

# 27- Level inverter using Multi-Tapped Multi - Winding transformer with single input DC source

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## Abstract:

To achieve a high quality of AC sinusoidal waveform by using inverter bridges with multi- winding multi-tapped transformer to eliminate the drawbacks in conventional techniques like unbalance in capacitor voltage, common mode voltage, stress on load and use of filters at output to minimize harmonics. This topology can generate 27 levels of voltage by addition and subtraction of transformer core magnetic flux in selective manner by using three full bridge diode rectifiers and eight switches. The performance of the proposed topology is verified with simulation and prototype results.

**Keywords:** Multi tapped transformer, multi winding transformer, Multilevel inverter, total harmonic distortion, common mode voltage.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Increased demand for low harmonic distortion AC supplies with high power rating is needed in recent years. Multi level inverters normally make use of capacitor voltage sources and power electronic switches. MLI can generate high power low harmonic distortion AC power. By controlling the switching devices MLI generates stepped output voltage with less harmonic distortion [1,2]. Voltage stress across the switches can be reduced by series connection of converter module. Recently power conversion systems use multi level inverter due to its application in high power such as renewable energy converters, flexible AC transmission system, motor drives and

device to improve power quality [3-8]. Depending on application MLI can operate both at high frequency and fundamental switching frequency. Reduced switching losses, small common mode voltage, low dv/dt stress on switches and better harmonic spectrum are other advantages of multi level inverters which increases its application. There are three commonly used topologies of multi level inverter. They are diode clamped, cascaded H bridge and flying capacitor. Diode clamped[9] is simple topology but the increase in level will quadratically increase the number of clamping diodes which are used for limiting voltage and reduce voltage stress across switches. Voltage unbalance and unequal current stress are the drawbacks of this topology. Due to more switches control of real, reactive power flow becomes complicated. In cascaded H bridge inverter [10-12] to get the desired output many H bridges are connected in series. The number of components is reduced but requires more number of separate DC sources which makes system costly. Switching losses can be reduced by soft switching techniques but reactive power control is complex. In flying capacitor topology clamping diodes are replaced by capacitor. This provides real and reactive power support but control circuit is complex and number of capacitor increase with increase in level which makes circuit bulkier and expensive. Pre charging of capacitor to the required voltage and start up is difficult. Neutral point voltage variations cause problems in multilevel inverter. A new topology of multi level inverter which makes use of multi-tapped multi-winding

transformer with single DC source and less number of switches to generate AC sinusoidal waveform is proposed in this work. A staircase waveform with low harmonic distortion can be generated by increasing the level in MLI. But this increases the number of switching devices, gate pulses and other passive elements. Voltage imbalance problem and control complexity increases with increase in number of level. The proposed topology eliminates these drawbacks. High frequency converters can use tapped transformers for smooth source voltage variations [13-15]. Isolated output voltages obtained from secondary tapped transformers can be used in high frequency power converters. Taps present in secondary can provide continuous output voltages. By adding or subtracting instantaneous voltage generated from various taps we can obtain continuous output voltages. Desired output voltage can be got by regulating the taps individually. According to variation in duty cycle and source voltage, secondary tap voltage varies between minimum and maximum limit.

## 2. WORKING OF THE CIRCUIT

Fig.1. shows a 27 level multilevel inverter with multi-tapped multi-winding transformer. The circuit has two inverter stages. Multiple DC level are obtained at the secondary tapping from single input DC source with first stage inverter. First and second stage inverters are interfaced with full bridge diode rectifier. Twenty seven output voltage levels are synthesized from single DC input by selective addition and subtraction of magnetic flux in transformer core. The full bridge rectifier at the interface acts as separate DC input source for second stage inverter. Diodes and capacitors serves two function in the circuit. Diodes help in rectification and freewheeling. Switching spikes are eliminated by freewheeling diode. Capacitor helps to filter the first stage DC output and it serves as DC link for second stage. This minimizes the voltage unbalance problem in the circuit. The controller regulates the output by generating compensating gating pulses for the switches.

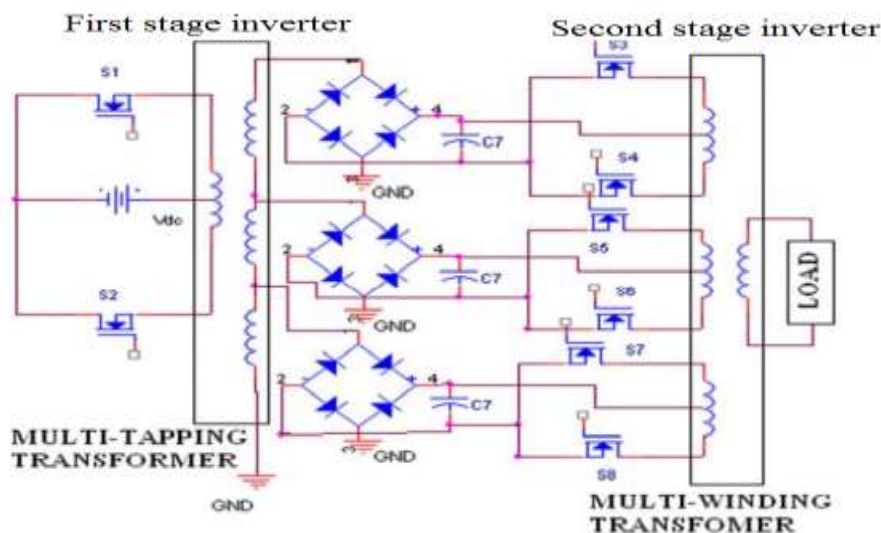


Fig.1.Circuit Diagram

TABLE 1 Switching states of the switches

| Switches ON/OFF states |                |                |                |                |                | Output voltage    |
|------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| +1V                    | -1V            | +3V            | -3V            | +9V            | -9V            | TRINARY LOGIC     |
| S <sub>3</sub>         | S <sub>4</sub> | S <sub>5</sub> | S <sub>6</sub> | S <sub>7</sub> | S <sub>8</sub> | VOLTAGE LEVEL (V) |
| OFF                    | OFF            | OFF            | OFF            | OFF            | OFF            | 0                 |
| ON                     | OFF            | OFF            | OFF            | OFF            | OFF            | 1                 |
| OFF                    | ON             | ON             | OFF            | OFF            | OFF            | 2                 |
| OFF                    | OFF            | ON             | OFF            | OFF            | OFF            | 3                 |
| ON                     | OFF            | ON             | OFF            | OFF            | OFF            | 4                 |

|     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| OFF | ON  | OFF | ON  | ON  | OFF | 5   |
| OFF | OFF | OFF | ON  | ON  | OFF | 6   |
| ON  | OFF | OFF | ON  | ON  | OFF | 7   |
| OFF | ON  | OFF | OFF | ON  | OFF | 8   |
| OFF | OFF | OFF | OFF | ON  | OFF | 9   |
| ON  | OFF | OFF | OFF | ON  | OFF | 10  |
| OFF | ON  | ON  | OFF | ON  | OFF | 11  |
| OFF | OFF | ON  | OFF | ON  | OFF | 12  |
| ON  | OFF | ON  | OFF | ON  | OFF | 13  |
| OFF | OFF | OFF | OFF | OFF | OFF | 0   |
| OFF | ON  | OFF | OFF | OFF | OFF | -1  |
| ON  | OFF | OFF | ON  | OFF | OFF | -2  |
| OFF | OFF | OFF | ON  | OFF | OFF | -3  |
| OFF | ON  | OFF | ON  | OFF | OFF | -4  |
| ON  | OFF | ON  | OFF | OFF | ON  | -5  |
| OFF | OFF | ON  | OFF | OFF | ON  | -6  |
| OFF | ON  | ON  | OFF | OFF | ON  | -7  |
| ON  | OFF | OFF | OFF | OFF | ON  | -8  |
| OFF | OFF | OFF | OFF | OFF | ON  | -9  |
| OFF | ON  | OFF | OFF | OFF | ON  | -10 |
| ON  | OFF | OFF | ON  | OFF | ON  | -11 |
| OFF | OFF | OFF | ON  | OFF | ON  | -12 |
| OFF | ON  | OFF | ON  | OFF | ON  | -13 |

Even though there are total eight switches in the circuit the output voltage depends on the switching states of six switches present at the input of the second stage inverter. Selecting correct combination of switches will lead to selective addition and subtraction of magnetic flux linked with transformer core of multi tapped transformer. Switching strategy of the proposed system is shown in Table1. Twenty seven output voltage levels are obtained with six switches at the input of the second stage inverter. Proper design of first stage multi tapped transformer helps to achieve output voltage levels of the three

rectifier bridges in the ratio of 9:3:1. By selecting different switching combinations various output voltage levels can be obtained as shown in the table 1. The rectifier bridge outputs are combined by multi winding transformer to give smooth sinusoidal output voltage with low harmonics. Another advantage of this topology is the second stage inverter can act as a standalone multi level inverter with isolated multiple DC sources. Renewable power conversion system like solar and wind energy systems with same DC input of 9:3:1 ratio can make use of this topology.

### 3. SIMULATION CIRCUIT

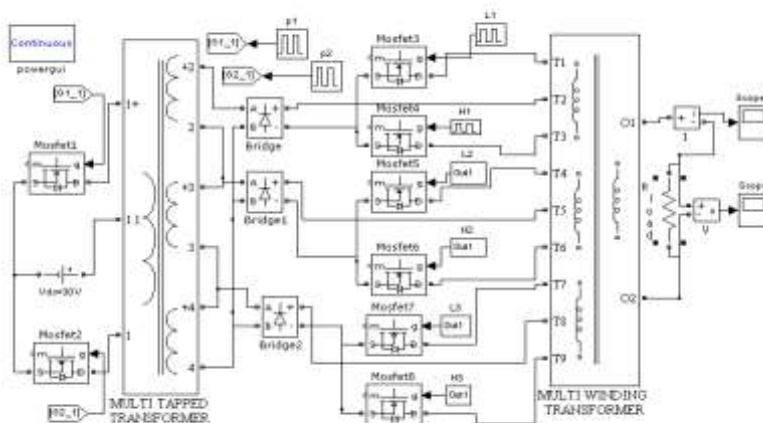


Fig.2. Simulation Circuit

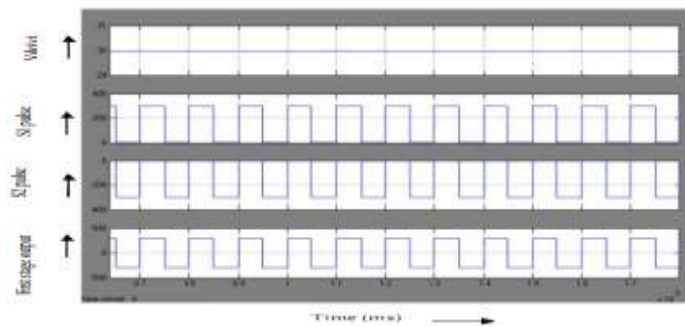


Fig.3.First stage inverter output with its gate pulse and DC input

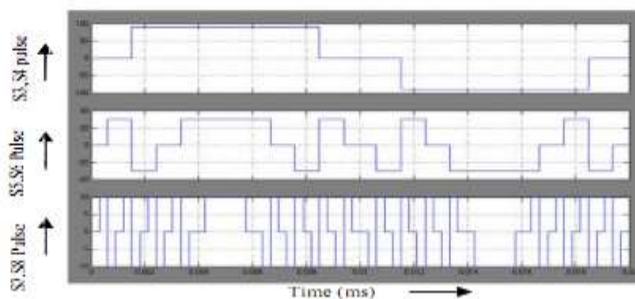


Fig.4.Gate pulse of switches in second stage inverter

Fig.2. shows the simulation circuit of the proposed multilevel inverter. Fig.3 .shows the gate pulse of switch  $S_1$  , $S_2$  and first stage inverter output. Fig.4 shows the gate pulse for switches

in second stage inverter.Fig.5 shows the rectifier bridge voltage outputs.

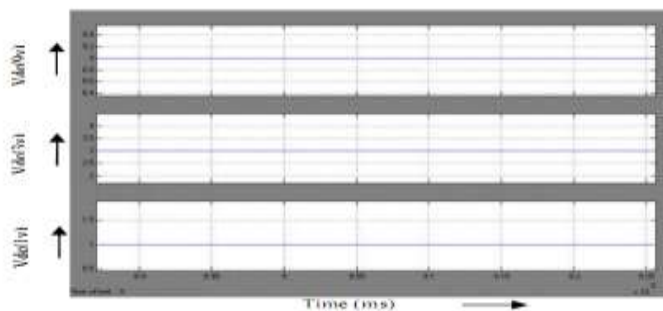


Fig.5.Rectifier bridge output

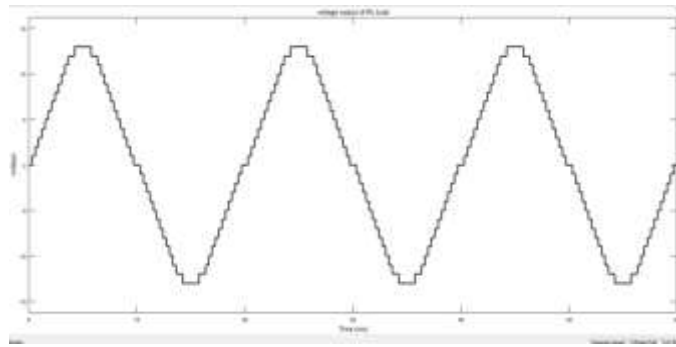


Fig.6.Voltage output across load

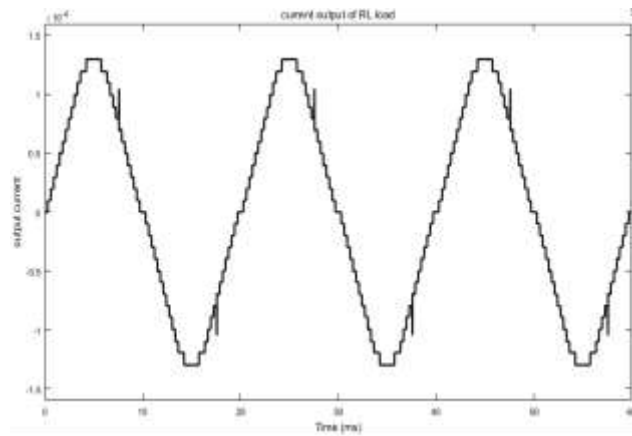


Fig.7.Current output across load

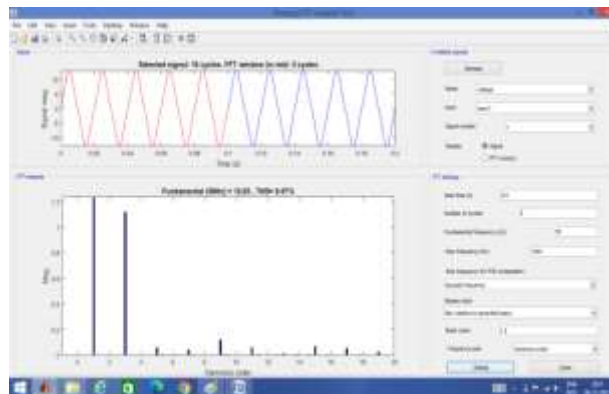


Fig.8.Total Harmonic Distortion of voltage



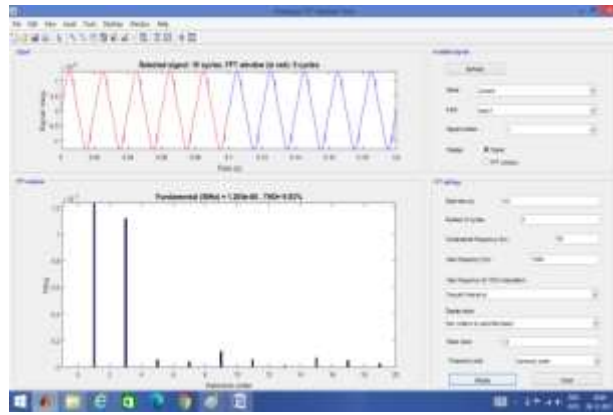


Fig.9. Total Harmonic Distortion of current

Fig.6. Show the voltage output across the load. Fig.7 shows the current output across the load. Fig.8., Fig.9. shows Total Harmonic Distortion of voltage which is 9.97% and Total

Harmonic Distortion of current which is 9.93% obtained by simulation.

#### 4. HARDWARE CIRCUIT

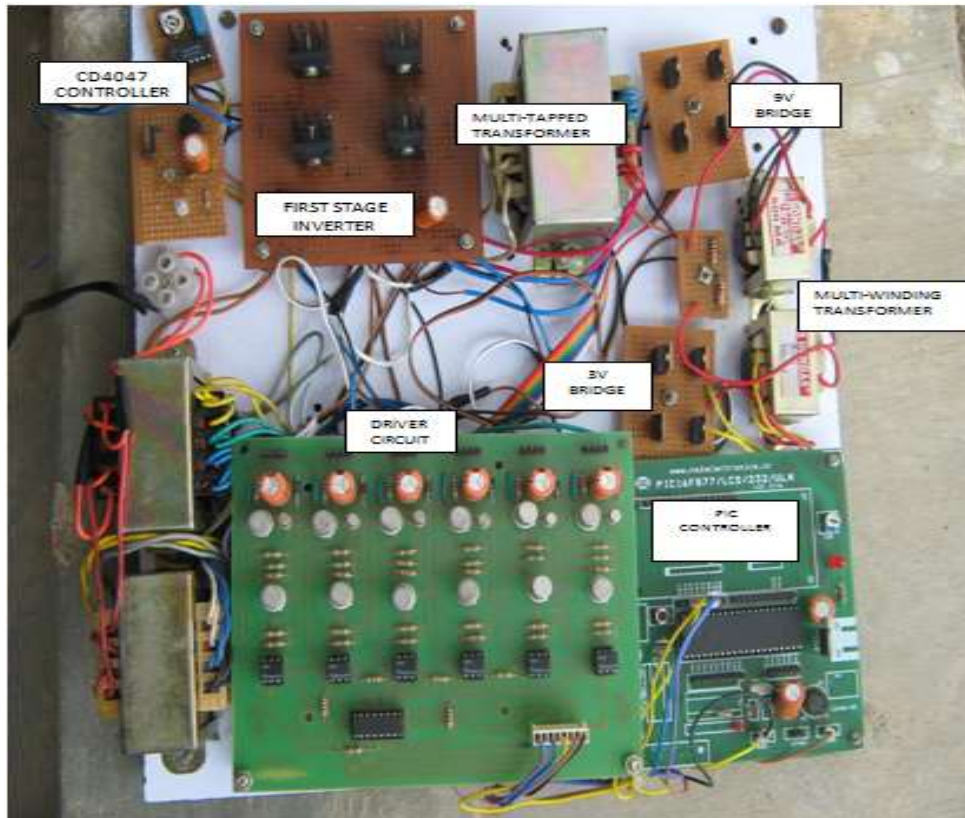


Fig.10. Prototype model

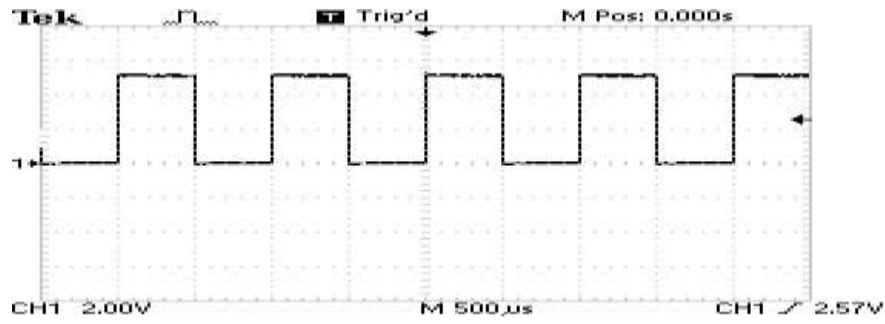


Fig.11. DSO output of Gate pulse for first stage inverter



Fig.12.DSO output of Gate pulses for 3volt Bridge

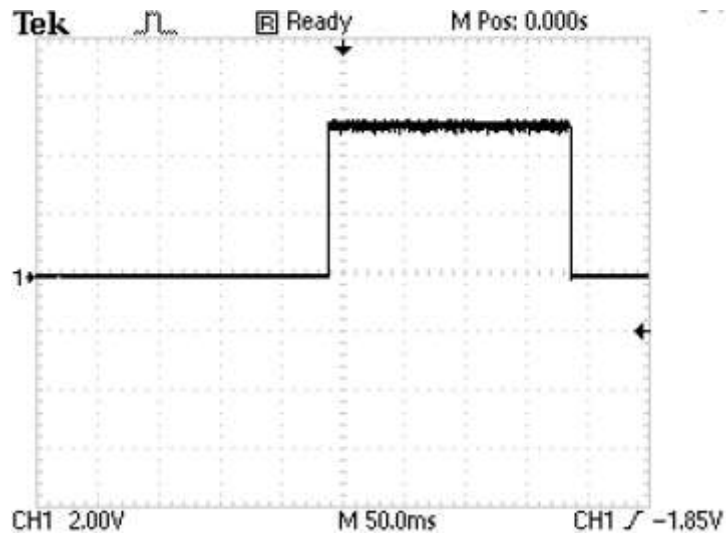


Fig.13.DSO output of Gate pulse for 9 volt bridge

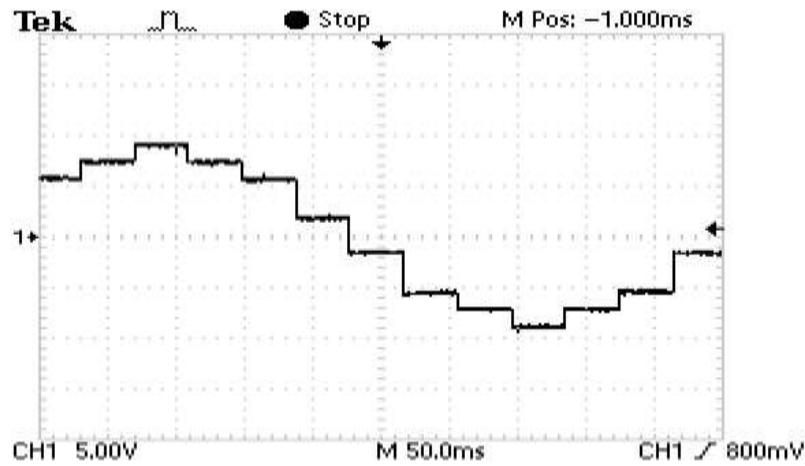


Fig.14.DSO output of Voltage across load

The proto type model of the proposed circuit is shown in the Fig.10. DSO output of gate pulse for first stage inverter is shown in Fig.11. Fig.12. and Fig.13. shows the DSO output of 3V and 9V bridge. The DSO output of voltage across load is shown in Fig.14.

## 5. CONCLUSION

High quality sinusoidal power supply is required for high power applications. Multi level inverter topology is used to satisfy this requirement. The proposed topology generates a sinusoidal waveform with less switches and low THD. Number of winding in the transformer can be increased to increase the number of level. Clamping diodes are eliminated in this system. Capacitor voltage unbalance is reduced by modifying the circuit such that the idle capacitor gets charged during switching period. By proper selection of switches the voltage available in transformer windings can be added and subtracted to obtain smooth sinusoidal wave at the output. This method uses voltage combination of transformers instead of using more number of DC sources. The effectiveness of the system can be seen through simulation and hardware results.

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