

# Analysis and design of a single-phase AC/DC step-down converter for universal input voltage

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**Abstract:** This work presents a single-phase AC/DC step-down converter, which is composed of two power stages, buck-boost converter and buck converter. The front stage is used for a power-factor-correction (PFC) circuit and is operated in discontinuous conduction mode (DCM) by using the pulse-width modulation (PWM) technique to achieve almost unity power factor and low total harmonic distortion of input current (THD<sub>i</sub>). The rear stage is also operated in DCM to achieve voltage step-down and low DC-link voltage. The proposed converter can be applied for universal input voltage (85–265 V) and wide output power range. Also, the steady-state analysis of voltage gain and boundary operating condition are presented. Moreover, the selections of inductors, capacitors and input filter are depicted. Finally, a hardware circuit with simple control logic is implemented to illustrate the theoretical analysis.

## 1 Introduction

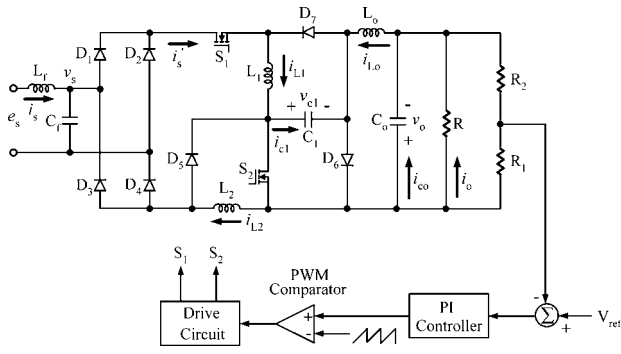
The DC source is widely used for many applications, such as DC power supply, lighting system, inverter and so on. Traditionally, the diode bridge rectifier or thyristor rectifier is used for AC/DC power conversion [1]. However, these rectifiers have some drawbacks including pulsating input current, high harmonic, high electromagnetic interference (EMI), low power factor and so on. In order to overcome these problems, some topologies have been presented [2–17]. Many boost-type converters have been proposed [2–7], but the boost types are only used for voltage step-up applications. If voltage step-down is required, these converters need to cascade with another DC/DC converter. It results in system complexity and cost increment. Hence, some single-stage circuits are presented for voltage step-down applications, such as CUK type [8, 9], boost-forward type [10], boost-flyback type [11], buck type [12, 13] and buck-boost type [14–16]. These types can achieve almost unity power factor and adjustable output voltage. Nevertheless, the DC-link voltage is higher than the peak input voltage [8–11]. The total harmonic distortion of input current (THD<sub>i</sub>) is about 10–15% [10, 11] higher. As for the buck and buck-boost converters, the converters are operated in continuous conduction mode (CCM) with larger inductor which will result in lower power density [12–15]. Also, more control signals, such as input voltage, output voltage or inductor current, are used [12–16]. Wu presents a buck-boost converter cascaded with a flyback converter [17]. This converter, operated in discontinuous conduction mode (DCM), uses simple control logic to achieve almost unity power factor, low THD<sub>i</sub> and adjustable

output voltage. But, this converter is not suitable for universal input voltage and wide output power range.

This paper proposes a single-phase AC/DC step-down converter, which is an AC/DC buck-boost converter cascaded with a DC/DC buck converter. The proposed converter can achieve unity power factor, low THD<sub>i</sub>, adjustable step-down output voltage for universal input voltage and wide output power range. In addition, the DC-link voltage is less than the peak input voltage. Also the buck-boost converter and buck converter are both operated in DCM by using a simple pulse-width modulation (PWM) control strategy and only a feedback control signal of output voltage is used. As the proposed converter is operated in DCM, the peak inductor current is higher. To avoid higher current stress for power semiconductor devices, this converter is suitable for low power applications.

## 2 Operation principle of the proposed converter

Fig. 1 illustrates the proposed converter, which consists of two power stages. The front stage is an AC/DC buck-boost converter, and the rear stage is a DC/DC buck converter. The two stages are both operated in DCM with a fixed duty ratio by using a simple PWM controller. Two inductors  $L_1$  and  $L_2$  with same inductance are adopted in the front stage.  $L_1$  and  $L_2$  are charged by series when  $S_1$  and  $S_2$  are turned on, and are discharged by parallel when  $S_1$  and  $S_2$  are turned off. The discharged time will be shortened, namely the duty ratio can be extended. Thus, the front stage can be operated with larger duty ratio variation than the conventional buck-boost converter with DCM operation. Therefore, the front stage becomes more suitable for universal input voltage and wide output power range. Fig. 2 shows the input voltage, the unfiltered input current, the input inductor currents and the control signal for  $0 < \omega t < 2\pi$ , where  $\omega$  is the line angular frequency. Also, some typical waveforms in one switching period are shown in Fig. 3. Owing to the symmetrical characteristics of single-phase system, the following operating principle is analysed for  $0 < \omega t < \pi$ .



**Fig. 1** Circuit configuration of the proposed converter

**Mode 1:** When  $S_1$  and  $S_2$  are turned on during time interval  $[kT_s, t_{k1}]$ , the inductors  $L_1$  and  $L_2$  are charged by series from line source and the energy stored in DC-link capacitor  $C_1$  is discharged to output inductor  $L_o$ , output capacitor  $C_o$  and load. The equivalent circuit is shown in Fig. 4a.

**Mode 2:** While  $S_1$  and  $S_2$  are turned off during time interval  $[t_{k1}, t_{k2}]$ , the energies stored in  $L_1$  and  $L_2$  are released by parallel to  $C_1$  and the energy stored in  $L_o$  is released to  $C_o$  and load. The equivalent circuit is shown in Fig. 4b.

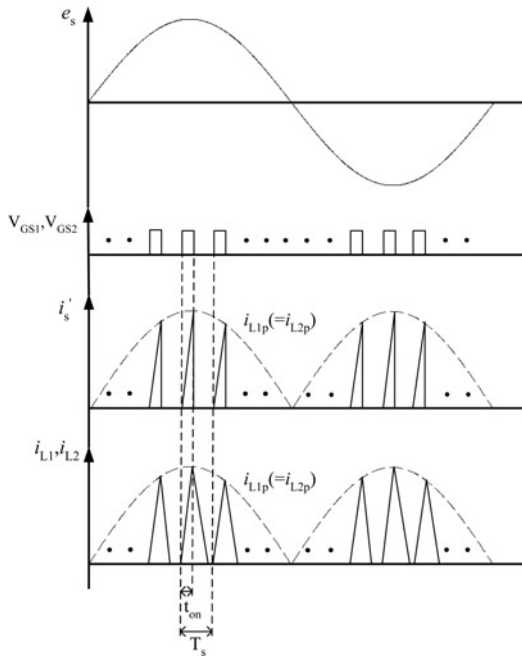
**Mode 3:** While  $S_1$  and  $S_2$  are still turned off during time interval  $[t_{k2}, t_{k3}]$ . The  $i_{L1}$  and  $i_{L2}$  are equal to zero at  $t = t_{k2}$ . The energy stored in  $L_o$  is still transferred to  $C_o$  and load. The equivalent circuit is shown in Fig. 4c.

**Mode 4:** While  $S_1$  and  $S_2$  are still turned off during time interval  $[t_{k3}, (k+1)T_s]$ , the energy stored in  $L_o$  is released to empty at  $t = t_{k3}$ . The load is supplied from  $C_o$ . The equivalent circuit is shown in Fig. 4d.

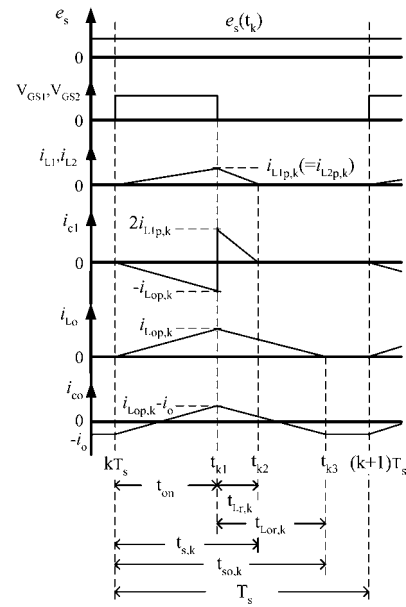
### 3 Steady-state analysis of the proposed converter

For simplicity, the effectiveness of the input filter is ignored and it is assumed that the line voltage is given as follows

$$e_s(t) = v_s(t) = \sqrt{2}V_{\text{rms}} \sin \omega t = V_m \sin \omega t \quad (1)$$



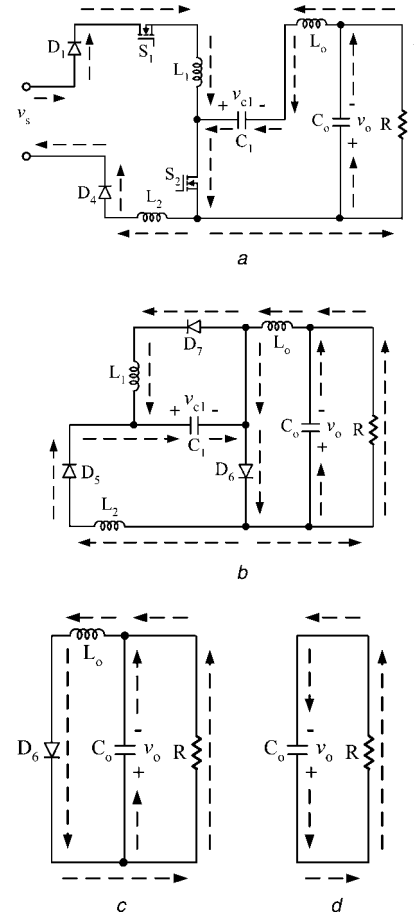
**Fig. 2** Waveforms of input voltage, unfiltered input current, inductor currents and control signal for  $0 < \omega t < 2\pi$



**Fig. 3** Some typical waveforms in one switching period for  $0 < \omega t < \pi$

where  $V_{\text{rms}}$  and  $V_m$  are the effective value and the amplitude of line voltage.

As the switching frequency  $f_s$  ( $f_s = 1/T_s$ ) is much larger than the line frequency  $f_1$ , the line voltage can be considered as a piecewise constant during each switching period.



**Fig. 4** Equivalent circuit of operating principle for  $0 < \omega t < \pi$

- a Mode 1
- b Mode 2
- c Mode 3
- d Mode 4

Assuming  $n$  is the switching number within time interval  $[0, \pi/\omega]$ , then  $n$  is equal to  $f_s/2f_1$ . The following analysis is considered during the switching period  $[kT_s, (k+1)T_s]$ , where  $k = 0, 1, \dots, n-1$ , and let  $L_1 = L_2 = L/2$ .

When  $S_1$  and  $S_2$  are ON, the following equations can be obtained.

$$\begin{cases} \frac{di_{L1}(t)}{dt} = \frac{di_{L2}(t)}{dt} = \frac{|e_s(t_k)|}{L} \\ \frac{di_{Lo}(t)}{dt} = \frac{v_{c1} - v_o}{L_o} \end{cases}, \quad kT_s \leq t \leq t_{k1} \quad (2)$$

From (2), the three inductor currents  $i_{L1}$ ,  $i_{L2}$  and  $i_{Lo}$  are derived as

$$\begin{cases} i_{L1}(t) = i_{L2}(t) = \frac{|e_s(t_k)|}{L}(t - kT_s) \\ i_{Lo}(t) = \frac{v_{c1} - v_o}{L_o}(t - kT_s) \end{cases}, \quad kT_s \leq t \leq t_{k1} \quad (3)$$

At  $t = t_{k1}$ , the three peak currents of  $L_1$ ,  $L_2$  and  $L_o$  can be written as

$$\begin{cases} i_{L1p,k} = i_{L2p,k} = \frac{|e_s(t_k)|}{L}t_{on} = \frac{|e_s(t_k)|}{L}dT_s \\ i_{Lop,k} = \frac{v_{c1} - v_o}{L_o}t_{on} = \frac{v_{c1} - v_o}{L_o}dT_s \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

where  $t_{on} = dT_s$  and  $d$  is the duty ratio.

While  $S_1$  and  $S_2$  are OFF, the following equations can be obtained.

$$\begin{cases} \frac{di_{L1}(t)}{dt} = \frac{di_{L2}(t)}{dt} = -\frac{2v_{c1}}{L} \\ \frac{di_{Lo}(t)}{dt} = -\frac{v_o}{L_o} \end{cases}, \quad t_{k1} \leq t \leq t_{k2} \quad (5)$$

Solving (5), the  $i_{L1}$ ,  $i_{L2}$ , and  $i_{Lo}$  can be derived.

$$\begin{cases} i_{L1}(t) = i_{L2}(t) = -\frac{2v_{c1}}{L}(t - t_{k1}) + i_{L1p,k} \\ i_{Lo}(t) = -\frac{v_o}{L_o}(t - t_{k1}) + i_{Lop,k} \end{cases}, \quad t_{k1} \leq t \leq t_{k2} \quad (6)$$

As  $i_{L1}(t_{k2}) = 0$ ,  $i_{L2}(t_{k2}) = 0$  and  $i_{Lo}(t_{k3}) = 0$ , the peak currents of  $L_1$ ,  $L_2$  and  $L_o$  can be expressed as

$$\begin{cases} i_{L1p,k} = i_{L2p,k} = \frac{2v_{c1}}{L}t_{Lr,k} \\ i_{Lop,k} = \frac{v_o}{L_o}t_{Lor,k} \end{cases} \quad (7)$$

where  $t_{Lr,k} = t_{k2} - t_{k1}$  and  $t_{Lor,k} = t_{k3} - t_{k1}$ .

Using (4) and (7), the following two time durations  $t_{Lr,k}$  and  $t_{Lor,k}$  can be obtained.

$$\begin{cases} t_{Lr,k} = \frac{|e_s(t_k)|}{2v_{c1}}dT_s \\ t_{Lor,k} = \frac{v_{c1} - v_o}{v_o}dT_s \end{cases} \quad (8)$$

### 3.1 Unfiltered input current $i_s'$

From Fig. 2, the average unfiltered input current  $i_s'$  in one switching period  $T_s$  can be derived as

$$i_{s,avg}'(t) = \frac{t_{on}i_{L1p}}{2T_s} = \frac{d^2T_sV_m}{2L}|\sin \omega t| \quad (9)$$

Equation (9) indicates that the average unfiltered input current is sinusoidal and in phase with the input voltage. Moreover, the harmonic components of  $i_s'$  are distributed over the multiples of the switching frequency. Thus, it is very easy to filter out the harmonic components by employing a set of input filter  $L_f - C_f$  with the cutoff frequency,  $f_c = 1/2\pi\sqrt{(L_fC_f)}$ , much lower than the switching frequency.

### 3.2 Voltage gain

From Fig. 3, the average currents of  $i_{c1}$  and  $i_{co}$  can be derived during the switching period  $[kT_s, (k+1)T_s]$  as follows

$$\begin{cases} i_{c1,k} = \frac{(-i_{Lop,k})t_{on} + 2i_{L1p,k}t_{Lr,k}}{2T_s} \\ i_{co,k} = \frac{\frac{1}{2}i_{Lop,k}(t_{on} + t_{Lor,k}) - i_oT_s}{T_s} \end{cases} \quad (10)$$

Substituting (1), (4) and (8) into (10) yields

$$\begin{cases} i_{c1,k} = \frac{d^2T_sV_m^2}{2Lv_{c1}}\sin^2 \omega t_k - \frac{d^2T_s(v_{c1} - v_o)}{2L_o} \\ i_{co,k} = \frac{d^2T_s v_{c1}(v_{c1} - v_o)}{2L_o v_o} - \frac{v_o}{R} \end{cases} \quad (11)$$

Thus the average current of  $i_{c1}$  during time interval  $[0, \pi/\omega]$  is

$$\begin{aligned} i_{c1,avg} &= \frac{\omega}{\pi} \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} i_{c1,k} T_s \\ &= \frac{\omega}{\pi} \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \left[ \frac{d^2T_sV_m^2}{2Lv_{c1}}\sin^2 \omega t_k - \frac{d^2T_s(v_{c1} - v_o)}{2L_o} \right] T_s \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

As  $n \gg 1$ , the previous equation can be approximated as

$$\begin{aligned} i_{c1,avg} &= \frac{\omega}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} \left[ \frac{d^2T_sV_m^2}{2Lv_{c1}}\sin^2 \omega t \right. \\ &\quad \left. - \frac{d^2T_s(v_{c1} - v_o)}{2L_o} \right] dt \\ &= \frac{d^2T_sV_m^2}{4Lv_{c1}} - \frac{d^2T_s(v_{c1} - v_o)}{2L_o} \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

Therefore the differential equation of  $v_{c1}$  during time interval  $[0, \pi/\omega]$  is

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt}v_{c1} &= \frac{i_{c1,avg}}{C_1} \\ &= \frac{1}{C_1} \left[ \frac{d^2T_sV_m^2}{4Lv_{c1}} - \frac{d^2T_s(v_{c1} - v_o)}{2L_o} \right] \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

From (11), the differential equation of  $v_o$  during one switching period is derived as

$$\frac{d}{dt}v_o = \frac{i_{co,k}}{C_o} = \frac{1}{C_o} \left[ \frac{d^2T_s v_{c1}(v_{c1} - v_o)}{2L_o v_o} - \frac{v_o}{R} \right] \quad (15)$$

Using (14) and (15), the following equation of DC model can be derived.

$$\begin{cases} \frac{V_m^2}{2LV_{c1}} = \frac{V_{c1} - V_o}{L_o} \\ \frac{D^2 V_{c1}(V_{c1} - V_o)}{2L_o f_s V_o} = \frac{V_o}{R} \end{cases} \quad (16)$$

where  $V_{c1}$ ,  $V_o$  and  $D$  are the DC quantities of  $v_{c1}$ ,  $v_o$  and  $d$ , respectively.

The normalised inductor time constants of the two stages are defined as

$$\begin{cases} \tau_L \equiv \frac{Lf_s}{R} \\ \tau_{Lo} \equiv \frac{L_o f_s}{R} \end{cases} \quad (17)$$

Therefore substituting (17) into (16), the voltage gains are derived as

$$M = \frac{V_o}{V_m} = M_1 M_2 \quad (18)$$

where

$$\begin{cases} M_2 = \frac{V_o}{V_{c1}} = \frac{\sqrt{D^4 + 8\tau_{Lo}D^2} - D^2}{4\tau_{Lo}} \\ M_1 = \frac{V_{c1}}{V_m} = \sqrt{\frac{L_o}{2L(1-M_2)}} = \sqrt{\frac{\tau_{Lo}}{2\tau_L(1-M_2)}} \end{cases} \quad (19)$$

### 3.3 Boundary condition between CCM and DCM

To ensure that the two power stages of the proposed converter are operated in DCM, the inductor currents  $i_{L1}$ ,  $i_{L2}$  and  $i_{Lo}$  must go to zero in each switching period. The time duration  $t_{s,k}$  is defined as the period when  $i_{L1} > 0$  and  $i_{L2} > 0$ . Similarly, the time duration  $t_{so,k}$  is defined as the period when  $i_{Lo} > 0$ . From Fig. 3,  $t_{s,k}$  and  $t_{so,k}$  can be computed as

$$\begin{cases} t_{s,k} = t_{on} + t_{Lr,k} = \frac{D}{f_s} \left( \frac{2V_{c1} + |e_s(t_k)|}{2V_{c1}} \right) \\ t_{so,k} = t_{on} + t_{Lor,k} = \frac{DV_{c1}}{f_s V_o} \end{cases} \quad (20)$$

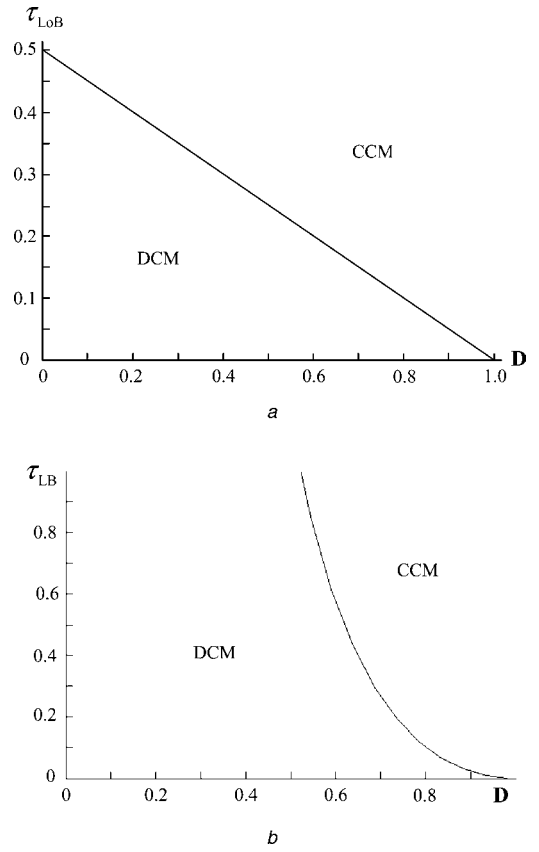
When the maximum of  $t_{so,k}$  is equal to  $T_s$ , the rear stage is operated in boundary conduction mode (BCM). Similarly, if the maximum of  $t_{s,k}$  is equal to  $T_s$  when the absolute value of  $e_s(t_k)$  is equal to  $V_m$ , the front stage is operated in BCM. From (20), the voltage gain of boundary condition can be found to be

$$M_{bc} = M_{1,bc} M_{2,bc} \quad (21)$$

where

$$\begin{cases} M_{2,bc} = D \\ M_{1,bc} = \frac{D}{2(1-D)} \end{cases} \quad (22)$$

The normalised inductor time constants of boundary condition  $\tau_{LoB}$  and  $\tau_{LB}$  can be found when the voltage gains  $M_2$  and  $M_1$  are equal to the voltage gains of boundary



**Fig. 5** Boundary condition of the proposed converter

a Rear stage

b Front stage (under  $\tau_{Lo} = 0.3$ )

condition  $M_{2,bc}$  and  $M_{1,bc}$ , respectively. By using (19) and (22),  $\tau_{LoB}$  and  $\tau_{LB}$  can be derived as

$$\tau_{LoB} = \frac{1-D}{2} \quad (23)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \tau_{LB} &= \frac{2\tau_{Lo}(1-D)^2}{D^2(1-M_2)} \\ &= \frac{8\tau_{Lo}^2(1-D)^2}{D^2(4\tau_{Lo} - \sqrt{D^4 + 8\tau_{Lo}D^2} + D^2)} \end{aligned} \quad (24)$$

From (23), the drawing of  $\tau_{LoB}$  is plotted in Fig. 5a. It depicts that the rear stage is operated in DCM when  $\tau_{Lo} < \tau_{LoB}$ . Assuming  $\tau_{Lo} = 0.3$  and substituting this value into (24), the curve of  $\tau_{LB}$  is plotted in Fig. 5b. It shows that the front stage is operated in DCM while  $\tau_L < \tau_{LB}$ .

## 4 Selection of inductors and a capacitor

### 4.1 Selection of inductors $L_o$ , $L_1$ and $L_2$

To ensure that the front and rear stages are both operated in DCM, the appropriate  $\tau_{LoB}$  and  $\tau_{LB}$  can be selected under the required voltage gain. Thus, the  $L_o$  and  $L$  must satisfy the following inequality.

$$\begin{cases} L_o < \frac{R}{f_s} \tau_{LoB} \\ L < \frac{R}{f_s} \tau_{LB} \end{cases} \quad (25)$$

## 4.2 Selection of DC-link capacitor $C_1$

From (11), the average capacitor current  $i_{c1,k}$  per switching period can be rewritten as

$$\begin{aligned} i_{c1,k} &= \left[ \frac{D^2 V_m^2}{4L f_s V_{c1}} - \frac{D^2 (V_{c1} - V_o)}{2L_o f_s} \right] \\ &\quad - \frac{D^2 V_m^2}{4L f_s V_{c1}} \cos 2\omega t_k \\ &= \frac{D^2}{2f_s} \left( \frac{V_m^2}{2LV_{c1}} - \frac{V_{c1} - V_o}{L_o} \right) \\ &\quad - \frac{D^2 V_m^2}{4L f_s V_{c1}} \cos 2\omega t_k \end{aligned} \quad (26)$$

Substituting (16) into (26), the ripple of DC-link voltage per switching period is obtained as

$$\Delta V_{c1,k} = \left( -\frac{D^2 V_m^2}{4LC_1 f_s V_{c1}} \cos 2\omega t_k \right) T_s \quad (27)$$

Hence, the function of the ripple of DC-link voltage per half AC source period can be computed as

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta V_{c1}(t) &= \int_0^t \left( -\frac{D^2 V_m^2}{4LC_1 f_s V_{c1}} \cos 2\omega t \right) dt \\ &= -\frac{D^2 V_m^2}{4LC_1 f_s V_{c1}} \frac{\sin 2\omega t}{2\omega} \end{aligned} \quad (28)$$

From this equation, the ripple of DC-link voltage per half AC source period is derived as

$$\begin{aligned} V_{c1,ripple} &= 2|\Delta V_{c1}(t)|_{peak} = \frac{D^2 V_m^2}{4\omega LC_1 f_s V_{c1}} \\ \frac{V_{c1,ripple}}{V_{c1}} &= \frac{D^2 V_m^2}{4\omega LC_1 f_s V_{c1}^2} = \frac{D^2}{4\omega LC_1 f_s M_1^2} \end{aligned} \quad (29)$$

Therefore to satisfy the specification of the ripple percentage of DC-link voltage, the capacitor  $C_1$  needs to satisfy the following inequality.

$$C_1 \geq \frac{D^2}{4\omega L f_s M_1^2} \frac{V_{c1}}{V_{c1,ripple}} \quad (30)$$

## 5 Experimental results

To verify the theoretical analysis of the proposed converter, a hardware circuit with simple control logic is implemented

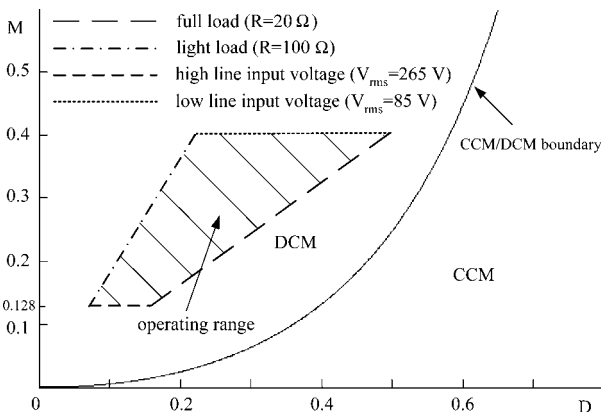


Fig. 6 Operating range of the experimental prototype

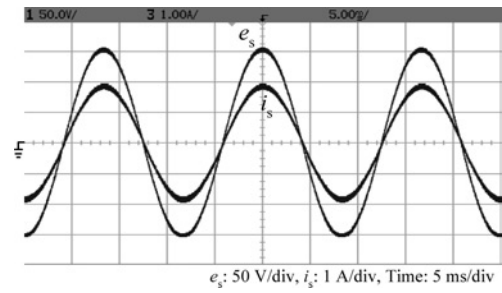


Fig. 7 Waveforms of input voltage and input current

in the laboratory. The circuit parameters are chosen as follows

- (i) Output voltage:  $V_o = 48$  V
- (ii) Universal input voltage:  $V_{rms} = 85\text{--}265$  V ( $V_m = 120\text{--}375$  V)
- (iii) Load:  $P_o = 23.04\text{--}115.2$  W ( $R = 20\text{--}100$  Ω)
- (iv) Line frequency:  $f_1 = 60$  Hz
- (v) Switching frequency:  $f_s = 24$  kHz
- (vi) Input filter:  $L_f = 6$  mH,  $C_f = 320$  nF.

To ensure that the output voltage is kept constant for the universal input voltage, the voltage gain  $M$  is varied from 0.128 to 0.4. Substituting  $M = 0.4$  into (21), the

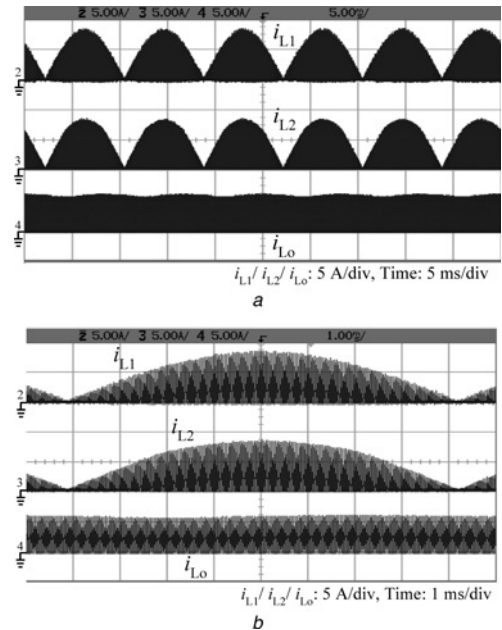


Fig. 8 Waveforms of inductor currents

- a  $i_{L1}$ ,  $i_{L2}$  and  $i_{Lo}$
- b Expansion of  $i_{L1}$ ,  $i_{L2}$  and  $i_{Lo}$

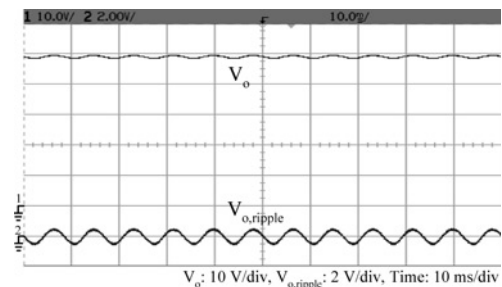


Fig. 9 Waveforms of output voltage and its ripple



maximum duty ratio  $D_{\max}$  can be found to be 0.58. Substituting  $D_{\max} = 0.58$  into (23),  $\tau_{LoB}$  is obtained as 0.21. Then, substituting  $D_{\max} = 0.58$  and  $\tau_{Lo} = 0.21$  into (24),  $\tau_{LB}$  is computed as 0.52. Using (25), the following

inequality of inductors can be derived.

$$L_o < \frac{R}{f_s} \tau_{LoB} = \frac{20}{24k} \cdot 0.21 = 175 \mu H$$

$$L < \frac{R}{f_s} \tau_{LB} = \frac{20}{24k} \cdot 0.52 = 433 \mu H$$

As  $L_1 = L_2 = L/2$ ,  $L_1$  and  $L_2$  are selected as 155  $\mu H$ , and  $L_o$  is chosen as 155  $\mu H$ .

Thus,  $\tau_{Lo}$  and  $\tau_L$  are 0.186 and 0.372 under full load condition  $R = 20 \Omega$ ,  $\tau_{Lo}$  and  $\tau_L$  are 0.037 and 0.074 under light load condition  $R = 100 \Omega$ . Substituting  $\tau_{Lo}$  and  $\tau_L$  into (18), the operating range of the experimental prototype is shown in Fig. 6. It illustrates that the proposed converter is operated in DCM.

Under the conditions  $V_{rms} = 85 V$  and  $R = 20 \Omega$ , the  $M$  and  $D$  can be found to be 0.4 and 0.49 from (18). Substituting  $\tau_{Lo} = 0.186$ ,  $\tau_L = 0.372$  and  $D = 0.49$  into (19),  $M_2$  and  $M_1$  can be computed as 0.54 and 0.74, respectively. Also, the ripple percentage of  $V_{c1}$  is selected to be 6%. Thus, the following inequality of  $C_1$  can be obtained from (30).

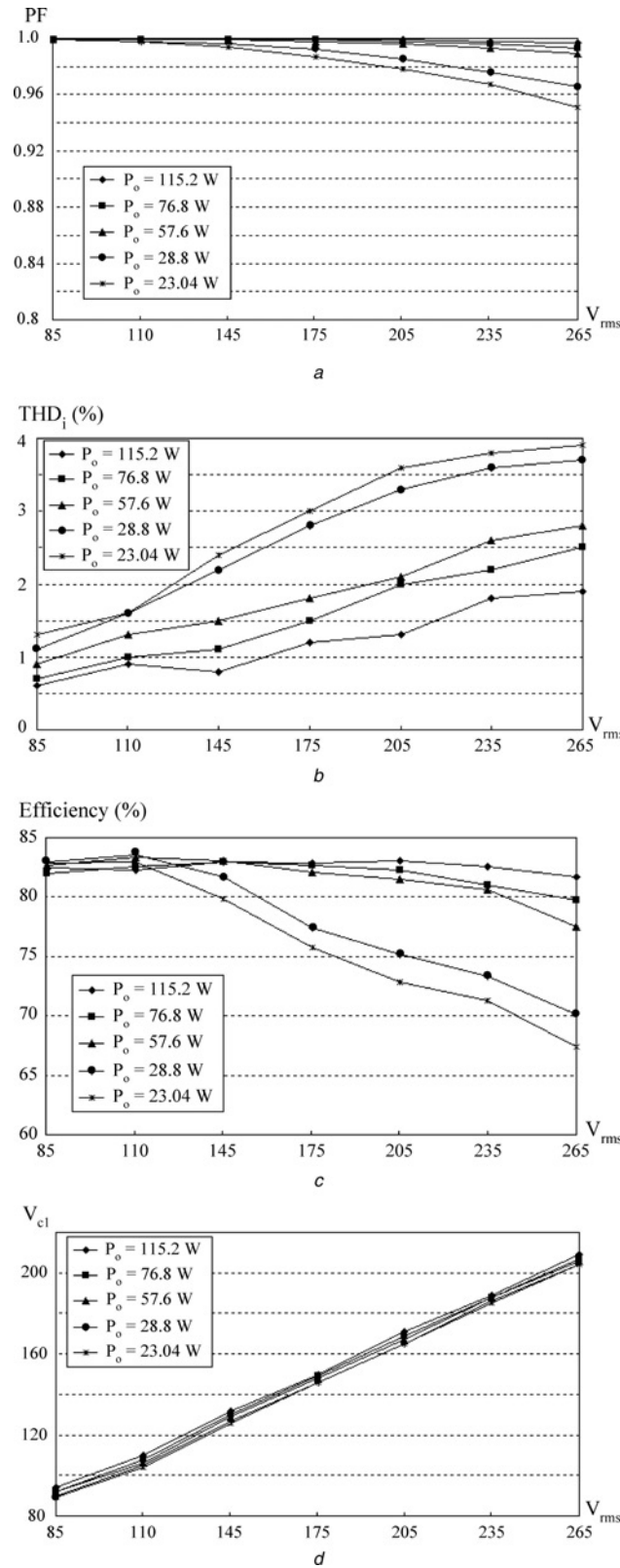
$$C_1 \geq \frac{D^2}{4\omega L f_s M_1^2} \frac{V_{c1}}{V_{c1,ripple}} = 656 \mu F$$

$C_1$  is selected as 660  $\mu F$ , and  $C_o$  is chosen as 330  $\mu F$ .

Under the conditions  $V_{rms} = 110 V$ ,  $V_o = 48 V$  and  $P_o = 115.2 W$ , some experimental results are shown in Figs. 7–9. From Fig. 7, one can see that the input current is purely sinusoidal and is in phase with the input voltage. The inductor currents  $i_{L1}$ ,  $i_{L2}$  and  $i_{Lo}$  and the expansion of  $i_{L1}$ ,  $i_{L2}$  and  $i_{Lo}$  are shown in Figs. 8a and b; it is obvious that the two power stages are both operated in DCM. Fig. 9 shows the DC output voltage and its ripple component, the output voltage is controlled at 48 V and its ripple component is rather small. In addition, the measured power factor, THD<sub>i</sub>, efficiency and DC-link voltage  $V_{c1}$  under the operating range of the specified design are shown in Fig. 10. From Fig. 10a, when the output power is above 57.6 W, the measured power factor is above 0.99. Even in the light load, the power factor is still above 0.951. The measured THD<sub>i</sub> is less than 4% as shown in Fig. 10b. Fig. 10c shows the measured efficiency; one can see that the efficiency is 81.7–83.1% under  $P_o = 115.2 W$  for universal input voltage. It is seen from Fig. 10d that the measured  $V_{c1}$  varies with the input voltage, and the maximum of  $V_{c1}$  is equal to 209 V at the condition  $V_{rms} = 265 V$ .

## 6 Conclusions

In this paper, a single-phase AC/DC converter by cascading a buck-boost converter with a buck converter is proposed. The proposed converter has many merits, such as unity power factor, low THD<sub>i</sub>, low DC-link voltage and adjustable output voltage. Also this converter can be used for universal input voltage and wide output power range. Moreover, the steady-state analyses of voltage gain and boundary operating condition are presented. The selections of inductors, capacitors and input filters are depicted. To illustrate the theoretical analysis, a hardware circuit with simple control logic is implemented. Under the operating range of the specified design, one can obtain good performances that the measured power factor is larger than 0.951, the measured THD<sub>i</sub> is less than 4% and the maximum  $V_{c1}$  is equal to 209 V at the condition  $V_{rms} = 265 V$ .



**Fig. 10** Some measured results against universal input voltage for various output power

- a Power factor
- b Total harmonic distortion of input current
- c Efficiency
- d  $V_{c1}$

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