A New Harmonics Reduction Technique for Three-Phase Microgrid Operations

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Abstract- There are many ongoing researches in the field of harmonic compensation using active and passive power filters or the combination of the two, which are known as hybrid power filters. These filters can be implemented as series or shunt units. For shunt compensation, the voltage rating of the components is usually higher, and the impedance of the filtering unit should be very high to block the flow of the fundamental harmonic. For the series compensation, the impedance for the fundamental components should be minimal. In order to improve the power quality, many control algorithms have been proposed for automatic and selective harmonic compensation.

In this project to ensuring power quality both in the grid current and PCC by harmonic elimination is presented. The proposed method is developed to take care of harmonics in grid-connected (GC) mode, as well as in the islanded or standalone (SA) mode of operation, where the main objective is to remove the harmonics from the grid current and the point of common coupling (PCC) voltage. The suggested placement of the harmonic reduction unit dictates the use of a special controller structure that uses the harmonics magnitude in the dq reference frame. In the proposed control algorithm, the required amount of attenuation for harmonics is determined to meet the total harmonic distortion. Fast and efficient algorithm for phase detection irrespective of the presence of harmonics has been utilized for the system. The effectiveness of proposed method is further implemented by connecting induction motor to the output and performance of the motor is studied using Matlab/simulink software.

Index Terms—Adaptive compensation, distributed renewable energy sources, grid-connected microgrid, harmonics, power quality, standalone microgrid.

I. INTRODUCTION

Electrical power demand within a micro grid power system requires reliable functionality, storage of energy, diagnostics, remote device control and monitoring as important functions of modern Distributed Power Generation (DPG) modules. Renewable energy sources like solar, wind, and micro-hydropower can be interfaced through the DPG modules with the microgrid system which can operate in islanded mode (off-grid) and grid-connected mode. The microgrid operation needs to respond to the load demand under any circumstances therefore back-up with energy storage elements is essential. The microgrid presented in this paper is a low voltage application and it is comprised of DPG modules, distributed energy storage elements, electrical distribution gear and controllable loads. DPG modules are critical components within the micro grid systems and need to have flexible features in order to respond for a wide range of applications. DPG are designed to operate in islanded mode, utility grid-connected or genset-connected (diesel, liquid propane generators). DPG converter modules may have the following modes of operation: voltage-controlled source, current controlled source, active rectifier and active power filter mode. The converted energy produced can be delivered to the local loads within the micro grid structure or exported to the utility grid. In active rectifier mode, with ac to dc energy conversion the DG has a multi loop embedded control with power factor correction and dc voltage and current are controlled typically for battery charging [1]. In active power filter mode selective ac current harmonics are generated to cancel out the load current harmonics from the fundamental line frequency [2]. PV inverters are typically DPG operating in current controlled mode, with dc to ac energy conversion where ac current is controlled in magnitude and phase [3], [4]. Transformerless PV inverters represent an attractive solution due to higher efficiency, smaller size and weight, reduced cost [5], [6].

In many industrial applications, usually, DC motors were the work horses for the regulating Speed Drives [7] (ASDs) because of their excellent speed and torque response. But, they have inherent disadvantage of commutator and mechanical brushes, which go through wear and tear with the passage of time. Generally [9], AC motors are preferred to DC motors, in particular, an induction motor because to its low cost, low maintenance, lower weight, low maintenance, higher efficiency, improved ruggedness and reliability. All these features make the use of induction motors a mandatory in many areas of industrial applications. The improvement in Power electronics [10] and semi-conductor technology has triggered the growth of high power and high speed semiconductor devices in order to get a smooth, continuous and step less variation in motor speed. Applications of solid state converters/inverters for adjustable speed induction motor drive are well-known in
electromechanical systems for a large spectrum of industrial systems. Comparison of basic and high frequency carrier based techniques for NPC inverters is given by Feng, 2000. Influence of number of stator windings on the characteristics of motor is given by Golubev, 2000. Modified CSI based induction motor drive is given by Gopukumar, 1984. Multilevel inverter modulation schemes to eliminate common mode voltage is given by Zhang, 2000. Modulation schemes for six phase induction motor are given by Mohapatra, 2002. Improved reliability in solid state ac drives is given by Thomas, 1980. Multilevel converters [11] for large electric drives are given by Peng, 1999. Active harmonic elimination for multilevel inverters is given by Tolbert, 2006. The inverters are either Current Source Inverter (CSIs) or Voltage Source Inverters (VSIs). Current source inverters are widely used for the implementation of fully generative induction machine variable speed drives. An important and attractive feature of CSI is its good fault protection capability and the inherent regeneration capability.

II. PLACEMENT OF HARMONIC COMPENSATION UNIT IN MICROGRID SYSTEM

In conventional methods [13], [14], the series harmonics reduction units are placed at the grid side, as shown in Fig.1 where the objective is to make the line impedance at the harmonic frequency as high as possible. From Fig.1, impedance, respectively. The grid current can be expressed as

$$i_g = I_1 = \sum_{n=1}^{N} A_{n_1} \sin(n\omega t + \theta_n)$$

(3)

The injected harmonic voltage in series with the grid is proportional to the grid current such as

$$V_{n_{inj}} = k_n I_{n_1}$$

(4)

Where gain of $k_n$ is related to the coupling impedance and the transformer turns ratio. Based on (1) and (4), $I_{n_1}$ can be determined as

$$I_{n_1} = \frac{V_{n_{pcc}}}{Z_{n_c1} + k_n}$$

(5)

The compensation unit pushes voltage harmonics to make the grid current harmonics free; however, this voltage harmonics distort the PCC voltage. Moreover, during the SA mode of operation, the grid branch is disconnected making the compensation unit idle.

The proposed placement for the harmonics injection unit in this research is the distributed generation side, as shown in Fig.2. In this case, the objective of the harmonic compensation unit is to make the impedance in the sources of the microgrid side as small as possible to divert all the current harmonics far from the grid side. This way, if the grid voltage is harmonics free, the PCC voltage will become harmonics free. Moreover, when the grid is disconnected the harmonics reduction unit can continue to operate. The unit makes the PCC voltage harmonics free by providing harmonic voltage at its output that counteracts the harmonics results from the voltage drop at the coupling impedances away SA operation. For the harmonic components, the equation for mesh current $I_1$ and $I_2$ can be written as follows:

$$\begin{align*}
I_{n_1}Z_{n_c1} + V_{n_{inj}} &= V_{n_{pcc}} \\
I_{n_2}Z_{n_c2} &= V_{n_{pcc}}
\end{align*}$$

Where $V_{n_{pcc}}, V_{n_{inj}}, Z_{n_c1}, Z_{n_c2}$ represents the $n$th harmonic PCC voltage, injected voltage, grid current, and coupling.
From (6) it is clear that if $I_{inj}$ is close zero then $V_{inj}$ will be close to zero also. In literature, the inverters in the microgrid are controlled to share the current harmonics such that the harmonics in the PCC can be reduced. This approach can help in distributing the harmonics production across the sources, but it cannot insure that the total harmonic distortion (THD) at the grid current or at the PCC voltage is below the required limit. Having the compensation unit close to the PCC allows an easy access to the PCC voltage and the grid current, whereas the accessibility could be impractical for other sources due to the geographical spread of the microgrid. Then, the compensation unit can secure the harmonics free grid current and PCC voltage by diverting the harmonics to the side of the other sources, which can share the harmonics effectively through the techniques provided in.

III. CONTROLLER STRUCTURE

The overall block diagram of the controller structure is shown in Fig. 3. The block diagram for the harmonics elimination unit is shown in Fig. 3.4. The harmonics elimination unit mainly consists of two major blocks—harmonics estimation block and harmonics injection block. Efficient and effective harmonics estimation and the harmonics elimination methods, suggested and illustrated in Fig. 4, are used for phase detection and harmonics component estimation. As the existence of the harmonics affect the PLL accuracy, the first stage is used to eliminate the harmonics from the sampled grid signal ensuring accuracy of the PLL. The second stage provides fast and accurate harmonics estimation as the PLL produces an accurate phase. The harmonics injection block, which dictates the amount of harmonics injection by the harmonics compensator.

The grid current and/or the PCC voltage are fed to the phase locked look (PLL) block. The PLL lock extracts the phase of the fundamental component. Then, using the PLL output, the $3^{rd}$, $5^{th}$, ... $n^{th}$ harmonics of these signals are estimated. The $d$ components of the estimated harmonics are sent to the harmonics injection block to determine how much voltage at the specified harmonic frequency should be injected into the line based on the error between the actual and reference.

The harmonics estimation block is used to estimate the amount of harmonics needed to be injected from the compensator. The block diagram for harmonics estimator is shown in Fig. 5. The harmonics estimation is performed based on the phase provided by the PLL block. The closed-loop system provides the estimated voltage in both $a\beta$ and $d\phi$ rotating reference frame for fundamental, as well as harmonics components. The transfer function for the harmonics estimation block can be written as

$$
\frac{\hat{V}_{d,n}(s)}{V_{d,n}(s)} = \frac{0.5 G_{sn}}{s + 0.5 G_{sn}}.
$$
According to IEEE 519, the individual harmonic components should be less than 3% and the THD should be less than 5% to ensure power quality. The reference value of THD in the THD control block, as shown in Fig. 4, should be set according to this requirement. When the overall harmonics is reduced below the recommended THD, the amount of the injection for individual harmonics component is kept constant. This also ensures the system to operate in stable condition.

In the presence of non-integer harmonics or any other disturbances the measured current signal shown in Fig. 3.3, can be expressed as

\[ i_{g+d} = i_g + d \]  

Where \( i_g \) is the grid current and \( d \) is the disturbance. The estimated disturbance can be expressed as

\[ \hat{d} = \hat{i}_g + \hat{d}_{err} = \hat{i}_g - d = \hat{i}_g - err \]

Where, \( \hat{i}_g \) is the estimated value of the current and \( err \) is the estimation error. The estimation error is expected to be much smaller than the disturbance (\( err \ll d \)). The error \( err \) reflects the effect of \( d \) on the estimation of \( i_g \) which is attenuated significantly by the filters of the estimators (see Fig.5). Thus, \( \hat{i}_g \) can be described as

\[ \hat{i}_g = i_g - err \]

Since \( err \) will go to zero after a couple iterations, \( \hat{i}_g \) will become error free. Thus, PLL will not be affected by the presence of non-integer harmonics.

The THD control block receives the commanded THD and actual THD of the grid current or voltage at PCC. The THD reference is usually set according to the required power quality. The \( d \) and \( q \) component of the harmonic current or voltage should be reduced to eliminate harmonics from the system. This scheme ensures that in the absence of any particular harmonics, the compensation unit will not inject any extra harmonics to the system (see Fig.6). The PI controller is responsible for reducing the harmonics components below the specified limit. After the THD level reaches below the allowable limit, the PI controller continues to inject the particular amount of harmonics. The flow diagram of the overall harmonics elimination process of grid current and PCC voltage is provided in Fig.7.

**IV. CONTROLLER OPERATION**

Fig.6 illustrates the block diagram of the harmonics injection unit, where the desired amounts of harmonics are commanded in \( d_q \) reference frame. Desired THD level is also provided as a reference into the controller block.

The system flow diagram is shown in Fig.7. The harmonic resonance condition may occur due to the capacitors connected to a microgrid. The control of harmonic resonance can be achieved through tuning the virtual impedance in the microgrid controller. Increasing the virtual impedance will result in limiting the harmonic current flow.

To design a PI controller for harmonic compensation, an approximate model for the equivalent system is derived in \( d_q \) rotating reference frame, as shown graphically in Fig.8. The differential equations for the systems can be written as

\[ L \frac{d\hat{i}_d}{dt} = -R\hat{i}_d + v_{dh} + \omega L\hat{i}_q - v_{dh} \]  

(12)
In the Laplace domain (12) and (13) can be written as

\[ L \frac{di_q}{dt} = -Ri_q + v'_{qh} + \omega Li_d - v_{qh} \]  \hspace{1cm} (13)

\[ sLI_d = -RI_d + V'_{dh} + \omega LI_q - V_{dh} \]  \hspace{1cm} (14)

\[ sLI_q = -RI_q + V'_{qh} + \omega LI_d - V_{qh} \]  \hspace{1cm} (15)

The transfer function can be expressed in terms of the PI controller \((k_p, k_i)\) and harmonics estimation gain, \(G\), as shown in Fig.5, as

\[ V_{xh} = \frac{k_p s + k_i}{s} \frac{G}{s + G} i_x \]  \hspace{1cm} (16)

Fig.8. Equivalent (a) \(q\) component (b) \(d\) component circuit for PI controller design.

V. INDUCTION MOTOR

Induction Motor (1M) An induction motor is an example of asynchronous AC machine, which consists of a stator and a rotor. This motor is widely used because of its strong features and reasonable cost. A sinusoidal voltage is applied to the stator, in the induction motor, which results in an induced electromagnetic field. A current in the rotor is induced due to this field, which creates another field that tries to align with the stator field, causing the rotor to spin. A slip is created between these fields, when a load is applied to the motor.

Compared to the synchronous speed, the rotor speed decreases, at higher slip values. The frequency of the stator voltage controls the synchronous speed [12]. The frequency of the voltage is applied to the stator through power electronic devices, which allows the control of the speed of the motor. The research is using techniques, which implement a constant voltage to frequency ratio. Finally, the torque begins to fall when the motor reaches the synchronous speed. Thus, induction motor synchronous speed is defined by following equation,

\[ \omega_s = \frac{f}{p} \]

Where \(f\) is the frequency of AC supply, \(n_s\) is the speed of rotor; \(p\) is the number of poles per phase of the motor. By varying the frequency of control circuit through AC supply, the rotor speed will change.

Fig.9. Speed torque characteristics of induction motor.

VI. MATLAB/SIMULATION RESULTS

Fig 10 Matlab/simulation circuit of Conventional harmonic compensation method.

Fig 11 simulation wave form of current source
Fig 12: Simulation waveform of total harmonic distortion source current.

Fig 13: FFT analysis of the critical load current before the compensation is applied.

Fig 14: FFT analysis of the critical load current after the conventional compensation method is applied.

Fig 15: Grid current in conventional method before and after applying harmonic compensation.

Fig 16: FFT analysis of the critical load current after the proposed compensation method is applied.

Fig 17: FFT analysis of the critical load current before the compensation is applied.

Fig 18: Matlab simulation circuit of harmonic compensation method with three phase source industrial application.

Fig 19: Simulation waveform of voltage and current source.

Fig 20: Simulation waveform of source and load current, inverter current, and source voltage.

Fig 21: Simulation waveform of power factor correction.
VI. CONCLUSION
The power converter system integration with renewable energy sources and interaction within a microgrid structure is presented with applicability in off grid islanded, grid-connected and grid-connected for residential and commercial installations. The system architecture presented incorporates DPG modules with flexible modes of operation in order to control the power flow for energy prioritization and system efficiency maximization. The suggested placement of the harmonic reduction unit dictates the use of a special controller structure that uses the harmonics magnitude in the dq reference frame. An effective and efficient method is used to estimate the harmonics in the line. The proposed injects a voltage to counteract the harmonics in the system and reduce the THD to desired levels. An improved based harmonic elimination technique has been applied in this paper for control of induction motors and the various simulations has been performed on Simulink.

REFERENCES

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