

HARMONICS MITIGATION USING HYBRID FILTER

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Abstract- Nowadays with the advancement of technology, the demand for electrical power is increasing at an exponential rate. Many consumer appliances demand consistent quality power for their operation. The performance of the end-user equipment depends heavily on the quality of power supplied to it. But the quality of power delivered to the end-user is affected by various external and internal factors such as voltage and frequency variations, faults, outages, etc. These power quality problems reduce the lifespan and efficiency of the equipment. Thus, these problems should be minimized to enhance the performance of the consumer equipment and also to enhance the overall performance of the system. The main effect caused by these problems is the production of harmonics. This results in the overheating of the equipment, insulation failure and over speeding of induction motors, etc. The solution for eliminating these problems is to filter the harmonics from the system. For this purpose, there are many filter topologies present within the paper. A hybrid filter has been studied in this paper which is a combination of series active filter and shunt passive filter. This paper presents the control strategy to regulate the filter in such a way that the harmonics are reduced. The proposed control strategy is simulated in MATLAB SIMULINK and therefore the results are presented.

1. INTRODUCTION

Electrical energy is the most effective and popular sort of energy, therefore modern society depends on the electrical supply. Life can't be imagined without electricity. At an equivalent time, the standard of the electrical power supply plays an important role in the efficient functioning of user equipment. The term power quality became most prominent within both the power sector and the electrical power supply company, therefore the end-users are concerned about it [1]. The standard of power delivered to the consumers depends on the voltage and frequency ranges. If there is any deviation within the voltage and frequency of the electrical power delivered from that of the standard values then the quality of power delivered is affected. Nowadays with the advancement in technology, there is a drastic improvement within semiconductor devices. With this development and advantages, the semi-conductor devices got a permanent place within the power sector helping to ease the control of the overall system. Moreover, in an electrical power system, most of the loads are semiconductor-based equipment. But semi-conducting devices are non-linear and draw non-linear current from the source. And semiconductor devices are also involved in power conversion, which can be either AC to DC or DC to AC. This power conversion contains a lot of switching operations which can introduce discontinuity within the current. This discontinuity and non-linearity produce harmonics in the power system which ultimately affects the quality of power delivered to the user. So to maintain the quality of power delivered, the harmonics should be eliminated. Thus, a device named filter is employed which eliminates the harmonics also filters are used to remove the problems caused by harmonics. There are several filter topologies such as active, passive, and hybrid. Traditionally, passive filters are used, but they depend heavily on system parameters. They also have resonance problems with system impedance and are suitable for filtering out harmonics at a particular frequency. Therefore, to overcome the problems of passive filters, active filters are used, but it is found that active filters are facing some drawbacks when used to improve power quality such as high converter ratings are required, high cost as compared to passive filter, larger size, and increased losses. Therefore, to overcome these shortcomings, a hybrid power filter is proposed which is a combination of active and passive filters [3]. This paper discusses how combining both active and passive filters is an economical solution for improving power quality. The theory proposed in this paper has been validated by simulating it in a MATLAB SIMULINK environment. The proposed control strategy is simulated for unbalanced load conditions.

2. POWER QUALITY

Power quality is usually defined as the ability of the power grid to supply clean and steady power flows in the form of a consistently available power supply. Electric current must have a pure sinusoidal wave form and must remain within specified voltage and frequency tolerances.

2.1 Power Quality Problems

The quality of power is affected when there is any variation in the voltage, current or frequency [6]. The common problems that affect the sensitivity of the equipment are - power surges, transients, frequency variation, electrical line noise, brownouts or blackouts, power system faults and improper grounding affect. The main effect caused by these problems is the production of harmonics. The presence of harmonics degrades the power quality and may damage the end user equipment. These harmonics causes the heating of underground cables, insulation failure, reduces the lifespan of the equipment, increases the losses etc.

2.2 Solutions to Power Quality Problems

The most effective solution to enhance the power quality is the use of filters to reduce the harmonics. The fundamental idea of employing a filter is shown in Fig. 2.1, where the filter injects a compensating current that compensates the harmonics in load current. There are different filter topologies within the literature such as-

active, passive, hybrid. The passive power filters are used to filter a specific order harmonics and has the problem of parallel resonance. Another solution is the use of Active Power Filter (APF). There are different kinds of APF like series APF, shunt APF. The shunt APF is expensive and is not used for large systems. The series APF works as a harmonic isolator which reduces the negative-sequence voltage [2]. There is another filter topology which is a combination of passive filter and APF referred as Hybrid Filter.

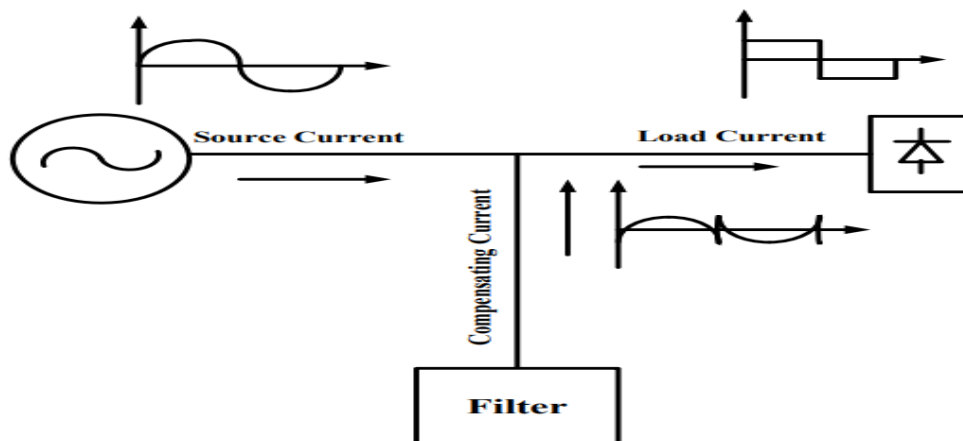


Fig. 2.1 Basic Operation of Filter

3. FILTER CLASSIFICATION

Filters are classified into three basic types. They are active filter, passive filter and hybrid filter. Each type has its own sub classification. Fig. 3.1 shows the detailed classification of the filters.

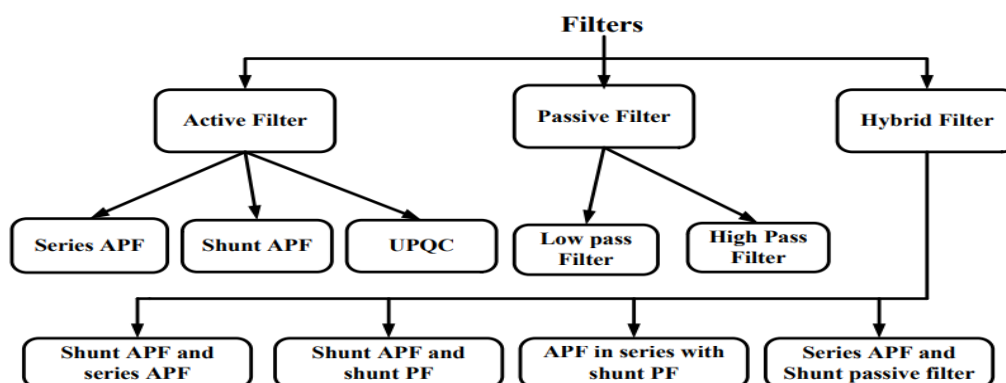


Fig. 3.1 Classification of Filters

3.1 Passive Filter

These filters contain passive elements like- capacitor, inductor and resistor. These filters are mostly used because of their low cost and ease of control. Passive filters provide reactive power in addition to filtering out harmonics. The performance of these filters depends on the system impedance. These filters are again classified into two types- low pass and high pass. But there are some disadvantages with passive filter, like - the filter characteristics has a strong dependence on the system impedance, the possibility of overload in the passive filter due to the harmonic current circulation generating from power electronic loads, the change of the load impedance can detune the filter, so it is not suitable for variable loads. The problem of series and/or parallel resonances can be originated which causes unstable operation, limited operation, that is used to eliminate either a particular order or fewer harmonics and component aging. Due to these disadvantages, the passive filters cannot provide an effective solution to enhance the quality of the power system. Thus, active power filters are employed to overcome these drawbacks.

3.2 Active Filter

To overcome the drawback of passive filter, active compensation known as Active Power Filter (APF) is used. APF is a voltage source inverter (VSI) that injects compensating current or voltage depending on the network configuration. It was proposed around 1970. But the recent advancement in power electronics technology [2], along with the theory of instantaneous active and reactive power which was presented in 1983, APFs are an up-to-date solution with fast switching devices, low power loss, and fast digital processing equipment at an affordable cost. Depending on the circuit configuration and function, APF's are divided into three types – shunt active power filter, series active power filter, and unified power quality conditioner (UPQC).

3.3 Hybrid Filter

Active power filters are a better solution for improving power quality but they require a higher converter rating. So to overcome this drawback, hybrid filters are designed. The hybrid filter is a combination of both active and

passive filters. These filters have the advantage of both active and passive filters. There are different types of hybrid filters depending on the circuit combination and arrangement. They are –

- Shunt APF and Series APF
- Shunt APF and Shunt Passive Filter
- APF in series with Shunt Passive Filter
- Series APF with Shunt Passive Filter

4. DESIGN OF HYBRID FILTER

Filters are used to reduce the harmonics and improve the power quality. The filter attached to the system must be effectively controlled so that its response characteristics are desired. Among all the different available filter configurations, a hybrid power filter with series APF and a parallel passive filter is used in this paper. The control circuit of the series-connected APF is designed in such a way that the voltage injected by the APF, which compensates harmonics and also enhances the performance of the shunt-connected passive filter. The control strategy of the hybrid power filter is explained in detail in this paper. The series APF is realized as a voltage source inverter (VSI) used to improve power quality [8]. It can be a three-phase VSI or three single-phase VSI can also be used. VSI is connected in series with the source impedance through a coupling transformer. The circuit diagram is shown in Fig. 4.1. A capacitor is used at the input of the VSI to provide constant input voltage to VSI. A passive filter is also connected at the PCC (Point of Common Coupling). This filter is used to eliminate higher-order harmonics [9] [10]. In certain cases, there may be two or more LC branches used to eliminate specific order harmonics (especially 5th and 7th). Also, a ripple filter is used in series with VSI. The filter parameters are selected in such a way that they do not exceed the transformer burden. Thus, with an efficient control strategy, APF compensates for voltage imbalance and distortion. The control strategy is designed in such a way that the series APF acts as a balanced resistive load on the overall system with the passive filter. In a four-wire system, the harmonic currents circulating in the neutral wire are also reduced due to the series APF.

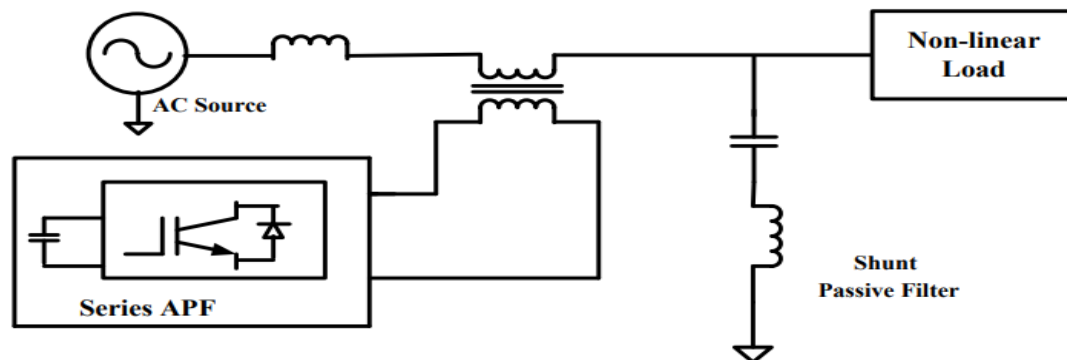


Fig. 4.1 Basic configuration of hybrid filter

5. SIMULATION AND RESULTS

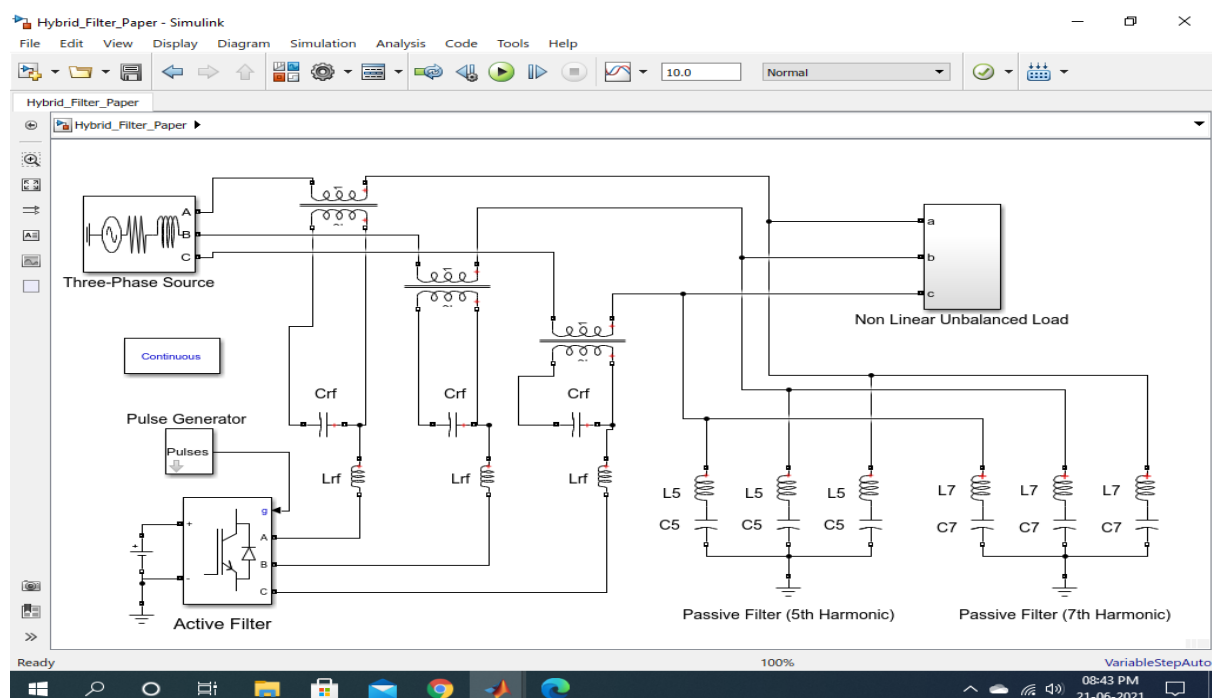


Fig.-5.1 Simulation Diagram with non-linear unbalanced load

The proposed control strategy is simulated with a non-linear unbalanced load shown in Fig 5.1 and the performance of the system is observed. The system data is given in Table – 5.1.

Table 5.1 System Parameters

System Parameter	Value
Voltage	100 V
Switching Frequency	20 KHz
Source Inductance	5.8 mH
Source Resistance	3.6Ω
Turns Ratio of Coupling Transformer	1:1

The series APF is connected through a coupling transformer whose turn’s ratio is 1:1. A passive filter is connected at PCC to eliminate fifth and seventh-order harmonics. Ripple filter is also connected at the output of the VSI (Voltage Source Inverter). The values of these filters are given in Table – 5.2.

Table 5.2 Filter Parameters

Filter Parameter	Value
L ₅	13.5 mH
C ₅	30 μF
L ₇	6.75 mH
C ₇	30 μF
L _{rf}	13.5 mH
C _{rf}	50 μF

The power system may experience unbalanced load conditions sometimes. Thus, the behavior of the proposed control strategy is analyzed by simulating it under unbalanced loading conditions. Here an unbalanced load is created by connecting three single-phase uncontrolled rectifiers with capacitor and resistor in parallel on the DC side. The load values are given in Table – 5.3.

Table 5.3 Load Values

Phase	C	R
Phase a	2200μF	16.67Ω
Phase b	2200μF	25Ω
Phase c	2200μF	50Ω

The filter impedance should be less than the system impedance for effective filtering. The simulation is carried out under two conditions- with the actual system parameters and by increasing the impedance of the LC filter more than the source impedance.

5.1 With the Actual System Parameters

The proposed control strategy is simulated with actual system parameters given in Table-5.2, filter parameters given in Table-5.3 with unbalanced load values given in Table-5.4. Fig. 5.2 shows the source current waveform without any compensation. From the waveform, it is clear that there many harmonics present in the system. Fig.5.4 shows the source current waveform with a passive filter. Thus, to reduce these harmonics, APF is connected, and then the source current is changed as shown in Fig. 5.6. So it is clear from Fig. 5.6 that the three-phase source

current is almost sinusoidal. Hence, the system performance is enhanced by connecting the APF under unbalanced load conditions.

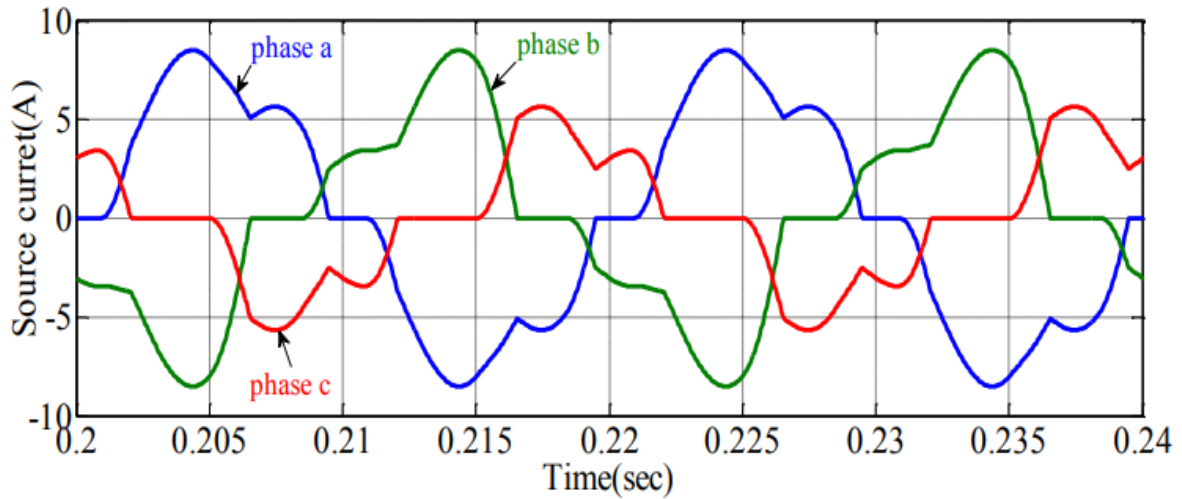


Fig.-5.2 Source Current without any Compensation

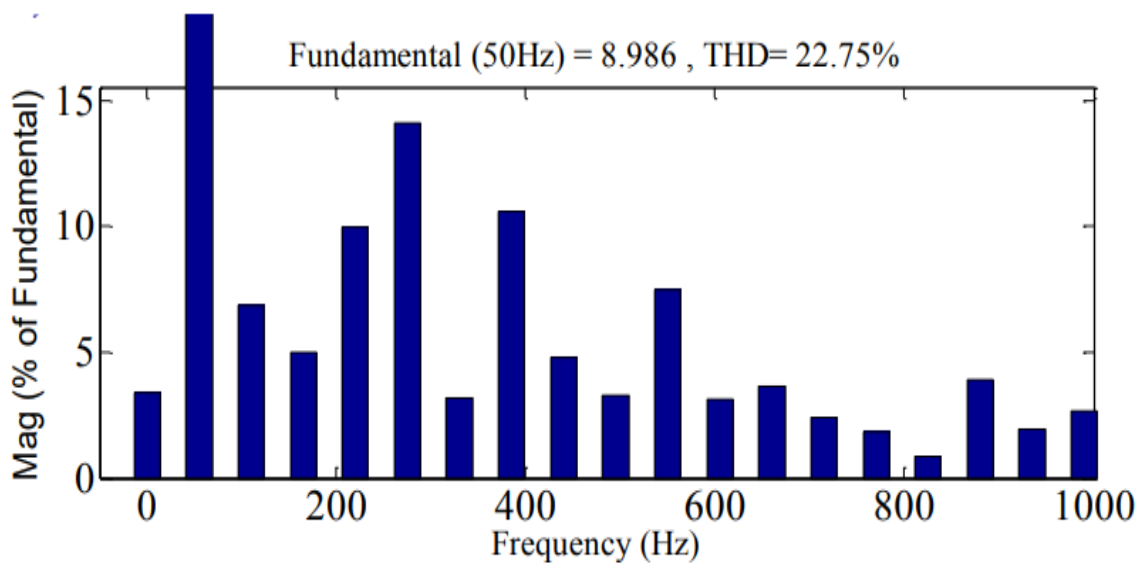


Fig.-5.3 THD of Source Current without any Compensation

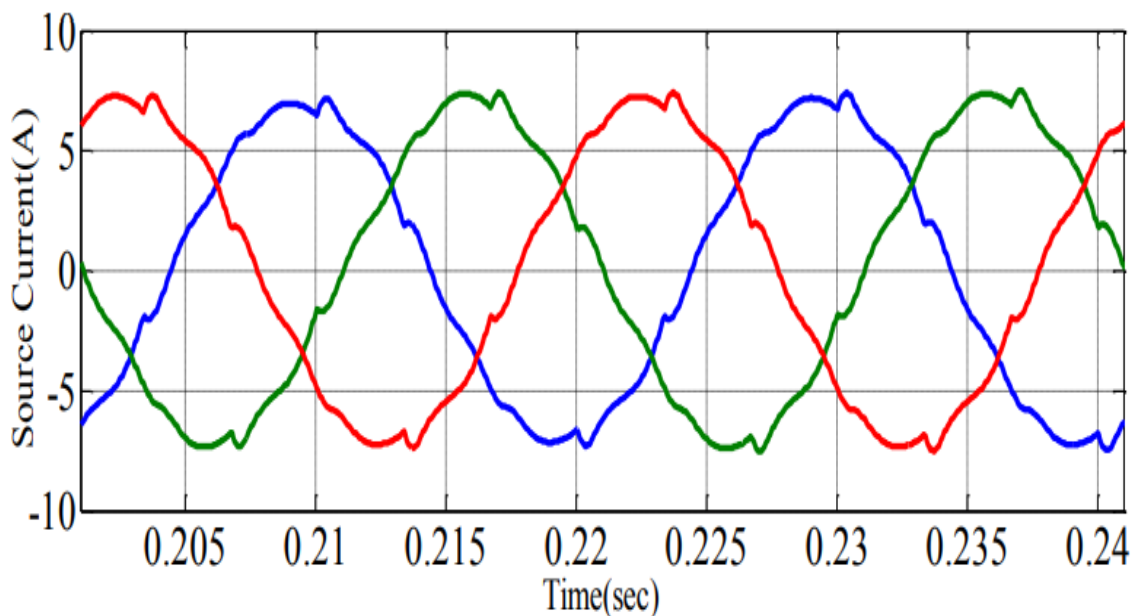


Fig.-5.4 Source Current with Passive filter

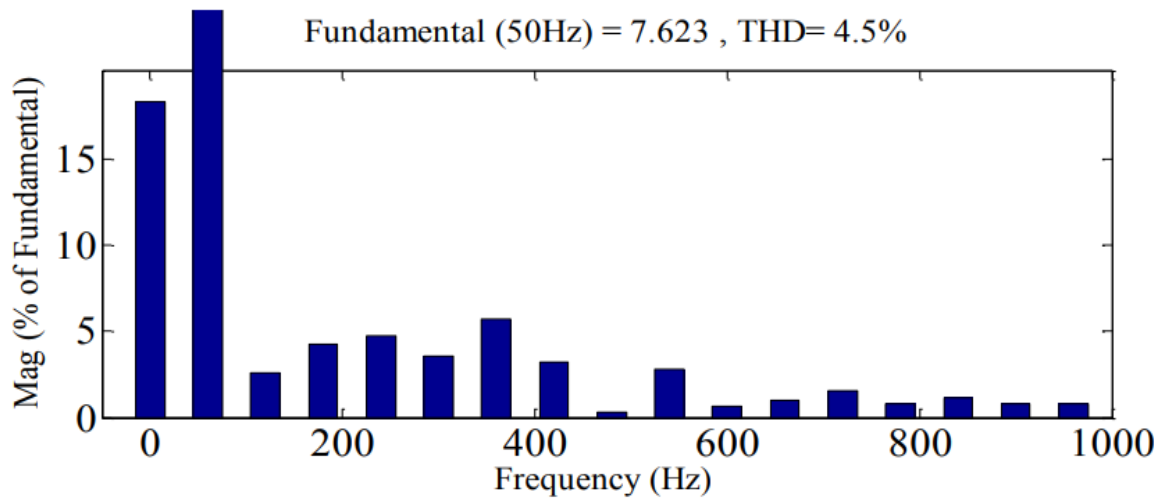


Fig.-5.5 THD of Source Current with Passive filter

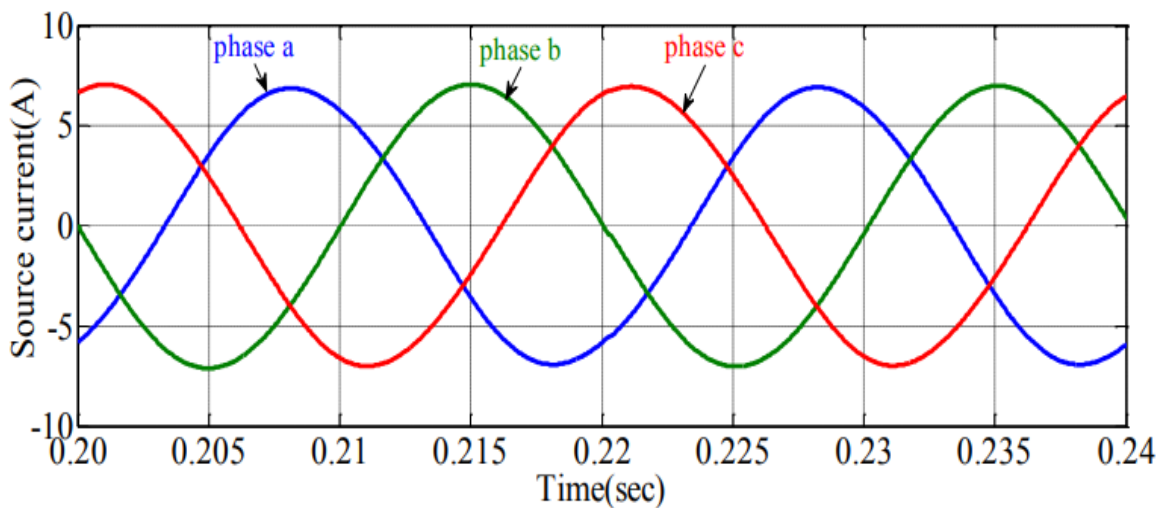


Fig.-5.6 Source Current with Hybrid filter

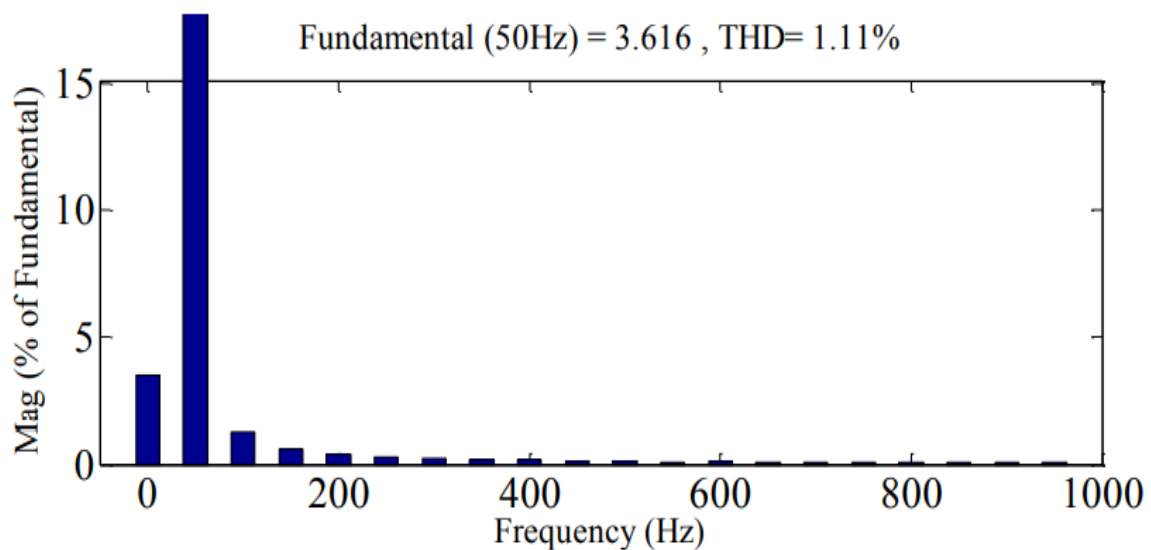


Fig.-5.7 THD of Source Current with Hybrid filter

5.2 When the Source Impedance is Changed

The source impedance of the system is reduced from its previous value given in Table-5.1 and the new values are- $L_s = 2.34$ mH and $R_s = 1.3 \Omega$. The simulation results are presented in Fig. 5.8. As in balanced load conditions, even under unbalance conditions the system behavior is affected if the source impedance is less than the filter impedance. So the filter design should be done in such a way that the filter impedance is always less than the source impedance.

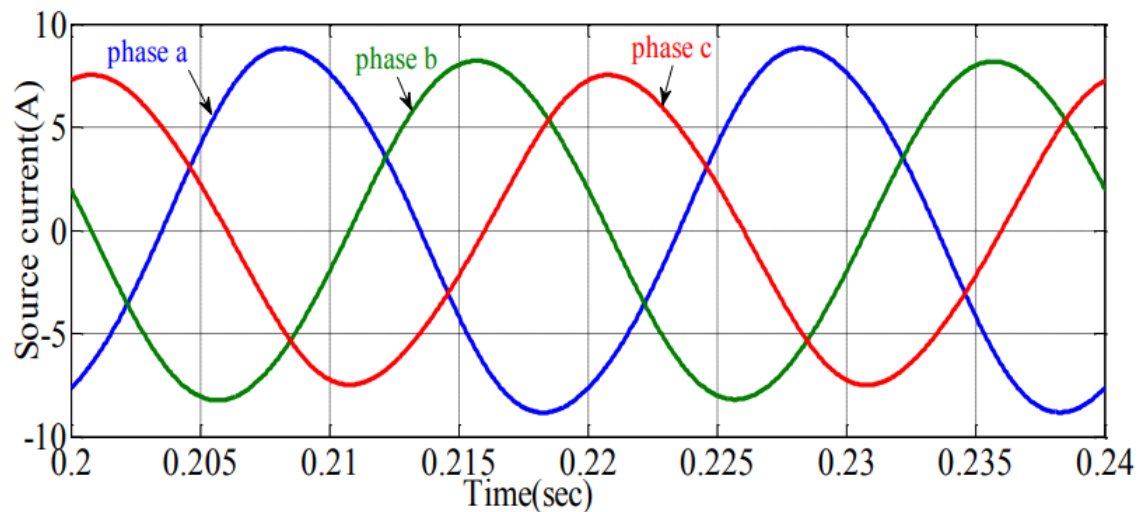


Fig.-5.8 Source Current with Hybrid filter when Source impedance is changed

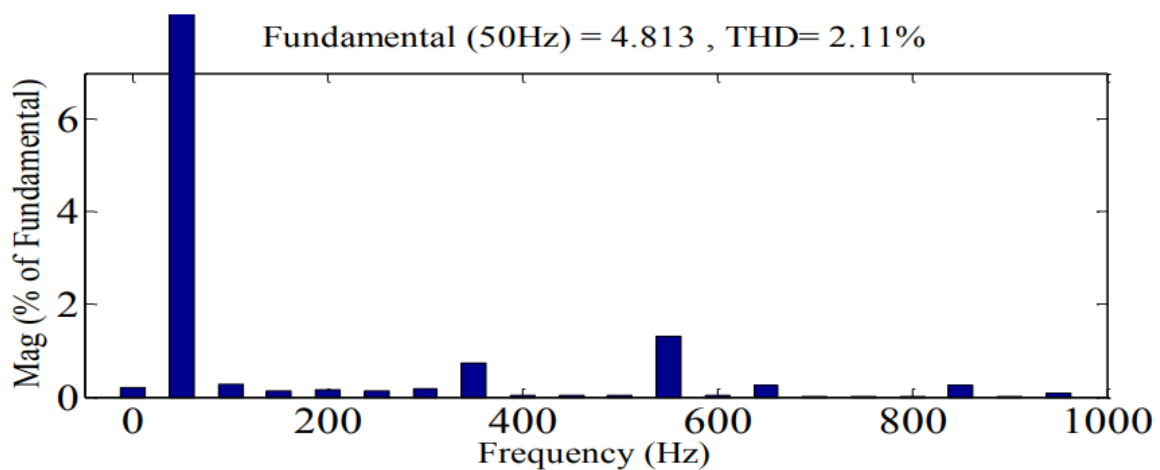


Fig.-5.9 THD of Source Current with Hybrid filter when Source impedance is changed

5.3 Comparative Study under Unbalanced Load Condition

A comparative study of the three-phase source current THD during unbalanced load at various operating conditions, presented in Table-5.4. It is clear from these results that the proposed control strategy works optimally in almost all operating conditions and thus helps in improving the quality of electrical power delivered to the end-user.

Table 5.4 Comparison of source current THD under unbalanced load

CONDITIONS	THD			POWER FACTOR
	Phase a	Phase b	Phase c	
Source current without filter	22.75%	35.0%	37.6%	0.941
Source current with passive filter	4.5%	4.3%	5.1%	0.977
Source current with hybrid filter	1.4%	1.1%	1.3%	0.99
Source current with hybrid filter when source impedance is changed	1.8%	1.5%	2.1%	0.99

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