

RESEARCH ARTICLE | NOVEMBER 06 2023

Performance assessment of hybrid PEMFC-solar energy integrated hybrid multi-generation system for energy production sport buildings

Balakrishna Kethineni; Iskandar Muda; Natalia Prodanova; Shavan Askar; Sherzod Abdullaev; Ali Shamel  ; Nasser Mikaeilvand 



+ [Author & Article Information](#)

J. Chem. Phys. 159, 174107 (2023)

<https://doi.org/10.1063/5.0173984> [Article history](#) 

Polymer membrane electrolyzers are a useful tool for producing hydrogen, which is a renewable energy source. Unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) fuel cells can be powered by the hydrogen and oxygen produced by the electrolyzer. The primary losses of polymer membrane electrolyzers must therefore be identified in order to maximize their performance. A renewable-based multi-energy system considers power, cooling, heating, and hydrogen energy as utility systems for integrated sport buildings. In this study, we investigate the effect of radiation intensity, current density, and other performance factors on the rate of hydrogen production in water electrolysis using a polymer membrane electrolyzer in combination with a solar concentrator. The findings showed that a rise in hydrogen generation led to an increase in current density, which increased the electrolyzer's voltage and decreased its energy and exergy efficiencies. The voltage was also increased, and the electrolyzer's efficiency was enhanced by a rise in temperature, a decrease in pressure, and a reduction in the thickness of the nafion membrane. Additionally, with a 145% increase in radiation intensity, hydrogen production increased by 110% while the electrolyzer's energy and exergy efficiencies decreased by 13.8% as a result of the electrolyzer's high input electric current to hydrogen output ratio.

Topics

[Energy efficiency](#), [Hydrogen energy](#), [Renewable energy](#), [Solar energy](#), [Fuel cells](#), [Electrolyzers](#)

REFERENCES

1. F. Barbir, "PEM electrolysis for production of hydrogen from renewable energy sources," *Sol. Energy* 78(5), 661–669 (2005).
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.solener.2004.09.003>
[Google Scholar](#) [Crossref](#)
2. M. Jahangiri, F. Karimi Shahmarvandi, and R. Alayi, "Renewable energy-based systems on a residential scale in southern coastal areas of Iran: Trigeneration of heat, power, and hydrogen," *J. Renewable Energy Environ.* 8(4), 67–76 (2021).
<https://doi.org/10.30501/jree.2021.261980.1170>
[Google Scholar](#)
3. N. Saberi Shahmarvandi, F. Shahrokh Ghahfarokhi, Z. Delshad Chermahini, A. Faramarzi, A. Raisi, R. Alayi, and A. Tahmasebi, "Effects of different target solar fractions on providing heat required for space heating, sanitary hot water, and swimming pool in Iran: A case study in cold climate," *J. Eng.* 2022, 1. <https://doi.org/10.1155/2022/2720057>
[Crossref](#)
4. I. Dincer, "Green methods for hydrogen production," *Int. J. Hydrogen Energy* 37(2), 1954–1971 (2012).
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijhydene.2011.03.173>
[Google Scholar](#) [Crossref](#)
5. S. A. Sherif, D. Y. Goswami, E. L. Stefanakos, and A. Steinfeld, *Handbook of Hydrogen Energy* (CRC Press, 2014).
[Google Scholar](#) [Crossref](#)
6. N. T. Alwan, M. H. Majeed, I. M. Khudhur, S. E. Shcheklein, O. M. Ali, S. J. Yaqoob, and R. Alayi, "Assessment of the performance of solar water heater: An experimental and theoretical investigation," *Int. J. Low-Carbon Technol.* 17, 528–539 (2022). <https://doi.org/10.1093/ijlct/ctac032>
[Google Scholar](#) [Crossref](#)

7. A. Shaikh, P. H. Shaikh, L. Kumar, N. H. Mirjat, Z. A. Memon, M. E. H. Assad, and R. Alayi, "Design and modeling of a grid-connected PV–WT hybrid microgrid system using net metering facility," *Iran. J. Sci. Technol., Trans. Electr. Eng.* 46(4), 1189–1205 (2022). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40998-022-00530-4>
[Google Scholar](#) [Crossref](#)
8. R. Alayi, M. R. B. Khan, and M. S. G. Mohmammadi, "Feasibility study of grid-connected PV system for peak demand reduction of a residential building in Tehran, Iran," *Math. Modell. Eng. Probl.* 7(4), (2020). <https://doi.org/10.18280/mmep.070408>
[Google Scholar](#)
9. J. Zhang, Z. Su, J. Meng, Y. Yao, and R. Alayi, "Techno-economic and sensitivity analysis of a hybrid concentrated photovoltaic/thermal system and an organic Rankine cycle to supply energy to sports stadiums," *IET Renewable Power Gener.* (published online) (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1049/rpg2.12790>
[Google Scholar](#)
10. M. H. Lin, J. H. Lin, M. El Haj Assad, R. Alayi, and S. R. Seyednouri, "Optimal location and sizing of wind turbines and photovoltaic cells in the grid for load supply using improved genetic algorithm," *J. Renewable Energy Environ.* 10(2), 9–18 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.30501/jree.2022.327250.1321>
[Google Scholar](#)
11. A. Albaker, N. C. Carbajal, M. O. F. Athó, A. N. Fernandez, M. D. C. D. Laime, A. M. B. Echavarria, R. Alayi, and M. Aladdin, "Thermodynamic analysis of absorption refrigeration cycles by parabolic trough collectors," *Phys. Fluids* 35(6), 067118 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1063/5.0153839>
[Google Scholar](#) [Crossref](#)
12. M. Jahangiri, F. Raeiszadeh, R. Alayi, A. Najafi, and A. Tahmasebi, "Development of rural tourism in Iran using PV-based system: Finding the best economic configuration," *J. Renewable Energy Environ.* 9(4), 1–9 (2022). <https://doi.org/10.30501/jree.2022.298089.1234>
[Google Scholar](#)
13. A. A. A. Anazi, M. I. Alghamdi, A. Chammam, M. S. Kadhm, I. H. Al-Kharsan, and R. Alayi, "Theoretical analysis of an

integrated, CPVT membrane distillation system for cooling, heating, power and seawater desalination,” *Water* 15(7), 1345 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.3390/w15071345>

[Google Scholar](#) [Crossref](#)

14. A. A. AlZahrani and I. Dincer, “Design and analysis of a solar tower based integrated system using high temperature electrolyzer for hydrogen production,” *Int. J. Hydrogen Energy* 41(19), 8042–8056 (2016).

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijhydene.2015.12.103>

[Google Scholar](#) [Crossref](#)

15. A. Aldawoud, A. Aldawoud, Y. Aryanfar, M. E. H. Assad, S. Sharma, and R. Alayi, “Reducing PV soiling and condensation using hydrophobic coating with brush and controllable curtains,” *Int. J. Low-Carbon Technol.* 17, 919–930 (2022).

<https://doi.org/10.1093/ijlct/ctac056>

[Google Scholar](#) [Crossref](#)

16. A. A. Al Anazi, A. Albaker, W. Anupong, A. R. Asary, R. S. Umurzoqovich, I. Muda, and L. Kumar, “Technical, economic, and environmental analysis and comparison of different scenarios for the grid-connected PV power plant,” *Sustainability* 14(24), 16803 (2022). <https://doi.org/10.3390/su142416803>

[Google Scholar](#) [Crossref](#)

17. A. Abdol Rahim, A. S. Tijani, S. K. Kamarudin, and S. Hanapi, “An overview of polymer electrolyte membrane electrolyzer for hydrogen production: Modeling and mass transport,” *J. Power Sources* 309, 56–65 (2016).

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpowsour.2016.01.012>

[Google Scholar](#) [Crossref](#)

18. T. C. Chen, T. C. A. Kumar, N. K. A. Dwijendra, A. Majdi, A. R. Asary, A. H. Iswanto, and R. Alayi, “Energy and exergy analysis of the impact of renewable energy with combined solid oxide fuel cell and micro-gas Turbine on poly-generation smart-grids,” *Water* 15(6), 1069, (2023).

<https://doi.org/10.3390/w15061069>

[Google Scholar](#) [Crossref](#)

19. Z. Abdin, C. J. Webb, and E. M. Gray, “Modelling and simulation of a proton exchange membrane (PEM) electrolyser

cell,” *Int. J. Hydrogen Energy* 40(39), 13243–13257 (2015).

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijhydene.2015.07.129>

[Google Scholar](#) [Crossref](#)

20. S. Ahmadi and A. H. Fakehi Khorasani, “Optimization of the operating temperature and pressure of the PEM electrolyzer based on energy and exergy analysis,” *Iran. J. Energy* 18(3), 1–14 (2015) (in Persian); available at <http://necjournals.ir/article-1-738-en.html>.

[Google Scholar](#)

21. A. Godula-Jopek, *Hydrogen Production: By Electrolysis* (John Wiley & Sons, 2015).

[Google Scholar](#) [Crossref](#)

22. K. Kokoh, E. Mayousse, T. Napporn, K. Servat, N. Guillet, E. Soyez, A. Grosjean, A. Rakotondrainibé, and J. Paul-Joseph, “Efficient multi-metallic anode catalysts in a PEM water electrolyzer,” *Int. J. Hydrogen Energy* 39(5), 1924–1931 (2014).

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijhydene.2013.11.076>

[Google Scholar](#) [Crossref](#)

23. K. W. Harrison, E. Hernández-Pacheco, M. Mann, and H. Salehfar, “Semiempirical model for determining PEM electrolyzer stack characteristics,” *J. Fuel Cell Sci. Technol.* 3(2), 220–223 (2006). <https://doi.org/10.1115/1.2174072>

[Google Scholar](#) [Crossref](#)

24. N. V. Dale, M. D. Mann, and H. Salehfar, “Semiempirical model based on thermodynamic principles for determining 6 kW proton exchange membrane electrolyzer stack characteristics,” *J. Power Sources* 185(2), 1348–1353 (2008).

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpowsour.2008.08.054>

[Google Scholar](#) [Crossref](#)

25. M. Santarelli, P. Medina, and M. Cali, “Fitting regression model and experimental validation for a high-pressure PEM electrolyzer,” *Int. J. Hydrogen Energy* 34(6), 2519–2530 (2009).

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijhydene.2008.11.036>

[Google Scholar](#) [Crossref](#)

26. M. Chandesris, V. Médeau, N. Guillet, S. Chelghoum, D. Thoby, and F. Fouda-Onana, “Membrane degradation in PEM water electrolyzer: Numerical modeling and experimental

evidence of the influence of temperature and current density,”

Int. J. Hydrogen Energy 40(3), 1353–1366 (2015).

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijhydene.2014.11.111>

[Google Scholar](#) [Crossref](#)

27. D. Scamman, H. Bustamante, S. Hallett, and M. Newborough, “Off-grid solar-hydrogen generation by passive electrolysis,” *Int. J. Hydrogen Energy* 39(35), 19855–19868 (2014). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijhydene.2014.10.021>

[Google Scholar](#) [Crossref](#)

28. T. L. Gibson and N. A. Kelly, “Optimization of solar powered hydrogen production using photovoltaic electrolysis devices,” *Int. J. Hydrogen Energy* 33(21), 5931–5940 (2008).

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijhydene.2008.05.106>

[Google Scholar](#) [Crossref](#)

29. B. Paul and J. Andrews, “Optimal coupling of PV arrays to PEM electrolyzers in solar–hydrogen systems for remote area power supply,” *Int. J. Hydrogen Energy* 33(2), 490–498 (2008).

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijhydene.2007.10.040>

[Google Scholar](#) [Crossref](#)

30. S. A. Kalogirou, “Solar thermal collectors and applications,” *Prog. Energy Combust. Sci.* 30(3), 231–295 (2004).

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pecs.2004.02.001>

[Google Scholar](#) [Crossref](#)

31. Y. Aryanfar, M. E. H. Assad, A. Khosravi, R. S. Atique, S. Sharma, J. L. G. Alcaraz, and R. Alayi, “Energy, exergy and economic analysis of combined solar ORC-VCC power plant,” *Int. J. Low-Carbon Technol.* 17, 196–205 (2022).

<https://doi.org/10.1093/ijlct/ctab099>

[Google Scholar](#) [Crossref](#)

32. A. S. Joshi, I. Dincer, and B. V. Reddy, “Solar hydrogen production: A comparative performance assessment,” *Int. J. Hydrogen Energy* 36(17), 11246–11257 (2011).

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijhydene.2010.11.122>

[Google Scholar](#) [Crossref](#)

33. T. C. Chen, J. R. N. Alvarez, N. K. A. Dwijendra, Z. J. Kadhim, R. Alayi, R. Kumar, and V. I. Velkin, “Modeling and optimization of combined heating, power, and gas production

system based on renewable energies,” *Sustainability* 15(10), 7888 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.3390/su15107888>

[Google Scholar](#) [Crossref](#)

34. C. Y. Biaku, N. V. Dale, M. D. Mann, H. Salehfar, A. J. Peters, and T. Han, “A semiempirical study of the temperature dependence of the anode charge transfer coefficient of a 6 kW PEM electrolyzer,” *Int. J. Hydrogen Energy* 33(16), 4247–4254 (2008). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijhydene.2008.06.006>

[Google Scholar](#) [Crossref](#)

35. R. García-Valverde, N. Espinosa, and A. Urbina, “Simple PEM water electrolyser model and experimental validation,” *Int. J. Hydrogen Energy* 37(2), 1927–1938 (2012).

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijhydene.2011.09.027>

[Google Scholar](#) [Crossref](#)

36. R. Rivero and M. Garfias, “Standard chemical exergy of elements updated,” *Int. J. Hydrogen Energy* 31(15), 3310–3326 (2006). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.energy.2006.03.020>

[Google Scholar](#) [Crossref](#)

37. F. Marangio, M. Santarelli, and M. Cali, “Theoretical model and experimental analysis of a high pressure PEM water electrolyser for hydrogen production,” *Int. J. Hydrogen Energy* 34(3), 1143–1158 (2009).

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijhydene.2008.11.083>

[Google Scholar](#) [Crossref](#)

38. T. Ioroi, K. Yasuda, Z. Siroma, N. Fujiwara, and Y. Miyazaki, “Thin film electrocatalyst layer for unitized regenerative polymer electrolyte fuel cells,” *J. Power Sources* 112(2), 583–587 (2002).

[https://doi.org/10.1016/s0378-7753\(02\)00466-4](https://doi.org/10.1016/s0378-7753(02)00466-4)

[Google Scholar](#) [Crossref](#)

© 2023 Author(s). Published under an exclusive license by AIP Publishing.

You do not currently have access to this content.

Sign in

Don't already have an account? [Register](#)

Sign In

Username

Password

[Reset password](#)

[Register](#)

Sign in via your Institution

[Sign in via your Institution](#)

Pay-Per-View Access
\$40.00

 [BUY THIS ARTICLE](#)