# **Electronic Power Conversion**

Line-Frequency Diode Rectifiers



# 5. Line-frequency diode rectifiers

- Conversion: line frequency ac → uncontrolled dc (control often in next converter stage)
- Applications: power supplies, ac/dc/ac drives, dc servo drives, ...

#### <sup>☉</sup>Low cost, popular

- $\bigotimes$ Large capacitor needed for ripple-free dc voltage  $\rightarrow$  distorted line current
- $\bigcirc$  Filters required to comply with standards on allowable line-current harmonic  $i_d$





# Single-phase diode rectifiers

- Basic rectifier, single diode, purely resistive load
- Large ripple in  $v_d$









#### Single-phase diode rectifiers

• Basic rectifier, single diode, inductive load



## Single-phase diode rectifiers

• Single diode, load with internal dc voltage, load with large C







+ rail: Diode with highest anode potential is conducting)

#### - rail: Diode with lowest cathode potential is conducting



• Resistive load



• Resistive load





Output voltage

$$V_{d0} = \frac{1}{T/2} \int_{0}^{T/2} \sqrt{2} V_s \sin \omega t dt = \frac{2}{\pi} \sqrt{2} V_s = 0.9 V_s$$

For inductive load



- Large inductive load Effect of Ls on current commutation
- $i_s$  (inductor current) can not change from  $I_d$  to  $-I_d$  instantaneously







Voltage drop due to current commutation



Every cycle the area  $A_u$  is lost once





- 1. describe problem as superposition of  $I_{\rm d}$  and commutation current  $i_{\rm u}$
- 2. identify commutation meshes and driving voltages
- 3. note that  $I_d$  is constant



Current 
$$i_s(t)$$
 goes from  $-I_d$  to  $I_d$  in interval  $(0, \omega)$   
 $i_s(\omega) = i_s(0) + \frac{1}{\omega L_s} \int_0^{\omega} \sqrt{2} V_s \sin \omega t \, d(\omega t)$   
 $\omega L_s \Delta i_s = \int_0^u \sqrt{2} V_s \sin \omega t \, d(\omega t)$  with  $\Delta i_s = 2I_d$   
or  $2\omega L_s I_d = \sqrt{2} V_s (1 - \cos u)$   $\Rightarrow$   $\cos u = 1 - \frac{2\omega L_s I_d}{\sqrt{2} V_s}$   
Shaded area forces the current from  $-I_d$  to  $I_d$ :  
 $A_u = \int_0^u \sqrt{2} V_s \sin \omega t \, d(\omega t)$   
 $2\omega L_s I_d = \int_0^u \sqrt{2} V_s \sin \omega t \, d(\omega t)$   
Output  $V_d = 0.9 V_s - \frac{2Area}{2\pi} A_u = 0.9 V_s - \frac{2\omega L_s}{\pi} I_d$   
Every cycle the area A\_u is lost twice  
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 Constant dc-side voltage (Approximation of RC-load with RC>> 10 ms)





$$V_d = \sqrt{2} V_s \sin \theta_b$$

 i<sub>d</sub> has maximum when v<sub>s</sub> crosses V<sub>d</sub> again ↓

$$i_d(\theta) = \frac{1}{\omega L_s} \int_{\theta_b}^{\theta} (\sqrt{2} V_s \sin \omega t - V_d) d(\omega t)$$

•  $\theta_{f}$  follows from:

$$0 = \frac{1}{\omega L_s} \int_{\theta_b}^{\theta_f} (\sqrt{2} \ V_s \sin \omega t \ -V_d) \ d(\omega t)$$

• high peak line current







Practical bridge rectifier



 $v_d < v_s \rightarrow diodes \ conducting$ 



## Line voltage distortion



$$v_{pcc} = v_s - L_{s1} \frac{di_s}{dt}$$

i<sub>s</sub> contains harmonics:

$$i_s = i_{s1} + \sum_{h=2}^{\infty} i_{sh}$$

$$v_{pcc} = v_s - L_{s1} \frac{di_1}{dt} - L_{s1} \sum_{h=2}^{\infty} \frac{di_{sh}}{dt}$$

Fundamental component of  $v_{pcc}$ 

$$v_{pcc,1} = v_s - L_{s1} \frac{di_{s1}}{dt}$$

Voltage distortion component

$$v_{pcc,dis} = -L_{s1} \sum_{h=2}^{\infty} \frac{di_{sh}}{dt}$$



#### Three phase full-bridge rectifiers



Assume:  $i_d$  constant and equal to  $I_d$  and  $L_s = 0$ 

How many diodes are conducting? Which diodes are conducting? Diode with highest anode potential is conducting (+rail) Diode with lowest cathode potential is conducting (-rail)

Fig. (b):  $v_d = v_{Pn} - v_{Nn}$ 

 $i_a = +I_d$  when diode 1 is conducting

- =  $-I_d$  when diode 4 is conducting
- = 0 when neither diode 1 or 4 is conducting  $\frac{\text{y Diode Rectifiers}}{1}$

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#### Three phase full-bridge rectifiers

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$$v_{comm} = v_{an} - v_{cn} = v_{La} - v_{Lc}$$
so:
$$v_{comm} = 2L_s \frac{di_u}{dt}$$

$$i_u(t) = i_u(0) + \frac{1}{L_s} \int_0^t \frac{v_{an} - v_{cn}}{2} d(t) \rightarrow \omega L_s \Delta i_d = \int_0^u \frac{\sqrt{2} V_{LL} \sin \omega t}{2} dt$$

$$\omega 2L_s I_d = \sqrt{2} V_{LL} (1 - \cos u) \rightarrow \cos u = 1 - \frac{2\omega L_s I_d}{\sqrt{2} V_s}$$

During commutation:

$$v_{Pn} = v_{an} - L_s \frac{di_u}{dt} = \frac{v_{an} + v_{cn}}{2}$$

Shaded area forces the current from 0 to  $I_d$  in one inductor:

$$A_u = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^u \sqrt{2} V_{LL} \sin \omega t \, d(\omega t)$$
 or:  $A_u = \omega L_s I_d$ 

Every period the area  $A_u$  is lost six times

Voltage drop: 
$$\Delta V_{do} = \frac{6 \cdot area A_u}{2\pi} = \frac{3 \omega L_s}{\pi} I_d$$
  $V_d = V_{do} - \Delta V_d = 1.35 V_{LL} - \frac{3 \omega L_s}{\pi} I_d$ 



#### Image credits

- All uncredited diagrams are from the book "Power Electronics: Converters, Applications, and Design" by N. Mohan, T.M. Undeland and W.P. Robbins.
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