



# ENM061 - Power Electronic Converters

## 7.5 ECTS, 2017

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## Lecture outline

### **The three-phase inverter**

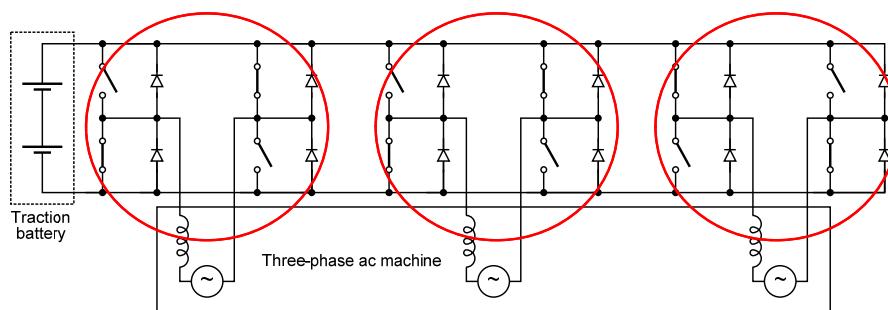
- Three-phase inverters – basic operating principle
- Three-phase inverters – Square-wave operating mode and current paths
- Three-phase inverters – PWM operating mode and current paths
- Three-phase inverters – output current ripple
- Impact of blanking time
- Other switching strategies
- Summary

## Learning outcomes

- Fourier components and total harmonic distortion (THD) for basic waveforms.
- Operating principles of the most common active components (e.g. diode, thyristor, IGBT, and MOSFET) and passive components (e.g. capacitors, transformers and inductors).
- Operation of a pulse width modulation (PWM), the purpose of controlling the desired quantity and the need for a controller circuit within the power electronic converter.
- Analysis of ideal DC/DC converters (e.g. buck, boost, buck-boost, flyback, the forward, the push-pull, half-bridge and full-bridge converters) in CCM and DCM operation.
- Operating principles of single-phase and **three-phase DC/AC inverters with different modulation strategies (e.g. PWM and square wave operation)**.
- Operation of multilevel converters (e.g. NPC, flying capacitor and MMC topologies) using current and voltage waveform analysis. Pros and Cons of the converter in terms of harmonics and losses.
- Operation of single- and three-phase diode rectifiers operating with voltage-stiff and current-stiff DC-side. Investigating the impact of line impedance within the converter circuit for current commutation.
- Operation of single- and three-phase thyristor rectifiers operating with a current-stiff DC-side and the impact of line impedance for current commutation. Investigating the use of 6/12-pulse configurations.
- Identify simple power electronic converter schematics. Recognizing the different parts in a physical circuit on which basic wave-shape and efficiency measurements is performed.
- Loss calculation in passive and active components. Evaluating the temperature rise in the active components and choosing an appropriate heat-sink. Gaining a basic understanding of component life time.
- Utilizing the software Cadence PSpice to simulate basic power electronic circuits and the practical labs to have a firsthand experience of how real DC/DC converters operate.

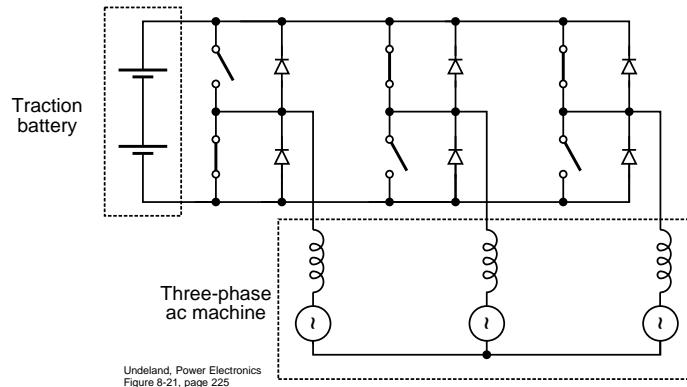
## Three-Phase Inverter

- A three phase inverter can be designed with three single phase inverters – complex design!



## Three-Phase Inverter

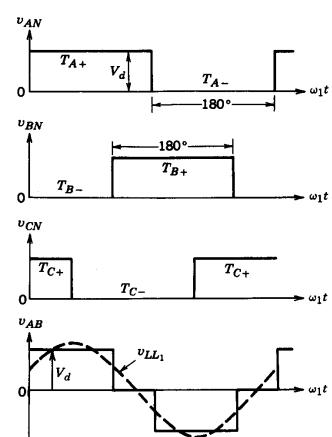
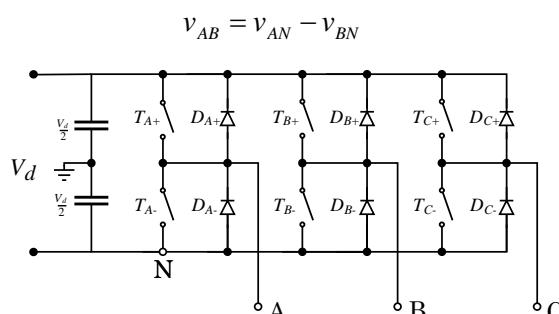
- Sum of currents and voltages should be zero in a three-phase system



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## Three-Phase Inverter Square Wave Mode



Ex: Show which switch is on at various time intervals

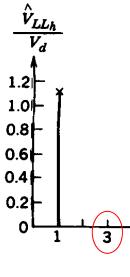
Undeland, Power Electronics  
Figure 8-24, page 230

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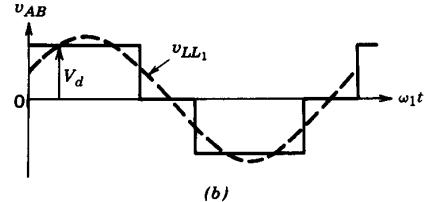
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## Three-Phase Inverter Square Wave Harmonics

- The line-to-line voltage does not depend on the load
- Contains harmonics ( $6n \pm 1$ ,  $n=1,2,\dots$ )



Ex:  $\hat{V}_{LL_h} = ?$



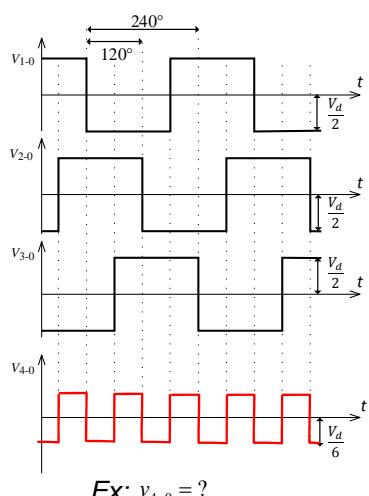
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Figure 8-24, page 230

$$\hat{V}_{LL_h} = \frac{4V_d}{\pi h} |\cos(h\pi/6)| = \sqrt{3} \left\{ \frac{4}{\pi h} \frac{V_d}{2} \right\} \text{ for } h = 6n \pm 1$$

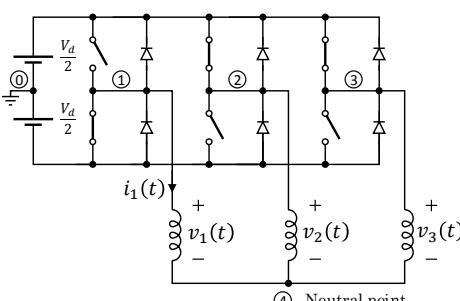
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## Three-Phase Inverter Neutral Point Voltage



Ex:  $v_{4-0} = ?$



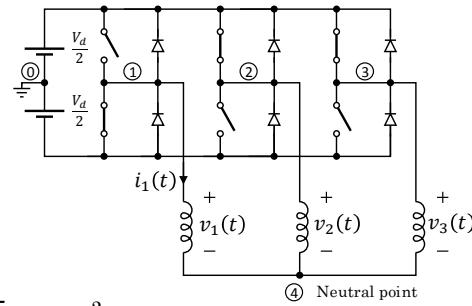
$$\begin{cases} v_{1-4} = v_{1-0} - v_{4-0} \\ v_{2-4} = v_{2-0} - v_{4-0} \\ v_{3-4} = v_{3-0} - v_{4-0} \end{cases} \rightarrow 3v_{4-0} = v_{1-0} - v_{1-4} + v_{2-0} - v_{2-4} + v_{3-0} - v_{3-4} = v_{1-0} + v_{2-0} + v_{3-0} - (v_{1-4} + v_{2-4} + v_{3-4}) = 0 \Rightarrow 3v_{4-0} = v_{1-0} + v_{2-0} + v_{3-0}$$

$$v_{4-0} = \frac{1}{3}(v_{1-0} + v_{2-0} + v_{3-0})$$

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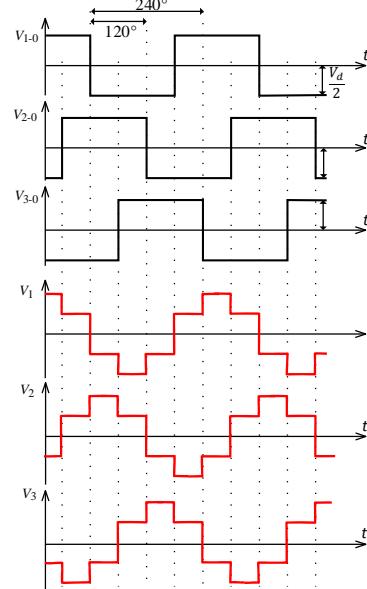
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## Three-Phase Inverter Phase Voltages



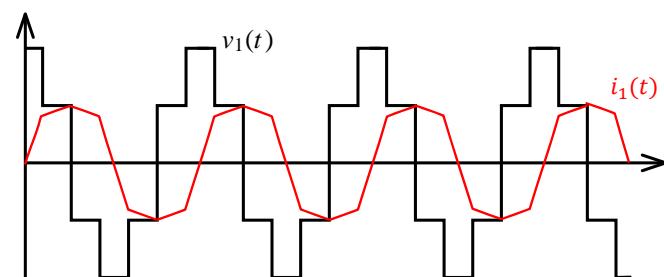
Ex:  $v_{1-4} = ?$

$$\begin{aligned} v_{1-4} &= v_{1-0} - v_{4-0} \\ &= v_{1-0} - \frac{v_{1-0} + v_{2-0} + v_{3-0}}{3} \\ &= \frac{2}{3}v_{1-0} - \frac{1}{3}(v_{2-0} + v_{3-0}) \end{aligned}$$



## Three-Phase Inverter – Square Wave Operation With Inductive Load

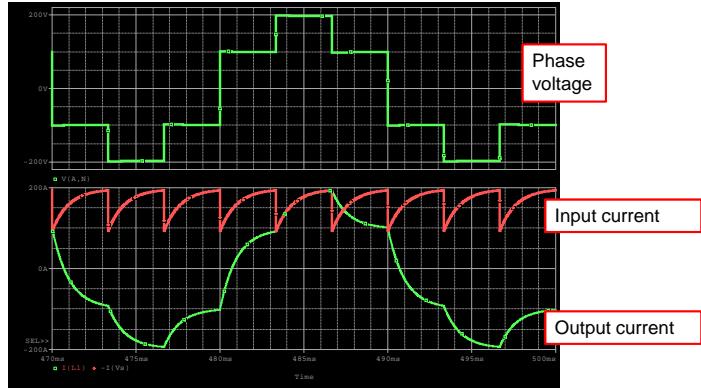
- By applying a constant voltage over the load, the current through the load will increase linearly
- The derivative depends on the applied voltage
- No active power is consumed due to the purely inductive load



Ex: *Can you predict the current plot?*

## Three-Phase Inverter – Square Wave Operation With RL-Load

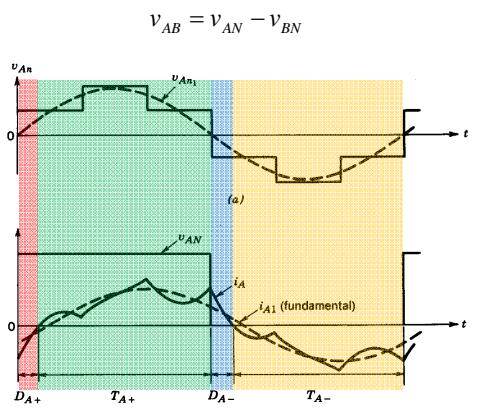
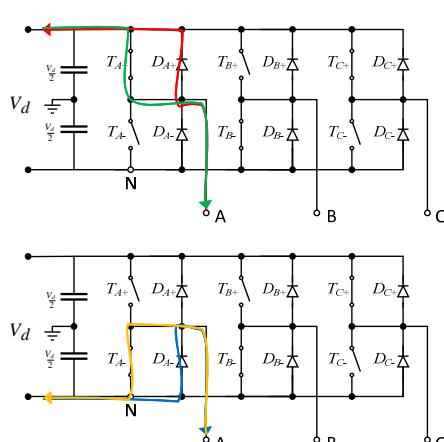
- If an RL-load is applied the source current will become positive and an active power will be consumed.



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## Three-Phase Inverter - Square-Wave Operation and Current Paths



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Figure 8-28, page 235

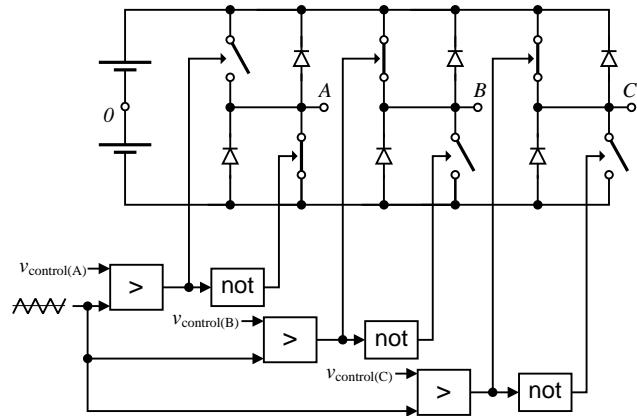
Ex: Show current paths at various time intervals

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## Three-Phase Inverter – PWM Operation

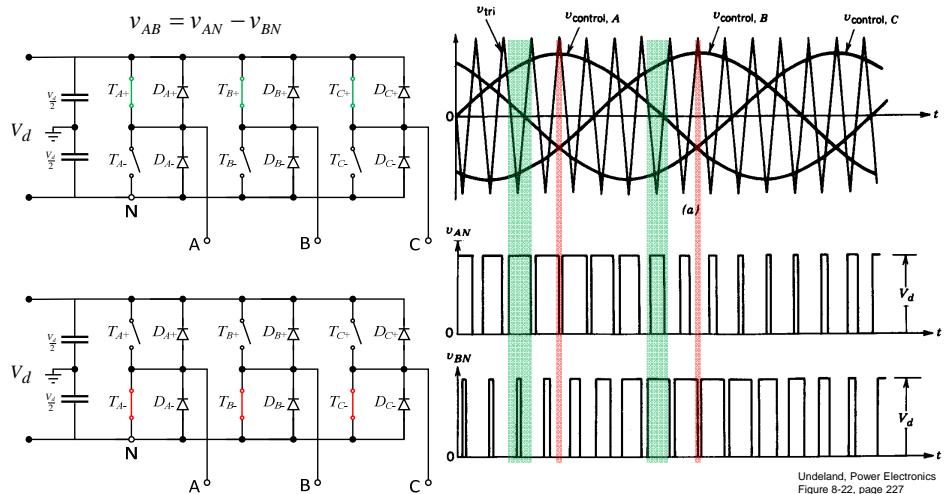
- Same triangular (carrier) wave is used for all three phases



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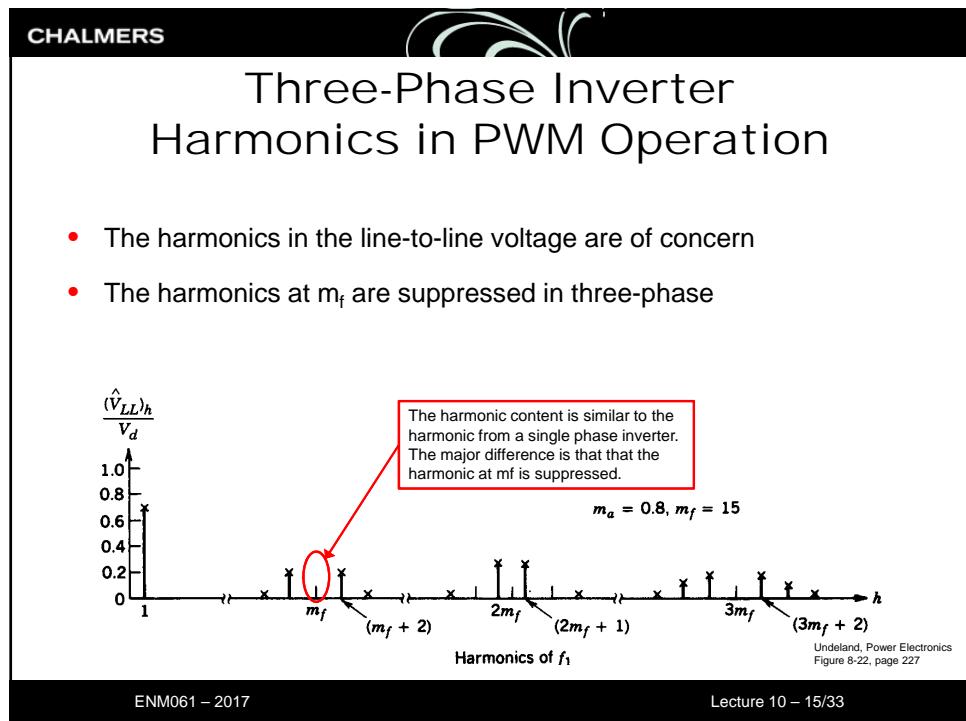
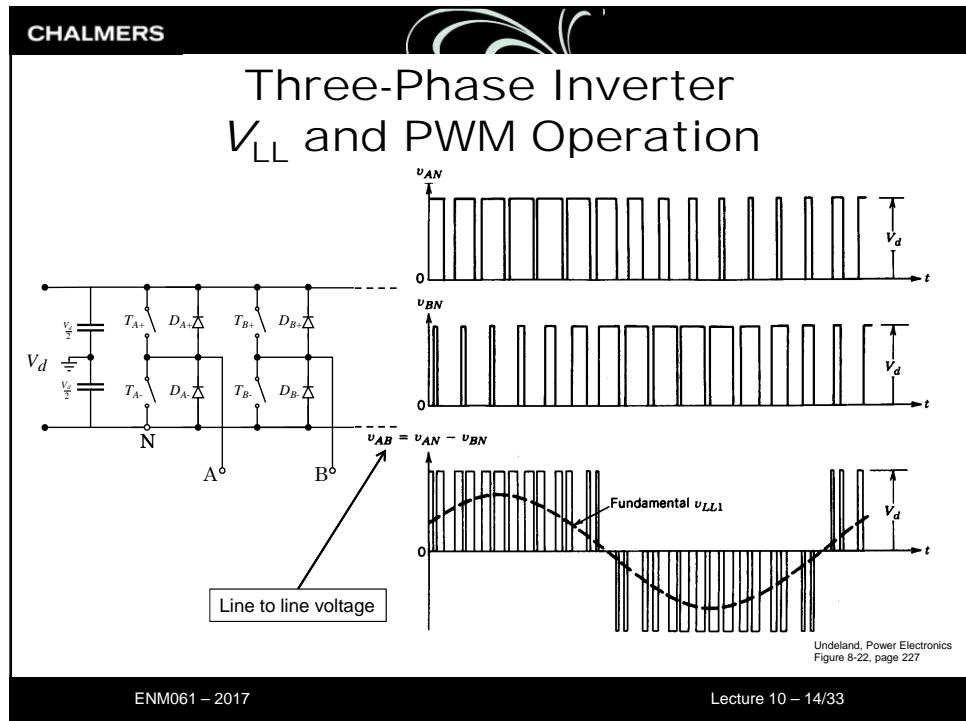
## Three-Phase Inverter PWM Operation



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Figure 8-22, page 227



## Three-Phase Inverter Harmonics in PWM Operation

Table 8-2 Generalized Harmonics of  $v_{LL}$  for a Large and Odd  $m_f$  That Is a Multiple of 3.

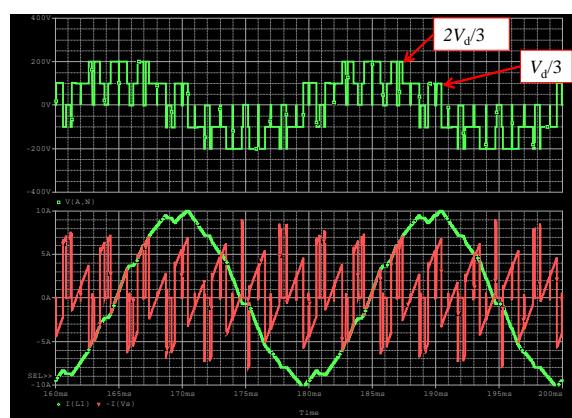
$h \backslash m_a$	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.8	1.0
1	0.122	0.245	0.367	0.490	0.612
$m_f \pm 2$	0.010	0.037	0.080	0.135	0.195
$m_f \pm 4$				0.005	0.011
$2m_f \pm 1$	0.116	0.200	0.227	0.192	0.111
$2m_f \pm 5$				0.008	0.020
$3m_f \pm 2$	0.027	0.085	0.124	0.108	0.038
$3m_f \pm 4$		0.007	0.029	0.064	0.096
$4m_f \pm 1$	0.100	0.096	0.005	0.064	0.042
$4m_f \pm 5$			0.021	0.051	0.073
$4m_f \pm 7$				0.010	0.030

Note:  $(V_{LL})_h/V_d$  are tabulated as a function of  $m_a$  where  $(V_{LL})_h$  are the rms values of the harmonic voltages.

## Three-Phase Inverter PWM Operation With Inductive Load

- No active power is consumed due to the purely inductive load

$$v_{An} = \frac{2}{3} v_{AN} - \frac{1}{3} (v_{BN} + v_{CN})$$



## Three-Phase Inverter PWM Operation With RL-Load

- If an RL-load is applied the source current will become positive and an active power will be consumed.

$$v_{An} = \frac{2}{3}v_{AN} - \frac{1}{3}(v_{BN} + v_{CN})$$

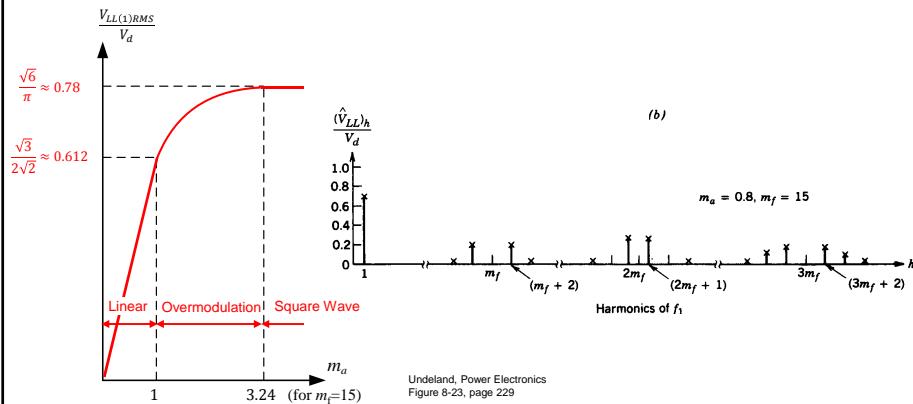


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## Three-Phase Inverter Modulation Ratio

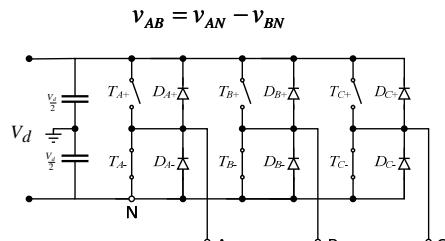
- Linear relationship between the fundamental line-to-line voltage frequency component and the modulation index ( $m_a$ )



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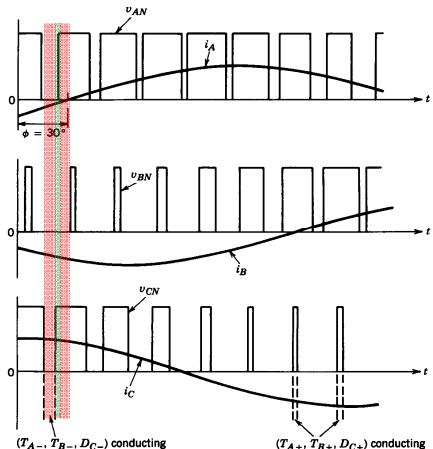
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## Three-Phase Inverter – PWM Operation and Current Paths



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Figure 8-30, page 236

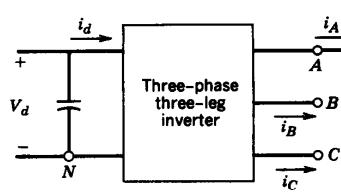
Ex: Show current paths



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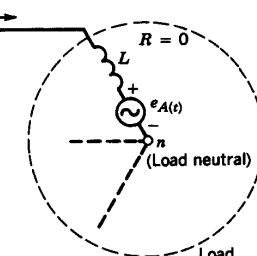
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## Three-Phase Inverter – Fundamental Frequency and Output Current Ripple



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Figure 8-25, page 231

(a)



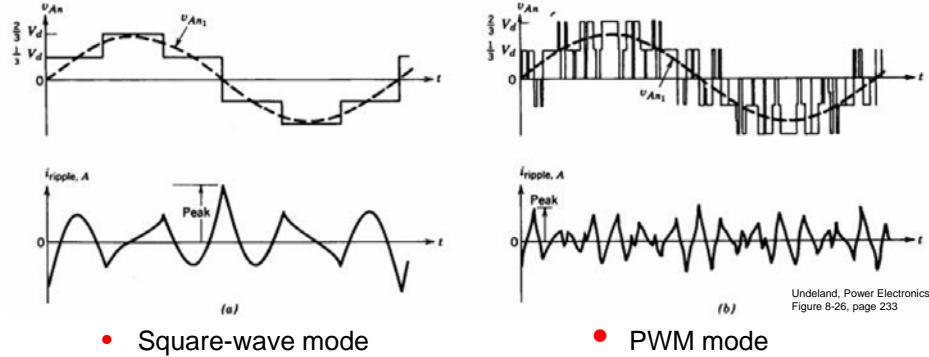
(b)

Figure 8-25 Three-phase inverter: (a) circuit diagram; (b) phasor diagram (fundamental frequency).

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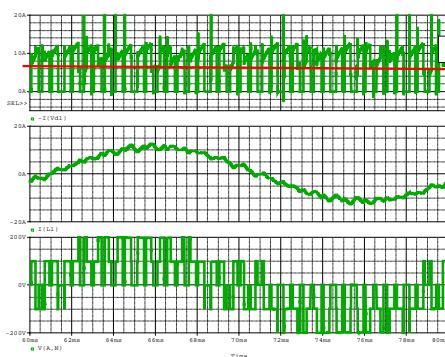
## Three-Phase Inverter – Fundamental Frequency and Output Current Ripple



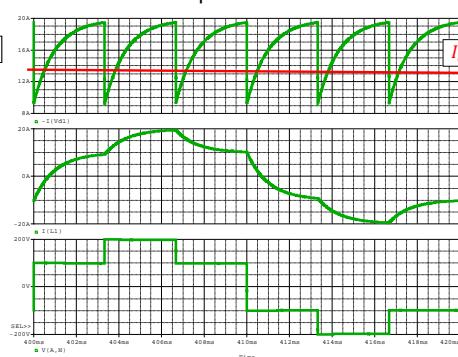
## Three-Phase Inverter – DC-Side Current

- The current consists of a DC-component and harmonics related to the switching frequency

• PWM-mode



• Square wave

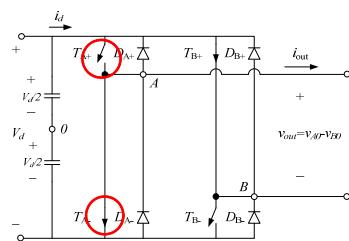


Undeland, Power Electronics  
Figure 8-27, page 234

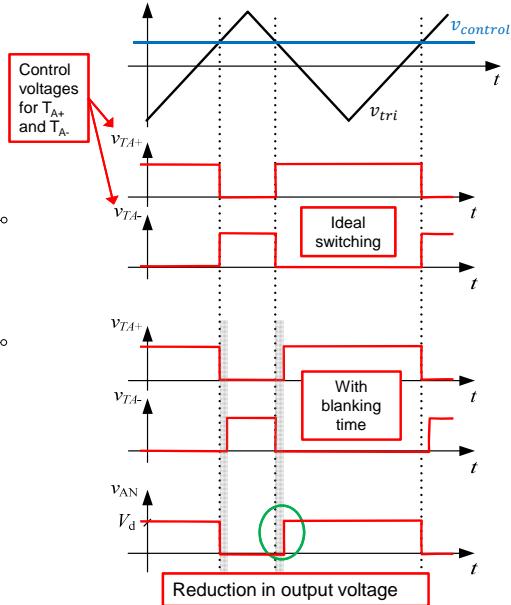
Ex: can you compare to the single-phase case?

## Blanking Time

- Positive output current

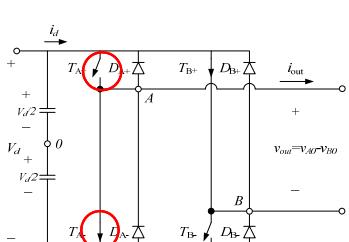


**T<sub>A+</sub> and T<sub>A-</sub> can not be turned on at the same time, we need to apply a blanking time!**

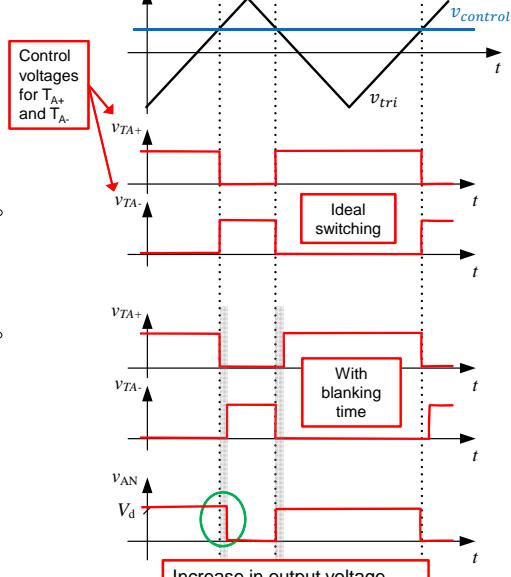


## Blanking Time

- Negative output current

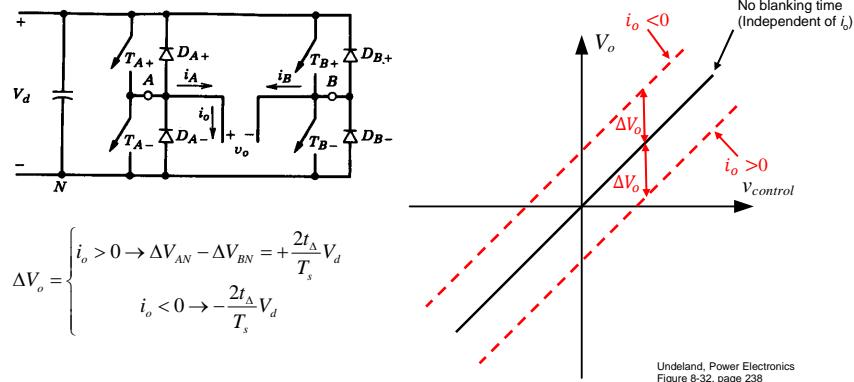


**T<sub>A+</sub> and T<sub>A-</sub> can not be turned on at the same time, we need to apply a blanking time!**



## Effect of Blanking Time

- The output voltage will decrease or increase depending on the direction of the current.

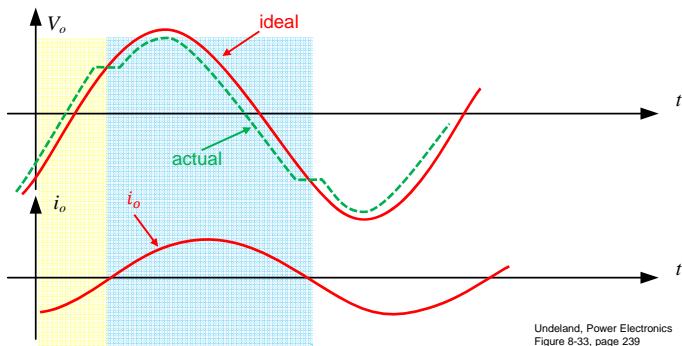


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## Effect of Blanking Time

- The average output voltage will either increase or decrease when the current changes polarity (zero crossing)
- The distortion at the zero crossings result in low order harmonics (third, fifth, seventh, ...)



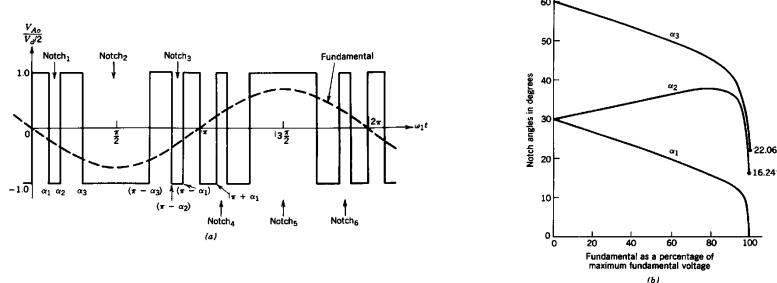
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## Other switching schemes

### Harmonic elimination PWM

- Programmed switching to cancel certain harmonics (5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>)

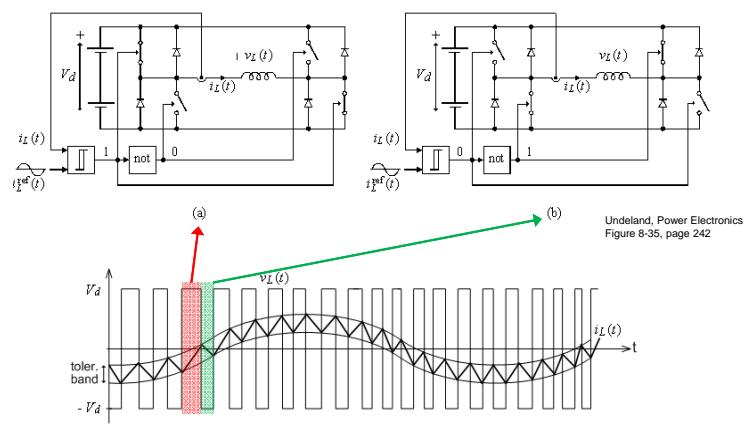


- The notch angles decided based on fundamental and harmonics to be cancelled

## Other switching schemes

### Tolerance-Band Current Control

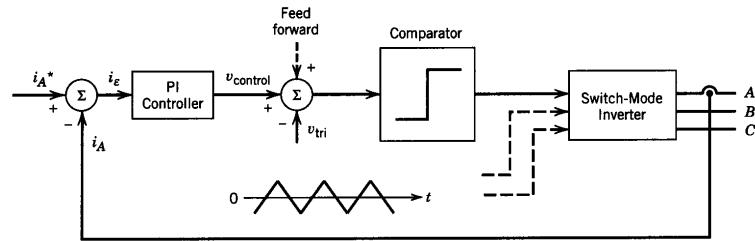
- Simple algorithm used for direct torque control of machines

Lundell, Power Electronics  
Figure 8-35, page 242

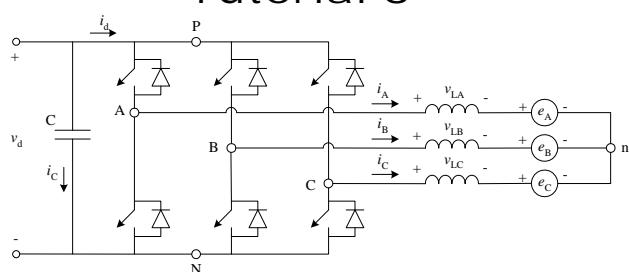
## Other switching schemes

### Fixed-frequency Current Control

- More accurate control possible ( $dq$ -control method) and the harmonic content can be predicted

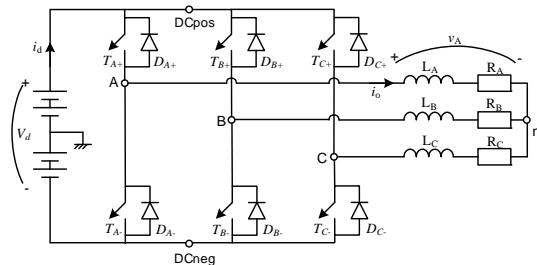


## Tutorial 8



- Square: Assume  $V_{LL(1)} = 200V$  the same as the back-emf voltage at a frequency of 52Hz is as shown with  $L = 100mH$ . Calculate the peak ripple current.
- Square: With purely resistive load and no back-emf. Plot the waveform for  $i_d$  and  $i_{A,B,C}$ .
- Any guess how the waveforms behave for a PWM case?

## PSpice 5



Square-wave vs PWM for operation

- Load voltage, load current and neutral voltage waveforms
- $i_d$  waveform for inductive and resistive loads
- Impact of back-emf angle on the output and dc current waveforms

## Summary

- Basic operating principle of a three-phase inverter
- Comparison of square-wave operation vs. PWM switching strategy
- Comparison of output ripple current in single- and three-phase inverters
- What are the Impacts of blanking time in switching?
- Review of alternative switching strategies in inverters
- Learning outcome:
  - ❖ Operating principles of a three-phase DC/AC inverter with different modulation strategies (e.g. PWM and square wave operation).