

Underestimated PV Inverters





Overview

What is a PV inverter?

2.1 Introduction PV inverters consist of multiple components , including power semiconductors, sensors, resistors, magnetics, control circuits, and auxiliary power supplies. All these components introduce some amount of power loss in the converter. Most of the time these losses dissipate as heat and lead to an increase in local temperature.

How is the lifetime of a PV inverter predicted?

Up to a certain point in time, the entire lifetime of a PV inverter was predicted based on the failure rates of individual components and handbooks provided by the manufacturers. In recent years, the prediction of the reliability and lifetime of power converters has been done through physics-of-failure assessments.

How reliable is an inverter system?

4.6 Inverter System Reliability and Lifetime The system reliability of the inverter depends on the number of components. In a system with n components, the system cannot perform if one of the n components fails. The total unreliability is given by:.

Can a PV inverter predict reliability?

With this in mind, this report showcases and describes an approach to help assess and predict the reliability of PV inverters. To predict reliability, thermal cycling is considered as a prominent stressor in the inverter system.



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