

# VFD Topics:

1. Understanding Harmonics
2. Applying VFD's to Fan Arrays

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# Harmonics

# Benefits of Drives

- **Electric AC Motors**
  - Consume 45% of the world's electrical energy.
- **Main Purpose of Drives**
  - Save Energy (Power)
- **Other Advantages**
  - Improved Efficiency
  - Improved Process Control
  - No Inrush current
  - Reduced Maintenance on Mechanical Couplings, Belts, Motors
  - Compact Design



# Benefits of VFD's

## Across the Line



1 Fan Across the Line

100% Speed → 100% Flow  
**= 100% Power**

## Motor Run by a Drive



70% speed → 70% Flow

**Total Power = 34%**

**66% Power Reduction**

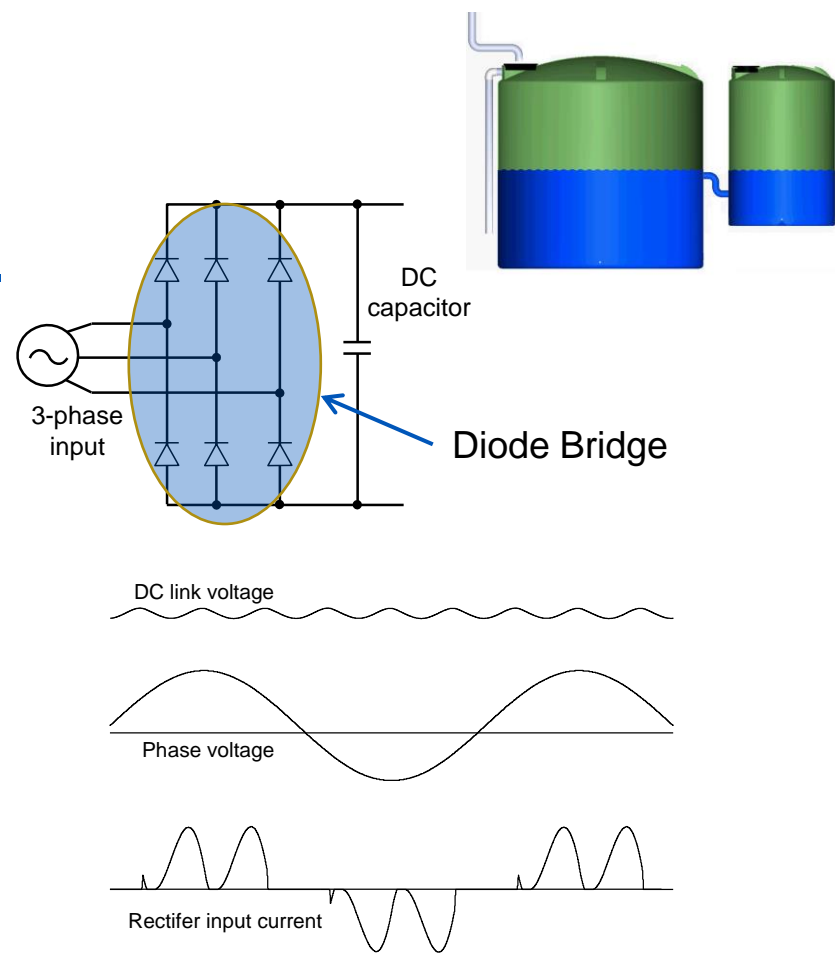
# VFD's and Harmonics

## VFD's draw line current when needed.

- Diode rectifiers.
- Current draw only occurs when  
AC voltage > DC Voltage
- AC > DC at peak of AC voltage
- Resulting current draw is non-linear.

The current waveform is distorted.

Distortion → Harmonics



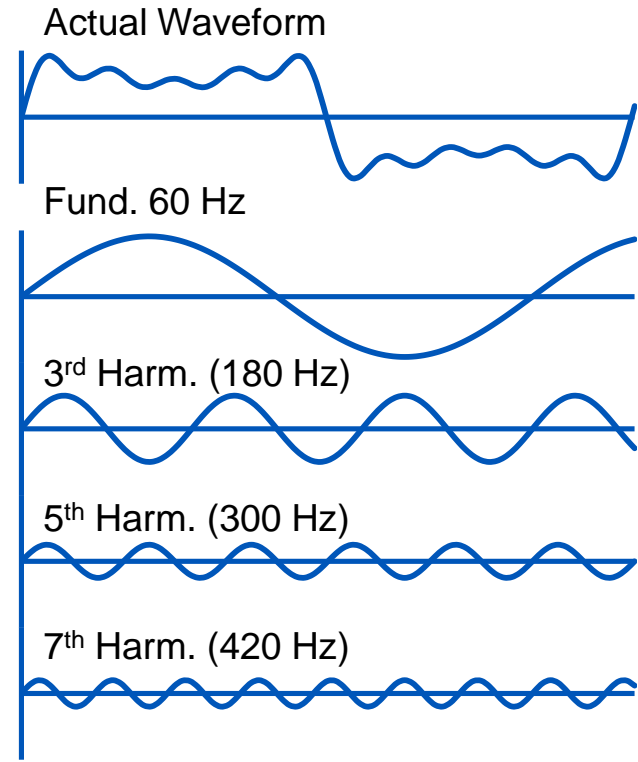
# What are Harmonics?

Harmonics → breakdowns of a waveform

- Math used to find a waveform's components.
- Components:
  - Fundamental Waveform
  - Harmonics
    - Multipliers of the fundamental frequency

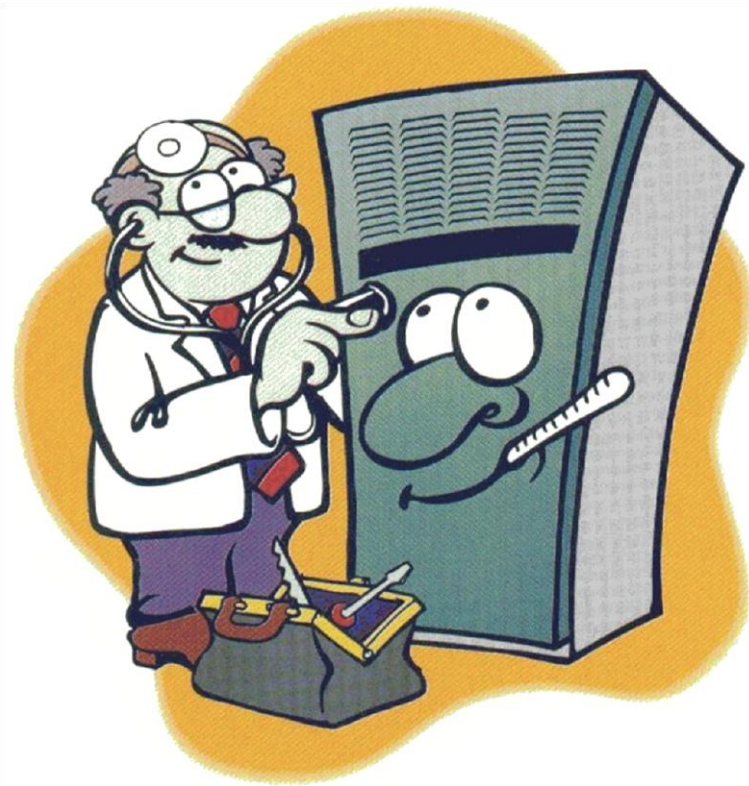
Ex:

- Fund Freq: 60 Hz
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Harmonic =  $60 * 3 = 180$  Hz
- 5<sup>th</sup> Harmonic =  $60 * 5 = 300$  Hz
- 7<sup>th</sup> Harmonic =  $60 * 7 = 420$  Hz



# Input Current- Why it Matters?

- Voltage harmonics
- IEEE 519
- Conductor heating
- Transformer sizing & heating
- Power Factor reduction
- Lower efficiency
- Financial impact
  - Utility billing, fines



# Non-Linear Loading

Drives are not the only non linear loads.

Other Non-linear loads:

- Electronic ballasts (lighting)
- Arc Furnaces
- UPS systems
- Medical Equipment
- Switching mode power supplies
  - Computers, servers, monitors, printers, photocopiers, Etc.
  - Data Centers

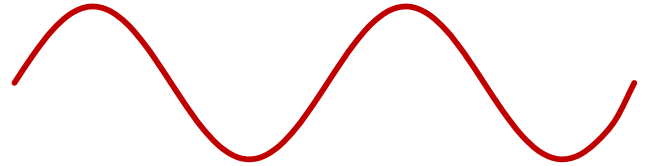




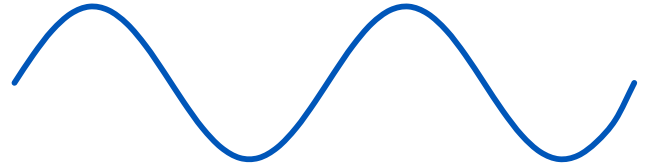
# Input Current – What do we want?

- Voltage is typically supplied as a sine wave.
- Current should be drawn to match the supply voltage, i.e. current should look like a sine wave too!
- When current does not flow like the supplied voltage it is non-linear.

Supply Voltage



Ideal Current



Non-Linear Current



# IEEE-519

## Changes Overview

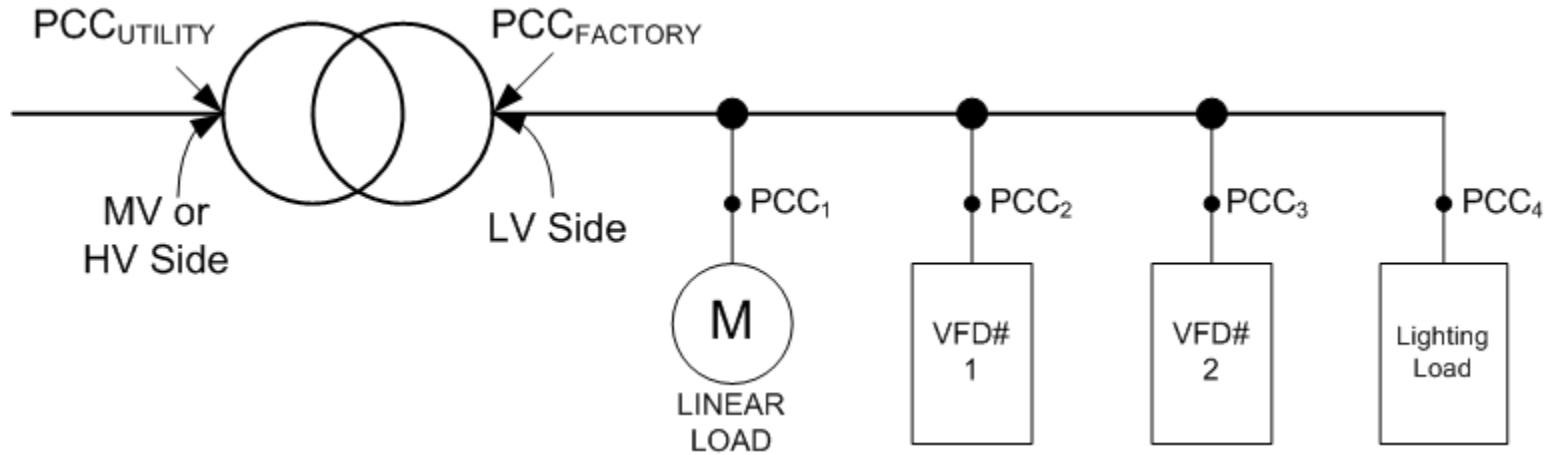
# IEEE 519-2014 vs. IEEE 519-1992

- IEEE 519-1992
  - 101-page teaching document
  - PCC vaguely defined
  - Device-focused
  - Short-term measurements
- IEEE 519-2014
  - 29 page-document with no attempt to educate
    - 12 pages of intro, TOC, disclaimers, and participants
    - 10 pages of content
    - 7 pages of Annexes A-D
  - PCC clearly defined
  - System-focused
  - Long-term measurements



# PCC in IEEE 519-1992

“Within an industrial plant, the PCC is the point between the nonlinear load and other loads.”

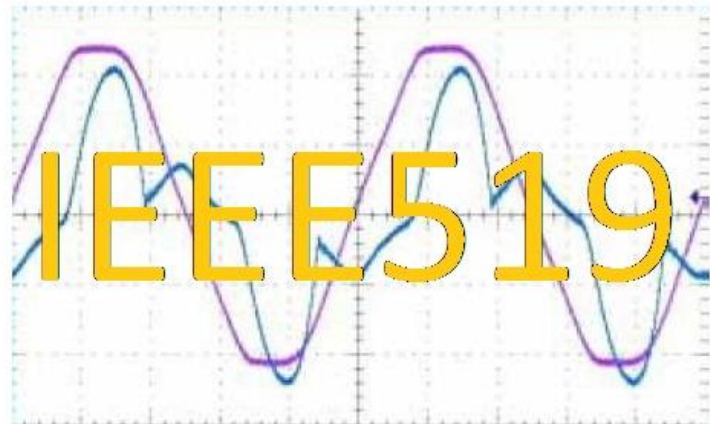


# PCC Excerpt from IEEE 519-2014

“The recommended limits in this clause apply only at the point of common coupling and **should not be applied** to either **individual pieces of equipment** or at **locations within a user’s facility.**”

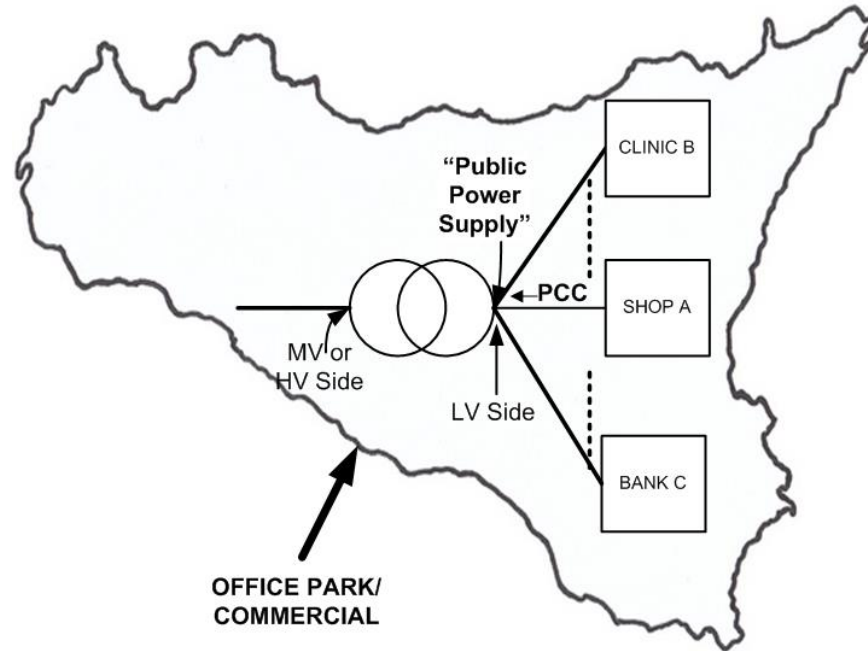
Limits apply only at the PCC, NOT:

- Specific equipment
- Locations within user’s facility



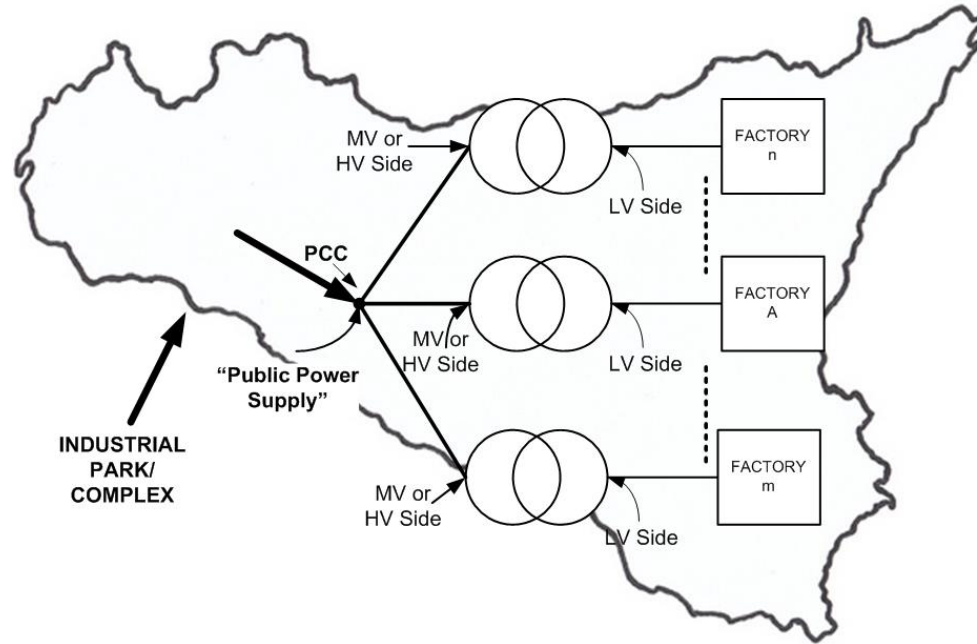
# IEEE 519-2014 PCC for Commercial Users

- Low voltage side of the service transformer

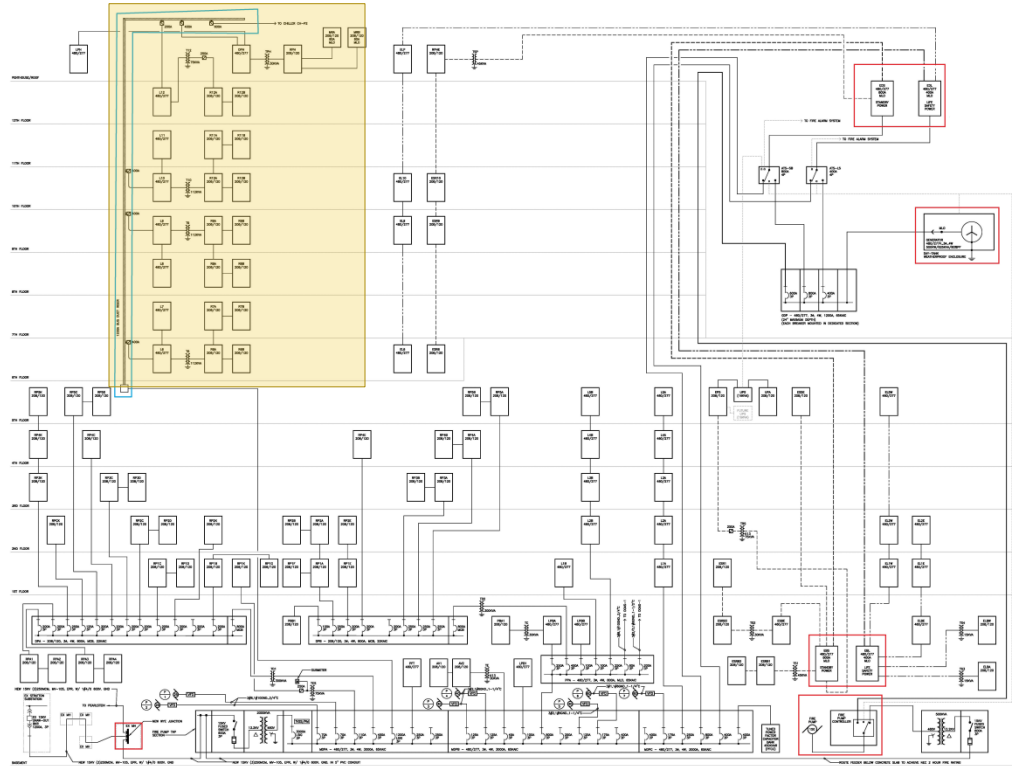


# IEEE 519-2014 PCC for Industrial Users

- High voltage side of the service transformer

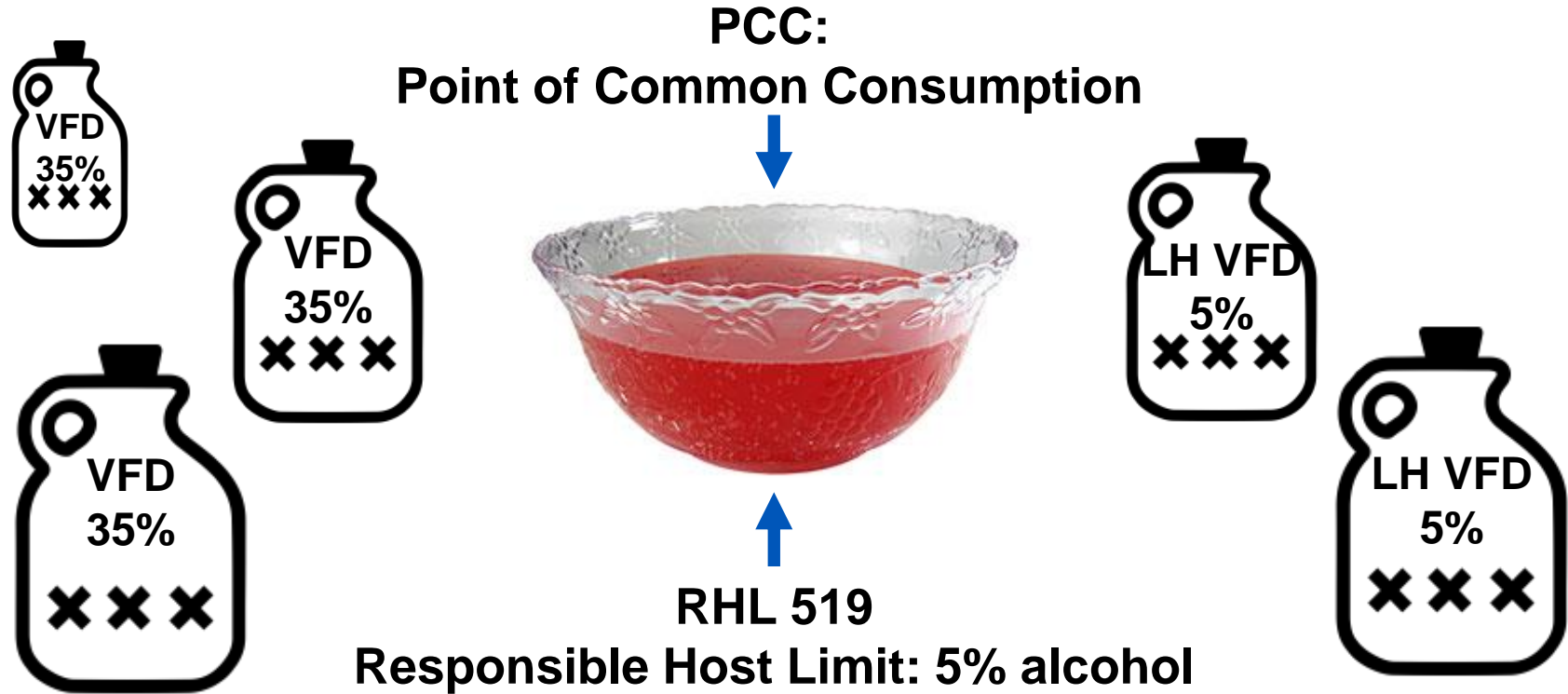


# Why 5% Harmonics?





# The Punch Bowl Analogy



# The Punch Bowl Analogy – What's it mean?



One 100 Amp Fan

5% Harmonics = 5 amps/fan

Total Harmonics

$$5/100 = 5\%$$



Two 100 Amp Fans

5% Harmonics = 5 amps/fan

**Still 5%** Total Harmonics

$$10A/200A = 5\%$$

# IEEE 519-2014 and VFDs

- Neither compliant nor non-compliant with IEEE 519-2014
- Not the only producers of harmonics
- Part of a larger user's system
  - Compliance measured at the prescribed point of common coupling
  - Harmonics estimation software available
- From IEEE 519-2014, 1.2 Purpose
  - “This recommended practice is to be used for guidance in the design of power systems with non-linear loads.”

# IEEE 519-2014 Harmonics Mitigation

“The limits in this recommended practice represent a **shared responsibility** for harmonic control between system owners or operators and users.”

At the system level

- Phase-shifted buses at the service entrance (if necessary)
- Active Filters for large system loads

At the device level

- Conventional VFDs
  - Harmonic mitigation devices need to be added
- AC-to-AC and AFE VFDs
  - Harmonic levels (<5%) need no additional mitigation

# Harmonic Mitigation Techniques For VFDs

*What We Can Do About It?*

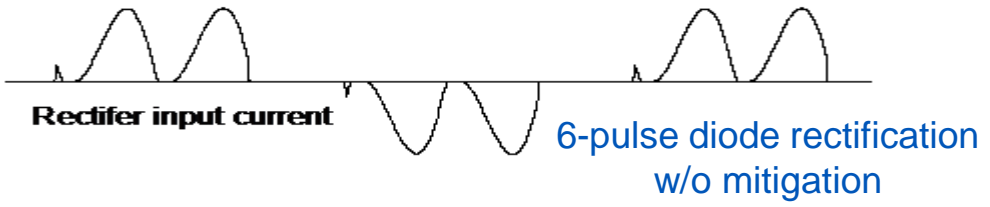
# Reducing VFD Harmonics

## VFD harmonics mitigation

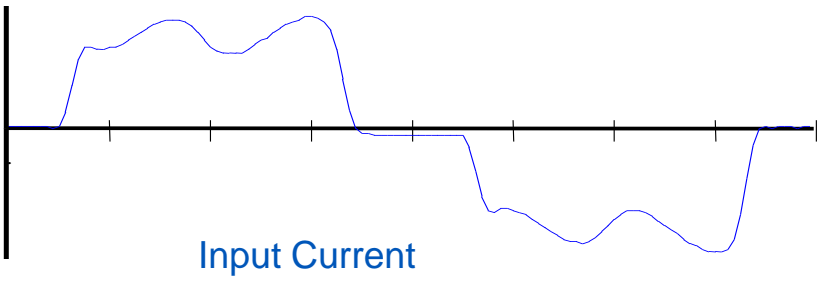
- DC reactor (DC link choke or AC line reactor)
  - High impedance to harmonic frequencies
- Passive harmonic filters
  - LC circuit used to filter current harmonics
- Multi-pulse rectifiers and transformers
  - Phase shifts in series to lessen current pulses
- Active front end VFD's (AFE)
  - Dual-rectifier
  - AC to AC converter

# Reactors

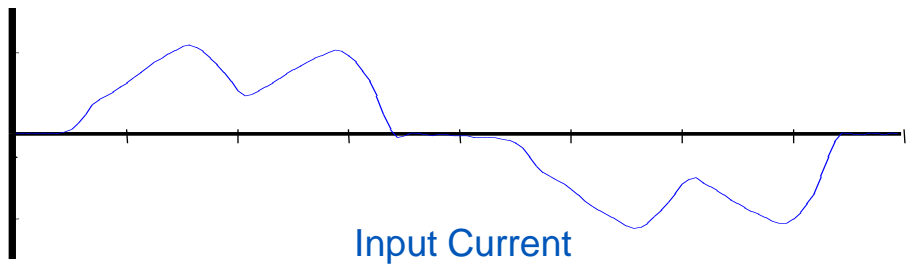
Can be standard in most VFD's or inexpensive options  
Total system Eff. – 96-97%



w/ DC Link Choke  
**THD $\approx$ 35 to 45%**



w/ AC Line Reactor  
**THD $\approx$ 35 to 45%**



# Passive Filters

- Harmonic Filers

- Series - tuned to offer high impedance to select harmonic frequencies
- Shunt Filter– tuned to shunt (trap) select harmonic frequencies
- Hybrid Filters – combination of above

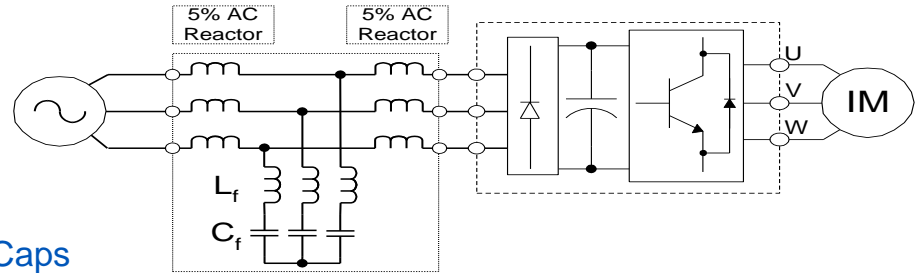
- Pro's

- Less Costly than other methods

- Con's

- Power Loss, and higher stresses on DC Bus Caps
- Generally multiple sections needed to capture enough harmonic orders
- May not reduce iTHD enough

- Total Eff. – 94%



**THD  $\approx$  Less than 12%**



# 12-Pulse

- Standard 12-Pulse

- Higher the order of harmonic in a waveform, lower is the amplitude of the harmonic
- Multi-pulse technique helps in increasing the lowest harmonic order
- $h=kq\pm 1$ ; For a six pulse system,  $q=6$  and lowest pair of harmonics is 5th and 7th
- For a twelve pulse system,  $q=12$  and lowest pair of harmonics is 11th and 13th

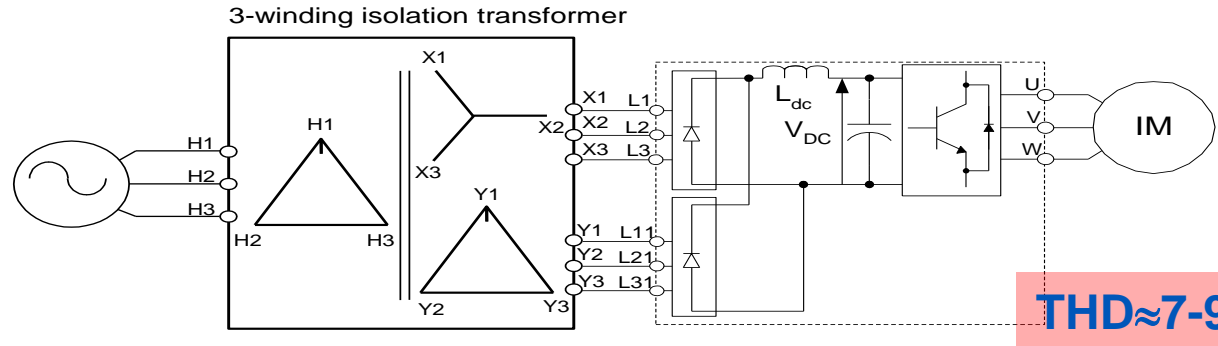
- Pro's

- More robust

- Con's

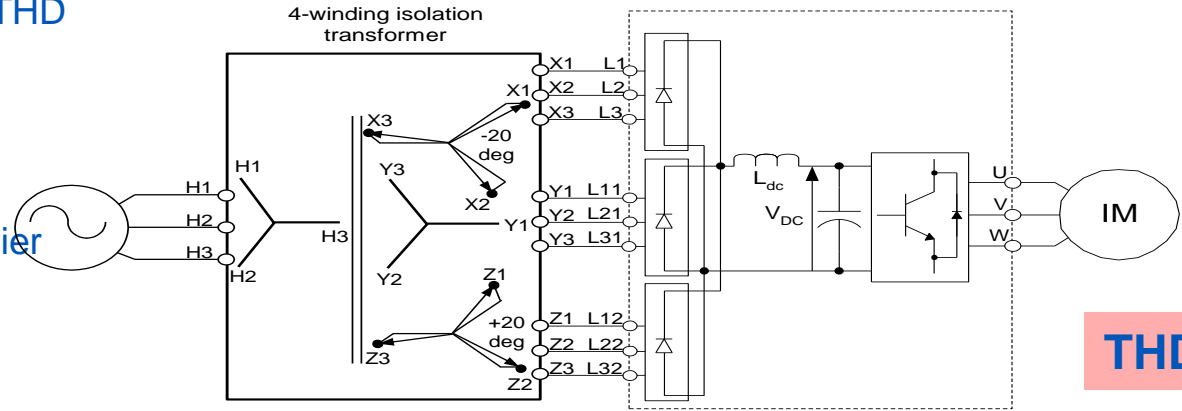
- Bulky
- Additional rectifier

- Total Eff. – 94%



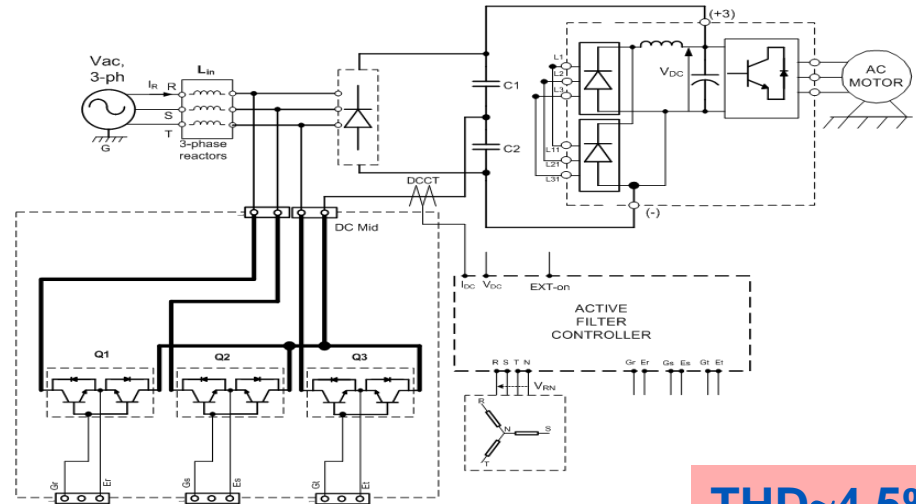
# 18-Pulse

- Standard 18-Pulse
  - $h=kq\pm 1$ ; For a six pulse system,  $q=6$  and lowest pair of harmonics is 5th and 7th
  - For an eighteen pulse system,  $q=18$  and lowest pair of harmonics is 17th and 19th
- Pro's
  - Less than 5% iTHD
- Con's
  - Cost
  - Bulky
  - Additional rectifier
- Total Eff. – 94%



# Active Filters

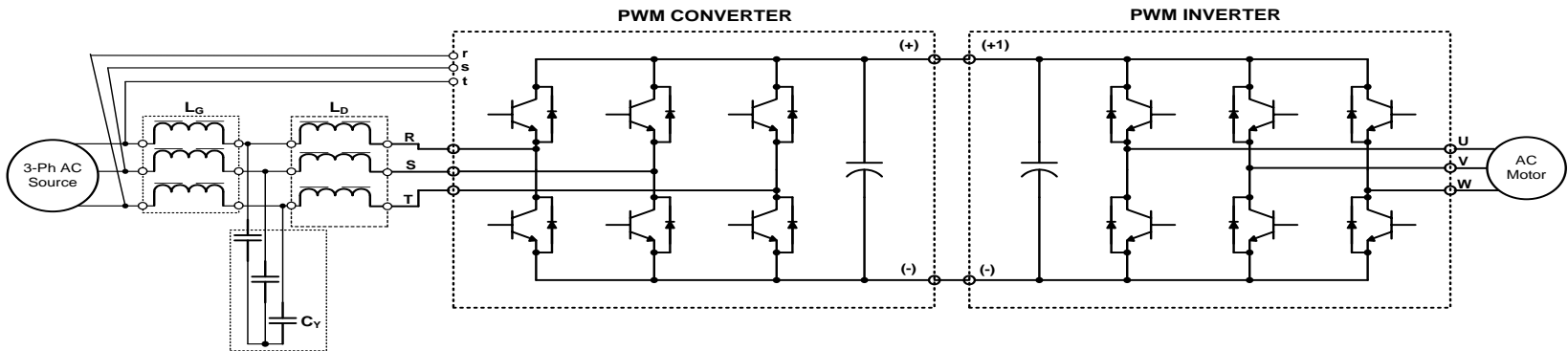
- Active Filter
  - Semiconductor switches
  - Energy storage devices
- Pro's
  - Smaller bus capacitors
  - Changes based on actual load
  - Current becomes continuous which lowers harmonics
- Con's
  - Inductor is large and bulky
  - cost
- Total Eff. – 94%



THD  $\approx$  4.5%

# Active Front End: Dual Bridge

- Good Efficiency (96%)
- Better Power Factor than passive methods
- Low Harmonics (4-5% THD)
- Smaller space, less bulky
- Some have Regen capability
- Lower Cost

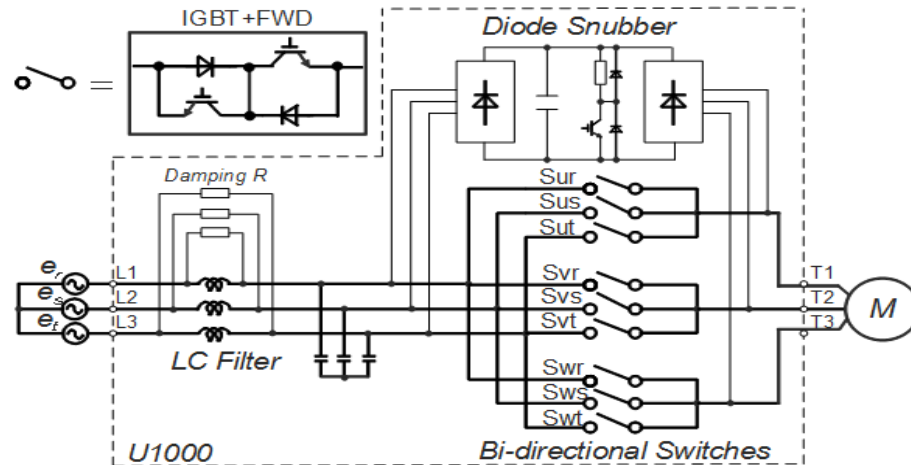


# Active Front End: AC-AC

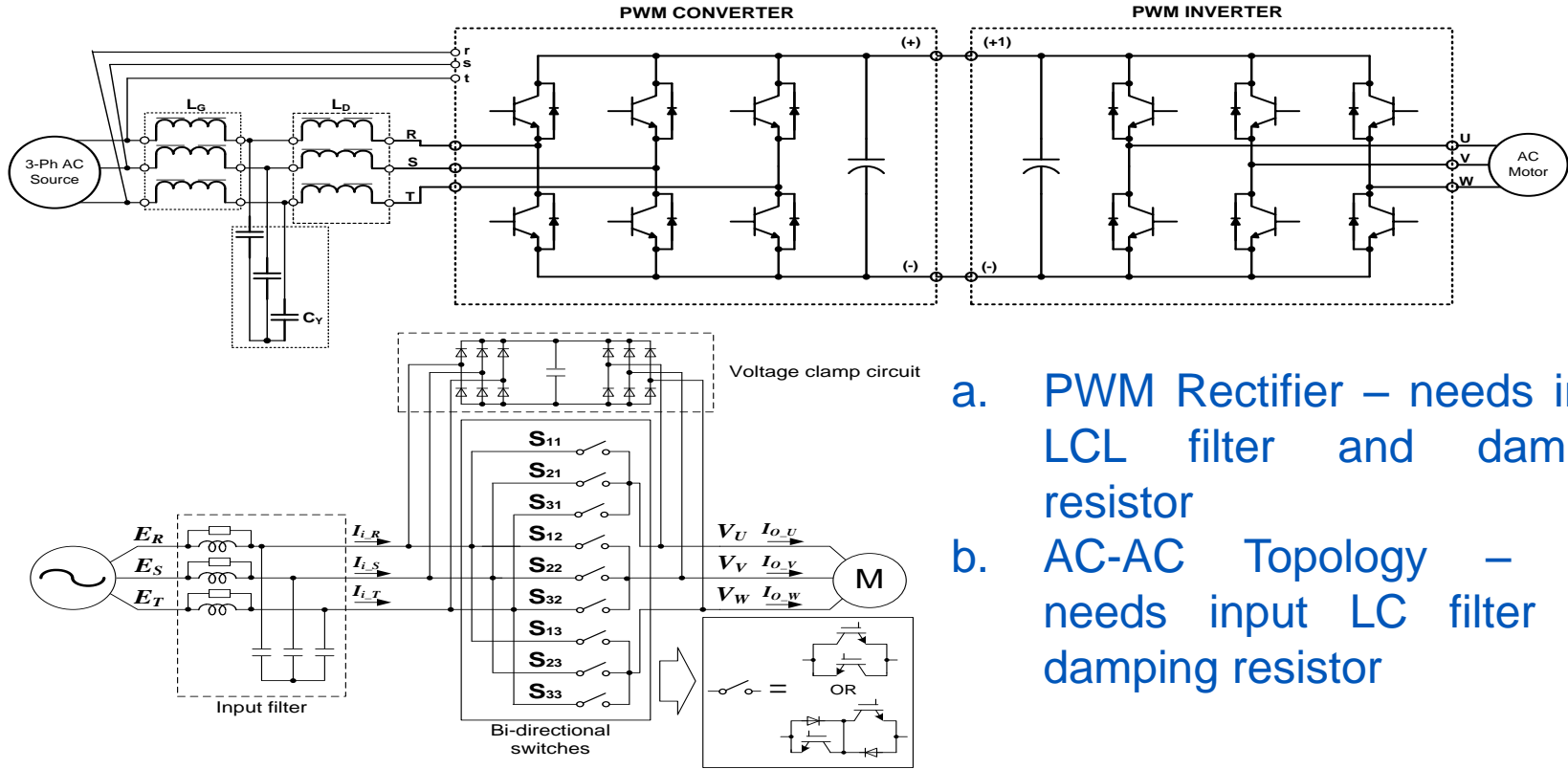
- Best Efficiency (98%)
- Better Power Factor than passive filters
- Low Harmonics (4-5% THD)
- Better performance at lower loads/speeds; eco-mode
- Smaller space, less bulky
- Regen capability
- Lower cost



**【9 bi-directional switches】**

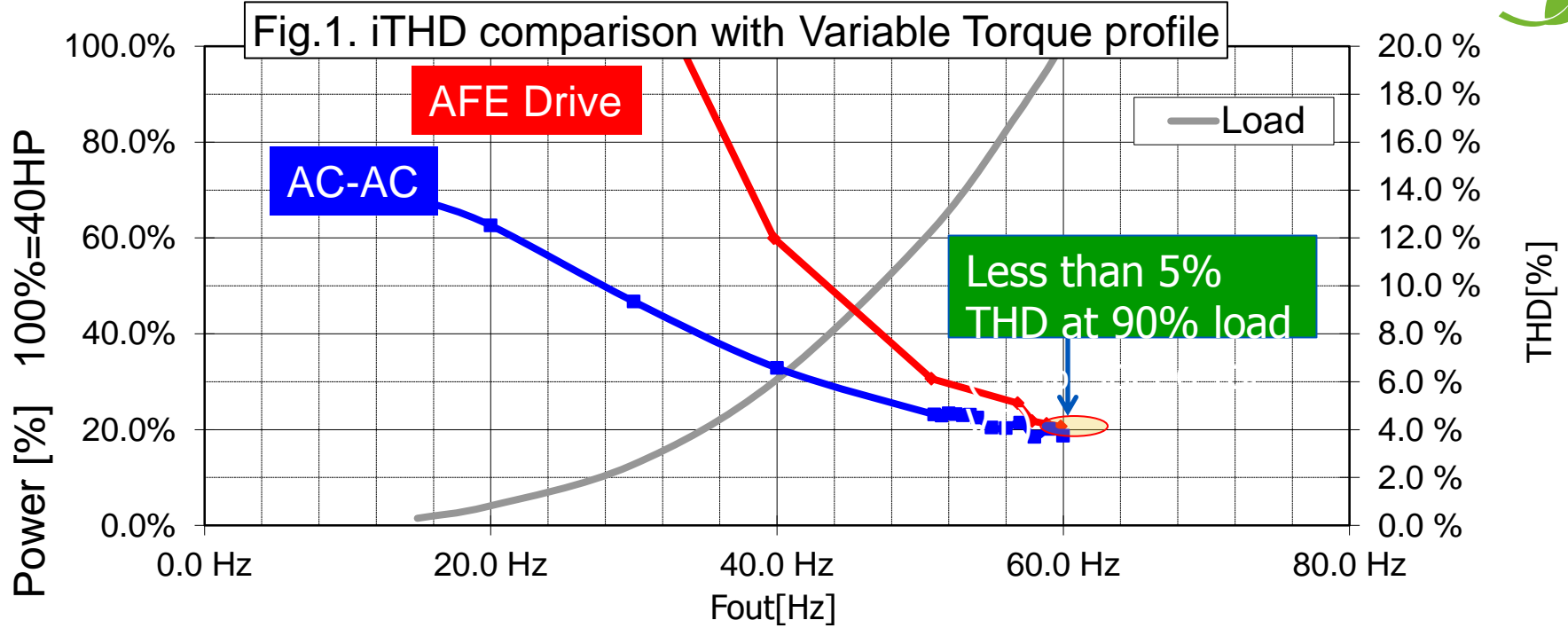


# Active Front Ends



- a. PWM Rectifier – needs input LCL filter and damping resistor
- b. AC-AC Topology – also needs input LC filter and damping resistor

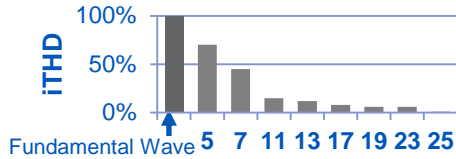
# Harmonic Performance Comparison (AC-AC vs. AFE)



# Harmonics Performance Comparison Details

VFD

**Current Harmonics**



**Current Waveform**

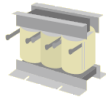


**Current Distortion**

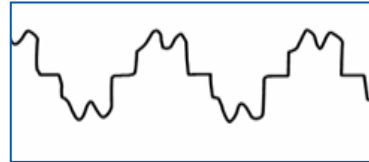
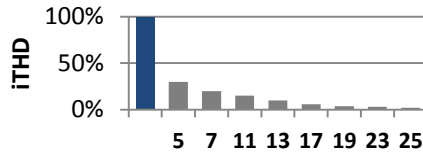
**88%**

**True Power Factor\***

**0.75**



VFD

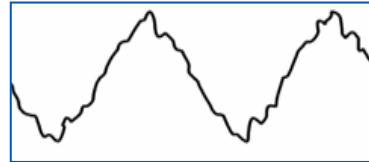
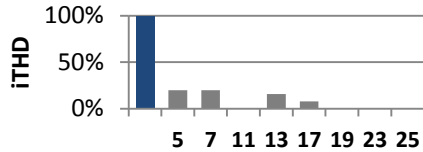


**33%**

**0.90**



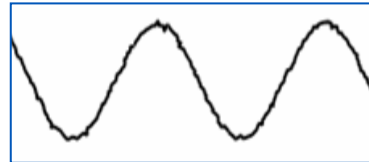
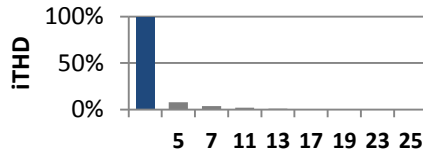
VFD



**5 to 12%**

**0.95**

AFE



**3 to 5%**

**0.98**



# Fan Arrays

# Understand how to apply VFDs to fan arrays

Overview of terms that will be used

Fan Array

Bypass

MMP (Manual Motor Protector)

Redundant VFD Package

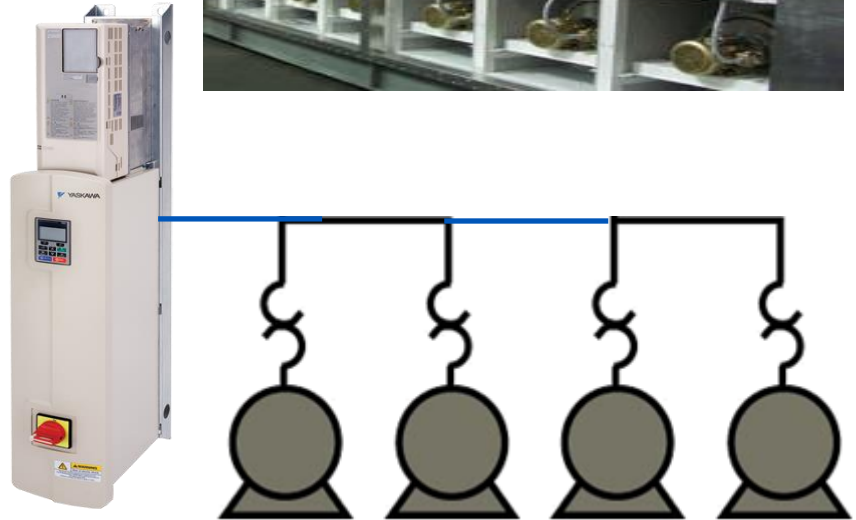
# Fan Arrays – Topics

## Using VFDs for fan array power and control

- What we're going to cover
  - A VFD for each motor in array
  - One VFD to power all motors in the full array or sections of the array
  - VFD with bypass to power all motors in the array
  - Redundant VFD package to power all motors in the array

# Why Apply a VFD to a Fan Array?

- Energy savings
  - Operating below 60hz saves energy
- Variable torque load
  - More energy savings
    - At 50% speed, 12.5% energy consumption
- Control
  - 0 Hz - +/- 240 Hz control

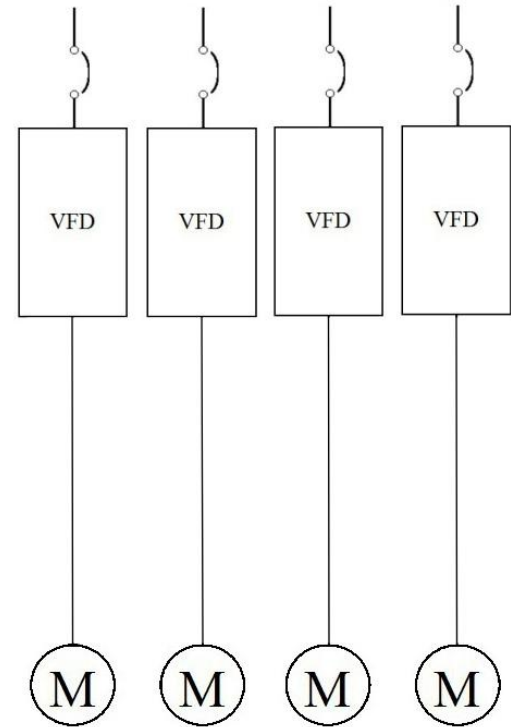


# Fan Arrays – VFD per Motor

## A VFD for each motor in the array

### PRO'S:

- A VFD (or motor) failure will not take down more than the one motor it is running
- VFD provides complete motor protection
- Individual control if needed for any reason

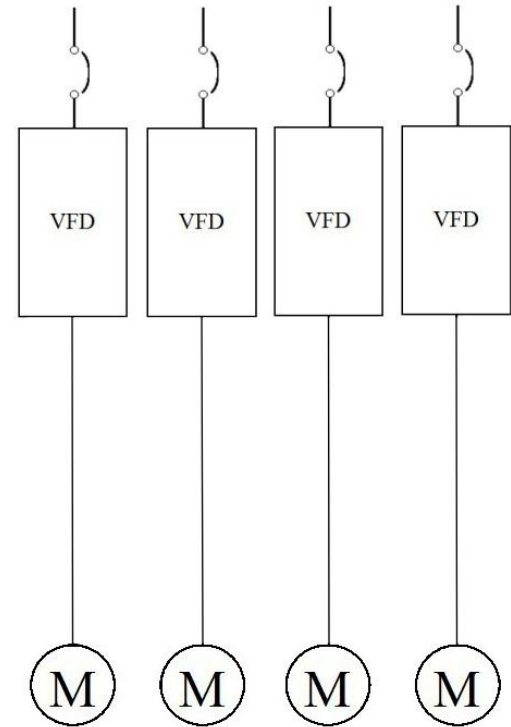


# Fan Arrays – VFD per Motor

## A VFD for each motor in the array

### CON's:

- It may prove costly to provide an individual VFD for each motor in the fan array.
- Potential for overvoltage faults (windmilling)
- Mounting space. You need to have enough space somewhere to mount all the VFDs.
- Need to run separate power and control wiring for each VFD. (wiring cost)
- Harmonic Considerations (micro drives)

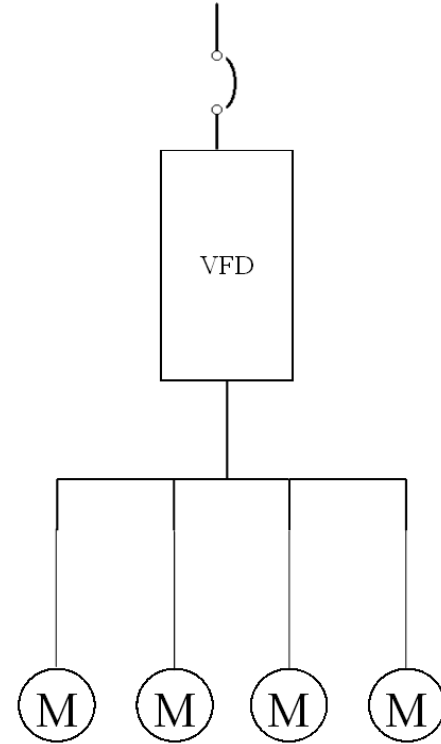


# Fan Arrays – VFD for Array

## One VFD to power all motors in the array

### PRO'S:

- Minimal amount of panel space is required
- Simplified wiring – power in, power out
- Definitely uniform speed for the fan array
- One motor failure does not take down unit
- VFD can run remaining motors at higher speed to compensate until motor is repaired/replaced

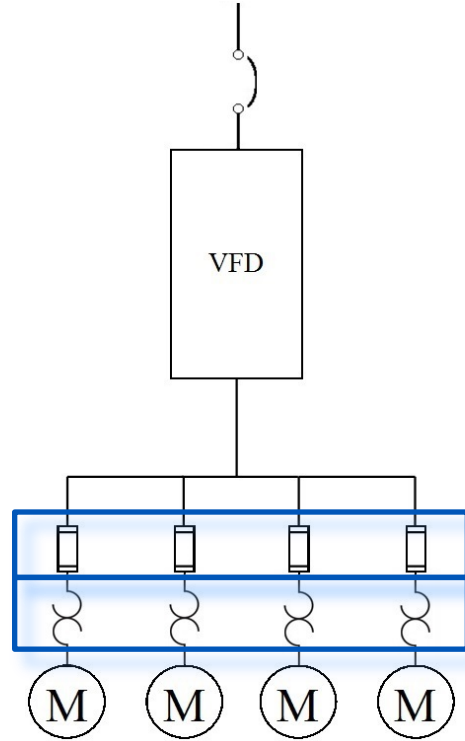


# Fan Arrays – VFD for Array

## One VFD to power all motors in the array

(Cons)iderations:

- With sharing of VFD output, each motor requires...
  - Overload Protection
  - Short Circuit Protection



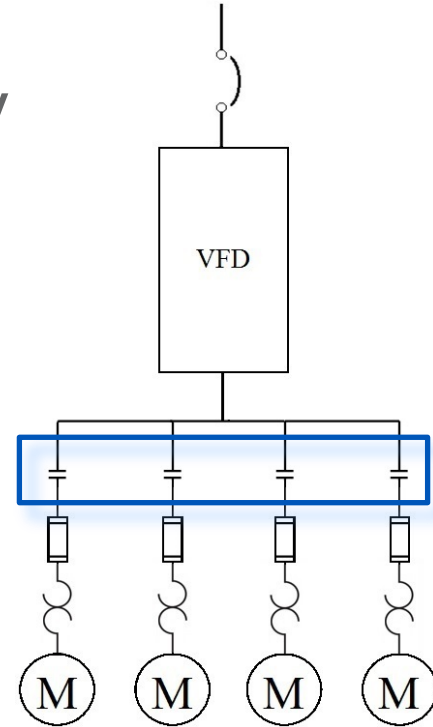


# Fan Arrays – VFD for Array

## One VFD to power all motors in the array

Considerations:

- With sharing of VFD output, each motor requires...
  - Overload Protection
  - Short Circuit Protection
  - Means to remove from circuit

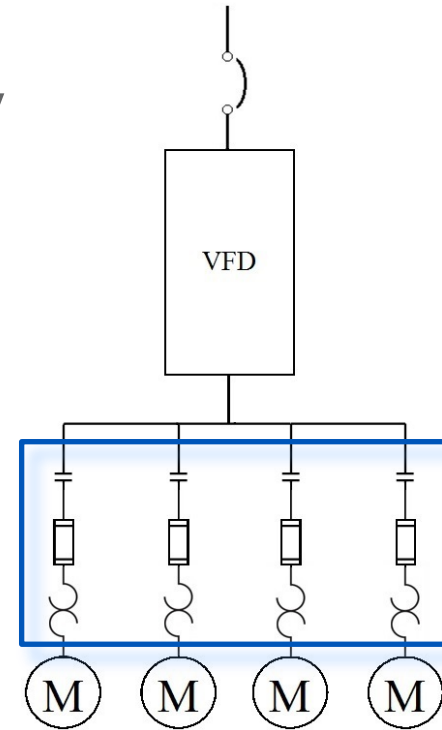


# Fan Arrays – VFD for Array

One VFD to power all motors in the array

Considerations:

- Fuses, Contactors, and Overloads

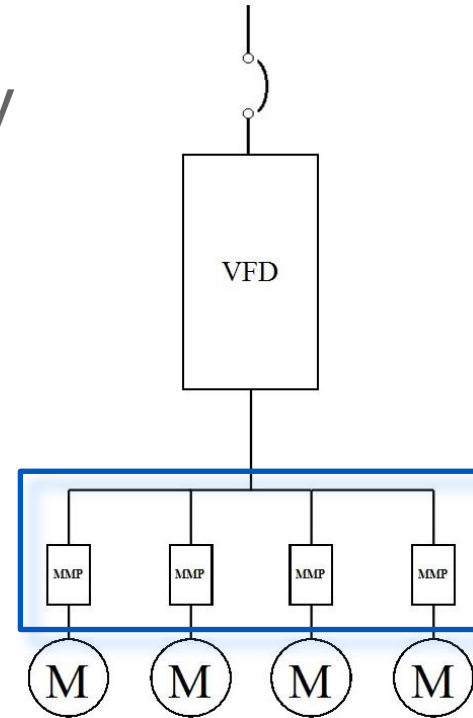


# Fan Arrays – VFD for Array

One VFD to power all motors in the array

Considerations:

- Fuses, Contactors, and Overloads
- MMPs (Manual Motor Protectors)

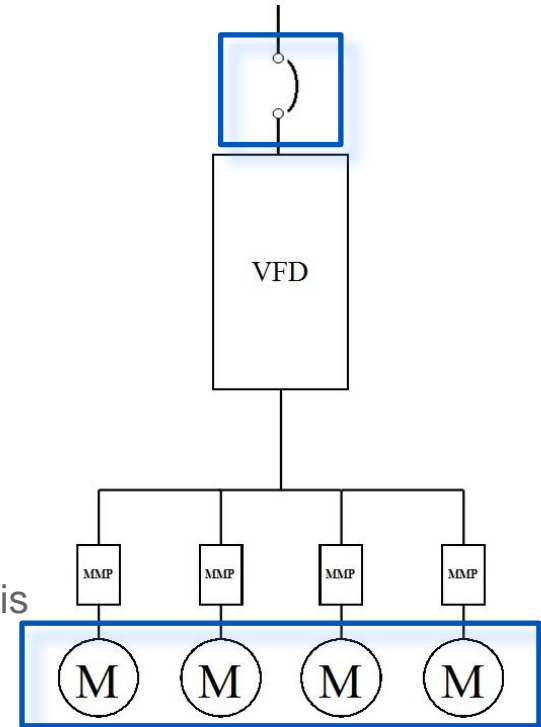


# Fan Arrays – VFD for Array

## One VFD to power all motors in the array

Conditions for MMPs in lieu of Fuses, Contactors, and Overloads?:

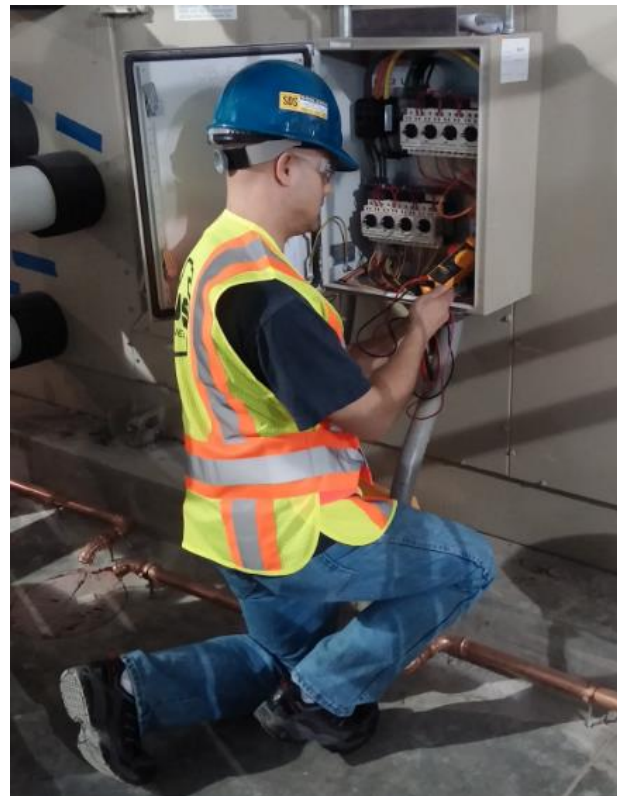
1. Circuit Breaker (or Fused Disconnect) for branch circuit protection
2. There is a limit to the number of motors in this arrangement, and is HP dependent



# Fan Arrays – External from VFD Package

Does the motor protection have to be in the VFD enclosure?

- Not necessarily. However this may vary from region to region depending on local codes.
- Circumstances will dictate direction.
  - You can save valuable space in VFD enclosure
  - Standard packages vs. engineered packages (cost)

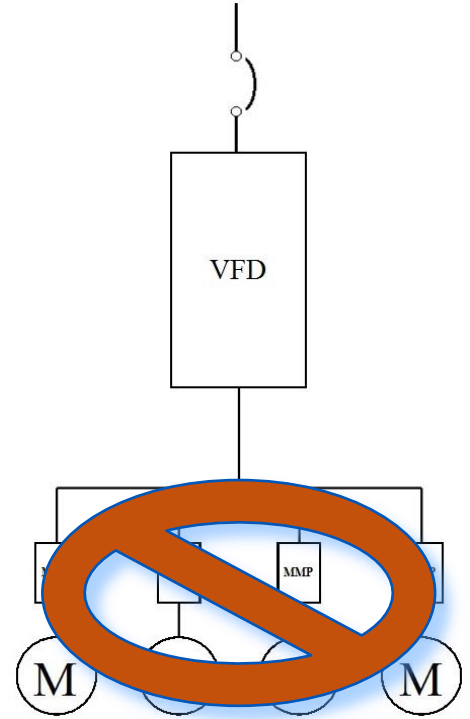


# Fan Arrays – VFD for Array

One VFD to power all motors in the array

Cons:

VFD is a single failure point.

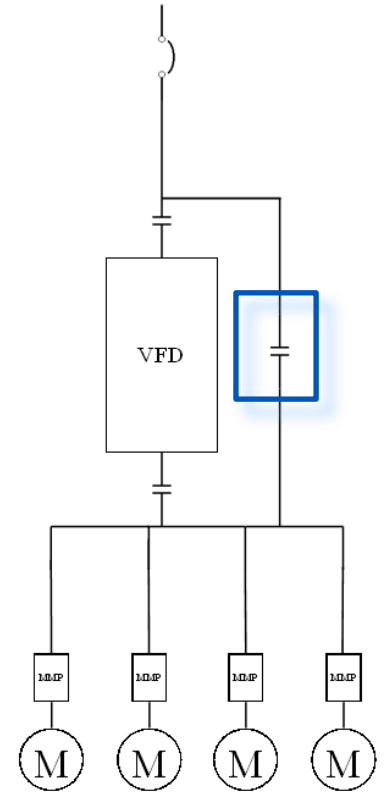


# Fan Arrays – VFD with Bypass

## VFD with Bypass

### PRO'S:

- Now we have a backup means of running the motors while the VFD is “down”

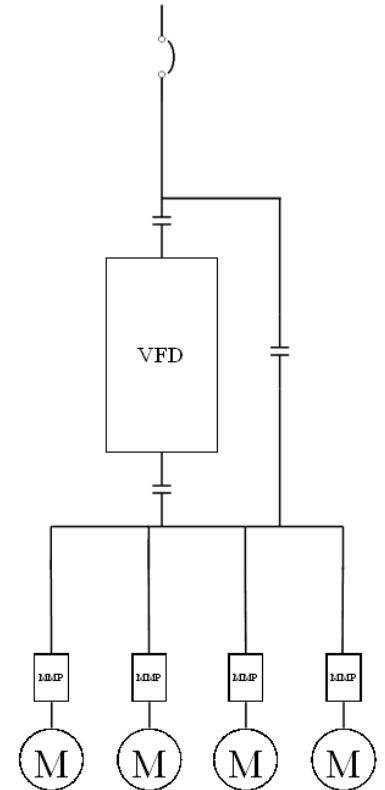


# Fan Arrays – VFD with Bypass

## VFD with Bypass

Considerations:

- Now we need to provide short circuit protection for when running across the line in bypass



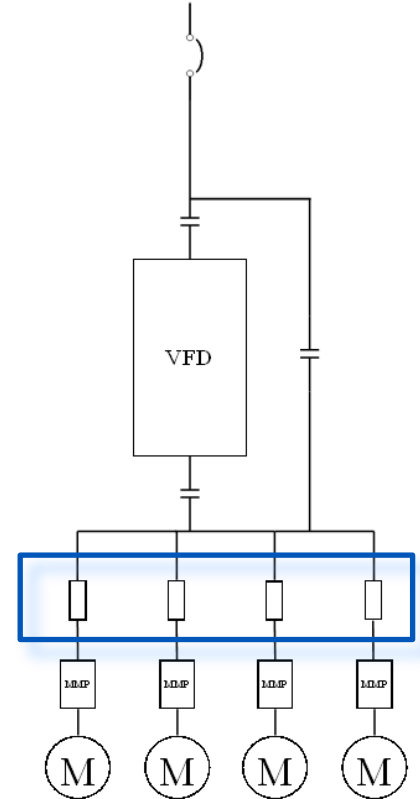


# Fan Arrays – VFD with Bypass

## VFD with Bypass

Considerations:

- Now we need to provide short circuit protection for when running across the line in bypass
- We can add fusing upstream of each motor...

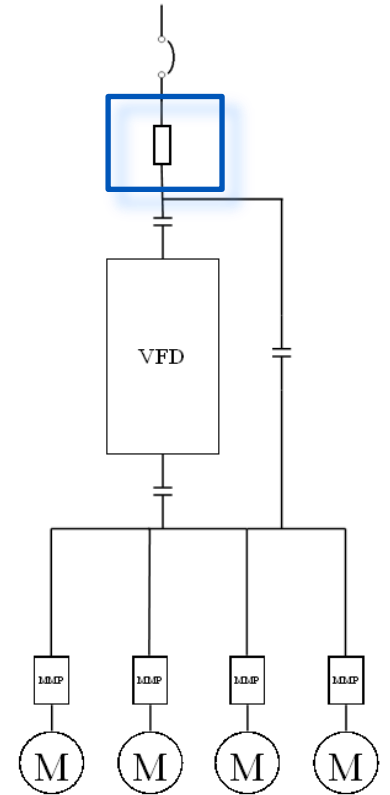


# Fan Arrays – VFD with Bypass

## VFD with Bypass

Considerations:

- Now we need to provide short circuit protection for when running across the line in bypass
- Or we can add fusing right after the breaker, or use a fused disconnect.

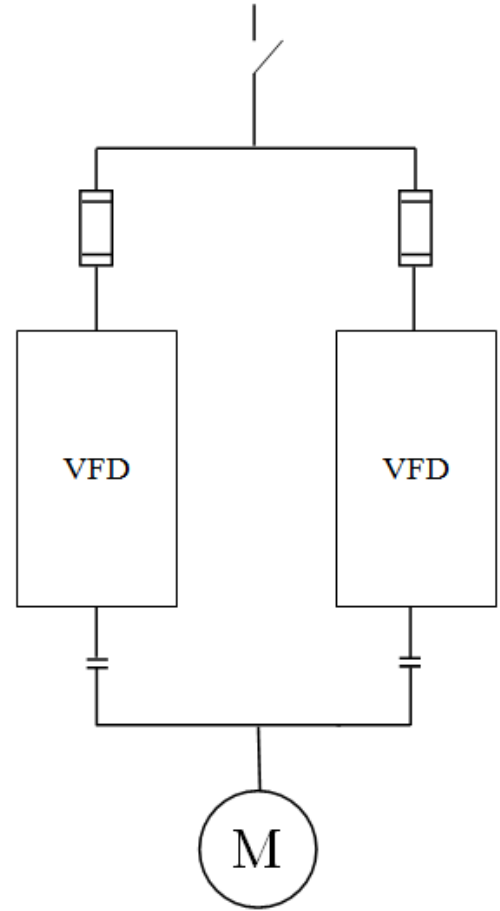


# Fan Arrays – Redundant VFD

## Requirements:

- Main Disconnect
- 2 full rated VFD's
- Branch Short circuit protection
- Output contactors
- Dual control wiring
- Optional communications

Works for single motor or multiple motor applications



# Fan Arrays – Redundant VFD

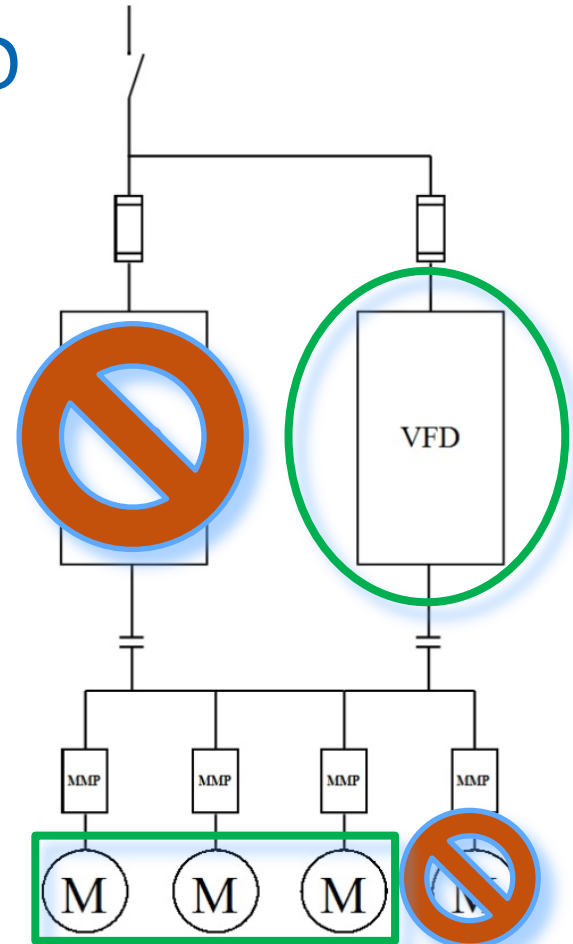
## Redundant VFD

### PRO'S:

- VFD failure does not bring down system
- Motor failure does not bring down system
- Maintain system Efficiency and control
- System requires VFD

### CON'S:

- Cost
- Package size



# Questions?

# Thanks

Jay Jorczak – Central Regional Sales Manager  
Jeff Childs – Regional Drive Specialist – Austin Area