Comparative Evaluation of the Loss and Thermal Performance of Advanced Three Level Inverter Topologies - DTU Orbit (30/12/2018)

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This paper presents a comparative evaluation of the loss and thermal performance of two advanced three-level inverter topologies, namely the SiC based T-Type and the Hybrid-NPC, both of which are aimed at reducing the high switching losses associated with a conventional Si based T-Type inverter. The first solution directly replaces the 1200 V primary Si IGBT switches with lower loss 1200 V SiC MOSFETs. The second solution strategically adds 600 V CoolMos FET devices to the conventional Si T-Type inverter to reduce the primary commutation losses. Semiconductor loss models, experimentally verified on calibrated heat sinks, are used to show that both variations can significantly reduce the semiconductor losses compared to the Si based T-Type inverter. The results show that both alternatives are attractive if high efficiencies and reduced thermal stress are major requirements for the converter design.

General information
State: Published
Organisations: Department of Electrical Engineering, Electronics, RMIT University
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Pages: 2252-2258
Publication date: 2016

Host publication information
Publisher: IEEE
ISBN (Print): 978-1-4673-9550-2
Keywords: T-Type, Hybrid-NPC, SiC MOSFET, Si IGBT, CoolMos
Electronic versions:
04_PID4001391.pdf
DOIs:
10.1109/APEC.2016.7468179
Source: PublicationPreSubmission
Source-ID: 123340447
Research output: Research - peer-review › Article in proceedings – Annual report year: 2016