A family of DC-DC converters with reduced MOSFET voltage stress and a high voltage step-up ratio

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Abstract—This paper introduces a family of DC-DC converters based on impedance source DC-DC converters. The derived topology is suitable for high voltage step-up ratios. Compared to the typical impedance source DC-DC converters, the proposed topology dramatically reduces the voltage stresses on the power semiconductor devices. In order to suppress the voltage spikes and recycle the leakage inductance energy, the passive-lossless clamp scheme is designed in this paper. The paper presents an analysis of the converter and results from a prototype converter to validate the topology's performance.

Index Terms—DC/DC converter,.

I Introduction

As the ways of delivering the world's electrical energy needs is changing, renewable energy sources are being more widely employed. However, renewable energy sources are generally not directly compatible with the grid, for example PV systems, or even for direct connection to inverters. ^{[1]-[3]}. Therefore, high voltage ratio, step-up DC-DC converters are widely used as an interface between the low voltage sources and the inverter [4]. Among the non-isolated converters used the traditional boost converter is a popular choice because of its simple structure [5]. However, if this converter is operated at the extremes of the duty cycles range then the rectifier diode must sustain short pulsed currents with high amplitude when a high voltage gain is required. This operating scenario leads to diode reverse recovery and the electromagnetic interference (EMI) problems. Moreover, the switch suffers from high voltage stress and hence this makes the low resistance MOSFET unavailable. The efficiency will also be lower in high voltage gain applications, it is

difficult for traditional boost converter to achieve both high voltage gain ratio and high efficiency.^{[4]-[6]}

Many topologies have been proposed for high voltage gain applications. These topologies include switched-component techniques (switches-inductor and switched-capacitor), cascaded techniques (output-series and converter-series) and magnetically coupled techniques.^{[7]-[12]} Since the Z source impedance network was introduced [13], many impedance networks have been reported for realizing converters with high voltage gain^[14]. Due to the versatility of the impedance network approach (i.e. DC-DC conversion, DC-AC conversion, AC-AC conversion and AC-DC conversion), it has been used in the high voltage gain application^{[15]-[18]}. However the problem with this approachis that the voltage stress on switch is equal to the output voltage, making high performance MOSFET unavailable As well as adding cost and losses to the system

To solve the above concerns, a family of DC-DC converters has been derived from impedance source DC-DC converters for the high voltage gain applications. In this paper one of the resulting topologies is analyzed as an example, theoretical analysis and experimental results are provided to validate the operation of the converter.

II Existing X-source network

Since the Z source network is presented in $2003^{[13]}$, various X-source networks have been further developed to provide an efficient means of converting power with a wider range of voltage gain^[14]. Lots of voltage boosting technology, such as coupled inductor, switched inductor and so on, have also been applied in the X source networks. They typically include Γ source (Fig.1(a)), T source (Fig.1(b)), new type T source (Fig.1(c)), switched coupled inductor Z (SCL-Z) source (Fig.1(d)), basic Z source (Fig.1(e)), switched inductor Z source (Fig.1(f)), switched coupled inductor Z source (Fig.1(g)), Sigma Z source (Fig.1(h)), TZ source (Fig.1(i)), Tau source (Fig.1(j)) and Y source networks (Fig.1(k)).























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A







Fig.1 X source networks III A family of high step up DC-DC converters stems from X-source network

A. X-source DC-DC converters

(i)

It is known that the X-source network can be applied to DC-DC, DC-AC, AC-AC and AC-DC power conversion^[13]. Among four conversion forms, the DC-AC power conversion is the most widely studied. The DC-DC converters stem from X-source network have recently been studied. By adding the typical boost converter output structure, X source DC-DC converters can be obtained. As shown in Fig.2, Y source DC-DC converter can efficiently boost the low voltage to the high voltage^[15].



Fig.2 Y source DC-DC converters

The similar methods can be applied to the Γ source network (Fig.3(a)), T source network (Fig.3(b)), new type T source network (Fig.3(c)), switched coupled inductor Z (SCL-Z) source network (Fig.3(d)), basic Z source network (Fig.3(e)), switched inductor Z source network (Fig.3(f)), switched coupled inductor Z source network(Fig.3(g)), Sigma Z source network (Fig.3(h)), TZ source network (Fig.3(i)) and Tau source network (Fig.3(j)). Then, the X source DC-DC converters can be obtained.

(j)























Fig.3 X source DC-DC converters

B. The existing problems in X-source DC-DC converters

Based on Fig.3, the generalized X source DC-DC converters structure can be represented as shown in Fig.4 (a). As the voltage stress on the power switch is equal to the output voltage, it is impossible to use the low voltage rated MOSFET. This is not beneficial for the improvement of performance of the converter. Therefore , how to find a way to reduce the voltage stress on the power switch, this is the key point.



Fig.4 (a) The generalized X source DC-DC converter structure (b) The essence of reducing the voltage stress on the power switch

C. The deduced high step-up DC-DC converters with reduced voltage stress on MOSFET

The essence of reducing the voltage stress on the power switch is adding the voltage source between the output capacitor and the power switch as shown in Fig.4 (b). Therefore, in order to make the low voltage rated MOSFET available, the power switch S in the X source DC-DC converters can be reasonably moved forward, meanwhile, the position of some components need to be changed. Then, a family of basic high step up DC-DC converters can be deduced as shown in Fig.5. According to the basic inductor voltage-second balance principle, Table I shows the gains and switch voltage stresses of converters from Fig.5.



























Fig. 5 A family of basic high step up DC-DC converters

Topology	Ideal voltage gain	Ideal voltage stress on the power switch
Fig.4(a)	$\frac{N_1 - N_2 + DN_2}{(N_1 - N_2)(1 - D)}$	$\frac{N_{1} - N_{2}}{N_{1} - N_{2} + DN_{2}} V_{0}$
Fig.4(b)	$\frac{1+DN_2/N_1}{1-D}$	$\frac{V_{\rm o}}{1+DN_2/N_1}$
Fig.4(c)	$\frac{1+DN_2/N_1}{1-D}$	$\frac{V_{\rm o}}{1+DN_2/N_1}$
Fig.4(d)	$\frac{(N_1 - N_2) + D(N_2 + N_3)}{(1 - D)(N_1 - N_2)}$	$\frac{(N_1 - N_2)V_0}{D(N_2 + N_3) + (N_1 - N_2)}$
Fig.4(e)	$\frac{N_1 + N_2 D}{N_1 (1 - D)}$	$\frac{V_{\rm o}}{1+DN_2/N_1}$
Fig.4(f)	$\frac{1+D}{1-D}$	$\frac{V_{\rm o}}{1+D}$
Fig.4(g)	$\frac{1+3D}{1-D}$	$\frac{(1+D)}{1+3D}V_{\rm O}$
Fig.4(h)	$\frac{1 + (2N_2/N_1 + 1)D}{1 - D}$	$\frac{1 + DN_2/N_1}{1 + (2N_2/N_1 + 1)D}V_0$
Fig.4(i)	$\frac{N_1 - N_3 + D(N_1 + N_3)}{(N_1 - N_3)(1 - D)}$	$\frac{N_{1}-N_{3}}{N_{1}-N_{3}+D(N_{1}+N_{3})}V_{0}$
Fig.4(j)	$\frac{D(2N_2+N_1)+N_1}{N_1(1-D)}$	$\frac{N_{1}}{D(2N_{2}+N_{1})+N_{1}}V_{0}$
Fig.4(k)	$\frac{(N_1 - N_2) + D(N_1 + N_2 + 2N_3)}{(1 - D)(N_1 - N_2)}$	$\frac{(N_1 - N_2)V_0}{(N_1 - N_2) + D(N_1 + N_2 + 2N_3)}$

Table I Gains and switch voltage stresses of basic converters

IV Operational principle of the proposed converter

In this part, Fig.5 (a) is analyzed in more detail as the representative of the family of basic high step up converters proposed in part II. As the leakage inductor induces high voltage spike on the MOSFET, thus, the diode-capacitor clamped circuit is introduced into the main circuit as shown Fig.6 (a). Fig.6 (b) shows the equivalent circuit of the proposed converter (where $I = I \sim V$). Among Fig.6 (b), the coupled inductor is modeled as the magnetizing inductance L_M , the leakage inductance L_k and ideal transformer.



Fig.6 (a) The proposed converter with the clamped circuit, (b) the equivalent circuit of the proposed

converter

To simplify the circuit analysis, the following conditions are assumed

(a) Capacitors C_1 , C_c and C_o are large enough that the voltages on them are considered to be constant

in one switching period.

(b) The power MOSFET and diodes are treated as ideal, but the parasitic capacitor of the power

switch is considered.

(3) The coupling coefficient of the coupled inductor K is equal to $L_M/(L_M+L_k)$ and the turns ratio of coupled inductor N is equal to N_1/N_2 .



Fig.7 The operational waveforms of the proposed converter

A.CCM Operation

In the CCM operation, there are five operating modes in one switching period of the proposed converter. Fig.7 shows the operational waveforms and Fig.8 shows the current-flow path of the proposed converter for each modes. Here, the operating modes are described in detail.

Mode I $[t_0, t_1]$: In this transition interval, the switch S starts to conduct. The diodes D_1 and D_2 are reverse biased. Diode D_0 is forward biased. The current-flow path is shown in Fig.8 (a). The leakage inductance L_k and magnetizing inductance L_m are charged by the input source V_{in} . The leakage inductor current i_{L_k} increases linearly. The current diode i_{D_0} decreases. The parasitic capacitor of the

switch S discharges timely. The input source V_{in} , magnetizing inductance L_{m} and capacitor C_1 are in series to provide energy to the output capacitor C_0 and load R. When the current i_{D_0} becomes zero, this operating mode ends.

Mode II $[t_1, t_2]$: In this transition interval, the switch is still turned on. Diode D_2 is forward biased. Diodes D_1 and D_0 are reverse biased. The current-flow path is shown in Fig.8 (b). The leakage inductor current i_{L_k} and secondary-side current i_{N_2} increase approximately linearly. Meanwhile, the capacitor C_1 is charged by the secondary-side winding N_2 and capacitor C_c . The output capacitor provides energy to the load. When the switch S is turned off at $t=t_2$, this interval is finished.

Mode III $[t_2, t_3]$: In this transition interval, the switch S is turned off. Diodes D_1 and D_0 are reverse biased. Diode D_2 is forward biased. Fig.8(c) shows the current-flow path. The energy of the leakage inductance L_k is released to the parasitic capacitor of the switch S. The output capacitor provides energy to the load. When the voltage stress on the switch S is equal to the voltage capacitor C_c , diode D_1 begins to conduct, this mode ends.

Mode IV $[t_3, t_4]$: In this transition interval, the switch S is turned off. Diode D_2 is reverse biased. Diodes D_1 and D_0 are forward biased. The current-flow path is shown in Fig.8 (d). The energy of leakage inductor is transferred into the clamped capacitor C_c . The input source, magnetizing inductor, and the capacitor C_1 provide energy to the output capacitor C_0 and the load. When the diode current i_{D1} decreases to zero at $t=t_4$, this mode ends.

Mode V $[t_4, t_5]$: In this transition interval, the switch is turned off. Diodes D_1 and D_2 are reverse biased. Diode D_0 is forward biased. The current-flow path is shown in Fig.8 (e). The input source, magnetizing inductor together with blocking capacitor C_1 provide energy to the output capacitor C_0 and the load. When the switch S begins to conduct at $t=t_5$, the new switching period begins.



Fig.8 The operational modes of the proposed converter. (a) Mode I. (b) Mode II. (c) Mode III. (d) Mode IV. (e) Mode V.

V Performance analysis of the proposed converter

A. Voltage gain expression

When the proposed converter operates in CCM mode, since the time durations of modes I and III is very transient, therefore, the two modes are neglected. During the time duration of mode II, the following equations can be expressed based on Fig.8 (b),

$$V_{LII} + \frac{1-K}{K} V_{LII} - \frac{N_2}{N_1} V_{LII} = V_{in}$$
(1)

$$V_{C1} = V_{Cc} + \frac{N_2}{N_1} V_{LII}$$
(2)

During the time duration of mode IV, the following equation can be derived as,

$$V_{LV} + \frac{1 - K}{K} V_{LV} - \frac{N_2}{N_1} V_{LV} + V_{Cc} = V_{in}$$
(3)

During the time duration of modes IV and V, the following expression can be written as,

$$V_{LV} + \frac{1 - K}{K} V_{LV} - V_{C1} + V_{o} = V_{in}$$
(4)

By applying the volt-second balance principle on magnetizing inductor L_M , the following equation is given,

$$\int_{0}^{DT_{s}} V_{LII} dt + \int_{DT_{s}}^{T_{s}} V_{LV} dt = 0$$
(5)

And substituting (1) and (3) into (4), collecting the terms, the voltage expressions of capacitor V_{Cc} and V_{LV} are obtained as

$$V_{Cc} = \frac{1}{1 - D} V_{in} \tag{6}$$

$$V_{LV} = \frac{V_{\rm in}D}{\frac{1}{K} - \frac{N_2}{N_1}} * \frac{-1}{1 - D}$$
(7)

From (1), (2) and (6), the voltage stress on the capacitor C_1 can be obtained as

$$V_{C1} = V_{in} \left(\frac{1}{1 - D} + \frac{KN_2}{N_1 - KN_2} \right)$$
(8)

Finally, based on the equations (4), (7) and (8), the voltage conversion gain can be computed as

$$M = \frac{1}{1 - D} + \frac{1}{1 - D} * \frac{N_1}{N_1 - KN_2}$$
(9)

The schematic of the voltage gain versus the duty cycle under various coupling coefficients is shown in Fig. 9. It is seen that as the K decreases, the voltage gain increases. When K is equal to 1, the ideal voltage gain is written as



Fig.9 The effect of the coupling coefficient on the voltage gain under N=2

Fig.10 shows the ideal voltage gain comparison versus the duty ratio and turns ratio of the proposed converter as compared with the converters in previous papers [4] and [7]. As the turns ratio *N* decreases, the voltage conversion gain increases dramatically. This performance is contrary to other high step up DC-DC converters.



Fig.10 Voltage gain comparison versus duty cycle and turns ratio of the proposed converter

B. Voltage stress analysis

According to the above analysis, the voltage stresses across the switch S and diodes are derived from

$$V_{\rm S} = V_{D_{\rm I}} = \frac{1}{1 - D} V_{\rm in} \tag{11}$$

$$V_{D_{0}} = V_{D_{2}} = \frac{N}{(1-D)(N-1)} V_{\text{in}}$$
(12)

The voltage stresses on the power switch S and diodes related to the output voltage and turns ratio can be expressed as

$$V_{\rm S} = V_{D_{\rm I}} = \frac{N-1}{2N-1} V_o \tag{13}$$

$$V_{D_o} = V_{D_2} = \frac{N}{2N - 1} V_o \tag{14}$$

The relationship between the normalized voltage stresses on the semiconductor components and the turns ratio N is illustrated in Fig. 11. As the turns ratio decreases (voltage gain increases), the voltage stresses of switch S and diode D_1 also decrease. Although the voltage stresses of diodes D_2 and D_0 are increased, it is below the output voltage.



Fig. 11 The normalized voltage stresses on the semiconductor components

C. Current stress analysis



Fig. 12 The simplified waveforms of the proposed converter

In order to simplify the current calculation, the extremely short time interval $[t_0 - t_1]$ and $[t_2 - t_3]$ is neglected. The magnetizing current is considered to be a constant as the magnetizing inductance L_M is large enough. Other parasitic factors are also ignored. The simplified waveforms are shown in Fig.12.

According to the current balance law, the average currents of the output diode D_0 and diode D_2 in its turn on condition are,

$$I_{D_{0}[t_{2},t_{5}]} = I_{0} / (1 - D)$$
(15)

$$I_{D_2[t_0,t_2]} = I_0 / D \tag{16}$$

Based on the charge balance principle of capacitor $C_{\rm c}$, the time interval t_{24} and t_{45} can be derived

as

$$t_{24} = t_c = \frac{2(1-D)(N-1)}{2N-1}T_s \tag{17}$$

$$t_{45} = \frac{(1-D)}{2N-1}T_{S}$$
(18)

Thus, according to the current balance law, the average current of the clamped diode D_1 in its turn on condition is:

$$I_{D_{1}[t_{2},t_{4}]} = \frac{I_{o}(2N-1)}{2(1-D)(N-1)}$$
(19)

During the time interval $[t_2, t_5]$, while using KCL, at junction points of the primary side N_1 of the coupled inductor, the secondary side N_2 of the coupled inductor, and multiplier capacitor C_1 , the average current of the leakage inductor can be written as

$$I_{L_{k}[t_{2},t_{5}]} = \frac{2I_{o}}{1-D}$$
(20)

According to the magnetic flux conservation principle and Fig.12, the following expression can be deduced

$$N_{1}I_{L_{k}[t_{0},t_{2}]} - N_{2}I_{N2[t_{0},t_{2}]} = N_{1}I_{L_{k}[t_{2},t_{5}]} - N_{2}I_{N2[t_{2},t_{4}]}$$
(21)

Meanwhile,

$$I_{N2[t_0,t_2]} = I_{L_k[t_0,t_2]} + I_{D_2[t_0,t_2]}$$
(22)

Collecting the terms, $I_{N2[t_0,t_2]}$ can be computed as

$$I_{N2[t_0,t_2]} = I_o \frac{D(2N^2 - 4N + 1) + 2N(N - 1)}{2D(1 - D)(N - 1)^2}$$
(23)

Then, the RMS value of switch S is,

$$I_{\text{RMS-S}} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{T_s} \int_0^{DT_s} \left(I_{N2[t_0, t_2]} - 0.5\Delta I_L + \frac{\Delta I_L}{DT_s} t \right)^2} dt = \frac{D(2N^2 - 4N + 1) + 2N(N - 1)}{2D(1 - D)(N - 1)^2} I_o \sqrt{D} \sqrt{\frac{K^2}{12} + 1}$$
(24)

Where *K* is the coefficient of inductor current ripple ($\Delta I_L = K I_{L_k[t_0, t_2]}$).

D. The effect of parasitic parameters on the voltage gain

In fact, the winding resistances of the coupled inductor, the conduction resistors of switch, and diode forward voltage have a little impact of the voltage gain. To simplify voltage gain analysis affected by the parasitic parameters, the leakage inductance is taken as zero. The primary sides and secondary sides of coupled inductors are equaled to R_{N1} and R_{N2} , respectively. The conduction resistor of switch is equaled to $R_{\rm s}$. The diode forward voltage is equaled to V_d and the resistors of diodes are equaled to R_d . Fig.13 shows the simplified circuit affected by the parasitic parameters of proposed converter, where t_j is represented by t_0, t_2, t_4, t_5 .^[19]



Fig.13 Simplified circuit for voltage gain analysis affected by parasitic parameters

From Fig.13 and Fig.12, when the switch is turned on, during the time interval $[t_0, t_2]$, the voltage across the winding N_1 can be expressed as

$$V_{N1[t_0,t_2]} = \frac{V_{\rm in} - R_{N1}I_{N1[t_0,t_2]} - (R_{N2} + R_{\rm S})(I_{N1[t_0,t_2]} + I_{D2})}{1 - N_2/N_1}$$
(25)

Meanwhile,

$$V_{C1} = \frac{N_2}{N_1} V_{N1[t_0, t_2]} + V_{Cc} - V_d - R_d I_{D2} - (R_{N2} + R_S) (I_{N1[t_0, t_2]} + I_{D2})$$
(26)

When the switch is turned off, the voltage across the winding N_1 can be expressed as

$$V_{NI[t_2,t_5]} = \frac{V_{\rm in} - V_d - V_{Cc} - R_{NI} I_{NI[t_2,t_5]} - (R_{N2} + R_d) I_{NI[t_2,t_4]}}{1 - N_2 / N_1}$$
(27)

$$V_{N1[t_2,t_5]} = V_{\rm in} - V_{\rm o} - V_d + V_{C1} - R_d I_{D0} - R_{N1} I_{N1[t_2,t_5]}$$
(28)

Combining (25)-(28), and collecting terms, then the voltage gain can be obtained as

$$M_{\rm pa} = \frac{\frac{2N-1}{(1-D)(N-1)} - 3\frac{V_d}{V_{\rm in}}}{1 + R_{N1}A + (R_{N2} + R_{\rm s})B + (R_{N2} + R_{\rm d})\frac{2N-1}{2R(1-D)(N-1)} + R_d \frac{1}{DR(1-D)}}$$
(29)

Where,

$$A = \frac{(2ND - 2D + 1)(D(4N^2 - 8N + 3) + 2(N - 1))}{2DR(1 - D)^2(N - 1)^3} + \frac{4}{R(1 - D)}$$
$$B = \frac{N(D(4N^2 - 8N + 3) + 2(N - 1))}{2DR(1 - D)(N - 1)^3} + \frac{N}{R(N - 1)D} + \frac{(2N - 1)(D(2N^2 - 4N + 1) + 2N(N - 1))}{2R(1 - D)^2(N - 1)^3}$$

It can be seen that the voltage gain is affected by the parasitic parameters including resistors and diode forward voltage. Once the circuit components are ideal, expression (10) can be obtained. In fact, the parasitic resistors of the circuit component are rather smaller than the output resistor. Therefore, their impact on the voltage can be ignored in practical circuit design.

VI Leakage energy solution of other converters

The passive-lossless clamp scheme can be employed for other deduced converters in part II as shown in Fig.14. With the simple but effective passive lossless circuits, the leakage energy is recycled and the voltage spikes are absorbed. So the efficiency of the converter is improved^[20].







Fig.14 A family of basic high step up DC-DC converters with passive lossless circuits **VII Experimental verification**

A 400W prototype converter with high step up ratio has been implemented and tested. Table I shows

TABLE I System specifications of the proposed converter			
Input voltage V_{in}	48V		
Output voltage V_{o}	380V		
Rated power P_{o}	400W		
Switching frequency f_s	50kHz		
MOSFET Switches S,	IRFP4668		
Diodes D_o, D_{c1}, D_{c2}	VF30200,MUR460, IDH08G65C5		
Output capacitor C_o	470 µF		
Capacitor C_c, C_{c1}	12.4 μF ,8.8 μF (several capacitors in		
	parallel)		
Coupled inductors	EE55, $N_{\rm P}: N_{\rm S} = 30: 16$,		

the specifications and circuit components, respectively, used in the proposed converter.

Fig.15 (a) shows the experimental waveforms of driver signal $V_{\rm g}$, voltage stresses on switch S and

diode D_1 , V_s and V_{D1} . Although the leakage inductance of the coupled inductor can induce voltage spike on the switch S, the voltage V_s is clamped about 130V. This makes the low resistance MOSFET available. Thus, it is beneficial for the efficiency improvement. The voltage V_{D1} is also about 130V. Fig. 15 (b) shows the measured waveforms of V_{D2} and V_{D0} . The voltage stresses on them is about 260V. Fig. 15 (c) shows the experimental waveforms of all the capacitors. The voltage stresses, V_{Cc} , V_{C1} and V_0 are respectively about 130V, 180V and 380V. Fig. 15 (d) and (e) show the experimental waveforms of currents i_{N1} , i_{N2} , i_{D2} and i_{D0} . They are all corresponding to the theoretical analysis. In addition, as shown in Fig. 15 (d), the current i_{N2} decreases to zero naturally. It means there is no reverse recovery problem in diode D_1 .

TABLE II Comparison of RMS current				
between theoretical value and experimental value				
S1 Duty cycle	Theoretical value	Experimental value		
0.5	6.9	7.1		
0.62	8.3	8.7		
0.7	10	10.5		

The experimental RMS of the power switch current is in contrast to the theoretical value based on equation (24), as shown in Table II. Because of parasitic parameters, measurement error and so on, they are not absolutely the same. But, equation (24) can still be a good reference for choosing the switch.







Figs. 15 Experimental waveforms of the proposed converter

The efficiency of the proposed converter measured per 50W is illustrated in Fig.16. The maximum efficiency is about 96.5%.



In this paper, a family of DC-DC converters is deduced from impedance source DC-DC converters for high step up conversion. The voltage ratio characteristic of impedance source converters is used in the proposed converters, and the shortcomings of the impedance source converters, i.e. high voltage stress on mosfet, are avoided. The voltage stresses on the switches in the proposed converters are greatly reduced. In addition, in order to suppress the voltage spike induced by the leakage energy, the passive clamp circuit is applied. Therefore, it makes the low resistance mosfet available, and the efficiency is improved. At last, the experiment results verify the theoretical analysis.

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