

## An Identification of Multiple Harmonic Sources in a Distribution System by Using Spectrogram

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### ABSTRACT

The identification of multiple harmonic sources (MHS) is vital to identify the root causes and the mitigation technique for a harmonic disturbance. This paper introduces an identification technique of MHS in a power distribution system by using a time-frequency distribution (TFD) analysis known as a spectrogram. The spectrogram has advantages in term of its accuracy, a less complex algorithm, and use of low memory size compared to previous methods such as probabilistic and harmonic power flow direction. The identification of MHS is based on the significant relationship of spectral impedances, which are the fundamental impedance ( $Z_1$ ) and harmonic impedance ( $Z_n$ ) that estimate the time-frequency representation (TFR). To verify the performance of the proposed method, an IEEE test feeder with several different harmonic producing loads is simulated. It is shown that the suggested method is excellent with 100% correct identification of MHS. The method is accurate, fast and cost-efficient in the identification of MHS in power distribution arrangement.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Nowadays in an advanced power distribution system, multiple harmonic sources (MHS) comprise nonlinear loads lead to the possible threat of a standard performance by the power system as per explained in [1]-[3]. Thus, it is vital to find the root cause, eliminate the harmonic pollution, and identify MHS through the best approach towards raising the power quality of the system [4], [5]. In addition, referring to the point of common coupling (PCC), MHS can be distinguished at the utility and client side which is known as upstream and downstream [6]-[8].

Various methodologies of MHS identification have been highlighted in the previous literature. However, there are no standards on the method to identify the dominant harmonic disturbances [30]. The earliest method to identify MHS is by using a power direction technique. However, this technique could not produce precise outcomes when the harmonics and phase angle were beyond 90° [9-10]. Furthermore, a state estimation method is introduced with the execution of least square and Kirchhoff current law [11]. Nevertheless, a study [12] depicted that state estimation technique demands many measurement devices and a high setup cost for a large power system. Moreover, in the literature, the identification of MHS using the critical impedance method has also been discussed [13-16]. The crucial drawback of this technique is a pre-requirement of source internal impedance values on the utility and client side. In practice, it is difficult to get those parameters without switching tests, which is costly [19-20]. To overcome the restriction of the critical

impedance method, a harmonic current vector method is presented [21-23]. The measurement of client impedances can be performed without any switching testing. However, it needs long-term measurement and it is difficult to analyse harmonic impedances at the client side [10]. In earlier studies [24-25], the harmonic source estimation has been suggested by employing the harmonic state estimation (HSE) and Bayesian estimation. Unfortunately, this method requires a high multiplicity in the algorithmic and requires a high cost to set up the distributed measurement system station [26]. By using an alternative methodology that concentrates on two-point measurement strategy, impedances data can be obtained by comparing the data between the supply and incoming load utilizing frequency and phase approach [16-18]. This approach gives accurate impedance data, but then again, it is still high cost and difficult to practice [20]. In reality, accuracy, quick estimation and low cost are important elements to consider. However, limited studies have focused on these factors. Based on this discussion, the restriction of previous techniques can be overcome by employing time-frequency distribution (TFD).

This paper proposes a high accuracy, fast estimation and cost-efficient method to identify MHS utilizing a single-point measurement [8] at the PCC, utilizing a TFD which is spectrogram. The spectrogram is a suitable method that presents a signal in time and frequency representation which is known as time-frequency representation (TFR) [9], [16], [20], [30]. From these signals, spectral data can be monitored through changes of time. Furthermore, spectral information of the system can be extracted from TFR to identify the system characteristics and a common harmonic producing load which is an inverter will be used as a load in the system [3-4]. From the TFR, spectral impedances, which are fundamental impedance  $Z_1$ , and harmonic impedance  $Z_h$ , will be calculated accurately. Finally, utilizing the significant relationship between  $Z_1$  and  $Z_h$ , the identification of MHS can be distinguished in a fast and accurate manner.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

A single point-measurement of voltage and current is implemented in this research, while spectrogram TFD is utilized for analyzing the signal parameters.

### 2.1. Spectrogram

The spectrogram is one of the techniques in TFD analysis and represents a dispersion of signal energy in time-frequency representation. It is a squared magnitude of STFT [31] thus an improvement of FFT to cater non-stationary signals [29]. By windowing the signal at first and then taking the Fourier transforms, the time-localization can be obtained correctly. Furthermore, this will lead to the rise of short time Fourier transform, (STFT) or windowed Fourier transform. Furthermore, the squared value of the STFT is usually used in the signal analysis, which is called a spectrogram and can be defined as in Equation 1 and Equation 2 [20].

$$S_v(t,f)=\left|\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} v(\tau)w(\tau-t)e^{-j2\pi f t} dt\right|^2 \quad (1)$$

$$S_i(t,f)=\left|\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} i(\tau)w(\tau-t)e^{-j2\pi f t} dt\right|^2 \quad (2)$$

where  $w(t)$  is observation windows. The Hanning window is selected with respect to IEC standards that characterize this window as suitable for analyzing harmonics [3] and is also chosen due to its lower peak side lobe which has a narrow effect on other frequencies around fundamental value and other frequency components. The spectrogram is used in numerous applications and utilized as an initial investigative instrument as it has the property of non-producing cross-term parameters of TFD [5], [6].

### 2.2. Implementation of Proposed Technique

The implementation for MHS identification can be realized as demonstrated in Figure 1 and Figure 2. Referring to the PCC, there are four cases considered in this study as follows:

- No MHS within the distribution system.
- Downstream: When MHS located at customer side.
- Upstream: When MHS located at utility side.
- Both streams: When MHS located between utility and customer side.

First of all, the measurement data are analyzed using spectrogram and presented TFR. Furthermore, the parameters of the power system will be estimated from the power spectrum, and finally, the identification of harmonic sources is based on the significant relationship of spectral impedance, which is  $Z_1$  and  $Z_h$  at the harmonic frequency. Meanwhile, to validate the proposed method, two different converter types, which are an AC-DC-AC PWM and a three-phase two-level single bridge converter with sinusoidal PWM modulation were used as a harmonic producing load (HPL) alternately in an IEEE 4-bus test feeder.

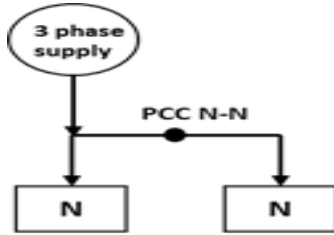


Figure 1. Case 1

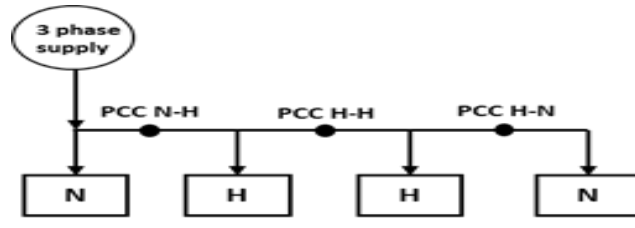


Figure 2. IEEE 4-bus test feeder for Case 2, 3 and 4

Whereby N is non-HPL and H is HPL

The implementation of the methodology in executing the proposed approach can be seen in Figure 3. From the proposed technique, it is demonstrated that the methodology can be effortlessly actualized in the system. This is due to the fact that there is no requirement for any complex calculation of signal parameters.

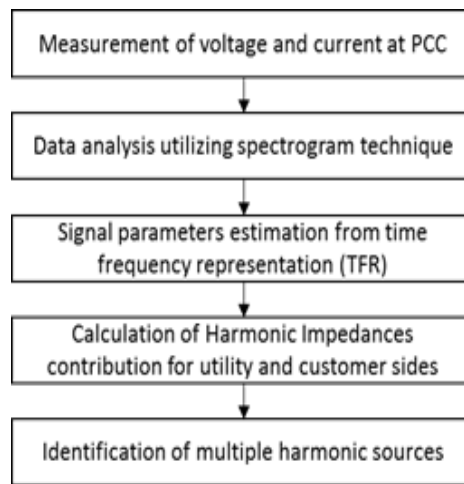


Figure 3. The implementation procedure in the identification of multiple harmonic sources at the PCC

### 2.3. Signal Parameters

Parameters of power quality signals are estimated from the TFR in order to provide the information of the signal in time. Meanwhile, the minimum width of the measurement window is ten cycles [27].

#### 2.3.1. Instantaneous RMS Voltage

The RMS voltage,  $V_{rms}$ , can also be derived from the TFR in time and referred to as instantaneous RMS voltage,  $V_{rms}(t)$  and written as [28],

$$V_{rms}(t) = \sqrt{\int_0^{f_s} P_x(t, f) df} \tag{3}$$

where  $P_x(t, f)$  is the TFR of the signal and  $f_s$  is the sampling frequency of the system.

#### 2.3.2. Instantaneous RMS Fundamental Voltage

Instantaneous RMS fundamental voltage,  $V_{1rms}(t)$ , is defined as the RMS voltage at power system frequency [28]. From the TFR, the  $V_{1rms}(t)$ , can be calculated as:

$$V_{1rms}(t) = \sqrt{2 \int_{f_{lo}}^{f_{hi}} P_x(t, f) df} \tag{4}$$

$$f_{hi} = f_0 + 25 \text{ Hz}$$

$$f_{lo} = f_0 - 25 \text{ Hz}$$

Where  $P_x(t,f)$  is the time-frequency representation of the signal and  $f_0$  is the fundamental frequency that corresponds to the power system frequency. 25 Hz is chosen for  $f_{hi}$  and  $f_{lo}$  since it can cover the fundamental frequency component to calculate the magnitude of the frequency component.

### 2.3.3. Instantaneous Total Harmonic Distortion

The instantaneous total harmonic distortion,  $THD(t)$ , is used to measure how much harmonic content is in a waveform and expressed as [28],

$$THD(t) = \frac{\sqrt{\sum_{h=2}^H V_{h,rms}(t)^2}}{V_{1,rms}(t)} \quad (5)$$

where  $V_{h,rms}(t)$  is RMS harmonic voltage from 2nd to 50th harmonic.

### 2.3.4. Instantaneous Total Nonharmonic Distortion

Besides harmonic, a signal also contains interharmonic components that are not multiple integers and can be quantified by using the instantaneous total nonharmonic distortion,  $TnHD(t)$ , an index which is defined as [28],

$$TnHD(t) = \frac{\sqrt{V_{rms}(t)^2 - \sum_{h=0}^H V_{h,rms}(t)^2}}{V_{1,rms}(t)} \quad (6)$$

where  $V_{h,rms}(t)$  is RMS harmonic voltage from 2nd to 50th harmonic.

### 2.3.5. Spectral Impedance

The spectral impedance is defined as the ratio of the voltage phasor to the current phasor. Thus, it can be calculated using [12]:

$$Z_l(t) = \frac{V_1(t) \angle \theta_{V1}}{I_1(t) \angle \theta_{I1}} \quad (7)$$

$$Z_h(t) = \frac{V_h(t) \angle \theta_{Vh}}{I_h(t) \angle \theta_{Ih}} \quad (8)$$

where,  $h$  is a harmonic number at 3, 5, 7, 9 ...n

## 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The accuracy and validity of this methodology are examined and verified in the distribution system with two different types of inverters. The significant relationship of spectral impedances in all cases will be observed due to distinguishing the location of MHS.

### 3.1. Case 1: No Harmonic Sources within the System

Figure 4(a) demonstrates the measured voltage and current in the time domain at PCC N-N. Meanwhile, Figure 4(b) shows that  $THD(t)$  and  $TnHD(t)$  are zero percent. This result demonstrates that no harmonic and interharmonic components exist in the signal. Furthermore, TFRs in Figure 4(c) and 4(d) clearly show that only the fundamental component of voltage and current exist at 50 Hz. From the TFR, the  $Z_l$  is estimated with a value of 20 ohm and presented in Figure 4(d).

Figure 4(e) clearly indicates the significant relationship between  $Z_l$  and  $Z_h$ , that been estimated from TFR of spectral impedance for Case 1 can be concluded as:

$$Z_h = 0 \text{ ohm} \quad (9)$$

$$Z_l \neq 0 \text{ ohm} \quad (10)$$

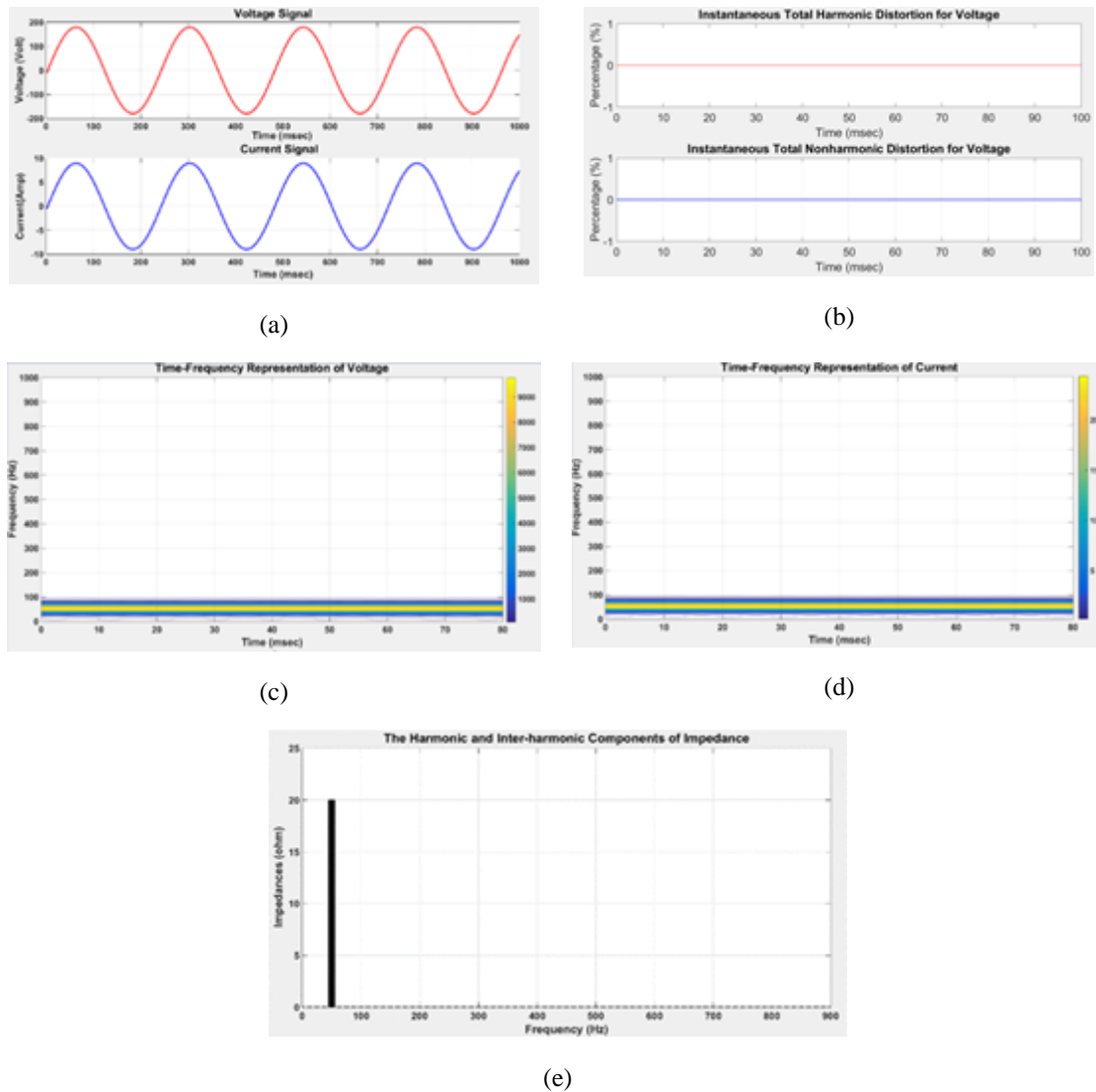


Figure 4. No harmonic sources. (a) Voltage and current signal, (b)  $THD(t)$  and  $TnHD(t)$  for voltage, (c) TFR of voltage, (d) TFR of current, (e) Spectral impedance component

### 3.2. Case 2: Harmonic Sources at Downstream

In case 2, the effectiveness of the proposed method is analyzed when HPL is located at downstream and the measurement data are taken at the PCC N-H. Figure 5(a) shows the harmonic signal in the time domain when the AC-DC-AC PWM converter was used as HPL at downstream. Furthermore, Figure 5(b) illustrates that the  $THD(t)$  is in the range of 2.5% to 9.8% and it indicates that the signal contains the harmonic component. Meanwhile, the interharmonic index, which is  $TnHD(t)$  is in the range of 27% to 37%. Figure 5(c) and 5(d) show the signals of five frequency components consist of the fundamental frequency (50Hz), the harmonic component at 375Hz, and interharmonic components at 262.5Hz, 587.5Hz and 687.5Hz, respectively. Figure 5 (e) presents the TFR of spectral impedance and as depicted in Figure 5(f), the estimated impedance value of  $Z_l$  is 8 ohm and each  $Z_h$  has a value of 6 ohm. It is somewhat surprising that each value of  $Z_h$  is smaller than  $Z_l$  in this case. It is possible to hypothesize that there is a possible significant relationship between  $Z_l$  and  $Z_h$  in identifying the location of the harmonic source. Therefore, to conclude the findings in this case, further analysis was conducted by replacing the HPL with a three-phase two-level single bridge converter.

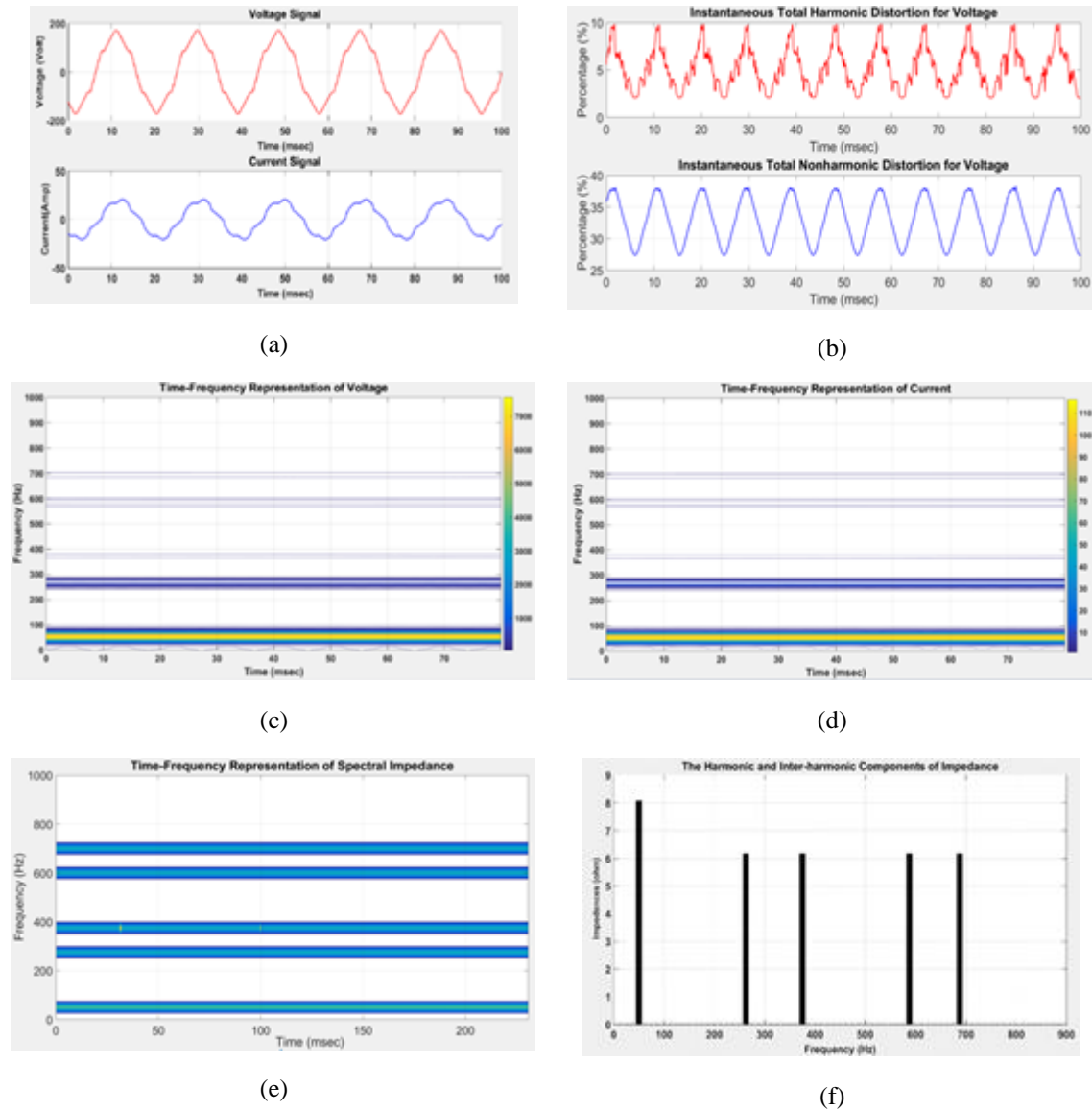


Figure 5. AC-DC-AC PWM converter as a harmonic source at upstream. (a) Voltage and current signal, (b)  $THD(t)$  and  $TnHD(t)$  for voltage (c) TFR of voltage, (d) TFR of current, (e) TFR of spectral impedance, (f) Spectral impedance component

The voltage and current signal as shown in Figure 6 (a) is obtained when a three-phase two-level single bridge converter is used as HPL at downstream. Furthermore, 6(b) illustrates that the  $THD(t)$  is in the range of 2 % to 8% and it shows that the signal comprises a harmonic component. Meanwhile, the  $TnHD(t)$  is in the range of 27% to 38%. In addition, Figure 6(c) and 6(d) depict the TFR of voltage and current. It can be seen from the figures that the fundamental component has 50Hz, harmonic components at 375Hz and interharmonic components discovered at 262.5Hz and 587.5Hz, respectively. Furthermore, Figure 6(e) presents the TFR of spectral impedance. Figure 6(f) shows the estimated value of  $Z_l$  is 11 ohm, while each  $Z_h$  has a value of 8.5 ohm. What is surprising is that each value of  $Z_h$  is smaller than  $Z_l$  which is similar to the previous result. The outcomes of this study have proven the significant relationship of spectral impedance in identifying the MHS.

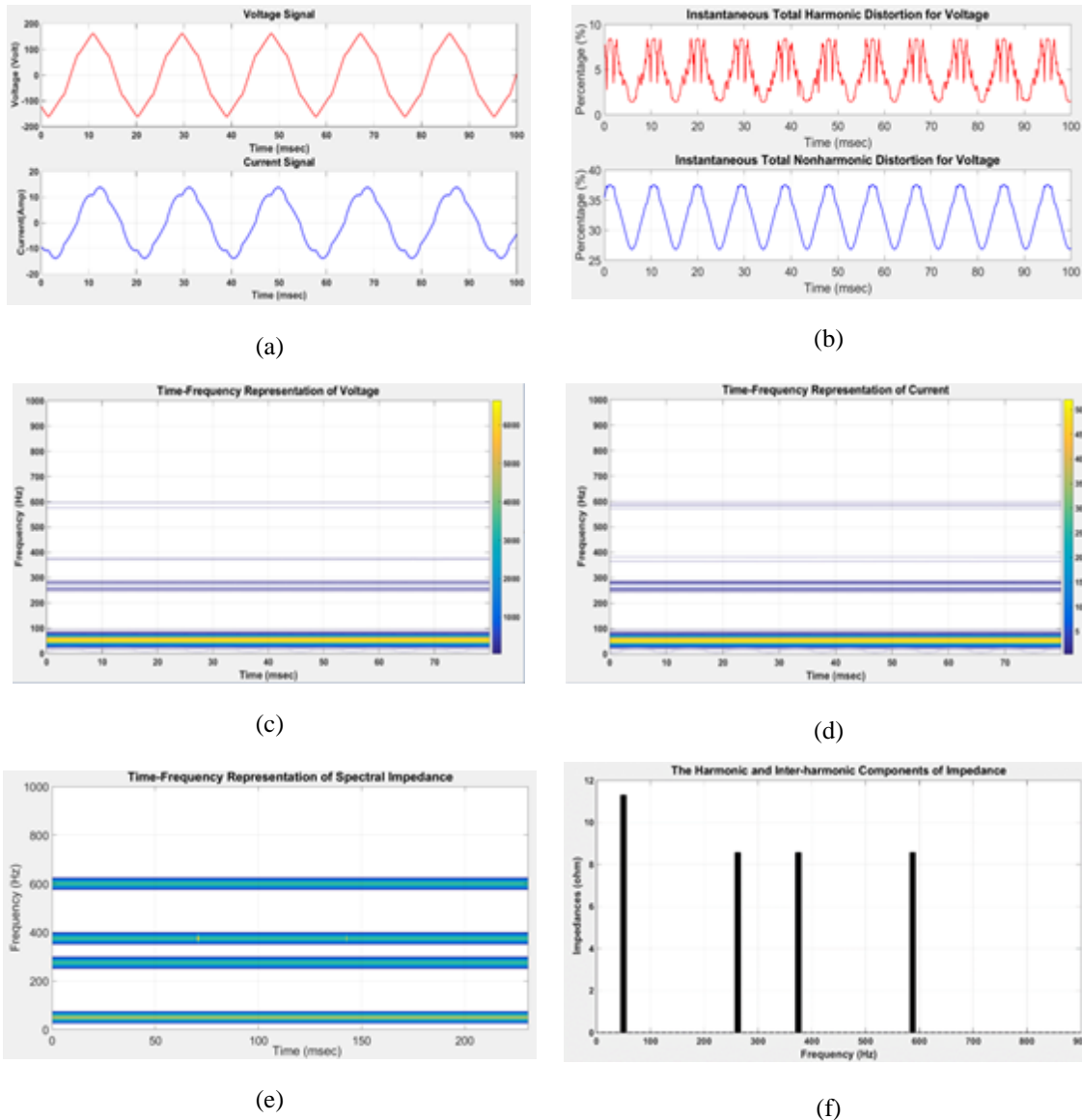


Figure. 6. Three-phase two-level single bridge converter as a harmonic source at upstream. (a) Voltage and current signal, (b)  $THD(t)$  and  $TnHD(t)$  for voltage, (c) TFR of voltage, (d) TFR of current, (e) TFR of spectral impedance, (f) Spectral impedance component

The results obtained from Figure 5(f) and Figure 6(f) of Case 2 clearly indicates that  $Z_l$  value is always greater than  $Z_h$ . Therefore, the significant relationship of spectral impedance for Case 2 can be concluded as:

$$Z_l > Z_h \tag{11}$$

### 3.3. Case 3: Harmonic Sources at Upstream and Downstream

The goal of this case study is to localize the harmonic sources when both streams contain the HPL and the measurement is taken at PCC H-H. It is hypothesized that another significant relationship of spectral impedance will be identified from this case. Current and voltage signals of this case are shown in Figure 7(a) when an AC-DC-AC PWM converter acted as HPL at upstream and downstream. As can be seen from Figure 7(b), the  $THD(t)$  is in the range of 3% to 10% and it indicates that the signal contains the harmonic component. Meanwhile, the interharmonic index which is  $TnHD(t)$  is in the range of 27% to 37.5%. Figure 7(c) and 7(d) show the signals of five frequency components consist of the fundamental frequency (50Hz), the harmonic component at 375Hz, and interharmonic components at 262.5Hz, 587.5Hz and 687.5Hz, respectively. In addition, Figure 7(e) presents the TFR of spectral impedance. As shown in Figure 7(f), the

estimated spectral impedance from TFR comprise of  $Z_l$  is 13 ohm, while each  $Z_h$  has a value of 14.5 ohm. Interestingly, it is observed that each value of  $Z_h$  is greater than  $Z_l$  when the MHS are located at downstream and upstream. To strengthen the preliminary findings, the MHS was replaced with a three-phase two-level single bridge converter and properly analyzed in the next discussion.

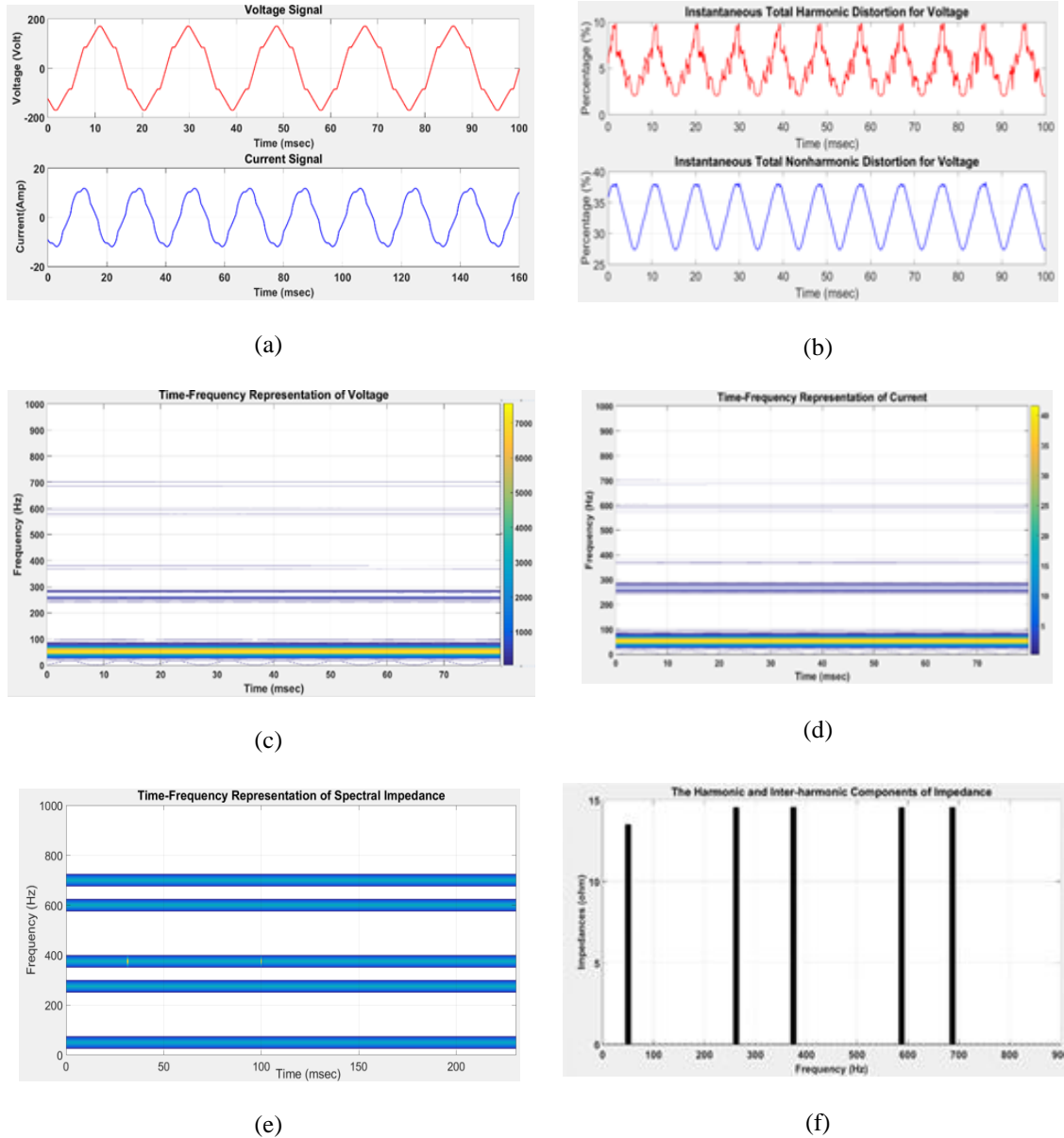


Figure 7. AC-DC-AC PWM converter as a harmonic source at upstream and downstream. (a) Voltage and current signal, (b)  $THD(t)$  and  $TnHD(t)$  for voltage, (c) TFR of voltage, (d) TFR of current, (e) TFR of spectral impedance, (f) Spectral impedance component

For further investigation of Case 3, the three-phase two-level single bridge converter is employed as HPL at upstream and downstream. Figure 8(a) shows the signal of voltage and current in the time domain at PCC H-H. Moreover, Figure 8(b) shows that the  $THD(t)$  is in the range of 2.5% to 8% and it indicates that the signal contains the harmonic component. Meanwhile, the interharmonic index, shown as  $TnHD(t)$  is in the range of 27% to 37%. Figure 8(c) and 8(d) show the signals comprise a fundamental frequency at 50Hz, the harmonic component at 375Hz, and interharmonic components at 262.5Hz and 587.5Hz, respectively. Besides, Figure 8(e) depicts the TFR of the spectral impedance, and it is apparent from Figure 8(f) that the  $Z_l$  is estimated with a value of 18 ohm and each  $Z_h$  has a value of 22 ohm. Interestingly, the spectral impedance relationship, in this case, is similar even when using a different type of converter such as the HPL, whereby



each of  $Z_h$  is greater than the  $Z_l$ . It is interesting to observe that in this case, the significant spectral impedance relationship can be obtained from the proposed method and utilized in identifying the MHS.

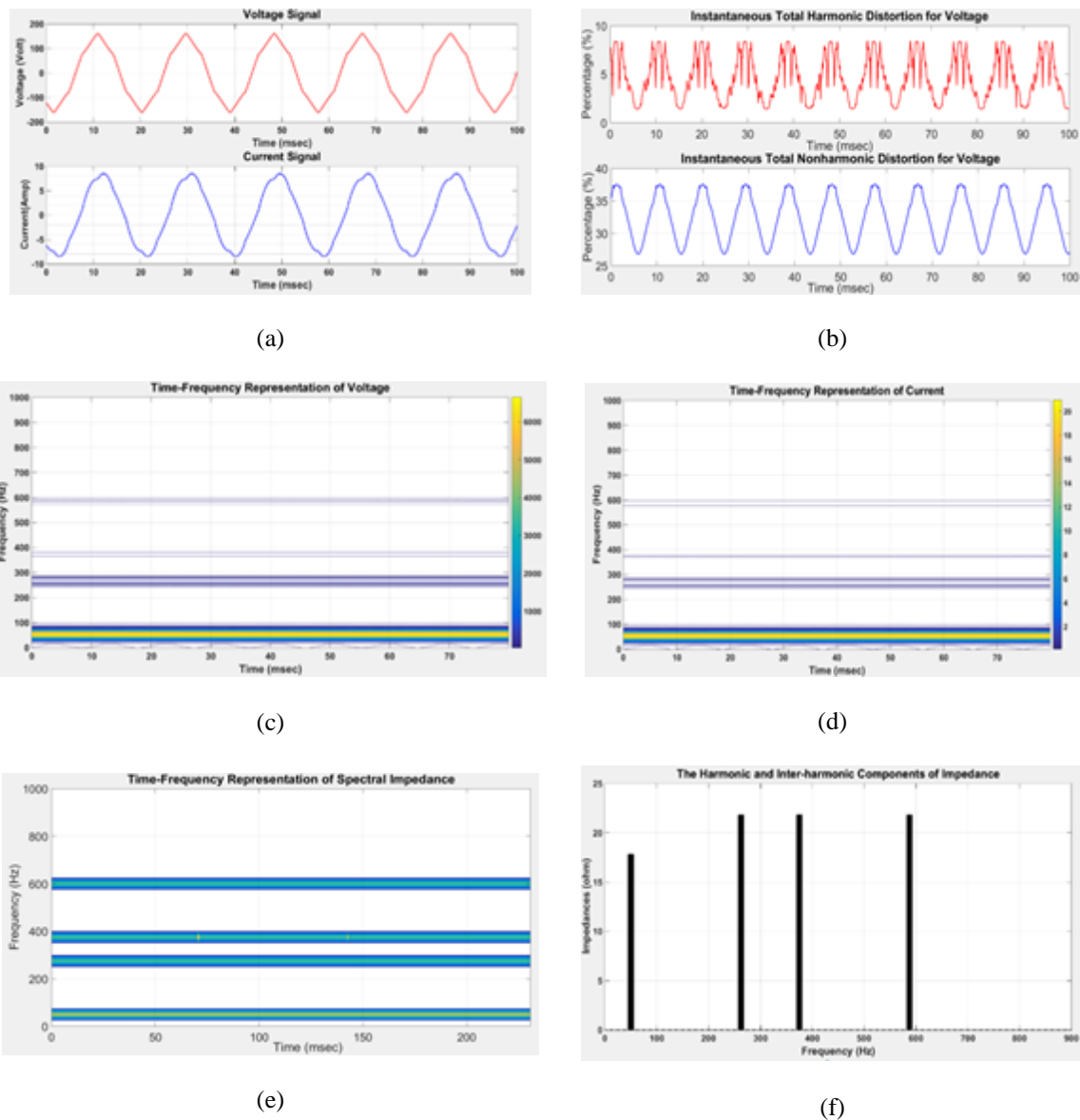


Figure 8. Three-phase two-level single bridge converter as a harmonic source at upstream and downstream. (a) Voltage and current signal, (b)  $THD(t)$  and  $TnHD(t)$  for voltage, (c) TFR of voltage, (d) TFR of current, (e) TFR of spectral impedance, (f) Spectral impedance component

The evidence from Figure 7(f) and Figure 8(f) clearly indicate that the  $Z_l$  is always smaller than the  $Z_h$  when the MHS is located at downstream and upstream. Thus, the significant relationship of spectral impedances for Case 4 can be written as:

$$Z_l < Z_h \tag{12}$$

### 3.4. Case 4: Harmonic Sources at Upstream

With the aim of identifying the HPL located upstream, Case 4 is executed with an AC-DC-AC PWM converter as HPL downstream, and a measurement is taken at PCC H-N. Figure 9(a) shows the voltage and current signal in time domain. As illustrated in Figure 9(b), the  $THD(t)$  is in the range of 2.5% to 10%, indicating that the signal contains the harmonic component. Meanwhile, the range of  $TnHD(t)$  is between 28% to 38%. In addition, Figure 9(c) and 9(d) show the components of the signal that consist of the

fundamental frequency (50Hz), the harmonic component at 375Hz, and interharmonic components at 262.5Hz, 587.5Hz and 687.5Hz, respectively. Figure 9(e) also presents the TFR of spectral impedance and Figure 9(f) shows that the estimated value of  $Z_1$  and  $Z_h$  are equal with a value of 40 ohm. It is, therefore, likely that there is a relationship of spectral impedance in this case. To verify this hypothesis, the HPL was replaced with a three-phase two-level single bridge converter.

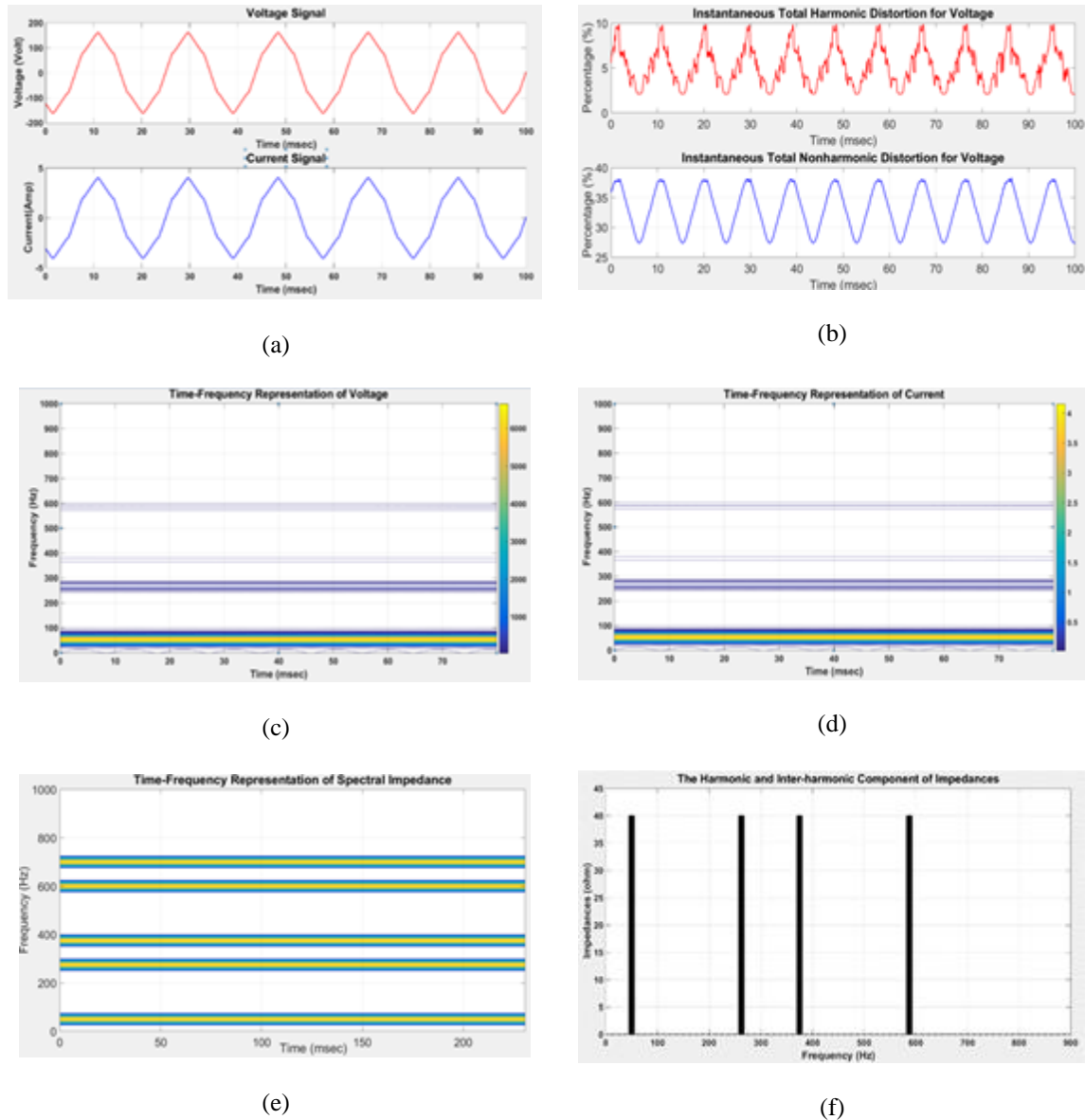


Figure 9. AC-DC-AC PWM converter as a harmonic source at downstream. (a) Voltage and current signal, (b)  $THD(t)$  and  $TnHD(t)$  for voltage, (c) TFR of voltage, (d) TFR of current, (e) TFR of spectral impedance, (f) Spectral impedance component

A three-phase two-level single bridge converter replaces the previous MHS and the time domain signals are as shown in Figure 10(a). In the meantime, Figure 10(b) shows that the  $THD(t)$  is in the range of 2.5% to 10% and the  $TnHD(t)$  is between 27% to 37%. Figure 10(c) and 10(d) show the signals consist of a fundamental frequency of 50Hz, the harmonic component at 375Hz, and interharmonic components at 262.5Hz and 587.5Hz, respectively. Figure 10(e) also depicts the TFR of the spectral impedance. As can be observed in Figure 10(f), the  $Z_1$  and  $Z_h$  were estimated at 40 ohm. The results indicate that the value of the  $Z_1$  and  $Z_h$  are constantly equal in this case.

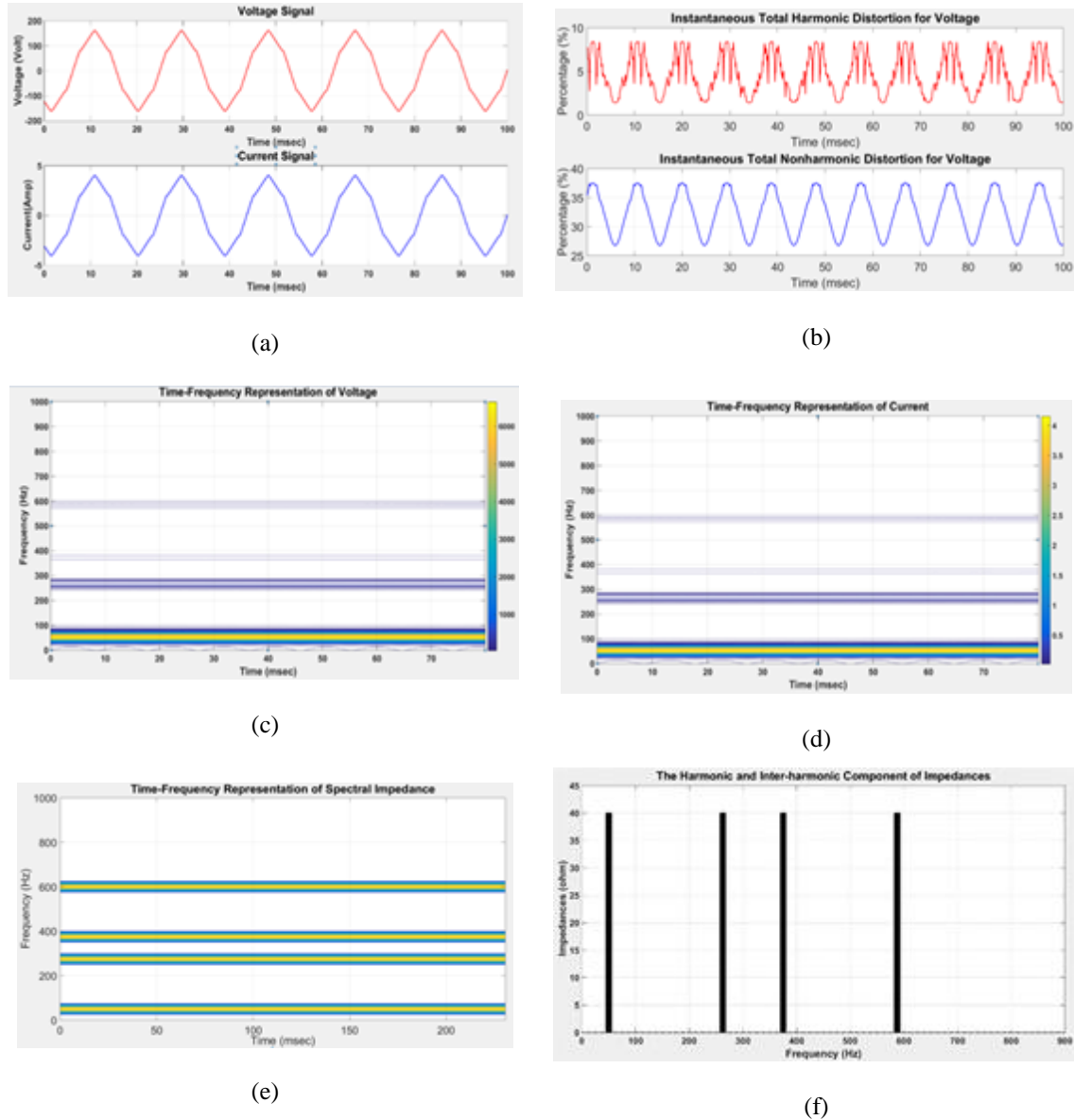


Figure 10. Three-phase two-level single bridge converter as a harmonic source at downstream. (a) Voltage and current signal, (b) THD(t) and TnHD(t) for voltage, (c) TFR of voltage, (d) TFR of current, (e) TFR of spectral impedance, (f) Spectral impedance component

It is apparent from Figure 9(f) and Figure 10(f), that the value of the  $Z_l$  and  $Z_h$  are constantly similar for Case 4. Therefore, the significant relationship of spectral impedances for Case 4 can be concluded as:

$$Z_l = Z_h \tag{13}$$

Table 1. The Significant Relationship of Spectral Impedance for MHS Localisation

Case	Upstream	Downstream	Spectral Impedance ( $\Omega$ )
1	N	N	$Z_h = 0$ $Z_l \neq 0$
2	N	H	$Z_l > Z_h$
3	H	H	$Z_l < Z_h$
4	H	N	$Z_l = Z_h$

Where by N is non-HPL, H is HPL, the  $Z_l$  is fundamental impedance and  $Z_h$  is harmonic impedance.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

The current findings in this study indicate the significant relationship and noteworthy contributions of spectral impedance in MHS identification. The previous methods such as power direction method and probabilistic method that require a high cost to set up a multi-point measurement station with high multiplicity use of the algorithm. However, the proposed method only requires a single point-measurement that utilizes a fast and simple algorithm that is short time Fourier transform-based.

The validation of the proposed method is done by using two different types of MHS. Based on Table 1, MHS in the power system can be identified and distinguished clearly in a significant pattern as follows:

- If the  $Z_i$  is 0 ohm, there is no MHS within the system.
- If the  $Z_j$  is greater than  $Z_h$ , there is MHS at downstream.
- If the  $Z_j$  is smaller than  $Z_h$ , there are MHS at upstream and downstream.
- If the  $Z_j$  is equal to  $Z_h$ , there is MHS at upstream.

Thus, the improved methodology proposed can be used accurately and quickly to obtain the significant relationship of spectral impedances in order to distinguish the location of MHS. In addition, the proposed method is excellent and provides 100% correct identification of MHS in the power system.

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