

Description

Title of Invention: CONTROL METHOD FOR DIRECT POWER CONVERSION DEVICE

5 Technical Field

[0001] The present invention relates to a method for controlling a direct power converter.

Background Art

[0002] Patent Documents 1 and 2 and Non-Patent Documents 1, 2 and 3 each describe
10 a direct power converter. The direct power converter includes a diode rectifier, an inverter and a charge and discharge circuit.

[0003] A single-phase AC voltage is full-wave rectified by the diode rectifier, is thus output to a pair of DC power supply lines (a DC link).

[0004] The charge and discharge circuit is provided in the DC link and includes a
15 buffer circuit and a boost circuit. The buffer circuit includes a switch and a capacitor connected in series with each other between the pair of DC power supply lines. The capacitor is discharged by conduction of the switch, thus providing power to the DC link.

[0005] The boost circuit boosts a rectified voltage from the diode rectifier to charge the capacitor. The charge and discharge circuit accordingly receives power from the DC
20 link. The inverter receives a DC voltage of the DC link and converts it into an AC voltage to be output.

Prior Art Documents

Patent Documents

[0006] Patent Document 1: Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 2011-193678

25 Patent Document 2: Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 2012-135184

Non-Patent Documents

[0007] Non-Patent Document 1: Yoshiya Ohnuma, Jun-ichi Itoh, "Circuit Configuration and Control Strategy of single-to-three Phase Power Converter with Active Buffer and Charge Circuit", The 2010 Annual Meeting of the Institute of Electrical Engineers of Japan, No. 4-057 (2010)

Non-Patent Document 2: Yoshiya Ohnuma, Jun-ichi Itoh, "Experimental Verification of Single Phase to Three Phase Converter Using an Active Buffer circuit with a Charge Circuit", 2010 IEEJ Industry Applications Society Conference 1-124 (2010)

10 Non-Patent Document 3: Yoshiya Ohnuma, Jun-ichi Itoh, "Comparison of Boost Chopper and Active Buffer as Single to Three Phase Converter", The 2011 Annual Meeting of the Institute of Electrical Engineers of Japan, No. 4-042 (2011)

Summary of Invention

15 Problem to be Solved by the Invention

[0008] Unfortunately, the charge and discharge circuits proposed in these documents require high power capacity to compensate for the pulsating components of a single-phase AC voltage.

[0009] Typical electrolytic capacitors allow only a small ripple current, although they are inexpensive. Thus, the capacitor of the charge and discharge circuit proposed above is desirably, for example, a film capacitor or a laminated ceramic capacitor as in Non-Patent Document 3. From such a point of view, it is difficult to configure a charge and discharge circuit inexpensively.

[0010] This application therefore has an object to provide a technique of reducing power provided/received between a charge and discharge circuit and a DC link to reduce

power capacity required for the charge and discharge circuit.

Means to Solve the Problem

[0011] A method for controlling a direct power converter according to the present invention is a method for controlling a direct power converter including: a first power supply line (LH); a second power supply line (LL) which is applied with a potential lower than that of the first power supply line is applied; a converter (3) including an input side connected with a single-phase AC power supply (1, 2) and an output side connected with the first power supply line and the second power supply line, and performing single-phase full-wave rectification; a charge and discharge circuit (4) located between the first power supply line and the second power supply line; and an inverter (5) that converts a DC voltage between the first power supply line and the second power supply line into an AC voltage.

[0012] In the direct power converter, the charge and discharge circuit includes: a buffer circuit (4a) including a capacitor (C4) and a first switch (Sc, D42) connected in series with the capacitor at a side close to the first power supply line between the first power supply line and the second power supply line, and providing and receiving power between the first power supply line and the second power supply line; and a boost circuit (4b) that boosts a rectified voltage (Vrec) from the converter (3) to charge the capacitor.

[0013] The buffer circuit (4a) provides power to the first power supply line and the second power supply line in a first period (T1) in which a cosine value ($\cos(2\omega t)$) to a value ($2\omega t$) of twice a phase angle (ωt) of an AC waveform output from the single-phase AC power supply (1, 2) is positive when the AC waveform is regarded as a sine value ($\sin(\omega t)$) of the phase angle (ωt); receives power from the first power supply line and the second power supply line in a second period (T2) in which the cosine value is negative.

[0014] The converter (3) is conductive at a rectifying duty (drec), where the rectifying

duty takes a value of $\sqrt{2}$ -times an absolute value ($|\sin(\omega t)|$) of the sine value in the first period.

[0015] A first aspect of the control method determines power ($V_{dc} \cdot I_{dc}$) input to the inverter (5) as a product of an absolute value ($I_m / \sqrt{2}$) of an input current input to the converter (3) at a boundary between the first period and the second period, an effective value ($V_m / \sqrt{2}$) of an AC voltage (V_{in}) of the single-phase AC power supply, and a value $((1 - (1 - k) \cdot \cos(2\omega t)))$ obtained by subtracting, from one, a value obtained by multiplying the cosine value ($\cos(2\omega t)$) by a positive constant $(1 - k)$ less than one.

[0016] In a second aspect of the method for controlling a direct power converter according to the present invention, in the first aspect, the rectifying duty (d_{rec}) takes an inverse number ($1 / (\sqrt{2} |\sin(\omega t)|)$) of the value of $\sqrt{2}$ -times the absolute value ($|\sin(\omega t)|$) of the sine value in the second period (T_2). The first switch (S_c , D_{42}) is rendered conductive to discharge the capacitor (C_4) in the first period (T_1) at a discharge duty (d_c) taking a value obtained by dividing, by $\sqrt{2}$, a product of the cosine value ($\cos(2\omega t)$) and a value (V_m / V_c) obtained by dividing a crest value (V_m) of the AC voltage (V_{in}) of the single-phase AC power supply by a both-end voltage (V_c) of the capacitor.

[0017] In a third aspect of the method for controlling a direct power converter according to the present invention, in the first aspect, the rectifying duty (d_{rec}) takes a value 1 in the second period (T_2). The first switch (S_c , D_{42}) is rendered conductive to discharge the capacitor (C_4) in the first period (T_1) at a discharge duty (d_c) taking a product of the cosine value ($\cos(2\omega t)$) and a value (V_m / V_c) obtained by dividing a crest value (V_m) of the AC voltage (V_{in}) of the single-phase AC power supply by a both-end voltage (V_c) of the capacitor.

[0018] For example, the boost circuit (4b) includes: a diode (D_{40}) including a cathode and an anode that is connected between the first switch (S_c , D_{42}) and the capacitor (C_4);

a reactor (L4) connected between the first power supply line (LH) and the cathode, through which a current input to the boost circuit flows; and a second switch (S1, D41) connected between the second power supply line (LL) and the cathode.

[0019] In the second period (T2), the second switch of the boost circuit is controlled to
5 control a current (il) flowing through the reactor (L4).

Effects of the Invention

[0020] According to the first aspect of the method for controlling a direct power converter of the present invention, the power provided/received by the buffer circuit is reduced, thereby reducing a power capacity required for the buffer circuit.

10 [0021] According to the second aspect of the method for controlling a direct power converter of the present invention, an average value of a virtual DC voltage can be made constant in a period in which the inverter is capable of power conversion.

[0022] According to the third aspect of the method for controlling a direct power converter of the present invention, a voltage utilization ratio can be improved.

15 [0023] The object, features, aspects and advantages of the present invention will become more apparent from the following detailed description and the attached drawings.

Brief Description of Drawings

[0024] [FIG. 1] A block diagram showing the configuration of a direct power converter
20 to which a control method described in an embodiment is applied.

[FIG. 2] A circuit diagram showing an equivalent circuit of a circuit shown in FIG. 1.

[FIG. 3] A graph showing the operation of the direct power converter shown in FIG. 1 in first setting.

25 [FIG. 4] A graph showing the operation of the direct power converter shown in

FIG. 1 in the first setting.

[FIG. 5] A graph showing the operation of the direct power converter shown in FIG. 1 in second setting.

[FIG. 6] A graph showing the operation of the direct power converter shown in FIG. 1 in the second setting.

[FIG. 7] A block diagram showing an example configuration for control on a DC current, which is described in the embodiment.

[FIG. 8] A graph showing the relationship among an input power, the electrostatic capacitance of a capacitor and a ripple current in the direct power converter.

[FIG. 9] A circuit diagram showing a modification of the direct power converter shown in FIG. 1.

Description of Embodiments

[0025] A. Configuration of Direct Power Converter

FIG. 1 is a block diagram showing the configuration of a direct power converter to which a control method described in this embodiment is applied. The direct power converter includes a converter 3, a charge and discharge circuit 4 and an inverter 5.

[0026] The converter 3 is connected with a single-phase AC power supply 1 via, for example, a filter 2. The filter 2 includes a reactor L2 and a capacitor C2. The reactor L2 is provided between the converter 3 and one of two output terminals of the single-phase AC power supply 1. The capacitor C2 is provided between the two output terminals of the single-phase AC power supply 1. The filter 2 removes the high frequency components of a current. The filter 2 may be omitted. For the sake of brevity, the following description will be made ignoring the function of the filter 2.

[0027] The converter 3 uses a diode bridge, for example, and includes diodes D31 to

D34. The diodes D31 to D34, which constitute a bridge circuit, convert a single-phase AC voltage V_{in} , which is an input voltage input from the single-phase AC power supply 1, by single-phase full-wave rectification and output it across power supply lines LH and LL (which form a so-called DC link). A higher potential is applied to the DC power supply line LH than to the DC power supply line LL. An input current I_{in} flows into the converter 3 from the single-phase AC power supply 1.

[0028] The charge and discharge circuit 4 includes a buffer circuit 4a and a boost circuit 4b. The buffer circuit 4a includes a capacitor C4 and provides and receives power between the DC power supply lines LH and LL. The boost circuit 4b boosts the rectified voltage V_{rec} to charge the capacitor C4.

[0029] The buffer circuit 4a further includes a transistor (herein an insulated gate bipolar transistor, abbreviated as "IGBT" below) S_c connected in antiparallel with a diode D42. The transistor S_c is connected in series with the capacitor C4 at the side close to the DC power supply line LH between the DC power supply lines LH and LL. Herein, being connected in antiparallel refers to being connected in parallel, with forward directions being opposite to each other. Specifically, the forward direction of the transistor S_c is a direction from the DC power supply line LL toward the DC power supply line LH, and the forward direction of the diode D42 is a direction from the DC power supply line LH toward the DC power supply line LL. The transistor S_c and the diode D42 can be collectively regarded as a switch element (first switch).

[0030] The boost circuit 4b includes, for example, a diode D40, a reactor L4 and a transistor (herein, IGBT) S_l . The diode D40 has a cathode and an anode, and the cathode is connected between the first switch and the capacitor C4. This configuration is known as a so-called boost chopper.

[0031] The reactor L4 is connected between the DC power supply line LH and the

anode of the diode D40. The transistor S1 is connected between the DC power supply line LL and the anode of the diode D40. The transistor S1 is connected in antiparallel with the diode D41, which are collectively regarded as a switch element (second switch).

[0032] The capacitor C4 is charged by the boost circuit 4b, thus generating a both-end
 5 voltage V_c higher than the rectified voltage V_{rec} . Specifically, a current is caused to flow from the DC power supply line LH to the DC power supply line LL via the second switch to store energy in the reactor L4, and then, the second switch is turned off to store the energy in the capacitor C4 via the diode D40.

[0033] The both-end voltage V_c is higher than the rectified voltage V_{rec} , and thus,
 10 basically no current flows through the diode D42. Thus, the conduction/non-conduction of the first switch solely depends on that of the transistor Sc. Hereinafter, accordingly, not only the transistor Sc but also the first switch including the transistor Sc and the diode D42 may be referred to as a switch Sc.

[0034] The power supply line LH is higher than the DC power supply line LL in
 15 potential, and thus, basically no current flows through the diode D41. Thus, the conduction/non-conduction of the second switch solely depends on that of the transistor S1. Hereinafter, accordingly, not only the transistor S1 but also the second switch including the transistor S1 and the diode D41 may be referred to as a switch S1.

[0035] The inverter 5 converts a DC voltage between the DC power supply lines LH
 20 and LL into an AC voltage and then outputs it to output terminals Pu, Pv and Pw. The inverter 5 includes six switching elements Sup, Svp, Swp, Sun, Svn and Swn. The switching elements Sup, Svp and Swp are respectively connected between the output terminals Pu, Pv and Pw and the DC power supply line LH. The switching elements Sun, Svn and Swn are respectively connected between the output terminals Pu, Pv and Pw
 25 and the DC power supply line LL. The inverter 5 constitutes a so-called voltage source

inverter and includes six diodes Dup, Dvp, Dwp, Dun, Dvn and Dwn.

[0036] The diodes Dup, Dvp, Dwp, Dun, Dvn and Dwn are disposed, with their cathodes toward the DC power supply line LH and their anodes toward the DC power supply line LL. The diode Dup is connected in parallel with the switching element Sup
 5 between the output terminal Pu and the DC power supply line LH. Similarly, the diodes Dvp, Dwp, Dun, Dvn and Dwn are respectively connected in parallel with the switching elements Svp, Swp, Sun, Svn and Swn.

[0037] For example, the switching elements Sup, Svp, Swp, Sun, Svn and Swn may use IGBTs.

10 [0038] An inductive load 6 is a rotating machine, for example, and is illustrated as an equivalent circuit indicative of an inductive load. Specifically, a reactor Lu and a resistor Ru are connected in series with each other, and one end of the series body is connected with the output terminal Pu. This holds true for a reactor Lv and a resistor Rv and for a reactor Lw and a resistor Rw. The other ends of the series bodies are
 15 connected with each other.

[0039] B. Control Method

(b-1) Basic Concept of Power Reduction

An instantaneous input power Pin input to the converter 3 is expressed by the following formula with an input power factor being one, where a crest value Vm and a
 20 power supply angular velocity ω of the single-phase AC voltage Vin, a crest value Im of the input current Iin, and a time t are introduced. A product ωt of the power supply angular velocity ω and the time t represents a phase angle of the single-phase AC voltage Vin. An AC waveform is regarded as the product of a sine value of the phase angle ωt of the AC waveform and a crest value.

25 [0040] [Math 1]

$$\begin{aligned}
P_{in} &= V_m \cdot I_m \cdot \sin^2(\omega t) \\
&= \frac{1}{2} V_m \cdot I_m - \frac{1}{2} V_m \cdot I_m \cdot \cos(2\omega t) \quad \dots \quad (1)
\end{aligned}$$

[0041] The second term of the right-hand side of the formula (1) represents power pulsations. In conventional techniques, to cancel out such power pulsations, the buffer circuit 4a provides and receives, between the DC power supply lines LH and LL therewith, the power that has the same value as that of the second term of the right-hand side of the formula (1) and has an opposite polarity. The power capacity of the charge and discharge circuit 4 therefore needs to be selected so as to be greater than or equal to the second term of the right-hand side of the formula (1).

[0042] Description will thus be made on which technique should be used for allowing to reduce the power (hereinafter referred to as "instantaneously provided/received power P_{buf} ") provided/received as described above in order to reduce the power capacity of the charge and discharge circuit 4.

[0043] Needless to say, setting the instantaneously provided/received power P_{buf} to completely zero is not desirable because the power input to the inverter 5 pulsates with the second term of the right-hand side of the formula (1) and, in the first place, reducing the power capacity of the charge and discharge circuit 4 is not required. A positive constant k less than one is thus introduced (a value $(1 - k)$ is accordingly also a positive constant less than one) to determine the instantaneously provided/received power P_{buf} by the following formula. In other words, a characteristic approach for achieving such instantaneously provided/received power P_{buf} will be described below.

[0044] [Math 2]

$$P_{buf} = \frac{1}{2} V_m \cdot I_m \cdot \cos(2\omega t) \cdot k \dots \quad (2)$$

[0045] That is to say, the instantaneously provided/received power P_{buf} is represented

as the product of a DC component ($V_m \cdot I_m / 2$) of the instantaneous power input from the single-phase AC power supply 1 (or further via the filter 2, which holds true for the description below), a cosine value $\cos(2\omega t)$ to a value $(2\omega t)$ of twice a phase angle ωt and a constant k .

5 [0046] The instantaneously provided/received power P_{buf} specifically takes a positive value in a period (hereinafter a "providing period") in which the phase angle ωt of the single-phase AC voltage is 0 or more and $\pi/4$ or less, $3\pi/4$ or more and $5\pi/4$ or less, or $7\pi/4$ or more and 2π or less, and takes a negative value in any other period (hereinafter a "receiving period"). That is to say, the buffer circuit 4a provides an absolute value of the
10 instantaneously provided/received power P_{buf} to the DC power supply lines LH and LL in the providing period and receives the absolute value of the instantaneously provided/received power P_{buf} from the DC power supply lines LH and LL in the receiving period. The power pulsations are accordingly canceled out.

[0047] The single-phase AC voltage V_{in} is represented as $V_m \cdot \sin(\omega t)$, and thus, to put
15 the above range in another way, the charge and discharge circuit 4 outputs positive power when the absolute value of the single-phase AC voltage V_{in} is smaller than a value of $1/\sqrt{2}$ times the crest value V_m and outputs negative power when the absolute value is greater than the value of $1/\sqrt{2}$ -times the crest value V_m .

[0048] FIG. 2 shows an equivalent circuit of the circuit shown in FIG. 1 described with
20 reference to Patent Document 1 and Non-Patent Document 1 (hereinafter referred to as a "first document group"). In the equivalent circuit shown in FIG. 2, a current i_{rec1} flowing from the converter 3 to the inverter 5 is equivalently expressed as a current i_{rec1} flowing through a switch S_{rec} when the switch S_{rec} is conductive. Similarly, the discharge current of the capacitor C_4 is equivalently shown as a current i_{cd} through the
25 switch S_c when the switch S_c is conductive. Also, a current, which flows through the

inductive load 6 via the inverter 5 when the output terminals Pu, Pv and Pw are connected in common to any one of the DC power supply lines LH and LL in the inverter 5, is equivalently expressed as a zero-phase current i_z flowing through a switch S_z when the switch S_z is conductive. FIG. 2 also shows the reactor L4, the diode D40 and the switch S1 constituting the boost circuit 4b, and additionally shows a current i_l flowing through the reactor L4.

[0049] Duties d_{rec} , d_c and d_z at which the switches S_{rec} , S_c and S_z are respectively conductive and a DC current I_{dc} input to the inverter 5 are introduced in the equivalent circuit thus obtained, and accordingly, the following formula holds.

10 [0050] [Math 3]

$$\begin{bmatrix} i_{rec} \\ i_{cd} \\ i_z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} d_{rec} & 1 \\ d_c & 0 \\ d_z & 0 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} I_{dc} \\ \\ i_l \end{bmatrix} \quad \cdots \quad (3)$$

[0051] The currents i_{rec1} , i_{cd} and i_z are obtained by multiplying the DC current I_{dc} respectively by the duties d_{rec} , d_c and d_z , and thus, these are respectively average values in the switching cycles of the switches S_{rec} , S_c and S_z . The current i_l is also an average value in the switching cycle of the switch S1.

[0052] The DC current I_{dc} is the sum of the currents i_{rec1} , i_{cd} and i_z conducted by the respective switches S_{rec} , S_c and S_z , and thus, the following equation holds, where $0 \leq d_{rec1}$, $0 \leq d_c \leq 1$ and $0 \leq d_z \leq 1$.

[0053] [Math 4]

20 $d_{rec} + d_c + d_z = 1 \quad \cdots \quad (4)$

[0054] The duties d_{rec} , d_c and d_z are thus considered as current distribution ratios of the DC current I_{dc} to the respective currents i_{rec1} , i_{cd} and i_z . The duty d_{rec} is a duty at which a period, in which the converter 3 is connected with the DC power supply lines LH

and LL and allows a current to flow into the inverter 5, is set, and thus may be referred to as a rectifying duty d_{rec} below. The duty d_c is a duty at which the capacitor C4 is discharged, and thus may be referred to as a discharge duty d_c below. The duty d_z is a duty at which the zero-phase current i_z always flows in the inverter 5 irrespective of the voltage output by the inverter 5, and thus may be referred to as a zero duty d_z below.

[0055] The inverter 5 cannot utilize a DC voltage between the DC power supply lines LH and LL in the period in which a zero-phase current i_z flows. Of the DC voltage between the DC power supply lines LH and LL, thus, a virtual DC voltage (hereinafter referred to as a "virtual DC voltage") V_{dc} in a period in which the inverter 5 is capable of power conversion is conceivable as follows. The virtual DC voltage V_{dc} can be regarded as a voltage applied across the DC power supply lines LH and LL as an average of the maximum values of the voltages that can be output by the inverter 5, with respect to the cycle of controlling switching of the switches S_c and S_l and the inverter 5.

[0056] [Math 5]

$$V_{dc} = V_{rec} \cdot d_{rec} + V_c \cdot d_c + 0 \cdot d_z$$

15 where $V_{rec} = V_m \cdot |\sin(\omega t)| \quad \dots(5)$

[0057] Hereinafter, a ratio $R (= V_{dc}/V_m)$ of a virtual DC voltage V_{dc} to a crest value V_m is referred to as a voltage utilization ratio.

[0058] (b-2) First Setting of Duty for Maximizing Voltage Utilization Ratio R

According to the first document group, the rectifying duty d_{rec} and the discharge duty d_c for maximizing the voltage utilization ratio R are each set in the providing period and the receiving period by the formulas (6) and (7), respectively. As suggested in Patent Document 1, however, this is the setting that maximizes a voltage utilization ratio R for the virtual DC voltage V_{dc} that is constant. The voltage utilization ratio R is $(1/\sqrt{2})$ in this case. In the receiving period, $d_c = 0$, so that the switch S_c is not

conductive. In the providing period, the capacitor C4 is not charged, so that the current i_l does not flow.

[0059] [Math 6]

$$\left. \begin{aligned} d_{rec} &= \sqrt{2}|\sin(\omega t)| \\ d_c &= \frac{V_m}{V_c} \cdot \frac{\cos(2\omega t)}{\sqrt{2}} \end{aligned} \right) \cdots (6)$$

5 [0060] [Math 7]

$$\left. \begin{aligned} d_{rec} &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}|\sin(\omega t)|} \\ d_c &= 0 \end{aligned} \right) \cdots (7)$$

[0061] In the "first setting", the DC current I_{dc} input to the inverter 5 is caused to pulsate with the voltage utilization ratio R above kept, that is, the duties of the formulas (6) and (7) kept, thus obtaining an instantaneously provided/received power P_{buf} that satisfies the formula (2).

[0062] Specifically, the DC current I_{dc} that satisfies the following formula is caused to be input to the inverter 5. The control of the converter 5 for satisfying the following formula can be achieved by controlling a current command value. The control of the current command value will be described below.

15 [0063] [Math 8]

$$I_{dc} = \frac{V_m \cdot I_m}{2V_{dc}} (1 - (1 - k) \cdot \cos(2\omega t)) \cdots (8)$$

[0064] In the providing period, the current i_l is set to zero as described above, so the current i_{rec} is equal to the current i_{rec1} , and the current i_{rec} is equal to the product $d_{rec} \cdot i_{dc}$. The following formula therefore holds, where $V_m/V_{dc} = \sqrt{2}$ is adopted in view of the voltage utilization ratio R .

20

[0065] [Math 9]

$$\begin{aligned} i_{rec} &= i_{rec1} = d_{rec} \cdot I_{dc} \\ &= \sqrt{2} |\sin(\omega t)| \cdot \frac{V_m}{2V_{dc}} \cdot I_m (1 - (1-k) \cdot \cos(2\omega t)) \\ &= I_m |\sin(\omega t)| \cdot (1 - (1-k) \cdot \cos(2\omega t)) \quad \dots (9) \end{aligned}$$

[0066] Since the current i_{rec} appears as the absolute value of the input current I_{in} , as opposed to the technique described in the first document group (hereinafter referred to as a "basic technique"), the input current I_{in} differs from a sinusoidal current. In this embodiment (including not only the "first setting" but also the "second setting", which holds true for the description below), thus, the crest value I_m is a crest value of the current that shows a sine wave and has an effective value of the input current I_{in} (i.e., a time average of the powers of the input current I_{in}) as an effective value.

10 [0067] In the formula (9), regardless of the value of k , $|\sin(\omega t)| = 1/\sqrt{2}$ and the current i_{rec} takes a value $I_m/\sqrt{2}$ when $\cos(2\omega t) = 0$. In this embodiment, accordingly, the crest value I_m of the current i_{rec} can be regarded as being $\sqrt{2}$ times a value of the current i_{rec} (i.e., an absolute value of the current I_{in}) when the phase angle ωt is $\pi/4$ and $3\pi/4$ (i.e., a boundary between the providing period and the receiving period).

15 [0068] From the formula (9), the power input from the single-phase AC power supply 1 in the providing period can be obtained by the formula (10).

[0069] [Math 10]

$$P_{in} = V_m \cdot I_m \cdot \sin^2(\omega t) \cdot (1 - (1-k) \cdot \cos(2\omega t)) \quad \dots (10)$$

[0070] The power input to the inverter 5, that is, instantaneous output power P_{out} consumed by the inverter 5 is obtained as the product of the DC current I_{dc} and the virtual DC voltage V_{dc} , which is obtained by the formula (11).

20 [0071] [Math 11]

$$\begin{aligned}
P_{out} &= V_{dc} \cdot I_{dc} \\
&= \frac{V_m \cdot I_m}{2} (1 - (1 - k) \cdot \cos(2\omega t)) \quad \dots \quad (11)
\end{aligned}$$

[0072] A difference between the formulas (10) and (11) is thus obtained as being expressed by the formula (12), which matches the formula (2).

[0073] [Math 12]

$$\begin{aligned}
P_{out} - P_{in} &= \frac{V_m \cdot I_m}{2} [(1 - (1 - k) \cdot \cos(2\omega t)) - 2 \sin^2(\omega t)] \\
&= \frac{V_m \cdot I_m}{2} \cdot \cos(2\omega t) \cdot k \quad \dots \quad (12)
\end{aligned}$$

[0074] The validity of setting the DC current I_{dc} by the formula (8) has therefore been described.

[0075] In the receiving period, the current i_l is set as being expressed by the formula (13). The power stored in the charge and discharge circuit 4 in the receiving period is accordingly calculated as the formula (14), and is equal in an absolute value to and a polarity opposite to those of the formula (2) expressing the instantaneously provided/received power P_{buf} . The validity of setting the current i_l by the formula (13) is therefore revealed.

[0076] [Math 13]

$$i_l = k \cdot I_m \cdot \left[|\sin(\omega t)| - \frac{1}{2|\sin(\omega t)|} \right] \quad \dots \quad (13)$$

[0077] [Math 14]

$$\begin{aligned}
|V_{in}| \cdot i_l &= V_m |\sin(\omega t)| \cdot k \cdot I_m \cdot \left[|\sin(\omega t)| - \frac{1}{2|\sin(\omega t)|} \right] \\
&= V_m \cdot I_m \cdot k \cdot \left[\sin^2(\omega t) - \frac{1}{2} \right] \\
&= \frac{1}{2} V_m \cdot I_m \cdot k \cdot [-\cos(2\omega t)] \quad \dots \quad (14)
\end{aligned}$$

[0078] The above reveals that when control is being performed so that the rectifying duty d_{rec} expressed by the formula (6) is satisfied to cause the current i_{rec1} to flow from the converter 3 to the inverter 5 in the providing period, further performing control below can reduce the instantaneously provided/received power P_{buf} to k -times in the basic technique.

[0079] (i) The inverter 5 is caused to receive the current I_{dc} that satisfies the formula (8).

(ii) The current i_l that satisfies the formula (13) is input to the buffer circuit 4a in the receiving period.

[0080] A specific approach for (i) above will be described in "(b-4)" below. A specific operation of the boost circuit 4b for (ii) above can be achieved easily based on the first document group. That is to say, a conduction duty d_l at which the switch S_l is conductive is obtained by multiplying the value of the conduction duty d_l described in the basic technique by $\sqrt{k}$.

[0081] As in the basic technique, for the voltage utilization ratio R to take its maximum value ($1/\sqrt{2}$) with the virtual DC voltage V_{dc} kept constant, in the providing period, further,

(iv) the switch S_c is rendered conductive at the discharge duty d_c that satisfies the formula (6) to discharge the capacitor C_4 , and

(v) the converter 3 operates at the rectifying duty d_{rec} expressed by the formula (6).

[0082] In actuality, however, the switch S_{rec} is not provided and merely appears in the equivalent circuit. That is to say, conduction/non-conduction of the switch S_{rec} is determined dependent on the operations of the switch S_c and the inverter 5. That is to say, in view of the formula (4), conduction/non-conduction of the switch S_c is

individually controlled at the discharge duty dc and the switching of the inverter 5 is controlled at the zero duty dz (i.e., a zero-phase current flows in the period equivalent to the zero duty dz , irrespective of the voltage output from the inverter 5) in accordance with the formula (15) in the providing period and the formula (16) in the receiving period, thus achieving a rectifying duty $drec$. Also in this case, the switch Sci is not conductive in the receiving period.

[0083] [Math 15]

$$\left. \begin{aligned} dc &= \frac{V_m}{V_c} \cdot \frac{\cos(2\omega t)}{\sqrt{2}} \\ dz &= 1 - dc - \sqrt{2}|\sin(\omega t)| \end{aligned} \right) \dots \quad (15)$$

10 [0084] [Math 16]

$$\left. \begin{aligned} dc &= 0 \\ dz &= 1 - \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}|\sin(\omega t)|} \end{aligned} \right) \dots \quad (16)$$

[0085] More specific approaches for (iv) and (v) above are described in the first document group and are thus omitted herein.

[0086] FIGs. 3 and 4 are graphs each showing the operation of the direct power converter shown in FIG. 1. FIG. 3 shows the case where the basic technique is employed, and FIG. 4 shows the case where (i) to (iv) are employed, where setting is made such that $k = 1/3$. An equal voltage ratio V_c/V_m is set in FIGs. 3 and 4. The basic technique corresponds to the case where $k = 1$ in the "first setting" (see the formulas (8) to (14)).

20 [0087] In both of FIGs. 3 and 4, the uppermost tier shows the duties $drec$, dc and dz , the second tier from the top shows the voltages $V_{rec} \cdot drec$ and $V_c \cdot dc$, the virtual DC

voltage V_{dc} which is constituted thereby (see the formula (5)), and the current I_{dc} , the third tier from the top shows the currents i_{rec} , i_{cd} , i_l and i_{rec1} , and the lowermost tier shows the instantaneous powers P_{in} , P_{out} and P_{buf} . Symbols $T1$ and $T2$ respectively represent the providing period and the receiving period.

5 [0088] In both of FIGs. 3 and 4, the horizontal axis represents the phase angle ωt with "degree" as the unit. The currents I_{dc} , i_{rec} , i_{cd} , i_l and i_{rec1} are converted with the crest value I_m being $\sqrt{2}$. The voltages V_{rec} , d_{rec} and $V_c \cdot d_c$ are converted with the crest value V_m being one. The instantaneous powers P_{in} , P_{out} and P_{buf} are each obtained as the product of the voltage and current converted as described above. The current i_l is
 10 zero in the providing period $T1$, and accordingly, the current i_{rec1} matches the current i_{rec} ; $d_c = 0$ in the receiving period $T2$, and accordingly, the voltage $V_{rec} \cdot d_{rec}$ matches the virtual DC voltage V_{dc} .

[0089] The duties d_{rec} , d_c and d_z are common in the basic technique and the first setting as described above, and thus, the voltages $V_{rec} \cdot d_{rec}$, $V_c \cdot d_c$ and the virtual DC
 15 voltage V_{dc} which is constituted thereby are common in the basic technique (see FIG. 3) and the first setting (see FIG. 4).

[0090] The current I_{dc} is expressed by the formula (8), and accordingly, the basic technique shown in FIG. 3 (i.e., $k = 1$) greatly differs from the technique of the "first setting" shown in FIG. 4 (herein, $k = 1/3$).

20 [0091] It is revealed that the current i_l shown in the third tier from the top in each of FIGs. 3 and 4 is reduced more in the "first setting" than in the basic technique (see the formula (13) as well).

[0092] The current i_{cd} takes a value $I_{dc} \cdot d_c$. The discharge duty d_c is common and the current I_{dc} is different in the basic technique and the "first setting". Specifically, the
 25 cosine value $\cos(2\omega t)$ is positive in the providing period in which the current i_{cd} flows,

and the value $(1 - k)$ becomes greater with a smaller constant k , so as can be seen from the formula (8), the current I_{dc} becomes smaller with a smaller constant k . That is to say, the current I_{dc} is smaller in the providing period T_1 in the "first setting" than in the basic technique. Similar to the current I_{dc} , thus, the current i_{cd} reduces more in the technique
 5 of the "first setting" than in the basic technique.

[0093] Such reductions in the currents i_l and i_{cd} are desirable from the viewpoints of reducing power capacities required for the reactor L_4 and the capacitor C_4 employed in the charge and discharge circuit 4, scale and cost.

[0094] It is also revealed that the instantaneously provided/received power P_{buf} is
 10 reduced more, in the technique of the "first setting" than in the basic technique, although the instantaneous input power P_{in} input is distorted more from the sine wave and the instantaneous output power P_{out} pulsates.

[0095] (b-3) Second Setting of Duty for Maximizing Voltage Utilization Ratio R

In the first setting, the instantaneous output power P_{out} pulsates along with the
 15 pulsation of the current I_{dc} as described above. In this embodiment, to reduce the instantaneously provided/received power P_{buf} , the pulsation of the instantaneous output power P_{out} is allowed. The technique of causing also the virtual DC voltage V_{dc} used by the inverter 5 to pulsate to improve a voltage utilization ratio R will be described in the "second setting".

20 [0096] Specifically, the waveform of the virtual DC voltage V_{dc} is set to be equal to the absolute value $V_m \cdot |\sin(\omega t)|$ of the input voltage V_{in} in the receiving period. This yields an average value R_a of the voltage utilization ratio R in the receiving period from the calculation of the formula (17), which is approximately 0.9. This can be considered as the voltage utilization ratio of the DC voltage input to the inverter 5, which is obtained
 25 by an average value with respect to the cycle of the single-phase AC voltage V_{in} .

[0097] [Math 17]

$$Ra = \int_{\pi/4}^{3\pi/4} |\sin(\omega t)| d(\omega t) / (\pi/2) = \frac{2\sqrt{2}}{\pi} \cdots (17)$$

[0098] Similarly, the waveform of the virtual DC voltage V_{dc} in the providing period is set by the formula (18).

5 [0099] [Math 18]

$$V_{dc} = V_m \cdot |\cos(\omega t)| \cdots (18)$$

[0100] That is to say, in the "second setting", the waveform of the virtual DC voltage V_{dc} is a waveform (hereinafter referred to as a "two-phase full-wave rectification waveform") obtained by performing full-wave rectification on a two-phase AC voltage
10 having a crest value V_m .

[0101] There is a phase difference of $\pi/2$ between the providing period and the receiving period, and also, there is a phase difference of $\pi/2$ between the sine waveform and the cosine waveform. The average value Ra in the providing period is accordingly equal to that of the receiving period. The average value Ra can be thus obtained by the
15 formula (17) in any of the providing period and the receiving period. This means that the average value Ra is improved to be $(2\sqrt{2}/\pi)/(1/\sqrt{2}) = 4/\pi$ times, that is, approximately 1.11 times compared with the basic technique or the "first setting".

[0102] Not only the average value Ra but also the voltage utilization ratio R is improved per se compared with the basic technique or the "first setting", irrespective of
20 the phase angle ωt . This is revealed from the fact that the virtual DC voltage V_{dc} , as it takes the two-phase full-wave rectification waveform whose minimum value is $V_m/\sqrt{2}$, is greater than or equal to a (constant) virtual DC voltage $V_{dc} (= V_m/\sqrt{2})$ obtained in the basic technique or the "first setting".

[0103] A specific approach for approximately making the waveform of the virtual DC

voltage V_{dc} the two-phase full-wave rectification waveform will now be described. First, in the receiving period, the waveform of the virtual DC voltage V_{dc} is set to be equal to the absolute value of the input voltage V_{in} , so the rectifying duty d_{rec} should be set to one. More specifically, both of the discharge duty d_c and the zero duty d_z should

5 be set to zero in view of the formula (4). That is to say, in the receiving period, the switch S_c is not conductive, and the inverter 5 can operate in response to requests for the currents I_u , I_v and I_w caused to flow into the inductive load 6 (without such a limitation to cause the zero-phase current i_z to flow for setting a virtual current voltage V_{dc}).

[0104] In the providing period, the rectifying duty d_{rec} is set similar to the "first setting", and the discharge duty d_c is set to $\sqrt{2}$ times the value set in the "first setting".

10 More specifically, the switch S_c should be switched at the discharge duty d_c expressed by the formula (19) and the inverter 5 should be operated at the zero duty d_z .

[0105] [Math 19]

$$\left. \begin{aligned} d_c &= \frac{V_m}{V_c} \cdot \cos(2\omega t) \\ d_z &= 1 - d_c - \sqrt{2}|\sin(\omega t)| \end{aligned} \right\} \dots \quad (19)$$

15 [0106] The DC current I_{dc} pulsates, and thus, I_m/I_{dc} does not have a constant value as in the basic technique. Even when the rectifying duty d_{rec} is set in the providing period as in the "first setting", however, the pulsation of the DC current I_{dc} is small (a maximum value of pulsation is obtained by $1 - 1/\sqrt{2}$, which is approximately 30%) if $k = 1$, and the rectifying duty d_{rec} is less than or equal to one. In the providing period, accordingly,

20 $|I_{in}| = i_{rec} = i_{rec1} = I_{dc} \cdot d_{rec}$ is little distorted.

[0107] The virtual DC voltage V_{dc} in the providing period can be thus obtained by the formula (20).

[0108] [Math 20]

$$\begin{aligned}
V_{dc} &= V_m \cdot \sqrt{2} \cdot \sin^2(\omega t) + V_m \cdot |\cos(2\omega t)| \\
&= \frac{V_m}{\sqrt{2}} \{1 + (\sqrt{2} - 1)|\cos(2\omega t)|\} \quad \dots \quad (20)
\end{aligned}$$

[0109] The formula (20) is approximated closely to the formula (18) at the phase angles ωt of, for example, values $3\pi/4$ to $5\pi/4$ in the providing period. Specifically, it is revealed that there is a less than 1% difference between the value of integral of the virtual DC voltage V_{dc} expressed by the formula (18) over the providing period and the value of integral of the virtual DC voltage V_{dc} expressed by the formula (20) over the providing period.

[0110] The above reveals that by setting $dc = dz = 0$ in the receiving period and using the duties expressed by the formula (19) in the providing period, the waveform of the virtual DC voltage V_{dc} can be approximated to a two-phase full-wave rectification waveform, thus improving the voltage utilization ratio R .

[0111] The DC current I_{dc} set by the formula (8) is adopted also in the "second setting", so the formula (11) holds. That is to say, the right-hand side of the formula (11) needs to be obtained in the "second setting" as well as in the "first setting". Letting V_{dc1} and I_{dc1} be the respective average values per cycle of the power supply phase of the virtual DC voltage V_{dc} and the DC current I_{dc} in the "first setting", and letting V_{dc2} and I_{dc2} be the respective average values per cycle of the power supply phase of the virtual DC voltage V_{dc} and the DC current I_{dc} in the "second setting", the formula (21) holds.

[0112] [Math 21]

$$V_{dc1} \cdot I_{dc1} = V_{dc2} \cdot I_{dc2} \quad \dots \quad (21)$$

[0113] $V_{dc1} = V_m / \sqrt{2}$ and $V_{dc2} = (2\sqrt{2} / \pi) V_m$ in the description above, revealing a relationship $I_{dc2} = (\pi/4) I_{dc1}$.

[0114] The current i_l in the "second setting" thus needs to be corrected, with respect to the current i_l in the "first setting" expressed by the formula (13), by a product $\pi/(2\sqrt{2})$ of a ratio $I_{dc2}/I_{dc1} = \pi/4$ and a ratio $\sqrt{2}$ of the discharge duty d_c in the "second setting" expressed by the formula (19) to the discharge duty d_c in the "first setting" expressed by the formula (15). That is to say, the current i_l in the "second setting" is set by the formula (22).

[0115] [Math 22]

$$i_l = k \cdot I_m \cdot \left[|\sin(\omega t)| - \frac{1}{2|\sin(\omega t)|} \right] \cdot \frac{\pi}{2\sqrt{2}} \quad \dots \quad (22)$$

[0116] The above reveals that when control is being performed so that the rectifying duty d_{rec} expressed by the formula (6) is satisfied to cause the current i_{rec1} to flow from the converter 3 to the inverter 5 in the providing period, further performing control below can increase a voltage utilization ratio while reducing the instantaneously provided/received power P_{buf} .

[0117] (i) The inverter 5 is caused to receive the current I_{dc} that satisfies the formula (8).

(iii) The current i_l that satisfies the formula (22) is input to the buffer circuit 4a in the receiving period.

[0118] In order to allow the pulsation of the virtual DC voltage V_{dc} utilized by the inverter 5 to further increase the voltage utilization ratio R , further,

(vi) the switch S_c is rendered conductive at the discharge duty d_c that satisfies the formula (19) to discharge the capacitor C_4 in the providing period, and

(vii) in the receiving period, not only the discharge duty d_c but also the zero duty d_z is set to zero, and the rectifying duty d_{rec} is set to one.

[0119] Specific approaches for (vi) and (vii) above can be achieved easily based on the

first document group, which are omitted herein.

[0120] FIGs. 5 and 6 are graphs each showing the operation of the direct power converter shown in FIG. 1, each of which shows the operation when the duties d_{rec} , d_c and d_z are set based on the "second setting". FIG. 5 shows the case where $k = 1$, and
 5 FIG. 6 shows the case where $k = 1/3$.

[0121] In both of FIGs. 5 and 6, the uppermost tier shows the duties d_{rec} , d_c and d_z , the second tier from the top shows the voltages $V_{rec} \cdot d_{rec}$ and $V_c \cdot d_c$, the virtual DC voltage V_{dc} which is constituted thereby (see the formula (5)), and the current I_{dc} , the third tier from the top shows the currents i_{rec} , i_{cd} , i_l and i_{rec1} , and the lowermost tier
 10 shows the instantaneous powers P_{in} , P_{out} and P_{buf} . Symbols $T1$ and $T2$ respectively represent the providing period and the receiving period.

[0122] In both of FIGs. 5 and 6, the horizontal axis represents the phase angle ωt with "degree" as the unit. The currents I_{dc} , i_{rec} , i_{cd} , i_l and i_{rec1} are converted with the crest value I_m being $\sqrt{2}$. The voltages $V_{rec} \cdot d_{rec}$ and $V_c \cdot d_c$ are converted with the crest
 15 value V_m being one. The instantaneous powers P_{in} , P_{out} and P_{buf} are each obtained as the product of the voltage and current converted as described above. The current i_l is zero in the providing period $T1$, and accordingly, the current i_{rec1} matches the current i_{rec} ; $d_c = 0$ in the receiving period $T2$, and accordingly, the voltage $V_{rec} \cdot d_{rec}$ matches the virtual DC voltage V_{dc} .

20 [0123] The duties d_{rec} , d_c and d_z do not depend on the constant k as described above, and thus, the virtual DC voltage V_{dc} and the voltages $V_{rec} \cdot d_{rec}$ and $V_c \cdot d_c$ constituting the virtual DC voltage V_{dc} show the same waveform in FIGs. 5 and 6.

[0124] The current I_{dc} , which is expressed by the formula (8), depends on the constant k , and thus differs greatly between the case where $k = 1$ shown in FIG. 5 and the case
 25 where $k = 1/3$ shown in FIG. 6.

[0125] It is revealed that the current i_l shown in the third tier from the top in each of FIGs. 5 and 6 is reduced more in the case where $k = 1/3$ than in the case where $k = 1$ (see the formula (22) as well).

[0126] The current i_{cd} takes a value $I_{dc} \cdot d_c$. The discharge duty d_c does not depend
 5 on the constant k , and the current I_{dc} depends on the constant k . The current i_{cd} accordingly reduces more in the case where $k = 1/3$ shown in FIG. 6 than in the case where $k = 1$ shown in FIG. 5, similarly to the current I_{dc} .

[0127] Such reductions in the currents i_l and i_{cd} are desirable from the viewpoints of reducing power capacities required for the reactor L_4 and the capacitor C_4 employed in
 10 the charge and discharge circuit 4, scale and cost.

[0128] It is also revealed that the instantaneously provided/received power P_{buf} is reduced more, in the case where $k = 1/3$ than in the case where $k = 1$, although the instantaneous input power P_{in} input is distorted more from the sine wave and the instantaneous output power P_{out} pulsates.

[0129] As shown in FIG. 6, in the case where $k = 1/3$, the virtual DC voltage V_{dc} is
 15 $\sqrt{2}$ -times (i.e., a crest value V_m) a value $V_m / \sqrt{2}$ of the virtual DC voltage V_{dc} in the "first setting" at both of the times when the current I_{dc} has a maximum value and a minimum value.

[0130] In the case where $k = 1/3$ in the "second setting" (see FIG. 6), thus, the
 20 magnitude of the current I_{dc} at the above times can be reduced to $1/\sqrt{2}$ times compared with the case where $k = 1/3$ in the "first setting" (see FIG. 4).

[0131] The effect of reduced maximum value of the current I_{dc} is particularly desirable from the viewpoint of reduced power ratings of the switching elements S_{up} , S_{vp} , S_{wp} , S_{un} , S_{vn} and S_{wn} and the diodes D_{up} , D_{vp} , D_{wp} , D_{un} , D_{vn} and D_{wn} employed in the
 25 inverter 5.

[0132] (b-4) Example of Technique for Inputting Current I_{dc} to Inverter 5

This section will describe an example for achieving the formula (8) adopted for the current I_{dc} commonly in the "first setting" and the "second setting" regarding duties.

[0133] Described below is an example in which well-known dq-axis control is

5 performed as for the operation of a normal AC load. The power formula on the dq axes is typically expressed by the formula (23). Symbols V^* and I respectively represent a command value of a voltage applied to the AC load and a current flowing through the AC load. They both are alternating, and thus, dots indicating that they are represented as complex numbers are placed above both of the symbols V^* and I . Note that the q-axis
10 voltage ideally follows a command value V_q^* thereof, and the d-axis voltage ideally follows a command value V_d^* thereof.

[0134] [Math 23]

$$P + jQ = \dot{V}^* \cdot \dot{I} = V_d^* \cdot I_d + V_q^* \cdot I_q + j(V_q^* \cdot I_d - V_d^* \cdot I_q) \quad \dots \quad (23)$$

[0135] The power supplied from the DC power supply lines LH and LL to the inverter

15 5 has no reactive power, and thus, the power is expressed by the formula (24) ignoring the second term of the formula (23).

[0136] [Math 24]

$$P_{dc} = V_d^* \cdot I_d + V_q^* \cdot I_q \quad \dots \quad (24)$$

[0137] The instantaneous output power P_{out} expressed by the formula (11) matches the

20 formula (24), so the formula (25) holds.

[0138] [Math 25]

$$\begin{aligned} P_{dc} = P_{out} &= \frac{V_m \cdot I_m}{2} (1 - (1 - k) \cdot \cos(2\omega t)) \\ &= \frac{V_m \cdot I_m}{2} - \frac{(1 - k)V_m \cdot I_m}{2} \cos(2\omega t) \quad \dots \quad (25) \end{aligned}$$

[0139] Control to achieve the formula (8) can thus be performed by performing control

so that an AC component of the formula (24) and the second term of the rightmost-hand side of the formula (25) match each other. FIG. 7 shows, as a block diagram, an example configuration for performing the control above. The configuration is provided in, for example, the configuration shown as a controller 10 in FIG. 1.

5 [0140] To briefly describe a part of the configuration of FIG. 7 showing a well-known technique, a current phase command value β^* is input to obtain trigonometric function values $\cos\beta^*$ and $-\sin\beta^*$, from these and a current command value I_a^* , a q-axis current command value I_q^* and a d-axis current command value I_d^* are generated. On the assumption that the inductive load 6 is a rotating machine, a q-axis voltage command value V_q^* and a d-axis voltage command value V_d^* are obtained based on a rotational angular velocity ω_m of the rotating machine, a field magnetic flux Φ_a of the rotating machine, a d-axis inductance L_d and a q-axis inductance L_q of the rotating machine, a q-axis current command value I_q^* and a d-axis current command value I_d^* , and a q-axis current I_q and a d-axis current I_d . Voltage command values V_u^* , V_v^* and V_w^* for
10 controlling the inverter 5 are generated from the q-axis voltage command value V_q^* and the d-axis voltage command value V_d^* .

[0141] In the configuration shown in FIG. 1, for example, a velocity detector 9 detects currents I_u , I_v and I_w flowing through the inductive load 6, and based on these, provides the rotational angular velocity ω_m , the q-axis current I_q , and the d-axis current I_d to the
20 controller 10.

[0142] The controller 10 obtains, based on the voltage command values V_u^* , V_v^* and V_w^* , signals SS_{up} , SS_{vp} , SS_{wp} , SS_{un} , SS_{vn} and SS_{wn} (see FIG. 1) for respectively controlling the operations of the switching elements Sup , Svp , Swp , Sun , Svn and Swn of the inverter 5 through arithmetic processing (not shown, e.g., see Patent Document 1).

25 [0143] The controller 10 also generates signals SS_c and SS_l that respectively control

the operations of the switches Sc and Sl, which are generated based on the duties drec, dc, dz and dl (e.g., see the first document group).

[0144] Described below is a processor 71 for performing control so that the AC component of the formula (24) and the second term of the rightmost-hand side of the formula (25) match each other. The processor 71 includes a DC power calculator 711, a pulsating component extractor 712, a pulsating component calculator 713, a subtracter 714, an adder 715 and a PI processor 716.

[0145] The DC power calculator 711 receives the q-axis voltage command value V_q^* and the d-axis voltage command value V_d^* , and the q-axis current I_q and the d-axis current I_d , and calculates DC power P_{dc} based on the formula (24) above, thus providing it to the pulsating component extractor 712.

[0146] The pulsating component extractor 712 extracts and outputs the AC component of the formula (24). The pulsating component extractor 712 is achieved by, for example, a highpass filter HPF.

[0147] The pulsating component calculator 713 receives the crest values V_m and I_m , the power supply angular velocity ω , and the constant k , thus obtaining the second term of the rightmost-hand side of the formula (25). The crest values V_m and I_m and the power supply angular velocity ω can be input to the pulsating component calculator 713 as the information obtained from the single-phase AC power supply 1 (see FIG. 1).

[0148] As described above, desired processing is causing the AC component of the formula (24) and the second term of the rightmost-hand side of the formula (25) to match each other, and thus, control should be performed so as to reduce a difference between the output of the pulsating component extractor 712 and the output of the pulsating component calculator 713. The subtracter 714 thus obtains the difference, thus outputting, to the adder 715, a value obtained by the PI processor 716 performing integral

proportional control on the difference.

[0149] The adder 715 performs processing to correct a current command value I_a^* in normal processing by an output of the PI processor 716. Specifically, first, a subtracter 701 obtains a deviation of the rotational angular velocity ω_m from a command value ω_m^* thereof in normal processing to obtain a current command value I_a^* . A PI processor 702 performs integral proportional control on the deviation to once obtain the current command value I_a^* . The adder 715 then performs processing to increase the current command value I_a^* with the output from the PI processor 716.

[0150] The known technique above is applied to the current command value I_a^* corrected by the processor 71 as described above, thus generating the q-axis voltage command value V_q^* and the d-axis voltage command value V_d^* . Such control is control to provide feedback regarding the q-axis voltage command value V_q^* and the d-axis voltage command value V_d^* , and the q-axis current I_q and the d-axis current I_d , causing a difference output from the subtracter 714 to be closer to zero. That is to say, such control can cause the AC component of the formula (24) and the second term of the rightmost-hand side of the formula (25) to match each other.

[0151] C. Description of Advantages in Charge and Discharge Circuit 4

(c-1) Description of Advantages of Buffer Circuit 4a

This section will describe that reducing the instantaneously provided/received power P_{buf} allows the use of an electrolytic capacitor as the capacitor C4, thus achieving the buffer circuit 4a inexpensively.

[0152] FIG. 8 is a graph showing the relationship between the electrostatic capacitance of the electrostatic capacitor (hereinafter referred to as a "capacitor capacity": left vertical axis), used or required in the direct power converter that receives and processes an input power (an average value of the instantaneous input power P_{in} : horizontal axis) and the

ripple current and its allowable value (right vertical axis).

[0153] Symbols H1 and H2 each represent the capacitor capacity used in the case where a single-phase power factor correction circuit is used. The symbols H1 and H2 respectively are data in the case where air conditioners have air conditioning abilities of 6 kW and 11.2 kW. The power factor correction circuit can herein be regarded as having a configuration in which the switch Sc is shorted and removed from the charge and discharge circuit 4, and a connection point of the reactor L4 and the converter 3 is not directly connected with the inverter 5. In this configuration, a series connection of the diode D40 and the reactor L4 is provided between the converter 3 and the inverter 5 in the DC power supply line LH, and the capacitor C4 is connected in parallel with the inverter 5 between the DC power supply lines LH and LL.

[0154] According to Non-Patent Documents 2 and 3, the capacitor capacity C required in the basic technique is obtained by the formula (26). Note that a maximum value Vcmax and a minimum value Vcmin of the both-end voltage Vc are introduced.

[0155] [Math 26]

$$C = \frac{V_m \cdot I_m}{\omega(V_{c \max}^2 - V_{c \min}^2)} \quad \dots \quad (26)$$

[0156] On a graph G1, values obtained by calculating capacitor capacities required in the basic technique (the case where k = 1 in the "first setting") are plotted. Note that maximum value Vcmax = 400 + 50 = 450 (V) and minimum value Vcmin = 400 - 50 = 350 (V) hold. Solid circles on the graph G1 indicate the same cases indicated by the symbols H1 and H2 in input power. However, actually used capacitor capacities are plotted as the symbols H1 and H2, and back calculation of them from the formula (26) yields a deviation of approximately ±5% in the both-end voltage Vc.

[0157] As can be seen from the comparison between the symbols H1 and H2 and the

solid circles on the graph G1, in the basic technique, capacitor capacities are reduced to approximately 1/3 to 1/4 times compared with a normal power factor correction circuit.

[0158] In the basic technique, however, a ripple current shown by a graph G2 flows through the capacitor C4. A graph G3, meanwhile, shows a ripple current (e.g., values at 45°C using an electrolytic capacitor of GW-series (105°C specifications) from Nichicon Corporation) allowable when the capacitor capacity obtained by the graph G1 is obtained by the electrolytic capacitor. The comparison between the graphs G2 and G3 reveals that in the basic technique, the capacitor C4 cannot be achieved by an electrolytic capacitor from the perspective of whether a ripple current is allowable.

10 [0159] In the "first setting" and "second setting" above, however, by introducing a constant k (< 1), an amount of pulsations of the power stored in the capacitor C4 can be reduced more than in the basic technique (the case where $k = 1$ in the "first setting"). This achieves the capacitor C4 by an electrolytic capacitor by setting the constant k in accordance with a desired capacitor capacity, contributing to achieving the charge and
15 discharge circuit 4 inexpensively.

[0160] (c-2) Description of Advantages in Boost circuit 4b

This section will describe that the instantaneously provided/received power P_{buf} is reduced to achieve the boost circuit 4b inexpensively.

[0161] Even the basic technique requires lower power capacity than a normal power factor correction circuit does, which will be described first. From the formula (1), the
20 power passing through a power factor correction circuit is obtained by the formula (27).

[0162] [Math 27]

$$\frac{V_m \cdot I_m}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} \frac{1}{2} (1 - \cos 2\theta) d\theta = \frac{V_m \cdot I_m}{2} \quad \dots \quad (27)$$

[0163] In the basic technique, meanwhile, the power provided to the capacitor C4 via

the boost circuit 4b is obtained by the formula (28) based on the formula (2).

[0164] [Math 28]

$$\frac{V_m \cdot I_m}{\pi} \int_{\pi/4}^{3\pi/4} \left(-\frac{1}{2} \cos 2\theta\right) d\theta = \frac{V_m \cdot I_m}{2\pi} \dots (28)$$

[0165] As revealed from the comparison between the formulas (27) and (28), in the
5 basic technique, the power capacity required for the boost circuit 4b is reduced to $1/\pi$ times (approximately 1/3 times) compared with the power factor correction circuit.

[0166] Introducing a constant k (< 1) in the "first setting" and "second setting" reduces the instantaneously provided/received power P_{buf} more than in the basic technique, thus revealing that the power capacity is more reduced.

10 [0167] Even in the basic technique, the peak value of the current i_l flowing through the reactor L4 is also reduced to 1/2 times the peak value (which is a crest value I_m) in the case of the power factor correction circuit, as expressed by the formula (29).

[0168] [Math 29]

$$\begin{aligned} i_l &= I_m \left(|\sin(\omega t)| - \frac{1}{2|\sin(\omega t)|} \right) \\ &\leq \frac{I_m}{2} (\omega t = \pi/2, 3\pi/2) \dots (29) \end{aligned}$$

15 [0169] Introducing the constant k (< 1) in the "first setting" and the "second setting" can reduce a current i_l compared with the basic technique, thus revealing that the power capacity required for the reactor L4 is further reduced in view of the formula (29).

[0170] D. Modifications

In the basic technique as well as the technique involving introducing the
20 constant k (< 1) in the "first setting" and the "second setting", the filter 2 can also be provided between the converter 3 and the charge and discharge circuit 4.

[0171] FIG. 9 is a circuit diagram in a case where the filter 2 is provided between the

converter 3 and the charge and discharge circuit 4, as the modification, showing only the vicinity thereof.

[0172] In the adoption of such a configuration, a diode D0 is desirably provided between the filter 2 and the buffer circuit 4a in the DC power supply line LH. The
5 anode and cathode of the diode D0 are disposed respectively at the filter 2 side and at the the buffer circuit 4a side. The diode D0 can prevent the both-end voltage V_c across the capacitor C4 from affecting the both-end voltage across the capacitor C2.

[0173] While the invention has been shown and described in detail, the foregoing description is in all aspects illustrative and not restrictive. It is therefore regarded that
10 numerous modifications have not illustrated can be devised without departing from the scope of the invention.

CLAIMS

1. A method for controlling a direct power converter,
said direct power converter comprising:
a first power supply line (LH);
5 a second power supply line (LL) which is applied with a potential lower than
said first power supply line is applied;
a converter (3) including an input side connected with a single-phase AC power
supply (1, 2) and an output side connected with said first power supply line and said
second power supply line, and performing single-phase full-wave rectification;
10 a charge and discharge circuit (4) located between said first power supply line
and said second power supply line; and
an inverter (5) that converts a DC voltage between said first power supply line
and said second power supply line into an AC voltage,
said charge and discharge circuit comprising
15 a buffer circuit (4a) including a capacitor (C4) and a first switch (Sc,
D42) connected in series with said capacitor at a side close to said first power supply line
between said first power supply line and said second power supply line, and providing
and receiving power between said first power supply line and said second power supply
line, and
20 a boost circuit (4b) that boosts a rectified voltage (V_{rec}) from said
converter (3) to charge said capacitor,
said buffer circuit (4a) providing power to said first power supply line and said
second power supply line in a first period (T1) in which a cosine value ($\cos(2\omega t)$) to a
value ($2\omega t$) of twice a phase angle (ωt) of an AC waveform output from said single-phase
25 AC power supply (1, 2) is positive when the AC waveform is regarded as a sine value

($\sin(\omega t)$) of the phase angle (ωt); receiving power from said first power supply line and said second power supply line in a second period (T_2) in which said cosine value is negative,

said converter (3) being conductive at a rectifying duty (d_{rec}), said rectifying
5 duty taking a value of $\sqrt{2}$ -times an absolute value ($|\sin(\omega t)|$) of said sine value in said first period,

said method determining power ($V_{dc} \cdot I_{dc}$) input to said inverter (5) as a product of an absolute value ($I_m / \sqrt{2}$) of an input current input to said converter (3) at a boundary between said first period and said second period, an effective value ($V_m / \sqrt{2}$) of an AC
10 voltage (V_{in}) of said single-phase AC power supply, and a value ($(1 - (1 - k) \cdot \cos(2\omega t))$) obtained by subtracting, from one, a value obtained by multiplying said cosine value ($\cos(2\omega t)$) by a positive constant ($1 - k$) less than one.

2. The method for controlling a direct power converter according to claim 1,
15 wherein

said rectifying duty (d_{rec}) takes an inverse number ($1/(\sqrt{2}|\sin(\omega t)|)$) of the value of $\sqrt{2}$ -times the absolute value ($|\sin(\omega t)|$) of said sine value in said second period (T_2), and

said first switch (S_c , D42) is rendered conductive to discharge said capacitor
20 (C_4) in said first period (T_1) at a discharge duty (d_c) taking a value obtained by dividing, by $\sqrt{2}$, a product of said cosine value ($\cos(2\omega t)$) and a value (V_m/V_c) obtained by dividing a crest value (V_m) of the AC voltage (V_{in}) of said single-phase AC power supply by a both-end voltage (V_c) of said capacitor.

25 3. The method for controlling a direct power converter according to claim 1,

wherein

said rectifying duty (d_{rec}) takes a value 1 in said second period (T_2), and

said first switch (S_c , D_{42}) is rendered conductive to discharge said capacitor (C_4) in said first period (T_1) at a discharge duty (d_c) taking a product of said cosine value ($\cos(2\omega t)$) and a value (V_m/V_c) obtained by dividing a crest value (V_m) of the AC voltage (V_{in}) of said single-phase AC power supply by a both-end voltage (V_c) of said capacitor.

4. The method for controlling a direct power converter according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein

said boost circuit (4b) comprises:

a diode (D_{40}) including a cathode and an anode that is connected between said first switch (S_c , D_{42}) and said capacitor (C_4);

a reactor (L_4) connected between said first power supply line (L_H) and said cathode, through which a current input to said boost circuit flows; and

a second switch (S_1 , D_{41}) connected between said second power supply line (L_L) and said cathode, and

said second switch of said boost circuit is controlled to control a current (i_l) flowing through said reactor (L_4) in said second period (T_2).