Unified State Feedback Control of a Hybrid Distribution Transformer using Particle Swarm Optimization Tuning

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Abstract—This paper presents a unified state feedback control strategy for a hybrid distribution transformer (HDT) using particle swarm optimization (PSO) for tuning the control gains. The proposed control strategy aims to achieve zero steady-state error for sinusoidal references and disturbances while ensuring good dynamic performance. An augmented state-space model of the HDT is developed, incorporating the delays introduced by the digital control system and resonant states to eliminate steady-state errors. The control gains are optimized using PSO to minimize a cost function that considers both transient and steady-state performance. Simulation results demonstrate the effectiveness of the proposed control strategy in regulating the voltage and current of the HDT under various operating conditions.

Index Terms—hybrid distribution transformer, optimal control, state-feedback control, particle swarm optimization

I. Introduction

THE increasing penetration of renewable energy sources in the electrical grid has led to a significant rise in the use of power electronic converters. These converters are essential for integrating RES into the grid, as they facilitate the conversion of DC power generated by sources like solar panels and wind turbines into AC power compatible with the grid. However, the widespread use of power electronic converters has also introduced challenges related to power quality, such as the injection of harmonics and non-linear loads, which can lead to voltage distortions and other issues in the electrical grid.

There are many solutions that have been proposed to address the power quality issues in the grid, such as STATCOMs, the dynamic voltage restorers (DVRs) active power filters (APFs), the unified power quality conditioners (UPQC) and the solid-state transformers (SST). SSTs has the ability to mitigate most of the power quality issues mentioned above, while also providing galvanic isolation and voltage transformation. However, the high cost and complexity of SSTs has limited their widespread adoption in the distribution grid and, also,

does not provide the same short-circuit current capability as traditional distribution transformers (DTs).

For this reason, the hybrid distribution transformer (HDT) emerges as a promising solution to address the disadvantages of SSTs while still providing advanced power quality functionalities. The HDT is a power electronic transformer that combines the functions of a traditional distribution transformer with those of power electronic converters. Many HDT configurations have been proposed in the literature, and in consequence, classifications have been made [1]. One of the classifications is based on the source of the converter's energy, i.e., whether the energy is obtained from a capacitor/battery, the primary or secondary side of the DT, or an auxiliary winding. On the other hand, the other classification is based on how the converters inject energy into the system, i.e., whether they are connected in series or in parallel with the DT.

In this paper, the configuration of the HDT consists of the DT connected to two back-to-back voltage source converters (VSCs): a series converter connected to the primary of the DT through a coupling transformer (CT), and a parallel converter connected in parallel to the load, which is connected to the secondary of the DT. A circuit diagram of the HDT is shown in fig. 1. The series converter is responsible for regulating the voltage at the primary side of the DT, while the parallel converter is responsible for regulating the current injected into the load.

Several control strategies have been proposed for the HDT in the literature, including finite control set model predictive control (FC-MPC) [2], switching V-f and P-Q mode control [3], and decoupled control strategies, such as the resonant control [4] the compound controller [5], quasi-proportional controller [6] and the separated state-feedback controller [7].

In this paper, a unified control strategy based on state feedback control with resonant states is proposed for the HDT. This control strategy aims to achieve zero steady-state error for sinusoidal references and disturbances, while also
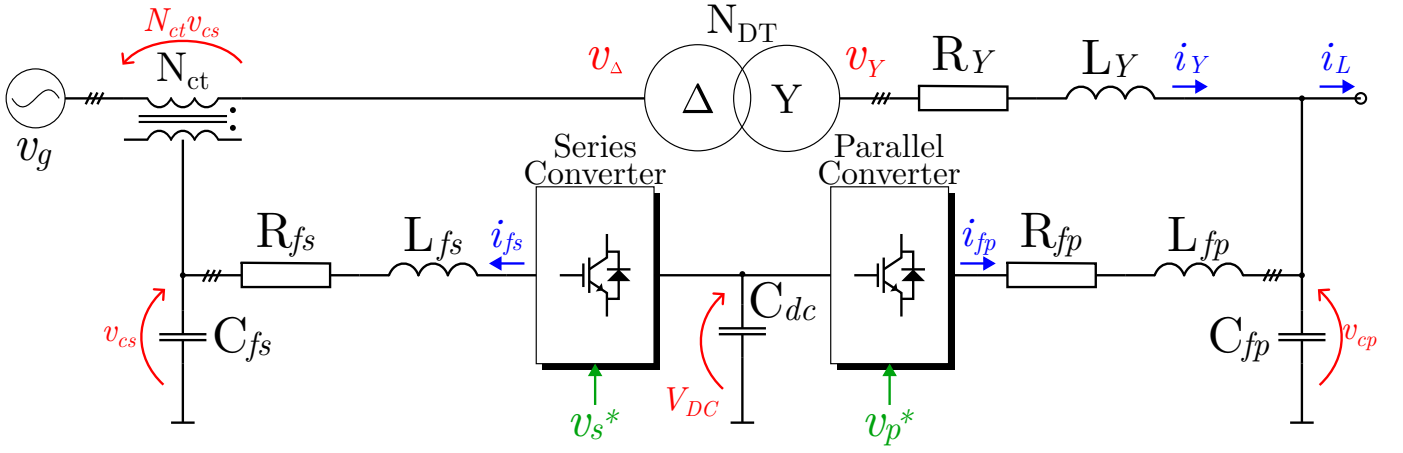
Fig. 1. Hybrid distribution transformer circuit diagram.

ensuring good dynamic performance. The control strategy is designed using an augmented state-space model of the HDT that includes the delays introduced by the digital control system and the resonant states to achieve zero steady-state error for sinusoidal references and disturbances. The control gains are optimized using particle swarm optimization (PSO) to minimize a cost function that considers both the transient and steady-state performance of the HDT. The proposed control strategy is validated through simulation results that demonstrate its effectiveness in regulating the voltage and current of the HDT under various operating conditions.

II. MODEL OF THE HYBRID DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORMER

A. Series Converter

The series converter dynamics are given by:

$$
\begin{aligned}
v_s^{abc} &= R_{fs} i_{fs}^{abc} + L_{fs} \frac{d\, i_{fs}^{abc}}{dt} + v_{cs}^{abc} \\
i_{fs}^{abc} &= C_{fs} \frac{d\, v_{cs}^{abc}}{dt} + i_g^{abc}
\end{aligned}
\tag{1}
$$

where v_s^{abc} is the series converter output voltage, i_{fs}^{abc} is the series converter inductor current, v_{cs}^{abc} is the series converter output capacitor voltage, and i_g^{abc} is the grid current after the coupling transformer. The parameters R_{fs}, L_{fs}, and C_{fs} are the series converter filter resistance, inductance, and capacitance respectively.

Leaving the states on the left side, and converting to $\alpha\beta$ coordinates, the series converter model is given by:

$$
\begin{aligned}
\frac{d\, i_{fs}^{\alpha\beta}}{dt} &= -\frac{R_{fs}}{L_{fs}} i_{fs}^{\alpha\beta} - \frac{1}{L_{fs}} v_{cs}^{\alpha\beta} + \frac{1}{L_{fs}} v_s^{\alpha\beta} \\
\frac{d\, v_{cs}^{\alpha\beta}}{dt} &= -\frac{1}{C_{fs}} i_{fs}^{\alpha\beta} + \frac{1}{C_{fs}} i_g^{\alpha\beta}
\end{aligned}
\tag{2}
$$

B. Parallel Converter

The parallel converter dynamics are given by:

$$
\begin{aligned}
v_p^{abc} &= R_{fp} i_{fp}^{abc} + L_{fp} \frac{d\, i_{fp}^{abc}}{dt} + v_{cp}^{abc} \\
i_{fp}^{abc} &= C_{fp} \frac{d\, v_{cp}^{abc}}{dt} - i_Y^{abc} + i_L^{abc}
\end{aligned}
\tag{3}
$$

where v_p^{abc} is the parallel converter output voltage, i_{fp}^{abc} is the parallel converter inductor current, v_{cp}^{abc} is the parallel converter output capacitor voltage, i_Y^{abc} is the transformer Y side current, and i_L^{abc} is the load current. The parameters R_{fp}, L_{fp}, and C_{fp} are the parallel converter filter resistance, inductance, and capacitance respectively.

Leaving the states on the left side, and converting to $\alpha\beta$ coordinates, the series converter model is given by:

$$
\begin{aligned}
\frac{d\, i_{fp}^{\alpha\beta}}{dt} &= -\frac{R_{fp}}{L_{fp}} i_{fp}^{\alpha\beta} - \frac{1}{L_{fp}} v_{cp}^{\alpha\beta} + \frac{1}{L_{fp}} v_p^{\alpha\beta} \\
\frac{d\, v_{cp}^{\alpha\beta}}{dt} &= \frac{1}{C_{fp}} i_{fp}^{\alpha\beta} - \frac{1}{C_{fp}} i_Y^{\alpha\beta} + \frac{1}{C_{fp}} i_L^{\alpha\beta}
\end{aligned}
\tag{4}
$$

C. Distribution Transformer

The transformer is connected in $\Delta - Y$ configuration, with the series converter (through the coupling transformer) connected to the Δ side, and the parallel converter connected to the Y side. The Y side has its neutral point grounded. The transformer equations are given by:

$$
\begin{aligned}
v_{Ya} &= N_{DT}(v_{\Delta a} - v_{\Delta b}) \\
v_{Yb} &= N_{DT}(v_{\Delta b} - v_{\Delta c}) \\
v_{Yc} &= N_{DT}(v_{\Delta c} - v_{\Delta a})
\end{aligned}
\tag{5}
$$

This can be expressed in matrix form as:

$$v_Y^{abc} = N_{DT} \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}}_{K_T'} v_\Delta^{abc}$$

$$\text{(6)}$$

$$v_Y^{abc} = N_{DT} K_T' v_\Delta^{abc}$$

In the other hand, the dynamics of the transformer are modeled as a series impedance referred to the Y side. These transformer equations are given by:

$$v_Y^{abc} = R_Y i_Y^{abc} + L_Y \frac{d\, i_Y^{abc}}{dt} + v_{cp}^{abc} \qquad (7)$$

Assuming that there is no zero-sequence current, and using the expression given in (6), the transformer model can be expressed in $\alpha\beta$ coordinates as:

$$\frac{d\, i_Y^{\alpha\beta}}{dt} = -\frac{R_Y}{L_Y} i_Y^{\alpha\beta} - \frac{1}{L_Y} v_{cp}^{\alpha\beta} + \frac{1}{L_Y} N_{DT} K_T' v_\Delta^{\alpha\beta} \qquad (8)$$

D. Overall HDT Model

The overall HDT model can be expressed in state-space form as:

$$\frac{d}{dt}\begin{bmatrix} x_s \\ x_p \end{bmatrix} = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{A}_s & \mathbf{P}_{ig}\mathbf{M}_p \\ \mathbf{P}_{vc}\mathbf{M}_s & \mathbf{A}_p \end{bmatrix}}_{\mathbf{A}} \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} x_s \\ x_p \end{bmatrix}}_{x} + \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{B}_s & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{B}_p \end{bmatrix}}_{\mathbf{B}} \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} u_s \\ u_p \end{bmatrix}}_{u}$$

$$+ \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{P}_{vg} \end{bmatrix}}_{\mathbf{P}_{vg}} v_g + \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{P}_{iL} \end{bmatrix}}_{\mathbf{P}_{iL}} i_L$$

$$\text{(9)}$$

where the matrices $\mathbf{M}_p = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{I} & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix}$ and $\mathbf{M}_s = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{I} \end{bmatrix}$ are used to select the appropriate states from the parallel and series converter state vectors respectively.

The last can be expressed in a more compact form as:

$$\frac{d\, x(t)}{dt} = \mathbf{A}x(t) + \mathbf{B}u(t) + \mathbf{P}_{vg}v_g(t) + \mathbf{P}_{iL}i_L(t) \qquad (10)$$
$$y(t) = \mathbf{C}\,x(t)$$

with the states $x(t) = \begin{bmatrix} i_{fs}^{\alpha\beta} & v_{cs}^{\alpha\beta} & i_{fp}^{\alpha\beta} & i_Y^{\alpha\beta} & v_{cp}^{\alpha\beta} \end{bmatrix}^T$, input $u(t) = \begin{bmatrix} v_s^{\alpha\beta} & v_p^{\alpha\beta} \end{bmatrix}^T$, and output $y(t) = \begin{bmatrix} i_{fs}^{\alpha\beta} & v_{cs}^{\alpha\beta} & i_{fp}^{\alpha\beta} & i_Y^{\alpha\beta} & v_{cp}^{\alpha\beta} \end{bmatrix}^T$.

The HDT system is discretized using a zero-order hold with a sampling time of $T_s = 5\,\mu s$. The discrete-time state-space model is given by:

$$x[k+1] = \mathbf{A}_d x[k] + \mathbf{B}_d u[k] + \mathbf{P}_{vg,d}v_g[k] + \mathbf{P}_{iL,d}i_L[k]$$
$$y[k] = \mathbf{C}x[k]$$

$$\text{(11)}$$

where $\mathbf{A}_d = e^{\mathbf{A}T_s}$, $\mathbf{B}_d = \int_0^{T_s} e^{\mathbf{A}\tau}d\tau \mathbf{B}$, $\mathbf{P}_{vg,d} = \int_0^{T_s} e^{\mathbf{A}\tau}d\tau \mathbf{P}_{vg}$, $\mathbf{P}_{iL,d} = \int_0^{T_s} e^{\mathbf{A}\tau}d\tau \mathbf{P}_{iL}$, and $\mathbf{C} = \mathbb{I}$.

In most of the applications, there is a delay of one sampling period between the calculation of the control input and its
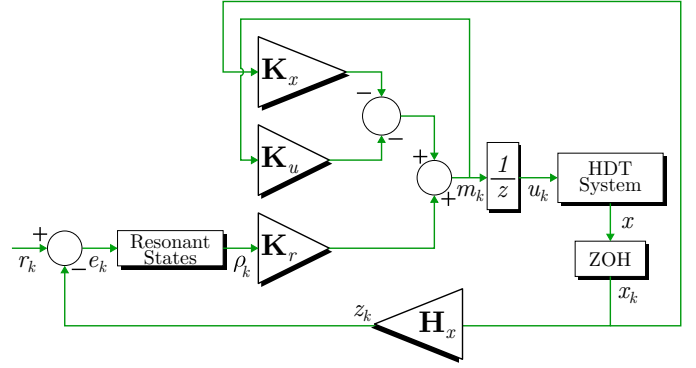

Fig. 2. Block diagram of the proposed control strategy for the HDT.

application to the system. To account for this delay, the discrete-time state-space model is augmented with a new state representing the previous control input:

$$m_k = u_{k-1} \qquad (12)$$

This can be expressed in state-space form as:

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_{k+1} \\ m_{k+1} \end{bmatrix} = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{A}_d & \mathbf{B}_d \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix}}_{\mathbf{A}_{d,\text{delay}}} \begin{bmatrix} x_k \\ m_k \end{bmatrix} + \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{I} \end{bmatrix}}_{\mathbf{B}_{d,\text{delay}}} u_k \qquad (13)$$

III. Control Strategy

With the state-space model of the HDT defined, the next step is to design a control strategy that ensures the desired performance.

A. Proposed Control Strategy

The proposed control strategy is based on a state feedback controller which is designed using the augmented state-space model of the HDT, defined in the **??**. The control strategy aims to achieve zero steady-state error for sinusoidal references. The state feedback controller is designed using the discrete LQR approach given by:

$$\mathbf{K} = \text{dlqr}(\mathbf{A}_{d,delay}, \mathbf{B}_{d,\text{aug}}, \mathbf{Q}, \mathbf{R}) \qquad (14)$$

where $\mathbf{Q} \in \mathbb{R}^{11}$ and $\mathbf{R} \in \mathbb{R}^4 = \mathbf{I}$ are the state and input weighting matrices, respectively. The gain matrix is partitioned into three sub-matrices: $\mathbf{K}_x$, $\mathbf{K}_u$ and $\mathbf{K}_r$ for convenience. The block diagram of the proposed control strategy is shown in Fig. 2. With the partitioned gain matrices defined, the control input can be expressed as:

$$u_k = -\mathbf{K}_x \begin{bmatrix} x_k \\ m_k \end{bmatrix} + \mathbf{K}_u m_k - \mathbf{K}_r \rho_k \qquad (15)$$

where $\mathbf{K}_x$ is the state feedback gain matrix, $\mathbf{K}_u$ is the previous control input gain matrix and $\mathbf{K}_r$ is the resonant states gain matrix.

As mentioned before, the proposed control strategy includes resonant states to ensure zero steady-state error for sinusoidal
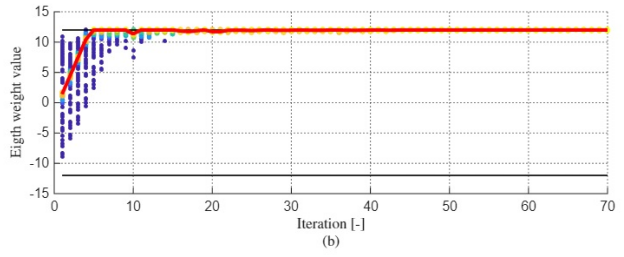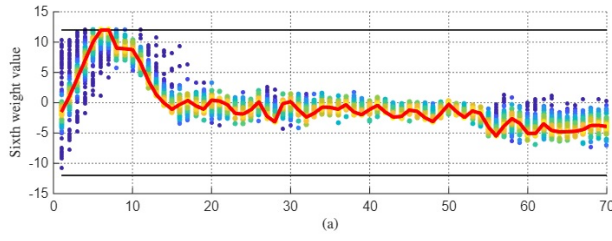
Fig. 3. Convergence of exponents over the PSO iterations. (a) Exponent q_6 associated with the parallel converter inductor current $v_{cp,\alpha\beta}$. (b) Exponent q_8 associated with the first resonant state of the error $e1v_{cs,\alpha\beta}$.

references. The resonant states are defined by the following differential equation:

$$\frac{d\,\rho(t)}{dt} = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 0 & \omega \\ -\omega & 0 \end{bmatrix}}_{\mathbf{A}_r} \rho(t) + \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}}_{\mathbf{B}_r} e(t) \qquad (16)$$

where ω is the nominal angular frequency and $e(t)$ is the error vector between the reference and the measured output. Each of the references signals has two resonant states associated with it, meaning that for the HDT control, there are eight resonant states in total (4 for the $ev_{cs,\alpha\beta}$ and 4 for the $i_{fp,\alpha\beta}$). This can be expressed as:

$$\frac{d\,\rho(t)}{dt} = \text{diag}(\mathbf{A}_r, \mathbf{A}_r, \mathbf{A}_r, \mathbf{A}_r)\rho(t) \qquad (17)$$
$$+ \text{diag}(\mathbf{B}_r, \mathbf{B}_r, \mathbf{B}_r, \mathbf{B}_r)e(t) \qquad (18)$$

These resonant states are then discretized using a ZOH giving the matrices $\mathbf{A}_{rd}$ and $\mathbf{B}_{rd}$. The augmented state-space model of the resonant states can be expressed as:

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_{k+1} \\ m_{k+1} \\ \rho_{k+1} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{A}_{d,delay} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{B}_{rd}\mathbf{H}_x & \mathbf{A}_{rd} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_k \\ m_k \\ \rho_k \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{B}_{d,\text{aug}} \\ \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u_k \\ e_k \end{bmatrix}$$
$$y_k = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{C} & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_K \\ m_k \\ \rho_k \end{bmatrix} \qquad (19)$$

where $\mathbf{H}_x$ selects the states from the HDT state vector that are imposed to follow references.

B. Particle Swarm Optimization

To facilitate the tuning of the state feedback gain matrix $\mathbf{K}$ by adjusting $\mathbf{Q}$, the PSO algorithm is employed to optimize the weights associated with each state in the cost function. The PSO algorithm is a population-based optimization technique inspired by the social behavior of birds and fish. It consists of a swarm of particles, where each particle represents a potential solution to the optimization problem, in this case, the vector of exponents q_l, where $l \in [1, 2, ..., 11]$. The particles move through the search space, updating their positions based on their own experience and the experience of their neighbors.
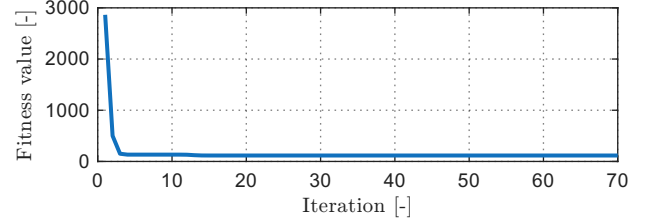

Fig. 4. Convergence of the fitness value over the PSO iterations.

The velocity and position of each particle are updated using the following equations:

$$v_j(i+1) = K_{ap}\,(v_j(i) + c_1 r_1 (pbest_j - x_j(i)) \\ + c_2 r_2 (gbest - x_j(i))) \qquad (20)$$
$$x_j(i+1) = x_j(i) + v_j(i+1)$$

where $v_j(i)$ is the velocity of particle j at iteration i, $x_j(i)$ is the position of particle j at iteration i, $pbest_j$ is the best position found by particle j, $gbest$ is the best position found by the entire swarm, c_1 and c_2 are cognitive and social acceleration coefficients, r_1 and r_2 are random numbers uniformly distributed in the range [0, 1], and K_{ap} is the constriction factor given by:

$$K_{ap} = \frac{2}{\left| 2 - \phi - \sqrt{\phi^2 - 4\phi} \right|} \qquad (21)$$

where $\phi = c_1 + c_2 > 4$ is a constant that ensures convergence.

The PSO algorithm iteratively updates the positions and velocities of the particles until a stopping criterion is met, sin this case, the maximum of iteration number. The best position found by the swarm is considered the optimal solution to the optimization problem.

C. PSO Performance Index

The performance index used for the PSO optimization is a cost function that considers both the transient and steady-state performance of the HDT. The cost function is defined as:

$$J = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} |e_k|^2 + \beta \Delta u_k^2 \qquad (22)$$

where N is the number of samples in the simulation, e_k is the error vector at sample k, Δu_k is the change in control

input at sample k, and β is a weighting factor that balances the importance of the transient and steady-state performance.

The weights are defined as:

$$w_i = 10^{q_i} \qquad (23)$$

where w_i is the weight associated with state i, and q_i is the exponent to be optimized. The weights are used to scale the states in the cost function, allowing the PSO algorithm to prioritize certain states over others. The optimization variables lie within the range $[-20, 20]$ including the absorbing walls boundaries. The PSO parameters used for the optimization are listed in Table I.

TABLE I
PSO PARAMETERS USED FOR THE OPTIMIZATION OF THE CONTROL GAINS.

Parameter	Value
Number of particles	100
Maximum number of iterations	70
Absorbing walls boundaries	$[-12, 12]$
Cognitive acceleration coefficient (c_1)	2.05
Social acceleration coefficient (c_2)	2.05
Maximum weight exponent for states (q_{max})	4.5
Damping ratio for resonant states (ξ)	0.01

After running the PSO algorithm, each of the state weights exponents (q_i) are given by:

$$
\begin{aligned}
& q_1 = -0.7009 \quad q_2 = -3.2101 \quad q_3 = -2.9568 \\
& q_4 = 3.4510 \quad\ \ q_5 = -3.3684 \quad q_6 = 2.9170 \\
& q_7 = -5.9347 \quad q_8 = 11.4511 \quad q_9 = 11.4543 \\
& q_{10} = 5.7987 \quad\ q_{11} = 0.5847
\end{aligned}
\qquad (24)
$$

IV. SIMULATION RESULTS

In this section, the simulation results of the proposed control strategy are presented. The simulations are performed using MATLAB/Simulink, and the system parameters are listed in Table II. The proposed control strategy is tested under grid unbalanced swell, load impact, load unbalance, and non-linear load conditions.

TABLE II
SYSTEM PARAMETERS

Parameter	Variable	Value
Grid Voltage	V_g	10 kV
Nominal Converter Voltage	V_s	400 V
DC Link Voltage	V_{DC}	700 V
Grid Frequency	f_e	50 Hz
Series Converter Filter Inductance	L_{fs}	200 mH
Series Converter Filter Resistance	R_{fs}	$100 m\Omega$
Series Converter Filter Capacitance	C_{fs}	12 µF
Parallel Converter Filter Inductance	L_{fp}	200 mH
Parallel Converter Filter Resistance	R_{fp}	$100 m\Omega$
Parallel Converter Filter Capacitance	C_{fp}	12 µF
Transformer Dispersion Inductance	L_Y	100 µH
Transformer Series Resistance	R_Y	$5\ m\Omega$
Coupling Transformer Turns Ratio	N_{ct}	2.5
Distribution Transformer Turns Ratio	N_{DT}	$V_s/(V_g\sqrt{3})$
Converters Switching Frequency	f_{sw}	20 kHz
Control Sampling Time	T_s	5 µs

Each of the load impacts are comprised by $47\ \Omega$ resistive load per phase, $2\ k\Omega$ resistive load in phase a for the unbalanced load, and a three-phase diode bridge rectifier with a $47\ \Omega$ resistive load at its output for the non-linear load. The simulation results are shown in Fig. 5.

A. Grid Voltage Unbalanced Swell Compensation

In the instant $t = 10\ ms$ until the instant $t = 260\ ms$ as it can be seen in the Fig. 5.(a). The proposed control strategy effectively compensates for the unbalanced swell, meaning that the parallel inverter injects the necessary voltage to maintain a balanced transformer secondary side current, as shown in Fig. 5.(d) for the transformer secondary side current and in Fig. 5.(c) for the parallel inverter voltage.

B. Load Impact and Unbalanced Load Compensation

At $t = 60\ ms$, a three-phase balanced load impact is applied, and at $t = 100\ ms$, a three-phase unbalanced load is applied, where the resistor of the phase a is $2\ k\Omega$, as shown in Fig. 5.(b). To keep a balanced transformer secondary side current, the parallel converter injects the needed current, giving the desired performance, as shown in Fig. 5.(d)

C. Non-linear Load Compensation

Following the load impacts, at $t = 140\ ms$, a non-linear load is applied, as it shown in the Fig. 5.(b), which consists of a three-phase diode bridge rectifier with a resistive load of $47\ \Omega$ at its output. The parallel converter compensates for the harmonics injected by the non-linear load, giving the secondary side currents that are shown in the Fig. 5.(d).

D. Grid Harmonics Compensation

Finally, at $t = 200\ ms$, a third-order harmonic is added to the grid voltage, as shown in Fig. 5.(a). The parallel converter compensates for the harmonic distortion, giving the series converter capacitor voltage shown in Fig. 5.(c).

V. CONCLUSIONS

In the present paper a unified state feedback control strategy for a HDT was proposed. The control strategy was designed using an augmented state-space model of the HDT that includes the delays introduced by the digital control system and resonant states to achieve zero steady-state error for sinusoidal references. The control gains were optimized using PSO to minimize a cost function that considers both the transient and steady-state performance of the HDT.

The proposed control strategy was validated through simulation results that demonstrated its effectiveness in regulating the voltage and current of the HDT under various operating conditions, including grid voltage unbalanced swell compensation, load impact and unbalanced load compensation, non-linear load compensation, and grid harmonics compensation. The simulation results showed that the proposed control strategy effectively compensated for disturbances and maintained the desired performance of the HDT.
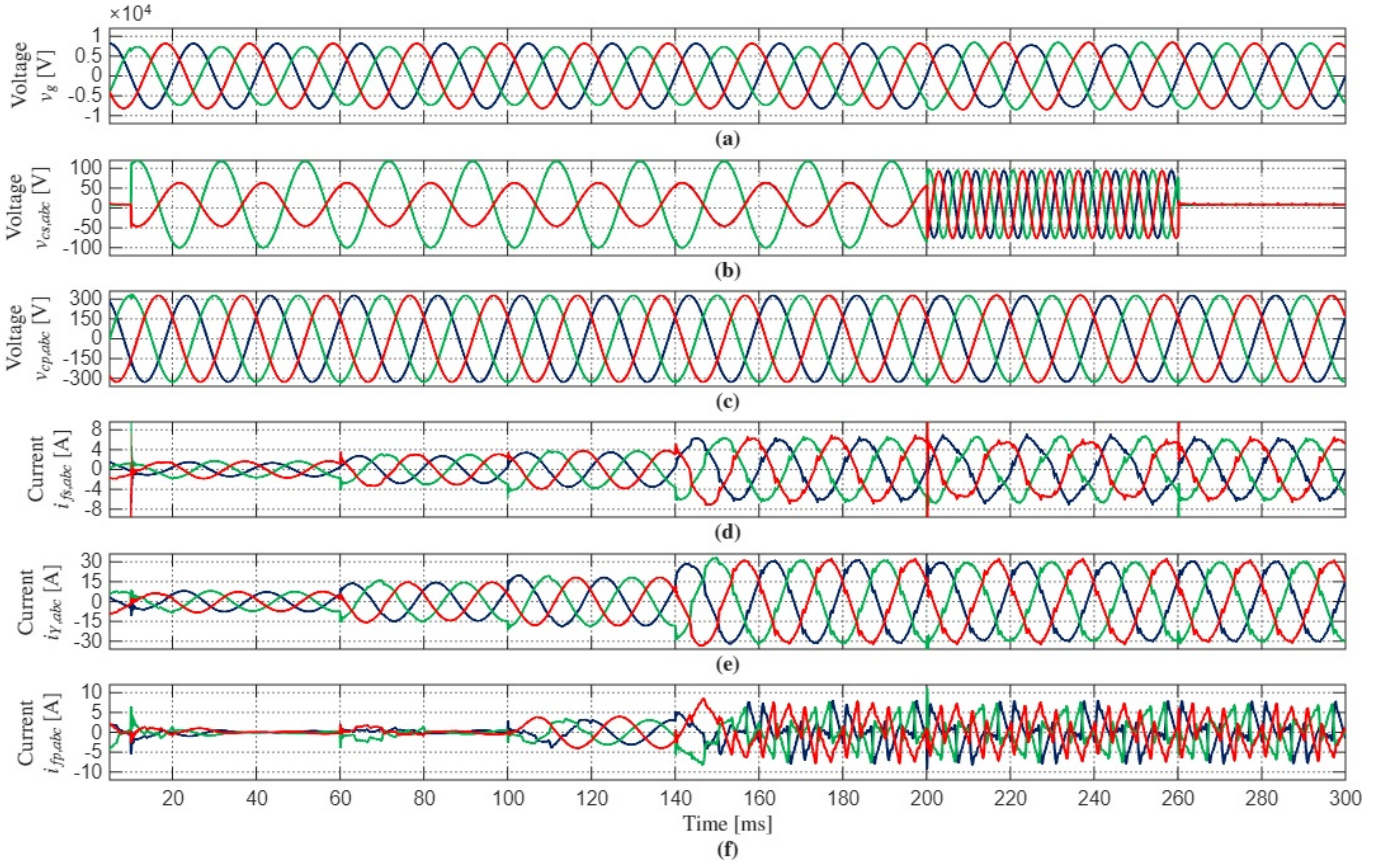
Fig. 5. Simulation results for the proposed control strategy under grid and load disturbances. (a) Grid voltage v_g^{abc}, (b) Series converter capacitor voltage v_{cs}^{abc}, (c) Parallel converter capacitor voltage v_{cp}^{abc}, (d) Series converter inductor current i_{cs}^{abc}, (e) Secondary side transformer current i_Y^{abc}, (f) Parallel converter inductor current i_{cp}^{abc}

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