

Bidirectional DC-DC Converter with High Voltage Gain for the Charge/Discharge Control of Storage Systems

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Abstract—This paper presents a study of a bidirectional dc-dc converter with high voltage gain to regulate the charge and discharge of electrochemical storage systems. The converter is characterized by quadratic voltage gain characteristics in both directions. In this context it can be used to regulate a dc interface between the storage system and a dc/ac converter connected to the electrical grid. It will be analysed the converter in ideal and non-ideal conditions. A control system to regulate the output voltages and currents are also proposed. Simulation results are presented in order to validate the control system associated to the converter for the charge/discharge of the storage system.

Keywords—bidirectional; dc-dc converter; extended voltage gain; quadratic converter

I. INTRODUCTION

The growing integration of distributed energy resources (DER) has a direct impact on the performance of the electrical networks. Thus, in order to overcome problems related to the DER such as intermittent generation or power quality storage systems associated to the renewable sources are now becoming a requirement. However, in the context of power distribution systems that integrate electrochemical storage systems such as batteries or supercapacitors, dc bus with 400 V or higher are now becoming very important [1]. These systems normally require bidirectional dc/dc converters to charge/discharge the storage systems. However, in order to avoid a high number of storage elements in serial, these converters should have a high voltage gain.

Several dc/dc power converter topologies with high voltage gain have been developed. These power converters were based in two types of categories: isolated and non-isolated [2]. Regarding the isolated topologies they are characterized by high number of switching devices [3,4]. On other hand, these topologies normally suffer from high switching losses of the power switches. Thus, topologies with soft switching were also proposed [5,6]. The drawback of this solution is the cost and complex control system. For the category of non-isolated several topologies have also been proposed. In this category one of the most used topologies is the buck-boost converter. In the classical converter the polarity of dc buses is reverse with respect to a common ground [7]. This drawback can be overcome by adding more switches to this configuration as presented in [8]. To reduce the problem of the switching losses, topologies with soft switch were also proposed [9]. However, these topologies present an important limitation when is required a high voltage ratio. In this way, other topologies that allow to extend the voltage ratio were proposed. A topology that uses a coupled-inductor bidirectional converter scheme was proposed in [10]. Other topology that does not require coupled inductors were proposed in [11]. This topology is based on the SEPIC converter. However, it allows to extend the voltage ratio. A non-isolated bidirectional DC/DC power converter with quadratic voltage gain characteristics was presented in [12]. However, in this study it is only controlled the output voltage through a simple integral regulator. Thus it only can be used in standalone application. On other hand, the way that is controlled does not ensure stability of the system [13].

In this work is proposed the study in ideal and non-ideal conditions of the bidirectional quadratic dc/dc power converter for the electrochemical storage systems. A fast and robust control system is also proposed. This controller is based on the sliding mode approach. In order to verify these characteristics several tests will be presented.

II. BIDIRECTIONAL DC-DC CONVERTER

One of the dc-dc power converters well adapted for applications where high voltage range is required is the quadratic boost converter [14]. This converter (Fig. 1) is characterized by conversion ratio that has a quadratic dependence of the duty-cycle. However, this converter presents a unidirectional characteristic which can be important drawback in several applications.

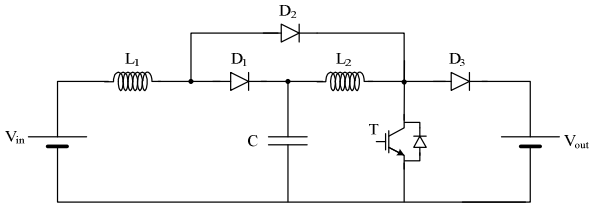


Fig. 1. Quadratic boost converter

In order to provide bidirectional characteristic extra power semiconductors are required as presented in Fig. 2 is proposed. In this study the converter will be analyzed and controlled for the charge/discharge of a storage system. This converter is considered connected to a constant DC bus (for example for renewable distributed resources connected to a grid).

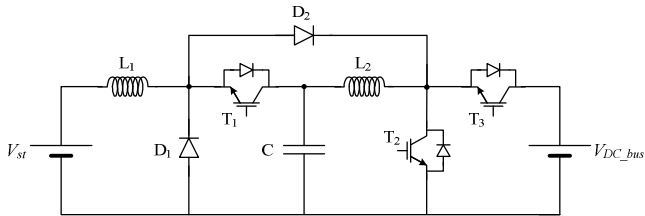


Fig. 2. Quadratic converter with bidirectional characteristics

The converter in discharging mode (boost mode) and in continuous conduction mode CCM) has two stage modes. In stage 1 the power switch T2 is turned-on charging the inductors. The capacitor C will discharge for the inductor L2. In the second stage power switch T2 is turned-off discharging both inductors to the capacitor C and DC bus. According to this, the voltage gain in this mode is given by (1) where is possible to verify the quadratic gain.

$$\frac{V_{DC_bus}}{V_{st}} = \frac{1}{(1 - \delta)^2} \quad (1)$$

For the non-ideal conditions it will be considered that the losses in the inductors will be represented by an internal resistance (a serial connection of L_1 with r_{L1} and L_2 with r_{L2}). Thus, considering an equivalent resistor R_o as load, the following voltage gain in non-ideal conditions can be obtained:

$$\frac{V_{DC_bus}}{V_{st}} = \frac{1}{\frac{r_{L1}}{R_o} \frac{1}{(1 - \delta)^2} + \frac{r_{L2}}{R_o} + (1 - \delta)^2} \quad (2)$$

Using equation (2) for different values of $r_{L1}/R_o = r_{L2}/R_o$, the converter gain fraction of the duty cycle can be plotted as presented in Fig. 2. The figure shows the limitation of the gain and for example with $r_{L1}/R_o = r_{L2}/R_o = 0.001$ a maximum gain near 15 is obtained.

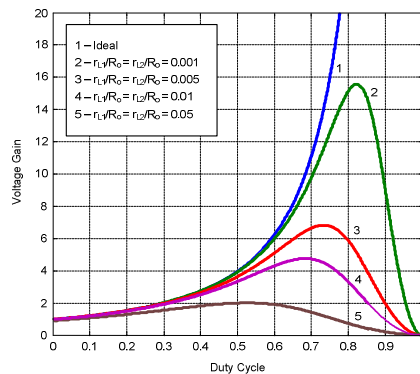


Fig. 3. Static voltage conversion ratio as a function of duty-cycle considering inductor losses

For the system in charging mode (buck mode) and considering again the converter in CCM, it may be considered four stages. In the first stage the power switches T_1 and T_3 are turned-on. In this condition both inductors and capacitor are in charging mode. In the second stage switch T_1 is turned-on and the other is turned-off. The inductor L_1 will be in charge mode and the inductor L_2 and capacitor C will be in discharge mode. In the third stage only the switch T_3 will be in turned-on condition. Due to this the inductor L_1 is in discharge mode and inductor L_2 and capacitor C will be in charge mode. Finally, the fourth stage is characterized by all controlled switches in turned-off condition. In this condition both inductors are in discharge mode and the capacitor will be in charge mode. In accordance with this, in continuous conduction mode the voltage gain is given by:

$$\frac{V_{st}}{V_{DC_bus}} = \delta^2 \quad (3)$$

III. CONTROL OF THE SYSTEM

Since the bidirectional DC/DC converter will be used for the charge and discharge of storage systems, it will be adopted a current control system. Considering this situation and the inherently variable structure of the power converter will be adopted a non-linear controller (sliding mode). However, two different controllers will be used considering that the converter is in charge or discharge mode.

Considering that the system is in discharge mode it is only required to consider as reference the current of the storage system. According to this and from the analysis of the circuit is possible to verify that the state space equation related with this inductor current is (where α is a boolean variable that represents the switch on or off).

$$\frac{di_{L1}}{dt} = \frac{V_i}{L_1} - \frac{V_{DC_bus}}{L_1}(1 - \alpha_2) \quad (4)$$

Taking into consideration the state space equation it can be concluded that the inductor current has a strong relative degree of one. Thus, the following sliding surface can be obtained:

$$S_1(i_{L1}, t) = i_{L1,ref} - i_{L1} \quad (5)$$

The convergence of the system to the reference value is ensured by the following stability condition [15]:

$$S_1(i_{L1}, t) \frac{dS_1(i_{L1}, t)}{dt} < 0 \quad (6)$$

The previous stability condition is ensured by a hysteresis comparator with a width of 2ε (instead of a simple comparator is used a hysteresis to limit the switching frequency) according the following condition:

$$\begin{aligned} S_1(i_{L1}, t) > +\varepsilon &\Rightarrow i_{L1,ref} > i_{L1} \Rightarrow i_{L1} \uparrow \Rightarrow \frac{di_{L1}}{dt} > 0 \Rightarrow \alpha_2 = 1 \\ S_1(i_{L1}, t) < -\varepsilon &\Rightarrow i_{L1,ref} < i_{L1} \Rightarrow i_{L1} \downarrow \Rightarrow \frac{di_{L1}}{dt} < 0 \Rightarrow \alpha_2 = 0 \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

When the system is in charge mode the circuit works as cascade structure. Thus, beside the control of the storage current will also be controlled the capacitor voltage. The control of the storage current is made through the sliding surface described in (5). However, regarding the voltage capacitor is possible to verify that the state space equations related with the capacitor voltage can be given by:

$$\begin{cases} \frac{dv_C}{dt} = \frac{i_{L2}}{C} - \frac{i_{L1}}{C} \alpha_1 \\ \frac{di_{L2}}{dt} = \frac{V_{DC_bus}}{C} \alpha_3 - \frac{v_C}{L_2} \end{cases} \quad (8)$$

Considering v_C voltage as the controlled output, from the input-output linearization of the previous state-space model the state-space equations in the controllability canonical is:

$$\frac{d}{dt} \begin{bmatrix} v_C \\ \theta \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \theta \\ \frac{V_{DC_bus}}{C^2} \alpha_3 - \frac{1}{L_2 C} v_C - \frac{\alpha_1}{C} \frac{di_{L_1}}{dt} \end{bmatrix} \quad (9)$$

$$\text{where } \theta = \frac{i_{L_2}}{C} - \frac{i_{L_1}}{C} \alpha_1$$

From (9) it is possible to confirm that the capacitor voltage v_C has a strong degree of two [15]. According to this and considering the feedback errors the following sliding surfaces are obtained:

$$\frac{dv_C}{dt} \approx i_{L_1 av} - i_{L_2} \quad (10)$$

$$S_2(v_C, t) = (v_{Cref} - v_C) + \beta \left(\frac{dv_{Cref}}{dt} - \frac{i_{L_1 av} - i_{L_2}}{C} \right) \quad (11)$$

Where is β a parameter related to the time constant of the desired first order response of the capacitor voltage v_C ($\beta > 0$)

The reaching-mode and sliding-mode stability conditions, or simple energy flow considerations (12) give the switching strategy relating with the sliding surface (11) and with the switching variable α_3 .

$$\begin{aligned} S_2(v_C, t) > +\varepsilon &\Rightarrow v_{Cref} > v_C \Rightarrow v_C \uparrow \Rightarrow i_{L2} \uparrow \Rightarrow \alpha_3 = 1 \\ S_2(v_C, t) < -\varepsilon &\Rightarrow v_{Cref} < v_C \Rightarrow v_C \downarrow \Rightarrow i_{L2} \downarrow \Rightarrow \alpha_3 = 0 \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

Where this is implemented through a hysteresis comparator with a width of 2ε .

IV. SIMULATION RESULTS

In order to verify the performance of the described bidirectional quadratic DC/DC converter several simulation tests were performed. In these tests, it was considered the following parameters: $L_1=L_2=1\text{mH}$ and $C=100\mu\text{F}$. It was considered a storage system with 48 V and a dc bus with 400 V. The first test was made considering the storage system in discharge mode. Fig 5 shows the current in the storage system for an initial reference of 10 A and a suddenly change for 25 A at 0.04 s. From this result is possible to verify that the current follows the reference and that the presents a fast response for the suddenly change in the current reference. The ripple in the current is fixed (0.15 A) due to the sliding mode controller. Fig. 6 shows the voltage at the terminals of the capacitor for the same test. In this mode, the capacitor voltage is not controlled. However, as can be seen by this figure this voltage is stable although with a change in their value after the change of the current reference.

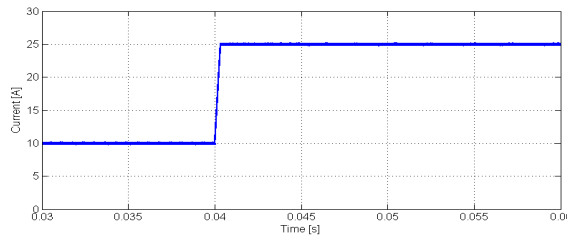


Fig. 4. Current of the storage system in discharge mode

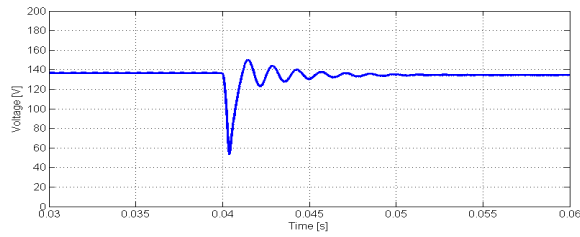


Fig. 5. Voltage at the capacitor for the storage system in discharge mode

Tests with the storage system in charging mode were also performed. In Fig. 7 is presented the current in the storage system for a current reference of -15 A and a suddenly change to -20A. This result shows again that the current follows the reference and presents a fast response. In this mode the voltage at the terminals of the capacitor is also controlled. In this test was used a reference of 150 V. The time behavior of the capacitor voltage is presented in Fig. 8. From this result is possible to verify that the voltage follows the reference and presents a fast response to perturbations. On other hand, since now this voltage is controlled the perturbation when there is a change in the reference is much smaller when compared with the previous test.

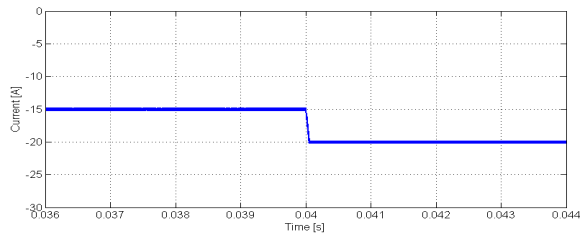


Fig. 6. Current of the storage system in charge mode

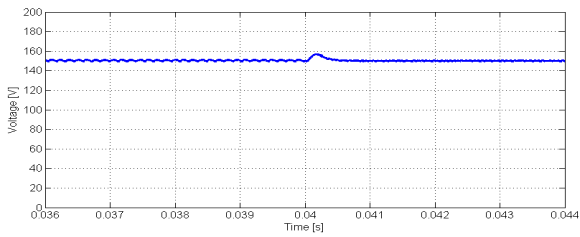


Fig. 7. Voltage at the capacitor for the storage system in charge mode

A test where the storage system starts in discharge mode, change to charge mode and back to discharge mode was also performed (from 15 A to -10A and to 10A). Fig. 9 shows the obtained results for the current in the storage system. As can be seen by this figure the response of the system is accurate and fast. The obtained result for the capacitor voltage is presented in Fig. 10. In this case, in discharged mode this voltage presents variations since is not controlled. In charged mode this voltage is controlled with a slightly higher voltage.

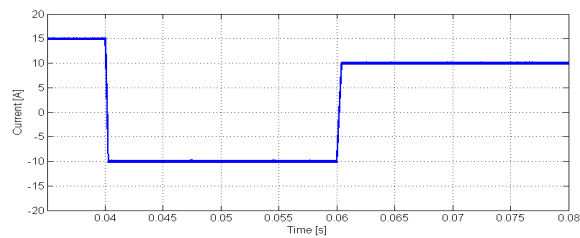


Fig. 8. Current of the storage system in charge mode

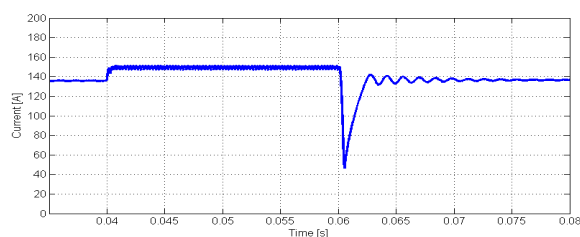


Fig. 9. Voltage at the capacitor for the storage system in charge mode

V. CONCLUSIONS

The control of a bidirectional DC/DC converter with high voltage gain that can be used in storage systems where presented in this work. The converter presents a voltage gain with quadratic characteristics. The converter was firstly analyzed in ideal and non-ideal conditions. From this analysis it was possible to verify that the gain can be highly affected by the internal resistance of the inductors. For the control of the converter was proposed a sliding mode controller for the charge and discharge mode. In discharge mode it is only controlled the output current of the storage system. However, in charge mode besides the input current of the storage system it is also controlled the intermediate capacitor. Several simulation results were presented in order to verify the characteristics of the converter with the adopted control system for the charge/discharge of storage systems.

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