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Citation: Wu, Haimeng, Pickert, Volker, Lambert, Simon, Allanf, Peter, Deng, Xu and Zhan, Huaxia (2017) A ripple reduction method for a two stages battery charger with multi-winding transformer using notch filter. In: 2017 IEEE 12th International Conference on Power Electronics and Drive Systems (PEDS), 12-15 Dec. 2017, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA.

URL: <https://doi.org/10.1109/PEDS.2017.8289265> <<https://doi.org/10.1109/PEDS.2017.8289265>>

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# A Ripple Reduction Method for a Two Stages Battery Charger with Multi-winding Transformer using Notch Filter

Haimeng Wu\*, Volker Pickert\*, Simon Lambert\*, Peter Allan†, Xu Deng\*, Huaxia Zhan\*

\*School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Newcastle University, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK.

†Hyperdrive innovation LTD, Gateshead, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK

Haimeng.wu@ncl.ac.uk

**Abstract**-This paper presents a two-stage battery charger consisting of a bridgeless Totem-pole power factor correction (TP-PFC) circuit and a full bridge converter with a multi-winding transformer. By using this transformer the cell equalizing operation can be achieved with no additional circuitry. In addition, a double-line frequency ripple reduction method is proposed to address the low frequency current ripples existing in both primary and secondary winding of the transformer which is caused by the voltage ripples across the intermediate DC link bus. Control and analysis of the converter at different operation modes is illustrated in detail and simulation results validate the effectiveness of the proposed converter and control algorithm.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Battery charger technologies have been developed over the years to improve the performance of system and reduce the cost of equipment, meeting the demand in the various energy storage system, such as hybrid electric vehicle (HEV) and renewable energy generation system [1-3]. The converters used in most of such applications can be generally classified into single-stage and two-stage class. Single-stage converters have fewer components offering a low cost solution but comes with the limitations of generating large amount of low frequency ripple across batteries which is mainly twice of the line frequency [4]. In contrast, two stage chargers have the inherent feature of rejecting low frequency ripples [3]. And most two-stage converters require large capacitors that are normally designed to cope with the high voltage ripple across the DC bus link which results in size, weight and cost gains. However, for the cost-driven applications of applying capacitors with reduced capacitance, higher rated components must be employed to cope with ripples. Consequently, higher losses can be produced which leads to the decrease of the overall efficiency of the converter.

Front-end AC-DC converter is a key component for any battery charger system and power factor correction (PFC) is required when connected to the AC power grid. The evaluation and efficiency comparison of various types of AC-DC PFC converter has been presented in [5], where the bridgeless PFC converter shows a remarkable performance in terms of power conversion efficiency. For the DC-DC converters after PFC circuit, there are many candidate topologies presented as EV battery charger charging battery packs which consist of a string of individual battery cells [6, 7]. However, it is well known that battery cells have voltage mismatch between them mainly due to manufacturing

tolerances. To ensure safe and reliable operation of battery packs a battery management system must be required that equalizes each cell using various types of equalisation circuits [8-12]. Passive and active battery balancing techniques comparison has been compared in [13] concluding that active balancing circuits increase cost and complexity of the system.

Although the double-line-frequency ripple component is relatively small in two stage battery charger compared with single stage counterparts, it can bring in issues of increased current ripple especially when small DC link capacitor employed. Some papers have discussed the solutions of reducing the ripples in photovoltaic (PV) two-stage inverter application using DC-link voltage feed-forward method [14] or through an additional circuit using a front-end buck-type dc/dc converter [15], but not in the two-stage AC-DC single phase converters where the issue of double-line-frequency ripple cannot be neglected.

In this paper, a two stages battery charger with a multi-winding transformer is proposed using the bridgeless Totem-pole power factor correction (TP-PFC) circuit as the front-end AC-DC converter. This battery charger differs as such that it charges each cell without the help of an active balancing circuit. This is due to the structure of multi-winding transformer and operation of the converter. In addition, to address the issue of the double line frequency current ripples in both the primary and secondary winding current, a ripple reduction method is proposed using a Notch filter. Simulation results show that this low frequency ripple can be significantly reduced which demonstrates the effectiveness of the proposed control algorithm.

## II. PROPOSED TOPOLOGY AND OPERATION

### A. Operation of TP-PFC

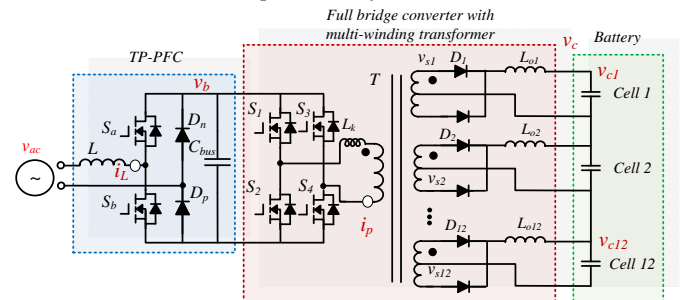


Fig. 1 Diagram of the proposed battery charger

The diagram of the proposed battery charger is shown in the Fig. 1, which is a two-stage AC-DC converter consisting of a bridgeless TP-PFC circuit and a full bridge converter with

the multi-winding transformer. This converter achieves battery cells charging and balancing without using additional circuitry. The TP-PFC circuit is chosen as the front-end converter since its high power conversion efficiency compared with the traditional PFC circuit. Specifically, there are only two components conducted in each subinterval of operation, in contrast, three components are conducted in traditional counterpart. The key waveforms and the control blocks of TP-PFC circuit are illustrated in Fig. 2(a) and Fig. 2(b) respectively.

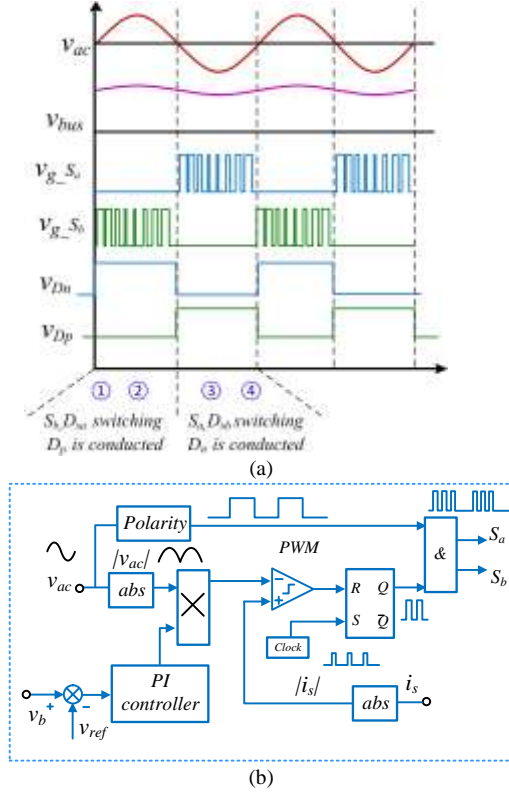


Fig. 2 (a) Diagram of the key waveforms of TP-PFC circuit  
(b) Corresponding control blocks

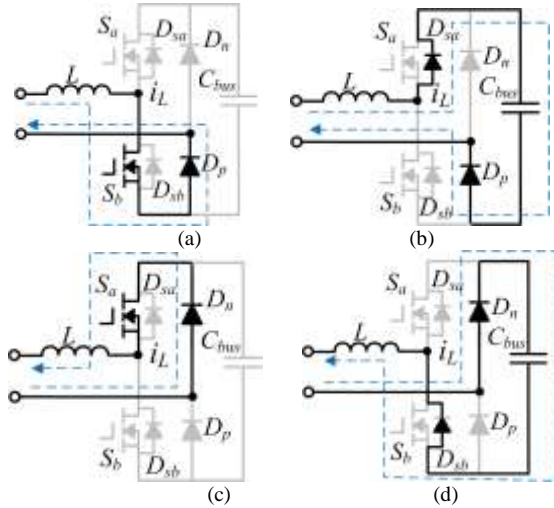


Fig. 3 subintervals of TP-PFC operation

Fig. 3 presents the corresponding subintervals of circuit operation. The switches  $S_a$  and  $S_b$  are operated at high switching frequency with their body diodes. While diodes  $D_p$  and  $D_n$  are conducted at line frequency when the AC grid is in the positive and negative half period respectively.

The intermediate DC link capacitor play a role as an energy buffer, and the relationship between required capacitance and ripple voltage for this single-phase AC-DC converter can be obtained as

$$C_{bus} > \frac{V_{ac} \cdot I_{ac}}{2\pi f_s \cdot \eta \cdot V_b^2} \quad (1)$$

where  $V_{ac}$ ,  $I_{ac}$  are the RMS values of line voltage and current, respectively,  $f_s$  is the line frequency,  $\eta$  is the required peak to peak ripple percentage of the average value of the DC link voltage  $V_b$ .

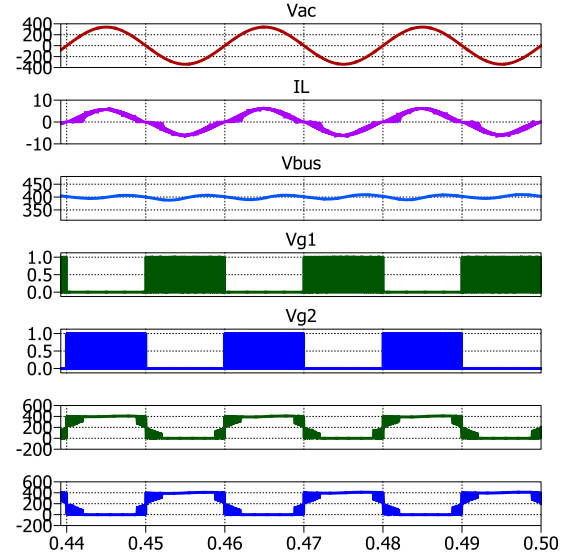


Fig.4 Simulation results of TP-PFC circuit

Fig.4 shows the simulation results of the TP-PFC circuit, which are the waveforms of the grid voltage  $v_{ac}$ , the current through inductor  $i_L$ , the voltage across the DC link capacitor  $v_b$ , the drives signals of switch  $S_a$  and  $S_b$ , and the voltages across diodes  $D_n$  and  $D_p$ .

Due to the DC link bus capacitor, the operational modes of the full bridge converter can be considered that they are free from frequency ripples caused by the switching action from the front-end circuit. The only significant remaining impact is the double line frequency voltage ripples across this DC capacitor.

#### B. Study on full bridge converter with multi-winding converter

The diagram of the key operational waveforms of the DC-DC converter after PFC circuit is presented in Fig.5.  $S_1$  and  $S_4$ ,  $S_2$  and  $S_3$  are conducted with the same PWM drive signal respectively, and there are 180 degree phase shift between them. It should be noted that because of the leakage inductance, there is a small period when the both the switches are turned off. The energy stored in the leakage inductor is released through the parasitic capacitors across the switches.

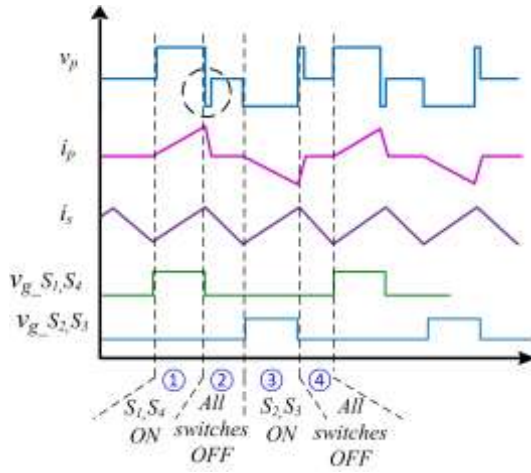


Fig.5 Diagram of the key operational waveforms of full bridge converter with multi-winding transformer

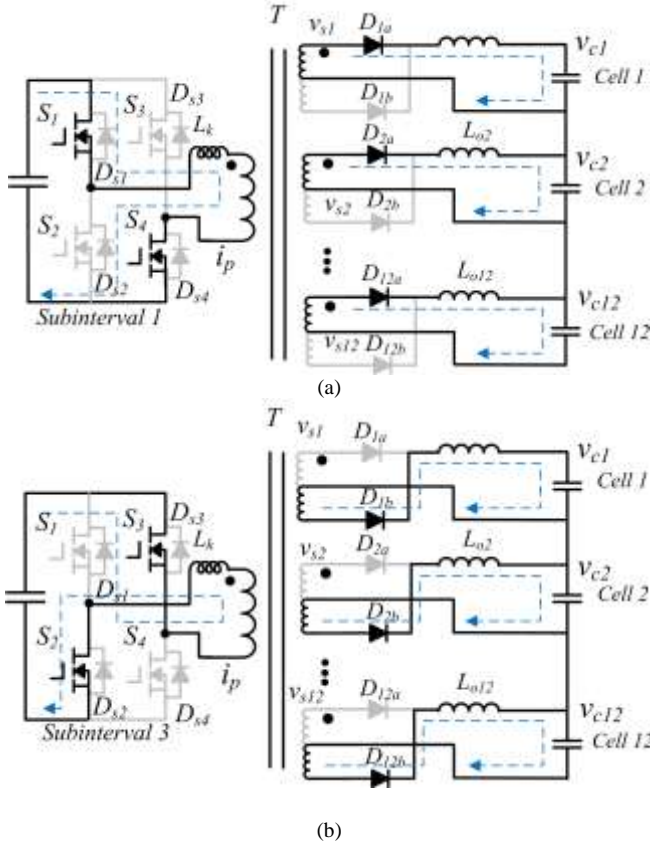


Fig.6 subinterval operation of the full bridge converter with multi-windings

Fig.6 illustrates the key subinterval operation of this full bridge converter with multi-windings. In the first subinterval,  $S_1$ ,  $S_4$  and  $D_{na}$  are conducted. The expressions of the primary voltage  $v_p$ , the secondary voltage  $v_{sn}$  across transformer, the current  $i_{sn}$  and the current ripples  $\Delta i_{sn}$  through output inductor  $L_{on}$  ( $n=1,2 \dots 12$ ) in the secondary can be obtained as follows:

$$v_p = V_b(1 + \eta \cdot \cos(2\omega t)) \quad (2)$$

$$v_{sn} = \frac{1}{n} v_p \quad (3)$$

$$\Delta i_{sn} = \frac{(v_{sn} - v_{dn} - v_{cn}) \cdot dT_s}{L} \quad (4)$$

$$i_{sn} = I_{sn} + \frac{\Delta i_{sn}}{2} \quad (5)$$

From equations (2)~(5),  $i_{sn}$  can be expressed as:

$$i_{sn} = I_{sn} + \frac{(V_b(1 + \eta \cdot \cos(2\omega t)) / n - v_{dn} - v_{cn}) \cdot dT_s}{2L} \quad (6)$$

where  $\omega$  is the line frequency in rad/s,  $n$  is the turn ratio,  $d$  represents the duty cycle,  $I_{sn}$  is the averaged value of the output current to cells, and  $v_{dn}$  and  $v_{cn}$  are the voltage drops on secondary diodes and the voltage on cells respectively. The voltage drops across the Mosfets are not considered in the expression because the values are relatively small to the DC link voltage.

In the second subinterval, the following equations can be obtained:

$$v_{sn} = \frac{1}{n} v_p = 0 \quad (7)$$

$$\Delta i_{sn} = \frac{-(v_{dn} + v_{cn}) \cdot (0.5 - d)T_s}{L} \quad (8)$$

$$i_{sn} = I_{sn} + \frac{-(v_{dn} + v_{cn}) \cdot (0.5 - d)T_s}{2L} \quad (9)$$

In the steady state, by applying the principle of volt-second balance to the output filter inductor  $L_{on}$ , the expression of duty cycle  $d$  is derived as:

$$d = \frac{0.5 \cdot (v_{cn} - v_{dn})}{V_b(1 + \eta \cdot \cos(2\omega t)) / n - 2v_{dn}} \quad (10)$$

From equation (10), it is evident that the duty cycle cannot be constant for the steady state operation, which is related with the values of the voltage ripple and line frequency.

In the third subinterval, the  $S_1$ ,  $S_4$  and  $D_{nb}$  are conducted and the voltage and current stress are identical as the equation shown in (2)~(6).

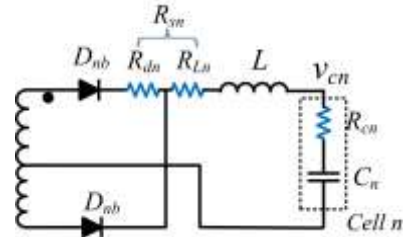


Fig.7 Diagram of secondary with parasitic parameters

From the equation (6), it can be seen that when the multi-winding transformer have identical turn ratio  $n$ , the battery cells with lower initial voltage will bear higher charging current, which thereby results in a natural cell balancing during the charging mode. As shown in Fig.7, the parasitic parameter such as ESRs of the secondary diodes ( $R_{dn}$ ), the output inductor ( $R_{Ln}$ ) and the battery cells ( $R_{cn}$ ) must be considered in practical circuit as they are critical to the cells balancing performance during charging. Assuming that two cells have identical parasitic but the different initial voltage





TABLE I  
SPECIFICATION OF SIMULATION

Parameters	Value	Parameters	Value
Frequency(kHz)	50	Magnetizing inductance (μH)	inf
Output power (W)	880	Nominal output voltage of cells (V)	3.75
Capacitance of Cell (F)	30	ESR of cell (mΩ)	1
Inductance of Boost PFC (μH)	500	Capacitance of Boost PFC (μF)	500
Output inductance (μH)	0.33	Leakage inductance (μH)	10
Number of Primary turns	60	Number of Secondary turns	1
Voltage drop of secondary diodes	0.3	Number of cells	12

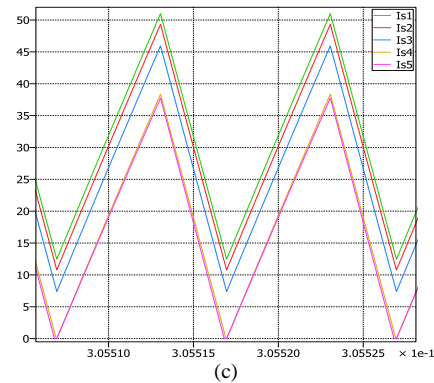
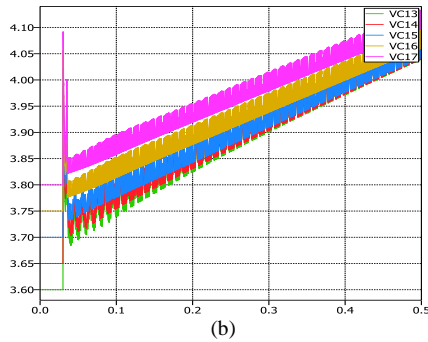
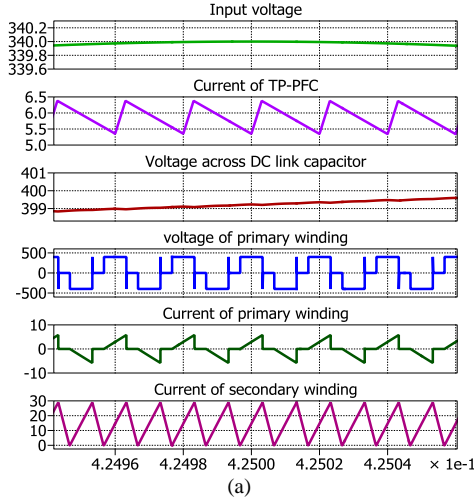


Fig.9 (a) Key operational waveforms of the full bridge converter with multi-windings (b), (c) Waveforms of battery cell voltage and current at cell balancing process with different initial voltages

Fig.10(a) shows the key signals in the control blocks which are measured DC link voltage signal  $v_b$ , the signal of  $v_b$  after Notch filter, the extraction ripple signal  $v_{rp}$  and the constructed control signal  $v_{con}$ . Fig.10(b) presents simulation results of the converter with and without employing the proposed ripple reduction methods. The switching of the control methods takes place at time of 0.4s, it can be seen that the peak to peak value of the primary and secondary at double line frequency has been reduced from 12.5% to less than 1%, which successfully demonstrate the effectiveness of the proposed control method. Therefore, using the proposed control algorithm, the ripple can be significantly reduced and both the peak and RMS values in the primary and secondary can be decreased to enhance the power conversion efficiency.

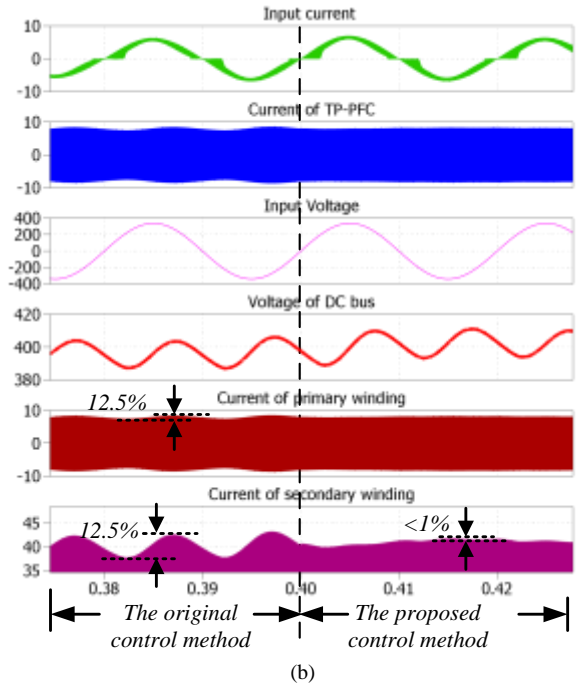
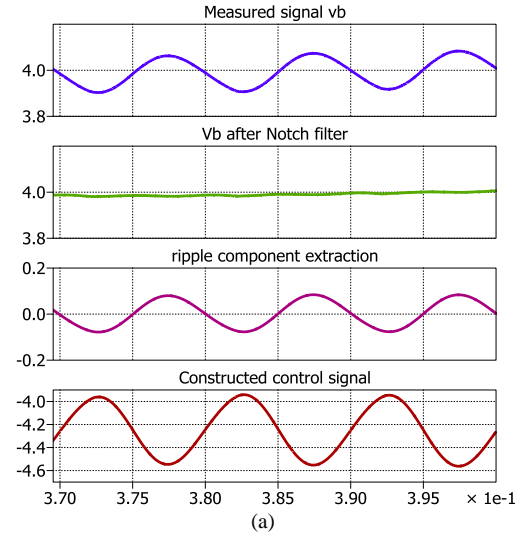


Fig.10 (a) key signals in the control blocks  
(b) Comparison of the converter using original method and proposed method

## V. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, a two-stage battery charger with integrated cell balancing using the multi-winding transformer and a double-line frequency ripple reduction method is proposed in this paper. This converter integrates the battery charging with cell balancing where both operations are working simultaneously with no additional cells equaliser. Moreover, the proposed ripple cancellation approach has significantly reduced the low frequency current ripples in both sides of the transformer, which improves system performance.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The authors would like to acknowledge Innovate UK and Hyperdrive innovation LTD for the full sponsorship and support in this project.

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