Analysis of Photovoltaic Fed Partially Isolated Three-Port Full Bridge Converter with the Centralised Controller

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Abstract— In this paper analysis of an efficient topology of the three-port full bridge dc-dc converter is presented. This topology is promising with the view points of centralised control, compact design as it is capable of interfacing many numbers of ports with less number of switches, low cost, simple and fast power flow management with reduced conversion process. In a stand-alone system this topology is used to interface renewable energy sources and the load along with the energy storage device. Thus the proposed topology interfaces three ports: as one source port, one bidirectional storage port and an isolated output port. The key feature of this converter is that it performs buck-boost operation on the input port side to obtain power balance in the system with the centralised controller. The centralised controller was implemented by using proportional Integral (PI) controller. Such that it is used to track maximum power from the Photovoltaic (PV) system and to regulate output voltage by controlling the charging and the discharging characteristics of the battery. Zero voltage switching (ZVS) is also achieved in all the switches by using the energy stored in the leakage inductance of the transformer, output filter inductance and capacitance.

Keyword- Zero voltage switching, Three-port full bridge converter, PI control, PV system, Power balance.

I. INTRODUCTION

As the demand for the power generation increases day by day, to meet this energy crisis many researchers were focusing their interest on the generation of power from the renewable energy sources like fuel cell, wind energy conversion system, photovoltaic system etc. The future power system interfaces all these sources with the load along with the energy storage device. In case of the stand-alone system the storage device is required to provide backup power and for the fast dynamic response. To interface the sources which are intermittent in nature a multi-input dc-dc converter is proposed [1]-[3]. The conventional multi-input dc-dc converters for interfacing many renewable sources use a common dc link which has the drawbacks like requirement of more number of conversion devices, complex design and it is applicable only for the low power application.

In order to overcome this drawback multi-port topology is proposed [4] which treats the entire system has single converter and it has many key features like centralised control, compact design with less number of switches, reduced conversion stages, fast and simple power flow management. This multi-port topology is used in many applications like UPS remote communication system, satellite applications, traffic lights, multi-voltage-bus electrical vehicles, systems with multiple regulated outputs, domestic applications etc.

Multi-port converter can be realized by using different topologies like non-isolated topology, isolated topology and partially isolated topology [5]-[7]. Non-isolated topology shares a common ground which can be obtained by buck, boost, buck-boost topology etc. But the main drawback of using this topology is voltage levels of all the ports are not flexible, increased cost and it is characterised only by hard switching. The fully isolated topology is obtained by using full-bridge or half-bridge topology connected by means of magnetic coupling [8]-[10]. This topology provides voltage flexibility has each port has its own reference and it also characterised by soft switching. But the main drawback in this particular topology is the usage of many number of active switches and it involves the complex driving circuitry.

The drawback of the isolated topology can be mitigated by opting the partially isolated topology where only some ports share the common ground for safety purpose. The partially isolated topology can be obtained by buck boost full bridge, bidirectional boost dual half bridge, bidirectional dual half bridge, half bridge and phase shift full bridge topology. The unified converter topology termed Multi-port Power Electronic Interface (MPEI) for renewable energy sources which have bi-directional capability [11] deals with the highly integrated digital control system. The different modes of operation of three-port half bridge topology was discussed which is capable of achieving ZVS over wide range of operation [12]. The boost integrated topology of multi-port converter was in which the control scheme was obtained by combining PWM and phase angle shift [13]-[15].

The main impact of this paper is to interface the PV system to the three-port full bridge converter and to analyse the performance of this converter with various insolation and different loading condition. ZVS is also achieved for all the switches with various duty cycle. The paper is organised in such a way that Section II deals about the design and the operating principle of three-port full bridge converter with ZVS analysis. Section III discuss in detail about the equivalent circuit and the mathematical model of the PV system. Section IV describes about the control structure of the three-port converter with results and discussion in Section V and ends up with conclusion in Section VI.

II. DESIGN AND OPERATING PRINCIPLE OF THREE-PORT FULL BRIDGE DC-DC CONVERTER

The circuit diagram of the partially isolated three-port converter consisting of two input port and one output port is shown in Fig. 1. The input ports are characterised as source port and the storage port which is being connected to the PV system and to the battery. The output port is characterised as the load port. The inputs are connected to the load port via transformer and by the full bridge diode rectifier.



Fig. 1. Partially isolated three-port full bridge converter

This converter consists of two switching cells with each switching cells consisting of two switches as S_1 and S_2 in one cell and S_3 and S_4 in the other cell. The PV system and the storage device have been connected to these two cells. Power transfer between these two switching cells takes place by means of magnetising inductor L_m . As the voltage applied to the primary of the transformer depends on the magnetising inductor, the magnetising inductor L_m has to satisfy due to the volt second balance principle.

According to the availability of the supply and the load demand the three-port system is capable of operating in three different modes such as dual output (DO) mode, dual input (DI) mode and single input single output (SISO) mode and its corresponding operation is shown in Table I. Such that the power balance is maintained in the system which is given by equation (1).

$$P_{PV} = P_b + P_o$$

TABLE I Modes of Operation of the Proposed Three Port Converter

Modes of operation	Availability of PV Power	Condition of battery/Availability of battery power
Dual output mode, DO	$P_{PV} \ge P_{o}$	Battery charges, $P_b \ge 0$
Dual input mode, DI	$P_{PV} \le P_o \& P_{pv} > 0$	Battery discharges, $P_b \le 0$
Single input single output mode, SISO	$P_{PV} = P_{o}$	Battery discharges, $P_b = -P_o$

The system operates at the frequency of 100 kHz and each switching cycle consists of four switching states. During this operation the contribution of the power to the load takes place either from PV system or by the storage device or by both the input ports. Table II gives the clear picture about the operations involved in each switching state. The corresponding waveform at different switching state is given in Fig. 2. Under each switching state the current flowing through the transformer primary is given by the equation.

$$i_p = i_{Lm} + ni_{Lo}$$

(2)

(1)

Parameters	Switching state 1	Switching state 2	Switching state 3	Switching state 4	
Corresponding time period	t ₀ -t ₁	t ₁ -t ₂	t ₂ -t ₃	t ₃ -t ₄	
Operating Switches	S_1 and S_4	S_1 and S_3	S_2 and S_3	S_2 and S_4	
Source contributors	PV system	PV system and battery	battery	none	
Polarity of voltage applied to the transformer	positive	positive	negative	Not applicable (zero)	
Governing Equations	$\frac{\mathrm{di}_{\mathrm{Lm}}}{\mathrm{dt}} = \frac{\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{PV}} - \mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{b}}}{\mathrm{L}_{\mathrm{m}}}$ $\frac{\mathrm{di}_{\mathrm{Lo}}}{\mathrm{dt}} = \frac{\mathrm{n}(\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{pv}} - \mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{b}}) - \mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{o}}}{\mathrm{L}_{\mathrm{o}}}$	$\frac{\mathrm{di}_{\mathrm{Lm}}}{\mathrm{dt}} = \frac{\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{PV}} - \mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{b}}}{\mathrm{L}_{\mathrm{m}}}$ $\frac{\mathrm{di}_{\mathrm{Lo}}}{\mathrm{dt}} = \frac{\mathrm{n}(\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{pv}} - \mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{b}}) - \mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{o}}}{\mathrm{L}_{\mathrm{o}}}$	$\frac{\mathrm{di}_{\mathrm{Lm}}}{\mathrm{dt}} = \frac{-\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{b}}}{\mathrm{L}_{\mathrm{m}}}$ $\frac{\mathrm{di}_{\mathrm{Lo}}}{\mathrm{dt}} = \frac{\mathrm{n}\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{b}} - \mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{o}}}{\mathrm{L}_{\mathrm{o}}}$	$\frac{\mathrm{di}_{\mathrm{Lm}}}{\mathrm{dt}} = 0$ $\frac{\mathrm{di}_{\mathrm{Lo}}}{\mathrm{dt}} = \frac{-\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{o}}}{\mathrm{L}_{\mathrm{o}}}$	

TABLE II Switching State Operation



Fig. 2. Corresponding key waveforms at different switching states

The design parameters of the proposed converter are given in Table III. The magnitude and the direction of the current flowing through the inductor L_m is used to differentiate the different operating modes of the three-port converter. In DO mode the polarity of the current I_{Lm} is positive, the polarity of current I_{Lm} is negative in DI mode and in the SISO mode the polarity of the I_{Lm} is negative which has been verified from the Table IV. Where I_{Lm} is the current flowing through the inductor L_m .

Parameters	Values
PV voltage, V _{pv}	76 V
Battery voltage, V _b	38 V
Required output voltage, V _o	42 V
Turns ratio,n	3:4
Switching frequency, f _s	100 kHz
Capacitance, C _{pv} , C _b , C _o	470 μF
Transformer Inductance, L _m	70 µH

TABLE III Parameters of the Three-Port Converter

TABLE IV

Values of the Various Parameters of the Converter in Different Operating Modes

Dual output mode	Dual input mode	Single input single output mode
$V_{PV} > V_b$	$V_{PV} < V_b$	$V_{PV} = 0$
Battery = 38 V	Battery =38 V	Battery =38 V
$I_{LM} = 0.272 \text{ A}$	I _{LM} = -44.94 A	$I_{LM} = -60.78 \text{ A}$
$S_{1,I_{d}} = 1.52 \text{ A}$	$S_1, I_d = 24.95 \text{ A}$	$S_1, I_d = 55.15 A$
$S_1, V_{ds} = 62.76 V$	$S_1, V_{ds} = 6.198 V$	$S_1, V_{ds} = 0.5337 V$
$I_{Lo} = 2.619 \text{ A}$	$I_{Lo} = 0.39 \text{ A}$	$I_{Lo} = 0.039 \text{ A}$
$V_p = 41.31 \text{ V}$	$V_p = 7.422 V$	$V_{p} = 1.183 V$
V _s = 49.59 V	$V_s = 8.913 V$	$V_s = 1.433 V$
V _o = 47.15 V	$V_0 = 7.026 V$	$V_0 = 0.705 V$
$P_0 = 123.5 V$	$P_0 = 2.742 V$	$P_0 = 0.0276 V$

When the PV voltage is less than the battery voltage, then the corresponding output voltage, V_o is given by the equation (3) and (4) which were being obtained by satisfying the volt-second balance principle to the magnetising inductor L_m and the output inductor L_o respectively,

$$V_{\rm PV} = \frac{D_3}{D_1} V_{\rm b} \tag{3}$$

$$V_0 = n[D_a V_{PV} + D_b (V_{PV} - V_b) + D_c V_b] = 2nD_c V_b$$

Where D_1 = duty cycles of the two switches S_1

 D_3 = duty cycles of the two switches S_3

 D_a = equivalent duty cycle of state 1

 D_b = equivalent duty cycle of state 2

 D_c = equivalent duty cycle of state 3

Similarly when the PV voltage is greater than the battery voltage, then the corresponding output voltage, $V_{\rm o}$ is given by the equation

$$V_{0} = n[D_{a}V_{PV} + D_{b}(V_{PV} - V_{b}) + D_{c}V_{b}] = 2nD_{a}V_{PV}$$
(5)

Thus from the equation (3)-(5) it was inferred that the output voltage V_o depends on D_a and D_c . These equations are used to utilized to achieve maximum power from the PV source by varying the duty cycles D_1 and D_3 when the voltage on the battery remains constant. In this three-port full bridge converter power balance is achieved by having two independent control variables. ZVS of the three-port converter was also achieved for all the switches involved in the system just by using energy stored in the tansformer leakeage inductance, the output inductance, the output capacitance and by the snubber capacitance value.

III.CENTRALISED CONTROL LOGIC

The function of the control loop is to regulate the output voltage of the converter under various disturbances like line regulation, load regulation and for the parameter variation. The most promising feature of the multiport converter using centralised control [16] is also validated. The centralised control structure shown in Fig. 3 is used to control many power ports.

(4)



Fig. 3. Simple control structure

As this being the three-port converter the centralised controller consists of three control loops one for the PV source port, the other for the battery port and the latter for the load port. The control loop incorporated in the source port is termed as the input voltage regulator (IVR), similarly the control loop incorporated in the load port is termed as the output voltage regulator (OVR) and the two stage control loop called constant current and constant voltage is incorporated for the battery which is termed as the battery current regulator (BCR) and battery voltage regulator (BVR).

In this OVR is used to regulate the output voltage of the load port by voltage mode control loop. Similarly IVR is used to regulate the PV voltage to its reference value as specified by the maximum power point tracking (MPPT) controller using perturb and observe method. The current mode control and the voltage mode control required by the battery port are also achieved by means of BCR and BVR [17]. In all these regulator only the conventional PI controller is used.

Depending on the availability of the PV power generation, battery state of charge (SOC) and the load demand the designed centralised controller is capable of operating in different operating modes. When the power generated by the PV source is less than the load demand, then the lacking power will be certainly delivered by the discharge of the battery [18]. There by achieving power balance in the system without any over discharge. The operation of this centralised controller has been discussed in two cases.

A. Case: $1 P_{PV} > P_0$

When the availability of the PV power is abundant then the load demand, then the excessive power is used to charge the battery [19-21]. While charging the battery the charging current is compared with the bulk current (I_b^*), if it is not equal the signal generated by the PI controller of the BCR will go positive which in turn activates the IVR to be operated to track maximum power such that MPPT is enabled.

While MPPT is enabled, the purpose of using BCR and BVR along with the limiter is used to verify whether the battery voltage (V_b) has reached its overvoltage (V_b^*) or not. In this proposed controller design for the threeport converter the battery overvoltage is chosen to be 44.7 V. If the battery voltage is not equal to the overvoltage then the bulk current (I_b^*) is maintained constant which is chosen here to be 4.8 A which is termed as the constant current stage. If battery voltage is equal to the overvoltage then the bulk current decreases which are termed as the constant voltage stage as shown in Fig. 4.

As the bulk current decreases there is a limitation that it should not be decreased below the floating point value. The floating point value is given by C/100 where C is the rated capacity of the battery which is 64.61Ah. The corresponding floating point charging current value is chosen here to be 0.64 A. Therefore the bulk current has to be decreased to the floating point value, if it goes below the floating point charging current value the charging process is terminated.

B. Case: 2
$$P_{PV} > P_0 + P_b$$

Similarly when the availability of the PV power is surplus than supplying the load and then charging the battery. In this case the charging current is equal to the bulk current (I_b^*) , the signal generated by the PI controller of the BCR will go negative which in turn disable the MPPT thus achieving the power balance in the system.



Fig. 4. Constant current and constant voltage PV charging profile

IV. MATHEMATICAL MODEL OF PV PANEL

By considering the simplicity and the accuracy, one diode model of PV source [22]-[24] used in this work is shown in Fig. 5.



Fig. 5. Schematic of solar PV panel

The corresponding mathematical equations are as follows,

$$I_{pv} = I_{ph} - I_D - I_{sh}$$
⁽⁶⁾

$$I_{ph} = \left\{ K_i (T - T_n) + I_{pvn} \right\} \frac{G}{G_n}$$
(7)

$$I_{D} = I_{r} \left\{ exp \left[(V_{pv} + I_{pv}R_{se})V_{ta} - 1 \right] \right\}$$
(8)

$$I_{r} = \frac{K_{i}(T - T_{n}) + I_{scn}}{\exp[(K_{v}(T - T_{n}) + V_{ocn})V_{ta}] - 1}$$
(9)

Where

- I_D = Current through the diode
- I_{sh} = Current through the shunt resistance
- I_{ph} = Photon generated current of the PV module
- $I_{pv} = PV$ panel current
- $K_i = Short-circuit$ current temperature Coefficient
- T = Temperature
- $T_n = Nominal Temperature (273 K)$
- $I_{pvn} = Nominal photocurrent of PV panel$
- G = Insolation level (W/m²)
- $G_n = Nominal Insolation level (1000 W/m²)$
- $V_{pv} = PV$ panel Voltage
- I_r = diode reverse saturation current
- $R_{se} = Series Resistance$

 V_{ta} = Thermal Voltage (=aKT/q)

 I_{scn} = Nominal value of short circuit current

 K_v = open circuit voltage temperature coefficient

V_{ocn} = Nominal value of open circuit voltage

Using the equations (6) to (9), the PV model is developed in MatLab/Simulink environment and it is interfaced to the converter. To obtain the maximum required voltage (around 76 V) for this work, 5 panels are connected in series (PV array size is 5x1). The maximum power from the PV system was also tracked under different insolation by using maximum power point tracker (MPPT). Perturb and Observe algorithm is used for MPP tracking. Perturb and observe algorithm is a simple feed forward structure with less measured parameters. As per the standard test condition, the maximum power and its corresponding voltage are obtained at the temperature of 25° C and for the insolation of 1000 W/m². Table V shows the maximum power values at different insolation level.

Insolation (W/m ²)	V _{pv} (V)	I _{sc} (A)	P _{max} (W)
1000	83.5	2.55	186.3
900	82.7	2.295	166.4
800	82.2	2.04	146.4
700	81.5	1.785	126.4
600	80.6	1.53	106.5
500	80.2	1.275	86.53
400	66.7	1.02	78.5

TABLE V Maximum Power Point Values at Different Irradiation Levels

Here the ramp function of voltage represents the profile of current and power output from PV array with respect to change in voltage. The PV array current varies linearly with solar insolation and logarithmically with temperature. Fig. 6 shows the variation of characteristics of the solar PV array under different insolation varying from 1000 W/m² to 400 W/m² [25].



Fig. 6. Characteristics of the solar PV array for different insolation level

Moreover, with rapidly changing atmospheric conditions, the MPPT takes considerable time to track the MPP. The maximum power at different insolation is also obtained [26]. The simulation results of the characteristics of solar array at different ambient temperature level varying from 25° C to 65° C are also shown in Fig. 7. It was inferred that the power output of solar PV array is greater in 25° C temperature than that of 65° C. The performance of solar array is also validated.



Fig. 7. Characteristics of the solar PV array for different ambient temperature level from 25°C to 65°C

V. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

As the power balance in the system is achieved under different operating modes, Fig. 8 shows the obtained the maximum PV power of about 186.3 V at the insolation of 1000 W/m². The corresponding PV current and the voltage of 83.5 V are also shown in Fig. 9 and Fig. 10 which is achieved by tuning the parameters of PI controller involved in the centralised controller. As the storage port is also controlled by centralised controller by the two stage controller by which over charging and over discharging is regulated. Fig. 11 shows the battery power which is around 51.89 W and the corresponding voltage of 44.85 V is shown in Fig. 12.



Fig. 8. Power supplied by the photovoltaic system at the irradiation of 1000 W/m²



Fig. 9. Current produced by the photovoltaic system at 1000 W/m²



Fig. 12. Storage port voltage

On the load side, the output port is controlled by means of the voltage mode controller which is also one of the parts of the centralised controller. The reference voltage is set as 42 V. The required output voltage obtained under the irradiation of 1000 W/m^2 shown in Fig. 13. The corresponding output power is also shown in Fig. 14 which is around 100 W. Similarly under various irradiations the required output voltage is obtained.



Fig. 13. Output voltage on the load side



Fig.14. Output power on the load side

The centralised controller is also validated by analysing the dynamic response of the three-port converter by testing the line regulation and the load regulation. The waveform shown in Fig. 15 shows the output voltage of the load port when the source port was given a transition from 1000 W/m^2 to 500 W/m^2 at 0.05 s. The desired output voltage of 42 V is obtained. When the irradiation lowers below the 500 W/m² steady state error of about 1 V occurs.



Fig. 15. Dynamic response of output voltage with line regulation

The waveform shown in Fig. 16 validates the load regulation as the load on the load port changes from 18 Ω to 80 Ω and the desired output voltage of the 42 V is obtained. From Fig. 15 and Fig. 16 it was inferred that the centralised controller works good for the wide variation in the input voltage as well as for the load current.



Fig.16. Dynamic response of output voltage with load regulation

The ZVS for the three-port full bridge converter is also achieved. The ZVS is achieved by the leakage inductance of the transformer and the inductance and the capacitance value involved in the filter. When the duty cycle of the switch S_1 is 30 % the ZVS is achieved as shown in Fig. 17 but when the duty cycle increases beyond 70 % ZVS is lost which was observed in Fig. 18.





Similarly the ZVS can also be analysed for all the other switches involved in the system by varying the duty cycle or by changing the required output power.

VI.CONCLUSION

The three-port full bridge converter was analysed by interfacing PV system, storage device and the load. The power balance in the system is also achieved by means of centralised controller which is used to track maximum power PV system, safe charging and discharging on the storage device and to regulate the voltage on the output port. The dynamic response of the system was also analysed under line regulation and the load regulation. The steady state error obtained in the line regulation can be mitigated by using Fuzzy logic controller. ZVS is also analysed for the switches involved in the system.

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