HIGH GAIN NON ISOLATED DC-DC STEP UP CONVERTERS INTEGRATED WITH ACTIVE AND PASSIVE SWITCHED INDUCTOR NETWORKS

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Abstract: High gain dc-dc step up converters have been used in renewable energy systems, for example, photovoltaic grid connected system and fuel cell power plant to step up the low level dc voltage to a high level dc bus voltage. If the conventional boost converter is to meet this demand, it should be operated at an extreme duty cycle (duty cycle closes to unity), which will cause electromagnetic interference, reverse recovery problem and conduction loss at the power switches. This paper proposes a class of non-isolated dc-dc step up converters which provide very high voltage gain at a small duty cycle (duty cycle < 0.5). Firstly, the converter topologies are derived based on active switched inductor network and combination of active and passive switched inductor networks; secondly, the modes of operation of proposed active switched inductor converter and combined active and passive switched inductor converter are illustrated; thirdly, the performance of the proposed converters are analyzed mathematically in details and compared with conventional boost converter. Finally, the analysis is verified by simulation results.

Keywords: Step up converter, Non isolated converter, High gain, DC-DC converter, Switched inductor network, Duty cycle

1. Introduction

The demand for energy is increasing with the development of society. The use of fossil fuels (coal, oil, gas etc.) to meet this growing demand has affected the environment adversely by causing environmental pollution and greenhouse effect. Moreover, the storage of fossil fuels in the earth is decreasing day by day due to its increased usage. Hence, the necessity of new, clean and renewable energy has emerged greatly to replace the traditional fossil fuel energy. Power generation by photovoltaic (PV) and fuel cell systems have shown good signs of future success as they have been applied on a broad scale [1]-[6].

However, the output voltages of PV and fuel cells range between 20 V to 40 V which is very low. A typical fuel cell power plant [7] is depicted in Fig. 1. To maintain the line voltage of 220 V in a single phase system, the grid-connected inverter needs the dc bus voltage at 380 V which is approximately 20 times the fuel cell output voltage. Thus, a dc-dc step up converter with a very high voltage gain is needed to boost the outputs of PV and fuel cells. To accomplish this, the conventional boost converter must operate at extreme duty cycle (duty cycle closes to unity) which leads to electromagnetic interference, reverse recovery problem, high conduction loss at the switches etc.

Different isolated and non-isolated topologies have been developed to obtain high gain at low duty cycle. Isolated converters involve transformer where the turns ratio of the transformer is adjusted to so that a high gain is obtained [8]-[12]. However, a large turn ratio leads to a large leakage inductance which causes high voltage spike across the switches [13]-[15]. Besides, isolated converters becomes costly due to its multi-stage AC/DC/AC conversion and isolated sensors and controllers.

![Fuel Cell 20V-40V DC High gain Step-up DC/DC converter 380V DC DC/AC Inverter 220V AC Load](Fig. 1. Fuel cell power plant with different power stages)

The existing non-isolated converters are normally of coupled inductor type and non-coupled type. The coupled inductor converters adjust the output voltage gain by controlling the turns ratio of the coupled inductor which is similar to the isolated converters [16]-[19]. Thus, the leakage inductance and, as a consequence, the voltage spike across the switches do exist prominently. The non-coupled inductor converters can minimize this issue by removing the magnetic components with a comparatively high voltage gain [20]-[23]. High voltage gain is also achieved in cascade converter but it offers large and
complex circuitry. The transformer less converter in [24] can provide a high voltage gain with reduced voltage stress across the switches. However, the gain is not that much high to achieve 20V/380V conversion.

Researchers have developed different switched inductor and switched capacitor networks to increase the voltage level [24]. Series and parallel connections of these networks make it possible to obtain higher voltage gain. However, the voltage gain is still lower to meet the demand of high voltage gain. Moreover, the circuitry becomes complex and expensive.

This paper presents a novel class of high gain non-isolated dc-dc step up converters integrated with active and passive switched inductor networks. Proposed converters offer very high voltage gain at a small duty cycle i.e. duty cycle < 0.5 which reduces the electromagnetic interference, reverse recovery problem and conduction loss of the switches. Moreover, a single control signal is used for all the switches which reduces the circuit operation complexity. The operating principle and the steady state analysis of the proposed converters are presented in details for equal inductances. Finally, the simulation results by PSIM 9.0 are provided to verify the analysis.

2. Topological derivation of proposed converters

Fig. 2 shows the active switched inductor (A-SL) and passive switched inductor (P-SL) networks presented in [23]-[24].

When the switches \( S_1 \) and \( S_2 \) are turned on, inductors \( L_1 \) and \( L_2 \) become parallel connected. When they are turned off, inductors \( L_1 \) and \( L_2 \) become series connected across the input terminals 1-1’ of the two port network if a load is connected across the terminals 2-2’.

The proposed converters derived from [25] are obtained by applying the above A-SL and P-SL networks. The proposed converters are shown in Fig. 3.

The inductors in the P-SL and A-SL networks are of equal inductance. Power switches share the same switching signals which makes the control easy. When all the switches are turned on simultaneously, the inductors in the P-SL and A-SL networks operate in parallel connection and are charged by the power source, and when all the switches are turned off simultaneously, inductors operate in series connection and are discharged to load.

![Fig. 2. Switched inductor networks (a) passive switched inductor network (b) active switched inductor network](image)

Fig. 2. Switched inductor networks (a) passive switched inductor network (b) active switched inductor network

The passive switched inductor (P-SL) network consists of two inductors \( L_1, L_2 \) and three diodes \( D_1, D_2 \) and \( D_3 \). When the voltage difference across the terminals A and B \( (V_{db}) \) is positive, \( D_1 \) and \( D_2 \) become forward biased, and \( D_3 \) becomes reverse biased. As a result, inductors \( L_1 \) and \( L_2 \) are in parallel connection. When the voltage difference across the terminals A and B \( (V_{db}) \) is negative, \( D_1 \) and \( D_2 \) become reverse biased, and \( D_3 \) becomes forward biased. This put the inductors \( L_1 \) and \( L_2 \) in series connection.

The active switched inductor (A-SL) network consists of two inductors \( L_1, L_2 \) and two switches \( S_1, S_2 \). Both of the switches operate simultaneously.

3. Operations of proposed converters

A. Operation of proposed converter with A-SL network

The proposed converter with A-SL network in Fig. 3(a) involves four inductors \( (L_1, L_2, L_3 \) and \( L_4) \), three capacitors \( (C_1, C_2 \) and \( C_3) \), four diodes \( (D_1, D_2, D_3 \) and \( D_4) \) and five high frequency controlled switches \( (S_1, S_2, S_3, S_4 \) and \( S_5) \). MOSFETs are used as the high frequency controlled switches and these are operated based on a single duty cycle. \( V_i \) represents the low dc input voltage from PV source or fuel cell. The resistive load is connected across the capacitor \( C_3 \). The equivalent circuit in CCM operation is shown in Fig. 4.

Mode 1 \([0 – DT_5]\): All the five switches are
turned on during this time interval. The equivalent circuit is shown in Fig. 4(a). Inductors $L_1$ and $L_2$ are energized in parallel by the supply voltage $V_i$. Also, $L_3$ and $L_4$ are discharged during this period. Capacitors $C_1$, $C_2$ and $C_3$ are discharged. All the diodes $D_1$, $D_2$, $D_3$ and $D_4$ are reverse biased. The load is supplied by the capacitor $C_3$. As $L_1$ and $L_2$ are in parallel connection, $v_{l1} = v_{l2}$. The voltages across the inductors $L_1$, $L_2$, $L_3$ and $L_4$ are expressed as:

$$v_{l1} = v_{l2} = V_i, \quad v_{l3} = V_{C1}, \quad v_{l4} = V_{C2} + V_{C3} \quad (1)$$

**Mode 2 [$DT_S - T_S$]:** All the four switches are turned off during this time interval. The equivalent circuit is shown in Fig. 4(b). Inductors $L_1$ and $L_2$ are discharged in series. Also, $L_3$ and $L_4$ are discharged. Capacitors $C_1$, $C_2$ and $C_3$ are charged by the inductors. All the diodes $D_1$, $D_2$, $D_3$ and $D_4$ are forward biased. The load is supplied by the inductor $L_4$. As an identical current flows through $L_1$ and $L_2$, $v_{l1} = v_{l2}$. The voltages across the inductors are expressed as:

$$v_{l1} = \frac{V_i - V_{C1}}{2}, \quad v_{l3} = V_{C1} - V_{C2}, \quad v_{l4} = V_{C2} - V_{C3} \quad (2)$$

![Fig. 4. Equivalent circuit of proposed converter with A-SL network in CCM (a) when all the switches are on (b) when all the switches are off](attachment:image)

The volt-second balance of $v_{l1}$ is given by,

$$V_i \cdot DT_S = -\frac{V_i - V_{C1}}{2} (1 - D) T_S$$

Or,

$$V_{C1} = \frac{V_i (1 + D)}{1 - D} \quad (3)$$

Similarly, volt-second balance of $v_{l3}$ is given by,

$$V_{C1} \cdot DT_S = -(V_{C1} - V_{C2}) (1 - D) T_S$$

Or,

$$V_{C2} = \frac{V_{C1}}{1 - D} = \frac{V_i (1 + D)}{(1 - D)^2} \quad (4)$$

Similarly, volt-second balance of $v_{l4}$ is given by,

$$(V_{C2} + V_{C3}) \cdot DT_S = -(V_{C2} - V_{C3}) (1 - D) T_S$$

Or,

$$V_{C3} = \frac{V_{C2}}{1 - D} = \frac{V_i (1 + D)}{(1 - D)^2} = V_o \quad (5)$$

Therefore, the voltage gain in Continuous Conduction Mode is:

$$G_{CCM} = \frac{(1 + D)}{(1 - D)^2} \quad (6)$$

Voltage stress across the diodes are found as:

$$V_{D1} = V_i + V_{C1}$$
$$V_{D2} = V_i + V_{C1} + V_{C2}$$
$$V_{D3} = V_i + V_{C1} + V_{C2} + V_{C3}$$
$$V_{D4} = V_{C3} \quad (7)$$

Voltage stress across the switches are found as:

$$V_{S1} = V_{S2} = \frac{V_i + V_{C1}}{2}$$
$$V_{S3} = V_{C2}$$
$$V_{S4} = V_{C5} = V_{C3} \quad (8)$$

The equivalent circuit in DCM is shown in Fig. 5 and the analysis is given below.

![Fig. 5. Equivalent circuit of proposed converter with A-SL network in DCM](attachment:image)

**Mode 1 [$0 - DT_S$]:** This mode is similar to Mode 1 in CCM operation. During this time, the peak current $i_{LAP}$ through the inductor $L_4$ derived from Fig. 6 is:

$$i_{LAP} = \frac{V_{C2} + V_{C3}}{L_4} DT_S \quad (9)$$

![Fig. 6. $v_{l4}$ versus $i_{l4}$ in DCM](attachment:image)

**Mode 2 [$DT_S - (DT_S + D_2 T_S)$]:** This mode is similar to Mode 2 in CCM operation. During this time, the inductor current $i_{L4}$ is decreased to zero. The peak current through the inductor $L_4$ can be derived from Fig. 6 as:

$$i_{LAP} = \frac{V_{C3} - V_{C2}}{L_4} DT_2 \quad (10)$$

**Mode 3 [$DT_S + D_2 T_S - T_S$]:** During this time interval, the equivalent circuit is shown in Fig. 5 when the load is supplied by the capacitor $C_3$. Combining (9) and (10), $D_2$ can be expressed as:
\[ D_2 = \left| \frac{V_i (1+D)}{V_0 (1-D) + V_i (1+D)} \right| D \]  
(11)
The average current through the diode \( D_i \) is equal to the average load current, therefore:  
\[ \frac{1}{2} \times D_2 T_S \times I_{4AP} = I_o = \frac{V_o}{R} \]  
(12)
Or,  
\[ V_o = \frac{d_2^2 v_{c2}}{d_2^2 - 1} \]  
(13)
where \( \tau = \frac{L}{V_0 R} \) is time constant of \( L \). Now, if \( V_{c2} = \frac{V_i (1+D)}{(1-D)^2} \) is put in (12), then \( D_2 \) is deduced as:  
\[ D_2 = \sqrt{\frac{2 \tau V_o (1-D)^2}{V_0 (1-D)^2 - V_i (1+D)}} \]
(15)
The relationship between \( \tau_0 \) and \( D \) is shown in Fig. 7. When \( \tau < \tau_0 \), the converter operates in CCM and when \( \tau > \tau_0 \), the converter operates in DCM.

**B. Operation of proposed converter combined with P-SL and A-SL network**

The proposed converter in Fig. 3(b) involves six inductors \( L_1a, L_1b, L_2a, L_2b, L_3 \) and \( L_4 \), three capacitors \( C_1, C_2 \) and \( C_3 \), five diodes \( D_{1a}, D_{1b}, D_{2a}, D_{2b}, D_{3a}, D_{3b}, D_{4a} \) and \( D_{4b} \) and five high frequency controlled switches \( S_1, S_2, S_3, S_4 \) and \( S_5 \). The operation in CCM is shown in Fig. 8.

**Mode 1 \( [0 - DT_3 - T_3] \):** All the four switches are turned on during this time interval. The equivalent circuit is shown in Fig. 8(a). Inductors \( L_1a, L_1b, L_2a \) and \( L_2b \) are energized in parallel by the supply voltage \( V_i \). Also, \( L_3 \) and \( L_4 \) are energized. Diodes \( D_{1a}, D_{1b}, D_{2a} \) and \( D_{2b} \) are forward biased and the rest of the diodes are reverse biased. The load is supplied by the capacitor \( C_3 \). As \( L_1a, L_1b, L_2a \) and \( L_2b \) are in parallel connection, \( V_{L1a} = V_{L1b} = V_{L2a} = V_{L2b} \). Now, if it is assumed that \( V_{L1a} = V_{L1b} = V_{L2a} = V_{L2b} = V_{L1} \), then the voltages across the inductors \( L_1a, L_1b, L_2a, L_2b, L_3 \) and \( L_4 \) are expressed as:

\[ \begin{align*}
V_{L1a} &= V_{L1b} = V_{L2a} = V_{L2b} = V_{L1} = V_i \\
V_{L3} &= V_{C1} \\
V_{L4} &= V_{C2} + V_{C3}
\end{align*} \]
(16)

**Mode 2 \( [DT_3 - T_3] \):** During this time interval, all the switches are off. The equivalent circuit is shown in Fig. 8(b). The diodes \( D_{1a}, D_{1b}, D_{2a} \) and \( D_{2b} \) are reverse biased and rest of the diodes are forward biased. Inductors \( L_1a, L_1b, L_2a \) and \( L_2b \) are discharged in series and energize capacitors \( C_1, C_2 \) and \( C_3 \). Also, the inductors \( L_3 \) and \( L_4 \) are discharged to \( C_2 \) and \( C_3 \). The load is supplied by the inductor \( L_4 \). Due to identical current flows through \( L_1a, L_1b, L_2a, L_2b, L_3 \) and \( L_4 \), the voltages across the inductors \( L_1a, L_1b, L_2a, L_2b, L_3 \) and \( L_4 \) are expressed as:

\[ \begin{align*}
V_{L1a} &= V_{L1b} = V_{L2a} = V_{L2b} = V_{L1} = \frac{V_i - V_{C1}}{4} \\
V_{L3} &= V_{C1} - V_{C2} \\
V_{L4} &= V_{C2} - V_{C3}
\end{align*} \]
(17)
The volt-second balance of \( v_{L1} \) is given by.

\[ V_i DT_3 = - \left( \frac{V_i - V_{C1}}{4} - V_{C2} \right) (1-D)T_3 \]  
(18)
Similarly, volt-second balance of $v_{L3}$ is given by,

$$V_{C1} DT_S = - (V_{C1} - V_{C2}) (1 - D) T_S$$

Or,

$$V_{C2} = \frac{V_{C1}}{1-D} = \frac{v_i (1+3D)}{(1-D)^2} \quad (19)$$

Similarly, volt-second balance of $v_{L4}$ is given by,

$$(V_{C2} + V_{C3}) DT_S = - (V_{C2} - V_{C3}) (1 - D) T_S$$

Or,

$$V_{C3} = \frac{V_{C2}}{1-2D} = \frac{v_i (1+3D)}{(1-D)^2(1-2D)} = V_0 \quad (20)$$

Thus, the voltage gain in continuous conduction mode is,

$$G_{CCM} = \frac{(1+3D)}{(1-D)^2(1-2D)} \quad (21)$$

Voltage stress across the diodes are found as:

$$V_{D1c} = V_{D2c} = V_i \quad (22)$$

Voltage stress across the switches are found as:

$$V_{S1} = V_{S2} = \frac{V_{i} + V_{C1}}{2}$$

$$V_{S3} = V_{C2}$$

$$V_{S4} = V_{C3} \quad (23)$$

$$V_{D1a} = V_{D1b} = V_{D2a} = V_{D2b} = V_{C1} - V_i$$

The equivalent circuit in DCM is given in Fig. 9. The analysis of DCM is similar to that of the analysis of DCM of the proposed converter with A-SL network.

![Fig. 9. Equivalent circuit of proposed converter combined with A-SL and P-SL network in DCM](image)

If $V_{C2} = \frac{V_{i}(1+3D)}{(1-D)^2}$ is put in (12), then $D_2$ is deduced as:

$$D_2 = \frac{-2\pi V_0 (1 - D)^2}{V_i (1-D)^2 - V_i (1+3D)} \quad (24)$$

Again, the volt-second balance of $v_{L4}$ is given by,

$$(V_{C2} + V_{C3}) DT_S = - (V_{C2} - V_{C3}) D_2 T_S$$

Or,

$$V_{C3} = \frac{(D + D_2)(1 + 3D)}{V_i} \quad (25)$$

Therefore, the voltage gain in DCM is:

$$G_{DCM} = \frac{V_{C3}}{V_i} = \frac{(D + D_2)(1 + 3D)}{(D_2 - D)(1 - D)^2}$$

Boundary condition of this proposed converter is also similar to that of the A-SL converter. If we put $D_2 = 1 - D$ and $V_{C2} = V_{C3}(1 - 2D)$, then the time constant of $L_4$ at boundary condition derived from equation (24) is given by,

$$\tau_B = D (1 - D)^2 \quad (26)$$

Thus, it is observed that the time constant is equal to the time constant of the proposed converter with A-SL network.

4. Analysis of the proposed converters

Table 1

| Utilized components and parameters of the proposed converters and the conventional boost converter |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| **A-SL Converter** | **Combined A-SL and P-SL converter** | **Conventional Boost Converter** |
| Voltage gain in CCM | $(\frac{(1+D)}{(1-D)^2(1-2D)})$ | $(\frac{(1+3D)}{(1-D)^2(1-2D)})$ | $\frac{1}{1-D}$ |
| Duty cycle range | $0 < D < 0.5$ | $0 < D < 0.5$ | $0 < D < 1$ |
| No. of Diode | 4 | 10 | 1 |
| No. of Capacitor | 3 | 3 | 1 |
| Maximum voltage stress across switches | $\frac{V_i (1+D)}{(1-D)^2(1-2D)}$ | $\frac{V_i (1+3D)}{(1-D)^2(1-2D)}$ | $\frac{1}{1-D}$ |
| Maximum voltage stress across diodes | $\frac{V_i (1+D)}{(1-D)^2}$ | $\frac{V_i (1+3D)}{(1-D)^2}$ | $\frac{1}{1-D}$ |
| Inductor | 5 | 7 | 1 |
| Time constant at boundary condition | $D (1 - D)^2$ | $D (1 - D)^2$ | $D (1 - D)^2/2$ |

The analysis of the proposed converters is performed based on voltage gain, voltage stress across the switches and diodes, inductor time constant at boundary condition and the number of passive elements. Table 1 shows the comparison between the proposed converters and the conventional boost converter.

From Table 1 it is observed that in CCM the voltage gains of the proposed converters are much higher than that of the conventional boost converter and among the three converters combined A-SL and P-SL converter gives the highest voltage gain. Inductor time constants at boundary condition in the proposed converters are identical and lower than that
of the conventional one for a certain value of duty cycle. This makes the size of the inductor smaller. Moreover, the electromagnetic interference and the conduction loss at the switches in the proposed converters are reduced due to smaller duty cycle.

However, the voltage stress across the diodes and switches in the proposed converters are higher than that of the conventional boost converter. The combined A-SL and P-SL converter suffers the highest voltage stresses across the diode $D_5$ and switches $S_4$ and $S_5$. Hence, the voltage ratings of these components should be higher than the other components. Moreover, the proposed converters involve more components. Therefore, if the required voltage gain is not that much high, then the proposed A-SL converter is preferred to the combined A-SL and P-SL converter because it involves lower number of components. But if an extremely high voltage gain is required, then the combined A-SL and P-SL converter is preferred to the A-SL converter.

5. Simulation results

Table 2

| Parameters          | Value   |
|---------------------|---------|
| Input voltage ($V_i$) | 20 V    |
| Switching Frequency ($f_s$) | 10 kHz |
| Inductors in A-SL and P-SL networks | 1 mH |
| Inductor ($L_3$) | 3 mH    |
| Inductor ($L_4$) | 5 mH    |
| Capacitor ($C_1$) | 1000 µF |
| Capacitor ($C_2$) | 1000 µF |
| Capacitor ($C_3$) | 1000 µF |
| Load across $C_3$ | 100 Ω   |
| Duty Cycle ($D$) | 0.369   |

The proposed converters are designed and implemented by using PSIM 9.0. The circuit parameters taken for the simulation are tabulated in Table 2. Mathematical calculations of the output voltages are done from (5) and (20), and these are found to be 262.46 V and 403.95 V. The simulation gives the values of output voltages very near to the calculated values with a negligible ripple content which is within prescribed tolerable limit [26]. The ripple content is controlled by controlling the value of $C_3$. The output voltages are shown in Fig. 9.

In both of the converters maximum voltage stress occurs across the switches $S_4$ and $S_5$ and are found from (8) and (23). These are found as 262.46 V in A-SL converter and 403.95 V in combined A-SL and P-SL converter respectively. The simulation shows the values very near to the calculated values which are shown in Fig. 10.

![Fig. 9. Output voltages of proposed (a) A-SL converter (b) Combined A-SL and P-SL converter for same duty cycle](image1)

![Fig. 10. Voltage across switch $S_5$ of (a) A-SL converter (b) Combined A-SP and P-SL converter](image2)
voltage across $D_5$ as 596.57 V respectively. Calculated values are very near to the simulated values and are shown in Fig. 11.

![Fig. 11. Voltage across (a) $D_3$ in A-SL converter (b) $D_5$ in combined A-SL and P-SL converter](image)

6. Conclusion

This paper has presented a class of very high gain dc-dc step up converters based on active and passive switched inductor networks. The novel characteristics of the proposed converters are as following:

a) The proposed converters can achieve a very high voltage gain with a small duty cycle i.e. duty cycle less than 0.5 which is nearly impossible for conventional boost converter.

b) Lower inductor time constant at boundary condition which make the size of inductor smaller.

c) The electromagnetic interference problem depending upon the rate of change of current through the switch, and conduction loss of the switch are reduced due to smaller duty cycle.

d) The current stress of the inductors and voltage stress of the switches are reduced by the use of passive switched inductor networks and active switched inductor network respectively.

e) The control complexity is reduced greatly as a single control signal is used for all switches.

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