

Impact of proportional resonant controller parameters of VSC connected to AC grids with variable X/R characteristic on the small signal stability

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this paper is to assess the impact of proportional resonant controller (*PR*) parameters of a Voltage Source Converter (*VSC*) and AC grid topology on the small signal stability of a VSC-AC system. Based on this, a small signal model is constructed, step by step, and validated against *EMT* simulations. Following this validation, several scenarios containing different *PR* controller gains are proposed and compared by means of trajectory of eigenvalues. A discussion of the best adequacy of *PR* controller parameters and AC grid strength in combination with inductive-resistive characteristic (*X/R*) is developed to ensure the stability of the system. The previous eigenvalue analysis is verified in time domain by means of *EMT* simulations. The analysis performed concludes that, while the AC grid strength in combination with *PR* controller parameters plays an important role in determination of stability, variations in the inductive-resistive AC grid characteristic need to be included in the analysis, since further instabilities can appear even when the *PR* controller is well designed for a specific AC grid configuration.

1. Introduction

Nowadays, High Voltage Direct Current (*HVDC*) transmission systems are becoming a key technology to convey great amounts of energy from remote areas to AC grids, as it is the case of offshore wind farms, placed in locations with high wind energy potential [1]. *HVDC* technology can be implemented with Current Source Converters (*CSC*) or with Voltage Source Converters (*VSC*). *VSC* technology presents technical advantages, such as the ability to control active and reactive power independently, provide high controllability of *DC* grid, and black start capability [2]. The control schemes of *VSC* converters usually operate in two levels: outer and inner control [3,4]. The outer controller is responsible for active and reactive power control, frequency control and other type of control services while the inner controller undertakes the responsibility for current control. Most of the inner controllers are based on Proportional Integral (*PI*) controllers [5–10] but other less common control structures, such as Proportional Resonant (*PR*) controllers [11–13], can be found in the literature.

In the last decade, *PR* controllers have appeared as an alternative to *PI* controllers, due to their unique behaviour under unbalanced operation [11]. To this effect, *PRs* operate in $\alpha\beta$ -frame, which allows them to

track both balanced and unbalanced current references and provide an improved response under unbalanced faults in comparison to the response provided by *PI* controllers. Besides, with *PR* controllers the grid current waveforms are enhanced when interface inductors are not perfectly balanced between the phases. *PR* controllers are used to overcome drawbacks that simple linear *PI* controllers have, such as the elimination of steady-state errors [11–14]. In [12] the main drawbacks of *PI* controllers, as being the presence of steady-state error in the stationary frame and the need to decouple phase dependency in 3-phase systems, are listed. Since *PI* controllers are very simple to implement, many modifications of them, such as a grid voltage feed-forward path, have been applied to increase their bandwidth but at a cost of pushing the system containing *PI* controllers and its respective plant towards its stability limits [12]. Apart from these, other benefits of stationary-frame controllers are identified in [14]. One of them is the removal of the Phase Locked Loop (*PLL*), which eliminates errors due to synchronization problems. Another advantage is the elimination of inverse Park transformations, which reduces overall computational burden. However, *PR* controllers have invariant modulation blocks in their control loop, which inhibits the use of parameterization techniques such as eigenvalue analysis. Therefore, a proper linearization of *PR* controller is

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Nomenclature

<i>CSC</i>	current source converter	T_v, T_q	time constant in d and q components of PI in outer controller
<i>EMT</i>	electromagnetic transient	$V_{AC}, V_{AC,ref}$	AC voltage module magnitude measured and setpoint at the VSC AC output
<i>ENTSOE</i>	European network of transmission system operators	$V_{d,AC}, V_{q,AC}$	AC voltage in d and q coordinates at the VSC output
f	AC grid frequency	$V_{d,PCC}, V_{q,PCC}$	AC voltage measured at the PCC in d and q coordinate
f_h	frequency threshold	$V_{d,ref}, V_{q,ref}$	output voltage of PR controller in d and q coordinates
FSM_{th}	frequency sensitive mode y-intercept	$V_{d,ref,ss}, V_{q,ref,ss}$	output voltage of PR controller in d and q coordinates in steady-state regime
<i>HVDC</i>	high voltage direct current	$V_{DC}, V_{DC,ref}$	DC voltage measured and setpoint at the DC side of VSC
$I_{d,AC}, I_{q,AC}$	AC current measured in d and q coordinates	$V_{DC,diff}$	mean value of the positive and negative DC voltage measurements
$I_{d,ref}, I_{q,ref}$	current setpoints in d and q coordinates	$V_{DC,diff,ss}$	mean value of the positive and negative DC voltage measurements in steady-state regime
k_o	constant related to sinusoidal modulation of VSC	$V_{DC,ss}$	DC voltage in steady-state regime
$k_{droop,AC}$	droop AC constant that relates reactive power with AC voltage in outer controller	V_{DC}^+, V_{DC}^-	positive and negative DC voltages measured at each pole of the HVDC link
k_{FSM}	FSM slope for frequency control in outer controller	<i>VSC</i>	Voltage Source Converter
k_i, k_p	PR integral and proportional constants in inner proportional resonant controller, respectively	$V_{\alpha,PCC}, I_{\alpha,PCC}$	AC grid voltage and current in α coordinate measured at PCC, respectively
k_v, k_q	proportional constant in d and q components of proportional integral in Outer controller, respectively	$V_{\alpha,ref}, I_{\alpha,ref}$	AC grid voltage and current references in α coordinate, respectively
<i>LFSM</i>	limited sensitive frequency mode according to <i>ENTSOE</i>	$V_{\beta,PCC}, I_{\beta,PCC}$	AC grid voltage and current in β coordinate measured at PCC, respectively
<i>LTI</i>	linear time invariant	$V_{\beta,ref}, I_{\beta,ref}$	AC grid voltage and current references in β coordinate, respectively
P_{aux}	DC power measured by the time a frequency deviation exceeds a threshold that activates an ancillary frequency function	X/R	inductive-resistive characteristic
<i>PCC</i>	point of common coupling	$x_{d,PCC}, x_{q,PCC}$	AC line state variables in d and q coordinates, respectively
P_{DC}	DC power measured at HVDC cable	$x_{d1}, x_{d2}, x_{d3}, x_{q1}, x_{q2}, x_{q3}$	PR state variables in d and q coordinates, respectively
<i>PI</i>	proportional integral	x_v, x_q	outer controller state variables in d and q coordinates, respectively
<i>PLL</i>	phase locked loop	ΔV_{DC}	DC voltage variation due to FSM function
P_{md}, P_{mq}	modulation index in d and q coordinates	ϑ	AC grid voltage angle
$P_{md,ss}, P_{mq,ss}$	modulation index in d and q coordinates in steady-state regime	ω	AC grid nominal angular frequency and frequency parameter design for PR controller transfer function
<i>PR</i>	proportional resonant	ω_{grid}	AC grid angular frequency
$Q_{AC}, Q_{AC,ref}$	reactive power measured and setpoint in outer controller, respectively		
Q_{droop}	droop reactive function		
R, L	AC line resistance and inductance		
R_f, L_f	output filter resistance and inductance of the VSC		
<i>SCR</i>	short circuit ratio		

needed, as proposed in [11].

Based on the existing literature, PR controllers can be classified according to two main categories: the degree of similarity with ideal PR controller and the additional complementary feedback branches. According to the degree of similarity, in [15] three PR controller types are defined, namely, ideal, non-ideal and complex vector. As explained in [15], the complex vector PR controller presents the lowest sensitivity to integral gain and frequency variations around the fundamental frequency, in comparison to the ideal and non-ideal PR controllers. However, it is only stable if voltage decoupling is performed and its use is more adequate for applications such as droop controlled microgrids, where the resonant frequency changes. Nevertheless, [15] concludes that the presence of voltage decoupling branches is more important than the type of PR controller selected for inner control loop, since it greatly decreases the sensitivity of the PR controller to frequency variation.

According to the additional complementary feedback branches, [14,16] study PR controller configurations and compare them with the ideal PR controller configuration, where no complementary branches are included. The authors name these as PRXF, PRXC and PRX2 controllers [14,16]. The outcomes of the comparison are summarized as follows. PRXF controller presents lower sensitivity than the ideal PR controller to frequency deviations around the resonant frequency in direct sequence but high in inverse sequence. PRXC controller presents lower sensitivity to frequency events around the resonant frequency

than the ideal PR controller but higher than PRXF controller and it does not manage frequency events in inverse sequence. Eventually, PRX2 controller is the configuration that mostly decreases the sensitivity to frequency deviations around resonant frequency both in direct and inverse sequences. Therefore, PRX2 controller is most suited for those applications that require high robustness, such as aerospace applications, due to the bigger frequency excursions (± 1 Hz) that normally appear. In contrast, the frequency excursions which commonly happen in electrical networks are in the order of ± 50 mHz or ± 200 mHz at hour boundaries [17]. This fact makes ideal PR, PRXF or PRXC controllers more suitable for electrical grids and one of these three may be chosen depending on the characteristics of the power system under study. However, it is important to note that PRXF and PRXC controllers do not manage inverse sequence frequency excursions that may appear in the electrical power system. So, among these three PR configurations only ideal PR controller would give a response in inverse sequence.

With regard to power systems, their characteristics have an influence on the stability of the VSC current controller. Thus, it is of high importance to study the combined effect that changes on the VSC current controller parameters along with the AC grids parameters have on the stability of the system and of the VSC itself. An AC grid can be characterized by the Short Circuit Ratio (SCR) and the X/R ratio at the point of common coupling (PCC) of the VSC. SCR measures the AC grid strength while X/R ratio characterizes the inductive-resistive behaviour. In [18], a basic two-terminal single-pole HVDC transmission

system is analyzed taking into account variations of AC grid strength. They conclude that to withstand voltage fluctuation caused by DC commutation failure, the strength of the AC grid must be high enough to cope with this. In [19], the effect of grid impedance variation on the transient stability of an inverter is studied and results show that the AC line resistive component of these lines increases the asymptotic stability region of the system. The use of SCR and X/R ratio for stability analysis can be justified by considering the current AC grid context. On the one hand, the connection and disconnection events of generators and loads in the AC grid executed by grid operators and variations in the operation modes due to summer or winter peaks may change the short circuit capacity of the receiving end of an AC power system, especially in islanded grids [18]. Additionally, the variation of X/R ratio is also provoked by different operation modes of generators [20].

As it has been discussed in the previous paragraphs, many analysis regarding PR controller topologies and configurations with complementary branches have been object of study to see their frequency sensitiveness. Moreover, discrete implementations of PR controller are used, as in [21], to obtain a robust design of PR controller while dealing with digital implementation. There is yet a vast list of publications where the PR controller is modelled in continuous domain [11–16], their conclusions are proved against EMT models or, in some cases, against tests in laboratory setups. However, there has not been found a study where the influence on stability of PR controller parameters, in its ideal shape with voltage decoupling branches, is analysed when varying the AC grid configuration. Therefore, in this paper the effect of PR controller parameters on stability is studied for different AC grid configurations, parameterized through SCR and X/R ratio.

In [22], a similar methodology to the one used in this paper is employed, aimed at studying the stability of photovoltaic plants integrated in weak AC networks under the subsynchronous resonance phenomena: an analytical model is created (in that case by means of an impedance model rather than state-space equations), then developed model is validated against an EMT model, the stability analysis is carried out and the latter is finally verified by means of EMT simulations. The differences with the present paper are mainly, that PI controller is considered as inner current controller instead of PR controller, the type of generation case (specified only for photovoltaic plants while in the

present case is not generation specific) and the phenomena under study, i.e. subsynchronous resonance phenomena in contrast to general instability issues.

In [23], the main authors of the present paper modelled a PR controller embedded in the control structure of a VSC terminal, which is part of an HVDC grid aimed at evacuating offshore wind power to on-shore AC grids. The purpose of [23] was to validate a control scheme for the HVDC grid that also took into account the fulfilment of the UK Grid Code. Different fault tests were carried out in order to assess the system against different outages occurring at both DC and AC sides of the system, including frequency excursions and unbalanced 2-phase short circuits at the PCC. The response of the PR controller and the specific tuning of it, was proved to be successful under every outage that was tested.

Besides, in [24], the same HVDC grid as in [23] was used to validate the control architecture again, but in this time, against a specific model of an island with dynamic parameters which substitutes the AC grids considered in [23]. The dynamic model of the island included a synchronous generator controlled by a first order voltage control, governor and power setpoint generation blocks and several loads that were connected or disconnected depending upon the type of fault applied, i.e. voltage dips or frequency excursions. Different variations of dynamic inertia of the synchronous generator and length of the AC lines that compound the island model were applied under different frequency excursions and the stability of the system was ensured in all cases.

The focus of the present paper is to design a PR controller considering scenarios that encompass combined changes in SCR and X/R ratios due to eventualities of diverse nature in the AC grid, such as sudden opening or closing of a circuit breaker at a specific speed, new connections to distribution or transmission grids or the modification of distance between conductors in electrical lines, under others. The study sheds light on cases where the PR controller is well designed for a weak grid scenario, but loses stability with the change of the X/R.

The structure of this paper is as follows. In Section 2 the methodology followed in this paper is explained using a flowchart. The development of the small signal model is described in Section 3. In Section 4, the validation of the small signal model described in Section 3 is

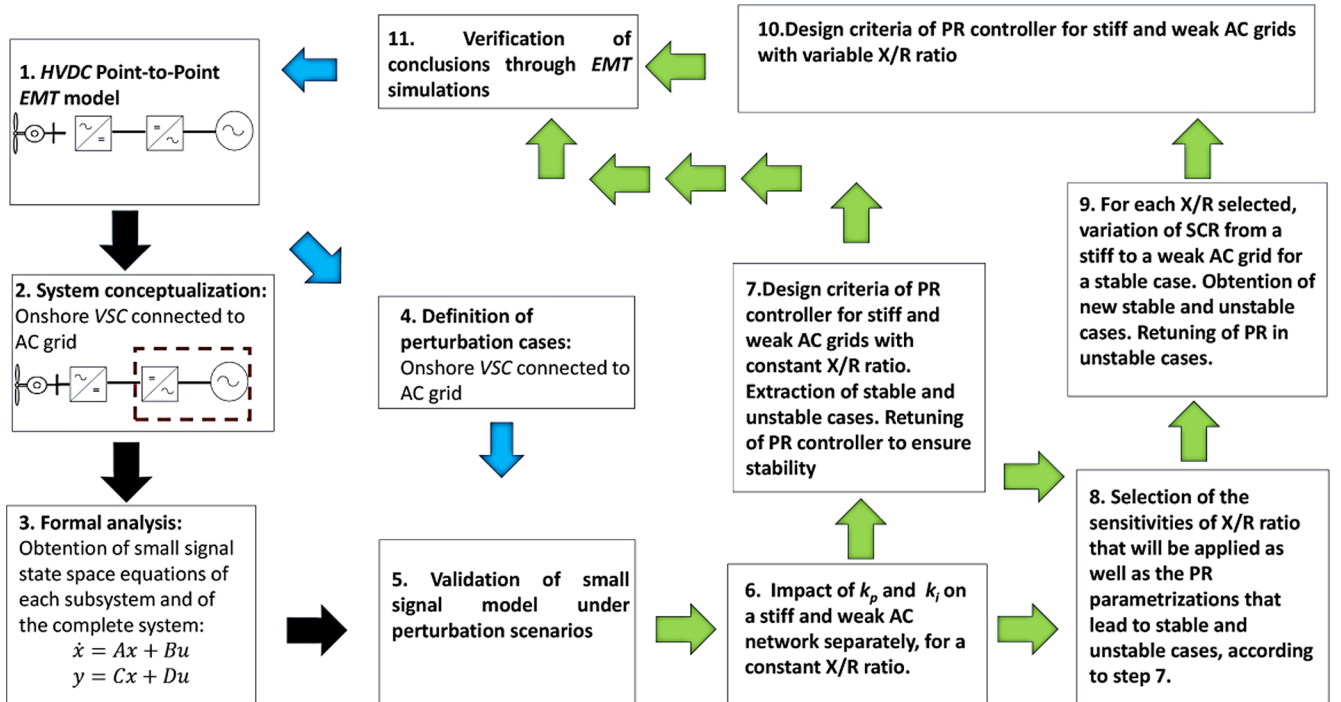


Fig. 1. Diagram of the methodology followed.

Fig. 2. System under study.

possible in dq frame, so the $\alpha\beta$ frame is obviously discarded. With regard to the reference of dq coordinates, a synchronous reference frame is used with the d axis aligned to the a axis (abc frame).

Although the AC measurement filters at the PCC are implemented as first order delays in the EMT model, since harmonics are neither the focus of transient stability analysis nor the goal of the present paper, the AC measurement filters at the PCC can be safely discarded in the small signal model, as [25] proposes.

3.1. Outer controller

The outer controller is aimed at generating the dq current setpoints ($I_{d,ref}$ and $I_{q,ref}$) that enter the PR inner controller according to the DC voltage and reactive power control, respectively. The system is modelled in dq coordinates, so that active and reactive power can be controlled independently.

In the present case, the outer controller follows a Vdc-Q scheme [23] (Fig. 3), i.e. a scheme where DC voltage is controlled by means of the d current reference ($I_{d,ref}$) and where the reactive power is controlled by means of the q current reference ($I_{q,ref}$). Besides, the implemented outer control includes two discontinuous functions, named FSM and Qdroop, described below. However, with the purpose of having the model linearized around an specific operation point, these functions are considered to work only within their linear regions, in order to avoid non-linearities in the small signal model.

- The FSM function in this study is implemented to satisfy the ENTSTOE regulation regarding overfrequency stability [26], and becomes active under overfrequency excursions for measurements greater than 50 Hz + deadband/2 and lower than 50.5 Hz. Its main objective is, whenever there is an overfrequency deviation, to calculate the DC voltage magnitude to be extracted (ΔV_{DC}) from the DC bus to restore the balance in the grid via a proportional constant (k_{FSM}) given by ENTSTOE.

$$\Delta V_{DC} = k_{FSM}f + P_{DC,ref} - P_{aux} + FSM_{th} \quad (1)$$

where FSM_{th} corresponds to the y-intercept of a frequency dependent linear function and has been calculated to meet the limits of FSM mode dictated by ENTSTOE. The FSM mode is active up to 50.5 Hz. When f exceeds 50.4 Hz the system also enters the LFSM mode [26], for which the DC power extracted from DC side is regulated according to the ENTSTOE network code to meet primary frequency control standard.

- The Qdroop function, aimed at calculating reactive power variations based on AC voltage variations at the PCC, is also proposed by ENTSTOE [27]. In (2) the computation of reactive power reference is modelled.

$$Q_{AC,ref} = k_{droop}(V_{AC} - V_{AC,ref}) \quad (2)$$

From the schemes presented in Fig. 3, state-space equations (3)–(6) are derived. Current dq references are obtained according to (5) and (6).

$$\dot{x}_v = -\frac{k_v}{T_v}V_{DC,ref} + \frac{k_v}{T_v}V_{DC} - \frac{k_v k_{FSM}}{T_v}f + \frac{k_v}{T_v}P_{DC,ref} - \frac{k_v}{T_v}P_{aux} + \frac{k_v}{T_v}FSM_{th} \quad (3)$$

$$\dot{x}_q = -\frac{k_{droop,AC}k_q}{T_q}V_{AC,ref} + \frac{k_{droop,AC}k_q}{T_q}V_{AC} \quad (4)$$

$$I_{d,ref} = x_v - k_v V_{DC,ref} + k_v V_{DC} - k_v k_{FSM}f + k_v P_{DC,ref} - k_v P_{aux} + k_v FSM_{th} \quad (5)$$

$$I_{q,ref} = x_q - k_{droop,AC}k_q V_{AC,ref} + k_{droop,AC}k_q V_{AC} \quad (6)$$

3.2. Inner PR controller

The inner PR controller implemented presents an ideal PR scheme and is responsible for generating the voltage references of the VSC, from the input of dq current references ($I_{d,ref}$ and $I_{q,ref}$) coming from outer controller, as shown in Fig. 4. Because of this and since the PR controller operates in $\alpha\beta$ frame, there is a dq to $\alpha\beta$ frame transformation block to accommodate the outer controller outputs, $I_{d,ref}$ and $I_{q,ref}$ in $\alpha\beta$ coordinates. As the goal of this paper is to analyse small signal stability of the domain under study, a linear eigenvalues trajectory change is performed and this implies that the PR controller must be converted into dq coordinates. Therefore, two coordinate transformations (from dq to $\alpha\beta$ and from $\alpha\beta$ to dq) are required to obtain dq voltage references ($V_{d,ref}$ and $V_{q,ref}$). In between these two transformations, the main transfer function of ideal PR controller is found, which is dependent on angular frequency and designed upon the target angular frequency of interest.

In order to obtain the small signal model of this PR scheme, the inverse Park's transformation block from dq to $\alpha\beta$ frame is equivalent to the addition $+j\omega_{grid} \approx j\omega$ to s terms in each transfer function shown in Fig. 4, as [11] explains. When achieved, the system presented in Fig. 4 becomes the one presented in Fig. 5.

In the present case, $\omega = 314.159$ rad/s is the angular frequency, based on which the PR transfer function is built, since this paper studies the influence of PR controller parameters on small signal stability at 50 Hz. However, the AC grid angular frequency (ω_{grid}) is not always equal to 314.159 rad/s, as it presents small fluctuations and this affects the linearization of the transformation due to the inclusion of this $+j\omega_{grid}$ term. Therefore, there are slightly small errors due to differences between ω and ω_{grid} , but considering previous papers that have worked with PR controllers in continuous domain [11–16], the $+j\omega_{grid} \approx j\omega$ approach is taken as valid.

Compared to Fig. 4, a different transfer function is found in Fig. 5, for which 3 state variables in each component (x_{d1} , x_{d2} , x_{d3} and x_{q1} , x_{q2} , x_{q3} , for d and q, respectively), are used. These are state variables derived from the process of linearization whose obtention is explained in detail in [11] and they correspond to the different polynomial degrees at the denominator of the transfer function observed in Fig. 5. The small signal equations resulting from the schemes presented in Fig. 5 are listed below.

$$\dot{x}_{d1} = x_{d2} \quad (7)$$

$$\dot{x}_{d2} = x_{d3} \quad (8)$$

$$\dot{x}_{d3} = -4\omega^2 x_{d2} - I_{d,PCC} + I_{d,ref} \quad (9)$$

$$\dot{x}_{q1} = x_{q2} \quad (10)$$

$$\dot{x}_{q2} = x_{q3} \quad (11)$$

$$\dot{x}_{q3} = -4\omega^2 x_{q2} - I_{q,PCC} + I_{q,ref} \quad (12)$$

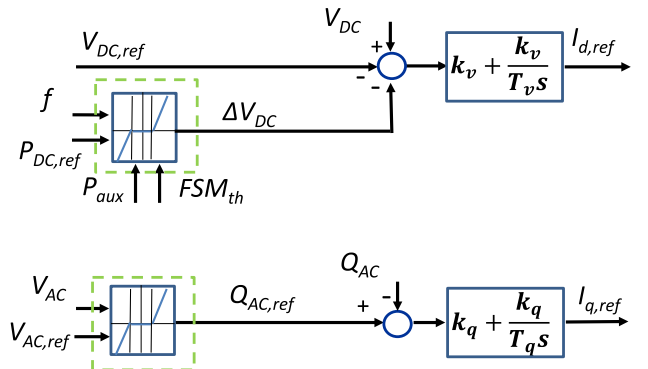


Fig. 3. Block diagram for Outer controller.

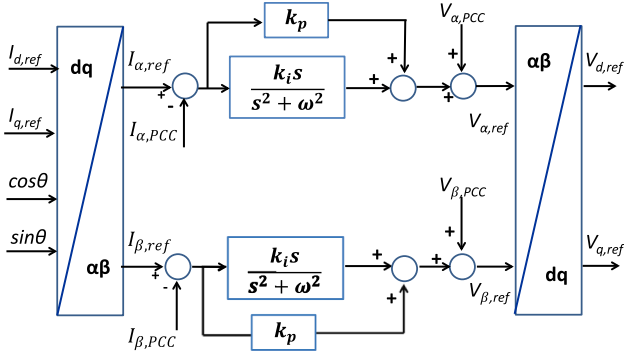


Fig. 4. PR scheme.

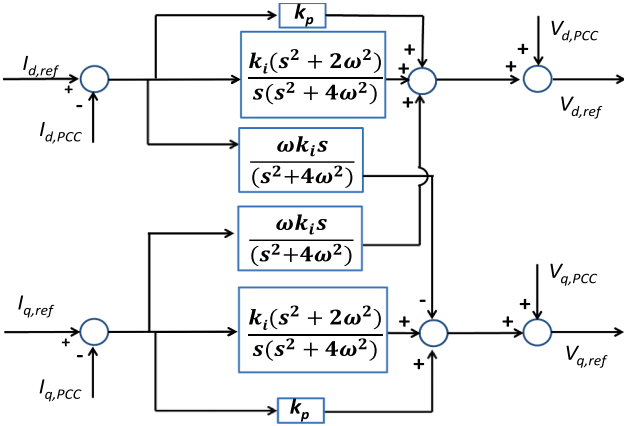


Fig. 5. Transformed PR scheme into dq coordinates.

$$V_{d,ref} = 2k_i\omega^2x_{d1} + k_ix_{d3} + k_i\omega x_{q2} + V_{d,PCC} - k_pI_{d,PCC} + k_pI_{d,ref} \quad (13)$$

$$V_{q,ref} = 2k_i\omega x_{q1} + k_ix_{q3} - k_i\omega x_{d2} + V_{q,PCC} - k_pI_{q,PCC} + k_pI_{q,ref} \quad (14)$$

where (13) and (14) present the calculation of the PR controller outputs, i.e. the dq voltage references of the VSC converter.

3.3. Average converter model

The average converter model (Fig. 6(a)) is composed by the VSC and an interface block called “Normalization Block”, whose aim is to calculate the modulation indexes of the VSC (Pmd and Pmq). The modulation indexes are obtained from the dq output voltage references of the PR controller and the measured DC voltage. In this particular case, the VSC is part of a bipolar HVDC system, so the voltage must be the average value of the positive and negative pole voltages (19). Since the multiplication of variables is a non-linear operation, the linearization results into the sum of variables involved multiplied each of them by coefficients which turn to be the other variable in steady-state (sub-index “ss”) regime, as Fig. 6(b) shows.

From the schemes presented in Fig. 6(b), (15)–(18) are derived, where (15) and (16) describe the behaviour of the normalization block and (17) and (18) describe the behaviour of the VSC converter.

$$Pmd = 0.7 \frac{1}{V_{DC,diff,ss}} V_{d,ref} + 0.7 V_{d,ref,ss} \frac{1}{V_{DC,diff}} \quad (15)$$

$$Pmq = 0.7 \frac{1}{V_{DC,diff,ss}} V_{q,ref} + 0.7 V_{q,ref,ss} \frac{1}{V_{DC,diff}} \quad (16)$$

$$V_{d,AC} = k_0 V_{DC,ss} Pmd + k_0 Pmd_{ss} V_{DC} \quad (17)$$

$$V_{q,AC} = k_0 V_{DC,ss} Pmq + k_0 Pmq_{ss} V_{DC} \quad (18)$$

$V_{DC,diff}$ is calculated according to (19), and it is the mean value of the

positive and negative DC voltage measurements. It should be taken into account that V_{DC} is negative.

$$V_{DC,diff} = \frac{V_{DC}^+ - V_{DC}^-}{2} \quad (19)$$

3.4. VSC output filter and AC line model

The considered VSC output filter consists of resistive (R_f) and inductive (L_f) terms, according to the scheme presented in Fig. 7. The input voltages for this filter are the output VSC voltages, $V_{d,AC}$ and $V_{q,AC}$, calculated as indicated in (17) and (18). Apart from this, Fig. 7 details a π -Equivalent section of the AC line corresponding to a length equal to Δx , being Δx , a division of the total AC line length. The π -Equivalent model is built upon the AC line resistance (R), inductance (L) and parallel capacitance (C) per unit length.

For the sake of simplicity, only one π -Equivalent section is included in Fig. 7 and the corresponding equations are detailed in (20)–(27). On the one hand, the state variables corresponding to VSC output filter are i_{1d} and i_{1q} (20) and (21) and on the other hand, the remaining state variables correspond to the π -Equivalent section (22)–(27).

$$\dot{i}_{1d} = -\frac{R_f}{L_f} i_{1d} + \omega i_{1q} + \frac{1}{L} (V_{d,AC} - V_{1d}) \quad (20)$$

$$\dot{i}_{1q} = -\frac{R_f}{L_f} i_{1q} - \omega i_{1d} + \frac{1}{L} (V_{q,AC} - V_{1q}) \quad (21)$$

$$\dot{V}_{1d} = \frac{2}{C(\Delta x)} (i_{1d} - i_{2d}) + \omega V_{1q} \quad (22)$$

$$\dot{V}_{1q} = \frac{2}{C(\Delta x)} (i_{1q} - i_{2q}) - \omega V_{1d} \quad (23)$$

$$\dot{i}_{2d} = \frac{1}{L(\Delta x)} (V_{1d} - V_{2d} - R(\Delta x) i_{2d}) + \omega i_{2q} \quad (24)$$

$$\dot{i}_{2q} = \frac{1}{L(\Delta x)} (V_{1q} - V_{2q} - R(\Delta x) i_{2q}) - \omega i_{2d} \quad (25)$$

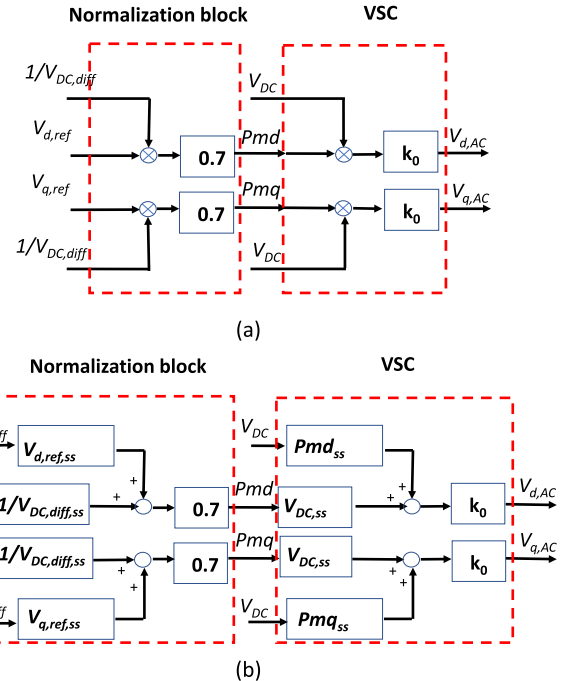


Fig. 6. (a) Normalization block and VSC converter in a non-linearized version and (b) Linearized Normalization block and VSC converter.

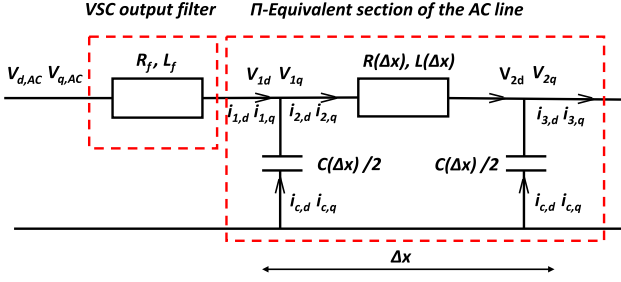


Fig. 7. AC line model.

$$V_{2d} = \frac{2}{C(\Delta x)}(i_{2d} - i_{3d}) + \omega V_{2q} \quad (26)$$

$$V_{2q} = \frac{2}{C(\Delta x)}(i_{2q} - i_{3q}) - \omega V_{2d} \quad (27)$$

Several π -Equivalent sections can be added in cascade to the one presented in Fig. 7, in order to improve the accuracy of the model in terms of frequency. The calculation of the number of π -Equivalent sections (N_{eq}) in order to meet a specific accuracy in terms of frequency, is detailed in (28) and (29) [28].

$$f_{max} = \frac{N_{eq} \nu}{8l} \quad (28)$$

$$\nu = \frac{1}{\sqrt{LC}} \quad (29)$$

Being f_{max} the required frequency response, ν the phase velocity, which depends on the capacitance (C) and inductance (L) of the AC line per unit of length, l the total length of the AC line and N_{eq} the minimum number of necessary π -Equivalent sections to achieve accuracy under the desired f_{max} . In the present paper, the N_{eq} number is considered to be 6, slightly greater than the minimum number of necessary π -Equivalent sections, considering the values for C and L given in Section 4.1.

The final outcomes of this subsystem composed by 6 π -Equivalent sections are the dq currents circulating through the AC line and the dq voltages at both ends of the AC line and at interface points between π -Equivalent sections.

3.5. Full small signal model

At this point, the small signal model equations of each subsystem that compound Fig. 2 have been presented along the section. The small signal model of the full system under study are described by (3)–(4), (5)–(6), (7)–(12), (20)–(27) and by also cascading the equations of five additional π -Equivalent sections, which present the same behaviour as described by (22)–(27).

The feedback branch connects the AC line model with the PR controller model, by making currents i_{1d} and i_{1q} and the voltages V_{1d} and V_{1q} of the AC line model, equal to $I_{d,PCC}$, $I_{q,PCC}$, $V_{d,PCC}$ and $V_{q,PCC}$, respectively, of the PR controller model.

The responses of the full small signal model with all variables substituted are shown in Annex I.

4. Small signal model validation against time domain simulations

In this section, the Base Case for PR parametrization is presented, justified and validated. The small signal model described in Section 3 has been implemented in Octave and the time domain simulations needed for its validation have been carried out in DigSILENT PF software. The validation results of the small signal model are shown in this section through different perturbation scenarios. The selection of these values, namely $k_p = 1.5$ and $k_i = 5000$, is justified according to the results obtained in previous research carried out by the same main

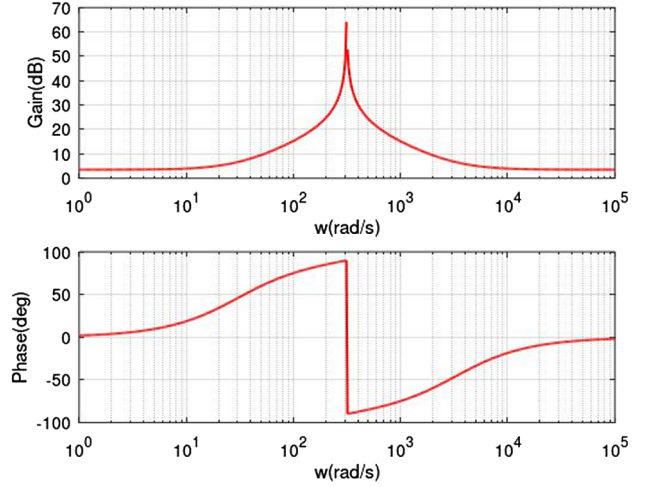


Fig. 8. Bode diagram of PR controller tuned at $k_p = 1.5$ and $k_i = 5000$.

authors [23,24].

Another reason is the provision of sufficient gain and phase margins, as far as the plant phase is limited between $\pm 90^\circ$ at the frequencies affected by the resonant peak. Being the system described in Section 3 a Multiple Input-Multiple Output (MIMO) system, [29] holds that the phase and gain margins can be only used for Single Input-Single Output (SISO) systems to check system stability. Nevertheless, the bode diagram of the PR controller tuned at $k_p = 1.5$ and $k_i = 5000$, as a SISO system, has been obtained and is shown in Fig. 8. In Fig. 8, the gain and phase margins turn to be sufficient to ensure system small signal stability.

The rest of system parameters are defined in Table 1 and justified upon successful results in previous research in [23,24].

With the aim of validating the model described previously in Section 3, EMT simulations have been carried out. For this purpose, a set of scenarios have been defined to analyse the response under different perturbations. Basically, each scenario implies the perturbation of a set of input variables of the complete model presented in Fig. 2. These scenarios were designed and constructed to cover perturbations of all possible signals entering VSC-AC connection system. Due to space limitations, only results coming from the validation under specific scenarios are presented, where a perturbation of 5% of the reference value has been applied to both $V_{DC,ref}$ and $V_{AC,ref}$ inputs of the system, as shown in Fig. 8(a) and (b) respectively, and a perturbation of 0.3% change in AC grid frequency (Fig. 9 (c)) is applied to enter in the FSM range [26].

Table 1

Network and VSC parameters.

Rated DC Voltage (kV)	640
Rated AC Voltage (kV)	275
Rated VSC power (MVA)	560
VSC output filter- R_f (p.u)	0.01
VSC output filter- L_f (p.u)	0.035
AC line series resistance (Ohm/km)	0.015
AC line series inductance (mH/km)	0.4
AC line parallel capacitance (μ F/km)	0.22
AC line X/R ratio	8.37
AC line length (km)	1
ω -Resonant angular frequency-Proportional Resonant control (rad/s)	314.159
Proportional Constant-Reactive Power Control (k_q)	0.4 pu
Time Constant-Reactive Power Control (T_q)	0.01 s
Filter Time Constant-DC Voltage (T_{rVDC})	0.01 s
Filter Time Constant -Reactive Power (T_{rq})	0.02 s
Dead-band droop AC Voltage	0.005 pu
AC Voltage set-point ($V_{AC,ref}$)	1pu
Proportional Constant-DC Voltage Control (k_v)	15 pu
Time Constant-DC Voltage Control (T_v)	0.05 s

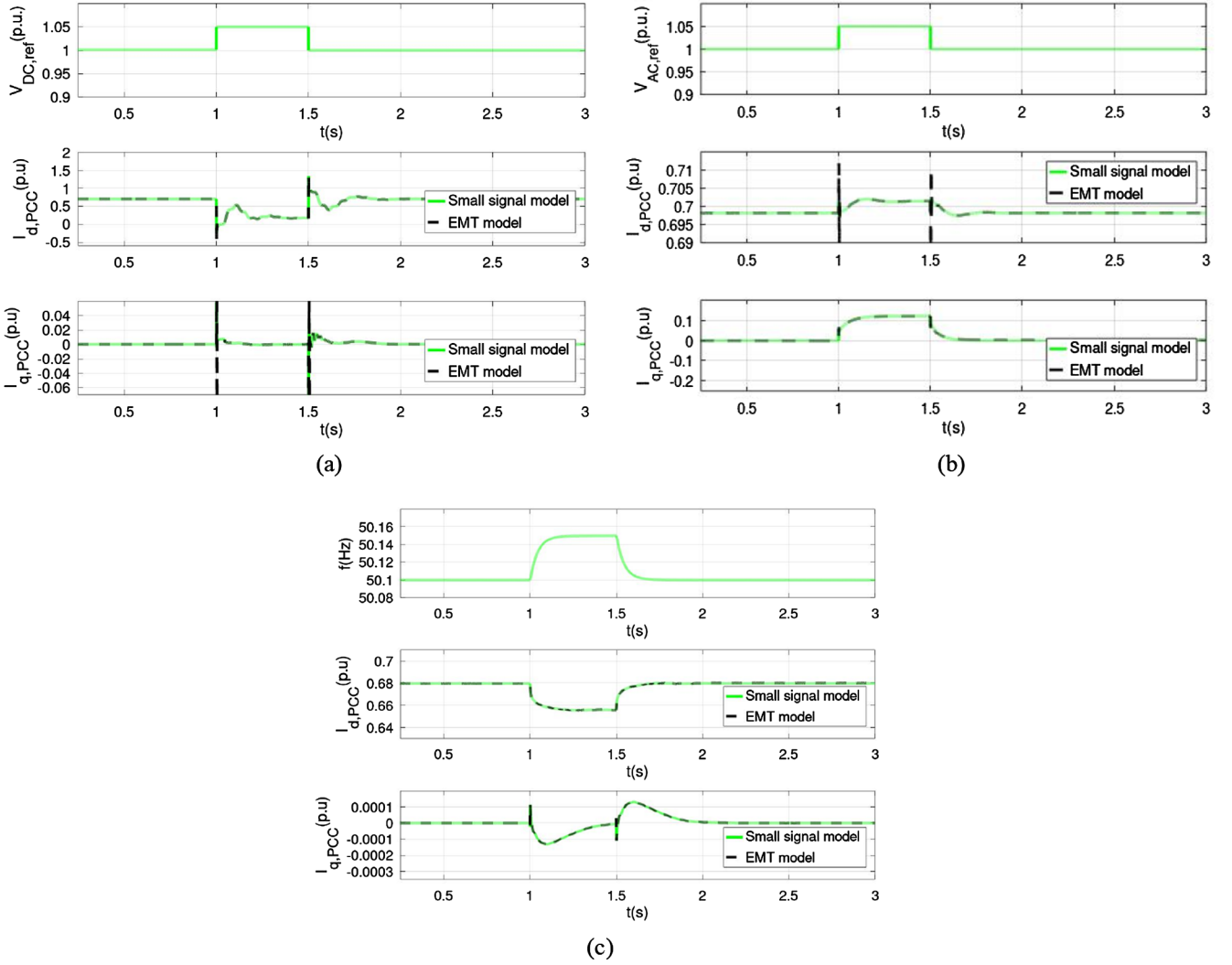


Fig. 9. Comparison of responses in small signal model (green) and in *EMT* model (discontinuous black) under different perturbation scenarios: (a) 5% of change of $V_{DC,ref}$, (b) 5% of change of $V_{AC,ref}$ and (c) 0.3% change of f . (For interpretation of the references to colour in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

In Fig. 9, the outputs coming from the small signal model match the responses from the *EMT* model under the different perturbation scenarios shown, which cover changes in $V_{DC,ref}$, $V_{AC,ref}$ and f . There is a small degree of uncertainty between the responses of the *EMT* and the small signal models, which corresponds to the precision of the algorithms. Nevertheless, the validation ensures that the small signal model captures small signal variations around different linearization points of the *EMT* model. This can also be observed in the literature [9,30].

It can be concluded that deviations in $V_{DC,ref}$ input, have a larger influence of the d current component ($I_{d,PCC}$) and those in $V_{AC,ref}$ affect q current component ($I_{q,PCC}$) more. However, changes in $V_{DC,ref}$ are more critical than those in $V_{AC,ref}$ since a large change in the outputs (from 0.65 p.u. to 0 p.u. in $I_{d,PCC}$) is observed in perturbation scenario (a) than in scenario (b) (from 0 p.u. to 0.1 p.u. in $I_{q,PCC}$). Besides, minor excursions in AC grid frequency result into a smaller influence in both d and q responses.

5. Eigenvalue trajectory analysis

In this section two small signal analysis are considered, in order to account, on the one hand, for the variable nature of AC grid strength and, on the other hand, for the fluctuating character of X/R characteristic in a context of an AC grid with dynamic events. Therefore, the

analysis is divided in two stages.

- Firstly, the impact of PR controller parameters on the small signal stability is evaluated separately in a stiff and in a weak AC grid where the X/R characteristics remains constant and equal to the benchmark value.
- Secondly, the impact of PR controller parameters on the small signal stability is evaluated for a changing X/R characteristic.

Modifications in X/R ratio imply changes in the current angle but not in the line impedance. Therefore, changes in X/R ratio may not depend directly on SCR variations. However, since SCR varies more often than X/R feature, the analysis for different X/R values is carried out also considering the variability of SCR.

The changes in SCR in the *EMT* model are performed by varying the length of the AC line that connects the AC grid with the VSC converter. Several short circuits are calculated in the *EMT* model to see which length must have the AC grid line to account for two specific SCR measured at the PCC, according to a weak AC grid ($SCR = 1$) and a stiff AC grid ($SCR = 25$). The value for stiff SCR has been selected according to [31,32]. Afterwards, the two length values of the AC line which lead to a weak and a stiff AC grid at the PCC are noted. When performing the analysis in the small signal model, in order to have different SCR values,

the length of the AC line is modified between these two extreme length values. Therefore, the variation of the AC line length value is equivalent to the variation of the corresponding SCR value. While doing this change, the X/R ratio is constant as being X/R independent from the AC line length.

5.1. Impact of PR controller parameters in AC grids with variable strength for a constant X/R characteristic

The analysis begins with an evaluation of how the variation of PR controller parameters, i.e. k_p and k_i , affect the stability of the system whenever a stiff or a weak AC grid is considered. This stage is intended for scenarios which consider a constant X/R characteristic equal to the benchmark value, i.e. 8.37. In Fig. 10, this analysis is achieved for a stiff AC grid ($SCR = 25$) by varying k_p (Fig. 10(a)) and k_i (Fig. 10(b)).

It can be seen that the system is stable for every trajectory derived in k_p and k_i . However, the reduction of k_p diminishes the stability margin as it pushes the eigenvalues towards the imaginary axis. As for the effect of k_i , its increment also causes trajectories in the right direction while it increases the oscillatory component of the eigenvalues with greater absolute real component.

As for the case of a weak AC grid ($SCR = 2.73$), the trajectories of eigenvalues derived from changes in k_p and k_i are presented in Fig. 11(a) and (b), respectively.

It can be seen in Fig. 11 that as far as k_p decreases, the eigenvalues closer to the imaginary axis and for values lower than 1 drive the system to the unstable area.

In Fig. 11(b), k_i has been varied from 5000 to 20,000 and the trajectory initially shows the eigenvalues getting closer to the imaginary axis but then moving away from it and increasing both the oscillatory and the real component. Nevertheless, the trajectory derived from the change in k_i keeps the system between the stability boundaries.

5.2. Impact of PR controller parameters in AC grids with variable strength for a variable X/R characteristic

The X/R characteristic of an AC grid can change as a function of the localization, type and length of AC lines, the voltage at which they are connected, under others. Even in the case that X/R ratio does not change, VSC converters must be designed to work properly when subjected to variations in one or more characteristics previously mentioned.

In order to have a complete view of the fluctuating effect of X/R ratio in an AC grid with variable strength, a sensitivity analysis of X/R ratio variations is suggested, taking the benchmark X/R value used in Section 5.1, i.e. $X/R = 8.37$, as the reference upon which the

modifications are achieved. The developed methodology in this paper proposes for unstable cases the modification of PR controller parameters in order to return the system to stability again.

According to the analysis conducted in Section 5.1, $k_p = 1.07$ and $k_i = 5000$ have been selected as a PR controller parameterization which ensures stability in both stiff and weak AC networks, whenever the X/R ratio is kept constant to the benchmark value, i.e. $X/R = 8.37$.

Therefore, the system with the mentioned PR parameterization is subjected to a $\pm 10\%$ change in X/R value and the trajectories of eigenvalues are shown in Fig. 12(a) and (b) for $X/R = 7.5$ and $X/R = 9.2$, respectively. It is also subjected to $\pm 20\%$ variations, i.e. $X/R = 6.61$ and $X/R = 10$, which are shown in Fig. 12(c) and (d), respectively.

It can be seen in Fig. 12 that, although the change in X/R ratio in general move the eigenvalues closer to the imaginary axis, at $\pm 10\%$ and $\pm 20\%$ X/R variations the stability of the system is kept. However, at the -20% X/R variation the eigenvalues cross the imaginary axis and drive the system to instability. This trajectory demonstrates that, although the PR controller was well designed for a stiff and weak AC grid configuration, a -20% variation of X/R in a weak AC grid makes the system move out from the stable region.

For the unstable case shown in Fig. 12(c), two proposals of change in PR controller parameters are presented, one based in the retuning of k_p (Fig. 13(a)), and the other on the retuning of k_i (Fig. 13(b)).

In general, changes in k_p or k_i over 10% of their initial values are required to return the system to stability. However, since the increase of k_i implies the rise of the oscillatory component, changes in k_p are preferable since they maintain the frequency of the closest eigenvalues to the imaginary axis. Two stable cases for $X/R = 6.61$ presented in Fig. 13(a) and (b) have been chosen to be verified against EMT simulations.

6. Verification of small signal analysis against EMT simulations

Simulations in DiGSILENT PowerFactory software have been performed to verify the previous modal analysis in EMT time domain. The main reason for this verification is the fact that eigenvalue trajectory analysis is a linear tool, while EMT simulations consider non-linearities that give a better approach to reality.

In this section several key scenarios extracted in Section 5 are verified for an integration step size of $1 \mu s$. For this purpose, the same perturbation in VDC,ref of Fig. 9(a) is applied to verify the previous analysis. The response of the output variables for different PR parameterizations, SCR and X/R values is observed. Results in red show values corresponding to left vertical axis and results in green show those corresponding to right vertical axis.

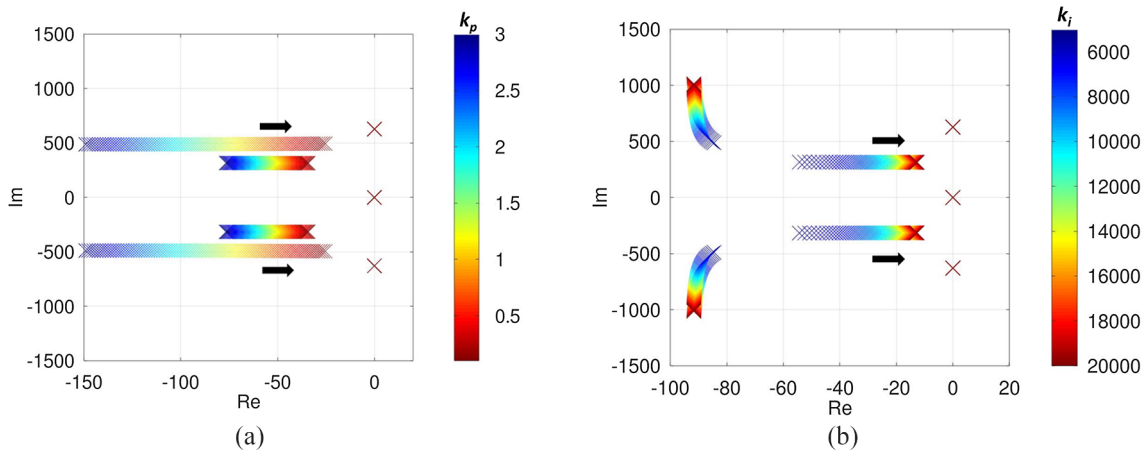


Fig. 10. Trajectory of eigenvalues in a stiff AC grid when PR controller parameters are varied: (a) k_p between 3 and 0.1 while $k_i = 5000$ and (b) k_i between 5000 and 20,000 while $k_p = 1.5$.

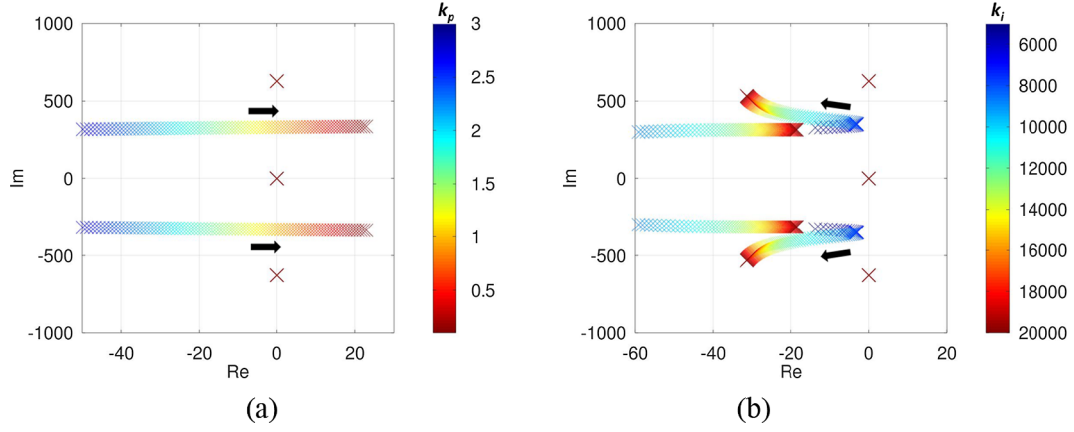


Fig. 11. Trajectory of eigenvalues in a weak AC grid when PR controller parameters are varied: (a) k_p between 3 and 0.1 while $k_i = 5000$ and (b) k_i between 5000 and 20,000 while $k_p = 1.5$.

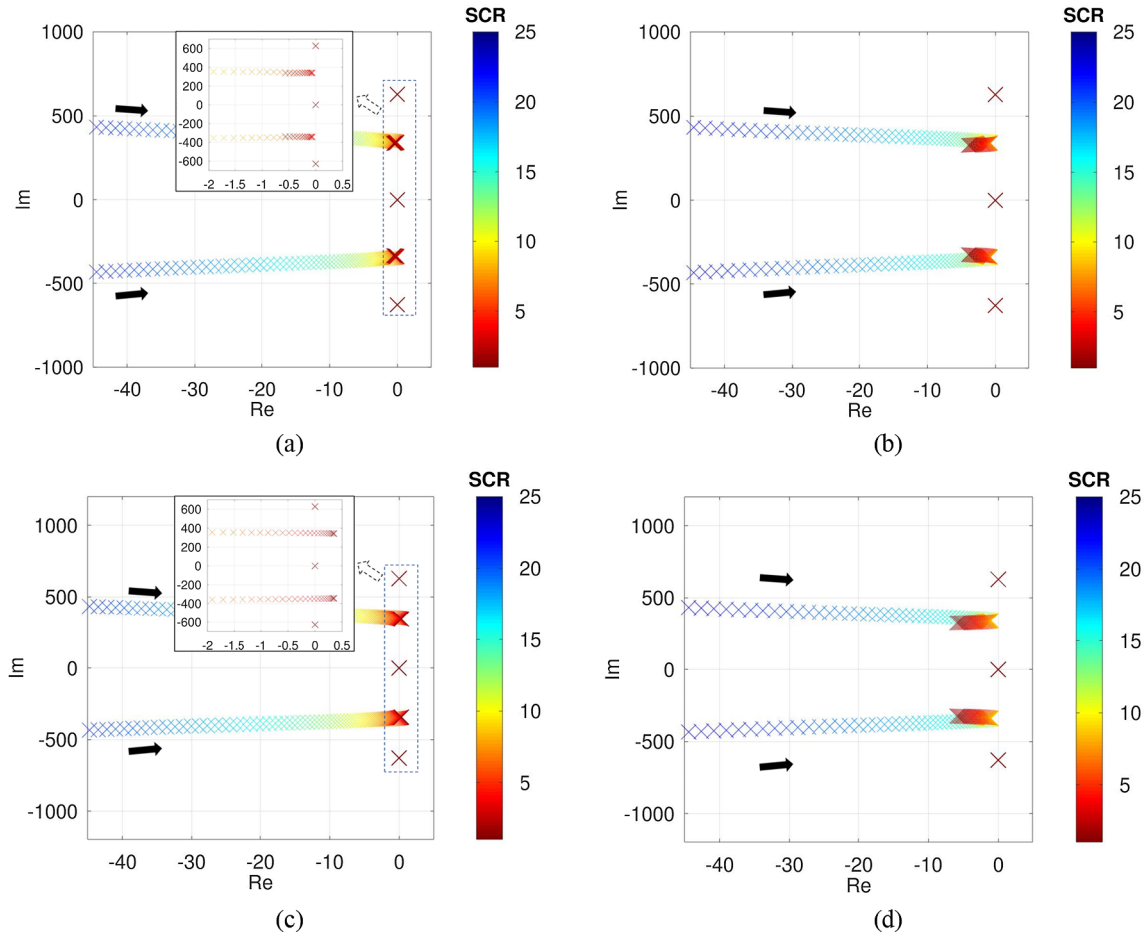


Fig. 12. Trajectory of eigenvalues for SCR ratio change: 25 \rightarrow 1 with $k_p = 1.07$ and $k_i = 5000$ for different levels of X/R change: (a) 10% (X/R = 7.5), (b) 10% (X/R = 9.2), (c) -20% (X/R = 6.61) and (d) 20% (X/R = 10).

In Fig. 14 two cases of weak AC grids under the same PR controller parameter tuning which differ in the X/R ratio are presented. The simulations show how a combination of PR controller parameters that ensured stability for the benchmark X/R ratio is lost when a -20% change in X/R magnitude is applied.

The signal shown in Fig. 14 corresponding to X/R = 6.61 loses the stability after the perturbation is cleared, which evidences that the PR controller parameters are inadequate for this specific weak AC grid case and points out to the need of retuning of PR controller. This retuning is shown in a form of two solutions presented in Fig. 15, where the blue

signal is the “Solution 1”, which is based on the change of k_p while k_i value is kept, and where the pink signal is the Solution 2”, which corresponds to a proposal of changing k_i while k_p is kept.

The signals presented in Fig. 15 recover to the level prior to the perturbation, which allow the control system to operate the VSC jointly with the AC grid without risk of instability. Therefore, the small signal model jointly with the eigenvalue trajectory analysis developed in Section 5 have been verified, since the EMT simulations give similar results.

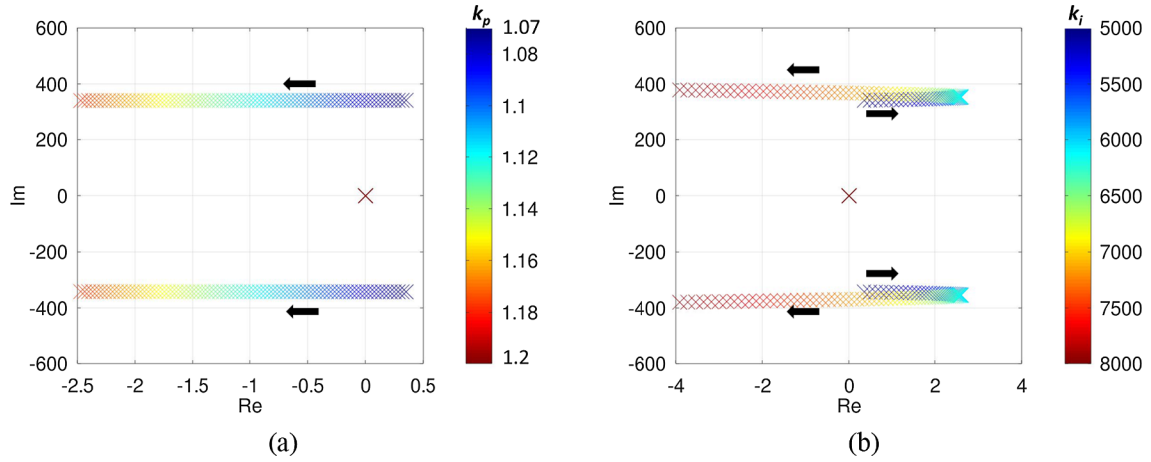


Fig. 13. Proposal of PR controller parameters' change to return the system to stability at a -20% deviation of X/R ratio and SCR = 1. (a) Change of $k_p = 1.07 \rightarrow 1.2$ with a fixed $k_i = 5000$, (b) Change of $k_i = 5000 \rightarrow 8000$ with a fixed $k_p = 1.07$.

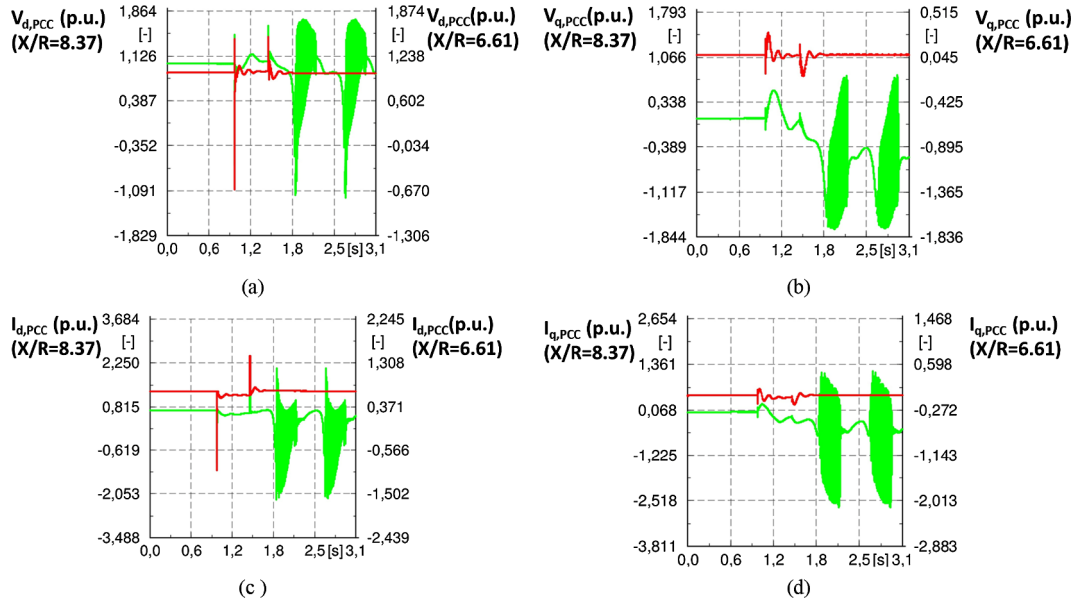


Fig. 14. Verification of stability for AC weak grid cases with PR controller tuned at $k_p = 1.07$ and $k_i = 5000$ with different X/R values: X/R = 8.37 (red) and X/R = 6.61 (green) under a perturbation in $V_{DC,ref}$. (a) $V_{d,PCC}$, (b) $V_{q,PCC}$, (c) $I_{d,PCC}$ and (d) $I_{q,PCC}$. (For interpretation of the references to colour in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

7. Conclusions

In this paper a methodology for the definition of scenarios made upon combined changes in SCR and X/R ratios for PR controller design in VSCs has been proposed. This methodology has shed light on cases, where the PR controller is well designed for a weak grid scenario, but loses stability with the change of the X/R. Several conclusions can be extracted from this paper.

The analysis conducted concludes with different PR controller design criteria for weak and stiff AC grids. According to the stiff nature of an AC grid, the PR controller can be designed by considering the following criteria.

- In strong AC grids, k_p and k_i can take generally any value without losing stability, according to the trajectories derived. However, as far as k_p is reduced or k_i increased, the stability margin is reduced as it implies movements of eigenvalues in the right direction.
- In weak AC grids, low values of k_p can drive the system to instability while the general effect of increasing k_i is to enhance stability by moving the eigenvalues to the left side. In weak AC grids, the

tradeoff of increasing k_i is the rise of oscillatory component of eigenvalues with greater absolute real component.

The analysis also concludes with different PR controller design criteria for weak AC grids whenever they present a X/R ratio deviated from the benchmark value.

- The eigenvalue trajectory analysis shows that, although the PR controller was well designed for a stiff and weak AC grid configuration, a -20% variation of X/R makes the system move out from the stable region. In general, changes in k_p or k_i over the 10% of their previous values are required to return the system to stability. However, since the increase of k_i implies the rise of the oscillatory component, changes in k_p are preferable since they maintain the frequency of the closest eigenvalues to the imaginary axis.

Finally, the key cases derived from small signal analysis are verified against EMT simulations which reproduce perturbations in the DC voltage set-point. Within this verification, the stable cases show that signals recover to the level prior to the perturbation in contrast to

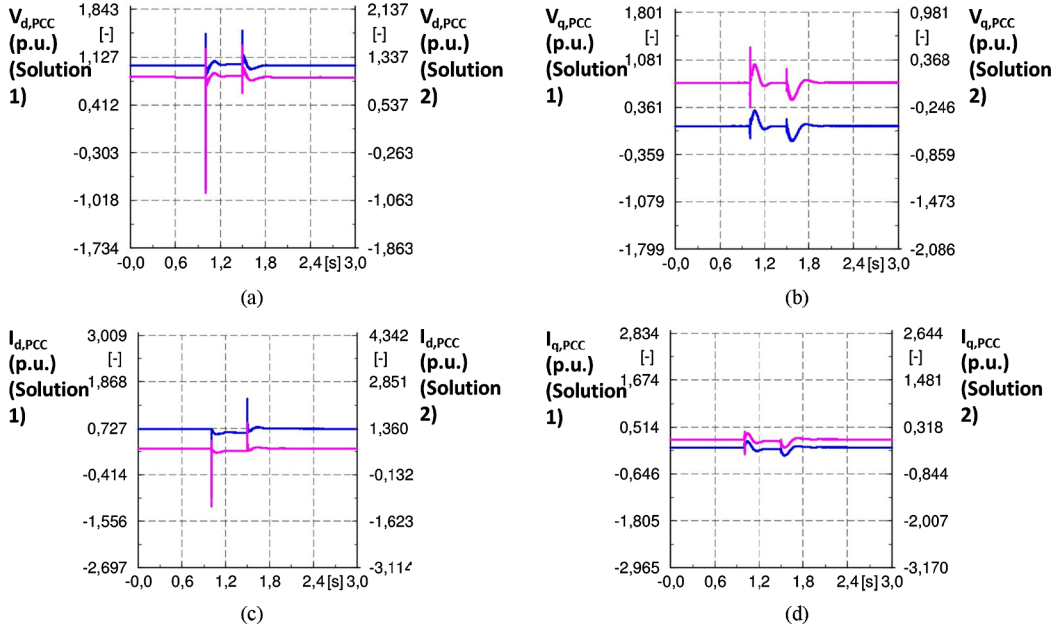


Fig. 15. Verification of solutions that return the system to stability for $X/R = 6.61$ in Fig. 13(a) (blue) and in Fig. 13(b) (pink) under a perturbation in $V_{DC,ref}$: (a) $V_{d,AC}$, (b) $V_{q,AC}$, (c) $I_{d,PCC}$ and (d) $I_{q,PCC}$. (For interpretation of the references to colour in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

unstable cases, where the signal loses the stability after the perturbation is cleared. This evidences that the PR controller parameters are inadequate for several specific weak AC grid cases with varying X/R ratio and points out to the need of retuning the PR controller. Two retuning strategies of PR controller have also been validated, as they present stable signals. Therefore, the conclusions obtained in linear eigenvalue trajectory analysis are validated by means of this verification procedure, since the EMT simulations give similar results.

In the end, the whole research study can be viewed as a resonance problem between VSC, PR controller parameters, AC grid strength and inductive-resistive characteristic. The capacity of evacuating power

under stable conditions is compromised by PR parametrization, by the AC grid strength and its inductive-resistive characteristic.

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Annex I

Small signal equations corresponding to the responses of the system with substituted variables.

Small signal responses of Inner PR controller:

$$V_{d,ref} = 2k_i\omega^2x_{d1} + k_ix_{d3} + k_i\omega x_{q2} + V_{d,PCC} - k_pI_{d,PCC} + k_px_v - k_pk_vV_{DC,ref} + k_pk_vV_{DC} - k_pk_vk_{FSMf} + k_pk_vP_{DC,ref} - k_pk_vP_{aux} + k_pk_vFSM_{th}$$

$$V_{q,ref} = 2k_i\omega x_{q1} + k_ix_{q3} - k_i\omega x_{d2} + V_{q,PCC} - k_pI_{q,PCC} + k_px_q - k_pk_qk_{droop,AC}V_{AC,ref} + k_pk_qk_{droop,AC}V_{AC}$$

Small signal responses of Average Converter Model:

$$P_{md} = 2k_i\omega^20.7V_{DC,diff,ss}x_{d1} + 0.7V_{DC,diff,ss}k_ix_{d3} + k_{diff}k_i\omega x_{q2} + 0.7V_{DC,diff,ss}V_{d,PCC} - 0.7V_{DC,diff,ss}k_pI_{d,PCC} + 0.7V_{DC,diff,ss}k_px_v - 0.7V_{DC,diff,ss}k_pk_vV_{DC,ref} + 0.7V_{DC,diff,ss}k_pk_vV_{DC} - 0.7V_{DC,diff,ss}k_pk_vk_{FSMf} + 0.7V_{DC,diff,ss}k_pk_vP_{DC,ref} - 0.7V_{DC,diff,ss}k_pk_vP_{aux} + 0.7V_{DC,diff,ss}k_pk_vFSM_{th} + 0.7V_{d,ss}V_{DC,diff}$$

$$P_{mq} = 2k_i\omega^20.7V_{DC,diff,ss}x_{q1} - 0.7V_{DC,diff,ss}k_ix_{d2} + 0.7V_{DC,diff,ss}k_ix_{q3} + 0.7V_{DC,diff,ss}V_{q,PCC} - 0.7V_{DC,diff,ss}k_pI_{q,PCC} + 0.7V_{DC,diff,ss}k_px_q - 0.7V_{DC,diff,ss}k_pk_qk_{droop,AC}V_{AC,ref} + 0.7V_{DC,diff,ss}k_pk_qk_{droop,AC}V_{AC} + 0.7V_{q,ss}V_{DC,diff}$$

$$V_{d,AC} = 2\omega^2k_0V_{DC,ss}0.7V_{DC,diff,ss}k_ix_{d1} + k_0V_{DC,ss}0.7V_{DC,diff,ss}k_ix_{d3} + k_00.7V_{DC,diff,ss}k_{diff}k_i\omega x_{q2} + k_0V_{DC,ss}0.7V_{DC,diff,ss}V_{d,PCC} - k_0V_{DC,ss}0.7V_{DC,diff,ss}k_pI_{d,PCC} + k_0V_{DC,ss}0.7V_{DC,diff,ss}k_px_v - k_0V_{DC,ss}0.7V_{DC,diff,ss}k_pk_vV_{DC,ref} + (k_0V_{DC,ss}0.7V_{DC,diff,ss}k_pk_v + k_0P_{md,ss})V_{DC} - k_0V_{DC,ss}0.7V_{DC,diff,ss}k_pk_vk_{FSMf} + k_0V_{DC,ss}0.7V_{DC,diff,ss}k_pk_vP_{DC,ref} - k_0V_{DC,ss}0.7V_{DC,diff,ss}k_pk_vP_{aux} + k_0V_{DC,ss}0.7V_{DC,diff,ss}k_pk_vFSM_{th} + 0.7k_0V_{DC,ss}V_{d,ref,ss}V_{DC,diff}$$

$$V_{q,AC} = 2\omega^2k_0V_{DC,ss}0.7V_{DC,diff,ss}k_ix_{q1} + k_0V_{DC,ss}0.7V_{DC,diff,ss}k_ix_{q3} - k_0V_{DC,ss}0.7V_{DC,diff,ss}k_i\omega x_{d2} + k_0V_{DC,ss}0.7V_{DC,diff,ss}V_{q,PCC} - k_0V_{DC,ss}0.7V_{DC,diff,ss}k_pI_{q,PCC} + k_0V_{DC,ss}0.7V_{DC,diff,ss}k_px_q - k_0V_{DC,ss}0.7V_{DC,diff,ss}k_pk_qk_{droop,AC}V_{AC,ref} + k_0V_{DC,ss}0.7V_{DC,diff,ss}k_pk_qk_{droop,AC}V_{AC} + 0.7k_0V_{DC,ss}V_{q,ref,ss}V_{DC,diff} + k_0P_{mq,ss}V_{DC}$$

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