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SANI, SAJAD GHABELI; BANAEI, MOHAMAD REZA; and HOSSEINI, SEYED HOSSEIN (2023) "Analysis and implementation of a new high-buck DC-DC converter with interleaved output inductors and soft switching capability," Turkish Journal of Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences: Vol. 31: No. 3, Article 4. https://doi.org/10.55730/1300-0632.4000
Available at: https://journals.tubitak.gov.tr/elektrik/vol31/iss3/4

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Analysis and implementation of a new high-buck DC-DC converter with interleaved output inductors and soft switching capability

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Received: 27.07.2022 • Accepted/Published Online: 13.03.2023 • Final Version: 28.05.2023

Abstract: This paper proposes an innovative structure for DC-DC converters with high buck gain by using a lower number of elements. The converter provides highly efficient output power and an extended output voltage range. In addition, the distribution of output current between two inductors and the soft-switching capability of the power switches have made the converter suitable for applications that require high output current. All power switches accomplish the ZVZCS (zero-voltage and zero-current switching) condition with the aid of a small auxiliary inductor (Lx), which charges and discharges parallel capacitors of main switches to provide soft-switching conditions. Thus, the switching losses associated with power switches are considerably reduced. Additionally, the output voltage ratio of the proposed converter can be changed by varying the switching frequency and duty cycle. In addition, the variation range of output voltage has been expanded compared to other topologies, allowing for a wider output voltage range. A coupled inductor is utilized to establish a relationship between the output gain and the turn ratios, resulting in a wider output voltage gain range. Eventually, a theoretical analysis is conducted and a 200-watt experimental prototype has been implemented to illustrate the proposed converter’s efficacy. It converts a voltage input (300 V) to a voltage output (10 V).

Key words: Buck, DC-DC converter, nonisolated, dual switches, voltage stress

1. Introduction

Recent applications have employed DC/DC buck converters with a high exchange ratio of voltage, a low output voltage, and a high output current. Voltage regulator modules on computer CPU boards, LED lights, uninterruptible power supplies (UPS), hybrid electric vehicles (HEVs), and even low-voltage output battery chargers are the most common applications for these converters [1–3]. Buck converters are afflicted by conduction and switching losses, excessive voltages on semiconductor components, massive contemporary ripples, and a lower efficiency than the regular performance of the converter. Researchers are working on a range of low-voltage DC-DC converters that can handle high-current DC loads [4]-[15]. In order to recover the lost energy in the tapped inductor converters, the TI step-down converter possesses a no-loss clamp circuit that passes it to the output [4]. Additionally, using a tapped inductor (TI) and the new architecture described in reference [5]. It is possible to increase the duty cycle while decreasing the voltage gain. This structure’s primary flaw is the stored energy in the coupled windings’ leakage inductance, which causes large voltage spikes on the power switches and a decrease in efficiency. However, these converters are not suitable for high buck voltage usage.

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In reference [6], a novel high step-down DC-DC converter without a transformer is presented. The converter has interleaved output and low-voltage stress on the semiconductors, but it has hard switching and a large number of components. In addition to this, the ground for the input and the output are not the same. There are a reasonable amount of components in the converter, and soft switching is applied for power switches. Nevertheless, it uses a coupled inductor at the input and a transformer at the output, and the gain is not suitably reduced. The converter has four power switches with a total standing voltage of 2.66 Vin and needs four gate driver circuits. The authors in [7] and [8] propose two buck converters that take advantage of the series clamp capacitor and the TI method. The extended duty cycle and the spikeless switches are the advantages of these converters, but these topologies undergo the high stress of voltage on the key switch and discontinuous output current. A new semiquadratic buck converter, presented in [9], provides a high buck ratio without a transformer. This converter has a simple topology and a lower gain than the traditional buck converter. Because of the high voltage stress on the switches, hard switching, and a single inductor at the output, it is not suitable for applications requiring significant output current. In reference [10], an innovative, few-component, DC-DC converter with a high-step-down feature is given. Even if the number of elements is reduced, the increased stress on the semiconductors, the larger output voltage ripple, and the restricted range of output voltage variations are downsides of this converter. An alternative solution to the problem of voltage stress has been given in [11] by using a quadratic buck converter. This converter utilizes only one active switch and can step up or down the input voltage, while the existing single-switch quadratic buck/boost converters can only work in step-up or step-down mode. In addition, buck converters with switched capacitors are another way to provide high buck ratios [12]. Some strategies for limiting the maximum switching voltage of nonisolated 3-level buck converter structures are being investigated [13,14]. These topologies also benefit from lowering the size of the output filter and current ripple. The voltage gain of these converters, on the other hand, is the same as that of regular buck converters, so they cannot be used for high-buck applications. The authors in [15] propose a series-capacitor buck converter. The series-capacitor buck converter increases the duty ratio and equalizes the current. Adding a resonant tank to Cs creates a series resonator buck converter. Low-side switches are deactivated with zero voltage, whereas high-side switches are activated. Moreover, the increase in voltage stress on low-side switches occurs due to the resonant tank. Interleaved buck converters can reduce current ripples, and the modified version is proposed in [16]. The number of elements is also another parameter which affects DC-DC converter efficiency, reliability, volume, and implementation. A new DC-DC topology with a significant buck ratio is proposed in [17]. It has six power switches, and accordingly, six gate drivers will be needed, and also it makes the control of the converter complex. In addition, the converter’s input and output are no longer connected. The converter gain is equal to D/6, so to obtain very low voltage gains such as 0.03, the duty cycle should be about 18%, resulting in lower efficiency. In comparison, the proposed converter in this paper works with D = 50% at every load condition. The authors in [18] propose another new DC-DC converter with a high step-down output ratio. The voltage gain of the converter at the duty cycle D=0.5 and with a turn ratio of 1/2 is about 0.16. The high step-down converters should have a very low output voltage ratio with suitable efficiency. The low output voltage can be used to power a low voltage DC motor or to power CPUs or electronic devices. Therefore, even though this converter has a suitable efficiency and a low number of components, its output voltage gain is unsuitable for applications requiring a high input voltage. The 300V input voltage can be changed to 48 VDC with this converter, but the proposed converter in this paper can reduce that to very low voltage ranges to be used as a voltage regulator module. Another structure for a high-buck DC-DC converter is proposed in [19]. The minimal number of components and high voltage gain of $D^2$ with two power switches...
make this converter a suitable choice. However, similar to ref [18], this converter should work at a very low
duty cycle (about 17%) to obtain 0.03 of output voltage gain. The critical disadvantage of this converter is the
output current quality and the lower amount of current delivery to the output. This converter has a diode and
a switch at the output, so the output capacitor size should be large enough to have a suitable DC current at
the output. Moreover, the lack of interleaved structure in the output current delivery results in lower current
handling capability. Thus, it is important to design and propose a converter that can better solve the problems
listed above. This research proposes a new high-buck, nonisolated DC-DC converter that uses a two-stage buck
converter with an interleaved output to share current between the output inductances and reduce output current
ripple. The presented converter has only one auxiliary inductor to achieve soft switching for all semiconductor
elements. Moreover, the converter has very low switching losses because of the ZVS and ZCS conditions for
semiconductor elements obtained with the combination of leakage inductance and an auxiliary series inductor
(Lx). Furthermore, switching frequency or duty-cycle variations could control the output voltage gain. Using the
turn ratio (n), a two-winding coupled inductor is used to provide an appropriate output voltage gain variation
range. However, the output voltage variation area is enlarged with the switching frequency control, turn ratio
(n), and the small coupled inductor. Using a phase shift between the output inductor’s currents, the voltage
and current ripples are reduced at the output. However, the converter’s maximum gain is D/n, where n equals
N1/N2. In addition, a lower gain can be attained by adjusting the switching frequency, resulting in a broader
output voltage control range. This article has five sections: introduction, converter operation principle, steady
state analysis, design and theoretical comparison, and experimental results and conclusions.

2. The fundamental working principle of the proposed converter

Figure 1a depicts the proposed high step-down soft-switching DC-DC topology. The converter consisted of two
main switches (S1 & S2) that receive complementary signals including a short delay (td). (Lx) is employed
to achieve the ZVS state for power switches, while Cx1 & Cx2 serve as blocking capacitors. Three power
diodes (D1, D2 & D3) provide the output power of the converter. In addition, a two-winding coupled inductor
containing a magnetized inductance (Lm) and the turn ratio (n) is utilized to have a wide range of output ratio
and to reduce the output voltage gain. Besides that, the leakage inductance and Lx are combined. In this
case, the inductors Lo1 and Lo2 act as output current filters, while Co is defined as the output voltage filter
capacitor.

The converter essential waveforms are depicted in Figure 1b, which gives an overview of the operating
modes of the converter. The following assumptions are considered in this article for the analysis of the converter:
1- Ideal for all semiconductor components, 2- The output current Io, output voltage Vo, and input voltage
Vin remain constant throughout the switching cycle, 3- The inductance value of Lo1 and Lo2 are the same, 4-
the capacitors have been selected sufficiently large to be considered a fixed voltage source. The magnetization
inductance of the coupling inductance is so big that the magnetization current can be disregarded. Modes (1
to 8) of the converter for operation in continuous conduction mode (CCM) are shown in Figure 2.

Model1- (t0 to t1) [Figure 2a]: At the start of this mode, the flowing current through the body diode of
S1 reaches zero, and the power switch S1 is turned on. Furthermore, the voltage (Vin-Cx1) is supplied to the
auxiliary inductor Lx, and its current flow is raised linearly. The capacitor Cx2 is fully charged in this mode.
The output diode D1 is turned off and the current through diodes D2 (ID2) and the diode D3 are linearly
increased and decreased respectively. The current through the diode D3 reaches zero at the end of this mode
and then it is turned off. In addition, output inductors Lo1 and Lo2 demagnetize and supply the output load.
Figure 1. (a) Equivalent circuit diagram of the proposed converter, (b) Fundamental operating waveforms of the proposed converter.

For this mode, the following equation can be written as follows, where $\Delta t_0$ is $(t-t_0)$:

$$i_{Lx} = \frac{(V_{in} - V_{cx1})}{L_x} \Delta t_0.$$  \hfill (1)

Mode2- $(t_1$ to $t_2$) [Figure 2b]: In this state, the power switch $S_1$ is kept switched on. The diode $D_1$ is once again turned on till the conclusion of this mode. The diode $D_2$ is still active with an increasing current flow. The diode $D_3$, which is switched off at $t_1$ in response under the ZCS condition, remains off. In the meanwhile, the output is supplied by the $D_1$ and coupled inductor through the $D_2$ diode. In addition, $L_{o1}$ and $L_{o2}$ are magnetizing and demagnetizing, correspondingly. Additionally, the magnetizing current passing through $L_m$ is negative. However, the equation below can also be expressed in this mode:

$$i_{Lx} = i_{Lx,t1} + \frac{(V_{in} - V_{cx} - V_{Lm})}{L_x} (t - t_1).$$  \hfill (2)

$$n_i L_x = i_{L o2}$$  \hfill (3)

Mode3- $(t_2$ to $t_3$) [Figure 2c]: During this time, the magnetizing current direction of the coupled inductor changes from negative to positive. Also, the current through the power switch $S_1$ falls to zero, and then the voltage across it rises with a positive slope. It occurs due to the charge of the parallel snubber capacitor $C_{s1}$, which provides ZVS turn off for power switch $S_1$. In details, the parallel capacitors of the power switches $S_1$
and $S_2$ ($C_{s1}$ and $C_{s2}$) voltages are started to be charged and discharged, respectively. The discharge of the snubber capacitor ($C_{s2}$) provides the necessary preparations for the power switch $S_1$ to be turned on at ZVS condition. Here is how the duration of this mode can be calculated:

$$t_3 - t_2 = \frac{V_{in}}{I_3} C_{s1} = \frac{V_{in}}{I_3} C_{s2}, \quad (4)$$

where $I_3$ and $I_3'$ are the average current values of $L_x$ and $L_{o2}$ at $t_2$, correspondingly. This mode finishes when $V_{s1} = V_{in}$ and $V_{s2} = 0$.

Mode4- ($t_3$ to $t_4$) [Figure 2d]: The power switch $S_1$ is turned off throughout this mode. The antiparallel body diode of the power switch $S_2$ is turned on. As it is known in the previous mode, the voltage across switch $S_2$ was zero and the conducting of the diode $S_{s2}$ provides zero current state for the switch. Consequently, the power switch $S_2$ can be turned on at the ZVZCS condition at the start of the next working mode (mode5). Additionally, for circuit inductors, the currents flowing through the output inductors ($L_{o1}$ and $L_{o2}$) as well as the input auxiliary inductor ($L_x$) are linearly demagnetizing. In addition, the current through the magnetizing inductor is still flowing in a positive direction; however, since diodes $D_2$ and $D_3$ are conducting, the voltage across the magnetizing inductor reaches zero. The following equation can be obtained from this state:

$$i_{L_x} = i_{L_x,t4} + \frac{V_{C_{x1}}}{L_x}(t - t_4). \quad (5)$$

Mode5- ($t_4$ to $t_5$) [Figure 2c]: This mode starts at $t_4$. In this mode, the $S_2$ switch is turned on under the ZVZCS condition. The state of the current passing through the auxiliary inductance is altered to negative. Additionally, the voltage across the magnetizing inductance is still zero due to the conduction of diodes $D_2$ and $D_3$. At the end of this interval, the current through the diode $D_2$ decreases to zero and the current through the diode $D_3$ achieves its maximum value. In addition, the output inductors $L_{o1}$ and $L_{o2}$ are still demagnetizing. However, this mode finishes when the current via the output inductor $I_{L_{o2}}$ reaches $nI_{L_x}$.

Mode6- ($t_5$ to $t_6$) [Figure 2f]: Within this mode, the diodes $D_1$ and $D_2$ are turned off, while the diode $D_3$ is turned on. The flowing current through the output inductors ($L_{o1}$ and $L_{o2}$) is decreased and increased, respectively. Also, at the time $t_6$, the demagnetization of the inductor $L_x$ current is finished. For this mode, we have:

$$i_{L_x} = i_{L_x,t5} - \frac{V_{C_{x1}}}{L_x}(t - t_5). \quad (6)$$

Mode7- ($t_6$ to $t_7$) [Figure 2g]: At the start of this mode, the power switch $S_2$ is turned off at the ZVS condition. After that, the parallel snubber capacitors of the power switches $S_1$ and $S_2$ ($C_{s1}$ and $C_{s2}$) are discharged and charged, respectively. Moreover, the discharge of $C_{s2}$ to the voltage zero provides the condition for switch $S_1$ to be turned on at ZVS condition at mode 1. Furthermore, during this time, the magnetizing current direction of the coupled inductor changes from positive to negative. Finally, the duration of this period is described as follows:

$$\Delta t_6 = t_7 - t_6 = \frac{V_{in}}{I_1} C_{s1} = \frac{V_{in}}{I_1} C_{s2}, \quad (7)$$

where $I_1$ and $I_1'$ are the currents of the inductors $L_x$ and $L_{o2}$ at $t_6$, respectively. However, this mode finishes when $V_{s2} = V_{in}$ and $V_{s1} = 0$. 537
Mode8- \((t_7 \text{ to } t_8)\) [Figure 2h]: Diode \(D_1\) is turned on at this interval, and the current through diode \(D_3\) is linearly decreased. The antiparallel diode of the switch \(S_1\) is turned on and provides the ZCS condition for power switch \(S_1\). Therefore, at the end of this interval and the start of mode 1, the power switch \(S_1\) is turned on at ZVZCS. Consequently, the following equation is deducted for this mode:

\[
i_{Lx} = i_{Lx,t7} + \frac{(-V_{C_{x1}} - V_{Lm})}{L_x}(t - t_7).
\]

\[\text{(8)}\]

3. Analysis of the proposed converter in steady-state

The steady-state analysis of the proposed converter is discussed in this section. In addition, it is assumed that the duty cycle is set as 50% with a 2-\(\mu\)s delay duration among pulses. Furthermore, frequency value
variation is utilized for solving the equations. Also, the relationship between voltage gain and duty-cycle change is calculated. To further simplify the description of the converter analysis, the following considerations are supposed: 1) It is considered that the converter is ideal, and losses are neglected; 2) Modes III and VII have short periods and are thus disregarded in the analysis.

### 3.1. Voltage gain

In this part, the output voltage gain is calculated individually based on switching frequency and duty cycle. The topological voltage conversion ratio is achieved using the principle of conservation of energy. The converter has a maximum voltage gain at a specific duty cycle; hence, to obtain lower voltage gains, the switching frequency variation could be used. According to the inductor $L_x$ current waveform in Figure 3 and by considering the shaded input current lower areas $S_1$ and $S_2$, the following equation for input power can be written as:

$$P_{in} = \int_{t_0}^{t_0+T_s} V_{in}.I_{in}dt = (S_1 - S_2)V_{in}.$$  \hspace{1cm} (9)

![Figure 3. $I_{Lx}$ (black line), Input current (shaded area).](image)

The following equations can be derived using the voltage-second principle applied to auxiliary inductance $L_x$ at modes 2&6.

$$V_{Cx1} = -DV_{in}, (D = 0.5) => V_{Cx1} = -V_{in}/2,$$  \hspace{1cm} (10)

$$V_{Cx2} = DV_{in}, (D = 0.5) => V_{Cx2} = V_{in}/2.$$  \hspace{1cm} (11)

However, it is necessary to calculate the time intervals for essential working modes to obtain the voltage gain versus switching frequency. The time intervals $\Delta t_1 = t_0 - t_1$ and $\Delta t_8 = t_6 - t_8$ summation are defined as $\Delta t_a$ where it can be obtained as below:

$$\Delta t_a = \Delta t_1 + \Delta t_8 = T_s/2 - \Delta t_2 \hspace{0.5cm} Where \hspace{0.5cm} \Delta t_2 = t_2 - t_1,$$  \hspace{1cm} (12)

$$\Delta t_a = 2L_x \frac{I_2 + I_3}{V_{in}}.$$  \hspace{1cm} (13)

And for the time interval in the mode2, it can be written:

$$\Delta t_2 = t_2 - t_1 = L_x \frac{I_3 - I_2}{V_{in} - V_{Cx} - V_{Lm}} = 2L_x \frac{I_3 - I_2}{V_{in} - 2V_{Lm}}.$$  \hspace{1cm} (14)
By using the KCL on the coupled inductor windings at mode 2, it can be deduced that:

\[ nI_{Lx} = I_{L2}. \]  \hspace{1cm} (15)

By assuming \( i_{L2|t_1} = I'_2, i_{L2|t_2} = I'_3, i_{Lx|t_1} = I_2 \) and \( i_{Lx|t_2} = I_3 \), and using eq. (15), it can be written:

\[ I'_3 - I'_2 = n(I_3 - I_2). \]  \hspace{1cm} (16)

Another equation for \( \Delta t_2 \) using the \( L_{o2} \) can be found as follows:

\[ \Delta t_2 = \frac{L_{o2}(I'_2 - I'_3)}{V_O - V_{Lm}/n} = \frac{nL_{o2}(I_2 - I_3)}{V_O - V_{Lm}/n}. \]  \hspace{1cm} (17)

From eqs. (14) and (17) we have:

\[ \frac{2L_x(I_2 - I_3)}{2V_{Lm} - V_{in}} = \frac{nL_{o2}(I_2 - I_3)}{V_O - V_{Lm}/n}. \]  \hspace{1cm} (18)

So, from eq. (18), the \( V_{Lm} \) formula can be calculated as below:

\[ V_{Lm} = \frac{L_{o2}nV_{in} + 2V_O L_x}{2n(L_{o2} + L_x)}. \]  \hspace{1cm} (19)

By using the voltage balance equation on the inductor \( L_{o2} \), the following can be obtained:

\[ V_{Lm} = \frac{nV_O T_s}{\Delta t_2}. \]  \hspace{1cm} (20)

And by using equations (19) and (20), the amount of \( \Delta t_2 \) can be simplified as:

\[ \Delta t_2 = \frac{2n^2V_O T_s(L_{o2} + L_x)}{(L_{o2}nV_{in} + 2V_O L_x)}. \]  \hspace{1cm} (21)

The amount of \( I_3 - I_2 \) can be solved by eqs. (14) and (21) as follows:

\[ I_3 - I_2 = \frac{nV_O(V_{in} - 2V_{Lm})}{2L_x f_s V_{Lm}} = \frac{nV_O(nV_{in} - 2V_O)}{f_s(12nV_{in} + 2V_O L_x)}. \]  \hspace{1cm} (22)

From eqs. (12) and (13), the sum \( I_3 + I_2 \) can be obtained as:

\[ I_3 + I_2 = \frac{V_{in}(T_s/2 - 2n^2V_o(L_{o2} + L_x))}{2L_x f_s(2V_o L_x + 12nV_{in})}. \]  \hspace{1cm} (23)

So, the amount of \( I_2 \) and \( I_3 \) can be written as follows:

\[ I_3 = \frac{V_{in} - 4nV_o}{8L_x f_s}. \]  \hspace{1cm} (24)

\[ I_2 = \frac{V_{in}(T_s/2 - 2n^2V_o(L_{o2} + L_x))}{2L_x f_s(2V_o L_x + 12nV_{in})} - \frac{V_{in} - 4nV_o}{8L_x f_s}. \]  \hspace{1cm} (25)
And the time intervals $\Delta t_1$ and $\Delta t_8$ are calculated as below:

$$\Delta t_1 = t_1 - t_0 = L_x \frac{I_2}{V_{in} - V_{Cx}} = L_x \frac{2I_2}{V_{in}},$$  \hspace{1cm} (26)

$$\Delta t_8 = t_8 - t_7 = L_x \frac{I_3}{V_{in} - V_{Cx}} = L_x \frac{2I_3}{V_{in}}.$$  \hspace{1cm} (27)

The voltage gain calculation for the proposed converter is based on the input and output power equality. So, by considering the input current waveform depicted in Figure 3, the following equation can be regarded:

$$(S_1 - S_2)V_{in} = V_o I_o T_s.$$  \hspace{1cm} (28)

For $S_1$ and $S_2$, we have:

$$S_1 = \frac{I_2 \Delta t_1 + (I_2 + I_3) \Delta t_2}{2},$$  \hspace{1cm} (29)

$$S_2 = \frac{I_3 \Delta t_6}{2} = \frac{L_x I_3^2}{V_{in}}.$$  \hspace{1cm} (30)

It is possible to determine the output voltage gain versus the switching frequency variations by using equation 9, Figure 3, and by solving the equation $(S_1 - S_2)V_{in}.f_s = V_o^2/R$. By assuming the parameter $M_1$ as below:

$$M_1 = 4R^2 L_{o2}^2 n^4 + 8R^2 L_{o2} L_x n^4 - 4R^2 L_{o2} L_x n^2 + ...$$
$$4R^2 L_2^2 n^4 - 4R^2 L_x^2 n^4 + R^2 L_2^2 + 8Rf_s L_{o2} L_x n^2 + ...$$
$$8Rf_s L_{o2} L_x^2 n^2 + 4Rf_s L_{o2} L_x^2 + 4f_s^2 L_2^2$$  \hspace{1cm} (31)

Eventually, the relationship between switching frequency changes and output voltage ratio can be expressed as:

$$M = \frac{V_o}{V_{in}} = \frac{n(\sqrt{M_1} - 2f_s L_{o2} L_x + RL_x - 2RL_{o2} n^2 - 2RL_x n^2)}{8f_s L_2^2},$$  \hspace{1cm} (32)

On the other hand, the maximum voltage ratio of the converter in relation to the duty cycle can be determined as follows:

$$M_{max} = D/2n.$$  \hspace{1cm} (33)

The voltage stress across two power switches can be derived as:

$$V_{S1, max} = V_{S2, max} = V_{in}$$  \hspace{1cm} (34)

And the voltage stress across Schottky diodes is low and can be found as follows:

$$V_{d1,2,3, max} = V_{Lm} = \frac{nV_o T_s}{\Delta t_2} = \frac{(L_{o2} nV_{in} + 2V_o L_x)}{2n(L_{o2} + L_x)}.$$  \hspace{1cm} (35)
3.2. Condition of ZVS for power switches

The converter has two power switches. These power switches are turned on under the zero voltage-zero current switching (ZVZCS) situation and turned off under zero voltage switching (ZVS). To mount ZVS on the switches, the inductance $L_x$ desires sufficient energy to the snubber capacitors $C_{s1}$ and $C_{s2}$ for charging and discharging. In addition, to use ZVS for circuit breakers, the following formula applies:

$$\frac{1}{2} L_x I_o^2 \geq C_s (V_{in})^2,$$  \hspace{1cm} (36)

where $C_{s1} = C_{s2} = C_s$. In addition, the snubber capacitor charge time ($t_d$) should be considerably greater than the switch's current fall time ($t_f$) to decrease the losses. Consequently, the capacitor’s charging time can be determined as follows:

$$t_d \geq 3 t_f.$$ \hspace{1cm} (37)

3.3. Mode of boundary conduction

The proposed converter will work with CCM and DCM if the following conditions are met:

$$2 I_{L_{o1}, L_{o2}} \geq \Delta i_{L_{o1}, L_{o2}} \rightarrow \text{CCM Operation},$$  \hspace{1cm} (38)

$$2 I_{L_{o1}, L_{o2}} < \Delta i_{L_{o1}, L_{o2}} \rightarrow \text{DCM Operation}.$$ \hspace{1cm} (39)

By using the ampere second law to capacitors $C_{x1}$ and $C_{x2}$, it can be deduced that the current going through each output choke is 50% of the average output current; hence, in the CCM state $I_o \geq \Delta i_{L_{o1}, 2}$. Besides, by supposing $L_{o1} = L_{o2}$, the equation of the output chokes current ripple is as follows:

$$\Delta i_{L_{o1}, 2} = \frac{(V_{Lm}/n-V_o)\Delta t_2}{L_{o2}}.$$ \hspace{1cm} (40)

Substituting (20) into (40) and considering eq. (38), yields:

$$\Delta i_{L_{o1}, 2} = \frac{V_o(T_s - \Delta t_2)}{L_{o2}} \rightarrow I_o \geq \frac{V_o(T_s - \Delta t_2)}{L_{o2}}.$$ \hspace{1cm} (41)

Thus, the following equation can be used to obtain the voltage gain in DCM mode:

$$(DCM), \frac{V_o}{V_{in}} = \frac{D^2}{2n} \times \frac{1}{D^2 + 0.25 \times (I_o/I_{oB_{\max}})}.$$ \hspace{1cm} (42)

The boundary between discontinuous conduction mode (DCM) and continuous conduction mode (CCM) states can also be formulated as follows:

$$\frac{V_o}{V_{in}} = \frac{1 \pm \sqrt{1 - I_o/I_{oB_{\max}}}}{4n}.$$ \hspace{1cm} (43)

However, Figure 4a shows the relationship between the boundary condition characteristics and the duty cycle (D). Also, Using equations (41) through (43), the CCM and DCM regions of operation are illustrated.
3.4. Design techniques and analytical comparison

The proposed converter has a wider output voltage range, making it perfect for various low-voltage applications. Figure 4b depicts the output voltage gain curve of the proposed converter, which is obtained by adjusting $L_x$ from 20 $\mu$H to 100 $\mu$H and switching frequency from 10 kHz to 200 kHz with a constant 50% duty-cycle (D).

Figure 4c depicts the maximum voltage gain vs duty cycle for the proposed converter and the converters in references [6,9,17-19]. Consideration should be given to the fact that the voltage gain of the proposed converter can be adjusted via switching frequency, resulting in an expanded voltage gain range.

For amounts of capacitors $C_{x1}$ and $C_{x2}$, we have:

$$ C_{x1,2} \geq \frac{nI_DT_s}{2\Delta V_C}. \quad (44) $$

It is possible to calculate the maximum values of the snubber capacitors $C_{s1}$ and $C_{s2}$ to obtain the ZVS operation of power using the following formulas:

$$ C_{s1,s2} \geq \frac{I_3.t_{f,switch}}{V_{in,\min}}, \quad (45) $$

where $t_f$ denotes the current falling time of main switches. Furthermore, the values of the output inductors $L_{o1}$ and $L_{o2}$ can be calculated as follows:

$$ L_{o1} = L_{o2} = \frac{V_O(T_S - \Delta t_2)}{\Delta t_{L1,2}}. \quad (46) $$

Finally, the magnetizing inductor ($L_m$) for the coupled inductor is determined as follows:

$$ L_m \geq \frac{\Delta t_2}{0.1 \times I_3} \times \frac{L_2nV_{in} + 2V_O L_x}{2n(L_2 + L_x)}. \quad (47) $$

The current is less than ten percent of the transformer’s maximum in either direction. The proposed converter benefits from the small magnetizing inductor, resulting in a more moderated size and volume.

In Table 1, key parameters and the number of components for the proposed converter, the other nonisolated
high step-down structures, and the isolated DC-DC converter are provided. According to Table 1, the proposed converter and the converters described in references [18] and [19] benefit from common ground. The common-ground characteristic allows the converter to have less electromagnetic interference (EMI) and to sense output voltage directly, resulting in rapid and precise adjustment of output voltage. However, the converter in ref [19] suffers from hard-switching, whereas the converter in ref [18] should operate with a duty-cycle of D = 5% to get a gain of 10V/300V = 0.033. As is well known, when the duty cycle is extremely low, such as D = 5%, the efficiency of the step-down converter decreases to extremely low levels. Additionally, the soft switching working region may be lost.

The suggested converter, on the other hand, works with D = 50% at every output voltage gain, and the output voltage gain will be changed by switching frequency or auxiliary inductance value, as shown in Figure 4b. In addition, the other converters are simulated by MATLAB simulink software with similar condition to the proposed converter and the efficiencies have been obtained and added to Table 1 to show the advantage of the proposed converter.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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<tr>
<td>Switches count</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>Diodes count</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
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<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>No. of the mag. cores /coupled inductors</td>
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<td>2/0</td>
<td>0/2</td>
<td>2/0</td>
<td>0/1</td>
<td>2/0</td>
<td>4/1</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transformer</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Total device count</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>Maximum voltage gain</td>
<td>( \frac{D}{2n} )</td>
<td>( \frac{D}{4} )</td>
<td>( \frac{nD(1-D)}{n+1} )</td>
<td>( \frac{D}{6} )</td>
<td>( \frac{D - D^2}{2D^2} )</td>
<td>( D^2 )</td>
<td>( \frac{D}{2n} )</td>
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<td>Output voltage range, Extended(E), Not extended (NE)</td>
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<td>NE</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>E</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Switch voltage stress</td>
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<td>( V_i )</td>
<td>( V_i/3 )</td>
<td>( V_i )</td>
<td>( V_i/3 )</td>
<td>( V_i )</td>
<td>( V_i )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voltage stress on diodes</td>
<td>( V_i/3 )</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>( V_i/6 )</td>
<td>( V_i )</td>
<td>( V_i/3 )</td>
<td>( V_i )</td>
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<td>Total standing voltage on switches</td>
<td>2Vi</td>
<td>4Vi</td>
<td>4Vi</td>
<td>2Vi</td>
<td>2Vi</td>
<td>(1 + ( \sqrt{D} ))Vi</td>
<td>2Vi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total standing voltage on diodes</td>
<td>Vi</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>( V_i/3 )</td>
<td>( V_i )</td>
<td>(1 + ( \sqrt{D} ))Vi</td>
<td>2/3Vi</td>
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<td>Low</td>
<td>Very-low</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Very-low</td>
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<td>Common ground</td>
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<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
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<td>Low</td>
<td>Medium-high</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Medium-low</td>
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<td>N-I</td>
<td>N-I</td>
<td>N-I</td>
<td>N-I</td>
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<td>I</td>
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<tr>
<td>Efficiency at 200 W</td>
<td>91.5%</td>
<td>81.6%</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>81.8%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>66.2%</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(300 V input, 10 V output at duty cycle (D), turn ratio n = 0.5)</td>
<td>D: 50%</td>
<td>D: 13%</td>
<td>D: 12%</td>
<td>D: 19</td>
<td>D: 5%</td>
<td>D: 5%</td>
<td>D: 50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switching condition</td>
<td>ZVS - ZVZCS</td>
<td>Hard - switching</td>
<td>ZVS</td>
<td>Hard - switching</td>
<td>ZVS - ZVZCS</td>
<td>Hard - switching</td>
<td>ZVS - ZVZCS</td>
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</table>
4. Experimental results

The proposed 200-W output converter case study is implemented herein. Table 2 lists parameter and element quantities. Table 2 compares component counts, semiconductor voltage stress, and other critical factors. Table 2 shows the converter’s benefits. Common ground reduces EMI across the circuit. The converter’s nonisolated structure also complements extended low-voltage applications. Comprehensive output voltage gain allows a wide output voltage range. The converter’s direct output voltage allows precise control. Three diodes share output current, reducing semiconductor current stress.

For implemented circuit, the amount of duty cycle is fixed at D = 50%. Therefore, the pulse widths of the main switches are equal, and the operational switching frequency is 40 kHz.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 2. Proposed specifications for converter elements and input voltage under test conditions.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Input voltage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>output voltage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Load</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switches $S_1$ and $S_2$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snubber capacitors ($C_{s1,2}$)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schottky diodes ($D_{1,2,3}$)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capacitors ($C_o$)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

An ATMEGA-AVR-based PI controller feeds an SG3525-based frequency-oscillated MOSFET driver for pulse generating. Complementary pulses are applied to the power switches. Figure 5a shows the converter’s control system. Figure 5b illustrates the implemented converter. Some of the main waveforms obtained from the converter are collected and are shown in Figure 6. It is shown that the converter switches are working in soft-switching conditions, and also the output voltage is fixed at 10 V. Figure 6 shows the voltage and current waveforms for the switches $S_1$ and $S_2$. Figures 6a, 7a, 6b, and 7b demonstrate the zero voltage and zero current at the turning-on transition. Also, the ZVS is performed when the switches are turned off. However, a small overlap exists for the ZVS-OFF condition. Because of the small overlap time interval and lower voltage and current values at that condition, the resulting losses are not of a significant magnitude. The switches are subjected to a voltage stress of 300 V, which is the same as the input voltage and agrees with eq. (34). Figures 6c and 7c illustrate the gate pulses corresponding to the switches $S_1$ and $S_2$ at 10 V and 8 V of output voltage, respectively. The pulses are complementary and are generated with SG3525 with two microseconds of dead time, and also the negative voltage for the switches at the turn-off process is provided. Figures 6d, 7d, 6e, and 7e show the voltage waveforms of the diodes $D_1$, $D_2$ and $D_3$, respectively. Here, there is a 100-V stress on the power diodes, which can be theoretically resolved using equation (35) below:

$$V_{D1,2,3,max} = \frac{nV_O T_s}{\Delta t_2} = \frac{0.5 \times 10 \times 1/40000}{1.23 \times 10^{-6}} = 100V.$$  \hspace{1cm} (48)

Moreover, according to equation (34), the theoretical voltage stress across the power switches is equal to the input voltage, and it is 300 volts. Furthermore, the amount of current stress (peak current) across the power
switches \(S_1, S_2\) (equal to \(I_3\) in figure 3) and the diodes \(D_{1,2,3}\) can be calculated as:

\[
I_{S1S2\max} = I_3 = \frac{V_{\text{in}} - 4nV_o}{8L_f f_s} = \frac{300 - 4 \times 0.5 \times 10}{8 \times 60 \mu H \times 40 kHz} \approx 14.5 A
\] (49)

Besides, the peak current across the body diode \(D_1\) is equal to half of the output current \((I_{D1,\max} = DI_o)\), and the maximum current stress of two other diodes (∆∆) is limited to the output current average. So, the maximum current that can flow through \(D_1\) is 10 A, and it is 20 A for \(D_2\) and \(D_3\). Furthermore, the amount of \(\Delta t_2\) by using eq. (21) can be calculated as:

\[
\Delta t_2 = \frac{2n^2V_0T_s(L_2+L_x)}{(L_2nV_{\text{in}}+2V_0L_x)} = \frac{2\times0.5^2\times10\times(1/40000)\times(100+60)}{100\times0.5\times300+2\times10\times60} = 1.23 \mu s.
\] (50)

The voltages through the capacitors \(C_{x1}\) and \(C_{x2}\) are about –150 V and 150 V in Figure 7a, which agree with eqs. (10) and (11). Finally, Figures 6g and 7g show the output current through the inductors \(L_{o1}\) and \(L_{o2}\) for 10 V and 8 V of output voltages, in which 10 A and 8 A are carried through each output inductor, respectively. In addition, according to equation (41), calculating the current ripple of each output inductor is as follows:

\[
\Delta I_{L_{o1,2}} = \frac{V_O(T_s - \Delta t_2)}{L_{o2}} \approx 2.3 A.
\] (51)

Additionally, switching frequency variation controlled the proposed converter. Figure 6a shows the converter step response after an 8 V to 10 V output voltage step adjustment. The output voltage step change takes 500 microseconds. At 200 W output power, the proposed converter has 91.5% efficiency. Higher output power increases efficiency, but the slope has decreased. Figure 8 shows the proposed converter efficiency diagram. Figure 8 includes the efficiency curve with switching losses to demonstrate soft switching’s benefits. Without soft switching, efficiency drops to 85.6% at 200 W output power, according to theoretical estimates. The converter’s 5.9% efficiency loss increases power switch and converter losses.

5. Conclusion

In the current work, a new topology for a DC-DC converter with high step-down capability, high efficiency, and a low number of elements has been proposed. A coupled inductor has also been used to have a lower output gain. Also, soft switching for power switches has been achieved using an auxiliary inductor \((L_x)\) in
Figure 6. The proposed converter’s main experimental waveforms, (a) The step change of the output voltage-current by varying from 8 V to 10 V, and for 10 V output voltage: (b) power switch $S_1$ $V_{ds} - I_{C}$, (c) power switch $S_2$ $V_{ds} - I_{C}$, (d) gate pulses of $S_1$ and $S_2$, (e) $V_{D1}$, (f) $V_{D2,3}$, (g) output inductor currents.

Figure 7. The proposed converter’s main experimental waveforms at 8 V output voltage, (a) converter capacitors voltages $V_{C1}$-$V_{C2}$, (b) power switch $S_1$ $V_{ds} - I_{C}$, (c) power switch $S_2$ $V_{ds} - I_{C}$, (d) gate pulses of $S_1$ and $S_2$, (e) $V_{D1}$, (f) $V_{D2,3}$, and (g) output inductor currents.

Figure 8. A comparison of the proposed converter’s efficiency with and without switching losses.

series. In order to obtain a higher output current, an interleaved combination has been used for inductors at the output, which results in a current division between output Schottky diodes to handle more current at
the output. Moreover, the proposed converter has been designed to have an extensive range of output voltage ratios, which can be achieved by changing the converter switching frequency. In addition, the converter’s working principles and mathematical analysis have been discussed. Finally, a 200-W prototype has been built. Experimental results have been presented, compared, and agreed with theoretical calculations. The proposed converter output efficiency is about 91.5% at the duty-cycle $D = 50\%$, $f_{sw} = 40$ kHz, and 10 V output voltage with the output load $R_L = 0.5\Omega$.

References


