

Design of Class-E ZVS Inverter With Loosely-Coupled Transformer at Fixed Coupling Coefficient

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Abstract—The design of Class-E zero-voltage switching (ZVS) inverter with a loosely-coupled transformer is introduced in this paper. In the presented approach, the magnetizing and leakage inductances of the transformer are absorbed into the main circuit. The synthesis of the transformer-version of Class-E ZVS inverter into its equivalent $\pi 2a$ topology is presented. The $\pi 2a$ topology improves the range of the optimum load resistance required to achieve ZVS. An example of the Class-E inverter with dc supply voltage 10 V, output power 10 W, switching frequency 100 kHz and at a coupling coefficient of 0.77 is considered. The inverter is designed to achieve both zero-voltage switching (ZVS) and zero derivative switching (ZDS) conditions. The analytical expressions are validated through simulation results for an optimum coupling coefficient of 0.77. In view of potential misalignment between the primary and secondary coils, simulation results are provided for coupling coefficients, which are lower and higher than the optimum value. It is shown that both ZVS and ZDS can be achieved at a coupling coefficient lower than the optimum value and is not possible to achieve ZVS at a coupling coefficient higher than the optimum value. Overall efficiency of 94.3% is achieved at a coupling coefficient of 0.77, 93.4% at 0.85, and 92.12% at 0.7. The presented approach can be used for transformers with reactive load impedances also.

I. INTRODUCTION

Class-E soft switching power inverters belong to a class of high efficiency electronic circuits [1] - [20]. At an optimum operating point, the Class-E inverters are capable of achieving both zero-voltage switching (ZVS) and zero-derivative switching (ZDS) [1]- [7]. Today's advancements, especially in the area of wireless energy transfer are focused towards improving the transfer efficiency, while being able to achieve a long range for power transmission [5] - [9]. Class-E ZVS inverters have been identified as an ideal solution for these applications.

A Class-E ZVS inverter using a transformer with loosely coupled primary and secondary windings is discussed in this paper. The transformer model considered in this paper includes the magnetizing inductance as well as the primary and secondary-side leakage inductances. The input impedance of a loosely-coupled transformer is a function of coupling coefficient [10] and is represented as a series combination of coupling-dependent resistance and inductance. Thus, the

optimum load resistance can be determined for the Class-E ZVS inverter at a fixed coupling coefficient.

The transformer version of the inverter is as shown in Fig. 1(a). The resulting equivalent circuit is identical to the *impedance inverter* discussed in [1] - [2] and has several benefits over the resistively loaded Class-E ZVS inverter. The impedance inverter is also termed as Class-E inverter with $\pi 2a$ impedance matching topology. The Class-E ZVS impedance inverter extends the range of load resistance required for optimum operation [6], [7]. This paper introduces the technique required to design the Class-E inverter for optimum operation at a specific coupling coefficient.

II. CIRCUIT ANALYSIS

A. Circuit Description

Fig. 1(a) shows the transformer version of the Class-E ZVS resonant inverter. In the circuit, V_I is the dc supply voltage, L_f is the choke inductor, S is the power MOSFET, and C_{1ext} is the voltage-shaping shunt capacitor across the MOSFET including the power MOSFET parasitic output capacitance. The transformer is composed of primary self-inductance L_p , secondary self-inductance L_s , magnetizing inductance L_m , and primary and secondary leakage inductances L_{lp} and L_{ls} , respectively. The series resonant tank is composed of the resonant capacitor C and the resonant inductor $L_1 = L_{ext} + L_{lp}$. A capacitor C_s is placed in series with the secondary winding to cancel the reactance of the secondary leakage inductance L_{ls} . The turns ratio of the transformer is n and the coupling coefficient is k . The load resistance R_{ir} can be considered as the terminal resistance of the inverter or the equivalent input resistance of a rectifier, required to obtain a dc output voltage. The self capacitance of the inductor and transformer windings are absorbed into the shunt capacitance across the MOSFET.

Assuming that the effect of the L_{ls} is nullified by C_s , the equivalent impedance of the secondary is equal to R_{ir} . Fig. 1(b) shows an equivalent circuit obtained by transferring the load resistance R_{ir} to the primary side to yield R_i . This circuit is identical to the Class-E ZVS resonant inverter with $\pi 2a$

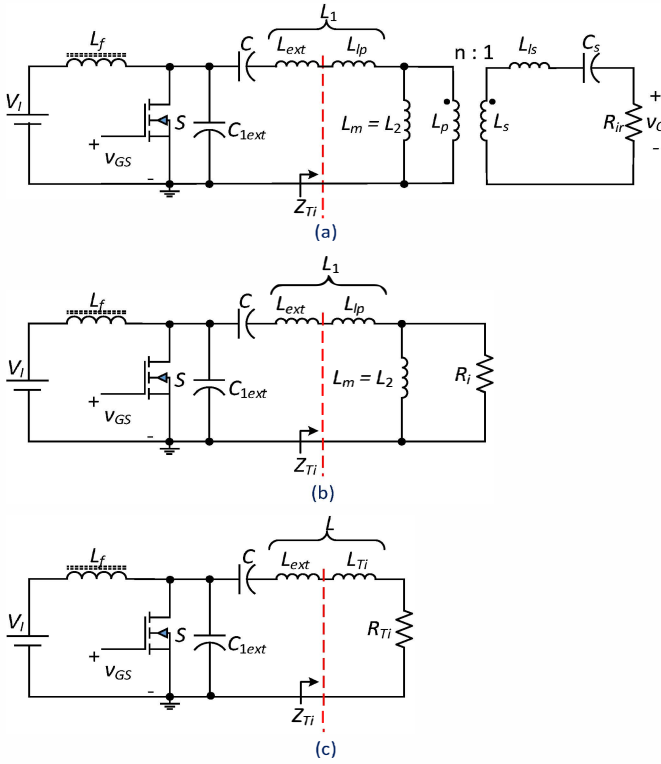


Fig. 1. Class-E ZVS inverter. (a) Transformer version. (b) Class-E inverter with $\pi/2a$ impedance matching circuit. (c) Class-E loaded by series resonant circuit with coupling-dependent load resistor R_{Ti} and resonant inductor L .

impedance matching network and is discussed in depth in [7]. Since the load to the Class-E circuit is of impedance type, the circuit shown in Fig. 1(a) is commonly referred to as the *Class-E impedance inverter*.

Since the transformer voltage and current gain are dependent on the coupling coefficient k , the input impedance Z_{Ti} also varies with k . Using the method to determine the input impedance of a transformer discussed in [10], the input impedance can be considered as a series combination of its equivalent inductance L_{Ti} and its equivalent resistance R_{Ti} and is shown in Fig. 1(c). The circuit shown in Fig. 1(c) is identical to the classical Class-E ZVS inverter comprising of the resonant capacitor C , the resonant inductor $L = L_{ext} + L_{Ti}$, and the load resistance R_{Ti} .

B. Circuit Design

The rated output power of the Class-E inverter with transformer shown in Fig. 1(a) is P_{Ri} . Therefore, the load resistance of the inverter assuming efficiency $\eta = 1$ is

$$R_{ir} = \frac{8}{\pi^2 + 4} \frac{V_f^2}{P_{Ri}}. \quad (1)$$

Assuming that the self-inductances L_p and L_s of the primary and secondary windings, respectively are known *a priori*, the magnetizing inductance is

$$L_m = kL_p. \quad (2)$$

The leakage inductances are

$$L_{lp} = (1 - k)L_p = \frac{(1 - k)}{k} L_m, \quad (3)$$

and

$$L_{ls} = (1 - k)L_s = (1 - k) \frac{L_p}{n^2} = \frac{(1 - k)}{n^2 k} L_m. \quad (4)$$

The reactances of the secondary-side leakage inductance L_{ls} and series capacitance C_s are equal and yields

$$C_s = \frac{1}{\omega^2 L_{ls}} = \frac{1}{4\pi^2 f_s^2 L_{ls}} = \frac{n^2}{4\pi^2 f_s^2 (1 - k) L_p}, \quad (5)$$

where $\omega = 2\pi f_s$ and f_s is the switching frequency of the Class-E inverter. The total resistance of the secondary side is equal to R_{ir} . Applying the reflection principle, the resistance R_{ir} can be transferred to the primary side. Thus, the equivalent load resistance referred to the primary side as shown in Fig. 1(b) is

$$R_i = n^2 R_{ir}. \quad (6)$$

The input impedance Z_{Ti} is described as [10]

$$Z_{Ti} = sL_{lp} + (sL_m || R_i). \quad (7)$$

Substituting (2) and (3) into (7) results in

$$Z_{Ti} = sL_{lp} + \frac{sL_m R_i}{sL_m + R_i} = s(1 - k)L_p + \frac{skL_p R_i}{skL_p + R_i} \quad (8)$$

to yield

$$Z_{Ti} = \frac{s^2(1 - k)kL_p^2 + sL_p R_i}{skL_p + R_i}. \quad (9)$$

Substituting $s = j\omega$ into (9) yields

$$\begin{aligned} Z_{Ti} &= R_{Ti} + jX_{Ti} \\ &= \frac{\omega^2 L_p^2 k^2 R_i}{R_i^2 + \omega^2 k^2 L_p^2} + j \frac{\omega^3 L_p^3 k^2 (1 - k) + \omega L_p R_i^2}{R_i^2 + \omega^2 k^2 L_p^2}, \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

where the equivalent input resistance R_{Ti} is

$$R_{Ti} = \frac{\omega^2 L_p^2 k^2 R_i}{R_i^2 + \omega^2 k^2 L_p^2}, \quad (11)$$

and the equivalent input reactance is

$$X_{Ti} = \frac{\omega^3 L_p^3 k^2 (1 - k) + \omega L_p R_i^2}{R_i^2 + \omega^2 k^2 L_p^2}. \quad (12)$$

From (12), the equivalent inductance is

$$L_{Ti} = \frac{X_{Ti}}{\omega} = \frac{\omega^2 L_p^3 k^2 (1 - k) + L_p R_i^2}{R_i^2 + \omega^2 k^2 L_p^2}. \quad (13)$$

Fig. 1(c) shows the equivalent circuit of the Class-E ZVS inverter with a series resonant circuit composed of the resonant capacitor C , total resonant inductance $L = L_{ext} + L_{Ti}$, and loaded by the resistance R_{Ti} . It must be noted that L_{Ti} and R_{Ti} are functions of the coupling coefficient k . For the Class-E inverter to undergo ZVS, the load resistance must satisfy $0 \leq R_{Ti} \leq R_{opt}$, imposing a theoretical limit on the range

of k for maximum efficiency. The expressions for the external inductance L_{ext} can be determined as follows. From Fig. 1(b),

$$L_1 = L_{ext} + L_{lp} = L_{ext} + (1 - k)L_p. \quad (14)$$

From the principles of impedance matching and transformation described in [7] for the $\pi 2a$ circuit, we have

$$X_{L1} = \omega L_1 = \left(Q_L - \sqrt{\frac{R_i}{R_{Ti}} - 1} \right) R_{Ti}, \quad (15)$$

and

$$X_{L2} = \omega L_2 = \omega L_m = \frac{R_i}{\sqrt{\frac{R_i}{R_{Ti}} - 1}}. \quad (16)$$

The expression to determine the reactance of the shunt capacitor across the MOSFET is

$$X_{C1} = \frac{1}{\omega C_1} = \frac{\pi(\pi^2 + 4)}{8} R_{Ti}. \quad (17)$$

The value of the resonant capacitor can be determined using

$$C = \frac{1}{\omega X_C} = \frac{1}{\omega \left[Q_L - \frac{\pi(\pi^2 - 4)}{16} \right] R_{Ti}}. \quad (18)$$

The expression to determine the choke inductance is

$$L_f = 2 \left(\frac{\pi^2}{4} + 1 \right) \frac{R_{Ti}}{4f}. \quad (19)$$

The above analysis holds true for the inverter loaded by a rectifier with reactive input impedance $Z_{ir} = R_{ir} + sL_{ir}$. A first-order approximation of input impedance of a single-ended rectifier is equivalent to an input inductance L_{ir} in series with the input resistance R_{ir} . Thus the total reactance, which includes the input inductance L_{ir} and the secondary leakage inductance L_{ls} can be canceled by tuning the value of the series capacitor C_s . A new expression for the series capacitance in the presence of the input inductance is

$$C_s = \frac{1}{\omega_s^2(L_{ls} + L_{ir})} = \frac{1}{4\pi^2 f_s^2 [(1 - k)L_s + L_{ir}]}. \quad (20)$$

Simulation results demonstrating ZVS conditions with a series inductance are shown in the subsequent section.

III. DESIGN EXAMPLE

A Class-E ZVS inverter was designed for the following specifications: dc supply voltage $V_I = 10$ V, output power of the inverter $P_{ri} = 10$ W, and switching frequency $f_s = 100$ kHz. The quality factor is $Q_L = 10$. The self-inductances of the primary and secondary coils are chosen as $L_p = L_s = 24$ μ H to give the turns ratio between the two coils $n = 1$. From (1), the load resistance of the inverter at the secondary of the transformer shown in Fig. 1(a) is

$$R_{ir} = \frac{8}{\pi^2 + 4} \frac{V_I^2}{P_{ri}} \approx 0.5768 \frac{10^2}{10} = 5.76 \text{ } \Omega. \quad (21)$$

For $n = 1$, using (6), we have

$$R_i = n^2 R_{ir} = 5.76 \text{ } \Omega. \quad (22)$$

The coils are aligned to achieve a coupling coefficient of $k = 0.77$. Using (11), the equivalent input resistance is

$$\begin{aligned} R_{Ti} &= \frac{\omega^2 L_p^2 k^2 R_i}{R_i^2 + \omega^2 k^2 L_p^2} \\ &= \frac{(2\pi \times 10^5)^2 \times (24 \times 10^{-6})^2 \times 0.77^2 \times 5.76}{5.76^2 + (2\pi \times 10^5)^2 \times 0.77^2 \times (24 \times 10^{-6})^2} \\ &= 4.62 \text{ } \Omega. \end{aligned} \quad (23)$$

The value of the equivalent input inductance using (13) is

$$L_{Ti} = \frac{\omega^2 L_p^3 k^2 (1 - k) + L_p R_i^2}{R_i^2 + \omega^2 k^2 L_p^2} = 9.2 \text{ } \mu\text{H}. \quad (24)$$

Using (16), the value of the magnetizing inductance at $\omega = \omega_s = 2\pi f_s$ is

$$L_m = \frac{R_i}{\omega \sqrt{\frac{R_i}{R_{Ti}} - 1}} = \frac{5.76}{\omega \sqrt{\frac{5.76}{4.62} - 1}} = 18.48 \text{ } \mu\text{H}. \quad (25)$$

The primary and secondary leakage inductances are equal as the turns ratio $n = 1$ to give

$$L_{lp} = L_{ls} = (1 - k)L_p = (1 - 0.77) \times 24 \times 10^{-6} = 5.52 \text{ } \mu\text{H}. \quad (26)$$

The secondary-side resonant capacitance required to nullify the leakage inductance L_{ls} as given in (5)

$$\begin{aligned} C_s &= \frac{n^2}{4\pi^2 f_s^2 (1 - k)L_p} \\ &= \frac{1}{4\pi^2 \times (10^5)^2 \times (1 - 0.77) \times 24 \times 10^{-6}} = 0.45 \text{ } \mu\text{F}. \end{aligned} \quad (27)$$

Using (15), the inductance L_1 is

$$\begin{aligned} L_1 &= \frac{R_{Ti}}{\omega} \left(Q_L - \sqrt{\frac{R_i}{R_{Ti}} - 1} \right) \\ &= \frac{4.62}{2\pi \times 10^5} \left(10 - \sqrt{\frac{5.76}{4.62} - 1} \right) = 69.97 \text{ } \mu\text{H}. \end{aligned} \quad (28)$$

Therefore, the external inductance is

$$L_{ext} = L_1 - L_{lp} = 69.97 - 5.52 = 64.45 \text{ } \mu\text{H}. \quad (29)$$

The total inductance L in the resonant circuit of the form shown in Fig. 1(c) is

$$L = L_{ext} + L_{Ti} = 64.45 + 9.2 = 73.63 \text{ } \mu\text{H}. \quad (30)$$

The resonant capacitor in series with L is determined using (18) as

$$\begin{aligned} C &= \frac{1}{\omega \left[Q_L - \frac{\pi(\pi^2 - 4)}{16} \right] R_{Ti}} \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi \times 10^5 \times \left[10 - \frac{\pi(\pi^2 - 4)}{16} \right] 4.62} = 38.83 \text{ nF}. \end{aligned} \quad (31)$$

TABLE I
VALUES OF COMPONENTS SHOWN IN FIG. 1(A) USED FOR SIMULATIONS.

Parameter	Calculated	Standard Value/ESR
DC supply voltage V_I	10 V	
Output power P_{r_i}	10 W	
Switching frequency f_s	100 kHz	
Coupling coefficient k	0.77	
Choke inductor L_f	320.08 μ H	360 μ H/0.025 Ω
Shunt capacitor C_{1ext}	63.043 nF	62 nF/0.01 Ω
Resonant capacitor C	38.83 nF	39 nF/0.1 Ω
Extra resonant inductor L_{ext}	64.45 μ H	65 μ H/0.012 Ω
Primary self-inductance L_p	24 μ H	
Secondary self-inductance L_s	24 μ H	
Secondary series capacitor C_s	0.45 μ F	0.47 μ F
Load resistance R_{i_r}	5.67 Ω	6 Ω

Finally, the choke inductance is

$$L_f = 2 \left(\frac{\pi^2}{4} + 1 \right) \frac{R_{T_i}}{4f} = 2 \left(\frac{\pi^2}{4} + 1 \right) \frac{4.62}{4 \times 10^5} = 320.83 \mu\text{F}. \quad (32)$$

From [6], the voltage stress across the MOSFET is $V_{DSM} \approx 3.562V_I = 35.62$ V and the current stress is $I_{DM} \approx 2.862I_I = 2.862 \times P_I/V_I = 2.862 \times 1$ A = 2.862 A. An IRF520 n-channel power MOSFET manufactured by International Rectifiers was selected. The properties of the MOSFET are: maximum drain current $I_{DM} = 37$ A, maximum drain-to-source breakdown voltage $V_{BRR} = 100$ V, drain-to-source resistance $r_{DS} = 0.27 \Omega$, and output capacitance is $C_o = C_{oss} - C_{rss} = 0.150 - 0.034 = 0.117$ nF. From (33), the value of the shunt capacitor is

$$C_1 = \frac{8}{\omega\pi(\pi^2 + 4)R_{T_i}} \approx \frac{0.1836}{2\pi \times 10^5 \times 4.62} = 63.16 \text{ nF}. \quad (33)$$

The value of C_1 given in (33) is the total capacitance, which includes the output capacitance C_o of the MOSFET. Therefore, the actual value of the shunt capacitance required is $C_{1ext} = C_1 - C_o = 63.16 - 0.117 = 63.043$ nF. The values of all the components, which have been calculated, their standard values used for simulations along with their equivalent series resistances are given in Table I.

IV. SIMULATION RESULTS

The circuit of the transformer-version of the Class-E zero-voltage switching (ZVS) inverter shown in Fig. 1(a) was simulated on SABER circuit simulator using the parameters and component values given in Table I. Simulations were performed first at the optimum coupling coefficient of $k = k_{opt} = 0.77$ at which the inverter was designed. In addition, simulations were performed at coupling coefficients of $k = 0.85 > k_{opt}$ and $k = 0.7 < k_{opt}$ to realize the sensitivity of the inverter to variations in misalignment between the primary and secondary coils.

Fig. 2 shows the gate-to-source, drain-to-source, and drain current waveforms of the Class-E inverter at the optimum value of coupling coefficient $k_{opt} = 0.77$. Both zero-voltage and zero-derivative switching conditions were satisfied. Fig.

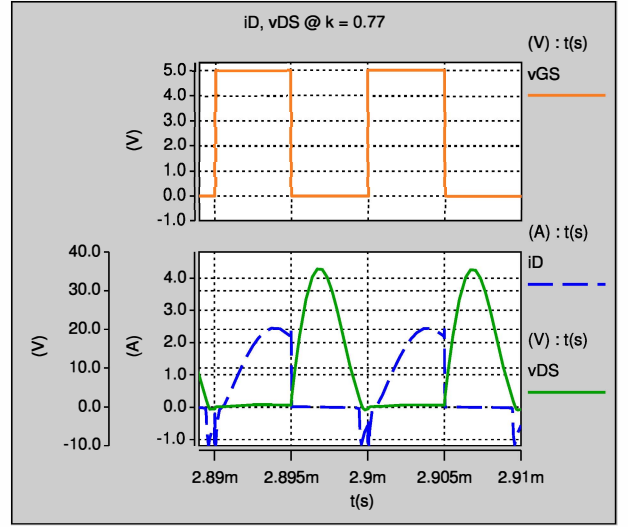


Fig. 2. Simulation results of switch current and voltage waveforms of the transformer-version of Class-E ZVS inverter at $k = 0.77$ demonstrating both zero-voltage and zero-derivative switching.

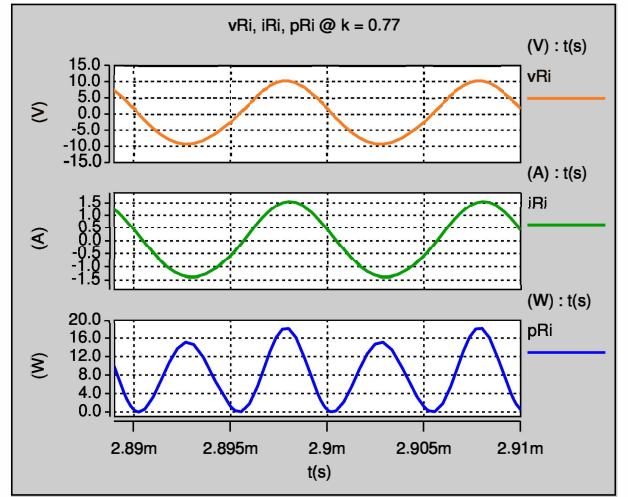


Fig. 3. Simulation results of output voltage, current, and power of the transformer-version of Class-E ZVS inverter at $k = 0.77$.

3 shows the waveforms of the output current, output voltage, and output power. The amplitude of the output voltage was $V_{Rim} = 10.25$ V and the current was $I_{Rim} = 1.52$ A. The average power delivered to the load resistance R_{i_r} was $P_{r_i} = 9.4$ W, while the design value is 10 W. The average input power was determined as $P_I = 9.6$ W. Therefore, the overall efficiency at $k_{opt} = 0.77$ was $\eta \approx 94.3\%$.

Fig. 4 shows the switch voltages and current waveforms for the inverter at a coupling coefficient of $k = 0.85$. One may observe that zero-voltage switching condition is not satisfied at this operating point. At $k = 0.85 > k_{opt}$, the resistance R_{T_i} is lower than the optimum value of 4.62 Ω for which the inverter was designed. Consequently, the ac current through the series resonant tank is high than that at $k = k_{opt}$ and is negative at the turn-on instant. Fig. 5 shows the simulated waveforms

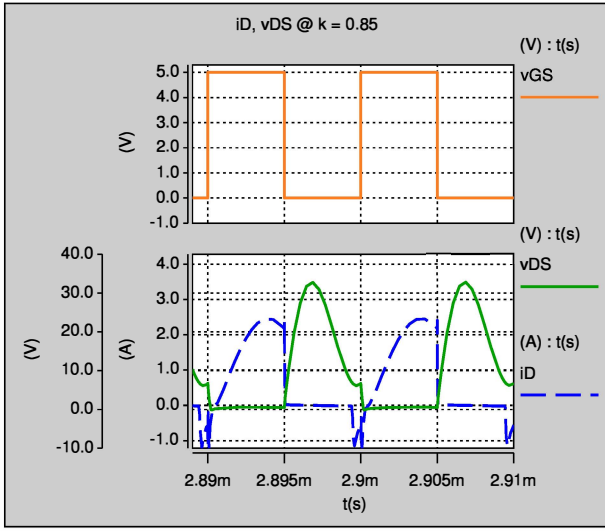


Fig. 4. Simulation results of switch current and voltage waveforms of the transformer-version of Class-E ZVS inverter at $k = 0.85$ demonstrating non zero-voltage switching operation.

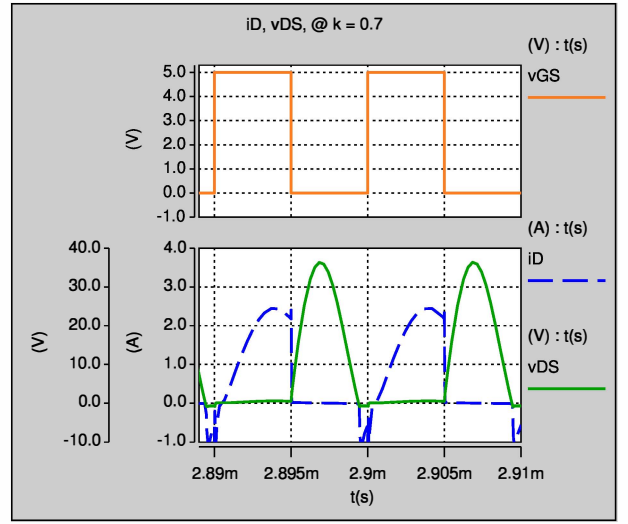


Fig. 6. Simulation results of switch current and voltage waveforms of the transformer-version of Class-E ZVS inverter at $k = 0.7$ demonstrating both zero-voltage and zero-derivative switching.

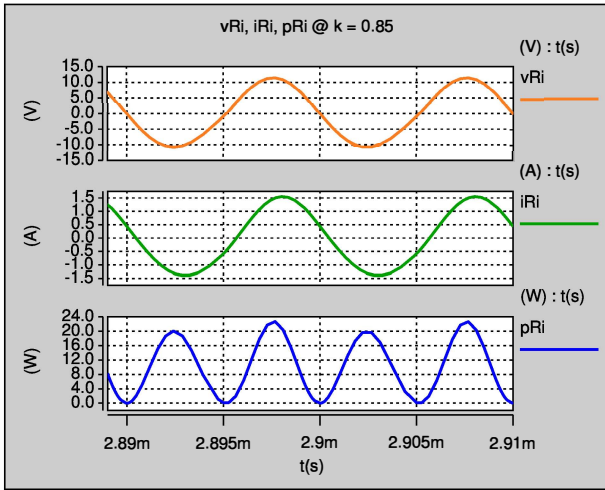


Fig. 5. Simulation results of output voltage, current, and power of the transformer-version of Class-E ZVS inverter at $k = 0.85$.

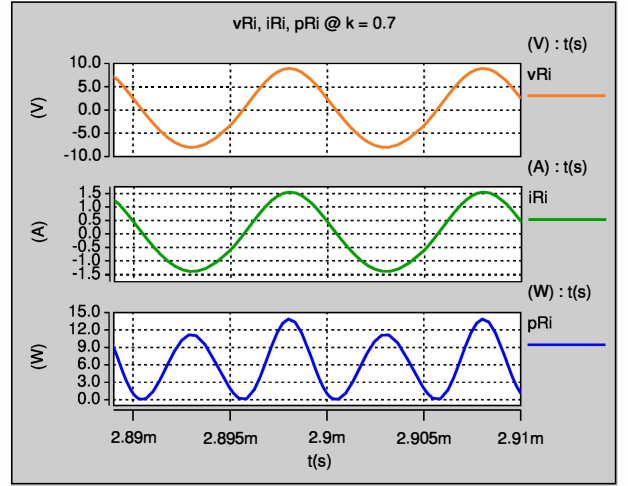


Fig. 7. Simulation results of output voltage, current, and power of the transformer-version of Class-E ZVS inverter at $k = 0.7$.

of the output voltage, current, and power. The amplitude of the output voltage was $V_{Rim} = 10.75$ V and the current was $I_{Rim} = 1.6$ A. The average output power was $P_{ri} = 9.2$ W and the average input power was $P_I = 9.85$ W. The overall efficiency was measured as $\eta \approx 93.4\%$. While the output power is higher at $k > k_{opt}$, the efficiency is lower due to off-nominal operation.

Fig. 6 shows the switch voltages and current waveforms for the inverter at a coupling coefficient of $k = 0.7$. The drain-to-source voltage waveform undergoes both zero-voltage and zero-derivative switching. At $k < 0.77$, the resistance R_{Ti} is lower than the optimum value 4.62Ω , while the inductance L_{Ti} is high and limits the rate of rise of current. The output voltage, current, and power waveforms can be observed through Fig. 7. The amplitude of the output voltage

has reduced to $V_{Rim} = 8.5$ V and the output current is $I_{Rim} = 1.5$ A. The average output power was lower than that for $k = 0.77$ and was measured as $P_{ri} = 8.2$ W. The average input power was $P_I = 8.92$ W. The overall efficiency was determined as $\eta \approx 92.12\%$.

Finally, in the circuit shown in Fig. 1(a), the secondary of the transformer was modified by including the equivalent input inductance L_{ir} of the rectifier in series with R_{ir} . The value of L_{ir} was chosen as $30 \mu\text{H}$. Using (20), the new value of series capacitance C_s was determined as 71.3 nF. Fig. 8 shows the waveforms of the output voltage, output power, drain-to-source voltage, and drain current. The waveforms showed identical characteristics as those for the resistive load. Thus, the effect of any inductance on the secondary can be nullified by suitably adjusting the value of the series capacitance.

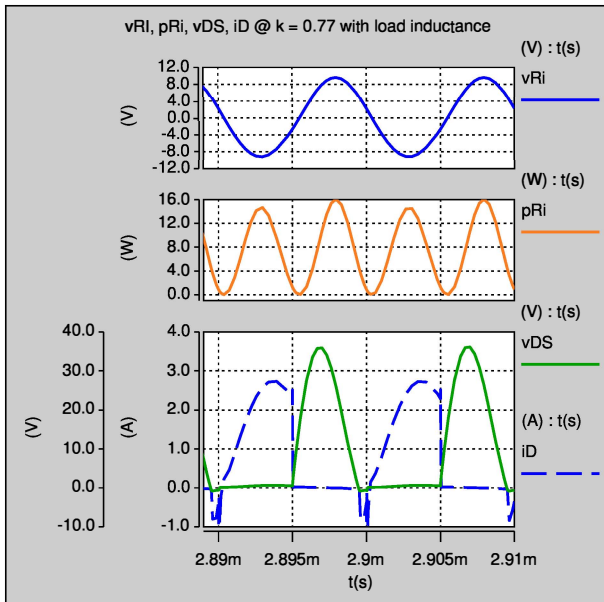


Fig. 8. Simulation results showing the output voltage, output power, switch current, and switch voltage of the transformer-version of Class-E ZVS inverter at $k = 0.77$ including the input inductance of the rectifier.

V. CONCLUSIONS

This paper has introduced a procedure to design a Class-E ZVS inverter with a loosely-coupled transformer at a fixed coupling coefficient. The circuit is designed to satisfy both zero-voltage switching (ZVS) and zero-derivative switching (ZDS) conditions at optimum values of coupling coefficient and load resistance. It has been shown that, due to the magnetizing inductance of the transformer, the Class-E ZVS inverter behaves as an *impedance inverter*, which is known to increase the range of load resistance required for optimum operation. The circuit also resembles the Class-E inverter with a $\pi 2a$ impedance matching topology. The magnetizing and the leakage inductances are absorbed into the main stage of the inverter. The design equations of the resonant components are provided in terms of coupling coefficient. This method can be adopted for the design of the Class-E inverter at any coupling coefficient. The Class-E ZVS inverter has been designed for a set of practical specifications. Using the theoretically predicted values of the components at an optimum coupling coefficient of $k = k_{opt} = 0.77$, the circuit was built and tested on SABER circuit simulator. Simulation results have been presented to verify its performance at selected values of the coupling coefficients. The following results have been observed:

- The inverter achieves both ZVS and ZDS at the optimum coupling coefficient as shown in Fig. 2.
- At a coupling coefficient higher than the optimum value, the inverter does not achieve ZVS and is demonstrated in Fig. 4.
- Only ZVS is achieved for any coupling coefficient lower than its optimum value and is shown in Fig. 6.

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