

# A Light Measurement Method for 9-150 kHz Disturbances in Power Grids Comparable to CISPR Quasi-Peak

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**Abstract**— This study proposes a novel measurement method to assess the disturbances in the electrical grid for the CISPR Band A (9 to 150 kHz), as no normative grid measurement method for these frequencies exists yet. Compatibility levels in IEC 61000-2-2 in this frequency range are defined based on the CISPR 16-1-1 method using the quasi-peak (QP) detector. However, this method is not directly applicable for grid measurements as it was originally designed for laboratory conditions and for measuring radio disturbances and immunity. The method proposed in this paper (Light-QP method) overcomes these limitations, along with lower complexity, computational burden and memory requirements than CISPR 16-1-1. The Light-QP method uses a digital quasi-peak detector that processes Root Mean Square (RMS) values of spectral components, calculated by adapting the IEC 61000-4-7 standard to the CISPR Band A. The proposed Light-QP method is applied to real measurements from a Low Voltage (LV) distribution grid and compared to the quasi-peak outputs from a digital implementation of the CISPR 16-1-1 method. The results are comparable and can be used for assessment against compatibility levels. The Light-QP method has been presented to IEC SC77A/WG9 for its potential inclusion as a normative measurement method in a new version of the IEC 61000-4-30 standard.

**Index Terms**— Electromagnetic interference, measurement techniques, power quality, power grids, smart grids, voltage measurement

## I. INTRODUCTION

THE increasing penetration of renewable energy sources and modern energy-efficient technologies affects Power Quality (PQ) in the electrical grid and the performance of Power Line Communications (PLC) used for Smart Grids [1]-[5]. In addition to classical harmonic distortion, a higher level of disturbances is observed in the frequency range from 9 to

150 kHz. These disturbances are mainly emissions caused by electronic devices based on inverters, such as electric vehicle (EV) chargers, photovoltaic (PV) inverters, modern power supplies or battery chargers. These devices generate a set of high-level narrowband emissions at the switching frequencies and their harmonics in the range from 9 to 150 kHz [2]-[5]. Engines or lighting devices also generate high-level noise in frequencies up to 150 kHz [5],[6]. The increasing number of such devices leads to more frequent and higher (non-intentional) disturbances in the grid in frequencies currently used for data transmission by PLC (intentional emissions). As many of these electronic devices are close to smart meters for measuring consumption/generation (e.g. EV chargers and PV panel inverters), the emissions may affect the performance of the communications, impeding remote monitoring [2],[7].

Due to the historically limited presence of non-intentional distortion, the 9 to 150 kHz range has been lacking a comprehensive regulatory framework. However, with the increasing penetration of converter-based technologies in the grid, the need for regulation has led to new standardization. Immunity levels of equipment have been published in IEC 61000-4-19 [9], while compatibility levels that provide an upper bound for non-intentional and intentional grid disturbance levels are defined in IEC 61000-2-2 [10]. However, emission limits are still determined only for specific equipment [4],[5] and general limits for other appliances are under discussion within IEC CIS-H/JWG6.

A main limitation for proper EMC coordination, however, is the lack of a normative measurement method for disturbance levels in Low Voltage (LV) power grids. Currently, only informative measurement methods for PQ measurements are suggested in the IEC 61000-4-30 standard [11], which are not mandatory for manufacturers and, consequently, measurements

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from different manufacturers are not directly comparable. The IEC SC77A/WG9 is currently working towards the definition of a normative method for measuring disturbances from 9 to 150 kHz in power grids. One of the candidates for becoming normative is the method specified in CISPR 16-1-1 [12], described in the form of a measuring receiver that is based on different detectors, one of them the quasi-peak detector. The strongest argument for this method is that the compatibility levels are defined in IEC 61000-2-2 in terms of quasi-peak values [10], although for this decision grid measurements were not considered.

However, the CISPR 16-1-1 method presents the following drawbacks. First, it was introduced with the objective of protecting radio transmission from interference, and its suitability for the assessment of conducted disturbances in power grids raises some concerns. Second, the standard defines a method to measure quasi-peak values, but this is intended for laboratory measurements of Equipment Under Test (EUT), with a specific process of compliance assessment in a controlled environment [15]. Also, the description of the measuring receiver is based on an analogue super-heterodyne receiver, which requires long measurement times. Implementation using digital processing is possible but not straightforward, with some non-mandatory guidance in the CISPR technical report [17] and specific published proposals [18][19], in some instances with contradictory specifications on the type of window function, the overlap and the frequency step size. Moreover, the CISPR 16-1-1 standard allows significant implementation flexibility, with accuracy requirements in the range of  $\pm 2$  dB (about  $\pm 25$  %), wider than the accuracy of established PQ methods [12]; as a reference, the method for calculating Root Mean Square (RMS) values of disturbances for frequencies from 2 to 9 kHz, determines an uncertainty limit of 10 % [20]. Furthermore, measuring quasi-peak values has the disadvantage of being computationally complex, as they require a near-continuous reconstruction of the signal amplitude envelope in each frequency band [18]. Lastly, the CISPR 16-1-1 method does not provide RMS values, which are commonly used for harmonics and interharmonics because they reflect the important interference mechanism of additional thermal stress. A measurement method that could give both RMS and quasi-peak outputs could therefore be of great value for stakeholders involved in the electrical grid monitoring.

The motivation for the method presented in this paper is to overcome the drawbacks of the CISPR 16 method in the context of grid application. For this purpose, this paper proposes a new method for obtaining quasi-peak values, not bounded to laboratory conditions, and avoiding reproducibility issues, for direct comparison with compatibility levels. The new method is of low complexity and computational burden, such that it can be implemented on existing commercial instrumentation platforms for PQ field measurements. Additionally, a digital implementation of the CISPR 16-1-1 is proposed, which can be used as a reference tool for validation.

## II. OBJECTIVES

This study aims to define a novel measurement method to assess the quasi-peak values of the disturbances in the LV grid for the CISPR Band A (from 9 to 150 kHz). The new method will be suitable for field measurements in the electrical grid, with no constraints that limit its use to controlled laboratory conditions. The complexity, the computational burden and the memory requirements of the proposed measurement method must be significantly lower with respect to CISPR 16-1-1, to facilitate its implementation in simple and non-expensive instruments for on-field measurements. Based on these aspects, the proposed method is labelled 'Light Quasi-Peak' (Light-QP). It is important to mention that the paper does not propose a new detector, but a whole method adapted to be used in the grid. The aim is not to mimic the CISPR 16 receiver response, but achieving a reasonable similarity of the results, while being exactly reproducible.

Moreover, as there is no reference digital implementation of the CISPR 16-1-1 method, a specific configuration is defined and proposed in section IV, compliant with the requirements of the standard.

The Light-QP method is based on a two-stage process: the first stage is an adaptation of the IEC 61000-4-7 method to the 9 to 150 kHz CISPR Band A, to obtain RMS values of disturbance levels per 200 Hz band, with a frequency resolution of 100 Hz. These RMS values are the input to the second stage, which is based on a digital quasi-peak detector that follows CISPR 16 guidance [12], and allows direct comparison with compatibility levels [10].

The combination of both outputs of the proposed method (RMS and quasi-peak values) allows a more detailed characterization of the disturbances and their link to effects on equipment and installations as well as PLC. The RMS amplitude is linked to thermal impact or appliances malfunctioning and other disturbances on PQ; the quasi-peak values are compared to compatibility levels defined in IEC 61000-2-2 to avoid interference effects on PLC [1][12].

## III. EXISTING MEASUREMENT METHODS

### A. Methods for the assessment of RMS values in the LV grid

There is no normative method defined for RMS measurements in the electrical grid for frequencies above 2 kHz. The IEC 61000-4-30 Annex C [11] proposes an 'informative' method with a frequency resolution of 2 kHz, which does not allow comparison with compatibility levels, defined for 200 Hz resolution bandwidth [10],[21].

The CISPR 16-1-1 standard defines an 'RMS-Average' weighting detector, applicable to the 9 to 150 kHz range, defined as a critically damped meter that averages the frequency components to achieve a specific pulse response curve.

The method proposed in Annex B of the standard IEC 61000-4-7 [20] provides RMS outputs with proper frequency resolution (200 Hz); however, it is defined as 'informative' and only for frequencies between 2 kHz and 9 kHz. Although it is intended to measure electronic equipment emissions, it can also

be widely applied to assess disturbance levels in the field [21][22]. The method specifies measurement intervals of 200 ms, using a rectangular window and data processing by Discrete Fourier Transform (DFT). Results are in the form of a discrete spectrum of RMS values with 5 Hz frequency resolution. The spectral components are then grouped into 200 Hz bands using the root mean square. This grouping is ‘asymmetric’ in frequency, since the frequency components considered for the assessment are not equally divided into lower and upper sides: 40 frequency components, in 5 Hz intervals, to assess a RMS value each 200 Hz, considering 19 frequency components below and 20 above the centre frequency. Nevertheless, the lack of a simple mathematical procedure that allows direct conversion of RMS to QP values makes this method unsuitable to verify the compatibility levels. This method is also defined as ‘informative’ in the standard [20] and, therefore, its implementation is not mandatory for compliance.

### B. Methods for the assessment of quasi-peak values

The compatibility levels for the frequency range 9 to 150 kHz are defined in terms of quasi-peak values [10], which can be measured by using a CISPR receiver [10][12]. Nevertheless, the characteristics of this receiver are historically based on an analogue super-heterodyne receiver, which sequentially scans the frequency range. The quasi-peak detector is specified as an analogue filter in series with a diode (non-linear element) and a critically damped meter. The elements of the filter are not specified by the standard, although suggestions for the corresponding time constants are given. The black-box approach of this standard and the wide allowed tolerances lead to several drawbacks already outlined in the introduction.

The CISPR TR 16-3 [17] is a technical report (not mandatory) of the CISPR 16 series with technical suggestions about the implementation of the standards. Among other aspects, it contains guidance for the digital implementation of the CISPR 16-1-1 receiver. Nevertheless, this guidance is not completely defined, and some practical questions and configurations remain open or still to be specified. For example, a method for measurements in the grid is not addressed in the CISPR 16 technical report. Therefore, in Section IV of this paper, a digital implementation with fixed parameters of the CISPR 16-1-1 method is proposed, which solves the reproducibility issues and complies with the requirements and suggestions of the standard.

A DFT-based implementation of CISPR 16-1-1 is described in [18], in order to introduce some novel techniques in the development of digital receivers. In this proposal, the Lanczos kernel window function is used and digital filters to emulate the behavior of the analogue circuits of the quasi-peak detector are proposed [18]. Nonetheless, this work does not provide specific implementation parameters for these filters, neither the equations to obtain the corresponding coefficients.

### C. Other Methods

Other measurement methods have been recently proposed to evaluate the amplitude of disturbances in the electrical grid in the 9 to 150 kHz range [23]-[28]. A subsampling approach in

[23] uses lower sampling rates for high frequencies, with a filter bank that decomposes the input signal into ten bands, which are processed by DFT assessment. A different approach is addressed by compressive sensing, where only the highest amplitude disturbances from a set of frequency bins of 2 kHz bandwidth are estimated through two different algorithms: Orthogonal Matching Pursuit Compressive Sensing [24] or Bayesian Compressive Sensing [25]. The Wavelet Packet Decomposition was also proposed by applying filtering and down-sampling recursively, where the measurement interval is synchronized to mains frequency [26].

As none of these methods provide quasi-peak results, they are not applicable for directly evaluating the significance of the grid disturbance levels with respect to compatibility levels. Additionally, the comparison of these methods reveals significant differences in the results [20][27].

Recently, a method for emulating a CISPR 16 receiver has been published [28], based on a Phase-Locked Loop. The method assumes that the emissions are sparse in the frequency domain and it is designed to identify only tonal or quasi-tonal high amplitude components [28]. Finally, some proposals for implementing a quasi-peak detector with the use of DFT and digital processing have been published [18][19].

## IV. REFERENCE DIGITAL IMPLEMENTATION OF CISPR 16-1-1

Given the wide tolerances allowed by the standard [12], several compliant digital implementations of the CISPR 16-1-1 can be obtained, giving a wide range of results. In order to compare the performance of the newly proposed Light-QP method, a specific digital implementation of the CISPR 16-1-1 has been defined in this work and taken as reference.

In this section, the proposed implementation is detailed and the reasons behind the selection of the parameters are explained. This digital implementation has been defined following the CISPR 16-1-1 approach and the CISPR TR 16-3 guidelines. In particular, the informative annexes of CISPR 16-1-1 standard define the behavior of the analogue circuitry, and the CISPR TR 16-3 provides some recommendations for the time windowing and the application of the Fourier analysis.

The proposed digital implementation of the CISPR 16-1-1 is based on a spectral analysis, including the overlapped windowing of the input data and a continuous STFT followed by a digital quasi-peak detector, as shown in Fig. 1.

The configuration selected to fulfill the specifications is the following:

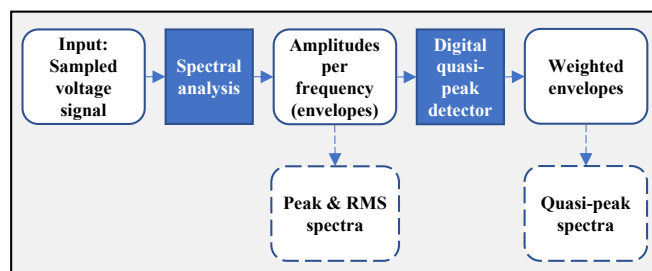


Fig. 1. Schematic of the digital implementation of CISPR 16-1-1 standard.

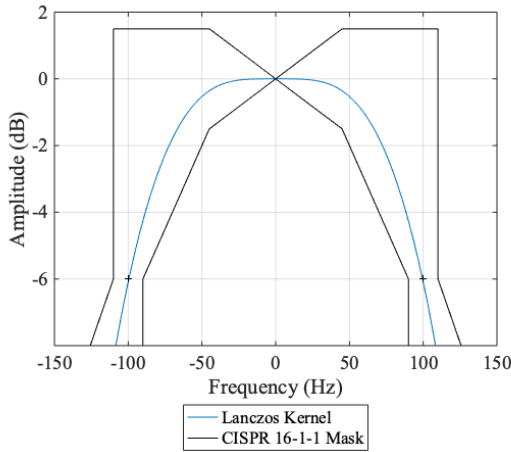


Fig. 2. Frequency response of the Lanczos kernel window function and CISPR 16-1-1 mask requirements.

- A frequency step size of 50 Hz, equal to a quarter of the resolution bandwidth to avoid the ‘picket fence effect’, in which the spectral shape of emissions can be lost when frequency components do not match the centre frequencies of the frequency bands of the DFT, as proposed in CISPR TR 16-3 [17].
- The frequency step size of 50 Hz implies the use of a window length of 20 ms.
- A high degree of overlap between consecutive time windows is required to ensure the assessment of impulsive waveforms. In this implementation, an overlap of 90% is applied, which corresponds to the minimum overlap proposed by CISPR TR 16-3 and it results in a time step of 2 ms between consecutive time windows.
- The digital quasi-peak detector must follow the performance of a Resistor-Capacitor (RC) analogue circuit and a critically damped meter, with charging, discharging and mechanical time constants defined in Annex H of CISPR 16-1-1 [12]. The digital quasi-peak detector has been implemented by means of Infinite Impulse Response (IIR) filters, as described analytically in Section V.B. A time step ( $T_e$ ) of 2 ms is used to calculate the constants of the filters.
- A Lanczos kernel window with a  $-6$  dB bandwidth ( $B_\delta$ ) equal to 200 Hz is selected for the time windowing of the input data, as defined in DFT-based implementation of [18], in line with CISPR 16-1-1 standard’s frequency selectivity and the guidelines of CISPR TR 16-3.

Considering  $w'[n]$  the Lanczos kernel window that fulfills the frequency response requirements in CISPR 16-1-1:

$$w'[n] = \begin{cases} \text{sinc}\left(2\left(\frac{2n}{N-1}\right)\right)\text{sinc}\left(\frac{2n}{N-1} - 1\right), & n \neq \frac{N-1}{2} \\ 1, & n = \frac{N-1}{2} \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

Then,  $w[n]$  can be defined as a discretized window function, defined as  $w[n] = w'[n]/g$ , for  $n = 0, 1, \dots, N-1$ ,  $N$  being the number of samples per 20 ms window and  $g = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} w'[n]$

being the coherent gain factor.

## V. DEFINITION OF THE NOVEL LIGHT-QP METHOD

The ‘Light Quasi-Peak’ (Light-QP) measurement method calculates quasi-peak values of the disturbances present in the grid for the 9 to 150 kHz frequency range, to allow the assessment against compatibility levels, as defined in IEC 61000-2-2.

The first stage is based on an RMS measurement method adapted to the 9 to 150 kHz range, which provides the input values to a digital quasi-peak detector that follows the CISPR 16-1-1 guidance. The second stage of the method implements a digital quasi-peak detector based on the use of digital filters, which reproduce the analogue behaviour of both the RC circuit and the critically damped meter defined by the standard, as proposed in [19].

The method is based on a basic calculation interval of 3 s, which corresponds to the shortest aggregation interval as defined in IEC 61000-4-30. It also fulfills the 2 s minimum time required to obtain the initial quasi-peak output [11],[19]. The 3 s results provide the basis for aggregation over longer intervals (e.g. the most commonly used 10 minutes interval), as successive quasi-peak values can be obtained periodically from a sliding 3 s window. As the quasi-peak and RMS values are obtained, the method provides a detailed spectral characterization of the grid disturbance.

### A. Light-QP – Stage I: Computation of RMS values in CISPR Band A

The first stage of the Light-QP method is based on

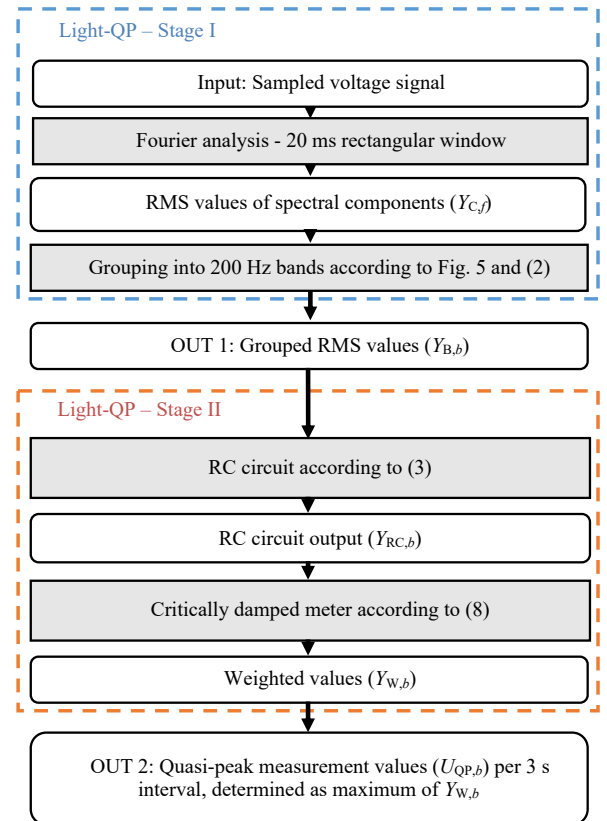


Fig. 3. Schematic overview of the Light-QP method

IEC 61000-4-7 – Annex B informative method (from 2 to 9 kHz), explained in III.A, with some adaptations to consider the particularities of CISPR 16-1-1 for Band A (from 9 to 150 kHz) and the characteristics of the emissions at these higher frequencies.

The calculation procedure to apply the first stage of the Light-QP method is outlined in Fig. 3, which can be described with the following steps:

- High-pass filter: The amplitudes of the fundamental and frequency components below 9 kHz must be attenuated to suppress spectral leakage, such that the dynamic range of the meter can be optimized to measure frequency components up to 150 kHz. A minimum attenuation of the fundamental component of 60 dB is recommended.
- Fourier analysis: The STFT is applied to the sampled voltage signal to obtain the measured RMS spectra. A shorter non-overlapped rectangular window of 20 ms length (instead of the 200 ms window defined in the IEC 61000-4-7 method) is used to compute the STFT. The shorter window allows the reduction of both the computational burden and the memory requirements for the DFT calculation. As a result, the output frequency components of DFTs have a frequency step size of 50 Hz.
- Grouping of frequency components: The implemented technique overcomes the asymmetrical grouping of IEC 61000-4-7 – Annex B method, described in Section III.A. A ‘symmetrical’ grouping, in line with the harmonic grouping method defined for frequencies below 2 kHz in IEC 61000-4-7, is proposed for the frequency components generated by the DFT (see Fig. 4), which results in a resolution bandwidth of 200 Hz, in accordance to CISPR 16-1-1 and IEC 61000-2-2. Additionally, the assessment of frequency bands in multiples of 100 Hz is carried out in this step, which reduces the picket fence effect. As the resolution bandwidth is 200 Hz, it implies 50% overlap between adjacent frequency bands (see Fig. 4).

The detailed mathematical procedure of the first stage of the Light-QP involves, first, applying a DFT to the sampled input voltage, using a 20 ms rectangular window with no overlap. The output comprises RMS values of spectral components  $Y_{C,f}$ , where  $f$  designates the frequency. As a result, the frequency step size between adjacent frequency components  $Y_{C,f}$  is 50 Hz.

The RMS values of spectral components  $Y_{C,f}$  are then grouped in bands of 200 Hz (see Fig. 4). The output  $Y_{B,b}$  (OUT 1 in Fig. 3) of each band is the RMS value according to (2):

$$Y_{B,b} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{2} \cdot Y_{C,b-100\text{Hz}}^2 + \sum_{f=b-50\text{Hz}}^{b+50\text{Hz}} Y_{C,f}^2 + \frac{1}{2} \cdot Y_{C,b+100\text{Hz}}^2} \quad (2)$$

The center frequency  $b$  designates the band. The bands overlap by 100 Hz, with a separation between center frequencies of 100 Hz ( $b = 9.1$  kHz, 9.2 kHz, ..., 149.9 kHz).

The 200 Hz grouping has been chosen in accordance to the resolution bandwidth used in CISPR 16-1-1 Band A. The separation of 100 Hz results in overlapping 200 Hz bands, as

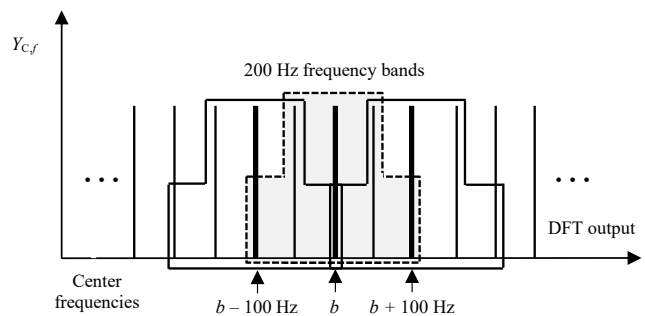


Fig. 4. Symmetrical grouping of 50 Hz frequency components into 200 Hz frequency bands.

shown in Fig. 4. Without this overlap, narrowband disturbances centered at the border between consecutive bands (e.g. 9.2 kHz, 9.4 kHz, 9.6 kHz, etc.) would be split across two frequency bands, resulting in significantly lower measurement results than narrowband disturbances in the center of a band (e.g. 9.1 kHz, 9.3 kHz, 9.5 kHz, etc.).

### B. Light-QP – Stage II: Digital implementation of a quasi-peak detector

The second stage of the Light-QP method consists of a digital quasi-peak detector, which reproduces the analogue behaviour of a RC circuit and a critically damped meter, as defined in CISPR 16-1-1 [12]. The implementation proposed in this paper is performed through two IIR filters [19]. Hence, the analogue RC circuit is modelled as a first-order linear system characterized by a charging and a discharging time constant, while the mechanical voltmeter is a critically damped second-order system characterized by the natural system frequency [19]. The charge and discharge time constants of the RC circuit are set to 45 ms and 500 ms, respectively, and the mechanical time constant for the critically damped meter is set to 160 ms, as recommended in the informative Annex H of CISPR 16-1-1 [12].

The output voltage  $Y_{RC,b}[k]$  of the RC circuit is defined by the difference equation of a first-order IIR filter:

$$Y_{RC,b}[k] = b_0 Y_{B,b}[k] + b_1 Y_{B,b}[k-1] - a_1 Y_{RC,b}[k-1] \quad (3)$$

where  $b_0$ ,  $b_1$  and  $a_1$  are the filter coefficients.

The RC circuit may either be charging or discharging, depending on the relative magnitudes of input and output voltage:

- If  $Y_{RC,b}[k-1] \leq Y_{C,b}[k]$ , then coefficients  $b_0$ ,  $b_1$  and  $a_1$  are set according to a time constant of 45 ms for charging,
- If  $Y_{RC,b}[k-1] > Y_{C,b}[k]$ , then  $b_0 = 0$ , and  $b_1$ ,  $a_1$  are set according to a time constant of 500 ms for discharging.

The filter coefficient values are listed in Table I, determined from the analogue time constants and the use of the bilinear approximation as described below.

The analogue cut-off frequency is defined in terms of an analogue time constant  $\tau_{RC}$  of the RC circuit:

$$\Omega_{cut-off} = 1/\tau_{RC} \quad (4)$$

TABLE I  
IIR FILTER COEFFICIENT VALUES FOR THE RC CIRCUIT

Coefficients	Charging process	Discharging process
$b_0$	$1.8431 \times 10^{-1}$	0
$b_1$	$1.8431 \times 10^{-1}$	$1.9910 \times 10^{-2}$
$a_1$	$-6.3138 \times 10^{-1}$	$-9.6078 \times 10^{-1}$

TABLE II  
IIR FILTER COEFFICIENT VALUES FOR THE RC CIRCUIT

Coefficients	Discharging process
$b_{0,m}$	$3.4687 \times 10^{-3}$
$b_{1,m}$	$6.9374 \times 10^{-3}$
$b_{2,m}$	$3.4687 \times 10^{-3}$
$a_{1,m}$	-1.7644
$a_{2,m}$	$7.7829 \times 10^{-1}$

A pre-warped coefficient is defined for the bilinear approximation:

$$s = \frac{1}{\tan(\Omega_{cut-off} \cdot T_e / 2)} \quad (5)$$

where  $T_e = 20$  ms is the time step between consecutive RMS values  $Y_{B,b}[k]$  of the spectral components.

The filter coefficients  $b_0$ ,  $b_1$  and  $a_1$  are then calculated as:

$$b_0 = b_1 = \frac{1}{1 + s} \quad (6)$$

$$a_1 = \frac{1 - s}{1 + s} \quad (7)$$

The RC circuit output  $Y_{RC,b}[k]$  is further processed with a critically damped mechanical meter, modeled as a second-order IIR filter, to calculate weighted RMS values  $Y_{w,b}[k]$  of spectral components:

$$Y_{w,b}[k] = b_{0,m} Y_{RC,b}[k] + b_{1,m} Y_{RC,b}[k-1] + b_{2,m} Y_{RC,b}[k-2] - a_{1,m} Y_{w,b}[k-1] - a_{2,m} Y_{w,b}[k-2] \quad (8)$$

Filter coefficients  $b_{0,m}$ ,  $b_{1,m}$ ,  $b_{2,m}$ ,  $a_{1,m}$  and  $a_{2,m}$  are set according to an analogue angular time constant of 160 ms. Table II lists the coefficients of the digital IIR filters related to this constant, which are determined by bilinear approximation.

The analogue angular cut-off frequency  $\Omega_n = 1/\tau_w$  is defined in terms of the time constant  $\tau$  of the critically damped meter to apply the bilinear approximation. The corrected analogue cut-off frequency for the critically damped meter is:

$$f_n = \Omega_n / 2\pi \quad (9)$$

The digital angular cut-off frequency  $s_0$  is defined as:

$$s_0 = \tan(\pi \cdot f_n \cdot T_e) \quad (10)$$

As a result, the second-order IIR digital filter coefficients are

defined as:

$$b_{0,m} = b_{2,m} = \frac{s_0^2}{s_0^2 + 2 \cdot s_0 + 1} \quad (11)$$

$$b_{1,m} = 2 \cdot b_{0,m} \quad (12)$$

$$a_{1,m} = -2 \cdot b_{0,m} \cdot (1/s_0^2 - 1) \quad (13)$$

$$a_{2,m} = -\left(1 - (b_{0,m} + b_{1,m} + b_{2,m} - a_{1,m})\right) \quad (14)$$

Lastly, the quasi-peak outputs  $U_{QP,b}$  (OUT 2 in Fig. 3) are determined by the maximum of the weighted values  $Y_{w,b}[k]$  of the spectral components with center frequency  $b$ . The first output requires an initial assessment interval of 3 s, which fulfills the 2 s required to obtain the initial quasi-peak output [19]. Subsequent quasi-peak values could be determined periodically every 20 ms from a sliding 3 s window; another option is to apply the method per 3 s aggregation intervals, provided that the variables of the quasi-peak detector ( $Y_{B,b}$ ,  $Y_{RC,b}$  and  $Y_{w,b}$ ) obtained at the end of each 3 s interval are applied to the next interval.

## VI. EVALUATION OF THE LIGHT-QP METHOD

In this section, the proposed method is evaluated according to the following aspects: computational burden, memory requirements and accuracy. For this evaluation, the proposed method is compared to the digital implementation of the CISPR 16-1-1 method described in Section IV.

### A. Computational Burden and Memory Requirements

The computational burden and the memory requirements needed to assess the quasi-peak values up to 150 kHz for a basic time interval of 3 s have been quantified, and results are summarized in Table III. Moreover, both methods have been applied in the same computer under the same conditions to provide an estimation of the processing time (MacBook Pro, CPU 2.6 GHz Intel Core i5 dual core, RAM 8 GB 1600 MHz DDR3 and Matlab R2019b). Although the calculation times for CISPR 16 can be reduced through software and hardware optimization (e.g., with the use of field-programmable gate arrays), the table provides an indication of the difference in computational complexity.

Results show that the computational burden, in terms of the number of FFTs, is 10 times lower for Light-QP. Moreover, the memory requirements are more than 100 times lower for calculating the spectrogram (matrix of intermediate results in time and frequency domains) and more than 10 times lower for obtaining quasi-peak outputs. Although the processing times depend significantly on the hardware platform, the figures in the table about processing times demonstrate the reduced complexity of the Light-QP method with respect to the resources required by the digital implementation in accordance with the requirements of the CISPR 16-1-1 standard. The digital implementation according to CISPR 16-1-1 (Section IV)

TABLE III  
COMPUTATIONAL REQUIREMENTS OF LIGHT-QP METHOD

Method	Time step	Number of FFT	Memory (QP output)	Memory (spectrogram)	Elapsed real time	CPU processing time
Digital CISPR 16	2 ms	1491	0.68 MB	203.23 MB	6.60 s	9.83 s
Light-QP	20 ms	150	0.06 MB	1.77 MB	0.31 s	0.57 s

entails a high computational cost because it emulates the continuous time response of the analogue equipment. This requires highly overlapped FFTs (see Table III), which imply very resource-intensive effort to provide quasi-continuous output.

The significantly lower demand of resources, together with the lower complexity, are a clear demonstration of the lower hardware requirements to implement the Light-QP method in PQ devices and commercial instruments for field measurements in the grid.

B. Comparison of methods

The outputs of the Light-QP method have been compared to the results of the digital CISPR 16-1-1 implementation defined in Section IV. For the evaluation, a comprehensive set of 29 recordings of disturbances in the LV grid representing different types of noise and disturbances, together with PLC transmission bursts, have been used. Most of them (20) are field measurements in different rural and urban scenarios in Spain, selected by the distribution system operator (DSO) as representative examples of rural and urban distribution grid topologies in Spain [3]. Nine recordings are measured at the point of connection (POC) of PV inverters and EV chargers to the grid, measured in Spain and Germany [22]. These recordings are considered as the most relevant cases where compatibility levels may be exceeded.

For the signals recorded in Spain, the acquisition system was composed of a voltage probe, a high-resolution oscilloscope and a laptop to automatize the measurement [3]. The voltage probe implements a 10-500 kHz band-pass filter to avoid the mains and to protect the equipment, with a flat response for the whole frequency band of interest and for the whole range of expected LV access impedance values [30]. The oscilloscope is configured with an 8.92-MHz sampling rate and an amplitude resolution of 16 bit/Sample. The filtering of the mains allows to focus the amplitude resolution of the acquisition system on the level of the disturbances.

In the measurements performed in Germany, the raw data was recorded continuously using a transient recorder, composed of a 16-bit resolution analog-to-digital converter, with 1 MHz of sampling rate. Before sampling the voltage signal, an analog Butterworth low-pass filter with the cut-off frequency of 300 kHz was used to prevent the aliasing effect. Finally, a digital high-pass filter was applied to the raw data in order to reduce spectral leakage by damping the fundamental component and low order harmonics from the input signal [31].

Fig. 5 shows an example of the outputs of Light-QP and digital CISPR 16-1-1 methods for a measurement in the LV distribution grid. The emissions in the figure are generated by PLC transmissions (in the range from 40 to 90 kHz) and by

electronic devices that inject high-level narrowband disturbances at different frequencies within this range.

The comparison of the disturbance levels at connection points of PV inverters and EV chargers against compatibility levels is an important use case, especially for utilities. The waveforms generated by these devices usually show high amplitude, which are close to the limits of compatibility levels. Fig. 6 shows the spectrum of a measurement taken at the POC of a PV inverter, computed with CISPR 16-1-1 and Light-QP methods, with respect to the compatibility levels defined in IEC 61000-2-2. Table IV summarizes the relative differences between CISPR 16-1-1 and Light-QP for the six highest peaks

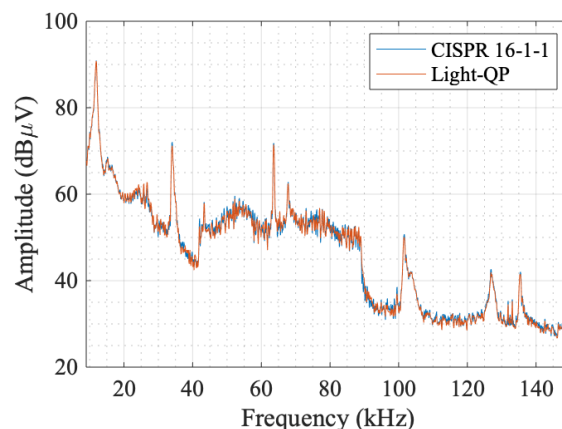


Fig. 5. Outputs of Light-QP and digital CISPR 16 1 1 measurement methods for a LV grid measurement.

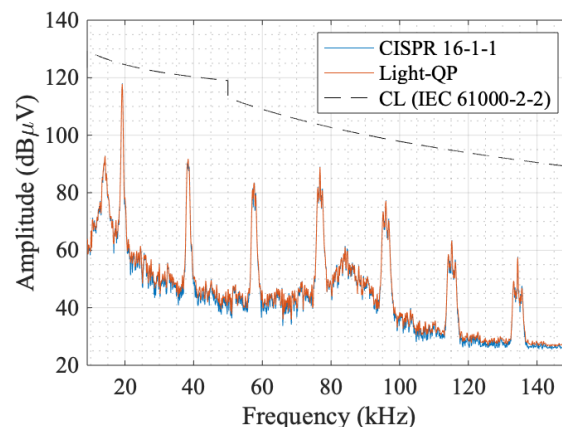


Fig. 6. Outputs of Light-QP and digital CISPR 16 1 1 measurement methods for a PV inverter measurement with compatibility levels (CL) of IEC 61000-2-2.

TABLE IV  
RELATIVE DIFFERENCES OF WAVEFORMS WITH HIGHER AMPLITUDE

Frequency band	Relative diff.	Frequency band	Relative diff.
14.2 kHz	0.57 %	57.6 kHz	0.46 %
19.2 kHz	2.27 %	76.8 kHz	1.37 %
38.4 kHz	0.12 %	96.0 kHz	2.27 %

TABLE V  
COMPARISON OF LIGHT-QP AND CISPR 16-1-1 OUTPUTS

	Absol. value of diff.		Relative diff.	Relative diff. w.r.t. compatib. levels	
	Median	St. Dev.	Median	Freq. bands with diff. < 2% of CL	Freq. bands with diff. < 10% of CL
All the frequency bands in all the signals	$-3.1 \times 10^{-4}$ mV	1.16 mV	7.16 %	99.68 %	99.98 %
Frequency bands of the 50 highest values of each signal	0.26 mV	5.83 mV	5.56 %	96.07 %	99.52 %

of the disturbances in this use case. Results show that Light-QP is a suitable measurement method to evaluate the emissions from inverters, since differences in the peaks with respect to the digital CISPR 16-1-1 are between 0.1 % and 2.3 %. To put this difference into context, different implementations of CISPR 16 can give a spread in results of +/-25% from each other. The target accuracy for these PQ measurements is +/-10%.

The outputs of both methods for the same input signals are compared every 100 Hz, and quantified by the median value of the differences ( $U_{QP-C16,b} - U_{QP,b}$ ), in absolute value and in percentage, with respect to the CISPR 16-1-1 output. The standard deviation of the modulus is also calculated, according to (15):

$$\sigma = \sqrt{\frac{1}{N} \left( \sum_{b=1}^N (U_{QP-C16,b} - U_{QP,b} - \bar{X})^2 \right)} \quad (15)$$

where  $N$  is the number of frequency bands,  $U_{QP-C16,b}$  is the quasi-peak result of the digital implementation CISPR 16-1-1, while  $U_{QP,b}$  are the quasi-peak values obtained with the Light-QP method and  $\bar{X}$  is the mean value of differences ( $U_{QP-C16,b} - U_{QP,b}$ ).

Results of this statistical analysis for the same input data are depicted in Table V. The frequency bands of the 50 highest values of each signal have been considered separately, as one of the main interest of the method is the measurement of the highest disturbances for comparison with compatibility levels. For all the frequency bands, the results show that the median of the differences is below 1  $\mu$ V, a small quantity relative to compatibility levels, which range from 2.98 V at 9 kHz to 28 mV at 150 kHz [10]. In percentage, the median value of the

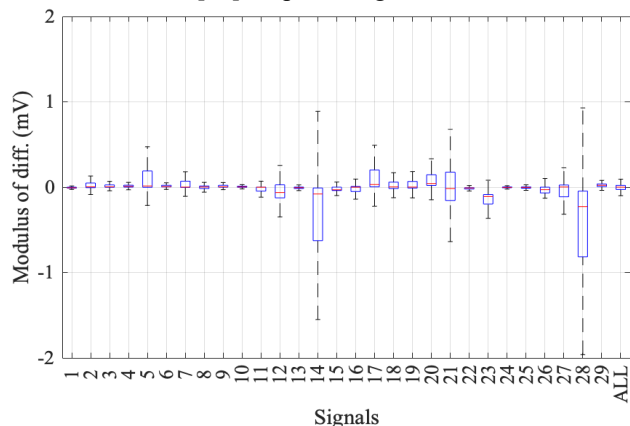


Fig. 7. Differences, in absolute values, between Light-QP and CISPR 16 1 1 outputs for each of the 29 test recordings and for the total of the recordings.

differences is within the accuracy requirements for RMS assessment (10 %) [11], and considerably lower than the  $\pm 2$  dB tolerances (about  $\pm 25$  %) defined for the CISPR 16-1-1 receiver [12]. The absolute values of the differences between both measurement methods for the grid recordings used for the accuracy assessment of the proposed method are plotted in the boxplot of Fig. 7. As it can be observed in the figure illustrates, the differences for most of recordings are within +/-0.5 mV, and the highest differences are between -2 mV and +1 mV. The results for the frequency bands containing the highest values of emissions are also below 1 mV in absolute value and below 10 % of relative difference.

Considering that the final aim of the proposed method is to assess the grid disturbance levels with respect to the compatibility levels, the differences of the outputs of both methods are also evaluated considering the compatibility levels as a reference. As the compatibility levels are defined as a function of the frequency, from 2.98 V at 9 kHz to 28 mV at 150 kHz [10], this comparison is performed for each frequency band. Hence, the difference between both methods is compared to the compatibility levels value of the corresponding frequency band, in the form of percentage of the compatibility levels value. Finally, the percentage of the frequency bands where the difference is lower than a specific limit (2% and 10% of the corresponding compatibility levels) is quantified (see Table V, columns on the right). The comparison shows that outputs of both methods differ less than 2 %, with respect to the corresponding compatibility levels for 99.68 % of the frequency bands, and less than 10 % for 99.98 % of the frequency bands. For the highest disturbances, the 96.07 % and the 99.52 % of the frequency bands differ less than 2 % and 10 % with respect to the corresponding compatibility levels, respectively. These outcomes demonstrate that the results of the Light-QP method allow for assessment of disturbance levels against compatibility levels with accuracy comparable to a digital CISPR 16-1-1 implementation.

## VII. CONCLUSIONS

The assessment of LV grid disturbance levels in the frequency range from 9 to 150 kHz with respect to compatibility levels as defined in IEC 61000-2-2 requires quasi-peak measurement values. The only available method recommended by the IEC 61000-4-30 Ed. 3 to measure quasi-peak values is the CISPR 16-1-1 standard. However, this standard was not designed for PQ grid measurements, but to evaluate interference with radio transmission. The normative implementation allows high tolerances ( $\pm 2$  dB, which



corresponds to about  $\pm 25\%$ ) and requires high computational performance and memory requirements.

In this paper, a novel measurement method for the assessment of disturbances in the electrical grid for the frequency range from 9 to 150 kHz is proposed. The new method (Light-QP) addresses the lack of a normative method for grid measurements in this frequency range, with the purpose of providing quasi-peak values that can be directly compared to compatibility levels. The Light-QP method includes a compliant implementation of a quasi-peak detector; the main differences with respect to the standard are in the pre-detector stages, which determine the computational complexity. Hence, the Light-QP significantly reduces the computational burden and memory requirements with respect to CISPR 16-1-1, which is a key aspect for PQ surveys that require continuous measurements over at least one week. This aspect allows the implementation of the new method in non-expensive PQ instruments for field measurements in the distribution grid, with respect to the present generation of measurement instruments. The lower resources requirements are mainly achieved with a new method for calculating the RMS values (which are the input data for the quasi-peak calculation), based on a non-overlapping rectangular DFT window and symmetrical grouping of the frequency components. Moreover, a digital quasi-peak detector is implemented by means of two IIR filters, which follow CISPR 16-1-1 recommendations. The new method is not equivalent nor calibrated according to CISPR 16 test procedures, but it gives results comparable to the CISPR 16-1-1 receiver for commonly observed characteristics in grid measurements. The specific configuration of the method avoids ambiguity in the method implementation, wide tolerances, and ensures high reproducibility. Moreover, it avoids the pre-scan measurement techniques to give a fast and approximated view of the disturbance levels. In this line, the method allows the implementation of a procedure similar to pre-scan, but looking at maximum values, which can be recorded together with QP outputs.

The results in the form of RMS, maximum and quasi-peak values allow more holistic evaluation of the most common interference mechanisms in these frequencies, since the RMS values are related to the power of the emission in PQ (thermal impact and malfunctions), and the quasi-peak values with a 200 Hz resolution bandwidth can be used for comparison with compatibility levels and evaluation of the impact on PLC.

The Light-QP method has been presented to IEC SC77A/WG9 and discussed for its potential inclusion as a normative measurement method in a new edition of the IEC 61000-4-30 standard.

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