International Journal of Recent Development in Engineering and Technology
Website: www.ijrdet.com (ISSN 2347 - 6435 (Online) Volume 14, Issue 8, August 2025)

Review of Power Quality Management in Grid-Connected Photovoltaic Systems

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***Abstract*— This review focuses on power quality management in grid-connected photovoltaic (PV) systems, a critical aspect as solar energy integration into the electrical grid continues to grow. The intermittent and variable nature of solar power often leads to issues such as voltage fluctuations, harmonics, frequency deviations, and unbalanced loads, which can adversely affect grid stability and performance. The paper examines various power quality challenges associated with PV systems and reviews advanced mitigation techniques, including the use of power electronic converters, filters, energy storage systems, and intelligent control strategies. Emphasis is also placed on recent advancements in grid codes, standards, and real-time monitoring systems aimed at ensuring reliable and stable grid operation. This review provides valuable insights into improving the efficiency and reliability of PV-integrated power networks.**

***Keywords*— Power Quality, Photovoltaic Systems, Grid Integration, Voltage Fluctuations, Harmonics Mitigation, Energy Storage Systems.**

I. INTRODUCTION

In recent decades, the growing concern over climate change, environmental degradation, and the depletion of fossil fuels has accelerated the global shift toward renewable energy sources. Among these, solar photovoltaic (PV) systems have emerged as one of the most promising and widely adopted technologies due to their sustainability, scalability, and declining installation costs. Grid-connected PV systems allow solar energy to be directly fed into the utility grid, enabling efficient energy distribution and reducing reliance on conventional power plants. However, this integration is not without challenges, particularly in the context of maintaining power quality within the grid infrastructure.

Power quality refers to the stability, reliability, and cleanliness of electrical power being delivered to end-users. It encompasses various parameters such as voltage stability, frequency regulation, harmonic distortion, transients, and power factor. In traditional power systems, these parameters are tightly controlled by centralized power generation and distribution networks. However, the intermittent and variable nature of solar energy poses significant risks to power quality. Cloud shading, panel orientation, temperature changes, and solar irradiance fluctuations can cause unpredictable power outputs from PV systems, thereby affecting voltage levels, injecting harmonics, and disturbing the balance of power in the grid.

One of the major concerns in grid-connected PV systems is voltage fluctuation, which can lead to over-voltage or under-voltage conditions, damaging sensitive equipment and reducing system efficiency. Additionally, PV inverters, which are responsible for converting DC power from solar panels to AC power suitable for the grid, can introduce harmonic distortions and electromagnetic interference. These distortions, if not properly managed, can affect the performance of other electrical devices and even violate grid code compliance standards. Frequency deviations are also an issue, especially in weak or isolated grids where the solar contribution is substantial.

To address these issues, researchers and engineers have developed various power quality improvement techniques. The use of advanced power electronic devices such as voltage source inverters (VSIs), harmonic filters, and dynamic voltage restorers (DVRs) has proven effective in mitigating common power quality problems. Moreover, energy storage systems like batteries and supercapacitors are being increasingly integrated with PV systems to buffer sudden changes in output power, stabilize voltage and frequency, and enhance overall grid reliability. Intelligent control algorithms, including fuzzy logic, neural networks, and adaptive control systems, are also being employed to dynamically manage power flows and maintain grid stability in real time.

The regulatory framework governing power quality in PV systems has also evolved, with many countries enforcing strict grid codes and standards for renewable energy integration. These codes define acceptable ranges for voltage, frequency, harmonic distortion, and other power quality parameters, compelling manufacturers and system designers to comply with technical requirements that ensure safe and reliable grid operation. In addition, real-time monitoring systems and smart grid technologies are enabling more responsive and adaptive management of power quality, even as PV penetration increases.

This review aims to explore and evaluate the various challenges, mitigation strategies, and emerging trends in power quality management related to grid-connected photovoltaic systems. It brings together insights from academic research, industrial practices, and case studies to provide a comprehensive understanding of how power quality can be maintained in a renewable-driven power grid. As solar energy continues to play a central role in global energy transitions, ensuring its smooth and stable integration with existing power infrastructure becomes imperative for long-term sustainability and energy security.

II. RELATED WORK

Rai et al., [1] proposed an artificial neural network (ANN)-based control scheme designed to improve power quality in grid-connected photovoltaic (PV) systems. Their approach focused on mitigating voltage fluctuations, harmonics, and reactive power issues that commonly arise from intermittent solar generation. The study demonstrated that the ANN controller could adapt to dynamic grid conditions effectively, enhancing voltage stability and reducing total harmonic distortion (THD). Simulation results showed improved power factor and smoother grid integration, making the system more reliable for utility-scale deployment.

Pattanayak et al., [2] conducted an investigation into power quality within a grid-connected microgrid incorporating photovoltaic (PV), wind energy, energy storage systems (ESS), and ANN-based maximum power point tracking (MPPT). Their work emphasized the complex interactions between diverse renewable sources and their combined effect on grid stability. The use of ANN for MPPT was shown to optimize power extraction while maintaining system voltage and frequency within acceptable limits. The integrated approach resulted in lower voltage fluctuations and improved load sharing among energy sources.

S. Nanda et al., [3] reviewed the performance of a particle swarm optimization (PSO) trained ANN-based MPPT technique in a 3MW grid-connected solar power plant. The study highlighted that the PSO-ANN algorithm outperformed traditional MPPT methods by achieving faster convergence to maximum power points and reducing power losses. This improvement contributed directly to enhanced power quality by stabilizing voltage and reducing the oscillations caused by rapid solar irradiance changes. The research supports large-scale solar applications requiring efficient and reliable power delivery.

Bhanutej et al., [4] analyzed the design and performance of a reliable converter topology for grid-connected PV systems equipped with an ANN controller. The proposed topology aimed to improve voltage regulation and reduce harmonic injection into the grid. Their results showed a significant decrease in THD levels and enhanced dynamic response to load changes. The ANN controller's adaptive nature allowed it to handle varying solar input and grid disturbances effectively, contributing to improved overall system robustness and power quality compliance.

Pattanayak et al., [5] presented a comprehensive review of advancements in power quality improvement techniques within microgrid systems. The review covered control strategies, power electronic devices, and energy management algorithms that address common issues like voltage sags, swells, and harmonic distortion. It emphasized the role of intelligent control methods such as ANN, fuzzy logic, and model predictive control in enhancing system stability. The paper also discussed recent trends in integrating renewable energy sources while maintaining grid code compliance.

Sepasi et al., [6] provided a critical review of power quality fundamentals, standards, and practical case studies specific to microgrids. The study examined typical power quality problems, including voltage unbalance, flicker, and harmonic distortion, and their impact on sensitive loads. It also evaluated international standards and regulatory frameworks guiding microgrid operation and interconnection. The authors highlighted advanced monitoring techniques and real-time mitigation solutions, stressing the importance of coordinated control for maintaining reliable power quality in distributed energy systems.

Rajesh et al., [9] introduced an optimal hybrid control scheme designed to enhance power quality in microgrid-connected systems. The scheme combined multiple control algorithms to simultaneously address voltage regulation, harmonic compensation, and reactive power management. Simulation and experimental results demonstrated improved voltage profiles, reduced THD, and better load sharing under variable generation and consumption conditions. The hybrid approach showed potential for seamless integration of renewable energy sources while preserving grid stability and power quality.

Sahoo et al., [10] evaluated power quality and stability in a hybrid microgrid system incorporating electric vehicles and renewable energy sources. They proposed a novel transformation technique to analyze and mitigate power quality disturbances. The study revealed enhanced system resilience to voltage dips, harmonics, and transient faults through coordinated control strategies. Their approach improved the dynamic response of the microgrid and ensured stable operation despite fluctuating renewable inputs and varying electric vehicle charging demands.

III. CHALLENGES

Challenges in power quality management for grid-connected photovoltaic systems, presented point-wise:

1. **Voltage Fluctuations and Regulation** Rapid changes in solar irradiance cause voltage sags and swells, making it difficult to maintain stable voltage levels on the grid.

2. **Harmonic Distortions** Inverters used to convert DC to AC introduce harmonics, which can distort voltage and current waveforms, affecting equipment performance and causing energy losses.

3. **Frequency Instability** Due to the lack of mechanical inertia in PV systems, sudden power output changes can lead to frequency deviations, especially in weak or isolated grids.

4. **Reactive Power Support Limitations** Conventional PV inverters often have limited capability to provide reactive power, which is crucial for voltage control and grid stability.

5. **Grid Code Compliance and Standardization** Varying regional grid codes and standards complicate the design and operation of PV systems, requiring advanced control strategies to meet regulatory requirements.

6. **Energy Storage Integration Challenges** While storage can improve power quality, issues related to cost, sizing, control coordination, and system lifecycle pose significant hurdles for widespread implementation.

IV. CONCLUSION

Grid-connected photovoltaic systems offer a sustainable solution for clean energy generation but present significant power quality challenges such as voltage fluctuations, harmonic distortions, frequency instability, and limited reactive power support. Addressing these issues requires advanced control strategies, compliance with evolving grid codes, and effective integration of energy storage solutions. Continued research and technological advancements are essential to enhance system reliability, ensure stable grid operation, and facilitate the seamless integration of increasing solar power capacity into modern electrical networks.

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