



# Voltage-Source Converters for HVDC Systems

Josep Pou<sup>(1)(2)</sup>

Never Stand Still

Australian Energy Research Institute

Co-authors: Salvador Ceballos<sup>(3)</sup>, Georgios Konstantinou<sup>(1)</sup>,  
Vassilios G. Agelidis<sup>(1)</sup> and Jordi Zaragoza<sup>(2)</sup>



<sup>(1)</sup> **The University of New South Wales**

Australian Energy Research Institute (AERI),  
School of Electrical Engineering and Telecommunications, Australia



<sup>(2)</sup> **Technical University of Catalonia, Barcelona Tech**

Terrassa Industrial Electronics Group (TIEG),  
Department of Electronic Engineering, Catalonia, Spain

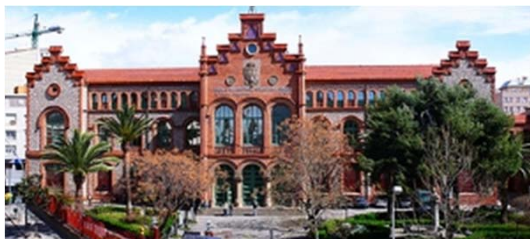


<sup>(3)</sup> **TECNALIA**

Energy Unit, Basque Country, Spain



**Technical University of Catalonia, Barcelona Tech**  
Terrassa Industrial Electronics Group (TIEG),  
Department of Electronic Engineering, Catalonia, Spain



Technical University of Catalonia  
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**The University of New South Wales**  
Australian Energy Research  
Institute (AERI)



## Outline

- I. HVDC Systems
- II. Voltage-Source Converter (VSC)
- III. Neutral-Point-Clamped (NPC) Converter
- IV. Modular-Multilevel Converter (MMC)



## Outline

- I. **HVDC Systems**
- II. Voltage-Source Converter (VSC)
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### I. HVDC Systems

## I. HVDC Systems

### Reasons for High-Voltage Direct Current (HVDC)

- AC transmission is impractical over long distances, while for DC transmission distance is not a significant restriction.
- Although rectifier/inverter stations costs and losses are higher, from long distances HVDC transmission results in lower costs and losses than AC transmission.
- HVDC can interconnect asynchronous systems and systems with different frequencies.
- HVDC can be controlled faster so that the AC system stability can be improved.

## HVDC Applications

- Long distance transmission from remote energy sources.
- Interconnection between power systems.
- High power underground (submarine) distribution system feeders.
- Reconfiguration of old AC lines to DC to increase capacity, e.g. a double circuit 230 kV AC line, now limited to 400 MW transmission capacity can be used for a DC line with capacity of about 1500 MW.

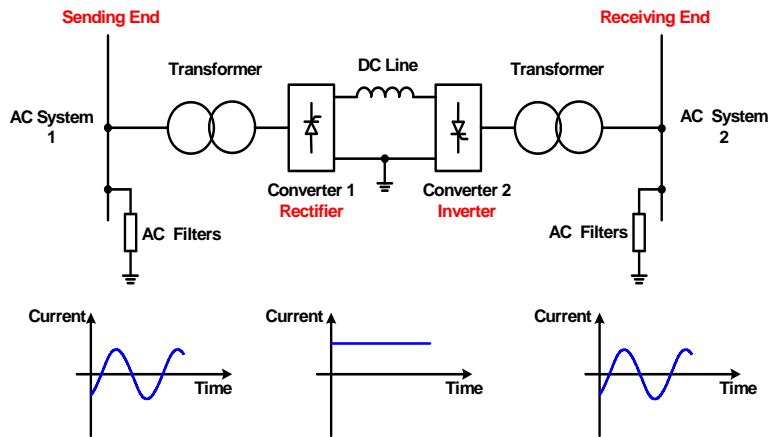
## First HVDC Transmission Line

- **1954:** Between Sweden and the island of Gotland in the Baltic sea, 20 MW @ 100 kV using mercury arc valves and control equipment was based on vacuum tubes (ASEA).

I. HVDC Systems

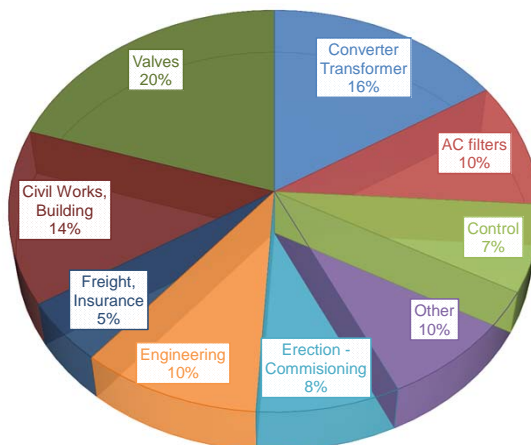
### Conventional HVDC System

Based on thyristors - Line-commutated converters (LCCs)

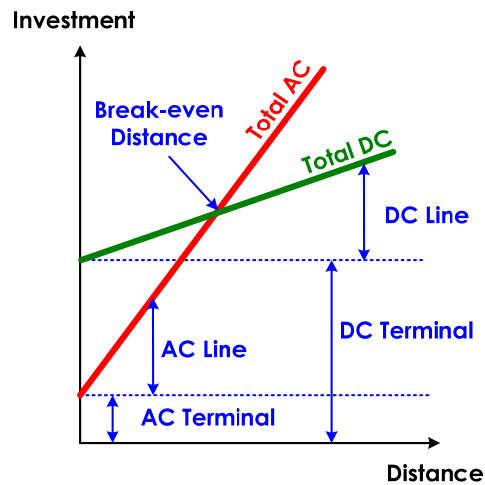


I. HVDC Systems

### Typical Cost of an HVDC Project



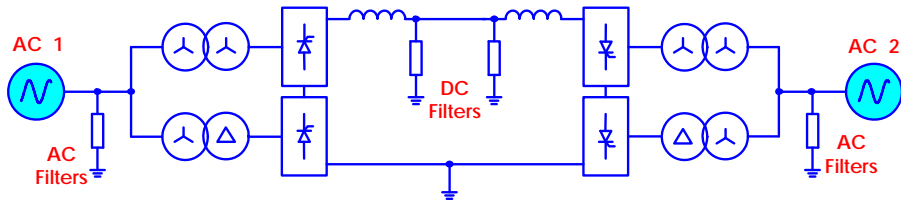
### Investment Cost vs. Distance



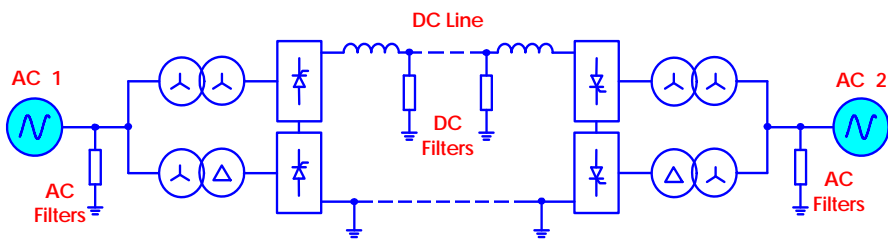
### HVDC Schemes

- ❑ Depending upon the function and location of the converter stations, various schemes and configurations of HVDC systems exist as follows:
  - Back-to-Back
  - Monopolar
  - Bipolar
  - Multiterminal

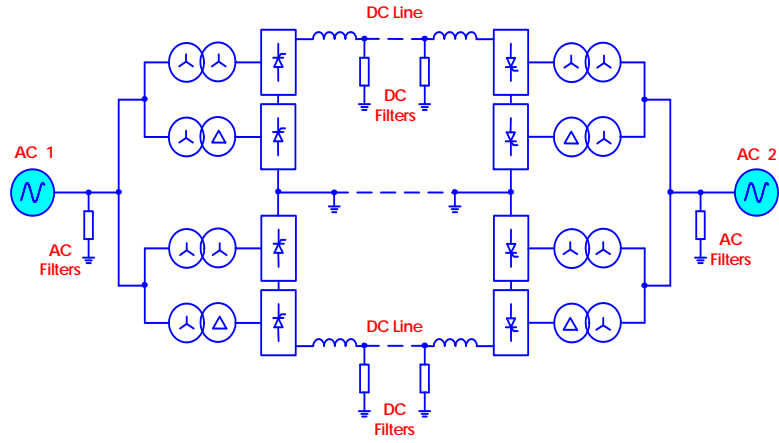
### Back-to-Back HVDC Scheme



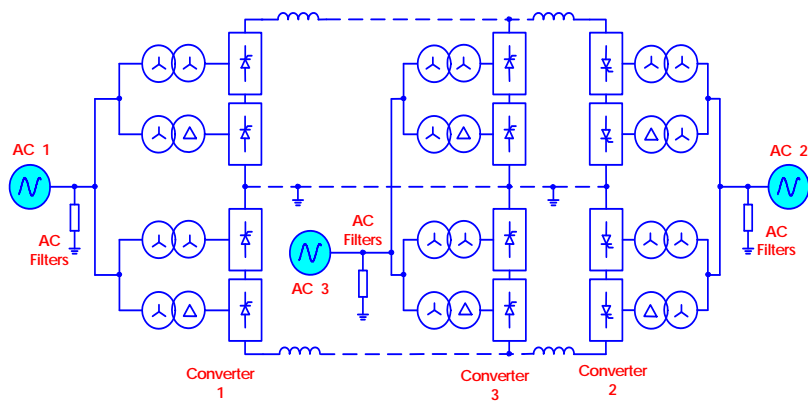
### Monopolar HVDC Scheme



### Bipolar HVDC Scheme



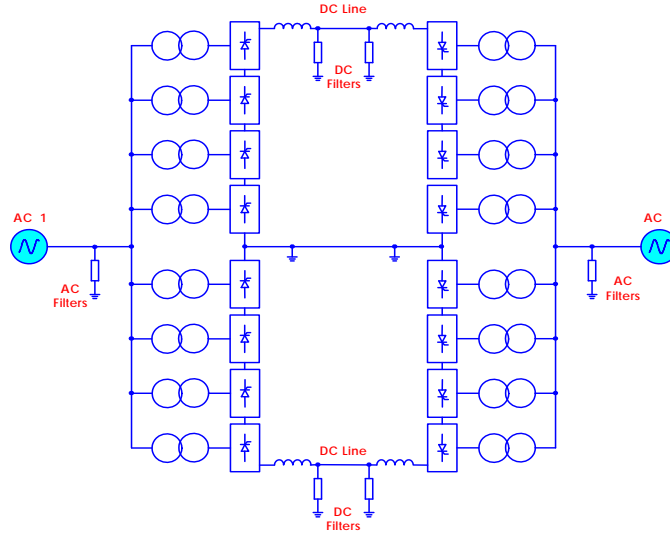
### Multiterminal HVDC Scheme





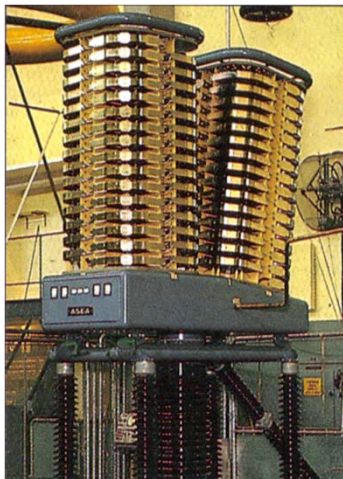
I. HVDC Systems

Bipolar with 24-Pulse Converter HVDC

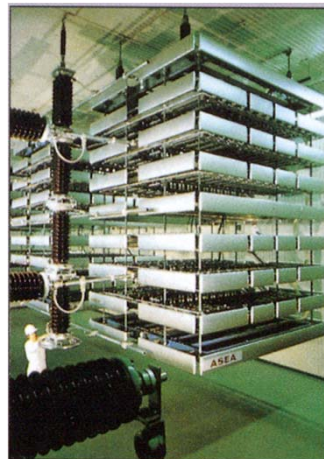


I. HVDC Systems

Old Thyristor Valve  
50 kV, 200 A



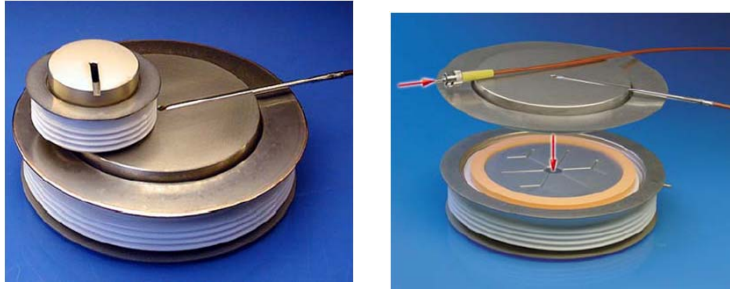
Suspended Thyristor Valve  
150 kV, 914 A



Courtesy of ABB

## I. HVDC Systems

Light triggerable thyristors (LTT) with integrated protection functions and blocking voltages between 5.2 kV to 8 kV



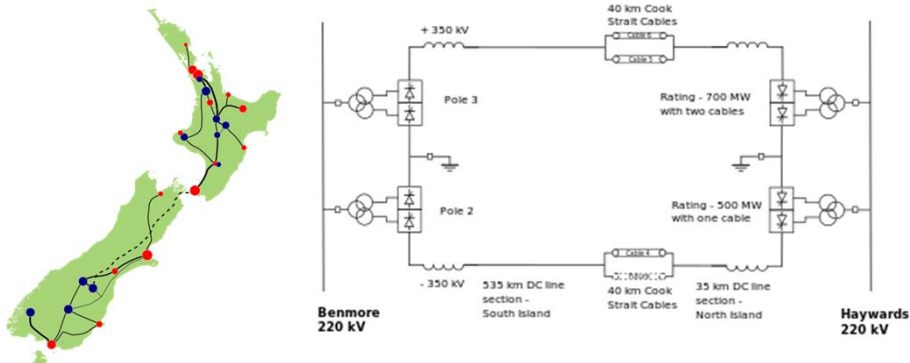
2" and 5" LTT with Light Guide

Surge current capabilities up to 100 kA for single sine half waves

## I. HVDC Systems

### New Zealand Inter-Island Link (ABB)

- Connection between the south and the north islands.
- Pole 2 and 3 combined can transfer up to 1200 MW.
- 610 km between Canterbury (south island) and Lower Hutt (north island).



I. HVDC Systems

New Zealand Inter-Island Link (ABB)

Valve Hall



I. HVDC Systems

±500kV Longquan-Zhengping HVDC Project, China (ABB)

- 940 kilometers
- Commercial operation in 2004
- Power rating 3000 MW



## I. HVDC Systems

### Chandrapur Back-to-Back HVDC Link, India (Alstom)

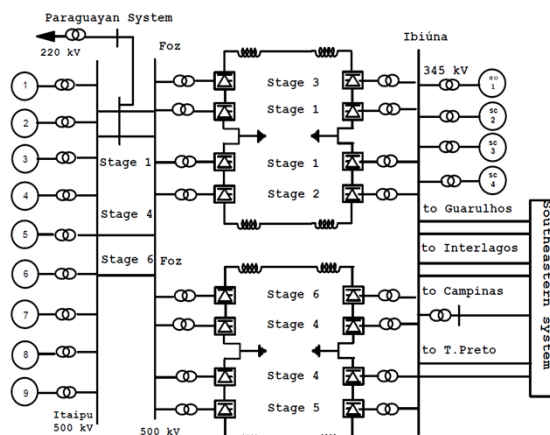
- Two independent poles, each with a nominal power transmission rating of 500 MW.
- One quadrivalve is approximately 3.8 x 3.8 x 6.2 m and weighs 14 tonnes.



## I. HVDC Systems

### HVDC Itaipu, Brasil (ABB)

- $\pm 600$  kV bipoles, each with a rated power of 3150 MW.
- Transmit power generated at 50 Hz from the Paraguay side of the Itaipu Dam to São Paulo (aprox. 800 km).
- When completed in 1985, it became the world's largest HVDC system.



I. HVDC Systems

**HVDC Itaipu, Brasil (ABB)**

Foz do Iguaçu converter station



I. HVDC Systems

**HVDC Transformer**



### Discussion on Using Thyristors (LCC Technology)

- LCC technology requires existing AC grids for proper commutation of the thyristors. Auxiliary diesel generators may be needed at the generation side of the transmission line.
- Reactive power compensation should be provided.
- The size of the thyristor valve hall and auxiliary filters, and the need of auxiliary generation systems make HVDC LCC stations bulky and difficult to install in offshore platforms.
- Reversing the flux of power requires changing the DC polarity.

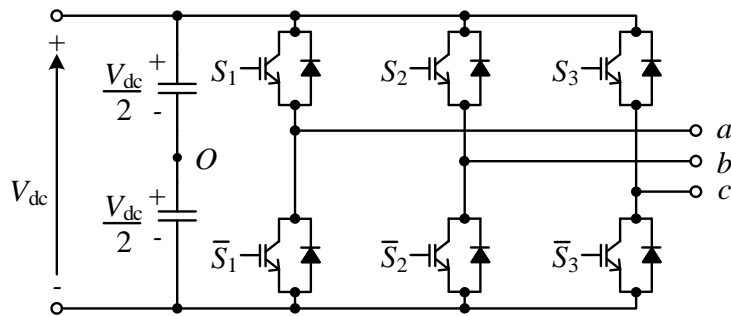
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- III. Neutral-Point-Clamped (NPC) Converter
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II. Voltage-Source Converter (VSC)

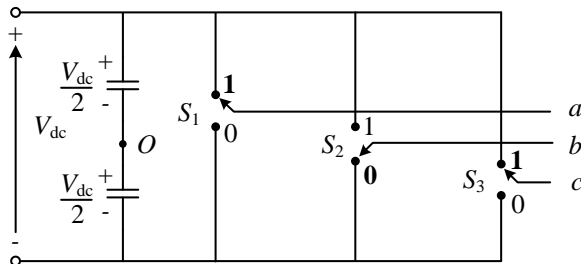
**II. Voltage-Source Converter (VSC)**

Three-phase two-level voltage source converter (VSC)



II. Voltage-Source Converter (VSC)

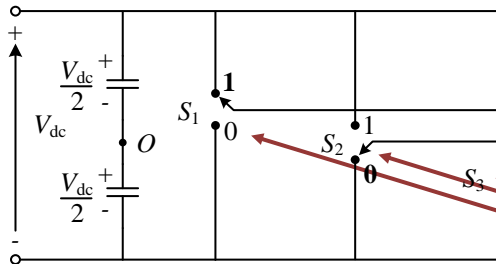
**Three-Phase Two-Level VSC**



	2L VSC	Switches		
		S <sub>1</sub>	S <sub>2</sub>	S <sub>3</sub>
Switching States	ST <sub>0</sub>	0	0	0
	ST <sub>1</sub>	1	0	0
	ST <sub>2</sub>	1	1	0
	ST <sub>3</sub>	0	1	0
	ST <sub>4</sub>	0	1	1
	ST <sub>5</sub>	0	0	1
	ST <sub>6</sub>	1	0	1
	ST <sub>7</sub>	1	1	1

## II. Voltage-Source Converter (VSC)

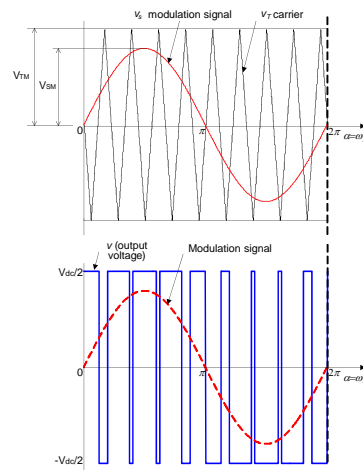
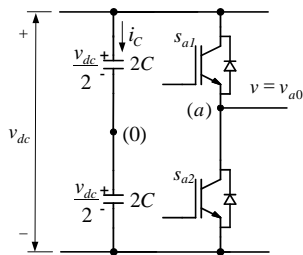
### Three-Phase Two-Level VSC



2L VSC	Switches		
	S <sub>1</sub>	S <sub>2</sub>	S <sub>3</sub>
ST <sub>0</sub>	0	0	0
ST <sub>1</sub>	1	0	0
ST <sub>2</sub>	1	1	0
ST <sub>3</sub>	0	1	0
ST <sub>4</sub>	0	1	1
ST <sub>5</sub>	0	0	1
ST <sub>6</sub>	1	0	1
ST <sub>7</sub>	↑	↑	↑

## II. Voltage-Source Converter (VSC)

### Pulse-Width Modulation (PWM)



Modulation signal:

$$v_s(t) = V_{SM} \sin \omega_s t$$

Output voltage:

If  $v_s \geq v_T \rightarrow s_{a1}$  ON  $s_{a2}$  OFF  $\rightarrow v = v_{a0} = V_{dc}/2$

If  $v_s < v_T \rightarrow s_{a1}$  OFF  $s_{a2}$  ON  $\rightarrow v = v_{a0} = -V_{dc}/2$



## II. Voltage-Source Converter (VSC)

### Series-Connected Semiconductors

#### ➤ Typical IGBT ratings

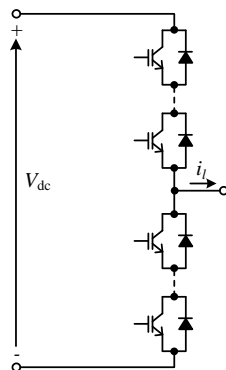


Absolute Maximum Ratings		T <sub>c</sub> = 25 °C, unless otherwise specified	
Symbol	Conditions	Values	Units
<b>IGBT</b>			
V <sub>CE(S)</sub>	T <sub>j</sub> = 25 °C	1700	V
I <sub>C</sub>	T <sub>j</sub> = 150 °C	830	A
	T <sub>c</sub> = 25 °C	590	A
	T <sub>c</sub> = 80 °C	590	A
I <sub>CRM</sub>	I <sub>CRM</sub> = 2 × I <sub>Cnom</sub>	1200	A
V <sub>GES</sub>		± 20	V
t <sub>psc</sub>	V <sub>CC</sub> = 1200 V; V <sub>GE</sub> ≤ 20 V; T <sub>j</sub> = 125 °C V <sub>CE(S)</sub> < 1700 V	10	µs
<b>Inverse Diode</b>			
I <sub>F</sub>	T <sub>j</sub> = 150 °C	630	A
	T <sub>c</sub> = 25 °C	440	A
	T <sub>c</sub> = 80 °C	440	A
I <sub>FRM</sub>	I <sub>FRM</sub> = 2 × I <sub>Fnom</sub>	1200	A
I <sub>FSM</sub>	t <sub>p</sub> = 10 ms; sin. T <sub>j</sub> = 150 °C	3600	A
<b>Module</b>			
I <sub>l(RMS)</sub>		500	A

## II. Voltage-Source Converter (VSC)

### Three-Phase Two-Level VSC

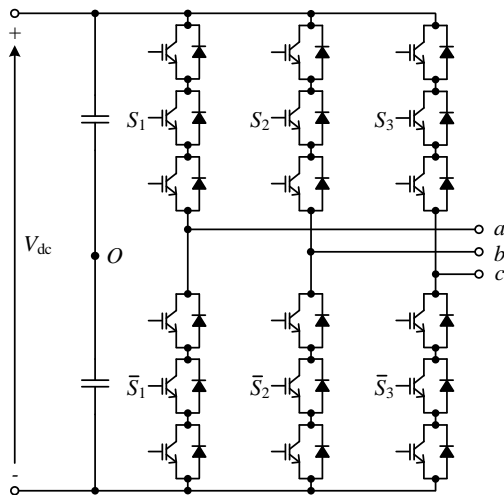
- ❑ Operation of the converter beyond the voltage rating of existing semiconductor devices requires additional devices to be connected in series.



- The voltages across the power devices have to be limited.
- The quality of the waveform is poor (only two levels).

## II. Voltage-Source Converter (VSC)

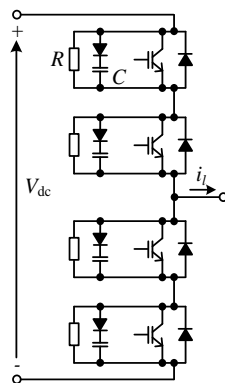
### Series Connected Semiconductors



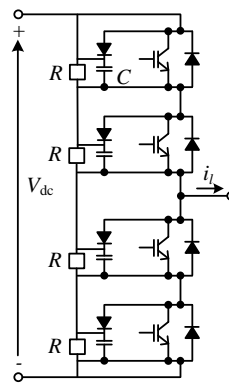
## II. Voltage-Source Converter (VSC)

### Series Connected Semiconductors

- Challenge: Voltage distribution across the series-connected semiconductors.



Passive snubbers

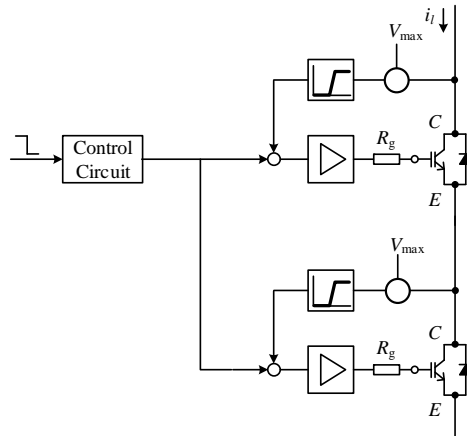


Regenerative snubbers

## II. Voltage-Source Converter (VSC)

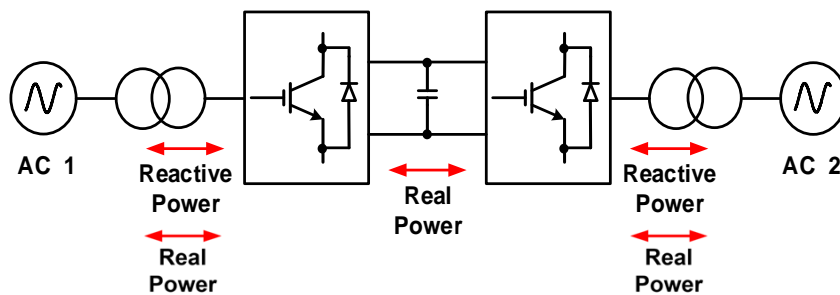
### Active Clamping

- An active overvoltage clamping scheme can be implemented to limit the collector-emitter voltage during switching transients.
- It provides protection of the device from overvoltage at the expense of device switching losses.



## II. Voltage-Source Converter (VSC)

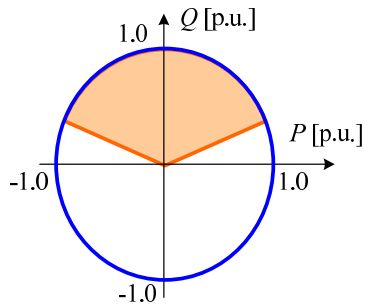
### VSC-Based HVDC Transmission



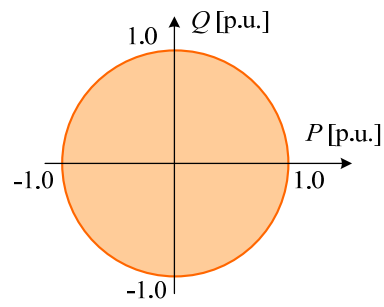
## II. Voltage-Source Converter (VSC)

### Active-Reactive (PQ) Locus Diagram of Power Transmission System

#### LCC (Thyristors)



#### VSC (Transistors)



## II. Voltage-Source Converter (VSC)

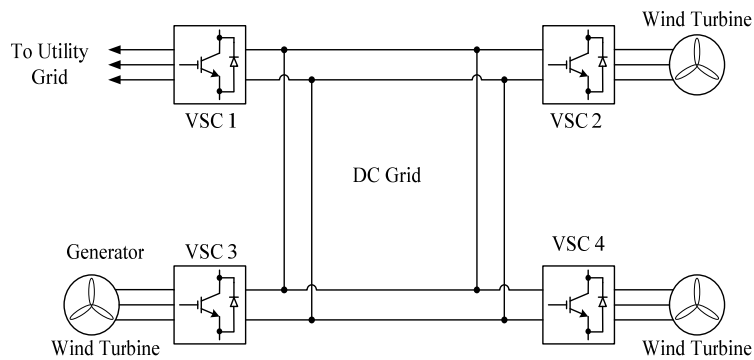
### VSC HVDC Systems - Advantages

- ❑ Can operate when the grid voltages are reduced or distorted.
- ❑ No need for generators, which makes it suitable for weak networks and long distances.
- ❑ Low order harmonics are greatly reduced and harmonic filters can be smaller.
- ❑ No reactive power compensation is required. Real and reactive power independently controlled.
- ❑ Faster response owing to the increased switching frequency of the PWM.
- ❑ Reversing of power is achieved by changing the direction of the DC current (while keeping the voltage polarity).

## II. Voltage-Source Converter (VSC)

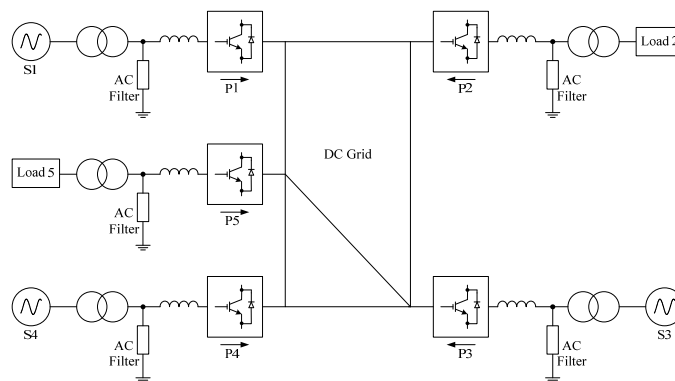
### Multi-Terminal HVDC Systems

Four-terminal PWM VSC-based HVDC system for wind turbines/wind parks



## II. Voltage-Source Converter (VSC)

### Five-Terminal VSC-HVDC System



## II. Voltage-Source Converter (VSC)

### DC Cable Technology



- Triple extruded polymer insulation system (XLPE)
- Same polarity (can be used in VSC-based HVDC systems)

## II. Voltage-Source Converter (VSC)

### Directlink - A Power Trading Machine, Australia



#### Technical Data

Commissioning year:	2000
Power rating:	180 MW (3 x 60)
AC Voltage:	132/110 kV
DC Voltage:	$\pm 80$ kV
DC current:	342 A
Length of DC cable:	6 x 59 km

Main reasons for choosing HVDC system:

- Controlled asynchronous connection for trading.
- Easy to get permission for underground cables.

## II. Voltage-Source Converter (VSC)

### Directlink

Bungalora converter station



## II. Voltage-Source Converter (VSC)

### Troll A HVDC Light® link

The HVDC Light® installation between the Norwegian main land and the Troll A oil platform consists of two circuits, each feeding a 40 MW compressor motor



#### Technical Data

Commissioning year: 2004/2005

Power rating: 2 x 42 MW

AC Voltage: 132 kV/56 kV

DC Voltage:  $\pm 60$  kV

DC current 350 A

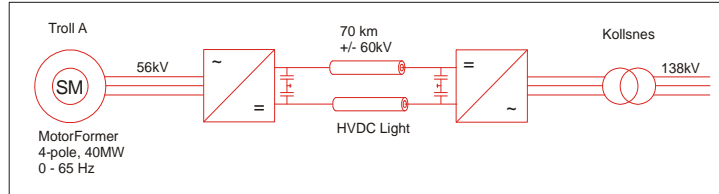
Length of DC cable: 4 x 70 km

Main reasons for choosing HVDC Light® system:

Environmental improvement by elimination of gas turbines on platform. Low weight and small space on platform. Ability to feed and black-start motors, without local generation.

## II. Voltage-Source Converter (VSC)

### Troll A HVDC Light® link



## II. Voltage-Source Converter (VSC)

### Troll A, Converters on the Platform

- The converters are housed in a pre-fabricated module, shipped and lifted onto the platform.





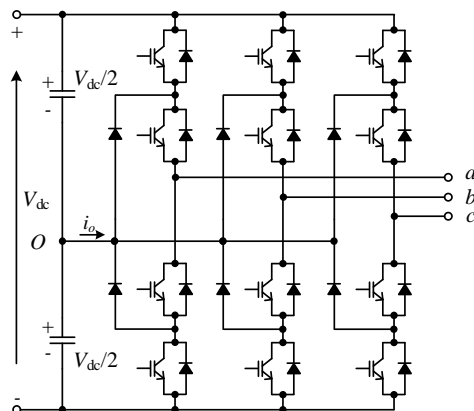
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### III. NPC Converter

#### IV. Neutral-Point-Clamped (NPC) Converter

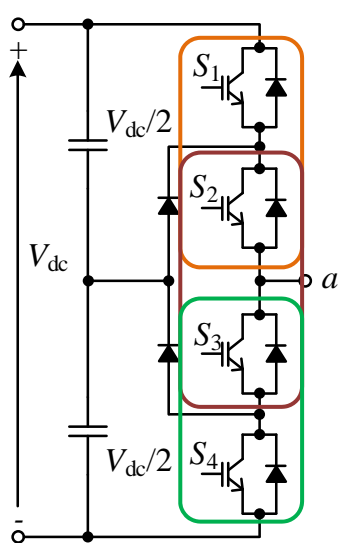
- Split DC-link with capacitors and clamping diodes to generate three voltage levels.
- Voltage across the capacitors should equal half the DC-link voltage.



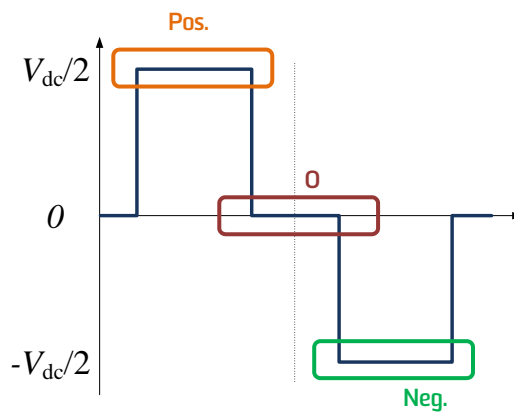
### The NPC Converter

- The NPC can provide three voltage levels at the outputs.
- Higher quality of the output voltages compared to the two-level case imply:
  - (1) smaller reactive components needed to filter, and
  - (2) lower switching frequency and power losses.
- Still series connection of power devices is needed for HVDC applications.

### Three-Level Voltage Waveforms



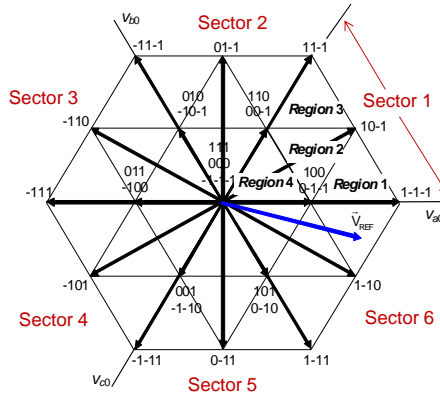
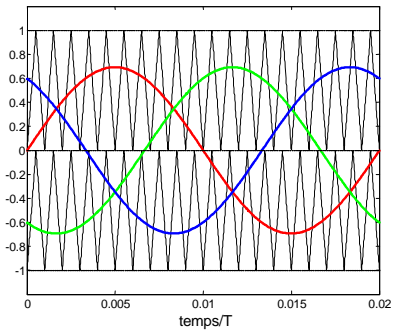
	$S_1$	$S_2$	$S_3$	$S_4$	$V_{aO}$
Pos.	1	1	0	0	$+V_{dc}/2$
0	0	1	1	0	0
Neg.	0	0	1	1	$-V_{dc}/2$



### Pulse-Width Modulation (PWM) Strategies

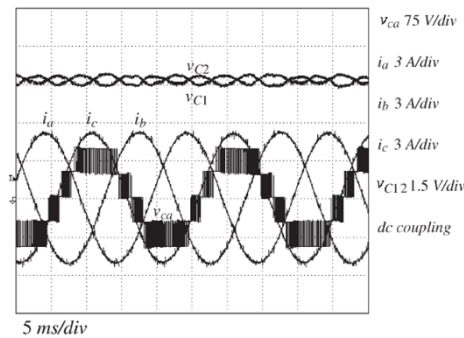
Carrier-based PWM (CB-PWM)

Space-vector PWM (SV-PWM)



### Pulse-Width Modulation (PWM)

Line-to-line output voltage ( $v_{ab}$ ), output currents ( $i_a$ ,  $i_b$  and  $i_c$ ), and capacitor voltages ( $v_{C1}$  and  $v_{C2}$ )



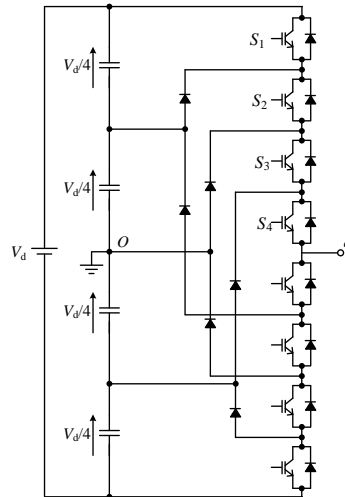
➤ The line-to-line voltages can produce up to five levels.

### Extension of the NPC Concept

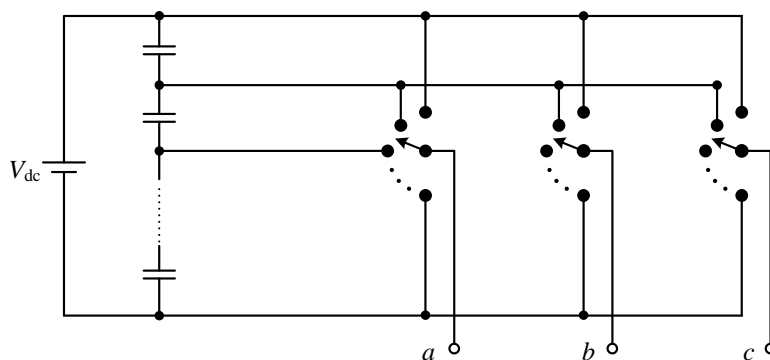
- Extension to higher number of levels. Multiple capacitors in the DC-link provide multiple “neutral points”.

Five-level NPC converter

	$S_1$	$S_2$	$S_3$	$S_4$	$V_{aO}$
State 1	1	1	1	1	$+V_{dc}/2$
State 2	0	1	1	1	$+V_{dc}/4$
State 3	0	0	1	1	0
State 4	0	0	0	1	$-V_{dc}/4$
State 5	0	0 <</td <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td><math>-V_{dc}/2</math></td>	0	0	$-V_{dc}/2$



### Generalized $n$ -Level NPC Converter Model



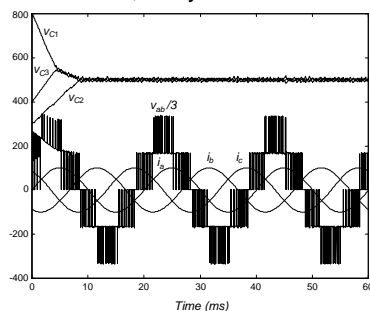
### Issues with High Order ( $n>3$ ) NPC Converters

- Voltage balancing **cannot be always achieved** and depends on the operating point and load connected to the converter.
- The clamping diodes on the different NPs **support different reverse voltages**.
- The central switches of the topology conduct current longer than the outer switches resulting in **unbalanced distribution of the losses**.

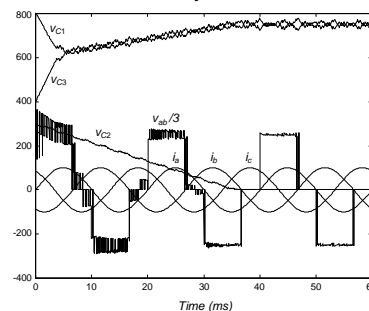
### Capacitors Voltage Balance

Example: four-level NPC converter

$m=0.4$ , Unity Power factor



$m=0.6$ , Unity Power Factor

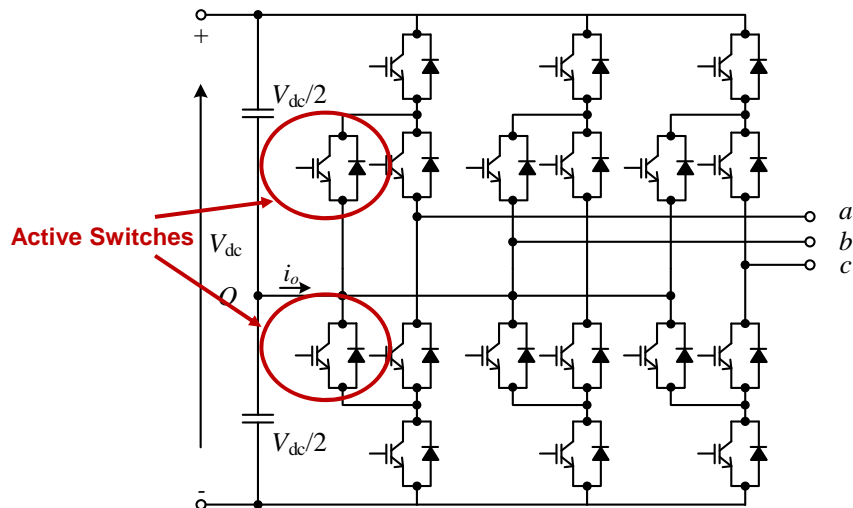


- Voltage balancing **might not be always achieved** for large modulation indices and high power factors.

### Active NPC (ANPC) Converter

- The NPC converter produces unequal distribution of losses among the semiconductors.
- A solution to overcome these problems is derived from the concept of active neutral-point clamping.
- Clamping diodes on the neutral-point are replaced with active switches.
- Zero voltage states and commutations can be selected actively and are not defined by the direction of the phase current.

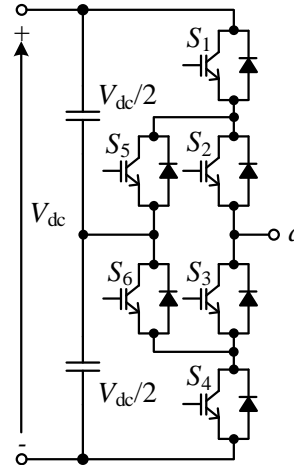
### Three-Level ANPC Converter



Three-Level ANPC Converter

	$S_1$	$S_2$	$S_3$	$S_4$	$S_5$	$S_6$	
Pos.	1	1	0	0	0	1	$+V_{dc}/2$
0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0
0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0
0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Neg.	0	0	1	1	1	0	$-V_{dc}/2$

- In the case of NP connection, the state of the switches  $S_5$  and  $S_6$  will define the path of the current.



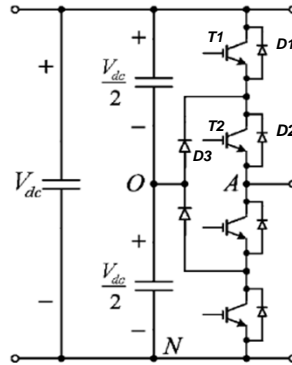
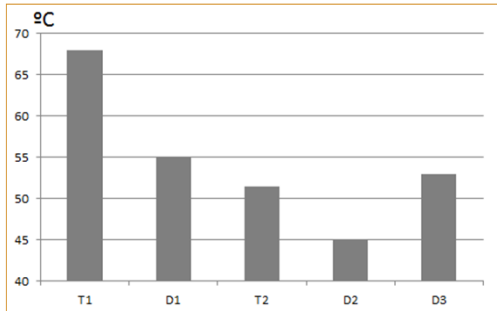
Three-Level ANPC Converter

- The commutations to or from the zero states determine the distribution of the switching losses. All commutations take place between one active switch and one diode.
- Even if more than two devices turn on or off, only one active switch and one diode essentially experience switching losses.

### III. NPC Converter

#### NPC Converter with Series-Connected IGBTs

➤ Losses distribution

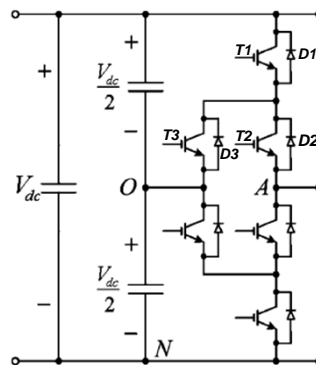
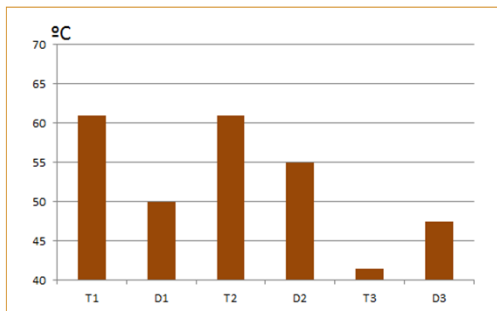


Uneven loss distribution between the switching devices. The converter needs to be overrated.

### III. NPC Converter

#### ANPC Converter with Series-Connected IGBTs

➤ Losses distribution



The ANPC introduces additional switching states that can be used to balance the power losses between semiconductor devices. Better converter use is achieved.



### III. NPC Converter

#### Remarks

- ❑ ABB adopted the ANPC converter technology for HVDC applications but came back to the two-level converter (less expensive).
- ❑ Two and three level converters can facilitate AC/DC conversion in HVDC applications. However:
  - High switching frequency is mandatory due to the reduced number of levels.
  - Poor efficiency.
  - Direct connection of switching devices required.
  - Not easy scalable to higher power/voltage levels.



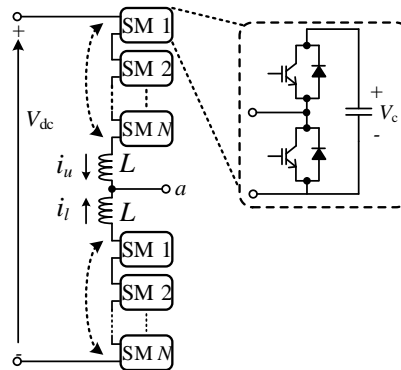
**Modular Multilevel Converters (MMCs)**

## Outline

- I. HVDC Systems
- II. Voltage-Source Converter (VSC)
- III. Neutral-Point-Clamped (NPC) Converter
- IV. Modular-Multilevel Converters (MMCs)**

### IV. Modular Multilevel Converters (MMCs)

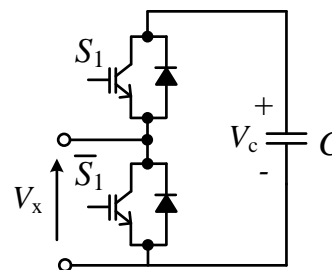
- Cascaded connection of sub-modules (SMs) or cells.
- The SMs are connected in series to create arms.
- A phase-leg comprises two arms (upper and lower).
- It is structurally scalable and can theoretically meet any voltage level requirements.



### Half-Bridge Sub-Modules (SMs)

- Operation of switches within a SM is complementary.

SM States	$s_1$	$\bar{s}_1$	$v_x$
Activated	1	0	$v_c$
Deactivated	0	1	0



Half-bridge SM

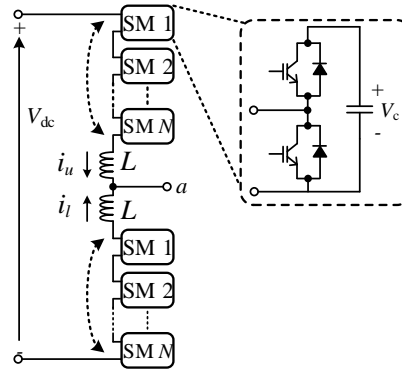
#### IV. Modular Multilevel Converters (MMCs)

### MMC Arms

- Number of SMs per arm:  $N$
- Reference voltage for the SM capacitors:

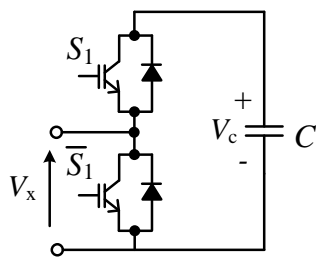
$$V_C^* = \frac{V_{dc}}{N}$$

- Reactors  $L$  are inserted in the circuit to control the circulating currents and to limit the fault currents.

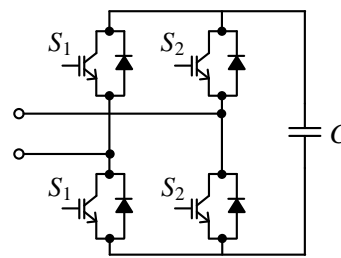


#### IV. Modular Multilevel Converters (MMCs)

### SM Configurations



Half-bridge:  $v_x = \{0, v_C\}$

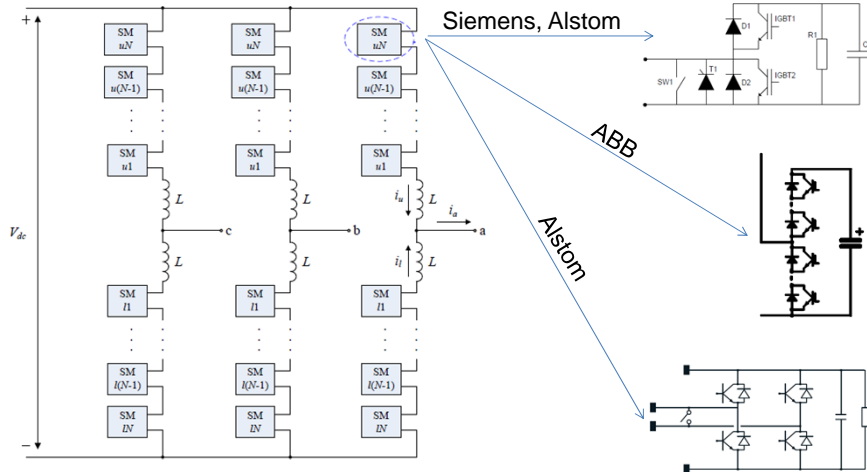


Full-bridge:  $v_x = \{v_C, 0, -v_C\}$

IV. Modular Multilevel Converters (MMCs)

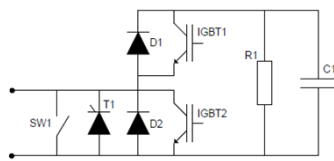
SM Configurations

➤ Modular multilevel converters: Manufacturers' implementation

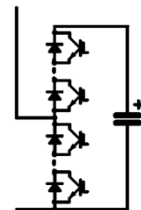
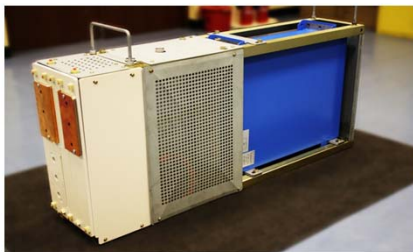


IV. Modular Multilevel Converters (MMCs)

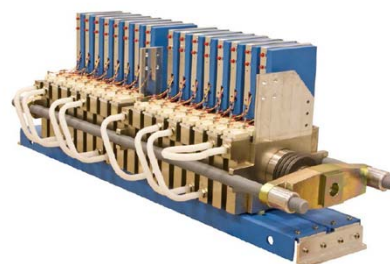
Modular multilevel converters: Manufacturers implementations



ALSTOM

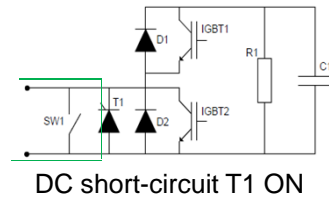
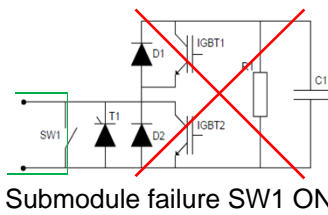
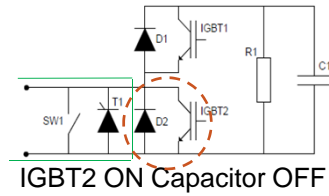
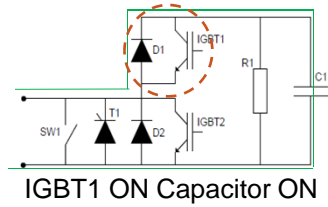


ABB



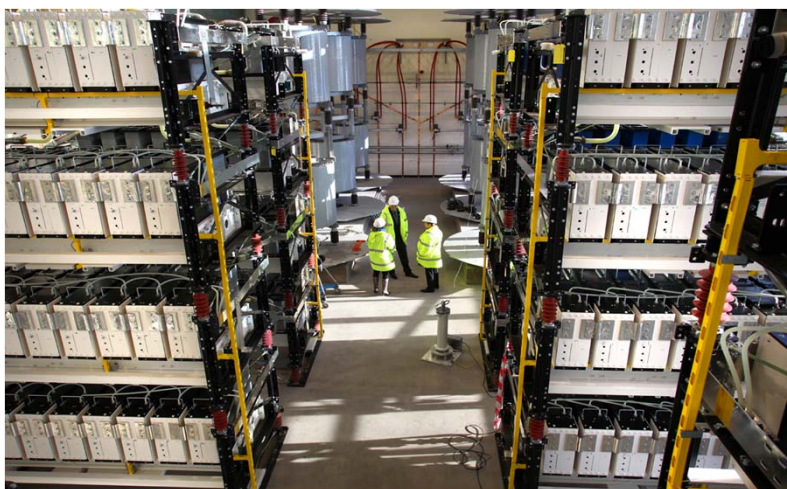
#### IV. Modular Multilevel Converters (MMCs)

### Switching States



#### IV. Modular Multilevel Converters (MMCs)

### Alstom Implementation



### MMC Features

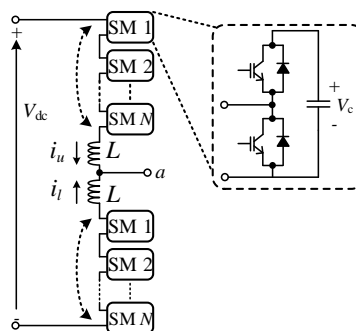
- ❑ The MMC offers salient features such as:
  - It is structurally scalable and can theoretically meet any voltage level requirements.
  - The capacitor voltage balancing task is relatively simple and there is no requirement for isolated dc sources.
  - A DC-link capacitor is not required (only a small one is connected to attenuate switching-frequency ripples).

### Operation of the MMC

- On average, the number of SMs activated in a phase-leg is equal to  $N$ . Deviations from that number can be due to interleaving between the upper and lower arm carriers or due to external control actions.
- Ideally, the DC voltage is distributed equally across the SMs:

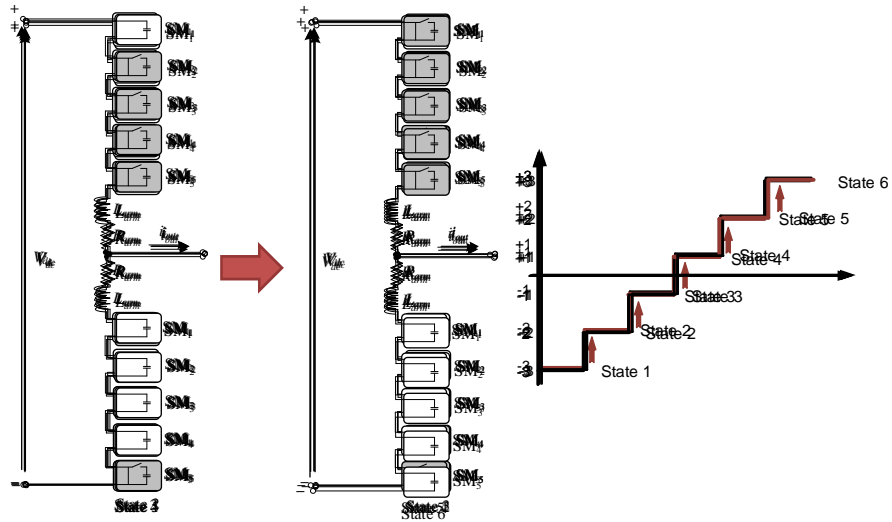
$$V_c = \frac{V_{dc}}{N}$$

- The output voltage level is defined by the number of SMs that are connected in the upper and lower arm of the converter.



#### IV. Modular Multilevel Converters (MMCs)

### States of the MMC. Example



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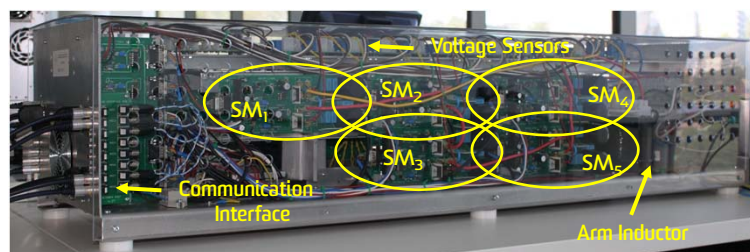
COBEP 2013, Gramado, Brazil



#### IV. Modular Multilevel Converters (MMCs)

### Experimental Setup

- Single-phase laboratory prototype at the Australian Energy Research Institute (AERI), the University of New South Wales (UNSW), Sydney, Australia
- Number of SMs per arm: 5



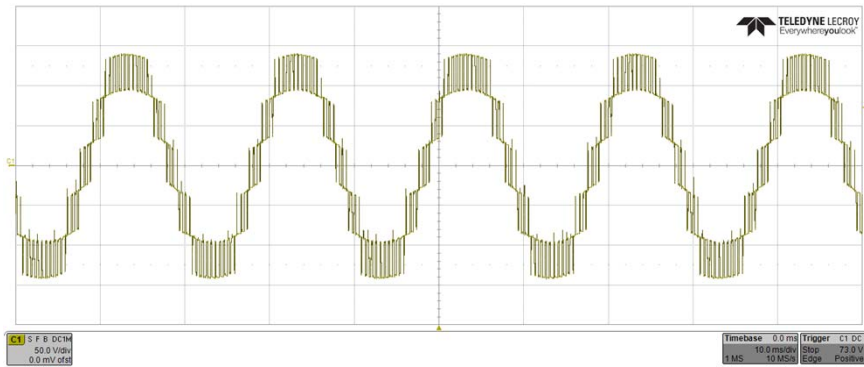
Page 78

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#### IV. Modular Multilevel Converters (MMCs)

### Output Voltage



#### IV. Modular Multilevel Converters (MMCs)

### SM Capacitor Voltage Balancing

- During the operation of the MMC, the arm current flows through the SM capacitors, which charge and discharge the capacitors.
- In order to ensure the proper operation of the converter, the SM capacitor voltages have to be regulated to the reference value of

$$V_C^* = \frac{V_{dc}}{N}$$

- An active voltage balancing method is essential for the operation of the MMC.



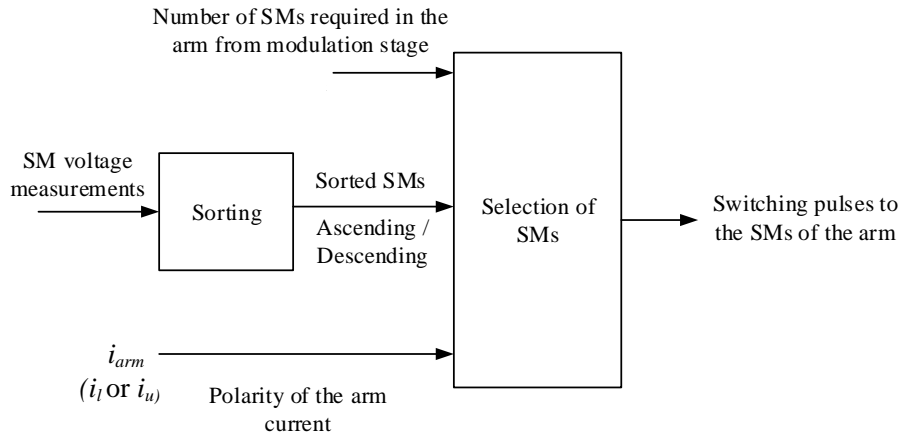
### SM Capacitor Voltage Balancing

- ❑ The voltage balancing algorithm uses measurements from the SM capacitor voltages and arm currents to select the next SM that will be connected or bypassed.
- If the arm current is in the **charging** direction:
  - and the PWM method requires the **addition** of one SM in the arm, the SM with the **lowest** voltage that is not connected to the arm will be selected and added to the arm.
  - and the PWM method requires the **removal** of one SM in the arm, the SM with the **highest** voltage that is connected to the arm will be selected and removed from the arm.

### SM Capacitor Voltage Balancing

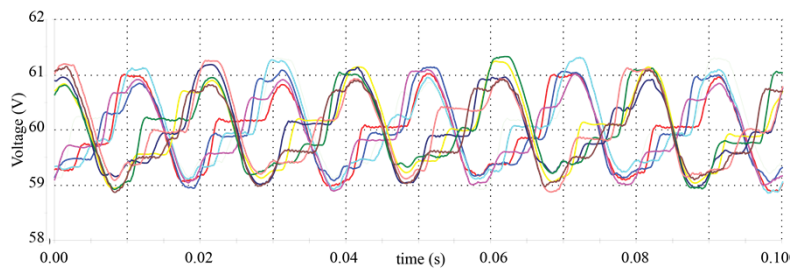
- ❑ The voltage balancing algorithm uses measurements from the SM capacitor voltages and arm currents to select the next SM that will be connected or bypassed.
- If the arm current is in the **discharging** direction:
  - and the PWM method requires the **addition** of one SM in the arm, the SM with the **highest** voltage that is not connected to the arm will be selected and added to the arm.
  - and the PWM method requires the **removal** of one SM in the arm, the SM with the **lowest** voltage that is connected to the arm will be selected and removed from the arm.

### SM Capacitor Voltage Balancing



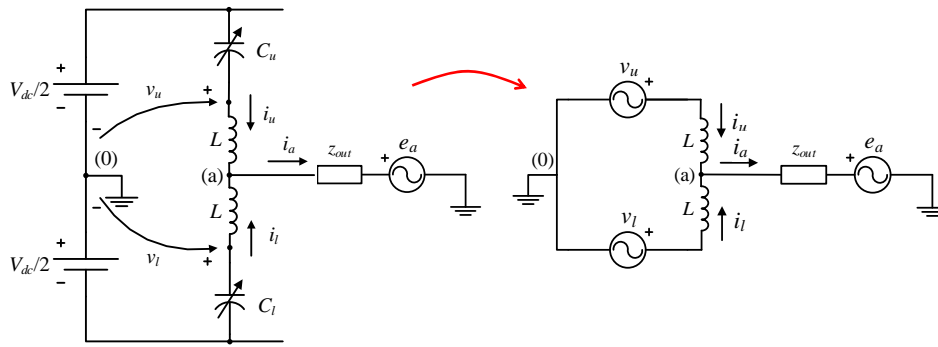
### Experimental Results

SM Capacitor voltages ( $V_{dc} = 300V$ ,  $N = 5$ )



**Circulating Current Control**

□ From the equivalent circuit:

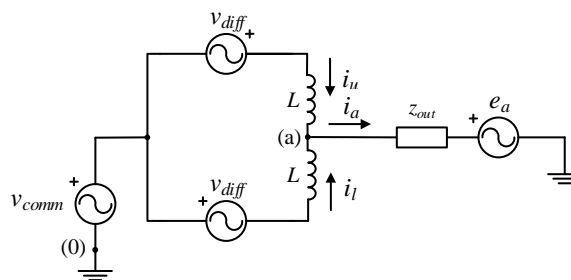


**Common and Differential Voltages**

- Two distinct voltages in the phase-leg can be identified; the common voltage ( $v_{comm}$ ) and the differential voltage ( $v_{diff}$ ):

$$v_{comm} = \frac{v_u + v_l}{2}$$

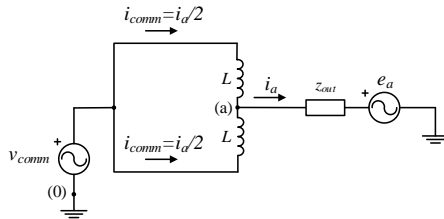
$$v_{diff} = \frac{v_u - v_l}{2}$$



#### IV. Modular Multilevel Converters (MMCs)

### Common and Differential Circuits

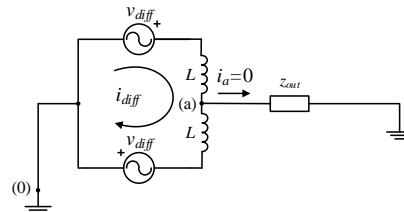
□ Based on the superposition theorem, two circuits can be distinguished:



Common Mode

$$V_{comm} = \frac{V_u + V_l}{2}$$

$$i_{comm} = \frac{i_u + i_l}{2} = \frac{i_a}{2}$$



Differential Mode

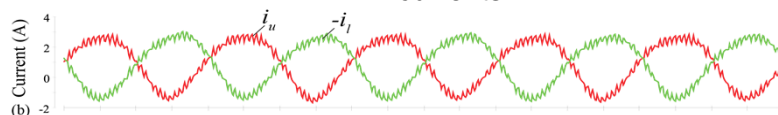
$$V_{diff} = \frac{V_u - V_l}{2}$$

$$i_{diff} = \frac{i_u - i_l}{2} \Rightarrow \text{Circulating Current}$$

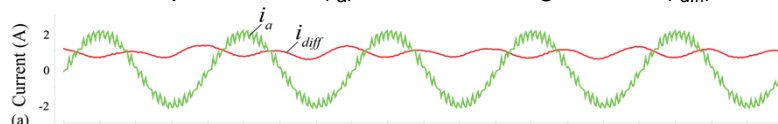
#### IV. Modular Multilevel Converters (MMCs)

### Currents of the MMC

Arm currents



Output current ( $i_a$ ) and circulating current ( $i_{diff}$ )



- The circulating current contains a DC component that is essential to keep the phase-leg energized, i.e. maintain the capacitor voltages at the reference values.
- It also contains some AC components (not essential).

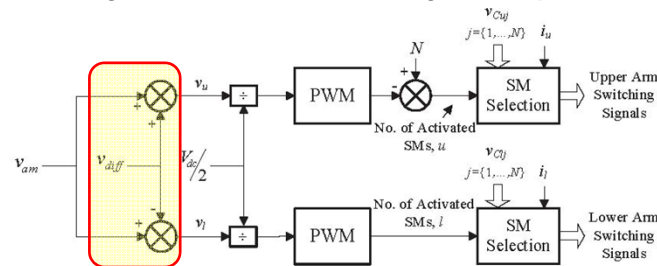
#### IV. Modular Multilevel Converters (MMCs)

### Control of the Circulating Current

- The common and differential circuits can be analyzed independently. The differential voltage defines the differential/circulating current:

$$i_{diff} = \frac{1}{L} \int_0^t v_{diff} dt + I_{diff 0}$$

- A differential voltage can be introduced to control the circulating current without affecting the output current.



#### IV. Modular Multilevel Converters (MMCs)

### Discussion on the Circulating Current Components

- If the only reference for the circulating current is the DC component, the arm currents are minimized and this reduces power losses in the MMC.

$$i_{diff} = I_{DC}$$

- A second order harmonic can be added to the DC component to reduce the capacitor voltage ripples.

$$i_{diff} = I_{DC} + \hat{I}_2 \cos(2\omega t + \varphi_2)$$

IV. Modular Multilevel Converters (MMCs)

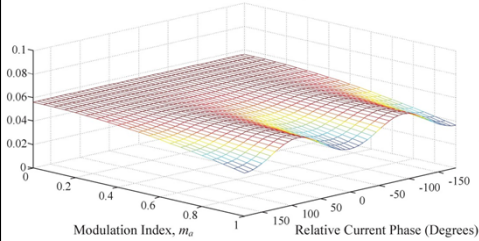
Normalized Capacitor Voltage Ripple Amplitudes

$$\frac{\Delta V_{NPn}}{2} = \frac{\Delta V_{NP}/2}{I_{ams}/fC}$$

Case 1:

$$i_{diff} = I_{DC}$$

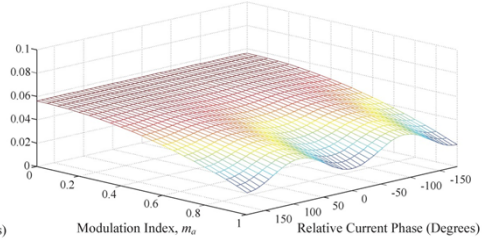
Normalized Capacitor Voltage Ripple Amplitude



Case 2:

$$i_{diff} = I_{DC} + \hat{I}_2 \cos(2\omega t + \varphi_2)$$

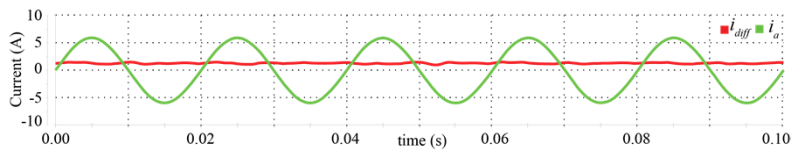
Normalized Capacitor Voltage Ripple Amplitude



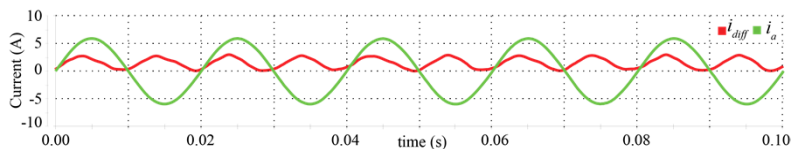
IV. Modular Multilevel Converters (MMCs)

Circulating Current and Output Current

Case 1:  $i_{diff} = I_{DC}$



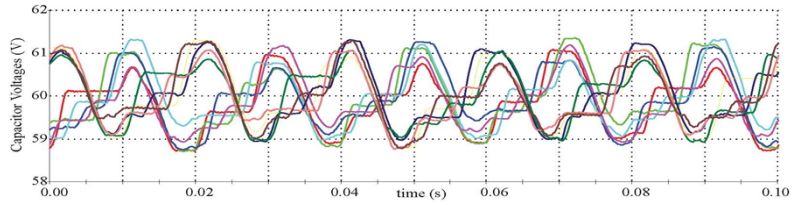
Case 2:  $i_{diff} = I_{DC} + \hat{I}_2 \cos(2\omega t + \varphi_2)$



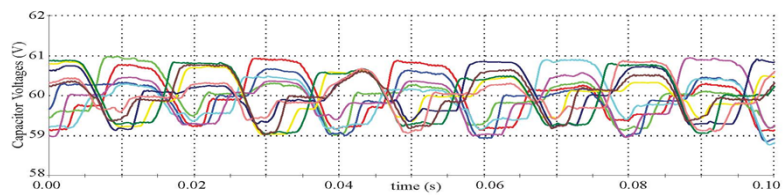
#### IV. Modular Multilevel Converters (MMCs)

### Capacitor Voltages

Case 1:  $i_{diff} = I_{DC}$



Case 2:  $i_{diff} = I_{DC} + \hat{I}_2 \cos(2\omega t + \varphi_2)$

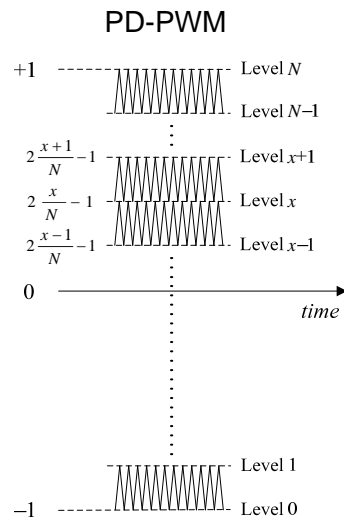


#### IV. Modular Multilevel Converters (MMCs)

### Modulation Techniques

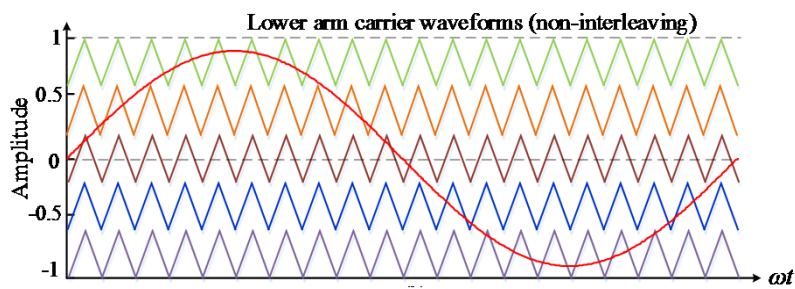
- Level-shifted phase-disposition PWM (PD-PWM) is normally applied to the MMC.
- Other modulation strategies such as phase-shifted PWM (PS-PWM) can also be applied<sup>(\*)</sup>

<sup>(\*)</sup> M. Hagiwara and H. Akagi, "Control and experiment of pulsewidth-modulated modular multilevel converters," IEEE Trans. Power Electron., vol. 24, no. 7, pp. 1737-1746, Jul. 2009.

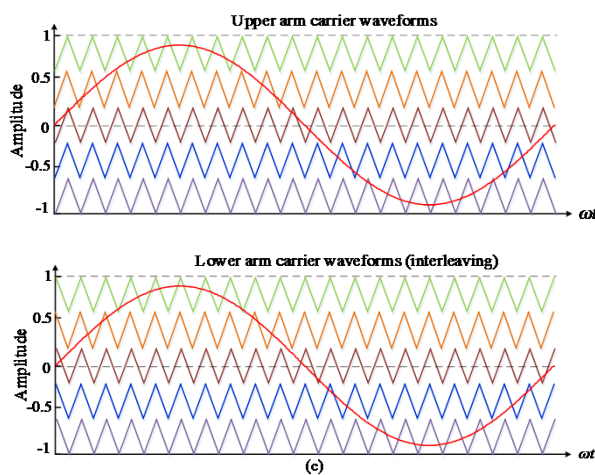


**PD-PWM**

- A number  $N$  of carriers is needed for the modulation.
- The reference signal is compared with the carriers.
- The output voltage level of the phase-leg, which ranges from 0 to  $N$ , is defined by the number of carriers that have an instantaneous value lower than the reference signal.



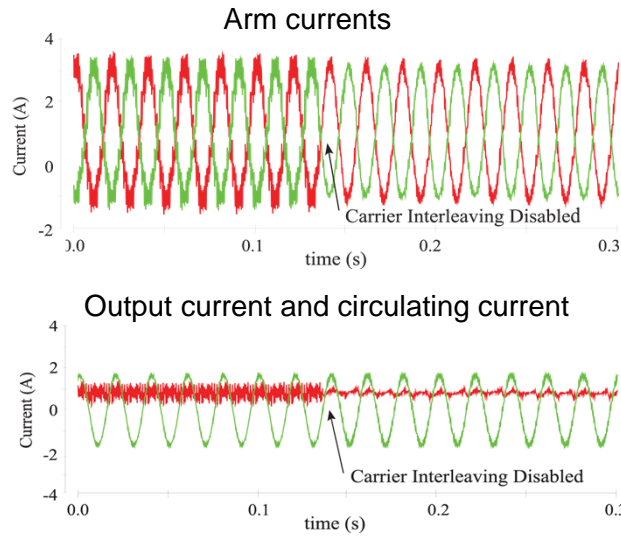
**Interleaving between Upper and Lower Arms**





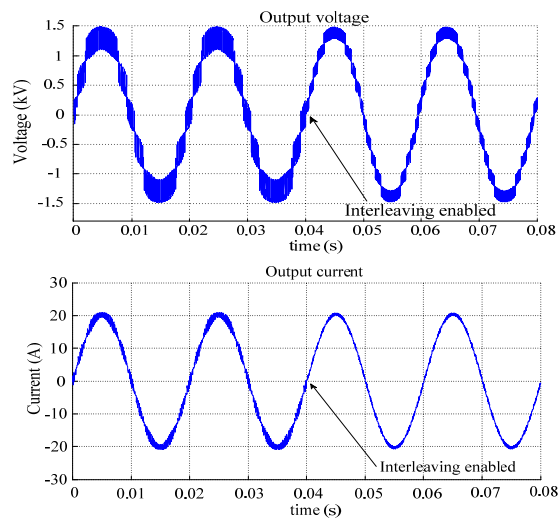
#### IV. Modular Multilevel Converters (MMCs)

### Interleaving between Upper and Lower Arms



#### IV. Modular Multilevel Converters (MMCs)

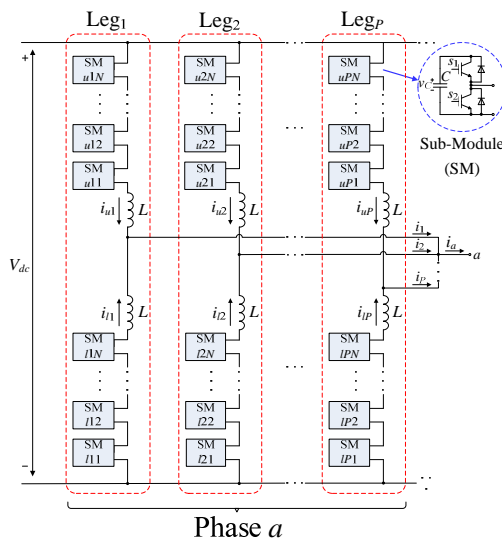
### Interleaving between Upper and Lower Arms



Effects of Interleaving

- When applying interleaving between the upper and lower arms the ripple in the arm currents increases.
- In order to reduce the current ripples the value of the inductors should be increased.
- The quality of the output voltage (common voltage) improves because of the increased number of levels provided by the MMC (from  $N+1$  to  $2N+1$ ).

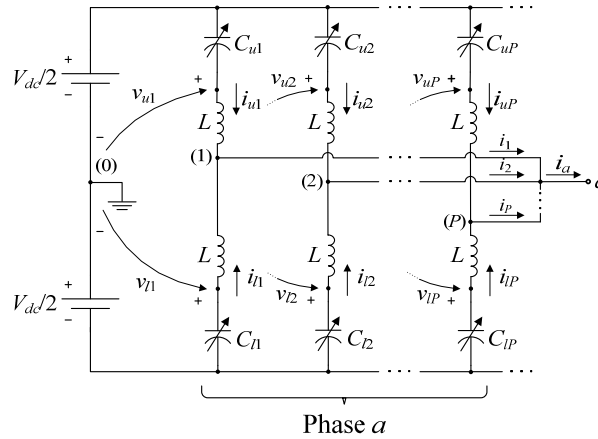
MMC Legs Connected in Parallel



- Each leg is integrated by two arms (the upper and lower arms)
- $P$  legs build up a phase of the MMC (e.g. Phase  $a$ )
- The output currents of the legs have to be balanced ( $i_1 \approx i_2 \dots \approx i_P \approx i_d / P$ )

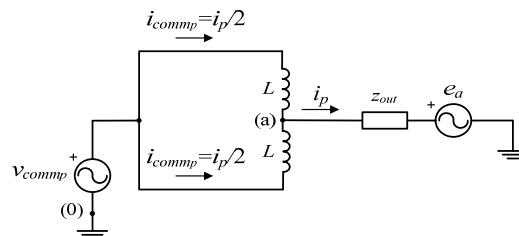
### Equivalent Circuit

Model of an MMC phase (Phase a) with  $P$  legs connected in parallel



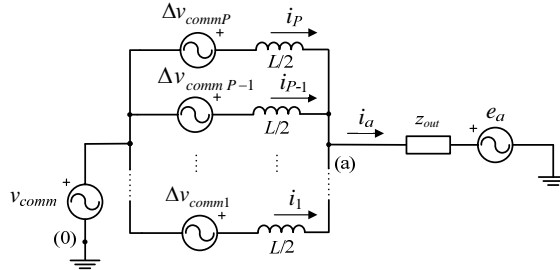
### Control of the Currents

- Each leg has its independent circulating current control.
- The legs should share the output current evenly.
- The common voltage of each leg will be modified to achieve balanced output currents.



IV. Modular Multilevel Converters (MMCs)

Current Balance Among the Legs (Phase a)



Control magnitude:

$$\Delta v_{comm_p} = -\frac{L}{2T_s} \Delta i_p$$

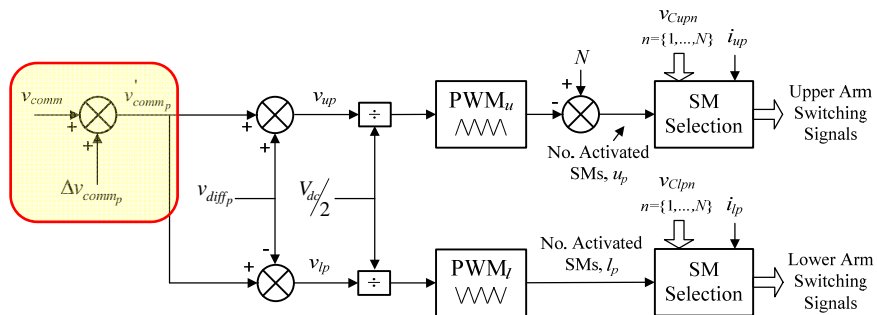
with:  $\Delta i_p = i_p - \frac{i_a}{P}$

Restriction to avoid distorting the output voltage ( $v_{comm}$ ):

$$\sum_{p=1}^P \Delta v_{comm_p} = 0$$

IV. Modular Multilevel Converters (MMCs)

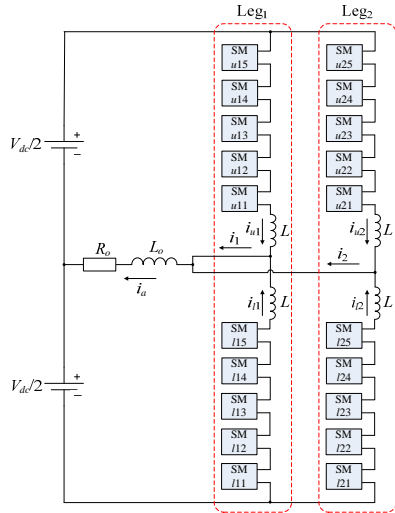
Modulation Scheme (Leg p)



➤  $\Delta v_{comm_p}$  is injected into the reference signal of each leg to achieve equal current sharing.

#### IV. Modular Multilevel Converters (MMCs)

### Simulation Results



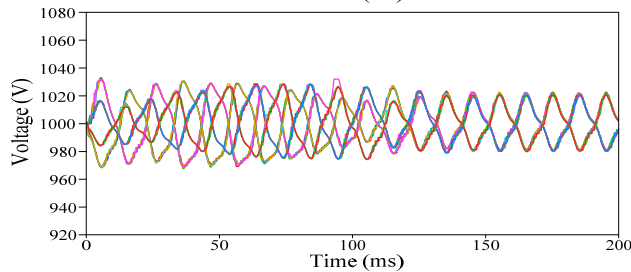
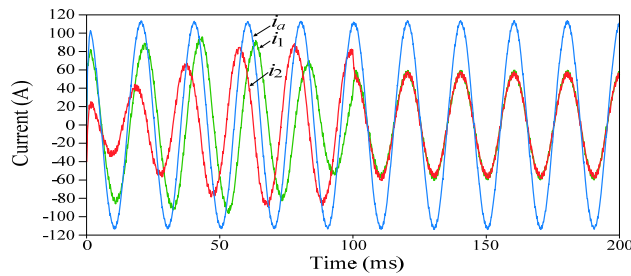
➤ Single-phase MMC with two legs connected in parallel

Data:

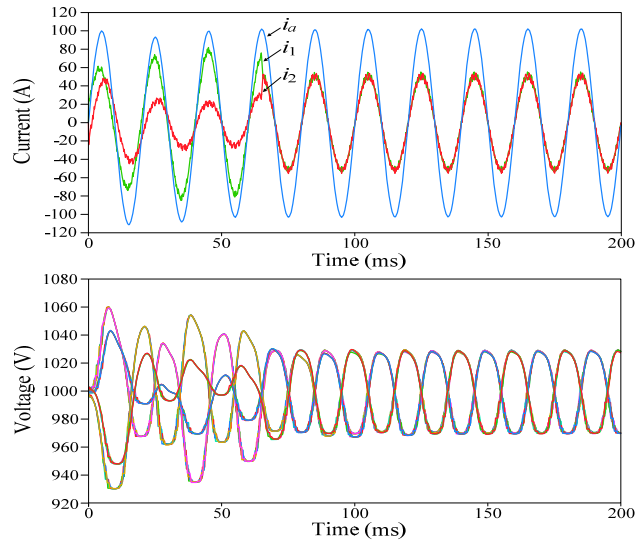
Parameter	Value
Number of SMs per Arm, $N$	5
Number of Legs in Parallel, $P$	2
SM Capacitors, $C$	1 mF
Arm Inductors, $L$	10 mH
Load 1	$R_o = 20 \Omega, L_o = 5 \text{ mH}$
Load 2	$R_o = 0 \Omega, L_o = 70 \text{ mH}$
DC-Link Voltage, $V_{dc}$	5 kV
SM Voltage, $V_C$	1 kV
Modulation Index, $m_a$	0.9
Carrier Frequency, $f_s$	5 kHz

#### IV. Modular Multilevel Converters (MMCs)

### Simulation Results: Load 1



Simulation Results: Load 2



Discussion

- The rated current/power of an MMC can be increased by connecting legs in parallel.
- The circulating current of each leg is controlled independently from the other legs.
- The proposed current balancing strategy is able to achieve equal current sharing among the legs.
- None of the current control actions applied affects the output voltages of the MMC.
- The proposed strategy is general and applicable to MMCs with any number of voltage levels and legs connected in parallel.

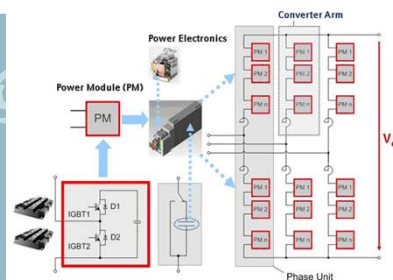
#### IV. Modular Multilevel Converters (MMCs)

### Future Research on HVDC Systems

- ❑ The MMC represents an important milestone in the evolution of the HVDC transmission links.
- ❑ Research topics
  - New energy transmission layouts with MVDC collector systems.
  - Development of control algorithms for multiterminal HVDC links.
  - DC short-circuit handling.

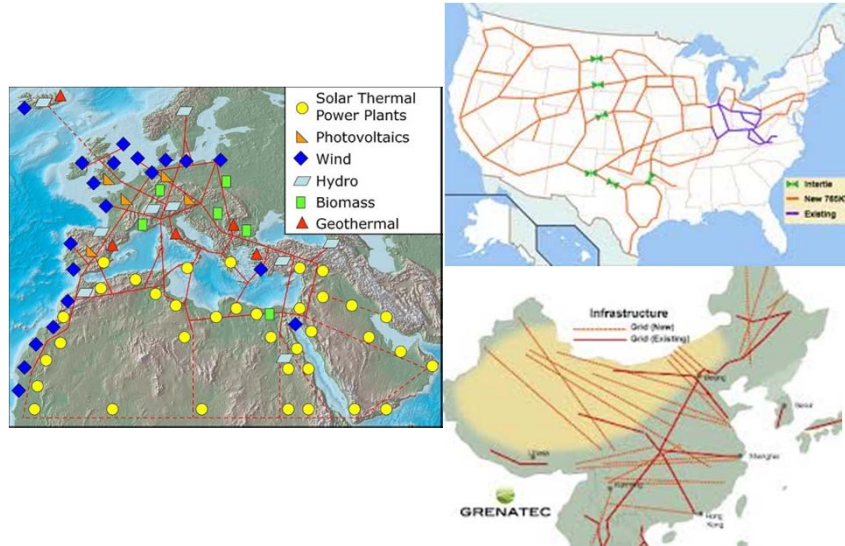
#### IV. Modular Multilevel Converters (MMCs)

### Trans Bay's Underwater HVDC Plus (Siemens)



## IV. Modular Multilevel Converters (MMCs)

### Super Grids



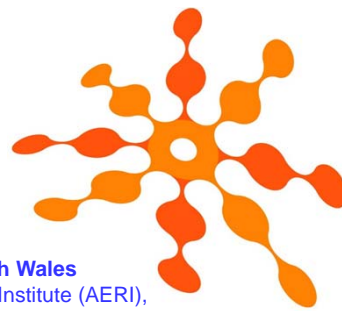
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Prof. Josep Pou ([j.pou@unsw.edu.au](mailto:j.pou@unsw.edu.au))

*Thank you!*



<sup>(1)</sup> **The University of New South Wales**  
Australian Energy Research Institute (AERI),  
School of Electrical Engineering and Telecommunications, Australia



<sup>(2)</sup> **Technical University of Catalonia, Barcelona Tech**  
Terrassa Industrial Electronics Group (TIEG),  
Department of Electronic Engineering, Catalonia, Spain



<sup>(3)</sup> **TECNALIA**  
Energy Unit, Basque Country, Spain

