







A New Generalized Multisource Inverter for Electric Vehicles Controlled by Model Predictive

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Abstract—A multisource inverter comprises multiple dc sources in the input that can be combined with varying voltage levels to operate under different loads and reduce the battery capacity requirements of electric vehicles. This article introduces a generalized topology for multisource inverters (MSIs) aimed at reducing the number of power electronics switches, lowering voltage stress on power switches, and minimizing the battery size. A dual-source inverter, based on the proposed generalized configuration, can generate four combinations that reduce the battery size of electric vehicles (EVs) while minimizing power losses. To harness the advantages of model predictive control, the proposed dual-source traction inverter is controlled using this method. The feasibility of the proposed approach is validated through simulation results, which demonstrate its suitability as a drive for an electric motor. The outcomes indicate that model predictive control is a viable alternative for such applications, offering simplicity, high performance, and low harmonic content. Furthermore, experimental results for a static load are presented to verify the correct operation of the proposed system.

Index Terms—Electric vehicles (EVs), model predictive control, multisource inverters (MSIs).

I. INTRODUCTION

IN THE past few decades, electric vehicles (EVs) have gradually gained acceptance with promising performance [1],

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[2]. EVs can diminish or exclude dependence on oil by using other energy sources, depending on their degree of electrification [3]. Most commercial vehicles use traditional voltage source inverter (VSI) as traction inverters because of their low cost, high power density, and simple control [4]. The power circuit of a standard two-level VSI is shown in Fig. 1(a). However, VSI indicates some restrictions due to the wide range of electric machine (EM) performance and the need for high power. In fact, VSI produces low performance at low loads, and EM performance is restricted by the fixed battery voltage. As an alternative solution, some original equipment manufacturers use a dc–dc converter to provide variable input voltage to the VSI, as shown in Fig. 1(b) [5]. This can improve the performance of EMs, along with inverter and EM performance. However, this configuration also has drawbacks in terms of price and power density. In addition, the power rating of the dc–dc converter must be identical to the battery pack because they are connected in series. Therefore, increasing the range of electric driving with the increasing power of the battery pack requires more transactions as opposed to the simple design. Several new inverter configurations for high-voltage applications have been reported in the literature, such as multilevel inverters [6], [7]. They offer some advantages, such as low total harmonic distortion (THD) and low power losses, compared with two-level inverters. Among new inverter topologies, the Z-source inverter furthers its reputation for electric propulsion systems since it also offers an adjustable step-up in voltage to the load without the use of a dc–dc converter [8]. Fig. 1(c) depicts the power circuit of a Z-source inverter. However, they negatively affect using larger volumes of passive components or more components than a standard VSI. Therefore, the complexity of their control and cost prevent them from being commercialized in traction drive systems. To overcome conventional and new inverter configurations, one concept called the multisource inverter (MSI) has recently been introduced for the first time in [9]. The aim of introducing this type of inverter for e-mobility applications, such as EVs, is to deliver ac power to EMs similar to that of standard two-level inverters using a single power conversion stage. An MSI comprises several dc sources at the input that can be combined with varying voltage levels to operate under different loads. MSIs offer the ability to connect several different dc sources with varying voltage levels to the output load. Because of its ability to connect a variable dc-link voltage to the load, the multisource reduces switching losses and provides a viable alternative to EV

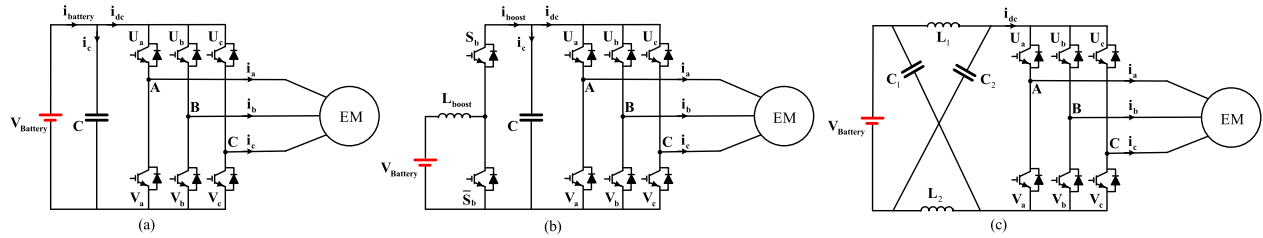


Fig. 1. VSI-base configurations in EVs applications. (a) Standard VSI. (b) dc/dc boost converter integrated with VSI. (c) Z-source converter integrated with VSI.

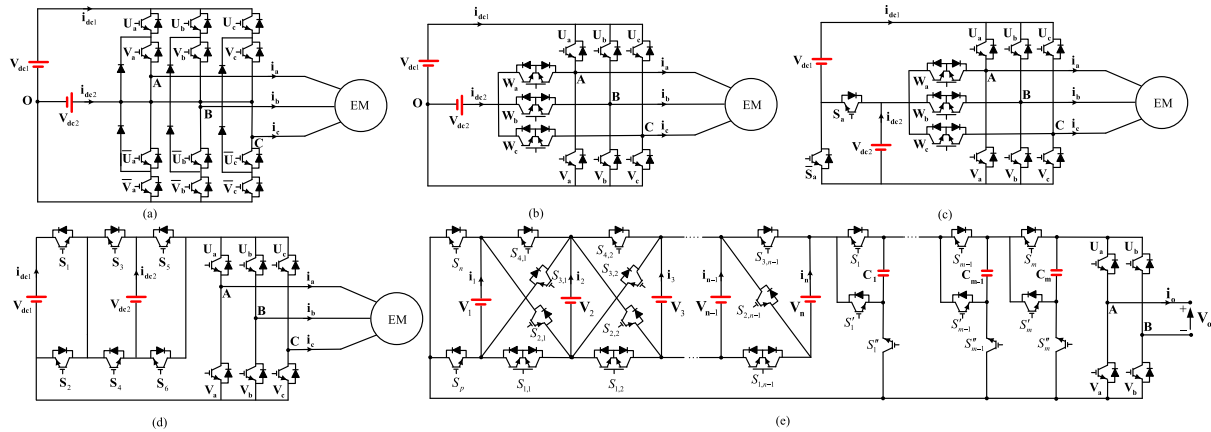


Fig. 2. MSI configurations in EVs applications. (a) Neutral-point clamp (NPC) MSI [9]. (b) T-type MSI [10]. (c) ReMSI multisource configuration [11]. (d) Reconfiguration HES-MSI with two-dc sources [12]. (e) Single-phase switched-capacitor MSI for photovoltaic systems [13].

applications. In [9] and [10], two MSI configurations have been introduced that use two dc sources in the input, as shown in Fig. 2(a) and (b). Depending on the load demand, they supply the load with either a high-voltage battery pack or a low-voltage battery pack, which is in fact a two-level natural diode-clamp inverter or a T-type inverter. Hence, the two dc sources can produce three different operation modes: V_1 , V_2 , and $V_2 - V_1$. The drawback of these MSIs is that the two dc sources used cannot be connected in series to achieve a higher overall dc-link voltage, which leads to reduced efficiency. Furthermore, in EV applications, they need a battery pack with a high capacity, which causes increased cost and high volume and weight. In addition, the current extracted from the battery pack by high-current loads remains unchanged when compared with the scenario where the battery is solely connected to the load through a rigid dc-link inverter. As depicted in Fig. 2(c), a new MSI topology, known as the reconfigurable multisource inverter (ReMSI), has been developed in [11]. This topology offers the advantage of interconnecting dc input sources in series, allowing the dc-bus voltage to exceed that of any individual source. Namely, it can generate one more operation mode (V_1 , V_2 , $V_2 - V_1$, and $V_1 + V_2$) by adding two extra switches. This can further reduce switching losses and allow the traction system to maintain even more torque at engine speed. The ReMSI requires a high number of power switches to operate in four different modes that can be obtained with two used dc sources, which causes high losses, reduces efficiency, and increases weight and volume.

For EV energy storage systems, an MSI topology with a generalized structure was presented in [12]. This topology, similar to [11], when using two dc sources [see Fig. 2(d)], can combine all possible dc-link source combinations, which provide a second mode that increases the dc source input voltages. Therefore, the voltage rating of dc sources may be specifically created, which reduces the need for cell balancing for both sources. Also, when the dc source with a low voltage rating is replaced by a supercapacitor, it reduces the size of the battery pack for EVs by almost 25%. However, this MSI structure [12] faces a high number of operating active switches, which raises conduction losses and diminishes its efficiency. In addition, the voltage stress of the switches is high, which affects the final cost of the inverter. Two multisource switched-capacitor multilevel inverters (MLIs) were presented by Hosseinzadeh et al. [13]. The introduced MLI has been proposed for single-phase photovoltaic applications to boost the low input voltage of photovoltaic (PV) by combining a multisource unit and a switched capacitor unit, as shown in Fig. 2(e). Another benefit of this topology is that it reduces the number of power switches and capacitors compared with other similar MLIs that have a generic topology and use switched capacitors. Although capacitors charge and discharge with series and parallel methods without the need for any sensors, they have a main drawback, which is that they inrush current and cannot be used for high-power applications. In addition, it cannot be applied to EVs due to the use of a switched-capacitor unit.

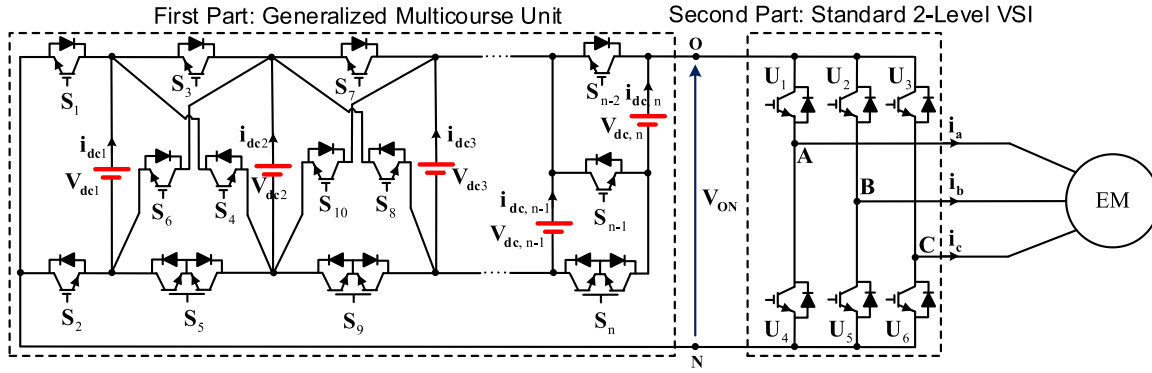


Fig. 3. Proposed generalized MSI topology with n number of dc sources.

This article proposes the use of a generalized topology for an MSI in an EV drive. The main contribution of the article is as follows.

- 1) Proposing a new generalized MSI topology with fewer conductive active switches in current paths, capable of utilizing all combinations of multisource and handling bidirectional power flow for EV energy storage systems.
- 2) Proposing an model predictive control (MPC) technique for controlling the proposed multisource inverter in an EV system, which reduces harmonic distortion and minimizes power losses.

The rest of this article is organized as follows. In Section II, the generalized multisource traction inverter topology is introduced with an explanation of all operation modes. Then, the main features of the suggested topology and its mathematical model are explained in Section III. In Section IV, a model-predictive control is applied for control of the system. In Section V, a comparative comparison is made based on various characteristics, power losses, and efficiency between the proposed MSI and other classical MSIs. In Section VI, simulation results for a permanent magnet synchronous machine are provided in order to evaluate the performance of the proposed MSI. Finally, Section VII concludes this article.

II. PROPOSED MSI TOPOLOGY

A. Generalized Topology

The proposed generalized MSI topology is displayed in Fig. 3. As you can see, it consists of two parts: a multisource unit and a standard two-level VSI. The multisource units are comprised of several dc voltage sources that, in an EV, can be batteries with different powers. The proposed MSI topology is designed such that it can combine all possible combinations of the dc voltage sources. Therefore, based on the dc voltage source values, the proposed MSI can work in different operation modes. In order to have maximum operation mode, the dc voltage source values are selected in trinary values as follows:

$$V_{dc,1} = V_{dc} \quad (1)$$

$$V_{dc,2} = 3V_{dc} \quad (2)$$

$$V_{dc,3} = 9V_{dc} \quad (3)$$

$$V_{dc,j} = 3^{j-1}V_{dc} \quad \text{for } j = 1, 2, \dots, n. \quad (4)$$

Hence, the maximum number of operation modes $N_{op,mode}$ of the proposed MSI in terms of dc voltage source quantity is given by

$$N_{op,mode} = \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{V_{dc,j}}{V_{dc}} = \frac{3^n - 1}{2}. \quad (5)$$

The maximum voltage stress (MVS) of the power switch depends on the maximum voltage across the switch. Since the proposed MSI is comprised of two parts, the MVS of each switch at each part is computed separately in the following. The MVS of multisource (MS) unit switches depends on the input dc voltage source magnitudes, which are computed for $j \geq 2$ using the following relations:

$$V_{S_1} = V_{S_2} = V_{dc1} \quad (6)$$

$$(V_{S_3} = V_{S_6}) = (V_{S_7} = V_{S_{10}}) = \dots = V_{dc,j} \quad (7)$$

$$(V_{S_4} = V_{S_5}) = (V_{S_8} + V_{S_9}) = \dots = V_{dc,j-1}. \quad (8)$$

Therefore, the maximum blocking voltage of the MS unit of the topology is calculated using (6)–(8) and is expressed by (9)

$$V_{block,MS} = [3^n - 2]V_{dc}. \quad (9)$$

The maximum blocking voltage of the power switch of the second part of the proposed MSI, which is a standard VSI endures the maximum output voltage; therefore, it is expressed as

$$V_{block,VSI} = 3[3^n - 1]V_{dc}. \quad (10)$$

Therefore, the total blocking voltage (TBV) of the proposed MSI is the sum of (9) and (10) and can be expressed by (11) as follows:

$$V_{block,MSI} = [4(3^n) - 5]V_{dc}. \quad (11)$$

B. Dual-Sources Traction Inverter

The power circuit of a dual-source inverter based on the proposed generalized MSI is shown in Fig. 4. It comprises two dc sources that are utilized for the input of a standard two-level VSI. Five used power switches (S_1 – S_5) produce variable dc voltage, which is used as the input dc-link of the VSI. All power switches are unidirectional insulated gate bipolar transistors (IGBTs) with a parallel diode, which can provide the bidirectional operation of

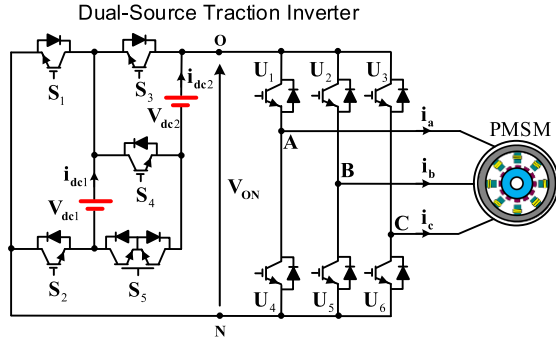


Fig. 4. Power circuit of the proposed dual-source traction inverter.

TABLE I
FOUR OPERATION MODES OF THE PROPOSED MSI BASED ON DC
VOLTAGE SOURCES

Modes	S_1	S_2	S_3	S_4	S_5	V_{ON}
I	OFF	ON	ON	OFF	OFF	V_{dc1}
II	ON	OFF	OFF	OFF	ON	$V_{dc2} - V_{dc1}$
III	OFF	ON	OFF	ON	OFF	V_{dc2}
IV	OFF	ON	OFF	ON	OFF	$V_{dc1} + V_{dc2}$

the inverter, except for S_5 which is a bidirectional power switch consisting of two IGBTs with two parallel diodes. The maximum combination of two dc sources to produce a positive voltage is four combinations, so the proposed MSI can create the maximum combinations only with five power switches. According to the firing of the five power switches, four distinct operation modes can be defined for the proposed MSI. All operation modes are given in Table I and Fig. 5 based on the possible switching states, and they are also illustrated in detail in the following.

- 1) *First Operation Mode*: In this mode, by turning ON two power switches (S_2 and S_3) the only V_{dc1} is used as a dc-link voltage of VSI, as shown in Fig. 5(b). Therefore, V_{dc1} supplies the power to transfer the load, and no power is extracted from V_{dc2} . In this mode, the magnitudes of V_{dc1} are preserved, so it is utilized for light loads that require less power.
- 2) *Second Operation Mode*: By turning ON two power switches (S_1 and S_5) both dc sources provide power to the load. Hence, both dc sources are connected in series, and the voltage utilized in the load is $V_{dc2} - V_{dc1}$, as shown in Fig. 5(c).
- 3) *Third Operation Mode*: In this mode, only V_{dc2} is used as a dc-link voltage of VSI by turning ON two power switches (S_2 and S_5). Therefore, V_{dc2} supplies the power to transfer the load, so V_{dc1} is not applied, as shown in Fig. 5(d) and (e).
- 4) *Fourth Operation Mode*: By turning ON two power switches (S_2 and S_4), both dc sources provide power to the load concurrently. As a result, both dc sources are linked in series, and the voltage in the load is $V_{dc1} + V_{dc2}$.

In the proposed MSI topology, the two independent dc sources can be connected to different capacitor banks. Fig. 6 illustrates the torque–speed characteristic of an electric motor when the proposed MSI is employed. As it indicates, in low-speed and

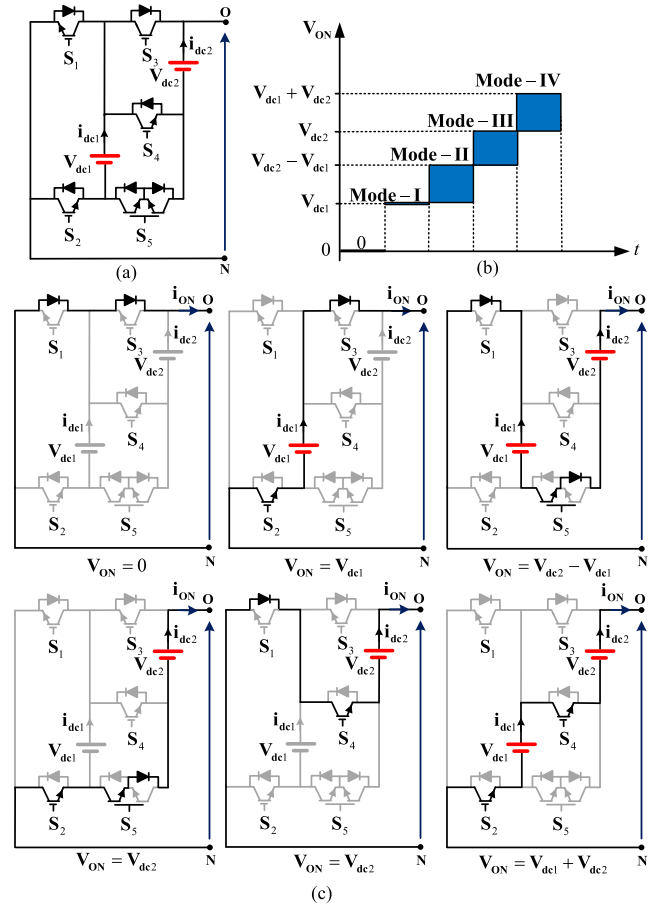


Fig. 5. (a) First part of proposed MSI. (b) Output voltage of V_{ON} . (c) Produced four operation modes by the proposed first part of the proposed MSI.

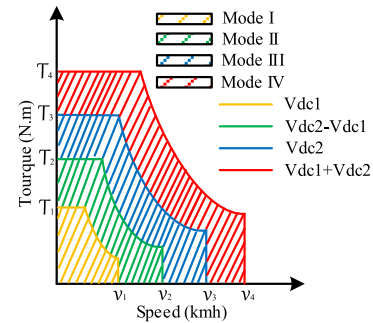


Fig. 6. Speed–torque characteristic of electrical motor.

low-torque operation, the first mode can be achieved by transferring the power to the motor with a single dc source V_{dc1} . The second operating mode is produced by speeding up the motor and increasing the torque. For high speed and high torque, the maximum dc-link voltage, which is $V_{dc1} + V_{dc2}$ transfers the power to the motor.

The MVS of each power switch for the first part of the proposed MSI can be obtained from (6)–(8) as

$$V_{S1} = V_{S2} = V_{S4} = V_{S5} = V_{dc1} \quad (12)$$

$$V_{S_3} = V_{dc2}. \quad (13)$$

The voltage stress of all power switches for the second part of MSI is a standard VSI equal to $(V_{dc1} + V_{dc2})$. Therefore, the TBV of the proposed MSI with two dc sources is

$$TBV = 10V_{dc1} + 7V_{dc2}. \quad (14)$$

III. MATHEMATICAL MODEL OF PROPOSED MSI

In order to explain in a simple way how to calculate the mathematical model of the proposed MSI, we divided it into two parts. The first part is a multisource structure that combines two dc power sources to provide five positive voltage levels (plus a zero voltage level), while the second part is a typical VSI. By examining the equivalent circuits for the switching states and formulating an equation for each output voltage component in terms of the gating signals, it is possible to establish a general expression for the output voltage of the first half of the proposed MSI. The variable voltage, V_{ON} , is defined as the output voltage produced by the first part of the proposed MSI, and that can be determined as a function of the switches' gate signals and the two dc voltages

$$V_{ON} = XV_{dc1} + YV_{dc2}. \quad (15)$$

The function of X and Y are related to the state of power switches can be expressed

$$X = (U_{S_2} \oplus U_{S_5})(U_{S_2} - U_{S_5}) \quad (16)$$

$$Y = (U_{S_4} \vee U_{S_5}). \quad (17)$$

Here, U_{S_2} , U_{S_4} , and U_{S_5} are the switching functions of power switches of S_2 , S_4 , and S_5 , it means U_{S_j} is "ON" if S_j is ON and U_{S_j} is "OFF" if S_j is OFF ($j = 2, 4, 5$). In (16) and (17) " \oplus " is XOR sign and " \vee " is OR sign in Boolean logic.

The second part's mathematical model, a typical VSI, can be written as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} V_{AN} &= V_{ON} \mathbf{U}_a \\ V_{BN} &= V_{ON} \mathbf{U}_b \\ V_{CN} &= V_{ON} \mathbf{U}_c. \end{aligned} \quad (18)$$

With the following definition of the switching function of power switches in VSI:

$$\mathbf{U}_a = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } U_1 \text{ is on and } U_4 \text{ off} \\ 0 & \text{if } U_1 \text{ is off and } U_4 \text{ on} \end{cases} \quad (19)$$

$$\mathbf{U}_b = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } U_2 \text{ is on and } U_5 \text{ off} \\ 0 & \text{if } U_2 \text{ is off and } U_5 \text{ on} \end{cases} \quad (20)$$

$$\mathbf{U}_c = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } U_3 \text{ is on and } U_6 \text{ off} \\ 0 & \text{if } U_3 \text{ is off and } U_6 \text{ on.} \end{cases} \quad (21)$$

The three-phase line-to-ground voltage $[V_{An}, V_{Bn}, V_{Cn}]$ is calculated as follows:

$$\begin{bmatrix} V_{An} \\ V_{Bn} \\ V_{Cn} \end{bmatrix} = \frac{1}{3} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & -1 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 \\ -1 & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \times \begin{bmatrix} V_{AN} \\ V_{BN} \\ V_{CN} \end{bmatrix}. \quad (22)$$

TABLE II

INVERTER LINE VOLTAGE FOR EACH SWITCHING STATE AND dq -FRAME

V_{ON}	\mathbf{U}_a	\mathbf{U}_b	\mathbf{U}_c	V_{AB}	V_{BC}	V_{CA}	dq -frame
	OFF	OFF	OFF	0	0	0	[0 0 0]*M
	ON	OFF	OFF	V_{ON}	0	$-V_{ON}$	[1 0 -1]*M
	ON	ON	OFF	0	V_{ON}	$-V_{ON}$	[0 1 -1]*M
	OFF	ON	OFF	V_{ON}	V_{ON}	0	[1 1 0]*M
	OFF	ON	ON	$-V_{ON}$	0	V_{ON}	[-1 0 1]*M
	OFF	OFF	ON	0	$-V_{ON}$	V_{ON}	[0 -1 1]*M
	ON	OFF	ON	V_{ON}	$-V_{ON}$	0	[1 -1 0]*M
	ON	ON	ON	0	0	0	[1 1 1]*M

Therefore, the line-to-line voltages $[V_{AB}, V_{BC}, V_{CA}]$ are calculated through well-known formulas

$$\begin{aligned} V_{AB} &= V_{An} - V_{Bn} \\ V_{BC} &= V_{Bn} - V_{Cn} \\ V_{CA} &= V_{Cn} - V_{An}. \end{aligned} \quad (23)$$

Table II illustrates the device switching states and the input dc voltage applied to the load regarding the different operating modes. To create mode II, the magnitude of the output of MSI is equal to $V_{dc2} - V_{dc1}$, and the voltage $V_{dc2} > 2V_{dc1}$ is selected.

IV. MPC FOR THE PROPOSED MSI

A. Permanent Magnet Synchronous Motor Model

The dynamic space state model of the permanent magnet synchronous machine (PMSM) in a synchronous dq -frame oriented with the rotor position angle θ_r is the following [14]:

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}} = A(\mathbf{x}) + B(u) \quad (24)$$

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{R_s}{L_s} & \omega_r & 0 & 0 \\ -\omega_r & -\frac{R_s}{L_s} & -\frac{\psi_m}{L_s} & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{3}{2J_m}\psi_m p^2 & -\frac{B_m}{J_m} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, B = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{L_s} & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{L_s} \\ 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad (25)$$

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \begin{bmatrix} \dot{i}_d \\ \dot{i}_q \\ \dot{\omega}_r \\ \dot{\theta}_r \end{bmatrix}, x = \begin{bmatrix} i_d \\ i_q \\ \omega_r \\ \theta_r \end{bmatrix}, u = \begin{bmatrix} v_d \\ v_q \end{bmatrix}. \quad (26)$$

The parameters of the PMSM are R_s stator resistor, L_s stator inductance, ψ_m the magnitude of the flux generated by the rotor magnet, p number of poles, J_m inertia, and B_m the friction of the machine.

The voltages of the dq -frame v_d and v_q are obtained from the transformation of (15), which is the output voltage of MSI in the abc -frame [15].

The electric torque of PMSM is obtained as follows:

$$T_e = \frac{3}{2} p \psi_m i_q. \quad (27)$$

The relation between the electric and load torque of the machine is given by

$$T_e - T_L = J_m \frac{d\omega_m}{dt} - B_m \omega_m \quad (28)$$

the proposal and [12], is asymmetric operation due to using different sources with different magnitudes. In most configurations in the industry, symmetric operation is used, which makes it easy to control and balance the voltages. But with the development and advancement of control methods, the asymmetric operation can be solved in the future [19], [20]. According to Table III, the proposed MSI has a low number of IGBTs and drivers in comparison to [11] and [12], which generate the same number of operation modes. The low number of switches necessitates ten unidirectional switches in the proposal, resulting in smaller size and cost as well as reduced complexity. In addition, the proposed MSI has a lower number of conductive active switches (4) in the current path compared with [12] (5). Therefore, the low conductivity of the devices leads to low conduction losses, which increase efficiency. Although [11] has the same number of active switches as the proposal, it uses a high number of bidirectional power switches and cannot be extended to a generalized topology to increase battery life. Another advantage of the proposal is the low TBV compared with similar MSI topologies with the same operation modes [11], [12]. Low voltage stress means low manufacturing costs, which is an important factor for the industry's massive production. The TBV for all presented MSIs and the proposal is calculated and given in Table III. Depending on the dc voltage source magnitude in each topology, each switch has a different blocking voltage. Therefore, the blocking voltage of the inverters is calculated per unit (V_{dc}). According to (11), the TBV of the proposal, considering $V_{dc1} = V_{dc}$ and $V_{dc2} = 3V_{dc}$, is obtained as $31V_{dc}$. In Table III, the standard VSI achieves a low TBV because of a smaller number of switches (6), in contrast to other MSIs. On the other hand, Dorn-Gomba et al. [9] exhibited a notably high TBV, while [11] and [12] share similar TBV values. The MSI introduced in [10] possesses a minimum TBV of $30V_{dc}$, whereas the proposed MSI closely aligns with this value at $31V_{dc}$. Although [10] does have an edge over the proposed MSI in this regard, the proposal boasts a greater number of operation modes, resulting in a more compact battery pack size. The disadvantage of the proposal to reduce blocking voltage is that the switches have different voltage ratings. But this is not an acute problem; for example, in practical applications, the manufacturer chooses the power switches that endure the MVS (in the proposal, they are VSI switches) because other switches have lower voltage stress.

B. Comparison Power Losses and Efficiency

One advantage of the proposal over [12], which has the same operation modes, is the number of ON-state switches in the current path to generate each mode. This feature affects the power losses and the efficiency of the proposed MSI. Table IV gives the conducting switches and parallel diodes of the MS units in the proposed MSI and [12].

As can be seen from this table, the number of ON-state switches and diodes in the proposed MSI is two switches for all operation modes except for the second mode, which is three, so it has fewer conduction devices than [12], which has three devices always in ON-state for each operation mode. Therefore, it results in a reduction in conduction losses, and it is expected

TABLE IV
CONDUCTING ACTIVE SWITCH/DIODE FOR THE PROPOSAL AND [12]

Operation modes	Current direction	Active Switch/Diode of MS unit	
		[12]	Proposed
Mode I	+	S_4, D_5, D_2	S_2, D_3
	-	S_2, D_4, D_5	S_3, D_2
Mode II	+	S_1, D_3, D_6	S_5, D_5, D_1
	-	S_3, S_6, D_1	S_1, S_5, D_5
Mode II	+	S_1, D_3, D_5	S_4, D_1
	-	S_3, D_1, D_5	S_1, D_4
Mode IV	+	S_1, S_4, S_5	S_4, S_2
	-	D_1, D_4, D_5	S_5, D_4

TABLE V
SIMULATION PARAMETERS FOR POWER LOSSES ANALYSIS

Parameters	Values
DC-link voltage	$V_{dc1} = 150$ [V] $V_{dc2} = 450$ [V]
IGBT (IHW20N120R3FKSA1)	1200 [V], 60 [A]
Load frequency (f_o)	50 [Hz]
Resistive load (R)	10 [Ω]
Inductive load (L)	10 [mH]
Sample time (T_s)	40 [μ s]

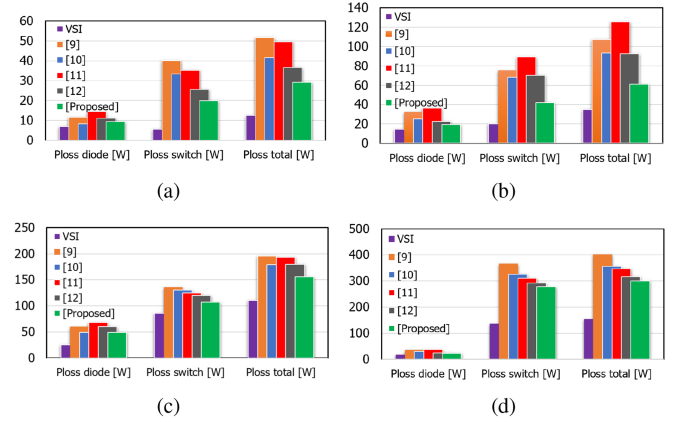


Fig. 8. Power losses evaluations of VSI, the proposed MSI, and other MSIs. (a) First operation mode. (b) Second operation mode. (c) Third operation mode. (d) Fourth operation mode.

that the proposed MSI will have lower conduction losses than [12]. The conduction losses of the second part, which is standard VSI for both topologies, are the same. In order to confirm this future, the power loss and efficiency of the proposed topology are compared with [10], [11], and [12], which use the same number of operation modes. All topologies are simulated in PLECS. We implemented the MPC technique for all three topologies. Table V gives the simulation parameters to investigate the power losses. In this simulation, an IGBT with a voltage rating of 1200 V and a current rating of 60 A (IHW20N120R3FKSA1) is used. The value of the turn-ON resistance of the switches and diodes is considered based on the switch and diode datasheets, which are used for the power loss analysis of the proposed topology, the current–voltage curve of the switch, and the diode for two temperatures of 25°C and 125°C is defined in the software.

The magnitude of dc-link voltages is selected at 1:3. The power losses and efficiency are evaluated for all operation modes. The different operation modes are obtained by changing the amplitude of the reference current. Fig. 8(a)–(d) exhibit the

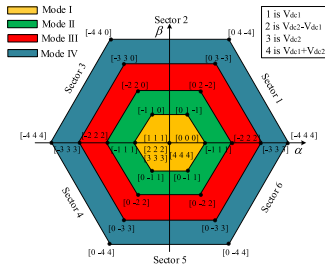


Fig. 9. Space vector representation in $\alpha\beta$ -frame with an MPC.

TABLE VI
EFFICIENCY COMPARISON OF PROPOSAL WITH OTHER MSIs

Efficiency	VSI	[9]	[10]	[11]	[12]	Proposed
Mode I	98.2%	93.12%	94.39%	93.38%	95.02%	96%
Mode II	98.63%	95.88%	96.39%	95.2%	96.42%	97.61%
Mode III	98.9%	98.07%	98.24%	98.10%	98.23%	98.46%
Mode IV	98.85%	97.54%	97.82%	97.87%	98.06%	98.15%

power losses and efficiency evaluations of the proposed MSI and other conventional MSIs for operation modes I–IV, respectively. Fig. 8 displays that the suggested MSI decreases power losses and has a higher efficiency compared with other MSIs except for VSI. This is due to the fact that in the proposed MSI, the number of ON-state switches that are in the current pass is lower than in other conventional MSI topologies. Table VI gives the efficiency comparison of the proposal with VSI and other reported MSIs. As can be seen, the proposed topology has higher efficiency than [9], [10], [11], and even [12] due to the low number of conductive devices in the current path. The higher efficiency is for standard VSI due to not using extra switches on the dc-link side. It should be noted that to evaluate the operation modes of VSI, similar to other MSIs, we changed the reference current signal. In the first operation modes, the lowest efficiency is for [9] and [11], and the highest efficiency is for VSI and proposal. By changing the operation modes, the effectiveness of the proposal is going to be higher due to using just the same number of devices in the conductive current path for all operation modes. In the first operation mode, VSI and proposal have higher efficiency than other MSIs, which confirms the proposal idea.

By consideration of the compared investigations, we could consider the following benefits of the proposed MSI over other MLIs as a conclusion.

- 1) Two of the reported MSIs in the literature [9], [10] can generate only three operation modes with the same magnitude of used dc-link voltages with the proposed topology. It means they can produce operation modes V_{dc1} , V_{dc2} , and $V_{dc2} - V_{dc1}$, and the two sources cannot be connected in series to achieve a higher overall dc-link voltage. However, the proposed MSI and [11] and [12] can generate one more mode, which is using the overall dc-link voltage $V_{dc1} - V_{dc2}$. This allows the dc-bus voltage to be larger than any one source. This can reduce the switching losses even further and will allow the tractive system to maintain peak torque for even higher motor speeds.
- 2) The presented MSIs [9]–[11] cannot be extended for n dc sources. The proposed MSI and [12] have this capability,

which is a suitable configuration for EV energy storage systems.

- 3) The proposed MSI has a low number of IGBTs and drivers in comparison to [11] and [12], which generate the same number of operation modes.
- 4) The proposed MSI has a lower number of conductive active components in the current path for each mode compared with [11] and [12]. Therefore, the low conductivity of the devices leads to low conduction losses, which increase efficiency.
- 5) The TBV of the proposal is lower than similar MSI topologies with the same operation modes. The low voltage stress means low manufacturing costs, which is an important factor for the industry for massive production.

C. Benefits of MSIs Over Single-Source Inverters for EVs

An MSI that utilizes different cells of a battery pack as sources can potentially increase battery lifetime compared with a single-source inverter. Battery cells in a pack can exhibit slight variations in capacity, internal resistance, and health. When using a single-source inverter, all cells are subjected to the same load and discharge cycles, which can lead to imbalance issues over time. In contrast, an MSI can distribute the load more evenly across various cells, reducing the strain on individual cells and improving the overall pack balance.

MSIs with two or more dc sources can provide redundancy in power sources. This means that if one battery pack or energy source fails, the vehicle can still operate using the other sources. This redundancy enhances vehicle reliability and safety. Furthermore, by combining multiple energy sources, such as batteries and supercapacitors, MSIs can deliver bursts of power when needed, potentially resulting in improved acceleration and overall vehicle performance. In addition, an MSI has the capability to manage fast charging from various power supplies, including standard charging stations, high-power dc chargers, and renewable energy sources.

D. DC-Link Capacitor Calculation

The amount of charge and discharge of dc-link capacitor of a traction inverter is obtained

$$\Delta Q_C = \int_0^T I_o \sin(\omega t) d(t) \quad (33)$$

$$\Delta V_C = \frac{\Delta Q_C}{C} = \frac{I_o}{f_s C} (d(1-d)). \quad (34)$$

Therefore, the minimum amount of the capacitance (C_{opt}) according to allowable voltage ripple ($\Delta V_{ripple(pp)}$) are obtained as

$$C_{opt} \geq \frac{I_o(d(1-d))}{f_s \Delta V_{ripple(pp)}}. \quad (35)$$

Since the control method of the proposed MSI is MPC, therefore here f_s is the average switching frequency of the inverter, I_o is

TABLE VII
PROPOSED MSI AND PMSM PARAMETERS

Parameters		Values	Units
Proposed Inverter	DC source voltages	$V_{dc1} = 50$	[V]
		$V_{dc2} = 150$	[V]
PMSM	Speed Rating	8000	[r/min]
	Current Rating	28.38	[A]
	Torque Rating	23.9	[N.m]
	Stator resistance (R_s)	0.396	[Ω]
	Inductance ($L_d = L_q$)	2.4	[mH]
	Rotational inertia (J)	1.916×10^{-3}	[kg.m ²]
	Magnetic flux (ψ_m)	0.129	[Kg.m ²]
	B_m	4.64e-3	[N.m. $\frac{rad}{s}$]
	Poles pairs number (p)	5	
Times	Sample time (T_s)	40	[μ s]
	Subsampled time (T_{sw})	400	[μ s]

the steady-state output current, C_{opt} is the optimum required capacitance, $V_{ripple(pp)}$ is the maximum allowed peak–peak ripple voltage of dc-link, and d is the duty cycle.

VI. SIMULATION RESULTS OF THE PROPOSED MSI

In this section, the proposed MSI is tested by the simulation through the proposed model predictive control in MATLAB/Simulink environment. The parameters of the considered system (input and output) are listed in Table VII.

The MSI operates as a three-phase inverter and drives the PMSM as a motor. In motor drive applications, when both speed and torque references are applied in the same direction, the power is positive, namely, the PMSM generates power and the MSI operates as an inverter. If both speed and torque references have opposite signs, the PMSM generates power and the MSI operates as a rectifier. Hence, the same simulation model presented in Fig. 7 can be used to simulate both operations. The simulation results for both operations are shown in Fig. 10. Simulations in inverter operations are performed at four different speed references (ω), 150, 300, 550, and 750 [rad/s]. The d component of stator reference current $i_d^* = 0$, and a constant load torque T_{load} of 20 N.m is applied to the motor. The speed control of the machine shows good reference tracking, with a fast dynamic response and without observable overshoots or undershoots in both operational modes, as shown in Fig. 10(a). The line-to-line voltage produced by the proposed MSI is shown in Fig. 10(b) illustrating that the MSI works properly and produces the three operation modes based on the demand of the speed that PMSM needs. The a-phase stator current of the PMSM is shown in Fig. 10(c) illustrating that the phase currents are highly sinusoidal, despite the variable switching frequency. The dc current of the two used dc sources of MSI i_{dc1} and i_{dc2} is shown in Fig. 10(d). This figure confirms that when MSI works in mode I, i_{dc1} is a positive value, and i_{dc2} is zero, which means that the second dc source supplies the motor and V_{dc1} not used. Also, it indicates that when MSI works in mode II, the two input dc sources are in series, and the negative pole of the second dc source is connected to the negative pole of the first dc source voltage. Hence, i_{dc2} has a positive value, and i_{dc1} has a negative value. Once MSI works in mode III, the second dc source supplies the motor, and V_{dc1} is not used, so the i_{dc2} is positive and the i_{dc1} is zero. Besides, it indicates that once the proposed MSI works in mode IV, the two input dc sources are

in series, and the positive pole of the first dc source is connected to the negative pole of the second dc source voltage. Hence, the i_{dc1} and i_{dc2} have positive values. The stator currents i_d and i_q are shown in Fig. 10(e). The reference current i_q^* is produced by the PI controller and it is tracked by the inner control loop of MPC. The reference current of i_d^* is considered zero and the i_d is followed by the MPC in zero value. As can be seen from Fig. 10(e), the MPC tracks both quadrant stator currents quickly and without any changes in either operational mode. Figs. 11 and 12 show a zoomed view of Fig. 10 in different modes that MSI operates. The steady state of the first operation mode of MSI is shown in Fig. 11(a) between 0 and 0.4[s]. As shown in this figure, the magnitude of V_{AB} is 50[V] and only the first dc voltage source supplies the motor. The steady state of the second operation mode of MSI is shown in Fig. 11(b) between 0.4 and 0.6[s]. This figure confirms that the difference between both dc sources supply the motor so the magnitude of V_{AB} is 100 V. The steady state of the third operation mode of MSI is shown in Fig. 12(a) from 0.6 to 0.8[s]. This figure confirms that the only second dc voltage source supplies the motor so the magnitude of V_{AB} is 150 V. The steady state of the fourth operation modes of MSI for both inverter and rectifier operational modes is shown in Fig. 12(b) between 0.95 and 1.2[s]. This figure confirms that only two used dc voltage sources supply the motor for both operational modes so the magnitude of V_{AB} is 200 V.

Figs. 10–12 confirm that the applied MPC makes a difference between voltage waveforms from mode I and other modes. This difference happens when MSI is controlled by MPC because, as we showed in Fig. 9, to generate modes II–IV, it does not evaluate the zero vector for generating these operation modes. Because MPC operates based on choosing the optimal vector, which is closest vector. The advantage of MPC for the proposed MSI in EV systems is that the harmonic distortion is reduced, which avoids damaging the winding of EMs. In order to validate the theoretical concept of the voltage stress of the switches (12) and (13), all the voltage stress of the switches for the fourth operation mode is shown in Fig. 12(c). As can be seen, none of the switches endure the overall dc-link voltage, which is 200 V. Most of the power switches endure the magnitude of the first dc source (50 V), and the voltage stress of switch S_3 is equal to the second dc source (150 V). Therefore, this figure confirms that the measured values are correct with the theoretical values, to have a comparison of the proposed topology and [12] when both MSIs use in EV applications. In fact, we repeated and performed a similar simulation for [12]. We compared three terms of efficiency, THD, and blocking voltage for each operating mode for the proposed MSI and presented MSI in [12]. The results are given in Table VIII. As can be seen, the efficiency of the proposal is higher than in [12] in operation modes I, III, and IV due to the use of low-active switches (2) for generating these modes. The THD value of the proposal is almost the same as [12]. With increasing the switching frequency as well, you can see the results are higher efficiency and lower THD, but still, the proposal has higher efficiency and lower THD than [12]. The voltage stress on the power switches for the VSI part is the same, but for the MS part, the voltage stress of the switches is lower than [12]. These three advantages can be obtained when the proposal is used for EV rather than other presented MSI in [12].

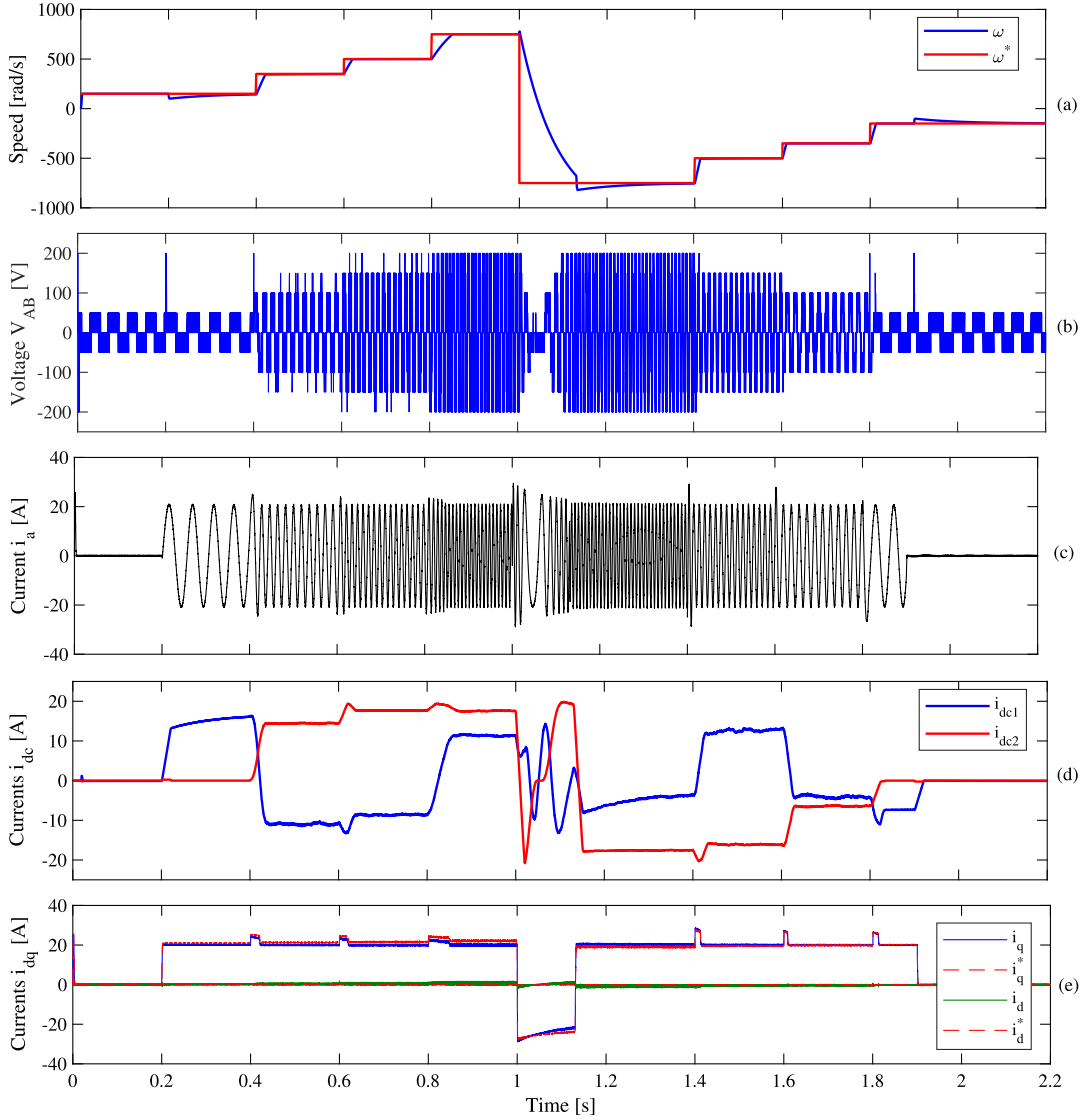


Fig. 10. Dynamic response. (a) Motor speed. (b) Line-to-line voltage. (c) A-phase stator current. (d) DC source currents. (e) Quadrant stator currents.

TABLE VIII
EFFICIENCY, THD, AND TBV COMPARISON OF THE PROPOSED
MSI WITH [12]

Topolog	Mode	Efficiency		THD		TBV [V]
		T=40[μ s]	T=40[μ s]	T=50[μ s]	T=50[μ s]	
[12]	I	90.35%	1.85%	90.45%	1.62%	650
	II	94.16%	1.08%	94.46%	0.98%	1050
	III	94.67%	1.02%	94.93%	0.82%	1250
	IV	95.58%	1.14%	96.22%	1.01%	1700
Proposed	I	90.30%	1.65%	90.56%	1.43%	550
	II	94.23%	0.96%	94.67%	0.92%	950
	III	95.31%	0.85%	95.59%	0.76%	1200
	IV	96.86%	1.04%	97.13%	0.94%	1550

Table IX illustrates the average switching frequency of each switch in the proposed inverter for sample time 40[μ s], $T_L=20$ [N · m], and window time 20[s]. Since the proposed MSI has different operation modes, first the average switching frequency of each switch is calculated for each mode ($f_{s,switch}=\text{number of commutation}/2$ window time) separately,

TABLE IX
AVERAGE SWITCHING FREQUENCY OF SWITCHES FOR T=40[μ s]

Switches	S_1	S_2	S_3	S_4	S_5	U_1	U_2	U_3
f_s [Hz]	7675	7675	8885	7483	6067	2465	2460	2440

and then its value is divided by the total number of operation modes. The frequency of each switch in the proposed topology is different due to the nature of MPC, which has a variable frequency. Note that in this table, the average switching frequency of two switches in each leg of the VSI in the proposed MSI is equal; therefore, only one of them is written.

VII. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS OF THE PROPOSED MSI

To show the performance of the proposal, the prototype of the proposed MSI is built on a laboratory scale with IGBT power switches. The picture of experimental setup is shown

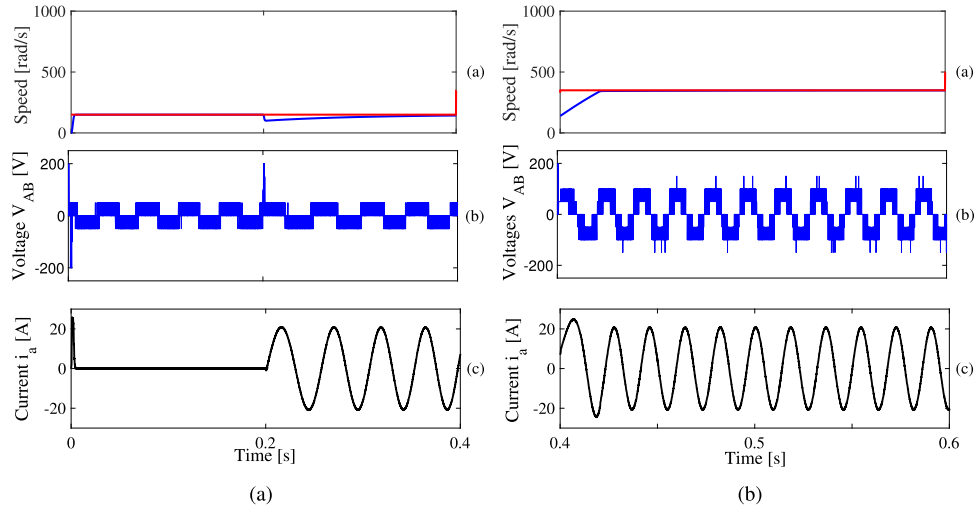


Fig. 11. Simulation results of motor speed, line-to-line voltage, and a-phase current of proposed MSI. (a) First operation mode. (b) Second operation mode.

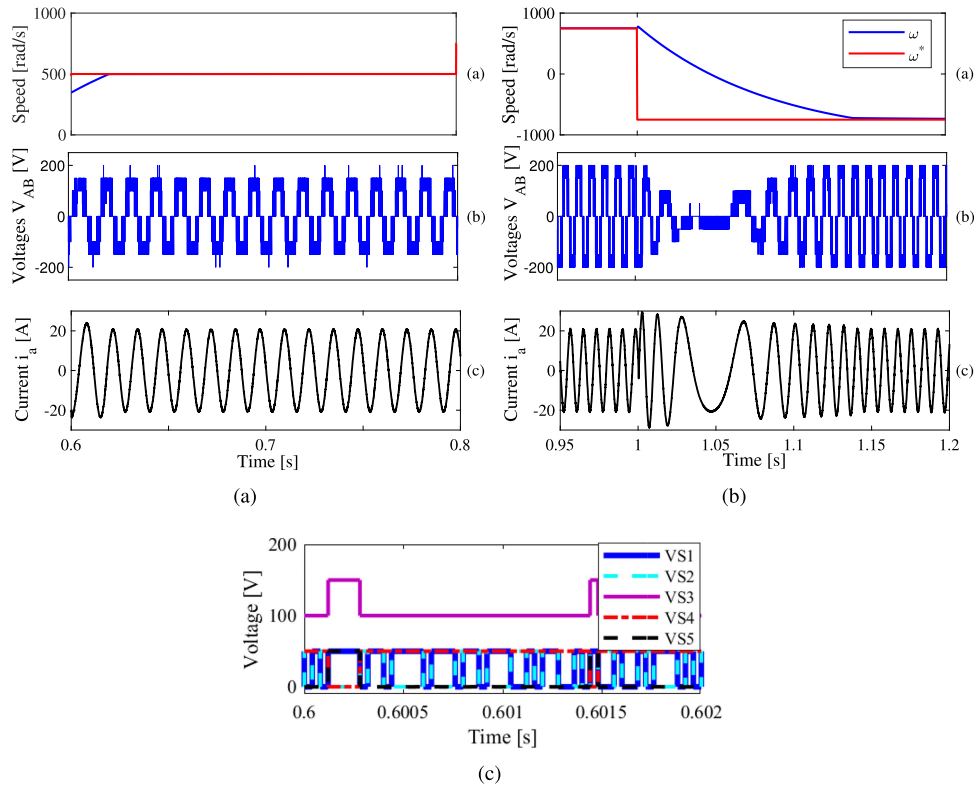


Fig. 12. Simulation results of motor speed, line-to-line voltage, and a-phase current of proposed MSI. (a) Third operation mode. (b) Fourth operation mode. (c) Voltage stress on the power switches of the MS unit.

in Fig. 13. Digital signal processing (DSP) is used to implement the proposed model predictive control. The output of the proposed topology is connected to a static load. The method used for practical evaluations is given in Table X. To show the performance evaluation of each mode of the proposed MSI, model predictive current control is applied. Therefore, with varying the current reference amplitude, all operation modes can be generated. To validate the experimental validation of the

first operation mode, the reference current is adjusted to 1[A]. Fig. 14 shows the experimental results for mode I. In this figure, the line-line voltage (V_{ab}) of the MSI, and three-phase load currents (I_{abc}) are shown in Fig. 14(a). In this mode, only the first dc power supply (30[V]) transfer the power to the load. Therefore, the current of the second dc source is zero under this mode as shown in Fig. 14(b). The THD value of current is 1.85%.

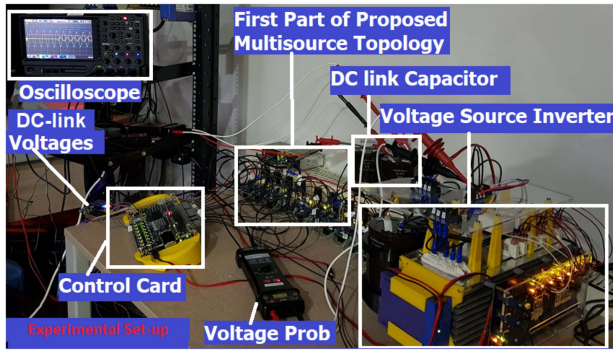


Fig. 13. Experimental setup of the proposed MSI.

TABLE X
EXPERIMENTAL PARAMETERS

Parameters	Values	Units
DC voltages (CHUX-S-1000-0-220)	$V_{dc1} = 30$	[V]
	$V_{dc2} = 90$	[V]
DC-link capacitor	$C_1 = 2.2$	[mF]
	$C_2 = 4.7$	[mF]
IGBT	IHW20N120R3FKSA1	1200 [V], 40 [A]
Gate driver	HCPL-316J-000E	-
DSP	TMS320F28335	-
Load frequency (f_o)	50	[Hz]
Static load	R, L	10 [Ω], 10 [mH]
Sample time (T_s)	40	[μ s]

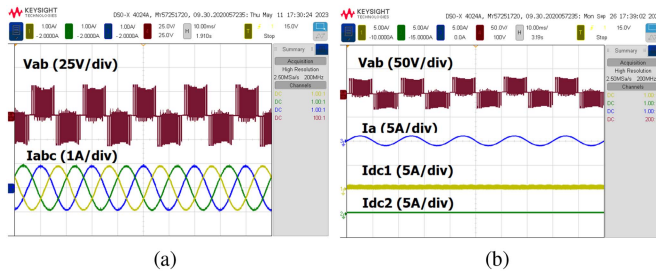


Fig. 14. Experimental results for the first operation mode. (a) Line-to-line voltage (V_{ab}) and three-phase load current (I_{abc}). (b) Line-to-line voltage, phase current (I_a), and dc source currents (I_{dc1} , I_{dc2}).

By increasing the reference current to 3[A], the second operation mode of the proposed MSI is created. The results are shown in Fig. 15. As can be seen, the practical line voltage (60[V]) and load currents are shown in Fig. 15(a). This mode is generated by the subtraction of both dc power supplies. Therefore, they have transferred the power to the load, so the value of dc current in the first dc supply is positive and in the second dc supply is negative, as shown in Fig. 15(b). The THD value of current for the second mode is 1.16%. The third operation mode of the experiment is achieved by setting the reference load currents to 4[A]. The experimental output waveform is shown in Fig. 16(a). The second dc power supply has transferred the power to the load so the output voltage magnitude is 90[V], as shown in Fig. 16(b). The THD value of current for the third operating mode is 1.05%. The current load reference is increased to 6[A] to show the fourth experiment operation mode of the proposed MSI. In this mode, both dc power supplies are provided the maximum power to

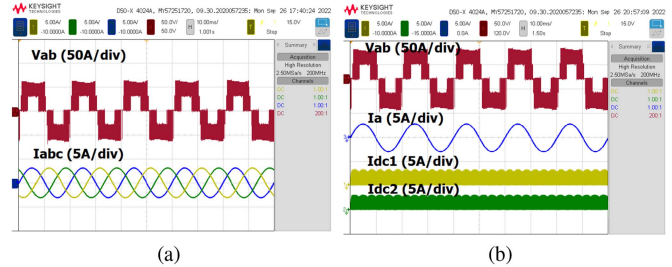


Fig. 15. Experimental results for the second operation mode. (a) Line-to-line voltage (V_{ab}) and three-phase load current (I_{abc}). (b) Line-to-line voltage, phase current (I_a), and dc currents (I_{dc1} , I_{dc2}).

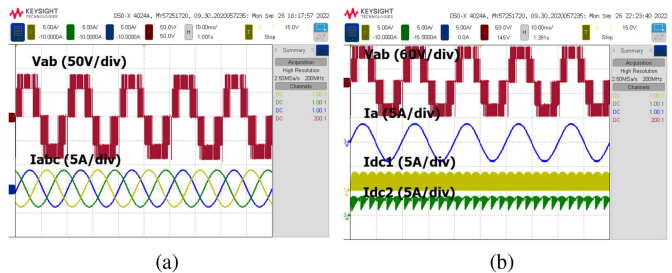


Fig. 16. Experimental results for the third operation mode. (a) Line-to-line voltage (V_{ab}) and three-phase load current (I_{abc}). (b) Line-to-line voltage, phase current (I_a), and dc currents (I_{dc1} , I_{dc2}).

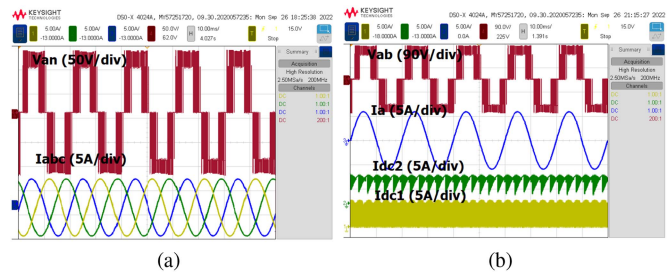


Fig. 17. Experimental results for the fourth operation mode. (a) Line-to-line voltage (V_{ab}) and three-phase load current (I_{abc}). (b) Line-to-line voltage, phase current (I_a), and dc currents (I_{dc2} , I_{dc1}).

the load, so the output voltage is 120[V] under this mode, as shown in Fig. 17(a) and (b). The THD value of current for this mode is 1.24%. From the voltage waveforms displayed in the simulation and experiment, it is clear that model predictive control performs exceptionally well when the operating mode of the proposed MSI shifts. For instance, once the MSI works in the second operation mode, the MPC uses optimal voltage vectors between the first mode and the second mode and does not return to evaluating the zero vector. The output voltage figures confirm the theoretical space vector representation of MPC for the proposed MSI in Fig. 9, in which each operation mode is indicated by different colors. This feature causes dv/dt to reduce, as well as THD and power losses, which are very suitable for EV applications. Fig. 18 depicts the proposed MSI's response when the reference currents shift from 3 to 4[A]. The operation mode of the MSI switches from mode II to mode III by increasing the amplitude of the reference current signals, increasing the

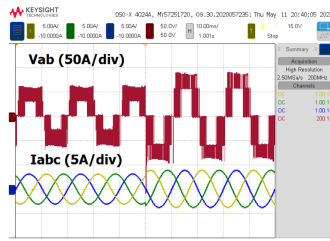


Fig. 18. Experimental results for the evaluation of dynamic response of the proposed MSI: line-to-line voltage (V_{ab}) and three-phase load current (I_{abc}).

peak voltage from 60 to 90[V]. The suggested MPC has a high dynamic response to this variation, as seen in Fig. 18, a low transient time is needed when the current signals are changed. It also demonstrates that the three-phase currents closely follow the reference current signals with a rapid transition time and no current waveform spike.

VIII. CONCLUSION

This article presented a generalized MSI topology as a traction inverter for EV applications. The proposed inverter was a combination of a multisource unit with a low number of components and a high operation mode, and a standard two-level inverter. The multisource unit provided a variable dc-link voltage, so with a combination of n number of dc sources, it could create a high number of operation modes without using any passive components. The presented traction inverter, in comparison to other MSI topologies, had two benefits: it utilized fewer switches and produced four combinations between the two used dc sources, which considerably decreased the battery pack compared with other MSI topologies. Furthermore, the proposed inverter decreased the power losses and increased the efficiency in comparing other traditional MSIs. A model of predictive control was used to operate the powered traction inverter. The simulation findings demonstrated that the MPC was a promising alternative control approach for EVs due to its simplicity, ability to generate a good waveform, and high performance. A prototype of the proposed inverter was built to verify the correctness of its operation, and it was tested with model predictive control for static loads.

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