Seamless Transition in Grid-connected Microgrid System using Proportional Resonant Controller

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1. INTRODUCTION

Renewable energy sources (RES) based power generation becomes a more and more viable solution for meeting the increase in the energy demand of today’s electricity market. The power electronic interfaces such as boost converters, inverters are used as intermediate structures to connect the Distributed Energy Resources (DER) like Solar PV, Wind, fuel cells, etc., to the grid. A microgrid (MG) is one that comprises a low voltage (LV) or medium voltage (MV) group of DERs which are controlled locally. A MG may look like a single power producer or a load [1-4] when considered from the grid’s perspective. A MG can operate in conjunction with the utility to feed in a fraction of the total load while operating in grid connected condition and feeds critical loads in islanded mode i.e. when the utility grid is lost during any abnormal conditions [5]. The islanding state can be detected by islanding detection methods [6]. Under islanded mode, the microgrid feeds the critical loads while preserving the load voltage as well as the frequency within the limits, hence improving the reliability of the system [7]. The inverter which is between the sources and the loads and its control plays a vital role in the environment of a distributed generation when dealing with voltage quality and hence power quality.

The three-phase inverter of the DG system should be controlled to be operated under both grid-connected and islanded mode. The design of the inverter control is to be focused on the operating modes of the MG system and also it needs to take care of the smooth transition among the different states of microgrid operation like grid on and grid off, to reduce the voltage fluctuations across the critical loads when islanded and any sort of sudden changes in the current that is fed to the grid in grid-connected mode [8].

There are different control structures proposed in the literature for achieving fluctuations free transfer between the operating modes [9-21] to retain the power quality
during the transfers. Conventionally, an inverter that is connected to the grid is controlled as PQ control to feed/take power to/from the utility, and when the inverter gets disconnected from the grid V/f control is used for the maintenance of voltage across the load. When there is a need for switching between the modes, then switching between the controllers has to take place, which may lead to large transients and further may lead to system collapse. The inverter, when being operated as utility connected, is to be treated as a current source and when it gets disconnected from the utility, it is operated as a voltage source [9-11]. A droop characteristic adjustment based control scheme has been proposed in [12]. An inverter control technique with an inner voltage control loop and outer current control loop has been discussed in [13] for seamless transfer in microgrids. In [14], the output current of the inverter is controlled to regulate the current fed to the grid, at the same time the load voltage is maintained without any variation.

Indirect current control with Proportional Integral (PI) controller, which is based on synchronous reference (d–q) frame, has been used for seamless transfer [15-23], in which case the grid current is indirectly controlled with the help of capacitor voltage control. To improve the dynamics, the damping is introduced with the inverter side inductor current control loop or the filter capacitor voltage control loop. Under islanded mode, limiters are placed to limit the set value of the voltage for the inner voltage loop. Although seamless transitions between the modes have been achieved, the quality of the voltage waveform is a little bit affected as the voltage set value is limited with the threshold value. Proportional resonant (PR) control in a stationary reference frame has been proposed for transient free mode transitions [24-26].

In this paper, indirect current control based seamless transition is discussed in detail. Also, the design procedure of the Proportional resonant controller for the cascaded three-loop inverter control structure is presented in detail for achieving the smooth transition between the operating modes of a microgrid system.

2. MODELING AND DESIGN OF GRID CONNECTED INVERTER SYSTEM

2.1. Modeling of the Power Stage

The power stage of a three-phase inverter system is modeled based on a stationary reference frame and is shown in Figure 1.

The input voltage of the inverter is considered as a constant voltage and therefore, the control structure of the source side converter like a DC-DC boost converter [27, 28] that may be required to increase and regulate the dc-link voltage in a PV based system is not discussed in this paper.

After the inverter, the output voltage is filtered with the help of a passive filter of type, inductor-capacitor--inductor (LCL) filter and is then connected to the utility grid. The critical/local loads are connected across the filter capacitor. The switches on both, grid side and the inverter side are turned on while operating in grid-connected condition and the grid side switch is turned off under faulty conditions leading the system to operate under islanded mode.

The basic mathematical equations governing the grid-connected inverter system with an LCL filter are given by Equations (1) and (2).

\[
\begin{align*}
\frac{v_{dc}}{2} & = L_f \frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{i_{La}}{i_{Lb}} \right) + R_f \left( \frac{i_{La}}{i_{Lb}} \right) + \left( \frac{v_{ca}}{v_{cb}} \right) \\
\left( \frac{i_{La}}{i_{Lb}} \right) & = L_f \frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{v_{ca}}{v_{cb}} \right) + \left( \frac{i_{La}}{i_{Lb}} \right) + \left( \frac{v_{ca}}{v_{cb}} \right)
\end{align*}
\]

These a-b-c reference frame quantities are transformed into stationary reference frame parameters with the help of Clarke’s transformation and the controllers are designed in the α-β reference frame.

2.2. Design of LCL Filter

The specification of the parameters used in the DG system considered is given in Table 1.

![Figure 1. Power stage of a grid-connected inverter system](image-url)
The filter and the control loop parameters are designed based on the DG specifications. As the output from the DG system is to be connected to the load/grid via a power electronics interface, harmonics gets into the system parameters. Hence, the inverter output is to be filtered to remove the harmonics present in it. The passive filter of type LCL is being used to filter out the harmonics and is designed to have the harmonics within the limits for the current as per standard IEEE Standard 519-2014 [29].

The base impedance and the base capacitance values are calculated based on the Equations (3) and (4).

$$Z_{base} = \frac{V_{dc}^2}{P_{nominal}}$$  
(3)

$$C_{base} = \frac{1}{\omega_{g} Z_{base}}$$  
(4)

The filter capacitance is found out from (5) by considering the variation seen by the grid as 5%.

$$C_f = 0.05 \times C_{base}$$  
(5)

The current ripple is calculated based on (6) by considering the ripple present as 10% of the rated current.

$$\Delta I_{max} = 10\% \times I_{max}$$  
(6)

where $I_{max}$ is given by (7).

$$I_{max} = \frac{\sqrt{2} P_{nominal}}{V_{dc}}$$  
(7)

The filter inductors, $L_f$ in the inverter side and $L_g$ in the grid side are calculated based on the Equations (8) and (9),

$$L_f = \frac{V_{dc}}{16 f_s \Delta_{max}}$$  
(8)

$$L_g = r L_f$$  
(9)

where $V_{dc}$ is the dc link voltage, $f_s$ is the switching frequency of the inverter switches and $r$ is the ratio between inverter side inductor and grid side inductor and the value of $r$ is be considered based on the nominal grid impedance and the resonant frequency from the transfer function of the filter. The resonant frequency is specified by (10) and the constraint is given by (11).

$$\omega_{res} = \frac{2 \pi f_s}{\sqrt{L_g C_f}}$$  
(10)

$$10 f_g < f_{res} < 0.5 f_s$$  
(11)

2.3. Controller Design  

The basic control diagram representation of the indirect current control scheme based on the PR controller is shown in Figure 2. The cascaded three-loop control structure consists of an outer grid current control loop, inner capacitor voltage control loop, and an innermost inductor current control loop. The cascaded loops are designed with proper bandwidth selection. The design of the inner voltage control loop is done to get the voltage across the load to be maintained as per the requirement in all the operating modes.

2.3.1. Design of Innermost Inductor Current Control Loop  

The innermost inductor current controller structure is shown in Figure 3.

From Figure 3, the plant transfer function is given by (12) and the open-loop transfer function of the current control loop is given by (13).

$$G(s) = \frac{I_L(s)}{V_i(s)} = \frac{s C_f}{s^2 L_f C_f + 1}$$  
(12)

$$G_{OL,IC}(s) = \frac{K_{PWM} s k_p + s C_f}{s^2 L_f C_f + 1}$$  
(13)

where $k_p$ is the proportional controller gain and $K_{PWM}$ is the gain of the converter and is considered as 1 for simplicity.

The closed-loop transfer function of the inner current controller is given by (14).

$$\frac{I_L(s)}{I_{L,ref}(s)} = \frac{s K_p K_{PWM} C_f}{s^2 L_f C_f + s K_p K_{PWM} C_f + 1}$$  
(14)

The root locus plot is used to design the controller gains and is shown in Figure 4. From Figure 4, the proportional gain of the current controller is chosen to be 35.3 as the oscillations get damped out when the gain $k_p = 35.3$.

2.3.2. Design of the Capacitor Voltage Control Loop  

The capacitor voltage control loop structure is shown in Figure 5. The root locus plot is used to find the values of $k_p$ and $k_i$ of the PR controller. Figure 6 shows the root locus plot of the system which is used for finding the value of $k_p$ with $k_i = 0$. The value of $k_p$ is found to be 0.0285 for a damping ratio of 0.707.
The closed-loop transfer function of the voltage control loop is given by (15).

\[
\frac{V_o(s)}{V_{o,ref}(s)} = \frac{kp + 2ki \omega_c s}{s^2 + 2ki \omega_c s + \omega_c^2} \frac{I_L(s)}{I_L,ref(s)} \frac{1}{s} (15)
\]

Figure 7 shows the root locus plot of the voltage control loop with \( kp = 0 \). The value of \( ki \) is found to be 4.86 for a damping ratio of 0.707. The bode diagram of the open-loop transfer function (OLTF) of PR based voltage control loop with \( kp=0.0285 \) and \( ki=2.43 \) is shown in Figure 8. The gain at the fundamental frequency is 38.7 dB and the phase margin of the controller is 118.3°.

2.3.3 Design of the outer Grid Current Control Loop
The outer grid current control loop structure is shown in Figure 9. The parameters of PR based current controller are found out to be \( kp_1=6 \) and \( ki_1=25 \) by using the same procedure as described above. Figure 10 shows the bode diagram of the OLTF of the grid current control, which gives the large gain at the fundamental frequency of 50 Hz and the phase margin of 61°.

The root locus plot and the bode diagram of the closed-loop transfer function (CLTF) of the overall system are shown in Figures 11 and 12.

3. SIMULATION RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
The system described in Figure 1 is simulated in MATLAB / Simulink environment. The parameters used for simulation studies are specified in Table 1. The
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Figure 9. Outer grid current control loop structure

Figure 10. Bode diagram of OLTF of the grid current controller

Figure 11. Root locus plot of the overall system

Figure 12. Bode diagram of the CLTF of grid current controller

The system is first considered to be connected with the utility, feeding the local load as well as the grid. Simulation studies considering intentional and unintentional islanding have been carried out and the results are presented in this section.

3.1. Intentional Islanding and Seamless Transfer to Grid Connected Mode

Initially, the system is considered to be of grid-connected mode and is moved to islanded mode intentionally and then brought back to the grid-connected mode again. The DG system is in grid-connected mode from 0 – 0.32s and at 0.32s, both the switches ‘Sg’ and ‘Si’ are opened and the system is moving to islanded mode. The system is feeding the load with the demanded power without any interruption. Both the switches are closed at 0.5s after the confirmation of synchronization of MG voltage with that of the utility and hence the DG system is reconnected to the utility at 0.5s.

The waveforms of the voltage at the grid side and current fed to the grid under different operating conditions are shown in Figures 13-15.

The grid current falls to zero when moving to islanded mode, which is presented in Figure 14 and the grid current increases to the specified value (10A peak) within 2 cycles i.e., 40ms, immediately after the synchronization process is done, which is shown in Figure 15. The load parameters under different operating conditions are shown in Figures 16 and 17. At the time of moving to...
islanded mode i.e., at 0.32s, when the switch at the grid side opens, transient which occurs in the load parameters are damped and steady-state is reached within 20ms and the voltage across the load remains almost at the required steady value of about 220 V (rms) and the current is of 7.57 A (rms). The d-q components of the voltage across the load are shown in Figure 18 to show the voltage almost remains the same throughout the operating time. The power consumed by the load is shown in Figure 19.

3.2. Unintentional islanding and Seamless Transfer to Grid-connected Mode

The system is initially considered to be operating in the grid-connected mode. A three-phase fault is simulated at 0.32s and the switch ‘Sg’ at the grid side is opened at 0.32s immediately after the occurrence of the fault. The switch ‘Si’ in the inverter side is opened at 0.35 s after detecting the islanding condition. The duration between 0.32 s and 0.35s is called a Pre-islanded condition where the terminal voltage is slightly higher than the prescribed limit which is due to the occurrence of the disturbance. Then as the switch ‘Si’ gets opened, the system enters into the islanded mode and the load is fed with the desired voltage and frequency without any distortion. After the clearance of the fault, the switch ‘Sg’ is closed at 0.55 s and the grid is restored. The DG can be connected to the grid only after the synchronization of the voltage at the DG with that of the grid. Hence after the synchronization process, the switch ‘Si’ is closed at 0.7 s. The grid current reference is changed to the set value at 0.75 s and till then it remains zero. The current fed into the grid gradually increases and reaches the set value at 0.78s without any transients in the voltage as well in the current waveform.

The voltage and the current waveform at the grid side during the changeover of modes are shown in Figure 20 and Figure 21. The load voltage and load current waveforms are shown in Figure 22. Thus seamless transition between the modes of operation is achieved successfully with the help of an Indirect current control strategy using Proportional resonant controllers.
4. CONCLUSION

A three-phase grid-connected microgrid system has been designed and simulation studies have been carried out in MATLAB / Simulink environment. The proportional resonant controller-based indirect current control strategy has been designed for achieving the seamless transfer between the operating modes of a microgrid. The system considered is simulated in MATLAB/Simulink environment, under islanded and grid-connected modes of operation and the results are presented. Simulation studies have been carried out under intentional islanding and unintentional islanding conditions. The results validate the controller design. The PR based controller for the voltage source inverter works efficiently and effectively. Thus, the seamless transfer between the modes of operation with a very minimal transient period has been attained and the steady-state is reached within 0.04s after the closure or opening of the switches for changing of modes of operation based on the utility conditions.

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این مقاله به طراحی ساختار کنترل اینورتر مناسب بر کنترل تأمین با رزونانس (PR) برای دستیابی به انتقال صاف بین حالات عملیاتی کیسیستم میکروگرید متعلق به شبکه پیوندی‌شده است. استراتژی کنترلی که برای اینورتر استفاده می‌شود بایستی از کنترل سه حلقه آسان، جریان شبکه و توانایی در طول بار تحت شرایط جزیره‌ای و همچنین در شرایط اتصال به شبکه و همچنین تغییر حالت از جزیره به شبکه در نظر گرفته شود.

اینورتر، کنترل اینورتر عمداً برای حفظ مقیار و توانایی در محیط‌های تعین‌شده به طور مستقل با توجه به شرایط مختلف عملیات طراحی شده است. روش‌های جریانی کنترل رزونانس کنترل سه حلقه آسان است که در شرایط جزیرهای سه‌فازی به طور مستقل با توجه به شرایط مختلف عملیات طراحی شده است. روش‌های جریانی کنترل رزونانس کنترل سه حلقه آسان است که در شرایط جزیرهای سه‌فازی به طور مستقل با توجه به شرایط مختلف عملیات طراحی شده است.

توجه: نتایج شبیه‌سازی تحت حالت‌های مختلف کنترلر رزونانس ار و حلقه‌های جریان خروجی برای دستیابی به انتقال صاف بین حالات عملیاتی یک سیستم میکروگرید متصل به شبکه سه‌فازی، حفظ مقدار ولتاژ در محدوده تعیین‌شده و داشتن کیفیت مناسب ولتاژ در طول بار تحت همه حالت‌های کار متمرکز است. یک سیستم میکروگرید متصل به شبکه سه‌فازی، حفظ مقدار ولتاژ در محدوده تعیین‌شده و داشتن کیفیت مناسب ولتاژ در طول بار تحت همه حالت‌های کار متمرکز است.

**چکیده**

این مقاله به طراحی ساختار کنترل اینورتر مناسب بر کنترل تأمین با رزونانس (PR) برای دستیابی به انتقال صاف بین حالات عملیاتی کیسیستم میکروگرید متعلق به شبکه پیوندی‌شده است. استراتژی کنترلی که برای اینورتر استفاده می‌شود بایستی از کنترل سه حلقه آسان، جریان شبکه و توانایی در طول بار تحت شرایط جزیره‌ای و همچنین در شرایط اتصال به شبکه و همچنین تغییر حالت از جزیره به شبکه در نظر گرفته شود.

اینورتر، کنترل اینورتر عمداً برای حفظ مقیار و توانایی در محیط‌های تعیین‌شده به طور مستقل با توجه به شرایط مختلف عملیات طراحی شده است. روش‌های جریانی کنترل رزونانس کنترل سه حلقه آسان است که در شرایط جزیرهای سه‌فازی به طور مستقل با توجه به شرایط مختلف عملیات طراحی شده است.