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Use of Matrix-Pencil Method for Efficient Islanding Detection in Static DG and a Parallel Comparison With DWT Method

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Abstract—Islanding or nonislanding events in grid-connected distributed generation bring along a typical distinguishable transient signature in its frequency profile. This demarcation leads to the development of a new islanding protection approach, which is based on the estimation of frequency waveform parameter (transient's frequency) by Matrix pencil (MP) method. To demonstrate the efficacy of the proposed MP method, four critical scenarios are considered in this paper for covering all possible disturbance events. These events are also compared along with a discrete wavelet transform (DWT) based islanding detection method in simulations as well as in RT-LAB-based real-time environment. It is noteworthy to mention that the proposed MP method has been found to have a positive edge over the DWT-based method in terms of robustness and chances of misidentification.

Index Terms—Discrete wavelet transform (DWT), distributed generation, islanding, Matrix pencil (MP), transient's frequency.

I. INTRODUCTION

ISLANDING occurs when a part of the system is disconnected from the grid and remains energized by the distributed generator (DG) [1], [2]. According to the IEEE Std. 1547 [2], the unintentional island should be exposed and isolated within two seconds for small voltage and frequency signal variation. Generally, frequency and voltage of point of common coupling (PCC)

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waveform cross the prespecified limit when power mismatch is large and can be easily detected by under/over frequency and voltage relay within the specified period. Islanding detection becomes difficult when power mismatch is small, and frequency and voltage of PCC remain within a specified limit. Several islanding detection techniques have been proposed in the literature. These methods are broadly classified into two categories: Centralized (remote) method and local method [3].

Centralized method is very efficient in island detection, but its implementation cost is very high and requires regular updates about the change in the system configuration. Thus, for small-scale distributed generation local (active and passive) method is more preferred than the central method. Both active and passive methods have their own advantages and disadvantages. The efficacy of islanding detection scheme is measured regarding the smaller nondetection zone (NDZ) and faster time of detection. NDZ in $P-Q$ plane indicates the range of active and reactive power mismatch between DG and local load for which islanding remains undetected [4].

Active methods [5]–[8] have relatively smaller NDZ as compared to passive techniques; but it has some limitations like the deterioration of power quality during the normal power system operation and can also result in the false detection when injected external disturbance is nullified in the multi-DG system [9]–[13]. Passive islanding detection techniques, on the other hand, do not have any negative impact on grid power quality, but depends on the measurement of local system parameters at the PCC. It is often not easy to determine the significant parameter and its threshold value to detect islanding event because many other nonislanding disturbances have transients that resemble very closely to an islanding event. Thus, thresholds on the measured parameters (for example, frequency or voltage) are set sufficiently large enough to avoid maloperation, which in turn results in the formation of significant NDZ. Under voltage/over voltage, under/over frequency [14], [15], the rate of change of frequency [16], phase jump detection [17], the rate of change of phase angle difference [18], and voltage harmonic detection [19], [20] are the most popular passive islanding techniques. These methods exhibit large NDZ. To reduce the NDZ, power system researchers devised signal processing based on passive islanding techniques [21]. It extracts a hidden characteristic of

the measured signal, which plays an important role in islanding detection. Fourier transform, DWT [21]–[26], S-transform [27], empirical mode decomposition [28], time–time transform [29], total least square estimation of the signal parameter by rotational invariance techniques [30], Tufts–Kumaresan signal estimation method [31], and frequency oscillation estimation based islanding detection [32] are several useful signal processing tools applied for the islanding detection. Out of these signal-processing algorithms, discrete wavelet transform (DWT) is a strong candidate for the implementation of the islanding detection scheme [26], [33]–[36]. In this paper, a proposed Matrix pencil (MP) method based signal processing technique is compared with the standard DWT signal processing technique.

The proposed technique is based on the estimation of the transient frequency of the disturbed frequency waveform at the PCC. The disturbance effect on frequency waveform for nonislanding event and islanding event are different. This demarcation happens due to the fact that synchronizing power becomes zero in case of islanding event. The MP method is used for estimation of this transient's frequency because it works directly on the input data matrix and calculates the poles in a single process by solving generalized eigen value equations. These features make it computationally efficient for the estimation of frequency. Although the computational burden is a bit higher than that of DWT-based islanding, the efficacy of the proposed scheme is superior when the grid is polluted with higher-order harmonics. As a matter of fact, the accuracy and elegance of the proposed MP method can make a compromise with slight more computational time, keeping in mind the criteria of IEEE 1547 in order to detect the islanding phenomena within two seconds. The following Sections II, III, and IV discuss the theory and application of these two techniques, and performances are compared in Sections V and VI where four different critical scenarios are considered to evaluate the algorithm more critically for NDZ, quality factor (QF) of the load, effect of nonlinear load current harmonics, detection time, and possible failure or misidentification.

II. PROPOSED MP METHOD AND ITS APPLICATION

MP method is a class of mathematical approach to estimate signal parameters of a signal consisting of multiple damped sinusoids. In the context of identification of islanding events, the estimation of real-time frequency components is of interest, and a formulation of MP approach is presented in the following.

In general, the waveform to be analyzed from an islanding event can be expressed as

$$y(n) = \sum_{k=1}^M a_k e^{(-d_k + j2\pi f_k)nT_s} + \eta(n) \quad n = 0, 1, \dots, N-1 \quad (1)$$

where a_k , f_k , and d_k are the complex amplitude, transient frequency, and damping factor of the k th sinusoidal component; M represents the number of the sinusoids present in the signal, η accounts for the noise in the signal (assumed to be white), N is the total number of samples, and T_s is sampling time.

The estimation of transient frequencies f_k related to the estimation of the poles $-d_k + j2\pi f_k$ of the signal, can be obtained by different approaches and is a nontrivial matter. MP method is followed to estimate f_k as outlined briefly by the following derivation.

MP method uses certain properties of the underlying signal. Let us define.

Data matrix of order $(N - L) \times (L + 1)$ is directly obtained from the data sequence $y(n)$ as

$$Y = \begin{pmatrix} y(0) & y(1) & \dots & y(L) \\ y(1) & y(2) & \dots & y(L+1) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ y(N-L-1) & y(N) & \dots & y(N-1) \end{pmatrix} \quad (2)$$

where, L is called the pencil parameter. Some results from [37] and [38] are used for transient frequency estimation in this paper. To use some results from Theorem 2.1 in [37] two new matrices are formed. These two matrices Y_1 and Y_2 are derived from Y by deleting its last and first row, respectively.

According to Cramer–Rao bound, L is chosen between $N/3$ and $2N/3$ for the optimum estimator and efficient data filtering [38]–[41].

In this paper, prior to applying the MP approach, singular value decomposition (SVD) is proposed to be performed on the matrix Y for denoising

$$Y = U \sum V^H \quad \text{and} \quad U^H Y V = \sum. \quad (3)$$

Here, $(\cdot)^H$ is a hermitian operator, $U = Y Y^H$ and $V = Y^H Y$ are the unitary matrices, and main diagonal elements of \sum represent the individual singular value σ_i of the matrix Y . These eigenvalues are arranged in descending order $\sigma_1 \geq \sigma_2 \geq \dots \geq \sigma_i \geq \dots \geq \sigma_{\min}$. If the data is free from noise, $M = \max(i)$ for which $\sigma_i > 0$.

If noise is also present in the signal, the singular values smaller than a certain value (α) are considered as noise and are filtered out by choosing a signal component number (M) such that $M = \max(i)$ for which $\frac{\sigma_i}{\sigma_{\max}} > \alpha$.

The value of α is chosen depending on the application. In this paper, since high-frequency noises are to be eliminated, a low value (e.g., 10^{−3}) is to be chosen.

After getting the value of M , M -dominant singular value vector of matrix V is selected to form new signal matrices V_s and the rest $M + 1$ to L are discarded.

\sum_s is obtained from the M columns of \sum corresponding to the M -dominant singular values, Y_1 and Y_2 for signal part only become

$$Y_1 = U_s \sum_s V_{1s}^H \quad (4)$$

$$Y_2 = U_s \sum_s V_{2s}^H. \quad (5)$$

Here, matrices V_{1s} and V_{2s} are formed from V_s by deleting its last and first rows, respectively. The diagonal matrix \sum_s is formed from M -dominant values of \sum after doing SVD.

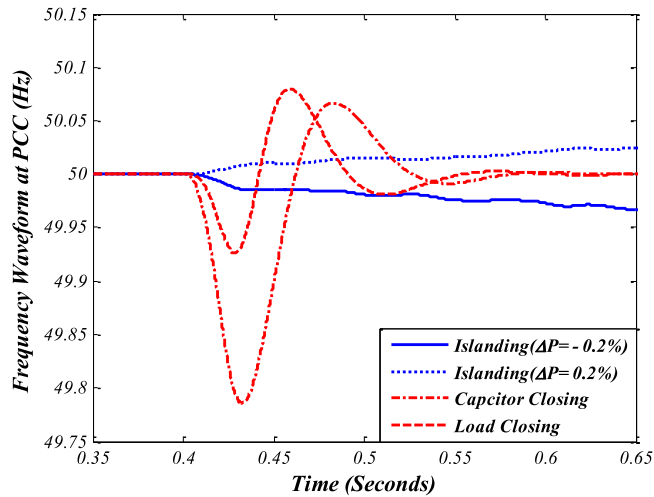


Fig. 1. Behaviour of frequency at PCC.

Eigen values λ_k are the signal poles and can be found by using the concept of Moore–Penrose or pseudoinverse as follows:

$$(Y_1^H Y_1)^{-1} Y_2 = \lambda I_{M \times M}. \quad (6)$$

Frequency f_k and damping coefficients d_k of the signal components are estimated by using (10) and (11), respectively

$$f_k = \frac{\angle \lambda_k}{2\pi} \quad (7)$$

$$d_k = \text{Re}(\log(\lambda_k)). \quad (8)$$

Any kind of disturbances manifest transients in the system and the nature of these transients depend upon the type of disturbances. Frequency pattern at PCC is different for islanding and nonislanding events. The frequency waveform at PCC is shown in Fig. 1. For islanding events, the disturbance transients in the frequency waveform is growing or decaying for positive and negative power mismatch, respectively [31], [37] whereas for nonislanding events, the disturbance transient is damped sinusoid. For nonislanding events, there is participation from the grid toward damping these oscillations by sharing of active and/or reactive power appropriately. In this paper, this unique feature has been utilized to develop a new anti-islanding protection scheme based on the estimation of disturbance “transient’s frequency.”

As power mismatch increases, steepness of the frequency deviation curve also increases and this results in less number of cycles/ revolution within the particular time. Thus, the disturbance “transient’s frequency” for islanding event increases as power mismatch decreases, and it reaches up to its maximum value (Th2) when power mismatch is zero, and it will depend on the system configuration.

This disturbance “transient’s frequency” for the nonislanding event (load switching, capacitor bank switching, distribution line faults, etc.) is much higher than Th2. The threshold value (Th2) of disturbance transient’s frequency is determined by performing a series of simulations with different possible case study scenario. Thus, it has been determined that islanding event occurs when the disturbance “transient’s frequency” lies between zero to Th2.

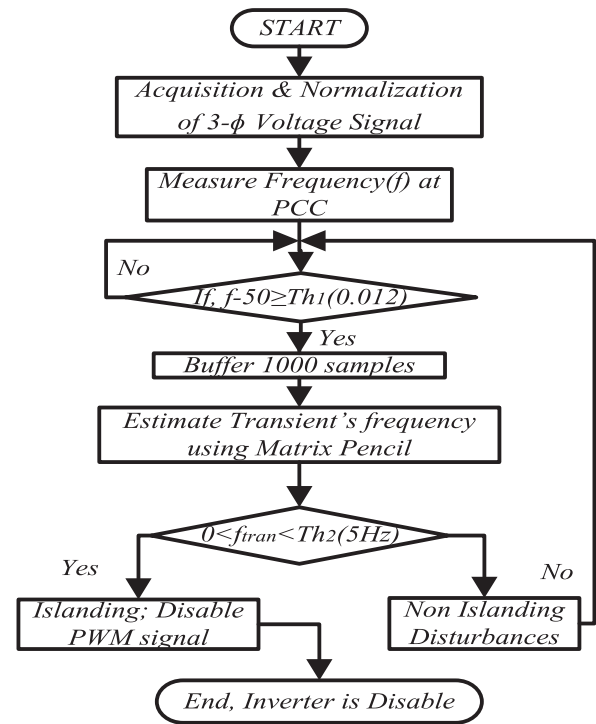


Fig. 2. Flow chart of proposed islanding detection with MP method.

A flowchart of the proposed algorithm is shown in Fig. 2. In this case, the frequency of the PCC voltage signal is measured using phase-locked loop (PLL) and sampled with a sampling rate of 10 kHz. Then the difference between the measured and nominal frequency (50 Hz) is compared with a threshold (Th1) to discriminate whether the system is in normal operating condition or not. If the difference between the measured and nominal frequency crosses the threshold limit (Th1); it means the system is subjected to noticeable disturbance, and subsequently, it initiates data buffering. When buffered data samples are equal to 1000 samples, it goes to the transient frequency estimation block. In the transient frequency estimation block, MP function is embedded into MATLAB Simulink to estimate the transient frequency. Estimated transient frequency is compared with a threshold (Th2) in order to discriminate the islanding and nonislanding events. When estimated transient frequency lies between zero and Th2 (indicative of islanding event), the islanding detection block disables the PWM signals to stop further DG generation. If transient frequency lies outside the upper and Th2 (indicating nonislanding event); PWM signal remains enabled and DG generation continues until further detection of disturbances. The algorithm continues to check the frequency difference to distinguish between islanding and nonislanding events.

III. DWT-BASED ISLANDING DETECTION METHOD

DWT has the ability to analyze signals in both time and frequency domains, simultaneously. DWT decomposes the signal into different frequency bands. This helps in reducing the computational burden, extracting the features and eliminating the noise. The energy of the DWT coefficients depends upon the

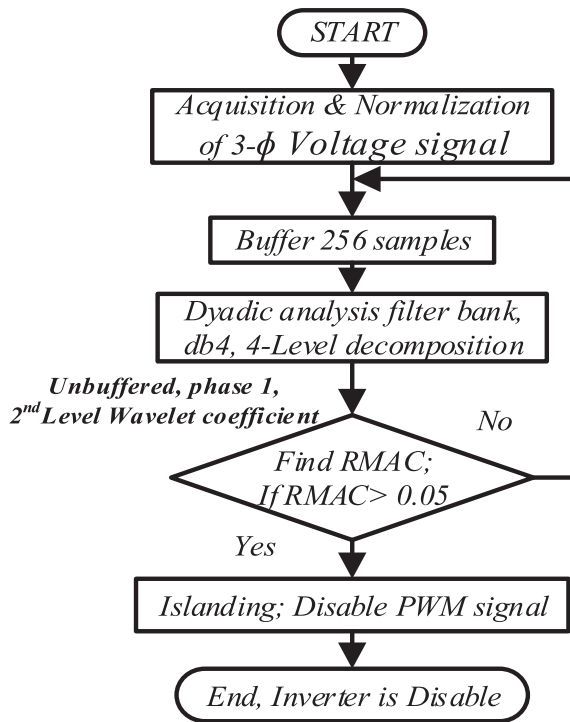


Fig. 3. Flow chart of DWT-based islanding detection method.

number of frequency components and their strength that lies within the frequency band of DWT coefficients. DWT-based islanding detection employs the concept of change in frequency components from grid connected to islanded mode. According to that change, it sets up thresholds to detect islanding events. This feature makes it powerful in the detection of islanding events, but it can also mal-operate when frequency change for other disturbance is analogous to islanding events.

Authors in [26], [33]–[36] presented a DWT-based passive island detection technique. In this paper, PCC voltage signal is acquired with sampling frequency of 5 kHz. Daubechies 4 (DB4) is used as mother wavelet to evaluate DWT coefficients of the PCC voltage signal. PCC voltage signal is decomposed up to four levels $d1$ (1250–2500 Hz), $d2$ (625–1250 Hz), $d3$ (312.5–625 Hz), and $d4$ (156.25–312.5 Hz) using the multiresolution analysis.

The characteristic of different DWT coefficient for normal and islanding condition are analyzed when the grid is free from harmonics. It is found that the difference in energy of $d2$ level coefficient for grid-connected and the islanded mode is maximum as compared to other levels. Thus, the $d2$ level is selected for islanding and nonislanding discrimination. Discrimination based on a change in the magnitude of the wavelet coefficient may lead to nuisance tripping to other transients (load change, capacitor switching, etc.). Thus, to avoid such situation, root mean absolute of second level wavelet coefficient (RMAC) [26] is used to develop DWT-based islanding algorithm, and its flow chart is shown in Fig 3.

IV. SYSTEM UNDER INVESTIGATION

To test the effectiveness of the proposed algorithm, the system is shown in Fig. 4(a). The control topology adopted to generate

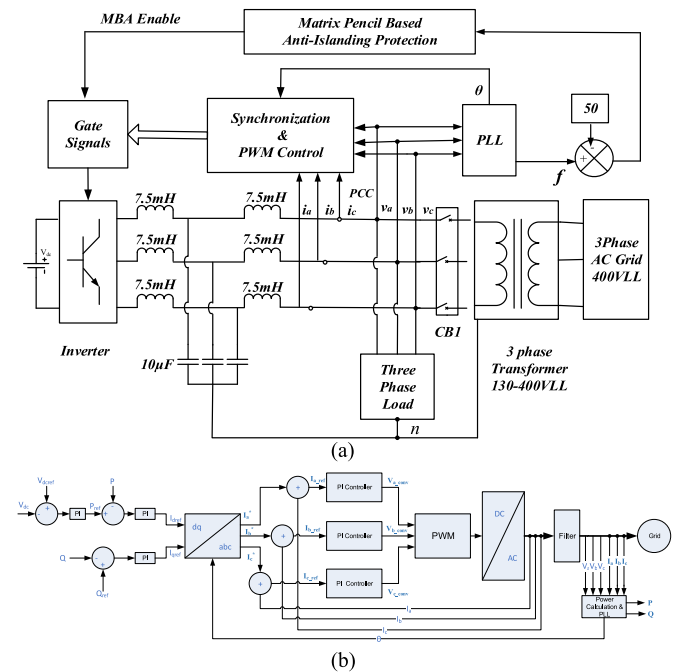


Fig. 4. (a) Block diagram of system setup. (b) Control scheme for PWM generation.

the PWM signal is shown in Fig. 4(b). MATLAB/Simulink platform is used to simulate the system. Further, the same system has been realized in OPAL-RT platform to demonstrate the effectiveness of the proposed algorithm in real-time environment. The system consists of an inverter-based DG, a three-phase RLC load, transformer, and the grid. The DG unit contains a three-phase PWM inverter, dc voltage source of 400 V, and LCL filter. The islanding is created with the opening of the grid circuit breaker (CB1).

In this system, the voltage signal is sensed at the PCC. RMS and peak value of the voltage signal is continuously calculated to normalize it to 1-V peak-peak such that any distortion can be reflected in this normalized signal. PLL is used to measure the frequency and phase of normalized voltage. Synchronization and PWM control estimates required peak inverter voltage ($V_{inv\ peak}$) and load angle (δ) using standard power flow theory and generate a sinusoidal reference signal for PWM pulse generation to control the inverter output. Table I in the Appendix gives the full system parameters for this study.

V. SIMULATED RESULTS WITH DISCUSSION

In this section, DWT and proposed MP method performance are tested based on simulation results under various scenarios. Table II in the appendix gives a summary of the power mismatch considered and the estimated transient's frequency. Individual cases are elaborated here. Due to page limitation, only critical case studies have been shown in the manuscript as both the techniques are efficiently detecting islanding in extreme case studies like close to zero power mismatch (DG source generation and load demand is almost same) and large power mismatch. However, the most crucial real-time result of close to zero power mismatch is presented in the subsequent section.

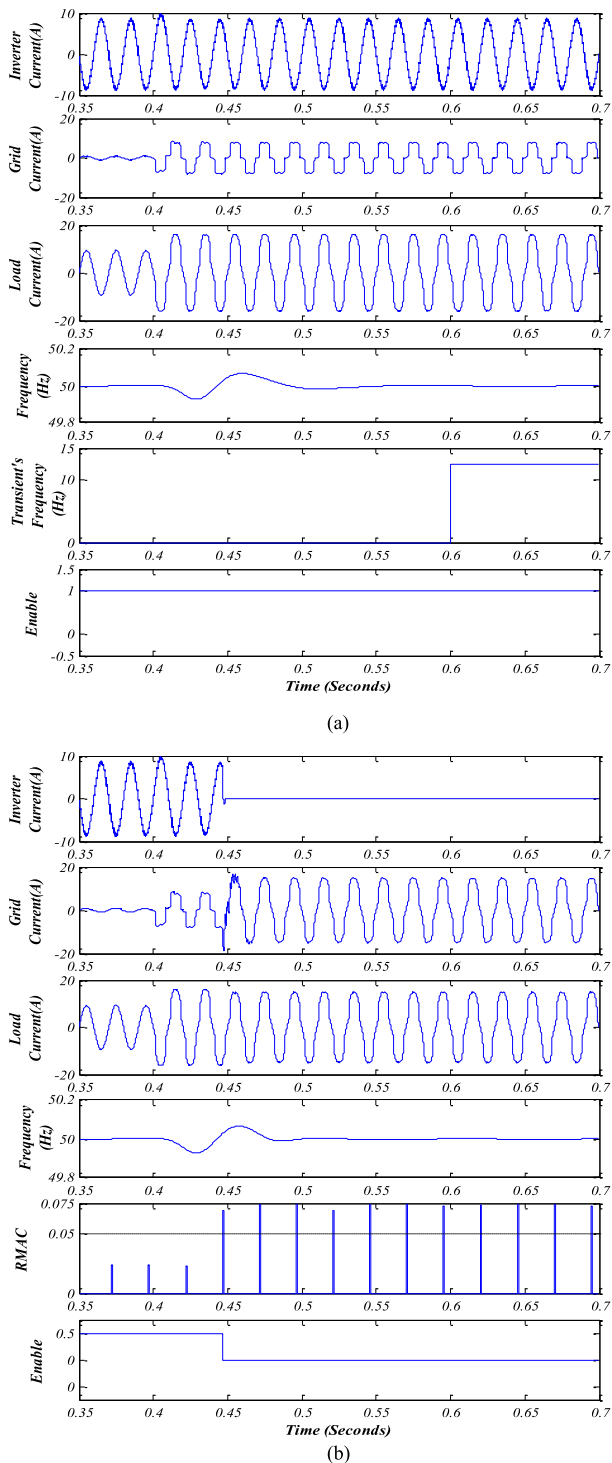


Fig. 5. Simulation result of nonlinear load switching with (a) proposed MP method and (b) DWT method.

A. Nonlinear Load Switching

In this section, the reliability of the proposed MP method and DWT-based islanding detection method is tested when a nonlinear load is added at the instant 0.4 s. MP method and DWT in the context of comparative performance are shown in Fig. 5(a) and (b), respectively. From the results, it is clear that the proposed MP technique outperforms and accurately detects

it as a nonislanding event even if the switched load is nonlinear in nature. Whereas, in the case of the DWT method, RMAC value crosses the threshold level, which leads to mal-operation as shown in Fig. 5(b). To avoid mal-operation, the threshold value of RMAC must be set at a higher level. It is undesirable to increase the threshold level because it will result in larger NDZ.

B. Capacitor Switching

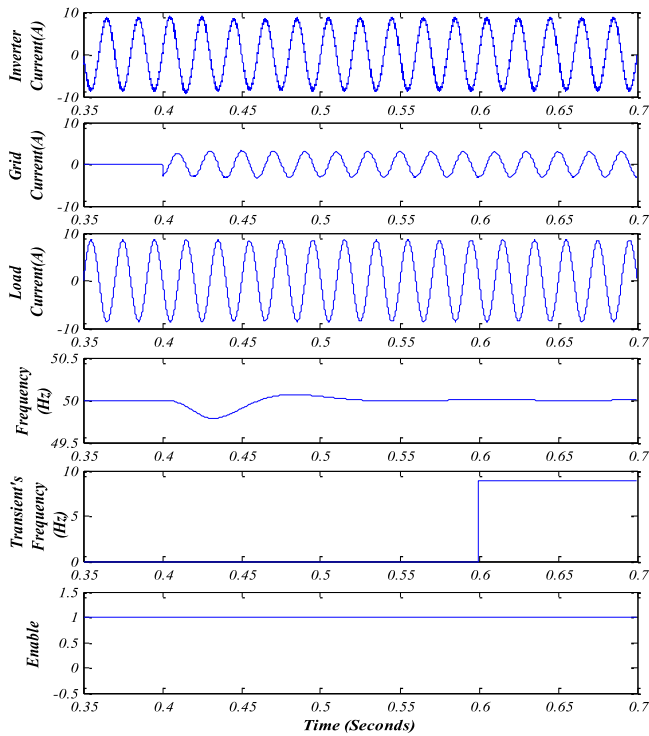
In this case, before the capacitive load switching, DG feeds power to 1.4-kW local load; thus power exchange from the grid is almost negligible (grid current is zero). In the event of capacitive load switching, power has been drawn from the grid (grid current value increases from zero) to meet the additional power requirement of the capacitive load. To study the efficacy of islanding detection algorithm under such scenario, a 450 VAR of capacitive load is added at the instance 0.4 s, which results in a switching type nonislanding event. Result in Fig. 6(a) shows that the frequency of PCC voltage signal starts oscillating from the instant 0.4 s and estimated transient frequency is greater than the Th2. Thus, DG supply remains enabled.

In the case of the DWT-based method, RMAC value increases from the preset threshold value of 0.05, as shown in Fig. 6(b), recognizes it as islanding event and disables the DG power supply. This is a practical case example where the proposed MP method is more reliable than that of the DWT method for proper discrimination between islanding and nonislanding events. It is noteworthy to mention that 450 VAR capacitive load acts as a threshold, below which the wavelet-based relay, operate perfectly, but exhibits mal-operation for 450 VAR and above capacitive load switching. This situation occurs because the energy of the wavelet coefficients are found to be too low to reach the threshold 0.05 for cases lower than 450 VAR capacitive load switching. Proposed MP method has also been tested for different ratings higher and lower than the 450 VAR, but does not show any malfunction.

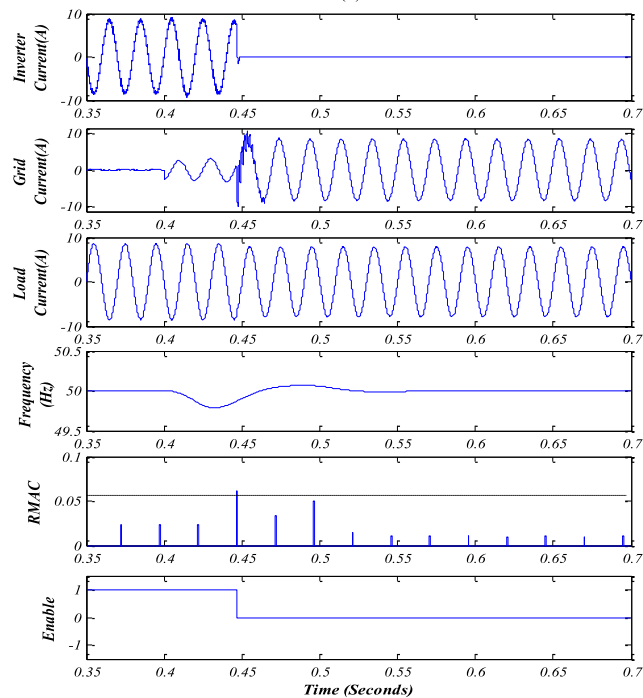
C. Effect of Grid-Voltage Harmonics on Islanding Detection

To demonstrate the effect of grid harmonics effect on the performance of the proposed MP and DWT-based technique, an analysis has been presented in this section (see Fig. 7). Grid harmonics can also sometime affect DWT-based technique performance. This is due to the fact that DWT decomposes the signal in frequency bands as mentioned in section III. In the present study, the $d2$ level band is used for the islanding detection. Variation in harmonic component that lies within this frequency band may lead to malfunctioning of DWT-based island detection algorithm. Thus, to check the performance of DWT and proposed MP method, harmonics of order 13 and 17 are added to grid voltage at the instance 0.4 s. The magnitude of added harmonics is quite small. It is equal to 0.58 % and 0.68% of the fundamental for harmonics order 13 and 17, respectively, which is much lower than the permissible limit of IEEE Std. 519.

It is found from Fig. 7(b) that RMAC values crosses the set threshold and interpret it as islanding event. This situation occurs because the energy of $d2$ level is increased due to the addition of



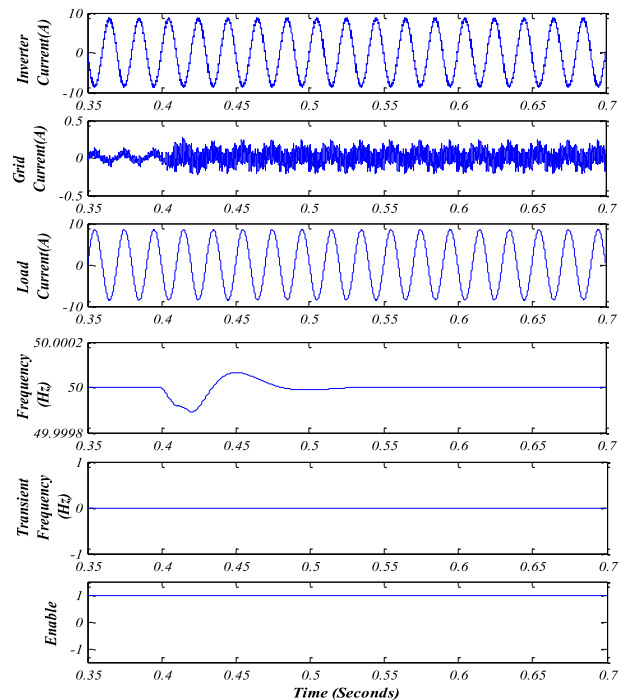
(a)



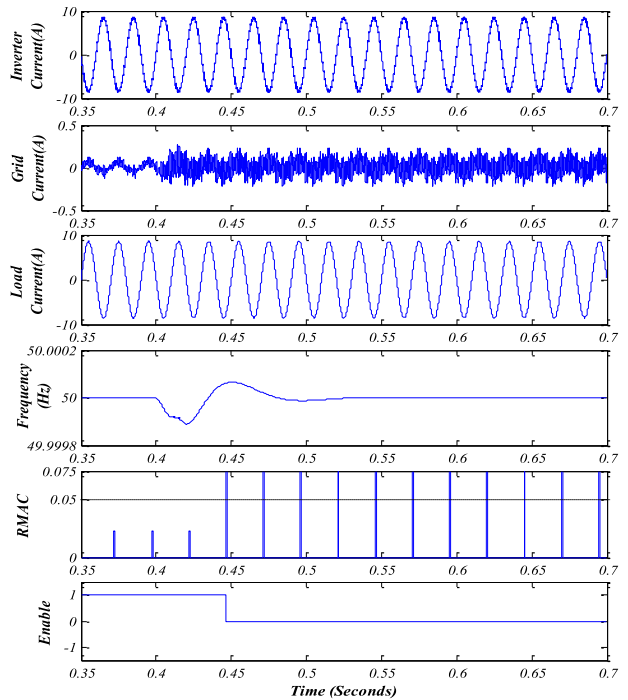
(b)

Fig. 6. Capacitor switching (nonislanding event) with (a) proposed MP method and (b) DWT method.

harmonics of order 13 and 17. To avoid the malfunction of DWT-based islanding detection technique, it needs a measurement of grid voltage harmonics, and the threshold has to be appropriately adjusted. It also introduces a remarkable delay for the regular update of thresholds, which is not a feasible solution. Proposed MP technique performance is not affected by the harmonics variation. The simulation results are shown in Fig. 7(a) and (b)



(a)



(b)

Fig. 7. Effect of 13 and 17 order harmonics on (a) proposed MP method and (b) DWT method.

that confirm the superiority of the proposed MP technique over DWT in the presence of grid harmonics.

D. Effect of Load QF on Islanding Detection

Load QF also affects the islanding detection. Islanding detection becomes difficult for the RLC load having QF greater than the 2.5 [26]. Proposed MP and DWT based islanding detection

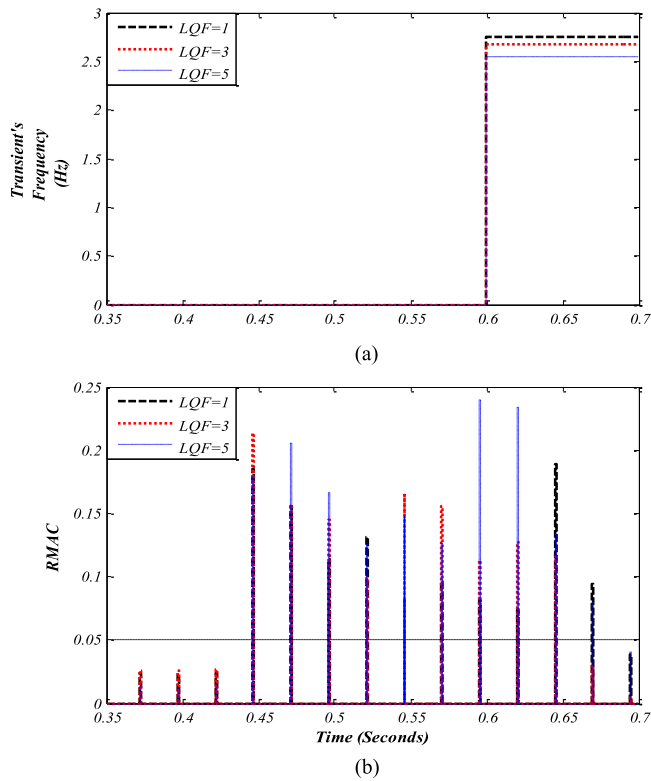


Fig. 8. Effect of load quality on (a) proposed MP method and (b) DWT method.

method are tested for three different values of load QF. It can be seen from Fig. 8 that for all the three cases, the proposed MP method and DWT method exhibit accurate islanding detection. It is clear, from Fig. 8(b), that as the load QF increases, the estimated transient's frequency by MP method decreases. Thus, load QF does not affect the islanding detection property of the proposed MP method. DWT method also detects the islanding condition correctly as shown in Fig. 8(b).

VI. REAL-TIME RESULTS WITH DISCUSSION

The proposed system is implemented in RT-LAB simulator (OP5600), which uses field programmable gate array (FPGA) architecture with Xilinx system generator toolbox to realize the virtual prototype of the system as shown in Fig. 9. The virtual prototype of the system, which is in “software in the loop (SIL)” is almost similar to the “hardware in the loop (HIL)” as it is implemented with the proper delay management of actual signals and control signals through actual analog-digital/digital-analog (AD/DA) devices. The communication between CPUs (PC & OPAL-RT) is controlled by the FPGA architecture and the console PC. All the real-time results obtained from OPAL-RT are scaled down by 10 in magnitude.

In this section, real-time validation of proposed MP method and its comparison with wavelet transform is presented for the critical cases, such as zero power mismatch (see Fig. 10). Effect of nonlinear load variation and presence of grid harmonics are presented in the Figs. 11 and 12, respectively.

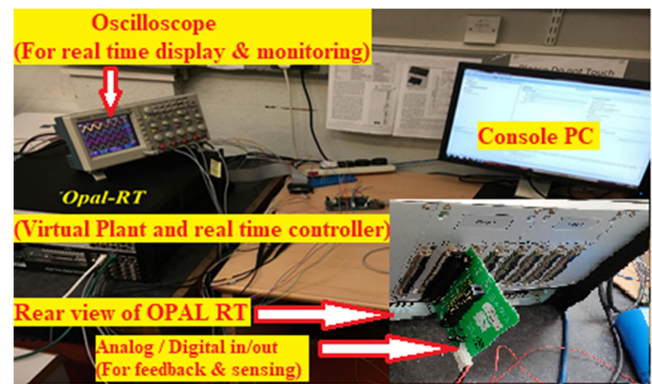


Fig. 9. Opal-RT laboratory setup.

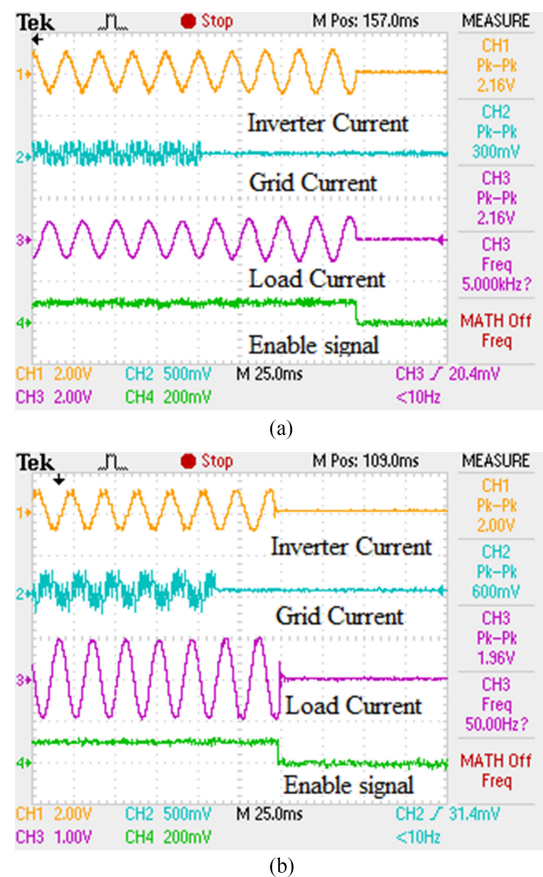


Fig. 10. Real-time result of close to zero power mismatch with (a) proposed MP method and (b) DWT method.

It has been observed from the Fig. 10(a) that islanding detection time of proposed MP method is reduced to 0.1 s in comparison to the detection time of 0.2 s in a simulated environment. It means the computational burden of the proposed method is not very significant in the OPAL-RT environment. Thus, it is well suited for the real-time islanding detection. Wavelet-based method detection time (0.03 s) in real time was also reduced as compared to the detection time (0.07 s) in a simulated case. From the result shown in Fig. 10, it is clear that both the methods are capable of detecting islanding accurately.

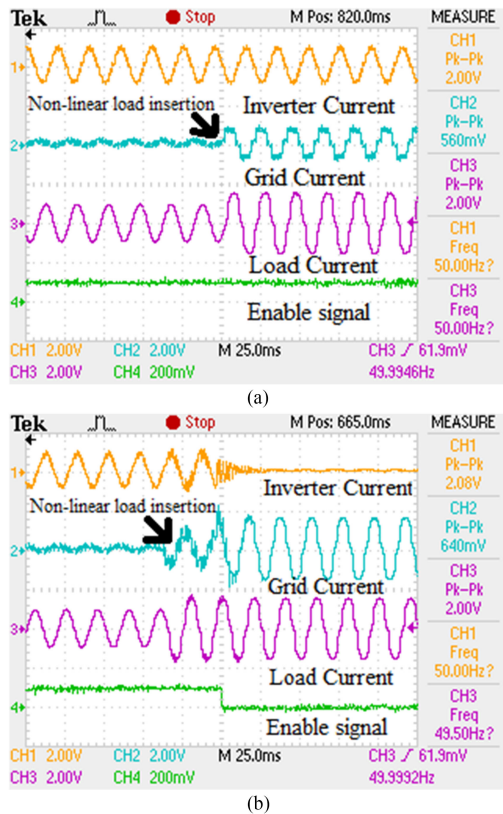


Fig. 11. Real-time result of the effect of nonlinear load (nonislanding event) with (a) proposed MP method and (b) DWT method.

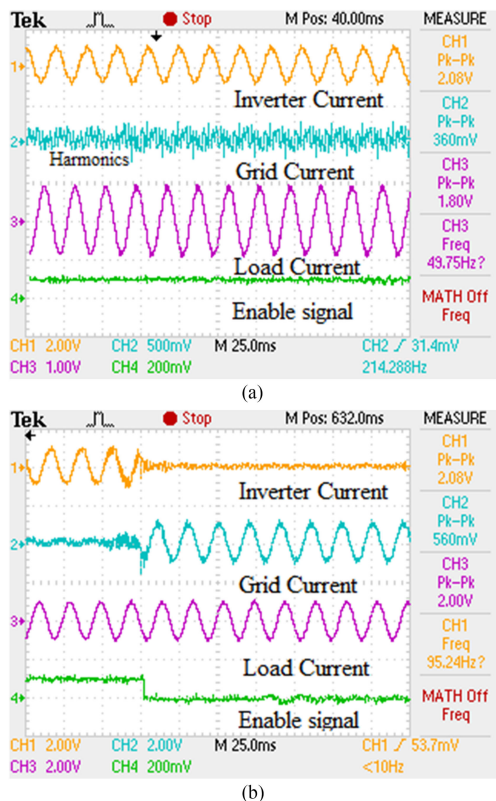


Fig. 12. Real-time result of effect of 13 and 17 order harmonics on (a) proposed MP method and (b) DWT method.

From the results shown in Fig. 11(a) (similar to case study in section V-A nonlinear load switching) and Fig. 12(a) (similar to case study in section V-C presence of voltage harmonics in grid), it is clear that in real time environment, proposed MP method can clearly discriminate these events as nonislanding disturbances and continues the DG supply. Whereas, DWT method malfunctions in these events as are shown in Figs. 11(b) and 12(b) and stops the DG supply.

VII. CONCLUSION

In this paper, disturbance transient's frequency estimation was treated as the dominant criteria to discriminate islanding and nonislanding events. In the case of islanding events, frequency variation will monotonically increase or decrease. On the other hand, in the case of nonislanding events, the frequency will be oscillating in nature. This basic difference is exploited with the MP algorithm to address the discrimination between two events. To position the new algorithm in the context of popular passive methods used, the proposed MP method has been compared with DWT-based technique. In the unusual event of only exact zero power mismatch, it is acknowledged that this passive MP method may not work alone, but that will be an extremely rare event. Even for minimal power mismatch (0.2% difference) the decomposition of signal subspace and noise subspace in the context of frequency estimation concept is being exploited as the estimation objective, which is also suitable for real-time implementation with the less computational burden. From the presented four different case studies, it was concluded that the proposed MP technique in comparison to the DWT-based technique is more robust and does not trigger any mal-operation in the event of grid harmonic pollution and other nonislanding switching transient cases where it can affect the grid voltage harmonics. However, detection time (0.2 s in case of simulated and close to 0.1 s in real time) was large as compared with DWT-based technique, but then, again, it was much lower than the IEEE std. 1547 permissible limit of 2 s.

APPENDIX

TABLE I
PARAMETERS OF THE STUDIED SYSTEM

Grid Parameters	
Line-line voltage	400 V
Nominal frequency	50 Hz
Load parameters	
Linear Resistive Load	Rated Power =1.4 kW
Load with QF=1	Rated Active Power =1.4 kW, Rated Reactive Power=2.8 kVar
Load with QF=3	Rated Active Power =1.4 kW, Rated Reactive Power=4.2 kVar
Load with QF=5	Rated Active Power =1.4 kW, Rated Reactive Power=7 kVar
Non-Linear Load (Rectifier Fed Resistive load)	Rated Power =0.685 kW Resistance =22 Ω
DG parameters	
Rated Power	1.4 kW
AC Terminal Voltage	230V per phase
DC Voltage	400V
Filter parameter	$L=15\text{mH}/\text{phase}$ $C=10\mu\text{F}/\text{phase}$
Switching frequency	2 kHz
Sampling time	1 μs

TABLE II
POWER MISMATCH AND ESTIMATED PARAMETERS

Case	ΔP	ΔQ	Voltage (pu)	Frequency (Hz)	Estimated Transient Frequency (Hz)
Close Power Mismatch	0.20%	0%	0.996	49.98	4.8
Large Power Mismatch	10.70%	0%	0.903	49.62	3.75

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