Two-Stage Modulation Study for DAB Converter

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Abstract: The dual active bridge (DAB) is a dc/dc converter frequently employed in multiple applications due to its advantages of isolation, power flexibility, and input and output voltage defined by design. Different multi-phase modulations have been reported to increase DAB efficiency and reduce components stress but, certainly, the control and implementation complexity increases with every displacement angle added because of the multiple variable measurements. This paper presents two-stage modulations based on the single phase-shift (SPS), which allows maintaining simplicity while improving the efficiency of the DAB converter depending on the design conditions. The paper also gives a direction for selecting the proper modulation to achieve the best efficiency for each situation. The different two-stage modulations are described, analyzed, and experimentally tested.

Keywords: DAB; dual active bridge; modulation; phase-shift

1. Introduction

The dual active bridge (DAB) is a dc/dc converter which, due to its flexibility, is employed for different applications, such as solid-state transformers [1–3], transportation applications [4–6], and renewable energy [7,8]. The converter, shown in Figure 1, comprises two inverters and a high-frequency transformer (HFT). This topology provides isolation between the input and output but also reduces the volume and space. Additionally, the output voltage and power level may be selected by design.
The DAB converter is operated traditionally as two dc/ac converters, where its voltage outputs are square or quasi-square waveforms, with a phase shift between them. Depending on the number of displacement angles used, the classification might be as a single-phase-shift (SPS) modulation, which uses only one displacement angle, or multi-phase solutions such as dual-phase-shift (DPS), extended-phase-shift (EPS), or triple-phase-shift (TPS), as shown in [9]. All the previously mentioned modulations should be derived from the TPS, making them special cases when one or two displacement angles remain constant or are equal to each other.

These modulation techniques focus, generally, on reducing losses by implementing different operating modes and increasing the soft-switching power range [10–16]. In [10], a modulation-based algorithm to control the DAB power flow is proposed; mainly to minimize the total power losses of the DAB converter. A similar method is proposed in [11], which is focused on assuring soft switching in the whole power range, by changing the modulation technique. Different modes of operation are proposed in [12] to increase the efficiency, the burst mode and frequency change are considered. In [13], a proportional value modulation is proposed to reduce the reactive current at different operating points. The double quasi-square output operation is analyzed in [14,15] and proposes a method to reduce the reactive current for losses reduction, resulting in a complex system.

The work in [17] is focused on incorporating soft switching to the DAB converter through a resonant topology. Resonant topologies have the soft switching advantage; however, more components and the resonant tank tuning are drawbacks to consider.

In [18], a cooperative TPS, as it was named, was presented. This modulation allows zero current switchings (ZCS) during an extended power range and low RMS current, at the expense of more complex calculus.

In [19,20], different SPS modulations are presented. However, the modulations analyzed are like the EPS, where two-phase displacement angles are equal, which is a special case of the DPS modulation. In [21,22], the studies of EPS and TPS modulations are shown. To obtain the best efficiency is the main goal of these studies.

The main idea of this work is to study a different scheme, entitled two-stage modulation, that keeps the simple operation. The work also tries to give directions for selecting the most efficient modulation depending on the DAB converter conditions, which consider power factor, RMS current, and soft switching regions. The different modulations are described, analyzed, and experimentally validated.

The paper is organized as follows: in Section 2 the traditional DAB converter operation is discussed, this will permit to derive the different two-stage modulations. In Section 3, one modulation is analyzed in detail, but providing information for the different modulations to be addressed. The experimental results are presented in Section 4. Finally, some conclusions are drawn.

2. Dual Active Bridge Converter

The simplified circuit considered for the DAB converter is shown in Figure 2, where two square or quasi-square voltage sources are considered plus the inductive element [23]. \( V_{\text{DC}} \) or \( V_1 \) is the amplitude of the input source (\( V_{T1} \)); \( V_{\text{OUT}} \) is the output voltage, then the second source (\( V_{T2} \)) has an amplitude of \( V_2 \) or \( nV_{\text{OUT}} \), where the transformer ratio is \( n:1 \).

![Figure 2. DAB simplified circuit.](image-url)
The voltage $V_2$ may be higher or lower than $V_1$, then two operating modes occur [11]. When $V_2$ is higher than $V_1$, the boosting mode happens; but when $V_2$ is lower than $V_1$, the converter operates in bucking mode.

**Traditional Single-Phase-Shift Modulation**

The simplest modulation for a DAB converter is the SPS modulation since only one angle is employed to regulate the output voltage. The typical steady-state waveforms of the DAB converter, for this operation, are shown in Figure 3. The upper current waveform corresponds to the boosting mode operation ($V_2 > V_1$), the lower current waveform corresponds to the bucking mode operation ($V_2 < V_1$). The whole waveform occurs in four stages, but only two are described due to the symmetry:

1. From $0 < \theta < \delta$. The output of $V_{T1}$ is positive ($V_{DC}$), but the output of $V_{T2}$ is negative ($-nV_{OUT}$). During this time, the inductor current will increase.
2. From $\delta < \theta < \pi$. The output of $V_{T1}$ is still positive ($V_{DC}$), but the output of $V_{T2}$ is now positive ($nV_{OUT}$) as well. During this time, the inductor current will increase if the bucking mode happens or will decrease if the boosting mode occurs.

![Figure 3. Traditional single-phase-shift (SPS) modulation main waveforms.](image)

Four different stages are employed for typical modulation. All the possible switching states are shown in Figure 4. As can be observed, the stages “c” and “a” are employed for the positive semi-cycle, and the stages are “g” and “i” for the negative semi-cycle. It can be observed that stages “c” and “g” are equivalent, but for the opposite semi-cycle the same happens for stages “a” and “i”. As shown in Figure 4, there are more than four switching
stages and, therefore, other possibilities are open to analysis but, keeping the simplicity, only two switching stages are similar to SPS modulation.

### 2.1 Traditional Single-Phase-Shift Modulation

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Figure 3. Traditional single-phase-shift (SPS) modulation main waveforms.

Four different stages are employed for typical modulation. All the possible switching states are shown in Figure 4. As can be observed, the stages "c" and "a" are employed for the positive semi-cycle, and the stages are "g" and "i" for the negative semi-cycle. It

Figure 4. Different DAB stages, entitled as they are labelled.

### 3. Two-Stage Modulations

Different switching stages can be employed for the DAB converter (Figure 4). In this work, for the positive semi-cycle (considering the high-frequency transformer voltage), five different switching states are employed to define the complete modulation, since the others are considered equivalent for the negative semi-cycle (Table 1). Therefore, to obtain the complete waveforms it is only necessary to consider one semi-cycle and to use Table 1 for the equivalency and determine the waveforms of the complete period.

| Positive Semi-Cycle | Negative Semi-Cycle |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Stage a             | Stage i             |
| Stage b             | Stage h             |
| Stage c             | Stage g             |
| Stage d             | Stage f             |
| Stage e             | Stage e             |

The two-stage modulation only employs as the name indicate two switching states for the positive semi-cycle; to assure the power transfer, the positive voltage of both the input and output voltage must be included in at least one of the stages, and to provide good efficiency it is suggested the stage when both are positive (stage “a”) is used.

In Table 2, different two-stage modulations are given. As an example, the stages “b” and “a” are considered for the positive semi-cycle, which define a different modulation; we called this boost modulation since have the best characteristics in boosting mode.
To obtain the complete period the stages “h” and “i” are used for the negative semi-cycle since they are the equivalent stages (Table 1). The boost modulation is described in detail in the next sections, but the operation is easily extrapolated to the other two-stage modulations.

Table 2. Two-stage modulations possible states.

| Modulation | Positive Semi-Cycle | Negative Semi-Cycle |
|------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| SPS        | c, a                | g, i                |
| Boost      | b, a                | h, i                |
| Buck       | a, d                | i, f                |
| Flyback    | b, d                | h, f                |

3.1. Boost Modulation

The steady-state waveforms of the boost modulation are shown in Figure 5. It the ac voltage sources with their respective phase displacement can be observed, but also the inductor current is shown. For the direct power transfer, the upper current waveform corresponds to the boosting mode of operation ($V_2 > V_1$), the lower current waveform corresponds to the bucking mode of operation ($V_2 < V_1$).

![Figure 5. Boost modulation waveforms: (a) direct power transfer, (b) reverse power transfer.](image)

The full operation occurs in four stages, but only two are described due to the symmetrical behavior (Figure 5a):

1. From $0 < \theta < \delta$. The output of $V_{T1}$ is positive ($V_{DC}$), but the output of $V_{T2}$ is zero. During this time, the inductor current will be increased.
2. From $\delta < \theta < \pi$. The output of $V_{T1}$ is again positive ($V_{DC}$), but the output of $V_{T2}$ is now positive ($nV_{OUT}$). During this time, the inductor current will be increased if the bucking mode happens or will be decreased if the boosting mode occurs.
Similarly, then, the aforementioned occurs at the switching period. It can be observed that stages “b” and “h” are equivalent, but one for the positive, and the other for the negative semi-cycle. The same happens for “d” and “i”.

3.2. Bidirectional Power

Another characteristic of the DAB converter is the power bidirectionality, which is considered in different applications. All the two-stage modulations can also be operated for reversal power transfer, waveforms for boost modulation are shown in Figure 5b; now, the angle $\delta$, is measured since $\pi/2$, not from 0 degrees. The difference with direct power transfer is that the switching states are now appearing in inverse order.

The full operation occurs in four stages again, but only two are described due to the symmetry:

1. From $0 < \theta < \delta$. The output of $V_{T1}$ and $V_{T2}$ are both positive ($V_{DC}$ and $nV_{OUT}$). During this time, the inductor current will be increased if the bucking mode happens or will be decreased if the boosting mode occurs.
2. From $\delta < \theta < \pi$. The output of $V_{T1}$ is positive ($V_{DC}$), but the output of $V_{T2}$ is now zero. During this time, the inductor current will be increased.

As can be observed, the current has a polarity change, and then the power flows oppositely. As with the positive transfer, the angle $\delta$ can only take values between 0 and $\pi/2$.

3.3. Steady-State Analysis

The boost modulation is analyzed in this section. For this, Figure 5a is considered, then the inductor current may be expressed as:

$$i_L(\theta) = \begin{cases} \frac{V_1}{\omega L} \theta - I_0 & 0 \leq \theta \leq \delta \\ \frac{V_1-V_2}{\omega L} \theta + \frac{V_1}{\omega L} \delta - I_0 & 0 \leq \theta \leq \pi - \delta \end{cases}$$

(1)

where: $\omega$ is the angular switching frequency,

$I_0$ is the initial current,

$L$ is the inductance of the topology.

The other semi-cycle of the inductor current is omitted since it is symmetrical, due to the ac operation. Note that the vertical axis was shifted to determine the second equation, and this was done for simplification purposes in the analysis.

The value of the inductor current at $\pi - \delta$ is determined by:

$$i_L(\pi - \delta) = \frac{V_1-V_2}{\omega L} (\pi - \delta) + \frac{V_1}{\omega L} \delta - I_0 = I_0$$

(2)

Then, the initial current value may be determined from (2), and it is given by:

$$I_0 = \frac{1}{2\omega L} [V_1(\pi) - V_2(\pi - \delta)]$$

(3)

The active power can be determined by considering just the first semi-cycle, that is:

$$P = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{0}^{\pi} V_1 i_L d\theta$$

(4)

Then considering the intervals of the current, Equation (4) becomes:

$$P = \frac{1}{\pi} \left[ \int_{0}^{\delta} (V_1 i_L) d\theta + \int_{\delta}^{\pi - \delta} (V_1 i_L) d\theta \right]$$

(5)
Considering (1), (3), (5), and simplifying is obtained:

\[
P = \frac{V_1 V_2}{2\omega L} \delta \left( 1 - \frac{\delta}{\pi} \right)
\]  

(6)

It can be noticed that (6) is half of the typical equation considered for traditional SPS modulation.

The RMS value of the inductor current is determined by:

\[
i_{L_{rms}} = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{0}^{\pi} \left( \frac{V_1}{\omega L} \theta - I_0 \right)^2 d\theta + \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{0}^{\pi - \delta} \left( \frac{V_1 - V_2}{\omega L} \theta + \frac{V_1}{\omega L} \delta - I_0 \right)^2 d\theta
\]  

(7)

Solving (7) is obtained by:

\[
i_{L_{rms}} = \sqrt{\frac{V_1^2 \pi^3 - V_1 V_2 (4 \delta^3 - 6 \pi \delta^2 + 2 \pi^2) + V_2^2 (2 \delta^3 - 3 \pi \delta^2 + \pi^3)}{12 \pi (\omega L)^2}}
\]  

(8)

The apparent power referred to the input voltage \( V_1 \) is determined by:

\[
P_{VA} = V_1 i_{L_{rms}}
\]  

(9)

The power factor (PF) for the input voltage is then:

\[
PF = \frac{P}{P_{VA}} = \frac{V_2}{2\omega L i_{L_{rms}}} \delta \left( 1 - \frac{\delta}{\pi} \right)
\]  

(10)

Table 3 summarizes the equations for the modulations under study.

**Table 3. Two-stage modulation equations.**

| Modulation | Inductor Current | Output Power | ILrms and Power Factor |
|------------|-----------------|--------------|------------------------|
| SPS        | \( i_L(\theta) = \begin{cases} \frac{V_1 + V_2}{\omega L} \theta - I_0 \\ \frac{V_1 - V_2}{\omega L} \theta + \frac{V_1 + V_2}{\omega L} \delta - I_0 \end{cases} \) \( \frac{V_1 V_2}{\omega L} \delta \left( 1 - \frac{\delta}{\pi} \right) \) | \( i_{L_{rms}} = \sqrt{\frac{V_1^2 \pi^3 - V_1 V_2 (8 \delta^3 - 12 \pi \delta^2 + 2 \pi^2) + V_2^2 \pi^3}{12 \pi (\omega L)^2}} \) PF = \( \frac{V_2}{\omega L i_{L_{rms}}} \delta \left( 1 - \frac{\delta}{\pi} \right) \) |  |
| Boost      | \( i_L(\theta) = \begin{cases} \frac{V_1 - V_2}{\omega L} \theta - I_0 \\ \frac{V_1 + V_2}{\omega L} \theta + \frac{V_1 - V_2}{\omega L} \delta - I_0 \end{cases} \) \( \frac{V_1 V_2}{\omega L} \delta \left( 1 - \frac{\delta}{\pi} \right) \) | \( i_{L_{rms}} = \sqrt{\frac{V_1^2 \pi^3 - V_1 V_2 (4 \delta^3 - 6 \pi \delta^2 + 2 \pi^2) + V_2^2 (2 \delta^3 - 3 \pi \delta^2 + \pi^3)}{12 \pi (\omega L)^2}} \) PF = \( \frac{V_2}{\omega L i_{L_{rms}}} \delta \left( 1 - \frac{\delta}{\pi} \right) \) |  |
| Buck       | \( i_L(\theta) = \begin{cases} \frac{V_1 - V_2}{\omega L} \theta - I_0 \\ \frac{V_1 + V_2}{\omega L} \theta + \frac{V_1 - V_2}{\omega L} \delta - I_0 \end{cases} \) \( \frac{V_1 V_2}{\omega L} \delta \left( 1 - \frac{\delta}{\pi} \right) \) | \( i_{L_{rms}} = \sqrt{\frac{V_1^2 (3 \pi \delta^2 - 2 \pi^2) + V_1 V_2 (4 \delta^2 - 6 \pi \delta^2) + V_2^2 \pi^3}{12 \pi (\omega L)^2}} \) PF = \( \frac{V_2}{\omega L i_{L_{rms}}} \delta \left( 1 - \frac{\delta}{\pi} \right) \) |  |
| Flyback    | \( i_L(\theta) = \begin{cases} \frac{V_1 - V_2}{\omega L} \theta - I_0 \\ \frac{V_1 + V_2}{\omega L} \theta + \frac{V_1 - V_2}{\omega L} \delta - I_0 \end{cases} \) \( \frac{V_1 V_2}{\omega L} \delta \left( 1 - \frac{\delta}{\pi} \right) \) | \( i_{L_{rms}} = \sqrt{\frac{V_1^2 (3 \pi \delta^2 - 2 \pi^2) + V_1 V_2 (2 \delta^2 - 3 \pi \delta^2 + \pi^3)}{12 \pi (\omega L)^2}} \) PF = \( \frac{V_2}{\omega L i_{L_{rms}}} \delta \left( 1 - \frac{\delta}{\pi} \right) \) |  |

3.4. Soft-Switching

The DAB converter may operate at soft-switching depending on the operating conditions. Each branch of the two bridges may have a different condition. For the boost modulation, both input bridge branches have the next condition:

\[
\frac{V_2}{V_1} < \frac{\pi}{\pi - \delta}
\]  

(11)
But the output bridge branches have the following two conditions:

\[
\frac{V_2}{V_1} > \frac{\pi}{\pi - \delta} \quad (12)
\]

\[
\frac{V_2}{V_1} > \frac{\pi - 2\delta}{\pi - \delta} \quad (13)
\]

Condition (12) is for the left branch and (13) for the right branch. Notice that (11) and (12) are exactly opposite conditions, then the soft-switching operation cannot be guaranteed for all the branches at the same time.

The soft switching occurs only when a small capacitor is placed in parallel with the MOSFET (drain-source), otherwise, all the devices will be operating at hard switching. In order to calculate the capacitor value, the following formula may be used:

\[
C_{ZVS} << I_{\min} \frac{t_d}{V_{\text{CZVS}}} \quad (14)
\]

where: 
- \(C_{ZVS}\) is the capacitor value,
- \(I_{\min}\) is the minimum inductor current at each transition;
- \(t_d\) is the blanking time; and
- \(V_{\text{CZVS}}\) is the capacitor voltage.

For the boost modulation, the best operation is when three branches can operate at soft-switching conditions, then a small capacitor should be added to respective branches.

Table 4 shows the conditions for all the modulations studied. As can be derived from Table 4, the traditional SPS may operate all the branches at soft switching at the same time; the boost and buck modulations only three branches at the same time; and finally the flyback modulation only two branches may operate at soft switching at the same time.

### Table 4. Soft switching conditions.

| Modulation | Input Bridge | Output Bridge |
|------------|--------------|---------------|
| SPS        | \(\frac{V_2}{V_1} < \frac{\pi}{\pi - \delta}\) | \(\frac{V_2}{V_1} > \frac{\pi - 2\delta}{\pi - \delta}\) |
| Boost      | \(\frac{V_2}{V_1} < \frac{\pi}{\pi - \delta}\) | \(\frac{V_2}{V_1} > \frac{\pi - 2\delta}{\pi - \delta}\), \(\frac{V_2}{V_1} > \frac{\pi}{\pi - \delta}\) |
| Buck       | \(\frac{V_2}{V_1} < \frac{\delta}{\pi - \delta}, \frac{V_2}{V_1} > \frac{\delta}{\pi - \delta}\) | \(\frac{V_2}{V_1} > \frac{\delta}{\pi - \delta}, \frac{V_2}{V_1} > \frac{\delta}{\pi - \delta}\) |
| Flyback    | \(\frac{V_2}{V_1} < \frac{\delta}{\pi - \delta}, \frac{V_2}{V_1} < \frac{\delta}{\pi - \delta}\) | \(\frac{V_2}{V_1} > \frac{\delta}{\pi - \delta}, \frac{V_2}{V_1} > \frac{\delta}{\pi - \delta}\) |

3.5. Discussion on Two-Stage Modulation

Different graphs were obtained for the different two-stage modulations to evaluate its performance under different conditions, and this is based on the previous analysis which considers the equations in Table 3.

Figure 6 shows the PF of the different modulations at different gains (\(M = V_2/V_1\)), gains 0.5, 1, and 2 were selected, a power normalization was made considering the maximum power of the traditional SPS modulation. For just the traditional modulation, the power can reach the maximum power, but for the others, only half of the power can be reached in correspondence with the theory (Table 3). As can be observed in Figure 6a, for \(M = 0.5\), the buck modulation offers the best PF, and this modulation is suggested for \(M < 0.55\). For \(M = 1\), the traditional SPS modulation offers the best power PF (Figure 6b) and, indeed, this is the best PF that can be achieved for all cases. For \(M = 2\), the boost modulation has the best PF (Figure 6c), and this technique is suggested for \(M > 1.45\). The higher the PF, the fewer conduction losses that are expected and, therefore, the higher the efficiency.
Figure 6. Power factor referred to the input voltage: (a) M = 0.5, (b) M = 1, and (c) M = 2.

Depending on the applications and consequently the operating conditions, the best two-stage modulation should be selected according to the designed M. Since the best PF possible is obtained with a gain M = 1, the converter should be worked in this condition, when possible, and using the traditional SPS modulation.

On the other hand, Figure 7 shows the regions where soft switching can be obtained. In Figure 7a can be observed the soft-switching region for the traditional SPS; Figure 7b shows the soft switching region for the boost modulation; while in Figure 7c the region where the buck modulation has soft switching is illustrated; finally, Figure 7d depicts the soft switching area for the flyback modulation. Each modulation has its best operating region. It is observable that the soft switching is dependent on the respective displacement angle and the voltage gain (M). However, some modulations are not viable for achieving soft switching in all its devices, as was explained in Section 3.4.

Figure 7. Soft switching regions: (a) traditional SPS modulation, (b) boost modulation, (c) buck modulation, and (d) flyback modulation.
For the traditional SPS, the best region to operate is near $M = 1$ for both PF and soft-switching conditions; for the boost modulation it is $M > 1$ for soft switching conditions and also the best PF; the best conditions for the buck modulation are $M < 0.6$ for PF, and low angles for soft switching conditions; the flyback modulation has the worst PF in all cases, and the worst soft-switching scenario.

Efficiency depends on two factors: conduction losses and switching losses. The first one is related to the PF and the second can be eliminated if the soft-switching conditions are satisfied. The best two-stage modulation should be selected depending on the operating conditions but considering the PF and the soft switching region.

### 4. Experimental Results

A power converter was designed and experimentally tested. The parameters are summarized in Table 5. To evaluate the performance of the system, different tests were carried out. The performance of each operating condition was evaluated, and the efficiency and the RMS current of the inductor were measured. All the tests were carried out in hard-switching conditions.

**Table 5. Experimental test parameters.**

| Parameter               | M = 0.5 | M = 2   | M = 1   |
|-------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Output power            | 200 W   | 200 W   | 100 V   |
| Input voltage           | 200 V   | 100 V   | 100 V   |
| Output voltage          | 100 V   | 200 V   | 100 V   |
| Switching frequency     | 25 kHz  | 25 kHz  |         |
| Series inductor         | 244 µH  |         | 114 µH  |
| Transformer ratio       |         | n = 1   |         |

#### 4.1. Steady-State Waveforms

Figure 8 shows the waveforms for the different two-stage modulations. The ac voltage sources with their respective phase displacement can be observed, but also the inductor current is shown. In Figure 8a the traditional SPS modulation is shown when $M = 1$. In Figure 8b, the boost modulation occurs when the DAB operates in boosting mode ($M = 2$). Figure 8c,d show the DAB waveforms ($M = 0.5$) for the buck and flyback modulations, respectively. As can be observed, the waveforms correspond with the described operation and effectively two stages are employed to define the DAB operation.

#### 4.2. Efficiency

Figure 9 shows the efficiency for the different two-stage modulations. Figure 9a illustrates the efficiency operating in boosting mode, while in Figure 9b the bucking mode efficiency might be observed; and, in Figure 9c, the efficiency when $M = 1$ is depicted. It can be observed that traditional SPS have better efficiency when $M = 1$, as is expected due to the behavior described in the power factor section. However, better performance is observed for the boost and buck modulations when the converter operates in the boosting or bucking mode, respectively. This is the boost modulation that is better for $M = 2$, and the buck modulation is best for $M = 0.5$.

#### 4.3. RMS Inductor Current

The inductor RMS currents are shown in Figure 10 and, as can be observed, each two-stage modulation has an optimal operating region. Figure 10a corresponds to $M = 0.5$, Figure 10b to $M = 1$, and Figure 10c to $M = 2$. Again, it can be seen that the traditional SPS has better performance when $M = 1$; the boost modulation is better for $M = 2$; and the buck modulation is best for $M = 0.5$, because of the values of the RMS current.
Transformer ratio \( n = 1 \)

### 4.1 Steady-State Waveforms

Figure 8 shows the waveforms for the different two-stage modulations. The ac voltage sources with their respective phase displacement can be observed, but also the inductor current is shown. In Figure 8a the traditional SPS modulation is shown when \( M = 1 \). In Figure 8b, the boost modulation occurs when the DAB operates in boosting mode (\( M = 2 \)). Figures 8c and 8d show the DAB waveforms (\( M = 0.5 \)) for the buck and flyback modulations, respectively. As can be observed, the waveforms correspond with the described operation and effectively two stages are employed to define the DAB operation.

![Figure 8](image)

**Figure 8.** Experimental results. From top to bottom, input bridge output voltage, output bridge reflected output voltage, transformer inductance current: (a) traditional SPS modulation, for \( M = 1 \), (b) boost modulation, for \( M = 2 \), (c) buck modulation, for \( M = 0.5 \), and (d) flyback modulation, for \( M = 0.5 \).

### 4.2 Efficiency

Figure 9 shows the efficiency for the different two-stage modulations. Figure 9a illustrates the efficiency operating in boosting mode, while in Figure 9b the bucking mode efficiency might be observed; and, in Figure 9c, the efficiency when \( M = 1 \) is depicted. It can be observed that traditional SPS have better efficiency when \( M = 1 \), as is expected due to the behavior described in the power factor section. However, better performance is observed for the boost and buck modulations when the converter operates in the boosting or bucking mode, respectively. This is the boost modulation that is better for \( M = 2 \), and the buck modulation is best for \( M = 0.5 \).

![Figure 9](image)

**Figure 9.** Efficiency results for: (a) \( M = 0.5 \), (b) \( M = 1 \), (c) \( M = 2 \).
4.3 RMS Inductor Current

The inductor RMS currents are shown in Figure 10 and, as can be observed, each two-stage modulation has an optimal operating region. Figure 10a corresponds to M = 0.5, Figure 10b to M = 1, and Figure 10c to M = 2. Again, it can be seen that the traditional SPS has better performance when M = 1; the boost modulation is better for M = 2; and the buck modulation is best for M = 0.5, because of the values of the RMS current.

5. Conclusions

The DAB converter is a widely used converter due to its design flexibility. Single-phase shift is the simplest modulation technique used for the converter. In this paper, different two-stage modulations based on the SPS were analyzed where only two stages are needed to transfer power. The best modulation technique may be selected depending on the operating conditions based on the gain, but considering the PF and the soft switching region since the different modulation offers better performance than the others depending on the operating conditions. Traditional SPS is suggested when gain near one is employed, but when boosting or bucking modes are used, the boost or the buck modulation may be a better option. One of the advantages of the studied modulations is the simplicity of the modulation; only one displacement angle is in fact needed.

The buck modulation operates best when the converter works in bucking mode, while the boost modulation shows better performance when the converter is driven in boosting mode. To validate the analysis, experimental results were conducted, which illustrated the performance of each modulation.

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