
This version is available at https://strathprints.strath.ac.uk/59697/

Strathprints is designed to allow users to access the research output of the University of Strathclyde. Unless otherwise explicitly stated on the manuscript, Copyright © and Moral Rights for the papers on this site are retained by the individual authors and/or other copyright owners. Please check the manuscript for details of any other licences that may have been applied. You may not engage in further distribution of the material for any profitmaking activities or any commercial gain. You may freely distribute both the url (https://strathprints.strath.ac.uk/) and the content of this paper for research or private study, educational, or not-for-profit purposes without prior permission or charge.

Any correspondence concerning this service should be sent to the Strathprints administrator: strathprints@strath.ac.uk
New Three-Phase AC-DC Rectifiers with Reduced Numbers of Switches

Ahmed Darwish*, Derrick Holliday and Stephen Finney
Electric and Electronic Engineering
University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, UK
ahmed.mohamed-darwish-badawy@strath.ac.uk

Keywords: ac-dc rectifiers; four-switch three-phase (FSTP) rectifier.

Abstract

DC-AC rectifiers with reduced numbers of switches, in order to reduce cost, weight, volume and switching losses (especially for low-power applications), have been presented and discussed in the literature. These converters are less exposed to semiconductor switch damage and exhibit lower common-mode currents. However, they have several disadvantages when compared with conventional six-switch three-phase (SSTP) rectifiers, such as dc-link capacitor voltage fluctuation, reduced input ac supply utilisation factor, and unbalanced three-phase input currents. This paper proposes new designs for four-switch three-phase (FSTP) and two-switch single-phase rectifiers (TSSP). This paper explains the normal operation, and proposes beneficial comparisons and performance evaluation, of the proposed rectifiers. In addition, proper control design for the proposed converters is presented with sliding mode control (SMC).

1 Introduction

Presently, there is an international trend toward the reduction of CO₂ production worldwide [1]. Accordingly, the research and development of modern power systems and micro-grids have become more important and significant. Several converter topologies have been proposed and studied in order to enhance their operation, reduce total cost, and improve the efficiency of power systems.

Recently, many researches have considered three-phase Voltage Source Rectifiers (VSRs) with six semiconductor active switches [2]-[4], and therefore, the literature for these topologies and their control strategies became mature.

However in several low-power applications, converter topologies with lower switch count may be demanded in order to reduce cost and size, and to increase system efficiency. In [5], the first three-phase two-level VSR with only four switches is presented, see Fig. 1. In this four-switch three-phase (FSTP) rectifier, two of the input three-phase currents are connected to the two legs of the rectifier while the third phase is connected to the midpoint of the split capacitors across the dc output side. Operation, control design, and performance of FSTP rectifiers have been discussed extensively in the literature [6]-[9].
two voltage buck and two voltage boost converters. Based on these converters, new three-phase rectifiers with four switches can be generated. Unlike other FSTP rectifiers, the proposed converters do not have direct connection between the ac phases and the dc side voltage. Consequently, the problem of dc current generation in the ac grid does not exist. Moreover, because they do not require direct connection between the ac and dc sides, the proposed converters can operate as ac-dc rectifiers and dc-ac inverters. In ac-dc rectification mode, the proposed rectifiers double the maximum output dc voltage in comparison with the conventional FSTP rectifier.

Unfortunately, the proposed converters are time-variant systems, where the overall transfer function describing the relation between the input and output voltages and currents depends upon the switching periods of the switches. This results in a complex stable design because the converter poles and zeros travel through a long trajectory. Moreover, the time-varying transfer function leads to output voltage and current distortion \[11, 12\]. Converter stability and reliability decrease with increasing passive element values. However, reducing the inductor and capacitor values results in larger high-frequency ripple current and voltage components, and hence increases the total harmonic distortion (THD) of the input current and voltage. On the other hand, increasing the passive element values increases the stored energy inside the inverter, producing a third-order harmonic component and its multiples in the input dc current.

\[ M(D) = \frac{V_o}{V_{in}} \]  

(1)

The voltage conversion ratios of the converters can be expressed as (2) and (3).

\[ M(D) = \frac{2D-1}{D} \quad \text{for } b1G \text{ and } b2G \]  

(2)

\[ M(D) = \frac{1-D}{1-2D} \quad \text{for } B1G \text{ and } B2G \]  

(3)

Converter duty ratio D can be defined as:

\[ D = \frac{t_{on}}{t_s} \]  

(4)

where \(t_{on}\) is the duration when switch \(S_1\) is on, and \(t_s\) is the total switching period. Voltage conversion ratios \[2\] and \[3\] can be plotted against the duty ratio variation as shown in Fig. 3.

2 DC/DC Converters with Positive and Negative Output Voltage

The four two-switch two-diode dc-dc converters with positive and negative output voltages are shown in Fig. 2.

Two of these converters are voltage buck converters (b1G and b2G) whilst the other two are voltage boost converters (B1G and B2G). The relationship between the output and input voltages, \(V_o\) and \(V_{in}\) respectively, is defined by (1), where \(M\) is the voltage conversion ratio and \(D\) is the duty ratio of switch \(S_1\).

3 Four-Switch Three-Phase DC-AC Rectifiers

The converters shown in Fig. 2(c) and in Fig. 2(d) can both be configured for three-phase operation, as shown in Fig. 3.
Fig. 4(a) and (b) respectively, resulting in four-switch three-phase rectifiers. Each boost converter represents one leg of the rectifier, whilst the third phase is connected to ground. The time-variant duty ratios, $\delta_1$ and $\delta_2$, are calculated from:

$$\delta_1(t) = \frac{V_o - V_{cin1}(t)}{2V_o - V_{cin1}(t)}$$

(5)

$$\delta_2(t) = \frac{V_o - V_{cin2}(t)}{2V_o - V_{cin2}(t)}$$

(6)

The output three-phase voltage can be expressed as:

$$v_{go}(t) = V_g \sin \omega t$$

$$v_{gb}(t) = V_g \sin(\alpha t - \frac{\pi}{6})$$

$$v_{gs}(t) = V_g \sin(\alpha t + \frac{\pi}{6})$$

(7)

The generated voltages across capacitors $V_{cin1}$ and $V_{cin2}$ are:

$$v_{cin1}(t) = V_m \sin(\alpha t + \theta)$$

$$v_{cin2}(t) = V_m \sin(\alpha t + \theta + \frac{\pi}{6})$$

(8)

where $\omega = 2\pi f$ is the angular frequency. This causes three-phase currents $i_{ina}$, $i_{inb}$, and $i_{inc}$ to flow from the grid as follows:

$$i_{ina}(t) = I_{in} \sin(\alpha t + \gamma)$$

$$i_{inb}(t) = I_{in} \sin(\alpha t - \frac{\pi}{6} + \gamma)$$

$$i_{inc}(t) = I_{in} \sin(\alpha t + \frac{\pi}{6} + \gamma)$$

(9)

where

$$\theta = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{\sqrt{3}/2 \sin(\gamma) - 3/2 \cos(\gamma)}{R_L}\right)$$

$$+ \left\{ \frac{\alpha L_i m \left(\sqrt{3}/2 \sin(\gamma) - 3/2 \cos(\gamma)\right)}{R_L} + \frac{\sqrt{3}/2 V_g}{R_L} \right\}$$

$$+ \left\{ 3/2 \sin(\gamma) + \frac{\sqrt{3}/2 \cos(\gamma)}{R_L} \right\}$$

$$+ \left[ \frac{\alpha L_i m \left(3/2 \sin(\gamma) + \sqrt{3}/2 \cos(\gamma)\right)}{R_L} + \frac{3/2 V_g}{R_L} \right]$$

(10)

and

$$V_m = \frac{\alpha L_i m \left(3/2 \sin(\gamma) + \sqrt{3}/2 \cos(\gamma)\right) + \frac{3/2 V_g}{R_L}}{\cos(\theta)}$$

(11)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$f$</td>
<td>50 Hz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$t_s$</td>
<td>33 $\mu$s (switching period)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$C_{in}$</td>
<td>1 $\mu$F (Fig. 4(a)) and 5 $\mu$F (Fig. 4(b))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$C_o$</td>
<td>2000 $\mu$F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$L$, $r_1$</td>
<td>1 mH, 0.05 $\Omega$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$L$, $r_2$</td>
<td>1 mH, 0.05 $\Omega$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$L$</td>
<td>500 $\mu$H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$R$</td>
<td>0.5 $\Omega$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$V_g$</td>
<td>300 V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$V_o$</td>
<td>600 V</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1: Parasitic Component Values and Circuit Conditions.

Fig. 5 and Fig. 6 show the open-loop operation of the rectifiers shown in Fig. 4 with the circuit conditions given in Table 1.
(a) Duty ratios $\delta_1$ and $\delta_2$

(b) Grid three-phase voltage $v_{ga}$, $v_{gb}$, and $v_{gc}$

(c) Grid three-phase current $i_{ina}$, $i_{inb}$, and $i_{inc}$

(d) Converters voltages $v_{cin1}$ and $v_{cin2}$

(e) Output dc voltage

Fig. 5. Open-loop B1G rectifier operation.

(a) Duty ratios $\delta_1$ and $\delta_2$

(b) Grid three-phase voltage $v_{ga}$, $v_{gb}$, and $v_{gc}$

(c) Grid three-phase current $i_{ina}$, $i_{inb}$, and $i_{inc}$

(d) Converters voltages $v_{cin1}$ and $v_{cin2}$

(e) Output dc voltage

Fig. 6. Open-loop B2G rectifier operation.
3 State-Space Modelling and Control Strategy

The B1G and B2G converter circuit configurations are shown in Fig. 7 and Fig. 8, which include the inductor parasitic resistances \( r_1 \) and \( r_2 \), and the output inductance and resistance \( L \) and \( R \). The duration \( t_{on} \) defines the period that either \( S_1 \) or its anti-parallel diode is conducting. The average models of the converters are expressed in (12) and (13). The converter pole-zero maps in Fig. 9 and Fig. 10 show that the dynamics of the converters change with the small-signal duty ratio \( \delta \).

![Fig. 7. B1G converter configurations.](image)

![Fig. 8. B2G converter configurations.](image)

Because the proposed inverters are high-order systems, Variable Structure Control (VSC) [13] is an attractive solution. Sliding Mode Control (SMC) [13], which belongs to a family of VSR techniques, is applied to the proposed rectifier. To show the validity of the concept, the SMC for the proposed rectifier (B1G) is shown in Fig. 11, where \( r_1 \) and \( r_2 \) are the parasitic resistances of \( L_1 \) and \( L_2 \) respectively. \( K_2 \), \( K_3 \), \( K_5 \) are controller gains, which are selected as per [14]. Fig. 12 shows the experimental results for the B1G rectifier when load \( Z = 55 \Omega \). The efficiency of the rectifier is 97%.

4 Conclusion

This paper presents new ac-dc rectifier topologies, based on bidirectional dc-dc converters, with reduced numbers of switches. The proposed rectifiers have better voltage utilisation than the conventional FSTP rectifier and do not draw dc currents from the input dc side. Single-phase rectifiers with fewer switches and better voltage utilisation factor can be obtained from the same power converters. State
space representation was used to demonstrate the dynamic response and robustness of the proposed rectifiers. However, the proposed inverters are high-order systems where the transfer function poles move with duty ratio variation. Consequently, classical control strategies are not easily implemented with these converters. The basic control structure, control design using sliding mode controllers, and MATLAB/SIMULINK results are presented, along with practical results to substantiate the design flexibility of the proposed topologies when controlled using a TMSF280335 DSP. Full comparisons between the proposed types of topologies will be considered in future publications.

---

**Fig. 11. FSTP rectifier sliding mode control.**

(a) converter input voltages  
(b) input current $i_{in_a}, i_{in_b}, i_{in_c}$  
(c) output dc voltage

---

**Fig. 12. Experimental results for B1G FSTP**  
$V_g = 100V, V_o = 200V$ and $Z = 55 \, \Omega$.

---

**Acknowledgement**

The authors gratefully acknowledge the support of the EPSRC Underpinning Power Electronics 2012: Converters Theme project, Grant No. EP/K035096/1.

---

**References**


