A Novel Active Damping Control of a Three-phase PWM Inverter with LC Filter

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Abstract – A novel control method of a three-phase PWM inverter with LC filter is proposed. The transfer function of LC filter is the same as that of 2nd order low pass filter (2nd LPF) which has a zero damping ratio. A simple method of implementing 2nd LPF with damping ratio is to add resistor to inductor or capacitor of LC filter. In an industrial application, it is not practical to adopt damping resistor because it results in losses being proportional to square of current flowing through resistor. Instead of using damping resistors, the proposed active damping control (ADC) utilizes all pass filter (APF) and considers inherent processing delay of digital controller. The overall transfer function of the proposed method is the same as a 2nd LPF and its damping ratio is also controllable via control variables. Detailed design and implementation of controller is also presented. Experiments are conducted with a 7.5kVA induction motor drive system controlled by PWM converter and inverter. Test waveforms are also presented to verify the proposed LC filter control algorithm.

Keywords: Three-phase PWM inverter, Field oriented control, LC filter, Active damping control, All pass filter

1. Introduction

In recent years, fossil fuel used as main energy resource is primarily recognized as a major cause of environmental problems. As a result, alternative energy sources and technologies using renewable energy sources, i.e. wind turbine, photovoltaic energy, have been growing. Especially, wind energy has been recognized as one of the most promising renewable energy resources available. It is estimated that 12% of the world’s electricity will be provided from wind energy by 2020 [1, 2].

In a renewable application such as wind turbine, lots of doubly fed induction generators (DFIGs) are used due to its low cost despite its disadvantage of having a wound rotor and slip-ring. It requires only 25% of rated, 4-quadrant ac/dc/ac PWM converters. AC grid side converter controls DC-link voltage and is connected to the grid. Generator side inverter controls the rotors speed and is connected to a wound rotor through slip-ring electrically. Mechanical friction of slip-ring lead to regular maintenance. But some applications such as off-shore wind generations adopt permanent magnet synchronous motor (PMSM) because of its high efficiency and maintenance. Maximum power point tracking (MPPT) is usually adopted to harvest as much energy as possible in a renewable energy application.

As the maximum output power of a generator produced in a given wind speed is related to the rotor speed of DFIG, PWM inverter should control the rotor speed of DFIG to extract the maximum power. The speed control of a generator/motor is based on a field oriented control in a synchronous reference frame [3-5].

PWM inverter has several problems in terms of not only differential mode harmonics but also common mode harmonics. The high dv/dt output voltage causes reflections in the cable and causes a generator/motor terminal voltage to be increased up to double of voltage step. Spike voltage caused by a high dv/dt has serious effect on a generator/motor insulation and can lead to early failure of a generator/motor system. PWM inverter also generates high frequency common mode voltage which may increase the bearing current of equipments connected through its shaft. The bearing current generates noises and breaks the bearings in severe cases [6-8].

So, several papers suggested filter configurations attached to the output of PWM inverter to limit the spike of terminal voltage. RC filter matches the cable impedance so that the reflection and spike voltage is minimized. LCR filter consists of reactor, capacitor, and resistor. Resistor is inserted to damp the resonance of LC circuit. Resistor of RC and LRC filter generates losses and decreases the efficiency of overall system. LC filter has advantages that it generates nearly sinusoidal output voltage waveform and overall losses are considerably lower than RC and LCR filter. Several methods have been suggested that give a guide for the optimal design of LC filter and control method of PWM inverter with LC filter. As rules of thumb, the resonance frequency of LC filter should be ten times higher than fundamental frequency and lower than at least half of switching frequency. Filter size should be as small as possible for economic reasons [4, 9-13].
Stability problem caused by resonance of LC filter has been very critical control issues. Several methods have been suggested, but they have severe drawbacks for industrial application. Active damping methods without resistor have been presented. Dead beat control method did not consider sample delay caused by micro processor [11]. Adding damping resistor in series with filter capacitor or in parallel with filter inductor is a well known method as a passive damping. Stability analysis and optimal design procedures are also well defined. But additional losses caused by damping resistors are inevitable. Lead-lag compensator requires a compromise between compensation and noise amplification [12, 13].

This paper suggests a new and robust LC filter control method which takes into consideration inherent processing delay of digital controller and describes design parameters in detail.

### 2. Three-phase PWM Inverter with LC Filter

#### 2.1 System configuration and control

The representative configuration of a three-phase PWM inverter with LC filter is shown in Fig. 1. The inverter controls wind turbine which usually adopts DFIGs or PMSM as generator.

The meaning of variables and symbols are as follows.

- **V_{ix}**: PWM inverter output phase voltage [V]
- **L_f**: Filter inductance per phase [H]
- **i_{ix}**: Filter inductor phase current [A]
- **C_f**: Filter capacitance per phase [F]
- **V_{Cx}**: Filter capacitor phase voltage [V]
- **i_{Cx}**: Filter capacitor phase current [A]
- **i_{sx}**: Generator/motor phase current [A]
- **suffix**: Three phase (x=u, v, or w)

Wind turbine usually controls the speed of generator to extract maximum output power from wind speed. The field oriented control (FOC) in a synchronous reference frame is adopted. Synchronous reference frame can be aligned with stator flux, air-gap flux, or rotor flux. Here, flux control and torque control is based on d-axis current control and q-axis current control respectively. The block diagram of speed control and dq-axis current control in a synchronous reference frame is represented in Fig. 2(a) and (b) respectively. The feed forward term in a current control is used for decoupled current control.

Parameter estimation and dead time compensation technique for improving performance of field oriented control (FOC) have been suggested. Details on speed control, flux control, and torque control are found in literature [14-19].

#### 2.2 Analysis of PWM inverter with LC filter

LC filter connected to an induction motor forms an equivalent LCL circuit as shown in Fig. 3(a). Filter capacitor voltage is the terminal voltage of an induction motor. Stator stray inductance (Ls) of an induction motor is

![Fig. 1. Configuration of PWM inverter with LC filter](image1.png)

**Fig. 1.** Configuration of PWM inverter with LC filter

![Fig. 2. Control block diagram](image2.png)

**Fig. 2.** Control block diagram

![Fig. 3. Block diagram of equivalent circuit](image3.png)

**Fig. 3.** LC filter connected to a generator/motor

reference frame is represented in Fig. 2(a) and (b) respectively. The feed forward term in a current control is used for decoupled current control.
connected to LC filter and back-EMF is considered as a voltage source(Vsx). Block diagram of an equivalent circuit of LCL filter is represented in Fig. 3(b). In practice, resistances of inductors and capacitors should be kept as small as possible in order to minimize their losses. Equivalent circuit of Fig. 3 omitted resistances for simple analysis.

Eq. (1) can be written for each phase of the inverter system in Fig. 3.

\[
\begin{align*}
    v_x &= L_f \cdot i_x + v_c, \quad v_x = L_f \cdot i_x + v_c \\
    i_x &= C_f \cdot \dot{v}_x, \quad i_t = i_x + i_s
\end{align*}
\]  

(1)

where \( v_x = [v_x, v_y, v_z] \), \( \dot{x} \) is derivative of variable \( x \).

Eq. (1) in a natural reference frame can be transformed as Eq. (2) in a synchronous reference frame where complex vector notations are used.

\[
\begin{align*}
    v_{ldq} &= \frac{L_f}{L_{eq}} \left( v_{ldq} + v_{sdq} \right) - \frac{\omega}{\omega_f} \cdot v_{ldq} + j \frac{2\omega}{\omega_f} \cdot v_{sdq} - L_f \cdot \frac{v_{ldq}}{L_f} \\
    \omega &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{L_f \cdot C_f}} \text{ is the angular resonance frequency of LC filter [rad/s]}, \quad L_{eq} = \frac{L_f \cdot L_s}{L_f + L_s} \text{ is the equivalent inductance of } L_f \text{ and } L_s [\text{H}], \quad \omega_{LCL} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{L_{eq} \cdot C_f}} \text{ is the angular resonance frequency of LCL circuit [rad/s]}, \quad \dot{v}_x = v_x + j\omega v_x \text{ is a complex vector notation.}
\end{align*}
\]  

(2)

The transfer function of an equivalent LCL filter is represented as Eq. (3).

\[
G_{vsx} (s) = \frac{v_{ldq} (s)}{v_{ldq} (s)} = \frac{L_f}{L_{eq}} \cdot \frac{\omega}{\omega_f} \cdot s^2 + \omega_{LCL}^2
\]  

(3)

Bode plot of Eq. (3) is shown in Fig. 4 which has infinite or very high gain at the resonance frequency. It can lead to sustaining oscillation of system if proper steps for damping the resonance are not taken.

Active damping control is just adding non zero damping ratio to Eq. (3) so that Eq. (3) is reshaped into a typical 2nd LPF of Eq. (4). Damping ratio(\( \zeta \)) is control gain which can be configured by software.

\[
G_{vsx} (s) = \frac{v_{ldq} (s)}{v_{ldq} (s)} = \frac{\omega_{LCL}^2}{s^2 + 2\zeta \omega_{LCL} \cdot s + \omega_{LCL}^2}
\]  

(4)

It can be done by feedback of capacitor voltage derivatives multiplied by proper gain. Fig. 5 is the block diagram of active damping control of LCL filter.

Fig. (6) is the bode plot of Eq. (4) which adopts active damping control. Comparing it with Fig. (4), it shows damped characteristics.

Now all that is needed to implement active damping control is to synthesize the derivative of capacitor voltages. Derivative of capacitor voltages can be calculated from capacitor currents as Eq. (5).

\[
\begin{align*}
    \dot{i}_x &= C_f \cdot \dot{v}_x \\
    i_{ldq} &= L_{eq} \cdot \frac{\dot{v}_x}{L_f} \cdot v_{sdq}
\end{align*}
\]  

(5)

Measuring capacitor currents requires additional H/W, i.e. current sensors. Additionally, filter capacitor currents in a PWM inverter contain high frequency switching components so that precise and complicate signal processing are needed for accurate measurement.
Another approach is to calculate the derivative of capacitor voltage. Mathematical expression of the derivative is simple to implement in a digital control using Eq. (6). But digital derivative technique is also very sensitive to measurement noise of capacitor voltage so that it is not practical to use in an industrial application.

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\[ v'[n] = \frac{v[n] - v[n-1]}{T_s} \]  

(6)

3. Control strategy

3.1 Analysis of proposed active damping

The proposed control method uses all pass filter (APF) and takes into account inherent processing delay of digital control. The first step for active damping control is to extract the resonance frequency components from filter capacitor voltages. Resonance component can be extracted by subtracting low pass filtered signal from measured dq-axis voltages in a synchronous reference frame. The resonance frequency component extracted from filter capacitor voltages can be represented as Eq. (7).

\[ v_{nh} = v_{nh} \cdot \sin (\omega_{cix} \cdot t + \phi_h) \]  

(7)

where \( v_{nh} \) and \( \phi_h \) are magnitude and phase delay of resonance component.

Derivative of Eq. (7) is exactly 90 degrees delayed signal multiplied by resonance angular frequency as represented in Eq. (8).

\[ sv_{nh} = sv_{cix} = \omega_{cix} \cdot v_{nh} \cdot \cos (\omega_{cix} \cdot t + \phi_h) \]

\[ = -\omega_{cix} \cdot v_{nh} \cdot \sin (\omega_{cix} \cdot t + \phi_h - \frac{\pi}{2}) \]  

(8)

Now, the proposed method uses APF to generate the derivative of capacitor voltage which is exactly 90 degrees delayed signal. Transfer function of APF is written as Eq. (9). Pole and zero of APF(\( \omega_{z,APF} \)) is shown in Fig. 7 (a) and its bode plot for frequency characteristics is shown in Fig. 7 (b). The magnitude is unit constant and phase delay is dependent on frequency.

\[ G_A(s) = -\frac{s - \omega_{z,APF}}{s + \omega_{z,APF}} \]  

(9)

For example, if cut off frequency of APF is same as resonance frequency of LCL filter(\( \omega_{z,APF} = \omega_{z,LCL} \)), the output of APF is exactly 90 degrees delayed signal as Eq. (10).

\[ APF(v_h) = v_{nh} \cdot \sin (\omega_{cix} \cdot t + \phi_h - \frac{\pi}{2}) \]  

(10)

As long as phase delay is determined according to Eq. (11), pole and zero of APF can be calculated by Eq. (12).

\[ \omega_{z,APF} = \frac{\pi}{2} - T_{delay} \cdot \omega_{z,LCL} = \frac{\pi}{2} - 1.5T_s \cdot \omega_{z,LCL} \]  

(11)

\[ \omega_i = \frac{\omega_{z,APF}}{\tan \phi_h} \]  

(12)

Digital approximation of APF can be done with different methods, i.e. backward approximation, forward approximation, and bilinear approximation. Forward and backward method may lead to unstable and bad phase delay. Bilinear approximation transforms imaginary axis of continuous system in s-plane into unit circle in z-plane so that it performs stable and good phase response. Among above, bilinear approximation using Eq. (13) is adopted.

\[ \text{http://www.jeet.or.kr} \]
Digital equivalent of Eq. (9) can be represented as Eq. (14) by using bilinear approximation.

$$G_A(z) = \left( \frac{2}{T_s} - \omega_s \right) z - \left( \frac{2}{T_s} + \omega_s \right)$$

$$G_A(z) = \left( \frac{2}{T_s} + \omega_s \right) z - \left( \frac{2}{T_s} - \omega_s \right)$$

### 4. Experiment

Experimental system is set up as shown in Fig. 8 and Table 1 shows parameters of experiment system.

It is composed of boost type PWM converter, PWM inverter and human machine interface (HMI). HMI communicates with controllers through RS-232 to control experimental system, e.g. setting up system parameters, monitoring system status. PWM converter is connected to the grid and operates in unit power factor to supply DC voltage for inverter. PWM inverter using field oriented control drives an induction motor. LC filter is installed at the output of PWM inverter so that it filters out switching frequency and supplies sinusoidal output voltage to an induction motor. The resonance frequency of LCL filter is 619[Hz] which is far away from 60 [Hz] power frequency.

Insulated gate bipolar transistor (IGBT) is used as main switching device. PWM inverter switching frequency is 2 [kHz] and double sample method is adopted. Digital controllers are implemented with micro control unit (MCU) from Texas Instrument (TI). MCU has 16 channels of analog-digital converter (ADC), high resolution PWM Logic with dead time generation, and communication peripherals.

#### 4.2 Experimental results

Experiments are conducted to verify the proposed active damping control and an induction motor control.

Fig. 9 is test waveforms of LC filter in case the proposed active damping control is adopted. C1 and C2 in Fig. 9 are q-axis voltage reference and filter capacitor voltage in a synchronous reference frame. C4 is u-phase voltage waveform measured by digital oscilloscope. Active damping control is not activated in case of Fig. 9 (a). Large overshoot and oscillation appear in filter capacitor voltage. Filter control is turned on in case of Fig. 9 (b). Damping ratio is set to unit so that it is the same as the characteristic of a 2nd LPF without overshoot of filter output voltage. Test results shows that resonance of LC filter is suppressed effectively by the proposed active damping control.

Tests for verifying the robustness in terms of parameter errors are carried out. Both inductance and capacitance of controller parameters are changed to 80% and 120% of the real value. Fig. 10 (a) shows under damped 2nd LPF response with slight overshoot of filter capacitor voltage. Test results shows that resonance of LC filter is suppressed effectively by the proposed active damping control.

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damped waveform with slow response of filter capacitor voltage. Performance of the proposed active damping control with 20% parameter error are affected slightly because it cannot calculate derivative of capacitor voltage as Eq. (11), e.g. exactly 90 degrees delayed signal, due to incorrect resonance frequency information (ω_C). But Test results show that there is no sustained oscillation of filter capacitor voltage.

Fig. 11 is current control response to a step reference where the proposed active damping control is used. C1 and C2 are q-axis current reference and feedback in a synchronous reference frame. C3 and C4 are u-phase current and u-phase voltage measured by oscilloscope. It shows a good performance both in a transient state and in a steady state.

Speed control based on FOC is tested as shown in Fig. 12. C1 and C2 are speed reference and feedback. Speed reference varies from -1500 [rpm] to 1500 [rpm] with ramp. C3 and C4 are u-phase current and u-phase voltage measured by oscilloscope. The speed of induction motor follows exactly as the reference. Phase voltages and currents of an induction motor are also sinusoidal as expected.
5. Conclusion

A new control strategy of PWM inverter with output LC filter is proposed. It needs only software implementation and control variable such as damping ratio is easily controlled by software. It does not apply any noise sensitive technique for implementation so that it can be used in an industrial application. It is also verified by experiments to be robust against inaccuracy of filter parameters.

7.5 [kVA] AC/DC/AC system was set up to verify the proposed method. A field oriented control is adopted for motor drive. Flux and speed control is based on d-axis and q-axis PI-type current control in a synchronous reference frame respectively. Control algorithms are implemented in a digital controller using high performance DSP. Waveforms show that FOC of an induction motor with the proposed filter control works well without sustained oscillation of LC filter. Experimental results verify the effectiveness of the proposed algorithm.

References


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