

Research Article

Study on a Novel High-Efficiency Bridgeless PFC Converter

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In order to implement a high-efficiency bridgeless power factor correction converter, a new topology and operation principles of continuous conduction mode (CCM) and DC steady-state character of the converter are analyzed, which show that the converter not only has bipolar-gain characteristic but also has the same characteristic as the traditional Boost converter, while the voltage transfer ratio is not related with the resonant branch parameters and switching frequency. Based on the above topology, a novel bridgeless Bipolar-Gain Pseudo-Boost PFC converter is proposed. With this converter, the diode rectifier bridge of traditional AC-DC converter is eliminated, and zero-current switching of fast recovery diode is achieved. Thus, the efficiency is improved. Next, we also propose the one-cycle control policy of this converter. Finally, experiments are provided to verify the accuracy and feasibility of the proposed converter.

1. Introduction

A great number of harmonic currents, which are caused by nonlinear loads connected to grid, are main pollution sources of power system and important factors in the safe operation of the grid. In order to reduce the harmonic pollution, the active power filter (APF) and power factor correction (PFC) are required, which are applied to control the harmonic and reactive current generated from rectifier loads. PFC converter can realize the AC input current control and DC output voltage control at the same frequency and phase with AC voltage, and thus it is widely used in server power [1–8], charger, UPS, and so on. Traditional PFC converter includes a front-end bridge rectifier, which increases conduction loss and greatly affects the efficiency of the PFC converter. Moreover, more serious loss is generated under low input voltage and light load particularly [5, 9–13].

In order to improve efficiency of the traditional PFC converter, an effective method named as bridgeless PFC technology without front-end bridge rectifier is proposed [3, 14, 15]. Then the bridgeless PFC converter is proposed in [1–18], which uses two switches instead of the uncontrolled

diodes. When AC input voltage is in positive half-cycle, the front bridge leg of the converter operations, while AC input voltage is in negative half-cycle, the rear bridge leg operations. The papers report that the bridgeless PFC converter adopts the same two DC-DC converters to implement the power conversion for positive and negative half-cycle of AC input voltage, respectively. Another bridgeless PFC converter makes the input voltage greater than zero at first and then obtains steady output voltage through the DC-DC converter. All of these bridgeless PFC converters have a higher cost, require complex topology, and may lead to serious electromagnetic interference (EMI) [3, 13–18].

In this paper, we research a novel Pseudo-Boost converter, which has bipolar-gain characteristic; that is, no matter if the input voltage is positive or negative, the output voltage is always positive, and the converter also has the same characteristic as the traditional Boost converter. Although the converter has a resonant branch, the difference from the traditional resonant converter is that the voltage transfer ratio is not relevant to the resonant branch parameters and switching frequency; it only depends on the switching duty cycle. Based on the Bipolar-Gain Pseudo-Boost converter,

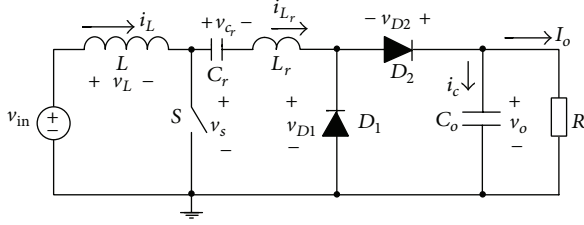


FIGURE 1: The topology of Bipolar-Gain Pseudo-Boost converter.

a bridgeless Bipolar-Gain Pseudo-Boost PFC converter in continuous conduction mode (CCM) is investigated. The converter adopts one bidirectional controllable switch and two fast-recovery diodes instead of bridge rectifier, and the zero-current switching of the fast-recovery diodes is achieved. Therefore, the efficiency of the converter is improved. Meanwhile, the one-cycle control technology is adopted to control the Bipolar-Gain Pseudo-Boost PFC converter.

2. Operation Principle of Bipolar-Gain Pseudo-Boost Converter

The topology of the Bipolar-Gain Pseudo-Boost converter consists of switch S , two recovery diodes D_1 and D_2 , resonant capacitor C_r , and resonant inductor L_r , as in Figure 1. When the input voltage is positive or negative, the output polarity of traditional Boost converter is the corresponding polarity. Compared with the traditional one, the output voltage of Bipolar-Gain Pseudo-Boost converter is just positive; that is, the Bipolar-Gain Pseudo-Boost has bipolar-gain characteristic. To simplify the analysis of the operation of the Bipolar-Gain Pseudo-Boost converter, the following assumptions are made.

- All of the switches, diodes, inductors, and capacitors are ideal.
- Output capacitor C_o is large enough to make the output voltage keep constant in a switching cycle.
- Resonant inductor L_r and resonant capacitor C_r are much smaller than the inductor L and output capacitor C_o , respectively.
- The converter operates in CCM.

2.1. Positive Input Voltage. The operation modes of Bipolar-Gain Pseudo-Boost converter operate in CCM with positive input voltage (Figure 2). The corresponding key waveforms of the converter are shown in Figure 3. At the beginning of each switching cycle, the resonant inductor current i_{L_r} is zero and the initial value of resonant capacitor voltage v_{cr} is Δv_{cr} , where $v_c > \Delta v_{cr} > 0$ exists.

(1) Mode 1 [$t_0 \sim t_1$]: as shown in Figures 2(a) and 3, at $t = t_0$, the switch S is turned on. The voltage across the inductor L is equal to input voltage v_{in} , which makes inductor current increase linearly. The resonant capacitor voltage v_{cr} makes diode D_1 turn on, and the reverse voltage across D_2

makes it turn off. Resonant capacitor voltage v_{cr} and resonant inductor current i_{L_r} are given as

$$\begin{aligned} v_{cr} &= \Delta v_{cr} \cos \omega_r (t - t_0), \\ i_{L_r} &= -\frac{\Delta v_{cr}}{Z_n} \sin \omega_r (t - t_0), \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

where $Z_n = \sqrt{L_r/C_r}$, $\omega_r = 1/\sqrt{L_r C_r}$.

(2) Mode 2 [$t_1 \sim t_2$]: as shown in Figures 2(b) and 3, at $t = t_1 = t_0 + T_r/2$, resonant inductor current i_{L_r} is equal to zero and diode D_1 gets zero-current turn-off, where $T_r = 2\pi/\omega_r$ is the resonant period. At this moment, the resonant capacitor is equal to $-\Delta v_{cr}$. Due to $v_c > \Delta v_{cr}$, the diode D_2 is still turned off with reverse voltage $\Delta v_{cr} - v_c$. The voltage across diode D_1 is equal to $v_{D1} = -v_{cr} = \Delta v_{cr}$, while the voltage across diode D_2 is equal to $v_{D2} = v_c - \Delta v_{cr}$.

(3) Mode 3 [$t_2 \sim t_3$]: as shown in Figures 2(c) and 3, at $t = t_2$, the switch S is turned off. Because the inductor current i_L does not change suddenly, the diode D_2 is turned on to provide the path for the inductor current i_L . The diode D_1 is reversely biased and the voltage across it is equal to $-v_c$, and the inductor L is then discharged and capacitor C_o is charged. As $L_r \ll L$, L_r can be ignored. So during $t_2 \sim t_3$, the resonant capacitor voltage can be expressed as

$$v_{cr} = -\Delta v_{cr} + \frac{i_L}{C_r} (t - t_2). \quad (2)$$

When the resonant capacitor voltage rises to Δv_{cr} , the converter begins to enter the next switch cycle.

2.2. Negative Input Voltage. Figure 4 shows the operation modes of Bipolar-Gain Pseudo-Boost converter operated in CCM with negative input voltage. The corresponding key waveforms of the converter are shown in Figure 5. At the beginning of each switching cycle, the resonant inductor current i_{L_r} is zero and the initial value of resonant capacitor voltage $v_{cr} = -v_c - \Delta v_{cr}$, where $v_c > \Delta v_{cr} > 0$.

(1) Mode 4 [$t_4 \sim t_5$]: as shown in Figures 4(a) and 5, at $t = t_4$, the switch S is turned on. The voltage across the inductor L is equal to input voltage $-v_{in}$, which makes inductor current decrease linearly. The diode D_2 is turned on by the opposite voltage Δv_{cr} , and the diode D_1 is reversely biased. The resonant branch begins to resonate; the resonant capacitor voltage v_{cr} and resonant inductor current i_{L_r} are given as

$$\begin{aligned} v_{cr} &= -v_c - \Delta v_{cr} \cos \omega_r (t - t_4), \\ i_{L_r} &= \frac{\Delta v_{cr}}{Z_n} \sin \omega_r (t - t_4), \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

where $Z_n = \sqrt{L_r/C_r}$, $\omega_r = 1/\sqrt{L_r C_r}$.

(2) Mode 5 [$t_5 \sim t_6$]: as shown in Figures 4(b) and 5, at $t = t_5$, the resonant inductor current i_{L_r} is equal to zero and diode D_2 gets zero-current turn-off, where $t_5 - t_4 = T_r/2$ and $T_r = 2\pi/\omega_r$ is the resonant period. The resonant capacitor is equal to $-v_c + \Delta v_{cr}$, the diode D_1 is still reversely biased, and

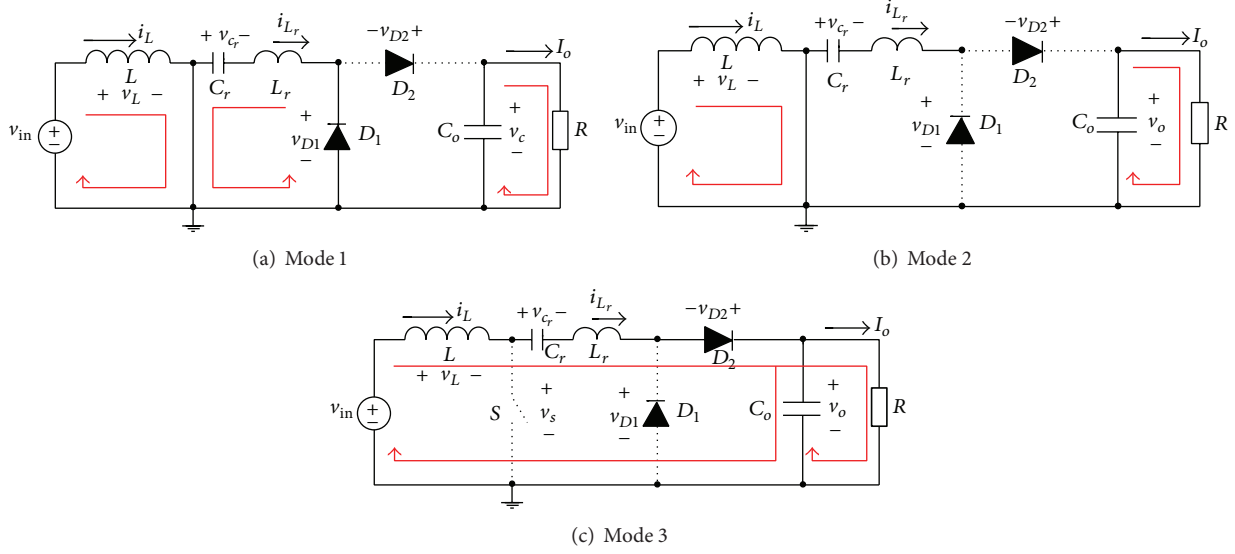


FIGURE 2: Equivalent circuit of operation mode of the converter with positive input voltage.

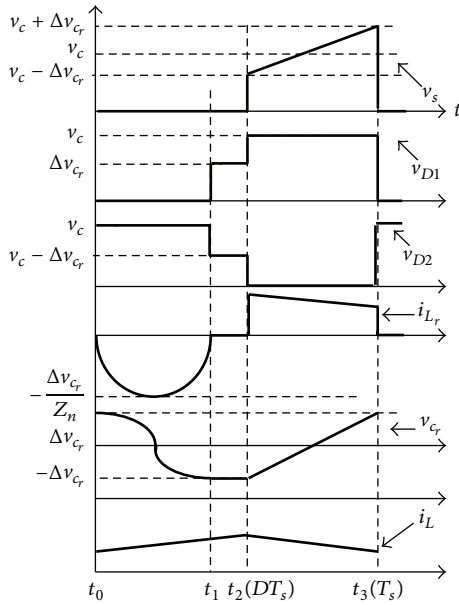


FIGURE 3: The key waveform of the converter with positive input voltage.

the voltage across it is equal to $v_{D1} = -v_{cr} = v_c - \Delta v_{cr}$. The voltage across diode D_2 is equal to Δv_{cr} .

(3) Mode 6 [$t_6 \sim t_7$]: as shown in Figures 4(c) and 5, at $t = t_6$, the switch S is turned off. Because the inductor current i_L does not change suddenly, the diode D_1 is turned on to provide the path for the inductor current i_L . The diode D_2 is reversely biased, and the inductor L is then discharged and capacitor C_o is charged. During $t_6 \sim t_7$, the resonant capacitor voltage can be given as

$$v_{cr} = -v_c + \Delta v_{cr} - \frac{i_L}{C_r} (t - t_6). \quad (4)$$

When the resonant capacitor voltage decreases to $-v_c - \Delta v_{cr}$, the converter begins to enter the next switch cycle.

3. The Steady-State Analysis of Bipolar-Gain Pseudo-Boost Converter

There are four state variables in Bipolar-Gain Pseudo-Boost converter. One is the energy storage state variable (v_c, i_L), in which the natural frequency is much lower than the switching frequency. The other one is the resonant state variables (v_{cr}, i_{Lr}), in which the natural frequency is close to the switching frequency. According to the generalized state space averaging (GSSA) approach, the GSSA equation of the converter can be established, which chooses v_c, i_L as state variables. Based on the GSSA equation, the steady-state characteristic can be analyzed.

3.1. Positive Input Voltage. For positive input voltage, from Figures 2(a) and 2(b), when the switch S is turned on, the state differential equations are

$$L \frac{di_L}{dt} = v_{in}, \quad (5)$$

$$C_o \frac{dv_c}{dt} = -\frac{v_c}{R}.$$

From Figure 2(c), when the switch S is turned off, the corresponding state differential equations are

$$(L + L_r) \frac{di_L}{dt} = v_{in} - v_c - v_{cr}, \quad (6)$$

$$C_o \frac{dv_c}{dt} = i_L - \frac{v_c}{R}.$$

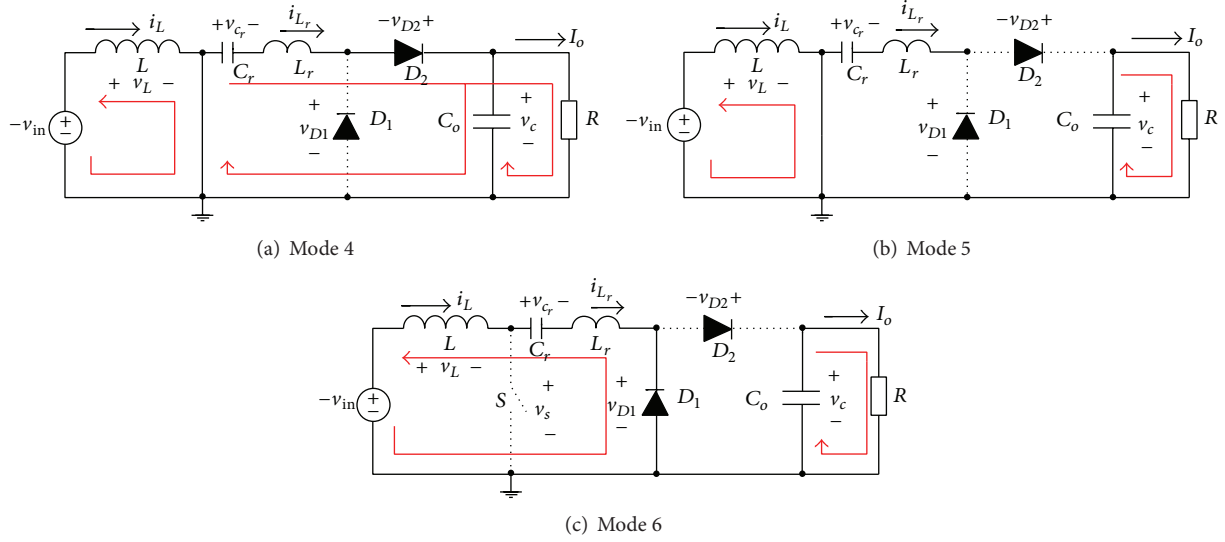


FIGURE 4: Equivalent circuit of operation mode of the converter with negative input voltage.

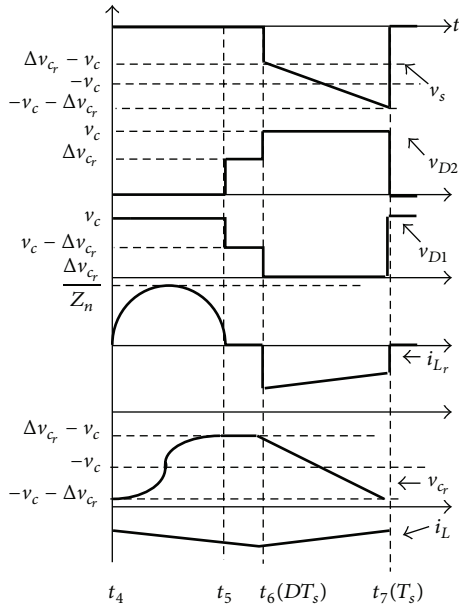


FIGURE 5: The key waveform of the converter with negative input voltage.

The above analysis shows that the resonant capacitor voltage satisfies (2) when the switch S is turned off. From Figure 3, at the end of switching cycle, the resonant capacitor voltage is equal to Δv_{cr} ; meanwhile, the integration of the resonant capacitor voltage is zero.

The matrix representation of the state variables is $\mathbf{x} = [i_L \ v_c]^T$; according to (5) and (6), the state space equation is

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}} = A_i \mathbf{x} + B_i \mathbf{u}, \quad i = 1, 2, \quad (7)$$

where

$$A_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -\frac{1}{RC_o} \end{bmatrix}, \quad B_1 = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{v_{in}}{L} \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad (8)$$

$$A_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -\frac{1}{L+L_r} \\ \frac{1}{C_o} & -\frac{1}{RC_o} \end{bmatrix}, \quad B_2 = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{v_{in} - v_{cr}}{L+L_r} \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

According to GSSA approach, for positive input voltage, the GSSA equation of the Bipolar-Gain Pseudo-Boost converter can be obtained as

$$\frac{d}{dt} \begin{bmatrix} i_L \\ v_c \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -\frac{(1-d)}{L+L_r} \\ \frac{(1-d)}{C_o} & -\frac{1}{RC_o} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} i_L \\ v_c \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \frac{v_{in}}{L} \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad (9)$$

where d is the transient state switching duty cycle.

The equation $(d/dt) \begin{bmatrix} i_L \\ v_c \end{bmatrix} = 0$ is founded at steady state because $L \gg L_r$, so $L + L_r \approx L$. From (9), there are

$$v_{in} = (1-D)v_c, \quad I_L = \frac{v_c}{R(1-D)}, \quad (10)$$

where D is the steady state switching duty cycle and I_L is the steady state inductor current.

3.2. Negative Input Voltage. For negative input voltage, from Figure 4(a), when the switch S is turned on, the state differential equations are

$$L \frac{di_L}{dt} = -v_{in}, \quad (11)$$

$$C_o \frac{dv_c}{dt} = i_{L_r} - \frac{v_c}{R}.$$

From Figure 4(b), when the switch S is turned on, the corresponding state differential equations are

$$\begin{aligned} L \frac{di_L}{dt} &= -v_{in}, \\ C_o \frac{dv_c}{dt} &= -\frac{v_c}{R}. \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

From Figure 4(c), when the switch S is turned off, the corresponding state differential equations are

$$\begin{aligned} (L + L_r) \frac{di_L}{dt} &= -v_{in} - v_{cr}, \\ C_o \frac{dv_c}{dt} &= -\frac{v_c}{R}. \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

According to the above analysis, it can be seen that the resonant capacitor voltage satisfies (4) when the switch S is turned off. From Figure 5, at the end of switching cycle, the resonant capacitor voltage is equal to $\Delta v_{cr} - v_c$; thus, the integration of the resonant capacitor voltage is $-v_c$ in the time.

The matrix representation of the state variables is $\mathbf{x} = [i_L \ v_c]^T$; according (11), (12), and (13), the state space equation is

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}} = A_i \mathbf{x} + B_i \mathbf{u}, \quad i = 1, 2, 3, \quad (14)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} A_1 &= \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -\frac{1}{RC_o} \end{bmatrix}, & B_1 &= \begin{bmatrix} \frac{-v_{in}}{L} \\ \frac{i_{L_r}}{C_o} \end{bmatrix}, \\ A_2 &= \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -\frac{1}{RC_o} \end{bmatrix}, & B_2 &= \begin{bmatrix} \frac{-v_{in}}{L} \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \\ A_3 &= \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -\frac{1}{RC_o} \end{bmatrix}, & B_3 &= \begin{bmatrix} \frac{-v_{in} - v_{cr}}{L + L_r} \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}. \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

Therefore, for negative input voltage, the GSSA equation of the Bipolar-Gain Pseudo-Boost converter can be obtained as

$$\frac{d}{dt} \begin{bmatrix} i_L \\ v_c \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -\frac{1}{RC_o} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} i_L \\ v_c \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \frac{-v_{in}}{L} + \frac{v_c}{L} (1-d) \\ \frac{i_L (1-d)}{C_o} \end{bmatrix}. \quad (16)$$

The equation $(d/dt) \begin{bmatrix} i_L \\ v_c \end{bmatrix} = 0$ is founded at steady state because $L \gg L_r$, so $L + L_r \approx L$. From (16), there are

$$v_{in} = (1-D)v_c, \quad I_L = \frac{v_c}{R(1-D)}. \quad (17)$$

According to (10) and (17), no matter if the input voltage is positive or negative, the voltage transfer ratios of Bipolar-Gain Pseudo-Boost converter keep the same. The converter has the same Boost characteristic as the traditional Boost converter. In addition, the voltage transfer ratio does not rely on the resonant branch parameters and switching frequency, which is determined only by the switching duty cycle.

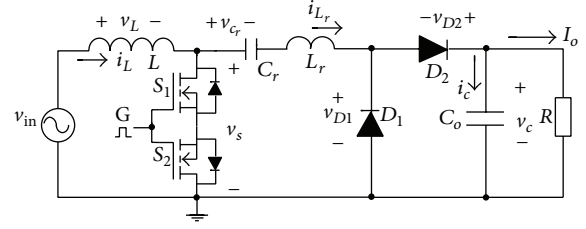


FIGURE 6: The topology of bridgeless Bipolar-Gain Pseudo-Boost PFC converter.

4. The Implementation of Bridgeless Bipolar-Gain Pseudo-Boost Converter

The voltage transfer ratio of traditional DC-DC converter is unipolar, which means that it only makes positive and negative input voltage transfer to positive output voltage. However, the PFC converter belongs to AC-DC converter, which makes AC input voltage transfer to DC output voltage. Hence, the traditional DC-DC converter cannot be used as PFC converter. To realize PFC, the most direct way is combining a front-end bridge rectifier with a DC-DC converter. Assume that the voltage transfer ratio of DC-DC converter is bipolar; that is, no matter if the input voltage is positive or negative, the output voltage is always positive. This DC-DC converter can realize AC-DC transformation, which eliminates the bridge of traditional AC-DC converter and improves the efficiency of the converter.

According to the steady state characteristic of Bipolar-Gain Pseudo-Boost converter, it is shown that the converter has bipolar-gain characteristic. So the Bipolar-Gain Pseudo-Boost converter can be used as PFC converter. From Figure 6, the bridgeless PFC converter can be achieved by using bidirectional switch S_1 combined with S_2 instead of controllable switching S of the Bipolar-Gain Pseudo-Boost converter. The converter has some advantages such as simple topology, high efficiency, and simple controlled circuit. Compared with the double bridge-leg bridgeless PFC converter researched in paper [3, 14–16], the converter has reduced the EMI due to common-grounded input and output. Compared with the bridgeless PFC converter proposed in paper [3, 13–17], the Bipolar-Gain Pseudo-Boost converter has improved the utilization ratio and reduced the costs.

From the preceding analysis, the achievement conditions of bridge Pseudo-Boost PFC converter are as follows.

- (1) From Figures 3 and 5, a two-way switch is needed because the switch S should suffer positive and negative voltage.
- (2) The choice of inductor L : to guarantee that the converter operates in CCM, the inductor L must satisfy

$$\frac{v_{in, \max}}{L} D_{\max} T_s \leq 2I_{in}. \quad (18)$$

The input current effective value is $I_{in} = \sqrt{2}P_o / \eta v_{in, \text{RMS}}$, where $v_{in, \text{RMS}}$ is the input voltage effective

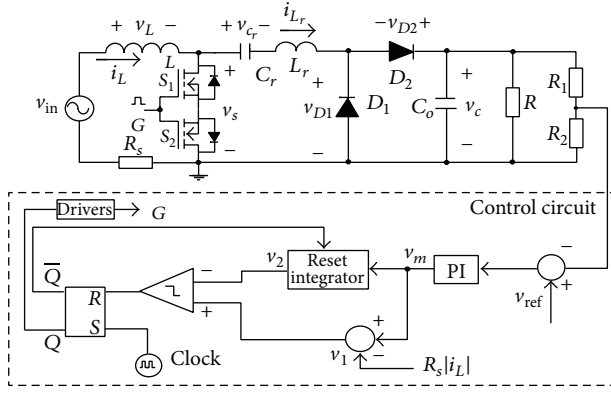


FIGURE 7: Block diagram of one-cycle control bridgeless Bipolar-Gain Pseudo-Boost PFC converter.

value, $v_{\text{inp,max}}$ is the maximum input voltage peak value, P_o is the output power, and η is the efficiency of the converter. In addition, D_{max} is the maximum duty cycle and T_s is the switching cycle.

- (3) The choice of resonant branch parameters: from (2), (4), and the operation figure, it can be obtained as

$$\Delta v_{c_r} = \frac{I_L}{2C_r} (T_s - DT_s) = \frac{v_c}{2RC_r} T_s. \quad (19)$$

From (19), the choice of Δv_{c_r} has nothing to do with resonant inductor L_r . Δv_{c_r} is too large to increase the switch voltage stress, so larger resonant C_r and smaller switching period T_s should be chosen with the condition that resonant capacitor C_r is much smaller than output capacitor C_o . However, the resonant capacitor C_r is too small to result in zero-crossing distortion, and it must satisfy $v_c > \Delta v_{c_r} > 0$; moreover,

$$D_{\text{min}} T_s > \frac{T_r}{2}, \quad (20)$$

where the minimum duty cycle is $D_{\text{min}} = 1 - v_{\text{inp,max}}/v_c$, and the resonant period is $T_r = 2\pi\sqrt{L_r C_r}$. Thus, a suitable resonant inductor L_r should be chosen with respect to (19) when the resonant inductor L_r is much smaller than the Boost inductor L .

5. One-Cycle Control Bridgeless Bipolar-Gain Pseudo-Boost Converter

Figure 7 is the principle scheme of bridgeless Pseudo-Boost PFC converter based on one-cycle control technology. The main circuit topology employs a bidirectional switch composed of S_1 and S_2 . Dotted part of Figure 7 is the one-cycle control circuit, which consists of an integrator with reset function, a comparator, a RS trigger, and a clock signal generator.

The output voltage v_c is sampled in each period and compared with a reference voltage V_{ref} . The compared result is compensated by PI regulator and then the modulation signal

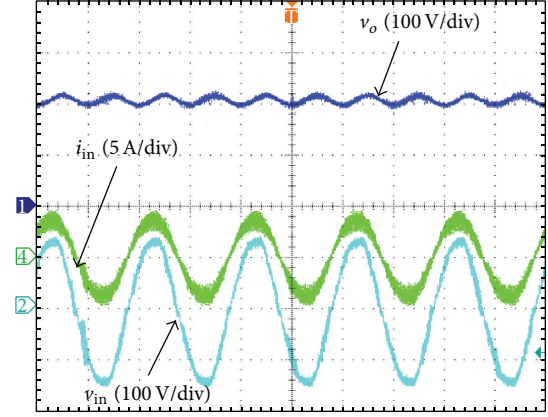


FIGURE 8: Waveforms of DC output voltage v_c , AC input voltage v_{in} , and AC input current i_L .

v_m is obtained. At each clock pulse coming, the two-way switch is turned on. Meanwhile, the modulation signal v_m begins to be integrated by the reset integrator. The difference values v_1 between v_m and $R_s|i_L|$ are compared with the output signal v_2 from reset integrator, when $v_2 = v_1$, and the output level of the comparator is flipped and the switch is turned off, while the reset integrator resets to zero until the next clock pulse arrives.

According to the principle of one-cycle control, it can be obtained that

$$v_m - R_s |i_L| = \frac{1}{T_s} \int_0^{T_s} D v_m dt, \quad (21)$$

where $v_m = v_c R_s / R_e$ and R_e is the equivalent input resistor of the bridgeless Bipolar-Gain Pseudo-Boost PFC converter and R_s is the sampling resistor of inductor current.

When (21) is applied at each switching cycle, the output voltage of the bridgeless Bipolar-Gain Pseudo-Boost PFC converter is steady; moreover, the input current that is i_L will maintain sinusoidal, and thus the purpose of PFC is achieved.

6. Experiment Verification

In order to verify the accuracy of the theoretical analysis, a set of experiments are designed. According to (18)–(20), the parameters of experiment circuit are as follows: $P_o = 100$ W, $v_{\text{in,RMS}} = 50$ V, $v_c = 100$ V, $C = 470$ μF , $f_{\text{line}} = 50$ Hz, $f = 50$ kHz, $L = 2.5$ mH, $L_r = 7.8$ μH , and $C_r = 330$ nF.

Figure 8 shows the input voltage, input current, and output voltage waveforms of bridgeless Bipolar-Gain Pseudo-Boost PFC converter with $P_o = 100$ W. It can be observed from Figure 8 that the output voltage of the converter v_c is constant and the input current i_{in} closely follows the input voltage v_{in} to realize power factor correction.

Figure 9 shows the efficiency curve of bridgeless Pseudo-Boost PFC converter with $v_c = 100$ V. It can be seen that the proposed converter has relatively high efficiency.

Figures 10(a) and 10(b) show the switch voltage, diode voltage, and inductor current waveforms for the positive

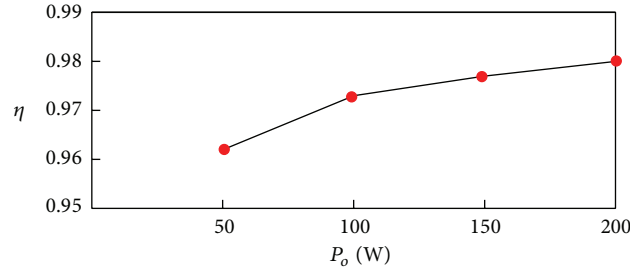


FIGURE 9: Efficiency of the converter with 100 V DC output voltage.

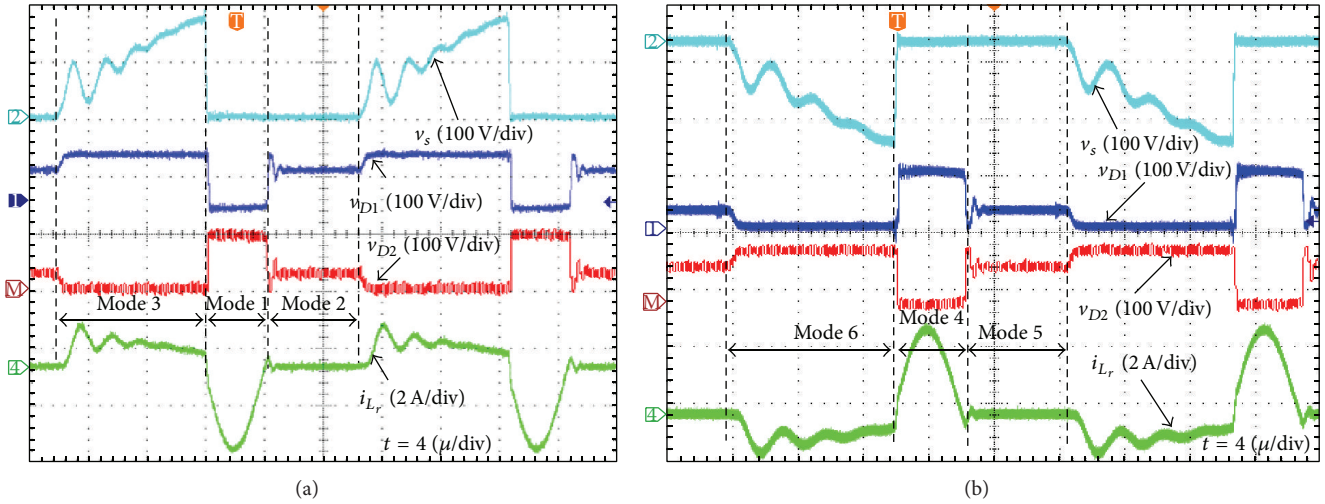


FIGURE 10: The key operation waveforms of the converter (a) with positive input voltage and (b) with negative input voltage.

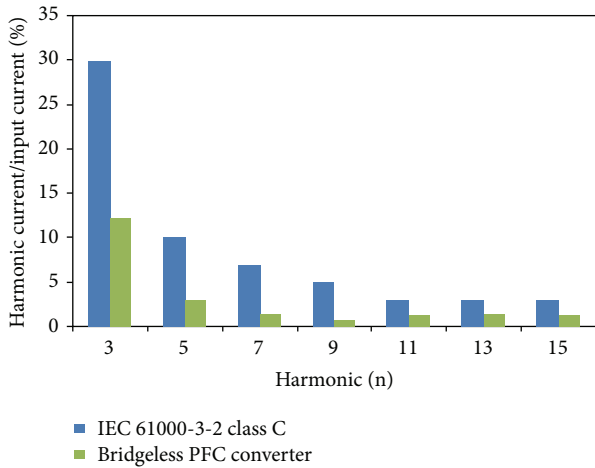


FIGURE 11: Measured harmonic contents of the proposed converter.

input voltage and negative voltage. It is seen that the experiment waveforms are consistent with the theoretical analysis waveforms and the diodes D_1 and D_2 can realize zero-current switching.

The measured harmonic contents of the line current at 100 V AC input voltage are shown in Figure 11 together with the limits of IEC61000-3-2 class D standard. It is shown that

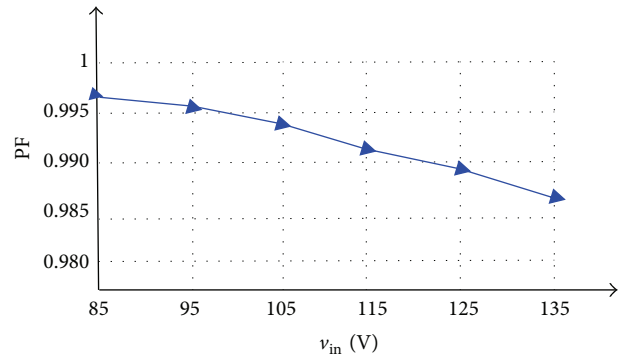


FIGURE 12: Measured PF value at full load of the proposed converter as the function of input voltage.

the input current harmonics of proposed converter can meet the IEC61000-3-2 standard. In addition, Figure 12 illustrates the measured PF value at full load of the proposed converter as the function of input voltage.

7. Conclusion

In this paper, we research the Bipolar-Gain Pseudo-Boost converter, and the topology and operation principles in

CCM and DC steady-state character of this converter are analyzed. Based on this topology, a novel bridgeless Bipolar-Gain Pseudo-Boost PFC converter is proposed. In addition, the implement condition of the bridgeless PFC and control technology of the converter is studied. The experiments show that the proposed converter is capable of achieving the PFC better, and zero-current switching of the fast recovery diode is achieved. Moreover, the reverse-recovery loss of the diode is reduced and the efficiency of the converter is improved.

Conflict of Interests

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interests regarding the publication of this paper.

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