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# A half-bridge distributed static compensator with a DC-link filter capacitor of a reduced size LCL filter

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Distributed static compensators (DSTATCOMs), composed of power converters and passive filters, have been extensively utilized in distribution systems to improve their power quality. For the selection of passive filters, LCL filters with smaller sizes and lower costs are increasingly being adopted to replace the conventional L filters. However, the filter components of LCL filters are normally designed for the application of grid-connected inverters, and therefore, these passive components can be further optimized when applied to the DSTATCOM, where the grid-injected current is mainly capacitive. In this study, the novel LCL-filtered half-bridge DSTATCOM topology is proposed, where the conventional filter capacitor of the LCL filter is replaced by the DC-link capacitors with relatively larger capacitances. As a consequence, the grid-side inductance can be dramatically reduced from the order of millihenry to several microhenries. Furthermore, the current stress of semiconductor switches can be decreased. In addition, the power flow analysis and filter design procedure are presented in this study. It is revealed that a constant DC-link voltage can always be maintained, and the voltage variation across each capacitor can be well regulated with properly designed filters and controllers. Experiments were carried out on a down-scaled laboratory prototype, and simulation and experimental results are presented to verify the effectiveness of the proposed DSTATCOM topology.

## KEYWORDS

DC-link capacitors, distributed static compensators, half-bridge, LCL filter, power quality

## 1 Introduction

Reactive power compensation has been one of the major solutions to resolve power quality (PQ)-related issues caused by the large-scale deployment of induction motors, arc furnaces, and other inductive loads in the distribution system [1]. Traditionally, the static VAR compensator (SVC), such as the thyristor-switched capacitor (TSC) and thyristor-controlled reactance (TCR), served as a simple and straightforward measure for reducing the reactive currents flowing through the transmission lines and regulating the voltages at the point of common coupling. Although being extensively utilized, these reactive power

compensators have relatively slow dynamic responses, inflexible reactive power compensation, and may introduce resonances when interacting with the system impedance [1].

Ever since the appearance of the distributed static compensator (DSTATCOM), it has been one of the research focuses in modern power systems and has received increasing attention worldwide due to its advantages such as flexible reactive power compensation, multifunctionality, and elimination of resonances (Dugan et al., 2004). Although different in details, the topologies of DSTATCOM are basically similar structures composed of two parts, namely, power converters and passive filters. It should be noted that transformers can also be involved in the DSTATCOM configuration and considered a part of passive filters (Singh et al., 2014). Passive filters are essential for attenuating high-frequency harmonics introduced by the modulation of power converters. For selection of passive filters, single inductor  $L$  filters, which are normally utilized at the medium or high voltage level for applications of the STATCOM and modular multilevel cascade converter (MMCC) (Peng et al., 1996; Liang and Nwankpa, 1999; Akagi, 2011), have been gradually replaced by third-order  $LCL$  filters, whose sizes and costs are much reduced, at the low voltage level (Liserre et al., 2005; Kumar and Mishra, 2014a; Fang et al., 2017a).

For DSTATCOM applications, the grid-injected current is mainly capacitive. This characteristic has been widely utilized to optimize the DSTATCOM system to improve its efficiency, compensation ability, and the reduction of system rating (Inzunza and Akagi, 2005; Karanki et al., 2012; Wang et al., 2015). In Inzunza and Akagi (2005), an extra capacitor connected in series with the conventional filter inductor that served as a series  $LC$  passive filter has been utilized in the active power filter (APF) application. This extra capacitor exhibits high impedance at the fundamental frequency so that much of the grid voltage appears across this capacitor, resulting in lower output voltage and power rating of the power converter. However, the reactive power compensation ability of this system remains fixed, which is limited by the filter parameters of passive components (Wang et al., 2015). When the same series  $LC$  passive filter is applied to the DSTATCOM, the reactive power required by the load can be partly compensated by the filter capacitor while the remaining reactive power is still supplied by the power converter, and therefore, the DC-link voltage of the DSTATCOM can be reduced (Karanki et al., 2012). However, a prominent disadvantage of this series  $LC$  topology is the inevitable series resonance, leading to zero impedance at the resonant frequency. Therefore, care must be taken to ensure a zero-converter output voltage near the resonant frequency; otherwise, the output current would become very large. Moreover, the capacitive impedance of this passive filter below the resonance frequency challenges the controller design (Wang et al., 2015). It should be noted that this extra capacitor can also be connected in series with the  $LCL$  filter. However, multiple resonances further

complicate the aforementioned problems (Kumar and Mishra, 2014a). In Wang et al. (2016a), this series capacitor is replaced by a thyristor-controlled  $LC$  reactance, achieving a wide compensation range and low DC-link voltage simultaneously, however, at the expense of increased passive components and system complexity.

In contrast, a filter capacitor shunted with the DSTATCOM can be used to reduce the current stress of semiconductor switches of power converters. In previous references, the shunt capacitor together with the DSTATCOM essentially forms a hybrid filter, and therefore, the design of the whole system becomes much more complicated (Solanki et al., 2015). For another interesting topology proposed in Kumar and Mishra (2014b), an extra inductor is inserted between the shunt capacitor and the power grid. By regulating the voltage across the shunt capacitor, the grid-injected current can be indirectly controlled, and in this case, the DSTATCOM system is actually operated in the voltage control mode. In this case, the shunt capacitor, conventional interfacing inductor, and additional inductor essentially form an  $LCL$  filter (Kumar and Mishra, 2015). Indeed, the well-known  $LCL$  filter inherently contains a shunt capacitor, which has not been fully utilized for DSTATCOM applications. For all the aforementioned topologies, the filter capacitors of the  $LCL$  filters are always designed based on the application of grid-connected inverters (GCIs) (Liserre et al., 2005). As a consequence, the range of capacitances is typically from several to tens of microfarads for limiting the converter reactive current. However, it should be noted that the converter current and, thus, the current stress of semiconductor switches can be decreased with larger filter capacitances of  $LCL$  filters in DSTATCOM applications because the capacitor branch loop can bypass much more grid-injected current. Another prominent advantage of using larger filter capacitances is the reduced filter inductance when the resonant frequency of the  $LCL$  filter is fixed (Fang et al., 2017a). Furthermore, if the filter capacitor could also serve as the DC-link capacitor, the filter components could be further reduced.

The single-phase pulse-width-modulated (PWM) converters have inherent second-order voltage harmonics in the DC link introduced by the unbalanced instantaneous power between their input and output (Tang et al., 2015a), (Shimizu et al., 1997). These AC voltage components in the DC link distort the compensation current reference and therefore deteriorate the system performance (Tang et al., 2015b; Farivar et al., 2015; Tang and Blaabjerg, 2015). This issue can be solved by either installing large capacitors in the DC link or utilizing active power decoupling strategies (Shimizu et al., 1997; Tang et al., 2015a; Tang et al., 2015b; Farivar et al., 2015; Tang and Blaabjerg, 2015). With the former solution, the voltage fluctuations in the DC link can be decreased. In contrast, the DC-link voltage can be maintained as a constant value using active power decoupling strategies (Tang et al., 2015a), (Shimizu et al., 1997), (Tang et al., 2015b), and (Tang and Blaabjerg, 2015). In Tang et al. (2015a), an

additional half-bridge active power decoupling circuit was involved in the DC link to greatly reduce DC-link capacitances. The idea behind this power decoupling circuit is to make the voltage across individual capacitors fluctuate while maintaining a constant DC-link voltage. For single-phase DSTATCOMs, the same issue exists, and the DC-link voltage fluctuations can be reduced using large capacitances, as suggested in Peng et al. (1996), Liang and Nwankpa (1999), Akagi (2011), and Kumar and Mishra (2014a) (Peng et al., 1996; Liang and Nwankpa, 1999; Akagi, 2011; Kumar and Mishra, 2014a). Alternatively, as will be analyzed later, for the single-phase half-bridge DSTATCOM, it is possible to decouple the reactive power completely based on the same principle, as proposed in Tang et al. (2015a). However, the voltage fluctuation across each capacitor is uncontrollable and may far exceed the permitted values, resulting in the overmodulation of power converters (Isobe et al., 2016). Fortunately, with the proposed DSTATCOM topology and filter design method, reactive power decoupling can be achieved, and the capacitor voltage fluctuations can be maintained within the limits, leading to a constant DC-link voltage and undistorted grid current.

In this study, the novel *LCL*-filtered single-phase half-bridge DSTATCOM topology is proposed to reduce the filter components and current stresses of semiconductor switches while combining filter capacitors with DC-link capacitors. In Section 2, the analysis of the single-phase H-bridge DSTATCOM is provided first to explain the mechanism of DC-link voltage fluctuations. Furthermore, the power flow analysis of the single-phase half-bridge DSTATCOM is presented in Section 3 (A) to illustrate the feasibility of reactive power decoupling. Moreover, the operating principles and advantages of the proposed half-bridge DSTATCOM are extensively analyzed in Section 3. The filter design procedure is then given in Section 4 with a design example provided. Simulation and experimental results are shown in Section 5 to validate the theoretical analysis. Finally, Section 6 concludes the main contribution of the study.

## 2 Analysis of single-phase H-bridge distributed static compensators

### 2.1 Operation principle of single-phase H-bridge distributed static compensators

Figure 1A shows the circuit diagram of a single-phase H-bridge DSTATCOM connected to the power grid through an *LCL* filter. The filter components of the *LCL* filter are denoted as  $L_f$ ,  $L_g$ , and  $C_f$  respectively. The equivalent series resistances (ESRs) of the filter are ignored here to obtain the worst stability condition. The major objective of the DSTATCOM is to compensate for the reactive power consumed by the load, resulting in the grid current  $i_s$  in phase with the grid voltage

$v_g$ . In other words, a unity power factor can be observed from the power grid.

Assuming that the waveform of  $v_g$  is an ideal sinusoidal with fundamental frequency  $f_o$  and angular frequency  $\omega_o$ , it can be represented as

$$v_g = \sqrt{2}V_g \sin(\omega_o t), \quad (1)$$

where  $V_g$  stands for the root-mean-square (rms) value of  $v_g$ . In most cases, DSTATCOMs are employed to compensate for the reactive power absorbed by inductive or resistive-inductive loads. Under such conditions, the load current  $i_l$  lags  $v_g$  by an angle  $\theta$ , and it can be expressed as

$$i_l = \sqrt{2}I_l \sin(\omega_o t - \theta) = i_{lp} + i_{lq} = \sqrt{2}I_{lp} \sin(\omega_o t) - \sqrt{2}I_{lq} \cos(\omega_o t), \quad (2)$$

where  $I_l$  stands for the rms value of  $i_l$ , and  $I_{lp}$  and  $I_{lq}$  can be, respectively, derived as

$$I_{lp} = I_l \cos\theta; \quad I_{lq} = I_l \sin\theta. \quad (3)$$

From the equation (Singh et al., 2014), it can be observed that  $i_{lp}$  is the active current component of  $i_l$  which is in phase with  $v_g$ , and  $i_{lq}$  denotes the reactive current component of  $i_l$  which is orthogonal to  $v_g$ . In theory,  $i_g$  should be equivalent to  $-i_{lq}$  when the power losses in the DSTATCOM system are neglected, which can be represented as

$$i_g = -i_{lq} = \sqrt{2}I_{lq} \cos(\omega_o t). \quad (4)$$

Power flow analysis of single-phase H-bridge DSTATCOMs

The instantaneous power absorbed by the DSTATCOM can be calculated as

$$p_{ac} = v_g i_g = V_g I_{lq} \sin(2\omega_o t). \quad (5)$$

Normally, for *LCL* filters, the reactive power consumed by the filter inductors and capacitors is designed to be small enough as compared with the equipment rated power (Liserre et al., 2005; Fang et al., 2017a). Assuming that the power losses of these filter elements can be ignored, the instantaneous power absorbed by the DC-link capacitors  $p_{dc}$  should be the same as  $p_{ac}$ , which can be expressed as

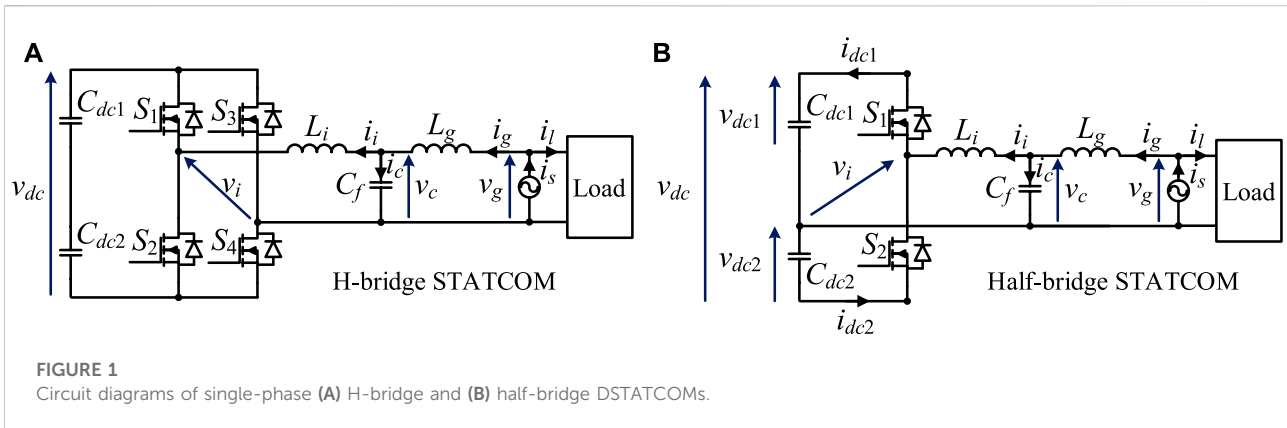
$$P_{dc} = P_{ac} = V_g I_{lq} \sin(2\omega_o t). \quad (6)$$

In order to absorb the fluctuating power  $p_{dc}$ , the DC-link voltage  $v_{dc}$  contains both a DC component and an AC component, which can be represented as

$$v_{dc} = V_{dc} + \tilde{v}_{dc}, \quad (7)$$

where  $V_{dc}$  and  $\tilde{v}_{dc}$  stand for the DC and AC components of  $v_{dc}$ , respectively. The dominating voltage harmonic of  $\tilde{v}_{dc}$  is the second-order harmonic, with its rms value denoted as  $V_{dch}$ , and can be expressed as

$$\tilde{v}_{dc} = \sqrt{2}V_{dch} \sin(2\omega_o t + \alpha). \quad (8)$$



Under this condition, the relevant power absorbed in the DC link, denoted as  $p_{dch}$ , can be derived as

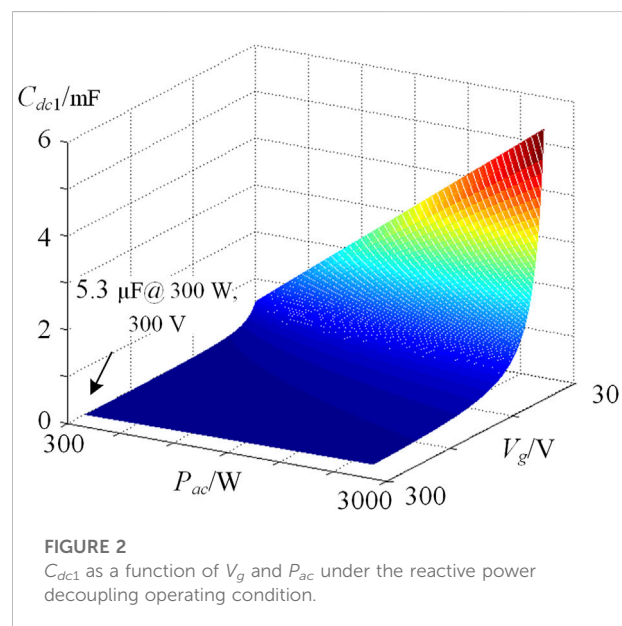
$$\begin{aligned}
 P_{dch} &= (V_{dc} + \tilde{v}_{dc}) \frac{C_{dc}}{2} \frac{d\tilde{v}_{dc}}{dt} \\
 &= C_{dc} \omega_o V_{dch} [\sqrt{2} V_{dc} \cos(2\omega_o t + \alpha) + V_{dch} \sin(4\omega_o t + 2\alpha)],
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{9}$$

where the DC-link capacitances  $C_{dc1}$  and  $C_{dc2}$  in Figure 1 are chosen to be identical and denoted as  $C_{dc}$ . Comparing the equations by (Inzunza and Akagi, 2005) and (Kumar and Mishra, 2014a),  $\alpha = -90^\circ$  can be obtained. Furthermore, it is clear that  $p_{dch}$  and  $p_{dc}$  are not equal due to the additional fluctuating power of frequency  $4f_o$  in  $p_{dch}$  caused by the interaction between  $\tilde{v}_{dc}$  and  $\tilde{i}_{dc}$ . Consequently, the DC-link voltage of the single-phase H-bridge DSTATCOM is mixed with DC components, second-order voltage harmonic, and other voltage harmonics. These harmonics will give rise to a distorted current reference defined by the production of voltage-loop controller output and  $\sin(\omega_o t)$  obtained from the phase-locked loop (PLL) (Wu et al., 2012; Farivar et al., 2015). Therefore, the grid current  $i_g$  will be distorted by  $\tilde{v}_{dc}$ , provided that  $C_{dc}$  is not large enough. Consequently, large capacitors should be adopted in the DC link as a solution to the instantaneous power imbalance problem.

### 3 Proposed LCL-filtered single-phase half-bridge distributed static compensators

#### 3.1 Power flow analysis of half-bridge distributed static compensators

Figure 1B shows the circuit diagram of a conventional single-phase half-bridge DSTATCOM. In comparison with the single-phase H-bridge DSTATCOM, two semiconductor switches can be saved for the half-bridge DSTATCOM. As shown in Figure 1B, the power absorbed by the half-bridge



DSTATCOM can be represented as that of the H-bridge DSTATCOM expressed in the equation by Akagi (2011) and the equation by Kumar and Mishra (2014a) due to the same reactive power compensation requirement.

In Figure 2, the DC-link voltage  $v_{dc}$  is composed of both the upper arm capacitor voltage  $v_{dc1}$  and lower arm capacitor voltage  $v_{dc2}$ , and it can be expressed as

$$v_{dc} = v_{dc1} + v_{dc2} = V_{dc1} + \tilde{v}_{dc1} + V_{dc2} + \tilde{v}_{dc2},
 \tag{10}$$

where  $V_{dci}$  and  $\tilde{v}_{dci}$  stand for the DC and AC components of  $v_{dci}$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ), respectively. The currents flowing through the DC-link capacitors, denoted as  $i_{dc1}$  and  $i_{dc2}$ , are correlated with each other according to the Kirchhoff's current law, and their relationship can be expressed as

$$i_{dc1} - i_{dc2} = i_i \approx i_g = \sqrt{2} I_q \cos(\omega_o t).
 \tag{11}$$





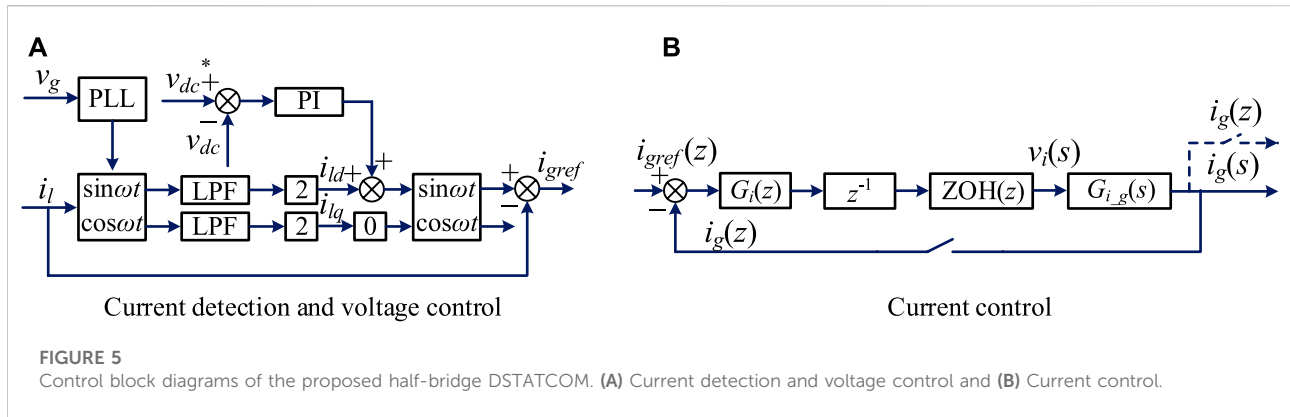


FIGURE 5 Control block diagrams of the proposed half-bridge DSTATCOM. (A) Current detection and voltage control and (B) Current control.

where  $p_{dca}$  denotes the reactive power absorbed by  $C_{dc3}$  and  $C_{dc4}$ .

The AC voltage components across  $C_{dc3}$  and  $C_{dc4}$  can be derived from Figure 3A and (Solanki et al., 2015), which can be described as

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{v}_{dc3} &= -v_c + \tilde{v}_{dc1} \approx \sqrt{2} \left( -V_g + \frac{I_{lq}}{2C_{dc1}\omega_o} \right) \sin(\omega_o t), \\ \tilde{v}_{dc4} &= v_c + \tilde{v}_{dc2} \approx \sqrt{2} \left( V_g - \frac{I_{lq}}{2C_{dc1}\omega_o} \right) \sin(\omega_o t). \end{aligned} \quad (17)$$

The currents flowing through  $C_{dc3}$  and  $C_{dc4}$ , denoted as  $i_{dc3}$  and  $i_{dc4}$ , respectively, can be derived based on the derivation relationship between the capacitor voltages and capacitor currents, which can be expressed as

$$\begin{aligned} i_{dc3} &= C_{dc3} \frac{d\tilde{v}_{dc3}}{dt} = \sqrt{2} C_{dc3} \omega_o \left( -V_g + \frac{I_{lq}}{2C_{dc1}\omega_o} \right) \cos(\omega_o t), \\ i_{dc4} &= C_{dc3} \frac{d\tilde{v}_{dc4}}{dt} = \sqrt{2} C_{dc3} \omega_o \left( V_g - \frac{I_{lq}}{2C_{dc1}\omega_o} \right) \cos(\omega_o t), \end{aligned} \quad (18)$$

where the additional capacitances  $C_{dc3}$  and  $C_{dc4}$  are chosen to be identical and denoted as  $C_{dc3}$ . It should be noted that the DC components  $V_{dc3}$  of  $v_{dc3}$  and  $V_{dc4}$  of  $v_{dc4}$  have no contribution to  $i_{dc3}$  and  $i_{dc4}$ . Furthermore,  $p_{dca}$  shown in the equation by Tang et al. (2015a) will not be influenced by  $V_{dc3}$  and  $V_{dc4}$  due to the opposite directions of  $i_{dc3}$  and  $i_{dc4}$ . Substituting the equations by Shimizu et al. (1997) and Farivar et al. (2015) into the equation by Tang et al. (2015a) and solving for  $C_{dc3}$ ,

$$C_{dc3} = \frac{C_{dc1} I_{lq}}{2C_{dc1} \omega_o V_g - I_{lq}}. \quad (19)$$

From the equation by Tang et al. (2015b),  $C_{dc3}$  can be calculated based on  $C_{dc1}$  and the rated operating point of DSTATCOM systems. The system vector diagram is shown in Figure 4 to illustrate the relationships among all the voltage vectors and current vectors. As can be observed,  $\vec{v}_c$  approximates the grid voltage  $\vec{v}_g$ , equivalent to the difference between  $\vec{v}_{dc1}$  and  $\vec{v}_{dc3}$  or  $\vec{v}_{dc4}$  and  $\vec{v}_{dc2}$ . Therefore, the required reactive power represented in the equation by Kumar and Mishra (2014a)

can be shared by all the four capacitors  $C_{dc1}$ ,  $C_{dc2}$ ,  $C_{dc3}$ , and  $C_{dc4}$ , reducing the voltage stress across  $C_{dc1}$  or  $C_{dc2}$ . In addition,  $\vec{v}_c$  is in phase with  $\vec{i}_g$ , resulting in a smaller magnitude of the converter current  $\vec{i}$ , and thus, the reduced current stress of semiconductor switches.

The equivalent LCL filter of the proposed half-bridge DSTATCOM is shown in Figure 3B. Based on Figure 3, the equivalent filter capacitance  $C_f$  can be derived as

$$C_f = \frac{C_{dc1} C_{dc3}}{C_{dc1} + C_{dc3}} + \frac{C_{dc2} C_{dc4}}{C_{dc2} + C_{dc4}} = \frac{2C_{dc1} C_{dc3}}{C_{dc1} + C_{dc3}}, \quad (20)$$

where  $C_{dc2}$  and  $C_{dc4}$  are selected to be the same as  $C_{dc1}$  and  $C_{dc3}$ , respectively.

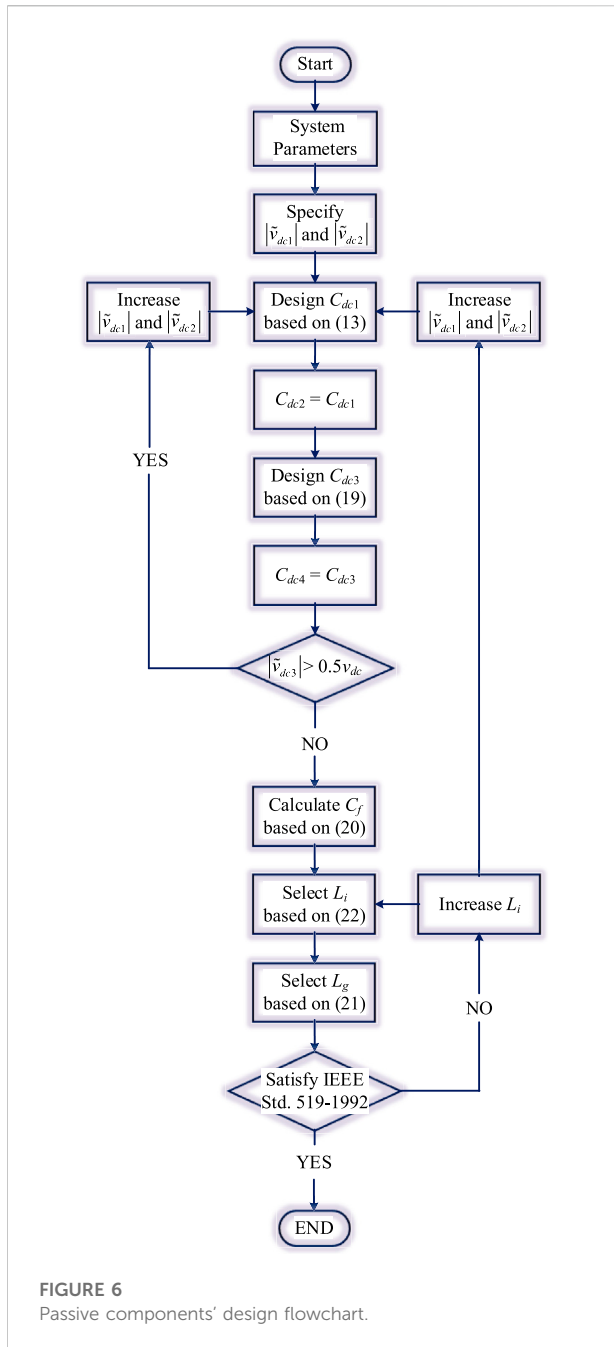
The resonant frequency  $f_r$  of the equivalent LCL filter can be derived as

$$f_r = \frac{1}{2\pi} \sqrt{\frac{(L_i + L_g)(C_{dc1} + C_{dc3})}{2C_{dc1} C_{dc3} L_i L_g}}. \quad (21)$$

Normally, for LCL filters, the filter capacitance  $C_f$  is selected to be several  $\mu\text{F}$  (6–8). The reason for choosing such small values is that larger capacitances increase the reactive component of the converter current  $i_i$  and the system costs and volumes. However, for the proposed half-bridge DSTATCOM, the magnitude of  $i_i$  can be reduced with a larger  $C_f$  as shown in Figure 4, and  $C_f$  composed of  $C_{dc1}$ ,  $C_{dc2}$ ,  $C_{dc3}$ , and  $C_{dc4}$  can be a relatively large value. When  $f_r$  remains fixed, one direct advantage of using a larger  $C_f$  is the reduction in filter inductances. The inductance  $L_i$  should be determined by the converter ripple current requirement (Wu et al., 2012), which can be represented as

$$\frac{\Delta I_i}{I_{lq}} = \frac{V_{dc}}{4L_i f_{sw} I_{lq}} \leq 40\%, \quad (22)$$

where  $\Delta I_i$  denotes the peak value of the current ripple flowing through the inductor  $L_i$ . Consequently, the grid-side inductance  $L_g$  can be greatly reduced to maintain a fixed  $f_r$  (Jalili and Bernet, 2006; Tang et al., 2012).



The control block diagram of the proposed half-bridge DSTATCOM is shown in Figure 5. Figure 5A shows the reactive current detection and voltage-loop controller. A phase-locked loop (PLL) is utilized to synchronize the phase of  $v_g$  for  $d$ - $q$  transformation (Blaabjerg et al., 2006; Singh and Solanki, 2009). The fundamental active component of  $i_l$  is extracted first by multiplying  $\sin \omega t$  with  $i_l$  and then filtered through a low-pass filter (LPF) with a gain of 2.  $v_{dc}^*$  represents the reference voltage of  $v_{dc}$ , which is regulated by a voltage-loop proportional-integral (PI) controller. It should be noted that  $i_{gref}$

would contain a considerable third-order harmonic, provided that the second-order voltage harmonic in  $v_{dc}$  is large (Tang et al., 2015a; Tang et al., 2015b). The  $z$ -domain control block diagram of the current-loop controller can be observed from Figure 5B. In Figure 5B,  $G_i(z)$  denotes the  $z$ -domain current-loop controller, and  $z^{-1}$  is introduced by the computational delay of digital microprocessors (Pan et al., 2014; Parker et al., 2014; Van de Syte et al., 2016).

The transfer function ZOH( $z$ ) represents the effect of zero-order hold (ZOH), and the converter output voltage  $v_i(s)$  can be obtained after the ZOH.  $G_{i-g}(s)$  stands for the transfer function from  $v_i(s)$  to  $i_g(s)$ , as shown in Figure 5B, which can be derived as

$$G_{i-g}(s) = \frac{C_{dc1} + C_{dc3}}{2sC_{dc1}C_{dc3}L_iL_g(s^2 + \omega_r^2)} \quad (23)$$

where  $\omega_r = 2\pi f_r$  represents the resonant angular frequency. The  $z$  domain transfer function  $G_{i-g}(z)$  can be derived from the equation by Tang et al. (2012) using the  $z$  transform with ZOH, and  $G_{i-g}(z)$  can be expressed as

$$G_{i-g}(z) = ZOH[G_{i-g}(s)] = \frac{T_s}{L_i(z-1)} - \frac{(z-1)\sin(\omega_r T_s)}{L_i\omega_r[z^2 - 2z\cos(\omega_r T_s) + 1]} \quad (24)$$

where  $T_s = 1/f_s$  denotes the sampling period, and  $L_t$  stands for the sum of  $L_i$  and  $L_g$ . Based on the equation by Jalili and Bernet (2006) and Figure 5, the  $z$  domain loop gains of the current-loop can be derived as

$$T_i(z) = G_i(z)z^{-1}G_{i-g}(z) = \frac{T_s G_i(z)}{L_t z(z-1)} - \frac{(z-1)\sin(\omega_r T_s)G_i(z)}{L_t \omega_r z(z^2 - 2z\cos(\omega_r T_s) + 1)} \quad (25)$$

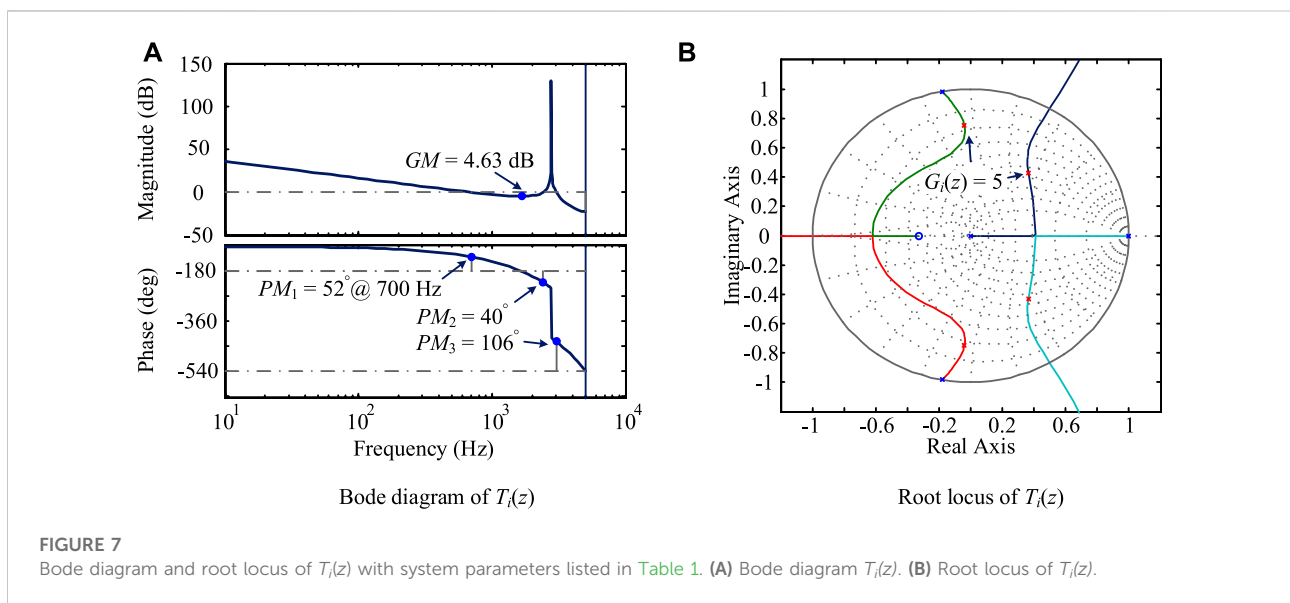
It can be observed that the system mathematical model derived previously is similar to that of grid-current feedback LCL-filtered grid-connected converters (Wang et al., 2016b). Therefore, the controllers shown in Figure 7 can be designed based on the existing design methods, as provided in Bao et al. (2014), Zou et al. (2014), and Wang et al. (2016b). A proportional gain  $K_p$  is used as  $G_i(z)$  in the following section for simplifying the analysis.

## 4 Passive component design procedure

The passive components shown in Figure 3, including the filter inductances  $L_i$  and  $L_g$  and DC-link capacitances  $C_{dc1}$ - $C_{dc4}$  will be designed in this section. Before designing these parameters, the DSTATCOM system parameters should be provided, which include the fundamental frequency  $f_o$ , sampling frequency  $f_s$ , switching frequency  $f_{sw}$ , grid voltage rms value  $V_g$ , rated reactive current rms value  $I_{lq}$ , and DC-link voltage reference  $v_{dc}^*$ .

TABLE 1 System parameter values for the experiments.

Description	Symbol	Value	Description	Symbol	Value
Fundamental frequency	$f_o$	50 Hz	DC-link capacitance	$C_{dc3}/C_{dc4}$	470 $\mu$ F
Sampling frequency	$f_s$	10 kHz	Equivalent capacitance	$C_f$	470 $\mu$ F
Switching frequency	$f_{sw}$	10 kHz	Converter inductance	$L_i$	1.2 mH
Grid voltage rms	$V_g$	50 V	Grid inductance	$L_g$	7 $\mu$ H
Reactive current	$I_{iq}$	7 A	Resonance frequency	$f_r$	3 kHz
DC-link voltage	$v_{dc}$	200 V	Reactive power	$Q_{ac}$	350 Var
AC voltages of $C_{dc1}/C_{dc2}$	$ \tilde{v}_{dc1}  /  \tilde{v}_{dc2} $	35 V	Current-loop controller	$G_i(z)$	5
DC-link capacitance	$C_{dc1}/C_{dc2}$	470 $\mu$ F	Voltage-loop P gain	$K_{pv}$	1
AC voltages of $C_{dc3}/C_{dc4}$	$ \tilde{v}_{dc3}  /  \tilde{v}_{dc4} $	35 V	Voltage-loop I gain	$K_{iv}$	0.1



With the system parameter values given, a step-by-step passive component design flowchart is shown in Figure 6. As can be observed, the first step is to specify  $|\tilde{v}_{dc1}|$  and  $|\tilde{v}_{dc2}|$ . It should be kept in mind that a large magnitude of  $\tilde{v}_{dc1}$  ( $\tilde{v}_{dc2}$ ) may lead to overmodulation of PWM converters. In contrast, a small value results in a large capacitance  $C_{dc1}$  ( $C_{dc2}$ ) and higher costs. With selected  $|\tilde{v}_{dc1}|$  and  $|\tilde{v}_{dc2}|$ , the second step is to derive  $C_{dc1}$  and  $C_{dc2}$  based on the equation in Solanki et al. (2015). Furthermore, the third step is to calculate  $C_{dc3}$  and  $C_{dc4}$  based on Tang et al. (2015b), and the relevant voltages  $|\tilde{v}_{dc3}|$  and  $|\tilde{v}_{dc4}|$  can be obtained from the equation by Shimizu et al. (1997). If  $|\tilde{v}_{dc3}|$  or  $|\tilde{v}_{dc4}|$  exceeds  $v_{dc}/2$ ,  $|\tilde{v}_{dc1}|$  and  $|\tilde{v}_{dc2}|$  should be redesigned. Alternatively, the equivalent filter capacitance  $C_f$  shown in Figure 4 can be derived based on the equation by Tang and Blaabjerg (2015). After the derivation of  $C_f$ , the remaining design steps are similar to those of the LCL filter parameter

design. Therefore, the fourth step is the selection of  $L_i$  based on the ripple current requirement equation (Wu et al., 2012). Followed by the resonant frequency requirement,  $f_r > f_s/6$  should be guaranteed for system stability (Parker et al., 2014; Wang et al., 2016b), and  $f_r < f_s/2$  is recommended for system controllability (27). With an appropriate  $f_r$ , the fifth step is to derive  $L_g$  based on the equation by Isobe et al. (2016). With all the parameter values of passive components, the sixth step is to validate whether the current harmonics at multiple switching frequencies can be attenuated to the limited values according to IEEE standard 519–1992 (IEEE, 1992). If the current harmonics exceed these limitations,  $f_r$ ,  $L_i$ , or  $C_{dc1}$  ( $C_{dc2}$ ) should be redesigned. Alternatively, if the current harmonics can comply with the grid code, the design procedure is completed. With these straightforward design steps, a design example is listed in Table 1.



TABLE 2 Simulation parameter values.

System parameter		Description	Symbol	Value
Filter parameters	Conventional half-bridge DSTATCOM	Grid voltage rms	$V_g$	220 V
		DC-link voltage	$v_{dc}$	800 V
		Power rating	$P_{ac}$	2 kW
		DC-link capacitance	$C_{dc1}/C_{dc2}$	65.76 $\mu\text{F}$
		DC-link capacitance	$C_{dc3}/C_{dc4}$	0 $\mu\text{F}$
		Filter capacitance	$C_f$	5 $\mu\text{F}$
		Converter inductance	$L_i$	1.0 mH
		Grid inductance	$L_g$	1.0 mH
		H-bridge DSTATCOM	DC-link capacitance	$C_{dc1}/C_{dc2}$
	DC-link capacitance		$C_{dc3}/C_{dc4}$	0 $\mu\text{F}$
	Filter capacitance		$C_f$	5 $\mu\text{F}$
	Converter inductance		$L_i$	1.0 mH
	Grid inductance		$L_g$	1.0 mH
	Proposed half-bridge DSTATCOM		DC-link capacitance	$C_{dc1}/C_{dc2}$
		DC-link capacitance	$C_{dc3}/C_{dc4}$	131.52 $\mu\text{F}$
Converter inductance		$L_i$	1.0 mH	
Grid inductance		$L_g$	25 $\mu\text{H}$	

As can be obtained from Table 1, the grid-side filter inductance  $L_g$  is much smaller than that of the conventional LCL filter (Liserre et al., 2005; Jalili and Bernet, 2006; Channegowda and John, 2010; Bao et al., 2012; Liu et al., 2014; Fang et al., 2017b), leading to lower costs and power losses. In addition, it should be noted that capacitances  $C_{dc1}$ – $C_{dc4}$  listed in Table 1 are slightly different from theoretical calculated values, considering that the DSTATCOM system is implemented with standard capacitances; however, the differences are maintained within 10%. In Table 1,  $K_{pv}$  and  $K_{iv}$  represent the proportional gain and integral gain of the voltage-loop controller, respectively.

The Bode diagram and root locus of  $T_i(z)$  with the parameter values listed in Table 1 are shown in Figure 7. As can be observed from Figures 7A, the gain margin (GM) of 4.63 dB and phase margins (PM) greater than  $40^\circ$  can be obtained with a 700-Hz current-loop crossover frequency, indicating the satisfactory dynamic response of the current-loop controller (Bao et al., 2012; Pan et al., 2014). Furthermore, as verified by the locations of closed-loop poles shown in Figure 7B, the system stable margin is large enough to tackle the uncertainties introduced by component tolerance (Dannehl et al., 2010a; Dannehl et al., 2010b).

## 5 Simulations and experiment results

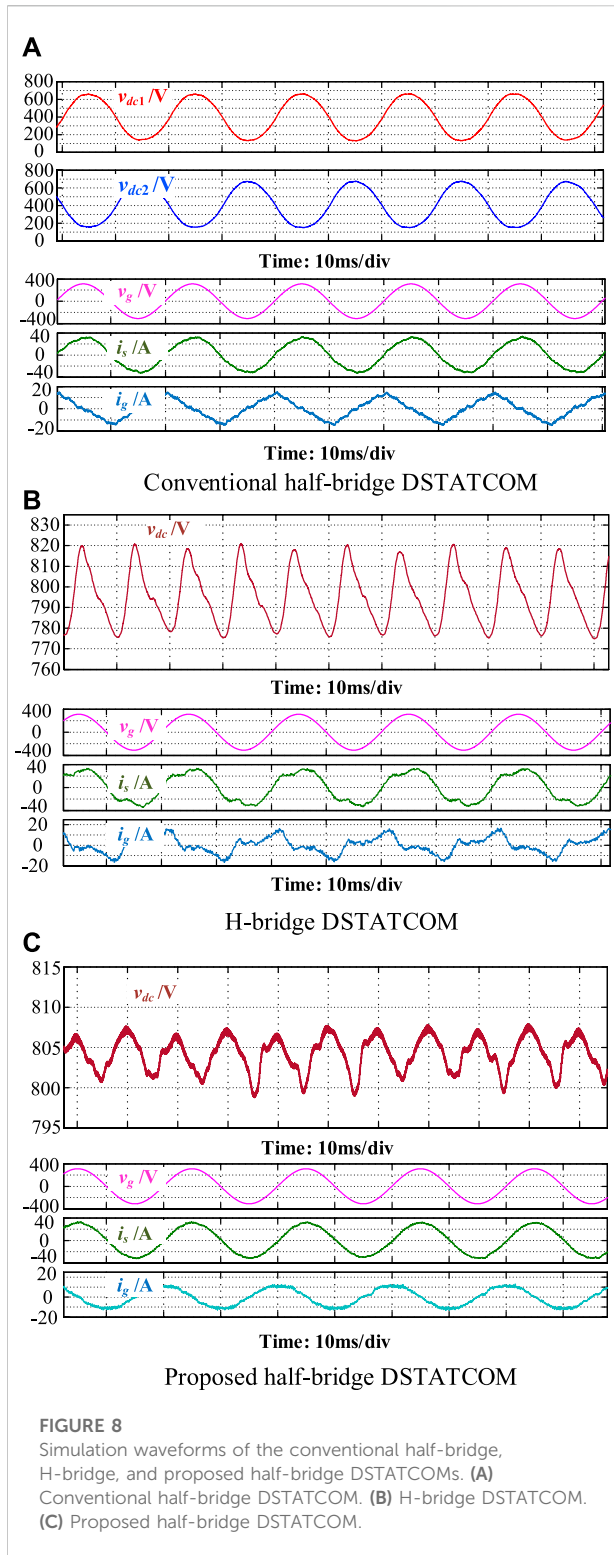
The simulation models of the conventional single-phase half-bridge DSTATCOM, single-phase H-bridge DSTATCOM, and proposed single-phase half-bridge DSTATCOM were

constructed based on the MATLAB/Simulink software, and the relevant simulation parameter values are listed in Table 2. In Table 2, the DC-link capacitances of conventional and proposed half-bridge DSTATCOMs are selected using the equation by Kumar and Mishra (2015) and Figure 6, respectively. Moreover, the DC-link equivalent capacitance of the H-bridge DSTATCOM is chosen to be equivalent to that of the proposed DSTATCOM.

The simulation results of the conventional half-bridge DSTATCOM are shown in Figure 8A. As shown, although the DC-link capacitances of the conventional half-bridge DSTATCOM are smaller, the voltage across each DC-link capacitor, namely,  $v_{dc1}$  and  $v_{dc2}$ , varies in a wide range. At its minimum value,  $v_{dc1}$  or  $v_{dc2}$  may drop below 200 V, which is lower than 2/3 of the peak value of  $v_g$ , leading to overmodulation of the PWM converter. Furthermore, the distorted waveforms of the compensating current  $i_g$  and source current  $i_s$  can be observed from Figures 10A,B; 6.26% THD of  $i_s$  can be obtained (through FFT analysis), which obviously violates the grid code (IEEE, 1992).

The simulation waveforms of the conventional H-bridge DSTATCOM are illustrated in Figure 8B. As shown in Figure 8B, the DC-link voltage  $v_{dc}$  fluctuates with considerable second-order harmonics and other even-order harmonics. These voltage harmonics deteriorate the grid current. As a consequence, the THD of  $i_s$  was found to be 17.04%, which is far from satisfactory levels of the grid code.

The simulation waveforms of the proposed half-bridge DSTATCOM are shown in Figure 8C. With carefully designed DC-link capacitances, the variation of  $v_{dc}$  is maintained within



10 V. The waveform of  $i_s$  becomes sinusoidal with a THD of 3.88%, indicating compliance with the grid code.

A single-phase half-bridge DSTATCOM experimental prototype was built and tested in the laboratory, whose schematic diagram is depicted in Figure 3. The system

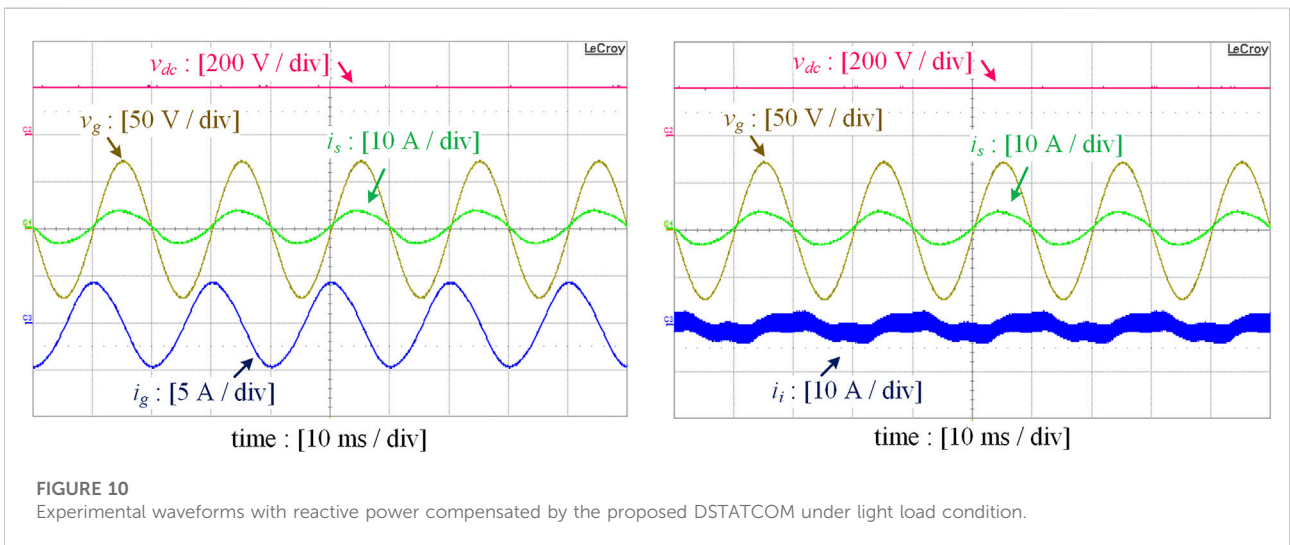
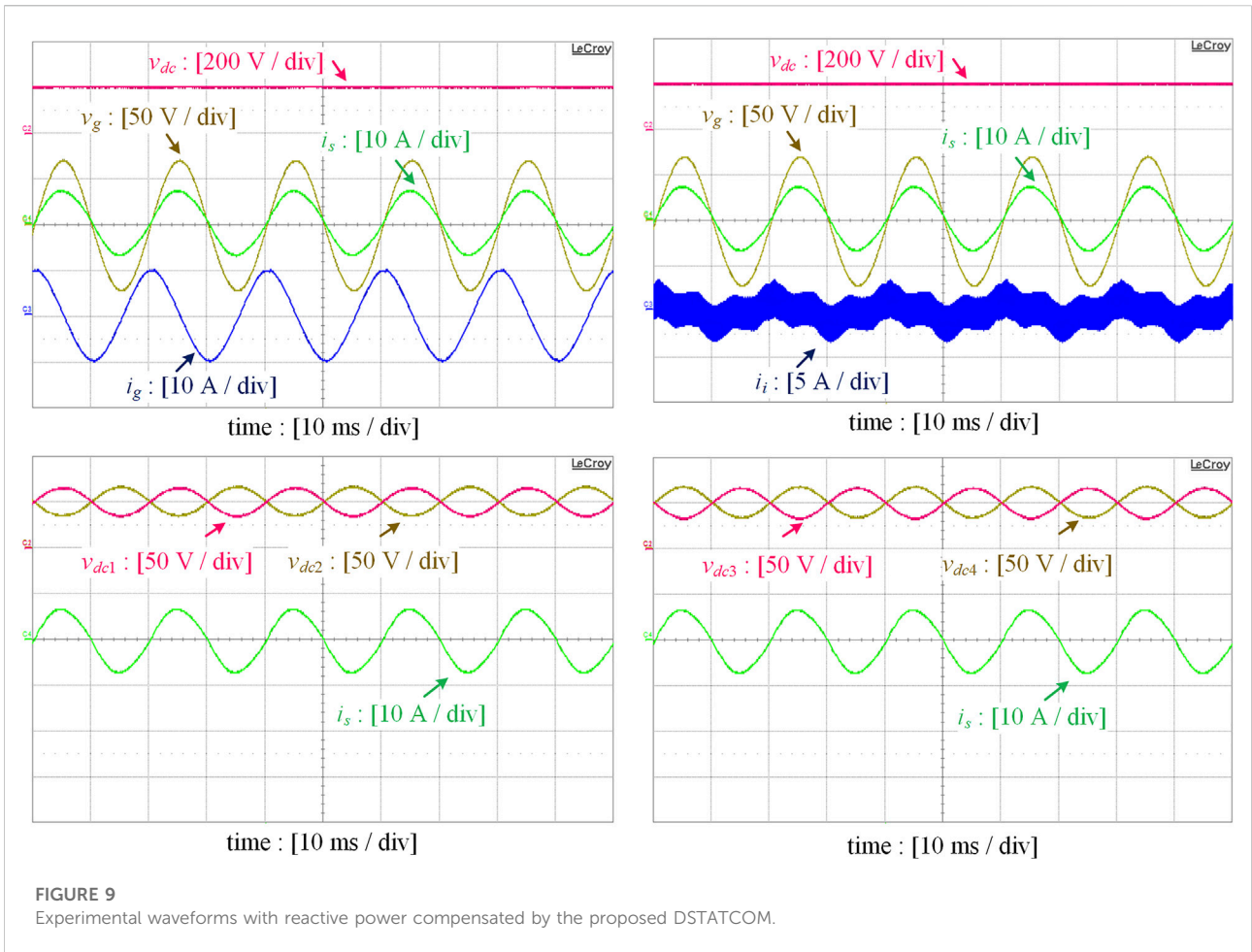
TABLE 3 Parameter values of the conventional LCL filtered half-bridge DSTATCOM.

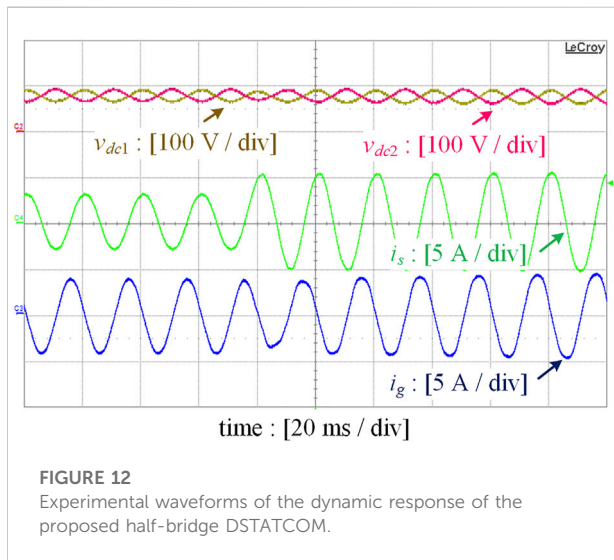
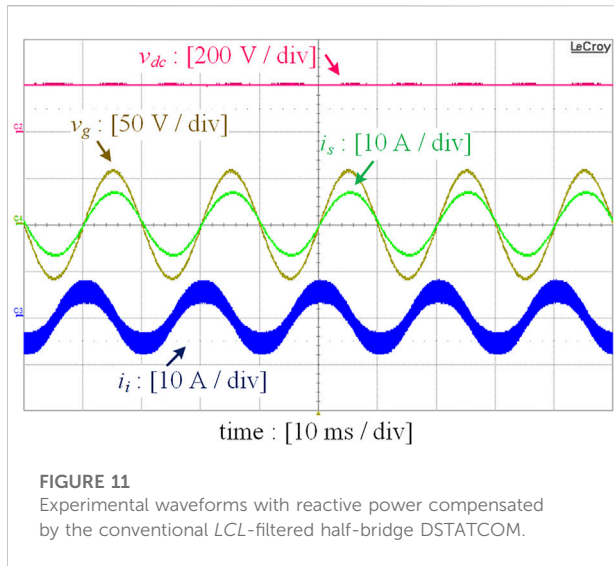
Description	Symbol	Value
Converter inductance	$L_i$	1.2 mH
Grid inductance	$L_g$	1 mH
Filter capacitance	$C_f$	5 $\mu$ F
DC-link capacitance	$C_{dc1}/C_{dc2}$	470 $\mu$ F
DC-link capacitance	$C_{dc3}/C_{dc4}$	470 $\mu$ F
Load resistance	$R_l$	10 $\Omega$
Load inductance	$L_l$	12 mH

parameters used in the experiments are listed in Table 3, and the relevant controller structures are shown in Figure 5. The control algorithm was executed on a dSPACE control platform (DS1103). Litz wires were utilized for filter inductor windings to minimize their ESRs. Filter capacitors are film capacitors instead of electrolytic capacitors, which are combined with DC-link capacitors. It is clear from the experimental parameters (listed in Table 3) that capacitances are small, which is only 470  $\mu$ F. The power grid was emulated by a programmable AC power supply (Chroma 61,502), and all the experimental waveforms were captured from a digital oscilloscope (MSO 44MXs-B). SiC MOSFETs (C3M0065090D) with low power losses were employed as  $S_1$  and  $S_2$  switched complementarily with a 1- $\mu$ s dead time inserted.

Before enabling the proposed half-bridge DSTATCOM, a 22-mH inductance  $L_l$  connected in parallel with a 10  $\Omega$  resistance  $R_l$  served as the load. The load current lags the grid voltage by 75° approximately.

Figure 9 shows the experimental waveforms with the reactive power compensated by the proposed half-bridge DSTATCOM. As can be observed, the DC-link voltage  $v_{dc}$  has been regulated to the reference value of 200 V. In addition,  $i_g$  leads  $v_g$  about 90°, indicating that  $i_g$  is mainly composed of the capacitive reactive current. It should be noted that  $i_g$  also contains an active current component, whose magnitude is much smaller than that of the capacitive reactive current. The active current component is necessary to maintain a constant DC-link voltage and compensate for the power losses. After the reactive power compensation, the source current  $i_s$  comes in phase with  $v_g$ , indicating that the power factor observed from the power grid has been improved to unity. Furthermore, as verified by Figure 9, the converter current  $i_i$  is much lower than  $i_g$ , as has been discussed in Section 3 B. Figure 9 also shows the experimental waveforms of capacitor voltages  $v_{dc1}-v_{dc4}$  with the proposed half-bridge DSTATCOM enabled. As can be noticed, the DC components of  $v_{dc1}-v_{dc4}$  are the same and equals to 100 V. The AC components of  $v_{dc1}$ ,  $v_{dc4}$ , and  $i_s$  are all in phase, as proved by Figure 4. Moreover, the AC components of  $v_{dc2}$  and  $v_{dc3}$  are in the opposite direction to  $v_{dc1}$  and  $v_{dc4}$ , respectively,





which proves that the required reactive power is compensated by all the four capacitors.

Figure 10 illustrates the experimental waveforms when the proposed half-bridge DSTATCOM is enabled with a light load, composed of a 22-mH inductance  $L_l$  connected in series with a 10  $\Omega$  resistance  $R_l$ . Before compensation,  $i_s$  is a resistive-capacitive current that leads  $v_g$  by approximately  $60^\circ$ , which is mainly composed of the reactive current absorbed by  $C_{dc1}$ – $C_{dc4}$ . After the proposed half-bridge DSTATCOM is put into operation under the light load condition, the reactive current absorbed by the proposed DSTATCOM can be regulated to the reference value, and as a result  $i_s$  comes in phase with  $v_g$ . Once again, the DC-link voltage  $v_{dc}$  can be maintained as a reference value of 200 V.

Figure 11 shows the experimental waveforms when the reactive power is compensated by a conventional LCL-filtered half-bridge DSTATCOM. All the DC-link capacitances remain the same as those listed in Table 1, and parameter values of the LCL filter are provided in Table 2.

It can be observed that a larger inductor  $L_g$  and an additional capacitor  $C_f$  are added to form the LCL filter, as shown in Figure 2. Furthermore, the load inductance  $L_l$  has been intentionally reduced from 22 to 12 mH in order to decrease the magnitude of reactive current  $i_g$ . The reason is that  $i_s$  and  $v_g$  may have a phase difference due to the limited compensation ability of controllers provided that the same load as that adopted in Figure 10 is used. As can be observed from Figure 11, the magnitude of  $i_t$  becomes larger than that of  $i_g$  and  $i_s$ , leading to increased current stress and power losses. In this case, the overmodulation of power converters will not be observed due to small power ratings. In addition, the third-order current harmonic can be attenuated to be less than 3% of  $I_{lp}$  with an additional 100 Hz second-order notch filter inserted into the voltage-loop PI controller.

The experimental results of the dynamic response of the proposed half-bridge DSTATCOM are provided in Figure 12. As can be observed,  $i_g$  can be stabilized after 2–3 cycles of the sudden load change, indicating that the dynamic performance of the proposed controllers is satisfactory. The aforementioned experimental results agree well with the theoretical analysis.

## 6 Conclusion

In this study, the novel LCL-filtered half-bridge DSTATCOM topology has been proposed. With the proposed half-bridge DSTATCOM, it is possible to regulate the DC-link voltage as a constant DC value without any fluctuations. Furthermore, the filter capacitor of the LCL filter can be replaced by the DC-link capacitors and hence be saved. Moreover, the currents flowing through the converter side inductance and semiconductor switches can be dramatically decreased, leading to lower power losses and current stresses of the switching devices. Another prominent advantage of the proposed half-bridge DSTATCOM is that its grid-side inductance can be greatly reduced from the order of millihenry to several microhenries. Following the passive component design procedure introduced in this study, the voltage fluctuation across each DC-link capacitor can be maintained within the predetermined limitation values, preventing the overmodulation caused by uncontrollable DC-link voltage fluctuations. A down-scaled prototype of the proposed half-bridge DSTATCOM was built and tested in the laboratory, and the experimental results are provided to validate the feasibility and correctness of the theoretical analysis.



## Data availability statement

The original contributions presented in the study are included in the article/Supplementary Material; further inquiries can be directed to the corresponding author.

## Author contributions

JF came up with the raw idea of this novel LCL-filtered half-bridge DSTATCOM topology and instructed the simulations and the experiments. XM carried out the detailed analysis on this proposed topology and finished simulation and experiment verification.

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## Conflict of interest

The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

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