

A Transformerless Inverter With Virtual DC Bus For Eliminating
Common Mode Leakage Current In Grid Connected PV Power System.

Tamboli Anjum Aslam ¹, Dr. Mulla Anwar Mubarak²

¹ PG scholar, Electrical Department, Annasaheb Dange College of Engg Technology, Ashta Sangli, India
² Principal, Electrical Department, Annasaheb Dange College of Engg Technology, Ashta Sangli, India

Abstract - The photovoltaic based power generation systems are popular nowadays. For low power grid connected application, a single phase converter can be used. In PV application it is possible to remove the transformer in the inverter to reduce losses, cost and size. Galvanic connection of the grid and the DC sources in transformerless system can introduce additional common mode ground leakage currents due to the ground parasitic capacitance. These current reduce the efficiency of power conversion stage and affect the quality of grid current. To eliminate this common mode leakage current, virtual DC bus concept is used in this paper. By connecting the grid neutral line directly to the negative pole of the dc bus, the stray capacitance between PV panels and ground is bypassed. The CM ground leakage current can be suppressed completely.

Key Words: Common mode (cm) current, transformerless inverter, virtual dc bus.

1. INTRODUCTION

Day by day the contribution of renewable energy is increased in total energy consumed in the world. Among all renewable sources like solar, wind, hydro; the solar system or photovoltaic (PV) system is most stable and reliable energy. Now a day, the solar energy technologies have becomes more efficient and less expensive than the traditional technologies.

A grid connected PV system is mainly consisting of set of PV arrays as a DC generator, inverter for power conversion and filter. Generally in grid connected PV system low frequency or high frequency transformer is placed between grid and power conversion stage. The low frequency transformer provides isolation between PV system and grid ground so that the leakage current is greatly limited. However this transformer increase size, cost and weight of PV system and reduces the efficiency.

To increase efficiency, high frequency transformer is placed in DC stage of inverter. This inverter provides galvanic isolation between PV system and grid ground but again it increase size, weight and cost[1].

Now a days, transformerless PV-grid connected system is evolved which has high efficiency, low weight, low size and low cost. Due to elimination of transformer, there is galvanic connection is forms between PV panels and grid ground. As a result strong leakage current is flows between PV panels and grid ground [2][3]. So to eliminate this common mode leakage current, it is necessary to develop power conversion stage in such a way that it must keep common mode voltage constant.

2. VIRTUAL DC BUS CONCEPT

The concept of virtual dc bus is shown in fig.1. The grid neutral line directly connected to negative pole of the PV panel so that voltage across the parasitic capacitor $C_{pv}$ is clamped to zero. This prevents any leakage current flowing through it.

According to the state of the switch bridge, the ground point N, the voltage at midpoint B is either zero or $+V_{dc}$. The virtual dc bus is used to generate the negative output voltage, which is necessary for the operation of the inverter. If a correct method is designed to transfer the energy between the real bus and the virtual bus, the voltage across the virtual bus is kept the same as the real one. The positive pole of the virtual bus is connected to the ground point N, so that the voltage at the midpoint C is either zero or $-V_{dc}$. The dotted line indicates that the connection may be realized directly by a wire or indirectly by a power switch. By a smart selecting switch, points B and C joined together the voltage at point A can be of three different voltage levels, namely $+V_{dc}$, zero, and $-V_{dc}$[4].

By this structure of the circuit, the CM current is eliminated naturally. There is no any limitation on the modulation strategy that means the advanced modulation technologies such as the unipolar SPWM or the double-
frequency SPWM can be used to satisfy various PV applications[5]-[6].

3. PROPOSED TOPOLOGY& MODULATION SCHEME

On the basis of virtual dc bus concept, a novel inverter topology is derived as, which is shown in Fig.2. It consists of five power switches $S_1$-$S_5$ and single filter inductor $L_f$. The PV panels and capacitor $C_1$ form real dc bus while virtual dc bus is provided by $C_2$. In switched capacitor technology, capacitor $C_2$ is charged by the real dc bus through $S_1$ and $S_3$ for maintaining a constant voltage. This topology can be modulated with the unipolar SPWM & double-frequency SPWM. The detailed analysis is introduced as follows.

The various operation modes of different switches ($S_1$-$S_5$) are tabulated as below.

### Table -1: Different modes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MODES</th>
<th>$S_1$</th>
<th>$S_2$</th>
<th>$S_3$</th>
<th>$S_4$</th>
<th>$S_5$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
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<td>OFF</td>
<td>ON</td>
<td>ON</td>
<td>OFF</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>OFF</td>
<td>ON</td>
<td>OFF</td>
<td>ON</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

3.1 Unipolar SPWM

Following fig shows the waveform for the unipolar SPWM of the proposed inverter. According to the relative value of the modulation wave $u_g$ and the carrier wave $u_c$, the gate drive signals for the power switches are generated. For the positive half grid cycle, $u_g > 0$, $S_1$ and $S_3$ are turned ON. $S_2$ is turned OFF, while $S_4$ and $S_5$ commutate complementally with the carrier frequency. The $C_1$ and $C_2$ are connected in parallel and the circuit rotates between states 1 and 2 as shown in Fig.5. During the negative half cycle, $u_g < 0$, $S_5$ is turned ON and $S_4$ is turned OFF. $S_1$ and $S_3$ commutate with the carrier frequency synchronously and $S_2$ commutates in complement to them. The circuit rotates between states 3 and 2 and at state 3, $S_1$ and $S_3$ are turned OFF while $S_2$ is turned ON. By the virtual dc bus $C_2$, the negative voltage is generated and the inverter output is at negative voltage level. At state 2, $S_1$ and $S_3$ are turned ON and $S_4$ is turned OFF. The inverter output voltage $v_{AN}$ equals zero and $C_2$ is charged by the dc bus through $S_1$ and $S_3$.

![Fig -1: Virtual DC bus concept](image1)

![Fig -2: Proposed Topology](image2)

![Fig -3: Unipolar SPWM](image3)
3.2 Double-Frequency SPWM

The proposed topology can work with double-frequency SPWM to achieve a higher equivalent switching frequency, as shown in Fig.4. In the double-frequency SPWM, the five power switches are separated into two parts, and are modulated with two inverse sinusoidal waves respectively. $S_1$, $S_3$, and $S_5$ are modulated with $u_{g1}$, while $S_4$ and $S_5$ are modulated with $u_{g2}$.

During the positive half grid cycle, the circuit rotates in the sequence of “state 4 – state 1 – state 2 – state 1,” and the output voltage $v_{AN}$ varies between $+V_{dc}$ and the zero with twice of the carrier frequency. During the negative half grid cycle, it rotates in the sequence of “state 4 – state 3 – state 2 – state 3,” and the output voltage $v_{AN}$ varies between $-V_{dc}$ and zero.

Fig -4: Double-frequency SPWM

Fig -5: Four operation states for the proposed topology:
(a) state 1; (b) state 2; (c) state 3; (d) state 4
4. SIMULATION MODEL

The proposed novel inverter model as shown in fig.2 is simulated by using MATLAB SIMULINK which is shown in fig.6.

Fig -6: Simulink model of proposed system

5. SIMULINK MODEL RESULT

Fig -9: Simulation waveform for active & reactive power generation

Fig -10: Simulation waveform for output voltage

Fig -11: Simulation waveform for output current

Fig -12: Simulation waveform without filter

Fig -7: Simulink model of unipolar SPWM technique

Fig -8: Simulink model of Double frequency SPWM technique
Fig -13: Current stress on S3

6. CONCLUSIONS

The work presented in this thesis deals with the performance of proposed transformerless inverter with different control techniques. In this project virtual dc bus concept is used for solving common mode leakage current problem in grid connected PV inverter. By connecting the negative pole of the dc bus directly to the grid neutral line, the voltage on the stray PV capacitor is clamped to zero. This eliminates the CM current completely. Meanwhile, a virtual dc bus is created to provide the negative voltage level. Based on this design, a new inverter topology is projected with the virtual DC bus concept by adopting the switched capacitor technology. It consists of only five power switches and a single filter inductor. The proposed topology is especially fitting for the small-power single-phase applications, where the output current is comparatively small so that the extra current strain caused by the switched capacitor does not cause severe stress for the power devices and capacitors. With outstanding presentation in eliminating the Common Mode current, the virtual DC bus concept provides an exceptional key for the transformer-less PV connected inverters.

REFERENCES