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Advanced Control of AC/DC Power Networks

*System of Systems Approach
Based on Spatio-temporal Scales*

Abdelkrim Benchaib

ISTE

WILEY

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Contents

FOREWORD	ix
PREFACE	xi
LIST OF FIGURES	xiii
LIST OF TABLES	xvii
INTRODUCTION	xix
CHAPTER 1. MODELING CONTROL OF VSCs	1
1.1. Introduction	1
1.2. Steady state voltage control systems – multi-terminal direct current (VSC-MTDC) model	3
1.2.1. Convention	4
1.2.2. DC side model	5
1.2.3. DC power flow calculation	5
1.2.4. AC side model	6
1.3. Control system of VSC based on VOC	8
1.3.1. Inner current controller	10
1.3.2. Outer power controller	11
1.3.3. DC voltage controller	13
1.4. Conclusion	15
CHAPTER 2. TIME SCALE TOOLS: A CONTROL SOLUTION FOR MTDC COMPLEX SYSTEMS WITH PLUG-AND-PLAY REQUIREMENTS	17
2.1. Introduction	17

2.2. Recalling VSC-HVDC control objectives	18
2.3. DC voltage control strategies for MTDC grids	20
2.3.1. Slack bus control (master/slave control)	21
2.3.2. Voltage margin control	22
2.3.3. Droop control	24
2.3.4. Dead-band-droop control	28
2.3.5. Undead-band-droop-control.	29
2.3.6. Priority control	30
2.3.7. Ratio control.	30
2.3.8. DC voltage control strategy summary.	31
2.4. DC grid steady state modeling.	32
2.5. Newton–Raphson technique	35
2.6. DC power flow.	36
2.6.1. The first method: for master/slave control strategy	37
2.6.2. The second method (for a droop control): generalized approach	42
2.6.3. Generalized power flow for multi-terminal DC grids with more than one slack bus	45
2.7. Steady state control of multi-terminal DC grids	45
2.7.1. Normal operation (without fault).	46
2.7.2. Power-step-change with master/slave strategy of control	48
2.7.3. Voltage margin control	49
2.7.4. Power-step-change for a voltage/power droop control	51
2.8. Primary and secondary control strategies	52
2.9. Dynamic control of multi-terminal DC grids	54
2.10. Plug-and-play in interconnected systems: application to MTDC grids	55
2.11. Control of the actuators connected to the power system.	55
2.12. Concluding remarks	56

CHAPTER 3. FROM SMALL SIGNAL TO EXACT LINEARIZATION OF SWING EQUATIONS

3.1. Introduction.	57
3.2. Recalling stability analysis tools	62
3.2.1. Small signal analysis – first method of Lyapunov.	63
3.2.2. Transient stability.	63
3.2.3. Global stability	66
3.2.4. Summary of stability approaches.	66
3.3. Modeling of AC power network – swing equation.	67
3.3.1. Nonlinear swing equation	68
3.3.2. Linearized swing equation	70

3.3.3. Development of the electrical power term	72
3.4. Simulation of AC swing equation.	74
3.4.1. Post-fault simulation case (transient response).	77
3.5. Revisited swing equation for multi-machines power system modeling	82
3.6. Exact linearization of swing equation	83
3.7. Concluding remarks	85
CHAPTER 4. SPACE SCALE PROPERTIES FOR AC/DC POWER NETWORK CONTROL AND OPERATIONS: NEW AGGREGATION METHODS IN POWER SYSTEMS	87
4.1. Introduction.	87
4.2. Inter-area oscillation damping: locally intelligent substation	88
4.3. Free of space-scale model for AC systems: model reduction	92
4.3.1. Average model for N station multi-terminal systems: aggregated power system	92
4.3.2. Free of space-scale model for inter-region application	94
4.4. Modeling of DC power networks	99
4.4.1. Mathematical approach of two- terminal DC grid modeling	99
4.4.2. Multi-terminal DC (MTDC) grid modeling: generalized MTDC model	101
4.4.3. Toward DC swing equation.	102
4.4.4. Development of the electric power term P_e	104
4.4.5. AC and DC “swing equations” equivalence	104
4.5. AC/DC converter control to mimic synchronous generators	105
4.6. Concluding remarks.	107
CONCLUSION.	109
APPENDICES	113
APPENDIX 1	115
APPENDIX 2	117
APPENDIX 3	121
BIBLIOGRAPHY	123
INDEX	129

Foreword

At the end of the 19th Century, Thomas Edison and Nikola Tesla were very invested in the famous AC versus DC power battle for the power networks development, i.e. *War of the Currents*.

During the 20th Century and today, power networks are mainly based on an AC supply.

Now, at the beginning of the 21st Century, the continuous development of the increasingly renewable energy sources (RESs) interconnected into power networks may reveal the following strategic question:

– *What do we see as the future of AC and DC power networks?*

The author of this book tries to answer this fundamental question to ensure security of the electricity supply in the world by providing an in-depth thinking based on a new approach called “Systems of Systems”, using advanced control algorithms. Moreover, the concept of “Plug and Play” is also introduced by the author to satisfy industrial objectives in relation with the development of new electric power grids integrated massive RESs and plug-in electric vehicles (PEVs).

The large experience of the author in R&D in the industry, supplemented by a significant background in academic research and executive teaching, give to this book a particular attractiveness.

The multi-terminal direct-current (MTDC) grids, using power electronics-based systems, are investigated by the author in terms of

modeling, analysis and advanced control in order to define the optimized building blocks requested for “mixed” AC & DC future power networks.

From the theoretical point of view, fully in relation with the stability analysis of AC and DC grids, the equivalence of the AC “swing equation” and the DC “swing equation” is described. This new analytical tool appears as a major added value of the presented works.

This book has also the ambition to bring together the academic and industrial communities in the areas of:

- power networks,
- automatic control,
- power electronics,
- electrical machines,

in order to propose new disruptive technologies to build the future mixed AC and DC power networks.

Many fields of scientific investigations are present in this work and open the door for future debates on transmission and distribution grids, guaranteeing the security of the electricity delivery and minimizing the risk of blackouts.

To conclude, this book is certainly a reference for the advanced control of “mixed” AC and DC power networks in the future.

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Preface

Nowadays, more than ever, the power engineering domain is facing huge challenges. It is showing an increasing interest in intermittent renewable energies which are imposing major technical limitations. The use of these resources must be accompanied by secure, indigenous, sustainable, clean and competitive operation. A realistic solution is wind power. Many countries are now starting to install wind turbines offshore. In Europe, the offshore wind potential is able to cover seven times the whole demand. High-voltage alternating current (HVAC) provides the simplest and most economic connection method for short distances. Because the distance of the offshore farms exceeds 100–150 km, the transmission with high-voltage direct current (HVDC) is economically inevitable. Thus, HVDC systems offer interesting prospects if the power grid is well controlled.

For power transmission, the DC grid would overlay the existing AC grid, like a national motorway system connects to smaller local road systems. In power distribution, DC grids will emerge from more constrained grid codes as they will be imposed by distribution operators for PV integration. One of the main challenges for DC deployment is the handling of multi-terminal DC (MTDC) grids. At the heart of the thinking behind the MTDC grids is, precisely, the notion of “system of systems”. Indeed, a key component of systems of systems control and operations is the notion of time scales. For example, the primary control in AC grids is a global but distributed control in which the notion of “Think Globally and Act Locally” (TGAL) is applied. This time scales control philosophy will enable the “plug-and-play” property which is mandatory when dealing with networked systems. For example, in a flock of birds or school of fish, each individual keeps a certain distance and follows the congener in front. The result is that each individual acts like the

whole group, while the whole group acts like an individual (droop control: global but distributed control). The individual can leave or join the group without altering its global behavior (plug-and-play). In addition to time scales, space scale considerations need to be taken into account with new modeling, control and observation tools and techniques.

Abdelkrim BENCHAIIB
July, 2015

List of Figures

INTRODUCTION

I.1. Blackouts in power networks.	xix
I.2. Blackout in Western Europe, 4th November 2006: frequency split and resynchronization process (source: ENTSOE)	xx
I.3. Challenges for power network of the future	xxi
I.4. Cost of HVDC link compared to HVAC	xxiii
I.5. New highways for power grid of the future, courtesy of Desertec	xxiii
I.6. Power profile provided to the network	xxiv
I.7. PV production unit with energy storage system (ESS).	xxiv
I.8. DC grid for PV integration with ESS connected to the power grid	xxv
I.9. Hybrid (AC and DC) power network of the future.	xxvi
I.10. French power network hierarchization	xxvii

CHAPTER 1

1.1. Two-terminal VSC system	2
1.2. Power and current directions.	4
1.3. Monopolar symmetrically grounded VSC-MTDC system	5
1.4. Single-phase VSC representation	7
1.5. PQ closed-loop VOC implemented on the dq synchronous frame	9
1.6. Current controller structure – VOC based on dq synchronous frame	10

1.7. V_{dc} -Q closed-loop VOC implemented on the dq synchronous frame	14
1.8. DC voltage control structure.	14
1.9. DC voltage droop proportional controller	15

CHAPTER 2

2.1. Time scale control structure for multi-terminal DC grids	18
2.2. Three-terminal HVDC	21
2.3. Illustration of: a) slack bus and b) P-controller	22
2.4. Three-terminal HVDC under master/slave control strategy	22
2.5. Voltage margin strategy illustration	23
2.6. Operating point in voltage margin strategy	23
2.7. A second operating point in voltage margin strategy	24
2.8. Voltage droop characteristics: a) voltage/power and b) voltage/current	25
2.9. Voltage droop characteristics: a) voltage limitation and b) power limitation	28
2.10. Power limitation: a) for a node which is capable of working only as a generator ($P > 0$) and b) for a node which is capable of working only as a load ($P < 0$)	28
2.11. Voltage droop characteristics with dead-band: a) voltage dead-band and b) power dead-band	29
2.12. Voltage droop characteristics with undead-band: a) voltage undead-band and b) power undead-band	30
2.13. Monopolar symmetrically grounded VSC substation connected to an MTDC network.	32
2.14. i, j connection.	33
2.15. Current flowing to the shunt resistance.	33
2.16. Geometrical illustration of the Newton–Raphson technique.	36
2.17. Chart of the power flow calculation: first method	37
2.18. NR flow chart for the first power flow resolution method.	41
2.19. Chart of the power flow calculation with droop characteristics: second method	42
2.20. NR flow chart for power flow calculation taking into account voltage/power droop.	44
2.21. Three-terminal DC grid	46
2.22. Three-terminal HVDC before the power flow resolution	46

2.23. Illustration of the power flow results of a three-terminal HVDC	48
2.24. DC grid power response to power disturbance at node 1 with master/slave control strategy	48
2.25. DC grid voltage response to power disturbance at node 1 with master/slave control strategy	49
2.26. DC grid power voltage responses to power disturbance at node 1 with voltage margin control strategy	50
2.27. DC grid power response to power disturbance at node 1 with voltage/power droop control strategy	51
2.28. DC grid voltage response to power disturbance at node 1 with voltage/power droop control strategy	51
2.29. Power balancing of a three-terminal DC grid with primary and secondary control strategies	53

CHAPTER 3

3.1. Wide area monitoring system (WAMS)	58
3.2. PMU-based WAMS and network-model-based EMS hybrid solution	60
3.3. Real power flowing on a major transmission line during the Western North American power system breakup of 1996	61
3.4. Response to a fault cleared in t_{c1} seconds, stable case (left), in t_{c2} seconds unstable case (right)	64
3.5. Three-interconnected generators model with Simpower system	75
3.6. Interconnected generators model (swing equation) with Matlab/Simulink	78
3.7. Post-fault frequency responses of a) Simpower system, b) nonlinear swing equation model and c) linearized swing equation model	79
3.8. Post-fault electrical power of a) Simpower system, b) nonlinear swing equation model and c) linearized swing equation model	80
3.9. Post-fault angle differences of a) Simpower system, b) nonlinear swing equation model and c) linearized swing equation model	81
3.10. Three-node interconnected AC power network	82
3.11. Simulation results for a nonlinear model and linearized model	85