A Modified 2-Dimensional Decentralized Interleaving Algorithm for Multi-level Multi-leg Converters

Bao Anh Nguyen^{1,2}, Quoc Dung Phan^{1,2,*}, Guillaume Gateau³

ABSTRACT

This paper proposes a modified algorithm to interleave the carrier signals in decentralized controller for multi-level multi-leg converter. Structure of these converters includes a number of semiconductor modules which are arranged in series and parallel to compose a matrix. The serial modules allow increasing the voltage levels of converter, while, the parallel modules allow increasing the working power of converter, therefore, the multi-level multi-leg converter can be applied in highvoltage high-power systems. The size of matrix can be changed by adding or removing the rows or columns at required positions while the system is working. The multi-level multi-leg converter can be controlled by a traditional algorithm which includes a central micro-controller using for all modules. However, this algorithm has a disadvantage when the system has a large amount of modules, at that time, the controller does not have enough resource to operate the algorithm. A decentralized algorithm has proposed to solve this problem, in this method, each module has its own controller to communicate and exchange the information with the horizontal and vertical neighboring modules over the communication channel. From the collected information, the controller of each module will calculate the phase angle of that module so that all carrier signals are interleaved successfully. This proposed algorithm also has a disadvantage, it cannot work correctly with matrices where number of rows and columns have non-one common divisor, they are called special matrices. This research focus on adjusting the algorithm so that it can work with all type of matrices including the special matrices. The ability of dynamical restructuring of system as well as the convergence speed of the algorithm are also considered and evaluated when some modules are added or removed. The research demonstrated the efficiency and the feasible by simulation results and experiment results. The proposed algorithm is simulated by the MATLAB/SIMULINK program and is experimented on micro-controller TMS320F28069.

Key words: Multi-level Multi-leg converter, Decentralized control, Interleaving PWM, Dynamical restructure

¹Faculty of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology (HCMUT), Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

²Vietnam National University Ho Chi Minh City (VNU-HCM), Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

³Power Electronics Group, LAPLACE, Université de Toulouse, CNRS, INPT, UPS, France, 2, rue Charles Camichel -BP 7122 - 31071 Toulouse cedex 7

Correspondence

Quoc Dung Phan, Faculty of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology (HCMUT), Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

Vietnam National University Ho Chi Minh City (VNU-HCM), Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

Email: pqdung@hcmut.edu.vn

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INTRODUCTION

In the recent years, multi-level multi-leg converters have been strongly researched and developed, and they are now used in numerous applications. These converters are constructed from several switching-cells connected in series and parallel ^{1–3}.

Each switching cell is created from semiconductor switches and capacitors that have medium current and voltage ratings. The serial connection allows converters to operate at high DC-bus voltage by assembling multiple switching cells together ^{4–8}. A leg of the converter is formed by a series of switching cells and an inductor. The parallel connection allows converters to operate at high load current by assembling multiple legs together ^{9–12}. For example, Figure 1 shows a flying capacitor multi-level multi-leg converters.

Multi-level multi-leg converter have many components that need to be controlled. As a result, the central microcontroller must have capability to commu-

nicate with all cells. This leads to complexity in the control system, which may make it difficult to implement in large-scaled projects.

To overcome the disadvantages of a central microcontroller, a decentralized control algorithm has been proposed in previous studies 13-15. In this method, each cell has its own controller and exchanges necessary information with the nearest neighboring cells to implement the algorithm. In case of a multi-level multi-leg converter, this approach can also be used to establish communications between the cells in a one-dimensional serial chain in order to interleave the PWM signals. This process may require a relatively high computation time to reach the steady-state for the case of a multi-level multi-leg converter because this type of converter contains a large number of cells and this algorithm is implemented from the beginning to the end of the chain. The configuration of this algorithm is shown in Figure 2.

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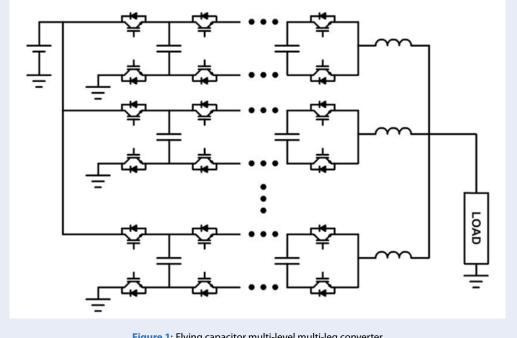


Figure 1: Flying capacitor multi-level multi-leg converter

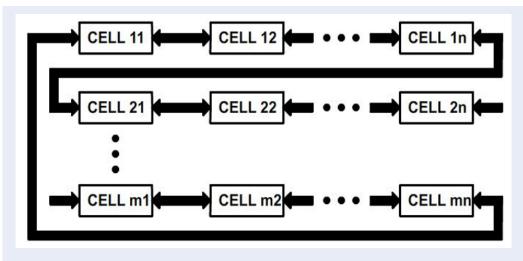


Figure 2: Basic decentralized interleaving algorithm of multi-level multi-leg converter

To increase the rate of convergence, the 2dimensional (2D) decentralized control algorithm has been introduced. In this method, each cell exchanges information with the nearest neighboring cells in horizontal or vertical axis, depending on its position 16. The only information exchanged is the phase of the triangular wave and the decentralized micro-controllers adjust their own phase based on this information. However, it cannot work with some configurations which have special number of rows and columns, which is the disadvantage of the conventional 2D algorithm.

In this paper, the 2-dimensional decentralized control algorithm has been improved to operate with all configurations of multi-level multi-leg converter. Simulation and experiment are also implemented to demonstrate the superiority of algorithm.

PROPOSED 2D DECENTRALIZED INTERLEAVING METHOD

The previous studies have presented the equation for one-dimension phase shift, as shown in (1) and (2)

$$\alpha_{n+1}^{k} = mod(\alpha_{n+1}^{k} + 0.5mod(\alpha_{n-1}^{k} - \alpha_{n+1}^{k}, 360), 360)$$
(1)

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha_{n+1}^k &= mod(\alpha_{n+1}^k \\ &+ 0.5 mod\left(\alpha_{n-1}^k - \alpha_{n+1}^k, 360\right), 360) \end{aligned} \tag{1} \\ \begin{cases} \alpha_{n+1}^k &= \alpha_n^k + K\left(\alpha_{n+1}^k - \alpha_n^k\right) with K \in [01] \\ \alpha_{n+1}^k &= mod\left(\alpha_{n+1}^k \\ + 0.5 mod \times \left(\alpha_{n-1}^k - \alpha_{n+1}^k\right), 360\right), 360) \end{cases}$$

In multi-level multi-leg converters, cells are arranged in rows and columns, and horizontal and vertical interleaving in those rows and columns are performed sequentially.

First, the neighboring cells of the first column exchange information with each other to achieve the vertical interleaving. After that, all other cells in all rows perform horizontal interleaving simultaneously (Figure 3). If the control systems operate correctly, the cells will reach the expected interleaved state after a certain duration. Because of their important role, the first column and the first row cannot be removed during the process of operation.

At the beginning of the algorithm, the phase of the first cell remains constant at 0° throughout the implementation, while other phases are set to 180° and can be changed to reach an equilibrium point. However, this algorithm does not work for matrices where the number of rows and columns have a non-one common divisor, these matrices are called special matrices.

Some cases of matrices are shown in Tables 1, 2 and 3. As shown, the 3x3 and 4x4 matrices fail to properly interleave the carrier of cells.

To overcome the divergence of basic 2-dimensional interleaving algorithm for special matrices, the cell linking must be adjusted. Specifically, the first cell of the last row exchanges information with the second cell of the first row. The system configuration is shown

With this adjustment, vertical and horizontal interleaving can be performed simultaneously and the problem of special matrices can be solved as shown in Tables 4 and 5.

SIMULATION RESULTS

The simulation model is implemented using MAT-LAB/ SIMULINK software for a 4-level 4-phase converter. The inputs and outputs of a cell are shown in Figure 5 and its parameters are explained in Table 6. These cells are connected through IN and OUT channels for receiving and transmitting the phase angles.

Table 1: Carrier's phase of in basic algorithm

0°	120°	240°
Cell 11	Cell 12	Cell 13
120°	240°	0°
Cell 21	Cell 22	Cell 23
240°	0°	120°
Cell 31	Cell 32	Cell 33

Table 2: Carrier's phase of 3x4 converter in basic algorithm

0°	90°	180°	270°
Cell 11	Cell 12	Cell 13	Cell 14
120°	210°	300°	30°
Cell 21	Cell 22	Cell 23	Cell 24
240°	330°	60°	150°
Cell 31	Cell 32	Cell 33	Cell 34

Table 3: Carrier's phase of 4x4 converter in basic algorithm

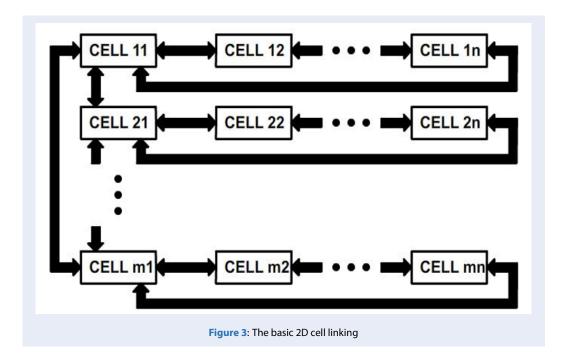
0°	90°	180°	270°
Cell 11	Cell 12	Cell 13	Cell 14
90°	180°	270°	0°
Cell 21	Cell 22	Cell 23	Cell 24
180°	270°	0°	90°
Cell 31	Cell 32	Cell 33	Cell 34
270°	0°	90°	180°
Cell 41	Cell 42	Cell 43	Cell 44

All the cells are divided into three types: the master cell (type 0), the first cell of row (type 1) and normal cell (type 2). Each type has its own method of communication and calculation. Besides, a cell can be enabled or disabled by changing its EN signal. The flowchart of the algorithm is shown in Figure 6.

In this section, three separated case studies were simulated, including two special matrices (3x3 and 4x4) and one normal matrix (3x4). The gate signals of the whole system operate at 10 kHz.

Table 4: Carrier's phase of 3x3 converter in proposed algorithm

0°	120°	240°
Cell 11	Cell 12	Cell 13
40°	160°	280°
Cell 21	Cell 22	Cell 23
80°	200°	320°
Cell 31	Cell 32	Cell 33



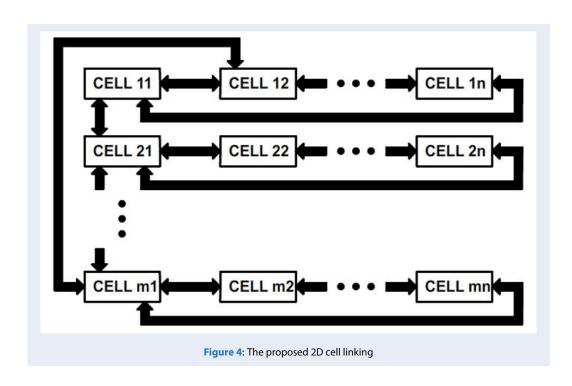
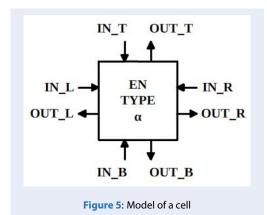


Table 5: Carrier's phase of 4x4 converter in proposed algorithm

0°	90°	180°	270°
Cell 11	Cell 12	Cell 13	Cell 14
22,5°	112,5°	202,5°	292,5°
Cell 21	Cell 22	Cell 23	Cell 24
45°	135°	225°	315°
Cell 31	Cell 32	Cell 33	Cell 34
67,5°	157,5°	247,5°	337,5°
Cell 41	Cell 42	Cell 43	Cell 44

In addition, the dynamic response of the proposed algorithm was also demonstrated through a system reconfiguration simulation. The system was simulated in 25 ms, with a 4×4 at the beginning. The fourth row was then removed at 5 ms, and the fourth column was removed at 10 ms. After that, these rows and columns were reinserted to restore the original state, with the fourth column reinserted at 15 ms and the fourth row at 20 ms. After each reconfiguration, the system quickly reached the new steady state. The process of reconfiguration is shown in Figure 7 and the simulation results are shown in Figure 8 to Figure 10 respectively.

As shown in Figure 11, the proposed algorithm worked perfectly with the two types of matrices, all the carrier's phase of all cells reached a steady value after a short duration.



EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

In this section, some experimental results will be presented. The experimental model contains 16 cells which are arranged in 4×4 matrix. Every cells are controlled by their own micro-controller TMS320F28069 which are loaded the same programme. The switching frequency is fixed at 10 kHz.

Communication channels are set-up to exchange information between the cells. Each micro-controller has two types of communication, so it is suitable for the systems with many rows and columns. Serial peripheral interface (SPI) and serial communication interface (SCI) are used for horizontal communication and vertical communication respectively. The baud rate of all communication channels is fixed at 5 Mbps. Because the amount of bits is limited for each transfer, a data must spend many stages to be communicated and synthesized completely. These stages must be synchronized in order that the algorithm operates accurately. The first micro-controller has the role of the master, which generates the synchronization signal for all other controllers. Frequency of the synchronization signal is 50 kHz, this value guarantees that everything can be done completely in a switching cycle.

The experimental model was made in the laboratory and is shown in Figure 12. Some of the experimental case studies are similar to those described in the previous section. The carrier signal's phase of each cell is observed through a LCD display, as shown in Table 7 to 9. The gate signal of the cells are shown in Figure 13 to Figure 15.

CONCLUSION AND DISCUSSION

In this paper, a modified 2-dimensional interleaving algorithm for multi-level multi-leg converters is presented. The proposed algorithm can efficiently handle special and normal matrix cases, and it demonstrates fast convergence to a steady state even when the system undergoes dynamic reconfiguration. Our simulations and experimental results showed that the proposed algorithm outperforms existing approaches in terms of simplicity. Furthermore, the proposed algorithm is scalable and can be extended to support converters with a higher number of levels and phases.

The experimental results confirmed the effectiveness of our approach in a practical setting. The experimental setup demonstrated that the proposed algorithm can be implemented using commercially available micro-controllers and can achieve stable operation with high accuracy.

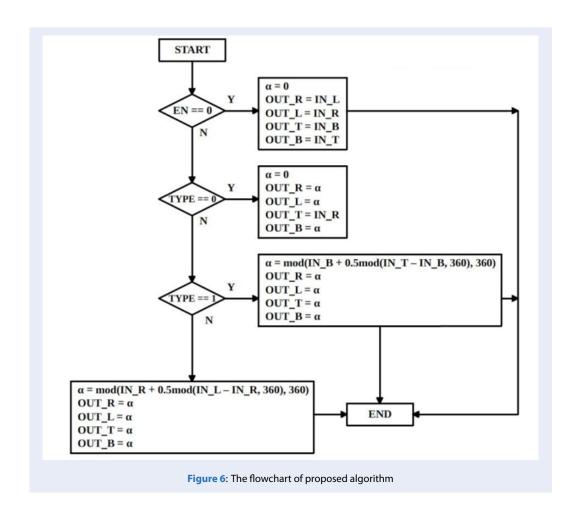
Overall, the proposed algorithm has significant potential for applications in power electronics and can contribute to the development of more efficient and reliable multi-level multi-leg converters.

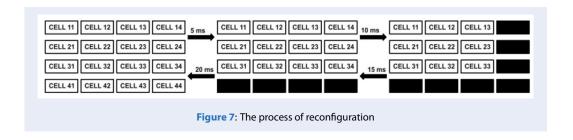
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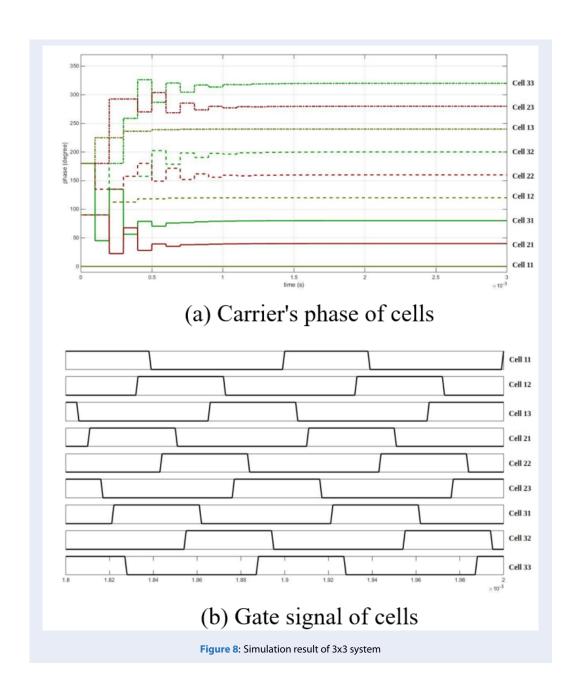
We acknowledge the support of time and facilities from Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology (HCMUT), VNU-HCM for this study.

Table 6: Parameters of experimental model

IN_L	Carrier's phase from the left cell	
OUT_L	Carrier's phase to the left cell	
IN_R	Carrier's phase from the right cell	
OUT_R	Carrier's phase to the right cell	
IN_T	Carrier's phase from the top cell	
OUT_T	Carrier's phase to the top cell	
IN_B	Carrier's phase from the bottom cell	
OUT_B	Carrier's phase to the bottom cell	
EN	Enabled signal of cell	
ТҮРЕ	Type of cell	
α	Carrier's phase of this cell	







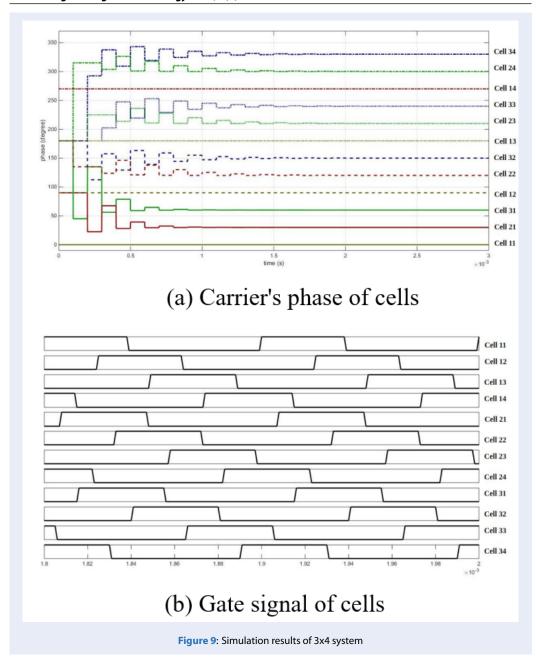


Table 9: Carrier's phase of model 4x4 converter

000,00	090,00	180,00	270,00	
Cell 11	Cell 12	Cell 13	Cell 14	
022,50	112,50	202,50	292,50	
Cell 21	Cell 22	Cell 23	Cell 24	
045,00	135,00	225,00	315,00	
Cell 31	Cell 32	Cell 33	Cell 34	
067,50	157,50	247,50	337,50	
Cell 41	Cell 42	Cell 43	Cell 44	

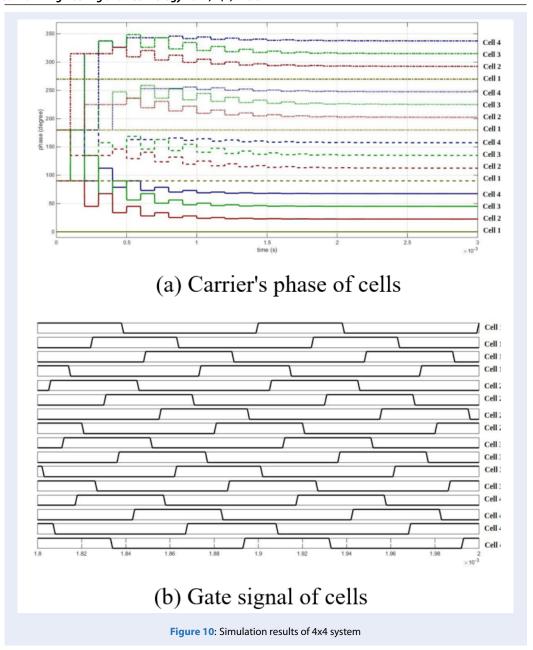
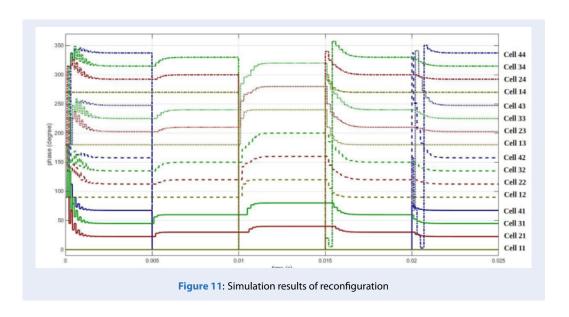


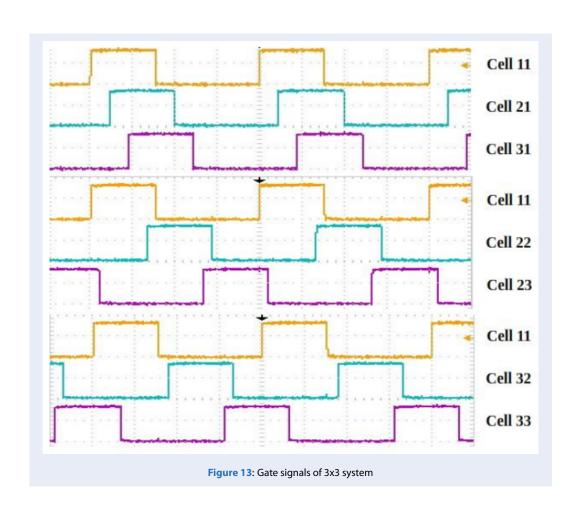
Table 7: Carrier's phase of model 3x3 converter

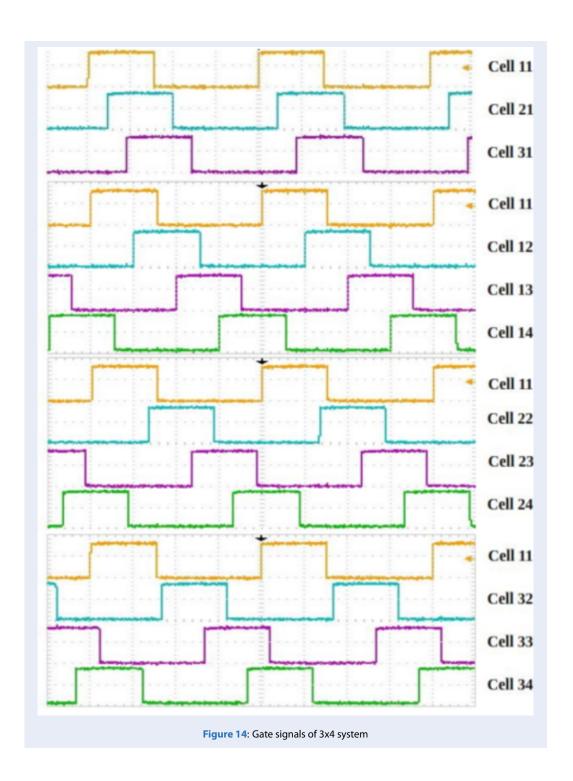
000,00	120,00	240,00
Cell 11	Cell 12	Cell 13
040,00	160,00	280,00
Cell 21	Cell 22	Cell 23
080,00	200,00	320,00
Cell 31	Cell 32	Cell 33

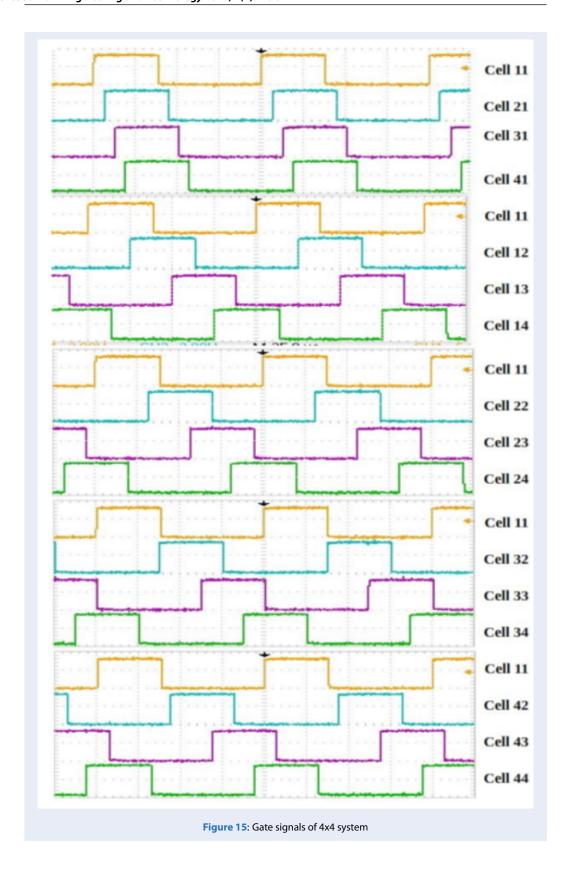
Table 8: Carrier's phase of model 3x4 converter

000,00	090,00	180,00	270,00
Cell 11	Cell 12	Cell 13	Cell 14
030,00	120,00	210,00	300,00
Cell 21	Cell 22	Cell 23	Cell 24
060,00	150,00	240,00	330,00
Cell 31	Cell 32	Cell 33	Cell 34









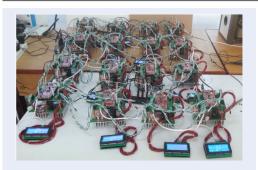


Figure 12: 4-level 4-phase converter with decentralized controllers

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTION

Bao Anh Nguyen was responsible for proposing the model, analyzing the structure, and constructing the simulation and experimental models.

Quoc Dung Phan contributed by proposing the ideas and methodology, creating the control algorithm, and participating in the writing, editing, and refinement of the article.

Guillaume Gateau was in charge of analyzing the simulation results and also participated in the writing, editing, and refinement of the paper.

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Cải tiến thuật toán xen kẽ sóng mang trong phương pháp điều khiển phân tán hai chiều cho bộ biến đổi đa pha và đa bậc

Nguyễn Bảo Anh^{1,2}, Phan Quốc Dũng^{1,2,*}, Guillaume Gateau³

TÓM TẮT

Bài báo này trình bày một phương pháp cải tiến để sắp xếp xen kẽ các sóng mang trong việc điều khiển phân tán các bộ biến đổi đa pha và đa bậc. Cấu trúc của các bộ biến đổi này bao gồm nhiều module bán dẫn được sắp xếp nối tiếp và song song hợp thành một ma trận. Các mô-đun ghép nối tiếp cho phép tăng số bậc điện áp của bộ biến đổi, trong khi đó, các mô-đun ghép song song cho phép tăng công suất làm việc của bô biến đổi, do đó, bô biến đổi đa bâc và đa pha có thể được ứng dụng trong các hệ thống điện áp và công suất lớn. Kích thước của ma trận này có thể được thay đổi bằng cách thêm hoặc bớt hàng và cột tại các vị trí yêu cầu trong khi hệ thống đang hoạt động. Bộ biến đổi đa pha đa bậc có thể được điều khiển bằng phương pháp truyền thống bao gồm một bộ vi điều khiển trung tâm để điều khiển toàn bộ các mô-đun. Tuy nhiên, phương pháp này gặp bất lợi khi hệ thống có số lượng mô-đun lớn, khi đó, bộ điều khiển có thể không có đủ tài nguyên để vận hành thuật toán. Phương pháp điều khiển phân tán được đề xuất để giải quyết vấn đề này, trong phương pháp này, mỗi mô-đun có một bộ điều khiển riêng để giao tiếp và trao đổi thông tin với các bộ điều khiển lân cận theo phương dọc và ngang thông qua các kênh truyền thông. Từ các thông tin thu thập được, bộ điều khiển của mỗi mô-đun sẽ tính toán góc pha của mô-đun đó sao cho tất cả các sóng mang được xen kẽ thành công. Phương pháp đề xuất này vẫn còn khuyết điểm đó là không thể hoat đông đúng với các ma trân mà hàng và côt là các số có ước chung khác 1, đây được gọi là các ma trận đặc biệt. Nghiên cứu tập trung vào việc điều chỉnh thuật toán để có thể hoạt động tốt với tất cả các loại ma trận, bao gồm ma trận đặc biệt. Khả năng tái cấu trúc động hệ thống khi thêm bớt mô-đun cũng như tốc độ hội tụ của thuật toán cũng được xem xét và đánh giá. Nghiên cứu được chứng minh tính hiệu quả và tính khả thi thông qua các kết quả mô phỏng và kết quả thực nghiêm. Giải thuật đề xuất được mô phỏng bằng chượng trình MATLAB/SIMULINK và được thực nghiệm bằng vi điều khiển TMS320F28069.

Từ khoá: Bộ biến đổi đa pha đa bậc, Điều khiển phân tán, Điều chế độ rộng xung dạng xen kẽ sóng mang, Tái cấu trúc động

¹Khoa Điện - Điện tử, Trường Đại học Bách Khoa Thành phố Hồ Chí Minh, Việt Nam

²Đại học Quốc gia Thành phố Hồ Chí Minh, Viet Nam

³Nhóm nghiên cứu Điện tử công suất, LAPLACE, Đại học Toulouse, CNRS, INPT, UPS, Pháp, 2, rue Charles Camichel - BP 7122 - 31071 Toulouse cedex 7

Liên hệ

Phan Quốc Dũng, Khoa Điện - Điện tử, Trường Đại học Bách Khoa Thành phố Hồ Chí Minh, Việt Nam

Đại học Quốc gia Thành phố Hồ Chí Minh, Viet Nam

Email: pqdung@hcmut.edu.vn

Lịch sử

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Bản quyền

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