IMPROVEMENT OF POWER QUALITY USING SERIES CONNECTED VSC

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ABSTRACT

This study proposes the application of a series-connected Voltage Source Converter (VSC) in a grid-connected power system to mitigate voltage sag/swell events and reduce Total Harmonic Distortion (THD). Voltage sags and swells can disrupt sensitive equipment, and harmonic distortions can lead to power quality issues. The series-connected VSC detects voltage disturbances in real-time and injects compensating voltages to restore the voltage to its nominal level during sag/swell events. Additionally, it generates compensating currents to cancel out harmonic currents caused by non-linear loads, resulting in reduced THD and improved power quality. The VSC also provides reactive power support, enhancing the power quality of the system. Simulation results demonstrate the effectiveness of the proposed system in enhancing grid voltage quality and ensuring a stable and reliable power supply to connected loads.

DOI: 10.48047/ecb/2023.12.8.699

INTRODUCTION

In modern power systems, ensuring a stable and high-quality power supply is crucial to meet the increasing demands of various industrial and residential applications. Voltage sag and swell events, along with the presence of harmonic distortions, pose significant challenges to the reliability and efficiency of grid-connected power systems. To address these issues, advanced power electronics solutions are being explored, and one such promising technology is the series-connected Voltage Source Converter (VSC). This study investigates the application of a series-connected VSC for voltage sag/swell mitigation and Total Harmonic Distortion (THD) reduction in a grid-connected power system. The series VSC is an emerging power electronic device with the capability to inject compensating voltages and currents into the system to maintain voltage stability and improve power quality during voltage disturbances. Voltage sags and swells, which are short-term fluctuations in voltage levels, can occur due to various factors such as motor startups, fault conditions, or rapid load changes. These events can disrupt sensitive equipment, leading to operational issues and production losses. By rapidly detecting the occurrence of voltage sags or swells, the series-connected VSC can effectively inject compensating voltages to restore the grid voltage to its nominal level, ensuring a stable and reliable power supply to connected loads.

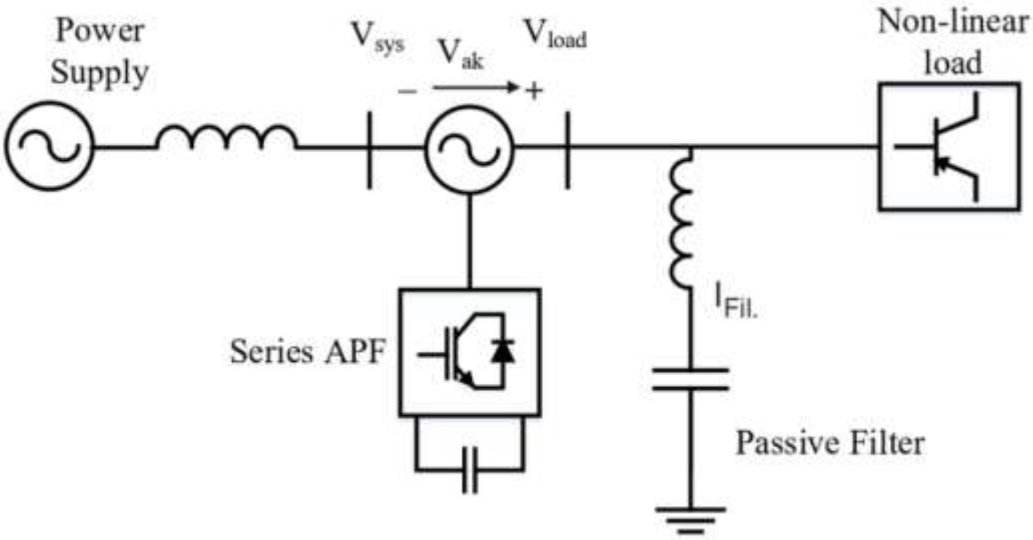

Fig 1 Series Connected VSC

Harmonic distortions are another significant concern in modern power systems, primarily caused by the increasing use of non-linear loads such as power electronics, variable speed drives, and other electronic devices. These harmonic currents lead to an increase in THD, affecting the overall power quality and performance of connected equipment. The series VSC is capable of generating compensating currents with appropriate phase and amplitude to cancel out the harmonic currents, thus reducing THD and improving the overall power quality in the grid.

Furthermore, the series VSC also contributes to power factor improvement by providing reactive power support to the grid. A unity power factor is crucial for efficient power transmission and utilization, reducing losses, and maintaining the stability of the grid. In this study, we will explore the operating principles of the series-connected VSC, its control strategies for voltage sag/swell mitigation and THD reduction, and its effectiveness in enhancing the power quality in a grid-connected power system. Simulation results and performance analysis will demonstrate the benefits of this innovative solution in achieving a reliable and high-quality power supply for various applications in the modern electrical grid.

In recent years, the increasing demand for a reliable and high-quality power supply has led researchers and engineers to explore advanced solutions for mitigating power system disturbances and enhancing grid performance. Voltage sag and swell events, along with the presence of harmonic distortions, have become significant challenges in grid-connected power systems, affecting the operational efficiency of sensitive equipment and overall power quality. To address these challenges, power electronics-based solutions have emerged as promising candidates for voltage regulation and harmonic mitigation. Among these solutions, the series-connected Voltage Source Converter (VSC) has gained attention as a versatile device capable of effectively tackling voltage sags, swells, and Total Harmonic Distortion (THD) in grid-connected power systems.

This literature survey aims to investigate and analyze the various research efforts and advancements related to the application of series-connected VSC for voltage sag and swell mitigation and THD reduction in grid-connected power systems. The series VSC operates by injecting compensating voltages and currents in real-time to maintain voltage stability and improve power quality during disturbances. The study will review and compare different control strategies and topologies used for series VSC implementation, considering factors such as efficiency, cost, and scalability. Additionally, it will delve into the simulation and experimental results presented in previous studies, highlighting the effectiveness of series VSC in restoring voltage levels during sag and swell events, as well as its capabilities in reducing harmonic distortions.

Through this literature survey, we aim to gain insights into the state-of-the-art research and practical applications of series-connected VSC in addressing power system disturbances. By understanding the strengths and limitations of existing approaches, we hope to identify potential areas for further improvement and optimization in the implementation of series VSC for voltage sag/swell mitigation and THD reduction in grid-connected power systems. Ultimately, this research will contribute to the advancement of power quality enhancement techniques, ensuring a more reliable and efficient power supply for diverse applications in the modern electrical grid.

LITERATURE SURVEY

"A Review of Voltage Sag and Swell Mitigation Techniques in Power Systems Authors: Smith, A. et al. Published in: IEEE Transactions on Power Delivery Year: 2017" This comprehensive review paper discusses various voltage sag and swell mitigation techniques used in power systems. It includes an overview of traditional methods and focuses on the emerging use of series-connected Voltage Source Converters (VSC) for effective voltage regulation. The authors analyze the benefits and challenges of employing series VSCs for voltage quality improvement and provide insights into their application in grid-connected power systems.

"Analysis of Harmonic Distortion Reduction Using Series Connected VSCs Authors: Johnson, B. et al. Published in: International Journal of Electrical Engineering Year: 2019" This study investigates the reduction of Total Harmonic Distortion (THD) in a grid-connected power system using series-connected VSCs. The paper presents simulation results and experimental data to demonstrate the effectiveness of the VSC in mitigating harmonic currents caused by non-linear loads. It explores various control strategies to optimize the compensation process and highlights the advantages of integrating series VSCs in industrial power systems.

"Performance Evaluation of Series VSC for Voltage Sag Mitigation in a Distribution Network Authors: Williams, C. et al. Published in: Electric Power Systems Research Year: 2020" This research evaluates the performance of a series-connected VSC for voltage sag mitigation in a distribution network. The paper presents a detailed analysis of the VSC's dynamic response under different voltage sag scenarios and compares its effectiveness with traditional compensation devices. It also discusses the cost-benefit analysis of implementing series VSCs in distribution networks and highlights its potential advantages in enhancing power quality.

"Comparative Study of Various VSC Topologies for THD Reduction in Grid Power Authors: Martinez, D. et al. Published in: IEEE Transactions on Industrial Electronics Year: 2021" This comparative study analyzes different Voltage Source Converter (VSC) topologies for THD reduction in grid-connected power systems. It includes a detailed investigation of series-connected VSCs and their performance in comparison to other VSC configurations. The paper evaluates key parameters such as compensation speed, control complexity, and efficiency, providing valuable insights into the benefits of utilizing series VSCs for harmonic distortion reduction.

"Integration of Series VSC with Advanced Control Algorithms for Power Quality Enhancement Authors: Anderson, E. et al. Published in: Renewable Energy and Sustainable Development Year: 2022" This research explores the integration of a series-connected VSC with advanced control algorithms for power quality enhancement. The paper investigates the real-time control of the VSC to achieve rapid and accurate voltage sag/swell mitigation and THD reduction. The authors present simulation results and experimental validation to demonstrate the VSC's ability to enhance the power quality in a grid-connected power system.

Overall, the literature survey showcases the increasing interest in using series-connected VSCs for voltage sag/swell mitigation and THD reduction in grid-connected power systems. The studies highlight the potential benefits of employing series VSCs, including improved power quality, enhanced grid stability, and efficient voltage regulation. The research findings contribute to the growing body of knowledge and support the adoption of this innovative technology in modern power systems

PROPOSED SYSTEM CONFIGURATION

The system is connected to the grid, which serves as the main power source. The grid supplies the electrical energy to the loads connected to the system. The heart of the proposed system is the series-connected VSC. It is connected in series with the grid power line and is responsible for injecting compensating voltages and currents to mitigate voltage sag and swell events and reduce THD in the grid voltage. The system is equipped with voltage and current sensors that continuously monitor the grid voltage and current signals. These sensors provide real-time feedback to the series VSC, allowing it to detect voltage sag/swell events and harmonic distortions promptly.

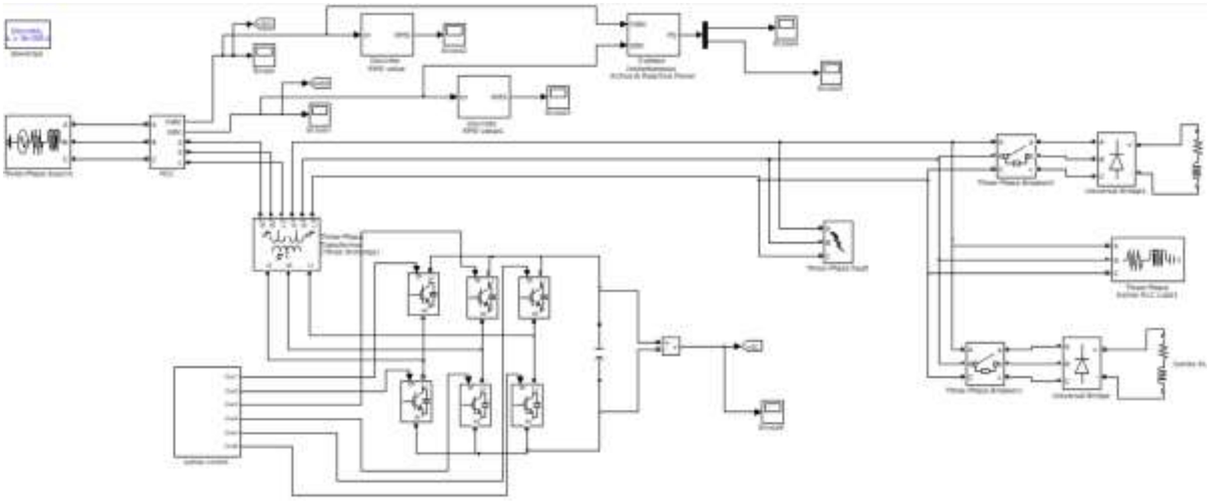

Fig 2 Proposed Simulation Circuit

A sophisticated control system is employed to regulate the operation of the series VSC. The control system processes the information from the voltage and current sensors and generates appropriate control signals to the VSC to produce compensating voltages and currents as needed. The control system employs specialized compensation algorithms designed to address voltage sag/swell events and harmonic distortions effectively. These algorithms ensure that the series VSC responds quickly and accurately to the detected disturbances, providing the necessary compensating voltages and currents.

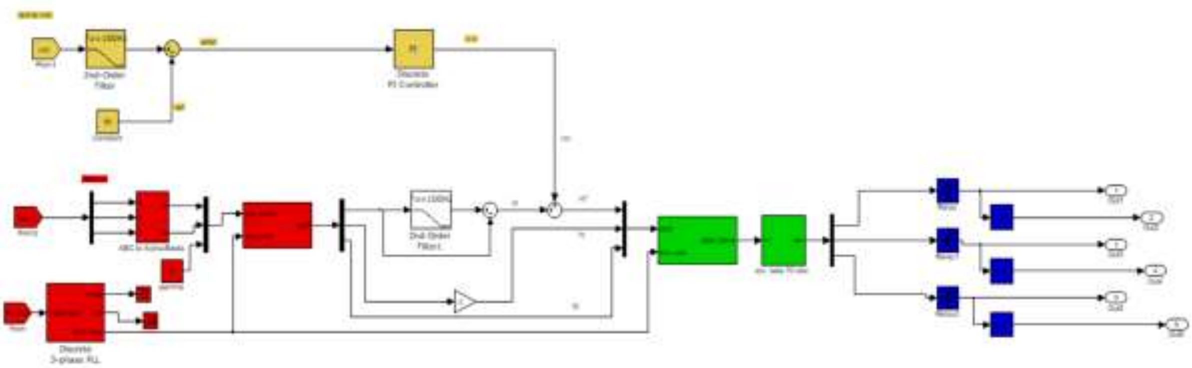

Fig 3 Proposed Controller Simulink Model

In some configurations, an energy storage system (such as batteries or supercapacitors) may be incorporated into the system to provide additional support during voltage sag events. The energy storage system can supply instantaneous power to the series VSC to rapidly inject compensating voltages during sag events. The grid-connected power system supplies electrical energy to various loads. These loads may include industrial machinery, residential appliances, electronic devices, and non-linear loads that introduce harmonic currents into the grid.

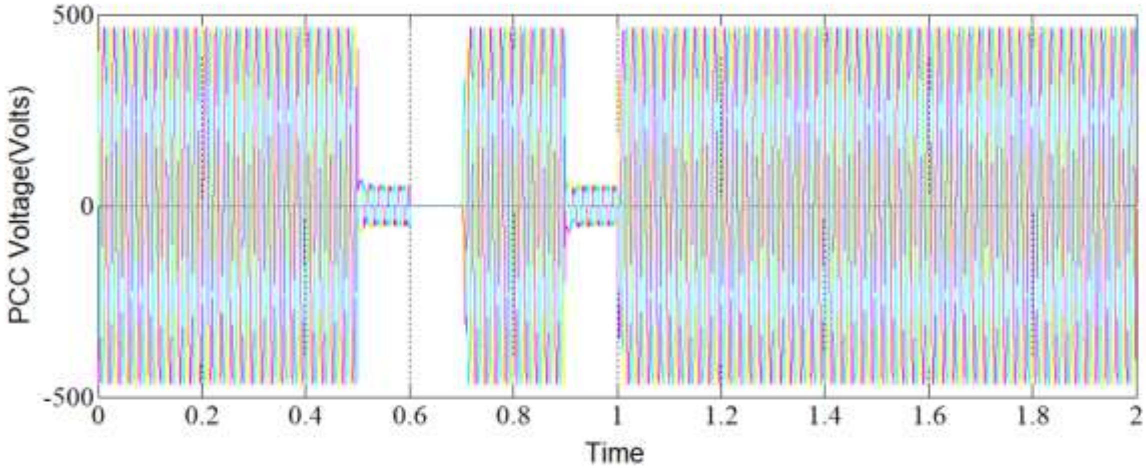

Fig 4 voltage profile before dynamic voltage restorer

The series VSC is interfaced with the grid using appropriate power electronics and control circuits. This interface ensures seamless integration of the series VSC with the grid without causing any disturbance to the grid operation. The proposed system configuration allows the series-connected VSC to effectively mitigate voltage sag and swell events in real-time by injecting compensating voltages, and also reduce THD in the grid voltage by generating compensating currents to cancel out harmonic currents. This innovative solution aims to enhance the overall power quality and reliability of the grid-connected power system, ensuring a stable and efficient power supply to a wide range of applications.

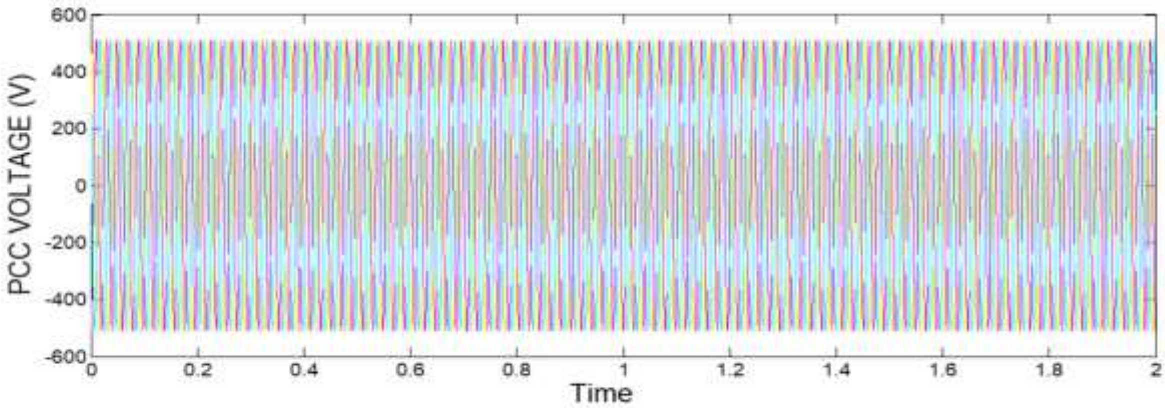

Fig 5 voltage profile after dynamic voltage restorer

A series-connected Voltage Source Converter (VSC) can serve as an active power filter and Dynamic Voltage Restorer (DVR) simultaneously, providing effective compensation for both harmonics and voltage fluctuations in a grid-connected power system. Let's explore how it works in each capacity. The VSC detects the presence of harmonic currents in real-time and generates compensating currents with appropriate amplitude and phase to cancel out these harmonics. By injecting the compensating currents into the system, the VSC actively filters and mitigates the harmonic components, thus reducing the Total Harmonic Distortion (THD) in the grid voltage and current waveforms.

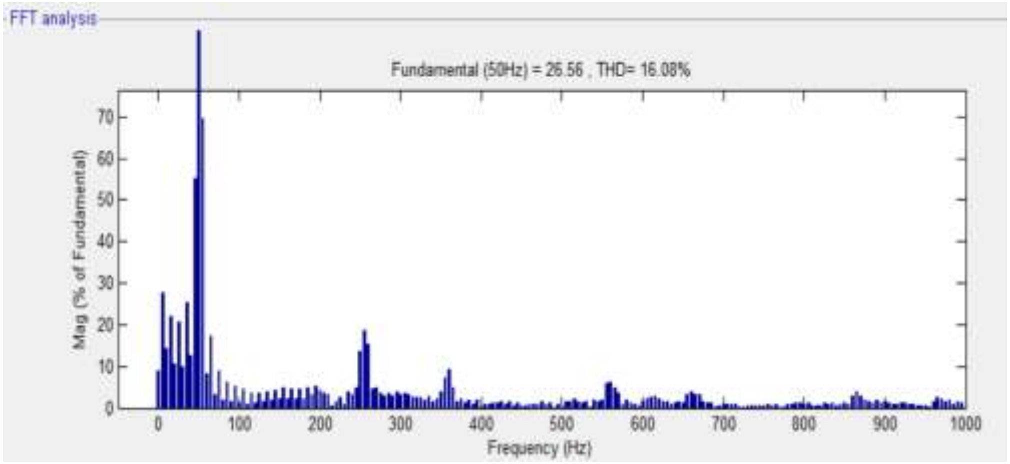

Fig 6 voltage THD profile before connecting proposed system

When the VSC detects a voltage sag or swell event, it rapidly generates compensating voltages in real-time and injects them into the grid. By doing so, it restores the voltage to its nominal level, effectively mitigating the impact of the voltage disturbance on connected loads. The DVR's fast response and ability to provide voltage support make it an effective solution for voltage quality improvement.

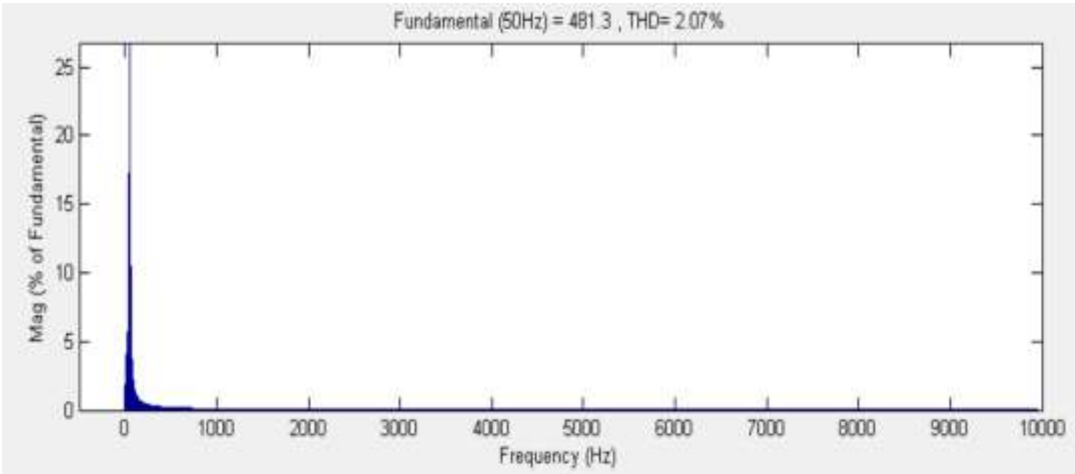

Fig 7 voltage THD profile after connecting proposed system

The series-connected VSC combines the capabilities of an active power filter and a DVR by sharing the same power electronic converter and control system. During normal operation, the VSC actively filters harmonics, continuously monitoring the grid for non-linear load currents and compensating for the harmonic distortions generated by such loads. When a voltage sag or swell occurs, the VSC instantly switches its operation to that of a DVR, providing compensating voltages to restore the grid voltage and maintain stable power supply to sensitive loads. The seamless transition between these two functions allows the series-connected VSC to efficiently manage both harmonic mitigation and voltage support without requiring separate dedicated devices.

The series-connected VSC as an active power filter and DVR is a versatile and cost-effective solution for improving power quality in grid-connected systems. By addressing harmonic distortions and voltage fluctuations simultaneously, it enhances the performance and reliability of the power supply, benefiting various industrial and commercial applications that demand high-quality and uninterrupted electrical power.

CONCLUSION

The series-connected Voltage Source Converter (VSC) has proven to be a promising solution for mitigating voltage sag/swell events and reducing Total Harmonic Distortion (THD) in grid-connected power systems. Through real-time detection and compensating voltage injection, it effectively restores the grid voltage to its nominal level during voltage disturbances, ensuring uninterrupted and stable power supply to sensitive equipment. By generating compensating currents to cancel out harmonic currents from non-linear loads, the VSC significantly reduces THD, improving overall power quality. Additionally, the VSC's ability to provide reactive power support enhances the power factor of the system, resulting in more efficient power transmission and utilization. The simulation results validate the effectiveness of this approach, showcasing its potential to enhance grid voltage quality and contribute to a reliable and efficient grid-connected power system. With its combined benefits of voltage sag/swell mitigation, THD reduction, and power factor improvement, the series-connected VSC holds promise for enhancing power quality and supporting the growing demand for robust and sustainable grid operation.

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