

## Simple formula for designing the PID controller of a DC-DC buck converter

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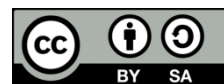
Simple PID design

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### ABSTRACT

This paper proposes a simple way to design a proportional integral derivative proportional integral derivative (PID) controller for a DC-DC buck converter. This work concerns getting the formula to calculate  $K_p$ ,  $K_i$ , and  $K_d$  parameters from a PID controller easily. The main advantage of this formula is that the tuning process of the  $K_p$ ,  $K_i$  and  $K_d$  parameters of the PID controller will be simplified just by entering the  $R$ ,  $L$ , and  $C$  component values of the buck converter into the formula. The synthesis process of the formula is explained step by step. State space analysis is used to model the equations and transfer functions of the buck converter. The transfer function of the PID controller and buck converter was analyzed to obtain the Buck Converter system's closed loop transfer function. The formula for calculating the parameters  $K_p$ ,  $K_i$  and  $K_d$  of the PID controller is derived from the closed loop transfer function of the buck converter system. Numerical simulations are provided to confirm the effectiveness of the proposed PID controller. The performance of the buck converter controlled by the proposed PID controller was tested under various load conditions.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

A DC-DC converter is an electronic circuit that converts a DC voltage source from one DC voltage level to another DC voltage level. DC-DC converters are widely used in many electronic industrial applications because they have high efficiency and can provide adjustable voltage output [1]–[4]. The DC-DC converters are often used as dc motor drives [5], [6]. DC-DC converters are also widely used in supporting devices in renewable energy generation, such as output voltage stabilizers from renewable energy devices such as photovoltaic (PV) [7]–[9]. Many researchers have studied and designed DC-DC converters to get high performance and higher power efficiency [10]–[13].

One of the topologies for DC-DC converters that is used the most frequently is called a buck converter. This particular converter is used to bring high DC voltage down to a more manageable level. The buck converter has a straightforward construction. Components such as MOSFETs and diodes that perform the function of switching are active, while components such as inductors and capacitors that perform the function of output filtering are passive. The active components make up the main circuit. Buck converters, when they contain components such as inductors, capacitors, and switching elements, transform into nonlinear, second-order systems [14], [15].

The buck converter requires a good controller that can control the MOSFET switching signal to produce the appropriate duty cycle in order for it to be able to produce stable output with a quick response. In this case, the control technique that is utilized is a significant factor that plays a role in determining the performance of the switching converter [12], [15]. A good controller needs to be efficient, providing solutions that are straightforward and realistic, so that it can achieve desirable levels of performance despite the presence of disturbances and uncertainties in the system.

A wide variety of controllers, such as proportional integral derivative (PID) controllers, sliding mode control [16], [17], internal model control [18], [19], dynamic evolution control [13], and several types of adaptive control, have been used to accomplish the goal of high performance and high power efficiency. A controller known as a proportional integral derivative (PID) controller is one of the types of controllers that are frequently used in industry. Because of its straightforward construction, reliable performance, and user-friendliness, the PID controller has emerged as a de facto standard across many industries. The selection of the parameters proportional gain ( $K_P$ ), integral gain ( $K_I$ ), and derivative gain ( $K_D$ ) has a significant impact on the performance of the PID controller, which is one of the challenges associated with making use of a PID controller. It is essential to determine the values of the parameters  $K_P$ ,  $K_I$  and  $K_D$  because incorrect values will result in a response from the system that is less than ideal. Because the process of calculating the values of  $K_P$ ,  $K_I$  and  $K_D$  typically involves the use of complicated formulas, the values of  $K_P$ ,  $K_I$  and  $K_D$  are typically obtained through the use of a tuning process.

Conventional tuning methods such as trial-and-error, gain scheduling, Ziegler-Nichols [20], the genetic algorithm [21], and the particle swarm optimization algorithm [22]–[24] are frequently used in the process of determining PID parameters. Other common tuning methods include gain scheduling, Ziegler-Nichols [20], and the genetic algorithm [21]. These conventional PID tuning methods are regarded as being less than optimal, and performing calculations using this method is considered to be relatively challenging.

A straightforward formula that can be used to determine the  $K_P$ ,  $K_I$  and  $K_D$  values of the PID controller for a buck converter is going to be proposed in this article. Without having to go through a difficult and time-consuming process of tuning, the parameter values of  $K_P$ ,  $K_I$  and  $K_D$  can be quickly and easily calculated with the help of this formula. To calculate the values of  $K_P$ ,  $K_I$  and  $K_D$ , all that needs to be done is plug the component values of  $R$ ,  $L$ , and  $C$  derived from the buck converter into the appropriate spaces in the formula. Under a wide variety of load conditions, the performance of the buck converter that was controlled by the proposed PID controller was evaluated. The environment of MATLAB and simulink was utilized for the carrying out of the experiments.

## 2. MODELING AND ANALYSIS OF DC-DC BUCK CONVERTER SYSTEM

### 2.1. Operation and modelling of DC-DC buck converter

Buck converters are a type of power electronic converter that take a direct current voltage at one level and convert it to a lower level at the output. Buck converters are also known as “bucking converters”. The primary circuit of a buck converter is comprised of two static switches, which are typically a mosfet and a diode, and is then followed by an inductor-capacitor filter. Figure 1 presents the buck converter's circuit diagram in the form of a schematic. The functionality of the buck converter can be broken down into two distinct mode states, which are referred to respectively as the switch ON state and the switch OFF state, as shown in Figure 2.

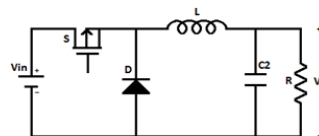


Figure 1. DC-DC buck converter schematic diagram



Figure 2. DC-DC buck converter operation mode (a) ON state and (b) OFF state

### 2.1.1. Switch ON state

The operation modes during the switch-on state are shown in Figure 2(a). When switch S is in the ON state, the input voltage  $V_{in}$  is connected to the inductor and diode. Current flows to the load through the inductor. During this stage, the inductor current increases linearly. The diode is reverse biased, resulting in no current flowing through the diode. By applying Kirchhoff's voltage law to the circuit diagram of Figure 2(a), obtained in (1) and (2).

$$V_{in} - \frac{di_L}{dt} - V_C = 0 \quad (1)$$

$$\frac{di_L}{dt} = \frac{V_{in} - V_C}{L} \quad (2)$$

By applying Kirchhoff's current law in the circuit diagram of Figure 2(a), obtained in (3) and (4).

$$\frac{V_C}{R} + C \frac{dV_C}{dt} = i_L \quad (3)$$

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

### 2.1.2. Switch OFF state

The operation modes during the switch-off state are shown in Figure 2(b). When switch S is in the OFF state, the input voltage  $V_{in}$  is released from the inductor. The current from the input voltage is cut off. The inductor transfers the stored energy to the load. The inductor delivers current to the load. During this stage, the inductor current decreases linearly. The diode is forward-biased and delivers current from the load back to the inductor. By applying Kirchhoff's voltage law to the circuit diagram of Figure 2(b), obtained in (5) and (6).

$$L \frac{di_L}{dt} + V_C = 0 \quad (5)$$

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

By applying Kirchhoff's current law in the circuit diagram of Figure 2(b), obtained in (7) and (8).

$$\frac{V_C}{R} + C \frac{dV_C}{dt} = i_L \quad (7)$$

$$\frac{dV_C}{dt} = \frac{i_L}{C} - \frac{V_C}{RC} \quad (8)$$

## 2.2. State space model of DC-DC buck converter

The state-space model is a linear presentation of a dynamic system. The state-space model describes a time-invariant linear system in the form of a matrix equation. State-space models are often used to model the performance of a linear or nonlinear system [25]–[27]. A Buck converter is a system that operates in a switching mode. This causes the Buck converter to become a non-linear system. The state space averaging method is a powerful method for analyzing non-linear systems such as Buck converters [28].

The state space model of buck converter during switch ON state are derived using (2) and (4). From (2) and (4), the equation of the switch ON state condition can be written in matrix form as (9).

$$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{di_L}{dt} \\ \frac{dV_C}{dt} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -\frac{1}{L} \\ \frac{1}{C} & -\frac{1}{RC} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} i_L \\ V_C \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{L} \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} V_{in} \quad (9)$$

The state space model of buck converter during switches OFF state are derived using (6) and (8). From (6) and (8), the equation of the switch OFF state condition can be written in matrix form as (10).

$$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{di_L}{dt} \\ \frac{dV_C}{dt} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -\frac{1}{L} \\ \frac{1}{C} & -\frac{1}{RC} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} i_L \\ V_C \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} V_{in} \quad (10)$$

From (9) and (10), the state space model of the buck converter during switch ON state and switch OFF states can be written as (11) and (12).

$$\text{During switch ON: } \dot{X} = A_1 \cdot X + B_1 \cdot U \quad (11)$$

$$\text{During switch OFF: } \dot{X} = A_2 \cdot X + B_2 \cdot U \quad (12)$$

With the values of matrices  $X, A_1, A_2, B_1, B_2, U$  are:

$$X = \begin{bmatrix} i_L \\ V_C \end{bmatrix}, \quad \dot{X} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{di_L}{dt} \\ \frac{dV_C}{dt} \end{bmatrix}, \quad U = V_{in}$$

$$A_1 = A_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -\frac{1}{L} \\ \frac{1}{C} & -\frac{1}{RC} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$B_1 = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{L} \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad B_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

the state space averaging technique is then applied to obtain the equivalent matrices A and B for the buck converter system. Matrices A and B are calculated using (13) and (14):

$$A = A_1 \cdot d + A_2 \cdot (1 - d) \quad (13)$$

$$B = B_1 \cdot d + B_2 \cdot (1 - d) \quad (14)$$

where 'd' and '(1-d)' are the duty cycle for ON and OFF stages respectively [28]-[30].

Since the output voltage of the buck converter is the same as the output capacitor voltage, the output voltage equation can be written in matrix form:

$$V_o = [0 \quad 1] \begin{bmatrix} i_L \\ V_C \end{bmatrix}$$

finally, the complete state space model of the buck converter system is written as (15) and (16).

$$\dot{X} = A \cdot X + B \cdot U \quad (15)$$

$$Y = C \cdot X + D \cdot U \quad (16)$$

Where Y and U are the output and input voltages, respectively. The values of matrices A, B and C in state space model of the buck converter system are:

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -\frac{1}{L} \\ \frac{1}{C} & -\frac{1}{RC} \end{bmatrix}, B = \begin{bmatrix} d \\ \frac{d}{L} \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, C = [0 \quad 1],$$

and 'D' represents the feed forward gain matrix and its value is '0' for this system.

### 2.3. Buck converter transfer function

The transfer function of the buck converter system can be derived based on the state-space model in (15) and (16). The Laplace transform of the state (15) produces in (17) and (18).

$$sX = A \cdot X + B \cdot U \quad (17)$$

$$X = (sI - A)^{-1} \cdot BU \quad (18)$$

By substituting (18) into (16), the output voltage equation can be written as (19).

$$Y = C.(sI - A)^{-1}.BU + DU \quad (19)$$

Hence, the transfer function of the system converter buck can be written as (20).

$$\frac{Y}{U} = C.(sI - A)^{-1}.B + D \quad (20)$$

After substitution of the values of the A, B, and C matrices into (20), the transfer function of the buck converter is described by (21) and (22).

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

$$\frac{V_o(s)}{d(s)} = \frac{V_{in}}{LCS^2 + \frac{L}{R}S + 1} \quad (22)$$

### 3. FORMULA TO DETERMINE PID CONTROL PARAMETERS FOR DC-DC BUCK CONVERTER

In this work, a closed-loop controller for a buck converter will be designed using a PID controller. The PID controller's control mechanism includes a feedback cycle that corrects the error value between the measured system output and a predetermined set point value. The difference in the resulting value is calculated to provide a control action to achieve the set value. The PID Controller involves three separate parameters, namely proportional gain ( $K_P$ ), integral gain ( $K_I$ ), and derivative gain ( $K_D$ ), as shown in Figure 3.

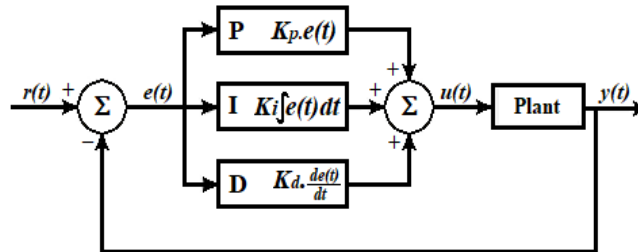


Figure 3. PID Controller block diagram

The PID controller equation can be written in the time domain as in (23).

$$U(t) = K_P \cdot e(t) + K_I \int e(t) dt + K_D \frac{de(t)}{dt} \quad (23)$$

The PID controller equation can also be written in the frequency domain as in (24).

$$U(s) = \left[ K_P + \frac{K_I}{s} + K_D \cdot s \right] \cdot E(s) \quad (24)$$

The PID controller transfer function can be written as in (25) and (26).

$$\frac{U(s)}{E(s)} = K_P + \frac{K_I}{s} + K_D \cdot s \quad (25)$$

$$\frac{U(s)}{E(s)} = \frac{K_D \cdot s^2 + K_P s + K_I}{s} \quad (26)$$

Block diagram of the PID controller for DC-DC Buck Converter can be described as in Figure 4.

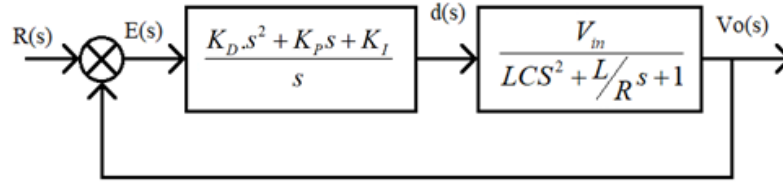


Figure 4. Block diagram of the PID controlled DC-DC buck converter

Open loop transfer function of buck converter system:

$$\frac{V_o(s)}{E(s)} = \frac{K_D \cdot s^2 + K_P s + K_I}{s} \cdot \frac{V_{in}}{LCs^2 + \frac{L}{R}s + 1}$$

$$\frac{V_o(s)}{E(s)} = \frac{(K_D s^2 + K_P s + K_I) \cdot V_{in}}{(LCs^2 + \frac{L}{R}s + 1) \cdot s} \quad (27)$$

close loop transfer function of buck converter system is:

$$\frac{V_o(s)}{V_{ref}(s)} = \frac{\frac{(K_D s^2 + K_P s + K_I) \cdot V_{in}}{(LCs^2 + \frac{L}{R}s + 1) \cdot s}}{1 + \frac{(K_D s^2 + K_P s + K_I) \cdot V_{in}}{(LCs^2 + \frac{L}{R}s + 1) \cdot s}}$$

$$\frac{V_o(s)}{V_{ref}(s)} = \frac{(K_D s^2 + K_P s + K_I) \cdot V_{in}}{(LCs^2 + \frac{L}{R}s + 1) \cdot s + (K_D s^2 + K_P s + K_I) \cdot V_{in}} \quad (28)$$

to get a simpler buck converter transfer function, it can be done by making the coefficients of the  $(K_D s^2 + K_P s + K_I)$  and  $(LCs^2 + \frac{L}{R}s + 1)$  parts to be equal.

$$(K_D s^2 + K_P s + K_I) = (LCs^2 + \frac{L}{R}s + 1) \quad (29)$$

Hence:

$$K_D = LC \quad (30)$$

$$K_P = \frac{L}{R} \quad (31)$$

$$K_I = 1 \quad (32)$$

by selecting the values of  $K_P$ ,  $K_I$  and  $K_D$  as above, then the closed loop transfer function of the buck converter system will be simple as (33):

$$\frac{V_o(s)}{V_{ref}(s)} = \frac{V_{in}}{s + V_{in}} \quad (33)$$

in order to get faster controller response, the value of  $K_P$ ,  $K_I$  and  $K_D$  must be multiplied by a certain Gain. In this paper, the Gain value of 50 was chosen. So, the formula to determine  $K_P$ ,  $K_I$  and  $K_D$  as (34)-(36):

$$K_D = 50 \cdot LC \quad (34)$$

$$K_P = 50 \cdot \frac{L}{R} \quad (35)$$

$$K_I = 50 \quad (36)$$

#### 4. IMPLEMENTATION OF PID CONTROL FOR DC-DC BUCK CONVERTER SYSTEM

##### 4.1. Determination of PID controller parameters

To investigate the performance of the proposed control system, a PID-controlled buck converter has been implemented. A DC-DC buck converter has been modeled, complete with a PID controller. The specifications of the buck converter system are listed in Table 1. The implementation of PID control for the dc-dc buck converter system begins with the calculation of the PID parameters using the proposed formula. Based on Table 1, a PID-controlled buck converter is taken as an example for experimental verification with the following circuit parameters:  $L = 50 \mu H$ ,  $C = 220 \mu F$ , and  $R = 10 \Omega$ .

The mathematical formula to determine the PID parameter of the buck converter is:  $K_P = 50 \cdot \frac{L}{R}$ ,  $K_I = 50$ , and  $K_D = 50 \cdot LC$ . By using this formula, the values of  $K_P$ ,  $K_I$  and  $K_D$  can be obtained easily by substituting the values of the components L, C and R on the buck converter into the formula. From the calculation, the values of  $K_P$ ,  $K_I$  and  $K_D$  that will be used are:  $K_P = 2.5 \times 10^{-4}$ ,  $K_I = 50$ , and  $K_D = 5 \times 10^{-7}$ .

Table 1. Buck converter specification

Parameter	Value	Unit
Input voltage	12	V
Output voltage	5	V
Inductor	50	uH
Capacitor	220	uF
Load Resistance	10	ohm
Switching Frequency	22	kHz

##### 4.2. Simulation results

A buck converter system has been modeled in MATLAB SIMULINK to test how well the proposed formula-based PID controller works. Figure 5 shows the Simulink model of a buck converter that is controlled by a formula-based PID controller. In this experiment, the buck converter is supplied with an input voltage of 12 volt, and the reference voltage is set to 5 volt. This means the buck converter is expected to produce an output voltage of 5V from an input voltage of 12 volt. The PID controller parameters are set with value of  $K_P = 2.5 \times 10^{-4}$ ,  $K_I = 50$ , and  $K_D = 5 \times 10^{-7}$  as shown in Figure 6.

The simulation results of the buck converter system controlled by the formula-based PID are shown in Figure 7. The output voltage waveforms of a DC-DC buck converter are shown in Figure 7. By providing a constant input voltage of 12 volt to the buck converter and setting the reference voltage to 5 volt, the buck converter produces an output voltage of 4,978 volt, which is very close to 5 volt. At the initial start, there is an overshoot at the output voltage with a peak of 5.3 volt. The output voltage of the buck converter reaches a steady state within 10ms with a ripple voltage of 50 mV. These results indicate that the proposed formula-based PID controller can control the output voltage of the buck converter with very good accuracy.

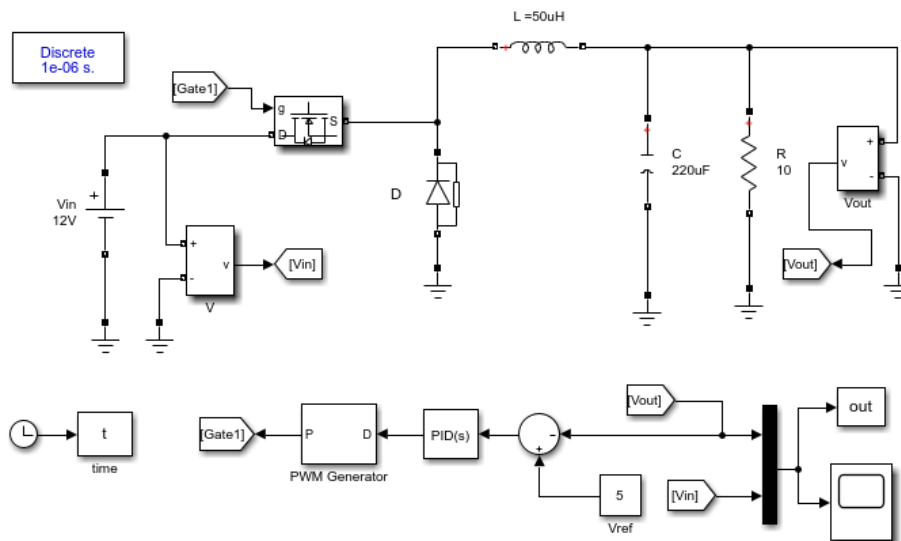


Figure 5. Simulink model of a PID-controlled buck converter system

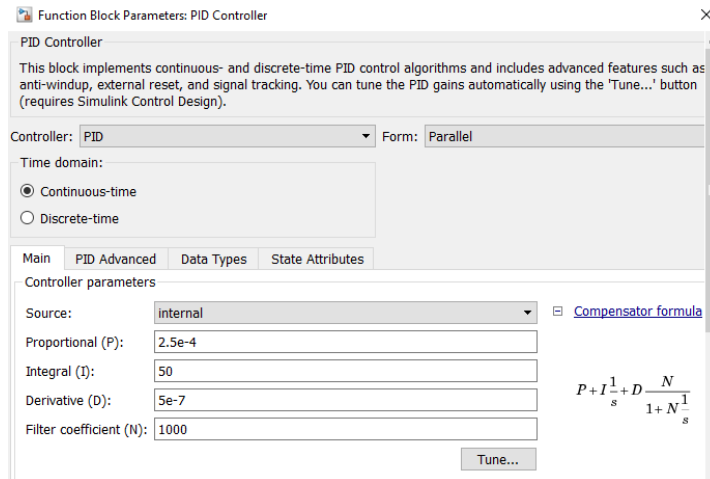


Figure 6. Setting of block parameter PID controller in MATLAB Simulink

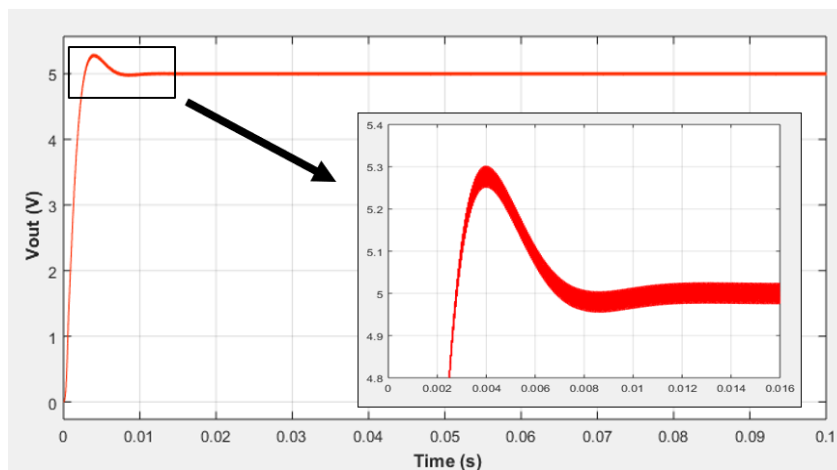


Figure 7. Output voltage waveform of the buck converter

### 4.3. Various load test

In this experiment, a buck converter controlled by a formula-based PID has been tested with various loads. The buck converter is loaded with a resistive load whose value varies from 5  $\Omega$  to 50  $\Omega$ . A constant of 12 volts is applied to the input voltage. The reference voltage is set to 5 V. The experimental results are shown in Table 2. The experimental results show that the proposed PID controller has the ability to control the Buck Converter to produce a very accurate output voltage. The resulting output voltage is very close to the set reference voltage. The biggest error percentage is 0.78% at load  $R = 5 \Omega$ , while the smallest error percentage is 0.16% at load  $R = 50 \Omega$ . The average error percentage in this test is 0.35%. These results show the average accuracy is 99.65%.

Table 2. Test results at various load with 5V reference voltage

Load ( $\Omega$ )	Output voltage (volt)	Error (%)
5	4,961	0.78
10	4,971	0.58
15	4,978	0.44
20	4,982	0.36
25	4,985	0.30
30	4,987	0.26
35	4,989	0.22
40	4,990	0.20
45	4,991	0.18
50	4,992	0.16



## 5. CONCLUSION

In this paper, the DC-DC buck converter control system is discussed and analyzed step by step. It is proposed that a straightforward formula could be used in the development of a PID controller for a DC-DC buck converter. The procedure for formula synthesis is broken down into its component parts. The formula that produced in this proposed research was  $K_p = 2.5 \times 10^{-4}$ ,  $K_i = 50$ , and  $K_D = 5 \times 10^{-7}$ . The performance of the buck converter, which is controlled by the proposed PID controller, has been investigated under a variety of load conditions. From the simulation results it was found that the biggest error percentage is 0.78% at load  $R = 5 \Omega$ , while the smallest error percentage is 0.16% at load  $R = 50 \Omega$ . The average error percentage in this test is 0.35%. These results show the average accuracy is 99.65%. The findings from the simulation demonstrate that the PID controller that was proposed is capable of controlling the Buck Converter in an effective manner and very good accuracy.

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