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RECEIVED 29 June 2023
ACCEPTED 14 August 2023
PUBLISHED 08 September 2023

CITATION
Liu Y, Zuo Y and Yuan L (2023), Topology
synthesis of integrated active power
decoupling converters using
asymmetrical H-bridge circuits.
Front. Electron. 4:1250099.
doi: 10.3389/felec.2023.1250099

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Topology synthesis of integrated active power decoupling converters using asymmetrical H-bridge circuits

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Aiming to handle the inherent double-line frequency ripple power in single-phase power systems, a lot of active power decoupling (APD) topologies have been developed. In this paper, a general method is introduced to synthesize APD topologies. The main construction idea is to insert a rectifier/inverter into asymmetrical H-bridge circuits (AHCs) or replace the switch/diode in the AHCs with a rectifier/inverter. This approach not only reveals the formation process of existing APD topologies but also deduces new APD topologies. Finally, an experimental case study has been carried out to illustrate the feasibility and effectiveness of the proposed topology synthesis method.

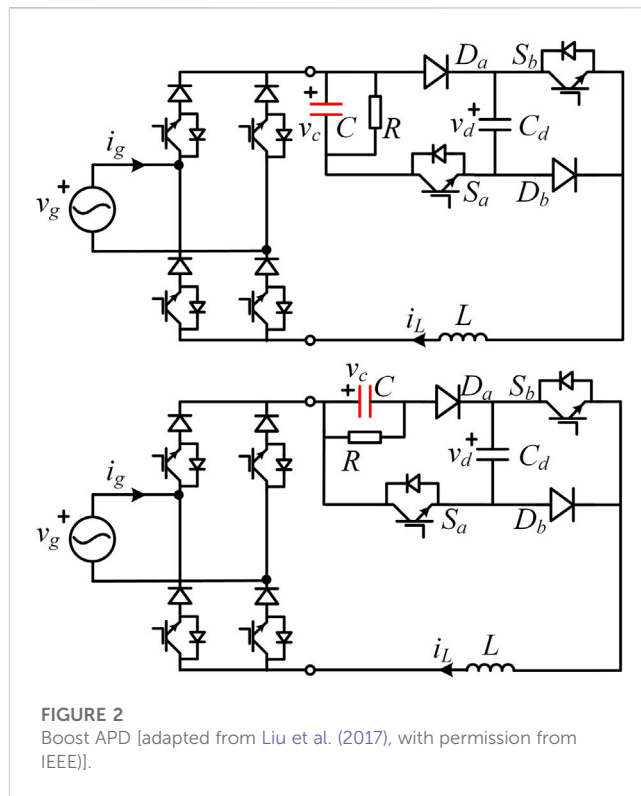
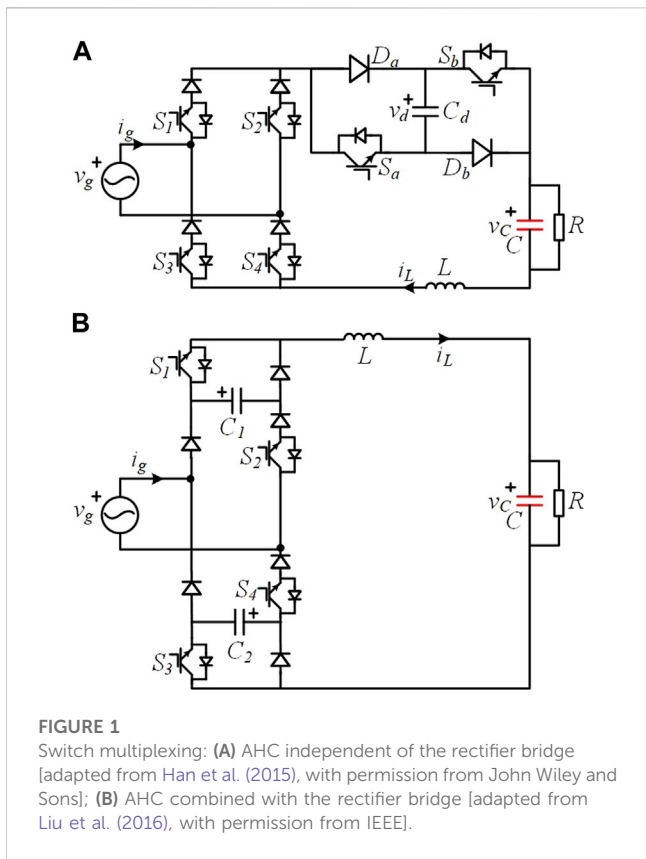
KEYWORDS

active power decoupling, H-bridge circuit, double-line frequency ripple power, single-phase systems, topology

1 Introduction

The double-line frequency ripple power inherently exists in the single-phase system, which results in low-frequency ripple on the dc-link voltage/current. The undesirable ripple degrades system performances, such as reducing the lifetime and efficiency of fuel cells (Fontes et al., 2007), accelerating battery aging (Kim and Shin, 2012), and leading to a light flicker of the light-emitting diode (LED) (Li et al., 2016).

To limit the double-line frequency ripple, a bulk electrolytic dc-link capacitor is commonly adopted, but this leads to large volume, low power density, and poor lifetime. Active power decoupling (APD) technology (Hu et al., 2013; Sun et al., 2016) is developed to address this issue. The technology requires the construction of the APD topology, which generally needs an auxiliary decoupling circuit. The decoupling circuit consists of relatively small sizes as well as long lifetime energy storage components and extra active switches. Through diverting the double-line frequency ripple power to the decoupling circuit, the APD technology has proven to be an effective solution to buffer the double-line frequency ripple power while possessing high power density and even high reliability. The APD topologies directly affect the features of the system, such as efficiency, cost, and operation limits. Hence, the research on APD topology configurations has become a hot research topic in power electronics. Several decoupling circuits are proposed in succession for power factor correction (PFC) rectifiers (Ohnuma and Itoh, 2014; Li et al., 2017; Qi et al., 2019a; Qi et al., 2019b), current source type converters (Han et al., 2015; Ohnuma et al., 2015; Liu et al., 2016; Liu et al., 2017; Zare et al., 2017; Liu et al., 2019; Xiong et al., 2020; Wang et al., 2021), and voltage source type inverters (Mishra et al., 2012; Ravindranath et al., 2013; Nguyen



et al., 2015a; Nguyen et al., 2015b; Davise and Prince, 2017; Gautam and Fulwani, 2019; Nguyen et al., 2019).

For PFC rectifiers, the circuit proposed in Ohnuma and Itoh (2014) achieved APD and PFC by adding a diode, a switch, and a decoupling capacitor. The filter inductor in the conventional PFC rectifier is connected in series with the grid along with the rectified waveform current, while in Ohnuma and Itoh (2014), the filter inductor is connected in series with the load along with a constant current. However, the decoupling capacitor voltage is higher than the peak grid voltage to reversely bias the rectifier diodes. In addition, its output voltage must be less than half of the peak grid voltage. Qi et al. (2019b) employed three-level to eliminate decoupling capacitor voltage limitations. The buck-boost rectifier is used in Li et al. (2017) to break the output voltage limitation by rotating the basic three-terminal cell used in Ohnuma and Itoh (2014). However, the filter inductor current in the study by Li et al. (2017) is equal to the sum of the load current and the rectified grid current, and the decoupling capacitor voltage is more than the sum of the grid and load voltages. Then, Qi et al. (2019a) proposed a modified topology that only adding a diode. It reduces the voltage stress by limiting the decoupling capacitor voltage to less than the sum of the grid and load voltages.

For the current source type converters, a topology is proposed in Han et al. (2015) by inserting an asymmetrical H-bridge circuit (AHC) into the dc-link bus to buffer the ripple power. The AHC works independently with the original current source rectifier (CSR) and is extended for PV applications (Zare et al., 2017). However, two additional active switches are added in Han et al. (2015) and Zare et al. (2017). In order to minimize the switch count, a switch-multiplexing topology combining the AHC and rectifier bridge is

proposed in Liu et al. (2016), as shown in Figure 1. It has two decoupling capacitors, and the two capacitors work between partitions, which tightens the constraint of the decoupling capacitor voltage. Moreover, it is interesting that the current source type APD topology can be merged with other functions (Liu et al., 2017; Liu et al., 2019; Xiong et al., 2020). In Liu et al. (2017), the boost is achieved to extend the output voltage range by reconstructing the decoupling circuit in Han et al. (2015), as shown in Figure 2. Liu et al. (2019) reported the inversion version of the rectifier in Liu et al. (2017). In the study by Xiong et al. (2020), the open-circuit threat of the dc link inductor current is eliminated with the help of the decoupling circuit.

For the voltage source type inverters, an inverted form based on the study by Ohnuma and Itoh (2014) of the PFC rectifier is proposed in Ohnuma et al. (2015). However, it only operates on the unit power factor. To overcome this drawback, one approach involves connecting a diode in series before each switch (Wang et al., 2021), and an alternative approach involves the substitution of the grid LC filter with an L filter. The latter is changed into a special voltage source inverter (VSI), which is called the single-phase quasi-switched-boost inverter (qSBI) or current-fed switched inverter (CFSI) (Nguyen et al., 2015a; Gautam and Fulwani, 2019; Nguyen et al., 2019). These inverters, without requiring extra hardware, possess the features of the Z-source inverter (ZSI) and avoiding shoot-through problems. The double-line frequency ripple power can be buffered in the intermediate capacitor by designing a suitable controller. Another similar inverter is the developed switched-boost inverter (SBI) (Mishra et al., 2012; Ravindranath et al., 2013). A comparison between ZSI, SBI, and CFSI has been carried out in Ohnuma and Itoh (2014), Nguyen et al. (2015b), and Davise and Prince (2017).

Although various APD topologies have been proposed for rectification and inversion applications, their appearance are

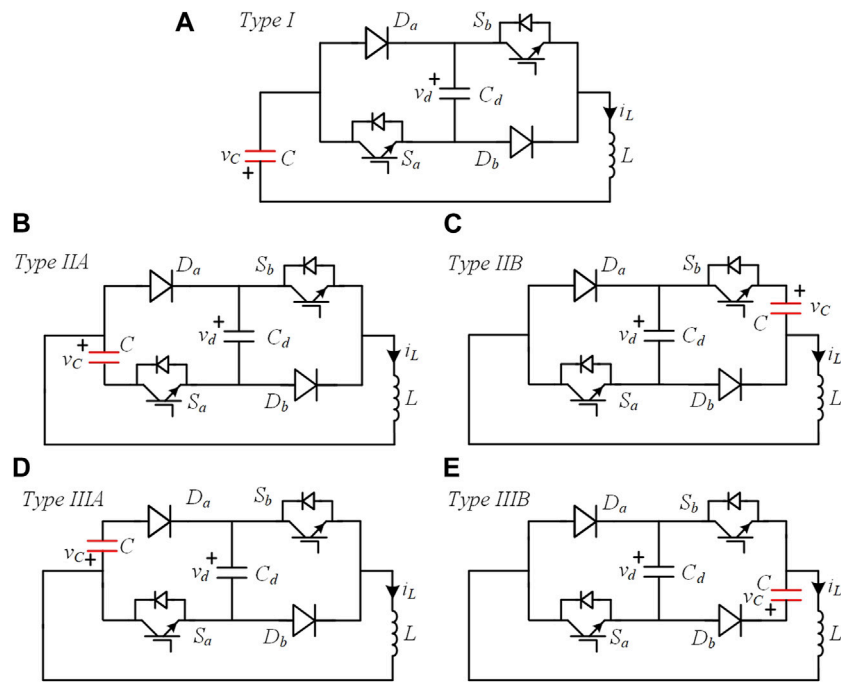


FIGURE 3 Asymmetrical H-bridge circuits. (A) Type I, (B) type IIA, (C) type IIB, (D) type IIIA, and (E) type IIIB.

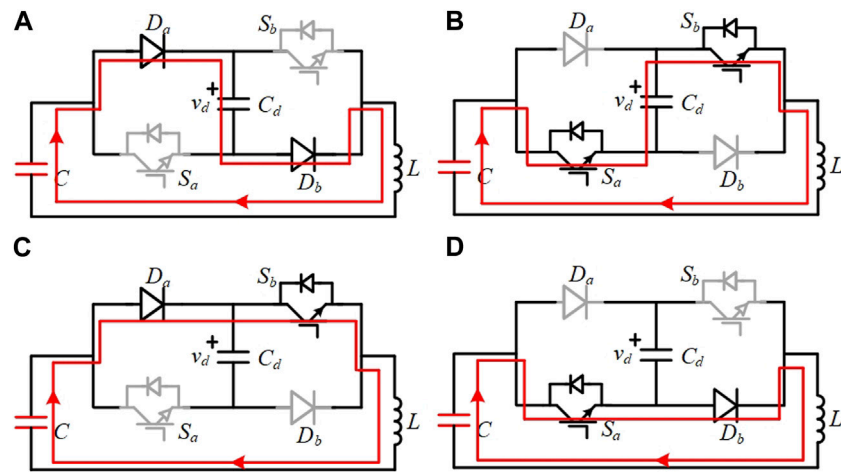
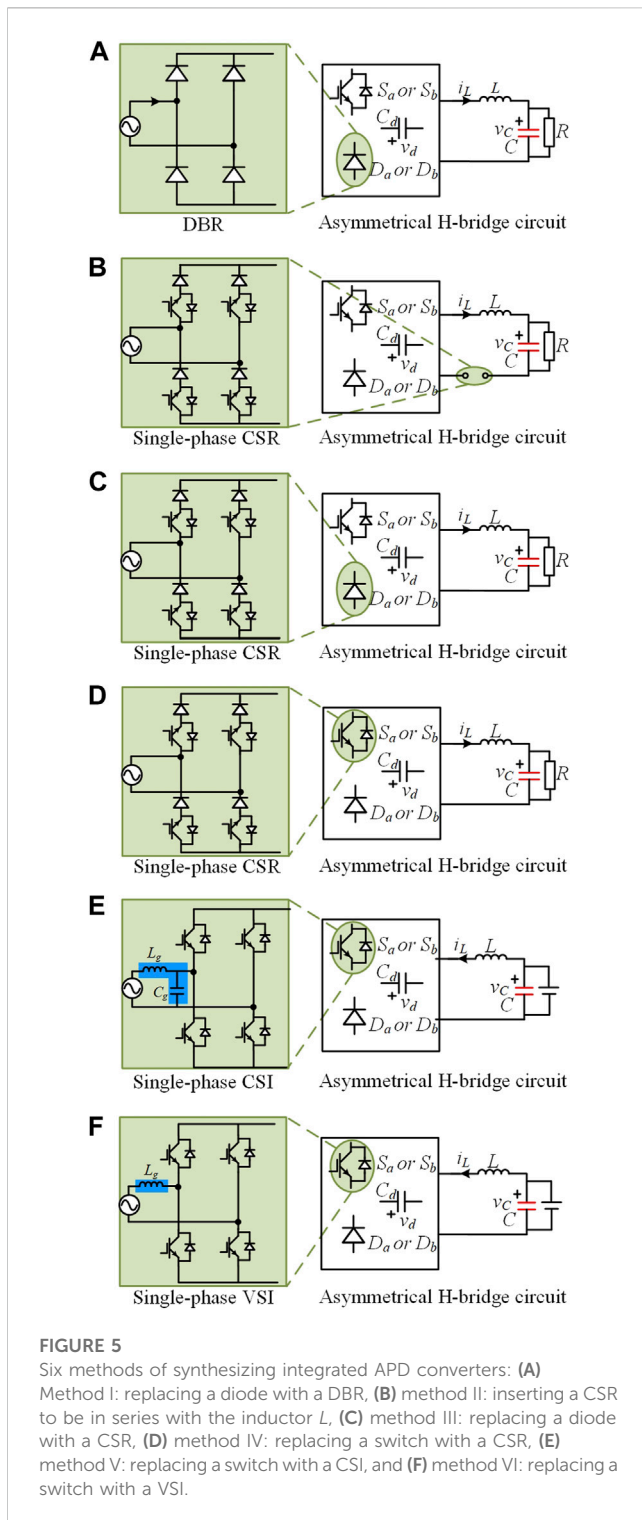


FIGURE 4 Switching states of Type I circuit: (A) State 1: charging C_d ($S_a = \text{OFF}; S_b = \text{OFF}$), (B) State 2: discharging C_d ($S_a = \text{ON}; S_b = \text{ON}$), (C) State 3: bypassing C_d ($S_a = \text{OFF}; S_b = \text{ON}$), and (D) State 4: bypassing C_d ($S_a = \text{ON}; S_b = \text{OFF}$).

random and dependent on the inspiration of the researchers. The relationship between the aforementioned decoupling circuits lacks revelation, which is not conducive to derive new APD topologies. In this paper, a general method is introduced to synthesize APD topologies by inserting a rectifier/inverter into asymmetrical H-bridge circuits (AHCs) or replacing the switch/diode in the AHCs with a rectifier/inverter. This construction idea not only

reveals the formation process of the aforementioned topologies and many others but also deduces new APD topologies.

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows: **Section 2** introduces three basic types of AHCs. **Section 3** introduces the basic APD topology synthesis methods. In **Section 4**, the extension of the proposed methods is given. The experimental results are carried out in **Section 5**. Finally, **Section 6** concludes the paper.



2 Asymmetrical H-bridge circuits

Figure 3 shows the circuit structures of the AHCs. They are just part of the whole circuit and are used to buffer the double-line frequency ripple power. All of them are composed of two active switches (S_a and S_b), two diodes (D_a and D_b), one inductor (L), and two capacitors (C_d and C). The decoupling capacitor C_d is responsible for buffering the double-line frequency ripple power,

and capacitor C , connected in parallel with the load or DC power supply, acts as a filter. According to the locations of the capacitor C , they are divided into three types. In type I, the capacitor C is in series with the inductor L , as shown in Figure 3A; in type II, the capacitor C is in series with the switch S_a or S_b , as shown in Figures 3B, C; and in type III, the capacitor C is in series with the diode D_a or D_b , as shown in Figures 3D, E. It should be noted that the two specific circuits in types II and III are symmetrical and identical.

Each type of AHC contains four switching states. Taking type I as an example, its operating modes are charging, discharging, and bypassing of the decoupling capacitor, as shown in Figure 4. The charge of the decoupling capacitor corresponds to the absorption of ripple power and vice versa to the release (Figures 4A, B). Additionally, there are two freewheeling states that bypass the decoupling capacitor (Figures 4C, D). The redundant switching state provides more possibilities to deduce APD topologies.

3 Method and topology synthesis

This section firstly introduces six basic topology synthesis methods by taking type I AHC as an example. Then, through these six methods, other APD topologies based on the AHCs are summarized and developed, as shown in Figure 6.

The basic principle of synthesizing integrated APD converters is divided into replacement and insertion, as shown in Figure 5. The former replaces the diode (D_a or D_b) or switch (S_a or S_b) in AHC with a diode-bridge rectifier (DBR), a single-phase CSR, a single-phase current source inverter (CSI), or a single-phase VSI. The latter is also feasible to synthesize a new APD converter by inserting a CSR to be in series with the inductor.

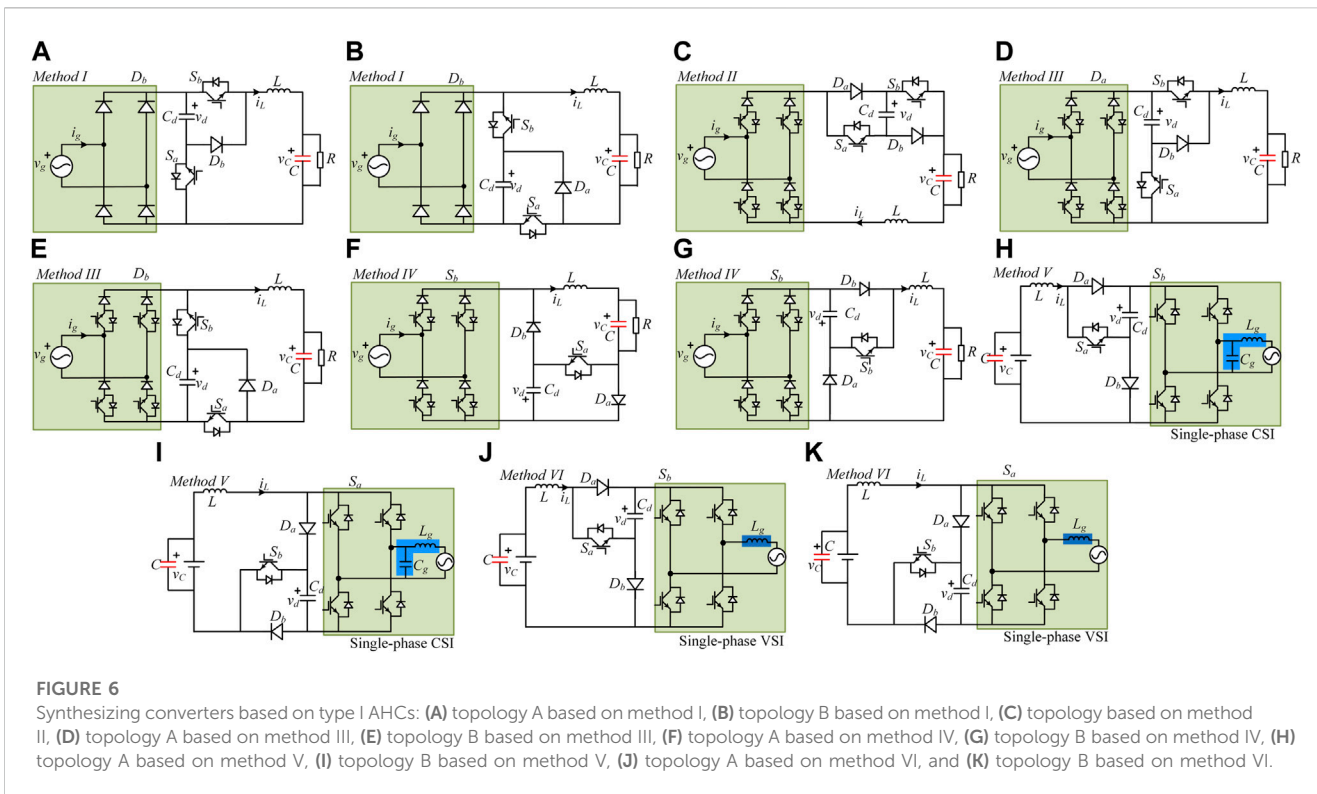
Taking type I AHC as an example, six methods, which are shown in Figure 6, are introduced as follows.

Method I (Figures 6A, B): The diode D_a or D_b in the AHC is replaced with a DBR. The topology in Figure 6A was proposed in Ohnuma and Itoh (2014). Its counterpart is shown in Figure 6B, which is deduced in this paper. To ensure normal operation, the rectified diodes should be reversely biased when the switch S_a in Figure 6A or S_b in Figure 6B is turned on. So, the decoupling capacitor voltage v_d must be greater than the absolute value of the grid voltage.

Method II (Figure 6C): The CSR is inserted to be in series with the inductor L . The AHC operates dependently with the rectifier. In addition, the decoupling capacitor voltage v_d can be smaller than the grid voltage, which indicates that a voltage constraint is released compared with that in the topologies in Figures 6A, B. This circuit topology was proposed in Han et al. (2015) and then applied to PV generation (Zare et al., 2017) and PFC rectifiers (Haider et al., 2019).

Method III (Figures 6D, E): The diode D_a or D_b in the AHC is replaced with a single-phase CSR. The topology in Figure 6D is identical to that in Figure 6E. It operates at any power factor. However, the decoupling capacitor voltage v_d must be greater than the absolute value of the grid voltage.

Method IV (Figures 6F, G): The switch S_a or S_b in the AHC is replaced with a single-phase CSR. The topology in Figure 6F is proposed in Xiong et al. (2020), and the topology in Figure 6G is its counterpart. In both cases, the decoupling capacitor voltage v_d is not required to be greater than the absolute value of the grid voltage.



However, the sum of the rectified voltage v_r and the decoupling capacitor voltage v_d should be greater than zero to avoid the diode D_a in Figure 6G or D_b in Figure 6F being applied to a forward voltage. One highlight is the improvement in reliability. Because there is a natural current path consisting of C_d , D_b , L , R , and D_a in Figures 6F, G, even if all the switches are turned on or off simultaneously, neither a short circuit nor an open circuit will happen.

Method V (Figures 6H, I): The switch S_a or S_b in AHC is replaced with a single-phase CSI. The topology in Figure 6H is proposed in Ohnuma et al. (2015). However, the decoupling capacitor voltage v_d is required to be greater than the peak grid voltage. Moreover, both circuits only operate on the unit power factor. As an extension, each switch can be in series with a diode to make the inverter have a non-unity power factor (Wang et al., 2021).

Method VI (Figures 6J, K): The switch S_a or S_b in the AHC is replaced with a single-phase VSI. Compared with the topologies in Figures 6H, I, the capacitor C_g in the ac filter is removed, which makes the inverter change into a VSI. This topology is also called qSBI (Gautam and Fulwani, 2019; Nguyen et al., 2019) or CFSI and has received a lot of attention recently. They avoid the risk of straight-through bridge arms, which is similar to the ZSI. Based on the proposed synthesis principle, another circuit topology, which also works like ZSI and is named the switched-boost inverter (SBI) (Mishra et al., 2012; Ravindranath et al., 2013), will be derived in the following section. ZSI, SBI, and CFSI possess some similarities in topologies and operations. Their comparison studies were carried out in Nguyen et al. (2015b) and Davise and Prince (2017).

Similarly, the synthesizing APD topologies based on the other types of AHCs are derived and summarized in Table 1. Table 1

provides a method to reveal the formation process of APD topologies that have been proposed by other researchers. Moreover, it is easy to identify their similarities and differences. Additionally, this method deduces some new topologies. Hence, the proposed method for synthesizing APD topologies is general. It should be noted that if there exists counterparts, only one topology is illustrated in the table to save space.

It should be noted that the characteristics of the circuits synthesized using the same method for different types of AHCs are much different. Taking the topologies obtained by using method II as examples, the only difference is the location of the load. However, the voltage and current features are totally different. For the inductor current i_L , it equals the load current when synthesized using type I AHC (called method II type I circuit, M2T1C, and other circuits are named in the same manner). However, in M2T2C and M2T3C, the inductor current i_L is less than the load current. For output voltage, it is limited to being lower than half the grid peak voltage in M2T1C, while in M2T2C and M2T3C, its value can exceed or fall below half the grid peak voltage. For the decoupling capacitor voltage v_d , the constraints are increased in an order from M2T1C and M2T3C to M2T2C. We can refer to the published works of Han et al. (2015) and Liu et al. (2017) for more details. The characteristics of different topologies provide more choices for users. Engineers can choose a topology with suitable characteristics for their specific needs.

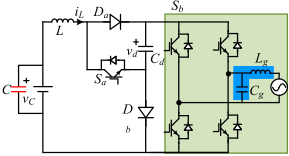

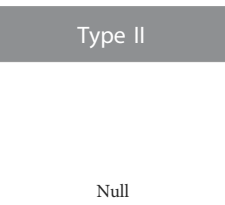
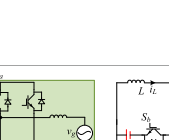
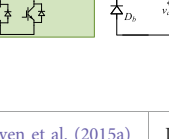


More interestingly, the proposed general method to synthesize APD topologies presents good extension performance to derive other circuits, which will be introduced in the following section.

TABLE 1 Summary of integrated active power decoupling converters based on AHCs.

	Type I	Type II	Type III
Synthesizing decoupling converter			
Method I (replacing the diode with a DBR)			
	Figures 6A, B; Ohnuma and Itoh (2014)	Proposed in Liu et al. (2017)	Deduced in this paper
Method II (inserting a CSR to be in series with the inductor L)			
	Figure 6C; Han et al. (2015)	Proposed in Liu et al. (2017)	Proposed in Liu et al. (2017)
Method III (replacing the diode with a CSR)			
	Figures 4D, E	Deduced in this paper	Deduced in this paper
Method IV (replacing the switch with a CSR)			
	Figures 4F, G; Xiong et al. (2020)	Deduced in this paper	Deduced in this paper

(Continued on following page)

TABLE 1 (Continued) Summary of integrated active power decoupling converters based on AHCs.

	Type I	Type II	Type III
Method V (replacing the switch with a CSI)		Null	
	Figures 4H, I; Ohnuma et al. (2015)		Proposed in Liu et al. (2019)
Method VI (replacing the switch with a VSI)		 	 
	Figures 4J, K; Nguyen et al. (2019)	Proposed in Nguyen et al. (2015a) Deduced in this paper	Proposed in Mishra et al. (2012) Deduced in this paper

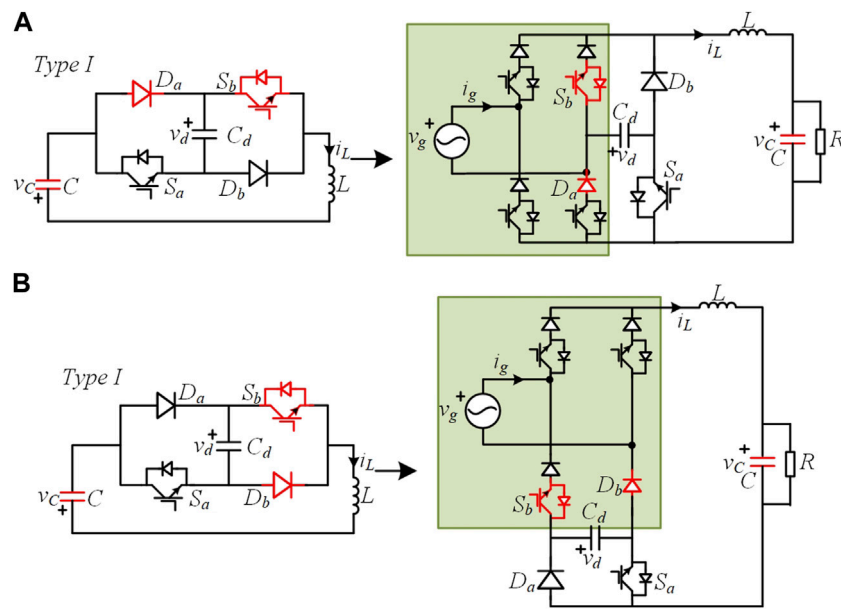


FIGURE 7
Integrated CSR via horizontal replacement (A) and vertical replacement (B).

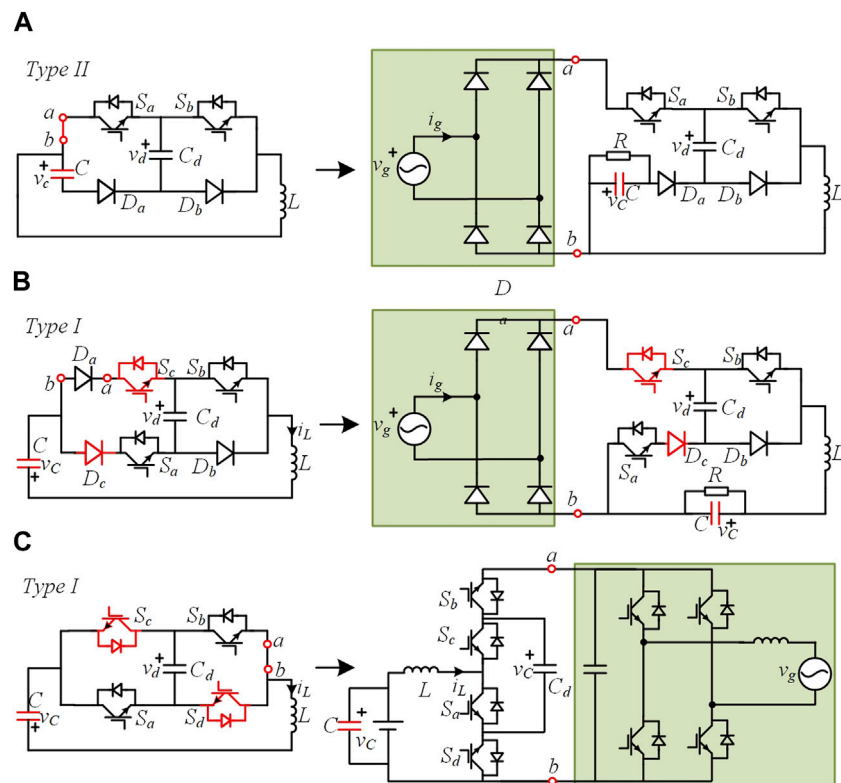


FIGURE 8
Modified type II AHC and one of its synthesizing decoupling circuit (A); modified type I AHC circuits and their synthesizing decoupling circuits (B) and (C).

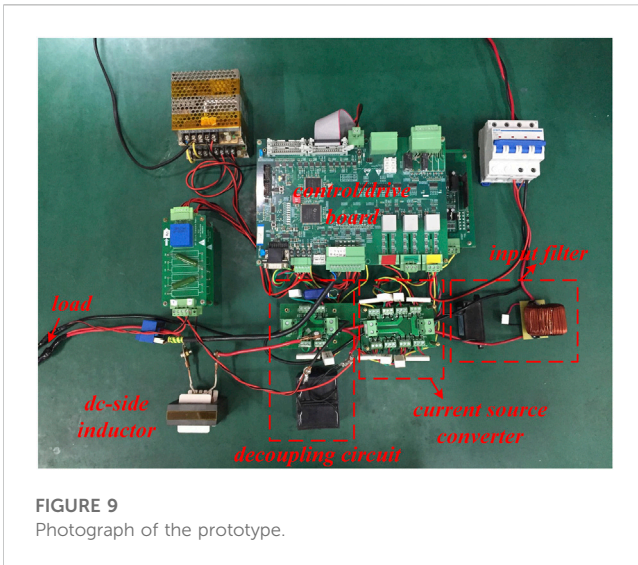


FIGURE 9 Photograph of the prototype.

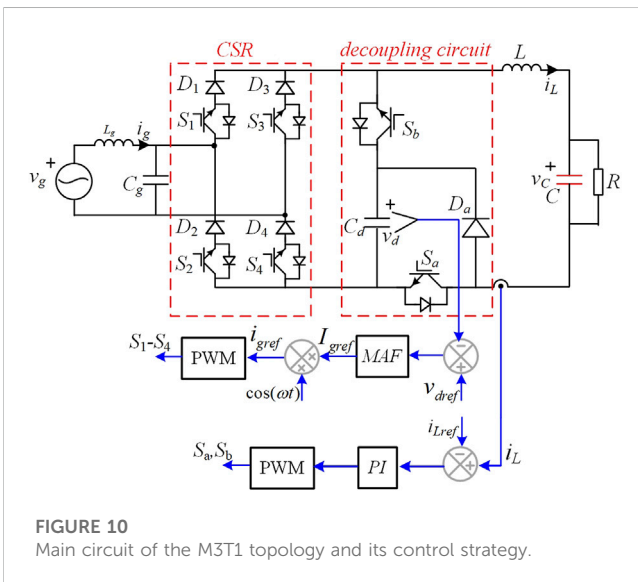


FIGURE 10 Main circuit of the M3T1 topology and its control strategy.

4 Extension to other topologies

This section will demonstrate the extensibility of the proposed topology synthesis methods. It is reflected in two aspects. The first aspect is to deepen the integration of the devices, and the second aspect is to modify the AHC.

For the first extension, more switches or diodes are replaced by the rectifier/inverter. Take CSR as an example, a switch and a diode are merged within a single-phase CSR by horizontal or vertical substitution. The horizontal merging is shown in Figure 7A; the diode D_a and switch S_b are merged by the diode and switch on the same bridge arm in the CSR. If a switch and a diode are added to be in series with the diode D_b and the switch S_a , respectively, then the decoupling capacitor voltage v_d can be shaped into the AC form that is reported in Vitorino et al. (2014). Furthermore, the vertical merging is shown in Figure 7B; the diode D_b and switch S_b are merged by the lower switching devices in the CSR. This case saves a

switch. However, the decoupling capacitor voltage v_d must be greater than the peak grid voltage. More details can be found in Liu et al. (2016).

For the second extension, the AHCs are modified, and three examples are given. First, the modified AHC is shown in Figure 8A, which is obtained by exchanging the locations of the switch S_a and the diode D_a in type II AHC. It should be noted that the decoupling capacitor voltage v_d must be less than the output voltage. By inserting a DBR to be in series with S_a , an APD topology is obtained, as shown in Figure 8A, which is proposed in Qi et al. (2019a) and called a single-phase three-level flying-capacitor PFC rectifier. Its highlight is the low voltage stress for power devices due to $v_d \leq (v_c + |v_g|)$. However, it is only suitable for low-power applications to avoid adopting a large decoupling capacitor. Second, for MIT1C, the voltage v_d has to be larger than the grid peak voltage, which leads to high voltage stress. To break this limitation, a modified AHC that adds a switch S_c and a diode D_c is shown in Figure 8B. This topology is reported in Qi et al. (2019b) and called a single-phase three-level flying-capacitor buck PFC rectifier. Third, the diodes in type I AHC are both replaced with active switches, as shown in Figure 8C. By inserting a VSI in series with the switch S_b , a two-stage inverter with power decoupling capability is obtained (Watanabe et al., 2018). Obviously, based on the modified AHC in Figure 8C and the synthesis method, many other APD topologies can be further deduced (Zhou et al., 2020; Qi et al., 2021).

5 Experimental case study

In this section, an experimental prototype based on the deduced M3T1 topology circuit, as shown in Figure 9, is built for experimental verification. The applied grid voltage is 110 V_{rms} /50 Hz. The LC filters are 10 μF and 0.6 mH, the dc link inductor L is 5 mH, the load R is 5 Ω , the decoupling capacitor C_d is 60 μF , the load filter capacitor C is 10 μF , and the switching frequency is 20 kHz. The commonly used control strategy for APD capacitors is adopted, as shown in Figure 10. As observed, the averaged value of the decoupling capacitor voltage, which is obtained using a moving average filter (MAF), is regulated by controlling the switches S_1 - S_4 (control the power dragged from the grid). Furthermore, the dc link current is regulated by controlling switches S_a and S_b . The control is realized using the digital signal processor (DSP) TMS320F28335 and the FPGA EP2C8T144C8N. The DSP is responsible for implementing the proposed control strategy and transmitting the duty ratios to the FPGA. The FPGA is used to generate the PWM signals.

Figure 11 shows the experimental waveforms under the unit power factor. From top to bottom, the waveforms are the dc link current i_L , decoupling capacitor voltage v_d , and the grid voltage/current v_g/i_g . At the beginning, the decoupling function is not activated, the switch S_b is always turned off, and S_a is always turned on. It can be found that the dc link current i_L presents a large fluctuation with a double-line frequency. What's worse, the grid current i_g is distorted. After enabling the decoupling, the dc link current i_L becomes smooth. In addition, the decoupling capacitor voltage v_d has a large ac component with a frequency of 100 Hz due to buffering the double-line frequency ripple power. The measured

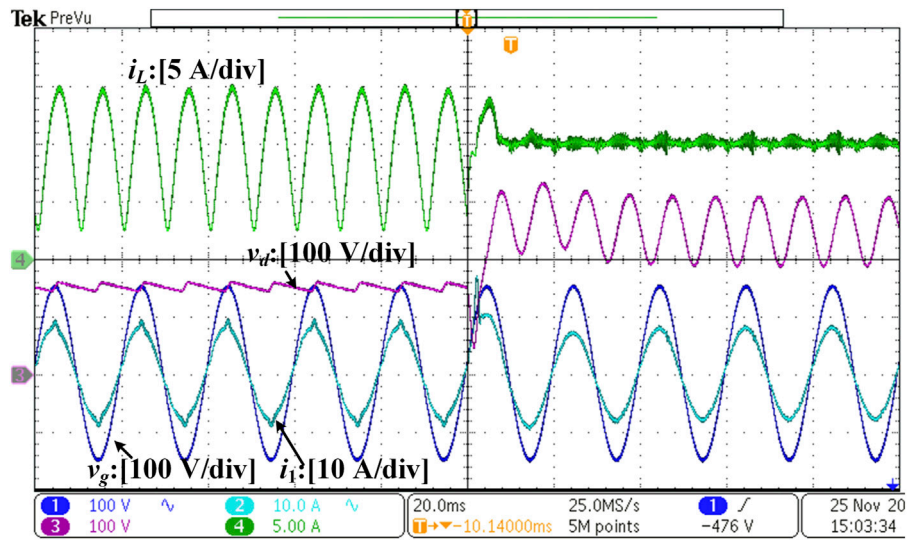


FIGURE 11
Experimental waveforms under the unit power factor.

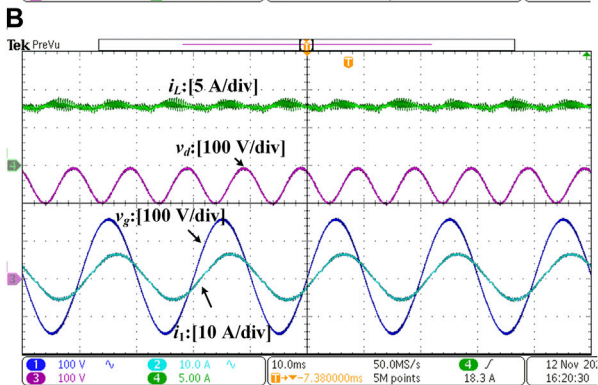
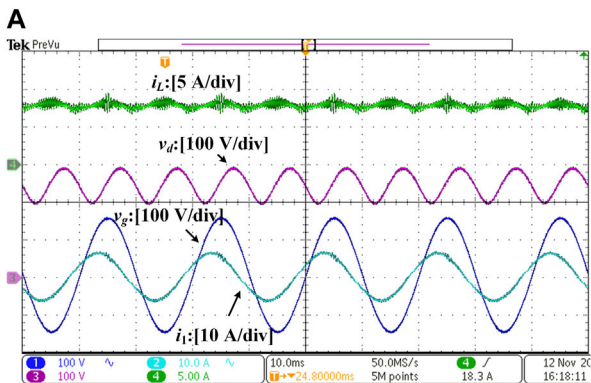


FIGURE 12
Experimental waveforms when the grid current leads/lags the grid voltage with 30° (A) and lags the grid voltage with 30° (B).

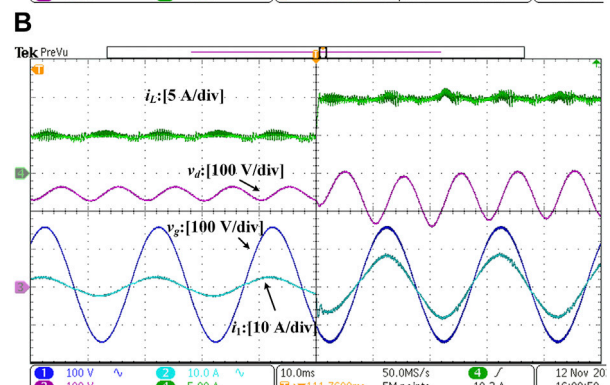
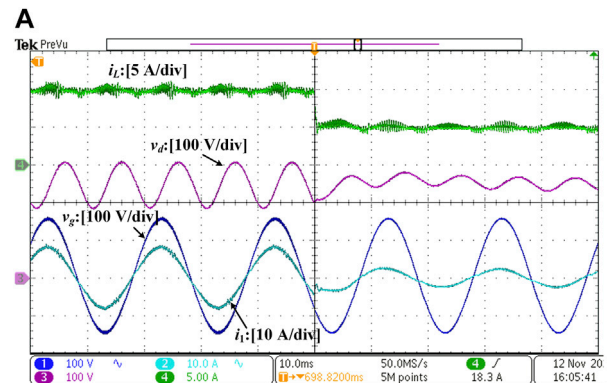


FIGURE 13
Transient experimental waveforms. (A) Dc current reference is suddenly changed from 10 A to 5 A. (B) Dc current reference is suddenly changed from 5 A to 10 A.

THD of the grid current is only 3.3%, and the measured conversion efficiency is 84.6%.

Figure 12 shows the experimental results when the grid current leads/lags the grid voltage by $\pi/6$. As observed, the constant dc link current and sinusoidal grid current are obtained. Moreover, the

proposed topology has the capability to control the reactive power under the premise of ensuring the quality of the grid current and the dc link current.

Figure 13 shows the experiments with step references to show the dynamic response. As shown in Figure 13A, when the dc link current reference decreases from 10 A to 5 A, the DC-link current tracks its reference immediately and the voltage of the decoupling capacitor becomes smaller. Figure 13B shows the results of the reverse process. In both cases, no obvious voltage/current peak/valley happens.

6 Conclusion

In this paper, a general method is proposed to synthesize APD topologies based on AHCs. The main construction idea is to insert a rectifier/inverter into AHCs or replace the switch/diode in the AHCs with a rectifier/inverter. It is shown that the general method can be used to deduce many existing decoupling circuits and new circuits. In addition, it presents a good extension by deepening the integration of the devices and modifying the circuit structures of AHCs. An experimental case study based on the deduced M3T1 topology has been carried out to illustrate the feasibility and effectiveness of the proposed topology synthesis method.

Data availability statement

The original contributions presented in the study are included in the article/Supplementary Material; further inquiries can be directed to the corresponding author.

Author contributions

YL: conceptualization, methodology, investigation, data curation, and writing—original draft. YZ: conceptualization, investigation, validation, supervision, and funding acquisition. LY: conceptualization, methodology, visualization, writing—review and editing, and funding

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acquisition. All authors contributed to the article and approved the submitted version.

Funding

This work was supported in part by the science and technology innovation Program of Hunan Province 2023RC3033, in part by the National Natural Science Foundation of China under Grant 52277209, and in part by the Central South University Innovation-Driven Research Programme under Grant 2023CXQD020.

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Supplementary material

The Supplementary Material for this article can be found online at: <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/felec.2023.1250099/full#supplementary-material>

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