

# Robust current-mode control of bridgeless single-switch SEPIC PFC converter

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## ABSTRACT

In this paper, the nonlinear model of the bridgeless single-switch AC-DC single-ended primary-inductor converter (SEPIC) in discontinuous conduction mode is derived. In addition, a robust control method is introduced to accommodate the variations in input voltage and load current. The current-mode controlled power converter is designed to operate in buck and boost modes. The proposed closed-loop SEPIC converter is simulated in MATLAB to validate the design approach. The current-mode control scheme is also compared with the conventional voltage-mode controller. It is confirmed that the proposed control scheme exhibits precise tracking performance and enhanced transient response under large disturbances.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

In recent years, power factor correction (PFC) technique has been utilized with various power converter typologies. The AC-DC converters are highly demanded in several applications, such as uninterruptible power supplies, personal computers, and EV on-board chargers [1]. Modern power grids require power conversion stages with low total harmonic distortion (THD) and high-power factor [2]–[4]. In [5], [6], bridgeless AC-DC boost PFC converters have been introduced as alternatives for full-bridge AC-DC power converters to minimize conduction loss in bridge power diodes. However, due to the boost converter's structure, they are not applicable to low-voltage power demands.

The AC-DC bridgeless Cuk and SEPIC PFC converters have also been introduced to operate in buck and boost modes. Proportional-integral (PI) control [7] and current-mode control [8] schemes have been presented for bridgeless Cuk converters. The SEPIC PFC converters in [9]–[16] are designed to work in discontinuous conduction mode (DCM) to gain some advantages, such as zero-current turn-on in switches and zero-current turn-off in output diode. Other researchers have introduced the single-ended primary-inductor converter (SEPIC) PFC converter in continuous conduction mode (CCM) [17]–[19] and critical conduction mode (CRM) [20] depending on the design requirements and the control strategy. In [9]–[11], a bridgeless SEPIC PFC rectifier has been designed to achieve unity power factor and reduced THD. Furthermore, bridgeless SEPIC and Cuk PFC rectifiers with low conduction and switching losses have been

introduced in [12]. A bridgeless isolated AC-DC SEPIC converter is proposed in [13] for EV battery chargers. Despite the analysis and the design procedure of power converters in previous literature, the design of proper control schemes that maintain constant voltage under large disturbances has not been discussed. Moreover, the reported AC-DC converters require two switches, which complicate the control scheme and decreases the power converter efficiency.

Bridgeless PFC-modified SEPIC rectifier with extended gain, bridgeless SEPIC converter-based computer power supply, and hybrid switched-capacitor voltage-doubler SEPIC PFC rectifiers have been proposed in [14], [15], and [16], respectively. In CCM operation, a bridgeless SEPIC converter without circulating losses [17], a bridgeless SEPIC converter with averaged current-mode controller [18], and a bridgeless SEPIC converter for a brushless DC motor [19] have been studied. GaN-based zero-voltage-switching (ZVS) bridgeless dual-SEPIC rectifier with integrated inductors [20] have also been introduced. The aforementioned AC-DC power converters have been integrated with control schemes that regulate the output voltage during line and load disturbances, but the power converters have been designed to operate in either buck or boost mode. In other words, the capability of the previous control schemes has been studied for a single dc output voltage, which yields a power supply with a limited operating point. Another drawback with these power converters is the double-switch configuration, which degrades the power stage efficiency and increase the control circuit complexity.

Few research endeavors have presented the bridgeless single-switch SEPIC PFC converters to decrease the components count of the switching devices and simplify the control design. For example, a single-stage high power factor SEPIC PFC converter for light electric vehicles [21], a modified SEPIC converter for high-power-factor rectifier [22], and a single-switch bridgeless SEPIC PFC converter [23] have been introduced. However, the existing research endeavors have not yet considered robust control design of such type of power converters to maintain excellent tracking performance and accommodate the variations in input voltage and load current. Further, the previous current-mode control systems have comprised two PI compensators and three sensors for input voltage, output voltage, and inductor current. Hence, a simplified controller with minimal added components is required to reduce the complexity and implementation cost.

This research aims to design a simple current-mode control scheme for a bridgeless SEPIC PFC converter in discontinuous conduction mode. The closed-loop single-switch AC-DC power converter contains a PI compensator and two sensors for output voltage and input inductor current. The AC-DC power converter is designed to convert ac input voltage to dc output voltage under abrupt changes in input voltage and load current. The control law is designed to maintain robust tracking performance and wide operating range. The analysis and dynamics of the power converter are introduced. MATLAB/Simulink model is developed, and simulations are conducted to validate the control design method under steady-state and transient conditions.

## 2. DYNAMICS OF SEPIC CONVERTER IN DCM

The bridgeless AC-DC SEPIC converter circuit is shown in Figure 1(a). It is assumed that the SEPIC converter is operated in DCM, which results in three configurations as illustrated in Figures 1(b)-1(d). Initially, it has been assumed that the power converter starts with freewheeling mode, which means that the currents  $i_{L1}$  and  $i_{Lo}$  are constant.

The first configuration is shown in Figure 1(b), where  $Q_I$  is ON and  $D_o$  is OFF. Using Kirchhoff's voltage and current laws, the dynamical equations can be derived, which give:

$$\left[ L_1 \frac{di_{L1}}{dt} \quad L_o \frac{di_{Lo}}{dt} \quad C_o \frac{dv_{Co}}{dt} \quad C_1 \frac{dv_{C1}}{dt} \right]^T = \left[ V_I \quad -v_{C1} \quad \frac{v_{Co}}{R_o} \quad -i_{Lo} \right]^T \quad (1)$$

in the second configuration,  $Q_I$  is OFF and  $D_o$  is ON as shown in Figure 1(c). Using Kirchhoff's voltage and current laws, the power converter dynamics are:

$$\left[ L_1 \frac{di_{L1}}{dt} \quad L_o \frac{di_{Lo}}{dt} \quad C_o \frac{dv_{Co}}{dt} \quad C_1 \frac{dv_{C1}}{dt} \right]^T = \left[ V_I - v_{C1} - v_{Co} \quad v_{Co} \quad i_{Do} - \frac{v_{Co}}{R_o} \quad i_{Do} - i_{Lo} \right]^T \quad (2)$$

Figure 1(d) shows the third configuration, at which both  $Q_I$  and  $D_o$  are turned OFF. The differential equations of the power converter in this configuration are expressed in (3).

$$\left[ (L_1 + L_o) \frac{di_{L1}}{dt} \quad (L_1 + L_o) \frac{di_{Lo}}{dt} \quad C_o \frac{dv_{Co}}{dt} \quad C_1 \frac{dv_{C1}}{dt} \right]^T = \left[ V_I - v_{C1} \quad V_I - v_{C1} \quad \frac{v_{Co}}{R_o} \quad -i_{Lo} \right]^T \quad (3)$$

The nonlinear model of SEPIC converter is derived using the graphical method detailed in [24], which gives

$$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{di_{L1}}{dt} \\ \frac{di_{Lo}}{dt} \\ \frac{dv_{C1}}{dt} \\ \frac{dv_{Co}}{dt} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{V_I}{L_1} d_1 + \frac{(V_I - v_{C1} - v_{Co})}{L_1} d_2 + \frac{(V_I - v_{C1})}{L_1 + L_o} (1 - d_1 - d_2) \\ -\frac{v_{C1}}{L_o} d_1 + \frac{v_{Co}}{L_o} d_2 + \frac{(V_I - v_{C1})}{L_1 + L_o} (1 - d_1 - d_2) \\ \frac{1}{C_1} (i_{D_o} - i_{L_o}) \\ \frac{1}{C_o} (i_{D_o} - \frac{v_{Co}}{R_o}) \end{bmatrix} \quad (4)$$

The parameters  $d_1$ ,  $d_2$ , and  $1 - d_1 - d_2$  represent the time intervals during the first, second, and third configurations of SEPIC converter in DCM, respectively. According to [24], the diode current  $i_{D_o}$  and  $d_2$  are

$$\begin{cases} i_{D_o} = \left(\frac{V_I}{L_1} + \frac{v_{C1}}{L_o}\right) d_1 d_2 T \\ d_2 = \frac{2(i_{L1} + i_{L_o})}{\left(\frac{V_I}{L_1} + \frac{v_{C1}}{L_o}\right) d_1 T} - d_1. \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

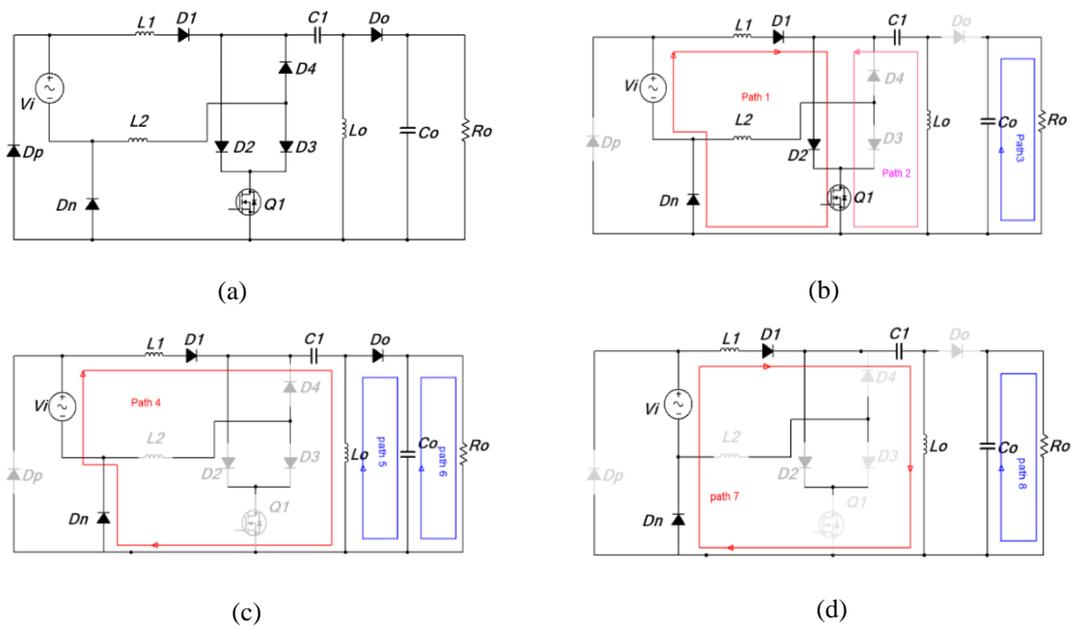


Figure 1. Single-switch power converter: (a) equivalent circuit, the configurations during positive half-line cycle when (b)  $Q_1$  is ON and  $D_o$  is OFF, (c)  $Q_1$  is OFF and  $D_o$  is ON, and (d) both  $Q_1$  and  $D_o$  are OFF

### 3. PROPOSED CURRENT-MODE CONTROL SCHEME

The proposed current-mode control scheme consists of two loops, which are the outer voltage loop and inner current loop. The outer voltage loop contains the sensed output voltage, which is compared with a reference voltage  $V_r$  to generate a voltage error signal. The voltage error signal passes through a proportional-integral (PI) compensator to generate a reference inductor current  $I_R$  [8], which is defined as (6).

$$I_R = K_p (V_r - \beta v_o) + K_I \int (V_r - \beta v_o) dt. \quad (6)$$

The parameter  $\beta$  is the feedback network gain. The proportional gain  $K_p$  and integral gain  $K_I$  eliminate the tracking error of the output voltage and enhance the transient response characteristics. The gains can be chosen using Ziegler-Nichols method, where the gain values are tuned until the desired response is achieved.

However, since the SEPIC converter contains a right-half plane zero, the implementation of the voltage-mode controller yields slow response and undesirable transient characteristics. This issue can be solved using the averaged current-mode control method, which ensures a fast tracking for the reference current. The control method can be achieved using the inductor current  $i_{L1}$ . The rectified value of the current  $i_{L1}$  passes through the gain  $K$  [8]. The inner current loop is compared with the reference current  $I_R$  in (6) to generate the current-mode control law.

$$u = K_p(V_r - \beta v_o) + K_I \int (V_r - \beta v_o) dt - K |i_{L1}| = I_R - K |i_{L1}| \tag{7}$$

The control law in (7) is a continuous function, where  $u \in [0, 1]$ . Hence, a pulse-width modulator is required to convert the continuous function  $u$  to a PWM signal, which operates the power converter at constant switching frequency [25], [26]. The Simulink model of the closed-loop power converter is shown in Figure 2. It is worth noting that the proposed current-mode controller is similar to the sliding-mode control method [27], which can be implemented using low-cost electronic circuit [28].

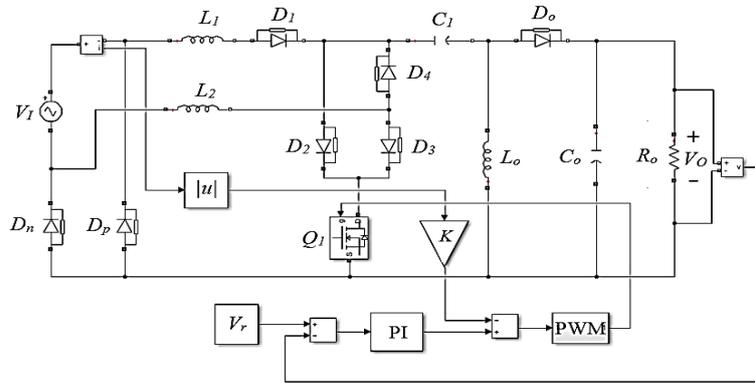


Figure 2. The Simulink model of the closed-loop AC-DC SEPIC converter

#### 4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

##### 4.1. Steady-state performance

The parameters of the bridgeless AC-DC SEPIC converter are shown in Table 1, which are selected according to the design procedure given in [16]. The proportional gain  $K_p$ , integral gain  $K_I$ , and inductor current gain  $K$  are 0.015, 1.45, and 0.042, respectively. The simulation results are depicted in Figure 3, which show the steady-state waveforms of the closed-loop bridgeless AC-DC power converter. It can be noticed that 120 VAC/60 Hz sinusoidal input voltage is converted to 48/220 VDC output voltage under nominal load resistance of 80  $\Omega$ . It has also been observed that the measured power factor is 0.99, whereas the output voltage ripple is less than 1%.

Table 1. Power converter parameters

Description	Parameter	Value	Description	Parameter	Value
Input inductor	$L_1, L_2$	4.4 mH	Input voltage	$v_I$	(80 - 160) VAC
Output inductor	$L_o$	100 $\mu$ H	Input frequency	$f$	60 Hz
Input capacitor	$C_1$	1 $\mu$ F	Output voltage	$v_O$	(48 - 220) VDC
Output capacitor	$C_o$	3.3 mF	Switching frequency	$f_s$	30 kHz
Load resistor	$R_o$	80 $\Omega$			

##### 4.2. Tracking and disturbance rejection

The characteristics of the closed-loop AC-DC power converter responses are summarized in Table 2. In buck mode, Figures 4(a) and 4(b) show the transient response under load disturbance, whereas Figures 4(c) and 4(d) show the output voltage response under line disturbance. As shown in Table 2, the largest percentage undershoot  $PU$  was 4%, while the longest settling time  $t_s$  was around 150 ms. It has also been observed that both disturbances are rejected, and the output voltage is maintained at 48 VDC.

Table 2. Characteristics of closed-loop SEPIC converter during line and load disturbances

Operation mode	Line/load disturbance	PO/PU (%)	$t_s$ (ms)	$V_o$ (V)
Buck	$v_I = 120 \rightarrow 160$ (V)	3.0	100	48
	$v_I = 120 \rightarrow 80$ (V)	4.0	150	
	$i_o = 0.6 \rightarrow 0.3$ (A)	2.7	150	
	$i_o = 0.3 \rightarrow 0.6$ (A)	3.0	120	
Boost	$v_I = 120 \rightarrow 160$ (V)	3	120	220
	$v_I = 120 \rightarrow 80$ (V)	3.6	150	
	$i_o = 2.75 \rightarrow 1.37$ (A)	3.4	250	
	$i_o = 1.37 \rightarrow 2.75$ (A)	3.6	150	

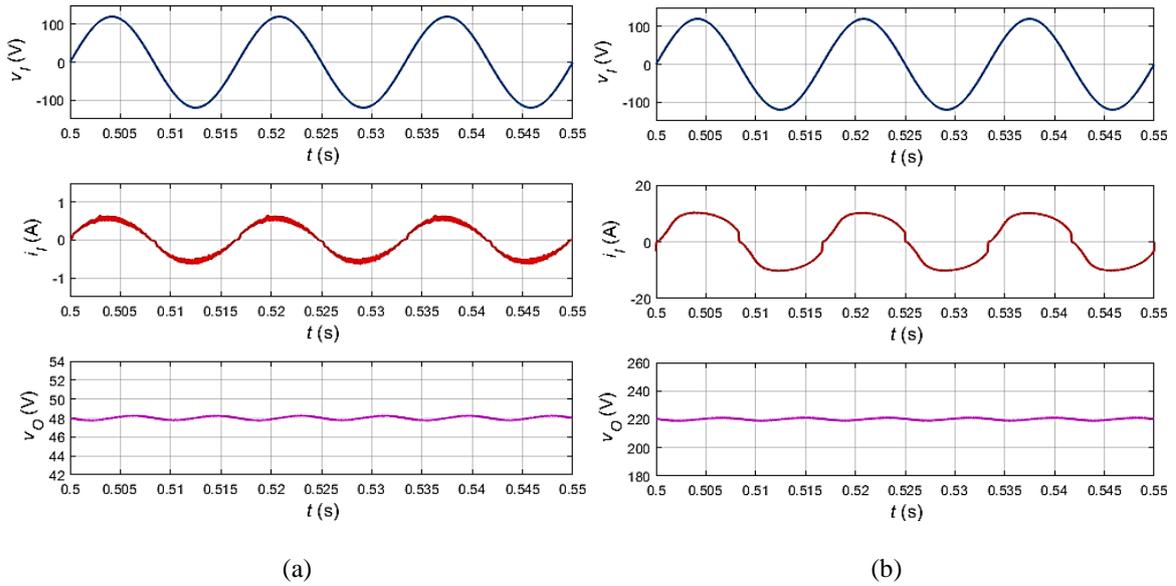


Figure 3. Steady-state waveforms of bridgeless SEPIC converter in DCM. Input voltage  $v_i$ , input current  $i_i$ , and output voltage  $v_o$  in (a) buck mode (120 VAC to 48 VDC) and (b) boost mode (120 VAC to 220 VDC)

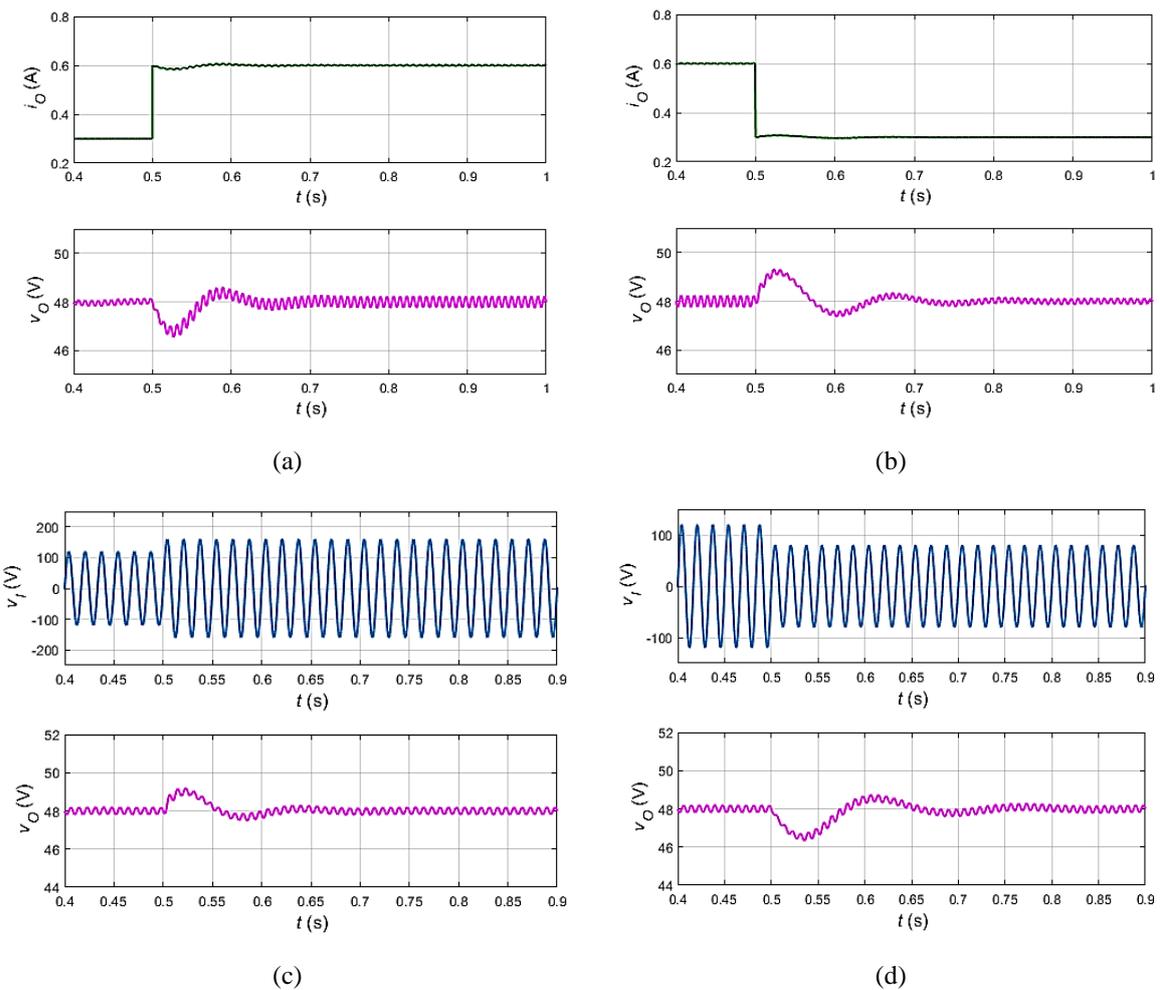


Figure 4. The response when  $i_o$  (a) increases from 0.3 A to 0.6 A and (b) decreases from 0.6 A to 0.3 A. The response when  $v_i$  (c) increases from 120 V to 160 V and (d) decreases from 120 V to 80 V

As for boost mode, Figures 5(a) and 5(b) show the transient response under load disturbance, whereas Figures 5(c) and 5(d) show the output voltage response under line disturbance. Obviously, Table 2 shows that the largest percentage undershoot has occurred during abrupt increase in load current and abrupt decrease in line voltage, which was around 3.6%. The longest settling time was 250 ms, which has occurred during abrupt decrease in load current. It can be observed that the line and load disturbances are rejected, while the output voltage is maintained at 220 VDC.

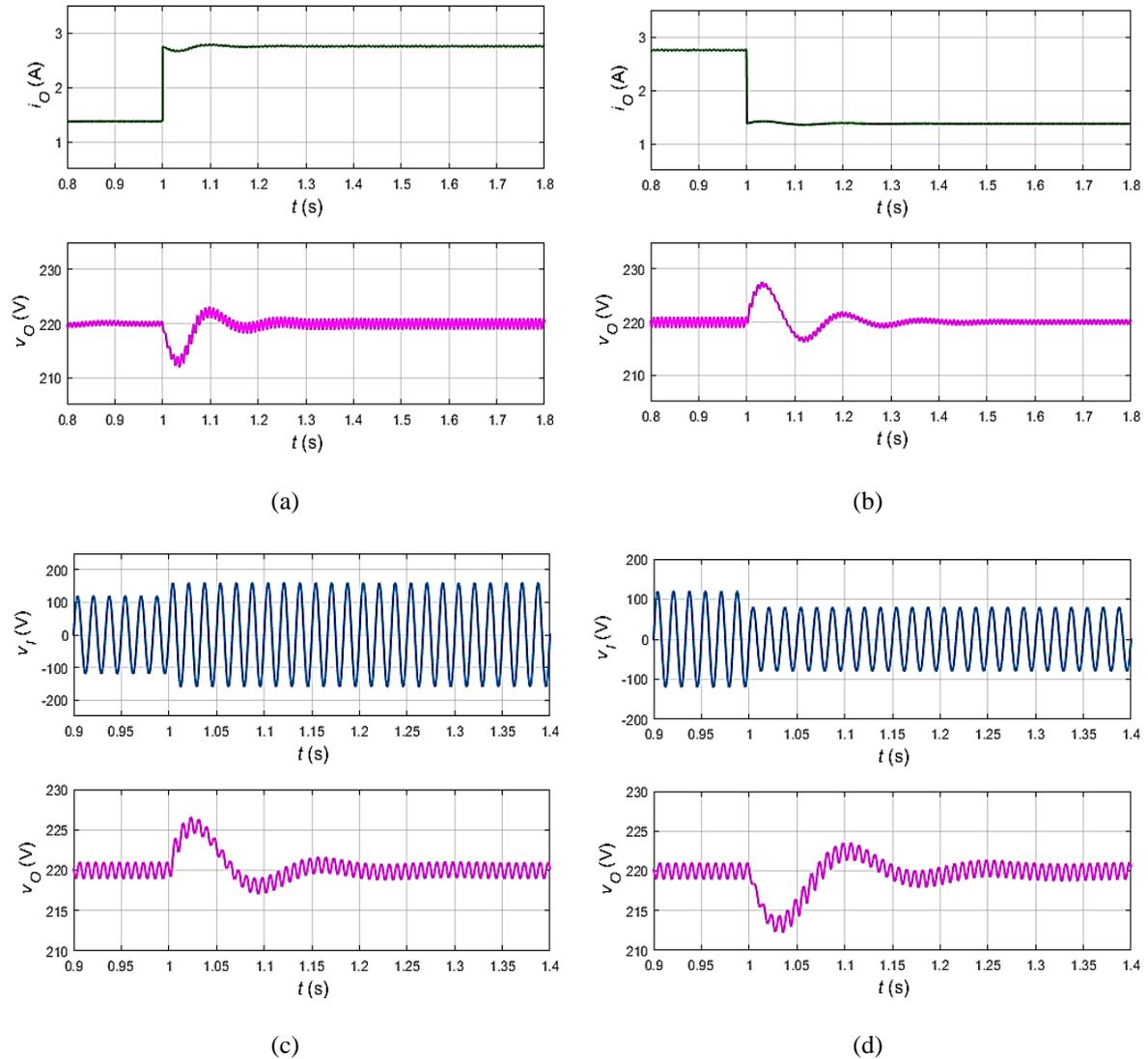


Figure 5. The response when  $i_O$  (a) increases from 1.37 A to 2.75 A and (b) decreases from 2.75 A to 1.37 A. The response when  $v_I$  (c) increases from 120 V to 160 V and (d) decreases from 120 V to 80 V

#### 4.3. Comparison with conventional PI controller

A comparison is conducted between the proposed current-mode control and the conventional voltage-mode (PI) control of bridgeless single-switch AC-DC SEPIC converter during line and load disturbances. The control equations of the proposed  $u$  and voltage-mode  $u^*$  controllers are defined in (8) and (9), respectively.

$$u = 0.015(V_r - \beta v_o) + 1.45 \int (V_r - \beta v_o) dt - 0.042 |i_{L_I}| \quad (8)$$

$$u^* = 0.0009(V_r - \beta v_o) + 0.2 \int (V_r - \beta v_o) dt. \quad (9)$$

The parameters of the conventional PI controller of bridgeless power converter are selected based on Ziegler-Nichols method for buck and boost operation. Figures 6(a) and 6(b) show response of the proposed and conventional voltage-mode controllers of the AC-DC power converter in buck mode, whereas Figure 6(c) and Figure 6(d) show the response of the two controllers in boost mode. It can be noticed that the output voltage response of the proposed control method produces faster transient response and lower percentage overshoot as compared to the conventional voltage-mode controller.

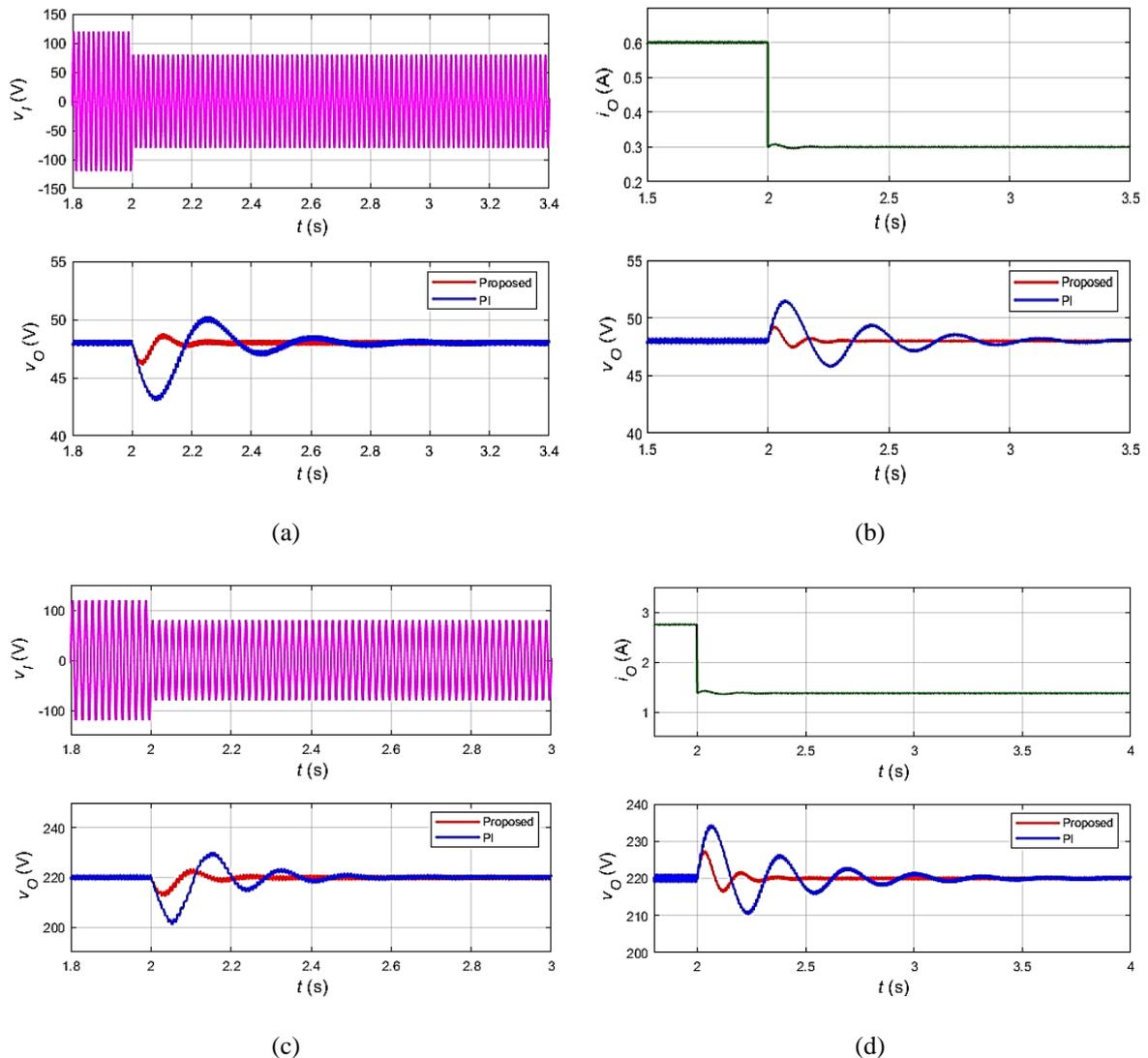


Figure 6. The operation of the proposed and PI controllers in buck mode during a step change in (a)  $v_i$  and (b)  $i_o$ . The operation of the proposed and PI controllers in boost mode during a step change in (c)  $v_i$  and (d)  $i_o$

## 5. CONCLUSION

A large-signal model of a bridgeless SEPIC PFC converter has been developed. Further, a new control system has been designed to track the desired reference voltage under large disturbances in buck and boost modes. The proposed control method has a simple structure with minimal added components, which reduces the cost and complexity of the control scheme. The single-switch typology of the bridgeless AC-DC SEPIC converter also simplifies the gate driver circuitry and reduces the conduction loss. MATLAB simulation results have shown that the proposed current-mode controller provides enhanced transient response, robust tracking performance, and wide operating range.

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