

# Performance Study of Transformerless Three-level Inverter for PV System

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**Abstract** – This study investigates the effectiveness of the Performancea Transformerless Three-Level Inverter in the context of a Photovoltaic (PV) System employed in Building Integrated Photovoltaic (BIPV) systems. The system consists of several components, including a photovoltaic (PV) array, a boost DC/DC converter, a three-level neutral-point-clamped (NPC) inverter, an LC filter, and a grid connection. The 3-level NPC inverter is engineered to operate without the inclusion of a galvanic isolation transformer. Its current controller is specifically designed to mitigate the occurrence of leakage currents in the common-mode voltage circuits of photovoltaic (PV) systems. A The MATLAB programme was utilised to simulate the prototype of a 170.9 kW transformerless three-level inverter incorporating an LC filter. The simulation yielded a total harmonic distortion (THD) of less than 1.59% and an efficiency of 97.6% at the peak export to the local network. The discussion extensively covers the simulation and test results.

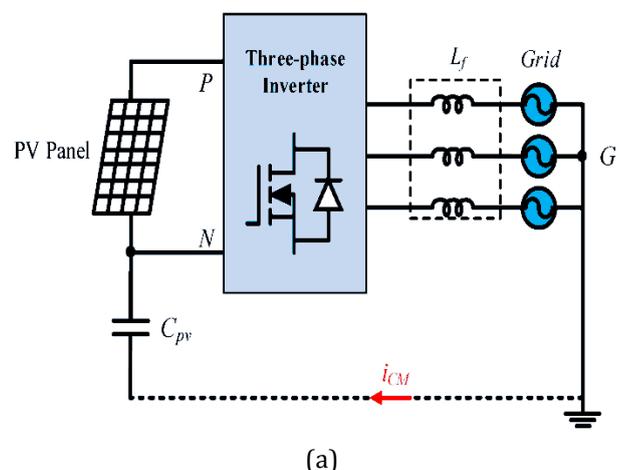
Keywords PV1; 3-φ transformerless inverter1; NPC1; boost converter1; current control1, LC filter; maximum power point tracking1.

## I. INTRODUCTION

In recent times, a considerable number of transformerless Three-level inverters have been developed and widely implemented for the purpose of renewable energy generation, specifically in photovoltaic (PV) systems. In the realm of building-integrated photovoltaic (BIPV) systems, there is a noticeable emergence of small-scale PV systems with a capacity of up to 15 kW [1]. In general, these systems need a galvanically isolated, three-phase inverter to change the direct current (DC) voltage from photovoltaic (PV) arrays into alternating current (AC) voltage, which is then sent into the utility grid. notably three-phase Three-level transformerless topologies are the most prevalent way to convert DC voltage to AC voltage in power systems due to their low cost, simplicity, and maturity.

Transformerless topologies' PV array-grid connection without galvanic separation is a drawback. Thus, worldwide organisations have established PV inverter safety standards. Large stray capacitance (CPV) between the PV panel and grid ground is the key safety problem. Figure 1 shows a grid-to-PV panel ground-current route. CMV variations cause leakage current because of excessive stray capacitance between the PV panel and grid grounds. The leakage current passes through the ground and PV array, increasing radiated electromagnetic emissions, current harmonics, losses, and dependability of transformerless, grid-connected PV transformerless inverter topologies. These difficulties need careful leakage current management. In VDE 0126-1-1, leakage current must be less than 300 mA to avoid negative impacts. Reduce the CMV amplitude and frequency or disconnect the PV array from the grid on the DC side of the inverter system to reduce leakage current. In recent years, many methods have been developed to reduce transformerless PV inverter CMV and leakage current in recent years. Problem solved later.

The use of an inverter featuring galvanic isolation presents viable solutions for addressing safety considerations and enhancing the adaptability of voltage and current. However, it is important to note that these solutions may entail substantial weight and cost.



implications. Line transformers and high-frequency transformers increase power conversion circuit inefficiencies, reducing photovoltaic inverter efficiency [2].

A transformerless inverter topology can address the restriction. However, compatibility issues with the common-mode voltage and leakage current have caused electromagnetic interference (EMI) and safety concerns. Single-phase inverters with high switching frequencies are more affected by the above issues [3]. High-speed switching induces  $dv/dt$  and  $di/dt$ , which cause compatibility issues.

The three-phase inverter has similar issues. Thus, the design needs two goals.

To safeguard the PV array and lengthen the DC link capacitor's life, reduce the  $dv/dt$  and  $di/dt$  values. The second goal is to reduce current loss through the common-mode channels that connect the PV array to the grid. EMI should also be reduced. The two main issues are lowering the  $dv/dt$  and  $di/dt$  ratios and optimising the PWM switching mechanisms employed by the inverter and boost D.C./D.C. converter.

Multilevel inverters reduce device  $dv/dt$  voltage stress. This method adds levels. DC link capacitors can also have a lower voltage rating, providing more low-cost options [4]. PV systems can eliminate leakage current through common-mode voltage circuits using advanced switching modulation [5].

This research offers a Transformerless Three-level Inverter Performance Study for a PV System with an LC filter for BIPV systems. The suggested current controller operates the new inverter without a transformer for efficient active and reactive power. The transformerless inverter's new current controller with an LC filter reduces total harmonic distortion (THD) to less than 5%. PSIM and MATLAB help characterise the common-mode voltage, leakage current, current controller, and LC filter. The prototype was modelled using MATLAB software in a 170.9 kW transformerless three-level inverter with an LC filter, which showed less than 3% total harmonic distortion (THD) and 97.6% efficiency at peak export to the local network. Reviewing simulation and test results

## II. PHOTOVOLTAIC, THREE-PHASE, 3-LEVEL, INVERTER SYSTEM.

### Overall System Configuration

Figure 1 shows a transformerless, three-phase, three-level NPC inverter setup. Figure 1 shows this configuration. The system includes a PV array, boost D.C./D.C. converter, three-level NPC inverter, LC filter, and grid. PV array output voltages range from 513.6V to 630V.D.C..

The utility grid inverter system outputs 170.9 kW at 380 volts and 50 Hz. Low switching frequencies maximise system efficiency. D.C./D.C. converters switch at 10 kHz, while inverters switch at 5 kHz.

The 3-level NPC inverter can generate  $V_{dc}$ ,  $+V_{dc}/2$ , 0, and  $-V_{dc}/2$  utility grid voltages depending on switching frequency. An LC filter reduces voltage ripple and THD.

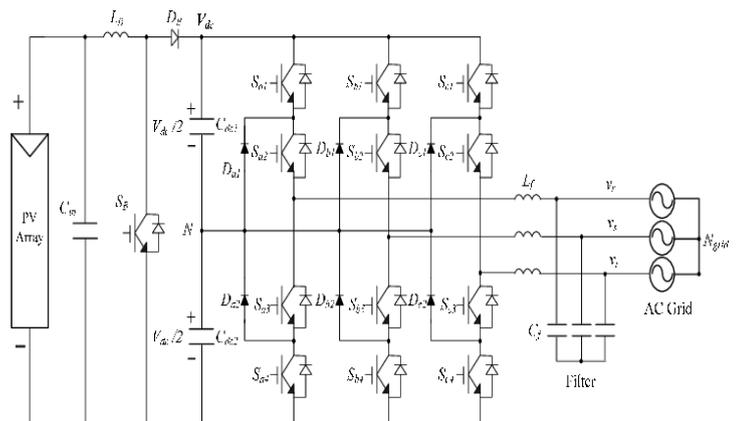


Fig. 1. Overall configuration of a transformerless three-phase 3-level NPC inverter system.

### B.PWM Strategy

During zero-sequence switching, stray capacitances and leakage inductances can make the common-mode voltage loop into a resonant circuit [5–6]. A galvanic connection between the grid ground and the PV array causes this.

The inverter is affected by zero-sequence and triple-harmonic currents flowing from the photovoltaic (PV) array to the grid via a direct or low-impedance connection. A common-mode voltage, which is shared by the input photovoltaic (PV) array and the output grid terminals, can also cause resonance.

Thus, this resonance can generate a large inverter common-mode current. Thus, such acts can cause system instability, so avoid them.

Pulse width modulation (PWM) can be used in three-phase neutral-point-clamped (NPC) inverters in three ways: phase disposition (PD), phase opposition disposition (P.O.D), and alternative phase opposition disposition (A.P.O.D). Figure 2 shows the PD PWM switching scheme. a phase disposition-using limb in a three-level neutral-point-clamped (NPC) inverter. The proportional-derivative (PD) method reduces inverter line-to-line voltage harmonic distortion [6]. The D.C./D.C converter's switching frequency is 10 kHz to decrease input current disturbance, while the inverter's is 5 kHz for system efficiency.

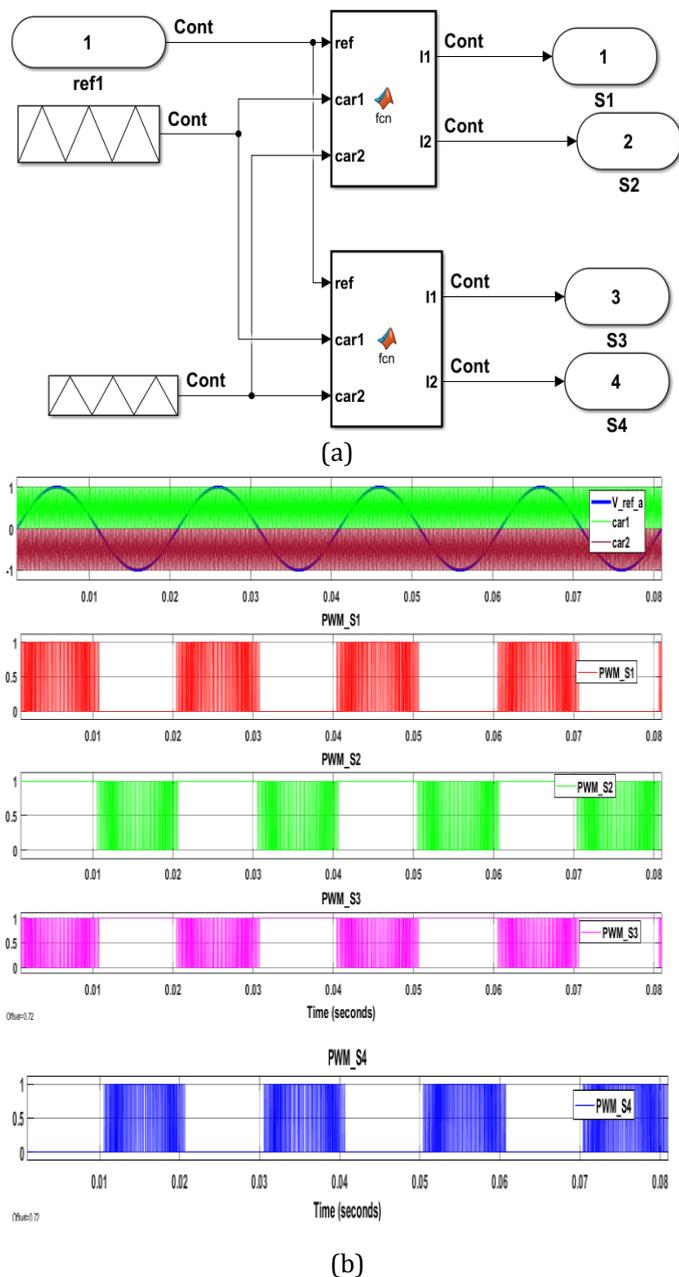


Fig.2. The box chart (a) PD PWM switching pattern in a phase leg of Transformerless Three level Inverter for PV System(b).

## II. CONTROL AND DESIGN OF THREE-PHASE, 3-LEVEL NPC INVERTER WITH LC FILTER

### A. Control System

Figure 3 depicts the primary controllers that make up the control system of a grid-connected Transformerless Three-level Inverter for a Photovoltaic (P.V) System. These controllers are a direct current (D.C)-side controller, for the boost D.C./D.C converter and an alternating current (A.C)-side controller, for the inverter.

Both of these controllers are referred to as primary controllers. The controller for the whole system combines the controllers for the line voltage at the point of common coupling (PCC), the current flowing through the inverter, and the grid current that is controlled by the D.C link voltage.

It is the job of the D.C/D.C converter to keep the regulated D.C link voltage, at a level, that is high enough to allow the inverter to function properly. This is accomplished by keeping the link voltage at a level that is high enough. The maximum power point tracking (M.P.P.T) controller makes use of a perturbation and observation (P&O) approach [7] in order to get the photovoltaic (PV) array to produce the most amount of power possible. This is done in order to maximise the efficiency, of the system.

The Maximum Power Point Tracking (M.P.P.T) method is responsible for generating a current reference that is proportional to the boost inductor current at its output. Proportional-integral

(P.I) controllers are used everywhere throughout this specific system, including but not limited to the maximum power point tracking (M.P.P.T) voltage controllers as well as the inductor current controllers.

The control system for the three-level NPC inverter's major purpose is to efficiently regulate and stabilise the direct current (D.C) voltage while also ensuring the smooth transmission of photovoltaic (P.V)-generated power to the grid and reducing the presence of harmonic currents as much as possible. This is the fundamental aim of the control system. The current controller, is run within a d-q, synchronous, frame, and, all of its variable values are generated, inside a d-q, coordinate, system. The findings of the PI controller must be converted from the coordinate system into phase quantities before the P.W.M switching pattern can be considered compliant [8]. This conversion must take place before the phase quantity criterion, can be satisfied.

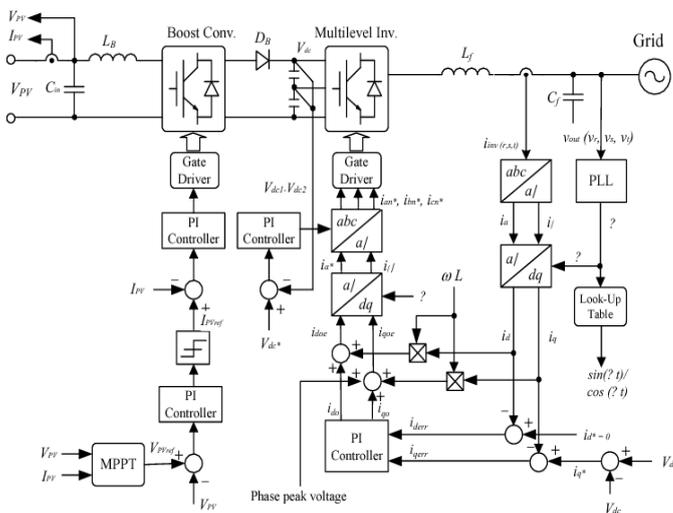


Fig. 3. Control block diagram of a 3-level Transformerless inverter.

**B. Current Control.**

The existing controller, incorporates circuits for controlling both active, and reactive, power . [9]. The present controller, is employed to modulate the output power of the photovoltaic system. The controller in a proportional-integral (PI) current, loop is responsible for regulating the output current to align with its reference values.

The, active, power regulation in the Transformerless, three-level Inverter for P.V Systems involves the measurement and comparison of the output power with the allusion to power. The power error, is sent to a proportional-integral, (P.I) controller, and once there, it serves as the reference for the output current, which is shown by the symbol  $i_q^*$ . The voltage output of the inverter is also measured, and, subsequently compared, to the, voltage, reference, in order to derive the, d-axis,

current reference,  $i_d^*$ . In a comparable manner, the mistake is inputted into a P.I current controller, and, subsequently regulated, for, reactive, power, through the grid-connected Transformerless Three-level, Inverter. The controller's output power is determined by, the reference, active power and the measured output power of the transformerless inverter. The determination of the gains of the proportional-integral (PI) controller is contingent upon the disparity between the measured voltage and the reference voltage.

The present reference, however, is formulated using a synchronous, reference, d-q, axis frame., which rotates, at the same frequency as the grid and is aligned with the d-axis. The voltages for each of the three phases that have been measured are transformed, into a synchronous rotating, reference, frame based on the frequency of the, grid.

Also, the result of this proportional-integral (P.I) controller is used to make the commands for the inverter to switch the current.

Table 1: Switching table states in a phase leg of the 3-level Transformerless inverter

Operation Modes for phase A(upper) Sa <sub>1</sub> &Sa <sub>2</sub>	Operation Modes for phase A (Lower)Sa <sub>3</sub> & Sa <sub>4</sub>
<pre>function [I1 ,I2] = fcn (ref, car1, car2) signal = zeros (2,1); if ref &gt;= car1 signal (1) = 1; signal (2) = 1; elseif ref &lt; car1 &amp;&amp; ref &gt; car2 signal (1) = 0; signal (2) = 1; elseif ref &lt; car2 signal (1) = 0; signal (2) = 0; end I1 = signal(1); I2 = signal (2); end</pre>	<pre>function [I3 ,I4] = fcn (ref, car3, car4) signa3 = zeros (2,1); if ref &gt;= car3 signa3 (3) = 0; signa4 (4) = 0; elseif ref &lt; car1 &amp;&amp; ref &gt; car4 signa3 (3) = 1; signa4 (4) = 0; elseif ref &lt; car2 signa3 (3) = 1; signa4 (4) = 1; end I3 = signa3(3); I4 = signa4 (4); end</pre>

The  $i_d^*$  and  $i_q^*$  components of the d-q current command are transformed into the  $i_{an}^*$ ,  $i_{bn}^*$ , and  $i_{cn}^*$  components of the a-b-c current command, respectively. The reference vectors are generated through the use of the space vector modulation algorithm in order to produce the gate signals.

The P.I current controller  $G_{PI}(s)$  in the d-q reference frame can be defined as follows:

$$K_{PI}(s) = K_p + \frac{K_i}{s} \quad (2)$$

The symbol  $K_p$  denotes the proportional gain, while  $K_i$  represents the integral constant. Because the P.I controller is built in parallel and doesn't change over time, the gain parameters don't affect the direct and inverse sequence components, of the current error, [10]. This is due to the decomposition of the P.I controller, into a parallel structure, and the constant nature of the proportional gain parameter ( $K_p$ ). Hence, It is essential to have a solid understanding of the  $K_p$  in terms of the accumulation of the, proportional, gains connected to the, already present sequence, controller.

In order to achieve dynamic response, the use of a grid voltage feed-forward loop is necessary for the PI controller.

However, it is important to note that this approach has the potential to yield a significantly reduced total harmonic distortion (T.H.D) of the discharge current. The LC filter is a type of electronic filter that uses inductors (L) and capacitors (C) to selectively pass. The use of a basic L-filter is a prevalent practise in the mitigation of current harmonics in Transformerless Three-Level Inverters. The design of the L filter requires a high inductance value to accommodate the line frequency, resulting in a significant increase in cost, as indicated by a reference [11].

Furthermore, there is a potential for a slowdown in the dynamic reaction. As a result, the low-pass filter may be replaced with LC or LCL filters instead, both of which have quite modest values for their inductors and capacitors. It uses an LCL filter, which is characterised by the presence of two inductors, which results in increased size and cost. The effectiveness, cost, loss, weight, and dimensions of a filter may vary depending on its type. This study involves the creation of an LC filter.

Prior to the design of the LC filter (references 12–13), it is imperative to ascertain the maximum amplitude of the ripple alternating current. The side inductance of the Transformerless Three-level Inverter is selected to be 5% of the phase current at its rated power in this particular design. This guideline posits that the primary constituent of grid current is of a negative nature. As a result, it is necessary for the inductor voltage's fundamental component to exhibit a negative polarity. Hence, the voltage across the inductor can be represented as:

$$V_L = V_{inv} - V_g \quad (1)$$

The variable VL represents the voltage across the inductor, Vinv denotes the voltage output of the inverter, and Vg signifies the voltage of the grid.

On the other hand, the phase voltage of the Transformerless Three-level Inverter exhibits five distinct levels relative to the midpoint, namely Vdc, Vdc/2, 0, -Vdc/2, and -Vdc.

In comparison to the grid frequency (fN), the higher switching frequency (fs) has an impact on the phase voltage. Therefore, it can be stated that the average value of the output voltage Vav of the inverter remains constant during the transition period Ts. The calculation of the peak-to-peak value of the filter inductor current is determined through the use of the PD PWM switching method.

$$\Delta I_{PP} = 2I_{rpm} = \frac{V_{dc} - V_{av}}{L_f} \cdot \frac{d_1}{f_s} \quad (2)$$

The variables Ipp and Irpm are the symbols for the peak-to-peak value and the maximum value of the ripple in the filter inductor current, respectively.

The value of the filter inductance is represented by the letter L, while the duty cycle is symbolised by the number d1. During the time period in which 0 is less than t and more than,

L stands for the filter inductance value, while d1 represents the duty cycle. During the interval where 0 < t < π,

$$V_{av}(\omega t) = d_1(\omega t) \frac{V_{dc}}{2} \quad (3)$$

$$d_1(\omega t) = m_a \sin(\omega t) \quad (4)$$

where, ma is modulation index. Hence, the maximum inductor current ripple Irpm can be expressed as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta I_{rpm} &= \frac{V_{dc}}{4L_f f_s} [1 - d_1(\omega t)] d_1(\omega t) \\ &= \frac{V_{dc}}{4L_f f_s} [1 - m_a \sin(\omega t)] m_a \sin(\omega t) \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

Assuming ma = 1, the maximum value of Irpm is 1/4 at π/6, 5π/6.

$$L_f = \frac{V_{dc}}{16 f_s \cdot \Delta I_{rpm(max)}} \quad (6)$$

Therefore, the determination of the value of the inductor on the inverter side of the transformerless three-level Inverter was reliant on the switching frequency.

When determining the appropriate filter capacitance, the maximum power factor fluctuation observed by the grid is assumed to be 5%. The derivation of the total system impedance base value, ZB, is based on the variation in capacitance.

$$Z_B = \frac{V_G^2}{P_{AV/3}} \quad (7)$$

$$C_B = \frac{1}{\omega_N \cdot Z_B} = \frac{1}{2\pi F_N \cdot Z_B} \quad (8)$$

$$C_{max} = 0.05 \cdot C_B \quad (9)$$

In this context, vG represents the root mean square voltage between the lines, PAV denotes the active power rating, and N signifies the frequency of the grid. In equation (9), when utilising values exceeding the threshold The actual power factor of the system will be lower than the power factor that was projected by a margin of 5%.

The ripple in the current that is carried by the inductor will be magnified if capacitors of an excessively large size are used.

Nevertheless, it is important to be aware that the transformerless inverter is capable of displaying common-mode voltage loops even when switching using pulse width modulation (PWM). As a result, a resonance circuit is formed, and its resonant frequency can be determined by considering the boundary condition between the switching frequency and the control bandwidth. [14]

$$10 \cdot f_N \leq f_{res} \leq \frac{f_s}{2} \quad (10)$$

where,  $f_{res}$  is the resonance frequency and is defined as:

$$f_{res} = \frac{1}{2\pi \sqrt{L_f C_f}} \quad (11)$$

It is imperative to select a switching frequency that is significantly higher than the resonant frequency of the LC filter.

### III. SIMULATION AND VERIFICATION

#### C. Digital Simulation Setup

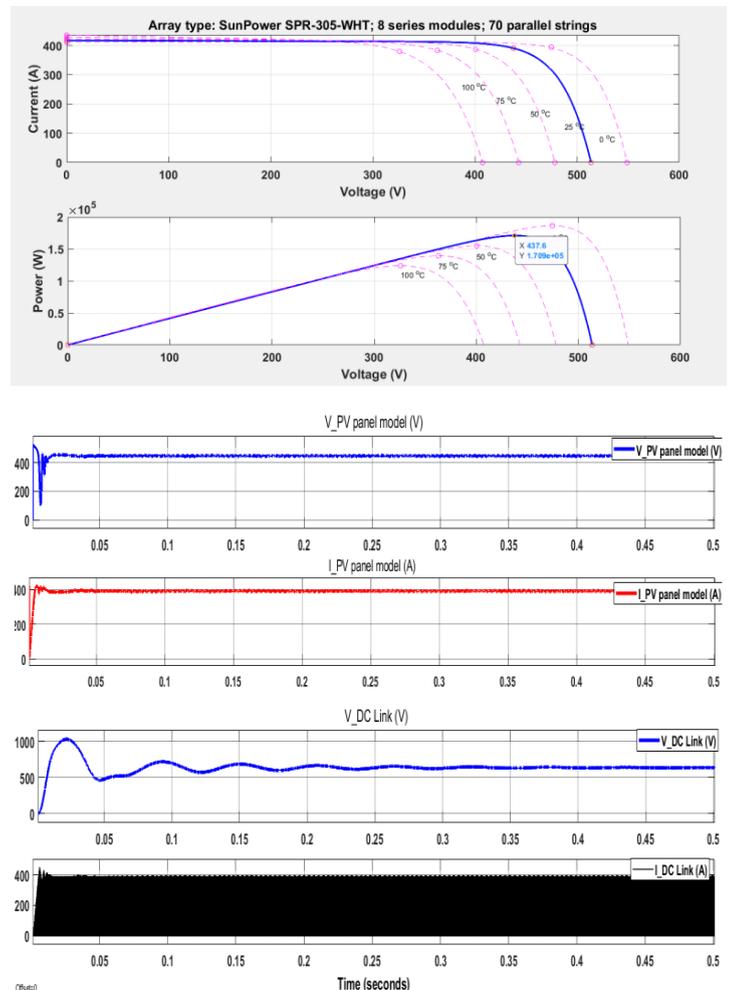
The digital simulation setup is a crucial component in conducting research and experimentation in various fields. It involves the creation and configuration of a virtual environment that mimics real-world scenarios.

In order to conduct After exhaustive analysis of the system, the suggested inverter is simulated using PSIM. The system parameters that were employed in the simulation are detailed in Table 1. Figure 4(a) is a representation of a schematic diagram based on the PSIM software, and Figure 4(b) is an illustration of the waveforms of the output voltage of a 3-level inverter and the line-to-line grid voltage. Both figures are located in the same figure. The output of the 3-level inverter demonstrates five separate voltage levels, which are denoted as  $V_{dc}$ ,  $V_{dc}/2$ ,  $0$ ,  $-V_{dc}/2$ , and  $-V_{dc}$ , respectively. The switching frequency determines whether or not certain voltage levels are present.

Figure 4(c) displays the grid with the rated currents that were put into it. According to the findings of the simulation, the waveform of the injected currents is sinusoidal, and their total harmonic distortion (THD) is around 2.5%.

TABLE 2 SIMULATION PARAMETERS

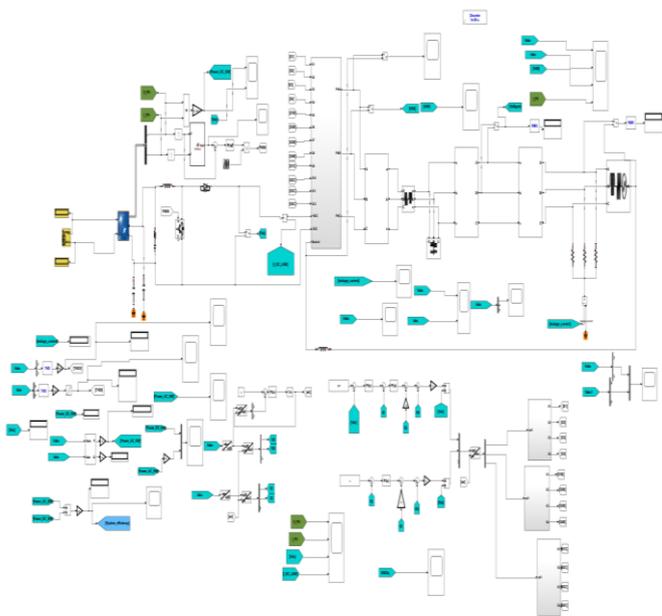
Key parameters	Values
PV Array voltage	514 - 630 Vdc
Grid	50Hz, 3Φ, 380 V(rms)
Nominal Power	170.9kW
P.W.M carrier frequency_ Inverter	5 kHz
DC-DC converter	10 kHz
LC Filter	4.5mH/ 10μF



(a)

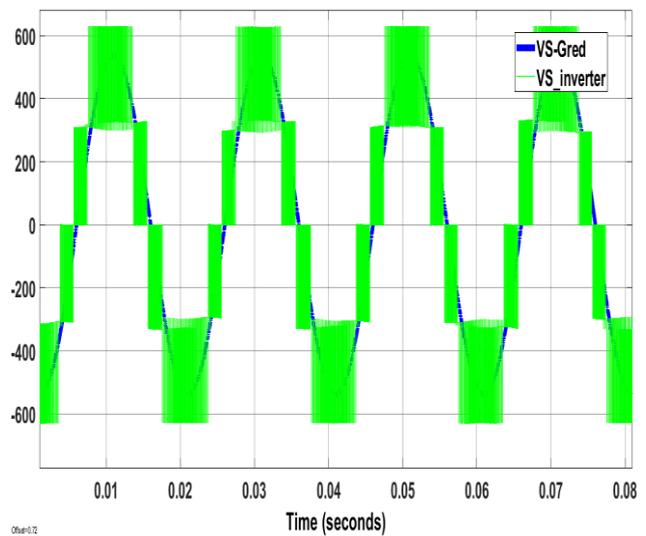
Table 2 shows system parameters. Three-phase rooftop systems have 15 kW power ratings. This study utilised 170.9 kW. The transformerless inverter's DC bus voltage was 650 V if the 3-phase grid was 380 V at 50 Hz. The PV panel structure was 8 series cells with 70 parallel strings for 180 kW of output power and VDC. A simple capacitance model modelled the leakage capacitance (Cearth) between cells and the grounded frame. Depending on climatic conditions and panel construction, it may be 50–150 nF. The simulation used 100 nF for the earth. The real time for one control algorithm procedure determined the sampling time (Ts). The remaining parameters were chosen because 3-phase inverters need them.

the NPC transformerless inverter and PI current controller with SPW modulation results. The two controllers sinusoidally phase the grid currents (unity power factor). PI controller grid current THD is 2.23%. Each controller action produces a distinct waveform for the inverter output line voltages. Since both controllers employ the same MPPT controller, their PV currents are identical. The PI controller clearly controls earth leakage current.

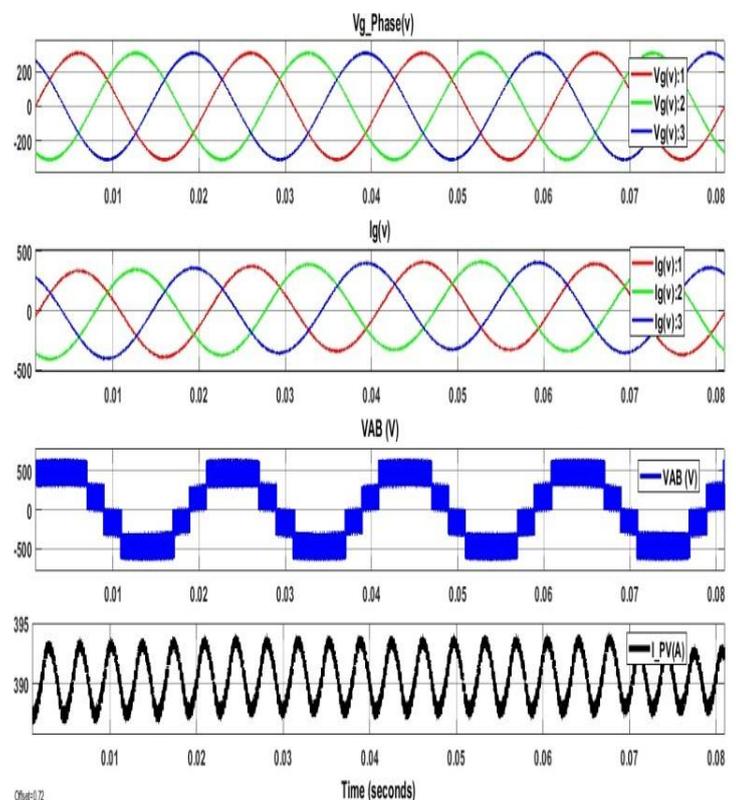


(b)

Fig (a) : (V-I) and (V-P) curves for the P.V module, at constant temperature (25 o c) and different irradiation values; V-I curves, & V-P curves &(b) schematic diagram. Matlab/Simulink.

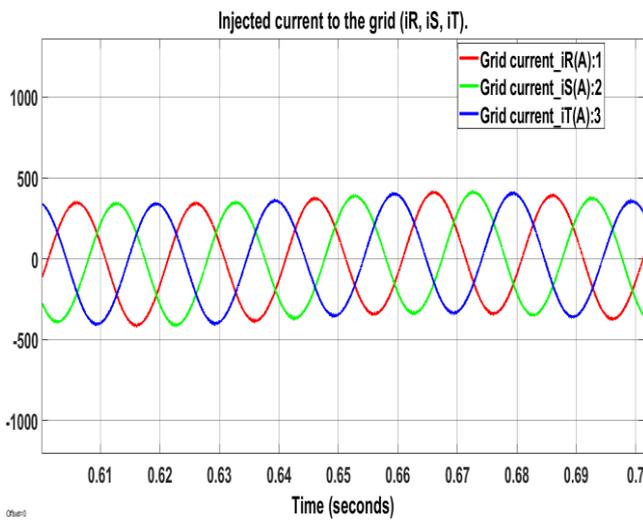


(c)



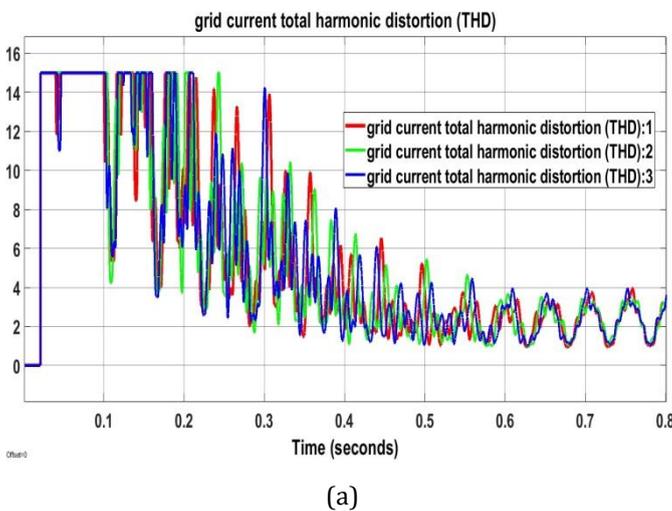
(d)

(c)&(d) Grid voltage and 3-level PWM output voltage.

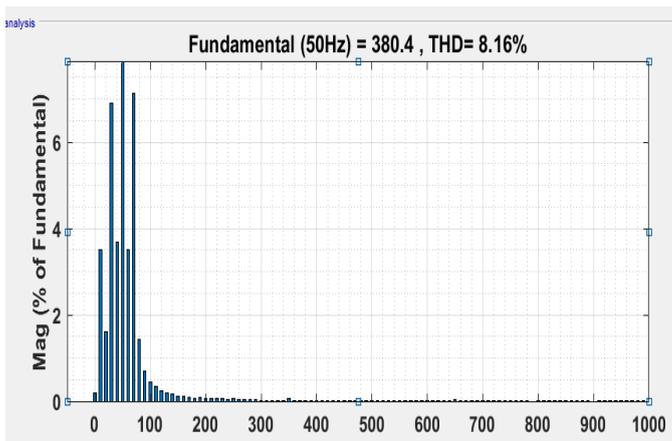


(e) Injected current to the grid (I.r, I.s, I.t).

Fig. 4. MATLAB based schematic diagram and simulation output..



(a)



(a) & (b) T.H.D of grid current 2-level inverter with transformer.

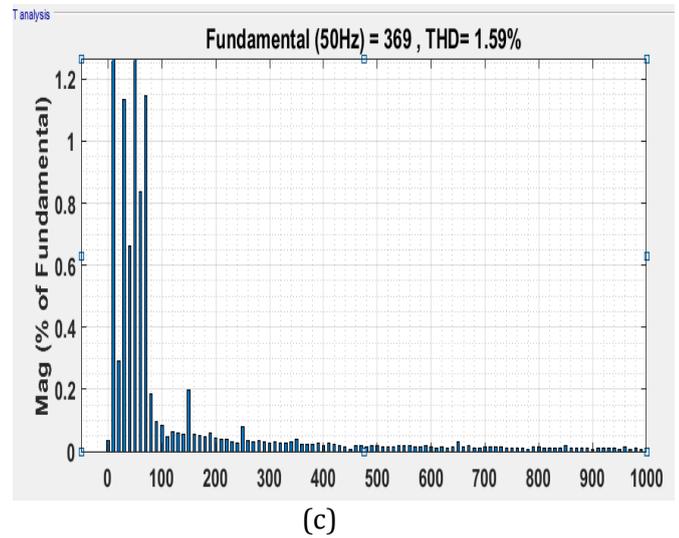


Fig. 5: (a) and (b) and (c) T.H.D of grid current

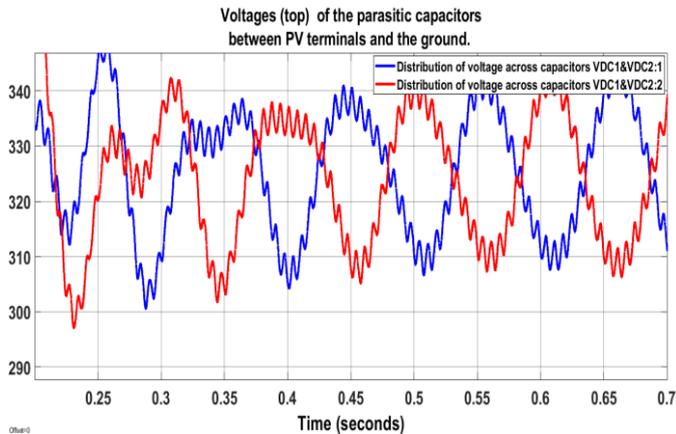
Figure 5 illustrates how the frequency spectrum of the grid current varies depending on the amount of insolation that is present. According to the figure, the lower-order harmonics produced by the Transformerless Three-level Inverter case produce fewer unwanted side effects than the lower-order harmonics produced by the 2-level Inverter with Transformer case. In most circumstances, the value of the harmonics is at its lowest when the inverter in question has a transformerless, three-level design. Because the cost function concentrates on the error that is present in the grid current, the optimisation mechanism in the Transformerless Three-level Inverter is able to reduce the amount of THD that is present in the grid current. This optimisation is missing from the 2-level inverter with the transformer controller that uses SPW modulation. Because of this, the THD of the Transformerless Three-level Inverter is much lower than that of the opposite scenario, which involves a two-level inverter that has a transformer.

Fig. 6 shows the current and voltage waveforms between PV and

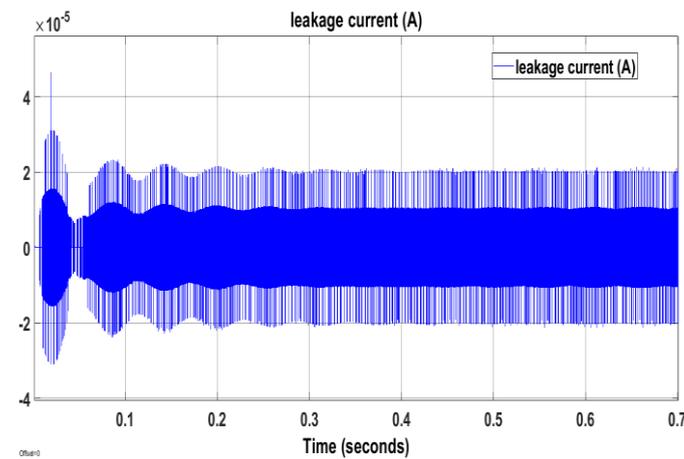
The terminals and ground are essential components. The parasitic capacitance has a range of values, usually between 50 and 150 nF/kw, which depends on things like the material of the photovoltaic (PV) panel and frame, the cell surface characteristics, the distance between cells, the design of the module frame, the weather, the level of humidity, and the amount of dirt on the PV panel [10]. As per the German D.I.N V.D.E 0.12.6-1-1 standard, it is required that the leakage current of grid-connected transformerless photovoltaic (PV) inverters not exceed 300 mA. Various approaches have been devised to mitigate the issue of leakage current in single-phase transformerless photovoltaic (PV) inverters [11].

These inverters are connected to the positive and negative terminals of a 170.9 kW PV array. These approaches involve the introduction of innovative topologies or modifications to modulation strategies. Despite the inadequacy of the loss balancing control, it is worth noting that the ground leakage current remains below the threshold of 3 mA, thereby rendering it insufficient to present a potential risk of electric shock. The capacitors' voltages demonstrate only low-frequency disruption.

Despite the low switching frequency and the presence of an LC filter, the NPC inverter successfully adheres to the specifications outlined by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) in terms of total harmonic distortion (THD) and power quality. Furthermore, the Safety can be achieved in the absence of a transformer.



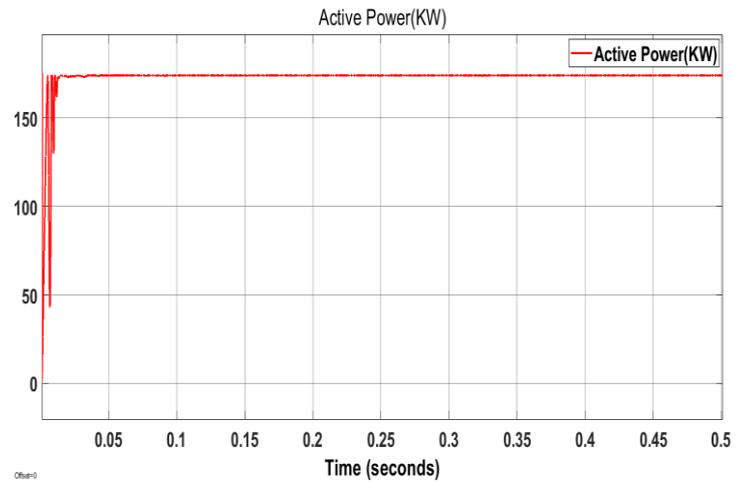
(a)



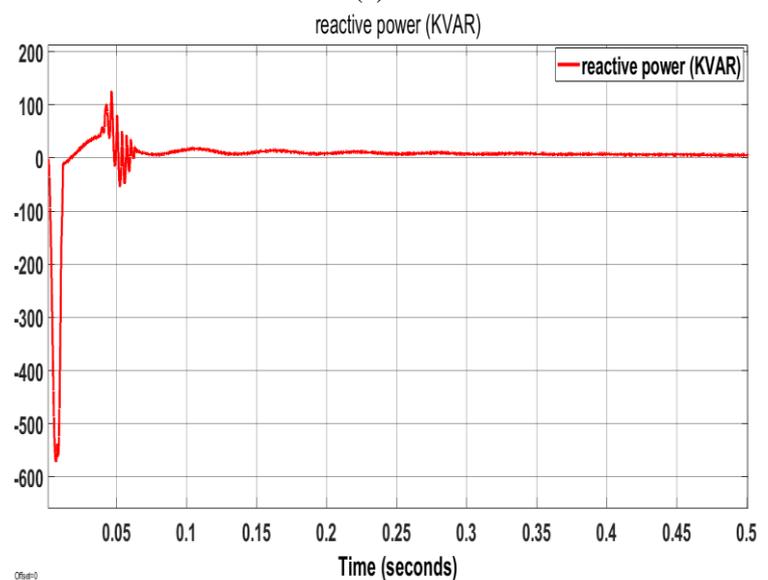
(b)

Fig. 6. Voltages (top) and leakage current (bottom) of the parasitic capacitors between P.V terminals and the ground (b)

The findings from the simulation demonstrate that the 3-level Neutral Point cluster For transformerless photovoltaic (PV) inverters, the non-polarised current (NPC) inverter is a very good option to consider.



(a)



(b)

Fig. 7: (a) Active power (b) Reactive power

Figure 7: Active power (a) and Reactive power (b) Within a span of four cycles of operation, both the active and reactive power controllers will monitor the power of the reference grid. As can be observed, the grid current and voltage both exhibit very little distortion, and there is a very small amount of leakage flow across the whole system.

Therefore, it is possible to draw the conclusion that the rapid and effective response of the grid changes is accomplished, which confirms the robustness of the suggested topology of a transformerless 3-level NPC inverter and a 2-level inverter with the provided control scheme. This conclusion can be drawn due to the fact that it is possible to draw the conclusion that the fast and effective response of the grid changes has been achieved.

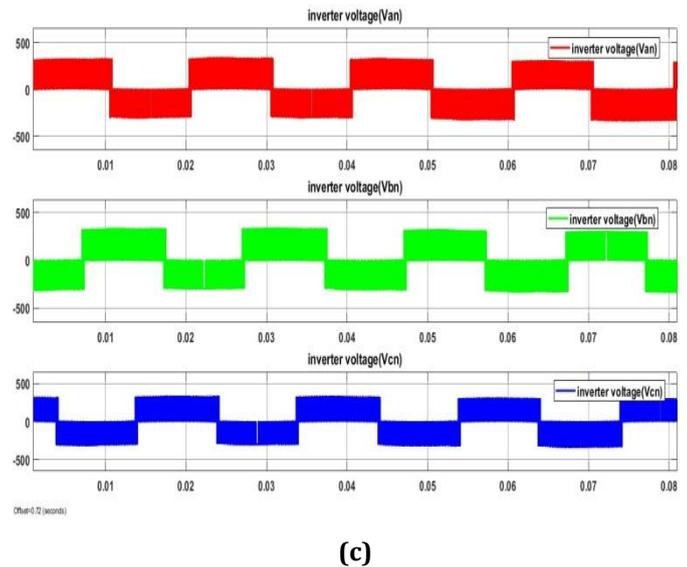
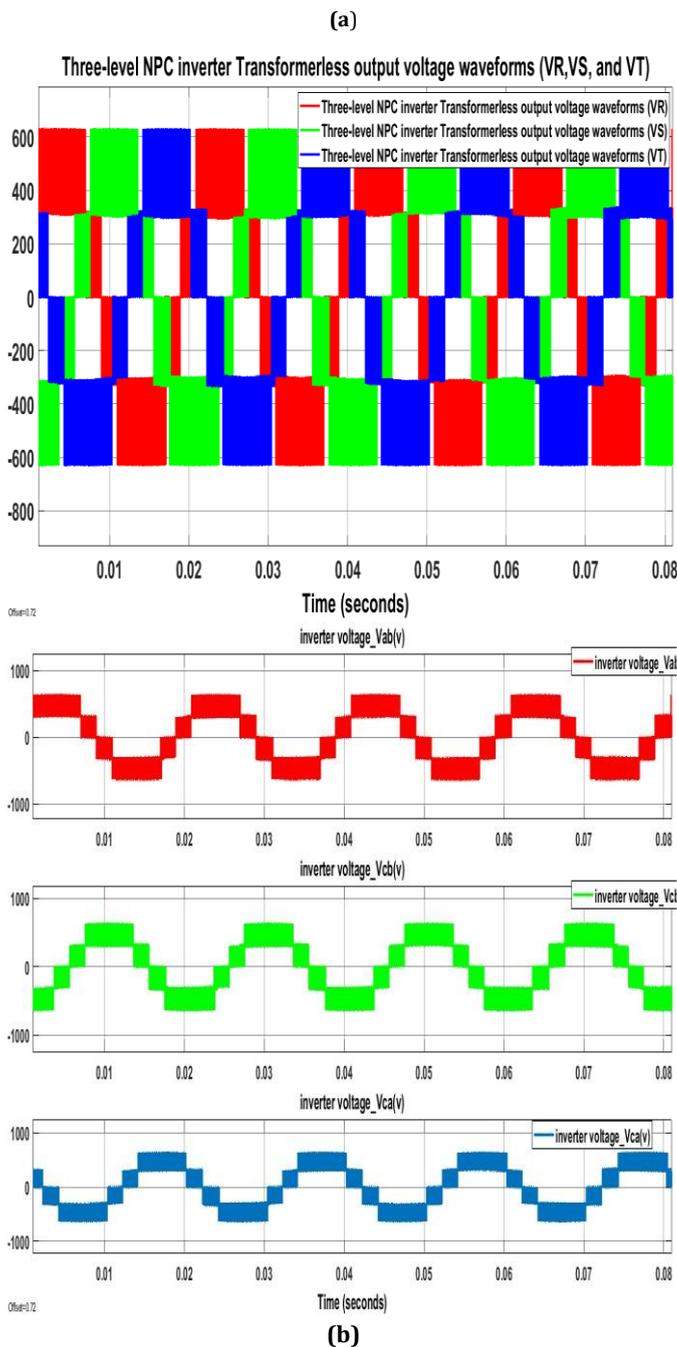


Fig. 8. Simulation three-level NPC inverter output voltage waveforms (VR, VS, and VT) & output voltage waveforms (Vab, Vbc, and Vca) & output voltage waveforms (Van, Vbn, and Vcn).

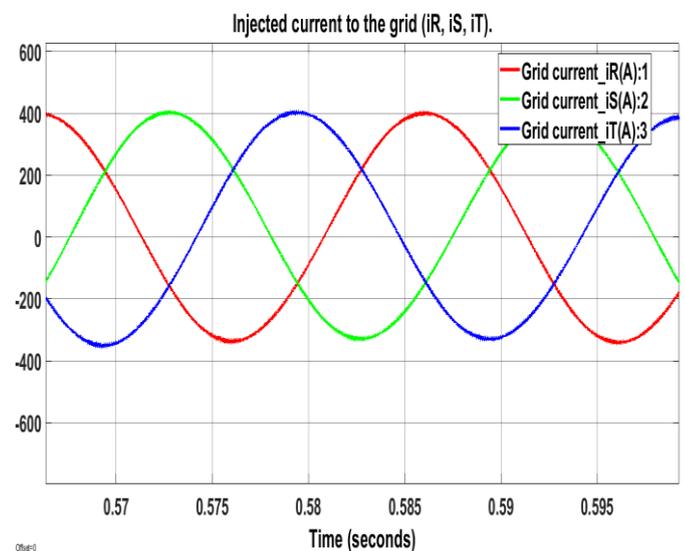


Fig. 9. Simulation waveforms of grid currents iR, iS, and iT at rated output

The conventional full-bridge inverter operates at a frequency of 10 kHz, whereas the NPC inverter operates at a frequency of 5 kHz. Figure 8 depicts the simulation output voltage waveforms of a three-level PWM inverter for the three phase voltages VR, VS, and VT. These waveforms are used to calculate the output voltage of the inverter. In Figure 9, the experimental grid waveforms that match the rated inverter output currents iR, iS, and iT are shown for your viewing pleasure.

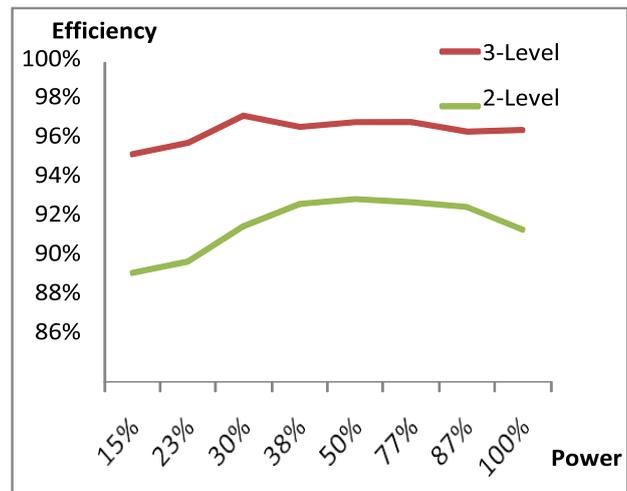
Whether or not the suggested inverter system is effective when used in combination with the LC filter is demonstrated by its successful integration with the current controller, as illustrated in the presentation. Figure 10 illustrates the system efficiency and current total harmonic distortion (THD) in (a) and (b), respectively. It is evident that both Inverters are able to effectively fulfil the interconnection criteria of the grid network by achieving a reduced total harmonic distortion (THD). The traditional inverter's efficiency is surpassed by the transformerless NPC multilevel inverter's efficiency owing to the decreased switching loss and absence of transformer loss in the transformerless NPC multilevel inverter. The experimental results clearly demonstrate that the proposed three-level neutral-point-clamped (N.P.C) inverter achieved an efficiency of 97.6% across a wide range of loads. This represents a notable improvement of 4% compared to the conventional two-level inverter with a transformer. Despite having a lower switching frequency, the inverter proposed in this study achieved comparable performance in terms of power quality when compared to other inverters in terms of total harmonic distortion (THD).

The diagram in Figure 8 illustrates, as shown in the simulation result, the voltage waveforms of the three-phase voltages V<sub>R</sub>, V<sub>S</sub>, and V<sub>T</sub> that were created by a three-level PWM inverter. These are the waveforms of the rated currents coming out of the inverter: i<sub>R</sub>, i<sub>S</sub>, and i<sub>T</sub> are illustrated in Figure 9 of the simulation. The efficacy of the proposed inverter system, which incorporates an LC filter, is demonstrated when utilised in conjunction with the current controller that has been presented.

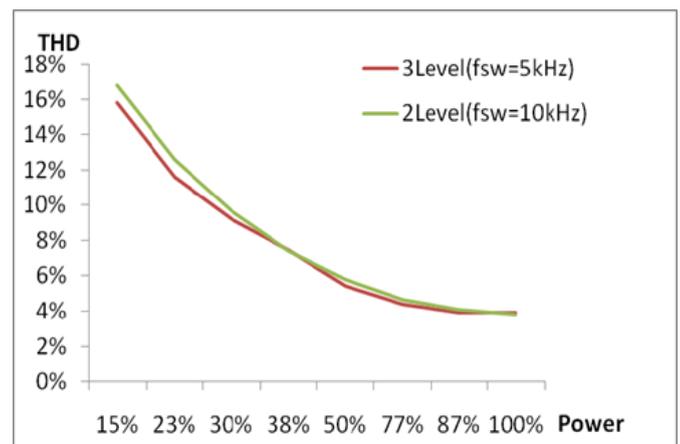
Figures 10 (a) and (b) illustrate the Total Harmonic Distortion (THD). It is evident that both inverters satisfy the grid network interconnection requirements by exhibiting reduced total harmonic distortion (THD). The efficiency of the transformerless NPC multilevel inverter surpasses that of the conventional inverter due to its reduced switching loss and lack of transformer loss.

The Simulation results clearly demonstrate that the proposed three-level neutral-point-clamped (N.P.C) inverter exhibited a notable efficiency of 97.6% across a broad spectrum of loads.

This represents a significant enhancement of 4% when compared to the conventional two-level inverter equipped with a transformer. Despite its lower switching frequency, the inverter under consideration demonstrated comparable total harmonic distortion (THD) performance.



(a) Comparison of efficiencies.



(b) Comparison of T.H.D. of injected current to the grid

Fig. 10. Comparison of efficiencies and THDs between transformerless 3-level NPC inverters and 2-level inverters with transformers

In order to analyse the leakage current in common-mode voltage circuits within the photovoltaic (P.V) system, a series of simulations were performed using the MATLAB simulation software. In order to mitigate emission disturbances, an implementation of a phase disposition (P.D) pulse-width modulation (P.W.M) switching strategy was carried out on the inverter.

This strategy aimed to decrease the leakage current flowing through the common-mode voltage loops. The simulations setup involved a prototype 170.9 kW non-pulse-controlled inverter (NPC) integrated with an LC filter.

Parameters were chosen because 3-phase inverters need them. Figure 8 compares the NPC transformerless inverter and PI current controller with SPW modulation results. The two controllers sinusoidally phase the grid currents (unity power factor). PI controller grid current THD is 2.23%. Each controller action produces a distinct waveform for the inverter output line voltages. Since both controllers employ the same MPPT controller, their PV currents are identical. The PI controller clearly controls earth leakage current. The results of the experiment indicated that the system exhibited a THD of less than 1.59% and achieved a peak efficiency of 98%. Hence, it has been ascertained that the suggested transformerless three-level N,P,C inverter, in conjunction with an L,C filter, possesses the capability to eliminate common-mode voltage and leakage current. The outcome entails a financially efficient resolution for constructing integrated photovoltaic systems, encompassing small-scale PV systems with a maximum capacity of 170.9 kW.

## CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, it can be inferred that the findings of this study support the hypothesis. The present study provides an analysis of the performance of three-level inverters in photovoltaic (PV) systems, specifically focusing on the absence of transformers. The inverter that was suggested was also assessed and analysed in relation to its performance in connecting to the grid. Furthermore, a novel current controller was developed and extensively implemented in software, employing PI control for the purpose of active and reactive power control.

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