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# A Common Cure for Harmonics: ABB Ultra Low Harmonic Drives

# Session Goals

- Understand what harmonics are
- Understand why harmonics may be a concern
- Provide simple guidelines for when to be concerned
- Understand what options are available for addressing harmonic issues

# Harmonics — What?

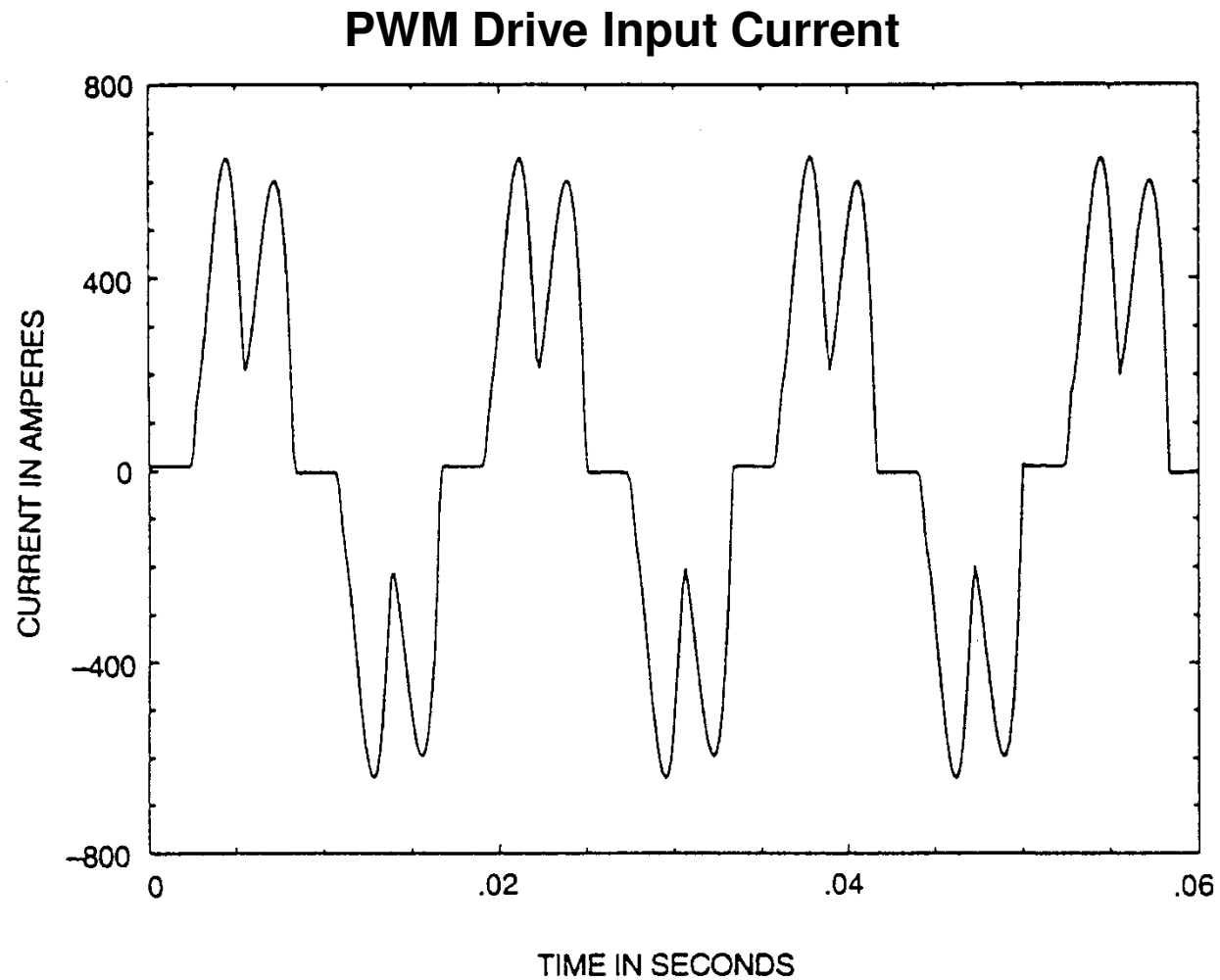
# Harmonics — What?

- **Non-linear loads** draw **non-sinusoidal current** from a sinusoidal line  
(current doesn't look like voltage):
  - Non-incandescent lighting
  - Computers
  - Uninterruptible power supplies
  - Telecommunications equipment
  - Copy machines
  - Battery chargers
  - Any load with a solid state AC to DC power converter
  - **Electronic variable speed drives**

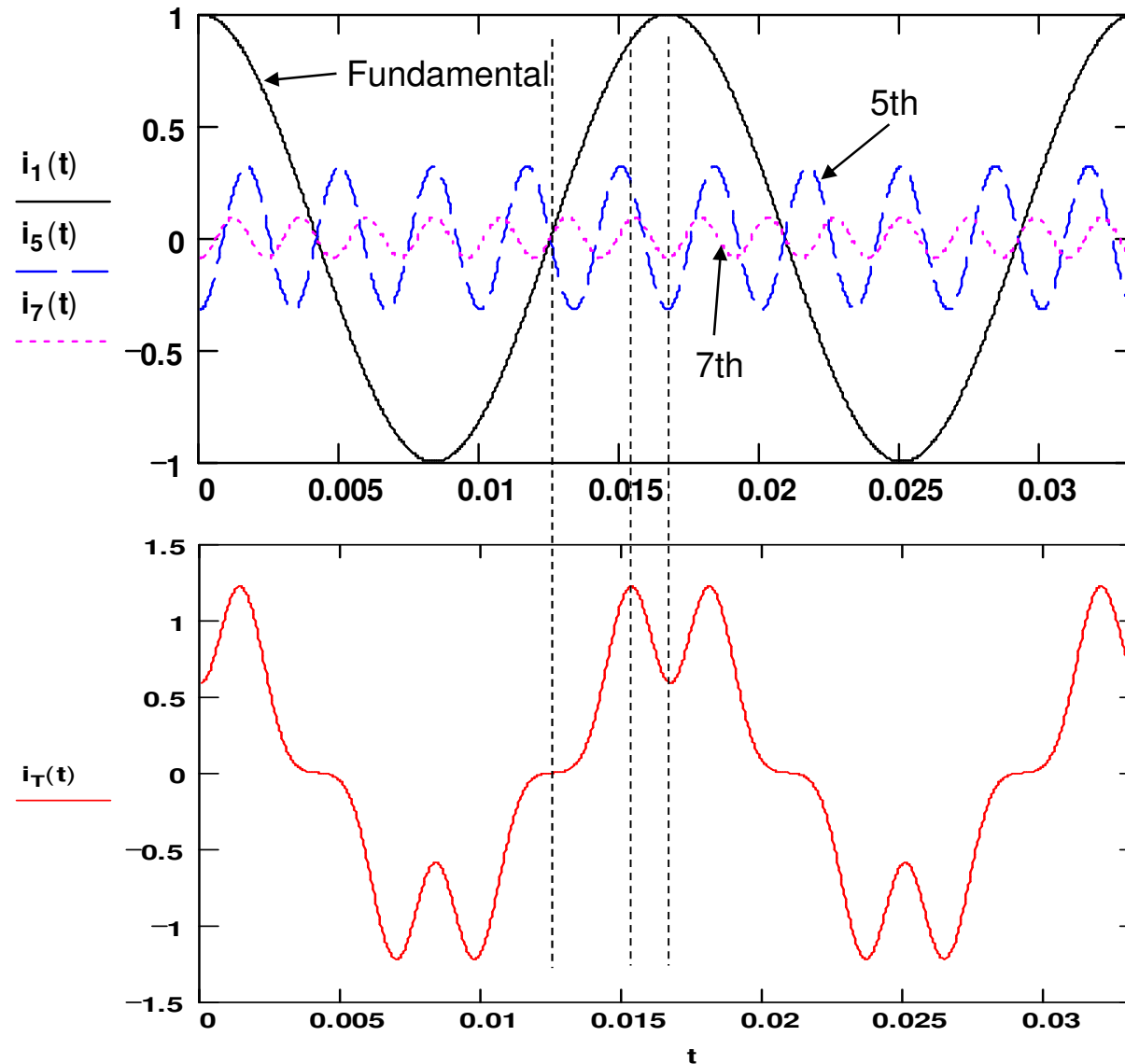
# Harmonics — Key Concepts

- Non-linear loads draw current in a **periodic** non-sinusoidal or distorted manner
- Line transients are not harmonics
- **Harmonics** or harmonic content is a **mathematical concept** implemented to allow **quantification** and simplified **analysis** of non-linear waveforms
- Harmonics are typically present in both network **currents** and network **voltages**
- Non-linear current draw creates non-linear voltage as it flows through the electrical network
  - **Current harmonics → Voltage harmonics**

# The Real World, 6- Pulse Drive



# The Theory: Fundamental, 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Harmonics

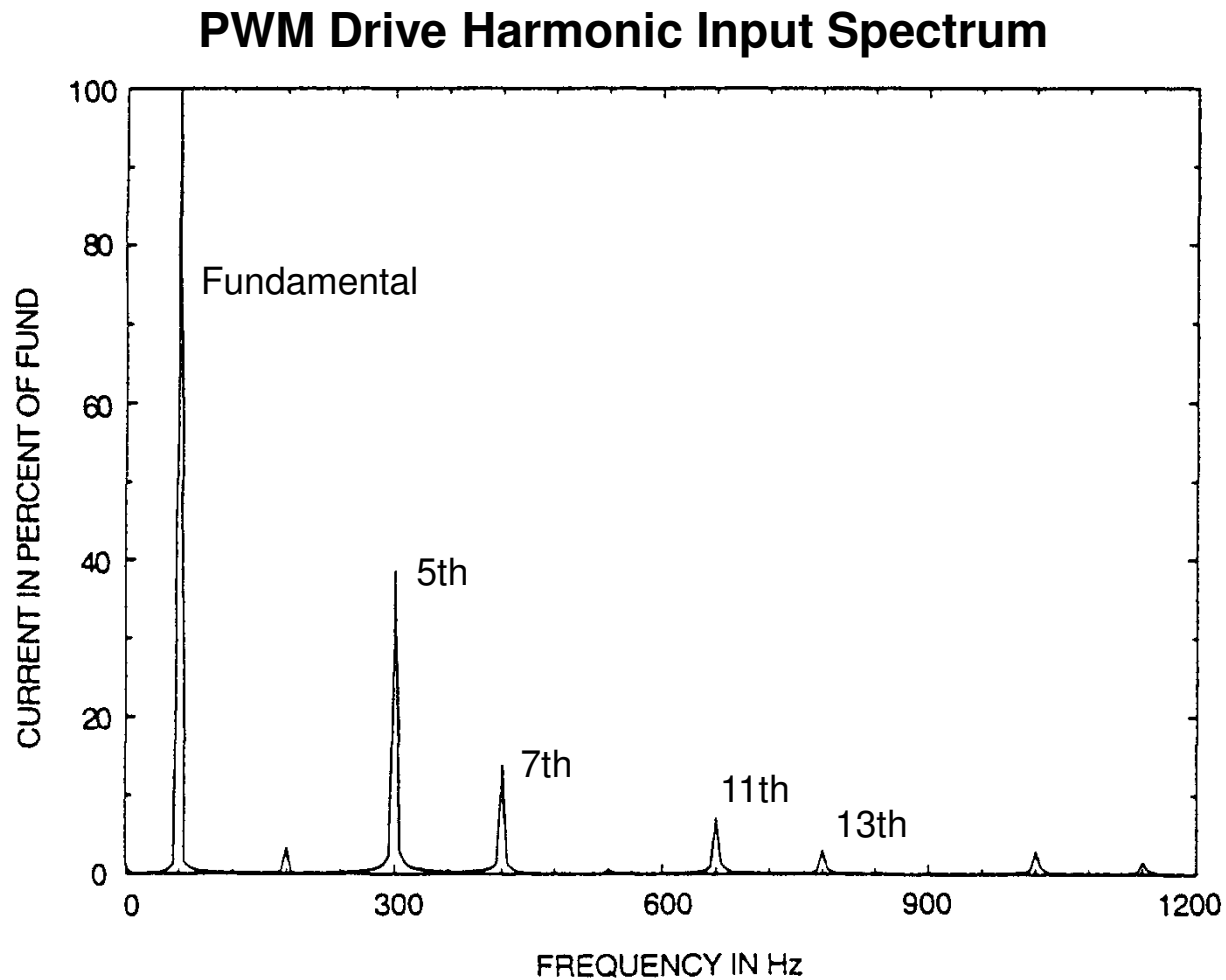


Components



Summation

# Harmonic Content, 6- Pulse Drive





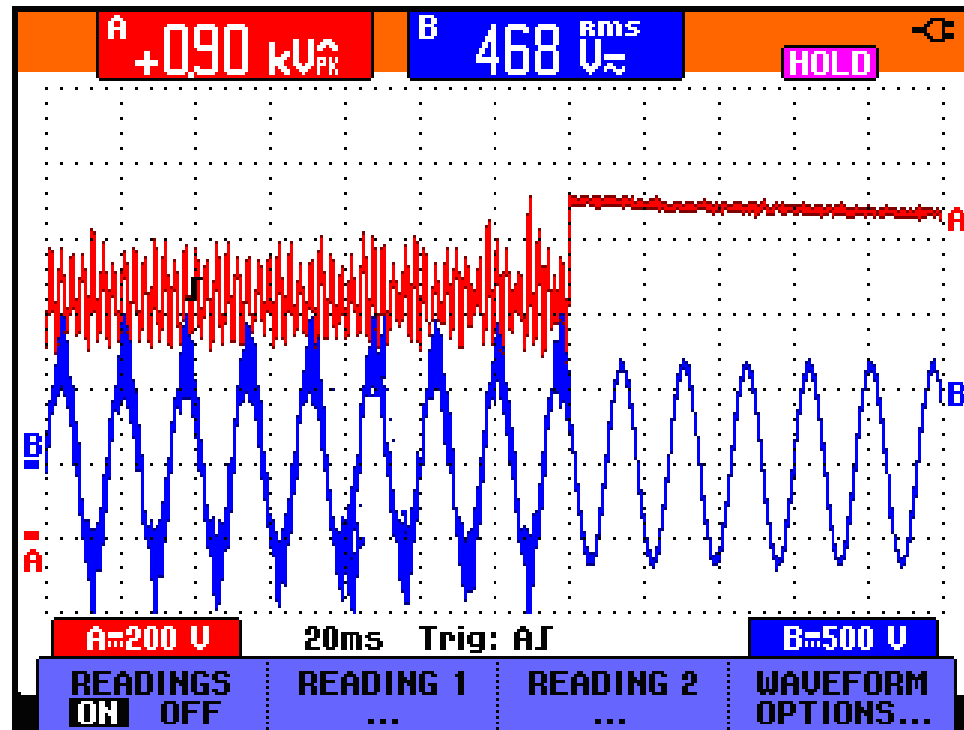
Harmonics —

Why worry?

# Harmonics — Why worry?

- Harmonic Current Distortion —
  - Added heating in transformers and cables, reduces available capacity
  - May stimulate a PF correction resonance condition
    - Excessive voltage
    - Overheating of capacitors
    - Tripping of protection equipment
    - Shutdown / damage to electronic equipment
  - May cause telephone or electronic interference

# Beware Harmonic Resonance



DC bus VS I/P voltage-with reactor.

Undamped power factor correction capacitors on the same bus as nonlinear loads may create a resonance condition with consequent severe bus voltage distortion and excessive peak voltage

# Harmonics — Why worry? (cont.)

- Harmonic Voltage Distortion —
  - Increased heating in motors and other electromagnetic equipment
  - Noisy operation of electromagnetic equipment
  - Malfunction of sensitive electronics
  - Nuisance tripping of electronic circuit breakers
- Equipment downtime
  - Premature component failures
  - Failed transformers, motors and capacitors
- Compliance with codes or specifications

# Harmonics, Important Terminology

(definitions per IEEE 519-1992)

- **Harmonic** - A sinusoidal component of a **periodic wave** or quantity having a frequency that is an integral **multiple of the fundamental** frequency.
- **Harmonic, characteristic** - Those harmonics produced by semiconductor converter equipment in the course of normal operation.

$$h = kq \pm 1$$

k = any integer

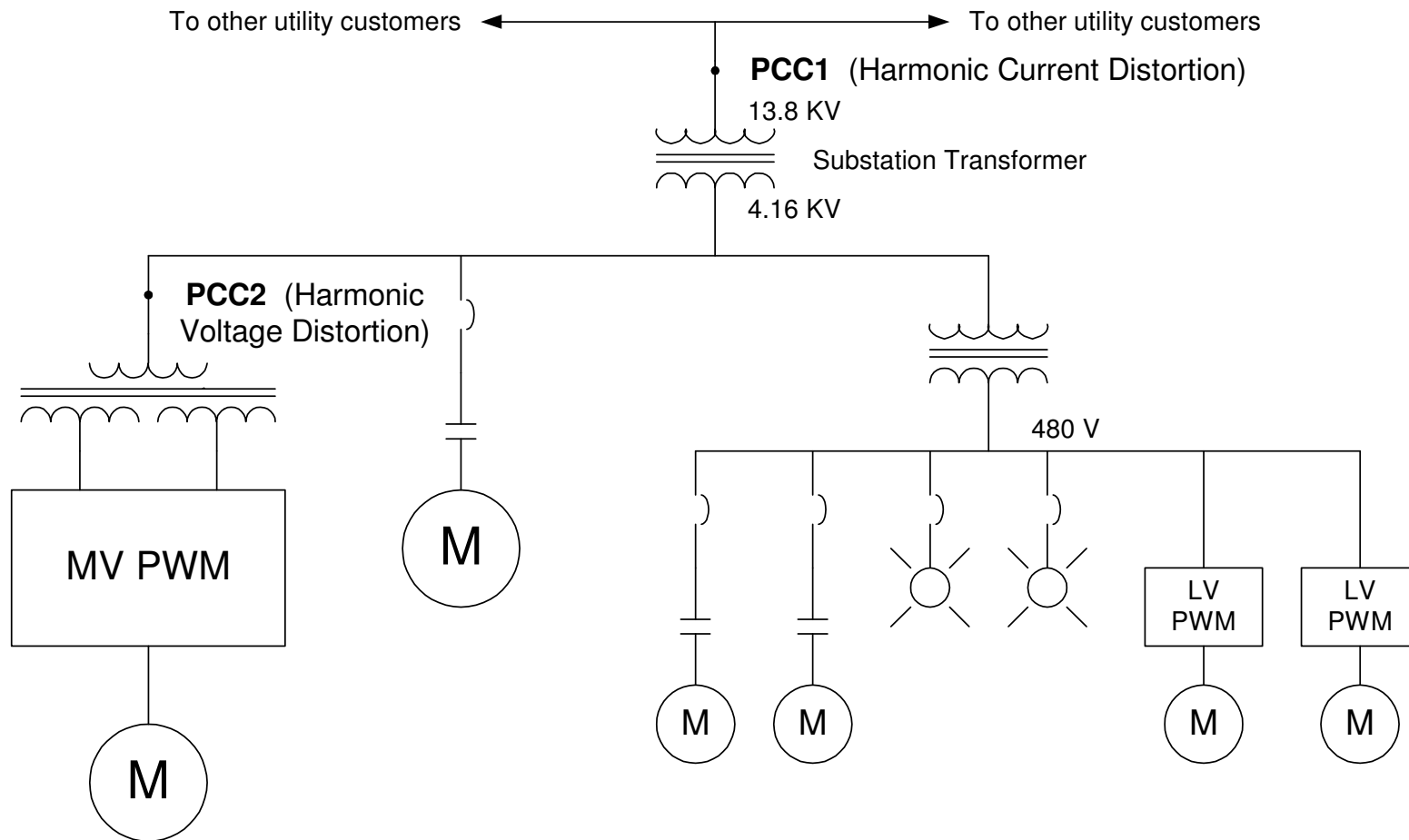
q = pulse number of the converter

- **Point of common coupling (PCC)**

Def. 1 - “point of common coupling (PCC) with the **consumer-utility interface**.” (current harmonic emphasis)

Def. 2 - “Within an industrial plant the point of common coupling is the point between the nonlinear load and other loads.” (voltage harmonic emphasis)

# PCC Example



# Harmonics, Important Terminology (cont.)

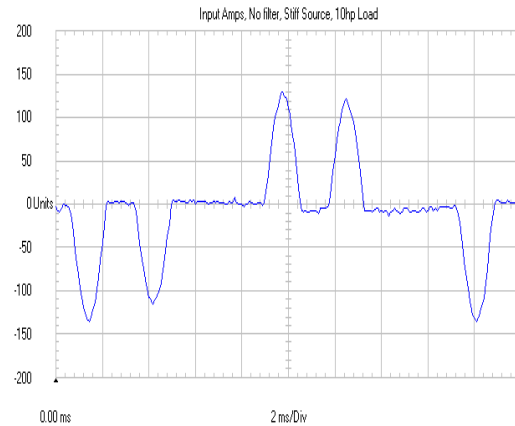
- **$I_{sc}/I_L$**  - The ratio of the short-circuit current available at the point of common coupling, to the maximum fundamental load current.
- **Total harmonic distortion (THD) or distortion factor** - The ratio of the root-mean-square of the harmonic content to the root-mean-square value of the fundamental quantity, expressed as a percent of the fundamental.

$$THD = DF = \sqrt{\frac{\text{sum of the squares of amplitudes of all harmonics}}{\text{square of amplitude of fundamental}}} * 100\%$$

- **Total demand distortion (TDD)** - The root-sum-square harmonic current distortion, in percent of the maximum demand load current (15 or 30 min demand).

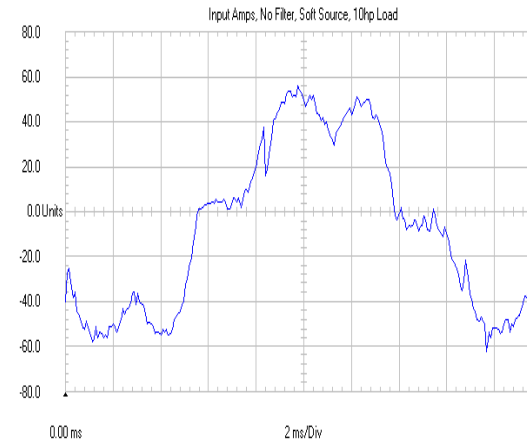
# Effect of Short Circuit Ratio on Harmonics

$$\frac{I_{SC}}{I_L} \sim 400$$

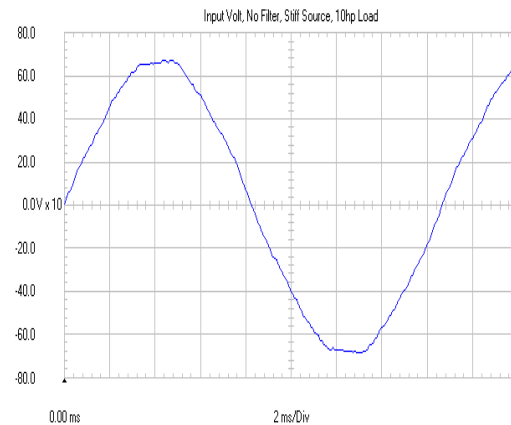


LINE CURRENT, NO FILTER  
Fig. 1 THID = 108%

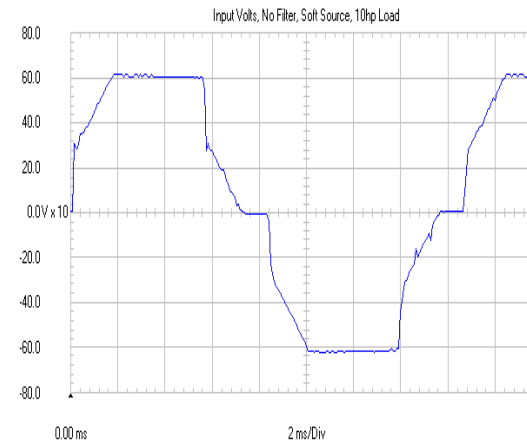
$$\frac{I_{SC}}{I_L} \sim 8$$



LINE CURRENT, NO FILTER  
Fig. 5 THID = 25.8%



LINE VOLTAGE, NO FILTER  
Fig. 3 THVD = 2.2%



LINE VOLTAGE, NO FILTER  
Fig. 7 THVD = 13.8%



# Harmonics - A System Issue!

- Harmonics produced by an individual load are only important to the extent that they represent a significant portion of the total connected load (Harmonics are expressed as a percentage)
- **Linear loads help reduce system harmonic levels** (percentages)
- **TDD** (Total Demand Distortion) **equals the THD** (Total Harmonic Distortion) **of the nonlinear** load multiplied by the ratio of nonlinear load to the total (demand) load:

$$TDD = THD_{NL} \cdot \frac{NL}{TL}$$

Where	$TDD$	=	TDD of the system
	$THD_{NL}$	=	THD of the nonlinear loads
	$NL$	=	kVA of nonlinear load
	$TL$	=	kVA of total load (nonlinear + linear)

# Harmonics — By the Numbers

## IEEE 519 - 1992

**Table 10.2**  
**Low-Voltage System Classification and Distortion Limits**

	<b>Special Applications</b>	<b>General System</b>	<b>Dedicated System</b>
Notch Depth	10%	20%	50%
THD (Voltage)	3%	5%	10%
Notch Area, $\mu$ Vs	16,400	22,800	36,500

Note: Notch area for other than 480 V systems should be multiplied by  $V / 480$ .

# Harmonics — By the Numbers (cont.)

$R_{sc}$

## IEEE 519 - 1992

Table 10.3

### Current Distortion Limits for General Distribution Systems

$I_{sc} / I_L$	<11	$11 \leq h < 17$	$17 \leq h < 23$	$23 \leq h < 35$	$35 \leq h$	TDD
<20	4.0	2.0	1.5	0.6	0.3	5.0
20<50	7.0	3.5	2.5	1.0	0.5	8.0
50<100	10.0	4.5	4.0	1.5	0.7	12.0
100<1000	12.0	5.5	5.0	2.0	1.0	15.0

Note: All harmonic current levels are in percent with fundamental current  $I_L$  as the base.

# Harmonics — By the Numbers (cont.)

## IEEE 519 - 1992

**Table 10.3 - Calc 1**  
**Current Distortion Limits for General Distribution Systems**  
**Modified to Reflect 12 Pulse Rectifier Requirements**  
**For Characteristic Harmonic Orders (11,13,23,25,35,37,47,49, etc.)**

$I_{sc}/I_L$	<11	$11 \leq h < 17$	$17 \leq h < 23$	$23 \leq h < 35$	$35 \leq h$
<20	na	2.83	na	0.85	0.42
20<50	na	4.95	na	1.41	0.71
50<100	na	6.36	na	2.12	0.99
100<1000	na	7.78	na	2.83	1.41

**Table 10.3 - Calc 3**  
**Current Distortion Limits for General Distribution Systems**  
**Modified to Reflect 12 / 24 Pulse Rectifier Requirements**  
**For Even and Noncharacteristic Harmonic Orders**

$I_{sc}/I_L$	<11	$11 \leq h < 17$	$17 \leq h < 23$	$23 \leq h < 35$	$35 \leq h$
<20	1.00	0.50	0.38	0.15	0.08
20<50	1.75	0.88	0.63	0.25	0.13
50<100	2.50	1.13	1.00	0.38	0.18
100<1000	3.00	1.38	1.25	0.50	0.25

Harmonics —

Will it be a problem?

# Harmonic Voltage, Will it be a problem?

- THD (Voltage) will be acceptable (<5%) if the % drive load times the % impedance feeding the drive load is <3%

$$\% \text{DriveLoad} \times \% \text{Impedance} < 3\%$$

- E.g. a 45% drive load fed from 6% impedance feeder bus:  
 $45\% \times 6\% = 2.7\%$     $2.7\% < 3\% \rightarrow \text{Acceptable}$
- E.g. a 70% drive load fed from 5% impedance feeder bus:  
 $70\% \times 5\% = 3.5\%$     $3.5\% > 3\% \rightarrow \text{Not Acceptable}$

(Approximate rule of thumb for 6-pulse drives with 3% reactor, all other loads assumed to be linear)

# Harmonic Current, Will it be a problem?

- THD (Current) on a network with a short circuit ratio  $<20$  ( $20 < 50$ ,  $50 < 100$ ,  $100 < 1000$ ) will be acceptable if the % drive load times 45% is  $<5\%$  ( $<8\%$ ,  $<12\%$ ,  $<15\%$ )

$$\% \text{DriveLoad} \times 45\% < 5\% \quad (R_{SC} < 20)$$

$$\% \text{DriveLoad} \times 45\% < 8\% \quad (R_{SC} 20 < 50)$$

$$\% \text{DriveLoad} \times 45\% < 12\% \quad (R_{SC} 50 < 100)$$

$$\% \text{DriveLoad} \times 45\% < 15\% \quad (R_{SC} 100 < 1000)$$

- E.g. a network with a short circuit ratio of 35 has 15% drive load:  
 $15\% \times 45\% = 6.75\%$   $6.75\% < 8\% \rightarrow \text{Acceptable}$
- E.g. a network with a short circuit ratio of 65 has 30% drive load:  
 $30\% \times 45\% = 13.5\%$   $13.5\% > 12\% \rightarrow \text{Not Acceptable}$

(Rule of thumb for 6-pulse drives with 3% reactor,, all other loads assumed to be linear)

Harmonics —

What can I do?



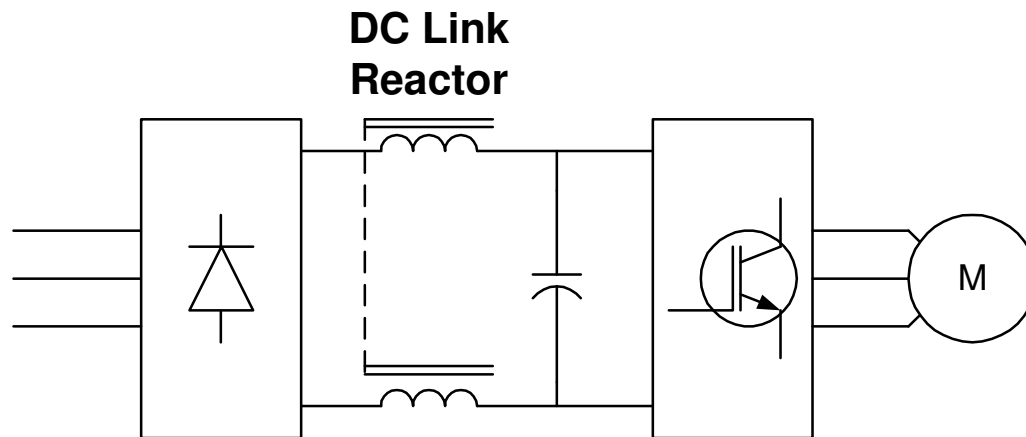
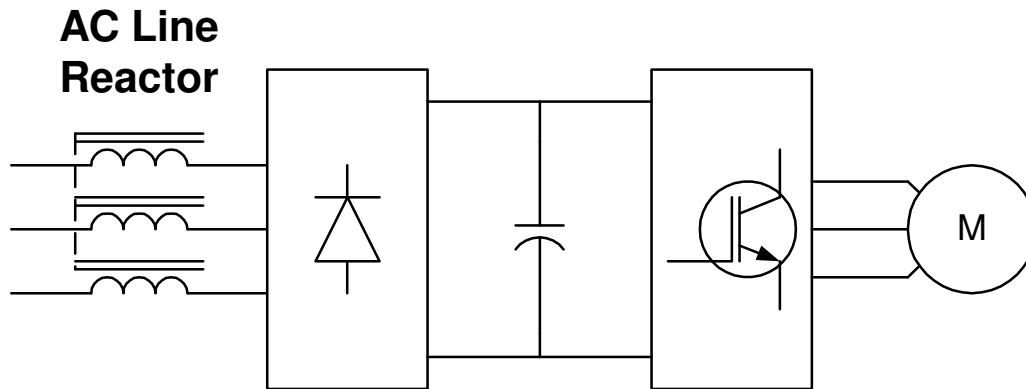
# Harmonics — What can I do?

- Reactors (Chokes)
- Passive Filters
  - Harmonic Trap
  - Hybrid
- High Pulse Count Rectification
- Active Filters
  - Stand Alone
  - Drive Active Front End

# Reactors (Chokes)

- Simplest and least expensive harmonic reduction technique
- May be included in base drive package
- Often meet harmonic needs provided drive load is a small portion of total connected load
- May be implemented with AC line reactors or with DC link reactors
  - AC line reactors provide better input protection
  - DC link reactors provide load insensitive drive output voltage
  - Both types provide similar harmonic benefits
- “Swinging” choke design provides enhanced light load harmonic performance

# Reactors, AC Line or DC Link

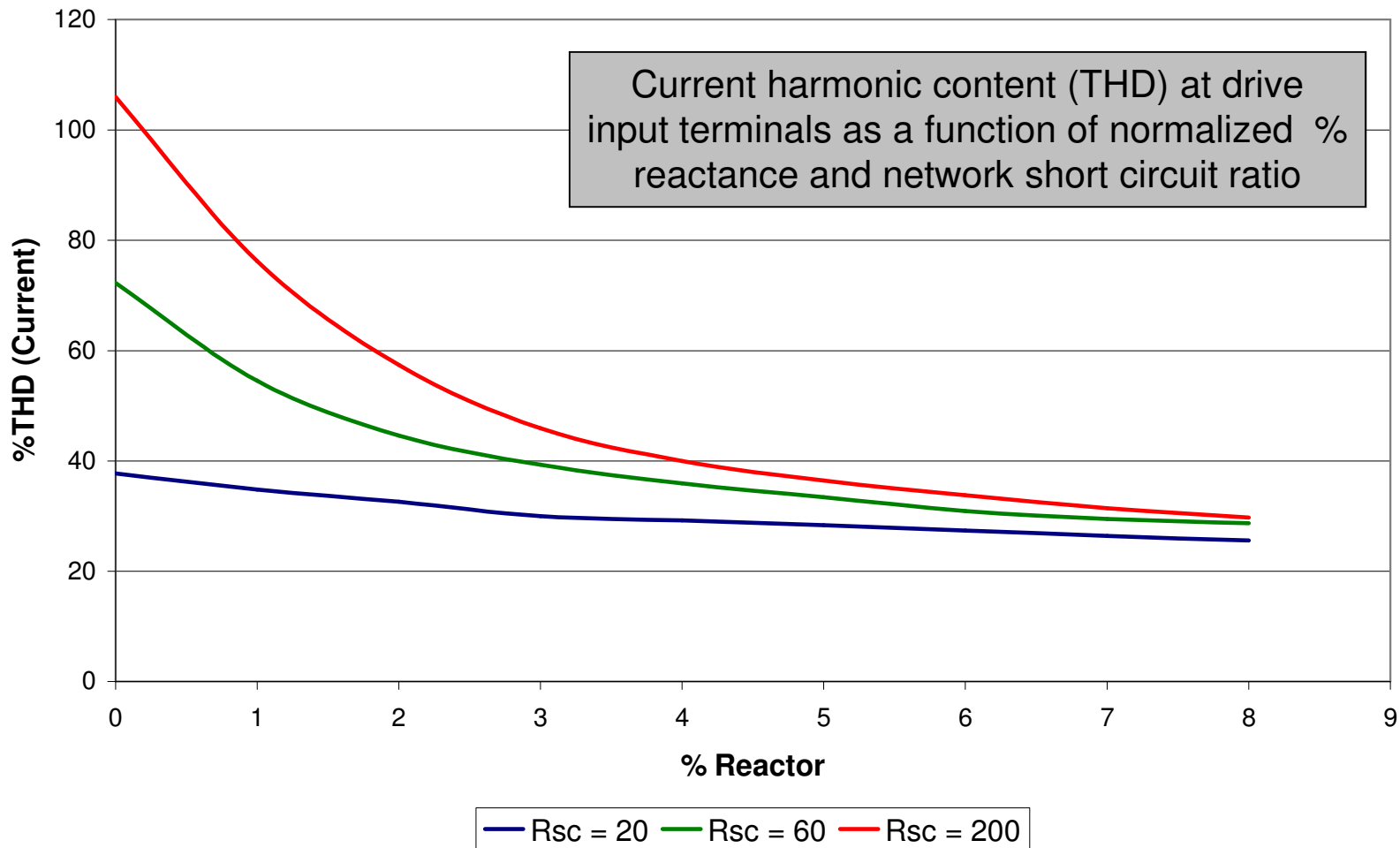


- Different design techniques
- Equal harmonic reduction for same normalized % reactance
- Typical full load THD (current) at drive input terminals  
28% → 46%

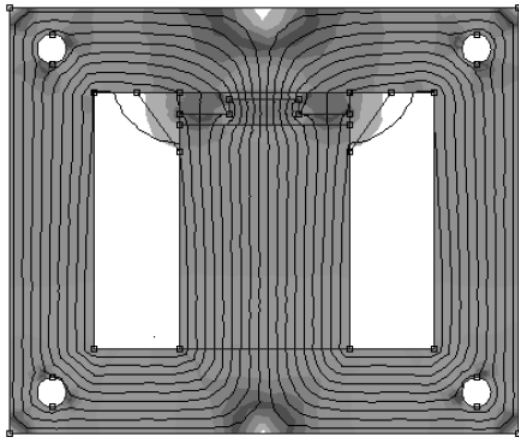
Existence - not position - is what is important

# Reactor Effectiveness

**THD (Current) vs. % Reactor**



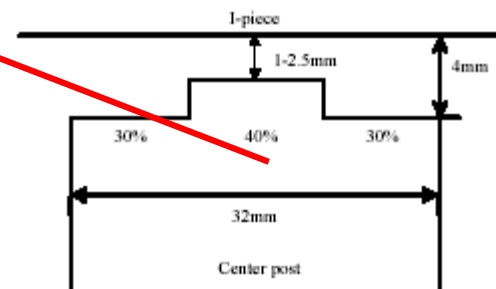
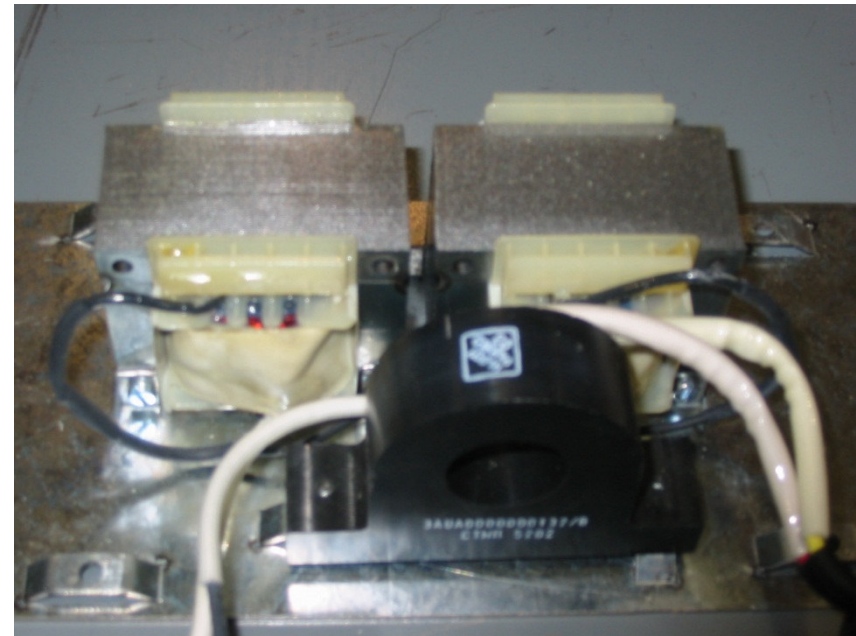
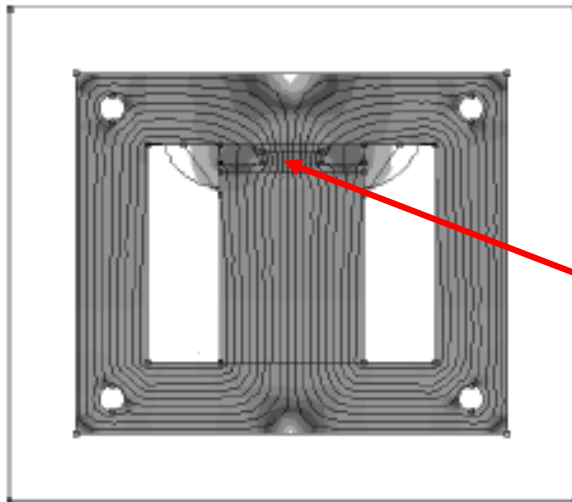
# Swinging Chokes



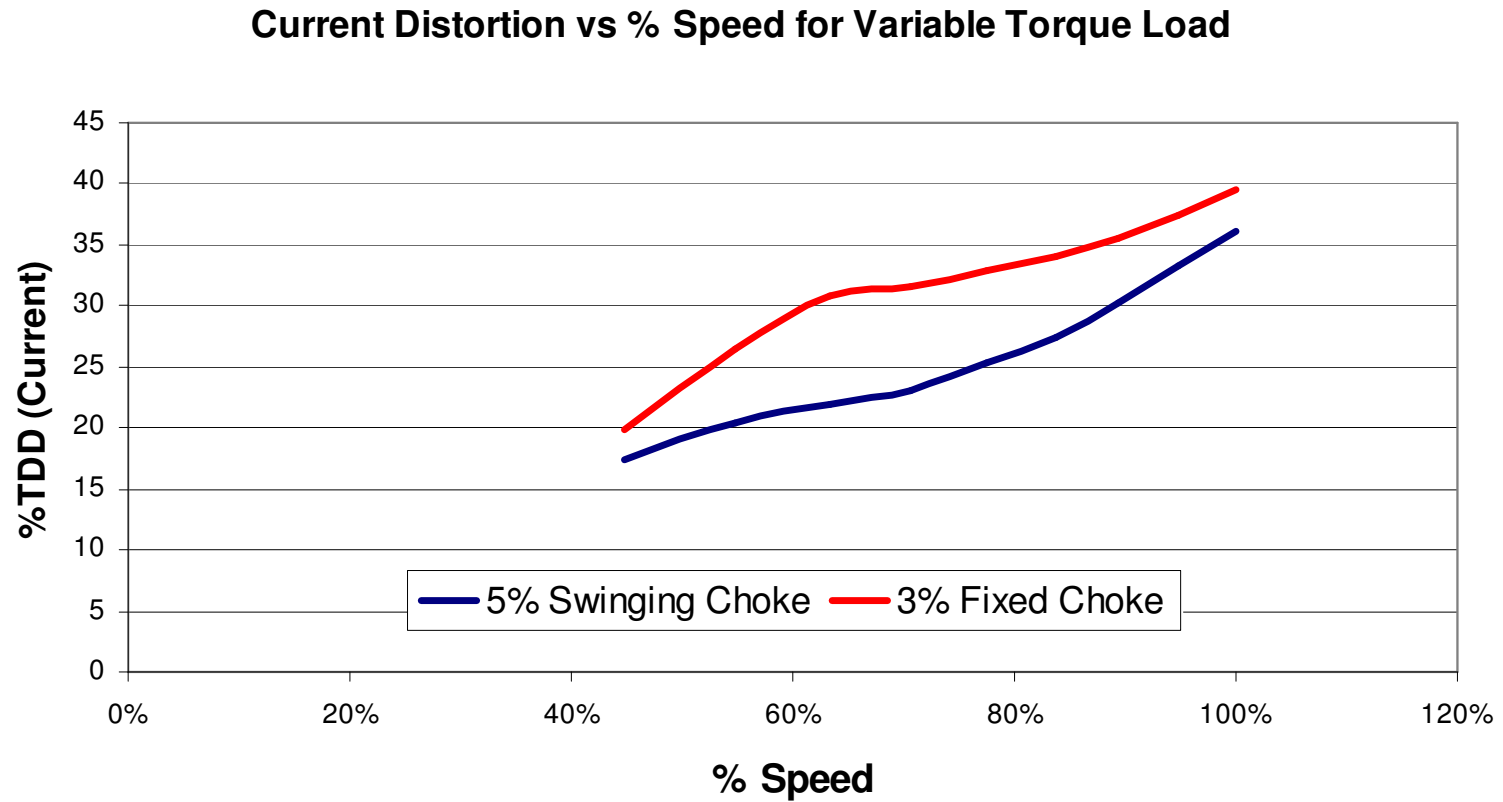
- Provide increased inductance at reduced current
- Reduce harmonics up to 30% more than traditional designs
- “Swing” portion of choke characteristic significantly improves harmonic performance at reduced loads

# Swinging DC Link Choke

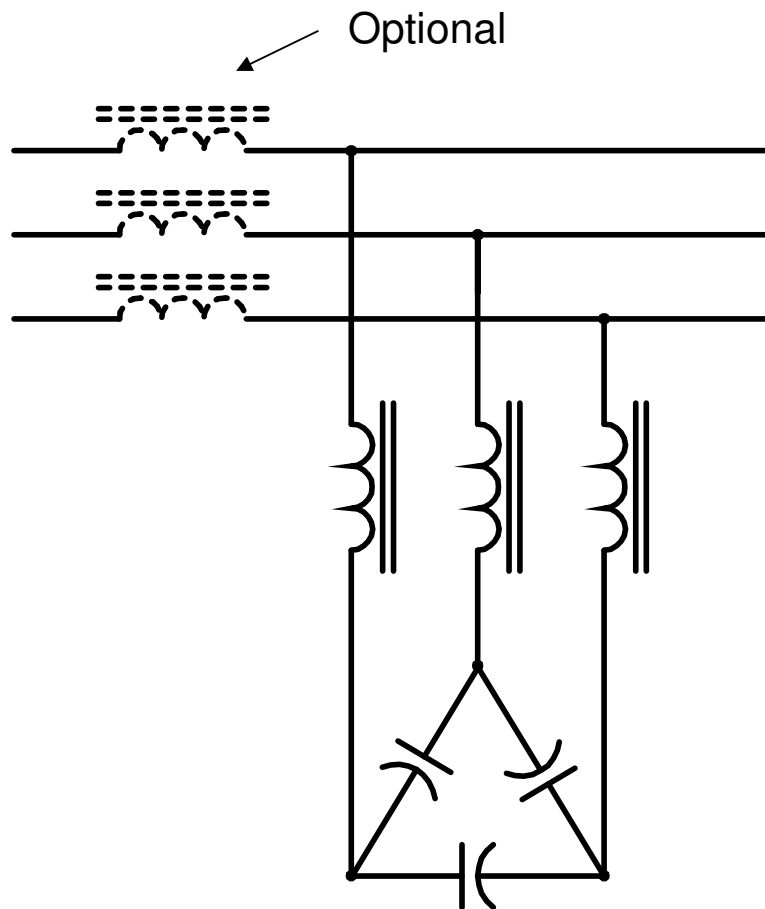
- Designed to reduce harmonics at full and partial loads
- Perfect for Variable Torque Centrifugal Loads
- Equivalent to **5%** line reactor
- More inductance per volume/weight of material



# Swinging Choke Vs. Fixed Choke



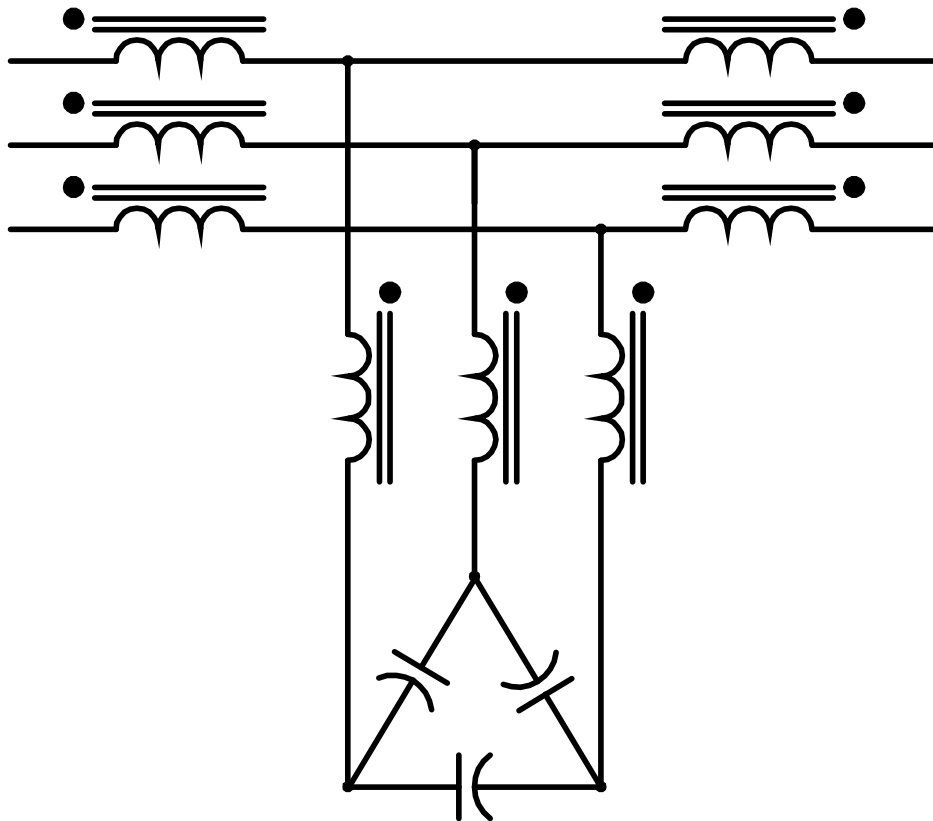
# Harmonic Trap Filter



- Installs in series with drive input
- May feed multiple drives
- Improves power factor (may go leading)
- Typical full load THD (current) at filter input terminals (line side) 10% → 14%
- Performance reduced by line imbalance



# Hybrid Filter



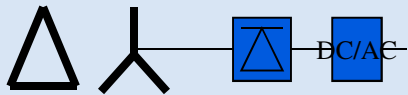
- Installs in series with drive input
- May feed multiple drives
- Improves power factor (may go leading)
- Typical full load THD (current) at filter input terminals (line side) 5% → 8%
- Relatively unaffected by line imbalance

# High Pulse Count Rectification

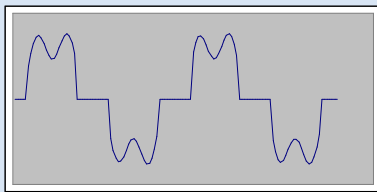
- Typical configurations are either 12 pulse or 18 pulse
- Phase shifting transformer is required
- Additional drive input bridges are needed
- Typical full load THD (current) at transformer primary 8% → 12% (12 pulse), 4% → 6% (18 pulse)
- Performance significantly reduced by line imbalance (voltage or phase)
- Excellent choice if stepdown transformer is already required

# High Pulse Count Rectification (cont.)

- 6 pulse rectifier

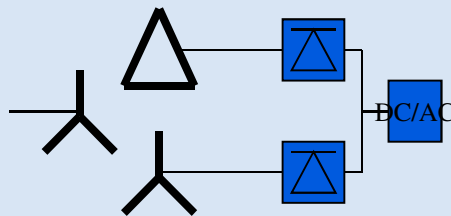


Transformer (if included)  
and cabling simple

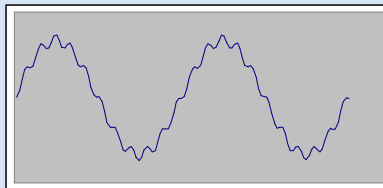


Current quite distorted  
 $I_{thd}$  32% to 48% with 3%  
reactor (depending on  
network impedance)

- 12 pulse rectifier

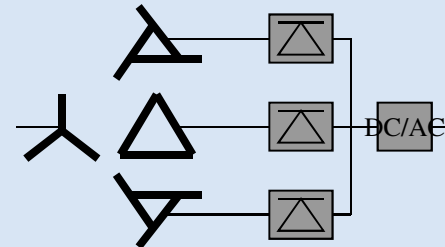


Transformer and cabling  
more complicated

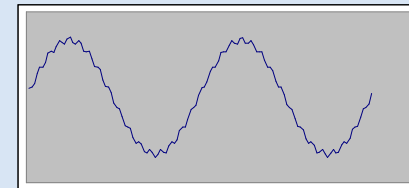


Current slightly distorted  
 $I_{thd}$  8% to 12% (depending  
on network impedance)

- 18 pulse rectifier



Transformer and cabling  
complicated

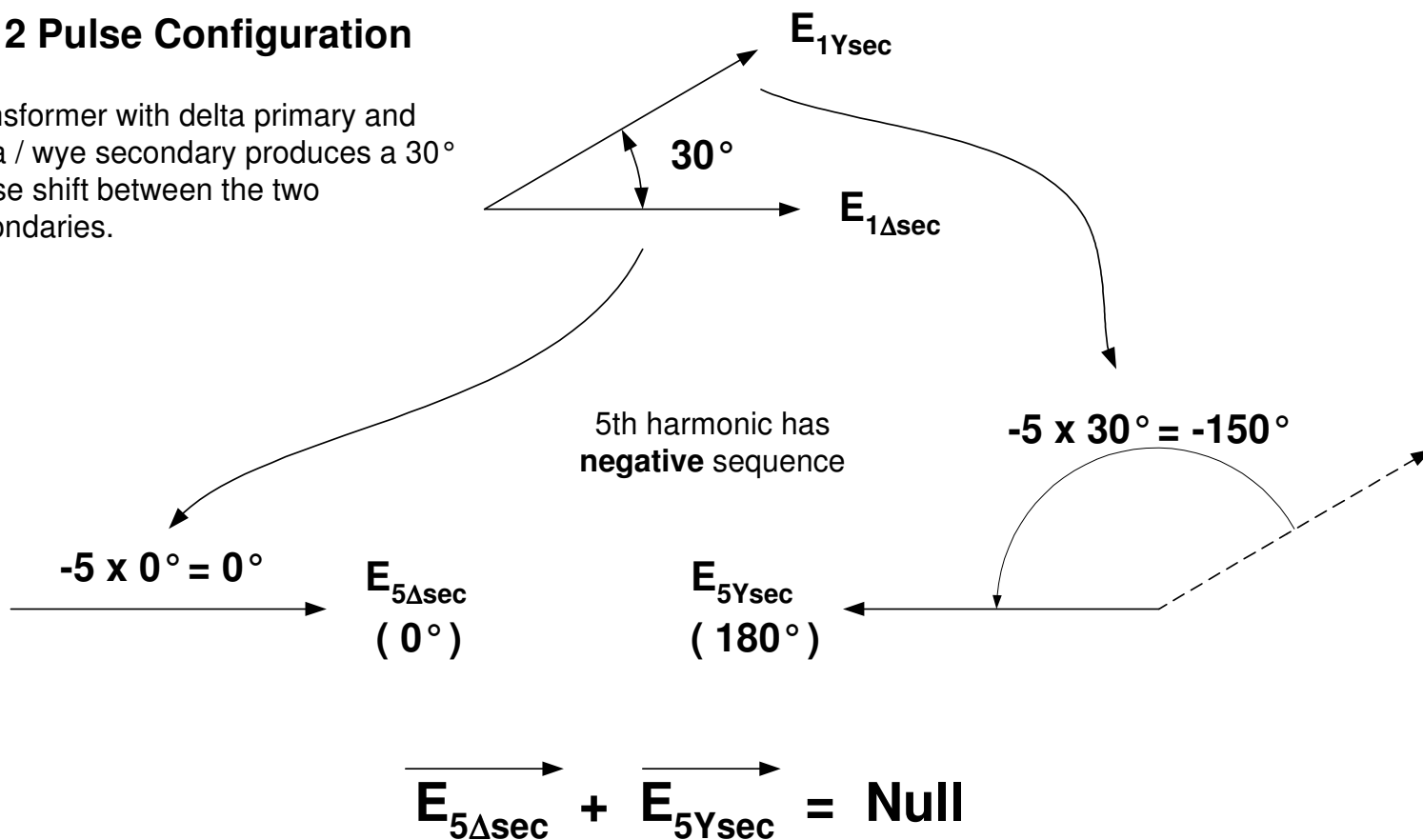


Current wave form good  
 $I_{thd}$  4% to 6% (depending on  
network impedance)

# Harmonic Cancellation, 5th

## 12 Pulse Configuration

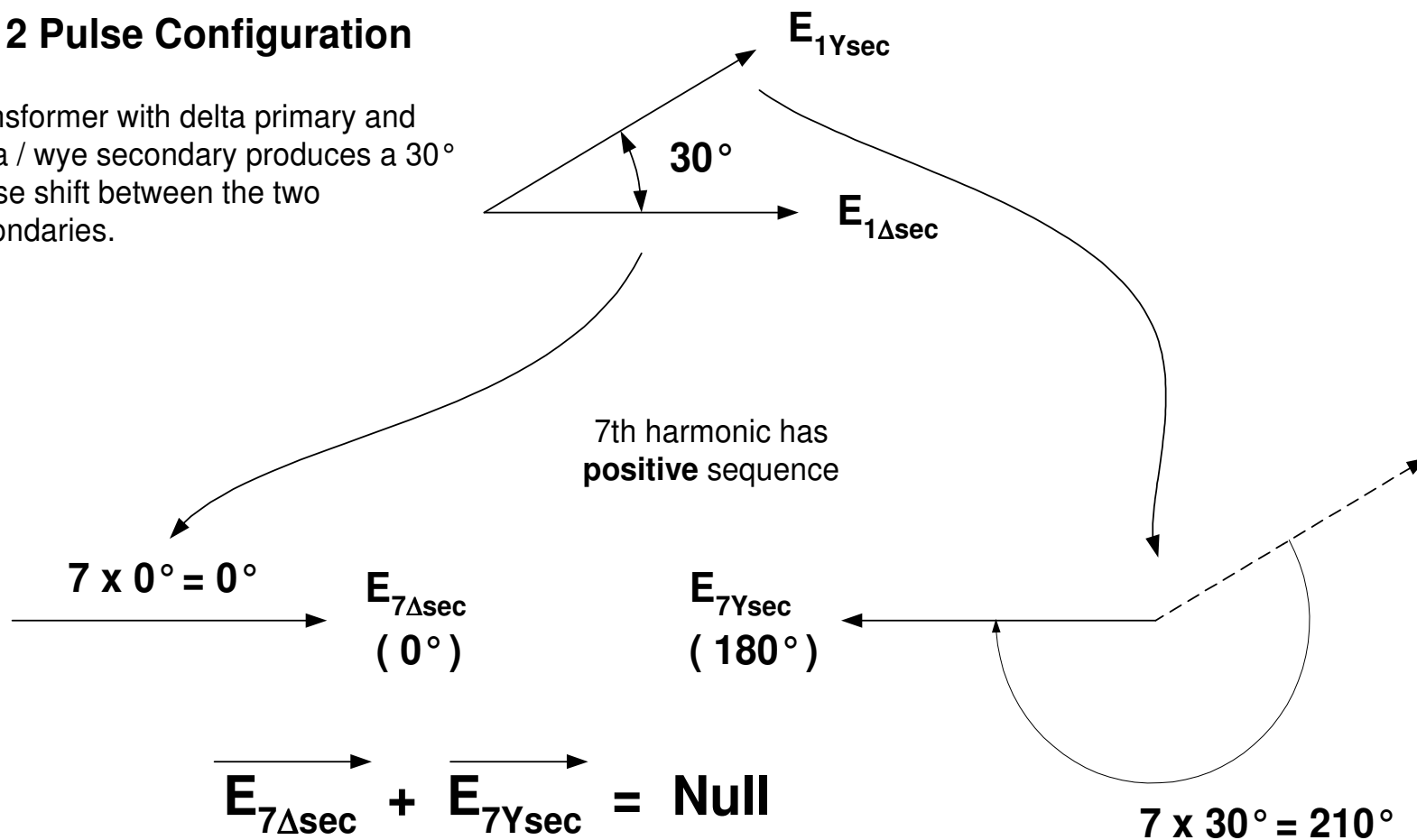
Transformer with delta primary and delta / wye secondary produces a  $30^\circ$  phase shift between the two secondaries.



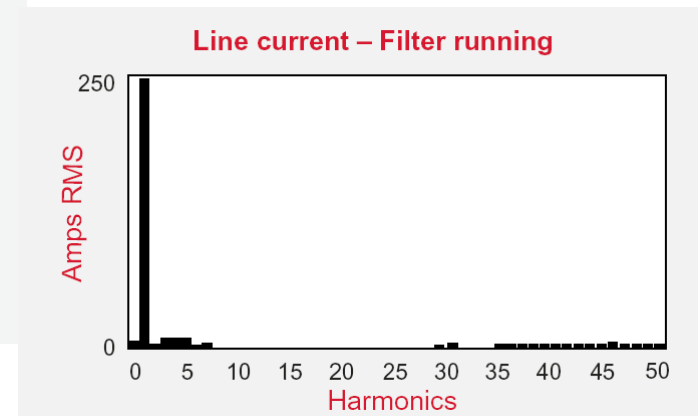
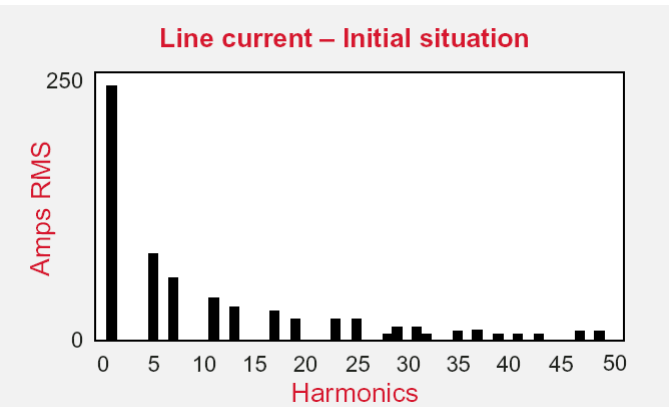
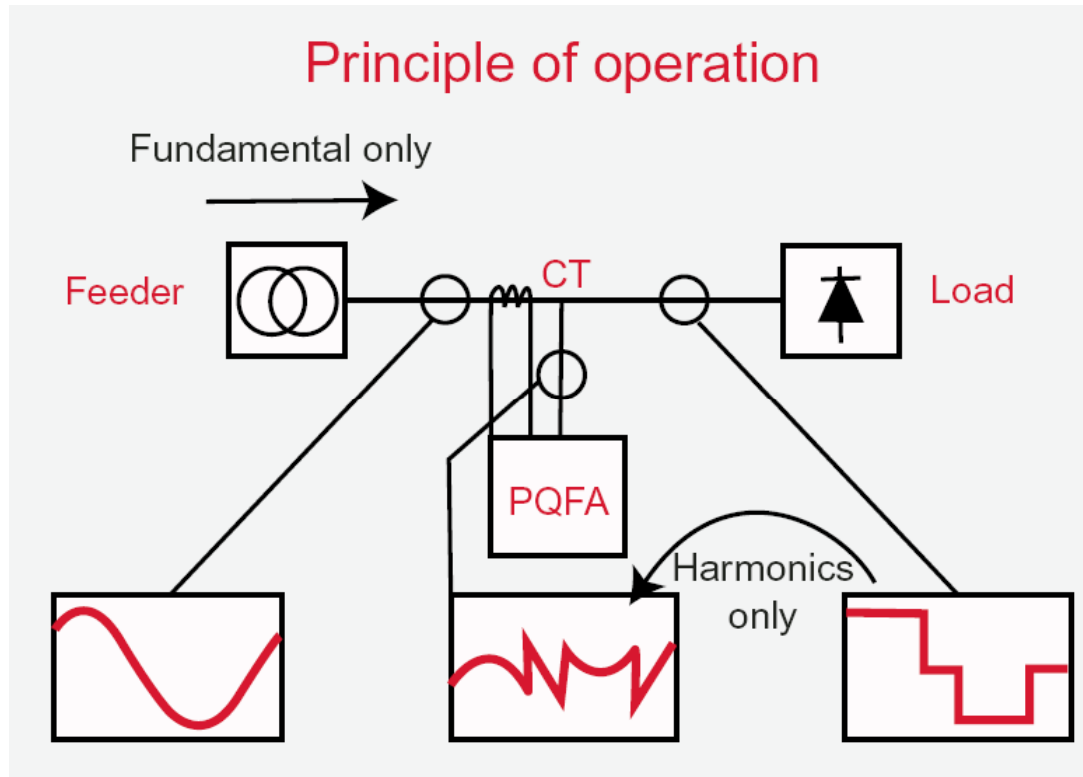
# Harmonic Cancellation, 7th

## 12 Pulse Configuration

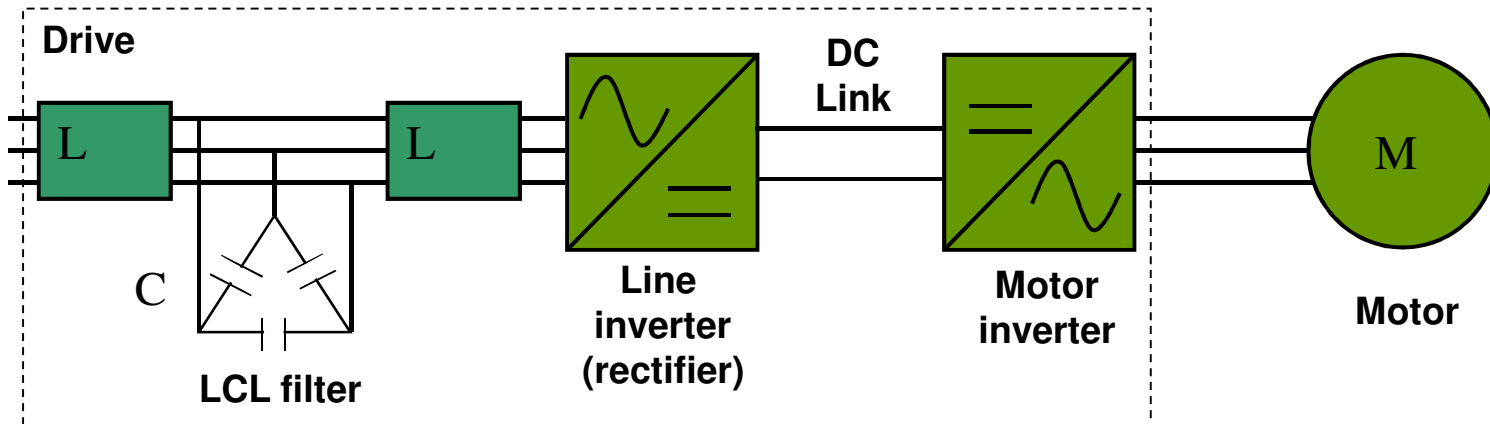
Transformer with delta primary and delta / wye secondary produces a  $30^\circ$  phase shift between the two secondaries.



# Active Front End Filter



# Active Filter Front End with LCL Filter



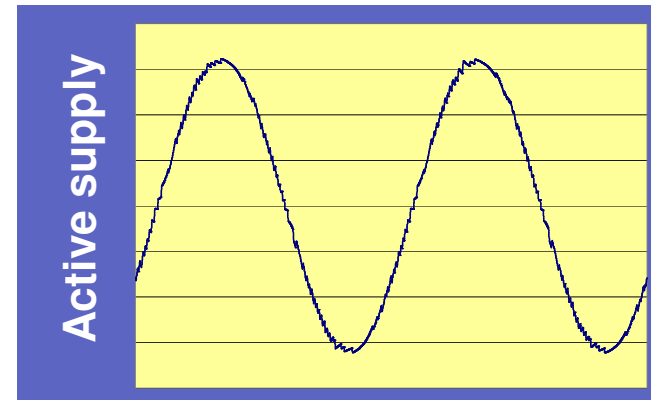
- Active Filter Line Inverter removes low frequencies < 1kHz
- LCL Filter (passive filter) removes high frequencies >1 kHz. (Current and voltage)
- Full output voltage is available with 80% input voltage ( $400V_{In} = 480V_{Out}$ )
- Full regenerative capability (ACS800-U11/-17)
- No transformer required
- Not affected by line imbalance

# Beauty Instead of Beast

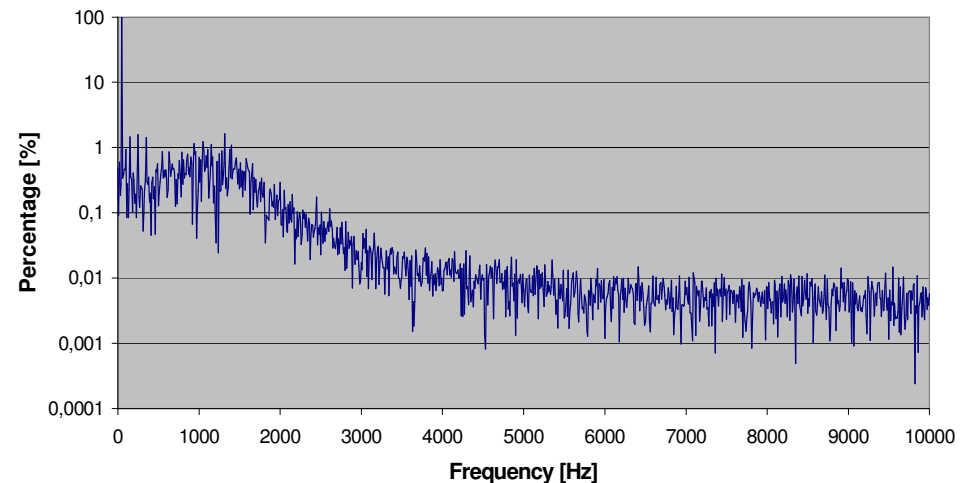
- IGBT line supply controls the current  
Sinusoidal line current  
Low distortion below switching frequency

- LCL Line filter removes high frequency distortion

Cleans the waveform above switching frequency



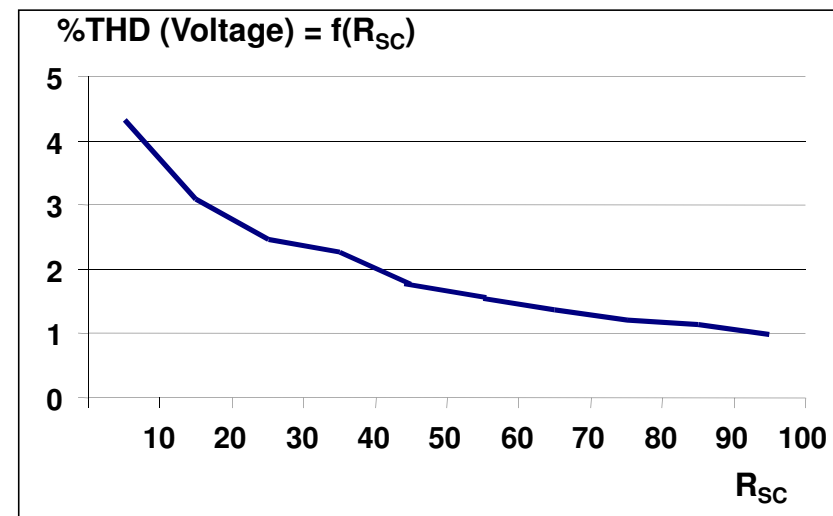
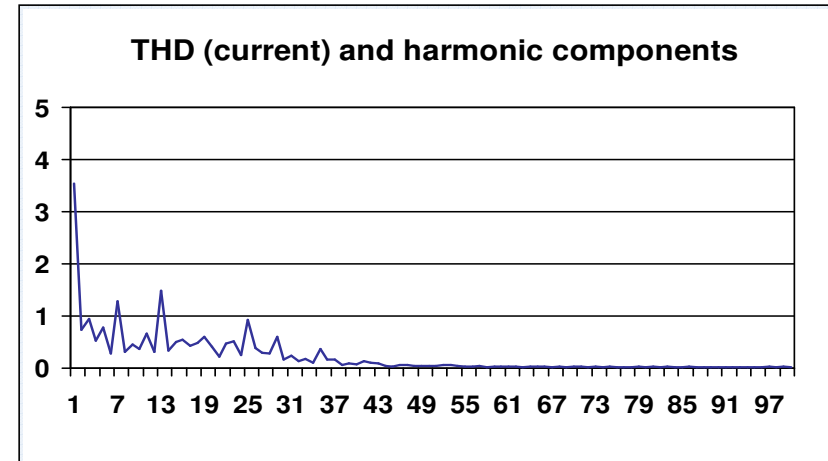
Current spectrum of low harmonic drive



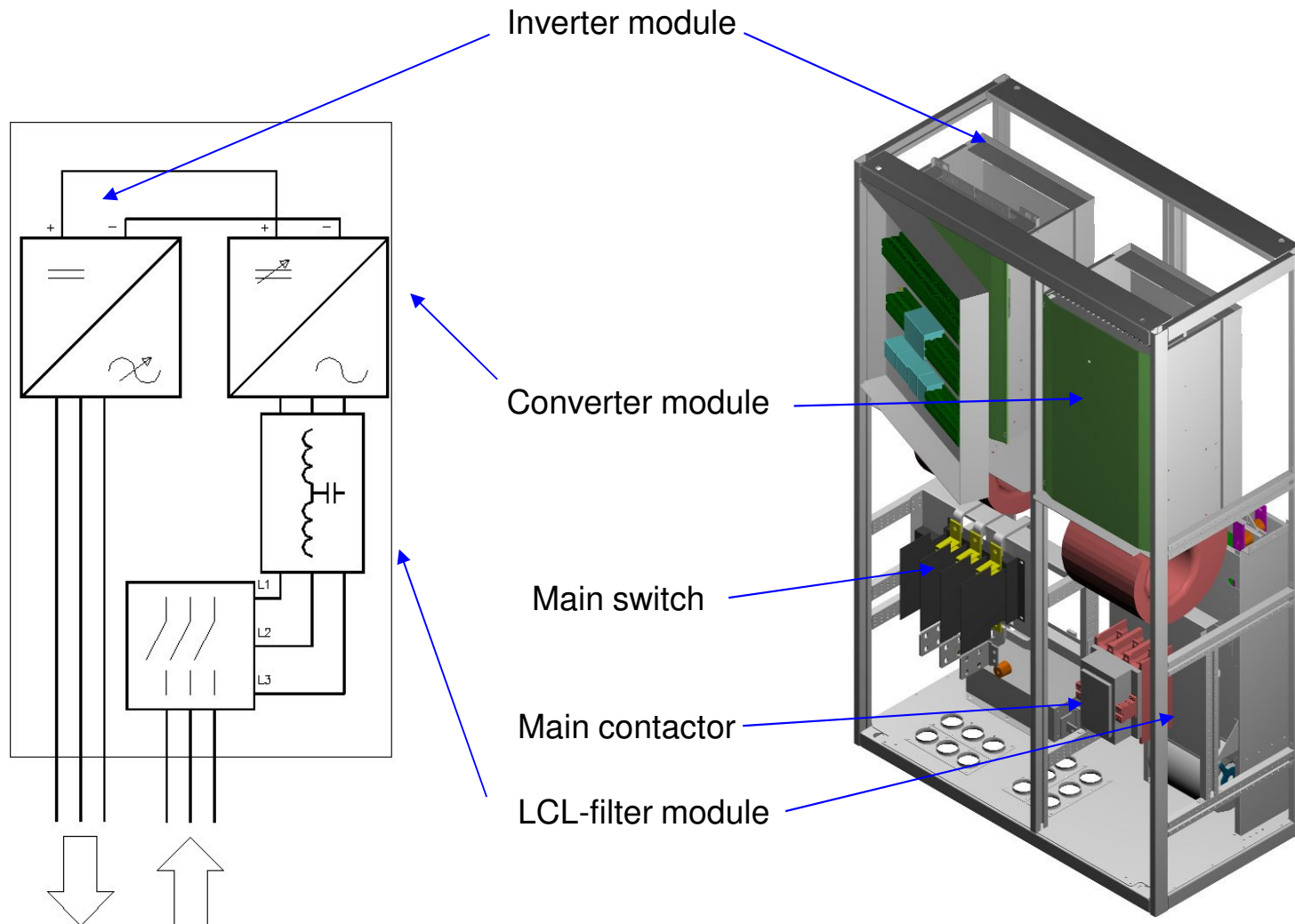


# Impressive Numbers

- Total current distortion less than 3.5% to 4.5%
- Total voltage distortion less than 5%
- Power factor adjustable from 0.85 (leading or lagging) to 1.0



# Active Front End Drive, Construction



# Product offering

- Wall-mounted low harmonic drive ACS800-U31

10 – 125 HP



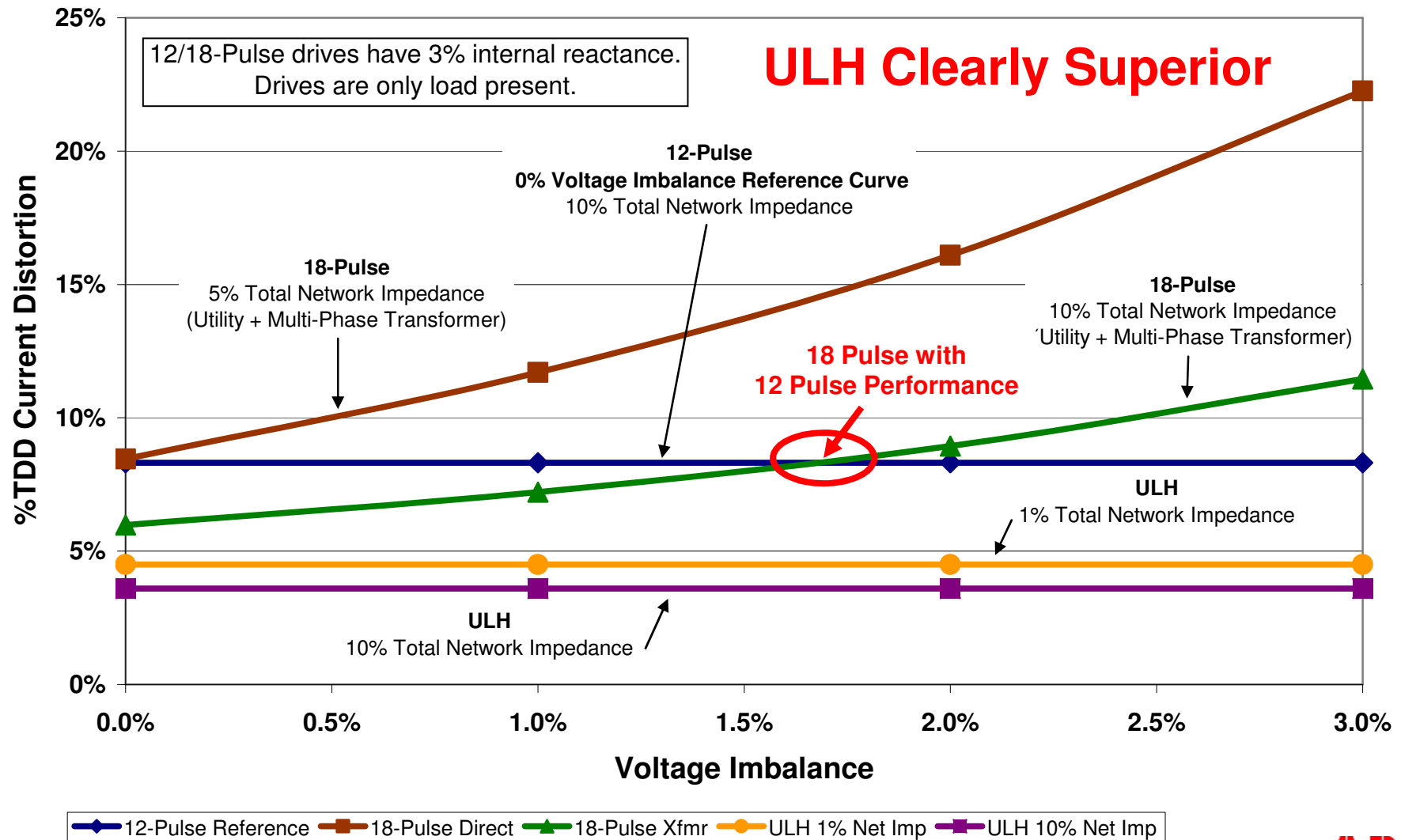
- Cabinet-built low harmonic drive ACS800-37

75 - 2800 HP



# 18-Pulse Impedance and Imbalance Dependencies

## Current Distortion Vs. Line Imbalance



# Harmonic Reduction Summary

## Effectiveness of Harmonic Mitigation Techniques

(Assuming 100% Nonlinear Loading,  $I_{SC} / I_L = 60$ )

Technique	THD (Current)	Harmonic Reduction
No mitigation (reference level)	72%	—
3% line reactors (or equivalent DC link reactor)	39%	45.8%
5% line reactors (or equivalent DC link reactor)	33%	54.2%
5% line reactors + 5 <sup>th</sup> harmonic trap filter	12%	83.3%
12 pulse input rectifier with 5% impedance transformer	10%	86.1%
Hybrid filter	7%	90.3%
18 pulse input rectifier with 5% impedance transformer	5%	93.1%
12 pulse input rectifier with 5% impedance transformer + 11 <sup>th</sup> harmonic trap filter	4%	94.4%
Active harmonic filter	3.5%	95.1%

### Remember!

Even an 80% THD nonlinear load with a will result in only 8% TDD if the nonlinear load is 10% and the linear load is 90%.

$$(80\% \cdot (10\% / (10\% + 90\%))) = 8\%$$

**ABB**