

Novel Bidirectional DC/DC Converter for Hybrid Electric Vehicles

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Abstract

This research paper presents the development of a novel bidirectional dc/dc converter (BDC) that has been patented. The converter is meant to connect a primary energy storage (ES1), a secondary energy storage (ES2), and a dc-bus with varying voltage levels. The intended application of this converter is in hybrid electric vehicle systems. The converter under consideration has the capability to function in two distinct modes: step-up mode, also known as low-voltage dual-source-powering mode, and step-down mode, often referred to as high-voltage dc-link energy-regenerating mode. In both of these modes, the converter is equipped with bidirectional power flow regulation. Furthermore, the model possesses the capability to autonomously regulate the distribution of power between two low-voltage sources, namely in the low-voltage dual-source buck/boost mode. In this discussion, we will examine the circuit setup, operation, steady-state analysis, and closed-loop management of the proposed BDC (Brushless DC) system, focusing on its three modes of power transfer. Additionally, the findings of both computational and experimental tests conducted on a 1 kW prototype system are presented in order to verify the efficacy of the suggested converter.

Keywords: Electric vehicle system, DC-DC converter, energy storage, brushless DC system.

1. Introduction

Distributed Energy Resources or DER are electric power generation or storage systems which are typically located at or near the end user. The electricity that we receive in our buildings through electric grids, are generated from centralized power plants, which are located far from cities. Distributed energy resource (DER) systems are small-scale power generation technologies located at or near the end user (typically in the range of 3–10,000 kW) used to provide an alternative to or an enhancement of the traditional electric power system. [1] To discuss about Der some of the terms are needed to be familiar with, Distributed Generation— Any technology that produces power outside of the utility grid (e.g., fuel cells, microturbines, and photovoltaics) Distributed Power— Any technology that produces power or stores power (e.g., batteries and flywheels) Distributed Energy Resources—Any technology that is included in DG and DP as well as demand-side measures. Under this configuration, power can be sold back to the grid where permitted by regulation. [2] Der is like how it was during Thomas Alva Edison's DC current, when DC power plants used to be situated near the end users. But DC currents could not transfer higher voltages too far. That is why AC currents are used. Because of AC currents power plants got centralized, meaning one power plant could transmit electricity from far to the whole city.

2. Related Work

Global climate change and energy supply is declining have stimulated changes in vehicular technology. Advanced technologies are currently being researched for application in future vehicles. Among such applications, fuel-cell hybrid electric vehicles (FCV/HEV) are efficient and promising candidates. In the past, Ehsani et al. studied the vehicles' dynamics to look for an optimal torque-speed profile of the electric propulsion system [1]. Emadi et al. discussed the operating properties of the topologies for different vehicles including HEV, FCV, and more electric vehicles [2]. Emadi et al. also integrated power electronics intensive solutions in advanced vehicular power system to satisfy huge vehicular load [3].

Schaltz et al. sufficiently divide the load power among the fuel cell stack, the battery, and the ultracapacitors based on two proposed energy-management strategies [4]. Thounthong et al. studied the influence of fuel-cell (FC) performance and the advantages of hybridization for control strategies [5]. Chan et al. reviewed electric, hybrid, and fuel-cell vehicles and focused on architectures and

modeling for energy management [6]. Khaligh and Li presented energy-storage topologies for HEVs and plug-in HEVs (PHEVs). They also discussed and compared battery, UC, and FC technologies. Furthermore, they also addressed various hybrid ESSs that integrate two or more storage devices [7].

Rajashekara reviewed the current status and the requirements of primary electric propulsion components-the battery, the electric motors, and the power electronics system [8]. Lai et al. implemented a bidirectional dc/dc converter topology with two-phase and interleaved characteristics. For EV and dc-microgrid systems, the converter has an improved voltage conversion ratio [9]. Furthermore, Lai also studied a bidirectional dc to dc converter (BDC) topology which has a high voltage conversion ratio for EV batteries connected to a dc-microgrid system [10]. In FCV systems, the main battery storage device is commonly used to start the FC and to supply power to the propulsion motor [2, 3]. The battery storage devices improve the inherently slow response time for the FC stack through supplying peak power during accelerating the vehicle [7].

Moreover, it contains a high power-density component such as supercapacitors (SCs) eliminates peak power transients during accelerating and regenerative braking. In general, SCs can store regenerative energy during deceleration and release it during acceleration, thereby supplying additional power. The high power density of SCs prolong the life span of both FC stack and battery storage devices and enhances the overall efficiency of FCV systems.

3. PROPOSED METHOD

The proposed BDC topology with dual-battery energy storage is illustrated in Fig. 1, where VH, VES1, and VES2 represent the high-voltage dc-bus voltage, the main energy storage (ES1), and the auxiliary energy storage (ES2) of the system, respectively. Two bidirectional power switches (SES1 and SES2) in the converter structure, are used to switch on or switch off the current loops of ES1 and ES2, respectively. A charge-pump capacitor (CB) is integrated as a voltage divider with four active switches (Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4) and two phase inductors (L1, L2) to improve the static voltage gain between the two low-voltage dual sources (VES1, VES2) and the high-voltage dc bus (VH) in the proposed converter. Furthermore, the additional CB reduces the switch voltage stress of active switches and eliminates the need to operate at an extreme duty ratio. Furthermore, the three bidirectional power switches (S, SES1, SES2) displayed in Fig. 2 exhibit four-quadrant operation and are adopted to control the power flow between two low-voltage dual sources (VES1, VES2) and to block either positive or negative voltage.

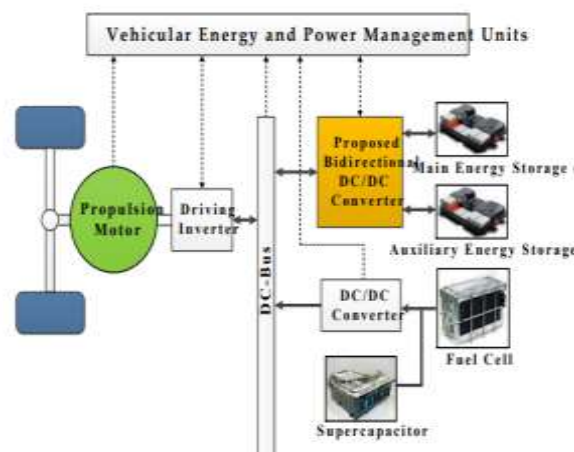


Fig. 1. Typical functional diagram for a FCV/HEV power system.

This bidirectional power switch is implemented via two metal-oxide-semiconductor field-effect transistors (MOSFETs), pointing in opposite directions, in series connection. To explain the concept for the proposed converter, all the conduction statuses of the power devices involved in each operation mode. Accordingly, the four operating modes are illustrated as follows to enhance understanding.

A functional diagram for a typical (FCV/HEV) power system is illustrated in Fig. 1 [4]. The low-voltage FC stack is used as the main power source, and SCs directly connected in parallel with FCs. The dc/dc power converter is used to convert the FC stack voltage into a sufficient dc-bus voltage in the driving inverter for supplying power to the propulsion motor. Furthermore, ES1 with rather higher voltage is used as the main battery storage device for supplying peak power, and ES2 with rather lower voltage could be an auxiliary battery storage device to achieve the vehicle range extender concept. The function of the bidirectional dc/dc converter (BDC) is to interface dual-battery energy storage with the dc-bus of the driving inverter. Generally, the FC stack and battery storage devices have different voltage levels. Several multiport BDCs have been developed to provide specific voltages for loads and control power flow between different sources, thus reducing overall cost, mass, and power consumption. These BDCs can be categorized into isolated and nonisolated types. In isolated converters, high-frequency power transformers are applied to enable galvanic isolation. A few isolated multiport BDC topologies have been investigated, such as the flyback, half- or full-bridge circuits, dual-active bridges, and resonant circuits. The literature suggests that no isolated BDCs are more effective than typical isolated BDCs in EVs.

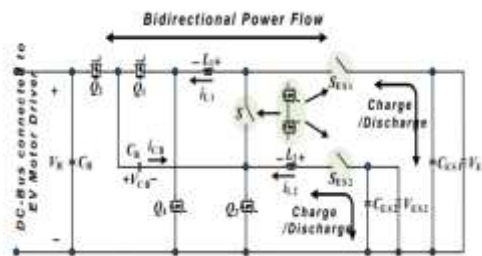


Fig. 2. Proposed BDC topology with dual-battery energy storage.

The main characteristics of the proposed converter are summarized as follows: 1) interfaces more than two dc sources for different voltage levels, 2) controls power flow between the dc bus and the two low-voltage sources and also independently controls power flow between the two low-voltage sources, 3) enhances static voltage gain and thus reduces switch voltage stress, and 4) possesses a reasonable duty cycle and produces a wide voltage difference between its high- and low-side ports.

4. RESULTS

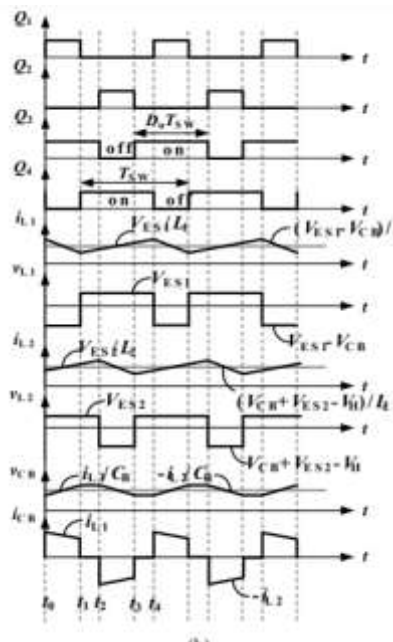


Fig. 3. Low-voltage dual-source-powering mode of the proposed BDC: (a) circuit schematic and (b) steady-state waveforms.

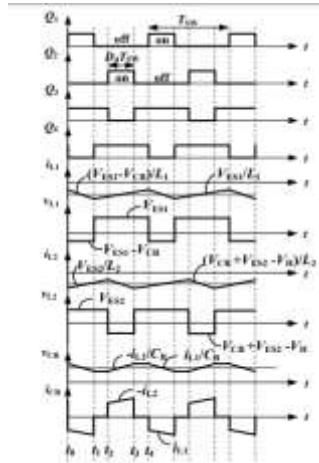


Fig. 4. High-voltage dc-bus energy-regenerating mode of the proposed BDC: (a) circuit schematic and (b) steady-state waveforms.

5. CONCLUSION

A new BDC topology was presented to interface dual battery energy sources and high-voltage dc bus of different voltage levels. The circuit configuration, operation principles, analyses, and static voltage gains of the proposed BDC were discussed on the basis of different modes of power transfer. Simulation and experimental waveforms for a 1 kW prototype system highlighted the performance and feasibility of this proposed BDC topology. The highest conversion efficiencies were 97.25%, 95.32%, 95.76%, and 92.67% for the high-voltage dc-bus energy-regenerative buck mode, low-voltage dual-source-powering mode, low-voltage dual-source boost mode (ES2 to ES1), and low-voltage dual-source buck mode (ES1 to ES2), respectively. The results demonstrate that the proposed BDC can be successfully applied in FC/HEV systems to produce hybrid power architecture (has been patented [37]).

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