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Soft switched DC-DC converter

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Abstract. A soft switched single switch isolated dc-dc converter proposed in this paper. This converter works on the principle of zero current switching (zcs) and zero voltage switching (zvs). The circuit comprises lossless snubber with low rating. The switch works on zcs during turn on and zvs during turnoff. The diodes are based on zcs turn on and turnoff conditions. This paper presents the concept of soft switching and its applications to dc-dc converter. The losses due to soft switching and hard switching are compared.

1. Introduction

In recent years soft switched isolated step up dc-dc converters have undergone a vigorous development. It is being used in numerous applications such as photo voltaic systems, fuel cell systems, vehicle inverters etc., [1-2] This present converter is the advancement of many older topologies. Initially current fed isolated converter was used for step-up applications. This was of two types. They are passive clamped and active clamped. The drawback in passive clamped was that considerable power loss in the snubber due to hard switching of main switch. This drawback was overcome by active clamped converter [2]. This used zvs turn on of switches which clamps the voltage spikes caused by the leakage inductance of the transformer[3]. But still the drawback in it was it required more number of switches and driver circuits for gate. The next topology was Z source converter and flyback converter[4]. But the switches in these topologies were hard switched both during turn on and turn off. Overcoming this disadvantage, isolated dc-dc converter with two switches was introduced, Turn on was based on zvs but turnoff was based on hard switching. Then fly back converter evolved which involved zcs turn on and during turn off it remained hard switched[5]. Finally it ended in the proposed converter here.

The converter combines both zcs turn on and zvs turn off of switches, zcs turn on and turn off of diodes, a snubber with low power rating and transformer of low power density. All these features make it possible to achieve high efficiency with reduced losses.

2. Working

The converter consists of a single switch. The transformer separates the supply from the load. On the primary side a lossless snubber is present. It consists of C_s , two diodes, inductor L_s and clamp capacitor C_c . This snubber will help to achieve zvs turn off of switch and clamp the spikes in voltage. The input filter is inductor L_i . On the secondary side L_r - C_r resonant circuit will help in achieving zcs turn on and turn off of diodes. C_o is the output capacitor to filter out the ripples.



Condition for step up operation

1. $DT_s < 0.5Tr_1$ is the above resonance operation.
2. $DT_s = 0.5Tr_1$ is the resonance operation.
3. $DT_s > 0.5Tr_1$ is the below resonance operation.

For below resonance operation, only the turn off current and diode current are less. Hence, total switching losses are less. So below resonance condition is chosen for step up operation of proposed converter.

Assumptions:

1. The input filter and magnetizing inductances are very large so they can be represented by constant current sources.
2. The output capacitor and clamp capacitors are very large values. So they can be represented by constant voltage source.
3. The voltage across clamp capacitor is same as input voltage.

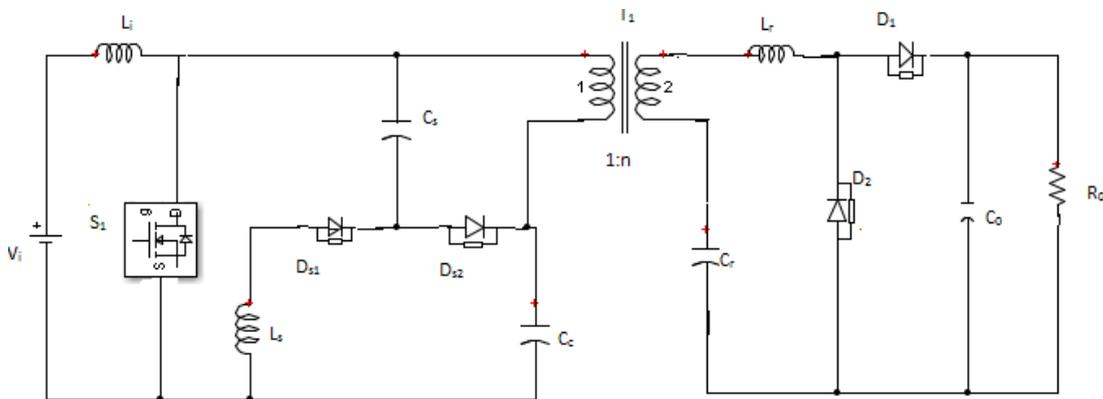


Figure 1. Proposed ZCS-ZVS Converter

3. Modes of Operation:

3.1 Mode1:

In this mode, the switch is turned on at $t=0$. Then the current iLs flows through Ls , Ds , Cs and $S1$. Since Li acts as constant current source that current also flows through the switch. During this interval from t_0 to t_1 the current iLs and voltage Vcs starts decreasing.

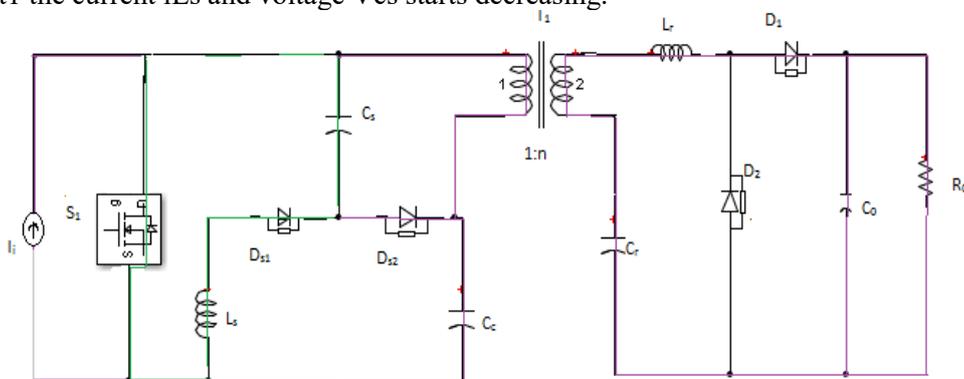


Figure 2. Mode 1 Operation

On the secondary side, i_{Lr} flows through L_r , D_1 , C_0 and C_r . At $t=t_1$, i_{Lr} will become zero. The diode D_1 is turned off. Here the switch is turned on at zcs condition. The loss due to MOSFET's output capacitance is negligible as input is very low. This operation is given in Figure 2.

3.2. Mode 2

The current through i_{Lr} now flows through C_r , D_2 and L_r . The D_2 is turned on at zero current instant. The i_{Lr} starts to decrease and V_{Cr} starts to increase. The C_s charges to $-V_{cc}$. L_s - C_s resonance ends and this operation model is given in Figure 3.

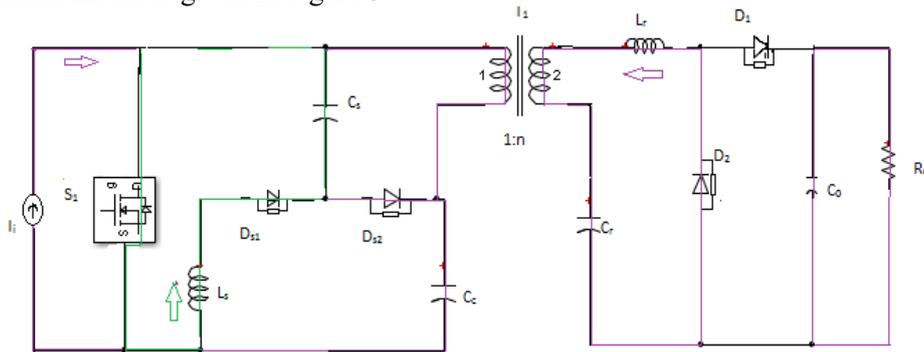


Figure 3. Mode 2 Operation

3.3. Mode 3

In this mode, D_{s2} will be turned on and now i_{Ls} flows through L_s , D_{s1} , D_{s2} and C_c . The current i_{Ls} decreases and reaches zero. D_{s1} and D_{s2} are turned off under zcs condition.

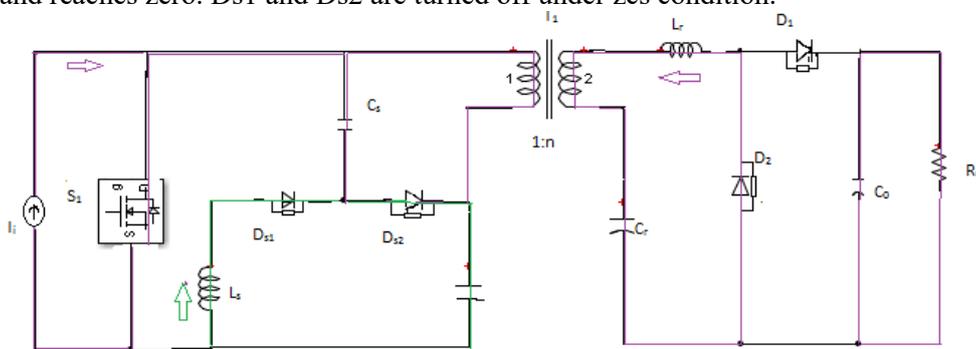


Figure 4. Mode 3 Operation

3.4. Mode 4

On the secondary side, L_r - C_r resonates. The inductor current i_{Lr} becomes 0A. The diode D_2 is turned off under zcs condition.

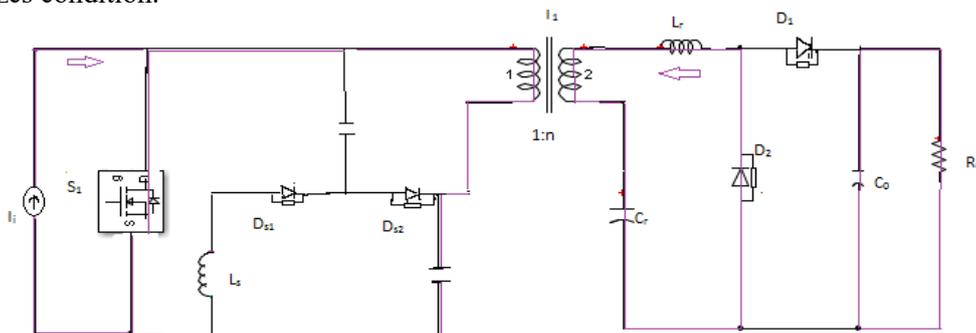


Figure 5. Mode 4 Operation

3.5. Mode 5

Now, here D_{s1} is off so $i_{Ls}=0$. The current which flows through the switch is I_i and I_{Lm} which is constant because both the currents are flowing from constant current sources.

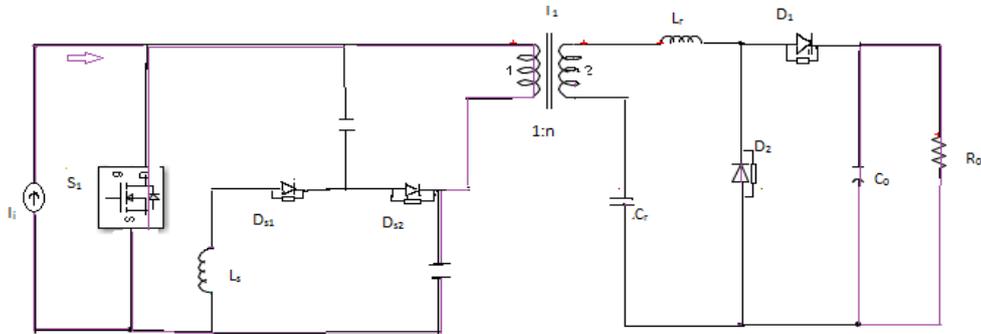


Figure 6. Mode 5 Operation

3.6. Mode 6

In this mode, s_1 turned off at zvs condition i.e., V_{cs} is charged to $-V_{cc}$ and C_c is charged to $+V_{cc}$. The voltage is zero hence voltage across switch is also zero. Now, the current I_i and I_{lm} flows through C_s , D_{s2} and C_c .

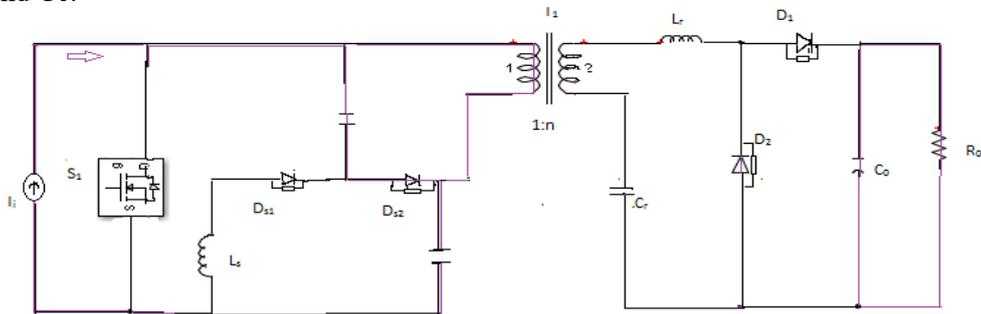


Figure 7. Mode 6 Operation

3.7. Mode 7

In this mode, the resonant current i_{Lr} flows through C_s , D_{s2} , L_r , D_1 and C_r as per the equivalent circuit.

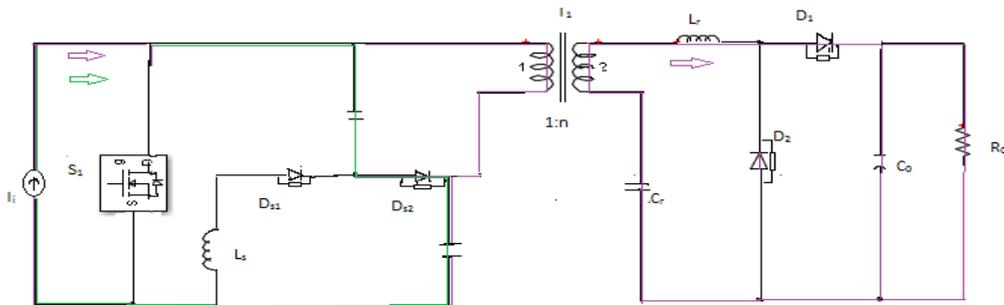


Figure 8. Mode 7 Operation

3.8. Mode 8

In this mode, capacitor C_s charges to V_{cc} and diode D_{s1} is forward biased. Now L_s - C_s , L_r - C_r starts to resonate. Now the current i_{Lr} flows through L_s , D_{s1} , C_s , C_r , L_r , D_1 and C_r . After sometime i_{Ls} reaches 0A.

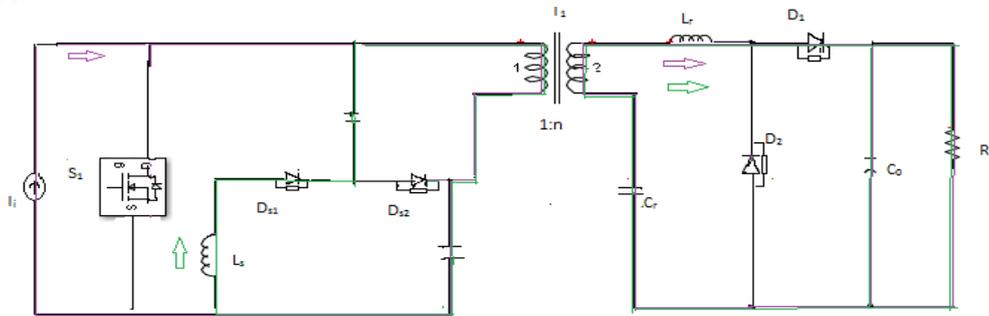


Figure 9. Mode 8 Operation

3.9. Mode 9

Now the current flowing through the primary is transferred to the secondary until the switch S_1 is turned on again.

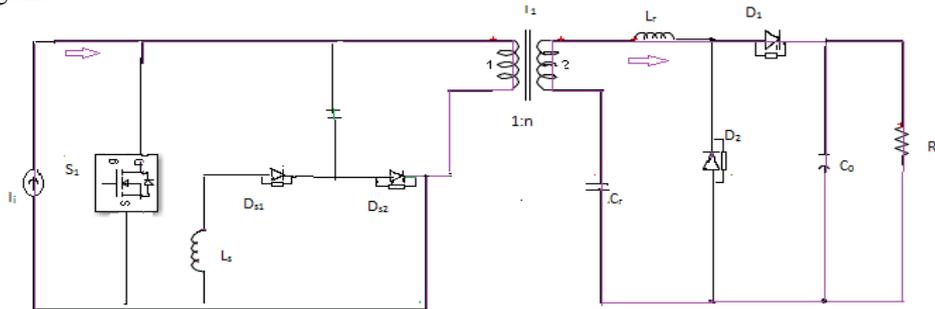


Figure 10. Mode 9 Operation

4. Design Methodology

The design procedure is presented by means of taking an example. Output power $P_0 = 275W$, output voltage $V_0 = 400V$, input voltage $V_i = 35V$ and switching frequency $f_s = 100kHz$.

4.1. Selection of $I_{Ls, avg}$

For minimizing losses due to conduction of snubber components and magnetizing current $I_{Ls, avg}$ should be as small as possible. Based on conduction losses of switch and snubber components the value of $I_{Ls, avg}$ is selected to be around 3% of average input current [2].

$$I_{Ls, avg} = 0.03 I_{i, avg} = 0.27A \quad (1)$$

4.2. Values of n , L_r and C_r

The voltage gain of the below resonant operation approximately is

$$\frac{V_0}{V_i} \approx \frac{n}{1-D} \quad (2)$$

For the below resonance operation, the minimum duty cycle is

$$D_{min} = \pi f_s \sqrt{L_r C_r} \quad (3)$$

For minimizing the reverse recovery diode D1, the inductance L_r should be minimum.

$$3trr1 = \frac{(I_i + IL_m)L_r}{nV_0 \left(1 + \frac{1}{2CrfsR_0}\right)} \quad (4)$$

Where $trr1$ is reverse recovery time of diode D1.
The RMS current and turn on voltage is,

$$I_{s1,rms} = \sqrt{DI_i} + \frac{n\pi I_0}{2\sqrt{2D_{min}}} \quad (5)$$

$$V_{s1,on} = V_{s1}(t_0) = \frac{V_0 - V_{Cr,min}}{n} + V_{CC} \quad (6)$$

Choosing the turns ratio of the transformer to be $n = 7$ and considering the above equations L_r is found to be $7.57\mu H$ and C_r is determined as $200.73nF$.

4.3. Value of C_s

The value of the snubber capacitor C_s can be found as follows.

$$\begin{aligned} I_{Ls,avera} &= C_s/T_s [v_{Cs}(t_0) + 3V_{CC} - 2V_{Cs,max} \\ &+ 2(V_0 - V_{Cr,max})/n \\ &+ 0.5v_{Cs}(t_0) \sin(\cos^{-1}(-V_{CC}/v_{Cs}(t_0))) \cos^{-1}(-V_{CC}/v_{Cs}(t_0))] \quad (7) \end{aligned}$$

Where $V_{Cs}(t_0)$ is obtained by,

$$V_{Cs}(t_0) = 2 \left(V_{CC} + \frac{V_0 - V_{Cr,max}}{n} \right) - V_{Cs,max} \quad (8)$$

Where $V_{Cs,max}$ is given by the formula,

$$V_{Cs,max} = \left(\frac{I_i + IL_m}{n} \right) \sqrt{\frac{L_r}{C_s} + \frac{V_0 - V_{Cr,max}}{n}} \quad (9)$$

By using n, L_r, C_r the snubber capacitance is calculated as $17.17nF$.

4.4. Value of L_s

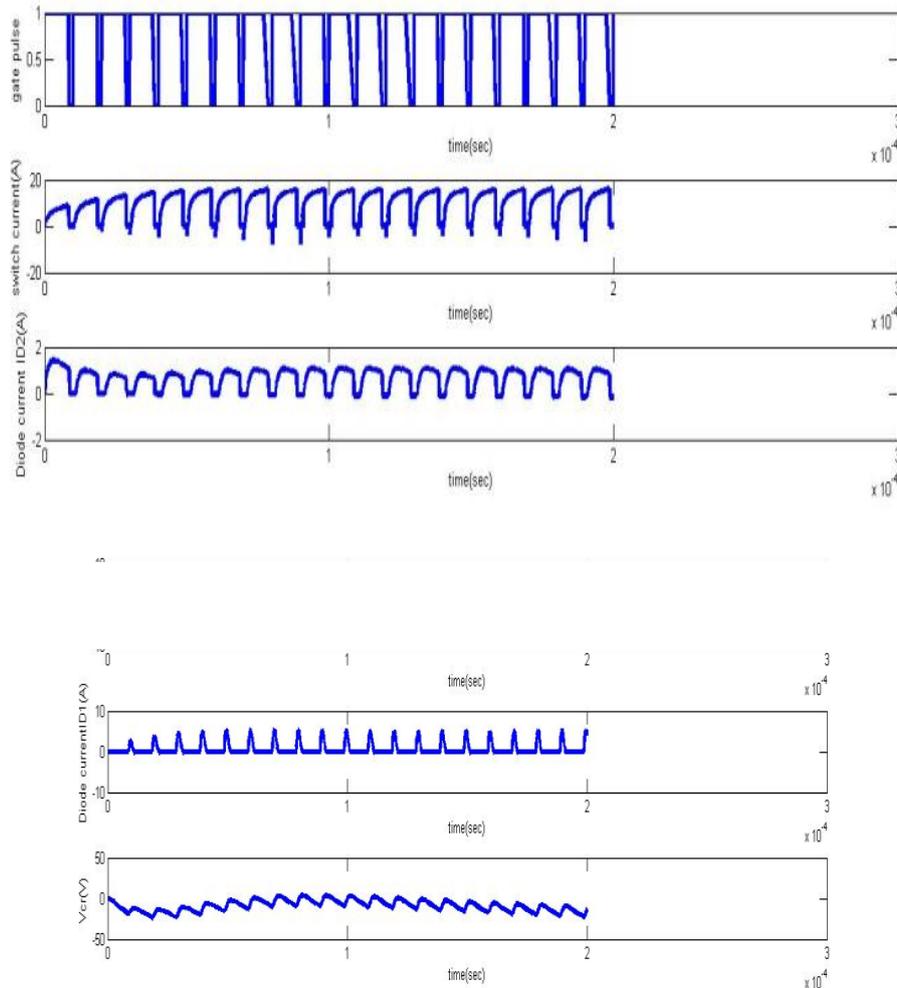
L_s can be calculated from the following equation,

$$3trr = \frac{v_{Cs}(t_0)L_s \sin\left(\cos^{-1}\left(\frac{V_t}{v_{Cs}(t_0)}\right)\right)}{V_t} \sqrt{\frac{C_s}{L_s}} \quad (10)$$

Where, $trr1$ recovery time of diodes D_{s1} and D_{s2} . Snubber capacitance is calculated as $1.049\mu H$.

5. Simulation Results

Simulation results are given below.



6. Conclusion

The isolated single switch DC-DC converter is proposed and results are presented in this paper. The conditions of zero current and zero voltage are verified. The efficiency is proved to be increased by soft switching.

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