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Coordinated Voltage Control Scheme for VSC-HVDC Connected Wind Power Plants

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Abstract: This paper proposes a coordinated voltage control scheme based on model predictive control (MPC) for voltage source converter-based high voltage direct current (VSC-HVDC) connected wind power plants (WPPs). In the proposed scheme, voltage regulation capabilities of VSC and WTGs are fully utilized and optimally coordinated. Two control modes, namely operation optimization mode and corrective mode, are designed to coordinate voltage control and economic operation of the system. In the first mode, the control objective includes the bus voltages, power losses and dynamic Var reserves of wind turbine generators (WTGs). Only the terminal voltages of WTGs are taken into account in the second mode. The predictive model of the system including VSC and WTGs is developed firstly. The calculation of sensitivity coefficients is done by an analytical method to improve the computational efficiency. Simulation results are presented to demonstrate the effectiveness of the proposed controller and the control performance is compared with conventional optimal control and loss minimization control. Besides, the robustness of the proposed controller to communication time delay and measurement errors is investigated in the last.

1. Introduction

Wind power has become a major source of renewable energy. The European Wind Energy Association (EWEA) estimates that the installed capacity of wind power could expand to 320 GW by 2030 [1]. There seems to be a law of scale, which directs development to ever larger turbines located at greater distances to shore, at greater water depths and in larger parks. Due to the reactive charging currents and compensation need, conventional high voltage alternative current (HVAC) transmission through submarine cables becomes uneconomical as the distance from the shore increases. Hence, voltage source converter-based high voltage direct current (VSC-HVDC) is a more suitable solution for distant offshore wind power plants (WPPs) due to its flexible active and reactive power control, feasibility of multi-terminal dc or meshed grids and inherent black start capability [2-3].

The increasing penetration of wind power has created a great number of technical and economic challenges for the developers and operators due to variability and uncertainty of wind power [4]-[6]. In order to meet these challenges, grid code requirements have been specified for wind power integration, including voltage regulation and Var capabilities of WPPs [7].

For conventional AC connected WPPs, the transmission system operators (TSOs) have elaborated specific technical requirements for connecting the large WPPs, including reactive power, power factor and voltage control [8]. The voltage control mode often shows superior performance. A number of voltage control strategies have been proposed for WPPs [9]-[13]. In [9], the total required reactive power of a WPP was determined by the voltage of the point of connection (POC), and then dispatched to each wind turbine generator (WTG) based on a proportional allocation method according to the available reactive power of WTGs. Distributing the reactive power in a proportional way could be helpful to ensure a correct dynamic performance of the WTGs and a sufficient security level from their maintenance point of view. An optimal automatic voltage control strategy was designed and implemented in [10], which includes three different control modes considering all the terminal voltages of WTGs and dynamic Var reserves. In [11], an autonomous voltage control controller was designed for AC connected WPPs. The control strategy considers coordination of fast and slow Var devices as well as the on-load tap changer (OLTC) of transformers. The impacts of SVC/STATCOM on wind farm voltage regulation were investigated in [12]. The dynamic bifurcations induced by the limits of a wind farm voltage supervisory control was investigated in [13]. In general, most of the studies focused on the voltage at POC which is required by the system operators.

For HVDC connected offshore WPPs, the offshore WPPs are decoupled from the onshore AC grid. A considerable number of studies have been done for the fault ride through (FRT)/ low voltage ride through (LVRT) capability of offshore WPPs [14]-[16]. In [14], a novel configuration and transient management control strategy for VSC-HVDC system was proposed to provide smooth power transferring during fault condition. It can significantly improve the reliability of system during severe faults. In [15], a nine switch converter based configuration and control strategy for the VSC-HVDC connected offshore WPPs was proposed to enhance the FRT operation of the system. The effect of FRT behavior of VSC-HVDC connected offshore WPPs on AC/DC system dynamics was analyzed in [16].

Compared with the considerable number of studies for AC connected WPPs such as [9]-[13], few studies focused on the voltage regulation problem of HVDC connected WPPs. However, with the development of large-scale offshore wind projects, the Var/Voltage regulation problem inside offshore WPPs should be addressed. Generally, the WPP side VSC (WPPVSC) is required to operate as a voltage source with constant AC frequency and phase angle for the offshore AC grid. Most of the time, the voltage
reference of the VSC-controlled AC bus keeps constant at
the nominal value [17], which does not take full advantage of
the fast voltage regulation capability of VSC. Besides, the
economical operation of offshore AC grid is not considered.

The main contribution of this paper is an attempt to take
full use of the voltage regulation capability of the VSC and
WTGs. A coordinated voltage control scheme based on
model predictive control (MPC-CVCS) for VSC-HVDC
connected offshore WPPs is proposed, which aims to
maintain all bus voltages within the feasible range and
simultaneously optimize the system operation under
different wind conditions. The control of VSC and WTGs is
optimally coordinated using the MPC method. An analytical
sensitivity coefficient calculation method is used to improve
the computation efficiency. Two different control modes are
designed for different operation conditions to coordinate the
voltage regulation and economical operation.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. Section 2
briefly introduces the proposed coordinated voltage control
method. In Section 3, the predictive model of the system
including VSC and WTGs are presented. The analytical
sensitivity coefficient calculation is described in Section 4.
Section 5 presents the mathematical models of the MPC-
CVCS. Simulation results along with discussions are
presented in Section 6, followed by conclusions.

2. MPC based coordinated voltage control for
VSC-HVDC connected WPPs

Fig. 1 shows the structure of the coordinated voltage
control scheme. WTGs and VSC are optimally coordinated
in the proposed voltage control scheme.

![Diagram of the MPC-CVCS](image)

**Fig. 1. Structure of the MPC-CVCS.**

VSC has fast voltage regulation capability, which has
been utilized for fast active power reduction during the FRT
control. In the proposed voltage control scheme, the voltage
reference of the VSC-controlled bus $V_{W}^{ref}$ is determined by
the MPC controller.

Due to the considerable number of WTGs, the voltage
regulation capability of WTGs should be also taken into
account. The modern WTGs can be considered as good Var
source in WPPs. They can track the Var reference $Q_{W}^{ref}$
given by the MPC controller. And the WTGs can effectively
regulate all the bus voltages within the offshore AC grid.

In order to coordinate voltage control and economical
operation, the voltage controller has two control modes: 1)
optimization operation mode, and 2) corrective mode. In the
first mode, all bus voltages are within the feasible range.

The control objective is to minimize voltage deviations of
the key buses, reduce active power losses and maximize the
Var reserves of WTGs. In the corrective mode, the control
objective is to correct the bus voltage which violates the
limits. An adaptive weighting coefficient allocation method
is used in this paper to regulate the voltage more effectively.
The details are presented in Section 5.

3. Predictive model of WTGs and VSC

MPC is an optimization control method widely used in
many industrial applications. It uses the receding horizon
principle so that a finite-horizon optimal control problem is
solved over a fixed interval of time. It is suitable for
coordinating VSC and WTGs in voltage control. In this
section, the discrete state-space models of VSC and WTGs
are presented.

3.1. Predictive Model of WTGs

As mentioned above, the control commands sent by the
MPC controller to WTGs are the reactive power references.
Suppose the current reactive power measurement is $Q_{W}^{ref}$,
$\Delta Q_{W}^{ref} \in [Q_{W}^{ref} - Q_{W}^{ref} - 0]$ and $\Delta Q_{W}^{ref} \in [Q_{W}^{ref} - Q_{W}^{ref} - 0]$. If all the WTGs
are controlled with reactive power control mode, the
following turbine transfer function is obtained, which is
considering a perfect control decoupling between the d-q
axes [18],

$$\Delta Q_{W} = \frac{1}{1 + T_{W}^{8}} \Delta Q_{W}^{ref}$$

where $T_{W}$ is the time constant, which is in the range of
1–10s [11]. The corresponding continuous-time predictive
model of reactive power output for $N_{W}$ WTGs is,

$$\Delta Q_{W} = A_{W} \Delta Q_{W} + B_{W} \Delta Q_{W}^{ref}$$

where

$$\Delta Q_{W} = [\Delta Q_{W_1}, \Delta Q_{W_2}, \ldots, \Delta Q_{W_{N_{W}}}]^{T},$$

$$\Delta Q_{W}^{ref} = [\Delta Q_{W}^{ref_1}, \Delta Q_{W}^{ref_2}, \ldots, \Delta Q_{W}^{ref_{N_{W}}}]^{T},$$

$$A_{W} = \text{diag}(-1/T_{W_1}, -1/T_{W_2}, \ldots, -1/T_{W_{N_{W}}}),$$

$$B_{W} = \text{diag}(1/T_{W_1}, 1/T_{W_2}, \ldots, 1/T_{W_{N_{W}}}).$$

Full-converter WTGs (Type 4) are considered in this
paper. Since the converter has voltage and current limits, the
reactive power capability of WTGs varies with the actual
terminal voltage $V_{W}$ and active power output $P_{W}$ as
illustrated in Fig. 2. The active power outputs of WTGs are
assumed to be constant during the prediction horizon. Hence,
the Var constraints can be determined by $V_{W}$ and $Q_{W}^{ref}$
according to the $Q$-capability curve.

![PQ curve of a full converter WTG](image)

**Fig. 2. PQ curve of a full converter WTG.**
3.2. Predictive model of WPP side VSC

As shown in Fig. 3, the offshore WPPVSC operates in the AC-voltage-control mode. The voltage of the controlled AC bus \( V_c \) is measured and compared with the reference value \( V_{c}^{ref} \) from the MPC controller. The deviations between them can be eliminated by a proportional-integral (PI) controller. The voltage of the slack bus \( V_s \) is directly controlled by the VSC in the dynamic tracking. According to the control loop, the relationship between \( V_c \) and \( V_s \) can be described by,

\[
V_{s}^{ref} = V_{s}^{sl} + K_v(V_{c}^{ref} - V_c) + \frac{K_i}{s}(V_{c}^{ref} - V_c)
\]  

(3)

where \( K_v \) and \( K_i \) are the proportional and integral gains of the PI controller, respectively; \( V_{s}^{sl} \) and \( V_{s}^{ref} \) denote reference and measured value of d-axis component of the slack bus voltage, respectively.

The PI controller provides a reference to the converter. The actual value of the voltage lags the reference due to the time-lag introduced by the PWM controller and converter’s power electronics and digital control. The relation between the actual and reference values can be approximated by a power electronics and digital control. The relation between the actual and reference values can be approximated by a time delay with time constant \( T_p \) [20],

\[
\Delta V_{s} = \frac{1}{1 + T_p s} \Delta V_{s}^{ref}
\]  

(4)

with the following definitions,

\[
\Delta V_{s} = V_{s}^{ref} - V_{s}^{sl}, \quad \Delta V_{s}^{ref} = V_{s}^{ref} - V_{s}^{sl},
\]

The voltage of the controlled AC bus is affected by slack bus voltage and reactive power injections of all WTGs. Around the operating point, the system dynamics can be analyzed using a linear model,

\[
V_c = V_c^o + \frac{\partial V_c}{\partial V_s} \Delta V_s + \frac{\partial V_c}{\partial Q_w} \Delta Q_w
\]  

(5)

where \( \Delta V_s = \Delta V_s^o, \Delta V_s^{ref} = \Delta V_s^{ref}, \) and \( \frac{\partial V_c}{\partial V_s} \) and \( \frac{\partial V_c}{\partial Q_w} \) are the sensitivity coefficients of \( V_c \) with regard to \( V_s \) and \( Q_w \), and \( V_c^o \) is the current voltage of the controlled AC bus. As aforementioned, the active power injections of WTGs are assumed to be constant during the prediction horizon. It is because the control period in this control scheme is short (in seconds) and the variations of active power output of WTGs can be considered as unknown disturbances of the system. Moreover, the sensitivity coefficients are assumed to be constant during a prediction horizon and updated in each control period. Actually, to some degree, inaccuracies of the prediction can be compensated by the MPC. The details of sensitivity calculation are described in Section 4.

Define \( V_{c}^{ref} \) as the reference of the voltage change and \( \Delta V_{c}^{ref} \) as the integral of deviation between \( V_{c}^{ref} \) and \( V_c \),

\[
\Delta V_{c}^{ref} = \int \Delta V_{c}^{ref} dt
\]  

(6)

\[
\Delta V_{c} = \Delta V_{c}^{ref} - \Delta V_{c}^{ref}/s
\]  

(7)

\[
\Delta V_{c}^{ref} = \int \Delta V_{c}^{ref} dt
\]  

Equation (3) ~ (7) are combined to obtain the predictive model of the WPPVSC,

\[
\begin{bmatrix}
\Delta V_s
\end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix}
A_v
\end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix}
\Delta V_s
\end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix}
E_v
\end{bmatrix} \Delta Q_w + \begin{bmatrix}
B_v
\end{bmatrix} \Delta V_{c}^{ref}
\]

(8)

where

\[
A_v = \begin{bmatrix}
\frac{1}{T_e (1 + K_v)} & K_v/T_e & 0 \\
-K_v/T_e & -\frac{K_v}{T_e} & 0 \\
0 & 0 & -\frac{K_v}{T_e}
\end{bmatrix},
\]

\[
B_v = \begin{bmatrix}
K_v/T_e \\
0 \\
1
\end{bmatrix}.
\]

The detailed derivation is presented in Appendix.

Fig. 3 Control scheme of WPPVSC.

3.3. Predictive model of the system

With the developed state space models of WTGs and VSC, the state space model of the whole system including VSC and WTGs can be formulated as,

\[
\dot{x} = Ax + Bu
\]  

(9)

where \( x \) and \( u \) denote the state variable vector and control variable vector, which are,

\[
x = \begin{bmatrix}
\Delta V_c, \Delta V_s^{ref}, \Delta Q_{w1}, \Delta Q_{w2}, ..., \Delta Q_{wNw}
\end{bmatrix}^T,
\]

\[
u = \begin{bmatrix}
\Delta V_{c}^{ref}, \Delta V_{s}^{ref}, \Delta Q_{w1}^{ref}, ..., \Delta Q_{wNw}^{ref}
\end{bmatrix}^T.
\]

And the matrices \( A \) and \( B \) are,

\[
A = \begin{bmatrix}
A_v & E_v \\
0 & A_w
\end{bmatrix},
\]

\[
B = \begin{bmatrix}
B_v & 0 \\
0 & B_w
\end{bmatrix}.
\]

The discrete-time predictive model with sampling time \( \Delta T_p \) can be obtained by the continuous-time model, which is,

\[
x(k+1) = Gx(k) + Hu(k)
\]  

(10)

where

\[
G = e^{AT_p}, \quad H = \int_0^{\Delta T_p} e^{A \tau} d\tau B.
\]

4. Sensitivity calculation

Sensitivity coefficients are used to estimate the changes of objective variables in a dynamic process of MPC. In this section, the voltage magnitude sensitivities and phase angle sensitivities are calculated.

The inverse Jacobian matrix based on the Newton-Raphson formulation is commonly used for sensitivity calculation. However, such a method does not allow
computing the sensitivities against the slack bus voltage. An analytical computation method for calculating the sensitivity coefficients was developed in [20], which was initially applied in the radial distribution system.

Since the collector system in offshore WPPs has a similar configuration with radial distribution networks, the method is adopted in this paper. Compared with the numerical methods, this analytical method can be used to calculate with respect to the slack bus voltage. Moreover, it can improve the computation efficiency [20].

Considering a network comprised of \( N \) buses (\( N_s \) slack buses and \( N_{pq} \) buses with \( PQ \) injections), \( S \) and \( N \) denote the sets of slack buses and the buses with \( PQ \) injections, respectively, i.e., \( S \cup N = \{1, 2, 3, ..., N\} \) with \( S \cap N = \emptyset \). Define \( V_i = V_{i}\mu^{s_{i}} \) for all buses \( i \in S \cup N \) and \( S_i = P_i + jQ_i \) for a bus \( i \in N \). The link between bus voltages and power injections is

\[
\Sigma_{i=1}^{N} \frac{\partial S_i}{\partial Q_i} = \frac{\partial \{P_i - jQ_i\}}{\partial Q_i} = \frac{\partial V_i}{\partial Q_i} \sum_{i=1}^{N} Y_{ij} V_j + V_i \sum_{i=1}^{N} Y'_{ij} \frac{\partial V_j}{\partial Q_i} = \begin{cases} \text{-}jV_i & \text{for } i = l, \\ 0 & \text{for } i \neq l. \end{cases}
\]

Equation (12) is linear with \( \frac{\partial V_i}{\partial Q_i} \) and \( \frac{\partial V_j}{\partial Q_i} \). According to the theorem in [20], (12) has a unique solution for a radial network.

Once \( \frac{\partial V_i}{\partial Q_i} \) and \( \frac{\partial V_j}{\partial Q_i} \) are obtained, the voltage magnitude and phase angle sensitivity can be computed by

\[
\frac{\partial V_i}{\partial Q_i} = \frac{1}{V_i} \text{Re} \left( \frac{\partial \bar{V}_i}{\partial Q_i} \right), \quad \frac{\partial \theta_i}{\partial Q_i} = \frac{1}{V_i^2} \text{Im} \left( \frac{\partial \bar{V}_i}{\partial Q_i} \right).
\]

4.2. Sensitivity coefficient with respect to slack bus voltage

For a bus \( i \in N \), the partial derivatives with respect to voltage magnitude \( V_i \) of a slack bus \( k \in S \) are derived by

\[
-\sum_{j=1}^{N} Y_{ij} V_j + \sum_{j=1}^{N} Y'_{ij} \bar{V}_j.
\]

Equation (14) is linear with respective to \( \bar{V}_k \) and \( \bar{W}_k \), and also has a unique solution. By solving it, the sensitivity coefficients with respect to the slack bus voltage magnitude at bus \( k \) are given by,

\[
\text{ OBJ}_V = \sum_{k=1}^{N} \text{OBJ}_V(k).
\]

4.1. Sensitivity coefficient with respect to reactive power

To derive the voltage magnitude and phase angle sensitivity coefficients with respect to power injections, the partial derivatives of \( \Sigma_{i=1}^{N} \frac{\partial S_i}{\partial Q_i} \) have to be calculated, which satisfy the following equations:

\[
\frac{\partial S_i}{\partial Q_i} = \frac{\partial \{P_i - jQ_i\}}{\partial Q_i} = \frac{\partial V_i}{\partial Q_i} \sum_{i=1}^{N} Y_{ij} V_j + V_i \sum_{i=1}^{N} Y'_{ij} \frac{\partial V_j}{\partial Q_i} = \begin{cases} \text{-}jV_i & \text{for } i = l, \\ 0 & \text{for } i \neq l. \end{cases}
\]

4.2. Sensitivity coefficient with respect to slack bus voltage

For a bus \( i \in N \), the partial derivatives with respect to voltage magnitude \( V_i \) of a slack bus \( k \in S \) are derived by

\[
-\sum_{j=1}^{N} Y_{ij} V_j + \sum_{j=1}^{N} Y'_{ij} \bar{V}_j.
\]

5. Formulation of MPC-CVCS

For a VSC-HVDC connected offshore WPP, the offshore AC grid is decoupled from the onshore AC grid by the dc transmission system. The voltage fluctuation in the offshore AC grid cannot directly affect the voltage of the onshore POC. The main objective of the offshore WPP voltage control is to maintain terminal voltages of all WTGs within specified limits. In addition, the economical operation of offshore WPPs should also be considered. To coordinate the economical operation and voltage control, two control modes with different control objectives are designed for different operating conditions. In the optimization operation mode, several key bus voltages in offshore WPPs, power losses, and Var reserves are coordinated. Most of the time, the system operates in this mode. The corrective mode is a back-up mode in the MPC-CVCS which aims to correct the WTGs’ terminal voltages.

To capture the dynamic characteristics of different devices, the sampling period of prediction \( \Delta T_c \) should be much smaller than the period of control action \( T_c \), which is normally in seconds. The suitable prediction horizon \( T_p \) can be determined by the performance of the control system. Too large or too small prediction horizon will adversely affect the control performance. Accordingly, for a prediction horizon, the total number of prediction steps and control steps are calculated by \( N_p = T_p / \Delta T_p \) and \( N_c = T_p / T_c \), respectively.

5.1. Optimization operation mode

If all WTG terminal voltages in the offshore grid are within the feasible range, i.e., \( \| V_{th} - V_{ref} \| < V_{sth} \), where \( V_{sth} \) is the threshold value, the MPC controller will operate in the optimization operation mode. \( V_{ref} \) is the nominal terminal voltage of each WTG (typically 1.0 p.u.). Since the limits are generally set as \([0.9,1.1]\) p.u., \( V_{sth} \) can be selected as 0.05 ~ 0.08 p.u. in implementation to ensure sufficient operation margins.

The power losses and Var reserves are both optimized in this mode. In the meantime, to maintain the system voltage within the limits, voltages of several important buses shall also be taken into account.

1) Objective 1: The first objective is to minimize the bus voltage deviations in the offshore AC grid. Generally, each offshore WPP comprised of several radial feeders can be considered as an isolate voltage regulation sub-zone. For each radial medium-voltage (MV) feeder, the root bus which is the center of the subzone from the point view of electrical distance can be regarded as the pilot bus of the sub-zone [21]. It means that the voltage conditions of the sub-zones can be reflected by the MV buses. In other words, to simplify the control objective, only the voltages of pilot buses are controlled. Defining \( \Delta V_{MW} \) as \( V_{MW} - V_{MW}^{ref} \), the cost function \( OBJ_V \) can be described by,

\[
\frac{\partial V_i}{\partial V_k} = \frac{1}{V_i^2} \text{Re} \left( \bar{W}_i \right), \quad \frac{\partial \theta_i}{\partial V_k} = \frac{1}{V_i} \text{Im} \left( \bar{W}_i \right).
\]
where $\Delta V_{MV} = [\Delta V_{MV}, \Delta V_{MV}, \ldots, \Delta V_{MV_{N_{MV}}}]^T$, and $N_{MV}$ is the number of MV buses.

$\Delta V_{MV}$ can be affected by control actions of VSC and reactive power outputs of WTGs. The predictive value of $\Delta V_{MV}$ can be calculated by,

$$\Delta V_{MV}^p(k) = V_{MV}^0 + \frac{\partial V_{MV}}{\partial V_k} \Delta V_k(k) + \frac{\partial V_{MV}}{\partial Q_k} \Delta Q_k(k) - V_{MV}^0$$

where $V_{MV}^0$ and $V_{MV}^0$ are the current value and nominal value (typically 1.0 p.u.) of $V_{MV}$, respectively.

2) Objective 2: The second control objective is to minimize the active power losses $P_L$ inside the offshore AC grid, which depend on the power flow distribution of the grid. The cost function $OBJ_L$ can be described as,

$$OBJ_L = \sum_{k=1}^{N_L} \|P_{L}^p(k)\|^2.$$  

Defining $V \equiv [V_1, V_2, \ldots, V_N]^T$, $\theta \equiv [\theta_1, \theta_2, \ldots, \theta_N]^T$, the predictive value of power losses $P_{L}^p$ can be calculated by,

$$P_{L}^p(k) = P_{L}^0 + \left( \frac{\partial P_{L}}{\partial V} \right) \Delta V(k) + \left( \frac{\partial P_{L}}{\partial \theta} \right) \Delta \theta(k)$$

$$= \sum_{j=1}^{N} \frac{\partial P_{L}}{\partial V_i} \Delta V_i(k) + \sum_{j=1}^{N} \frac{\partial P_{L}}{\partial Q_i} \Delta Q_i(k)$$

with

$$\frac{\partial P_{L}}{\partial V_i} = 2 \sum_{j=1}^{N} V_i G_{ij} \cos(\theta_j - \theta_i),$$

$$\frac{\partial P_{L}}{\partial \theta_i} = 2 \sum_{j=1}^{N} \sin(\theta_j - \theta_i).$$

where $G_{ij}$ is the real part of the admittance matrix.

3) Objective 3: The third objective is to maximize the Var reserves of WTGs. The cost function $OBJ_Q$ is expressed as,

$$OBJ_Q = \sum_{k=1}^{N_Q} \|\Delta Q_{W}^p(k)\|^2$$

where $\Delta Q_{W}^p(k)$ is the predictive deviation of $Q_W$ from its middle operating level, which can be calculated by,

$$\Delta Q_{W,dev}(k) = Q_W^0 + \Delta Q_W(k) - \frac{1}{2} (Q_W^{max} + Q_W^{min})$$

where $Q_W^{max}$ and $Q_W^{min}$ are the Var limits of WTGs.

Combining (16), (18) and (20), the mathematical model of this mode is as follows,

$$\min_{\Delta V_{MV}^p, \Delta Q_{W}^p} \sum_{k=1}^{N_{MV}} \|\Delta V_{MV}^p(k)\|^2$$

subject to

$$V_{C}^{min} \leq V_{C}^0 + \Delta V_{C}^p(n) \leq V_{C}^{max},$$

$$|\Delta V_{C}^p(n) - \Delta V_{C}^p(n-1)| < \Delta V_{C}^{max},$$

$$Q_{W}^{min} \leq Q_{W}^0 + \Delta Q_{W}(k) \leq Q_{W}^{max},$$

$$V_{MV}^{min} \leq V_{MV}^0 + \Delta V_{MV}^p(k) \leq V_{MV}^{max},$$

where $V_{MV}^0$, $V_{MV}^{max}$, $V_{C}^0$, $V_{C}^{max}$ and $\Delta V_{C}^{max}$ are the operating limits of $V_{MV}$ and $V_{C}$, and $w_V$, $w_L$ and $w_Q$ are the weighting coefficients which depend on the control priority determined by the operators. The priority ranking is $OBJ_L > OBJ_Q > OBJ_V$ in this study.

5.2. Corrective mode

The corrective mode is a back-up mode for voltage regulation. If any WTG terminal bus voltage violates the threshold, the control mode will switch into the corrective mode, and the control objective will change to voltage correction. In this mode, the terminal voltages of WTGs are corrected. Defining $\Delta V_{W} \equiv V_{W} - V_{W}^0$, the mathematical model of this mode is as follows,

$$\min_{\Delta V_{MV}^{ref}, \Delta Q_{W}^{ref}} \sum_{k=1}^{N_{MV}} \|\Delta V_{W}^p(k)\|^2$$

subject to

$$V_{C}^{min} \leq V_{C}^{ref} + \Delta V_{C}^{ref}(n) \leq V_{C}^{max},$$

$$|\Delta V_{C}^{ref}(n) - \Delta V_{C}^{ref}(n-1)| < \Delta V_{C}^{max},$$

$$Q_{W}^{min} \leq Q_{W}^{ref} + \Delta Q_{W}(k) \leq Q_{W}^{max},$$

$$n = 1, 2, \ldots, N_C, \quad k = 1, 2, \ldots, N_P.$$
The developed mathematical optimization models of the MPC-CVCS can be transformed into a standard quadratic programming (QP) problem, and be efficiently solved by a QP solver.

6. Simulation results

6.1. System configuration and parameters

A typical configuration of an offshore WPP is illustrated in Fig. 5. The offshore WPP comprised of two parts is connected to the onshore external 400 kV AC grid through a ±150 kV VSC-HVDC system with nominal power rating of 400 MW. Each part is equipped with a collector substation, and the substations are connected to a common VSC station through 150 kV submarine cables. The WTGs are connected by eight 33 kV collector cables. MV bus_1~MV bus_4 are considered as the pilot buses of each subzone. There are eight full-converter 6.25 MW WTGs at each feeder, referred to as a string. The WTGs are placed with a distance of 1.5 km. The system parameters are presented in Table I. The wind field model considering turbulences and wake effects for the offshore WPP is generated using SimWindFarm [22], a toolbox for wind farm modeling and simulation.

Table 1 Electrical system parameters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameters</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>33kV Cable</td>
<td>$R = 0.0975 , \Omega/km$, $L = 0.38 , mH/km$, $C = 0.24 , \mu F/km$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>150kV Cable</td>
<td>$R = 0.0326 , \Omega/km$, $L = 0.42 , mH/km$, $C = 0.15 , \mu F/km$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33/150kV Transformer</td>
<td>$S_n = 100 , MVA$, $R = 0.005 , p.u.$, $X = 0.12 , p.u.$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>150/170kV Transformer</td>
<td>$S_n = 400 , MVA$, $R = 0.006 , p.u.$, $X = 0.14 , p.u.$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phasor Reactor</td>
<td>$0.0178 + j , 0.196 , p.u.$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To examine the performance of the proposed voltage control scheme, two other control methods are simulated and compared with the MPC-based method.

1) Loss Minimization Control (LMC). For the LMC, the control actions are determined by the optimal power flow analysis which aims to minimize power losses in the grid.

2) Optimal Control (OPC) [10]. For the OPC, the objective is to minimize the cost function of current stage without considering the effects on the future (without considering the dynamic response of the system).

The control period $T_C$, prediction horizon $T_P$ and sampling period of prediction $\Delta T_P$ are set as 1 s, 5 s, and 0.1 s, respectively. The feasible range of $V_{\text{ref}}^W$ is set as [0.99, 1.01] p.u.. The threshold $V_{\text{th}}^W$ is set as 0.05 p.u.. The OPC and LMC have the same control period as the MPC. Besides, the OPC also has two control modes with the same threshold values as the MPC.

6.2. Normal Operation

The performance of the proposed voltage control scheme is validated with fluctuating wind power. The total simulation time is set as 600 s. As shown in Fig. 6, the total wind power of the offshore WPP fluctuates between 220 MW to 380 MW during the simulation. The voltages, Var reserves of WTGs and power losses are analyzed, which are shown in Fig. 7.


6.3. Recovery Operation

In this case, the recovery operation of the offshore WPP after a storm is considered. The WPPVSC gradually builds up the voltage at the beginning. When the terminal voltages of WTGs reach 0.9 p.u., WTGs are connected to the grid and the voltage control strategy switches to the proposed coordinated voltage control strategy. The recovery operation starts at $t = 20\, s$. The total simulation time is 50 s. The simulation results are shown in Fig. 8. The control strategy switches to the coordinated control strategy at $t = 28\, s$.

As shown in Fig. 8, for the OPC, the terminal voltage of WTG_64 returns within its threshold (0.95 p.u.) at $t = 28.8\, s$ and reaches its reference (1.0 p.u.) at $t = 31.3\, s$. The MV bus_1 voltage reaches its reference (1.0 p.u.) at $t = 33.4\, s$.

For the MPC, the voltage recovery is faster. The terminal voltage of WTG_64 returns within its threshold at $t = 28.4\, s$ and reaches 1.0 p.u. at $t = 29.4\, s$. The MV bus_1 voltage reaches 1.0 p.u. at $t = 29.6\, s$. The MPC performs better than the OPC in the recovery operation.
6.4.1 Measurement errors

Here, the control performance of the proposed voltage controller with different measurement errors is compared. Suppose the stochastic measurement error $\varepsilon$ follows normal distribution with the same mean $\mu$ and variance for all buses. Thus, the measured voltage magnitude received by the controller can be expressed as,

$$V = (1 + \varepsilon) \cdot V, \quad \varepsilon \sim N(0, \sigma^2). \quad (25)$$

The variance $\sigma$ is set as 2% and 5%, respectively.

Fig. 10 shows the effect of measurement errors on the voltage of MV bus 1. The voltage is significantly affected by the measurement errors. Increasing the level of measurement errors deteriorates the control performance. But the voltage can be still regulated within the acceptable range of 0.99~1.01 p.u. and the system is still stable.

From the analysis of this subsection, we can conclude that the controller shows satisfactory robustness to these uncertain factors.

8. Conclusion

A MPC-CVCS for VSC-HVDC connected offshore WPPs is proposed to coordinate voltage control and economical control in offshore AC grid. In the proposed MPC-CVCS, the flexibility of VSC in voltage regulation is utilized. Two control modes are designed for the coordination of economical operation and voltage stability. The superior performance of the proposed MPC-CVCS is demonstrated by comparing it to the OPC and LMC. Though communication time delay and measurement errors can deteriorate control performance, the controller can still effectively regulate the voltage within the feasible range and keep the system stable.

8. Appendix

8.1. Derivation of predictive model of WPPVSC

The derivation of the predictive model of WPPVSC is presented in this section.

Substitute (5), (6) and (7) into (3), (3) can be transformed into,

$$\Delta V_C^{\text{ref}} = K_p \left( \Delta V_C^{\text{ref}} - \frac{\partial V_C}{\partial V_S} \Delta V_S - \frac{\partial V_C}{\partial Q_W} \Delta Q_W + \frac{K_i}{T_I} \Delta V_C^{\text{int}} \right) + K_i \Delta V_C^{\text{int}}. \quad (26)$$

The equation (4) can be transformed into,

$$\Delta V_S = -\frac{1}{T_a} \Delta V_S + \frac{T_a}{T_s} \Delta V_C^{\text{ref}}. \quad (27)$$

Substitute (26) into (27),

$$\Delta V_S = -\frac{1}{T_a} \left[ 1 + K_p \frac{\partial V_C}{\partial V_S} \right] \Delta V_S + \frac{T_a}{T_s} \frac{K_i}{T_I} \Delta V_C^{\text{int}}$$

$$- K_p \frac{\partial V_C}{\partial Q_W} \Delta Q_W + \frac{K_p}{T_a} \Delta V_C^{\text{ref}}. \quad (28)$$

The equation (7) can be rewritten as

$$\Delta V_C^{\text{int}} = \Delta V_C^{\text{ref}} - \Delta V_C. \quad (29)$$

Substitute (5) and (6) into (29),

$$\Delta V_C^{\text{int}} = -\frac{\partial V_C}{\partial V_S} \Delta V_S - \frac{\partial V_C}{\partial Q_W} \Delta Q_W + \Delta V_C^{\text{ref}}. \quad (30)$$

Rewrite (29) and (31) into a matrix form, and then the corresponding matrixes in the predictive model are,

$$A_V = \left[ \begin{array}{c} \frac{1}{T_a} + K_p \frac{\partial V_C}{\partial V_S} \frac{T_a}{T_s} \\ -\frac{\partial V_C}{\partial V_S} \\ 0 \end{array} \right], \quad B_V = \left[ \begin{array}{c} K_i \\ \frac{K_i}{T_I} \\ 1 \end{array} \right],$$

$$E_V = \left[ \begin{array}{cccc} K_p \frac{\partial V_C}{\partial Q_W} & K_p \frac{\partial V_C}{\partial Q_W} & \cdots & K_p \\ -\frac{\partial V_C}{\partial Q_W} & -\frac{\partial V_C}{\partial Q_W} & \cdots & -\frac{\partial V_C}{\partial Q_W} \\ \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots \\ -\frac{\partial V_C}{\partial Q_W} & -\frac{\partial V_C}{\partial Q_W} & \cdots & -\frac{\partial V_C}{\partial Q_W} \end{array} \right]. \quad (31)$$

8.2. Derivation of sensitivity coefficient calculation

The derivations of sensitivity coefficients $(\partial V_C/\partial Q_W, \partial V_C/\partial Q_W, \partial V_C/\partial Q_W)$ and $(\partial V_C/\partial V_S, \partial V_C/\partial Q_W)$ are similar. Due to the page limit, only the derivation of $(\partial V_C/\partial V_S, \partial V_C/\partial Q_W)$ is presented in this paper. The derivation can be divided into two steps.

Step I: Calculation of $\partial V_C/\partial V_S$ and $\partial V_C/\partial Q_W$

The derivation starts from (11). Firstly, by taking the derivatives with respective reactive power injections, we can obtain (12). Firstly, define

$$\frac{\partial V_C}{\partial Q_W} = x_d + jy_d, \quad (32)$$
\[
\sum_{j=\mathcal{N}}^{\mathcal{L}} Y_{ij} V_j \vartriangleleft w_{i1} + jw_{i2}, \quad (33)
\]

\[
\sum_{j=\mathcal{N}}^{\mathcal{L}} Y_{ij} \vartriangleleft a_{ij} + jb_{ij}. \quad (34)
\]

Obviously, (33) and (34) can be calculated according to measured voltage. The unknown variables are \(x_{i1}\) and \(y_{i2}\). Substitute (32)-(34) into (12), it can be obtained that,

\[
\frac{\partial S_k}{\partial Q_i} = \frac{\partial V}{\partial Q_i} \sum_{j=\mathcal{N}}^{\mathcal{L}} Y_{ij} + \sum_{j=\mathcal{N}}^{\mathcal{L}} \frac{\partial V}{\partial Q_i} = (x_{i1} - jy_{i2})(w_{i1} + jw_{i2}) + \sum_{j=\mathcal{N}}^{\mathcal{L}} (a_{ij} + jb_{ij})(x_{j1} + jy_{j2})
\]

\[
+(a_{i2} + jb_{i2})(x_{i2} + jy_{i2}) + \cdots + (a_{iN_{N_0}} + jb_{iN_{N_0}})(x_{iN_{N_0}} + jy_{iN_{N_0}}) = (w_{i1}x_{i1} + w_{i2}y_{i2}) + j(w_{i2}x_{i1} - w_{i1}y_{i2}) + (a_{i1}x_{i1} + b_{i1}y_{i1}) + j(a_{i2}x_{i2} + b_{i2}y_{i2}) + \cdots + (a_{iN_{N_0}}x_{iN_{N_0}} + b_{iN_{N_0}}y_{iN_{N_0}}).
\]

(35)

Rearrange (35) and then the real part and imaginary part of (35) are separately expressed as:

Real Part:

\[
(w_{i1}x_{i1} + w_{i2}y_{i2}) + (a_{i1}x_{i1} + b_{i1}y_{i1}) + (a_{i2}x_{i2} + b_{i2}y_{i2}) + \cdots + (a_{iN_{N_0}}x_{iN_{N_0}} + b_{iN_{N_0}}y_{iN_{N_0}}) = 0.
\]

(36)

Imaginary Part:

\[
(w_{i2}x_{i1} - w_{i1}y_{i2}) + (a_{i1}y_{i1} + b_{i1}x_{i1}) + (a_{i2}y_{i2} + b_{i2}x_{i2}) + \cdots + (a_{iN_{N_0}}y_{iN_{N_0}} + b_{iN_{N_0}}x_{iN_{N_0}}) = \begin{cases} -1, & \text{for } i = l; \\ 0, & \text{for } i \neq l. \end{cases}
\]

(37)

So, for any bus \(l \in \mathcal{N}\), by formulating (36) and (37) for all \(i \in \mathcal{N}\), a set of equation can be formulated into a matrix form as follows:

\[
(C_1 + C_2)z = d,
\]

(38)

where

\[
C_1 = \begin{bmatrix}
  a_{i1} & -b_{i1} & a_{i2} & -b_{i2} & \cdots & a_{iN_{N_0}} & -b_{iN_{N_0}} \\
  b_{i1} & a_{i1} & b_{i2} & a_{i2} & \cdots & b_{iN_{N_0}} & a_{iN_{N_0}} \\
  \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\
  a_{iN_{N_0}} & -b_{iN_{N_0}} & a_{i1} & b_{i1} & \cdots & a_{iN_{N_0}} & -b_{iN_{N_0}} \\
  b_{iN_{N_0}} & a_{iN_{N_0}} & b_{i1} & a_{i1} & \cdots & b_{iN_{N_0}} & a_{iN_{N_0}}
\end{bmatrix}z = [x_{i1}, y_{i1}, x_{i2}, y_{i2}, \ldots, x_{iN_{N_0}}, y_{iN_{N_0}}]^T
\]

\[
C_2 = \begin{bmatrix}
  w_{i1} & w_{i2} & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\
  w_{i2} & -w_{i1} & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\
  0 & 0 & w_{i21} & w_{i21} & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\
  0 & 0 & w_{i22} & -w_{i21} & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\
  0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & w_{N_{N_0}1} & w_{N_{N_0}1} \\
  0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & w_{N_{N_0}2} & -w_{N_{N_0}1}
\end{bmatrix}z = [x_{i1}, y_{i1}, x_{i2}, y_{i2}, \ldots, x_{iN_{N_0}}, y_{iN_{N_0}}]^T
\]

\[
d = [0, 0, 0, 0, \ldots, 0, -1, 0, 0]^T.
\]

Then, the pending sensitivity coefficients \(\frac{\partial V_i}{\partial Q_i}\) and \(\frac{\partial V_j}{\partial Q_i}\) can be obtained by,

\[
z = (C_1 + C_2)^{-1}d.
\]

(39)

**Step II: Calculation of \(\frac{\partial V_i}{\partial Q_i}\) and \(\frac{\partial V_j}{\partial Q_i}\).**

Define \(V_i \triangleleft V_i \angle \theta_i = V_i (\cos \theta_i + j \sin \theta_i)\), then

\[
\frac{\partial V_i}{\partial Q_i} = V_i (\cos \theta_i + j \sin \theta_i) \cdot \frac{\partial \{V_i (\cos \theta_i + j \sin \theta_i)\}}{\partial Q_i}
\]

\[
= \left(V_i \cos \theta_i \frac{\partial \{V_i \cos \theta_i\}}{\partial Q_i} + V_i \sin \theta_i \frac{\partial \{V_i \sin \theta_i\}}{\partial Q_i}\right)
\]

\[
\text{and } j \{V_i \cos \theta_i \frac{\partial \{V_i \sin \theta_i\}}{\partial Q_i} - V_i \sin \theta_i \frac{\partial \{V_i \cos \theta_i\}}{\partial Q_i}\}
\]

According to

\[
\frac{\partial V_i^2}{\partial Q_i} = 2V_i \frac{\partial V_i}{\partial Q_i},
\]

(41)

it can be obtained that

\[
\frac{\partial V_i}{\partial Q_i} = \frac{1}{V_i} \frac{\partial \{V_i \cos \theta_i\}}{\partial Q_i} = \frac{1}{V_i} \left(\frac{\partial \{V_i \cos \theta_i\}}{\partial Q_i} + j \frac{\partial \{V_i \sin \theta_i\}}{\partial Q_i}\right)
\]

\[
= \frac{1}{V_i} \left(\frac{\partial \{V_i \cos \theta_i\}}{\partial Q_i} + \frac{\partial \{V_i \sin \theta_i\}}{\partial Q_i}\right)
\]

\[
\cos \theta_i \left(\frac{\partial \{V_i \cos \theta_i\}}{\partial Q_i} + \frac{\partial \{V_i \sin \theta_i\}}{\partial Q_i}\right)
\]

\[
= \frac{1}{V_i} \text{Re} \left(\frac{\partial V_i}{\partial Q_i}\right).
\]

(42)

According to (40), we can obtain,

\[
\text{Im} \left[\frac{\partial V_i}{\partial Q_i}\right] = V_i \cos \theta_i \frac{\partial \{V_i \sin \theta_i\}}{\partial Q_i} - V_i \sin \theta_i \frac{\partial \{V_i \cos \theta_i\}}{\partial Q_i}
\]

\[
= V_i \left(V_i \cos^2 \theta_i \frac{\partial \theta_i}{\partial Q_i} + V_i \sin^2 \theta_i \frac{\partial \theta_i}{\partial Q_i}\right)
\]

\[
= V_i \frac{\partial \theta_i}{\partial Q_i}.
\]

(43)

Thus, we can obtain,

\[
\frac{\partial \theta_i}{\partial Q_i} = \frac{1}{V_i} \text{Im} \left[\frac{\partial V_i}{\partial Q_i}\right].
\]

(44)

**9. References**


