

# A Passive Lossless Snubber Cell for Nonisolated PWM DC/DC Converters

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**Abstract**—A passive lossless snubber cell is proposed to improve the turn-on and turnoff transients of the MOSFET's in nonisolated pulsewidth modulated (PWM) dc/dc converters. Switching losses and EMI noise are reduced by restricting  $di/dt$  of the reverse-recovery current and  $dv/dt$  of the drain-source voltage. The MOSFET operates at zero-voltage-switching (ZVS) turnoff and near zero-current-switching (ZCS) turn-on. The freewheeling diode is also commutated under ZVS. As an example, operation principles, theoretical analysis, relevant equations, and experimental results of a boost converter equipped with the proposed snubber cell are presented in detail. Efficiency of 96% has also been measured in the experimental results reported for a 1-kW 100-kHz prototype in the laboratory. Six basic nonisolated PWM dc/dc converters (buck, boost, buck-boost, Cúk, Sepic, and Zeta) equipped with the proposed general snubber cells are also shown in this paper.

**Index Terms**— Converters, pulsewidth modulation, switching circuits.

## I. INTRODUCTION

PULSEWIDTH modulated (PWM) dc/dc converters have been widely used as switched-mode power supplies in industry. The PWM technique is praised for its high power capability and ease of control. Higher power density and faster transient response of PWM dc/dc converters can be achieved by increasing the switching frequency. However, as the switching frequency increases, so do the switching losses and EMI noise. High switching losses reduce the power capabilities, while serious EMI noise interferes with the control of PWM dc/dc converters.

Switching losses and EMI noise of PWM dc/dc converters are mainly generated during turn-on and turnoff switching transients. According to [1], there are three nonideal commutation phenomena when MOSFET's are used as power switches.

- 1) A surge current flows through the MOSFET, caused by the reverse-recovery current of the freewheeling diode during the turn-on process. This is the dominant source of turn-on loss and  $di/dt$  EMI noise.
- 2) Discharge of the parasitic drain-source capacitance of the MOSFET occurs during the turn-on process. This mechanism can be eliminated only by resonant converter techniques or active snubbers.

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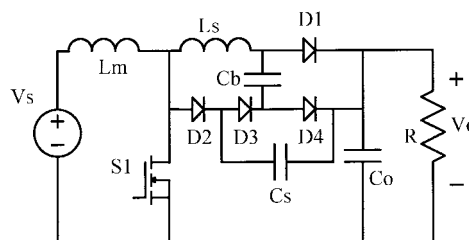


Fig. 1. A boost converter with the passive lossless snubber.

- 3) Fast increase of the drain-source voltage during the turnoff process occurs. This is the source of  $dv/dt$  EMI noise and turnoff loss.

To improve the problems resulting from the nonideal phenomena described above, several kinds of soft-switching technologies have been presented in the literature [2]–[13]. Active snubbers, as introduced in [2]–[5], can reduce all three loss mechanisms by using auxiliary switches. Unfortunately, an auxiliary switch increases the complexity of both power and control circuits. Synchronization problems between control signals of the two switches during transient also complicate the control strategy. The circuit cost is increased and the reliability is decreased by using active snubbers. Resistors, capacitors, and diodes (RCD) snubbers in [6] have the simplest structures and, hence, the lowest costs. However, they also have the worst performance, since the switching losses are dissipated in resistors and, thus, reduce the efficiency of the circuit. Resonant converters in [7] and [8] commutate with either zero voltage switching (ZVS) or zero current switching (ZCS) to reduce switching losses. However, conduction losses are increased due to the high circulating current involved. It is also hard to design an EMI filter and control circuit because of a wide switching frequency range. Compared with the three technologies discussed above, a passive lossless snubber can effectively restrict switching losses and EMI noise using no active components and no power dissipative components [9]–[13]. Increasing the rates of the drain current and the drain-source voltage are restricted by inductors and capacitors, respectively. The control strategy is scarcely interfered with and the circulating energy generated is comparatively low. The circuit structure is as simple as RCD snubbers and the efficiency is as high as active snubbers and resonant converters. Low cost, high performance, and high reliability are the distinct advantages of a passive lossless snubber.

As an example, a boost converter equipped with the proposed snubber cell is investigated in depth. Snubber operation principles are analyzed and component parameters can be

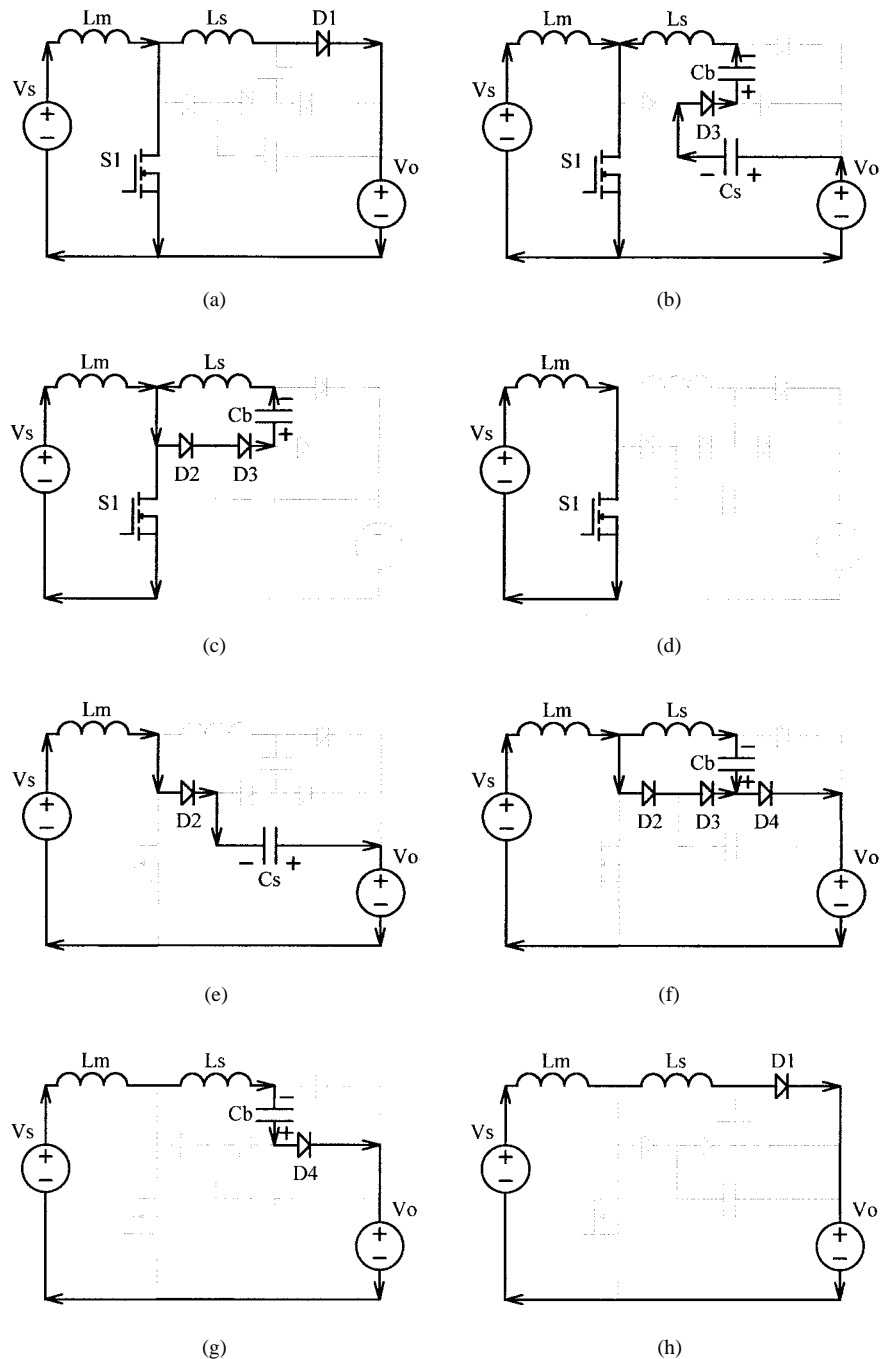


Fig. 2. Equivalent circuits during one switching cycle. (a) Stage 1 ( $S_1$  on). (b) Stage 2 ( $D_1$  off,  $D_3$  on). (c) Stage 3 ( $D_2$  on). (d) Stage 4 ( $D_2, D_3$  off). (e) Stage 5 ( $S_1$  off,  $D_2$  on). (f) Stage 6 ( $D_3, D_4$  on). (g) Stage 7 ( $D_2, D_3$  off). (h) Stage 8 ( $D_1$  on,  $D_4$  off).

mathematically determined. Experimental results of a 1-kW 100-kHz boost converter are used to verify the analysis. Formation of the general snubber cell is also discussed. Six basic nonisolated PWM dc/dc converters equipped with the proposed snubber cells are illustrated in this paper.

## II. A BOOST CONVERTER WITH THE PROPOSED SNUBBER CELL

### A. Principle of Operation

Shown in Fig. 1 is a boost converter with the proposed passive lossless snubber cell, which is encircled by dotted lines.

During the turn-on process, injected charges in the low-doped middle region of diode  $D_1$  cause transient reverse-recovery current flowing reversely through diode  $D_1$ . The surge current is the major part of the switching losses. Increasing the rate of the reverse-recovery current is restricted by the snubber inductor  $L_s$  to suppress the switching loss. The MOSFET commutates near ZCS turn-on, since part of the turn-on loss resulting from the discharge of the parasitic drain-source capacitance cannot be removed by a passive snubber.

During the turnoff process, the drain-source voltage increases immediately to the output voltage. Fast  $dv/dt$  increases

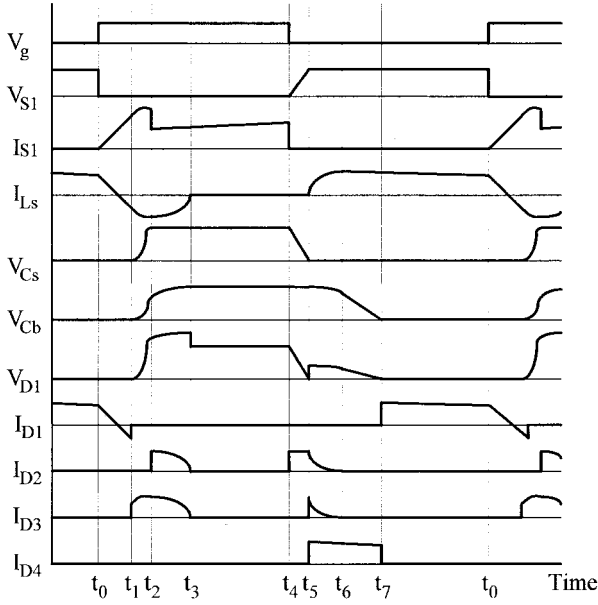


Fig. 3. Key waveforms of the boost converter with the passive lossless snubber cell.

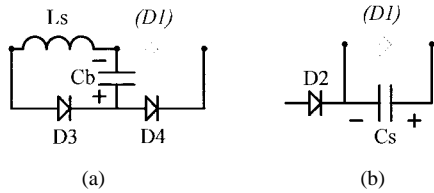


Fig. 4. General passive lossless turn-on and turnoff snubber cell. (a) Turn-on snubber cell. (b) Turnoff snubber cell.

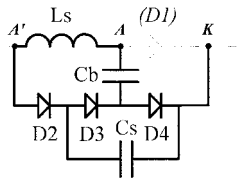


Fig. 5. The general passive lossless snubber cell proposed for nonisolated PWM dc/dc converters.

the turnoff loss and, of more importance, it generates serious EMI noise. Increasing the rate of the drain–source voltage is restricted by the snubber capacitor  $C_s$  to obtain ZVS turnoff and to reduce EMI noise. Notice that the freewheeling diode is also commutated under ZVS during both turn-on and turnoff.

Turn-on and turnoff switching losses are reduced by the snubber inductor and the snubber capacitor, respectively. The energy transferred to the buffer capacitor  $C_b$  can be viewed as the summation of the energy absorbed in snubber inductor  $L_s$  and snubber capacitor  $C_s$ . Energy recovery is achieved by discharging the buffer capacitor  $C_b$  to the output. Ideally, no power is dissipated or accumulated in the passive components of this snubber.

TABLE I  
PARTS LIST OF THE IMPLEMENTED PROTOTYPE POWER CIRCUIT

Part	Type	Part	Value
S	IRFP460	$L_s$	5 $\mu$ H
$D_1$	HFA15TB60	$C_s$	3.3nF
$D_2$	HFA15TB60	$C_b$	100nF
$D_3$	HFA15TB60	L	180 $\mu$ H
$D_4$	HFA15TB60	C	940 $\mu$ F

B. Equivalent Circuit Analysis

To analyze the steady-state operation of the circuit shown in Fig. 1, the following assumptions are made during one switching cycle.

- 1) The output capacitor  $C_o$  is large enough to assume that the output voltage  $V_o$  is constant and ripple free.
- 2) Input voltage  $V_s$  is constant.
- 3) All semiconductor devices are ideal, except the free-wheeling diode  $D_1$ .
- 4) Main inductor  $L_m$  is much greater than snubber inductor  $L_s$ .

Based on these assumptions, circuit operation in one switching cycle can be divided into eight stages, as shown in Fig. 2(a)–(h), respectively.

Combining the turn-on and turnoff snubber cells described above, the proposed passive lossless snubber cell for nonisolated PWM dc/dc converters is defined and shown in Fig. 5. Node  $A$  and  $K$  are connected to the anode and the cathode of the converter freewheeling diode  $D_1$ , respectively. Node  $A'$  is connected to the component which is connected to the anode of the freewheeling diode.

*Stage 1* [Fig. 2(a);  $t_0 < t < t_1$ ]:  $S_1$  turns on at  $t_0$ . During the turn-on process,  $D_1$  is not immediately turned off because of the reverse-recovery phenomenon. Increasing the rate of the drain current is restricted by the snubber inductor to achieve ZCS turn-on of the MOSFET. The current of the snubber inductor  $L_s$  is given by

$$I_{Ls}(t) = I_{Lm}(t_0) - \frac{V_o}{L_s}(t - t_0). \quad (1)$$

*Stage 2* [Fig. 2(b);  $t_1 < t < t_2$ ]: The reverse-recovery phenomenon finishes at  $t_1$ . As soon as  $D_1$  is turned off, diode  $D_3$  is naturally turned on, because  $V_{C_s}$  and  $V_{C_b}$  are equal to zero. Snubber inductor  $L_s$ , snubber capacitor  $C_s$ , and buffer capacitor  $C_b$  are charged by the output through the first resonant path  $V_o - C_s - D_3 - C_b - L_s - S_1$ . Increasing the rate of the voltage across  $D_1$ , which is equal to  $V_{C_s} + V_{C_b}$ , is restricted to achieve ZVS turnoff of the freewheeling diode  $D_1$ . Snubber inductor current, snubber capacitor voltage, and buffer capacitor voltage are

$$I_{Ls}(t) = -\frac{V_o}{Z_1} \sin(\omega_1(t - t_1)) - I_{rr} \cos(\omega_1(t - t_1)) \quad (2)$$

$$V(t) = I_{rr} Z_1 \sin(\omega_1(t - t_1)) - V_o \cos(\omega_1(t - t_1)) + V_o \quad (3)$$

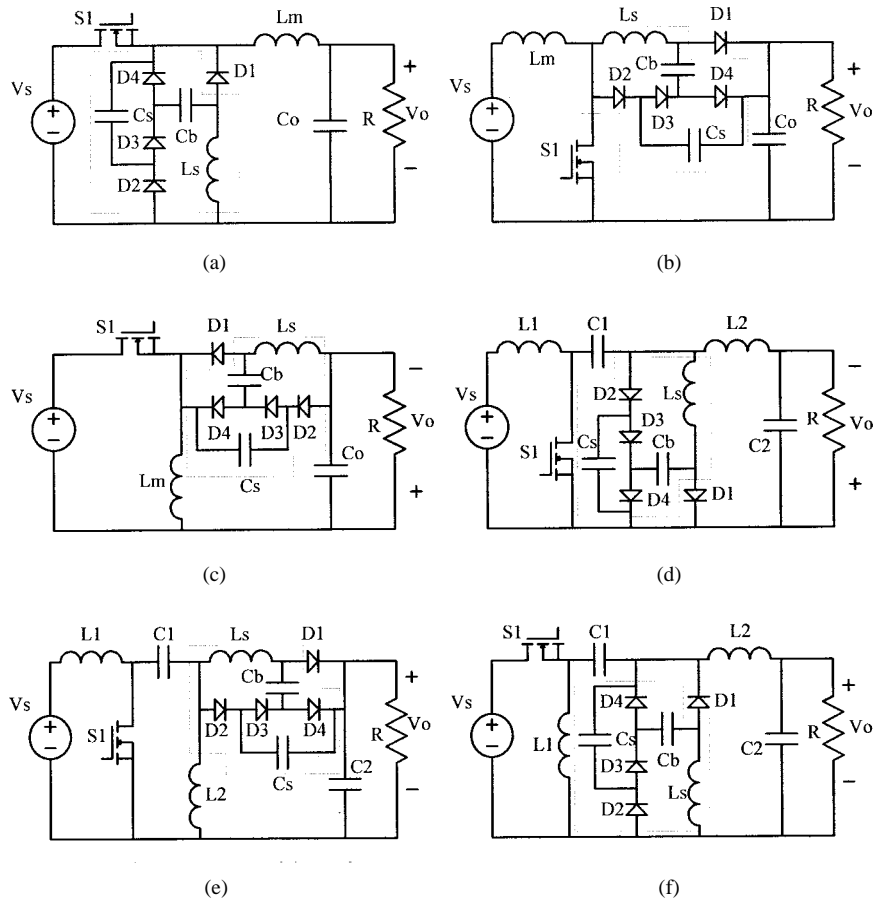


Fig. 6. Six basic nonisolated PWM dc/dc converters with the proposed snubber cells. (a) Buck converter with snubber. (b) Boost converter with snubber. (c) Buck-boost converter with snubber. (d) Cúk converter with snubber. (e) Sepic converter with snubber. (f) Zeta converter with snubber.

$$V_{Cs}(t) = \frac{C_b}{C_S + C_b} V(t), \quad V_{Cb}(t) = \frac{C_S}{C_S + C_b} V(t) \quad (4)$$

where

$$I_{rr} = \frac{V_O}{L_S} (t_1 - t_0) - I_{Lm}(t_0) \quad (5)$$

$$Z_1 = \sqrt{\frac{L_S(C_S + C_b)}{C_S C_b}} \quad (6)$$

$$\omega_1 = \sqrt{\frac{C_S + C_b}{L_S C_S + C_b}}. \quad (7)$$

Peak drain current of the switch  $S_1$  is obtained by the summation of main inductor current  $I_{Lm}$  and peak snubber inductor current  $I_{Ls,p}$ .  $I_{Ls,p}$  appears when  $V_{Cb} + V_{Cs}$  is equal to  $V_o$ , and it is given by

$$I_{Ls,p} = \frac{\sqrt{V_O^2 + (I_{rr} Z_1)^2}}{Z_1}. \quad (8)$$

The first resonance stops at  $t_2$  when  $V_{Cs}(t_2)$  equals  $V_o$ , because diode  $D_2$  is turned on. By using the reciprocity theorem, snubber inductor current at  $t_2$  is given by

$$I_{Ls}(t_2) = \frac{\sqrt{(I_{rr} Z_1)^2 + V_O^2 - \left(V_O \frac{C_S}{C_b}\right)^2}}{Z_1}. \quad (9)$$

From (9), the energy stored in  $L_s$  and  $C_s$  can be given by

$$\begin{aligned} E_{Ls}(t_2) + E_{Cs}(t_2) &= \frac{1}{2} L_S I_{Ls}^2(t_2) + \frac{1}{2} C_b V_{Cb}^2(t_2) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} L_S I_{rr}^2 + \frac{1}{2} C_S V_O^2. \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

*Stage 3* [Fig. 2(c);  $t_2 < t < t_3$ ]: After  $V_{Cs}$  is charged to the output voltage level at  $t_2$ ,  $D_2$  is turned on and  $V_{Cs}$  keeps constant. The current in  $L_s$  starts to charge  $C_b$  through the second resonant path  $L_s - D_2 - D_3 - C_b$ .  $L_s$  and  $C_b$  are performing one-way resonance because of diodes  $D_2$  and  $D_3$ . The current through  $L_s$  and the voltage across  $C_b$  are given by

$$I_{Ls}(t) = \frac{C_S V_O}{C_b Z_2} \sin(\omega_2(t - t_2)) - I_{S2} \cos(\omega_2(t - t_2)) \quad (11)$$

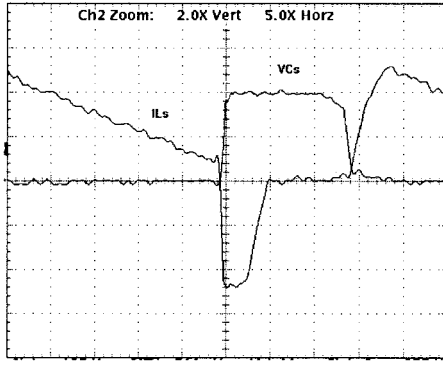
$$V_{Cb}(t) = I_{S2} Z_2 \sin(\omega_2(t - t_2)) + \frac{C_S}{C_b} V_O \cos(\omega_2(t - t_2)) \quad (12)$$

where

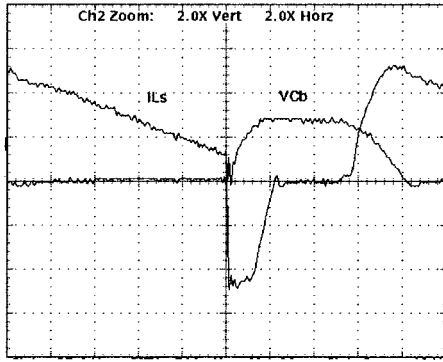
$$I_{S2} = \frac{V_O}{Z_1} \sin(\omega_1(t_2 - t_1)) + I_{rr} \cos(\omega_1(t_2 - t_1)) \quad (13)$$

$$Z_2 = \sqrt{\frac{L_S}{C_b}} \quad (14)$$

$$\omega_2 = \sqrt{\frac{1}{L_S C_b}}. \quad (15)$$



(a)



(b)

Fig. 7. Waveforms of snubber inductor current  $I_{Ls}$ , snubber capacitor voltage  $V_{Cs}$ , and buffer capacitor voltage  $V_{Cb}$ .  $V_{Cs}$ : 200 V/div;  $V_{Cb}$ : 25 V/div;  $I_{Ls}$ : 2 A/div; Time 1  $\mu$ s/div. (a) Waveforms of  $I_{Ls}$  and  $V_{Cs}$ . (b) Waveforms of  $I_{Ls}$  and  $V_{Cb}$ .

The second resonance stops at  $t_3$  when  $I_{Ls}(t_3)$  becomes 0. Since the energy in  $L_s$  is completely transferred to  $C_b$  in this stage, the energy stored in  $C_b$  at  $t_3$  can be found following (10) to be

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{2} C_b V_{Cb}^2(t_3) &= E_{Cb}(t_3) = E_{Ls}(t_2) + E_{Cb}(t_2) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} L_s I_{rr}^2 + \frac{1}{2} C_s V_O^2. \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

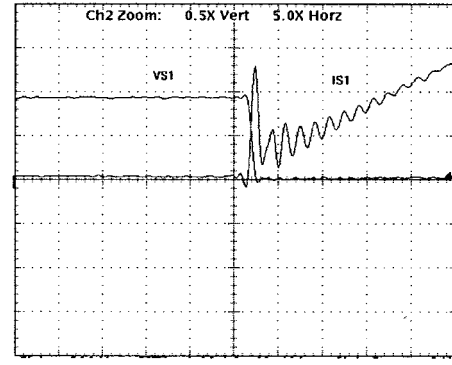
Also, the peak buffer capacitor voltage  $V_{Cb,p}$  is given by

$$V_{Cb,p} = V_{Cb}(t_3) = \sqrt{\frac{L_s I_{rr}^2 + C_s V_O^2}{C_b}}. \quad (17)$$

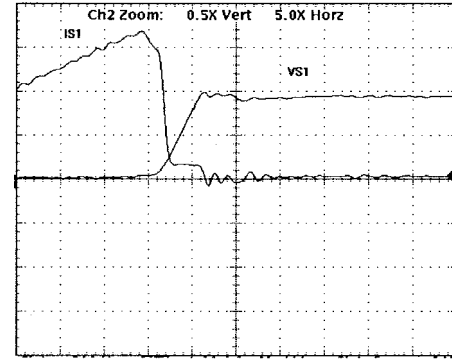
It also determines the voltage stress of the freewheeling diode, which is equal to  $V_o$  plus  $V_{Cb,p}$ .

*Stage 4* [Fig. 2(d);  $t_3 < t < t_4$ ]: At  $t_3$ ,  $I_{Ls}$  is decreased to zero, while  $D_2$  and  $D_3$  are turned off simultaneously. The current through  $L_s$  keeps zero and the voltage across  $C_b$  keeps constant after  $t_3$ . From (16), the total energy transferred to  $C_b$  can be viewed as the summation of the energy which was absorbed in  $L_s$  and  $C_s$ .

*Stage 5* [Fig. 2(e);  $t_4 < t < t_5$ ]: After the switch  $S_1$  turns off at  $t_4$ , main inductor current  $I_{Lm}(t_4)$  flows through  $D_2$  to discharge  $C_s$  to the output.  $D_3$  and  $D_4$  are not turned on because they are reverse biased by  $V_{Cs}$ . The drain-source voltage of  $S_1$  is equal to  $V_o - V_{Cs}$ . Slower  $dv/dt$  of the drain-source voltage is obtained while  $V_{Cs}$  is discharged from



(a)



(b)

Fig. 8. Commutation waveforms of MOSFET with snubber.  $V_{S1}$ : 200 V/div;  $I_{S1}$ : 2 A/div; Time 1  $\mu$ s/div. (a) Turn-on transients. (b) Turnoff transients.

$V_o$  to 0. Assuming that  $I_{Lm}$  is constant during this stage,  $V_{Cs}$  is given by

$$V_{Cs}(t) = V_o - \frac{I_{Lm}(t_4)}{C_s}(t - t_4). \quad (18)$$

*Stage 6* [Fig. 2(f);  $t_5 < t < t_6$ ]: Diodes  $D_3$  and  $D_4$  are turned on by the main inductor current  $I_{Lm}(t_5)$  when  $V_{Cs}$  is discharged to zero at  $t_5$ . Voltage across  $L_s$  is equal to  $V_{Cb}$  and, thus,  $I_{Ls}$  increases to discharge  $C_b$  to the output. Circuit operation is similar to the second resonance in *Stage 2*.  $I_{Ls}$  and  $V_{Cb}$  are given by

$$I_{Ls}(t) = \frac{V_{Cb}(t_2)}{Z_2} \sin(\omega_2(t - t_5)) \quad (19)$$

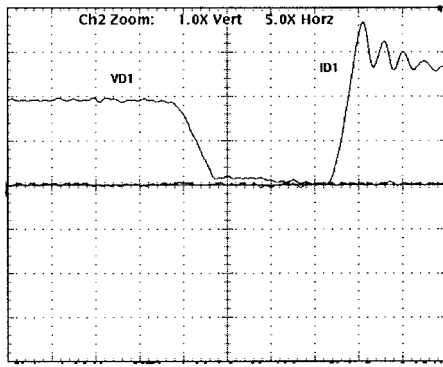
$$V_{Cb}(t) = V_{Cb}(t_2) \cos(\omega_2(t - t_5)). \quad (20)$$

*Stage 7* [Fig. 2(g);  $t_6 < t < t_7$ ]:  $I_{Ls}$  is increased to  $I_{Lm}(t_6)$  at  $t_6$ ;  $D_2$ , and  $D_3$  are turned off. After  $t_6$ ,  $I_{Lm}$  discharges  $C_b$  to the output through  $D_4$ . Assuming that  $I_{Lm}$  is constant in this stage,  $V_{Cb}$  is given by

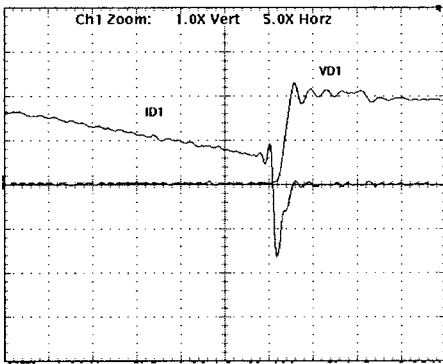
$$V_{Cb}(t) = V_{Cb}(t_6) - \frac{I_{Lm}(t_6)}{C_b}(t - t_6). \quad (21)$$

ZVS turn-on of diode  $D_1$  is achieved by slow  $dv/dt$  of  $V_{Cb}$ .

*Stage 8* [Fig. 2(h);  $t_7 < t < t_0$ ]:  $V_{Cb}$  is discharged to zero at  $t_7$ .  $D_4$  is turned off and  $D_1$  is turned on. The energy recovery process of the snubber is finished when all energy in the buffer capacitor  $C_b$  is transferred to the output. After that,



(a)



(b)

Fig. 9. Commutation waveforms of freewheeling diode with snubber.  $V_{D1}$ : 200 V/div;  $I_{D1}$ : 2 A/div; Time 1  $\mu$ s/div. (a) Turn-on transients. (b) Turnoff transients.

main inductor current  $I_{Lm}$  flows through diode  $D_1$  instead of diode  $D_4$  to prevent  $C_s$  from being charged reversely. Circuit operation will be the same as in *Stage 1* when the switch  $S_1$  turns on again at  $t_0$  in the next switching cycle.

Based on the analysis presented above, key waveforms of the boost converter with the proposed snubber cell are shown in Fig. 3.

### C. Design Considerations

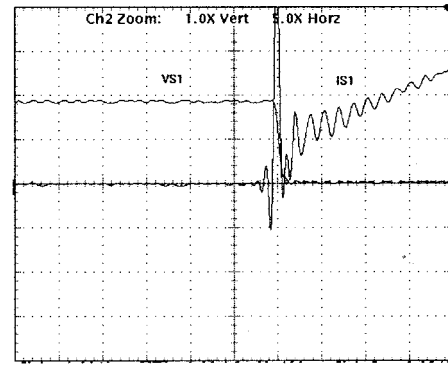
The snubber inductor  $L_s$ , snubber capacitor  $C_s$ , and buffer capacitor  $C_b$  are the three main elements to be designed. The following rules should be noted when designing  $L, C$  values.

- 1) In *Stage 6*, diodes  $D_2$  and  $D_3$  should be naturally turned off before the voltage of  $C_b$  is discharged to zero, or the residential current will turn on  $D_2, D_3$ , and  $D_4$  in the entire switching period. In other words, the following inequality has to be obeyed:

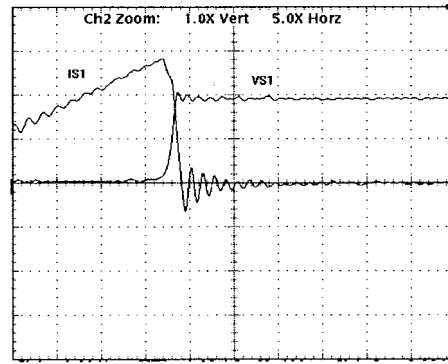
$$\frac{1}{2} L_s I_F^2 < \frac{1}{2} L_s I_{rr}^2 + \frac{1}{2} C_s V_O^2. \quad (22)$$

It requires higher  $I_{rr}$  or larger  $C_s$ .

- 2) Current stress of the MOSFET and voltage stress of the freewheeling diode are given in (8) and (17), respectively. Larger  $C_s$  results in higher MOSFET current stress and higher diode voltage stress.
- 3) According to (17),  $C_b$  has to be at least 16 times  $C_s$  to limit  $V_{Cb}$  to 100 V when the output voltage is 400 V.



(a)



(b)

Fig. 10. Commutation waveforms of MOSFET without snubber.  $V_{S1}$ : 200 V/div;  $I_{S1}$ : 2 A/div; Time 1  $\mu$ s/div. (a) Turn-on transients. (b) Turnoff transients.

Practically,  $C_b$  should be about 30 times  $C_s$ , considering reverse-recovery energy.

- 4) Snubber inductor  $L_s$  should be selected as large as possible to decrease reverse-recovery loss. However, according to the following equation in [14], larger  $L_s$  results in lower  $I_{rr}$ :

$$I_{rr} \propto \sqrt{I_F \frac{dI_F}{dt}} \propto \sqrt{\frac{I_F}{L_s}}. \quad (23)$$

- 5) Resonant frequency in (15) should be much greater than switching frequency to ensure correct operation of the snubber cell.

Tradeoffs have to be made when designing  $L_s, C_s$ , and  $C_b$ . Voltage and current stresses of diodes  $D_2, D_3$ , and  $D_4$  are determined by the output voltage and the input current. However, a lower rating is also acceptable due to short snubber operating time. Current stress of the MOSFET is increased by  $I_{Ls,p}$ ; it is much lower than in the hard-switching conditions. Voltage stress of  $D_1$  is increased by  $V_{Cb,p}$ ; since  $V_{Cb,p}$  is designed to be lower than 100 V, the increased stress has little effect on cost. Voltage stress of MOSFET and current stress of  $D_1$  are the same as without the snubber cell embedded.

### III. THE GENERAL SNUBBER CELL FOR DC/DC CONVERTERS

The proposed snubber cell can be seen as the combination of a turn-on snubber cell and a turnoff snubber cell.

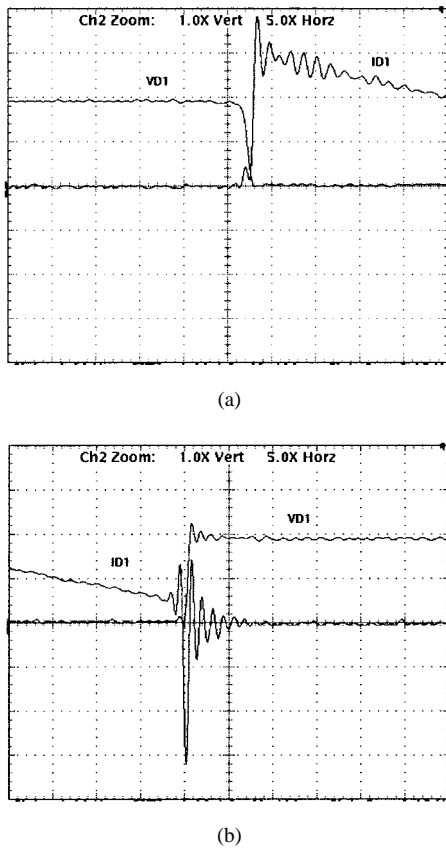


Fig. 11. Commutation waveforms of freewheeling diode without snubber.  $V_{D1}$ : 200 V/div;  $I_{D1}$ : 2 A/div; Time 1  $\mu$ s/div. (a) Turn-on transients. (b) Turnoff transients.

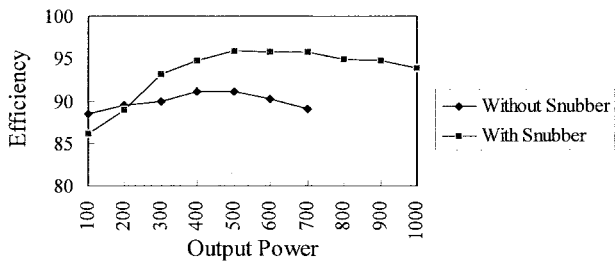


Fig. 12. Efficiency of boost converters with and without snubber.

The turn-on snubber, shown in Fig. 4(a), limits  $di/dt$  of the reverse-recovery current by a snubber inductor in series with the freewheeling diode. Two diodes and one capacitor are added to recover the absorbed energy to the output. Most of the turnoff snubbers proposed in the literature use a snubber capacitor parallel to the switch to limit  $dv/dt$  of the drain-source voltage. However, in a switching circuit, the voltage across the freewheeling diode always varies with the drain-source voltage of the switch. In other words,  $dv/dt$  of the drain-source voltage can also be limited in the turnoff snubber, shown in Fig. 4(b), by paralleling a snubber capacitor to the freewheeling diode. An additional diode is added to isolate the switch from the snubber capacitor. The isolation can prevent the snubber capacitor from being charged through the switch at low load and at no load. It also prevents turn-on switching loss resulting from charge of the snubber capacitor.

The proposed general snubber cell consists of one inductor  $L_s$ , two capacitors  $C_s$  and  $C_b$ , and three diodes  $D_2, D_3$ , and  $D_4$ . The snubber inductor  $L_s$  is placed in series with the freewheeling diode  $D_1$ . It is designed to restrict  $di/dt$  of the reverse-recovery current to achieve ZCS turn-on. The snubber capacitor  $C_s$  is placed in parallel with  $D_3$  and  $D_4$  and isolated by diode  $D_2$ . It is designed to restrict  $dv/dt$  of the drain-source voltage to achieve ZVS turnoff. ZVS turn-on and turnoff of the freewheeling diode are also obtained. Switching losses and EMI noise during turn-on and turnoff are eliminated by the snubber cell. All energy absorbed in the snubber inductor and snubber capacitor are transferred to the buffer capacitor  $C_b$ . Energy recovery is achieved by discharging  $C_b$  to the output. Since the snubber cell deals with only small switching transient energy instead of the main power stage energy, the resulting circulating energy is insignificant compared with resonant converters. Snubber operation principles discussed for a boost converter can be extended to other topologies. Six basic nonisolated PWM dc/dc converters: buck, boost, buck-boost, Cúk, Sepic, and Zeta with the proposed snubber cells embedded are shown in Fig. 6. Although circuit size and cost are increased by adding these additional components, it is still tolerable, considering the numerous advantages provided by the snubber cell.

IV. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

A prototype of a 1-kW 100-kHz boost converter with the passive lossless snubber has been built to verify the principle of operation and the theoretical analysis. Output voltage is regulated at 380 V dc with the control circuit implemented by an L4981A. The components specifications are listed in Table I. A hard-switching boost converter with same specifications is also built for comparison.

The snubber inductor current, snubber capacitor voltage, and buffer capacitor voltage waveforms are shown in Fig. 7. The commutation waveforms of the MOSFET and the freewheeling diode with the proposed snubber cell embedded are shown in Figs. 8 and 9, respectively. Waveforms of the MOSFET and the freewheeling diode without snubber are shown in Figs. 10 and 11, respectively. The efficiencies of these two circuits are shown in Fig. 12 under different loadings. The maximum efficiency has been measured to be 96% at 700 W.

Waveforms in Fig. 7(a) and (b) are exactly the same as predicted in Fig. 3. Snubber operation analysis is proved to be valid. Comparing Figs. 8(a) and 10(a), it can be seen that  $di/dt$  of the drain current is restricted and commutation of the MOSFET is close to ZCS turn-on. The reason for no ZCS is the discharge of the parasitic drain-source capacitance of the MOSFET during the turn-on process. This switching loss mechanism can only be removed by resonant converter techniques or active snubbers. Comparing Figs. 8(b) and 10(b), it can also be seen that  $dv/dt$  of the drain-source voltage is restricted and the MOSFET commutates at ZVS turnoff. Fig. 9(a) and (b) shows that the freewheeling diode is also commutated at ZVS turn-on and turnoff. Switching transients of the freewheeling diode are significantly improved compared with the hard-switching counterpart shown in Fig. 11(a) and (b).

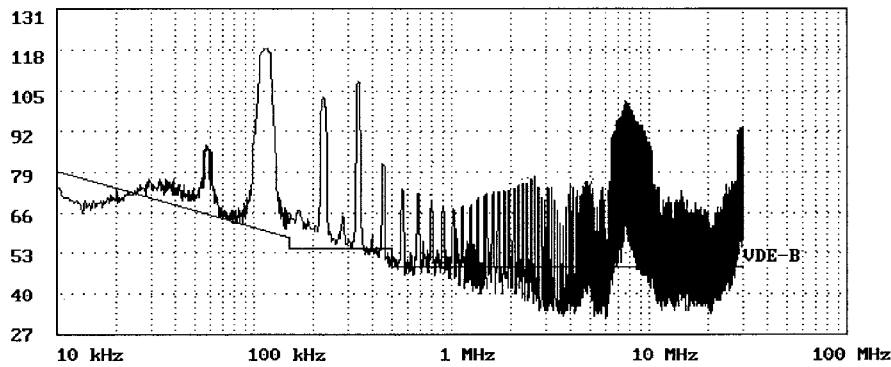


Fig. 13. Total EMI noise of the boost converter with snubber (10 KHz–30 MHz).

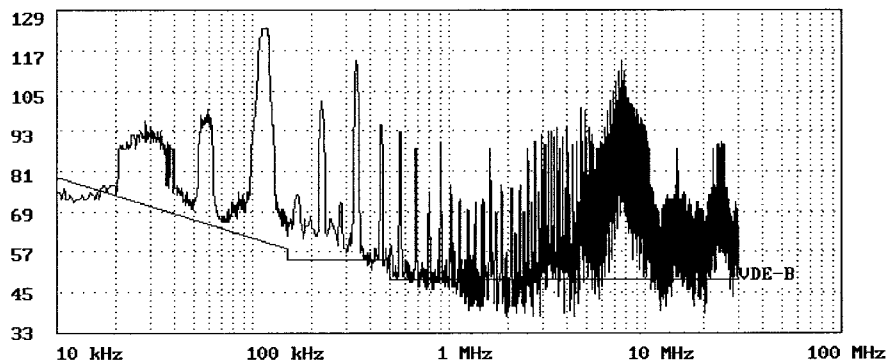


Fig. 14. Total EMI noise of the hard-switching boost converter (10 KHz–30 MHz).

Shown in Figs. 13 and 14 are the total EMI noise measured from 10 KHz to 30 MHz of boost converters with and without the snubber cell, respectively. Limitations of the noise standard, VDE-0871/B, are also shown in both figures. At 100 KHz, the adopted switching frequency, EMI noise of both circuits reaches maximum. It can be seen that the noise at the switching frequency of the boost converter with snubber is approximately 6 dB lower than that of the hard-switching one. Noise at multiples and divisors of the switching frequency are also visibly eliminated. The reduction of the EMI noise should be owed to slower  $di/dt$  of the drain current and slower  $dv/dt$  of the drain–source voltage.

## V. CONCLUSION

A general passive lossless snubber cell for nonisolated PWM dc/dc converters has been proposed in this paper. The general snubber cell is the combination of a turn-on snubber and a turnoff snubber. Energy recovery is achieved by passive components only. Component values of the snubber inductor, snubber capacitor, and buffer capacitor can be determined by the design rules presented in this paper. Current stress of the MOSFET and voltage stress of the freewheeling diode are also presented clearly. A 1-kW 100-kHz prototype of a boost converter equipped with the snubber has been implemented in the laboratory to verify the analyses above. Experimental waveforms show that the increasing rates of the reverse-recovery current and the drain–source voltage are successfully

restricted by the snubber. The MOSFET operates at ZVS turnoff and close to ZCS turn-on; the freewheeling diode operates at ZVS turn-on and turnoff.

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