

Grid Parameter estimation using Model Predictive Direct Power Control

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Abstract – This paper presents a novel Finite Control Set Model Predictive Control (FS-MPC) approach for grid-connected converters. The control performance of such converters may get largely affected by variations in the supply impedance, especially for systems with low Short Circuit Ratio (SCR) values. A novel idea for estimating the supply impedance variation, and hence the grid voltage, using an algorithm embedded in the MPC is presented in this paper. The estimation approach is based on the difference in grid voltage magnitudes at two consecutive sampling instants, calculated on the basis of supply currents and converter voltages directly within the MPC algorithm, achieving a fast estimation and integration between the controller and the impedance estimator. The proposed method has been verified, using simulation and experiments, on a 3-phase 2-level converter.

I. INTRODUCTION

The extended use of Renewable and Distributed Generation (DG) systems in the past decade is widely contributing to modify the old concept of electrical distribution network towards an “active” model where power can flow in any direction [1]. This has demanded an improvement in power electronics systems and control in order to implement systems grid interface, effective and intelligent power flow control and to avoid grid instability [2]. The application of power electronics converters and in particular grid connected technology or Active Front End (AFE) has become a key enabling technology in all renewable and distributed generation systems like, for example, photovoltaic and wind power generation systems [1], [3]. AFE can be also used as active filters where they are connected in parallel or series to a non-linear load and offer reduction in harmonics production [4], [5]. In these scenarios the converter control is a key element to achieve optimal generation systems grid interface, the required power flow and to avoid grid instability [6]. In contrast with traditional control techniques applied to AFE, such as Voltage Oriented Control (VOC) [7] and Direct Power Control (DPC) [8], Finite Control Set Model Predictive Control (MPC) has been recently proved to represent a promising solution to control of power electronics converters. In fact, it provides several advantages including better dynamic response, flexible control action and digital implementation [9], [10], [11]. In particular, several MPC strategies have been proposed in

literature for grid connected converters; some solutions implement just a current control [12], [13], [14], while others investigate a more complete direct power control [5], [15], [16]. In [5],[15], the authors propose a Model Predictive Direct Power Control (MP-DPC) approach; it allows to eliminate the external PI based DC-link voltage controller, hence avoiding windup issues or linearization of the system for proper tuning of the PI controllers. However, as any model based control technique, MP-DPC is sensitive to model parameter variations. In Figure 1, while the converter inductance, L_c , and its parasitic resistance, r , are usually known, the grid parameters (usually inductance dominant, L_s), are unknown and can have highly varying values depending on the grid load conditions. Since MP-DPC is based on the knowledge of model parameters, any small variations in these parameters will disturb performance and stability of the control system.

Variation of transmission line inductance is very common and is due to environmental changes, long distance transmission cables or presence of harmonics generated by variable grid loads, such as DG systems. This variation in supply inductance also affects the ripple on the measured voltage at the Point of Common Coupling (PCC). A mismatched impedance value alongside a distorted PCC voltage, can affect the predictive control performance. Thus, it is important that the variation in supply inductance is taken into account in the control implementation. Also it would be a great advantage if a good online estimation of the supply inductance, L_s , is provided, using that to update the total AC side inductance value in the MP-DPC. Several methods have been proposed in literature for estimation of the supply impedance with both offline and online implementations. In [17], using a Fast Fourier Transform to calculate different harmonic impedances, authors used a voltage transient injection at PCC resulting in a transient variation in current and voltage at the PCC. However, the use of an online FFT algorithm requires a high computational effort. Other grid impedance estimation methods include variations of active and reactive powers [18], or uses a Virtual-Flux based control method to estimate inductance, [19]. An analytic approach for estimation of the coupling inductance in direct power control of active rectifiers is instead proposed in [20] and [21]. The proposed method works on the principle of assuming an equal grid voltage magnitude at two

consecutive sampling instants, [21], [24], and it is integrated within the MPC algorithm. The supply resistance is not considered in this work, since its effect can be considered negligible with respect to the supply inductance which heavily affects the magnitude and phase of the grid voltage, thus reducing the performance of the MPC. However, it is always possible to expand the proposed estimation method to include the supply resistance estimation.

The combination of a finite set MP-DPC and the proposed estimation algorithm results in a high-bandwidth control robust to supply impedance variations without increasing excessively the complexity of the control system.

II. MODEL PREDICTIVE - DPC APPROACH

The equivalent circuit in $\alpha\beta$ reference frame calculated using [25], of the AC side of the AFE system in Figure 1 is shown in Figure 2.

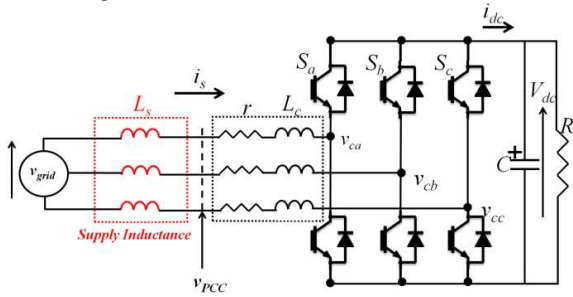


Figure 1. Grid-connected active front-end rectifier

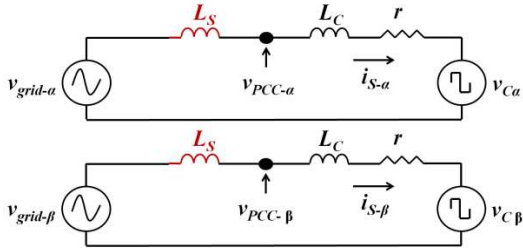


Figure 2. Equivalent AFE model in α and β reference frames

The continuous-time representation for this equivalent circuit is given in (1), while the continuous time model for the system DC side is given in (2).

$$\left[\frac{di_{s-x}}{dt}\right] = [v_{grid-x} - v_{c-x}] \cdot \left(\frac{1}{L}\right) - [i_{s-x}] \cdot \left(\frac{r}{L}\right) \quad (1)$$

$$\frac{dV_{dc}}{dt} = \frac{i_{dc}}{C} - \frac{V_{dc}}{R \cdot C} \quad (2)$$

In (1)-(2) v_{grid} , v_c and V_{dc} are, respectively, grid, converter and DC-link voltage; i_s and i_{dc} are supply and converter DC current, the total inductance L , is the sum of converter filter inductance L_c and supply inductance L_s , r is the converter input filter resistance, R is the load resistance and C is the dc-link capacitance. In order to obtain the desired prediction of the supply current, the current derivative is approximated using the Euler forward method as mentioned in [11]. Since

the MPC works in discrete-time, the following equations represent the discrete-time model of the continuous-time system given in (1) and (2):

$$[i_{s-x}^{k+1}] = [\hat{v}_{grid}^k - v_{c-x}^k] \cdot X + [i_{s-x}^k] \cdot Y \quad (3)$$

$$X = \frac{T_s}{L}, \quad Y = 1 - r \cdot \frac{T_s}{L}, \quad Z = 1 - \frac{T_s}{R \cdot C}, \quad x = \{\alpha, \beta\} \quad (4)$$

$$V_{dc}^{k+1} = \frac{i_{dc}^k}{C} \cdot T_s + V_{dc}^k \cdot Z \quad (5)$$

The predictions are made for a future sampling instant $k+1$, using the information provided at the present instant k . In the practical implementation, due to the calculation time required by the digital control system, a delay of one sampling instant is taken into consideration by making predictions at instant $k+2$. Hence the model becomes:

$$[i_{s-x}^{k+2}] = [\hat{v}_{grid}^{k+1} - v_{c-x}^{k+1}] \cdot X + [i_{s-x}^{k+1}] \cdot Y \quad (6)$$

$$V_{dc-pred}^{k+2} = \frac{i_{dc}^{k+1}}{C} \cdot T_s + V_{dc}^{k+1} \cdot Z \quad (7)$$

where, v_c^{k+1} and i_{dc}^{k+1} are calculated using the optimized switching signals from the predictive controller at the previous sample interval k . Having the supply current predictions at $k+2$, the active and reactive powers, predictions respectively at this sampling instant are

$$P_{pred}^{k+2} = \frac{3}{2} (\hat{v}_{grid-\alpha}^{k+2} \cdot i_{\alpha}^{k+2} + \hat{v}_{grid-\beta}^{k+2} \cdot i_{\beta}^{k+2}) \quad (8)$$

$$Q_{pred}^{k+2} = \frac{3}{2} (\hat{v}_{grid-\beta}^{k+2} \cdot i_{\alpha}^{k+2} - \hat{v}_{grid-\alpha}^{k+2} \cdot i_{\beta}^{k+2}) \quad (9)$$

Equations (7)-(9) are calculated for every possible converter states; between all of them, the state to apply is selected using a user defined cost function, which represents DC-Link voltage, Active and Reactive power errors. The cost function and the required references calculation are described in the following subsections.

A. DC-link voltage reference

The method proposed in [5] and [15] was adopted to obtain suitable references for the active power and the dc-link voltage. The reference dc-link voltage is calculated using (10) where N^* is the reference prediction horizon. A suitable selection of N^* results in a better dynamic response of the dc-link voltage.

$$V_{dc-ref}^{k+1} = V_{dc}^k + \frac{1}{N^*} (V_{dc-ref}^k - V_{dc}^k) \quad (10)$$

Since the DC-link voltage reference does not vary significantly at two consecutive sampling instants, the DC-link voltage reference at $k+2$ is assumed approximately equal to the reference at $k+1$, i.e. $V_{dc-ref}^{k+2} \approx V_{dc-ref}^{k+1}$.

B. Power reference

The reactive power reference Q_{ref}^{k+2} is kept to 0 VAR to obtain unity power factor operation. Thus, without using any Phase-Locked-Loop (PLL), as is the case in current control where the grid phase angle estimation is necessary for current reference generation, the supply voltage and current are synchronized by maintaining a close to unity power factor by directly controlling active and reactive powers. Moreover, under low SCR scenarios, re-tuning of PLL algorithms may have computational constraints, adding more complexities to the control structure. Therefore, assuming unity power factor, the active power reference is calculated using the system power balance equation [15] as shown in (11) where, P_s is the supply active power, P_r is the power loss on the input filter resistance and P_{load} is the active power across the capacitor and resistor at the DC side.

$$P_s = P_r + P_{load} \quad (11)$$

For a balanced and undistorted 3-phase system with a unity power factor, it can be assumed that

$$P_s = \frac{3}{2} \hat{v}_{grid}^{k+1} i_s^{k+1} \quad (12)$$

$$P_r = \frac{3}{2} r (i_s^{k+1})^2 \quad (13)$$

where i_s^{k+1} and \hat{v}_{grid}^{k+1} are the predicted supply current and estimated grid voltage obtained from (3) and (36), respectively. Therefore, (11) can be expressed in a discretized form in terms of grid voltage and supply current, with regards to Figure 1, as shown in (14).

$$i_s^{k+1} - \frac{\hat{v}_{grid}^{k+1}}{r} i_s^{k+1} + \frac{2P_{load}^{k+1}}{3r} = 0 \quad (14)$$

Solving (14) for i_s^{k+1} and multiplying by \hat{v}_{grid}^{k+1} , the active supply power reference is hence obtained in (17), where P_{load} is the load power and i_{dc}^{k+1} is the rectified current defined, respectively, by (15) and (16).

$$P_{load}^{k+1} = i_{dc}^{k+1} \cdot V_{dc-ref}^{k+1} \quad (15)$$

$$i_{dc}^{k+1} = C \cdot \frac{V_{dc-ref}^{k+1} - V_{dc}^k}{T_s} + \frac{V_{dc}^k}{R} \quad (16)$$

$$P_{ref}^{k+2} = \frac{3}{4} \cdot \frac{\hat{v}_{grid}^{k+1}}{r} \cdot \left(1 - \sqrt{1 - \frac{8P_{load}^{k+1} \cdot r}{3 \hat{v}_{grid}^{k+1}{}^2}} \right) \quad (17)$$

As it can be noted, the expression of the active power reference requires an appropriate grid voltage estimation algorithm, which is described in section V and takes advantage of the inductance estimation algorithm described in section IV.

C. Cost function

At each sampling interval, the 8 possible switching combinations (6 active vectors and 2 zero vectors) are used to evaluate the cost function. The switching combination that gives the minimum cost function value is selected and hence applied. Similarly, in the next sampling interval the process repeats. Using this approach, the use of a modulator to generate the converter switching states is no longer required as in [7], [8] or [14]. It is possible, however, to achieve the same switching combination to be applied at two or even three consecutive sampling intervals, thus resulting in a variable switching frequency for the converter. The cost function, G , used for the proposed MP-DPC, is shown in (18).

$$G = \frac{\lambda_1}{V_{dc-rated}} |V_{dc-ref}^{k+2} - V_{dc-pred}^{k+2}| + \frac{\lambda_2}{P_{rated}} |P_{ref}^{k+2} - P_{pred}^{k+2}| + \frac{\lambda_3}{P_{rated}} |Q_{ref}^{k+2} - Q_{pred}^{k+2}| \quad (18)$$

where, λ_1 , λ_2 and λ_3 are the weighting factors for the 3 terms in the cost function. $V_{dc-rated}$ and P_{rated} are used as normalizing factors where $V_{dc-rated}$ is the rated dc-link voltage and P_{rated} is the apparent power. In [11], the authors emphasize that special attention must be paid while designing the weighting factors; however, there is not a straightforward approach through which an accurate value for these parameters can be selected. Since the weighting factors selection is an on-going research topic, their values are mostly designed based on empirical procedures.

III. DEAD-TIME COMPENSATION

In order to adapt the proposed inductance estimation method to practical converter implementation, the presence of dead-times in the devices switching needs to be taken into account. In fact, as described in section IV, the proposed method considers the switching signals for each leg of the converter and the dc-link voltage. However, switching dead-times (T_d region in Figure 3), considered equal to $2\mu s$ in this work, results in a voltage drop which affects the estimation method. Therefore, this voltage drop needs to be compensated. A dead-time compensation method has been included in the model predictive control by incorporating an additive term representing the voltage drop due to the dead time T_d . The voltage loss in the ' T_d ' region for interval S_k for leg A is expressed as

$$vca_{Td} = \frac{1}{3} \cdot V_{dc} \cdot \frac{T_d}{T_s} \cdot (2Sa_{k-1} - Sb_{k-1} - Sc_{k-1}) \quad (19)$$

In the same way the voltage in the ' $T_s - T_d$ ' region for interval S_k is expressed as follows.

$$vca_{T_s-T_d} = \frac{1}{3} \cdot Vdc \cdot \frac{T_s - T_d}{T_s} \cdot (2Sa_k - Sb_k - Sc_k) \quad (20)$$

Therefore, the total converter voltage applied during the sampling interval S_k is now expressed as

$$vca_{S_k} = vca_{T_d} + vca_{T_s-T_d} \quad (21)$$

Similarly, (19)–(21) are applied for the other legs with reference to the direction of the supply currents in the respective legs [23]. The converter voltages are hence transformed to their respective α and β components to be used in the current predictions for (3) and (6) and for the inductance estimation method, (24) and (25).

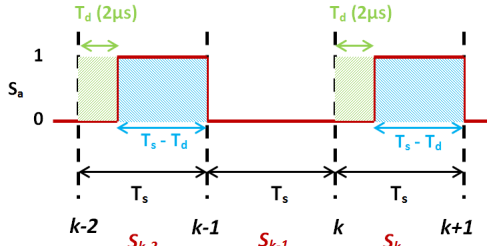


Figure 3. Dead-time in top switch leg-A

IV. INDUCTANCE ESTIMATION METHOD

The estimation method proposed in this paper estimates the total inductance, i.e. supply inductance plus converter inductance, and feeds the estimated value as an update to the model based predictive controller, as shown in Figure 4. Using the total estimated inductance value, we can easily find the variation in supply inductance, L_S , and make an estimation of the supply/grid voltage inside the controller.

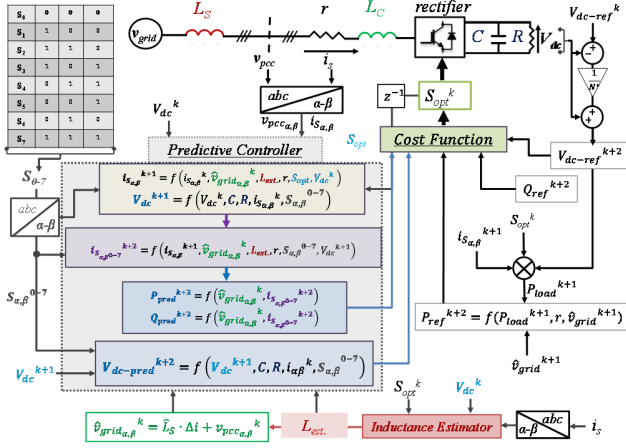


Figure 4. Block scheme of proposed MPC with online inductance and grid voltage estimation

According to [26], since the voltage harmonic magnitude decreases as the frequency increases, the effect of high frequency harmonics on the grid impedance are often limited in power systems. Moreover, the predictive control does not

seem to be significantly affected by high frequency components of grid impedance, thanks to its inherent robustness. Therefore, it is reasonable to assume a low frequency grid impedance model [26]. Referring to Figure 5, the estimation approach works on the principle of assuming a constant grid voltage magnitude between two consecutive sampling instants. Although there will be a phase shift of ' $\omega \cdot t_s$,' the magnitude of the grid voltage vector will, however, not vary significantly.

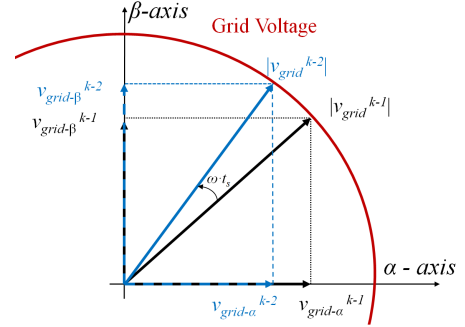


Figure 5. Grid voltage representation in α - β .

In α - β reference frame, the square of the grid voltage magnitude at the instant k is expressed as

$$|v_{grid}^k|^2 = (v_{grid-\alpha}^k)^2 + (v_{grid-\beta}^k)^2 \quad (22)$$

According to Figure 2 and Figure 5, the grid voltage magnitude at the time instant k can be expressed using the value of v_{grid}^k extracted from the system model in α - β :

$$(v_{grid-x}^k)^2 = \left(L \cdot \frac{di_{s-x}}{dt} + r \cdot i_{s-x}^k + v_{c-x}^k \right)^2 \quad (23)$$

Hence, the square of the grid voltage magnitude at instant k is expressed as:

$$|v_{grid}^k|^2 = \left(L \cdot \frac{di_{s\alpha}}{dt} + r \cdot i_{s\alpha}^k + v_{c\alpha}^k \right)^2 + \left(L \cdot \frac{di_{s\beta}}{dt} + r \cdot i_{s\beta}^k + v_{c\beta}^k \right)^2 \quad (24)$$

Similarly, the square of the grid voltage at the previous instant, $k-1$, is equated as:

$$|v_{grid}^{k-1}|^2 = \left(L \cdot \frac{di_{s\alpha}}{dt} + r \cdot i_{s\alpha}^{k-1} + v_{c\alpha}^{k-1} \right)^2 + \left(L \cdot \frac{di_{s\beta}}{dt} + r \cdot i_{s\beta}^{k-1} + v_{c\beta}^{k-1} \right)^2 \quad (25)$$

$v_{c-\alpha}$ and $v_{c-\beta}$ in the equations above are calculated using the optimized switching signals from (18) and the measured

dc-link voltage. After discretizing the current derivatives, (24) and (25) are solved for the value of the total inductance L such that:

$$|v_{grid}^k|^2 - |v_{grid}^{k-1}|^2 = 0 \quad (26)$$

This resulted in the quadratic equation of (27), with the terms A , B and C expressed, respectively, by equations (28)-(30) with the single terms defined in (31)-(33).

$$L^2 \cdot A + L \cdot B + C = 0 \quad (27)$$

$$A = (\Delta A_{\alpha 1})^2 + (\Delta A_{\beta 1})^2 - (\Delta A_{\alpha 2})^2 - (\Delta A_{\beta 2})^2 \quad (28)$$

$$B = 2 \cdot (\Delta B_{\alpha 1} \cdot \Delta A_{\alpha 1} + \Delta B_{\beta 1} \cdot \Delta A_{\beta 1} - \Delta B_{\alpha 2} \cdot \Delta A_{\alpha 2} - \Delta B_{\beta 2} \cdot \Delta A_{\beta 2}) \quad (29)$$

$$C = (\Delta B_{\alpha 1})^2 + (\Delta B_{\beta 1})^2 - (\Delta B_{\alpha 2})^2 - (\Delta B_{\beta 2})^2 \quad (30)$$

$$\Delta A_{\alpha 1} = \frac{i_{s\alpha}^{k+1} - i_{s\alpha}^k}{T_s}, \quad \Delta A_{\beta 1} = \frac{i_{s\beta}^{k+1} - i_{s\beta}^k}{T_s},$$

$$\Delta A_{\alpha 2} = \frac{i_{s\alpha}^k - i_{s\alpha}^{k-1}}{T_s}, \quad \Delta A_{\beta 2} = \frac{i_{s\beta}^k - i_{s\beta}^{k-1}}{T_s} \quad (31)$$

$$\Delta B_{\alpha 1} = r i_{s\alpha}^k + v_{c\alpha}^k, \Delta B_{\beta 1} = r i_{s\beta}^k + v_{c\beta}^k \quad (32)$$

$$\Delta B_{\alpha 2} = r i_{s\alpha}^{k-1} + v_{c\alpha}^{k-1}, \Delta B_{\beta 2} = r i_{s\beta}^{k-1} + v_{c\beta}^{k-1} \quad (33)$$

After substituting (28)-(30) in (27), the total inductance is evaluated as

$$L_{estimation} = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{B}{A} \cdot \left[-1 + \sqrt{1 - \frac{4 \cdot C \cdot A}{B^2}} \right] \quad (34)$$

The estimated value of inductance in (34), once excluded the negative root, is used as an update to the inductance value in the current predictions of (3) and (6).

V. GRID VOLTAGE ESTIMATION

If the voltage at the point of common coupling v_{pcc} presents substantial distortion and it is used in the model, it will in turn induce distortion on the current predictions. We need therefore an estimation of the grid voltage. Once the total inductance has been estimated the supply inductance L_S is estimated as:

$$\hat{L}_S = L_{estimation} - L_C \quad (35)$$

where, the value of L_C is usually known since it is the converter input inductance. Referring to the block diagram in Figure 4, the supply voltage in $\alpha\beta$ reference frame used for the predictive controller is corrected using the estimation in (35):

$$\hat{v}_{grid\alpha,\beta}^k = \hat{L}_S \cdot \frac{i_{s\alpha,\beta}^{k+1} - i_{s\alpha,\beta}^k}{T_s} + v_{pcca,\beta}^k \quad (36)$$

where, $\frac{i_{s\alpha,\beta}^{k+1} - i_{s\alpha,\beta}^k}{T_s}$ is the discretized supply current derivative and $v_{pcca,\beta}^k$ is the actual measurement of the voltage at PCC. Using the $\hat{v}_{grid\alpha,\beta}^k$ and \hat{L}_S in (3) and (6) for current predictions, it is possible to apply the previously described MP-DPC in a way that the resultant control action takes into account supply impedance variations and the system performance is not affected. In cases when the grid has a low SCR, i.e. very high grid inductance, a phase shift between the supply current and v_{pcc} is present in addition to the distorted v_{pcc} . Moreover, the fundamental component of v_{pcc} does not accurately approximate v_{grid} because of the variable grid inductance, thus resulting in a phase and magnitude error with respect to v_{grid} . Therefore, estimating the grid voltage is much more efficient and suitable, particularly in a low SCR scenario.

VI. SIMULATION RESULTS

The proposed MP-DPC is applied to the three-phase two level AFE of Figure 1 with the system parameters reported in table I. Simulation results obtained in Matlab-Simulink environment are shown and discussed in this section.

TABLE I. SIMULATION PARAMETERS

Parameter	Symbol	Value
PCC voltage	v_{PCC}	100V _{rms}
Sample time	T_s	50 μ s
Converter filter inductance	L_c	4.5mH
Converter filter resistance	r	0.4 Ω
Active Power	P	2400W
DC-link capacitance	C	2200 μ F
Weighting factors	$\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3$	1.5, 1, 1
Average switching frequency	F_{sw}	9.7 kHz

Although the converter has an average switching frequency, [11], of ~9.7 kHz, the sample time used for the predictive control is fixed at 20 kHz. Figure 6 shows the estimated inductance and its reference value, where the method has been tested in the extreme condition of a frequent variation in L_S . The estimation algorithm evaluates the total inductance quite accurately even when the supply inductance L_S has been varied in order to reach a value greater than 200% of L_C .

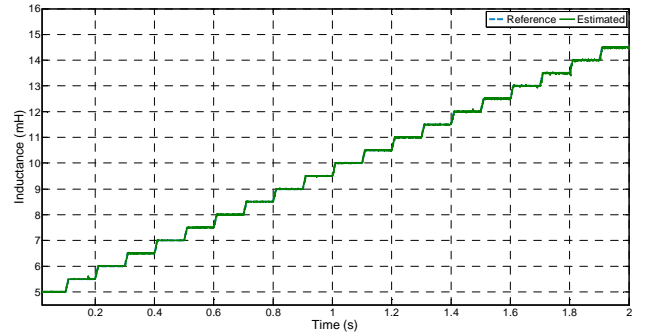


Figure 6. Estimated Total Inductance with a variation in L_S , $L_C=4.5$ mH

In terms of system SCR, results are shown in table II, where the SCR has been defined as [27]:

$$SCR = \frac{\text{Short circuit power}(SCP)}{\text{Base Power}(S_{BASE})} \quad (37)$$

The estimation method proposed in this paper works effectively for SCR values larger than 2, at which the system starts showing an unstable behavior.

TABLE II. SCR VALUES FOR DIFFERENT L_S VALUES

L_S (mH)	L_C (mH)	Z_S (Ω)	SCP (kVA)	S_{BASE} (kVA)	SCR
1.0	4.5	0.314	95.47	2.4	39.8
2.0	4.5	0.628	47.77	2.4	19.93
4.0	4.5	1.257	23.86	2.4	9.954
6.0	4.5	1.885	15.91	2.4	6.637
8.0	4.5	2.513	11.94	2.4	4.98
10.0	4.5	3.142	9.55	2.4	3.98
12.0	4.5	3.770	7.96	2.4	3.32

Figure 7 shows total inductance and grid voltage estimation results for the case when L_S is 3.0mH and the converter input filter inductance is 4.5mH. The same value of L_S has been used in the experimental results section. The supply voltage used for the predictive controller is corrected by using the estimated value of the supply inductance where the PCC voltage and grid voltage estimation have a THD of ~18% and 1.16% respectively.

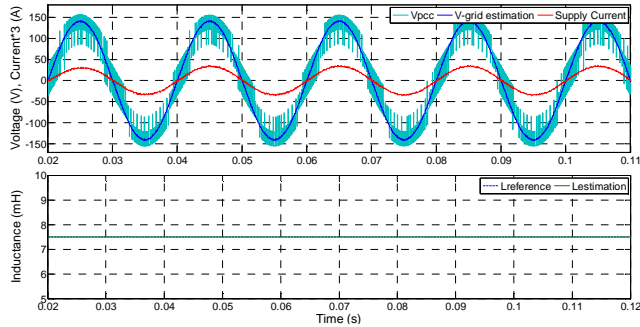


Figure 7. Actual v_{PCC} , v_{grid} -estimation, current, L-est. $L_S = 3.0mH$

Figure 8 shows the supply current and estimated grid voltage for a step variation of 3.0mH in L_S from 0.5mH to 3.5mH at 0.09s.

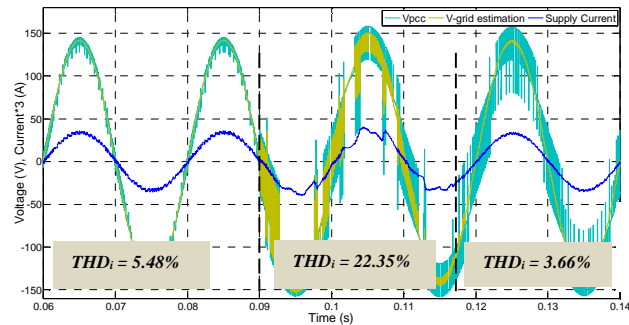


Figure 8. v_{GRID} estimation and Current- $L_S = 0.5mH \rightarrow 3.5mH$

When the L_S is 0.5mH, the current THD is ~5.48%. Due to the large mismatch between the real and the model value of L_S at 0.09s because of the step change, the control and estimator performance gets affected, boosting the THD to 22.35%. However, once the estimator has reached a steady state within a fundamental period, the corrected values of L_S and grid voltage largely improve the control performance achieving a current THD of ~3.66%.

Table III shows the THD of the supply current for different variations in L_S when the grid voltage has also been estimated. Once the L_S is correctly estimated, the increase in the total inductance on the AC side obviously improves the quality of the current waveform, as it can be seen from the reduction of THD values from 5.48% ($L_S = 0.5mH$) to 3.18% ($L_S = 5.0mH$) in the case of online estimation. Thus, presenting highly improved performance.

TABLE III. CURRENT THDS : ESTIMATION TO VARIATION OF L_S

L_S (mH)	L_C (mH)	THD (%)
0.5	4.5	5.48
1.0	4.5	4.93
2.0	4.5	4.29
3.0	4.5	3.76
4.0	4.5	3.39
5.0	4.5	3.18

VII. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

Experimental tests have been carried out using the laboratory setup as shown in Figure 9. The experimental implementation uses circuit configuration and data as in simulation.

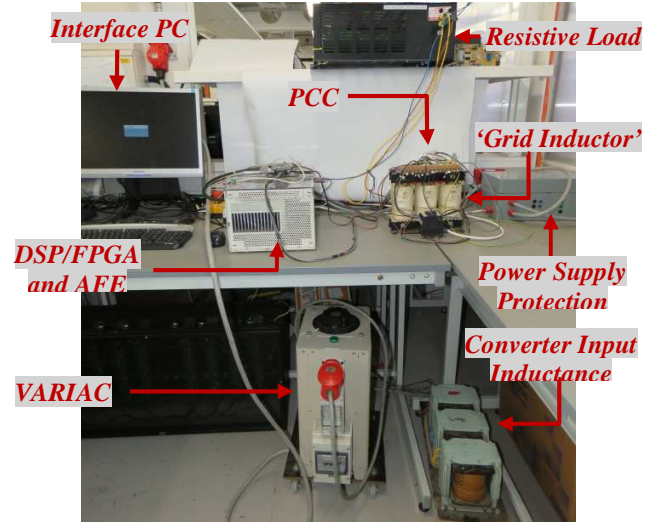


Figure 9. 3-Phase 2-Level AFE laboratory setup

The control system is composed of a main board featuring a TMS320C6713 digital signal processor (DSP) with 225MHz clock frequency and an auxiliary board equipped with a field programmable gate array (FPGA) ActelProASIC3A3P400 used for data acquisition and PWM generation with 50MHz clock frequency. The experimental tests have been carried out using a controlled pure sinusoidal voltage power supply manufactured by Chroma

(Programmable AC Source 61511) and also using a VARIAC (Variable Voltage Auto-Transformer CMV20E-3) connected with the mains. In figure 9 the experimental rig is powered through a VARIAC autotransformer, which is connected to a power supply protection circuit in case of over-current or short-circuits in the system. The power supply protection is then connected to a three phase inductor emulating the unknown grid inductance, shown as L_S in figure 4, with 3mH per phase. Measurements of supply voltages for data processing are taken at the point of common coupling, PCC , after the grid inductance. A converter inductance of 4.5mH per phase, L_C as shown in figure 4, is connected between the PCC and the AFE input and is known to the converter control. The AFE is controlled using the above mentioned DSP/FPGA structure connected to an interface PC, as shown in figure 9. The estimation algorithm is executed in c-code in the DSP and run following the procedure presented in (28)-(33) where, after calculation of each of the terms $\Delta A_{\alpha 1}$, $\Delta A_{\alpha 2}$, $\Delta A_{\beta 1}$, $\Delta A_{\beta 2}$, $\Delta B_{\alpha 1}$, $\Delta B_{\alpha 2}$, $\Delta B_{\beta 1}$ and $\Delta B_{\beta 2}$ in (31)-(33), they are substituted in (28)-(30) for calculation of the terms A , B and C . The terms A , B and C , are then substituted in (34) to obtain the estimated value of total inductance. The total computation time required by the algorithm, including control and estimation routines, is $\sim 43\mu s$ for an interrupt time of 50 μs .

The experiments for the proposed inductance estimation have been carried out both in steady state and transient conditions. That includes a 500VAR variation in reactive power reference, 35V variation in DC-Link voltage reference and also a 67V variation in the supply voltage when the VARIAC is used. The estimation results show a good behavior even in the presence of these variations. Figure 10 shows an experimental test where the Chroma voltage supply was used. In Figure 10 (a), the reactive power was varied from 0VAR to 500VAR and the system is required to estimate a supply inductance of $L_S=3.0mH$ for a total line inductance of $L=7.5mH$. The reactive power follows the requested change and the inductance estimation responds very well to this condition too. However, a very small steady state error of $\sim 50VAR$ can be seen on the reactive power. This is due to the presence of ripple on the estimated inductance, effect of mutual inductance on the transmission line, other parameter uncertainties and model discretization errors that have not been compensated. The corresponding results in Figure 10(b) show the distorted measured PCC voltage, the estimated grid voltage and the quasi-sinusoidal supply current with a THD value of 5.31%. Figure 10(c) shows the oscilloscope results for the CHROMA supply voltage, supply current and the dc-link voltage when a reactive power variation of 500VAR occurs. Figure 10(d) shows the test results and estimation results in the case of a 35V step in the dc-link voltage reference. The dc-link voltage responds to this reference variation and so does the estimated inductance for the same L_S and L_C values as for reactive power variation. Since in an active front end the exchange of power is between the AC side and DC side, increasing the dc-link voltage reference essentially means the supply current is increased as well. This is shown in Figure

10(e) where the amplitude of current increases due to an increase in dc-link voltage. Despite this large variation in dc-link voltage reference, the grid voltage shows a good estimation even though the PCC voltage remains distorted. The supply current shows a small variation in THD from 5.03% before the step to 5.96% after the step in dc-link voltage reference. Figure 10(f) shows the oscilloscope results for CHROMA supply voltage, supply current and the dc-link voltage to a variation in dc-link voltage reference. The increase in the supply current amplitude and also the dc-link voltage can be seen in figure 10(f). When figure 10 is compared with the simulation results of figure 7 an increase of $\sim 1.5\%$ in the supply current THD value can be noted. This is caused by parameter uncertainties like, for example, power switching device voltage drop that have not been taken into account in the simulation. The v_{pcc} and $v_{grid-est}$ have $\sim 17\%$ and $\sim 2.7\%$ THD values, respectively. Figure 11 shows the results for the case when the system is supplied by the mains through a VARIAC. At time 0.55s, a step in input voltage from 33V to 100V was introduced using the VARIAC. This operation changes the VARIAC built-in inductance generating an increase in the total system input inductance from 7.5mH to approximately 8.3mH as estimated by the algorithm and shown in Figure 11.

This means that the mismatch between the supply inductance and the converter input inductance is increased from 66.67% to 85%. Moreover, it has been noted that, considering the small sampling time of the control/estimation algorithm with respect to the dynamics of eventual variations of L_S or supply voltage in a real scenario, imposing constant magnitude of v_{grid} and considering L_S constant between two sampling intervals, does not cause any uncertainty in the estimation process.

Due to laboratory safety reasons, the tests were not conducted for higher supply inductance values; however, the simulation and practical results shown support the proposed methodology. The effect of capacitance on the transmission line has not been taken into consideration in the proposed estimation algorithm. Since the effect of capacitance appears at high frequency, its presence will not have a significant effect on the estimation algorithm since the fundamental frequency of the power system is 50Hz.

VIII. CONCLUSION

In recent years, grid-connected converters have gained popularity particularly for renewable energy systems integration, where in some cases the grid is not stiff, like weak micro grids. Small grid parameter variations in these systems can substantially affect the performance of the converter control. This grid parameter variation can be regarded as a variation in the grid impedance, which is mostly dominated by variation in grid inductance. Therefore, this paper presents a novel MP-DPC algorithm where variations in grid inductance are estimated online and used to update the inductance value in the control system. The increase in v_{pcc} ripple along with the variation in supply inductance can greatly affect the predictive control

performance. Estimating the variation in grid inductance allows an estimation of the grid voltage inside the controller so that the v_{pcc} can be updated at each sampling interval for a better quality operation. Though the system in Figure 1 has been tested considering v_{grid} is from a low voltage substation, the proposed algorithm can be easily adapted and modified to be used for general supply impedance estimation, medium or high voltage applications. The algorithm is also easily

adaptable in the case of any topology of grid connected converters, PV applications, variable load on the distribution network or in the case of a different grid connection like for example the use of LCL filters. The estimation approach has been integrated within the model based predictive control, thus making the estimation and control effective and efficient. Simulation and experimental results support the proposed methodology.

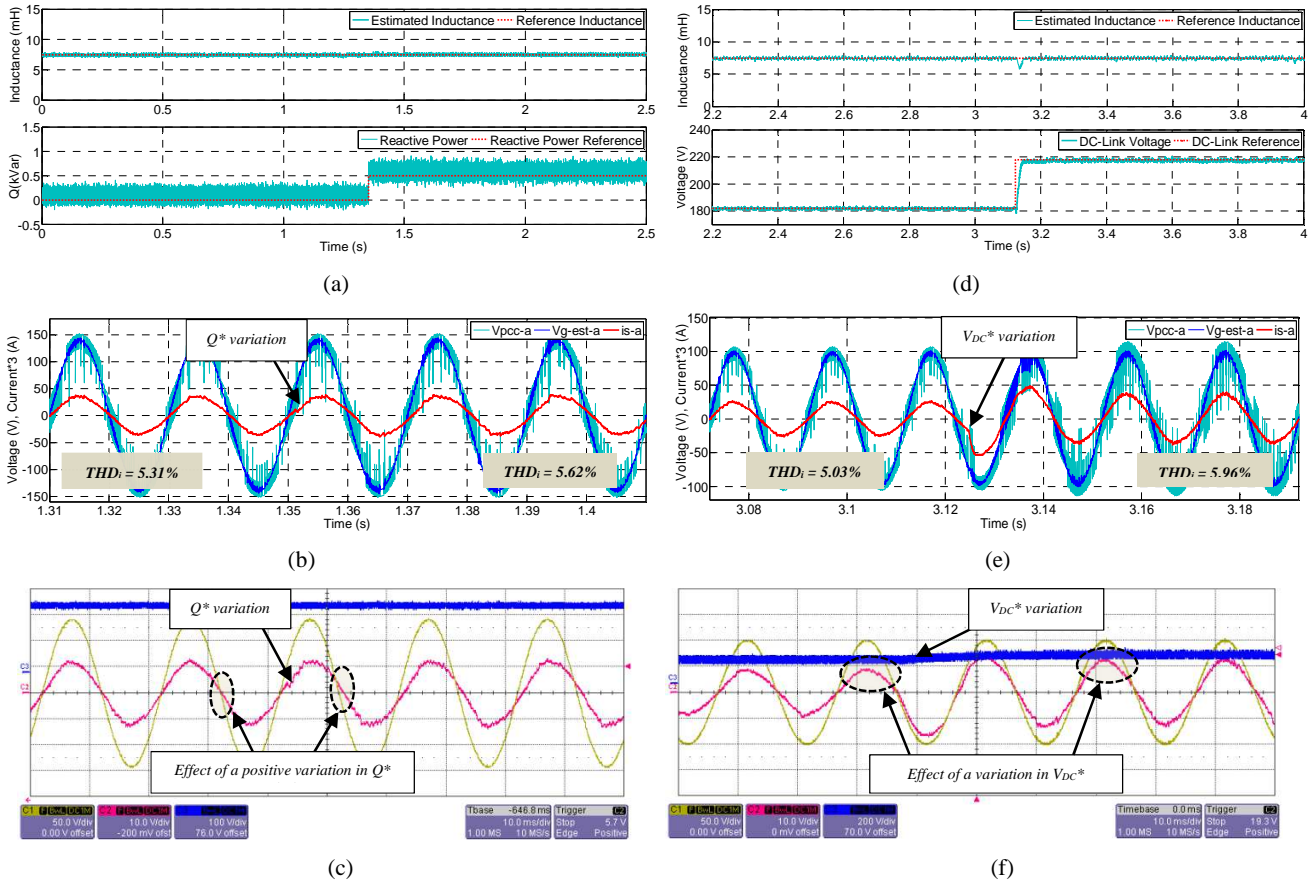


Figure 10. (a) Estimated Total Inductance and reactive power with a variation in Q^* , (b) PCC Voltage, Grid Voltage estimation, Supply Current with a variation in Q^* . $L_C = 4.5\text{mH}$, $L_S = 3.0\text{mH}$, (c) Scope result for CHROMA voltage (yellow), supply current (pink) and dc-link voltage (blue) with a variation in Q^* . (d) Estimated Total Inductance and V_{DC} with a variation in V_{DC}^* , (e) PCC Voltage, Grid Voltage estimation, Supply Current with a variation in V_{DC}^* . $L_C = 4.5\text{mH}$, $L_S = 3.0\text{mH}$, (f) Scope result for CHROMA voltage (yellow), supply current (pink) and dc-link voltage (blue) with a variation in V_{DC}^* .

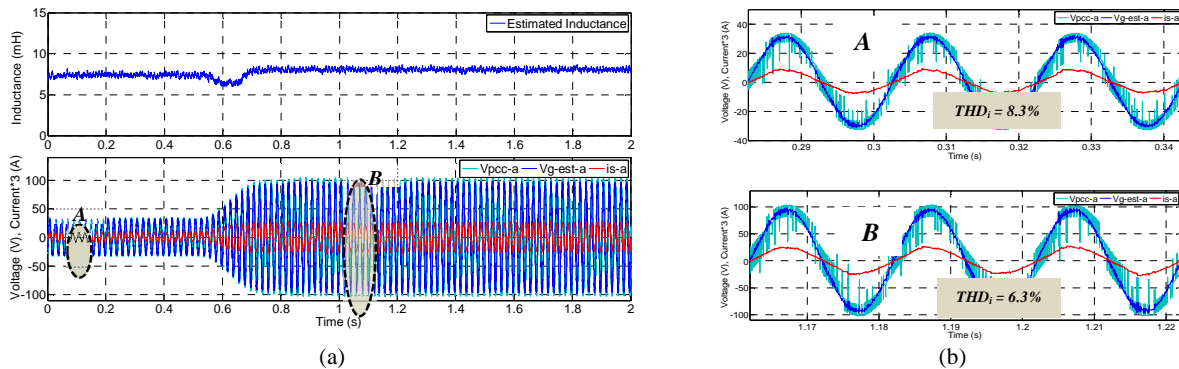


Figure 11. (a) Estimated Total Inductance, PCC voltage, grid voltage estimation and supply current with a variation in VARIAC, (b) Zoomed in PCC Voltage, Grid Voltage Estimation, Supply Current

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