Control of a DSTATCOM Coupled with a Flywheel Energy Storage System to Improve the Power Quality of a Wind Power System

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1. Introduction

Wind power generation is considered the most economic viable alternative within the portfolio of renewable energy resources. Among its main advantages are the large number of potential sites for plant installation and a rapidly evolving technology. However, the lack of controllability over the wind and the type of generation system used cause problems to the electric systems. Among such problems are those produced by wind power short-term fluctuations, e.g., in the power quality and in the dynamics of the system (Slootweg & Kling, 2003; Ackermann, 2005; Suvire & Mercado, 2008; Chen & Spooner, 2001; Mohod & Aware, 2008; Smith et al., 2007). In addition, the reduced cost of power electronic devices as well as the breakthrough of new technologies in the field of electric energy storage makes it possible to incorporate this storage with electronic control into power systems (Brad & McDowall, 2005; Carrasco, 2006; Barton & Infield, 2004; Hebner et al., 2002). These devices allow a dynamic control to be made of both voltage and flows of active and reactive power. Therefore, they offer a great potential in their use to mitigate problems introduced by wind generation.

Based on the results obtained by analyzing different selection criteria, a Distribution Static Synchronous Compensator (DSTATCOM) coupled with a Flywheel Energy Storage System (FESS) has been proposed as the most appropriate system for contributing to the smoothing of wind power short-term fluctuations (Suvire & Mercado, 2007). A DSTATCOM is a fast-response, solid-state power controller that provides flexible voltage control at the point of connection to the utility distribution feeder for power quality improvements (Song & Johns, 1999). This device can exchange both active and reactive power if an energy storage system is included into the DC bus. FESSs store kinetic energy in a rotating mass, and they have been used as short-term energy storage devices. FESSs can be classified as low-speed flywheel (LS-FESS) and high-speed flywheel (HS-FESS). HS-FESSs are a newer technology and they provide better speeds of response, cycling characteristics and electric efficiencies than LS-FESS (Hebner et al., 2002; Andrade et al., 2007). All these characteristics enable the HS-FESS (FESS from now on), working with a DSTATCOM device, to mitigate voltage fluctuations and to correct power fluctuations of a wind power system. With these aspects in mind, it turns necessary to ponder the information stemming from models that simulate the dynamic interaction between the DSTATCOM/FESS device and power systems with wind

generation. Such models allow performing the necessary preliminary studies before connecting the DSTATCOM/FESS to the grid. Many solutions are proposed and studied in the literature to compensate wind power fluctuations using a flywheel energy storage device (Boutot et al., 2002; Takahashi et al., 2005; Cimuca et al., 2004; Cárdenas et al., 2004). These solutions have been proposed mainly using LS-FESS and with simplified models of the device. The complete control to interact with wind power generation is not explained in detail in the analyzed literature.

The aim of this paper is to present a detailed model and a multi-level control of a DSTATCOM controller coupled with FESS to improve the integration of wind generators (WGs) into a power system. A model of a DSTATCOM/FESS device is proposed with all its components represented in detail. Moreover, the complete control for this device is suggested. This control implements a new approach based on multi-level control technique. To mitigate wind power fluctuations, the control includes three modes of operation of the DSTATCOM/FESS device, namely, voltage control, power factor correction, and active power control. Validation of models and control schemes is carried out through simulations by using SimPowerSystems of SIMULINK/MATLAB™.

2. Modelling of the DSTATCOM/FESS

In order to study the dynamic performance of the DSTATCOM/FESS controller, a model of the combined system is proposed that is depicted in Fig. 1. This model consists mainly of the DSTATCOM controller, the Interface converter and the FESS device.

Fig. 1. Representation of the DSTATCOM/FESS controller

The DSTATCOM and the Interface use two-level VSIs. The commutation valves used are Insulated Gate Bipolar Transistors (IGBT) with anti-parallel diodes. The VSIs are modeled with detailed blocks of the switches and diodes, incorporated into the simulation program. The technique of sinusoidal pulse width modulation (SPWM) is used to obtain a sinusoidal voltage waveform. In order to reduce the disturbance produced on the distribution system by the high-frequency switching harmonics generated by the SPWM control, a low pass sine wave filter is used.

The energy stored by a FESS is calculated by using (1).

$$\Delta E = \frac{1}{2} J (\omega_{\max}^2 - \omega_{\min}^2) \quad (1)$$

where ΔE is the energy stored by the flywheel, ω_{max} and ω_{min} are, respectively, the maximum and minimum operation speed of the flywheel, and J is the moment of inertia of the flywheel.

The exchange of power between the flywheel and the Interface is made by using a Permanent Magnet Synchronous Machine (PMSM). The PMSM is modeled with a detailed block included in the simulation program and with parameters obtained from the manufacturer data sheets (Beacon Power, 2009; Flywheel Energy Systems, 2009; Urenco Power Technologies, 2009). The flywheel is modeled as an additional mass coupled to the rotor shaft of the PMSM (Samineni et al., 2006).

3. DSTATCOM/FESS control

The control proposed for the DSTATCOM/FESS device is divided into two parts, the DSTATCOM control and the FESS control. For each part, a multi-level control scheme is suggested. This scheme has its own control objectives for each level. In this way, a system of complex control is divided into several control levels, which are simpler to design (Xie et al., 2002; Molina & Mercado, 2004). Both parts of the multi-level control scheme, i.e., the DSTATCOM and the FESS, are divided into three quite distinct levels: external, middle and internal level, shown in simplified way in Fig. 2.

Fig. 2. Structure of the multi-level control of the DSTATCOM/FESS

3.1 DSTATCOM control

Each control level of the DSTATCOM has certain functions. The external level is responsible for determining the active and reactive power exchange between the DSTATCOM and the utility system. The middle level control allows the expected output to dynamically track the

reference values set by the external level. The internal level is responsible for generating the switching signals for the valves of the VSI of the DSTATCOM. The control algorithm of the DSTATCOM with all its parts in detail is shown in Fig. 3.

Control is performed with the synchronous-rotating dq reference frame. The coordinate system is defined with the d-axis always coincident with the instantaneous voltage vector ($u_d = |u|$, $u_q = 0$). Consequently, the d-axis current component contributes to the instantaneous active power and the q-axis current component represents the instantaneous reactive power.

Fig. 3. Multi-level control scheme of the DSTATCOM device

External level control

The external level control scheme proposed (left side in Fig. 3) is designed for performing three major control objectives, namely, the voltage control mode (VCM), which is activated when switch S is in position a , the power factor control mode (PFCM), activated in position b , and the active power control mode (APCM), which is always activated.

The VCM consists in controlling the voltage at the PCC (Point of Common Coupling) of the DSTATCOM through the modulation of the reactive component of the output current. To this aim, the instantaneous voltage at the PCC (u_d) is computed by using a synchronous-rotating orthogonal reference frame and is then compared with a reference voltage (U_r). A voltage regulation droop (or slope) R_q is included in order to allow the terminal voltage of the DSTATCOM to vary in proportion with the compensating reactive current.

In the PFCM, the reactive power reference (Q_r) is set to the measured value of the reactive power of wind generation (Q_{ge}). In this way, all the reactive power required by the WG is provided and thus the WG-DSTATCOM/FESS system is able to maintain the unity power factor. A standard PI compensator is included to eliminate the steady-state error in the reactive current reference computation.

The APCM allows controlling the active power exchanged with the electric system. The computation of the reference active power (P_r) depends on the active power value injected by the wind generation. This value is the difference between the regulation power desirable (P_{reg}) and the active power measured from the WG (P_{ge}). The P_{reg} is the active power that needs to be delivered to the electric system by the WG-DSTATCOM/FESS system. A standard PI compensator is also included to eliminate the steady-state error in the active current reference computation.

Middle level control

This block has two main parts, the DC voltage regulator and the current regulator. A functional simplified scheme of this control level is shown in the central part of Fig. 3.

The dynamic equations governing the power instantaneous transfer between the DSTATCOM and the electrical network are given by (2).

$$\frac{d}{dt} \begin{bmatrix} i_q \\ i_d \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -\omega & -R_t / L_t \\ -R_t / L_t & \omega \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} i_d \\ i_q \end{bmatrix} + \frac{1}{L_t} \begin{bmatrix} u_{inv-q} \\ u_{inv-d} - |u| \end{bmatrix} \quad (2)$$

where R_t and L_t are, respectively, the resistance and equivalent leakage inductance of the coupling transformer of the DSTATCOM.

A control methodology to obtain a decoupled control of the current components, i_d and i_q , is derived from (2). To achieve this objective, two appropriate control signals x_1 and x_2 are introduced. If $i_q R_t / L_t = x_1$ and $i_d R_t / L_t = x_2$, and (2) is worked and these variables introduced; then (2) results in (3).

$$\frac{d}{dt} \begin{bmatrix} i_q \\ i_d \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -R_t / L_t \\ -R_t / L_t & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} i_d \\ i_q \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} \quad (3)$$

As can be noticed from the equation above, i_d and i_q respectively respond to x_1 and x_2 with no cross-coupling. Conventional PI controllers with proper feedback from the DSTATCOM/FESS output current component are used to obtain the decoupling condition.

In addition, the AC and DC sides of the DSTATCOM are related by the power balance between the input and the output as described by (4).

$$P_{AC} = \frac{3}{2} (u_{inv-d} i_d + u_{inv-q} i_q) = -C U_d \frac{dU_d}{dt} - \frac{U_d^2}{R_{pd}} = P_{DC} \quad (4)$$

where R_{pd} is the loss resistance of the VSI and U_d is the DC voltage. Considering $u_{inv-d} = k_{inv} \cos \alpha U_d$ and $u_{inv-q} = k_{inv} \sin \alpha U_d$, with $k_{inv} = m_a a_t / 2$, (m_a modulation index, $a_t = n_1 / n_2$: voltage ratio of the coupling transformer) and α is the phase-shift between the converter output voltage and the grid AC voltage; (4) may be rewritten as:

$$\frac{dU_d}{dt} = -\frac{3}{2} \frac{1}{C} k_{inv} \cos \alpha i_d - \frac{3}{2} \frac{1}{C} k_{inv} \sin \alpha i_q - \frac{U_d}{C R_{pd}} \quad (5)$$

Another PI compensator which allows eliminating the steady-state voltage variations at the DC bus is used by forcing a small active power exchange with the electric grid.

Internal level control

A basic scheme of the internal level control of the DSTATCOM is shown on the right side of Fig. 3. This level is mainly composed of a line synchronization module and a three-phase PWM firing pulses generator for the DSTATCOM VSI. The line synchronization module consists mainly of a phase locked loop (PLL) (Bose, 2002). The three-phase firing pulses generator produces both a frequency triangular wave (f_{tri}) and the firing pulses for each IGBT of the VSI by comparing this triangular wave with the desired reference three-phase voltage, u_{abc_r} .

3.2 FESS control

The FESS control is carried out through the control of the Interface-VSI. By establishing a three-phase voltage of controllable amplitude and phase with the VSI, the PMSM can work as a motor storing energy or as generator delivering energy. In a way similar to the DSTATCOM control, each control level has to perform certain functions. The external level is responsible for determining the power exchange between the DC bus of the DSTATCOM and the FESS so as to fulfil the power requirements imposed by the DSTATCOM. The middle and internal levels basically have the same functions as the middle and internal control levels of the DSTATCOM respectively. The control algorithm of the FESS is shown in Fig. 4.

Fig. 4. Multi-level control scheme of the FESS

External level control

The external level control of the FESS is shown in simplified way on the left side of Fig. 4. In this control scheme, the reference current i_{qmr} is computed from the torque of the PMSM by using (6), and the reference current i_{dmr} is set to zero. In this way, a maximum efficiency of the PMSM is obtained (Toliat et al., 2005).

$$T_{e-r} = \frac{3}{2} p \psi_m i_{qmr} \quad (6)$$

where T_{e-r} is the electromagnetic torque of the machine, p the number of pairs of poles and ψ_m the magnetic flux.

The reference torque is calculated through a speed regulator which adjusts the actual speed of the machine (ω_m) to the reference speed of the machine (ω_{mr}) by using a PI controller. The reference speed is computed from the reference power of the machine, P_{mac-r} (the power that is to be stored or delivered by the flywheel) using (7).

$$P_{mac-r} = \frac{d \left(\frac{1}{2} J \omega_{mr}^2 \right)}{dt} \quad (7)$$

The reference power of the machine is calculated by summing up the reference power of the DSTATCOM/FESS (P_r) and the power losses of the machine (P_{loss}). The losses of the machine are computed by summing up the copper losses (P_{Cu}) the iron losses (P_{Fe}) and the mechanical losses (P_{mec}) (Han et al., 2008).

Middle level control

A functional simplified scheme of middle level control is shown in the central part of Fig. 4. This level is basically composed of a current regulator. The control is made by using vector control; the main characteristic of this control is the synchronization of the stator flux with the rotor. The currents in the d and q axes are regulated separately. The control scheme is similar to the middle level control of the DSTATCOM, except that the synchronism angle to make the coordinate transformation, θ_s , is computed in a different way. In this case, the angle is obtained by measuring the position angle of the machine (θ_m) and multiplying by the number of pairs of poles.

Internal level control

A basic scheme of the internal level control of the FESS is shown on the right side of Fig. 4. This control level is quite similar to that of the internal level control of the DSTATCOM except that it does not have the phase locked loop block due to the fact that the angle θ_s is obtained through measurement as mentioned before.

4. Test system

The test power system used to study the dynamic performance of the DSTATCOM/FESS device proposed is shown in Fig. 5 as a single line diagram. This sub-transmission system operates at 13.8 kV/50Hz and implements a dynamically modeled wind generator linked to a bulk power system represented by an infinite bus type.

The WG (rated power: 750 kW) uses an induction generator with a squirrel-cage rotor and is connected to the grid through a transformer with star-triangle winding. The demand for reactive power from the WG is supplied by capacitors so as to reach a close-to-one power factor. The WG is modeled with blocks of an induction generator and a wind turbine available in the library of the simulation program and with parameters taken from the manufacturer data sheets (Neg Micon, 2009; Ecotècnia, 2009). The sub-transmission line is modeled by using lumped parameters. All loads are modeled by constant impedances and are grouped at bus 4 (Ld1: 0.3 MW and Ld2: 0.7 MW).

The DSTATCOM/FESS device proposed (maximum rated power: 100 kW and rated storage capacity: 750 Wh) is connected to the main bus (bus 3) through Bk 4. The DC voltage of the DSTATCOM is 750 V and the capacitor used has a rated capacitance of 1000 μ F. The

Fig. 5. Test power system

DSTATCOM-VSI works with a switching frequency of 8 kHz whereas the Interface-VSI works with 20 kHz. The parameters of the FESS (PMSM and flywheel) are obtained from the manufacturer data sheets (Beacon Power, 2009; Flywheel Energy Systems, 2009; Urenco Power Technologies, 2009).

The major test system data are summarized in Appendix A while the DSTATCOM/FESS data are in Appendix B.

The analysis and validation of the models and control algorithms proposed for the DSTATCOM/FESS controller are carried out through simple events that impose high demands upon the dynamic response of the device. A test is made of the device proposed in the test system shown in Fig. 5. For this, a variation profile of wind speed is applied to the WG so that it makes the DSTATCOM/FESS work in both ways, by storing and delivering energy. In addition, external perturbations are imposed, like a load variation, and the behaviour of the device in the different control modes is observed.

5. Simulation results

The basic system shown in Fig. 5 is used. A suitable profile for variation of the wind speed is applied, as shown in Fig. 6.

Fig. 6. Wind speed

The wind speed variations cause significant fluctuations in the active and reactive power injected by the WG. The capacitor bank used with the WG is adjusted to compensate for the reactive power when the WG operates at a mean wind speed of 10 m/s. In bus 4, the load $Ld1 = 0.3$ MW is first connected (in $t = 0$ s) and then, in $t = 3$ s, the load $Ld2 = 0.7$ MW is added. The behaviour of the system is analyzed in both cases, when the DSTATCOM/FESS is disconnected (Bk 4 opened) and connected (Bk 4 closed). The variations of active power injected by the WG-DSTATCOM/FESS system for both cases are shown in Fig. 7. With the DSTATCOM/FESS device connected, the variations of power from the WG are reduced and an active power that is practically constant is injected to the system.

For the reactive power control, three different cases are presented: DSTATCOM/FESS disconnected, DSTATCOM/FESS connected working in Power Factor Control Mode (PFCM); and DSTATCOM/FESS connected working in Voltage Control Mode (VCM).

The reactive power injected by the WG-DSTATCOM/FESS system is shown in Fig. 8. With the DSTATCOM/FESS connected working in PFCM, it is observed that the reactive power injected by the WG-DSTATCOM/FESS system is zero. Consequently, the device proposed

has satisfactorily compensated for the reactive power variations of the WG. With the DSTATCOM/FESS connected working in VCM, the reactive power variations from the WG are compensated for and the device also generates or consumes the reactive power necessary to make the voltage in bus 4 be 1 pu.

Fig. 7. Active power of the WG-DSTATCOM/FESS system

Fig. 8. Reactive power of the WG-DSTATCOM/FESS system

Fig. 9. Voltage at bus 4

The voltage at bus 4 is shown in Fig. 9. When there is no compensation, the voltage has significant variations due to both power variations from the WG and those of the load. When the DSTATCOM/FESS device is connected in PFCM, there are no voltage variations due to wind power variations. However, this mode has the problem that the voltage has a value different from 1 pu and it varies with disturbances in the load. When the DSTATCOM/FESS device is connected in VCM, the voltage is maintained at 1 pu independently of the variations in wind power and variations of the load. This control mode solves in quite effective way the problem observed with the PFCM. Therefore, the VCM is the most convenient mode when the connection point of the WG does not have any other device that dynamically controls the voltage.

The active and reactive (in PFCM and VCM) power generated by the DSTATCOM/FESS is shown in Fig. 10. The electromagnetic torque and the rotational speed of the PMSM are shown in Fig. 11 and Fig. 12 respectively. It can be observed that when the storage device works by delivering energy (positive active power), the PMSM has a positive torque applied, making the speed goes down and thereby releasing stored kinetic energy. Then, when the storage device works by storing energy (negative active power), the PMSM has a negative torque applied, making the speed goes up with a consequent increase in the stored kinetic energy.

Fig. 10. Input/output active and reactive power of the DSTATCOM/FESS

Fig. 11. Electromagnetic torque of the PMSM

Fig. 12. Rotor speed of the PMSM

The i_d and i_q currents of the DSTATCOM measured at the low voltage side of the transformer are shown in Fig. 13. An excellent decoupling can be observed among the currents comparing Fig. 13 with Fig. 10. Variations of the i_d current correspond with those of the active power and variations of the i_q current correspond with those of the reactive power. In addition, the i_d and i_q currents of the PMSM are shown in Fig. 14. It is worth noting that under the power requirements imposed, only a variation of i_q exists. In this way, the condition imposed on the control to keep i_d equal to zero so as to obtain a maximum efficiency of the PMSM holds true.

The currents of the DSTATCOM and the PMSM in the abc reference frame are shown in Fig. 15 and Fig. 16 respectively. The currents shown belong to an interval of the maximum power transfer. It can be observed a high frequency of the current of the PMSM (around 800 Hz). This is due to the high rotational speed of the PMSM.

Fig. 13. DSTATCOM i_d and i_q currents

Fig. 14. PMSM i_d and i_q currents

Fig. 15. DSTATCOM i_a , i_b and i_c currents

Fig. 16. PMSM i_a , i_b and i_c currents

Efficiency and losses of the PMSM

Tests were made for different power requirements in the whole range of operation speeds of the machine. The results of the efficiency of the machine for an exchange of power of 10 kW, 50 kW and 100 kW are shown in Fig. 17. In this figure a high efficiency of the PMSM can be observed above 98% when the power is high (50 or 100 % of the rated power), even in the whole speed range. A division of the losses of the PMSM for different requirements of power are shown in Fig. 18. In these figures it can be observed that the mechanical and the iron losses increase with the rotational speed of the machine and they practically do not depend on the exchange power. Moreover, it can be observed that the copper losses depend both, on the rotational speed and on the exchange power. The copper losses have more significant values at low speeds. This is because in order to deliver a certain constant power at low speeds a bigger torque and therefore a bigger current are required. When there is no power transfer, the losses range from 0.3-1.1 kW.

6. Conclusions

This paper presents model aspects and control algorithms of a DSTATCOM controller coupled with a High-Speed Flywheel Energy Storage System. A proposal is made of a detailed fully realistic model of the compensator and a novel multi-level control algorithm taking into account three control modes to mitigate problems introduced by wind power in power systems.

From the results obtained, it can be concluded that the detailed models and developed control algorithms have worked satisfactorily. With the implemented control, an excellent decoupling is kept in the control of the active and reactive power. Moreover, with the device and control modes proposed, the power fluctuations coming from a WG are effectively compensated. It was shown that the WG-DSTATCOM/FESS system can deliver a constant active power in a time range of seconds or more, depending on the storage capacity. For the reactive power control, it was shown that the system proposed is able to provide a unitary power factor or to obtain a dynamic control of the voltage in the connection point for power disturbances in the WG and also for fluctuations in the system such as sudden variations in the load. Therefore, the incorporation of DSTATCOM/FESS has shown that it can improve the power quality in wind power systems.

Fig. 17. Efficiency of the PMSM

Fig. 18. Losses of the PMSM for transfer power of: 10kW, 50kW and 100kW

7. APPENDIX A

TEST SYSTEM DATA

Line data are given in Table 1. Table 2 shows the transformer data. All p.u. quantities are on 13.8 kV and the transformer rated MVA base. Table 3 shows the main parameters of the generation unit coupled to the wind turbine. Table 4 shows the main parameters of the wind turbine and the power curve of the turbine is shown in Fig. 19. All p.u. quantities are on a 690 V and on the 750 kVA base. Finally, the most important load data are shown in Table 5.

ID	From bus	To bus	U_N kV	L km	R Ω/km	X Ω/km	B $\mu\Omega^{-1}/\text{km}$
L1	2	3	13.8	30	0.01273	0.2933	4.0024

Table 1. Line data

ID: component identifier; U_N : rated voltage; L : line length; R , X and B : positive sequence resistance, reactance and susceptance of sub-transmission line.

ID	From bus	To bus	R pu	X pu	R_m pu	X_m pu	S_N kVA	N_p/N_s kV/kV
T1	5	6	0.002	0.021	500	500	1000	0.69/13.8

Table 2. Transformer data

R and X : winding resistance and reactance; R_m and X_m : magnetization resistance and reactance; S_N : rated power; N_p/N_s : voltage transformation ratio

ID	Bus	Machine	Rotor	S_N kVA	U_N V	R_s pu	X_s pu	R_r pu	X_r pu	H s	p
WG	5	Induction	Squirrel-cage	750	690	0.016	0.06	0.016	0.06	0.095	2

Table 3. Wind generator data

R_s and X_s : stator resistance and reactance; R_r and X_r : rotor resistance and reactance; H : inertia constant; p : pairs of poles

ID	H s	W_{c-i} m/s	W_{c-o} m/s	W_{rp} m/s
WT	2	4	25	16

Table 4. Wind turbine data

W_{c-i} : cut-in wind speed; W_{c-o} : cut-out wind speed; W_{rp} : rated wind speed

Fig. 19. Power curve of the wind turbine

ID	Bus	P_L kW	Q_L kvar
Ld1	4	300	0
Ld2	4	700	0

Table 5. Load data

P_L and Q_L : load real and reactive power.

8. Appendix B

DSTATCOM/FESS controller data

Tables 6-8 summarize the most important data corresponding to the FESS, Interface and DSTATCOM subsystems.

General							
ID	P_{max} kW	E Wh	t_d s	S_{min} krpm	S_{max} krpm	J kg m ²	U_d V
FW	100	750	27	15.5	31	0.72	750

Table 6. FESS data

P_{max} : maximum rated real power; E : rated storage capacity; t_d : discharge time; S_{min} and S_{max} : minimum and maximum operation speed; J : Polar inertia (PMSM + flywheel); U_d : DC voltage.

PMSM				
Motor / Generator	ψ_m Wb	L_d, L_q μ H	R m Ω	p
Permanent Magnet 3-phase, synchronous	0.052	100	8	2

Table 7. PMSM data

ψ_m : flux induced by magnet; L_d and L_q : d and q axis inductances; R : resistance of the stator windings.

T_f μ s	T_i μ s	U_f V	R_{on} m Ω	R_s k Ω
1	2	1	1	100

Table 7. VSI data of the Interface and the DSTATCOM

T_f : Current 10 % fall time of the IGBT; T_i : Current tail time of the IGBT; U_f : forward voltage for IGBTs; R_{on} : internal resistance of the IGBT device; R_s : snubber resistance

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Energy Storage

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Electricity is more versatile in use because it is a highly ordered form of energy that can be converted efficiently into other forms. However, the disadvantage of electricity is that it cannot be easily stored on a large scale. One of the distinctive characteristics of the electric power sector is that the amount of electricity that can be generated is relatively fixed over short periods of time, although demand for electricity fluctuates throughout the day. Almost all electrical energy used today is consumed as it is generated. This poses no hardship in conventional power plants, where the fuel consumption is varied with the load requirements. However, the photovoltaic and wind, being intermittent sources of power, cannot meet the load demand all of the time. Wherever intermittent power sources reach high levels of grid penetration, energy storage becomes one option to provide reliable energy supplies. These devices can help to make renewable energy more smooth and reliable, though the power output cannot be controlled by the grid operators. They can balance micro grids to achieve a good match between generation and load demand, which can further regulate the voltage and frequency. Also, it can significantly improve the load availability, a key requirement for any power system. The energy storage, therefore, is a desired feature to incorporate with renewable power systems, particularly in stand alone power plants. The purpose of this book is twofold. At first, for the interested researcher it shows the importance of different Energy Storage devices, but secondly, and more importantly, it forms a first attempt at dissemination of knowledge to the wider non-expert community who may wish to consider Energy Storage device for specific application. Thus this book will be helpful to provide an indication of the tools necessary for an assessment to be made Energy Storage device more powerful.

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