

### ABSTRACT

Now-a-days serious concerns have been raised over the fossil fuel electricity generation, because it pollutes our environment and depletes the energy supply. As a result alternative energy sources such as solar energy and fuel cells have gained great attention because they are friendly to the environment and flexible for installation. In this paper, the one cycle control (OCC) method and the pulse width modulation (PWM) method have been proposed for a three phase boost type grid connected inverter. A cost effective maximum power point tracking method (MPPT) integrated within the OCC. When integrated with a three phase boost type inverter, the proposed method tracks MPP with good precision and solar power is converted into three phase ac power with a single phase power stage. One stage inverters for low dc voltage to high ac voltage conversion have been reported for non-grid connected inverters based on the topology of a current source inverter. The output current of the inverter can be adjusted according to the voltage of the photovoltaic array so as to extract the maximum power from it. Compared with previously proposed approaches, this OCC method preserves the advantages of simple circuitry, good stability, fast dynamic response and maximum power point tracking (MPPT) function can be conveniently integrated into the control core.

**KEYWORDS:** Boost type, grid connected, maximum power point tracking (MPPT), one cycle control (OCC), photovoltaic (PV), three phase inverter.

### I. INTRODUCTION

Now-a-days the non-renewable energy sources are depleting and it pollutes our environment that's why we are mostly depending upon the renewable energy sources because these renewable energy sources are available in abundance in our environment. These renewable energy sources are friendly to our environment and flexible for installation. Apart from all the renewable energy sources solar energy is the best. However, these types of sources produce dc power, while the present power grid accepts ac power, therefore, grid connected inverters are necessary for dc-ac conversion. The inverters are designed to have high power quality, high efficiency, high reliability, low cost and simple circuitry. Compared to single phase inverters, three phase grid connected inverters have distinctive advantages:

- First, the power flow is constant, which results in a reduced dc capacitor number and value.
- Fewer switches are used for three phase dc-ac conversion.

As far as the alternative source is concerned, the photovoltaic (PV) module or fuel cell stack usually supplies a dc voltage lower than the peak grid voltage, and their output voltage varies in a wide range according to various operation conditions [1], [2]. Series connection of several such modules can be a simple way to increase their output voltage so as to employ a buck-type grid-connected inverter for power conversion [1], [3]. However, this method may reduce the input power collection range because the inverter stops conversion when its input dc voltage drops below its output peak grid voltage. Additionally, series connection of PV modules may reduce the overall efficiency of the PV array (a PV array consists of several PV modules) when individual modules are running under different conditions [4]. For boosting PV output voltage in order to accommodate the buck-type grid-connected inverter, a two-stage topology that boosts the PV voltage by a dc-dc converter in the

first stage and then inverts it into ac voltages by the second stage was reported in previous literature [5], [6]. In [4], a cascaded structure is used in which the individual PV voltage is stepped up to a higher module output voltage and such module output voltages are series connected to build up an array output voltage as the front-end of a buck-type grid-connected inverter. In [7], a multi-level topology is employed to increase the input voltage of the buck-type inverter. In [4]–[7], either two power stages or extra power switches are used for increasing the dc side voltage, which increases circuitry complexity and may reduce system overall efficiency. An alternative way to achieve dc-to-ac inversion without directly boosting input dc voltage is to use the power stage topology of a current source inverter (CSI) as reported in [8] and [9].

However, this type of circuit could be bulky, heavy and expensive for a high power application. In paper [8], a One-Cycle Controlled (OCC) boost-type three-phase grid connected inverter was proposed. It has a single power stage, a low value dc side inductor and its input dc voltage can vary over a wide range. These key features of OCC are all desirable for low cost high efficiency PV power generation. As far as maximum power point tracking (MPPT) methods are concerned, many methods have been addressed previously. The Perturb and Observe (P&O) method needs to calculate  $dP/dV$  to determine the maximum power point (MPP) [9][10]. Though the method is relatively simple, it can't track the MPP when the irradiance changes rapidly; and it oscillates around the MPP instead of directly tracking it. The Incremental Conductance method tracks MPP rapidly but it has high algorithm complexity, which also employs the calculation of  $dI/dV$  [11]. Though this method can accurately determine MPPs, a digital signal processor (DSP) or a microprocessor is usually needed for these complex calculations. The Constant Voltage method [12], which uses 76% open circuit voltage as the MPP voltage, and the Short-Circuit Current method [13] are simple, but they do not always accurately track the real MPP.

In this paper, the one-cycle control (OCC) method and the conventional pulse width modulation (PWM) method are proposed based on the CSI topology for a grid-connected application. The property of single power stage is preserved and the input dc voltage of the inverter is lower than the output peak grid voltage, which perfectly suits the property of wide output voltage range in PV or fuel cells. The dc side inductance can be kept small in a balanced three-phase system, so the size, weight, and power dissipation of the dc inductor are reduced and system dynamic response is improved.

## II. POWER STAGE AND SWITCHING STRATEGY

Fig. 1 shows the power stage of the three-phase boost-type grid-connected inverter, where  $V_g$  is a dc voltage source,  $v_a$ ,  $v_b$  and  $v_c$  are three-phase grid voltages, and  $L_{fa}$ ,  $L_{fb}$ ,  $L_{fc}$  and  $C_a$ ,  $C_b$ ,  $C_c$  form an output filter. Each switch of the bridge is realized by an insulated gate bipolar transistor (IGBT) in series with a diode as shown in the dashed line box. According to the zero-crossing points of grid voltages, each line cycle can be divided into six regions as shown in Fig. 2. In each region, two line-to-neutral voltages have the opposite polarity of the third one. For example, in Region I (0~60°),  $v_a > 0$ ,  $v_c > 0$  and  $v_b < 0$ . The line to line voltages are:

$$v_{ab} \geq \sqrt{6}/2 V_{rms}, \quad v_{cb} \geq \sqrt{6}/2 V_{rms}$$

$V_{rms}$  is the rms value of the line to neutral voltage.

Similarly, in the other regions, two voltages can always be selected so as to obtain the two line to line voltages referred to the third voltage with the amplitude greater than  $(\sqrt{6}/2) V_{rms}$ . At any given instant, one of the upper switches ( $S_{ap}$ ,  $S_{bp}$ ,  $S_{cp}$ ) and one of the lower switches ( $S_{an}$ ,  $S_{bn}$ ,  $S_{cn}$ ) are kept on to form the inductor current flow passage. For example, in Region I,  $S_{an}$  and  $S_{cn}$  are kept off and  $S_{bn}$  is on for the entire region, while switches  $S_{ap}$ ,  $S_{bp}$  and  $S_{cp}$  are operated at the switching frequency. There are three stages with different switching strategies in Region I: 1) In Stage I [Fig. 3(a)],  $S_{bp}$  is turned on and  $S_{ap}$ ,  $S_{cp}$  are off. The inductor current  $I_L$  increases, and output currents are supplied by  $C_a$ ,  $C_b$ ,  $C_c$ . 2) In Stage II [Fig. 3(b)],  $S_{ap}$  is turned on and  $S_{bp}$ ,  $S_{cp}$  are off.

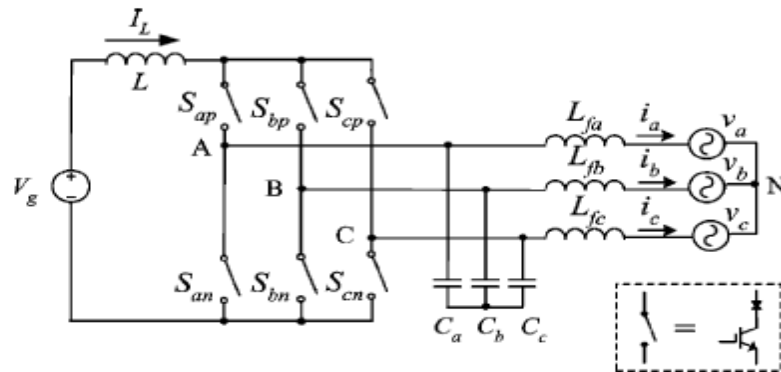


Fig. 1. Power stage of the boost-type inverter.

The inductor current  $I_L$  discharges through  $C_a$ ,  $C_b$  and the grid voltages  $v_a$ ,  $v_b$ . Then the current is supplied by  $C_c$ ,  $C_b$ . 3) In Stage III [Fig.3(c)], switch  $S_{cp}$  is turned on and the switches  $S_{ap}$ ,  $S_{bp}$  are off and the inductor current  $I_L$  decreases through  $C_c$ ,  $C_b$  and  $v_c$ ,  $v_b$ . Therefore the current  $i_a$  is supplied by  $C_a$ ,  $C_b$ .

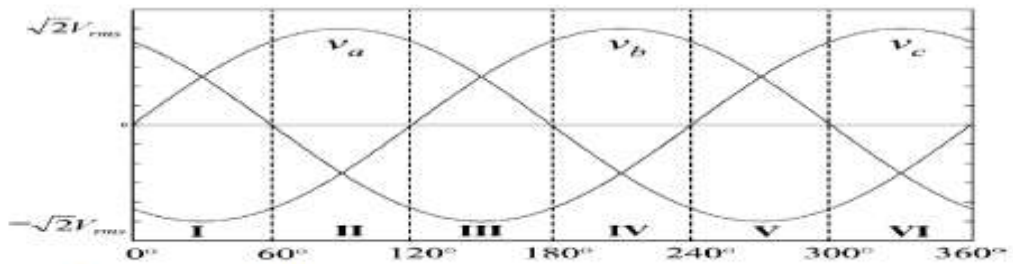


Fig. 2. Six regions in a line cycle.

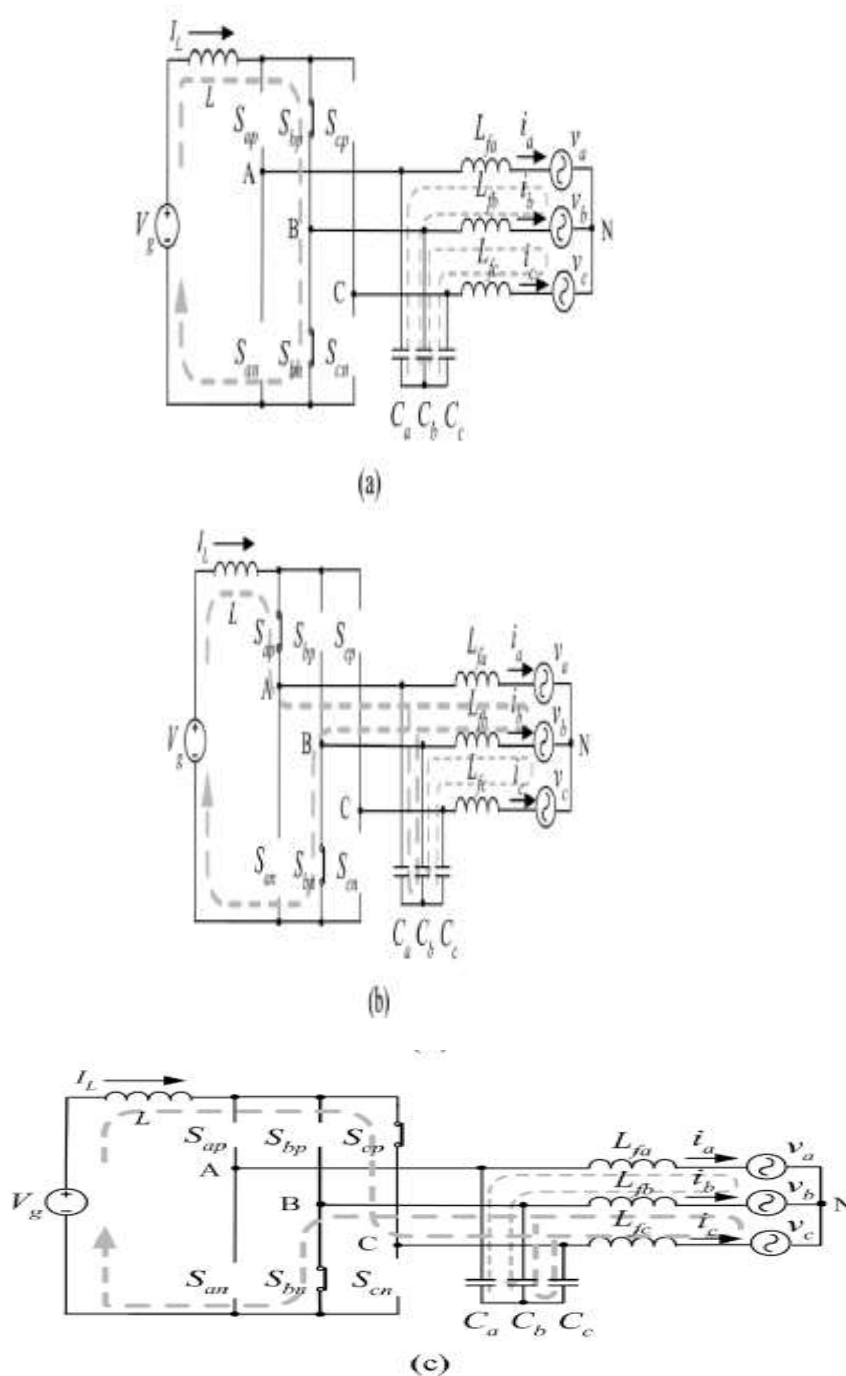


Fig. 3. Three stages for different switching patterns in Region I. (a) Stage I. (b) Stage II. (c) Stage III.

### III. CONTROL PRINCIPLE

#### A. One Cycle Control Method

Figure 4 shows the diagram of OCC core for the boost type inverter. It comprises an integrator with reset, two comparators, two flip-flops and other linear and logic components, where  $V_{ref}$  is an adjustable constant and related to output power.  $R_1$  and  $C_1$  are integration components, and  $t=R_1C_1=T_s/2$ .  $T_s$  represents the period of a

switching cycle.  $V_p$  and  $V_n$  are selected from  $v_a$ ,  $v_b$  and  $v_c$  in each region respectively;  $k$  is the voltage sensing ratio;  $I_L$  is the dc side current; and  $R_s$  is the current sensing resistance. PWM signal  $Q_p$ ,  $Q_n$  and  $Q_t$  are distributed to the corresponding switches for driving IGBTs. In a balanced three-phase system, the dc side current can be derived as

$$I_L = 1/R_s (V_{ref} - 3k/2V_g V_{rms}^2)$$

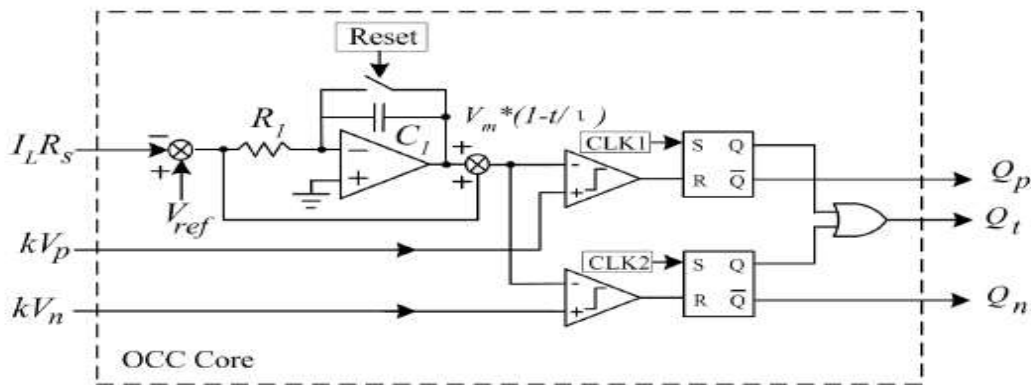


Fig.4 Diagram of the OCC core for the boost type inverter

The operation procedures are as follows (e.g., in Region I): at the beginning of each switching cycle, CLK1 sets  $Q_t=1$  in the upper flip flop. Then the switch  $S_{bp}$  is turned on and the power stage is operated in stage I. Whenever the falling ramp  $V_m(1-t/T)$  meets  $KV_p$ , then the flip flop resets. At that time  $Q_t=0$  and  $Q_p=1$ , which turns off  $S_{bp}$  and turns on  $S_{ap}$ . Then the power stage switches to Stage II. At that time of  $T_s/2$ , the lower flip flop is set by CLK2 and  $Q_t=1$  then the power stage turns back to Stage I again. Similarly the falling ramp  $V_m(1-t/T)$  intersects  $KV_n$ , then  $Q_t=0$  and  $Q_n=1$ . Therefore the power stage switches to Stage III until the next switching cycle begins.

**B. Conventional Pwm Method**

Boost type inverter can also be controlled by the Conventional PWM control method. Fig. 5 shows the Conventional PWM control core which comprises two multipliers, saw tooth generation circuit, two comparators and other linear or logical components. The time sequence operation procedure of the Conventional PWM method as follows (e.g., in Region I): Saw tooth 1 and Saw tooth 2 are out of phase for half of the switching period. The peak voltage  $V_m$  of saw tooth 1 or saw tooth 2 is a constant and  $t=T_s/2$ .

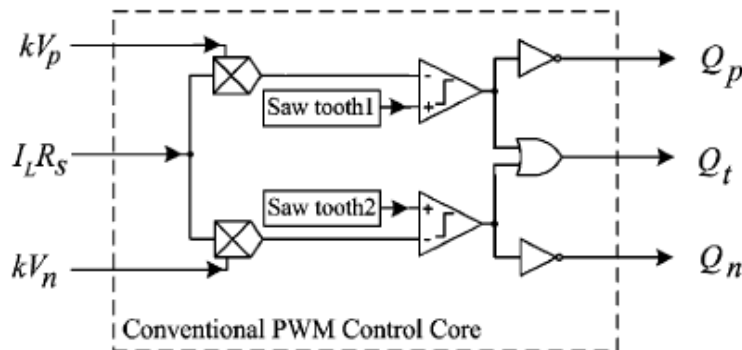


Fig.5. Conventional PWM Control Core

In the first half cycle when  $V_m(1-t/T)$  is greater than  $I_L R_s * KV_p$  then  $Q_t=1$  and  $Q_p=0$ . At that time the circuit is in Stage I. At that time the ramp signal  $V_m(1-t/T)$  is greater than  $I_L R_s * KV_p$ . Therefore the upper comparator flips and  $Q_t=0$ ,  $Q_p=1$ . Therefore the circuit then switches to stage II. In the second half cycle when  $V_m(1-t/T)$  is greater than  $I_L R_s * KV_n$  then  $Q_t=1$  and  $Q_n=0$ . Therefore the circuit switches back to Stage I again. As soon as

$v_m(1-t/T)$  is less than  $I_L R_s * K V_n$  then the lower comparator flips then  $Q_t=0$  and  $Q_n=1$  therefore the circuit then switches to Stage III.

**IV. MODIFIED OCC CONTROLLER WITH MPPT FUNCTION**

When the dc source in Fig. 1 is a PV array, the operation conditions, such as  $V_g$  and output current from PV are determined by the actual input power of the boost inverter as well as the solar irradiance and cell temperature at any instant.

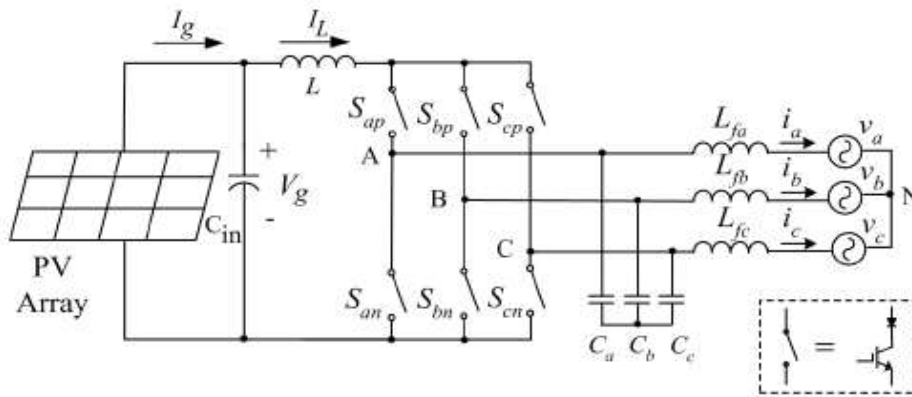


FIG.6. Power Stage PV Array Connection

For a generic PV array that is comprised of M modules in parallel and N cells in series in each module, the output power is:

$$P_g = V_g \cdot I_g = V_g \cdot M \cdot \{ I_L G - I_{os} [ e^{q(V_g + I_g R_g) / NAKT} - 1 ] \}$$

In order to extract the maximum power from the PV array, the boost inverter should: i) allow input voltage to vary in a large range; ii) make input power track the MPP for different operating circumstances (e.g., temperature, irradiance). In order to make  $P_{in}$  approach MPPs automatically, a cost-effective MPPT method is proposed in this paper. Figure 7 shows the diagram of the controller with the MPPT function integrated in the OCC core.

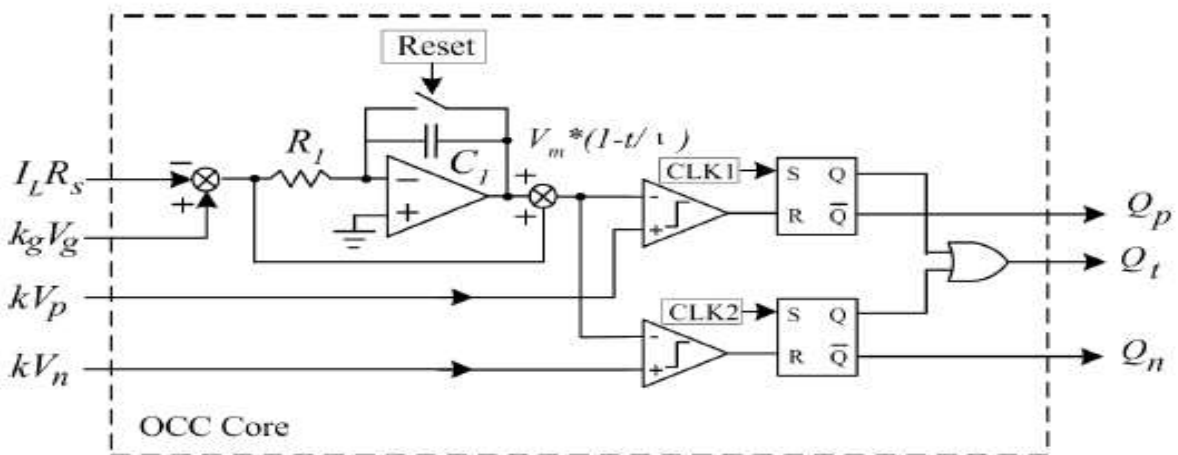


FIG.7. OCC Controller with MPPT Function

Only  $V_{ref}$  (in Fig.4) is replaced by  $k_g \cdot V_g$  in order to achieve a better MPPT tracking capability.  $K_g$  is the voltage sensing ratio and  $V_g$  is the output voltage of the PV array. Thus:

$$V_{ref} = K_g \cdot V_g$$



Simulation diagram

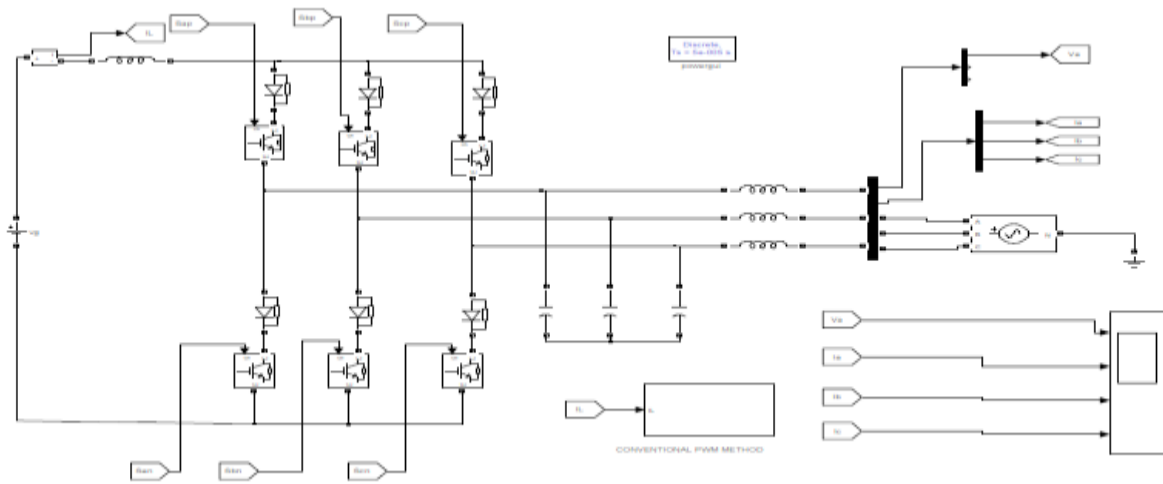


Fig. Simulation diagram for Conventional PWM Method

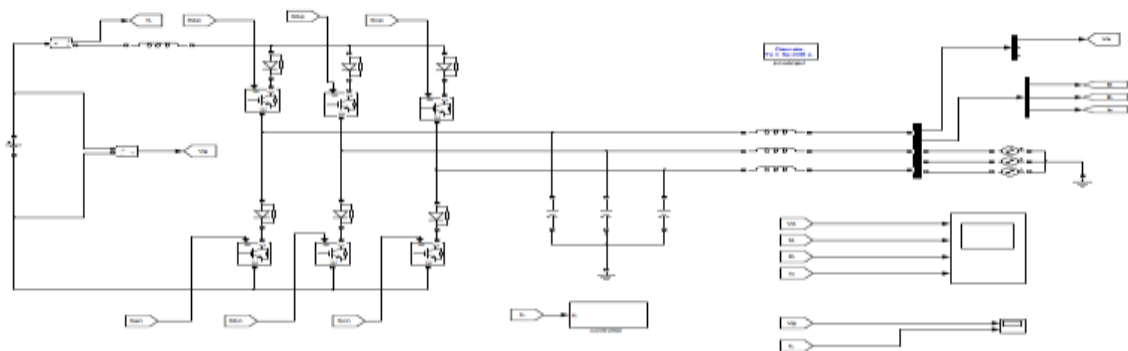


Fig. Simulation diagram for OCC Core for a boost type inverter

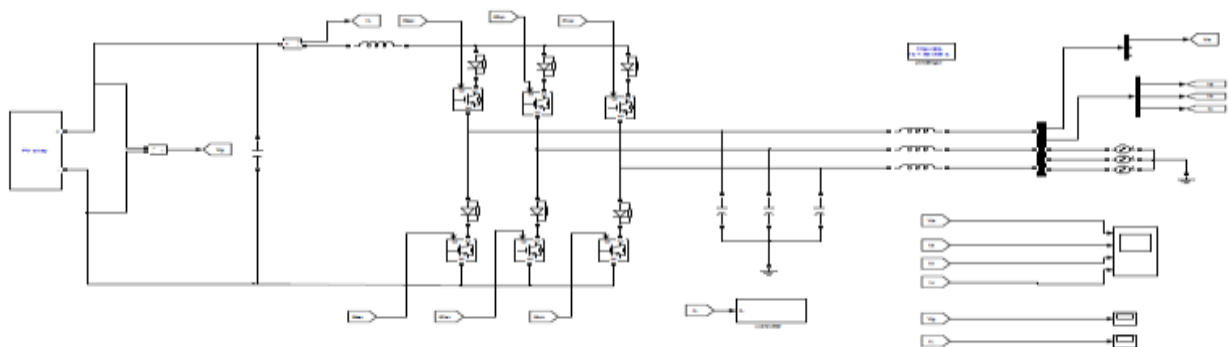


Fig. Simulation diagram for OCC Controller with MPPT function

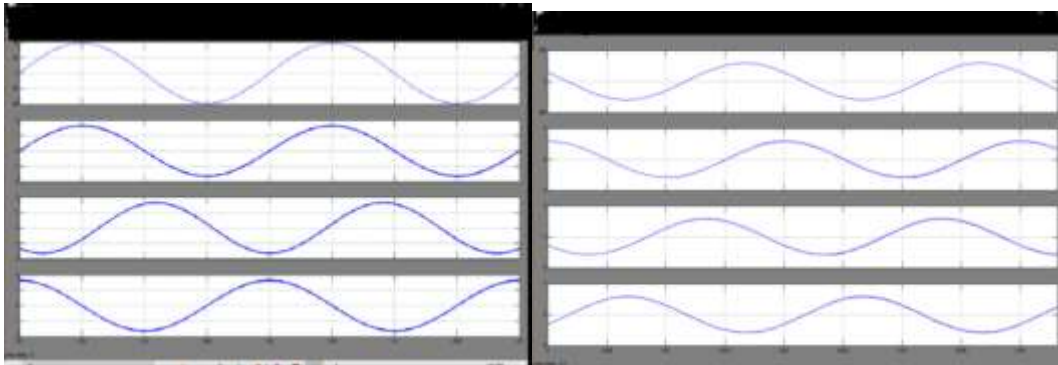
**Simulation results**


Fig. Simulation results for Conventional PWM Method

Fig. Simulation results for OCC Core Method

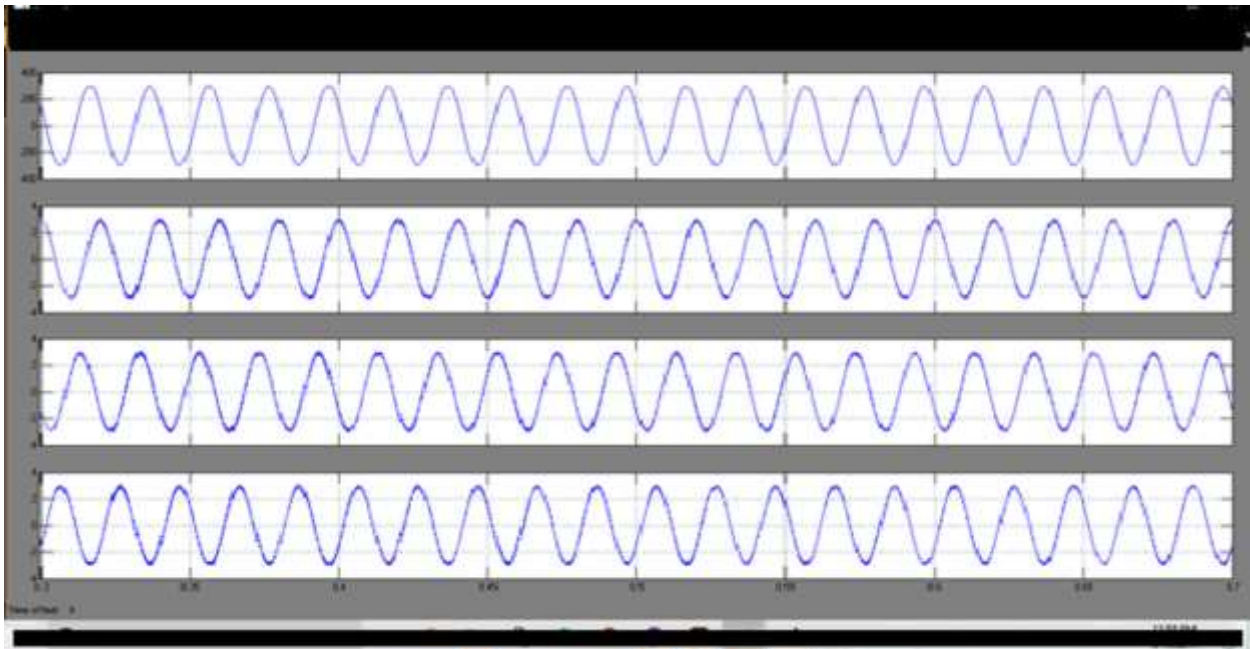


Fig. Simulation results for OCC Controller with MPPT Function

**V. CONCLUSION**

In this paper, a cost effective MPPT method is proposed for the three phase boost type grid connected inverter. The control method is simple and can be integrated within the OCC Core by adding a few simple components. Complex power calculation is not needed and multipliers or microprocessors are not necessary. The proposed circuit requires only one power stage to achieve the MPPT function and dc-to-ac power conversion. Compared to a buck type inverter which needs an additional dc-dc converter to boost the dc side voltage over 294V, the boost type inverter can accommodate a low dc voltage with a much wider range. The average dc current is maintained constant in each switching cycle in a balanced three phase system, so the dc side inductance can be kept small.

**VI. REFERENCES**

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