Implementation of multicarrier PWM based 7-level Z-source cascaded H-bridge inverter

Palanisamy Ramasamy, Vidyasagar Sugavanam, Kalyanasundaram Vakesan, Subbulakshmy Ramamurthi, Selvakumar Kuppusamy, Usha Sengamalai, Thamizh Thentral
Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Kattankulathur, India

ABSTRACT

This paper elucidates the realization of multicarrier pulse width modulation (MC-PWM) based 7-level Z-source cascaded H-bridge inverter. MC-PWM technique is developed to generate switching pulses for Z-source inverter; it leads to boost the inverter output voltage with help of shoot through mode of operation. The output of Z-source inverter is connected to 7-level cascaded H-bridge inverter. Cascaded H-bridge inverter system much suitable for AC load drive, high voltage and high power and industrial applications. This proposed system provides reduced total harmonic distortion, improved stepped output voltage and current, nearly sinusoidal output voltage and reduced voltage stress across the switching devices. The inductors and capacitors values are selected based on the boosting level of Z-source inverter. The simulation results of proposed 7-level Z-source cascaded H-bridge inverter with MC-PWM technique is verified using MATLAB/Simulink.

Keywords: Cascaded H-bridge inverter, Multicarrier pulse width modulation, Total harmonic distortion, Z-source network

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Corresponding Author:
Selvakumar Kuppusamy
Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, SRM Institute of Science and Technology
Kattankulathur, India
Email: krspalani@gmail.com

1. INTRODUCTION

In recent days, the usage and necessity of multilevel inverter topologies are increasing due to more alternating current (AC) power demand and various applications like AC electric drive, high voltage and high power applications, industrial applications and electric vehicles [1]–[4]. The multilevel inverter systems has attractive advantages like reduced common mode voltage range, minimized total harmonic distortion (THD), low voltage stress and electromagnetic interference issues, staircase output voltage and low switching losses. The various multilevel inverter topologies are introduced and each system has separate merits and demerits [5]–[7]. Among the various multilevel inverters (MLIs) systems, cascaded H-bridge inverter has multiple direct current (DC) sources and connected with multiple number of H-bridge inverters to increase the number of levels [8], [9].

Generally, DC to DC converters were utilized to boost or buck the DC voltage level in conventional systems, during some cases which not able to meet the power demand [10]. To avoid these cases Z-source network is introduced to boost the DC voltage level with help of shoot through condition, its leads to boost the voltage range with help of by selecting the various ranges of inductors and capacitors [11]–[13]. Also, the output of Z-source can be connected to direct DC load applications or with various DC to AC converter for AC load applications [14]. Similarly, it is much suitable to various DC fixed input sources and variable sources like fuel cell, photovoltaic system and battery; it leads to provide the variable DC to DC output voltage with DC load applications and inverter with AC load applications [15]–[17].

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To control the various power converter topologies, the different PWM methods were developed and tested to the same [18]. The different pulse width modulation PWMs methods are phase disposition (PD), sinusoidal PWM, hysteresis current control, nearest state method, space vector modulation and multicarrier PWM [19]. Among these various PWM methods, MC-PWM provides better performance inters of minimized THD, controlled output voltage and current, simple in switching pulse generation compare other PWM methods, where different reference and carrier signals are used for switching pulse generation [20]–[23].

In this proposed paper, MC-PWM based 7-level Z-source cascaded H-bridge inverter. MC-PWM technique is developed to generate switching pulses for Z-source inverter; it leads to boost the inverter output voltage with help of shoot through mode of operation. The output of Z-source inverter is connected to 7-level cascaded H-bridge inverter. This system provides reduced total harmonic distortion, improved stepped output voltage and current, nearly sinusoidal output voltage and reduced voltage stress across the switching devices. The simulation results of proposed 7-level Z-source cascaded H-bridge inverter with MC-PWM technique is verified using MATLAB/Simulink. The block diagram of proposed 7-level Z-source cascaded inverter with MC-PWM is shown in Figure 1.

![Block diagram of proposed Z-source cascaded inverter](image1)

Figure 1. Block diagram of proposed Z-source cascaded inverter

2. 7-LEVEL Z-SOURCE CASCADED H-BRIDGE INVERTER

Among different multilevel inverter circuit, cascaded H-bridge inverter has less number of power devices and capacitors [24], [25]. This topology is designed with series connection of H-bridge circuit with separate DC input sources to attain the different level of output voltage [26]. The output terminals of H-bridges are connected in series to provide simultaneously three phase output voltages [27]. The Figure 2 shows the power circuit of 7-level cascaded H-bridge inverter. This cascaded type of multilevel inverters is much suitable for AC load applications, industrial applications and renewable energy sources.

![Power circuit of 7-level cascaded H-bridge inverter](image2)

Figure 2. Power circuit of 7-level cascaded H-bridge inverter
This single phase 7-level cascaded H-bridge inverter includes 3 DC input sources, 3 half H-bridge inverter, and Z-source network separately for each phase of the circuit. Where each single circuit has 4 power switches, which is controlled by MC-PWM scheme. With help of this power structure, 7-level stepped output voltage obtained to connect with AC load applications. It consists of many units in terms of back to back manner to attain 7-level output voltage. Each H-bridge switches are operated with different combinations to get voltage levels as –Vdc, 0 +Vdc; where S1 and S3 are connected in positive side, and S2 and S4 are connected in negative side. Total amount of output voltage range from a cascaded H-bridge circuit depends on the number of DC sources are connected with the system.

Cascaded H-bridge system much suitable for various applications like static var compensators design, electric motor drives, power quality applications, to interconnect with renewable energy sources and AC grid connection and power factor correction methods [28]. In this proposed system, 7-level cascaded H-bridge inverter gets DC source from the Z-source network.

2.1. Z-source network

Generally Z-source network is designed to improve/boost the inverter output voltage. Z-source inverter overcomes the restrictions and demerits of conventional voltage source inverter (VSI). The desired stepped output voltage is obtained by boosting the DC link voltage from PV system with help of shoot through state, which is not possible in traditional VSI inverter. Three phase three level Z-source inverter (ZVI) with single impedance network, it has 2 inductors (L1&L2) and 2 capacitors connected between 3-level neutral point clamped (NPC) inverter and DC input voltage source. In order to attain the voltage operation, shoot through state is included in switching sequences. It is simple process to introduce the shoot through state, when all the switches are on position in a particular leg simultaneously, the boost factor of Z-source network is defined as (1).

\[
B_f = \frac{T_s}{T_{a-T_b}}
\]  

Where \( T_s \) - Total switching time period, \( T_a \) – non shoot through state time period, \( T_b \) – shoot through state time period. There are two working states of operation available in Z-source network: shoot through and non shoot through state. In Figure 3 (a), both upper and lower switches in a leg switched ON simultaneously and short circuit current will flow, the two inductors are starts charging by the capacitors and the diode acting as reverse biased condition. The change in inductor current written as (2).

\[
\frac{di_l}{dt} = \frac{-V_c}{L}
\]  

Where \( i_l \) - inductor current, \( V_c \) – average capacitor voltage. The input DC source and inductors are starts suppling electric energy to load and at same time charging capacitors, which is shown in Figure 3(b). The inductor current in non shoot through state is defined as (3).

\[
\frac{di_l}{dt} = \frac{V_c-V_{PV}}{L}
\]  

Based on these 2 working states output voltage in Z-source inverter can boosted better than conventional boost converters, which is defined as \( Vac = 0 \).

![Figure 3. Z-source modes of operation (a) non-shoot through (b) shoot through](image-url)
3. MULTICARRIER PWM (MC-PWM)

Multicarrier sinusoidal pulse width modulation (PWM) is the advanced method of sinusoidal PWM scheme, where reference signal is compared with multiple carrier signals. Here sinusoidal wave is considered as reference signal and triangular wave is considered as multiple carrier signals. For generating multiple switching pulses to cascaded H-bridge inverter, multiple numbers of triangular signals are compared with single sinusoidal signal. By comparing the signals the required numbers of switching pulses are obtained. The Figure 4 shows multicarrier pulse width modulation for 7-level Z-source cascaded H-bridge inverter.

![Figure 4. Multicarrier pulse width modulation](image)

The MC-PWM is developed to control the multiple switching devices of 7-level cascaded H-bridge inverter, where its essential to preserve the shoot through proportion as stable. Also, this system used to diminish the voltage stress across the various power devices, the boosted voltage with appropriate distinction of intonation index. This method attains better voltage gain with constant value of shoot through state and non-shoot through state condition. Based on the MC-PWM control, the Z-source inverter activates either on upper shoot through or lower shoot through mode of operation. The power devices are switched based on the switching pulses are generated using MC-PWM control method, it leads to generate shoot through mode & which is used to boost the inverter output voltage.

4. SIMULATION RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Multicarrier pulse width modulation PWM based 7-level Z-source cascaded H-bridge inverter is simulated using MATLAB/Simulink. This system includes MC-PWM as control method; 7-level Z-source inverter has 12 power devices with 16 A rating. It has designed value of inductors L1 & L2 of 4 mH and capacitors C1 & C2 of 270 uF, freewheeling diode D and DC input voltage of Vdc. Figure 5 shows the switching pulse generation using MC-PWM method.

![Figure 5. Switching pulse generation using MC-PWM](image)

This proposed 7-level Z-source cascaded H-bridge inverter is controlled using MC-PWM scheme, the switching pulses generation achieved using MC-PWM. Output stepped voltage of 7-level Z-source cascaded H-bridge inverter is shown in Figure 6, which is 266.2 V for the DC input voltage of 110 V. The output stepped current of 7-level Z-source cascaded H-bridge inverter is shown in Figure 7, which is 5.32 A. Voltage across Z-source network is shown in Figure 8 in that voltage stress across the switching device is controlled, it is obtained using MC-PWM control method. The Figure 9 shows the voltage across the capacitors C1 & C2, with capacitor C1 of 74.5 V and capacitor C2 of 74.8 V. Similarly, the inductor placed...
in the Z-source network value varies for inductor L1 of 73.2 V and inductor L2 of 73.8 V, which is shown in Figure 10. The total harmonic distortion for this proposed system is shown in Figure 11; in that Figure 11 (a) shows THD analysis for stepped inverter output voltage with 2.65 %, in Figure 11 (b) shows THD analysis for stepped output current with 1.5 %.

Figure 6. Output stepped voltage of 7-level Z-source cascaded Hbridge Inverter (CHBI)

Figure 7. Output stepped current of 7-level Z-source CHBI

Figure 8. Voltage across Z-source network

Figure 9. Voltage across the capacitors C1 & C2

Figure 10. Voltage across the inductors L1 & L2
5. CONCLUSION

This paper gave an idea about implementation of MC-PWM for 7-level Z-source cascaded H-bridge inverter. MC-PWM technique is developed to generate switching pulses for Z-source inverter; it leads to boost the inverter output voltage with help of shoot through mode of operation. The output of Z-source network is connected to 7-level cascaded H-bridge inverter, Z-source network boosts the inverter output voltage of 2.5 times input DC voltage. This proposed system improves the inverter output voltage and current, reduces the THD to 2.65% for stepped voltage and 1.5% for stepped current. This proposed is developed and analysed using MATLAB/Simulink.

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Implementation of multiscarrier PWM based 7-level Z-source ... (Palanisamy Ramasamy)
Palanisamy Ramasamy received the B.E. degree in electrical and electronics engineering from Anna University, India, in 2011, and the M.Tech. degree in power electronics and drives and the Ph.D. degree in power electronics from the SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Chennai, India, in 2013 and 2019, respectively. He is currently working as an Assistant Professor with the Department of Electrical Engineering, SRM Institute of Science and Technology. He has published more than 95 international and national journals. His research interests include power electronics multilevel inverters, various PWM techniques for power converters, FACTS controllers, and grid connected photovoltaic systems. He can be contacted at email: palanis@srmist.edu.in.

Vidyasagar Suganavan is currently working as an Assistant Professor in the Department of EEE, College of Engineering and Technology, under Faculty of Engineering and Technology, at SRM Institute of Science and Technology, SRM Nagar, Kattankulathur, 603203, Kanchipuram, Chennai, TN, India. He has received his B.E degree in Electrical and Electronics Engineering from University of Madras (2001), M.E Degree in Power Systems from Anna University (2005) and also Ph.D degree from SRM Institute of Science and Technology (2018) in the area of Feeder Reconfiguration with DG placement in the Distributed Systems. His area of interest includes Power System Operation and Control, FACTS, Power System Protection Renewable energy systems, Energy storage Technologies. He can be contacted at email: vidyasas@srmist.edu.in.

Kalyanasundaram Vakesan is currently working as an Assistant Professor in the Department of EEE, College of Engineering and Technology, under Faculty of Engineering and Technology, at SRM Institute of Science and Technology, SRM Nagar, Kattankulathur, 603203, Kanchipuram, Chennai, TN, India. He received B.E degree in Electrical and Electronics Engineering and M.E degree in Power System Engineering from Annaalurai University, Tamil Nadu, India. And received PhD from SRM University, Kattankulathur, Tamilnadu, India. His area of interest includes Power System Operation and Control, FACTS, Power System Protection Renewable energy systems and Market clearing price in Deregulated power system. He can be contacted at email: kalyanav@srmist.edu.in.
Subbulakshmy Ramamurthi received her B.E. (EEE) and M.E (PED) from Mailam Engineering College (affiliated with Anna University, Chennai, India) in 2007 and 2009. Now she is doing her Ph.D. in SRMIST (Formerly SRM University) Kattankulathur, India. Her current research interests includes DC converters and Multilevel Inverters. She can be contacted at email: sr2381@srmist.edu.in.

Selvakumar Kuppusamy received B.E degree in Electrical and Electronics Engineering, M.E degree in Power System Engineering both from Anna University and received P.hD in Deregulated Power systems from SRM University, Kattankulathur, Tamilnadu, India in 2018. He is currently working as a Assistant Professor in SRM University. His research interests include Unit Commitment, Economic Dispatch, Power System Optimization and smart grid, Distributed generation in power system. He can be contacted at email: selvakse@gmail.com.

Usha Sengamalai she received B.E Electrical and Electronics Engineering and M.E Power Electronics and Drives from Anna University, Chennai in 2007 and 2012 respectively. She Completed Ph. D from SRM Institute of science and technology in 2020, also working as an Assistant professor in the department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering SRM University. She has published more than 29 international and national journals. Her research interests include Power Electronics Converters and Stability analysis of Induction motors, Electric drive systems. She can be contacted at email: ushas@srmist.edu.in.

Thamizh Thentral received her Bachelor of Engineering degree in Electronics and Communication Engineering from Periyar Maniammai, College of Technology for Women, Vallam, India, in 1994 under Bharathidasan University; her Master of Engineering degree in Power Electronics and Drives from Anna University (Easwari Engineering College,) Chennai, India, in 2008 and completed her Ph.D. from SRM Institute of Science and Technology in 2020. She has been working as an Assistant Professor in Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Kattankulathur since July 2012. Her research areas of interest are: Power Quality, Smart Grid, Microgrid and Electric Drives and Control. She can be contacted at email: thamizht@srmist.edu.in.