

A Power Supply Consists of the DC-DC Boost Converter and a Full-Bridge Inverter Circuits for a PZT Liquid Pump

Chaoying Liu, Shiuan-Ho Chang, Ying Jun Chen, Xiahui Wang, Xin Yu, Z. Y. Xu, and Min Zhou

Abstract—Nowadays, most of the driving powers of PZT (lead zirconate titanate) pumps are large, less efficient, and high power consumption. This paper presents a new type of a driving power supply composed of the step-up inverter for a PZT liquid pump. In order to provide a square wave of $\pm 40\text{V}$ and 50 Hz for a PZT liquid pump, this design used the MC34063 and NE555 integrated circuits to respectively fabricate a DC-DC boost circuit as well as a full-bridge inverter circuit. The performance of the driving power supply is verified by the theoretical statement and practical test. Besides, the liquid pump is composed of a PZT, elastomer pump valve, and PET (Polyethylene terephthalate) pump body, while the power, flow rate, body size and weight of the pump are 1 W , $800 \pm 5\% \text{ ml min}^{-1}$, $50 \times 50 \times 10\text{ mm.}$, 50 gw , respectively. Furthermore, the PZT liquid pump is suitable for various fluids such as water, soda, alcohol, etc.

Index Terms—Piezoelectric, boost converter, PZT, full-bridge inverter, power supply.

I. INTRODUCTION

With the progress of science and technology, the PZT liquid pump is a novel product that conforms to the trend of the times [1]-[5]. It is composed of the piezoelectric ceramic, PET (Polyethylene terephthalate) pump body, and an elastomer check valve. The PZT liquid pump has many advantages such as small size, low noise and power consumption, simple structure, easily being controlled, no electromagnetic interference and mechanical wear, and no maintenance [6]-[10]. It is a new type of product with energy saving and low carbon for the environmental protection. Additionally, the PZT liquid pump is widely used in various fields such as aquariums, landscaping, etc. The PZT pump is stabler than other pumps, and the flow rate of the liquid is related to the magnitude and frequency of the applied voltage [11]-[13]. Therefore, the liquid flow rate is able to be controlled through controlling the magnitude or frequency of the applied voltage to a PZT pump. The more stable the magnitude and frequency of the applied voltage is, the more

accurate the controlled flow rate becomes. Because the external environment affects the stability of the PZT liquid pump, the performance of the driving power for the pump plays a vital role [14]-[16]. There are six main kinds of DC converters, i.e., Buck, Boost, Buck-Boost, Cuk, Zeta, and Sepic converters, while the Boost converter is used in this study. In addition, it is necessary for a PZT pump to transform the direct current (DC) into an alternating current (AC) with certain frequency, and thereby the inverter is applied to this study. Generally, according to the structures of the inverter circuits, the inverters can be classified into several types, namely, single-end, half-bridge, full-bridge, and push-pull inverters [17]-[19]. In order to provide a square wave of $\pm 40\text{V}$ and 50 Hz for a PZT liquid pump, this work used the MC34063 and NE555 integrated circuits (IC) to respectively fabricate a DC-DC boost converter as well as a full-bridge inverter circuit. The full-bridge inverter is one of the high frequency inverters and has the advantages of simple circuit, controllable output, high conversion efficiency, and high output power. It has been widely used in many fields such as rotating-speed control of a motor, switching power supply, and frequency converter [20]-[22]. As well known, the square wave or sine wave can be applied in the control circuit of an inverter. On the basis of the simple design and easily being controlled, the control circuit of the square wave for an inverter is the development trend nowadays and it is used in this work. Finally, some practical pictures are used to certify this study.

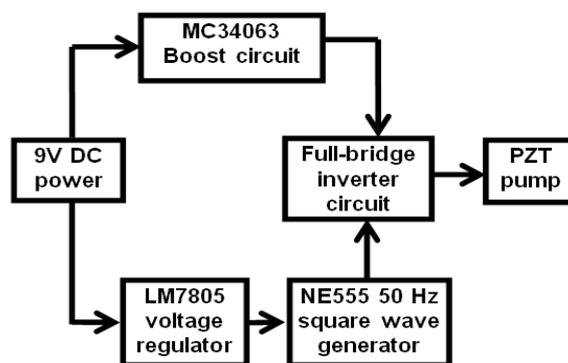


Fig. 1. A flowchart of generating a 40V, 50Hz AC voltage for a PZT liquid pump.

II. EXPERIMENTAL

A. Circuit Design of a Power Supply for a PZT Liquid Pump

Fig. 1 shows the flowchart of generating a square wave of

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AC 40V, 50Hz voltage for a PZT liquid pump. The input is a 9V DC voltage provided by the lithium battery and the DC-DC boost converter (MC34063) transfers from 9V to a higher DC voltage of 40V. Moreover, the voltage of 9V DC is adjusted to 5V DC for the NE555 IC by a LM7805 regulator.

Subsequently, a full-bridge inverter circuit transfers from 40V DC to a square wave of 40V, 50Hz AC voltage through the NE555 integrated circuit. On the other hand, there are

three main parts in Fig. 2, which illustrates a circuit diagram of a power supply. Firstly, for a MC34063 boost circuit, the chief electronic components are the comparator, logic gates, flip-flop, inductance, and capacitances. Secondly, the crucial electronic components are comparators, logic gates, and capacitances for a NE555 square wave circuit of 5V, 50Hz. Finally, the full-bridge inverter circuit is composed of four important BJTs (bipolar junction transistors).

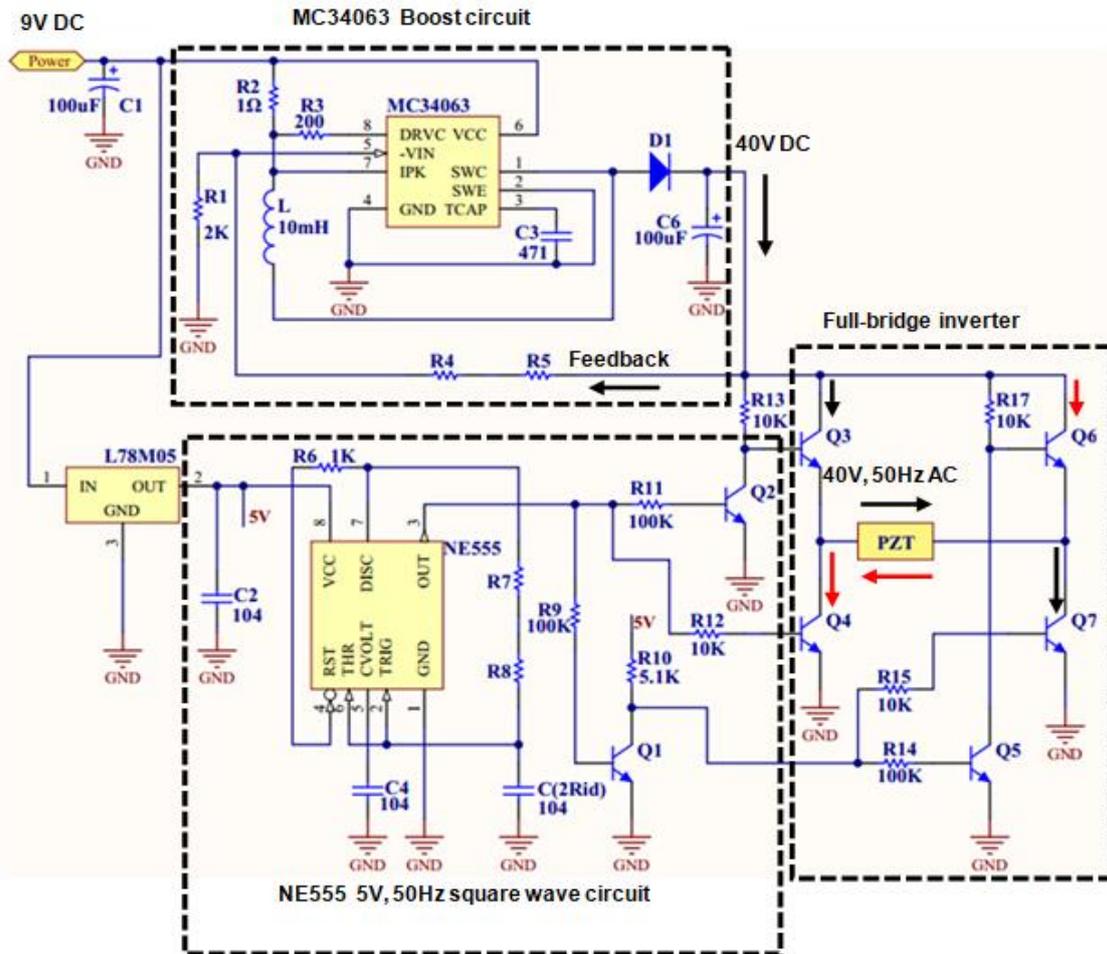


Fig. 2. A circuit diagram of a power supply composed of the boost and inverter circuits.

B. The Structure of a PZT Liquid Pump

A PZT of 0.3 mm thick film, which is coated a silver layer on both upper and lower surfaces, is pasted onto a copper sheet to generate a PZT oscillator, as revealed in Fig. 3 (a). The Sn is welded on the lower and upper surfaces of the PZT oscillator to form the electrodes through which the exciting AC voltage of 50 Hz, 40 V is applied to the PZT. Besides, Fig. 3 (b) illustrates the bottom part of the pump body made of the PET with an O-ring, an inlet valve of the elastomer and an outlet hole. Relatively, the top PET part only contains an O-ring, as shown in Fig. 3 (d). The PZT oscillator is put into the bottom part and then covered by the top part to mold a PZT pump, as illustrated in Fig. 3 (c) - (e). At the same time, a liquid chamber is generated between the bottom part of the pump and the PZT oscillator. The volume and pressure of the liquid chamber change with the compressing or stretching force built from the PZT.

III. THE OPERATIONAL PRINCIPLE OF A FULL-BRIDGE INVERTER CIRCUIT

Because the operational principles of MC34063 boost and NE555 square wave circuits are basic in the digital electronics, this study only presents the operational principle of a full-bridge inverter circuit. As shown in Fig. 2, the full-bridge inverter mainly consists of the BJTs, Q3, Q4, Q6, and Q7, whereas the driving circuit is composed of the BJTs, Q1, Q2, Q5 as well as some resistances. All the BJTs revealed in Fig. 2 are type NPN, and the output voltage V_{IB} of the NE555 IC is a square wave of 5V, 50Hz, which is the same as V_{IC} except a phase difference of 180° . Besides, the collector voltage of 40V DC for both Q3 and Q6 is from a MC34063 DC-DC boost circuit. When the V_{IB} is at a high level (then the

V_{IC} is at a low level), the Q2 and Q4 switches turn on. At the same time, the Q3 switch turns off as the base voltage is at

a low level through Q2. Likewise, the Q5 and Q7 switches turn off because the V_{IC} is at a low level, while the Q6 turns on as the base voltage is at a high level. Hence, the Q4, Q6 switches turn on but the Q3, Q7 switches turn off in the full-bridge inverter. This leads the voltage of 40V DC transfers from the collector of Q6 to the ground through a PZT and Q4. In contrast, when the V_{IB} is at a low level (then

the V_{IC} is at a high level), the Q4, Q6 switches turn off but the Q3, Q7 switches turn on. The voltage of 40V DC transfers from the collector of Q3 to the ground through a PZT and Q7. Therefore, the PZT gets a voltage of 40V AC, 50 Hz and the frequency depends on the NE555 square wave circuit.

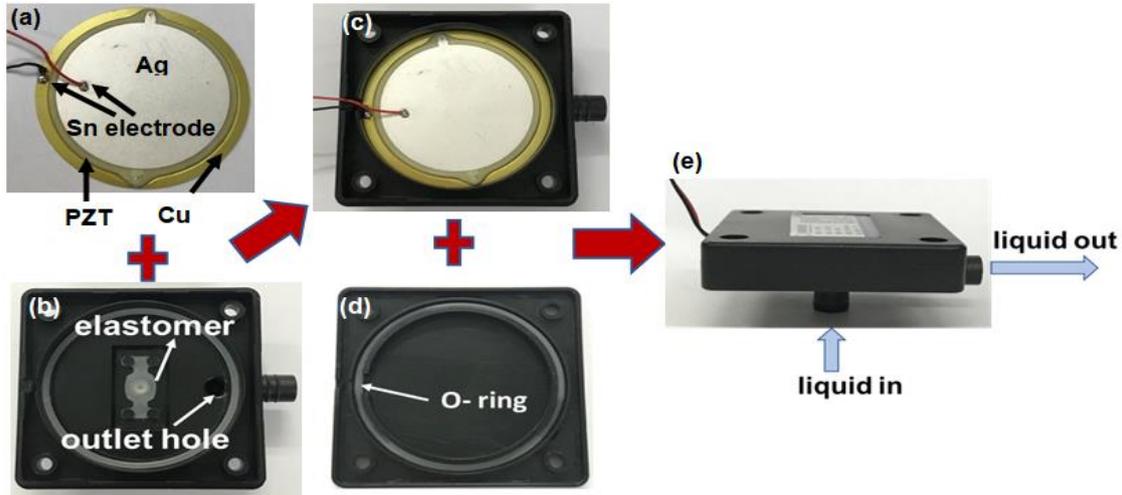


Fig. 3. Pictures of the parts of a PZT pump : (a) A PZT oscillator (b) Bottom part (c) A PZT oscillator in the bottom part (d) Top part (e) A forming PZT pump.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Fig. 4 reveals the voltage waveform applied to a PZT liquid pump. The voltage waveform is a square wave of AC 40V and 50Hz, which verifies the circuit diagram designed for a power supply of a PZT liquid pump. However, the waveform has a small spike every half a period, resulting in a poor voltage waveform. The spikes may be caused by the parasitic capacitances and inductances in a NE555 IC. Fig. 5 shows a picture of the PZT liquid pump and the driving circuit with a lithium battery. The MC34063 and NE555 ICs are obviously displayed in the driving circuit, that is simple design and low cost.

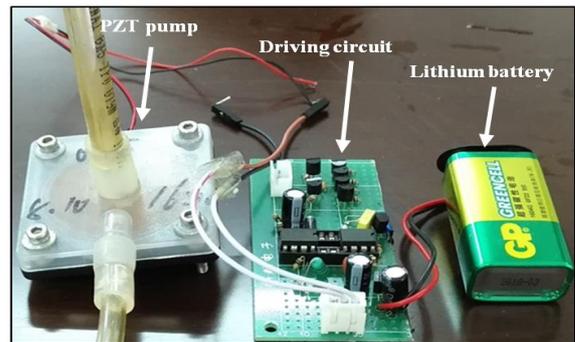


Fig. 5. A picture of the DC-DC boost circuit, full-bridge inverter circuit, and a PZT pump.

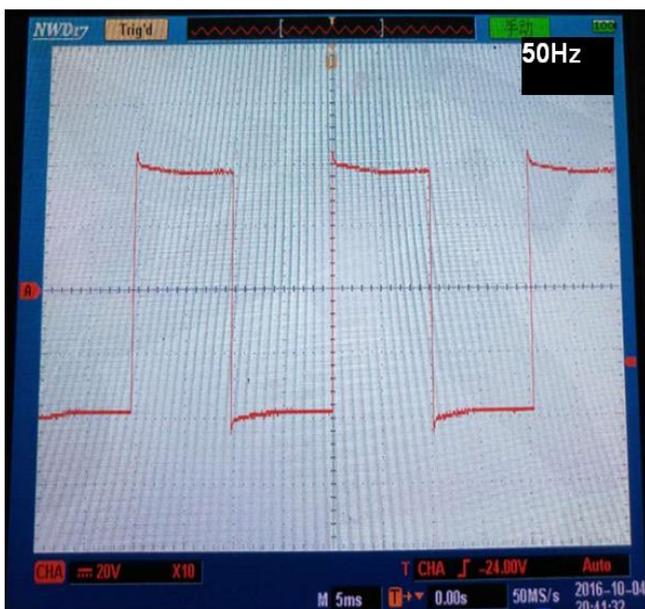


Fig. 4. An image of the voltage waveform applied to the PZT shown in Fig. 2.

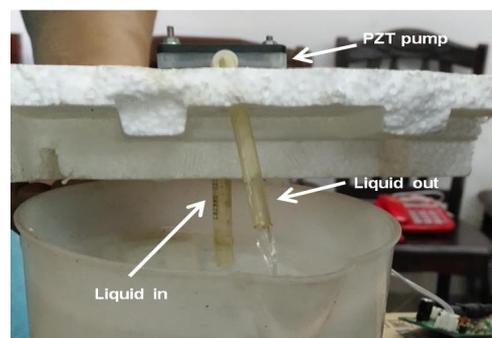


Fig. 6. A picture of a running PZT liquid pump.

As illustrated in Fig. 6, a picture of a running PZT liquid pump, the power consumption and flow rate respectively are 1W and $800 \pm 5\%$ ml min⁻¹. This picture states that the designed driving circuit successfully is applied to the PZT liquid pump.

V. CONCLUSIONS

This study successfully presents a power supply composed

of the DC-DC boost converter and a full-bridge inverter circuits for a PZT liquid pump, which possesses many advantages such as simple structure, small size, low power consumption, fast response speed, stable output waveform and strong driving capability.. There are three main parts in the driving circuit, namely, a MC34063 boost circuit, a NE555 square wave circuit, and a full-bridge inverter circuit. Through the driving circuit, the PZT liquid pump gets a voltage of 40V AC, 50 Hz and has a high flow rate of $800 \pm 5\% \text{ ml min}^{-1}$. According to the applied voltage or frequency to a PZT pump, the flow rate of the fluid is able to be controlled. A filter circuit will be coupled into the driving circuit to improve the voltage waveform applied to a PZT pump in the future.

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