

# A General Approach to Synthesis and Analysis of Quasi-Resonant Converters

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**Abstract**—A method for systematic synthesis of quasi-resonant (QR) topologies by addition of resonant elements to a parent PWM converter network is proposed. It is found that there are six QR classes with two resonant elements, including two novel classes. More complex QR converters can be generated by a recursive application of the synthesis method. Topological definitions of all known and novel QR classes follow directly from the synthesis method and topological properties of PWM parents. The synthesis of QR converters is augmented by a study of possible switch realizations and operating modes. In particular, it is demonstrated that a controllable rectifier can be used to accomplish the constant-frequency control in all QR classes. Links between the QR converters and the underlying PWM networks are extended to general dc and small-signal ac models, in which the model of the PWM parent is explicitly exposed. Results of steady-state analyses of selected QR classes and operating modes include boundaries of operating regions, dc characteristics, a comparison of switching transitions and switch stresses, and a discussion of relevant design trade-offs.

## I. INTRODUCTION

RECENTLY, resonant power converters have attracted much attention because of their ability to operate efficiently at higher switching frequencies than more conventional PWM (square-wave) converter topologies. Assuming that the efficiency can be maintained while increasing the operating frequency, proportionally lower values of energy-storage elements yield smaller and lighter power converters. This was the main motivation behind the introduction of converter topologies with resonant switches, also known as zero-current-switching (ZC) and zero-voltage-switching (ZV) quasi-resonant [1]–[3]. Many variations of the quasi-resonant converters were discussed in [4]. A generalization of the resonant switches [5] resulted in the discovery of two more classes named zero-voltage and zero-current quasi-square-wave in [6]. Classes of multi-resonant converters with more complex resonant networks were introduced in [7].

Common to all these converter topologies is that they are derived from PWM converters by adding resonant elements in order to shape the switch voltage and current waveforms. Instead of simultaneous abrupt transitions in the switch voltage and current, the newly introduced converters exhibit smooth, quasi-sinusoidal waveforms. The switch current (or the switch voltage) is zero before and immediately after the switching transi-

tion so that the switching losses associated with the transitions are greatly reduced.

The astonishing variety of the recently introduced converter topologies, for which we adopt a common name—quasi-resonant (QR), poses an apparent problem of how to comprehend, analyze, compare, select and finally design QR converters. Much needed analytical results and modeling methods started to appear in parallel with the introduction of novel converter topologies. In particular, an analysis method that provides unified dc and small-signal ac models for the entire classes of ZC and ZV converters was suggested in [8]. A remarkable aspect of the unifying analysis method is that it relates the properties of quasi-resonant converters to well-known properties of underlying PWM converters.

The main purpose of this paper is to provide a method for systematic synthesis and topological characterization of QR converters and to extend the unifying analysis method to all QR classes. The definition of QR converters in Section II provides a framework for the systematic synthesis described in Section III. The topological characterization that follows from the synthesis method is used together with the unifying analysis method in the derivation of a general dc model in Section IV and a general ac model in Section V. dc analyses of selected QR classes and operating modes are presented in Section VI, and a comparison of QR topologies is undertaken in Section VII. Main results are summarized in Section VIII.

## II. QUASI-RESONANT CONVERTERS

As pointed out in the introductory section, various classes of quasi-resonant converters were introduced by modifications of PWM converters. This provides a starting point for our discussion:

*Definition 1:* If resonant elements (capacitors and inductors) are added to a PWM converter such that its network at dc is not altered, the resulting network is a quasi-resonant converter. By the network at dc, we mean the converter network in which all inductors are shorted and all capacitors are removed, while the sources, loads and switches are retained.

The PWM converter in Definition 1 has a single source  $V_g$ , load  $R$ , a number of capacitors, a number of inductors and two single-pole, single-throw switches. A more rigorous definition of the PWM network can be found in [9]. It is assumed that steady-state capacitor voltages and inductor currents are dc quantities with a relatively small superimposed ac ripple. We also assume that all elements are ideal and that converters are 100% efficient.

## III. SYNTHESIS OF QUASI-RESONANT CONVERTERS

Consider, as an example, the inverse Sepic PWM converter in Fig. 1(a). We assume that the converter operates in the con-

Manuscript received September 20, 1989. This paper was presented at the 1989 Power Electronics Specialists Conference, Milwaukee, WI, June 26–29. This work was conducted under the Power Electronics Program supported by grants from Boeing Electronics Company, GTE Communications Systems Corporation, Rockwell Inc., and EG&G Almond Instruments, Inc.

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IEEE Log Number 9040466.

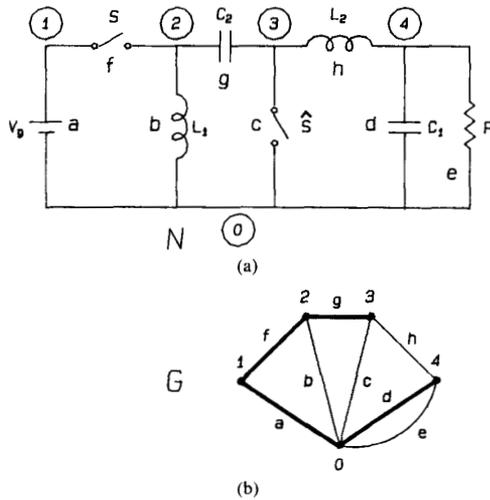


Fig. 1. PWM converter (a) and graph  $G$  for converter network  $N$  (b). Elements of tree  $\mathcal{T}_s$  are highlighted.

tinuous conduction mode—when the  $S$ -switch is on, the  $\hat{S}$ -switch is off and vice versa. If  $D$  is the duty ratio of the  $S$ -switch,  $M(D) = D/(1 - D)$  is the dc conversion ratio of the converter in Fig. 1(a).

The graph  $G$  of the converter network  $N$  is shown in Fig. 1(b). One possible tree ( $\mathcal{T}_s$ ) for the graph  $G$  consists of edges that correspond to  $V_g$ ,  $C_1$ ,  $C_2$ , and  $S$ . The tree-elements (branches) ( $a, d, f, g$ ) are highlighted in Fig. 1(b). The co-tree elements (chords) are the edges ( $b, c, e, h$ ) that correspond to  $L_1$ ,  $\hat{S}$ ,  $R$ , and  $L_2$ , respectively.

Suppose that a graph  $G^+$  is constructed by adding an extra edge ( $i$ ) to the graph  $G$ . Examples of four possible ways to add an edge are shown in Fig. 2. In cases (a) and (b), in which the added edge forms a cut-set or a loop by itself, the resulting graph  $G^+$  is separable and the network  $N^+$  is completely equivalent to the original network  $N$ . Cases (c) and (d) represent non-trivial modifications of the original network. In case (c), the edge ( $i$ ) is added between two nodes of the graph  $G$ . Note that the tree  $\mathcal{T}_s$  is also a tree for the graph  $G^+$ , while the added edge belongs to the co-tree of  $G^+$ . In case (d), a node of the original graph (node 2 in the example of Fig. 2(d)) is split into two nodes ( $2'$  and  $2''$ ). Edges incident to the node are also split so that some of them ( $b, f$ ) are incident to the node  $2'$ , while the remaining edge ( $g$ ) is incident to the node  $2''$ . Finally, the edge ( $i$ ) is added between the nodes  $2'$  and  $2''$ . In this case, elements of the original tree  $\mathcal{T}_s$  and the added edge form a tree for the resulting graph  $G^+$ .

In general, the two distinct positions of the added edge can be summarized as follows. Construct a graph  $G^+$  by adding an edge to a given graph  $G$ .

- If the edge is added between two existing nodes of the graph  $G$ , then every tree for the graph  $G$  is a tree for the graph  $G^+$  and the added edge is a chord;
- If a node of  $G$  is split into two nodes and the edge is added between them, then every tree for the graph  $G$  together with the added edge is a tree for the graph  $G^+$ .

If the added element is in the A-position, it must form a loop (the fundamental loop) with branches for any tree of the graph  $G$ . For example, in Fig. 2(c), the added edge ( $i$ ) forms the

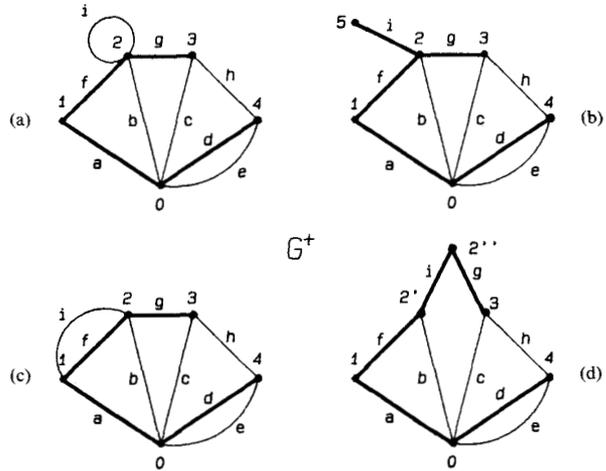


Fig. 2. Examples of four possible ways to add extra edge ( $i$ ) to graph  $G$  of Fig. 1(b).

fundamental loop with the branch ( $f$ ). If the added element is in the B-position, it forms a cut-set (the fundamental cut-set) with chords of the original network. For example, in Fig. 2(d), the added edge ( $i$ ) forms the fundamental cut-set with chords ( $c$ ) and ( $h$ ).

To construct a QR converter, we start with a parent PWM converter network  $N$  and examine the A- and the B-positions of added resonant elements. We cannot proceed, however, without being able to identify trees of the PWM network in terms of PWM elements: source  $V_g$ , load  $R$ , capacitors, inductors and the two switches— $S$  and  $\hat{S}$ . Property 1 of [9] gives a necessary topological characterization of PWM converters:

**Property 1:** For a PWM converter represented by its graph  $G$ .

- Voltage source  $V_g$ , capacitors and the switch  $S$  form a tree. This tree is denoted by  $\mathcal{T}_s$ ;
- Voltage source  $V_g$ , capacitors and the switch  $\hat{S}$  form a tree. This tree is denoted by  $\hat{\mathcal{T}}_s$ .

Now, positions of resonant elements can be examined with respect to the trees  $\mathcal{T}_s$  and  $\hat{\mathcal{T}}_s$ .

#### A. Synthesis of QR Converters with Two Resonant Elements

At least two resonant elements—a resonant capacitor ( $C_r$ ) and a resonant inductor ( $L_r$ )—must be added to a PWM converter network in order to construct a quasi-resonant converter.

Suppose that the resonant capacitor is added in the A-position. The condition that  $N^+ = N$  at dc is always fulfilled. Then, since the resonant capacitor is a chord with respect to the trees  $\mathcal{T}_s$  and  $\hat{\mathcal{T}}_s$ , it forms the fundamental loop with branches—a combination of capacitors, source  $V_g$ , and a switch ( $S$  or  $\hat{S}$ ). Therefore, there are three possibilities, which are detailed next.

The resonant capacitor  $C_r$  forms a loop with the following:

- a non-empty set of PWM capacitors;
- ( $CS$ ): the switch  $S$  and a possibly empty set of PWM capacitors;
- ( $C\hat{S}$ ): the switch  $\hat{S}$  and a possibly empty set of PWM capacitors.

Here, the term PWM capacitors denotes the capacitors in the PWM network together with the input voltage source  $V_g$ . In case 1, the added capacitor  $C_r$  cannot affect the waveforms in

the PWM converter. The remaining two A-positions are the  $ClS$  position and the  $Cl\hat{S}$  position. The notation indicates that the resonant element is a capacitor ( $C$ ) and that it is in a loop ( $l$ ) with a switch ( $S$  or  $\hat{S}$ ). From Property 1, it follows that cases 2 and 3 are equivalent. The distinction between the positions  $ClS$  and  $Cl\hat{S}$  becomes important only after the second resonant element is added.

In the inverse Sepic converter, for example, the resonant element can be added between any two nodes, so that there are 10 possible A-positions. Four of them (nodes 0-1, 0-4, 1-4, 2-3) are excluded because they belong to case 1, while the remaining positions (nodes 0-2, 0-3, 1-2, 1-3, 2-4, 3-4) belong to cases 2 and 3.

Suppose that the resonant capacitor is added in the B-position. Then, the resonant capacitor is a branch and it forms a cut-set with chords for the tree  $\mathcal{T}_s$  or  $\mathcal{T}_{\hat{s}}$ . In contrast to the A-positions, however, the condition that  $N^+ = N$  at dc may not be satisfied for every B-position of the resonant capacitor. In fact, this condition can be satisfied only if the resonant capacitor and a non-empty set of PWM capacitors (and no other elements) form a cut-set in  $G^+$ . Therefore, eligible B-positions are the following:

The resonant capacitor  $C_r$  forms a cut-set with a non-empty set of PWM capacitors and a cut-set with the following:

- 1) a non-empty set of PWM inductors and (possibly) load  $R$ ;
- 2) load  $R$ , a switch ( $S$  or  $\hat{S}$ ), and a possibly empty set of PWM inductors;
- 3) ( $CcS$ ): the switch  $S$  and a non-empty set of PWM inductors;
- 4) ( $Cc\hat{S}$ ): the switch  $\hat{S}$  and a non-empty set of PWM inductors.

In case 1, the insertion of  $C_r$  does not affect waveforms in the PWM converter because the PWM inductors and the load  $R$  carry dc currents only. Case 2 implies that the voltage across the resonant capacitor contributes to the output voltage, which contradicts the basic requirement that the output voltage ripple is small. The remaining two B-positions are  $CcS$  and  $Cc\hat{S}$ , where  $c$  stands for cut-set.

In the example of the inverse Sepic converter, there are only two eligible B-positions of the resonant capacitor—in series with one of the two capacitors— $C_1$  or  $C_2$ . The position in series with  $C_1$  is excluded because it belongs to case 1, so that the only valid B-position is in series with the PWM capacitor  $C_2$ . In most cases, the position  $CcS$  or the position  $Cc\hat{S}$  will imply that the resonant capacitor is placed in series with a single capacitor in the PWM network. Then, inserting the resonant capacitor is equivalent to reducing the value of the PWM capacitor.

An analysis analogous to the one completed for possible positions of the resonant capacitor could be carried out for the resonant inductor as well. Instead, we arrive at possible positions of the resonant inductor by duality:

The resonant inductor  $L_r$  can be in the following:

- 1) ( $LcS, Lc\hat{S}$ ): a cut-set with a switch ( $S$  or  $\hat{S}$ ) and a possibly empty set of PWM inductors;
- 2) ( $LlS, Ll\hat{S}$ ): a loop with a non-empty set of PWM inductors, and in a loop with a switch ( $S$  or  $\hat{S}$ ) and a non-empty set of PWM capacitors.

Following the adopted notation, the two B-positions are denoted by  $LcS$  and  $Lc\hat{S}$ , while the two A-positions are denoted by  $LlS$  and  $Ll\hat{S}$ .

Four positions of the resonant capacitor and four positions of the resonant inductor can be combined in up to 16 ways. After non-feasible and redundant combinations are eliminated, we ar-

	$LcS$	$Lc\hat{S}$	$LlS$	$Ll\hat{S}$
$ClS$	×	ZV	ZV-QSW	
$Cl\hat{S}$	ZC	×		
$CcS$	ZC-QSW		×	$Q_n$ -PWM
$Cc\hat{S}$			$Q_f$ -PWM	×

Fig. 3. Complete set of QR classes with two resonant elements.

rive at the complete set of distinct classes of QR converters with two resonant elements. Topological definitions for the three pairs of dual classes follow from Fig. 3.

Zero-current (ZC) [1], zero-voltage (ZV) [3], zero-current quasi-square-wave (ZC-QSW) and zero-voltage quasi-square-wave (ZV-QSW) [5] are known QR classes. Proper topological definitions were given only for the ZC and ZV classes in [8]. Here, in addition to topological definitions and systematic classification of all known QR classes, two new QR classes named on-resonant and off-resonant quasi-PWM ( $Q_n$ -PWM and  $Q_f$ -PWM) are uncovered and pointed out in Fig. 3.

The circuit examples shown in Fig. 4, are derived from the inverse Sepic PWM converter. They illustrate loops and cut-sets in the topological definitions of QR converters with two resonant elements. The two  $Q$ -PWM converters have exactly the same topology as the parent PWM converter. This is a result of the fact that the PWM capacitor in series with the resonant capacitor and the PWM inductor in parallel with the resonant inductor are simply absorbed. It is interesting to note that a  $Q$ -PWM converter can also be viewed as a PWM converter operating simultaneously in the discontinuous inductor current mode (DICM) and a discontinuous capacitor voltage mode (DCVM) [13]. In the same manner, QSW converters can be considered as PWM converters operating in DICM or in DCVM to which a single resonant element is added. In the sense of this interpretation, only ZV and ZC converters would represent true quasi-resonant converters with two resonant elements.

### B. Topological Variations

For a given QR class, positions of  $L_r$  and  $C_r$  within a PWM converter are not unique. However, switch voltage and current waveforms, as well as dc characteristics, are the same for all topological variations. The number of topological variations is largest in the ZC and ZV classes because the requirement that  $N^+ = N$  at dc imposes no restrictions on positions of the resonant elements. The number of variations is smallest in the two  $Q$ -PWM classes. For example, the two inverse Sepic  $Q$ -PWM converters in Fig. 4(e)-(f) are unique. Resonant elements can also be distributed through various positions encompassed by the topological definitions without affecting conversion properties and switch waveforms.

### C. Degenerate QR Classes with Two Resonant Elements

In the preceding discussion, positions of the two resonant elements were examined with respect to the trees of the PWM par-

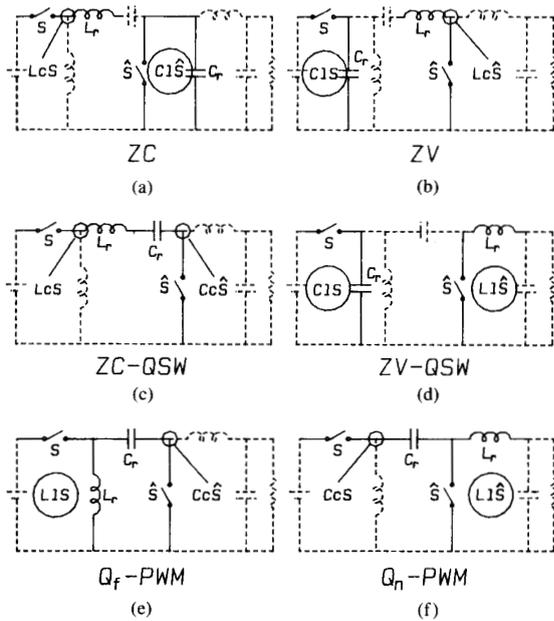


Fig. 4. Examples of QR converters derived from inverse Sepic converter.

ent network. However, in the process of adding the resonant elements, the parent network for the second resonant element is changed—the original tree or the original co-tree is augmented by the first resonant element.

Suppose that the resonant inductor is first added in the B-position ( $LcS$  or  $Lc\hat{S}$ ). Then, in addition to  $CIS$  and  $CIS\hat{S}$ , there exists another A-position for the resonant capacitor.

( $CIL$ ):  $C_r$  is in a loop with the resonant inductor  $L_r$  and a possibly empty set of PWM capacitors. An example of the inverse Sepic converter with resonant elements added in the  $CIL$  position is shown in Fig. 5(a).

Similarly, if the resonant capacitor is first added in the A-position ( $CIS$  or  $CIS\hat{S}$ ), one more B-position for the resonant inductor is possible, in addition to  $LcS$  and  $Lc\hat{S}$ .

( $LcC$ ):  $L_r$  is in a cut-set with the resonant capacitor  $C_r$  and a possibly empty set of PWM inductors.

An example of the inverse Sepic  $LcC$ -converters is shown in Fig. 5(b). Apparently, the dual positions  $CIL$  and  $LcC$  define yet another pair of QR networks. It can be shown that no operating modes with zero-voltage/zero-current transitions are feasible in these two degenerate QR classes unless both  $S$  and  $\hat{S}$  are active (controllable) switches. Then, the  $CIL$ -class is of the zero-voltage type while the  $LcC$ -class is of the zero-current type.

#### D. Synthesis of More Complex QR Converters

Classes of QR converters with more than two resonant elements can be constructed recursively, by adding a single resonant element to a previously defined QR network. Again, for the additional resonant element, the A-position and the B-position can be examined with respect to the known trees  $\hat{\mathcal{T}}_s^+$  and  $\hat{\mathcal{T}}_{\hat{s}}^+$  of the parent QR converter.

Take, as an example, the ZV class and add a new resonant capacitor  $C_{r1}$ . The tree  $\hat{\mathcal{T}}_s^+$  (or  $\hat{\mathcal{T}}_{\hat{s}}^+$ ) for the parent ZV network contains the  $S$ -switch (or the  $\hat{S}$ -switch), PWM capacitors and

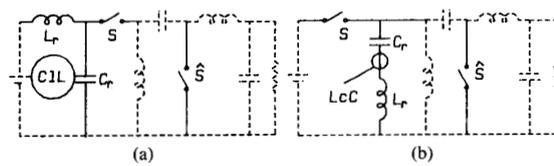


Fig. 5. Examples of  $CIL$  (a) and  $LcC$  (b) QR converters.

the resonant inductor  $L_r$ , while the corresponding co-tree contains the  $\hat{S}$ -switch (or the  $S$ -switch), PWM inductors, load  $R$ , and the resonant capacitor  $C_r$ . Therefore, possible A-positions of the resonant capacitor  $C_{r1}$  are  $CIS$  and  $CIL$ , while possible B-positions are  $CcS$  and  $Cc\hat{S}$ .

In general, simplicity of the converter network is beneficial from the standpoints of efficiency, size, weight and cost trade-offs. Also, analysis and consequently design of more complex QR converters are inevitably more involved. Thus, introduction and utilization of more complex resonant networks must be well motivated and justified.

Among QR converters defined from the ZV parent class, it is easy to recognize that the  $CIS$  position of the additional resonant capacitor  $C_{r1}$  defines the class of zero-voltage multi-resonant converters [7]. The more complex resonant network in the ZV-MR converters is justified by the fact that all major circuit parasitics can be absorbed by the resonant elements.

#### E. Switch Realizations

Operating modes and properties of QR converters can be substantially different for different realizations of the switches, as evident from the examples of the half-wave and the full-wave modes of ZC and ZV converters [8]. Possible realizations of the two switches in a quasi-resonant converter are summarized in Fig. 6.

In addition to the conventional realization (one controllable switch, one rectifier diode), both switches can be controllable. The technique of synchronous rectification in which controllable switches are used as rectifiers is proposed for PWM converters primarily as a means of reducing the rectifier conduction losses. In classes of QR converters, however, a controllable rectifier also yields a number of novel operating modes and, most importantly, the possibility of constant-frequency control [12].

A total of five distinct combinations can be inferred from the diagram of possible switch realizations:

- CD: current-bidirectional + diode;
- VD: voltage-bidirectional + diode;
- CC: current-bidirectional + current-bidirectional;
- VV: voltage-bidirectional + voltage-bidirectional;
- CV: current-bidirectional + voltage-bidirectional.

#### F. Operating States and Operating Modes

For every possible position of the switches, a switched-mode converter reduces a linear, time-variant network or, as we shall say from now on, the converter is in one of its operating states. Then, an operating mode can be defined as a periodic sequence of operating states. It is convenient to denote the operating states of a converter by the position (on = 1, off = 0) of the two switches— $S$  and  $\hat{S}$ . For example, the continuous conduction mode of PWM converters can be represented by a periodic se-

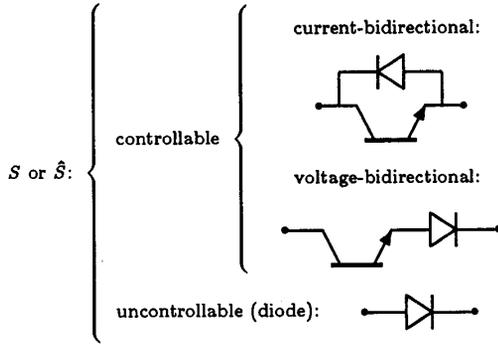


Fig. 6. Realizations of two switches in quasi-resonant converters.

quence of two operating states:

$$\dots \rightarrow \boxed{1-0} \rightarrow \boxed{0-1} \rightarrow \dots \quad (1)$$

In the (1-0)-state, the  $S$ -switch is on, and the  $\hat{S}$ -switch is off. At the transition from the (1-0)-state to the (0-1) state, both switches change their positions. In addition to the states (1-0) and (0-1), two more states are possible: the state when both switches are on, and the state when both switches are off. For a given QR topology and a given switch realization, the periodic sequence of operating states is not unique and many operating modes exist. Thus, in contrast to PWM converters where most of the operating characteristics can be deduced from the topology alone, a study of possible operating modes is necessary in order to fully characterize various QR topologies. Among numerous possible operating modes, of most practical interest are those with all lossless (zero-voltage or zero-current) switching transitions.

#### IV. A GENERAL DC MODEL

A unifying analysis method that links properties of a QR converter to properties of its PWM parent was devised in [8], where it was applied to the ZC and ZV classes. The purpose of this section is to show how the same analysis method is applicable whenever the network of a PWM-derived converter is the same as the network of the PWM parent at dc, and to derive a general dc model for QR converters.

The dc model of the PWM parent converter is shown in Fig. 7(a). The dc conversion ratio  $\mathfrak{M}$  is

$$\mathfrak{M} \equiv \frac{V_{\text{out}}}{V_g} = M(D), \quad (2)$$

where  $D$  is the duty ratio of the  $S$ -switch and  $M(D)$  is the well-known conversion-ratio function. For example,  $M(D) = D$  for the buck converter,  $1/(1-D)$  for the boost converter,  $D/(1-D)$  for the buck-boost, Ćuk, Sepic converters, etc. In general, the dc model of the PWM parent follows from the state-space averaging method [10].

In [8] it was shown that the two switches,  $S$  and  $\hat{S}$ , form a loop with a non-empty set of PWM capacitors and a cut-set with a non-empty set of PWM inductors in every PWM converter. One may also note that both conclusions follow immediately from Property 1. Thus, the environment for the two switches in a PWM converter is shown in Fig. 8. The sum of all voltages in the loop with the switches is denoted by  $v_{\text{off}}$ , while the sum of all currents in the cut-set with the switches is denoted by  $i_{\text{on}}$ .

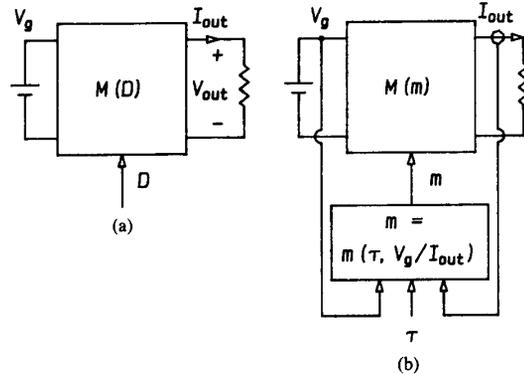


Fig. 7. DC model of PWM parent (a) and DC model of quasi-resonant converter (b).

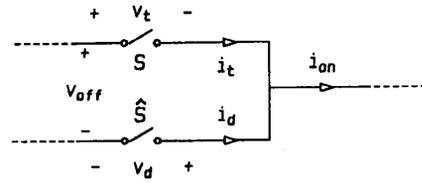


Fig. 8. Environment for switches in PWM converter.

For example, in the inverse Sepic converter of Fig. 1(a),  $S$ ,  $\hat{S}$ ,  $V_g$ , and  $C_2$  form a loop, while  $S$ ,  $\hat{S}$ , and  $L_1$ , and  $L_2$  form a cut-set, so that

$$v_{\text{off}} = V_g + V_{C_2}, \quad i_{\text{on}} = I_{L_1} + I_{L_2}. \quad (3)$$

Reference orientations for voltages and currents are chosen so that averages of  $v_{\text{off}}$  and  $i_{\text{on}}$  are always positive quantities. Under the small-ripple assumption,  $v_{\text{off}}$  and  $i_{\text{on}}$  are essentially dc quantities.

Suppose that the PWM parent is used to derive a quasi-resonant converter. Since the dc networks are the same, for the average (dc) values of voltages and currents in Fig. 8, one can write

$$\bar{v}_t + \bar{v}_d = \bar{v}_{\text{off}} \equiv V_{\text{off}}, \quad (4)$$

and

$$\bar{i}_t + \bar{i}_d = \bar{i}_{\text{on}} \equiv I_{\text{on}}. \quad (5)$$

Here,  $v_{\text{off}}$  and  $i_{\text{on}}$  need not be dc quantities. In fact, it can be shown that the resonant capacitor in the  $CcS$  position or in the  $Cc\hat{S}$  position contributes to  $v_{\text{off}}$ , while the resonant inductor in the  $LlS$  position or in the  $Ll\hat{S}$  position contributes to  $i_{\text{on}}$ . Therefore, in a QR converter,  $v_{\text{off}}$  or  $i_{\text{on}}$  or both waveforms can exhibit substantial variations over a single switching cycle.

The assumption that there are no losses in the converter yield

$$\bar{v}_t \bar{i}_t = \bar{v}_d \bar{i}_d. \quad (6)$$

Define the equivalent duty ratio  $m$  by

$$m \equiv \frac{\bar{v}_d}{V_{\text{off}}} = \frac{\bar{i}_t}{I_{\text{on}}}. \quad (7)$$

From (4)–(6), it is easy to verify that the two expressions for  $m$  are equivalent. In a PWM converter the equivalent duty ratio  $m$  reduces to the duty ratio  $D$  of the  $s$ -switch.



QR Class	State Equations	State	Conditions
ZV	$\frac{dv_t}{d\theta} = \delta - i_t - i_d$ $\frac{di_d}{d\theta} = v_t + v_d - 1$		
ZV-QSW	$\frac{dv_d}{d\theta} = i_t + i_d - i_{on}$ $\frac{di_{on}}{d\theta} = v_d - m$ $v_t + v_d = 1$	0-0	$i_t = i_d = 0$
Q <sub>n</sub> -PWM	$\frac{dv_{off}}{d\theta} = m\delta - i_t$ $\frac{di_{on}}{d\theta} = v_d - m$ $v_{off} = v_t + v_d$ $i_{on} = i_t + i_d$	0-1	$i_t = v_d = 0$
		1-0	$v_t = i_d = 0$
		1-1	$v_t = v_d = 0$
ZV-MR	$\frac{dv_t}{d\theta} = i_r - i_t$ $x \frac{dv_d}{d\theta} = i_r + i_d - \delta$ $\frac{di_r}{d\theta} = 1 - v_t - v_d$		

Fig. 10. State equations for four classes of QR converters together with constraints imposed by switches in each operating state.

switching of a voltage-bidirectional switch is not feasible because the diode in series with the transistor prevents the resonant discharge of the transistor junction capacitance.

#### A. Operating States and State Equations

A steady-state analysis of a QR class starts with a description of up to four possible operating states. The standard simplifying assumptions are that the converter is lossless and that PWM inductors and PWM capacitors can be taken as ideal current and voltage sources, respectively. Thus, the order of the state description is at most equal to the number of added resonant elements. Equations for the four selected classes are shown in Fig. 10, together with the constraints imposed by the positions of the switches in each operating state. The notation for switch voltages and currents is as shown in Fig. 8. For multi-resonant converters, an additional parameter is the ratio of the two resonant capacitors:  $C_r$  in the loop with the  $S$ -switch and  $C_{r1}$  in the loop with the  $\hat{S}$ -switch,

$$x \equiv \frac{C_{r1}}{C_r} \quad (19)$$

From Fig. 10, state trajectories with arbitrary initial conditions can be found in a straightforward manner. It is worth noting that the state equations are written without reference to any particular PWM parent or any particular topological variation. This is a direct consequence of the topological definitions and properties derived by the synthesis method.

#### B. Operating Modes

Most interesting operating modes in which all transitions occur at zero voltage or at zero current are summarized in Fig. 11. Modes are denoted by Roman numbers with subscripts representing the switch realization.

QR Class	Modes	Sequence of Operating States
ZV	$I_{CD}$	0-0 → 0-1 → 1-1 → 1-0
	$II_{CC}$	1-1 → 0-1 → 1-1 → 1-0
ZV-QSW	$I_{CD,CC}$	0-0 → 1-0 → 0-0 → 0-1
Q <sub>n</sub> -PWM	$I_{CD}$	1-0 → 1-1 → 0-1 → 0-0
ZV-MR	$I_{CD,CC}$	1-1 → 1-0 → 0-0 → 0-1
	$II_{CD,CC}$	1-1 → 1-0 → 0-0 → 1-0
	$III_{CD,CC}$	1-1 → 0-1 → 0-0 → 0-1
	$IV_{CC}$	1-1 → 0-1 → 1-1 → 1-0

Fig. 11. Operating modes of selected QR classes.

For a given converter topology, state trajectories and the sequence of operating states are sufficient for a qualitative understanding of the circuit operation. Qualitative descriptions of the modes in Fig. 11 can be found elsewhere: mode  $I_{CD}$  of ZV converters is well known as the half-wave mode [3]; mode  $I_{CD}$  of ZV-QSW converters is described in [6], while ZV-MR converters in CD modes are described in [7]; various CC modes are studied in [12]; finally, mode  $I_{CD}$  of Q<sub>n</sub>-PWM converters is discussed in [13].

Experimental QR buck converters are shown in Fig. 12. Waveforms recorded in various operating modes are shown in Fig. 13. Transistor control signal  $p_t$  and  $p_d$  illustrate the control strategies for various modes. ZV, ZV-QSW, and ZV-MR converters in CD modes are controlled by varying the switching frequency, while the off-time of the  $S$ -switch's transistor is constant. The Q<sub>n</sub>-PWM converter is controlled just as PWM converters—by varying the duty ratio of the  $S$ -switch. In CC modes, the control variable is the control duty ratio  $D_c$ , defined as the interval between two controllable transitions relative to the switching period. Thus, in the ZV converter operating in mode  $II_{CC}$ ,  $D_c T$  is the interval between the  $\hat{S}$ -switch turn-on and the  $S$ -switch turn-off. In ZV-QSW and ZV-MR converters,  $D_c T$  is the interval between the  $\hat{S}$ -switch turn-off and the  $S$ -switch turn-off.

#### C. Equivalent Duty Ratio

The computation of the equivalent duty ratio as a function of the appropriate control variable and the normalized load  $\delta$  requires two steps:

- 1) A steady-state solution for state trajectories is found by equating initial conditions at the beginning of a switching cycle to the conditions at the end of a switching cycle.
- 2) Once the steady-state solution is found for the switch waveform, the equivalent duty ratio is determined by definition in (7).

Unfortunately, in most cases, it is not possible to find a closed-form solution for  $m(\tau, \delta)$ . Details of the computation for various operating modes can be found in [11].

#### D. Operating Regions and DC Characteristics

For a given operating modes, the operating region is a portion of the normalized load-to-output plane ( $m$ -versus- $\delta$  plane) in which a steady-state solution for state trajectories can be found.

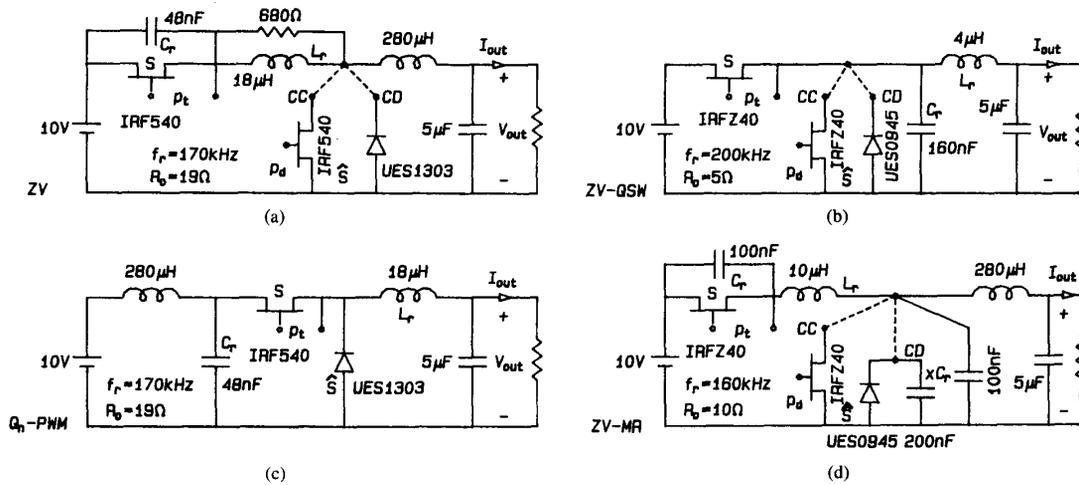


Fig. 12. Experimental QR buck converters.

The operating regions (dotted areas) for the classes and modes under study are shown in Fig. 14. Modes I, II, and III of ZV-MR converters are combined because the control strategy is uniform and because DC characteristics are continuous over the mode boundaries. For all constant-frequency modes, normalized frequency  $f$  is a varying parameter.

Zero-voltage switching of conventional ZV converters is lost if the output current is lower than  $V_g/R_o$ . This well-known result is shown in Fig. 14(a)—in the load direction, the operating region is bounded from below by the curve  $\delta = 1$ . Another known result is that the range of attainable conversion ratios is restricted for ZV-QSW converters operating in mode  $I_{CD}$  [6]. Indeed, from Fig. 9(c), it follows that the equivalent duty ratios in the range ( $0 < m < 0.5$ ) are not accessible.

Boundaries of the operating regions are of prime design concern. For a given QR converter (given PWM parent, class, operating mode,  $R_o$  and  $f_r$ ), any given set of design specifications (the range of input voltages, the range of output voltages and the range of load currents) can be translated into the normalized load-to-output plane and compared to the corresponding available operating region of Fig. 14. Conversely, plots in Fig. 14 can be used to select parameters  $R_o$ ,  $f_r$ , and consequently values of resonant elements, so that the required range of voltages and load currents fits into the available operating region.

DC characteristics in the normalized load-to-output plane are shown in Fig. 15.

## VII. A COMPARISON OF QR CONVERTERS

The existence of numerous QR classes and operating modes poses a problem of how to select and design a converter best suited for a given application. This section is aimed toward better understanding of relative merits of selected QR topologies and related design trade-offs.

### A. Switching Transitions and Sensitivity to Circuit Parasitics

The major motivation behind introduction of QR converters is the reduction in switching losses associated with switching transitions and parasitic elements in the converter circuit. A summary of the types of switching transitions is shown in Fig.

16 for the QR classes studied in Section V and for the dual classes. Entries zv and zc denote switching transitions at zero voltages and zero current, respectively. If a switch is turned on at zero voltage, then the same switch is turned off at zero current in the dual converter. Thus, transitions for converters in the  $Q_n$ -PWM and  $Q_f$ -PWM classes are identical, while the  $S$ -switch and the  $\hat{S}$ -switch have interchanged types of transitions in the ZV and ZC classes. Finally, ZV-QSW/ZC-QSW and likewise ZV-MR/ZC-MR have complementary sets of transitions.

Fig. 16 also summarizes the sensitivity of QR topologies to major circuit parasitic reactances: the  $S$ -switch junction capacitance  $C_s$ , the  $\hat{S}$ -switch junction capacitance  $C_d$  and the parasitic inductance  $L_p$  distributed in the loop with the switches. If the position of the parasitic element is encompassed by the topological definition of a QR class, switching loss mechanisms associated with the element are eliminated. The parasitic element can be absorbed by the resonant element or even used alone as the resonant element.

With respect to the type of switching transitions and sensitivity to the parasitics, ZV-MR topologies are clearly superior to other QR converters. ZV-QSW topologies also exhibit all zero-voltage transitions, but switching losses associated with the parasitic inductance  $L_p$  in the loop with the switches are not eliminated. In converters with an isolation transformer, leakage inductance of the transformer appears in the loop with the switches, so that the ZV-QSW class and other classes sensitive to  $L_p$  may be suitable for very high-frequency operation only in transformerless applications.

### B. Switch Stresses and Design Trade-Offs

In QR converters, switches are exposed to higher stresses than in parent PWM topologies. Thus, if the same power is processed, switching devices with substantially higher voltage and/or current ratings are necessary in the QR topology. This is one of the main disadvantages of QR converters. Higher current stresses also indicate that conduction losses are inevitably higher in QR topologies.

Switch stresses are normalized to ideal stresses in the PWM

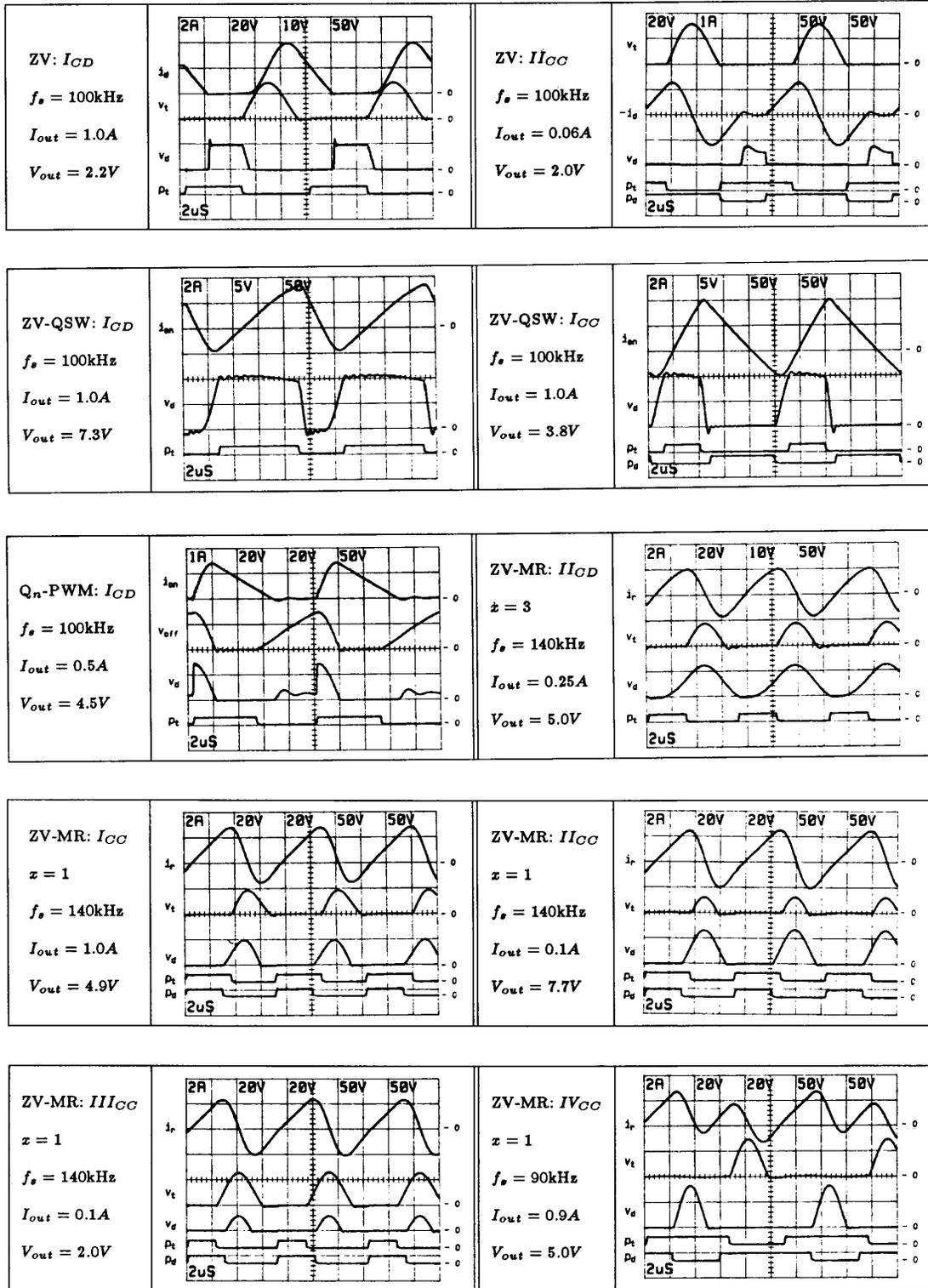


Fig. 13. Waveforms recorded in experimental QR buck converters. Operating modes and operating conditions are indicated.

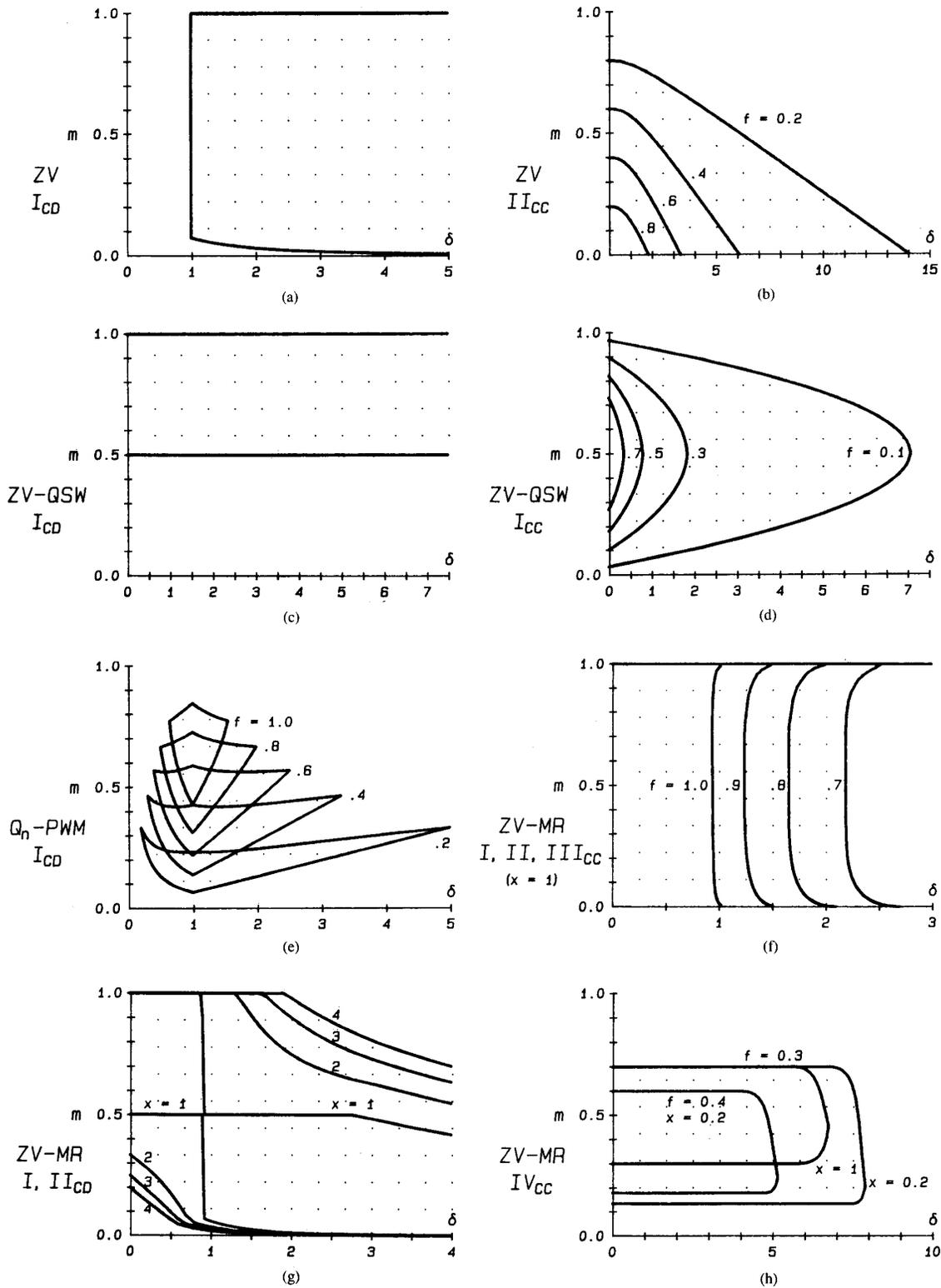


Fig. 14. Operating regions of selected classes and operating modes of QR converters.

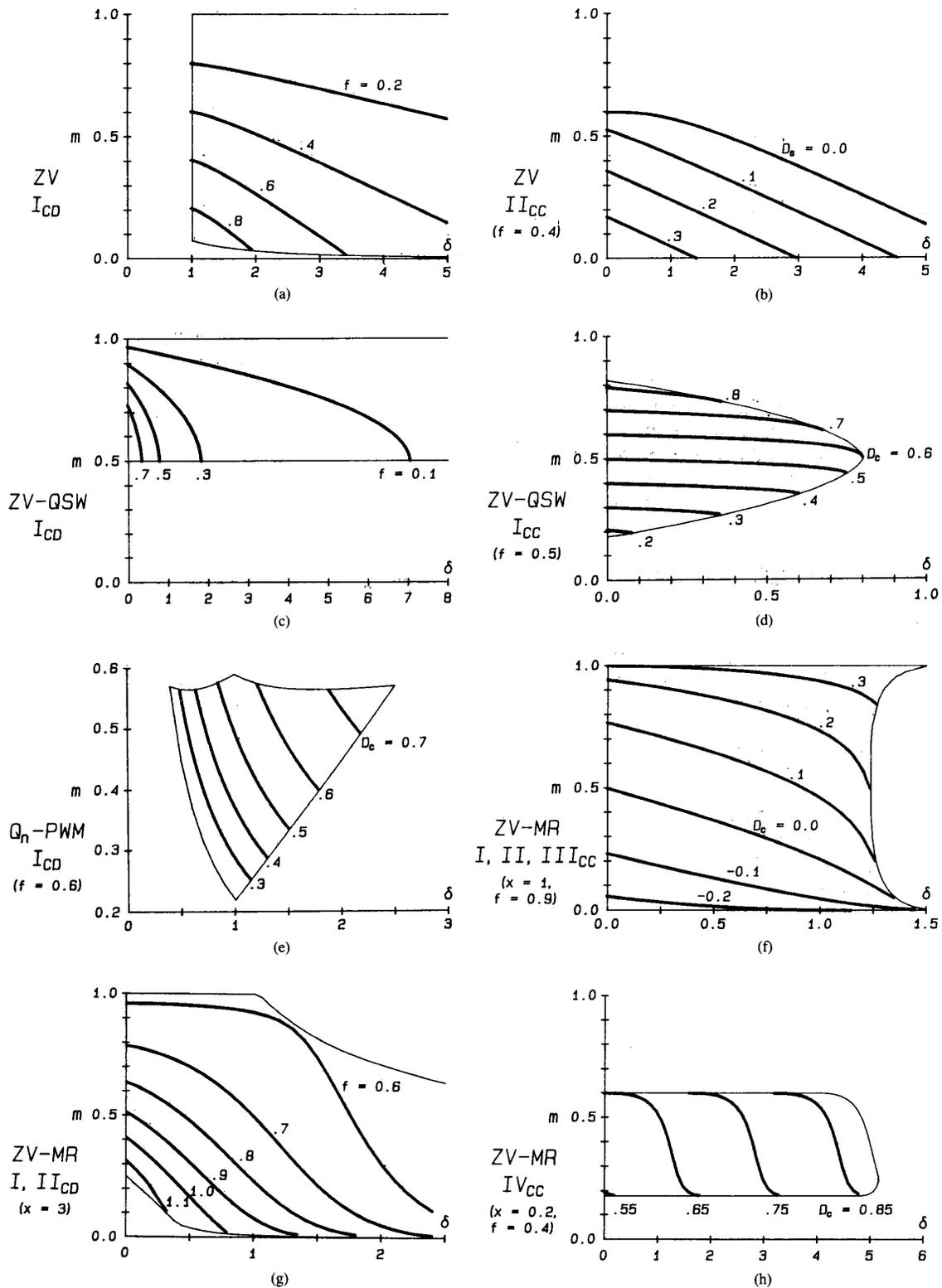


Fig. 15. DC characteristics of selected classes and operating modes of QR converters.

QR Class	Switching Transition				Topology		
	<i>S</i> -switch		$\hat{S}$ -switch		Insensitive to:		
	1→0	0→1	1→0	0→1	$L_p$	$C_t$	$C_d$
ZV	zv	zv	zc	zc	✓	✓	–
ZC	zc	zc	zv	zv	✓	–	✓
ZV-QSW	zv	zv	zv	zv	–	✓	✓
ZC-QSW	zc	zc	zc	zc	✓	–	–
$Q_n$ -PWM	zc	zv	zv	zc	–	–	–
$Q_f$ -PWM	zc	zv	zv	zc	–	–	–
ZV-MR	zv	zv	zv	zv	✓	✓	✓
ZC-MR	zc	zc	zc	zc	✓	–	–

Fig. 16. Comparison of QR converters with respect to type of switching transitions and sensitivity to major parasitic elements.

parent: the voltage stress is normalized to  $V_{off}$ , while the current stress is normalized to  $I_{on}$  at the maximum output current. Analytical and/or numerical results are summarized in Fig. 17 for the classes and operating modes under study. The comparison results are quite general because they do not refer to any specific converter topology.

In CD models, with the exception of the  $Q_n$ -PWM class, frequency  $f$  is the control variable. The only parameter that can be selected in the design in the characteristic impedance  $R_o$  or, equivalently, the maximum normalized current  $\delta_{max}$ . In the case of ZV-MR converters, an additional design parameter is the ratio  $x$  of the resonant capacitors. On the other hand, in CC modes, the converters are controlled at constant switching frequency, so that the normalized frequency  $f$  is an additional design parameter. As shown in Fig. 14, the operating regions in the CC modes are bounded from above in the load direction. In general, selecting a lower value for  $\delta_{max}$  than the value determined by the boundary of the operating region does not contribute to lower voltage stresses, while current stresses and conduction losses are inevitably higher. Therefore,  $\delta_{max}$  for CC modes is always assumed to be determined by the boundary of the operating region, while the design trade-offs are discussed with respect to the parameter  $f$ .

#### ZV: Mode $I_{CD}$

Mode  $I_{CD}$  is the well-known half-wave mode of zero-voltage converters. A ZV converter in mode  $I_{CD}$  has to be designed for a non-zero minimum output current:

$$\delta_{min} = 1. \quad (20)$$

The transistor voltage stress is proportional to the required load range, as indicated in Fig. 17. Other stresses are relatively low.

#### ZV: Mode $II_{CC}$

The operating region is restricted in the  $m$  direction. For zero load,

$$m < 1 - f. \quad (21)$$

If the maximum required equivalent duty ratio  $m^*$  is specified, the normalized frequency  $f$  can be selected anywhere in the range

$$0 < f < 1 - m^*. \quad (22)$$

A lower  $f$  contributes to lower current but also to higher voltage stresses. Thus, within the limits indicated in Fig. 17, parameter  $f$  can be selected to control the trade-off between the current and the voltage stress. Regardless of the choice for  $f$ , the available load range is unlimited because operation at zero load is possible.

#### ZV-QSW: Mode $I_{CD}$

The main advantage of ZV-QSW converters is that the voltage stress is equal to 1, i.e., equal to the voltage stress in the PWM parent. A serious limitation for the CD mode is that its operating region is restricted to equivalent duty ratios in the range  $0.5 < m < 1$ . The operating region is unbounded in the load direction and it includes the zero-load axis, so that  $\delta_{max}$  is a free design parameter. As shown in Fig. 17, larger  $\delta_{max}$  contributes to lower current stresses. However, for a given load range, larger  $\delta_{max}$  also contributes to a wider frequency range. The required frequency range can be estimated from the dc characteristics in Fig. 15(c).

#### ZV-QSW: Mode $I_{CC}$

The operating region in the CC mode is symmetrical around  $m = 0.5$ . In addition to the constant-frequency control, this is another advantage over the conventional switch realization. Three design considerations are relevant for the choice of the normalized frequency  $f$ . For lower  $f$ : the range of attainable conversion ratios is wider; current stresses are lower; the transition states (the (0-0)-states) are relatively shorter. If the lengths of the transition states become comparable to the switching times of utilized semiconductor devices, benefits of the zero-voltage switching are lost. Thus, the choice of  $f$  will be determined by the trade-off between the current stresses and the increased switching losses. As the normalized frequency  $f$  gets lower, the distinction between mode  $I_{CC}$  and the continuous conduction mode of the PWM parent gradually disappears.

#### $Q_n$ -PWM: Mode $I_{CD}$

A major disadvantage of the  $Q_n$ -PWM converters is that the operating region (Fig. 14(e)) is restricted to a relatively small portion of the load-to-output plane. Both the range of attainable conversion ratios and the load range are limited. Frequency  $f$  can be selected to adjust the available operating region to design specifications. However, one note that the voltage stress is higher for lower  $f$ , as indicated in Fig. 17.

A potential advantage of  $Q_n$ -PWM converters is that the constant-frequency, variable-duty-ratio control is possible with a single active (not necessarily two-quadrant) switch.

#### ZV-MR: Modes $I, II_{CD}$

The operating region shown in Fig. 14(g) includes the zero-load axis, but not for all equivalent duty ratios. At zero load, the theoretical minimum for the equivalent duty ratio,

$$m_{min}(\delta = 0) = \frac{1}{1 + x}, \quad (23)$$

Class	Mode	Peak Voltage Stress		Peak Current Stress	
		$S$	$\hat{S}$	$S$	$\hat{S}$
ZV	$I_{CD}$	$\delta_{max} + 1$	1	1	2
	$II_{OO}$	$\rightarrow 2 \quad (f \rightarrow 1 - m^*)$ $\rightarrow \infty \quad (f \rightarrow 0)$	1	$\rightarrow \infty \quad (f \rightarrow 1 - m^*)$ $\rightarrow 2 \quad (f \rightarrow 0)$	
ZV-QSW	$I_{CD}$	1		$1 + \sqrt{1 + \frac{3\pi}{4\delta_{max}}}$	
	$I_{CC}$	1		6.2 ( $f = 0.9$ ) 4.2 ( $f = 0.7$ ) 3.2 ( $f = 0.5$ ) $\rightarrow 2.0 \quad (f \rightarrow 0)$	
Q <sub>n</sub> -PWM	$I_{CD}$	1.9 ( $f = 1.0$ ) 2.6 ( $f = 0.8$ ) 3.6 ( $f = 0.6$ ) 5.1 ( $f = 0.4$ ) 8.3 ( $f = 0.2$ )		$\approx 2$	
ZV-MR	$I, II_{CD}$ ( $x \geq 1$ )	$\sqrt{x} + \frac{\delta_{max}}{1+x} \left[ \pi - \arctan \sqrt{x^2 - 1} + \sqrt{x(x-1)} \right]$ $\approx \sqrt{x} + \delta_{max}$ for $x > 2$	2	$1 + \frac{\sqrt{x}}{\delta_{max}}$	$\approx 2 + \frac{\sqrt{x-1}}{\delta_{max}}$
	$I, II, III_{OO}$ ( $x = 1$ )	2.3 ( $f = 1.0$ ) 2.7 ( $f = 0.9$ ) 3.2 ( $f = 0.8$ ) 3.8 ( $f = 0.7$ ) 4.5 ( $f = 0.6$ )		2.4 ( $f = 1.0$ ) 2.1 ( $f = 0.9$ ) 1.9 ( $f = 0.8$ ) 1.7 ( $f = 0.7$ ) 1.6 ( $f = 0.6$ )	
	$IV_{OO}$ ( $x = 1$ )	$\rightarrow 2.0 \quad (f \rightarrow 0.5)$ 3.0 ( $f = 0.45$ ) 4.0 ( $f = 0.40$ ) 6.7 ( $f = 0.30$ ) $\rightarrow \infty \quad (f \rightarrow 0)$		$\rightarrow \infty \quad (f \rightarrow 0.5)$ 2.2 ( $f = 0.45$ ) 2.1 ( $f = 0.40$ ) 2.0 ( $f = 0.30$ ) $\rightarrow 2.0 \quad (f \rightarrow 0)$	

Fig. 17. Switch stresses in selected QR classes and operating modes. Stresses are normalized to ideal stresses in PWM parent converter.

is attained for the maximum switching frequency,

$$f_{max} = f(\delta = 0, m = m_{min}) = \sqrt{\frac{1+x}{x}} \quad (24)$$

As the load is increased, the lower limit for  $m$  decreases toward zero but the upper limit for  $m$  starts to decrease from 1 toward zero. As shown in Fig. 14(g), the operating region can be expanded by increasing the ratio  $x$  of the resonant capacitors. However, as evident from the analytical results in Fig. 17, voltage and current stresses also increase with  $x$ . Therefore, a min-

imum value for  $x$  for which the available operating region is sufficiently large should be selected in the design. Then,  $\delta_{max}$  can be used to achieve a favorable trade-off between voltage and current stresses.

#### ZV-MR: Modes I, II, III<sub>CC</sub>

In addition to the constant-frequency control, another advantage of ZV-MR converters in CC modes is that the full range of equivalent duty ratios ( $0 < m < 1$ ) is available from no load to full load, provided that

$$f < \min \left( 1, \frac{1}{\sqrt{x}} \right). \quad (25)$$

The results in Fig. 17 are computed for  $x = 1$ . Stresses are similar to stresses in the CD modes. Parameter  $f$  affects the trade-off between voltage and current stresses. In [12], a design of a practical constant-frequency ZV-MR buck converter is discussed in detail.

#### ZV-MR: Mode IV<sub>CC</sub>

The operating region is restricted in the  $m$  direction:

$$\sqrt{x}f < m < 1 - f, \quad (26)$$

while the available load range is unlimited (the zero-load axis is included in the operating region). The stresses are higher than in other ZV-MR modes, as shown in Fig. 17 for  $x = 1$ . A lower  $x$  contributes to a lower limit on the equivalent duty ratio, but also to even higher  $\hat{S}$ -switch voltage stress.

### VIII. CONCLUSION

Quasi-resonant (QR) converters are dc-to-dc converters obtained by adding resonant elements to a parent PWM converter. Topological properties of the PWM network are used to examine and classify all possible positions of the added resonant elements. The synthesis method yields two results: first, all possible QR topologies are constructed systematically, without resorting to any intuitively justified circuit manipulations; second, the topological properties necessary for the analysis of QR converters follow directly from the synthesis method.

It is shown that there are six classes of QR converters with two resonant elements, including two novel classes. More complex QR converters are derived by applying the synthesis method recursively, starting from a previously defined QR network.

The systematic synthesis of QR topologies is augmented by a study of possible switch realizations. Just as suggested by the technique of synchronous rectification for PWM converters, a controllable rectifier can be used in order to lower the rectifier conduction losses in QR converters. In view of the fact that operating modes of QR converters can be vastly different only because the active switch is voltage or current bidirectional, it is not surprising that the controllable rectifier also leads to a number of novel operating modes. Most importantly, constant-frequency control becomes possible in all QR classes.

Using the method proposed in [8], dc and small-signal ac analysis of various QR classes and operating modes are unified with respect to all PWM parent converters. A slightly different interpretation of the analysis method yields dc and ac models in which the model of the PWM parent is explicitly exposed. Thus, QR topologies are firmly linked to their PWM parents with respect to topological, dc conversion and dynamic properties.

Steady-state analyses are completed for four selected classes of quasi-resonant converters: zero-voltage, zero-voltage quasi-square-wave, zero-voltage multi-resonant, and a new class—On-resonant quasi-PWM. Operating modes with all lossless (zero-voltage or zero-current) transitions are identified for two switch realizations—a conventional realization with a single current-bidirectional active switch and a single diode, and for a realization with a current-bidirectional controllable rectifier. Results that can be used to compare, select and design QR converters include boundaries of the operating regions, load-to-output dc characteristics, a comparison of switching transitions

and sensitivity to major circuit parasitics, a comparison of switch voltage and current stresses, and a discussion of pertinent design trade-offs.

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