



Article **Operation of DR–HVdc-Connected Grid-Forming Wind Turbine Converters Using Robust Loop-Shaping Controllers**

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Abstract: Off-shore wind power plants can be connected to the on-shore grid using diode rectifier HVdc links. As diode rectifiers are passive converters, off-shore WPPs require grid-forming capability. This paper shows how to improve the WTG dynamic response and the voltage and current harmonic rejection by using \mathcal{H}_{∞} -based controllers. The paper explains how to synthesise three different \mathcal{H}_{∞} voltage controllers: the first is a single-loop \mathcal{H}_{∞} controller, the second is a cascaded \mathcal{H}_{∞} controller and the third is a proportional–resonant controller that is optimised using \mathcal{H}_{∞} synthesis. The three \mathcal{H}_{∞} -based controllers improve the performance and the robustness obtained with a benchmark case PR controller tuned using the root locus technique. All the controllers are designed in continuous time and implemented in discrete time, applying bilinear discretisation with a sampling rate of 0.25 ms. Detailed PSCAD simulations validate the improvement of the performance and robustness, as well as an improvement in the harmonic rejection. The single \mathcal{H}_{∞} controller shows the best combined characteristics of all tried controllers, at the expense of losing the separation between voltage and current control loops.

Keywords: grid-forming; \mathcal{H}_{∞} controller; diode rectifier; HVdc; off-shore wind power plant



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1. Introduction

Advanced control design and accurate modelling and simulation of wind power plants (WPP) are key to increasing the efficiency and robustness of this class of systems. Controllers based on \mathcal{H}_{∞} synthesis have been used in Voltage Source Converter (VSC) control [1,2]. Nevertheless, earlier studies overlooked the use of \mathcal{H}_{∞} controllers for grid-forming converters. Therefore, they did not consider the voltage control design nor the cascaded voltage and current control design.

The use of HVdc diode rectifier (DR) stations reduces the investment cost of the off-shore WPP and increases the systems' resilience and efficiency [3]. Siemens asserts that using HVdc DR stations can potentially decrease the connection cost of WPP by as much as 30% [4,5].

Grid-forming capability is a requirement for DR-based HVdc links. Several control alternatives have been proposed for this purpose [6]. The authors in [7] proposed a cascade control loop using \mathcal{H}_{∞} synthesis for a micro-source inverter, but just considered uncertainty in the PWM LC filter parameters. In [8], the authors considered a sliding-mode control for the current loop, while the voltage outer loop controller was based on mixed $\mathcal{H}_2/\mathcal{H}_{\infty}$. Still, the controller was not designed considering the operating modes with which the WTG was going to operate. In [9], the authors proposed a grid-forming controller that can synchronise with the ac grid for DR-based off-shore WPPs, but the operating modes of the WTGs were not considered during the controller design procedure. In [10], an \mathcal{H}_{∞} -based grid-forming controller was proposed but for grid-following converters. In [11], the authors used passivity theory to design a grid-forming controller, but it was not considered for DR-based WPPs nor did they consider the operating modes of the converter. The authors in [12]

proposed validating grid-forming converters using a co-simulation approach between the mosaic framework and a power system. In [13], the authors used μ -synthesis with the purpose of optimising a grid-forming controller by considering the operating modes of the WPP, but just a single-loop voltage control was considered. In [14], the influence in the stability of the parameters of the voltage control for a grid-forming WTG was analysed, but just for one of the operating modes of the grid-forming converter. The authors in [15] implemented the typical P/ ω Q/V droops in the WTGs, proposing a transmission active power control for the off-shore WPP, where the on-shore MMC modifies the HVdc voltage to maintain the off-shore ac grid frequency. The problem is that the power transmission requires fast communication for its operation. In [16], the authors proposed a grid-following control for the WTGs of a DR-based WPP. The main problems were the islanded operation and the black-start operation of the WPP.

Such grid-forming wind turbine converters need to show adequate performance during islanding operation at no-load (ISL no-load), during power transmission through the DR–HVdc link (DR-connected) and also during islanding operation at rated-load if the WPP is used for black-start or to supply local loads (ISL rated-load). Any control strategy for such grid-forming converters should consider these three different modes of operation.

This paper evaluates current control alternatives that use \mathcal{H}_{∞} -based design [17,18] to improve the grid-forming WTG dynamic performance. Three designs based on \mathcal{H}_{∞} synthesis are calculated. The first consists of a cascaded control based on \mathcal{H}_{∞} . Therefore, two controllers are calculated (voltage controller as outer loop and current controller as inner loop). The second design uses the cascaded control based on proportional–resonant regulators, with the controller parameters tuned using \mathcal{H}_{∞} synthesis for fixed-structure controllers. The last controller calculates a voltage control based on \mathcal{H}_{∞} synthesis that uses the same information as the other controllers. Each controller's robustness is tested with the WTGs working in different scenarios (islanded no-load, islanded rated-load and DR-connected). A harmonic distortion analysis is carried out to validate the improvement of harmonic rejection and stability margins achieved using \mathcal{H}_{∞} -based grid-forming controllers.

This paper's main contribution is a methodology to design three different controllers, applying the \mathcal{H}_{∞} technique for the WTG control of DR-based WPPs. The controller design mainly aims to operate the WTGs in different grid structures. This means that the system impedance changes due to the number of connected cables, WTGs or the DR.

The structure of this paper includes the following sections. The system description used to validate the controllers is described in the second section, while the third section includes the controllers' design procedure. The fourth section shows an analysis of the designed controllers regarding performance, robustness and harmonic rejection. The conclusions are included in the last section.

2. System Description and Problem Statement

This section includes the off-shore WPP under study in this paper to analyse and design grid-forming controllers.

Figure 1 illustrates the comprehensive system diagram, featuring a 1.2 GW off-shore WPP distributed across three clusters, each with a 400 MW capacity. The WPP establishes a connection to an on-shore Modular Multi-level Converter (MMC) through a DR–HVdc link. Each WPP cluster consists of 50 8 MW type-4 WTGs, connected to a 66 kV collector. The use of aggregated WTGs allows WPP complexity reduction. For that, an aggregated WTG models each string of WTG, as shown in Figure 1. The used WTG aggregation technique is proposed in [19]. Aggregating each string allows a reasonable computational cost reduction in simulations while keeping the complete dynamics of the DR–HVdc stages. The realistic model considers saturation for all transformer models (WTG and DR).

The DR–HVdc system is composed of three DR platforms [4]. Each platform includes two 12-pulse DR of 200 MW, with a parallel connection on the ac side and a series connection on the dc side.

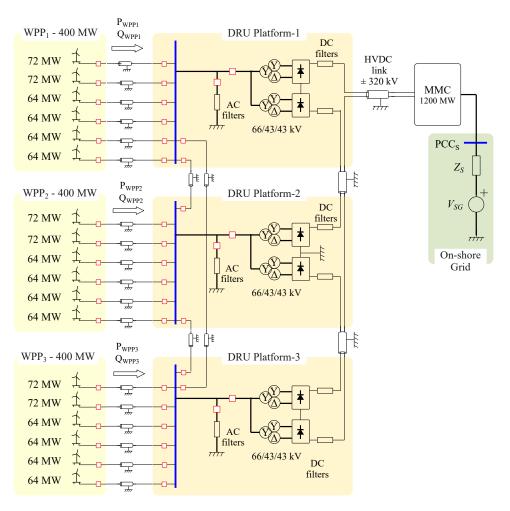


Figure 1. DR-based off-shore WPP [13].

As Figure 1 shows, the clusters WPP-i (i = 1, 2, 3) are connected to the DR platforms using the off-shore ac collector grid. Each DR platform includes ac and dc filters. Lumped pi-parameter cable models are used for the off-shore array cable.

DR stations are connected to the on-shore MMC converter using an export HVdc cable, modelled using a distributed frequency-dependent parameters model. The on-shore MMC operates by controlling the HVdc grid voltage and giving support with reactive power to a high-SCR on-shore grid. The electrical system parameters are listed in Table A1.

2.1. Wind Turbine Model

Figure 2 shows the WTG grid-side converter model and its control strategy. WTG's grid-side converter consists of a three-phase h-bridge converter, an LC filter and a transformer.

The LC filter and the WTG transformer dynamics of the WTG in Figure 2 are described in Equations (1) and (2):

$$\begin{pmatrix} I_W \\ \dot{V}_C \\ \dot{I}_T \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{R_W}{L_W} & 0 & -\frac{1}{L_W} \\ \frac{1}{C_W} & 0 & -\frac{1}{C_W} \\ 0 & \frac{1}{L_T} & -\frac{R_T}{L_T} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} I_W \\ V_C \\ I_T \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{L_W} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -\frac{1}{L_T} \frac{0.69}{66} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} V_W \\ V_F \end{pmatrix}$$
(1)
$$\begin{pmatrix} I_W \\ V_C \\ I_T \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} I_W \\ V_C \\ I_T \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} V_W \\ V_F \end{pmatrix}$$
(2)

where R_W and L_W are the resistance and the inductance values of the inductor LC filter, C_W is the Capacitor LC filter and R_T and L_T are the resistance and the inductance value of the WTG transformer. V_W and I_W are the h-bridge converter output voltage and current, V_C is the capacitor voltage and V_F and I_T are the high-side transformer voltage and the low-side transformer current.

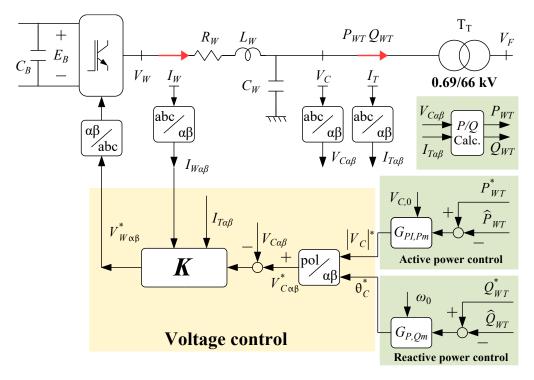


Figure 2. Control strategies for the grid-side converter of each grid-forming WTG [13].

Note that the current output I_T should be multiplied by 0.69/66 to obtain the high-voltage-side transformer current. The machine-side converter of each WTG is modelled as a DC voltage source for simplification.

The grid-forming converter control loop should perform adequately in islanded operation (no-load and rated-load) and deliver full power to the DR–HVdc station. These three operational modes can be considered by changing R_T and L_T values:

- 1. Islanded no-load: This mode considers a WTG before connecting to the off-shore AC grid. The WTG operates in an open circuit, and the resistance transformer value can be considered $R_T = \infty$. The inductance transformer value L_T remains the same;
- 2. Islanded rated-load: This mode considers a WTG before connecting to the off-shore AC grid with an equivalent resistive load equal to the rated capacity. In this mode, the equivalent value of the resistance transformer in pu is $R_T = 1$. The inductance transformer value L_T remains the same;
- 3. DR-connected: This mode considers the WTG, while the power transmission is via the DR–HVdc link. In this mode, the equivalent values of the resistance and inductance transformer in pu are $R_T = 1$, $L_T = L_T + L_{DR}$.

Figure 3 shows the frequency response of each considered operating mode. As Figure 3 shows, both the resonant peak amplitude and frequency depend on the case being considered. Moreover, an anti-resonant peak (at 640 Hz) in the current's amplitude diagram appears when the system is DR-connected. On the other hand, both resonant and anti-resonant peaks are much smaller when considering islanded operation at rated-load, as the considered resistive load would introduce additional damping.

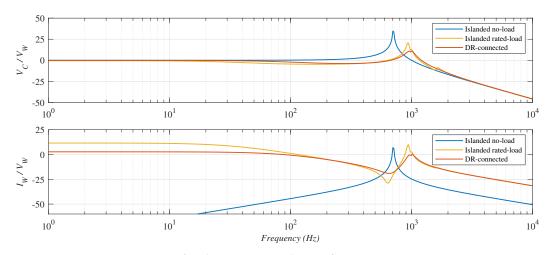


Figure 3. Frequency response of each operating mode seen from a WTG.

2.2. Active and Reactive Power Control

As described in Figure 2, the voltage control system whose design is the goal of this work is a "slave", one in a hierarchical scheme, where voltage references come from active and reactive power control blocks, based on P/V Q/ ω droops (DR-based WPP requires P/V Q/ ω droop instead of P/ ω Q/V droop to avoid a centralised control to change the off-shore ac voltage for power transmission by the DR [20]). The active power transmission depends on the DR voltage, which can be calculated as follows:

$$V_{Rdc0} - V_{Rdc} = \frac{3}{\pi} B\omega_0 L_{TR} I_{Rdc} + 2BL_{TR} \frac{dI_{Rdc}}{dt}$$
(3)

where $V_{Rdc0} = (3\sqrt{6}/\pi)BNV_{Fd}$, *B* is the rectifier bridges number, *N* and L_{TR} are the DR transformer ratio and leakage reactance and V_{Fd} is the off-shore ac voltage in dq frame.

The power control design is proposed in [21]. The power controllers are the following:

$$|V_{C}^{*}| = \left(K_{P} + K_{I}\frac{T_{s}}{z-1}\right)(P_{WT}^{*} - P_{WT})$$
(4)

$$\delta = \left(K_P + K_I \frac{T_s}{z - 1} + K_D \frac{z - 1}{z}\right) (Q_{WT}^* - Q_{WT}) + \omega_0 \frac{T_s}{z - 1}$$
(5)

The power control tuning does not consider the inner \mathcal{H}_{∞} voltage control loop. Nevertheless, as examples later show, there are interactions because time constants are similar in some cases; we would recommend checking possible design alternatives, using a combined voltage/power multivariable control that, however, is intentionally out of the scope of this contribution.

2.3. Voltage Control K(z) Tuning

The grid-side converter control $\mathbf{K}(z)$ shown in Figure 2 is

$$V_{W\alpha\beta}^{*}(z) = \mathbf{K}(z) \begin{pmatrix} V_{C\alpha\beta}^{*}(z) - V_{C\alpha\beta}(z) \\ I_{W\alpha\beta}(z) \end{pmatrix}$$
(6)

where the (*z*) notation indicates that it will be implemented in discrete time, with a sampling period of $T_s = 2.5 \times 10^{-4}$ s.

This paper has included a standard control procedure as a benchmark for the proposed controllers. Figure 4 shows the considered control scheme. Incorporating a cascaded control structure with voltage and current control in the outer and inner loops; the design of both controllers aligns with the principles outlined in [22]. The voltage and current controllers are designed as PI controllers within a rotating frame of reference, accounting for specified

settling time and overshoot criteria. Subsequently, a frequency shift to a PR structure is applied using (7), as detailed in [23,24]:

$$G_{AC}(s) = G_{DC}(s - j\omega) + G_{DC}(s + j\omega)$$
(7)

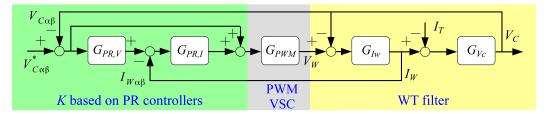


Figure 4. Benchmarck PR-based voltage control of the grid-side converter.

Figure 4 shows the PR control structure with the considered plant. The effects of the PWM and the measurement delay are considered in G_{PWM} . G_{I_W} and G_{V_C} models the inductor and capacitor filter dynamics. G_{PWM} , G_{I_W} and G_{V_C} are

$$G_{PWM}(s) = \frac{1}{1 + 1.5T_s s}$$
(8)

$$G_{I_W}(s) = \frac{1}{L_W s + R_W} \tag{9}$$

$$G_{V_C}(s) = \frac{1}{C_s s} \tag{10}$$

The tuning of the inner current controller is performed to attain a settling time of 7.5 ms and ensure an overshoot below 10%, considering PWM converter delays (G_{PWM} used as discretisation artifact [22]).

The outer voltage controller's design considers the current loop's closed-loop transfer function, targeting a settling time lower than 25 ms and an overshoot lower than 10%.

The equivalent PR controller is obtained by applying a frequency shift to the voltage and current controllers (7). The current and voltage PR controller parameters are listed below.

Therefore, the PR based voltage controller $\mathbf{K}(s)$ is, in transfer matrix form,

$$K_{PR} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 - G_{PR,V}(s) * G_{PR,I}(s) & -G_{PR,I}(s) \end{bmatrix}$$
(11)

where $G_{PR,V}(s)$ and $G_{PR,V}(s)$ are

$$G_{PR,V}(s) = K_{P,V} + \frac{K_{R,V} \cdot s}{s^2 + \omega_0^2}$$
(12)

$$G_{PR,I}(s) = K_{P,I} + \frac{K_{R,I} \cdot s}{s^2 + \omega_0^2}$$
(13)

A discretisation of the obtained controller $K_{PR}(s)$ is carried out using the bilinear approximation with a sample time of 0.25 ms and prewarping at 50 Hz.

The controller parameters are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Proportional-resonant control parameters of the PR benchmark controller.

PR Tuned Using Root Locus		
	Voltage control: $G_{PR,V}$: $K_{P,V} = 0.08$, $K_{R,V} = 150.0$	
	Current control: $G_{PR,I}$: $K_{P,I} = 0.92$, $K_{R,I} = 750.0$	

2.4. Problem Statement

The main objective of this paper is to propose a methodology to design \mathcal{H}_{∞} -based controllers for grid-forming WTGs. The paper shows the design of three controllers that consider the modes of operation of a DR-based WPP. The design includes defining the weights to consider unstructured uncertainty and the desired performance. The paper shows the results that can be obtained using the same number of sensors and how the performance is improved compared to a benchmark controller based on a cascade PR control.

Moreover, the paper includes an analysis of the robustness achieved with all the controllers and the harmonic rejection that can be achieved by each controller on the grid system.

3. \mathcal{H}_{∞} -Based Control Strategies

The main objective of this paper is to define a procedure for the synthesis of the controller $\mathbf{K}(z)$ in (6) that improves the robustness of the system. Four controller designs are considered:

- Proportional–Resonant Voltage Control tuned using Root Locus: This standard control procedure has been included as a benchmark for the other techniques (this design is included above as the benchmark controller);
- Cascaded Voltage and Current Control based on H_∞ synthesis: The outer voltage loop and the inner current loop are individual controllers based on H_∞ synthesis;
- Proportional–Resonant Voltage Control tuned using H_∞ synthesis: The parameters of the regulators have been tuned using H_∞ synthesis;
- Voltage Control based on H_∞ synthesis: A single H_∞ voltage controller, i.e., without internal current loop.

The design alternatives 1 and 2 follow a cascade control structure as the benchmark controller. One uses \mathcal{H}_{∞} synthesis for the PR-based control parameter tuning, while the third calculates state-space voltage and current controllers based on \mathcal{H}_{∞} synthesis. The last design alternative calculates a single-loop voltage controller based on \mathcal{H}_{∞} synthesis.

3.1. Design Alternative 1: Cascaded Voltage and Current Control Based on \mathcal{H}_{∞} Synthesis

To improve the robustness of the controller with a cascaded structure, a voltage control and a current control have been obtained using \mathcal{H}_{∞} synthesis to replace each of the two root-locus PR controllers designed above. Considering the plants described in (9) and (10), the first step is the zero-order hold (ZOH) discretisation of both plants, using a sampling rate of 0.25 ms. Additionally, the PWM delay is considered by adding a sample-time delay (i.e., $G_{Iw}(z) = z^{-1}$). Then, the generalised plant shown in Figure 5 is obtained.

Be aware that optimal \mathcal{H}_{∞} design does not explicitly include uncertainty. Instead, this uncertainty needs to be introduced through the assignment of weights. For example, a widely acknowledged practice involves assigning weight to the output of the generalised plant associated with control action, thereby ensuring robustness against unstructured additive uncertainty. However, the favourable computational aspects of \mathcal{H}_{∞} synthesis (convex optimisation) compared to the non-convex iterative procedures for structured uncertainty in, say, μ -synthesis [17,18] made \mathcal{H}_{∞} the choice in this work.

3.1.1. \mathcal{H}_{∞} Design of Current Control Loop

The generalised current plant (Figure 5, left) has W_{du} and W_h as input weights, and W_u and W_{errI} as outputs weights. The generalised weighted current plant can be expressed as

$$\begin{pmatrix} \widehat{err_I}(z)\\ \widehat{u}(z)\\ err_I(z) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} W_{errI} & 0 & 0\\ 0 & W_u & 0\\ 0 & 0 & I \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} I & I & G_{I_W}\\ 0 & 0 & I\\ I & I & G_{I_W} \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} W_h & 0 & 0\\ 0 & W_{du} & 0\\ 0 & 0 & I \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} \widehat{h}(z)\\ \widehat{du}(z)\\ u(z) \end{pmatrix}$$
(14)

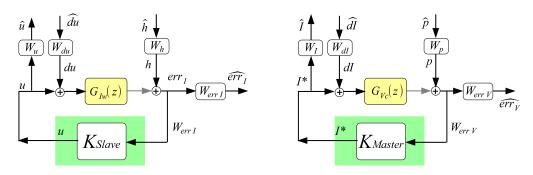


Figure 5. Generalised plant for voltage and current control based on \mathcal{H}_{∞} synthesis: Current (left); Voltage (right).

Each weight is designed with the following considerations:

- *W_h* is the reference weight and includes the added uncertainty to the inductor filter *L_W* and *R_W*, considering the system in per-unit values. It is fixed to 1 for the output weights to be interpreted in standard position/tracking errors at given frequencies, as customary in the widely used mixed-sensitivity design [18];
- W_{du} is an input weight at the control action (i.e., at the input of G_{Iw}). Additionally, the \mathcal{H}_{∞} robust control methodologies can reduce the steady-state error at the synchronous frequency, placing poles close to the imaginary axis (theory forbids unobservable output weights in the imaginary axis). Additionally, input disturbances at the control action are included to avoid the cancellation issues produced by the cancellation of complex poles close to the imaginary axis. This weight is also constant and is fixed to 0.1;
- W_u is the control action weight. This weight is constant and fixed to 0.5 to allow the controller to apply two voltage units per each required ampere to fulfil transient saturation constraints. Also, it has an interpretation of robustness to additive uncertainty: limiting the high-frequency gain to 2 tolerates 0.5 units of plant uncertainty;
- W_{errI} is the current error weight. Three considerations have been taken into account. It is desired to obtain a controller with a resonant behaviour to achieve a small error at frequencies lower than 50 Hz and to reduce the controller's effort at frequencies higher than 50 Hz. With these considerations, a weight in the form (15) has been tuned to achieve a closed-loop \mathcal{H}_{∞} norm less than 1:

$$W_{errI} = \alpha \cdot (K_{Low} + W_{err-res}) \cdot W_{High}$$
⁽¹⁵⁾

where the variables are as follows:

- *K*_{Low} in (15) is a constant value that represents the desired weight gain at low frequencies, which, given that the reference weight *W*_h is unity, can be interpreted as the low-frequency (DC) position error in conventional control;
- *W_{err-res}* is a weight in the form (16)

$$W = \frac{K(s+b)}{s+a} \tag{16}$$

that has been tuned to accept errors lower than 0.02, setting a low-frequency gain inversely proportional to the accepted error. The gain at high frequencies is adjusted to be 200 times lower. The bandwidth of $W_{err-res}$ is selected so the *H* inf design shows a comparable settling time to the root locus PR design (7.5 ms). Therefore, the gain *K* in (16) is fixed to obtain a gain of 0 dB at 133.3 Hz (1/7.5 ms). Finally, a transformation to a resonant form at 50 Hz is applied to the weight using (7);

- W_{High} has the same structure as Equation (16), with a gain of 1 at low frequencies, a gain of 1/3 at high frequencies, and a bandwidth of 20 Hz;

- α is a gain tuned in order to achieve a \mathcal{H}_{∞} norm less than 1.

The resulting values of K_{Low} , $W_{err-res}$ and W_{High} in $W_{err,I}$ are listed in Table 2 and shown in Figure 5.

Table 2. Weight parameters for the \mathcal{H}_{∞} current control.

Current \mathcal{H}_{∞} Weights	
W_h : $K = 1$; W_{du} : $K = 0.1$; W_u : $K = 0.5$; W_{errI} : $K_{Low} = 5.25$; $W_{err-res}$ ($K = 0.375$, $b = 6252$, $a = 1.56$; W_{High} : $K = 0.288$, $b = 919.5$, $a = 1.56$; W_{High} : $K = 0.288$, $b = 919.5$, $a = 1.56$; W_{High} : $K = 0.288$, $b = 919.5$, $a = 1.56$; W_{High} : $K = 0.288$, $b = 919.5$, $a = 1.56$; W_{High} : $K = 0.288$, $b = 919.5$, $a = 1.56$; W_{High} : $K = 0.288$, $b = 919.5$, $a = 1.56$; W_{High} : $K = 0.288$, $b = 919.5$, $a = 1.56$; W_{High} : $K = 0.288$, $b = 919.5$, $a = 1.56$; W_{High} : $K = 0.288$, $b = 919.5$, $a = 1.56$; W_{High} : $K = 0.288$, $b = 919.5$, $a = 1.56$; W_{High} : $K = 0.288$, $b = 919.5$, $a = 1.56$; W_{High} ; $K = 0.288$, $b = 919.5$, $a = 1.56$; W_{High} ; $K = 0.288$, $b = 919.5$, $a = 1.56$; W_{High} ; $K = 0.288$, $b = 919.5$, $a = 1.56$; W_{High} ; $K = 0.288$, $b = 919.5$, $a = 1.56$; W_{High} ; W_{Hi	

Using the previously described weighting filters, a current control K_{Slave} has been obtained by applying Matlab's R2022b hinfsyn function.

3.1.2. \mathcal{H}_{∞} Design of Outer Voltage Control Loop

Regarding voltage control, the generalised voltage plant (Figure 5, right) has W_{dI} and W_p as input weights and W_I and W_{errV} as outputs weights. The generalised weighted voltage plant in the discrete-time domain is

$$\begin{pmatrix} \widehat{err_V} \\ \widehat{I} \\ err_V \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} W_{errV} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & W_I & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & I \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} I & I & G_{V_C} \\ 0 & 0 & I \\ I & I & G_{V_C} \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} W_p & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & W_{dI} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & I \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} \widehat{p} \\ \widehat{dI} \\ I^* \end{pmatrix}$$
(17)

Each weight is designed according to the following criteria:

- W_p is the reference weight, considering that the system is scaled to pu. The weight is a constant, fixed to 1 to ensure reference to output error sensitivity shaping, as in the current loop and standard mixed-sensitivity designs;
- W_{dI} is the weight of a perturbation at the control action, which, in this cascade structure, is the current command, assumed to be reasonably followed by the inner current loop previously designed. Considering that there is an inner current control loop that is not modelled in this design, this weight is fixed to 0.9;
- *W_I* is the control action weight. This weight is fixed to 0.4 to allow the controller to apply 2.5 amperes per each required voltage unit;
- W_{errV} is the voltage error weight. This weight has the same structure as the current error weight W_{errI} (15). Hence, this weight is tuned the same way as W_{errI} to achieve a closed-loop \mathcal{H}_{∞} norm less than 1. The resulting values of K_{Low} , $W_{err-res}$ and W_{High} from $W_{err,V}$ for this weight are listed in Table 3.

Table 3. Weight parameters for the \mathcal{H}_{∞} Voltage Control.

Voltage \mathcal{H}_{∞} Weights	
W_p : $K = 1$; W_{dI} : $K = 0.9$; W_u : $K = 0.4$; W_{errV} : $K_{Low} = 1.2$; $W_{err-res}$ (before applying (7)) $K = 0.3$, $b = 2501$, $a = 2.501$; W_{High} : $K = 0.48$, $b = 390.7$, $a = 130.2$; $\alpha = 0.97$:

The cascaded \mathcal{H}_{∞} controller is

$$K_{cascadedH_{\infty}} = \left[1 - K_{Master}(z) * K_{Slave}(z) - K_{Slave}(z) \right]$$
(18)

where K_{Slave} and K_{Master} have been obtained independently by means of \mathcal{H}_{∞} optimisation, with the weighting functions described previously (see Figure 6).

10

0

-10

-20

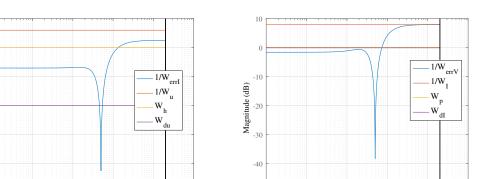
-30

-4(

10

10

Magnitude (dB)



10

 $10^{(}$

10

Frequency (Hz)

10

Figure 6. Weights for cascaded \mathcal{H}_{∞} design: Current (left); Voltage (right).

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10

Frequency (Hz)

3.2. Design Alternative 2: Proportional–Resonant Voltage Control Tuned Using \mathcal{H}_{∞} Synthesis

To obtain a more robust PR controller, the parameters of the cascaded PR controller have been tuned using \mathcal{H}_{∞} synthesis for fixed-structure controllers. Note that the fixedstructure \mathcal{H}_{∞} synthesis is a non-convex optimisation problem, which may become trapped at spurious local minima solutions in a generic case; nevertheless, it has been pursued here for the sake of comparison with the other alternatives.

Hence, the current and voltage generalised plants described in Section 3.1 with the same input and outputs weights (also described in (14) and (17)) have been used. However, K_{Master} and K_{Slave} controllers now correspond to the fixed-structure controllers, as described in (12) and (13). The new PR controller parameters ($K_{P,V}$, $K_{R,V}$, $K_{P,I}$, $K_{R,I}$) have been tuned using Matlab's hinfstruct function. This Matlab function only accepts continuous models; thus, the design has been carried out in continuous time. Then, a delay of one sample time has been introduced to the control action [25]. Finally, the discrete model has been converted to continuous time using the bilinear approximation and a frequency prewarp of 50 Hz. The resulting controllers have been discretised with a sample time of 250 ms by employing the bilinear approximation with a frequency prewarp set at 50 Hz. The continuous-time controller ensures consistent \mathcal{H}_{∞} performance post-discretisation through the application of the bilinear transformation. The obtained controller is

$$K_{PR,\mathcal{H}_{\infty}} = \left| 1 - G_{PR,V}(s) * G_{PR,I}(s) - G_{PR,I}(s) \right|$$

$$(19)$$

where the constant parameters are shown in Table 4.

 Table 4. Proportional–resonant control parameters.

_	PR Tuned Using \mathcal{H}_∞ Synthesis		
-	Voltage control: $G_{PR,V}$: $K_{P,V} = 0.881$, $K_{R,V} = 1180.0$		
_	Current control: $G_{PR,I}$: $K_{P,I} = 0.709$, $K_{R,I} = 924.0$		

3.3. Design Alternative 3: Voltage Control Based on \mathcal{H}_{∞} Synthesis

The main purpose of this design is to obtain a voltage controller based on \mathcal{H}_{∞} synthesis using the same sensors (voltage V_C and current I_W) as the calculated controllers in the previous subsections. Considering that the controller is digitally implemented with a 0.25 ms sampling rate, the plant described in (1) and (2) has been discretised by assuming a zero-order hold (ZOH) input. Then, a time delay of one period z^{-1} has been introduced, to include the PWM effect and the computational delay [25].

The following step consists of obtaining the generalised plant. Figure 7 shows the input weights W_{du} , W_i and W_p and the output weights W_u , W_i and W_y in the generalised plant.

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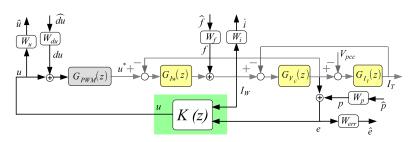


Figure 7. Generalised plant of the single-loop voltage control for the grid-side converter of a grid-forming WTG.

As commented before, the uncertainty must be "plugged in" the weights to obtain the optimal \mathcal{H}_{∞} controller:

- *W_p* is the reference weight, considering that the system is scaled to pu values. The weight is a constant, and it is fixed to 1 to ensure reference shaping, as in the prior *H*_∞ designs;
- W_{du} is the weight of a perturbation at the control action. This weight is fixed to 0.01, considering a 1% perturbation at the input. In this design, W_{du} is lower than the previous designs because now the complete model (LC filter plus WTG transformer) has been considered, not just the L transfer function G_{Iw} ;
- *W_f* is a weight of perturbation at the current *I_W*. This weight is fixed to 0.02, considering a 2% perturbation at the current;
- *W_u* is the control action weight. This weight is fixed to 0.2 to allow the controller to apply an increment of 5 at the control action (this means 1.1 volts per each required volt, in absolute value);
- *W_i* is the current weight. This weight is unnecessary but is introduced to limit the current dynamics. This weight is fixed to 0.02;
- W_{err} is the voltage error weight. This weight assumes the same consideration as the weights W_{errV} and W_{errI} for the previous controllers. Hence, this weight is also tuned to achieve a closed-loop \mathcal{H}_{∞} norm less than 1. The resulting values of K_{Low} , $W_{err-res}$ and W_{High} from W_{err} for this weight are listed in Table 5.

The selected weights used for the controller synthesis are shown in Figure 8.

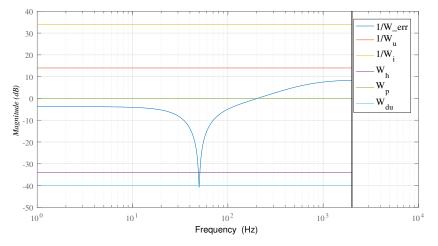


Figure 8. Weights for \mathcal{H}_{∞} design of the single-loop voltage control.

Equation (20) shows the obtained \mathcal{H}_{∞} controller. Table 5 shows the used weights in the generalised plant that allow the controller synthesis using Matlab's hinfsyn function. The selected weights achieve closed-loop \mathcal{H}_{∞} norm less than 1. This implies that the frequency responses of all outputs from the generalised plant remain below the inverse of their corresponding weights for a disturbance input spectrum below the specified weights in the generalised plant.

\mathcal{H}_∞ Weights
W_{err} : $K_{Low} = 1$; $W_{err-res}$ (before apply (7): $K = 0.2$, $b = 1539.0$, $a = 3.078$;
W_{High} : $K = 0.36, b = 3614.0, a = 903.6; \alpha = 1.1$
W_u : $K = 0.2$; W_i : $K = 0.02$; W_j : $K = 0.02$; W_p : $K = 1$

Table 5. Weight parameters of the single-loop voltage control.

The obtained cascade controller K(z) is composed of a voltage and a current controller:

$$K(s) = \begin{bmatrix} K_{\mathcal{H}_{\infty},V} & K_{\mathcal{H}_{\infty},I} \end{bmatrix}.$$
(20)

4. Results

This section compares the four controllers in terms of performance and robustness. The section compares the selected controllers in a realistic scenario, with the system model described in Section 2. This comparison has been carried out using a detailed electromagnetic transient (EMT) simulation of the system described in Section 2. The results are analysed regarding dynamic response and relevant voltage and current harmonics present in the system with each considered controller.

4.1. Design Results

Figure 9 illustrates the frequency response of the three designed controllers and the benchmark controller. The single \mathcal{H}_{∞} voltage controller has a bigger gain for low frequencies, lower resonant peak and lower frequency gain than the other controllers. The current frequency response of a single \mathcal{H}_{∞} voltage controller is lower for all frequencies without any resonant peak.

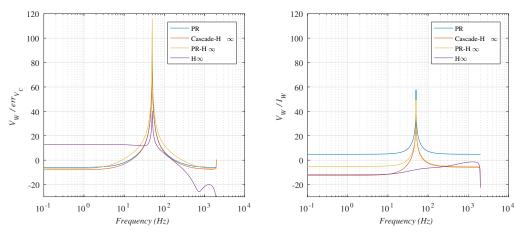


Figure 9. Frequency response of the designed controllers (left: *K_V*; right: *K_I*).

To analyse the response of the controllers and their robustness, the designed controllers have been tested in three different scenarios, namely open-circuit islanded WTG, islanded WTG with rated-load and WTG connected to an ideal grid (DR-connected)

Figure 10 shows the response of the designed controllers to a unit sinusoidal reference in the three considered scenarios (ISL no-load, ISL with rated-load and DR-connected).

It has been found that the time response of the three cascaded controllers is very similar. Therefore, only the response of the $PR_{H_{\infty}}$ controller is shown for clarity. The cascaded controllers have a faster response in the islanded scenarios. Still, when the WTG is connected to the DR (similar to connecting to a grid with a low impedance), the cascaded controller achieves a settling time of 200 ms.

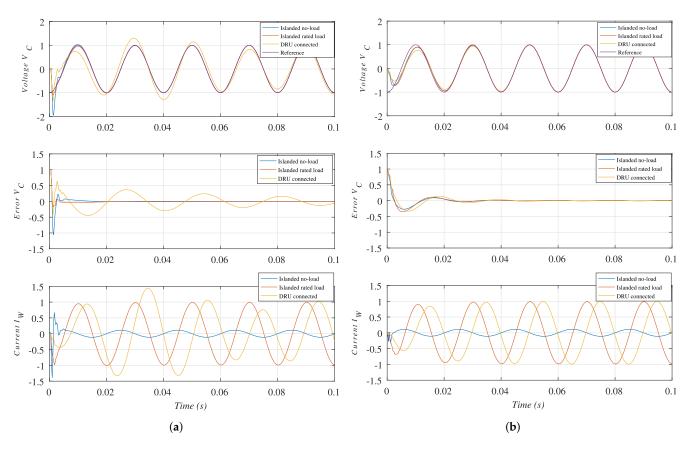


Figure 10. Voltage and current result in the model used for design. The current I_W is scaled with a 0.3 factor in the case of DR-connected. (a) Cascaded $PR_{\mathcal{H}_{\infty}}$ controller. (b) \mathcal{H}_{∞} voltage controller.

In the case of the \mathcal{H}_{∞} voltage controller, the response in the three scenarios is very similar. An a posteriori analysis, using the normalised coprime factor uncertainty margin [17], shows the robustness level of the designs to the considered parametric uncertainties.

Table 6 shows the achieved margins for the designed controllers. The \mathcal{H}_{∞} voltage controller can be considered the most robust, as it achieves better margins for islanded no-load and grid-connected operation, and almost the same margin for islanded rated-load operation, than the cascaded \mathcal{H}_{∞} controller.

Table 6. Normalised coprime factor uncertainty margin.

nfc Margin	PR	Cascaded \mathcal{H}_{∞}	$\operatorname{PR} \mathcal{H}_\infty$	\mathcal{H}_∞
Islanded no-load	0.06	0.14	0.12	0.32
Islanded rated-load	0.05	0.14	0.10	0.12
Grid-connected (DR)	0.01	0.06	0.02	0.07

4.2. EMT Simulation Results

The performance of the obtained controllers is validated in the described system in Section 2 using a detailed EMT simulation. Figure 11 shows the simulation results considering the H_{∞} -tuned cascaded PR controller and the full \mathcal{H}_{∞} controller. Note that the H_{∞} -tuned PR is the only cascaded controller shown, as the results for the other two cascaded controllers (root locus PR and cascaded \mathcal{H}_{∞}) are very similar to the results shown in Figure 11a).

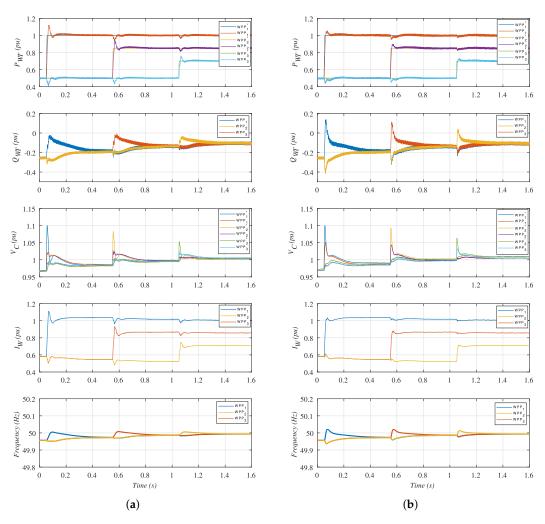


Figure 11. Detailed EMT simulation of the DR-based off-shore WPP. (a) \mathcal{H}_{∞} PR cascaded controller. (b) \mathcal{H}_{∞} controller.

To compare both current controller designs, changes in active power references are applied to each off-shore WPP. The changes in active power reference are ramped up, considering a ramp of 12.5 ms. Such a large slope is not realistic in practice, but it illustrates the behaviour of the different current controllers.

From top to bottom, the first graph in Figure 11 shows the active power delivered by each WPP cluster, together with its reference. The second graph shows the reactive power being delivered by each WPP cluster. The third graph shows the WTG capacitor voltage (V_c) and its reference. The fourth graph shows the current magnitude of (I_W), and the frequency of each WPP cluster is shown in the fifth graph.

Both controllers obtain a similar dynamic response because the outer droop control (see Figure 2) dominates the system dynamics. However, the cascaded voltage converter causes a higher overshoot in active power response. Moreover, the \mathcal{H}_{∞} controller tracks the reference capacitor voltage V_C^* much better.

Additionally, the active power response coupling between each WPP cluster is more negligible when using the full \mathcal{H}_{∞} controller.

It is worth pointing out that the current I_{W1} is higher than 1 pu for part of the transient. This is caused by the fact that WPP_1 is required to supply 1 pu active power while contributing to the reactive power requirements of the overall off-shore grid. Therefore, the overall current magnitude is slightly higher than 1 pu.

Voltage, current and reactive power ripple are the same for both cascaded controllers and full \mathcal{H}_{∞} controllers. A comparative analysis shows the harmonic rejection capabilities

of the designed controllers through a quantitative examination of voltage and current harmonic contents.

Table 7 shows the 11th and 13th voltage and harmonic contents for each one of the considered controllers. The analysis has been carried out using Fourier analysis of the detailed EMT simulation results, considering the output power of each WPP cluster being $P_{WT1} = 1$ pu, $P_{WT2} = 0.85$ pu and $P_{WT3} = 0.75$ pu, as at the end of the first graph of Figure 2.

Harmonic Voltage (%) Current (%) PR Cascaded \mathcal{H}_{∞} $PR\mathcal{H}_{\infty}$ \mathcal{H}_{∞} PR Cascaded \mathcal{H}_{∞} $PR\mathcal{H}_{\infty}$ \mathcal{H}_{∞} 11th 1.02 0.88 0.60 0.59 0.32 0.32 0.25 0.860.91 0.66 0.37 0.37 13th 0.800.85 0.56 0.21

Table 7. Main voltage and current harmonic of the DR-based WPP.

The 11th and 13th harmonics have been selected, as they are the characteristic harmonics of the 12-pulse HVdc diode rectifier converter.

The root locus-based PR controller offers the worst 11th and 13th voltage and current harmonic components of the four considered controllers. The other two cascaded controllers (PR \mathcal{H}_{∞} and cascaded \mathcal{H}_{∞}) somehow show improved voltage and harmonic contents, both with very similar figures for 11th and 13th voltage and current harmonic components.

On the other hand, the full \mathcal{H}_{∞} controller shows substantially reduced voltage and harmonic components.

All the shown results show that voltage and current performances improve using controllers based on \mathcal{H}_{∞} synthesis. Moreover, active and reactive power performance also improve, especially when using the single-voltage controller, as shown in the DR-based WPP results.

To summarise, controllers optimised using \mathcal{H}_{∞} design techniques show better performance than their root locus counterparts, not only for controllers with different orders but also for controllers with the same order (\mathcal{H}_{∞} -tuned PR). Not surprisingly, the full \mathcal{H}_{∞} control performs better than the other three controllers.

5. Discussion and Conclusions

This paper presents a methodology to design three different voltage controllers, using \mathcal{H}_{∞} techniques with a resonant behaviour for grid-forming converters.

The \mathcal{H}_{∞} techniques use both cascaded controller design and a voltage controller without an inner current loop. Additionally, \mathcal{H}_{∞} techniques are used to improve the performance and robustness of the cascaded control based on PR regulators via a structured PR \mathcal{H}_{∞} design, which allows for a fair comparison between structured PR controllers, cascaded \mathcal{H}_{∞} controllers and direct \mathcal{H}_{∞} controllers.

The controllers have been designed by considering the islanded no-load plant, which produces adequate results in islanded rated-load and DR-connected modes of operation.

The paper provides directives for the input and output weights' selection to synthetise the controllers, considering the system's unstructured uncertainty and the controllers' desired performance. The obtained controllers using \mathcal{H}_{∞} synthesis improve the performance, robustness and harmonic rejection in comparison with the controller achieved using classical control design techniques (root locus).

The dynamic response of all controllers has been tested for the three considered operating modes (islanded no-load, islanded rated-load and DR-connected): first of all, considering a sinusoidal reference, and, secondly, as part of a detailed simulation of the complete WPP and the HVdc diode rectifier link.

The dynamic response to a sinusoidal reference of all the controllers is reasonable for the islanded no-load condition (this is the plant used for all controller designs). However, the cascaded controllers' performance shows worse dynamics than the single \mathcal{H}_{∞} controller when changing the mode of operation, particularly for the DR-connected case.

Concerning robustness, coprime factor uncertainty margins are better using \mathcal{H}_{∞} controllers than using PR based on root locus design, as expected. Within the \mathcal{H}_{∞} controllers, the best coprime factor uncertainty margin is shown by the single \mathcal{H}_{∞} design. The single \mathcal{H}_{∞} optimisation has no structural constraints in its design, at the expense of requiring more complicated current-limiting techniques than cascaded designs.

Finally, the detailed EMT simulations of the complete system show that, even though all considered controllers' responses are reasonable, the \mathcal{H}_{∞} controller shows the best dynamic performance of all controllers, with the lowest voltage and current harmonic distortion.

It has been shown that all \mathcal{H}_{∞} -based controllers offer better performance than the standard root locus-designed PR controller, with the best performance being obtained by the single \mathcal{H}_{∞} controller. Therefore, even when considering a fixed PR structure, \mathcal{H}_{∞} design offers clear advantages for the design of the voltage control of grid-forming converters.

This work paves the way for further optimisation considering different grid configurations, which is particularly relevant for grid-forming converters used in DR-based off-shore WPPs, including the black-start operation of these WPPs. In this kind of WPP, the uncertainty is limited and can be easily bounded. This is important because large uncertainty can produce controllers with poor performance that are too conservative.

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Abbreviations

The following abbreviations are used in this manuscript:

- HVdc High-Voltage Direct Current
- DR Diode Rectifier
- WPP Wind Power Plant
- VSC Voltage Source Converter
- WTG Wind Turbine Generator
- PWM Pulse Width Modulation
- MMC Modular Multilevel Converter
- SCR Short Circuit Ratio
- PI Proportional Integral
- ZOH Zero-Order Hold
- ISL Islanded
- PCC Point of Common Coupling

Appendix A

Table A1 shows the parameter values of the system components.

Wind Turbines			
Grid-side converter:	8 MW; 1.2 kVcc; 690 Vac; 50 Hz		
Grid-side filter:	$R_T = 476.1 \ \mu\Omega;$ $L = 18.94 \ \mu\text{H};$ $C = 2674 \ \mu\text{F}$		
Transformer:	9.2 MVA; 0.69/66 kV; $R_W = 0.004$ pu; $X_W = 0.1$ pu; Saturable		
Off-Shore ac Grid			
WTG to WTG distance:	2 km		
WTG to ring-bus distance:	4 km		
Distance between platforms:	10 km		
String cable sections:	$C = 150 \text{ mm}^2$; $B = 185 \text{ mm}^2$; $A = 400 \text{ mm}^2$		
String with 8 WTGs:	C-C-B-B-B-B-A		
String with 9 WTGs:	C-C-B-B-B-B-A-A		
DR Platform			
DR filter:	Filter and compensation filter bank according to [26]		
Transformer:	215 MVA; $66/43/43$ kV; $R_{TR} = 0.004$ pu; $X_{TR} = 0.27$ pu		
dc-smoothing reactor:	66.67 mH		

Table A1. System Parameters.

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