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BIDIRECTIONAL ISOLATED AC-DC CONVERTER

Abstract

A bidirectional high voltage AC-DC converter includes a primary three-phase three-level T-type power factor correction circuit, a full-bridge switching circuit connected to the primary three-phase three-level T-type power factor correction circuit output, an isolated capacitor-inductor-inductor-capacitor (CLLC) resonant tank connected to the full-bridge switching circuit, a T-type full-bridge output topology circuit connected to the CLLC resonant circuit, and a controller that controls one or more of the components of the bidirectional isolated high voltage AC-DC converter. The primary three-phase three-level T-type power factor correction circuit and the secondary three-level circuit include a split DC-link bus with respective voltages that are actively controlled by the controller. The CLLC resonant converter circuit includes an isolation transformer that electrically isolates the primary side from the secondary side of the bidirectional isolated high voltage AC-DC converter. A control method includes synthesizing, via a modified space vector pulse width modulation (SVPWM) scheme or a variable-amplitude double-carrier sine-triangle PWM with capacitor bank middle point voltage control, one or more output voltages of the front end three-phase three-level T-type PFC circuit, wherein the modified SVPWM scheme is based, at least in part on a nearest four vectors technique.

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Background/Summary

FIELD OF INVENTION

[0001] The present application relates generally to bidirectional AC-DC converters, and more particularly to a bidirectional isolated high voltage AC-DC converter and a method of controlling the bidirectional AC-DC converter.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] As many vehicles, including aircraft or vessels, shift to the application of electric motors for propulsion or other electric power needs, DC or AC voltage buses that operate at significantly higher voltage levels from what is typical today are emerging to handle the ever-increasing electrical power levels. For example, conventional vehicle AC power distribution networks typically use transformer rectification units (TRUs) for AC-DC conversion, which are bulky, heavy, and have low efficiency. Some conventional vehicle AC power distribution networks replace TRUs with auto-transformer rectification units (ATRUs), which have a higher power density and higher efficiency compared to conventional TRUs. However, one drawback associated with the ATRUs is the loss of valuable electrical isolation.

[0003] With the latest advances in power electronics technology, especially the adoption of the wide bandgap power devices (SiC and GaN), the ATRU solution can only be classified as “expedient” or “make-do,” since the sacrifice of electrical isolation is high and the gain in power density and efficiency is low. The latest power electronics technology necessitates revolutionizing this classical function with the needed power density, efficiency, and intelligent fault processing capability without sacrificing the isolation benefits.

[0004] Traditional flight actuation controllers normally dissipate the regenerative energy internally with braking resistors. Unfortunately, this reduces system efficiency and results in higher operating temperature. With the advent of next generation MEA microgrid power systems, the restriction of prohibiting any regenerated energy flowing back to the AC system could be lifted, at least for cases with low duty cycle energy back flow such as what would happen with vehicle motor-driven actuation. Designing for bidirectional power flow capability will become a new design paradigm to meet the goal of higher energy efficiency and reduced impact on the environment.

SUMMARY OF INVENTION

[0005] The present application describes a bidirectional high voltage AC-DC converter. The bidirectional high voltage AC-DC converter utilizes the latest power electronics technology to provide a high-density bidirectional isolated power processing unit enabling the use of standard vehicle actuation products on vehicles with electric power systems with AC power buses, with additional features benefiting the system level design of the actuation system.

[0006] Embodiments of the present application utilize innovative AC/DC conversion topology implemented by wide bandgap GaN devices to perform bidirectional power conversion between AC power sources and a split DC bus output, which may be referenced to a vehicle chassis, with requisite electrical isolation. The bidirectional power flow enables the regenerative energy by the flight actuators to flow back to the AC power source increasing the overall system efficiency. An advantageous feature for partial discharge hazard management with the split DC bus is provided to achieve an optimized electrically driven actuation system, and other power needs for vehicle applications where high-altitude operation would pose significant challenge from high voltage power buses.

[0007] In exemplary embodiments, the bidirectional high voltage AC-DC converter includes a primary three-phase three-level T-type power factor correction circuit, a switching circuit connected to the primary three-phase three-level T-type power factor correction circuit, an isolated capacitor-inductor-inductor-capacitor (CLLC) resonant converter circuit connected to the switching circuit, a T-type full bridge output topology circuit connected to the CLLC resonant converter circuit, and a controller that controls one or more of the components of the bidirectional isolated high voltage AC-DC converter. The primary three-phase three-level T-type power factor correction circuit and the secondary three-level circuit include a split DC-link bus with respective voltages that are actively controlled by the controller. The CLLC resonant converter circuit includes an isolation transformer that electrically separates the primary side from the secondary side of the bidirectional isolated high voltage AC-DC converter.

[0008] The primary three-phase three-level T-type power factor correction circuit interfaces with a high voltage AC power bus, and the secondary three-level circuit interfaces with a split DC-link bus with regulated symmetrical internal DC buses connected to a chassis as a common reference. For example, the regulated symmetrical internal DC buses may be configured as +135 VDC or +270 VDC. With this AC/DC converter, an advanced motor controller design with soft start and best inrush control and superior disconnect functionality upon motor drive inverter failure is achieved.

[0009] The bidirectional isolated high voltage AC-DC converter of the present disclosure provides an optimized solution to system level partial discharge hazard management with optimized actuator design. It also enables interfacing of standard actuation products, such as +135 VDC or +270 VDC flight control actuation systems, with high voltage AC buses.

[0010] An aspect of the invention, therefore, is a bidirectional AC-DC converter circuit. In exemplary embodiments, the bidirectional AC-DC converter comprises a three-phase three-level T-type power factor correction (PFC) circuit including a primary split DC-link bus; a switching circuit connected to the three-phase three-level T-type power factor correction circuit; a capacitor-inductor-inductor-capacitor (CLLC) resonant converter circuit connected to the switching circuit, the CLLC resonant converter circuit including an isolation transformer; and a three-level T-type full bridge output circuit connected to the CLLC resonant converter circuit, the three-level T-type full bridge output circuit including a secondary split DC-link bus; wherein the isolation transformer isolates the switching circuit from the three-level T-type full bridge output circuit.

[0011] In an exemplary embodiment, the bidirectional AC-DC converter further comprises a controller for controlling the front-end three-phase three-level T-type power factor correction (PFC) circuit. In exemplary embodiments, a control method comprises synthesizing, via a modified space vector pulse width modulation (SVPWM) scheme, the rectification voltages of the front end three-phase three-level T-type PFC circuit; wherein the modified SVPWM scheme is based on a nearest-four-vectors technique.

[0012] In an exemplary embodiment, the method for controlling a front-end three-phase three-level T-type power factor correction (PFC) circuit further comprises determining a nearest first vector, a nearest second vector, a nearest third vector, and a nearest fourth vector, wherein two of the nearest first, second, third, or fourth vectors result in an output current i.sub.o with opposite signs, wherein

the two nearest vectors resulting in the current with opposite signs are used to calculate a combined nearest vector, and wherein a nearest three vector synthesis is performed on the combined nearest vector and two other nearest vectors.
[0013] These and further features of the present invention will be apparent with reference to the following description and attached drawings. In the description and drawings, particular embodiments of the invention have been disclosed in detail as being indicative of some of the ways in which the principles of the invention may be employed, but it is understood that the invention is not limited correspondingly in scope. Rather, the invention includes all changes, modifications and equivalents coming within the spirit and terms of the claims appended hereto. Features that are described and/or illustrated with respect to one embodiment may be used in the same way or in a similar way in one or more other embodiments and/or in combination with or instead of the features of the other embodiments.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS
[0014] FIG. **1** is a drawing depicting a schematic block diagram of an exemplary bidirectional isolated high voltage AC-DC converter.
[0015] FIG. **2** is a drawing depicting an exemplary electrical circuit diagram of the bidirectional isolated high voltage AC-DC converter.
[0016] FIG. **3** is a drawing depicting an exemplary analytical model of the bidirectional isolated high voltage AC-DC converter.
[0017] FIG. **4** is a drawing depicting a two-dimensional space vector diagram of the primary side three-level full bridge converter.
[0018] FIG. **5** is a drawing depicting a two-dimensional space vector diagram showing the voltage space vector synthesis of the primary side three-level full bridge converter.
[0019] FIG. **6** is a drawing depicting a PFC stage control loop structure with an exemplified NFV SVPWM.
[0020] FIG. **7** is a drawing depicting a variable-amplitude double-carrier sine-triangle PWM implementation of the exemplified NFV SVPWM of the PFC stage.
[0021] FIG. **8** is a drawing depicting an exemplary flow diagram of a method for controlling a bidirectionally converting a high AC voltage to DC voltage.
DETAILED DESCRIPTION
[0022] Embodiments of the present application will now be described with reference to the drawings, wherein like reference numerals are used to refer to like elements throughout. It will be understood that the figures are not necessarily to scale.
[0023] FIG. **1** illustrates a schematic block diagram of an exemplary bidirectional isolated AC-DC converter **100**. FIG. **2** is a more detailed circuit diagram illustrating components of the bidirectional isolated AC-DC converter **100** of FIG. **1**. In the example of FIGS. **1** and **2**, the bidirectional isolated AC-DC converter **100** includes a front-end three-phase three-level T-type power factor correction (PFC) circuit **110** including a primary split DC-link bus **160**, a switching circuit **120** connected to the primary split DC-link bus, a capacitor-inductor-inductor-capacitor (CLLC) resonant converter circuit **130** connected to the switching circuit **120**, and a three-level T-type full bridge output circuit **140** connected to The CLLC resonant converter circuit **130**.
[0024] With reference in particular to the circuit diagram of FIG. **2**, the primary split DC-link bus **160** includes a primary positive DC bus **201**, a primary middle point bus **202**, and a primary negative bus **203**. The CLLC resonant converter circuit **130** includes an isolation transformer **215** that electrically isolates the switching circuit from the three-level T-type full bridge output circuit. The three-level T-type full bridge output circuit includes a secondary split DC bus **170**. The

secondary split DC bus **170** includes a secondary positive DC bus **212**, a secondary middle point bus **213**, and a secondary negative DC bus **214**. In the depicted example, the secondary positive DC bus **212** is +135 VDC, the secondary middle point bus **213** is connected to a ground, and the secondary negative DC bus **213** is −135 VDC. The secondary positive DC bus **212** and the secondary negative DC bus **214** are regulated and symmetrical. The ground may be referenced to an electronics chassis, such as for example a chassis of a vehicle.

[0025] One or more controllers **150** are used to control the front-end three-phase three-level T-type PFC circuit **110**, the switching circuit **120**, and/or the three-level T-type full bridge output circuit **140**. For example, the one or more controllers can be used to actively split the secondary split DC bus **170** to achieve optimized high voltage management of partial discharge hazards and optimized actuator design using the secondary positive DC bus **212** and the secondary negative DC bus **214**. Equipped with this AC/DC converter **100**, an advanced motor controller design with soft start techniques enables improved inrush current control and disconnect functionality upon motor drive inverter failure. In addition, a modified space vector pulse width modulation (SVPWM) scheme is used to operate the front-end three-phase three level T-type PFC circuit. While the bidirectional isolated AC-DC converter has been described as using three-level three-phase topologies, the bidirectional isolated AC-DC converter can also be used as a single-phase AC-DC power converter.

[0026] The primary three-phase three-level T-type power factor correction circuit **110** includes a primary AC bus **204**, three inductors, L**1**, L**2**, and L**3**, a first primary phase leg **205**, a second primary phase leg **206**, a third primary phase leg **207**, and the primary split DC-link bus **160**. The primary AC bus **204** includes three AC voltage sources, V**1***a*, V**1***b*, and V**1***c*.

[0027] The first primary phase leg **205** includes switching devices Q**1**R, Q**2**R, Q**1**RN, and Q**2**RN. The second primary phase leg **206** includes switching devices Q**3**R, Q**4**R, Q**3**RN, and Q**4**RN. The third primary phase leg **207** includes switching devices Q**5**R, Q**6**R, Q**5**RN, and Q**6**RN. The first primary phase leg **205**, the second primary phase leg **206**, and the third primary phase leg **207** are connected to the primary capacitor middle point of the primary split DC-link bus **160** through Q**1**RN/Q**2**RN, Q**3**RN/Q**4**RN and Q**5**RN/Q**6**RN respectively. Switching devices Q**1**R, Q**2**R, Q**1**RN, and Q**2**RN of the first primary phase leg **205**, switching devices Q**3**R, Q**4**R, Q**3**RN, and Q**4**RN of the second primary phase leg **206**, and switching devices Q**5**R, Q**6**R, Q**5**RN, and Q**6**RN of the third primary phase leg **207**, can be controlled to implement various switching stages as described more fully below.

[0028] The primary split-DC-link bus **160** includes capacitors C**1**P and C**2**P, a primary capacitor middle point **202**, and a primary DC negative reference voltage **203**. The primary capacitor middle point **202** voltage is actively controlled via the controller such as by applying PWM control signals.

[0029] The switching circuit **120** includes a first switching leg **208** and a second switching leg **209**. The first switching leg **208** contains switching devices Q**3**P and Q**4**P. The second switching leg **209** contains switching devices Q**1**P and Q**2**P.

[0030] The CLLC resonant converter circuit **130** includes resonant capacitors Crp and Crs, resonant inductors Lrp and Lrs, and an isolation transformer T**2**/**215**. Resonant capacitor Crp and resonant inductor Lrp are connected in series with one another, and resonant capacitor Crs and resonant inductor Lrs are connected in series with one another. Isolation transformer T**2**/**215** includes a primary winding and a secondary winding. The primary winding includes terminals **1** and **2** and the secondary winding includes terminals **3** and **4**. Resonant inductor Lrp is connected to terminal **1** of the primary winding and resonant inductor Lrs is connected to terminal **3** of the secondary winding. Resonant capacitor Crp is connected to the second switching leg **209** of the switching circuit at a point between switching devices Q**1**P and Q**2**P. Terminal **2** of the primary winding is connected to the first switching leg **208** at a point between switching devices Q**3**P and Q**4**P. The resonant inductor Lrp, resonant inductor Lrs and the isolation transformer T**2**/**215** can be integrated into a single physical device. The CLLC resonant converter circuit operates to provide electrical isolation, voltage gain or reduction, and energy transfer. With the correct parameters, the

CLLC resonant converter circuit also enables zero voltage switching of the power switches within the primary phase legs in the forward power flow condition and within the secondary phase legs in the reverse power flow condition.

[0031] The secondary T-type three-level circuit **140** includes a secondary split DC-link bus **170**, a first secondary phase leg **210**, and a second secondary phase leg **211**. The secondary split DC-link bus **170** includes capacitors C**1**S and C**2**S, a secondary positive DC bus **212**, a secondary capacitor middle point **213**, and a secondary negative DC bus **214**. In the example of FIG. **2**, the secondary positive DC bus **212** is associated with a positive low voltage DC power, e.g., +135 VDC, the secondary capacitor middle point **213** voltage is the secondary reference and is associated with the secondary capacitor middle point **213**, and the secondary negative DC bus **214** is associated with a negative low voltage DC power, e.g., −135 VDC. The secondary capacitor middle point **213** voltage is actively controlled via the controller **150** such as by applying PWM control signals.

[0032] The first secondary phase leg **210** includes switching devices Q**1**S, Q**2**S, Q**1**SN, and Q**2**SN. The second secondary phase leg **211** includes switching devices Q**3**S, Q**4**S, Q**3**SN, and Q**4**SN. The first secondary phase leg **210** and the second secondary phase leg **211** are connected to the secondary capacitor middle point **213** of the secondary split DC-link bus **170** through Q**1**SN/Q**2**SN and Q**3**S/Q**4**SN respectively. Switching devices Q**1**S, Q**2**S, Q**1**SN, and Q**2**SN of the first secondary phase leg **210**, and switching devices Q**3**S, Q**4**S, Q**3**SN, and Q**4**SN of the second secondary phase leg **211**, can be controlled to implement various switching stages as described more fully below.

[0033] When operating in the forward direction, the primary three-phase three-level T-type power factor correction circuit **110** receives an input voltage from the AC power bus **204**, such as 115Vrms, from a power bus of a vehicle. The controller **150** applies control signals, such as PWM Control signals, to the switching devices Q**1**R-Q**6**R and Q**1**RN-Q**6**RN to apply power factor correction resulting in a high-quality, regulated DC voltage. The primary capacitor middle point voltage regulation function, such as the active middle point primary voltage control, can be integrated into the PWM control signals which determines the pulse duration and sequence of the phase terminal at each of the possible voltage levels. The controller **150** applies control signals, such as PWM control signals, to the switching devices Q**1**P-Q**4**P to modulate the DC voltage into a high-frequency AC square wave. The isolation transformer **215** of the CLLC resonant converter circuit **130** steps down the high frequency alternating voltage. The controller **150** applies control signals, such as PWM control signals, to the switching devices Q**1**S-Q**4**S and Q**1**SN-Q**4**SN of the secondary T-type three-level output circuit **140** to rectify the high frequency alternating voltage into a relatively low VDC output voltage, such as for example a +135 VDC or +270 VDC voltage, to power low voltage loads. The switching devices Q**1**P-Q**4**P are zero voltage switched through the CLLC resonant convert circuit in the forward power flow condition. Likewise, the switching devices Q**1**S-Q**4**S are zero voltage switched under the backward power flow condition.

[0034] The secondary capacitor middle point **213** voltage regulation function, such as active middle point secondary voltage control, can be integrated into the PWM control signals. Since the isolation transformer **215** is present in the resonant conversion process, the secondary capacitor middle point **213** can be connected to a ground that is referenced to an electronics chassis. In this example, the result is a ±135 VDC internal power bus with the secondary capacitor middle point **213** referenced to the electronics chassis.

[0035] When operating in the reverse direction, the secondary T-type three-level circuit **140** output receives an input VDC voltage, such as for example a ±135 VDC voltage, from a low voltage source. The controller **150** applies control signals, such as PWM control signals, to the switching devices Q**1**S-Q**4**S and Q**1**SN-Q**4**SN to modulate the ±135 VDC voltage into a high-frequency AC square wave. The isolation transformer **215** of the CLLC resonant converter circuit steps up the high frequency alternating voltage. The controller applies control signals, such as PWM control signals, to the switching devices Q**1**P-Q**4**P of the switching circuit **120** to rectify the high frequency alternating voltage into a relatively high VDC output voltage. The controller **150** applies control

signals, such as PWM control signals, to the switching devices Q**1**R-Q**6**R and Q**1**RN-Q**6**RN to invert the DC voltage into an AC output voltage, to supply power to the AC power bus **204**.

[0036] FIG. **3** illustrates an exemplary analytical model of the front-end three-phase three level T-type PFC circuit with circuit variable definitions. The switching variables Sa, Sp, Sc shown in FIG. **3** are defined as follows:

$$[00001] S_i = \begin{cases} +1, \text{when connected to the positive } DC \text{ bus} \\ 0, \text{when connected to the capacitor middle point}, i = a, b, \text{or } c \\ -1, \text{when connected to the negative } DC \text{ bus} \end{cases}$$

Let

$$[00002] v = \tfrac{1}{2}(u_1 - u_2), \text{then } u_1 = v + \tfrac{u_{DC}}{2} \text{ and } u_2 = -v + \tfrac{u_{DC}}{2}.$$

$$v_{\text{ri}} = \begin{cases} v + \tfrac{u_{DC}}{2}, & \text{when } S_i = +1 \\ 0, & \text{when } S_i = 0, \text{so } v_{\text{ri}} = S_i^2 v + S_i \tfrac{u_{DC}}{2}, i = a, b, \text{or } c \\ v - \tfrac{u_{DC}}{2}, & \text{when } S_i = -1 \end{cases}$$

[0037] The one or more controllers utilize SVPWM switching of the active power devices, e.g., gallium nitride high electron mobility transistors (GaN HEMTs), of the front-end three-phase three-level T-type PFC circuit to synthesize vra, Urb, Vre according to current regulation requirements. The synthesis process can be represented mathematically via a space vector format. That is, rectifier voltage space vector vrabc can be defined according to the following equations:

$$[00003] \overrightarrow{v}_{\text{rabc}} = \tfrac{2}{3}(v_{\text{ra}} + \quad v_{\text{rb}} + \quad ^2 v_{\text{rc}}), \text{where} \quad = e^{j\frac{2}{3}}, \text{and}$$

$$\overrightarrow{v}_{\text{rabc}} = v\tfrac{2}{3}(S_a^2 + \quad S_b^2 + \quad ^2 S_c^2) + \tfrac{u_{DC}}{2}\tfrac{2}{3}(S_a + \quad S_b + \quad ^2 S_c).$$

Converting

$$[00004] \overrightarrow{v}_{\text{rabc}} = v\tfrac{2}{3}(S_a^2 + \quad S_b^2 + \quad ^2 S_c^2) + \tfrac{u_{DC}}{2}\tfrac{2}{3}(S_a + \quad S_b + \quad ^2 S_c)$$

to per unit voltage with base

$$[00005] V_{base} = \tfrac{u_{DC}}{2}$$

provides:

$$[00006] \overrightarrow{v}_{\text{rabc, pu}} = v_{pu}\tfrac{2}{3}(S_a^2 + \quad S_b^2 + \quad ^2 S_c^2) + \tfrac{2}{3}(S_a + \quad S_b + \quad ^2 S_c), \text{where} v_{pu} = \tfrac{v}{V_{base}} = \tfrac{v}{\frac{u_{DC}}{2}}.$$

[0038] In contrast to conventional space vector representation, embodiments of the present application use a modified space vector representation that accounts for the capacitor middle point deviation variable ν or ν.sub.pu, i.e., the DC voltage distribution between the capacitors is accounted for. The resultant switching space vector diagram is shown in FIG. **4** where it is assumed that ν≥0 and all vectors are identified by the triplet [S.sub.aS.sub.bS.sub.c]. The associated information for the current flowing into the capacitor middle point is also marked in the switching space vector diagram of FIG. **4**.

[0039] In contrast to conventional space vector diagrams, middle vectors of the switching space vector diagram of FIG. **4** are dispersed due to unbalanced capacitor voltage distribution. As such, to synthesize the required voltage vector, generally Nearest Four Vector (NFV) techniques are used. The described configuration thus implements a modified SVPWM scheme as a simplified NFV technique and NTV technique. For example, an exemplary modified SVPWM scheme can be implemented as described below.

[0040] Assuming that the two capacitors C.sub.1 and C.sub.2 of FIG. **3** are of equal capacitance, i.e., C.sub.1=C.sub.2=C. Then

$$[00007] 2C\tfrac{dv}{df} = -i_0,$$

and by applying sliding mode control with sliding surface {ν=0}, or by directly checking based on Lyapunov stability criteria, the middle two vectors aligned in the same direction are weighted differentially to result in an i.sub.o having a sign that is favorable for regulating ν to zero.

[0041] FIG. **5** illustrates an exemplary voltage space vector synthesis using the modified SVPWM scheme based on the high-fidelity switching space vector diagram of FIG. **4**. To synthesize voltage vector custom-character, the NFVs are determined to be custom-character. Firstly, find custom-character=k custom-character+(1−k) custom-character, where k is the degree of design freedom allocated for the capacitor middle point voltage regulator. This is possible because custom-character and custom-character result in i.sub.0 with opposite signs. Once custom-character is determined, the remaining task is to perform the NTV synthesis based on custom-character:

[00008] $$T_1(\overrightarrow{v}_1 - \overrightarrow{v}_{34}) + T_2(\overrightarrow{v}_2 - \overrightarrow{v}_{34}) = \frac{T_s}{2}\overrightarrow{v}_{\text{ref}}$$
$$T_{34} = \frac{T_s}{2} - T_1 - T_2$$

[0042] In the front-end three-phase three level T-type PFC circuit, the AC phase current is normally aligned with the voltage vector, i.e., a displacement angle of 0 degrees for positive power flow or 180 degrees for negative power flow. As such, there is no ambiguity of the role of the middle space vectors in the capacitor middle point voltage control process.

[0043] FIG. **6** summarizes the AC/DC Front-end PFC stage control loop structure with the exemplified NFV SVPWM. Double carrier based PWM with variable carrier amplitude to reflect the true voltage distribution condition on the output capacitors can be utilized to implement an equivalent SVPWM algorithm in a sine-triangle PWM fashion. FIG. **7** illustrates the variable-amplitude double-carrier sine-triangle PWM details and visualizes the effects of capacitor bank middle point voltage deviation (exemplified by v.sub.pu≤0) on the pulse width timing parameters. The PWM control of the DC/DC converter stage is described in Applicant's international patent application PCT/US2023/64008, which is incorporated here by reference.

[0044] Accordingly, the bidirectional isolated AC-DC converter uses a three-level output topology with active middle point voltage control and an isolation transformer to split the output into symmetrical dual supplies with a common reference connected to a chassis. This arrangement results in an optimized solution to the system level partial discharge hazard management and enables interfacing standard ±135 VDC or ±270 VDC flight control actuation systems to aircraft and other vehicle applications. A modified SVPWM scheme is used to operate the front-end three-phase three level T-type PFC circuit based on the high-fidelity switching space vector diagram of FIG. **4** such that input phase current distortions due to capacitor middle point voltage deviations are eliminated. The isolation topology of the CLLC resonant converter circuit allows the output to be soft started with required inrush current control during abrupt application of the input voltage. In some embodiments, the bidirectional isolated AC-DC converter is implemented with an advanced health monitoring functionality and, if warranted, the bidirectional isolated AC-DC converter can disconnect the motor drive inverter from the associated power bus safely upon motor drive inverter failure. Furthermore, in the event one of the phases is lost, the bidirectional isolated AC-DC converter can operate based on a single-phase AC-DC algorithm. In addition, the bidirectional isolated AC-DC converter can operate standard flight control actuators without regenerate energy being dissipated inside the box, i.e., regenerative energy can be sent back to the source. One exemplary transistor that can be used by the bidirectional isolated AC-DC converter includes GaN HEMTs, which provide relatively high-power density and high efficiency.

[0045] FIG. **8** illustrates an exemplary flow diagram for a method **800** for synthesizing via the modified space vector pulse width modulation (SVPWM) scheme, one or more rectification voltages of the front end three-phase three-level T-type PFC circuit. At step **801** and step **802**, the voltage values at each of three branches, a, b, and c, custom-character are calculated. At step **803**, a modified SVPWM switching space vector diagram is used to find the four nearest vectors custom-character and custom-character for voltage vector custom-character are determined. At step **804** and step **805**, custom-character is calculated based on the PFC capacitor bank middle voltage controller's requirement on parameter custom-character. At step **806**, NTV-like synthesis

is performed based on custom-character and custom-character. A similar algorithm flow diagram can be drawn for the variable-amplitude double-carrier sine-triangle PWM implementation of the exemplified three-level PFC stage control. In an exemplary embodiment, a phase leg rectification voltage command custom-character or custom-character is generated through the rectifier voltage space vector custom-character by the inverse Clarke transformation and by incorporating a common mode voltage implementing a primary capacitor bank middle point voltage control parameter custom-character.

[0046] Although the invention has been shown and described with respect to a certain embodiment or embodiments, it is obvious that equivalent alterations and modifications will occur to others skilled in the art upon the reading and understanding of this specification and the annexed drawings. In particular regard to the various functions performed by the above described elements (components, assemblies, devices, compositions, etc.), the terms (including a reference to a "means") used to describe such elements are intended to correspond, unless otherwise indicated, to any element which performs the specified function of the described element (i.e., that is functionally equivalent), even though not structurally equivalent to the disclosed structure which performs the function in the herein illustrated exemplary embodiment or embodiments of the invention. In addition, while a particular feature of the invention may have been described above with respect to only one or more of several illustrated embodiments, such feature may be combined with one or more other features of the other embodiments, as may be desired and advantageous for any given or particular application.

Claims

1. A bidirectional AC-DC converter comprising: a three-phase power factor correction (PFC) circuit including a primary split DC-link bus; a switching circuit connected to the primary split DC link bus, wherein the PFC circuit and the switching circuit constitute a primary side of the bidirectional AC-DC converter; a capacitor-inductor-inductor-capacitor (CLLC) resonant converter circuit connected to the switching circuit, the CLLC resonant converter circuit including an isolation transformer, and a three-level T-type full bridge output circuit connected to the CLLC resonant converter circuit on a secondary side of the bidirectional AC-DC converter, the three-level T-type full bridge output circuit including a secondary split DC-link bus; wherein the isolation transformer electrically isolates the primary side of the bidirectional AC-DC converter from the three-level T-type full bridge output circuit on the secondary side bidirectional AC-DC converter.

2. The bidirectional AC-DC converter according to claim 1, wherein the primary split DC-link bus includes a primary middle point bus associated with a middle point voltage; and the bidirectional AC-DC converter further comprises a controller that is configured to actively control the middle point voltage associated with the primary middle point bus.

3. The bidirectional AC-DC converter according to claim 1, wherein the primary split DC-link bus includes a primary positive DC bus and a primary negative DC bus that are symmetrical with one another.

4. The bidirectional AC-DC converter according to claim 2, wherein the secondary split DC-link bus includes a secondary middle point bus associated with a secondary middle point voltage; and the controller is further configured to actively control the secondary middle point voltage associated with the secondary middle point bus.

5. The bidirectional AC-DC converter according to claim 1, wherein the secondary split DC-link bus includes a secondary positive DC bus and a secondary negative DC bus that are symmetrical with one another; and wherein secondary middle point bus is connected to a ground that is referenced to an electronics chassis.

6. (canceled)

7. The bidirectional AC-DC converter according to claim 1, wherein the switching circuit

comprises a plurality of transistors arranged in a full bridge configuration.

8. The bidirectional AC-DC converter according to claim 1, wherein the three-phase power factor correction (PFC) circuit includes three inductors and a three-level T-type phase leg topology capable of bidirectional power flow; and wherein the T-type full bridge output circuit includes a plurality of transistors configured for switching between three output levels.

9-12. (canceled)

13. The bidirectional AC-DC converter according to claim 1, further comprising a controller configured to perform a modified space vector pulse width modulation (SVPWM) scheme to control the three-phase PFC circuit, the modified SVPWM scheme being based, at least in part, on a nearest four vectors technique.

14-17. (canceled)

18. A method for controlling a front-end three-phase three-level T-type power factor correction (PFC) circuit comprising: synthesizing, via a modified space vector pulse width modulation (SVPWM) scheme, rectification voltages of a front end three-phase three-level T-type PFC circuit; wherein the modified SVPWM scheme is based, at least in part, on a nearest four vectors technique.

19. The method for controlling a front-end three-phase three-level T-type power factor correction (PFC) circuit according to claim 18, further comprising a PWM switching function controlling a phase leg with a first state, a second state, and a third state; wherein a primary split DC-link bus includes a primary positive DC bus, a middle point bus, and a primary negative DC bus that are symmetrical with one another; and wherein in the first state, the phase leg is connected to the positive DC bus.

20. (canceled)

21. The method for controlling a front-end three-phase three-level T-type power factor correction (PFC) circuit according to claim 18, further comprising a PWM switching function controlling a phase leg with a first state, a second state, and a third state; wherein in the second state, the phase leg is connected to the middle point bus.

22-23. (canceled)

24. The method for controlling a front-end three-phase three-level T-type power factor correction (PFC) circuit according to claim 18, wherein the front-end three-phase three-level T-type power factor correction (PFC) circuit has three branches, wherein each of the three branches has a different branch voltage; and wherein a rectifier voltage space vector is calculated using three switching functions associated with the three branches, DC bus voltage and the capacitor middle point deviation voltage, and rectifier voltage space vectors are generated from all switching function combinations collectively from a switching space vector diagram of the front-end PFC.

25. The method for controlling a front-end three-phase three-level T-type power factor correction (PFC) circuit according to claim 24, wherein the rectifier voltage space vector is synthesized through the modified SVPWM through a switching space vector diagram with primary capacitor bank middle point voltage control.

26. The method for controlling a front-end three-phase three-level T-type power factor correction (PFC) circuit according to claim 24, further comprising determining a nearest first vector, a nearest second vector, a nearest third vector, and a nearest fourth vector, wherein two of the nearest first, second, third, or fourth vectors of middle length in the switching space vector diagram result in a primary capacitor bank middle point charging current i.sub.o with opposite signs.

27. The method for controlling a front-end three-phase three-level T-type power factor correction (PFC) circuit according to claim 26, wherein the two nearest vectors resulting in the current with opposite signs are used to calculate a combined nearest vector.

28. The method for controlling a front-end three-phase three-level T-type power factor correction (PFC) circuit according to claim 27, wherein a standard nearest three vector PWM synthesis is performed on the combined nearest vector and two other nearest vectors.

29. The method for controlling a front-end three-phase three-level T-type power factor correction (PFC) circuit according to claim 24, wherein the rectifier voltage space vector is synthesized through a variable-amplitude double-carrier sine-triangle PWM with primary capacitor bank middle point voltage control.

30. The method for controlling a front-end three-phase three-level T-type power factor correction (PFC) circuit according to claim 29, further comprising generating a plurality of variable-amplitude double-carrier waveforms by modulating a carrier amplitude with a primary capacitor bank voltage $v_{pu} = \frac{v}{v_{base}} = \frac{v}{\frac{u_{DC}}{2}}$, wherein a positive carrier and a negative carrier bear an amplitude which reflects an ongoing DC bus voltage distribution among a primary high side capacitor and a primary low side capacitor.

31. A method for controlling a front-end three-phase three-level T-type power factor correction (PFC) circuit according to claim 18, further comprising the modified SVPWM and an associated variable-amplitude double-carrier sine-triangle PWM to operate the front-end three phase three level T type PFC circuit such that input phase current distortions due to capacitor middle point voltage deviations are eliminated.

32. The method for controlling a front-end three-phase three-level T-type power factor correction (PFC) circuit according to claim 18, further comprising generating a phase leg rectification voltage command Va*, Vb*or Vc* through the rectifier voltage space vector  custom-character by the inverse Clarke transformation and by incorporating a common mode voltage implementing a primary capacitor bank middle point voltage control parameter k; and further comprising carrying out a three-level sine-triangle PWM process by comparing the phase leg rectification voltage command Va*, Vb*, Vc* with the double carrier waveforms in generating a plurality of phase leg switching functions.

33. (canceled)