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Hybrid Model Predictive Control of DC-DC Boost Converters with Constant Power Load

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***Abstract*—This paper presents a hybrid model predictive controller to ensure dc microgrid stability and enhance the performance of dc-dc boost converters interfaced with constant power loads (CPLs) in a hybrid system. Hybrid systems are dynamic systems with both continuous current mode and discontinuous current mode states. The main purpose in this paper is to develop an advanced control technique for voltage regulation and stabilization of the converters in the presence of CPLs due to serious stability concerns, without considering the accurate modelling information of the system. In this regard, an automatic model, considering different modes of operation induced by semiconductor switches in dc-dc boost converters and highly non-linear nature of CPL is employed to design the proposed control approach. The non-linear CPL connected directly to a dc-dc boost converter is utilized to define an optimal tracking control problem by minimizing a finite-prediction horizon cost function, which is known as a finite control set MPC. The proposed controller, which is implemented in both continuous and discontinuous current modes, accounts for the regulation of output voltage within the predefined range. The effectiveness of the proposed hybrid model predictive control is verified using a comparative evaluation with discrete-time averaged model predictive control, continuous control set MPC, and the conventional PI control under experimental conditions. The results authenticate an improved dynamic performance, which can be applied to practical dc microgrids with CPLs.**

***Index Terms*—Automatic model, constant power load, dc-dc boost converter, dc microgrid, hybrid model predictive control, optimal control.**

I. Introduction

MICROGRIDS (MGs) including renewable energy sources (RESs), energy storage systems (ESSs), and interfacing devices i.e., power electronic converters, can help to overcome power system capacity limitations, improve efficiency, reduce emissions, and manage the variability of renewable sources. Nowadays, increasing attention has been drawn to dc MGs, owing to their interesting features such as: 1) higher efficiency, 2) reduced conversion losses, and 3) no need for control of frequency, reactive power, and power quality, which are all considerable challenges in ac MGs [1], [2]. The dc MGs are proposed for power supply of applications with dc loads like home appliances, electric vehicles (EVs), naval ships, space crafts, submarines, telecom systems and rural areas. Multi terminal high-voltage dc grid and low-voltage dc MGs have been proposed for large-scale wind power transmission, and commercial facilities (e.g., data centers [3], isolated island [4], etc.).

A key component of a MG is the power electronic interface between a generator or an ESS, and the load. The most common interfaces used in dc MGs are dc-dc buck and boost converters. When power electronic converters are tightly regulated, they behave as constant power loads (CPLs) at the input terminals [5], [6]. The negative incremental impedance characteristic at the input terminals affects the system stability and complicates the situation from a control viewpoint [7], [8]. The effect of the CPLs becomes more significant when MG operates in islanded mode owing to reduced damping. Different solutions have been suggested in the literature to cope with this issue, i.e., negative impedance instability problem such as: 1) passive resistance damping, 2) load shedding, 3) placement of ESSs at dc bus, and 4) linear and non-linear control strategies [9], [10].

There are various control strategies for the voltage and current control, and stabilization in dc-dc converters such as proportional-integral (PI), fuzzy logic, sliding mode control (SMC), model predictive control (MPC), state-dependent Riccati equation (SDRE) control, and etc., [11], [12]. Linear controllers are the simplest control systems to achieve a regulated dc voltage in MGs [5]. Linear control methods consider the system stability only around an equilibrium point. These methods have already been proposed in [9], [10], [13] to stabilize dc systems with CPLs. In [14], a linear algorithm region of attraction (ROA) based on a semi-definite optimization is expressed to simplify the analysis of stability in dc MGs. A series of modern linear control methods is presented in [15] to manage the negative incremental impedance of the load and time delay while delivering the load power. A dc-dc boost converter allows boosting the input voltage to a higher level using high-frequency switching. This converter has a major role as a power electronic interface in dc MGs e.g., for solar PV systems, ESSs and EVs [16], [17]. With the dc-dc converters being inherently non-linear, an integrated CPL further increases the degree of non-linearity of dc MGs. Therefore, classical linear control methods are challenged and faced with some stability limitations.

To guarantee stability, a non-linear PI stabilizing controller has been proposed in [18]. Variable switching frequency is the main problem of this method because of a negative impact on the converter efficiency and the design of the output filters [19]. Furthermore, PI tuning is frequently necessary for each perturbation due to the high variability and stochastic nature of solar energy in MGs which leads to the increased complexity

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of the system. In addition to the major problem associated with the PI controller, it is the fact that PI is a linear controller while all power electronics systems are mostly nonlinear and also the CPLs imposes a destabilizing nonlinear impact on the dc power electronic converters by an inverse voltage which results in remarkable fluctuations in the voltage term of the main bus. Therefore, tuning this type of linear controllers are being complicated. The authors in [8] present a non-linear sliding-mode control to develop a control law guaranteeing an enlarged region of local stability along with improved large-signal stability. The main disadvantage of SMC is that it is difficult to impose constraints or to regulate abstract quantities.

Recently, MPC methods are employed for direct control modulation of converters by optimizing a user-defined performance index due to its significant advantages over conventional control methods, such as fast dynamic response, simple handling of multi-variable systems, and taking account nonlinearity dynamic, uncertainty, and constraints [20]–[23]. In power electronics, the MPC can be divided into continuous control set MPC (CCS-MPC) and finite control set MPC (FCS-MPC). The CCS-MPC uses the pulse-width modulation (PWM) or space vector modulation (SVM) modulators to separate the switching frequency from the controller sampling time, thus converters operate in constant switching frequency which is more usable in industrial applications. On the other hand, the FCS-MPC does not need a modulator and has a variable switching frequency, and usually yields a good transient performance than CCS-MPC. Most especially, in power electronics more utilize FCS-MPC with a complete enumeration method to get prediction and optimization due to the nature of power converters that are combination of finite switching states [24]. A FCS-MPC algorithm to solve the unstable dynamic interactions between a CPL and a dc microgrid is given in [21]. Furthermore, a CCS-MPC is proposed to improve the inner current loop control performance in [22]. A constrained direct voltage FCS-MPC method, consisting of bounded currents and voltages of system for control of buck-boost converters is provided in [23].

In this paper, the above mentioned non-linear behavior of the system is taken into account using averaged and automatic models. The objective is to provide a formidable control strategy for dc-dc boost converters considering the CPL. Thus, an optimal controller based on hybrid model predictive controller (HMPC) technique is studied and compared with discrete-time averaged model predictive control (DTA-MPC) [25], and PI controller. The HMPC approach provides a systematic design procedure to guarantee good performance within the constraints. This proposed method utilizes a discrete automatic model in the prediction and design procedure, taking into account all switching modes to guarantees the system stability and noise-resilient. On the other hand, it overcomes the aforementioned drawbacks among different linear dynamics, logical transitions between continuous current mode (CCM) and discontinuous current mode (DCM) states, and other complex logical constraints, which needs to be considered in the system's variables. Finally, to further emphasize the good performance of the proposed controller, the results of this controller are compared with the CCS-MPC against a load change. The contribution of the present work and the novelty of the proposed controller can be summarized as follows:

- An HMPC control is proposed to provide an optimal switching of dc-dc converters at each step-time. The aim of the proposed control method is to guarantee the stability and sensitivity as well as produce accurate voltage and current under existing disturbances, such as faults and highly variable power generation and load demand. The unknown disturbances is considered as Additive White Gaussian Noise (AWGN), which the proposed solution can easily address inherent those fluctuations and uncertainties in the system.
- An augmented model is introduced by considering all operation modes of controlled switch and inductor current. This model is provided to obtain integral modes, which causes eliminate of disturbances and achieves tracking of signals error in both transient and steady-state stages, as well as ensuring the stability improvement and noise-free.
- The proposed controller takes the duty of inner loops such as current/voltage of dc MGs using a single optimal controller loop, with taken into account two-term to penalize deviation from the desired trajectory of both inner loops in the objective function.

The rest of this paper is organized as follows. In Section II, averaged and automatic models for dc-dc boost converters integrated with the CPL are discussed in detail. The implementation of proposed control strategy is introduced in Section III. The verification of the stability and sensitivity analysis in presence of HMPC is presented in IV. In section V, experimental studies are provided, and finally, section VI concludes the paper.

II. Modelling and Analysis

The schematic diagram of a dc-dc boost converter with a CPL is shown in Fig. 1. In the equivalent circuit, distributed generation (DG) is represented by a constant voltage source with input voltage V_{in}. The output voltage over the CPL is considered as well as voltage V_{C_o} across the output capacitor filter C_o. R_L is internal resistance of input inductor L and C_o, P is load power, S and D are two power switches; where S is controllable (MOSFET or IGBT), whereas D is uncontrollable. The converter operates in CCM, where the inductor current is always greater than zero in the averaged model, while it is greater than or equal to zero in the automatic model. Details of the continuous-time model of the proposed system in averaged and automatic models presented in [26], the summary of these models are provided in the following subsections.

A. Averaged Continuous Time Model

There are two different dynamics corresponding to the switch positions in dc-dc boost converter for an averaged model [25].

Taking into account the switching modes, the following nonlinear state-space representation describes the dynamics of the

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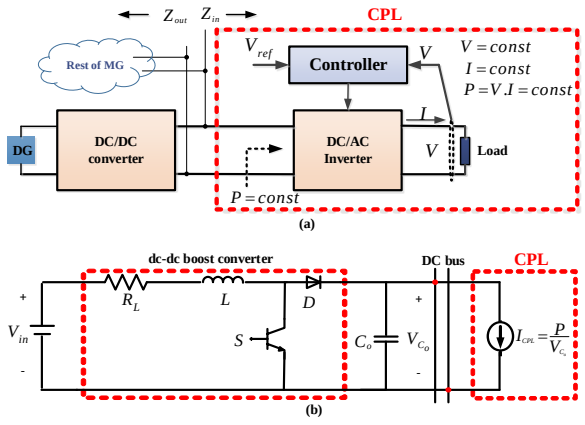

Fig. 1: Schematic diagram of a dc-dc boost converter with a CPL: (a) real circuit of system, (b) equivalent circuit of the system.

system based on an averaged model that can be given by:

$$\dot{x}(t) = \begin{cases} A_1 x(t) + Bu(t) & S = 1 \\ A_2 x(t) + Bu(t) & S = 0 \end{cases}$$
$$y(t) = Cx(t) \quad (1)$$

B. Automatic Continuous Time Model

Similar to the averaged model explained in Section II-A, the switching modes have been also considered for an automatic model. The only difference is that the inductor current discharge condition is considered in each sampling time. This difference creates a system with CCM and DCM states (i.e., the hybrid system). Three different dynamics are associated with the switch positions for the boost converter in the automatic model [26].

The automatic model can be calculated as follows:

$$\dot{x}(t) = \begin{cases} A_1 x(t) + Bu(t) & S = 1 \ \& \ i_L(t) > 0 \\ A_2 x(t) + Bu(t) & S = 0 \ \& \ i_L(t) > 0 \\ A_3 x(t) & S = 0 \ \& \ i_L(t) = 0 \end{cases}$$
$$y(t) = Cx(t) \quad (2)$$

where, $x(t) = [i_L(t)\ V_{C_o}(t)]^T$ is defined as the state vector including inductor current $i_L(t)$ and capacitor voltage $V_{C_o}(t)$, $u(t) = V_{in}(t)$ is input voltage, $y(t)$ is the output of the system which is the output voltage, and matrices A_1, A_2, A_3, B, and C are calculated as follows:

$$A_1 = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{-R_L}{L} & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{-P}{C_o V_{C_o}^2} \end{bmatrix}, A_2 = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{-R_L}{L} & \frac{-1}{L} \\ \frac{1}{C_o} & \frac{-P}{C_o V_{C_o}^2} \end{bmatrix},$$
$$A_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{-P}{C_o V_{C_o}^2} \end{bmatrix}, B = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{L} & 0 \end{bmatrix}^T, C = [0\ 1] \quad (3)$$

III. Proposed Control Strategy

Different modes of operation and several constraints (on the duty cycle and the inductor current) are applied on the power semiconductor switches. The dc-dc converters pose challenging hybrid control problems. To deal with above-mentioned challenges, this paper proposes an HMPC control strategy. The main objective of the proposed control scheme is to derive an optimal switching strategy such that the output voltage can be regulated along its reference trajectory. Fig. 2 shows a general scheme of the proposed HMPC controller applied to the system. The overall design steps of this control framework are:

i) Obtaining the discrete-time model of the system
ii) Defining the cost function
iii) Optimization problem

In order to implement the proposed HMPC, the following steps are carried out:

1) The optimal control action $u^*(k)$ is considered at $k-1$ instant and is applied to the dc-dc boost converter, (for every switching period k, the duty cycle $u^*(k) \in \{0, 1\}$ is chosen by the controller).
2) The current i_k and the capacitor voltage V_{C_o} are measured at k instant, and the references current i_{L_ref} and voltage V_{o_ref} are defined.
3) The prediction model of the system for the same instant is derived to predict the current and voltage values $i_L^p(k+1)$ and $V_{C_o}^p(k+1)$.
4) A cost function is evaluated using the reference current and voltage, as well as the prediction inductor current and capacitor voltage.

The proposed control objective is to achieve accurate output power by ensuring tight regulation of output voltage and current. Moreover, constraints can be imposed on the state variables and/or the manipulated variables, i.e., the control inputs. The underlying optimization problem is solved in real-time at each time step to determine the plan of control actions over a finite prediction horizon. The sequence of control inputs that minimize the objective function leads to an optimal solution. In this sequence, only the first input is applied to

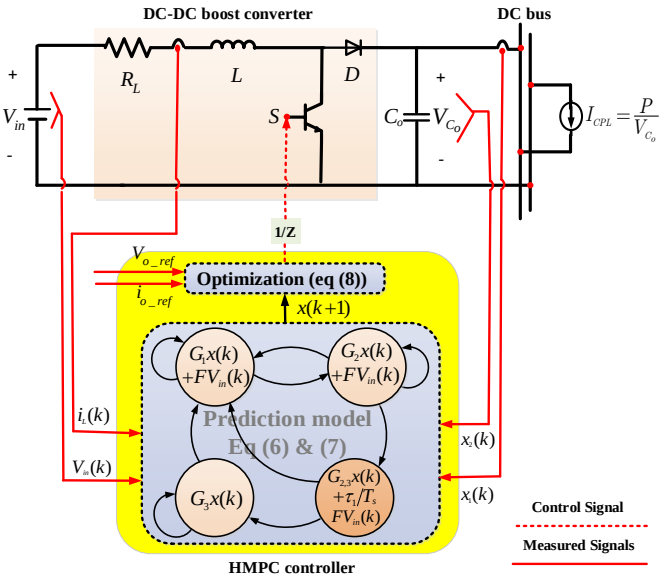

Fig. 2: Schematic of the closed-loop system with the proposed HMPC controller.

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the system. In the next time step, the planning process is repeated with updated measurements or estimation, while the time horizon is shifted one step forward. To do this, dc-dc boost converters have been described using a hybrid dynamical model where both continuous and discontinuous components are considered. Considering such dynamics, the HMPC could be an appropriate control strategy to guarantee the above-mentioned objectives.

A. Implementation of the Proposed Control Strategy

Due to the usage of intensive power electronics interfaces in dc MGs, the stability of such systems when connected to CPLs is a challenge. Hence, an HMPC approach is proposed to solve the instability problem and to regulate the output voltage of dc-dc boost converters with CPL. The control objective is to determine optimal switching of the system in a hybrid optimal control methodology, such that the output voltage is regulated according to its reference trajectory under different scenarios. Details are described in the following three steps:

Step 1. Determining of discrete-time model

The continuous-time equations of both two models as given in (1) and (2) are discretized using the Euler approximation approach as:

$$\frac{dx(t)}{dt} = \frac{x(k+1) - x(k)}{T_s} \tag{4}$$

Accordingly, the averaged and automatic discrete-time models of the studied system with one unit and the CPL can be written in (5), (6) and (7), respectively.

$$\begin{aligned} x(k+1) &= (S)\,(E_1 x(k) + Fu) + (1-S)\,(E_2 x(k) + Fu) \\ y(k+1) &= Hx(k) \end{aligned} \tag{5}$$

$$\begin{aligned} x(k+1) &= \begin{cases} G_1 x(k) + FV_{in}(k) & S = 1 \\ G_2 x(k) + FV_{in}(k) & S = 0 \;\&\; i_L(k+1) > 0 \\ G_3 x(k) & S = 0 \;\&\; i_L(k+1) = 0 \end{cases} \\ y(k+1) &= Hx(k) \end{aligned} \tag{6}$$

where $E_1 = I + A_1 T_s$, $E_2 = I + A_2 T_s$, $G_1 = I + A_1 T_s$, $G_2 = I + A_2 T_s$, and $G_3 = I + A_3 T_s$. Furthermore, I is the identity matrix, $F = BT_s$, $H = C$, and T_s is the sampling time. After discretization, the automatic model can operate in four different modes.

Fig. 3 illustrates different modes of duty cycle and the inductor current where the red line represents switched OFF and ON stages of the controllable switch, and the dashed line represents the inductor current changes. Taking into account the status of inductor current and the switch, there will be four different modes after discretization.

Mode 1: When the inductor current is positive and the switch is ON for the whole sampling interval, i.e., $S = 1$, $i_L(k) > 0$, and $i_L(k+1) > 0$.

Mode 2: When the inductor current is positive and the switch is OFF for the whole sampling interval, i.e., $S = 0$, $i_L(k) > 0$, and $i_L(k+1) > 0$.

Mode 3: When the inductor current reaches zero during the sampling interval, while the switch is OFF, i.e., $S = 0$, $i_{Li}(k) > 0$, and $i_{Li}(k+1) = 0$.

Mode 4: When the inductor current is zero and the switch is OFF for the whole sampling interval i.e., $S = 0$, and $i_L(k) = i_L(k+1) = 0$.

It should be noted that an additional operational mode (mode 3) is added to the continuous automatic model in discrete time domain. Thus, the following equation can be added to the discrete-time equations of the automated model.

$$x(k+1) = G_{2,3} x(k) + \frac{\tau_1}{T_s} FV_{in}(k) \tag{7}$$

where $G_{2,3} = (1/T_s)(\tau_1 G_2 + \tau_2 G_3)$, $T_s = \tau_1 + \tau_2$ and τ_1 denotes the time instant within the sampling interval, when the inductor current reaches zero, i.e, $i_L(k + \frac{\tau_1}{T_s}) = 0$. Fig. 4 in [26] illustrates mode transitions for both CCM and DCM modes when switch position and the inductor current change in automatic model. The discrete-time automatic model is utilized in the proposed controller in order to achieve an improved performance.

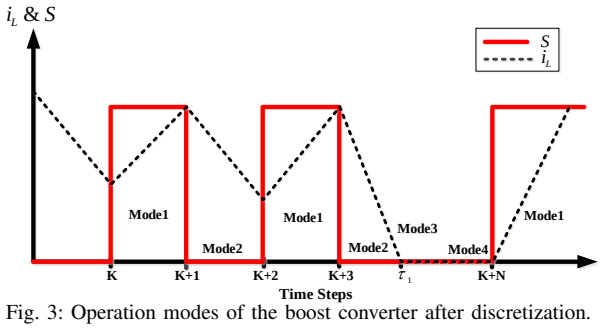

Fig. 3: Operation modes of the boost converter after discretization.

Step 2. Defining the cost function

The cost function is formulated based on the control objective. Since the main objective of the proposed control design is to ensure output power of load, so that the output voltage and the output current track the reference values. In this regard, the error between the predicted value of the variables and the desired variables values as well as the variation of control signals over the prediction horizon is taken into consideration for performance index of the HMPC, i.e.,

$$J(k) = \frac{1}{N_p} \{ \sum_{k=1}^{N_p} \left| P_{o\_ref} - P_o^p(k+1) \right| + \lambda \left| \Delta u(k) \right| \} \tag{8}$$

where N_p is the prediction horizon, P_{o_ref} and $P_o^p(k+1)$ are output power reference and prediction, which are equal to $P_{o\_ref} = i_{o\_ref} * V_{o\_ref}$ and $P_o^p(k+1) = i_o^p(k+1) * v_{C_o}^p(k+1)$ respectively. Moreover, V_{o_ref} is equal to V_{dc}^*, $V_{C_o}^p$ is capacitor voltage prediction and i_o can be achieved by applying kirchoffs current law (KCL) as:

$$i_o = i_L - i_C \Rightarrow \begin{cases} i_{o\_ref}(k+1) = i_{L\_ref}(k+1) - i_{C\_ref}(k+1) \\ i_o^p(k+1) = i_L^p(k+1) - i_C^p(k+1) \end{cases} \tag{9}$$

where $i_C = C\frac{dV_{Co}}{dt}$, consequencely i_{C_ref} and i_C^p based on

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the Euler approximation approach can be calculated as:

$$i_{C\_ref}(k+1) = C\frac{V_{dc}(k+1) - V_{dc}(k)}{T_s}$$
$$i_C^p(k+1) = C\frac{V_{C_o}^p(k+1) - V_{C_o}^p(k)}{T_s} \quad (10)$$

It is worth notifying that $V_{dc}(k)$ is a probability value of the dc bus voltage that may be higher or lower than the rated dc voltage V_{dc}^*, and $V_{dc}(k)$ will reach to V_{dc}^* in N_p steps taking into account the next instant $(k+1)$. The dc bus voltage can be obtained as follows [27]:

$$V_{dc}(k+1) = V_{dc}(k) + \frac{1}{N_p}(V_{dc}^* - V_{dc}(k)) \quad (11)$$

Further, i_L^p and i_{L_ref} are inductor current prediction and references, where i_{L_ref} can be achieved using the power balance equation $P_{in} = P_{out}$ and the desired current can be calculated as:

$$P_{in} = V_{in}i_L \quad , P_{out} = P_{Load} \quad \Rightarrow i_{L\_des} = \frac{P_{Load}}{V_{in}} \quad (12)$$

where P_{in}, P_{out} and P_{Load} are input power, output power, and load power respectively. To improve the transient response of the output voltage, a term proportional to the voltage error, i.e., $V_{o\_ref} - V_o$ is added to the above equation, i.e.

$$i_{L\_ref} = i_{L\_des} + h\,(V_{o\_ref} - V_o) \quad (13)$$

where $h \in \mathcal{R}^+$ is the small-ripple approximation for regulation of output voltage in steady-state.

Further, $\Delta u(k)$ is an error between two consecutive switching states $u(k) - u(k-1)$ calculated by the proposed HMPC controller, and $\lambda > 0$ is the weighting factor which sets the trade-off between the inductor current/output voltage error and the switching frequency. Some guidelines for tuning the weighting factor are provided in [28].

Step 3. Formulation of optimization problem

At each time sample, state variables are measured or estimated to minimize the given cost function using the below optimization problem:

$$U^*(k) = \arg\min J(k)$$
$$\text{subject to } (6) - (7) \quad (14)$$

Minimizing the above-mentioned cost function results in a sequence in the form U^* , where $U^*(k) = \{u^*(k), u^*(k+1), ...\}$. There exist 2^{N_p} switching sequences and only its first element i.e., $u^*(k)$ is applied in each sampling time and is shifted the prediction horizon one step forward. The details of the proposed controller implementation is provided in Fig. 4.

IV. Stability Analysis

As mentioned earlier, when the CPLs are integrated into the dc bus of the dc MG, the stability improvement becomes important issue since the negative impedance characteristic of the CPL may cause the system instability and complicate the solution from control point of view. Therefore, performance of the system in the presence of the proposed controller should be satisfied and sustainable with small overshoot, fewer oscillations, and smooth transient performance.

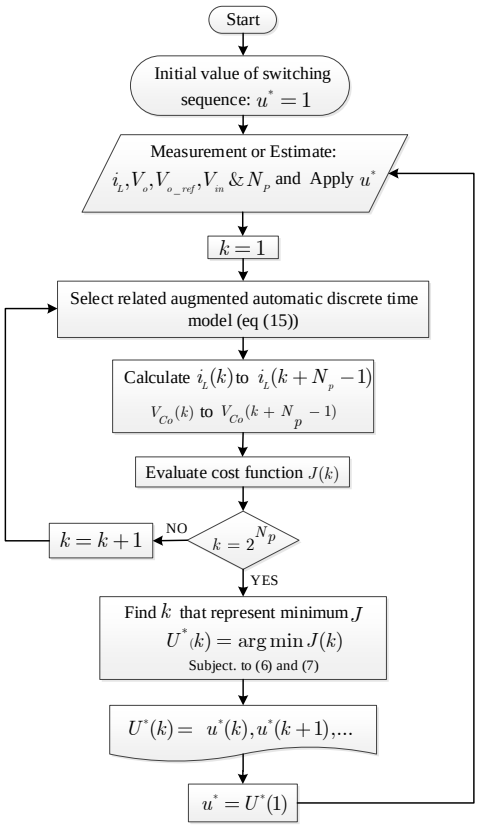

Fig. 4: Flowchart of the HMPC controller.

A. Stability Analysis for the Open-loop System

The stability assessment for the open-loop system in (2), which is the completed model of the system due to considering all switching modes and inductor current conditions, is presented by the equilibrium points: $\alpha = (0.023, 12030)$, $\beta = (1.5, 199.98)$, and $\gamma = (0, \infty)$. These points are obtained using $\dot{x}(t) = 0$ in equation (2). Since α and γ are always unstable, and the system is a second-order, to investigate the stability analysis around β, the phase plane method can be used. Fig. 5 demonstrates the phase plane stability analysis of the system around this point. As shown in Fig. 5, β is an unstable equilibrium due to all trajectories in the vicinity of the limit cycle diverge from it as $t \to \infty$. Hence, the open-loop system is unstable.

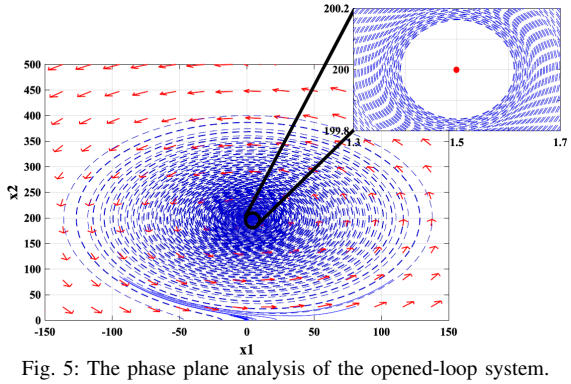

Fig. 5: The phase plane analysis of the opened-loop system.

B. Stability Analysis of the closed-loop System

The stability analysis of the closed-loop system can be defined by examining Lyapunov theory taking account the accurate nonlinear dynamic model and all switching modes of the dc-dc boost converter. The complete state-space model used for the HMPC system design is described in (6) and (7). To confirm the stability enhancement of the proposed HMPC control, a detailed stability analysis is presented. In this regard, the augmented automatic discrete-time model of the system taking into account all switching modes and the inductor current situations is provided as follows [26]:

$$X(k+1)=\begin{cases}\overline{\mathrm{G}}_1X(k)+\overline{\mathrm{F}}\Delta v_{si}(k),\\ \overline{\mathrm{G}}_2X(k)+\overline{\mathrm{F}}\Delta v_{si}(k),\\ \overline{\mathrm{G}}_3X(k),\\ \overline{\mathrm{G}}_4X(k)+\frac{\tau_1}{T_s}\overline{\mathrm{F}}\Delta v_{si}(k)\end{cases}$$
$$Y(k)=\overline{\mathrm{H}}X(k) \tag{15}$$

where Δx, and $\Delta v_{si}(k)$ are differences of the states, and the input vectors respectively, and matrices $X(k)$, $\overline{\mathrm{G}}_m$, $\overline{\mathrm{F}}$, and $\overline{\mathrm{H}}$ and Y are calculated as follows:

$\mathrm{X(k)}=\begin{bmatrix}\Delta x(k) & y(k)\end{bmatrix}^T, \overline{\mathrm{G}}_m=\begin{bmatrix}G_m & O^T\\ HG_m & I_{q\times q}\end{bmatrix}$

$\overline{\mathrm{F}}=\begin{bmatrix}F & HF\end{bmatrix}^T, \overline{\mathrm{H}}=\begin{bmatrix}0 & I_{q\times q}\end{bmatrix}$

In matrix $\overline{\mathrm{G}}_m$, $m=1,...,4$ which represents different modes and O^T is zero vector with appropriate dimension $(q\times n)$ that n is the dimension of the state variable vector, and q is the number of outputs, that q integrators are embedded in the augmented model.

$$Y=\begin{bmatrix}y(k_i+1|k_i) & \cdots & y(k_i+N_pk_i)\end{bmatrix}^T=\Gamma X(k_i)+\Phi\Delta U$$

where, $\Gamma=\begin{bmatrix}\overline{\mathrm{HG_m}} & \overline{\mathrm{HG_m}}^2 & \cdots & \overline{\mathrm{HG_m}}^{N_p}\end{bmatrix}^T$, and

$$\Phi=\begin{bmatrix}\overline{HF} & 0 & \dots & 0\\ \overline{HGF} & \overline{HF} & \dots & 0\\ \overline{HG}^2\overline{F} & \overline{HG_mF} & \dots & 0\\ \vdots & & & \\ \overline{HG}^{N_p-1}\overline{F} & \overline{HG}^{N_p-2}\overline{F} & \dots & \overline{HG}^{N_p-N_c}\overline{F}\end{bmatrix}$$

$\Delta U(k)$, through minimizing the given objective function is obtained as:

$$\Delta U=\left(\Phi^T\Phi+R\right)^{-1}\Phi^T\left(R_s-\Gamma X(k_i)\right) \tag{16}$$

where, $R=(r_w)I_{N_c\times N_c}$ is a diagonal matrix in which $r_w\geq 0$ and is used as a tuning parameter, N_c is the control horizon such that its value is selected to be less than or equal to prediction horizon (N_p), $R_s^T=\overbrace{[1\ 1\dots 1]}^{N_p}r(k_i)$, and $r(k_i)$ is set-point signal. Due to the receding principle of horizon control, only the first element of the control signal is applied in each sample time as the control signal, thus

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta u(k_i)&=\overbrace{[1\ 0\cdots 0]}^{N_c}\left(\Phi^T\Phi+R\right)^{-1}\left(\Phi^TR_sr(k_i)-\Phi^T\Gamma X(k_i)\right)\\ &=K_yr(k_i)-K_{mpc}X(k_i)\end{aligned} \tag{17}$$

where, K_y and K_{mpc} are state feedback control gain related to y and feedback control gain using MPC respectively. Finally, by substituting (17) in (15), the closed-loop state-space equation of the system can be written as:

$$\begin{aligned}X(k+1)&=\overline{\mathrm{G_m}}X(k)-\overline{\mathrm{F}}K_{mpc}X(k)+\overline{\mathrm{F}}K_yr(k)\\ &=\left(\overline{\mathrm{G}}-\overline{\mathrm{F}}K_{mpc}\right)X(k)+\overline{\mathrm{F}}K_yr(k)\end{aligned} \tag{18}$$

The closed-loop system under the MPC scheme is asymptotically stable if there exists [29]:

1) $V(x)\geq 0$ for all x and $V(0)=0$,
2) $\Delta V(x)=V(f(x))-V(x)$ for all x.

The Lyapunov function candidate to investigate the stability improvement of the closed-loop system due to the nonlinear dynamics of the augmented automatic model is introduced as follows:

$$V(X(k))=X^2(k) \tag{19}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta V(X(k))&=(A_{close}X(K)+B_{close}r(k))^2-X^2(k)\\ &\simeq -(I-A_{close}^2)X^2(k)+(B_{close})^2(r(k))^2\leq 0\end{aligned} \tag{20}$$

where $A_{close}=(\overline{\mathrm{G_m}}X(k)-\overline{\mathrm{F}}K_{mpc}i)$, $B_{close}=\overline{\mathrm{F}}K_yr(k)$. Given that the $(I-A_{close}^2)$ is positive definite and invertible then,

$$\Delta V(X(k))\leq -(I-A_{close}^2)X^2(k)+(B_{close})^2(r(k))^2 \tag{21}$$

Thus,

$$\Delta V(X(k))\leq 0,\forall X^2(k)\geqslant (I-A_{close}^2)^{-1}(B_{close})^2(r(k))^2 \tag{22}$$

by substituting the value of A_{close} and B_{close}, (22) means that the closed-loop system (18) is stable with respect to constant and positive $r(k)$.

In addition, a comparison of the sensitivity and stability improvement of the closed-loop system in the presence of different controllers to confirm the improvement in performance and guarantee the robustness of the closed-loop system in the presence of the proposed controller for various values of C_o and P are shown in Figs. 6 and 7, respectively. In order to evaluate and compare the performance of sustainability, a conventional technique for stability improvement like root locus is used. Fig. 6 shows the trajectory of the closed-loop system's eigenvalues against the change in parameters. It can be seen from Fig. 6, that the trajectory of the roots of the closed-loop system through the proposed controller for the entire range of the parametric changes lies well within the left half of the S-plane resulting a stable control loop, while for the PI controller, the eigenvalues of the closed-loop system with the variation of parameters move toward the right side of the S-plane which leading to unstable regions.

Also, a comprehensive sensitivity analysis of the closed-loop system with various controllers under parametric uncertainties is illustrates in Fig. 7. The effectiveness and the performance robustness of the proposed controller rather than other controllers are verified under $\pm 10\%$ variation in output capacitor filter (C_o) and power load (P). In other words, the lack of significant difference in the settling time ensures that the proposed algorithm is robust to parameter uncertainties.

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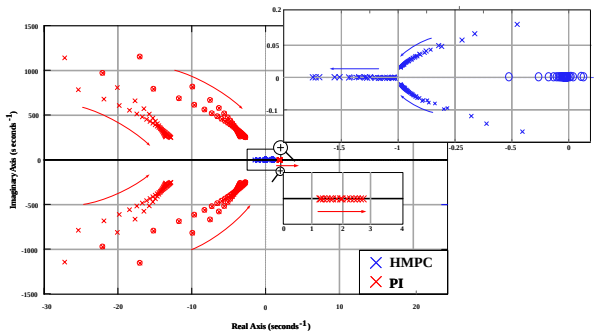

Fig. 6: The trajectory of the systems eigenvalues against various values of C_o and P.

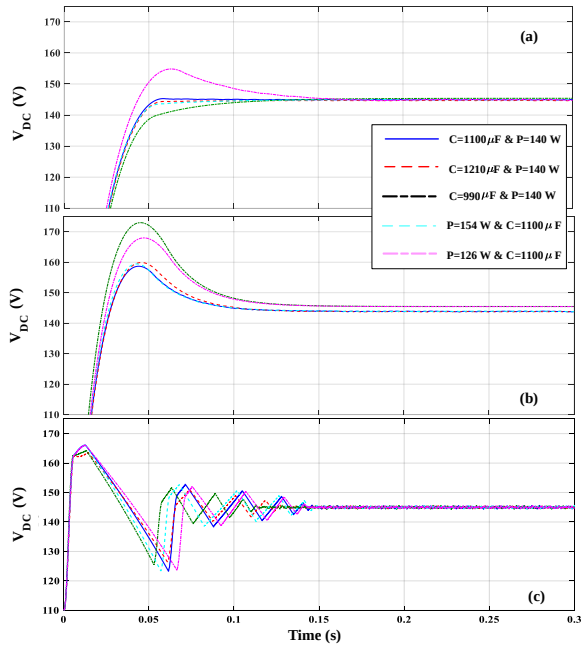

Fig. 7: Sensitivity analysis of the designed controllers for $\pm 10\%$ change in capacitance and power load: (a) HMPC, (b) DTA-MPC, and (c) PI.

V. Experimental Results

A complete model of dc-dc boost converter based on switching operation modes and inductor current (see Fig. 4 in [26]) is considered. The performance of the proposed HMPC is evaluated for one distributed generation unit (DGU) of an islanded dc MG system as shown in Fig. 2, including a programmable dc source for supporting a CPL interfaced with a dc-dc boost converter. The experimental prototype DC setup is shown in Fig. 8. The dc-dc boost converter is supplied by a dc power supply. The current and the voltage are measured with a LEM sensor box. The dSPACE MicroLabBox DS1202 is used to implement the control framework on the prototyped system. The electrical and control parameters of the test system are listed in Table I. In order to validate the proposed control framework, the provided results of the controller using automatic model are compared with the DTA-MPC, the CCS-MPC, and PI controller considering the following scenarios.

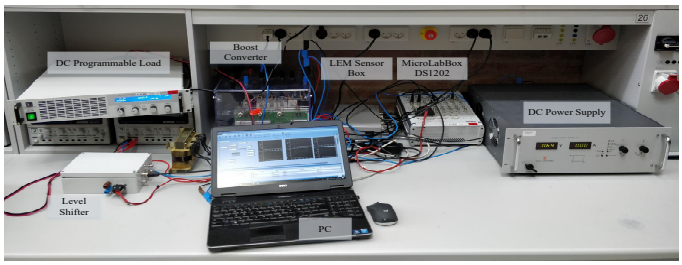

Fig. 8: Experimental dc setup.

TABLE I: Electrical and Control Parameters.

Electrical Parameters		
Parameter	Symbol	Value
The dimension of the state variable vector	n	2
The number of outputs	q	1
Input voltage	V_{in}	110 V
Voltage reference	V_{dc}^*	145 V
CPL	P	140 W
Filter inductance	L	1860 μH
Filter capacitance	C_o	1100 μF
Input resistance	R_i	0.01 Ω
Control Parameters		
Sampling time	T_s	0.1 ms
Prediction horizon	N_p	3
Weighting factor	λ	0.01
Ripple approximation	h	0.7

A. Case Study 1: Load Step Change

Fig. 9 shows performance of the proposed HMPC based on automatic model under CPL step change to evaluat convergence property of the applied control method. In order to validate the proposed control framework, the load is increased (the CPL changes by 37% from $140W$ to $192W$ at $t = 1.5s$). The voltage regulation is shown in Fig. 9(a). As shown in Fig. 9, in the controller designed by the automatic model, dc voltage dips down to a lower value upon load change and returns to its initial value quickly, while in DTA-MPC based on the averaged model, the voltage does not return to its initial value. Additionally, it can be seen that the voltage regulation is well maintained using the proposed HMPC controller compared with DTA-MPC, and PI controller, with very little variation instances in the desired range.

Figs. 9(b) and 10(c) show that current and duty cycle where dc voltage regulation convergence are achieved in HMPC, while DTA-MPC and the PI controllers are associated with most variation.

B. Case Study 2: Noise-Resilient Primary Voltage Control

From a practical point of view, the noise and microgrid configuration parameters are unknown, so it is necessary to consider the distributed dynamics, noises and uncertainties in the model design. One of the most important unmodelled and unknown disturbances in the primary layer of microgrids is sudden fluctuations in renewable energy sources (e.g. PVs and wind turbines (WTs), etc.) due to their high variability and stochastic nature. These disturbances can be modelled as AWGN based on the following expression:

$$x(k+1) = G_i x(k) + F V_{in}(k) + W(k) \tag{23}$$

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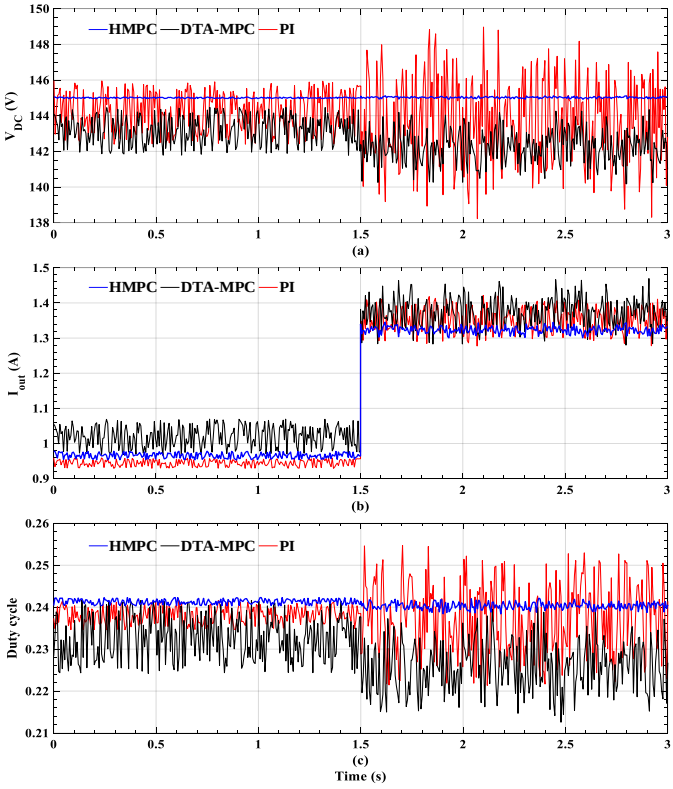


Fig. 9: Performance of the proposed HMPC controller under load step change: (a) output voltage, (b) load current, and (c) duty cycle.

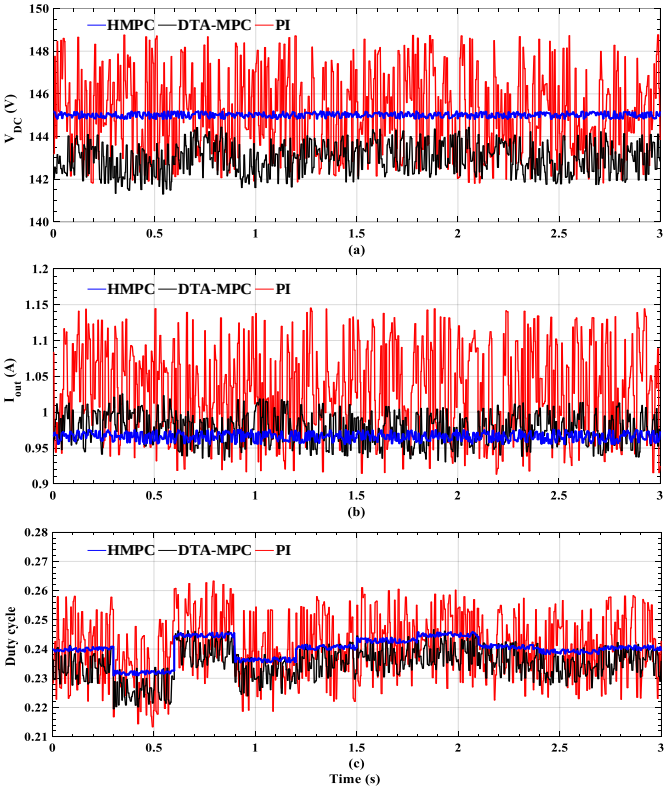


Fig. 11: Performance of the proposed HMPC controller under sudden input voltage variation: (a) output voltage, (b) output current, and (c) duty cycle.

where $i = 1, 2, 3$ and $W(k)$ is AWGN with $\sigma^2 = 0.1$. Indeed the objective of this case study is to demonstrate the robustness of the proposed control strategy under sudden input voltage fluctuations due to climate changes. Given that climate changes have an effect on the power produced by the PV arrays, it is assumed that the input voltage varies randomly in every t=0.3s (see Fig. 10). The transient behavior during frequent changes of the input voltage is analyzed and the performance of the HMPC method based on the automatic model comparing the DTA-MPC and the conventional PI controllers is shown in Fig. 11. Although the PI control method has many advantages like stability and decentralized architecture of primary voltage controllers, it does not provide robustness with respect to sudden input voltage functionality of PV for the dc MG system in the presence of CPL. Comparison between the dynamical responses of controllers shows that the proposed HMPC control strategy provides a smooth and fast transient response.

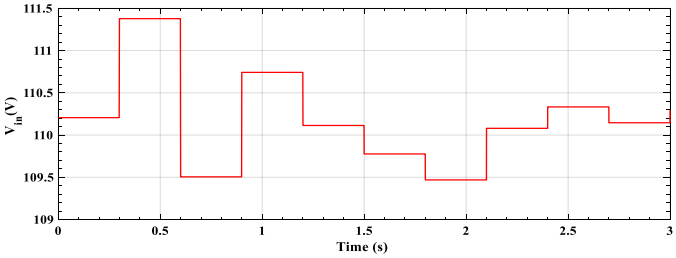
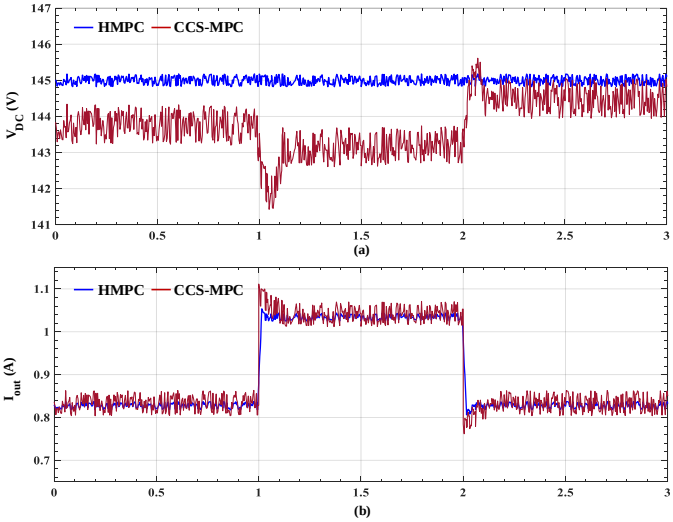


Fig. 10: Sudden input voltage variations.

C. Case Study 3:Comparing HMPC with CCS-MPC

In this scenario, the effectiveness and robustness of the proposed controller is investigated under a load change in comparison with the CCS-MPC. It is assumed that a frequent load change is occurred, with the nominal value p=140, step changes in times 1, and 2, seconds. While HMPC provides a superior performance rather than the other two controllers for all the above two scenarios as shown in Figs. 9 and 12. The experimental results in Fig. 12 show that the proposed method provides a fast dynamic response, small ripple, and low sonic noise rather than CCS-MPC.



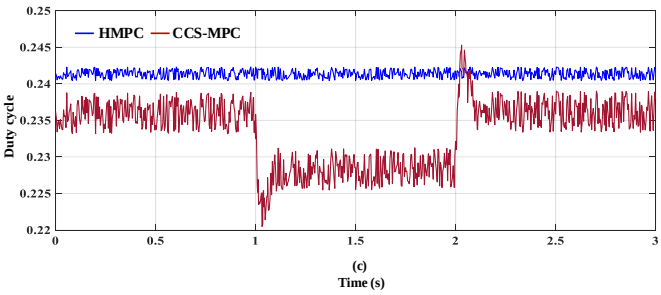


Fig. 12: Performance of the proposed HMPC controller compared under the frequent power load change of the CPL : (a) output voltage, (b) output current, and (c) duty cycle.

VI. Conclusion

This paper proposes a hybrid model predictive controller for dc-dc boost converters interfaced with CPLs based on two different modeling approaches: automatic and averaged. The proposed controller maintains stability of a highly nonlinear system in the presence of CPLs while providing accurate output voltage tracking in different scenarios. Efficacy of the proposed solution under load change and variation of input voltage scenarios has been studied. Experimental results validate the effectiveness of the proposed HMPC method. The automatic model-based HMPC shows a superior performance comparing DTA-MPC and the conventional PI controllers. Furthermore, two strong candidates of MPC schemes are presented for dc bus voltage control of dc MG. Both FCS-MPC with optimal control and CCS-MPC are successfully implemented and investigated in order to adapt and to the frequent power load change of the CPL. It can be seen from the experimental results that although the two control methods exhibit good dynamic performance, the proposed controller which is as an FCS-MPC has a faster response with a minimum error and lower fluctuations.

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