

A Comprehensive Comparison between Finite Control Set Model Predictive Control and Classical Proportional-Integral Control for Grid-tied Power Electronics Devices

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Abstract: Recently finite control set model predictive control (FCS-MPC) becomes a promising solution for controlling power electronics devices (PEDs). Although FCS-MPC produces variable switching frequency and steady-state error, it has many advantages such as the ease of implementation, controlling multiple parameters at the same time, and generating the switching signals internally. This paper aims to assess the performance of the FCS-MPC by constructing a comparative study of the FCS-MPC current control with the proportional-integral (PI) current control. For a fair comparison, the FCS-MPC average switching frequency was made to be equal or lower than the PI switching frequency. The study was performed on three different grid-connected PEDs, which are the three-phase two-level, single-phase full-bridge, and H5 inverters. Both control strategies were compared considering the switching frequency, common-mode voltage, leakage current, total harmonics distortion, and steady-state error. The results illustrate that the produced common-mode voltage and leakage current of the FCS-MPC are lower than PI in all cases. Even though FCS-MPC results in higher THD and steady-state error, they were maintained within acceptable limits. The three inverters and case studies were carried out to verify the performance of the controllers via the PSCAD/EMTDA software package.

Keywords: Model predictive control (MPC); Grid-connected inverters; Power electronics control; Common-mode voltage (CMV); Leakage current

1 Introduction

Renewable energy resources (RERs) become attractive alternatives over conventional power generation such as coal and natural gas since they are eco-friendly and fuel-free energy resources. However, some RERs especially wind and solar are not continuously available and their output power may vary considerably during the day [1]. The variation of renewable generation output causes some

challenges to integrate them into the existing grid. For instance, the output direct current (DC) of a PV system must be converted to alternative current (AC) to be able to connect it to the grid. To this end, a controlled inverter is used to convert the DC to AC and regulate the grid's current. Such control ensures the stability and reliability of the PV power integration to the grid. In other words, power electronics devices (PEDs) facilitate merging these renewable energy resources with any electrical power system [2]. Nevertheless, integrating renewable energy resources via power electronics devices requires sophisticated control techniques [3]. Different control strategies have been proposed for controlling either grid-connected or islanded PEDs [4-9]. Among all, the most common and popular control strategy is the classical proportional-integral (PI) control method. The PI control uses the feedback mechanism to produce the error as the difference between the measured and reference values. The error then fed to the proportional and integral gains which produce the controlling signals. A tremendous number of literary works have proposed different PI control techniques for grid-tied PEDs [3]. A robust strategy for regulating the grid current entering a distribution network from a three-phase inverter system connected via an LCL filter was presented in [10]. The authors in [11] demonstrated different structures such as dq , stationary, and natural frame of PI control for the grid-side converter. A novel controller optimization algorithm using particle swarm optimization (PSO) in [12] for inverter output controllers.

Another widely used control strategy for PEDs is model predictive control (MPC) [13]. The goal of the MPC controller is to minimize the cost function considering the system constraints. It uses the system model to predict the step ahead of the controlled parameters. MPC applies the feedback mechanism to update the system in each time step for future disturbances. Only the first control action is implemented in each time step, and the rest is discarded. Therefore, MPC can predict the state's evolution over the prediction horizon. MPC can be classified into two groups for controlling PEDs, which are continuous control set MPC (CCS-MPC), and finite control set MPC (FCS-MPC) [14]. CCS-MPC utilizes the average model of the PED to perform the optimization process by minimizing the error between the predicted and reference values [15]. CCS-MPC generates continuous control signals and employs a modulator to generate the appropriate switching signals to the PED. Since this type of control uses an external modulator, it produces a fixed switching frequency, and that is considered the main advantage of CCS-MPC [16]. However, using CCS-MPC for controlling PEDs presents a very complex formulation of the optimization problems. This complex formulation can be reduced considerably by reformulating the optimization problem as a finite moving-horizon optimal control problem. In other words, FCS-MPC formulates the optimization problem based on the discrete nature of the PED, and that does not require an external switching signals generator. FCS-MPC evaluates each switching state of the PED and chooses the state that produces the lowest error. As a result, the computational time for solving the optimization problem is reduced significantly [17].

Many FCS-MPC algorithms have been proposed in the literature for controlling grid-connected PEDs. An early work of the authors in [18] presented the implementation of the FCS-MPC for controlling the output current of a three-phase two-level inverter. This work verified that FCS-MPC avoids the use of external modulators, and the drive signals are generated internally. Moreover, it showed that the control method effectively manages the load currents and provides a satisfactory dynamical response. The authors claim that FCS-MPC is a very powerful tool that offers new possibilities for PEDs control and it can be used for different types of PEDs. A novel model-free predictive current control was proposed in [19] for a three-phase rectifier. The method eliminates the usage of the system model, multiplication operations, and tuning parameters. The technique slightly improved the current control than the original FCS-MPC algorithm. A multi-objective FCS-MPC was proposed for controlling a grid-connected and islanded three-phase inverter in [20]. This work showed that FCS-MPC can perform multiple control actions at the same time such as current control and switching frequency reduction. The multiple control actions are included in the cost function, and a weighting factor is used to choose the priority of the controlled parameter. A reduced computational time FCS-MPC for a modular multilevel converter (MMC) was proposed in [21]. A grouping-sorting-optimized model predictive control with several modules was used for each arm of MMC current control. The method reduces the computational load of the FCS-MPC algorithm for MMC by considering a cascaded two-stage MPC. Reference [22] illustrated a proposed FCS-MPC for a five-level bidirectional converter. The authors confirmed that FCS-MPC improves the performance of the five-level converter in terms of efficiency and grid current total harmonics distortion. Using an extended state observer, [23] proposed an FCS-MPC of a three-phase inverter with a constant switching frequency. The method improves the current control and dynamic response of FCS-MPC for the three-phase inverter.

Numerous research works have compared the performance of the FCS-MPC with PI control for grid-tied PEDs [24- 29]. A comparison between FCS-MPC and PI for three-phase inverter current control was presented in [24, 25]. Both works compare the two controllers' performance in terms of step-change response, steady-state error (SSE), and total harmonics distortion (THD). The authors in [26, 27] proposed the FCS-MPC for controlling the output current of a quasi-Z-source inverter. The step-change response and THD of the FCS-MPC were compared with the PI control in [26] while the comparison was done based on the resultant THD and switching frequency (f_s) in [27]. A model predictive control with a delay compensation method was proposed for a three-phase four-leg grid-tied inverter in [28]. The method was also compared with the PI control depending on step-change response and THD. An FCS-MPC was proposed for a new grid-tied three-IGBTs inverter in [29]. The authors compared the control strategy with PI and hysteresis control methods. They formed a comparison based on the step-change response and THD. All the aforementioned research works have compared FCS-MPC with the classical PI strategy for different types of grid-connected

PEDs based on only the produces total harmonics distortion, switching frequency, or step-change response. However, to the best of our knowledge, there is no existing work that compares the performance of the FCS-MPC with PI control based on the common-mode voltage (CMV) and leakage current adding to that total harmonics distortion, switching frequency, and steady-state error. Therefore, this paper presents a comprehensive comparison of the FCS-MPC versus classical PI control for different grid-connected PEDs. The study was done on three PEDs, which are three-phase two-level, single-phase full-bridge, and H5 inverters. The two control methods' performances were compared based on:

- 1) the switching frequency,
- 2) total harmonic distortion,
- 3) steady-state error,
- 4) common-mode voltage, and
- 5) leakage current.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows: Section 2 explains the system modelling. Section 3 describes the principle of the finite control set model predictive control and proportional-integral control strategies. Section 4 discusses the common-mode voltage and leakage current in power electronics devices. The case studies are presented in Section 5, and Section 6 concludes the paper.

2 Systems Modeling and Description

Several power electronic devices are used to transform the direct current to sinusoidal alternative current. Examples of these devices are the single-phase full-bridge, H5, and three-phase two-level inverters (Figure 1). Since each device has a distinct topology, a different control scheme is used to minimize the error between the measured and reference values. Control strategies that are typically applied to control power electronics devices are PI and FCS-MPC. PI controller acts only when the error between measured and reference values has occurred. On the other hand, the FCS-MPC controller can predict the error before it occurs, which makes the MPC more robust compared to other controllers. This work examines the performance of both PI and FCS-MPC controllers on three distinct power electronic devices, which are the single-phase full-bridge, the H5, and the three-phase two-level inverters (Figure 1). Each device has a different configuration in terms of the number of switches and legs. The three-phase two-level inverter in Figure 1(a) consists of three legs with two switches in each leg while the full-bridge in Figure 1(b) is a single-phase inverter consists of two legs with two switches in each leg.

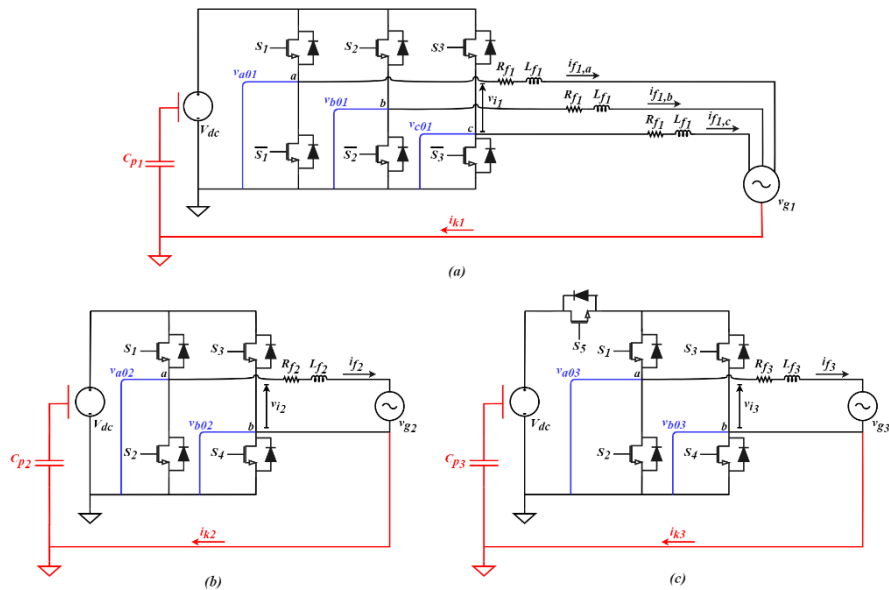


Figure 1

Power electronics devices used in this study: (a) three-phase two-level inverter, (b) single-phase full-bridge inverter, and (c) H5 inverter

The H5 inverter in Figure 1(c) is a modified version of the full-bridge inverter proposed by SMA Solar Technology [30]. In this modified version, one more switch (S_5) is added to disconnect the DC source (e.g., PV system) from the utility grid during the zero operation modes, which results in reducing the leakage current, i_k [31]. For system modeling, each inverter is connected to a DC source to represent the generator. Also, each inverter is connected to the grid through an inductor filter L_f , as shown in Figure 1.

The system modeling of each inverter (Figure 1) in case of grid-connected mode can be derived as

$$v_i = v_g + v_f + R_f i_f \quad (1)$$

where v_i is the inverter output voltage, v_f is the inductor voltage, and v_g is the grid voltage. i_f is the current flows between the inverter and utility grid. Using the filter inductor current dynamical equation,

$$v_f = L_f \frac{di_f}{dt} \quad (2)$$

the continuous-time state-space model of the systems is

$$\frac{di_f}{dt} = \frac{1}{L_f} (v_i - v_g - R_f i_f) \quad (3)$$

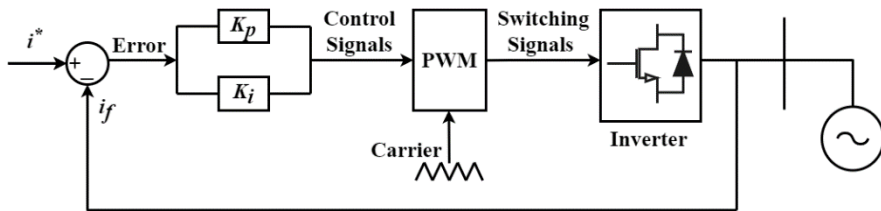


Figure 2

Proportional-integral control block diagram

Whether the inverter is a single- or three-phase, the continuous-time state-space equation can be used for modeling all power electronics devices in Figure 1.

3 Controllers Modeling

3.1 Proportional-Integral Control

The classical pulse width modulation (PWM) PI control method is a well-known technique for controlling the output current or voltage of the power electronics devices [32-34]. Figure 2 shows the basic principle of the PWM PI control for controlling the inverter output current. First, the measured current is used as a feedback in closed-loop control. Then, an error between the measured and reference values is fed to the PI controller, which produces the controlling signals. Finally, a PWM generator is used to produce the appropriate switching signals to the inverter. References [32] and [33] explain the implementation of the PI controller for both the single-phase full-bridge and H5 inverters, respectively. The PI controller using the PWM technique for the three-phase two-level inverter is presented in [34]. In this work, the control techniques in [32-34] are used to implement the PI control for all three inverters (Figure 1).

3.2 Finite Control Set Model Predictive Control

FCS-MPC is a finite moving-horizon optimal control method that uses the system model and local measurements for future values prediction of the controlled parameters. Figure 3 illustrates the FCS-MPC working principle [35]. First, the discrete-time model of the system is obtained. Then, the inverter output measurements are used with the system model to predict the controlled future values. Afterward, the error between the reference and future values is minimized using a cost function. Finally, switching signals are generated by the controller and sent to the inverter. FCS-MPC generates the switching signals internally

based on space vector modulation (SVM) technique. Tables 1, 2, and 3 explain the SVM for the three-phase two-level, single-phase full-bridge, and H5 inverters, respectively.

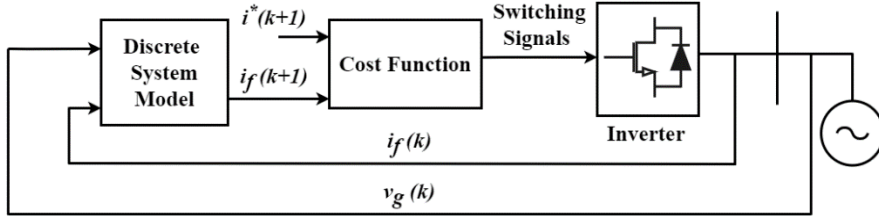


Figure 3

Finite control set model predictive control block diagram

Table 1 shows the upper switches S_1 , S_2 , and S_3 which control the three-phase two-level inverters while the lower ones are switched conversely.

3.2.1 FCS-MPC Current Control for Three-phase Two-level Inverter

FCS-MPC for the three-phase two-level inverter is implemented in abc or $\alpha\beta$ reference frames. Since the latter reduces the mathematical operations performed by the controller [36], FCS-MPC is implemented in the $\alpha\beta$ reference frame for the three-phase two-level inverter in this work. The transformation from abc to $\alpha\beta$ is obtained using Clarke's transformation as

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_\alpha \\ x_\beta \end{bmatrix} = \frac{2}{3} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -\frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} \\ 0 & \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} & -\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_a \\ x_b \\ x_c \end{bmatrix} \quad (4)$$

using (3) in (4), yields

$$\frac{di_{f1,\alpha}}{dt} = \frac{1}{L_{f1}} (v_{i1,\alpha} - v_{g1,\alpha} - R_{f1} i_{f1,\alpha}) \quad (5a)$$

$$\frac{di_{f1,\beta}}{dt} = \frac{1}{L_{f1}} (v_{i1,\beta} - v_{g1,\beta} - R_{f1} i_{f1,\beta}) \quad (5b)$$

where the notation 1 refers to the three-phase two-level inverter parameters (Figure 1). The discrete-time model of (5a) and (5b) can be obtained using the Euler forward method to approximate the derivative [37].

$$\frac{dx}{dt} \approx \frac{x(k) - x(k-1)}{T_s} \quad (6)$$

Where $x(k)$ is the present value, $x(k-1)$ is the previous value, and T_s is the sampling time. Applying (6) to (5a) and (5b), the discrete-time model of the system is

$$i_{f_{1,\alpha}}(k+1) = i_{f_{1,\alpha}}(k) + \frac{T_s}{L_{f_1}} (v_{i_{1,\alpha}}(k) - v_{g_{1,\alpha}}(k) - R_{f_1} i_{f_{1,\alpha}}(k)) \quad (7a)$$

$$i_{f_{1,\beta}}(k+1) = i_{f_{1,\beta}}(k) + \frac{T_s}{L_{f_1}} (v_{i_{1,\beta}}(k) - v_{g_{1,\beta}}(k) - R_{f_1} i_{f_{1,\beta}}(k)) \quad (7b)$$

Table 1

Space Vector Modulation of Three-phase Two-level Inverter

State	S_1	S_2	S_3	v_{i1}
0	0	0	0	0
1	0	0	1	$\frac{2}{3}V_{dc} \angle 0$
2	0	1	1	$\frac{2}{3}V_{dc} \angle 60$
3	0	1	0	$\frac{2}{3}V_{dc} \angle 120$
4	1	1	0	$\frac{2}{3}V_{dc} \angle 180$
5	1	0	0	$\frac{2}{3}V_{dc} \angle 240$
6	1	0	1	$\frac{2}{3}V_{dc} \angle 300$
7	1	1	1	0

Table 2

Space Vector Modulation of Single-phase Full-bridge Inverter

State	S_1	S_2	S_3	S_4	v_{i2}
0	1	0	0	1	V_{dc}
1	1	0	1	0	0
2	0	1	1	0	$-V_{dc}$
3	0	1	0	1	0

Table 3

Space Vector Modulation of H5 Inverter

State	S_1	S_2	S_3	S_4	S_5	v_{i3}
0	1	0	0	1	1	V_{dc}
1	1	0	0	0	0	0
2	0	1	1	0	1	$-V_{dc}$
3	0	0	1	0	0	0

The output current future value of the three-phase two-level inverter is predicted by (7a) and (7b). The present values measurements $v_{g_1}(k)$ and $i_{f_1}(k)$ along with the inverter voltage $v_{i_1}(k)$ are used to predict the output current future value. Since $v_{i_1}(k)$ can be one of the eight values (Table 1), that will result in eight

future values for the predicted current. Therefore, the cost function (8) is used to investigate each voltage vector and select the one that produces the lowest error between the reference current ($i^*(k+1)$) and the predicted values. Once the optimal vector is selected, the related switching signals are sent to the inverter. This control procedure occurs in every sampling period T_s .

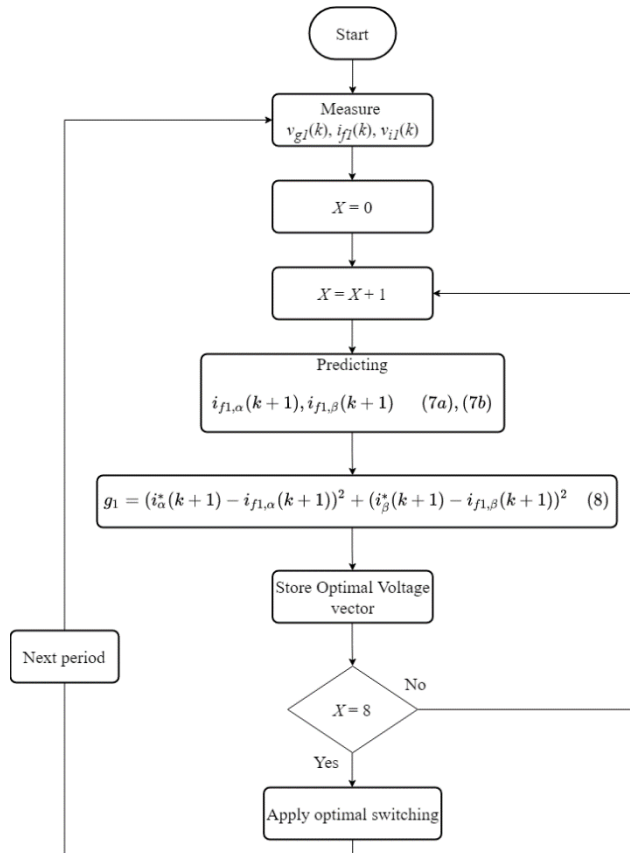


Figure 4

Flowchart of Finite control set model predictive for Three-phase Two-level Inverter

Figure 4 illustrates the algorithm process of the FCS-MPC for Three-phase Two-level Inverter.

$$g_1 = (i_{\alpha}^*(k+1) - i_{f_{1,\alpha}}(k+1))^2 + (i_{\beta}^*(k+1) - i_{f_{1,\beta}}(k+1))^2 \quad (8)$$

3.2.2 FCS-MPC Current Control for Single-Phase Full-Bridge and H5 Inverters

Since full-bridge and H5 are single-phase inverters, there is no need for using any transformation process. Therefore, the discrete-time model for both inverters can be directly derived from (3) using (6) which result in

$$i_{f_{2,3}}(k+1) = i_{f_{2,3}}(k) + \frac{T_s}{L_{f_{2,3}}} (v_{i_{2,3}}(k) - v_{g_{2,3}}(k) - R_{f_{2,3}} i_{f_{2,3}}(k)) \quad (9)$$

where thenotations 2 and 3 refer to full-bridge and H5 inverters parameters, respectively (Figure 1). Since the full-bridge and H5 inverters have four states as it is illustrated in Tables 2 and 3, there will be four future values of the predicted current for both inverters. Smellier to (8), the cost function (10) is used to determine the optimal voltage vector.

$$g_{2,3} = (i^*(k+1) - i_{f_{2,3}}(k+1))^2 \quad (10)$$

3.2.3 Second Step Prediction

As mentioned previously, FCS-MPC is optimal control and requires solving a large number of mathematical equations. As a result, a time-delay might occur while the controller solves the optimization problems and performs the control actions within one sampling period [38]. Therefore, a second step prediction $x(k+2)$ is preferred over the first step $x(k+1)$. To predict the second step of the controlled variables, the first step prediction should be obtained first (11a). Then, the first step prediction is used to predict the second step (11b).

$$i_f(k+1) = i_f(k) + \frac{T_s}{L_f} (v_i(k) - v_g(k) - R_f i_f(k)) \quad (11a)$$

$$i_f(k+2) = i_f(k+1) + \frac{T_s}{L_f} (v_i(k) - v_g(k+1) - R_f i_f(k+1)) \quad (11b)$$

As the grid frequency is much smaller than the sampling frequency, it can be considered [39].

$$v_g(k+1) = v_g(k) \quad (12)$$

Therefore, (11b) can be written as

$$i_f(k+2) = i_f(k+1) + \frac{T_s}{L_f} (v_i(k) - v_g(k) - R_f i_f(k+1)) \quad (13)$$

and the cost functions (8) and (10) are modified as

$$g_1 = (i_\alpha^*(k+2) - i_{f_{1,\alpha}}(k+2))^2 + (i_\beta^*(k+2) - i_{f_{1,\beta}}(k+2))^2 \quad (14)$$

$$g_{2,3} = (i^*(k+2) - i_{f_{2,3}}(k+2))^2 \quad (15)$$

4 Common-Mode Voltage

CMV is the potential between the source and load neutral point. In the case of using a grounded DC source, the common-mode voltage can cause a large leakage current i_k (Figure 1) flows between the DC source and the grid through a parasitic capacitor, which causes safety hazards and reduces the overall efficiency [31]. The common-mode voltage for the three-phase two-level inverter is calculated as in (16) while (17) is used to determine the common-mode voltage for both full-bridge and H5 inverters [40] (Figure 1).

$$v_{cm_1} = \frac{v_{a0_1} + v_{b0_1} + v_{c0_1}}{3} \quad (16)$$

$$v_{cm_{2,3}} = \frac{v_{a0_{2,3}} + v_{b0_{2,3}}}{2} \quad (17)$$

5 Simulation Results and Case Studies

Three case studies were conducted to compare FCS-MPC and PI control performances on three different PEDs which are the single-phase full-bridge, H5, and three-phase two-level inverters (Figure 1). The three systems of were simulated using PSCAD/EMTDC platform. The comparison of the controllers' performance is based on five indicators:

- switching frequency (f_s),
- total harmonic distortion (THD),
- steady-state error (SSE),
- common-mode voltage (CMV), and
- leakage current (i_k).

Based on these five indicators, case study 1 investigates the performance of the two controllers on the single-phase full-bridge inverter while case studies 2 and 3 investigate the controllers' performance on H5 and three-phase two-level inverters, respectively. As it is known that the FCS-MPC average switching frequency ($f_{s,MPC}$) is not constant. Therefore, $f_{s,MPC}$ was set to be lower or equal to the PI controller switching frequency ($f_{s,PI}$) to present fair comparisons. In other words, the average switching frequency of FCS-MPC does not exceed the PI controller switching frequency at any operating point. The parameters values of the three systems are provided in Table 4. The PI switching frequency was set to 3.6 kHz. The sampling time values of FCS-MPC for three-phase, single-phase full-bridge, and H5 inverters were set to 50, 40, and 45 μ sec, respectively.

Since the grid voltage was set to 380 V, the acceptable THD at the grid side should not exceed 8% [41].

5.1 Case Study 1: Single-Phase Full-Bridge Current Control

In this case study, PWM PI and FCS-MPC control strategies were implemented to control the single-phase full-bridge inverter's output current. Figure 5 shows the two controllers' resultant switching frequency (f_s), common-mode voltage (CMV), and leakage current (i_k) to the reference current (i^*) where the horizontal axis represents i^* , and the vertical axis represents the responses of f_s , CMV, and i_k . It should be noted that the reference current value increased from 0 to 1 p.u.

Table 4
Systems Parameters

Parameter	Symbol	Value
DC-link Voltage	V_{dc}	1 kV
Filter Inductance	L_{f_1}	3 mH
ESR of L_{f_1}	R_{f_1}	0.04 Ω
Filter Inductance	$L_{f_{2,3}}$	5 mH
ESR of $L_{f_{2,3}}$	$R_{f_{2,3}}$	0.05 Ω
Parasitic Capacitor	C_{p_1}	100 μF
Parasitic Capacitor	$C_{p_{2,3}}$	500 μF
Utility Grid Voltage	V_{g1}	380 $V_{LL,RMS}$
Utility Grid Voltage	$V_{g_{2,3}}$	380 $V_{LG,RMS}$
Grid Frequency	f_{grid}	60 Hz

The average switching frequency of the FCS-MPC was set to be similar or lower than the classic PI controller switching frequency. Figure 5 illustrates that the $f_{s,MPC}$ does not exceed $f_{s,PI}$ at all operating points, resulting in a fair comparison in the other four performance indicators, which are CMV, i_k , THD, and SSE. Since the CMV may increase the i_k flowing in the system, reducing CMV mitigates the i_k effect. In Figure 5, the FCS-MPC shows superiority over PI control in terms of CMV and i_k . As shown in Figure 5, the resultant common-mode voltage of the FCS-MPC is maintained at a lower point around 0.4 p.u. compared to the PI controller at 0.5 p.u. It is clear that FCS-MPC reduces the leakage current by more than 100% compared to the linear controller at law reference value reaching around 50% of leakage current reduction at 1 p.u. This performance improvement using FCS-MPC occurred since the controller

eliminates the PI regulators and external modulators, and instead, it implements the SVM technique by considering a finite number of controlling vectors. Regarding THD, both FCS-MPC and PI show an almost similar response at high reference values while there is a very slight increase in the FCS-MPC's THD at lower operating points. This is closely related to the decrease of $f_{s,MPC}$ at low reference values. However, PI control shows a better SSE performance by almost 0.1% reduction at all operating points (Figure 6).

5.2 Case Study 2: H5 Current Control

In this case study, the system was reconfigured with H5 inverter to assess the FCS-MPC performance compared to the linear PI controller. The reference current had increased from 0 to 1 p.u. to examine the system response by assessing f_s , CMV, i_k , SSE, and THD.

It is clear that H5 inverter reduces the leakage current compared to the single-phase full-bridge (Figures 5 and 7) since H5 prevent the freewheeling current in the zero modes operation.

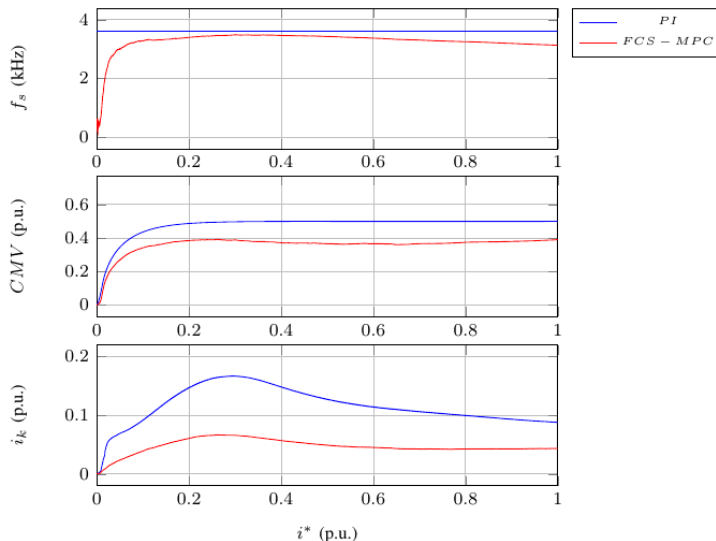


Figure 5

Single-phase full-bridge current control results: switching frequency (f_s), common-mode voltage (CMV), and leakage current (i_k)

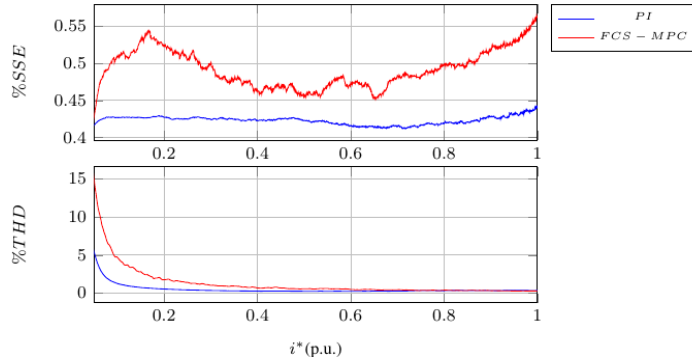


Figure 6

Single-phase full-bridge current control results: steady-state error (SSE), and total harmonics distortion (THD)

Figure 7. Shows that $f_{s,MPC}$ is lower than $f_{s,PI}$ during the whole simulation period. Figure 7 shows that the system performance is enhanced with FCS-MPC, there is a noticeable decrease in both common-mode voltage, and leakage current of the FCS-MPC compared to the classic controller. At lower reference values, FCS-MPC is capable of reducing the CMV by around 0.1 p.u. while it reduces the leakage current by 0.6 p.u. At higher operating points, both controllers result in almost similar CMV and leakage current.

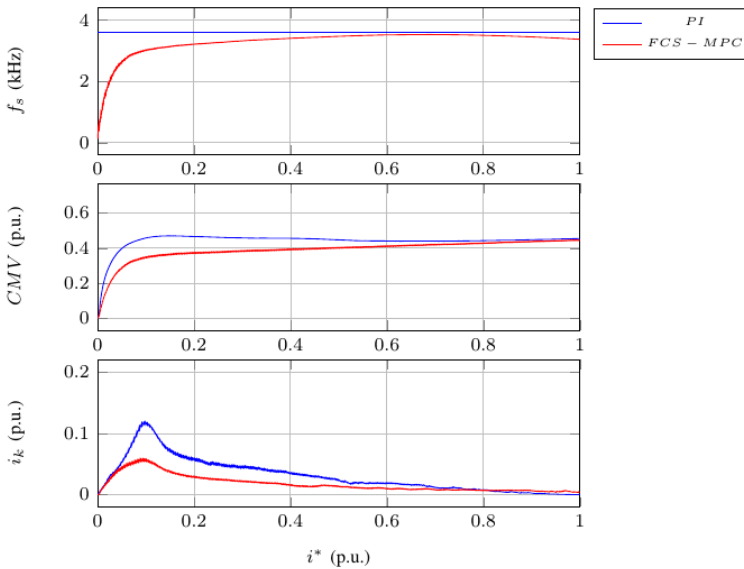


Figure 7

H5 current control results: switching frequency (f_s), common-mode voltage (CMV), and leakage current (i_k)

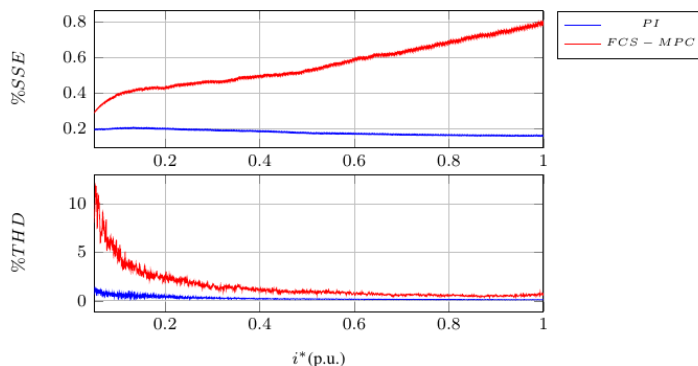


Figure 8

H5 current control results: steady-state error (SSE), and total harmonics distortion (THD)

On the other hand, PI provides a slight less THD by 0.4% compared to 2% of FCS-MPC at small reference values while both controllers result in almost similar THD at large reference values (Figure 8). In addition, PI has a fixed SSE at 0.2% compared to the FCS-MPC's SSE, which is increase from 0.4% at low operating points reaching 0.8% at 1p.u. reference value.

5.3 Case Study 3: Three-Phase Two-Level Inverter Current Control

A three-phase full-bridge inverter was implemented in the following scenario to study the performance of the FCS-MPC compared to the classic PI controller by increasing the reference current significantly from 0 to 1 p.u. It is clear from Figure 9 that the system performance is enhanced by FCS-MPC, where the leakage current is significantly reduced by 50% of the PI leakage current. Another improvement is presented when the common-mode voltage is declined by 0.2 p.u. compared to PI at low operating points as shown in Figure 9. It can be observed from the Figures 9 and 9 the system response has improved with FCS-MPC compared to PI controller; However, there is an acceptable increase in the THD and SSE in both cases FCS-MPC Figure 10.

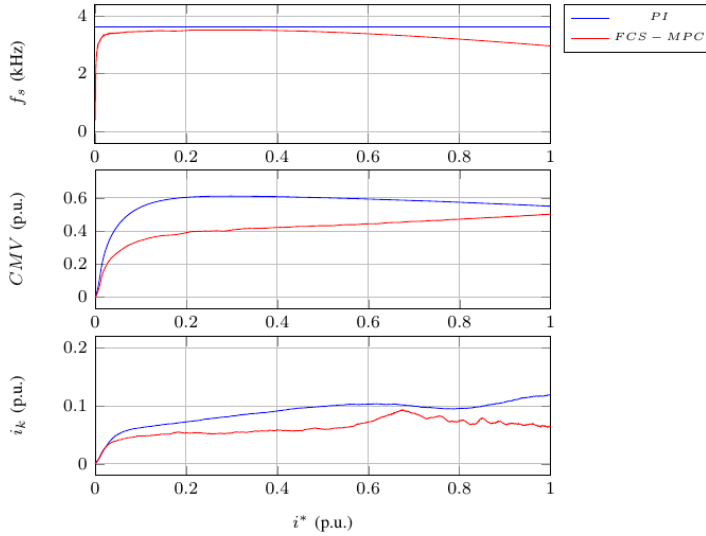


Figure 9

Three-phase two-level Inverter current control results: switching frequency (f_s), common-mode voltage (CMV), and leakage current (i_k)

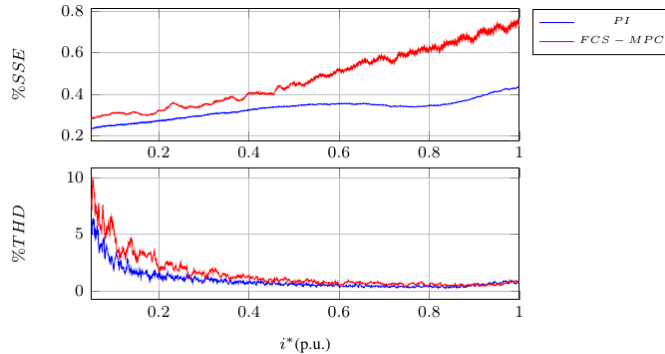


Figure 10

Three-phase two-level Inverter current control results: steady-state error (SSE), and total harmonics distortion (THD)

Conclusions

Among all control techniques, FSC-MPC getting more attention lately for controlling power electronics devices. In this paper, finite control set model predictive control has been compared with the proportional-integral pulse width modulation control for controlling grid-connected power electronics devices. The average switching frequency of the FSC-MPC is adjusted to be below the PI switching frequency for making a proper comparative study. It is evidenced that

FSC-MPC strategy is capable of controlling the grid-tied inverters with superior performance compared to the PI control. It is found that FSC-MPC produces lower common-mode voltage, especially at lower operation points. Moreover, a significant reduction of the leakage current comes to more than 100% in some cases using FSC-MPC. On the other hand, PI control results in lower SSE and THD in all cases, however, FSC-MPC produces SSE and THD with acceptable limits.

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