



# Improvement of Single-Switch Bridgeless PFC Cuk Converter for Circulating Current Elimination and Components Maximum Current Stress Reduction

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**Abstract:** This paper presents the improvement of single-switch bridgeless PFC Cuk converter for circulating current elimination and maximum current stress reduction on components. On the existing converter structure, circulating current at diodes causes conduction losses and maximum current stress that increase the component size. Therefore, circulating current is eliminated by rearranging the position of input diodes thus the input diodes in which can block the returning path of current through the input inductors. The principle of circulating current elimination is also discussed in detail in this paper. A 100 W converter with output voltage of -48 V has been tested to verify the principle. The results of the experimental hardware show the removal of the circulating current, the maximum current stress in input diodes are reduced from 8 A to 2.8 A and the maximum current stress in input capacitors also reduced from 10.3 A to 6.5 A.

**Keywords:** Bridgeless PFC Cuk converter, circulating current, power factor, power factor correction, Cuk converter

## 1. Introduction

In recent years, power converter plays an important part in power conversion system. The available source in worldwide that is commonly used is AC source. However, some applications such as EV systems, DC motors, LED, electrical machines, datacom and telecom require input DC to operate [1]–[6]. The telecom application requires negative polarity as the input voltage while other DC applications require positive polarity [7]–[10]. The nominal input supply for telecom system is -48 V thus, a suitable AC-DC converter such as conventional buck-boost and Cuk converter must be employed to convert input AC to output DC. In this paper, the Cuk converter is selected to step down the input supply to -48 V [8], [9], [11]. Basically, the AC-DC converter is required to convert AC to DC while DC-DC converter is used for stepping up or stepping down the voltage. The integration of rectifier with Cuk converter is classified as passive PFC circuit but has the disadvantage of high conduction losses due to the presence of four diodes.

The PFC circuits without the full-bridge rectifier are bridgeless PFC structures. D.M Mitchell suggests the very first bridgeless PFC structure in 1983 [12]. The bridgeless PFC structure combines the operation of full-bridge rectifier and DC-DC converter in a circuit [13]. However, the structure has some drawbacks; presence of electromagnetic interference (EMI), switching losses, conduction losses, many components, discontinuous output current, high output voltage ripple, and circulating current losses [14]–[19]. Several bridgeless PFC Cuk converters were proposed to overcome the major

drawbacks of the existing structures by eliminating the circulating current that exists at the input inductors and also by reducing the maximum current stress at the line diodes and input capacitors [14] [20]–[24].

A modified single-switch bridgeless PFC Cuk (SSBPFC) converter is presented in this paper as the proposed structure to solve the drawbacks of the existing structures. Circulating current elimination as well as maximum current stress reduction at line diodes ( $D_1$  and  $D_2$ ) and input capacitors ( $C_1$  and  $C_2$ ) are several advantages of the proposed structure. The design of the bridgeless PFC Cuk converter is based on discontinues conduction mode (DCM). Improvement of the SSBPFC Cuk converter structures will be discussed in terms of circulating current elimination in input inductor from the existing structures as well as on the improvement structures.

## 2. Principle of SEPIC-Cuk Converter

This section addresses the principle of circulating current elimination at input inductors, principle of maximum current stress reduction at line-diodes, principle of maximum current stress reduction at input capacitor, operation mode of proposed single-switch bridgeless PFC Cuk converter, and design of parameters of the modified SSBPFC Cuk converter.

### 2.1 Principle of Circulating Current Elimination at the Input Inductors

Fig. 1 shows the different position of the diodes between the existing structure and the proposed structure of the modified Cuk SSBPFC structure. Fig. 1(a) indicates that the diodes ( $D_1$  and  $D_2$ ) which are connected with MOSFET,  $S$  in series. When the MOSFET,  $S$  is turned-on, the  $L_1$  and  $L_2$  stores energy from AC source. The energy circulates between  $L_1$  and  $L_2$  during the charging process. When the MOSFET,  $S$  turns off, the diodes,  $D_1$  and  $D_2$  are in turn-off condition, while the  $L_1$  and  $L_2$  will be discharged. Thus, the circulation of current occurs between  $L_1$  and  $L_2$ . The current circulates for both cycles and during the turned-on and turned-off condition. Ideally,  $L_1$  and  $L_2$  must operate in half a cycle to ensure that the input inductor is in DCM condition on the basis of the current flow to the input inductors.

The position of the diodes is rearranged to be in series with the input inductors in order to eliminate circulating current at  $L_1$  and  $L_2$  in positive-half and negative-half cycles. MOSFET,  $S$  turned-on during positive-half cycle, the AC source current flows to the  $L_1$  while diode  $D_2$  is in blocking state for positive-half cycle. When the MOSFET,  $S$  turns off, the inductor current flows directly to the  $C_1$  due to the  $D_2$  is in blocking condition. Thus, the circulating current during positive-half cycle at  $L_2$  is eliminated whereas elimination of the circulating current at  $L_1$  occurs during the negative-half cycle in the same state as the positive-half cycle.

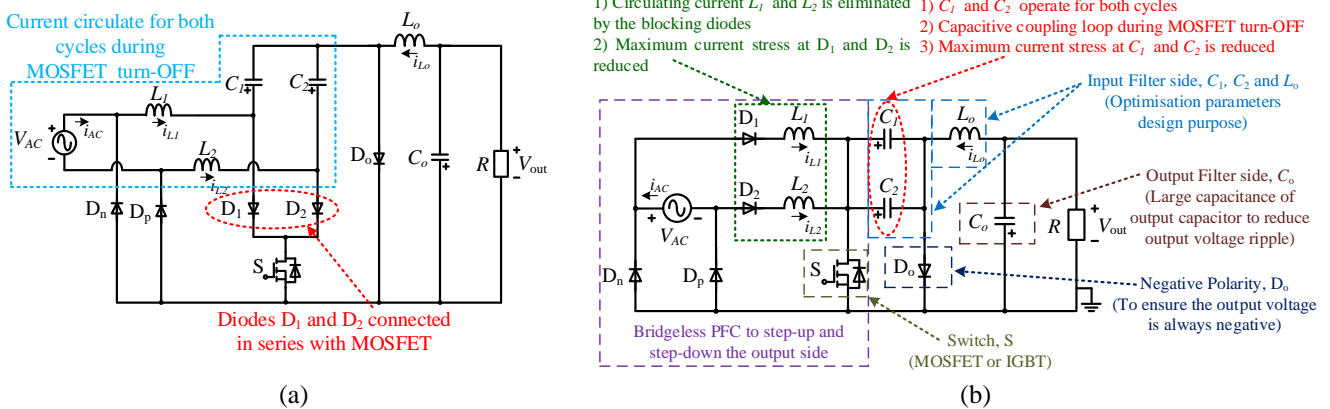


Fig. 1 - Different position of diodes between the existing structure and proposed structure of modified SSBPFC Cuk structure (a) Existing structure; (b) Modified SSBPFC Cuk structure

### 2.2 Principle of Maximum Current Stress Reduction at Line-Diodes

The input diodes,  $D_1$  and  $D_2$  shown existing structure is equal to maximum current stress at MOSFET,  $S$  due to the series connection of the input diodes with the MOSFET as shown in Fig. 1(a). Meanwhile, the proposed structure of the modified SSBPFC Cuk converter shows that the maximum current stress in line-diodes  $D_1$  and  $D_2$  is the same with the input inductors  $L_1$  and  $L_2$  as shown in Fig. 1(b). The input diodes and line-diodes operate in different cycles for both structures. The advantage of the proposed modified structure is that the maximum current stress at  $D_1$  and  $D_2$  is reduced. The choice of the  $D_1$  and  $D_2$  depends on the structure in which, the proposed modified SSBPFC Cuk structure can use either standard diodes or fast-recovery diodes compared to the existing structure which can only use fast-recovery diodes.

### 2.3 Principle of Maximum Current Stress Reduction at Input Capacitors

Fig. 1(a) shows the current circulates and current loops between the input capacitors  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  in the existing structure. The circulating current is different from the looping current for  $C_1$  and  $C_2$ . The circulating current is the current flows from the AC source to the  $C_1$  and  $C_2$ . The looping current is the current that loops from the AC source between  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  during MOSFET, S turned-off. The modified structure proposes that the loop current between  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  may reduce the maximum current stress at  $C_1$  and  $C_2$ . As it is known, the current flow to the capacitor is divided into two when the capacitors are connected in parallel. When the capacitor is connected in series, the current flow through to the capacitor is the same. Thus, the maximum current stress at  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  for existing structure is therefore reduced significantly.

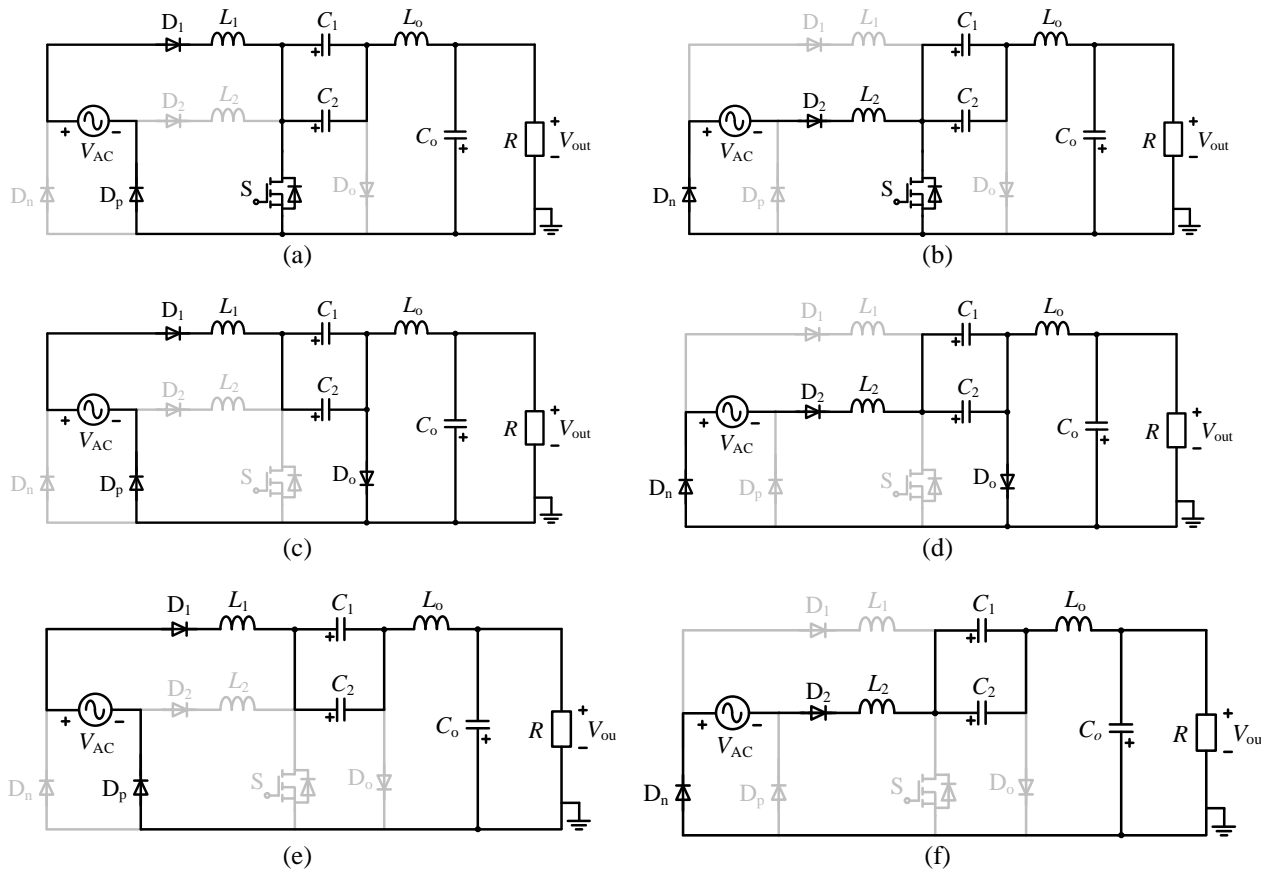
### 2.4 Operation Mode of Proposed Single-Switch Bridgeless PFC Cuk Converter

Duty cycle controlled the proposed single-switch structure. The circuit has twelve operation modes which comprises of positive-half and negative-half cycles. During the both cycles, Fig. 2 indicates the operating modes.

**Mode-1 and Mode-7:** Mode-1 is cycle for positive-half and mode-7 is cycle for negative-half. The energy is stored during positive half-cycle in  $L_1$  and at the negative half-cycle in  $L_2$  when the switch, S turns on. Simultaneously, the  $L_1$  stores energy at the positive half-cycle and  $L_2$  at the negative half-cycle when the switch S turns on. The capacitor  $C_o$  is discharged in this period of time, the diode  $D_o$  is blocked, The load is supplied with power, and is shown in Fig. 2(a) and 2(b) respectively.

**Mode-2 and Mode-8:** Mode-2 is cycle for positive-half and mode-8 is cycle for negative-half. The inductor  $L_1$  at the positive half-cycle,  $L_2$  at the negative half-cycle stores energy continuously from the AC supply in the very same state as when the switch S is on. Meanwhile, the capacitors  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  are discharging through to the inductor  $L_o$ .  $C_o$  is discharged during this period of time, the diode  $D_o$  is still in blocking mode, the load is supplied with power and shown in Fig. 2(a) and 2(b) respectively.

**Mode-3 and Mode-9:** Mode-3 is cycle for positive-half and mode-9 is cycle for negative-half. When the S switch is turned on in the same state, the inductor  $L_1$  at positive-half cycle,  $L_2$  at negative-half cycle stores energy continuously from the AC supply. In the meantime, the  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  discharge through the inductor  $L_o$ .  $C_o$  is charged in this period of time, the diode  $D_o$  is blocked, the load is supplied with the power as can be seen in Fig. 2(a) and 2(b).



**Fig. 2 - Mode operation of proposed structure (a) Mode-1, Mode-2, and Mode-3; (b) Mode-7, Mode-8, and Mode-9; (c) Mode-4 and Mode-5; (d) Mode-10 and Mode-11; (e) Mode-6; (f) Mode-12**

**Mode-4 and Mode-10:** Mode-4 is cycle for positive-half and mode-10 is cycle for negative-half. The inductors  $L_1$  are at the positive half-cycle when the switch S turns off,  $L_2$  is at the negative half-cycle, and  $L_o$  is discharged. In the meantime, through the freewheeling diodes  $D_o$ , the capacitors  $C_1$ ,  $C_2$  and  $C_o$  charge the power to the load as can be observed in Fig. 2(c) and 2(d) respectively.

**Mode-5 and Mode-11:** Mode-5 is cycle for positive-half and mode-11 is cycle for negative-half. As switch S turns off, the inductors  $L_1$  at the positive half-cycle and  $L_2$  at the negative half-cycle are discharged in the same state. Meanwhile, through the freewheeling diodes  $D_o$ , the inductor  $L_o$  and capacitor  $C_o$  also discharges. The load is supplied with power, which can be seen in Fig. 2(c) and 2(d) respectively.

**Mode-6 and Mode-12:** Mode-6 is cycle for positive-half and mode-12 is cycle for negative-half. The capacitors  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  store energy through the looping state of the  $L_1$  at the positive half cycle and  $L_2$  at the negative half cycle in the very same state when the switch S turns off. The capacitor  $C_o$  and inductor  $L_o$  discharge during this period of time, diode  $D_o$  is turned-off, the load is supplied with power and shown in Fig. 2(e) and 2(f).

## 2.5 Parameters Design of Modified SSBPFC Cuk Converter

The passive element specifications of the SSBPFC Cuk structure are listed in Table 1. The passive elements are estimated from the mode of operation in Section 2.4 to be in the DCM state.

**Table 1 - Specifications of SSBPFC Cuk structure**

Parameters	Values
Voltage Input, $V_{AC}$	(50-100) V
Line Frequency, $F_{SW}$	50 Hz
Output voltage (DC), $V_o$	-48 V
Output power, $P_{out}$	100 W
Frequency of switching, $f_s$	50 kHz
Maximum input current ripple, $\Delta i_{L1}$	< 25% of fundamental current
Ripple of output voltage, $\Delta V_o$	< 5% of $V_o$

SSBPFC Cuk circuit structure specifications are enlisted Table 2 after every parameter is calculated by taking into consideration the market availability of components.

**Table 2 - Design of parameter for passive components**

Parameters	Values
Input inductors, $L_1$ and $L_2$	2.2 mH
Output inductor, $L_o$	22 $\mu$ H
Input capacitors, $C_1$ and $C_2$	1 $\mu$ F
Output capacitor, $C_o$	3300 $\mu$ F

### 2.5.1. Voltage Conversion Ratio, $M$

The ratio of voltage conversion,  $M = V_o/V_m$  is achieved by implementing the power-balance principle [31],[68] with regard to circuit structure parameters and the ratio of voltage conversion is equivalent to:

$$M = \frac{V_{out}}{\sqrt{2} \cdot V_{AC}} = \sqrt{\frac{R}{2 \cdot R_e}} = \frac{D_{ton}}{\sqrt{2 \cdot K_e}} \tag{1}$$

### 2.5.2. Gain Ratio as a Function of Duty Cycle, $D$

The duty cycle can be found as:

$$D = \frac{M}{M + 1} \tag{2}$$

### 2.5.3. Design of Input Inductors, $L_1$ and $L_2$

Input inductance of the input inductor value can be found as:

$$L_1 = \frac{V_{AC} \cdot D}{\Delta I_{L1} \cdot f_{sw}} \quad (3)$$

### 2.5.4. Design of Output Inductor, $L_0$

During one line-cycle of the AC source, the average diode output current,  $I_{Do}$ , can be determined by:

$$I_{AC,Avg} = \frac{D_{ton} \cdot T_s \cdot V_{AC}^2}{2 \cdot L_e \cdot V_o} \quad (4)$$

The  $K_e$  is dimensionless parameter and can be represented as:

$$K_e = \frac{D^2}{2 \cdot M^2} \quad (5)$$

The  $L_e$  can be found by:

$$L_e = \frac{R \cdot T_s \cdot K_e}{2} \quad (6)$$

The output inductor can, therefore, be determined by the application of (3) and (6):

$$L_o = \frac{L_1 \cdot L_e}{L_1 - L_e} \quad (7)$$

### 2.5.5. Design of Input Capacitor, $C_1$

An essential component in the topology of Cuk is the input capacitor,  $C_1$ , as the quality waveform of AC source current may be distorted and can be found as:

$$C_1 = \frac{1}{(2\pi \cdot f_r)^2 \cdot (L_1 + L_o)} \quad (8)$$

### 2.5.6. Design of Output Capacitor, $C_0$

As the converter input is an AC source, as for reducing the output voltage ripple, the output capacitor should be sufficiently large. Hence, the output of the voltage ripple should be chosen according to the required application, and  $C_0$  is achieved as follows:

$$C_o = \frac{P_{out}}{4 \cdot f_L \cdot V_o \cdot \Delta V_o} \quad (9)$$

## 3. Results and Analysis

The results of the prototypes focus on eliminating the losses of the circulating current, reducing of line diodes  $D_1$  and  $D_2$  and reducing of the maximum current stress at maximum stress current at input capacitors  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  are discussed with reference to Table 1. The results of the prototypes are confirmed and are in agreement with the parameters designed.

### 3.1 Eliminating of Circulating Current at Input Inductors, $L_1$ and $L_2$

Fig. 3 displays the experimental results of the existing structure and the proposed structure of modified SSBPFC Cuk converter. All parameters have been mentioned in Table 1 and Table 2. The waveform demonstrates the elimination of the circulating current in the proposed structure, which is consistent with the analysis of theory in Section 2.1. Fig. 3(a) displays the results for both cycles of an existing structure containing circulating current in input inductors,  $L_1$  and  $L_2$ . During a positive half-cycle operation of input inductor  $L_1$ , the input inductor's peak current  $I_{L1(\text{peak})}$  is 2.9 A. In the meantime, the circulating current losses during the negative half-cycle are 0.6 A with a peak-to-peak input line current of 6.6 A and a peak-to-peak input line voltage of 142 V. Comparing it with Fig. 3(b), there is no circulating current and the input inductors  $I_{L1(\text{peak})}$  is 2.8 A. The input line current of peak-to-peak is 6.4 A and the input line voltage of peak-to-peak is 138 V. The verification of experiment demonstrates the circulating current has been significantly eliminated by the proposed structure.

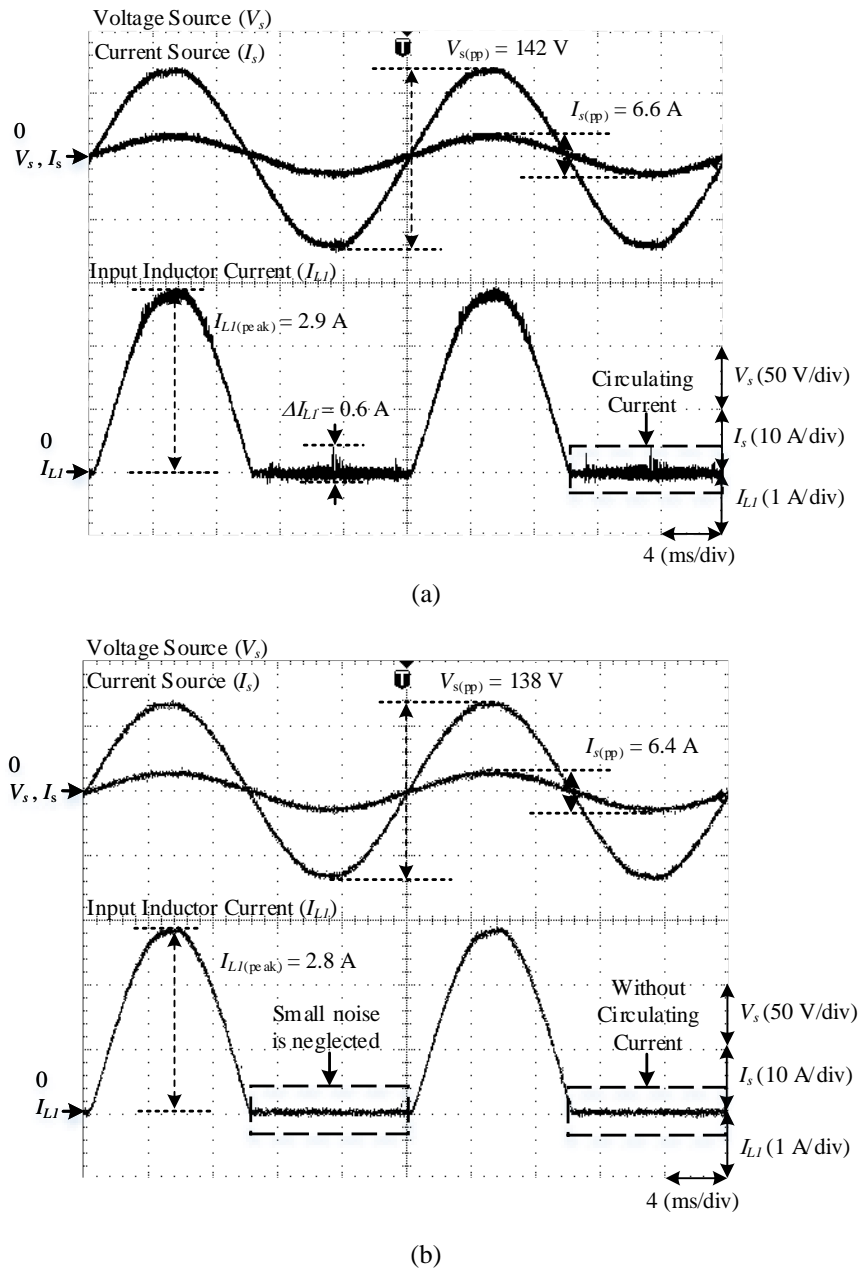
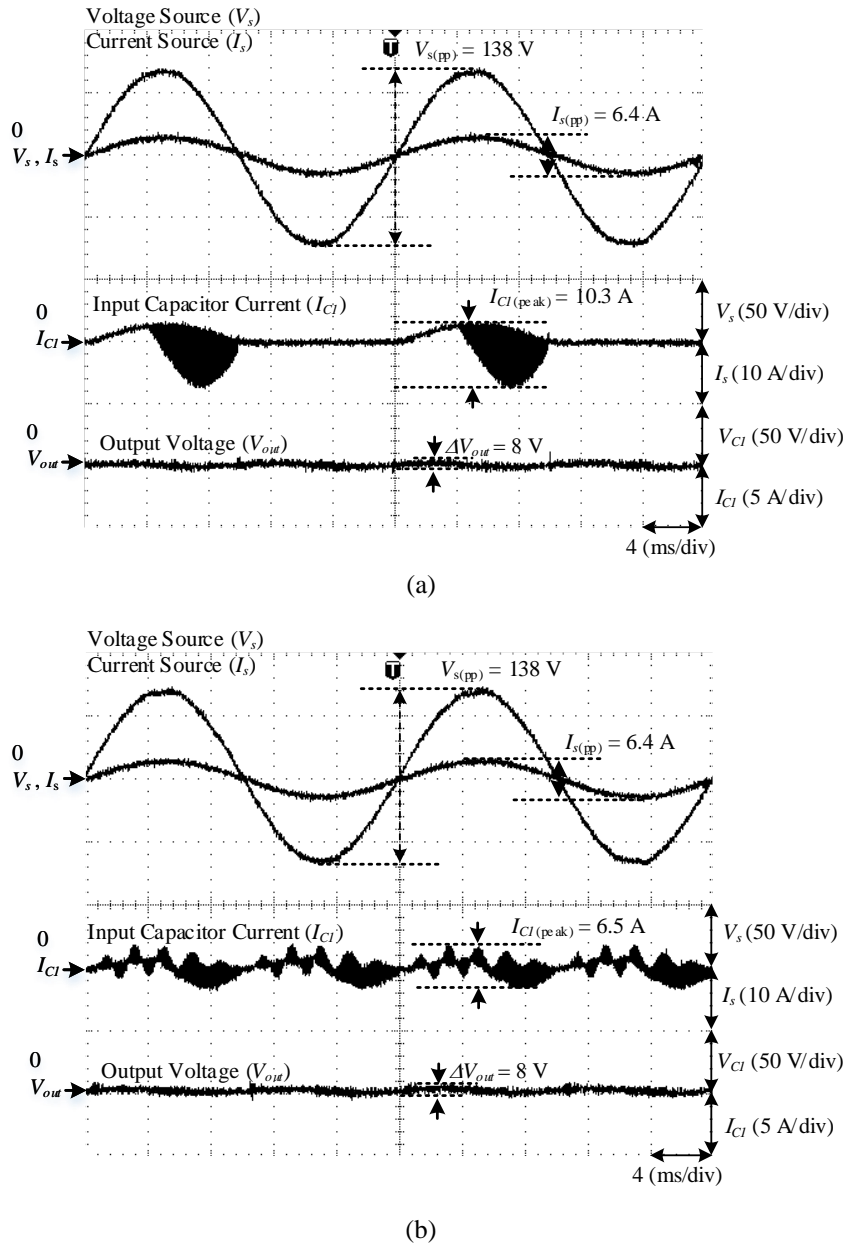


Fig. 3 - Elimination of circulating current at the input inductors,  $L_1$  and  $L_2$  (a) Existing structure, and (b) Proposed structure of SSBPFC Cuk converter

### 3.2 Maximum Current Stressed Reduction at Input Capacitors, $C_1$ and $C_2$

Fig. 4 clearly shows the results of the experimental for the existing structure also the proposed modified structure to decrease the input capacitors' maximum current stress,  $C_1$  and  $C_2$ . Taking account of the cycle for half positive, Fig. 4(a) indicates capacitor  $C_1$  that operates only during positive half-cycle. The input capacitor's peak current  $I_{C1(\text{peak})}$  is 10.3 A, while the input line current of peak-to-peak is 6.4 A and the input voltage of peak-to-peak is 138 V. At input capacitors, the maximum current stress is high due to each capacitor that only operates in half-cycle mode. Comparing it with the Fig. 4(b), the peak current of the input capacitor  $I_{C1(\text{peak})}$  is 6.5 A while the input line current of peak-to-peak is 6.4 A and input line voltage of peak-to-peak is 138 V. In both cycles, capacitor  $C_1$  operates, so the maximum current stress of the input capacitors is reduced. The results are consistent with the analysis of theory discussed in Section 2.3 for both structures.



**Fig. 4 - Maximum current stressed reduction at input capacitors (a) Existing structure, and (b) Proposed structure of SSBPFC Cuk converter**

### 3.3 Maximum Current Stressed Reduction at Line Diodes, D<sub>1</sub> and D<sub>2</sub>

The line diodes D<sub>1</sub> and D<sub>2</sub> maximum current stress is significantly reduced by positioning the line diodes serial with MOSFET, S to be serial with the input inductors L<sub>1</sub> and L<sub>2</sub> with 50 Hz line frequency of. Fig. 5 shows the experimental results of the existing structure and the proposed structures to decrease the maximum current stress at line diodes, D<sub>1</sub> and D<sub>2</sub>. Taking account of the cycle for half positive, Fig. 5(a) demonstrates that operation of D<sub>1</sub> only occurs during positive half-cycle. The line diode I<sub>D1(peak)</sub> highest current is 8 A and the input line current of peak-to-peak is 6.6 A and input line voltage of peak-to-peak is 142 V. As the position of the components is serial with the MOSFET, S, the maximum current stress at C<sub>1</sub> and D<sub>1</sub> is the same. The current flows are high through the C<sub>1</sub> and D<sub>1</sub> are high because the switching frequency is 50 kHz. To compare this with Fig. 5(b), the line diode's peak current I<sub>D1(peak)</sub> is 2.8 A, whereas the input line current of peak-to-peak is 7.0 A, while the input line voltage of peak-to-peak is 160 V. In addition, the output voltage ripple of both structures are 8 V. For both of the structures, the maximum current stress of C<sub>1</sub> and D<sub>1</sub> is not the same because of different frequency of both components, i.e. f<sub>Line</sub> is 50 Hz and f<sub>sw</sub> is 50 kHz. Maximum current stress of the C<sub>1</sub> and D<sub>1</sub> can be observed to be significantly reduced after repositioning of the input diodes.

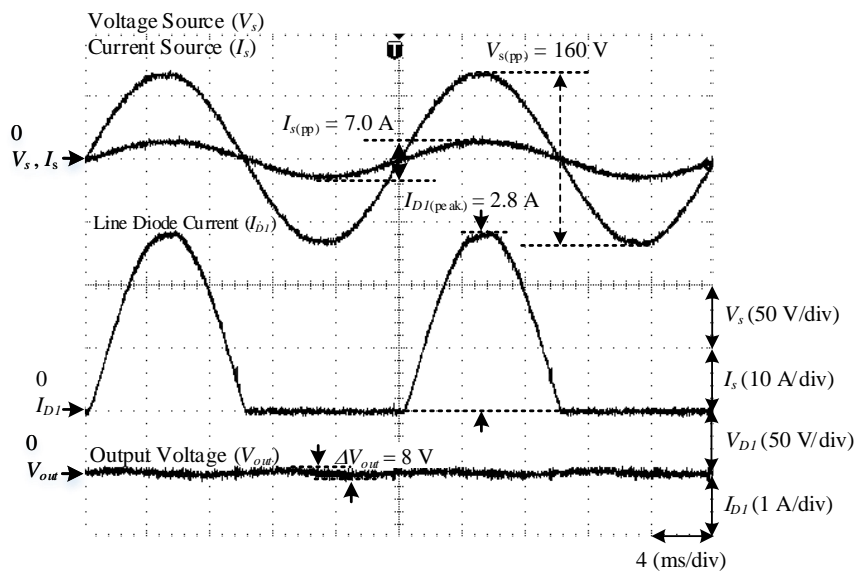
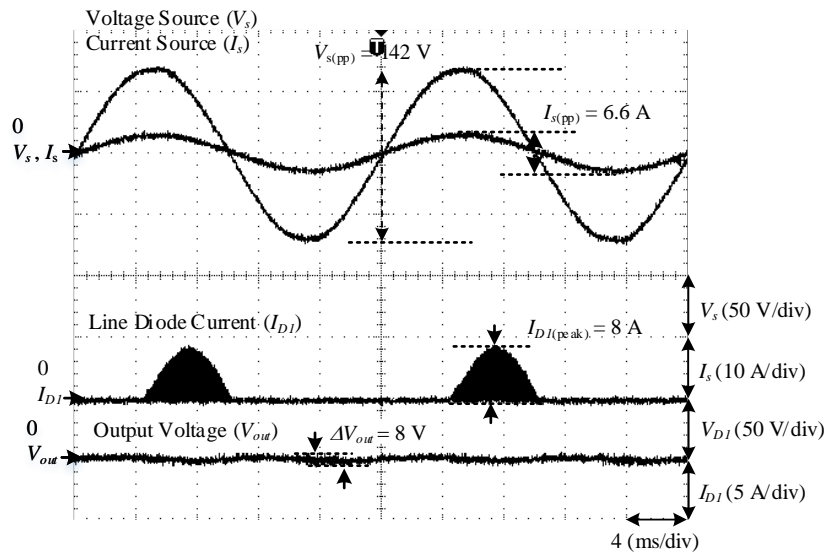


Fig. 5 - Reduction of maximum current stressed at line diodes (a) Existing structure, and (b) Proposed structure of SSBPFC Cuk converter



#### 4. Conclusion

This paper presents the improvement of SSBPFC Cuk converter for circulating current elimination and components maximum current stress reduction. The results of the prototype agrees well with the results designed. Furthermore, circulating current losses have been eliminated. The maximum current stress at  $D_1$  and  $D_2$  is decreased from 8 A to 2.8 A which is 65% reduced, while maximum current stress at  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  is decreased from 10.3 A to 6.5 A which is 37% reduced. The advantages of having low current stress in diodes and capacitors are that when the current stress at the passive or active component is low, the selection of the rating components and, as a result, the size of the components is reduced. This prototype uses switching frequency 50 kHz for single-switch (MOSFET) with the output power of 100 W and output voltage is fixed to -48 V. By implementing any PWM switching pattern, this SSBPFC structure can achieve a high-power factor.

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