

Modeling Of Grid Current Compensator for Distribution Generator under Non Linear Loads

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ABSTRACT

This paper introduces an advanced current control strategy for grid-connected operations of distributed generation (DG), which supports the DG to transfer a sinusoidal current into the utility grid despite the distorted grid voltage and nonlinear local load conditions. The proposed current controller is designed in the synchronous reference frame and composed of a proportional–integral (PI) controller and a repetitive controller (RC). An RC serves as a bank of resonant controllers, which can compensate a large number of harmonic components with a simple delay function. Hence, the control strategy can be greatly simplified. In addition, the proposed control method does not require the local load current measurement or harmonic analysis of the grid voltage. Therefore, the proposed control method can be easily adopted into the traditional DG control system without installation of extra hardware. Despite the reduced number of sensors, the grid current quality is significantly improved compared with the traditional methods with the PI controller. The operation principle of the proposed control method is analyzed in detail, and its effectiveness is validated through simulated and experimental results.

1.INTRODUCTION

The of renewable energy sources, such as wind turbines, photovoltaic, and fuel cells, has Greatly increased in recent decades to address concerns about the global energy crisis, depletion of fossil fuels, and environmental pollution problems. As a result, a large number of renewable energy sources have been integrated in power distribution systems in the form of

distributed generation (DG). DG systems can offer many advantages over traditional power generation, such as small size, low cost, high efficiency, and clean electric power generation. A DG system is typically operated in a grid-connected mode where the maximum available power is extracted from energy sources and transferred to the utility grid. In addition, to exploit full advantages of a DG system, the DG can be also equipped and operated with local loads, where the DG supplies power to the local load and transfers surplus power to the grid. In both configurations, i.e., with and without the local load, the prime objective of the DG system is to transfer a high-quality current (grid current) into the utility grid with the limited total harmonic distortion (THD) of the grid current at 5%. To produce a high-quality grid current, various current control strategies have been introduced, such as hysteresis, predictive, proportional–integral (PI), and proportional-resonant (PR) controllers. Hysteresis control is simple and offers rapid responses; however, it regularly produces high and variable switching frequencies, which results in high current ripples and difficulties in the output filter design. Meanwhile, predictive control is a viable solution for current regulation of the grid-connected DG. However, despite its rapid response, the control performance of the predictive controller strongly relies on system parameter.. Therefore, system uncertainty is an important issue affecting the grid current quality. The PI controller in the synchronously rotating ($d-q$) reference frame and the PR controller in the stationary ($\alpha-\beta$) reference frame are effective solutions that are commonly adopted to achieve a high-quality grid current, However, these current controllers are only effective when the grid voltage is ideally balanced and

sinusoidal. Unfortunately, due to the popular use of nonlinear loads such as diode rectifiers and adjustable-speed ac motor drives in power systems, the grid voltage at the point of mono coupling (PCC) is typically not pure sinusoidal, but instead can be unbalanced or distorted. These abnormal grid voltage conditions can strongly deteriorate the performance of the regulating grid current.

To eliminate the adverse effect of the distorted grid voltage on the grid current quality, several harmonic impanation methods have been introduced. In a novel compensation approach for reducing the THD of the grid current under distorted grid voltage is introduced. In this method, the harmonic components in he grid voltage are extracted, and the Cauchy–Schwarz inequality theory is adopted to find the minimum point of the grid current THD. The grid current quality therefore relies heavily on the accuracy of the grid voltage harmonic analysis; if the harmonic components in the grid voltage are varied, it is difficult to maintain a good grid current quality. Moreover, the searching algorithm requires a large calculation time and can operate only offline. In several selective harmonic compensators are developed using a resonant controller, in which the resonant controller tuned at the sixth multiple of the fundamental frequency is added to eliminate the effect of fifth and seventh harmonic grid voltages on the grid current quality. The grid current quality can be improved, due to the additional resonant controllers. However, if higher order harmonics are taken into account, more resonant controllers should be added because a single resonant controller can regulate only one specific harmonic increases the complexity of the control system. To improve the grid current quality with a simplified control scheme, the repetitive control technique has been adopted. A repetitive controller (RC) serves as a bank of resonant controllers to compensate a large number of harmonic components with a simple delay structure.

However, despite the effectiveness of the RC in harmonic compensation, the traditional RC has a long delay time, which regularly limits the dynamic

response of the current controller. For example, as reported . the dynamic response of the grid current under a step change of the current reference is approximately 150 ms, which is extremely slow compared with other control methods. In addition, even with the utilization of the RC, this method is unable to bring the THD of the grid current lower than the limited value 5%. Along with grid voltage distortion, the presence of nonlinear loads in the local load of the DG also causes a negative impact on the grid current quality.

To address this problem, the local load current measurement and a load current feed forward loop are regularly adopted. Although these compensation methods are effective in improving grid current quality, the requirement of additional hardware, specifically the current sensor for measuring the local load current, is the main drawback of this control method. Furthermore, most aforementioned studies consider and separately tackle the impact of distorted grid voltage or the nonlinear local load; none of them simultaneously takes into account those issues.

To overcome the limitations of a fore mentioned studies, this paper proposes an advanced current control strategy for the grid-connected DG, which makes the grid current sinusoidal by simultaneously eliminating the effect of nonlinear local load and grid voltage distortions. First, the influence of the grid voltage distortions and nonlinear local load on the grid current is determined. Then, an advanced control strategy is introduced to address those issues. The proposed current controller is

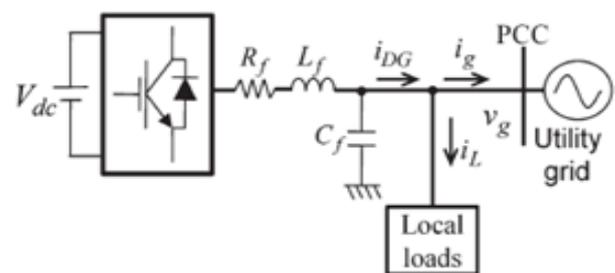


Fig. 1. System configuration of a grid-connected

DG system with local load, designed in the $d-q$ reference frame and is composed of a PI and an RC. One single RC can compensate a large number of harmonic components with a simple delay function. Hence, the control strategy can be greatly simplified. Another advantage of the proposed control method is that it does not demand the local load current measurement and the harmonic analysis of the grid voltage. Therefore, the proposed control method can be easily adopted into the traditional DG control system without the installation of extra hardware.

Despite the reduced number of sensors, the performance of the proposed grid current controller is significantly improved compared with that of the traditional PI current controller. In addition, with the combination of the PI and RC, the dynamic response of the proposed current controller is also greatly enhanced compared with that of the traditional RC. The feasibility of the proposed control strategy is completely verified by simulation and experimental results.

II. SYSTEM CONFIGURATION AND ANALYSIS OF GRID VOLTAGE DISTORTION AND NONLINEAR LOCAL LOAD

Fig. 1 shows the system configuration of a three-phase DG operating in grid-connected mode. The system consists of a dc power source, a voltage-source inverter (VSI), an output LC filter, local loads, and the utility grid. The purpose of the DG system is to supply power to its local load and to transfer surplus power to the utility grid at the PCC. To guarantee high-quality power, the current that the DG transfers to grid (i_g) should be balanced, sinusoidal, and have a low THD value. However, because of the distorted grid voltage and nonlinear local loads that typically exist in the power system, it is not easy to satisfy these requirements. *Effect of Grid Voltage Distortion*
 To assess the impact of grid voltage distortion on the grid current performance of the DG, a model of the grid-connected DG system is developed, as shown in Fig. 2. In this model, the VSI of the DG is simplified as voltage source (v_i). The inverter transfers a grid

current (i_g) to the utility grid (v_g). For simplification purpose, it is assumed that the local load is not connected into the system. In Fig. 2(a), the voltage equation of the system is given as

$$v_i - v_g - L_f \frac{di_g}{dt} - R_f i_g = 0 \quad (1)$$

where R_f and L_f are the equivalent resistance and inductance of the inductor L_f , respectively

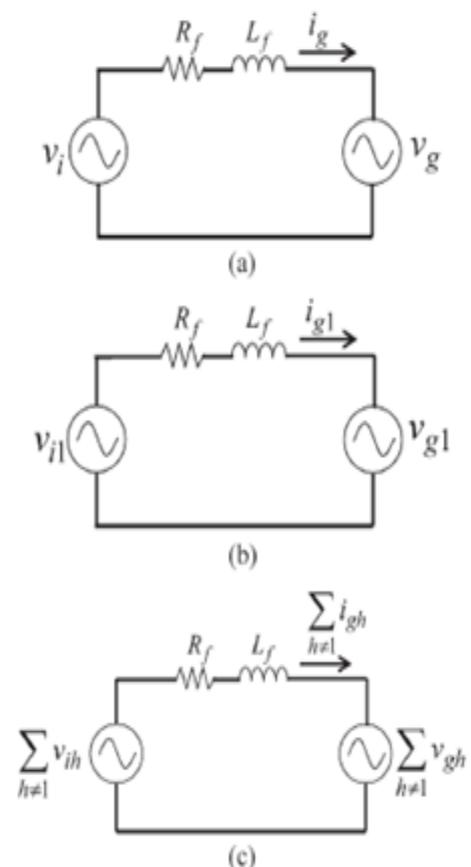


Fig. 2. Model of grid-connected DG system under distorted grid voltage condition. (a) General condition; (b) at the fundamental frequency; and (c) at harmonic frequencies.

If both the inverter voltage and the grid voltage are composed of the fundamental and harmonic components as (2), the voltage equation of (1) can be decomposed into (3) and (4), and the system model shown in Fig. 2(a) can be expressed as Fig. 2(b) and (c), respectively. That is

$$v_i = v_{i1} + \sum_{h \neq 1} v_{ih}$$

$$v_g = v_{g1} + \sum_{h \neq 1} v_{gh}$$

$$v_{i1} - v_{g1} - L_f \frac{di_{g1}}{dt} - R_f i_{g1} = 0$$

$$\sum_{h \neq 1} v_{ih} - \sum_{h \neq 1} v_{gh} - L_f \frac{d\left(\sum_{h \neq 1} i_{gh}\right)}{dt} - R_f \sum_{h \neq 1} i_{gh} = 0.$$

From (4), due to the existence of the harmonic components $\sum_{h=2} v_{gh}$ in the grid voltage, the harmonic currents $\sum_{h=2} i_{gh}$ are induced into the grid current if the DG cannot generate harmonic voltages $\sum_{h=2} v_{ih}$ that are exactly the same as $\sum_{h=2} v_{gh}$. As a result, the distorted grid voltage at the PCC causes non sinusoidal grid current i_g if the current controller cannot handle harmonic grid voltage $\sum_{h=2} v_{gh}$.
B. Effect of Nonlinear Local Load Fig. 3 shows the model of a grid-connected DG system with a local load, whereby the local load is represented as a current source i_L , and the DG is represented as a controlled current source i_{DG} . According to Fig. 3, the relationship of DG current i_{DG} , load current i_L , and grid current i_g is described as $i_{DG} = i_L + i_g$.

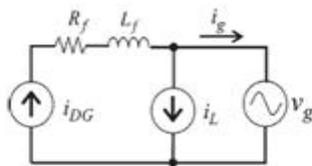


Fig. 3. Model of grid-connected DG system with nonlinear local load.

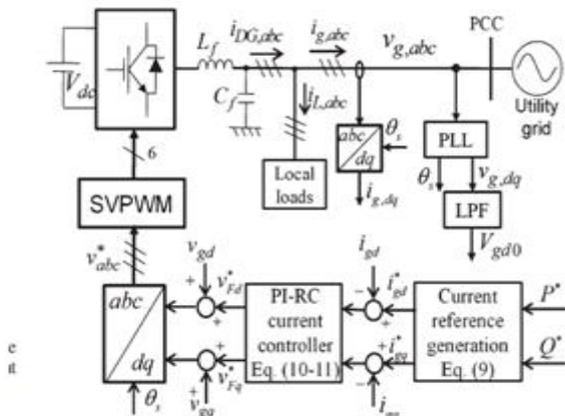


Fig. 4. Overall block diagram of the proposed control strategy.

Assuming that the local load is nonlinear, e.g., a three-phase diode rectifier, the load current is composed of the fundamental and harmonic components as $i_L = i_{L1} + \sum_{h=2} i_{Lh}$ (6) where i_{L1} and i_{Lh} are the fundamental and harmonic components of the load current, respectively. Substituting (6) into (5), we have $i_g = i_{DG} - L_f \frac{d\left(\sum_{h=2} i_{gh}\right)}{dt} - R_f \sum_{h=2} i_{gh}$. (7) From (7), it is obvious that, in order to transfer sinusoidal grid current i_g into the grid, DG current i_{DG} should include the harmonic components that can compensate the load current harmonics $\sum_{h=2} i_{Lh}$. Therefore, it is important to design an effective and low-cost current controller that can generate the specific harmonic components to compensate the load current harmonics. Generally, traditional current controllers, such as the PI or PR controllers, cannot realize this demand because they lack the capability to regulate harmonic components.

III. PROPOSED CONTROL SCHEME

To enhance grid current quality, an advanced current control strategy, as shown in Fig. 4, is introduced. Although there are several approaches to avoid the grid voltage sensors and a phase-locked loop (PLL) [19], Fig. 4 contains the grid voltage sensor and a PLL for simple and effective implementing of the

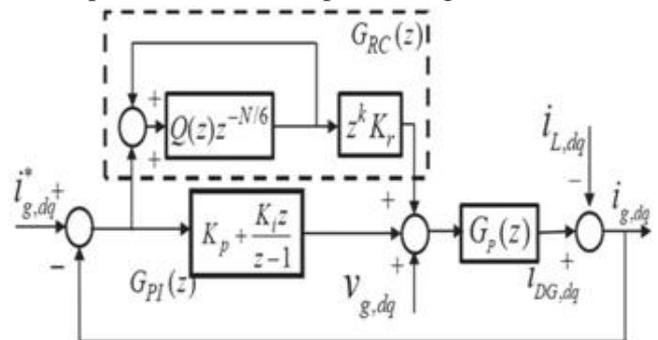


Fig. 5. Block diagram of the current controller.

proposed algorithm, which is developed in the $d-q$ reference frame. The proposed control scheme is composed of three main parts: the PLL, the current reference generation scheme, and the current controller. The operation of the PLL under distorted grid voltage has been investigated, in detail; therefore, it will not be addressed in this paper. As shown in Fig. 4, the control strategy operates without the local load

current measurement and harmonic voltage analysis on the grid voltage. Therefore, it can be developed without requiring additional hardware. Moreover, it can simultaneously address the effect of nonlinear local load and distorted grid voltage on the grid current quality.

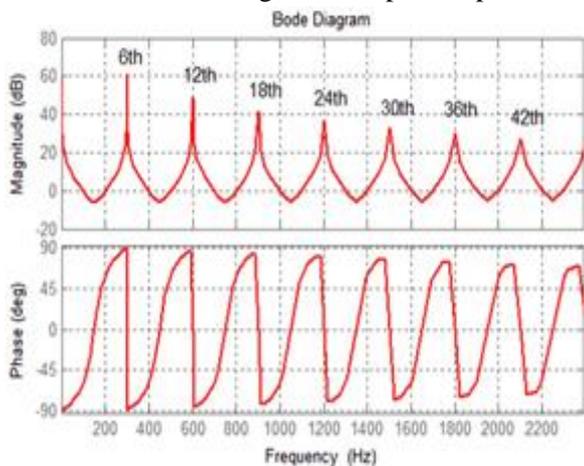
Current Reference Generation

As shown in Fig. 4, the current references for the current controller can be generated in the $d-q$ reference frame based on the desired power and grid voltage as follows [14]: where V_{gd0} is the average value of v_{gd} , which is obtained through the LPF in Fig. 4. . *Current Controller* An advanced current controller is proposed by using a PI and an RC in the $d-q$ reference frame. The block diagram of the current controller is shown in Fig. 5. The open-loop

where K_p and K_i are the proportional and integral gains of the PI controller, $z^{-N/6}$ is the time delay unit, z^k is the phase lead term, $Q(z)$ is a filter transfer function, and K_r is the RC gain. In Fig. 5, the RC is used to eliminate the harmonic components in the grid current caused by the nonlinear local load and/or grid voltage. Meanwhile, the role of the PI controller is to enhance the dynamic response of the grid current and to stabilize the whole control system.

The number of delay samples of the RC given in (11) is $N/6$, where $N = f \text{ sample}/f_s$ is the number of samples in one fundamental period, which is defined as the ratio of the sampling frequency ($f \text{ sample}$) and the fundamental frequency of system (f_s). In fact, the traditional RC can be used in this case to compensate the harmonic components. However, the traditional RC suffers the severe drawback of a very slow dynamic response due to the long delay time by N samples.

To remove the delay problem of the traditional RC, we consider only the $(6n \pm 1)$ th ($n = 1, 2, 3 \dots$) harmonics because they are dominant components in three-phase systems. The time delay of the RC in (13) is thereby reduced six times compared with the traditional one as $N/6$ [21]. Fig. 6 presents the Bode diagram of the proposed PI-RC current controller. In Fig. 6, the fundamental frequency is 50 Hz. It is shown in Fig. 6 that the proposed current controller designed in the $d-q$ reference frame provides a high peak gain at the $6n$ th ($n = 1, 2, 3 \dots$) harmonic orders, i.e., 300 Hz, 600 Hz, 900 Hz, etc. Therefore, the proposed current controller can sufficiently compensate $(6n \pm 1)$ th ($n = 1, 2, 3 \dots$) harmonics caused by distorted grid voltage and/or a nonlinear local load, and it can guarantee a good quality of the grid current despite the distorted grid voltage and nonlinear local load. In Fig. 6, the current controller is designed at a fixed grid frequency of 50 Hz. However, in practical applications, grid frequency can have small variations around the nominal value.



$$i_{gd}^* = \frac{2 P^*}{3 V_{gd0}}$$

$$i_{gq}^* = -\frac{2 Q^*}{3 V_{gd0}}$$

Fig. 6. Bode diagram of the proposed PI-RC current controller. function of the PI and RC in a discrete-time domain is given respectively in

$$G_{PI}(z) = K_p + c K_i z^{-1} \quad (10)$$

$$G_{RC}(z) = K_r z^k z^{-N/6} \frac{1 - Q(z)z^{-N/6}}{1 - Q(z)} \quad (11)$$

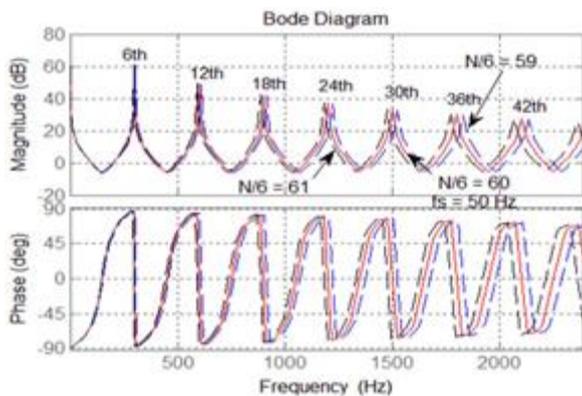


Fig. 7. Bode diagram of the proposed PI-RC.

current controller with different values of $N/6$. In order to overcome the grid frequency variations, an adaptive control scheme was introduced. Nevertheless, the current controller needs some additional components, such as filters and controllers, to implement the frequency adaptive controllers. In this paper, the proposed current controller is basically designed to compensate both the current harmonic and the grid frequency variation, simultaneously. When the grid frequency varies, the grid frequency (f_s) is quickly detected by the PLL, and the frequency variation is compensated directly by adjusting the number of delay samples, i.e., $N/6 = f \text{ sample}/(6f_s)$, inside the RC in Fig. 5. Fig. 7 shows the Bode diagram of the PI-RC with different values of the delay samples ($N/6$). As shown in Fig. 7, by adjusting $N/6$, the peak gain of the RC can be moved to adapt the grid frequency variations.

IV. DESIGN OF RC

The RC has three main components that must be determined: the filter $Q(z)$, the phase lead term z^k , and the RC controller gain Kr . **Selection of the Filter $Q(z)$:** $Q(z)$ is used to improve the system stability by reducing the peak gain of the RC at a high-frequency range. There are two methods that have been commonly used to select $Q(z)$: a closed unity gain $Q(z) = 0.95$ and a zero phase-shift LPF $Q(z) = (z^2 + z - 1)/4$ [21]. In this paper, we use $Q(z) = (z^2 + z - 1)/4$ because it provides the high peak gain of the PI-RC at the low-frequency range and low peak gain (less than 0 dB) at the high-frequency range (higher than 2 kHz), as

shown in Fig. 8. It is well known that as low peak gain at the high-frequency range can effectively prevent the system unstable.

extermination of the Phase Lead Term z^k : Since the control plant $GP(z)$, i.e., the LC filter, acts as an LPF, which introduces some phase lag, the phase lead term z^k is required to compensate the phase lag of $GP(z)$, and k is selected to minimize the phase displacement of $GP(z)z^k$ [24]. Fig. 9 presents the Bode diagram of $GP(z)z^k$ with different values of k . In Fig. 9, we select $k = 3$ because it provides a minimum phase displacement up to the 31st harmonic order, and the system stability is

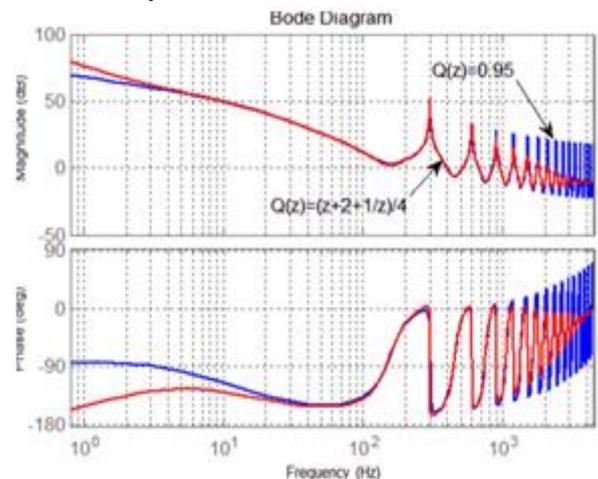


Fig. 8. Bode diagram of the open-loop transfer function of the PI-RC controller with $Q(z) = 0.95$ and $Q(z) = (z^2 + z - 1)/4$.

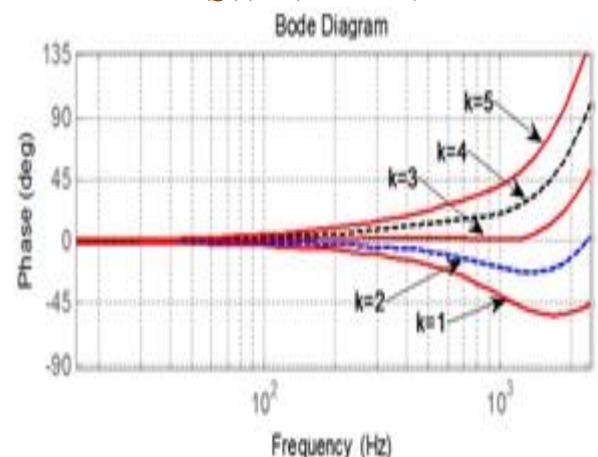


Fig. 9. Phase lag compensation with different values of k .

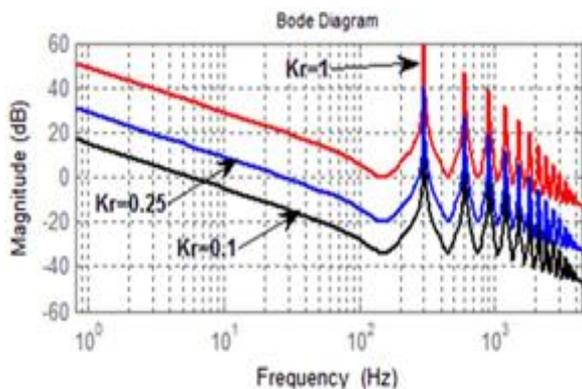


Fig. 10. Bode diagram of the PI-RC with different values of K_r .

guaranteed up to the 45th harmonic component at a frequency of 2.25 kHz. *Determination of the Controller Gain K_r* : To determine controller gain K_r , the magnitude response of the PI-RC is investigated. In Fig. 10, the PI-RC provides different frequency responses with different values of K_r ; the peak gain of the RC at the resonant frequency is reduced as K_r becomes smaller. In Fig. 10, with $K_r = 0.1$ or $K_r = 0.25$, the peak gains of the PI-RC are too small; therefore, it is insufficient to offer good steady-state performance for harmonic current compensation. Meanwhile, with $K_r = 1$, the PI-RC has high peaks up to 2 kHz, and it is sufficient to compensate harmonics up to the 39th order. Therefore, we select $K_r = 1$.

TABLE I
SYSTEM PARAMETERS

Parameters	Values
Grid voltage	110 V (rms)
Grid frequency (f_i)	50 Hz
Rated output power	5 kW
DC-link voltage (V_{dc})	350 V
Sampling/switching frequency (f_{sample})	9 kHz
Output filter inductance (L_f)	0.7 mH
Output filter resistance (R_f)	0.1 Ω
Output filter capacitance (C_f)	27 μ F
Load of three-phase diode rectifier	R = 30 Ω , C = 2200 μ F
Three-phase linear load	R = 30 Ω

V. SIMULATION RESULTS

A simulation model of the DG system is built by PSIM simulation software to verify the effectiveness of the

proposed control method. The system parameters are given in Table I. In the simulation, three cases are taken into account. 1) Case I: The grid voltage is sinusoidal and the linear local load is used. 2) Case II: The grid voltage is sinusoidal and the nonlinear local load is used. 3) Case III: The grid voltage is distorted and the nonlinear local load is used. In Cases I and II, the grid voltage is assumed as a pure sinusoidal waveform. In Case III, the distorted grid voltage is supplied with the harmonic components: 3.5% 5th harmonic, 3% 7th harmonic, 1% 11th harmonic, and 1% 13th harmonic. The THD of grid voltage is about 4.82%. This grid voltage condition complies with the harmonic restriction standards, where the THD of grid voltage is less than 5% [25]. In all test cases, the reference grid current is set at $i^*_{gd} = 10$ A and $i^*_{gq} = 0$, and the conventional PI current controller and the proposed current controller are investigated to compare their control performances. Fig. 11 depicts the steady-state performance of the grid connected DG by using the conventional PI current controller, in which the waveforms of grid voltage ($v_{g,abc}$), grid current ($i_{g,abc}$), local load current ($i_{L,abc}$), and DG current ($i_{DG,abc}$) are plotted. As shown in Fig. 11, the PI current controller is able to offer a good performance only in Case I, when the grid voltage is ideal sinusoidal and the local load is linear. In the other circumstances, due to the effect of distorted grid voltage and the nonlinear local load, the PI current controller is unable to transfer a sinusoidal grid current to the utility grid. In fact, because of the popular use of nonlinear loads in the DG local load and distribution system, the ideal sinusoidal condition of the grid voltage is very rare. On the other hand, the conditions, as given in Cases II and III, frequently occur in practice. As a result, the conventional PI controller is insufficient to offer a good quality of the grid current. To demonstrate the superiority of the proposed current controller over the traditional PI controller, the DG system with the proposed current controller is also simulated, and the results are shown in Fig. 12. As shown in the results, the proposed control strategy can provide a good quality grid current, i.e., sinusoidal grid currents, despite the distorted grid voltage and nonlin

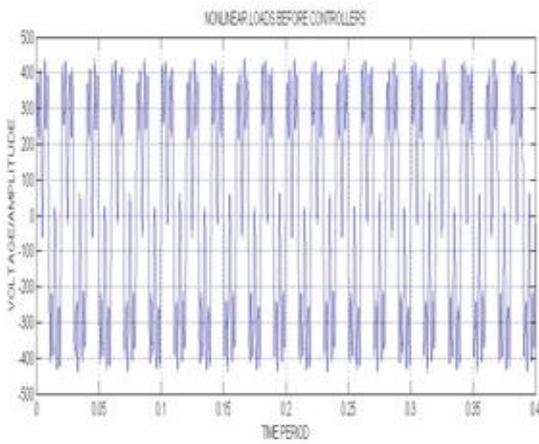


Fig 11: Non linear loads before controller.

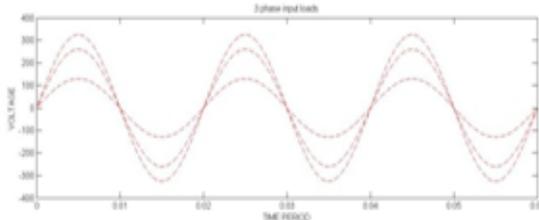


Fig 12: 3 Phase input Loads

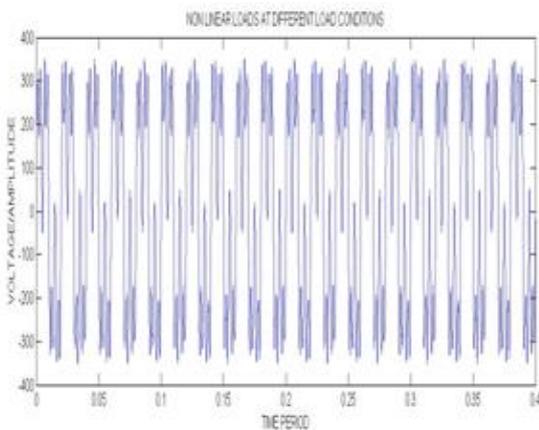


Fig 13 : Non linear loads at different load conditions.

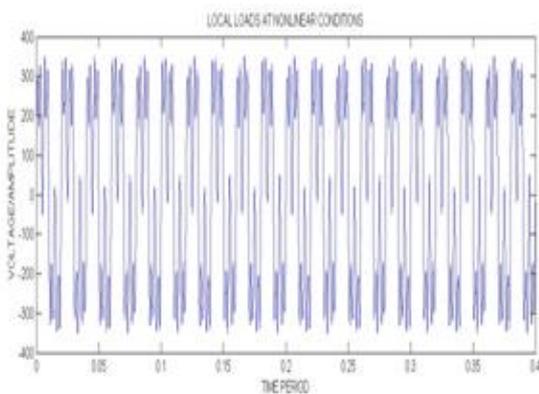


Fig 14 : Local loads at non linear conditions

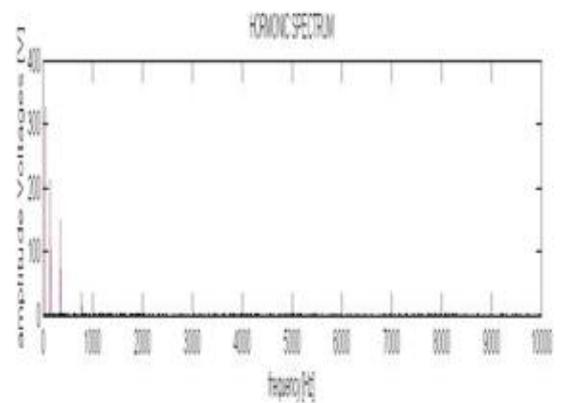
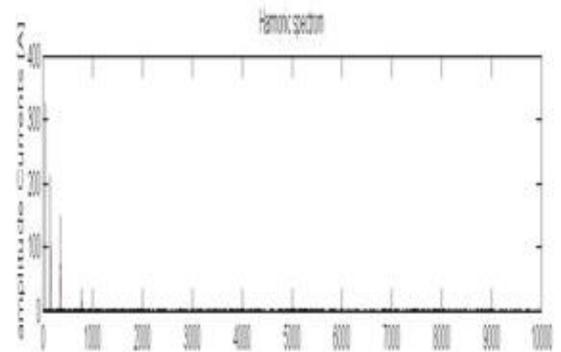


Fig 15 : harmonic spectrum.

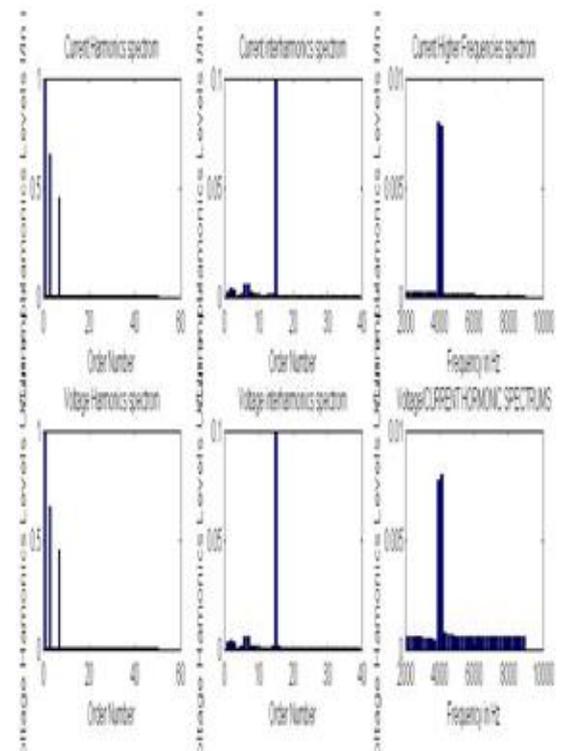


Fig 16: Harmonic spectrum

Moreover, the proposed control method can bring the THD of the grid current to less than 2% in all cases, as given in Table II, which complies completely with IEEE 1547 standards. These Results obviously validate the effectiveness of the proposed control approach. In addition, to assess the feasibility of the proposed current controller under grid frequency variations, simulation results of the proposed PI-RC current controller, when the grid frequency changes from 50 to 49 Hz and from 50 to 51 Hz, are illustrated in Fig. 13(a) and (b), respectively. In Fig. 13, the PLL quickly detects the grid frequency variation and accurately compensates it within a short period of time, i.e., less than 10 ms without any influence on the grid current. Therefore, we can say that the proposed current controller is able to maintain a high-quality grid current even under the grid frequency variations.

TABLE I
 SYSTEM PARAMETERS

Parameters	Values
Grid voltage	110 V (rms)
Grid frequency (f_i)	50 Hz
Rated output power	5 kW
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Output filter inductance (L_f)	0.7 mH
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Load of three-phase diode rectifier	R = 30 Ω , C = 2200 μ F
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IEEE 519-1992 harmonic restriction standards, where the THD of grid voltage is less than 5% [25]. In all test cases, the reference grid current is set at $i^*_{gd} = 10$ A and $i^*_{gq} = 0$, and the conventional PI current controller and the proposed current controller are investigated to compare their control performances. Fig. 11 depicts the steady-state performance of the grid connected DG by using the conventional PI current controller, in which the waveforms of grid voltage ($v_{g,abc}$), grid current ($i_{g,abc}$), local load current ($i_{L,abc}$), and DG current ($i_{DG,abc}$) are plotted. As shown in Fig. 11, the PI current controller is able to offer a good performance only in Case I, when the grid voltage is ideal sinusoidal and the local load is linear. In the other circumstances, due to the effect of distorted grid voltage and the nonlinear local load, the PI current controller is unable to transfer a sinusoidal grid current to the utility grid. In fact, because of the popular use of nonlinear loads in the DG local load and distribution system, the ideal sinusoidal condition of the grid voltage is very rare. On the other hand, the conditions, as given in Cases II and III, frequently occur in practice. As a result, the conventional PI controller is insufficient to offer a good quality of the grid current. To demonstrate the superiority of the proposed current controller over the traditional PI controller, the DG system with the proposed current controller is also simulated, and the results are shown in Fig. 12. As shown in the results, the proposed control strategy can provide a good quality grid current, i.e., sinusoidal grid currents, despite the distorted grid voltage and nonlinear local load conditions. Therefore, with the aid of the RC in the proposed current controller, the distorted grid voltage and nonlinear load current no longer affect the grid current quality.

Moreover, the proposed control method can bring the THD of the grid current to less than 2% in all cases, as given in Table II, which complies completely with IEEE 1547 standards. These results obviously validate the effectiveness of the proposed control approach. In addition, to assess the feasibility of the proposed current controller under grid frequency variations,

simulation results of the proposed PI-RC current controller, when the grid frequency changes from 50 to 49 Hz and from 50 to 51 Hz, are illustrated in Fig. 13(a) and (b), respectively. In Fig. 13, the PLL quickly detects the grid frequency variation and accurately compensates it within a short period of time, i.e., less than 10 ms without any influence on the grid current. Therefore, we can say that the proposed current controller is able to maintain a high-quality grid current even under the grid frequency variations

VII. CONCLUSION

This paper has proposed an advanced current control strategy for the grid-connected DG to simultaneously eliminate the effect of grid voltage distortion and nonlinear local load on the grid current. The simulation and experimental results established that the DG with the proposed current controller can sufficiently transfer a sinusoidal current to the utility grid, despite the nonlinear local load and distorted grid voltage conditions. The proposed current control scheme can be implemented without the local load current sensor and harmonic analysis of the grid voltage; therefore, it can be easily integrated in the conventional control scheme without installation of extra hardware. Despite the reduced number of current sensors, the quality of the grid current is significantly improved: the THD value of the grid current is decreased considerably compared with that achieved by using the conventional PI current controller. In addition, the proposed current controller also maintained a good quality of grid current under grid frequency variations. Moreover, the dynamic response of the grid current controller was also greatly enhanced compared with that of the traditional RC, due to the PI and RC combination and the reduced RC delay time.

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