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Application of Coordinated SOFC and SMES Robust Control for Stabilizing Tie-Line Power

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Abstract: Wind power causes fluctuations in power systems and introduces issues concerning system stability and power quality because of the lack of controllability of its discontinuous and intermittent resources. This paper presents a coordinated control strategy for solid oxide fuel cells (SOFCs) and superconducting magnetic energy storage (SMES) to match the intermittent wind power generation and compensate for the rapid load changes. An optimal H_∞ control method, where the weighting function selection is expressed as an optimization problem, is proposed to mitigate tie-line power fluctuations and the mixed-sensitivity approach is used to deal with the interference suppression. Simulation results show that the proposed method significantly improves the smoothing effect of wind power fluctuations. Compared with the conventional control method, the proposed method has better anti-interference performance in various operating situations.

Keywords: H_∞ optimal control; microgrid; solid oxide fuel cell; superconducting magnetic energy storage; mixed-sensitivity problem; particle swarm optimization (PSO)

1. Introduction

Recently, wind power has been increasingly applied in power systems because of its environmental benefits. However, wind power fluctuations also cause problems in power system operation [1–3]. Therefore, several studies on wind power control are required for effective wind power generation.

In more recent years, the complementarities between storage and renewable energy sources (RESs) have recently become of particular interest, both in terms of essentially intermittent resources and stability maintenance in electrical power systems [4,5]. Both RESs and storage have different characteristics. Thus, the type and capacity of energy storage to be used must be carefully selected. Energy storage systems must have either fast response parts or a certain amount of energy storage capacity to meet the demands of load and generation adjustments and to improve the performance of RESs [6]. A single energy storage device cannot satisfy these requirements. Therefore, a composite energy storage system is necessary [7,8]. In this paper, solid oxide fuel cells (SOFCs) are used to supply the basic load to deal with the discontinuous and intermittent wind power fluctuations. However, SOFCs cannot adequately compensate sudden load changes and instantaneously smooth severe wind power fluctuations because of their slow dynamic response [9–11]. Thus, a superconducting magnetic energy storage (SMES) system, which can act as a good tool for considerably decreasing the power fluctuations of the wind generator system, was used [12–18]. The overall control of the microgrid power system was performed using the control and monitoring system (CMS) [6].

This paper proposes a new robust design of coordinated SOFC and SMES controllers for smoothing wind power fluctuations. An optimal H_∞ control method [19–20], where the weighting function selection is expressed as an optimization problem [21,22], is proposed to mitigate tie-line power fluctuations. And the mixed-sensitivity approach is used to deal with the interference suppression [23–25]. This study primarily aims to mitigate and smooth the tie-line power deviation using the proposed control strategy.

The remainder of the paper is organized as follows: Section 2 briefly describes the microgrid system and establishes the SOFC and SMES models. Section 3 illustrates the proposed H_∞ mixed-sensitivity design based on PSO [26–28]. Section 4 shows the simulation results from different cases and compares the performances of different control strategies. Section 5 reviews the proposed control strategy and concludes this paper.

2. Microgrid Model

A microgrid is an interconnection of distributed energy sources integrated with storage devices and power capacitors on low-voltage distribution systems. Figure 1 shows the basic microgrid architecture.

2.1. Wind Power and Load Models

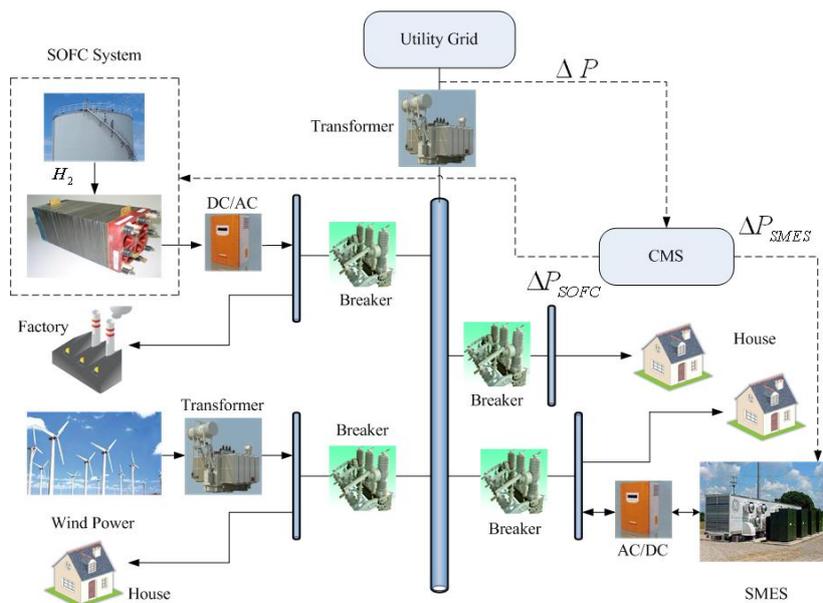
Wind power, which is the primary power source, provides power to the load according to different power demand levels. The SOFC supplies additional power to the microgrid system when the wind power is insufficient, and the SMES stabilizes tie-line power fluctuations. In this paper, the standard deviations of wind power PWP and random load deviation P_{Load} were mathematically evaluated as follows [6]:

$$dP_{WP} = 0.8\sqrt{P_{WP}} \quad (1)$$

$$dP_{Load} = 0.6\sqrt{P_{Load}} \quad (2)$$

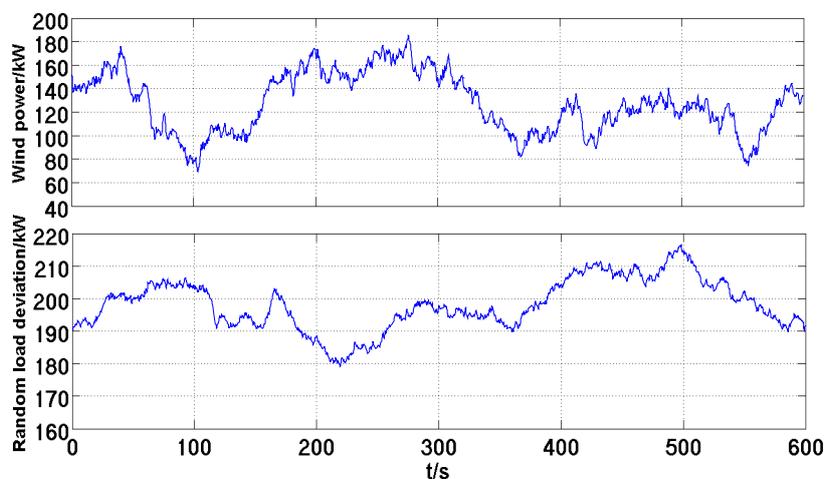
As shown in [7,8], the wind power fluctuation is derived from white noise, and a low-pass filter is used to eliminate components that are higher than 10,000 s. Then, the fluctuation is multiplied by the standard deviation to determine the output fluctuation. On the other hand, the load fluctuation is generated similarly. Low- and high-pass filters are used to eliminate components that are lower than 5 min and higher than 30 min, respectively. The fluctuation is then multiplied by the standard deviation and base load capacity to determine the output fluctuation.

Figure 1. Microgrid system.



Wind power output and random load deviation in Figure 2 are employed in the microgrid system under grid-connected operation.

Figure 2. Wind power output and random load deviation.



2.2. SOFC Models

The SOFC model used in this paper was established by Padullés *et al.* [9,10]. The operating temperature of the FC is assumed constant, and the drop in the FC electromotive force (EMF) due to

ohmic loss is considered. The electrochemical and thermodynamic processes were approximated using first-order transfer functions [9,11].

Ideally, SOFC differential equations are established as follows:

$$\frac{d}{dt} p_{H_2} = \frac{1}{\tau_{H_2} K_{H_3}} (N_{H_2}^{in} - K_{H_2} p_{H_2} - 2K_r I) \quad (3)$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} p_{O_2} = \frac{1}{\tau_{O_2} K_{O_3}} (N_{H_2}^{in} / r_{H-O} - K_{O_2} p_{O_2} - K_r I) \quad (4)$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} p_{H_2O} = \frac{1}{\tau_{H_2O} K_{H_2O_3}} (N_{H_2O}^{in} - K_{H_2O} p_{H_2O} + 2K_r I) \quad (5)$$

where p_{H_2} , p_{O_2} and p_{H_2O} (atm) and K_{H_2} , K_{O_2} and K_{H_2O} [mol/(s·atm)] are the partial pressures and valve molar constants for hydrogen, oxygen, and water, respectively; and τ_{H_2} , τ_{O_2} and τ_{H_2O} are the time constants of the three kinds of gas flows; K_r is a modeling parameter with a value of $N_0/4F$ mol/s·A; N_0 is the number of stack cells in series, and F is the Faraday constant (96,487 C/mol).

The well-known Nernst equation was used to calculate the internal EMF generated by the FC stack, as Equation (6):

$$V = N_0 \left[E_0 + \frac{RT}{2F} \ln \left(\frac{p_{H_2} p_{O_2}^{0.5}}{p_{H_2O}} \right) \right] - rI \quad (6)$$

where R is the gas constant (8.31 J/mol·K); T is the SOFC typical operating temperature; E_0 is the voltage associated with the reaction free energy (V); and r denotes the ohmic losses of the stack (Ω).

The utilization factor [11] of the SOFC is defined as follows:

$$u \equiv (N_{H_2}^{in} - N_{H_2}^{out}) / N_{H_2}^{in} \quad (7)$$

According to [9], the term u can be expressed as follows:

$$I_{FC} = u \cdot N_{H_2}^{in} / 2K_r \quad (8)$$

Considering the fuel processor dynamics, the relationship between the small changes in the stack current ΔI_{FC} and hydrogen input $\Delta N_{H_2}^{in}$ fed to the FC stack can be derived as:

$$\Delta I_{FC} = \frac{u/2K_r}{\tau_{fS} + 1} \Delta N_{H_2}^{in} \quad (9)$$

A linear SOFC model can be obtained at the nominal operating point using the Jacobian linearization. At the nominal operating point, $I_{FC} = 200$ A and $V = 400$ V.

2.3. SMES Models

The SMES is a large superconducting coil capable of storing electric energy in the magnetic field generated by the dc current flowing through it [12]. Though the installation of SMES is quite costly [13], SMES systems have attracted much attention because of their fast response and high efficiency.

SMES modeling largely depends on the converter topology and control method [14]. In this paper SMES device is connected to two parallel current source converters (CSCs) to reduce the harmonics and expand the active and reactive power regulation ranges [15,16]. Equally triggering angle control of

the CSC ensures that the SMES device performs the active and reactive power decoupling control. In this structure, its control mode can be mapped into the modulation index M and triggering angle α . According to [16], first-order transfer equations are assumed to control M and α as follows:

$$\begin{cases} \dot{M} = -\frac{1}{T_*}M + \frac{1}{T_*}u_1 \\ \dot{\alpha} = -\frac{1}{T_*}\alpha + \frac{1}{T_*}u_2 \end{cases} \quad (10)$$

$$\begin{cases} P = 1.5MV_{\max}I_d \cos \alpha \\ Q = 1.5MV_{\max}I_d \sin \alpha \end{cases} \quad (11)$$

where P and Q are the active and reactive powers that flow to the SMES, respectively; V_{\max} is the maximum system voltage of the access point; I_d is the superconducting coil current; T_* is the time constant of the converter; and u_1 and u_2 are the control variables of M and α , respectively:

$$\dot{P} = 1.5\dot{M}V_{\max}I_d \cos \alpha + 1.5MV_{\max}I_d (\sin \alpha) \cdot \dot{\alpha} = -\frac{1}{T_*}P + \frac{1}{T_*}(Q\alpha + \frac{P}{M}u_1 - Qu_2) \quad (12)$$

Similarly:

$$\dot{Q} = -\frac{1}{T_*}Q + \frac{1}{T_*}(-P\alpha + \frac{Q}{M}u_1 + Pu_2) \quad (13)$$

Considering system uncertainties, an interference function w is introduced into the state equation as Equation (14):

$$\begin{cases} \dot{x} = Ax + B_1u + B_2w \\ z = C_1x + D_{11}u + D_{12}w \\ y = C_2x + D_{21}u + D_{22}w \end{cases} \quad (14)$$

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{1}{T_*} & & & \\ & -\frac{1}{T_*} & & \\ & \frac{Q}{T_*} & -\frac{1}{T_*} & \\ & -\frac{P}{T_*} & & -\frac{1}{T_*} \end{bmatrix} \quad B = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{T_*} & & & \\ & \frac{1}{T_*} & & \\ \frac{P}{MT_*} & -\frac{Q}{T_*} & 1 & \\ \frac{Q}{MT_*} & \frac{P}{T_*} & & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad C = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad D = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

where the state variables $x = [M, \alpha, P, Q]^T$; control variables $u = [u_1, u_2]^T$; z and y are the system output signals; $w = [P_{\text{set}}, Q_{\text{set}}]^T$; and $y = [P - P_{\text{set}}, Q - Q_{\text{set}}]^T$.

Considering that the SMES device works around the zero point, the state equation can be linearized to obtain the robust linear four-order SMES model. The time constant of converter transfer function T_* is 2 ms.

The energy stored in the SMES E (J) and the initial energy stored E_0 (J) can be determined by [17,18]:

$$E_0 = 0.5LI_0^2 \quad (15)$$

$$E = E_0 - E_{\text{out}} \quad (16)$$

where I_0 is the actual value of initial coil current (A); the coil inductance of SMES, L is set at 3.3H; E_{out} is the energy output (J):

$$E_{out} = \int P_{out} dt \tag{17}$$

$$I_d = \sqrt{I_0^2 - \frac{2E_{out}}{L}} \tag{18}$$

Subsequently, the coil current I_d can be calculated.

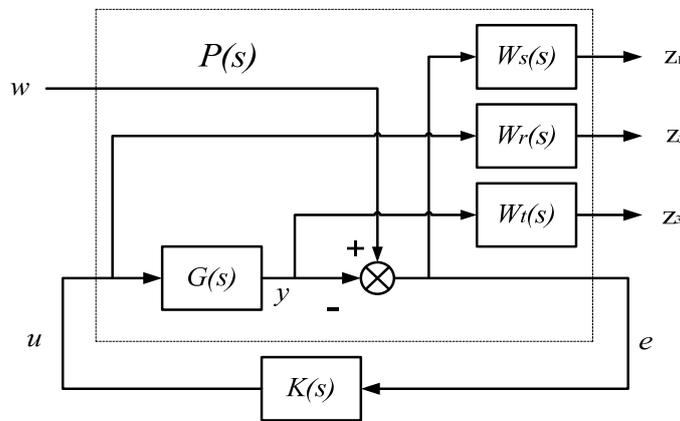
3. H_∞ Optimal Control

3.1. H_∞ Mixed-Sensitivity Problem

Usually, unstructured system uncertainties and external disturbances simultaneously appear in practical control engineering frameworks [19]. Different weighting functions are introduced into the mixed-sensitivity H_∞ design to determine the performance and robustness of the control objectives [20].

Many alternative methods can be used to obtain the generalized plant $P(s)$ in the S/KS/T mixed-sensitivity problem [21,22]. Figure 3 shows the configuration of the generalized plant. $W_s(s)$, $W_r(s)$ and $W_t(s)$ denote the respective weighting functions, which specify the range of relevant frequencies for the corresponding closed-loop transfer matrix, and construct the generalized plant $P(s)$ together with the nominal model $G(s)$ [23,24]. $K(s)$, u , e , w and z denote the controller, control signal, measured variable, external disturbance signal, and so-called error variable, respectively.

Figure 3. Mixed-sensitivity configuration.



The generalized plant $P(s)$ can be described as follows:

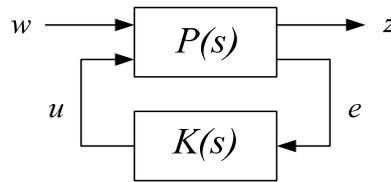
$$P(s) = \begin{bmatrix} W_s & -W_s G \\ 0 & W_r \\ 0 & W_t G \\ I & -G \end{bmatrix} \tag{19}$$

The closed-loop transfer function from w to z denoted by $F_l [P(s), K(s)]$ is given by the Linear Fractional Transformation as follows [25]:

$$T_{zw}(s) = F_l(P(s), K(s)) = P_{11}(s) + P_{12}(s)K(s)(I - P_{22}(s)K(s))^{-1}P_{21}(s) \tag{20}$$

This way, the H_∞ optimization problem can be expressed in the standard formulation [21], as shown in Figure 4.

Figure 4. Standard form of H_∞ control



And the feedback system in Figure 4 can be described as follows:

$$\begin{bmatrix} z \\ e \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} P_{11}(s) & P_{12}(s) \\ P_{21}(s) & P_{22}(s) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} w \\ u \end{bmatrix} \tag{21}$$

$$u = K(s)e$$

The optimal H_∞ control problem in this configuration is to compute a controller such that the H_∞ norm of the closed-loop transfer function is minimized which means the ratio between the energies of the error vector and disturbance signals is minimized. In this case, the H_∞ optimal problem is actually an anti-interference problem and the expression of the resulting closed-loop transfer function $T_{zw}(s)$ is given by:

$$\|T_{ZW}\|_\infty = \begin{bmatrix} \|W_s S\| \\ \|W_r R\| \\ \|W_t T\| \end{bmatrix}_\infty < \gamma \tag{22}$$

$$\begin{cases} S = (1 + GK)^{-1} \\ R = K(1 + GK)^{-1} = KS \\ T = GK(1 + GK)^{-1} = I - S \end{cases} \tag{23}$$

where S , R , and T are the sensitivity, control signal sensitivity, and complementary sensitivity transfer functions, respectively.

The standard form of H_∞ control in Figure 4 can be expressed by the state space in Equation (14). After building the generalized plant using the nominal model and appropriate weighting functions, the controllers can be computed via the proper synthesis algorithm [26].

3.2. Design Methodology of the Weighting Functions [23,24]

As aforementioned, the H_∞ control design using the mixed-sensitivity configuration requires three weighting functions, which reflect the various performance requirements of the system. $W_s(s)$ and $W_t(s)$ are the tracking performance and stability weights, respectively. These weights are often described as follows:

$$W_s(s) = \left(\frac{s / \sqrt[m]{M_S} + w_B^*}{s + w_B^* \sqrt[m]{A_S}} \right)^m \tag{24}$$

$$W_t(s) = \left(\frac{s / w_{BT}^* + 1 / \sqrt[n]{M_T}}{\sqrt[n]{A_T} s / w_{BT}^* + 1} \right)^n \tag{25}$$

Increasing m and n can improve the disturbance rejection and measurement noise attenuation, respectively. However, large values of m and n will affect the stability margins and unnecessarily increase the controller order. Thus, m and n should be kept as low as possible [21].

- (1) The desirable $W_s(s)$ has low-pass characteristics that ensure the tracking performance and disturbance attenuation. The maximum singular value of the sensitivity function $S(s)$ should be less than the maximum singular value of $1/W_s(s)$ in all frequency domains:

$$\sigma[S(j\omega)] < \sigma[W_s^{-1}(j\omega)] \tag{26}$$

- (2) The weighting function $W_r(s)$ is proposed to decrease the overshoot in the time responses of the system without significantly decreasing the speed of the response [22]. It is usually taken as a diagonal constant matrix to avoid the increase in controller order [28].
- (3) $W_t(s)$ restricts the robust boundary of the system. The maximum singular value of sensitivity function $T(s)$ should be less than the maximum singular value of $1/W_t(s)$ in all frequency domains:

$$\sigma[T(j\omega)] < \sigma[W_t^{-1}(j\omega)] \tag{27}$$

Moreover, $W_s(s)$ and $W_t(s)$ need to satisfy the following inequality constraint:

$$\sigma[W_s^{-1}(j\omega)] + \sigma[W_t^{-1}(j\omega)] \geq 1 \tag{28}$$

It is worth noting that the overly improved tracking performance caused the appearance of a peak in the sensitivity curve [21], implying that the system will have less stability margins. Without loss of generality and increasing the order of the controller, $W_s(s)$ and $W_t(s)$ can be approximated using first-order transfer functions, and $W_r(s)$ can be expressed in scalar form:

$$\begin{cases} W_s = \frac{a_1(s + a_2)}{s + a_3} \\ W_r = b \\ W_t = \frac{d_1(s + d_2)}{s + d_3} \end{cases} \tag{29}$$

3.3. PSO-Based Controller Design

The PSO algorithm is an evolutionary computation method developed by Kennedy and Eberhart [27,28]. The search performance of the PSO algorithm depends on the balance between global and local exploration abilities. The accurate selection of inertia weights provides a balance between global and local explorations, ω often linearly decreases from 0.9 to 0.4 during a run according to Equation (33).

The impact factors, denoted as ω_1 and ω_2 , were introduced into the cost function to achieve the coordination control of the SOFC and SMES as follows:

$$F = \min f(W_s, W_r, W_t) = \min(\omega_1 \|H_{ZW(SOFC)}\|_{\infty} + \omega_2 \|H_{ZW(SMES)}\|_{\infty})$$

Subject to:

$$\begin{cases} \gamma(W_s, W_r, W_t) < 1 \\ \sigma[S(jw)] < \sigma[W_s^{-1}(jw)] \\ \sigma[T(jw)] < \sigma[W_t^{-1}(jw)] \\ \sigma[W_s^{-1}(jw)] + \sigma[W_t^{-1}(jw)] \geq 1 \\ a1, a3, b, d1, d2 \in (0.0001, 1) \\ a2, d3 \in (1, 100) \end{cases} \quad (30)$$

where $\|H_{zw(SOFC)}\|_\infty$ and $\|H_{zw(SMES)}\|_\infty$ are the infinity norms of the ratios between the error vector and the disturbance signals.

The population size is 50, and the iteration number is 100. Each particle keeps tracking its coordinates in the problem space:

$$v_{i+1} = w \cdot v_i + c_1 \cdot rand \cdot (pbest - x_i) + c_2 \cdot rand \cdot (gbest - x_i) \quad (31)$$

$$x_{i+1} = x_i + v_{i+1} \quad (32)$$

$$w = w_{max} - (w_{max} - w_{min}) \frac{i}{t_{max}} \quad (33)$$

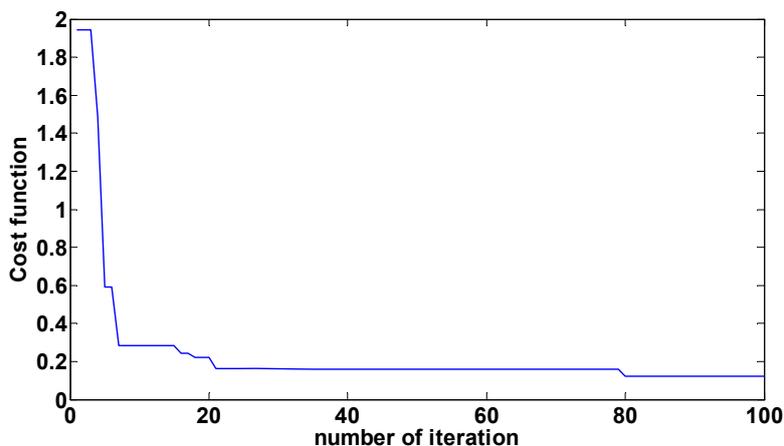
The following is the search procedure of the PSO algorithm:

- (1) Specify the parameters of PSO. Initialize the population of the particles with random positions and velocities within the upper and lower bound values.
- (2) Get the generalized plant $P(s)$ of the present parameters and calculate the optimal controllers. Evaluate the cost function for each particle using Equation (30).
- (3) Compare the fitness value of each particle with the pbest and gbest.
- (4) Update the velocity and position of the particle using Equations (31) and (32).
- (5) Check the particle position and velocity and initialize them if they cross the boundaries. Otherwise, increase the iteration by a step.
- (6) When the maximum number of iterations is achieved, stop the process. Otherwise, go to step 2).

The cost function in the optimization problem is optimized using the search procedure. As the number of iterations increase, the cost quickly decreases and finally approximates to the optimal solutions. Figure 5 shows the convergence curve of the cost function. The weighting functions are obtained as follows:

$$\begin{cases} W_s = \frac{0.2438(s + 37.16)}{s + 0.6771} \\ W_r = 0.2457 \\ W_t = \frac{0.2263(s + 0.4909)}{s + 54.54} \end{cases}$$

Figure 5. Convergence curve.



At the same time, the optimal controllers are obtained as follows:

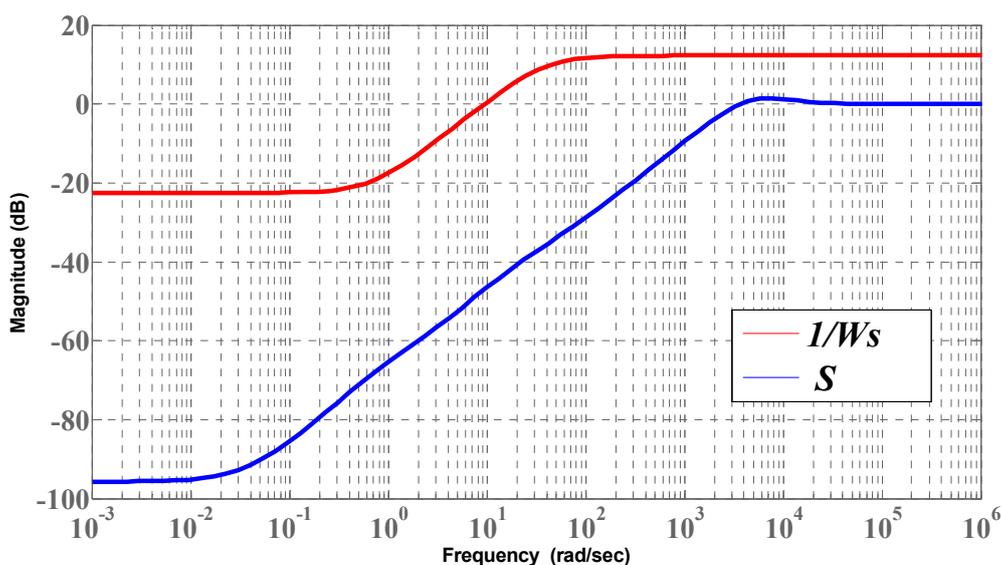
$$K_{H_2}(s) = \frac{5669.1035(s + 61.6)(s + 31.28)(s + 4.777)(s + 1.561)}{(s + 8924)(s + 71.34)(s + 39.18)(s + 3.888)(s + 2.33)}$$

$$K_M(s) = \frac{948.6821(s + 55.82)(s + 37.62)(s + 4.709)}{(s + 8882.5)(s + 63.31)(s + 38.2)(s + 7.249)}$$

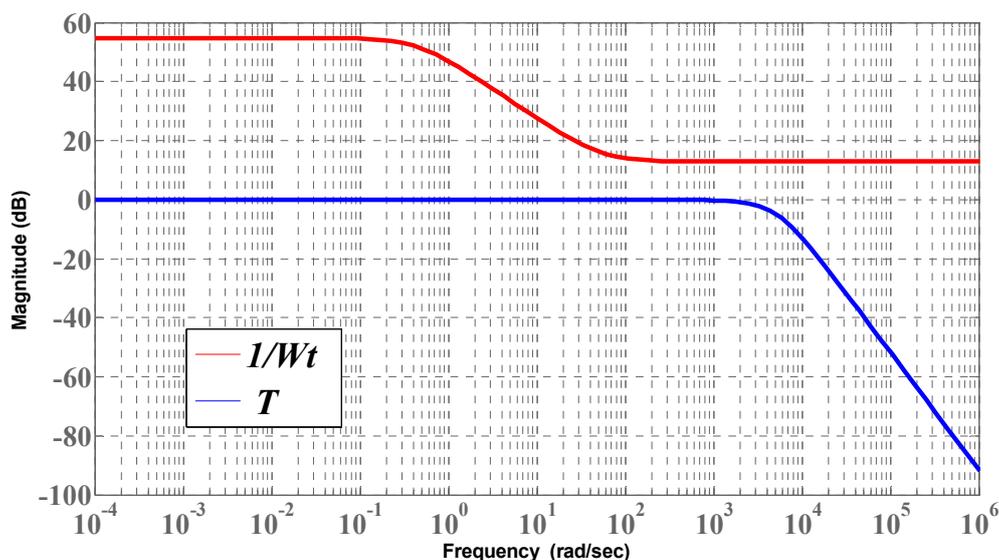
$$K_\alpha(s) = \frac{3717.7713(s + 73.8)(s + 32.15)(s + 9.2)}{(s + 6010)(s + 49.18)(s + 42.6)(s + 2.329)}$$

In Figure 6, the maximum singular value of sensitivity function $S(s)$ is lower than the maximum singular value of $1/W_s(s)$ in all frequency domains, thus satisfying Equation (26) and guaranteeing the tracking and anti-interference performance.

Figure 6. Singular value curves of sensitivity function S and W_s^{-1} .



In Figure 7, $1/W_s(s)$ covers the $T(s)$ curve completely, according to Equation (27), and hence guarantees the robust stability of the system.

Figure 7. Singular value curves of complementary sensitivity function T and W_t^{-1} .

4. Simulation Results

A simulation microgrid is built in MATLAB/Simulink, and the total rated output of DERs is 350 kW, including 200 kW of wind power, 150 kW of SOFC. This paper concentrates on the SOFC dynamic behavior associated with the reactant pressure, neglecting its start-up performance. Thus, its power ranges from 10 kW to 150 kW. The maximum power of the SMES device is set to 50 kW. Random load fluctuates in various conditions. The configuration of the simulated microgrid is connected to the utility grid through a transformer and the SOFC and SMES operate in PQ control mode accurately active power control mode in the interconnected condition. Figure 8 shows the overall control scheme.

Four cases were considered and simulated separately to analyze and compare the performances of the different control strategies and simulation conditions. The comparison is shown in Table 1, where ‘√’ implies that the source is in the microgrid system and ‘×’ implies otherwise.

Table 1. Four cases.

Case	SOFC	SMES	Load conditions
A	√	×	Figure 2
B	×	√	Figure 2
C	√	√	Figure 2
D	√	√	Figure 11

In case A, the SOFC was used to meet the needs of tie-line power adjustments. The initial power fluctuations, before the SOFC was installed, were due to the unbalance of wind power and local load. The blue line in Figure 9 shows the real power unbalance using the utility-grid-connected operation before and after installing the SOFC. The real power unbalance can be mitigated to a relatively small range by adjusting the SOFC output as the red line shown in Figure 9. Nevertheless, as discussed in Section I, the SOFC cannot adequately compensate the sudden load changes. Frequent fluctuations can

be absorbed by the generator rotor inertia in the utility grid. However, a power quality problem may occur when the microgrid is running in island mode.

Figure 8. Block diagram of the proposed control scheme.

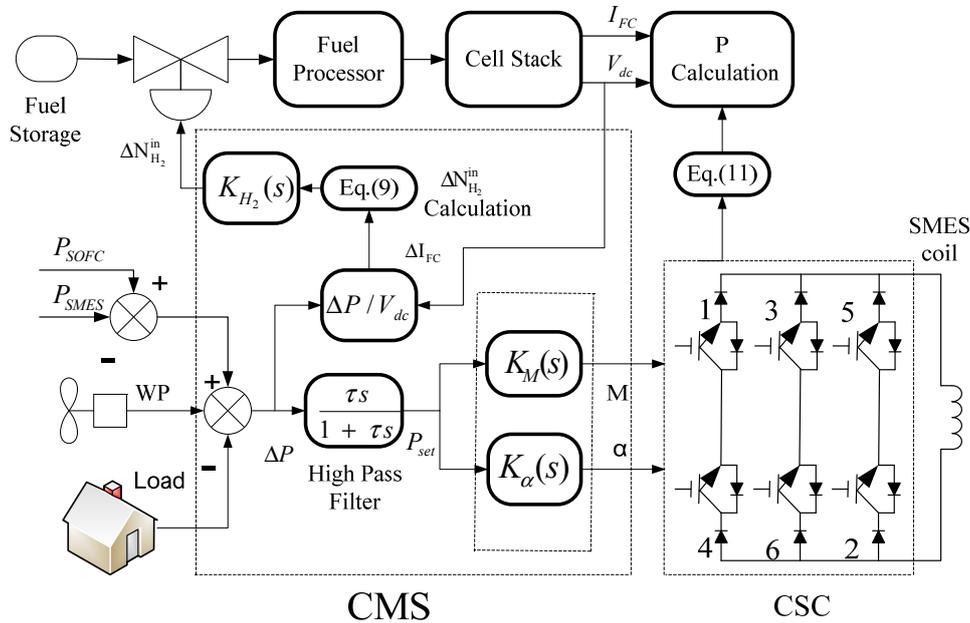
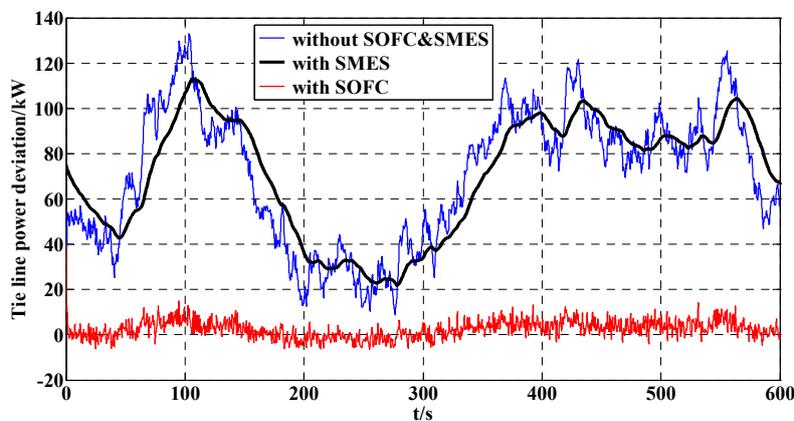


Figure 9. Tie-line power deviation for case A and case B.



In case B, the SMES device was employed into the microgrid. As above-mentioned, the SMES device has fast dynamic response. Wind power fluctuations can be separated into three parts depending on the frequency range. The low-frequency part (0.01 Hz and below) can be compensated using the automatic generation control under grid-connected operation. The objective of the energy storage system compensation can be described as follows:

$$P_{set} = \frac{\tau S}{1 + \tau S} \Delta P \tag{33}$$

where $\frac{\tau S}{1 + \tau S}$ is a high-pass filter; τ is a time constant; and $\tau = 1/2\pi fc$, in which fc is the cut-off frequency (0.01 Hz).

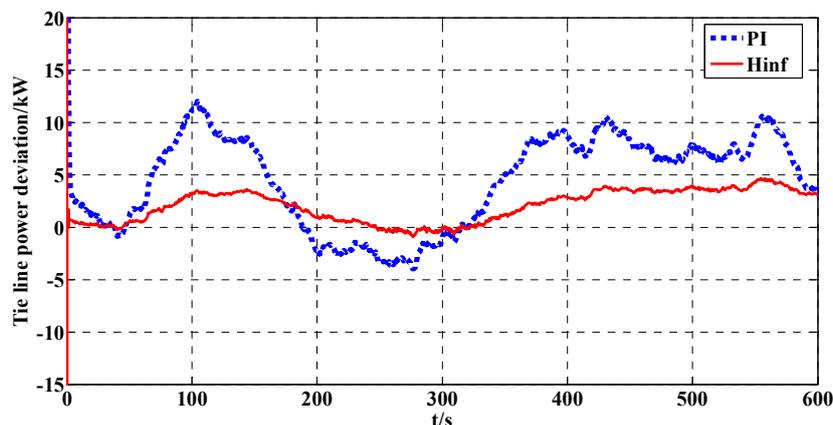
The black line in Figure 9 shows the tie-line power deviation with SMES device. The high-frequency fluctuations were compensated effectively.

In case C, the proposed coordinated SOFC and SMES H_∞ controllers were used to satisfy the load demand and smooth the wind power fluctuations simultaneously. Figure 10 shows the tie-line power fluctuations under the PI and proposed control strategies. The PI controllers of SOFC and SMES in the interconnected operation are selected as:

$$\begin{aligned} K_{SOFC}(s) &= 1.0 + 1.0 / s \\ K_M(s) &= 1.0 + 0.8 / s \\ K_\alpha(s) &= 0.8 + 1.0 / s \end{aligned} \tag{35}$$

Compared with cases A and B, the maximum tie-line power deviation and the smoothing effect of the tie-line power in this case were improved. These results show that the coordinated control enhances the control effect of the microgrid.

Figure 10. Tie-line power curves for case C under PI and proposed control strategies.



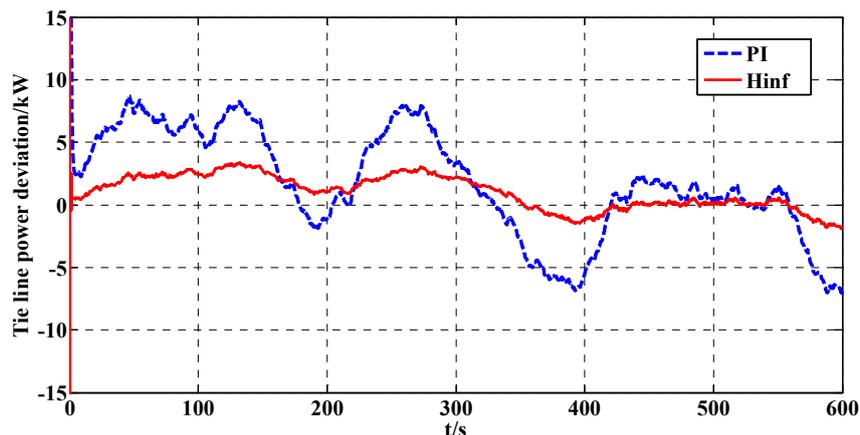
In case D, different wind condition and load condition are introduced in simulation to test the validity of the system. New wind power curve and random load curve are shown in Figure 11. Compared with Figure 2, the new load curve decrease in Figure 11 is relatively large since 200 s are required to see how the system responds to this change.

Figure 11. Wind power and random load for case D.



Figure 12 shows the tie-line power curves under the PI and H_∞ control strategies. Obviously the proposed method has better anti-interference performance which is similar to cases C. It is consistent with the actual situation that exchange power supplied from the utility grid decreases along with the load curve decreasing. These results show that the proposed method significantly improves the smoothing effect of wind power fluctuations and confirm the validity of the system in various operating conditions.

Figure 12. Tie-line power curves for case D under PI and proposed control strategies.



5. Conclusions

This paper has presented the application of SOFC and SMES coordinated control in mitigating the impact of wind power fluctuations in a power system. Considering the uncertainties in wind power and load, the robust coordinated controller was designed using the mixed-sensitivity problem of the H_{∞} control theory and the parameters were obtained by optimizing the weighting functions using the PSO algorithm. The simulation results confirm that the proposed control strategy significantly smoothed the wind power fluctuations. However, the microgrid system established in this paper is limited to wind power and certain storage devices. Thus, more kinds of RESs and different working conditions will be taken into consideration in future studies. Furthermore, the optimal configuration of energy storages will be of interest, both in terms of economic point of view and stability maintenance.

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