

# Novel Technique of Nine Level Inverter for Harmonic Reduction with Reduced Switches

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**Abstract**— This paper introduces a unique design of Multi-level inverters (MLI) for harmonic reduction. The proposed technique is advantageous because it uses minimum number of power electronic switches as compared to the traditional MLI resulting in reduced Electromagnetic Interference (EMI), reduced switching loss and low Total Harmonic Distortion (THD). The 9 level output is obtained using unipolar sine wave linked with 9 level cascaded H bridge Multi-level inverter (CHBMLI) implementing concept of carrier in phase disposition Pulse width modulation technique. MATLAB/SIMULINK is used for the modeling and analyzing the system. Fast Fourier Transform (FFT) algorithm is used for analyzing the presence of Total Harmonic Distortion (THD) in the system.

**Keywords**— Multilevel Inverters (MLI), Electromagnetic Interference (EMI), Total Harmonic Distortion (THD), Cascaded H bridge Multilevel Inverter (CHBMLI), Fast Fourier Transform (FFT).

## I. INTRODUCTION

Renewable energy sources are much in trend to abate environmental pollution and other ecological problems. Most of the renewable energy sources gives power in the form of direct current, thus power conversion plays a significant role in power system. Several topologies and control techniques are day by day researched and implemented to enhance the power derived from the renewable sources [1].

Commonly 2 level inverters are used in industry for low power applications. Multilevel inverters are specifically used for high power applications. The Multilevel inverter attracts attention because of the low switching losses, good power quality and high voltage capability [2]. The grid integration of conventional 2 level inverter injects high amount of harmonics. Multilevel inverters are capable of creating smoother stepped level output with more voltage levels together [3]. More the number of voltage level, smoother the waveform and it becomes near to sinusoidal wave [4].

Almost every power electronic device operates at high switching frequency. The switching process leads to conduction losses and switching losses. The handling of power of power electronic switches gives rise to conduction losses. Switching loss mainly occurs due to switching frequency, current of the power electronic switches and the voltage jump of each switching. The modulation techniques mainly used are unipolar modulation and bipolar modulation [5] [6].

The proposed model is designed for grid integration purpose. All the IEEE limits and allowable range of the harmonics is

being focused on along with the minimum utilization of power electronic switches for the generation of required level output.

## II. CLASSIFICATION OF MULTILEVEL INVERTER

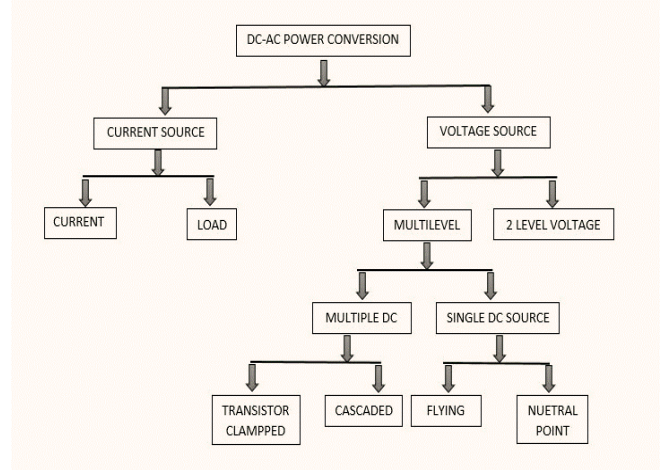


Fig: 1 Classification of MLI

The above Figure shows the classification of inverter into Cascaded H bridge multilevel inverter (CHBMLI), Flying Capacitor multilevel inverter (FCMLI), Diode clamped Inverter [7].

## III. COMPARISON OF CONVENTIONAL INVERTER WITH MULTILEVEL INVERTERS.

TABLE 1 : COMPARISON OF CONVENTIONAL AND MULTILEVEL INVERTERS[8]

S. No.	Parameters	Conventional Inverter	Multilevel Inverter
1.	THD in output voltage	Higher	Lower
2.	Voltage regulation	Not adjustable	Adjustable
3.	Switching frequency	Higher	Lower
4.	Switching losses	High	Less
5.	Efficiency	Low	High
6.	Applications	Low voltages	Higher Voltages
7.	Control Scheme	Simple	Complex

TABLE 2: PARAMETER COMPARISON OF DIFFERENT LEVEL OF INVERTERS[9],[10],[11]

S. No.	Parameters	5-Level	7-Level	9-Level
1.	Power Electronic Switches	6	7	9
2.	Capacitors	2	3	4
3.	Voltage THD (%)	4.73%	3.63%	2.48%
4.	Current THD (%)	2.53%	2.35%	2.15%

The above table gives us the brief idea of the THD percent present in the system with different numbers of the levels. From the analysis we found that as we increase number of levels, total harmonic distortion gets reduced. Considering the complexity, cost and THD the system is modelled for generating 9 level output.

IV. PULSE WIDTH MODULATION TECHNIQUES [12]

Pulse Width Modulation Techniques are classified into two categories i.e.

- Phase Shifted PWM (PS PWM)
- Level-shifted PWM (LS PWM)

A. Phase Shifted PWM (PS PWM):

Phase Shifted PWM applies several triangular carriers that have the same frequency and same peak to peak amplitude, but there is a phase shift between any two adjacent carrier waves. “For n voltage levels, (n-1) carrier signals are required, and they are phase shifted with an angle of  $\theta = (360^\circ/n-1)$ ”. The gate signals are generated with a proper comparison of carriers and a modulating signal.

B. Level-shifted PWM (LS PWM):

“Level Shifted PWM also uses some carrier signals, but they are arranged in different levels among the carriers”. According to the disposition of carrier waves, the LS PWM can be listed into three main type i.e.

- Phase disposition (PD), when all the carrier signals are in phase,
- Phase opposition disposition (POD), when all the carrier signals above zero reference are in phase but in opposition with those are below zero references.
- Alternate phase opposition disposition (APOD): when the modulating signal of each phase is in opposition from each other.[12],[13]

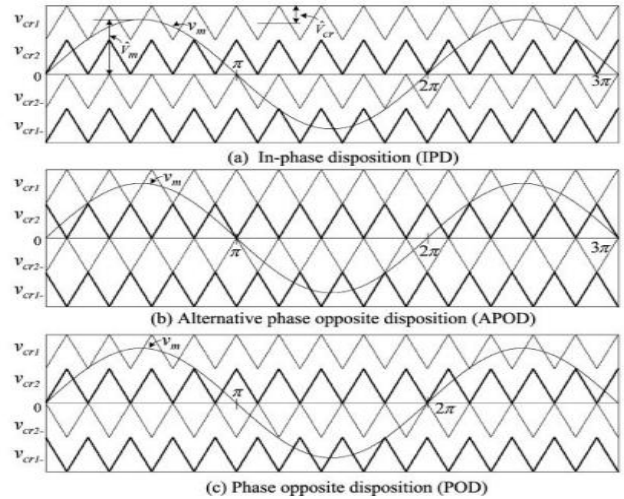


Fig 2: Level Shifted PWM Techniques [14]

TABLE 3: THD COMPARISONS OF PWM TECHNIQUE [15],[16]

S. No.	PWM techniques	No. of level	THD%
1.	Phase Disposition	3	52.06%
2.	Phase Opposition Disposition	3	54.17%
3.	Alternate Phase opposition Disposition	3	54.17%
4.	Phase Disposition	5	26.69%
5.	Phase Opposition Disposition	5	26.96%
6.	Alternate Phase opposition Disposition	5	37.13%
7.	Phase Disposition	7	18.05%
8.	Phase Opposition Disposition	7	22.48%
9.	Alternate Phase opposition Disposition	7	25.20%
10.	Phase Disposition	9	16.77%
11.	Phase Opposition Disposition	9	17.08%
12.	Alternate Phase opposition Disposition	9	17.10%
13.	Phase Disposition	11	12.48%
14.	Phase Opposition Disposition	11	13.24%
15.	Alternate Phase opposition Disposition	11	13.30%
16.	Phase Disposition	13	10.68%
17.	Phase Opposition Disposition	13	12.54%
18.	Alternate Phase opposition Disposition	13	12.57%

The table 3 gives us the brief idea about the PWM techniques used for particular level of inverter and the amount of THD in percentage for each of them.

V. PROPOSED NINE LEVEL INVERTER.

A. Circuit Configuration and working principle.

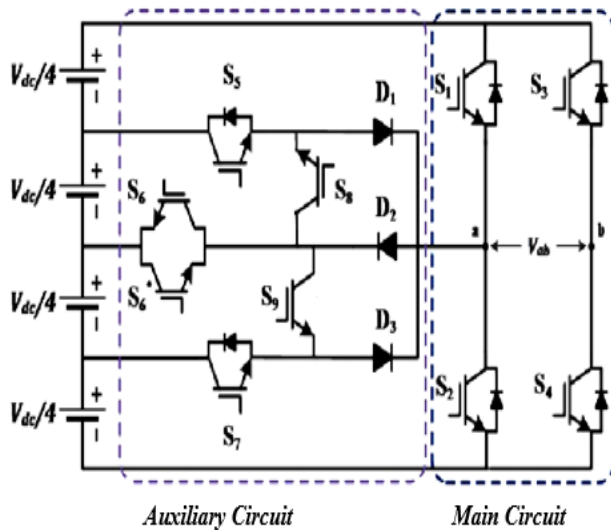


Fig. 3 Circuit Diagram of Nine level inverter.

The Fig. 3 is of the proposed technique of nine level Inverter with reduced number of switches. The inverter designed is economical without affecting the inverter operation. The inverter is mainly divided into two parts; main circuit and the auxiliary circuit. The purpose of the main circuit is to control the output and the voltage polarity. The main circuit is a normal H- bridge configuration inverter. The switches that forms the main circuit are S<sub>1</sub>, S<sub>2</sub>, S<sub>3</sub> and S<sub>4</sub>. These switches are power metal oxide semiconductor field effect transistor (MOSFET) with reverse diode. The auxiliary circuit is formed by switches S<sub>5</sub>, S<sub>6</sub>, S<sub>6</sub>\*, S<sub>7</sub>, S<sub>8</sub>, S<sub>9</sub> and the Diodes D<sub>1</sub>, D<sub>2</sub>, D<sub>3</sub>. The switches S<sub>5</sub> and S<sub>7</sub> are power MOSFET with reverse diode. The switches S<sub>8</sub> and S<sub>9</sub> are power MOSFET without body diodes. While S<sub>6</sub> and S<sub>6</sub>\* are bidirectional. The source is divided into four part each having voltage of V<sub>dc</sub>/4.

B. Switching Sequence.

TABLE 4: SWITCHING SEQUENCE OF NINE LEVEL INVERTER

State	V <sub>ab</sub>	I <sub>out</sub>	Current Path	
i.	Zero	0	+	(S <sub>1</sub> & D <sub>S3</sub> ) or (S <sub>2</sub> & D <sub>S4</sub> )
ii.	Zero	0	-	(S <sub>3</sub> & D <sub>S1</sub> ) or (S <sub>4</sub> & D <sub>S2</sub> )
iii.	Active	V <sub>dc</sub> /2	+	S <sub>7</sub> , D <sub>3</sub> & S <sub>4</sub>
iv.	Active	V <sub>dc</sub> /2	-	D <sub>S7</sub> , D <sub>2</sub> , S <sub>9</sub> & D <sub>S4</sub>
v.	Active	V <sub>dc</sub> /4	+	S <sub>6</sub> , S <sub>8</sub> , D <sub>1</sub> & S <sub>4</sub>
vi.	Active	V <sub>dc</sub> /4	-	S <sub>6</sub> <sup>*</sup> , D <sub>2</sub> & D <sub>S4</sub>
vii.	Active	3V <sub>dc</sub> /4	+	S <sub>5</sub> , D <sub>1</sub> & S <sub>4</sub>
viii.	Active	3V <sub>dc</sub> /4	-	S <sub>7</sub> S <sub>7</sub> , D <sub>3</sub> & S <sub>4</sub>
ix.	Active	V <sub>dc</sub>	+	S <sub>1</sub> , S <sub>4</sub>

x.	Active	V <sub>dc</sub>	-	D <sub>S1</sub> & D <sub>S4</sub>
xi.	Active	-V <sub>dc</sub> /2	-	D <sub>S5</sub> , S <sub>8</sub> , D <sub>2</sub> & S <sub>3</sub>
xii.	Active	-V <sub>dc</sub> /2	+	S <sub>5</sub> , D <sub>1</sub> & D <sub>S3</sub>
xiii.	Active	-V <sub>dc</sub> /4	-	S <sub>3</sub> , D <sub>2</sub> & S <sub>6</sub> <sup>*</sup>
xiv.	Active	-V <sub>dc</sub> /4	+	S <sub>6</sub> , S <sub>8</sub> , D <sub>1</sub> & D <sub>S3</sub>
xv.	Active	-3V <sub>dc</sub> /4	-	S <sub>3</sub> , D <sub>2</sub> , S <sub>9</sub> & D <sub>S7</sub>
xvi.	Active	-3V <sub>dc</sub> /4	+	S <sub>7</sub> , D <sub>3</sub> & D <sub>S3</sub>
xvii.	Active	-V <sub>dc</sub>	-	S <sub>3</sub> , S <sub>2</sub>
xviii.	Active	-V <sub>dc</sub>	+	D <sub>S3</sub> & D <sub>S2</sub>

C. Simulation of Proposed Model

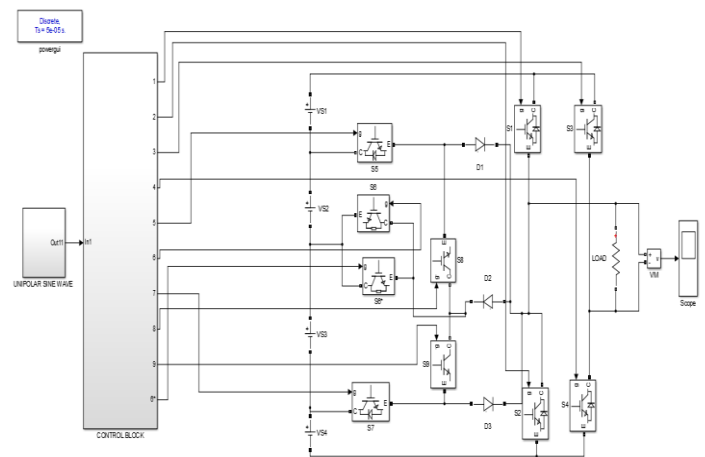


Fig. 4 MATLAB simulation for 9 level inverter

To get the desired output a single phase rectifier is used for creating the unipolar sine wave. The unipolar sine wave will generate the four main comparison wave namely A, B, C and D. This comparison wave will compare our output from each switching pattern thus resulting in the required pattern for the output generation. The simulation is being carried out using MATLAB software having version 2013a. The rating used in the simulation for generation of unipolar sine wave are, AC supply having normal rating i.e.230 Volts 50 Hz, Transformer of rating 100VA, 230/24V, Diodes connected to the resistance of 1 ohm. The comparison is being made using the logical comparators and then is being fed to the switches S<sub>1</sub> – S<sub>9</sub>.

D. Switching pattern and Control Strategy

The logical operators used for comparison and the comparison wave along with unipolar wave generation are in the control block as described in Fig. 4. Keeping in mind the switching sequence and the output the switching pattern is decided as described in Table 4.

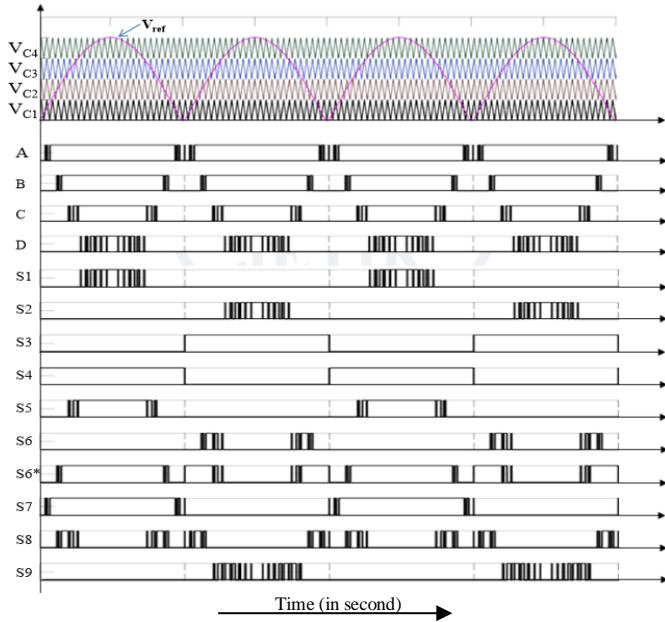


Fig. 5 Switching Pulse for 9-Level inverter

## VI. SIMULATION RESULT

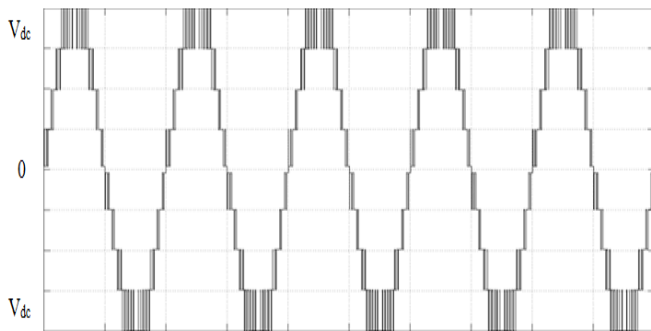


Fig. 6 Output Voltage Waveform of 9-Level Inverter

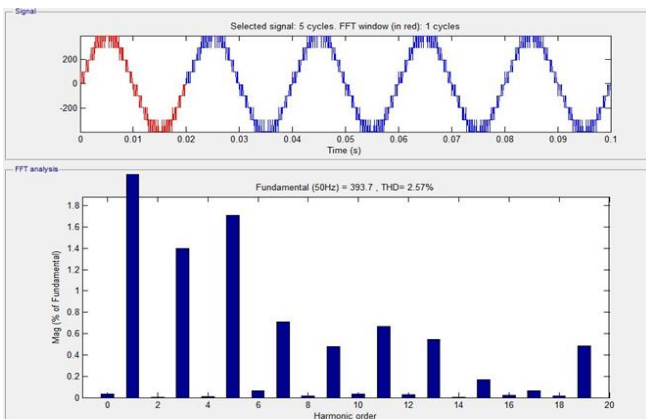


Fig. 7 FFT analysis for THD in output voltage

## VII. CONCLUSION

The proposed new topology of the single phase Nine level inverter is suitable for the grid integration. The amount of harmonics present in the system are within the IEEE-519 standard. The Phase disposition Pulse width modulation technique used for lowering the harmonic content in the proposed system. The harmonic content present in the system is only 2.57% giving us the nine level output. The main advantage of this proposed inverter is it is economical, less number of switches resulting into the less amount of switching losses and High power density.

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