A DFIG-based Wind Turbine Operation under Balanced and Unbalanced Grid Voltage Conditions

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Abstract: This paper presents a case study of a Doubly Fed Induction Generator (DFIG) wind turbine in operation subject to balanced and unbalanced grid voltage conditions. Three scenarios are addressed: balanced grid, symmetrical and asymmetrical voltage dips. We describe the DFIG model and the control strategies adopted to stabilize the system during voltage faults, in order to protect the converters. Several simulation experiments are presented to illustrate the performance and effectiveness of the described control strategies.

Keywords: Doubly-fed induction generator (DFIG), Symmetrical voltage dips, Asymmetrical voltage dips, DC crowbar protection, control.

1. INTRODUCTION

Nowadays, particular renewable energy resources such as wind based, have already a considerable penetration in the conventional power systems, mainly due to the advances in mechatronics and related fields as well as the increasing (and enforcement) of anti-global warming policies.

With regard to wind power technologies, the Doubly Fed Induction Generator (DFIG) and the permanent magnet synchronous generator share a large part of today’s market. Between these two, the DFIG is characterized by some advantages, for instance, the ability to control the active and reactive power by speed variation, and the inexpensive design cost of the DFIG’s converter (Ledesma and Usala, 2005; Zin et al., 2013).

The DFIG has been a subject of intensive research along the years. Some recent results concerning the improvement of the DFIG operation include the simulation of the DFIG and the power quality factor measurement in (Pettersson et al., 2005); the control of the active and reactive power in the balanced and the unbalanced voltage of the grid (Xu and Wang, 2007; Erlich et al., 2007; Boukili et al., 2019); the current control for the DFIG using harmonic resonant compensator (Hu et al., 2015); the DFIG inertia improvement in (Aali et al., 2019) by using an adaptive complex least mean square algorithm for frequency estimation; and the improvement of the rotor-side converter operations by using the Fuzzy Logic Controller (Djeridane et al., 2018). Some works also address the enhancement of the DFIG’s fault ride-through capability by improving the mathematical model of the DFIG, see e.g., (Razaei et al., 2012).

A critical problem that arises in the context of the Distributed Energy Resources (DER) when connected to the grid is the unbalanced grid issue that when happens may damage the infrastructure. This area of research is of high importance due to the grid code that imposes the holding of the connection of the DER into the grid even during the grid fault, the so-called the Low Voltage Ride Through (LVRT) requirement. The work in (Luo et al., 2019) presents a review of LVRT on DFIG connected into the unbalanced grid. One of the issues is how to insure the stability operation and the protection of the DFIG-based wind turbine during the unbalanced electrical network. Recent works with more sophisticated control algorithms have been tackled this problem. In (Ghodbane-Cherif et al., 2019), a deadbeat predictive control method for the rotor side converter is proposed to enhance the behaviour of the wind system under unbalanced grid conditions. The improvement of LVRT capability and the voltage stability by using a new reactive control method is presented in (Gatavi et al., 2019) and by using a crowbar protection in (Kuzhali et al., 2019). A combination of both vector control and direct torque control methods in grid faults, is described in (Jaladi and Sandhu, 2020).

This paper contributes with a study case of a DFIG connected into the electrical network. Three grid states are discussed: balanced grid, symmetrical and asymmetrical voltage dips. We present the modelling, simulation and control of the DFIG shown in Fig. 1. The DFIG diagram is composed by a wind turbine, a gearbox, an asynchronous generator, the stator that is connected directly to the network through a transformer, and the rotor that is connected to the stator through back-to-back converters: the rotor-side converter and the grid-side converter. Several simulation experiments done in Matlab/Simulink are presented to illustrate the performance and effectiveness of the
described control strategies.

This paper is organized as follows: Section 2 presents the modelling of the wind turbine and the DFIG dynamics. The control method adopted for the DFIG connected into the balanced electrical network is also discussed. Section 3 addresses the unbalanced grid cases. In particular, it presents the symmetrical and asymmetrical voltage dips as well as the controllers adopted for protecting and stabilizing the DFIG operation. Finally, the results obtained are discussed in Section 4.

2. DFIG MODELLING AND CONTROL

This section presents the DFIG model and its control in a balanced electrical network.

2.1 Modelling of the DFIG

In α/β reference frame, the DFIG state space model can be written as (Abad et al., 2011b)

\[
\begin{pmatrix}
\dot{\psi_{\alpha}} \\
\dot{\psi_{\beta}} \\
\dot{i_{\alpha}} \\
\dot{i_{\beta}}
\end{pmatrix}
= \begin{pmatrix}
\frac{R_s}{L_s} & -\frac{R_L}{L_s} & 0 & 0 \\
0 & -\frac{R_s}{L_s} & 0 & 0 \\
\frac{R_L}{L_s} & 0 & \frac{-\sigma L_m}{L_r} & 0 \\
-\frac{R_L}{L_s} & 0 & \frac{\omega_m}{L_r} & \frac{R_r}{L_r}
\end{pmatrix}
\begin{pmatrix}
\psi_{\alpha} \\
\psi_{\beta} \\
i_{\alpha} \\
i_{\beta}
\end{pmatrix}
+ \begin{pmatrix}
\frac{V_{\alpha}}{L_s} \\
\frac{V_{\beta}}{L_s} \\
\frac{V_{i_{\alpha}}}{L_s} \\
\frac{V_{i_{\beta}}}{L_s}
\end{pmatrix}
\]

where \( \psi \) is the flux (Wh), \( V \) is the voltage (V), \( i \) is the current (A), and the sub-indices \( r \) and \( s \) refer to rotor and stator, respectively. The parameters description can be found in Table 1 and the leakage coefficient of the machine is expressed by

\[
\sigma = \left( \frac{L_r - L_m}{L_m} \right)^2.
\]

From the Newton’s second law for a rotational mass, it can be derived that the rotor angular velocity \( \omega_r \) (rad/s) satisfies (Mensou et al., 2017)

\[
\frac{d\omega_r}{dt} = \frac{1}{J}(T_{em} - D\omega_r - T_m),
\]

where \( J \) is the inertia moment (kg.m²), \( T_{em} \) is the electromagnetic torque (N.m), \( D \) is the viscous friction coefficient (N.s/rad), and \( T_m \) is the shaft mechanical torque. The torque can be computed from

\[
T_{em} = \frac{3}{2}\frac{L_m}{L_r}\left(\psi_{\alpha}i_{\beta} - \psi_{\beta}i_{\alpha}\right), \quad T_m = \frac{P_m}{\omega_r}
\]

where \( P_m \) is the number of pole pairs of the machine. The sub-indices \( d \) and \( q \) in the current \( i \) correspond to the two components of the rotating reference frame that results from applying the Park transformation to the two-axis orthogonal stationary reference frame \( \alpha/\beta \).

To compute the mechanical power, we use (Robinett III and Wilson, 2011)

\[
P_m = 0.5\rho AC_P V_w^3
\]

where \( V_w \) is the wind speed (m/s), \( \rho \) is the air density (kg/m³), \( A \) is the rotor swept area (m), and \( C_P \) is the power coefficient.

Table 1. The values of the parameters used in the simulation

| Parameter | Description | Value |
|-----------|-------------|-------|
| \( f \)   | Frequency   | 50 Hz |
| \( P_L \) | Power delivered by the Stator | \( 2 \times 10^3 \) Watt |
| \( W \)   | Synchronous speed | 1500 tr/min |
| \( v_s \) | Stator voltage | 690 V |
| \( i_s \) | Stator current | 1760 A |
| \( T_{em} \) | Electromechanical torque | 12732 N.m |
| \( p \)   | Number of pole  | 2 |
| \( v_t \) | Rotor voltage | 2070 V |
| \( R_r \) | Rotor resistance | \( 2.6 \times 10^{-3} \) Ω |
| \( L_r \) | Rotor inductance | \( 2.6 \times 10^{-3} \) H |
| \( L_{m} \) | Mutual inductance | \( 2.5 \times 10^{-3} \) H |
| \( R_L \) | Rotor resistance | 2.9 Ω |
| \( L_L \) | Rotord inductance | \( 2.6 \times 10^{-3} \) H |
| \( J \)   | Inertia moment of the rotating parts | \( 127 \) Kg.m² |
| \( D \)   | Coefficient of viscous friction | \( 10^{-3} \) n.s/rad |
| \( N \)   | Multiplier coefficient | 100 |
| \( R \)   | Radius of the turbine | 42 m |
| \( V_{AC} \) | DC voltage | 1150 V |
| \( C_{DC} \) | DC bus capacity | \( 80 \times 10^{-3} \) F |
| \( R_f \) | Filter resistance | \( 10 \times 10^{-6} \) Ω |
| \( L_f \) | Filter inductance | \( 200 \times 10^{-6} \) Ω |
| \( R_d \) | Crowbar resistance | 0.2 Ω |
| \( \rho \) | Air density | 1.22 Kg/m³ |

Fig. 2. Rotor-side converter current control loops.

2.2 DFIG control in balanced electrical network

Table 1 presents the values of the variables used in the simulation. The controller objective is to stabilize the DFIG during operation and regulate the DC voltage between the back-to-back converters to a constant value. To this end, the measurement of the following variables are needed: rotor current, stator voltage and current, stator flux, rotor angle, grid current, rotor speed, electromagnetic torque and DC voltage.

The rotor voltage in \( d/q \) reference frame, that is deduced from the electrical scheme of the DFIG, can be expressed as

\[
V_{dr} = R_i i_{dr} + \sigma L_r \frac{d}{dt} i_{dr} - \omega_s \sigma L_r i_{qr} + \frac{L_m}{L_r} \frac{d}{dt} \psi_s \\
V_{qr} = R_i i_{qr} + \sigma L_r \frac{d}{dt} i_{qr} + \omega_s \sigma L_r i_{dr} - \omega_s \frac{L_m}{L_r} \psi_s
\]

where \( \psi_s \) denotes the stator flux, expressed in complex notation, that is, \( \psi_s = \psi_{as} + j \psi_{bs} \). From the above, by commanding in \( V_{dr} \) and \( V_{qr} \) and applying space vector modulation to control the rotor-side converter, the aim is to regulate the direct rotor current \( i_{dr} \) to some desired \( i_{dr}^{*} \), that is proportional to the stator reactive power, and regulate the quadrature rotor current \( i_{qr} \) to the desired \( i_{qr}^{*} \) that is proportional to the electromagnetic torque. To obtain \( i_{qr}^{*} \), a maximum power point tracking (MPPT) method is first used to compute the reference torque \( T_{em}^{*} \). In this study, we use the indirect control method as MPPT method, see details in (Abad et al., 2011c). Then \( i_{qr}^{*} \) can be deduced from the electromagnetic torque expression.
This section addresses the problem of grid faults, defined as a sudden decrease of amplitude of the voltage grid, or a shift in the three phases angles that can arise due to a problem in the network as a short circuit. In case of unbalanced grid the power electronic equipments used in the microgrid can be damaged if no control protection is carried out. We will now present the two main grid faults, symmetrical and asymmetrical voltage dips.

3.1 Symmetrical voltage dips

Symmetrical voltage dip occurs when the amplitude of the three phases decrease uniformly. In this case, the dip happens directly in the terminals of the DFIG stator, and hence it is important to study the stator flux to understand the nature of the fault. Fig. 4 shows the equivalent electrical scheme of the DFIG where the rotor is referred to the stator. (Abad and Iwanski, 2014). The following equation can be deduced

\[ V_f = \frac{L_m}{L_s} (V_s - j\omega_s \psi_s) + \left( \frac{L_m}{L_s} \right)^2 R_s \tilde{i}_r + \sigma L_r \frac{d}{dt} \tilde{i}_r \]

Note also that the variation of the stator flux satisfies (Abad and Iwanski, 2014)

\[ \frac{d\psi_s}{dt} = \psi_s - \frac{R_s}{L_s} \psi_s - \frac{L_m}{L_s} \tau \]

where, \( \psi_r \) is the rotor voltage, \( \tilde{i}_r \) is the rotor current, \( \psi_s \) is the stator flux, \( \tau \) is the stator current, and \( \tilde{i}_r \) is the stator current, where all the variables are expressed in complex notation. When the grid fault occurs, the stator voltage is reduced quickly, and the stator flux cannot follow the variation of the voltage vector. In order to keep \( \tau \) smaller, the rotor voltage should increase. However, the back-to-back converters are not dimensioned to provide such a large voltage. To mitigate this situation, a crowbar resistance is introduced as shown in Fig. 4. Fig. 5 shows the typical symmetrical dip applied in the simulation, where at the second 9 the voltage is reduced to 10% of the nominal one, instantaneously.

In the simulation, maximum limits of the rotor current and the DC voltage are fixed to detect automatically the grid faults. At the moment that the current or voltage crossover these limits, the crowbar protection will be activated automatically, which will result a fast damping of the stator flux, implying that most of the energy will go through the crowbar protection, and therefore, the rotor-side converter will be protected. The duration of the crowbar activation is about 100 ms, and during this time the control of the rotor-side converter is deactivated. Afterwards, an auxiliary controller takes place to stabilize the DFIG during the voltage dip. This controller is the same as presented in Fig. 2.
Fig. 6. (a) Grid voltage during the asymmetrical voltage dip in V. (b) Zoom in around second 9.

![Fig. 6.](image)

Fig. 7. Dual-vector control loops in the rotor-side converter.

![Fig. 7.](image)

Fig. 8. Dual-vector control loops in the grid-side converter.

![Fig. 8.](image)

In some scenarios the grid fault or the non-linear loads can generate asymmetrical voltage dips affecting the DFIG operation and inducing DFIG performance degradation. Fig. 6 presents the case study of asymmetrical voltage dip used in the simulation. In this case, the controller presented in the previous section needs to be re-designed to be able to adequately control the DFIG during the asymmetrical voltage dip. In particular, a common strategy is to apply the Dual vector control approach that adds two more current control loops (see Fig. 7) by decomposing the current references into positive and negative signals (Abad and Iwanski, 2014). The phase-locked loop (PLL) used in this case is synchronized with the positive sequence. In the output of the $ABC/dq$ a notch filter is used to eliminate the coupling sequences that appears at 100 Hz. Fig. 7 presents the current loops implemented in the simulations. In the figure, $S_{dqp}$ is the $d$ component of the positive cancellation term of the rotor current, $S_{adr}$ is the $d$ component of the negative cancellation term of the rotor current, $S_{qrp}$ is the $q$ component of the positive cancellation term of the rotor current and $S_{qgn}$ is the $q$ component of the negative cancellation term of the rotor current that depends on the grid code. From $Q_s$, we obtain the value of $i_{dr}^*$ using (Abad and Iwanski, 2014)

$$Q_s = \frac{3}{2} \omega L_m \left| \psi_s \right| \left( i_{dr}^* - \frac{\left| \psi_s \right|}{L_m} \right)$$

3.2 Asymmetrical voltage dips

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$$Q_s = \frac{3}{2} \omega L_m \left| \psi_s \right| \left( i_{dr}^* - \frac{\left| \psi_s \right|}{L_m} \right)$$

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this section, the simulation results of the symmetrical and asymmetrical grid faults are presented and discussed. The DFIG simulation is done in Matlab/Simulink. In all the simulations, a wind speed constant value of 8.5 m/s is used, and the rotor speed is set to zero at the time zero.

4.1 Symmetrical voltage dips

The symmetrical voltage dip is applied between the seconds 9 and 10 according to Fig. 5. At the moment of the grid fault, the energy dissipated in the crowbar resistance can be inferred by the current peak that is displayed in Fig. 9 (a). This current peak value can be adjusted according with the value of the crowbar resistance $R_{cb}$. One can also see that this current vanishes after 100 ms. This correspond to the period that the crowbar switch is enabled. During this period plus 20 ms (period that the symmetrical voltage dip controller is still disabled after the crowbar switched off), one can see several perturbations in the signals, namely the rotor currents plotted in Fig. 10. However, once the controller is enabled at the time $t = 9.12$ s, the $q$ component of the rotor current $i_q$ (see Fig. 10 (b)) is regulated to around zero as desired. Consequently, the electromagnetic torque that in the moment of the fault shows a...
big peak (that cannot be avoided), also decreases (as expected) to values around zero, but with some small oscillations that are caused by the voltage dip (see Fig. 9 (b)). Unfortunately, the speed of the rotor (see Fig. 9 (c)) is increasing during the fault since it cannot be fully controlled. In a real application, the inertia is chosen higher to reduce the speed increase. Fig. 10 (a) shows the $d$ component of the rotor current control loop that exhibits oscillations during the crowbar activation. Afterwards, it takes a reference value to provide the Grid-side with the adequate reactive power. Regarding the DC bus voltage, Fig. 10 (c) shows that during the grid fault there exist some minor oscillations around the reference value of 1150 V. Note that once the deep voltage cease (second 10), all the signals start to return to their expected normal steady state.

4.2 Asymmetrical voltage dips

The asymmetrical voltage dip is applied between the seconds 9 and 9.5 (see Fig. 6). Similar to the symmetrical voltage dip case, the mechanical speed of the rotor starts to increase during the grid fault because it is not fully controlled. Fig. 11 (a) presents the evolution of the electromagnetic torque that exhibits some oscillations caused by the asymmetrical voltage dip. The oscillations of the torque are mainly because of the grid fault and also due to the negative sequences of the rotor current in $d/q$ components that are fixed to zero. Fig. 11 (b)-(c) present the positive and negative sequences of the rotor current loops control in $d/q$ reference frame. At the moment of the grid fault (second 9), the current control loops have some perturbations during the transient (that can be eliminated by using a better filter). Overall, we have a quite acceptable performance. The $i_{dgp}$ is giving the requested amount of the stator current amplitude. After the grid recovery at the moment 9.5 s there are some normal perturbations during the transitory period that eventually vanish. Fig. 12 (a), shows the DC voltage during the grid fault with slightly oscillations, but the DFIG can operate normally. Fig. 12 (b)-(c) present the positive and negative sequences of the grid currents loops control in the $d/q$ reference frame. The negative sequences components of the grid current ($i_{dgn}$ and $i_{qgn}$) are set to zero to make the rotor current symmetric. The current $i_{dgp}$ is making the DC voltage following the reference value 1150 V. A reference value of the reactive power $Q_e^\times = -5 \times 10^3$ VAR is set to provide a positive value of $i_{qgp}$. The combination of the positive sequences ($i_{dgp}$ and $i_{qgp}$) is giving the demanded amplitude of the grid control current. The rotor current $i_r$ has perturbations in the beginning of the grid fault, however, the applied controller reduces them significantly as presented in Fig. 13.
Fig. 13. Three phase rotor currents for the asymmetrical voltage dip case.

5. CONCLUSION

This paper addressed the study of a DFIG-based wind turbine in operation under balanced grid, symmetrical voltage dip, and asymmetrical voltage dip. The control strategies presented to protect the DFIG during grid faults are illustrated through computer simulations. The simulation results show adequate control performance. Future work will include the experimental evaluation of such control strategies.

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