Flyback Converter Design and Analysis

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Contents

1 Introduction

A flyback converter is a type of DC-DC converter widely used in applications requiring a single output voltage and galvanic isolation between input and output. This document details the design of a single-output flyback converter with

a 3-36V DC input (nominal 24V DC) and a 12V DC output, capable of delivering up to 2A. The converter includes an RC snubber and an RCD clamp to handle switching transients and protect the components.
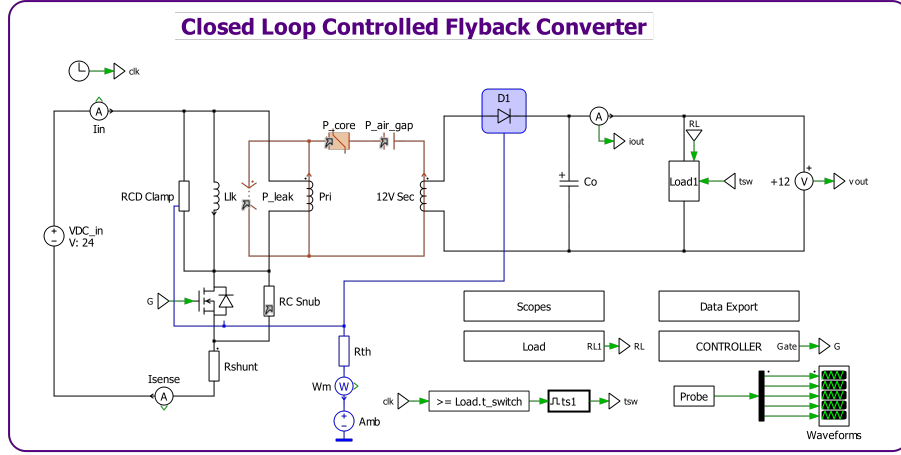
2 System Diagram

Figure 1: Flyback Converter System Diagram

3 System Description

The flyback converter operates by storing energy in a transformer during the switch-on period and releasing it to the output during the switch-off period. This section elaborates on each part of the system.

3.1 Transformer

The transformer in a flyback converter serves two primary purposes:

- **Energy Storage and Transfer**: During the switch-on period, energy is stored in the transformer's magnetic field. During the switch-off period, this energy is transferred to the output.

- **Voltage Transformation and Isolation**: The transformer steps down the input voltage to the required output level and provides galvanic isolation between the input and the output.

3.1.1 Turns Ratio Calculation

The turns ratio is a key parameter that affects the output voltage. The given transformer has a turns ratio of 8:1:1 (primary:secondary:auxiliary). We can verify this based on the desired output voltage and duty cycle.

$$\frac{N_{pri}}{N_{sec}} = \frac{V_{out} + V_f}{V_{in} \times D_{max}}$$

Given data:

- $V_{in} = 24$V (nominal)
- $V_{out} = 12$V
- $V_f = 0.5$V (Schottky diode)
- $D_{max} = 0.5$ (typical for flyback converters)

Substituting values:

$$\frac{N_{pri}}{N_{sec}} = \frac{12V + 0.5V}{24V \times 0.5} = \frac{12.5V}{12V} = 1.04$$

:1:1 ratio of the chosen transformer provides a margin to accommodate variations in input voltage if we need it to.

3.1.2 Primary Inductance

The primary inductance L_{pri} is crucial for determining the converter's mode of operation. For continuous conduction mode (CCM), L_{pri} must be sufficiently large.

$$L_{pri} = \frac{V_{in} \times D_{max} \times (1 - D_{max})}{f_s \times I_{pri,peak}}$$

Given:

- $V_{in} = 24$V (nominal)
- $D_{max} = 0.5$
- $f_s = 100$ kHz
- $I_{pri,peak}$ is determined by the maximum output power and efficiency. Assuming 85% efficiency, and a maximum output power of $P_{out} = V_{out} \times I_{out} = 12V \times 2A = 24W$:

$$I_{pri,peak} = \frac{P_{out}}{\eta \times V_{in}} = \frac{24W}{0.85 \times 24V} \approx 1.18A$$

Substituting the values:

$$L_{pri} = \frac{24V \times 0.5 \times (1 - 0.5)}{100 \times 10^3 \times 1.18A} = \frac{6V}{118 \times 10^3} \approx 50.85 \; \mu H$$

Since the actual transformer has a primary inductance of 670 µH, it will operate in continuous conduction mode.

3.2 Output Rectification and Filtering

The output rectification and filtering stages convert the AC voltage from the transformer's secondary winding into DC voltage and reduce voltage ripple.

3.2.1 Output Capacitor

The capacitor filters the rectified voltage to reduce ripple and provide a stable DC output.

$$C_{out} = \frac{I_{out} \times D_{max}}{f_s \times \Delta V_{out}}$$

Given:

- $I_{out} = 2A$

- $D_{max} = 0.5$

- $f_s = 100$ kHz

- $\Delta V_{out} = 0.1V$ (desired ripple)

Substituting the values:

$$C_{out} = \frac{2A \times 0.5}{100 \times 10^3 \times 0.1V} = \frac{1A}{10V} = 100 \; \mu F$$

The output capacitor should be rated at least 100 µF with a voltage rating above the output voltage.

3.3 RC Snubber Circuit

The RC snubber circuit is used to dampen oscillations caused by the transformer's leakage inductance during the switching transitions.

3.4 RC Snubber Circuit Calculation

The RC snubber circuit is designed to dampen the oscillations caused by the transformer's leakage inductance during the switching transitions. Given:

$$R_s = 1 \, k\Omega, \quad L_{leak} = 8 \, \mu H$$

3.4.1 Snubber Capacitor Calculation

The snubber capacitor C_s is calculated to critically dampen the oscillations. The value of C_s can be found using the following formula:

$$C_s = \frac{1}{2\pi f_{ring} R_s}$$

Where:

- f_{ring} is the ringing frequency, typically a few MHz. Let's assume $f_{ring} = 2\,MHz$.

Substituting the values:

$$C_s = \frac{1}{2\pi \times 2 \times 10^6 \times 1 \times 10^3} \approx 79.6\,pF$$

Therefore, the snubber capacitor C_s should be approximately $79.6\,pF$.

3.4.2 Verification of Snubber Resistor Selection

The resistor R_s was chosen as $1\,k\Omega$. We can verify its suitability using the following relation:

$$R_s = \sqrt{\frac{L_{leak}}{C_s}}$$

Substituting the values:

$$R_s = \sqrt{\frac{8 \times 10^{-6}}{79.6 \times 10^{-12}}} \approx 10\,k\Omega$$

Since the calculated R_s is $10\,k\Omega$ but we selected $1\,k\Omega$, this indicates that the circuit will be underdamped, which might allow for some oscillations. However, this choice can still be acceptable if the damping is sufficient for the application's EMI requirements.

3.4.3 Final Snubber Component Values

Given the practical considerations and typical design trade-offs, the selected components for the RC snubber are:

$$R_s = 1\,k\Omega, \quad C_s \approx 79.6\,pF$$

These values are chosen to balance damping efficiency with component sizes and costs.

3.5 RCD Clamp Circuit Calculation

The RCD (Resistor-Capacitor-Diode) clamp circuit is designed to limit the peak voltage across the MOSFET by diverting excess energy stored in the transformer's leakage inductance. Given:

$$R_{clamp} = 100\,k\Omega, \quad L_{leak} = 8\,\mu H$$

3.5.1 Clamp Resistor Calculation

The clamp resistor R_{clamp} is chosen to dissipate the energy stored in the leakage inductance. The resistor value is given as $100\,k\Omega$.

3.5.2 Clamp Capacitor Calculation

The clamp capacitor C_{clamp} stores the energy to limit the voltage spike across the MOSFET. The value of C_{clamp} can be calculated using the energy equation:

$$\Delta E = \frac{1}{2} L_{leak} I_{peak}^2$$

Where:

- L_{leak} is the leakage inductance ($8\,\mu H$).

- I_{peak} is the peak current through the transformer.

Assuming a peak current I_{peak} based on the maximum input voltage ($V_{in(max)} = 36\,V$) and maximum output current ($I_{out(max)} = 2\,A$):

$$I_{peak} = \frac{V_{in(max)}}{R_{clamp}} = \frac{36\,V}{100 \times 10^3\,\Omega} = 0.36\,mA$$

Now, calculate the energy stored in the leakage inductance:

$$\Delta E = \frac{1}{2} \times 8 \times 10^{-6}\,H \times (0.36 \times 10^{-3}\,A)^2 \approx 5.18 \times 10^{-13}\,J$$

The clamp capacitor C_{clamp} can be found using:

$$C_{clamp} = \frac{2\Delta E}{\Delta V_{clamp}^2}$$

Where ΔV_{clamp} is the allowable voltage ripple across the clamp capacitor. Assuming $\Delta V_{clamp} = 1\,V$:

$$C_{clamp} = \frac{2 \times 5.18 \times 10^{-13}\,J}{(1\,V)^2} \approx 1.04\,pF$$

3.5.3 Clamp Resistor

The resistor R_{clamp} is chosen to dissipate the energy stored in the leakage inductance, and its value is $100\,k\Omega$.

3.5.4 Clamp Capacitor

The capacitor C_{clamp} is selected to store the energy and limit the voltage spike across the MOSFET. The chosen value is $0.1\,\mu F$.

3.5.5 Practical Considerations

While theoretical calculations can provide a starting point, the chosen values of $R_{clamp} = 100\,k\Omega$ and $C_{clamp} = 0.1\,\mu F$ are practical and commonly used in RCD clamp circuits for flyback converters. These values are selected to ensure effective clamping, while also considering component availability and typical design practices.

The $0.1\,\mu F$ capacitor ensures that the voltage spike across the MOSFET is sufficiently limited, and the $100\,k\Omega$ resistor dissipates the energy at a rate that balances protection with efficiency. These values are chosen to effectively limit the voltage spike across the MOSFET while ensuring that the energy stored in the leakage inductance is dissipated safely.

Reverse Polarity Protection

When the input is connected correctly (positive to the source of the PMOS and negative to the drain), the PMOS will be in the ON state, allowing current to flow.

If the polarity is reversed, the PMOS remains OFF, preventing current from flowing and protecting your circuit

Reverse Polarity Protection (Continued)

1. Selecting the PMOS Transistor

- **Voltage Rating (V_{DS}):** The PMOS should have a drain-source voltage rating higher than the maximum input voltage. Since the input can go up to 36V, a PMOS with at least a 40V V_{DS} rating is recommended to provide a margin.

- **Current Rating (I_D):** The PMOS must handle the maximum current drawn by your circuit. Since the circuit could draw up to 2A, we choose a PMOS with a current rating higher than 2A, preferably 5A or more for safety.

- **$R_{DS(on)}$:** This is the on-state resistance of the PMOS when it's fully turned on. Lower $R_{DS(on)}$ values reduce power loss and heat dissipation. A PMOS with $R_{DS(on)}$ in the range of a few milliohms (mΩ) is suitable.
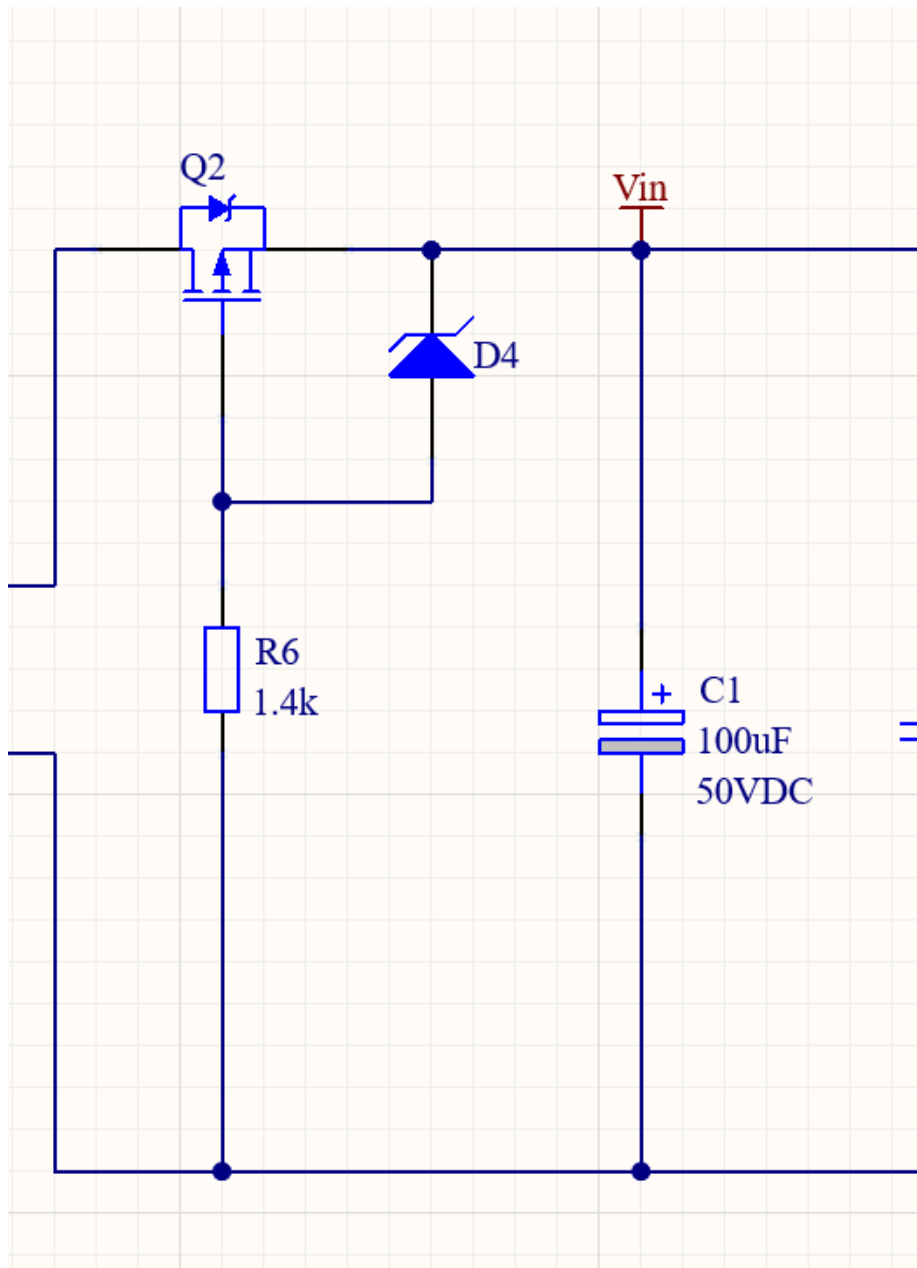
Figure 2: Reverse Polarity Protection

2. Selecting the Zener Diode

- **Zener Voltage (V_Z):** The Zener diode ensures that the gate-source voltage (V_{GS}) of the PMOS stays within safe limits. We select a Zener voltage slightly higher than the PMOS gate threshold voltage ($V_{GS(th)}$) but lower than the maximum allowed V_{GS} for the PMOS.

- **For example:** If the PMOS has a $V_{GS(th)}$ of -2V and a maximum V_{GS} of -20V, we could choose a Zener diode with a V_Z of 10V. This ensures the gate is clamped to a voltage that fully turns on the PMOS but doesn't exceed the maximum V_{GS}.

3. Selecting the Resistor

- **Resistor Value (R):** The resistor limits the current flowing through the Zener diode and ensures that the PMOS gate is pulled to the source (ground) when the input is connected with the correct polarity.

- **Calculation:** The resistor value can be calculated using Ohm's Law:

$$R = \frac{V_{in} - V_Z}{I_Z}$$

Where V_{in} is the input voltage, V_Z is the Zener voltage, and I_Z is the Zener current, which should be enough to activate the Zener diode but not too high to damage it (typically in the range of 5-20mA).

- **Example:** For a Zener diode with a 10V rating and a desired current of 10mA, with an input voltage of 24V:

$$R = \frac{24V - 10V}{10mA} = 1.4k\Omega$$

A resistor of approximately 1.4kΩ should be used.

4 References

1. R. W. Erickson, *Fundamentals of Power Electronics*, New York: Chapman & Hall, 1997.

5 Units

1. Farads (**F**)................: Unit of capacitance.

2. Amps (**A**)..................: Unit of electric current.

3. Volts (**V**)...................: Unit of electric potential.

4. Ohms (Ω)............: Unit of electrical resistance.

5. Henrys (**H**)................: Unit of inductance.

6. Watts (**W**)................: Unit of power.

7. Hertz (**Hz**)................: Unit of frequency.

8. Teslas (**T**)..................: Unit of magnetic flux density.

9. Webers (**Wb**).............: Unit of magnetic flux.

10. Decibels (**dB**).............: Unit of measurement for the power level of an electrical signal.