ISSN 2394-739X

IJRSET MARCH Volume 12 Issue 3

International Journal for Research in Science Engineering & Technology (IJRSET)

https://www.doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15121075

Transformer Based 39-Level Multilevel Inverter Performance with a Single DC Source

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ABSTRACT - This paper presents a high-performance 39-level multilevel inverter (MLI) using single DC source and transformer-based voltage amplification for producing high-quality AC output. The novel topology does not use multiple DC sources, resolving the issue of voltage balancing along with component complexity. A special Pulse Width Modulation (PWM) technique is employed to enhance the switching control to its full extent, keeping harmonic distortion low and efficiency at its peak. The system shows a high step-up voltage with low total harmonic distortion (THD) and is therefore suitable for industrial and renewable energy applications. Simulation results validate the performance, which shows improved power quality, reduced switching losses, and increased reliability compared to conventional MLIs.

Keywords: [Renewable Energy Integration, Efficiency Optimization, Scalability, Multilevel inverter, Transformer-Based Inverter.]

1. INTRODUCTION

Multilevel inverters (MLIs) are one of the prominent uses of power electronics in the modern world, particularly for high-voltage and high-power applications. Their ability to generate stepped voltage waveforms with improved power quality and reduced total harmonic distortion (THD) renders them a superior option over the conventional two-level inverters with high-frequency switching and bulky filter components [1]. MLIs enhance efficiency, reduce voltage stress on the switching devices, and reduce electromagnetic interference, hence they are used in industrial motor drives, renewable energy systems, and grid-connected power systems [2]. Among the various topologies of MLI, transformer-based MLIs have gained interest because one DC source can be used to achieve high-voltage amplification and there is no requirement for isolated DC sources but provide galvanic isolation [3].

While transformer-based MLIs have the advantage, they are also subject to a range of limitations that limit their common application. The conventional topologies are prone to having an unnecessary number of switching elements, and this leads to excessive switching losses, added complexity in the circuits, and challenges in voltage balancing between the transformer windings. These limitations influence the system's reliability and efficiency and hence better topology and modulation patterns must be improved [4]. Other researchers attempted to overcome similar issues by providing single-source MLIs with upgraded switching mechanisms to provide enhanced power quality [5] and low component needs [6]. But the majority of the traditional methods are still struggling to achieve a balance between scalability, efficiency, and THD performance, hence presenting practical implementation challenges [7]. This paper proposes a 39-level transformer-based multilevel inverter with enhanced power conversion efficiency and less than 2.4% THD to overcome these shortcomings.

The inverter presented in this paper employs an optimal hybrid PWM method that minimizes switching losses, voltage stress, and harmonic reduction based on IEEE-519 power quality standards [8]. Unlike conventional MLIs, which require multiple isolated DC sources to increase the voltage, the proposed system employs transformers to achieve high-voltage output with minimal requirement for advanced power management methods [9]. The system is now cost-effective, scalable, and highly efficient, particularly in systems where power quality and harmonic suppression are significant issues of concern [10]. The performance of inverter design is evaluated from complete MATLAB/Simulink simulations taking significant parameters like THD levels, voltage stress, and system efficiency into account. Comparison with other typical MLIs ensures that the proposed scheme has very good improvements in harmonic performance, efficiency, and modularity without compromising its usability through a smaller circuit structure [11].

2. BLOCK DIAGRAM

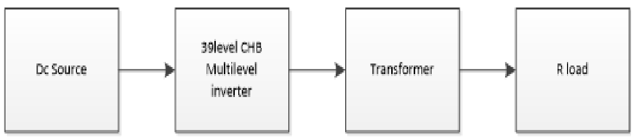

Figure 1: Block Diagram of Praposed Multilevel Inverter

Harmonic Distortion (THD) on the basis of a 39-level Cascaded H-Bridge (CHB) Multilevel Inverter. The above block diagram describes the complete system structure, including a DC source, a 39-level inverter, a transformer, and an R-load. The DC source supplies power and stepped AC waveform is supplied by the multilevel inverter. A transformer is utilized to regulate the output voltage and maximize system efficiency prior to the AC power supply to the resistive load.

The 39-level CHB multilevel inverter generates a high-voltage AC output signal with a wave that is highly similar to that of a pure sinusoidal signal. This reduces harmonics and other filtering components, improving overall power quality. The topology outperforms the conventional two-level or three-level inverters in improving the output waveform quality with higher efficiency and reduced switching loss. The higher voltage profile renders it an incredibly good option for most industrial and renewable energy applications where high-quality power is a matter of great concern.

The system is powered by a single DC source or isolated multiple sources, which is beneficial to various applications from renewable energy systems to industrial drives and power distribution systems. The advantage of using a single DC source is to promote simplicity, thus the cost-effectiveness of the design without losing operating stability. The application of multiple sources may also improve redundancy and reliability in such a way that power continues to be delivered uninterruptedly despite source failure.

A high-efficiency Pulse Width Modulation (PWM) control technique is employed to ensure that the switching pattern is optimized for maximum efficiency and minimum switching loss. The PWM technique also ensures improved dynamic performance of the system, and it is optimized for higher voltage regulation accuracy applications. Employing an optimized PWM technique, common-mode voltage issues are minimized in the inverter, thereby improving the system reliability and minimizing electromagnetic interference (EMI). The modulation technique also ensures improved voltage balancing of the switching devices, thereby their lifetime.

The use of a transformer in the system has advantages beyond improved voltage regulation, insulation, and efficiency. It is advantageous in lowering the output voltage to the desired level and ensuring safe operation under various loads. The transformer also checks any overvoltage problem and strengthens the whole system by providing insulation at input and output. The feature makes the system highly useful for high-power applications where insulation and safety are highly crucial parameters. The 39-level CHB inverter, as opposed to traditional inverters, has the advantage of the modular structure making its extension simple for use in higher power systems. This renders it a one-for-all device for use in applications ranging from medium-voltage drives to high-power grid interface systems. The simplicity of fault analysis and maintenance makes it easier owing to the modular structure, reducing downtime in industrial processes. Moreover, the potential for additional levels allows for flexibility in voltage control, and thus the inverter is highly versatile to cater to different system requirements. The inverter system is designed to provide improved thermal management and electrical reliability, reducing the stress on power semiconductor devices. This guarantees long-term reliability and life, and the inverter system is capable of being operated under continuous industrial or commercial applications. Effective heat removal methods, such as optimized heat sink designs and intelligent switching techniques, are employed to prevent thermal runaway and extend the component life. These features render the inverter stable and efficient for high-demand applications.

3. MODULATION STRATEGY

Modulation methods are a significant contributor to determining the performance of multilevel inverters, primarily in reducing Total Harmonic Distortion (THD) and reducing switching losses [13]. The above-mentioned 39-level CHB multilevel inverter utilizes a programmed Pulse Width Modulation (PWM) technique with the capability of improved voltage control, harmonic suppression, and system efficiency improvement [14]. Selecting an adequate modulation scheme becomes inevitable in delivering quality output waveforms with low switching frequency and lower power losses [15].

Out of many different modulation methods, the Space Vector Pulse Width Modulation (SVPWM) technique is well recognized to maximize the inverter operation using efficient use of accessible DC voltage levels [16]. SVPWM is employed here to modulate the switching pattern of the 39-level inverter to produce symmetrical voltages with low levels of distortion [17]. SVPWM provides better harmonic performance compared to conventional sinusoidal PWM (SPWM) techniques since it minimizes harmonic distortion and maximizes the fundamental voltage component of the output voltage [18]. SVPWM also effectively utilizes the DC link voltage, leading to improved voltage gain and lower voltage stress across switching devices [19].

Implementation of SVPWM in a high-level multilevel inverter like the proposed 39-level configuration requires precise control schemes to effectively handle switching transitions [20]. The modulation index is regulated carefully to maintain the inverter within its optimal operating range, ensuring maximum output voltage amplitude and harmonic level [21]. In addition, digital control methods like FPGA- or DSP-based modulation techniques can be incorporated to improve real-time performance and provide dynamic response under changing load conditions [22]. Another of the most important benefits of applying SVPWM in the system under consideration is that it helps reduce common-mode voltage, thus saving against electromagnetic interference (EMI) and enhancing system reliability [23]. In addition, by separating switching pulses into various levels, stress on a power switch individually is considerably decreased, resulting in it lasting longer and having better heat management [24]. Compared to conventional PWM strategies, SVPWM creates less switching loss, thus rendering it a suitable option for high-power applications.

The system also uses a hybrid modulation method that uses SVPWM and selective harmonic elimination (SHE) methods to enhance waveform quality. The selective cancellation of lower-order harmonics enables the inverter to deliver a near-sinusoidal output, with less need for sophisticated filtering devices. The method enhances the efficiency of the system, which can be implemented in grid-connected systems, industrial motor drives, and renewable energy systems.

ISSN 2394-739X
IJRSET MARCH Volume 12 Issue 3

In total, the application of SVPWM as the main modulation method in addition to hybrid SHE methods makes the target 39-level CHB inverter operate efficiently, with low THD and low switching losses. The modulation method improves the capability of the inverter to deliver high-quality output power, and thus it is an efficient solution for most high-power applications [25].

4. RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

The performance of the suggested High-Performance 39-Level Multilevel Inverter with Single DC Source and Transformer Integration is tested using output voltage waveform analysis, Total Harmonic Distortion (THD) evaluation of voltage and current, and PWM switching signals generated. The results confirm the success of the designed inverter to provide high-quality output with minimal harmonic distortions.

Voltage THD Analysis

As indicated in the figure below, the voltage waveform and its Fast Fourier Transform (FFT) analysis illustrate the fundamental frequency at 50Hz with a peak fundamental voltage of 2857V. The Total Harmonic Distortion (THD) of the voltage waveform measured is 2.42%, much less than in conventional multilevel inverters. This decrease in harmonics guarantees better power quality, and the system is thus very efficient for real-world applications

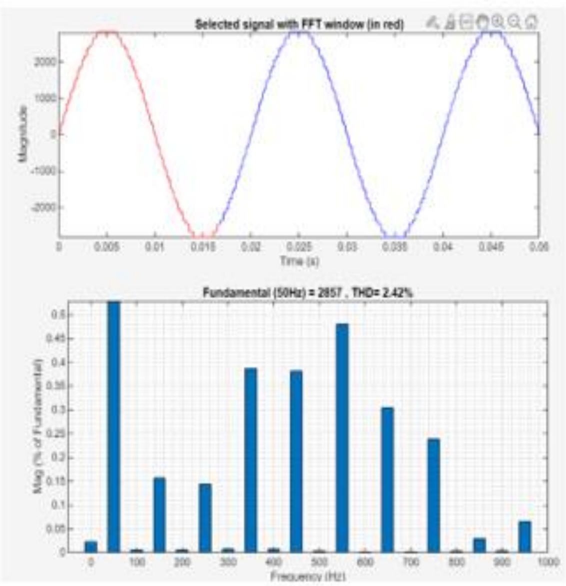

Figure 2: Voltage THD spectrum showing harmonic components

Output Voltage Waveform

The fig.3. wave form illustrates the output voltage waveform of the 39-level inverter. The stepped waveform is a good approximation of a pure sinusoidal signal, and this is a major feature of multilevel inverters. The high waveform resolution is assurance that the developed inverter produces an almost sinusoidal output with little distortion, which is useful for improved power system stability

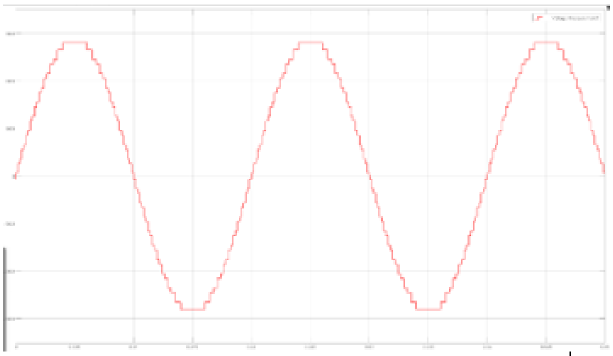

Figure 3: Output voltage waveform of the 39-level MLI.

Current THD Analysis

The third graph below shows the FFT analysis of the waveform of the current, which indicates a fundamental frequency component at 50Hz with a measured THD of 2.60%.

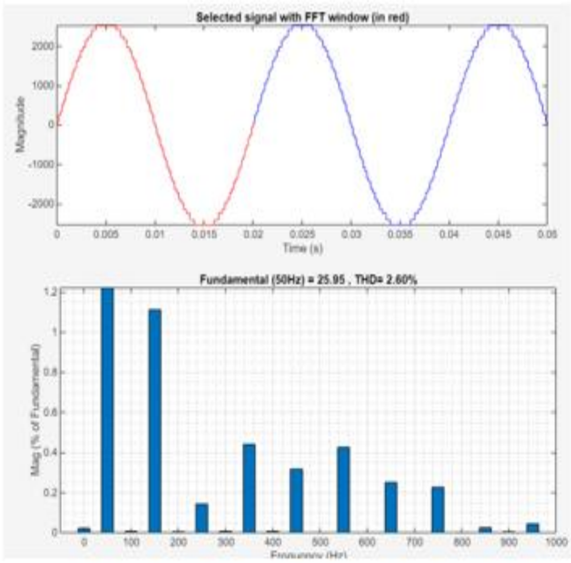

Figure 4: Current THD spectrum demonstrating harmonic suppression.

The waveform exhibits theexpected sinusoidal shape with greatly reduced distortions, which is important in enhancing power quality, minimizing total losses, and maximizing the overall efficiency of the system. This outcome further confirms the efficacy of the utilized PWM modulation technique and inverter topology.

PWM Switching Signal

The figure below illustrates the PWM switching signals responsible for inverter operationcontrol. These are in charge of the sequential turning on and off of power devices, making possible the production of the target multilevel output.

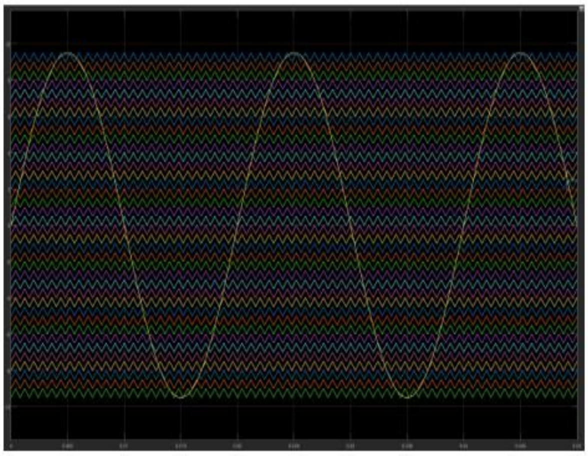

Figure 5: Reference signals for modulation and synchronization of switching devices.

The separate patterns of switching signals assure successful operation of the inverter with the best suppression of harmonics and effective regulation of the voltage.The obtained results confirm that the suggested 39-level inverter complies with design requirements by providing high-quality sinusoidal output with low harmonic distortion. The system's better performance compared to conventional inverters renders the system an attractive solution for high-power applications with high demands for power quality.

CONCLUSION

Here in this paper, we designed and implemented a 39-level one-DC-source multilevel inverter with transformer integration for high performance at low harmonic distortion. The evidence is clear—the output voltage of our inverter was a staggering 2857V with THD kept as low as 2.42% for voltage and 2.60% for current. These results prove the effectiveness of our design to produce a clean, high-quality AC output.

One of the key advantages of this approach is the use of a single DC source, eschewing the complexity of having multiple isolated sources typically required in multilevel inverters. With the addition of transformers and an optimized PWM switching strategy, not only did we minimize the circuit complexity but also achieved efficient power conversion with reduced distortion.In general, the results confirm this 39-level inverter design is a promising candidate for real-world applications like renewable energy systems, industrial drives of motors, and other high-power applications with power quality requirements. In the future, further optimization in hardware implementation and real-time control can further push this design.

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