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A High Frequency-Link Secondary-Side Phase-Shifted Full-Range Soft-Switching PWM DC–DC Converter with ZCS Active Rectifier for EV Battery Chargers

Tomokazu Mishima, *Member, IEEE*, Kouhei Akamatsu, *Student Member, IEEE*, and Mutsuo Nakaoka, *Member, IEEE*

Abstract—A new prototype of a secondary-side phase shift (SPS) soft-switching PWM dc-dc converter suitable for electric vehicle (EV) battery charging systems is presented in this paper. Wide range soft-switching operations are achievable from full load to no load by effectively utilizing the parasitic inductances of the high frequency (HF) transformer in the proposed dc-dc converter. In addition, no circulating current in both of the primary and secondary side full-bridge circuits, thereby the related idling power can be minimized. As a result, high efficiency power conversion can be maintained owing to the full range soft-switching operation and wide range output power and voltage regulations. Its operating principle is presented on the basis of theoretical analysis and simulation results, and the design procedure of the circuit parameters of the proposed dc-dc converter is described. The essential performance and its effectiveness of the proposed dc-dc converter are originally demonstrated from a practical point of view in an experiment using a 1 kW-50 kHz laboratory prototype.

Index Terms—DC-DC converter, phase shift pulse width modulation (PS-PWM), soft switching, zero voltage soft switching (ZVS), zero current soft switching (ZCS), ZCS active rectifier, non-circulating current, EV battery charger.

I. INTRODUCTION

THE switch-mode HF-link (HF-isolated) dc-dc power converters serve as an essential power interface connecting the grid with the onboard electric power supply in a battery charging system for EVs including Plug-in HEVs (PHEVs) as introduced in Fig. 1 [1]. In particular, voltage-source full-bridge soft-switching PS-PWM dc-dc converters are suitable for the battery chargers due to the high power, low electromagnetic interference (EMI) noise emissions and applicability of versatile output power regulation schemes. The phase shift power regulation strategy is useful for the HF-link dc-dc power converter with a galvanic isolation due to precise generations

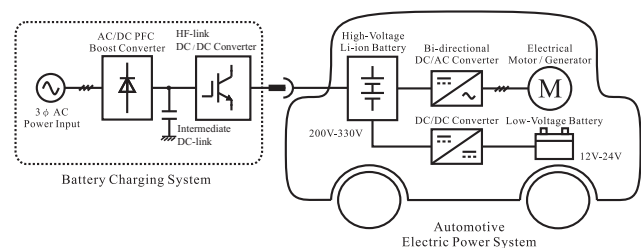


Fig. 1. Battery charging system architecture for EVs / PHEVs.

of the switching signal patterns for the semiconductor power devices.

In the grid-connected battery charging system, the HF-link dc-dc converter has a function of controlling the battery voltage in a wide range with respect to the intermediate dc-link voltage which is regulated by the ac-dc rectifier. In addition, high efficiency and high reliability are essentially required in the HF-link dc-dc converter in order to enhance the total performances of the battery charging system.

As compared to the non-isolated dc-dc converter-based system in Fig. 2(a), the HF-link dc-dc converter-applied battery charger operates with a higher switching frequency in conductive and contact-less dc-dc power conversion stages as illustrated in Fig. 2(b) and (c). Hence, the HF-link dc-dc converter is more advantageous in term of the compact size and light weight of transformer as well as wide-range output power and voltage regulations due to a higher resolution in a controller processing.

The typical soft-switching PS-PWM dc-dc converters are based on the primary-side phase shift (PPS) scheme as depicted in Fig. 3, which have been developed not only to the automotive electric power systems but the variety of the industrial power conversion equipments. In contrast to the simplicity on the main circuit and controller, occurrence of large circulating currents and its relevant power losses are the technical issues inherent to the conventional PPS-PWM dc-dc converters in Fig. 4 [2]–[13]. In addition, ZVS ranges of the active switches especially for the active switches of the lagging phase legs in the primary-side inverter are severely limited. Besides that, the rectifier diodes in the secondary-side circuit suffer from reverse recovery currents, so that the

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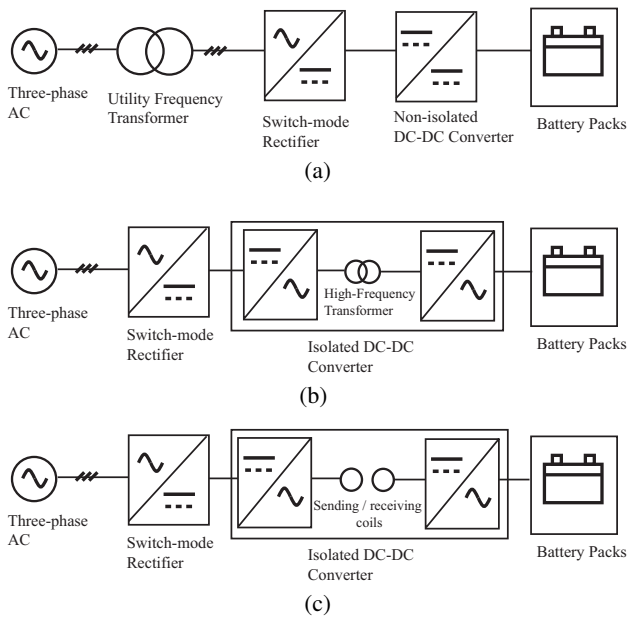


Fig. 2. Power conversion flow based on : (a) non-isolated dc-dc converter, (b) conductive HF ac-link dc-dc converter, (c) contact-less HF ac-link dc-dc converter.

power consuming RCD passive snubbers are necessary for protecting them from the voltage surges and the parasitic ringings. As a result, the conversion efficiency decreases and the higher switching frequency operations which are essential for achieving the high power density can not be performed in reality.

In order to overcome the disadvantages of the conventional ZVS PPS-PWM dc-dc converters, a variety of soft-switching PPS-PWM dc-dc converters have been developed in the past decades as summarized in Fig. 5. The improved soft-switching PPS-PWM dc-dc converters are classified into: capacitor and diodes-assisted regenerative snubbers [14], [15], switched capacitor active clamped circuit [16], [17], mode changeable active clamped circuit [18], primary-side saturable reactors [19], primary-side voltage-blocking capacitor [20], tapped-inductor filter [21], and primary-side additional resonant pole-assisted circuit [22]. Although the circulating current can be eliminated to some extent and the soft-switching limitations of the lagging phase leg can be mitigated, additional power devices and passive components are indispensable in the improved soft-switching PPS-PWM dc-dc converters. The additional magnetic components as well as capacitors cause power losses especially in the light load conditions, and are obstacles for achieving high efficiency and high power density whereas increasing a cost in developing those dc-dc converters. Furthermore, the soft-switching operations can not be ensured over the wide range of load conditions, i.e., from no load to full load.

As a counterpart PS-PWM circuit, the soft-switching SPS-PWM dc-dc converters have been developed and reported in [23]–[26]. Among them, the ZVS SPS-PWM dc-dc converter with ZVS active rectifier as depicted in Fig. 6(a), which is more suitable for high output voltage applications, can reduce

the circulating current of the primary-side inverter, but that of the secondary-side rectifier still remains [23], [24]. The ZVS SPS-PWM dc-dc converter with saturable reactor-assisted ZCS rectifier in Fig. 6(b) has been developed by the authors [25]. In this unique dc-dc converter, the circulating currents can be eliminated in both of the primary and secondary-side power circuits. However, the additional magnetic switches are required to control the B-H curves of the saturable reactors with high sensitivity, thereby the circuit and system configuration might be complicated.

In order to overcome the drawback of the saturable reactor-assisted type, the ZVS SPS-PWM dc-dc converter with ZCS active rectifier deriving from the circuit topology of Fig. 6(b) has been proposed by the authors in [26]. The proposed soft-switching dc-dc converter can eliminate the circulating current completely, thereby the relevant conduction power losses can be minimized without any additional passive component. Moreover, the primary-side and secondary-side active switches can operate in ZVS and ZCS for the entire load range, respectively. The soft-switching ranges on both the primary-side inverter and the secondary-side rectifier in the proposed soft-switching dc-dc converter can be extended owing to the unique current commutation process attained by the SPS-PWM scheme.

It is a remarkable feature of the proposed soft-switching SPS-PWM dc-dc converter that full-range soft-switching operations can be realized by employing the reverse conduction blocking active switches for the controlled-side leg of the rectifier. Thus, no auxiliary switch and magnetic component is required, thereby a power density of the HF-link dc-dc converter could be improved. Furthermore, the wide-range output power and output voltage regulations can be realized by a relatively small-range variation of phase shift angle. As a result, high efficiency power conversion can be expected as well as performance improvement of the battery voltage controller, which is preferable for an EV battery charging system. Although the basic and conceptual research has been reported in [26], application-specific performance evaluations on the proposed soft-switching SPS-PWM dc-dc converter including the analysis on soft-switching range and the steady-state power regulation characteristics have not been evaluated in-depth in the past relevant work.

The main objective of this paper is to originally demonstrate the operation principle, more detailed analysis on the soft-switching operations and circuit design guideline of the proposed soft-switching SPS-PWM dc-dc converter, and prove its practical effectiveness in an experiment with considerations specifically for EV battery charger applications [27]–[29]. In addition, the performances of the proposed soft-switching SPS-PWM dc-dc converter for battery charging operations is evaluated by modeling a typical constant current and constant voltage (CCCV) mode in the experiment. Furthermore, a power loss analysis is carried out for evaluating the unique circuit topology and providing more practical ideas to construct the proposed soft-switching SPS-PWM dc-dc converter.

This paper is organized as follows. The circuit configuration and operation principle together with the soft-switching conditions are explained in Section II. The soft-switching

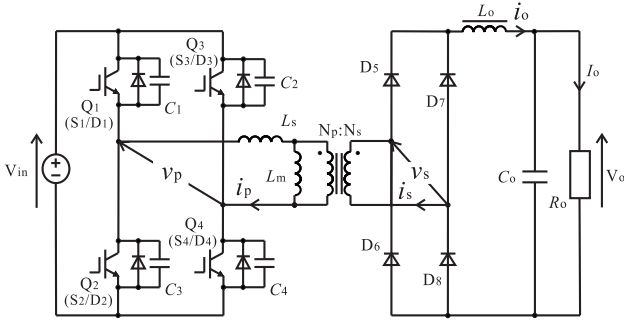


Fig. 3. A conventional ZVS PPS-PWM dc-dc converter.

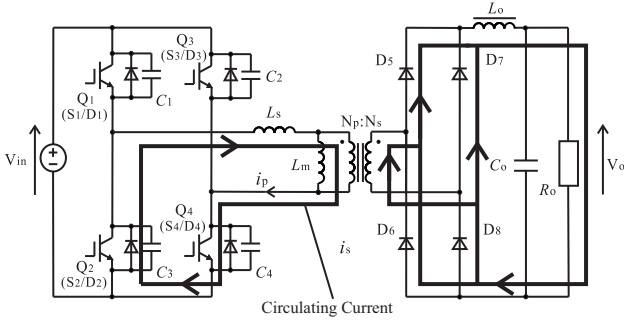


Fig. 4. A circulating current pathway in the conventional ZVS PPS-PWM dc-dc converter.

ranges, i.e. ZVS in the primary-side HF inverter and ZCS in the secondary-side active rectifier are theoretically analyzed in Section III, where the circuit design procedure is also described. In addition, the output power and output voltage vs. phase shift angle characteristics are demonstrated by theoretical analysis and its simulation results in Section IV. The performances on the output power and output voltage regulations as well as the full-range soft switching operations are actually verified by experimental results based on the prototype are provided in Section V, and effectiveness of the soft-switching SPS-PWM dc-dc converter proposed herein is evaluated from a practical point of view.

II. CIRCUIT DESCRIPTION AND OPERATION PRINCIPLE

A. Circuit Configuration

The circuit configuration of the proposed soft-switching SPS-PWM dc-dc converter is depicted in Fig. 7. In the primary-side full bridge inverter, the lossless snubbing capacitors C_1 – C_4 operate with the series inductor L_s including the leakage inductance L_k , then ZVS turn-off and ZVS & ZCS (ZVZCS) turn-on operations can be attained all in Q_1 – Q_4 .

The secondary-side rectifier consists of the hybrid legs of the reverse blocking active switches Q_5 & Q_6 and diodes D_7 & D_8 . The output power and output voltage can be regulated by changing the phase shift angle ϕ (phase shift interval $t_\phi = (\phi/360) \cdot T$) between Q_5 and Q_6 as synchronous switches with respect to Q_1 – Q_4 .

The features and outstanding advantages of the proposed soft-switching dc-dc converter are summarized below:

- The output power and output voltage are regulated by the active switch-mode rectifier operating at ZCS.

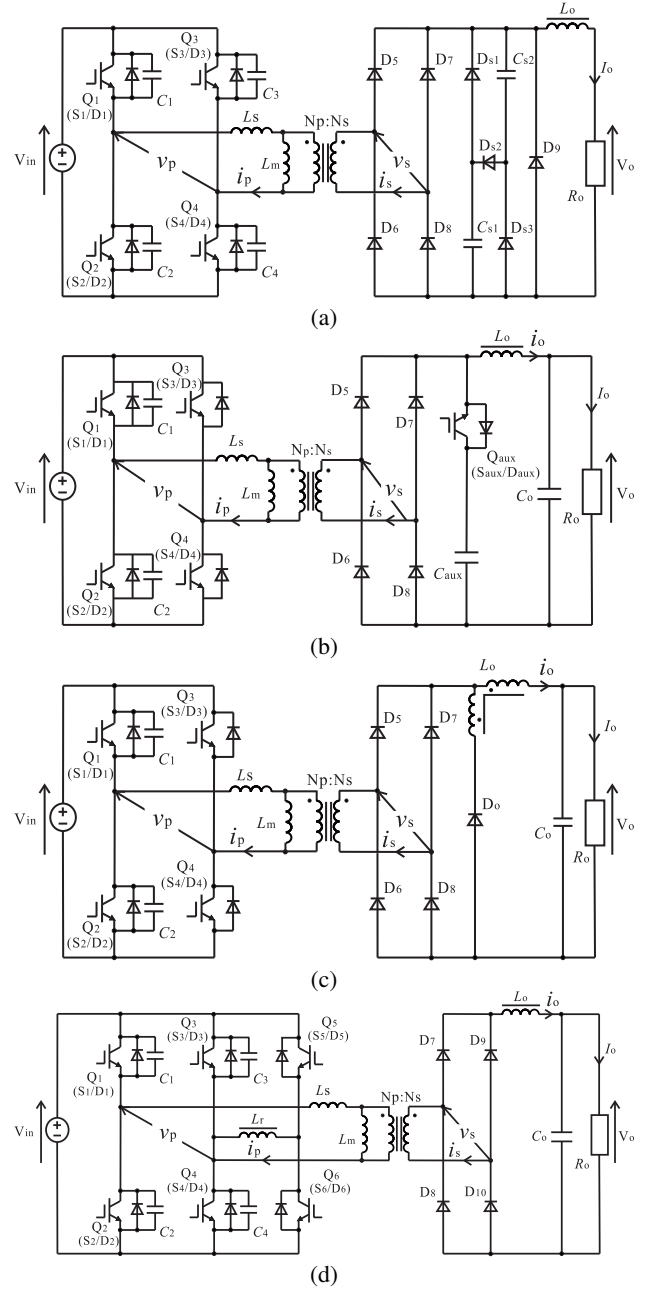


Fig. 5. Improved soft-switching PPS-PWM dc-dc converters: (a) capacitor & diode regenerative type [14], [15], (b) switched capacitor active clamp type [16], [17], (c) tapped inductor filter-assisted type [21], (d) primary-side additional resonant pole-assisted type [22].

- No additional magnetic component and capacitor is necessary as compared to the improved soft-switching PPS-PWM dc-dc converters mentioned above. This is advantageous for achieving high power density together with a light and compact size while decreasing a cost of development.
- No circulating current and the relevant power loss occurs in both of the primary and secondary-side power stages over the wide load range.
- Full-range soft-switching operations can be achieved in all of the switching power devices.
- A wide-range power regulation can be attained with the small phase shift angle variations.

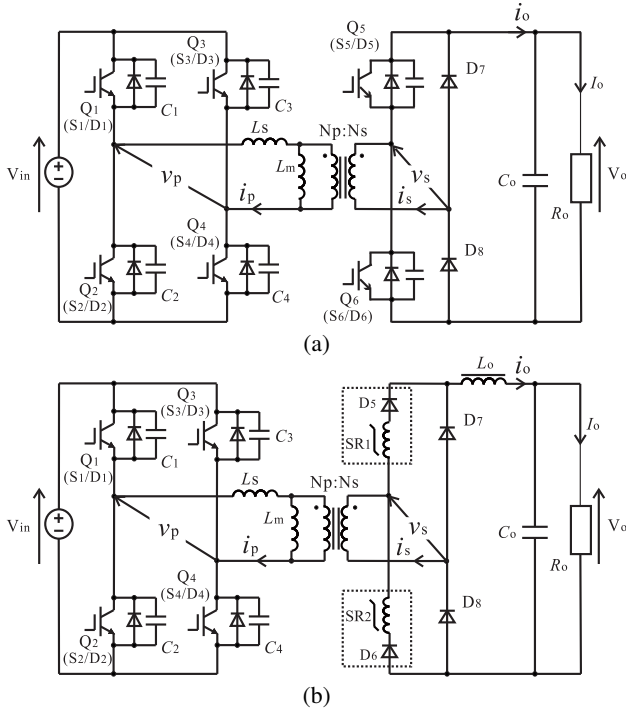


Fig. 6. Soft-switching SPS-PWM dc-dc converters: (a) ZVS active rectifier-assisted type [23], [24], (b) saturable reactor-assisted ZCS rectifier type [25].

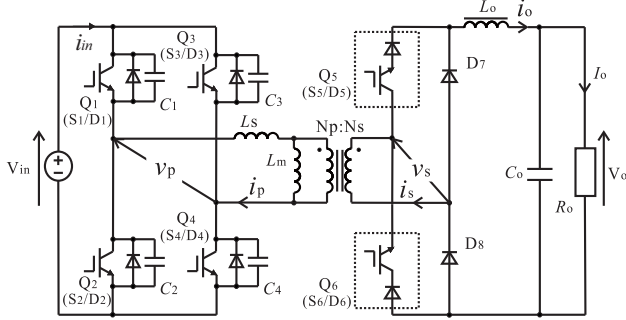


Fig. 7. Proposed soft-switching SPS-PWM dc-dc converter with ZCS active rectifier.

- The output power can be regulated linearly with the phase shift angle, thereby the control system is simpler than that of the conventional ZVS PS-PWM dc-dc converters.
- The ZCS active rectifier-assisted SPS-PWM scheme can be widely applied to other converter topologies such as half-bridge and center-tapped rectifier.

B. Operation Principle

The relevant operating waveforms are depicted in Fig. 8. The operation mode of the proposed soft-switching dc-dc converter treated herein is divided into the twelve sub-modes. The positive and negative half-cycle transitions are symmetrical, therefore only the positive half-cycle operation is explained as follows. Note here that the output smoothing inductor L_o is large enough to establish $\overline{i_o(t)} = I_o$ in the secondary-side circuit.

- Mode 0 [$t < t_0$], <steady-state power transfer mode>
The primary-side active switches Q_2 and Q_3 are on-state, while the active switch Q_6 and the diode D_7 in the

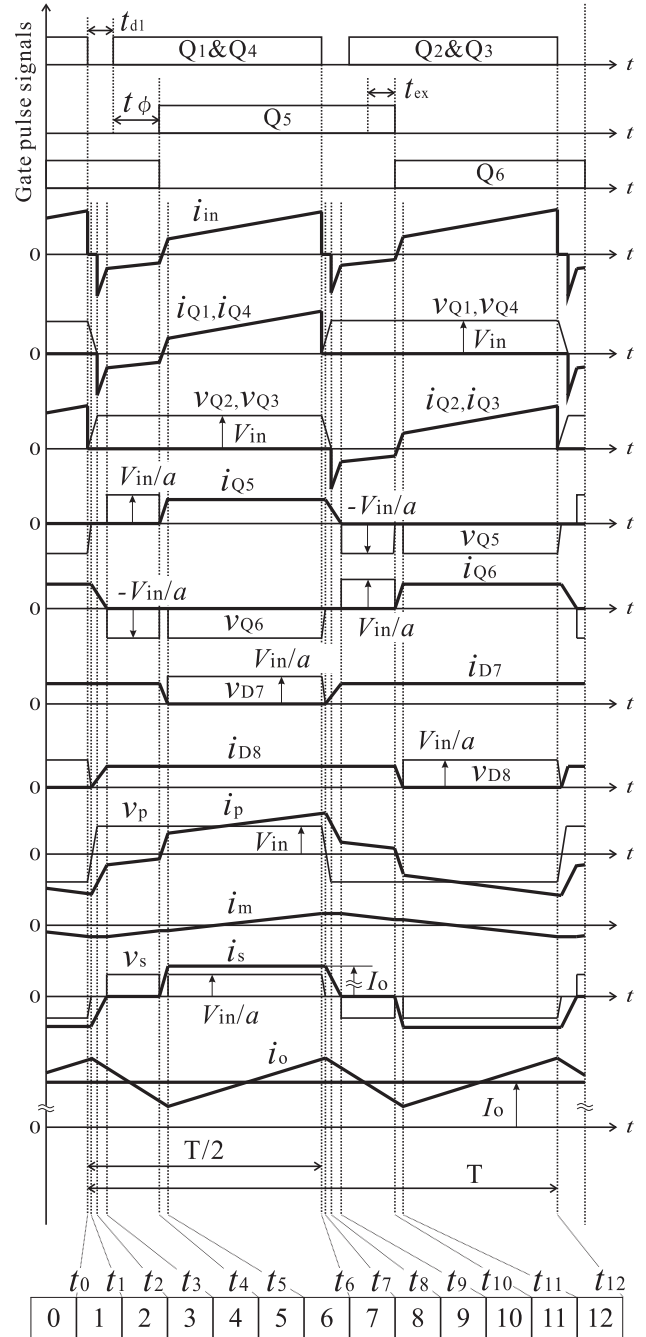


Fig. 8. Typical voltage and current operating waveforms of proposed soft-switching SPS-PWM dc-dc converter ($t_\phi = (\phi/360) \cdot T$).

secondary-side rectifier are on-state. During this mode, the electric power from the input voltage source V_{in} is delivered to the load R_o .

- Mode 1 [$t_0 \leq t < t_1$], < Q_2 & Q_3 ZVS turn-off mode>
From the steady-state negative half-cycle in the periodical circuit operation, the gate signals for S_2 and S_3 are removed simultaneously at $t = t_0$. Then, the lossless snubbing capacitors C_2 and C_3 are charged by the inverter current i_p , accordingly the voltages v_{Q2} and v_{Q3} across Q_2 and Q_3 rise gradually due to charging of C_2 and C_3 . At the same time, the voltages v_{Q1} and v_{Q4} across Q_1 and Q_4 decrease gradually from V_{in} to zero

by discharging of C_1 and C_4 . In this interval, the voltages across the primary-side active switches are expressed by defining $C_r = C_1 = C_2 = C_3 = C_4$ as

$$v_{Q2,Q3}(t) = \frac{i_{mp} + I_o/a}{2C_r}(t - t_0), \quad (1)$$

$$v_{Q1,Q4}(t) = V_{in} - v_{Q2,Q3}(t), \quad (2)$$

where i_{mp} is the peak of magnetizing current i_m and a denotes the winding turns ratio N_p/N_s of the HF transformer.

During this interval, the primary-side inverter current $i_p(t)$ begins to decline from the negative peak current $i_p(t_0)$ as expressed by

$$i_p(t) = \frac{V_{in}}{L_s}(t - t_0) + i_p(t_0). \quad (3)$$

The soft-switching conditions in the primary-side active switches are expressed as

$$\frac{1}{2}L_s\{i_p(t_0)\}^2 \geq 2C_r V_{in}^2. \quad (4)$$

- Mode 2 [$t_1 \leq t < t_2$], <D₈ ZCS turn-on mode>

When the winding voltage across primary-side transformer decays to zero due to the charging and discharging of C_1 – C_4 at $t = t_1$, the voltage across the secondary-side HF transformer winding terminals also becomes zero. Then, the diode D₈ is naturally forward-biased and its current linearly rises as

$$i_{D8}(t) = \frac{V_{in}}{aL_s}(t - t_1). \quad (5)$$

Thereby, ZCS turn-on can be attained in D₈. At the same instant, the current $i_s(t)$ of HF transformer secondary-side windings declines from i_o with the same gradient of (5) as

$$i_s(t) = \frac{V_{in}}{aL_s}(t - t_1) + i_o(t_1). \quad (6)$$

- Mode 3 [$t_2 \leq t < t_3$], <Primary-side inverter current regenerative mode>

ZVS turn-off operations of Q₂ and Q₃ sustaining from Mode 1 are completed at $t = t_2$ when the voltages v_{Q2} and v_{Q3} across Q₂ and Q₃ reach the dc input voltage V_{in} . Accordingly, the voltages v_{Q1} and v_{Q4} across Q₁ and Q₄ are forced to be zero at $t = t_2$, then their anti-parallel diodes D₁ and D₄ are forward biased. During this interval, i_p in the primary-side inverter keeps decreasing and approaching to zero as written by

$$i_p(t) = \frac{V_{in}}{L_s}(t - t_2) + i_p(t_2), \quad (7)$$

- Mode 4 [$t_3 \leq t < t_4$], <Q₁ & Q₄ ZVZCS turn-on / Q₆ ZCS turn-off mode>

When i_p is equal to i_{mp} at $t = t_3$, the current through the HF transformer secondary-side winding and Q₆ decays to zero. Then, the primary-side and secondary-side power circuits are separated. In this interval, the inverter current i_p of the proposed dc-dc converter is defined as

$$i_p(t) = \frac{V_{in} - aV_o}{L_s}(t - t_3) + i_p(t_3). \quad (8)$$

The inverter current i_p equals to i_m in this interval, and the magnetic energy of HF transformer is reset to V_{in} . The peak inverter current $i_p(t_0)$ is larger than or equal to i_{mp} under the light load condition because i_m is independent of the load current I_o . Therefore, the proposed dc-dc converter can achieve the soft-switching operations over the wide load range by designing i_{mp} . The signals for S₁ and S₄ are triggered while D₁ and D₄ are still conducting, consequently ZVZCS turn-on can be achieved in Q₁ and Q₄.

The current of the secondary-side active switch i_{Q6} decays to zero together with i_s . After that, the gate signal for S₆ is removed, and the ZCS turn-off commutation can be achieved in Q₆. In order to achieve the ZCS turn-off commutation, the turn-off timing in Q₆ is required to be delayed by t_{ex} against the turn-off timing of Q₁, Q₄. Using (6), t_{ex} is expressed by

$$t_{ex} \geq \frac{aL_s}{V_{in}}I_o. \quad (9)$$

- Mode 5 [$t_4 \leq t < t_5$], <Q₅ ZCS turn-on/ZCS turn-off mode>

The gate of S₅ is supplied at $t = t_4$, then i_s as well as i_p increases gradually due to the effect of L_s . Thus, the ZCS turn-on commutation can be performed in Q₅. During this interval, i_p and i_s can be defined respectively as

$$i_p(t) = \frac{V_{in}}{L_s}(t - t_4) + i_p(t_4), \quad (10)$$

$$i_s(t) = a(i_p - i_m). \quad (11)$$

The HF transformer secondary-side current i_s gradually commutates to Q₅, thereby the current i_{D7} through D₇ begins to decline.

- Mode 6 [$t_5 \leq t < t_6$], <D₇ positive half-cycle steady-state power transfer mode>

The inverter current i_p corresponds with i_m at $t = t_5$. Then the current i_{D7} through D₇ naturally decays to zero owing to the effect of L_s , thereby ZCS turn-off operation can be realized in D₇. After the moment, the power is delivered from V_{in} to the load R_o and the circuit operations get into the negative half cycle. At this time, i_p is denoted as

$$i_p(t) = \frac{V_{in} - aV_o}{L_s}(t - t_5) + i_p(t_5). \quad (12)$$

III. ANALYSIS AND DESIGN OF SOFT-SWITCHING RANGE

The primary-side inverter voltage and current waveforms of the conventional ZVS PPS-PWM dc-dc converter and the proposed soft-switching SPS-PWM dc-dc converter are depicted in Figs. 10 and 11, respectively. Note in those figures that the time origin t_o is set to be 0 for simplifying the explanations below.

The primary-side inverter peak current $i_p(0)$ of both PPS-PWM and SPS-PWM dc-dc converters is generally expressed as

$$i_p(0) = i_{mp} + \frac{I_o}{a}. \quad (13)$$

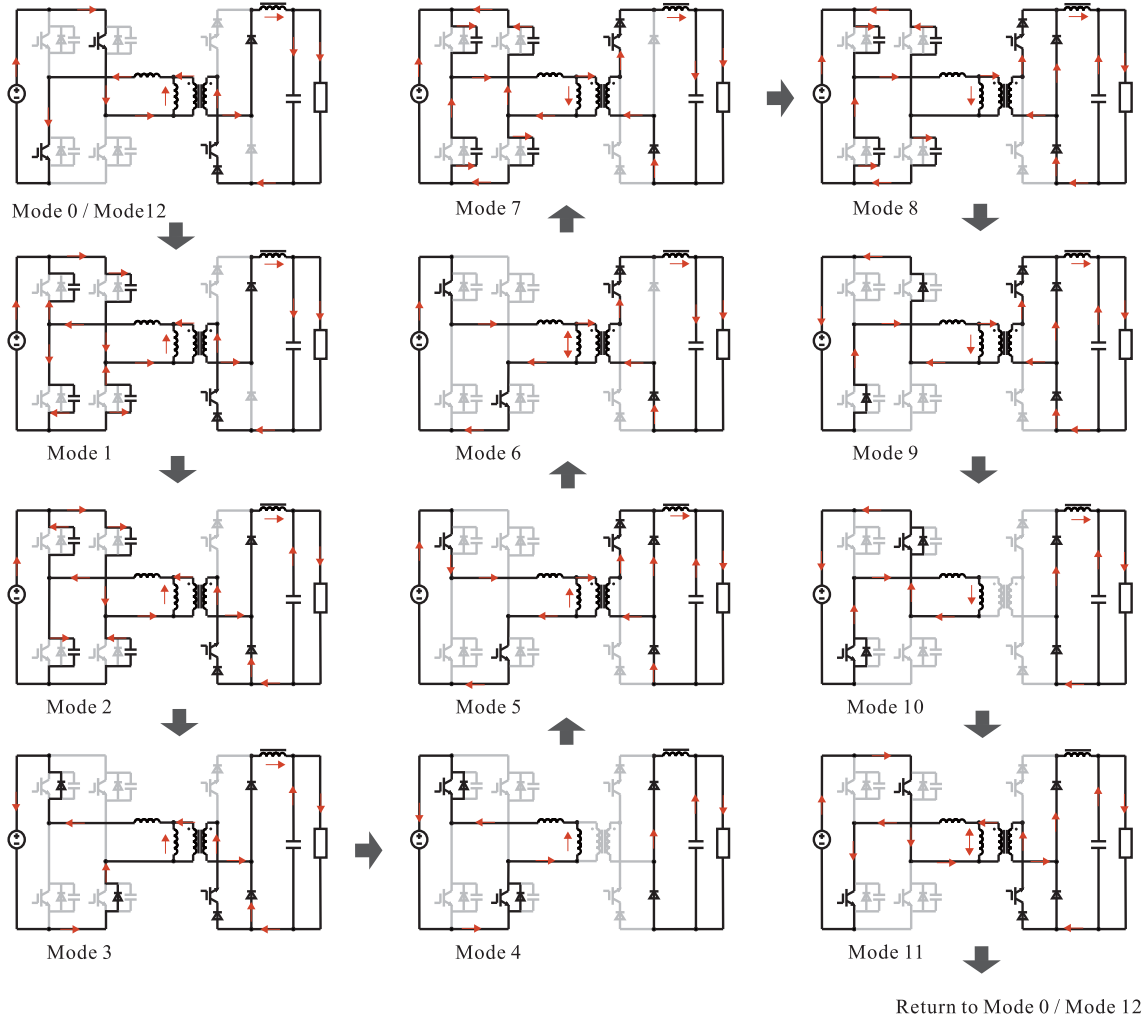


Fig. 9. Mode transitions and switching-mode equivalent circuits during one switching cycle.

From (13), $i_p(0)$ depends on the load current I_o and the peak value of magnetizing current i_{mp} as portrayed in Fig. 4. The peak value of magnetizing current in the conventional ZVS PPS-PWM dc-dc converter is defined from Fig. 10 as

$$i_{mp} = \frac{V_{in}}{2(L_s + L_m)} \cdot \left(\frac{T}{2} - t_\phi \right). \quad (14)$$

Therefore, ZVS operations in the primary-side active switches of the PPS-PWM dc-dc converter can not be achieved in the light load range due to the reduction of the magnetic energy.

On the other hand, the peak value of magnetizing current i_{mp} in the proposed soft-switching dc-dc converter is load-independent. Therefore, i_{mp} corresponds with the minimum value of the HF full-bridge inverter current i_p for no load as indicated in Fig. 11.

The peak value of magnetizing current i_{mp} herein can be derived by referring to Fig. 11 as

$$i_{mp} = i_m(T/2) = \frac{V_{in}}{L_s + L_m} \cdot \frac{T}{2} + i_m(0). \quad (15)$$

Since the periodical waveform condition $i_m(0) = -i_m(T/2)$ can be established, the peak value of magnetizing current i_{mp} can be determined by deforming (15) as

$$i_{mp} = \frac{V_{in}}{2(L_s + L_m)} \cdot \frac{T}{2}. \quad (16)$$

It can be known from (13) that $i_p(0)$ of the proposed soft-switching dc-dc converter is constantly larger than i_{mp} which is the load independent value. Therefore, ZVS operations can be achieved in the primary-side active switches of the proposed soft-switching dc-dc converter from no load to full load range by properly designing i_{mp} .

The on-intervals of secondary-side active switches Q_5 and Q_6 should be extended to 50 % to ensure the ZCS operations as shown in Fig. 12, which implies no dead time exists in the gate-pulse timings between Q_5 and Q_6 . The extended duration t_{ex} in the gate signals for Q_5, Q_6 and the dead time t_{d1} of the primary-side active switches are required to satisfy the condition $t_{d1} \geq t_{ex}$.

All of the on-interval $T/2$ in Fig. 12 excluding the dead time t_{d1} of the primary-side active switches is utilized for ZVS in the primary-side and ZCS in the secondary-side, then the soft-switching range index K of the proposed dc-dc converter is defined as

$$K = \frac{T/2 - t_{ex}}{T/2}. \quad (17)$$

The magnetizing inductance L_m is defined from (4) and (16)

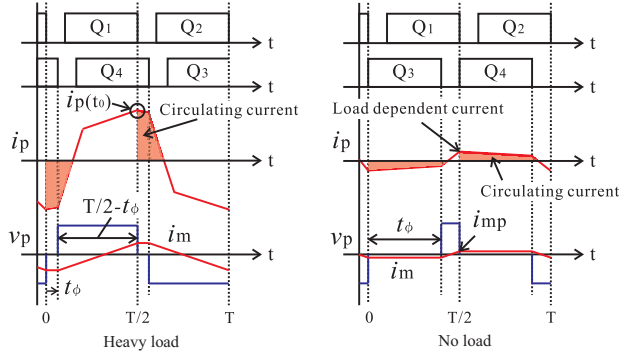


Fig. 10. Primary-side voltage and current waveforms of HF transformer in the conventional ZVS PPS-PWM dc-dc converter (t_ϕ : phase-shift interval).

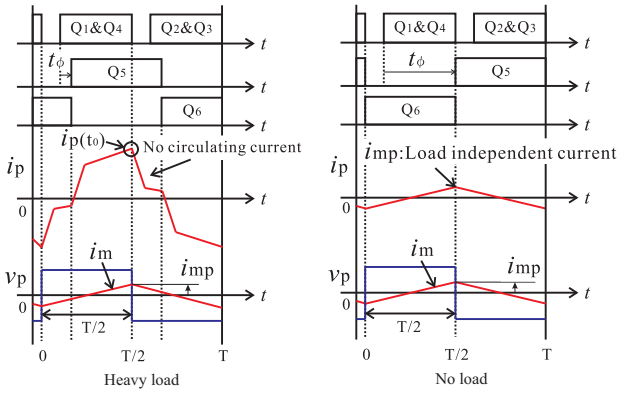


Fig. 11. Primary-side voltage and current waveforms of HF transformer in the proposed soft-switching SPS-PWM dc-dc converter (t_ϕ : phase-shift interval).

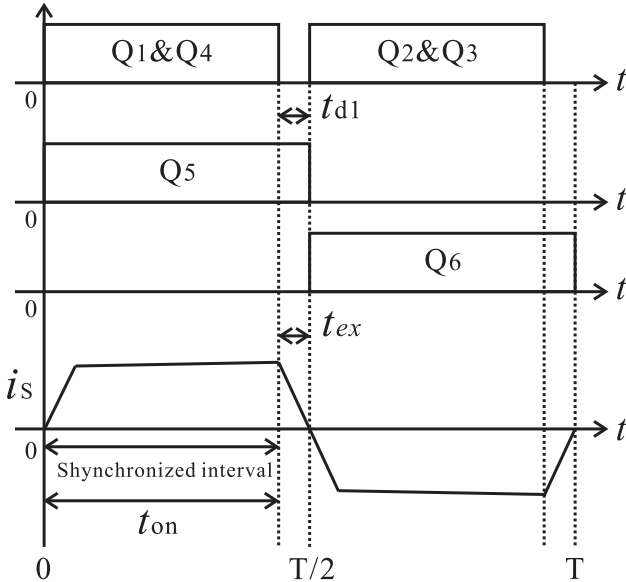


Fig. 12. Gate pulses sequences for the primary-side ZVS and secondary-side ZCS operations for the full load condition (no phase-shifting: $t_\phi = 0$).

under the conditions of $i_m(t_0) = i_m(0) = i_{mp}$ as

$$L_m = \frac{1}{4} \cdot \sqrt{\frac{L_s}{C_r}} \cdot \left(\frac{T}{2}\right) - L_s. \quad (18)$$

The HF inverter current $i_p(T/2)$ necessary for guaranteeing ZVS operations under no load condition is redefined by using

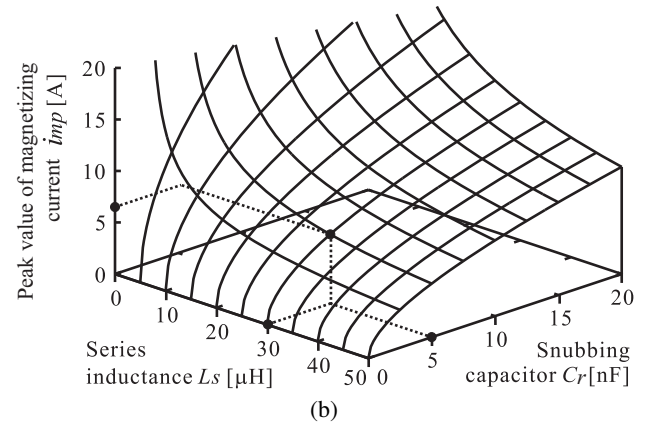
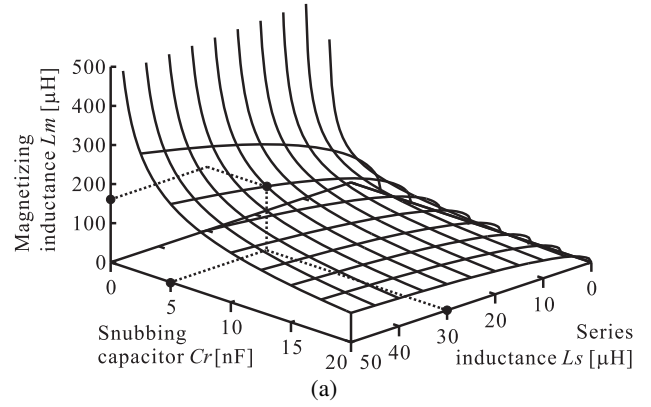


Fig. 13. Relationships of the HF transformer parameters ($V_{in} = 260$ V, $f_s = 50$ kHz): (a) magnetizing inductance L_m , (b) peak magnetizing current i_{mp} .

(4) as

$$i_p(T/2) = i_{mp} = \frac{2V_{in}}{\sqrt{L_s/C_r}}. \quad (19)$$

From (18) and (19), the variations of the magnetizing inductance L_m in the HF transformer parameter with respect to the series inductor L_s are shown in Fig. 13. As can be seen in Fig. 13(a), the magnetizing inductance L_m rises gradually as the series inductor L_s increases. Therefore, the peak value of magnetizing current i_{mp} is reduced as depicted in Fig. 13(b). The series inductor L_s is expressed on the basis of (18) by defining the inductance ratio $\zeta = L_m/L_s$ as

$$L_s = \frac{1}{16C_r(1+\zeta)^2} \cdot \left(\frac{T}{2}\right)^2. \quad (20)$$

Eq. (20) indicates the series inductor L_s changes in accordance with the setting value of inductance ratio ζ .

Since the dead time of the proposed soft-switching SPS-PWM dc-dc converter is $t_{d1} \geq t_{ex}$, the soft-switching range index K in (17) is rewritten by using (9) and (20) as

$$K = 1 - \frac{aI_o}{V_{in}} \cdot \frac{1}{16C_r(1+\zeta)^2} \cdot \left(\frac{T}{2}\right). \quad (21)$$

The soft-switching range index K is analytically depicted in Fig. 14. It can be understood from Fig. 14 that the soft-switching range depends on the dc input voltage V_{in} , lossless snubbing capacitor C_r , load current I_o , and the inductance ratio ζ . In Fig. 14, L_s decreases if the soft-switching range is large, consequently i_{mp} increases as expressed by (19).

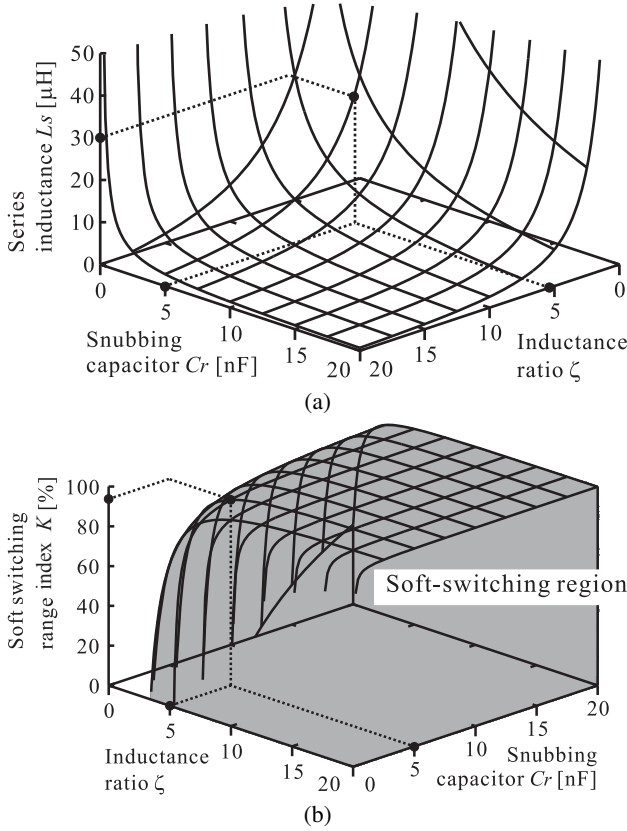


Fig. 14. Characteristics of soft-switching range with relevant circuit parameters ($V_{in} = 260$ V, $f_s = 50$ kHz): (a) series inductance L_s , (b) soft-switching range index K .

Therefore, the peak value of magnetizing current i_{mp} should be designed as small as possible because the conduction losses related to the transitional interval of Mode 4 increase in accordance with the rise of i_{mp} .

IV. ANALYSIS OF SPS-BASED OUTPUT POWER REGULATIONS

The output power characteristics with the phase shift angle ϕ (phase shift interval t_ϕ) can be expressed on the basis of the primary-side referred equivalent circuits as shown in Fig. 15.

By assuming the time origin $t_0 = 0$ for simplicity, the primary-side inverter current i_p can be specified for each interval in Fig. 15 under the condition by using (3), (8), (10) and (12) as

$$i_{p1}(t) = \frac{V_{in}}{L_s}(t) + i_p(0) \quad (22)$$

$$i_{p2}(t) = \frac{V_{in}}{L_s} \left(t + \frac{aV_o}{V_{in}} t_3 \right) + i_p(0) \quad (23)$$

$$i_{p3}(t) = \frac{V_{in}}{L_s} \left\{ t - \frac{1}{1+1/\zeta} (t_4 - t_3) \right\} + i_p(0) \quad (24)$$

$$i_{p4}(t) = \frac{V_{in}}{L_s} \left\{ \left(1 - \frac{aV_o}{V_{in}} \right) t + \frac{aV_o}{V_{in}} - \frac{1}{1+1/\zeta} (t_4 - t_3) \right\} + i_p(0) \quad (25)$$

By proving the periodical waveform condition $i_p(T/2) =$

$-i_p(t_0)$, combination of (22) and (25) yields $i_p(t_0)$ as

$$i_p(t_0) = \frac{V_{in}}{2L_s} \left\{ \frac{1}{1+1/\zeta} (t_4 - t_3) - \left(1 - \frac{aV_o}{V_{in}} \right) \cdot \frac{T}{2} - \frac{aV_o}{V_{in}} \right\} \quad (26)$$

Then, the ampere-second values of each time interval in Fig. 15 are expressed by

$$\begin{aligned} S_1 &= \int_{t_0}^{t_3} i_{p1}(t) dt \\ &= \frac{t_1}{2L_s} \left[V_{in} t_1 + V_{in} \left\{ \frac{1}{1+1/\zeta} (t_4 - t_3) - \frac{T}{2} \right\} \right. \\ &\quad \left. + aV_o \left(\frac{T}{2} - t_5 \right) \right] \end{aligned} \quad (27)$$

$$\begin{aligned} S_2 &= \int_{t_3}^{t_4} i_{p2}(t) dt \\ &= \frac{t_4 - t_3}{2L_s} \left[\frac{2}{1+1/\zeta} V_{in} (t_4 + t_3) - \frac{V_{in} T}{2} (t_4 - t_3) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + aV_o \left(\frac{T}{2} - t_5 \right) \right] \end{aligned} \quad (28)$$

$$\begin{aligned} S_3 &= \int_{t_4}^{t_5} i_{p3}(t) dt = \frac{t_5 - t_4}{2L_s} \left[V_{in} (t_5 + t_4) \right. \\ &\quad \left. - V_{in} \left\{ \frac{1}{1+1/\zeta} (t_4 - t_3) + \frac{T}{2} \right\} + aV_o \left(\frac{T}{2} - t_5 \right) \right] \end{aligned} \quad (29)$$

$$\begin{aligned} S_4 &= \int_{t_5}^{T/2} i_{p4}(t) dt = \frac{T/2 - t_5}{2L_s} \left[(V_{in} - aV_o) \left\{ \left(\frac{T}{2} \right) + t_5 \right\} \right. \\ &\quad \left. - V_{in} \left\{ \frac{1}{1+1/\zeta} (t_4 - t_3) + \frac{T}{2} \right\} + aV_o \left(\frac{T}{2} + t_5 \right) \right] \end{aligned} \quad (30)$$

The ampere-second value $S_o = \sum_{k=1}^4 S_k$ of the HF transformer primary-side current i_p for half a switching cycle can be obtained from (27)–(30) as

$$\begin{aligned} S_o &= \frac{1}{2L_s} \left[V_{in} \cdot \frac{1}{1+1/\zeta} (t_4 - t_3) \left(t_4 + t_3 - \frac{T}{2} \right) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + aV_o \cdot t_5 \left(\frac{T}{2} - t_5 \right) \right] \end{aligned} \quad (31)$$

By giving the time conditions of $t_4 = t_3 + t_\phi$, $t_5 = 2t_3 + t_\phi$ and neglecting power losses of the dc-dc converter, the output power P_o of the proposed soft-switching dc-dc converter is defined as

$$\begin{aligned} P_o &= V_{in} \bar{i}_p = 2V_{in} \cdot \frac{S_o}{T} \\ &= \frac{V_{in}}{TL_s} \left[V_{in} \cdot \frac{1}{1+1/\zeta} \cdot t_\phi \left(2t_3 + t_\phi - \frac{T}{2} \right) \right. \\ &\quad \left. - aV_o (2t_3 + t_\phi) \left(2t_3 + t_\phi - \frac{T}{2} \right) \right] \end{aligned} \quad (32)$$

Fig. 16 illustrates the output power vs. phase shift angle characteristics by the computer-aided theoretical analysis based on (32) and the simulations under the open and closed loop control schemes, respectively. The simulation circuit

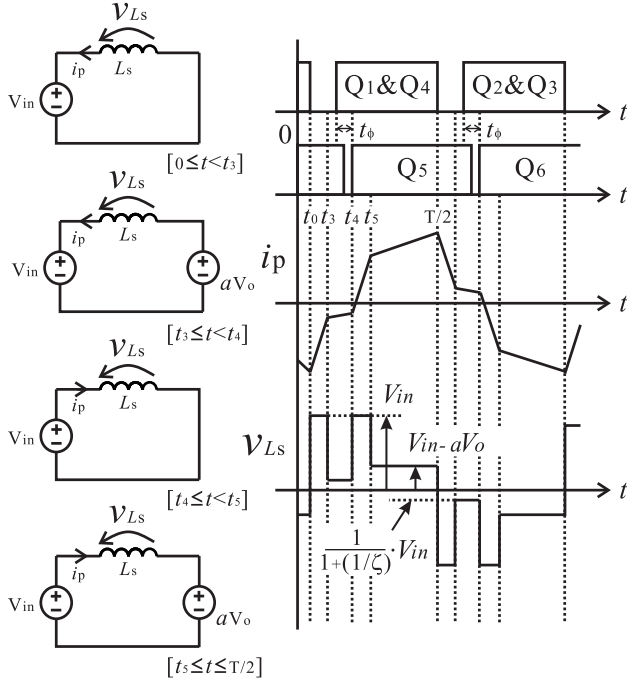


Fig. 15. Primary-side referred simplified equivalent circuits and waveforms for a half switching cycle.

TABLE I
SIMULATION CIRCUIT PARAMETERS.

Parameter	Symbol	Value unit
DC input voltage rating	V_{in}	260 V
Output power rating	$P_{o,rating}$	1 kW
Switching frequency	f_s	50 kHz
Loss-less snubbing capacitors	$C_r(C_1 - C_4)$	3 nF
Rated load resistance	R_o	40 Ω
Output smoothing capacitor	C_o	1500 μ F
Output smoothing inductor	L_o	620 μ H
HF transformer turns ratio	$a = N_p/N_s$	8 / 8
HF transformer magnetizing inductance	L_m	230 μ H
HF transformer series inductance	L_s	33 μ H

parameters are indicated in TABLE I. It can be confirmed in Fig. 16 that the proposed soft-switching SPS-PWM dc-dc converter can attain the power regulation from the full load to no load under the complete soft-switching operations. The simulation values well agree with the theoretical ones, thereby the validity of the analysis based on (32) is proven.

The output power and output voltage can be controlled by the small phase shift angle as depicted in Fig. 16(b), which indicates that the proposed soft-switching SPS-PWM dc-dc converter has a good response to the load variations.

V. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

A. Specification of Experimental Prototype

The switching performances and the steady-state characteristics of the proposed soft-switching SPS-PWM dc-dc converter are investigated in an experiment based on the laboratory prototype.

The schematic diagram of experimental circuit is shown in Fig. 17. The exterior appearances of laboratory prototype

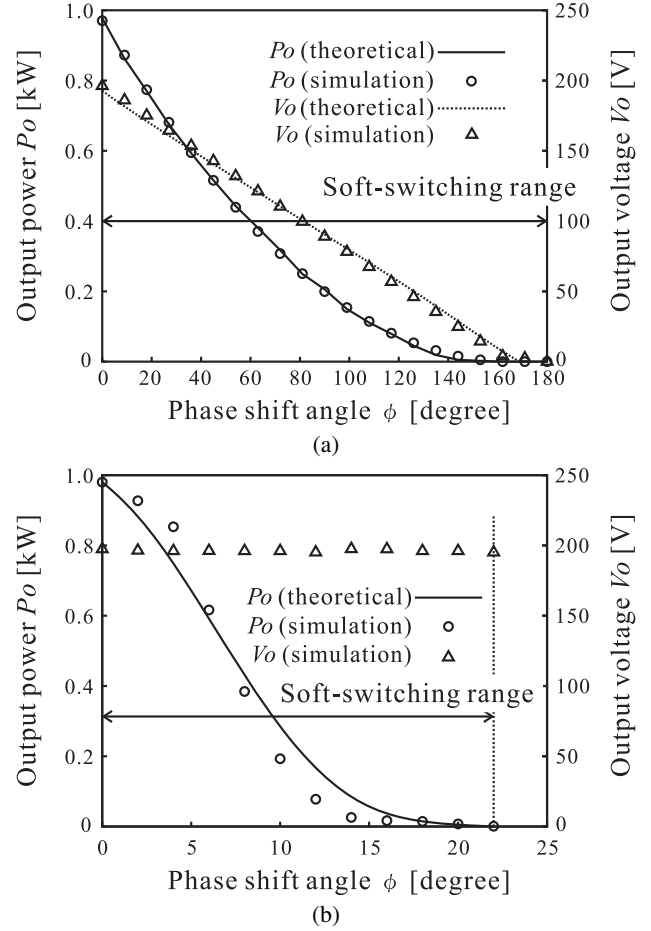


Fig. 16. Theoretical and simulation characteristics of output power and voltage vs. phase shift angle ($\zeta = 7$): (a) open loop, (b) closed loop control.

are depicted in Fig. 18. In this experiment, the laboratory prototype is designed as the preliminary step to be applied for the EV battery charging system, then an electric dc load is employed instead of battery packs for simplifying the experimental verifications as portrayed in Fig. 18(a). The phase shift gate signals for S_1 – S_6 are generated by using a phase shift PWM IC – $UCC3895$, and the closed loop control can be realized by a voltage PI controller. The primary-side active switches Q_1 – Q_4 are implemented with High Speed IGBTs IXGN 60N60C2D1 while the secondary-side switches Q_5 and Q_6 are composed by combination of a high speed IGBT IXGN 60N60C2D1 and a fast recovery diode (FRD) module DSEI2x31-06C as depicted in Fig. 18(b). In order to impose the reverse voltages into D_5 and D_6 properly, the antiparallel diodes-packed IGBTs are employed for S_5 and S_6 in the ZCS active rectifier.

The circuit parameters and specifications are illustrated in TABLE II.

B. Converter Design Procedure

The design procedure of circuit parameters in the prototype is demonstrated by using the numerical example of rating values as follows: dc input voltage $V_{in} = 260$ V, output power rating $P_{o,rating} = 1$ kW, switching frequency $f_s = 50$ kHz, and rated load resistance $R_o = 40 \Omega$.

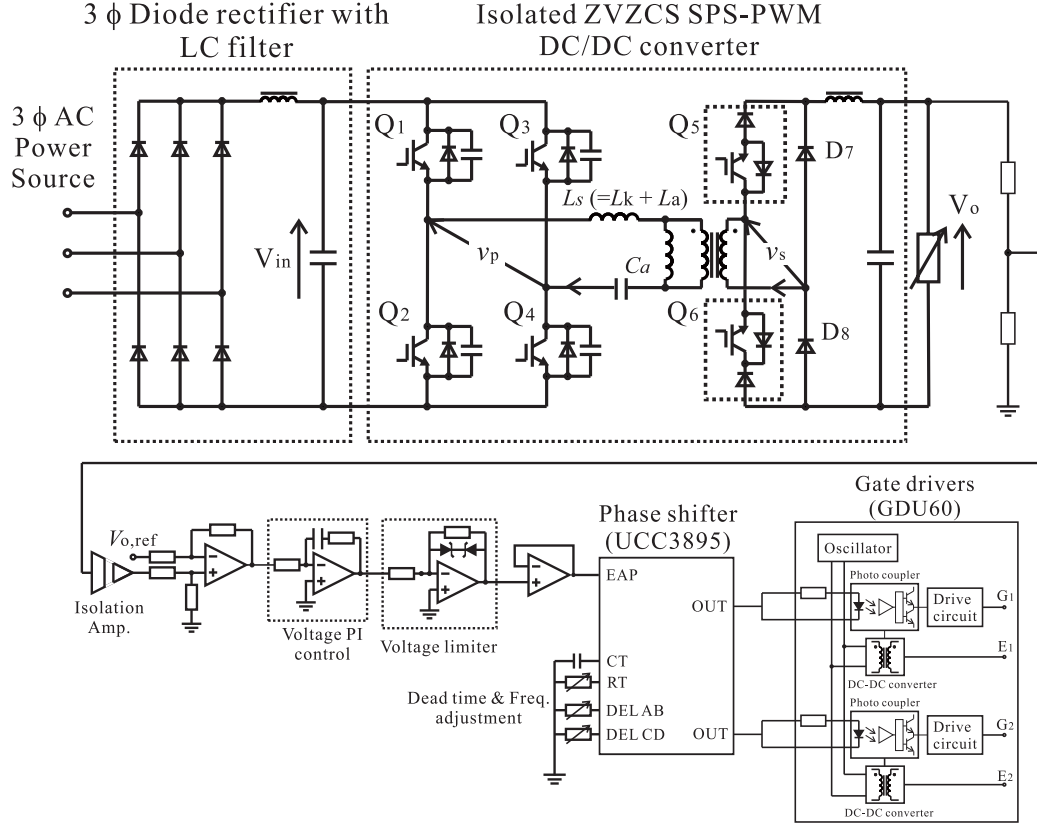


Fig. 17. Schematic diagram of laboratory prototype.

TABLE II
CIRCUIT PARAMETERS AND SPECIFICATIONS OF LABORATORY PROTOTYPE.

Parameter	Symbol	Value unit
DC input voltage rating	V_{in}	260 V
Output power rating	$P_{o,rating}$	1 kW
Switching frequency	f_s	50 kHz
Loss-less snubbing capacitors	$C_r (C_1 - C_4)$	3 nF
Auxiliary capacitor for DC magnetization protecting	C_a	30 μ F
Rated load resistance	R_o	40 Ω
Output smoothing capacitor	C_o	1500 μ F
Output smoothing inductor	L_o	620 μ H
Additional series inductor	L_a	30 μ H
HF transformer turns ratio	$a = N_p/N_s$	8 / 8
HF transformer magnetizing inductance	L_m	230 μ H
HF transformer leakage inductance	L_k	1.2 μ H
HF transformer series inductance	$L_s (= L_a + L_k)$	31.2 μ H

·Q₁–Q₄: IXYS IXGN60N60C2D1
 ·Q₅, Q₆: IXYS IXGN60N60C2D1 & DSEI2x31-06C
 ·D₇, D₈: IXYS DSEI2x31-06C

Assuming that the conduction losses, switching losses, and the equivalent series resistances (ESRs) of the input and output filters are neglected, the rating values of output voltage V_o and current I_o are determined by

$$V_o = \sqrt{P_{o,rating} \cdot R_o} = 200 \text{ V}, \quad (33)$$

$$I_o = \sqrt{\frac{P_{o,rating}}{R_o}} = 5 \text{ A}. \quad (34)$$

Accordingly, the peak value of magnetizing current i_{mp} is

set to be 5 A in order to achieve the ZVS operations of the primary-side active switches Q₁–Q₄ over the wide load range. When the $\Delta v/\Delta t$ values of Q₁–Q₄ are given to be 2 kV/ μ s, the lossless snubbing capacitors C_r are calculated by

$$C_r = \frac{i_{mp} + I_o/a}{2} \cdot \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta v} = 2.5 \text{ nF}. \quad (35)$$

Using (4), the HF transformer series inductance L_s including its leakage inductance L_k can be determined as

$$L_s \geq \frac{4C_r V_{in}^2}{i_{mp}^2} = 27 \mu\text{H}. \quad (36)$$

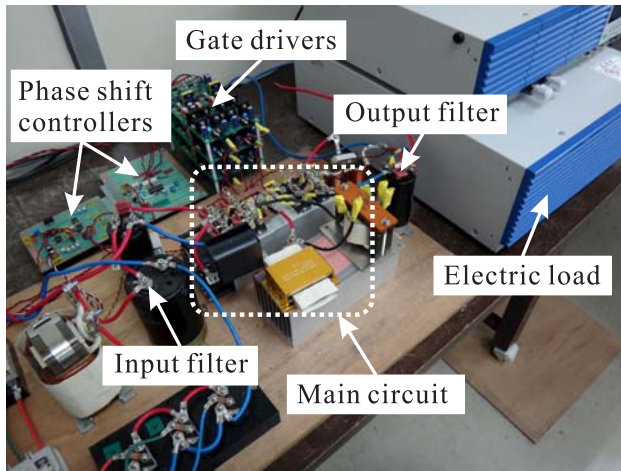
Then, it is reasonable to select the additional inductor $L_a = 30 \mu\text{H}$ in series with the leakage inductance $L_k = 1.2 \mu\text{H}$ of the HF transformer. The HF inverter current i_p is equal to the magnetizing current i_m under the no load condition ($t_\phi = T/2$). Therefore, the HF inverter peak current $i_p(t_0)$ for no load condition corresponds with i_{mp} . Thus, L_m can be obtained as

$$L_m = \frac{V_{in}}{2i_{mp}} \cdot \frac{T}{2} - L_s = 230 \mu\text{H}, \quad (37)$$

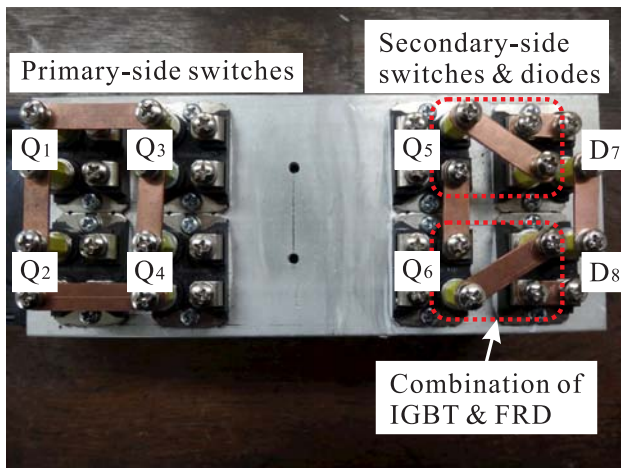
where T denotes the interval of one switching cycle ($T = 1/f_s$).

The minimum dead time $t_{d1,min}$ of the primary-side active switches for no load condition can be determined as

$$t_{d1,min} = \frac{2C_r N_T V_{in}}{i_{mp}} = 0.26 \mu\text{s}. \quad (38)$$



(a)



(b)

Fig. 18. Exterior appearance of 1 kW–50 kHz laboratory prototype: (a) experimental circuit, (b) active switches and diodes implementations.

The dead time t_{d1} of the primary-side inverter is determined by considering t_{ex} in (9) as

$$t_{d1} = \frac{aL_s}{V_{in}} I_o \cong 0.57 \mu s. \quad (39)$$

In contrast, the dead time t_{d2} of the secondary-side active rectifier is set to be $t_{d2} \cong 0$ as a minimum value according to the converter operating principle mentioned above.

C. Switching Operations

The measured switching waveforms of the active switches and the rectifying diodes are depicted in Fig. 19 under the condition of $P_o = 580$ W and $\phi = 36^\circ$. In addition, the corresponding voltage and current lissajous figures are indicated in Fig. 20. It can be actually confirmed from those results that ZVZCS turn-on and ZVS turn-off in the primary-side active switch Q_1 , ZCS turn-on/off in the secondary-side active switch Q_5 and ZCS turn-on/off commutations in the rectifying diode D_8 can be actually attained, respectively.

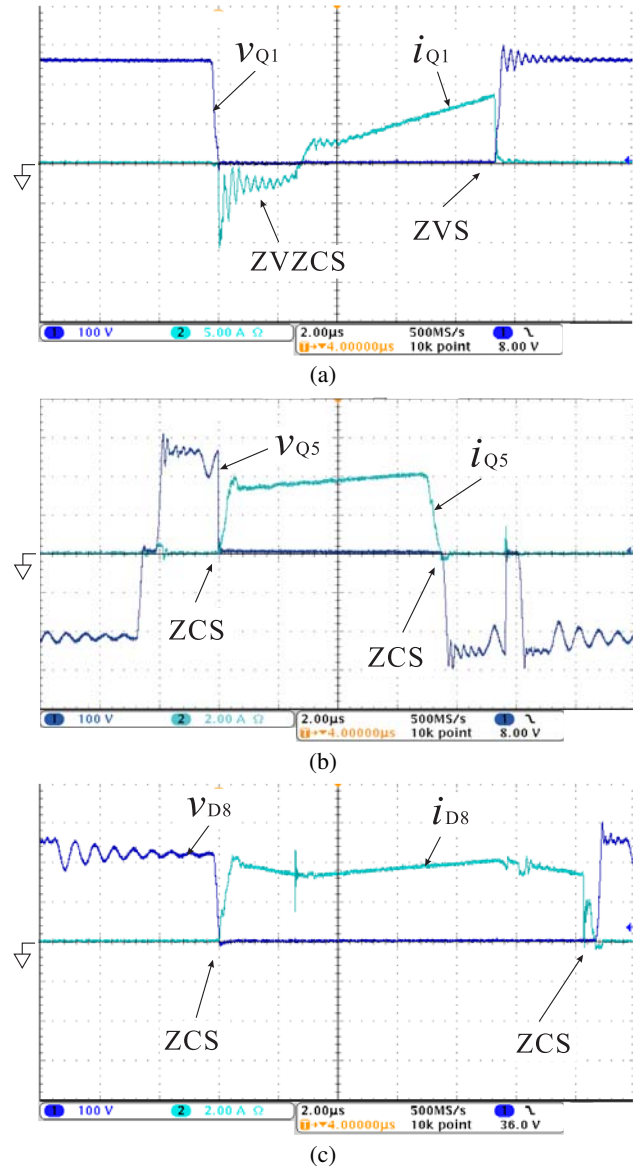


Fig. 19. Measured converter operating waveforms at $\phi = 36^\circ$ and $P_o = 580$ W: (a) primary-side switch Q_1 , (b) secondary-side switch Q_5 , (c) secondary-side diode D_8 (100 V/div, 2 A/div, 2 μ s/div).

The measured switching waveforms under the condition of light load power setting ($P_o = 60$ W, $\phi = 117^\circ$) is illustrated in Fig. 21. In addition, the corresponding voltage and current lissajous figures are indicated in Fig. 22. It is clearly demonstrated in Figs. 21 and 22 that the proposed soft-switching SPS-PWM dc-dc converter can achieve the soft-switching operation even in the light load by designing the circuit parameters on the basis of the design guideline.

The voltage and current waveforms of the primary-side inverter and the secondary-side rectifier are demonstrated for the two sets of load conditions in Figs. 23 and 24. It can be confirmed from the measured waveforms that circulating currents both of the primary and secondary-side circuits are well reduced in the proposed dc-dc converter over the wide load range. Thus, the effectiveness of the ZCS active rectifier-assisted SPS-PWM scheme is actually verified.

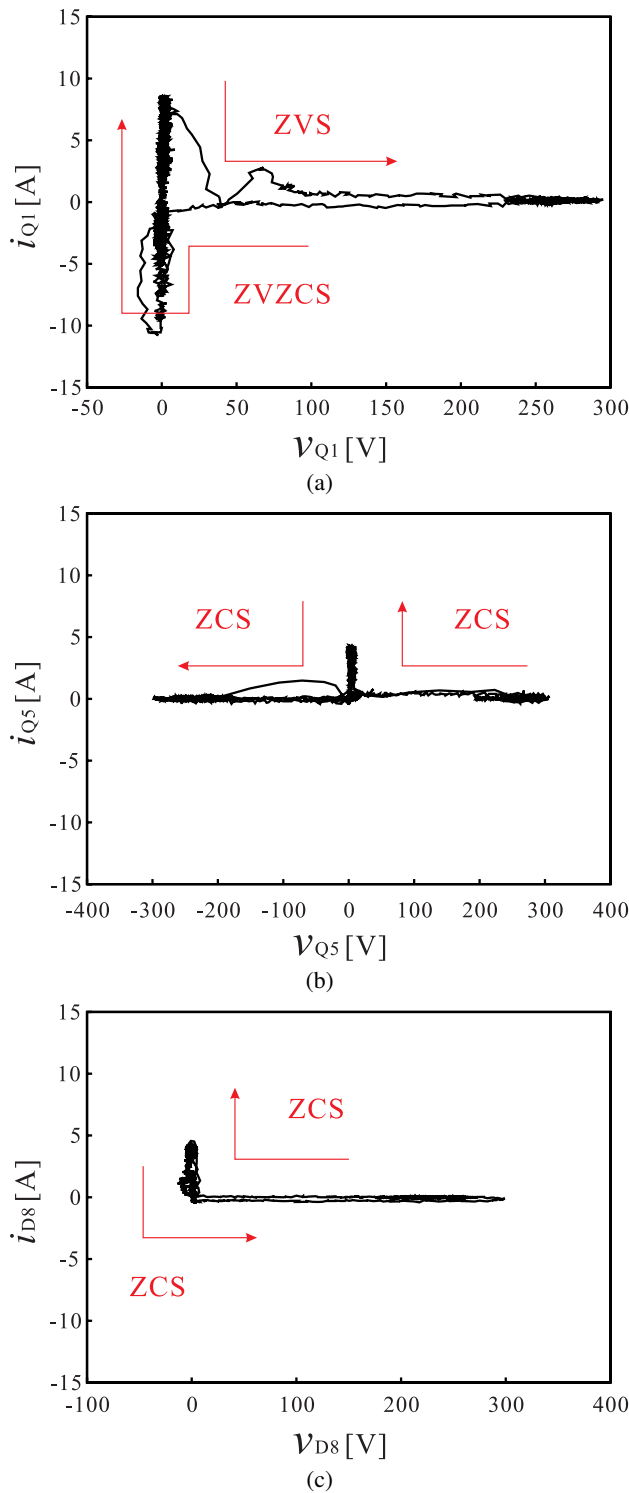


Fig. 20. Active switches and diodes lissajous figures at $\phi = 36^\circ$ and $P_o = 580$ W: (a) primary-side switch Q_1 , (b) secondary-side switch Q_5 , (c) secondary-side diode D_8 .

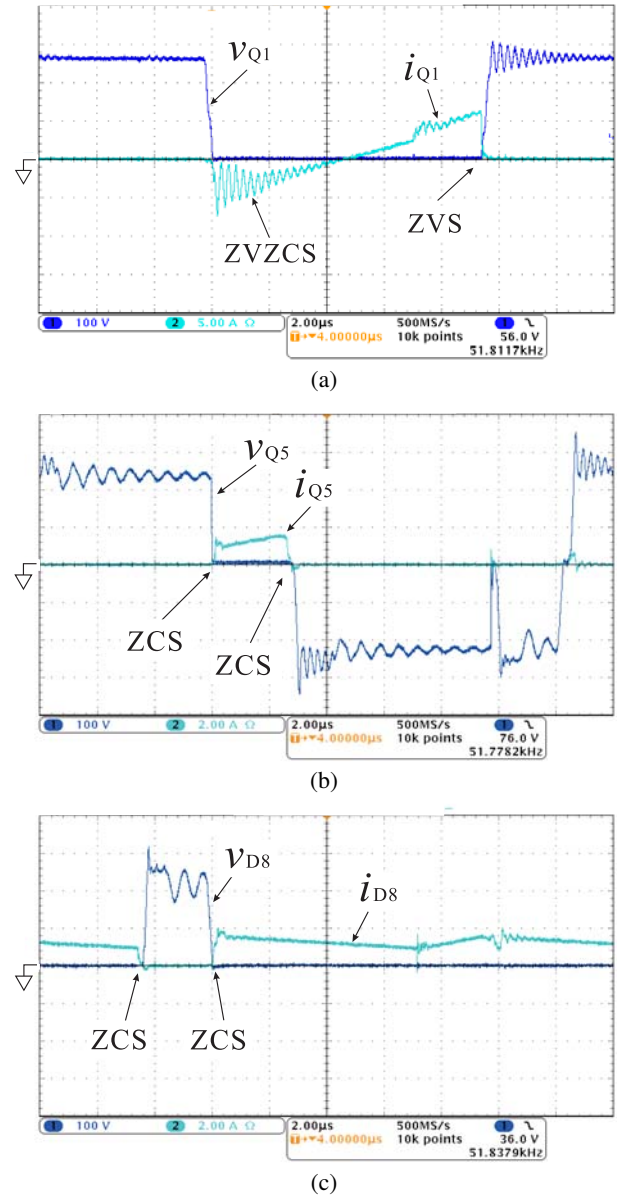


Fig. 21. Measured converter operating waveforms at $\phi = 117^\circ$ and $P_o = 60$ W: (a) primary-side switch Q_1 , (b) secondary-side switch Q_5 , (c) secondary-side diode D_8 (100 V/div, 2 A/div, 2 μ s/div).

D. Steady-State Characteristics

The characteristics of the output power and voltage vs. phase shift angle are illustrated in Fig. 25 for the open loop and closed loop controls, respectively.

The wide-range output power and voltage regulations as well as the full-range soft switching operations of the proposed soft-switching SPS-PWM dc-dc converter can be observed in Fig. 25 (a) under the condition of variable output voltage. The experimental characteristics well agree with the theoretical and simulation ones in Fig. 16(a).

The output power and voltage regulation characteristics with the closed loop control are provided in Fig. 25 (b). The output power and voltage can be widely controlled with the relatively small variation of the phase shift angle under the condition of constant output voltage. The experimental characteristics well agree with the theoretical and simulation ones in Fig. 16(b).

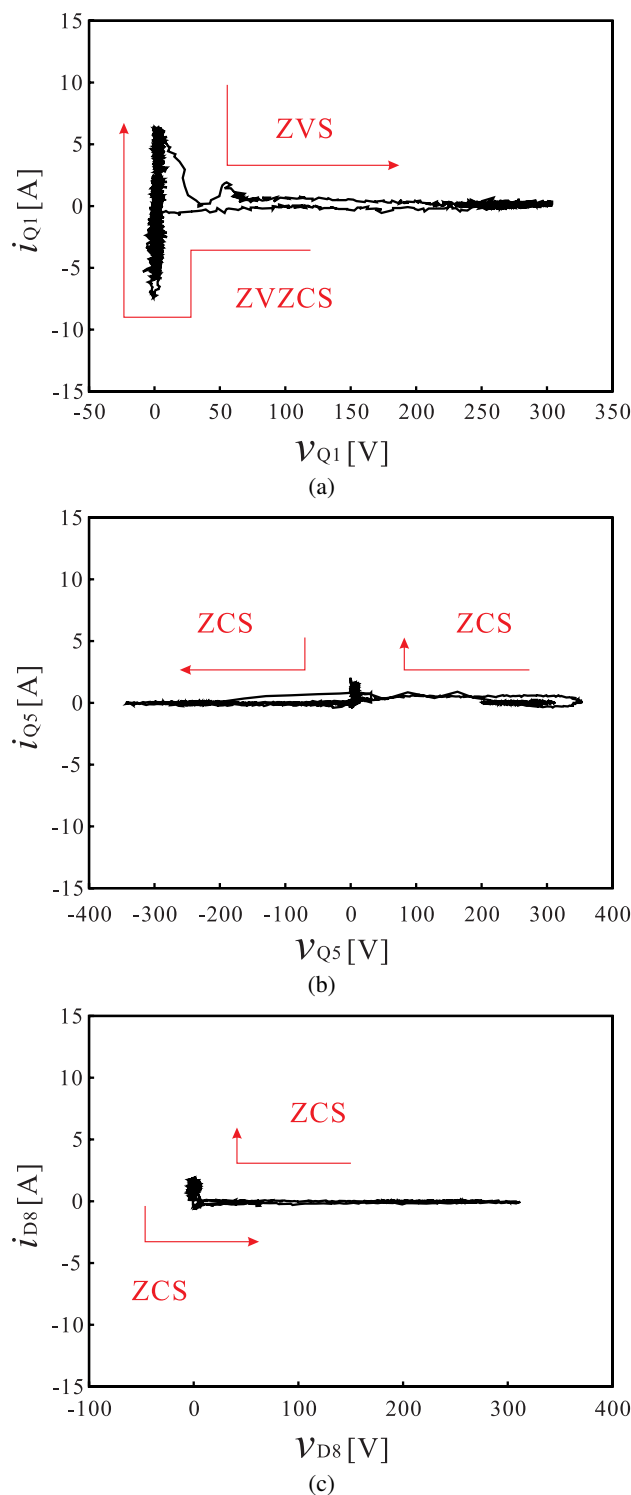


Fig. 22. Active switches and diodes lissajous waveforms at $\phi = 117^\circ$ and $P_o = 60$ W: (a) primary-side switch Q_1 , (b) secondary-side switch Q_5 , (c) secondary-side diode D_8 .

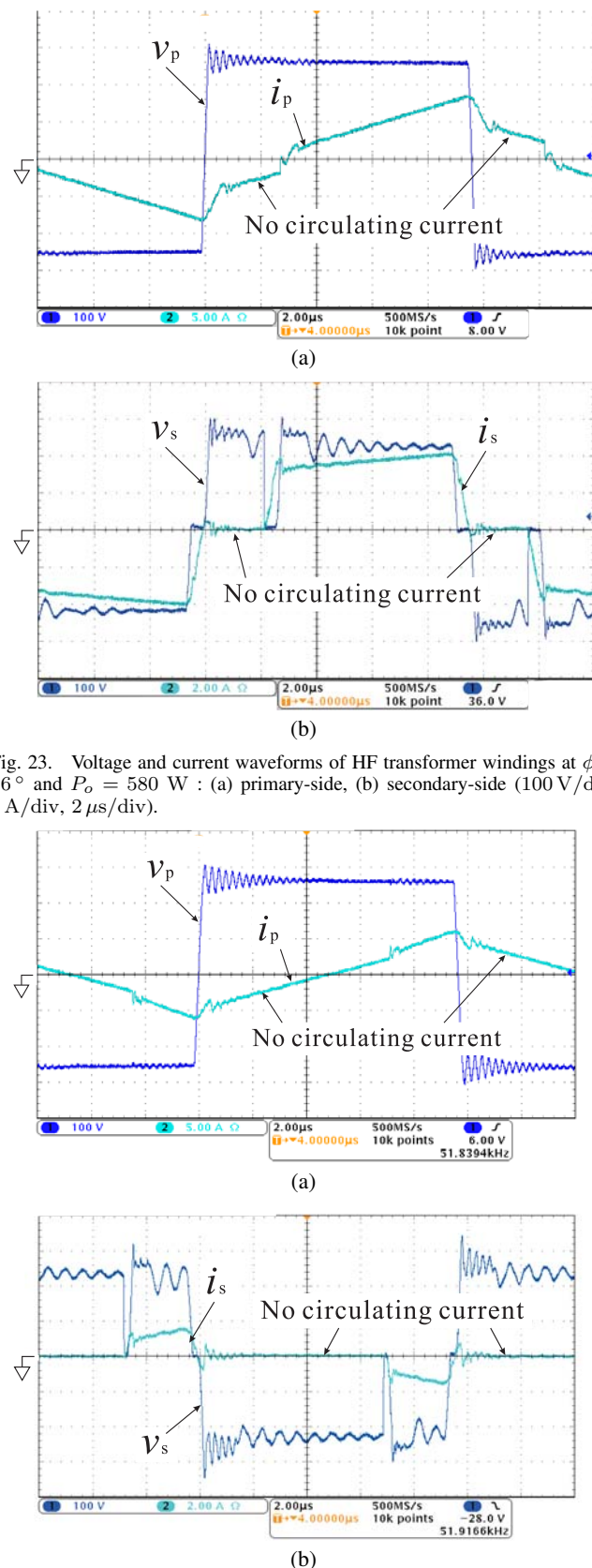


Fig. 23. Voltage and current waveforms of HF transformer windings at $\phi = 36^\circ$ and $P_o = 580$ W : (a) primary-side, (b) secondary-side (100 V/div, 2 A/div, 2 μ s/div).

Fig. 24. Voltage and current waveforms of HF transformer windings at $\phi = 117^\circ$ and $P_o = 60$ W : (a) primary-side, (b) secondary-side (100 V/div, 2 A/div, 2 μ s/div).

In Fig. 25, the output power and voltage regulation characteristics show a linearity with the phase shift angle, accord-

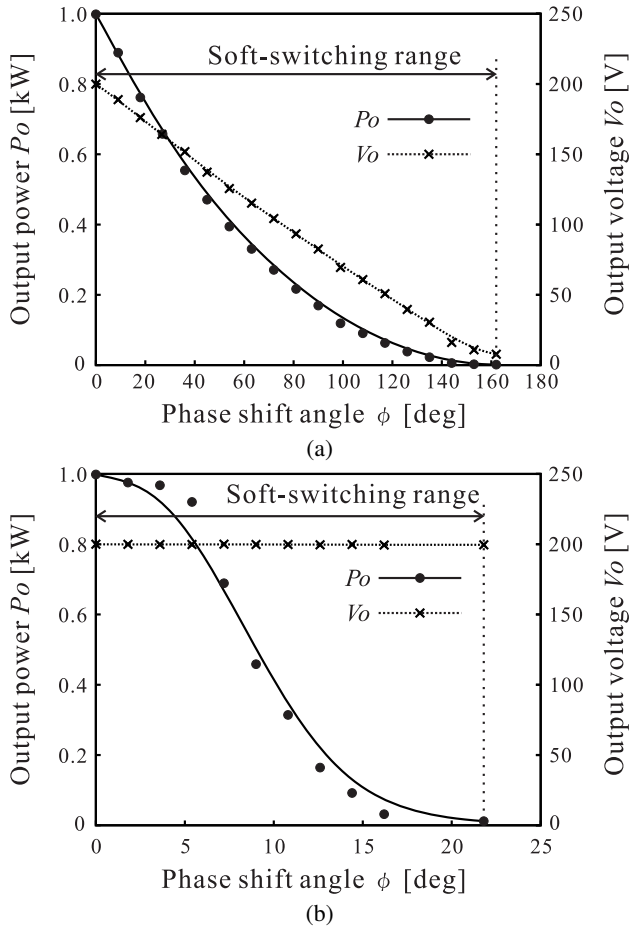


Fig. 25. Experimental characteristics of output power and out voltage vs. phase shift angle: (a) open loop, (b) closed loop control.

ingly the controller can be configured by the relatively simple scheme. Moreover, the proposed soft-switching SPS-PWM dc-dc converter can operate over the wide load range under the soft-switching conditions.

The actual conversion efficiencies of the prototype treated herein are illustrated in Fig. 26. The soft-switching operations of the active switches and diodes are actually confirmed over the entire load range by the experimental data as indicated in Fig. 26. It can be confirmed that over 90% efficiency can be obtained from the middle to heavy load conditions in the laboratory prototype.

The performances of the proposed soft-switching SPS-PWM dc-dc converter for the typical CCCV battery charging operations which are modeled with an electric load are shown in Fig. 27. The actual control range denotes the practical operating range when the low voltage limit of battery is assumed to be 75% (150 V) of the fully-charged voltage (200 V). In the CC region, the output voltage increases linearly by decreasing the phase shift angle ϕ . Once the output voltage approaches the rated value, the output current is regulated by gradually increasing ϕ and the CV condition keeps until the fully-charged state. Thus, the effectiveness of the proposed soft-switching SPS-PWM dc-dc converter as a battery charger is preliminary demonstrated herein. The soft switching operations can be confirmed in the whole region of the CCCV battery charging pattern.

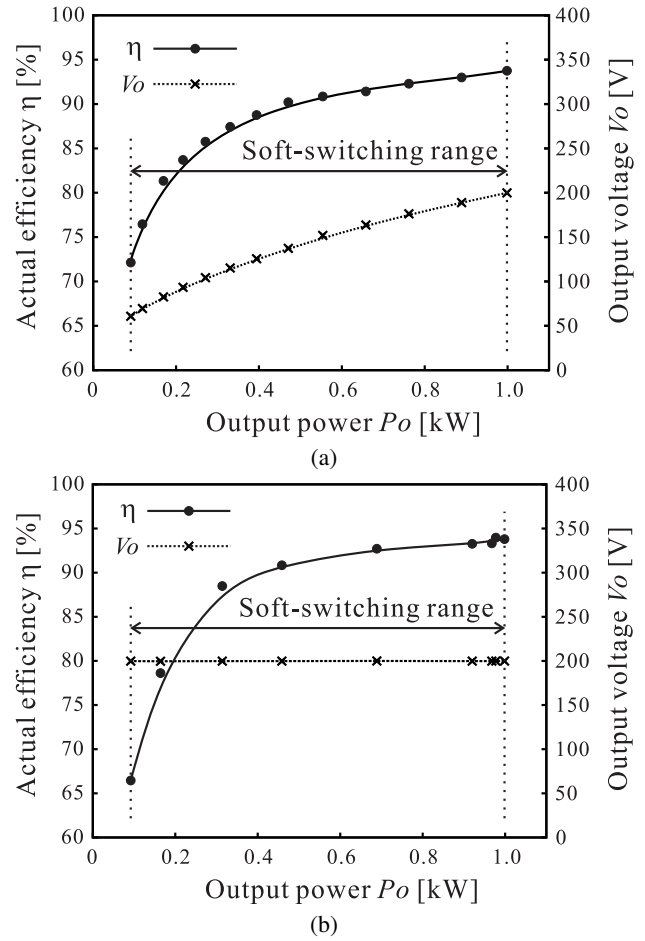


Fig. 26. Power conversion efficiency of the proposed dc-dc converter prototype: (a) open loop, (b) closed loop control.

E. Power Loss Analysis

The power loss analysis of the prototype is depicted in Fig. 28.

The switching power losses of each power device are actually reduced among the power loss breakdowns from light to heavy load conditions. Thus, the effect of employing the soft-switching technologies is clearly confirmed herein.

On the other hand, the conduction power losses of each power device and the copper loss of HF transformer dominate the main part of the total breakdown. In particular, the conduction power losses of the secondary-side active switches Q_5 and Q_6 exhibit a relatively high profile in the heavy load condition. This is due to the structure of Q_5 and Q_6 which are composed of the series connection of discrete IGBT and FRD, respectively. Therefore, applying a one-chip reverse conduction blocking IGBT (RB-IGBT) with fast reverse recovery characteristics for the secondary-side active switches will be an effective solution for further reducing the conduction power losses of the ZCS active rectifier, although it is still in the developing stage.

As an actual EV battery charger, the proposed soft-switching SPS-PWM dc-dc converter can be extended for the multi-phase circuit configuration for higher power level as illustrated in Fig. 29. The output current ripple frequency can be increased by triple in the multi-phase topology, thereby the filter size just after the secondary-side rectifier can be effectively

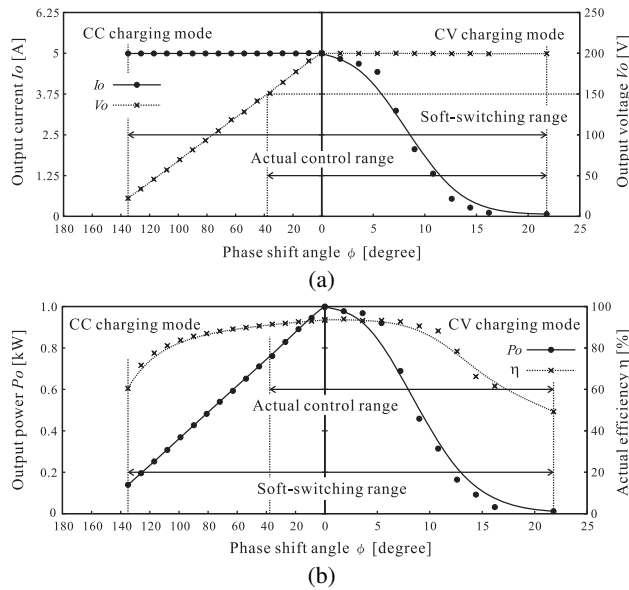


Fig. 27. Converter performances for CCCV operation: (a) output voltage and current vs. phase-shift angle, (b) output power and efficiency vs. phase-shift angle.

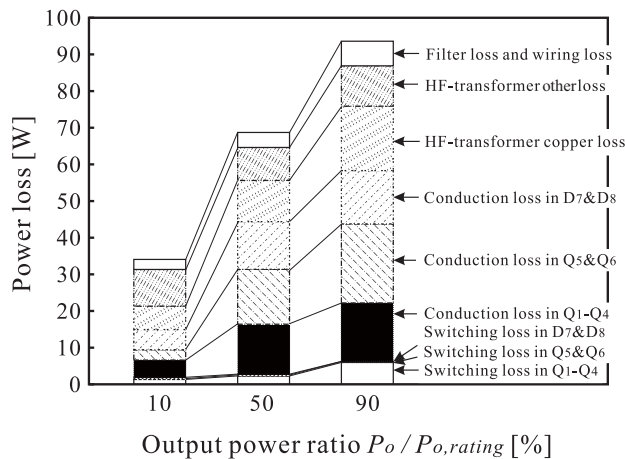


Fig. 28. Power loss analysis for various load conditions.

reduced.

VI. CONCLUSIONS

A new prototype of the secondary-side phase shift (SPS) PWM soft-switching dc-dc converter applicable for EV battery chargers has been presented in this paper. The wide-range soft-switching operations of the proposed soft-switching SPS-PWM dc-dc converter have been clarified with the theoretical analysis and simulation results, and then the circuit design guidelines have been originally described, which contributes for engineers in actually developing the soft-switching dc-dc converter proposed herein. In addition to these, the output power regulation based on the SPS scheme has been theoretically analyzed, exhibiting its wide range output power and output voltage regulations capability.

The performances of the proposed soft-switching dc-dc converter are evaluated in an experiment using the 1 kW-50 kHz laboratory prototype. It can be actually demonstrated

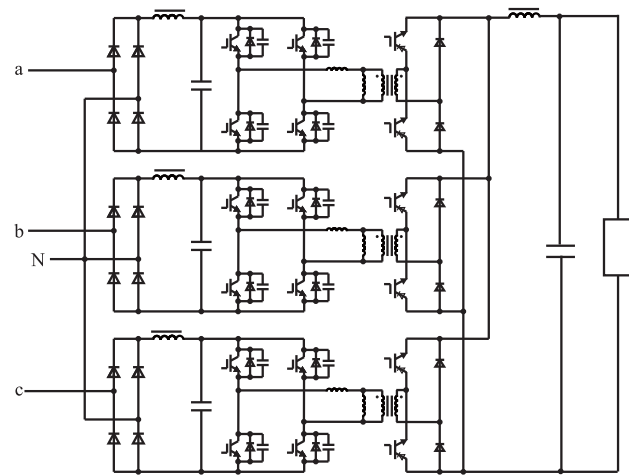


Fig. 29. Three-phase circuit topology of the proposed soft-switching SPS-PWM dc-dc converter with high-speed RB-IGBTs for higher power level.

that the wide-range soft-switching can be attained from the heavy load to light load. In addition, it has been confirmed that the output power can be controlled from full load to no load with a relatively small variation of the phase shift angle. Those unique characteristics provide high performances for the dc-dc converter applied for the EVs/PHEVs battery chargers.

The actual performances of the proposed soft-switching dc-dc converter has also been demonstrated for the CCCV battery charging pattern which is modeled by an electric dc load in the laboratory prototype. The relevant experimental results have made it clear that the wide-range output voltage and current regulations can be achieved in the proposed soft-switching dc-dc converter. Furthermore, the power loss analysis of the laboratory prototype has indicated that the conduction loss of the secondary-side power devices should be minimized, then the conversion efficiency might be improved much more by applying the one-chip IGBT with fast recover capability.

The extended three-phase power converter topology has been newly demonstrated for higher power EV battery charges as a next-stage research challenge of the proposed soft-switching dc-dc converter.

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