

APPARATUS FOR CONTROLLING POWER CONVERTERS

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The present invention relates to apparatus for
10 controlling power converters of the pulse width modulation
(PWM) control type, and more particularly to a control
apparatus capable of remarkably improving the waveform of an
AC input and/or output voltage or current of the converters.

15 Power converters, such as converters converting AC
power to DC power and inverters inverting DC power into AC
power, are widely used in the various fields of industries.
For one of typical examples, there is a power converter
which is constructed by the combination of a converter for
20 converting AC voltage supplied from an AC power source to DC
voltage and an inverter for inverting the DC voltage
supplied by the converter into AC voltage again and applying
the inverted AC voltage to an AC load such as an induction
motor.

25 In this kind of power converter, the converter and the
inverter are often controlled by the known PWM control.

Then, the converter is desired to have the waveform of its AC input voltage, which is as close to a sinusoidal waveform as possible, and in the inverter its output voltage or current is required to be as close to a sinusoidal wave as possible. To meet this, especially the pulse width of the minimum input and/or output voltage or current pulses created by the PWM control should be sufficiently narrow.

10 In the following, the description will be made of the problem in the PWM control of the power converter of this kind, taking the case of the inverter as an example. In the typical arrangement of the inverter, as is well known, a main switch circuit, which is composed of six semiconductor
15 switching elements, such as transistors or gate-turn-off (GTO) thyristors, connected as a three-phase bridge circuit, is supplied with a DC power through a DC reactor, and the six switching elements are fed with gate signals in accordance with the PWM control to repeat turn-on and turn-
20 off procedures in the predetermined manner. As a result, the output voltage or current and the frequency thereof can be controlled.

Thus, in the PWM control system of such inverter generally known in the prior art, a triangular carrier wave
25 and a sinusoidal modulating wave are compared with each other, and gate signals for the switching elements are obtained in accordance with the comparison result.

If an apparatus for such PWM control is realized by the analog circuit components, it is accompanied by a problem of complicated circuit construction requiring a carrier wave generator, a modulating wave generator, a comparator and so on. Further, the apparatus constructed by such analog circuit components still has another problem that the characteristics remarkably fluctuate with the changes in the ambient temperature and the aged deterioration so that it is difficult to obtain the stable operation thereof.

Then there has been proposed an apparatus constructed by the digital circuit components; Japanese Utility Model Laid-open No. 57-3392 published on January 8, 1982, for example. According thereto, both a carrier wave and a modulating wave are generated in the form of digital signals, and gate signals for the switching elements are produced by comparing the digital carrier wave and the digital modulating wave. If the control operation, i.e., the generation of the gate signals as mentioned above, is achieved by a microcomputer thus programed, it is almost occupied by the calculating operation for generation of the various waves and the comparison thereof, so that it can hardly execute other processes.

In this case, moreover, the apparatus mentioned above requires the tremendous amount of storage capacity for storing data for the various carrier waves and the various modulating waves in order to obtain the AC output voltage

with the good sinusoidal waveform over the wide range of the frequencies of the AC output voltage. This is not practical because of the construction of data storage means. If the
5 distorted AC output voltage of an inverter is applied to an induction motor as a load of the inverter, for example, another problem is that the generation of noise and torque ripple resulting from harmonic components included in the distorted waveform is unavoidable.

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It is therefore an object of the present invention to solve the aforesaid problems and to provide an apparatus for controlling a PWM-controlled power converter, by which the
15 waveform of an AC input and/or output voltage or current of the power converter is much improved.

According to the present invention there is provided apparatus for controlling a power converter capable of converting DC power into three-phase AC power and/or vice
20 versa by means of a pulse-width modulation (PWM) control, having a processing unit for producing gate signals which turn on or off switching elements of the power converter, said processing unit including:

(a) memory means including a first area for storing
25 data of events, accordingly to which the on or off states of the respective switching elements are determined, the combination of three different events determining an

operational mode of the power converter, said operational mode being defined by dividing one cycle of voltage or current of the three-phase AC power into six; and a second
5 area for storing data of enabling times with respect to predetermined phase angles of the voltage or current of the three-phase AC power, at which enabling times a constant timer interruption interval of said processing unit is divided into three subdivided intervals in proportion to the
10 magnitudes of the voltage or current of the respective phases of the three-phase AC power and corresponding events are enabled;

(b) processing means arranged to execute, for every timer interruption interval, a step of calculating a
15 composite phase angle on the basis of at least a frequency or frequency instruction of the the three-phase AC power, a step of determining one of the operational modes in accordance with the calculated composite phase angle; and a step of reading out three events belonging to the determined
20 mode and corresponding enabling times by retrieving said memory in accordance with the calculated composite phase angle and the determined operational mode; and

(c) output control means, including a timer, for selecting one of the read-out events every time when the
25 timer indicates a time coincident with an enabling time accompanied with an event to be selected to thereby produce the gate signals of the switching elements in accordance

with the content of the selected event at the time of the corresponding enabling time.

As a result, the widths of pulses of the gate signals are so varied that, when the power converter is controlled with such gate pulses, the waveform of the voltage or current of the AC power to be supplied to or derived from the power converter is made a sinusoidal one.

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The present invention will now be described in greater detail by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Figs. 1a and 1b show an induction motor control device including an apparatus for controlling a PWM-controlled power converter in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 2 is flow chart showing a process of determining events and enabling times at which the respective events are enabled;

Fig. 3 shows the relation of the duty ratio γ^* and the phase instruction θ^* with respect to the current deviation i for explaining the control operation in the case of a converter;

Fig. 4 is a flow chart showing a process of setting the determined events and the enabling times thereof;

Figs. 5a to 5d are time charts for explaining the timing of execution of the processes shown in Figs. 2 and 4;

Fig. 6 is a flow chart showing a process of discriminating a mode in accordance with a total phase θ_t ;

Fig. 7 is an example of a mode-determination table indicating the relation of the on-off states of transistors of the converter with respect to modes;

Fig. 8 is an example of an enabling-time table indicating the relation of the enabling times with respect to the total phase θ_t ;

Fig. 9 is a chart showing a time relation of the gate signals applied to the transistors;

Figs. 10a to 10g show the detailed time relation of the gate signals for the transistors with respect to the waveform of the output current;

Fig. 11 is a flow chart showing a process within one timer-interruption interval by which the events and the enabling times thereof are set; and

Fig. 12 is a flow chart showing a process of an execution controller of the control apparatus shown in Fig. 1b.

In Figs. 1a and 1b showing an embodiment of the present invention, reference numeral 1 denotes a three-phase AC power source, 2 a filter capacitor in the input side and 3 a three-phase converter composed of transistors 31 to 36,

as main switching elements, connected as shown. Reference numeral 4 denotes a DC reactor and 5 a three-phase inverter composed of transistors 51 to 56, as main switching elements, connected as shown. As apparent from the figure, the converter 3 and the inverter 5 form a so-called current source power converter. Reference numeral 6 indicates a filter capacitor in the output side and 7 an induction motor as a load of the converter. Reference numeral 8 indicates a DC current detector and 9 a comparator which compares a current instruction i^* with an actual current i detected by the detector 8.

Reference numerals 10 and 11 denote processing units, which are formed by a microcomputer and produce gate control signals for the transistors 31 to 36 and 51 to 56.

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The processing unit 10 for the inverter 5 and the processing unit 11 for the converter 3 have almost the same construction. Accordingly, the description herein will be based mainly on the processing unit 10 for the inverter 5, any different construction and operation relative to the processing unit 11 for the converter 3 being described as needed.

Reference numeral 12 is a terminal through which the current instruction i^* is applied to the processing unit 11 for the converter 3. To the processing unit 11 applied is a signal from the AC power source 1 through a line 15 for the purpose of making gate signals for the transistors 31 to 36 of the converter 3 in synchronism with the voltage of the AC power source 1. Reference numerals 13 and 14 are terminals through which a frequency instruction ω^* and a phase instruction θ^* are supplied to the processing unit 10 for the inverter 5.

The processing unit 10 has an input port 101 and an internal bus 102 connected thereto. To the bus 102 coupled are a read only memory (ROM) 103 for storing programs and tables for data of pulse widths, a random access memory (RAM) 104 used for registers and temporary storage of operation results and an arithmetic logic unit (ALU) 105 for executing various arithmetic logic operations. These components construct a known data processor. The operation result of this processor is output from an output port 106 after it is subjected to the processing described later.

The processor composed of ROM 103, RAM 104 and ALU 105 interconnected by the bus 102 produces events for controlling the on-off operation of the transistors 51 to 56 in accordance with the PWM control on the basis of the frequency instruction ω^* and the phase instruction θ^* .
5 The events are stored in ROM 103, and each includes the information of what transistors are to be on and what transistors are to be off in a certain time duration. Further, the processor also determines the time at which
10 a predetermined event is to be enabled. For the convenience' sake, this time is called an enabling time hereinafter. Although the details will become apparent later, a series of the events read out from ROM 103 time-serially determines the on-off patterns of the respective
15 transistors, which correspond to the pattern of the gate signals for the transistors. Therefore, those also correspond to the pulse patterns of the current flowing through the respective transistors.

In addition to the processor as described above, the
20 processing unit 10 further includes the following peripheral devices for controlling the output signals, i.e., an event register 107 for temporarily storing an event determined by the processor, a time register 108 for also temporarily storing an enabling time
25 corresponding to the event stored in the register 107 at that time and a hold register 109 for coupling the contents of both the registers 107 and 108 and holding them.

The peripheral devices further include an associative memory 110, which, as is well known, is a data storage device in which a location is identified by its informational content rather than by addresses and from which the data may be retrieved. The memory 110 takes data thereinto, which are successively given from the hold register 109. Every data, as already described, is made up of an event and an enabling time accompanied thereby, and therefore the respective events stored in this memory 110 are retrieved by the particular times thereto, that is to say, when a certain time comes, the event accompanying the enabling time, which is the same as the certain time, is read out. In this case, therefore, the time corresponds to the above described informational content for identification of the location.

In Fig. 1b, however, for the purpose of the easy understanding of the operation of the memory 110, data stored in the memory 110 are circulated cyclically, an enabling time portion of every data is compared with the time supplied by a timer 111 in a comparator 112, and when both coincide with each other, an execution controller 113 is triggered by the output of the comparator 112 to read out an event portion accompanying the enabling time from the memory 110.

According to the data of the event read out, the execution controller 113 actuates ports Nos. 1 to 6 of the output port 106 selectively. The signals appearing

at the selected ports Nos. 1 to 6 are led to the corresponding transistors 51 to 56.

The operation of the control apparatus mentioned above will be explained in the following. Fig. 2 is a schematic flow chart showing a processing program 1000 for determining events and obtaining enabling times t_e . First of all, at step 1100, the frequency instruction ω^* and the phase instruction θ^* are read into the processor through the input port 101. In case a speed instruction and an actual speed are given, the frequency instruction ω^* and the phase instruction θ^* can be calculated in the processor, and then step 1100 is substituted by a step at which the speed instruction and the actual speed are taken.

Incidentally, in the case of the control for the converter 3, the frequency of the AC power source 1 is used as the frequency instruction ω^* . To this end, the processing unit 11 takes thereinto the signal in synchronism with the source voltage through the line 15. The phase instruction θ^* is determined in accordance with a current deviation Δi between the current instruction i^* and the actual current i , as shown in Fig. 3.

Namely, until the phase instruction θ^* reaches a predetermined value, it increases with the current deviation Δi with the duty ratio γ^* of the on-off operation of the converter 3 maintained at its minimum value. When the phase instruction θ^* reaches the

predetermined value, the duty ratio γ^* increases up to its maximum value with the current deviation i with the phase instruction θ^* maintained at the predetermined value. If, however, the converter 3 is subjected to only the control of the duty ratio γ^* , not to the control of the phase θ^* , that is, the converter 3 is not required to produce the output voltage close to zero, the phase instruction θ^* can be maintained zero.

Next, at step 1200, the frequency instruction w^* is integrated for every predetermined time period Δt , and the integration result is added to the phase instruction θ^* to obtain a composite phase angle θ_c . The aforesaid time period t is determined by a timer interruption, and therefore the period t represents an interruption interval. Thereafter, at step 1300, events for the transistors 51 and 56 are determined in accordance with the composite phase angle θ_c obtained at step 1200. Particular events are prepared for respective one of six modes obtained by dividing one cycle of the AC current produced by the inverter 5, ie and electric angle of 360° , by 60° , and one of them is selected in accordance with the composite phase angle θ_c . The relationship between the composite phase angle θ_c and the modes will be described in more detail later.

Finally, at step 1400, enabling times t_e , within the interruption interval Δt , at which the changeover of the events is conducted, are obtained by referring to an enabling-time table stored in ROM 103 by the composite phase angle

θ_t . In this manner, this process determines the event to be stored in the event register 107 and the enabling time to be stored in the time register 108, and as already described, both are coupled in the hold register 109 and
5 then stored in the associative memory 110.

In the following, a process 2000 for setting the two items thus obtained into the associative memory 110 will be explained with reference to Fig. 4. At step 2100, it is discriminated whether or not setting of an event and
10 an enabling time t_e for all the transistors 51 to 56 has been completed. If yes, the process is ended. Otherwise an event is set into the register 107 at step 2200 and then an enabling time t_e is set into the register 108 at step 2300. This loop operation is repeated until the
15 setting operation is completed.

Figs. 5a to 5d show the timing of both the processes 1000 and 2000 mentioned above. In Figs. 5a to 5c, the setting process 2000 is initiated every timer interruption which occurs every Δt , and after the completion of this
20 process 2000, the process 1000, by which the event and the enabling time to be used in the process 2000 executed in the succeeding interruption interval, is started. In this case, since the time necessary for discrimination of the interruption is short, the interruption interval Δt
25 can be shortened. Therefore, the apparatus can operate at the high frequency.

If a second timer interruption signal as shown in Fig. 5d, which is caused prior to the timer-interruption signal shown in Fig. 5a, is provided and the process 1000 is
5 started by the second timer-interruption signal, as shown by dotted lines in Fig. 5c, the newest data can be set in the setting process 2000.

As described above, according to the embodiment, after
10 the predetermined events and the enabling times accompanying the events have been set into the associative memory 110 through the registers 107 and 108 and the hold register 109, the associative memory 110 plays the role of the control of the output port 106 so that the processor composed of ROM
15 103, RAM 104 and ALU 105 is released from the output control processing.

Referring next to Fig. 6, step 1300 in Fig. 2, ie the determination step of the events, will be explained. In the case of the inverter control of this embodiment, as already
20 described, the six modes are changed at every electric angle 60° , and every mode is repeated at every 360° in the electric angle of the AC output current of the inverter 5. Namely, the six modes are circulated within one cycle of the AC output current of the inverter 5, and one of them is
25 selected in accordance with the calculated composite phase angle θ_c . For this purpose, the range of the present composite phase angle θ_c is discriminated at steps 1310 to 1350, and one of the six modes M1 and M6 is selected in

response to the discrimination result.

Further, in case the composite phase angle θ_c as the
5 result of the calculation at step 1200 comes out of the
region of 0° to 360° , the region check of making the
addition or subtraction of 360° to return the composite
phase angle θ_c within the range of 0° to 360° is conducted
at the beginning of the processing of step 1300. As will be
10 described later, every mode is composed of plural events;
three events in this embodiment.

In Fig. 7 there is shown, for the modes M1 and M6, the
combination of the transistor to be on in the overall
duration of the timer interruption interval Δt and the
15 transistors to be on only for the respective periods defined
by the enabling times within the interruption interval Δt .
A group of the later transistors includes the transistor to
be on from the beginning time point t_0 of the interruption
interval Δt to the time point $t_0 + t_{e1}$, the transistor to be
20 on from the time point $t_0 + t_{e1}$ to the time point $t_0 + t_{e2}$ and
the transistor to be on from the time point $t_0 + t_{e2}$ to the
end of the interruption interval Δt , ie $t_0 + t$.

If, therefore, the present composite phase angle is
discriminated, the mode is determined to identify the
25 transistors 51 and 56 to be on or off. Further, the
transistors not indicated in the table of Fig. 7 are
maintained to be off during the whole period of the
respective modes.

If the on state of the transistor is represented by "1" and the off state thereof by "0", the events become as follows:

5	(Port No.	Transistors						Event No.
		51	52	53	54	55	56	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	
10	Mode 1	0	0	1	0	1	0	11
		1	0	0	0	1	0	12
		0	1	0	0	1	0	13
15	Mode 2	1	0	0	0	1	0	21
		1	0	0	0	0	1	22
		1	0	0	1	0	0	23
20	Mode 3	1	0	0	0	0	1	31
		0	1	0	0	0	1	32
		0	0	1	0	0	1	33
25	Mode 4	0	1	0	0	0	1	41
		0	1	0	1	0	0	42
		0	1	0	0	1	0	43
30	Mode 5	0	1	0	1	0	0	51
		0	0	1	1	0	0	52
		1	0	0	1	0	0	53
30	Mode 6	0	0	1	1	0	0	61
		0	0	1	0	1	0	62
		0	0	1	0	0	1	63

Incidentally, when noting the transistor 51 in the table above, for example, it will be understood that it repeats the on-off states in accordance with the pattern "010" for every interruption interval Δt in the whole duration of the mode 1. Namely, the transistor 51 is maintained nonconductive for a first period within the interruption interval Δt , then made conductive for a second period, and made nonconductive again for a third and last period.

Similarly, with respect to the transistor 52, the pattern of its on-off operation is "001", and with respect to the transistor 53 "100". The pattern of the transistor 55 is "111", and this pattern means that it is maintained conductive through the whole duration of the mode 1. The transistors 54 and 56 are kept nonconductive through the whole duration of the mode 1. These patterns are the pulse patterns which have been already described. The same as mentioned above is applied to the cases of other modes 2 to 6.

Further, the aforesaid first period corresponds to the period from the beginning time point t_0 of the interruption interval Δt to $t_0 + t_{e1}$, and the time point $t_0 + t_{e1}$ is called a first enabling time. The above mentioned second period is from $t_0 + t_{e1}$ to $t_0 + t_{e2}$, and the time point $t_0 + t_{e2}$ is called a second enabling time. The last period is from $t_0 + t_{e2}$ to the end of the interruption interval Δt , i.e., $t_0 + \Delta t$.

Next, let us note the on-off states of the whole transistors 51 to 56 at a certain time, i.e., view the table above in the transverse direction. The pattern of "0" and "1" when thus viewed indicates the event, i.e., the information of what transistors are to be on and what transistors are to be off, at a certain time point.

Accordingly, in the mode 1, for example, the transistors 51 to 56 are made on or off in accordance with the event No. 11 from the beginning of the interruption interval Δt , and the event No. 11 is changed over to the event No. 12 at the first enabling time $t_0 + t_{e1}$. After that, the transistors 51 to 56 are made on or off in accordance with the event No. 12. When the second enabling time $t_0 + t_{e2}$ comes, the event No. 12 is changed over to the event No. 13, and the transistors 51 to 56 are controlled in accordance therewith until the end of the interruption interval Δt , i.e., $t_0 + \Delta t$.

To sum up, the three events belonging to the mode 1 are repeated for every interruption interval Δt through the whole duration of the mode 1 while being changed over at the enabling times t_{e1} and t_{e2} . As a result, the on-off states of the transistors 51 to 56 are repeated for every interruption interval Δt during the mode 1. The same is true of the cases of other modes 2 to 6.

With reference to Fig. 8, a process for obtaining the first and second enabling times t_{e1} and t_{e2} , i.e., step 1400 in the flow chart of Fig. 2, will be described

in the following. Since the output current of the inverter 5 is required to be of the sinusoidal wave when viewed at terminals of the filter capacitor 6, the present embodiment uses the method of distributing the

5 interruption interval Δt on the basis of a ratio of the magnitudes of $\sin(\theta_t - 120^\circ)$ and $\sin(\theta_t - 240^\circ)$ having a phase difference of 120° with respect to $\sin \theta_t$. In other words, the enabling time t_{e1} and t_{e2} are determined as a function of the total phase θ_t by the following formulas:

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$$t_{e1} = \Delta t \cdot \sin(\theta_t - 240^\circ)$$

$$t_{e2} = t_{e1} + \Delta t \cdot \sin \theta_t$$

The obtained values t_{e1} and t_{e2} are tabulated with respect to the total phase θ_t and stored in ROM 103 or RAM 104 in advance. Therefore, they can be retrieved by the total
15 phase θ_t .

In Fig. 8, the values of t_{e1} and t_{e2} are tabulated only for one mode, i.e., with respect to the range of 60° . From the the relationship of the waveforms of three sinusoidal waves having the phase difference of 120° from
20 one another, however, it will be understood that the enabling times in other modes can be determined by shifting the values of the enabling times obtained from the table of Fig. 8 by the amount corresponding to the angular difference of the respective modes from the one
25 mode.

There is shown in Fig. 9 examples of gate signals S51 to S56 for rendering the transistors 51 to 56 on or

off, which are obtained in the above mentioned manner and output from the ports Nos. 1 to 6 of the output port 106. The waveforms shown are determined by the aforesaid pulse patterns, in which, however, the time factor is taken
5 into consideration.

Figs. 10a to 10g show the details of a part, i.e., the mode 1 only, of Fig. 9. Fig. 10a shows three sinusoidal waves U, V and W, which have the phase difference of 120° from one another, only for the period
10 of 60° . These sinusoidal waves correspond to the output current of the inverter 5 viewed at the terminals of the filter capacitor 6.

In the mode 1, as apparent from the table of Fig. 7, the gate signals are given to the transistors 51 to 53
15 and 55. Thereamong, the transistor 55 is given the gate signal through the whole period of the mode 1, as shown in Fig. 10f. Within the interruption interval Δt , the transistor 53 is given the gate signal from t_0 to t_0+t_{e1} , as shown in Fig. 10d. Similarly, the transistor 51 is
20 given the gate signal from t_0+t_{e1} to t_0+t_{e2} , and then the transistor 52 is given the gate signal from t_0+t_{e2} to $t_0+\Delta t$, as shown in Figs. 10b and 10c. As a result, the currents flowing through the respective transistors have the same waveforms as shown in Figs. 10b to 10d.

25 As shown in the figure, the pulse widths u, v and w of the gate signals S51, S52 and S53 are proportional to the magnitudes u, v and w of the corresponding sinusoidal

waves U, V and W shown in Fig. 10a. Therefore, the output currents of the inverter 5, which have the same waveforms as shown in Figs. 10b to 10d, are averaged by the filter capacitor 6 to become the sinusoidal waves as shown in Fig. 10a.

By the way, during the gate signal S52 exists, a DC side of the inverter 5 is short-circuited by the transistors 52 and 55 made conductive simultaneously, and the charge of the filter capacitor 6 is discharged toward the induction motor 7 in that duration. In view of the improvement of the waveform, i.e., obtaining the preferable sinusoidal wave, it is desirable that the minimum pulse width of the gate signal S52 is as narrow as possible; ideally zero. However, the minimum of this duration is limited to the discharge time mentioned above. The value v_0 in Fig. 10a is determined in accordance with the discharge time, and the value v is measured in view of the value v_0 .

In the case of the control of the converter 3, the above mentioned formulas for obtaining the first and second enabling times t_{e1} and t_{e2} are necessary to be modified as follows, because the control of the duty ratio γ^* is conducted in the inverter 3:

$$t_{e1} = \Delta t \cdot \sin(\theta_t - 240^\circ) \cdot \gamma^*$$

$$t_{e2} = t_{e1} + \Delta t \cdot \sin \theta_t \cdot \gamma^*$$

Namely, the enabling times t_{e1} and t_{e2} in this case are obtained in accordance with the product of the duty ratio

γ^* and the magnitudes of the two sinusoidal waves.

Further, in this case, when the duty ratio γ^* is small, both t_{e1} and t_{e2} become also small. As apparent from Figs. 10b to 10d, if t_{e1} and t_{e2} are small, $\Delta t - (t_{e1} + t_{e2})$ becomes large, namely the duration, in which the upper and lower transistors of the same phase are conductive simultaneously, is extended so that the decrease of the duty ratio γ^* is realized.

Next, there is shown in Fig. 11 in detail a flow chart of the event setting process, which is embodied by taking the mode 1 indicated in detail in Figs. 10a to 10g as an example. Further, although, in Fig. 4, the flow chart of this process has been illustrated with the loop construction so as to facilitate the understanding, this process actually flows in series as shown in Fig. 11.

Fig. 11 shows the flow of the processing for one interruption interval Δt from time t_0 to time $t_0 + \Delta t$ shown in Fig. 10. First of all, at step 2410, the event No. 1 (cf. the table already indicated) and the time $t_0 + t_d$ are set in the registers 107 and 108, respectively, so that the transistor 55, which is maintained conductive through the whole period of the interruption interval Δt , and the transistor 53, which is conductive between t_0 and $t_0 + t_{e1}$, are turned on at the time point $t_0 + t_d$.

In other words, the event setting is conducted in the register 107 so that the signals "1" may be generated at the ports Nos. 3 and 5 corresponding to the transistors

53 and 55, and the time setting is conducted such that a predetermined time t_d is added to the present time point t_0 and the additional result is set in the register 108.

Since, at this time, the turn-on of the transistors
5 53 and 55 is necessary to be instantly effected, a value as small as possible should be selected for the predetermined time t_d . As a result, the event and the enabling time are taken into the associative memory 110 through the hold register 109. When the timer 111
10 indicates the time t_0 , the event is read out from the associative memory 110, and after the lapse of time t_d from the time t_0 , the signals "1" are output to the transistors 53 and 55 through the ports Nos. 3 and 5.

The addition of the predetermined time t_d is
15 conducted for the following reason. A certain time necessarily elapses by the time the event is set in the associative memory 110 and read out therefrom. Therefore, the setting of t_0 without the addition of t_d would not result in coincidence in the comparator 112 so that the
20 event could not be given to the output port 106.

At step 2420, under the assumption of the possible change of the operation mode due to the abrupt change of the phase instruction θ^* , for example, it is confirmed whether or not the transistors to be off at that time are
25 really made off. For this process, the associative memory 110 is used in the same manner as the process 2410. Since the event in this process is to make the transistors

nonconductive, it is so set that the signals "0" may be generated at the ports Nos. 1, 2, 4 and 6.

After that, the process that the transistor 53 may be made off at time $t_0 + t_{e1n}$ is conducted at step 2430.

5 The event is set such that the signal "0" is output at the port No. 3, and the time is set at $t_0 + t_{e1n}$. At step 2440, moreover, the event is so set that, at the time $t_0 + t_{e1n}$, the transistor 53 is made on and the transistor 53 is made off.

10 Incidentally, here are set at the same time point the turn-off of the transistor 53 and the turn-on of the transistor 51. However, it is possible to make the following consideration in order to prevent the occurrence of overvoltage. Namely, the times t_{e1n} set in steps 2430
15 and 2440 are made different from each other so that, in a current source inverter, the conductive period of both the transistors 53 and 51 is overlapped and, on the contrary, it is not overlapped in a voltage source inverter.

20 Next, at step 2450, the event and the time are set such that the transistor 51 is turned off at the time $t_0 + t_{e2n}$, and at step 2460, the setting of the event and the time is conducted such that the transistor 52 is turned on at the time $t_0 + t_{e2n}$.

25 Referring next to Fig. 12, the explanation will be made of the operation of the execution controller 113. At step 1131, it is discriminated whether or not there is

an output of the comparator 112, which is produced when there exists the time stored in the associative memory 110, which coincides with an actual time indicated by the timer 111. This discrimination operation is repeated until the output of the comparator 112 is found.

If the output of the comparator 112 occurs, the event to be executed is read out at step 1132. Namely, when the time elapses and the set time comes, the event accompanying the set time is read out. At step 1133, the voltage level to be output at the output port 106 is discriminated. At step 1134, it is determined what transistors 51 and 56 are to be turned on or off, and the voltage level of the ports corresponding to the transistors to be turned on is made at "1". At step 1135, the signals are output to the selected ports of the output port 106.

Thus, in the present embodiment described above, the processor portion included in the processing unit 10 only conducts, for every interruption interval Δt , the processes of calculating the composite phase angle θ_c and the times enabling those events. After completion of the aforesaid processes, the processing result is delivered to the output control portion comprising the associative memory and its related parts and subjected to the processing necessary for driving the transistors.

As is different from the system of the prior art in which the carrier wave and the modulating wave are compared with each other, therefore, it is made possible not only to eliminate the difficulty that the processor portion is restrained by the continuous comparison of the two waves through the control of the inverter but also to attain the improvement of the output current.

10 The description thus far made has been directed to the embodiment in which the composite phase angle θ_c is calculated by using the frequency instruction w^* and the phase instruction θ^* while considering the so-called vector control of an induction motor. It is to be understood, however, that a load of the inverter and the control method thereof have nothing to do with the essential point of the present invention. In case, therefore, it is sufficient to give only the frequency instruction w^* , the essence of the present invention is not deteriorated even if the total
15 phase θ_c may be calculated by the following formula while omitting the phase instruction θ^* , substituted for the formula indicated at step 1200 in the flow chart of Fig.2;

$$\theta_c = w^* \cdot t$$

Further, in the description above, the synchronization with the source voltage in the case of the control of the converter has not been referred to. In this respect, the following methods can be adopted; a method of synchronizing a series of processes mentioned above which are repeated for
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every interruption interval Δt with the zero cross point of the source voltage, or a method of resetting the calculated total phase θ_c by a signal occurring at every zero cross point of the source voltage. However, the present invention is not limited to any particular method of synchronization.

In the above mentioned embodiment, moreover, as shown in Fig. 8, the first and the second enabling times are provided with respect to only the range of 60° of the variation of the composite phase angle θ_c so as to reduce the capacity of the table. If, however, the range is enlarged to 360° , there can be attained an effect that the troublesome operation of determining the enabling times by converting the calculated composite phase angle θ_c into the section of 60° is eliminated although the capacity of the table will increase.

Further, in Fig. 1b, a programmable input/output function within a one-chip microcomputer used as the processing unit 10 was employed for the schedule processing in the event setting process. In case the number of the ports becomes short or in case the programmable input/output within the one-chip microcomputer is not available due to checking of the port output signals, an external input/output having the similar function can be used.

Hereinafter, the change in the timer-interruption interval Δt has not been described. For the application, however, in which the switching frequency of the transistors

has to be varied based on external factors such as the
temperature rise of the components, the necessary change in
5 the interruption interval Δt can be satisfied merely by
adding such a function as to alter the enabling times t_{e1}
and t_{e2} in proportion to the change in the switching
frequency.

According to the present invention, the input or output
10 waveform of a PWM-controlled power converter of the digital
control type using a microcomputer can be remarkably
improved and made very close to the sinusoidal wave. As a
result, when the present invention is applied to a PWM-
controlled power converter for controlling an induction
15 motor, there can be attained an effect that the noise and
the torque ripple can be reduced to a great extent.

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CLAIMS:

1. Apparatus for controlling a power converter
5 capable of converting DC power into three-phase AC power
and/or vice versa by means of a pulse width modulation (PWM)
control, having a processing unit for producing gate signals
which turn on or off switching elements of the power
converter, said processing unit including:
 - 10 (a) memory means including a first area for storing
data of events, according to which the on or off states of
the respective switching elements are determined, the
combination of three different events determining an
operational mode of the power-converter, said operational
15 mode being defined by dividing one cycle of voltage or
current of the three-phase AC power into six; and a second
area for storing data of enabling times with respect to
predetermined phase angles of the voltage or current of the
three-phase AC power, at which enabling times a constant
20 timer interruption interval of said processing unit is
divided into three subdivided intervals in proportion to the
magnitudes of the voltage or current of the respective
phases of the three-phase AC power and corresponding events
are enabled;
 - 25 (b) processing means arranged to execute, for every
timer interruption interval, a step of calculating a
composite phase angle on the basis of at least a frequency
or frequency instruction of the three-phase AC power, a step



of determining one of the operational modes in accordance with the calculated composite phase angle; and a step of
5 reading out three events belonging to the determined mode and corresponding enabling times by retrieving said memory means in accordance with the calculated composite phase angle and the determined operational mode; and

(c) output control means, including a timer, for
10 selecting one of the read-out events every time when the timer indicates a time coincident with an enabling time accompanied with an event to be selected to thereby produce the gate signals of the switching elements in accordance with the content of the selected event at the time of the
15 corresponding enabling time.

2. Apparatus for controlling a power converter according to claim 1., wherein the mode-determining step executed by said processing means is conducted by retrieving
20 the first area of said memory means in accordance with the calculated composite phase angle, the first area including for every operational mode the information of a switching element to be on over the whole duration of the constant
25 time interruption interval and switching elements to be on only during the particular subdivided intervals.



3. Apparatus for controlling a power converter according to Claim 1., wherein enabling times for a first
5 operational mode only are stored in an enabling timetable provided in the second area of said memory means and enabling times for other operational modes are determined by shifting values of the enabling times obtained from the
10 table by the amount corresponding to the phase difference of the respective operational modes from the first operational mode.

4. Apparatus for controlling a power converter according to claim 1., wherein enabling times for all the
15 operational modes are stored in an enabling timetable provided in the second area of said memory means.

5. Apparatus for controlling a power converter according to any one of the preceeding claims, wherein the
20 constant timer interrruption interval is varied based on the temperature rise of the switching elements.

6. Apparatus for controlling a power converter according to any one of the preceeding claims, wherein said
25 output control means has an associative memory which temporarily stores the events and the enabling times accompanied by the respective events which are read out by execution of the reading-out step in the processing means,



and one of the events stored therein is derived therefrom by using the time indicated by the timer as the informational content for identifying the location where the corresponding
5 event is stored.

7. Apparatus for controlling a power converter according to any one of the preceeding claims, wherein the composite phase angle is calculated in said processing means
10 by adding a phase instruction of the voltage or current of the three-phase AC power to the value obtained by integrating the frequency or its instruction of the voltage or current of the three-phase AC power for every constant time interruption interval.

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8. Apparatus for controlling a power converter according to any one of the preceeding claims 1 to 6, wherein the power converter comprises means for converting three-phase AC source power into DC power, and the composite
20 phase angle is calculated on the basis of a frequency of voltage or current of the AC source power and a phase instruction which is determined in accordance with the deviation between a current instruction and an actual current output by the converter.

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9. Apparatus for controlling a power converter according to any one of the preceeding claims 1 to 6,



wherein the power converter comprises means for converting three-phase AC source power into DC power of the variable voltage by controlling the duty ratio of the on-off operation of switching elements of the converter, and the
5 enabling times are determined in accordance with the product of the duty ratio and the magnitudes of voltages of at least two phases of the AC source power.

10. Apparatus for controlling a power converter
10 according to any one of the preceeding claims 1 to 6, wherein the power converter comprises means for converting three-phase AC source power into DC power, and a series of the steps executed by said processing menas for every timer interruption interval is synchronized with a zero cross
15 point of voltage of the AC source power.

11. Apparatus for controlling a power converter according to any one of the preceeding claims 1 to 6, wherein the power converter comprises means for converting
20 three-phase AC source power into DC power, and the composite phase angle is reset for every zero cross point of voltage of the AC source power.

12. Apparatus for controlling a power converter
25 substantially as herein described with reference to and as illustrated in the accompanying drawings.
