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Power Converter Possessing Zero-Voltage Switching and Output Isolation

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US005434767A

United States Patent [19][11] **Patent Number:** **5,434,767****Batarseh et al.**[45] **Date of Patent:** **Jul. 18, 1995**[54] **POWER CONVERTER POSSESSING ZERO-VOLTAGE SWITCHING AND OUTPUT ISOLATION**[75] Inventors: **Issa E. Batarseh**, Oviedo, Fla.;
Kasemsan Siri, Canoga Park, Calif.[73] Assignee: **University of Central Florida**,
Orlando, Fla.[21] Appl. No.: **179,348**[22] Filed: **Jan. 10, 1994**[51] Int. Cl.⁶ **H02M 3/335; G05F 1/10**[52] U.S. Cl. **363/16; 323/222**[58] Field of Search **363/16, 20, 21, 24,**
363/25, 26, 222, 259, 344; 323/222, 259, 344[56] **References Cited****U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

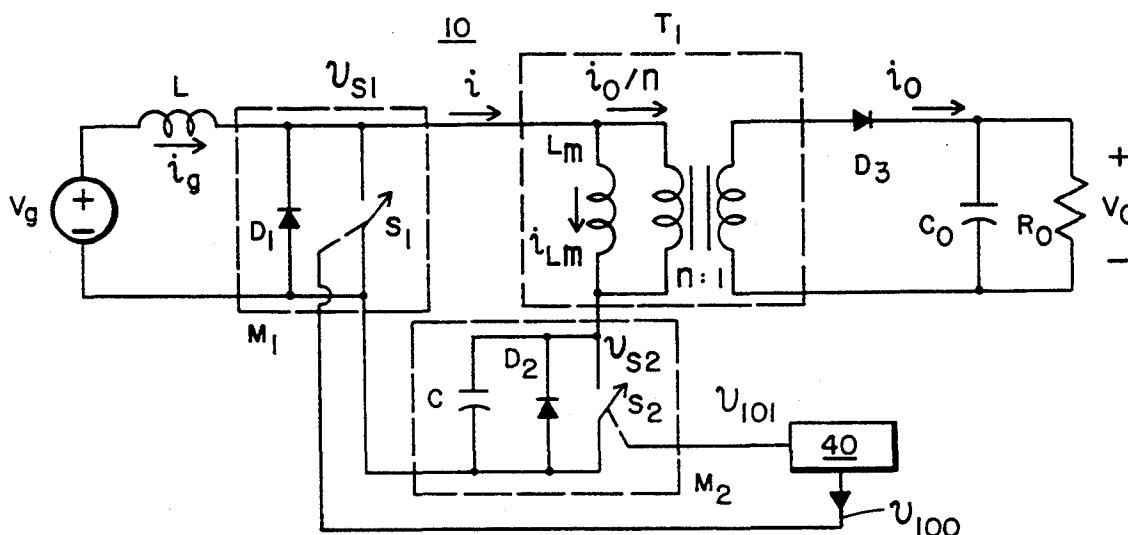
4,885,675 12/1989 Henze et al. 363/26

5,111,372 5/1992 Kameyama et al. 363/20

Primary Examiner—Steven L. Stephan*Assistant Examiner*—E. To*Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—James H. Beusse[57] **ABSTRACT**

A modified boost converter accomplishes power trans-

fer to a load with an electrical isolation, a zero-voltage and a zero-current switching, a transformer core resetting mechanism, and component stresses identical to those in the conventional boost converters. The power converter contains two switching devices, a main one connected in parallel and a secondary one connected in series with a transformer primary winding. A secondary winding of the transformer is connected through an output rectifier to the load. Zero-voltage switching and proper transformer-core resetting are achieved from the resonance that exists between the parasitic capacitance of the secondary switching device and the magnetization inductance of the transformer. A transformer leakage inductance facilitates zero-current switching; thus, reducing the recovery time and current in the output rectifier, and the turn-on switching loss in the conventional main switching device. The switching converter contains a lossless clamping circuit, to limit the voltage stresses across both of the power switching devices to the reflected output voltage appearing across the primary.

10 Claims, 8 Drawing Sheets

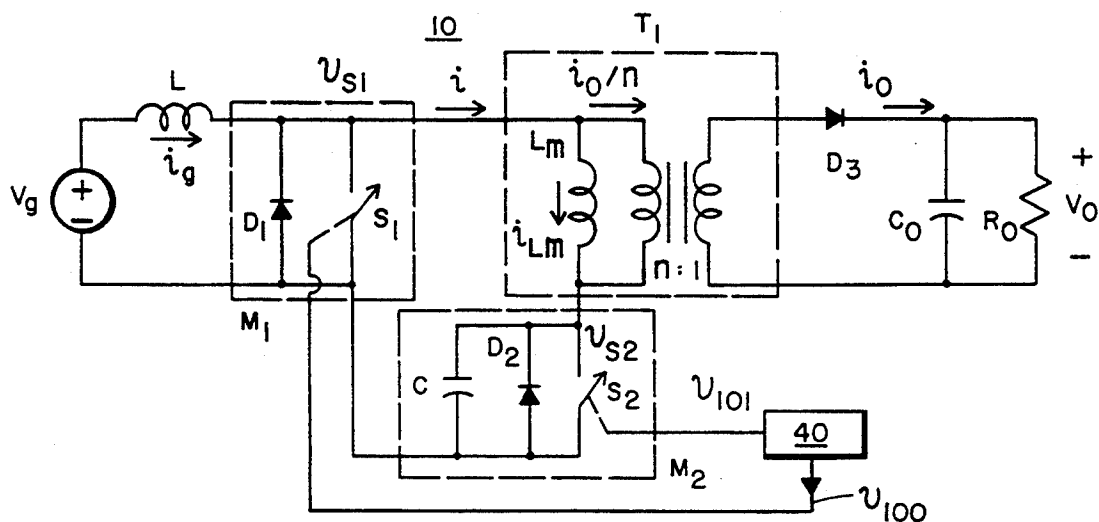


FIG. 1

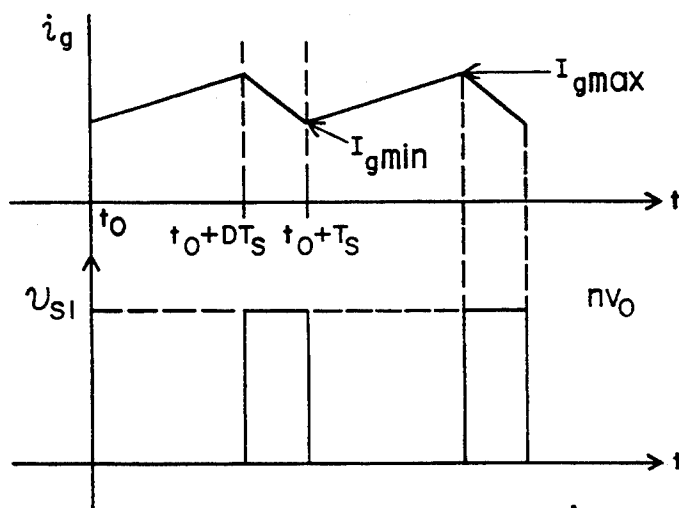


FIG. 2

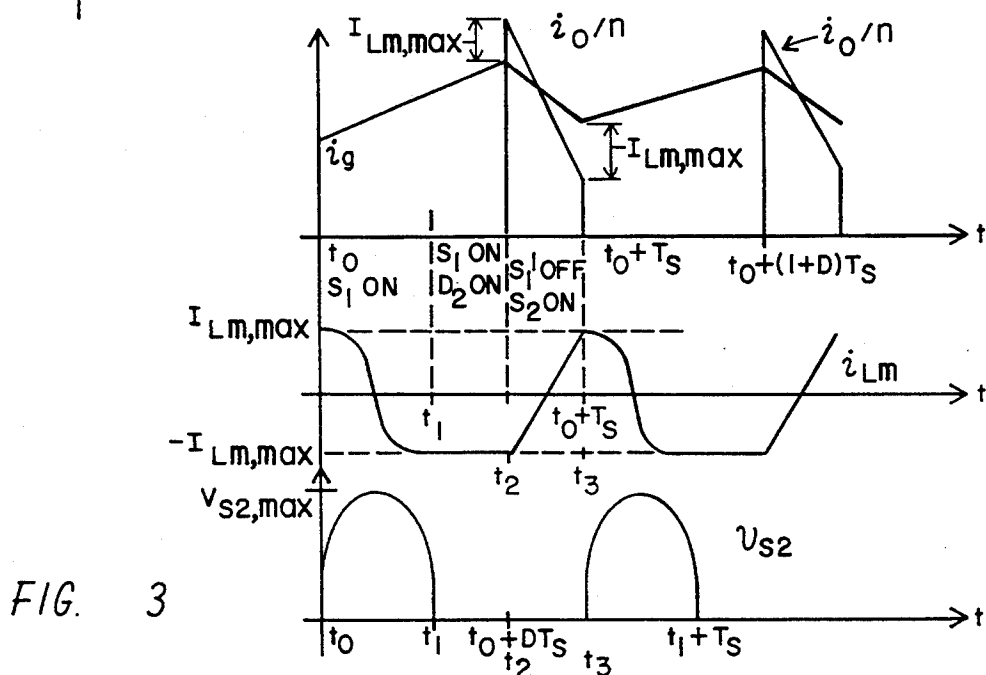
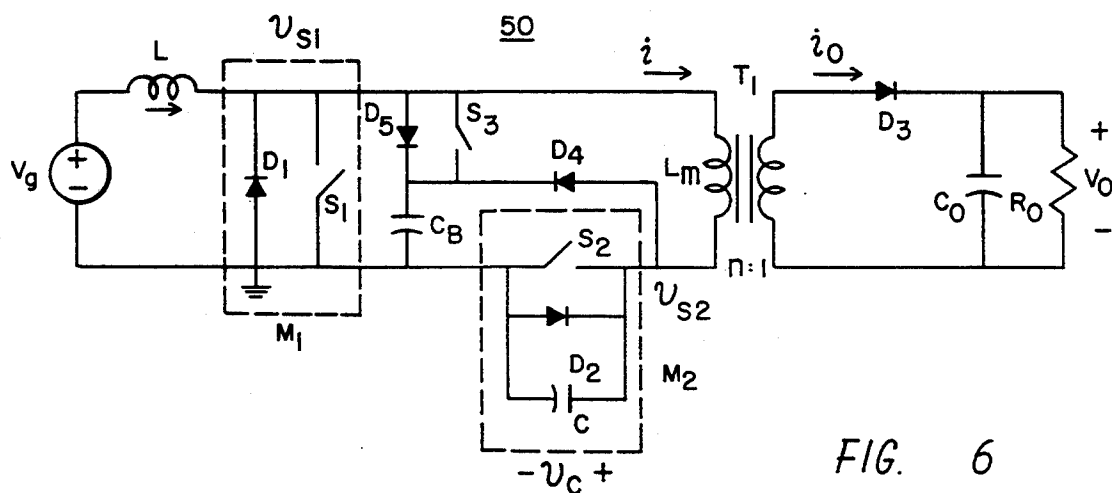
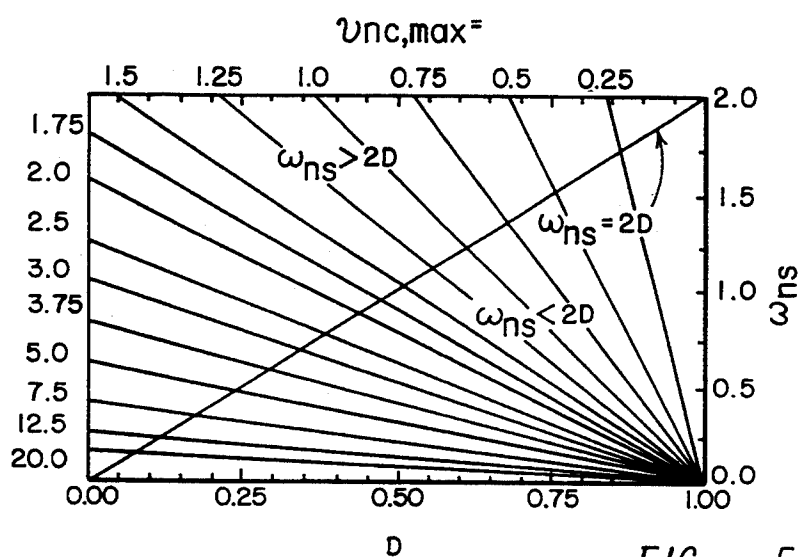
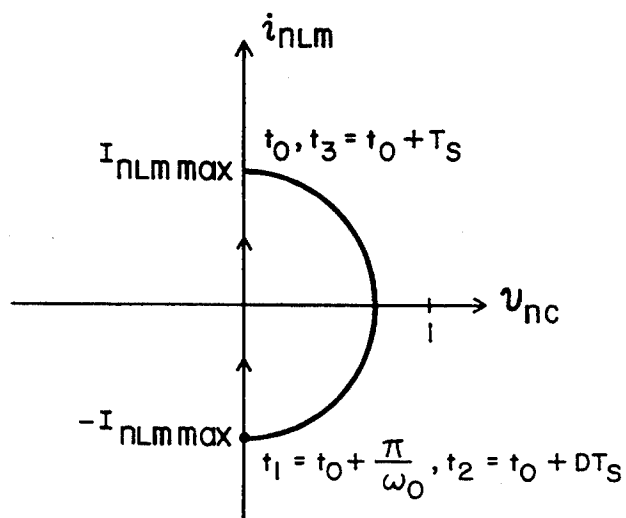


FIG. 3



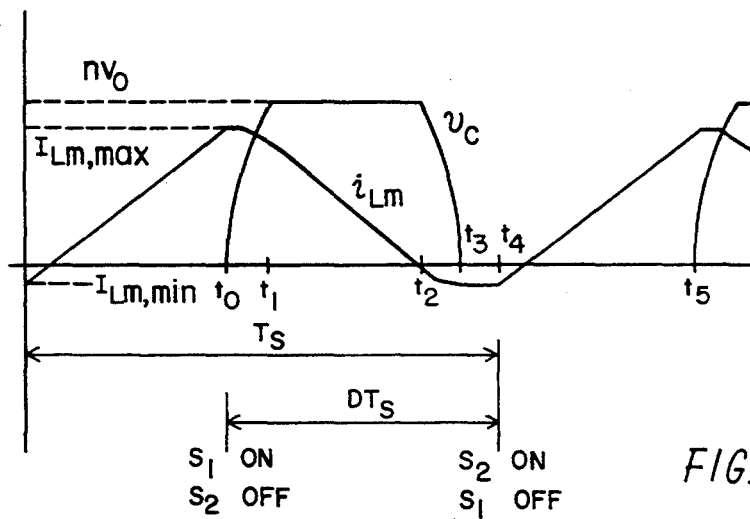


FIG. 7

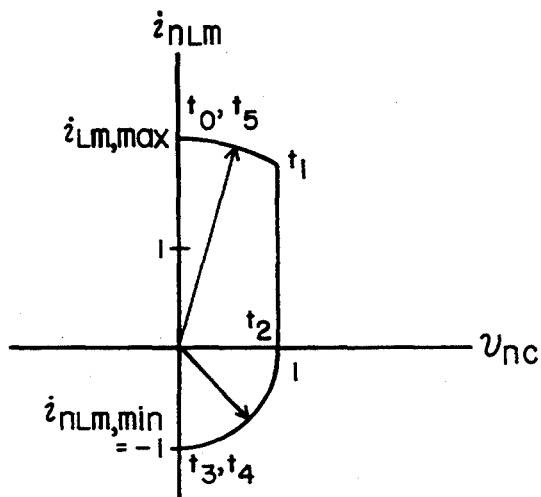


FIG. 8

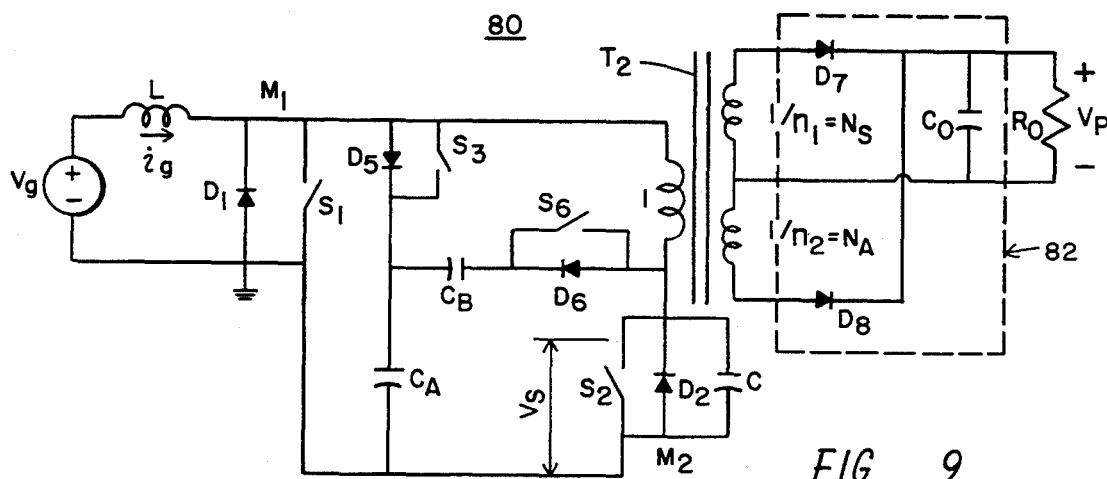


FIG. 9

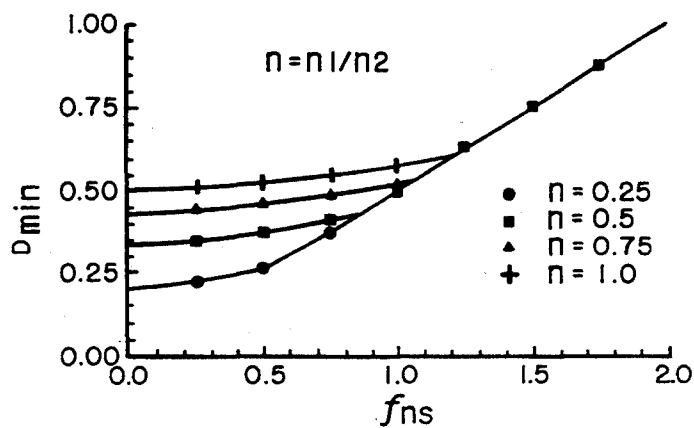


FIG. 10

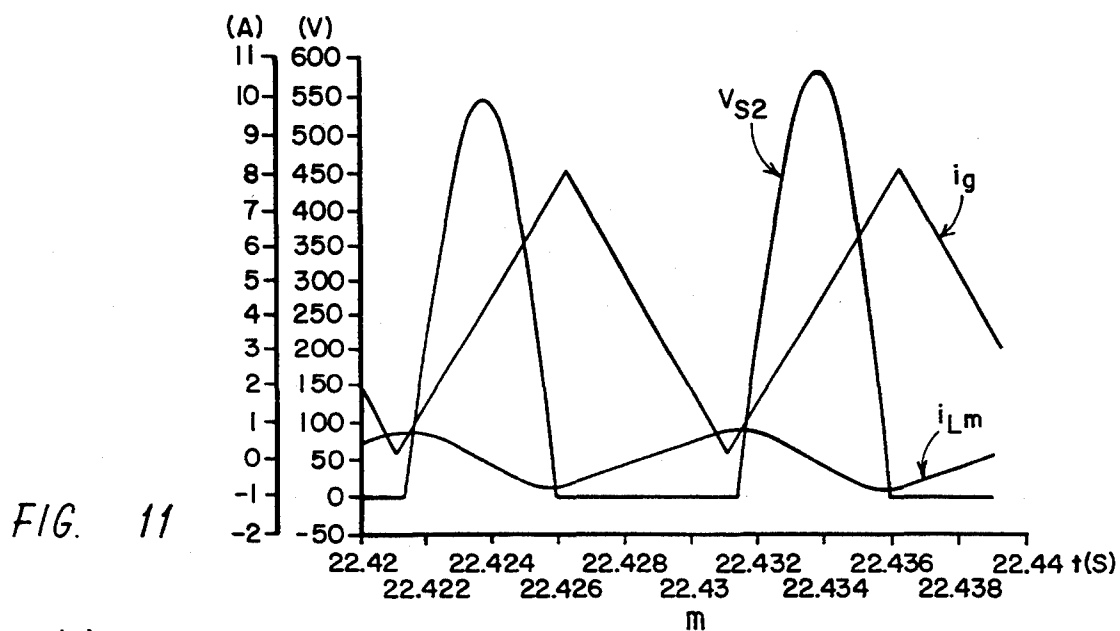


FIG. 11

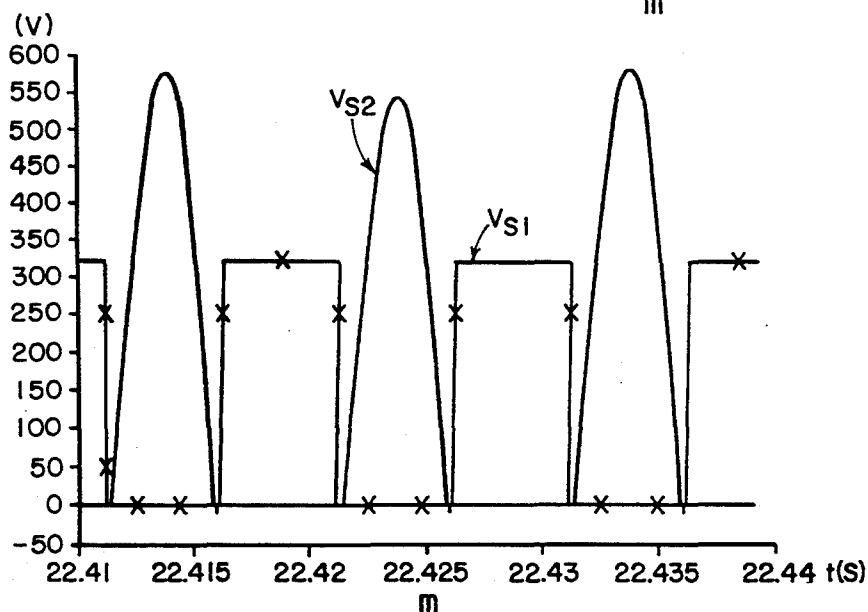
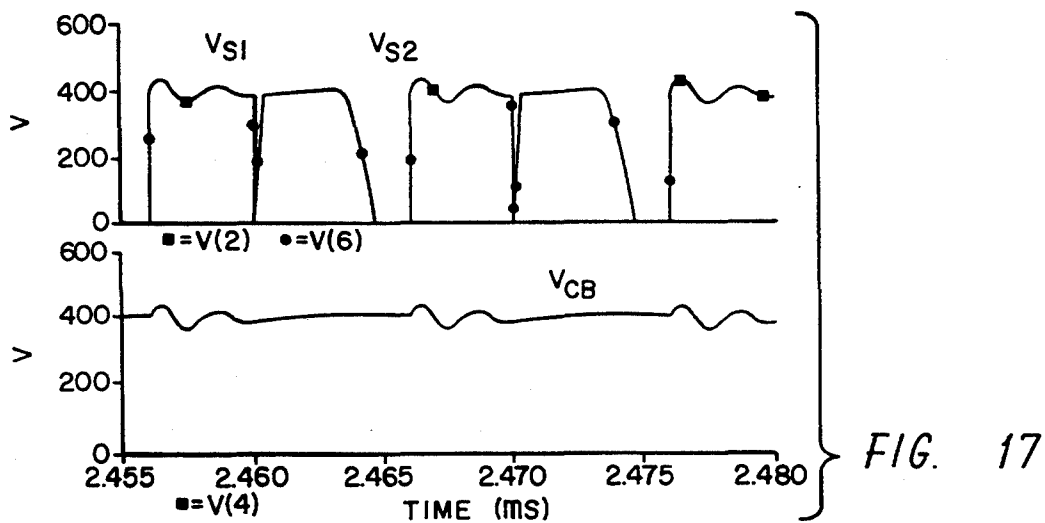
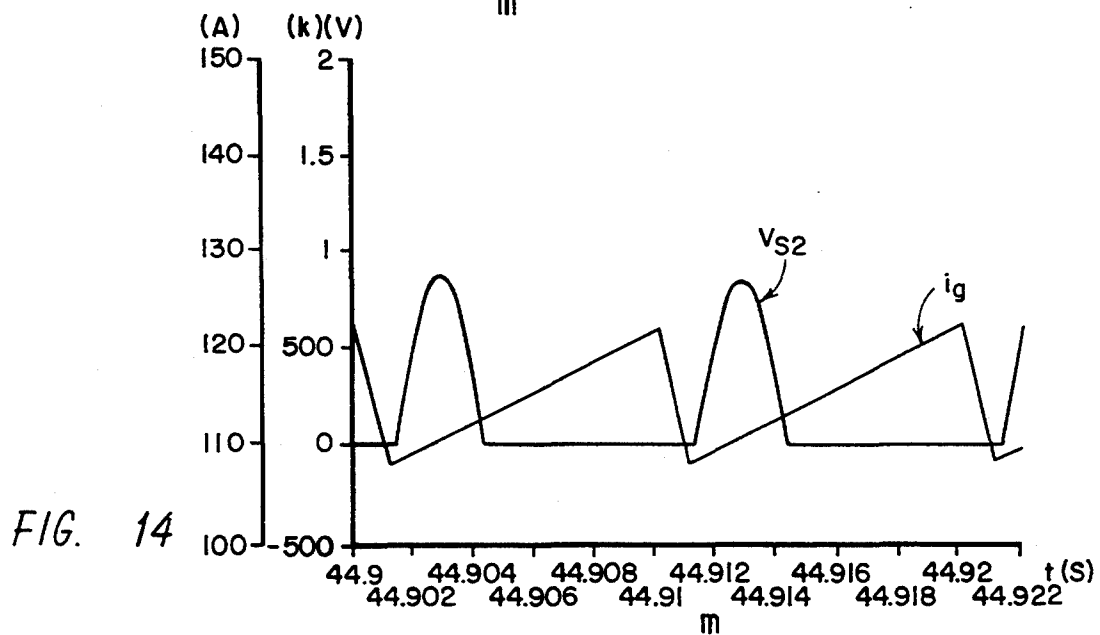
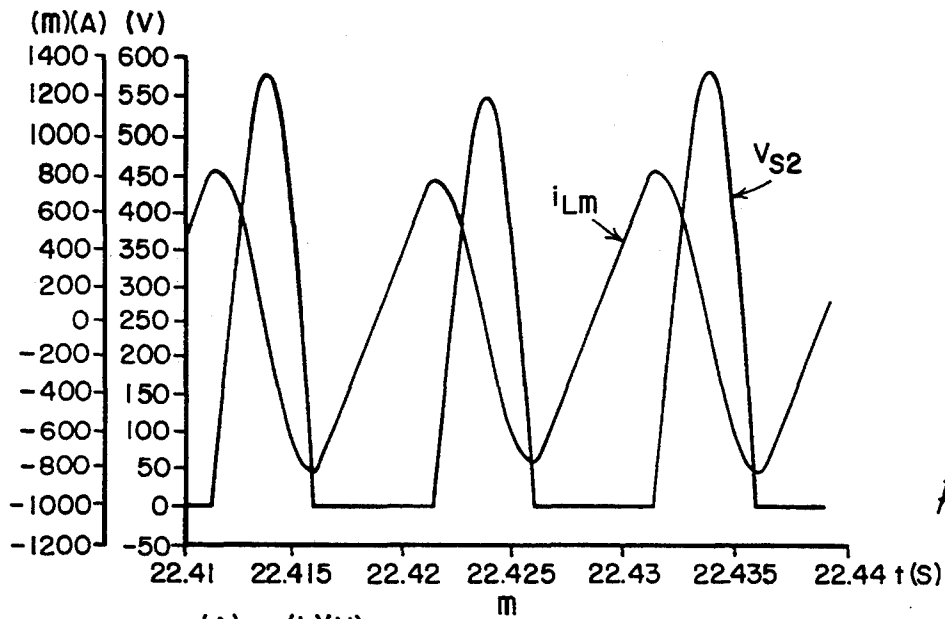


FIG. 12



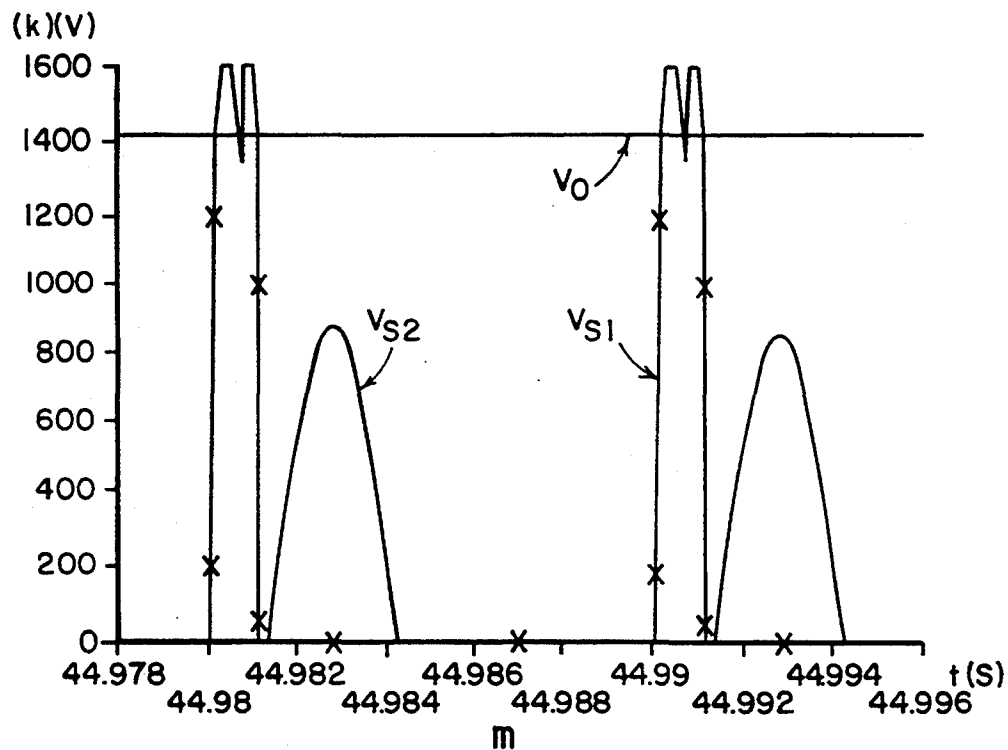


FIG. 15

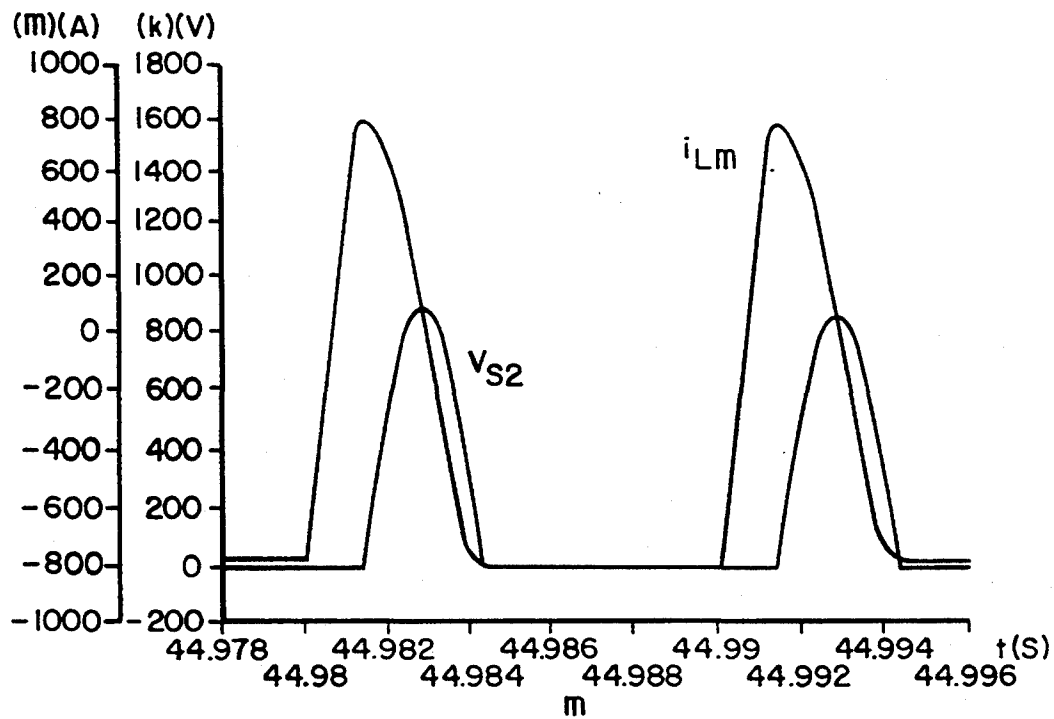


FIG. 16

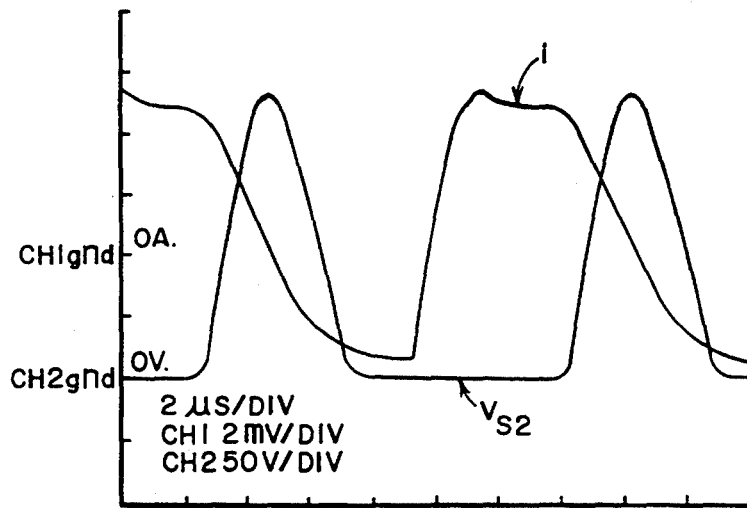


FIG. 18

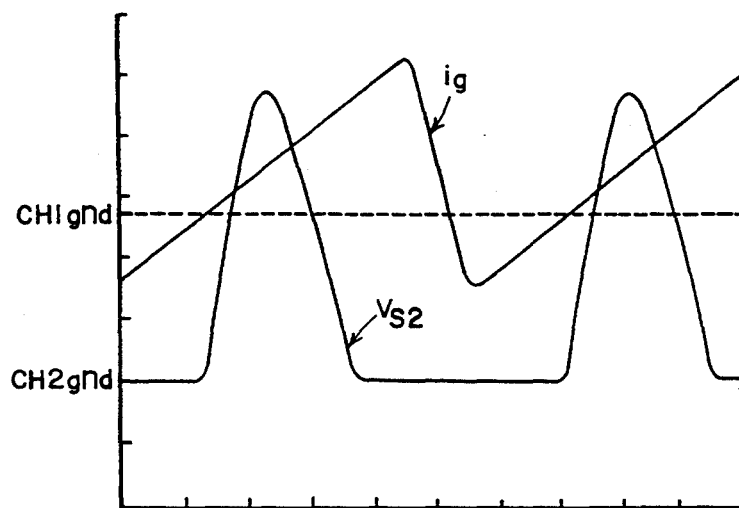


FIG. 19

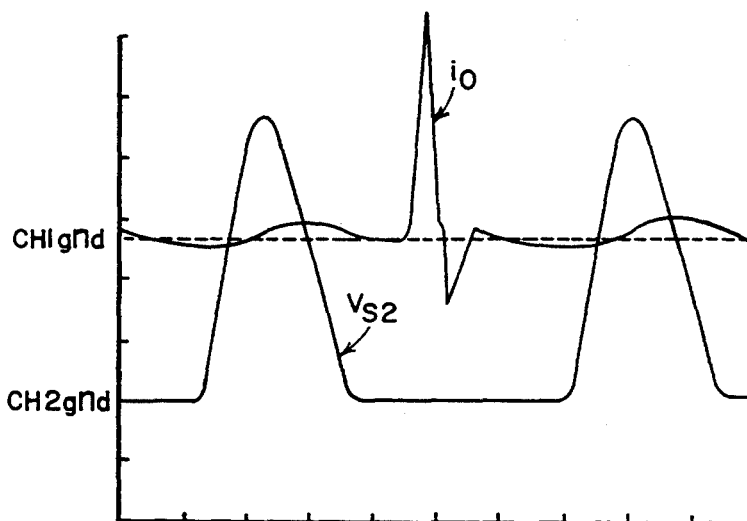


FIG. 20

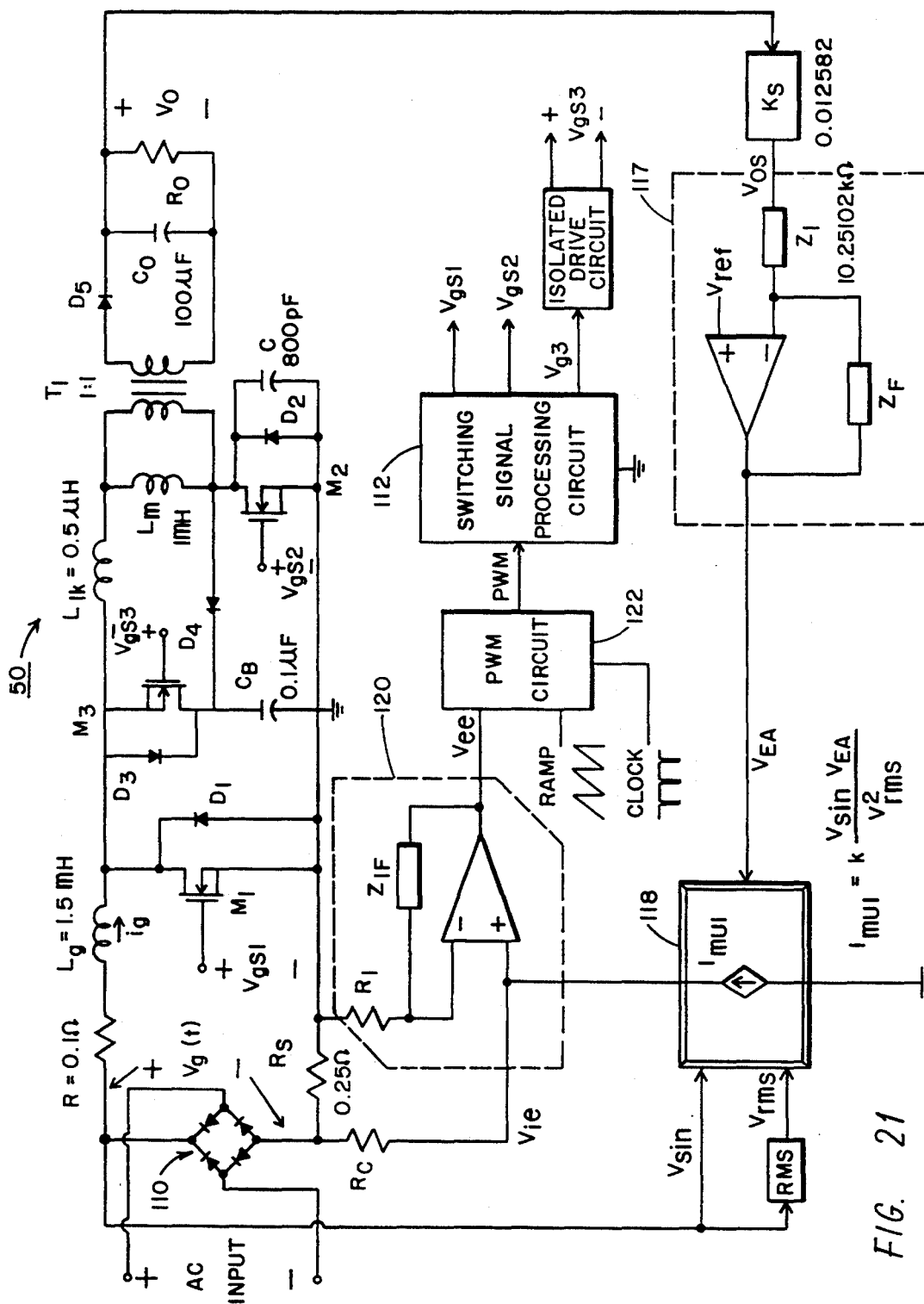


FIG. 21

POWER CONVERTER POSSESSING ZERO-VOLTAGE SWITCHING AND OUTPUT ISOLATION

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to power systems and more particularly to DC-DC switching power converters having reduced power consumption.

Due to the widespread use of switchmode power supplies, utility AC power systems have to deliver power to an increasing number of non-linear loads. These non-linear loads create significant electromagnetic interference in the harmonic currents drawn from the utility power buses. In addition to the unnecessary losses in power transmission due to the presence of these harmonic currents, the utility systems are polluted since conductive and radiated electromagnetic interference can propagate and degrade the performance of other sensitive electronic equipments or appliances sharing the same power bus.

Conventional approaches use passive line filters to attenuate these interferences. These approaches are no longer effective because bulky components are needed to absorb the harmonic currents and the fundamental component of the currents still have higher RMS value than necessary.

The preferred remedy for attenuating interference is active power factor correction in which switchmode converter topologies are utilized. A boost converter is the best topology for this application because it can be operated to draw continuous current with much less harmonics, resulting in ease of line-filtering.

In the conventional boost converter topology, power transfer to the load is accomplished without electrical isolation from line to output since its output rectifier is a passive switch which cannot prevent a transformer inserted between the rectifier output and load circuit from saturating. The lack of electrical isolation makes it impossible to achieve a step-down output voltage in the single stage of power conversion.

Another type of boost converter configurations is the push-pull configuration. In the push-pull converter configurations, such as the converter described in U.S. Pat. No. 4,885,675, an isolation transformer is required to have two windings at the primary side and full-wave rectification at the secondary side so as to operate the transformer symmetrically without core saturation. However, the voltage stresses on the push-pull switching devices are twice the reflected output voltage at either side of the primary windings. Consequently, the push-pull boost converter will sacrifice more costly switching devices in order to achieve the same conduction losses yielded from the conventional boost converter. For example, a push-pull boost converter with nearly unity power factor used in a 200 volt AC system will require active switching devices having as high as 1000 volt breakdown voltage. The on-resistance of such switching devices is significantly high, causing more conduction losses.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

This invention uses a modified single-ended boost converter circuit which is suitable for current shaping and EMI reduction applications due to its continuous input current. The inventive converter provides a step-up or step-down output voltage and provides electrical isolation using a transformer which requires only two

transformer windings, i.e. one for a primary side and another for a secondary side.

A main switching device is connected through a choke in parallel with the return terminal of the line voltage and one terminal of the transformer primary winding. An additional secondary switching device is connected in series with the other terminal of the transformer winding. The secondary side of the transformer is connected through an output rectifier to the load.

A proposed auxiliary circuit is described that consists of the additional active switching device in series with the primary winding of the transformer. By adding this auxiliary circuit across the main switching device in the conventional boost converter and moving the rectifier to the secondary winding of the transformer, a modified boost converter is accomplished to provide step-up or down output voltage while achieving electrical isolation between the line and the output.

The additional active switch has parasitic capacitance which connects in series with the magnetization inductance of the primary winding. Due to the presence of parasitic capacitance across the additional active switch and magnetization inductance of the transformer primary winding, resonance occurs within the turn-off interval of the switch, thus facilitating zero-voltage switching. In addition, the turn-on loss of the main switching device is minimized due to the presence of the leakage inductance of the transformer which allows soft switching by providing a smooth diversion of the input choke current from the primary winding to the main switch. As a consequence, the recovery time and the current in the output rectifier are reduced without slowing down the turn-on switching transition time of the main switching device.

The switches are controlled with complementary pulses that are provided at a duty ratio of greater than 50% so as to provide sufficient time to reset the transformer core. Since the transformer turn ratio can be selected to provide step-up or step-down output voltage, the output voltage regulation can be accomplished in most applications despite the restricted range of the operating duty ratio.

The switching devices in the converter are controlled by pulses having a duty ratio of greater than 0.5 so that the voltage stresses on the switching devices are limited to the reflected output voltage across the primary winding.

The operational range of the duty ratio can be extended by providing a faster core-reset mechanism which requires an auxiliary transformer winding having a fewer number of turns than the secondary winding. However, the circuit will sacrifice higher voltage stress on the switching device that is connected in series with the primary winding while the voltage stress on the main switch remains unchanged.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a schematic diagram of an ideal boost power converter circuit providing isolation and zero-voltage switching;

FIG. 2 are diagrams of waveforms of input choke current (i_L) and voltage drop across S_1 of the circuit shown in FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 are diagrams of waveforms of input choke current (i_L), reflected load current (i_{Lm}), magnetization current (i_{Lm}) and voltage across S_2 (v_{S2}) of the circuit shown in FIG. 1;

FIG. 4 is normalized trajectory of magnetization current and capacitor voltage of the circuit shown in FIG. 1;

FIG. 5 are characteristics of ideal ZVS boost converter of the circuit shown in FIG. 1;

FIG. 6 is a schematic diagram of another proposed power converter circuit with zero voltage switching, near-lossless clamping circuit and output voltage isolation;

FIG. 7 is a diagram of a waveform for i_{Lm} and v_c of the circuit shown in FIG. 6;

FIG. 8 is a state plane diagram of i_{Lm} vs. v_c for $i_{nLmax} > 1$ of the circuit shown in FIG. 6;

FIG. 9 is a schematic diagram of another proposed circuit with isolation and extended operational duty ratio;

FIG. 10 are graphs displaying characteristic of D_{min} vs. f_{ns} for $n=1.0, 0.75, 0.5, 0.25$ of the circuit shown in FIG. 9;

FIG. 11 are diagrams of simulation results for v_{S2} , i_g and i_{Lm} for duty ratio 0.5 of the circuit shown in FIG. 9;

FIG. 12 are diagrams of simulation results for v_{S1} and v_{S2} for duty ratio 0.5 of the circuit shown in FIG. 9;

FIG. 13 are diagrams of simulation results for i_g and v_{S2} for duty ratio 0.5 of the circuit shown in FIG. 9;

FIG. 14 are diagrams of simulation results for i_g and v_{S2} for duty ratio 0.9 of the circuit shown in FIG. 9;

FIG. 15 are diagrams of simulation results for v_{S1} , v_{S2} and v_0 for duty ratio 0.9 of the circuit shown in FIG. 9;

FIG. 16 are diagrams of simulation results for i_{Lm} and v_{S2} for duty ratio 0.9 of the circuit shown in FIG. 9;

FIG. 17 are diagrams of preliminary results from the PSpice simulation of the circuit shown in FIG. 6;

FIG. 18 are diagrams of experimental waveforms for primary current i and v_{S2} of the circuit shown in FIG. 6;

FIG. 19 are diagrams of experimental waveforms for input current i_g and v_{S2} of the circuit shown in FIG. 6;

FIG. 20 are diagrams of experimental waveforms for the output rectifier current i_o and v_{S2} of the circuit shown in FIG. 6; and

FIG. 21 is a block diagram of the active power factor correction system using ZVS current-fed converter.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

An ideal converter possessing zero-voltage switching (ZVS) and output isolation is shown in FIG. 1 and designated as 10. Circuit 10 is connected between line or voltage source V_g and load R_o . Converter 10 has a choke or inductor L connected at an input terminal to voltage source V_g with the other terminal of the choke connected to main switching MOSFET M_1 . MOSFET M_1 is represented by diode D_1 and switch S_1 .

MOSFET M_1 is connected in parallel with the circuit consisting of source V_g and the choke L connected in series and is connected to a terminal on a primary winding of transformer T_1 . MOSFET M_2 is represented by switch S_2 , capacitor C and diode D_2 that are connected in series with the primary winding of transformer T_1 .

Output transformer T_1 has a magnetizing inductance designated as L_m that appears across the primary winding. Capacitor C is preferably a parasitic junction capacitance of MOSFET M_2 . A control circuit 40 is connected to switch MOSFET M_1 and MOSFET M_2 . Control circuit 40 provides complementary pulses v_{100} and

v_{101} to enable MOSFETS M_1 and disable MOSFET M_2 or vice versa. Inductance L_m and capacitor C form a series resonant circuit to permit switch S_2 to be turned on and off when the voltage v_{S2} across switch S_2 is zero volts.

Transformer T_1 has a turn ratio of $n:1$ and provides electrical isolation and energy transfer from the input choke L and the voltage source V_g to the output circuit or rectifier 42. Circuit 42 consists of diode D_3 in series with a secondary of terminal T_1 and a filter capacitor C . Output circuit 42 is connected in parallel with the secondary of transformer T_1 to load R_o . The value of the reflected output capacitance seen from the primary is C_o/n^2 and is much larger than the resonant capacitor C .

In FIG. 1, i denotes the transformer primary current which has two components, a reflected load current (i_o/n) and a magnetization current i_{Lm} . However only current i_{Lm} contributes linearly to the magnetic flux stored in the transformer core. MOSFETS M_1 and M_2 are enabled and disabled so that a resonant phenomenon occurs in the converter circuit 10 to provide polarity reversal of i_{Lm} within every switching period. Effectively, this polarity reversal causes the magnetic flux density in transformer T_1 to reset and to swing within the linear region of the transformer core characteristics.

Assuming that the circuit 10 is operating in steady state and in the continuous conduction mode ($i_g(t) > 0$ at all times), waveforms of the converter input choke current (i_g) and the voltage across switch S_1 (v_{S1}) are shown in FIG. 2. Referring to FIG. 2, at time t_0 , switch S_1 is turned on and S_2 turned off by circuit 40, causing i_g to increase linearly in time and v_{S1} being held at zero voltage. At time $t_0 + DT_S$, circuit 40 turns off switch S_1 while switch S_2 is turned on a little before time $t_0 + DT_S$ to keep current i_g flowing smoothly through the primary winding of transformer T_1 thus avoiding a large voltage spike. At time, $t_0 + DT_S$, the voltage v_{S1} transits from zero to nV_o , i.e. the reflected output voltage across the primary winding. Voltage v_{S1} remains at nV_o until time $t_0 + T_S$ when circuit 40 again turns on and off switch S_1 and S_2 , respectively. Circuit 40 maintains a small overlapping on-time between switches S_1 and S_2 to ensure current i_g maintains its continuity and deterministic slopes during switching transitions of both switches S_1 and S_2 .

In FIG. 3, there is shown a more detailed waveform regarding the magnetization and the reflected-load currents (i_{Lm} and i_o/n) in comparison with the input choke current (i_g) during converter 10 operation. In addition, the waveform of the voltage across switch S_2 (designated as v_{S2}) is shown to remain at zero from time t_1 until switch S_2 is turned on at time $t_0 + DT_S$ to achieve zero-voltage switching.

During time $t_0 + DT_S \leq t < t_0 + T_S$, the majority of current i_g contributes to the power transfer from the primary to the secondary side of the transformer T_1 which provides the DC power to the load circuit R_o . A small portion of current i_g contributes to the magnetic energy stored in the transformer core, which is represented by the magnetization current i_{Lm} . During this time interval i_{Lm} is increasing even though current i_g is decreasing. Because a majority of current i_g causes diode D_3 to remain forward-biased which results in a voltage nV_o appearing across inductance L_m . The magnetization current i_{Lm} increases linearly from a negative value to zero and then to a maximum positive value at time $t_0 + T_S$.

At time $t_0 + T_S$ (or t_0), diode D_3 is forced to turn-off by circuit 40 enabling switch S_1 and disabling S_2 resulting in current i_{Lm} reaching its maximum value designated as $i_{Lm, max}$. From time $t_0 + T_S$ to time $t_1 + T_S$ (or t_0 to t_1), inductor L_m and capacitor C form a resonant circuit loop due to the conduction of switch S_1 . As can be seen from the waveforms shown in FIG. 3, current i_{Lm} decreases sinusoidally from its positive maximum ($I_{Lm, max}$), crosses zero and approaches its negative minimum ($-I_{Lm, max}$) while voltage across C (v_{S2}) completes its positive half of a sine wave at time $t_1 + T_S$ (or t_1). At time $t_1 + T_S$ (or t_1), antiparallel diode D_2 across capacitor C becomes forward-biased due to the negative current ($-I_{Lm, max}$) attempting to charge capacitor C in the opposite direction. Assuming that diode D_2 is ideal, the voltage across capacitor C is clamped to zero and causing zero voltage drop across inductor L_m . Consequently, current i_{Lm} remains at its negative minimum ($-I_{Lm, max}$) until switches S_1 and S_2 are turned off and turned on, respectively, at time $t_0 + (1 + D)T_S$ (or $t_2 = t_0 + DT_S$).

From the waveforms of current i_{Lm} and voltage v_{S2} (or v_c for simplicity) shown in FIG. 3, their normalized trajectory

$$\left(\frac{i_{Lm} z_0}{nV_0} \text{ versus } \frac{v_c}{nV_0} \right)$$

can be constructed as shown in FIG. 4. The following quantities are defined for convenience:

$$z_0 = \sqrt{\frac{L_m}{C}}$$

$$\omega_0 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{L_m C}}$$

The resonant period T_0 must be properly determined to ensure that sufficient time is provided to reset the magnetic core in a resonant fashion. From the waveforms of current i_{Lm} and voltage v_{S2} (or v_c) shown in FIG. 3,

$$\frac{T_0}{2}$$

is the time spent in resetting current i_{Lm} from $I_{Lm, max}$ to $-I_{Lm, max}$. Which is equal to one half of the resonant period. This resetting time must be less than the time for turning-on of switch S_1 (DT_S). This condition can be expressed as

$$\frac{T_0}{2} \leq DT_S \quad (1)$$

If we define the normalized switching frequency,

$$\omega_{ns} = \frac{f_s}{f_0} = \frac{T_0}{T_S} \quad (2)$$

Equation (1) can be rewritten as

$$\omega_{ns} \leq 2D \quad (3)$$

Equation (3) is characterized by the lower right triangular area shown in FIG. 5. If the selected ω_{ns} and D pair is located within the triangular area, the core-reset

mechanism as well as zero-voltage switching of voltage v_{S2} can be achieved successfully without saturating the core of transformer T_1 . To facilitate the selection of switching of switching device S_2 with proper voltage ratings, one needs to characterize the relative voltage stress ($V_{S2, max}/nV_0$).

From the current i_{Lm} waveform depicted in FIG. 3, the change in the magnetization current when switch S_2 is on from time $t_0 + DT_S$ to time $t_0 + T_S$ is $2I_{Lm, max}$. Therefore, we can write

$$I_{Lm, max} = \frac{i_{Lm}(t_0 + T_S) - i_{Lm}(t_0 + DT_S)}{2} \quad (4)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \frac{nV_0}{L_m} (1 - D)T_S$$

In terms of normalized quantity, (4) can be rewritten as

$$I_{nLm, max} = Z_0 \frac{I_{Lm, max}}{nV_0} = \frac{1}{2} (1 - D)T_S \frac{Z_0}{L_m}$$

or

$$I_{nLm, max} = \frac{1}{2} (1 - D)T_S \omega_0 \quad (5)$$

From the state-trajectory shown in FIG. 4, the normalized capacitor voltage of capacitor C ,

$$v_{nc} = \frac{v_{S2}}{nV_0}$$

is maximum when current in i_{Lm} reaches zero. Since the center of the circular trajectory is at the origin, we have the following expression:

$$v_{nC, max} = I_{nLm, max} = \frac{1}{2} (1 - D)T_S \omega_0 \quad (6)$$

From eq. (2) and $\omega_0 = 2\pi f_0$, Eq. (6) can be rewritten as

$$\omega_{ns} = \frac{(1 - D)\pi}{v_{nC, max}} \quad (7)$$

From (7), relationship of ω_{ns} versus D can be plotted for several values of $v_{nC, max}$ as shown in FIG. 5. The design curves shown in FIG. 5 aid in finding a maximum ω_{ns} that will yield the minimum voltage stress $v_{nC, max}$ an assigned duty ratio. Alternately, given a duty ratio, equations (3) and (6) may be solved to give values of ω_{ns} and $v_{nC, max}$ that can then be used to calculate the values for inductor L and capacitor C .

Zero-voltage-switching for both switches S_1 and S_2 is achieved if the increasing rate of the magnetization current is faster than the decreasing rate of the input choke current i_g shown in FIG. 1. This can be accomplished at either light load conditions or by decreasing the magnetization inductance.

During the recovery time of the output rectifier 42, its recovery current will contribute to the fast increasing of the magnetization current and the slow decreasing of the input choke current through the conducted switch S_2 . When the recovery current vanishes, the magnetization current will have already reached its positive maximum while the input choke L will have reached its negative minimum.

After the output diode rectifier D_3 is in a blocking state, the magnetization current will circulate through diode D_1 and switch S_2 . During this time, the magnetization current latches at its positive maximum and the input choke L current increases. The diode D_1 remains conductive as long as the magnetization current is greater than the input choke current, thus providing zero-voltage switching for switch S_1 . Sacrificing recovery loss, zero-voltage switching is achieved for both switches S_1 and S_2 in this manner.

Another proposed circuit of the zero-voltage switching boost converter with isolation is shown in FIG. 6 and designated generally as circuit 50. Circuit 50 includes the series combination of the voltage source V_g and inductor L connected in parallel with MOSFET M_1 to transformer T_1 primary winding. Circuit 50 also includes the MOSFET M_2 connected in series between transformer T_1 primary winding and a common terminal of voltage source V_g and operates as previously described in FIG. 1. The secondary of transformer T_1 is connected to output rectifier 42.

A diode D_5 is connected in series with capacitor C_B across MOSFET M_1 . A switch S_3 is connected in series with diode D_4 across the transformer T_1 primary with a junction intermediate diode D_4 and switch S_3 connected to a junction intermediate diode D_5 and capacitor C_B .

Switches S_1 and S_2 are operated in a complementary fashion by controller 40. Diode D_4 , switch S_3 , diode D_5 and capacitor C_B form an almost lossless snubber circuit that is used to suppress or clamp the switching transient voltages across S_1 and S_2 . By selecting a proper value for capacitor C_B , the current rating of switch S_3 can be made much smaller as compared to the size and current ratings of power switches S_1 and S_2 .

Capacitor C is a parasitic component across the switching MOSFET S_2 which has very small capacitance as compared to capacitance of capacitor C_B . Inductance L_m is the magnetization inductance appearing at the transformer T_1 primary. Inductance L_m and capacitor C form a resonant tank circuit which makes zero-voltage switching possible. Transformer T_1 provides electrical isolation and energy transfer from the input choke L and the voltage source V_g to the output circuit or rectifier 42 which consists of diode D_3 , capacitor C_o and load resistor R_o . The reflected output capacitance C_o/n^2 is much larger than snubber the capacitance C_B .

In practice, to assure that the input choke L is never open circuited, both of the switches S_1 and S_2 should have a small amount of overlap in their on-times. When S_1 is off, S_2 and S_3 are turned on. The on-state of S_2 allows the energy transfer from the input circuit (L and V_g) to the output circuit via transformer T_1 . Switch S_3 is turned on (within the turn-off interval of S_1) by controller to regulate the voltage across the snubber capacitor C_B to the reflected output voltage across the primary winding of transformer T_1 . When the circuit responses reach their steady states, the voltage across capacitor C_B settles at nV_0 .

The minimum duty ratio that allows just sufficient core-resetting mechanism is determined by the magnetization current i_{Lm} and the voltage across S_1 and S_2 (V_{S1} and V_{S2} , respectively). From FIG. 6, i denotes the transformer primary current which has two components: the reflected load current i_o/n and the magnetization current i_{Lm} . To analyze the response due to the magnetization current that only contributes to the magnetic flux in

the transformer core, the reflected load current has been excluded from current i . Hence, the waveform of current i_{Lm} to be shown will proportionally represent the magnetic flux accumulated in the core. Typical normalized waveforms of voltage V_{nC} and current i_{Lm} are shown in FIG. 7.

Referring to FIG. 7, at time $t=t_\phi$, S_2 is turned off in a very short time after turning on of switch S_1 , resulting in the magnetization current i_{Lm} to resonantly decreasing from $I_{Lm\max}$ while the input choke current is linearly increasing through switch S_1 . Current i_{Lm} charges capacitor C and causes V_C to resonantly increase. At time $t=t_1$, V_{C26} is clamped to the voltage across capacitor C_B which is equal to nV_0 by the forward bias of diode D_4 . From this time, i_{Lm} decreases linearly.

At time $t=t_2$, current i_{Lm} reaches zero and diode D_4 is naturally turned off, resulting in the resonant discharge of capacitor C through the magnetization inductance L_m and S_1 . During this time, current i_{Lm} becomes negative. When voltage V_C decreases to zero at time $t=t_3$, the negative magnetization current will cause diode D_2 to conduct and current i_{Lm} is latched at $I_{Lm\min}$ through diode D_2 and switch S_1 . Voltage V_C remains at zero during this time. The sustained conduction of diode D_2 allows switch S_2 to be turned on at zero-voltage. Later, switch S_1 is turned off at time $t=t_4$ while switch S_2 has just been turned on. From this time, voltage across switch S_1 , V_{S1} , is first clamped to the voltage across capacitor C_B and then clamped to the reflected output voltage nV_0 . Without capacitor C_B and diode D_5 , V_{S1} could have high frequency ringing transients due to the resonance between the parasitic capacitance across switch S_1 and the leakage inductance of the transformer.

From time t_4 to t_5 , current i_{Lm} linearly increases from $I_{Lm\min}$ to $I_{Lm\max}$. Within this time interval, switch S_3 is turned on to discharge the excess voltage across capacitor C_B to the output circuit via transformer T_1 . Thus, capacitor C_B never has its voltage run away. At time $t=t_5$, S_1 is turned on to complete one switching cycle.

To reset the transformer core properly, the circuit 50 must operate at a duty ratio above some minimum duty ratio, D_{min} . For the sake of convenience, the voltage is normalized v_0 by nV_0 and the current i_{Lm} is normalized by $(nV_0)/Z_0$ where $Z_0 = \sqrt{L_m/C}$.

The trajectory of the normalized current i_{nLm} versus the normalized voltage v_{nC} are depicted in FIG. 8. Utilizing the geometry of this trajectory, two cases are analyzed to determine the minimum duty ratio D_{min} .

In the case where $i_{nLm\max} > 1$, to operate the transformer core without magnetic saturation, the average voltage across the transformer primary winding must be zero over a switching period. Mathematically, this constraint may be written as,

$$\frac{1}{T_s} \left[\int_{t_0}^{t_5} v_{S1} dt - \int_{t_0}^{t_5} v_C dt \right] = v_{S1} - v_C = 0 \quad (8)$$

where v_{S1} is the voltage across switch S_1 , v_C is the voltage across switch S_2 and capacitor C (see FIG. 6) and the over-bar denotes average value of the variables. Since the average voltage over a switching period across an inductor is zero, the volt-second balance across the input choke L yields

$$V_{S1} = (1-D) nV_0 \quad (9)$$

Utilizing the waveforms shown in FIG. 7 and the state plane trajectory in FIG. 8, it can be shown that

$$\omega_0 T_S D_{min} = \sin^{-1} \left(\frac{1}{\omega_0 T_S (1 - D_{min}) - 1} \right) + \sqrt{(\omega_0 T_S (1 - D_{min}) - 1)^2 - 1} + \frac{\pi}{2} \quad (10)$$

for $f_{ns} < 2\pi/(2 + \pi)$

Equation (10) is derived from the following relations:

When $i_{nL,max}$ approaches unity, the following limiting values are obtained

$$\lim_{i_{nL,max} \rightarrow 1} D_{min} = \lim_{i_{nL,max} \rightarrow 1} \frac{f_{ns}}{2} = \frac{\pi}{2 + \pi}, \text{ and} \quad (11)$$

$$f_{ns} = \frac{2\pi}{2 + \pi} \Big|_{i_{nL,max} \rightarrow 1}$$

The following expressions are derived:

$$D_{min} = \frac{t_{01} + t_{12} + t_{23}}{T_S}$$

$$i_{nL,max} - i_{nL,min} = i_{nL,max} + 1 = \omega_0 T_S (1 - D_{min})$$

$$t_{01} = \frac{\sin^{-1} \frac{1}{i_{nL,max}}}{\omega_0}$$

$$t_{12} = \frac{i_{nL,max}}{\omega_0} \cos \omega_0 t_{01}$$

$$t_{23} = \frac{\pi}{2\omega_0}$$

where $f_{ns} = 2\pi/\omega_0 T_S$.

In the case where $i_{nL,max} < 1$, the trajectory of voltage v_{nC} and current i_{nL} is shown in FIG. 4. Using the geometry of this trajectory, the minimum duty ratio can be expressed as

$$D_{min} = \frac{t_{01}}{T_S} = \frac{T_0}{2T_S} = \frac{f_{ns}}{2} \quad (12)$$

for $f_{ns} > 2\pi/(2 + \pi)$. Expressions for D_{min} given by (10) and (12) are plotted versus the normalized switching frequency in FIG. 10 where the top line denotes our case ($n=1$).

FIG. 9 shows another modified version of the basic converter circuit that was introduced in FIG. 6 and is designated as 80. Circuit 80 includes inductor L connected in parallel with MOSFET M₁ to transformer T₂. Circuit 80 also includes MOSFET M₂ connected in series between the primary winding of transformer T₂ and the common terminal of voltage source V_g. MOSFET M₁ and MOSFET M₂ are represented by components as previously described in FIG. 1.

Diode D₅, connected in parallel with switch S₃, represents a MOSFET M₃ connected in series with a capacitor C_A across MOSFET M₁. The parallel combination of switch S₆ and diode D₆, representing MOSFET M₆, is connected from one terminal of the primary winding of transformer T₂ to a capacitor C_B. The other

terminal of capacitor C_B is connected to the junction of capacitor C_A and switch S₃. Output rectifier circuit 82 is connected to the secondary of transformer T₂. Rectifier circuit 82 includes diodes D₇ and D₈ connected in a full wave rectifier configuration with capacitor C_o and load R_o. The full wave rectification requires a tapped secondary winding of transformer T₂. The main power transfer is accomplished by the conduction of diode D₇.

Modified circuit 80 utilizes a transformer T₂ having an auxiliary winding N_A having a fewer number of turns than the secondary winding N_S. As a result the turn ratio N_A:N_S=n₁:n₂ is less than unity to extend the minimum operational duty ratio below 0.5. Note that n₁ is the turn ratio from the primary to the secondary winding, and n₂ is the turn ratio from the primary to the auxiliary winding. Switches S₆ and S₂ are controlled with complementary driving signals and, in practice, should not have an overlap on-time between them. However, to achieve zero-voltage switching across switch S₂, S₆ must be turned off at least T₀/4 seconds before S₂ turns on, where T₀ is the resonant period forming by L_m and C. Switches S₂ and S₁ are also driven by complementary signals but they should have overlapping conduction times. Switch S₆ limits the voltage across capacitor C_B such that it does not deviate from (n₂V₀-n₁V₀) while switch S₃ limits the voltage level across capacitor C_A not exceeding above n₁V₀ volts. As usual, capacitors C_B and C_A are assumed to be much larger than capacitance C, the parasitic capacitance of S₂. We can calculate the minimum duty ratio D_{min}, given by the following equation for $i_{nL,max} > 1$:

$$\omega_0 T_S D_{min} = \sin^{-1} \left[\frac{1}{\frac{n_1}{n_2} \omega_0 T_S (1 - D_{min}) - 1} \right] + \sqrt{\left(\frac{n_1}{n_2} \omega_0 T_S (1 - D_{min}) - 1 \right)^2 - 1} + \frac{\pi}{2} \quad (13)$$

$$\text{for } f_{ns} < \left(\frac{2}{\frac{2}{\pi (n_1/n_2)} + 1} \right)$$

and for $i_{nL,max} < 1$

$$D_{min} = \frac{f_{ns}}{2}, \text{ for } f_{ns} > \frac{2}{\frac{2}{\pi (n_1/n_2)} + 1} \quad (14)$$

where $i_{nL} = i_L Z_0 / (n_1 V_0)$ and $v_{nC} = v_C / (n_1 V_0)$. Using the expressions given by (13) and (14), we can plot the characteristic curves for D_{min} versus f_{ns} . FIG. 10 shows these characteristics for n, = 1.0, 0.75, 0.5, 0.25, where $n = n_1/n_2$.

The converter shown in FIG. 1 was simulated at the duty ratio of 0.5 and 0.9 respectively. The following component values were used in the simulation:

- Input voltage, V_g=160 V
- Input choke, L=100 uH
- Parasitic capacitance, C=800 pF
- Transformer turns ratio, n_p:n_s=1:1
- Transformer magnetization inductance, L_m=1 mH
- Load resistance, R_o=160 ohm
- Output filter capacitance, C_o=100 uF
- Switching frequency, f_s=100 kHz

FIGS. 11, 12 and 13 show the simulation results of the converter responses for the duty ratio of 0.5. FIG. 11 provides the voltage across switch S_2 (v_{S2}), the input choke and the magnetization currents (i_g and i_{Lm}). The figure indicates that the converter is operated in the continuous conduction mode.

In FIG. 12, there is shown the voltages across switches S_1 and S_2 (v_{S1} and v_{S2}). In this figure, voltage v_{S1} and v_{S2} have the overlap on-time which can be observed from the overlapping time-intervals of zero voltage of the both switches. Additionally, zero voltage switching of switch S_2 can be verified from this figure.

In FIG. 13 there is shown a more detailed waveform of the magnetization current (i_{Lm}) with voltage v_{S2} as the reference waveform. Current i_{Lm} swings between -800 and 800 mA and the shape of its waveform is in agreement with the theoretical waveform. The steady-state output voltage, which is not shown here, settles at 320.6 volts as expected.

In FIGS. 14, 15 and 16 there is shown the simulation results of the converter responses for the duty ratio of 0.9. FIG. 14 gives the waveforms of v_{S2} and i_g . The average current for i_g is approximately 115 amps.

In FIG. 15 there is shown voltage v_{S1} and v_{S2} . Again, the zero-voltage switching of switch S_2 is confirmed when v_{S2} has its zero voltage before S_2 is turned on (or S_1 is turned off).

Finally, in FIG. 16 there is shown current i_{Lm} and voltage v_{S2} . Similarly, current i_{Lm} swings between -800 and 800 mA and has its waveform very close to the ideal waveform predicted from the theory.

A computer simulation of the circuit shown in FIG. 6 was carried out at 1 kW output load to demonstrate the zero-voltage switching capability of the converter. The following are the component values used in the simulation.

Input voltage, $V_g = 160$ V
 Input choke, $L = 100$ μ H
 Parasitic capacitance, $C = 800$ pF
 Snubber capacitance, $C_B = 0.1$ μ F
 Transformer turns ratio, $n_p : n_s = 1:1$
 Transformer coupling coefficient, $k_p = 0.999999$
 Transformer primary leakage inductance, $L_{lp} = 1$ μ H
 Transformer magnetizing inductance, $L_m = 1$ mH
 Load resistance, $R_o = 160$ Ω
 Output filter capacitance, $C_o = 10$ μ F
 Duty ratio, $D = 0.6$
 Switching frequency, $f_s = 100$ kHz

In FIG. 17 there is shown the preliminary simulation results of the voltage across snubber capacitor C_B (v_{CB} in the lower plot) and the voltages across switches S_1 and S_2 (v_{S1} and v_{S2} in the upper plot, respectively). The voltage across capacitor C_B (v_{CB}) is observed to remain at a level around the reflected output voltage. The voltage across switch S_2 (the added switch), v_{S2} , reaches and remains at zero voltage before switch S_2 is turned on. Thus, the zero-voltage turn-on is achieved. The voltage across switches S_1 and S_2 aid in verifying that the switches are never turned off simultaneously. When switch S_1 is turned off, switch S_2 is already on and the voltage across switch S_1 is clamped to voltage v_{CB} . This confirms that the voltage stresses of the switches are limited to the reflected output voltage.

Preliminary results from the experimental setup at very light loads are shown in FIGS. 18, 19, and 20. FIG. 18 shows the current through the primary winding of the transformer and the voltage across switch S_2 . In this

case, the voltage across switch S_2 is below the voltage across capacitor C_B because the normalized magnetization current is less than unity. This case occurs only at light load conditions. When switch S_2 is turned off, the voltage across it increases sinusoidally to its peak and then decreases to zero. At the same time, the magnetization current decreases from its peak to zero and becomes negative. Once the voltage across switch S_2 reaches zero and the magnetization current is negative, the body diode across switch S_2 is turned on and latches the current from time t_1 to t_2 . In FIG. 19 there is shown the input choke current and the voltage across switch S_2 . In light load conditions the input choke current can decrease from its positive peak down to zero and become negative. The negative portion of the input choke current occurs due to the recovery current of the output rectifier that is reflected to the primary.

The current through the output rectifier is shown in FIG. 20. Notice that the magnetization current has also built up to some positive value when the output rectifier is in transition from the reverse recover to its blocking state. The positive magnetizing current will cause diode D_1 across switch S_1 to naturally conduct, allowing the input choke current to build up linearly even though switch S_1 is not turned on. Since the input choke current is less than the magnetization current (latched due to conduction of diode D_1 and switch S_2), the conduction of diode D_1 will be sustained and overlap with the conduction of switch S_1 . Thus, the duration of current increasing is longer than the duration of the on-time of switch S_1 . As a result, the recovery duration of the output rectifier becomes beneficial because zero-voltage-switching is established across switch S_1 before it is turned on. Finally, the converter can fully operate with zero-voltage-switching for both switches S_1 and S_2 as described previously.

In FIG. 21 there is shown a system block diagram incorporating the converter circuit 50 shown in FIG. 6. In circuit 50, switches S_1 , S_2 and S_3 being MOSFETS are enabled by switching processing circuit 112 at the time intervals previously discussed. The input voltage of the converter is the rectified sine wave $v_g(t)$ obtained from the output of the full-bridge rectifier 110 connected to an ac source. The ac input of the full-bridge rectifier 110 can be the utility bus voltage having the frequency of 60 or 50 Hz.

The output of rectifier 110 is fed to circuit 50 to produce output voltage V_o . The output voltage V_o of circuit 50 is scaled down through circuit K_S and impedance Z_1 and compared to the reference voltage V_{REF} . The comparison difference is amplified and low pass filtered with amplifier 117 to yield the voltage error V_{EA} which has its steady DC voltage superimposed with the negligible ac component in the steady state.

The voltage error V_{EA} is modulated in device 118 by the rectified sine wave sampled from the pulsating input $V_{sin}(t) = V_g(t)$. The modulation output becomes the controlled current (I_{MUL}) which is proportional to the product of V_{sin} and V_{EA} . The product $(R_s + R_c) \times I_{MUL}$ is used as the dynamic reference waveform of which the sinusoidal envelope is tracked by the scaled input current $R_s X_{ig}$ using the average-current mode controller 120. The averaged tracking error V_{ee} , the output of the controller 120, is fed to the pulse-width modulator circuit 122 which delivers the PWM switching signal as the output to circuit 112. Circuit 112 responds to the PWM switching signal to control the on and off time

intervals of switches S_1 , S_2 and S_3 , as previously described.

In the active power factor correction (APFC) mode using the conventional boost converter, a PWM (pulse width modulation) signal can be used to control the main power switch directly. In this application of the proposed converter, switching signal processing circuit 112 is needed additionally to provide three switching voltages, v_{gs1} , v_{gs2} and v_{gs3} which are used to control the MOSFETS M_1 , M_2 and M_3 respectively. The switching voltages v_{gs1} and v_{gs2} are almost complementary with some small overlapping on-time and no overlapping off-time. The switching voltages v_{gs1} and v_{gs3} are also almost complementary with sufficient overlapping off-time and no overlapping on-time.

The PWM signal is designed to have the minimum duty ratio of 0.55 and the maximum duty ratio of 0.95. The limited range of the operating duty ratio will provide the satisfactory system performance and the effective core-reset mechanism within the transformer T_1 .

In addition, the switching signal processing circuit should be capable of shutting down all the switching signals (V_{gs1} , V_{gs2} and V_{gs3}) to zero voltage in the event that the PWM input signal disappears. This automatic shut-down mechanism will ensure that none of the power MOSFETS is latched-on during the absence of the PWM signal. Since the voltage loop-gain bandwidth of the APFC system is dependent very much on the mean-square of the rectified input voltage, $v_g(t)$, the feed forward of the quantity proportional to the inverse of the mean-square of $v_g(t)$ is used to reduce the variation of the loop gain bandwidth within a certain range of the ac input amplitude. Therefore, the controlled current I_{MUL} driven by the multiplier circuit 120 can be written as

$$I_{MUL}(t) = \frac{kV_g(t)v_{ed}(t)}{V_{RMS}^2}$$

where $k=0.0031936$ is used in the simulation.

The average-current mode controller amplifies the actual tracking error V_{ie} and provides the frequency compensated tracking error V_{ee} as the output. The transfer function $V_{ee}(S)/V_{ie}(S)$ is

$$\frac{v_{ee}(s)}{v_{ie}(s)} = \frac{Z_{IF}(s)}{R_1} + 1 \text{ where}$$

$$Z_{IF}(s) = \frac{1 + \frac{s}{\omega_z}}{k_I \left(\frac{s}{\omega_p} + 1 \right)}$$

where the constants ω_z , ω_p , and k_I are given by,

$$\omega_z = 21739.13 \text{ rad/sec}$$

$$\omega_p = 438405.8 \text{ rad/sec}$$

$$k_I = 2.42 \times 10^{-9}$$

The DC output voltage is scaled down by a factor of $K_S=0.012582$ and is low-pass filtered by the voltage comparator of which the transfer function is given by

$$\frac{v_{ed}(s)}{v_{os}(s)} = \frac{K_{LP}}{\frac{s}{\omega_{p0}} + 1}$$

where,

$$K_{LP} = 8.9747$$

$$\omega_{p0} = 252.7806 \text{ rad/sec}$$

This concludes the description of the preferred embodiments. A reading by those skilled in the art will bring to mind various changes without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. It is intended, however, that the invention only be limited by the following appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A power converter circuit for converting a voltage level across a power and a common terminal of a voltage source to a different voltage level when supplying a load, the circuit comprising:

an input choke having an input and an output terminal, said input terminal being connected to the power terminal of the voltage source;

a main switching means comprising a first switch and a parallel connected diode between the output terminal of the choke and the common terminal for selectively establishing a current through said choke from said voltage source;

a transformer having a primary and a secondary winding, said primary winding having a first and a second input terminal, said first input terminal being connected to said output terminal of said choke;

a secondary switching means connected between the second input terminal of the transformer and the common terminal for selectively establishing a current through said transformer primary winding, said secondary switching means comprising a parallel combination of a capacitor, a diode and a second switch connected between said second input terminal and the common terminal;

a diode connected in series between said transformer secondary winding and the load;

an output capacitor connected in parallel with said load; and

means for complementarily enabling and disabling said main and said secondary switching means to control current through the transformer primary winding.

2. The power converter circuit as recited in claim 1 further comprising:

a second diode connected in series with a second capacitor across the output terminal of the input choke and the common terminal of the voltage source, said second diode and second capacitor forming a main junction therebetween;

a third diode coupled between the main junction and the second input terminal of the primary winding; and

a third switching means connected between the junction and the output terminal of the input choke for suppressing any transient voltages across the main and secondary switching means when current is varied through the transformer.

3. The power converter as recited in claim 2 further comprising:

means for comparing an output voltage across the load with a reference voltage to produce a voltage error voltage;

means for modulating the error voltage with the voltage source to produce a tracking error voltage; and

means for enabling and disabling the main and secondary switching means in response to the tracking error voltage.

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4. The power converter circuit as recited in claim 2 further comprising means for enabling and disabling the third switching means to regulate the voltage across the second capacitor to a reflected output voltage across the primary winding input terminals.

5. The power converter circuit as recited in claim 4 further comprising:

a third capacitor connected between said third diode and said main junction; and

a fourth switching means connected in parallel with said third diode for limiting the voltage across the second capacitor to be within a predetermined range.

6. The power converter circuit as recited in claim 5 wherein said third switching means limits the maximum voltage level across the second capacitor to a predetermined level.

7. A power converter for providing a regulated DC output from an unregulated DC voltage source, the voltage source having a pair of output terminals of relatively positive and negative polarity, the power converter comprising:

an input choke having an input terminal and an output terminal, said input terminal being coupled to one of the pair of output terminals of the voltage source;

a first switching means coupled in circuit between said output terminal of said choke and another of the pair of output terminals of the voltage source;

a single-ended transformer having a primary winding and a secondary winding, each of said primary and secondary windings having first and second end terminals, a first end terminal of said primary winding being coupled to said output terminal of said choke;

a second switching means coupled in circuit between said another of the pair of output terminals of the

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voltage source and a second end terminal of said transformer primary winding;

an output rectifier means coupled to said end terminals of said secondary winding for providing a rectified DC output; and

control means coupled to each of said first and second switching means and operative to selectively gate each of said switching means into and out of conduction so as to establish an alternating magnetization current in said transformer primary winding.

8. The power converter as recited in claim 7 wherein said enabling means enables and disables the second switching means when a voltage level across said second switching means is about zero volts.

9. The power converter of claim 7 wherein said second switching means comprises a semiconductor switching device having a parasitic junction capacitance and wherein said capacitance forms a series resonant circuit with a magnetizing inductance of said transformer primary winding to permit said second switching means to transition between on and off states under zero voltage switching conditions.

10. The power converter of claim 7 and including:

a first diode;

a capacitor connected in series with said first diode, said capacitor and diode in series being connected in parallel circuit with said first switching means;

a third switching means connected in parallel circuit with said first diode;

a second diode connected between said second end terminal of said primary transformer winding and a junction intermediate said first diode and capacitor; and

means for controlling said third switching means to suppress switching transients on said first and second switching means.

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