

## Total Harmonic Distortion Analysis of Multilevel Inverter Fed To Induction Motor Drive With PV-Battery Hybrid System

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### ABSTRACT

This paper presents the control of a multilevel inverter supplied by a Photovoltaic (PV) panel and a batteries bank. It is well known that the power quality of multilevel inverter signals depends on their number of levels. However, the question that arises is whether there is a limit beyond which it is not necessary to increase the number of level. This question is addressed in this paper. Three, nine and fifteen-level converters are studied. The harmonics content of the output signals are analyzed. A simplified Pulse Width Modulation (SPWM) method for a multilevel inverter that supplied an induction motor is developed. The controller equations are such that the SPWM pulses are generated automatically for any number of levels. The effectiveness of the propose method is evaluated in simulation. Matlab®/ Simulink is used to implement the control algorithm and simulate the system.

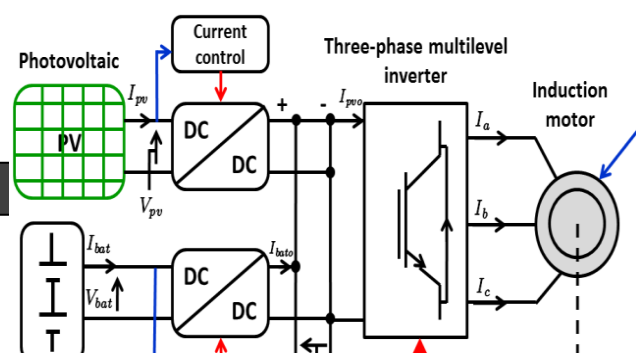
### I. INTRODUCTION

Nowadays, the industry requires power equipment increasingly high, in the megawatt range. The rapid evolutions of semiconductor devices manufacturing technologies and the designer's orientation have enabled the development of new structures of converters (inverters) with a great performance compared to conventional structures. So, these new technologies of semiconductor are more suited to high power applications and they enable the design of multilevel inverters. The constraints due to commutation phenomena are also reduced and each component supports a much smaller fraction of the DC-bus voltage when the number of levels is higher. For this reason, the switches support more high reverse voltages in high-power applications and the converter output signals are with good spectral qualities. Thus, the using of this type of inverter, associated with a judicious control of power components, allows deleting some harmonics. Among the control algorithms proposed in the literature in this field, the SPWM, appears most promising. It offers great flexibility in optimizing the design and it is well suited for digital implementation. It also helps to maximize the available power. The main advantage of multilevel inverters is that the output voltage can be generated with a low harmonics. Thus it is admitted that the harmonics decrease proportionately to the inverter level. For these reasons, the multilevel inverters are preferred for high power applications. However, there is no shortage of disadvantages. Their control is much more complex and the techniques are still not

widely used in industry. In this paper, modeling and simulation of a multilevel inverter using Neutral-Point-Clamped (NPC) inverters have been performed with motor load using Simulink/ MATLAB program. In the first section multilevel inverter control strategies are presented before to detail a study of seven-level inverter in the second section. Total Harmonic Distortion (THD) is discussed in the third section. The aim is to highlight the limit at which the multilevel inverters are no longer effective in reducing output voltage harmonics.

### II. Photovoltaic and Battery Energy Generation:

Photovoltaic (PV) systems are stand-alone power generators that have good environmental footprints. The modeling and the Maximum Power Point Tracking (MPPT) control strategy for a PV system are developed. In the latter, the control strategy that is presented is based only on the measurement of the PV current to track the maximum power. A batteries bank is added to the DC-bus to ensure the energetic autonomy of the system. A Proportional-Integral (PI) controller is used to regulate the DC-bus voltage  $V_{dc}$  at a constant value. As a consequence the batteries compensate for the difference between the power supplied by the PV system and the power needed by the induction motor. The batteries are charged when the PV power exceeds the motor demand.



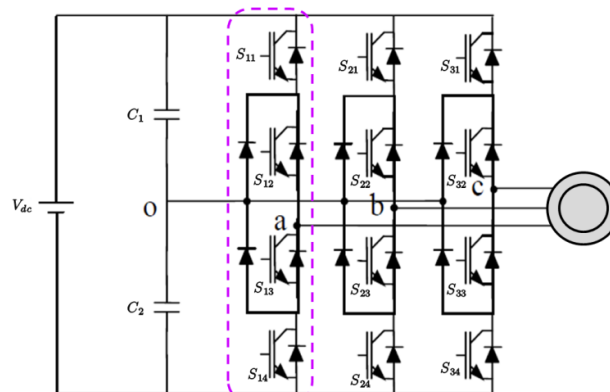


Fig. 2: Three-level three phase inverter

Fig. 1. Induction motor driven by PV-batteries standalone system using a controlled multilevel inverter

### III. Multilevel Inverter Control Strategies:

#### A. The three-level inverter control strategy

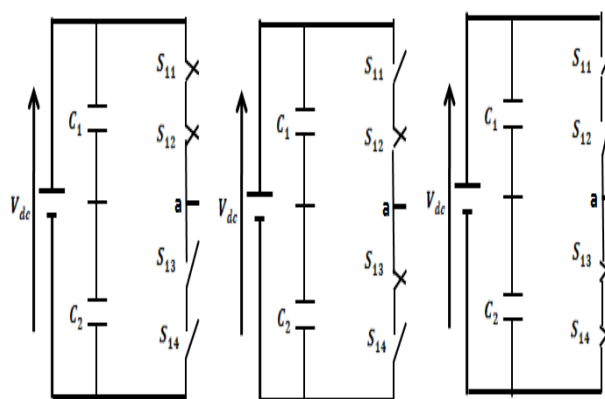
Fig. 2 shows a three-phase three-level inverter. It has three arms. Each arm has four switches. Every switch is connected in antiparallel with a diode. This paragraph describes the operation of one of the legs shown at Fig. 3. The voltage  $V_{ao}$  between the phase "a" and the neutral point O is defined entirely by the switches position (0,"open" or 1"closed"). Switch sets  $[S_{11}, S_{13}]$ , and  $[S_{12}, S_{14}]$  have complementary positions. When  $[S_{11}, S_{13}]$ , are open  $[S_{12}, S_{14}]$  are closed. The three-level NPC inverter is mostly used for medium-voltage high-power applications.

In this converter, the number of commutation sequences ( $S_{eq}$ ) is equal to  $24 = 16 \cdot 4$ , where 4 stands for the number of switches per arm and 2 is the number of state per switch (0, 1).  $V_{dc}$  is the DC-bus voltage. Only three commutation sequences are possible. They are represented at Table 1. Fig. 3 shows the configurations of the inverter's arm which correspond to the three possible commutation sequences:

- Sequence 1:  $S_{11}, S_{12}$  conduct and  $S_{13}, S_{14}$  open (Fig. 3.a).  $V_{ao} = +V_{dc}/2$ .
- Sequence 2:  $S_{12}, S_{13}$  conduct and  $S_{11}, S_{14}$  open (Fig. 3.b).  $V_{ao} = 0$ .
- Sequence 3:  $S_{13}, S_{14}$  conduct and  $S_{11}, S_{12}$  open (Fig. 3.c).  $V_{ao} = -V_{dc}/2$ .

Sequences 1, 2 and 3 are applied in this order periodically.

A pulse width modulation is used to control the switches. Consider Fig. 3 and Fig. 4, the reference voltage  $V_{ra}$  is compared to the positive and negative sawtooth carrier  $V_{cx}$  and  $V_{cy}$  respectively. The comparator output is sent to the switches (Insulated Gate Bipolar Transistor or IGBT) to generate the machine phase voltage.



a. Sequence 1      b. Sequence 2      c. Sequence 3

Fig. 3: Different possible configurations for one arm

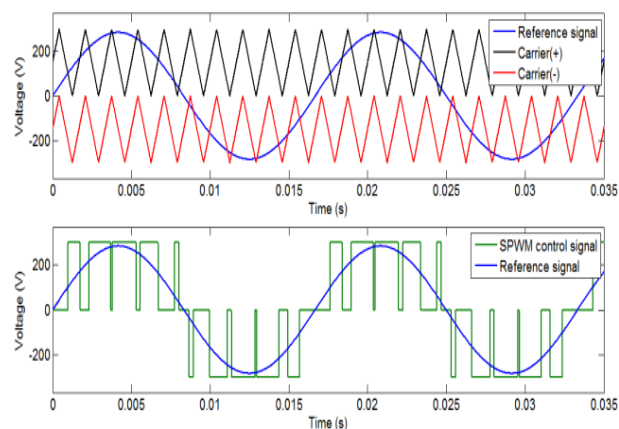


Fig. 4: Three-level SPWM control method

TABLE 1: Sequences of control vectors

S.No	$[S_{11}, S_{12}, S_{13}, S_{14}]$	$V_{ao}$
1	[1100]	$V_{ao}$
2	[0110]	$V_{ao}=0$
3	[0011]	$V_{ao}$

the same as the reference voltage  $V_{ra}$  frequency. The inverter output voltages are written as follow (1):

$$\begin{cases} V_{ao} = \frac{1}{3}(V_{ab} - V_{ca}) \\ V_{bo} = \frac{1}{3}(V_{bc} - V_{ab}) \\ V_{co} = \frac{1}{3}(V_{ca} - V_{bc}) \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

Modulation index ( $m_a$ ) is defined by (2):

$$m_a = \frac{A_r}{(n-1)A_c} \quad (2)$$

where  $A_r$  and  $A_c$  are the peak to peak value of  $V_{ao}$  and  $V_c$  respectively.

**B. The higher level inverter control strategy**

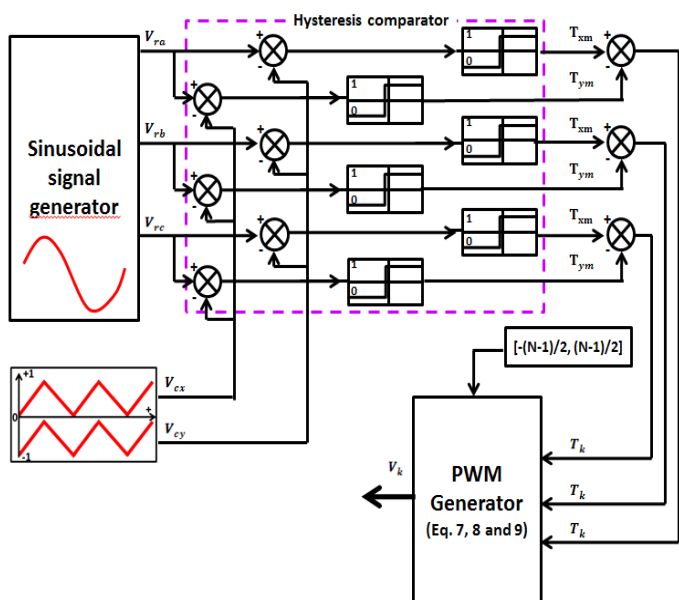


Fig. 5: Principle SPWM multilevel inverter control

The previous study for the three-level voltage inverter is now extended to higher level inverters. For an n-level inverter, it is possible to determine the number of components that are needed per arm (number of switches, diodes, carrier, etc). Numbers of inverter components calculation: Define  $S_{eq}$  as the number of commutation sequence possibilities.  $S$  is the number of secondary voltage sources.  $K$  stands for the number of switches per phase.  $D$  is the number of diodes loop including the diode switches per phase.  $C$  represents the magnitude of the voltage across each capacitor and  $P$  is the number of carriers. The following equations provide how these quantities are calculated and table 2 shows the values for several multilevel inverters.

$$\begin{cases} S_{eq} = 2^{(n+1)} \\ S = P = n - 1 \\ K = 2(n - 1) \\ D = 4n - 6 \\ C = \frac{V_{dc}}{n-1} \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

TABLE 2 : Sequence of the control Vectors

N	Seq	S=P	K	D	C
3	16	2	4	6	Vdc/2
5	64	4	8	14	Vdc/4
7	256	6	12	22	Vdc/6

Calculation of carrier :

A bipolar sawtooth carrier is illustrated at Figure 6. The voltages  $V_{cx}$  and  $V_{cy}$  have the expression given by equation (4):

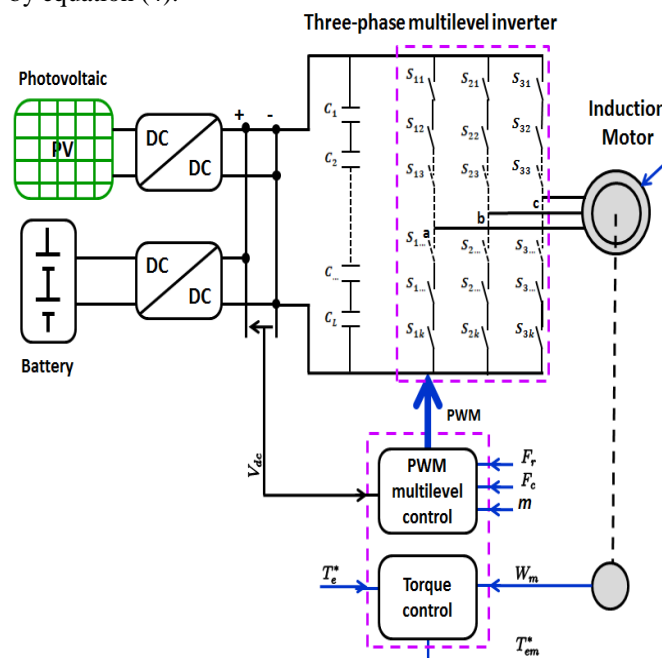


Fig. 6: Diagram of the induction motor control principle based on the multilevel inverter

$$\begin{cases} V_{cx} = \sum_{x=2}^h V_{cx-1} + 1 \\ V_{cy} = \sum_{x=0}^h V_{cy-1} - 1 \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

Calculation of reference voltages:

The balanced three-phase reference voltage is given by(5):

$$V_r: \begin{cases} V_{ra}(t) = A_r \sin(2\pi f_r t) \\ V_{rb}(t) = A_r \sin\left(2\pi f_r t - \frac{2\pi}{3}\right) \\ V_{rc}(t) = A_r \sin\left(2\pi f_r t - \frac{4\pi}{3}\right) \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

where  $V_r$  is the three phase reference voltage

Calculation of the comparator:

The comparator uses the reference and carrier signals to generate a binary signal according to the following equation:

$$\begin{cases} \text{If } V_r \geq V_{cx} \Rightarrow T_{xm} = 1 \\ \text{If } V_r < V_{cx} \Rightarrow T_{xm} = 0 \\ \text{If } V_r \leq V_{cy} \Rightarrow T_{ym} = 1 \\ \text{If } V_r > V_{cy} \Rightarrow T_{ym} = 0 \end{cases} \quad (6)$$

where matrices  $T_{xm}$  and  $T_{ym}$  are the comparator output.

Calculation of the adder :

The parameter  $T_k$  is the difference between  $T_{xm}$  and  $T_{ym}$ . It is therefore calculated as follows.

$$T_k = T_{xm} - T_{ym} \quad (7)$$

Calculation of inverter control vectors:

The generation of the pulse vector that control the inverter is very important.

The pulse vector can be generated by applying the  $G_n$  vector for each  $T_k$  according equation (8). The inverter output voltage  $V_k$  is given by equation (9).

$$\text{If } T_k = \frac{n-1}{2} - i \Rightarrow \begin{cases} G_1 = [0 \dots 01 \dots 1] \\ G_2 = [1 \dots 00 \dots 1] \\ G_3 = [1 \dots 00 \dots 1] \\ \dots \\ G_n = [1 \dots 10 \dots 0] \end{cases} \quad (8)$$

$$V_k = \frac{h-i}{n-1} V_{dc} \quad (9)$$

where  $h = \frac{n-1}{2}$ ,  $i = \{0, 1, 2, \dots, n\}$  and

$G_n$  is  $1 \times 2(n-1)$  vector. It contains  $1 \times (n-1)$  zero vector and  $1 \times (n-1)$  ones vector.

#### IV. Simulink Circuit and Results:

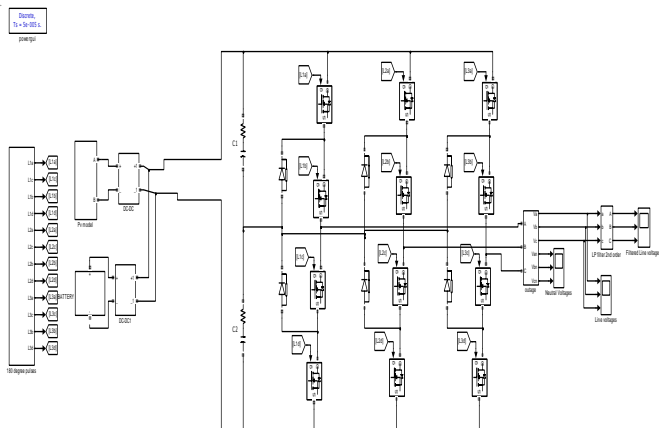


Fig. 7: Simulink Circuit of the proposed System

Fig. 8: Simulink Diagram of PV Array

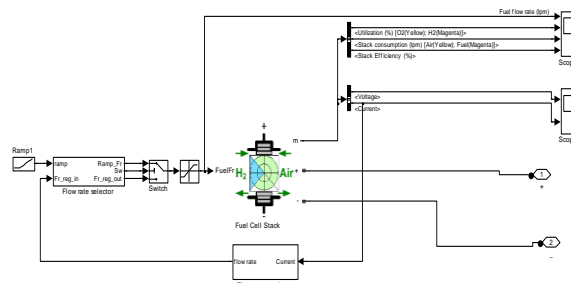


Fig 9 : Simulink Diagram of Fuel Cell

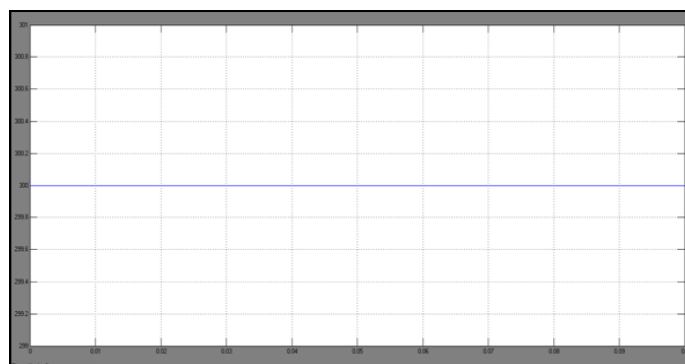


Fig 10: Input Voltage

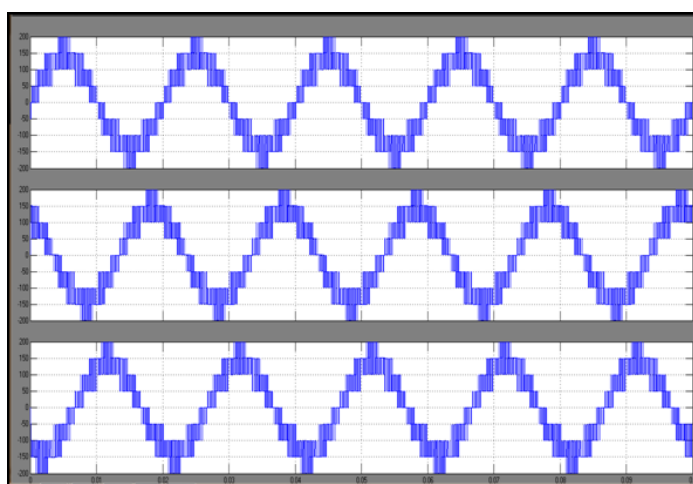


Fig 11: Multilevel output Voltage without filter

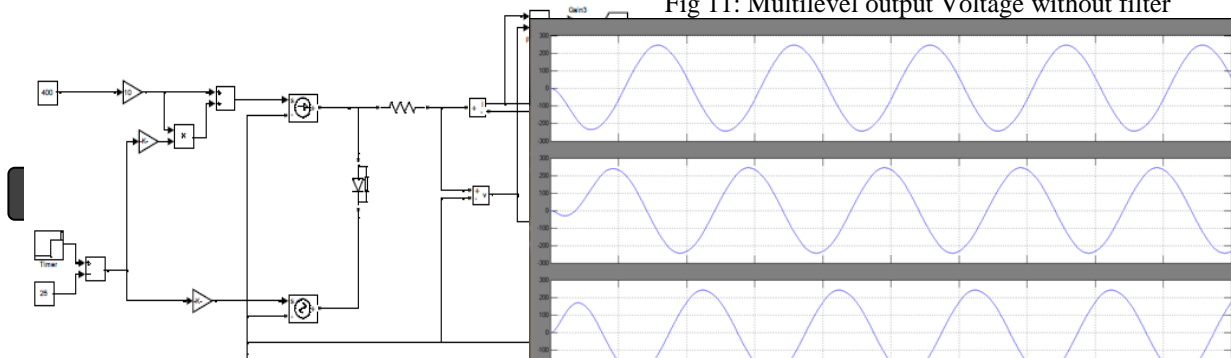


Fig 12: Multilevel output voltage with filter

### Total Harmonic Distortion Analysis of Multilevel Inverter

The main criterion for assessing the quality of the voltage delivered by an inverter is the Total Harmonic Distortion (THD). This section will be devoted to analyzing the inverters performance according to their number level. Level three, seven inverters will be considered. The goal is to see if the low order harmonics amplitude will decrease when the number of level increases. The inverter is usually followed by a low pass filter since higher frequency harmonics are easy to filter. This means that the performance of multilevel inverters can be improved by cancelling or reducing lower order harmonics. Lower order harmonics generate the most important currents when an inductive load is used.

The THD is a ratio between the Root Mean Square (RMS) of the harmonics and the fundamental signal. For an inverter that has a fundamental output voltage  $V_1$  and harmonics  $V_2, V_3, \dots$ , we define the THD as follows:

$$THD = \frac{\sqrt{\sum_{k \geq 2}^N V_k^2}}{V_1} \quad (10)$$

This algorithm can generate automatically SPWM pulses for any level of inverter by changing only a parameter n which is the number of inverter level. Simulation of 3, 9, and fifteen level inverter connected to induction motor has been performed and the generated signals THD is analysed. The system is supplied by a PV panel and batteries bank. That gives energy autonomy to the system. Simulation results give a better quality of stator current in terms of low harmonics, thus reducing the adverse effects on of the machine life and eventually the electrical network which supplies it. Base to THD analyze for three different index of modulation, we have also highlighted that at fifteen-level, the harmonics are very low. These latter can be easily eliminated with a simple low-pass filter. So it is not necessary to continue increasing the inverter level.

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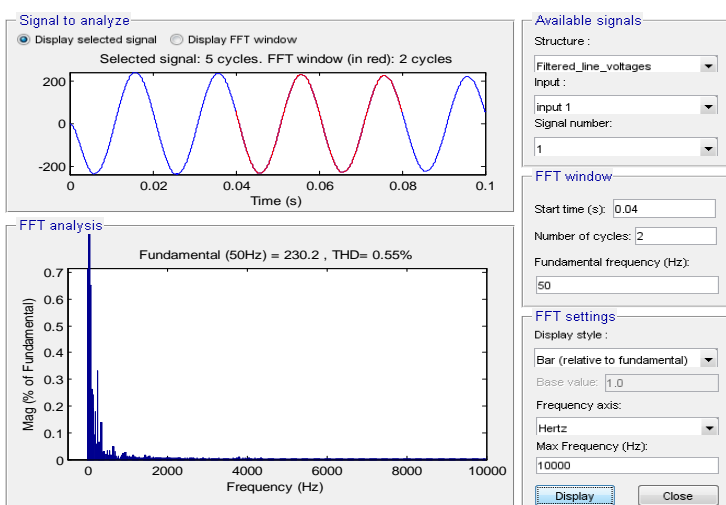


Fig 13: THD of the Multilevel Inverter Voltage (0.55%)

### V.CONCLUSION

In this paper, a general multilevel SPWM control algorithm for n-level inverter has been modeled and simulated using Matlab®/Simulink.