

Control Method of Impedance Network in SiC Power Converters for HEV/EV.

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Abstract. Silicon carbide (SiC) devices provide significant performance improvements in many aspects, including lower power dissipation, higher operating temperatures, and faster switching, compared to conventional Si devices. All these features helped increase the interest in the applications of these devices for electric drive systems. The inclusion of an impedance network to elevate DC voltage would improve performance of an electric-traction system, because the topologies of impedances networks can eliminate the need of a DC-DC converter. However, it is important to know control methods that applicable to this type of topologies to systems that are more efficient. This paper presents the analysis of a control method in a power converter topology using SiC devices with an impedance network to elevate DC voltage for electric traction applications. The proposed analysis includes the implementation of a control method in Current Fed Quasi-Z topology, with 100 kHz switching frequency, and its analysis using the simulation of the control method, the power losses in SiC devices and the stress on passive components in the impedance network. Finally, the obtained results are compared with a conventional Current Fed Quasi-Z topology built with silicon devices at a low switching frequency (2 KHz).

Key words

Silicon carbide. , Electric Cars, DC–AC converter.

1. Introduction

The application of impedance networks topologies of power converters, used for the development of drive systems for electric vehicles voltage source inverter (VSI) and current source inverter (CSI), has helped overcome the voltage and current limitations that frequently occur in these topologies [1].

In the development of power converters with an input source voltage and impedance network coupling, the voltage can be increased by controlling shooting time intervals through the converter so there is no need for a DC / DC converter [2]. The common schematic of a network with an impedance converter using power semiconductor devices used in drive systems is shown in Fig.1.

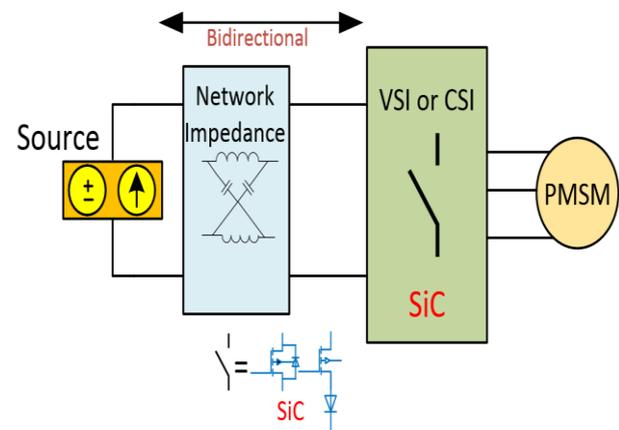


Fig 1. Schematic of power converters SiC with network impedance for applications in traction system.

A basic network impedance is composed of linear energy storage elements, capacitors and inductors. There is also the possibility of implementing various configurations with the help of semiconductor elements such as switches and diodes [2]. For bidirectional impedance network topologies is necessary to know the different control strategies and modulations types for obtaining the phases, frequencies, voltage amplitude and current in the converter. A new zero switching state called Shoot-through exists in these converts. This state is caused by the short-circuiting of one, two or all three legs of the inverter [3].

This paper contributes the research of power converter topologies that improve the performance of electric traction systems using SiC elements, and to the research of more efficient control techniques to consolidate these topologies in look for more efficient control techniques to consolidate these topologies in HEV / EV systems.

In this paper, a control method for SiC power converters with an impedance network is developed. The paper is organized as follows: Section II presents the control methods for impedance networks. Section III presents the design and implementation of a power converter using simulation. Section IV shows the results and comparative analysis with Si topology. Section V summarizes the most important conclusions of the paper.

2. Control Methods for Impedance Network

A network impedance Z has a non-minimum phase behavior, which could be a problem or limitation at the time of designing a control network, for it is very important to obtain a good dynamic model of the converter [4].

The analysis of a small signal model in these topologies can work with different state variables, input current, currents in inductances and voltages in capacitors. The models obtained in this manner provide a transfer function that can be used for controller design, but that also provides features and dynamic system behavior [4] - [8].

A diagram or equivalent circuit for small signal analysis in the converter impedance network Quasi Z is shown in Fig.2, where it is established that SD is the control variables and input voltages or capacitor the which variables to control.

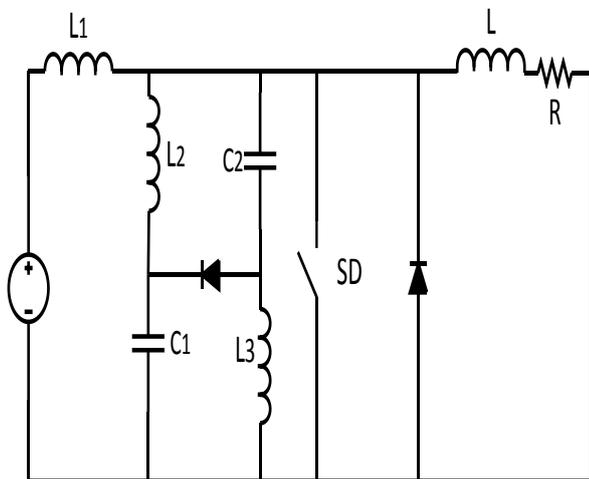
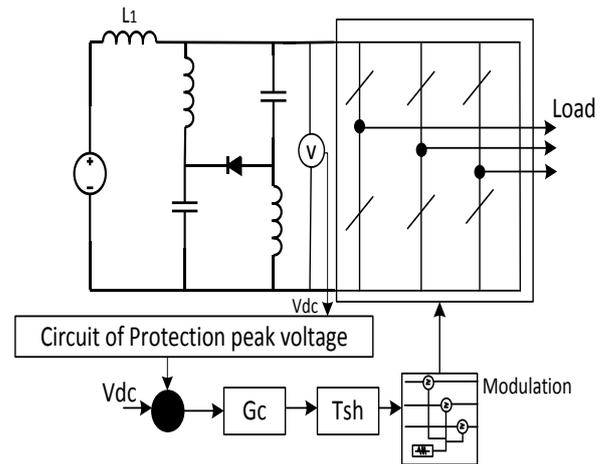


Fig 2. CF-Quasi Z equivalent circuit for small signal analysis.

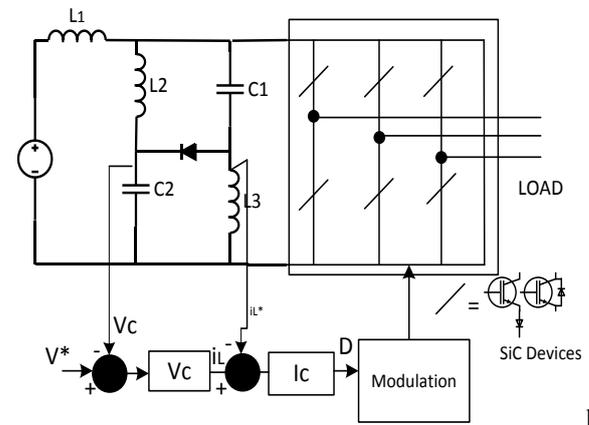
During the small signal analysis of different topologies, it is important to take into account that bidirectional impedance networks can be symmetrical networks, which means that values of capacitance and inductance are equal ($C1=C2$ and $L1=L2$) [9]-[11]. The voltage or current that enters the inverter can be controlled by two methods: voltage or current control, which can be direct or indirect.

The direct method, show in Fig.3a, improves transient response and minimizes the perturbation. It also facilitates the network impedance controller design. The indirect method, shown in Fig.3b, work with the capacitor voltage or current output inductor, which are measured in order to compare them to a voltage or current reference.

It is very important to take into consideration that when working with the method of indirect control the voltage peak can generate problems, it can become uncontrollable and this could affect the output voltage, causing greater stress to the semiconductors in the inverter and increasing distortion. One way to solve this problem is by modifying the modulation index [12].



a) Direct control method capacitor voltage V_c .



b) Indirect control voltage capacitor V_c and I_L .

Fig 3. Methods of control direct and indirect for impedance networks.

3. SiC power converter and Method of Control

The topology used for this application is the Current Fed Quasi- Z power inverter shown in Figure 3. The Quasi Z topology has two modes of operation; continuous operation and a discontinuous operation.

Only the continuous mode is analyzed in this mode it has three states of operation, in the first state the inverter bridge is an active state and the DC link voltage V_{out} is equal to the output voltage V_{DC} , and the diode is not active [13], this state is called active state (Fig.4a).

In the second state (Fig. 4b) the inverter bridge is equivalent to a short circuit by turning on the upper and lower switches in the same phase leg, or in the same two-phase legs or three phase legs together, the DC link voltage is zero and the diode is off [13]. In the third mode (Fig. 4c), called open state the devices are disconnected, which is similar to an open state, where the diode is turned on and the voltage of DC link is equal to the sum of voltages in each capacitor [13].

Considering that the average voltage over one switching period should be zero in steady state, V_{out} is calculated using the next expression:

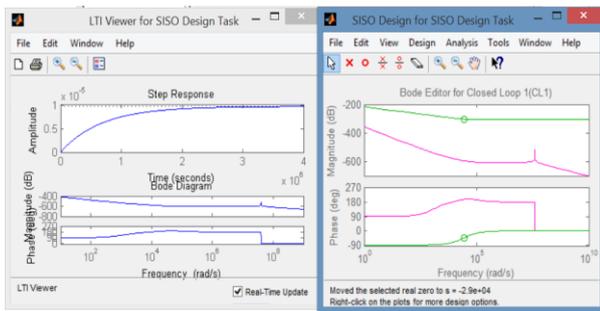


Fig.6. SiSotools tuning of PI controllers.

4. Simulations and Results

This section describes the different results obtained in simulation made in Psim. The first part presents the results of the proposed control in the Current Fed Quasi-Z topology (Fig.7). Next, a comparative study between the topology with the proposed control and a topology with silicon devices is performed. Power losses and stress analyzes on passive devices are also performed.

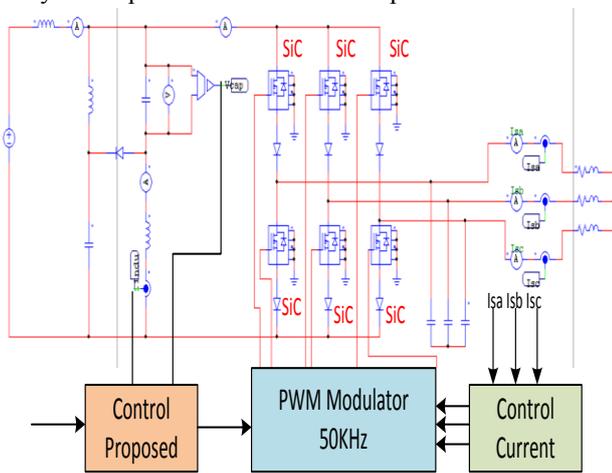


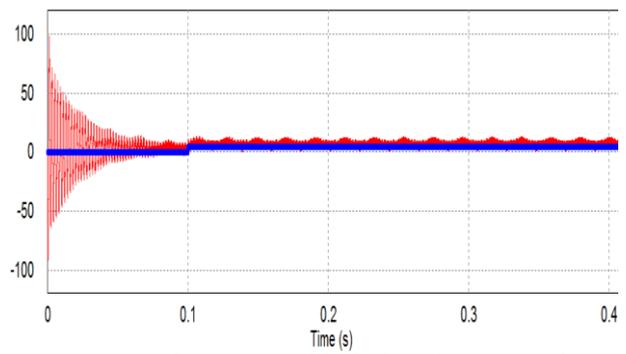
Fig.7. Topology Current Fed Quasi-Z and control proposed.

The Simulation parameters are shown in Table 2:

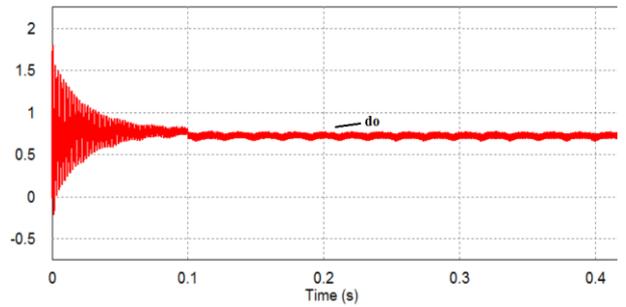
Table.1 Parameter of simulations

Parameter	Value
Vdc	100V
L=L1=L2	50uH
C=C1=C2	660uF
Frequency	50KHz
C Filter	10uF
Mosfet SiC	SCT2450KE
Diode SiC	C3D08065I
Pi of current	P= 0.6 I=0.053
Pi of voltage	P=0.8 I=0.0034
Pi of Id and Iq	P=2.2; I=0,23

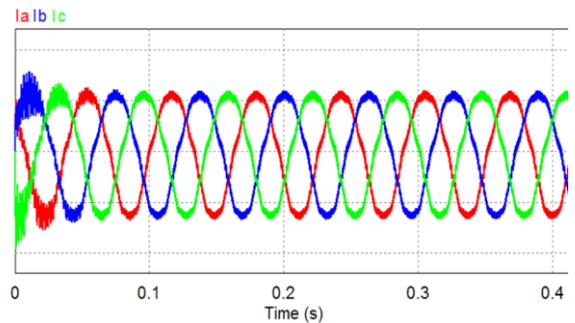
In the Fig. 8, the control results of the impedance network are shown.



a) Current control in the impedance network.



b) Voltage control in impedance network.



c) Currents Ia, Ib, Ic in the power converter.

Fig.8. Current and do control in the impedance network.

The Fig.9, shows the stress on the elements of the impedance network.

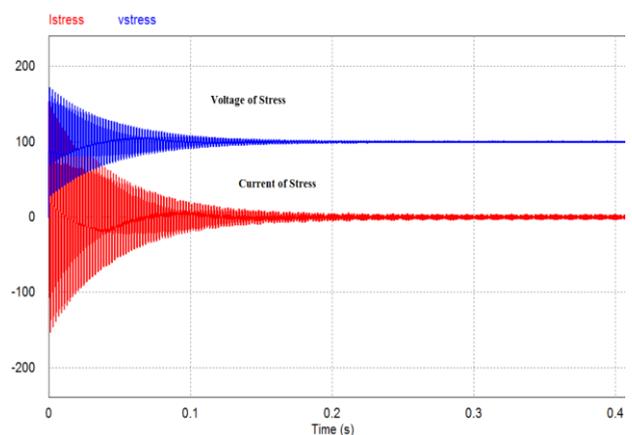


Fig. 9. Stress in passive elements.

The Pi control of Id and Iq are shown in Fig.10

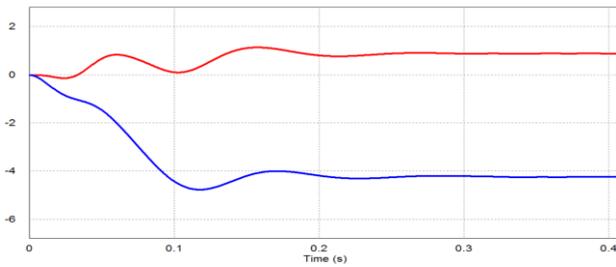
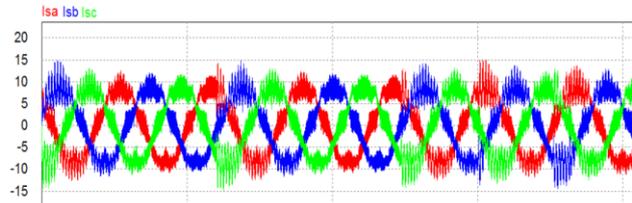
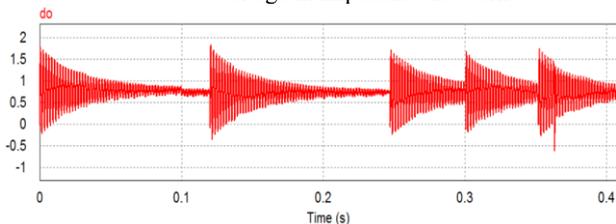


Fig.10. Control of I_d and I_q currents.

When the PI control in the impedance network is not properly tuned, the currents are distorted and can cause problems in the system (Fig.10).

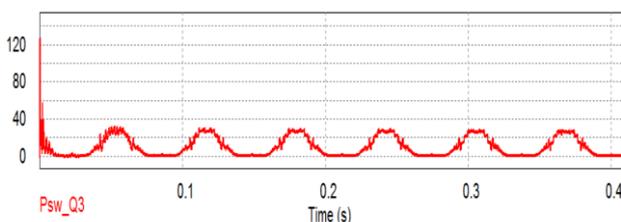


a) Currents with badly tuned in Pi control of current and voltage in impedance network.

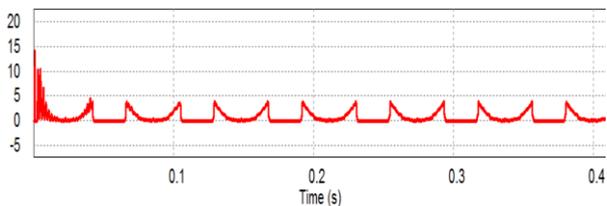


b) Impedance Network do with bad tuning.
Fig.10. Results of control badly tuned.

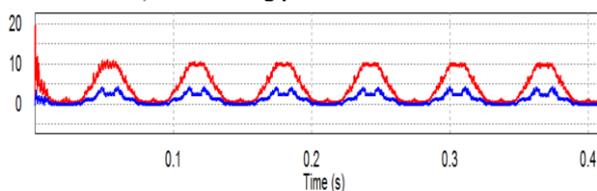
The analysis of power losses by conduction and switching in the proposed topology are presented in Fig.11.



a) Conduction power losses in SiC Mosfet.



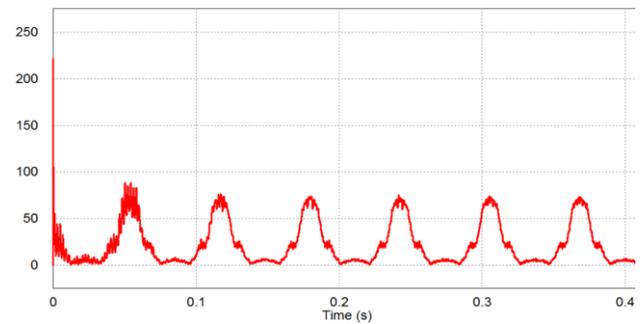
b) Switching power losses in SiC Mosfet.



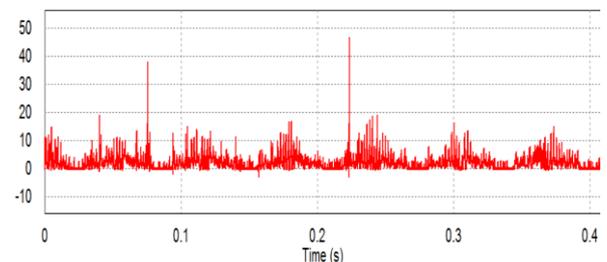
c) Conduction and switching power losses in SiC Diode

Fig.11. Analysis of power losses in Current Fed Quasi-Z SiC topology.

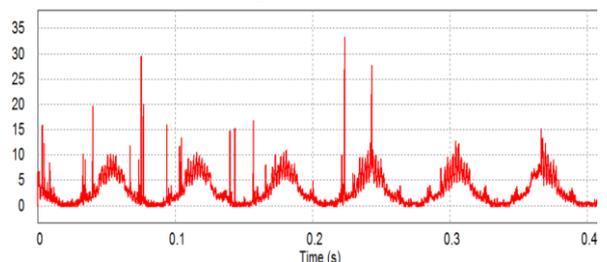
The results of the power losses analysis in Current Fed Quasi-Z Si topology are presents in the Fig.12; the switching frequency is 10 KHz.



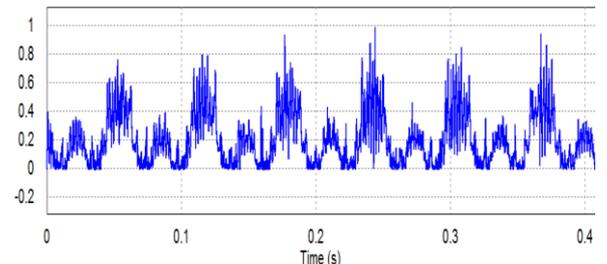
a) Conduction power losses in Si IGBTs.



b) Switching power losses in Si IGBTs.



c) Power losses by conduction in diode Si



d) Power losses by switching in the Si diode.

Fig.11. Analysis of power losses in Current Fed Quasi-Z Si topology.

Analyzing the results of the power losses between the two topologies it can be established that the proposed topology has less power losses when SiC devices are used.

5. Conclusions

This paper presents a control method for Current Fed Quasi-Z SiC topology. The proposed method allows to control the impedance network; and to generate the PWM signals for the SiC devices in the converter.

The implemented method was found acceptable during the simulation. Therefore, the obtained results support the development of the application, showing improved performance over the other studied topologies.

In the comparative study between the two topologies SiC and Si, the results show that the power losses in the proposed topology are reduced. The reason is that the uses SiC devices, which allow a higher activation frequency.

This research showed the advantages of SiC based topologies with different control techniques. The proposed control helped to improve the design of the impedance network and to reduce the stress and size of the passive components within the network.

Power converters that use an impedance network are emerging topologies for drive systems in HEV / EV. The use of SiC devices in these topologies and the application of control methods that focus on improving the efficiency can contribute to the consolidation of these technologies within these systems.

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