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Module - 02 Lecture - 32 Improved Power Quality Converters - AC-DC Buck Converters

Welcome to the course on Power Quality. Today, we would like to discuss improved power quality converters, in that, we will discuss AC to DC Buck Converter. Well, coming to outline of the presentation, we will like to introduce the improved power quality buck AC-DC converter, and then we will classify them.

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We will also discuss principle, operation and control of buck improved power quality converters. Then, we will talk about analysis and design of buck improved power quality converter, and modeling, simulation performance of buck improved power quality converters, followed by some numerical examples. At last, we will summarize and then, have a references at the end of presentation.

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So, with this, we have the objectives of todays' lecture, as the requirement and application of buck improved power quality converters and we will talk about the configuration and control of buck improved power quality converters. Further, the design, method of modeling and control of buck improved power quality converters, are also discussed.

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Well, coming to the buck type of improved power quality converter. Such converters are used for step down the voltage and of course, it has a less number of component and it offers quite good efficiency 95 percent or more. It has applications, of course, in switch mode power supply applying low voltage for processes like starting from 1.8 to 3 V, with or without synchronous rectification.

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We will talk about more applications a little later. The advantages of the buck improved power quality converter are, the reduced voltage across the main switch, high efficiency over the universal input voltage range, low device count and continuous output current.

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Of course, there are some disadvantages of the buck improved power quality converter. The buck power factor correction converter fails to provide a sinusoidal waveform for the input current at the zero crossing of the input voltage. Further, there is a strong tradeoff between power factor and output voltage selection. The input current total harmonics distortion and output voltage ripple becomes higher because of discontinuous current of the smoothing inductor. Therefore, such converters require large smoothing inductor.

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Well, coming to the applications which we were mentioning; there are plenty of application where we use buck improved power quality converter such as, lighting system, normally in LED lighting system, we can reduce the voltage to the required level with a smaller number of components. Another major application is a battery charger, which are used very extensively number of applications like in electric vehicles or the battery chargers for many other applications.

Then, another application is DC power supplies to obtain a regulated power supply. The other applications are uninterrupted power supply, computer power supplies, ceiling fan, drives, portable hand tools and home appliances.

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So, these are some other applications you can think about, like in lighting systems, in electronic ballasts for fluorescent bulb, or for LED bulb driver, laptop charger, mobile charges, low battery/low power battery charges, uninterruptible power supply, DC power supplies, printer power supply, fax machine power supply, computer power supply and ceiling fan driver.

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We can classify buck improved power quality converter into many categories. First is the supply-based classification, which can be like single phase or three phase. You can have a further classification that, whether power flow is unidirectional or bidirectional, in single phase as well as in three phase.

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Further, there is a structure-based classification, the buck type improved power quality converter either can be of non-isolated configuration or isolated configuration, which further can be classified like whether you are using a bridge type structure or you are using semi bridgeless or using fully bridgeless type configurations.

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Then, another aspect is the design and control. First, buck improved power quality converter with CCM (Continuous Conduction Mode) control. Another one is, the buck improved power converter with DCM (Discontinuous Conduction Mode) control. Similarly, the buck improved power quality converters are also designed with the critical conduction mode. Critical conduction mode, is normally called as a boundary condition control in between DCM and CCM. Why we want to operate in this in critical conduction mode? Because we want to take advantage of both CCM as well as DCM.

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Coming to single-phase unidirectional buck improved power quality converters. So, buck type IPQCs have many configurations, such as, a single phase unidirectional buck converter with input AC filter. In this, you can get either a variable voltage or you can get a constant voltage, it totally depends on the application requirement. Further, the benefit of keeping a filter at the output of diode rectifier is that, the diode can be of now power diode, because the current in the diode rectifier is continuous. In this, the switching device operate at high switching frequency. Why we operate this device at much higher switching frequency? Because there are benefits, such as, the size of filter component or energy storage component, especially, the *L^d* and *C^d* can be reduced.

In the first configuration (filter at supply side), the problem is, you have to select all semiconductor devices (even diodes of diode bridge rectifier) of high frequency. But in second configuration (filter after diode bridge rectifier), the diodes of the front-end rectifier can now a power diode and therefore, have much lower cost.

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So, another configuration is that, you can have a self-commutating component with the diode and an EMI filter. Of course, in such cases, you cannot get high switching frequency. Another configuration can be that, after first configuration, you can have a like isolated buck converter, because in many applications, we have a requirement for isolation.

So, the buck operation can be a fixed buck operation, which can be changed by changing transformer turns ratio. Another can be that you can change the duty cycle and reduce the voltage at the output which are applied to the primary winding of the high frequency transformer.

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So, coming to analysis of the single-phase unidirectional buck improved power quality converter.

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I mean this is the typical first configuration we have talked about

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You can go to the relation for the buck converter operating in CCM operation. So, the output DC voltage will be equal to the duty cycle multiplied Vin; where, the Vin is the average output voltage of the diode rectifier. Then, you can have a inductor current in the two modes i.e. ON and OFF mode. It is noteworthy that, if converter operating in DCM operation, then even after OFF interval, the current inductor becomes 0, so, you will have a third mode where neither the switch nor the diode will conduct.

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As you increase the switching frequency higher, the value of the inductor can be reduced. And it also depends on current ripple in the inductor, so, if you allow the current ripple more, then the inductor further can be reduced. In case of buck improved power quality converter, the average inductor current during the switching cycle is equivalent to the output current.

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For CCM operation: Considering ξ% ripples in the inductor current, the minimum value of L_d can be calculated as $L_{\text{dmin}} = \frac{(V_{in} - V_{o})D}{f_{s} * \xi * I_{o}} =$ $(1-D)V$ For DCM operation: The critical value of L_d i.e. $L_{\text{dcritical}}$ is calculated by considering maximum current ripples through La. $\frac{L_{\textit{dctical}}}{\sqrt{L_{\textit{dctical}}}} = \frac{(V_{in} - V_{o})D}{f_{s} \left(2^{+} I_{o} \right)} = \frac{(1 - D)V_{o}}{f_{s} \times 2^{+} I_{o}}$ The value of DC-link capacitor is calculated as,

From the given equations, considering percentage current ripple in the inductor current and switching frequency; the minimum value of the inductor can be calculated. During DCM operation the inductor ripple current will be twice of your output current. Virtually, you are going from 0 to twice; twice of output current. In such case, you are allowing the current twice, so, we call it critical conduction mode. But if you want to operate in DCM, certainly the inductance would be much lesser than this critical inductance. It means, you can further reduce the size of the inductor, in case if you want to go to in DCM operation.

But you can understand, once your maximum current is twice of output current, it means your device rating; the peak current rating of the device will be even more than the twice of the output current. So, this is a kind of penalty of DCM operation.

As far as, output capacitor selection is concerned, in a single phase power factor correction converter, the output capacitor calculation depends upon the second harmonic voltage ripple at the capacitor. So, the output capacitor value is depends on how much ripple you are permitting and how much is the load. So, as you increase the output power for a given output voltage, you will find the capacitor required higher. And apart from that, even though if you are permitting voltage ripple less, then also capacitor required is higher. I mean, it depends on application that how much percentage of voltage ripple, you can permit.

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Therefore the power factor of buck converter is obtained as $6a\sqrt{1}$ $(1+2\alpha^2)(1-\frac{2}{\pi}\sin^{-1}$ The max value of D is V_{n} Thus considering $D =$

And you can define the power factor in terms of your duty cycle, where the alpha is duty cycle. Of course, it should be completely non-linear function.

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Now coming to the bidirectional buck IPQCs. Although many applications require unidirectional power flow; but some applications require bidirectional power flow also.

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These are the different configuration of bidirectional buck IPQCs. First one is a current source inverter with an LC filter at the input end, and the current can be sinusoidal in phase with the voltage so that you can get unity power factor. In this, you can have a either power flow from AC to DC side or DC to AC side, this that is the reason, we call it a bidirectional power flow.

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Now, coming to the analysis of the single phase bidirectional buck IPQC. This is the circuit. Why EMI filter is required? Because current before EMI filter will be a PWM current and we want a continuous current at unity power factor at AC side. So, this EMI filter is required. Of course, at DC side, voltage direction can be changed, but current direction cannot be changed because of constant current characteristic, to enable bidirectional power flow.

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Coming to control part, control is quite straight forward. We need to regulate output voltage and we have a reference output voltage, so, we will get this with the controller, you can call it the control voltage.

At the output, this is not only array amplifier; but it is a kind of a PID controller. So, we get amplitude and we are getting the phase from input side. We will multiply both to get a reference and we are sensing this capacitor voltage. We are estimating reference capacitor voltage and we are getting a capacitor voltage, which control the switches. If we maintain the capacitor voltage in a way with the angle, then, we expect that you can have a power factor close to unity as you can see from the phasor diagram.

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And these are the switching modes of bidirectional buck IPQCs. But in between these two states, another mode, where you will have a freewheeling action, where *i^s* will be equal *io*, and that state is responsible for typically controlling the current.

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When, S1 and S4 are ON, S2 and S3 will be OFF. The net current flow is the difference of *i^o* and *i^r* and it flows to the capacitor, and you can call it capacitor current. Similarly, in OFF period, when S1 and S4 are OFF and S2 and S3 are ON, the current flowing into the circuit is given as follows.

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From this, you can have a relation for the duty cycle for maintaining this and from this, you can find out minimum and maximum duty cycle.

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Then, switching frequency which have a relation like this.

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And then, the voltage, you can call it voltage across the output inductor is given by these expressions.

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So, the inductor value can be obtained like this. Once you know the inductor, I mean for giving output voltage ripple from this relation, you can find out the value of capacitor. So, that gives the value of the inductor and capacitor as far as the design of bidirectional buck IPQC is concerned.

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And after having a design, this is the performance analysis of the bidirectional buck IPQC.

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Now coming to analysis, design and simulation performance of PFC bridgeless buck converters.

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I mean this is what we are talking about, so, first one is with the diode bridge and second is a bridgeless version of buck IPQC.

You can see why this is bridgeless? So, we are alimenting the diode bridge up to some extent and now the converter will operate as per the polarity of supply voltage.

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And coming to this, there are many topologies of bridgeless version of buck IPQC. So, this is the first topology which we have in previous slide.

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And, how the operation is, this is the bridgeless working for positive half cycle.

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And then, you have circuit like this, for negative half cycle of supply voltage.

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And of course, these are the waveforms for buck IPQCs under DCM mode operation.

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And these are the typical relations for the design of bridgeless buck IPQCs under both CCM and DCM operation.

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So, this is a case study, where, the supply voltage is 220 V rms. You can see in phase and almost sinusoidal supply current. This is the DC link voltage which have some second harmonic ripple depends how much in the design is permitted. The output voltage is 100 V, the power level is 800 W, the switching frequency is 20 kHz.

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And the THD of supply current is maintained less than 5 percent and found nearly 3.09 percent. You can see the current is sinusoidal and in phase with the supply voltage

having a power factor correction to unity neither reactive power nor harmonics in the input supply current.

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Now, this another configuration of your bridgeless buck converter, I mean the modification to previous one.

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Now coming to single phase buck improved power quality converter with high frequency transformer isolation. I have already mentioned that we have many applications, where you require isolation. The very purpose of the transformer is number one; isolation and another is to get many output voltages.

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This is a buck forward improved power quality converter. In this, after the diode bridge, we have a forward converter and this forward converter is designed in DCM mode. So, for DCM mode, we have two energy storage elements; one is the output inductor, another is the magnetizing inductor. So, any one of them, we can put in DCM and once we design in DCM, due to voltage follower the input current will follow supply voltage only by the voltage control.

So, we have a reference voltage, we have a feedback voltage and we have a voltage controller; may be a PI controller or PID controller and directly, we are comparing it with the carrier wave to give the switching signal here. In this case, we are not sensing input voltage or input current; only by making the current in output inductor discontinuous, we are able to get inherent power factor correction, we call this a voltage follower approach.

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Similarly, we can have a buck push pull configuration. Here, the output inductor can be design in DCM or even the transformer magnetizing can have DCM operation. Here, the control remains identical due to DCM operation.

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Similarly, we have a buck half bridge. In this case, we are having output inductor designing a DCM. Here, the control remains identical due to DCM operation.

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And finally, for very high power, we use the bridge configuration. Again, the output inductor is designed in DCM. Here, the control remains identical due to DCM operation. (Refer Slide Time: 29:37)

And these are the design equations for all four topologies, i.e., the forward buck, push pull buck, half bridge buck, and full bridge buck, under both CCM and DCM operation.

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After designing all four topologies at 48 V and 100 W in continuous conduction mode operation, the performance of converters is analyzed through simulation. These are the performance parameters for all these four converters.

The distortion factor is almost 0.999 and the power factor is also almost close to unity and crest factor is also very close to sign wave with the small voltage ripple there. So, this is the performance with the CCM operation.

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And this is typically, the switch voltage, switch current, switch voltage, power density, cost and other performance parameters for all four topologies under CCM operation.

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The similar exercise is carried out for DCM operation with the same output power, i.e., 48 V and 100 W, to just give you an idea about that what is the relative component and gains and all that, for all four converters under DCM operation. So, here, of course, the THD slightly increases, but the power factor is still not very far from 0.99. So, these are the components value corresponding to design for all four converters in case of DCM operation.

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And these are the switch current rating, switch voltage rating, power density and transient response of all four converter topologies under DCM operation.

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This is the waveform of supply current with the THD of 3.2 % for the forward buck topology and the THD is increases slightly to 4.47 % in case of push pull buck converter. But it is still less than 5 percent.

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This is corresponding to the half bridge, the input supply current has 3.88 % THD, whereas, for the bridge configuration it is found nearly 2.74 %.

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These are the waveforms under DCM operation, the THD is slightly higher than CCM operation. However, at low power, the standards allow up to 18% or 20% THD. So, this is still quite good THD under DCM operation.

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Now coming to the summary of this lecture. The operational analysis of various type of single phase unidirectional and bidirectional buck converters are discussed with their design procedure and control approach. The bridgeless buck converters ensure minimum conducting device within switching cycle operation and require minimum component count. And a number of practical examples of buck improved power quality converters are given with the view of proper design exposure, while a while considering the improved power quality performance.

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And these are the references.

Thank you very much.