Photovoltaic Systems with Cascaded Modular Multilevel Converters for Feeding Variable-Speed Drives
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Abstract - The penetration of photovoltaic (PV) solar power generation in distributed generation (DG) systems is growing rapidly. This condition imposes new requirements to the operation and management of the distribution grid, especially when high penetration levels are achieved. Under this scenario, the power electronics technology plays a vital role in ensuring an effective grid integration of the PV system, since it is subject to requirements related not only to the variable source itself but also to its effects on the stability and operation of the electric grid. This paper proposes an enhanced interface for the grid connection of PV solar systems. The relationship between output voltage components of each module and power generation is analyzed with the help of a newly derived vector diagram which illustrates the proposed power distribution principle. On top of this, an effective control system including active and reactive components extraction, voltage distribution and synthesis, is developed to achieve independent active and reactive power distribution and mitigate the aforementioned issue. Finally, a 3-MW, 12-kV PV system with the proposed control strategy is modeled and simulated in MATLAB. Simulation and experimental results are provided to demonstrate the effectiveness of the proposed control strategy for large-scale grid connected cascaded PA full detailed model is described and its control scheme is designed. The dynamic performance of the designed architecture is verified by computer simulations and further extension can be done using Fuzzy Logic Controller.

I. INTRODUCTION
The present technology depends on renewable energy sources. In that mainly focused on PV System. The utilization of the grid connected Photovoltaic (PV) system can be increased being pursued as a supplement and an alternative to the conventional method of power generation to meet the energy demand. The major concentration of integrating PV system into the grid is stochastic behaviors of solar irradiances and interfacing of inverters with the grid in [1]. The Maximum power point tracking (MPPT) technique is widely used to extract maximum power from the PV system that is delivered to the grid through the inverter in [2]. The modular multilevel converter (MMC) was introduced in 2002 [1] as dc–ac configuration for high-voltage dc power transmission. The use of this topology for feeding electrical drives in the range of medium voltage was proposed in [2] and [3]. First, experimental results with low-voltage prototypes of MMC-based drive converters are shown in [4] and [5]. The most challenging issue of operating the MMC at low frequency, which is necessary for variable-speed drives, was first solved in [6]. The increasing amount of the energy pulsation in the capacitors of the cells at low frequencies or even standstill is reduced to acceptable values by the use of an ac common mode voltage with corresponding inner currents. An appropriate control scheme, especially for this low-frequency mode, is presented in [7] and [8]. Here, a cascaded structure with subordinated current control loops and filter-based energy control loops is proposed. The optimization of the modulation [9] as well as the dimensioning process of the MMC [10] allow an efficient and high dynamic operation of the MMC for feeding three-phase machines. In [10] and [11], experimental results based on this control scheme and optimizations are shown. For an operation at nominal torque of the machine even at low frequencies, see [12], the MMC has to be over dimensioned with respect to the additional current stress of the inner balancing currents compared to the operating point at nominal speed. The authors of [12] proposed a new method for reducing the energy pulsation in the range of intermediate-speed and present extensive measuring results of steady-state operations at different frequencies. A further improvement for reducing the peak values of the inner currents by using square-wave currents for the balancing task is shown in [13]. This method causes large ac-contents in the dc voltage respectively in the dc current. A dynamic control of the MMC for feeding electric drives is proposed in [14] and demonstrated by experimental results. However, in [12]–[14], no waveform of the dc current is shown, which is also an important aspect regarding additional current stress of the dc-voltage source due to a possible harmonic content.

II. PHOTOVOLTAIC MODULE
Modelling is the basis for computer simulation of a real system. It is usually based on a theoretical analysis of the various physical processes occurring in the system and of all factors influencing these processes. The most common model used to predict energy production in photovoltaic cell modelling is the single diode circuit model that
represents the electrical behaviour of the pn-junction is given in fig 1. Figure shows how photovoltaic system works. The ideal photovoltaic module consists of a single diode.

A solar cell is the building block of a solar panel. A photovoltaic module is formed by connecting many solar cells in series and parallel. Considering only a single solar cell; it can be modelled by utilizing a current source, a diode and two resistors. This model is known as a single diode model of solar cell.

3.1. Function of the Arm Inductances

The inductances L decouple the six voltage sources realized by the arms of the MMC. In this approach, the inductances allow the individual adjustment of the several currents by the respective current control loops with the voltage components of (12) and (13). In [2] and [17], it is proposed to use the inductance for damping the internal currents in the range of the output frequency. This feature is not necessary by using the presented decoupled current control, because only the desired internal currents are adjusted and the arm voltages uxy are independently generated by the modulator [7], [10], [16]. Therefore, the inductance L has to be dimensioned on the basis of the switching states of the cells and accordingly with the modulation scheme. In [10], the design process of the inductance is described in detail. To sum up, the inductance L is determined by the maximum allowed ripple content of the dc and inner currents Δey. It depends on the switching frequency fPWM of the PWM, if one cell per arm and switching cycle is modulated, and on the cell voltage uCxyz. Consequently, the value of the inductance L is determined by the voltages on the level of the cells and not by the voltages or currents of the arms. This yields to a relative small value of the inductance L. To change the desired currents ie0 and ieeα/β in the control loops, only small voltage components are necessary. Because of this, the parts of uLα/β/0 are neglected in Section III-A.

3.2. Current Control Loops of the MMC

The three current control loops, see Fig. 4, for ieeα, ieeβ, and ie0 are derived by the equivalent circuits of Fig. 3 and their equations (11). Each control loop incorporates the impedances (L, R) of the arms, in which the current components have to be controlled by the corresponding voltages uLα, uLβ, and uL0, see Fig. 3. The measured value of the dc voltage uie is used as feed forward in the control loop of ie0, see Fig. 4. Each current controller is realized by a time-discrete P- or PI-controller (P: proportional, I: integral) with the sampling time TA. The dead times of the measurement, signal processing, and PWM are included by the sum of the small time constants Tσ,ie = 2TA. Then, the maximum gain of the proportional part of the controller.
Fig. 3 Signal flow path of complete MMC control system with subordinate current controllers, arm energy balancing, motor control unit, and modulator.

Fig. 4 Current control loops of the e-currents in transformed components.

IV. BALANCING OF THE ARM ENERGIES

The mean value of each power component $p_{\Sigma\alpha/\beta/0}$ has to be zero for a symmetrical energy distribution in steady-state operation, according to the desired constant value of the arm energy $w^C$. Therefore, the specific currents and voltages for a directed influence on the transformed arm energies have to be identified by these transformed power components. Here, two methods of energy balancing have to be distinguished depending on the frequency $\omega_a$ of the three-phase currents $i_{\alpha/\beta}$. If $\omega_a$ is high enough, which yields to the rotation of the phase angle by $\gamma_a = \omega_a \cdot t$ over the time $t$, only the mean values of the power components respectively the active power components have to be considered (high-frequency mode/hf mode). Consequently, the ac power components are buffered by the capacitors of the cells, which yields to the voltage pulsations $u_{C_x}$. At lower output frequencies, the amount of the energy pulsation increases inversely proportional to $\omega_a$ [1]. Because of this, a compensation of the instantaneous power components in the arms, which are caused by the three-phase load, is needed (low-frequency mode/lf mode) [6], [7]. This allows the stable operation of the MMC even at standstill respectively at frequency $\omega_a = 0$.

4.1. Horizontal Balancing: The energy transfer between the three phases of the MMC for the balancing in horizontal direction, see Fig. 5, is achieved by the dc-components of the inner currents $i_{\alpha/\beta}^{DC}$ and $i_{\alpha/\beta}^{DC}$. They generate together with the dc-voltage $u_e$ active power components in $p_{\Sigma\alpha}$ and $p_{\Sigma\beta}$ according to (21) and (22), see Table I. In each phase of the MMC occurs a dominant energy pulsation with the second harmonic of the output frequency $\omega_a$. This power component could be compensated by additional inner ac currents $i_{\alpha/\beta}^{HF}$ for reducing the energy pulsation in the arms (hf-mode).

4.2. Mean Energy Control: The total energy stored in all cells of the MMC is influenced by the difference between the dc power and the 3ac active power $P_a$, see (23). The dc current for the power exchange with the dc-voltage source $u_e$ will be without losses.

4.3. Vertical Balancing: The vertical balancing task ensures energy equilibrium between the upper and lower arms of the MMC, see Fig. 5. The power components $\pm u_{a/\alpha/\beta} \cdot i_{\alpha/\beta}$ of (24)–(26) generate active power if the e-currents contain an ac current with the same frequency as $u_{a/\alpha/\beta}$. These methods can be used in the hf-mode, if the output frequency is high enough. The internal 3ac-current system is divided in its symmetrical components (positive and negative sequence components), [20], where $D$ is the rotation matrix of (44) according to the phase angle $\gamma_a$.

5. CONTROL SYSTEM OF THE MMC FOR VARIABLE-SPEED DRIVES

The complete control system for the MMC drive system is illustrated in Fig. 3. The six sums of the capacitor voltages $u_{C_x}$ of each arm as well as the six-arm currents $i_{\alpha/\beta}$ are measured and transformed according to Section III-A to their related components, see Table I (here: $x \in \{u_{C_x}, i_x\}$).
The five-current components are routed to their current controllers, which are described in Section II-D. The a-current controller of the three-phase machine receives its reference values in d- and q-components from its superposed speed controller. The machine model in the speed controller has to calculate the reference angle $\gamma_a$ and the corresponding electrical frequency $\omega_a$ for the dq-current controller as well as for the phase angles of the internal ac balancing currents. The control voltages of the current controller are converted to the reference values of the arm voltages $u_{xy}$ by the inverse transformation, see (14) and (15). The modulator (see block PWM in Fig. 7), which includes the cell balancing task, generates the pulse patterns for the transistors in the cells. The used modulation method is described in [7] and [10].

The reference voltage of the energy controller is set to $u_{C} = 650$ V. The phase currents $i_q$ and $i_d$ are reduced during the lf-mode to keep the inner balancing currents $i_{\alpha/\beta}$ and, therefore, the arm currents $i_{xy}$ in acceptable limits. This is necessary, because the MMC is dimensioned on the basis of the current stress at the nominal operating point. During the switchover between the lf- and hf-mode, the motor currents are increased to their nominal values, because the additional current stress of the inner currents is decreased to nearly zero. The switchover between the lf- and hf-mode is set in the range of $\omega_a1 = 2\pi \times 20$ Hz and $\omega_a2 = 2\pi \times 30$ Hz. In the hf-mode, only a very small current ripple remains in the internal balancing currents due to the simplification of the calculated arm energies, where the control voltages are neglected. The dc-current $i_{DC}$ obviously contains no ac component not even in the lf-mode.
Fig.9 Run-up of a field-oriented controlled induction machine fed by the MMC prototype, short time averaged values at $TA = 1 / PWM = 1.48$ kHz.

VII. CONCLUSION

A cascaded control system for the MMC to feed variable speed drives is derived on the base of the analysis of the equivalent circuit as well as of the active power components in the arms by using PV system. The realization by the transformation of all relevant values allows a dynamic control of the arm energies over the complete operation range of the drive at minimum internal currents. The systematically design process of the several controllers and feed-forward components for the balancing tasks are presented. Finally, the measurement at a MMC prototype combined with a field-oriented control of an induction machine validates the approach and illustrates the performance of the control system. The proposed control and balancing system of the MMC allows the supply of three-phase machines independent of their type and motor control system.

REFERENCES