## WEBINAR AND DEMO: The New Universal Converter Model — A Revolution in Real-Time Power Electronics Simulation



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## AGENDA

#### No general technology intro today

- History of power electronics modelling with
  the RTDS Simulator
- UCM overview
- UCM details: theory, performance, and demonstration in RSCAD







### HISTORY OF THE RTDS SIMULATOR & POWER ELECTRONICS SIMULATION

#### • 1986

RTDS development project begins

#### • 1989

World's 1<sup>st</sup> real-time digital HVDC simulation

#### • 1993

1<sup>st</sup> commercial installation

#### • 1994

RTDS Technologies Inc. created



 Line-commutated converter simulation was an essential part of the original RTDS Simulator offering



## **POWER ELECTRONICS MODELLING TIMELINE**





## SMALL TIMESTEP ENVIRONMENT FOR VSC MODELLING

#### **LC Switching Representation**

- Matrix inversion/decomposition not practical to perform at 1-3 µsec timestep for GPC/PB5 hardware
- If  $g_{oc} = g_{sc}$ , admittance matrix is constant
- Difference in ON/OFF impedance is presented from the history current source





## SMALL TIMESTEP ENVIRONMENT FOR VSC MODELLING

#### LC Switching Representation



Time step cannot be too high  $\rightarrow \Delta t < 3.75$  usec

#### Side effect: switching losses

Energy stored in inductor  $=\frac{1}{2}Li^{2}$ Energy stored in capacitor  $=\frac{1}{2}Cv^{2}$ 

- Artificial switching losses are higher as the switching frequency increases
- Limit switching frequency with LC model < 2-3 kHz



## SMALL TIMESTEP ENVIRONMENT FOR VSC MODELLING



Generally



After adding T-lines....



- The valves are decoupled from the small time-step network solution for any given time-step and can solved separately.
- The valves can be modeled as resistances with pre-calculated matrices.
- limit on the maximum valve switching rate no longer applies.



## **SUBSTEP ENVIRONMENT**

- Enabled by increased processing power of NovaCor hardware
- Innovative, proprietary switching algorithm



- Each Substep network requires a full core can run multiple Substep networks
- Substep library has models optimized for a smaller time step – however, Mainstep components are also supported
- No limit on the number of resistive switching elements
- Accurate representation of non linear elements
- No interface lines required for use of resistive switching
- IO cards supported (excluding GTNET)



## **SUBSTEP ENVIRONMENT**

#### Switching with L/C discrete circuits

Switching Frequency (Hz)	Losses (%)
500	0.785
1000	2.944
2000	3.969
3000	5.556
4000	4.751
5000	6.22



#### Resistive switching with Substep

Switching Frequency (Hz)	Losses (%)
500	0.17677
1000	0.23942
2000	0.29634
3000	0.35097
4000	0.40486
5000	0.48544
7500	0.64673
10000	0.78104
12500	0.91324
15000	1.04670
20000	1.25735
25000	1.44307





## **AVERAGE VS. FULLY-SWITCHED MODELS: CONSIDERATIONS**

#### **Fully-switched models**



- Consider the switching topology, switching characteristics of the converter, characteristic harmonics
- Allows for low level control testing (firing pulses)
- May be modelled with resistive switching or L/C switching
- May or may not be decoupled/interfaced
  - Higher computational



#### Average value models

- Replaces detailed models with controlled voltage and current sources
- Modulation waveforms from the same current controller can be used to strategically control the sources such as to reproduce an averaged version of the high frequency switching transients
- May or may not be decoupled/interfaced
- Lower computational burden



#### burden

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## **INTRODUCING THE UCM**

#### **Motivation**

- Demand for converter modelling and simulation with higher switching frequency (>30 kHz)
- Research found that average modelling may be used to achieve high resolution of firing
- Other average model implementation is decoupled on the DC bus can cause instability

#### **Solution: Universal Converter Model**

- Available for 2-level, NPC (ANPC), T-type, boost and buck
- Multiple input (control) types
- Can be used in Mainstep OR Substep
- Improving performance and reducing computational burden
- No decoupling / interface lines



2-level UCM



#### **Input Types**

- Modulation Waveform
- Full Firing Pulse (reads firing pulse once per simulation timestep)
- Improved Firing (with Mean Value High Precision)
  - Captures firing pulses within a timestep at high resolution to calculate how much of the timestep the switch should be "on" (producing an effective duty cycle)
  - Multiple turn-on/turn-off transitions per timestep are allowed



#### HIL testing with the UCM – Digital input card

- New GTDI v2 required for Improved Firing feature
- Samples firing pulses every 10 ns





#### **Internal Firing Pulse Generator**

- Full simulation without GTDI/controller
- Can generate regular firing pulses
  - Same as previous model
- Can generate Improved Firing (Mean Value High Precision) input for UCM
  - Uses interpolation to find the precise crossing point(s) of the modulation and triangle waveform within each timestep







#### Substep Environment (<10 us)

- Full Firing Pulse Input
  - Similar to existing resistive-switching Substep models
- Modulation Wave Input
  - Similar to average model, but with improved performance
  - Proper transition between blocked and de-blocked states
- Improved Firing Input
  - Accurately represents converter performance with PWM firing >100 kHz

#### Mainstep Environment (30-50 us)

- Modulation Wave Input
- Improved Firing Input
  - Accurately represents converter performance in the **3 kHz range**
  - 10 load units per converter





#### No decoupling or Interface lines









#### **Benefits**

- Good results even with a 30-50 us timestep no need to maintain very small timesteps like other simulators which use decoupled models – fit many detailed converter models on a significantly reduced quantity of hardware
- Proper transitioning from blocked to deblocked states UCM incorporates proprietary predictive switching technique from Substep models
- Improved Firing represents the characteristic harmonics very well and introduces minimal non-characteristic harmonics
- Improved firing has good comparisons with PSCAD
- UCM sample cases are now available in RSCAD 5.014 and RSCAD-FX 1.0



## Thank you!



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## Universal Converter Model (UCM) --Principle, Implementation, and Applications



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## Content

1 Definition of UCM

- 2 Converter Modelling
- 4 Improved Firing Pulse Modelling
- 5 Demo and Discussion





## 1 Definition of Universal Converter Model (UCM)

Key Feature of UCM: <u>Universal</u>

Support PB5-based and NovaCor-based Hardware

Support SubStep, MainStep, and Distribution Mode Simulations

Support Software-in-the-loop and Hardware-in-the-loop Testing

Support Different Inputs

- Modulation Waveform
- Firing Pulse
- Improved Firing Pulse with Mean Value High Precision



Key Techniques of Converter Modelling

#### □ Switching Function

Flexible Inputs

#### Descriptor State Space (DSS)

Eliminate the Controlled Source Delay

□ Predictive Algorithm in Blocked Mode



2.1 Switching Function

# $\Box Algebraic Equations$ $\begin{cases} \mathbf{v}_{CS} = \mathbf{m} \cdot \mathbf{v}_{P} + (\mathbf{1} - \mathbf{m}) \cdot \mathbf{v}_{N} \\ i_{CS_{P}} = \mathbf{m}^{T} \cdot \mathbf{i}_{ac} \\ i_{CS_{N}} = (\mathbf{1} - \mathbf{m})^{T} \cdot \mathbf{i}_{ac} \end{cases}$

 $\left[i_{ac_{a}} + i_{ac_{b}} + i_{ac_{c}} + i_{P} + i_{N} + i_{O} = 0\right]$ 

where,

 $\mathbf{v}_{CS}$ : voltage controlled source;  $i_{CS_P}$ ,  $i_{CS_N}$ : current controlled source;  $\mathbf{i}_{ac}$ : ac inductor currents;  $v_P$ ,  $v_N$ : dc node voltages;

**m**: switching function of top switch.





2.2 Descriptor State Space (DSS)

#### Differential Equations

$$\begin{cases} L\frac{\mathbf{d}\mathbf{i}_{ac}}{\mathbf{d}t} + \mathbf{R}\mathbf{i}_{ac} + \mathbf{v}_{CS} = \mathbf{v}_{abc} \\ i_{C_{P}} = C\frac{d(v_{P} - v_{O})}{dt} \\ i_{C_{N}} = C\frac{d(v_{N} - v_{O})}{dt} \end{cases}$$

where,

 $\mathbf{v}_{CS}$ : voltage controlled source;  $i_{C_P}, i_{C_N}$ : capacitor current; **i**<sub>ac</sub> : ac inductor currents; **v**<sub>abc</sub> : ac node voltages;

 $v_P$ ,  $v_N$ ,  $v_O$ : dc node voltages.





2.2 Descriptor State Space (DSS)

Differential Algebraic Equations

$$\begin{cases} L \frac{d\mathbf{i}_{ac}}{dt} + \mathbf{R}\mathbf{i}_{ac} + \mathbf{v}_{CS} = \mathbf{v}_{ab} \\ i_{C_{P}} = C \frac{d(v_{P} - v_{O})}{dt} \\ i_{C_{N}} = C \frac{d(v_{N} - v_{O})}{dt} \end{cases}$$





2.2 Descriptor State Space (DSS)

AC SIDE:

Differential Algebraic Equations (Sequential Solution)

$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{v}_{CS} = \mathbf{m} \cdot \mathbf{v}_{P} + (1 - \mathbf{m}) \cdot \mathbf{v}_{N} \\ L \frac{\mathrm{di}_{ac}}{\mathrm{dt}} + \mathrm{Ri}_{ac} + \mathbf{v}_{CS} = \mathbf{v}_{abc} \end{cases}$$

DC SIDE:  

$$\begin{cases}
i_P + \mathbf{m}^{\mathrm{T}} \cdot \mathbf{i}_{ac} = C \frac{d(v_P - v_O)}{dt} \\
i_N + (\mathbf{1} - \mathbf{m})^{\mathrm{T}} \cdot \mathbf{i}_{ac} = C \frac{d(v_N - v_O)}{dt}
\end{cases}$$

$$i_{ac_a} + i_{ac_b} + i_{ac_c} + i_P + i_N + i_O \approx 0$$

**Issues:** 

1, Numerical instable;

1, Power imbalance between ac and dc side





2.2 Descriptor State Space (DSS)

□ Differential Algebraic Equations (Simultaneous Solution)

 $\begin{bmatrix} -\mathbf{R} & -\mathbf{m}_{abc} & -\mathbf{m}_{abc} & 0 \\ \mathbf{m}_{abc}^{T} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -\mathbf{m}_{abc}^{T} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ -i<sub>abc</sub>  $\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{L} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & C & 0 & -C \\ 0 & 0 & C & -C \end{bmatrix} \frac{d}{dt}$ i<sub>abc</sub>  $v_P$  $\mathcal{V}_P$  $v_{\scriptscriptstyle N}$  $v_N$ 0 0 0 0  $v_0$  $v_{O}$ 0 Ń X 0 0  $1_{3x3}$  $i_P$ 0 0 0  $\dot{l}_N$ +0 0 0 B





2.2 Descriptor State Space (DSS)

#### $\mathbf{M}\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{B}\mathbf{u}$

**Discretize and Reorganize DSS Equations** 

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{O}_{ii} & \mathbf{O}_{iv} \\ \mathbf{O}_{vi} & \mathbf{O}_{vv} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}_{i} \\ \mathbf{x}_{v} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{P}_{ii} & \mathbf{P}_{iv} \\ \mathbf{P}_{vi} & \mathbf{P}_{vv} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{u}_{i} \\ \mathbf{u}_{v} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{Q}_{ii} & \mathbf{Q}_{iv} \\ \mathbf{Q}_{vi} & \mathbf{Q}_{vv} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}_{i} \\ \mathbf{x}_{v} \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{z}^{-1} + \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{R}_{ii} & \mathbf{R}_{iv} \\ \mathbf{R}_{vi} & \mathbf{R}_{vv} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{u}_{i} \\ \mathbf{u}_{v} \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{z}^{-1}$$
$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{O}_{ii} & \mathbf{P}_{ii} \\ \mathbf{O}_{vi} & \mathbf{P}_{vi} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}_{i} \\ \mathbf{u}_{i} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{P}_{iv} & \mathbf{O}_{iv} \\ \mathbf{P}_{vv} & \mathbf{O}_{vv} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{u}_{v} \\ \mathbf{x}_{v} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{Q}_{ii} & \mathbf{R}_{ii} \\ \mathbf{Q}_{vi} & \mathbf{R}_{vi} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}_{i} \\ \mathbf{u}_{i} \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{z}^{-1} + \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{R}_{iv} & \mathbf{Q}_{iv} \\ \mathbf{R}_{vv} & \mathbf{Q}_{vv} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{u}_{v} \\ \mathbf{x}_{v} \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{z}^{-1}$$
$$\rightarrow \mathbf{S}_{1}\mathbf{i} + \mathbf{S}_{2}\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{S}_{3}\mathbf{i}\mathbf{z}^{-1} + \mathbf{S}_{4}\mathbf{v}\mathbf{z}^{-1}$$
$$\rightarrow \mathbf{i} = -\mathbf{S}_{1}^{-1}\mathbf{S}_{2}\mathbf{v} + \mathbf{S}_{1}^{-1} \left(\mathbf{S}_{3}\mathbf{i}\mathbf{z}^{-1} + \mathbf{S}_{4}\mathbf{v}\mathbf{z}^{-1}\right) = -\mathbf{S}_{1}^{-1}\mathbf{S}_{2}\mathbf{v} + \mathbf{K}_{i}\mathbf{i}\mathbf{z}^{-1} + \mathbf{K}_{v}\mathbf{v}\mathbf{z}^{-1}$$
$$\rightarrow \mathbf{i} = \mathbf{G}\mathbf{v} + \mathbf{i}_{his}$$



#### 2.3 Blocked Mode (Predictive Algorithm)

Maguire, T., et al. (2018). <u>Predicting Switch ON/OFF Statuses in Real Time Electromagnetic Transients Simulations with</u> <u>Voltage Source Converters. 2018 2nd IEEE Conference on Energy Internet and Energy System Integration (EI2).</u>



#### Traditional Way (Open loop):

Using previous node voltages to determine the status of each diode;
 Solve the circuit using the status of diodes from Step 1;
 Issues:

Possible diodes status jump between ON and OFF

#### Blocked Mode in UCM ("Predict and Check"):

1, Choose one combination of all the diodes status (00, 01, 10, 11);

2, Predict the node voltage Vm with the previous step external node voltages;

3, check the status of the diodes:

match with the chosen combination: predict successfully;

does not match with the chosen combination: choose a new combination and go back to Step 2 and 3.





Solution Step: 5.0us; Carrier Frequency: 2.0k Hz; Open-loop Testing



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#### Models Supported in the Library







Converter Types



3.1 Question: How to Improve the Overall Performance of Converter Simulation?

#### Main Components in the UCMs:

- Dynamic Elements: inductors and Capacitors;
- Controlled Source: Controlled Voltages and Current Sources;
- Switching Function (Inputs).



#### Assumption:

Dynamic Elements and Controlled Source could use larger time step size to obtain accurate results.

#### Bottleneck:

Accuracy of the Switching Function (i.e., Firing Pulse Inputs)



3.1 UCM Firing Pulse Generator (Improved FP Generator: Interpolation)



UCM - FIRING PULSE FPGEN1	UCM - FIRING PULSE FPGEN1
MODULATION WAVE #1: MOD1WAV1 #2: MOD2WAV1 #3: MOD3WAV1 TRIANGULAR WAVE 0.0 1.0 Fcarr (Hz)	MODULATION WAVE #1: MOD1WAV1 #2: MOD2WAV1 #3: MOD3WAV1 TRIANGULAR WAVE (Deg) 0.0 1.0 Ecarr (Hz)
	FIRING PULSE
DEBLOCK AND MASK DBLK1	DEBLOCK AND MASK DBLK1
CONDITIONED FP FP1 #1 = 1 ELSE 2 #2 = 4 ELSE 8 #3 = 16ELSE 32	CONDITIONED FP Yes nFPa1 = FPa1 nFPa2 = FPa2 nFPb1 = FPb1 nFPb2 = FPb2 nFPc1 = FPc1 nFPc2 = FPc2



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3.1 UCM Firing Pulse Generator: PWM Spectrum (fs=2.0k Hz, dt=5.0us, m=0.95)





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3.1 UCM Firing Pulse Generator: PWM Spectrum (fs=2.0k Hz, <u>dt=50.0us</u>, m=0.95)



Improved firing pulse

Non-characteristic Harmonics

Characteristic Harmonics



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3.1 UCM Firing Pulse Generator: PWM Spectrum (fs=50.0k Hz, dt=2.0us, m=0.95)





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3.2 UCM GTDI

- □ GTDI in MainStep and SubStep
  - Improved FP
  - ✤ 10.0ns Resolution

rtds_ss_UCM_GTDI.def		
1-16		
U		

Individually shielded twisted pairs are recommended for the cable harness.







3.2 GTDO Firing Pulse Generator: PWM Spectrum (fs=2.0k Hz, dt=0.375us, m=0.95)



FP Input with 375ns Time-step



3.2 UCM GTDI PWM Spectrum (fs=2.0k Hz, dt=5.0us, m=0.95)



Spectrum (Regular PWM Vs Improved PWM)



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3.2 UCM GTDI PWM Spectrum (GTDO: fs=2.0k Hz, dt=50.0us, m=0.95)





3.3 UCM FP Generator and UCM\_GTDI Accuracy

□ Improved FP in MainStep and SubStep

Improved FP is accurate at fundamental frequency

- Improved FP introduces much less non-characteristic harmonics
- Improved FP is accurate at characteristic harmonics

With improved FP, the accuracy of FP will not be a bottleneck for converter modelling in real time simulation.



3.3 UCM Firing Pulse Generator: Cut-off Frequency

□ Mean Value in one Simulation Step [2]

 $x(t) = A\cos(\omega t + \phi)$ 

$$y(t) = \frac{1}{dt} \int_{t-dt}^{t} A\cos(\omega\tau + \phi)d\tau = \frac{2}{\omega dt} \sin(\frac{\omega dt}{2}) A\cos(\omega\left[t + \frac{dt}{2}\right] + \phi)$$

□ Cut-off Frequency Definition



[2] K. L. Lian and P. W. Lehn, "Real-time simulation of voltage source converters based on time average method," *IEEE Transactions on Power Systems*, vol. 20, no. 1, pp. 110-118, 2005.



## Summary

- UCM Models are developed to enhance the capability of Power Electronics Modelling on RTDS Simulator;
- The simulation accuracy of Power electronic converters is determined by the converter model and its inputs. Using the "Improved Firing Pulse with Mean Value High Precision", the performance of a converter modelling can be greatly improved.
- UCMs can cover a wide-band frequency range, i.e., from dc to hundreds kilo-hertz. Within this frequency range and proper time step, UCMs can guarantee the accuracy of fundamental frequency and characteristic harmonics, and will not introduce non-characteristic harmonics.



## 4 Demo and Discussion

Demo Cases:

#### DAB DC/DC converter

Regular FP and Improved FP in SubStep (fs = 20.0k Hz; dt = 2.5us)

#### **UCM** in STATCOM

- Regular FP and Improved FP in SubStep (fs = 2.0k Hz; dt = 5.0us)
- Improved FP in MainStep (fs = 2.0k Hz; DT = 50.0us)
- Improved FP in SubStep and AVM in MainStep (fs = 2.0k Hz; dt = 5.0us, DT = 50.0us)
- Improved FP in SubStep and AVM in MainStep (fs = 50.0k Hz; dt = 5.0us, DT = 50.0us)

#### UCM in Renewables

- Type-4 Windfarm with Improved FP in SubStep (fs = 2.0k Hz; dt = 5.0us);
- Type-4 Windfarm with Improved FP in MainStep (fs = 2.0k Hz; DT = 50.0us);
- Type-4 Windfarm with AVM in MainStep (DT = 50.0us);







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