

Robust high-order repetitive control of an active filter using an odd-harmonic internal model

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Abstract—Shunt active power filters have proven to be an efficient means to compensate for the negative effects of nonlinear and reactive loads on the power quality of the electrical distribution network. In this context, the control objective is to achieve a power factor close to 1, as well as load current harmonics and reactive power compensation. A useful control strategy for this purpose is repetitive control. However, the performance of repetitive controllers is strongly affected by frequency variations of the involved signals. This work analyzes the effect of such variations and describes the architecture of an odd-harmonic, high-order repetitive controller specifically designed to obtain robust closed-loop performance against frequency variations that may occur in the electrical network.

I. INTRODUCTION

Active Filters (AF) are power electronics devices intended to overcome the power quality problems caused by nonlinear loads. Many research efforts have been focused on the control design of these devices [1], [2], [3], [4]. Most of them are based on two hierarchical control loops, an inner one in charge of assuring the desired current and an outer one in charge of determining the required shape as well as the appropriate power balance. In this sense, an approach which has proven to be specially efficient is Repetitive Control (RC) [5], [6]. This control technique is based on the Internal Model Principle [7] which allows the design of a controller capable of rejecting or tracking periodic signals in steady state [8], [9]. However, repetitive controllers are designed assuming a predefined fixed frequency for the signals to be tracked/rejected, and even slight changes in this frequency results in a dramatic performance decay.

In order to overcome this problem several approaches have been proposed. These methodologies may be grouped into two main frameworks, namely that dealing with sampling time preservation [10], [11] and that changing it adaptively [12], [13], [14]. The former consists of two branches: improving robustness by using large memory elements [10] and introducing a fictitious sampler operating at a variable sampling rate and then using a fixed frequency internal model [11].

The controller designed in this work uses the traditional two control loops decomposition. The current controller is composed of a feedback control law in charge of assuring closed-loop stability and a very good harmonic correction

performance. For this control law, an Odd-Harmonic High-Order Repetitive Controller (OHHORC) is proposed, which combines the specific repetitive controller structure for odd-harmonic signals [15] with the High-Order Repetitive Control (HORC) design proposed in [10] to improve performance robustness under uncertain or varying frequency conditions. The outer control law is based on the exact computation of the sinusoidal current network amplitude and this is combined with a feedback control law that uses an analytically tuned PI controller.

The proposed OHHORC is the main contribution of this work, yielding very good performance and robustness under network frequency variations.

II. PROBLEM FORMULATION

A. Physical model of the boost converter

Fig. 1 presents the system architecture. A load is connected to the power source and an AF is connected in parallel to guarantee unity power factor at the network side. A boost converter with the ac neutral wire connected directly to the midpoint of the dc bus is used as AF. The averaged (at the switching frequency) model of the boost converter is given by

$$\begin{aligned}L \frac{di_f}{dt} &= -r_L i_f - v_1 \frac{d+1}{2} - v_2 \frac{d-1}{2} + v_n \\C_1 \frac{dv_1}{dt} &= -\frac{v_1}{r_{C,1}} + i_f \frac{d+1}{2} \\C_2 \frac{dv_2}{dt} &= -\frac{v_2}{r_{C,2}} + i_f \frac{d-1}{2},\end{aligned}$$

where d is the duty ratio, i_f is the inductor current and v_1, v_2 are the dc capacitor voltages; $v_n = V_n \sqrt{2} \sin(\omega_n t)$ is the voltage source, $\omega_n = 2\pi/T_p$ rad/s being the network frequency; L is the converter inductor and r_L is the inductor parasitic resistance; C_1, C_2 are the converter capacitors and $r_{C,1}, r_{C,2}$ are the parasitic resistances of the capacitors. The control variable, d , takes its values in the closed real interval $[-1, 1]$ and represents the averaged value of the pulse-width modulation control signal injected to the actual system.

Due to the nature of the voltage source, the load current, in steady-state, is usually a periodic signal with only odd-harmonics in its Fourier series expansion. Hence, this current

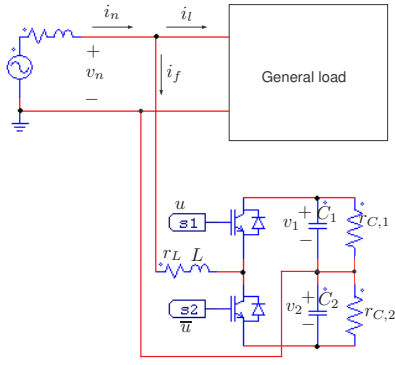


Fig. 1. Single-phase half-bridge shunt AF connected to the network-load system.

can be written as $i_l(t) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n \sin(\omega_n (2n+1)t) + b_n \cos(\omega_n (2n+1)t)$.

B. Control objectives

The AF goal is to assure that the parallel connection of AF plus load is seen as a resistive element. This can be stated demanding $i_n^*(t) = I_d^* \sin(\omega_n t)$, i.e. the source current must have a sinusoidal shape in phase with the network voltage¹. Another collateral goal, necessary for a correct operation of the converter, is to assure constant average value of the dc bus voltage, i.e. $\langle v_1 + v_2 \rangle_{T_p}^* = v_d$, where $\langle \cdot \rangle_{T_p}$ stands for the mean value², and v_d must fulfill the boost condition ($v_d > 2\sqrt{2}v_n$). It is also desirable that this voltage could be almost equally distributed among both capacitors ($v_1 \approx v_2$).

C. Rewriting the plant equations

It is standard for this kind of systems to linearize the current dynamics by the partial state feedback $\alpha = v_1(d+1)/2 + v_2(d-1)/2$. Moreover, the change of variables $i_f = i_f$, $E_c = \frac{1}{2}(C_1 v_1^2 + C_2 v_2^2)$, $D = C_1 v_1 - C_2 v_2$ makes two more meaningful variables appear. Namely, E_c , the energy stored in the converter capacitors and D , the charge unbalance between them. Assuming that the two dc bus capacitors are equal ($C = C_1 = C_2$, $r_C = r_{C,1} = r_{C,2}$) the system dynamics using the new variables answers to

$$L \frac{di_f}{dt} = -r_L i_f + v_n - \alpha \quad (1)$$

$$\frac{dE_c}{dt} = -\frac{2E_c}{r_C C} + i_f \alpha \quad (2)$$

$$\frac{dD}{dt} = -\frac{1}{r_C C} D + i_f \quad (3)$$

III. CONTROLLER STRUCTURE

The controller is designed using a two level approach [5], as depicted in Fig. 2. Firstly, an inner current controller which forces the sine wave shape i_n^* for the network current and, second, an outer control loop to fulfill the appropriate active

¹ f^* represents the steady-state value of $f(t)$.

² $\langle f(t) \rangle_{T_p} = \frac{1}{T_p} \int_{t-T_p}^t f(\tau) d\tau$.

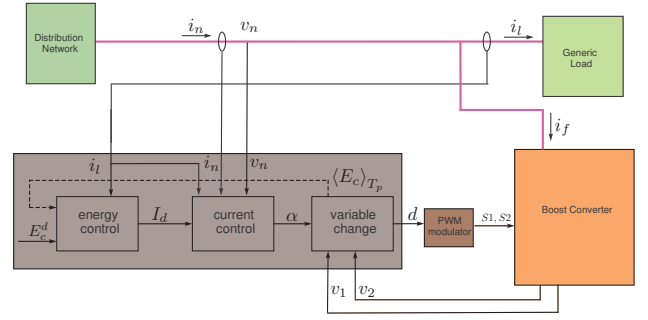


Fig. 2. Global architecture of the control system.

power balance for the whole system. The output of this loop is the amplitude of the sinusoidal reference for the current control loop. The active power balance is achieved if the energy stored in the AF capacitors, E_c , is equal to a reference value, E_c^d .

A. Current loop controller

Taking advantage of the linearity of (1), the digital repetitive controller depicted in Fig. 3 is designed to force a sinusoidal shape in i_n . The goal is to provide feedback control to overcome model uncertainties, disturbances and measurement noise.

The dynamics of (1) in discrete time can be written as

$$G_p(z) = \frac{I_f(z)}{\alpha(z)} = \frac{1}{r_L} \cdot \frac{1 - e^{-\frac{r_L T_s}{L}}}{z - e^{-\frac{r_L T_s}{L}}}$$

T_s being the sampling period. In this case, since the signal to be tracked and rejected in the system is an odd-harmonic periodic one, a technique that turns out to be specially suitable is Odd-Harmonic Repetitive Control (OHRC) [15], [16]. In this paper, an OHHRC is proposed with the aim of enhancing the performance under small frequency variations. The description of OHRC and OHHRC will be carried out in Section IV.

Under the action of the repetitive controller, the network current can be assumed to be $i_n(t) \approx I_d(t) \sin(\omega_n t)$ which, from now on, will be taken as a fact.

B. Energy shaping (voltage loop) controller

Following [5], the outer controller that assures a mean value of the energy stored in the capacitors, $\langle E_c(t) \rangle_{T_p}$, close to the desired reference value, E_c^d , is made up of two parts, as shown in Fig. 4:

(i) A feedforward term which makes $I_d^{ff} = a_0$. This assures the energy balance in the ideal case ($r_L = 0$ and $r_C = 0$)

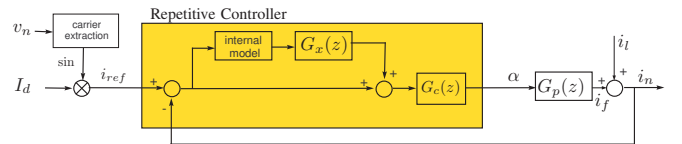


Fig. 3. Current control block diagram.

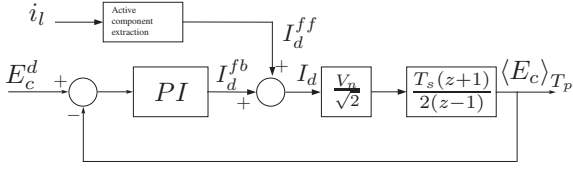


Fig. 4. Simplified 50Hz energy (voltage) control loop.

and takes into account i_l characteristics and changes instantaneously. I_d^{ff} is calculated using an amplitude modulator with a scaled signal of the source voltage as a carrier and a mean value extraction. For this last operation, the filter

$$P(z) = \frac{1}{N} \cdot \frac{1 - z^{-N}}{1 - z^{-1}}$$

is a good approximation of the corresponding continuous-time mean value extraction.

(ii) A feedback term which is in charge of compensating dissipative effects and system uncertainties. The dynamics of the plant can be modelled by the discrete-time integrator $T_s(z+1)/(2(z-1))$ and the losses in the inductor and capacitors parasitic resistances can be considered as an additive disturbance. So, the PI controller

$$I_d^{fb}(z) = k_i \frac{T_s(z+1)}{2(z-1)} \Delta E + k_p \Delta E,$$

where $\Delta E \triangleq E_c^d - \langle E_c(t) \rangle_{T_p}$, regulates $\langle E_c(t) \rangle_{T_p}$ to the desired value E_c^d without steady-state error.

IV. REPETITIVE CONTROL STRATEGIES

A. Odd-harmonic repetitive controller

OHRC uses an internal model (Fig. 3) which introduces infinite gain at a certain frequency and its odd harmonics [15]. This internal model has the following transfer function:

$$\frac{-H(z)}{z^{\frac{N}{2}} + H(z)}, \quad (4)$$

where $H(z)$ is a low-pass filter in charge of improving the system robustness. With $H(z) = 1$, model (4) provides infinite gain at frequencies $\omega = 2(2k-1)\pi/N$, with $k = 1, 2, \dots, N/2 + 1$, where $N = T_p/T_s$ is the discrete period of the signal, T_p being the period of the signal to be tracked/rejected and T_s being the sampling period.

Besides the internal model, which assures steady state performance, repetitive controllers are composed of a stabilizing controller, $G_x(z)$, which assures closed-loop stability. Traditionally, repetitive controllers are implemented in a “plug-in” fashion, i.e. the repetitive compensator is used to augment an existing nominal controller, $G_c(z)$ (see Fig. 3). This nominal compensator is designed to stabilize the plant, $G_p(z)$, and provides disturbance attenuation across a broad frequency spectrum.

The closed-loop system of Fig. 3, using (4) as the internal model, is stable if the following conditions are fulfilled ([15]):

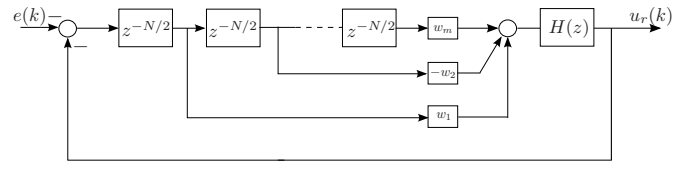


Fig. 5. OHHORC structure with an odd number of delay elements.

- 1) The closed-loop without the repetitive controller, i.e.

$$G_o(z) = \frac{G_c(z) G_p(z)}{1 + G_c(z) G_p(z)},$$

is stable. It is advisable to design the controller $G_c(z)$ with a high enough robustness margin.

- 2) $\| H(z) \|_\infty < 1$. $H(z)$ is designed to have gain close to 1 in the desired bandwidth and attenuate the gain out of it.
- 3) $\| 1 - G_o(z) G_x(z) \|_\infty < 1$, where $G_x(z)$ is a design filter to be chosen. A trivial structure³ which is often used is ([17]): $G_x(z) = k_r (G_o(z))^{-1}$. As argued in [18], k_r must be designed looking for a trade-off between robustness and transient response.

B. Odd-harmonic high order repetitive controller

HORC is mainly used to improve the RC performance robustness under disturbance/reference signals with varying or uncertain frequency [19]. Unlike standard RC, the HORC involves a weighted sum of several signal periods. With a proper selection of the associated weights, this high order function offers a characteristic frequency response in which the high gain peaks located at harmonic frequencies are extended to a wider region around the harmonics [10]. Thus, the addition of the high order function will improve robustness against frequency variations. Furthermore, the use of an odd-harmonic internal model will make the system more appropriate for applications where signals have only odd-harmonic components, as in power electronics systems.

The scheme for OHHORC is depicted in Fig. 5, its transfer function being

$$G_{HO}(z) = \frac{-W(z)H(z)}{1 + W(z)H(z)}, \quad (5)$$

with

$$W(z) = \sum_{l=1}^m (-1)^{l-1} w_l z^{-\frac{lN}{2}}, \quad (6)$$

where m is the number of delay elements in the system, and $H(z)$ is again a low-pass filter added to improve robustness.

Stability conditions for the closed-loop system of Fig. 3 using (5) as the internal model are derived in the same way as conditions given in section IV-A. Thus, conditions 1, 2 hold and an analogous version of condition 3 needs to be fulfilled:

$$\| W(z) H(z) [1 - G_o(z) G_x(z)] \|_\infty < 1. \quad (7)$$

³There is no problem with the improperness of $G_x(z)$ because the internal model provides the repetitive controller with a high positive relative degree.

1) *Weights selection methods*: The selection of the weights w_l of the high order function $W(z)$ can give different performance characteristics to the HOCR. This has led to different approaches which are primarily based on the solution of an optimization problem [20], [10], [21], [22]. The procedure described here use the maximally flat concept to calculate the weights of the function $W(z)$ in order to improve the performance robustness of the system.

Consider the internal model (5) with $H(z) = 1$, namely

$$\hat{G}_{HO}(z) = \frac{-W(z)}{1+W(z)}, \quad (8)$$

It can be seen that the transfer function (8) provides infinite gain when $W(z) = -1$. In the frequency domain that means

$$W(e^{j\omega}) = \sum_{l=1}^m (-1)^{l-1} w_l e^{-\frac{j\omega l N}{2}} = -1 \quad (9)$$

Since it is desirable to obtain the infinite gain at odd-harmonic frequencies, it is required to set $\omega = 2(2k-1)\pi/N$ with $k = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ in (9), which yields the following condition

$$\sum_{l=1}^m w_l = 1 \quad (10)$$

This condition allows the achievement of perfect asymptotic tracking or disturbance rejection and guarantees that if the external signal is N -periodic with odd-harmonic content, the resulting weighted sum in (6) is the same as that obtained using just one delay element.

Furthermore, it can be noticed that making $W(e^{j\omega})$ maximally flat at odd-harmonic frequencies increases the frequency interval for which the function $W(e^{j\omega})$ approaches -1 and, therefore, increases the interval for which the internal model (8) provides the desired high gain. As a result, the weights w_l can be calculated using (10) and making the first $m-1$ derivatives of $W(e^{j\omega})$ equal to 0 at odd-harmonic frequencies.

Thus, the first derivative is

$$\frac{\partial W(e^{j\omega})}{\partial \omega} = -j \frac{N}{2} \sum_{l=1}^m (-1)^l w_l l e^{-\frac{j\omega l N}{2}}.$$

The condition states

$$\left. \frac{\partial W(e^{j\omega})}{\partial \omega} \right|_{\omega = \frac{2(2k-1)\pi}{N}} = 0,$$

which gives $\sum_{l=1}^m w_l l = 0$. Using the same procedure to calculate the $m-1$ derivatives, the following compact condition is obtained:

$$\sum_{l=1}^m w_l l^p = 0, \quad p = 1, 2, \dots, m-1. \quad (11)$$

Thus, for $m = 3$, (10) and (11) yield $w_1 + w_2 + w_3 = 1$, $w_1 + 2w_2 + 3w_3 = 0$, $w_1 + 4w_2 + 9w_3 = 0$, which renders $w_1 = 3$, $w_2 = -3$, and $w_3 = 1$.

The procedure described here attains the same conditions as those found in [10]. Also, the weights derived for HOCR in [20], [21] and [22] can be used directly for OHHORC using definition (6). At the same time, the properties obtained from each method are preserved.

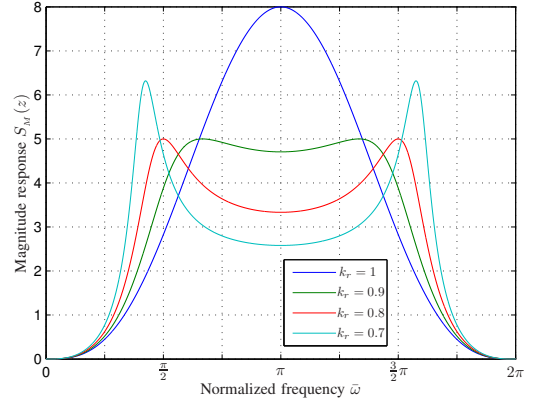


Fig. 6. $S_M(z)$ magnitude response for several values of k_r .

2) *Selection of the gain k_r* : The sensitivity function for the OHHORC system is $S(z) = S_o(z)S_M(z)$, with

$$S_o(z) = \frac{1}{1 + G_c(z)G_p(z)}$$

and $S_M(z)$ being the modifying sensitivity function:

$$S_M(z) = \frac{1 + W(z)H(z)}{1 + W(z)H(z)[1 - G_x(z)G_o(z)]}.$$

The transfer function $S_M(e^{j\omega})$ is periodic in the frequency domain with period $4\pi/N$ under the assumption that $H(z) = 1$ and $G_x(z) = k_r G_o^{-1}(z)$. Thus, the magnitude response between two harmonics can be described from $S_M(e^{j\omega})$ using the normalized frequency $\tilde{\omega} = \omega N/2$ with $\tilde{\omega} \in [\pi, 3\pi]$:

$$\left| \left[S_M(e^{2j\tilde{\omega}/N}) \right]_{H(z)=1} \right| = \left| \frac{1 + W(e^{2j\tilde{\omega}/N})}{1 + (1 - k_r)W(e^{2j\tilde{\omega}/N})} \right|$$

Fig. 6 shows the magnitude of S_M for $m = 3$, with $w_1 = 3$, $w_2 = -3$, $w_3 = 1$ and for several values of k_r . It can be seen that some values of the gain k_r can be used to alleviate the over-amplification of frequencies between odd-harmonics.

C. Performance under varying frequency conditions

Standard RC, including the odd-harmonic version, is designed assuming the period T_p constant. Therefore, if T_p varies the control algorithm performance may dramatically decay. In this case, the electrical distribution network frequency can suffer from fluctuations.

As an example, Fig. 7 highlights the gain of the internal models (4) and (5), designed for a nominal frequency of 50Hz, for 49Hz, 50Hz and 51Hz (and some of their harmonics). The selected filter is $H(z) = 0.25z + 0.5 + 0.25z^{-1}$. First, the magnitude of the odd-harmonic function (4) is depicted in blue. Note that while for the 50Hz signal the gain is important, it strongly decays for the other frequencies. On the other hand, the magnitude of the OHHORC (5) is shown in green. It can be seen that the gain is higher for a wider frequency region around the harmonics, which improve the robustness for variations in the period T_p . As a consequence, the gain

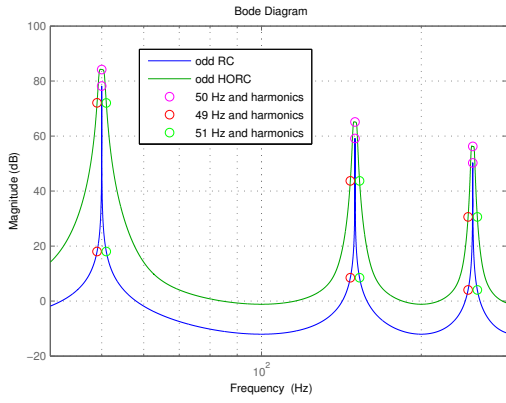


Fig. 7. OHRC and OHHORC internal models gain diagram.

decrease is much smaller for frequency variations around the nominal frequency in case of OHHORC and the performance degradation is minor.

V. SIMULATIONS RESULTS

A. Simulation setup

In this section the controller scheme and the repetitive controllers described in previous sections are used in the numerical simulation of the single-phase AF defined in Section II. The controller is designed for a nominal sampling frequency of 20 kHz. The dynamics of (1) is combined with a first order low-pass anti-aliasing filter with cut-off frequency of 4.460 Hz and a pure delay that would occur during the real implementation. Therefore, once transformed to discrete-time the plant can be written as

$$G_p(z) = \frac{I_f(z)}{\alpha(z)} = \frac{-0.02868z - 0.01798}{z^3 - 1.228z^2 + 0.2417z} \quad (12)$$

The controller is designed from (12), for a nominal frequency of 50 Hz and obtaining 400 samples per period, i.e. $N = 400$. These conditions imply a nominal sampling period of $T_s = T_p N^{-1} = 50 \mu s$. According to Section IV, the following design issues have been taken into account:

- $G_c(z) = 5(0.6305z - 0.629)/(z - 0.9985)$ provides a very robust inner loop.
- The first order linear-phase FIR filter $H(z) = 0.25z + 0.5 + 0.25z^{-1}$ provides good performance in this case.
- The fact that $G_p(z)$ is minimum-phase allows $G_x(z) = k_r G_0^{-1}(z)$, with $k_r = 0.3$ for OHRC and $k_r = 0.8$ for OHHORC.
- The weights of the high order function $W(z)$ are those derived using the procedure described in Section IV-B1 for $m = 3$, which rendered $w_1 = 3$, $w_2 = -3$, and $w_3 = 1$.

These settings also guarantee the fulfillment of the stability condition (7).

B. Simulation results

Fig. 8 shows the simulated waveform of i_n and its harmonic content, which is similar to the one obtained in the real system

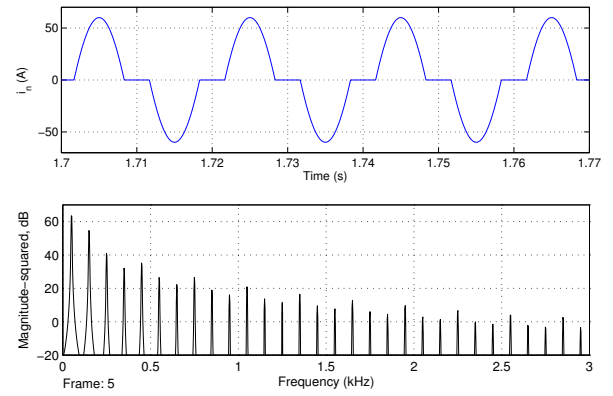


Fig. 8. Simulated i_n waveform (top) and its harmonic content (bottom).

when a nonlinear load is connected to an ac source. The rectifier current has a Total Harmonic Distortion (THD) of 36.28 %.

Fig. 9 shows the shape of the current at the source port when the AF is connected in parallel with the rectifier. The OHRC and OHHORC controllers are compared for 50 Hz, 50.5 Hz, and 51 Hz. For the nominal frequency, 50 Hz, both controllers achieve the control objectives. When the frequency is 50.5 Hz, there is an important current shape degradation for the OHRC, while the OHHORC preserves the performance. Finally, when the frequency is set to 51 Hz, the performance decrease is even larger for OHRC.

In Fig. 10, the harmonic content of i_n at the nominal frequency is shown for both controllers: notice the slight improvement when using the OHHORC. The power spectrum of i_n at 50.5 Hz is shown in Fig. 11; the harmonic content reveals a noticeable better performance of the OHHORC. It is also important to observe that some amplification of the frequencies placed between odd-harmonics appears in the

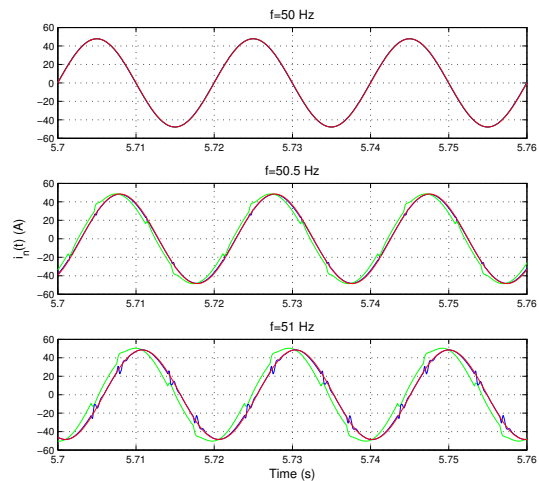


Fig. 9. Nonlinear load and the AF at a network frequency of 50 Hz, 50.5 Hz, and 51 Hz. i_n waveform for OHRC (green) and OHHORC (blue); i_n^* desired waveform (red).

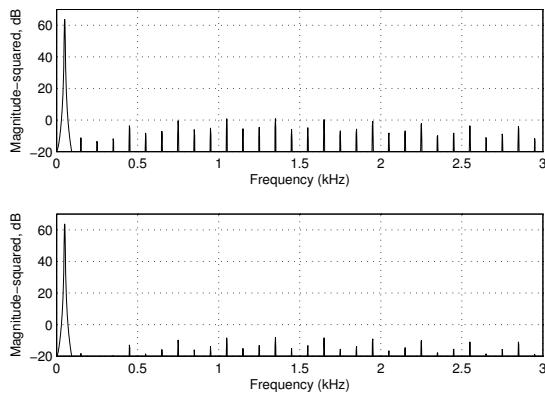


Fig. 10. Nonlinear load and the AF. Current harmonic content at 50 Hz: OHRC (top); OHHORC (bottom).

power spectrum. This due to the fact that the HORC extends the frequency region around the odd-harmonics where the attenuation is achieved by compromising other regions of the frequency spectrum, which is known as the waterbed effect. However, given the odd harmonic characteristic of the load current signal, assuming a negligible noise level and with a proper design of the filter $H(z)$, the performance can be preserved despite this effect.

VI. CONCLUSION

This paper propounds an active filter controller structure based on repetitive control. As the main contribution, an odd-harmonic high order repetitive controller is designed to force a sine wave shape in the current loop and to reject the harmonic content present in the load current. It has been shown that this controller provides robust performance in case of signals with uncertain or varying frequency. A comparison with an odd-harmonic repetitive controller reveals a better efficiency of the proposed controller working under varying frequency conditions.

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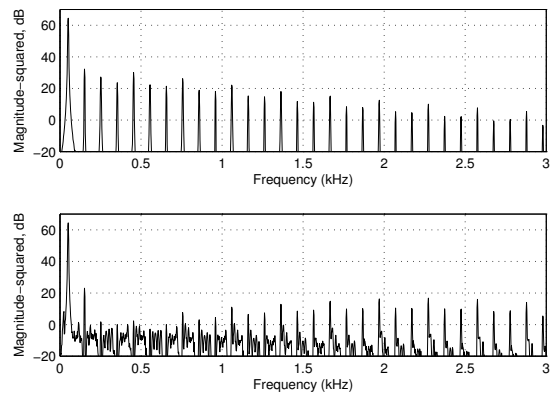


Fig. 11. Nonlinear load and the AF. Current harmonic content at 50.5 Hz: OHRC (top); OHHORC (bottom).

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