

Control Strategy for Three-Phase Grid-Connected Converters under Unbalanced and Distorted Grid Voltages Using Composite Observers

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Abstract

This paper proposes a novel scheme for the current controller for the grid-side converter (GSC) of permanent-magnet synchronous generator (PMSG) wind turbines to eliminate the high-order harmonics in the grid currents under grid voltage disturbances. The voltage unbalance and harmonics in three-phase systems cause grid current distortions. In order to mitigate the input current distortions, multi-loop current controllers are applied, where the positive-sequence component is regulated by proportional-integral (PI) controllers, and the negative-sequence and high-order harmonic components are regulated by proportional-resonance (PR) controllers. For extracting the positive/negative-sequence and harmonic components of the grid voltages and currents without a phase delay or magnitude reduction, composite observers are applied, which give faster and more precise estimation results. In addition, an active damping method using PR controllers to damp the grid current component of the resonant frequency is employed to improve the operating stability of VSCs with inductor-capacitor-inductor (*LCL*) filters. The validity of the proposed method is verified by simulation and experimental results.

Key Words: Active damping, Composite observer, Grid converter, PMSG, PR controller, Voltage disturbances

I. INTRODUCTION

Recently, three-phase AC/DC pulse-width modulation (PWM) converters have become popular in industrial applications such as AC-machine drives, uninterruptible power supplies (UPS), and the integration of renewable energy sources to electric grids [1]-[4]. In particular, the function of the PWM converter is important for grid connection since the grid-connected converter are required to satisfy grid codes and to avoid islanding operation.

To reduce the switching frequency-related harmonics, a single inductor filter has been adopted. These days, *LCL* filters are being used instead of the *L* filters to reduce the inductor size while maintaining the same harmonic filtering performance [5]-[7]. *LCL* filters offer the advantages of low costs and better dynamic performance since the size of the inductors can be reduced when compared with *L* filters from the view point of the same harmonics. However, *LCL* filters experience difficulty in the control of the voltage source converter (VSC) since resonance may occur between the grid

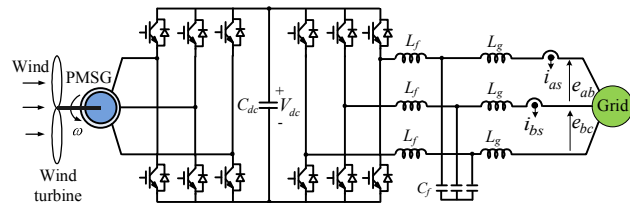


Fig. 1. Full-scale back-to-back converter for wind power system.

and converter sides [7].

There are two types of solutions to damp the resonance. The two methods are passive and active damping. The former method uses an additional resistor connected in series with the filter capacitor [8], [9]. This solution is simple and reliable. However, it lowers the system efficiency due to losses in the resistor. In the latter method, the parameters or structure of the controller are varied [7]. In this method, the resonant component in the grid current is damped by controlling the capacitor voltages or currents [10], [11]. The disadvantages of this method are that additional sensors are required for measuring the voltages or currents and the control ability is highly dependent on the parameters of the *LCL* filter.

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Another issue in the controller design of grid converters is mitigation of the current distortions due to unbalances and harmonics in the grid voltage. With a single current control loop, the performance of the GSC is deteriorated under grid voltage disturbances since a second-order harmonic voltage component appears at the DC-link [5]. In addition, a large amount of harmonic currents such as the 5th-, 7th- and higher-order harmonics are produced due to nonlinear loads, which distorts the grid voltages [12]. Harmonic distortions result in power fluctuation in the grid and the possibility of a malfunction of the converter [5], [12]. To overcome these problems, a double-frame current control scheme to eliminate the second-order harmonic voltage component in the DC-link voltage has been proposed, which controls the positive- and negative sequence current components separately [5]. However, the 5th- and 7th-order harmonics still influence the current control performance due to the high bandwidth of the current control loop. On the other hand, there exists a method which applies a state observer to compensate for the effects of harmonics and unbalances in the grid voltage [12], where the current harmonics have been eliminated, but the unbalance of the three-phase current still exists. In addition, the application of a composite observer for extracting the harmonic components of the grid voltages and currents to control the grid current has been presented [13].

The contents of the manuscripts have been modified from [13] by adding the composite observer theory, the procedure for selecting the observer gains, and the PLL (phase-locked loop) algorithm, where a novel control scheme based on a composite observer is proposed to mitigate the grid current distortions due to unbalanced and distorted grid voltage conditions for the grid-connected PWM converter (called the grid converter hereafter) of a PMSG wind turbine system, as shown in Fig. 1. The composite observers can extract the fundamental and high-order harmonic components of the grid voltages and currents precisely without any magnitude reduction or phase delay. Then, the positive- and negative-sequence components are separated from the fundamental components by all-pass filters. The grid current components are regulated by a multi-loop harmonic current controller, in which the positive-sequence component is regulated by PI controllers and the negative-sequence and harmonic components are regulated by PR controllers. This approach allows the unbalanced and distorted components in the grid current to be eliminated from the system. The PR controllers are also used to damp the resonant grid current components at the resonant frequency, in which the resonant grid currents are extracted by band-pass filters (BPF). An advantage of this active damping method is that no additional hardware is required. The effectiveness of the proposed scheme is verified by simulation and experimental results.

II. DESCRIPTION OF GRID CONVERTERS

A. Converter Modeling

The system considered in this work is shown in Fig. 1. The PMSG wind turbine system is controlled using a full-scale back-to-back converter, in which the PWM converter is connected to the grid through *LCL* filters. Here, the *LCL* filters consist of grid- and converter-side filter inductors, L_g and L_f , respectively, and a filter capacitor, C_f . The grid voltages and currents are measured for the purpose of the converter control. The grid converter can be represented in the *dq*-synchronous reference frame (SRF) with the filter capacitor neglected, as follows [5]:

$$\begin{aligned} e_d &= R_t i_d + L_t \frac{di_d}{dt} + v_d - \omega_e L_t i_q \\ e_q &= R_t i_q + L_t \frac{di_q}{dt} + v_q - \omega_e L_t i_d \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

where $L_t = L_f + L_g$ and $R_t = R_f + R_g$ are the total inductance and resistance, respectively, from the GSC interfacing to the grid, ω_e is the grid angular velocity, and e_{dq} and v_{dq} are the *dq*-axis grid and converter voltages, respectively. The resonant frequency, f_{res} , of the *LCL* filters is given by [5]:

$$f_{res} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \sqrt{\frac{L_f + L_g}{C_f L_f L_g}}. \quad (2)$$

The filter parameters are determined by the requirements of the current ripples on the grid and converter sides. In addition, the resonant frequency ranges between ten times the grid frequency and half of the switching frequency [7].

B. Effects of Grid Voltage Disturbances

Three-phase grid voltages often contain unbalanced and distorted components due to the single-phase load and nonlinear loads, in which the 5th- and 7th-order harmonic components are significant. Therefore, in this study, the unbalanced components and the 5th- and 7th-order harmonics in the grid voltage are taken into account. The grid voltage vector, $e^s(t)$, in the stationary reference frame can be expressed as:

$$e^s(t) = (E^p e^{j\omega_e t} + E^n e^{-j\omega_e t} + E^{5th} e^{-j5\omega_e t} + E^{7th} e^{j7\omega_e t}) \quad (3)$$

where E^p , E^n , E^{5th} , and E^{7th} are the magnitude of the positive-, negative-, 5th- and 7th-order components, respectively.

Then, the grid voltage vector in the synchronous reference frame rotating in the direction of the positive sequence is expressed as:

$$\begin{aligned} e^e(t) &= e^s(t) \cdot e^{-j\omega_e t} \\ &= (E^p + E^n e^{-j2\omega_e t} + E^{5th} e^{-j6\omega_e t} + E^{7th} e^{j6\omega_e t}). \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

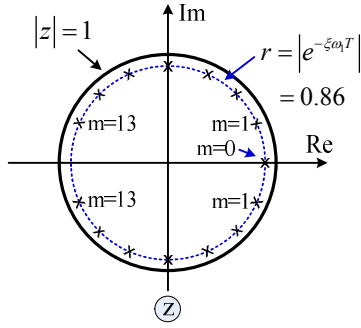


Fig. 4. Pole locations in z-plane for voltage and current observers.

$$A_m = \begin{bmatrix} \cos(m \cdot \omega_1 T) & \cos(m \cdot \omega_1 T) - 1 \\ \cos(m \cdot \omega_1 T) + 1 & \cos(m \cdot \omega_1 T) \end{bmatrix}$$

and $B' = [1 \ 1 \ 0 \ 1 \ 0 \ \dots \ 1 \ 0]$.

Fig. 3 shows a block diagram of a discrete composite observer, in which the composite observer is modeled in a closed-loop linear system as [16]-[18]:

$$\begin{cases} \hat{x}(k+1) = A\hat{x}(k) + De(k) \\ \hat{y}(k) = B'\hat{x}(k) \end{cases} \quad (6)$$

where the subscript " $\hat{\cdot}$ " indicates the estimated value and D is a gain vector as:

$$D = [D_0, D_1, \dots, D_m, \dots, D_N]^T \\ = [d_0, (d_{11}, d_{12}), \dots, (d_{m1}, d_{m2}), \dots, (d_{N1}, d_{N2})]^T$$

The m^{th} sub-block, shown in Fig. 3, is expressed by the state vector $\hat{x}_m(k)$ and the output variable $\hat{y}_m(k)$ as:

$$\begin{cases} \hat{x}_m(k+1) = A_m \hat{x}_m(k) + D_m e(k) \\ \hat{y}_m(k) = B'_m \hat{x}_m(k); \quad m = 0, 1, 2, \dots, N \end{cases} \quad (7)$$

where $B'_m = [1 \ 0]$ and the state vector $x_m(k) = [x_{m1}(k), x_{m2}(k)]^T$. Then the output variable $y_m(k) = x_{m1}(k)$, and the observer error is defined as:

$$e(k) = y(k) - \hat{y}(k) = B'[x(k) - \hat{x}(k)] = B'E(k). \quad (8)$$

From (5), (6), and (8), the difference equation for the error term is obtained as:

$$E(k+1) = (A - DB')E(k). \quad (9)$$

Then, the characteristic equation can be written in the z-domain as:

$$\det[zI - A + DB'] = 0 \quad (10)$$

where I is a $(2N+1) \times (2N+1)$ -dimensional identity matrix.

By the pole placement technique, the observer poles, which are the $(2N+1)$ roots of the characteristic equation, are located within the unit circle in the z-plane to stabilize the closed-loop observer. Then, the observer poles are chosen as

$$z = e^{-\xi\omega_1 T} [\cos(m\omega_1 T) \pm j \sin(m\omega_1 T)] \quad (11)$$

where ξ is a tunable parameter, which locates the observer poles within the unit circle in the z-plane. Then, from (10) and (11), the gain vector D is determined.

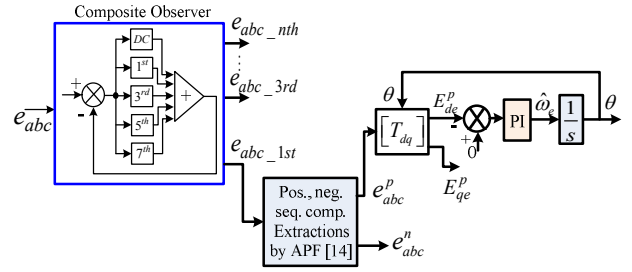


Fig. 5. Block diagram of PLL.

B. Extraction of the Harmonic Components of the Grid Voltage and Current

Under grid voltage distortions, the grid-phase voltages and currents contain a lot of harmonics. Thus separate composite observers are applied to extract these components. In this study, for the three-phase system, the distorted grid-phase voltage, e_{sx} ($x=a, b, c$), can be modeled in the discrete time domain as:

$$e_{sx}(k) = \sum_{m=1}^N e_{sx,m}(k), \quad m = 0, 1, 3, 5, \dots, 13 \quad (12)$$

where m is the m^{th} -harmonic order.

In the observer design, the nominal frequency of the grid is 60 Hz, the sampling time is 200 μs , and $\xi = 2$ is selected. Then, the fifteen pole locations of the discrete observer are shown in Fig. 4.

Similarly, the harmonic components of the grid-phase currents are extracted with the aforementioned procedure.

V. CONTROL OF GRID-SIDE CONVERTERS

The function of the grid converters for wind power applications is to deliver the power generated from the wind generator to the grid by keeping the DC-link voltage constant. The cascaded control structure is employed with the outer control loop of the DC-link voltage. The inner control loop regulates the grid currents to be sinusoidal and balanced even under unbalanced and distorted grid voltages. Thus the unbalanced and distorted grid current components are controlled to zero. By designing the resonant frequency of the LCL filter to be lower than half of the switching frequency, the resonant component of the grid currents can be damped by PR controllers.

A. Phase-Locked Loop under Unbalanced and Distorted Grid Voltages

Under the conditions of unbalanced and distorted grid voltages, the fundamental and high-order harmonic components of the grid voltage, $e_{abc_3rd}, \dots, e_{abc_nth}$ and e_{abc_1st} , are extracted by the composite observer. From the fundamental component, the positive- and negative-sequence components are separated by all-pass filters (APF) [19], [20].

Then, the positive-sequence components in the abc -frame are transformed into the dq rotating-reference frame. A three-

phase phase-locked loop (PLL) based on the synchronous reference frame is used for the positive-sequence voltage components, in which the d -axis voltage component is regulated to zero by a feedback loop [21]. The phase angle is determined by the output of the feedback loop. Fig. 5 shows a block diagram to estimate the phase angle of the grid voltage.

B. Proposed Control Scheme for Grid-Side Converter

Fig. 6 shows a block diagram of the proposed current control based on the composite observer of a GSC, which consists of an outer DC-link voltage control loop and inner current control loops.

First, the fundamental and harmonic components of the grid voltages and currents, $e_{abc_1st}, e_{abc_3th}, \dots, e_{abc_nth}$ and $i_{abc_1st}, i_{abc_3th}, \dots, i_{abc_nth}$, respectively, are extracted by the composite observers. Then, the positive- and negative-sequence dq -components with high-order harmonics are obtained, as shown in Fig. 5. It can be seen that by Park's transformation with θ , the positive-sequence dq -axis components are transformed as DC-quantities, whereas those of the negative sequence become second-order components. In addition, the dq -axis components of the 5th- and 7th- order harmonics contain 6th-order components.

In order to control the aforementioned current components, a multi-loop current control structure is applied, in which the positive-sequence component is regulated by PI controllers. The q -axis current command is generated from the DC-link voltage controller to regulate the active power

flow to the grid. The d -axis current is controlled to zero to obtain a unity power factor. Meanwhile, PR regulators tuned at 120 Hz and 360 Hz are employed to control the negative-sequence and harmonic components (5th- and 7th-order), respectively, to be zero to deliver sinusoidal and balanced currents to the grid.

In addition, a PR controller at the resonant frequency is used to damp the resonant component in the grid currents. In this study, the resonant frequency of the LCL filters is designed as 830 Hz which is about one-third of the switching frequency (2.5 kHz). BPFs with a cut-off frequency of 830 Hz and a quality factor of 4.15 are applied to extract the resonant component of the grid currents.

VI. SIMULATION RESULTS

PSIM simulation results have been shown to verify the validity of the proposed control strategy for the three-phase GSC used for a 2-MW PMSG wind turbine application. The specifications of the GSC and the PMSG are listed in Table I and Table II, respectively. The grid voltage and frequency are 0.69 kV and 60 Hz, respectively. The DC-link capacitance is 24 mF, and the DC-link voltage is controlled at 1.2 kV.

The switching frequency of the back-to-back converter is 2.5 kHz. For the discrete composite observer design, the fundamental frequency is chosen as 60 Hz, and the sampling period is 200 μ s. Fig. 7 shows the estimation performance of the composite observers, in which the grid phase voltages and currents are estimated well, as shown in Fig. 7(a) and (b), respectively.

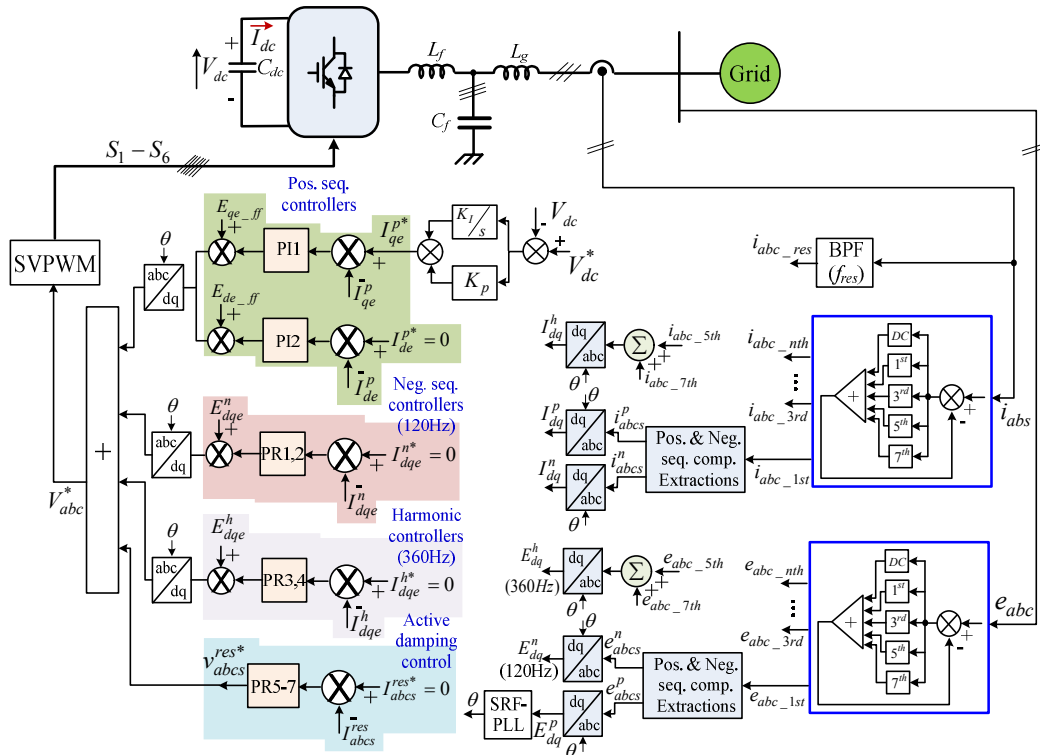


Fig. 6. Control block diagram of the current control based on composite observer for the GSC.

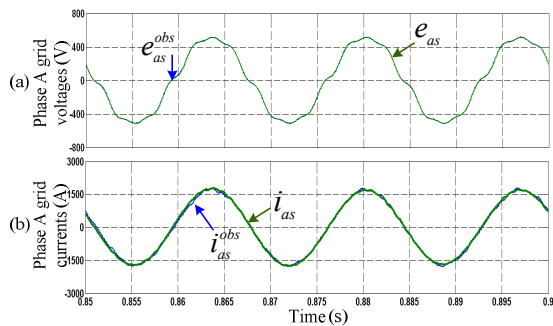


Fig. 7. Estimation performance of composite observer. (a) Grid voltages. (b) Grid currents.

TABLE I
SPECIFICATIONS OF GRID PWM CONVERTER

Parameters	Values
Rated power	2 MW
Grid voltage	690 V/60 Hz
Grid/converter filter inductances	0.1/0.126 mH
Shunt filter capacitance	656 μ F

TABLE II
SPECIFICATIONS OF PMSG

Parameters	Values
Rated power	2 MW
Stator voltage/frequency	690 V/16.6 Hz
Stator resistance/inductance	8.556 m Ω /3.59 mH
Number of poles	120

Fig. 8 shows the performance of the PLL under unbalanced and distorted grid voltages. Fig. 8(a) shows the grid voltages, which contain 5% fifth- and seventh-order harmonics each and a 20% drop in the two phase voltages at 0.8 s. It can be seen in Fig. 8(b) that the positive-sequence components of the grid voltages are sinusoidal and balanced. Fig. 8(c) shows the phase angle of the positive-sequence voltage component, which is estimated well under unbalanced and distorted grid voltages. The dq -axis grid voltage components are shown in Fig. 8(d), in which the d -axis component is set at zero for the grid voltage orientation. The q -axis component is the magnitude of the positive-sequence voltage component.

In the grid voltage disturbances, it is assumed that the PMSG wind turbine is operated under the constant wind speed condition, and that the grid converter is connected to distorted grid voltages containing 5% fifth- and seventh-order harmonics, as shown in Fig. 9(a).

Fig. 9 shows the response of the GSC, in which the grid currents are almost sinusoidal, as shown in Fig. 9(b). The fundamental components of the grid currents are controlled well, as shown in Fig. 9(c), in terms of the d - q components. The DC-link voltage is controlled well at its reference of 1,200V, which is shown in Fig. 9(d).

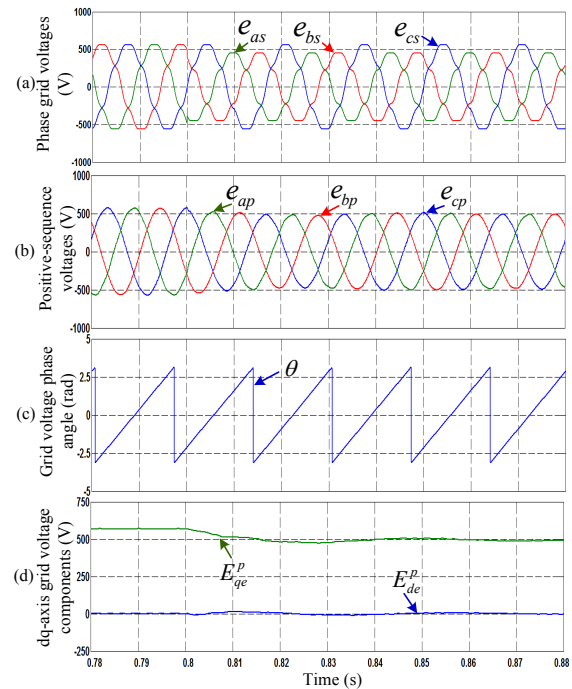


Fig. 8. PLL performance in unbalanced and distorted grid voltages. (a) Grid voltages. (b) Positive-sequence components. (c) Phase angle. (d) dq -axis grid voltage components.

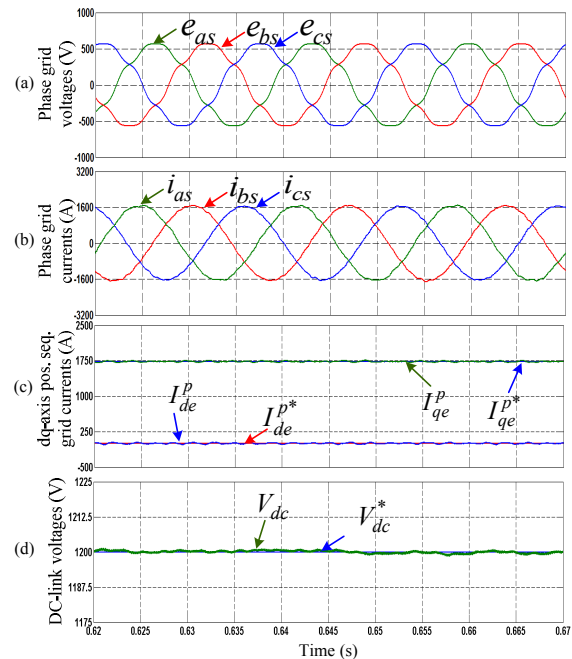


Fig. 9. Control performance of GSC under distorted grid voltages. (a) Phase grid voltages. (b) Phase grid currents. (c) dq -axis grid currents. (d) DC-link voltage.

Fig. 10 shows the response of the GSC under the condition of distorted and unbalanced grid voltages, where 5% fifth and seventh-order harmonics are included and a 20% drop in two phase voltages occurs at 0.8 s, as shown in Fig. 10(a).

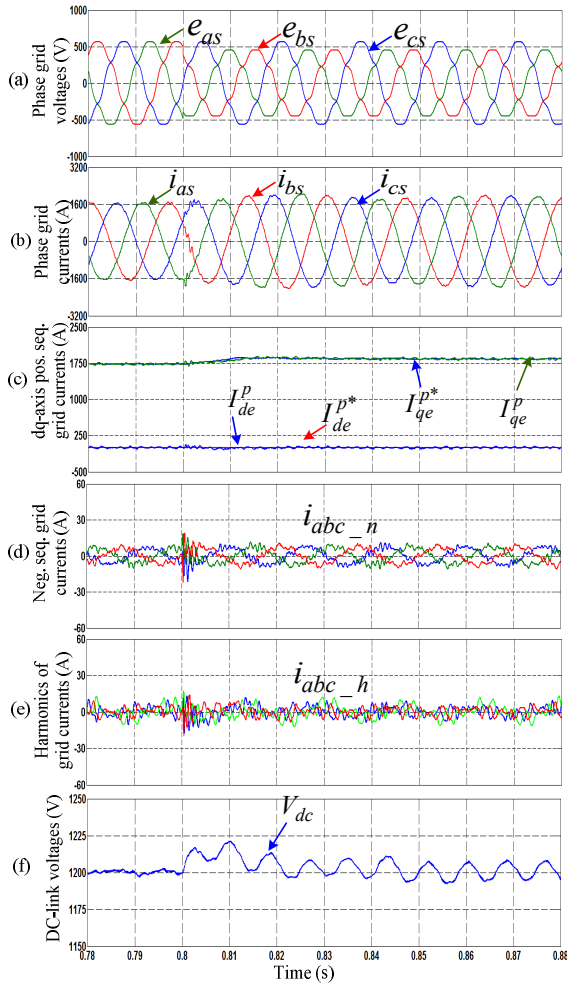


Fig. 10. Response of GSC in the case of distortion and unbalance of grid voltage. (a) Grid voltages. (b) Grid currents. (c) dq -axis pos. seq. grid currents. (d) Neg. seq. grid currents. (e) Grid current harmonics. (f) DC-link voltage.

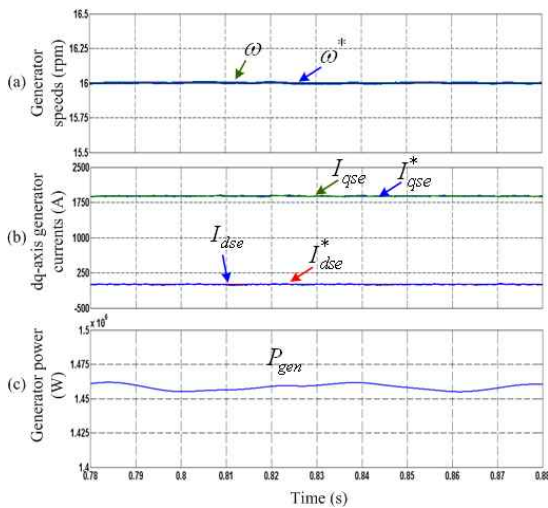


Fig. 11. Control performance of PMSG. (a) Generator speeds. (b) dq -axis generator currents. (c) Generator power.

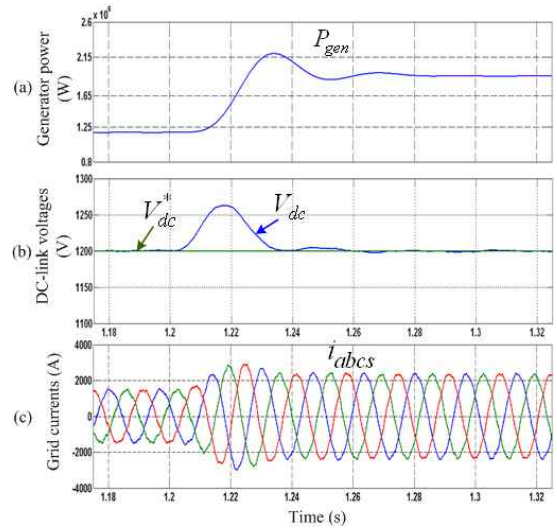


Fig. 12. Response of GSC in transient state. (a) Generator power. (b) DC-link voltages. (c) Grid currents.

It can be seen in Fig. 10(b) that the grid currents are almost sinusoidal and balanced even for distorted and unbalanced grid voltages. The dq -axis positive-sequence grid current components are controlled well, as shown in Fig. 10(c). Here, the q -axis component, regulating the active power, is increased when the grid voltage is reduced, whereas the d -axis component, controlling the reactive power, is controlled to zero to obtain a unity power factor. The negative-sequence and high-order harmonic components of the grid currents are also controlled to zero, as shown in Fig. 10(d) and (e), respectively. Fig. 10(f) shows the DC-link voltage, which is kept close to its nominal value of 1,200 V in the steady state. In addition, the voltage overshoot in the transient states is about 20 V (about 1.67% when compared to its average). It can also be seen in Fig. 10(f) that the voltage ripples appear in the DC-link due to unbalanced grid voltages.

The generator control performance is shown in Fig. 11. Fig. 11(a) shows the generator speed, which follows its reference well. The dq -axis generator currents are shown in Fig. 11(b), in which the d -axis current is controlled to zero. Fig. 11(c) shows the generator power.

An investigation in the case of wind speed varying from 8.5 m/s to 10 m/s is performed to illustrate the validity of the proposed control strategy for the GSC. The generator power is increased from 1.15 MW to 1.9 MW, as shown in Fig. 12(a). In this case, the DC-link voltage is still kept close to its reference of 1,200 V, as shown in Fig. 12(b), in which the voltage overshoot is about 5%. In addition, the grid currents are still controlled well, and are sinusoidal and balanced, as shown in Fig. 12(c).

VII. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

To verify the feasibility of the proposed control scheme for grid converters, experimental tests on a 3 kW laboratory

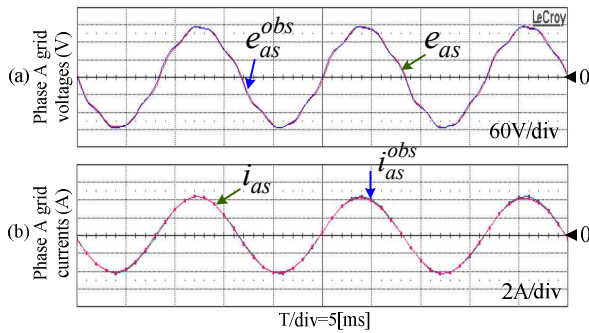


Fig. 13. Estimation performance of composite observer. (a) Grid voltages. (b) Grid currents.

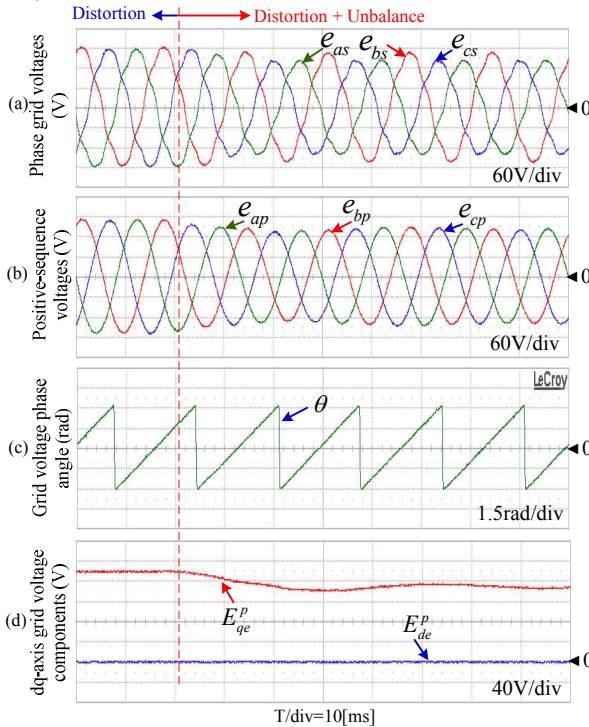


Fig. 14. PLL performance in unbalanced and distorted grid voltages. (a) Grid voltages. (b) Positive-sequence components. (c) Phase angle. (d) dq -axis grid voltage components.

TABLE III
SPECIFICATIONS OF GSC (EXPERIMENT)

Parameters	Values
Rated power	3 kW
Grid voltage	220 V/60 Hz
Grid/converter filter inductances	0.7/1.1 mH
Shunt filter capacitance	10 μ F
DC-link capacitance	1,650 μ F

prototype were carried out. The parameters of the converter are listed in Table III. The grid voltage is 220V/60 Hz and a 10 kVA grid simulator is used for generating the voltage unbalance and distortion. The DC-link voltage is controlled at 340 V. The switching frequency of the converter is 5 kHz. The digital controllers are based on a TMS320VC33 DSP chip. For the discrete composite observer design, the nominal frequency of the grid is 60 Hz.

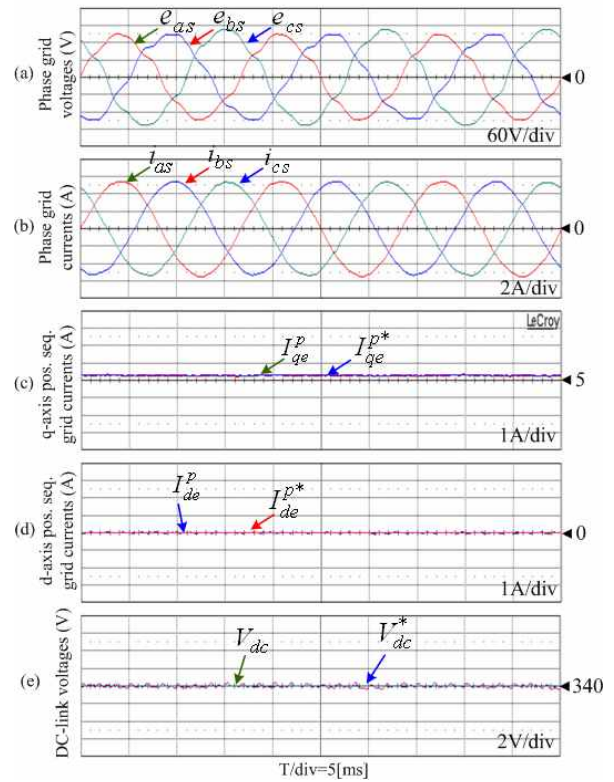


Fig. 15. Response of GSC under distorted and unbalanced voltage conditions. (a) Grid voltages. (b) Grid currents. (c) q -axis grid currents. (d) d -axis grid currents. (e) DC-link voltages.

The sampling period is 100 μ s. The resistors are connected at the DC-link for the load tests.

Fig. 13 shows the online extraction performance using the composite observer. The grid phase voltages are shown in Fig. 13(a), in which the estimated voltage tracks the measured voltage well. In addition, it can be seen from Fig. 13(b) that the extracted grid current and the measured one are the same.

The performance of the PLL under unbalanced and distorted grid voltages is shown in Fig. 14. Fig. 14(a) shows the grid voltages, where 5% fifth- and seventh-order harmonics are included, and a 23% voltage drop in phases A and C and a 5% voltage drop in phase B occur at 22 ms. The positive-sequence components of the grid voltages are sinusoidal and balanced, as shown in Fig. 14(b). Fig. 14(c) shows the phase angle of the positive-sequence voltage component, which is estimated well under unbalanced and distorted grid voltages. Fig. 14(d) shows the dq -axis grid voltage components.

Fig. 15 shows the performance of the grid converter under the aforementioned grid voltage distortion and unbalance condition, as shown in Fig. 15(a). The grid currents are controlled to be sinusoidal and balanced, as shown in Fig. 15(b), even under distorted and unbalanced grid voltages. The fundamental grid current components, which appear as a DC quantity, are controlled well, as shown in Fig. 15(c) and (d)

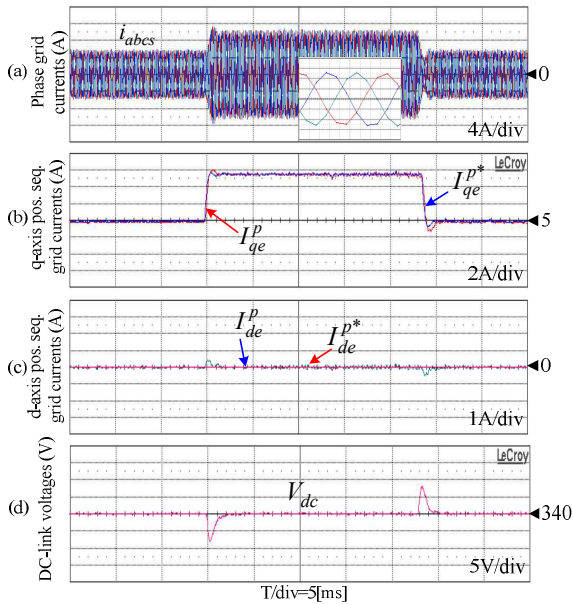


Fig. 16. Performance of GSC in transient states. (a) Phase grid currents. (b) q -axis phase grid currents. (c) d -axis phase grid currents. (d) DC-link voltage.

for the q - and d -axis currents, respectively, in which the d -axis current is controlled to zero. Fig. 15(e) shows the DC-link voltage, which follows its reference well at 340 V.

Fig. 16 shows the control performance of the grid converter in the transient state by varying the load from 1.3 kW to 2.6 kW and then back to 1.3 kW. Fig. 16(a) shows the balanced and non-distorted grid current waveforms, where the magnified ones are also shown in the same grid. In the transient states, the fundamental grid current components are still controlled well. Fig. 16(b) shows the q -axis grid currents, where the actual current follows its reference well and has a low overshoot in transient states. It can be seen in Fig. 16(c) that the d -axis current is still controlled well to zero for the unity power factor operation. Fig. 16(d) shows the DC-link voltage, which is still kept close to its reference of 340 V. The overshoot value in transient states is about 8 V, which is less than 2.5% when compared with its average.

VIII. CONCLUSIONS

A novel control scheme for the grid converter of PMSG wind turbine systems has been proposed to mitigate the grid current distortion due to grid voltage disturbances. A composite observer has been employed to extract the positive-sequence, negative-sequence and harmonic components of the grid voltages and the currents are extracted precisely. With this control scheme, the current control performance of the grid converter has been improved significantly, and the unbalanced and high-order harmonic components of the grid current are controlled to zero by PR regulators. Thus the currents flowing into the grid are almost

sinusoidal and balanced even under grid voltage distortions and unbalance. The validity of the proposed algorithm has been verified by simulation and experimental results.

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