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Chauhan, Rajeev Kumar; Chauhan, Kalpana; Zapata, Josep Maria Guerrero

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Controller Design and Stability Analysis of Grid Connected DC Microgrid

Kalpana Chauhan, Member, IEEE, Rajeev Kumar Chauhan, Senior Member, IEEE, Josep M. Guerrero, Fellow Member IEEE,

Abstract—The DC microgrids are desired to provide the electricity for the remote areas which are far from the main grid. The microgrid gets popularity because DC power source such as photovoltaic (PV), battery bank and fuel cell can be interconnected without AC/DC converters. The stochastic nature of PV power and variation in the demand are responsible for voltage fluctuations in the DC microgrids. The voltage stability is a most important issue in case of DC microgrids. The challenging thing is to maintain the microgrid voltage up to a reference value for the variable load. This paper focuses on the designing a controller to obtain the voltage stability of microgrid.

The two controllers (PI and fuzzy logic PI (FL-PI)) are designed to the voltage stability analysis of DC microgrid. Real-time simulation results show that upon appropriate choice of controller parameters, the DC microgrid voltage can be kept constant regardless of wide range of voltage variations of the source and load. The simulation results show the comparison of two controllers. The FL-PI controller shows much better performance than the conventional PI controller for the DC grid voltage control. With the inclusion of the proposed controllers the controlled voltage will obtained, whatever may be the load and its variation.

Index Terms—Microgrids, PI and fuzzy-PI controller, voltage stability, photovoltaic, linear, nonlinear.

I. INTRODUCTION

In order to ensure the stability of a DC system, the power flow within the DC microgrid must be balanced at all times to ensure the DC voltage to be maintained. As renewable generations, such as wind and photovoltaic power, are obliged to follow the meteorological conditions [1-2], and local loads usually operate on their own merits, the other controllable sources, e.g., energy storage, network connected converters etc., must accommodate their variable demands to balance the power.

There is a need of controlling some parameters to make a power supply balance between the sources and loads. Some studies have been carried out in the area of controlling the DC microgrid voltage [3]. However most of them are related to the droop concept to regulate the grid voltage [4-5]. In a DC system the grid voltage is get affected when there is a change in the load from the consumer side. During the switch ON/OFF the appliance, the load current gets changed and the voltage become unstable from its reference or desired value. Therefore, there is need of good method for the voltage control of DC microgrid.

Some controlling schemes for the line currents compensation are given in literature using the conventional controllers [6-9]. Generally PI controllers are used for the DC voltage controlling [10]. These controllers require accurate and difficult to obtained mathematical models. Due to functional and structure simplicity PI controllers are used most in industrial applications [11]. For the first and second order system the PI controller may give good performance by tuning the parameters but for higher systems the tuning become difficult. The performances of the controllers like PI and PID controllers are affected by the operating conditions of any system means there performances are disturbed by the parameter variations, nonlinearity and load side changes [11]. On the other hand the controllers those are designed by fuzzy logic showing the many advantages over the conventional controllers. Fuzzy control requires the expert knowledge and experience and decision making.
The power from PV generators should be controlled to get the uninterrupted grid services. In [12] a pulse width modulation voltage source inverter (PWM-VSI) has been connected between a DC source, which is supplied from a photovoltaic (PV) array and the AC grid to control the DC-AC converter which is connected to the grid. In [13] reactive power compensation has been provided to improve the utilization factor of the system during night time also. The solution for uninterrupted power supply is given by the integration storage device like battery bank (BB) with the renewable sources so to fulfill the extra demand or to store the excess power generated to use it as backup at the demand time [14-15]. The coordination of power generating sources and storage devices is must to fulfill the demand without interruption. The power balancing and control of storage units also required. In [16] the utilization of the supercapacitors and lead-acid batteries has been done by interconnected them in a DC-coupled structure. The objective of this system is to supply prescribed reactive and active power to the grid. A coordinated use of storage units must be designed within the available renewable resource in order to satisfy the power requirements. The power sharing between different energy devices may leads to a smooth grid voltage as the power fluctuations get balanced. In [17] a control system based on energy management has been discussed which is responsible for the coordination among different sources. The system was designed for the wind generator. While in [18] superconductors are utilizing on the DC bus with the incorporation of UPS properties to supply the large loads. Sometimes a voltage droop based power sharing techniques are used for the smooth grid power flow as discussed in [19-20]. The system should be designed such that it is robust to the power variations. On the other hand a coordinated scheme has been proposed in [21] for the control in the data centers.

All the previous control is not adoptable for the complete DC microgrid with uninterrupted power supply. Proposed scheme in this paper is showing its superiority in terms of its efficiency. Here the objective is to keep the DC microgrid voltage at the reference DC level (i.e. at 124V here). There is a change in the power and load due to demand variations. This change creates fluctuations in the grid voltage level. So there is need of a controller. In this paper, the coordination of the BB with the PV and grid is also discussed. A PI controller is designed for the DC microgrid voltage control. Mean while a fuzzy-PI controller also designed which is taking the advantage of PI experiences and fuzzy knowledge. After that, both controllers are compared based on the performance parameters. This paper presents a system design of DC microgrid voltage control. The DC microgrid voltage controllers (PI and Fuzzy PI) are used to maintain a DC microgrid voltage at a constant value.

Next sections for the paper are as follows. In section II there is a description of proposed microgrid system having multiple power sources. In section III formulation and modeling of DC voltage control has been discussed. Section IV is showing the simulation results obtained from both the controllers and their comparison. Finally section V concludes the paper.

II. SYSTEM CONFIGURATION

The general layout of the proposed DC microgrid system is shown in Fig. 1. The DC bus of the microgrid is connected to the public utility (PU) via AC-DC converter. The microgrid of n-homes connected with the main grid via capacitor (C), which helps in balancing the grid current (i<sub>b</sub>). The DC microgrid is consists of n-number of homes (home-1, home-2, home-3,...,home-n). Each home has a battery bank (BB) and PV plant (captive power). The BB and PV plants are interfaced to the DC bus of microgrid via DC-DC converters. On the other hand the capacitors (C<sub>1</sub>, C<sub>2</sub>, C<sub>3</sub>,....C<sub>n</sub>) connected to every PV panel to control the maximum PV current (i<sub>pv_ref</sub>). The BB stores the energy for future use, when the PV plant produces the higher power than the demand of the home. The BB feed the energy back to the microgrid when the demand of the home is higher than the PV power production. In this way BBs help to reduce the power in unbalancing in the DC bus. The reference voltage (V<sub>g_ref</sub>) which has to be maintained is set to be according to US standard at 124 V. The DC microgrid measured voltage (V<sub>g_m</sub>) is monitored by a voltage sensor mounted on the DC-bus. The first stage power balancing is done by the power sharing from BB and associated controllers manage this task. If the power disturbance is higher and BBs controllers are not able to balance it then the second stage power controlling is done by PU and associated AC-DC converter.
III. CONTROL ALGORITHM

Total DC power ($P_{DC}$) is the sum of all connected sources including storage sources to the respective DC bus. In the proposed configuration there are n-number of homes in the microgrid having n-number of PVs and n-number of BBs. During PU outage, the total power at the DC bus is given by a maximum power point tracking (MPPT) algorithm according to the “power algorithm” level [22]:

$$P_{DC} = \sum_{j=1}^{n} P_{pv}(j) + \sum_{j=1}^{n} P_{bb}(j)$$

(1)

where, $P_{pv}(j)$ and $P_{bb}(j)$ are the power from the PV panel and BB of $j^{th}$ home respectively.

During the night hours the PV generation is become zero and PV act as an outage sources and if the PU is also acts as outage power source then the BBs will balance the total demand of the microgrid. When the BB is fully charged, the voltage is following the maximum power ($P_{pv-ref}$), but decreases during the off-PV hours. The BB charging may need to be charge at the time when voltage is below the maximum power point of the PV panel. The current and voltage relation of PV cell is non-linear. The maximum power can be obtained from the PV plant by matching the internal impedance of PV plant and load. It can be achieved by applying maximum power point tracking (MPPT). The above discussed problem can be resolved by applying MPPT for PV. The flow chart describes the MPPT for PV. Every time there is a check for voltage and current. The difference of instant powers is going to check and accordingly the voltage is to be change (increase or decrease). To achieve the DC bus voltage close to the reference voltage, PI or FL-PI controller [23] have to set the capacitor current ($i_{dc-ref}$) in a closed loop manner. The PV voltage ($V_{pv}$) is controlled to set the maximum PV power reference ($P_{pv-ref}$), which is calculated by current controllers used to control the choke current ($i_{L}$), the PU currents ($i_{s}$), and the BB current ($i_{bb}$).

Almost all the demand is fulfilled by the PV panels connected in the microgrid specially if there is no grid available. The PV power obtained from of the proposed system is expressed as:

$$\sum_{j=1}^{n} P_{pv}(j) = \sum_{j=1}^{n} V_{pv}(j)i_{pv}(j)$$

(2)

where, $i_{pv}$ is the PV current, the PV plant output power of the $j^{th}$ home is the product of the voltage and current of PV plant. The total PV power feed to the microgrid is the algebraic sum of power of PV plants of n-homes.

The total power sharing of BBs with the microgrid is the addition of power sharing with the all BBs of n-homes and can be expressed as:

$$\sum_{j=1}^{n} P_{bb}(j) = \sum_{j=1}^{n} V_{bb}(j)i_{bb}(j)$$

(3)
If the BB is not fully charged, the surplus power of the PV plants may be used for charging the BBs. Moreover if the demand is higher than the PV generations and PU is act as an outage power source the BBs will supply the surplus demand of the microgrid.

To get the maximum power production from the PV plant, the PV current has to be controlled by the controller (PI/FL-PI) near to its reference value ($i_{pv,ref}$) and the control equation is expressed as:

$$\sum_{j=1}^{n} P_{est_{-pv}} (j) = \sum_{j=1}^{n} i_{est_{-pv}} (j) V_{est_{-pv}} (j)$$  \hspace{1cm} (4)

where, $V_{est_{-pv}}$ is the estimated voltage of PV. The current is controlled with the capacitor value.

So, the estimated power ($P_{est_{-pv}}$), can be obtained from the estimated PV current ($i_{est_{-pv}}$), and estimated voltage of PV can be expressed as:

$$\sum_{j=1}^{n} P_{est_{-bb}} (j) = \sum_{j=1}^{n} i_{est_{-bb}} (j) V_{est_{-bb}} (j)$$  \hspace{1cm} (5)

Likely, the estimated BB power ($P_{est_{-bb}}$), can be obtained from the estimated BB current ($i_{est_{-bb}}$), and estimated voltage of BB ($V_{est_{-bb}}$), can be expressed as:

$$\sum_{j=1}^{n} P_{est_{-bb}} (j) = \sum_{j=1}^{n} i_{est_{-bb}} (j) V_{est_{-bb}} (j)$$  \hspace{1cm} (6)

Now recalling the eq. (1), the controlled DC microgrid power ($P_{dc_{-ref}}$), for controlled voltage can be obtained as in eq. (7)

$$P_{dc_{-ref}} = \sum_{j=1}^{n} P_{est_{-pv}} (j) \pm \sum_{j=1}^{n} P_{est_{-bb}} (j)$$  \hspace{1cm} (7)

Here the meaning of positive sign is for when BB is delivering power to the load or it is going to discharge. The negative sign is for battery charging with the PV power. So a factor of charging battery is the power available from PV.
The controlled DC microgrid voltage \( (V_{dc,ref}) \), is obtained from controlled power \( (P_{dc,ref}) \) and from capacitor controlled current obtained \( (i_{dc,ref}) \) as:

\[
V_{dc,ref} = \frac{P_{dc,ref}}{i_{dc,ref}}
\]  

(8)

As the controlled voltage is obtained it is continuously going to maintain the grid power with the current changing by linear controllers placed in the microgrid and the controlled power is going to maintain the grid voltage.

IV. SIMULATION RESULTS

The control of DC microgrid voltage is verified by the simulation results obtained in MALAB m-file environment. The performance of the voltage controllers are tested for the complete typical day with varying load conditions at different time instants. Results obtained from both the controllers viz. PI controller and FL-PI controller are shown in the following analysis. Let’s consider that microgrid consists of four homes with PV captive power plant and PU. There is a PV plant of 5 kW, 4.5 kW, 4.75 kw and 6.5 kW installed in home-1, home-2, home-3 and home-4 respectively. The maximum demands of home-1, home-2, home-3 and home-4 are 10.32 kW, 10.88 kW, 10.13 kW and 6.49 kW respectively.

Further, during the 0:00-2:50hrs and 18:40-23:59hrs, the PV acts as outage power source and demand is higher than the BB load carry capacity so the BB feed the rated power and the surplus load is supplied by the PU. During 08:15-9:30hrs, the BB acts as outage source and PV power is smaller than the demand so the surplus power is balanced by the PU.
Fig. 6. FL-PI controlled voltage for a complete day in a designed microgrid

The changes in PU power corresponding to the voltage fluctuation in the DC microgrid with fuzzy-PI controller and without controller is shown in Fig. 7. It is worth to notice from Fig. 5 and Fig. 7 that there is almost similar power graphs obtained in both cases, as it is multiplication of current and voltage.

A more clear impression of simulated voltages obtained from PI and FL-PI is shown in Fig. 8. The values of controlled voltage obtained in case of PI takes values near to 123.94 V and in case of FL-PI the values are near about 123.58 V. The trend line associated with FL-PI in the plot showing a near zero standard deviation i.e. a compressed variance. However in case of PI, the variance is spread out i.e. the values. The statistical analysis showing that the microgrid voltage is more stable in case of FL-PI controller. The values of standard deviation ($\sigma$), for PI and FL-PI are $5.1 \times 10^{-3}$ and $5.1371 \times 10^{-4}$ respectively with eq. (10).

$$\sigma = \sqrt{\frac{1}{t-0.00} \sum_{t=0}^{23:59} (V_t - V_{mean})^2}$$  \hspace{1cm} (10)

where $t$ is the time at different time instants of a typical day as $t=00:00hrs, 3:30, \ldots \ldots, 23:59$, $V_t$ is the simulated voltage at time instant $t$ and $V_{mean}$ is the mean of the simulated voltage at time instant $t$.

The obtained time response parameters of the PI and FL-PI controller can be found in Table IV. The FL-PI controller is much better than the PI controller. Rise time is slightly high in case of FL-PI controller. But the settling time and steady state error is significantly small in comparison to PI controller. It verifies that the controlled voltage of DC microgrid with FL-PI controller has less fluctuation than the PI controller. The peak time is also small. The overshoot is case of FL-PI is very less, In case of PI the peak voltage around 162 volts i.e. around 38 volts more than the desired level however in case of FL-PI this value is nearly 140 volts i.e. 16 volts more than the desired level voltage. So the percentage overshoot is very less in case of FL-PI controller in comparison to the PI controller. The proposed scheme avoids the drawback of the load sharing scheme or droop based control scheme with the utilization of the PI and FL-PI. Dynamic of the system has been improved.

### Table I: Time response of the designed controllers for DC microgrid voltage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Controller Type</th>
<th>Rise Time</th>
<th>Settling Time</th>
<th>Overshoot (%)</th>
<th>Peak Time</th>
<th>Steady state error (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PI</td>
<td>0.0148</td>
<td>1.6091</td>
<td>0.326</td>
<td>0.47</td>
<td>0.9231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FL-PI</td>
<td>0.0264</td>
<td>1.3609</td>
<td>0.132</td>
<td>0.41</td>
<td>0.2325</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

V. Conclusion

The designed microgrid system is providing management between different sources viz. PU, PV, and BB. The energy is utilized to obtain the best performances of the energy sources. When there is left over energy after the demand, it is utilized to charge the battery. The BB is in use only when there is no source energy or less energy to fulfill the demand. So, the source efficiency is increased at an extent. The voltage controlling is tested with PI and FL-PI. Both controllers show fast and effective results, however the FL-PI leaves a good impact in the sense of performance parameters and good stability. Overall analysis of both the results is that FL-PI is superior and better for voltage stability of DC microgrid. The deviation from mean in case of PI is 10 times more than as in case of FL-PI i.e. showing more spread or variance. So FL-PI showing more stability.
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BIOGRAPIES

Dr. Kalpana Chauhan graduated in Electrical and Electronics from College of Engineering Roorkee, Roorkee India, in 2006 and received her Master’s Degree in Instrumentation and Control Engineering from Dr. B. R. Ambedkar National Institute of Technology Jalandhar, Punjab, India in 2009. She has done Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering at Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee in India in 2014. Her current research interest includes DC Microgrid, Integration of distributed generation, Smart Grid, Medical Image Processing. She has been published many research papers in journals and presented papers in international conferences. She has been published many research papers in reputed Journals and conferences and received some best-paper and excellent paper. Dr. Chauhan also attends some workshops and training. She is member of OSWD, and IAENG Hong Kong. She is also a fellow member of ICASIT Singapore.

She is serving as an Editor for International Journal of Advanced Computer Science and Information Technology, Switzerland. She is also a member of review board of some journals and conferences.

Rajeev Kumar Chauhan graduated in Electrical Engineering from The Institutions of Engineers (India). He received his M. Tech degree in Control and Instrumentation Engineering from Dr. B. R. Ambedkar National Institute of Technology Jalandhar, India. Presently, he is pursuing Ph.D from School of Computing and Electrical Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology Mandi, India. He has been worked as Visiting Scientist with Center for Electromechanics at the University of Texas at Austin, USA. His employment experience includes Krishna Engineering College GZB, Galgotias College of Engineering and Technology Greater Noida, Roorkee Institute of Technology Roorkee. His major field of interest included DC Microgrid, SCADA System, Industrial Automation and Control. He is the member of PES, IEEE, IET, IAENG Hong Kong and ICASIT. Mr. Chauhan is serving as Reviewer of the IEEE Transaction of Industrial Electronics, IEEE Transaction of Sustainable Energy, IEEE Systems Journal, Renewable & Sustainable Energy Reviews.

Josep M. Guerrero received the B.S. degree in telecommunications engineering, the M.S. degree in electronics engineering, and the Ph.D. degree in power electronics from the Technical University of Catalonia, Barcelona, in 1997, 2000 and 2003, respectively. He was an Associate Professor with the Department of Automatic Control Systems and Computer Engineering, Technical University of Catalonia, teaching courses on digital signal processing, field-programmable gate arrays, microprocessors, and control of renewable energy. In 2004, he was responsible for the Renewable Energy Laboratory, Escola Industrial de Barcelona. Since 2011, he has been a Full Professor with the Department of Energy Technology, Aalborg University, Aalborg East, Denmark, where he is responsible for the microgrid research program. From 2012 he is also a guest Professor at the Chinese Academy of Science, and the Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics. His research interests is oriented to different microgrid aspects, including power electronics, distributed energy-storage systems, hierarchical and cooperative control, energy management systems, and optimization of microgrids and islanded minigrids.