Power Maximized and Anti-Saturation Power Conditioning Circuit for Current Transformer Harvester on Overhead Lines

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Abstract: The current transformer (CT) harvester is an effective and efficient solution due to its higher reliability and power density compared to other techniques. However, the current of overhead conductor fluctuates from tens of to thousands of amperes, which brings two challenges for the CT harvester design. First, the startup current, above which the harvester can independently power the monitoring devices, should be as low as possible, so that the battery capacity can be reduced; secondly, the magnetic core should be ensured unsaturated in high current condition. This paper proposes a power conditioning circuit with comprehensive control to maximize the output power and prevent the core from saturation. A prototype that can deliver 22.5 W power with 200 A is designed, and a control strategy based on the finite-state machine is implemented. Experimental results show that the startup current for 2 W load is about 30 A, and the core power density at 60 A is 45.96 mW/cm³, both of which are markedly improved compared to the reported results of the same condition.

1. Introduction

Condition monitoring (CM) for overhead lines (OHLs), such as temperature monitoring, fault detection and sag measurement, plays an essential role in the electrical power transmission, helping to reduce maintenance costs and improve the transmission reliability. The real-time thermal rating (RTTR) can significantly improve the transmission capacity while more monitoring and communication devices are required [1]. It is a challenge to power these devices on OHL because the power supply should be stable without deadtime and reliable in the harsh environment. Energy harvesting that overcomes the battery replacement issue has become an effective solution. Harvesters based on different energy sources have been reported, including vibration (piezoelectric [2], electromagnetic [3] and electrostatic [4]), electromagnetic coupling (electric coupling [5], and magnetic coupling [6]-[18]), thermal [19], solar [20] and wind [21]. Solar and wind harvesters heavily rely on the weather condition, so the energy storage element is bulky for a continuous power supply. Thermoelectric generators are unsuitable for OHL because of the wide temperature swing between the power line and ambient environment. An electric coupling harvester with power conditioning circuit has been presented in [5]. It has been demonstrated that the harvesting tube can achieve 370 mW on 150 kV ac lines. The tube diameter is 30 cm, and the length is 55 cm.

Besides, the magnetic coupling harvester using the conductor current has been studied. According to the placed position, two types of magnetic coupling harvester are termed in [17]: enclosing-line current transformer (CT) harvesters [6]-[16] and free-standing harvesters [17], [18]. The CT harvester is applied in the scenario where CT is allowed to be clamped around the power line and more power is demanded, whereas the free-standing harvester is appropriate for the scenario where CT cannot be installed and less power is required. Therefore, the CT harvester is more suitable for OHL monitoring.

Since the current of OHL fluctuates from tens of to thousands of Amps, the CT harvester design is quite different from the low-current-range cases (from several Amps to tens of Amps) [6]-[9]. The CT harvester for OHL needs to maximize the power in low current condition for the reduction of backup batteries. Meanwhile, the saturation of magnetic core should be avoided when the current becomes high. Since the magnetostriction effect in saturation is serious and the split core will produce noise and physical vibration, which will result in the installation damage and insulation deterioration [22]. The voltage distortion caused by saturation will produce high-order harmonics and do harm to the grid and the associated circuits [23]. Thus, the air gap of magnetic core is employed for extending the unsaturated working range. However, too large air gap will degrade the power harvest in low current condition. An overvoltage protective unit consisting of a solid-state relay and a dissipative resistor in [10] is proposed to prevent the core saturation. However, the dissipative resistor will increase the self-dissipation of power supply. In [11], two secondary coils are implemented, and they are toggled when the primary current changes, so as to maximize the power in low current condition and to prevent the saturation in high current condition. But the CT design is more complicated.

Power electronic circuits with specific control methods are widely used for voltage conversion and power regulation in both ac and dc networks [24]. This paper proposes a power conditioning circuit with comprehensive control for CT harvester. The advantages of the proposed method are:

1) The harvested power is maximized. From a novel viewpoint, the buck-boost converter is implemented for impedance matching to achieve maximum power transfer. The power maximization in low current condition is beneficial to reduce the capacity of backup battery.

2) Short-circuit angle regulation is proposed to prevent the core saturation, which is realised by a semi-controlled active rectifier (S-CAR). This method will not result in extra self-dissipation like the dissipative resistor method.

The organization of this paper is: in Section 2, the power harvest of CT without conditioning circuit is analysed; in Section 3, the power maximizing circuit is presented and the
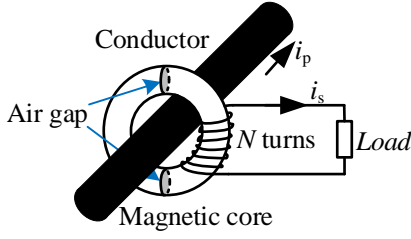
Fig. 1. *CT harvester*

impedance matching method is analysed; in Section 4, the short-circuit angle regulation for anti-saturation is proposed and analysed; in Section 5, a control strategy based on finite-state machine is designed for the variable primary current; in Section 6, experimental results are presented to verify these methods; in Section 7, the conclusions are given.
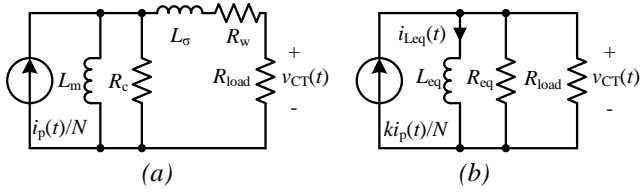
2. CT Harvesting Analysis

Fig. 2. *CT circuit model*
(a) General model, *(b)* Norton equivalent model

For the CT harvester on OHL, as shown in Fig. 1, high saturation flux density B_{sat} and high permeability μ_r of the magnetic core are required. A non-oriented electrical steel toroidal core is used in this paper. The core parameters are listed in Table 1. For the core with air gap, the equivalent relative permeability is given by [10].

$$\mu_{eq} = \frac{\mu_r}{1 + \mu_r \dfrac{a}{l}} \tag{1}$$

Generally, the CT can be modelled by the magnetizing inductance L_m, leak inductance L_σ, wire loss resistance R_w and core loss resistance R_c [6], as shown in Fig. 2(a). This circuit model can be further simplified by Norton Theorem, as shown in Fig. 2(b). The equivalent inductance L_{eq}, equivalent loss resistance R_{eq} and coefficient k of the current source are derived as

$$R_{eq} = \frac{(R_c R_w - \omega^2 L_m L_\sigma)^2 + \omega^2 (L_m R_c + L_m R_w + L_\sigma R_c)^2}{R_c^2 R_w + \omega^2 L_m^2 (R_c + R_w)} \tag{2}$$

$$L_{eq} = \frac{(R_c R_w - \omega^2 L_m L_\sigma)^2 + \omega^2 (L_m R_c + L_m R_w + L_\sigma R_c)^2}{\omega^4 L_m^2 L_\sigma + \omega^2 (L_m + L_\sigma) R_c^2} \tag{3}$$

$$k = \frac{j\omega L_m R_c}{(R_c R_w - \omega^2 L_m L_\sigma) + j\omega(L_m R_c + L_\sigma R_c + L_m R_w)} \tag{4}$$

The theoretical relationships between the two circuit models are described by (2), (3) and (4). However, it is unnecessary to derive the Norton parameters from the general model parameters in the practical measurement. The Norton parameters can be directly measured by the methods which are commonly used to determine a Norton equivalent circuit, such as the method using open-circuit voltage and short-circuit current, and the method of adding a test voltage source. The measurement process will be presented in Section 6. The Norton parameters of the adopted CT are measured and listed in Table 2.

Table 1 Magnetic core parameters

Symbol	Parameter	Value
h	height	30 mm
r_{in}	inner radius	35 mm
r_{out}	outer radius	50 mm
r_{mid}	middle radius	42.5 mm
A_{eff}	effective flux area	443 mm^2
a	total air gap length	0.36 mm
l	average length of magnetic path	266.9 mm
μ_r	relative permeability	3960
B_{sat}	saturation flux density	1.35 T

Table 2 CT model parameters

Symbol	Parameter	Value
N	Secondary turns	600
L_{eq}	Norton Equivalent inductance	460 mH
R_{eq}	Norton Equivalent resistance	3.65 kΩ
k	Current source coefficient	≈ 1

Denote the primary current by $i_p(t) = I_p \sin(\omega t + \delta)$. The amplitude of $i_{Leq}(t)$ can be derived as

$$I_{Leq} = \frac{kI_p}{N \cdot \sqrt{\left(\dfrac{\omega L_{eq}}{R_{eq} // R_{load}}\right)^2 + 1}} \tag{5}$$

The core operating point can be expressed by I_{Leq}.

$$B_{op} \approx \frac{\mu_0 \mu_{eq} N I_{Leq}}{2\pi r_{mid}} = \frac{\mu_0 \mu_{eq} k I_p}{2\pi r_{mid} \cdot \sqrt{\left(\dfrac{\omega L_{eq}}{R_{eq} // R_{load}}\right)^2 + 1}} \tag{6}$$

Therefore, as the amplitude I_p or R_{load} increases, the core operating point B_{op} will go up. When B_{op} increases to B_{sat}, the CT output voltage at critical saturation is obtained.

$$V_{CT(sat)} = 2\pi f N A_{eff} B_{sat} \tag{7}$$

Assume the core is working unsaturated, the CT output power is

$$P_{load} = \frac{(V_{CT} / \sqrt{2})^2}{R_{load}} = \frac{\left(\dfrac{k}{N} I_p\right)^2}{2\left[\left(\dfrac{1}{R_{eq}} + \dfrac{1}{R_{load}}\right)^2 + \left(\dfrac{1}{\omega L_{eq}}\right)^2\right] R_{load}} \tag{8}$$

where V_{CT} is the amplitude of CT output voltage v_{CT}. The maximum power transfer can be achieved when the load equals

$$R_{load} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\left(\dfrac{1}{R_{eq}}\right)^2 + \left(\dfrac{1}{\omega L_{eq}}\right)^2}} \tag{9}$$

The maximum CT output power is

$$P_{load(max)} = \frac{R_{eq}}{4(1 + \sqrt{1 + Q^2})}\left(\frac{k}{N} I_p\right)^2 \tag{10}$$

where Q is CT quality factor, defined as $Q = R_{eq} / \omega L_{eq}$.

3. Power maximizing circuit

3.1. Reactive power compensation

From Fig. 2(b), it can be seen that the equivalent inductor will shunt the source current and generate reactive power, which degrades the active power output. A parallel resonant capacitor C_r can be used to compensate the reactive current and improve the active power output, as shown in Fig. 3. The compensation capacitance is calculated by
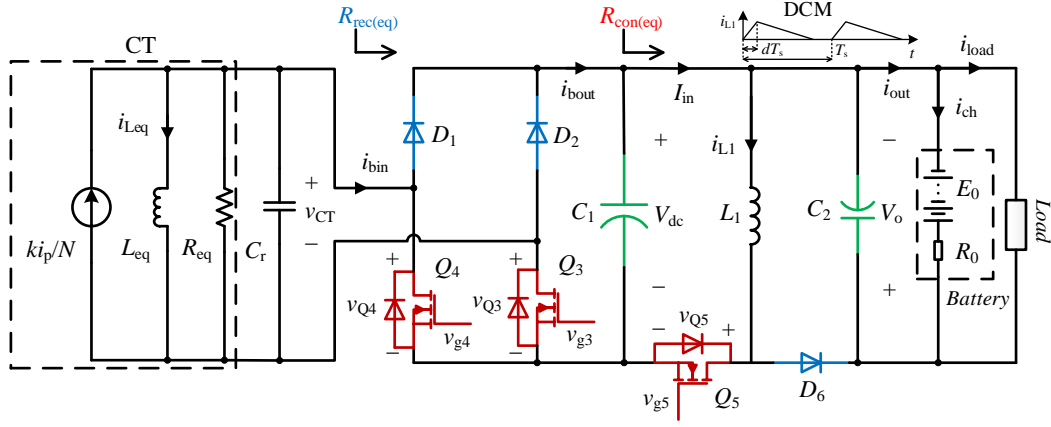
Fig. 3. *Schematic of proposed power conditioning circuit*

$$C_r = 1/(\omega_r^2 L_{eq}) \qquad (11)$$

The output power of compensated CT can be derived as

$$P_{load} = \frac{\left(\dfrac{k}{N}I_p\right)^2}{2\left(\dfrac{1}{R_{eq}}+\dfrac{1}{R_{load}}\right)^2 R_{load}} \qquad (12)$$

When $R_{load} = R_{eq}$, the maximum power transfer of compensated CT is achieved.

$$P_{load(max)} = \frac{R_{eq}}{8}\left(\frac{k}{N}I_p\right)^2 \qquad (13)$$

Comparing (10) and (13), the maximum output power with compensation is increased by the ratio κ.

$$\kappa = \frac{(1+\sqrt{1+Q^2})}{2} \approx \frac{1+Q}{2} \qquad (14)$$

where the CT quality factor $Q \gg 1$.

3.2. Conditioning circuit with impedance matching

For the compensated CT, the maximum power transfer happens when the load resistance R_{load} equals the CT equivalent loss resistance R_{eq}. In practice, the monitoring devices powered by CT is considered as a dynamic load, the impedance of which is varying in a wide range. The maximum power transfer is hardly achieved. However, the power maximization in low current condition is necessary considering the capacity limit of backup battery. Therefore, a conditioning circuit with impedance matching function is designed, as shown in Fig. 3. The conditioning circuit consists of a compensation capacitor, a semi-controlled active rectifier (S-CAR) and a buck-boost converter. In impedance matching, the S-CAR works as a normal full-wave rectifier.

As we know, the buck-boost converter is commonly used for dc voltage conversion. However, it can be also used for impedance matching when it works in discontinuous conduction mode (DCM). The reason is that the input impedance of DCM buck-boost converter is resistive and can be derived as

$$R_{con(eq)} = \frac{V_{dc}}{I_{in}} = \frac{V_{dc}}{\dfrac{V_{dc}}{2L_1}d^2 T_s} = \frac{2L_1 f_s}{d^2} \qquad (15)$$

where f_s is the switching frequency and d is the duty cycle of Q_5.

From (15), the input resistance of DCM buck-boost converter is independent of input voltage and load impedance. If L_1 and f_s are determined, the input resistance

of buck-boost convert can be solely controlled by duty cycle d. On the other hand, it can be derived that the input resistance of the full-wave rectifier is half of its load, i.e.

$$R_{rec(eq)} = \frac{1}{2}R_{con(eq)} \qquad (16)$$

Thus, the impedance matching, or maximum power transfer, can be achieved by a constant duty cycle d_{mpp} and independent of the dynamic load. Since the maximum power transfer condition is $R_{rec(eq)} = R_{eq}$, the duty cycle of maximum power transfer can be derived as

$$d_{mpp} = \sqrt{\frac{L_1 f_s}{R_{eq}}} \qquad (17)$$

Therefore, the harvester in low current condition can maintain the maximum power transfer by setting the duty cycle to d_{mpp} regardless of the load varying.

4. Short-circuit angle regulation

When the conditioning circuit works at d_{mpp} and the primary current increases to the high current condition, the magnetic core will be saturated. The critical primary current for saturation can be calculated by

$$I_{p(crit)} = \frac{2NV_{CT(sat)}}{kR_{eq}} \qquad (18)$$

If the duty cycle d is regulated to prevent saturation when $I_p > I_{p(crit)}$, the output power will lose control. Thus, an extra control variable called rectifier short-circuit angle is utilised to prevent the core saturation. Because the flux density is proportional to the integration of CT output voltage $\int_0^t v_{CT}\, dt$, to control v_{CT} means to indirectly control the core operating point B_{op}. In Fig. 3, if MOSFETs Q_3 and Q_4 are forced to turn on together, the CT output will be short-circuited, that is $v_{CT} = 0$. If this happens in every period and lasts for a duration $T_{short\text{-}circuit}$, the peak value of v_{CT} can be lowered. The core operating point B_{op} is also lowered. The definition of short-circuit angle is given as

$$\varphi = \frac{T_{short\text{-}circuit}}{T_{period}} \cdot 2\pi \qquad (19)$$

The operating process of S-CAR with short-circuit angle are depicted in Fig. 4. It should be noted that MOSFETs Q_3 and Q_4 are also used as synchronous rectifiers to improve the rectifier efficiency.
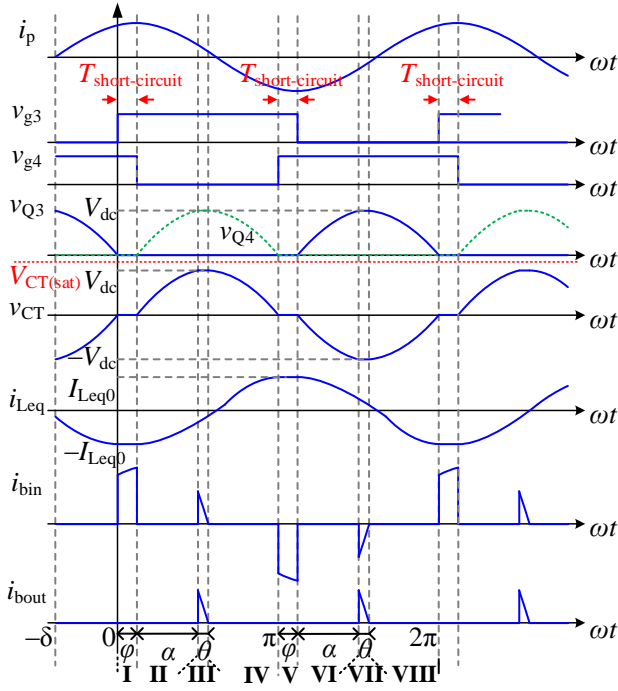
Fig. 4. *Operating process of S-CAR with short-circuit angle*

(a)

(b)

Fig. 5. *CT output voltage peak $V_{dc}*$ versus short-circuit angle φ: (a) Q=20, (b) Q=40*

Interval I $[0, \varphi]$: Q_4 has been turned on as synchronous rectifier before $t = 0$, so v_{Q3} equals $-v_{CT}$. When v_{Q3} reaches zero from positive at $t = 0$, Q_3 is turned on. Then the CT output is short-circuited. Thus, the CT output voltage and equivalent inductor current are

$$v_{CT}(t) = 0 \tag{20}$$

$$i_{Leq}(t) = -I_{Leq0} \tag{21}$$

Interval II $[\varphi, \varphi+\alpha]$: At the end of short-circuit angle, Q_4 is turned off. Then the CT output voltage v_{CT} rises from zero to rectifier output voltage V_{dc}. It should be noted that $V_{CT(sat)}$ derived from (7) is the upper limit of v_{CT} for anti-saturation, which is depicted by red dashed line in Fig. 4. The inductor current and CT output voltage can be derived as

$$i_{Leq}(t) \approx A_1 e^{-\alpha_1\left(t - \frac{\varphi}{\omega}\right)} \sin\left(\omega t + \varphi_1 - \varphi\right) - \frac{QkI_p}{N}\cos\left(\omega t + \delta\right) \tag{22}$$

$$v_{CT}(t) = L_{eq}A_1 e^{-\alpha_1\left(t - \frac{\varphi}{\omega}\right)}\left[\omega\cos\left(\omega t + \varphi_1 - \varphi\right) - \alpha_1\sin\left(\omega t + \varphi_1 - \varphi\right)\right] + \frac{kI_pR_{eq}}{N}\sin\left(\omega t + \delta\right) \tag{23}$$

where $\alpha_1 = 1/(R_{eq}C_r)$.

Interval III $[\varphi+\alpha, \varphi+\alpha+\theta]$: D_1 is turned on. The CT output voltage v_{CT} is equal to the rectifier output voltage V_{dc}, and i_{Leq} increases linearly.

$$v_{CT}(t) = V_{dc} \tag{24}$$

$$i_{Leq}(t) = A_1 e^{-\frac{\alpha}{\omega}\alpha_1}\sin\left(\alpha + \varphi_1\right) - \frac{QkI_p}{N}\cos\left(\varphi + \alpha + \delta\right) + \frac{V_{dc}}{L_{eq}}\left(t - \frac{\varphi + \alpha}{\omega}\right) \tag{25}$$

Interval IV $[\varphi+\alpha+\theta, \pi]$: D_1 is turned off. Then v_{CT} decreases from V_{dc} to zero. The inductor current and CT output voltage have similar forms with *Interval II*.

$$i_{Leq}(t) \approx A_2 e^{-\alpha_1\left(t - \frac{\varphi+\alpha+\theta}{\omega}\right)}\sin\left[\omega t + \varphi_2 - (\varphi+\alpha+\theta)\right] - \frac{QkI_p}{N}\cos\left(\omega t + \delta\right) \tag{26}$$
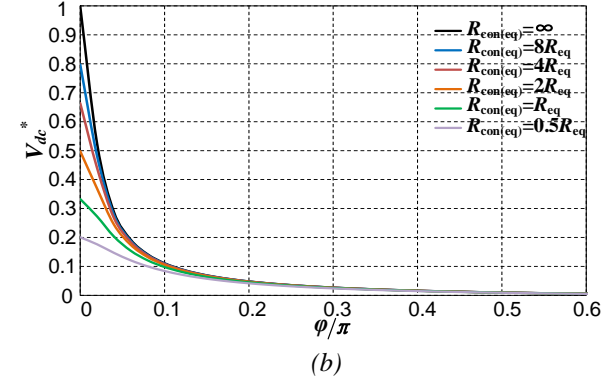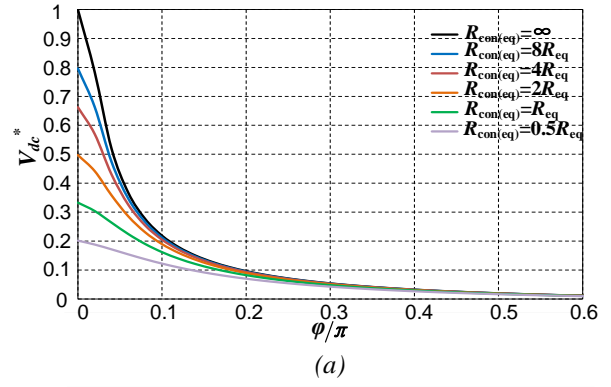
$$v_{CT}(t) = L_{eq}A_2 e^{-\alpha_1\left(t - \frac{\varphi+\alpha+\theta}{\omega}\right)}\{\omega\cos\left[\omega t + \varphi_2 - (\varphi+\alpha+\theta)\right] - \alpha_1\sin\left[\omega t + \varphi_2 - (\varphi+\alpha+\theta)\right]\} + \frac{kI_pR_{eq}}{N}\sin\left(\omega t + \delta\right) \tag{27}$$

Intervals V–VIII $[\pi, 2\pi]$: These four intervals are symmetric with *Intervals I–IV*.

From (20)-(27), nine continuity equations can be derived, which are listed in Appendices. Solving the simultaneous equations, the aforementioned coefficients A_1, A_2, φ_1, φ_2, δ, α, θ, I_{Leq0} and V_{dc} can be determined. Since the continuity equations are transcendental equations, only the numerical solution is achieved by MAPLE.

The numerical relationship between CT output voltage peak V_{dc} and short-circuit angle φ is depicted in Fig. 5, where $V_{dc}*$ is the normalized value and $R_{con(eq)}$ is the load resistance of rectifier. It can be seen that the falling of V_{dc} is fairly steep when $\varphi < 0.1$. A higher quality factor Q or a larger load resistance will make the falling steeper. It can be inferred that with a proper regulation of short-circuit angle, V_{dc} can be limited below $V_{CT(sat)}$. Then the anti-saturation is achieved.

5. Comprehensive control strategy

For the real primary current with fluctuation, a comprehensive control strategy is designed. The finite-state machine programming is adopted to implement the control strategy on MCU. The harvester has three states, namely maximum output power state (MOP), limited output power state (LOP), and limited output voltage state (LOV), as shown in Fig. 6. The rectifier output voltage V_{dc} and the short-circuit angle φ determines the state transition. Two reference voltages $V_{dc\,(low)}$ and $V_{dc(high)}$ are employed for state transition. Their values are quite close to the saturation voltage $V_{CT(sat)}$ and comply with $V_{dc(low)} < V_{dc(high)} < V_{CT(sat)}$.
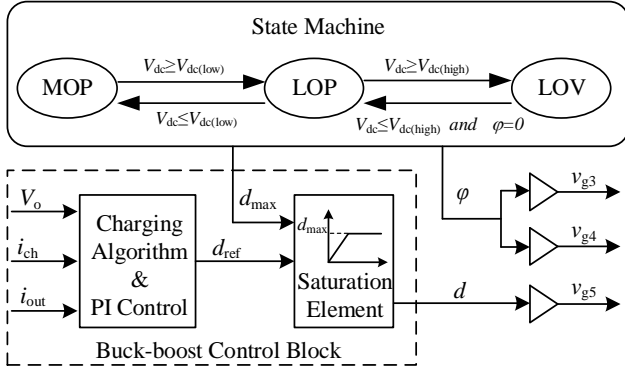
Fig. 6. *Control diagram*

The allowed maximum duty cycle d_{max} and the short-circuit angle φ of the S-CAR are the output of state machine. It should be noted that the real duty cycle d is regulated by the buck-boost control block while d_{max} only determines the upper limit. The buck-boost control block contains normal functions such as battery charging management and output voltage/current control, which will not be discussed in this paper.

MOP: The initial state of the state machine is the MOP state, which is for the low primary current condition. In this state, the short-circuit angle φ is fixed to zero and d_{max} is set at d_{mpp}. The buck-boost duty cycle d is regulated in $[0, d_{mpp}]$. When the duty cycle is regulated to d_{mpp}, the maximum power transfer is achieved. The rectifier output voltage V_{dc}, however, is uncontrolled in MOP. The maximum output power of MOP can be derived from (13).

LOP: When the primary current increases and results in $V_{dc} \geq V_{dc(low)}$, the state machine changes from MOP state to LOP state. In LOP state, the short-circuit angle φ remains zero and the maximum duty cycle d_{max} is designed to increase linear with V_{dc} as

$$d_{max} = d_{mpp} + p_d(V_{dc} - V_{dc(low)}) \tag{28}$$

where p_d is a constant coefficient. Thus, V_{dc} can be stabilized and keeps in the range $[V_{dc(low)}, V_{dc(high)}]$. Since $V_{dc} \approx V_{CT(sat)}$ in LOP, the magnetic core is working at critical saturation. Thus, the maximum output power can be calculated as
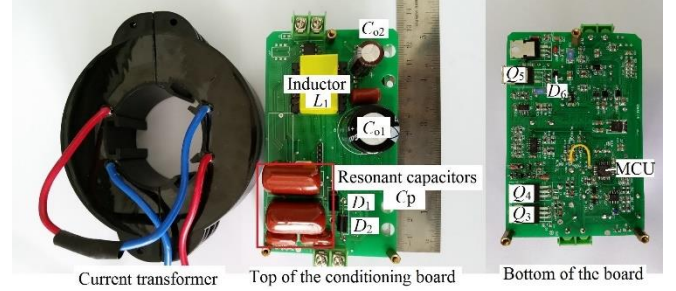
$$P_{max(LOP)} = \frac{kI_p V_{CT(sat)}}{2N} - \frac{V_{CT(sat)}^2}{2R_{eq}} \tag{29}$$

LOV: When the primary current further increases and the required power remains small, the rectifier output voltage V_{dc} will be larger than $V_{dc(high)}$. Then the state machine shifts to LOV state. In this state, the short-circuit angle φ is regulated to keep V_{dc} equal to $V_{dc(high)}$, and the maximum duty cycle d_{max} is fixed according to (28). The coordination of short-circuit angle and the duty cycle keeps the magnetic core working at the critical saturation.

In conclusion, the harvester output power is maximized by impedance matching in low current condition and by working at critical saturation in high current condition. Thus, the power maximization over the full current range is achieved. The maximum output capability is calculated by (30) with the approximation $V_{dc(low)} \approx V_{dc(high)} \approx V_{CT(sat)}$. The short-circuit angle is added in LOV state to prevent the core saturation, and meanwhile the critical saturated working is maintained, which can make full use of the core linear region and not result in much power reduction.
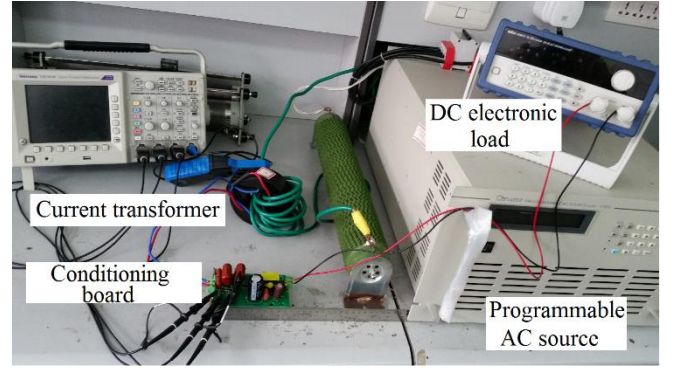
(a)

(b)

Fig. 7. *Experimental setup*
(a) Test bench, *(b)* CT and conditioning board

$$P_{CT\,max} = \begin{cases} \dfrac{R_{eq}}{8}\left(\dfrac{k}{N}I_p\right)^2 & \text{if } \dfrac{kI_p}{N} \leq \dfrac{2V_{CT(sat)}}{R_{eq}} \\[2mm] \dfrac{kI_p V_{CT(sat)}}{2N} - \dfrac{V_{CT(sat)}^2}{2R_{eq}} & \text{if } \dfrac{kI_p}{N} > \dfrac{2V_{CT(sat)}}{R_{eq}} \end{cases} \tag{30}$$

6. Experimental verification

A test bench was constructed and used to verify the proposed methods, as shown in Fig. 7(a). It included a programmable AC current source with 20 A (50 Hz) maximum output, a sliding rheostat as AC resistor load, a DC electronic load and the CT. To achieve an equivalent of 200 A (50 Hz) maximum primary current, 10 turns were wound on the CT primary side. A prototype of the conditioning circuit was designed, as shown in Fig. 7(b). A cortex M0 microcontroller STM32F051 was used to control the S-CAR and the buck-boost converter. The prototype parameters are listed in Table 3.

Table 3 Parameters of conditioning board

Symbol	Parameter	Value
C_r	Compensation capacitor	22 μF
C_1	Rectifier output capacitor	470 μF
C_2	Buck-boost output capacitor	220 μF
L_1	Buck-boost inductor	1.09 mH
f_s	Buck-boost switching frequency	50 kHz
E_0	Battery voltage	48 V
$D_1 D_2$	Rectifier diodes	1N5408
$Q_3 Q_4 Q_5$	MOSFETs	IRF640
D_6	Buck-boost diode	RS1G

The measurement setups of the CT Norton parameters are illustrated in Fig. 8. The measurement process is as follows.

1) In Fig. 8(a), provide a primary current I_p (including amplitude and phase) and short circuit the secondary side. Then the short-circuit current I_{sc} (including amplitude and phase) can be measured. To make the short-circuit current

I_{sc} large enough for measurement, the primary current was set to $I_p = 100$ A $\angle 0°$ in the experiment. Thus, the current coefficient k (in phasor form) can be derived from $k = N * I_{sc} / I_p$, where N is 600 for the adopted CT. The result of the current coefficient is $k \approx 1 \angle 0°$, as listed in Table 2.

2) In Fig. 8(b), remove the primary current and add a test voltage source to the secondary side. Use the power analyzer to measure the active power P_A and reactive power Q_A. The test voltage $V_{test(peak)}$ was set to 60 V, which is in the middle of the core linear region. From P_A, Q_A and $V_{test(RMS)}$, the equivalent inductance L_{eq} and equivalent resistance R_{eq} can be derived according to (31) and (32). The results of the adopted CT are $L_{eq} = 460$ mH and $R_{eq} = 3.65$ kΩ, as listed in Table 2.

$$L_{eq} = \frac{V^2_{test(RMS)}}{\omega Q_A} \quad (31)$$

$$R_{eq} = \frac{V^2_{test(RMS)}}{P_A} \quad (32)$$
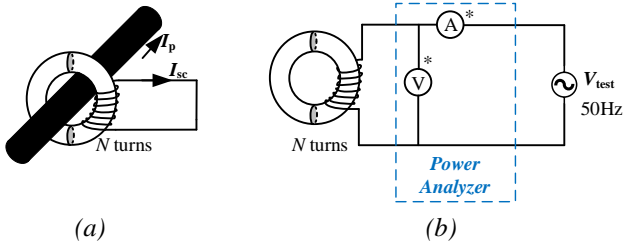
Fig. 8. Measurement setups of CT Norton parameters
*(a)* Setup of measuring short-circuit current, *(b)* Setup of adding test voltage source

Besides, the critical saturation voltage $V_{CT(sat)}$ also can be measured by the setup shown in Fig. 8(b). Since the core saturation will result in a dramatical decrease of L_{eq}, we can obtain the saturation voltage by measuring the change of L_{eq} when the test voltage increases. In the experiment, the peak value of V_{test} was increased from 20 V to 135 V. The values of L_{eq} were measured and depicted in Fig. 9. The dramatical decrease of L_{eq} can be seen when the test voltage increases to a certain level. The criterion to define the critical saturation voltage in our design is the 1.5% decrease point compared to the linear region inductance. Since the value of L_{eq} in the linear region is around 460 mH, the critical saturation voltage $V_{CT(sat)}$ is determined as 115 V, where L_{eq} is 453.5 mH (with 1.4% decrease compared to 460 mH).
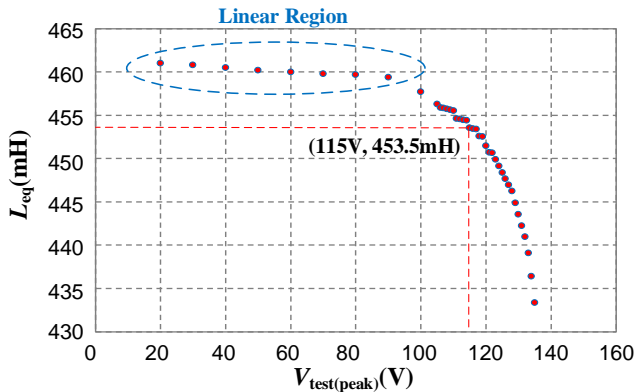
Fig. 9. Experimental results of L_{eq} versus $V_{test(peak)}$

The experimental comparison between the CT with and without compensation was conducted, and the results are shown in Fig. 10(a) and (b). The rectifier was replaced by the sliding rheostat to achieve the input resistance change. The experimental results well track the theoretical calculation (8) and (12), except the compensated case with 30 A. In the 20 A condition, the power increasing ratio by compensation is calculated as 1026 mW / 78 mW ≈ 13, which agrees with (14). For the compensated CT, the maximum power transfer is achieved at 3.64 kΩ load, which matches the CT parameter R_{eq} in Table 2. In Fig. 10(b), the experimental results of 30 A deviate from the theoretical calculation since the core enters saturation zone.


(a)

(b)
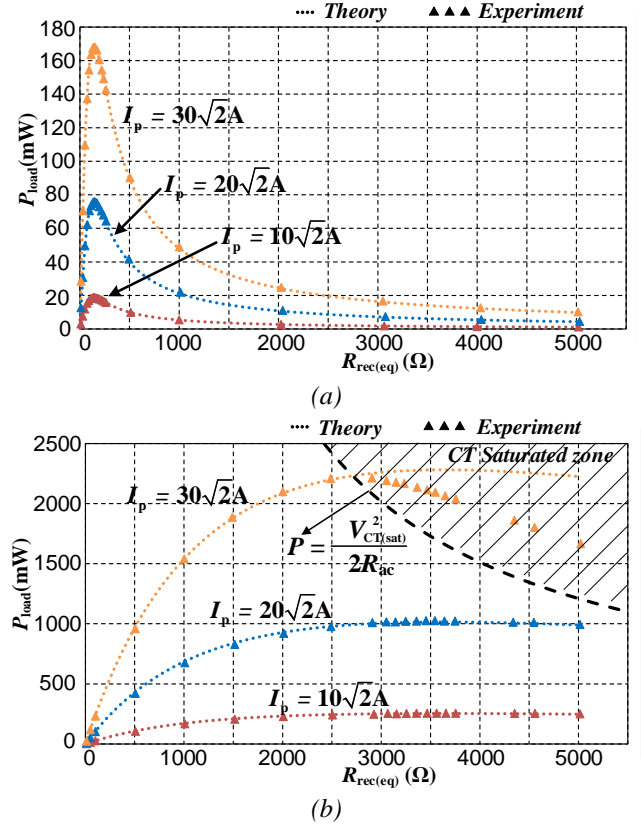
*Fig. 10. CT output power: (a)* Without compensation capacitor, *(b)* With compensation capacitor

For impedance matching, the buck-boost converter was controlled to work in DCM and the duty cycle was used to regulate the input resistance. Since the maximum power transfer is achieved when $R_{rec(eq)} = 3.64$ kΩ, the buck-boost input resistance $R_{con(eq)}$ should be 7.28 kΩ. The matching duty cycle d_{mpp} can be calculated as 0.12. The waveforms of the buck-boost converter working in impedance matching are shown in Fig. 11(a).

The short-circuit angle regulation was achieved by the S-CAR. The waveforms of short-circuit angle regulation are shown in Fig. 11(b). The relationship between CT output voltage and short-circuit angle was measured with 40 A rms primary current and plotted in Fig. 12. The experimental results show a good consistency with the numerical results presented in Section 4. The deviation of 4 kΩ curves at the beginning is due to the core saturation.

To implement the control strategy proposed in Section 5, two reference voltages were set as $V_{dc(low)} = 103$ V and $V_{dc(high)} = 107$ V, and the coefficient p_d was set to 0.07. The selections of the two reference voltages are mainly in consideration of 1) being close to the saturation voltage $V_{CT(sat)}$ for power maximization; 2) ensuring the control stabilization. Specifically, $V_{dc(high)}$ of 107 V is close to the

(a)

(b)
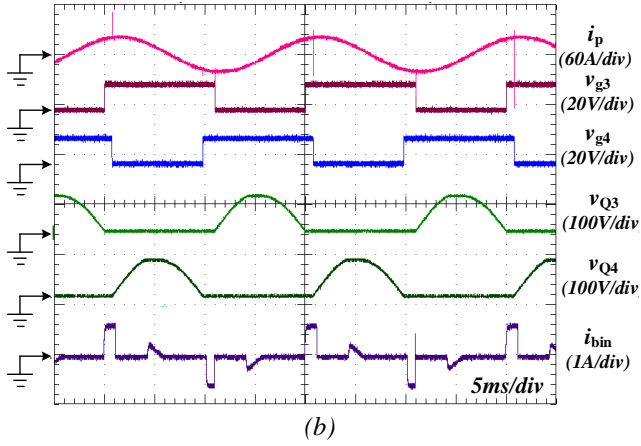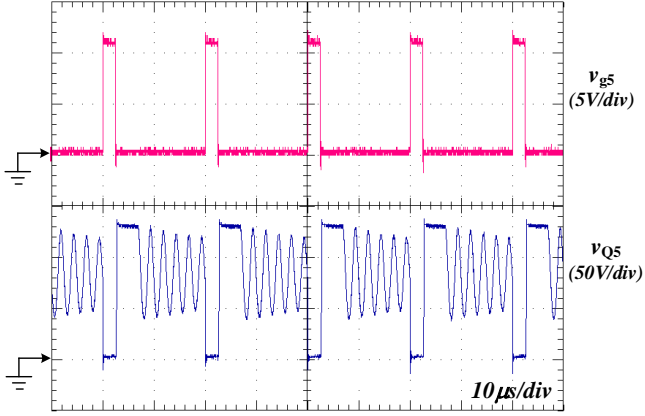
Fig. 11. *Working Waveforms: (a)* Buck-boost working in impedance matching, *(b)* S-CAR working with short-circuit angle regulation
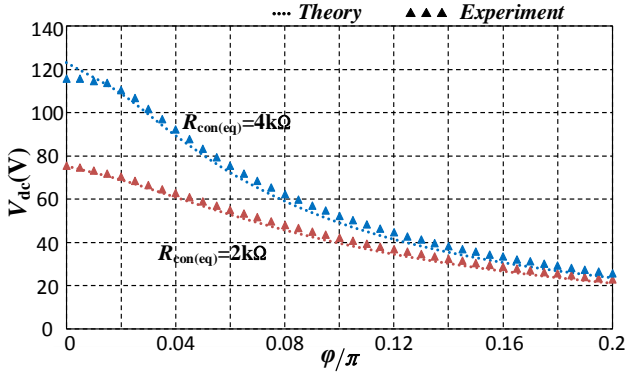

**Fig. 12.** *Rectifier output voltage versus short-circuit angle*

saturation voltage 115 V and has a margin of 8 V to avoid the deep saturation. $V_{dc(low)}$ of 103 V was obtained by test, and the voltage gap of 4 V ($V_{dc(high)}$ - $V_{dc(low)}$) proved enough to ensure the stabilization of the LOP state.

The harvester maximum output capability was measured and depicted in Fig. 13. The experimental results are consistent with the calculation of (30). Especially, the power density of magnetic core with 60 A rms is 5520 mW / 120.1 cm^3 = 45.96 mW/cm^3. The result in the same condition reported by [10] is 250 mW / 100.9cm^3 = 2.48 mW/cm^3. Besides, the maximum output power with 200 A rms is measured as 22.5 W, which is 9 times higher than 2.5 W reported by [10]. A marked improvement is achieved by the prototype. The efficiency of the conditioning circuit is shown in Fig. 14. The efficiency is higher than 90% when

the current exceeds 40 A rms. It should be noted that the power consumption of gate drive circuit and MCU was 0.15 W, which was not counted in the efficiency calculation.
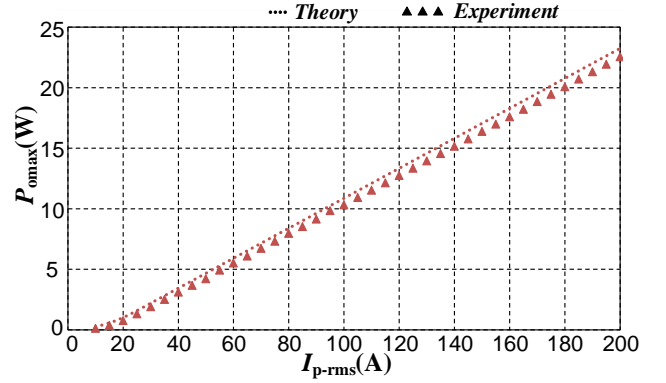
Fig. 13. *Maximum output power versus primary current*
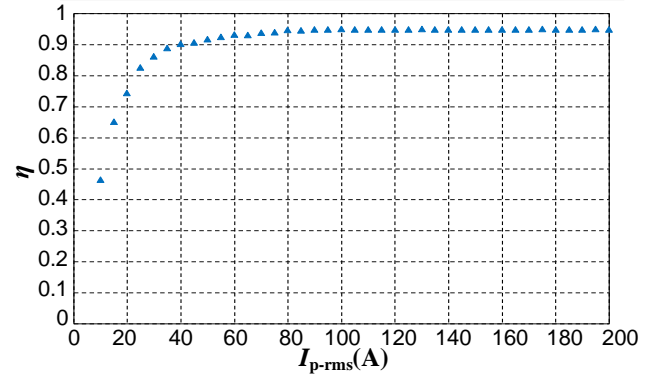
Fig. 14. *Efficiency of the power conditioning circuit*

Considering the real loads of CT harvester include sensors and communication devices, three samples listed in Table 4 are employed for the power evaluation. It can be seen that the power consumption of sensors can be neglected compared to the communication devices. Assume these devices in working mode, the total power consumption is 1798.5 mW. On the other hand, 2 W can be harvested with 30 A as shown in Fig. 13. Thus, the startup current for independently powering the load can be set to 30 A (50 Hz). The low startup current is beneficial to reduce the capacity of backup battery.

Table 4 Power consumptions of monitoring devices

Function	Product	Power Consumption
WLAN	NXP13201 Transceiver	Working: 90.5 mW
		Idle: 1.35 mW
WWAN	HL7618 4G Module	Working: 1708 mW
		Idle: 3.92 mW
Sensor	TI HDC1010 Sensor	4.2 uW (average)

7. Conclusion

This paper proposes a power conditioning circuit with comprehensive control for the CT harvester on overhead power lines. The power maximization over the full current range is achieved by the coordination of compensation capacitor, impedance matching and short-circuit angle regulation. From a new viewpoint, the buck-boost converter is used for impedance matching to achieve CT maximum power transfer. The power maximization in low current condition is beneficial to reduce the capacity of backup battery. The short-circuit angle regulation achieved by S-CAR is proposed to prevent the magnetic core from

saturation. This method can make full use of the core linear region and will not result in extra self-dissipation like the dissipative resistor method.

A prototype that can deliver 22.5 W power at 200 A is designed. A control strategy based on the finite-state machine is implemented. The experimental results show that the startup current for 2 W load is about 30 A, and the core power density at 60 A is 45.96 mW/cm^3, both of which are markedly improved compared to the reported results of the same condition.

8. References

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9. Appendices

$$i_{\text{Leq}}(\varphi/\omega) = A_1 \sin\varphi_1 - \frac{kI_{\text{p}}R_{\text{eq}}}{N\omega L_{\text{eq}}}\cos(\varphi+\delta) = -I_{\text{Leq0}} \qquad ①$$

$$v_{\text{CT}}(\varphi/\omega) = L_{\text{eq}}A_1(\omega\cos\varphi_1 - \alpha_1\sin\varphi_1) + \frac{kI_{\text{p}}R_{\text{eq}}}{N}\sin(\varphi+\delta) = 0 \qquad ②$$

$$v_{\text{CT}}((\varphi+\alpha)/\omega) = L_{\text{eq}}A_1 e^{-\alpha_1\frac{\alpha}{\omega}}[\omega\cos(\alpha+\varphi_1) - \alpha_1\sin(\alpha+\varphi_1)] + \frac{kI_{\text{p}}R_{\text{eq}}}{N}\sin(\varphi+\alpha+\delta) = V_{\text{dc}} \qquad ③$$

$$i_{\text{Leq}}((\varphi+\alpha+\theta)/\omega) = A_2\sin\varphi_2 - \frac{kI_{\text{p}}R_{\text{eq}}}{N\omega L_{\text{eq}}}\cos(\varphi+\alpha+\theta+\delta) = A_1 e^{-\alpha_1\frac{\alpha}{\omega}}\sin(\alpha+\varphi_1) - \frac{kI_{\text{p}}R_{\text{eq}}}{N\omega L_{\text{eq}}}\cos(\varphi+\alpha+\delta) + \frac{\theta}{\omega L_{\text{eq}}}V_{\text{dc}} \qquad ④$$

$$v_{\text{CT}}((\varphi+\alpha+\theta)/\omega) = L_{\text{eq}}A_2(\omega\cos\varphi_2 - \alpha_1\sin\varphi_2) + \frac{kI_{\text{p}}R_{\text{eq}}}{N}\sin(\varphi+\alpha+\theta+\delta) = V_{\text{dc}} \qquad ⑤$$

$$i_{\text{bin}}((\varphi+\alpha+\theta)/\omega) = \frac{kI_{\text{p}}}{N}\sin(\varphi+\alpha+\theta+\delta) - [A_1 e^{-\alpha_1\frac{\alpha}{\omega}}\sin(\alpha+\varphi_1) - \frac{kI_{\text{p}}R_{\text{eq}}}{N\omega L_{\text{eq}}}\cos(\varphi+\alpha+\delta) + \frac{\theta}{\omega L_{\text{eq}}}V_{\text{dc}}] - \frac{V_{\text{dc}}}{R_{\text{eq}}} = 0 \qquad ⑥$$

$$i_{\text{Leq}}(\pi/\omega) = -A_2 e^{-\alpha_1\frac{\pi-(\varphi+\alpha+\theta)}{\omega}}\sin[\varphi_2-(\varphi+\alpha+\theta)] + \frac{kI_{\text{p}}R_{\text{eq}}}{N\omega L_{\text{eq}}}\cos\delta = I_{\text{Leq0}} \qquad ⑦$$

$$v_{\text{CT}}(\pi/\omega) = L_{\text{eq}}A_2 e^{-\alpha_1\frac{\pi-(\varphi+\alpha+\theta)}{\omega}}\{-\omega\cos[\varphi_2-(\varphi+\alpha+\theta)] + \alpha_1\sin[\varphi_2-(\varphi+\alpha+\theta)]\} - \frac{kI_{\text{p}}R_{\text{eq}}}{N}\sin\delta = 0 \qquad ⑧$$

$$\frac{\omega}{\pi}\int_0^{\pi/\omega} i_{\text{bout}}(t)dt = \frac{\omega}{\pi}\int_{(\varphi+\alpha)/\omega}^{(\varphi+\alpha+\theta)/\omega}\{\frac{kI_{\text{p}}}{N}\sin(\omega t+\delta) - [i_{\text{Leq}}((\varphi+\alpha)/\omega) + \frac{V_{\text{dc}}}{L_{\text{eq}}}(t-\frac{\varphi+\alpha}{\omega})] - \frac{V_{\text{dc}}}{R_{\text{eq}}}\}dt = \frac{V_{\text{dc}}}{R_{\text{dc}}} \qquad ⑨$$