

Simulation and optimization of EMI filter of conducted emission for high voltage gain DC-DC converter

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ABSTRACT

In the continuity of the work on design of high voltage gain DC-DC converter, used for feeding the CubeSat electrospray thrusters with a variable output voltage according to the maneuver size, this paper introduces a simulation of the converter model with MATLAB/Simulink to determine its conducted emission level. By referring to the MIL-STD-461 standard, a required passive electromagnetic interference (EMI) filter parameters are calculated to reduce, under thresholds, the converter noise. With consideration of the available volume and power constraints in this kind of satellite, the design of common-mode (CM) choke is optimized with proposed procedure optimization, so as to reduce its volume and electrical losses. Also, this optimization procedure can be generalized and applied for any passive EMI filter design.

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1. INTRODUCTION

For DC-DC converters, increasing the switching frequency of semiconductor switches can, significantly, reduce the size of passive components such as capacitors and coils. However, this high switching frequency generates signals with high $\frac{di}{dt}$ and $\frac{dv}{dt}$ causing conducted and radiated disturbances [1], [2], which are injected into the environment around the so-called "source" equipment, and impact the normal behavior of the so-called "victim" equipments sharing the same environment, and the generated noise is propagated under two modes: common mode (CM) and differential mode (DM). Their cancellation is impossible, though, there are some techniques that allow to attenuate their level to be under the limits defined in the electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) standards. In this sense, several solutions are proposed in the literature concerning the noise mitigation. First solution used is the passive electromagnetic interferences (EMI) filters [3], they reduce, considerably, the noise but their size and weight have a disadvantage limiting their usage for applications with constraints in available volume. In order to reduce the passive EMI filters dimensions, several papers introduce approaches that reduce the source noise. Among these strategies, there is printed circuit board (PCB) layout optimization [4], its goal is to reduce the inductance loop and parasitic capacitors. Another option concerns the modulation strategy where a random modulation presents improvement in EMI reduction compared to classical

pulse width modulation [5]-[8]. As an alternative, there is the adoption of soft switching like a control approach [9], [10]. Second solution consists of the usage of active EMI filters [11]-[13], these kind of filters have reduced dimensions but they are more restrictive for the range of noise wider than their bandwidth. Finally, there is hybrid EMI filters [14], [15], which combine the passive filter used to attenuate the noise at high frequencies and the active filter to reduce the noise at low frequencies, therefore, the size and weight are reduced compared to conventional passive filters.

This article addresses electromagnetic interference generated by a high-voltage gain DC-DC converter used for feeding the CubeSats electrospray propulsion. This converter is intended to be operational within the space environment, therefore, and given the sensitivity of active filters to radiation due to the use of integrated circuits, only the passive EMI filter, which is composed with passive components, provides the filtering for the proposed DC-DC converter. In addition, this converter will be embedded in a CubeSat, which means other constraints to take into consideration, namely the available volume and the electrical energy generated on-board. Since the EMI filter occupies a significant part of the converter size, hence the need to reduce its size and increase its efficiency. Also, because the CM choke occupies a large space and consumes more electrical power in passive EMI filter, an optimization of its volume and its electrical losses is required. Some papers have already raised this type of optimization problem, in particular, [16]-[19] but without addressing the minimization of the filter electrical losses.

The optimization procedure adopted in this paper is based on the MATLAB function "fmincon" and taking into account a number of constraints detailed in the next section. This optimization can be generalized and applied when designing passive EMI filters for converters intended to operate in an environment where both volume and electrical consumption constraints are imposed.

The equipment under test considered is a high voltage gain DC-DC converter used in electric propulsion for CubeSats [20], as shown in Figure 1, its characteristics are detailed in Table 1. Therefore, it is necessary to refer to the aerospace standards, especially the MIL-STD-461 standard, which generally defines the measurement setups of electromagnetic interferences and limit values not to be exceeded for equipment emissions and susceptibility.

The organization of this paper is delineated into 3 distinctive sections. Section 2 gives details about the simulation of conducted emissions generated by the proposed converter and provides a description of the optimization procedure for the design of the CM choke. The outcomes of this optimization are examined and discussed in section 3. The concluding remarks and perspectives of the present work in section 4.

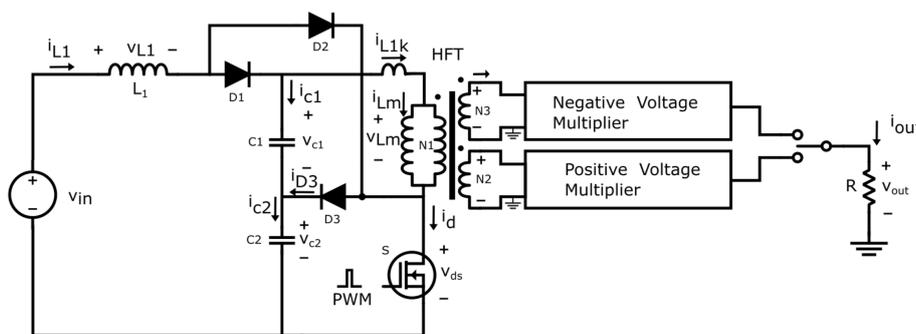


Figure 1. DC-DC converter topology

Table 1. Parameter and component values

Parameter	Value	Component	Size
Switching frequency F	100 kHz	L_1 and L_m	650 μ H and 3.94 mH
Duty cycle D	57 - 70 %	c_1, c_2 and c_{vm}	1.72 μ F, 1.1 μ F and 10 nF
Transformer ratio N	6	D_1, D_2 and D_3	200V, 5 A
Multiplier voltage stage number n	4	D_{vm}	1 kV, 1 A
Load R	1 M Ω	Switch	200 V, 10 A, 0.06 Ω
Input voltage and output voltage	10 V and 1500 - 3500 V		

filter design more judicious. From Figure 4(a) and 4(b), it can be seen that the level of conducted emission for DM and CM exceeds, respectively, the CE102 thresholds with 40 dB μ V. To comply with EMC standards, the designed EMI filter shall achieve an attenuation higher than 40 dB μ V.

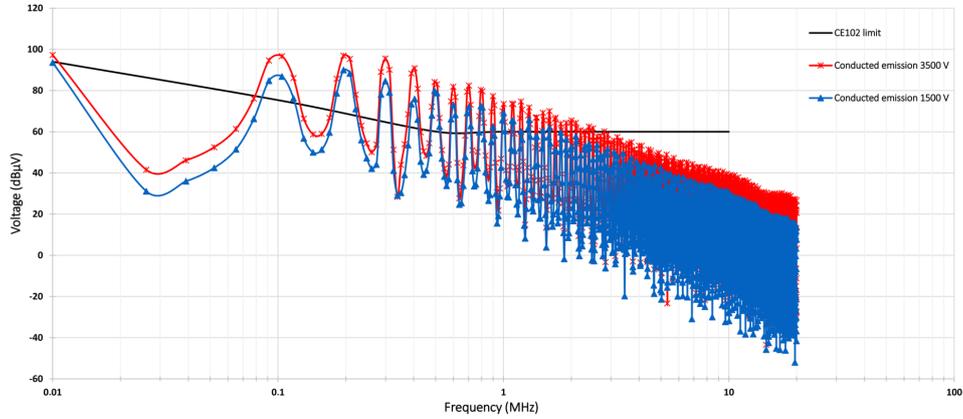


Figure 3. Total conducted emission of the proposed converter without EMI filter

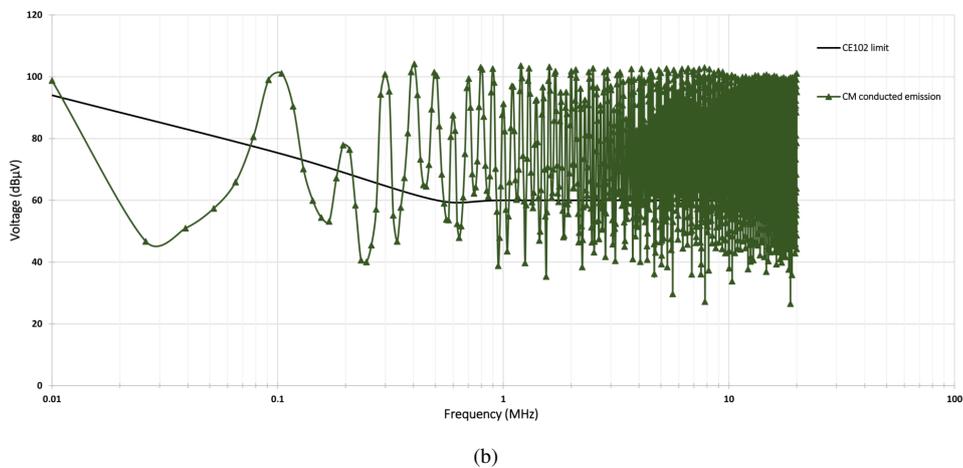
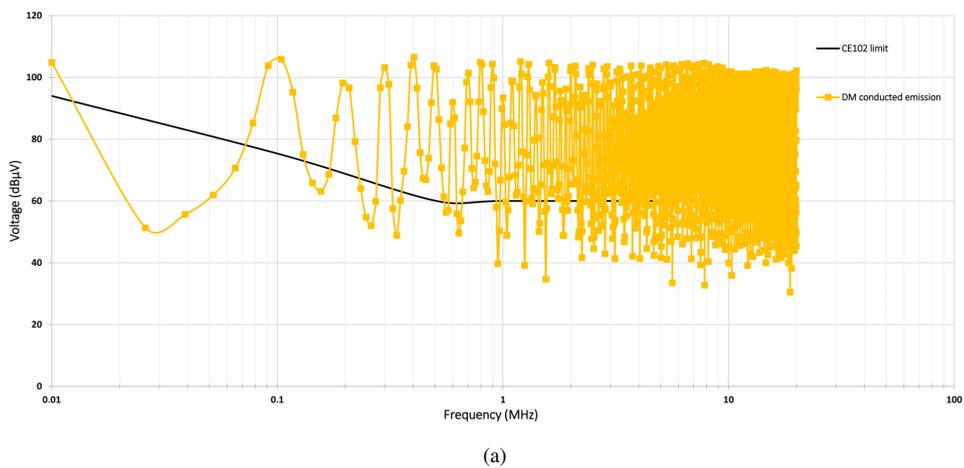


Figure 4. Conducted emission of the proposed converter without EMI filter for (a) DM and (b) CM

2.1.3. Determination of required passive EMI filter parameters

Meet CE regulations of MIL-STD-461 is the purpose of the EMI filter, it attenuates the amplitudes of conducted emissions (CM and DM) under the CE102 limits with a margin at least of 6 dB to account for simulation deviations and to ensure sufficient margin under of the EMC standard for the frequency range. Using (1) and (2) detailed in [22] to calculate the required EMI filter parameters, which will be used as inputs for optimization procedure.

- For DM part: this mode is dominant in the low frequencies around switching frequency 100 kHz, thus, the cutoff frequency of the DM EMI filter must be equal to $f_{Rdm} = 10\text{kHz}$, to ensure an attenuation of 40 dB μV , as shown in Figure 4(a).

$$L_{dmreq} = \frac{1}{C_x(2\pi f_{Rdm})^2} \quad (1)$$

Where $C_{x1} = C_{x2} = C_x = 22 \mu\text{F}$ thus $L_{dmreq} = 11.5 \mu\text{H}$.

- For CM component: this mode is dominant in the high frequencies around 1 MHz because the parasitic capacitances are very low. To have an attenuation of 40 dB μV , as indicated in Figure 4(b), with a slope of -40 dB/decade, the cutoff frequency of the CM EMI filter shall be $f_{Rcm} = 100 \text{ kHz}$.

$$L_{cmreq} = \frac{1}{2C_y(2\pi f_{Rcm})^2} \quad (2)$$

Where $C_y = 5 \text{ nF}$ thus $L_{cmreq} = 253.5 \mu\text{H}$.

Figure 5 shows the synoptic of the passive EMI filter to be designed, and to reduce the size of EMI filter, the leakage inductance L_{lk} of CM choke coil will be used as DM inductor.

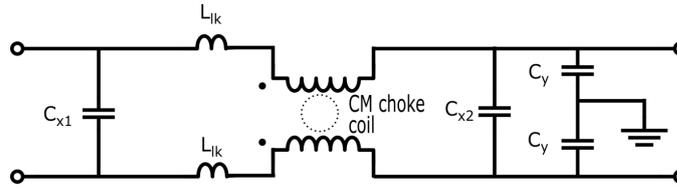


Figure 5. Synoptic of passive EMI filter

2.2. Optimization procedure of CM choke design

An optimization of the volume and losses of the CM choke allows to reduce the size of the converter breadboard and increase its electrical efficiency. Therefore, this board will be more adapted to the volume and consumption constraints imposed by the CubeSats on all on-board subsystems. This part will be devoted to CM choke optimization procedure by detailing the involved constraints and the followed algorithm.

2.2.1. List of constraints

The choice of the CM choke parameters indicated in Figure 6, namely, the dimensions of the magnetic core ($x(1)=\text{OD}$, $x(2)=\text{ID}$, $x(3)=\text{H}$), the winding turns number ($N=x(4)$) and the angle occupied by the coil on the core ($x(5)=\theta$), is optimized in order to reduce the volume and losses of the CM choke by taking several constraints (mechanical, magnetic and electrical) into account for the correct operation of the filter.

- Inductance constraints: To mitigate the CM EMI noise, it is imperative that the CM inductance surpasses the specified threshold denoted as L_{cmreq} , as mentioned in (3). Adhering to this criterion ensures that the CM inductance is appropriately dimensioned to address the targeted CM EMI noise, contributing to enhanced overall system performance and electromagnetic compatibility.

$$L_{cmreq} \leq L_{cm} = \mu_0 \mu_r \frac{N^2 A_e}{l_e} \quad (3)$$

Where μ_0 is the Vacuum permeability, μ_r is The relative permeability for a core material,

$A_e = x(3)(x(1) - x(2))/2$ is the effective cross sectional area of the core and $l_e = 2\pi(x(1) + x(2))/4$ is the

effective length of the magnetic path of the core.

DM Inductance which equals Leakages inductance of CM choke [23], shall be greater than L_{dmreq} , as expressed in (4), to filter the part of DM EMI noise.

$$L_{dmreq} \leq L_{dm} = L_{lk} \approx 2.5\mu_0 \frac{N^2 A_e}{l_e \sqrt{\theta/(2\pi) + \sin(\theta/2)}/\pi} (\sqrt{\pi/A_e} l_e/2)^{1.45} \quad (4)$$

- Core saturation constraint: Preventing core saturation necessitates that the magnetic flux density, denoted as B_{pk} , generated by common-mode and differential-mode currents, remains below the saturation flux density of the core, denoted as B_{sat} , as outlined in (5) [24]. Given the low values of L_{lk} and I_{cmpk} , this constraint is typically guaranteed, ensuring the effective avoidance of core saturation.

$$B_{pk} = \frac{L_{cm} I_{cmpk} + L_{lk} (I_{cmpk} + I_{dmpk})}{2N A_e} \leq B_{sat} \quad (5)$$

Where I_{cmpk} is the peak CM current and I_{dmpk} is the peak DM current.

- Core dimensions constraint: In order to accommodate the inductance windings, it is imperative that the inner radius of the core exceeds the minimum specified value $R_{min} = \frac{2Nd^2}{ID\theta}$, as mentioned in (6), that represents the necessary thickness of the winding wire around the core. Adhering to this criterion ensures proper spatial allocation for the inductance windings.

$$ID \geq 2d\sqrt{N/\theta} \quad (6)$$

Where d is the winding wire diameter.

- Stability constraint: Applying the Middlebrook criterion [25] is essential for securing the stability of the proposed DC-DC converter. According to this criterion, it is imperative that the output impedance of the filter, denoted as Z_{out} , consistently maintains a value lower than the input impedance of the converter, represented by Z_{in} , as described by (7).

$$Z_{out} = \sqrt{L_{lkmax}/C_x} \leq Z_{in} = \frac{v_{in}^2 R \eta}{2v_{out}^2} \quad (7)$$

Where η is the efficiency of proposed converter.

2.2.2. Optimization design algorithm

The objective function to be minimized combines volume and electrical losses with weighted coefficients, as detailed in (8). The "fmincon" of MATLAB is used as a nonlinear programming solver to find the minimum of the objective function, then after a number of iterations, its optimization algorithm "interior-point" converges to an optimal choice of the five parameters (OD, ID, H, N and θ) related to CM choke.

$$Obj - Fun = w_1.Vol(x) + w_2.Los(x) \quad (8)$$

Where $Vol(x) = \pi \left(\frac{x(1)}{2} + \frac{4x(4)d^2}{(x(1)+x(2))x(5)} \right)^2 x(3) + \frac{8x(4)d^2}{(x(1)+x(2))x(5)}$ assuming that $\frac{(x(1)+x(2))x(5)}{4} - dx(4) \leq 0$ and $Los(x) = \text{Winding loss} + \text{Core loss} = \frac{8\rho(x(3)+x(1)-x(2))x(4)I^2}{d^2} + 8F^{1.621} \left(\frac{(L_{cm}+L_{lk})I_{cmpk}}{(x(1)-x(2))x(3)x(4)} \right)^{1.982} \pi(x(1)^2 - x(2)^2)x(3)/4$ [26] with I is the input current of converter and ρ is the resistivity of copper.

Figure 7 encapsulates the methodology of the common-mode (CM) choke design optimization algorithm through a concise flow chart. The process is initiated by defining a set of inputs, followed by the imposition of constraints integral to the design optimization. As for the dimensions of the magnetic core, there are two cases; Choosing the standard dimensions which are close to optimal dimensions proposed by this algorithm, or it is possible to order the magnetic cores with the specific dimensions directly from the manufacturer.

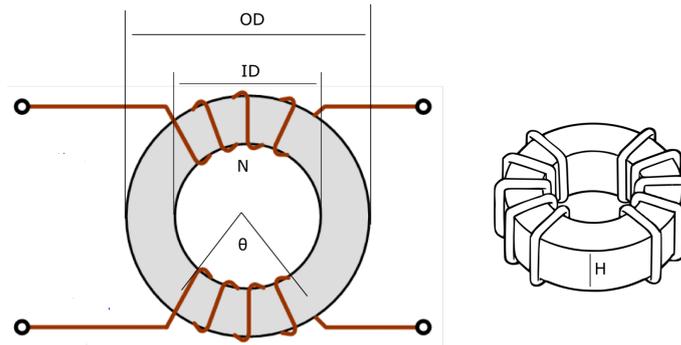


Figure 6. CM choke parameters

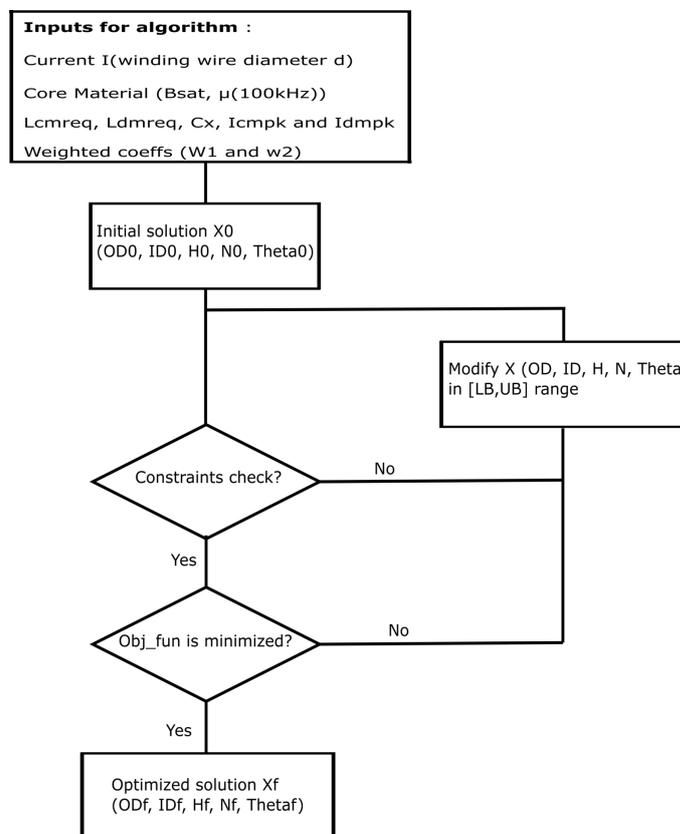


Figure 7. Optimization algorithm flow chart

3. OPTIMIZATION RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The optimization algorithm, outlined above, is implemented in MATLAB, selecting the optimal parameters for the CM choke based on the inputs specified in Table 2. In this context, nanocrystalline is chosen as the core material, and the values of I_{cmpk} and I_{dmpk} are computed in accordance with the CE102 standard. The algorithm successfully converges after 25 iterations, yielding an objective function value of 1.15, as visually depicted in Figure 8. This outcome represents the minimum achieved while adhering to all the constraints described earlier.

To assess the incremental value of the optimization procedure, a thorough comparison is conducted

between the results of an intuitive design, which meets all the specified constraints without optimization, and the outcomes derived from the proposed optimization procedure. Table 3 compiles essential metrics such as CM choke volume, CM choke electrical losses, dimensions of the magnetic core, and winding parameters for each design approach. Notably, the optimized results exhibit a considerable reduction compared to the intuitive design outcomes. The optimization procedure demonstrates a gain exceeding 10 for the CM choke volume, and there is a notable reduction of more than 30% in electrical losses. These results underscore the substantial improvement achieved through the optimization process.

Table 2. Algorithm input parameters

Parameter	Value
Input current I	3 A
Winding wire diameter d	1 mm
L_{cmreq} , L_{dmreq} and C_x	253.5 μ H, 11.5 μ H and 22 μ F
Weighted coefficients $w_1=w_2$	0.5
$I_{cmpk}=I_{dmpk}$	0.06 Arms
B_{sat} and $\mu_r(100kHz)$	1.25 T and 20000
Lower Bounds LB	[1.12, 0.51, 0.58, 1, $\pi/3$]
Upper Bounds UB	[16.69, 12.39, 3.05, 100, π]

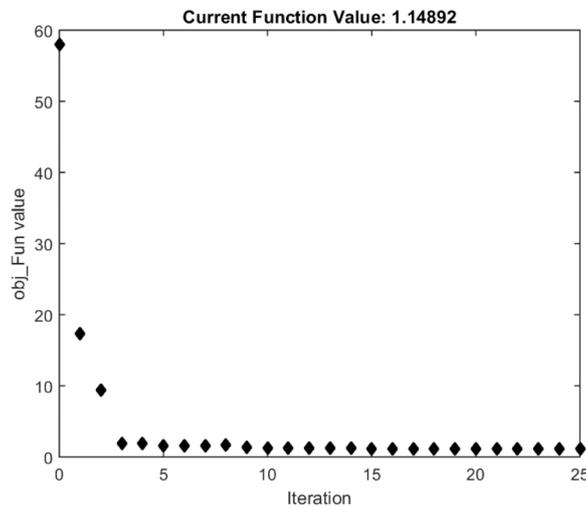


Figure 8. Obj-Fun values

Table 3. Comparison results

	$Vol(cm^3)$	Los (W)	OD (cm)	ID (cm)	H (cm)	N (turn)	θ (rad)
Intuitive design	21.83	0.29	3.46	1.73	1.73	14	1.05
Proposed design	2.08	0.22	1.20	0.62	0.58	31	π

Also, on the catalogs offered in the market, the standard magnetic core W902 with dimensions 1.41x0.66x0.63 (cmxcmxcm) close to the output of the algorithm. Using these five parameters, the calculated CM choke inductances are $L_{cm}=13.6$ mH and $L_{lk}=11.5$ μ H. To visualize the impact of passive EMI filter on conducted emission of proposed converter, a simulation is performed with the implementation of the filter components in the Simulink model between the LISN and the converter, $L_{cm}=13.6$ mH, $L_{lk}=11.5$ μ H, $C_x=22$ μ F and $C_y=5$ nF. In Figure 9, it can be noticed that the conducted emission level is attenuated with a sufficient margin below CE102 limits. Only for the second harmonic (F=200kHz), where the margin of 3 dB under the limits is low compared to those of the other harmonics.

As mentioned in introduction, this optimization procedure can be generalized and used, for other converter with different input power, as guideline for a choice of the magnetic core and winding parameters.

Table 4 summarizes the five parameters optimization for different winding wire diameters dependent on the input current. For an input current, assuming that the required inductances are the same, the core dimensions calculated allow to choose, easily, the appropriate core on catalog with reducing the occupied volume and electrical losses by satisfying the attenuation requirement.

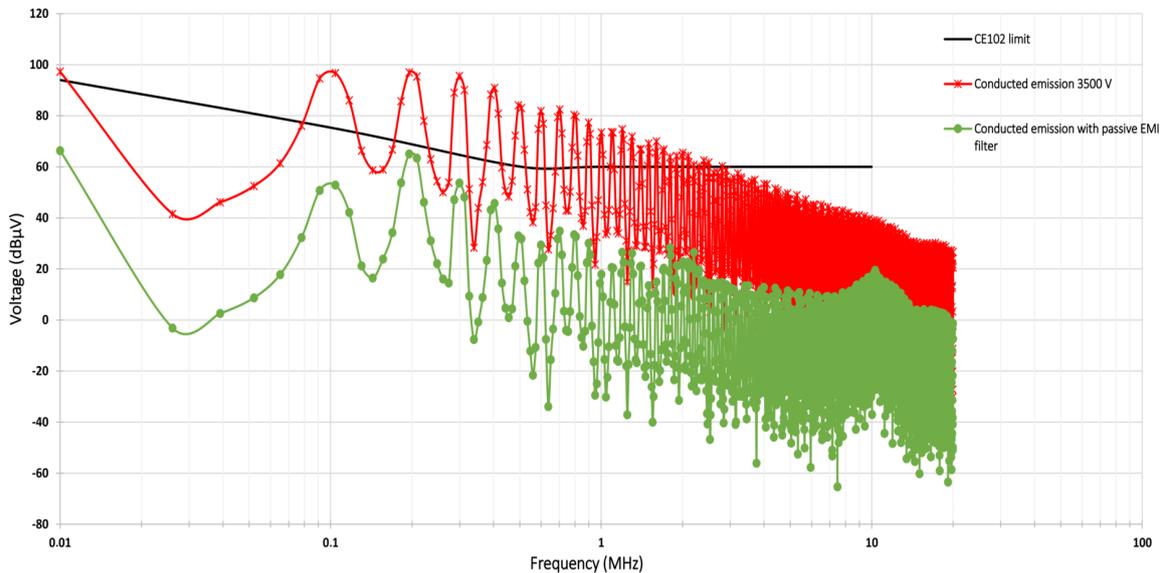


Figure 9. Total conducted emission of the proposed converter with EMI filter

Table 4. Optimization results for different winding wire diameters

d(cm)	$Vol_{min}(cm^3)$	$Los_{min}(W)$	OD (cm)	ID (cm)	H (cm)	N (turn)	θ (rad)
0.05	0.84	0.10	1.12	0.58	0.58	32	π
0.10	2.08	0.22	1.20	0.62	0.58	31	π
0.15	5.26	0.28	1.54	0.94	0.60	31	π
0.20	10.48	0.46	1.94	1.18	0.76	28	π
0.25	17.91	0.50	2.33	1.41	0.92	25	π

4. CONCLUSION

In this paper, the conducted emission generated by the proposed converter is simulated in MATLAB/Simulink. Due to the sensitivity of integrated circuits to radiation in space, the passive EMI filter ensures the filtering operation alone. In addition, the proposed optimization procedure is used to minimize the volume and electrical losses of CM choke, also can be applied for any passive EMI filter design, by acting on the core dimensions, the winding turns number and the angle occupied by the coil. Then the effectiveness of the proposed filter is verified by Simulink simulations. As a perspective for this paper, it is planned to perform the experimental prototype of the proposed filter and to check its effectiveness in conducted emission mitigation.

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