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Fault detection methods and devices for pulse width modulation converters

Abstract

Methods, systems, and devices for fault detection at pulse width modulation converters are described. An example of one such method includes receiving a first signal including a first pulse width modulation waveform. The first signal may be for controlling a switching component via a first node. A second signal may be received. The second signal may include a second pulse width modulation waveform. The second signal may be output by a second node of the switching component. One or more operations may be performed to compare the second signal with one or more other signals or one or more thresholds. A third signal may be transmitted based at least in part on the comparison of the second signal with the one or more other signals or thresholds. The third signal may indicate whether a fault has occurred at the switching component.

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Background/Summary

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

(1) Example embodiments of the present disclosure generally relate to fault detection circuitry.

More specifically, the present disclosure relates to fault detection circuitry for pulse width modulation converters.

BACKGROUND

(2) Some electronic devices, such as motor drives, may utilize one or more converters for converting one form of electrical energy to another. Some examples of converters may include power converters, analog-to-digital converters (ADCs), digital-to-analog converters (DACs), frequency converters, voltage converters, and current converters. Some examples of power converters may include alternating current (AC) to direct current (DC) converters and DC to AC converters (e.g., inverters, pulse width modulation (PWM) converters), which may be described herein in further detail. A converter may include multiple legs, each of which may include switching circuitry. For example, a converter leg may include a first switching component (e.g., a first transistor) and a second switching component (e.g., a second transistor). In some cases, various types of faults, such as short circuits and open circuits, may occur at switching components of a converter. However, some fault detection mechanisms may not be sensitive to transient voltage spikes or may utilize relatively slow fault detection mechanisms.

BRIEF SUMMARY

(3) Various embodiments described herein relate to methods, apparatuses, and systems associated with fault detection for pulse width modulation converters. In one aspect, a system includes a switching component including a first node, a second node, and a third node, the switching component configured to selectively couple the first node and the second node based at least in part on a first signal applied to the third node. The system may also include a voltage measurement component including a fourth node and a fifth node, the fourth node coupled with the second node, where the voltage measurement component is configured to output, via the fifth node, a second signal having a first voltage associated with the second node. The system may include a control component including a sixth node and a seventh node, the sixth node coupled with the fifth node, where the control component is configured to output, via the seventh node, a third signal based at least in part on a comparison of the second signal and the first signal, the third signal for decoupling the switching component from a load.

(4) The system may also include a second switching component including an eighth node, a ninth node, and a tenth node, the second switching component configured to selectively couple the eighth node and the ninth node based at least in part on a fourth signal, where the ninth node is coupled with the second node. In some cases, the control component includes an analog to digital converter, the analog to digital converter configured to receive the second signal having the first voltage from the voltage measurement component. In some cases, the control component includes a fault detection component, the fault detection component configured to execute an algorithm that compares the second signal and the first signal.

(5) In some cases, the control component includes a command component, the command component configured to output the third signal based at least in part on the comparison of the second signal and the first signal. In some cases, the control component includes a microcontroller, the microcontroller configured to output the third signal based at least in part on the comparison of the first signal and the second signal. In some cases, the control component includes one or more logic gates, and where the one or more logic gates are configured to compare the first signal with the second signal and output the third signal based at least in part on the comparison.

(6) The system may also include a pulse width modulation voltage source coupled with the switching component, the pulse width modulation voltage source configured to output the first signal, where the first signal includes a pulse width modulation signal, and a relay configured to selectively couple the switching component with the load based at least in part on the third signal. In some cases, the load includes an electric motor. Other technical features may be readily apparent to one skilled in the art from the following figures, descriptions, and claims.

(7) In one aspect, a method includes receiving a first signal including a first pulse width modulation

waveform, the first signal for controlling a switching component via a first node, receiving a second signal including a second pulse width modulation waveform, the second signal output via a second node of the switching component, and transmitting a third signal based at least in part on a comparison of the first signal and the second signal, where the third signal indicates whether a fault has occurred at the switching component.

(8) The method may also include determining whether the first signal and the second signal correspond to different logic states, for a duration, where transmitting the third signal is based at least in part on the determination. The method may also include determining whether an open circuit or a short circuit has occurred at the switching component based at least in part on whether the first signal and the second signal correspond to different logic states. In some cases, the third signal indicates whether the fault has occurred at any one of two or more switching components, the two or more switching components includes at least the switching component.

(9) In some cases, the first node includes a gate node of the switching component and the second node includes a drain node of the switching component. The method may also include receiving a fourth signal including a third pulse width modulation waveform, the fourth signal for controlling a second switching component via a third node, receiving a fifth signal including a fourth pulse width modulation waveform, the fifth signal output via a fourth node, the second switching component includes the third node and the fourth node, and transmitting a sixth signal based at least in part on a comparison of the fourth signal and the fifth signal, where the sixth signal indicates whether a second fault has occurred at the second switching component. Other technical features may be readily apparent to one skilled in the art from the following figures, descriptions, and claims.

(10) In one aspect, a non-transitory computer-readable storage medium includes instructions, the instructions executable to cause a processor to receive a first signal including a first pulse width modulation waveform, the first signal for controlling a switching component via a first node, receive a second signal including a second pulse width modulation waveform, the second signal output via a second node of the switching component, and transmit a third signal based at least in part on a comparison of the first signal and the second signal, where the third signal indicates whether a fault has occurred at the switching component.

(11) The non-transitory computer-readable storage medium may also include instructions executable to cause the processor to determine whether the first signal and the second signal correspond to different logic states, for a duration, where transmitting the third signal is based at least in part on the determination. The non-transitory computer-readable storage medium may also include instructions executable to cause the processor to determine whether an open circuit or a short circuit has occurred at the switching component based at least in part on whether the first signal and the second signal correspond to different logic states. In some cases, the third signal indicates whether a fault has occurred at any one of two or more switching components, the two or more switching components including at least the switching component. In some cases, the first node includes a gate node of the switching component and the second node includes a drain node of the switching component.

(12) The non-transitory computer-readable storage medium may also include instructions executable to cause the processor to receive a fourth signal including a third pulse width modulation waveform, the fourth signal for controlling a second switching component via a third node, receive a fifth signal including a fourth pulse width modulation waveform, the fifth signal output via a fourth node, the second switching component including the third node and the fourth node, and transmit a sixth signal based at least in part on a comparison of the fourth signal and the fifth signal, where the sixth signal indicates whether a second fault has occurred at the second switching component. Other technical features may be readily apparent to one skilled in the art from the following figures, descriptions, and claims.

(13) In one aspect, a method includes receiving a signal comprising a first pulse width modulation

waveform, the signal output by a converter leg comprising two or more switching components. The method may include performing, during a first time period, a first operation to determine if a voltage of the signal satisfies a first voltage threshold. The method may include performing, during a second time period, a second operation to determine if the voltage of the signal satisfies a second voltage threshold. The second voltage threshold may be higher than the first voltage threshold. In some cases, the method may include outputting an indication that one or more faults have occurred at the converter leg if the signal satisfies the first voltage threshold or the second voltage threshold. (14) In some cases, the first operation may be initiated based at least in part on a value of a counter being equal to a first value, and the second operation may be initiated based at least in part on the value of the counter being equal to a second value. In some cases, the first value may correspond to a maximum value of the counter and the second value may correspond to a minimum value of the counter. In some cases, performing the first operation determines if a fault has occurred at either of the two or more switching components. In some cases, the first operation and the second operation may be performed within a single pulse width modulation cycle. (15) The foregoing illustrative summary, as well as other exemplary objectives and/or advantages of the disclosure, and the manner in which the same are accomplished, are further explained in the following detailed description and its accompanying drawings.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

(1) The description of the illustrative embodiments may be read in conjunction with the accompanying figures. It will be appreciated that, for simplicity and clarity of illustration, elements illustrated in the figures have not necessarily been drawn to scale, unless described otherwise. For example, the dimensions of some of the elements may be exaggerated relative to other elements, unless described otherwise. Embodiments incorporating teachings of the present disclosure are shown and described with respect to the figures presented herein, in which:

(2) FIG. 1 illustrates an example of a system that supports fault detection methods and devices for pulse width modulation converters;

(3) FIG. 2 illustrates an example of a system that supports fault detection methods and devices for pulse width modulation converters;

(4) FIG. 3 illustrates an example of a system that supports fault detection methods and devices for pulse width modulation converters;

(5) FIG. 4 illustrates an example of a system that supports fault detection methods and devices for pulse width modulation converters;

(6) FIG. 5 illustrates an example of a timing diagram that supports fault detection methods and devices for pulse width modulation converters;

(7) FIG. 6 illustrates an example of a block diagram that supports fault detection methods and devices for pulse width modulation converters; and

(8) FIGS. 7-10 illustrate examples of flowcharts that support fault detection methods and devices for pulse width modulation converters.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

(9) Some embodiments of the present disclosure will now be described more fully hereinafter with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which some, but not all embodiments of the disclosure are shown. Indeed, these disclosures may be embodied in many different forms and should not be construed as limited to the embodiments set forth herein; rather, these embodiments are provided so that this disclosure will satisfy applicable legal requirements. Like numbers refer to like elements throughout.

(10) As used herein, the term “comprising” means including but not limited to and should be

interpreted in the manner it is typically used in the patent context. Use of broader terms such as comprises, includes, and having should be understood to provide support for narrower terms such as consisting of, consisting essentially of, and comprised substantially of.

(11) The phrases “in one embodiment,” “according to one embodiment,” “in some cases,” “in some examples,” and the like generally mean that the particular feature, structure, or characteristic following the phrase may be included in at least one embodiment of the present disclosure and may be included in more than one embodiment of the present disclosure (importantly, such phrases do not necessarily refer to the same embodiment).

(12) The word “example” or “exemplary” is used herein to mean “serving as an example, instance, or illustration.” Any implementation described herein as “exemplary” is not necessarily to be construed as preferred or advantageous over other implementations.

(13) If the specification states a component or feature “may,” “can,” “could,” “should,” “would,” “preferably,” “possibly,” “typically,” “optionally,” “for example,” “often,” or “might” (or other such language) be included or have a characteristic, that a specific component or feature is not required to be included or to have the characteristic. Such a component or feature may be optionally included in some embodiments, or it may be excluded.

(14) FIG. 1 illustrates an example of a system **100** that supports fault detection methods for pulse width modulation converters, in some examples. The system **100** may include a power supply **105**, a rectifier **110**, a storage component **115** (e.g., a capacitor), an inverter **120**, and a load **125**. In some cases, the inverter **120** may be an example of a converter (e.g., a pulse width modulation (PWM) converter) as described herein. The inverter **120** may include one or more legs **130** (e.g., one or more converter legs). A leg **130** may include one or more switching components **135**. For example, the leg **130** may include the switching component **135-a** and the switching component **135-b**, which may be examples of transistors (e.g., metal oxide semiconductor field effect transistors (MOSFETs), insulated-gate bipolar transistors (IGBTs)), power switches, or any other type of switching component. Each switching component may be coupled with one or more nodes **140**. For example, the switching component **135-a** may be coupled with the node **140-a** (e.g., a gate node), the node **140-b** (e.g., an output node, a drain node), and the node **140-c** (e.g., a voltage source node, a source node). Additionally, the switching component **135-b** may be coupled with the node **140-d** (e.g., a gate node), the node **140-e** (e.g., a source node, a grounded node), and the node **140-b** (e.g., a drain node).

(15) The techniques and devices described herein may be described with reference to the following terminology. An inverter **120** may be an electronic device commonly used in alternating current (AC) motor drives and in uninterruptible AC power supplies. An inverter **120** may be capable of producing a sinusoidal AC output with configurable (e.g., controllable) magnitude and frequency. A duty cycle may be a ratio between a pulse active time (e.g., pulse width) and a total PWM period for a PWM signal. During the pulse active time a power switch (e.g., a switching component **135-a**) of the inverter **120** may be switched-on. A fault-tolerant system may be a system that presents a certain level of fault tolerance which may ensure the service continuity of the system after a quantity of fault events. A short circuit may be a state caused by a damaged device and may result in a relatively low impedance (e.g., a short circuit of the switching component **135-a** may couple the node **140-c** with the node **140-b** regardless of a signal applied to the node **140-a**). An open circuit may be a state caused by a damaged device that results in relatively high impedance (e.g., an open circuit across the switching component **135-a** may decouple the node **140-c** and the node **140-b** regardless of a signal applied to the node **140-a**). An inverter leg (e.g., the leg **130**) may include two switching components **135** (e.g., two power switches), which may be connected in series between DC-link terminals (e.g., +VDC and GND). The node **140-b** may be an example of an output point or a middle point for the leg **130**.

(16) The inverter **120** may utilize one or more PWM signals for controlling the switching components **135**. For example, the inverter **120** may include or may otherwise be coupled with

signal generation circuitry (not shown) that generates one or more PWM signals. For example, a first PWM signal may be applied to the node **140-a** and a second PWM signal may be applied to the node **140-b**. In some cases, the second PWM signal may be the inverse of the first PWM signal, such that the switching component **135-a** is open when the switching component **135-b** is closed, and vice versa. Accordingly, the inverter **120** may output an AC waveform (e.g., via the node **140-b**). The signal output by the inverter **120** may include multiple harmonics. For example, the signal output by the inverter **120** may include a fundamental harmonic and a high-frequency harmonic used for performing PWM. In such cases, an output filter may be represented by the load **125** (e.g., a motor). The phase voltages, $V_{a,1}$, $V_{b,1}$, and $V_{c,1}$, seen by the motor may be calculated as shown below using equations 1, 2, and 3, respectively.

$$(17) \quad v_{a,1} = m_a \frac{V_{dc}}{2} \sin(\omega t) \quad (1) \quad v_{b,1} = m_a \frac{V_{dc}}{2} \sin(\omega t - \frac{2}{3}) \quad (2)$$

$$v_{c,1} = m_a \frac{V_{dc}}{2} \sin(\omega t + \frac{2}{3}) \quad (3)$$

(18) As described herein, $V_{sub.DC}$ may be a DC voltage (e.g., applied to the node **140-c**, +VDC), t may be time, ω may be an angular frequency, and $m_{sub.a}$ may be an amplitude modulation coefficient (e.g., $0 \leq m_{sub.a} \leq 1$), which may determine a maximum value for a duty cycle. An output power (e.g., at node **140-b**) may be regulated (e.g., increased or decreased) by changing the amplitude modulation coefficient, m_a . In some cases, the amplitude modulation coefficient, m_a may be determined by a motor phase current controller, which may select a modulation coefficient according to one or more parameters for the load **125** (e.g., a target working point, a rotor speed, a load torque). In some cases, an amplitude and modulation coefficient for a signal output by the inverter **120** (e.g., via the node **140-b**) may be constant for a same target working point.

(19) One or more components of the system **100** may be employed for motor control applications. For example, the load **125** may be an example of a voltage-fed PWM motor. In some cases, a voltage-fed PWM motor drive may be equipped with overcurrent protection in order to prevent power switches or motor damage. Such overcurrent protection may include one or more current sensors (e.g., shunt resistors, hall effect sensors), which may isolate a switching component **135** from a PWM signal or a voltage source (e.g., the node **140-c**) if an overcurrent condition occurs. However, such overcurrent protection devices may not isolate the load **125** from the node **140-e**. For example, the load **125** may remain coupled to the converter ground, which may cause loss of control or an overload condition.

(20) In accordance with one or more aspects of the present disclosure, fault detection circuitry may be configured to more efficiently clear faults and enable the service continuity of the system **100**. For example, the described circuitry may include one or more fault detection components configured to selectively isolate the leg **130** (e.g., the switching component **135-a** and the switching component **135-b**) from the load **125** if a fault is detected. Such fault detection components may be included in a gate driver or in an intelligent power module. Additionally, or alternatively, the techniques described herein may be utilized in systems without some current sensing components. For example, one or more voltage sensing components (e.g., a voltage sensing network, a resistive partition network) may be utilized for fault detection and thereby eliminate dependence on current sensing devices. In some cases, the one or more voltage sensing components may adapt a voltage level to an allowed range for an ADC or comparator, which may avoid the use of expensive hardware associated with current sensing.

(21) FIG. 2 illustrates an example of a system **200** that supports fault detection methods for pulse width modulation converters. The system **200** may be an example of a leg **130**, as described with reference to FIG. 1, or any other converter leg. The system **200** may include a switching component **135-c** and a switching component **135-d**, which may be examples of switching components **135**, as described with reference to FIG. 1. Each of the switching components **135** may be coupled with one or more nodes **140**. For example, the switching component **135-c** may be coupled with a node **140-f** (e.g., a first gate node, GATE 1), a node **140-g** (e.g., a drain node, OUT),

and a node **140-h** (e.g., a source node, +VDC). Additionally, or alternatively, the switching component **135-c** may be coupled with a fuse **205** (e.g., located between the switching component **135-c** and the node **140-h**). The switching component **135-d** may be coupled with a node **140-i** (e.g., a second gate node, GATE 2), a node **140-g** (e.g., a drain node, OUT), and a node **140-j** (e.g., a source node, GND). Additionally, or alternatively, the switching component **135-c** may be coupled with the switching component **135-d** via the node **140-g**. During operation, one or more faults may occur at the system **200** (e.g., at the switching component **135-c**, at the switching component **135-d**, or both). Additionally, or alternatively, the system may operate normally, without faults.

(22) In a first illustrative example, the system **200** may operate normally, without faults. In such cases, the fuse **205** may be closed (e.g., current may pass through the fuse **205**). A signal **210-a** (e.g., a first PWM signal) may be applied to the node **140-f**. The signal **210-a** (e.g., a PWM driver signal, a gate signal) may control the operation of the switching component **135-c**. For example, when the signal **210-a** is high (e.g., corresponding to a first logic state), the switching component **135-c** may be closed (e.g., current may pass from the node **140-h** to the node **140-g**). When the signal **210-a** is low (e.g., corresponding to a second logic state), the switching component **135-c** may be open (e.g., current may not pass from the node **140-h** to the node **140-g**). A signal **210-b** (e.g., a second PWM signal) may be applied to the node **140-i**. The signal **210-b** (e.g., a PWM driver signal, a gate signal) may control the operation of the switching component **135-d**. For example, when the signal **210-b** is high, the switching component **135-d** may be closed and when the signal **210-b** is low, the switching component **135-d** may be open. In some cases, the signal **210-b** may be an inverse of the signal **210-a**. In the first illustrative example, a signal **210-c** (e.g., an output signal measured at the node **140-g**) may follow the signal **210-a**. That is, the signal **210-a** and the signal **210-c** may be the same. Stated another way, the signal **210-a** and the signal **210-c** may be high for a same duration and low for a same duration.

(23) In a second illustrative example, a short may occur at the switching component **135-c** and at the switching component **135-d**. In such cases, the fuse **205** may be open. Accordingly, current may not pass through the fuse **205** and current may pass through the switching component **135-c** and the switching component **135-d**. In such cases, the node **140-g** may be coupled with the node **140-j** (e.g., the output may be grounded). Although not shown in FIG. 2, the node **140-g** may be coupled with a load, such as a motor, and the occurrence of a short at the switching component **135-c** may ground the motor (e.g., via the node **140-j**). A signal **210-d** may be applied to the node **140-f** and a signal **210-e** may be applied to the node **140-i**. However, the signal **210-f** (e.g., measured at the node **140-g**) may not follow the signal **210-d**. For example, the signal **210-f** may correspond to a low logic state and may be static (e.g., for a duration).

(24) In accordance with one or more aspects of the present disclosure, a fault detection operation may be performed to determine that a fault condition has occurred (e.g., to determine that short circuits have occurred at the switching component **135-c** and the switching component **135-d**). The fault detection operation may include comparing the signal **210-f** to the signal **210-d**. More specifically, an amplitude of the signal **210-f** may be compared with an amplitude of the signal **210-d**. Although one illustrative example relates to amplitude comparison, other signal parameters may be compared to determine if the signal **210-f** follows the signal **210-d**. For example, a logic state of the signal **210-f** may be compared to a logic state of the signal **210-d** (e.g., during a same duration). Additionally, or alternatively, respective frequencies or one or more other waveform characteristics of the signal **210-f** and the signal **210-d** may be compared. In some cases, the signal **210-f** and the signal **210-d** may be compared during a time window (e.g., for a duration), which may be selected based on one or more parameters of the signals **210** (e.g., based on frequencies or periodicities of the signals **210**). Additionally, or alternatively, the fault detection operation may be performed periodically or continuously. As described herein, a fault signal (e.g., an error signal) may be triggered (e.g., transmitted) if the signal **210-f** does not follow the signal **210-d** (e.g., if the signal

210-f is not the same as the signal **210-d**). The fault signal may be a control signal that opens a relay or any other type of switch and thereby decouples the node **140-g** from a load.

(25) In a second illustrative example, a short may occur at the switching component **135-c** and an open circuit may occur at the switching component **135-d**. In such cases, the fuse **205** may be closed. Accordingly, current may pass through the fuse **205**, current may pass through the switching component **135-c**, and current may not pass through the switching component **135-d**. In such cases, the node **140-g** may be coupled with the node **140-h** (e.g., statically). Although not shown in FIG. 2, the node **140-g** may be coupled with a load, such as a motor, and the occurrence of a short at the switching component **135-c** may result in an overcurrent condition at the motor. A signal **210-g** may be applied to the node **140-f** and a signal **210-h** may be applied to the node **140-i**. However, the signal **210-i** (e.g., measured at the node **140-g**) may not follow the signal **210-g**. For example, the signal **210-i** may correspond to a high logic state (e.g., corresponding to +VDC) and may be static (e.g., for a duration).

(26) In accordance with one or more aspects of the present disclosure, a fault detection operation may be performed to determine that a fault condition has occurred (e.g., to determine that a short circuit has occurred at the switching component **135-c** and an open circuit has occurred at the switching component **135-d**). The fault detection operation may include comparing the signal **210-i** to the signal **210-g**. More specifically, an amplitude of the signal **210-i** may be compared with an amplitude of the signal **210-g**. Although one illustrative example relates to amplitude comparison, other signal parameters may be compared to determine if the signal **210-i** follows the signal **210-g**. For example, a logic state of the signal **210-i** may be compared to a logic state of the signal **210-g** (e.g., during a same duration). Additionally, or alternatively, respective frequencies or one or more other waveform characteristics of the signal **210-i** and the signal **210-g** may be compared. In some cases, the signal **210-i** and the signal **210-g** may be compared during a time window (e.g., for a duration), which may be selected based on one or more parameters of the signals **210** (e.g., based on frequencies or periodicities of the signals **210**). Additionally, or alternatively, the fault detection operation may be performed periodically or continuously. As described herein, a fault signal (e.g., an error signal) may be triggered (e.g., transmitted) if the signal **210-i** does not follow the signal **210-g** (e.g., if the signal **210-i** is not the same as the signal **210-g**). The fault signal may be a control signal that opens a relay or any other type of switch and thereby decouples the node **140-g** from a load.

(27) Although illustrative examples described herein refer to a limited quantity of specific fault conditions, the techniques described herein may be applied to detect any type of fault condition. For example, the techniques described herein may be capable of detecting any combination of short circuits and open circuits occurring at any combination of switching components **135**. While illustrative examples described herein generally refer to comparing a signal **210** measured at the node **140-f** with a signal **210** measured at the node **140-g**, signal comparison operations may be performed using any combination of nodes **140**. For example, a signal **210** measured at the node **140-i** may be compared with a signal **210** measured at the node **140-g**. While examples described herein generally refer to signals **210**, it should be understood that the terms “signal,” “waveform,” “PWM signal,” and “pulse” may be used interchangeably. It should additionally be understood that signals **210** may be representative of voltages, which may be measured between respective nodes **140** and a grounded reference node (e.g., the node **140-j**).

(28) FIG. 3 illustrates an example of a system **300** that supports fault detection methods for pulse width modulation converters. The system **300** may provide one illustrative example of circuitry configured to perform the operations described herein. For example, the system **300** may include a control unit **320** (e.g., a microcontroller) configured to perform the operations described herein. The system **300** may also include a voltage source **305**, a voltage reading network **315**, a load **310**, an analog to digital converter (ADC) **325**, an algorithm module **330**, a relay command module **335**, a plurality of switching components **135**, a plurality of resistors **340**, a plurality of fuses **355**, a

plurality of relays **345**, and a capacitor **350**. As described herein the system **300** may be an example of fault detection circuitry and may accordingly be configured to monitor for electrical faults occurring at one or more of the switching components **135**.

(29) The system **300** may include a voltage reading network **315**, which may be configured to read (e.g., measure, determine) a plurality of voltages (e.g., $V_{sub.1}$, $v_{sub.2}$, $v_{sub.3}$, and so forth) corresponding to signals output by a converter. For example, a converter may include a plurality of legs, where each leg includes a set of switching components **135**. Switching components **135** of a set may be coupled in series and may be configured to output respective PWM signals. Each converter leg may output a PWM signal, which may be routed to the voltage reading network **315**. The voltage reading network **315** may receive the PWM signals and determine or output a voltage (e.g., $v_{sub.1}$, $v_{sub.2}$, $v_{sub.3}$, and so forth) for each PWM signal. In some cases, the voltage reading network **315** may be configured to step down or reduce voltages output by converter legs such that the voltages $v_{sub.1}$, $v_{sub.2}$, and $v_{sub.3}$ may each be below a voltage threshold for the ADC **325**. That is, in some cases, the voltages $v_{sub.1}$, $v_{sub.2}$, and $v_{sub.3}$ may be proportional to voltages of PWM signals output by respective converter legs. The voltage reading network **315** may include a plurality of resistors **340**, and the voltages, $v_{sub.1}$, $v_{sub.2}$, and $v_{sub.3}$ may be read or determined across respective resistors **340**, as shown. For example, the voltage $v_{sub.1}$ may be measured between the node **140-q** and ground. Although the system **300** illustrates one example of a converter that includes three legs (e.g., corresponding to six switching components **135**), the techniques described herein may be applied to a converter that includes any quantity of legs.

(30) The voltage reading network **315** may be coupled with the control unit **320**. For example, the voltage reading network **315** may be coupled with the ADC **325** of the control unit **320**. The voltage reading network **315** may output signals (e.g., having voltages $v_{sub.1}$, $v_{sub.2}$, and $v_{sub.3}$) and the signals may be received by the ADC **325**. The ADC **325** may perform one or more operations to convert the signals into digital signals. For example, each digital signal output by the ADC **325** may include one or more bits, which may indicate a logical state.

(31) The control unit **320** may include an algorithm module **330**, which may receive the digital signals from the ADC **325**. The algorithm module **330** may be configured to execute one or more algorithms (e.g., firmware) to compare the digital signals corresponding to $v_{sub.1}$, $v_{sub.2}$, and $v_{sub.3}$, with respective PWM signals that control (e.g., drive) respective switching components **135**. For example, the algorithm module **330** may compare the digital signal corresponding to $v_{sub.1}$ with a PWM signal applied to the node **140-k**. Additionally, the algorithm module **330** may compare the digital signal corresponding to $v_{sub.2}$ with a PWM signal applied to the node **140-L**, and may compare the digital signal corresponding to $v_{sub.3}$ with a PWM signal applied to the node **140-m**. If a respective digital signal input to the algorithm module **330** does not follow (e.g., is different from) a respective PWM signal applied to a node **140** (e.g., corresponding to a same inverter leg), the algorithm module **330** may transmit an alarm signal to the relay command module **335**. The relay command module **335** may then receive the alarm signal and transmit a disconnect signal to a relay **345**, which may decouple a respective inverter leg from the load **310**. Although not shown in FIG. 3, the control unit **320** may be configured to receive a plurality of PWM signals applied to nodes **140**. For example, the algorithm module may be coupled with one or more of the nodes **140** and may receive PWM signals applied to each node **140**.

(32) The fault detection techniques described herein may provide one or more advantages when compared to other fault detection techniques including increased fault detection speed, the ability to detect both short-circuit faults and open-circuit faults, cost reduction, reduced dependence on some types of current sensing devices, and improved service continuity. In some examples, the techniques described herein may be implemented by a microcontroller algorithm (e.g., by the control unit **320**). In some other examples described in further detail with reference to FIG. 4, the techniques described herein may be implemented by a gate driver or by an intelligent power module (e.g., using hardware components).

(33) FIG. 4 illustrates an example of a system **400** that supports fault detection methods for pulse width modulation converters. The system **400** may provide one illustrative example of circuitry configured to perform the operations described herein. For example, the system **400** may include a controller **420** configured to perform the operations described herein. The controller **420** may include one or more logic components **455** (e.g., one or more hardware components) that may be configured to determine if one or more faults have occurred. The system **400** may also include a voltage source **405**, a voltage reading network **415**, a load **410**, a relay command module **435**, a plurality of switching components **135**, a plurality of resistors **440**, a plurality of fuses **460**, a plurality of relays **445**, and a capacitor **450**. As described herein the system **400** may be an example of fault detection circuitry and may accordingly be configured to monitor for electrical faults occurring at one or more of the switching components **135**.

(34) The system **400** may include a voltage reading network **415**, which may be configured to read (e.g., measure, determine) a plurality of voltages (e.g., v.sub.1, v.sub.2, v.sub.3, and so forth) corresponding to signals output by a converter. For example, a converter may include a plurality of legs, where each leg includes a set of switching components **135**. Switching components **135** of a set may be coupled in series and may be configured to output a PWM signal. Each converter leg may output a PWM signal, which may be routed to the voltage reading network **415**. The voltage reading network **415** may receive the PWM signals and determine a voltage (e.g., v.sub.1, v.sub.2, v.sub.3, and so forth) for each PWM signal. The voltage reading network **415** may include a plurality of resistors **440**, and the voltages, v.sub.1, v.sub.2, and v.sub.3 may be read across respective resistors **440**, as shown. For example, the voltage v.sub.1 may be measured between the node **140-z** and ground. Although the system **400** illustrates one example of a converter that includes three legs (e.g., corresponding to six switching components **135**), the techniques described herein may be applied to a converter that includes any quantity of legs.

(35) The voltage reading network **415** may be coupled with the controller **420**. For example, the voltage reading network **415** may be coupled with one or more logic components **455** of the control unit **320**. The one or more logic components **455** may include any combination of gates (e.g., AND gates, OR gates, NOT gates, NAND gates, NOR gates, XOR gates, XNOR gates), flip flops, multiplexers, demultiplexers, encoders, decoders, and shift registers. The voltage reading network **415** may output the PWM signals (e.g., having voltages v.sub.1, v.sub.2, and v.sub.3) and the PWM signals may be received by the one or more logic components **455**. The one or more logic components **455** may be utilized to determine if respective PWM signals corresponding to v.sub.1, v.sub.2, and v.sub.3, follow respective input PWM signals that control (e.g., drive) respective switching components **135**. For example, the one or more logic components **455** may compare the PWM signal corresponding to v.sub.1 with an input PWM signal applied to the node **140-t**. Additionally, the one or more logic components **455** may compare the PWM signal corresponding to v.sub.2 with an input PWM signal applied to the node **140-u**, and may compare the PWM signal corresponding to v.sub.3 with an input PWM signal applied to the node **140-v**. If a respective PWM signal input to the one or more logic components **455** does not follow (e.g., is different from) a respective PWM signal applied to a node **140** (e.g., corresponding to a same inverter leg), the one or more logic components **455** may output an alarm signal to the relay command module **435**. The relay command module **435** may then receive the alarm signal and transmit a disconnect signal to a relay **445**, which may decouple a respective inverter leg from the load **410**. Although not shown in FIG. 4, the controller **420** may be configured to receive a plurality of PWM signals applied to nodes **140**. For example, the one or more logic components **455** may be coupled with one or more of the nodes **140** and may receive input PWM signals applied to each node **140**.

(36) FIG. 5 illustrates example of a timing diagram **500** that supports fault detection methods for pulse width modulation converters. The timing diagram **500** may include signals **530**, events **535** (e.g., end of conversion (EOC) events), and tasks **520** (e.g., operations), which may each occur or be performed at respective times **510**. Timing diagram **500** may include multiple axes, which may

each be used to illustrate respective signals **530**, events **535**, and tasks **520**, as described herein. For example, the timing diagram **500** may include a first axis used to illustrate counter values (e.g., a signal **530-a**, a counter signal), a second axis used to illustrate ADC timing (e.g., events **535**), a third axis (e.g., an ADC interrupt service routine (ISR) axis) used to illustrate one or more tasks **520** that are performed (e.g., by a controller), and a fourth axis used to illustrate a PWM logic signal (e.g., a signal **530-b**) output by a converter leg (e.g., via node **140-g**). As described herein, tasks **520** and associated operations may be performed to detect electrical faults at switching components **135**, as described with reference to FIGS. **1-4**.

(37) The timing diagram **500** may illustrate a signal **530-b** (e.g., a PWM signal) that is output by a converter leg **130** (e.g., via a node **140-b**, via a node **140-g**). The signal **530-b** may be an example of a digital signal and may include regions corresponding to different logic states. For example, from the time **510-a** to the time **510-c**, a voltage of the signal **530-b** may correspond to a low logic state (e.g., a logic 0). From the time **510-c** to the time **510-e**, a voltage of the signal **530-b** may correspond to a high logic state (e.g., a logic 1). From the time **510-e** to the time **510-g**, a voltage of the signal **530-b** may correspond to a low logic state. Although the signal **530-b** shows different logic states occurring over time, it should be noted that if a fault occurs at a switching component **135**, the signal **530-b** may change or otherwise become constant. Examples of such faults are described in further detail with reference to FIG. **2**, where the signal **210-c**, the signal **210-f**, and the signal **210-i** may be examples of the signal **530-b** when various operational conditions occur.

(38) In some cases, the signal **530-b** may be based on, be triggered by, or otherwise correspond to a counter or a counter value **505**. In such cases, a first register (e.g., a capture command register (CCR)) may be used to store a counter value **505-b**. The counter value **505-b** may correspond to a timing (e.g., a duty cycle) of the signal **530-b** such that the signal **530-b** may switch from a high logic state to a low logic state when a counter is equal to the counter value **505-b**. The signal **530-a** may track or otherwise correspond to the value **505** of the counter over time. In some cases, a second register (e.g., an auto-reload register (ARR)) may be used to store a counter value **505-a**. The counter value **505-a** may be an example of a maximum value for the counter. In some cases, the counter may be initialized and may be periodically incremented (e.g., a value of the counter may be periodically increased) until the counter is equal to the counter value **505-a**. Once the value of the counter reaches the counter value **505-a**, the counter may be periodically decremented (e.g., a value of the counter may be periodically decreased) until a minimum value (e.g., 0) is reached. In some cases, the counter value **505-a** may correspond to a PWM period **525** (e.g., a periodicity of the signal **530-b**).

(39) In some cases, the signal **530-b** may indicate a low logic state for a first duration (e.g., from the time **510-a** to the time **510-c**). The counter value **505-a** may correspond to a midpoint of the first duration (e.g., a time **510-b**). Similarly, the signal **530-b** may indicate a high logic state for a second duration (e.g., from the time **510-c** to the time **510-e**). A minimum value of the counter (e.g., 0) may correspond to a midpoint of the second duration (e.g., the time **510-d**). As described herein, the task **520-a** may be triggered (e.g., initiated) when the counter reaches the counter value **505-a** (e.g., at the time **510-b**, at the time **510-f**). Similarly, the task **520-b** may be triggered when the counter reaches a minimum counter value (e.g., at the time **510-d**). Although a task **520** may be triggered at a time **510**, one or more operations associated with the task **520** may not be performed instantaneously. For example, a delay **515** may occur (e.g., due to processing latency) between a time **510** when a respective task **520** is initiated and when the task **520** is performed (e.g., when operations associated with the task **520** are performed).

(40) Performing the task **520-a** may include performing one or more operations (e.g., by a control unit **320**, by a controller **420**) to determine if a voltage of the signal **530-b** satisfies a first voltage threshold (e.g., a low voltage threshold, $V_{sub_low_th}$). For example, at any time **510** between the time **510-b** and the time **510-c**, one or more operations may be performed to determine if a voltage of the signal **530-b** is greater than the first voltage threshold. The first voltage threshold may be a

voltage corresponding to a low logic state. If the voltage of the signal **530-b** is greater than the first voltage threshold, a fault (e.g., at one or more switching components **135**) may be detected and a fault signal may be output (e.g., by the control unit **320**, by the controller **420**). If the voltage of the signal **530-b** is less than or equal to the first voltage threshold, a fault may not be detected and a fault signal may not be output.

(41) Performing the task **520-b** may include performing one or more operations (e.g., by a control unit **320**, by a controller **420**) to determine if a voltage of the signal **520-b** satisfies a second voltage threshold (e.g., a high voltage threshold, $V_{sub.high_th}$). For example, at any time **510** between the time **510-c** and the time **510-e**, one or more operations may be performed to determine if a voltage of the signal **530-b** is less than the second voltage threshold. The second voltage threshold may be a voltage corresponding to a high logic state. If the voltage of the signal **530-b** is less than the second voltage threshold, a fault (e.g., at one or more switching components **135**) may be detected and a fault signal may be output (e.g., by the control unit **320**, by the controller **420**). If the voltage of the signal **530-b** is greater than or equal to the second voltage threshold, a fault may not be detected and a fault signal may not be output.

(42) FIG. **6** illustrates an example of a block diagram **600** that supports fault detection methods for pulse width modulation converters. The block diagram **600** may include a voltage component **605**, one or more switching components **610**, one or more relay components **615**, a load component **620**, a voltage measurement component **625**, and a control component **630**. The one or more components of the block diagram **600** may be examples of components described with reference to FIGS. **1-5** and may be configured to perform the operations described herein.

(43) The block diagram **600** may include a switching component **610-a** including a first node, a second node, and a third node. For example, the switching component **610-a** may be an example of a power switch that includes three terminals. The third node may be for controlling the switching component **610-a**. For example, the switching component **610-a** may be configured to selectively couple the first node and the second node based on a first signal applied to the third node (e.g., a PWM signal). The block diagram **600** may include a voltage measurement component **625** including a fourth node and a fifth node. The fourth node may be coupled with the second node of the switching component **610-a**. The voltage measurement component **625** may be configured to output, via the fifth node, a second signal having a first voltage associated with the second node. For example, the second signal may indicate a voltage measured at the second node.

(44) The block diagram **600** may include a control component **630** including a sixth node and a seventh node. The sixth node may be coupled with the fifth node. In some cases, the control component **630** may be configured to output, via the seventh node, a third signal based on a comparison of the second signal and the first signal. In some other cases, the control component **630** may be configured to output, via the seventh node, the third signal based on a comparison of the second signal (e.g., a voltage of the second signal) and a threshold voltage (e.g., a low voltage threshold, a high voltage threshold, or both). In some cases, the third signal may be for decoupling the switching component **610-a** from a load component **620**.

(45) The block diagram **600** may include a switching component **610-b**. The switching component **610-b** may include an eighth node, a ninth node, and a tenth node. The switching component **610-b** may be configured to selectively couple the eighth node and the ninth node based on a fourth signal. In some cases, the ninth node may be coupled with the second node. In some cases, the control component **630** may include an analog to digital converter. The analog to digital converter may be configured to receive the second signal having the first voltage from the voltage measurement component **625**.

(46) In some cases, the control component **630** may include a fault detection component, the fault detection component may be configured to execute an algorithm that compares the second signal and the first signal. Additionally, or alternatively, the control component may compare the second signal with one or more threshold voltages. In some cases, the control component **630** may include

a command component. The command component may be configured to output the third signal based on the comparison of the second signal and the first signal, or based on the comparison of the second signal and one or more threshold voltages. In some cases, the control component **630** may include a microcontroller. The microcontroller may be configured to output the third signal based on the comparison of the first signal and the second signal, or based on the comparison of the second signal and one or more threshold voltages. In some cases, the control component **630** may include one or more logic gates. In some cases, the one or more logic gates may be configured to compare the first signal with the second signal, or compare the second signal with one or more threshold voltages, and output the third signal based on the comparison.

(47) The block diagram **600** may include a voltage component **605** (e.g., a PWM voltage source) coupled with the switching components **610**. The voltage component **605** may be configured to output the first signal. In some cases, the first signal may include a PWM signal. The block diagram **600** may also include one or more relay components **615**. For example, the one or more relay components **615** may be configured to selectively couple one or more switching components **610** with the load component **620** (e.g., based on the third signal). In some cases, the load component **620** may be an example of an electric motor, a pump, an actuator, a household appliance, or any other load associated with a switching power supply.

(48) FIG. 7 illustrates an example of a flowchart illustrating a method **700** that supports fault detection methods for pulse width modulation converters. The operations of the method **700** may be implemented by one or more devices as described herein. For example, the method **700** may be implemented by any component of a system described herein, such as a control unit, a controller, a voltage reading network, an ADC, an algorithm module, a relay command module, or one or more logic components. In some cases, a device or component as described herein may execute instructions to control one or more functional elements to perform the described operations. For example, a control unit (e.g., a microcontroller) may execute instructions to perform the method **700**. Additionally, or alternatively, a device or component of a system may perform aspects of the described operations using special-purpose hardware.

(49) At **705**, the method **700** may include receiving a first signal comprising a first PWM waveform. The first signal may be for controlling a switching component via a first node. In some examples, aspects of the operations may be performed using a special-purpose hardware or a control unit such as a microcontroller.

(50) At **710**, the method **700** may include receiving a second signal comprising a second PWM waveform. The second signal may be output via a second node of the switching component. In some examples, aspects of the operations may be performed using a special-purpose hardware or a control unit such as a microcontroller.

(51) At **715**, the method **700** may include transmitting a third signal based at least in part on a comparison of the first signal and the second signal. The third signal may indicate whether a fault has occurred at the switching component. In some examples, aspects of the operations may be performed using a special-purpose hardware or a control unit such as a microcontroller.

(52) FIG. 8 illustrates an example of a flowchart illustrating a method **800** that supports fault detection methods for pulse width modulation converters. The operations of the method **800** may be implemented by one or more devices as described herein. For example, the method **800** may be implemented by any component of a system described herein, such as a control unit, a controller, a voltage reading network, an ADC, an algorithm module, a relay command module, or one or more logic components. In some cases, a device or component as described herein may execute instructions to control one or more functional elements to perform the described operations. For example, a control unit (e.g., a microcontroller) may execute instructions to perform the method **800**. Additionally, or alternatively, a device or component of a system may perform aspects of the described operations using special-purpose hardware.

(53) At **805**, the method **800** may include receiving a first signal comprising a first PWM

waveform. The first signal may be for controlling a switching component via a first node. In some examples, aspects of the operations may be performed using a special-purpose hardware or a control unit such as a microcontroller.

(54) At **810**, the method **800** may include receiving a second signal comprising a second PWM waveform. The second signal may be output via a second node of the switching component. In some examples, aspects of the operations may be performed using a special-purpose hardware or a control unit such as a microcontroller.

(55) At **815**, the method **800** may include determining whether the first signal and the second signal correspond to different logic states, for a duration, wherein transmitting the third signal is based at least in part on the determination. In some examples, aspects of the operations may be performed using a special-purpose hardware or a control unit such as a microcontroller.

(56) At **820**, the method **800** may include transmitting a third signal based at least in part on a comparison of the first signal and the second signal. The third signal may indicate whether a fault has occurred at the switching component. In some examples, aspects of the operations may be performed using a special-purpose hardware or a control unit such as a microcontroller.

(57) FIG. **9** illustrates an example of a flowchart illustrating a method **900** that supports fault detection methods for pulse width modulation converters. The operations of the method **900** may be implemented by one or more devices as described herein. For example, the method **900** may be implemented by any component of a system described herein, such as a control unit, a controller, a voltage reading network, an ADC, an algorithm module, a relay command module, or one or more logic components. In some cases, a device or component as described herein may execute instructions to control one or more functional elements to perform the described operations. For example, a control unit (e.g., a microcontroller) may execute instructions to perform the method **900**. Additionally, or alternatively, a device or component of a system may perform aspects of the described operations using special-purpose hardware.

(58) At **905**, the method **900** may include receiving a signal comprising a first pulse width modulation waveform. The signal may be output by a converter leg comprising two or more switching components. In some examples, aspects of the operations may be performed using a special-purpose hardware or a control unit such as a microcontroller.

(59) At **910**, the method **900** may include performing, during a first time period, a first operation to determine if a voltage of the signal satisfies a first voltage threshold. In some examples, aspects of the operations may be performed using a special-purpose hardware or a control unit such as a microcontroller.

(60) At **915**, the method **900** may include performing, during a second time period, a second operation to determine if the voltage of the signal satisfies a second voltage threshold. The second voltage threshold may be higher than the first voltage threshold. In some examples, aspects of the operations may be performed using a special-purpose hardware or a control unit such as a microcontroller.

(61) At **920**, the method **900** may include outputting an indication that one or more faults have occurred at the converter leg if the signal satisfies the first voltage threshold, the second voltage threshold, or both. In some examples, aspects of the operations may be performed using a special-purpose hardware or a control unit such as a microcontroller.

(62) FIG. **10** illustrates an example of a flowchart illustrating a method **1000** that supports fault detection methods for pulse width modulation converters. The operations of the method **1000** may be implemented by one or more devices as described herein. For example, the method **1000** may be implemented by any component of a system described herein, such as a control unit, a controller, a voltage reading network, an ADC, an algorithm module, a relay command module, or one or more logic components. In some cases, a device or component as described herein may execute instructions to control one or more functional elements to perform the described operations. For example, a control unit (e.g., a microcontroller) may execute instructions to perform the method

1000. Additionally, or alternatively, a device or component of a system may perform aspects of the described operations using special-purpose hardware.

(63) At **1005**, the method **1000** may include receiving a signal comprising a first pulse width modulation waveform. The signal may be output by a converter leg comprising two or more switching components. In some examples, aspects of the operations may be performed using a special-purpose hardware or a control unit such as a microcontroller.

(64) At **1010**, the method **1000** may include performing, during a first time period, a first operation to determine if a voltage of the signal satisfies a first voltage threshold. The first operation may be initiated based at least in part on a value of a counter being equal to a first value. In some examples, aspects of the operations may be performed using a special-purpose hardware or a control unit such as a microcontroller.

(65) At **1015**, the method **1000** may include performing, during a second time period, a second operation to determine if the voltage of the signal satisfies a second voltage threshold. The second voltage threshold may be higher than the first voltage threshold. In some cases, the second operation may be initiated based at least in part on the value of the counter being equal to a second value. In some examples, aspects of the operations may be performed using a special-purpose hardware or a control unit such as a microcontroller.

(66) At **1020**, the method **1000** may include outputting an indication that one or more faults have occurred at the converter leg if the signal satisfies the first voltage threshold, the second voltage threshold, or both. In some examples, aspects of the operations may be performed using a special-purpose hardware or a control unit such as a microcontroller.

(67) While this detailed description has set forth some embodiments of the present disclosure, the appended claims also cover other embodiments of the present disclosure which may differ from the described embodiments according to various modifications and improvements. Within the appended claims, unless the specific term “means for” or “step for” is used within a given claim, it is not intended that the claim be interpreted under 35 U.S.C. 112, paragraph 6.

Claims

1. A system comprising: a switching component comprising a first node, a second node, and a third node, the switching component configured to selectively couple the first node and the second node based at least in part on a first signal applied to the third node; a voltage measurement component comprising a fourth node and a fifth node, the fourth node coupled with the second node, wherein the voltage measurement component is configured to output, via the fifth node, a second signal having a first voltage associated with the second node; a control component comprising a sixth node and a seventh node, the sixth node coupled with the fifth node, wherein the control component is configured to output, via the seventh node, a third signal based at least in part on a first comparison of the second signal and the first signal and/or a second comparison of the second signal and the first signal, the third signal for decoupling the switching component from a load; and a pulse width modulation voltage source coupled with the switching component, the pulse width modulation voltage source configured to output the first signal, wherein the first signal comprises a pulse width modulation waveform; wherein the first comparison of the second signal and the first signal is initiated based at least in part on a value of a counter being equal to a first value, and wherein the second comparison of the second signal and the first signal is initiated based at least in part on the value of the counter being equal to a second value.
2. The system of claim 1, further comprising: a second switching component comprising an eighth node, a ninth node, and a tenth node, the second switching component configured to selectively couple the eighth node and the ninth node based at least in part on a fourth signal, wherein the ninth node is coupled with the second node.
3. The system of claim 1, wherein the control component comprises: an analog to digital converter,

the analog to digital converter configured to receive the second signal having the first voltage from the voltage measurement component.

4. The system of claim 1, wherein the control component comprises: a fault detection component, the fault detection component configured to execute an algorithm that compares the second signal and the first signal.

5. The system of claim 1, wherein the control component comprises: a command component, the command component configured to output the third signal based at least in part on the comparison of the second signal and the first signal.

6. The system of claim 1, wherein the control component comprises a microcontroller, the microcontroller configured to output the third signal based at least in part on the comparison of the first signal and the second signal.

7. The system of claim 1, wherein the control component comprises one or more logic gates, and wherein the one or more logic gates are configured to compare the first signal with the second signal and output the third signal based at least in part on the comparison.

8. The system of claim 1, further comprising: a relay configured to selectively couple the switching component with the load based at least in part on the third signal.

9. The system of claim 1, wherein the first value corresponds to a maximum value of the counter and the second value corresponds to a minimum value of the counter.

10. A method, comprising: receiving a first signal comprising a first pulse width modulation waveform, the first signal for controlling a switching component via a first node; receiving a second signal comprising a second pulse width modulation waveform, the second signal output via a second node of the switching component; and transmitting a third signal based at least in part on a first comparison of the first signal and the second signal and/or a second comparison of the first signal and the second signal, wherein the third signal indicates whether a fault has occurred at the switching component; wherein the first comparison of the first signal and the second signal is initiated based at least in part on a value of a counter being equal to a first value, and wherein the second comparison of the first signal and the second signal is initiated based at least in part on the value of the counter being equal to a second value.

11. The method of claim 10, further comprising: determining whether the first signal and the second signal correspond to different logic states, for a duration, wherein transmitting the third signal is based at least in part on the determination.

12. The method of claim 10, further comprising: determining whether an open circuit or a short circuit has occurred at the switching component based at least in part on whether the first signal and the second signal correspond to different logic states.

13. The method of claim 10, wherein the third signal indicates whether the fault has occurred at any one of two or more switching components, the two or more switching components comprising at least the switching component.

14. The method of claim 10, wherein the first node comprises a gate node of the switching component and the second node comprises a drain node of the switching component.

15. The method of claim 10, further comprising: receiving a fourth signal comprising a third pulse width modulation waveform, the fourth signal for controlling a second switching component via a third node; receiving a fifth signal comprising a fourth pulse width modulation waveform, the fifth signal output via a fourth node, the second switching component comprising the third node and the fourth node; and transmitting a sixth signal based at least in part on a comparison of the fourth signal and the fifth signal, wherein the sixth signal indicates whether a second fault has occurred at the second switching component.

16. The method of claim 10, wherein the first value corresponds to a maximum value of the counter and the second value corresponds to a minimum value of the counter.

17. A method, comprising: receiving a signal comprising a first pulse width modulation waveform, the signal output by a converter leg comprising two or more switching components; performing,

during a first time period, a first operation to determine if a voltage of the signal satisfies a first voltage threshold; performing, during a second time period, a second operation to determine if the voltage of the signal satisfies a second voltage threshold, wherein the second voltage threshold is higher than the first voltage threshold; and outputting an indication that one or more faults have occurred at the converter leg if the signal satisfies the first voltage threshold, the second voltage threshold, or both; wherein the first operation is initiated based at least in part on a value of a counter being equal to a first value, and wherein the second operation is initiated based at least in part on the value of the counter being equal to a second value.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the first value corresponds to a maximum value of the counter and the second value corresponds to a minimum value of the counter.

19. The method of claim 17, wherein performing the first operation determines if a fault has occurred at either of the two or more switching components.

20. The method of claim 17, wherein the first operation and the second operation are performed within a single pulse width modulation cycle.
