

Modeling, Switching Modulation Optimization, and Control of Multi-Active Bridge

Converters

by

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A Dissertation Presented in Partial Fulfillment  
of the Requirements for the Degree  
Doctor of Philosophy

Approved June 2025 by the  
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ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

August 2025

## ABSTRACT

Isolated multi-port converters (MPCs) realized through multi-active-bridge (MAB) topologies have recently attracted significant attention from power electronics researchers due to their applicability in renewable energy systems, microgrids, electric vehicles, solid-state transformers, energy storage, and space systems. However, widespread adoption of such MPCs is still hindered by key challenges, including increased switching losses at lighter load conditions and during non-unity gain voltage conversion, as well as cross-coupling between ports via the shared magnetic link.

This thesis presents a unified and generalized mathematical framework for modeling, circuit analysis, and loss-optimized modulation implementation for MAB-based DC-DC and DC-AC converters. The primary objective is to enhance system efficiency across a wide range of load conditions and voltage gain values by proposing an optimal phase-duty-frequency-controlled modulation strategy. The loss minimization approach consists of two key stages: (i) formulation of modulation-variable-dependent switching network loss objective functions using a proposed Generalized Harmonic Approximation (GHA) model, and (ii) application of a multivariable, multi-constrained optimization technique to minimize power loss across varying operating conditions. A universal zero-voltage switching (ZVS) criterion is also derived using a generalized port-equivalent circuit model.

The theoretical analysis and proposed modulation strategies are experimentally validated on various converter topologies within the MAB family, including DC-DC and DC-AC Dual-Active Bridge (DAB), and Triple-Active Bridge (TAB) converters. The proposed control methods significantly improve system efficiency, particularly under non-

unity gain and light-load conditions, when compared to conventional phase-shift modulation.

Expanding on this foundation, a parameter-adaptive modulation strategy is proposed for DAB converters. It employs a Physics-Informed Neural Network (PINN) to estimate circuit parameters (e.g., inductance and resistance) in real time from sensed data. This adaptive strategy enables dynamic modulation adjustment, ensuring improved soft-switching and efficiency. The method lays the groundwork for future exploration involving online-learning-capable ANN frameworks.

Additionally, the thesis introduces a GHA-based decoupling network that enables independent power control of coupled TAB load ports, resulting in faster transient response using simplified PI-based controllers.

Finally, a comprehensive analytical, simulation, and experimental investigation is conducted on realizable three-winding transformer configurations for TAB converters, focusing on controllable leakage inductance and its influence on soft-switching and power transfer capability.

## DEDICATION

*To my parents, my sister, and my younger self — who chose to become a professor  
without knowing what it truly takes.*

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

First and foremost, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my PhD advisor, Prof. Ayan Mallik, for his unwavering guidance and support throughout my PhD journey and beyond. His regular technical discussions and meetings, as well as his wealth of ideas, have been a constant source of motivation. He not only helped me understand the concepts behind various research tasks but also encouraged me to focus on the practical aspects of converter design, considering different design trade-offs. I am especially grateful for his invaluable advice beyond academics and for his understanding during challenging times. Your dedication, hard work and never-settle attitude has inspired me on a personal level. Thanks for all the letters written, all the guidance given, all the discussions held, all the opportunities provided to help me achieve what I wanted. I am lucky to get you as my PhD advisor.

I would also like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to my PhD committee members: Prof. Raja Ayyanar, Prof. Mike Ranjram, and Prof. Zhicheng Guo. Their constructive suggestions and feedback have significantly improved my research work. Through their courses, I gained foundational knowledge in power electronics, which was invaluable to my research. I am also grateful to them for their time and willingness to participate in my PhD defense. Thank you for your interest in my work. Special thanks to Dr. Ayyanar, Dr. Ranjram and Dr. Bertan for collaborating with PEACE team on the MHz project—an experience that truly felt like the dream collaboration I had been waiting for throughout my Ph.D., and which finally happened in my final year. It was a privilege to work with such talented minds across research groups.

To my PEACE Lab family—Shubham, Naveed, Writtik, Ashwin, Abed, Payam, Connor and Changkyu—thank you for being incredible colleagues and friends. Whether it was through collaborative work, shared challenges, or fun moments, your presence made me a better researcher and a healthier Ph.D. student. Beyond PEACE, I had many special interactions with my colleagues from other research groups at ASU, Esha, Ian, Vivek, Emmanuel, Nick, Arnab, Dhaval, Balaji, Saundarya and Ankul. The discussions with them, their insights and suggestions have been instrumental in my research and personal growth. It has been a pleasure working with such talented and supportive colleagues. Special thanks to Karishma and Natalya for your guidance throughout the academic job applications. It really helped me in landing a position in my 1<sup>st</sup> year trial, especially when I was skeptical about it.

I am also deeply thankful to my project collaborators, Prof. Neil Goldsman, Dr. Akin Akturk, Prof. Shantanu Misra, Prof. Bertan Bakkaloglu for their support, guidance and knowledge sharing—both technical and non-technical—throughout various research projects in my PhD. To my mentors and professors from IEST Shibpur (BE College), especially Prof. Mainak Sengupta and Prof. Kaushik Mukherjee, thank you for fostering my interest in power electronics from the very beginning. Your teachings and motivation laid the foundation for the path I'm on today.

I would also like to thank my colleagues at Lucid Motors—Yukun, Shan, Yuchen, and Chakridhar—for the enriching internship experience and the opportunity to work on real-world industrial projects. Even though we may not stay in touch often, your influence on my learning remains.

To the Tagore Technology team—Amitava, Manish, (Prof.) Amit, Pramit, Debashish, Amit, Shailendra, Sourodipta, Mani, Gaurab, Suvendu, Firdous, and Rajesh—thank you for the incredible experience of building GaN products together. Those formative years played a pivotal role in shaping my skills, and technical foundation as a power electronics researcher. I look back on that time with gratitude and pride.

To my Robbie T group—Deepan, Mayukh, Swapnil, and Tanya—thank you for being such an amazing and constant presence for over a decade. I’m lucky to call you friends. Sandip, my power electronics buddy since undergrad days—thanks for all the late-night technical rants and deep dives; they’re still as intriguing to me. Ritayan and Joytirmoy, thank you for the much-needed midnight motivation over the years.

With much love and gratitude, I would like to thank my family: my parents, Swapan Kumar Dey and Sikha Dey, and my sister, Ankita Dey. Their constant support, encouragement, motivation, and helpful advice during tough times have been invaluable. Thanks for making me so independent and pushing me towards academics since I was a kid.

To Siddha, Madhurima, Aniruddha, Shalini, Amrita, Annie, Avik, Arnab, Shubham, Salony, Gaurab, Arun, Kinjal, ... (pardon me if I missed someone, I’m writing this very late)—thank you all for making Tempe feel like home. I could write pages about each one of you, and still fall short. Your presence was vital in keeping me going.

Finally, I wish to express my appreciation to CoolCAD Electronics, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), US Department of Energy (DOE), US Department of Defense (DOD) for funding my research projects, which provided me with numerous opportunities to explore and address a range of research challenges.

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