoltage. We notice that the rate of decrease in the open circuit photovoltage is relatively slow.

3.3. Electric Power Delivered

The electric power delivered by the PV cell is given by equation (13) below [11, 14]:

$$P_{el}(E_0) = J_{ph}(E_0) \cdot V_{ph}(E_0) \quad (13)$$

The influence of the electric field on the electric power is illustrate on the figure 4 below:

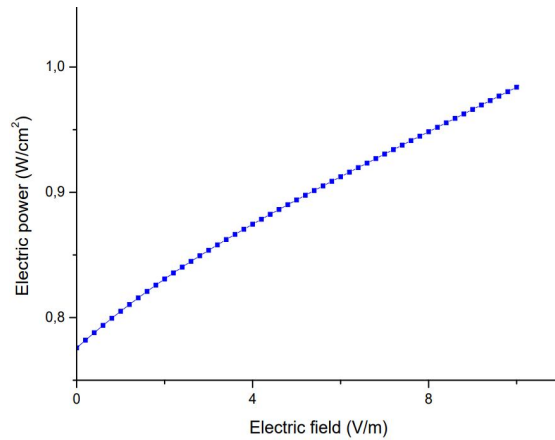


Figure 4: *Electrical power versus electrical field intensity*

We observe on the figure 4 that the electric power delivered by the PV solar cell increase with the increase in electric field intensity. In fact, the electric power is the product of photocurrent by photovoltage. But, it comes out from previous results that photocurrent and photovoltage increase with the increase in electric field intensity, this lead to an increase in the electric power delivered by the PV cell. Increase of the electric power with increase in the electric field intensity is in good agreement with previous results.

3.4. Series Resistance

Series resistance is obtained by applying mesh law in the equivalent electric circuit of a PV cell at the vicinity of the open circuit. Its expression is given by the equation (14) below [11]:

$$R_s(E_0) = \frac{V_{co}(E_0) - V_{ph}(E_0)}{J_{ph}(E_0)} \quad (14)$$

Evolution of the series resistance as function of the electric field is illustrate on the following figure 5:

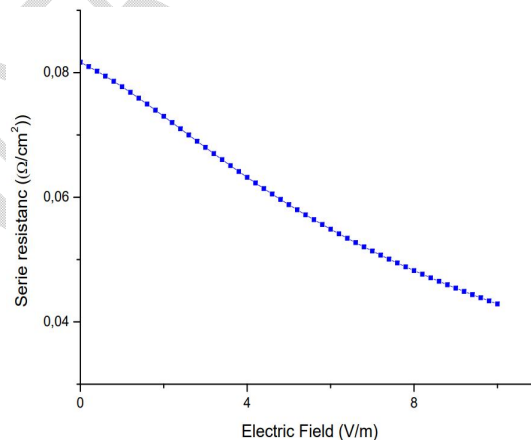


Figure 5: *Series resistance versus electric field intensity*

The analysis of the figure 5 shows that increase in the electric field intensity lead to the increase in the series resistance. We explain this result by the fact that, the electric field throughout the electric force make it easy for the charged carriers generated in the base to reach the junction. This lead to the

decrease in the series resistance. This result is in good agreement with the increase in the short circuit photocurrent.

3.5. Fill Factor

The fill factor is given by the equation (15) below [3,11]:

$$FF(E_0) = \frac{P_{el\max}(E_0)}{J_{cc}(E_0).V_{co}(E_0)} \quad (15)$$

The figure (6) below present the curve of fill factor versus electric field intensity:

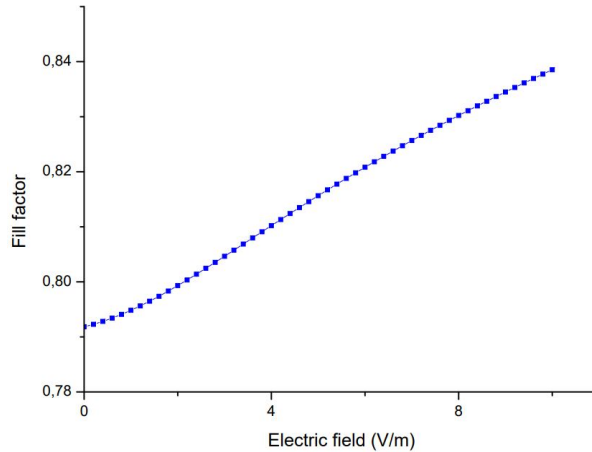


Figure 6 :Fill factor versus electrical field intensity

The analysis of the curve of the figure 7 shows that fill factor increases with the increase in electric field intensity. This result is in good agreement with the previous results.

3.6 Conversion Efficiency

The conversion efficiency of a PV solar cell is given by the equation (16) below [3, 11]:

$$\eta(E_0) = \frac{P_{el\max}(E_0)}{P_{inc}} \quad (16)$$

The PV solar cell being under intense illumination, the incident power P_{inc} is determinate from the following expression [15]:

$P_{inc} = 0,072 \text{ W / cm}^2 \times C$; C represent the number of suns and $C = 50$ suns and $P_{inc} = 3,6 \text{ W / cm}^2$ in the Air Mass 1.5.

We present on the figure (8) the curve of the conversion efficiency of the PV cell versus the electric field intensity:

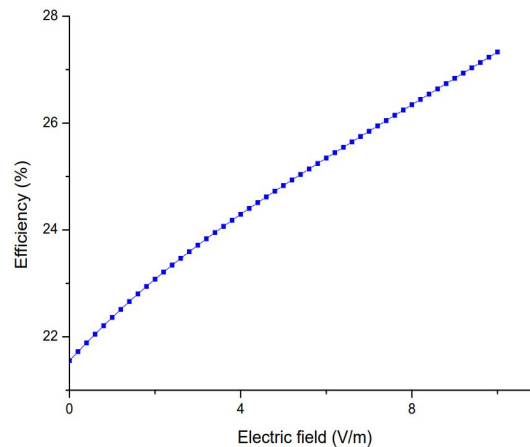


Figure 7: Efficiency profile versus electrical field intensity

It appears on the figure (8) that increase in the electric field intensity lead to the increase in conversion efficiency. This result is in good agreement with those of electric power and fill factor.

4. CONCLUSION

This work allow us to understand the behaviour of the electric parameters of a PV solar cell under intense illumination and an external electric field. It appears in this study that the presence of a electric field pointing in a certain direction improve the performances parameters of a PV cell under intense illumination except the open circuit photovoltage which decrease. Because of intense illumination and the high photogeneration of charged carriers, the PV cells under intense illumination operate under very high temperature. For the future works, we wish to take into account the effect of the heating of the base, because intense illumination lead to heating of the base.

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