

# Modular Multilevel Converters (MMC)

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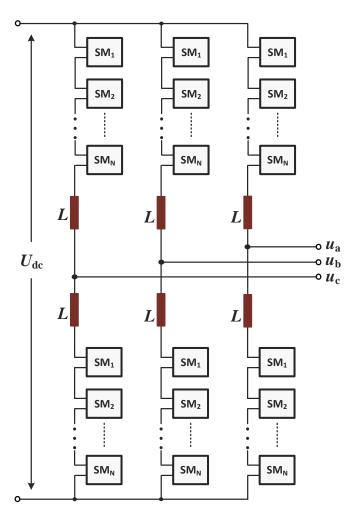
- Circuit, Topologies and operation Principles
- Modulation Schemes
- Capacitor Voltage Balancing Control



- > Circuit, Topologies and operation Principles
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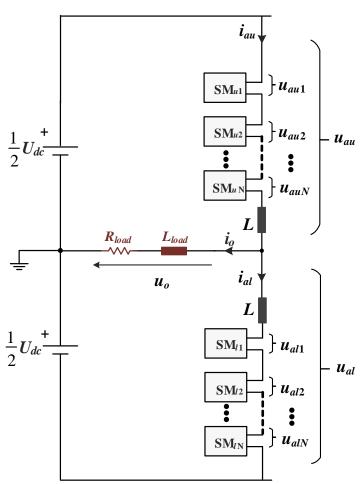
#### Circuit Structure



- Common DC link
- Three phases
- Six arms (upper and lower arms)
- Each arm consists of N series connected SMs and an arm inductor



#### **■ SM Operation Principles**



SM Type	States	Terminal voltage	
Half-bridge SM	S1 on, S2 off	u <sub>sm</sub> =U <sub>C</sub>	
	S1 off, S2 on	u <sub>sm</sub> =0	

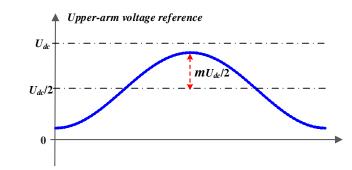


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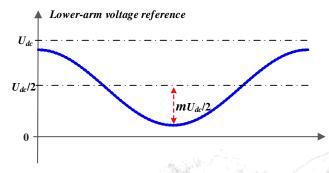
#### **■** Arm Voltage References

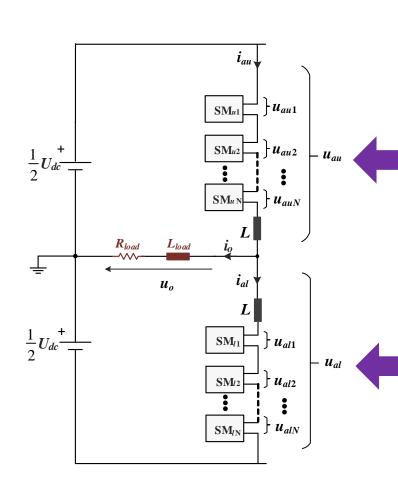
Suppose Modulation index is  $m = \frac{2U_{om}}{U_{dc}}$ 

► Upper arm voltage reference:  $u_{u_ref} = \frac{U_{dc}}{2}(1 - m\cos\omega t)$ 

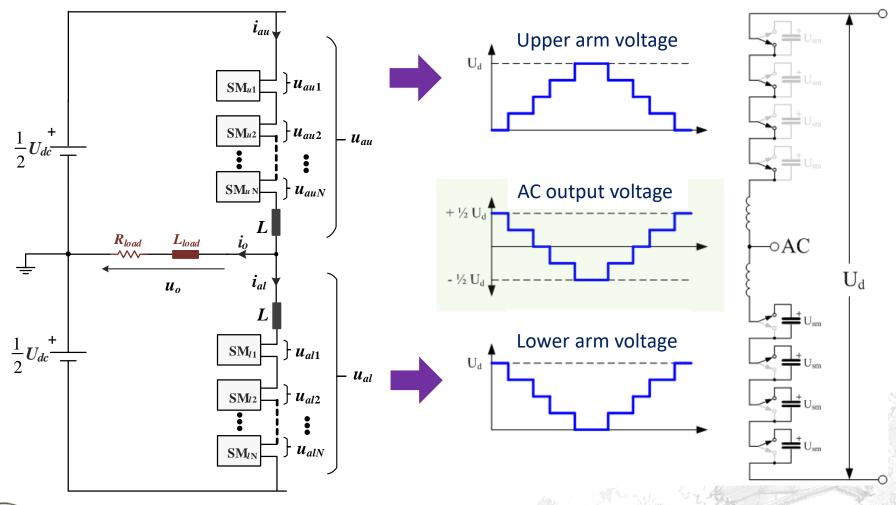


► Lower arm voltage reference:  $u_{l_ref} = \frac{U_{dc}}{2}(1 + m\cos\omega t)$ 



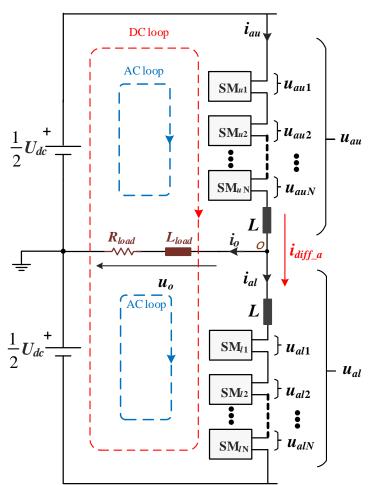


#### **■** Arm Voltage References



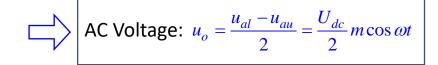


#### MMC Model: Voltage Analysis



#### AC Loop Analysis

$$\begin{cases} u_o = -\sum_{i=1}^{n} u_{aui} - L \frac{di_{au}}{dt} + \frac{U_{dc}}{2} = -u_{au} + \frac{U_{dc}}{2} \\ u_o = \sum_{i=1}^{n} u_{ali} + L \frac{di_{al}}{dt} - \frac{U_{dc}}{2} = u_{al} - \frac{U_{dc}}{2} \end{cases}$$

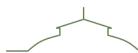


#### DC Loop Analysis

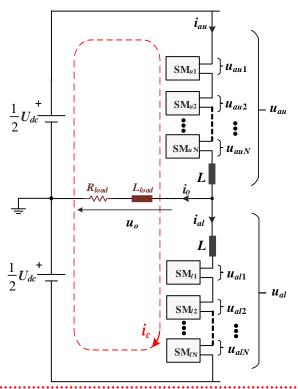
$$\begin{split} U_{dc} &= \sum_{i=1}^{N} u_{aui} + \sum_{i=1}^{N} u_{ali} + L \frac{di_{au}}{dt} + L \frac{di_{al}}{dt} \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^{N} S_{aui} u_{caui} + \sum_{i=1}^{N} S_{aui} u_{cali} + 2L \frac{di_{diff\_a}}{dt} \end{split}$$

Circulating Current:  $i_{diff\_a} = \frac{i_{au} + i_{al}}{2}$ 





#### MMC Model: Arm Current Analysis



 $\blacksquare$  AC current  $i_o$  is split equally between the upper and lower arms:

Arm currents:  $\begin{cases} i_{au} \\ i_{al} \end{cases}$ 

$$\begin{cases} i_{au}=i_c+\frac{1}{2}i_o & \text{Circulating} \\ i_{al}=i_c-\frac{1}{2}i_o & \text{supposed to} \\ \text{be suppressed} \end{cases}$$

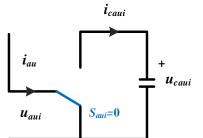
where  $i_c$  is phase dc current  $i_c = \frac{1}{3}I_{dc}$ 

 $\Box$  Ideally,  $i_o = I_{om} \cos(\omega t - \varphi)$ 



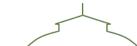
$$\begin{cases} i_{au} = \frac{1}{3}I_{dc} + \frac{1}{2}I_{om}\cos(\omega t - \varphi) \\ i_{al} = \frac{1}{3}I_{dc} - \frac{1}{2}I_{om}\cos(\omega t - \varphi) \end{cases}$$

#### SM Model



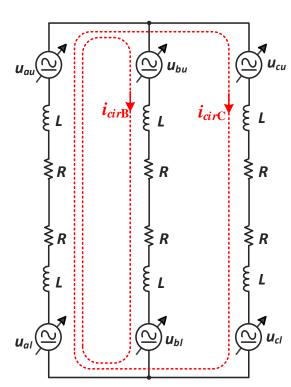
☐ The voltage and current relationship of *i*-th SM is

$$\begin{cases} i_{caui} = 0 \\ u_{aui} = 0 \end{cases}$$



#### MMC Model: Circulating Current Analysis

- Due to inner voltage unbalance among each phase of MMC
- Flow within the three phases units without affecting the dc and ac side voltages and currents
- In the following equivalent circuit, each arm of MMC is represented by a voltage source.



#### Upper and lower arm voltages

$$\begin{cases} u_{u} = N \cdot y_{u} \frac{1}{C} \int y_{u} i_{u} dt \\ u_{l} = N \cdot y_{l} \frac{1}{C} \int y_{l} i_{l} dt \end{cases}$$
 with 
$$\begin{cases} y_{u} = \frac{1}{2} (1 - m \cos \omega t) \\ y_{l} = \frac{1}{2} (1 + m \cos \omega t) \end{cases}$$



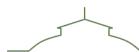
$$u_u + u_l = \frac{N}{2C} \left[ \int (y_u i_u + y_l i_l) dt - m \cos \omega t \int (y_u i_u - y_l i_l) dt \right]$$
 (1)

Upper and lower arm Current

$$\begin{cases} i_{u} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} i_{un} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} i_{un}^{\hat{}} \cos(n\omega t + \phi_{un}) & \text{Various} \\ i_{l} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} i_{ln} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} i_{ln}^{\hat{}} \cos(n\omega t + \phi_{ln}) & \text{components} \end{cases}$$
(3)

$$i_{l} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} i_{ln} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} i_{ln}^{\hat{}} \cos(n\omega t + \phi_{ln})$$
 components (4)

(2)



#### Substituting $(2)^{\sim}(4)$ into (1):

$$\begin{bmatrix} v_{2} & z_{2} & & & \\ x_{4} & v_{4} & z_{4} & & \\ & x_{6} & v_{6} & z_{6} & \\ & & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots \end{bmatrix} \times \begin{vmatrix} \hat{i}_{2}e^{j\phi_{2}} \\ \hat{i}_{4}e^{j\phi_{4}} \\ \hat{i}_{6}e^{j\phi_{6}} \\ \vdots \end{vmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} r \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \end{bmatrix}$$
(5)

$$\begin{bmatrix} v_{1} & z_{1} & & & \\ x_{3} & v_{3} & z_{3} & & \\ & x_{5} & v_{5} & z_{5} & \\ & & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots \end{bmatrix} \times \begin{vmatrix} \hat{i}_{1}e^{j\phi_{1}} \\ \hat{i}_{3}e^{j\phi_{3}} \\ \hat{i}_{5}e^{j\phi_{5}} \\ \vdots \end{vmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \end{bmatrix}$$
 (6)

with 
$$\begin{cases} x_n = -j \frac{m^2}{\omega 4(n-1)} \\ v_n = -j \frac{2(n^2-1) + n^2 m^2}{2n\omega(n^2-1)} + \frac{2C}{N}(jn\omega L + R) \\ r = -j(\hat{I}_o \frac{3M}{8\omega_o} e^{-j\varphi} - \frac{M^2 I_{dc}}{6\omega}) \\ z_n = -j \frac{m^2}{\omega 4(n+1)} \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{cases} \text{Circulating current suppression} \\ \text{normally considered} \end{cases}$$

**□** The dominated circulating current harmonic is second-order:

$$i_{2} \approx Re \left\{ \frac{-j(\hat{I}_{o} \frac{3m}{8\omega} e^{-j\varphi} - \frac{m^{2}I_{dc}}{6\omega})}{\frac{2C}{N} (j4\omega L + 2R) - j\frac{6 + 4m^{2}}{12\omega}} e^{j2\omega_{o}t} \right\}$$

- ✓ Only even-order harmonics
- No odd-order harmonics

Circulating current suppression is

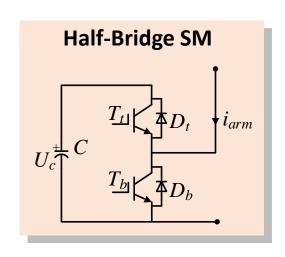
### **1-4 Components Dimensioning**

#### Device Voltage

■ SM capacitor voltage is:  $U_c = \frac{U_{dc}}{N}(1+\varepsilon)$   $\varepsilon$ : capacitor voltage ripple percentage.

#### Device Current

- Arm current amplitude is:  $I_{peak} = \frac{1}{3}I_{dc} + \frac{1}{2}I_{om}$
- Arm current RSM value is:  $I_{rms} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{9}I_{dc}^2 + \frac{1}{4}I_{om}^2}$



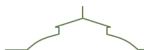
#### Arm inductors

Design Principle1: Limit rate of rise of the arm current when DC side short-circuit

$$L \ge \frac{U_{dc}}{2\frac{di_{ju}}{dt}}$$

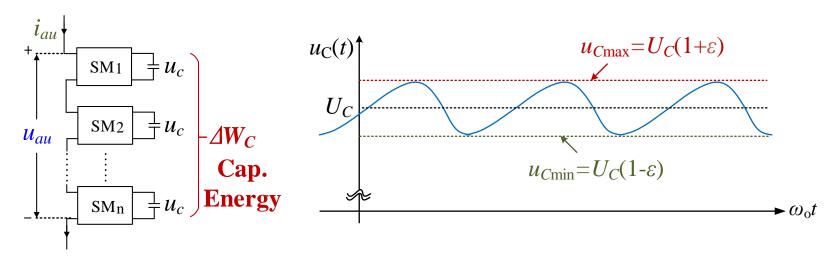
Design Principle2: Limit second-frequency circuiting current within three phases

$$L \ge \frac{U_{dc}}{8\omega^2 C U_C} \left(\frac{P}{3I_{2m}} + U_{dc}\right)$$



#### **SM Capacitance**

Principle: keep the capacitor voltage within reasonable limit  $\pm \varepsilon$ .

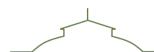


Maximum and minimum capacitor voltages are

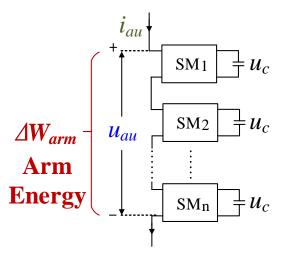
$$\begin{cases} u_{C \max} = U_C (1 + \varepsilon) \\ u_{C \min} = U_C (1 - \varepsilon) \end{cases}$$

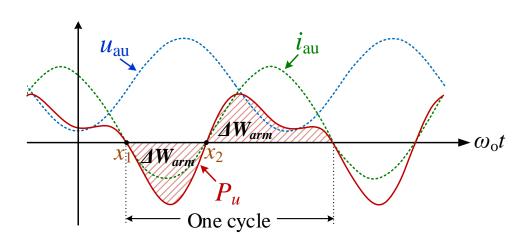
Arm maximum capacitor energy variation  $\Delta W_c$  is

$$\Delta W_{\rm C} = N \frac{1}{2} C \left[ \left( u_{C \, \text{max}} \right)^2 - \left( u_{C \, \text{min}} \right)^2 \right] = 2N \varepsilon C U_{C}^2$$



#### SM Capacitance





• Arm instantaneous power  $P_{u}(t)$ 

$$p_{u}(t) = u_{ju}(t)i_{ju}(t) = \frac{1}{2}U_{dc}[1 - m\cos(\omega_{o}t)] \times \frac{1}{3}I_{dc}[1 + \frac{2}{m\cos\varphi}\cos(\omega_{o}t - \varphi)]$$

• Maximum energy variation of an arm  $\Delta W_{arm}$  is

$$\Delta W_{arm} = \int_{x_1}^{x_2} p_u(t) dt = \int_{x_1}^{x_2} u_{au}(t) i_{au}(t) dt = \frac{U_{om} I_{om}}{m N \omega \cos \varphi} \left[ 1 - \left( \frac{m \cos \varphi}{2} \right)^2 \right]^{3/2}$$

Energy Balancing:

$$\Delta W_{arm} = \Delta W_c$$

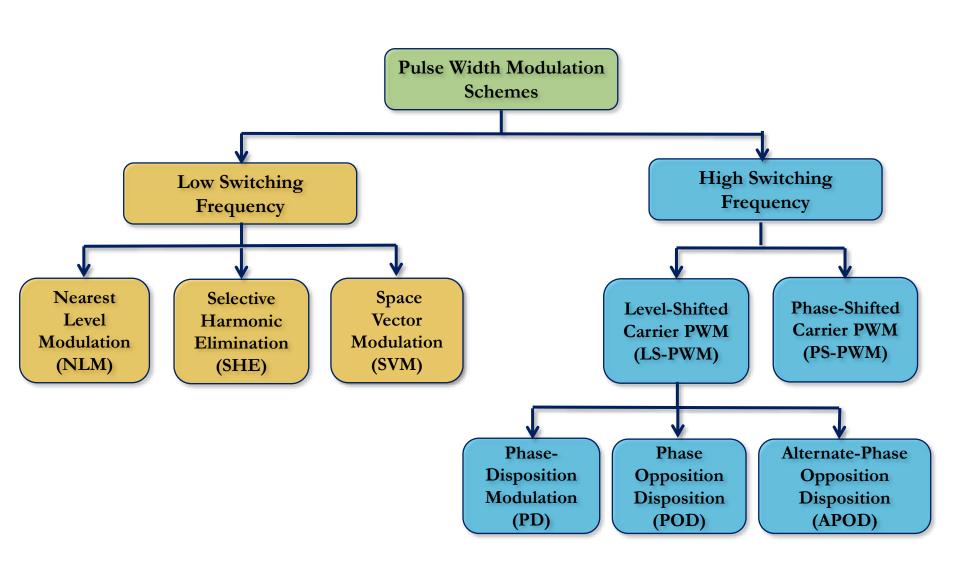


$$C_{SM} \ge \frac{\Delta W_{arm}}{2\varepsilon U_C^2}$$

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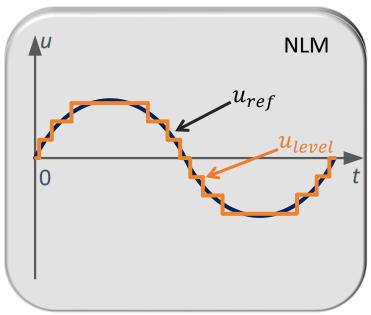


#### **Modulation Techniques**



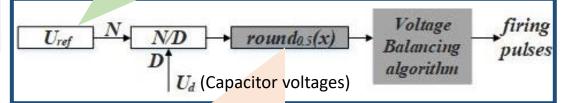
## 2-1 Low Switching-Frequency Modulation

#### 1. NLM - Nearest Level Modulation



Upper and lower arm reference voltages:

$$\begin{cases} u_{ref\_upper} = \frac{U_{dc}}{2} [1 - m\cos(\omega t)] \\ u_{ref\_lower} = \frac{U_{dc}}{2} [1 + m\cos(\omega t)] \end{cases}$$

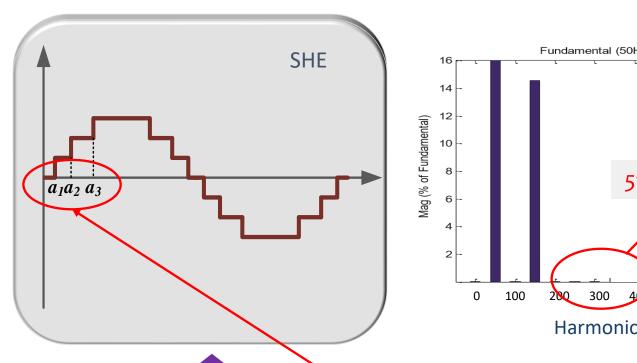


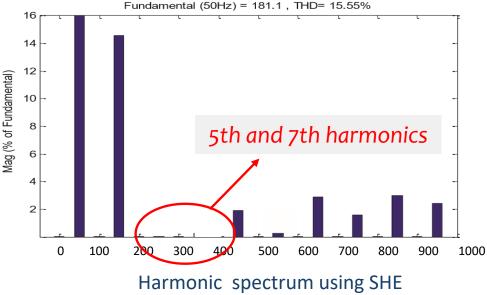
- ✓ Low switching frequency
- ✓ low losses
- ✓ For the case with large number of SMs
- ✓ High distortion (particular at the flat) when number of SM is not large enough

Number of inserted SMs in upper and lower arms

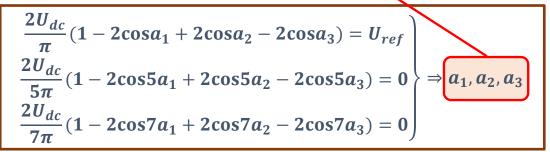
$$\begin{cases} N_{upper} = round_{0.5} \left\{ \frac{U_{dc}}{2U_{d}} [1 - m\cos(\omega t)] \right\} \\ N_{lower} = round_{0.5} \left\{ \frac{U_{dc}}{2U_{d}} [1 + m\cos(\omega t)] \right\} \end{cases}$$

#### 2. SHE - Selective Harmonic Elimination



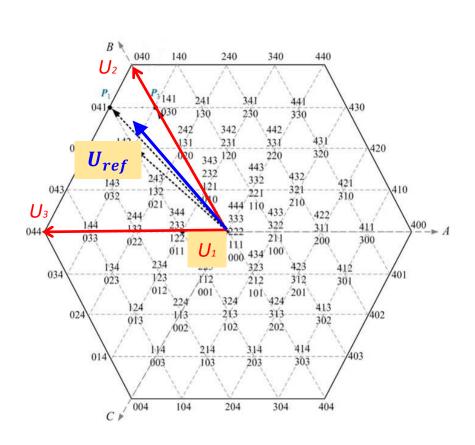


#### SHE Algorithm:



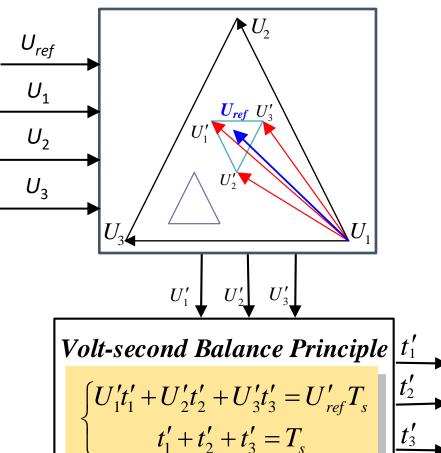
- ✓ Low switching frequency
- ✓ Improve harmonic performance
- ✓ High complexity for switching angles
  as the SM number increases

#### 3. SVPWM - Space-Vector PWM $100Hz < f_{sw} < 2000Hz$



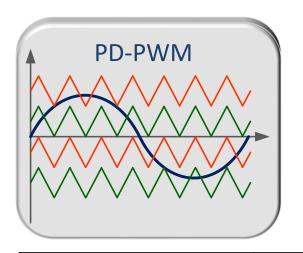
Space vector states for 5-level MMC converter

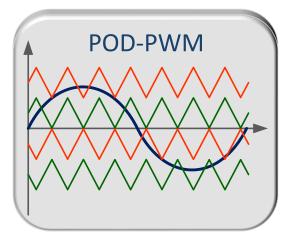
#### Determining the Sector

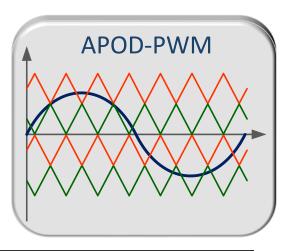


Calculate the action time

#### 1. LS-PWM - Level Shifted PWM







Level number	2N+1 Level			N+1 Level		
Modulation mode	PD- PWM	POD- PWM	APOD- PWM	PD- PWM	POD- PWM	APOD- PWM
Equivalent switching frequency	$f_{cs}$	$f_{cs}$	$f_{cs}$	$f_{cs}$	$f_{cs}$	$f_{cs}$
Harmonic distribution	$2f_{cs}$	$2f_{cs}$	$2f_{cs}$	$f_{cs}$	$f_{cs}$	$f_{cs}$

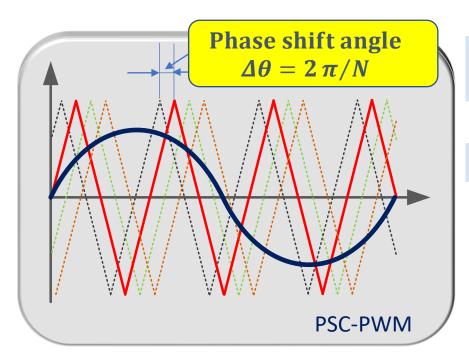
✓ Low output harmonics

SM number N is odd

SM number N is even

✓ Harmonic features varies with modulation index

#### 2. PSC - PWM-Phase-Shifted Carrier PWM

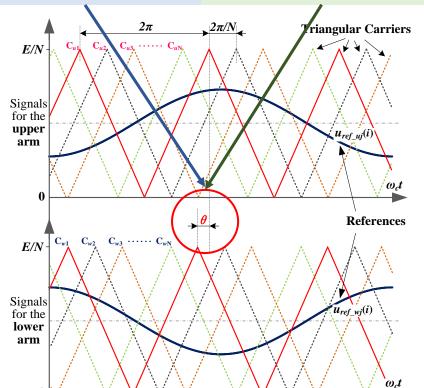


- Equivalent switching frequency is  $N \times f_c$
- Equivalent switching frequency is  $2N \times f_c$



without  $\theta$  interleaving with  $\theta$  in

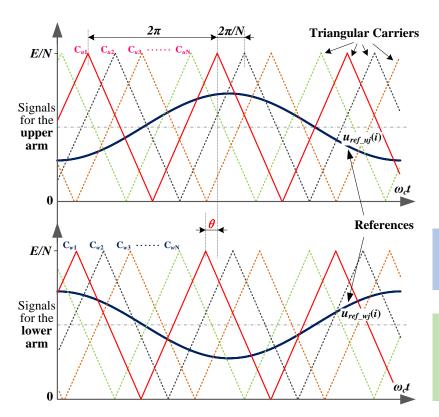
with  $oldsymbol{ heta}$  interleaving



- ✓ High switching frequency
- √ low THD
- ✓ Harmonic features are irrespective with modulation index
- ✓ Suitable for the case with few SMs (Medium Voltage Applications)

#### ☐ Harmonic analysis of MMCs under PSC-PWM

 $\theta$  is displacement angle between the upper and lower arm carriers



Output voltage of MMC:

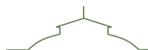
$$u_{oj} = \frac{1}{2} ME \cos(\omega_o t + \varphi_j) + \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{\left(-1\right)^n 2E}{m \pi N} J_{2n+1-Nm} \left(\frac{MNm\pi}{2}\right) \times \cos\left[\frac{Nm\omega_c t + Q}{2}\right] \cos\left[\frac{Nm(\theta - \pi)}{2}\right]$$

Circulating current of MMC:

$$i_{cj} = \frac{I_{dc}}{3} - \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{\left(-1\right)^n E \times J_{2n+1-Nm}\left(\frac{MNm\pi}{2}\right)}{m\pi N L_0\left(Nm\omega_c + \left(2n+1-Nm\right)\omega_b\right)} \times \cos\left[Nm\omega_c t + Q\right] \sin\left[\frac{Nm(\theta-\pi)}{2}\right]$$

- ✓ Both contain N-multiples of carrier-frequency harmonics and associated sideband components
- $\checkmark$  Magnitudes of the  $Nm^{\text{th}}$  carrier group harmonics of output voltage and circulating current are a function of  $\theta$

<sup>[1]</sup> B. Li, "Analysis of the Phase-Shifted Carrier Modulation for Modular Multilevel Converters," IEEE Trans. on Power Electronics, vol. 30, no. 1, pp. 297–310, Jan. 2015.



#### ☐ Phase-shift Angle ⊖ Selection

To Minimize Output Voltage Harmonics

The output voltage harmonics becomes:

$$\widehat{V}_{Nm} = K_{Nm} \times \left| \cos \left[ \frac{Nm(\theta - \pi)}{2} \right] \right| = 0$$



$$\theta = \begin{cases} 0 & N \text{ is odd} \\ \frac{\pi}{N} & N \text{ is even} \end{cases}$$

✓ But circulating current harmonics are at their maximums:

$$\hat{I}_{Nm} = H_{Nm} \ (m=1, 3, 5, ...)$$



#### Contradiction

To Minimize Circulating Current Harmonics

All switching harmonics in circulating currents are completely eliminated:

$$\hat{I}_{Nm} = H_{Nm} \times |\sin\left[\frac{Nm(\theta-\pi)}{2}\right]|=0$$



$$\theta = \begin{cases} \frac{\pi}{N} & N \text{ is odd} \\ 0 & N \text{ is even} \end{cases}$$

✓ But the output voltage harmonics are at their maximums

$$\stackrel{\wedge}{V}_{Nm} = K_{Nm} \quad (m=1, 2, 3, ...)$$

#### 3. Improved PS-PWM

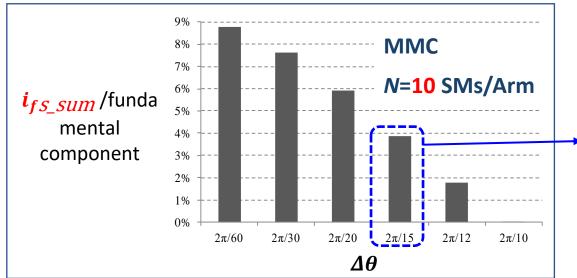
 $0 < \Delta \theta < 2\pi/N$ 

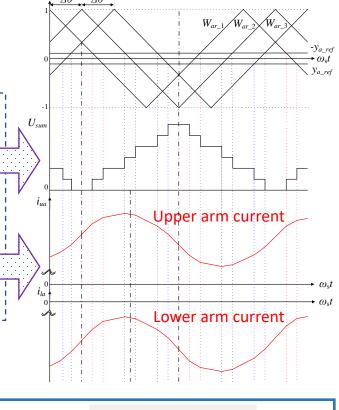
High-frequency Voltage

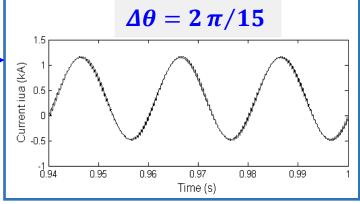
$$u_{fS\_SUM}(t) = -\frac{4V_c}{\pi} \frac{\sin \frac{n\Delta\theta}{2}}{\sin \frac{\Delta\theta}{2}} \cos \left(\frac{\Delta\theta_u - \Delta\theta_l}{4}\right) \cos \left(\omega_s t - \frac{n-1}{2}\Delta\theta\right)$$

High-frequency Current

$$i_{fS\_SUM}(t) = \frac{2V_c}{\pi \omega_s L_s} \frac{\sin \frac{n\Delta\theta}{2}}{\sin \frac{\Delta\theta}{2}} \cos(\frac{\Delta\theta_u - \Delta\theta_l}{4}) \cos\left(\omega_s t - \frac{n-1}{2}\Delta\theta - \frac{\pi}{2}\right)$$



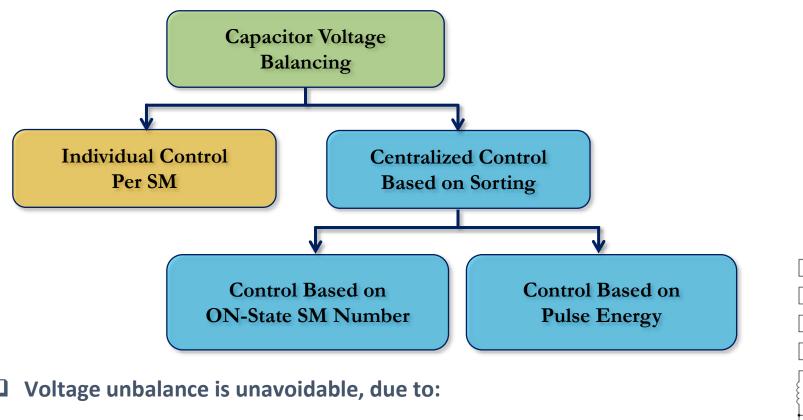




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-oAC

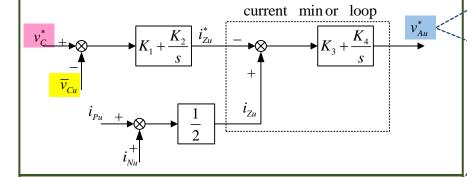


- - Component parameter difference and aging
  - **Unequal power distribution**
  - **Inconsistent transmission delay of the driving signals**
  - $\circ$
- □ Capacitor voltage balancing is the prerequisite for stable operation of MMC

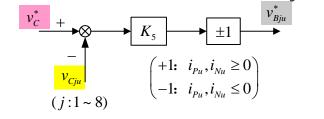
#### Method-1: Individual Control Per SM

Averaging Control

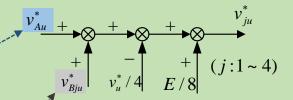
Force arm SMs' average voltage  $v_{cu} = \sum_{j=1}^{n} v_{cju} / n$  to follow its command  $v_{c}^{*}$ 



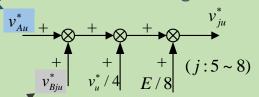
Balancing Control
Force individual SM voltage to follow its command  $v_{j}^*$ 

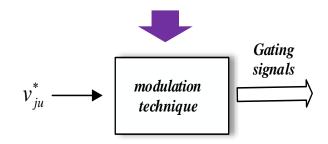


✓ Upper arm SM voltage command



Łower arm SM voltage command

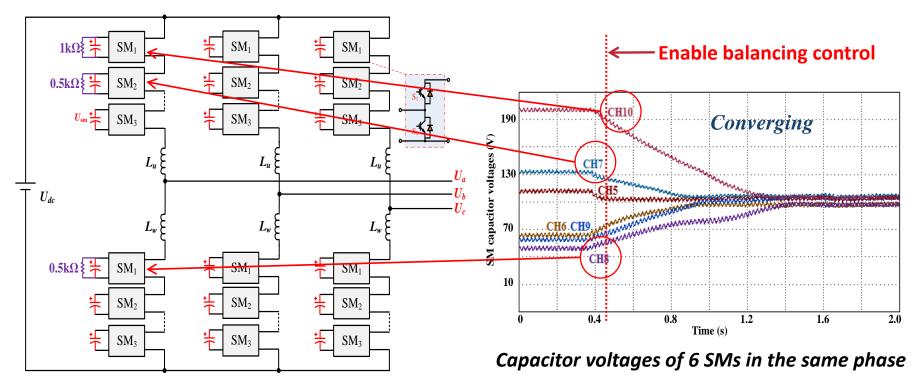




Each SM has a closed loop control

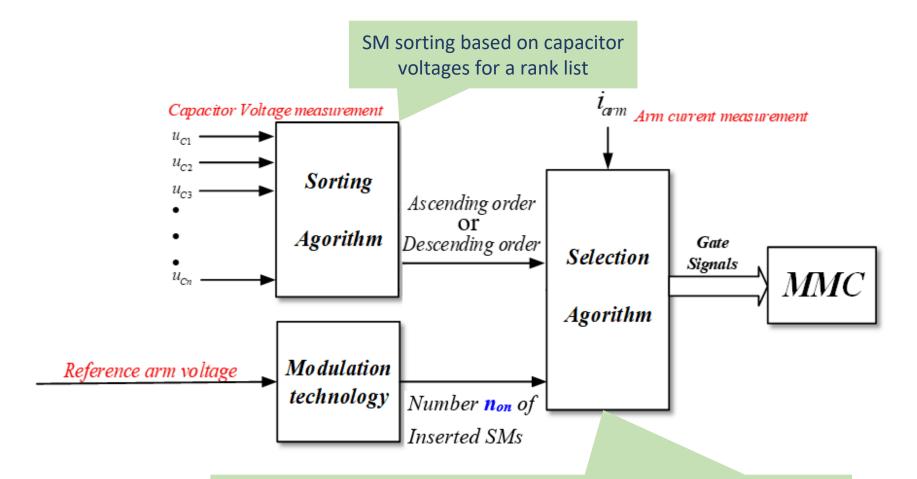
#### Experimental Verification

- Experiment with 3 SMs per arm
- Nominal capacitor voltage is 100V
- Voltage unbalance is intentionally introduced by paralleling resistors to some of the SMs



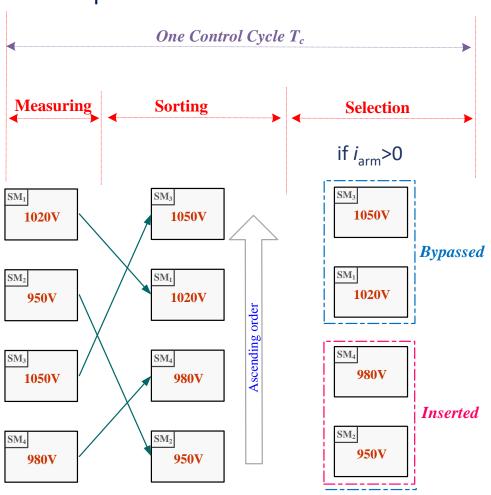
**Experimental circuit configuration** 

#### ■ Method-2: Based on Voltage Sorting & ON-State SMs Number



- $\checkmark$   $i_{arm} > 0$ :  $n_{on}$  number of SMs with the lowest voltage are switched on.
- $\checkmark$   $i_{arm}$  < 0:  $n_{on}$  number of SMs with the highest voltage are switched on.

#### Example



- Example with 4 SMs per arm
- 2 of 4 SMs need to be inserted
- Nominal capacitor voltage is 1000V
- ✓ Implemented with the PSC-PWM, LSC-PWM, NLM, SHE, SAM, and SVM schemes
- ✓ Proper compromise between switching frequency and capacitor voltage deviation [1], [2]

	Inserted (S <sub>1</sub> is on)	Bypassed (S <sub>2</sub> is on)
<i>i</i> <sub>arm</sub> >0	charged	unchanged
<i>i</i> <sub>arm</sub> <0	discharged	unchanged

[1] Z. Li, "Power Module Capacitor Voltage Balancing Method for a ±350-kV/1000-MW Modular Multilevel Converter," IEEE Trans. Power Electron., vol. 31 no. 6, pp. 3977–3984, Jun. 2016.

[2] Q. Tu, "Reduced Switching-Frequency Modulation and Circulating Current Suppression for Modular Multilevel Converters," IEEE Trans. Power Del., vol. 26, no. 3, pp. 2009–2017, July. 2011.

#### ■ Method-3: Control Based on Pulse Energy

☐ Improved PS-PWM

$$0 < \Delta \theta < 2\pi/N$$

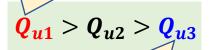
☐ High-frequency arm current:

$$\mathbf{i}_{fS\_Sum}(t) = \frac{2V_c}{\pi \omega_s L_s} \frac{\sin \frac{n\Delta\theta}{2}}{\sin \frac{\Delta\theta}{2}} \cos \left(\frac{\Delta\theta_u - \Delta\theta_l}{4}\right) \cos \left(\omega_s t - \frac{n-1}{2}\Delta\theta - \frac{\pi}{2}\right)$$

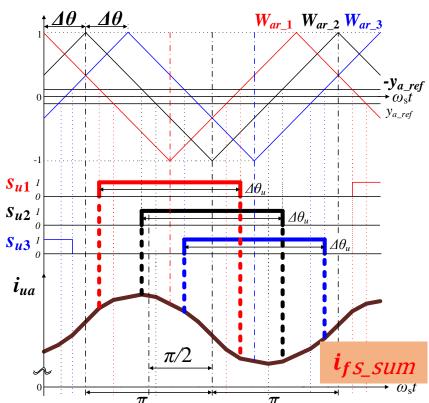
 $\square$  Energy of pulses ( $S_{u1}$ ,  $S_{u2}$ ,  $S_{u3}$ ):

$$\begin{cases} Q_{u1} = \int_0^{2\pi} S_{u1} \cdot i_{ua} d(\omega_s t) \\ Q_{u2} = \int_0^{2\pi} S_{u2} \cdot i_{ua} d(\omega_s t) \\ Q_{u3} = \int_0^{2\pi} S_{u3} \cdot i_{ua} d(\omega_s t) \end{cases}$$

 $S_{u1}$  close to peak value of  $i_{fS\_SUM}$  ( $\pi/2$ )



 $S_{u3}$  far from peak value of  $i_{fS\_SUM}$  ( $\pi/2$ )



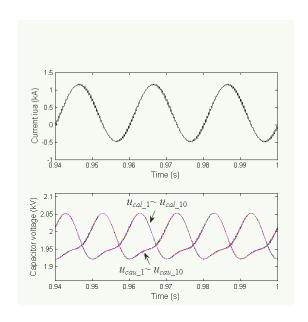
- Capacitor Voltage-Balancing Control
- ✓ Pulse close to peak value of  $i_{fS\_SUM}$ 
  - m

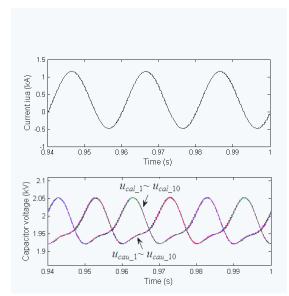
SM (high capacitor voltage)

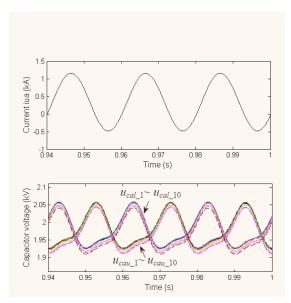
SM (low capacitor voltage)

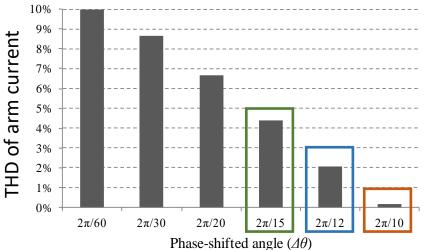
✓ Pulse far from peak value of  $i_{fS\_SUM}$ 

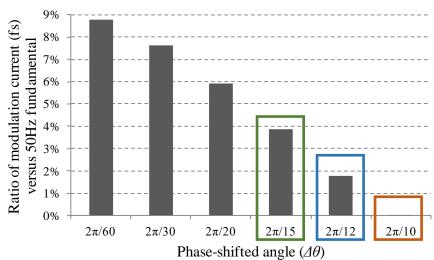
#### ☐ Simulation (MMC with N=10 SMs/Arm)



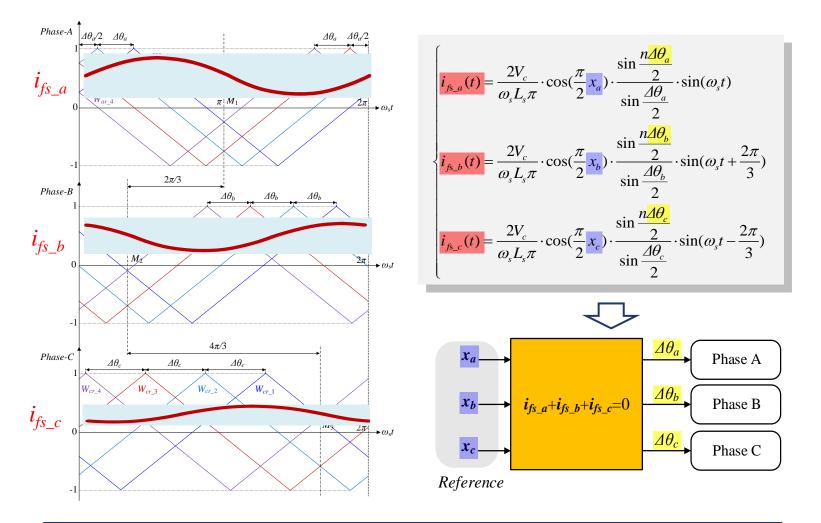






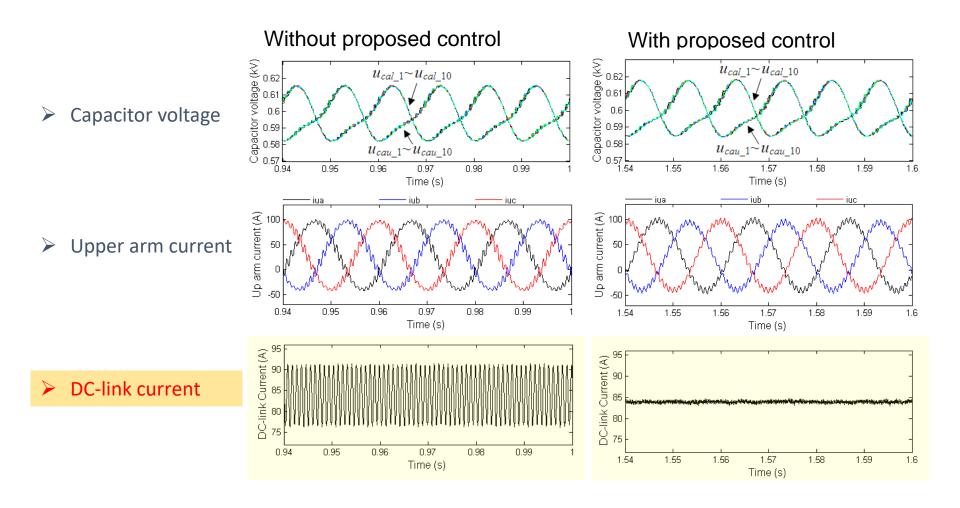


#### Control for Eliminating DC-Link Current Ripple

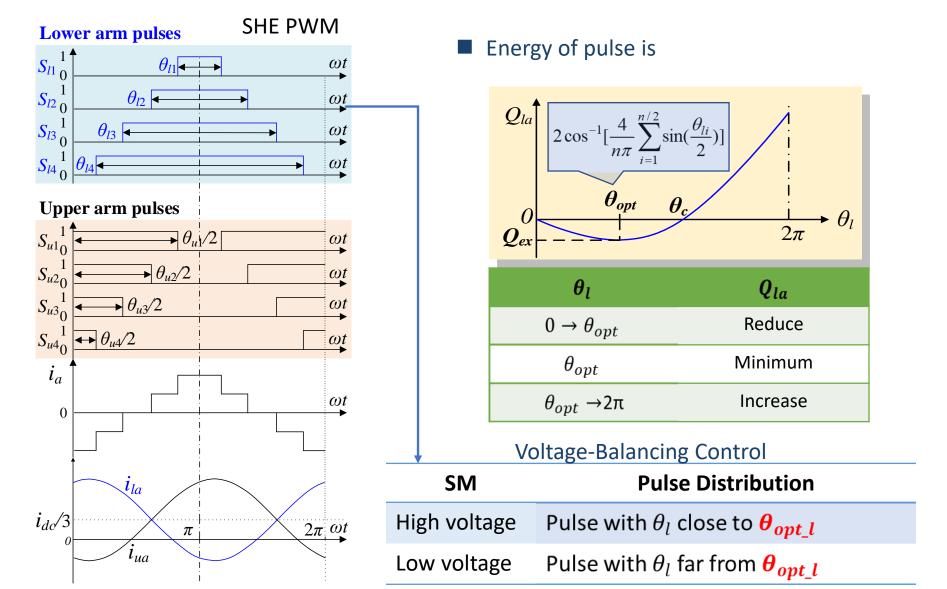


 $i_{fs\_a}$ ,  $i_{fs\_b}$ ,  $i_{fs\_c}$  flow in three-phase of MMC, but not on the dc link of MMC.

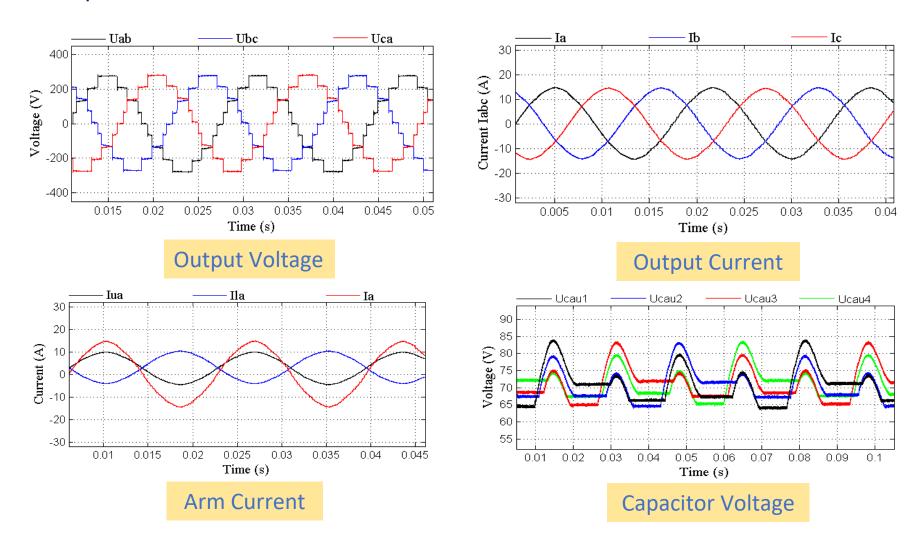
#### ☐ Simulation Verification



#### ■ Method-4: Control Based on Pulse Energy



#### ■ Experiment Verification

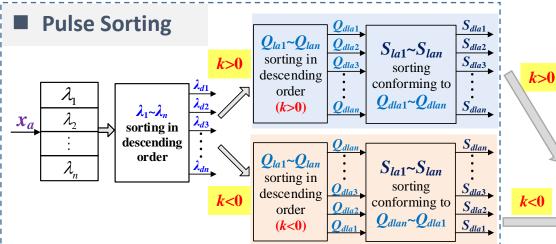


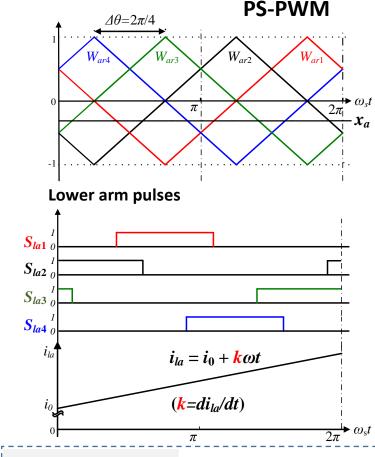
#### Method-5: Control Based on Pulse Energy

#### Energy of Pulses $S_{la1} \sim S_{lan}$ :

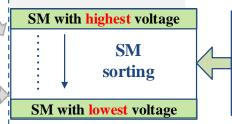
$$Q_{lai} = \pi (1 + x_{\alpha})i_0 + \frac{\pi^2}{2} k \lambda_i (i = 1, 2, ..., n)$$

with 
$$\lambda_{i} = \begin{cases} 4x_{a} + (1 - x_{a}) \frac{2i - 1}{\pi} \Delta \theta, (i = 1, 2, ..., n), Mode I \\ (1 + x_{a}) \left(2 - \frac{2i - 1}{\pi} \Delta \theta\right), (i = 1, 2, ..., n/2), Mode II \\ (1 + x_{a}) \left(6 - \frac{2i - 1}{\pi} \Delta \theta\right), (i = n/2 + 1, ..., n), Mode II \end{cases}$$





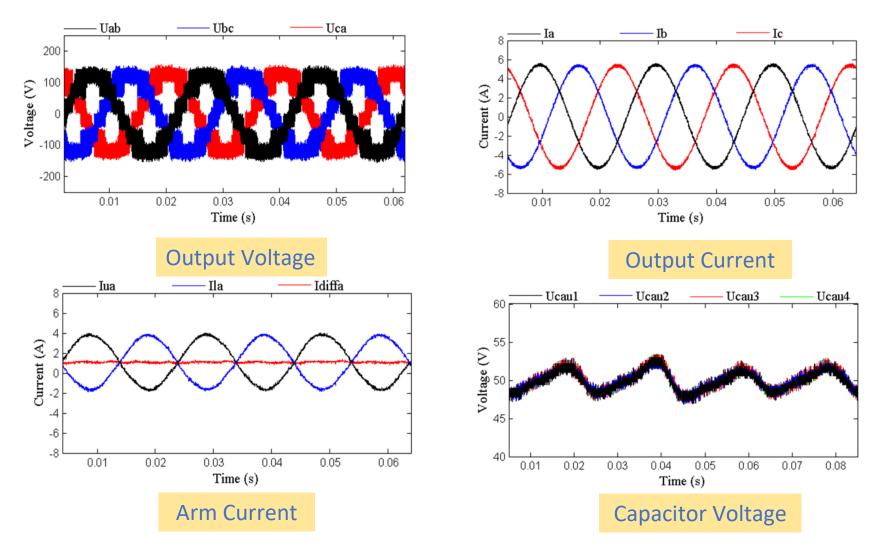
#### **SM Sorting**



 $u_{cal\_1}$  $u_{cal\_2}$ Sorted in descending  $u_{cal}$  3 order

 $u_{cal\_n}$ 

#### ■ Experiment Verification



[1] Deng F, Chen Z. Voltage-Balancing Method for Modular Multilevel Converters Under Phase-Shifted Carrier-Based Pulse width Modulation[J]. IEEE Transactions on Industrial Electronics, 2015, 62(7):4158-4169.

# Thanks!

- The course performance will be evaluated by submitting a paper report.
- The subject of this report must be related to the contents presented in this course.
  Otherwise, the report is unacceptable. Any topic introduced in this course can be used for the report.
- The report must include the abstract, necessary background, detailed principles and methods, and simulation results. Therefore, the simulation work should be completed before preparing the report.
- The left four classes are left for you to complete the simulation work and the paper report. The deadline for submission of the report is June 30, 2021.

