



# **Simplified Analysis and Design of Series-resonant LLC Half-bridge Converters**

**MLD GROUP**

**INDUSTRIAL & POWER CONVERSION DIVISION**

**Off-line SMPS BU Application Lab**

Application & Architecture Manager, System & Application Expert

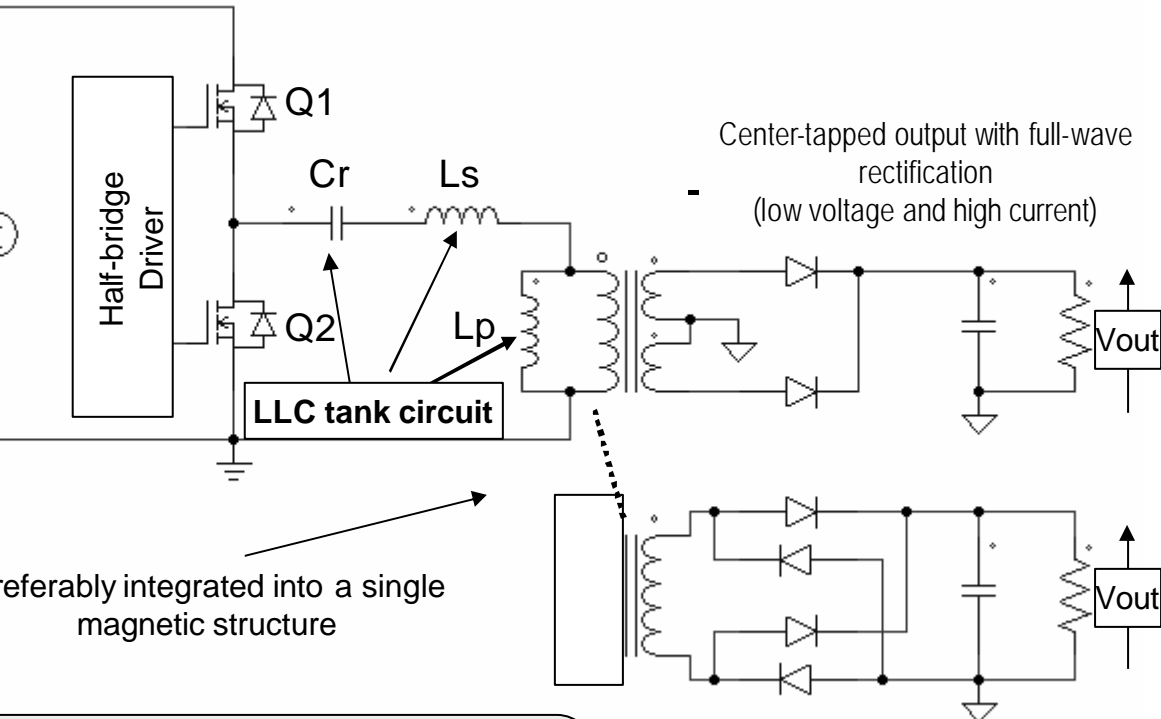


# Presentation Outline

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- LLC series-resonant Half-bridge: operation and significant waveforms
- Simplified model (FHA approach)
- 300W design example

# Series-resonant LLC Half-Bridge Topology and features



active elements, 2 resonant frequencies

$$f_{r1} = \frac{1}{2 \cdot \pi \cdot \sqrt{L_s \cdot C_r}}$$

$$f_{r2} = \frac{1}{2 \cdot \pi \cdot \sqrt{(L_s + L_p) \cdot C_r}}$$

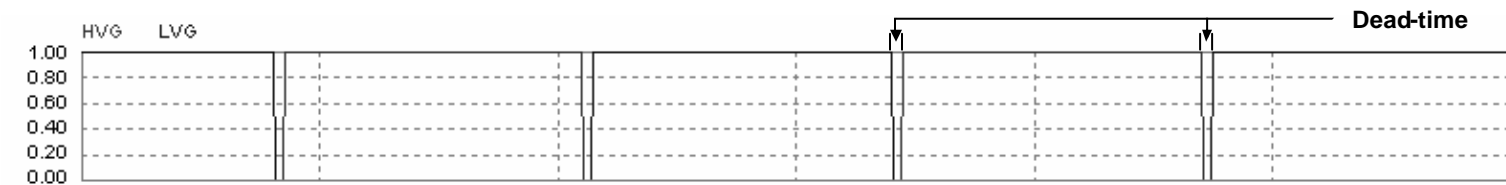
$f_{r1} > f_{r2}$

- Multi-resonant LLC tank circuit
- Variable frequency control
- Fixed 50% duty cycle for Q1 & Q2
- Dead-time between LG and HG allow MOSFET's ZVS @ turn-off
- $f_{sw} \approx f_r$ , sinusoidal waveforms, low turn-off losses, low EMI
- Equal voltage & current stresses on primary and secondary rectifiers; ZCS, the recovery losses
- No output choke; cost saving
- Integrated magnetics: both L's can be realized with the transformer
- High efficiency: >96% achievable

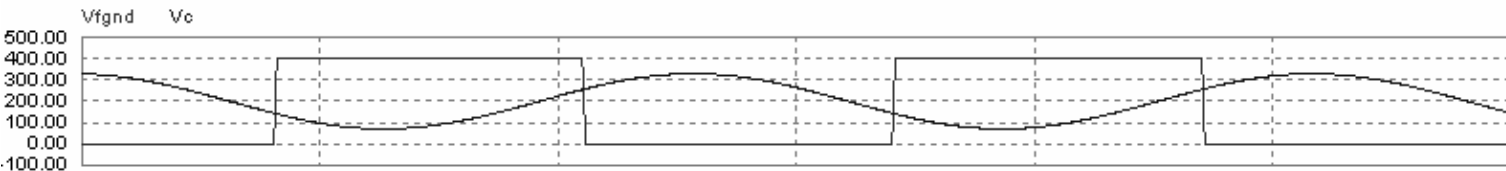


# LC Resonant Half-bridge

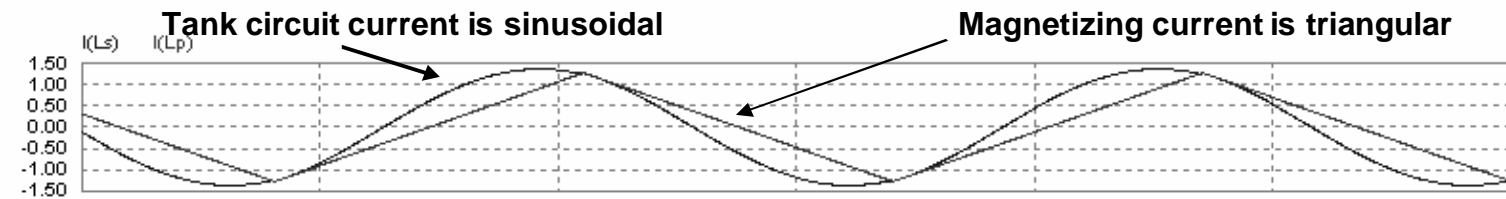
## Waveforms at resonance ( $f_{sw} = f_{r1}$ )



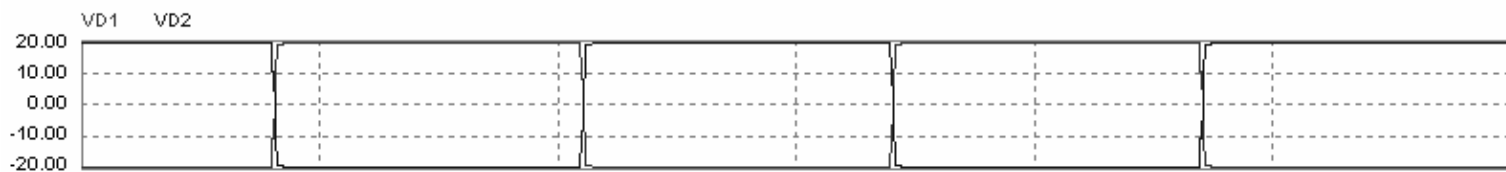
Gate-drive signals



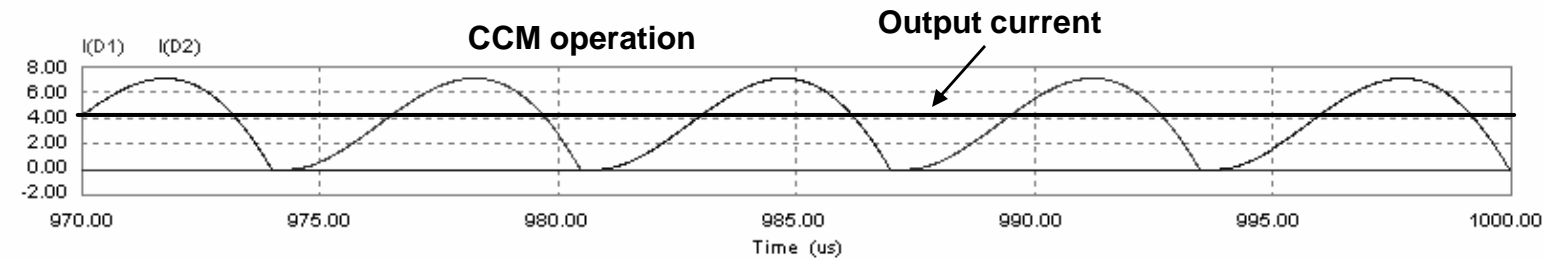
HB mid-point Voltage  
Resonant cap voltage



Transformer currents



Diode voltages

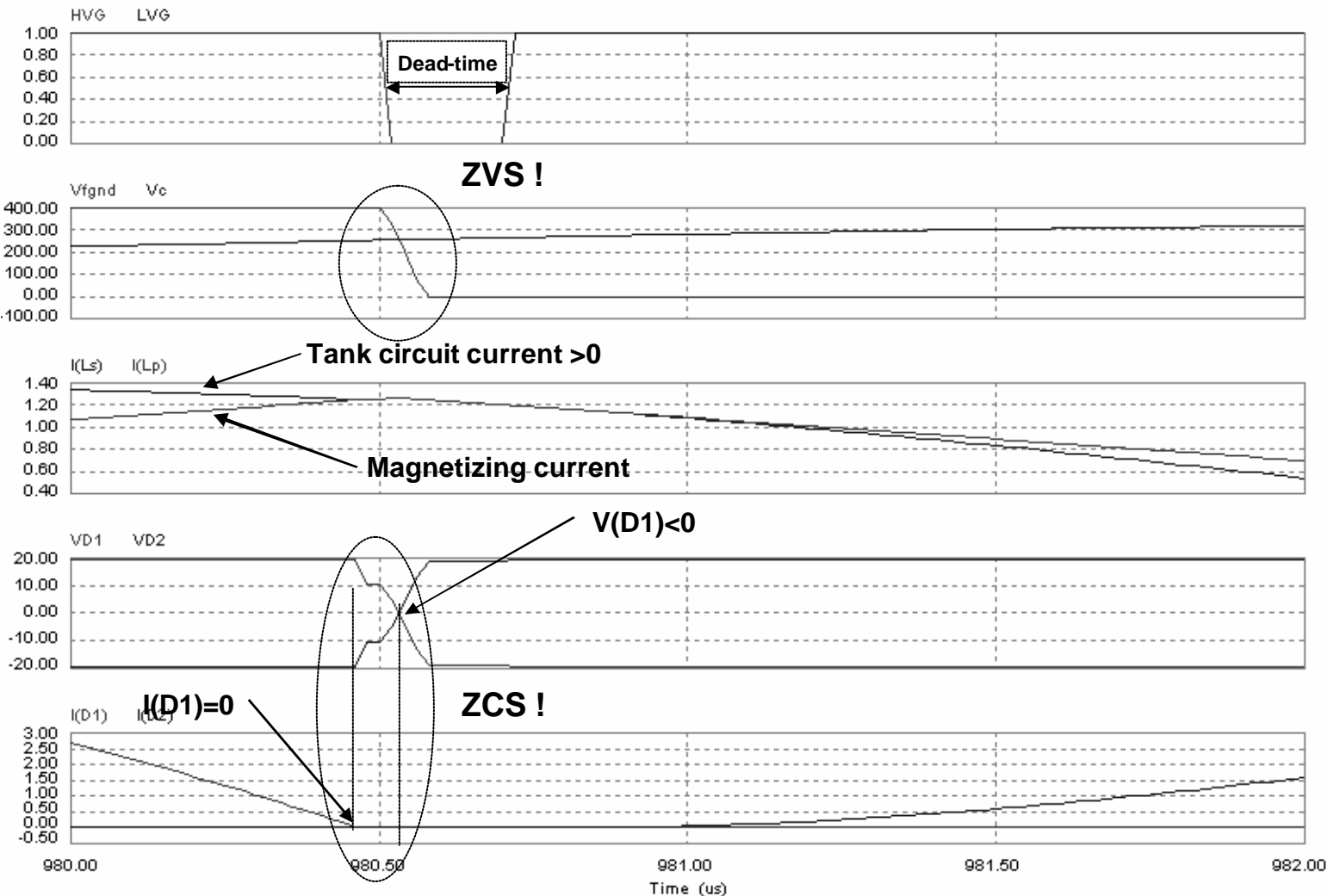


Diode currents



# LC Resonant Half-bridge

## Switching details at resonance ( $f_{sw} = f_{r1}$ )



Gate-drive signals

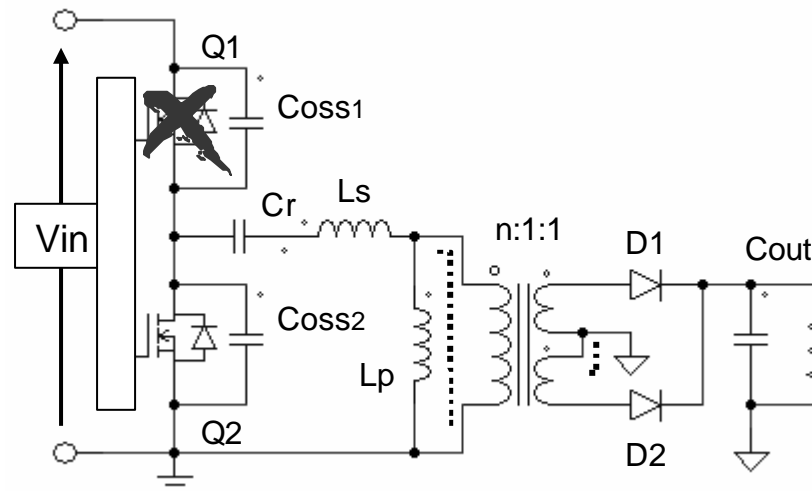
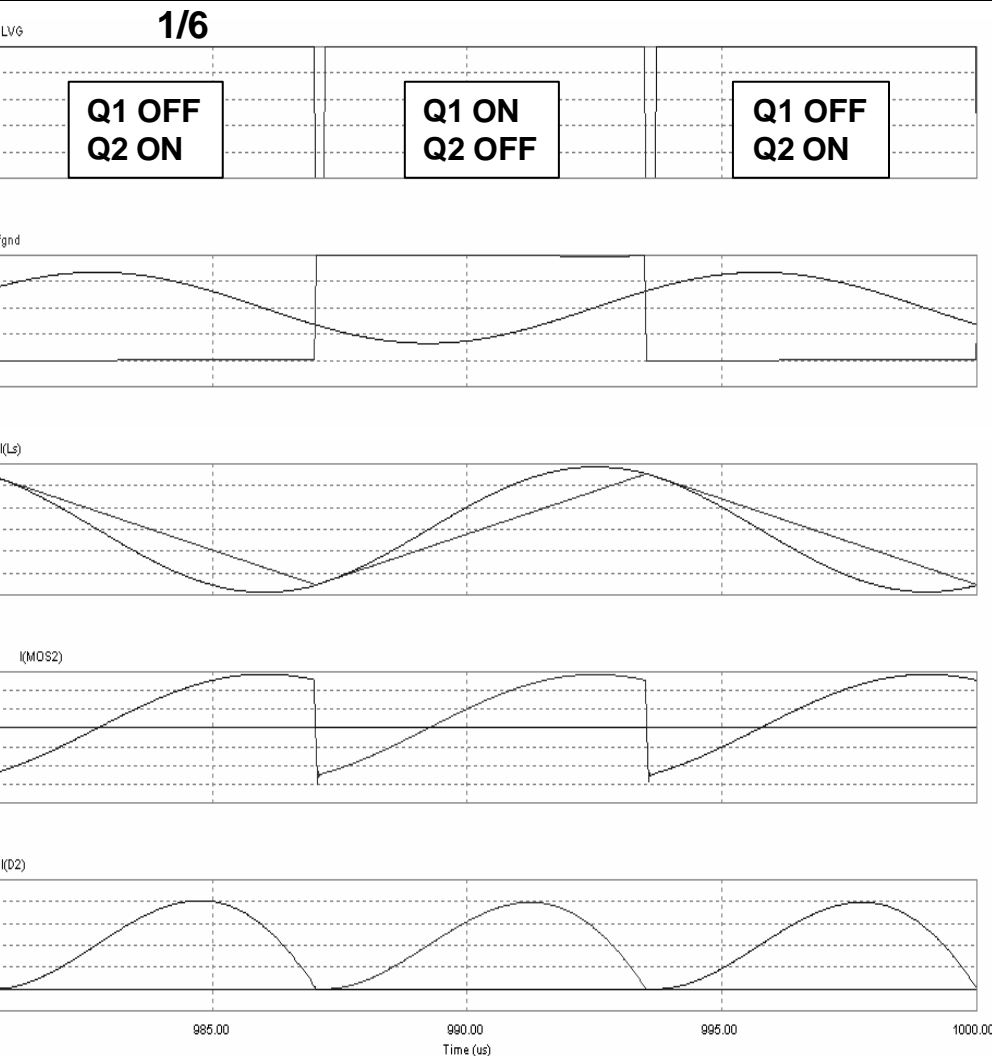
HB mid-point Voltage Resonant cap voltage

Transformer currents

Diode voltages

Diode currents

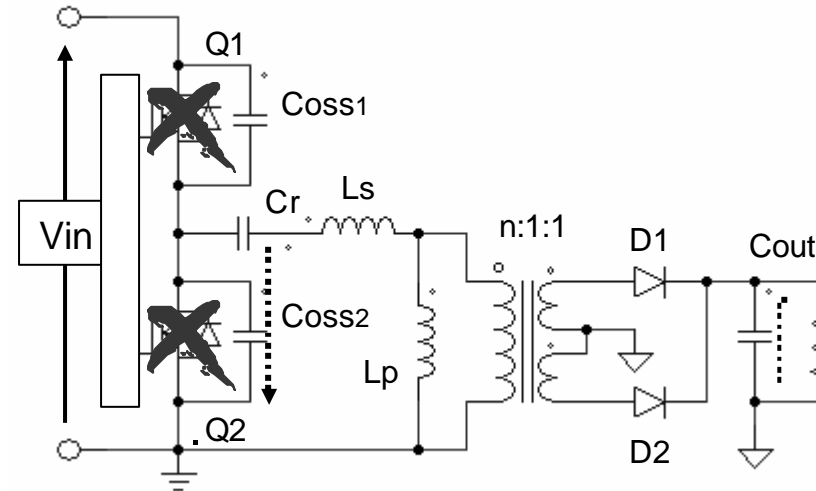
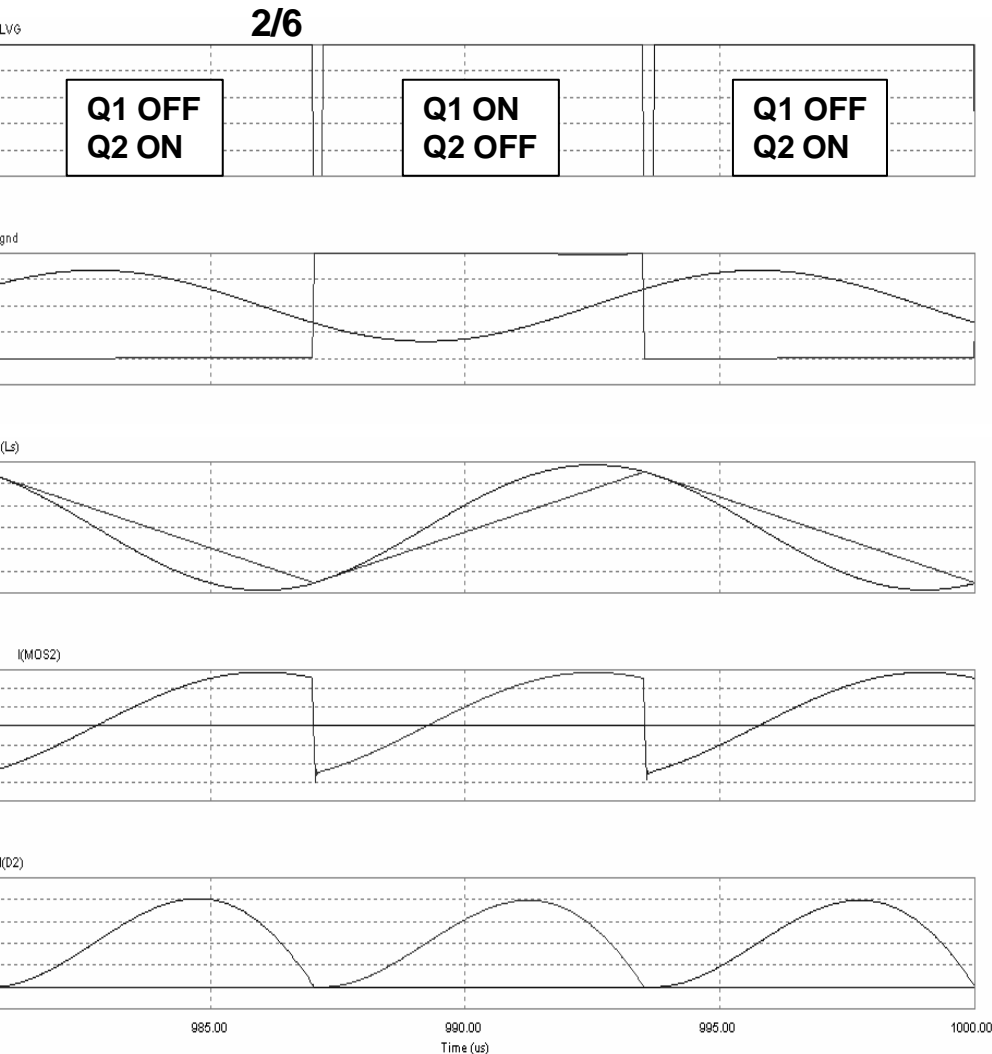
# LC Resonant Half-bridge Operating Sequence at resonance (Phase 1/6)



- Q1 is OFF, Q2 is ON
- D1 is OFF, D2 is ON;  $V(D1) = -2 \cdot V_{out}$
- Lp is dynamically shorted:  $V(Lp) = -n \cdot V_{out}$
- Cr resonates with Ls,  $f_{r1}$  appears
- Output energy comes from Cr and Ls
- Phase ends when Q2 is switched off

# LC Resonant Half-bridge

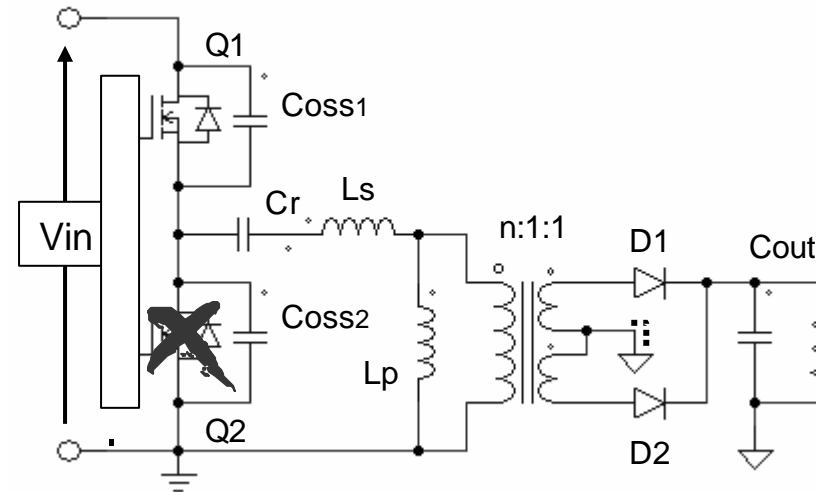
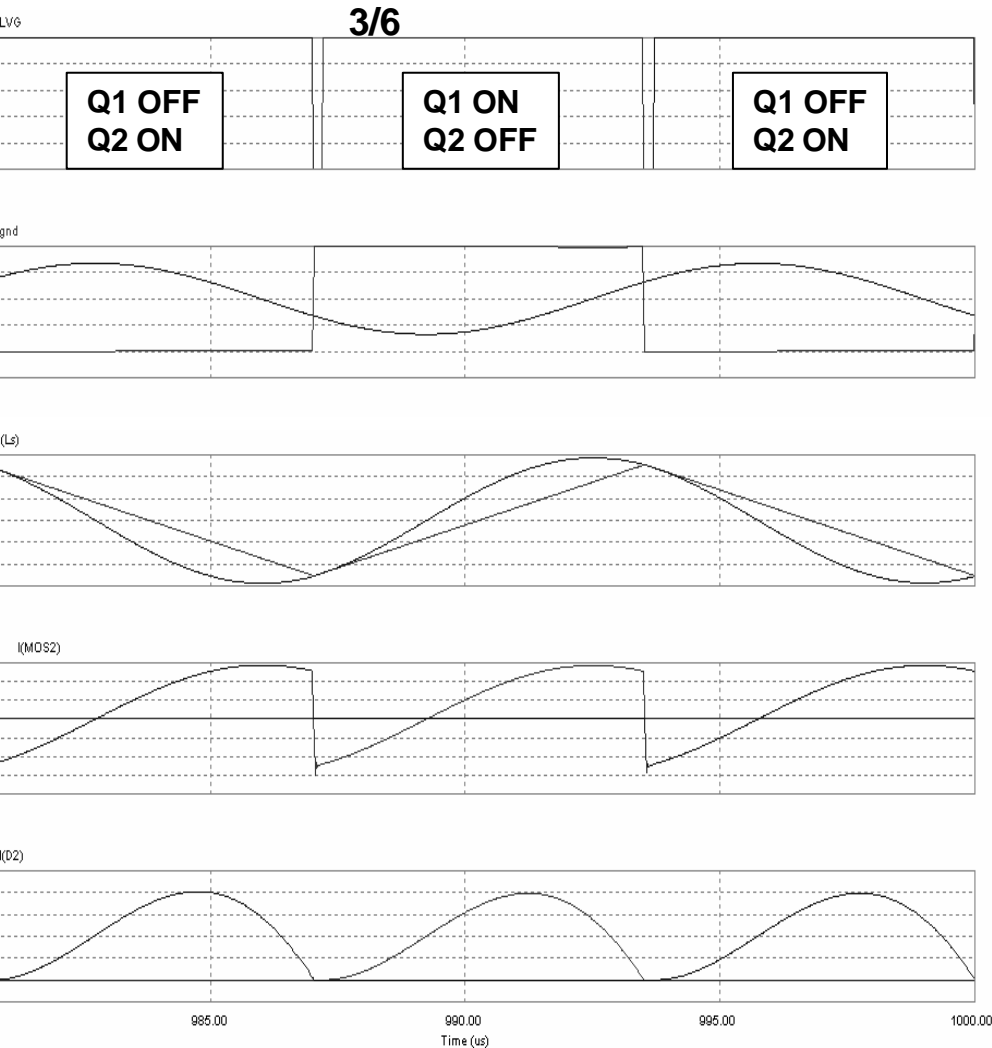
## Operating Sequence at resonance (Phase 2/6)



- Q1 and Q2 are OFF (dead-time)
- D1 and D2 are OFF;  $V(D1)=V(D2)=0$ ; transformer's secondary is open
- $I(Ls+Lp)$  charges  $C_{OSS2}$  and discharges  $C_{OSS1}$ , until  $V(C_{OSS2})=V_{in}$ ; Q1's body diode starts conducting, energy goes back to the input
- $I(D2)$  is exactly zero at Q2 switch off
- Phase ends when Q1 is switched on

# LC Resonant Half-bridge

## Operating Sequence at resonance (Phase 3/6)

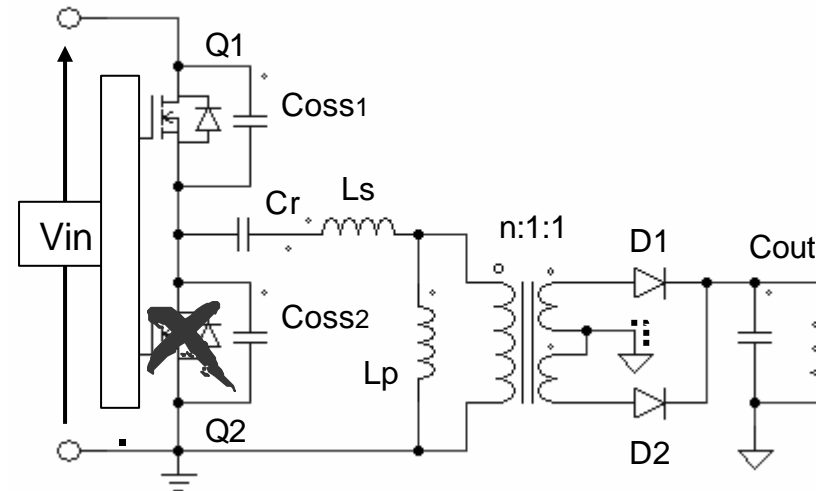
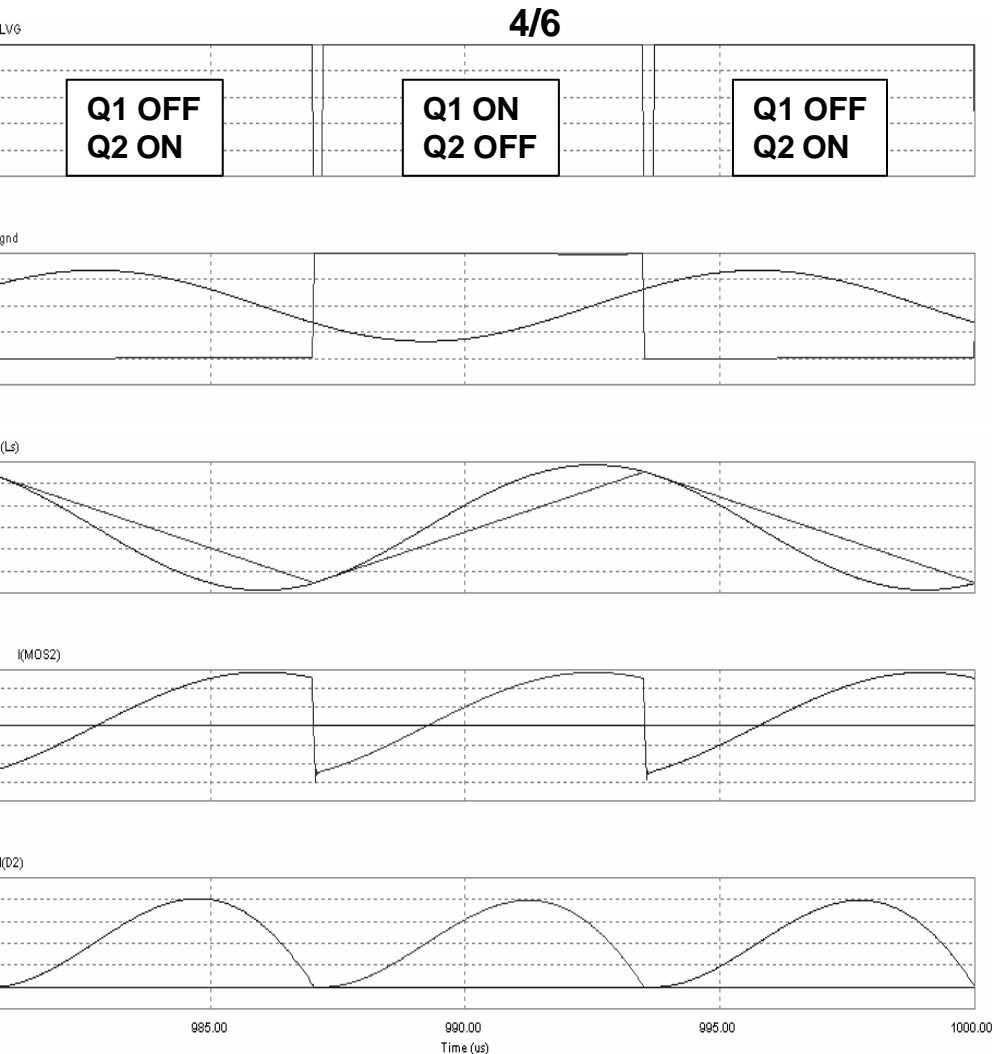


- Q1 is ON, Q2 is OFF
- D1 is ON, D2 is OFF;  $V(D2) = -2 \cdot V_{out}$
- $L_p$  is dynamically shorted:  $V(L_p) = n \cdot V_{out}$
- $C_r$  resonates with  $L_s$ ,  $f_{r1}$  appears
- $I(L_s)$  flows through Q1's  $R_{DS(on)}$  back to  $V_{in}$  (Q1 is working in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quadrant)
- Phase ends when  $I(L_s) = 0$



# LC Resonant Half-bridge

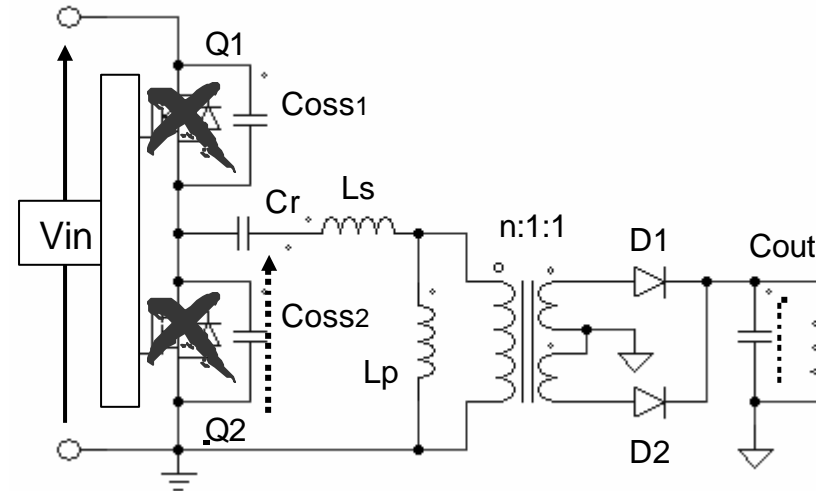
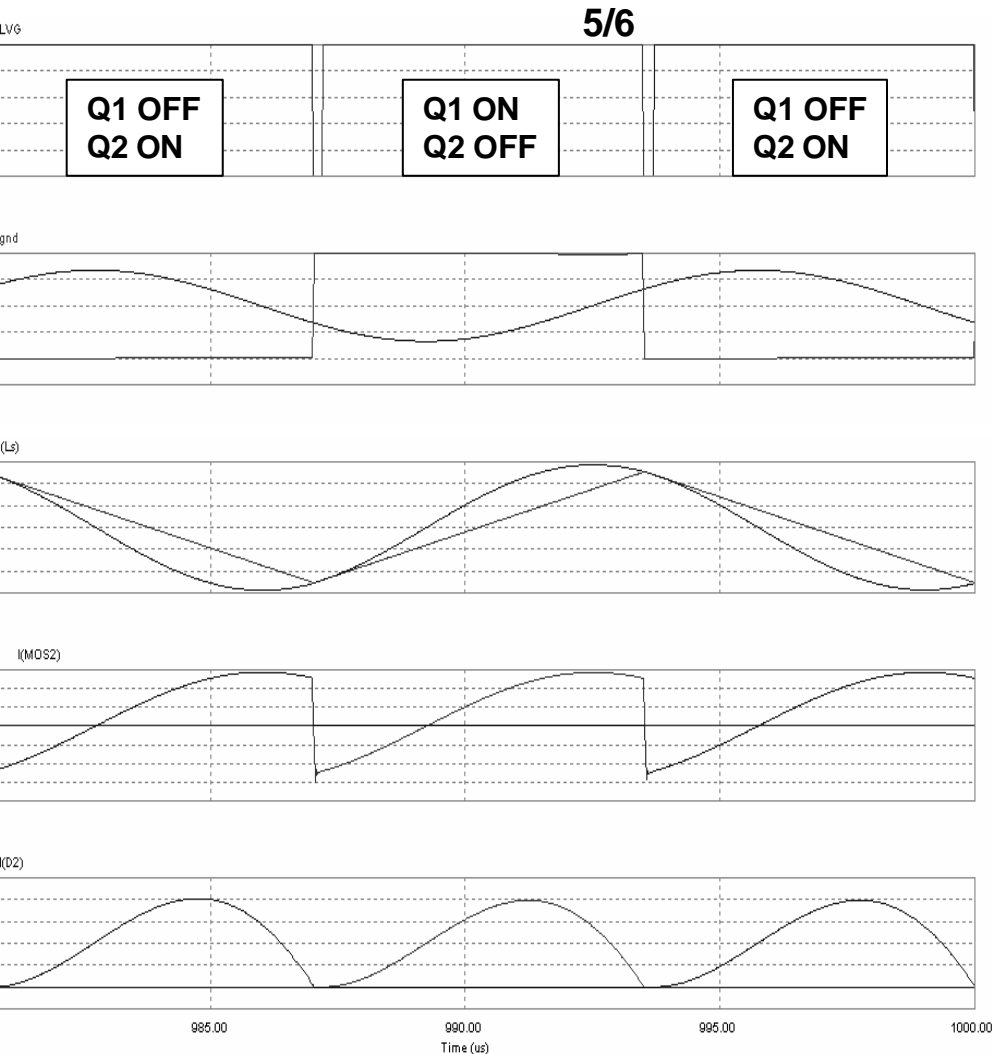
## Operating Sequence at resonance (Phase 4/6)



- Q1 is ON, Q2 is OFF
- D1 is ON, D2 is OFF;  $V(D2) = -2 \cdot V_{out}$
- $L_p$  is dynamically shorted:  $V(L_p) = n \cdot V_{out}$
- $C_r$  resonates with  $L_s$ ,  $f_{r1}$  appears
- $I(L_s)$  flows through Q1's  $R_{DS(on)}$  from  $V_{in}$  to ground
- Energy is taken from  $V_{in}$  and goes to  $C_{out}$
- Phase ends when Q1 is switched off

# LC Resonant Half-bridge

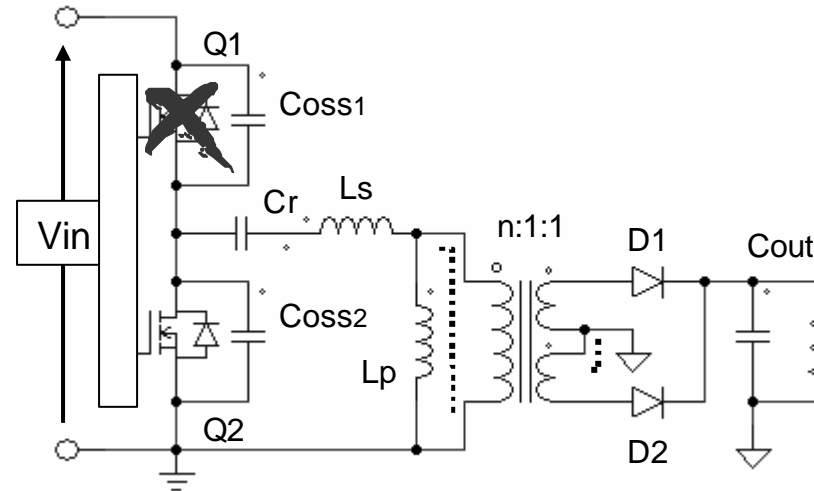
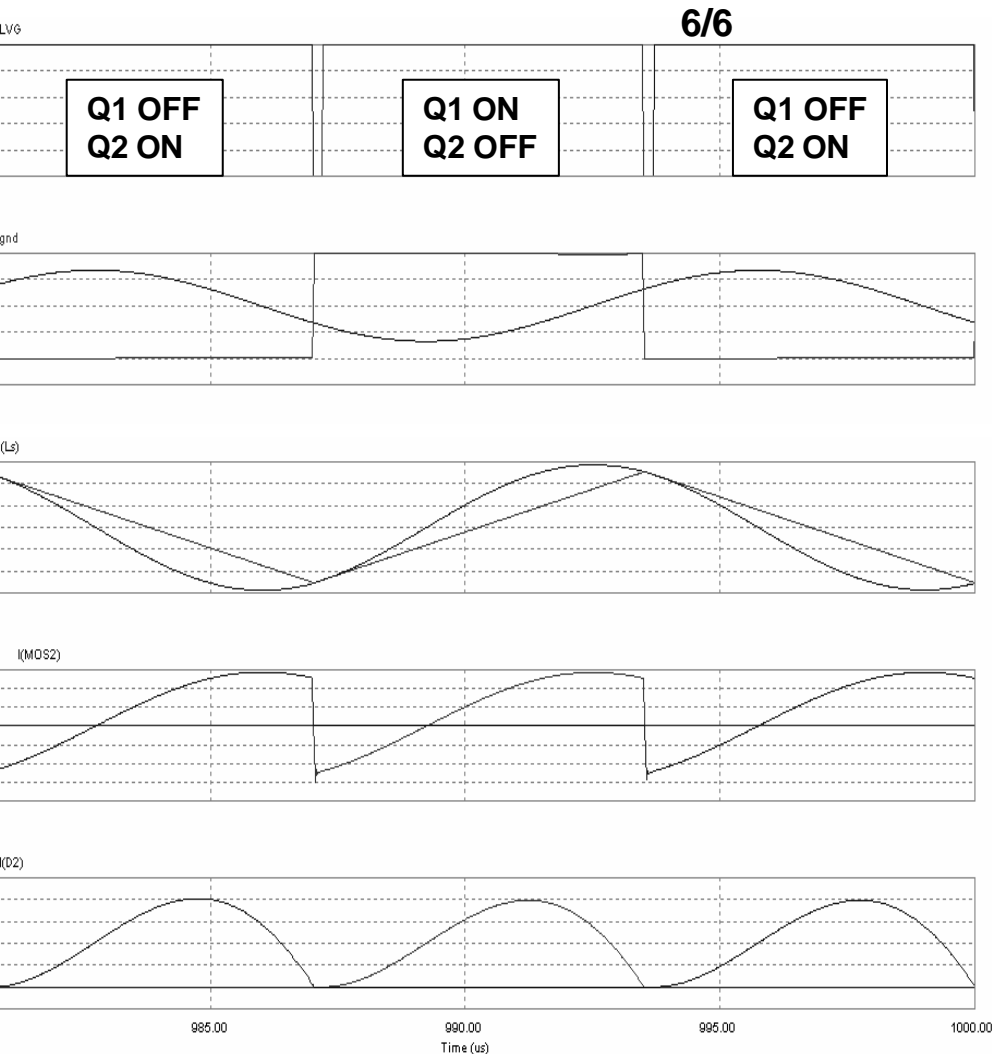
## Operating Sequence at resonance (Phase 5/6)



- Q1 and Q2 are OFF (dead-time)
- D1 and D2 are OFF;  $V(D1)=V(D2)=0$ ; transformer's secondary is open
- $I(Ls+Lp)$  charges  $C_{OSS1}$  and discharges  $C_{OSS2}$ , until  $V(C_{OSS2})=0$ ; Q2's body diode starts conducting
- $I(D1)$  is exactly zero at Q1 switch off
- Phase ends when Q2 is switched on

# LC Resonant Half-bridge

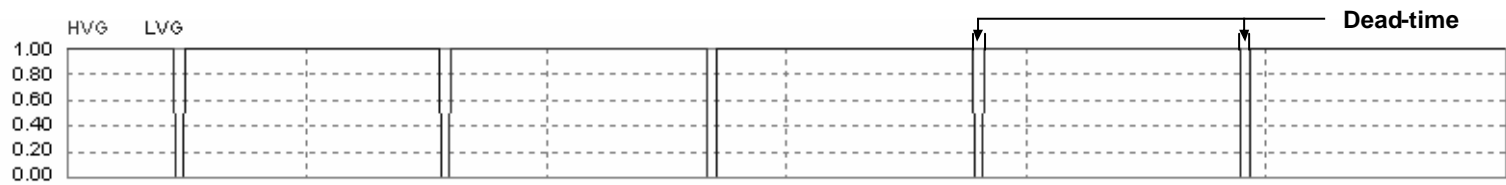
## Operating Sequence at resonance (Phase 6/6)



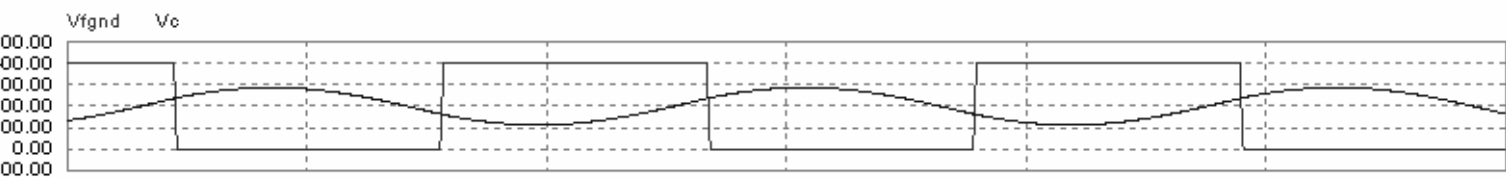
- Q1 is OFF, Q2 is ON
- D1 is OFF, D2 is ON
- $L_p$  is dynamically shorted:  $V(L_p) = -n \cdot V_{in}$
- $C_r$  resonates with  $L_s$ ,  $f_{r1}$  appears
- $I(L_s)$  flows through Q2's  $R_{DS(on)}$  (Q2 working in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quadrant)
- Output energy comes from  $C_r$  and  $L_s$
- Phase ends when  $I(L_s) = 0$ , Phase 1 starts

# LC Resonant Half-bridge

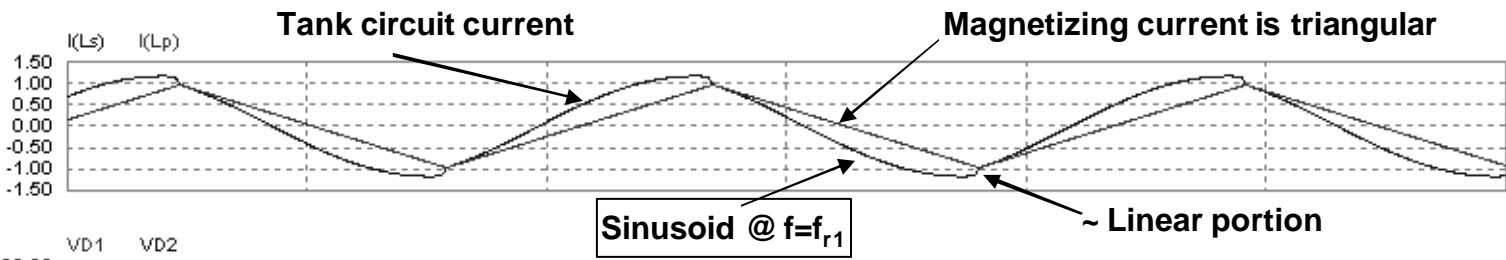
## Waveforms above resonance ( $f_{sw} > f_{r1}$ )



Gate-drive signals



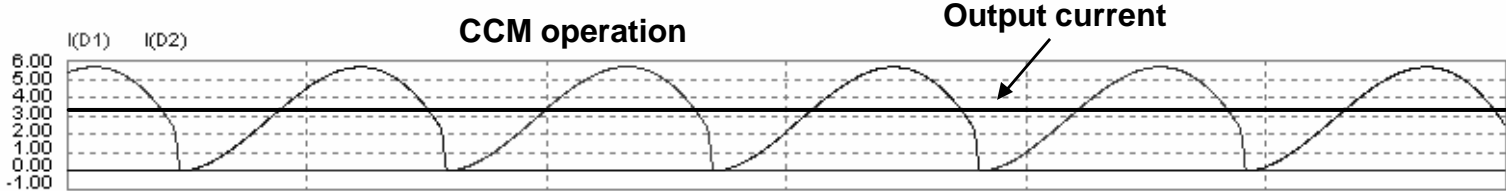
HB mid-point Voltage  
Resonant cap voltage



Transformer currents



Diode voltages



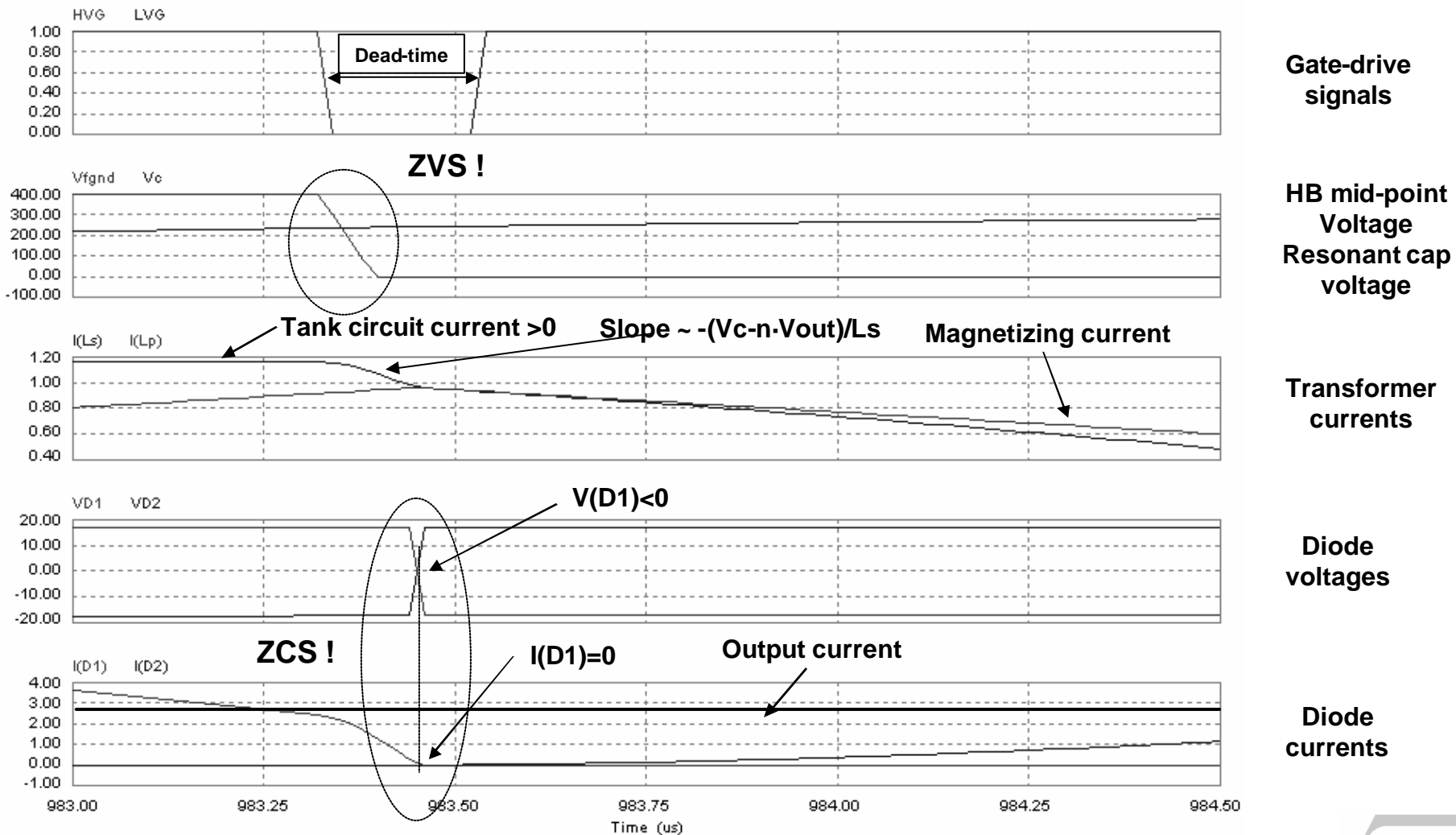
Diode currents

970.00 975.00 980.00 985.00 990.00 995.00 1000.00  
Time (us)



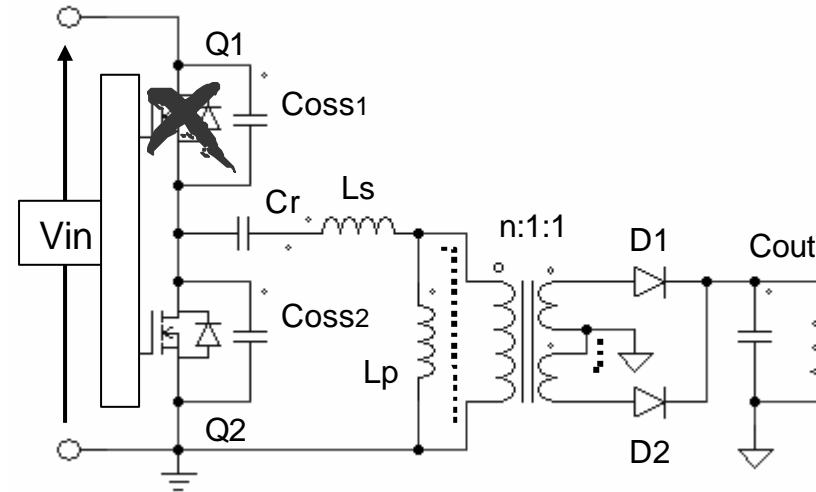
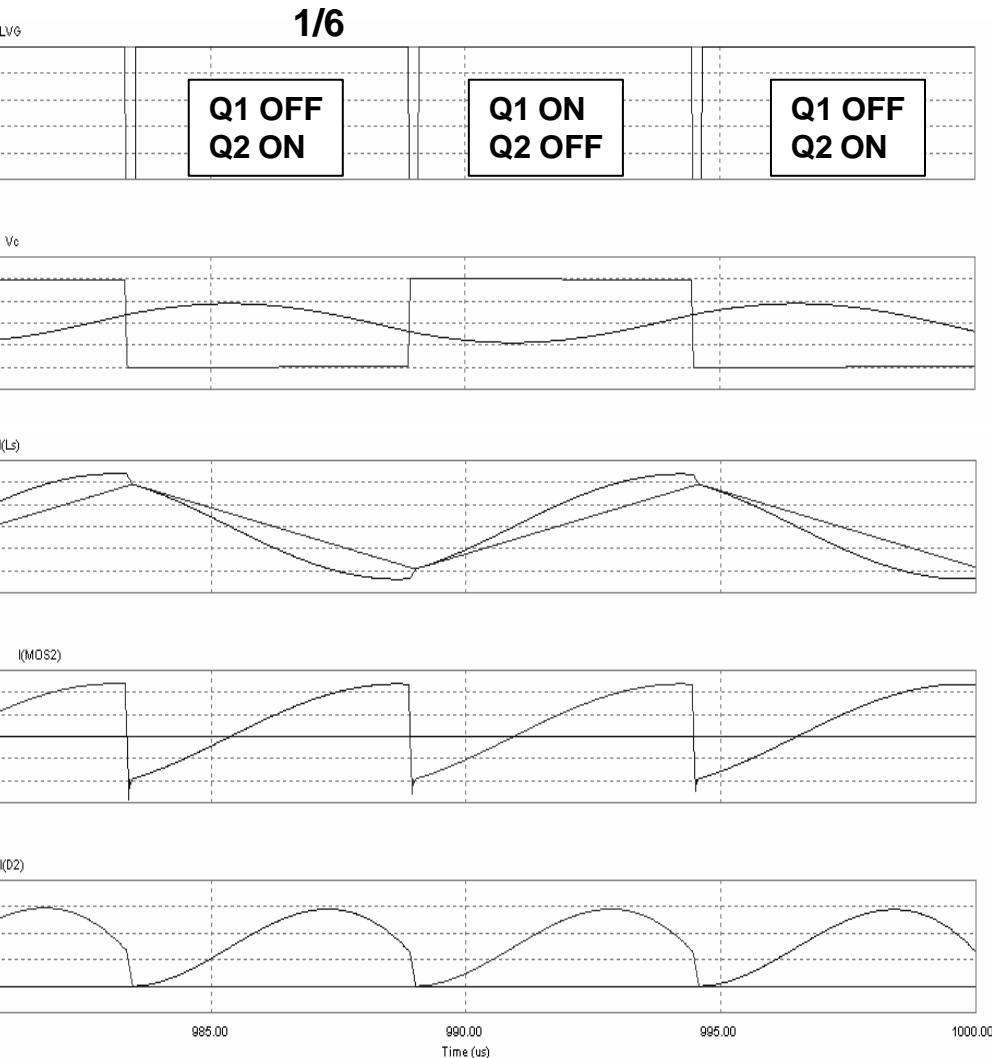
# LC Resonant Half-bridge

## Switching details above resonance ( $f_{sw} > f_{r1}$ )



# LC Resonant Half-bridge

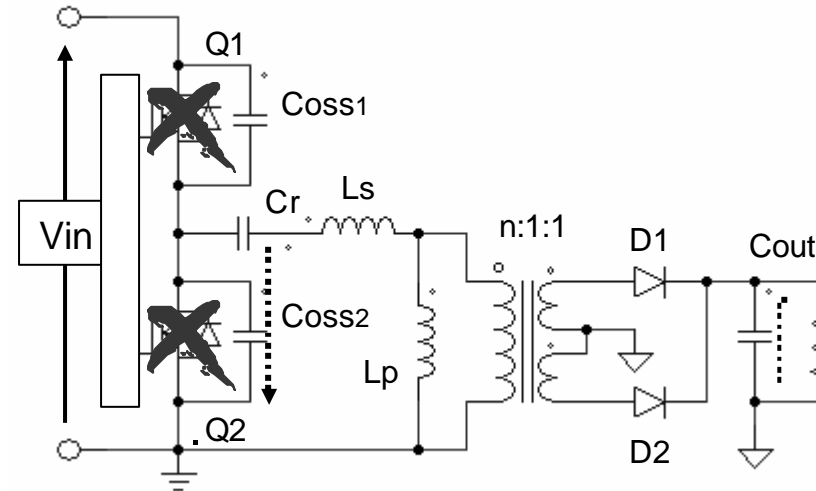
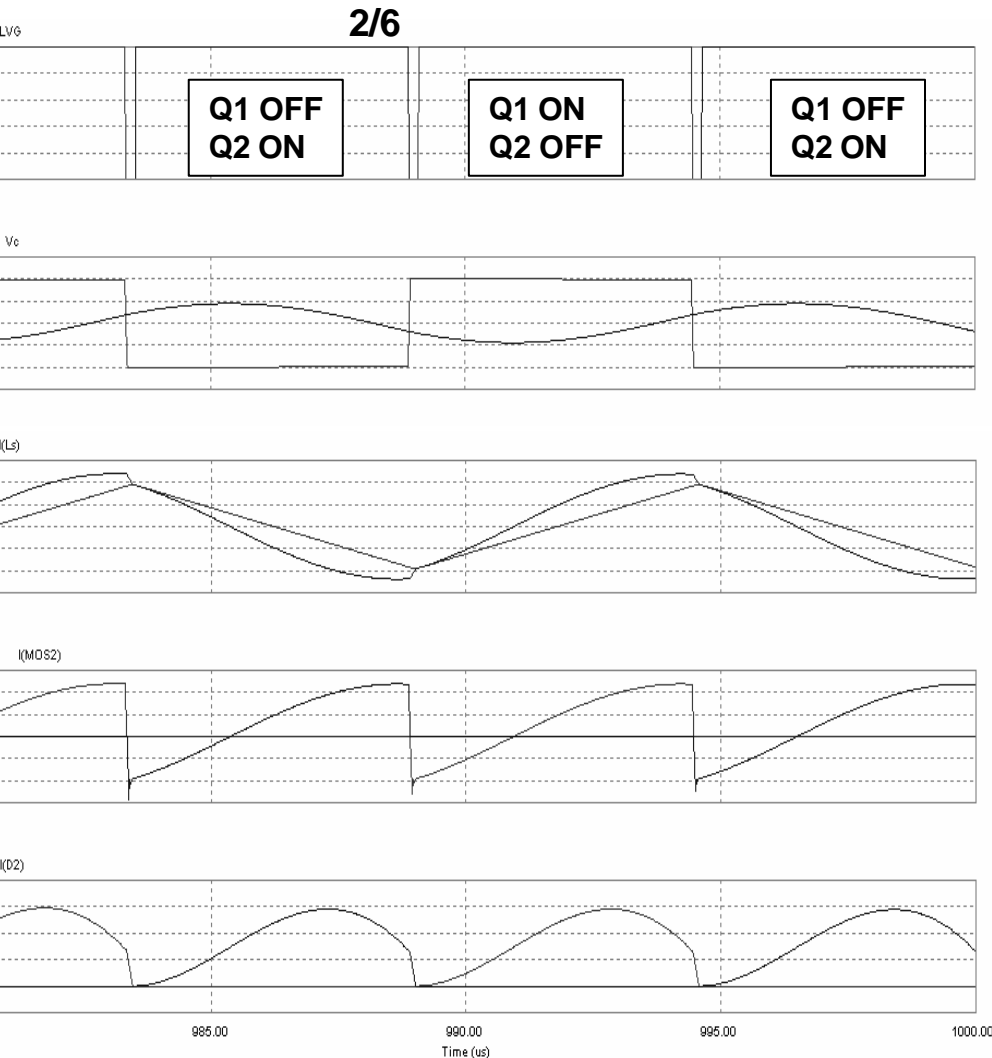
## Operating Sequence above resonance (Phase 1/6)



- Q1 is OFF, Q2 is ON
- D1 is OFF, D2 is ON;  $V(D1) = -2 \cdot V_{out}$
- $L_p$  is dynamically shorted:  $V(L_p) = -n \cdot V_{out}$
- $C_r$  resonates with  $L_s$ ,  $f_{r1}$  appears
- Output energy comes from  $C_r$  and  $L_s$
- Phase ends when Q2 is switched off

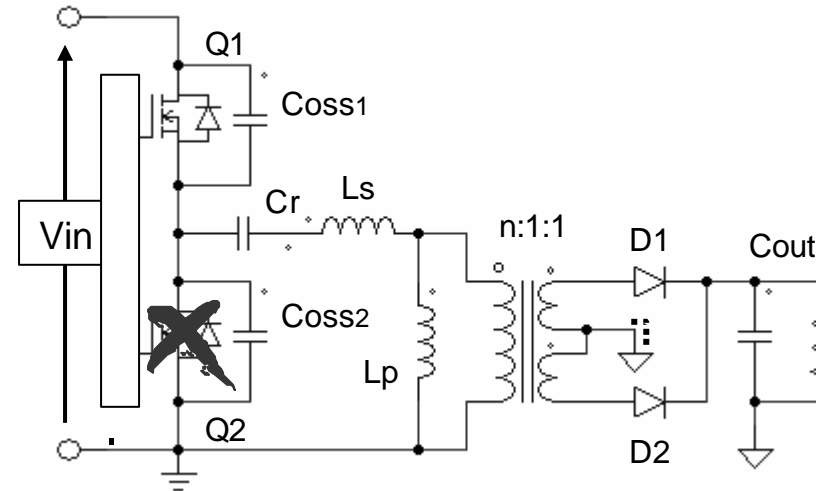
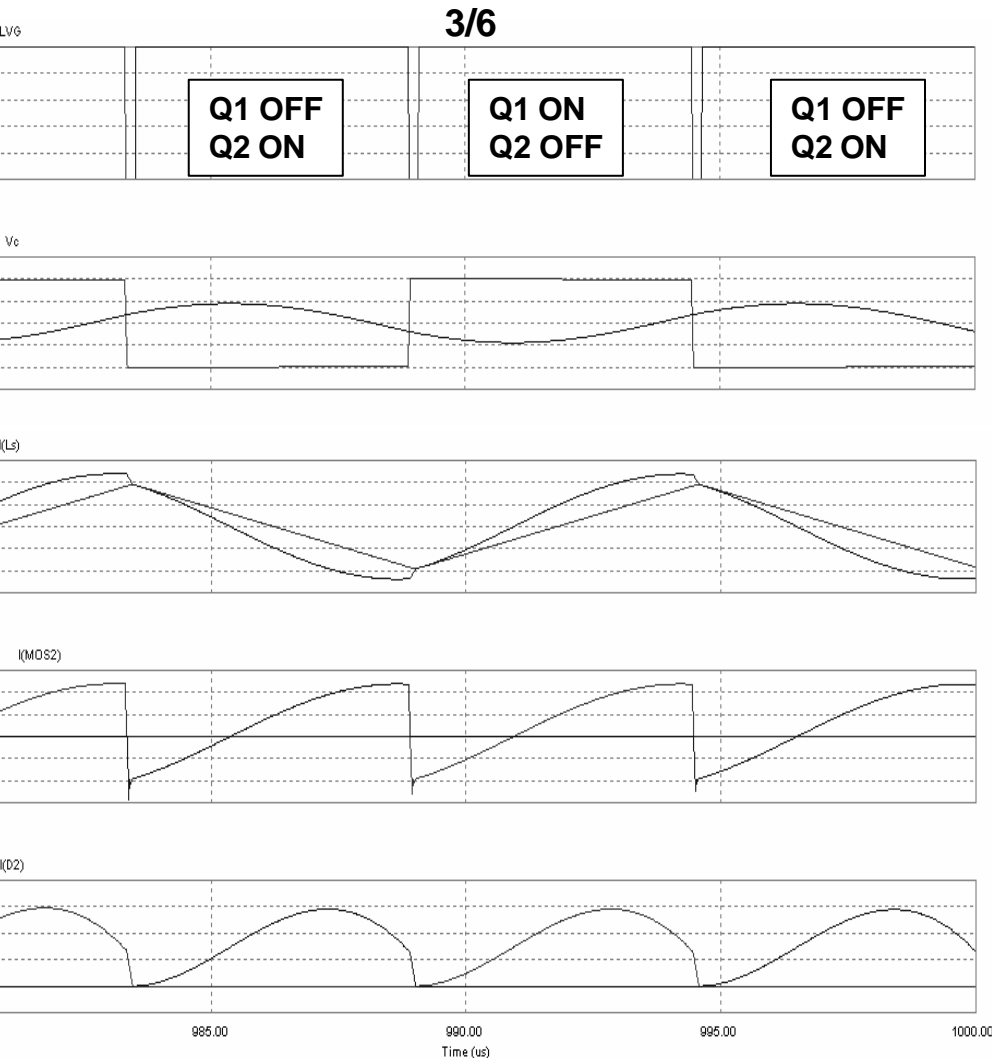
# LC Resonant Half-bridge

## Operating Sequence above resonance (Phase 2/6)



- Q1 and Q2 are OFF (dead-time)
- D1 and D2 are OFF;  $V(D1)=V(D2)=0$ ; transformer's secondary is open
- $I(Ls+Lp)$  charges  $C_{OSS2}$  and discharges  $C_{OSS1}$ , until  $V(C_{OSS2})=V_{in}$ ; Q1's body diode starts conducting, energy goes back to the transformer
- $V(D2)$  reverses as  $I(D2)$  goes to zero
- Phase ends when Q1 is switched on

# LC Resonant Half-bridge operating Sequence above resonance (Phase 3/6)

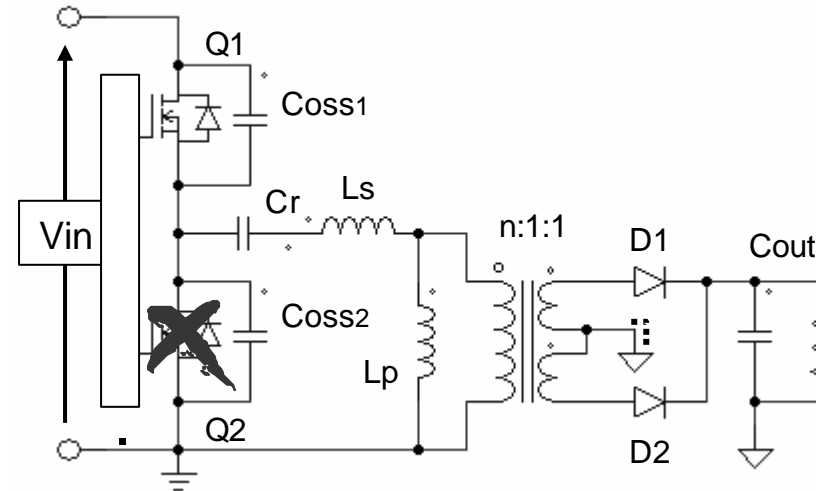
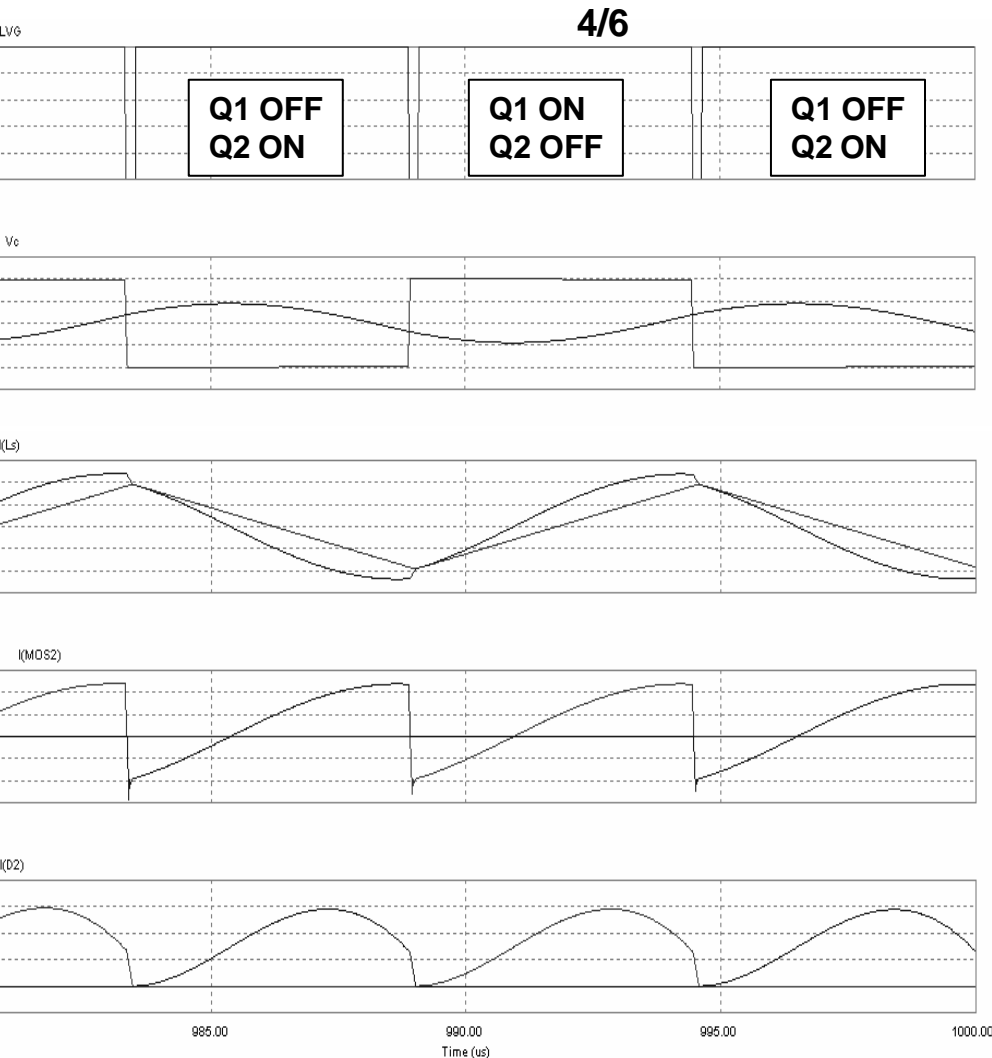


- Q1 is ON, Q2 is OFF
- D1 is ON, D2 is OFF;  $V(D2) = -2 \cdot V_{out}$
- $L_p$  is dynamically shorted:  $V(L_p) = n \cdot V_{out}$
- $C_r$  resonates with  $L_s$ ,  $f_{r1}$  appears
- $I(L_s)$  flows through Q1's  $R_{DS(on)}$  back to  $V_{in}$  (Q1 is working in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quadrant)
- Phase ends when  $I(L_s) = 0$



# LC Resonant Half-bridge

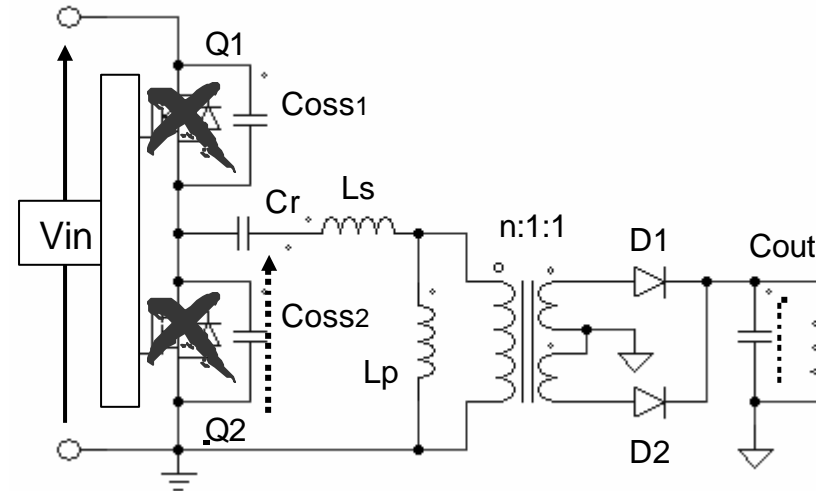
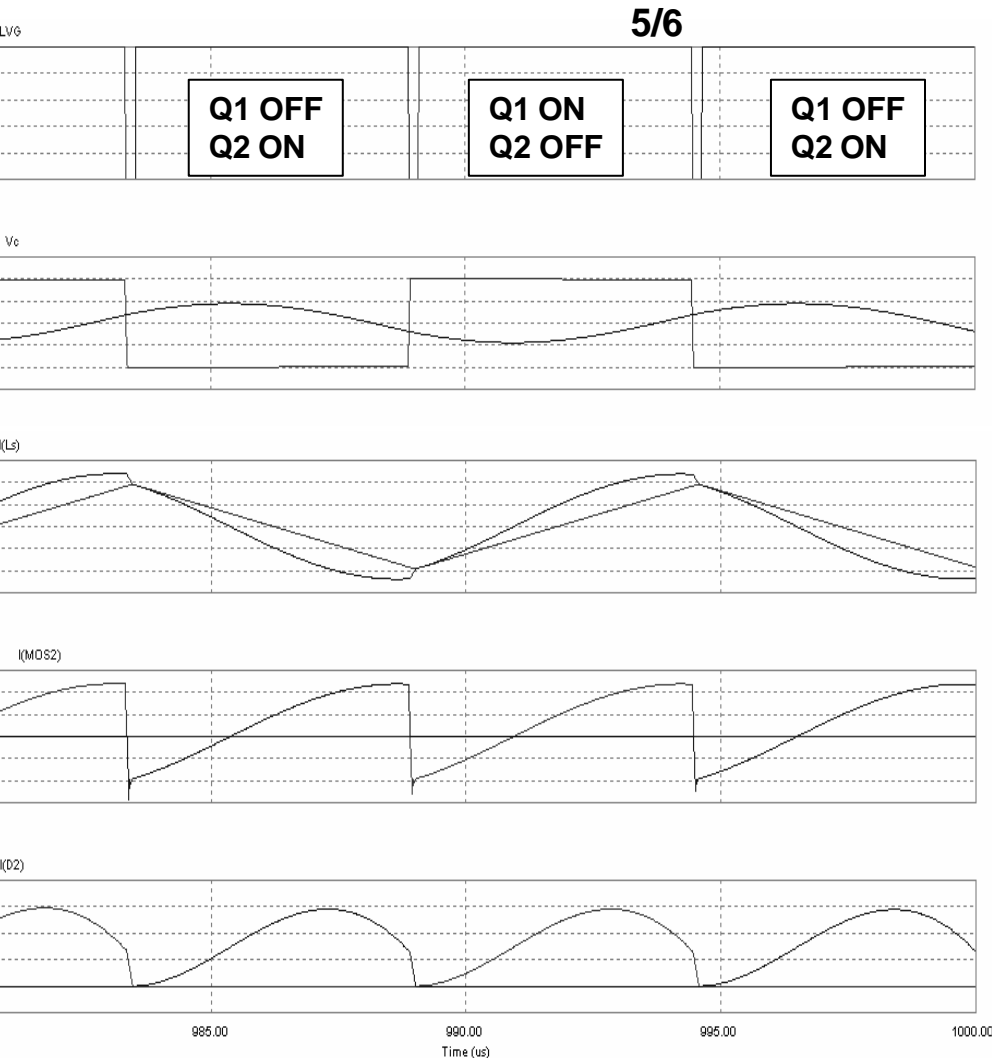
## Operating Sequence above resonance (Phase 4/6)



- Q1 is ON, Q2 is OFF
- D1 is ON, D2 is OFF;  $V(D2) = -2 \cdot V_{out}$
- Lp is dynamically shorted:  $V(Lp) = n \cdot V_{out}$
- Cr resonates with Ls,  $f_{r1}$  appears
- I(Ls) flows through Q1's  $R_{DS(on)}$  from Vin to ground
- Energy is taken from Vin and goes to Cout
- Phase ends when Q1 is switched off

# LC Resonant Half-bridge

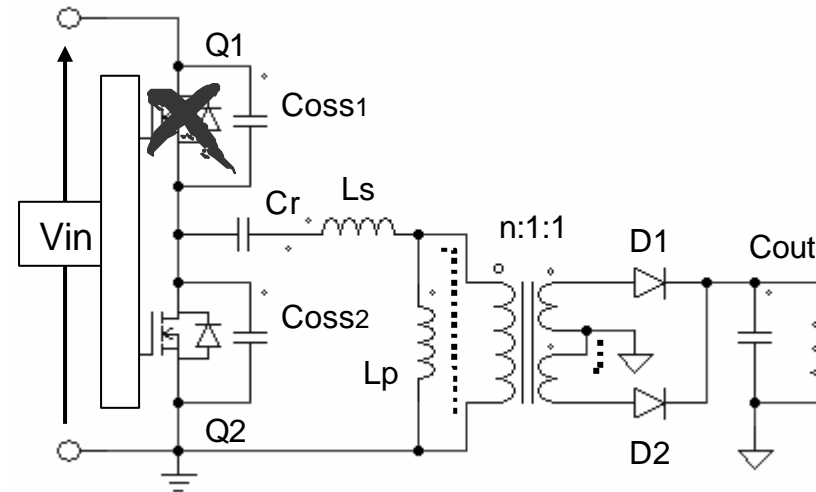
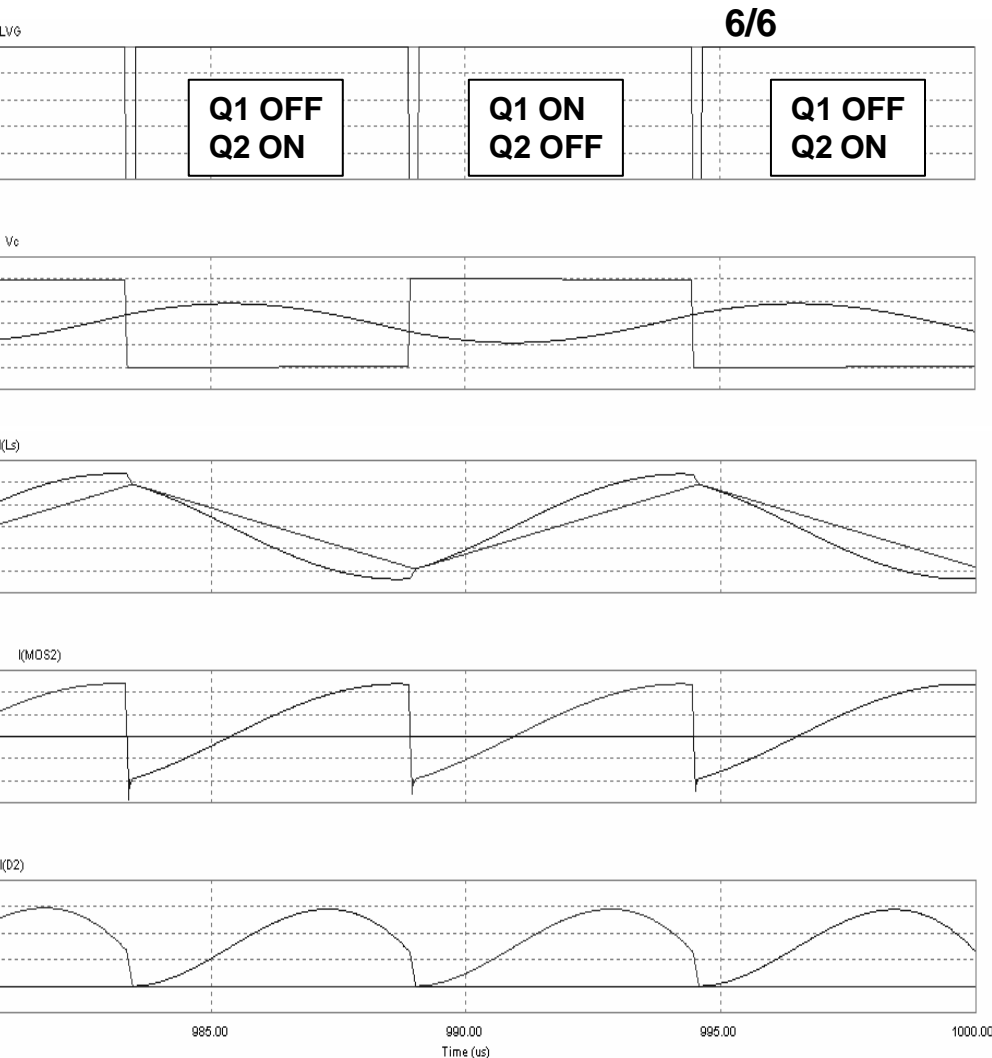
## Operating Sequence above resonance (Phase 5/6)



- Q1 and Q2 are OFF (dead-time)
- D1 and D2 are OFF;  $V(D1)=V(D2)=0$ ; transformer's secondary is open
- $I(Ls+Lp)$  charges  $C_{OSS1}$  and discharges  $C_{OSS2}$ , until  $V(C_{OSS2})=0$ ; Q2's body diode starts conducting
- Output energy comes from  $C_{out}$
- Phase ends when Q2 is switched on

# LC Resonant Half-bridge

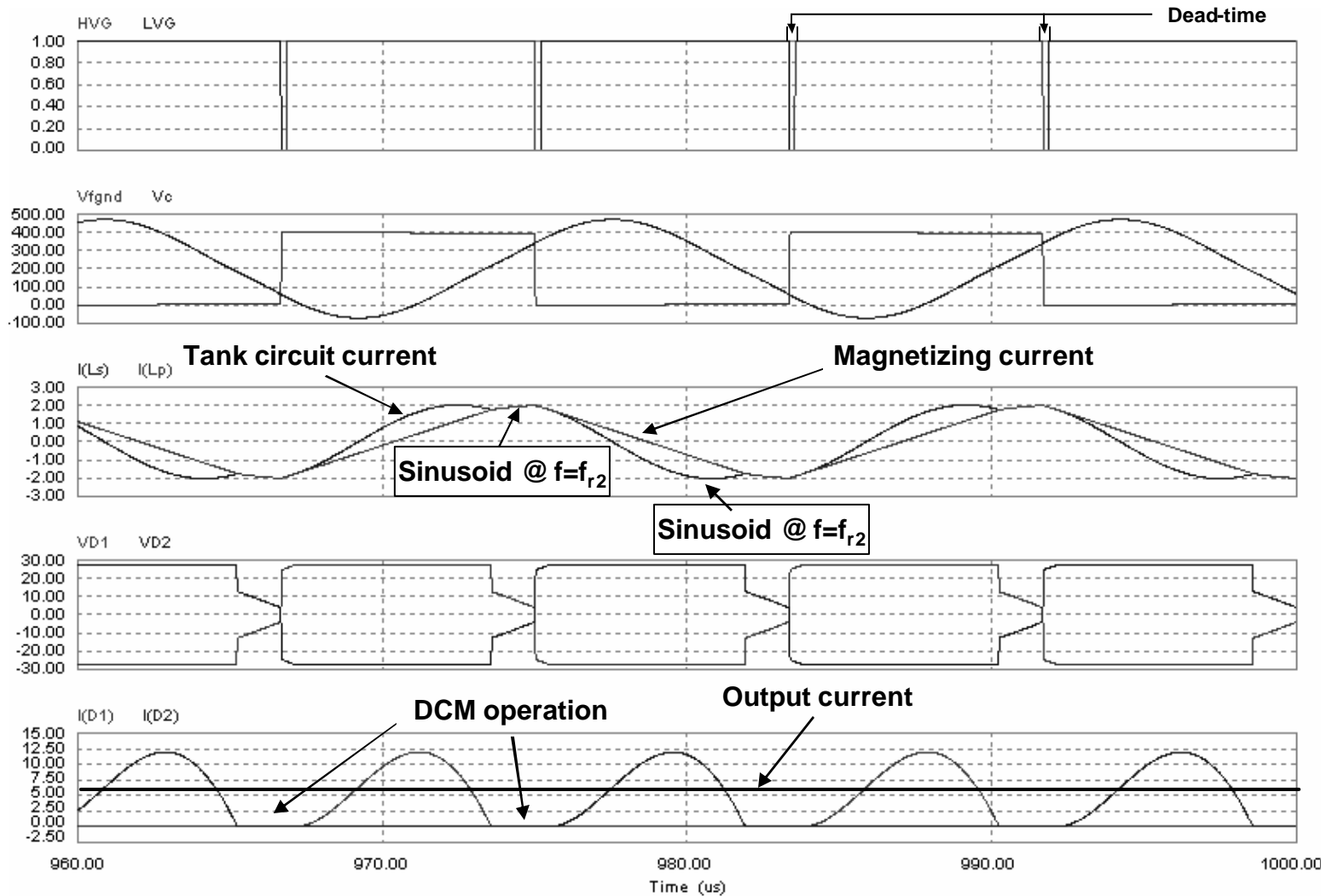
## Operating Sequence above resonance (Phase 6/6)



- Q1 is OFF, Q2 is ON
- D1 is OFF, D2 is ON
- Lp is dynamically shorted:  $V(Lp) = -n \cdot V$
- Cr resonates with Ls,  $f_{r1}$  appears
- I(Ls) flows through Q2's  $R_{DS(on)}$  (Q2 working in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quadrant)
- Output energy comes from Cr and Ls
- Phase ends when  $I(Ls) = 0$ , Phase 1 starts

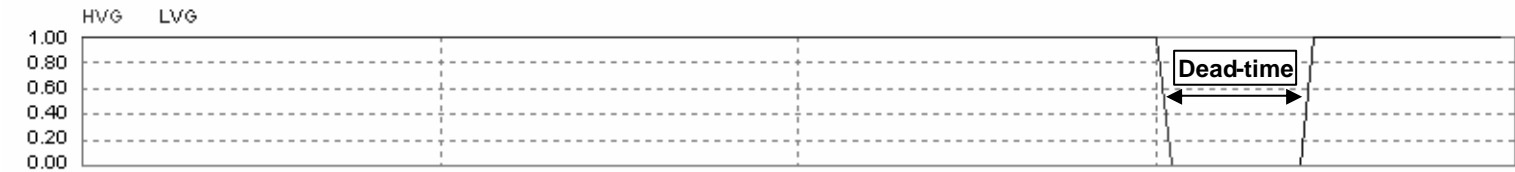
# LC Resonant Half-bridge

## Waveforms below resonance ( $f_{sw} < f_{r1}$ )

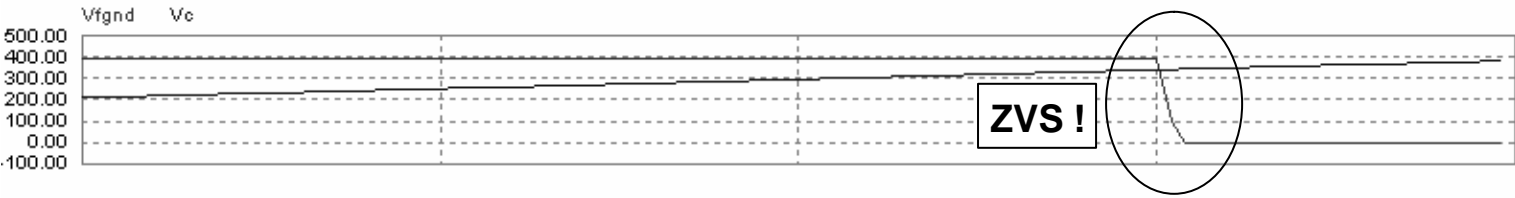


# LC Resonant Half-bridge

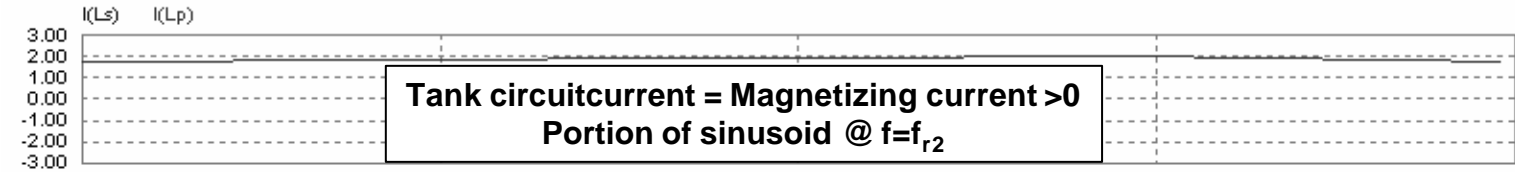
## Switching details below resonance ( $f_{sw} < f_{r1}$ )



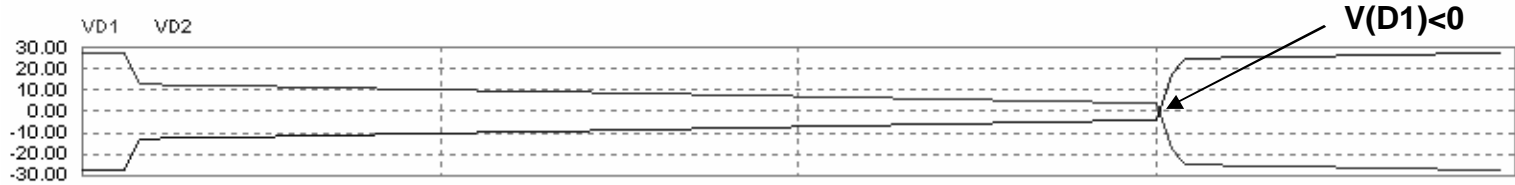
Gate-drive signals



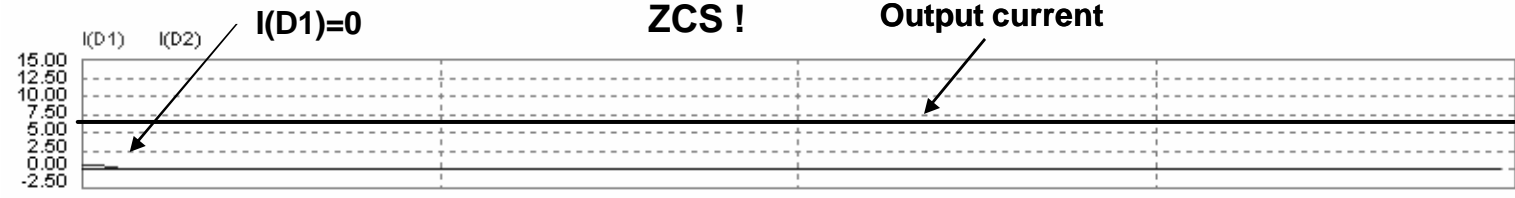
HB mid-point Voltage  
Resonant cap voltage



Transformer currents



Diode voltages

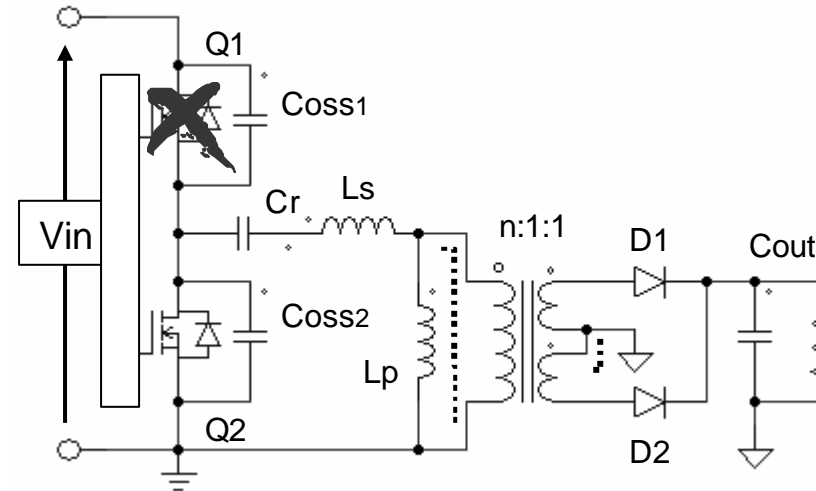
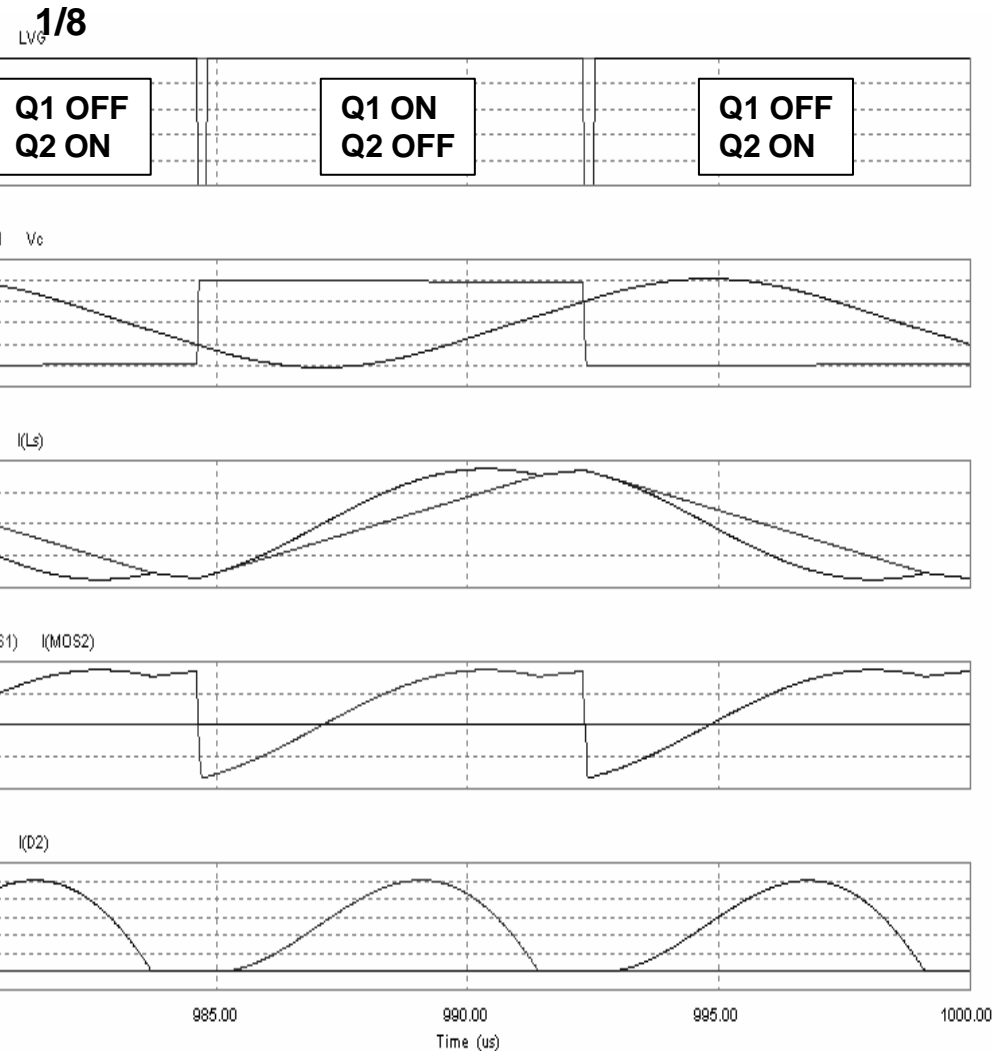


Diode currents

973.50 974.00 974.50 975.00 975.50  
Time (us)



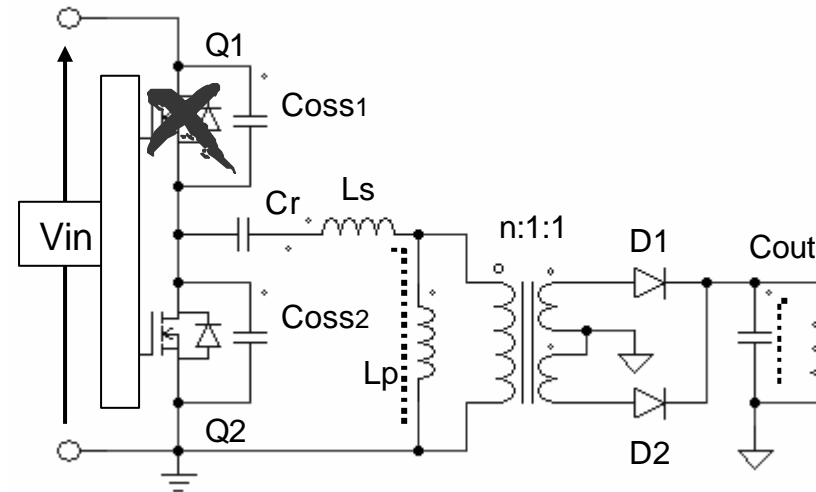
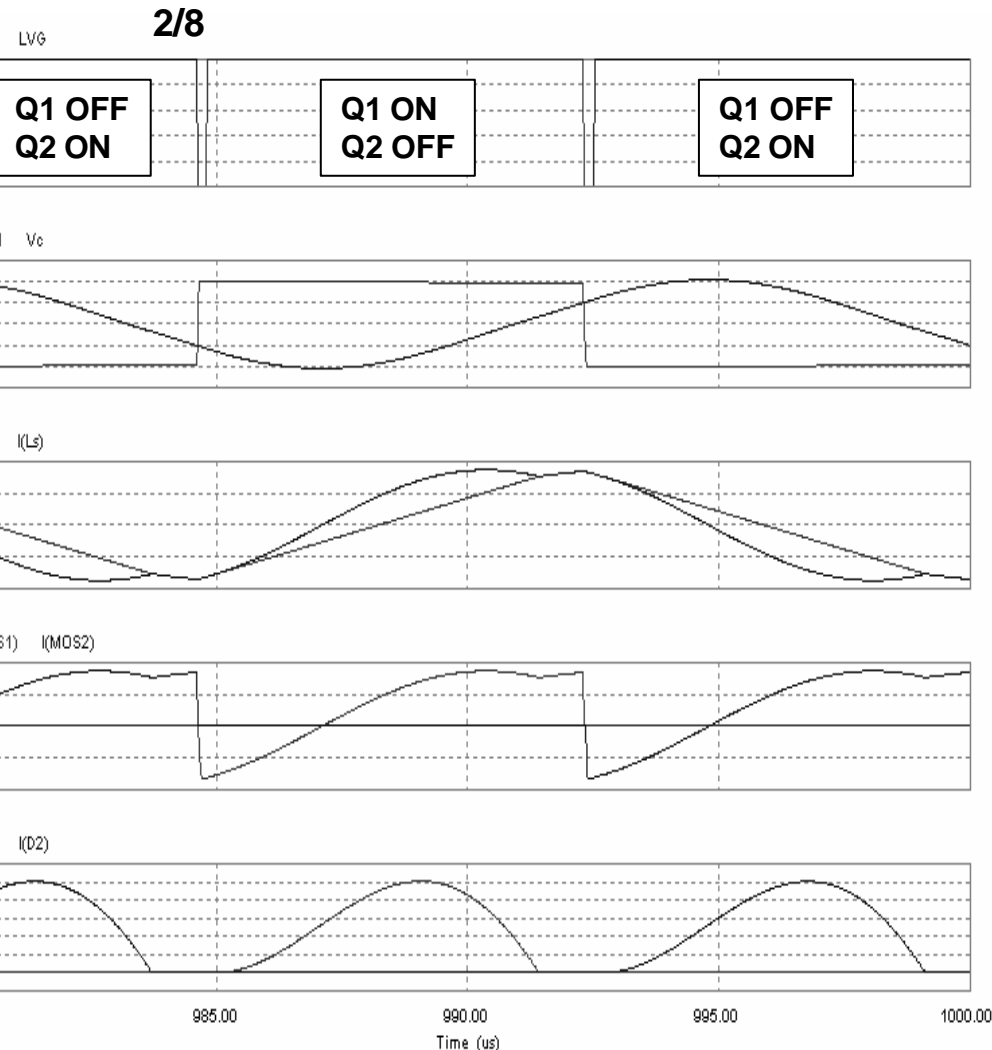
# LC Resonant Half-bridge Operating Sequence below resonance (Phase 1/8)



- Q1 is OFF, Q2 is ON
- D1 is OFF, D2 is ON;  $V(D1) = -2 \cdot V_{out}$
- $L_p$  is dynamically shorted:  $V(L_p) = -n \cdot V_{out}$
- $C_r$  resonates with  $L_s$ ,  $f_{r1}$  appears
- Output energy comes from  $C_r$  and  $L_s$
- Phase ends when  $I(D2) = 0$

# LC Resonant Half-bridge

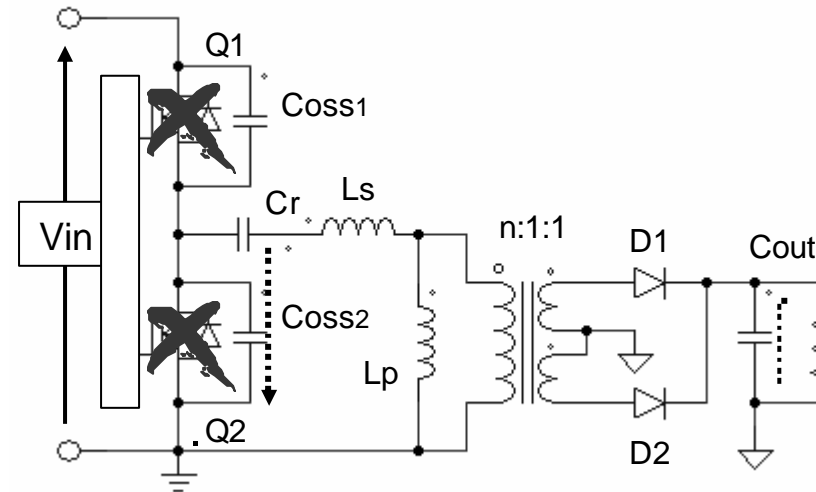
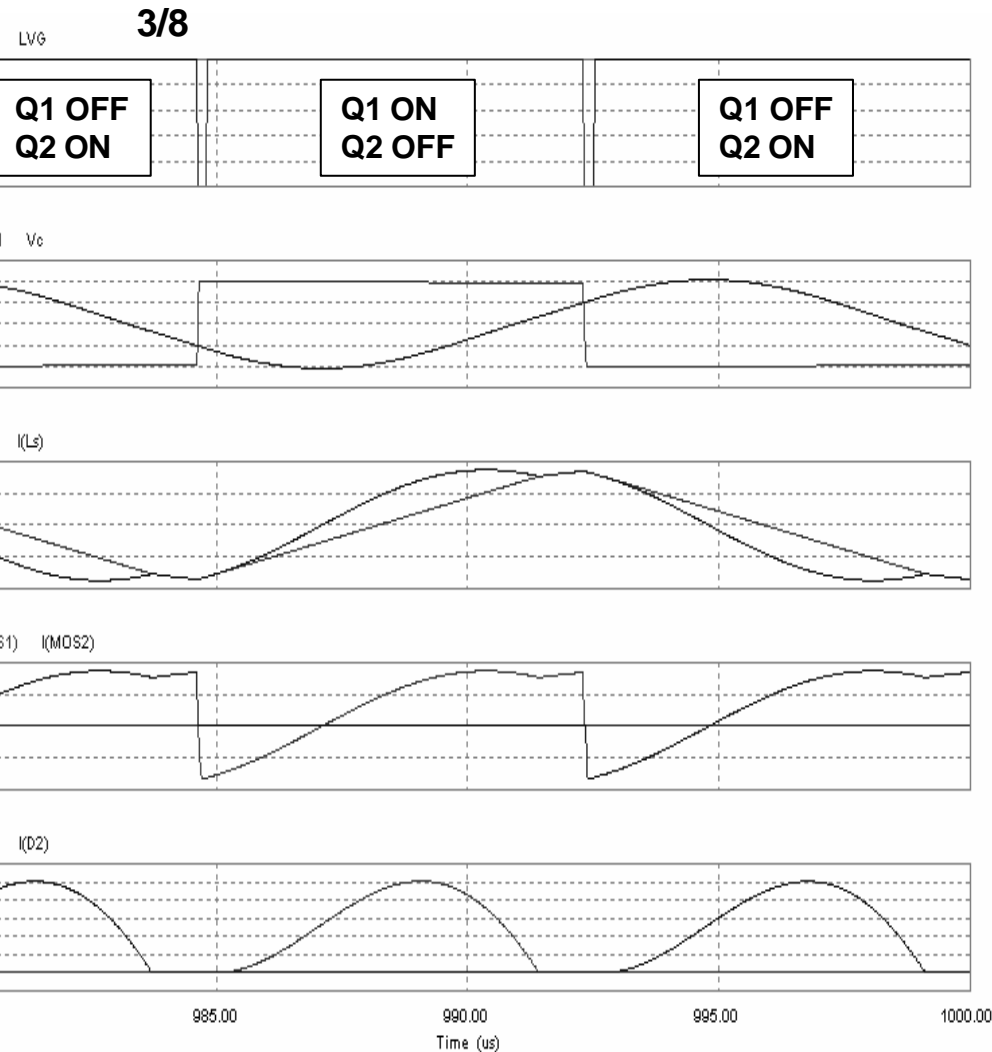
## Operating Sequence below resonance (Phase 2/8)



- Q2 is ON, Q1 is OFF
- D1 and D2 are OFF;  $V(D1)=V(D2)=0$ ;  
transformer's secondary is open
- $C_r$  resonates with  $L_s+L_p$ ,  $f_{r2}$  appears
- Output energy comes from  $C_{out}$
- Phase ends when Q2 is switched off

# LC Resonant Half-bridge

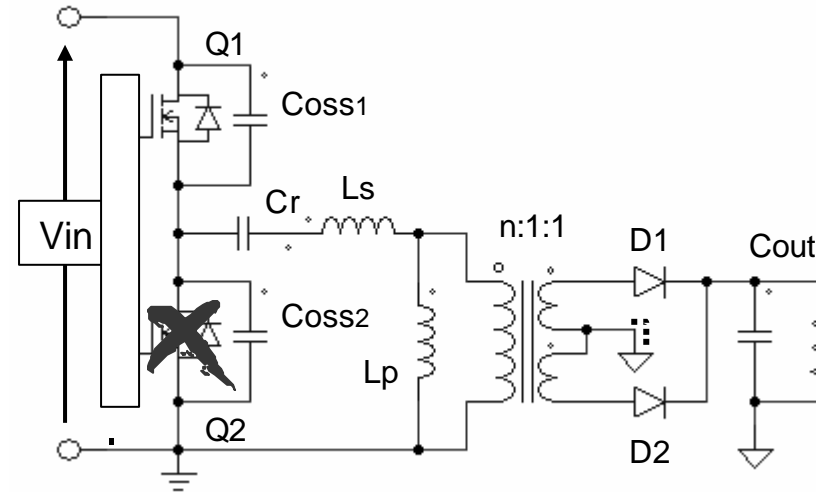
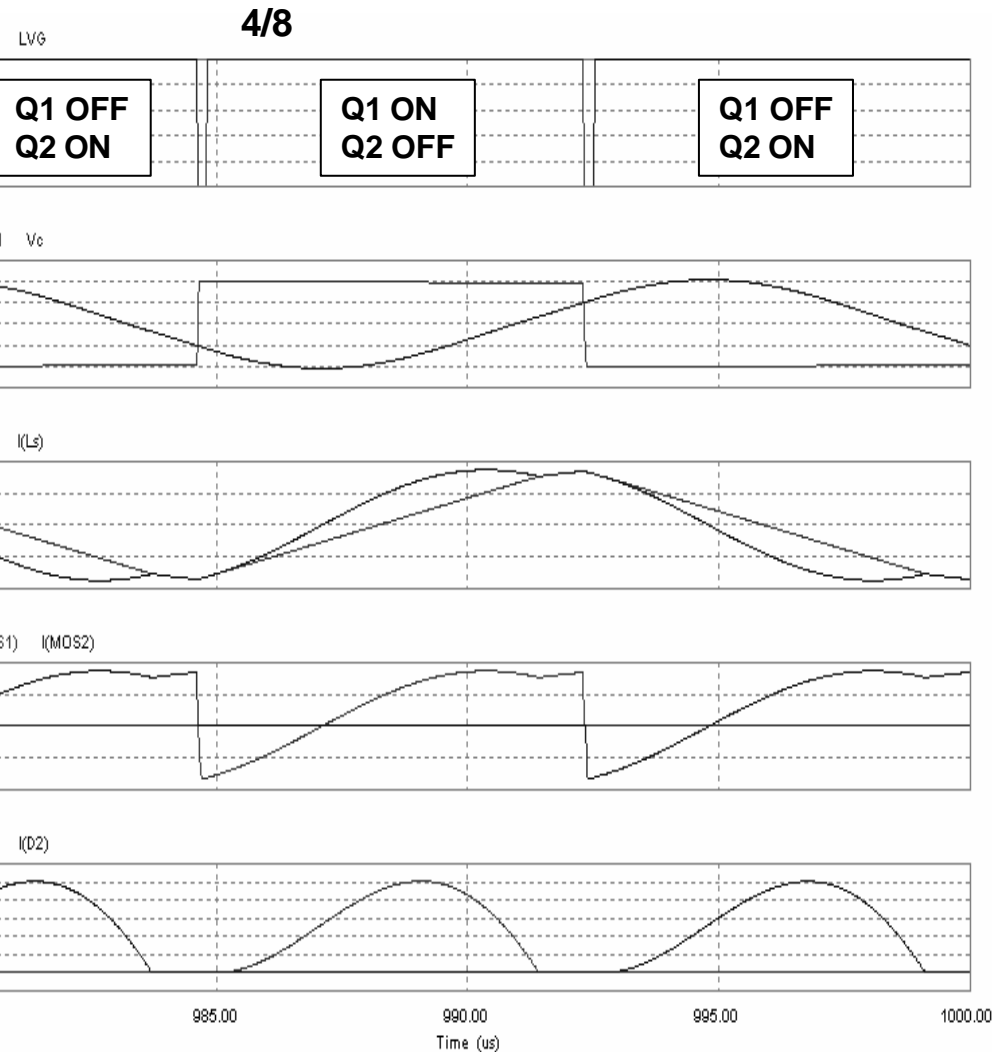
## Operating Sequence below resonance (Phase 3/8)



- Q1 and Q2 are OFF (dead-time)
- D1 and D2 are OFF;  $V(D1)=V(D2)=0$ ; transformer's secondary is open
- $I(L_s+L_p)$  charges  $C_{OSS2}$  and discharges  $C_{OSS1}$ , until  $V(C_{OSS2})=V_{in}$ ; Q1's body diode starts conducting, energy goes back to the bridge
- Phase ends when Q1 is switched on



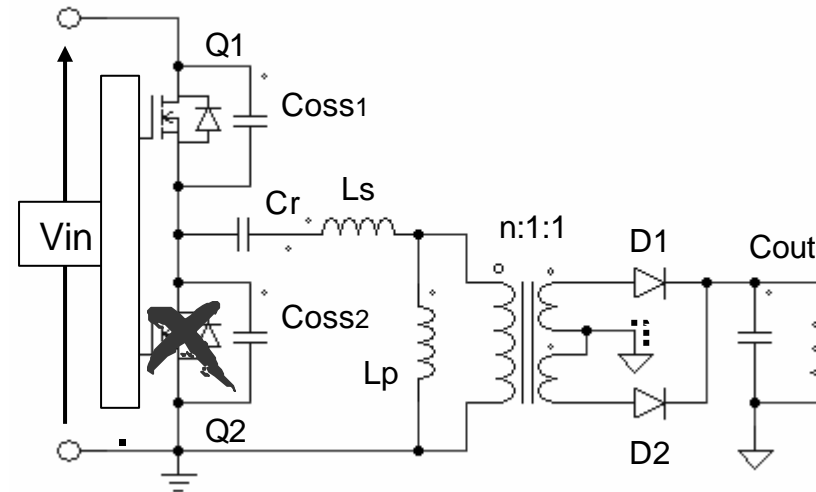
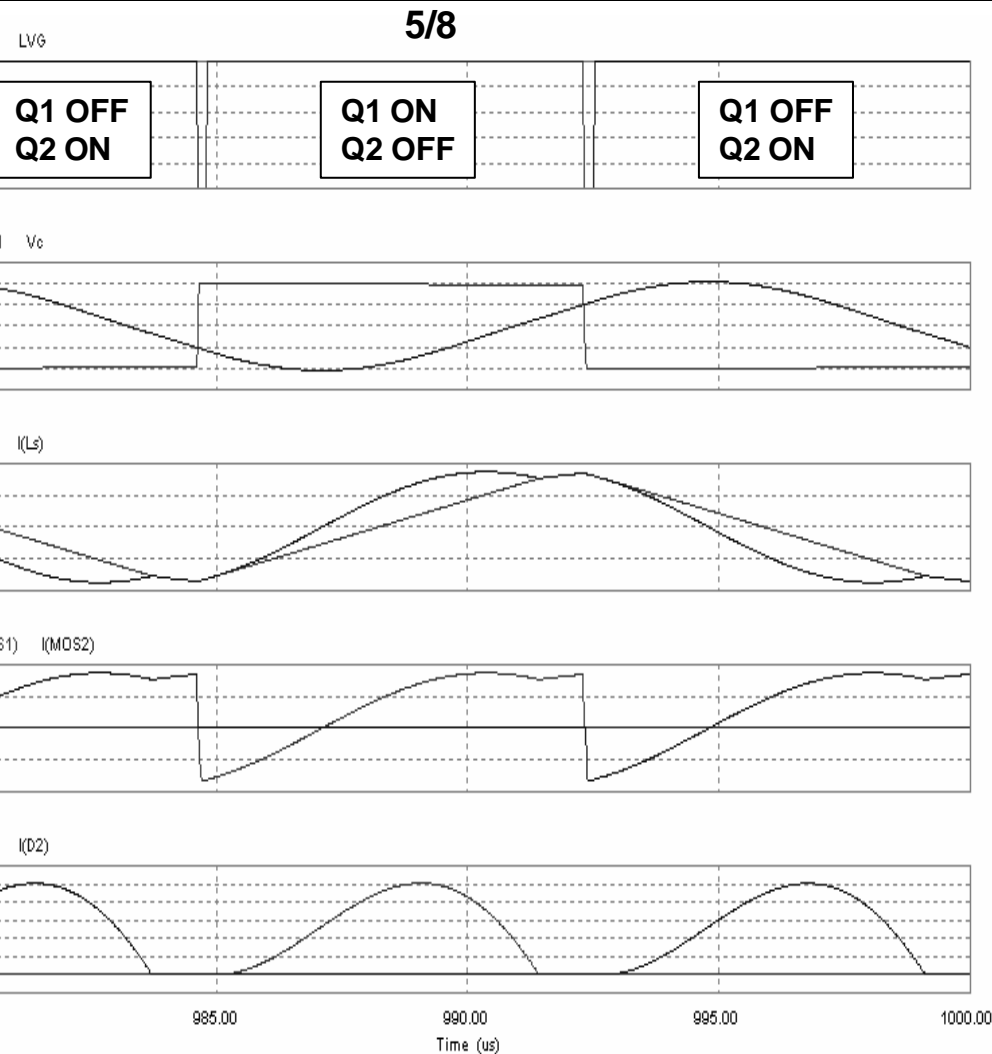
# LC Resonant Half-bridge Operating Sequence below resonance (Phase 4/8)



- Q1 is ON, Q2 is OFF
- D1 is ON, D2 is OFF;  $V(D2) = -2 \cdot V_{out}$
- $L_p$  is dynamically shorted:  $V(L_p) = n \cdot V_{out}$
- $C_r$  resonates with  $L_s$ ,  $f_{r1}$  appears
- $I(L_s)$  flows through Q1's  $R_{DS(on)}$  back to  $V_{in}$  (Q1 is working in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quadrant)
- Energy is recirculating into  $V_{in}$
- Phase ends when  $I(L_s) = 0$

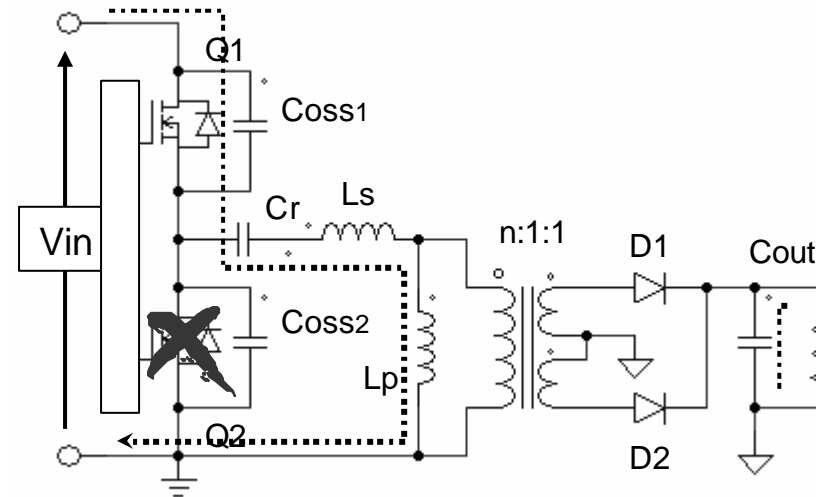
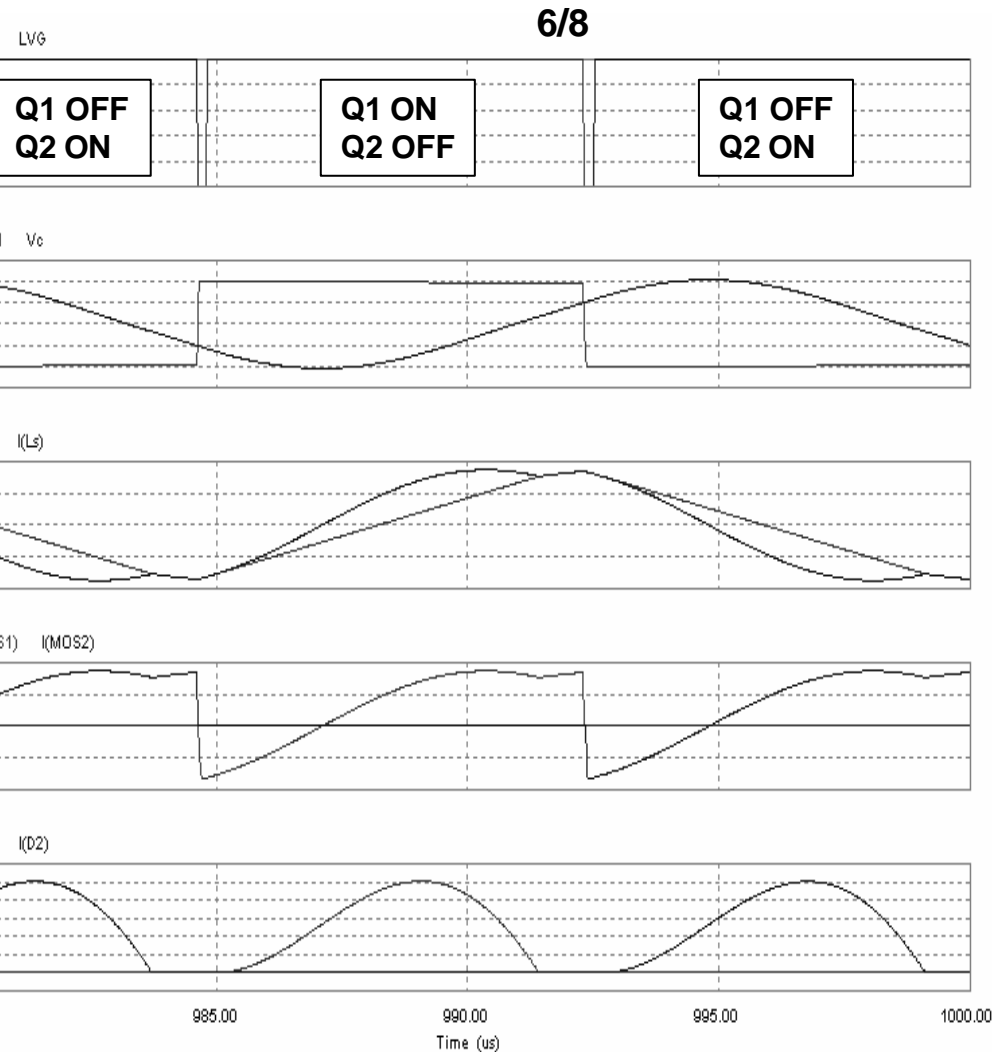
# LC Resonant Half-bridge

## Operating Sequence below resonance (Phase 5/8)



- Q1 is ON, Q2 is OFF
- D1 is ON, D2 is OFF;  $V(D2) = -2 \cdot V_{out}$
- $L_p$  is dynamically shorted:  $V(L_p) = n \cdot V_{out}$
- $C_r$  resonates with  $L_s$ ,  $f_{r1}$  appears
- $I(L_s)$  flows through Q1's  $R_{DS(on)}$  from  $V_{in}$  to ground
- Energy is taken from  $V_{in}$  and goes to  $C_{out}$
- Phase ends when  $I(D1) = 0$

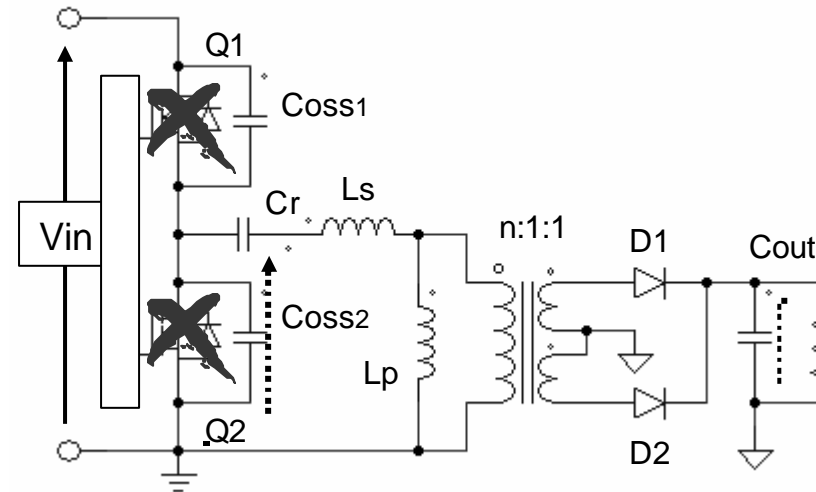
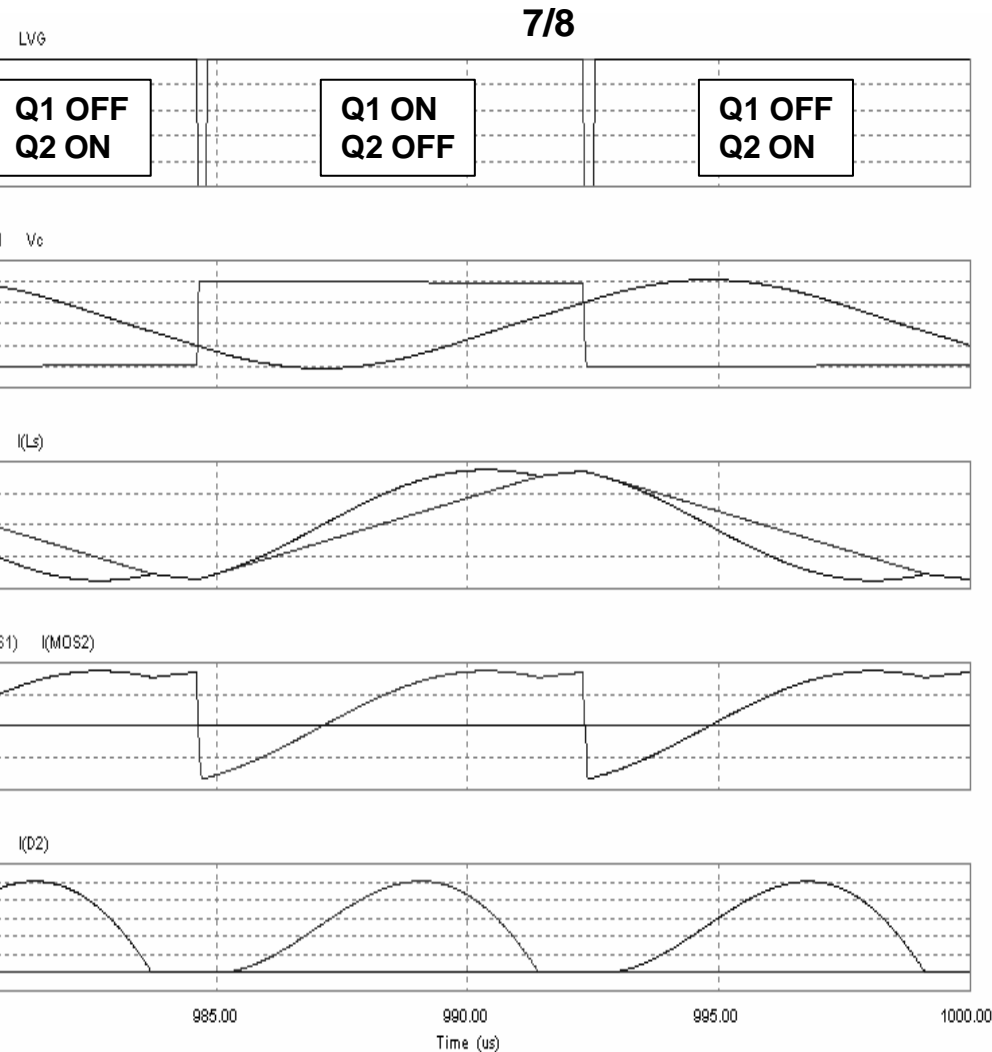
# LC Resonant Half-bridge Operating Sequence below resonance (Phase 6/8)



- Q1 is ON, Q2 is OFF
- D1 and D2 are OFF;  $V(D1)=V(D2)=0$ ;  
transformer's secondary is open
- $C_r$  resonates with  $L_s+L_p$ ,  $f_{r2}$  appears
- Output energy comes from  $C_{out}$
- Phase ends when Q1 is switched off

# LC Resonant Half-bridge

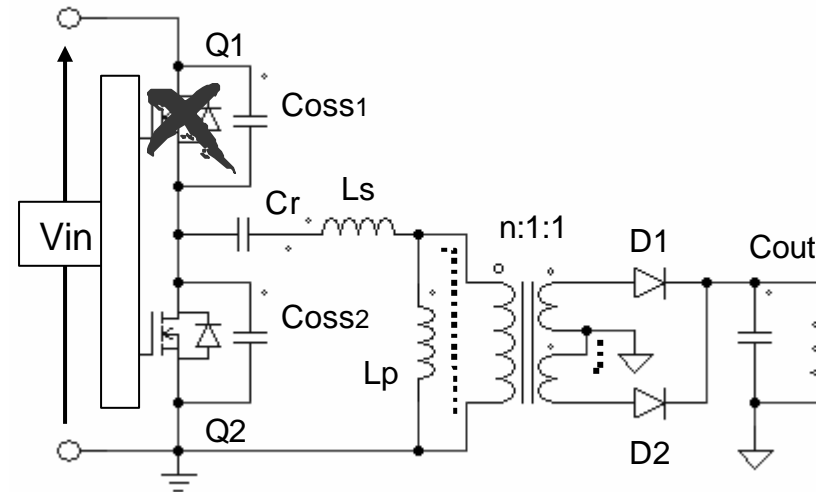
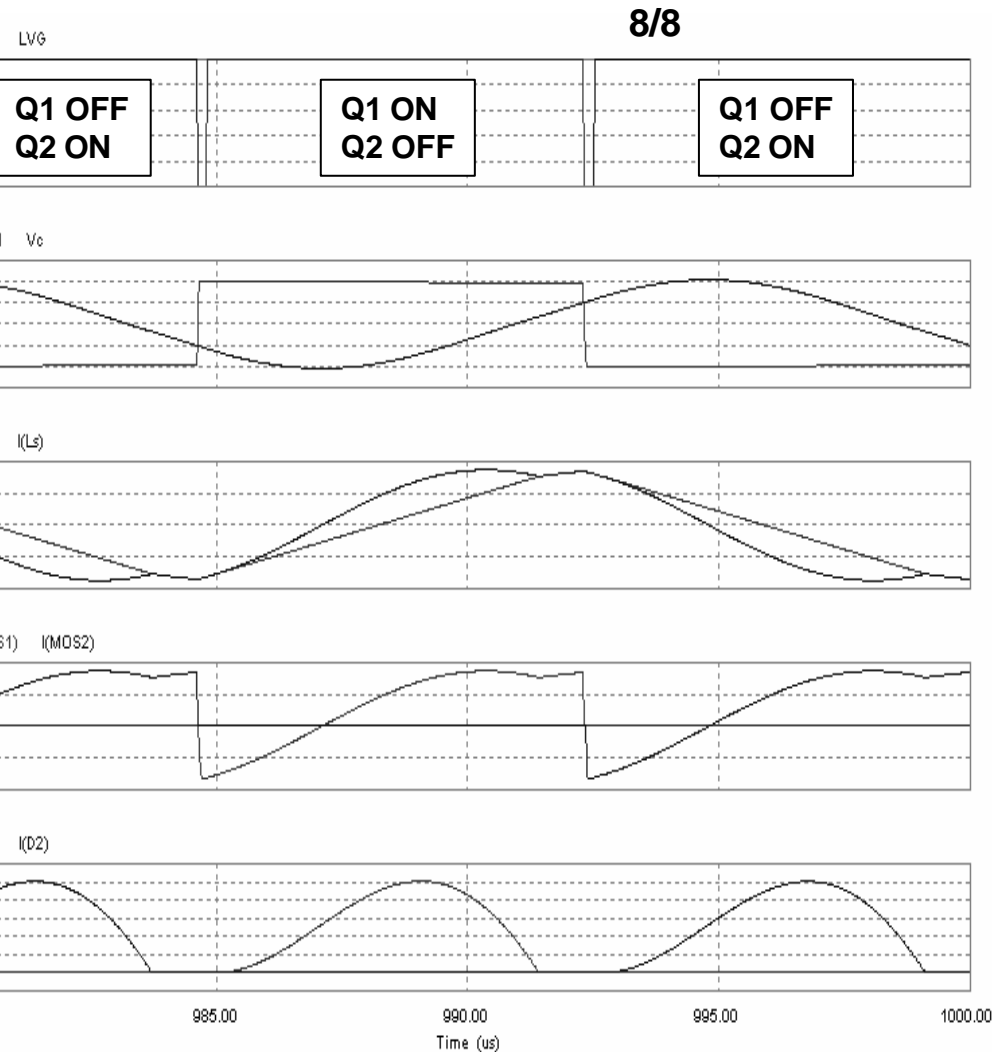
## Operating Sequence below resonance (Phase 7/8)



- Q1 and Q2 are OFF (dead-time)
- D1 and D2 are OFF;  $V(D1)=V(D2)=0$ ; transformer's secondary is open
- $I(L_s+L_p)$  charges  $C_{OSS1}$  and discharges  $C_{OSS2}$ , until  $V(C_{OSS2})=0$ , then Q2's body diode starts conducting
- Output energy comes from  $C_{out}$
- Phase ends when Q2 is switched on

# LC Resonant Half-bridge

## Operating Sequence below resonance (Phase 8/8)



- Q1 is OFF, Q2 is ON
- D1 is OFF, D2 is ON
- $L_p$  is dynamically shorted:  $V(L_p) = -n \cdot V_c$
- $C_r$  resonates with  $L_s$ ,  $f_{r1}$  appears
- $I(L_s)$  flows through Q2's  $R_{DS(on)}$  (Q2 working in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quadrant)
- Output energy comes from  $C_r$  and  $L_s$
- Phase ends when  $I(L_s) = 0$ , Phase 1 starts

# LC Resonant Half-bridge

## Capacitive mode ( $f_{sw} \sim f_{r2}$ ): why it must be avoided

---

Capacitive mode is encountered when  $f_{sw}$  gets close to  $f_{r2}$

Although in capacitive mode ZCS can be achieved, however ZVS is lost, which causes:

Hard switching of Q1 & Q2: high switching losses at turn-on and very high capacitive losses at turn-off

Body diode of Q1 & Q2 is reverse-recovered: high current spikes at turn-on, additional power dissipation; MOSFETs will easily blow up.

High level of generated EMI

Large and energetic negative voltage spikes in the HB midpoint that may cause the control IC to fail

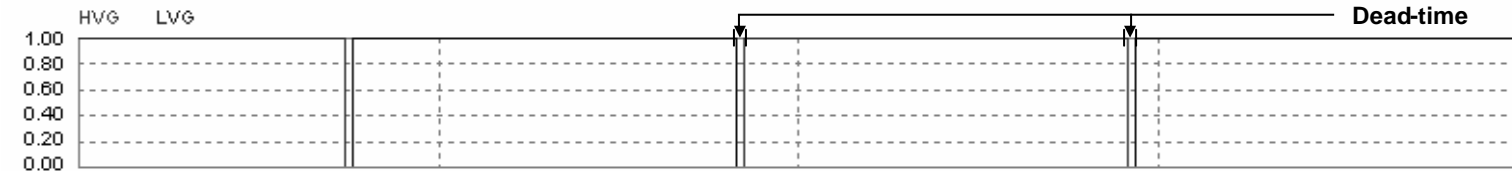
Additionally, feedback loop sign could change from negative to positive:

In capacitive mode the energy vs. frequency relationship is reversed

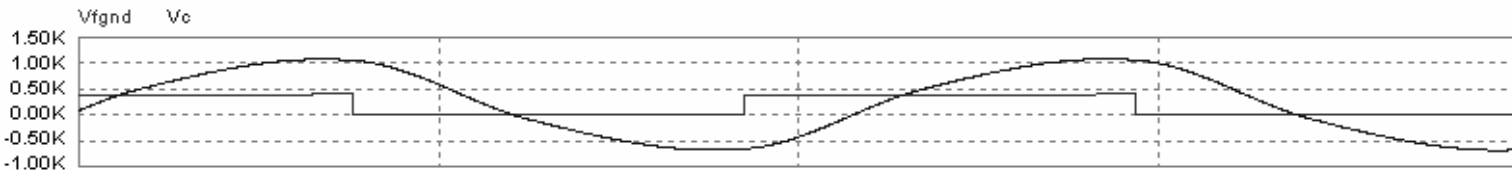
Converter operating frequency would run away towards its minimum (if MOSFETs have not blown up already!)

# LC Resonant Half-bridge

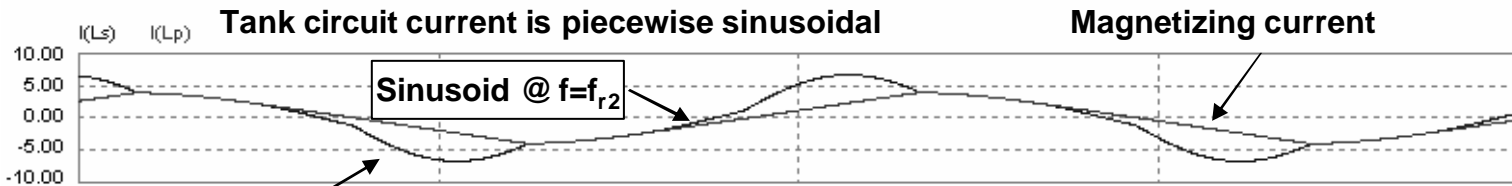
## Waveforms in capacitive mode ( $f_{sw} \sim f_{r2}$ )



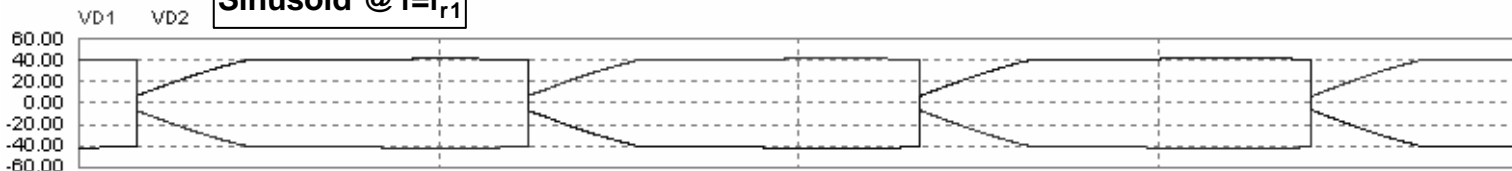
Gate-drive signals



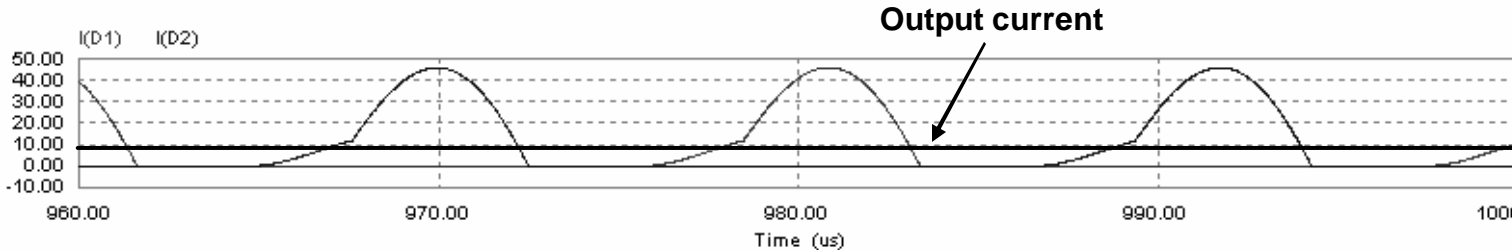
HB mid-point Voltage  
Resonant cap voltage



Transformer currents



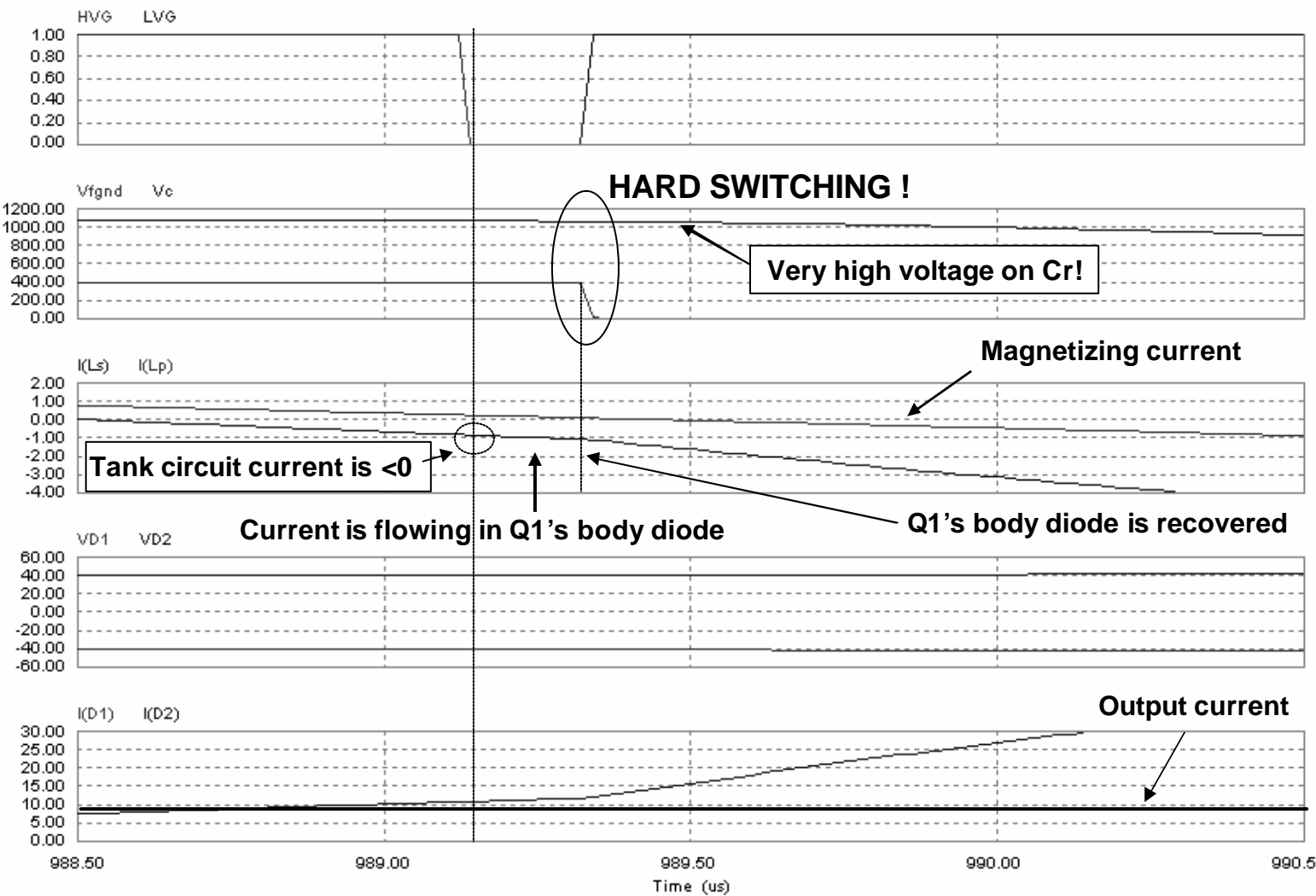
Diode voltages



Diode currents

# LC Resonant Half-bridge

## Switching details in capacitive mode ( $f_{sw} \sim f_{r2}$ )



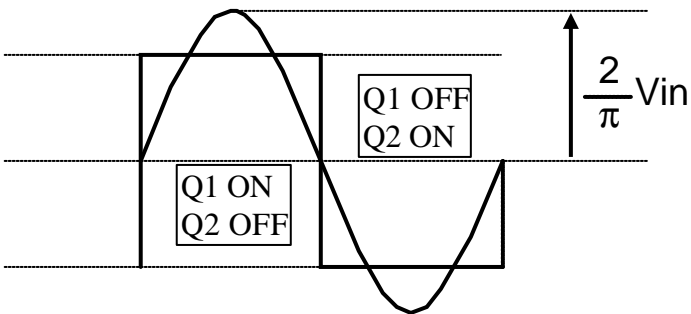
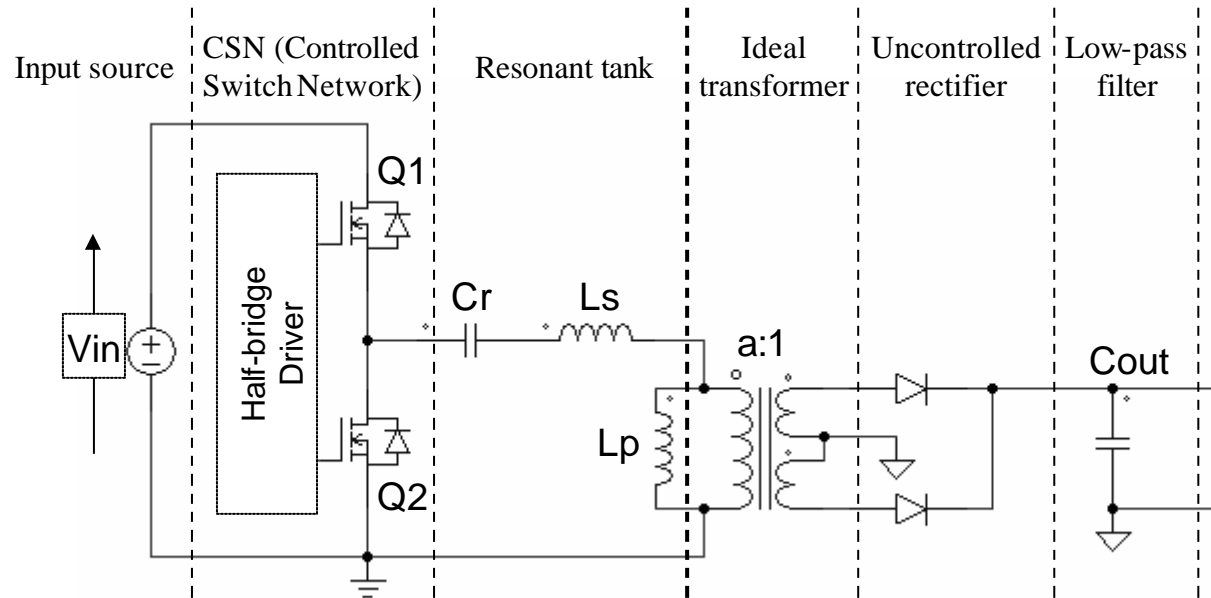


# LC Resonant Half-bridge

## Approximate analysis with FHA approach: Basics

### BASIC PRINCIPLES

The input source provides a square wave voltage at a frequency  $f_{sw}$ , dead times are neglected. The resonant tank responds primarily to the fundamental component, then: the tank waveforms are approximated by their fundamental components. The controlled rectifier + low-pass filter's effect is incorporated into the load.



Note:

- $C_r$  is both resonant and dc blocking capacitor
- Its ac voltage is superimposed on a dc component equal to  $V_{in}/2$  (duty cycle is 50% for both Q1 and Q2)

# LC Resonant Half-bridge

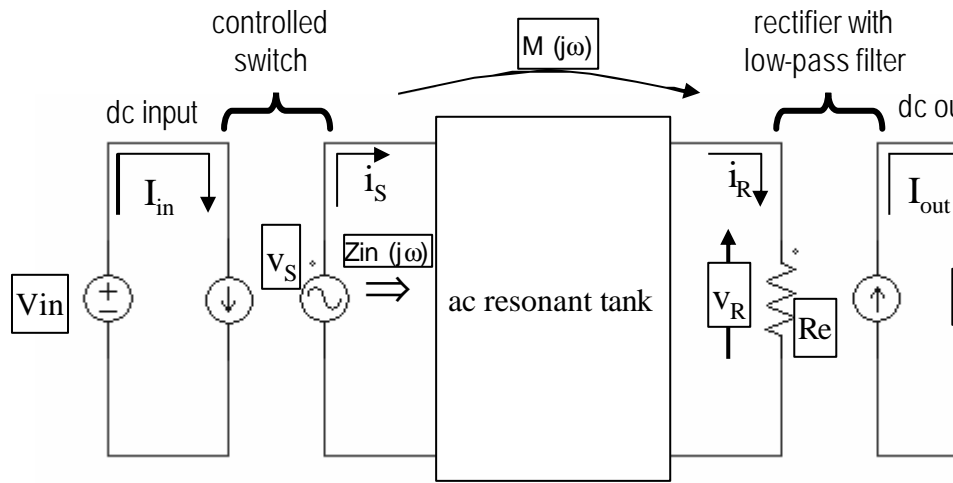
## Equivalent model with FHA approach

The actual circuit turns into an equivalent circuit where the ac resonant tank is excited by an effective sinusoidal input source and drives an effective resistive load. Standard ac analysis can be used to solve the circuit

Functions of interest: Input Impedance  $Z_{in}(j\omega)$  and Forward Transfer Function  $M(j\omega)$ . It is possible to show that the complete conversion ratio  $V_{out}/V_{in}$  is:

$$\frac{V_{out}}{V_{in}} = \|M(j\omega)\|$$

This result is valid for any resonant topology



$$v_S = \frac{2}{\pi} V_{in} \cdot \sin(2\pi \cdot f_s \cdot t)$$

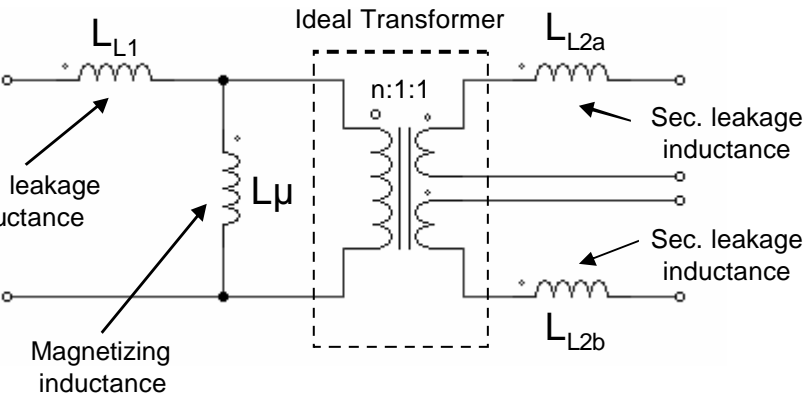
$$Re = \frac{8}{\pi^2} a$$

$$I_{in} = \frac{2}{\pi} \|i_s\| \cos(\phi_S) = \frac{2}{\pi} \|v_S\| \operatorname{Re}\left(\frac{1}{Z_i}\right)$$

$$I_{out} = \frac{2}{\pi} a$$

# LC Resonant Half-bridge transformer model (I)

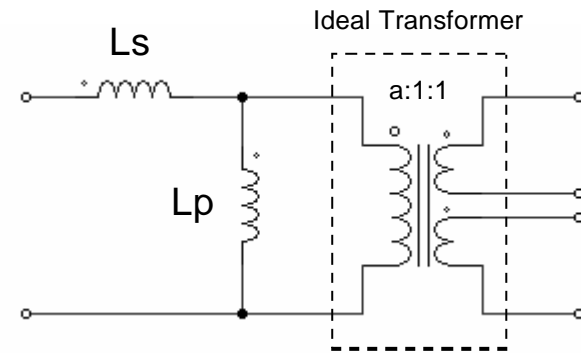
Physical model



Results from the analysis of the magnetic structure (reluctance model approach)  
 $n$  is the actual primary-to-secondary turn ratio  
 $L_{\mu}$  models the magnetizing flux linking all windings  
 $L_{L1}$  models the primary flux not linked to secondary  
 $L_{L2a}$  and  $L_{L2b}$  model the secondary flux not linked to primary; symmetrical windings:  $L_{L2a} = L_{L2b}$

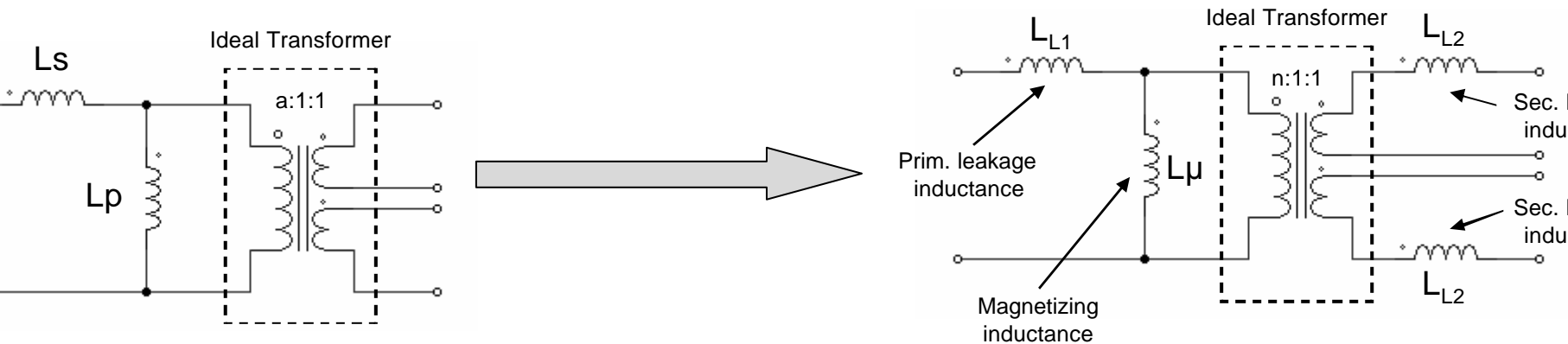
NOTE:  $L_{L1} + L_{\mu} = L_s + L_p = L_1$  primary winding inductance

All-Primary-Side equivalent model used for LLC analysis



- APS equivalent model: terminal equations are the same, internal parameters are different
- $a$  is not the actual primary-to-secondary turn ratio
- $L_s$  is the primary inductance measured with all secondaries shorted out
- $L_p$  is the difference between the primary inductance measured with secondaries open and  $L_s$

# LC Resonant Half-bridge transformer model (II)

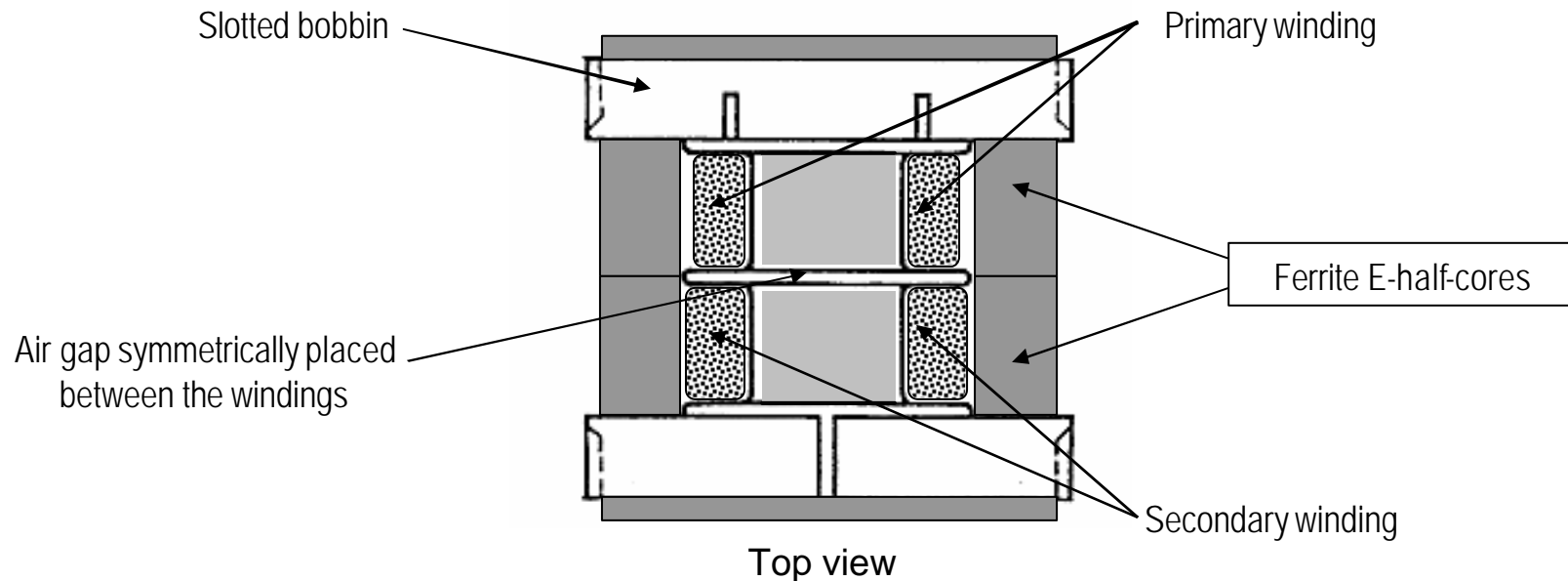


- We need to go from the APS model to the physical model to determine transformer specification
- Undetermined problem (4 unknowns, 3 conditions); one more condition needed (related to the physical magnetic structure)
- Only  $n$  is really missing:  $L_1 = L_s + L_p = L_{L1} + L_\mu$  is known and measurable,  $L_s$  is measurable
- Magnetic circuit symmetry will be assumed: equal leakage flux linkage for both primary and secondary  $\Rightarrow L_{L1} = n^2 \cdot L_{L2}$ ; then:

$$n = a \sqrt{\frac{L_p}{L_p + L_s}}$$

# LC Resonant Half-bridge transformer model (III)

Example of magnetically symmetrical structure



- Like in any ferrite core it is possible to define a specific inductance  $A_L$  (which depends on air gap thickness) such that  $L_1 = N_p^2 \cdot A_L$
- In this structure it is also possible to define a specific leakage inductance  $A_{L_{IK}}$  such that  $L_s = N_p^2 \cdot A_{L_{IK}}$ .  $A_{L_{IK}}$  is a function of bobbin's geometry; it depends on air gap position but not on its thickness

# LC Resonant Half-bridge

## Numerical results of ac analysis

The ac analysis of the resonant tank leads to the following result:

- Input Impedance:

$$Z_{in}(x, k, Q) = Z_R \cdot \left[ Q \cdot \frac{x^2 \cdot k^2}{1 + x^2 \cdot k^2 \cdot Q^2} + j \left( x - \frac{1}{x} + \frac{xk}{1 + x^2 \cdot k^2 \cdot Q^2} \right) \right]$$

- Module of the Forward transfer function (voltage conversion ratio):

$$|M(x, k, Q)| = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{\left[ 1 + \frac{1}{k} \cdot \left( 1 - \frac{1}{x^2} \right) \right]^2 + Q^2 \cdot \left( x - \frac{1}{x} \right)^2}}$$

where:

$$f_{r1} = \frac{1}{2 \cdot \pi \cdot \sqrt{L_s \cdot C_r}} \quad ; \quad x = \frac{f}{f_{r1}} \quad ; \quad k = \frac{L_p}{L_s} \quad ; \quad Z_R = \sqrt{\frac{L_s}{C_r}} \quad ; \quad Re = \frac{8}{\pi^2} \cdot a^2 \cdot R \quad ; \quad Q = \frac{Z_R}{Re}$$

NOTES:

- x is the "normalized frequency"; x<1 is "below resonance", x>1 is "above resonance"
- Z<sub>R</sub> is the characteristic impedance of the tank circuit;
- Q, the quality factor, is related to load: Q=0 means Re=∞ (open load), Q=∞ means Re=0 (short circuit); one can think of Q as proportional to I out

# LC Resonant Half-bridge

## Resonant Tank Input Impedance $Z_{in}(j\omega)$

Above resonance ( $x > 1$ )  $Z_{in}(j\omega)$  is always inductive; current lags voltage, so when  $i_s < 0$ ,  $i_s$  is still  $> 0$ : ZVS

Below  $f_{r2}$  ( $x < \sqrt{\frac{1}{1+k}}$ ),  $Z_{in}(j\omega)$  is always capacitive; current leads voltage, so when  $i_s < 0$ ,  $i_s$  is already  $< 0$ : ZCS

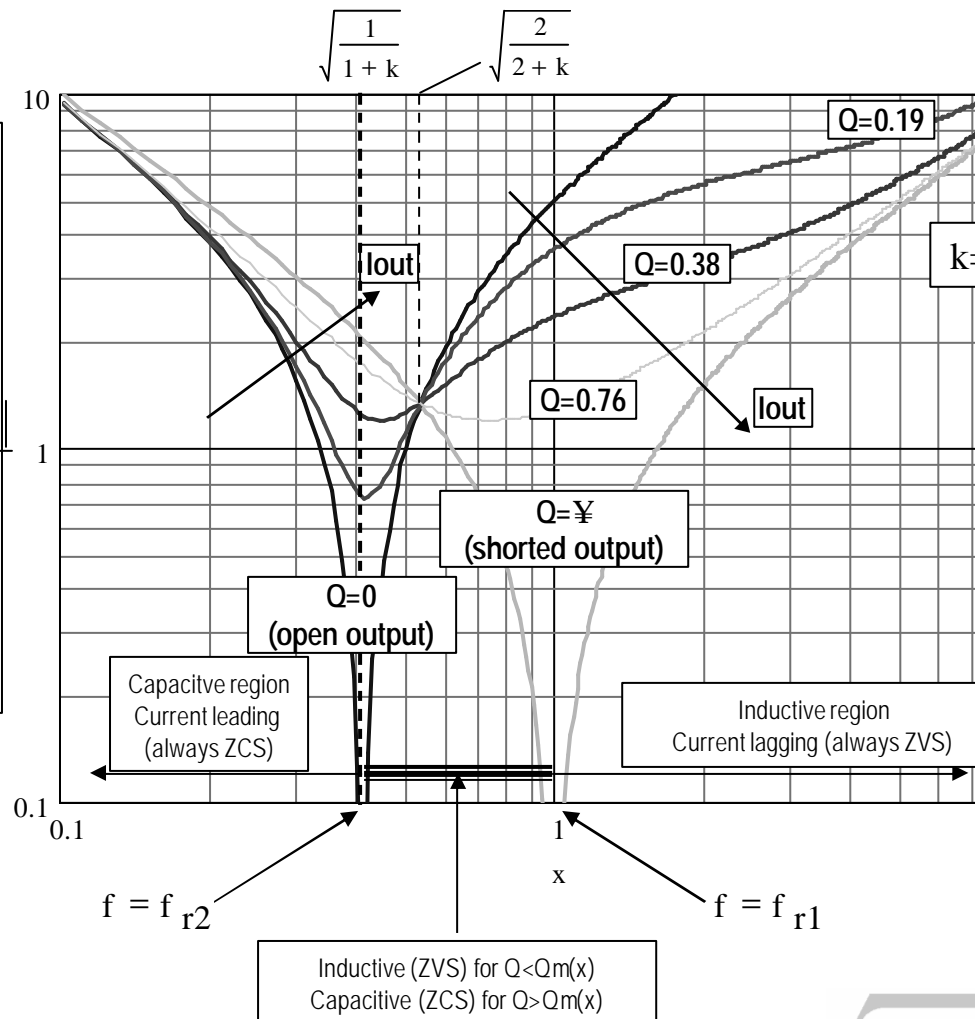
Below the first resonance ( $\sqrt{\frac{1}{1+k}} < x < 1$ ) the sign of  $Z_{in}(j\omega)$  depends on  $Q$ : if  $Q < Q_m(x)$  it is inductive  $\Rightarrow$  ZVS; if  $Q > Q_m(x)$  it is capacitive  $\Rightarrow$  ZCS.

In general, the ZVS-ZCS borderline is defined by  $\text{Im}(Z_{in}(j\omega)) = 0$

For  $x > \sqrt{\frac{2}{2+k}}$   $|Z_{in}(j\omega)|$  is concordant with the load: the lower the load the lower the input current

For  $x < \sqrt{\frac{2}{2+k}}$   $|Z_{in}(j\omega)|$  is discordant with the load: the lower the load the higher the input current!

$$\frac{\|Z_{in}(x, k, Q)\|}{Z_R}$$



# LC Resonant Half-bridge

## voltage conversion ratio $\|M(j\omega)\|$

curves, for any Q, touch at  $x=1$ ,  
 $x < 0.5$ , with a slope  $-1/k$ ;

the open output curve ( $Q=0$ ) is the  
 upper boundary for converter's  
 operating points in the  $x$ - $M$  plane;

$$M = \frac{1}{2} x \frac{k}{1+k} \text{ for } x \rightarrow \infty;$$

$$M \rightarrow \infty \text{ for } x = \sqrt{\frac{1}{1+k}}$$

curves with  $Q > 0$  have maxima  
 that fall in the capacitive region.

above resonance it is always  $M < 0.5$

$M < 0.5$  only below resonance

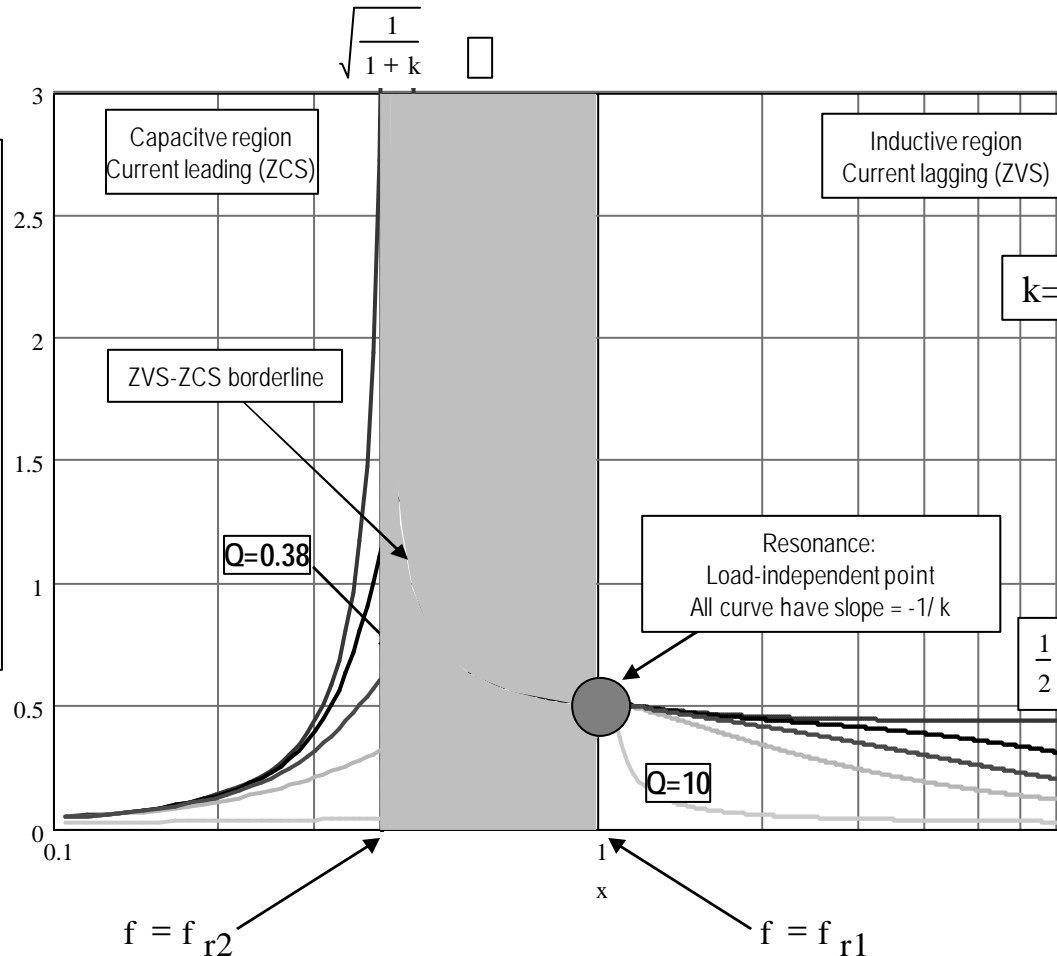
ZVS below resonance at a given

frequency occurs if  $M > M_{\min} > 0.5$ ; if

$M_{\min} > 0.5$  is fixed, it occurs if

$Q_m$

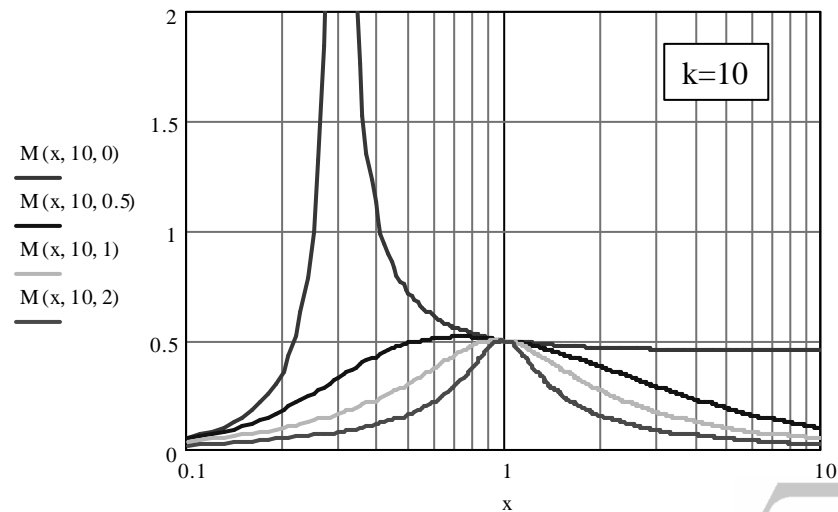
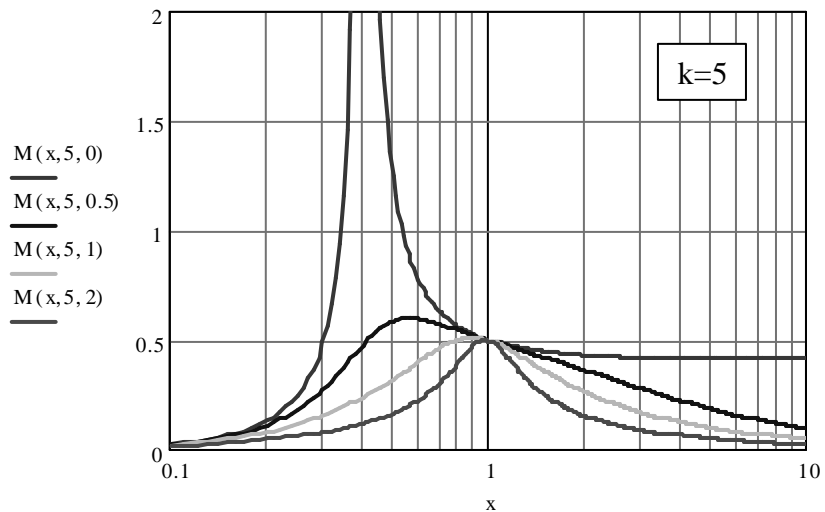
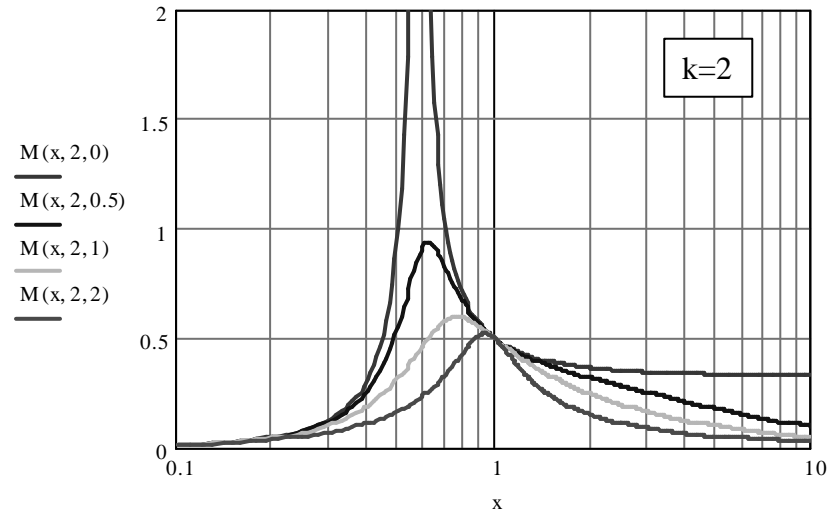
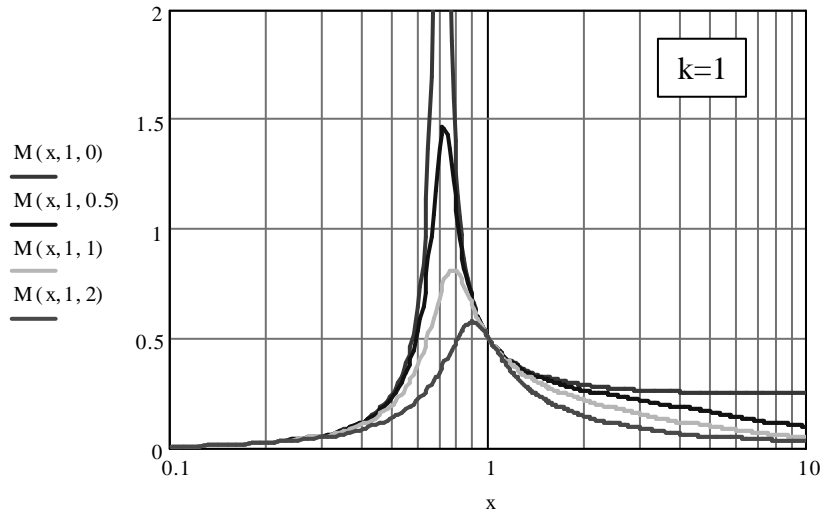
$$M = \frac{a \cdot V_{out}}{V_{in}}$$





# LC Resonant Half-bridge

## Effect of $k$ on $\|M(j\omega)\|$





# LC Resonant Half-bridge

## Full-load issue: ZVS at min. input voltage

$Z_{in}(j\omega)$  analysis has shown that ZVS occurs for  $x < 1$ , provided  $Q \leq Q_m$ , i.e.  $\text{Im}[Z_{in}(j\omega)] \geq 0$ .

If  $Q = Q_m$  ( $\text{Im}[Z_{in}(j\omega)] = 0$ ) the switched current is exactly zero, This is only a necessary condition for ZVS, not sufficient because the parasitic capacitance of the HB midpoint, neglected in the FHA approach, needs some energy (i.e. current) to be fully charged or depleted within the dead-time ( $i = C \, dv/dt$ )

A minimum current must be switched to make sure that the HB midpoint can swing rail-to-rail within the dead-time. Then, it must be  $Q \leq Q_z < Q_m$ ,

Mathematically, the ZVS condition is :

$$\frac{\text{Im}\left(Z_{in}(x, k, Q)\right)}{\text{Re}\left(Z_{in}(x, k, Q)\right)} \geq \frac{2 \cdot C_{oss} + C_{stray}}{\pi \cdot T_d} \cdot \frac{V_{in_{min}}^2}{P_{in_{max}}}$$

$C_{oss}$  is the MOSFET's output capacitance,  $C_{stray}$  an additional contribution due to transformer's winding and the layout

Analytic expression of  $Q_z$  is not handy; a good rule of thumb is to consider the value of  $Q_m$  and take 10% margin for component tolerance: FHA gives conservative results as far as the ZVS condition is concerned

# LC Resonant Half-bridge

## no-load issues: regulation

LC converter can regulate down to zero load,  
unlike the conventional LC series-resonant

at a frequency  $\gg f_{r1}$   $C_r$  disappears and the output  
voltage is given by the inductive divider made up  
of  $L_s$  and  $L_p$

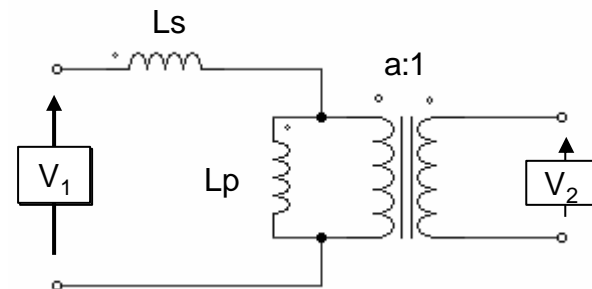
if the minimum voltage conversion ratio is greater  
than the inductive divider ratio, regulation will be  
possible at some finite frequency

this links the equivalent turn ratio  $a$  and the  
inductance ratio  $k$ :

$$a \cdot \frac{V_{out}}{V_{in_{max}}} > \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{k}{1+k}$$

this is equivalent to the graphical constraint that  
the horizontal line  $a \cdot V_{out}/V_{in_{max}}$  must cross the  
zero curve

Equivalent schematic of LLC converter for  $x = 0$  ?



$$V_2 = V_1 \cdot \frac{1}{a} \cdot \frac{L_p}{L_s + L_p}$$

# LC Resonant Half-bridge

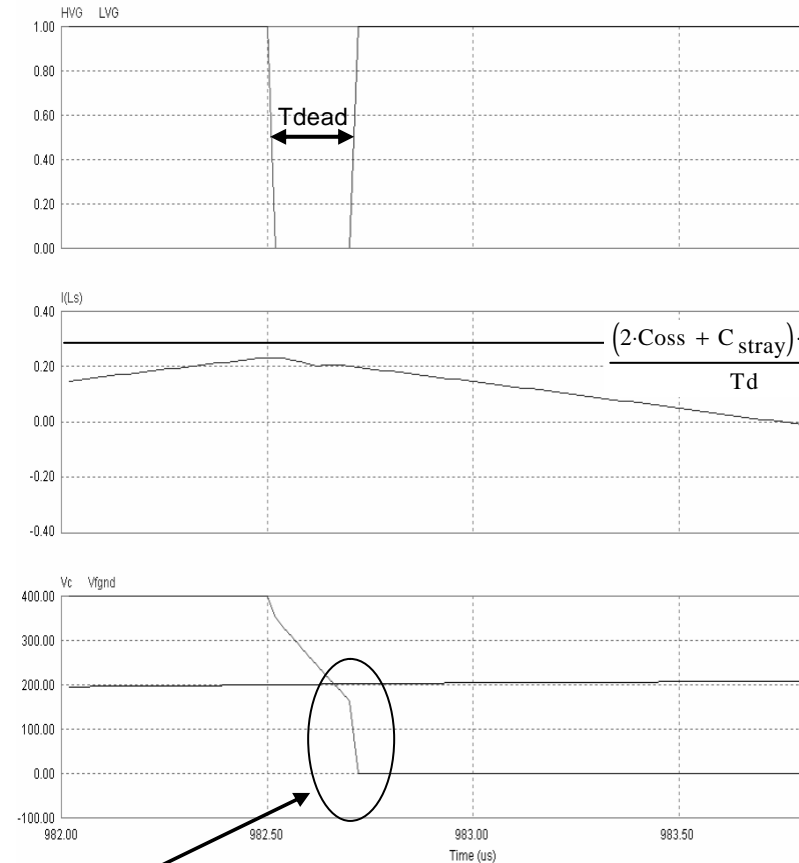
## No-load issues: ZVS

Small signal analysis has shown that ZVS always occurs for  $x > 1$ , even at no load ( $Q=0$ )

$x > 1$  is actually only a necessary condition for ZVS, not sufficient because of the parasitic capacitance at the HB midpoint neglected in the FHA approach. A minimum current must be ensured at no load to let the HB midpoint swing rail-to-rail within the dead-time.

This poses an additional constraint on the maximum value of  $Q$  at full load:

$$Q \leq \frac{\pi}{4} \cdot \frac{1}{(1+k) \cdot x_{\max}} \cdot \frac{T_d}{\text{Re} \cdot (2 \cdot C_{\text{oss}} + C_{\text{stray}})}$$



Hard Switching at no load

# LC Resonant Half-bridge

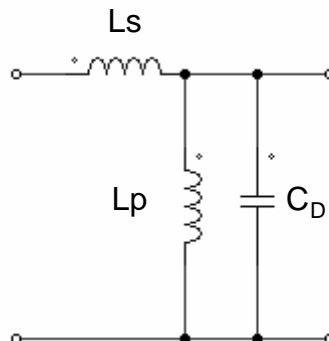
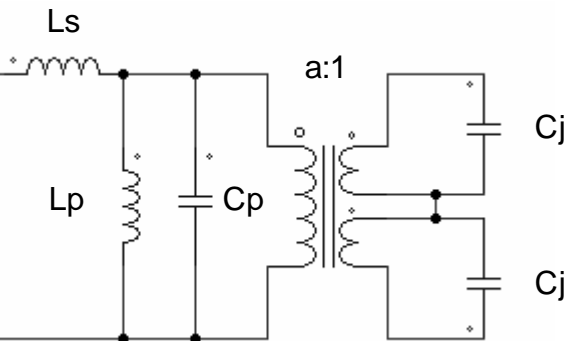
## No-load issues: Feedback inversion

Parasitic intrawinding and interwinding capacitance are summarized in  $C_p$

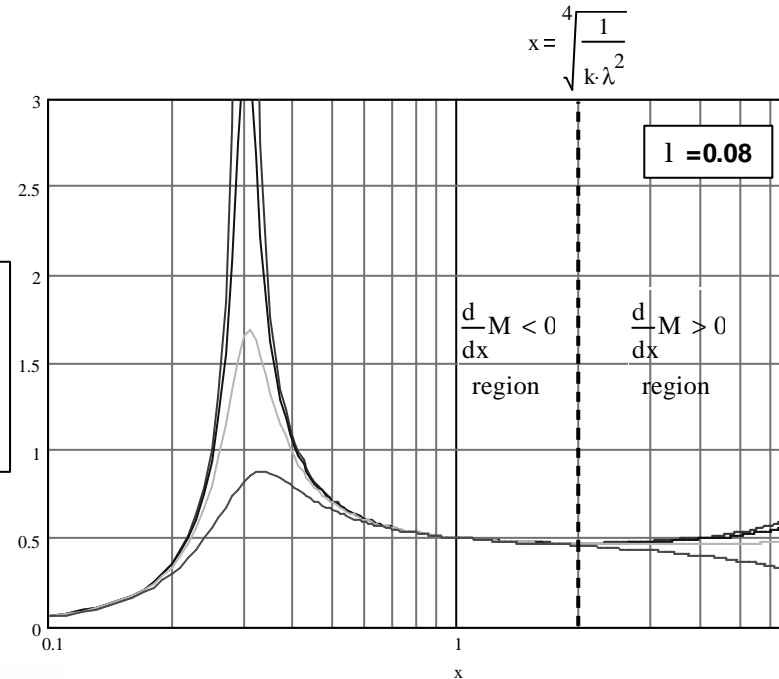
$C_j$  is the junction capacitance of the output rectifiers; each contributes for half cycle. Under no-load, rectifiers have low reverse voltage applied,  $C_j$  increases.

The parasitic tank has a high-frequency resonance that makes  $M$  increase at some point: feedback becomes positive, system loses control.

Cure: minimize  $C_p$  and  $C_j$ , limit max fsw.



$$M = \frac{a \cdot V_{out}}{V_{in}}$$



$$C_D = C_p + \frac{C_j}{a^2} \quad \lambda = \sqrt{\frac{C_D}{C_r}}$$

# LC Resonant Half-bridge design procedure. General criteria.

## DESIGN SPECIFICATION

- Vin range, holdup included ( $V_{in_{min}} \div V_{in_{max}}$ )
- Nominal input voltage ( $V_{in_{nom}}$ )
- Regulated Output Voltage ( $V_{out}$ )
- Maximum Output Power ( $P_{out_{max}}$ )
- Resonance frequency: ( $f_r$ )
- Maximum operating frequency ( $f_{max}$ )

## ADDITIONAL INFO

- $C_{oss}$  and  $C_{stray}$  estimate
- Minimum dead-time

- The converter will be designed to work at resonance at nominal Vin
- Step-up capability (i.e. operation below resonance) will be used to handle holdup
- The converter must be able to regulate down to zero load at max. Vin
- Q will be chosen so that the converter will always work in ZVS, from zero load to  $P_{out_{max}}$

- There are many degrees of freedom, then many design procedures are possible. We will choose one of the simplest ones

# LC Resonant Half-bridge

## design procedure. Proposed algorithm (I).

1. Calculate min., max. and nominal conversion ratio with  $a=1$ :

$$M_{\min} = \frac{V_{\text{out}}}{V_{\text{in}_{\max}}} \quad M_{\max} = \frac{V_{\text{out}}}{V_{\text{in}_{\min}}} \quad M_{\text{nom}} = \frac{V_{\text{out}}}{V_{\text{in}_{\text{nom}}}}$$

2. Calculate the max. normalized frequency  $x_{\max}$ :

$$x_{\max} = \frac{f_{\max}}{f_r}$$

3. Calculate  $a$  so that the converter will work at resonance at nominal voltage

$$a = \frac{1}{2 \cdot M_{\text{nom}}}$$

4. Calculate  $k$  so that the converter will work at  $x_{\max}$  at zero load and max. input voltage:

$$k = \frac{2 \cdot a \cdot M_{\min}}{1 - 2 \cdot a \cdot M_{\min}} \cdot \left( 1 - \frac{1}{x_{\max}^2} \right)$$

5. Calculate the max.  $Q$  value,  $Q_{\max 1}$ , to stay in the ZVS region at min.  $V_{\text{in}}$  and max. load:

$$Q_{\max 1} = \frac{1}{k} \cdot \frac{1}{2 \cdot a \cdot M_{\max}} \cdot \sqrt{\frac{(2 \cdot a \cdot M_{\max})^2}{(2 \cdot n \cdot M_{\max})^2 - 1} + k}$$



# LC Resonant Half-bridge

## design procedure. Proposed algorithm (II).

6. Calculate the effective load resistance:

$$R_e = \frac{8}{\pi^2} \cdot a^2 \cdot R = \frac{8}{\pi^2} \cdot a^2 \cdot \frac{V_{out}^2}{P_{out\ max}}$$

7. Calculate the max. Q value,  $Q_{max2}$ , to ensure ZVS region at zero load and max.  $V_{in}$ :

$$Q_{max2} = \frac{\pi}{4} \cdot \frac{1}{(1+k) \cdot x_{max}} \cdot \frac{T_d}{Re \cdot (2 \cdot C_{oss} + C_{stray})}$$

8. Choose a value of Q,  $Q_S$ , such that  $Q_S \leq \min(Q_{max1}, Q_{max2})$
9. Calculate the value  $x_{min}$  the converter will work at, at min. input voltage and max. load:

$$x_{min} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{1+k \cdot \left[ 1 - \frac{1}{(2 \cdot n \cdot M_{max}) \cdot \left( 1 + \left( \frac{Q_S}{Q_{max1}} \right)^4 \right)} \right]}}$$

10. Calculate the characteristic impedance of the tank circuits and all component values:

$$Z_R = Re \cdot Q_S \quad C_s = \frac{1}{2 \cdot f_r \cdot Z_R \cdot \pi} \quad L_s = \frac{Z_R}{2 \cdot \pi \cdot f_r} \quad L_p = k \cdot L_s$$

# LC Resonant Half-bridge design example. 300W converter

## ELECTRICAL SPECIFICATION

Vin range	320 to 450 Vdc	320V after 1 missing cycle; 450 V is the OVP threshold of the PFC pre-regulator
Nominal input voltage	400 Vdc	Nominal output voltage of PFC
Regulated output voltage Maximum output Current	24 V 12 A	Total Pout is 300 W
Resonance frequency	90 kHz	
Maximum switching frequency	180 kHz	
Start-up switching frequency	300 kHz	
HB midpoint estimated parasitic capacitance	200 pF	
Minimum dead-time (L6599)	200 ns	

# LC Resonant Half-bridge

## design example. 300W converter

1. Calculate min. and max. and nominal conversion ratio referring to 24V output:

$$M_{\min} = \frac{V_{\text{out}}}{V_{\text{in}_{\max}}} = \frac{24}{450} = 0.053 \quad M_{\max} = \frac{V_{\text{out}}}{V_{\text{in}_{\min}}} = \frac{24}{320} = 0.075 \quad M_{\text{nom}} = \frac{V_{\text{out}}}{V_{\text{in}_{\text{nom}}}} = \frac{24}{400} = 0.06$$

2. Calculate the max. normalized frequency  $x_{\max}$ :

$$x_{\max} = \frac{f_{\max}}{f_r} = \frac{180}{90} = 2$$

3. Calculate  $a$  so that the converter will work at resonance at nominal voltage

$$a = \frac{1}{2 \cdot M_{\text{nom}}} = \frac{1}{2 \cdot 0.06} = 8.333$$

4. Calculate  $k$  so that the converter will work at  $x_{\max}$  at zero load and max. input voltage:

$$k = \frac{2 \cdot a \cdot M_{\min}}{1 - 2 \cdot a \cdot M_{\min}} \cdot \left( 1 - \frac{1}{x_{\max}^2} \right) = 6$$

5. Calculate the max.  $Q$  value,  $Q_{\max 1}$ , to stay in the ZVS region at min.  $V_{\text{in}}$  and max. load:

$$Q_{\max 1} = \frac{1}{k} \cdot \frac{1}{2 \cdot a \cdot M_{\max}} \cdot \sqrt{\frac{(2 \cdot a \cdot M_{\max})^2}{(2 \cdot n \cdot M_{\max})^2 - 1}} + k = 0.395$$

# LC Resonant Half-bridge

## design example. 300W converter

6. Calculate the effective load resistance:

$$R_e = \frac{8}{\pi^2} \cdot a^2 \cdot R = \frac{8}{\pi^2} \cdot a^2 \cdot \frac{V_{out}^2}{P_{out\ max}} = 108.067 \ \Omega$$

7. Calculate the max. Q value,  $Q_{max2}$ , to ensure ZVS at zero load:

$$Q_{max2} = \frac{\pi}{4} \cdot \frac{1}{(1+k) \cdot x_{max}} \cdot \frac{T_d}{Re \cdot (2 \cdot C_{oss} + C_{stray})} = 0.519$$

8. Choose a value of Q,  $Q_S$ , such that  $Q_S \leq \min(Q_{max1}, Q_{max2})$

$$\text{Considering 10\% margin: } Q_S = 0.9 \cdot 0.395 = 0.356$$

9. Calculate the value  $x_{min}$  the converter will work at, at min. input voltage and max. load:

$$x_{min} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{1+k \cdot \left[ 1 - \frac{1}{(2 \cdot n \cdot M_{max}) \cdot \left( 1 + \left( \frac{Q_S}{Q_{max1}} \right)^4 \right)} \right]}} = 0.592 \quad f_{min} = 90 \cdot 0.592 = 53.28 \text{ kHz}$$

10. Calculate the characteristic impedance of the tank circuits and all component values:

$$Z_R = Re \cdot Q_S = 38.472 \ \Omega \quad C_s = \frac{1}{2 \cdot fr \cdot Z_R \cdot \pi} = 46 \text{ nF} \quad L_s = \frac{Z_R}{2 \cdot \pi \cdot fr} = 68 \ \mu\text{H} \quad L_p = k \cdot L_s = 408 \ \mu\text{H}$$

# LC Resonant Half-bridge

## design example. 300W converter

11. Calculate components around the L6599:

- Oscillator setting. Choose  $C_F$  (e.g. 470 pF as in the datasheet).

Calculate  $R_{Fmin}$ :

$$R_{Fmin} = \frac{1}{3 \cdot C_F \cdot f_{min}} = \frac{1}{3 \cdot 470 \cdot 10^{-12} \cdot 53.28 \cdot 10^3} = 13.3 \text{ k}\Omega$$

Calculate  $R_{Fmax}$ :

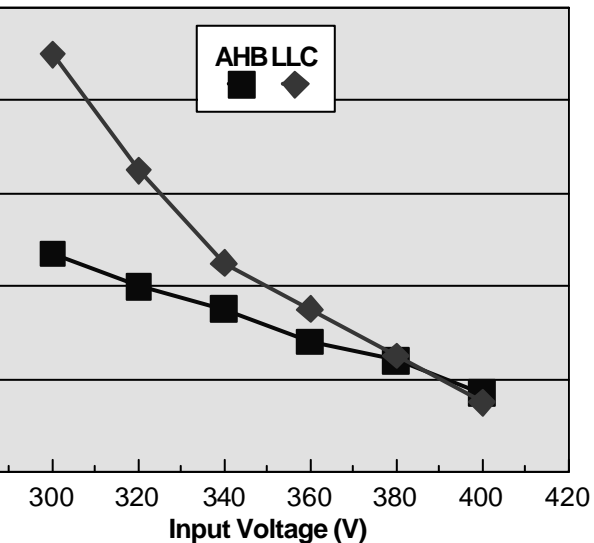
$$R_{Fmax} = \frac{R_{Fmin}}{\frac{f_{max}}{f_{min}} - 1} = \frac{13.3 \cdot 10^3}{\frac{180}{53.28} - 1} = 5.54 \text{ k}\Omega$$

Calculate Soft-start components:

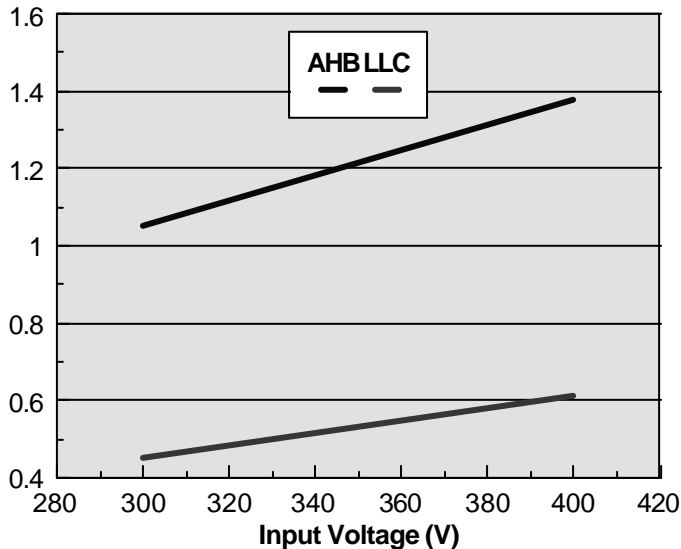
$$R_{SS} = \frac{R_{Fmin}}{\frac{f_{start}}{f_{min}} - 1} = \frac{13.3 \cdot 10^3}{\frac{300}{53.28} - 1} = 2.87 \text{ k}\Omega \quad C_{SS} = \frac{3 \cdot 10^{-3}}{R_{SS}} = \frac{3 \cdot 10^{-3}}{2.87 \cdot 10^{-3}} = 1 \mu\text{F}$$

# LC Resonant Half-bridge Comparison with ZVS Half-bridge (I)

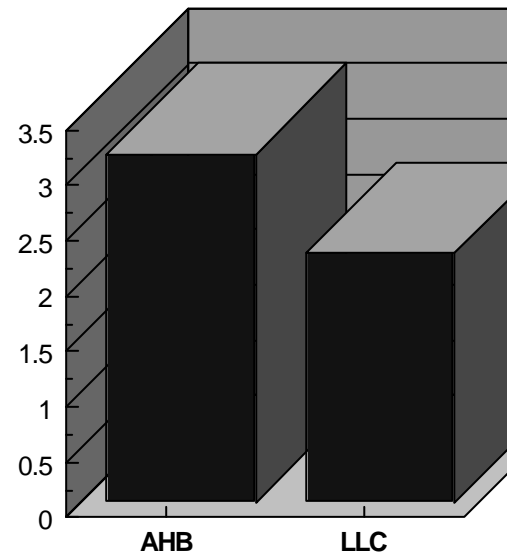
Primary Conduction Losses (W)



Primary Switching Losses (W)



Secondary Conduction Losses

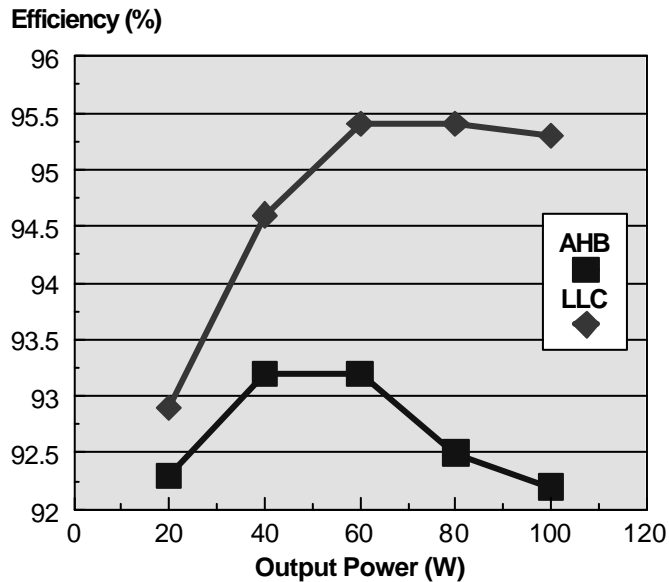


## ELECTRICAL SPECIFICATION

Input Voltage:	300 to 400(*) Vdc
Output voltage:	20 Vdc
Output power:	100 W
Switching frequency:	200 kHz
300 V holdup, 400 V nominal voltage	

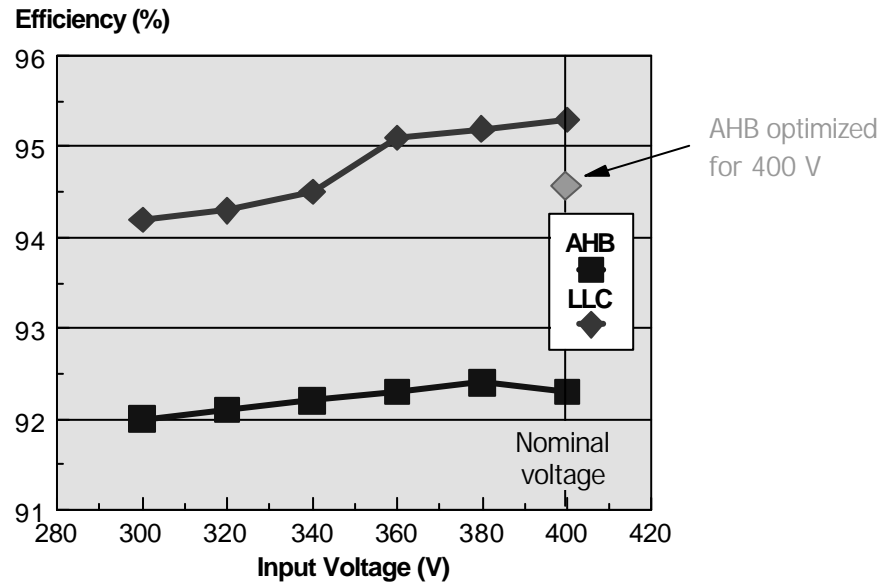
	AHB	LLC
Primary Conduction Losses	0.97 W	0.95
Primary Switching Losses	1.38 W	0.61
Secondary Conduction Losses	3.15 W	2.25
Secondary Switching Losses	?	0 W
Total Losses	5.92 + ? W	3.81

# LC Resonant Half-bridge Comparison with ZVS Half-bridge (II)



## ZVS Half-bridge

- MOSFETs: high turn-off losses; ZVS at light load difficult to achieve
- Diodes: high voltage stress  $\Rightarrow$  higher  $V_F \Rightarrow$  higher conduction losses; recovery losses
- Holdup requirements worsen efficiency at nominal input voltage



## LLC resonant half-bridge

- MOSFETs: low turn-off losses; ZVS at light load easy to achieve
- Diodes: low voltage stress ( $2 \cdot V_{out}$ )  $\Rightarrow$  lower  $V_F \Rightarrow$  low conduction losses; ZCS  $\Rightarrow$  no recovery losses
- Operation can be optimized at nominal input voltage