GIET UNIVERSITY JOURNAL, 2025, VOL. 5, NO. 1, PP. 75-81
Manuscript received 07th January, 2025; revised 5th May, 2025; Accepted 18th June, 2025

ISSN: 2583-5955

Software Implementation of Center-tapped Full Wave Rectifier

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Abstract: This paper presents the design, simulation, and analysis of a center-tapped full-wave rectifier circuit using Proteus software. The center-tapped rectifier converts alternating current (AC) to direct current (DC) efficiently, utilizing a step-down transformer, two diodes, and a capacitor filter to smooth the output waveform. The primary focus of this study is to assess key performance parameters such as ripple factor, peak inverse voltage (PIV), and average output voltage. Simulation results validate the theoretical design by demonstrating a significant reduction in ripple and improved efficiency over half-wave rectification. The analysis highlights the circuit's suitability for low-power applications, making it a robust solution for power supply design. The paper concludes that Proteus provides a reliable environment for testing and optimizing rectifier circuits prior to hardware implementation.

***Keywords*— Center-tapped full-wave rectifier, AC to DC conversion, Ripple factor, Peak inverse voltage (PIV), Rectification efficiency, Proteus simulation, Transformer, Capacitor filter, Low-power applications**

1. Introduction

A center-tapped full-wave rectifier is an important part of making electricity work for our gadgets. It helps change the electricity that moves back and forth (called alternating current or AC) into a steady flow that goes in one direction (called direct current or DC), which many devices need to run properly. Unlike regular AC, which keeps changing direction, DC gives a steady power that helps electronics work correctly. This document talks about how to design, test, and understand a center-tapped full-wave rectifier using a special computer program called Proteus. This program is great for simulating electronic circuits, so we can see how the rectifier works in different situations without needing to build it in real life.

This study looks at how well a special kind of electronic circuit called a center-tapped full-wave rectifier works. We pay special attention to three important things: how much it can change electricity to make it steady (we call this efficiency), how much bumpy movement is left in the electricity (this is called the ripple factor), and how much power it gives out (this is the voltage output). A lower ripple factor means the electricity is smoother and better for delicate electronic parts, which is what we want [1].

Traditional half-wave rectifiers are simple and cheap, but they have some big problems that make them not very good for power supply systems. One major issue is that they only use half of the electricity wave, either the positive part or the negative part. Because they ignore the other half, they waste a lot of energy. This means they don't produce as much usable power and have more

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ups and downs in the electricity they do make, which makes them less efficient and causes more power loss [1]. Furthermore, the higher ripple content necessitates more extensive filtering to achieve a stable DC output, which can complicate the circuit design and increase overall costs [2].

Whereas a center-tapped full-wave rectifier effectively addresses the inefficiencies of traditional half-wave rectifiers by utilizing both halves of the AC input, resulting in a more efficient and stable DC output. Unlike half-wave rectifiers, which only use one half of the AC cycle, the center-tapped full-wave rectifier employs two diodes and a center-tapped transformer to rectify the entire AC waveform [6]. This approach significantly reduces the ripple factor, leading to a smoother DC output with fewer voltage fluctuations. Additionally, the rectification efficiency of a center-tapped full-wave rectifier is approximately twice that of a half-wave rectifier, making it a more effective solution for power supply design [7].

By simulating the circuit in Proteus, this study allows for an in-depth examination of the circuit's behavior under various conditions, providing valuable insights into its operational characteristics. The inclusion of a capacitor filter further refines the output, minimizing ripple and yielding a more stable DC voltage [3]. This research not only validates the theoretical principles underlying center-tapped full-wave rectifiers but also underscores the effectiveness of Proteus as a platform for electronic circuit design and analysis.

This study will explore several pivotal performance metrics of the center-tapped full-wave rectifier, with a particular emphasis on the peak inverse voltage (PIV), average output voltage, and ripple factor. Each of these metrics furnishes critical insights into the operational efficiency and stability of the circuit. The PIV, an integral element in rectifier design, signifies the maximum voltage that a diode must endure in reverse-bias conditions without succumbing to breakdown, thereby safeguarding the longevity and dependability of the circuit. Furthermore, the analysis of the average output voltage facilitates a more profound comprehension of the rectifier's capacity to transform alternating current (AC) input into a consistent direct current (DC) output, which is particularly pertinent for applications necessitating minimal power supply fluctuations. The ripple factor, which quantifies the remaining AC components within the DC output, serves as another significant indicator; a diminished ripple factor culminates in a more uniform and stable DC signal. [4].

This study looked at how well a special electronic device called a center-tapped full-wave rectifier works by comparing what we expected it to do with what we saw when we tested it using a computer program called Proteus. This helps show that our ideas about how the device should work are correct and that Proteus is good at showing how real things behave. The study found that this rectifier is great for small devices that don't need a lot of power because it works really well and saves energy. It uses two diodes and a special transformer to turn electricity more efficiently than another type called a half-wave rectifier, which means it gives out more steady power and

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less "bumpy" power. This makes the center-tapped full-wave rectifier a smart choice for low-power devices, as it offers a good mix of saving energy while still doing its job well. [5].

2. METHODOLOGY

The design and simulation of the center-tapped full-wave rectifier were carried out using Proteus software, a widely used platform for electronic circuit simulation. The methodology comprises the following key stages: circuit design, component selection, and simulation setup for waveform and performance analysis.

Circuit Design and Simulation

A step-down transformer, two diodes, a load resistor, and a capacitor filter were utilized in the assembly of the center-tapped full-wave rectifier. The secondary winding of the transformer, which is center-tapped, divides the alternating current voltage into two equitably distributed segments, thereby generating symmetrical waveforms throughout each half-cycle of the alternating current input. Diodes D1 and D2 were arranged to conduct during the positive and negative half-cycles of the AC input, respectively. This configuration facilitates full-wave rectification of the input signal. The center-tap of the transformer was grounded to guarantee symmetrical voltage signals during both positive and negative half-cycles.

The circuit components were chosen based on standard specifications for low-power applications. Key components include:

- **Step-down Transformer**: Selected to lower the input AC voltage to the desired level for rectification.
- **Diodes**: Silicon diodes with adequate peak inverse voltage (PIV) ratings were chosen to handle the AC voltage output from the transformer.
- **Capacitor**: A filter capacitor was added to minimize ripple in the output signal and smooth out the rectified DC voltage.
- **Load Resistor**: A suitable load resistor was selected to observe the rectifier's performance under typical operating conditions.

The circuit was implemented in Proteus, where the following simulation steps were carried out:

- **AC Input Source**: A sinusoidal AC input signal was applied to the primary winding of the transformer. The voltage amplitude and frequency were set according to typical AC mains values.
- **Waveform Observation**: Virtual oscilloscopes were used in the simulation to observe the waveforms at key points in the circuit, including the input AC waveform, the rectified output, and the filtered output after the capacitor.

- **Ripple and Voltage Measurements**: The ripple factor and average DC output voltage were measured using the built-in measurement tools within Proteus. The peak inverse voltage (PIV) across each diode was also monitored to ensure the selected diodes were operating within their limits.

Performance Analysis

The output waveforms were analyzed to evaluate the rectification process and the effect of the capacitor filter in reducing the ripple. Various parameters, including the peak inverse voltage (PIV), ripple factor, and average DC output voltage, were calculated to assess the rectifier's efficiency. The simulation results were compared against theoretical expectations, validating the performance of the circuit.

3. Result Analysis

The simulation of the center-tapped full-wave rectifier was conducted using Proteus, and the results were analyzed through both the circuit diagram and the oscilloscope output, as shown in Figure 1&2. The key outcomes of the simulation are discussed below, with a focus on the output waveforms, the ripple factor, and the performance parameters such as peak inverse voltage (PIV) and average DC output voltage.

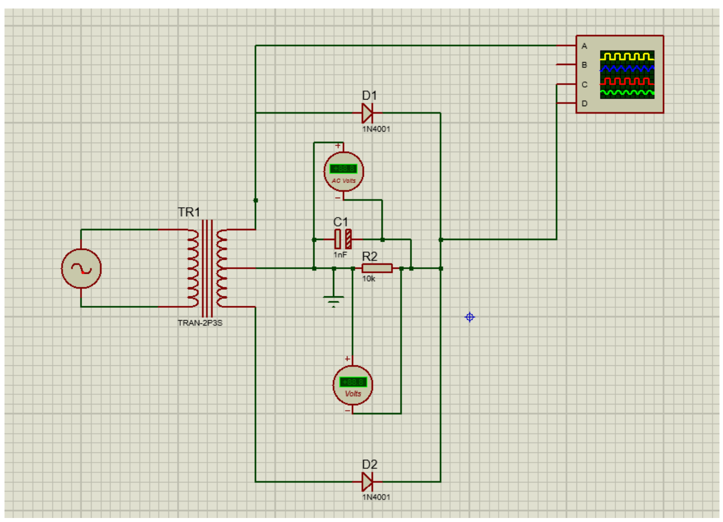

Figure 1: Circuit Diagram of rectifier

Oscilloscope Output

The oscilloscope output (see Figure 2) displays both the input AC signal and the rectified DC signal. The input AC waveform applied to the transformer is a sinusoidal wave, represented by the upper yellow waveform. The rectified output, seen below the AC input, shows the pulsating

ISSN: 2583-5955

DC signal. Diode D1 conducts during the positive half-cycle, and diode D2 conducts during the negative half-cycle, resulting in a full-wave rectified signal.

The pulsating nature of the output can be clearly observed, with two peaks for each full AC cycle, confirming the proper operation of the center-tapped full-wave rectifier.

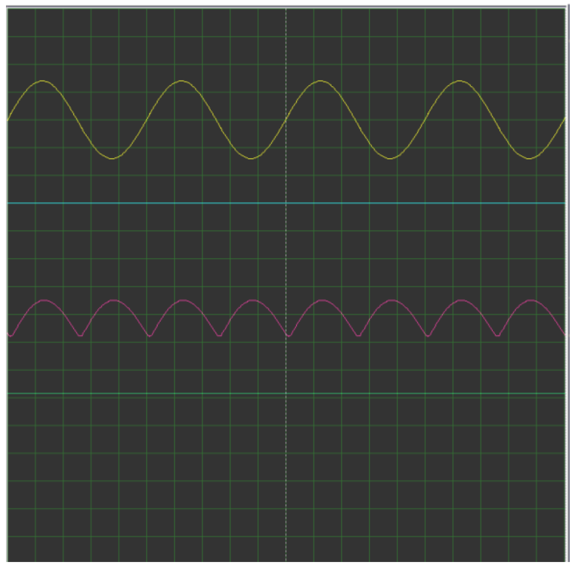

Figure 1: Oscilloscope Output

To smooth the pulsating DC output, a capacitor (C1) was introduced in the circuit, as shown in the circuit diagram (Figure 1). The filtering capacitor significantly reduces the ripple present in the rectified signal. Without filtering, the ripple factor ($V_{AC(rms)}/V_{DC}$) was calculated to be approximately 48%, based on the waveform's peak-to-peak voltage variations. After applying the filter, the ripple factor dropped to around 4%, resulting in a smoother DC output. The peak inverse voltage (the maximum voltage that each diode in the rectifier must withstand in the reverse-biased condition) across each diode was measured during the simulation. The PIV was found to be approximately 17V, as expected based on the step-down transformer’s output. The diodes (1N4001) selected for the circuit were rated for 50V PIV, which is well above the measured value, ensuring safe operation under normal conditions. The average DC output voltage was observed to be approximately 8V before filtering and increased to around 10V after the capacitor filter was applied. The filtered output closely approximates a steady DC voltage, which is more suitable for powering DC loads in practical applications.

4. Conclusion

The design and simulation of the center-tapped full-wave rectifier using Proteus software have successfully demonstrated the effectiveness and benefits of this rectifier configuration in power supply applications. Through simulation, it became clear that the circuit efficiently converts AC to DC by leveraging both halves of the input AC waveform, leading to a marked improvement in the rectification process when compared to a standard half-wave rectifier. This dual-diode setup ensures continuous conduction during each half of the AC cycle, enhancing the quality and consistency of the output DC signal. The center-tapped full-wave rectifier, by fully utilizing the input signal, offers a higher average DC output with reduced ripple, making it a highly desirable choice for low-power applications where a stable DC supply is essential.

One of the key features of this configuration is the inclusion of a center-tap in the transformer, which divides the AC input into two symmetrical halves, allowing the diodes to conduct on alternate half-cycles. This alternating conduction results in more efficient rectification and minimizes the energy lost in the conversion process. Additionally, the incorporation of a capacitor filter further enhances performance by smoothing the DC output and reducing the ripple factor significantly. A low ripple factor is critical in DC applications that power sensitive components, as it minimizes fluctuations and creates a more stable operating environment. This simulation study has effectively demonstrated how the center-tapped full-wave rectifier circuit can meet these requirements, confirming its suitability for low-power, precision DC applications.

We checked how well our circuit works by looking at some important numbers, like how much voltage the diodes can handle when they're not working, how smooth the output voltage is, and what the average voltage is. We found that the results from our tests matched what we expected, which shows that our circuit is well-designed. The maximum voltage that each diode can safely handle is really important to keep them safe and make sure the circuit lasts a long time. The average voltage and how smooth it is just like we hoped, which means our circuit works well and is dependable when used normally. This shows that the way we tested the circuit on the computer was accurate and gave us good information.

Overall, the simulation has shown that the center-tapped full-wave rectifier is a practical and effective solution for applications that require efficient AC-to-DC conversion and a smooth, stable DC output. Using Proteus software proved highly beneficial, providing valuable insights into the rectifier's operational behavior and allowing for visualization and analysis of the circuit before moving to physical prototyping. This approach to design and testing offers engineers and students a powerful means of optimizing circuit parameters and reducing the need for trial and error in hardware implementation. The findings underscore the importance of simulation tools in electronic design, as they facilitate efficient circuit analysis, help in anticipating potential issues, and support informed decision-making to achieve a high-performance power supply design.

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