

Fault Analysis of Grid Connected MPPT Based Photovoltaic System

LAKHAN SINGH¹, RAJENDRA KUMAR PRAJAPATI², SUNIL SINGH³

¹Assistant Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering

²Assistant Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering

³Assistant Professor, Department of Mathematics

Abstract—This paper presents the simulation model of a 158kW PV array followed by a boost converter, which boost up the output voltage of the PV array. Maximum power point tracking (MPPT) can effectively improve the solar energy conversion efficiency of PV array, in this paper *perturb- and – observe* (P&O) algorithm has been used to achieve this function. Grid connected PV system needs a three phase inverter for synchronization. The inverter control system modeling has been carried out in Matlab/Simulink 2010 environment with the aids of the proportional-integral controllers, sinusoidal vectored pulse width modulation technique and park transformation. Phase locked loop (PLL) is used to lock the grid frequency and phase. Finally different types of AC faults are created on the grid side and total harmonic distortion (THD) is calculated in each of the case.

Keywords—Photovoltaic (PV), Voltage source inverter (VSI), sinusoidal vectored pulse width modulation (SVPWM), Total harmonic distortion (THD), Maximum power point tracking (MPPT).

INTRODUCTION

Renewable energy sources play an important role in electric power generation. Various renewable energy sources such as solar energy, wind energy, geothermal energy etc, are harness for electric power generation specifically solar energy has the advantages of no pollution, low maintenance cost, no installation area limitation and no noise due to the absence of moving parts. In recent years, photovoltaic (PV) systems have received unprecedented attention due to the concerns about adverse effects of extensive use of fossil fuels on the environment and energy security. Despite this high interest, grid connected PV systems are still outnumbered by the power generation schemes based on oil, natural gas, coal, nuclear, hydro, and wind [1]. So far, PV system of capacities on the order of tens of megawatts have been installed and interfaced to the grid mainly at the primary distribution level.

The main drawbacks are the initial installation cost is considerably high and the energy conversion efficiency is relatively low, to overcome these problems the following two essential ways can be used (1) increase the efficiency of conversion of solar array (2) maximize the output power from the solar array. A grid-connected PV system includes a PV array, a voltage source inverter, an inverter control system, a load and a grid. The PV array consists of a number of individual photovoltaic cells that are connected in series and parallel array to convert sunlight to electricity by use of photovoltaic effect since the PV array produces DC power so the power electronics and control equipments are required to convert DC to AC power, this AC power is injected to utility grid.

Maximum power point tracking (MPPT) can effectively improve the solar energy conversion efficiency of PV system. In this paper *perturb- and – observe* (P&O) method is used to achieve this function. This paper establishes a dynamic model PV system by Matlab/simulink with d-axis and q-axis as coordinates which is

synchronously rotating with the grid voltage to reflect the characteristics of system accurately. Reliability is an important issue in large-scale grid-connected photovoltaic (PV) systems as their operations rely on business plans developed over periods of time of at least twenty years, which often assume fault-free functioning. Not many papers discussing PV systems reliability are available in literature. For instance, [2] analyzes simple stand-alone PV systems using failure mode effect analysis (FMEA) and fault tree analysis (FTA). Failure rates estimates are also given assuming that time to failure is exponentially distributed. The failure rate for a PV array is hypothesized as being 33.3×10^{-6} failures/month, while inverter failure rate is assumed to be 342.5×10^{-6} failures/month [3]. Since the inverter failure rate is more than the failure rate of PV array it is being necessary to analyze the fault in the inverter side i.e. L-G, L-L-G, L-L-L-G, L-L, L-L-L and the total harmonic distortion (THD) is calculated for without fault condition and with different types of fault condition.

MATHEMATICAL MODELING

Modeling of PV cell

The direct conversion of the solar energy into electrical power is obtained by solar cells. A PV is composed by many strings of solar cells connected in series and in parallel combination, in order to provide desired values of output voltage and current.

The mathematical model of the PV cell is implemented in the form of a current source controlled by voltage, sensible to two input parameters, i.e. temperature ($^{\circ}\text{C}$) and solar irradiation power (W/m^2). An equivalent simplified electric circuit of a photovoltaic cell is presented in Fig.1.

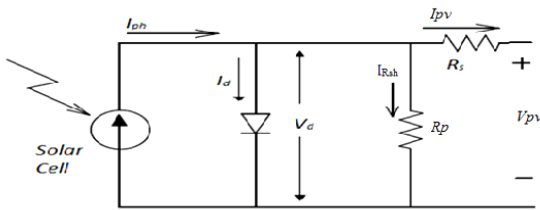


Fig.1. Equivalent circuit diagram of PV cell.

The net current of the PV cell is the difference between the photo generated current I_{SC} and diode current I_d .

$$I_{PV} = I_{ph} - I_0 \left(\exp\left(\frac{qV}{kT}\right) - 1 \right) \quad (1)$$

Where

I_0 is the reverse saturation current of the diode.

q is the electron charge (1.602×10^{-19} C).

V is the terminal voltage.

k is the Boltzmann constant (1.381×10^{-23} J/K)

T is the junction temperature in Kelvin (K)

Now equation (1) can be solved using Newton's method [4]

$$x_{n+1} = x_n - f(x_n) / f'(x_n)$$

Where: $f'(x)$ is the derivative of the function, $f(x) = 0$, x_n is a present value, and x_{n+1} is the next value.

Now equation (1) can be written as

$$f(I_{PV}) = I_{ph} - I_0 \left(\exp\left(\frac{qV}{kT}\right) - 1 \right) - I_{PV} = 0$$

Then using Newton's equation

$$= - \quad (2)$$

The MATLAB function written to solve equation (2) performs the calculation five times iteratively. The figure 2 and 3 represents the V-I and V-P characteristics of solar cell.

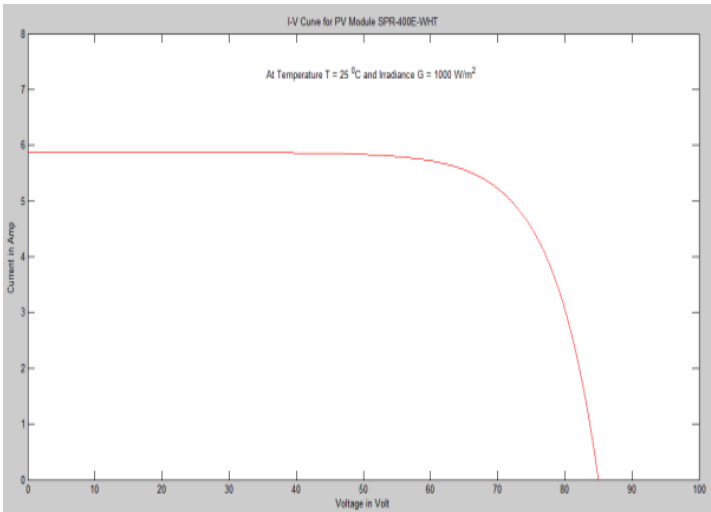


Fig.2. V-I characteristics of solar cell

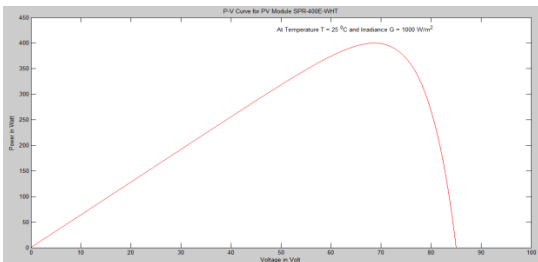


Fig.3. V-P characteristics of solar cell

The photon generated current at a given irradiance is given by [5, 6, 7, 8]

$$= (\quad + \quad * \quad) * \quad (3)$$

Where

= light-generated current at the nominal condition (Usually C and 1000W/)

= T - (T and are the actual and nominal temperature in Kelvin)

G = Actual irradiance available.

= Irradiance available under nominal condition.

The diode saturation current at a given temperature is given by [7, 9, 10, 11]

$$= * (\quad * \quad) \quad (4)$$

Where

= Bandgap energy of the semiconductor.
= Nominal reverse saturation current.
= Junction thermal voltage It is a characteristic voltage that relates current flow in the p-n junction to the electrostatic potential across it.

Fig-4, 5, 6 and 7 represents the characteristics of solar cell under different irradiance and temperature.

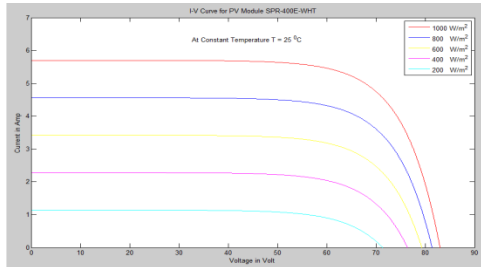


Fig.4. V-I characteristics of solar cell under constant temperature and different irradiance.

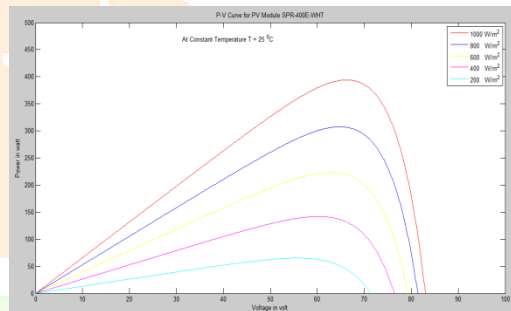


Fig.5. V-P characteristics of solar cell under constant temperature and different irradiance.

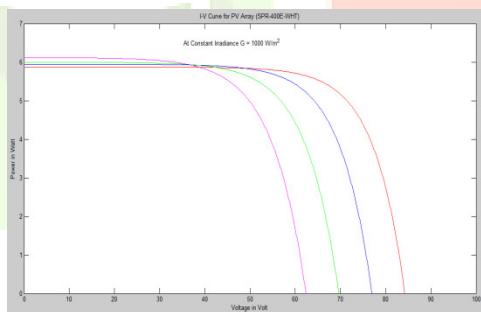


Fig.6. V-I characteristics of solar cell under constant irradiance and different temperature.

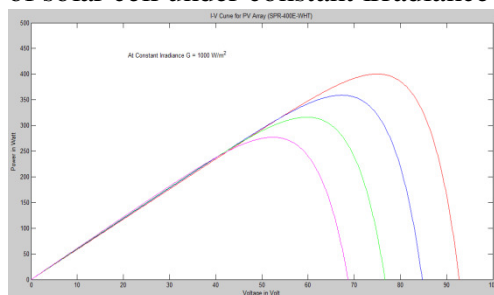


Fig.7. V-P characteristics of solar cell under constant irradiance and different temperature.

Principle of MPPT algorithm

Peak power is reached with the help of a dc/dc converter between the PV generator and the load by adjusting its duty cycle such that the resistance matching is obtained. Now the question arises how to vary the duty cycle. The automatic tracking can be performed by implementing various algorithms. These algorithms are the heart of MPPT controller. The algorithm changes the duty cycle of the dc/dc converter to maximize the power output of the module and make it operate at the peak power point of the module. These techniques differ in many aspects such as required sensors, complexity, cost, range of effectiveness, convergence speed, correct tracking when irradiation and/or temperature change, hardware needed for the implementation or popularity, among others.

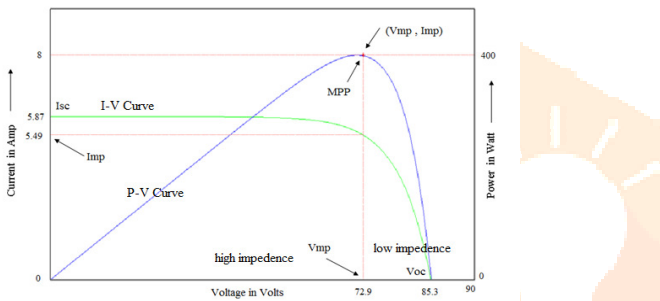


Fig.8. I-V & P-V curve & maximum power point

In this paper perturb and observe algorithm is implemented. In this algorithm a slight perturbation is introduced in tothe system. Due to this perturbation the power of the modulechanges. If the power increases due to the perturbation thenthe perturbation is continued in that direction. After the peakpower is reached the power at the next instant decreases andhence after that the perturbation reverses. At MPP, $V_{ref} = V_{MPP}$. Once the MPP is reached,operation of PV array is maintained at the point unless changein power is noted, indicating change in atmosphericconditions and the MPP. The algorithm decrements orincrements V_{ref} back to new MPP. The flowchart is shown in Fig.9.

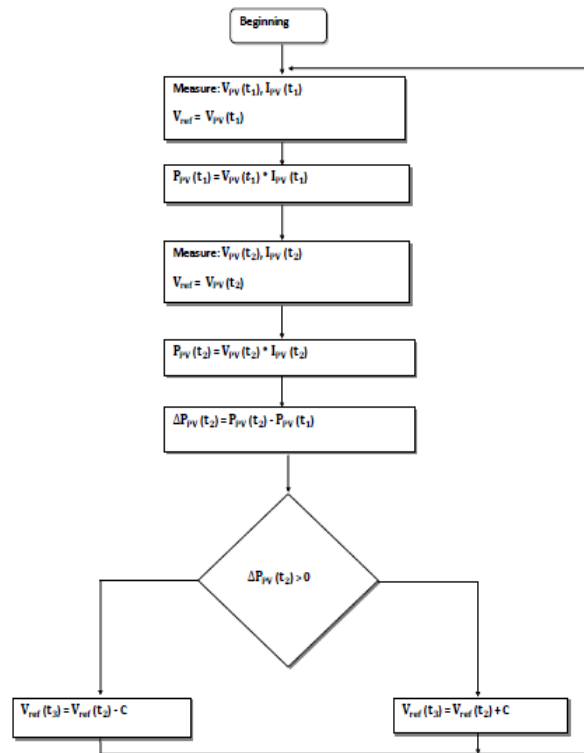


Fig.9. Flow Chart of perturb and observe algorithm

The above proposed algorithm can be designed by using Matlab/simulink, is given in Fig.10 and the output duty cycle is shown in Fig.11.

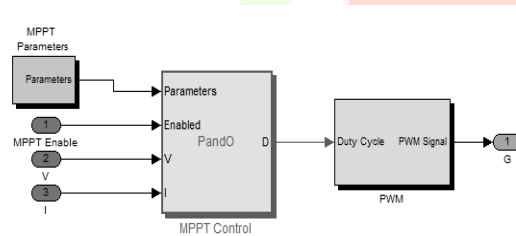


Fig.10. Matlab/Simulink model for the proposed MPPT algorithm

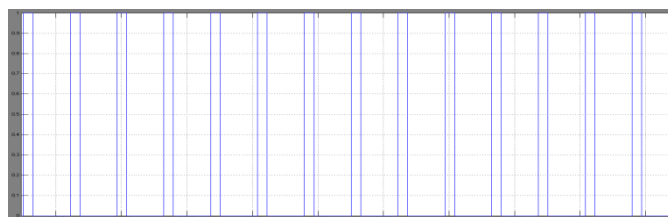


Fig.11. MPPT Output (Duty cycle)

DESIGN DETAILS OF THE SYSTEM

System Structure

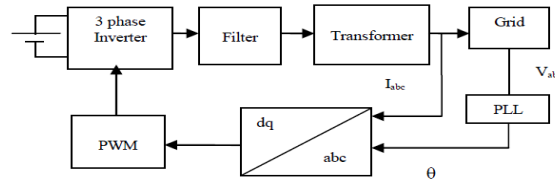


Fig.12. Block diagram of the system

A photovoltaic array of 3.5 kW is used to convert sunlight into DC current. The output of the array is connected to a boost DC converter that is used to perform MPPT functions and increase the array terminal voltage to a higher value so it can be interfaced to the distribution system grid of 25 kV. The DC converter controller is used to perform these two functions. A DC link capacitor is used after the DC converter and acts as a temporary power storage device to provide the voltage source inverter with a steady flow of power. The capacitor's voltage is regulated using a DC link controller that balances input and output powers of the capacitor. An LC low pass filter is connected at the output of the inverter to attenuate high frequency harmonics and prevent them from propagating into the power system grid. This provides a smooth output current which is low in harmonic content.

The voltage source inverter is controlled in the rotating dq frame to inject a controllable three phase AC current into the grid. To achieve unity power factor operation, current is injected in phase with the grid voltage. A phase locked loop (PLL) is used to lock on the grid frequency and provide a stable reference synchronization signal for the inverter control system, which works to minimize the error between the actual injected current and the reference current obtained from the DC link controller. The brief description of the controlling components of grid connected PV array system is discussed below.

LC Filter

Output voltage wave is synchronized with the grid voltage. So the PWM inverter will inject ripple current in to the grid. The output LC filter is connected to remove high switching frequency components from output current of inverter [12]. The value of L is design based on current ripple. Smaller ripple results in lower switching and conduction losses. Typically the ripple current can be chosen as 10% - 15% of rated current. Considering 10% ripple at the rated current the designed value of inductor (L) in the system [13, 14] is given by (5)

$$L = \frac{V_{dc} \cdot I_{dc}}{3 \cdot \Delta I} \quad (5)$$

The capacitor C is designed based on reactive power supplied by the capacitor at fundamental frequency. In this design reactive power is chosen as 15% of the rated power [13] is given by (6)

$$C = \frac{15\% \cdot P_r}{3 \cdot 2\pi f \cdot V_{dc}^2} \quad (6)$$

Phase Locked Loop

Grid synchronizations plays important role for grid connected systems. It synchronizes the output frequency and phase of grid voltage with grid current using different transformation. Different methods to extract phase angle have been developed and presented in many papers [15, 16]. PLL techniques causes one signal to track another

one. Phase-locked loop (PLL) is a feedback loop which locks two waveforms with same frequency but shifted in phase. The fundamental use of this loop is in comparing frequencies of two waveforms and then adjusting the frequency of the waveform in the loop to equal the input waveform frequency. The role of the phase locked loop is to provide the rotation frequency, direct and quadrature voltage components at the point of common coupling (PCC) by resolving the grid voltage abc components. Multiple control blocks of the PV system rely on this information to regulate their output command signals. The PLL computes the rotation frequency of the grid voltage vector by first transforming it to the dq frame, and then force the quadrature component of the voltage to zero to eliminate cross coupling in the active and reactive power terms [17].

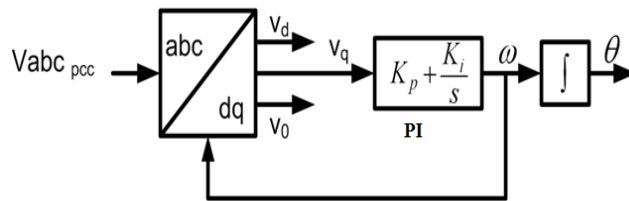


Fig.13. Schematic diagram of the phase locked loop (PLL)

The loop filter PI is a low pass filter. It is used to suppress high frequency component and provide DC controlled signal to voltage controlled oscillator (VCO) which acts as an integrator. The output of the PI controller is the inverter output frequency that is integrated to obtain inverter phase angle θ . When the difference between grid phase angle and inverter phase angle is reduced to zero PLL becomes active which results in synchronously rotating voltages $V_d = 0$ and V_q gives magnitude of grid voltage. The operation of the PLL is governed by equation (7)

$$\theta = \int \omega dt \quad (7)$$

Space Vector PWM

The space vector PWM (SVM) method is an advanced, computation-intensive PWM method and is possibly the best method among the all PWM techniques. The circuit model of a typical three-phase voltage source PWM inverter is shown in Fig.14.

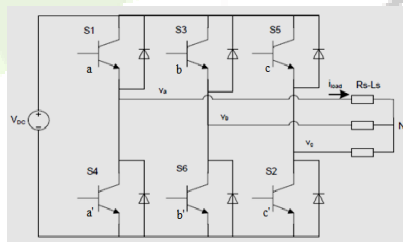


Fig.14. Three-phase inverter

S1 to S6 are the six power switches that shape the output, which are controlled by the switching variables. When an upper transistor is switched on, i.e., when a, b or c is 1, the corresponding lower transistor is switched off, i.e., the corresponding a', b' or c' is 0. Therefore, the on and off states of the upper transistors S1, S3 and S5 can be used to determine the output voltage.

The relationship between the switching variable vector and the line-to-line voltage vector is given by equation (8) in the following:

$$\begin{bmatrix} V_{ab} \\ V_{bc} \\ V_{ca} \end{bmatrix} = \frac{2}{3} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} S_a \\ S_b \\ S_c \end{bmatrix} \quad (8)$$

Also, the relationship between the switching variable vector and the phase voltage vector can be expressed by equation 9

$$\begin{bmatrix} V_a \\ V_b \\ V_c \end{bmatrix} = \frac{2}{3} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} S_a \\ S_b \\ S_c \end{bmatrix} \quad (9)$$

There are eight possible combinations of on and off patterns for the three upper power switches [18]. The on and off states of the lower power devices are opposite to the upper one and so are easily determined once the states of the upper power transistors are determined. The eight switching vectors, output line to neutral voltage (phase voltage), and output line-to-line voltages in terms of DC-link V_{dc} , are given in Table 1 and Fig.15 shows the eight inverter voltage vectors (V_0 to V_7).

Voltage Vectors	Switching Vectors			Line to neutral voltage			Line to line voltage		
	a	b	c	V_{an}	V_{bn}	V_{cn}	V_{ab}	V_{bc}	V_{ca}
V_0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
V_1	1	0	0	$2/3$	$-1/3$	$-1/3$	1	0	-1
V_2	1	1	0	$1/3$	$1/3$	$-2/3$	0	1	-1
V_3	0	1	0	$-1/3$	$2/3$	$-1/3$	-1	1	0
V_4	0	1	1	$-2/3$	$1/3$	$1/3$	-1	0	1
V_5	0	0	1	$-1/3$	$-1/3$	$2/3$	0	-1	1
V_6	1	0	1	$1/3$	$-2/3$	$1/3$	1	-1	0
V_7	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 1: Switching vectors, phase voltages and output line to line voltages.

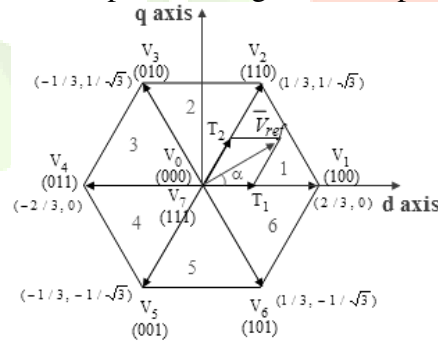


Fig.15. Basic switching vectors and sectors.

To implement the space vector PWM, the voltage equations in the abc reference frame can be transformed into the stationary dq reference frame that consists of the horizontal (d) and vertical (q) axes as depicted in Fig.16. The eight vectors are called the basic space vectors and are denoted by V_0 , V_1 , V_2 , V_3 , V_4 , V_5 , V_6 , and V_7 . Therefore, space vector PWM can be implemented by the following steps

- Step 1. Determine V_d , V_q , V_{ref} , and angle (α)
- Step 2. Determine time duration T_1 , T_2 , T_0
- Step 3. Determine the switching time of each transistor (S1 to S6)

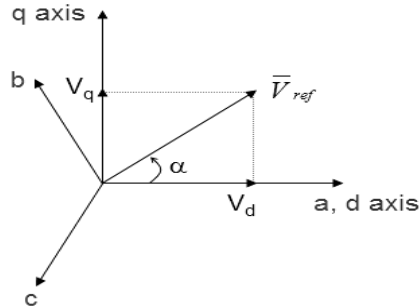
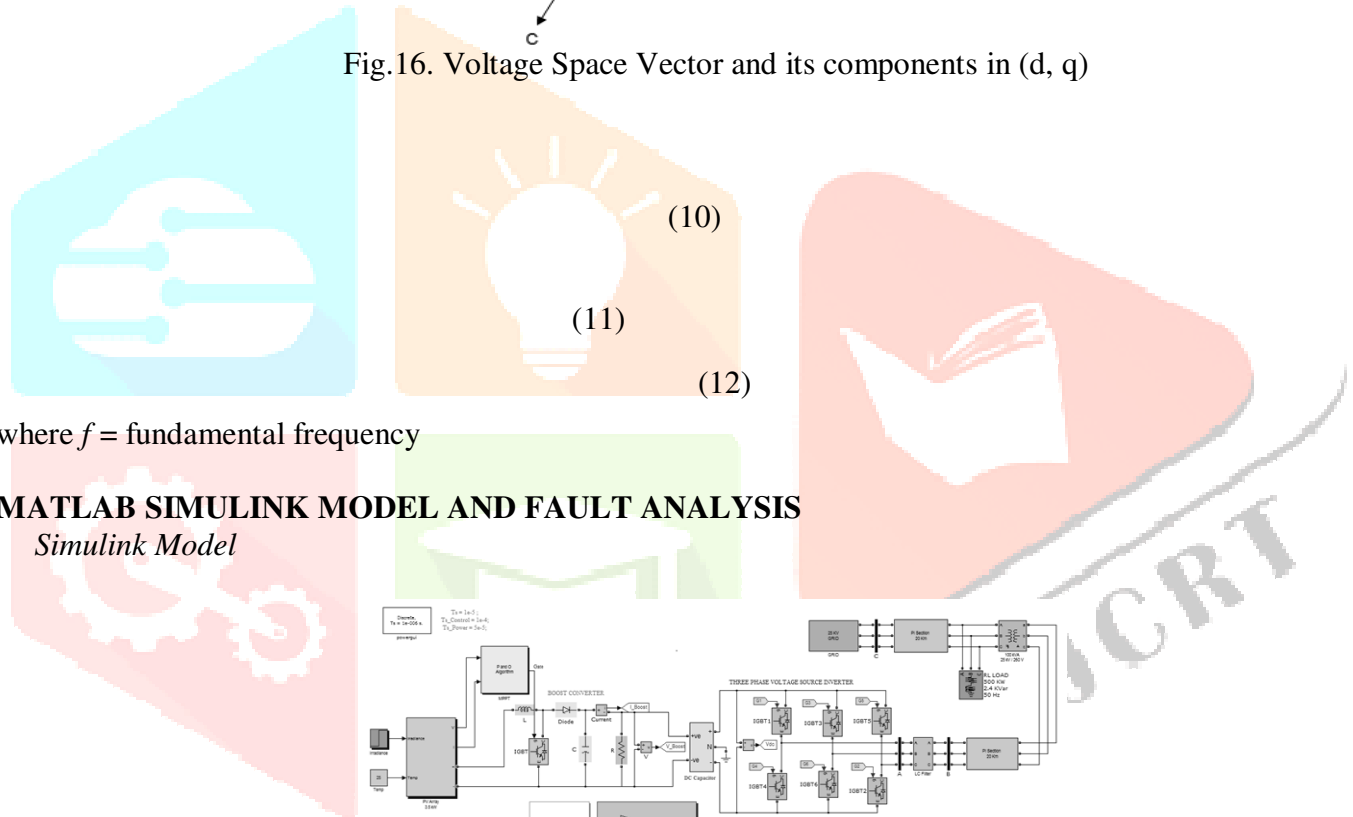


Fig.16. Voltage Space Vector and its components in (d, q)



where f = fundamental frequency

MATLAB SIMULINK MODEL AND FAULT ANALYSIS

Simulink Model

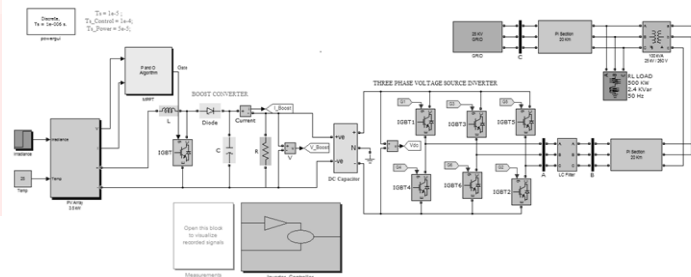


Fig.17. Simulink Model of Grid Connected PV System

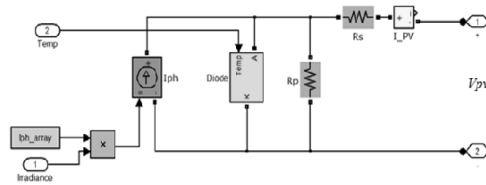


Fig.18. Equivalent PV cell model in Simulink

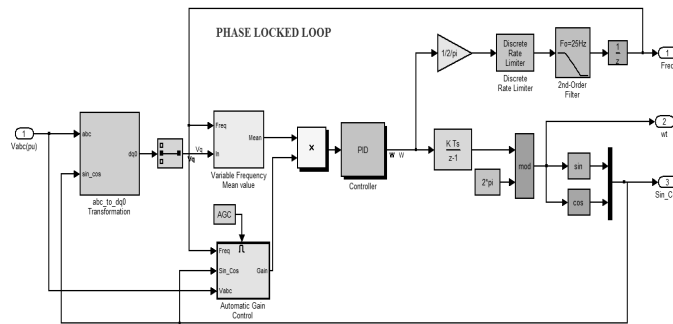


Fig.19. Simulink model of Phase Locked Loop (PLL)

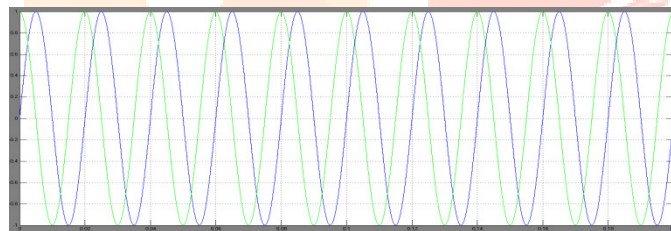


Fig.20. sin and cos wave generated by PLL

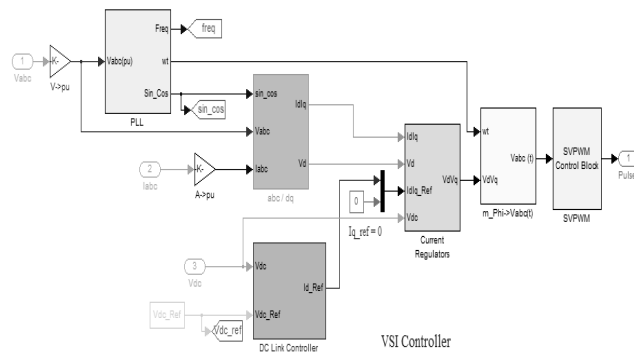


Fig.21. Simulink model of VSI controller

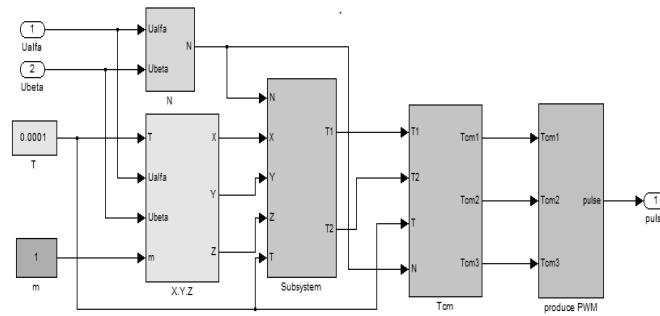


Fig.22. Simulink model of Space Vector PWM

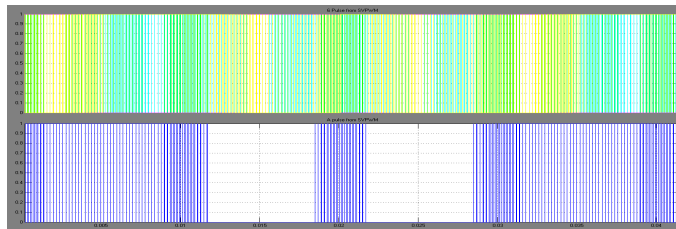


Fig.23. Output of SVPWM

To simulate the system and the resulting output currents and voltages at various levels, the array was subjected to a 1000 W/m^2 of solar irradiation and a temperature of 25° C . The DC output current, terminal voltage and power of PV array was monitored during simulation at the specified atmospheric conditions. The switching action of the DC converter caused some ripple in the output current with an average value of about 13.5 A, the ripple magnitude can be reduced by increasing the size of the inductor used in the boost converter. There are some initial transients in the current waveform at the beginning of simulation as the system started operation and the DC converter drove the array to the estimated maximum power point. All the simulations given below are for 0.5 seconds. Fig.24, 25 shows the comparison of voltage, current and power of PV array without and with MPPT and boost converter power with MPPT respectively. It can be observed that PV array feeds 3.5 kW to the inverter using MPPT. Without MPPT the power reduces drastically from 3.5 kW to 2.9 kW.

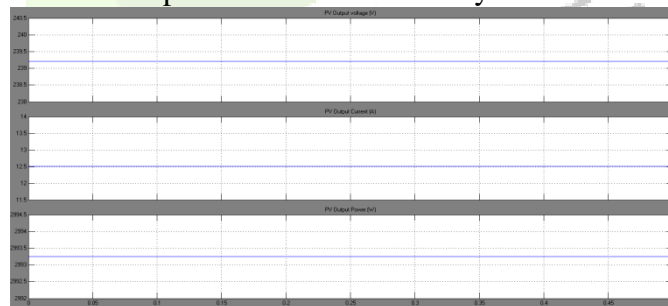


Fig.24. Voltage, Current and Power Output of PV array without MPPT

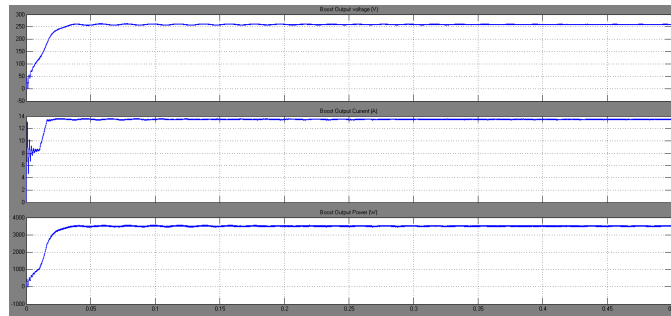


Fig.25. Voltage, Current and Power Output of PV array with MPPT

Fault Analysis

The grid connected PV array system in Simulink is shown in Fig.17. The system is studied under different fault conditions which are shown below. The system is simulated at irradiance $G = 1000 \text{ W/m}^2$ and temperature $T=25 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$. The fault is given only on the grid side. The fault duration is for 0.1 seconds from 0.2 to 0.3 seconds. The waveforms of grid side as well as inverter side are shown. Also voltage and current magnitudes and active and reactive power are also presented which varies with different fault conditions. First the system is simulated without fault.

Without Fault

The inverter output for 260 V dc input is shown in Fig.25. As seen in Fig.27, 28, and 29 there is no transients in any of the waveforms. Even there is no deviation in the active and reactive power curve while the reactive power being slightly greater than zero.

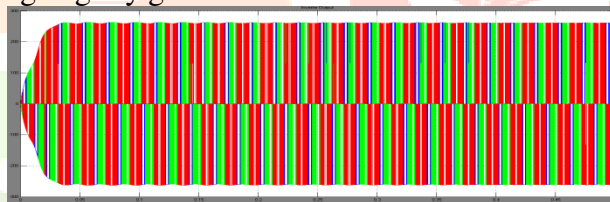


Fig.26. Voltage waveform before filter

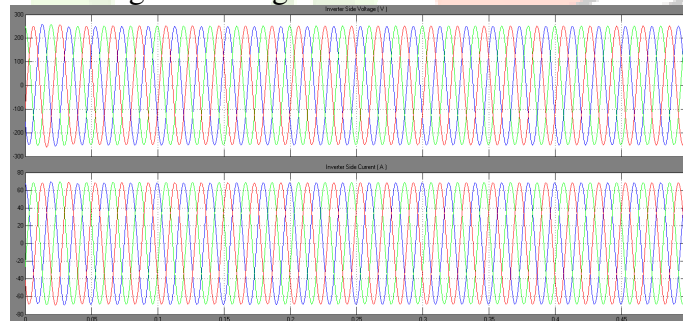


Fig.27. Voltage and Current waveforms on the inverter side

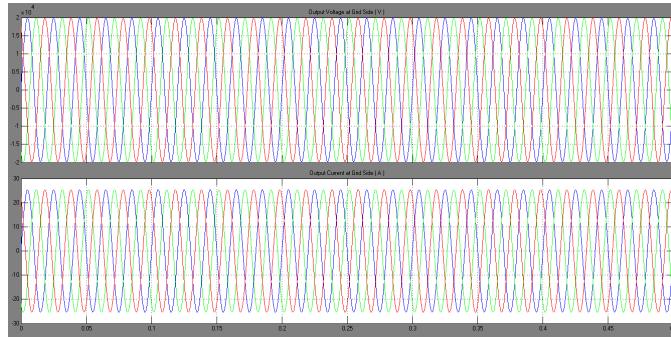


Fig.28 Voltage and Current waveforms on the Grid side

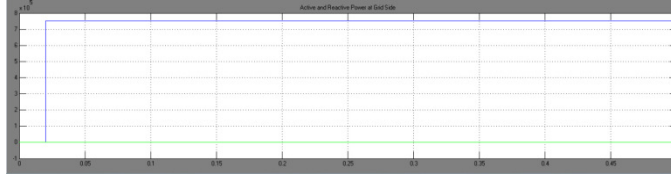


Fig.29. Active and Reactive Power of Grid

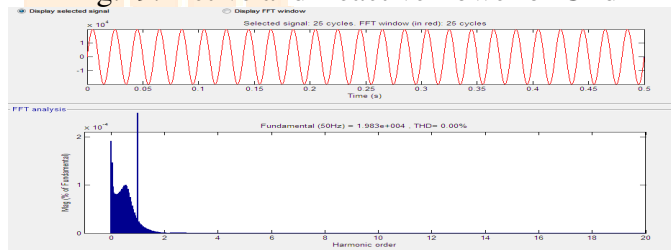


Fig.30. Grid side FFT and THD for Voltage

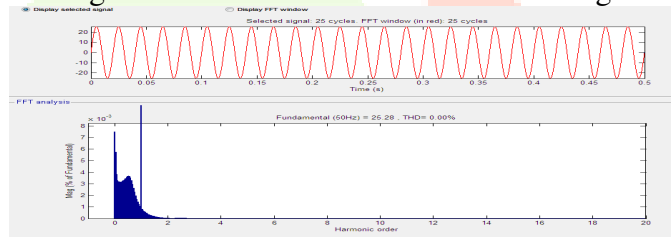


Fig.31. Grid side FFT and THD for Current

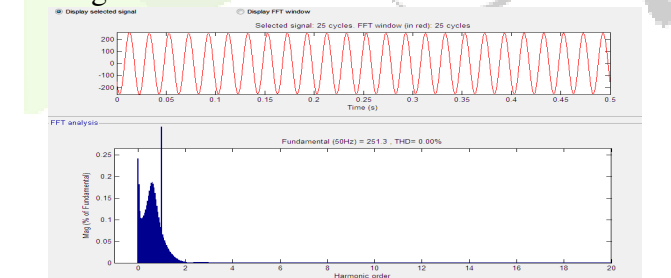


Fig.32. Inverter side FFT and THD for Voltage with filter

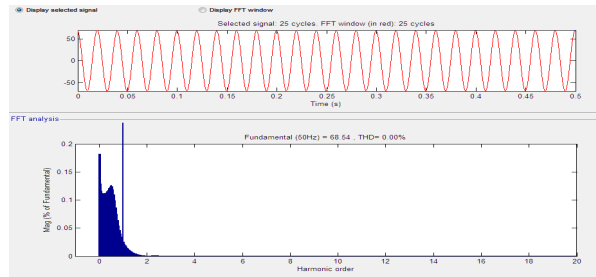


Fig.33. Inverter side FFT and THD for Voltage with filter

LG Fault

In line to ground fault, a phase of voltage waveforms collapse as seen in Fig.34 and the magnitude of current of a phase increases to 850 A. Also the active and the reactive power in Fig.35 deviate from their nominal values. The reactive power which remains nearly zero during no fault increases to 3.5 MVAR while the active power rises up to 6.2 MVA. In this case THD of voltage is increased from 0% to 0.04% in inverter side and 0.44% in grid side. The THD of current is also increased from 0% to 0.07% in inverter side and 1.08% in grid side.

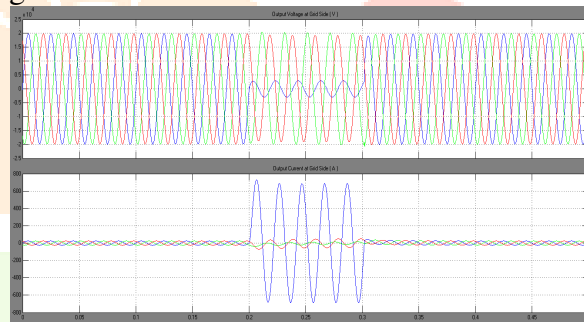


Fig.34. Voltage and Current waveforms on the grid side with LG fault



Fig.35. Active and Reactive Power of Grid during LG fault

LL Fault

In line to line fault two phases of voltage waveforms collapse and two phases of current waveforms shoots to high magnitude as shown in Fig.36. During fault the active power rises from 0.9 MVA to 6.1 MVA whereas reactive power rises from 0 to 4 MVAR. In this case THD of voltage is increased from 0% to 0.22% in inverter side and 1.04% in grid side. The THD of current is also increased from 0% to 0.23% in inverter side and 3.45% in grid side.

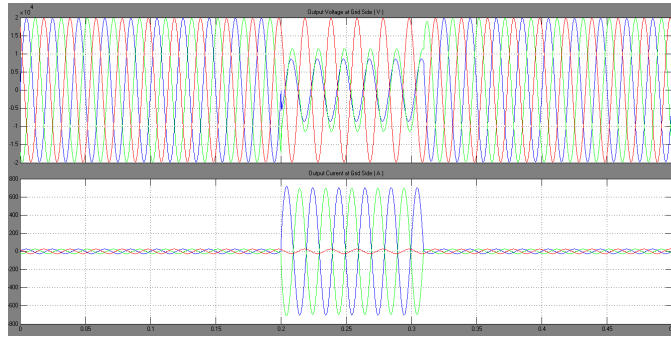


Fig.36. Voltage and Current waveforms on the grid side with LL fault

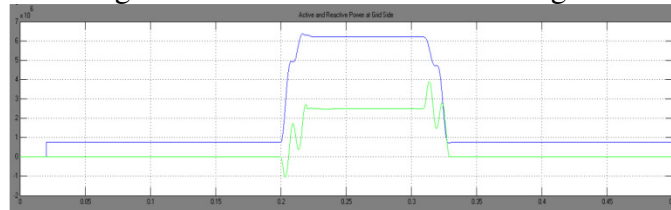


Fig.37. Active and Reactive Power of Grid during LL fault

LLG Fault

Comparing LL and LLG faults, the fault current is higher in LLG fault as shown in Fig.38. But, during fault, the active power is lower and reactive power is higher in LLG fault than LL fault. In this case THD of voltage is increased from 0% to 0.12% in inverter side and 0.41% in grid side. The THD of current is also increased from 0% to 0.06% in inverter side and 1.09% in grid side.

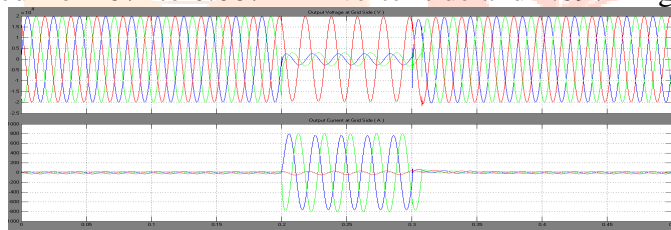


Fig.38. Voltage and Current waveforms on the grid side with LLG fault

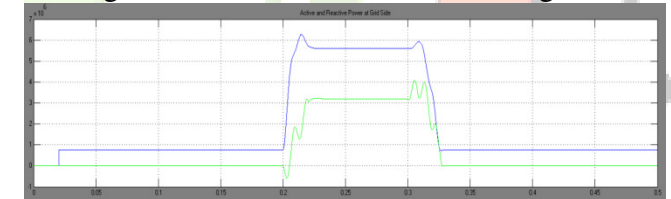


Fig.39. Active and Reactive Power of Grid during LLG fault

LLL Fault

In symmetric three phase fault, all the three phases of voltage waveforms collapse and the current magnitude becomes very high during fault shown in Fig.40. The pattern of active and reactive power during three phase fault is presented in Fig.41. In this case THD of voltage is increased from 0% to 0.04% in inverter side and 0.23% in grid side. The THD of current is also increased from 0% to 0.23% in inverter side and 0.71% in grid side.

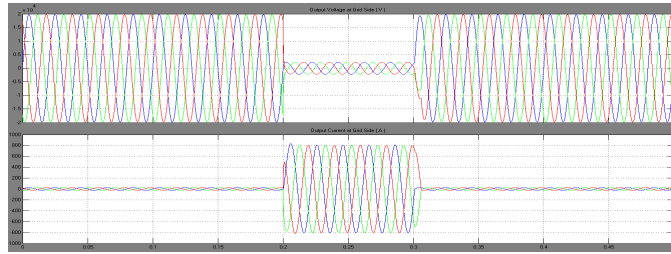


Fig.39. Voltage and Current waveforms on the grid side with LLL fault

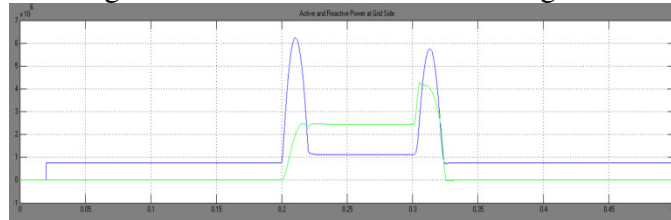


Fig.40. Active and Reactive Power of Grid during LLL fault

LLLG Fault

The waveforms of three phase to ground fault is similar to three phase fault except there is slight increase in fault current in LLLG shown in Fig.42. As LLLG fault is severe than any other fault, it can be concluded that fault on the grid side will hardly affect on the PV and boost converter side with other type of faults on ac side. In this case THD of voltage is increased from 0% to 0.04% in inverter side and 0.23% in grid side. The THD of current is also increased from 0% to 0.23% in inverter side and 0.71% in grid side.

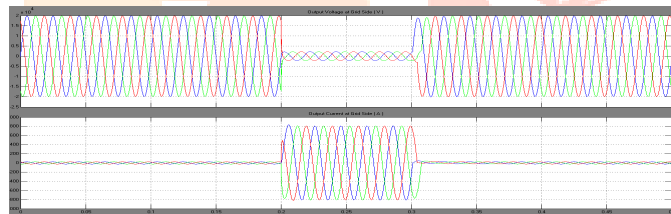


Fig.41. Voltage and Current waveforms on the grid side with LLLG fault

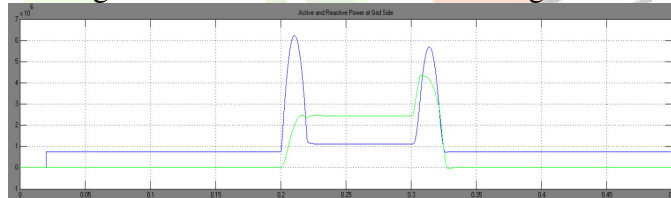


Fig.42. Active and Reactive Power of Grid during LLLG fault

Fig.43 represents the frequency (in Hz) for synchronisation taken from PLL. The system was simulated for 1.0 second to have a clear examination on the locking process. It is found that for synchronisation between PV system and grid, it is taking 0.15 second. When LLLG fault is created between 0.4 to 0.5 s, the frequency deviates from its nominal frequency of 50 Hz. It takes another 0.2 s (0.5 to 0.7s) for the system to become stable at nominal frequency. Even though the operating frequency deviates from its nominal value, it remains within the limits of 49 Hz – 51 Hz. (in this case its between 49.7 and 50.6 Hz).

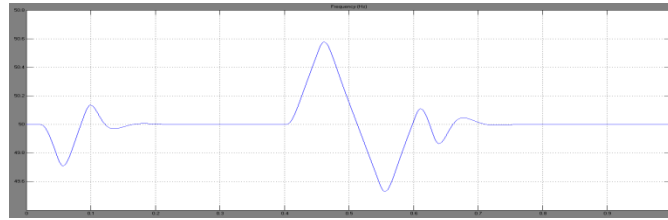


Fig.43. System frequency (Hz)

CONCLUSION

A 158 kW PV array with MPPT has been modeled and simulated. The MPPT employed perturb and observe algorithm. The simulated results confirm the effectiveness of the MPPT. It is observed that with MPPT the power fed to the inverter from PV array has increased by 14%. A PLL has been designed for grid synchronization and it effectively synchronizes the inverter voltage and frequency with the grid voltage and frequency. In case of fault it is observed that it takes only 0.2 sec for the system to become stable at nominal frequency. Fault analysis on grid side have been performed for various fault conditions like; LG, LL, LLL, LLG faults. The variations of active and reactive power and variation of voltage and current THD without fault and with fault conditions are studied. The findings of the fault analysis are essential for designing the protection circuit.

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APPENDIX-1.2

PV Parameter	Specifications	Comments
V_{oc}	85.2983V	Open circuit voltage
I_{sc}	5.8675A	Short circuit current
V_{mp}	72.8992V	Voltage at maximum power
I_{mp}	5.48769A	Current at maximum power
P_{mp}	400 W	Maximum power
temperature coefficient	0.001837 A/°C	Short circuit current temperature coefficient

Module parameters of SPR 400E-WHT

APPENDIX-1.2

Parameter	Specifications	Comments
V_{oc}	255.895V	Array Open circuit voltage
I_{sc}	17.60A	Array Short circuit current
V_{mp}	218.697V	Array Voltage at maximum power
I_{mp}	16.461A	Array Current at maximum power
P_{mp}	3600W	Array Maximum power
System frequency	50Hz	
Grid Voltage	25kV	Line to Line
Inverter voltage	260V	Line to Line
Grid inductance	3mH	
Grid resistance	20 Ω	
Switching frequency	4000Hz	
Inductive Load	500kW	Real Power
	2.4kVAR	Reactive Power
Interfacing transformer	260V	Primary Side
	25kV	Secondary Side

System Specifications

APPENDIX-1.3

Parameters	Type of Fault	Inverter side THD (Phase A) in %	Grid side THD (Phase A) in %
Voltage	Without Fault	0.0	0.0
	LG	0.04	0.48
	LLG	0.12	0.42
	LL	0.22	1.04
	LLL	0.04	0.25
	LLLG	0.10	0.28

Current	Without Fault	0.0	0.0
	LG	0.07	1.08
	LLG	0.06	1.09
	LL	0.23	3.69
	LLL	0.23	0.74
	LLLG	0.20	0.65

THD of voltage and current for different types of AC faults

