A Novel Three Phase Hybrid Unidirectional Rectifier for High Power Factor Applications

P. Nammalvar, P. Meganathan

Abstract—This paper presents a hybrid three phase rectifier for high power factor application. This rectifier is composed by zero voltage transition (ZVT) and zero current transition (ZCT) boost converter with three phase diode bridge rectifier, in parallel with a six pulse three phase pulse width modulation (PWM) controlled rectifier. The proposed topology is capable of high power factor with DC output voltage regulation by providing sinusoidal input. Also, it increases the overall efficiency of the new hybrid rectifier to 94.56% and the total harmonic distortion of the hybrid structure varies from 0% to 16% at nominal output power. This topology was simulated in MATLAB/SIMULINK environment and the output waveforms presented with experimental result.

Keywords—Hybrid Rectifier, Total Harmonic Distortion, Power Quality, Pulse Width Modulation (PWM), Unidirectional Rectifier.

I. INTRODUCTION

The term hybrid denotes the series and/or parallel connection. The rectifier is low cost, but it draws the non sinusoidal currents or reactive power from the source. This becomes worse in power quality in form of harmonics [1]. To achieve the cancellation of harmonics distortion, the passive linear filters or power factor correction [1]-[3]. In three phase rectifier, phase shift is introduced in three phase transformer for canceling the harmonics [4], [5].

This paper proposes a new hybrid three phase rectifier with high power factor and DC output voltage regulation by providing sinusoidal input. The hybrid rectifier consists of uncontrolled rectifier in series with controlled rectifier in parallel [6]-[8], [13]. The uncontrolled rectifier along with three phase diode bridges is in series with zero voltage transition (ZVT) and zero current transition (ZCT) is referred to as snubber cell circuit [2], [13]. Presence of ZVT and ZCT in circuit was used to solve the problem as suggested in [9]-[12]. Therefore the main switch turns on with ZVT and turns off with ZCT.

The controlled rectifier works with three arms of six pulses along with three phase PWM rectifier. This controlled rectifier is designed with high switching frequency. Moreover, the uncontrolled rectifier operates in low frequency and controlled rectifier operates in high frequency and also provides higher power rating. The three phase PWM rectifiers meets the international standards for harmonic current limit, providing sinusoidal input currents with low harmonic distortion. It also meets the harmonic content imposed by the IEEE 519 and IEC 61000-3-2/61000-3-4 international standard.

II. HYBRID RECTIFIER

Hybrid rectifier of the proposed system is shown in Fig. 1. This rectifier has parallel connection of three phase diode bridge rectifier and a three phase six pulse PWM rectifier. Since, it is not possible to connect both the rectifiers in directly hybrid rectifier is employed. The hybrid rectifier consists of uncontrolled rectifier operating at low frequency and controlled rectifier which operates at high frequency. Thus, overall system efficiency is increased.

A. ZVT and ZCT Switch Three Phase Boost Rectifier

The ZVT and ZCT based three-phase boost rectifier, presented in Fig. 2. A new snubber cell turns on and turns off the main switch by ZVT and ZCT respectively. This is imposed in a rectangular shape to the input current wave forms. This ZVT and ZCT switching has the most desirable features of less switching losses, high power density, high power factor, high efficiency and low EMI noise. The proposed snubber cell has low value inductance L1 and L2, which are not magnetic coupled. Therefore there is no leakage inductance problem of the magnetic coupled inductor.

Moreover, it has the advantage of size, number of components and cost. As the switching losses are low, it increases the operating frequency and there by low value of L and C. This new ZVT and ZCT combination is suitable for the power factor correction circuits and also its efficiency is also high.

B. Three Phase Six Pulse Boost Rectifier

The three phase six pulse boost rectifier is presented in Fig. 3. This rectifier is connected in parallel to uncontrolled rectifier. In this line current i1, i2, i3 should be sinusoidal therefore current i1, i2, and current i1, i2, i3 will be controlled by the line current with sinusoidal. The shape of current i1, i2, i3 is imposed by the diode, which is a current to be controlled. The boost converter is operated in conduction mode and boost inductor current is constant reference current. Thus, the current i1, i2, i3 is controlled to follow the required reference, resulting in sinusoidal input current.

Thus, the PWM rectifier achieves high power factor at the input. Also, it generates the harmonic free input current.
III. Mathematical Analysis

To perform the mathematical analysis from the input current’s viewpoint, the output voltage is considered constant. Thus, the simplified circuit presented in Fig. 5 is adopted. The input voltages and input currents are considered to be perfectly sinusoidal and are expressed as

\[
\begin{align*}
  v_1(t) &= V_p \sin(wt) \\
  v_2(t) &= V_p \sin(wt - 120^\circ) \\
  v_3(t) &= V_p \sin(wt + 120^\circ)
\end{align*}
\]

and

\[
\begin{align*}
  i_1(t) &= I_p \sin(wt) \\
  i_2(t) &= I_p \sin(wt - 120^\circ) \\
  i_3(t) &= I_p \sin(wt + 120^\circ)
\end{align*}
\]

(1)

To simplify the analysis, the system is considered loss-free. In this manner, the input active power \( P_a \) can be expressed as

\[
P_a = \frac{3I_p V_p}{2}
\]

(2)

where \( V_p \) is the peak of the input voltage, \( I_p \) is the peak of the input current, \( P_o \) is the output power, \( V_o \) is the dc output voltage, and \( I_o \) is the dc output current.

Substituting (2) into (1) yields
Due to the unidirectional characteristic of the PWM rectifier, the instantaneous input power should present only positive values. Analyzing (8), the solution that satisfies this condition is presented as

$$P_{op} \leq \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\pi} P_p \approx 0.522 P_p$$

(9)

Therefore, the active rectifier’s power operation limit is given as

$$P_{oa} \geq (1 - 0.522)P_p \approx 0.448 P_p$$

(10)

where, $P_{oa}$ is the active power processed by the PWM rectifier. Expressions (9) and (10) define the active power sharing between the two converters. If these relationships are not satisfied, the input currents will be distorted.

Similarly, at the output, the load current is composed of the sum of currents $i_{op}$ and $i_{oa}$ given by

$$i_i(t) = i_{op}(t) + i_{oa}(t)$$

(6)

By analyzing the passive rectifier current of phase 1, which is depicted in Fig. 6, the following expression (7) is obtained:

$$I_i(t) = \frac{P_p}{V_p} \frac{\pi}{3\sqrt{3}}$$

(7)

where $I_i(t)$ is the single-switch boost rectifier inductor current and $P_{op}$ is the active power processed by the passive rectifier. The power processed by each rectifier is related to the peak value of its input currents. According to the concept of the hybrid rectifier, the fact that the diode bridge rectifier processes the greatest part of the output power is more interesting. Evidently, to obtain sinusoidal input currents, an optimal power distribution exists and should be discovered.

Substituting (7) into (5) yields

$$i_{oa}(t) = \begin{cases} 
2 \frac{I_p}{3 V_p} \sin(wt) - \frac{P_p}{V_p} \frac{\pi}{3\sqrt{3}} & \text{if } 30^\circ \leq wt \leq 150^\circ \\
2 \frac{I_p}{3 V_p} \sin(wt) & \text{if } 0^\circ \leq wt \leq 30^\circ \\
2 \frac{I_p}{3 V_p} \sin(wt) & \text{if } 150^\circ \leq wt \leq 180^\circ 
\end{cases}$$

(8)

The control loop scheme of the hybrid rectifier is presented in Fig. 5. Four current control loops and one voltage control loop are used. The dc output voltage regulation is provided by the voltage control loop. The current from ZVTLZCT boost rectifier is compared to a constant reference. The error produced is applied to PWM modulator that generates the gate signal. This controls the input current indirectly by sensing the currents $i_1$, $i_2$, and $i_3$. It gives good signal to each phase. The errors produced by the comparisons between the sampled signals and reference signals are applied to their respective compensators, and the PWM modulators thus generate the gate signal.

To obtain perfect sinusoidal currents, it is important that the gains ratio $\alpha$ be adjusted as close to 0.552 as possible but never greater than this value. If the ratio is greater than 0.552, the imposed line currents will be distorted. The power processed by the PWM rectifier increases as the value of $\alpha$ decrease. At the limit $\alpha = 0$, the PWM rectifier processes the total load power.
V. SIMULATION RESULTS

A. Waveform of ZVT – ZCT Switch Three Phase Boost Rectifier

The circuit is shown in Fig. 2 is ZVT – ZCT based three phase boost rectifier is sampled as square waveform as shown in the simulation waveform in Fig. 6.

Fig. 6 Current Waveforms of ZVT – ZCT Boost Rectifier

B. Waveform of Three Phase Six Pulse Boost Rectifier

The circuit shown in Fig. 3 is the three phase six pulse boost rectifier which generates injected waveform as shown in Fig. 7.

Fig. 7 Injected Current Waveform Six Pulse Rectifier

Fig. 8 Simulated Current Waveform of Hybrid Rectifier (a) Current waveform imposed by the ZVT- ZVT switch boost rectifier (Uncontrolled Rectifier) (b) Injected Current waveform generator by six pulse boost rectifier (Controlled Rectifier) (c) Desired sinusoidal waveform
C. Waveform of Hybrid Rectifier

The circuit shown in Fig. 1 is Hybrid rectifier which generates sinusoidal shape waveform as shown in Fig. 9 and three phase sinusoidal current of Hybrid rectifier before compensation and after compensation as shown in Fig. 11.

D. FFT Analysis of Hybrid Rectifier

This result was obtained from the simulation of current waveform and the THDs obtained from FFT analysis is presented in the Fig. 10.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>True power</td>
<td>1 kW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Power factor</td>
<td>Almost Unity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Efficiency</td>
<td>Max 94.56 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Input AC Voltage</td>
<td>220 V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Output DC Voltage</td>
<td>650 V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voltage THD</td>
<td>0.09 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current THD of Bridge rectifier</td>
<td>31 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current THD of Controlled rectifier</td>
<td>39.18 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current THD of Hybrid rectifier</td>
<td>11.71 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TABLE II

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resistance</th>
<th>Power Factor</th>
<th>Efficiency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>0.2051</td>
<td>44.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>0.9899</td>
<td>92.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>0.9800</td>
<td>93.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>0.9999</td>
<td>94.56</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fig. 9 Sinusoidal Waveform of Hybrid Rectifier

Fig. 10 FFT Analysis of Hybrid Rectifier

Fig. 11 Sinusoidal Three Phase Current Waveform of Proposed Hybrid Rectifier
VI. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

A 100 Watts laboratory prototype of the proposed structure is presented in Fig. 13. The parameter of the components used in rectifier are: inductors $L_1$ and $L_2$ are 2 mH/50 A, inductors $L_{f1}$, $L_{f2}$ and $L_{f3}$ are 2.7 mH/15 A; output capacitors are 8 x 2200µF/450 V; the three phase controlled rectifier with six pulse controlled bridge is the MOSFET module and the diode bridge.

The control circuit was implemented using the commercial analog integrated circuit for power factor correction applications. The experimental result for the current generated by the ZVT-ZCT based boost rectifier is shown in Fig. 14 and the current generated by the PWM controlled rectifier as sinusoidal waveform is shown in Fig. 15. This result was obtained from the prototype as expected and the mains currents present a sinusoidal shape. The harmonic analysis is compared with the current harmonics with standards. The THDs obtained from the fluke meter are presented in the Fig. 16.

This result was obtained from the prototype as expected the mains currents present a sinusoidal shape. The harmonic analysis is compared the current harmonics with standards.
This paper presents new topology of hybrid three-phase rectifier suitable for medium and high power applications. The rectifiers employ a three-phase diode bridge with ZVT – ZCT based boost rectifier. The six pulse three phase rectifier is connected in parallel. The advantage of this hybrid system brings high power levels due to the parallel connection of the rectifiers. Moreover, the efficiency of the system is also increased.

The THD values are also measured from the fluke meter as shown. By using ZVT – ZCT has advantages of size, number of components and cost. Also, it reduces the switching losses and voltage stress. The control strategy regulates the output and controls the input currents to achieve the high power factor.

**TABLE III**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>True power</td>
<td>100 W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Input AC voltage</td>
<td>15 V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Output DC voltage</td>
<td>15 V min to 30 V max</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current THD of Bridge rectifier</td>
<td>&lt; 11 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current THD of Controlled rectifier</td>
<td>&lt; 16 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current THD of Hybrid rectifier</td>
<td>&lt; 6.55 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The prototype of the three phase hybrid rectifier is obtained from 1 kW and the result shows high power factor and dc voltage regulation. The disadvantage of the system is the control scheme by using the additional current sensor and current control loop.