

Analytical Modelling of HVDC Transmission System Converter using Matlab/Simulink

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Abstract— Deeper insight into the functioning of complex HVDC transmission system converter can be obtained by analytical modelling. Further easy to comprehend analytical model in universally available software like Matlab/Simulink can help in fast spread of complex HVDC system knowledge also to those who are responsible for operation and maintenance of these systems thus bringing large benefits. With this in view, a simple analytical model using Matlab/Simulink has been developed in this work to investigate the steady state operation of the 6 pulse single bridge HVDC transmission system converter. The model is based on dividing each cycle of the 60 Hz system into twelve intervals out of which six intervals are commutation intervals with three valves conducting. The system performance for each of the 12 interval has been captured using differential equations applicable for particular interval. These equations have then been converted into integral form followed by Laplace representation to develop the 6 pulse HVDC model in Matlab/Simulink. Steady state operation of the system has been investigated by observing the DC circuit current, commutation process, current and voltage in transformer windings, and source current in time domain. Further the performance of tuned filters for 5th, 7th, 11th and, 13th harmonics and high pass filters has been observed in time domain. Determination of commutation overlap angle by iterative process using the model has been demonstrated. This contribution can be very useful particularly for the operation and maintenance personnel who can perform better with greater insight into the functioning of the complex system obtained through the model as developed.

Index Terms-- HVDC transmission system, converter, tuned filters, high pass filter, thyristor valve, firing angle, overlap angle, time domain simulation.

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I. INTRODUCTION

ADVANCEMENTS in power electronics are making High Voltage Direct Current Transmission Systems (HVDC) more and more attractive and reliable. Developing countries like India and China with their ambitious power capacity enhancement program are installing more HVDC systems for long distance transmission. More can be obtained from huge investments in complex HVDC systems if operation and maintenance personnel have deeper understanding about the functioning of these systems. Further commissioning/maintenance errors may be minimized if the consequences of such errors are known and appreciated by the concerned personnel. Easy to comprehend, simple analytical HVDC converter model as developed in universal software Matlab/Simulink in this paper can prove to be very useful for operation and maintenance personnel. The model illustrates steady state operation of HVDC system converter and can be used to comprehend commutation and overlap, valve firing sequence, AC current and voltage waveforms in converter transformer & the source, and DC current including ripple. The model also helps in understanding the role and importance of AC filters. The model has been realized using simple block and switches (without any thyristor block) as available in universal version of Matlab/Simulink.

II. METHODOLOGY

The six pulse converter system including AC filters considered for modelling is shown in Fig. 1. For representing the system by differential equations, each time period of 0.01666s (60Hz system) has been divided into 12 intervals t_1 through t_{12} out which 6 intervals viz $t_1, t_3, t_5, t_7, t_9, t_{11}$ correspond to commutation from one valve to the respective other valve as illustrated in Fig.2 (middle). Gate **Pulse-1** switches on Valve 3 (Th3) when pre-specified delay (corresponding to firing angle - α) occurs after Phase-S voltage crosses Phase-R voltage at point A marked in Fig.2 (top). Thus during time interval t_1 , three valves viz. Th1, Th2, & Th3 conduct and current flow path is as shown in Fig.1. During this interval commutation takes place and the current i_p in the outgoing Phase-R of the converter transformer

(with an initial magnitude equal to the DC circuit current) reduces to zero as shown in Fig.2 (bottom). Whereas the current in Phase-S of the transformer with an initial magnitude equal to zero increases to magnitude equal to that of the DC circuit current during this interval. In the next time interval t_2 , current equal to DC circuit current magnitude flows in phase Phase-S and Phase-T. During this interval no current flows through Phase-R of the converter transformer. Current flow in the remaining time intervals t_3 through t_{12} can also be understood like this.

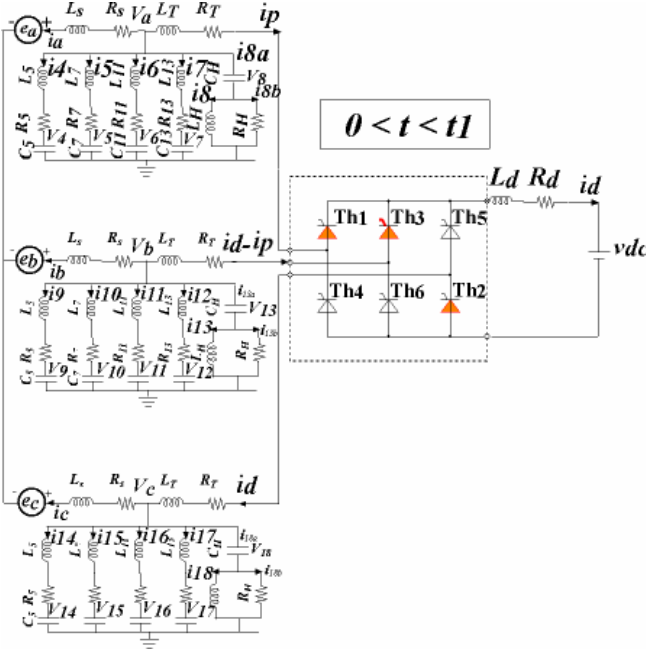


Fig. 1. Schematic of six pulse converter system.

For the purpose of building an analytical model, differential equations of the converter system for each of the time intervals t_1 through t_{12} are developed first in the integral form and then transformed into s -space. These equations are further resolved with additional variables to get equations given in Table 2 and Table 3. Nomenclature used is given in Table 1. Equations given in Table 2 are common for all the intervals t_1 through t_{12} but those given in Table 3 are different for each of the 12 intervals. The equations for each interval depend on i) whether there is current in all the three phases of the converter transformer (during commutation intervals) or only in two phases when there is no commutation and ii) the direction of current flow in the transformer winding during the interval under consideration. The detailed basis for developing these equations can be found in references [6], [7], and [10]. Based on the equations given in Table 2 and Table 3, we have developed the Matlab/Simulink models for each of the variables. Typical example of the model as developed for direct current current i_d is illustrated in Fig.3. Each of the switching positions of the “Twelve position switch” as shown in Fig.3 corresponds to the time interval t_1 through t_{12} . For example when the switch is in position 1, the computation of i_d is done using equations applicable for time interval t_1 .

Table 1 - Nomenclature

Quantity	Symbol	Quantity	Symbol
Voltage	V	Current	i
Resistance	R	Inductance	L
Capacitance	C	Time	t
Laplace operator	s	Source voltage	e

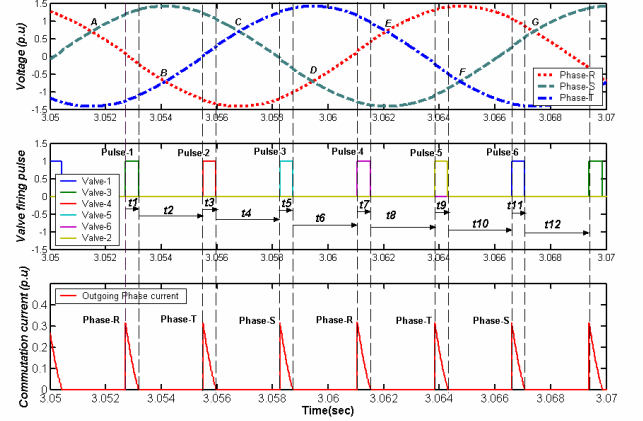


Fig. 2. Illustration of time interval concept: Time function of (1) transformer voltages for phase-R, phase-S and phase-T (2) valve firing pulses and (3) The length of t_1 depends on commutation overlap on completion of which the “Twelve position switch” switches to position 2, so that i_d is now calculated based on equations corresponding to interval t_2 and so on for the other intervals. Since the integral block used is common for all the intervals, continuity of i_d is ensured from interval to the next interval.

Table 2 – Equations common for all intervals t_1 through t_{12} .

Circuit	Voltage	Current
Phase-R	$V_4 = \frac{1}{C_{5,s}} i_4$ $V_5 = \frac{1}{C_{7,s}} i_5$ $V_6 = \frac{1}{C_{11,s}} i_6$ $V_7 = \frac{1}{C_{13,s}} i_7$ $V_8 = \frac{1}{C_{H,s}} \{i_{tR}\}$ $V_a = V_8 - R_H(i_{tR} + i_8)$	$i_4 = \frac{1}{L_{5,s}} \{V_a - V_4 - R_5 i_4\}$ $i_5 = \frac{1}{L_{7,s}} \{V_a - V_5 - R_7 i_5\}$ $i_6 = \frac{1}{L_{11,s}} \{V_a - V_6 - R_{11} i_6\}$ $i_7 = \frac{1}{L_{13,s}} \{V_a - V_7 - R_{13} i_7\}$ $i_8 = \frac{-R_H}{L_{H,s}} \{i_{tR} + i_8\}$ $i_a = \frac{1}{L_{s,s}} \{V_a - e_a - R_s i_a\}$
Phase-S	$V_9 = \frac{1}{C_{5,s}} i_9$ $V_{10} = \frac{1}{C_{7,s}} i_{10}$ $V_{11} = \frac{1}{C_{11,s}} i_{11}$ $V_{12} = \frac{1}{C_{13,s}} i_{12}$ $V_{13} = \frac{1}{C_{H,s}} \{i_{tS}\}$ $V_b = V_{13} - R_H(i_{tS} + i_{13})$	$i_9 = \frac{1}{L_{5,s}} \{V_b - V_9 - R_5 i_9\}$ $i_{10} = \frac{1}{L_{7,s}} \{V_b - V_{10} - R_7 i_{10}\}$ $i_{11} = \frac{1}{L_{11,s}} \{V_b - V_{11} - R_{11} i_{11}\}$ $i_{12} = \frac{1}{L_{13,s}} \{V_b - V_{12} - R_{13} i_{12}\}$ $i_{13} = \frac{-R_H}{L_{H,s}} \{i_{tS} + i_{13}\}$ $i_b = \frac{1}{L_{s,s}} \{V_b - e_b - R_s i_b\}$
Phase-T	$V_{14} = \frac{1}{C_{5,s}} i_{14}$ $V_{15} = \frac{1}{C_{7,s}} i_{15}$ $V_{16} = \frac{1}{C_{11,s}} i_{16}$ $V_{17} = \frac{1}{C_{13,s}} i_{17}$ $V_{18} = \frac{1}{C_{H,s}} \{i_{tT}\}$ $V_c = V_{18} - R_H(i_{tT} + i_{18})$	$i_{14} = \frac{1}{L_{5,s}} \{V_c - V_{14} - R_5 i_{14}\}$ $i_{15} = \frac{1}{L_{7,s}} \{V_c - V_{15} - R_7 i_{15}\}$ $i_{16} = \frac{1}{L_{11,s}} \{V_c - V_{16} - R_{11} i_{16}\}$ $i_{17} = \frac{1}{L_{13,s}} \{V_c - V_{17} - R_{13} i_{17}\}$ $i_{18} = \frac{-R_H}{L_{H,s}} \{i_{tT} + i_{18}\}$ $i_c = \frac{1}{L_{s,s}} \{V_c - e_c - R_s i_c\}$

However for commutation current i_p , separate and dedicated integral block has been used for each of the six commutating intervals t_1, t_3, t_5, t_7, t_9 and t_{11} . Further each of these integral blocks i) is reset by the switching pulse at the beginning of

respective interval, and ii) picks up the corresponding instantaneous value of i_d as initial value. This ensures that the current i_p in the outgoing phase commutates from initial value i_d to final value equal to 0.

Table 3 - Equations different for each intervals t_1 through t_{12} .

Interval/ Variable value	Interval/ Variable value
t_1 $i_{tR} = \{i_4 + i_5 + i_6 + i_7 + i_a + i_p\}$ $i_{tS} = \{i_9 + i_{10} + i_{11} + i_{12} + i_b - i_p\}$ $i_{tT} = \{i_{14} + i_{15} + i_{16} + i_{17} - i_d + i_c\}$	t_1 $i_d = \frac{1}{(3L_T + 2L_d).s} \{-3V_c - 2V_{dc} - (3R_T + 2R_d)i_d\}$ $i_p = \frac{-1}{L_T.s} \{-V_b - V_c + \frac{(R_d L_T - L_d R_T)}{(3L_T + 2L_d)} i_d + i_p R_T + \frac{L_T}{(3L_T + 2L_d)} V_{dc}\}$
t_2 $i_{tR} = \{i_4 + i_5 + i_6 + i_7 + i_a\}$ $i_{tS} = \{i_9 + i_{10} + i_{11} + i_{12} + i_b + i_d\}$ $i_{tT} = \{i_{14} + i_{15} + i_{16} + i_{17} - i_d + i_c\}$	t_2 $i_d = \frac{1}{(2L_T + L_d).s} \{V_b - V_c - V_{dc} - (2R_T + R_d)i_d\}$
t_3 $i_{tR} = \{i_4 + i_5 + i_6 + i_7 + i_a - (i_d - i_p)\}$ $i_{tS} = \{i_9 + i_{10} + i_{11} + i_{12} + i_b + i_d\}$ $i_{tT} = \{i_{14} + i_{15} + i_{16} + i_{17} - i_p + i_c\}$	t_3 $i_d = \frac{1}{(3L_T + 2L_d).s} \{3V_b - 2V_{dc} - (3R_T + 2R_d)i_d\}$ $i_p = \frac{-1}{L_T.s} \{V_a + V_b + \frac{(R_d L_T - L_d R_T)}{(3L_T + 2L_d)} i_d + i_p R_T + \frac{L_T}{(3L_T + 2L_d)} V_{dc}\}$
t_4 $i_{tR} = \{i_4 + i_5 + i_6 + i_7 + i_a - i_d\}$ $i_{tS} = \{i_9 + i_{10} + i_{11} + i_{12} + i_b + i_d\}$ $i_{tT} = \{i_{14} + i_{15} + i_{16} + i_{17} + i_c\}$	t_4 $i_d = \frac{1}{(2L_T + L_d).s} \{V_b - V_a - V_{dc} - (2R_T + R_d)i_d\}$
t_5 $i_{tR} = \{i_4 + i_5 + i_6 + i_7 + i_a - i_d\}$ $i_{tS} = \{i_9 + i_{10} + i_{11} + i_{12} + i_b + i_p\}$ $i_{tT} = \{i_{14} + i_{15} + i_{16} + i_{17} + i_d - i_p - i_c\}$	t_5 $i_d = \frac{1}{(3L_T + 2L_d).s} \{-3V_a - 2V_{dc} - (3R_T + 2R_d)i_d\}$ $i_p = \frac{-1}{L_T.s} \{-V_c - V_a + \frac{(R_d L_T - L_d R_T)}{(3L_T + 2L_d)} i_d + i_p R_T + \frac{L_T}{(3L_T + 2L_d)} V_{dc}\}$
t_6 $i_{tR} = \{i_4 + i_5 + i_6 + i_7 + i_a - i_d\}$ $i_{tS} = \{i_9 + i_{10} + i_{11} + i_{12} + i_b\}$ $i_{tT} = \{i_{14} + i_{15} + i_{16} + i_{17} + i_c + i_d\}$	t_6 $i_d = \frac{1}{(2L_T + L_d).s} \{V_c - V_a - V_{dc} - (2R_T + R_d)i_d\}$
t_7 $i_{tR} = \{i_4 + i_5 + i_6 + i_7 + i_a - i_p\}$ $i_{tS} = \{i_9 + i_{10} + i_{11} + i_{12} + i_b - (i_d - i_p)\}$ $i_{tT} = \{i_{14} + i_{15} + i_{16} + i_{17} + i_d + i_c\}$	t_7 $i_d = \frac{1}{(3L_T + 2L_d).s} \{3V_c - 2V_{dc} - (3R_T + 2R_d)i_d\}$ $i_p = \frac{-1}{L_T.s} \{V_b + V_c - \frac{(R_d L_T - L_d R_T)}{(3L_T + 2L_d)} i_d + i_p R_T + \frac{L_T}{(3L_T + 2L_d)} V_{dc}\}$
t_8 $i_{tR} = \{i_4 + i_5 + i_6 + i_7 + i_a\}$ $i_{tS} = \{i_9 + i_{10} + i_{11} + i_{12} + i_b - i_d\}$ $i_{tT} = \{i_{14} + i_{15} + i_{16} + i_{17} + i_c + i_d\}$	t_8 $i_d = \frac{1}{(2L_T + L_d).s} \{V_c - V_b - V_{dc} - (2R_T + R_d)i_d\}$
t_9 $i_{tR} = \{i_4 + i_5 + i_6 + i_7 + i_a + i_d - i_p\}$ $i_{tS} = \{i_9 + i_{10} + i_{11} + i_{12} + i_b - i_d\}$ $i_{tT} = \{i_{14} + i_{15} + i_{16} + i_{17} + i_p + i_c\}$	t_9 $i_d = \frac{1}{(3L_T + 2L_d).s} \{-3V_b - 2V_{dc} - (3R_T + 2R_d)i_d\}$ $i_p = \frac{-1}{L_T.s} \{-V_a - V_b + \frac{(R_d L_T - L_d R_T)}{(3L_T + 2L_d)} i_d + i_p R_T + \frac{L_T}{(3L_T + 2L_d)} V_{dc}\}$
t_{10} $i_{tR} = \{i_4 + i_5 + i_6 + i_7 + i_a + i_d\}$ $i_{tS} = \{i_9 + i_{10} + i_{11} + i_{12} + i_b - i_d\}$ $i_{tT} = \{i_{14} + i_{15} + i_{16} + i_{17} + i_c\}$	t_{10} $i_d = \frac{1}{(2L_T + L_d).s} \{V_a - V_b - V_{dc} - (2R_T + R_d)i_d\}$
t_{11} $i_{tR} = \{i_4 + i_5 + i_6 + i_7 + i_a + i_d\}$ $i_{tS} = \{i_9 + i_{10} + i_{11} + i_{12} + i_b - i_p\}$ $i_{tT} = \{i_{14} + i_{15} + i_{16} + i_{17} - (i_d - i_p) - i_c\}$	t_{11} $i_d = \frac{1}{(3L_T + 2L_d).s} \{3V_a - 2V_{dc} - (3R_T + 2R_d)i_d\}$ $i_p = \frac{-1}{L_T.s} \{V_c + V_a + \frac{(R_d L_T - L_d R_T)}{(3L_T + 2L_d)} i_d + i_p R_T + \frac{L_T}{(3L_T + 2L_d)} V_{dc}\}$
t_{12} $i_{tR} = \{i_4 + i_5 + i_6 + i_7 + i_a + i_d\}$ $i_{tS} = \{i_9 + i_{10} + i_{11} + i_{12} + i_b\}$ $i_{tT} = \{i_{14} + i_{15} + i_{16} + i_{17} + i_c - i_d\}$	t_{12} $i_d = \frac{1}{(2L_T + L_d).s} \{V_a - V_c - V_{dc} - (2R_T + R_d)i_d\}$

It is important to highlight that the computing equations for all variables i_d , i_p , i_{tR} , i_{tS} , and i_{tT} as indicated in Table 3 have to be switched simultaneously. Also the switching corresponds to specified time delay (firing angle) after the crossover of the commutation voltages. Moreover no overlap between intervals is permitted. In our model, we have used the ‘‘Synchronized six pulse generator’’ available as standard in Simulink for the commutation intervals. S-R flip flop with triggering on falling

and rising pulse of the previous commutation block and the following commutation block respectively have been used for the non commutation intervals. The system data and the a.c. filter parameters used by us for the purpose of model validation are same as given in reference [10].

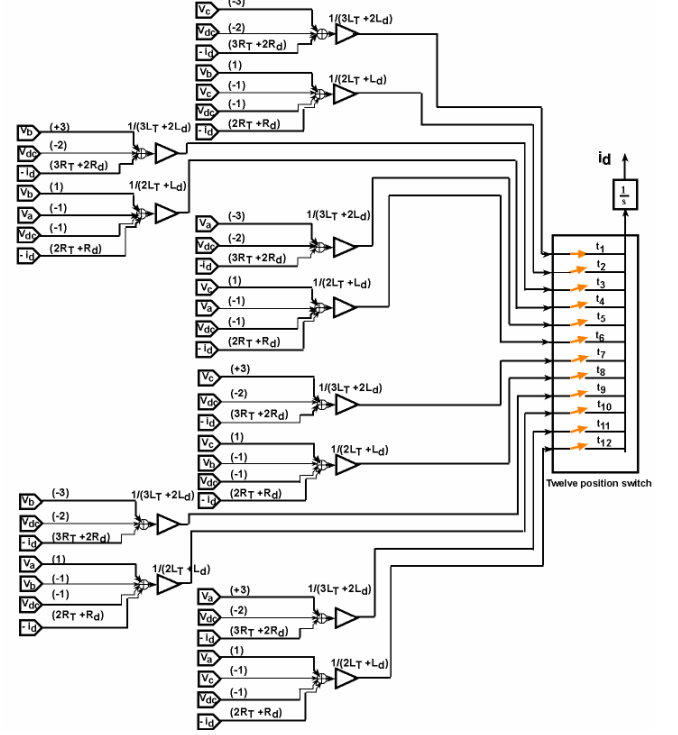


Fig. 3. Schematic representation of Matlab/Simulink model for computation of direct current i_d .

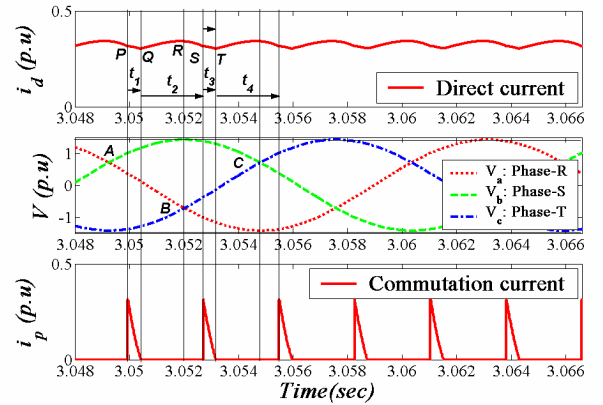


Fig. 4. Time function of (1) direct current i_d (2) transformer voltages V_a , V_b , & V_c for Phase-R, Phase-S, and Phase-T respectively and (3) commutation current i_p .

III. CASE STUDIES

A Steady State Operation of HVDC Transmission System Rectifier

Steady state operation of HVDC transmission system rectifier has been simulated for 15° firing angle. Time function of (1) direct current i_d (2) transformer voltages V_a , V_b , & V_c for phase-R, phase-S, and phase-T, respectively and (3)

commutation current i_p are shown in Fig.4. Root cause of ripple in direct current i_d can be clearly observed in Fig.4. Referring to top of Fig.4, at time point **P** commutation of current from phase-R to phase-S begins and is completed at time point **Q**. This is interval t_1 of our model and during this interval i_d decreases due to decreasing magnitude of V_c as seen in middle of Fig.4. From time point **Q** to time point **S** the current flows through phase-S and phase-T and there is no current flow in phase-R of the transformer. This is interval t_2 of our model and in this interval i_d varies in accordance with $(V_b - V_c)$. It can be seen that within time interval t_2 , from time point **Q** to time point **R**, i_d increases as V_b is increasing. But from time point **R** to time point **S**, i_d decreases as V_b starts falling down after reaching the peak value at point **R**. The decreasing trend of point i_d continues till time point **T** and when commutation from phase-T to phase-R (negative part of the cycle) is complete, i_d starts increasing again due to fast increasing magnitude of incoming phase-R. Similar is the case for other intervals.

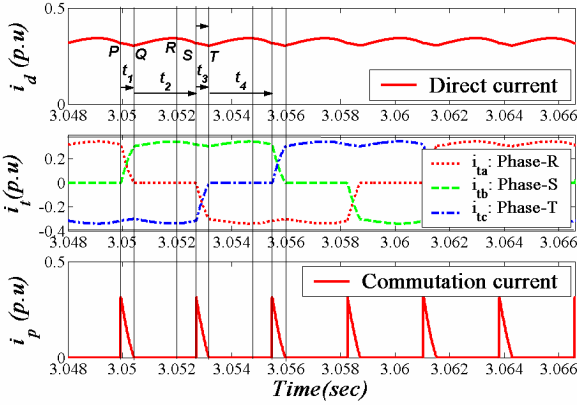


Fig. 5. Time function of (1) direct current i_d (2) transformer currents i_{ta} , i_{tb} , & i_{tc} for Phase-R, Phase-S, and Phase-T respectively and (3) commutation current i_p .

Time function of (1) direct current i_d (2) transformer currents i_{ta} , i_{tb} , & i_{tc} , for phase-R, phase-S, and phase-T, respectively and (3) commutation current are shown in Fig.5. Referring to middle of Fig.5, it can be observed that phase-R current starts reducing from a value equal to i_d at time point **P** to zero at time point **Q** i.e during time interval t_1 . At time point **Q** i.e. at the end of time interval t_1 , phase-S takes over the entire current i_d which marks the completion of commutation. Current in phase-R remains zero till time point **S** when it starts taking over from phase-T in the negative cycle. Important to note is that even though the same current as i_d flows in phase-R from time point **T** onwards (interval t_4) but its direction is reversed as compared to that at the beginning of interval t_1 . Also the dents in the transformer phase current wave form can be observed when there is commutation between the other two phases.

Time function of (1) valve currents i_{Th1} , i_{Th3} , & i_{Th5} (2) valve currents i_{Th2} , i_{Th4} , & i_{Th6} and (3) commutation current are shown in Fig.6. Commutation of current from valve 1 to 3 during interval t_1 in the positive cycle and from valve 6 to 2

during interval t_3 in the negative cycle and so on for the other valves can be clearly observed.

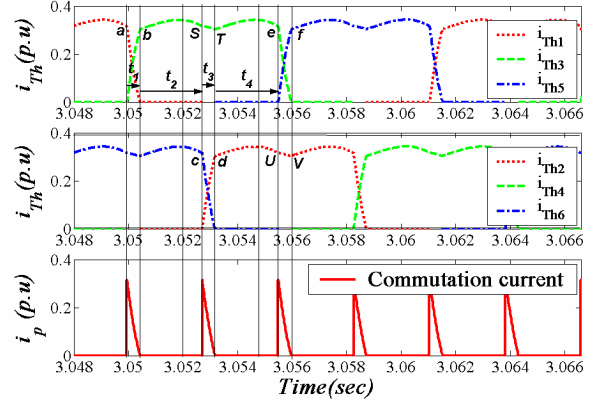


Fig. 6. Time function of (1) valve current i_{Th1} , i_{Th3} , & i_{Th5} (2) valve current i_{Th2} , i_{Th4} , & i_{Th6} and (3) commutation current i_p .

Time function of (1) transformer currents i_{ta} , i_{tb} , & i_{tc} , for phase-R, phase-S, and phase-T, respectively in tuned filter circuits for 5th, 7th, 11th, 13th harmonics and high pass filter and (3) alternating source currents i_a , i_b , & i_c , for phase-R, phase-S, and phase-T, respectively are shown in Fig.7. We can clearly observe as to how filters remove the harmonics from trapezoidal shaped current waveform in the transformer windings to give a nearly sinusoidal current waveform in the a.c. source. This figure illustrates the importance of filters from point of view of the source as without the filters source shall be subjected to unwanted harmonic currents.

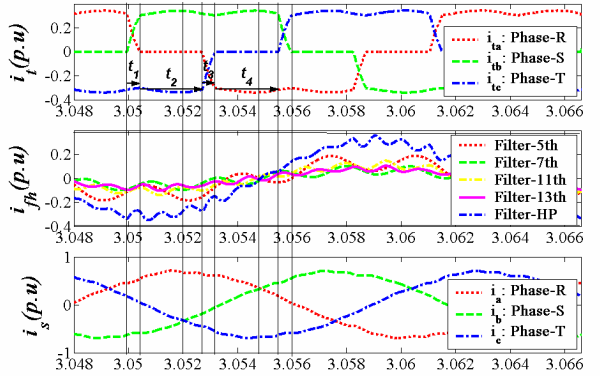


Fig. 7. Time function of (1) transformer currents i_{ta} , i_{tb} , & i_{tc} for Phase-R, Phase-S, and Phase-T respectively and (2) current in tuned filters circuits for 5th, 7th, 11th, 13th harmonics and high pass filter and (3) alternating source currents i_a , i_b , & i_c for Phase-R, Phase-S, and Phase-T respectively.

B Iterative Determination of Overlap Angle

Iterative method can be used to determine the overlap angle and the direct current corresponding to different values of rectifier firing angles using our steady state model. Desired firing angle is set as input to the synchronized six pulse generator and the model is run for different values of overlap

angles. Corresponding commutation current is observed. The

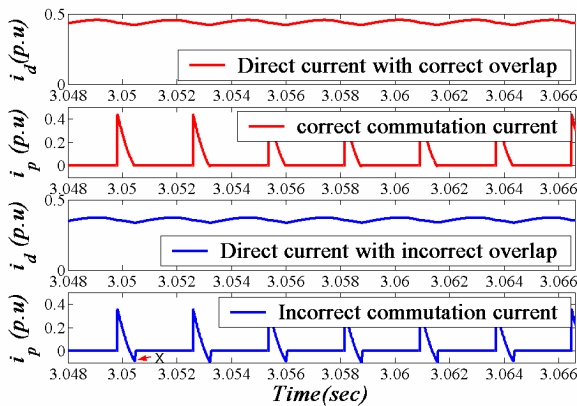


Fig. 8. Time function of (1) direct current i_d with correct overlap (2) commutation current i_p with correct overlap (3) direct current i_d with incorrect overlap (4) commutation current i_p with incorrect overlap.

commutation current at the end of commutation interval is higher or lower than zero if the overlap angle is lower or higher respectively than the correct value. Thus the correct value of overlap angle is determined as the one which gives zero commutation current at the end of each commutation interval in steady state. This has been illustrated in Fig.8 wherein time function of (1) direct current i_d with *correct* overlap (2) commutation current i_p for *correct* overlap (3) direct current i_d with *incorrect* overlap and (4) commutation current i_p for *incorrect* overlap have been plotted. In the lower most part of Fig.8, it can be observed that the commutation current goes below zero value at point X i.e. at the end of commutation interval. This is an example of a case when overlap angle is more than the correct value. It can also be observed that as expected the direct current for this incorrect overlap angle is much lower than the true value corresponding to the correct overlap as shown in the upper part of Fig.8.

Correct overlap angle can be measured as illustrated in Fig.9. The measured values of overlap angle μ_1 for firing angle $\alpha = 15^\circ$ is 10.187° corresponding to the direct current of 0.34 p.u. Similarly the measured values of overlap angles μ_2 for firing angle $\alpha = 12.5^\circ$ is 13.157° corresponding to the direct current of 0.44 p.u. The corresponding theoretically calculated values of overlap angles are 9.899° and 13.32° respectively. Thus the measured model result overlap angle values are within 3% of the theoretically calculated values hence compare reasonably well. Thus using the iterative method the model can be utilised to plot the firing angle versus direct current characteristics and determining the corresponding overlap angle.

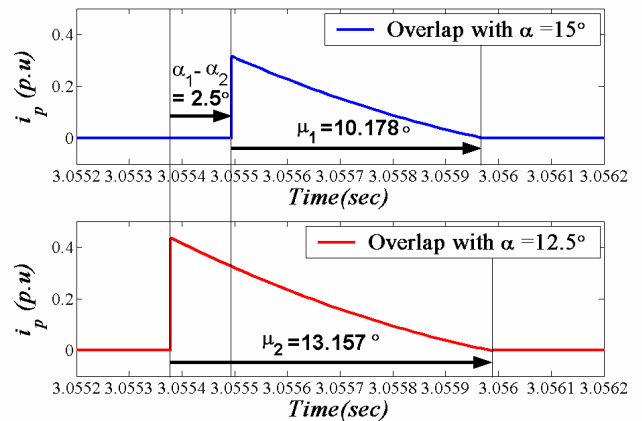


Fig. 9. Measurement of overlap angle (1) overlap with firing angle $\alpha = 15^\circ$ and (2) overlap with firing angle $\alpha = 12.5^\circ$

IV. CONCLUSION

This paper has clearly demonstrated the methodology for modelling steady state operation of HVDC transmission system rectifier using universally available software Matlab/Simulink. Simulations have been done for different values of firing angle and typical results for 15° and 12.5° have been reported. The model results are very useful in getting deeper understanding of (1) root cause for ripple in rectifier direct current (2) basis for trapezoidal wave form of rectifier transformer winding current including the dents when other two phases are commutating (3) valve currents in different intervals of each time period and the (4) importance of tuned and high pass filters in extracting the unwanted harmonics from trapezoidal transformer winding current to give nearly sinusoidal source current. Further the model as developed is very useful in plotting the converter system firing angle versus direct current characteristics and determining the corresponding overlap angle in an easy and iterative manner. This contribution can be very useful for HVDC system operation and maintenance personnel who can investigate different operating conditions of HVDC converter system using the model to optimize the system performance. Since Matlab/Simulink as used by us for developing the model are universally available, the HVDC system owners need not invest much in procuring the specialized and costly software for this purpose.

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