

Synchronous-Reference-Frame-Based Control Method for UPQC Under Unbalanced and Distorted Load Conditions

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Abstract—This paper presents a new synchronous-reference-frame (SRF)-based control method to compensate power-quality (PQ) problems through a three-phase four-wire unified PQ conditioner (UPQC) under unbalanced and distorted load conditions. The proposed UPQC system can improve the power quality at the point of common coupling on power distribution systems under unbalanced and distorted load conditions. The simulation results based on Matlab/Simulink are discussed in detail to support the SRF-based control method presented in this paper. The proposed approach is also validated through experimental study with the UPQC hardware prototype.

Index Terms—Active power filter (APF), harmonics, phase-locked loop (PLL), power quality (PQ), synchronous reference frame (SRF), unified power-quality (PQ) conditioner (UPQC).

I. INTRODUCTION

UNIFIED POWER-QUALITY (PQ) conditioner (UPQC) systems were widely studied by many researchers as an eventual method to improve the PQ in electrical distribution systems [1]–[11]. The aim of a UPQC is to eliminate the disturbances that affect the performance of the critical load in power systems. The UPQC, therefore, is expected to be one of the most powerful solutions to large-capacity loads sensitive to supply-voltage-imbalance distortions [3]. The UPQC, which has two inverters that share one dc link, can compensate the voltage sag and swell and the harmonic current and voltage, and it can control the power flow and voltage stability. Moreover, the UPQC with the combination of a series active power filter (APF) and a shunt APF can also compensate the voltage interruption if it has some energy storage or battery in the dc link [4].

The shunt APF is usually connected across the loads to compensate for all current-related problems, such as the reactive power compensation, power factor improvement, current harmonic compensation, neutral current compensation, dc-link voltage regulation, and load unbalance compensation, whereas the series APF is connected in series with a line through a series transformer (ST). It acts as a controlled voltage source and

can compensate all voltage-related problems, such as voltage harmonics, voltage sag, voltage swell, flicker, etc. [2], [3].

In this paper, the proposed synchronous-reference-frame (SRF)-based control method for the UPQC system is optimized without using transformer voltage, load, and filter current measurement, so that the numbers of the current measurements are reduced and the system performance is improved. In the proposed control method, load voltage, source voltage, and source current are measured, evaluated, and tested under unbalanced and distorted load conditions using Matlab/Simulink software. The proposed SRF-based method is also validated through experimental study.

II. UPQC

The UPQC for harmonic elimination and simultaneous compensation of voltage and current, which improve the PQ, offered for other harmonic sensitive loads at the point of common coupling (PCC). In almost all of the papers on UPQC, it is shown that the UPQC can be utilized to solve PQ problems simultaneously [12]–[15]. Fig. 1 shows a basic system configuration of a general UPQC with series and shunt APFs. The main aim of the series APF is to obtain harmonic isolation between the load and supply. It has the capability of voltage imbalance compensation as well as voltage regulation and harmonic compensation at the utility-consumer PCC. The shunt APF is used to absorb current harmonics, to compensate for reactive power, and to regulate the dc-link voltage between both APFs.

III. SRF

The conventional SRF method can be used to extract the harmonics contained in the supply voltages or currents. For current harmonic compensation, the distorted currents are first transferred into two-phase stationary coordinates using $\alpha-\beta$ transformation (same as in $p-q$ theory). After that, the stationary frame quantities are transferred into synchronous rotating frames using cosine and sine functions from the phase-locked loop (PLL). The sine and cosine functions help to maintain the synchronization with supply voltage and current. Similar to the $p-q$ theory, using filters, the harmonics and fundamental components are separated easily and transferred back to the $a-b-c$ frame as reference signals for the filter. The conventional SRF algorithm is also known as $d-q$ method, and it is based on $a-b-c$ to $d-q-0$ transformation (park transformation), which is proposed for active filter compensation [13]. Several APF and UPQC application works presented in the literature are about

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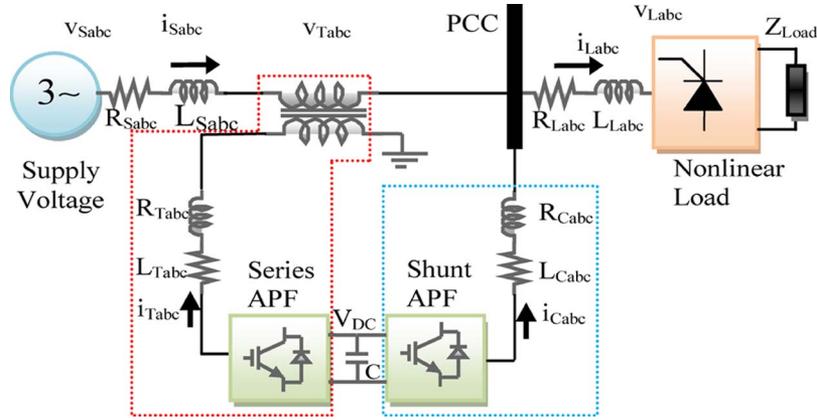


Fig. 1. Basic system configuration of UPQC.

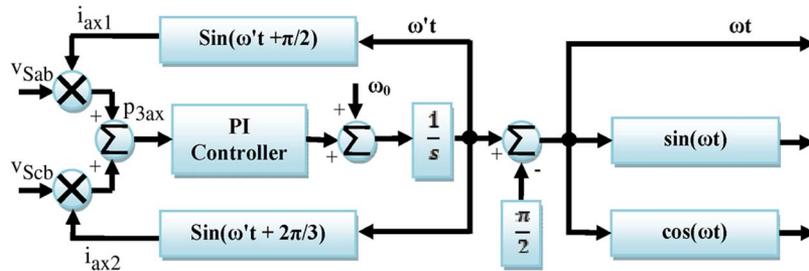


Fig. 2. Modified PLL circuit block diagram.

improving the performance of the compensator [14]–[20], [32], [33], [37]–[39].

In the SRF-based APF applications in three-phase four-wire (3P4W) systems, voltage and current signals are transformed into the conventional rotating frame ($d-q-0$). In the SRF method, the transformation angle (ωt) represents the angular position of the reference frame which is rotating at a constant speed in synchronism with the three-phase ac voltage. In nonlinear load conditions, harmonics and reactive currents of the load are determined by PLL algorithms. Then, currents with the same magnitude and reverse phase are produced and injected to the power system in order to compensate neutral current, harmonics, and reactive power. In the stationary reference frame, $\alpha-\beta-0$ coordinates are stationary, while in the SRF, $d-q-0$ coordinates rotate synchronously with supply voltages. Thus, the angular position of the supply voltage vector shows the angular position of the SRF [13]–[20], [31]–[33].

In 3P4W systems, since the i_d component of the current in the “ d ” coordinate is in phase with voltage, it corresponds to the positive-sequence current. However, the i_q component of the current in the “ q ” coordinate is orthogonal to the i_d component of the current, and it corresponds to the negative-sequence reactive current. The i_0 component of the current, which is orthogonal to i_d and i_q , corresponds to the zero-sequence component of the current. If the i_q component of the current is negative, the load has inductive reactive power. If it is positive, the load has capacitive reactive power. In 3P4W nonlinear power systems, the i_d and i_q components of the current include both oscillating components (\tilde{i}_d and \tilde{i}_q) and average components (\bar{i}_d and \bar{i}_q), as shown in

$$i_d = \tilde{i}_d + \bar{i}_d \quad i_q = \tilde{i}_q + \bar{i}_q. \quad (1)$$

The oscillating components (\tilde{i}_d and \tilde{i}_q) of the current correspond to harmonic currents, and the average components of the current correspond to the active (\bar{i}_d) and reactive (\bar{i}_q) currents [13], [14], [20]. In the balanced and linear three-phase systems, the load voltage and current signals generally consist of fundamental positive-sequence components. However, in unbalanced and nonlinear load conditions, they include fundamental positive-, negative-, and zero-sequence components. In APF applications, the fundamental positive-sequence components of the signals should be separated in order to compensate the harmonics.

IV. PROPOSED SRF-BASED CONTROL ALGORITHM

Among the several APF control methods presented in the literature, the SRF-based control method is one of the most conventional and the most practical methods [11], [12], [14]–[17], [32], [33]. The SRF method presents excellent characteristics but it requires decisive PLL techniques. This paper presents a new technique based on the SRF method using the modified PLL algorithm and compares its performances with that of the conventional SRF method under unbalanced and distorted load conditions.

The proposed SRF control method uses $a-b-c$ to $d-q-0$ transformation equations, filters, and the modified PLL algorithm shown in Fig. 2. The sensing of only the source current to realize an SRF-based controller or another type of controller for shunt APF is not new, and this kind of controller can be found in literature [24]–[28]. The proposed SRF-based controller with modified PLL for the UPQC under 3P4W topology and particularly the SRF-based controller for the series APF part is not presented in the literature. The proposed method is simple

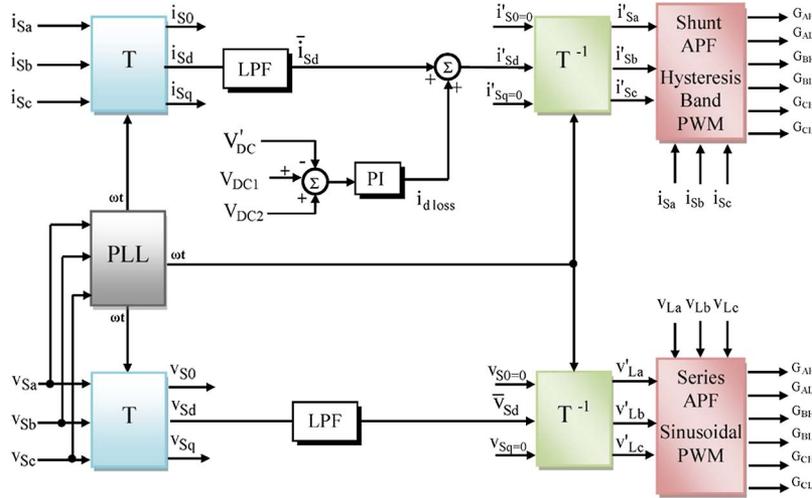


Fig. 5. Proposed SRF-based UPQC control block diagram.

either source currents (indirect method) or shunt active filter and load currents (direct method) are used for reference-current signal generation. The proposed SRF-based control method presents some advantages, compared with other methods. The overall control system can be easily applied since it has less current measurement requirements. The proposed method has an effective response under distorted and unbalanced load conditions. The proposed control strategy is capable of extracting most of the load-current and source-voltage distortions successfully.

B. Reference-Voltage Signal Generation for Series APF

The proposed SRF-based UPQC control algorithm can be used to solve the PQ problems related with source-voltage harmonics, unbalanced voltages, and voltage sag and swell at the same time for series APFs. In the proposed method, the series APF controller calculates the reference value to be injected by the STs, comparing the positive-sequence component of the source voltages with load-side line voltages. The series APF reference-voltage signal-generation algorithm is shown in Fig. 5. In (4), the supply voltages v_{Sabc} are transformed $d-q-0$ by using the transformation matrix T given in (2). In addition, the modified PLL conversion is used for reference-voltage calculation

$$T = \sqrt{\frac{2}{3}} \begin{bmatrix} 1/\sqrt{2} & 1/\sqrt{2} & 1/\sqrt{2} \\ \sin(\omega t) & \sin(\omega t - 2\pi/3) & \sin(\omega t + 2\pi/3) \\ \cos(\omega t) & \cos(\omega t - 2\pi/3) & \cos(\omega t + 2\pi/3) \end{bmatrix} \quad (2)$$

$$T^{-1} = \sqrt{\frac{2}{3}} \begin{bmatrix} 1/\sqrt{2} & \sin(\omega t) & \cos(\omega t) \\ 1/\sqrt{2} & \sin(\omega t - 2\pi/3) & \cos(\omega t - 2\pi/3) \\ 1/\sqrt{2} & \sin(\omega t + 2\pi/3) & \cos(\omega t + 2\pi/3) \end{bmatrix} \quad (3)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} v_{S0} \\ v_{Sd} \\ v_{Sq} \end{bmatrix} = T \begin{bmatrix} v_{Sa} \\ v_{Sb} \\ v_{Sc} \end{bmatrix} \quad (4)$$

The instantaneous source voltages (v_{Sd} and v_{Sq}) include both oscillating components (\tilde{v}_{Sd} and \tilde{v}_{Sq}) and average components (\bar{v}_{Sd} and \bar{v}_{Sq}) under unbalanced source voltage with harmonics. The oscillating components of v_{Sd} and v_{Sq} consist of the harmonics and negative-sequence components of the source voltages under distorted load conditions. An average compo-

nent includes the positive-sequence components of the voltages. The zero-sequence part (v_{S0}) of the source voltage occurs when the source voltage is unbalanced. The source voltage in the d -axis (v_{Sd}) given in (5) consists of the average and oscillating components

$$v_{Sd} = \bar{v}_{Sd} + \tilde{v}_{Sd}. \quad (5)$$

The load reference voltages (v'_{Labc}) are calculated as given in (6). The inverse transformation matrix T^{-1} given in (3) is used for producing the reference load voltages by the average component of source voltage and ωt produced in the modified PLL algorithm. The source-voltage positive-sequence average value (\bar{v}_{Sd}) in the d -axis is calculated by LPF, as shown in Fig. 5. Zero and negative sequences of source voltage are set to zero in order to compensate load voltage harmonics, unbalance, and distortion, as shown in Fig. 5

$$\begin{bmatrix} v'_{La} \\ v'_{Lb} \\ v'_{Lc} \end{bmatrix} = T^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \bar{v}_{Sd} \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}. \quad (6)$$

The produced load reference voltages (v'_{La} , v'_{Lb} , and v'_{Lc}) and load voltages (v_{La} , v_{Lb} , and v_{Lc}) are compared in the sinusoidal pulsewidth modulation controller to produce insulated-gate bipolar transistor (IGBT) switching signals and to compensate all voltage-related problems, such as voltage harmonics, sag, swell, voltage unbalance, etc., at the PCC.

C. Reference-Source-Current Signal Generation for Shunt APF

The shunt APF described in this paper is used to compensate the current harmonics generated in the nonlinear load and the reactive power. The proposed SRF-based shunt APF reference-source-current signal-generation algorithm uses only source voltages, source currents, and dc-link voltages. The source currents are transformed to $d-q-0$ coordinates, as given in (7) using (1) and (ωt) coming from the modified PLL. In 3P4W systems and nonlinear load conditions, the instantaneous source currents (i_{Sd} and i_{Sq}) include both oscillating components (\tilde{i}_{Sd} and \tilde{i}_{Sq}) and average components (\bar{i}_{Sd} and \bar{i}_{Sq}). The oscillating components consist of the harmonic and

TABLE III
EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS AND THD LEVELS OF
VOLTAGE AND CURRENT WAVEFORMS AT THE PCC

THD (%)	Phases	Before UPQC		After UPQC			
		Currents (A)	Voltages (V)	Conventional		Proposed	
				Currents (A)	Voltages (V)	Currents (A)	Voltages (V)
	A	26,2	29,8	5,6	4,2	4,6	3,4
	B	26,4	32,6	5,5	4,5	4,5	4,0
	C	26,5	32,2	5,7	4,3	4,5	3,8

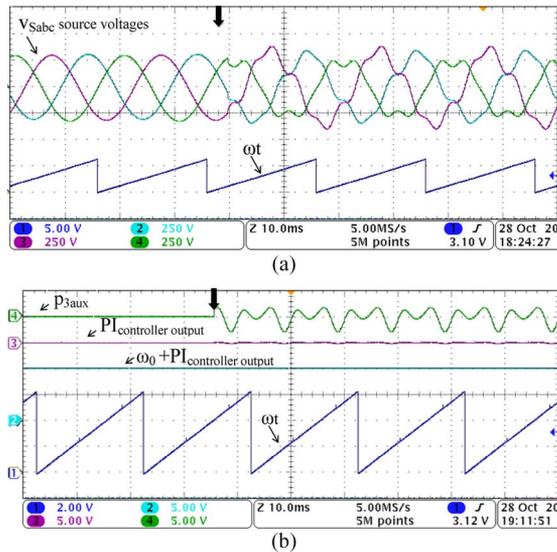


Fig. 12. Experimental results for the modified PLL algorithm under balanced and unbalanced conditions with distortions. (a) System voltages and ωt waveforms. (b) Modified PLL algorithm characteristic waveforms.

THD levels of 4.6% current and 3.4% voltage by mitigation of all harmonic components for phase a at the PCC.

Experimental results for the modified PLL algorithm under balanced and unbalanced conditions with distortions and characteristic waveforms are shown in Fig. 12. Fig. 13(a) shows the behavior of the proposed modified PLL algorithm when the utility frequency suddenly changes from 50 to 30 Hz. Experimental results for the modified PLL algorithm and characteristic waveforms are shown in Fig. 13(b). These waveforms show how the modified PLL algorithm provide good results even under supply frequency change and unbalanced and distorted load conditions.

The experimental results show that the harmonic compensation features of shunt and series APFs, by appropriate control of UPQC, can be done effectively. The shunt APF with reduced-current-measurement-based control method can compensate neutral, harmonic, and reactive currents effectively, in the unbalanced and distorted load conditions. However, the series APF can compensate load voltage harmonics and unbalances in order to protect sensitive loads connected the same PCC.

As shown in the results, the proposed control strategy provides better dynamic responses to load-current variation, and so, the stability of the UPQC control is enhanced. As a result, the proposed method is very effective and successful in

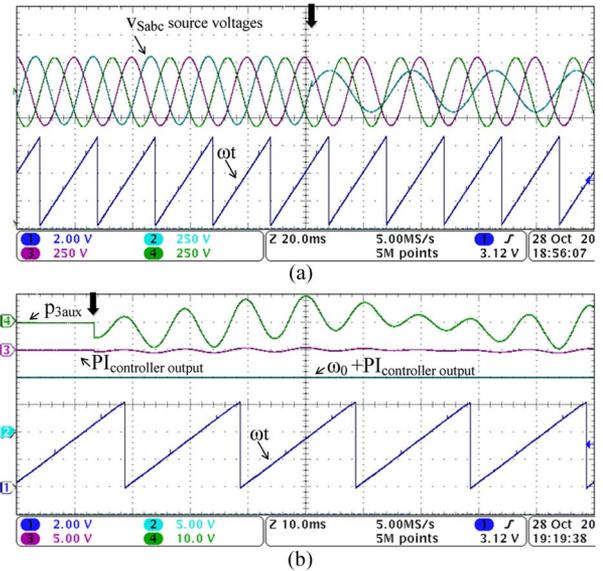


Fig. 13. Experimental results for the modified PLL algorithm under balanced conditions and when the utility frequency varies. (a) System voltages and ωt waveforms. (b) Modified PLL algorithm characteristic waveforms.

harmonic compensation under unbalanced and distorted load conditions, as shown in the simulation and experimental results and the THD levels given in Tables II and III.

VII. CONCLUSION

This paper describes a new SRF-based control strategy used in the UPQC, which mainly compensates the reactive power along with voltage and current harmonics under nonideal mains voltage and unbalanced load-current conditions. The proposed control strategy uses only loads and mains voltage measurements for the series APF, based on the SRF theory. The conventional methods require the measurements of load, source, and filter currents for the shunt APF and source and injection transformer voltage for the series APF. The simulation results show that, when under unbalanced and nonlinear load-current conditions, the aforementioned control algorithm eliminates the impact of distortion and unbalance of load current on the power line, making the power factor unity. Meanwhile, the series APF isolates the loads and source voltage in unbalanced and distorted load conditions, and the shunt APF compensates reactive power, neutral current, and harmonics and provides three-phase balanced and rated currents for the mains. Experimental results obtained from a laboratory model of 10 kVA, along with a theoretical analysis, are shown to verify the viability and effectiveness of the proposed SRF-based UPQC control method.

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