Low Total Harmonic Distortion and High Power Factor in Parallel Active Power Filter

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Abstract

In a modern power system with the increasing use of power electronics components, nonlinear loads connected to the grid cause power quality problems. To overcome the power quality problems, the parallel active power filter PAPF is used in power systems. In this study, the synchronous reference frame based a new control algorithm is proposed for the three-phase PAPF system. In the proposed control algorithm, synchronous reference frame SRF method and moving average filter MAF filter and space vector pulse width modulation SV-PWM technique are used to obtain low total harmonic distortion and high power factor. SRF method and MAF filter are used to calculate the reference current signal. SV-PWM technique is used to obtain the switching signals of active switches used in power filters. In the proposed algorithm, the number of measurements is reduced and performance is increased by using source ab currents and ab voltages without filter abc currents and abc voltages and load abc currents. Simulation studies of the proposed control algorithm have been tested using PSIM software. According to the simulation results, it is seen that the proposed control algorithm is more successful in eliminating the harmonics in the source current and compensating the reactive power than the other control method used in the literature.

Keywords: Parallel active power filter, Space vector PWM, MAF filter, Power factor, Total harmonic distortion.

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1. Introduction

In recent years, due to the rapid growth in industrial technology, electricity consumption is increasing. It is desirable to efficiently and continuously conduct energy without loss [1]. With the increasing use of power electronic components, nonlinear loads connected to the grid cause power quality problems. Power quality problems; voltage fluctuations, voltage unbalance, high harmonic current and voltage, voltage sags, voltage swells and voltage notches [2]. Harmonic current and voltage cause fault of capacitors, noisy operation of electric machines, increased iron and copper losses in used machines and overheating of electronic devices[3].

Passive and active filters are used to elimination power quality problems such as harmonic current and voltage, power factors and reactive power in the literature. The circuit structure of the passive filters is simple, low in cost. But passive filters have some disadvantages such as their large size, the limitations, drawbacks of their usage and constant compensation problem [4]. Due to these disadvantages, parallel active power filter PAPF is used to increase the filter performance[5-7]. The PAPF consist of a three-phase voltage source inverter with a DC bus capacitor.

In the literature, there are many control algorithms in the frequency domain [8] and time domain which are applied to PAPF systems successfully. The control algorithms used in the frequency domain are not widely used due to large calculations and time and delay in the calculation of the FFT. In the time domain

control algorithms used for PAPF, the derivatives of current signal are calculated. Commonly-used time domain control algorithms are the instantaneous active and reactive power based algorithms [9–12], synchronous reference frame SRF based algorithms [3, 13–17]. But, SRF based control algorithms show superior performance compared to PQ based algorithms [18]. In the SRF-based control algorithms, the LPF or HPF is generally used for obtaining the reference current signal and sinusoidal PWM or hysteresis PWM is used for obtaining switching signals [19–21].

In this study, SRF-based a new controller using moving average filter(MAF) and space vector-PWM (SV-PWM) is proposed for three-phase PAPF system. MAF filter and SV-PWM technique are used to obtain the reference current signals used in parallel filter to reduce THD and to increase PF. In the algorithm, the number of measurements is reduced and the performance is improved by using source current and voltage, without load voltage serial and parallel filter current and voltage and load current measurements. Simulation studies of the proposed control algorithm were tested using PSIM software and were compared with other control algorithms used in the literature.

2. Parallel Active Power Filter

The P-APF is used to improve power factor, eliminate current harmonics and compensate reactive power [12]. P-APF connects in parallel to the power system as shown in Fig.1. The P-APF contains of a DC capacitor and a voltage source inverter as a voltage source with regulated current controlled.

According to the control algorithm, the compensating currents and the switching signals are obtained by using sinusoidal PWM technique.



Figure 1. Parallel active power filter.

1.1 Heading 2

SRF control algorithm is used in P-APF. The source voltages (V_{Sabc}), DC bus voltage (V_{dc}), source currents (i_{Sabc}) or load currents (i_{Labc}) are realized by taking a total of seven measurement values in the conventional SRF control algorithm [9].

In the conventional SRF algorithm, the d and q values of the source or load currents are obtained by using Eq. (1) with the transformation of dq0 which is known as park transformation (the Park transform). The wt angle is used in the park transformation. The PLL circuit is used to obtain the wt transformation angle.

$$\begin{split} \mathbf{i}_{d} &= \frac{2}{3} \left(\cos(wt) \mathbf{i}_{a} + \cos\left(wt - \frac{2\pi}{3}\right) \mathbf{i}_{b} + \cos\left(wt + \frac{2\pi}{3}\right) \mathbf{i}_{c} \right) \\ \mathbf{i}_{q} &= \frac{2}{3} \left(\sin(wt) \mathbf{i}_{a} + \sin\left(wt - \frac{2\pi}{3}\right) \mathbf{i}_{b} + \sin\left(wt + \frac{2\pi}{3}\right) \mathbf{i}_{c} \right) \\ \mathbf{i}_{0} &= \frac{2}{3} \left(\frac{1}{2} \mathbf{i}_{a} + \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{i}_{b} + \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{i}_{c} \right) \end{split}$$
(1)

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The obtained d value is passed from LPF. The loss current (i_{dloss}) is obtained from DC bus voltage with the comparison of the desired voltage value and by passing through a PI controller and LPF filter. The obtained value from LPF output is added to the loss current to decrease DC component voltage fluctuation as shown in Eq. (2).

$$i'_{d} = i_{dloss} + LPF(i_{sd}), i'_{a} = 0, i'_{0} = 0$$
 (2)

The reference source or load currents i'_a, i'_b, i'_c are calculated from the obtained $i'_d, i'_q = 0$ and $i'_0 = 0$ using the inverse park transformation in Eq. (3).

$$i'_{a} = \cos(wt)i_{d} + \sin(wt)i_{q} + i_{0}$$

$$i'_{b} = \cos\left(wt - \frac{2\pi}{3}\right)i_{d} + \sin\left(wt - \frac{2\pi}{3}\right)i_{q} + i_{0}$$

$$i'_{c} = \cos\left(wt + \frac{2\pi}{3}\right)i_{d} + \sin\left(wt + \frac{2\pi}{3}\right)i_{q} + i_{0}$$
(3)

The obtained i'_a , i'_b , i'_c are compared with the sensed i_a , i_b , i_c and the switching signals for parallel inverter are obtained using sinusoidal-PWM or hysteresis-PWM technique.

3. Theory and Modeling

3.1 Space Vector Pulse Width Modulation (SVPWM)

In the SVPWM technique, the aim is achieved to reveal the sinusoidal output voltage with the lowest switching loss and the lowest total harmonic distortion. For this, the possible switching states of the IGBT switches in the P_APF are expressed by a switching vector and are used with different combinations of these vectors. The most suitable switching scheme is selected. In this technique, the comparison isn't made in the determination of switching signals. The on-off times of the IGBT's are determined digitally. The basis of the SV-PWM technique is based on the 3 three-phase voltage vectors of the synchronous motor can be converted into a single rotary vector. Three-phase voltages at the desired amplitude and phase are obtained to create a three lag inverter output from a constant DC voltage with SV-PWM. These three-phase voltages are represented by the space vector [22].

SV-PWM is considered to be a preferable technique of PWM applications, as it improves harmonic performance, reduces THD and provides better basic output voltage. Fig.2 shows d-q space vector coordinates of SV-PWM.



Figure 2. Voltage dq coordinates

The d-q values of the abc voltages are calculated using Eq. (4).

$$V_{d} = V_{sa} - V_{sb}\cos 60 - V_{sc}\cos 60$$

$$V_{q} = V_{sb}\cos 30 - V_{sc}\cos 30$$
(4)

The magnitude $\overline{V_{ref}}$ and angle α of the rotating vector are calculated using Eq. (5) and Eq. (6).

$$\left|\overline{V_{ref}}\right| = \sqrt{V_d^2} + \sqrt{V_q^2} \tag{5}$$

$$\alpha = \tan^{-1} \left(\frac{v_q}{v_d} \right) = \omega_s t = 2\pi f t \tag{6}$$

After this transformation, six active vectors and two zero vectors appear [23]. Using the Eq. (7), the time change between sectors 1 and 6 (S₁-S₆) is determined (n = 1, 2, ..., 6 and $0 \le \alpha \le 60^{\circ}$). Here T_m and T_{m+1} values are the application time of the voltages. T₀ is the application time of the zero voltage vector (V₀ or V₇) [24].

$$T_{m} = T_{s}m\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}\sin\left(\frac{n}{3}\pi - \alpha\right)$$

$$T_{m+1} = T_{s}m\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}\sin\left(\alpha - \frac{n-1}{3}\pi\right)$$

$$T_{0} = T_{s} - T_{1} - T_{2}$$
(7)

The total of 6 space vectors are formed when the output voltages are studied for the period T and when the V_{ref} voltage vector is examined in the dq axis. These vectors are placed at 60^{0} degree intervals in the standing axis tool. The switching states vary in each region. Fig. 3 shows the switching states for sector 1 and sector 4. SV-PWM technique does not require carrier and reference wave forms such as sinusoidal-PWM technique.



Figure 3. Switching space vector.

3.2. Moving Average Filter MAF

Moving average filter is used to improve dynamic filtering response. The discrete transfer function is calculated with Eq. (8) for modelling the MAF. n, denotes the number of sampling data used to derive average amounts.

$$H(z) = n^{-1} \left(1 + \frac{1}{z^1} + \frac{1}{z^2} + \dots + \frac{1}{z^{n-1}} \right) = \frac{1}{n} \frac{1 - z^{-n}}{1 - z^{-1}}$$
(8)

Fig. 4 shows the structure of the MAF consisting of the integration block, the delay block, the subtraction block and the division block [25].

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Figure 4. MAF control block

The integration of the voltage signal is obtained by using the integration block. The input voltage signal is delayed by the delay block. Thus, the difference between the output of the delay block and the integration block are obtained to the t-T/n and t time interval. The output of the subtraction block is sent to the division block. Thereby, the output of the MAF is the moving average of the voltage signal calculated [26] with Eq. (9). Where Vs(t) is the voltage input signal of the MAF.

$$MAF_{out} = \frac{n}{T} \int_{t-\frac{T}{2}}^{t} Vs(t) dt$$

3.3. Proposed Control Algorithm

In the proposed controller, the MAF is used instead of classical LPF to improve the dynamic filtering response and THD and the SV-PWM is used instead of the sinusoidal-PWM to improve the switching performance. Fig. 5 shows the block schema of SRF-based proposed controller.

The ab source voltages (V_{Sab}), ab source currents (i_{Sab}), and DC bus voltage (V_{dc}) are realized by taking five measurement values in the proposed control algorithm.



Figure 5. The proposed control schema of the synchronous reference frame algorithm

PLL circuit is used to obtain the wt transformation angleas shown in Fig. 6.



Figure 6. PLL control circuit

The phase c of the voltage used as the input voltage of the PLL block diagram is calculated by Eq. (10).

$$V_{c} = -V_{sa} - V_{sb}$$
(10)

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The d-q values V_{dpll} and V_{qpll} of the source abc voltages are obtained by using Eq. (11).

$$v_{dpll} = \frac{2}{3} \left(\cos(wt) v_a + \cos\left(wt - \frac{2\pi}{3}\right) v_b + \cos\left(wt + \frac{2\pi}{3}\right) v_c \right)$$

$$v_{qpll} = \frac{2}{3} \left(-\sin(wt) v_a - \sin\left(wt - \frac{2\pi}{3}\right) v_b - \sin\left(wt + \frac{2\pi}{3}\right) v_c \right)$$

$$v_0 = \frac{2}{3} \left(\frac{1}{2} v_a + \frac{1}{2} v_b + \frac{1}{2} v_c \right)$$
(11)

The V_{dpll} is passed through the PI controller and the references are added to the fundamental angular frequency (2 π f). Finally, a wt is obtained by the integration of this calculation [15].

In the proposed control algorithm, only two source currents (i_{sa} and i_{sb}) are enough to measure and the other current (i_{sc}) is calculated as given in Eq. (12).

$$i_{sc} = -i_{sa} - i_{sb} \tag{12}$$

In the P-APF, the d-q values of the source abc currents (i_{sa} , i_{sb} , i_{sc}) are obtained by using Eq. (1). The obtained d value is passed through the MAF filter. The DC voltage is passed the MAF filter and is compared to the reference DC voltage.

The loss current (idloss) is calculated with DC output voltage compared to the desired voltage value and by passing through a PI controller. The obtained current value at the MAF filter output is added to the loss current to decrease DC component voltage fluctuation as shown in Eq. (13).

$$\dot{i}_{sd} = \dot{i}_{dloss} + MAF(\dot{i}_{sd}), \dot{i}_{sq} = 0, \dot{i}_{s0} = 0$$
 (13)

The reference source currents i'_{sa} , i'_{sb} , i'_{sc} are calculated from the obtained i'_{d} , $i'_{q} = 0$ and $i'_{0} = 0$ using the inverse park transformation in Eq. (3). The obtained i'_{sa} , i'_{sb} , i'_{sc} are compared with the sensed i_{sa} , i_{sb} and calculated i_{sc} the switching signals for parallel inverter are obtained using SV-PWM technique.

4. Results and Discussions

The steady state and dynamic performances of three phase P-APF system are analyzed by simulating the system in PSIM software. As a load, a nonlinear load with three-phase thyristor is used. The time setting used for the simulation is 0.5e-6s. Fig. 7 shows the PSIM simulation model of the three-phase P-APF. The values using in the simulation model are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Simulation values		
Source	Voltage V _{Sabc}	190V _{rms}
	Frequency f	50Hz
	R _{sabc}	10mΩ
	L _{sabc}	0.1mH
Load	3-phase AC grid resistor R _{Labc}	0.25Ω
	3-phase AC grid inductance L _{Labc}	1.47mH
	3-phase DC resistor R _L	30Ω
	3-phase DC inductance L _L	11.53mH
P-APF	AC line inductance L _{Fabc}	3.5mH
	Filter resistor R _F	5Ω
	Switching frequency f _{PWM}	10kHz
	DC Capacitor C ₁	2350µF
	DC voltage V _{dc}	400V



Figure 7. The simulation block P-APF system.

The P-APF is operated as a closed-loop controller by generating the reference filter currents to correct events that cause power quality problems related to nonlinear loads by continuously reading the grid or load currents according to the control algorithm used. The DC voltage must be maintained at a desired value. The reference value must be removed from the measured DC voltage, the fault must be reduced to zero with a transfer function and added to the active current of the control signal.

Fig. 8 shows the effect of P-APF system when the proposed controller is applied. The source current harmonics of 26.31% is reduced to 0.34%. In the figure, the total harmonic distortion ratio is below the harmonic limit applied in IEEE 519-1992 standards.



Figure 8. The i_{sa} , i_{sb} , i_{sc} signals and the i_{La} , i_{Lb} , i_{Lc} signals obtained with the proposed control algorithm

The current harmonic compensation capability of the proposed SRF based control algorithm is shown in Fig. 9 as the total harmonic distortion (THD) levels given before and after the filter operation. In the obtained results, the source current harmonic with a ratio of 26.28% is reduced to 0.34% with the proposed control algorithm. In addition, the proposed control algorithm is capable of compensating the harmonics and reactive power of the source currents. The simulation results for reactive power compensation are shown in Fig. 10.



Figure 9. The FFT values of load and source current THD measurement levels before and after proposed control algorithm

The power factor values before and after applying the proposed controller are shown in Fig. 10a and Fig. 10b. The power factor between the load voltage and the source current is measured as 0.9999 after the proposed controller is applied to the P-APF system. The proposed control algorithm has the ability to improve the power factor.

The study of the proposed control algorithm is tested under steady state and transient response. The steady state response of the proposed control algorithm is shown in Fig. 11. Fig. 12 shows the transient response of the proposed controller in case of an P-APF system is applied at t=0.15 ms.



Figure 10. The load voltage and the source current signals for reactive power compensation





Figure 11. The steady state response of operation of P-APF system for proposed controller a) V_{sa} , V_{sb} and V_{sc} signals, b) i_{La} , i_{Lb} , i_{Lc} signals, c)compensator i_{ca} , i_{cb} , i_{cc} signals, d) i_{sa} , i_{sb} , i_{sc} signals, e) a phase v_{La} and i_{sa} signals for power factor value



Figure 12. The transient response of operation of P-APF system for proposed controller a) V_{sa} , V_{sb} and V_{sc} signals, b) i_{La} , i_{Lb} , i_{Lc} signals, c) i_{sa} , i_{sb} , i_{sc} signals

In Table II, the proposed control algorithm and the other control algorithms used in literature for P-APF are compared. In the simulation studies, when the conventional SRF control algorithm is applied to the P-APF, the THD value of the source current is decreased from 15.81% to 2.38%. When the SRF-based proposed controller is applied to the P-APF, the THD value of the sources current is decreased to 0.34%.

5. Conclusions

A new SRF-based control algorithm which applies a moving average filter and SV-PWM to obtain the reference abc current signals for active power filter is presented and tested in PSIM. In the proposed control algorithm, MAF filter and space vector pulse width the modulation technique are used to produce the switching signals of the active switches used in parallel filters to the reduced THD and improved PF. In the proposed control algorithm, five measurement values are taken from the power system by using ab source voltage, ab source current and DC bus voltage measurements in P-APF. The number of measurements is reduced according to the conventional SRF method. It can be observed that the proposed control algorithms used in literature as shown in Table II. According to Table II, it is seen that the proposed control algorithm is more successful in eliminating the harmonic of the source current by improving power factor and compensating the reactive power.

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PAPF algorithm	Before P-APF THD(%)	After P-APF THD(%)
Self Tuning Filter[16]	13.92%	2.69%
Fuzzy Logic Controller [21]	25%	2.57%
Modified SRF[3]	29%	1.78%
Direct Power Control [12]	25.95	1.54%
Power Balance Theory		1.18%
Conventional SRF	26.28%	2.38%
Proposed SRF		0.57%

Table 2. Comparison of the proposed controller and the other controller using for the three-phase UPQC

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