

Fig. 1. Circuit configuration of proposed bidirectional single-phase SST.

phase SST. The proposed SST has the automatic voltage balancing capability without a complex voltage balance control with a small primary side capacitor. In the proposed SST, the number of devices is smaller than the conventional SST because a single-phase rectifier is employed for all of the cells. Moreover, the effect of reducing the number of devices increases according to the number of cells. The originality of this paper is proposing the new topology of the SST, which has an automatic voltage balancing capability using an open-loop controlled resonant DC-DC converter. By connecting the resonant DC-DC converter with an open-loop control in parallel on the secondary side, the DC-link voltage on each cell is automatically balanced. Thus, a small capacitor on the primary side in comparison with the conventional SST is used because the proposed circuit decouples a power pulsation at twice the grid frequency in the secondary side. The proposed SST in this paper makes the control simple. The proposed SST has been tested with a unidirectional miniature model with the input voltage of 200 V. The fundamental operation had been demonstrated in (17) by authors. In this paper, the proposed SST is experimentally tested under a derated voltage of 1320 V, which is 1/5 of the full model. Moreover, the bidirectional operation is demonstrated in this paper. Additionally, the equations for a calculation of the power loss is derived for separating the power loss of the proposed SST. The validity of the equations is confirmed with the experimental result with the prototype. Then, the proposed SST is designed for a 6.6-kV grid as the input voltage.

## 2. The system configuration of Proposed SST

**2.1 Circuit configuration** Figure 1 shows the circuit configuration of the proposed SST. At the primary side, the full-bridge rectifier with switches with the high-voltage rating is connected. These switches are switched at the grid frequency, so the high-voltage switched can be used even if the switching speed of the high-voltage switches is slow. The characteristic of the proposed topology is the SST has the full-bridge rectifier in the input stage. The power factor correction (PFC) is ensured by the full-bridge rectifier and each chopper cell connected in series. The PFC circuit controls the input current to the sinusoidal waveform with the unity power factor. For this reason, the voltage per cell is reduced. Consequently, it is possible to apply the switching device with a low voltage rating and low on-state resistance on the primary side. In

Table 1. Comparison of switching device between conventional SST and proposed SST.

Rated Voltage	Number of cell	Number of Switching devices	
		Conventional SST (PWM rec. + DAB)	Proposed SST
3.3 kV	6	72	52
1.7 kV	11	132	92
1.2 kV	16	192	132

each cell, the resonant DC/DC converter is employed. The resonant DC-DC converter is operated in high-frequency for the downsizing the transformer. Moreover, the duty ratio of the resonant DC-DC converter is operated in fixed duty. Thus, the switching loss is small by the zero-current switching.

In general SST topology, a large capacitor should be used in the primary side as the DC-link capacitor to smooth the DC-link voltage. By contrast, small capacitors are used because the proposed circuit decouples a power pulsation at twice the grid frequency in the secondary side in this system.

Table 1 shows the comparison of the number of switches between the conventional SST, which includes a PWM rectifier and a dual active bridge converter<sup>(18)</sup> and the proposed SST and. Note that the number of cells is calculated from each rated voltage of the switches with considering the voltage margin. As shown in Table 1, the number of devices is reduced by 30% in comparison with the conventional SST because the proposed SST save the number of switched using one rectifier on the primary side. Consequently, the proposed circuit increases the utilization rate of the circuit compared to the MMC.

**2.2 Control system** Figure 2 shows the control block diagram of the proposed SST. The control block diagram has an automatic current regulator (ACR) for the current control of the boost inductor. The ACR controls the inductor current into full wave rectified waveform synchronized with the rectified input voltage to achieve a PFC operation. The inductor current command  $I_L^*$  is given by

$$I_L^* = I_{amp} |\sin(\omega t)| \dots\dots\dots(1),$$

where  $I_{amp}$  is the amplitude command value of the boost inductor current. The inductor current command  $I_L^*$  is generated by the



$$R_{snb} \leq \frac{2V_{clamp}^2}{L_b I_{max}^2 f_{sw\_rec}} \quad (4)$$

where  $V_{clamp}$  is the clamp voltage,  $f_{se\_rec}$  is the switching frequency of the rectifier on the primary side. The clamp voltage is designed to have a margin concerning the rated voltage of the device. In the miniature model SST, the margin is 20%.

**3.2 Power-factor-correction (PFC) converter** The boost converter on each cell is used for the PFC operation. The boost inductor current is controlled into full-wave rectified waveform as same as general PFC circuit<sup>(19–20)</sup>. The boost inductor  $L_b$  in the PFC circuit is given by

$$L_b = \frac{\sqrt{2}V_{in}}{4f_{eq}\Delta I_{Lb}} \quad (5)$$

where  $f_{eq}$  is the equivalent switching frequency of the output voltage  $V_{eq}$ , and  $\Delta I_{Lb}$  is the ripple current of the inductor current, and. Then, the equivalent switching frequency  $f_{eq}$  is given by

$$f_{eq} = m \times f_{sw} \quad (6)$$

where  $f_{sw}$  is the switching frequency of the PFC circuit,  $m$  is the number of cells. Each cell is modulated with the phase-shifted carrier each other. Consequently, the switching frequency component in  $V_{eq}$  is increased in proportional to the number of cells. Thus, the size of the boost inductor is reduced because the inductance is inversely proportional to frequency.

**3.3 Resonant DC-DC converter** The galvanic isolation is ensured by the resonant DC-DC converter<sup>(21)</sup>. The high-frequency operation contributes to the minimization of the isolation transformer. In addition, the zero-current switching (ZCS) is achieved by the series resonance between the inductor  $L_s$  and the capacitor  $C_s$ . ZCS greatly reduce the switching loss of the proposed SST system.

Furthermore, the leakage inductance is designed to be negligibly smaller than the excitation inductance. Then, the switching frequency  $f_o$  of the resonant DC-DC converter is given by (7). From resonance frequency, the duty ratio of the switch is 50%.

$$f_o = \frac{1}{2\pi\sqrt{L_s C_s}} \quad (7)$$

In the proposed SST, the operation mode is always the boost operation with respect to the primary side voltage. Thus, the turn ratio of the transformer is designed by (8).

$$N = \frac{N_1}{N_2} \geq \frac{\sqrt{2}V_{in}}{2m\lambda V_{out}} \quad (8)$$

where  $V_{in}$  is the input voltage,  $V_{out}$  is the output voltage,  $N_1$  and  $N_2$  are the numbers of turns for the primary/secondary side of the high-frequency transformer, and  $\lambda$  is the modulation index of the boost converter.

## 4. Experimental Results

**4.1 Power running operation** Table 3 shows the specifications and the circuit parameters. In this experiment, the fundamental operation is tested with the prototype, which has three cells. The input voltage of the prototype is derated to 1320 V which is 1/5 of the full model.

Figure 4 shows the waveforms of the input voltage, the input current, and the output voltage. The operation of the miniature

Table 3. Circuit parameter of proposed SST for the miniature model

Parameter	Symbol	Value
Input voltage	$v_{in}$	1320 V <sub>rms</sub>
Rated output power	$P_{out}$	2 kW
Rated output voltage	$V_{out}$	320 V
Snubber capacitor	$C_{snb}$	0.2 $\mu$ F
Snubber resistance	$R_{snb}$	2.5 M $\Omega$
Boost inductor	$L_b$	24 mH (%Z = 0.87%)
Primary side capacitor	$C_1$	48 $\mu$ F
Resonant capacitor	$C_s$	204 nF
Leakage inductor	$L_s$	50 $\mu$ H
Secondary side capacitor	$C_{out}$	8200 $\mu$ F
Switching frequency of rec.	$f_{sw\_rec}$	50 Hz
Switching frequency of PFC	$f_{sw\_pfc}$	10 kHz
Resonant frequency	$f_o$	50 kHz
Number of cells	$m$	3
Trans turns ratio	$N_1/N_2$	1.0

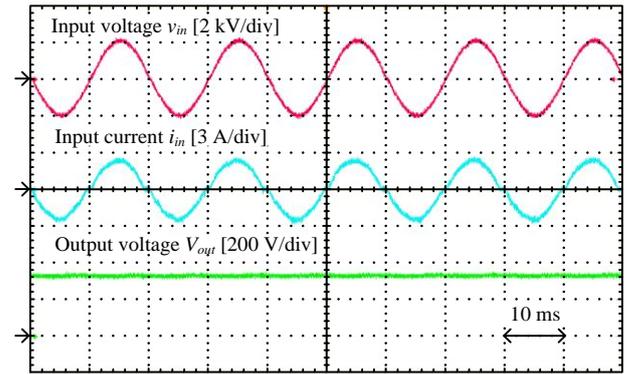


Fig. 4. Operation waveform at power running.

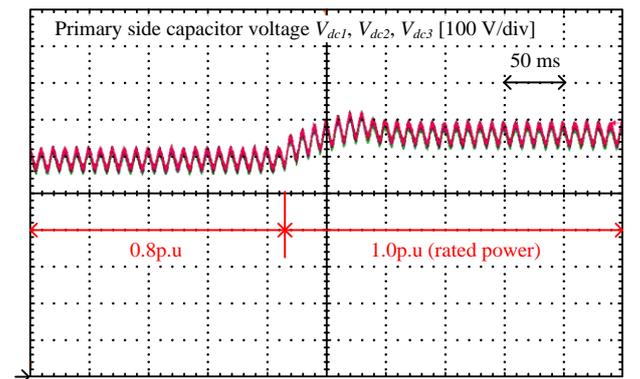
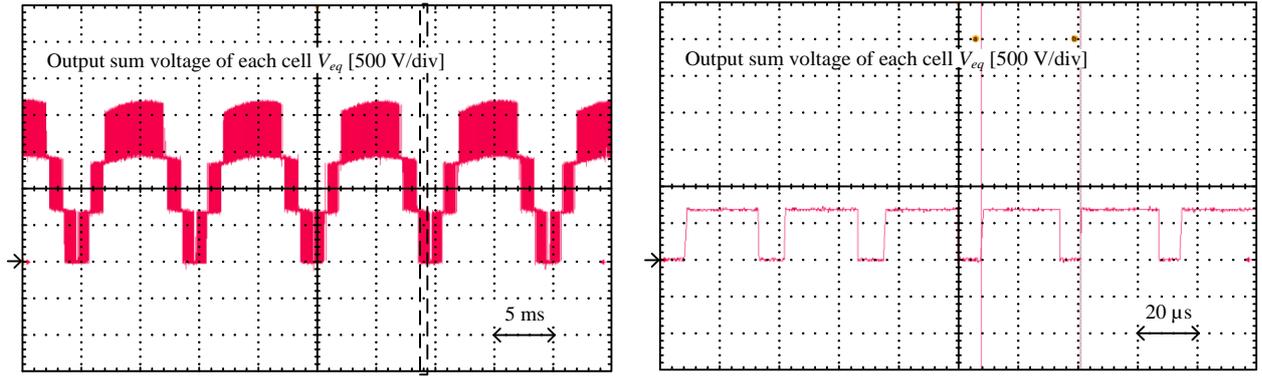


Fig. 5. Primary side capacitor voltage in each cell.

model is confirmed. The input power factor of the proposed SST is unity. The input current THD is 4.3% at the rated load. At the output side, the step-down operation is achieved because the output voltage is regulated to 320 V.

Figure 5 shows voltage changes of the primary DC-link capacitors in each cell when the output power is changed from



(a) Whole figure

(b) Enlarged figure

Fig. 6. Output voltage of all cells at power running.

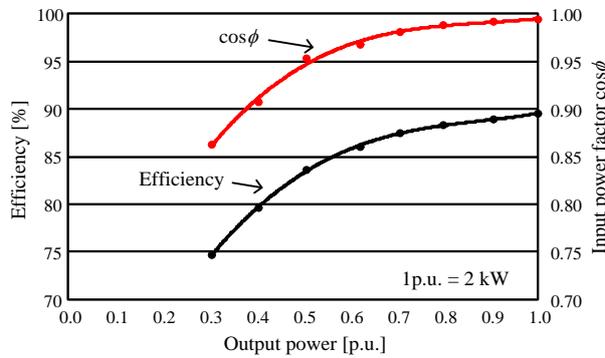


Fig. 7. Characteristic of efficiency and power factor.

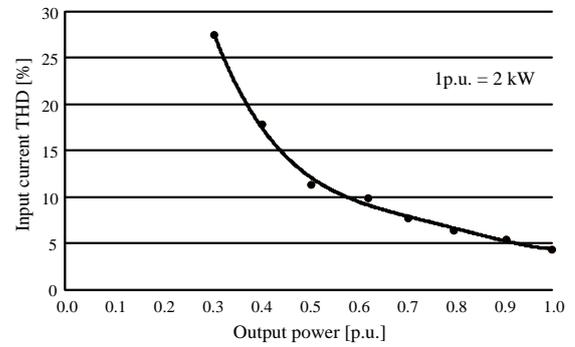


Fig. 8. Characteristic of input current THD

0.8p.u. to 1.0p.u. Note that the rated power is 1.0p.u. = 2 kW. The primary capacitor voltage is balanced in both the steady state and transient state. Moreover, the maximum DC-link capacitor voltage on the primary side is almost matched. Thus, it is confirmed that the DC-link capacitor voltage on the primary side is automatically balanced among all cells without the balancing control despite the output power changes.

Figure 6 shows the input voltage of all cells. From Fig. 6(a), the input voltage is equally divided into each cell because the output voltage of all cells forms a balanced multilevel waveform. In Fig. 6(b), it is also confirmed that the equivalent switching frequency  $f_{eq}$  is 30 kHz. The equivalent switching frequency is determined by the switching frequency in PFC and the number of the cells.

Figure 7 shows the efficiency and input power factor characteristic. The maximum efficiency is 89.5% at the rated power. The input power factor is over 0.95 with the output power from 0.5p.u. to 1.0p.u.

Figure 8 shows the input current THD characteristic with changing the output power of the SST. Input current THD is relatively high in the low-power region. This is because the rate of the low-order harmonics component appears remarkably with respect to the fundamental component because the input current is low when the output power is low.

**4.2 Bidirectional operation** The miniature model is tested to confirm the fundamental operation with the input voltage

of 200 V because of the limitation of the experimental facilities in this experiment. The regenerative power supply is used for the output side for the test of the regeneration.

Figure 9 shows the bidirectional operation of the proposed SST when the operation mode is switched from the power running to regeneration at the center of the horizontal axis. It is confirmed that the unity power factor on the input side is achieved in both the power running and regeneration operation. The input current THD is 4.2% during the operation. From the waveforms of the sum of the output voltage of each cell, it is confirmed that the waveform is four-level staircase voltage. Note that an equivalent switching frequency  $f_{eq}$  is 30 kHz. Thereby, the stable operation of the miniature model without any large distortion is achieved even when the operation abruptly changes.

Figure 10 shows the DC-link capacitor voltage on the primary side of three cells in the bidirectional operation. Despite the change of the power flow, the DC-link capacitor voltage on the primary side is balanced among all cells without the balance control even when the operation rapidly changes.

## 5. Loss Analysis and Estimation for Full Model

The loss of SST is separated based on the components shown as follows:

- (i) Diode bridge rectifier on the primary side
- (ii) Switches of PFC converter
- (iii) Switches of the resonant DC-DC converter
- (iv) Rectifier on the secondary side

Table 4 shows the switching devices for each part. In the proposed SST, the rated voltage of 3.3 kV is used in the primary side rectifier.

First, the primary DC-link capacitors are selected for the full model. The current which flows into the electrolytic capacitor includes not only the power ripple component but also the switching frequency component from the inverter. Thus, it is very impossible to analytically derive the ripple current on the DC-link capacitor. Thus, the capacitor ripple current is evaluated by the simulation<sup>(22)</sup>. The capacitor ripple current is the function of the output power factor angle  $\phi$  and the modulation index  $\lambda$ , which is a nonlinear value. Then, the effective value of the capacitor ripple current is given by (9).

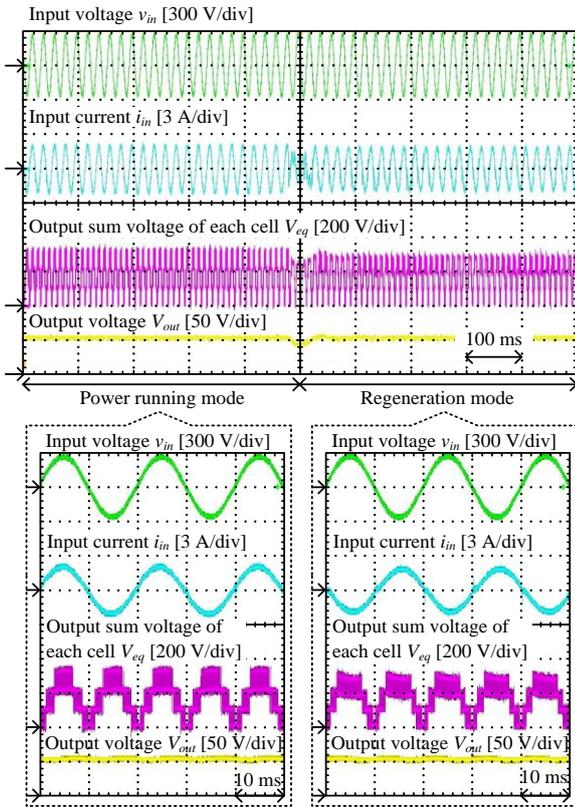


Fig. 9. Bidirectional operation of proposed circuit.

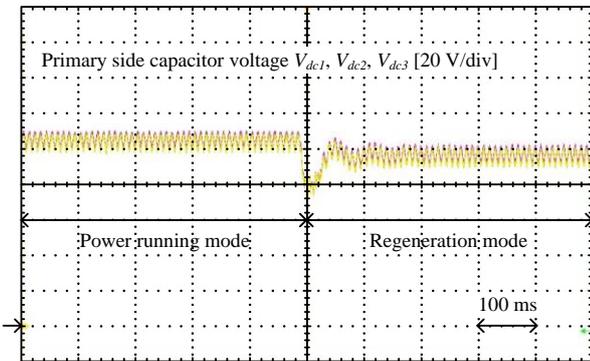


Fig. 10. Primary side capacitor voltage of each cell at

$$I_{rms\_cap} = K_{cap}(\phi, \lambda) I_{out} \dots\dots\dots(9)$$

where  $I_{out}$  is the average value of the output current, and  $K_{cap}$  is the coefficient which is obtained by the simulation.

Figure 11 shows the simulation result of  $K_{cap}$ . The modulation index, which expresses the ratio of the voltage per cell and the dc-link voltage, is 0.94 in the miniature model SST. Therefore, from Fig. 11,  $K_{cap}(1.0, 0.94)$  is 0.83.

**5.1 Primary side diode bridge** The loss of switches, which is calculated by the on-voltage of the switch and the current through the switch, is given by (10).

$$P_{con} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^\pi v_{on} i_{sw} d\omega t \dots\dots\dots(10)$$

where  $v_{on}$  is the on-voltage of the switch,  $i_{sw}$  is the current through the switch. In this case,  $v_{on}$  and  $i_{sw}$  are given by (11), (12).

$$v_{on} = r_{on} \sqrt{2} \frac{P}{V_{in}} \sin(\omega t) + v_0 \dots\dots\dots(11)$$

$$i_{sw} = \sqrt{2} \frac{P}{V_{in}} \sin(\omega t) \dots\dots\dots(12)$$

where  $r_{on}$  is the on-resistance of the switch,  $P$  is the rated power of SST. In (11),  $v_0$  is defined as zero because the MOSFETs are used in the prototype. Moreover, the phase difference between the input voltage and the input current is not considered because the power factor is always unity. The loss of the switches in the primary side rectifier is given by (13).

$$P_{con\_pri\_rec} = \frac{1}{2} r_{on} \left( \frac{P}{V_{in}} \right)^2 \dots\dots\dots(13)$$

**5.2 PFC converter** The conduction loss of the

Table 4. Switching devices for bidirectional operation.

Circuit topology	Part	Type	Maximum rating
Single-phase rectifier	$S_1 \sim S_4$	-	3300 V
PFC converter	$S_{pfc11} \sim S_{pfc12}$	SCT2080KE	1200 V 40 A
Resonant DC-DC converter	$S_{llc11} \sim S_{llc12}$		
Secondary side rectifier	$S_5 \sim S_8$		

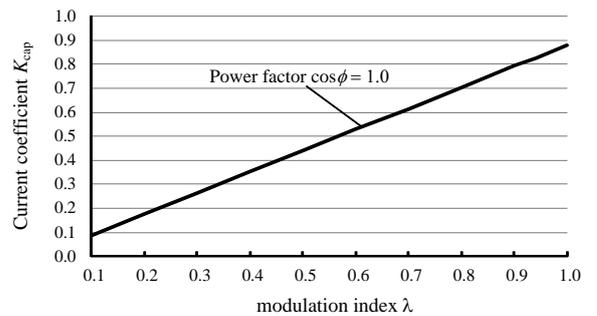


Fig. 11. Current coefficient of output capacitor.

switches in PFC is given by

$$P_{con\_PFC} = \frac{1}{2} r_{on} I_L^2 \dots \dots \dots (14),$$

where  $I_L$  is the RMS value of the boost inductor current on the PFC stage.

On the other hand, the switching loss, which is assumed that it is directly proportional to the voltage and the current of the switch, is calculated using

$$P_{sw\_PFC} = \frac{1}{\pi} \frac{e_{on} + e_{off}}{E_{nom} I_{nom}} \frac{V_{dc}}{V_{cell}} \frac{P}{m} f_{sw} \dots \dots \dots (15),$$

where  $P$  is the rated power,  $m$  is the number of cells,  $V_{dc}$  is the voltage of the primary side capacitor,  $f_{sw}$  is the carrier frequency,  $e_{on}$  and  $e_{off}$  are the turn-on and the turn-off energy per switching, which are provided by the datasheet,  $E_{nom}$  and  $I_{nom}$  are the voltage and the current under the measurement condition of the switching loss from the datasheet, and  $V_{cell}$  is the input voltage of each cell.

**5.3 Resonant DC-DC converter** Only the conduction loss is considered in this power loss calculation of switches because the ZCS is assumed overall operation regions.

Therefore, the conduction loss is given by

$$P_{con\_LLC} = \frac{1}{2} R_{on} \left( \frac{N_2}{N_1} \right)^2 \frac{I_{out}^2 - I_{rms\_cap}^2}{m^2} \dots \dots \dots (16).$$

At the secondary side, the conduction loss is given by (17).

$$P_{con\_sec\_rec} = \frac{1}{2} R_{on} \frac{I_{out}^2 - I_{rms\_cap}^2}{m^2} \dots \dots \dots (17).$$

**5.4 High-frequency transformer** In this subsection, the high-frequency transformer is evaluated. As one of the power loss on the transformer, an iron loss is calculated from the magnetic flux density on the core. The AC magnetic flux density  $B_{ac}$  is given by

$$B_{ac} = \frac{V_{out}}{4f_o A_e N} \dots \dots \dots (18),$$

where  $N$  is the turns ratio of the transformer,  $A_e$  is the effective cross-section of the core. The core loss, which is provided in the datasheet of the core is used for this analysis considering the magnetic flux density of the core (19). Therefore, the iron loss is given by

$$P_{iron\_loss} = P_{cv} V_e \dots \dots \dots (19),$$

where  $V_e$  is the effective volume of the core.

The high-frequency transformer of full model SST is designed using Gecko MAGNETICS which uses improved-improved Generalized Steinmetz Equation ( $i^2$ GSE) for the calculation of the iron loss of the high-frequency transformer<sup>(23)</sup>. The optimum core shape, core material, and winding shape can be selected using Gecko MAGNETICS. From the analysis of Gecko MAGNETICS, EPCOS N95 is the optimum core to minimized the transformer.

**5.5 Loss distribution** Figure 12 shows the shakedown of the power loss, which is measured by the experiments and calculation. The power loss in the powering and regeneration operation are presented. It should be noted that the power loss is normalized with the experimental results as 100%. The calculation shows a good agreement with the experimental results. The error of

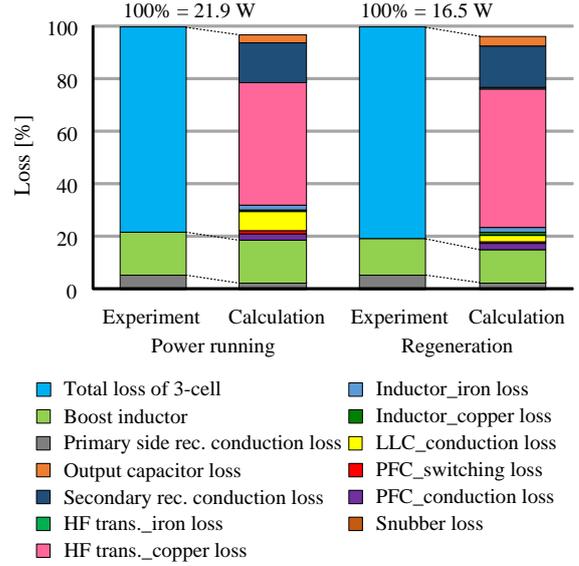


Fig. 12. Loss distribution result by experiment and calculation at bidirectional operation. (Explanatory note corresponds to each color of graph.)

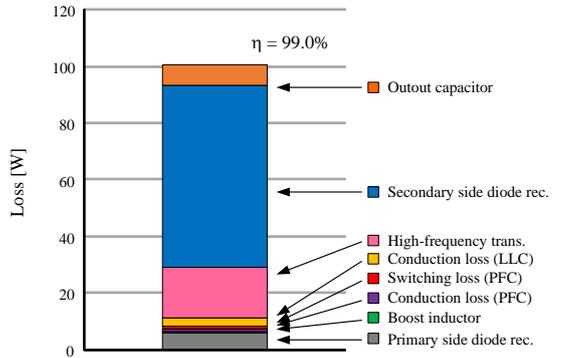


Fig. 13. Loss distribution of 6.6 kV/ 10 kW full model SST by calculation.

the power loss between the calculation and the experiment is less than 5%.

Figure 13 shows the calculation result on the power loss of the full model SST. The power loss is calculated with assuming an input voltage of 6.6 kV and an input power of 10 kVA. Then, the number of cells is 15 because the use of 1.2-kV switching devices is assumed. From this calculation, the efficiency of the 10-kVA full mode will reach to a 99% conversion efficiency at the rated power. The dominant power loss is the conduction loss of the diode on the secondary side. The proposed SST will achieve higher efficiency by applying the synchronous rectification on the secondary side.

## 6. Conclusion

This paper has proposed a new topology of SST. In the proposed SST, the DC-link capacitor on the primary side is automatically balanced without any voltage balancing control. The power running operation of SST is confirmed with the input voltage of 1320 V which is 1/5 of the full model from the experimental results. Moreover, the bidirectional operation and switch between the powering and regenerating operation is tested. As a result, the sinusoidal waveform of the input current is obtained at the primary

side. Furthermore, the average DC-link capacitor voltage on the primary side is stable and balanced among all cells despite the change of power flow.

Finally, the power loss of each part of the system is calculated and compared with the experimental result. As a result, the error of the loss between the experimental result and the calculation is less than 5%. Using the calculation, the efficiency of the full model of the proposed SST is estimated that it will reach a 99% conversion efficiency.

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