

2011 IEEE International Electric Machines & Drives Conference (IEMDC)

IEMDC11: 2011 IEEE International Electric Machines & Drives Conference (IEMDC)

2011 IEEE International Electric Machines & Drives Conference (IEMDC) took place May 15-18, 2011 in Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada.

IEEE catalog number:	CFP11EMD-ART
ISBN:	978-1-4577-0061-3

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2011, Article number 5994777, Pages 1219-1224

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A three-level five-phase space-vector modulation algorithm based on the decomposition method (Conference Paper)

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Abstract

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Indexed keywords

Engineering uncontrolled terms

Balancing algorithms Decomposition methods Exponential increase Harmonic performance
 Low order harmonics Modulation techniques Multilevel converter Multiphase machines
 Open-end windings Output voltages Phase voltage Propulsion motors Space Vector
 Space Vector Modulation Space vector modulators SVM algorithm Three-level

Engineering controlled terms:

Algorithms Electric inverters Electric machinery Electric windings Machinery
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ISBN: 978-145770061-3

Source Type: Conference Proceeding

Original language: English

DOI: 10.1109/IEMDC.2011.5994777

Document Type: Conference Paper

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A Three-level Five-phase Space-vector Modulation Algorithm Based on the Decomposition Method

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Abstract – Open-end winding variable speed drives with dual-inverter supply have been extensively investigated for various applications, including series hybrid power-trains and propulsion motors. The topology is simple to realise while offering a higher number of switching states without the need for capacitor balancing algorithms, when compared to standard multi-level converters. The overwhelming majority of work is however restricted to the three-phase electric machinery. One of the reasons for this is that inclusion of a multi-phase machine leads to exponential increase in the number of possible switching states and so the design of a suitable space vector modulator (SVM) represents a considerable challenge. This paper considers a relatively simple SVM algorithm based on the decomposition of the three-level space vector decagon into a number of two-level decagons. The proposed modulation technique has the advantage of being relatively simple to implement. The method activates up to fifteen phase voltage levels and produces output voltages with minimum low order harmonic content. Despite the simplicity of the method, the THD of the output voltages is improved, compared to the previously proposed methods. The developed scheme is verified via simulation and the harmonic performance is analysed.

I. INTRODUCTION

Multi-level and multi-phase voltage source inverters have been attracting increasing research interest recently due to their ability to overcome voltage and current limitations of power semiconductors and their inherent ability to tolerate faults [1-3]. Multi-level voltage source inverters (VSIs) are considered as a topology which enhances the quality of the output voltage waveform, reduces dv/dt and enables the construction of a high power converter without the problem of switching series-connected semiconductor devices. There are numerous configurations of multi-level converters, the main ones being the neutral point clamped (NPC), the flying capacitor (FC) and the cascaded converters [4].

Among the cascaded converters, the dual two-level inverter configuration has received growing attention due to its simple structure, since the additional diodes used in the diode-clamped (NPC) VSI are not needed, leading to a saving in the overall number of components. Furthermore, the issue of proper capacitor voltage balancing does not exist if the supply is two-level at each winding side. Typically, three-phase VSIs are utilised. Application of such a dual-inverter supply enables drive operation with voltage waveform equivalent to the one obtainable with a three-level

VSI in single-sided supply mode [5]. Such drives are being considered as alternative supply solutions in EVs/HEVs [6]-[7], for electric ship propulsion [8] and rolling mills [9].

Due to their well known advantages [1], multi-phase drives have also been considered for similar applications as the multi-level drives. As a consequence some researchers have recently begun investigating the benefits of combining both technologies [10-16]. The only known examples where multi-phase drive systems in open-end winding configuration have been developed are [15, 16] where an asymmetrical six-phase induction motor drive is considered. In [16] the supply is provided by means of two isolated two-level six-phase VSIs. The goal was, in essence, low-order harmonic reduction rather than the multi-level operation. As a consequence, the converter is not operated in multi-level mode. The scheme considered in [15] employs four three-phase two-level inverters, with four isolated dc sources to prevent circulation of zero sequence currents. The SVM control is performed in the same way as a standard three-level three-phase converter, using the nearest three vectors approach (NTV) in conjunction with three-level NPC inverter [8]. The work is focused towards controlling the power sharing between the four converters.

The remaining literature is primarily centred on the five-phase NPC VSI fed drive [10-14]. The first SVM techniques for multiphase VSIs were based on the simple extension of the three-phase multilevel SVM approaches, so that only the three vectors, nearest to the reference, were utilised. Such an extension from the three-phase to five-phase system, that divides each sector into four equal triangles, is given for three-level inverter in [11] where an optimal SVM switching strategy, based on modified discrete PSO, is presented. In principle, the number of applied vectors must equal the number of phases [1]. Utilisation of three instead of five space vectors during the switching period disregards this basic rule; consequently only the first plane of the multiphase system is controlled. Hence numerous low-order harmonics are generated, which map into the second plane. The NTV method is also used in [12]. A SVM method which controls both planes has been developed in [13] for the three-level NPC VSI supplied five-phase drive. The SVM method is complicated, particularly the sector identification, since each 36 degree sector is partitioned into ten subsectors. A somewhat different approach to the SVM of multi-level

multi-phase system is given for a general case of an l -level, n -phase VSI in [14]. The algorithm is based on the considerations of the multidimensional (n -dimensional) space and therefore does not include decomposition of the n -dimensional space into 2-D planes.

This paper proposes a new, and relatively simple, SVM algorithm for the five-phase open-end winding three-level drive supplied by two two-level five-phase inverters. The SVM algorithm is based the decomposition of three-level space vector decagon into a number of two-level decagons. A similar idea has been proposed in [17] for a three-phase NPC inverter and in [18] for a three-phase open-end winding drive. In the case of the five-phase open-end winding drive the situation is significantly more complicated since both 2-D planes have to be considered. It is shown that the proposed modulation strategy is capable of achieving the target fundamental while eliminating fully any low-order harmonic content in the output load phase voltage.

The paper begins with a review of the five-phase two-level drive characteristics followed by a general description and mathematical model of the cascaded topology, along with mapping of the space vectors into the 2-D planes. Next, the proposed modulation method is described. It is shown that due to the nature of the five-phase topology one of the inverters needs to be operated using so called multi-frequency SVM [19]. Finally, the performance of the proposed SVM scheme is verified via simulation.

II. GENERAL PROPERTIES OF TWO-LEVEL FIVE-PHASE DRIVES

Prior to considering the SVM scheme for the open-end winding topology, it is beneficial to review the basic relationships which govern the performance of five-phase drives and the corresponding two-level SVM technique for a five-phase VSI. A five-phase machine can be modelled in two 2-D sub-spaces, so-called α - β and x - y sub-spaces [20]. It can be shown that only current harmonic components which map into the α - β sub-space develop useful torque and torque ripple, whereas those that map into the x - y sub-space do not contribute to the torque at all. A multi-phase machine with near-sinusoidal magneto-motive force distribution presents extremely low impedance to all non-flux/torque producing supply harmonics and it is therefore mandatory that the supply does not generate such harmonics. What this means is that the design of a five-phase PWM strategy must consider simultaneously both 2-D sub-spaces, where the reference voltage, assuming pure sinusoidal references, is in the first plane while reference in the other plane is zero. Two-level five-phase inverters can generate up to $2^5=32$ voltage space vectors with corresponding components in the α - β and x - y sub-spaces, as shown in Fig. 1. Space vectors are labeled with decimal numbers, which, when converted into binary code, reveal the values of the switching functions of each of the inverter legs. Active (non-zero) space vectors belong to three groups in accordance with their magnitudes - small, medium and large space vector groups. The magnitudes are

identified with indices s , m , and l and are given as, respectively, $|\bar{v}_s| = 4/5 \cos(2\pi/5)V_{dc}$, $|\bar{v}_m| = 2/5V_{dc}$, and $|\bar{v}_l| = 4/5 \cos(\pi/5)V_{dc}$. Four active space vectors are required to generate sinusoidal voltages [1]. In order to provide zero average voltage in the x - y plane two neighbouring large and two medium space vectors are selected [20]. It is shown in [20] that the maximum peak value of the output fundamental phase-to-neutral voltage in the linear modulation region is $v_{max} = 0.525V_{dc}$, resulting in the maximum modulation index, $M=1.05$. Switching pattern is a symmetrical PWM with two commutations per inverter leg.

II. FIVE-PHASE OPEN-END WINDING TOPOLOGY

Fig. 2 illustrates the open-end winding structure, based on utilisation of two two-level five-phase VSIs. The two inverters are identified with indices 1 and 2. Inverter legs are denoted with capital letters, A, B, C, D, E and the negative rails of the two dc links are identified as $N1$ and $N2$. Machine phases are labelled as a, b, c, d, e . Phase voltage positive direction is with reference to the left inverter (inverter 1). Two isolated dc supplies are assumed so that the common mode voltage (CMV) v_{N1N2} is of non-zero value (the issue of CMV elimination is not addressed here). The resulting space vectors in dual-inverter supply mode will depend on the ratio of the two dc bus voltages. The situation considered further on is the setting $V_{dc1} = V_{dc2} = V_{dc}/2$, which gives the equivalent of single-sided three-level supply. Using the notation of Fig. 2, phase voltages of the stator winding can be given as:

$$\begin{bmatrix} v_{as} \\ v_{bs} \\ v_{cs} \\ v_{ds} \\ v_{es} \end{bmatrix} = (1/5) \begin{bmatrix} 4 & -1 & -1 & -1 & -1 \\ -1 & 4 & -1 & -1 & -1 \\ -1 & -1 & 4 & -1 & -1 \\ -1 & -1 & -1 & 4 & -1 \\ -1 & -1 & -1 & -1 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} v_{A1N1} - v_{A2N2} \\ v_{B1N1} - v_{B2N2} \\ v_{C1N1} - v_{C2N2} \\ v_{D1N1} - v_{D2N2} \\ v_{E1N1} - v_{E2N2} \end{bmatrix} \quad (1)$$

Since a single-sided five-phase supply gives nine levels in the phase voltages, it is expected that in a five-phase dual-inverter topology there will be up to 17 levels in the phase voltage. The increased number of phase voltage levels is a consequence of the much greater number of switching states and voltage space vectors, generated by the converter, when compared to the single-sided supply mode. Space vectors of phase voltages in the two planes are determined with:

$$\underline{v}_{\alpha-\beta} = (2/5) \left(v_a + \underline{a}v_b + \underline{a}^2v_c + \underline{a}^3v_d + \underline{a}^4v_e \right) \quad (2)$$

$$\underline{v}_{x-y} = (2/5) \left(v_a + \underline{a}^2v_b + \underline{a}^4v_c + \underline{a}^6v_d + \underline{a}^8v_e \right)$$

where $\underline{a} = \exp(j2\pi/5)$. Using (1) and (2), one gets

$$\underline{v}_{\alpha-\beta} = \underline{v}_{\alpha-\beta(A1B1C1D1E1)} - \underline{v}_{\alpha-\beta(A2B2C2D2E2)} \quad (3)$$

$$\underline{v}_{x-y} = \underline{v}_{x-y(A1B1C1D1E1)} - \underline{v}_{x-y(A2B2C2D2E2)}$$

since $v_{N1N2}(1 + \underline{a} + \underline{a}^2 + \underline{a}^3 + \underline{a}^4) = 0$. In (3) the two space vectors on the right-hand sides of the two equations are corresponding voltage space vectors of the two five-phase

two-level VSIs, which come in three different lengths, large, medium and small: $0.32366V_{dc}$, $0.2V_{dc}$, $0.123V_{dc}$ (since $V_{dc1} = V_{dc2} = 0.5V_{dc}$). Voltage space vectors, produced by the 1024 possible switching states are illustrated in Fig. 3 for the α - β plane. There are 211 space vectors, 21 active phase voltage space vectors per 36° sector and one zero vector. Space vector mapping into the x - y plane follows the pattern that exists for a five-phase VSI, the largest vectors of the first plane map into the smallest vectors of the second plane, and vice versa [21].

III. PRINCIPLE OF THE PROPOSED ALGORITHM

The five-phase open-end winding topology, illustrated in Fig. 2, has 1024 possible switching states. Since there are 211 space vectors, the development of a suitable SVM strategy is challenging. The complexity of selecting the proper switching states for a given command voltage can be significantly reduced if the three-level space vector decagon is decomposed into a number of two-level decagons, as illustrated in Fig 3. A similar approach was followed in [17] and [18] for the three-phase case. The centre decagon comprises vectors which can be activated if one inverter is used up to half of the achievable maximum voltage with the other one in zero state. As a consequence, the converter is in two-level mode of operation based on four active and zero vector application, as discussed in section II and [20]. As can be seen in Fig. 3, the origins of the outer decagons are located on the outer vectors of the inner decagon, denoted

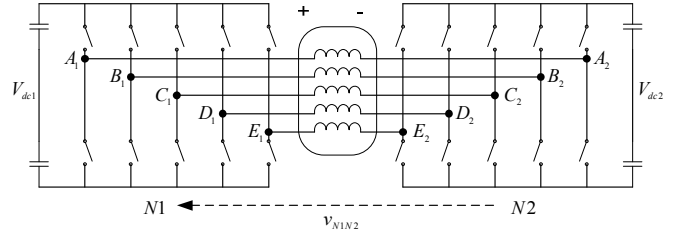


Fig. 2 Five-phase machine with dual two-level inverter supply.

by the larger dots in Fig 3, which correspond to the outermost vectors and switching states given in Fig. 1. In the case of the three-phase topology [18] operation in the outer region (outer hexagon) is achieved when one inverter operates with a single voltage space vector applied (the nearest one to the reference) and the second inverter is modulated using the standard three-phase two-level SVM technique. Let the applied vector for one inverter be \underline{v}_i and let the reference be \underline{v}^* . Here \underline{v}_i is the vector produced by the inverter that is the nearest to the reference, and \underline{v}^* exceeds, in magnitude, maximum voltage realisable with one inverter. The reference for the other inverter is then set as:

$$\underline{v}^{**} = -(\underline{v}^* - \underline{v}_i) \quad (4)$$

In other words, when the magnitude of the reference voltage exceeds the maximum value obtainable with one inverter, one inverter is operated in six-step (i.e., ten-step) mode while the second inverter is modulated in the standard way.

It is well known that operation of a five-phase inverter in ten-step mode without a controllable dc bus leads to uncontrollable fundamental output voltage magnitude and unwanted low order harmonics, which for the leg voltage can be expressed as a Fourier series as follows:

$$v_{leg} = \frac{1}{\pi} V_{dc} [\sin \omega t + \frac{1}{3} \sin 3\omega t + \frac{1}{5} \sin 5\omega t + \frac{1}{7} \sin 7\omega t \dots] \quad (5)$$

In a five-phase system, harmonics of the order $10k \pm 1$ ($k = 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots$) map onto the torque/flux producing subspace, α - β , while harmonics of the order $10k \pm 3$ map into the x - y subspace. They do not produce any useful torque/flux and simply lead to large unwanted loss-producing currents. The large currents are a consequence of the relatively small impedance presented in x - y plane. $10k \pm 5$ are zero-sequence components. This leads to the requirement that the second inverter must be able to not only control the fundamental but also eliminate the unwanted low order harmonics, which are produced by applying only the large vector in α - β plane from one inverter. This causes unwanted harmonics in both planes since a large vector has a corresponding non-zero value in the second, x - y plane (Fig. 1). In order to achieve this objective, the second inverter modulation scheme will need to operate in both the α - β and the x - y planes, since references for the second inverter can be given as:

$$\begin{aligned} v_{\alpha}^{**} &= -(v_{\alpha}^* - v_{i(\alpha)}) & v_{\beta}^{**} &= -(v_{\beta}^* - v_{i(\beta)}) \\ v_x^{**} &= v_{i(x)} & v_y^{**} &= v_{i(y)} \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

A space vector modulator, which achieves simultaneous control in both the α - β and x - y planes, was developed in [19]

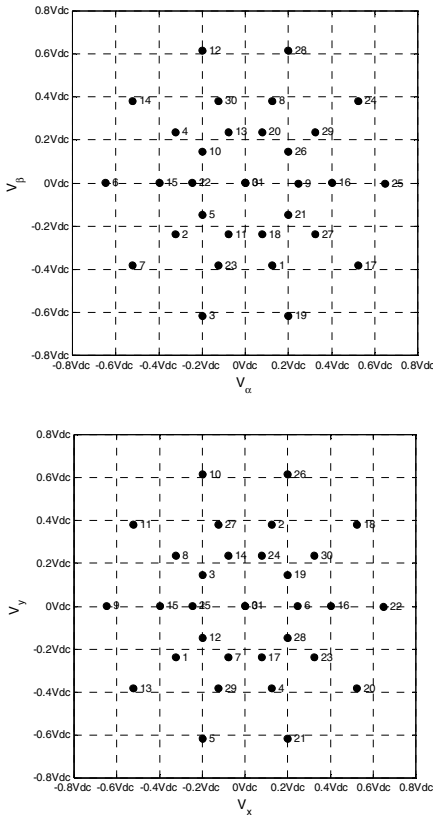


Fig. 1. Two-level five-phase VSI space vectors in the α - β and x - y planes.

in order to control multi-phase multi-motor drive systems. A schematic illustration of the SVM process is shown Fig 4. This SVM method utilises two two-level five-phase space vector modulators, as discussed previously. Each SVM operates in a separate plane. The duty cycles from the SVMs are summed according to the phase transposition rule [22]. The phase transposition [22] enables the five-phase space vector modulator to operate in either plane. This further simplifies the algorithm since the sector identification, dwell time calculation and vector look-up table are identical.

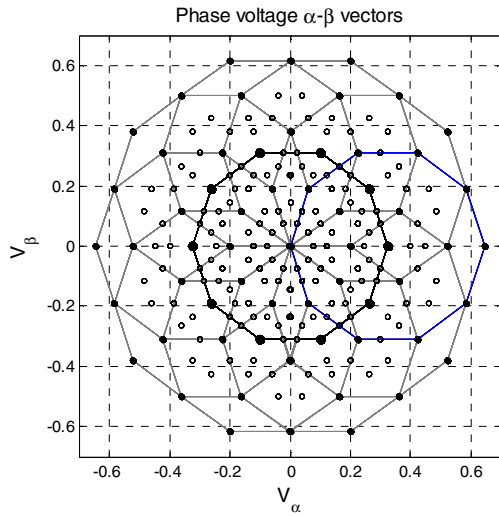


Fig. 3. Space vector distribution in the α - β plane.

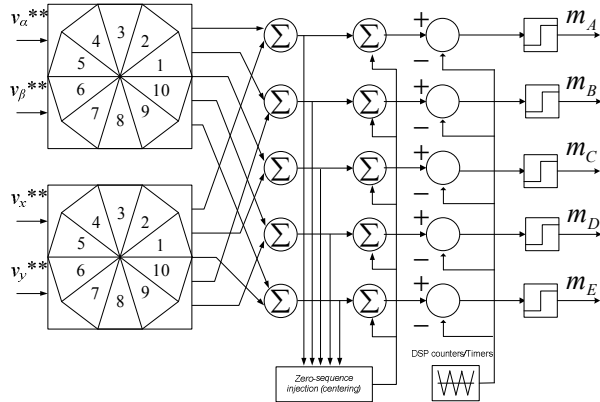


Fig. 4: Signal flow of the five-phase multi-frequency space-vector modulator.

In order to calculate the respective components of the voltages generated by the ten-step modulator, the following must be applied to the ten-step generator switching signals:

$$\begin{bmatrix} v_{as} \\ v_{bs} \\ v_{cs} \\ v_{ds} \\ v_{es} \end{bmatrix} = \frac{V_{dc1}}{5} \begin{bmatrix} 4 & -1 & -1 & -1 & -1 \\ -1 & 4 & -1 & -1 & -1 \\ -1 & -1 & 4 & -1 & -1 \\ -1 & -1 & -1 & 4 & -1 \\ -1 & -1 & -1 & -1 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} m_A \\ m_B \\ m_C \\ m_D \\ m_E \end{bmatrix} \quad (7)$$

where V_{dc1} is the dc link voltage of the ten-step inverter (i.e. 50% of V_{dc}).

As a result of the proposed modulation technique for the open-end winding configuration, the converter system operates using only the large vectors from one inverter and any combination of vectors from the other inverter, as illustrated in Fig. 5. This reduces the number of switching states to 342 (320 of these are the states met when both inverters operate, while 22 states are those that are encountered when only one inverter operates). The 342 switching states produce 151 vectors in the α - β and x - y planes, as shown in Fig. 6. It can be seen that no large vectors are produced in the x - y plane. A signal flow diagram of the complete modulation scheme is presented in Fig. 7. When $M < 0.525$, the switches in Fig. 7 are opened.

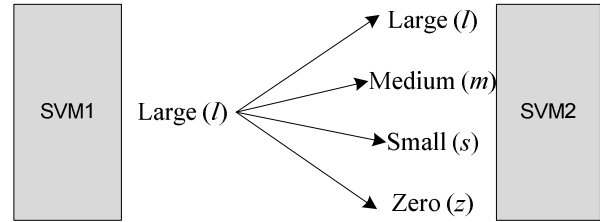


Fig. 5. Five-phase dual inverter switching combinations

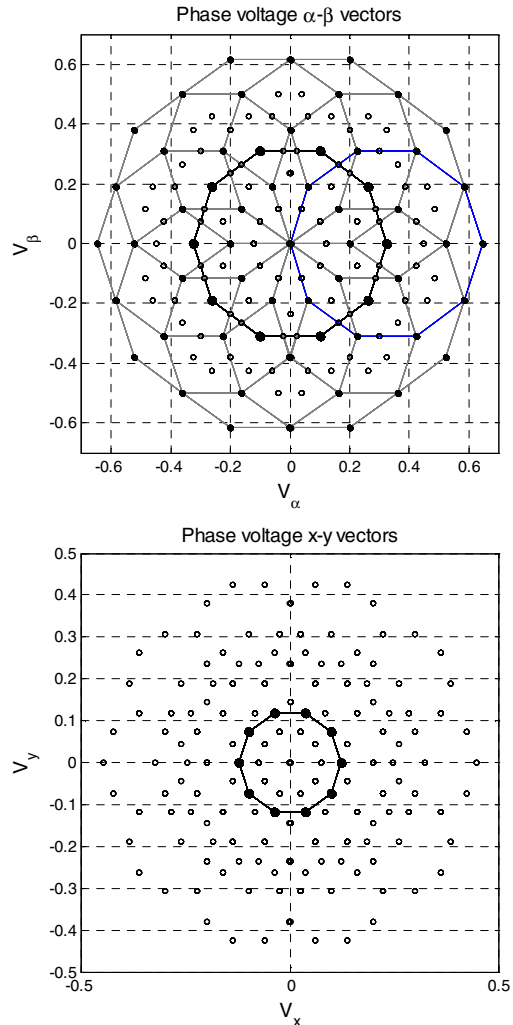


Fig. 6. Decomposed SVM space vector distribution in the α - β and x - y planes.

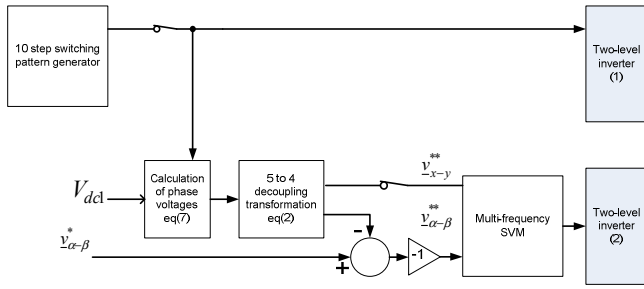


Fig. 7. Signal flow diagram of the decomposition SVM method.

IV. SIMULATION VERIFICATION

In order to verify the converter's performance, a series of simulations were undertaken. The dc bus voltage of each inverter is 300 V ($V_{dc1} = V_{dc2} = V_{dc} / 2$), output frequency is 50 Hz and switching frequency of the modulated inverter is 2 kHz. Ideal operation of the inverters is assumed, meaning that effects due to the dead-time and semiconductor volt drops were neglected. Figure 8 shows the load phase voltage waveform and its spectrum when the modulation index is 0.5, i.e. when the converter utilises only one of the inverters. It can be seen that the converter is operating in two-level mode since the output voltage comprises nine levels. There are no low order harmonics and the switching harmonics are centred around multiples of the switching frequency.

When the reference fundamental exceeds that achievable using a single inverter ($M > 0.525$) the converter operates using both inverters, with one inverter in ten-step mode and the other in multi-frequency SVM mode. The most challenging operating region, as far as harmonic elimination and controlling the fundamental is concerned, occurs when modulation index is close to the modulation limits $M = 0.525$ and $M = 1.05$. The performance of the converter in vicinity of these two extremes is presented in Fig. 9. It can be seen that the converter is capable of achieving the target fundamental while at the same time eliminating any low-order harmonics. The number of levels seen in load phase voltage increases with modulation index, achieving the maximum of 15 levels when $M = 1.05$. This is the maximum modulation index that can be achieved by the five-phase converter.

Fig. 10 shows the performance of the drive at the boundary between regions where the modulated inverter reduces the

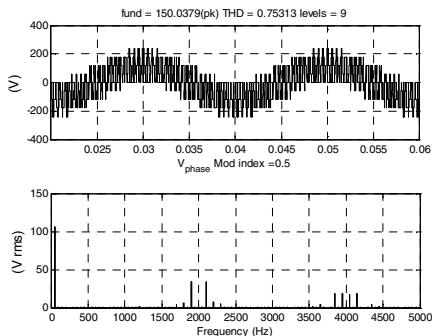


Fig. 8. Load phase voltage waveform and spectrum, $M = 0.5$.

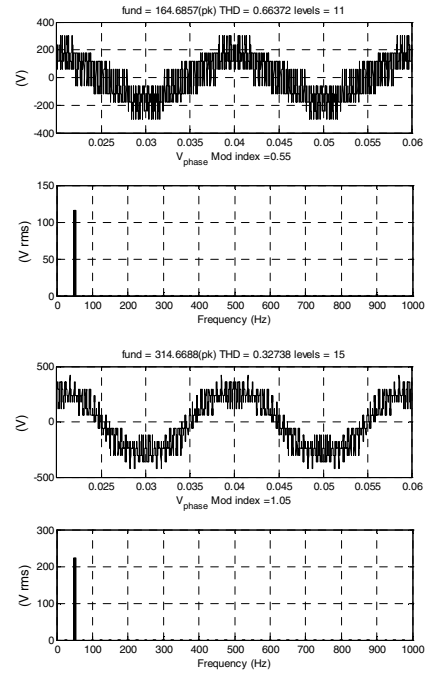


Fig. 9. Load phase voltage waveform and spectrum, $M = 0.55$ and $M = 1.05$.

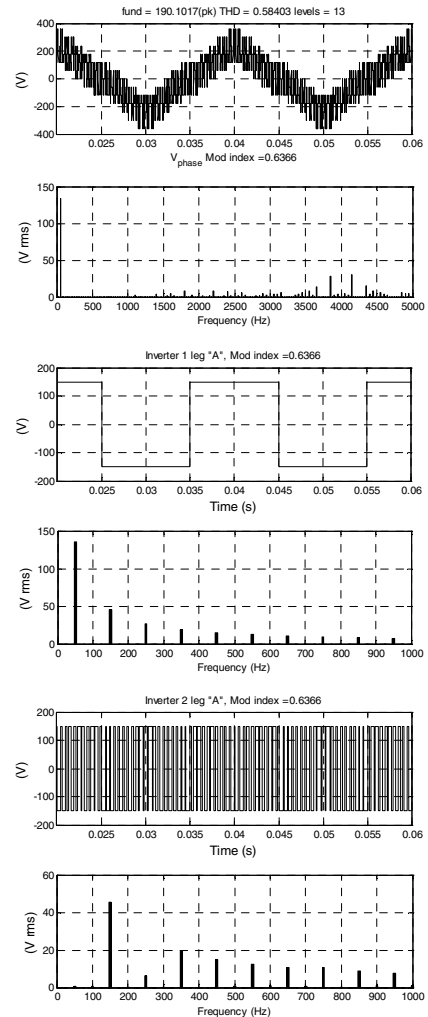


Fig. 10. Load phase voltage and inverter leg voltage waveforms and spectra, $M = 0.6366$.

fundamental voltage, created by the ten-step inverter, or adds to it; this occurs when $M=0.6366$. The converter achieves the reference fundamental with minimum low order harmonics. The leg voltages of each inverter show that the harmonics created by the ten step inverter are counter-balanced by the modulated inverter and the fundamental is overwhelmingly provided by the ten step modulator. This means that the modulated inverter is only compensating the unwanted harmonics. Finally, Fig. 11 shows the THD characteristic (calculated up to 100 kHz) of the converter for operation in the complete linear region. It is interesting to note that the achieved THD performance is better than the one obtained with a previous PWM method reported in [23].

VI. CONCLUSION

This paper has presented a SVM method for the dual-inverter five-phase open-end winding topology, which is relatively easy to implement. When $M < 0.525$ the converter operates in two-level mode utilising a single inverter. When the reference fundamental exceeds the capabilities of a single inverter ($M > 0.525$), one inverter operates in ten-step mode and the other is multi-frequency space vector modulated. As a result the converter is operated in multilevel mode. The multi-frequency modulated inverter is used to control the fundamental voltage and eliminate any low order harmonics created by the ten-step mode inverter. The method has been verified by simulation. An experimental prototype is currently being commissioned and the experimental results will be reported in due course.

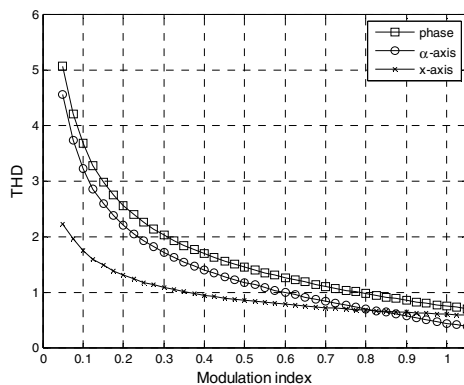


Fig. 11. Load phase voltage THD characteristic: $M=0.025$ to $M=1.05$.

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