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# Estimation of the total current harmonic distortion using an ELF magnetometer

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Keywords: Harmonics THD Electrical power quality Magnetometer FFT	The conventional operation of the grid and electrical devices can be disturbed by harmonics, so standards impose strict limits on harmonic current. The entire grid is essential for today's society, but electromagnetic fields are radiated at their fundamental frequency and harmonics. This paper investigates a methodology to estimate the total current harmonic distortion of the grid by analyzing the magnetic flux density obtained from an extremely low-frequency magnetometer in the 0–2.2 kHz range. A Fast Fourier transform algorithm was applied to determine the magnetic flux density in the frequency domain. By evaluating the ratio of the fundamental component of the magnetic flux density to the harmonics, its total harmonic distortion rate could be deduced. Finally, the data were compared with measurements obtained by two power quality analyzers.

## 1. Introduction

With over a century of development, the electrical system has become one of the most widely implemented entities in the world, comprising various components necessary to bring electrical energy to any point where it is required. This system transports electrical power from generation plants to domestic, commercial, and industrial users, forming a vast network across countries [1]. In 2021, the electricity distribution network in Spain was extended to 44,769 km [2], and it was estimated to have 360,000 km of overhead power transmission networks [3]. Growing electrical power demand is critical to economic progress [4]. However, the ever-increasing problem is that electrical systems also radiate electromagnetic fields (EMFs) in their fundamental frequency and harmonics, collectively known as power line harmonic radiations (PLHRs) [5].

PLHRs are considered a source of artificial electromagnetic pollution [6] and are recognized as a significant problem related to electromagnetic compatibility [7]. They are generated in industrialized areas by the EMF radiating from ground power systems' transmission lines. The fundamental frequency (50/60 Hz) can be detected anywhere on Earth, reach near space, and even be observed by satellites [8]. PLHRs were first identified in 1975, and later, statistical analysis showed that the highest levels of PLHRs were observed around local noon, corresponding to periods of the most significant energy consumption [9]. Subsequently,

data presented for Sundays indicated a decrease compared to other days of the week, interpreted as an influence of the energy consumption pattern [10].

Observations of PLHRs from the DEMETER satellite separated by 50/ 100 Hz were presented in [11]. They also found lines separated by 16.66 Hz, interpreted as an influence of the railway electrification system (some central and northern European countries follow the standard 15 kV voltage and 16 2/3 Hz frequency). Other authors also analyzed data from DEMETER and PLHR with a frequency gap of 50/100 Hz or 60/120 Hz, with the arrangement of the events perfectly matching the fundamental frequency of the power system of the generating regions [12].

The environmental problems caused by PLHRs have become an issue of increasing concern since they not only affect power quality (PQ), disrupt the ordinary service of the electrical grid and telecommunication systems, but also pollute the magnetosphere and

ionosphere [5]. Harmonic pollution is the primary PQ issue [13], and the main source of these harmonics is associated with nonlinear loads produced by switching devices [14]. Since the 1960 s, these have been used in industries where it is necessary to control the energy released in high active loads [15]. [16] estimated that nonlinear loads accounted for only 1.5% of total grid loads in 1987. However, the increasing complexity of the grid and the growth of power electronics have been the driving force behind the development of nonlinear loads in

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domestic, commercial, and industrial environments [17]. As a result, the number of nonlinear loads has increased exponentially in recent decades, estimated to reach 85% in 2012 [18].

Regarding PQ, EN 50160: 2010 'Voltage Characteristics of Electricity Supplied by Public Distribution Networks' [19] specifies the main characteristics of the voltage signal (frequency, amplitude, waveform, and symmetry) and the limits it is expected to maintain. However, unlike these PQ factors, which depend on the energy supplier, harmonic currents are disturbances that originate in the installations and are injected into the distribution system [20]. Therefore, disturbances in the power system are caused by power distribution companies and end users [21] and must be restricted. In this context, the standard IEC 61000–3–2:2018 'Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) - Part 3–2: Limits' [22] and IEC 61000–3–12: 2011 'Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) - Parts 3–12: Limits' [23] specify the limit of harmonic current that the equipment can inject into the network.

Whereas a combination of linear and nonlinear loads is fed from a perfectly sinusoidal supply, current pulses appear in the total supply current with a frequency that is a multiple of the fundamental frequency. Even-order harmonics (the 2nd, 4th, 6th, 8th, etc.) are generally not critical due to signal symmetry, and their magnitudes in low-voltage networks are assumed to be small [24]. Single-phase nonlinear loads, such as computers, electronic ballasts, and household appliances, among others, generate odd harmonics (the 3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th, etc.), being the 3rd and its odd multiples (the 9th, 15th, etc.), called 'triplens,' the most problematic. Nonlinear three-phase loads, such as inverters, three-phase rectifiers, converters, etc., produce the 5th and 7th harmonics and a minor proportion of the 11th and 13th [25]. In general, harmonic currents and the resulting harmonic voltages are the source of PQ problems and affect the efficiency of power grid users [26].

The detrimental effects of harmonics are increasingly significant in power systems [27] and can be summarized as follows.

- Efficiency losses in electrical installation and equipment;
- Functioning problems in electronic regulation devices, both power and control;
- Overheating electrical equipment (motors, transformers, generators, etc.) due to additional copper and iron losses;
- Reduce useful life, insulation degradation, increased energy losses, etc.;
- Malfunction of electronic protection and measurement devices;
- Untimely tripping of differential switches;
- Interference in telephone and data systems;
- Decrease in the power factor, aging, and even destruction of capacitor banks due to resonance and amplification phenomena;

In summary, nonlinear loads cause distortions that worsen PQ, making PQ monitoring essential for improving the performance of enduser loads and power system equipment [28]. This article explores a procedure to estimate the total harmonic distortion of the current signal (*THD*<sub>*C*</sub>) of the grid by analyzing the magnetic flux density (*B*) obtained from an extremely low frequency (ELF) magnetometer.

The magnetic field is generated whenever electricity flows through a conductor, and its strength depends on the current on the wire [29]. Therefore, this magnetic field contains distortions because its source is the current signal with harmonic components. As the Biot-Savart law states, the magnitude of *B* in the magnetometer is inversely proportional to the cube of the distance [30] between the measurement point in the normal plane and the field source, so sources closer to the magnetometer have a more significant impact. In this way, it has been possible to compare the *THD*<sub>C</sub> of the nearby grid by evaluating the ratio of the fundamental component of *B* to its harmonics, that is, the total harmonic distortion of *B* (*THD*<sub>B</sub>).

The conventional approach for  $THD_C$  assessment, as guided by standards such as [22] and [23], typically involves the evaluation of harmonics generated by individual equipment connected to the

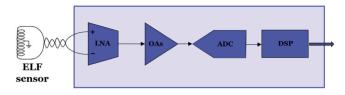


Fig. 1. Signal acquisition and preprocessing.

low-voltage network. However, this method often necessitates physical connections to the network and may only be feasible for some area monitoring. In some scenarios where traditional PQ analyzers cannot be installed due to logistical or financial restrictions, an approach without physical connections could be helpful.

In this way, our system has been designed not to measure accurately the  $THD_C$  of specific equipment but to monitor overall  $THD_C$  across a wider area without requiring direct physical connections to the power network. However, one significant limitation is its inability to isolate  $THD_C$  measurements for individual phases. Our system has these limitations since the method provides a general assessment of the  $THD_C$  in a given area, capturing the aggregate effects rather than conducting a phase-specific analysis. This constraint, while notable, does not diminish the system's utility as a supplementary tool for PQ assessment, especially in large-scale and inaccessible areas.

## 2. Materials and methods

In this chapter, we report the materials and methods employed in this study. Data used for the calculations were collected in May 2021 and processed using the MatLab® R2021.a software package (MathWorks, Inc., MA, USA).

## 2.1. ELF magnetometer

Data sets come from the project UAL18-TIC-A025-A 'Monitored Electromagnetic Field Generated by Electrical Grids'. This project was initially created at the University of Almeria (UAL), Spain, to monitor the magnetic field generated by power lines and equipment in the 0–2.2 kHz range in real time. The magnetometer used for this project was located in a lab managed by the TIC019 Research Group on the UAL campus. The laboratory is situated in the 'Information and Communication Technology Research Center' (CITIC, in its Spanish acronym), which serves as a workspace for researchers and professors. Additionally, the building houses the Data Processing Center (DPC) and hosts the UAL headquarters of the central IT services. For this reason, the average power of this building (around 100 kW) is higher than that of the other buildings on campus.

The magnetometer encompasses a magnetic sensor (MS), an analog conditioning stage (ACS), an analog-to-digital converter (ADC), and a digital signal processor (DSP) (see Fig. 1), which undertakes initial data processing tasks. This setup was previously employed in earlier work by the authors [31].

The MS uses a coreless coil centered to the ground to create two equal windings with 12,000 turns of 0.25 mm diameter enameled copper wire. This setup is designed to measure vector *B* perpendicular to the sensor's area. The average diameter of the coil is 32 cm, and the winding width is 4.5 cm. The inductance of the sensor is 68.5 H, and the self-resonance frequency is 990 Hz. The maximum sensitivity of the sensor plus the amplification stage is 2.93 mV/pT at 632 Hz, while at 50 Hz the value is 57  $\mu$ V/pT. Information on the geometry, structure, materials, amplification stage, and preprocessing stage of similar sensors can be found in [32].

The creation of a coil with a high number of turns is significant due to the notable size of the coil, the type of wire used, and its specific arrangement. Increasing the number of turns in the coil enhances its

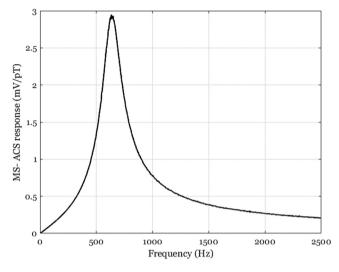


Fig. 2. MS and ACS response required for calibration.

sensitivity to changes in B, and the signal-to-noise ratio is improved, which facilitates the detection and analysis of weak magnetic fields. The MS was explicitly designed to measure ELF and weak magnetic fields. Its features make it especially useful for this purpose, although the configuration employed is restricted to measuring only the vertical component of the magnetic field. This limitation originates from its initial setup in the R&D project UAL18-TIC-A025-A, in which the equipment was configured with a single sensor aligned along the Z-axis. Based on empirical observations, the MS was aligned with the axis exhibiting the strongest magnetic field.

The ACS comprises three distinct amplification stages: an initial Low-Noise Amplifier (LNA) followed by two stages utilizing operational amplifiers, with respective gain factors of 100, 2, and 1. The ACS exhibits a frequency bandwidth of 2219.5 Hz. The 24-bit unit ADC performs oversampling of the amplified MS signal at a frequency (F<sub>S</sub>') of 48,828 samples per second. Subsequent data preprocessing in the DSP involves signal decimation to achieve a final sampling rate (F<sub>S</sub>) of 4439 SPS, with the data recorded at this FS constituting the system's raw output.

An error analysis was conducted to evaluate the system's accuracy. Specifications provided by the manufacturers of the INA110SG (LNA), LM833, and ADS1274 components informed the identification of primary error sources. The system exhibits a typical precision range of  $\pm 0.63\%$  and, though less likely, can reach a maximum error margin of  $\pm 4.9\%$ . It is pertinent to note that these accuracy figures are calculated before applying any corrective measures.

The system's calibration necessitates the MS and the ACS responses, represented in Fig. 2 and determined using the Agilent Model E5061B Vector Network Analyzer.

#### 2.2. Harmonic measurement

The magnetometer output signal corresponds to *B*. Once confirmed that all signals captured and measured by the system are magnetic (noise floor of the ACS approximately  $10^{-4}$  nT), *B* is transformed from time to frequency domain using the fast Fourier transform (FFT) algorithm.

The total harmonic distortion factor  $(THD_Y)$  is employed to express the non-sinusoidal property of the waveform of the signal Y.  $THD_Y$  can collectively describe the severity of harmonic disturbances according to Eq. (1) [13]:

$$THD_Y = \frac{\sqrt{\sum_{h=2}^{hmax} Y_h^2}}{Y_1} 100\%$$
(1)

where  $Y_h$  is the root mean square (RMS) of the individual harmonic of order h,  $Y_1$  corresponds to the RMS value of the fundamental component, and  $h_{max}$  is the maximum order. This article has considered a maximum order of 40 (corresponding to 2 kHz).

The accuracy of FFT analysis requires a stationary signal, but signals can fluctuate and spread the energy of the harmonic components to the contiguous spectral intervals [33]. For this reason, IEC 61000–4–7:2002 'Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) - Parts 4–7: Testing and Measurement Techniques: General Guide on Harmonic and Interharmonics Measurements and Instrumentation, for Power Supply Systems and Equipment Connected Thereto' [34] introduces the notion of spectral line grouping.

#### 2.3. Grouping

The output of the FFT algorithm is first grouped to form the square sum of the intermediate spectral bars existing between two adjacent harmonics to improve accuracy, as shown in Fig. 3. Each batch is called a 'group' and comprises frequencies of  $\pm$  25 Hz around each harmonic. A similar evaluation could be performed if the harmonics and interharmonics were evaluated separately, but the frequencies would be  $\pm$ 

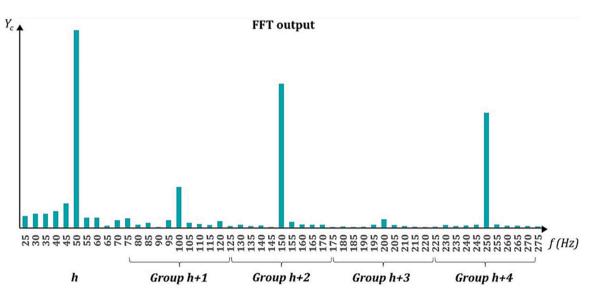


Fig. 3. Representation of harmonic groups for 50 Hz grids.

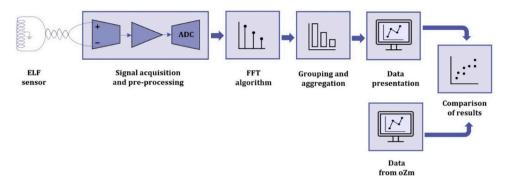
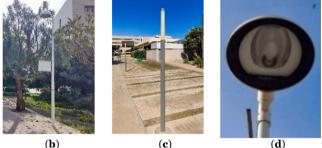


Fig. 4. Block diagram of the system used in this paper.





**Fig. 5.** (a) Buildings and outdoor lighting near the ELF magnetometer, (b) public streetlight, (c) led streetlights, and (d) HPS lamp.

5 Hz around each harmonic and would be called a 'subgroup' [33].

For 50 Hz grids and considering a spectral resolution of 5 Hz, the resulting harmonic group is obtained according to Eq. (2) of the standard [34]:

$$Y_{g,h}^{2} = \frac{Y_{C,k-5}^{2}}{2} + \sum_{i=-4}^{4} Y_{C,k+i}^{2} + \frac{Y_{C,k+5}^{2}}{2}$$
(2)

where  $Y_{g,h}$  is the RMS value of the harmonic group of order *h*, and  $Y_{C, k+i}$  is the RMS value of a spectral bar of the FFT.

Once the groupings have been made, Eq. (2) becomes Eq. (3):

$$THDG_{Y} = \frac{\sqrt{\sum_{h=2}^{hmax} Y_{g,h}^{2}}}{Y_{g,1}} 100\%$$
(3)

where now  $Y_{g,h}$  is the RMS of the individual harmonic group of order *h*, and  $Y_{g,1}$  is the RMS of the group corresponding to the fundamental component.

IEC 61000–4–30: 2015 'Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC)-Part 4–30: Testing and Measurement Techniques-Power Quality Measurement Methods' [35] defines measurement methods and interprets the results of the PQ parameters. The different techniques are related for each parameter type to obtain reliable and repeatable results, so other methods are implementation independent. This standard includes various categories of aggregation algorithms for PQ factors. This article used the 10-minute aggregation algorithm to obtain a *THDG*<sub>Y</sub> value every 10 minutes.

#### 2.4. Comparison of results

In our case, the output is *B*, which comes from the nearby grid. The  $THD_B$  was calculated by evaluating the ratio between the fundamental component of *B* and its harmonics. Our results were contrasted with data obtained from two commercial PQ analyzers to compare these values with the  $TDH_C$  of the grid. For this purpose, the Openzmeter (oZm) analyzer [36] was selected, which shows the  $THD_C$  value every 15 minutes. This analyzer has been used successfully in previous work by the authors [31] [37], as the device includes open hardware and free software. The first analyzer was placed on the electrical switch of the main electrical box, and the second was installed on the outside lighting power line. Fig. 4 shows a block diagram of the system used in this article.

Fig. 5(a) shows a plan of the UAL campus with the magnetometer location inside the CITIC and the outside lighting around the building. A programmable astronomic twilight switch activates the campus street-lights (Fig. 5(b)), automatically changing the on/off period depending on the day of the year. Furthermore, the decorative lighting (Fig. 5(c)) is turned off between 00:00 am and 6:00 am. The primary public street-lights on the UAL campus still use high-pressure sodium lamps (HPS) (Fig. 5(d)). These lamps do not have a high unit power. However, they are an essential source of harmonics, as many are used simultaneously for an extended period.

#### 3. Result and discussion

All timescales in this document were plotted in Spain's local time, not in universal coordinated time (UTC). The graphs help better understand the results, influenced by local habits, such as peak hours and night lighting.

Once the ELF magnetometer signal has been processed and the data are grouped and aggregated, the output corresponds to the RMS value of *B* in nT generated by the electrical lines and devices around the sensor location. Fig. 6(a) illustrates the value of *B* over a 10-minute interval for each frequency up to 2 kHz. The y-axis has been plotted on a logarithmic scale to appreciate all spectral components, and the data correspond precisely to the interval between 07:00 am and 07:10 am on 7 May 2021. Fig. 6(b) shows the detail up to the harmonic 15th on a linear scale. Following the same procedure, *B* was calculated every 10 minutes throughout May.

The expression of harmonics as a percentage of the fundamental can

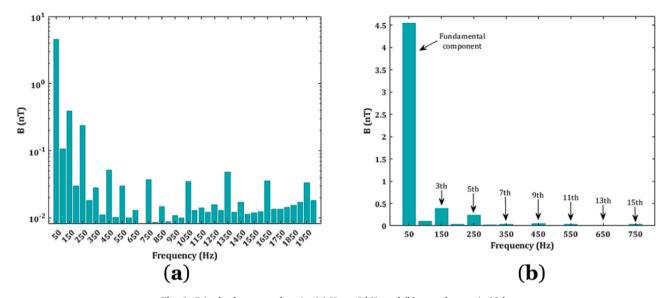


Fig. 6. B in the frequency domain. (a) Up to 2 kHz and (b) up to harmonic 15th.

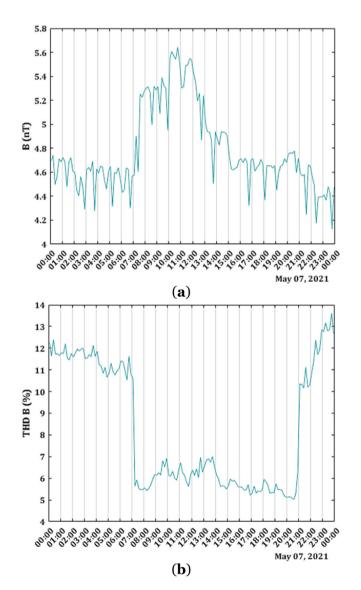


Fig. 7. Data on 7 May 2021. (a) B and (b) THD<sub>B</sub>.

help to understand relative harmonic levels [38]. However, this work grouped the fundamental component and harmonics to order 40 in an

RMS value. Its evolution on 7 May 2021 is shown in Fig. 7(a). Furthermore, the *THD*<sub>B</sub> is calculated according to Eq. (3), obtaining the values shown in Fig. 7(b).

In Fig. 8, a comparison is shown between B and the electricity consumption of the building where the sensor was installed. B captured by the ELF sensor on 7 May 2021 is shown on the left axis, and the electricity consumption of the CITIC is shown on the right axis. The figure demonstrates that the electrical consumption of the building has an impact on B captured by the sensor. As noted above, B is inversely proportional to the cube of the distance between the measurement point and the field source. The primary influence on the sensor is the power consumption of the building where it is located. However, other buildings and power lines on campus also have a lesser impact.

According to [39], the electricity demand in a grid is represented by its daily load curve, which generally has a minimum at dawn and a peak at noon or late afternoon. This curve depends on the time of year, usage (industry, residential, offices, etc.), climatology, and population habits. In our case, the evolution of *B* throughout the day follows a typical consumption curve of an office building. It increases at 7 am, peaks at midday, and decreases from 3 pm onward. To assess the impact of weekends and holidays, Fig. 9(a) compares 8 May 2021 (Saturday), and Fig. 9(b) corresponds to 9 May 2021 (Sunday). The daily curve is flatter on both days analyzed.

A second comparison was conducted between the obtained  $THD_B$  and the  $THD_C$  provided by the PQ analyzers. A noteworthy event is a

sudden change in the  $THD_B$  at approximately 7 am and 9 pm. Close analysis reveals that the abrupt changes occur at dawn and dusk. Fig. 10 (a) displays the  $THD_B$  for Saturday, 1 May 2021, with dawn occurring at 7:16 am and dusk at 8:57 pm. Fig. 10(b) shows the  $THD_B$  for Monday, 31 May 2021, with dawn at 6:53 am and dusk at 9:21 pm. The first and last days of May were selected to highlight how dawn and dusk depend on the time of year and confirm that sudden variations occur at these moments.

According to Fig. 10, the outside lighting surrounding the CITIC affects the *THD*<sub>B</sub> at night. Nonlinear single-phase loads, such as HPS lamps of the outside lighting, produce a significant content of current harmonics, with the 3rd being the highest. Fig. 11 compares the *THD*<sub>B</sub> captured by the ELF sensor and the *THD*<sub>C</sub> provided by the PQ analyzers. As mentioned previously, the analyzers were installed on the main electrical switches of the lines, which are three-phase; thus, the *THD*<sub>C</sub> result is obtained for each of the three phases. Fig. 12 presents the same

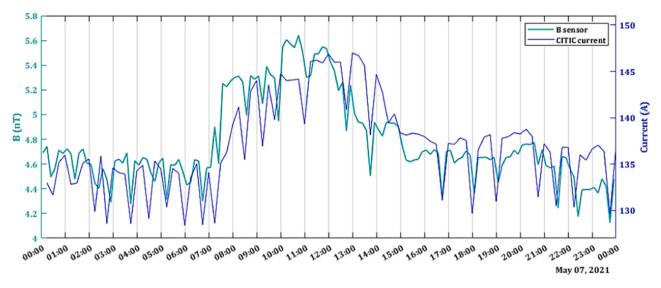


Fig. 8. Comparison between *B* and electricity consumption on 7 May 2021.

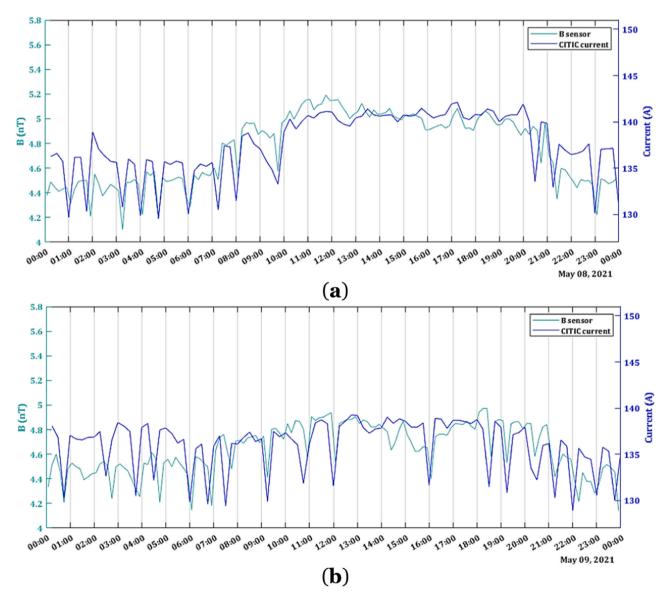


Fig. 9. Comparison between B and electricity consumption (a) 8 May 2021, Saturday, and (b) 9 May 2021, Sunday.

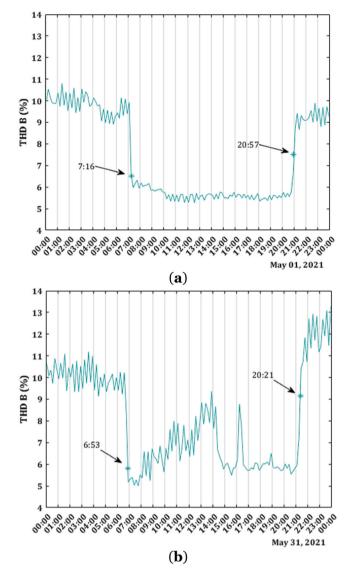


Fig. 10. THD<sub>B</sub>. (a) 1 May 2021 and (b) 31 May 2021.

comparison but with the resulting  $THD_C$  of both PQ analyzers.

Fig. 12 shows that the  $THD_B$  matches the  $THD_C$  during daylight. However, the values diverge during the night period. In a closer analysis, Fig. 13 presents a monthly breakdown of THD during the day. Throughout May, the mean  $THD_B$  captured by the ELF sensor during daylight matches the  $THD_C$  values. The maximum difference occurs on 18 May, with a difference between  $THD_B$  and the  $THD_C L_3$  of 1.10%.

On the other hand, when the night period begins, and the outside lighting is turned on, the  $THD_B$  increases and remains higher than the  $THD_C$  obtained by the PQ analyzers. Fig. 14 presents a monthly analysis of *THD* during the night period. Throughout May, the mean  $THD_B$  obtained in the ELF sensor in the night period was higher than the  $THD_C$  measured by the analyzers. The maximum difference occurs on May 18, with a value of 3.54% between  $THD_B$  and  $THD_C L_3$ . This indicates that the electrical line and streetlights of the outside lighting are closer to the ELF sensor than the DPC (see Fig. 5(a)), and therefore, the data obtained by the sensor are more influenced by this line. According to the Biot-Savart law, the most considerable influence

on the ELF sensor is due to the electrical consumption of the building where the sensor is installed and the outside lighting surrounding it. However, it is also influenced to a lesser extent by the rest of the buildings and power lines on the UAL campus. The evolution of *B* throughout the day matches the daily consumption curve of a building, and even the effects of weekends and holidays have been checked. During the daylight period, the *THD*<sub>B</sub> follows the *THD*<sub>C</sub> of the CITIC. In contrast, the main characteristic of the night period is that the level of the 3rd harmonic increases because of the type of lamp used in the outside lighting, which causes the growth of the *THD*<sub>B</sub>. The ELF magnetometer receives more significant intensity harmonics that are best propagated, those with the highest frequency.

Electric power is essential to modern life; therefore, EMFs are ubiquitous in our environment. This topic is of great interest to society due to the continuous exposure of the general population [40]. EMF research covers various areas, such as medicine, engineering, astrophysics, etc. Although most publications in the medical field focus on the harmful effects that low-frequency radiation could have on human health, a monograph by the World Health Organization [41] concluded that there are no substantial health problems related to ELF radiation at levels typical of domestic environments.

PQ is a widely discussed topic in electrical engineering. Recently, a wide range of sensors have been developed to monitor power grids [42]; yet, to our knowledge, only a few articles have been published linking EMF research and quality monitoring of the grid. In a previous paper by

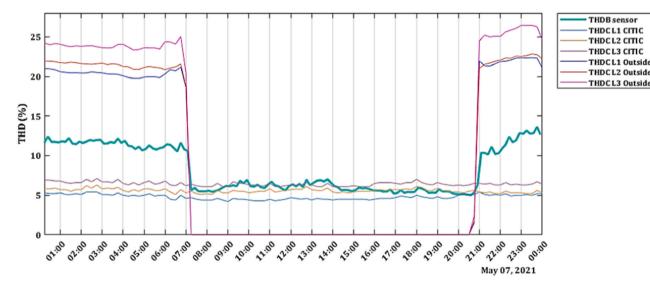


Fig. 11. Comparison between the  $THD_B$  and the  $THD_C$  of the CITIC and the outside lighting for 7 May 2021.

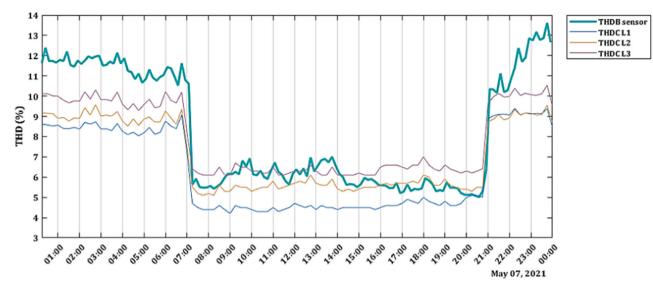


Fig. 12. Comparison between the  $THD_B$  and the resulting  $THD_C$  for 7 May 2021.

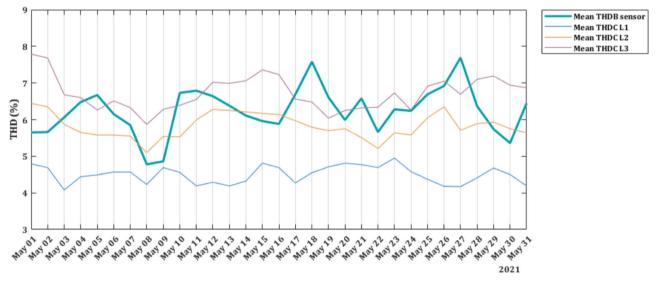


Fig. 13. Mean *THD* during the daylight period of May 2021.

the authors [31], a procedure was developed to calculate the grid frequency from data obtained from an ELF magnetometer. This paper focuses on the methodology to estimate the  $THD_C$  of an area non-invasively by analyzing the data from an ELF magnetometer. In [43], the harmonics are calculated near an overhead power line, but work has yet to be found in urban environments with different sources.

#### 4. Conclusions

The EMF produced by electrical devices and installations has been monitored by an ELF magnetometer developed by our Research Group. A full year of data has been collected, specifically from September 2020 to September 2021. With this processed information, *B* and its *THD*<sub>B</sub> were found for May 2021.

After analyzing the results, the measurement of the  $THD_C$  of the area surrounding the ELF magnetometer was performed indirectly and noninvasively. The validation procedure with two commercial devices contrasts the results obtained.

Unlike other factors in PQ, such as voltage, amplitude, frequency, or symmetry, which depend on the energy supplier, harmonic currents are disturbances that originate in the facilities themselves and are injected into the distribution system. Therefore, these disturbances in the electrical power system are due to electrical distributors, end users, engineers, and manufacturers. Consequently, a more substantial

number of measurements of PQ parameters are necessary as electrical consumption increases. Generally,  $THD_C$  measurement is performed using techniques that require a connection point. In our case, the data input source is the EMF radiated by devices and electrical lines; therefore, it is possible to measure non-invasively without a connection point. This way, we can monitor an area using portable equipment without physical contact. This approach does not interfere with the users of the electrical grid. Our research demonstrates the feasibility and effectiveness of using an ELF magnetometer system for broad-area  $THD_C$ monitoring in electrical networks. This method offers a practical approach to power quality monitoring, supplementing traditional methods and extending the scope of  $THD_C$  assessment to areas where conventional PQ analyzers are not viable. This capability can facilitate preventive maintenance and guide further investigation using more traditional methods.

Redesigning the system into a more compact and portable device

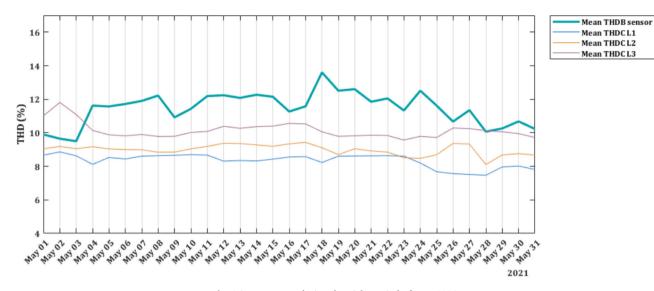


Fig. 14. Mean THD during the night period of May 2021.

could lead to tangible progress. For example, inserting a highpermeability ferrite core into the coil or changing to an ultrathin wire would reduce the size of the sensor. Additionally, the bandwidth could be extended to 9 kHz since some PQ standards reach this frequency.

Other improvements should aim to monitor more buildings on the UAL campus to determine the range of influence of our ELF sensor. This way, advances would be made in the PQ field by monitoring the grid and improving the knowledge of low frequency EMFs.

#### CRediT authorship contribution statement

Rosa Garcia-Salvador: Writing – review & editing. Nuria Novas-Castellano: Writing – review & editing, Visualization. Jose A. Gazquez: Writing – review & editing, Supervision, Methodology, Conceptualization. Manuel Fernandez-Ros: Writing – review & editing, Software, Methodology, Conceptualization. Francisco Portillo: Writing – review & editing, Methodology, Conceptualization. Alfredo Alcayde: Writing – original draft, Supervision, Software.

## **Declaration of Competing Interest**

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

# Data availability

Data will be made available on request.

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