

CAS on Power Converters

Definition of Power Converters I&II

...a basic introduction

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Baden (CH) 8th May 2014







in 2 hours...

Outline

- Power electronic converter definitions
- Power electronics applications
- Principles in power electronics
- Power converter elements and rules
- Main topologies overview
- Galvanic insulation
- Implications of technology limitations
- Power converter design procedure
- Conclusion



Power electronic converter definitions

Different people, different definitions...(majority from F. Bordry)

The source of the beam blow-up when we could not prove it was the RF (Control room operator)

A powerful (small) black box able to convert MAD files into currents (Accelerator Physics group member)

An equipment with three states, ON, OFF and FAULT (Another operator)

Is it the same thing as a power supply? (Person from another physics lab)

A big box with wires and pipes everywhere and blinking lamps. Occasionally it goes BANGG! (A former CERN Power Converter Group secretary view)



Power electronic converter definitions

Different people, different definitions...(majority from F. Bordry)
 That which feeds the magnets (a visitor)

A stupid installation taking a non-sinusoidal current at poor power factor (Power distribution engineer)

A standard piece of equipment available from industry off-the-shelf (a higher management person, not in this room!)

An electrical energy amplifier (current Electric Power Converter Group secretary)



Power electronic converter definitions



Energy source

The task of a power converter is to process and control the flow of electric energy by supplying voltages and currents in a form that is optimally suited for user loads.

Application / load





Power electronics applications - general

- Applications in a wide power (P) range. Examples:
 - P ~ W: battery-based portable equipment
 - 10W<P<1kW: computers & office equipment
 - 1kW<P<10MW: variable speed drives (motors & generators)
 - 10MW<P<1GW: high power transmission systems (HVDC, UPFC, etc.)





Power electronics applications - Evolution

From mercury arc rectifier, gridcontrolled vacuum-tube rectifier, ignitron,....







...to solid state electronics (semiconductors)

From 1960





Link to frequency of the electrical network 50 Hz (60 Hz)

From 1985



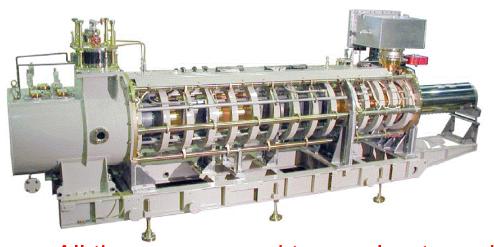
High frequency power semiconductors:

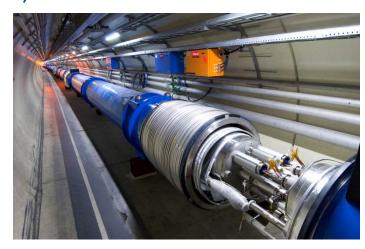
MosFet, IGBTs, GTOs, IGCTs,....

High frequency => high performances (ripple, bandwidth, perturbation rejection,...) small magnetic (volume, weight)

Power electronics applications - Accelerators

- Supply of several accelerator's equipment:
 - Normal conducting and superconducting magnets
 - Electronic tubes for RF production (klystrons, tetrodes, etc.)
 - Particles sources (protons, electrons, ions)
 - All auxiliary / standard DC supplies (measurements, control electronics, etc.)

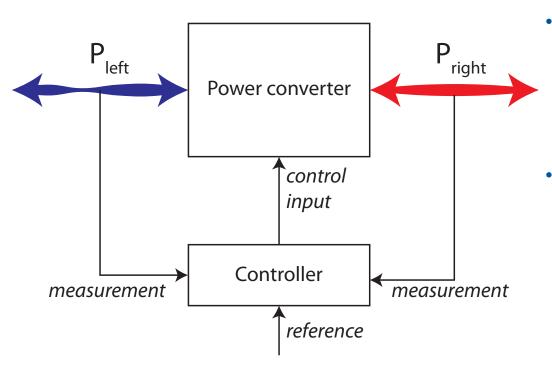




All the energy used to accelerate and guide the particle beams passes through power electronics converters!



- Control is most of the time needed (precision), but one could set the reference directly on the control input
- Depending on converter type, power can go in one or both directions
- Low losses = high efficiency η : small size and weight!



If power flows from left to right

$$\eta = \frac{P_{right}}{P_{left}}$$

If power flows from right to left

$$\eta = \frac{P_{left}}{P_{right}}$$



Old times: Linear voltage/current regulation for DC-DC conversion

A step-down voltage regulator example -325 V in -100 out -10 A:

Analysis:

P_{in}=325 V x 10 A=3.25kW

 P_{out} =100Vx10A=1kW

 $P_T = P_{in} - P_{out} = 225Vx10A = 2.25kW$

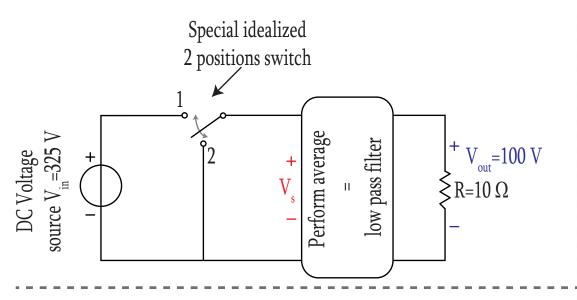
Efficiency:

$$\eta = \frac{P_{out}}{P_{in}} = \frac{1}{3.25} = 0.3 \longrightarrow 30\%!$$

- Used until 1960s (still used in special applications: audio, high precision, HF, ...)
- Drawbacks: low efficiency dissipate losses step-down only no DC insulation

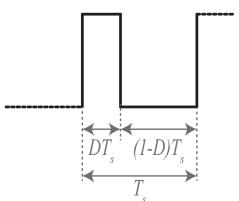


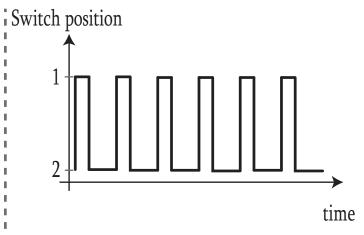
Modern power converters: <u>switching principle</u> (On – Off states only)

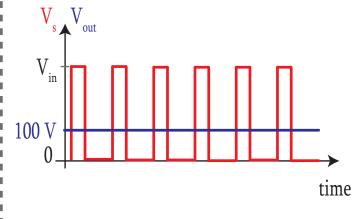


 T_s : switching period $f_s = 1/T_s$: switching frequency D: duty cycle

$$V_{out} = \frac{1}{T_S} = \int_0^{T_S} V_{in}(t)dt = DV_{in}$$









• The use of switches: states

Two switch states:

Closed (On): v=0Open (Off): i=0No losses in ideal switch!

V(t)

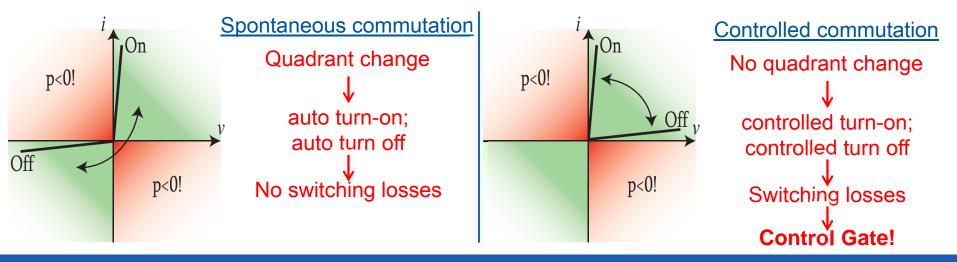
Reality

Characteristic

Off state: open characteristic

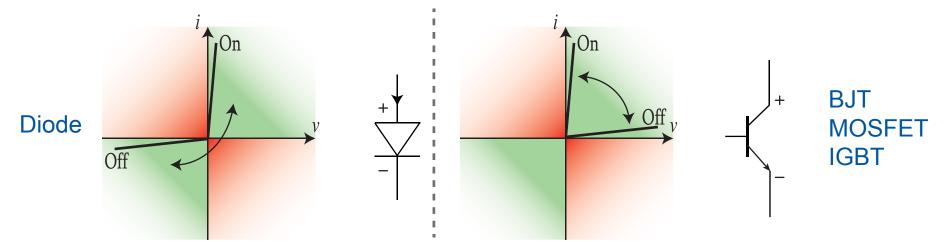
On state: closed

state change – transition (example of 2 segments switches)

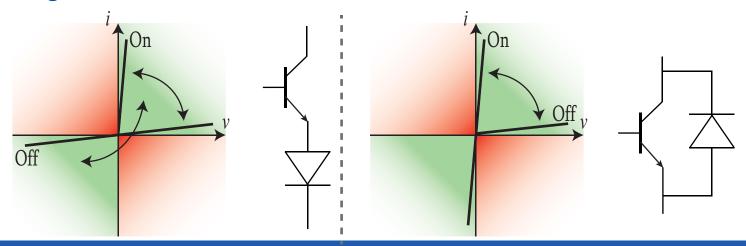




2 segments switches



3 segments switches



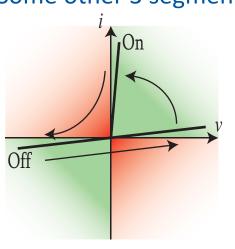


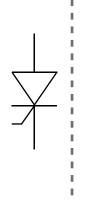
Dual thyristor

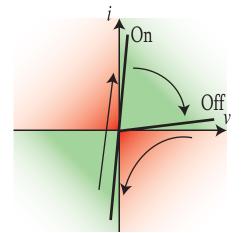
Modern power converter elements - switches

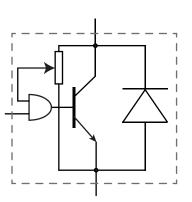
Some other 3 segments

Thyristor

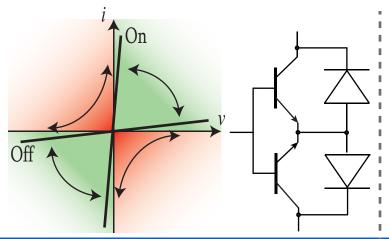


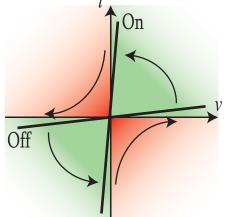


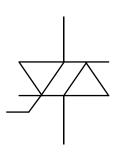




4 segments switches







Triac



Lossless elements are welcomed in power electronics converters:

...if possible avoid resistors or semiconductors operated in their active region!

Sources definition

Two types of sources:

Voltage source

which imposes a voltage independently of the current flowing through it. This implies that the series impedance of the source is zero (or negligible in comparison with the load impedance)



Current source

which imposes a current independently of the voltage at its terminals.

This implies that the series impedance of the source is infinite (or very large in comparison with the load impedance)



A source could be a generator or a receptor!



The principle of operation of a converter is based on the switch mode action of its switches. Commutations of these switches generate very fast current and/or voltage transients so that the transient behaviour of the sources is fundamental.

A source is a voltage source if the voltage across its terminals can't undergo a *discontinuity* due to the *external* circuit variation.

A source is a current source if the current flowing through it can't undergo a *discontinuity* due to the *external* circuit variation.



Instantaneous impedance:

the limit of the impedance Z(s) when the Laplace operator s tends towards infinity.

New definitions:

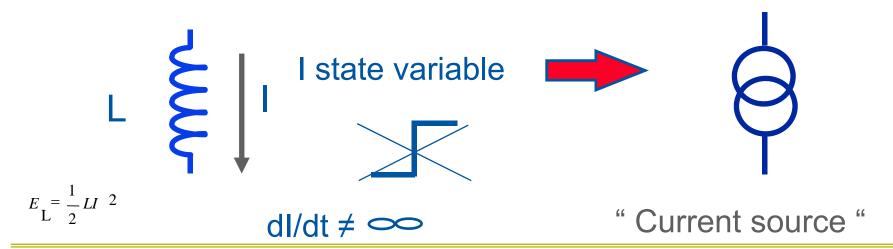
Voltage Source has a zero instantaneous impedance

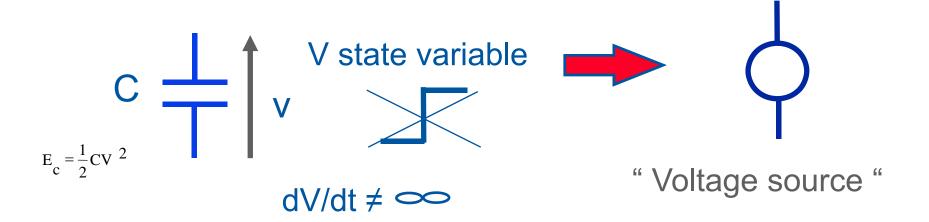
Current Source has an infinite instantaneous impedance

Example:

- Capacitor: Z(s) = 1 / (C.s) , limit Z(s) = 0 => voltage source $s \to \infty$
- Inductance : Z(s) = L.s , limit $Z(s) = \infty$ => current source $s \to \infty$

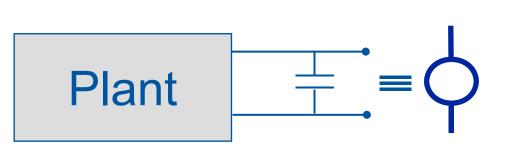


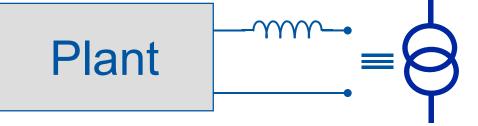


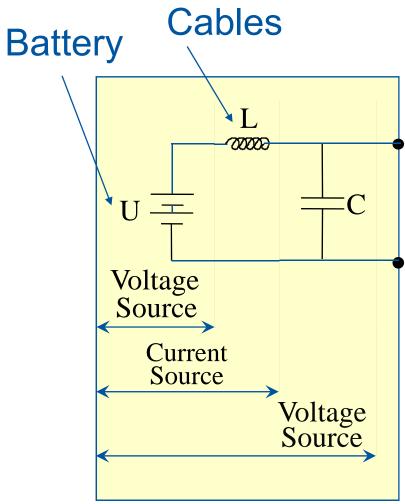




Modifying / improving source nature

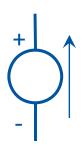


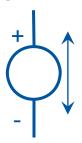


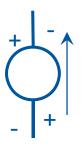


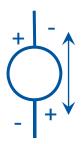


There are 8 type of sources

















Unidirectional source

voltage: if the voltage, across its terminal, can't change sign

current: if the current, flowing through it, can't reverse

Bidirectional (reversible) source:

voltage: if the voltage, across its terminal, can change sign

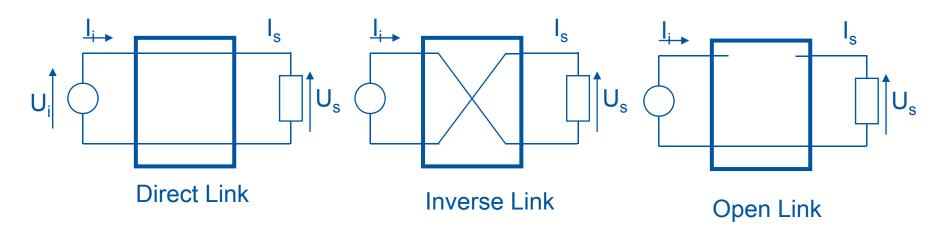
current: if the current, flowing through it, can reverse



Modern power converter – <u>interconnection rules</u>

In power electronics we switch/commutate sources, that's it!

Active components used as switches to create a succession of link and no link between sources to assure an energy transfer between these sources with high efficiency.



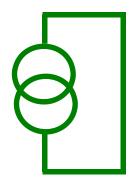


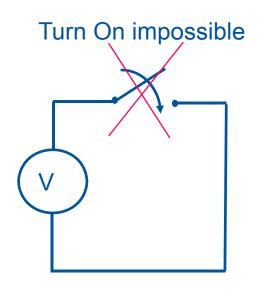
Modern power converter - interconnection rules

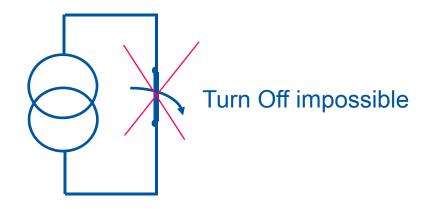
Voltage source



Current source





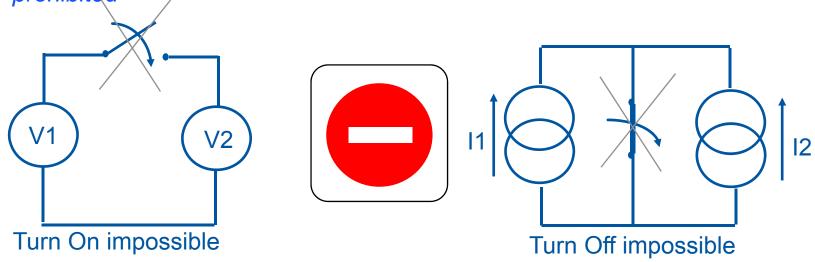




Modern power converter - interconnection rules

electronic switches modify the interconnection of impeding circuits

 any commutation leading instantaneous variations of a state variable is prohibited

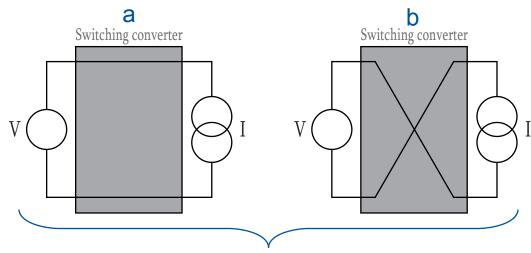


Interconnection between two impeding networks can be modified only if:

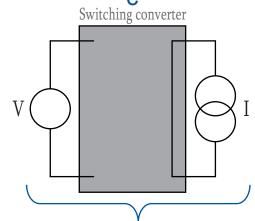
- the two networks are sources of different natures (voltage and current)
- the commutation is achieved by TWO switches. The states of the two switches must be different.



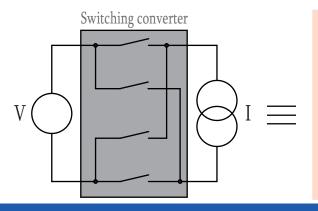
Direct conversion: linking sources of different nature

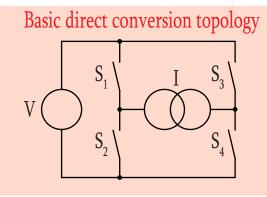






Disconnection (current source short-circuited, voltage source open-circuit)

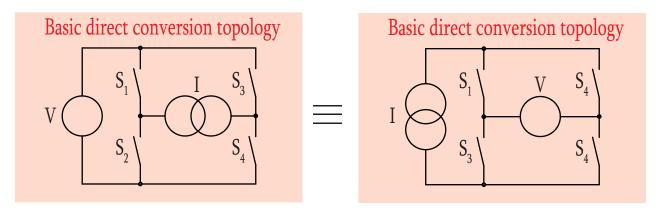




- S1 & S4 closed => a
- S3 & S2 closed => b
- S1 & S3 (or S2 & S4) closed => c



<u>Direct conversion</u> basic topologies



Indirect conversion: linking sources of same nature

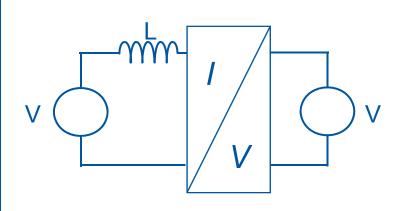
...need intermediate element

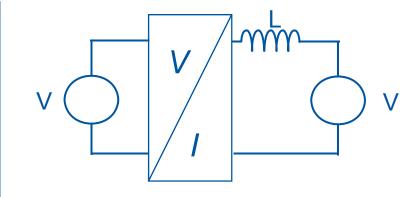
- modification of source nature
- use of two direct link structures
- indirect structure



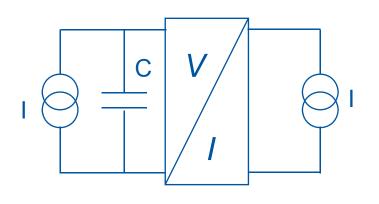
Indirect conversion basic topologies

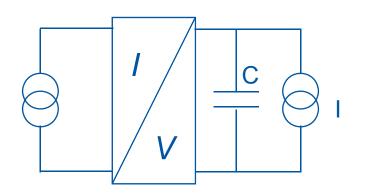
Voltage-Voltage conversion





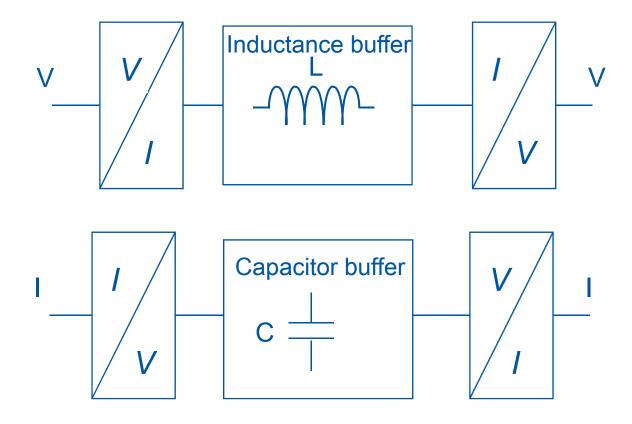
Curremt-Current conversion





Indirect conversion basic topologies

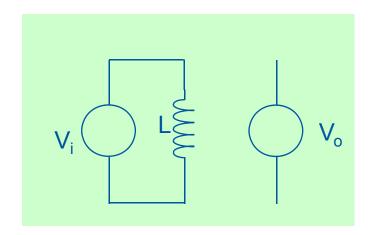
...using two direct converters



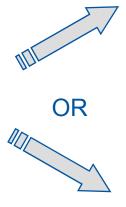


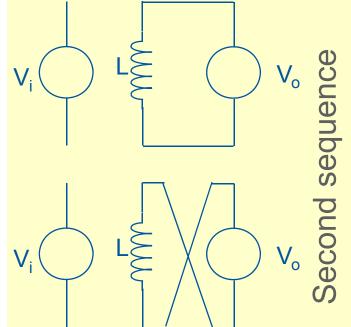
• <u>indirect conversion</u> basic topologies:

Voltage-Voltage Indirect Converters

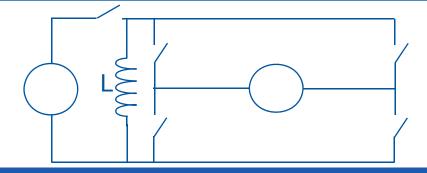








Voltage-Voltage Indirect Converters basic configuration

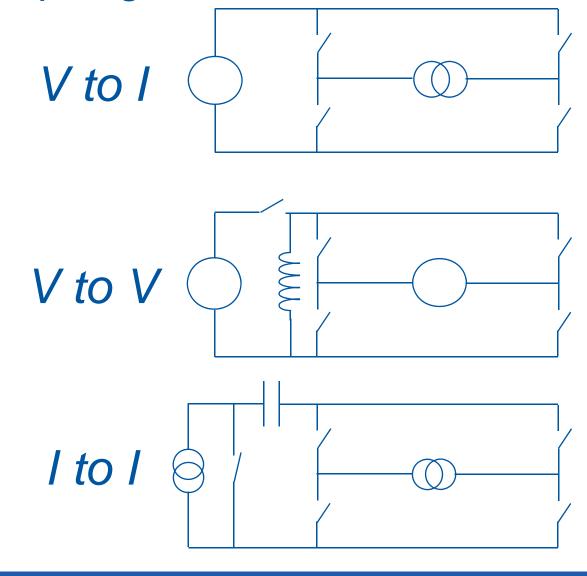




indirect conversion basic topologies **Current-Current Indirect Converters** Second sequence First sequence **Current-Current Indirect Converters** basic configuration

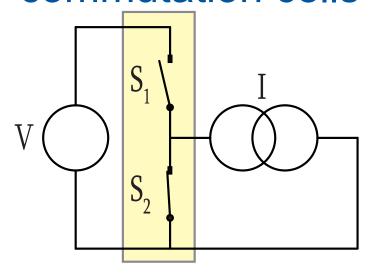


• Finally:





Power converter topologies: Elementary commutation cells



Rules (reminder)

Do not create discontinuity on V & I Do not short the voltage source! Do not open the current source!



S₁ & S₂ are complementary!

 S_1 : On & S_2 : Off, or S_1 : Off & S_2 : On, no other possibilities! State transition of a switch implies state transition of its complementary switch

The reversibility's of the voltage and current sources determine the static characteristics of the switches.

The switches need to have static characteristics with the same number of current and voltage segments.



Power converter topologies

Converters main classification

Very used in particles accelerators

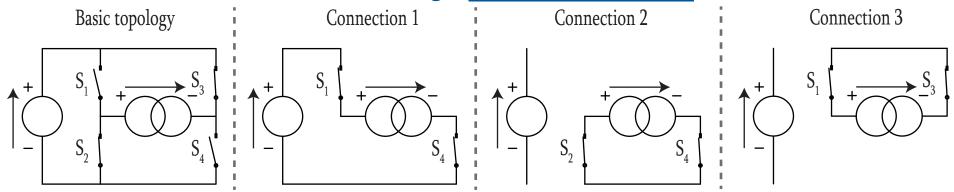
Conversion type	family
DC/DC	Chopper
AC/DC	Rectifier
DC/AC	Inverter
AC/AC	Cyclo- (& matrix) converter
AC/DC/AC	DC-link converter
DC/AC/DC	AC-link converter

Here we concentrate on the red ones...
With a systematic approach!



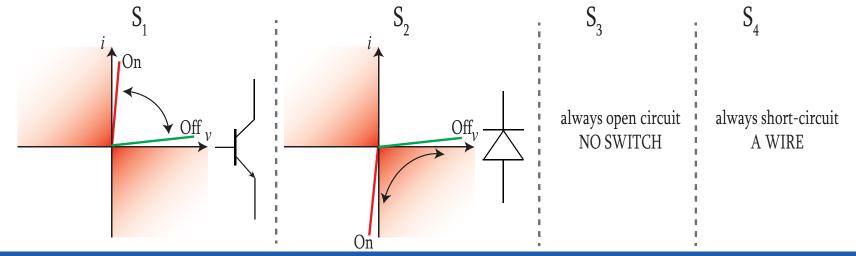
Power converter topologies – DC/DC conversion

 Lets derive the converter between a voltage and a current source, both unidirectional in current and voltage. <u>Possible connections</u>:



Connection 2 same as connection 3 : just select one, lets take connection 2.

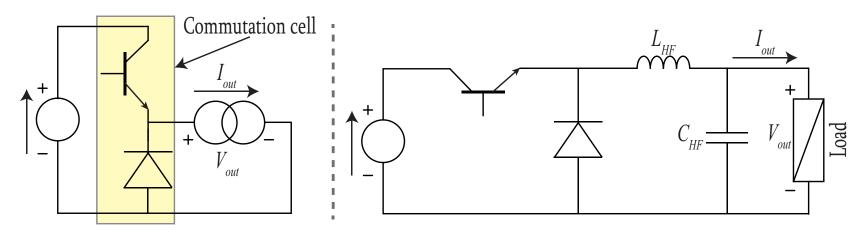
Now derive the switches characteristics we need in connection 1 & 2:



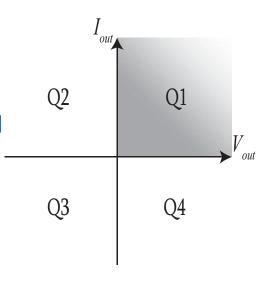


Power converter topologies – DC/DC conversion

One find what it is called the <u>Buck converter</u> (voltage step-down)



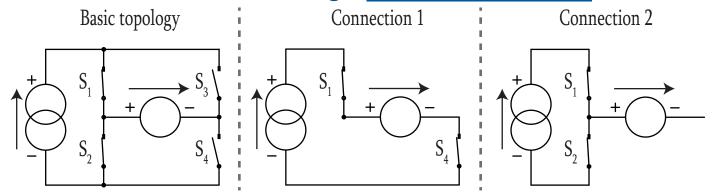
- Current source ensured by L_{HF}
- *L_{HF}-C_{HF}* filter attenuates switching harmonics
- This is a one quadrant converter positive output V & I
- The output voltage can be stepped-down only
- Buck converters are part of the so-called chopper family



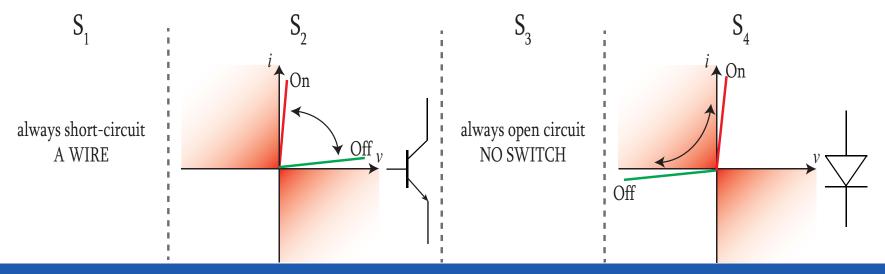


Power converter topologies – DC/DC conversion

• Lets derive the converter between a current and a voltage source, both unidirectional in current and voltage. <u>Possible connections</u>:

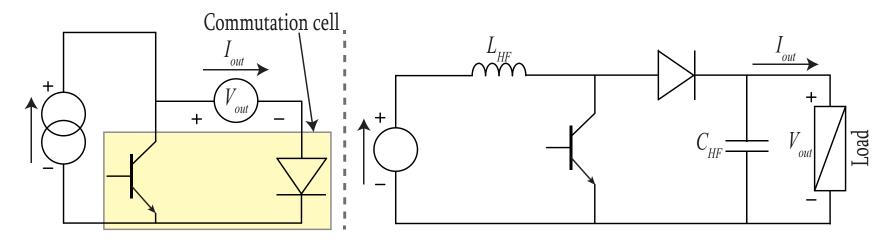


Now derive the switches characteristics we need in connection 1 & 2:

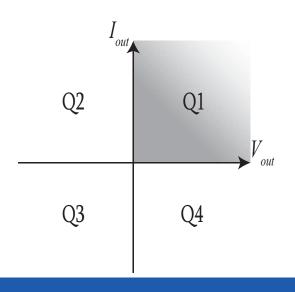




One find what it is called the <u>Boost converter</u> (voltage step-up)

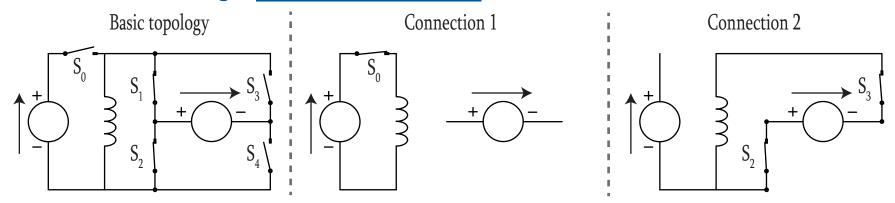


- Current source ensured by L_{HF}
- *L_{HF}-C_{HF}* filter attenuates switching harmonics
- This is a one quadrant converter positive output V & I
- The output voltage can be stepped-up only
- Boost converters: chopper family
- Drawback: transistor dimensioned for V_{out}

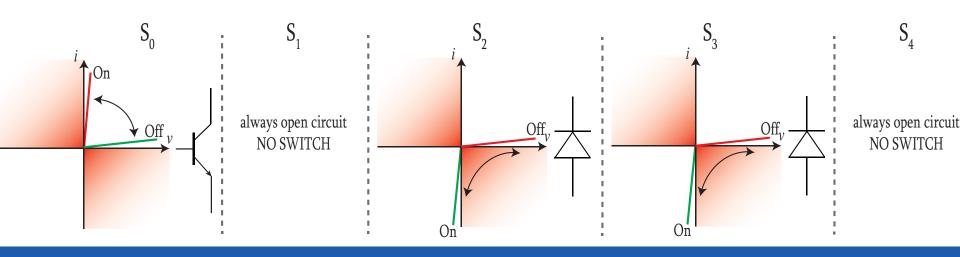




• Lets derive the converter between two voltage sources, both unidirectional in current and voltage. Possible connections:

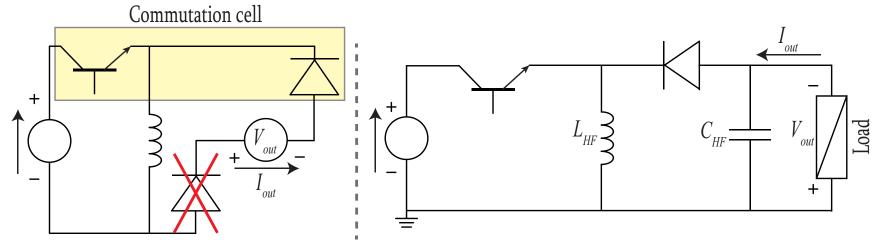


Now derive the switches characteristics we need in connection 1 & 2:

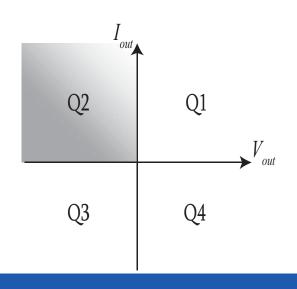




One find what it is called the <u>Buck-Boost</u> converter (voltage step-up)

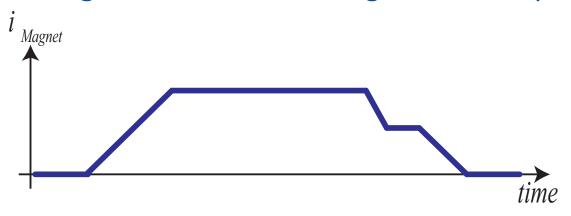


- Current source ensured by L_{HF}
- L_{HF} - C_{HF} filter attenuates switching harmonics
- This is a one quadrant converter inverted voltage
- The output voltage can be stepped-up or down
- Buck-Boost converters: chopper family
- Drawback: inverted voltage isolated version
- Limitations: Transistor blocking voltage $V_{in}+V_{out}$





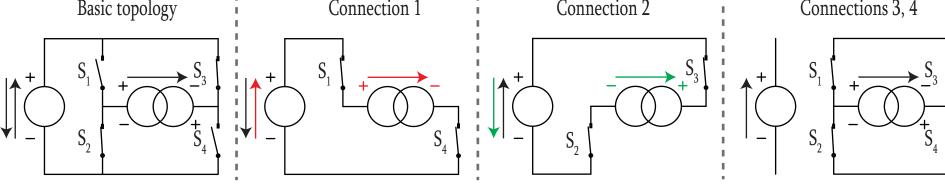
- <u>Homework</u>: with the same method you find the converter between two current sources, both unidirectional in current and voltage (the "Ćuk" converter)
- **Exercise**: You have to propose the converter topology for the following application:
 - 1. Feed a magnet with the following current shape:



We have a DC voltage source which can be bi-directional in current if we add a capacitor in parallel to it...



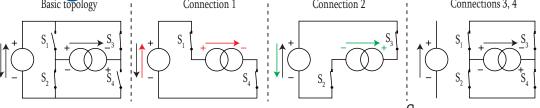
Define the output sources nature: out Magnet time Q2 Q1 Q3 Q4 Basic configuration and possible connections: Basic topology Connection 1 Connection 2 Connections 3, 4

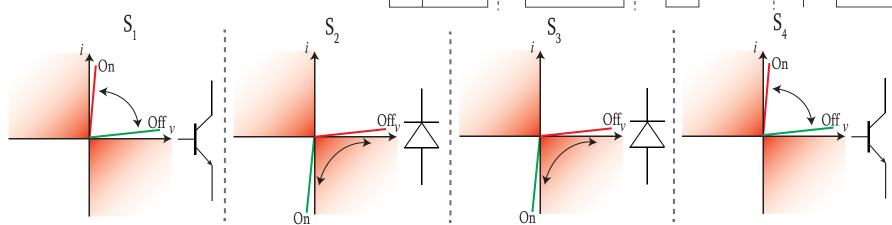




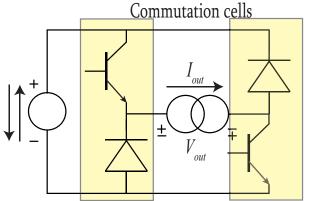
Power converter topologies — DC/DC conversion Basic topology — Connection 2 — Co

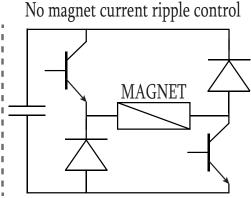


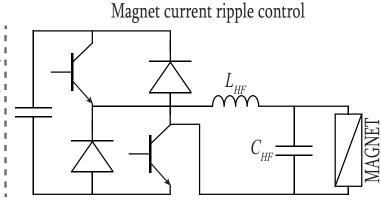




Final topology:

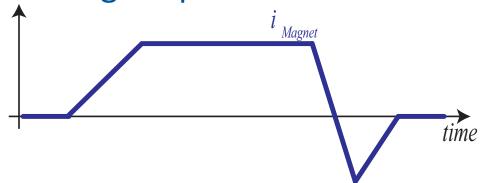




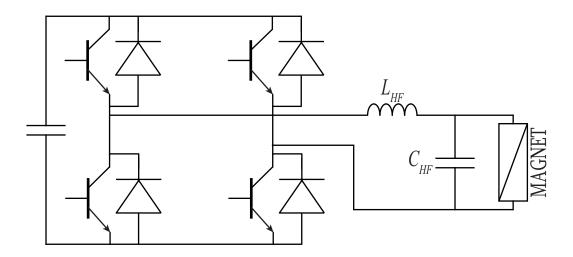




• <u>Homework</u>: Demonstrate that for supplying a magnet with the following shape:



You need the following converter structure:

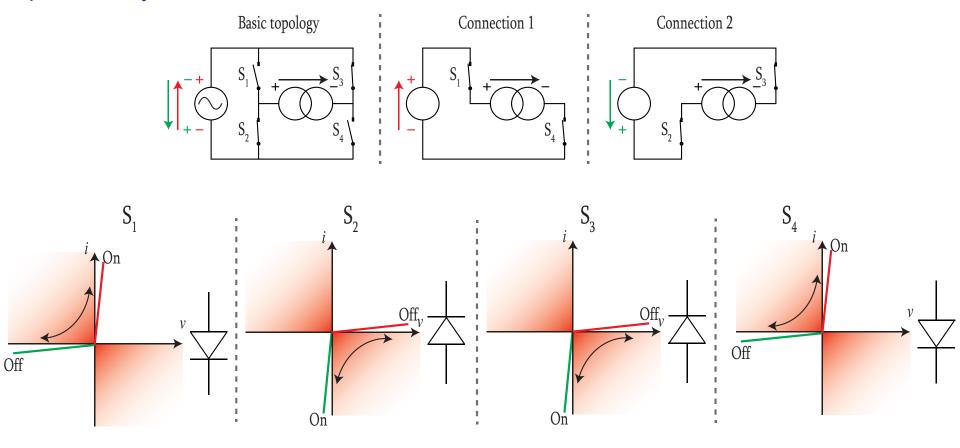


Is this a DC/DC converter only?



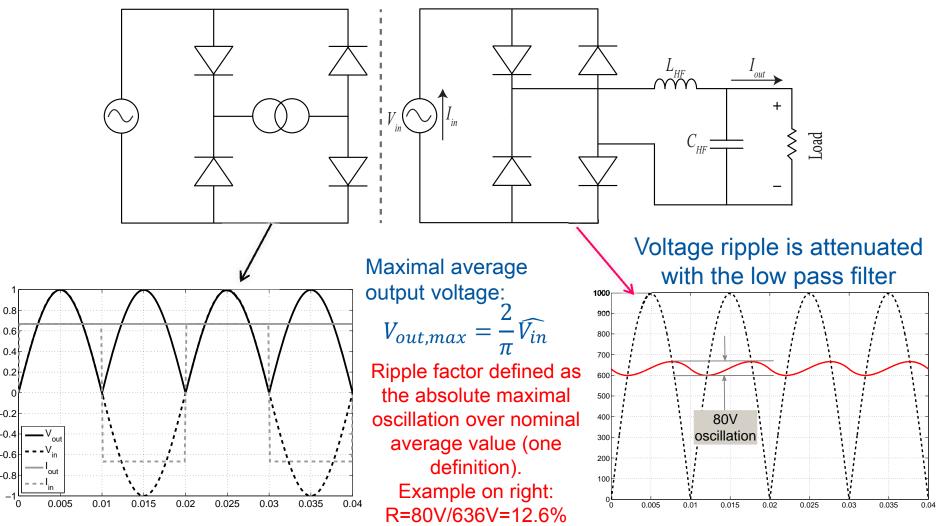
Line commutated AC/DC converters: full wave rectifiers (single phase)

In full wave rectifiers we use diodes – turn-on and turn-off natural commutation provided by the AC line.



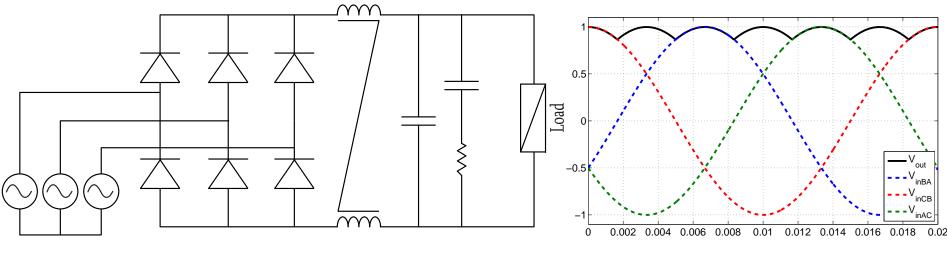


Line commutated AC/DC converters: full wave rectifiers (single phase)





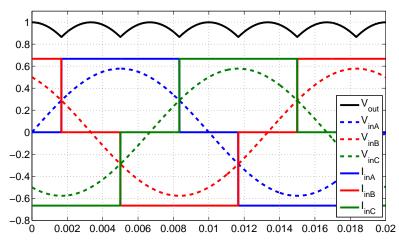
Line commutated AC/DC converters: full wave rectifiers (three-phase)



Much smaller voltage ripple compared to single phase Higher maximal average output voltage:

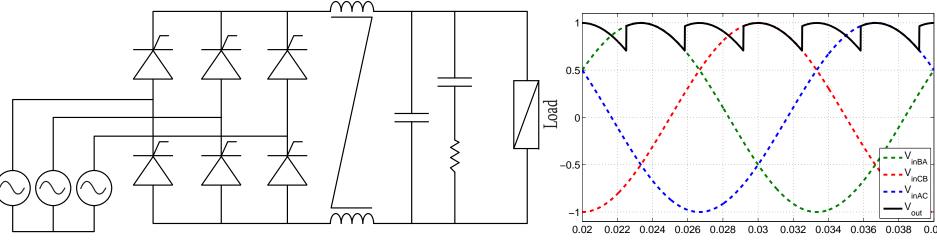
$$V_{out,max} = \frac{3}{\pi} \hat{V}_{in,L-L}$$

As in single phase, fundamental harmonic voltage and current are in phase, $cos(\phi)=1$ and power factor near unity.





Line commutated AC/DC converters: controlled rectifiers (three-phase)



Can control the bridge output voltage by changing the firing angle α :

$$V_{out} = \frac{3}{\pi} \hat{V}_{in,L-L} \cos(\alpha)$$

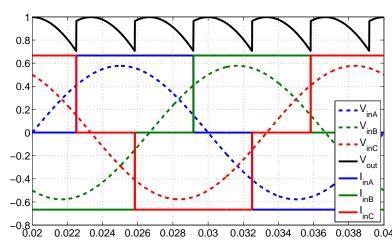
Bi-directional output voltage, 2 quadrants converter.

Current is shifted by α (fundamental)

AC side active and reactive power (neglecting harmonics):

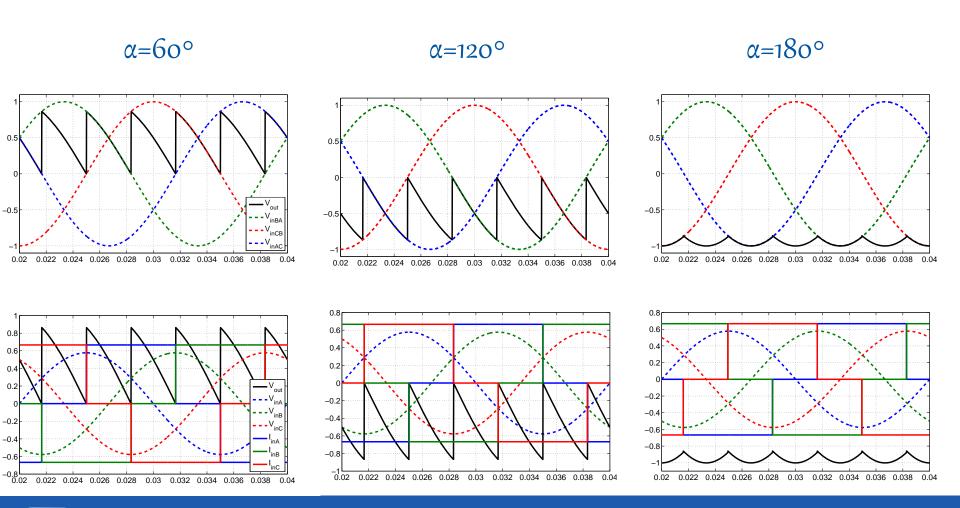
P=3*V_{phase}*I_{line}*cos(
$$\alpha$$
)
Q=3*V_{phase}*I_{line}*sin(α)

Huge reactive power at low DC voltages...





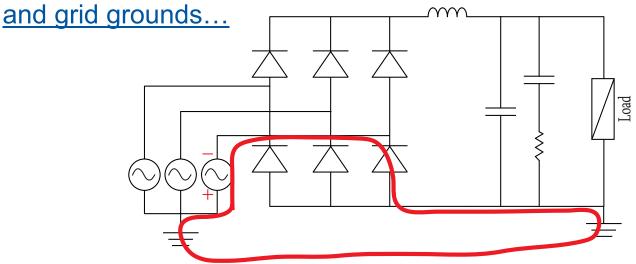
Line commutated AC/DC converters: controlled rectifiers (three-phase)



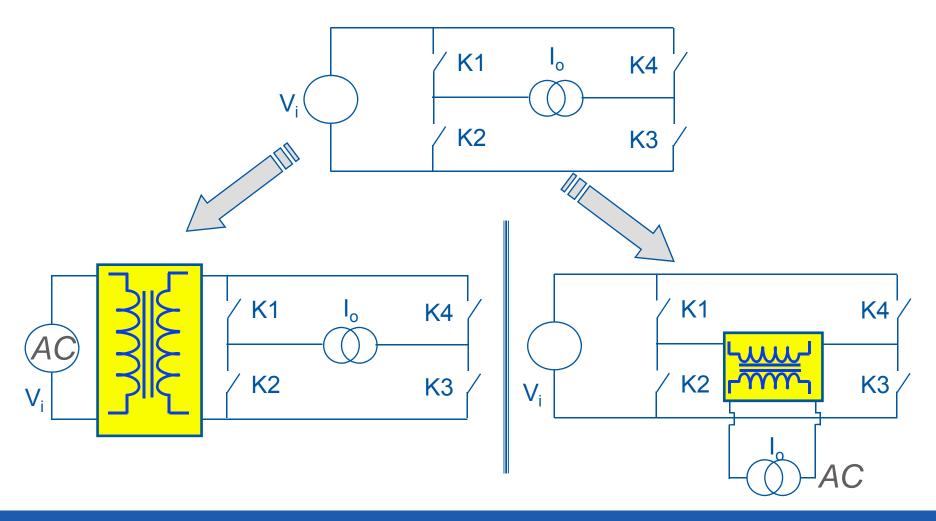


- Ground connections are used to guarantee personnel safety and determine the insulation to ground levels of each active part of the circuit
- Galvanic isolation is used to separate two or more electric circuits with grounds at different potential. It is an effective method of breaking ground loops (EMC). Personnel safety is increased by preventing accidental current from reaching ground through a person's body

Sometimes galvanic isolation is trivially required to separate the circuit

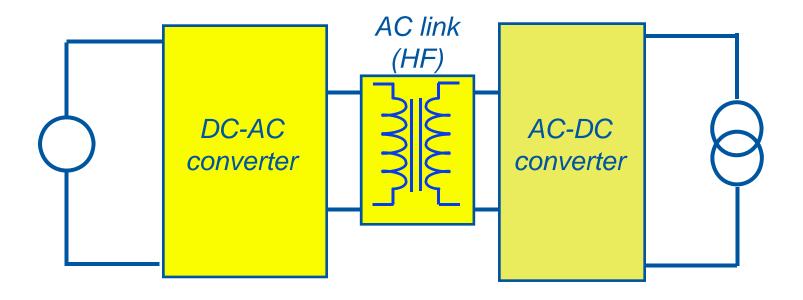








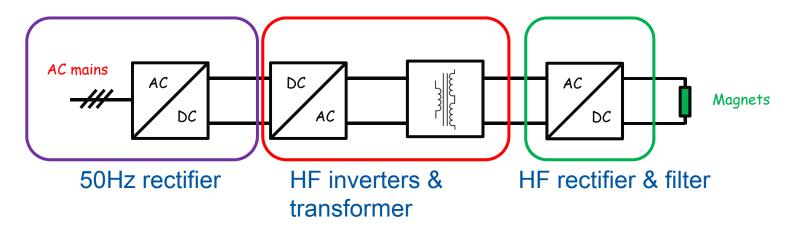
AC link – voltage or current link

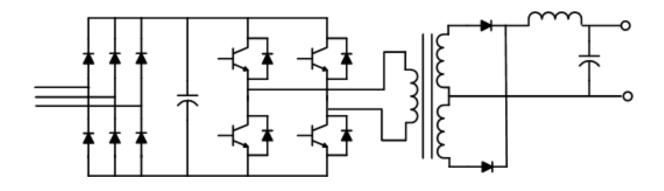


A HF AC link is interesting since the transformer iron core can be drastically reduced. For a constant maximal magnetic induction B, the iron core section is inversely proportional to the AC frequency.



A typical example...







Awesome! We are done, we are able to perform any electrical conversion with power electronics!



Ok then, let's find the topology of a 1MV, 100kA DC/DC converter...





- Switches are limited in blocking voltage and conducting current
- At high frequencies inductors behaves also as capacitors, and capacitors behave as inductors...
- Losses are always a nightmare, in switches, inductors, and capacitors.
 - Switching frequencies primarily limited by losses (not only)...not easy to reach very small ripples at high power

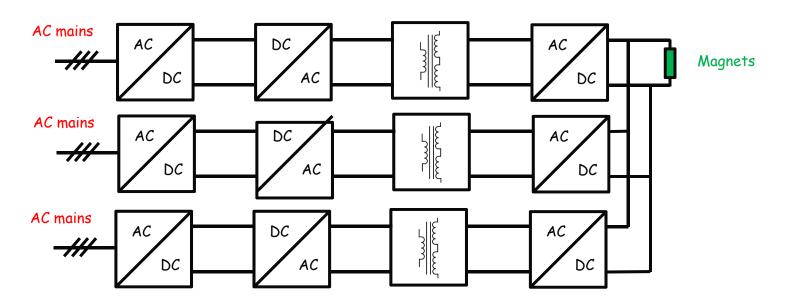
Other topologies have been developed, and still are under development, to face the technological limitations of power electronics components.

R&D in this domain primarily oriented toward new topologies and optimisation of known ones.



When the power demand increases above the rating of the power semiconductor, the only solution is to build a topology with parallel or series connection of sub-systems

Parallel association of converters





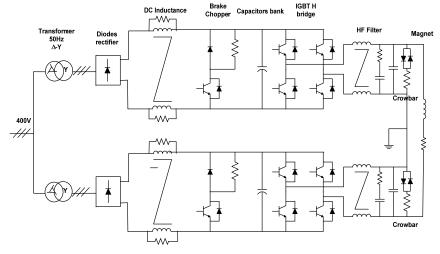
Series association of converters

Peak Power: 405 kW

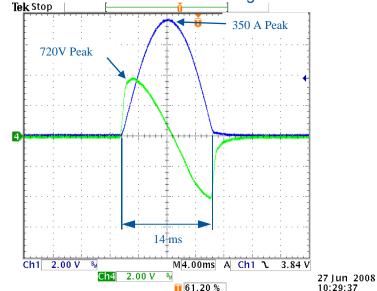
Voltage: ± 900V

Max Current: ± 450A





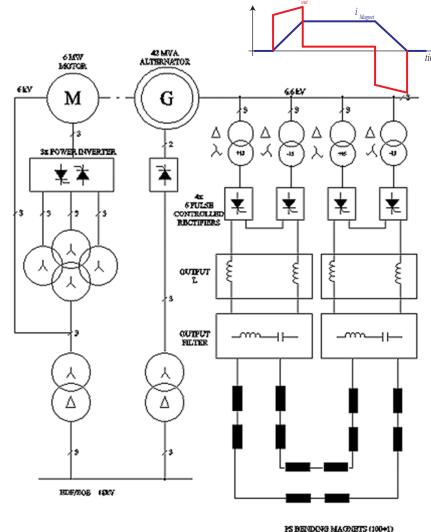


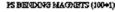


Series association of converters



- Generator inertia stores energy to be delivered to magnets
- The motor provides the average active power dissipated by the entire system







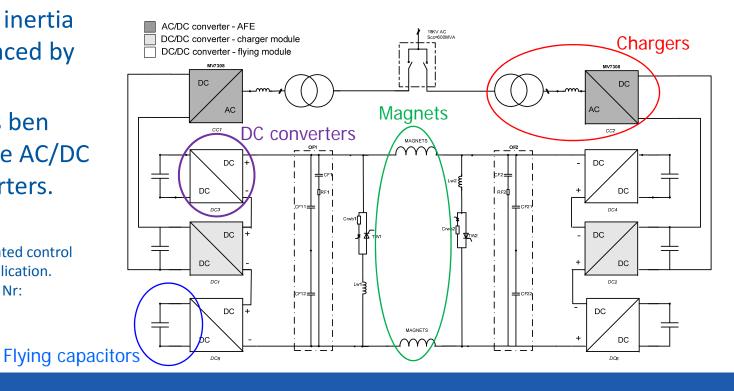
New CERN PS main converter: Series association of converters

Instead the energy to be transferred to the magnets can be stored in capacitors

- DC/DC converters transfer the power from the storage capacitors to the magnets.
- 6 capacitors banks (4 flying) are not connected directly to the mains. They are charged via the magnets
- Only two AC/DC converters (called chargers) are connected to the mains and supply the losses of the system and of the magnets.
- The generator inertia has been replaced by capacitors
- The motor has ben replaced by the AC/DC charger converters.

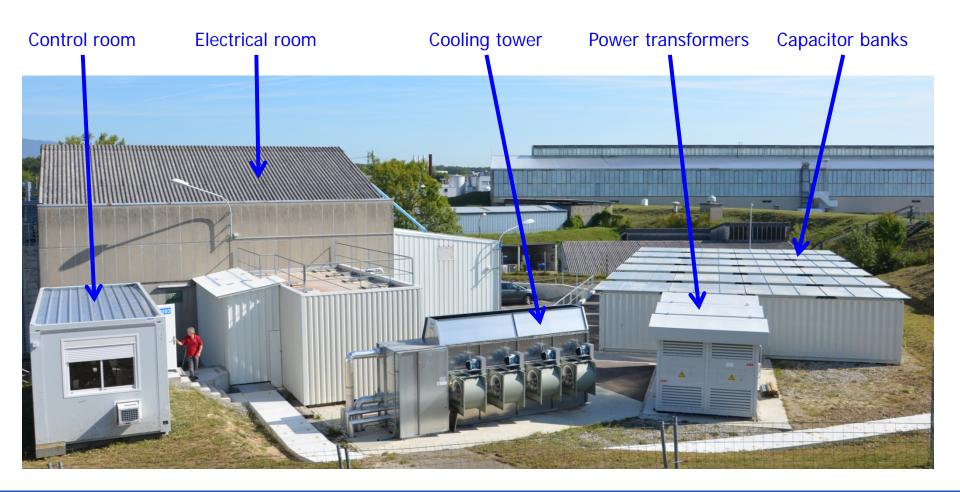
Patent

The global system with dedicated control has been filed as a patent application. European Patent Office, Appl. Nr: 06012385.8 (CERN & EPFL)



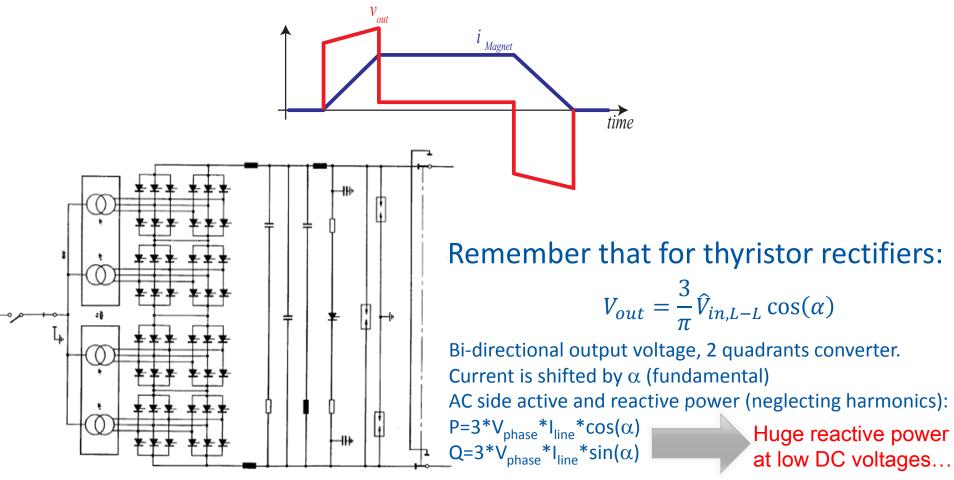


POPS 6kA/±10kV



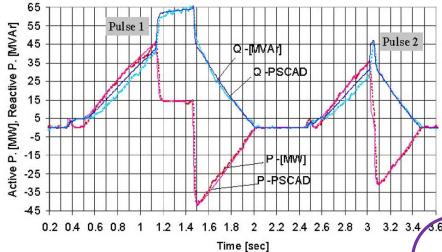


Series and parallel association of converters: SPS main power converter (6kA)





Indeed...



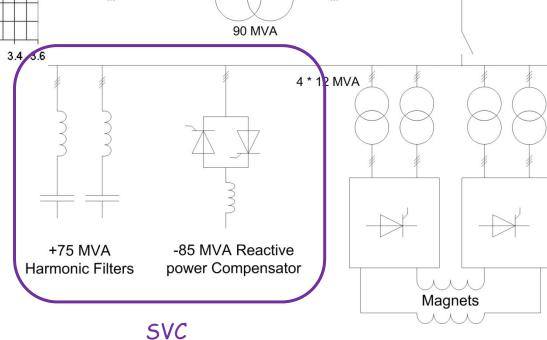
Reactive power, especially at current flat-top, is enormous. Must be compensated: SVC!

18 kV AC

4 km cable

400 kV AC

The Static Var Compensator (SVC) produces reactive power and filters harmonic currents in order to reduce reactive currents.





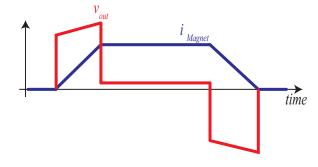
SVC role on the 18kV

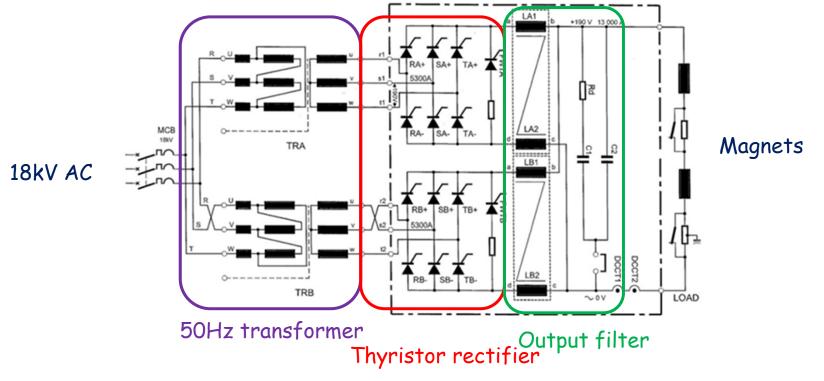
- Compensate reactive power (Thyristor Controlled Reactor)
- Clean the network (harmonic filters)
- Stabilize the 18kV network (>±1%)





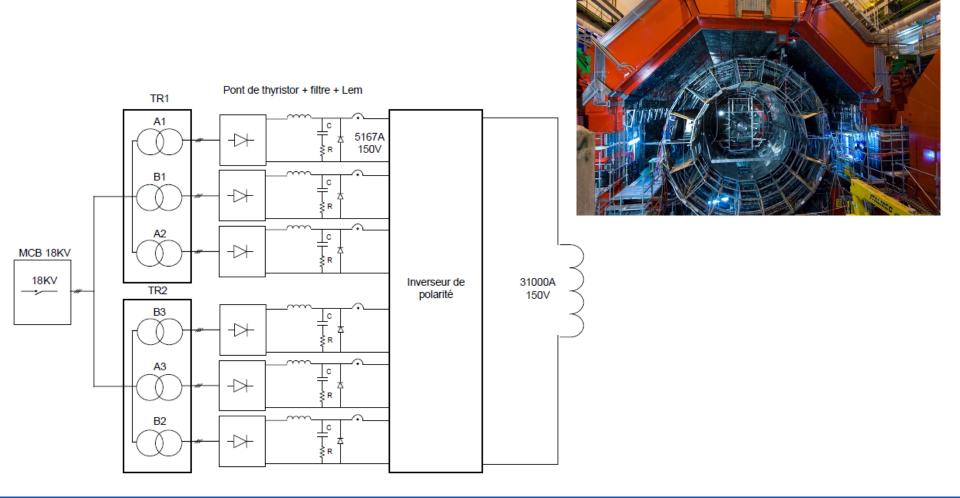
parallel association of LHC 13kA / 18V converter







parallel association: ALICE dipole 31kA/180V

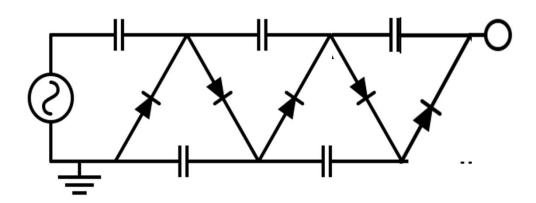




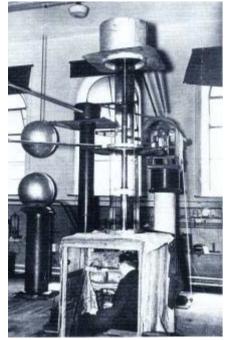
The « Nobel prize » power converter :

[Cockroft & Walton] who in 1932 used this Greinacher multiplier (1913) to power their accelerator, performing the first artificial nuclear disintegration in history. In 1951 they won the Nobel Prize in Physics for "Transmutation of atomic nuclei by artificially accelerated atomic particles".

Schematic of *Greinacher - Cockcroft and Walton's* voltage multiplier. Opening and closing the switches S, S' transfers charge from capacitor K3 through the capacitors X up to K1.



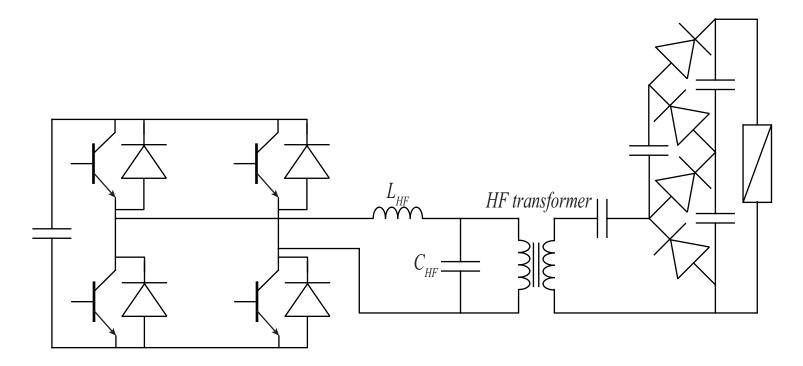
Voltage multiplier: switches...





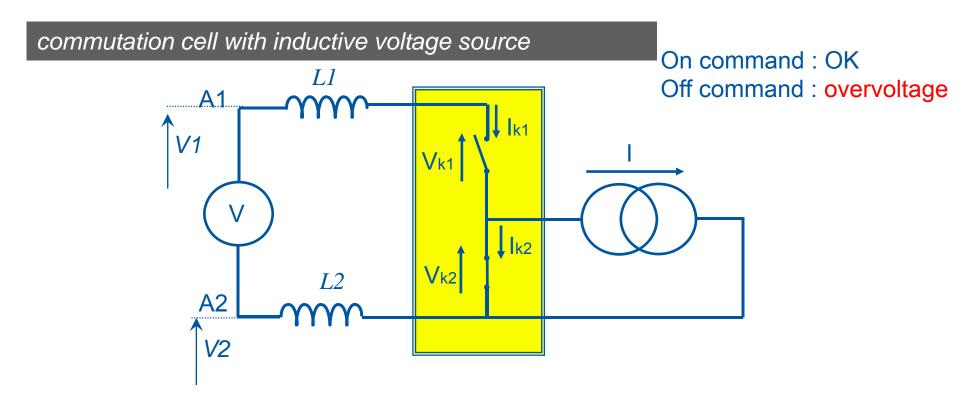


- This multiplier is still used
- HV / low current power supply
- HV capacitor chargers (similar)





Commutation cell with parasitic components: real nature of the sources



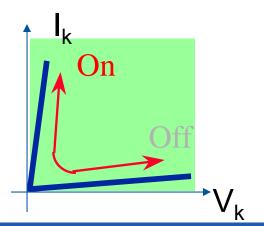


Hard commutation

On Off
Off
Off
Off

High commutation losses => frequency limitation

To limit the losses:
high dI/dt and /or dV/dt
=> EMI problem



Aided commutation: addition of aided commutation network (snubber)

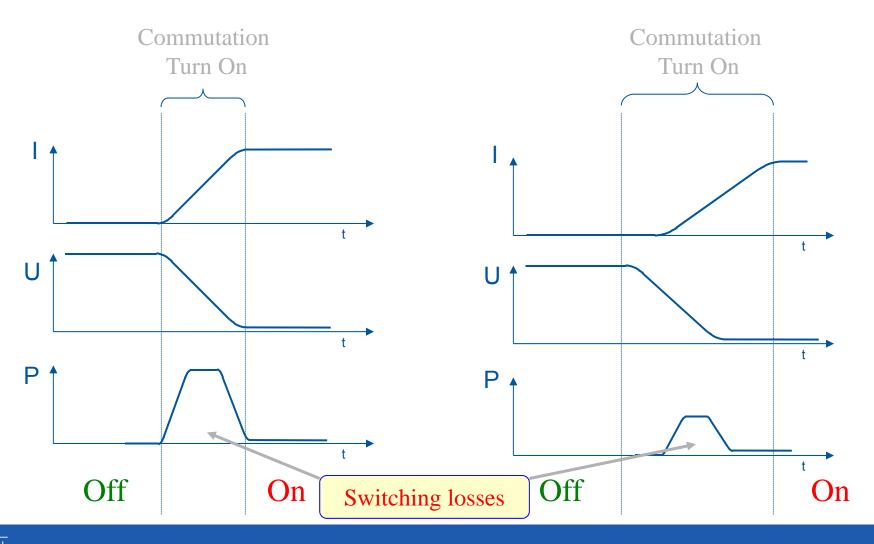
Series Inductance : turn On Parallel capacitor : turn Off

Should discharge the snubber before the next commutation! (losses, extra components,...)



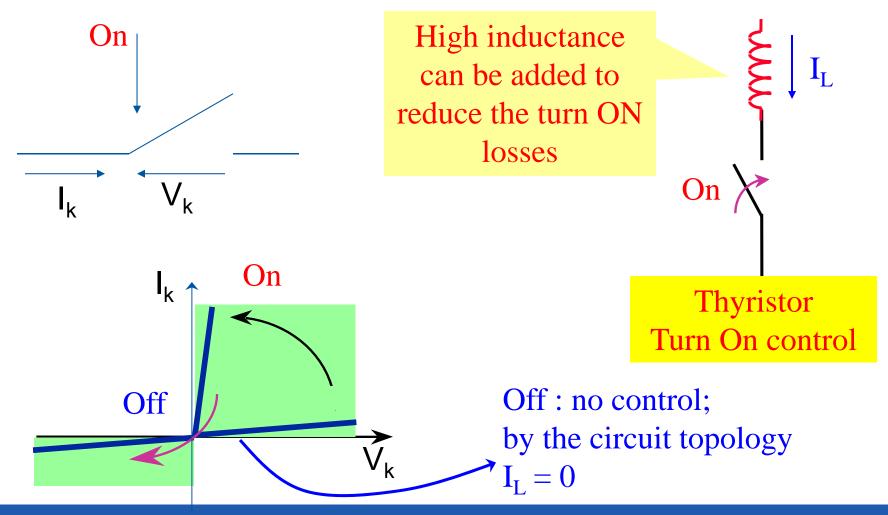


Aided commutation





Soft commutation: Zero Current Switching (ZCS)

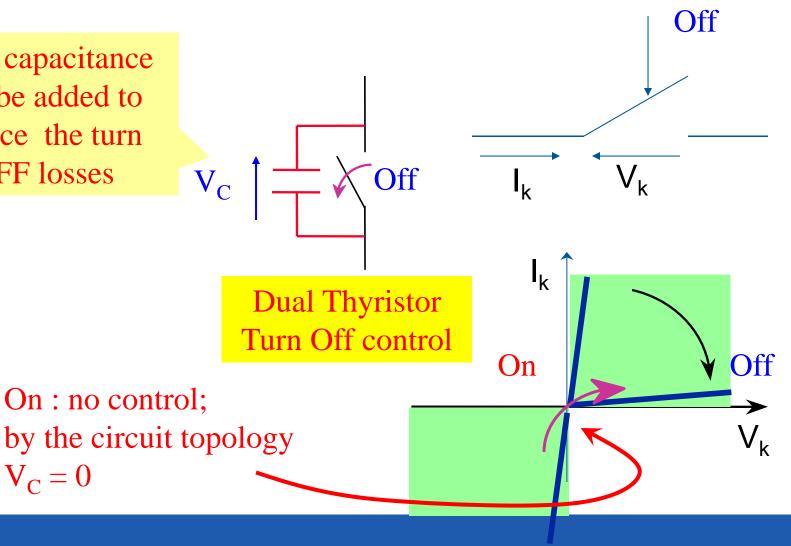




Soft commutation: Zero Voltage Switching (ZVS)

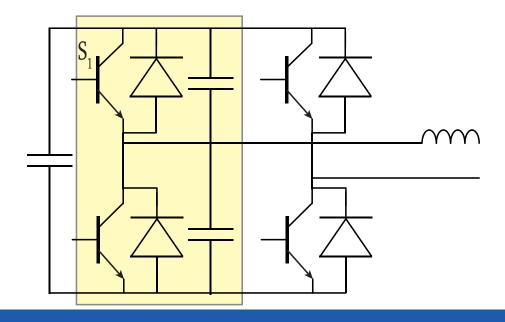
High capacitance can be added to reduce the turn **OFF** losses

 $V_C = 0$

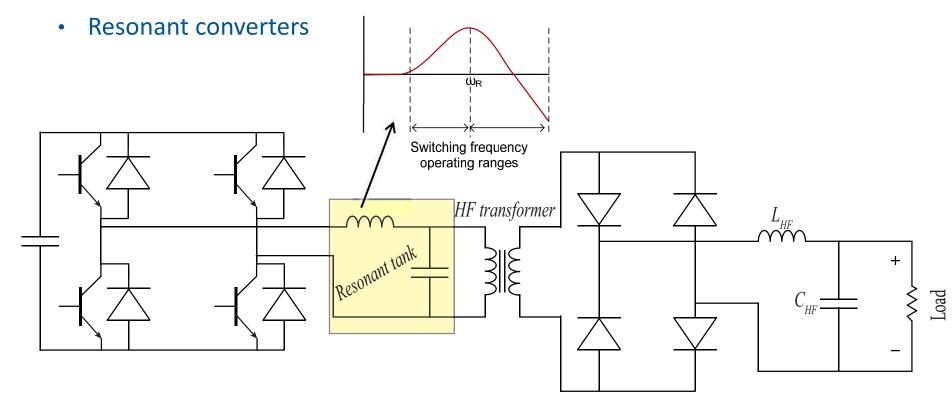




- Soft commutation: Zero Voltage Switching (ZVS)
- Small capacitors can be add in parallel to the transistor
- When turning off S1, current is deviated into the parallel capacitor which starts charging. Voltage across S1 rises up slower and commutation losses are drastically reduced
- Very good for lowering EMI







- Variable frequency or phase-shift operation
- Tank resonance can be exploited to step-up or step-down voltage
- Load dependency



Efficiency, cost, volume, EMI,..., specs

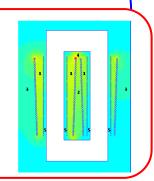
Utility grid specs (Voltage, power quality,...

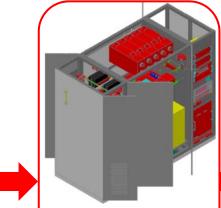
Specs analysis for topology selection (1,2,4 quadrants, active/passive converter – closed/open loop regulation, switches technology, ...)

Numerical verification of selected topology

(dedicated numerical simulations for general converter functionality) Components design and/or specifications

(analytical or numerical approaches)





3D Mechanical integration & construction



Laboratory tests



On site commissioning

Load specs

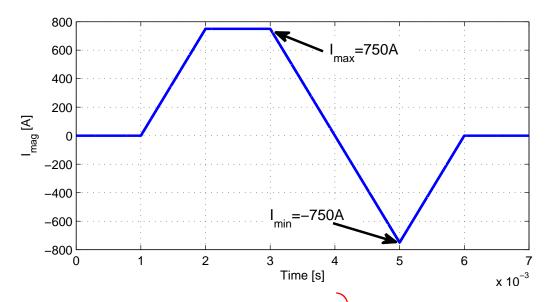
(L, R, C values, precision, ...)

Load examples:

- Magnet (high current)
- Klystron (<u>H</u>igh <u>V</u>oltage)
- Particles source (HV)
- RF equipment (HV)



- Example: Inverse reasoning from spec...
- We have to feed a magnet: L_{mag} =500 μ H , R_{mag} =3m Ω
- The required current is:

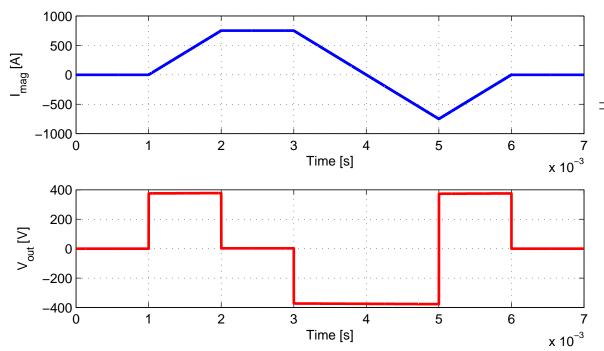


- What kind of converter you need?
- Converter association?
- Switches technology?

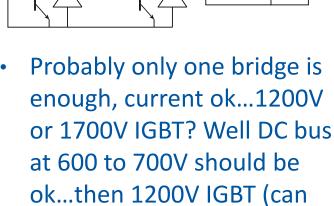
Need of some kind of simplified pre-design evaluation



- Example: Inverse reasoning from spec...
- First step is to derive the output voltage of the converter. If required add cables inductance and resistance...



Ok, something like this:





switch faster!)

- Example: Inverse reasoning from spec...
- Talking about switching...we forgot to ask what is the maximum allowable current ripple to the magnet guy!

(Following discussion comes from personal experience, may be different for you!)

- Magnet Guy: I need 10ppm max ripple in the magnetic field!
- PowerEng: Well, ok, but what is the ripple in current then?
- Magnet Guy: I need to check, is this spec so important?
- PowerEng: It is one of the most important! It goes from easy to unfeasible!
- Magnet Guy: Please make a proposal of what you think is reasonable for you, you know, in the past that magnet was supplied by a nice, ripple-free, capacitor discharge "supply", now you come with your new stuff and insert harmonics everywhere and our magnet has to filter them...(he is partially right...).
- PowerEng: I understand...give me a week and will get back to you, cheers!



Example: Inverse reasoning from spec...

- Ok, ripple can be filtered, but the filter will slow down the dynamics and I don't know if we can follow the current shape <u>precisely</u>...
- Oh no!!!! What's the precision (stability) they want!
- Magnet guy: 1% is fine!
- First hint on ripple: must be lower than 1%! (be careful, in some cases the specification of stability or ripple may be a function of frequency)
- Ok, let's fix the ripple to 0.5%, should be ok.
- How do we evaluate this quickly? Trial & error method? Optimization? No, we didn't follow all courses yet...let's do something terribly simplified!

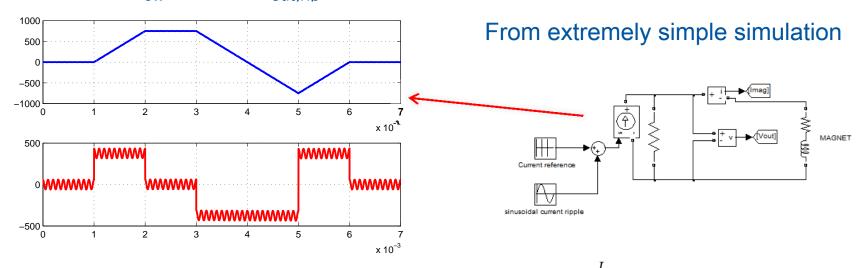
Assume a sinusoidal current ripple of 5%, then the max voltage ripple to be applied to the magnet is:

$$V_{out,rip} = i_{max} \times ripple \times 2\pi f_{sw} L_{mag} = 750[A] \times 5\% \times 2\pi f_{sw} 500[\mu H]$$

= 0.0118 f_{sw}



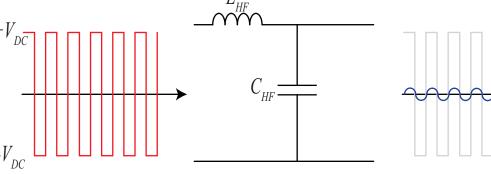
- Example: Inverse reasoning from spec...
- Ok, if f_{sw} =10kHz, $V_{out.rip}$ =118V. Can be easily simulated!

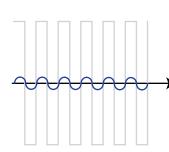


How do I select the filter?

At switching frequency f_{sw}, the filter must attenuate at -26dB

$$20 \log_{10} \left(\frac{V_{out,rip}}{4/\pi 2V_{DC}} \right)$$
 4/ π from Fourier





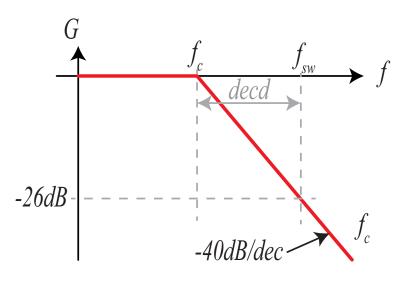


- Example: Inverse reasoning from spec...
- How many decades down will the filter cutting frequency be?

$$decd = \frac{26dB}{40dB} = 0.65 \text{ decades}$$

Where is this frequency?

$$f_c = f_{sw} \times 10^{-decd} = 2.24 \text{ kHz}$$

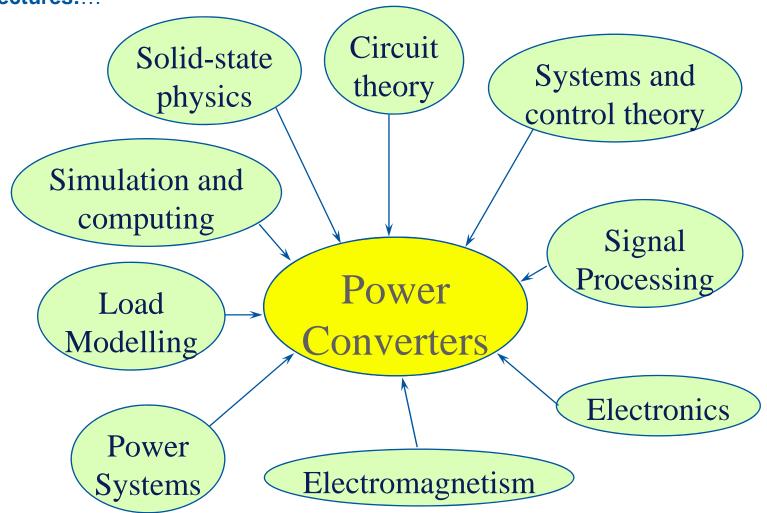


Enough open-loop bandwidth? ...probably not, what actions are required? Increase f_{sw}? Interleave then? Increase filter order? Ask for a more precise spec to magnet guy?...live discussion...



Conclusion

multi-domain and integrated approach - which justifies the importance of next lectures!...





Thank you for your attention!

