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Power System Transient Stability Enhancement using Direct Drive Wind Generators

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Abstract—Recent grid codes requires the wind farms not only to ride through the fault disturbances but also support the stability of nearby grid during severe network disturbances. This paper presents the impact of direct drive wind generators to the improvement of fault ride through (FRT) capability of fixed speed wind turbine. Three operational strategies have been investigated, i.e. without reactive power support, considering reactive power support complying with the Danish grid codes (with and without considering overloading of the converter currents). The proposed control strategies enable the direct drive wind generators to inject the required reactive power in order to help stabilizing the nearby fixed speed wind generators during faults. Simulation studies are carried out by using MATLAB/SIMULINK.

Index Terms—Fixed speed wind generators, fault ride through, direct drive wind generators, reactive power support, voltage stability.

I. INTRODUCTION

GLOBAL cumulative installed wind power generation capacity has increased tremendously in the last two decades, i.e. from 6,100 MW in 1996 to 197,039 MW in 2010 [1]. As harnessing wind power is increasing, Transmission System Operators (TSOs) set the grid codes that require wind farms to ride through the fault and support the stability of the nearby grid during severe network faults.

Implementation of grid codes worldwide has been reported in various works and mostly suggested the utilization of variable speed generators such as DFIGs [2, 3] and full converter based wind generation systems [4-7]. However, fixed speed generator are still contributing about 20% to 30% of global wind capacity [8], which mostly were installed in the 1980s to 1990s. During that period, technology in power electronic converter has not advanced as nowadays, therefore such type of wind generators has limitation in handling network faults.

Fixed speed wind generator consisting of squirrel cage induction machine is well known for its simple installation, economical cost, as well as brushless and rugged construction. Since this technology is not equipped with any power electronic converter, transient disturbances and fault

conditions do not cause major threat to the electrical parts of the generator. However, when a short circuit fault occurs in the power system, the electromagnetic torque of the machine reduces proportional to the square of the remnant voltages causing the rotor to accelerate beyond its safety limits. Also, as the fault occurs, the induction machine absorbs large reactive power in order to recover the air gap flux [9]. Otherwise, large difference between electromagnetic and mechanical torques can lead to the instability of the machine. If reactive power cannot be fulfilled, then machine should be disconnected from power system because it can also exacerbate the voltage stability by absorbing reactive power from the network. Recent grid codes prevent the disconnection of the wind farms as it can lead to the cascading failures in the system.

Capability of the fixed speed wind turbine to ride through the faults can be improved by applying FACTS devices, fast pitching of the turbine blades during the fault period, using dynamic breaking resistors, or implementing superconducting magnetic energy storage (SMES) [10-16]. Among aforementioned solutions, SMES has been proved to be the most effective technology to improve the FRT capability of fixed speed wind generators but installation of SMES is not cost effective.

Direct drive wind turbine utilizing power electronic converter has the ability to not only withstand during the fault but also provide reactive power support to the grid. It has been demonstrated in [6, 17] that direct drive wind turbine can improve transient and voltage stability of its adjacent grid. In [9], it is also shown that the capability of fixed speed wind generators to ride through the fault can be improved by installing direct drive wind turbine in parallel and series. The control strategies are designed considering the grid codes set by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) but the effect of overloading the converter current is not shown.

The goal of this paper is to present the impacts of installing direct drive wind turbine in improving transient stability of the power system. Particularly in providing reactive power support during network disturbances, such that it can improve the fault ride through capability of fixed speed wind turbine. Danish grid codes will be taken into account for designing the control strategies.

II. SIMULATION SET-UP AND MODELING

The simulation analysis is conducted using MATLAB/SIMULINK.

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machine to inject reactive power is utilized at the grid side converter.

D. Maximum Current Capacity of Converters

Danish Grid Code requires WPPs to be capable of continuously operating at their rated active power with the power factor in the range of 0.95 capacitive to 0.95 inductive. The upper and lower limits of the supply voltage amplitude for continuous operation of the generating units are specified as $|V_{s,max}| = 1.1$ p.u. and $|V_{s,min}| = 0.9$ p.u. [26]. These specifications must be taken into account to calculate the maximum current-carrying capacity of the network side converter (I_{max}). An appropriate design of converter current capacity should make sure that the active and reactive power requirements of the FRC-based wind generator can be attained under the most onerous operating conditions without violating the thermal limits of the semiconductor switches (e.g., IGBTs) used in the VSCs.

In order to obtain the analytical expression of I_{max} , the active and reactive powers of FRC-based wind generators are needed. If the scaling factors of Clarke's Transformation are omitted, the active and reactive powers in the synchronous frame are defined by

$$P = |V_s| I_{rd} \quad (3.a)$$

$$Q = |V_s| I_{rq} \quad (3.b)$$

where $|V_s|$ is the supply voltage amplitude, and I_{rd} and I_{rq} are the quadrature components of the network side converter (NSC) in the grid voltage-oriented frame [27]. Based on (3), the amplitude of current in the NSC can be obtained as

$$|I| = \sqrt{I_d^2 + I_q^2} = \sqrt{\left(\frac{P}{|V_s|}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{Q}{|V_s|}\right)^2} \quad (4)$$

Based on (4), the maximum current in the NSC is required when both P and Q are at their rated values, and the supply voltage amplitude is at its minimum values, i.e., $P = 1.0$ p.u., $Q = 0.328$ p.u. and $|V_s| = 0.9$ p.u. Substituting these values in (4), the I_{max} is obtained equal to 1.17 p.u. This means that the rated current of the NSC must be 17% larger than its rated active power or $I_{d,max} = 0.85|I_{max}|$. The extra current capacity in the NSC is needed to provide the rated capacitive/inductive reactive power of 0.328 p.u. in case needed by the network.

E. Modified Reactive Power Support

Three design strategies are considered, as follows:

1. *Design 1*: the conventional wind turbine control design (with no reactive power support);
2. *Design 2*: modified control design to comply with Danish reactive power support requirements. This means that reactive component of the grid side converter current vector increases by 2% for each 1% reduction in the PCC voltage for voltage drops below 0.9 pu.
3. *Design 3*: modified control design to comply with Danish reactive power support requirements along with temporary overloading of the grid side converter. In this case, the maximum converter current is allowed to be 141% than its default, i.e. 110%.

III. SIMULATION RESULTS

Three types of designs have been considered in this study in order to see the ability of the direct drive wind turbine to allow reactive power injection during grid faults. For this purpose, the system will be subjected to a symmetrical three phase fault at the infinite bus and unsymmetrical phase to phase faults at the terminal (Bus 575) of the direct drive wind generators with durations of 500 ms and 1s, respectively.

Response of the system under symmetrical fault is presented in Fig. 5 while Fig. 6 presents simulation results for phase-to-phase fault. As can be seen from Figs. 5 (a-c), with Design 1, direct drive wind turbine is not equipped with reactive power supports. The system is aimed to work at power factor of 0.95 as requested by Danish grid Codes. Under normal condition, the reactive current component, I_q , at direct drive wind turbine is set equal to 0.25 p.u. When the fault occurs and the grid voltage becomes less than 0.9 p.u. then I_q is set to drop to 0 p.u. For both fixed and direct drive wind generators, 50% voltage sag at the grid will cause voltage drops at its terminal, as a result, the power delivered to the grid, P_{grid} , reduces from its steady state. For fixed speed wind turbines, voltage drop at its terminal leads to excessive consumption of reactive power. Therefore, as the fault is cleared, it cannot recover to its steady state while the direct drive wind generators are able to ride through the fault.

Response of wind generators with Design 2 are presented in Figs. 5 (d-f). Under normal condition, reactive power is maintained at 0 p.u. When the fault occurs, the wind generator must help the supply voltage restoration by injecting 2% reactive current component for each 1% drop in the supply voltage amplitude. Accordingly, the I_q component starts to increase linearly from 0.2 p.u. with the slope of 2.

In Design 3, the grid side converter output current is allowed to temporarily increase to 1.41 times of its nominal capacity during the fault period (see Figs. 5 (g-i)). Note that this is not a major threat for the semiconductor switches because modern power converters are designed to withstand short-term overloading. Semikron SKiiP® Intelligent Power Modules, for example, can tolerate 150% overloading for 20 s [28]. In Danish Grid Code, the maximum fault duration for the rated reactive power injection ($|V_s| = 0.5$ p.u.) is defined equal to 1 s; therefore, the grid side converter can be safely overloaded by 41% during the requested fault period.

As for Designs 2 and 3, FRT capability of fixed speed wind generators can be improved due to reactive power injected by the direct drive wind generators during faults. During the fault, the rotor of induction generators accelerates slightly but then it decelerates to its nominal value as the fault is cleared. In the direct drive wind generators, the grid side converter keeps enabling the voltage regulator to control the reactive power injection to the grid. Thus, the grid voltage manages to quickly recover to 1.0 p.u. The generator side converter is also activated right after the fault clearance so that the wind farms can continue supplying electric power at the rated value to the grid. During the fault period, the overshoot in the DC link voltage, V_{DC} , depends on the superfluous power that is

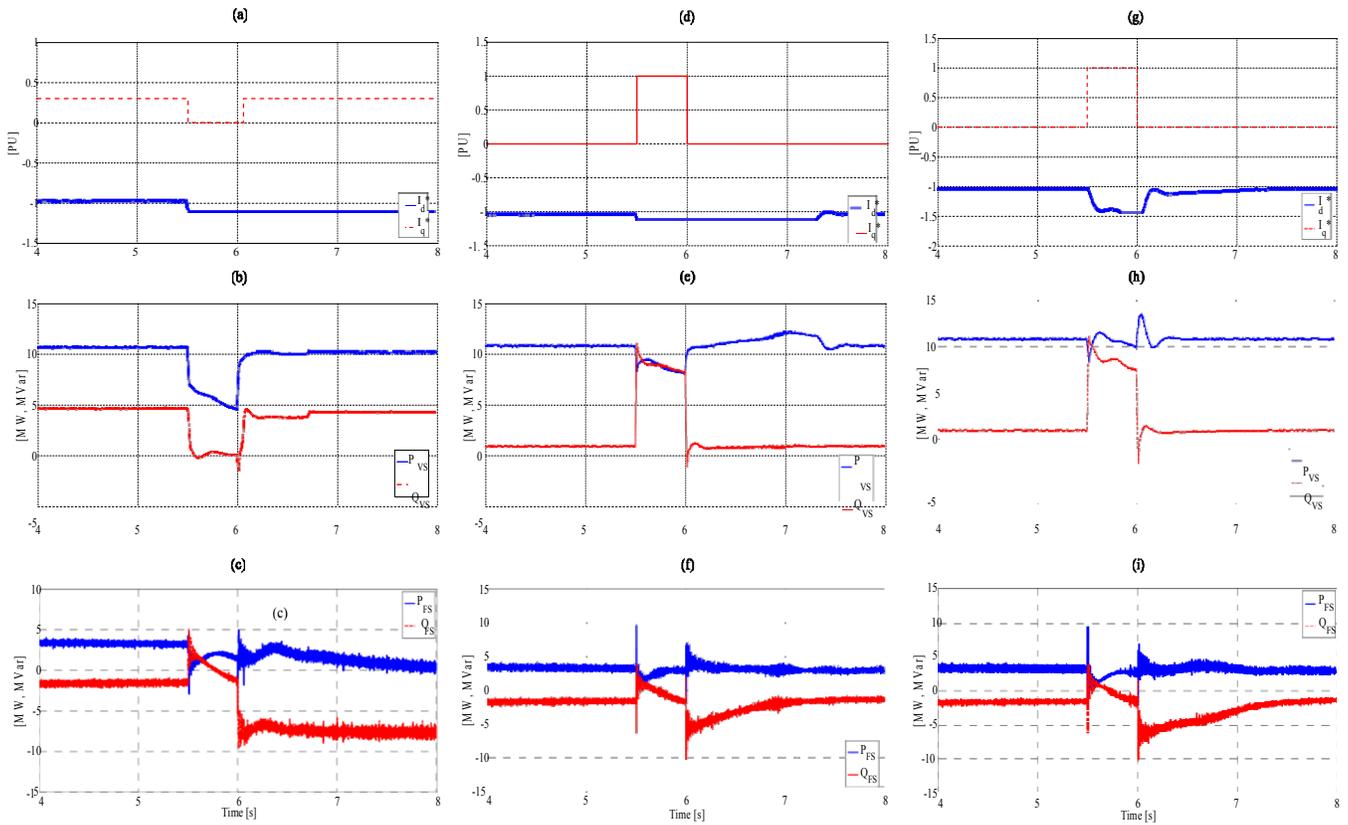


Fig. 5. Quadrature components of the grid side converter currents, P-Q response for fixed speed wind generators and direct drive wind generators under a 50% voltage sag, sustained for 500 ms: (a)-(c) Design 1; (d)-(f) Design 2; (g)-(i) Design 3

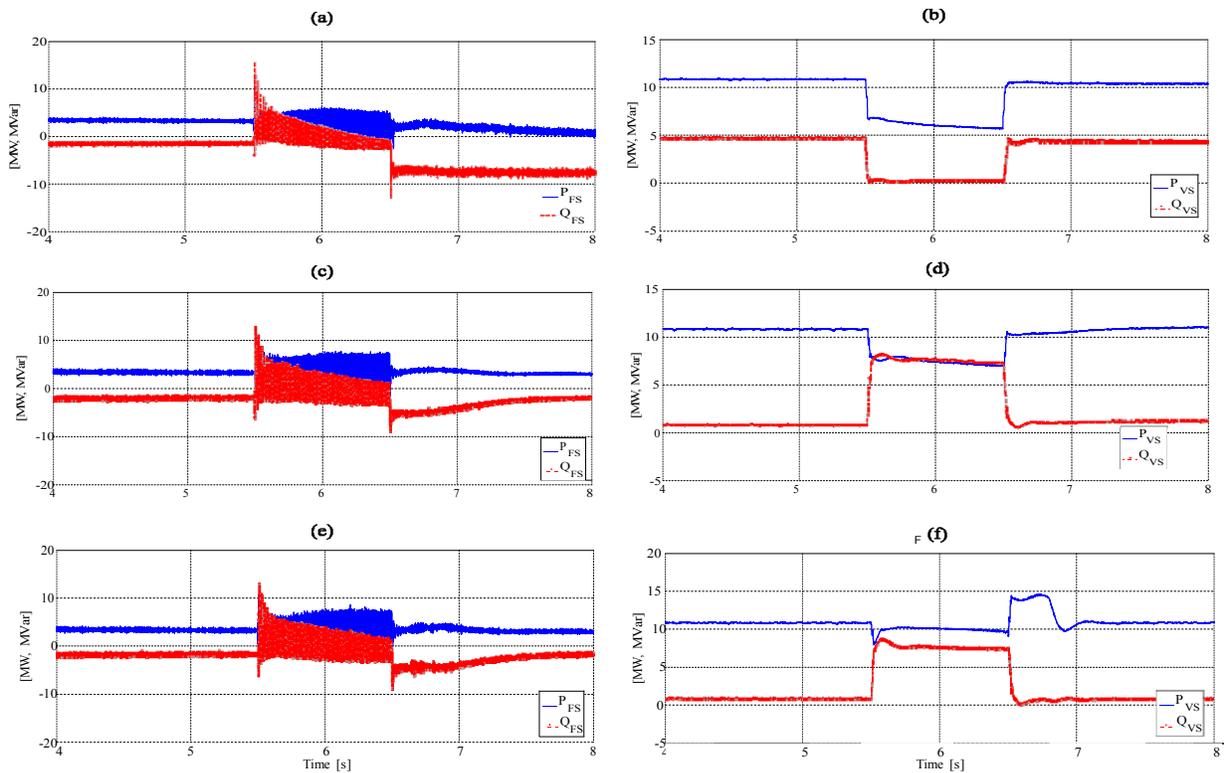


Fig. 6. P-Q response for direct drive wind generators and fixed speed wind generators under a phase to phase fault, sustained for 1s: (a)-(b) Design 1; (c)-(d) Design 2; (e)-(f) Design 3

injected to the capacitor from the generator. Similar features are also found when system is subjected to the unsymmetrical sag at Bus 575 of direct drive wind turbine (see Fig. 6). Design 2, Fig. 6(c-d), and Design 3, Fig. 6 (e-f) allow the direct drive wind generators to ride through the fault while injecting reactive power to its nearby grid even though longer fault duration has been applied.

Fig. 7 shows the profile of DC link voltage of the direct drive wind generators for applied designs under unsymmetrical fault. It is clear that the highest overshoots in the DC link voltage is for Design 1 due to large mismatch between power produced by the generator and the power that is able to delivered to the grid during fault period.

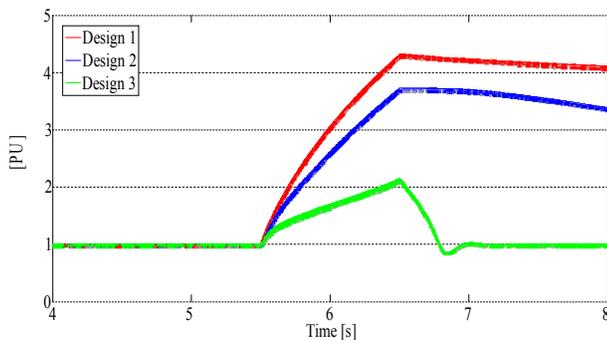


Fig 7. DC link voltage for different designs

IV. CONCLUSIONS

Impacts of three different designs of direct drive wind generators in providing reactive power support to its nearby grid have been investigated. Apart from modified reactive power control, the grid side converter also applies SVBHCC which has simple control structure, very fast transient response and intrinsic robustness to the machine parameters. Simulation studies confirm that the voltage profile of fixed speed wind generators can be improved with 2% reactive power support from variable speed wind generators. Moreover, direct drive wind generators are able to ride through the fault while injecting the reactive power to the grid during the fault periods. In addition, the converter has the lowest DC link voltage as the capacity of converter current is increased from its nominal value.

V. APPENDIX

Table 1 presents the simulation parameters for direct drive wind generators while Table 2 depicts machine parameters of fixed speed wind generators.

TABLE I
SIMULATION PARAMETERS FOR DIRECT DRIVE WIND TURBINES

Generator Parameters	
Rated Power	2 MW
Stator voltage/Frequency	575 V / 60 Hz
R_s	0.006 p.u.
$X_d / X_q / X_l$	1.305 p.u / 0.474 p.u / 0.18 p.u
H	2.32 Sec
V_{dc}	1100 Volt
Grid side coupling inductor, L / R	0.15 p.u / 0.03 p.u
Boost converter inductance, L / R	0.0012 H / 0.005 Ω
Wind Turbine parameters	
Nominal mechanical output power	2 MW
Base wind speed	11 m/s
Maximum power at base wind speed	1.1 p.u.
Initial pitch angle	0°
Inertia Constant	4.32 s

TABLE II
SIMULATION PARAMETERS FOR FIXED SPEED WIND GENERATORS

Generator Parameters	
Rated power	1.5 MW
Rated Voltage/Rated frequency	575 V, 50 Hz
Stator/Rotor resistances	0.005, 0.1248 p.u.
Leakage / Mutual inductances	0.4, 6.77 p.u.
Local capacitor bank	0.4 MVar
Wind Turbine parameters	
Nominal mechanical output power	1.5 MW
Base wind speed	9 m/s
Maximum power at base wind speed	1.0 p.u.
Turbine inertia constant	5.04 s

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