

A novel five-level voltage source inverter interconnected to grid with srf controller for voltage synchronization

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ABSTRACT

Power utilization from renewable sources with efficient modules is very vital. Maintaining harmonics below specific standard during grid interconnection is also a major objective. A novel five-level voltage source inverter which is controlled by synchronous reference frame (SRF) controller for grid interconnection and synchronized power injection. The input of the converter is integrated with renewable energy source photovoltaic arrays (PVA) for the injection of renewable power into the grid. For constant voltage input, the PVAs are connected to a booster converter controlled by the maximum power point tracking (MPPT) algorithm. The design is analyzed with different operating conditions by changing the load type (static and dynamic) using MATLAB/Simulink software. Graphical comparisons are taken for the analysis with the help of 'powergui' toolbox available in the software.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Demand for electrical energy generation is growing day by day with an increased consumption by various loads across the globe. More and more power production from traditional methods (diesel generators, thermal plants, and nuclear plants) is damaging the environment as these ways of generation produce hazardous waste and gases. These power plants play a vital role in the increase of global warming making earth a bad place for the survival of living things on the planet. Better ways of generation through renewable sources are the only option of the future to protect the planet and make it a better place. These ways of generation include hydropower plants, solar plants, wind farms, biogas plants, and tidal wave units. From all the mentioned renewable power generation methods hydropower plant is considered to be a huge power generating plant that can be utilized for the load demand [1]-[6]. However, the capital cost for the plant installation is very high and the construction time takes years which is the major drawback for this way of generating power. The immediate replacement to the hydropower plant is a wind farm which also generates huge power but can be installed in specific areas far from civilization. Solar plants are the optimal option for power generation either in huge or low amounts.

Solar plants are installed using a set of multiple photovoltaic planes which generate direct current (DC) power by utilizing solar irradiation. Different parallel and series combinations of these panels are called photovoltaic arrays (PVA). The DC power from the PVA needs to be converted to either single-phase alternating current (AC) or three phases AC as the loads run on AC voltage. More research is taking place on this conversion process with different converters for better efficiency and reduced harmonic generation [7], [8]. The traditional multi-level converters include cascaded, diode clamped, flying capacitor, modular, and

which have control issues and complicated circuits [9]-[13]. In previous researches conventional voltage-source inverter (VSI) are used for the transformation of DC voltage of the PVA to AC voltage for injection into the grid. The conventional six-switch VSI (two-level) has high harmonics generation and needs large inductor capacitor (LC) filters for the reduction of these harmonics. This increases the installation cost of the PV plant as huge power needs to be transmitted. The general control unit used for the inverter is unit vector template feedback control which takes input from the grid voltages only. This conventional converter and controller are replaced by a novel five-level VSI and synchronous reference frame (SRF) controller with feedback from the grid voltages, currents, and DC voltage of the inverter. In section 1 the introduction of the proposed topology and drawbacks of traditional power generation is discussed followed by section 2 which includes the converter working principle and control structure of the converter. Section 3 includes PVA module modeling with the MPPT algorithm. Section 4 has simulation results of the proposed system with results generated in graphical representation for different load conditions. The final section 5 has the conclusion of the paper followed by references.

2. NOVEL FIVE-LEVEL VOLTAGE SOURCE INVERTER

A five-level VSI shown in Figure 1, which increases the number of levels for the given switches. The interconnected capacitors create stabilized output voltages with reduced overshoots in the output. The inputs are two DC sources with half the voltages $V_{dc}/2$ connected through a common neutral point. These DC sources are further replaced with PVA units for the utilization of renewable energy. The key feature of this topology is that the number of diodes for clamping is reduced as compared to diode clamped inverter and the numbers of capacitors are reduced as compared to flying capacitor inverter. The converter also does not require any a DC source that is isolated at the input for regenerative purposes. The converter control is updated with the SRF control module which generates reference signals making the converter work in synchronization to the grid.

Each leg of the proposed converter contains eight switches, with four legs in each phase area. Four switches in the top section create positive multi-level voltage, while four switches in the bottom part generate negative multi-level voltage. The voltage splitting capacitors C1, C2, and C3 generate different voltage levels for the switching. As can be seen, the clamping diodes required is lower than in a diode clamped inverter, and the number of capacitors is lower than in a flying capacitor inverter [14]-[16]. For regenerative applications, the converter need not uses a DC source that is isolated at the input. Cx1 and Cx2 (X=a, b, c) capacitors are charged.

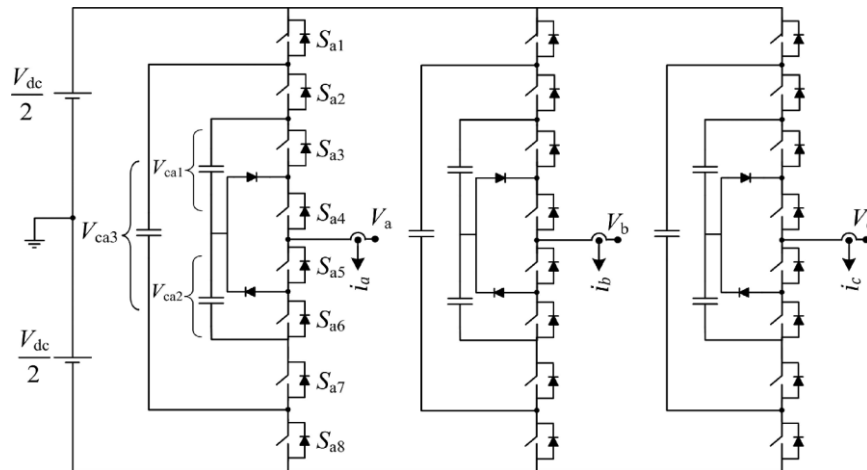


Figure 1. Five level novel VSI topology

2.1. Behavior analysis of capacitor voltages

As can be observed the five-level voltages including zero voltage are generated as per the switching of the eight switches of one leg. The zero voltage level includes discharging and charging of capacitors for achieving voltage across capacitor equalizing making the converter redundancy to voltage variations. The above switching states are achieved by sinusoidal PWM technique with reference sin waveform compared to four level-shifted high-frequency triangular waveforms as in Figure 2.

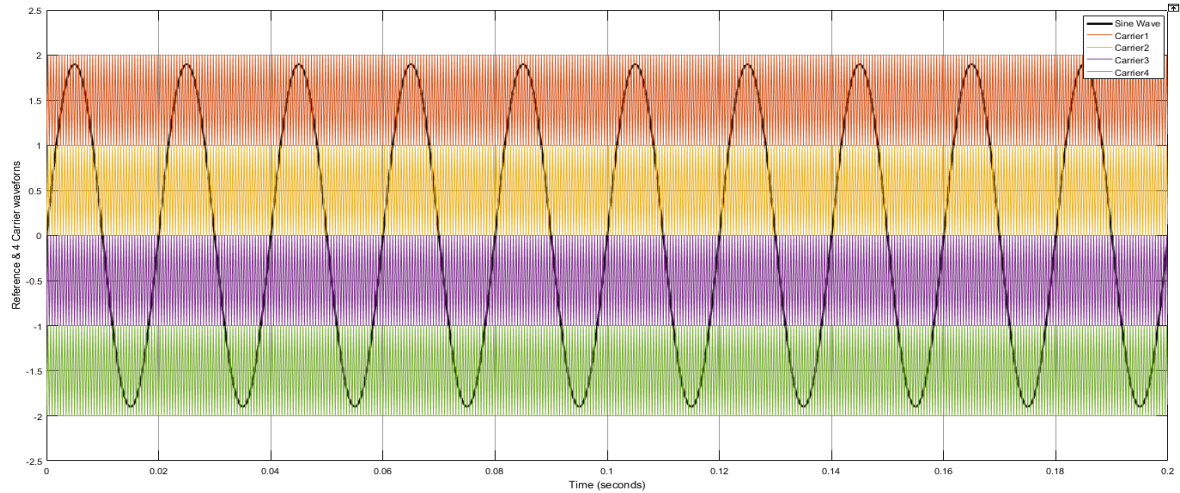


Figure 2. Sine PWM technique for the generation of switching states for the proposed converter

The above method employed for the generation of pulses is the In-phase disposition (PD) carrier modulation technique. In this method, all the carrier waveforms are in phase with no phase shift [17]-[19]. The reference sin waveform for the above PD modulation technique is generated by the SRF controller which generates a reference signal in synchronization to the grid.

The redundancy of switching states at levels 1, 2, 3 to discharge and charge capacitors. However, there are no redundancy switching states at the 0, 4 levels. Managing capacitor voltages C_{x3} and C_{x2} is best done at level 1, while controlling capacitor voltages C_{x3} and C_{x1} is best done at level 3. There are also redundancy states at levels 1, 2, and 3. Depending on the output current direction, each redundancy state with three capacitors to discharge or charge. As a result, the difference between nominal and measured levels of voltage will be reduced. Consider the following scenario: the output level to be achieved is 3, and capacitor C_{x3} must be charged. Furthermore, if the currents going in and out of the capacitors to discharge and charge the capacitors C_1 , C_2 , and C_3 are not regulated, the flying capacitors voltage may differ from what was expected. Table 1 gives the balancing technique of voltage by utilising switching states.

Table 1 Balancing of voltage technique for each inverter phase

Output level	Condition	i_s	ΔV_{CX1}	ΔV_{CX2}	ΔV_{CX3}	State
3	$ \Delta V_{CX1} > \Delta V_{CX3} $	≥ 0	≥ 0	-	-	D_1
		< 0	< 0	-	-	D_3
		≥ 0	≥ 0	-	-	D_3
		< 0	< 0	-	-	D_1
		≥ 0	-	-	≥ 0	D_2
		< 0	-	-	< 0	D_1
	$ \Delta V_{CX3} > \Delta V_{CX1} $	≥ 0	-	-	≥ 0	D_2
		< 0	-	-	≥ 0	D_1
		≥ 0	-	-	< 0	D_2
		< 0	-	-	< 0	D_2
		≥ 0	≥ 0	-	-	C_1
		< 0	< 0	-	-	C_2/C_4
2	$ \Delta V_{CX1} > \Delta V_{CX2} $	≥ 0	≥ 0	-	-	C_2/C_4
		< 0	≥ 0	-	-	C_2/C_4
		≥ 0	< 0	-	-	C_1
		< 0	< 0	-	-	C_1
		≥ 0	-	≥ 0	-	C_3/C_1
		< 0	-	< 0	-	C_2
	$ \Delta V_{CX2} > \Delta V_{CX3} $	≥ 0	-	≥ 0	-	C_2
		< 0	-	≥ 0	-	C_2
		≥ 0	-	< 0	-	C_2
		< 0	-	< 0	-	C_2
		≥ 0	-	-	≥ 0	C_3/C_1
		< 0	-	-	< 0	C_3/C_1
1	$ \Delta V_{CX3} > \Delta V_{CX1} $	≥ 0	-	-	≥ 0	C_2
		< 0	-	-	< 0	C_3
		≥ 0	-	-	< 0	C_3
		< 0	-	-	< 0	C_3
		≥ 0	-	-	≥ 0	C_3
		< 0	-	-	< 0	C_3
	$ \Delta V_{CX2} > \Delta V_{CX3} $	≥ 0	-	≥ 0	-	B_3
		< 0	-	< 0	-	B_1
		≥ 0	-	≥ 0	-	B_1
		< 0	-	< 0	-	B_3
		≥ 0	-	-	≥ 0	B_1
		< 0	-	-	< 0	B_2

The as shown in (1) are the possible change in voltages [11] for the given capacitor

$$\text{Let, } \Delta V_{cxi} = V_{cxi} - V_{cxi, \text{ref}} \quad (1)$$

Where $i=1, 2$ and 3 and $x=a, b$ and c

V_{cxi} are capacitor voltages, $V_{cxi, \text{ref}}$ are the monetary values

$V_{cx3, \text{ref}} = (3V_{dc}/4)$, $V_{cxi, \text{ref}} = (V_{dc}/4)$ for i must be $1, 2$, and 3 .

V_{cxi} should be set close to zero to accomplish capacitor voltage balancing. Table 1 gives what state should be employed to regulate the voltage of flying capacitors under various situations.

3. SYNCHRONOUS REFERENCE FRAME CONTROLLER

Controller SRF is a major module in the proposed test system which controls the multi-level inverter's output voltage. For the output voltage match to the grid voltage amplitude, phase, and frequency the SRF controller takes feedback from the grid three-phase voltages, currents, and DC link voltage at the input [20]-[22]. The structure of the SRF controller is given in Figure 3.

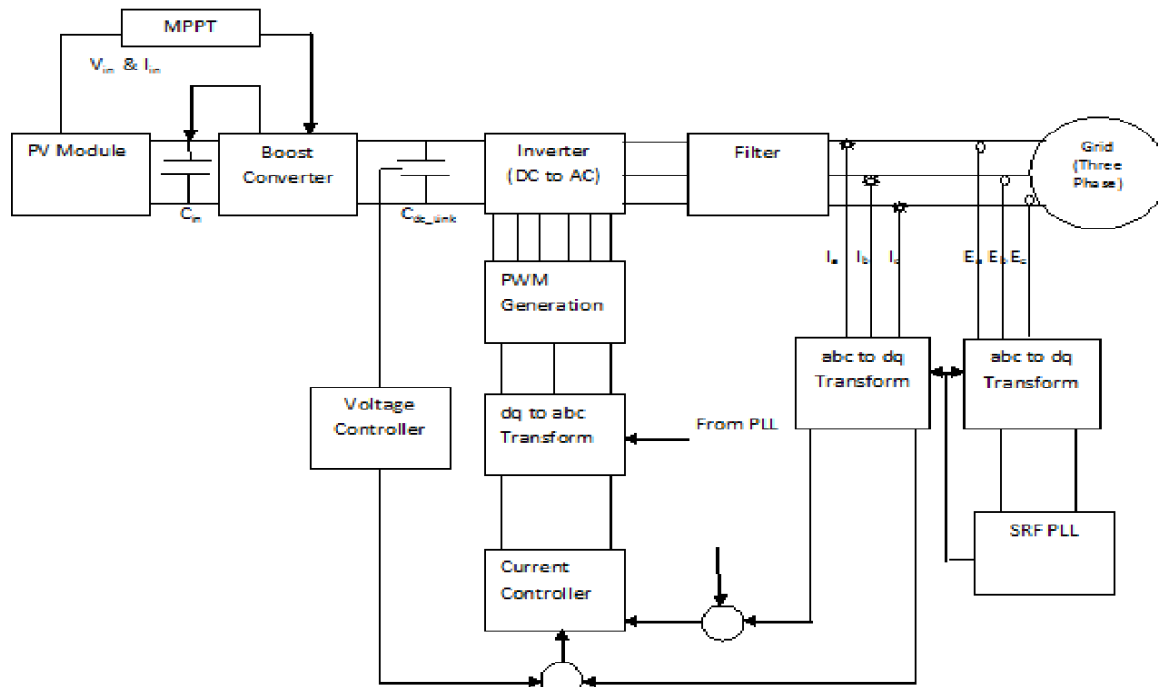


Figure 3. SRF control structure for PVA grid interconnection

The SRF controller uses Park's transformation for controlling the current of the inverter. The dq components of the currents are calculated for the PLL module [23]-[25] working in synchronization to the grid voltage. The dq axis calculation for the given controller is given in (2) and (3).

$$[U_{\alpha} \ U_{\beta}] = \frac{2}{3} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -\frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} \\ 0 & \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} & -\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \end{bmatrix} [U_a \ U_b \ U_c] \quad (2)$$

$$[U_d \ U_q] = [U_{\alpha} \ U_{\beta}] \begin{bmatrix} \cos \omega t & \sin \omega t \\ -\sin \omega t & \cos \omega t \end{bmatrix} \quad (3)$$

In the above equations, the function U denotes either three-phase voltages or currents at PCC. The voltage controller is a PI controller with input taken by comparison of DC voltage at the DC link capacitor and reference value given by the user. The output of the voltage controller is direct axis component reference and the quadrature axis reference component is considered to be 0. The current controller generates the required reference dq voltage reference component with the PI controller in it. The reference dq voltage components (U_d^* and U_q^*) are converted to sinusoidal by inverse parks transformation [26]. The final three-

phase sinusoidal reference waveforms are compared to phase disposition multi-carrier modulation technique for the generation of pulses for the novel five-level inverter. As the SRF controller uses PLL to generate the reference signals and the PLL is operated with grid voltage as feedback, the inverter operates in synchronization with the grid.

4. PVA-MPPT MODULE

The PVA is a DC source that generates power by converting solar irradiation to electrons. Each PV panel comprises p-type and n-type material with silicon doping to generate holes and electrons respectively. The DC voltage from the PVA is not always constant as the solar irradiation is variable with changes in climatic conditions [27]. The variable DC voltage cannot be used for the proposed inverter as input. Because with variation in the DC voltage the AC amplitude changes creating sags in the grid and also create circulating currents resulting in harmonics generation. Ignoring this issue might damage the source, loads, and modules linked to the electrical grid system [28], [29]. Therefore, for constant DC voltage generation, the PVA connected to a stabilizing DC regulated booster converter controlled by the MPPT technique for maintaining the output voltage at a specified value [30]. A DC-DC booster converter is utilized for this purpose to increase the input voltage to the inverter as the AC loads operate at high voltages. The PVA connected to the booster converter schematic can be demonstrated in Figure 4.

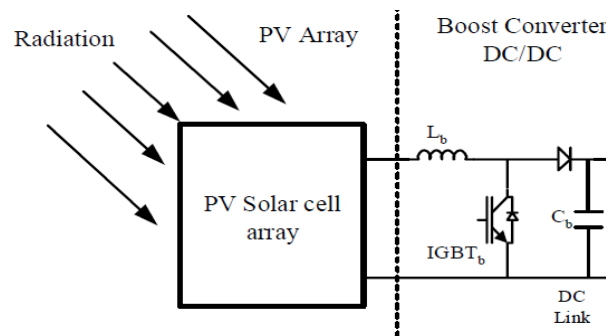


Figure 4. PVA with booster converter module

The converter comprises of single IGBT switch controlled by comparing duty ratios, a high-frequency pulse is created and compared to high-frequency triangular carrier waveform. IGBT switch duty ratio is generated by the Incremental conductance MPPT algorithm [24]. This algorithm is considered to be robust and operates with a faster response rate as contrast to the traditional MPPT P&O algorithm. The ratio comparison errors of voltage and current of the PVA decides the increase or decrease in duty ratio value. In general, the duty ratio increases when there is a drop in solar irradiation, and the duty ratio decrease when there is a rise in solar irradiation.

5. SIMULATION RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

5.1. Case studies for different loads

5.1.1. R-load

PVA as a renewable source connected to a novel five-level inverter controlled by an SRF controller interconnected to a three-phase grid is modeled in MATLAB/Simulink toolbox. From Figure 5, as the irradiance changed from 1000 W/m^2 to 500 W/m^2 , we can observe that, the voltage and current of the photo voltaic module are reduced. During this change the power output of one PVA module also reduced. The PVA rating for specific solar irradiation is given in Table 2. From the Table 2 it is observed that there is a reduction of output voltage current and power at different solar irradiances. The three phase voltages and currents for R-load is shown in Figure 6(a), Figure 6(b) shows the active power of 50 KW and Figure 6(c) gives the voltage THD of 0.05%. With FFT analysis tool the THD of one phase is located at the same connection point is determined and shown in Table 3. From Table 3, %THD of output phase voltages different loads without SRF controller are higher, but %THD of output phase voltages for R, RL, and motor-loads with SRF controller is further reduced by eliminating the harmonics.

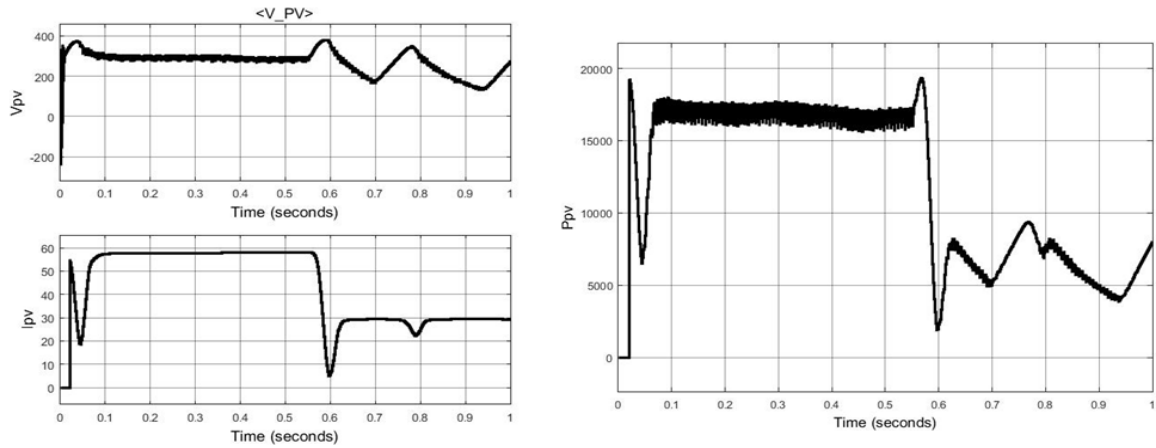
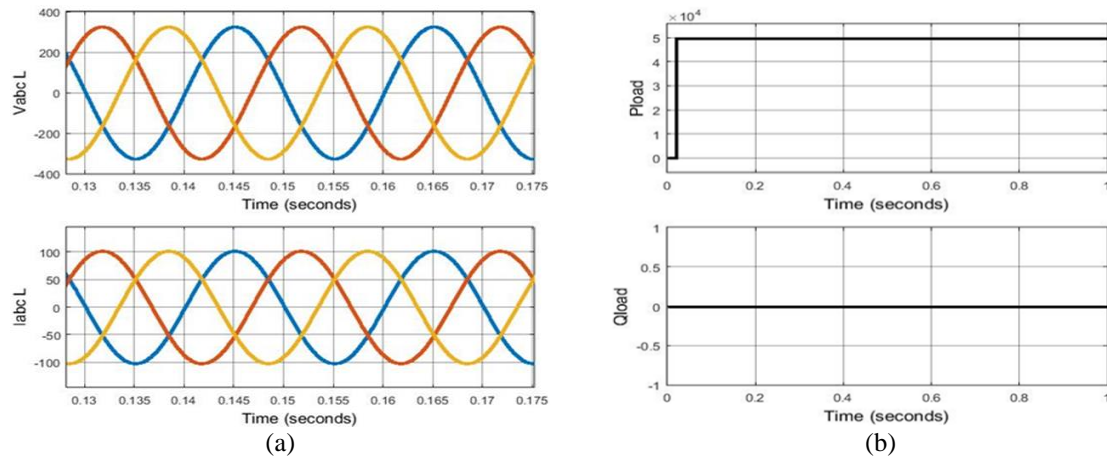


Figure 5. Voltage, current power of the PV cell of one module

Figure 6. The three phase voltages and currents (a) V_{abc} and I_{abc} (b) load active power reactive power with the only 50 KW and (c) THD=0.05% for V_{abc} with R-loadTable 2. V_{pv} , I_{pv} , P_{pv} , V_0 values at different solar irradiances

Solar irradiance	Temperature	$V_{pv}/2$	$I_{pv}/2$	$P_{pv}/2$	$V_0/2$
1000 w/m ²	40°	300 v	58.13 A	16 kw	300 v
500 w/m ²	20°	255.3 v	29.15 A	7.4 kw	254.4 v

Table 3. Output phase voltage thd of inverter side for R, RL, and induction motor-load

Case studies	%THD of Ph-Ph output voltage		
	Without SRF controller		With SRF controller
	without LC-filter	with LC-filter	
R-load	25.35%	0.86%	0.06%
RL-load	48.75%	0.70%	0.07%
Induction motor-load	308.19%	52.57%	0.05%

5.1.2. RL-load

The three phase voltages and currents with their THD for RL load is shown in the three phase voltages and currents for RL-load is shown in Figure 7(a), Figure 7(b) shows the active power of 50 KW, reactive power of and 30 KVAR with 0.85 power factor and Figure 7(c) gives the voltage THD of 0.05% for RL-load. The THD is much less than 1% for V_{abc} with the help of the SRF controller as compared to the THD without the SRF controller. As the controller takes feedback from the grid current and voltage. Pulses are generated by the inverter is synchronised to the grid voltage. The frequency, phase and amplitude of the inverter are tuned to same values of the grid voltage to achieve shychronization. This reduces the harmonics generation in the currents and voltages of the grid and the inverter as shown in Figure 7.

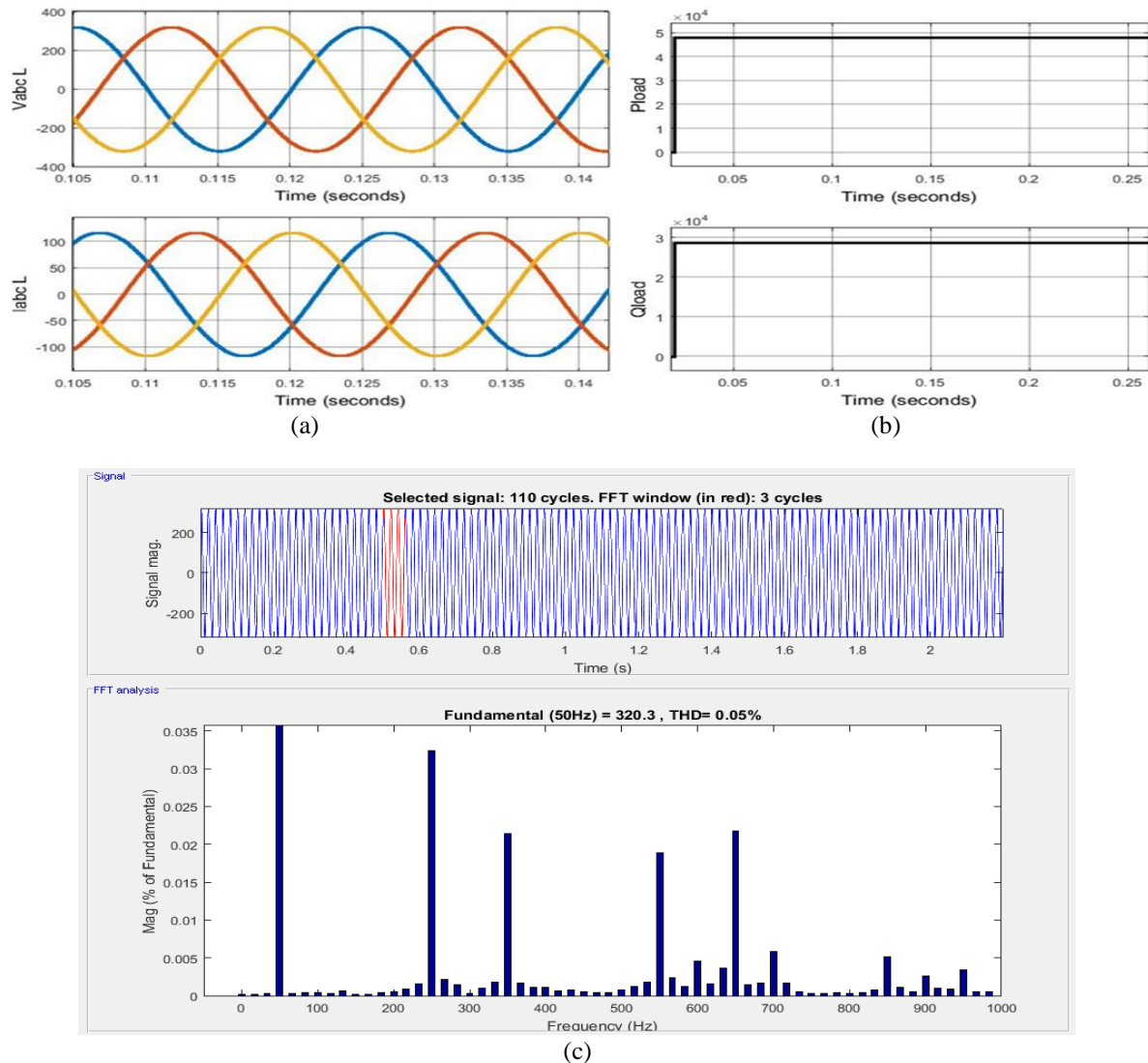


Figure 7. The three phase voltages and currents (a) V_{abc} and I_{abc} (b) load active power reactive power with the only 50 KW and 30 KVAR with 0.85 power factor and (c) THD=0.05% for V_{abc} with RL-load

The grid system is interconnected with different loads through a load transformer 11 kV/440 V operating a static load of 1 kW and a dynamic load induction motor connected in parallel. From the Figure 5, it is seen that, as the irradiance drops from 1000 w/m² to 500 w/m², P_{pv} decreases from 0.6 seconds onwards. So, to balance it, grid is injecting power to the system from 0.6 seconds onwards.

6. CONCLUSION

Successful implementation of novel five-level voltage source inverter controlled by SRF controller with PD multi-carrier modulation technique is simulated. The interconnection to the grid through the inverter is synchronized and the power from the PVA is injected into the system compensating the loads connected at PCC. The system is tested for both static and dynamic load conditions and results show the reduction of output phase voltage THDs within the permissible limit (<5%). A comparative analysis is carried out with different loads like R, RL and motor load determining THD of each case are presented. Injection of maximum power generated by the PVA to the grid through novel five level inverter with reduced harmonics is achieved using SRF controller. The system can be further updated with multiple renewable sources that can be connected at the input to the inverter and an optimal controller can be utilized for better voltage and power stability in the system. An overview of the objectives achieved is given below. Power from renewable source PVA is efficiently injected into the grid with synchronization. Reduction of harmonic content in voltages during different load operations





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