A New Hybrid UPFC Controller for Power Flow Control and Voltage Regulation Based on RBF Neurosliding Mode Technique

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This paper presents a new technique to design a Unified Power Flow Controller (UPFC) for power flow control and DC voltage regulation of an electric power transmission system which is based on a hybrid technique which combines a Radial Basis Function (RBF) neural network (online training) with the sliding mode technique to take advantage of their common features. The proposed controller does not need the knowledge of the perturbation bounds nor the full state of the nonlinear system. Hence, it is robust and produces an optimal response in the presence of system parameter uncertainty and disturbances. The performance of the proposed controller is evaluated through numerical simulations on a Kundur power system and compared with a classical PI controller. Simulation results confirm the effectiveness, robustness, and superiority of the proposed controller.

1. Introduction

Presently, it is well established in the scientific community that the UPFC has the ability to increase the power flow capacity and improve the stability of an electric power transmission system through the proper design of its controller [1]. Over the past several decades, linear and nonlinear control techniques have been successfully proposed and applied in the literature for the control of UPFC based on modern and classical control theories [2–10]. However, the main drawback of such techniques is that their application requires the development of mathematical models which are difficult to obtain. Thus, only partial and quite weak results have been obtained in terms of online implementation feasibility.

Faced with these difficulties, intelligent controls such as fuzzy logic and artificial neural networks have emerged as better alternatives to the conventional linear and nonlinear control methods. However, the complexities associated with the adaption of membership functions and computation requirements for defuzzification have hindered the application of fuzzy logic [11–15]. Hence, recent studies have turned to artificial neural networks (ANN) to achieve the desired goals [16–18].

Artificial neural networks have an inherent capability to learn and store information regarding the nonlinearities of the system and to provide this information whenever required. This renders the neural networks suitable for system identification and control applications [19–21]. Although intelligent and hybrid algorithms are already being implemented in the domains of image processing, robotics, financial management, and so on, their application in the field of FACTS devices for power flow control is fairly recent. Some recent results can be found in [12, 16, 17, 22, 23].

In [16], a radial basis function neural network has been designed to control the operation of the UPFC in order to improve its dynamic performance. Simulation and experimental results were presented to demonstrate the robustness of the proposed controller against changes in
the transmission system operating conditions. However, large memory and long computation time are required for its proper functioning and, in addition, the controller is designed under the assumption that the upper bound of the disturbance is known. A comparative study of transient stability and reactive power compensation issues in an autonomous wind-diesel-photovoltaic based hybrid system using robust fuzzy-sliding mode based Unified Power Flow Controller has been presented in [12], but it has the limitation that a linearized small-signal model of the hybrid system is considered for the transient stability analysis. Hence, the system will suffer from performance degeneracy when the operating condition changes. In [22], the recently proposed H∞-learning method for updating the parameter of a single neuron radial basis function neural network has been used as a control scheme for the UPFC to improve the transient stability performance of a multimachine power system. However, the updating control parameters are optimized for each perturbation using a generic algorithm which increases the computational burden and makes the control implementation less feasible. A neural network predictive controller for the UPFC has been designed in [23] to improve the transient stability performance of the power system. Nevertheless, the neural network controller is implemented only on the series branch of the UPFC which limits the performance of the device. In [17], a neural network controller based on a feedback linearization autoregression average model is used to design an adaptive-supplementary unified power flow control for two interconnected areas of a power system. However, in this paper and many others, the bounds of system uncertainty and disturbances are assumed to be known. But in practice, it is always difficult to determine the exact upper limit of system uncertainty and disturbances. Hence, the above controllers cannot provide satisfactory results.

From the above drawbacks, in this paper, a new hybrid approach which combines RBF neural network with the sliding mode technique to design a UPFC controller for power flow control and DC voltage regulation of an electric power transmission system with unknown bounds of system uncertainty and disturbances is proposed. The advantages of this design philosophy are that the controller is suitable for practical implementation and it makes the design useful for the real world complex power system. The remaining sections of this paper are organized as follows. In Section 2, the mathematical model of a UPFC in dq reference frame is described. The design of the RBF neurosliding mode controller is developed in Section 3. In Section 4, simulation results in a Kundur two-area four-machine power system are presented. Finally, in Section 5, some concluding remarks end the paper.

2. System Modeling

Figure 1(a) shows a schematic diagram of a UPFC system, while Figure 1(b) shows a single-phase representation of the power circuit of the UPFC which consists of two back-to-back self-commutated voltage source converters connected through a common DC-link [24, 25]. The series converter is coupled to the AC system through a series transformer and the shunt converter is coupled through a shunt transformer. In Figure 1(b), the series and shunt converters are represented by the voltage sources vs and vs, respectively. The subscripts “s,” “r,” and “p” are used to represent the sending-end bus, receiving end bus, and the three-phase quantities (phases a, b, c), respectively. Also R and L represent the resistance and leakage inductance of series converter, respectively, i, is the line current, Rsh, Lsh, and i, are the resistance, inductance, and current of the shunt converter, respectively. The series and shunt branch currents of the circuit in Figure 1(b) can be expressed by the following three-phase system of differential equations [24–26]:

\[ \frac{di_{sep}}{dt} = \frac{1}{L} (-Ri_{sep} + v_{sep} + v_{sp} - v_{sp}), \]

\[ \frac{di_{shp}}{dt} = \frac{1}{L} (-Ri_{shp} + v_{shp} - v_{sp}). \] (1)

Using Park’s transformation and assuming that the instantaneous power is kept invariant and the sending-end voltage vector vs is in the d-axis (i.e., vs = (vsd + jvsq) = (vsd + j0)), the three-phase system of differential equations (1) can be transformed into an equivalent two-phase (d, q) system of equations as follows:

\[ \frac{di_{sd}}{dt} = -\frac{R}{L}i_{sd} + wi_{sq} + \frac{1}{L} (v_{sd} + v_{sd} - v_{rd}), \]

\[ \frac{di_{sq}}{dt} = -\omega i_{sd} - \frac{R}{L}i_{sq} + \frac{1}{L} (v_{sq} + v_{sq} - v_{rq}). \] (2)

Figure 1: UPFC in power system. (a) Schematic diagram of the UPFC system. (b) Single-phase representation of the UPFC system.
\begin{align}
\frac{di_{shd}}{dt} &= - \frac{R_{sh}}{L_{sh}}i_{shd} + wi_{shd} + \frac{1}{L_{sh}}(v_{shd} - v_{ad}), \\
\frac{di_{ssh}}{dt} &= -wi_{ssh} - \frac{R_{sh}}{L_{sh}}i_{ssh} + \frac{1}{L_{sh}}(v_{ssh} - v_{ad}),
\end{align}

where \( w_{sh} = 2\pi f_{sh} \) is the fundamental angular frequency of the supply voltage and \( \omega = 2\pi f \) is the angular frequency of synchronous reference frame (rad/s). Since the series and shunt converters of the UPFC are coupled through a common DC-link, if the losses in the converters are neglected, then the dynamic of the DC-link voltage can be expressed as [27]

\[
\frac{dv_{dc}}{dt} = -\frac{1}{v_{dc}C_{dc}}(P_{se} + P_{sh}),
\]

where \( P_{se} \) and \( P_{sh} \) are the active power supplied by the series and shunt converters, respectively, and \( v_{dc} \) is the voltage of the DC capacitor of capacitance \( C_{dc} \).

It is clear from (6) that \( v_{dc} \) decreases when \( P_{se} + P_{sh} > 0 \) and it increases when \( P_{se} + P_{sh} < 0 \). Note that (6) is a nonlinear differential equation and has to be investigated at an operating point. However, the derivative of \( v_{dc}^2 \) can be written as

\[
\frac{dv_{dc}^2}{dt} = 2v_{dc}\frac{dv_{dc}}{dt}.
\]

Using (6) and (7), the derivative of \( v_{dc}^2 \) can be expressed as

\[
\frac{dv_{dc}^2}{dt} = \frac{2}{C_{dc}}(P_{se} + P_{sh}).
\]

Maintaining constant DC-link voltage is very important for the UPFC control system [1, 28, 29]. The DC-link voltage varies when \( P_{se} + P_{sh} \neq 0 \). Since (8) does not contain a direct control signal like (4), we will consider \( P_{sh} \) as an auxiliary input that can be used to maintain the DC-link voltage constant.

### 3. UPFC RBF Neurosliding Mode Controller Design

In this section, the method proposed in [30, 31] for time-varying parameter estimation will be modified and applied to design a robust adaptive controller for the UPFC using the RBF neural network.

Let us consider the SISO first-order nonlinear system in the following form:

\[
\dot{x} = f(x, t) + g(x, t)u + d(t),
\]

\[
y = x,
\]

where \( x \in R, u \in R, \) and \( y \in R \) are state variables, system input, and system output, respectively; \( f(x, t) \) and \( g(x, t) \) are unknown smooth functions; \( f(x, t) \) represents the nominal part of the system which does not depend upon the control input, while the uncertainties and external disturbance are concentrated in the term \( d(t) \) assumed to be bounded by an unknown constant \( d_0 > 0 \). Since all physical plants operate in bounded regions, we study the control problem of system (9) whose state \( x \) belongs to a compact subset \( \Omega \subset R \).

Let the desired smooth signal \( y^* = x^* \), the tracking error \( e_x \), and augmented item \( S_x \) be defined as

\[
e_x = x - x^*,
\]

\[
S_x = e_x + C_x\int e_x dt,
\]

where \( C_x > 0 \) is a design parameter. The integral term is included in the sliding manifold \( S_x \) so as to ensure that the system trajectories start on the sliding manifold from the first instant of time. From (10), we have

\[
\dot{S}_x = \dot{e}_x + C_x e_x = \dot{x} + C_x e_x - x^* = f(x, t) + g(x, t)u + \mu_x + d(t),
\]

with \( \mu_x = C_x x - x^* \).

From \( \dot{S}_x \), if the desired sliding mode controller is chosen as [31]

\[
u_x^* = -\frac{1}{g(x, t)}(f(x, t) + \mu_x + d(t)) - \frac{S_x}{\varepsilon_x},
\]

where \( \varepsilon_x < 1 \) is a design parameter, then \( \dot{S}_x = S_x/\varepsilon_x \) and \( S_x \) will converge exponentially to 0.

The above desired controller (12) is not implementable in practice since the functions \( f(x, t) \) and \( g(x, t) \) and the terms \( \mu_x \) and \( d(t) \) are assumed to be unknown. Hence, in this work, a RBF neural network combined with the sliding mode technique will be applied to approximate the unknown controller \( u_x^* \).

The control signal (12) can be approximated by the neural controller proposed in [31] as

\[
u_x^*(x, t) = \Psi(x, w^*) + e_f((x, t)) + \delta_{u_x}(t),
\]

with \( \Psi(x, w^*) = \sum_{j=1}^{N} w_j^* \phi(||x - C_j||, v_j) \),

where \( \phi(\cdot) \) denotes a nonlinear function; \( C_j \) and \( v_j, j = 1, \ldots, N \), are the center and the width of the jth hidden unit, respectively; \( N \) is the number of hidden nodes or Radial Basis Function (RBF) units; \( w^* \) is the optimal weight vector and satisfies \( ||w^*|| \leq R_w, x = (x_s, x_\delta, e_\varepsilon) \) is the input vector of the RBF network; \( e_f((x, \dot{x})) \) is the optimal approximation error, which is unknown and bounded \( \forall x \in \Omega \).

\( C_j \) and \( v_j, j = 1, \ldots, N \), are chosen, respectively, using the Clustering algorithm [32] as follows:

\[
y_j = \frac{X_{x_{\text{max}}} - X_{x_{\text{min}}}}{N},
\]

\[
C_j = X_{x_{\text{min}}} + \frac{2j - 1}{2} y_j,
\]
where $x_{\text{min}}$ and $x_{\text{max}}$ are the lower and upper bounds of the $i$th element of the RBF input vector $\chi_x^T = (x, S_x, S_x/\epsilon_x)$, respectively.

Note that the term $\delta_{u_s}(t)$ is time-varying and cannot be approximated by a static neural network. In the following analysis, sliding robust terms will be used in the identification scheme to compensate the effect of this uncertainty time-varying term. The controller $u^*_x(\chi_x, t)$ will be approximated assuming that the terms $e_j(\chi_x)$ and $\delta_{u_s}(t)$ are bounded by unknown positive constants.

For this purpose, the following neural controller is proposed in order to approximate the control signal $u^*_x(\chi_x, t)$

$$\tilde{u}_x(\chi_x, t) = \Psi(\chi_x, \tilde{w}) + b_x(t), \quad (15)$$

where the term $b_x(t)$ is introduced in order to improve the convergence rate of the neural network in the presence of the uncertainties terms.

Consider the systems described by (9), the sliding-neural network controller (15), and Assumptions 1 and 2 given in [31]. If the bias term $b_x(t)$, the learning rule of the weight $w$, and the adaptation law for the unknown bound $\lambda_x$ are chosen as

$$b_x(t) = -\tilde{\lambda}_x \text{sgn}(S_x),$$

with $\alpha_x > 0$, $\tilde{\lambda}_x(0) = 0$, and $\text{Proj}(\cdot)$ the well-known projection function [33] on the compact set $\Omega_w = \{\omega : ||\omega|| \leq R_w\}$, then the neural network controller error $S_x$ will converge in finite time to the origin. The proof of the convergence of above neural network controller to zero can be found in [31].

In order to apply the neurosliding controller described above to power flow control, UPFC sending-end bus voltage control and DC-link voltage control, the dynamic equations of the UPFC completely described by (2) to (5) and (8) can be rewritten as

$$\frac{d}{dt} \tilde{w}_j = \text{Proj} \left[ -S_x \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial w_j} \bigg|_{w_j = \tilde{w}_j} \right],$$

$$= \begin{cases} -S_x \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial w_j} \bigg|_{w_j = \tilde{w}_j}, & \text{if } |\tilde{w}_j| < R_w, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise}, \end{cases}$$

$$j = 1, \ldots, N$$

$$\dot{\tilde{\lambda}}_x = \begin{cases} \alpha_x, & \text{if } S_x \neq 0, \\ 0, & \text{if } S_x = 0, \end{cases}$$

(16)
\[\begin{align*}
    \dot{x}_1 &= f_1(x, t) + g_1(x, t) u_1 + d_1(t), \\
    \dot{x}_2 &= f_2(x, t) + g_2(x, t) u_2 + d_2(t), \\
    \dot{x}_3 &= f_3(x, t) + g_3(x, t) u_3 + d_3(t), \\
    \dot{x}_4 &= f_4(x, t) + g_4(x, t) u_4 + d_4(t), \\
    \dot{x}_5 &= f_5(x, t) + g_5(x, t) u_5 + d_5(t),
\end{align*}\]

with
\[
\begin{align*}
    \dot{x}_1 &= i_{\text{sd}}; \\
    f_1(x, t) &= -\frac{R}{L} i_{\text{sd}} + \omega i_{\text{sq}}; \\
    g_1(x, t) &= \frac{1}{L}; \\
    u_1 &= v_{\text{sd}} + v_{\text{sd}} - v_{\text{rd}}; \\
    x_2 &= i_{\text{sq}}; \\
    f_2(x, t) &= -\omega i_{\text{sd}} - \frac{R}{L} i_{\text{sq}}; \\
    g_2(x, t) &= \frac{1}{L}; \\
    u_2 &= v_{\text{sd}} + v_{\text{sq}} - v_{\text{rd}}; \\
    x_3 &= i_{\text{shd}}; \\
    f_3(x, t) &= -\frac{R_{\text{sh}}}{L_{\text{sh}}} i_{\text{shd}} + \omega i_{\text{shq}}; \\
    g_3(x, t) &= \frac{1}{L_{\text{sh}}}; \\
    u_3 &= v_{\text{shd}} - v_{\text{sd}}; \\
    x_4 &= i_{\text{shq}}; \\
    f_4(x, t) &= -\omega i_{\text{shd}} - \frac{R_{\text{sh}}}{L_{\text{sh}}}; \\
    g_4(x, t) &= \frac{1}{L_{\text{sh}}}; \\
    u_4 &= v_{\text{shq}}.
\end{align*}\]
where \( d_1(t) \) to \( d_5(t) \) represent system uncertainties.

The reference values of the state variables are obtained as

\[
\begin{align*}
x_5^* &= \frac{v_{\text{dc}}^2}{3}; \\
f_5(x, t) &= -\frac{2}{C} P_{\text{se}}; \\
g_5(x, t) &= -\frac{2}{C} v_r; \\
u_5 &= P_{\text{sh}},
\end{align*}
\]

where \( P_{\text{r}}^* \) and \( Q_{\text{r}}^* \) are the active and reactive power references at the receiving end bus of the transmission line, respectively.

We can design the neurosliding controller \( \tilde{u}_k^* \) using the UPFC dynamics given in (17) as (for \( k = 1, \ldots, 5 \))

\[
\tilde{u}_k^* (x_{sk}, t) = \Psi (x_{sk}, \tilde{w}_k) + b_{sk} (t),
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
\dot{x}_{sk} &= \left( k_{pac} + \frac{k_{ia}}{s} \right) (v_{\text{ref}} - v_{sd}), \\
x_4^* &= i_{\text{shd}} = \left( k_{pac} + \frac{k_{ia}}{s} \right) (v_{\text{ref}} - v_{sd}), \\
x_5^* &= v_{\text{dc}}^2,
\end{align*}
\]

(19)

The figure shows the control response to step changes in real and reactive power flow references in the transmission line. (a) (i) \( D \)-axis voltage of shunt converter. (ii) \( Q \)-axis voltage of shunt converter. (iii) \( D \)-axis voltage of series converter. (iv) \( Q \)-axis voltage of series converter. (b) (i) Active power at bus B2. (ii) Active power at bus B5. (iii) Reactive power at bus B2. (iv) Reactive power at bus B5.
Figure 5: Control response to load variation. (a) (i) Active power at bus B3. (ii) Reactive power at bus B3. (iii) Voltage magnitude at bus B2. (iv) UPFC DC-link voltage. (b) (i) Active power at bus B2. (ii) Active power at bus B5. (iii) Reactive power at bus B2. (iv) Reactive power at bus B5.

\[
\begin{align*}
\dot{x}_{\alpha} &= \begin{cases} 
-S_{\alpha k} \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial w_{kj}} |_{w_{kj}=\bar{w}_{kj}}, & \text{if } |\bar{w}_{kj}| < R, \\
0, & \text{otherwise,}
\end{cases} \\
\dot{\lambda}_{\alpha k} &= \begin{cases} 
\alpha_{\alpha k}, & \text{if } S_{\alpha k} \neq 0, \\
0, & \text{if } S_{\alpha k} = 0.
\end{cases}
\end{align*}
\]

4. Simulation Results

The performance of the proposed nonlinear controller is evaluated through digital simulations using MATLAB/SIMULINK software. The power system used is a Kundur two-area four-machine power system shown in Figure 2. The details of system data and initial operating point are given in [34]. The proposed controller can be applied to a UPFC connected between any two buses of the power system (with \(n\) bus) regardless of the interaction between these two buses and other buses. Only local measurements information is required for the implementation of the proposed algorithm. The simulation results of the proposed controller (SNC) are compared with conventional Proportional Integral (PI) controllers used for power flow control, UPFC sending-end bus voltage control, and DC-link voltage control. These classical controllers are tuned using optimal control techniques and the parameters obtained are given in the Appendix. To evaluate the performance of the proposed controller, four sets of simulations have been performed. In all simulations, the uncertainty factor is set at +10%. That is the parameters of the system under simulation are set at 110% compared to the same parameters introduced in the controller.

4.1. Step Changes in Transmission Line Real and Reactive Power Flow References. In this case study, the initial complex power flow \((P_{B3} + jQ_{B3})\) at the receiving end of the transmission line is found as \((1.8 + 0.0)\) pu. A step change in active power reference from 1.8 to 2.2 pu and reactive power reference from 0.0 to 0.5 pu of the transmission line take place at \(t = 0.02 s\) and \(0.32 s\), respectively. The simulation results for this case study are depicted in Figures 3 and 4. It can be seen from these figures that the active and reactive power flow through the transmission line, the UPFC DC-link voltage,
and the voltage magnitude at bus B2 are controlled effectively. The results also clearly show that the response speed and transient conditions are further improved with the proposed controller as compared to the conventional PI controllers. Figure 4 clearly shows the excellent performance of the UPFC in power flow control under the influence of the proposed controller.

4.2. Load Variation. In practice, the references values of the control power system remain constant and the quantities being controlled vary under the effect of load variation, disturbance, and other perturbations. In this case study, the load increases by 20% of its nominal value from \( t = 0.02 \) s. The simulation results are depicted in Figure 5. It can be noticed in these figures that the active and reactive power flow through the transmission line, the DC-link voltage, and the voltage magnitude at bus B2 are all regulated to their respective reference values. Figure 5 shows that the excess active and reactive power requested by the load is supplied only by generator G2. The figure also demonstrates once more the excellent performance of the proposed controller in terms of overshoot and settling time.

4.3. Robustness to Measurement Noise. In practice, it is not possible to measure a signal accurately due to the presence of noise. For this reason, the third case study investigates the robustness of the proposed nonlinear controller with respect to measurement noise (uncertainties). In this case study, all simulations are conducted under noise conditions in the measured line currents with the magnitude of the noise reaching about 4% of the maximum value of the measurable line currents. A step change in reactive power under the same conditions as in the first case study is used to evaluate the robustness of the system. The simulation results for this case study are depicted in Figure 6. From these results, it can be seen that the active and reactive power flow through the transmission line, the UPFC DC-link voltage, and the voltage magnitude at bus B2 are all regulated to their respective reference values despite the presence of measurement noise. Hence, it can be concluded that the controller exhibits an excellent noise resistance.

4.4. Three-Phase-to-Ground Fault Test. In this case study, a three-phase-to-ground fault is applied on bus-5 and the fault is cleared after 100 ms. Simulation results for this case study are shown in Figure 7. From these results, it can be seen that the proposed controller rapidly steers the system to its prefault steady state and satisfactorily improves the transient stability of the power system as compared to the conventional PI controllers.
5. Conclusion

In this paper, a new hybrid approach which combines Radial Basis Function (RBF) neural network with the sliding mode technique has been used to design a Unified Power Flow Controller (UPFC) for power flow control, UPFC sending-end voltage control, and DC voltage regulation of an electric power transmission system. The RBF neurosliding mode control technique uses online training to get its optimal parameter values. The proposed technique is robust and does not need the knowledge of the perturbation bounds nor the full state of the nonlinear system. The performance of the proposed controller has been evaluated through simulations on a Kundur power system and compared with a classical PI controller. Simulation results have shown the effectiveness and satisfactory performance of the proposed controller in dealing with the perturbations considered. Future works should be targeted towards the extension of the proposed hybrid approach to a wide area interconnected power system for power oscillation damping.

Appendix

Simulation Parameters

(i) The parameters of the UPFC are shown in Table 1.

(ii) PI controllers parameters are as follows:

- Series converter: $K_p = 0.16; K_i = 8.33$.
- Shunt converter: $K_p = 0.2; K_i = 20$.
- DC-link: $K_p = 10^{-3}; K_i = 15 * 10^{-3}$.

(iii) RBF controller parameters are as follows:

$C_{x1} = 0.15$;
\[ C_{x2} = 0.05; \]
\[ C_{x3} = 10^{-3}; \]
\[ C_{x4} = 3 \times 10^{-3}; \]
\[ C_{x5} = 3 \times 10^{-4}; \]
\[ N = 5. \]  
(A.1)

The values of \( \tilde{w}_j \) are randomly initialized.

**Conflicts of Interest**

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

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