Single-Switch ZVZCS Quasi-Resonant CLL Isolated DC-DC Converter for 32” LCD TV

Seung-Hee Ryu*, Jung-Hoon Ahn*, Kwang-Seung Cho* and Byoung-Kuk Lee†

Abstract – In this paper, a single-switch ZVZCS quasi-resonant CLL isolated DC-DC converter for driving a low-power (less than 100 W) 32” LED backlighting liquid crystal display television (LCD TV) is proposed. The proposed converter exhibits both forward and flyback operational characteristics. All semiconductors are activated and deactivated under the soft switching conditions during the switching transition without additional active devices. The switching frequency varies less than about 10 kHz for load variations, leading to minimizing the efficiency reduction under light load. Furthermore, the low di/dt and dv/dt by soft switching enhance the electromagnetic interference (EMI) performance above 1 MHz. A theoretical analysis is described in detail, and a 72-W prototype converter verifies the validity of the analysis.

Keywords: LED backlighting LCD TV, Isolated dc-dc converter, Single-switch quasi-resonant, Zero-voltage and zero-current switching (ZVZCS)

1. Introduction

Along with the fast growth in the display market with recent digital multimedia broadcasting (DMB) age, power engineers have been studying on efficient power driving methods for the backlight unit (BLU) of LCD TV. In respect of power electronics, especially, compact and cost-effective topologies and the accompanying EMI reduction are strongly required for low-power supplies of less than 100 W for the low and middle-priced TV market [1, 2]. A flyback converter has been generally applied to the switched-mode power supply (SMPS) for 75-W TVs. However, the flyback converter needs a snubber circuit to suppress high voltage stress across the switch caused by the leakage inductance of the transformer. Besides, high di/dt and dv/dt by the hard switching result in increasing costs to solve EMI problems, and increased switching losses lead to reduced overall efficiency and limited operation of the converters at high frequency. In order to avoid these drawbacks, soft-switching techniques can be considered as an effective solution. These techniques are classified into two types of topologies: constant switching frequency and variable frequency converters [3-15]. However, the converters with constant frequency employ extra components for the soft switching that cause complex control and cost increases [3-8]. Some variable frequency converters have been proposed. The LLC- or SRC-typed resonant converter enables switches to use ZVS operation and promote system efficiency [9-13]. However, these converters employ switches more than two for bridge configurations, which is more appropriate for TV applications at more than 150 W. Alternatively, the quasi-resonant converters with only a single switch can be valid topologies [14, 15]. However, the main switch in one approach does not guarantee the soft switching, and the free-wheeling diode in the secondary side is hard switched at turn-on [14]. Moreover, the variation of the switching frequency is more than about 200 kHz for load changes. On the other hand, in another approach [15], the main switch and the rectifying diode are stressed by the resonant current during the turn-on time.

In this paper, a single-switch ZVZCS quasi-resonant CLL isolated DC-DC converter applicable for low-power applications is proposed. The operation at the switch turn-on is identical to the forward converter. Even though the switch is turned off, the stored energy of the resonant inductor in the primary side is transferred to the load during a certain period. Therefore, this converter has the operational characteristics of both forward and flyback converters without the output filter inductor. In addition, all of semiconductors in the converter are soft switched at turn-on and turn-off as well as the switching frequency of the proposed converter slightly varies for loads unlike the conventional variable frequency converters. Consequently, the efficiency reduction under light load is minimized. For conducted emissions higher than 1 MHz, the proposed converter shows considerable advantages compared with the conventional flyback converter.

In Section II, four operating modes about the proposed converter are explained, and the detailed characteristic analysis and control strategy are described. To verify the theoretical analysis, the experimental results are presented in Section III. The conclusion is provided in Section IV.
2. Proposed Converter

2.1 Description of the Operation Modes

Fig. 1 shows the circuit model of the proposed converter. It consists of a single-switch SW, a resonant capacitor \( C_r \) and inductor \( L_r \), a rectifying diode \( D \), and a transformer, which has a magnetizing inductance \( L_m \) and a turn ratio of \( n : 1 \). To simplify the analysis, it is assumed that:

- All components are ideal and the converter is operating in steady state.
- The input voltage \( V_{in} \) and the output voltage \( V_o \) are constant during the switching period because the capacitor is sufficiently large.
- The leakage inductance of the transformer is neglected.

The steady-state operation includes four modes in one switching period \( T_s \). The operating modes and waveforms are shown in Figs. 2 and 3, respectively.

1) **Mode 1** \([t_0, t_1]\): At \( t_0 \), when the capacitor voltage \( v_{Cr} \) reaches the input voltage \( V_{in} \) and the switch voltage \( v_{SW} \) becomes zero, the anti-parallel diode of the switch begins to conduct. During this interval, the switch can achieve the ZVS, so that its turn-on switching loss is eliminated. Also, the rectifying diode can turn on under zero-current-switching (ZCS) conditions, because its current \( i_d \) increases from zero.

2) **Mode 2** \([t_1, t_2]\): Prior to \( t_1 \), the main switch \( SW \) is turned on. The current through the resonant inductor \( L_r \) and the magnetizing inductance \( L_m \) linearly increase from zero until \( t_2 \), because the voltages across the resonant capacitor \( C_r \) and the magnetizing inductance \( L_m \) are \( V_{in} \) and \( nV_o \), respectively. The converter transfers the input power to the load through the transformer like a forward converter. The switch current \( i_{SW} \) is the same as the resonant inductor current \( i_{Lr} \). During this mode, the resonant inductor current \( i_{Lr} \) and the magnetizing current \( i_{Lm} \) are represented as follows:

\[
i_{Lr}(t) = i_{SW}(t) = \frac{V_{in} - nV_o}{L_r}(t - t_2) + i_{Lr}(t_2)
\]

\[
i_{Lm}(t) = \frac{nV_o}{L_m}(t - t_2) + i_{Lm}(t_2)
\]

where \( nV_o \) is the output voltage reflected to the primary side of the transformer.

3) **Mode 3** \([t_2, t_3]\): After the switch \( SW \) is turned off at \( t_2 \), the inductor \( L_r \) commences resonance with the resonant capacitor \( C_r \). The switch voltage \( v_{SW} \) increases smoothly by the resonance, leading it to be turned off under ZVS. Even though the switch was turned off, the stored energy in the resonant inductor \( L_r \) is transferred to the load like a flyback converter.

![Fig. 1. Circuit model of the proposed converter](image1)

![Fig. 2. Operating modes of the proposed converter](image2)

![Fig. 3. Operating waveforms of the proposed converter](image3)
A resonant inductor current $i_{Lr}$ coincides with the magnetizing current $i_{Lm}$ during mode 4, the above description of the proposed converter operation shows that the main switch SW and the rectifying diode $D$ are always turned on and turned off under soft-switching conditions, thereby eliminating the switching losses.

2.2 Analysis of the operation characteristics

In this section, the operational characteristics of the proposed converter are discussed. Firstly, the input to output voltage gain of the converter is defined, and variables related to the voltage gain are analyzed.

This converter operates as a forward converter during switch turn-on. On the other hand, after switch turn-off, the energy stored in the resonant inductor $L_r$ and capacitor $C_r$ is transferred to the load like a flyback converter until the resonant inductor current $i_{Lr}$ is the same as the magnetizing inductor current $i_{Lm}$. Fig. 4 shows current waveforms of each component during the rectifying diode conduction for an arbitrary load. The magnetizing inductor current $i_{Lm}$ subtracted from the resonant inductor current $i_{Lr}$ is multiplied by the transformer turns ratio $n$. It consists of the rectifying diode current. The average value of the periodic signal can be solved by dividing the total area by the period. In order to calculate the average current of the rectifying diode, the variable $K$ is introduced. $K$ is defined as the ratio of conduction areas during $t_{ON}$ and $t_{23}$ for the given circuit parameters and is given by:

$$K = \frac{A_{23}}{A_{ON}}$$

(10)

where $t_{ON}$ is the conduction time during modes 1 and 2, and $t_{23}$ is the conduction time during mode 3.

In steady-state operation, when the input power begins to transfer to the load after mode 4, the initial values of the resonant inductor current $i_{Lr}$ and magnetizing inductor current $i_{Lm}$ are always identical, and its currents increase linearly. Therefore, by using (1) and (2), the rectifying diode peak current $I_{Dpk}$ during switch turn-on can be expressed by:

$$I_{Dpk} = n \left( \frac{V_m - nV_o}{I_n} t_{ON} \frac{nV_o}{I_m} t_{ON} \right).$$

(11)

![Fig. 4. Key current waveforms during the diode conduction](http://www.jeet.or.kr)
Single-Switch ZVZCS Quasi-Resonant CLL Isolated DC-DC Converter for 32” LCD TV

From (10) and (11), \( A_{ON} \) and the average current of the rectifying diode \( I_D \) are derived as follows:

\[
A_{ON} = \frac{1}{2} I_{Dp} t_{ON},
\]

\[
I_D = \frac{1}{T_S} (A_{ON} + A_{23})
\]

\[
= \frac{n}{2T_S} (1 + K) \left[ \frac{L_m}{L_m L_n} \right] V_{in} \left( t_{ON} \right)\\
\]

Eventually, because the average current of the rectifying diode is equal to the output current, the input to output voltage gain of the proposed converter can be characterized as functions of the quality factor \( Q \), normalized frequency \( f_n \), inductance ratio \( \lambda \), transformer turns ratio \( n \), and duty ratio \( D(=t_{ON}/T_S) \):

\[
\frac{V_o}{V_{in}} = \frac{1}{n(\lambda + 1 + K)} \left( \frac{Q f_n}{\lambda + 1} \right) + \frac{\pi (1 + K) D}{\pi (1 + K)}
\]

where, \( Q = \frac{\omega_d L_m}{n^2 R_c} \), \( f_n = \frac{f_{SW}}{f_{o_2}} \), \( \lambda = \frac{L_m}{L_n} \).

The proposed converter is able to operate in no-load conditions. When \( Q = 0 \), the voltage gain of the proposed converter is expressed as a function of the transformer turn ratio \( n \) and the inductance ratio \( \lambda \):

\[
\frac{V_o}{V_{in}} \bigg|_{Q=0} = \frac{1}{n(\lambda + 1)}.
\]

Then, \( A_{23} \) should be calculated. In (10), \( A_{ON} \) can be more easily calculated using (11) and (12). On the other hand, in order to calculate \( A_{23} \), it is necessary to know the initial values of \( i_{Lr} \) and \( i_{Lm} \) at the beginning of mode 3. In modes 1 and 2, the voltage across \( L_m \) is clamped to \( nV_{in} \). Therefore, the absolute value of \( i_{Lm} \) at turn-on of the anti-parallel diode of the switch is the same as the value of \( i_{Lm} \) at switch turn-off. Also, because the switch current \( i_{SW} \) flows linearly through the resonant inductor \( L_r \) and the magnetizing inductor \( L_m \) the initial value of the resonant inductor current \( i_{Lr} \) coincides with the initial value of the magnetizing inductor current \( i_{Lm} \) at \( t = t_0 \). Each initial value of (1), (2), and (4) is defined by:

\[
i_{Lm} \left( t_0 \right) = -i_{Lr} \left( t_0 \right) = -i_{Lm} \left( t_0 \right) = \frac{nV_{in}}{2L_m} t_{ON}.
\]

At \( t = t_2 \), the resonant inductor current \( i_{Lr} \) can be derived as (18) by substituting (17) into (1):

\[
i_{Lr} \left( t_2 \right) = \frac{2L_m V_{in} - (2L_m + L_r)nV_{in}}{2L_r L_m} t_{ON}.
\]

Therefore, because the energy stored in the resonant capacitor \( C_r \) and inductor \( L_r \) during \( t_{ON} \) is transferred to the load in mode 3, \( A_{23} \) can be derived by integrating the rectifying diode current \( i_D \) on \( t_{23} \) by using (3), (4), (17), and (18):

\[
A_{23} = n \int_{t_{ON}}^{t_{23}} \left[ i_{D} \left( t \right) - i_{Lm} \left( t \right) \right] dt
\]

\[
= n \left\{ \frac{i_{Lr} \left( t_2 \right)}{\omega_{o_1}} \right\} \left\{ \frac{V_{in}}{nV_{in}} - nV_{in} \left[ 1 - \cos \left( \omega_{o_1} t_{23} \right) \right] \right\}
\]

\[
A_{23} = n \left\{ \frac{i_{Lr} \left( t_2 \right)}{\omega_{o_1}} \right\} \left\{ \frac{V_{in}}{nV_{in}} - nV_{in} \left[ 1 - \cos \left( \omega_{o_1} t_{23} \right) \right] \right\}
\]

\[
A_{23} \approx \frac{1}{2} I_{Dp} t_{23}.
\]

From (12) and (20), the area ratio factor \( K \) described earlier is rearranged as

\[
K = \frac{t_{23}}{i_{ON}}.
\]

The average current of the rectifying diode \( I_D \) is approximately determined by the values of the resonant inductor current \( i_{Lr} \) and the magnetizing inductor current \( i_{Lm} \) at \( t = t_{ON} \) and the resonant time \( t_{23} \) between \( C_r \) and \( L_r \). In the steady-state operation, the currents \( i_{Lr} \) and \( i_{Lm} \) are always the same at the end of mode 3. Therefore, the time \( t_{23} \) can be calculated through (3), (4), (17), and (18):

\[
t_{23} = \frac{1}{\omega_{o_1}} \cos^{-1} \left( \frac{\lambda}{\sqrt{2}} \right)
\]

In (22), the time \( t_{23} \) is constant regardless of loads for the given resonant parameters when the input to output voltage gain is decided.

For a desired voltage gain, it could be necessary to find the relationship between the normalized frequency \( f_n \) and the duty ratio \( D \) for the given resonant parameters and loads. The proposed converter is able to control the output voltage by changing the duty ratio \( D \). In the steady-state operation, \( C_r \), \( L_r \) and \( L_m \) resonate after switch turn-off, so the turn-off time should be maintained until the voltage

712 | J Electr Eng Technol. 2015; 10(3): 709-718
The resonant capacitor voltage during mode 4, the resonant capacitor voltage $V_{Cr}$ can be solved by

$$\pi \lambda \left( \frac{V_m}{V_o} \right)^2 + \frac{V_m}{Z_{o2}} \left( \frac{nV_o}{2L_m} t_{ON} \right)^2 = \frac{N_s I_{Cr max}}{V_m}.$$  \hspace{1cm} (24)

The maximum capacitor voltage $V_{Cr max}$ normalized by the input voltage $V_{in}$ is derived from (24):

$$\frac{V_{Cr max}}{V_m} = \sqrt{1 + \left( \frac{nV_o}{V_m} \pi (\lambda + 1) \frac{D}{f_n} \right)^2}.$$  \hspace{1cm} (25)

Fig. 7 shows the maximum capacitor voltage according to load variations under some circuit conditions. As mentioned earlier, higher load increases the duty ratio $D$, leading to reduction of the normalized frequency $f_n$. Therefore, the larger the load is, the higher the maximum value of the resonant capacitor voltage is. As shown in Fig. 7, the value of the resonant capacitance $C_r$ and/or the value of the magnetizing inductance $L_m$ to reduce the inductance ratio $\lambda$ should be large.

2.3 Control strategy

As analyzed in the previous section, the switching frequency of the proposed converter is dependent on the duty ratio. Therefore, the proposed converter requires a PWM controller that can generate a driving pulse with the switching frequency corresponding to the duty ratio.
variation in order to regulate the output voltage and satisfy ZVZCS operation for loads.

Fig. 8 shows the electric diagram with the proposed control strategy. In Fig. 8(a), the control block can be divided into three parts. First, the A-Part generates the zero current detecting signal (A signal), which evaluates the zero crossing of the switch current sensed from the shunt resistor. This A signal is used for the switch to be activated in the A-Region shown in Fig. 8(b) for ZVS operation. Second, the B-Part is the voltage controller which determines the conduction time value to keep the switch current flowing for the required output voltage. A type II compensator is used to amplify the difference between the feedback value and reference value. The determined time value is entered into the controlled monostable device. The monostable device is triggered at the falling edge of the A signal and then generates the pulse signal (B signal) corresponding to the conduction time value. Finally, the OR gate outputs the final PWM signal to drive the switch by combining both the A signal and the B signal. By using the proposed control strategy, the switching frequency and turn-on time can be appropriately controlled to regulate the output voltage.

3. Experimental Results

3.1 Operation examination

In order to verify the theoretical analysis of the proposed converter, the hardware circuit shown in Fig. 1 is implemented. The input voltage, output voltage, and the maximum power are specified as \( V_{in} = 310 \text{ V}, V_o = 12 \text{ V}, \) and \( P_{max} = 72 \text{ W}, \) respectively. The main components and parameters of the prototype used for experiments are presented in Table 2.

As shown in section III, the switch is stressed by the voltage charged in the resonant capacitor \( C_r \) through the resonance between \( C_r, L_r, \) and \( L_m \) during switch turn-off. The circulating energy should be minimized to reduce the switch voltage stress. An 900-V n-channel MOSFET has been adopted as the switch of the proposed converter. In order to restrict the peak value of the switch voltage less than 900 V, the resonant and magnetizing inductances \( L_r \) and \( L_m \) are selected with a inductance ratio \( \lambda = 0.38. \) In addition, it is desired that the resonant capacitance \( C_r \) be more than 15 nF.

Fig. 9 shows the experimental waveforms of the main components such as the switch voltage \( v_{SW}, \) the switch

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 2. Components and parameters for experiment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parameters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resonant Capacitance ( C_r )</td>
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<tr>
<td>Resonant Inductance ( L_r )</td>
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<tr>
<td>Magnetizing Inductance ( L_m )</td>
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<tr>
<td>Output Capacitance ( C_o )</td>
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<td>Transformer Turns Ratio ( n )</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fig. 9. Main component waveforms: (a) 100 % load and (b) 30 % load: \( v_{SW} \) (300 V/div), \( i_{SW} \) (3 A/div), \( v_D \) (20 V/div), and \( i_D \) (10 A/div).
current $i_{SW}$, the rectifying diode voltage $v_D$, and the rectifying diode current $i_D$ at 100 % and 30 % loads. All of the active semiconductors of the proposed converter are turned on and turned off under soft-switching conditions. At 100 % load, the switching frequency $f_{SW}$ is about 69 kHz for the duty ratio $D = 0.4$. At that time, the maximum value of the switch voltage is 834 V. It coincides with the theoretical results $V_{SW_{\text{max}}} = 836$ V obtained from (25) with parameters in Table 2. Fig. 10 shows the efficiency comparison between the conventional flyback converter and the proposed converter. Though the proposed converter is voltage-stressed by the quasi-resonance compared to the flyback converter, the proposed converter achieves soft switching when all semiconductors such as the switch and rectifying diode are turned on and turned off. This implies that the switching losses are reduced, leading to increased system efficiency. As shown in Fig. 10, the efficiency of the proposed converter using an MOSFET as a switch is higher by up to 2 % compared to the conventional converter under light load. It can be shown that the overall efficiency is higher than the flyback converter. However, when an IGBT is adopted as a switch of the proposed converter, the efficiency is reduced. This results from the conduction loss increased by a high saturation voltage when the switch is on. Roughly, it could be estimated that the conduction loss of the IGBT is about 3 times higher than that of the MOSFET from the datasheets. Furthermore, the tail current of the IGBT at turn-off increases the switching loss, leading to deterioration of the system efficiency. It is shown that the MOSFET is the most suitable switching device.

3.2 Electromagnetic interference examination

Electromagnetic emission is a critical concern in designing an SMPS for TVs. The conducted emission of the proposed prototype system is compared to the conventional flyback system applied to TVs.

The EMI filter specifications of both systems are identical. A test has been carried out to meet the CISPR Pub. 22 Class B Conducted Emissions Limit. The test results for the proposed converter and the flyback converter at the maximum output power $P_{omax}=72$ W are given in Fig. 11. The emission electrical fields of both systems below 10 MHz are confirmed to be lower than the standard reference level. However, at the frequency range of 1-30 MHz, the electrical field of the proposed converter system is much lower than that of the conventional flyback converter system. Even though it is known well that the conducted emissions higher than 10 MHz can be relatively solved by slowing down the turn-off speed of the main MOSFET. But for frequency around 1 MHz, the proposed converter shows outstanding advantages. The measured quasi-peak levels of the flyback converter system were 58.9 dB$\mu$V at 14.23 MHz and 61.2 dB$\mu$V at 25.6 MHz. On the other hand, the measured levels of the proposed system were 57.6 dB$\mu$V at 11.74 MHz and 50.1 dB$\mu$V at 27.1 MHz. From the results, it can be estimated that the radiated emission performance of the proposed converter will be superior to the conventional flyback converter by the lower $di/dt$ and $dv/dt$.

4. Conclusion

A single-switch ZVZCS quasi-resonant CLL isolated converter for low-power and low-priced electric appliances has been proposed. The proposed converter achieves the soft switching of all semiconductors during switching...
transition. Though the circulating current increases during the switch turn-off, the proposed converter provides the following advantages:

1) Improved efficiency by reducing switching losses through the soft switching of all semiconductors;
2) Low EMI above 1 MHz complying with the CISPR 22 Class B Conducted Emissions limit.

The proposed converter was validated with experimental results by implementing a 72-W prototype converter. The proposed converter shows high efficiencies for loads. The efficiency under light load is higher by more than 2% compared to the conventional flyback converter.

References


Seung-Hee Ryu He received the M.S. degree from Hanyang Univ., Seoul, Korea, in 2000. From 2000 to 2012, he has been a Senior Researcher at LG Electronics, Korea. Since 2012, he has worked for his Ph.D at Sungkyunkwan Univ., Suwon, Korea. His research interests include resonant inverter for induction heating and inductive power transfer systems.

Jung-Hoon Ahn He received the M.S. degree from Sungkyunkwan Univ., Suwon, Korea, in 2013. Since 2013, he has worked for his Ph.D at Sungkyunkwan University. His research interests include battery management system (BMS), DC-DC converter for PHEV/EV and advanced motor drive systems.

Kwang-Seung Cho He received the M.S. degree from Dong-A Univ., Busan, Korea, in 2001. Currently, he is a Senior Researcher at Samsung Electro-Mechanics, Korea. Since 2012, he has worked for his Ph.D at Sungkyunkwan Univ., Suwon, Korea. His research interests include resonant converter for the home appliances and battery charger for HEVs/EVs.
Byoung-Kuk Lee He received the B.S. and the M.S. degrees from Hanyang University, Seoul, Korea, in 1994 and 1996, respectively and the Ph.D. degree from Texas A&M University, College Station, TX, in 2001, all in electrical engineering. From 2003 to 2005, he has been a Senior Researcher at Power Electronics Group, Korea Electrotechnology Research Institute (KERI), Changwon, Korea. From 2006 Dr. Lee joins at College of Information and Communication Engineering, Sungkyunkwan University, Suwon, Korea. His research interests include on-board charger and wireless power transfer for electric vehicles, energy storage systems, hybrid renewable energy systems, dc distribution systems for home appliances, power conditioning systems for fuel cells and photovoltaic, modeling and simulation, and power electronics. Prof. Lee is a recipient of Outstanding Scientists of the 21st Century from IBC and listed on 2008 Ed. of Who’s Who in America. Prof. Lee is an Associate Editor in the IEEE Transactions on Industrial Electronics and Power Electronics. He was the presenter for Professional Education Seminar with the topic of “On-Board Charger Technology for EVs and PHEVs” at IEEE Applied Power Electronics Conference in 2014 and was the General Chair for IEEE Vehicular Power and Propulsion Conference (VPPC) in 2012.