

Review of Adaptive Load Frequency Control Strategies for Improving Wind Power Plant Integration

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Abstract— The integration of renewable energy sources into the power grid is increasing globally to meet the increasing demand for clean and sustainable energy. The integration introduces challenges to the power system due to the varying nature of renewable energy sources. The purpose of this study is to investigate the load frequency control methods in the developing setting of modern power systems with renewable energy integration, with a focus on wind power. While traditional load frequency control methods have been efficient in maintaining the stability of the grid, the introduction of wind power has added a new layer of complexity. The paper analyzes the benefits and challenges of various adaptive control techniques, which include the classic Proportional, Integral and Derivative controller, fuzzy logic, and neural network based on adapting to the changes. It is also anticipated that given the availability of solar photovoltaic energy particularly in residential and commercial settings, the next area of focus will focus on investing the potential to contribute to maintaining the grid stability.

Keywords—Load frequency control, wind farm, adaptive control algorithms, renewable energy

I. INTRODUCTION

There has been a rise in the use of renewable energy sources around the world to fulfil the growing need for clean and sustainable energy as well as for environmental benefits. Amongst the sources, the use of wind and solar photovoltaic (PV) power has rapidly increased and contributes a larger portion of the energy portfolio [1]. Because of its fluctuation and intermittent nature, the increasing penetration of renewable energy sources has presented a challenge to the power grid's stability and reliability. Compared to conventional energy sources such as coal, wind power generation is subjected to fluctuations that are caused by the change in wind speed and direction [2]–[5]. These challenges have motivated a new area of research opportunities for researchers to design adaptive control schemes that will be capable of maintaining the balance between the generated power and the load to maintain the stability of the power grid. Considering this, the primary objective of this paper is to conduct a comprehensive review of the various adaptive load frequency control (LFC) strategies that are capable of maintaining system stability.

It becomes necessary to create control systems that can keep the power system's stability and dependability. LFC plays a crucial role in the dependability and efficiency of modern power systems. It plays a role in maintaining the balance between the generated electricity and consumption, ensuring that the grid is operating within the acceptable frequency range. LFC systems have historically been designed

with a well-defined control mechanism based on traditional power generation sources.

With the rapid integration of renewable energy sources and increasing demand, the power generation landscape is changing significantly, which is a challenge to operators. Since renewable energy sources are naturally varying, integrating them into the grid adds to the uncertainty and complexity. These challenges require flexible and adaptive strategies to ensure grid stability and sustainability.

This paper reviews the concept of adaptive load frequency control techniques, which have the potential to overcome the challenges posed by renewable energy sources and the evolving grid infrastructure, this will include the challenges of those control strategies. The research will also explore future directions.

II. WIND POWER GENERATION IN SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa has significantly advanced the development of infrastructure for wind power generation [6]. Several challenges persist particularly in regulation, market and energy storage systems and overcoming them requires cooperation between the various stakeholders [7]. The country

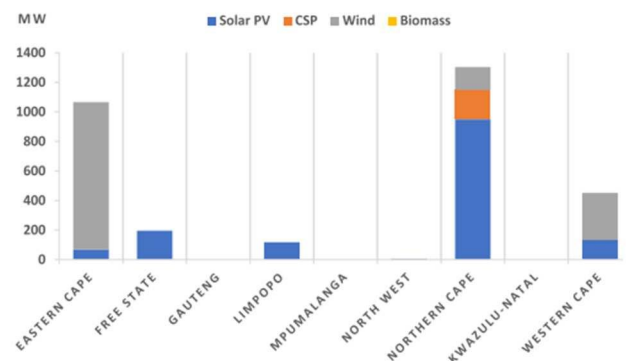


Fig. 1. Electricity generation by different technologies in South Africa [8]

has great potential for harnessing wind energy due to the availability of wind resources, particularly along the coastal areas of the Western Cape and Eastern Cape and in the Northern Cape [8], [9]. The availability of wind resources has led to onshore and offshore wind farms that contribute to the nation's renewable energy capacity being built. Fig. 1 shows the renewable energy technologies in South African provinces. The data shows the highest ranking of wind energy in the Eastern Cape and Western Cape, followed by the Northern Cape.

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With the integration of wind farms into the power, the standards and the requirements of the grid code must be adhered to [10]. With the challenges such as voltage and frequency deviation caused by the variable nature of wind farms, the South African Grid Code specify that the tolerance of voltage and frequency deviation be as per Fig. 2 under normal conditions.

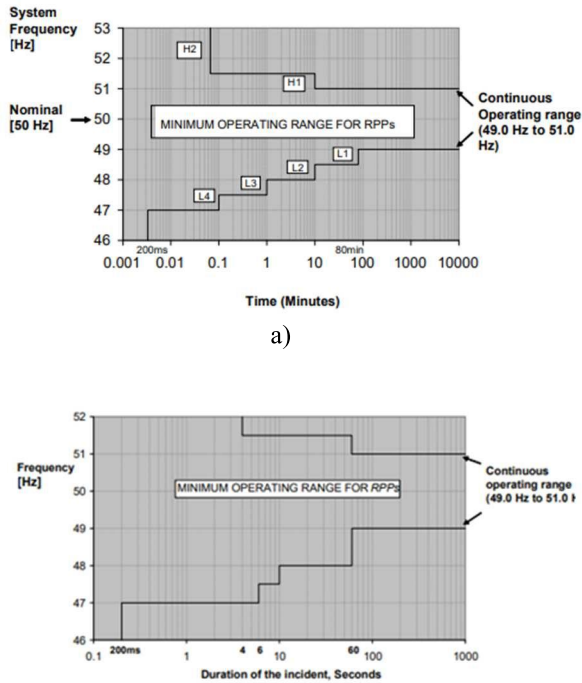


Fig. 2. Minimum frequency operating range a) under normal conditions. b) under frequency disturbance [10]

It is critical to adhere to the grid code standards and requirements when developing and implementing control algorithms as failure to comply could result in operational issues, instability, disconnection from the grid, and damage to equipment.

III. INTEGRATION OF WIND POWER AND CHALLENGES

Wind energy stands out among renewable energy sources, which is mainly because of its technological advancement, infrastructure, and competitive cost when compared to other renewable energy sources[11]. One key part of maintaining the power grid's reliability is ensuring that the amount of power generated at any given time closely reflects the amount of power used. When there is an excess of electricity produced, the grid frequency increases, when there is insufficient power generation, the frequency will decrease the turbine function [12]. Traditional turbines typically have a constant rotational speed that is synced with the frequency of the grid. Wind turbines, on the other hand, do not function synchronously with the frequency of the grid, they instead are controlled to optimize their active power generation.

Morden wind power plants use complex plant control systems which can modify the active power output responding to the changes in grid frequency [12]. This adaptability is essential for ensuring the grid's overall performance and stability. The wind farm can assist in maintaining a balance

between power generation and consumption by participating in grid frequency control.

The integration of wind power generation, however, introduces challenges in areas that are key for the system reliability. The integration issues for onshore and offshore may differ depending on the wind speed and environment.

IV. FREQUENCY CONTROL AND RESPONSE OF POWER SYSTEMS

The power system frequency response is crucial to ensuring a stable electric grid. The system should be able to react to changes in load and generation to maintain that stability under various conditions [13], [14]. Depending on the region, the nominal frequency could be 50 Hz or 60 Hz. The frequency change indicates the balance between the supply and demand. The frequency response is divided into regions, which are the inertial, primary, secondary, and tertiary responses, as shown in Fig. 3.

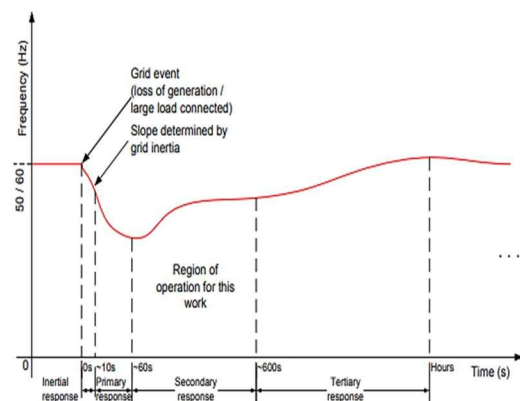


Fig. 3. Frequency response

Frequency control techniques are at three different levels, the primary or droop-based control[15] provides fast power support in events of sudden power imbalance, usually within seconds [16]–[19]. The secondary, known as the LFC restores the system's frequency to the nominal frequency[20], [21]. The tertiary control, which is referred to as reserve control is important for system stabilization[22], [23]. The control mechanism can further be categorized as demand control, emergency control, and control support which contains regulation support from energy storage systems (ESS), and virtual synchronous generators [24]. Fig. 4 further shows the analysis of a study of frequency control.

V. LOAD FREQUENCY CONTROL STRATEGIES

Adaptive controllers are designed to maintain the frequency of the power system to its nominal value. There are common controllers used for this purpose, including the classic Proportional (P), Integral (I), and Derivative (D) controllers, intelligent controllers such as fuzzy logic controllers [25], [26], sliding mode [27], [28] Adaptive Neuro-Fuzzy Interference (ANFIS) [29], and Artificial Neural Network (ANN) controllers[30], [31].

P, I, and D controllers are commonly used in power systems because of their simplicity, effectiveness, and ease of implementation in many applications[32]. PID controllers use a control loop to continuously monitor the frequency of the power system and adjust the power output of the generators to maintain frequency within the desired range[30]. These controllers consider the overshoot/undershoot which refers to

the point to which the frequency deviates from its desired value and the settling time as the objective functions for optimization in LFC[31].

to choose the P and I gains. Even though [47]–[49] have presented fuzzy PI, they made use of optimizing strategies such as Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO) to improve the performance of the controller. Though they are capable of

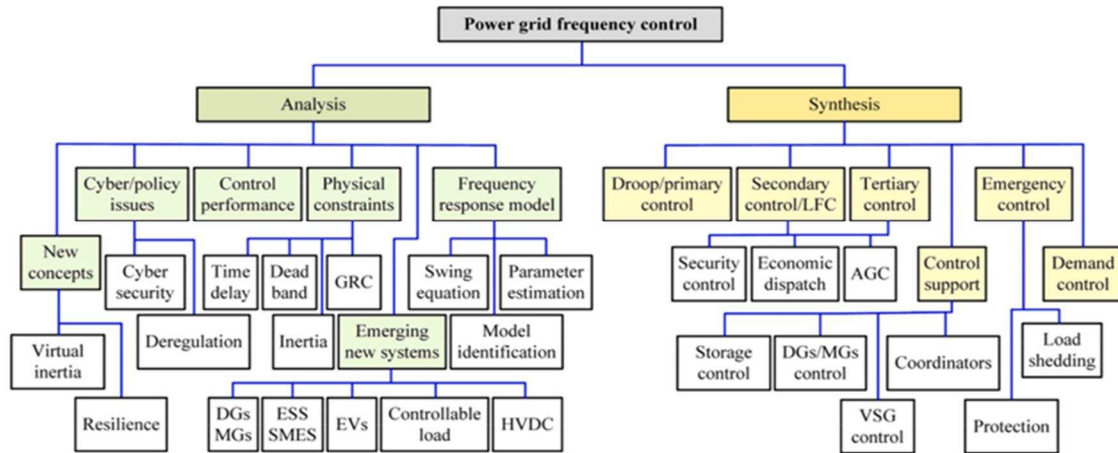


Fig. 4. Analysis of power system grid frequency control

The main issues associated with PID controllers are low accuracy, might not provide ideal performance in systems especially those with complex dynamics, and a high settling time[33]. The use of intelligent controllers/soft computing has also increased within power systems. Controllers such as the ANN use neural networks to model the behaviours of the power system and predict the optimal power output adjustments needed to maintain the frequency. These controllers are trained using historical data from the wind power plant [34]–[36]. They are commonly used because they can handle complex and nonlinear systems and can learn from historical data without the need for mathematical modelling which makes them more adaptable to changing conditions[37]. The disadvantage of the types of controllers is that they require a large amount of data to accurately train the network, and it is time-consuming.

VI. FREQUENCY CONTROL METHODS

A. Fuzzy logic control

Controllers that take advantage of the fuzzy logic's ability to handle non-linear systems have an increasing application in [29], and [34] within the application of power systems. To handle the non-linearity of power systems, caused by the variable nature of wind power, intelligent controllers such as the fuzzy logic controller [39], [41], [44] are being proposed as the most efficient control mechanisms. In [42] the authors proposed an adaptive fuzzy logic controller to improve the performance of a wind power integrated system. The controller proposed was effective in achieving a faster response and reducing fluctuations. [40] presented the load frequency control of a hydro-electrical power plant that is manipulated by a fuzzy logic system. The results also showed that the proposed controller performs better than the conventional controllers.

B. Fuzzy PI control

Conventional controllers such as the PI have the advantage of simplicity and less complexity, hence have always been utilized in applications of power systems with the help of different optimization methods. [32], [45] used the PI controller for LFC to take advantage of these benefits. [46] proposed a fuzzy PI controller, where the fuzzy logic is used

handling nonlinear and complex power systems, the drawback is that their complexity usually makes them less capable. This is also evident in [50]–[52]. [53], [54] demonstrated that apart from regulating voltage and frequency in wind power plants, it can also be utilized for PV systems. The results show that voltage and frequency can still be maintained with minimal deviations in events of load changes.

C. Fuzzy-based PID

PID controllers are often used in applications in power systems. One such application is for LFC in systems that consist of hydro units, nuclear units, and thermal units[30]. [59]–[61] presented a fuzzy-based PID controller for better robust control and flexibility in tuning nonlinear gains. They are also applicable in hybrid systems[62], [65]. In [65], the author also demonstrated the effectiveness of a conventional PID controller optimized by a Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO) algorithm for a hybrid PV, wind turbine and BESS connected to a microgrid LFC. The PSO-optimized PI was also investigated by [42] to compare the performance of the two controllers. Although in [65] the author was able to obtain satisfactory results, the fuzzy logic-based was superior to the study in [42]. What can be observed from this is how authors use optimization methods in their designs for either tuning, tracking or minimizing the setting time to improve the performance and reduce frequency deviations.

D. Artificial Neural Network (ANN)

In [35], the authors used an optimized PI controller and artificial neural network to train the data of the area to be controlled. It was shown that the ANN proposed outshined the integral controller in terms of setting time. In [36] the authors introduce an adaptive controller which uses the combination of fuzzy logic, neural networks, and PID controller, which allows for learning the behaviour of the system, ensuring asymptotic stability, and tracking of the reference signals. [37] also presented the PID controller for LFC and how optimization techniques can be used to improve the performance of the controller, considering that a large quantity of data is required to train the network, this was also demonstrated in [73], where the authors presented a neural

network-based controller optimized by PSO to adjust main parameters or the neural network model.

E. Adaptive Sliding Mode Controller (ASMC)

Sliding mode controllers require full-state feedback, meaning that all unmeasured system states and disturbances must be estimated. It is mostly preferred for its robustness to uncertainties and instability. This allows it to handle variations in the power system. [74], [27] presented the LFC strategy that is based on the sliding mode control theory to address the intermittency of renewable energy sources. Controller in a single area power system. The method involves selecting the right switching surface to manage frequency deviations caused by parameter uncertainty [28].

In [75], the authors presented an Adaptive Sliding Mode Controller (ASMC) for managing the power flow of a wind turbine that is equipped with a DFIG system. The proposed controller with the combination of an Optimal Power Maximum Power Point Tracking (OP-MPPT) strategy can enhance the power quality generated by the wind turbine. It was effective in handling variations in machine parameters and disturbances and offers no overshoot, zero steady state and fast transient response compared to a conventional PI controller. On the other hand, the OP-MPPT has shown poor capabilities in dealing with high variations of wind speed

VII. DISCUSSION AND FUTURE WORK

Various methods are discussed in solving LFC in power systems, like the use of classical controllers such as the PID, and intelligent methods/soft computing as well as fuzzy logic and artificial neural networks. Emphasis is placed on the need to design controllers that are flexible and adaptive to the changing conditions of the power system. Traditional control methods are not flexible enough to handle the complexity of modern power systems, hence the emergence of adaptive methods. There has been an increase in the use of hybrid methods, such as fuzzy-based PI or PID controllers. This is mainly to take advantage of the characteristics of each method, such as the simplicity, ease of implementation, cost, and ability to handle nonlinear systems. This combination has improved the performance of LFC such as removing steady state error and fast response under conditions such as change in load and generated power.

While the focus of this review has mostly been on adaptive load frequency control strategies in the context of wind power generation into the grid, the next area of focus in the growing power landscape will most likely be on solar photovoltaic (PV) energy. This is because of its widespread availability, existing installations in both the residential and commercial sectors, and the potential to contribute to grid stability through surplus energy injection

VIII. CONCLUSION

Wind power due to its variable nature presents a challenge to power system operations. Different adaptive load frequency control strategies have been reviewed with a focus on the integration of wind power. The various LFC strategies reviewed include the classic P, I, D, fuzzy logic, neural network-based and a hybrid of classical P, I, and D controllers with intelligent controllers. They provide a flexible and adaptive solution to the challenges and enable the power system to respond to the fluctuations caused by the variable nature of wind power. These strategies enhance the stability of the grid and mitigate the impact caused by the variation in

wind power generation. However, these strategies do come with challenges such as the ability to handle linear or nonlinear systems, and the amount of data required especially in neural networks which require large quantities of historical data to predict future patterns. Continuous technology and research developments provide the potential to improve adaptive control systems, increasing their ability to handle wind power fluctuations and add to the sustainability of wind energy generation.

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