

PWM Controlled Bidirectional Converter having Load-Independent Voltage-Gain

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ABSTRACT: The power balancing is the issue that creates when voltage fluctuations occur in the DC microgrid. In order to compensate for the DC bus voltages in the DC microgrid, the energy storage system is used. This system absorbs or releases the power to make the DC bus voltages is stable. In this research, a bidirectional series resonant (BSR) converter is proposed which operates at the fixed frequency for the energy storage system. A simple PWM control technique is used for the power flow regulation in the system. The gain voltage of the BSR converter depends only on the duty cycle of the applied voltage and does not change the direction and amplitude of the power flow. Theoretically, after the calculations, the gain voltage of the BSR converter changed from minimum (zero) to maximum (unlimited) which means the designed converter is a buck-boost converter as well. This property of the BSR converter will help the researcher to use a wide range of voltage applications. The operations mode i.e. forward and backward modes, and the direction of the power flow can be changed smoothly by Pulse Width Modulation control. Zero voltage switching for all the voltage ranges of the active switches is also achieved in this research.

KEYWORDS: Uninterrupted Power Supply, Inverter, PWM Control, Resonant Converter, Bidirectional Converter

1. Introduction

Gadgets such as batteries and supercapacitors which do store energy, capable of enduring or interim energy buffering has been a critical part in numerous DC microgrids. The key device to interface storage batteries or super-capacitors with a DC voltage bus in a DC microgrid is a bidirectional DC-DC converter (BDCs). Moreover, BDCs needs more voltage gain because of extensive variation of terminal voltages in the batteries and supercapacitors. So, it's a research gap was available in the last few years in order to get a high efficacy in the BDCs for the wide range of voltage gain in the applications of DC microgrid. Although, an isolated BDC is also available in the market which considered as a better form of unidirectional converter (DC-DC). It can be designed as by replacing the rectify diodes with active switches. Keeping in mind of this given principle, many varieties of remoted BDCs are designed in the years i.e. PWM controlled BDCs, resonant BDCs, phase shift DAB (Dual-Active-Bridge)

BDCs etc. From these BDCs, DAB BDC has gain more attraction towards research because of its many advantages like flexibility present for controlling the Buck-Boost converter, small voltage stresses exist on the switches and turn-on losses reduce in the switching (by zero-voltage switching (ZVS)). The phase shift angle between primary and secondary switching is used to control the direction and amplitude in the power flows. However, this type of BDCs also limited due to presence of high circulating currents in the transformers and semiconductors devices that keep turn-off current losses high. Phase shift manipulation techniques also work to adjust the circulating current but, in this case, ZVS performance does not meet expectations among the whole operation. Resonant BDC (LC series-resonant tank) can be used to reduce the turn-off current losses if purely sinusoidal current finds in the resonant tank. But still problem exist in the resonant BDC i.e. exceeds circulating

current and increased turn off losses when increases the phase-shift angle.

Saving the domestic electrical energy consumed by the DC gadgets in thousands of AC to DC conversions by just doing one conversion in DC microgrid system. The Bidirectional DC to DC converter can be used on HVDC level because bidirectional gain independent converters promise a feasible and reliable solution for energy conservation and sharing. This project can be marketed in future when DC microgrid will be a part of Distribution System Due to the quality of bidirectional power flow, this project can be used for power exchange between two countries on HVDC lines.

To implement a bidirectional dual active bridge DC [1] to DC converter with AC link for Galvanic isolation to meet the requirement of voltage matching and safety considerations in DC microgrids.

2. Basic Model and Operation

The basic working principle and flow chart of the project is shown in the following Figure 1.

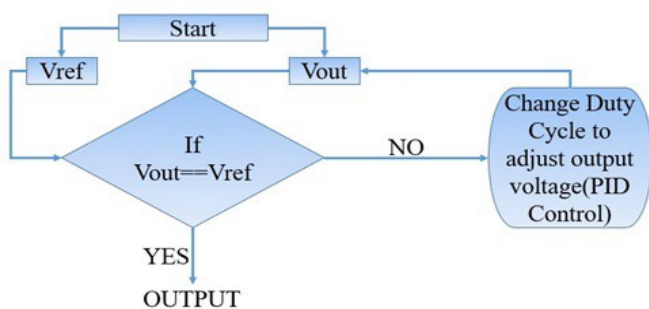


Figure 1: Flow Chart of the Project

2.1. DC Supply for the Inverter

Input DC supply for converter was to be designed from 0 to 400V and 15A ratings [2]. For this purpose, three components were used.

- Variac transformer for supplying variable AC input to the bridge Rectifier.
- Bridge Rectifier rated at 400V and 15A.
- Smoothing capacitor of 400V and 2200UF.

Variable AC input was fed to the high voltage rectifier. Then rectified pulsating DC was smoothed by using 2200UF, 400V capacitor. Hence required 400V and 15A DC was fed to the inverter [3]. The following figure is showing the high voltage DC supply on the same PCB board contain the high voltage rectifier and 2200uF, 400V rating capacitor.

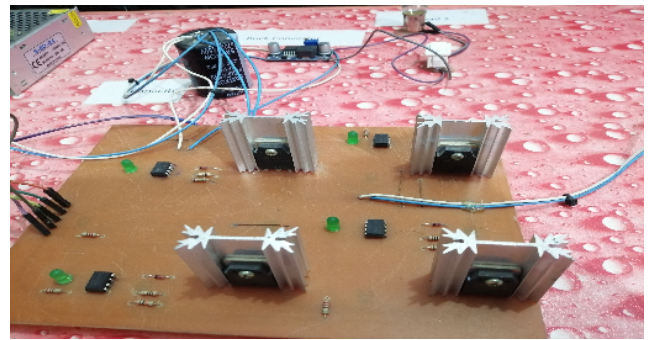


Figure 2: 5V DC Supply

2.2. Duty Cycle Range

Duty cycle range for the two inverters is 0-0.5 [4]. When primary is fixed at 0.5 secondary is varied from 0 to 0.5, while when secondary is fixed at 0.5 primary is varied from 0 to 0.5 theoretically. Best operation of the novel BSR is at Gain=1 means both duty cycles are 0.5, so BSR is designed near boundary condition [5–9]. The relationship between duty cycle range and the operation modes is shown in the following table.

Table 1: Duty cycle Control: Relationship Between Duty Cycle and Operation Mode

Operation Mode	Voltage Gain G_b	Duty Cycle	
		D_p	D_s
Buck	<1	<0.5	=0.5
Boundary	=1	=0.5	=0.5
Boost	>1	>0.5	<0.5

2.3. H-Bridge Inverter

For H-Bridge inverter two complementary PWM signals were generated by microcontroller STM32F407VG. Dead time was included for safe and sound operation of IGBT's. H-Bridge consists of two legs each containing two IGBTs as switches. Switches in each leg turn on and off complementary to avoid short circuit of High Voltage DC supply and severe damage to circuit. Upper switch of left leg and lower switch of right leg are operated by same signal. Similarly, lower switch of left leg and upper switch of right leg are operated by same signal. When upper switch of left leg and lower switch of right leg are in the ON state then a positive DC voltage of 311V is applied at points a and b. Similarly, when upper switch of right leg and lower switch of left leg are in the ON state then a negative DC voltage of 311V is applied at points a and b. In this sense DC is converted to high frequency 100kHz square wave. In the same way another inverter is operated. The Figure 3 is showing the complete H-Bridge inverter with high voltage DC supply on the same PCB board [10].

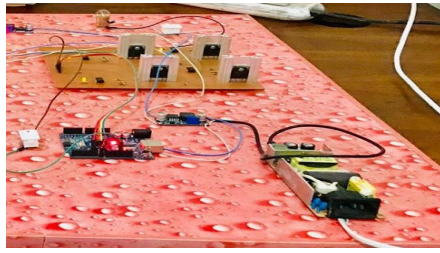


Figure 3: H-Bridge Inverter

2.4. Resonant Tank

For desired DC to DC converter LC resonant was used to couple the two inverters such that DC side of first inverter was used as input of the whole converter. Then the first inverter AC side was given as input to LC resonant tank for fixed frequency operation. Resonant tank output was given as input to AC side of second inverter [11–19]. DC side of second inverter is used as output of whole converter.

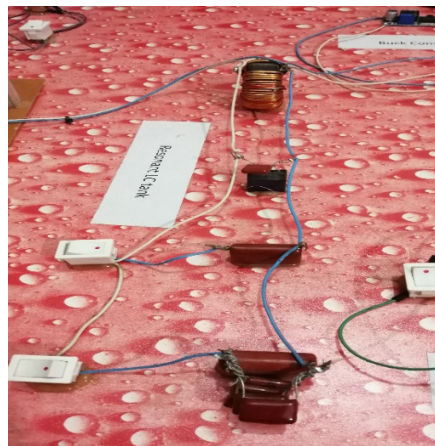


Figure 4: LC Resonant Tank

3. Proposed Method

Figure 5 shows the block diagram for the proposed solar system installed with FLC. MPPT [20–25] control in this work is achieved by FLC due to its higher speed.

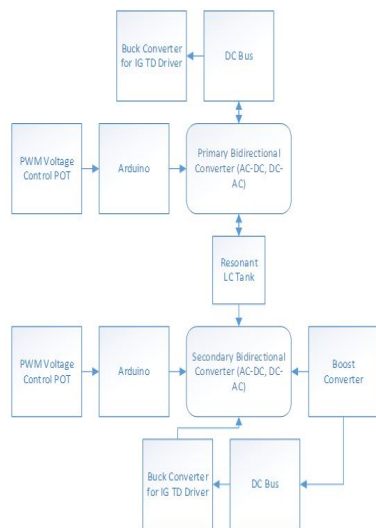


Figure 5: Complete Schematic of the Project

4. Simulation Results

4.1. Controller Outputs

The Micro-Controller [26], [27] which is used is STM32F407VG. It is based on 32-bit ARM processor. It has max frequency of 168 MHz with 192 kB of RAM and 1MB of ROM. It is selected because it is most versatile in its operation, very flexible to be programmed and has very large number of libraries available [28].

Timers are used to generate the PWM of frequency 110 kHz which can be changed according to the resonant frequency of LC-Tank [29]. It is a fixed frequency system that is whatever is the frequency of LC-Tank, it is the same throughout the system [30].

The controller is giving four PWM's, two for each inverter. Each PWM is given to two IGBT's of different legs of inverter. The two PWM's given to the inverter are out of phase, center aligned so that two transistors in same ladder are not conducting at once, so that short-circuit is avoided.

The output of the controller [29], [31–34] or the PWM generated from the micro-controller is shown in the Figure 6.



Figure 6: Controller Output

4.2. Optocoupler Outputs

Optocoupler is a device that is used to isolate the Controller from high power circuit such as in our case the inverter. It uses light to transfer electrical signals to required circuit, hence named Optocoupler. It is taking input from STM microcontroller and is providing signal to the gate of IGBT's [35–40].

Optocoupler actually serves two purposes, one being isolation and the other providing enough power to gate of IGBT's. STM outputs are typically 3.3V maximum which is unable to drive gate of IGBT's as they require typically 15V to conduct.

Also, STM pins cannot provide enough current to the gate, so we use Optocoupler. The output obtained from the optocoupler or the response of the optocoupler is shown in the following Figure 7.

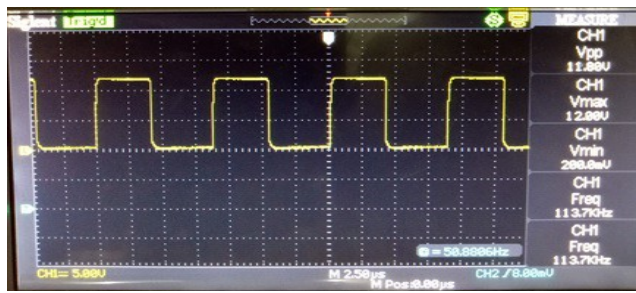


Figure 7: Optocoupler Output

4.3. Response of IGBT

IGBT stands for 'insulated-gate bipolar transistor'. It is a three terminal device that is mainly used as a switch in an inverter. It combines good properties of Power MOSFET's and BJT's. It is used because it has high efficiency, so it can be used in high power circuits and it has fast switching characteristics, so it can be operated at very high frequency. As circuit involve high voltage, high current as well as high frequency, so we select IGBT's as our switching device.

As the inverter is operating at very high frequency, IGBT's were not switching off in time due to miller effect. Capacitance effect in IGBT's become dominant at high frequency so some remedies were employed.

Firstly, PCB was made such that it has very small paths between the components so that inductance would not pose the problem in such a condition. So, we made the shortest path between the gate of IGBT and the output terminal of the optocoupler to make the gate signal free from harmonics inclusion.

Secondly, IGBTs were soldered directly on the PCB without using connectors. Also, legs of IGBT's were made as small as possible.

Thirdly, DC power supply inductor was posing the problem, so it was removed as it was main reason behind large 'off-time' of IGBT. The waveform in the following Figure 8 showing the response of IGBT at high voltage and frequency.

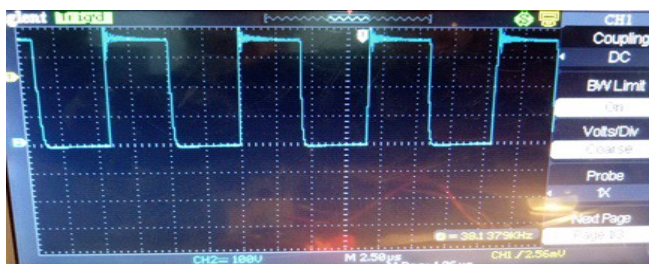


Figure 8: IGBT Response

4.4. Inclusion of Dead Time

The dead time is the time in which no part of a H-bridge is turned on. It is used when you have two out of phase PWM signals so that neither the high nor the low side of the H-bridge can be switched-on at once.

If dead time is not included in waveforms, it is very much the possibility that both IGBT's would turn on, resulting in short-circuit and damaging the DC supply and IGBT's permanently.

Dead time of 15-20 microseconds is introduced in PWMs with STM controller programming to avoid any kind of short circuiting. The following Figure 9 clearly indicates the dead time included in the two out of phase PWM signals[41].

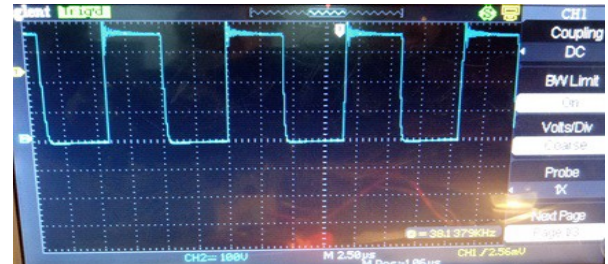


Figure 9: Inclusion of Dead Time

4.5. LC Tank Response

LC-Tank is an electric circuit, in which both inductance and capacitance are large as compared to resistance which should be ideally zero. Series resonant tank is used as it is better for voltage magnification as is required by the project.

LC-Tank acts as a band pass filter, that can allow certain frequencies and block others. As our inverters are operating at fixed frequency, it is required that this fixed frequency signal contain most of the power and other harmonics of this frequency should be diminished. So, both the inverters frequencies are made equal to the resonant frequency of LC-Tank [42–44]. The Figure 10 shown below is the response of series LC resonant tank when the frequency of the applied PWM signals is equal to the resonant frequency of the LC resonant tank.

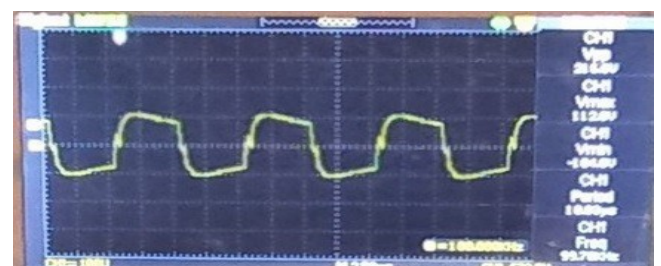


Figure 10: Inclusion of Dead Time

5. PWM Control

By controlling the PWM and changing the duty cycle of the generated PWM [45–49], we can operate the inverter in different modes of operation as discussed below.

5.1. Duty Cycle Control

As discussed earlier, the given converter is fixed frequency that means all signals involved have same frequency equal to the resonant frequency of the LC-Tank.

Voltage gain of the converter is controlled by the Duty Cycle of signals given to IGBT's. Let D_p and D_s are Duty Cycles of primary and secondary side upper IGBT's respectively. Duty Cycle of lower switches are complementary centre-aligned of each of the upper IGBT. Duty Cycle D_p and D_s have no effect on the amount and direction of power. The duty cycle control corresponding to different modes of operation is shown in the following Figure.

5.2. Buck Mode

In Buck mode, voltage gain would be less than one. In this mode, primary side Duty Cycle D_p would always be less than 0.5 and Duty Cycle of secondary side IGBT's, D_s would be constantly equal to 0.5 [50–52]. Gain can be changed by varying duty cycle D_p in the range from 0 to 0.5 but it would not cross 0.5 threshold.

5.3. Boost Mode

In Boost mode, voltage gain would be greater than one. In this mode, secondary side Duty Cycle D_s would always be less than 0.5 and Duty Cycle of primary IGBTs, D_p would be constantly equal to 0.5. Gain can be changed by varying duty cycle D_s in the range 0 to 0.5 but it would not cross 0.5 threshold.

6. Conclusion

This article has proposed a new serial bidirectional resonance converter (BSR) and its control strategies. The main features of the proposed BSR converter has obtained by theoretical analyses and experiments. Bidirectional regulation of voltage and power flow with a fixed frequency PWM control technique facilitates easily for implementing and controlling the BSR converter. The duty cycles of the primary and secondary switches are used for finding the normalized voltage gain and no change is follow with the direction and amplitude of the transmitted power. Automatic and smooth mode of transition is easily possible due to the simple control of voltage-increasing properties of this BSR converter. In order to get a wide range of voltage in case of bidirectional power conversion application, buck and boost voltage converters has capacity to work for both modes i.e. forward and reverse modes. For getting zero voltage switching of all active switches within full range of load and voltage, auxiliary inductor is used. Soft switches have low circulating energy because of converter working at series resonant frequency.

By combining the all features given in above paragraph, a highly effective bidirectional isolated converter is obtained specifically for micro DC network application. The main characteristics, probability and feasibility of this BSR converter are intended to be evaluated and verified by getting experimental results on a 1.6 kW prototype power with a voltage range of 320V to 480V and a bus voltage of 400V.

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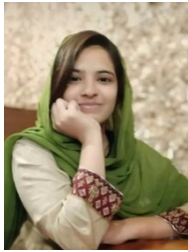
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