

Review

# Comparative Study of DC-DC Converters for Solar PV with Microgrid Applications

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**Abstract:** This review emphasizes the role and performance of versatile DC-DC converters in AC/DC and Hybrid microgrid applications, especially when solar (photo voltaic) PV is the major source. Here, the various converter topologies are compared with regard to voltage gain, component count, voltage stress, and soft switching. This study suggests the suitability of the converter based on the source type. The merits of a coupled inductor and interleaved converters in micro grid applications are elucidated. The efficiency and operating frequencies of converters for different operating modes are presented to determine the suitable converters for inductive and resistive loads. The drawbacks of converters are discussed. Finally, the mode of operation of different converters with different grid power sources and its stability and reliability issues are highlighted. In addition, the significance of the converter's size and cost-effectiveness when choosing various PV source applications are discussed.

**Keywords:** coupled inductor converter; full bridge converter; half bridge converter; interleaved converter; micro grid; photo voltaic (PV); resonant converter; zero voltage switching (ZVS); zero current switching (ZCS)



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## 1. Introduction

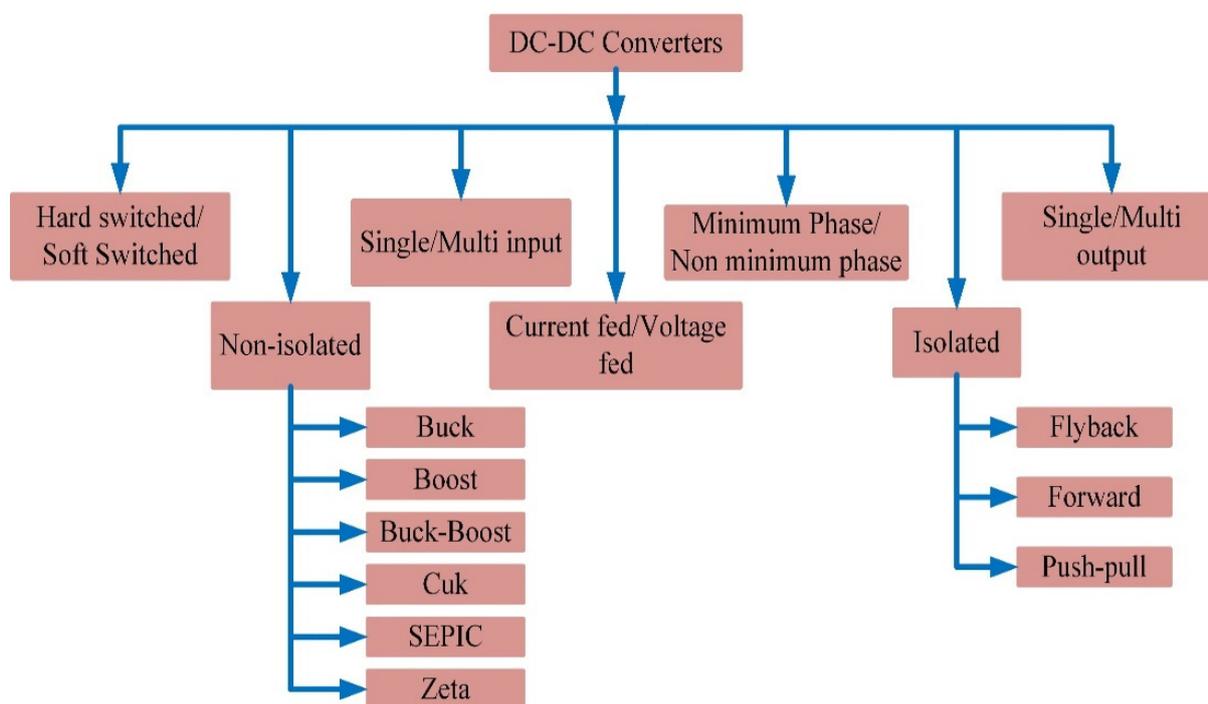
The DC microgrid contains renewable energy sources and a hybrid energy storage unit. Hence, we are using Energy Management Methods to reduce power fluctuation on power quality [1]. We utilise many switching devices in renewable energy sources because high penetration occurs and switching losses or harmonics impact the utility grid's system reliability [2]. This paper presents an overview of microgrids' energy management strategies and grid integration technologies. To produce a clean energy future and minimize costs, renewable energy-based distributed generation is moving fast to meet the world's vital needs of utilizing clean energy sources [3]. By converting solar energy into electrical energy without environmental contamination photovoltaic system provides a direct method. PV systems convert solar power to electric power integrated with the grid if it meets the grid code [4]. The DC microgrid consists of a battery energy storage system, wind turbine, grid-connected converter system, and dc loads. Solar PV is one of the renewable energy technologies best suited for islands, hills, and forest areas such as,

- Minimal communication and transportation facilities.
- Illiterate and Poor technical knowledge places.

Here power electronics blocks are required for grid integration to maximize the benefits of solar energy [5].

Solar PV and load require a suitable DC-DC converter to increase the system's efficiency. Multiple converters are typically designed for high voltage gain of solar PV applications [6]. In addition, better dynamic response and less ripple are obtained by multiphase interleaved DC-DC converters, preserving their efficiency. This study presents a SEPIC, CUK combination converter-based interleaved converter for connecting distributed generation to bipolar DC micro grids and power architecture [7]. Finally, switched inductors

and switched capacitors are used to provide a high gain. All semiconductor devices have the same voltage stress. Therefore, it is possible to utilize devices with uniform ratings and minimal internal resistance [8]. Finally, a multi-port isolated DC-DC converter replaced the traditional Buck/Boost circuit to ensure electrical isolation of the energy storage system's micro sources [9]. The boost DC-DC converter topology has the following demerits: large capacitors are needed, there is a  $<4:1$  voltage gain, parallel devices are required at high power levels, and there is a high ripple rate [10,11]. Due to their high conversion efficiency, minimal size, and low production costs, the described DC-DC converter topology a significant role in the power-generating industry, including microgrids. The DC-DC converters in are separated into isolated and non-isolated topologies [12,13]. The general classification of DC-DC converters are depicted in Figure 1.



**Figure 1.** Types of DC-DC converters.

When the traditional boost converter is preferred in PV systems, it has to be operated at a duty cycle of 0.88, making it difficult in practical application due to the limitation of semiconductor devices. Moreover, the boost converters suffer the drawback of high switching voltage stress and reverse recovery issues [14]. The applications of smart grid system are summarized in Figure 2.

The grid functions today are the same as when there were minor improvements, and the energy cost was relatively low. There is currently no heavy electricity storage technology available. Therefore, if we use this power during off-peak hours, we will build an effective system. However, we may adjust load consumption to increase grid efficiency, which is how the Smart grid differs from a traditional grid.

These converters require a higher power transformer, as higher power converters cannot use a single switch topology. For example, Half-bridge, push-pull and Full-bridge converters comes under another DC-DC isolated converters which use a minimum of multi-switch. Figure 3 represents a simplified hybrid microgrid charging station for battery-powered electric vehicles.

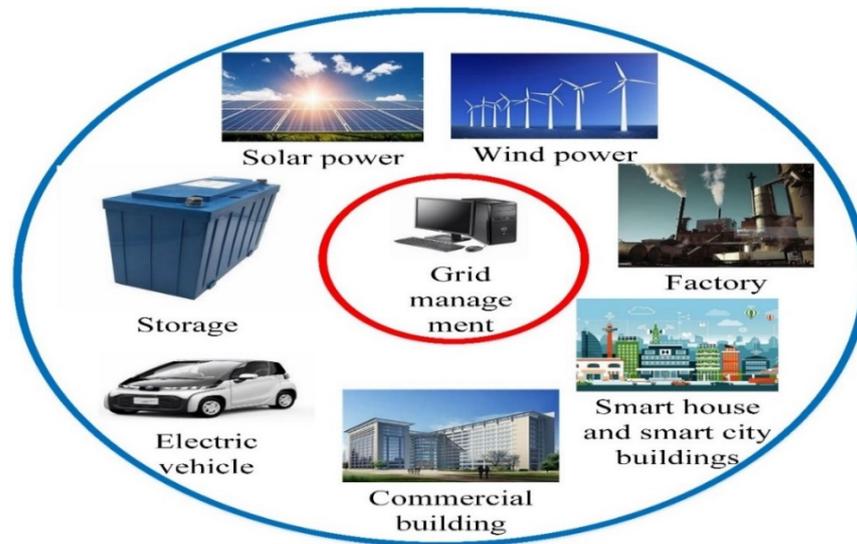


Figure 2. The architecture of smart grid management system applications.

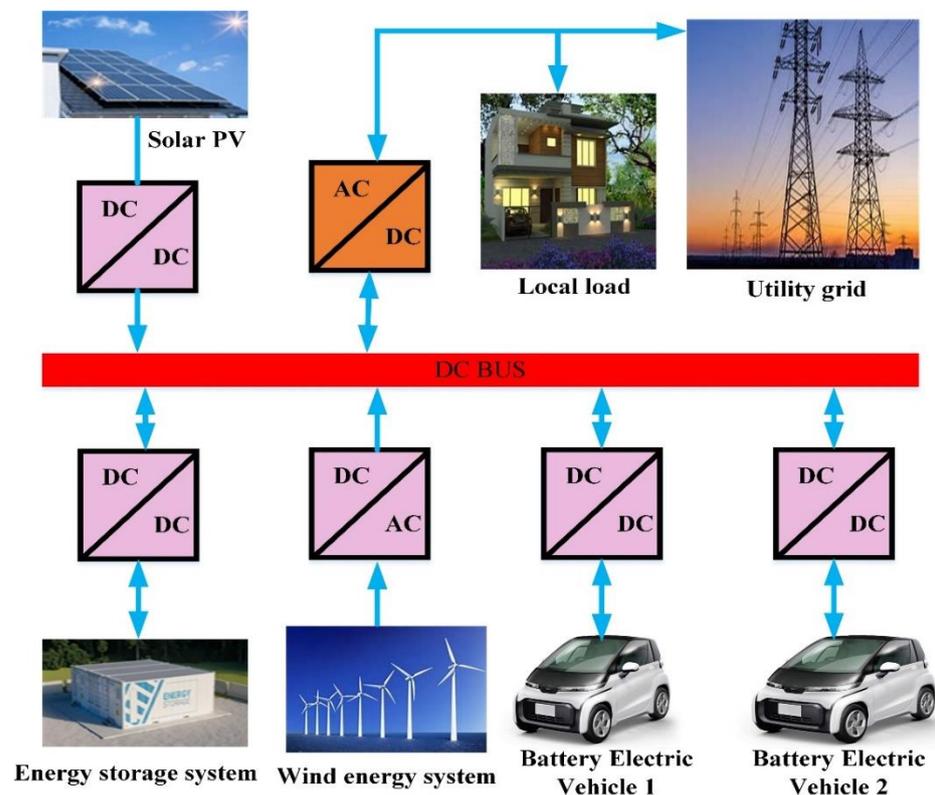


Figure 3. The battery-based electric vehicle's charging station with the hybrid microgrid model.

The PV technologies can be employed in various applications, including electric vehicles, domestic, and microgrid applications [15]. The different operating voltages of the DC-DC converters linked to the PV system are described. In addition, in grid-connected mode converters, suitable load types are identified along with their corresponding voltage gain and conversion efficiency. This review elucidates the operation of 14 types of DC-DC converters for grid-connected PV applications. This is followed by comparing the converters performance for different grid-connected PV systems operating modes along with discussed distributed energy sources. At last, each converters parametric analysis and

components sizing comparison are critically examined to further identify the drawbacks in each converter for a particular source application for a specific mode of operation.

## 2. Requirements for the Selection of DC-DC Converter Topology

The DC-DC converter topologies that are to be used in a PV-based power supply should meet the conditions given in the subsequent paragraphs. A typical layout of DC microgrid is depicted in Figure 4. Without increasing the stack size, we can obtain the desired DC voltage value with the help of the DC-DC converter. For example, the DC output from the polymer electrolyte membrane (PEM) FC stack is mostly around several tens of volts. Therefore, the ripple current value observed across the PV due to the DC-DC converter switching should be low. Most importantly, a sharp rise or a fall in the current and high-frequency current ripple of a large magnitude should be avoided [16].

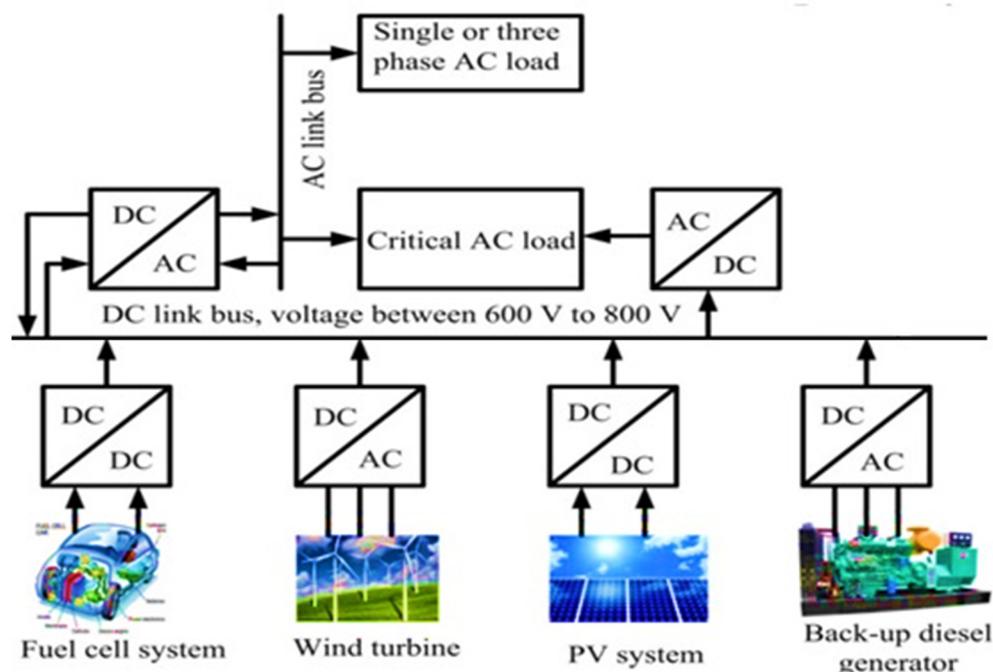


Figure 4. Layout of DC microgrid.

An overview of the present-day technology in isolated DC-DC converters for PV-based power generation is presented in Table 1. The study includes an analysis of literature to understand current achievements and viewpoints. While many papers on the subject have been published, many of them do not include details on the achieved efficiency or the complexity of the converter when operating a greater number of devices, and issues with power density maximization are mentioned. Within the limited information available, a comparison of published literature for high voltage gain DC-DC converters is attempted, and an overview of each solution is provided.

## 3. Survey of DC-DC Converter Topologies

### 3.1. Coupled Inductor Converter Topology

This section enumerates the published solutions of coupled inductor topology DC-DC converters possess high gain, as shown in Figures 5–8. Each published technique explains the topology used, the converter  $V_{in}$  and  $V_{out}$  range, and the power range of the experimental setup are given to validate the interfacing with FC for power generation. In [17] the authors proposed a DC-DC converter with soft switching exhibits continuous input current and a high voltage gain. Experimentally, a 200 W prototype having  $V_{in} = 24$  V, and  $V_{out} = 360$  V gives 96.4% efficiency at full load. The advantages of derived interleaved boost converter having Winding-Cross-Coupled Inductors (WCCIs) and passive-lossless

clamp circuits are increased voltage gain, reduced switching voltage stress, and reduced reverse recovery problem due to the leakage inductance when compared with conventional interleaved boost converters [18]. An interleaved boost converter rated 1 kW, 40 V to 380 V experimental findings show an efficiency of 90.7% at full load, which is 5% better than a typical interleaved boost converter. [19]. A three-winding coupled inductor produced a high voltage gain. The energy in the leakage inductor is released to the output directly, reducing the switch stress. The output diode's reverse recovery current is evaluated using a coupled inductor. A closed loop control method is used, which overcomes the power source voltage drift problem. The converter is used with a FC which gives a  $P_o = 300\text{ W}$   $V_{out} = 400\text{ V}$ ,  $V_{in} = 27\text{ V}$ – $36.5\text{ V}$  and  $F_s = 100\text{ kHz}$ . It gives a maximum efficiency of 95.2% at 220 W. A 200 W boost converter having coupled inductors, and buck-boost active clamps for low  $V_{in}$  applications is proposed in [20]. The  $V_{in}$  range is 25–40 V,  $V_{out}$  is 200 V and output current of 1A with a switching frequency of 66 kHz. ZVS turns on the main and auxiliary switches, and the boost diode is turned on DC-DC ZCS. Thus, the switching losses are chopped. The converter efficiency is 92%, and the output power is 200 W. A high voltage gains 250 W non-isolated DC-DC converter having a three-stage switching cell and voltage multiplier is proposed and demonstrates the  $V_{in}$  range is 30–45 V, and  $V_{out}$  is 400 V. The three-stage switching cells reduce the converter's size and conduction losses while efficiency is 97% [20].

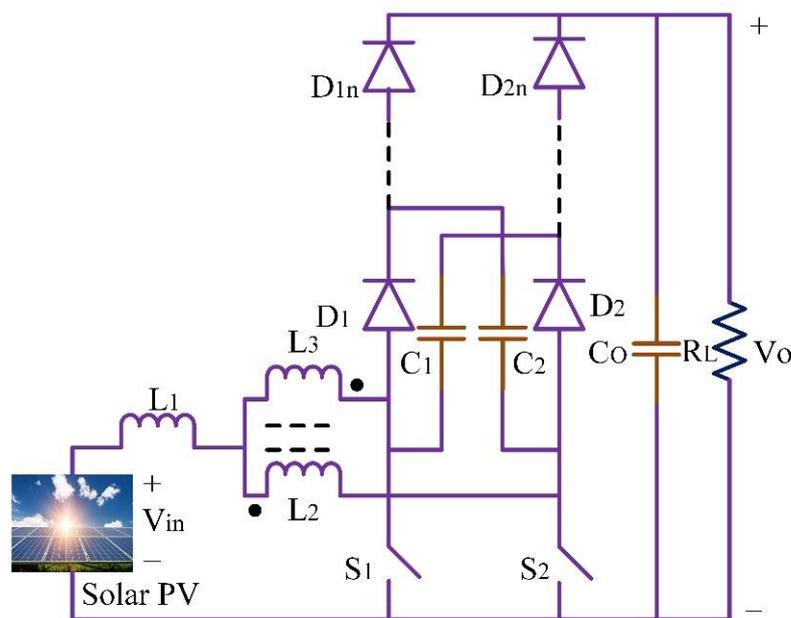


Figure 5. Coupled inductor 1.

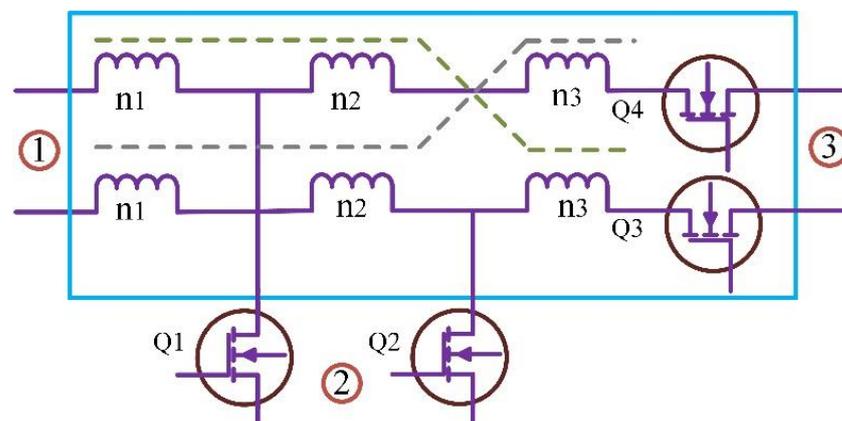


Figure 6. Coupled Inductor 2.

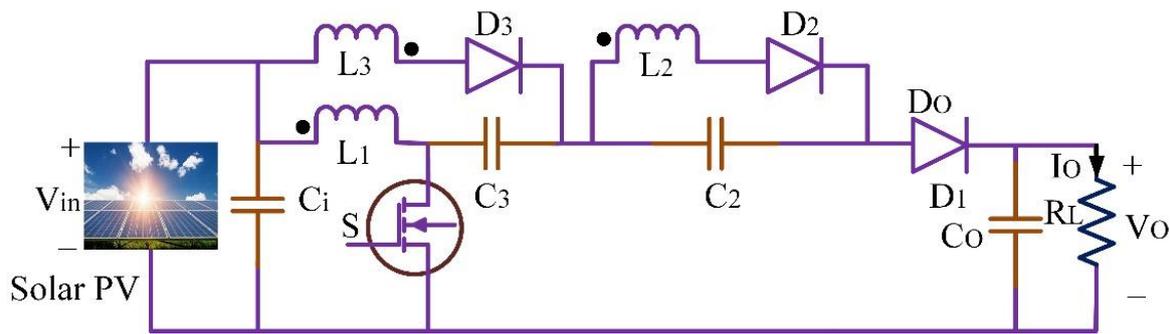


Figure 7. Coupled Inductor 3.

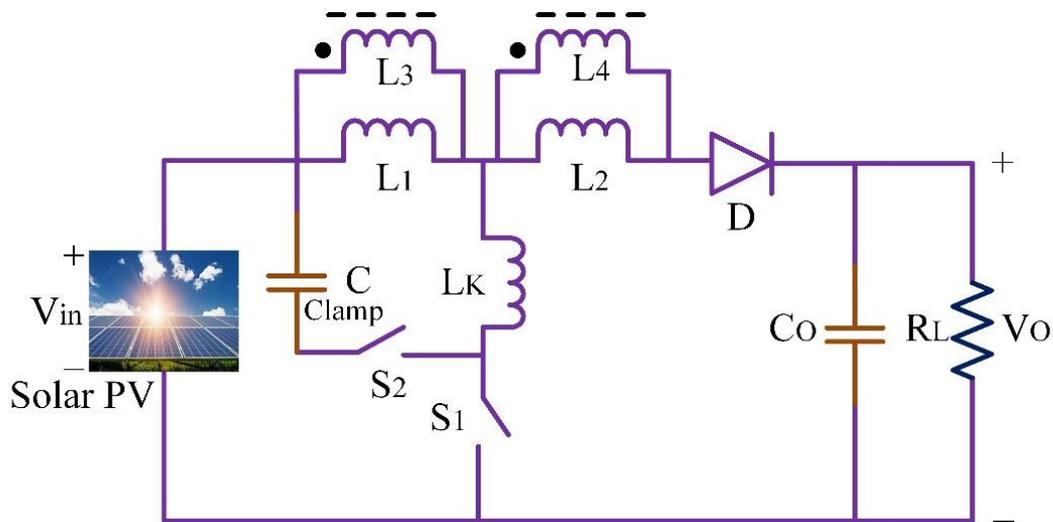


Figure 8. Coupled inductor 4.

A high step-up DC-DC converter is required to boost the voltage value generated through the 400 V DC bus voltage PV. Passive loss clamped technology is used to improve efficiency and limit voltage stress. Recycling of leakage energy is possible with the help of passive losses clamped technology. The basic boost converters' main disadvantages include problems with the electromagnetic interface, high voltage stress and hard switching on the semiconductor elements [21]. Coupled inductor DC-DC buck-boost converter is used for a step up and down by non-inverting voltage, this also offers high efficiency, control and regulation of input and output currents smoothly and immediately [22].

Table 1. Hybrid converters with observations.

Ref	Type of ASD	Converter Type	Supply Direction	Observations
[22]	Supercapacitor	Buck-boost	Buck-boost	The construction and design are simple, using the same modules for all the positions in the system.
[23]	Supercapacitor and Batteries	Buck-boost	Bidirectional buck-boost	The buck and boost modes of operation in the buck-boost converter connected with an FC, the operational dead-zone description, is not present in the system. It also consists of a design with complex control
[24]	Supercapacitor	Boost	Bidirectional buck-boost	The experimental result of the boost converter is not present in the system, and the converter also has some start-up problems.
[25]	Supercapacitor	Boost	Bidirectional buck-boost	The experimental load transient results of the boost converter are not present, and the converter has start-up problems.

Table 1. Cont.

Ref	Type of ASD	Converter Type	Supply Direction	Observations
[26]	Supercapacitor	Boost	Bidirectional buck-boost	The converter consists of a design with complex control, and the converter has start-up problems.
[27]	Supercapacitor	Boost	Bidirectional buck-boost	The boost converter consists of a design with complex control, and the converter has start-up problems.

The structure of the DC-DC boost converter consists of two hybrid, multiple voltage cells, and three winding coupled inductors. Using two multiple voltage cells, parallelly charged and discharged series, can provide very high voltage gain under the appropriate turns of ratio and duty cycle [28].

### 3.2. Interleaved Non-Isolated Topology

This section listed the published solutions of high gain interleaved non-isolated DC-DC converter topology. The voltage multiplier technique is used to the non-isolated DC-DC converters to possess a high step-up static gain, is presented in [29]. The  $V_{in}$  is 24 V, and the output  $V_{out}$  is 400 V. The output power is 400 W. The converter operated with a switching frequency of 40 kHz. The converter efficiency was 95%. Low electromagnetic interference production and commutation losses are attained. Without a power transformer, high static gain operation is possible. The  $V_{in}$  is 48 V and  $V_{out}$  is 380 V with an operating frequency of 100 kHz. The measured efficiency at 1 kW is 94.1%. The voltage doubler circuits increase the operating range of the converter by reducing the transformer's parasitic capacitor's effects. The interleaved Inductor-Inductor-Capacitor (LLC) converter for high gain is shown in Figure 9. This converter operates in two modes: independently and simultaneously. At the same frequency, both the interleaving converters are operated in the simultaneous mode. The single converter only operates in the independent mode.

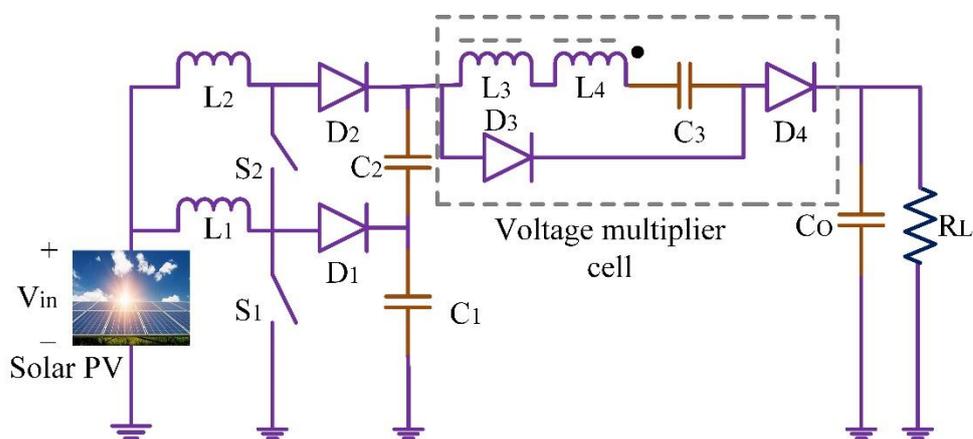


Figure 9. Interleaved non-isolated topology.

The wider  $V_{out}$  range is possible only with frequency control and combined mode changing [30]. The phase-shedding technique is used to improve the efficiency of the interleaved switched capacitor DC-DC converter. The high voltage gain is achieved in the converter with modular characteristics and an interleaved configuration [31]. Using the lower voltage rating, the MOSFETs in the converter reduce the conduction losses [32]. The typical schematic layout is shown in Figure 10.

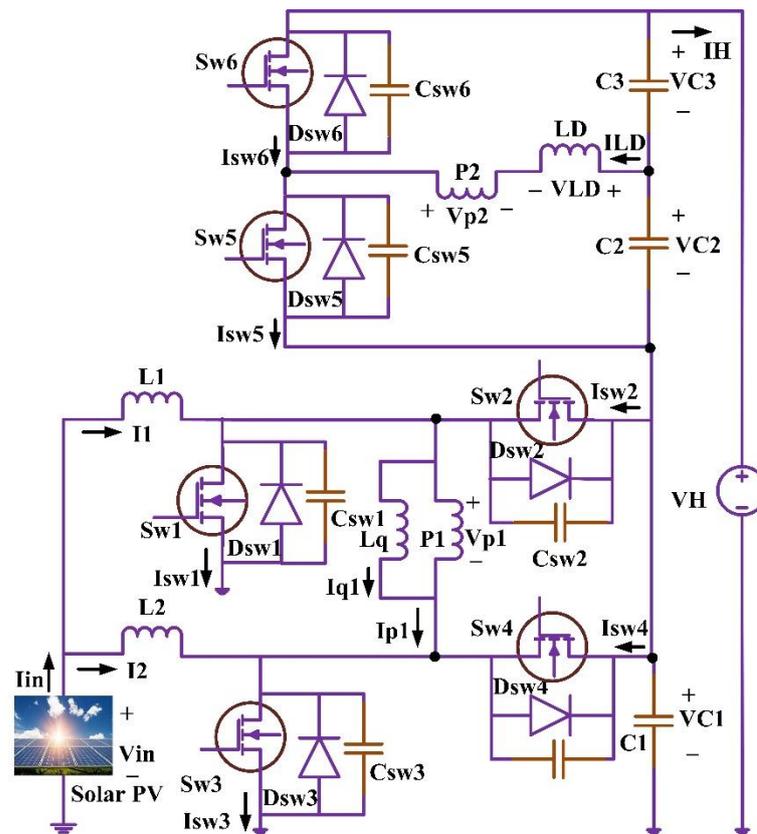


Figure 10. Non-isolated high voltage gain ratio interleaved coupled-inductor type DC-DC converter.

All diodes and switches operate on ZVS and ZCS techniques in the interleaved full soft-switching DC-DC converter. To reduce the power loss and to increase the efficiency of the DC-DC converters, the ZVS and ZCS are used. Finally, the auxiliary circuit is placed out of the main power path to avoid the switches' high current and voltage stress [33]. The schematic circuit diagram of interleaved high step-up converter is depicted in Figure 11. A highly efficient power system always insists a reliable DC-DC converter. An interleaved boost converter is required to convert the high-current low-voltage to low-current high-voltage.

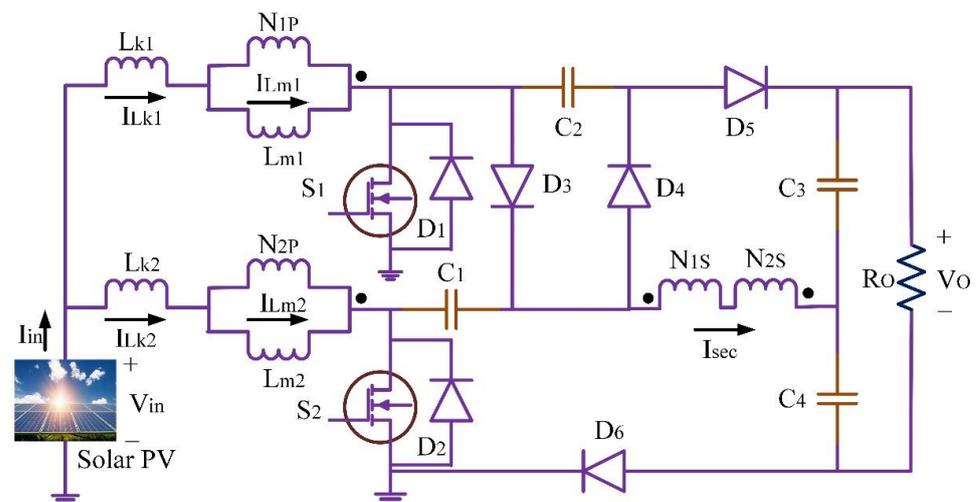


Figure 11. High step-up interleaved converter.

Classical boost converter deemed to be less advance than interleaved boost converter which offers high efficiency, low input ripple current, fast transient response, high reliability and less electromagnetic emission. Interleaved boost converters are suitable for the design of a highly efficient FC power system. To improve the system efficiency three-phase directly coupled interleaved boost converter using CoolMOS transistor and silicon carbide diode is used. Analysis based on the performances of interleaved converters are summarized in Table 2.

**Table 2.** Performance analysis of the interleaved converters.

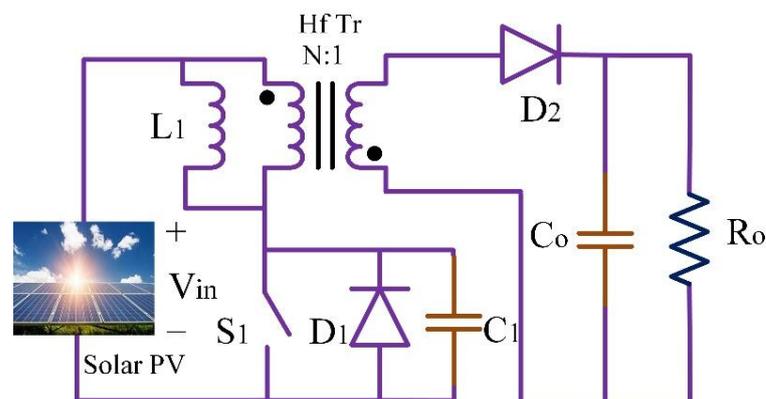
Parameter	[34]	[35]	[36]	[37]
Input ripple current	Low	Low	Low	Moderate
Number of diodes	4	8	4	6
The voltage stress on the switches ( $n = 1$ )	$\left(\frac{V_0}{6}\right)$	$\left(\frac{V_0}{4}\right)$	$\left(\frac{V_0}{4}\right)$	$\left(\frac{V_0}{3}\right)$
Number of windings	4	6	4	6
Voltage gain	$\left(\frac{2(n+2)}{1-D}\right)$	$\left(\frac{3n+1}{1-D}\right)$	$\left(\frac{2(n+1)}{1-D}\right)$	$n_2 + \left(\frac{2n_3D+2-D}{1-D}\right)$

### 3.3. Isolated Push-Pull Boost Converter

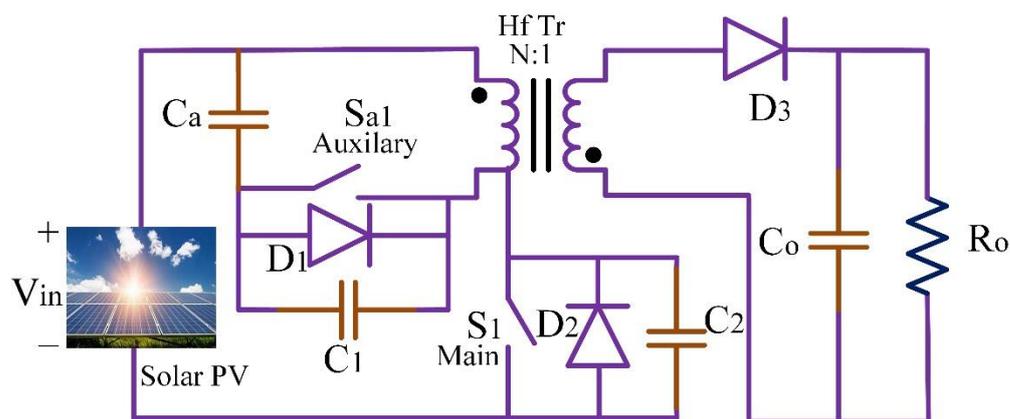
This section lists the published solutions of isolated push-pull boost converter topology for high-gain DC-DC converters [38]. The proposed converter is a push-pull type hard switched isolated boost converter. The proposed converter is implemented along with a voltage clamp circuit on the isolation transformer's primary and secondary sides. After the front end, the push-pull converter H-bridge DC-AC converter follows. The range of converter input  $V_{in}$  is taken as 25–45 V and  $V_{out}$  as 350–400 V. For the 900 W power level, the maximum calculated efficiency is 91%. Utilizing the resonant converter gives an advantage of a 1.5 kW front-end converter for FC applications, which is presented in [39]. On the secondary side of isolation transformer, a voltage doubler concept was introduced to tune the current resonance to minimize the diode losses (recovery). Switching active clamp circuits' blocking voltage is used on both sides to clamp the peak. The proposed converter follows with an H-bridge DC-AC converter. Overall, a calculated system efficiency of 92.5% is achieved with an  $V_{in}$  range of 30 V and an  $V_{out}$  of 350 V for 700 W power level.

### 3.4. Fly Back Converter Topology

This section lists the published solutions of Fly-back converter topology for high-gain DC-DC converters as shown in Figures 12 and 13. A 300 W isolated high step-up ratio DC-DC converter that uses a voltage multiplier on the secondary side and active clamp on the transformer main side is proposed in [40]. The  $V_{in}$  range is 25–35 V, and  $V_{out}$  is 400 V. The circulating current through the active clamp is reduced due to the resonant phases between transformer leakage inductances and diode parasitic capacitances, which also lowers the conduction losses.



**Figure 12.** Boost fly-back converter topology.



**Figure 13.** Active clamp boost fly-back converter.

The converter's efficiency of 92% to 94% for the entire  $V_{in}$  range and 300 W output power. A 300 W high step-up ratio converter for low-voltage and high-current energy sources is proposed [41]. The clamping diode integrated with boost-flyback (IBF) topology that naturally clamps parasitic oscillations. Resonance caused by the parasitic components helps to increase the voltage gain. The  $V_{in}$  range is 25–35 V, and  $V_{out}$  is 400 V. Various parameter has been evaluated and summarized in Table 3 for various converters. A simple design of asymmetrical forward cells of stacked multiple output topology is depicted in Figure 14.

**Table 3.** Parameter analysis of various DC-DC converters.

Parameter	[42]	[21]	[43]	[44]
MOSFET voltage stress	$\frac{V_0}{1+2N-ND}$	$\frac{V_0}{2(1+N)}$	$\frac{V_0}{1+N}$	$\frac{V_0}{2}$
MOSFET Soft switching	ZVS	ZVS	Hard switching	ZVS
No. of MOSFETs	2	2	1	2
The voltage stress on output diode	$\frac{NV_0}{1+2N-ND}$	$\frac{V_0}{2}$	$\frac{NV_0}{1+N}$	$\frac{V_0}{2}$
Soft switching of diodes	ZCS	Hard switching	Hard switching	ZCS
Diodes	3	4	3	2
Number of magnetic components	1	1	1	2
Voltage gain	$\frac{1+2N-ND}{1-D}$	$\frac{2(1+N)}{1-D}$	$\frac{1+N}{1-D}$	$\frac{2}{1-D}$

The converter efficiency is about 94% for a 100 kHz frequency of operation, and the output power is 300 W. The conventional isolated converter with N-outputs requires 2 N primary switches. The above circuit requires  $N + 1$  primary switches to independently regulate the secondary side N output voltages [45].

### 3.5. Half Bridge Converter Topology

The concept of two inductor boost converters was introduced by [46]. The boost converter topology is the boost version of the abovementioned current double topology, also called the HY-Bridge rectifier. Many papers have already been published on the high-power low- $V_{in}$  application of the two inductor boosts [46–51], representing some important works on this topic. Two inductor isolated boost converters are often referred to as half-bridge converters, as shown in Figure 15. A 1 kW isolated current fed half-bridge LLC resonant DC-DC converter of 24–28 V input and 400 V output was presented in [52]. An un-regulated LLC converter is implemented, which acts as isolated voltage amplifier having constant voltage gain. Experimental efficiency of 90.2 % was achieved with 24 volts input under full load conditions. The LLC converter has inherent bi-directional power flow capability. A 1.2 kW isolated current fed active clamped half-bridge circuit with a  $V_{in}$  range of 28–43 V and an output of 380 Volts is presented in [53]. The proposed converter in this paper is compared with the existing converter topologies. The converter also tested for high power rating, and overall efficiency of 94% was achieved with better

component utilization. Here a 200 W active clamped L-L current fed half-bridge isolated DC-DC converter with a 22 V input and 350 V output. [54]. The topology shown in this study achieves a wide-ranged ZVS of primary side switches from full load to light load conditions. Moreover, the auxiliary active clamp circuit absorbs the turn-off voltage spikes and also assists in achieving soft switching of primary devices [55]. Represents a 1 kW modified isolated two-inductor boost by active clamping and reset. The two transformers integrated by the individual rectifiers are connected in parallel on the input and output sides. Triangular switch currents can be observed due to active clamping. The  $V_{in}$  range is 26–50 V. The obtained  $V_{out}$  is 400 V. At 600 W output power, the maximum efficiency value is 95.6%. For the measured efficiency, the  $V_{in}$  condition is not published. [56] have used a 1 kW two-inductor boost converter with an active clamping. The  $V_{in}$  is 48 V. The observed  $V_{out}$  is 350 V. At a power rating of 500 W, an approximate peak efficiency of 87% is observed. The efficiency value drops to 77% at 1 kW output. A full-bridge boost converter reports 6–10% less efficiency on a comparative basis. As a part of the two-stage DC-DC converter for FC applications, a 1 kW two-inductor boost stage is designed in [57] as depicted in Figure 16.

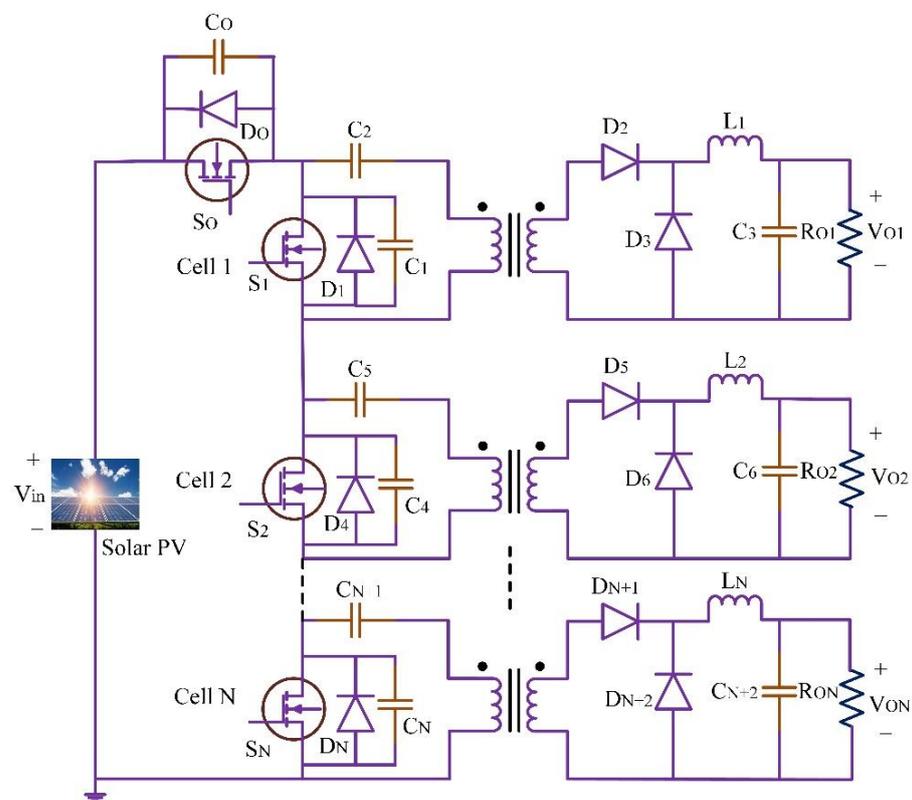


Figure 14. Asymmetrical forward cells of stacked multiple output topology.

Ref. [50] represent a 1.5 kW bi-directional two-inductor boost for a bi-directional interface between a 28 V and a 270 V aircraft power bus. On the low voltage side, active clamping and the rest is used to clamp the switching overvoltage. The range is 22–32 V. At  $V_{in} = 32$  V and 750 W output, a peak efficiency value of 96% is achieved in the boost mode. Efficiency drops below 89% at 22  $V_{in}$  and 1.5 kW output. A typical layout of DC-DC dual active bridge converter is shown in Figure 17.

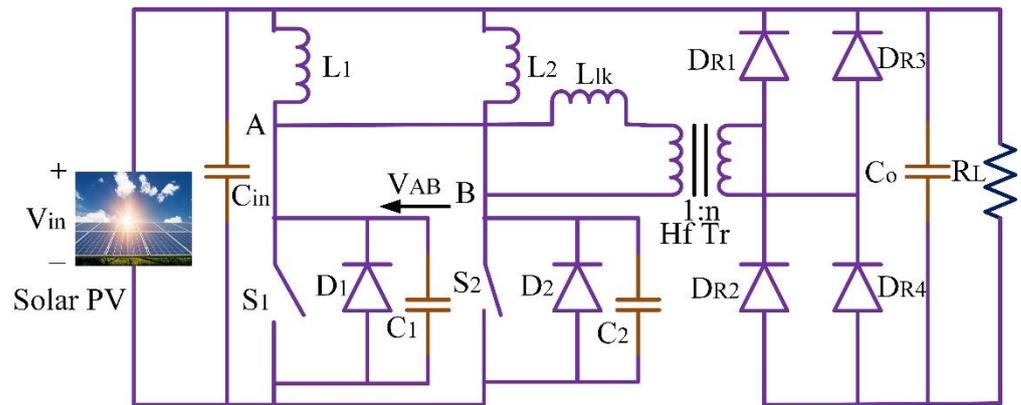


Figure 15. Two inductors isolated boost converter or Half Bridge converter.

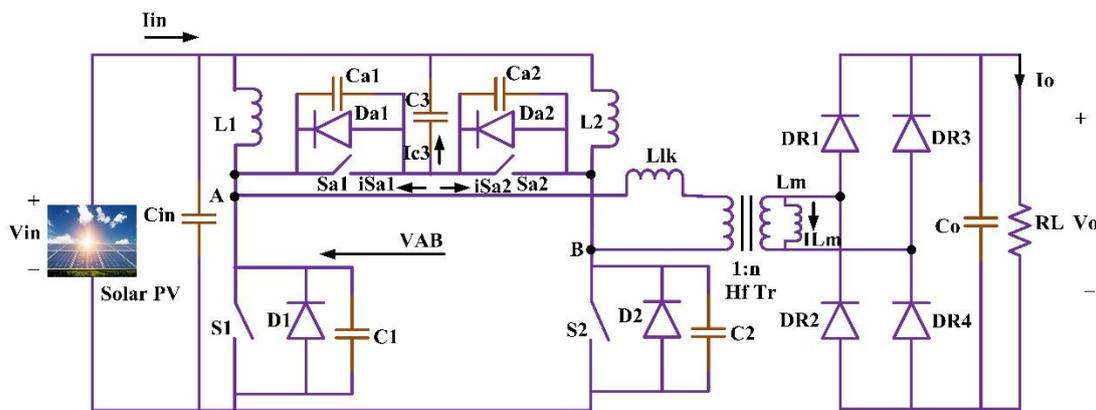


Figure 16. Two inductors isolated boost converter with active clamp.

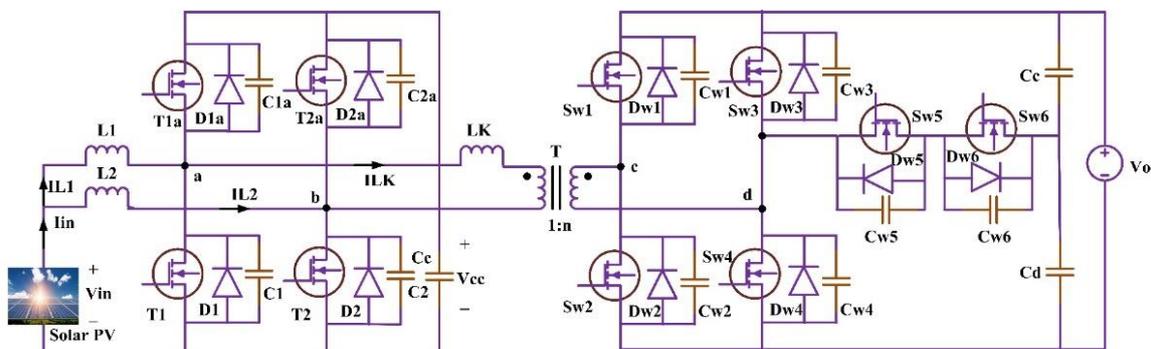


Figure 17. DC-DC converter with Dual active bridge.

A current fed hybrid dual active bridge DC-DC converter reduces the input high-frequency ripple current. While Power MOSFETs are switched with the ZVS technique. Low-voltage FC power conditioning systems employ two active bridge converters. Four power MOSFETs ( $T_1, T_{1a}, T_2,$  and  $T_{2a}$ ) and two inductors  $L_1$  and  $L_2$  make up the input side.  $S_{w1}, S_{w2}, S_{w3},$  and  $S_{w4}$  are the four MOSFETs that make up the output side. The auxiliary half-bridge consists of  $S_{w5}$  and  $S_{w6}$ . The power MOSFETs and ( $C_d$  and  $C_u$ ) capacitors make up the auxiliary half-bridge. The transformer  $T$  is used to link the input and output sides. Here, the ratio of the transformer turns to the leakage inductance  $L_k$  is 1:  $n$  [58]

### 3.6. Full Bridge Converter Topology

This section listed the published solutions of full-bridge converter topology for high gain DC-DC converters, as shown in Figure 18. A 500 W current fed full bridge isolated ZVS

active clamp full-bridge converter with 22 V input and 350 V output for FC applications is presented in [59]. This converter uses active clamp switch to clamp the voltage spikes across the full bridge switches in the turn-off mode. Moreover, this active clamp switch helps to achieve soft switching of primary side devices. For example, a 100 W full-bridge isolated ZVS DC-DC converter with an input range of 48 V and an output range of 380 V is presented in [60]. The proposed converter uses an integrated magnetic concept to utilize the transformer better. Though the converter is unsuitable for high power grid applications, soft switching is claimed for 100 kHz switching operation. A 1.2 kW current-fed full-bridge topology with an input of 30 V and an output of 600 V was observed. The presented converter topology uses the current fed full bridge topology for FC applications. Based on the theoretical limitations of transferrable power, the optimized converter is designed for the given specifications.

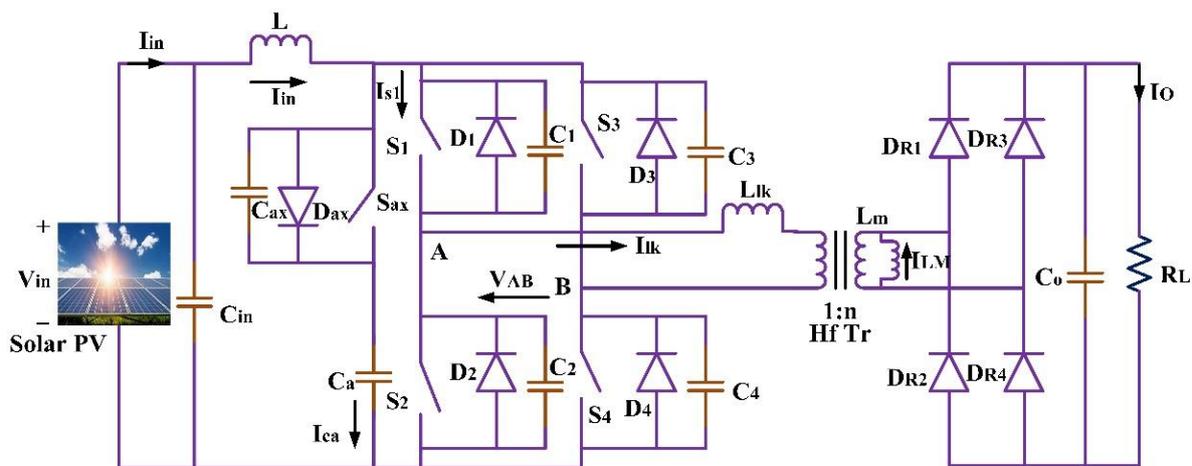


Figure 18. Active clamp full-bridge current fed converter.

A 5 kW isolated full bridge topology is proposed to apply FC vehicles [60]. The voltage clamping concept was introduced using a passive circuit to clamp the primary side switch blocking voltage. The proposed converter was analysed with a 24 V input and an output of 300 V. The calculated efficiency at peak power was 94%. Limited design data are provided to validate the converter. A soft switched 1 kW full-bridge isolated converter is demonstrated in [61]. During the switching, an overlap period of slow resonant commutation is achieved with the proposed converter. For the primary side switches, ZCS turn-off and ZCS turn-on is achieved. With the  $V_{in} = 22\text{--}27$  V,  $V_{out} = 1$  kV, a peak efficiency of 88% was achieved with 22 V input. An isolated full bridge converter for a 1.4 kW power level is proposed with a resonant LC circuit [62]. The resonant circuit is formed by connecting resonant capacitors parallel to the primary side switches and the LC tank circuit, forming a complete resonant circuit. With a  $V_{in}$  of 100 V and an output of 374 V with a narrow band frequency regulation, the maximum efficiency achieved is 90%.

### 3.7. Resonant Converters

Below, Figure 19 shows the Series Resonant Converter topology (SRC). This paper [63] uses a parallel tank circuit formed by an  $(L-C) \parallel L$  combination to achieve soft switching of high-frequency switches. The important feature of these converters including (1) Achieving an improved efficiency even at varying load and line conditions. (2) A wide range of soft switching ZVS can be achieved. (3) The Peak current capability of the switch varies with the input current variation and not with the load current changes.

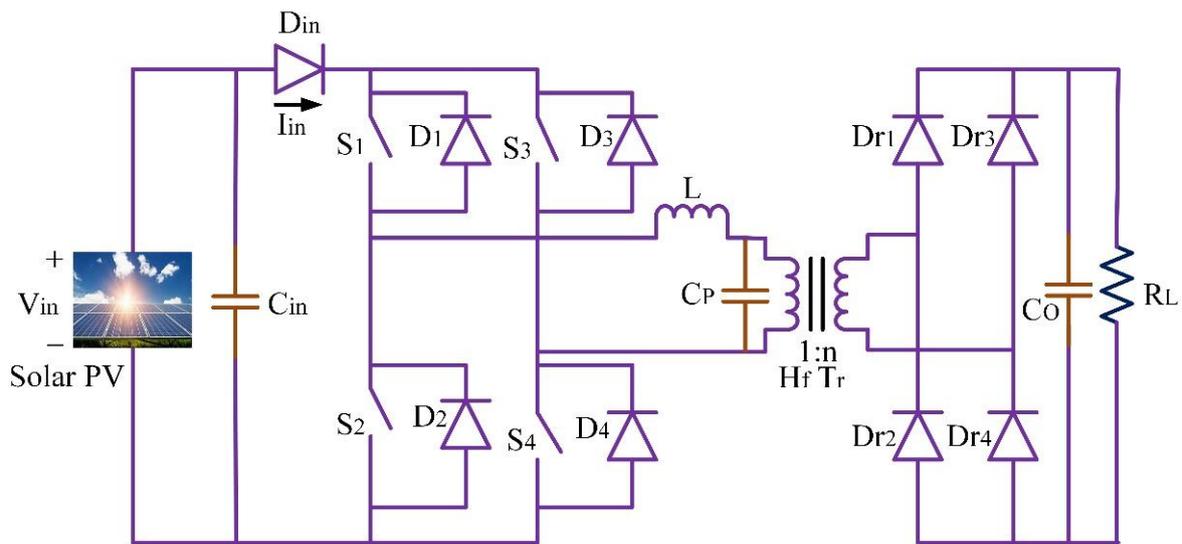


Figure 19. Series resonant converter having inductive output filter.

Here Figure 20 shows is a full bridge phase shifted converter having an inductive output filter configuration. The Soft switched converter configuration for high-power applications vividly uses it. The proposed converter configuration uses a constant frequency capable of realizing ZVS of the main switches on the primary side with a minimal circulating circuit configuration. The ZVS is realized with a filter inductance, a leakage inductance of the transformer, a parasitic capacitance of the switches, and a snubber capacitance. The phase-shifted technique achieves control over the  $V_{out}$  with constant frequency. The important characteristics of the proposed converter include:

1. The duty cycle loss at the secondary side is a major limitation of this configuration.
2. A huge stress on the secondary side is rectifying diodes.
3. The parasitic ringing problem on the secondary side transformer.
4. For a wide range of ZVS, a large inductor is needed, but the transformer needs to decrease the  $N_p/N_s$  ratio, which will increase the primary side current. Therefore, the conduction losses of the devices occur. A compromise between the  $N_p/N_s$  ratio and inductor should be carried out to minimize the conduction losses of the active switches.

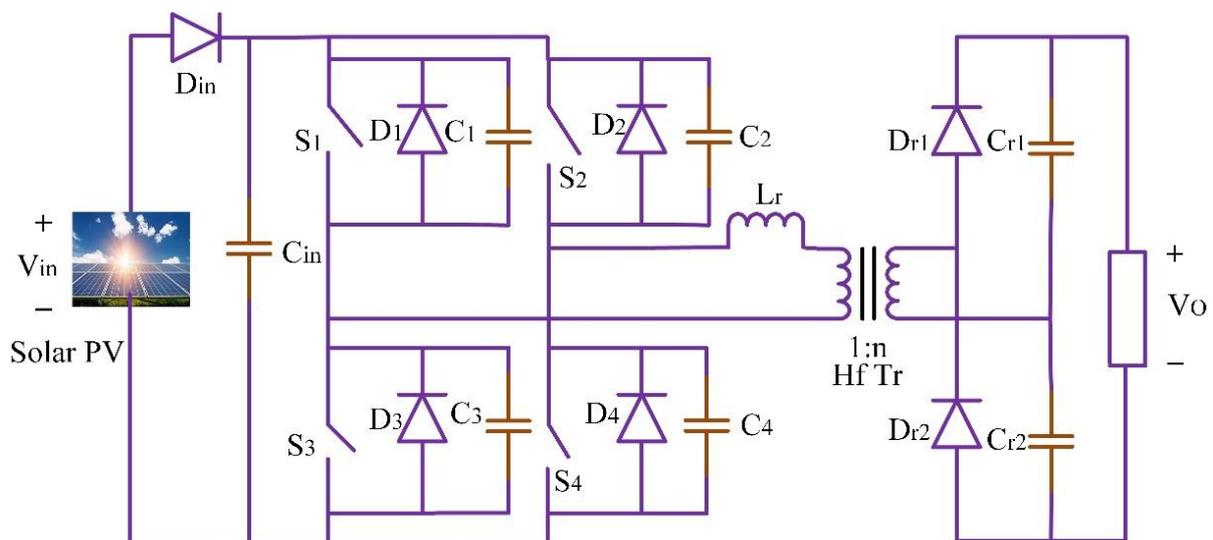


Figure 20. Phase shifted full bridge converter.



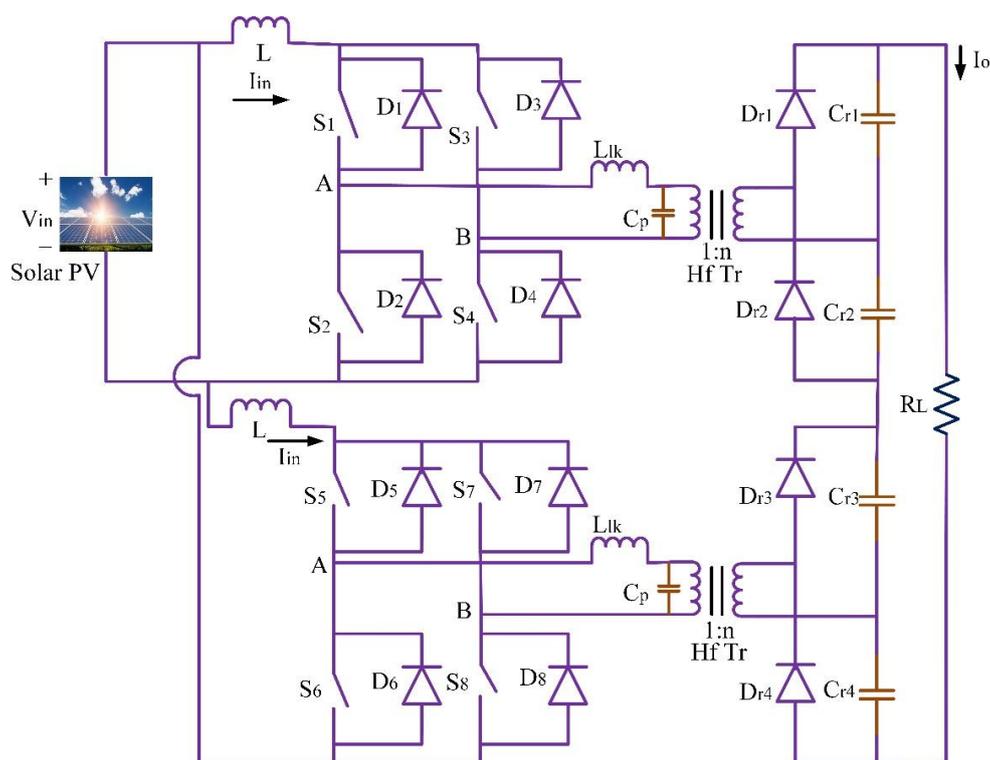


Figure 22. Interleaved Isolated Full Bridge Converter Topology.

#### 4. Summary of the Analysis

The comparison includes an analysis of high-gain converters meant for PV applications. The published performance details are provided in Table 4. It should be noted that the critical test conditions, such as  $V_{in}$  and  $V_{out}$  levels and the measurement tolerances, are usually not provided, making it difficult to compare the efficiency achieved wherever provided. The optimum comparison was achieved by considering 1. Worst-case efficiency, 2. The number of active devices, 3. Switching frequency, and 4. Size of the converter data. Beyond the performance data, the papers reveal an analysis of different types of converters. The boost converters do not deliver high step-up ratios efficiently in continuous conduction mode due to the switch's high current and voltage stress and the diode reverse recovery loss. The non-isolated converter topologies are the suboptimal solution because it is directly connected to output high voltage side and the high boost ratios make it difficult to develop in non-isolated single-stage converter. The greater the differences in the voltage between the output of the FC (low voltage) and the DC link (high voltage), the greater there is need for electrical isolation between the two circuits [17,18,68]. Push-pull converters are typically unsuitable for FC power generation, especially at high power, due to the difficulty in overcoming transformer saturation [38,39]. The modified fly-back converters [69,70] suffer from voltage stress across the rectifier diode. The single winding carries a current, operates in a discontinuous mode (to avoid core saturation), and has high off-state voltage and poor core utilization. Current-fed full bridge converter operates at 10 kHz [66] (as it is a hard-switched converter), resulting in a larger converter due to the greater size of magnets and filters. The voltage clamping requirements [59] show that these circuits are necessary to reduce the switch stress. An active clamp (or reset) circuit requires greater switches and results in greater conduction losses due to the formation of the triangular current waveforms.

The comparison of measured efficiency in converter [18] and conventional boost converter is given in Figure 23. The conversion of 40 V to 380 V DC-DC gives the maximum efficiency of 92.6%.

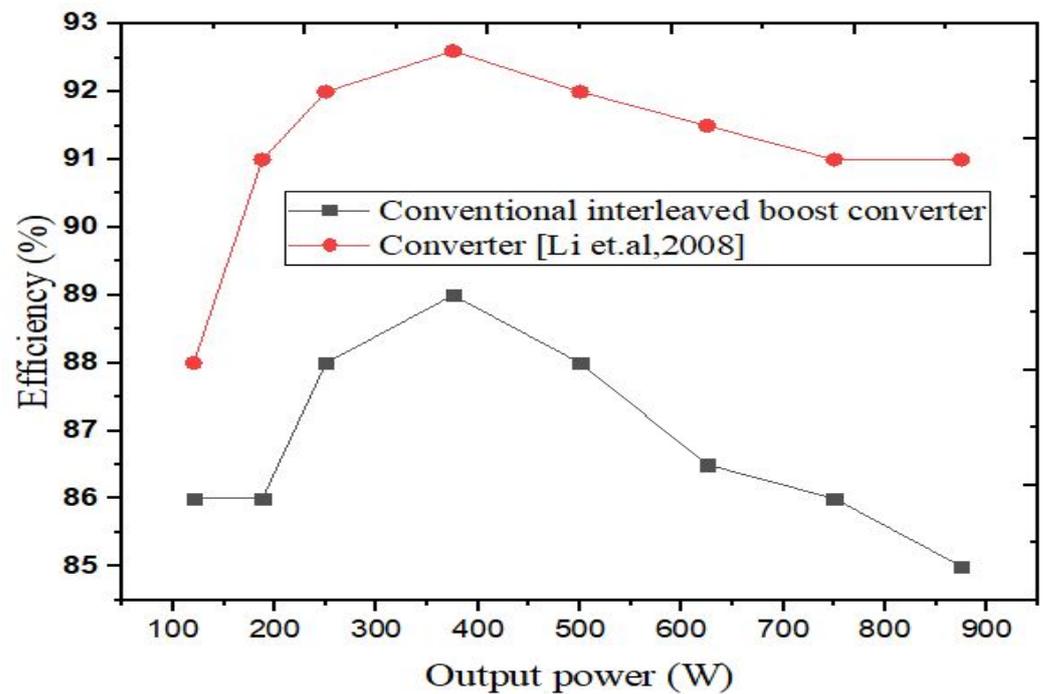


Figure 23. Measured efficiency Vs power [18].

Table 4. High voltage gain DC-DC converter topology comparison.

Topology	Power Rating in W	Input Voltage ( $V_{in}$ )	Output Voltage(V)	No. of Active Devices	Switching Frequency (kHz)	Trans-Former Turns Ratio	Switching	References
Flyback	300	25–35	400	2	100	5.375	Soft	[70]
	300	25–35	400	1	100	4.5	Hard	[69]
Coupled Inductor	200	24	360 V	2	100	5	ZVS	[17]
	1000	40	380 V	2	50	40/22	ZCS	[71]
	300	27–36.5	400 V	1	100	$N_2 = 6.33, N_3 = 5$	-	[72]
	200	25–40	200	2	66	20	Soft	[20]
	250	30–45	400	2	20	1	Hard	[73]
Non-Isolated Interleaved	400	24	400	2	40	-	Soft	[29]
	1000	40	380	2	50	1.818	Soft	[74]
	1000	48	380	2	100	1	Soft	[18]
Push Pull	1000	25–45	350–400	-	-	-	-	[38]
	1500	30	350	-	-	-	-	[39]
Half bridge	1000	24–28	400	3	300	1:11	Hard	[54]
	1200	28–43	380	4	50	1:3.5	Soft	[75]
	200	22–41	350	4	100	1:4	Soft	[76]
	1000	26–50	400	4	50	4:14	ZVS	[77]
	1000	24	200	4	100	-	Hard	[47]
	1500	22–32	270	6	100	10/21	ZVS	[78]

Table 4. Cont.

Topology	Power Rating in W	Input Voltage ( $V_{in}$ )	Output Voltage(V)	No. of Active Devices	Switching Frequency (kHz)	Trans-Former Turns Ratio	Switching	References
Full bridge	500	22–41	350	5	100 kHz	1:8	Soft	[59]
	1200	30	600	4	60 kHz	1:10	Hard	[79]
	1000	22–27	1000	4	100 KHz	1:30	Soft	[80]
	1400	100	374	4	250	-	ZVS	[81]
Interleaved isolated	200	22–41	200	10	100 kHz	-	Soft	[63]
	1200	33	400	8	10 kHz	1:2	Hard	[82]
	200	11	200	8	100 kHz	1:4	Soft	[83]

## 5. Conclusions

This paper evaluates the 14 DC-DC boost converters' efficiency, number of components, and stability. The significance of choosing a converter based on load and source requirements is evaluated. The importance of voltage gains and voltage stress factors when connecting solar PV to the grid is discussed. In addition to the non-isolated step up, interleaved and coupled inductors' reliability with respect to solar PV system applications are outlined. The stress on the switches is reduced by coupled inductor with the ZVS operation system to reduce grid instability and synchronization drawbacks. Each converter importance is fully discussed in this review. Microgrids with solar PV will significantly increase the flexibility of the power system, but to make it reliable, it is necessary to choose the proper converters based on corresponding ratings. Selecting a suitable Converter linking PV source and Dc link bus enhances system performance. In addition, the bidirectional interleaved switched capacitor DC-DC converter implemented in grid connection helps reduction of capacitor voltage stress is discussed in this review. This further extends to by interleaved converter use in diminishing the current ripples at low voltage. Even though the converters pose the following merits, many constraints still need to be resolved, such as exceeding duty values to 50% and linear increases of switch voltage stress with increasing duty cycle.

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