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Combined Active and Reactive Power Control of Wind Farms based on Model Predictive Control

Haoran Zhao, Qiuwei Wu, Jianhui Wang, Zhaoxi Liu, Mohammad Shahidehpour and Yusheng Xue

Abstract—This paper proposes a combined wind farm controller based on Model Predictive Control (MPC). Compared with the conventional decoupled active and reactive power control, the proposed control scheme considers the significant impact of active power on voltage variations due to the low X/R ratio of wind farm collector systems. The voltage control is improved. Besides, by coordination of active and reactive power, the Var capacity is optimized to prevent potential failures due to Var shortage, especially when the wind farm operates close to its full load. An analytical method is used to calculate the sensitivity coefficients to improve the computation efficiency and overcome the convergence problem. Two control modes are designed for both normal and emergency conditions. A wind farm with 20 wind turbines was used to verify the proposed combined control scheme.

Index Terms—Active power control, combined control, model predictive control, reactive power control, wind farm.

I. INTRODUCTION

WIND power is the world's fastest growing energy source and is one of the most rapidly expanding industries [1]. The increasing penetration of wind power and growing size of wind farms have introduced new challenges to the system operation [2]. Modern wind farms are required to meet more stringent technical requirements specified by system operators, which include active power regulation capability and voltage operating range at the Point of Connection (POC) [3].

In the conventional wind farm control, there is no coupling between the active and reactive power controller, and the active and reactive power is controlled separately [4]–[6]. For active power control, by coordination of individual Wind Turbine Generators (WTGs), a wind farm shall track the power reference from a system operator [5]. In recent studies, the reduction of fatigue loads experienced by WTGs is taken as another control objective to extend their lifetime [6]–[9]. For reactive power control, besides WTGs, other fast Var

regulation devices, such as Static Var Compensators (SVCs) and Static Var Generators (SVGs), are coordinated to regulate the voltage at the POC [10]–[12].

In wind farms, WTGs are connected through long Medium Voltage (MV) feeders, whose X/R ratio is low ($X/R \leq 1$). Accordingly, besides the reactive power change, the active power change has a significant impact on the voltage variation. It is promising to involve the active power control to improve the voltage control of wind farms by adjusting the active power references of WTGs. Compared with the sole reactive power compensation, the voltages are better controlled and the recovery of the violated voltage is faster.

Moreover, the Var capability of modern WTGs (Type 3 and Type 4) is constrained by the operating limits of the converters. Its range is dependent on the terminal voltage and active power production [13]. When WTGs operate close to their full load, the Var capacity will significantly decrease, which implies the decrease of voltage support capability. Therefore, by optimally adjusting the active power references of WTGs, the Var capacity of the whole wind farm can be optimized to deal with potential voltage disturbances.

The main contribution of the paper is proposing a combined active and reactive power control based on Model Predictive Control (MPC) to improve the wind farm voltage control. Compared to the existing methods, the advantages of the proposed method are summarized as follows.

- Firstly, during normal operation, the impact of active power on voltages in wind farms is considered and reactive power is optimally coordinated to minimize voltage deviations of the wind farm buses.
- Secondly, for emergency condition, i.e. a bus voltage violates its constraint, the active and reactive power is jointly controlled to accelerate the voltage recovery.
- Thirdly, the MPC can realize combined active and reactive power control of devices with different time constants.

In the implementation of the proposed Wind Farm Control (WFC), a hysteresis control loop is applied to prevent chattering in the switch of the designed modes. An analytical method is used to calculate the voltage sensitivity coefficients, based on the model of the wind farm collector system.

The paper is organized as follows. Section II presents the structure of the proposed WFC. The prediction models of the controlled devices for the MPC are described in Section III. The sensitivity coefficient calculation is introduced in Section IV. Section V explains the formulation of the MPC problem for the WFC. Case studies are presented and discussed in Section VI, followed by conclusions.

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II. WIND FARM CONTROL STRUCTURE

Fig. 1 illustrates the typical configuration of a wind farm. The buses within the wind farm include a bus at the POC, a bus at the collection point (located at MV side of the main substation transformer) and buses of WTGs.

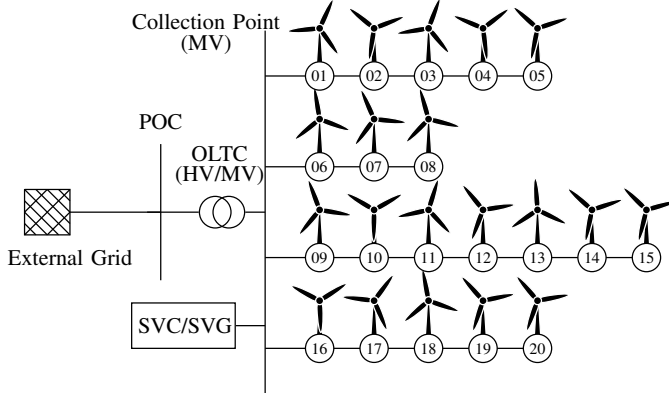


Fig. 1. Configuration of a wind farm.

The proposed WFC structure is shown in Fig. 2. The active power and voltage references at the POC of the wind farm, P_{wf}^{ref} and V_{poc}^{ref} , are decided by the system operator and delivered to the WFC. The measurements of individual WTGs and SVCs/SVGs are sent directly to the WFC. Based on the calculated voltage sensitivities ($\frac{\partial V}{\partial P}$, $\frac{\partial V}{\partial Q}$) and the prediction models of WTGs and SVCs/SVGs, the MPC problem is formulated. By solving the MPC problem, the regulation commands for all WTGs (P_{wt}^{ref} , Q_{wt}^{ref}) and SVCs/SVGs (V_s^{ref}) are determined and delivered to their local controllers.

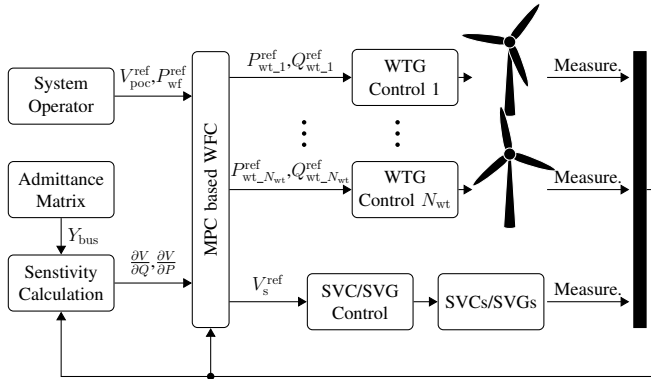


Fig. 2. Wind farm control structure.

According to different voltage conditions, the WFC has two control modes. (1) Normal mode. In this mode, the voltages of the wind farm are within the constraints. The active power control (P control) plays the major role. By optimal dispatch of P_{wt}^{ref} , power reference P_{wf}^{ref} is tracked and the fatigue loads of WTGs are minimized. The impact of P_{wt} on the bus voltages can be estimated based on the voltage sensitivity. Accordingly, the reactive power control (Q control) is coordinated by regulation of Q_{wt} and Q_s to further minimize the deviation of bus voltages (V_{poc} , V_{wt}) from their references and maximize the fast Var reserve to

handle potential disturbances in the future. (2) Emergency mode. In this mode, there exists a voltage violation. The correction of the violated bus voltage is the primary control objective. The P and Q controls are coordinated to explore the maximum voltage support capability, by compromising the active power control and the voltage control of other buses. In other words, for the P control, the minimization of fatigue loads is not considered. For the Q control, the deviation of the violated bus voltage has a higher priority to be minimized, compared with the other bus voltages.

Due to the fast development of power electronics technology, modern WTGs are capable of tracking P_{wt}^{ref} and Q_{wt}^{ref} . For the P control, based on P_{wt}^{ref} , the generator torque reference T_g^{ref} and pitch angle reference θ^{ref} are generated in the local WTG controller. For the Q control, Q_{wt}^{ref} is sent to the converter's constant- Q control loop. More details are described in Section III-A.

The SVCs/SVGs can operate under either constant- V mode or constant- Q mode. In this study, the constant- V mode is adopted. Compared with the constant- Q mode, the SVCs/SVGs can provide dynamic Var support to regulate the voltage of the controlled bus (POC in this study) in time [11]. Based on the prediction model and V_s^{ref} , the equivalent Var reference Q_s^{ref} can be calculated and coordinated with the WTGs. More details are described in Section III-B.

III. MODELING OF WTG AND SVC/SVG

The models of WTGs and SVCs/SVGs are described in this section. The combined discrete system model is derived, which is used as the prediction model for the MPC.

A. Modeling of WTG

In the WFC, a WTG is considered as an actuator, which follows the assigned power commands P_{wt}^{ref} and Q_{wt}^{ref} . The P and Q control loops are decoupled.

1) P loop: The power-controlled WTG model was developed by National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) to represent a variable speed pitch-controlled wind turbine [15], [16]. The model structure is shown in Fig. 3, which consists of aerodynamics, a drivetrain, generator, pitch actuator, tower and local WTG controller.

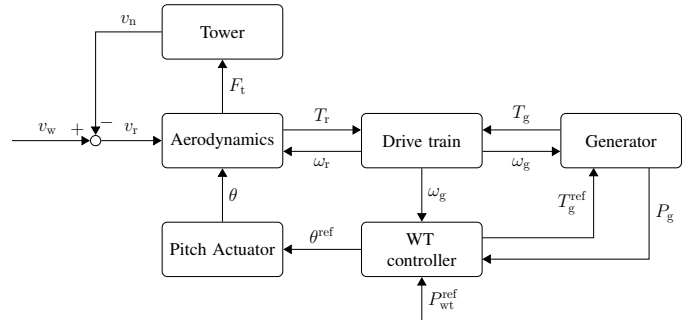


Fig. 3. Single wind turbine system [15].

Since the sampling time of the WFC is normally in seconds, the fast dynamics of the generator torque control and pitch actuator are neglected. The generator efficiency μ is compensated

in the WTG controller. Accordingly, the active power output P_{wt} is approximately equal to the power reference P_{wt}^{ref} ,

$$P_{wt} \approx P_{wt}^{\text{ref}}. \quad (1)$$

The nonlinear model can be linearized around the operating points. In this study, a simplified WTG state space model, introduced in [7] is adopted, which is expressed by,

$$\dot{x}_{wt}^p = \mathbf{A}_{wt}^p x_{wt}^p + \mathbf{B}_{wt}^p P_{wt}^{\text{ref}} + \mathbf{E}_{wt}^p, \quad (2)$$

where x_{wt}^p refers to the state vector, defined by $x_{wt}^p \triangleq [\theta, \omega_r, \omega_f]'$, θ is the pitch angle, ω_r and ω_f are the rotor speed and the filtered generator speed ω_g , respectively. The state space matrices are,

$$\mathbf{A}_{wt}^p = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -\frac{K_{p-\theta}\eta_g}{\tau_g} & \frac{K_{p-\theta}}{\tau_g} - K_{i-\theta} \\ \frac{K_{\theta T_r}}{J_t} & \frac{K_{\omega_r T_r}}{J_t} + \frac{1}{J_t} \frac{P_{wt}^0 \eta_g}{\mu \omega_g^0} & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{\eta_g}{\tau_g} & -\frac{1}{\tau_g} \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\mathbf{B}_{wt}^p = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -\frac{\eta_g}{J_t \mu \omega_g^0} \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{E}_{wt}^p = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \frac{K_{v_w T_r} v_w^0}{J_t} \\ 0 \end{bmatrix},$$

where η_g is the gearbox ratio, $J_t \triangleq J_r + \eta_g^2 J_g$ is the equivalent inertia, τ_g is the time constant of the generator speed filter and T_r is the rotor torque. P_{wt}^0 , θ^0 , ω_g^0 , and v_w^0 denote the measured power output, pitch angle, generator speed and wind speed at the operating point, respectively. $K_{p-\theta}$, $K_{i-\theta}$ denote the proportional and integral gains of the pitch controller. $K_{\theta T_r}$, $K_{\omega_r T_r}$, $K_{v_w T_r}$ are the coefficients derived from the Taylor approximation of T_r at the operating point.

2) *Q loop*: The dynamic behaviour of the constant- Q control of WTGs can be described by a first order function [17]. The response time is in the range of 1 ~ 10 s [18]. The state space model is,

$$\dot{x}_{wt}^q = \mathbf{A}_{wt}^q x_{wt}^q + \mathbf{B}_{wt}^q Q_{wt}^{\text{ref}}, \quad (3)$$

where x_{wt}^q is the state variable, defined by $x_{wt}^q \triangleq Q_{wt}$. The state matrices are,

$$\mathbf{A}_{wt}^q = -\frac{1}{\tau_q}, \mathbf{B}_{wt}^q = \frac{1}{\tau_q},$$

where τ_q is the time constant of the Q loop.

B. Modeling of SVC/SVG

The dynamics of the constant- Q control loop of SVC/SVG can be described by a first order function [19],

$$Q_s = \frac{1}{1 + s\tau_s} Q_s^{\text{ref}}, \quad (4)$$

where τ_s is the time constant, which is within milliseconds (50 ~ 200 ms for SVCs and 20 ~ 100 ms for SVGs) [20].

As the control input, V_s^{ref} is sent to the local PI controller to adjust the Var output. The equivalent Var reference Q_s^{ref} can be calculated by,

$$Q_s^{\text{ref}} = Q_s^0 + K_{p-s}(V_s^{\text{ref}} - V_s) + K_{i-s} \frac{1}{s}(V_s^{\text{ref}} - V_s), \quad (5)$$

where Q_s^0 is the reactive power at the operating point, K_{p-s} and K_{i-s} are the proportional and integral gains of the PI controller, respectively.

The voltage at the controlled bus (POC) V_s is dependent on the changes of P_{wt} , Q_{wt} and Q_s . Δ indicates the variable change, i.e. $\Delta P_{wt} \triangleq P_{wt} - P_{wt}^0$, $\Delta Q_{wt} \triangleq Q_{wt} - Q_{wt}^0$, $\Delta Q_s \triangleq Q_s - Q_s^0$. V_s can be derived by,

$$V_s = V_s^0 + \frac{\partial |V_s|}{\partial Q_s} \Delta Q_s + \frac{\partial |V_s|}{\partial P_{wt}} \Delta P_{wt} + \frac{\partial |V_s|}{\partial Q_{wt}} \Delta Q_{wt}. \quad (6)$$

By defining V_{int} as the integral of the deviation between V_s^{ref} and V_s ,

$$V_{\text{int}} \triangleq \frac{V_s^{\text{ref}} - V_s}{s}, \quad (7)$$

Equations (4)–(7) can be rewritten as the following state space form,

$$\dot{x}_s = \mathbf{A}_s x_s + \mathbf{B}_s V_s^{\text{ref}} + \mathbf{E}_s P_{wt} + \mathbf{F}_s Q_{wt} + \mathbf{G}_s, \quad (8)$$

where x_s is the state vector, defined by $x_s \triangleq [Q_s, V_{\text{int}}]'$. The state space matrices are,

$$\mathbf{A}_s = \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{1}{\tau_s} (1 + K_{p-s} \frac{\partial |V_s|}{\partial Q_s}) & \frac{K_{i-s}}{\tau_s} \\ -\frac{\partial |V_s|}{\partial Q_s} & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{B}_s = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{K_{p-s}}{\tau_s} \\ 1 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\mathbf{E}_s = \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{K_{p-s}}{\tau_s} \frac{\partial |V_s|}{\partial P_{wt}} \\ -\frac{\partial |V_s|}{\partial P_{wt}} \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{F}_s = \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{K_{p-s}}{\tau_s} \frac{\partial |V_s|}{\partial Q_{wt}} \\ -\frac{\partial |V_s|}{\partial Q_{wt}} \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\mathbf{G}_s = \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{K_{p-s} \Delta V_s^0}{\tau_s} + \frac{Q_s^0}{\tau_s} \\ -\Delta V_s^0 \end{bmatrix},$$

where

$$\Delta V_s^0 \triangleq V_s^0 - \frac{\partial |V_s|}{\partial Q_s} Q_s^0 - \frac{\partial |V_s|}{\partial P_{wt}} P_{wt}^0 - \frac{\partial |V_s|}{\partial Q_{wt}} Q_{wt}^0.$$

More details of the derivation of (8) are presented in Appendix.

C. Combined system model

The aforementioned P , Q loops of WTG and SVC/SVG models can be merged. The combined system model, which consists of N_{wt} WTGs and 1 SVC/SVG, can be formulated as the following state space form,

$$\dot{x} = \mathbf{A}x + \mathbf{B}u + \mathbf{E}, \quad (9)$$

where x and u refer to the state vector and control input vector, respectively, defined by,

$$x \triangleq [x_{wt_1}^p, \dots, x_{wt_{N_{wt}}}^p, x_{wt_1}^q, \dots, x_{wt_{N_{wt}}}^q, x_s]'$$

$$u \triangleq [u_{wt_1}^p, \dots, u_{wt_{N_{wt}}}^p, u_{wt_1}^q, \dots, u_{wt_{N_{wt}}}^q, u_s]'$$

The state matrices are,

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{A}_{wt}^{p\text{-set}} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \mathbf{A}_{wt}^{q\text{-set}} & 0 \\ 0 & \mathbf{F}_s & \mathbf{A}_s \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{E} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{E}_{wt}^{p\text{-set}} \\ 0 \\ \mathbf{G}_s \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\mathbf{B} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{B}_{wt}^{p\text{-set}} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \mathbf{B}_{wt}^{q\text{-set}} & 0 \\ \mathbf{E}_s & 0 & \mathbf{B}_s \end{bmatrix}.$$

where $A_{wt}^{p_set}$, $B_{wt}^{p_set}$ and $E_{wt}^{p_set}$ are the diagonal matrices whose diagonal entries are the corresponding state space matrices of WTG model in (2). A_s , B_s , E_s , F_s and G_s are the state space matrices of SVC/SVG model in (8).

Based on the sampling time t_s , the derived continuous model (9) can be transformed into the discrete form,

$$x(k+1) = A_d x(k) + B_d u(k) + E_d, \quad (10)$$

where k is the step index. The state space matrices (A_d , B_d , E_d) can be calculated with the method in [21].

D. Local constraints

1) *WTG*: For WTGs, according to [16], the constraints include,

$$\theta(k) \in [\theta_{\min}, \theta_{\max}], \Delta\theta(k) \in [-\Delta\theta_{\lim}, \Delta\theta_{\lim}], \quad (11)$$

$$\omega_r(k) \in [\omega_{\min}, \omega_{\max}], \quad (12)$$

$$P_{wt}^{ref}(k) \in [0, P_{wt}^{avi}(k)], \quad (13)$$

where θ_{\min} and θ_{\max} are the minimum and maximum values of θ , $\Delta\theta_{\lim}$ is the ramp rate limit, ω_{\min} and ω_{\max} are the minimum and maximum values of ω_r , and P_{wt}^{avi} is the available wind power.

Besides, for modern WTGs (Type 3 and Type 4), the Var capacity is constrained by the operating limits of the converters [13]. The range of Var capacity of full-converter WTGs is larger due to the increased rating of the converter. A typical PQ capacity curve of a full-converter WTG is illustrated in Fig. 4. The Var constraint is,

$$Q_{wt}^{ref}(k) \in [Q_{wt}^{\min}(k), Q_{wt}^{\max}(k)], \quad (14)$$

where Q_{wt}^{\min} and Q_{wt}^{\max} are the minimum and maximum values of the Var capacity, which are dependent on the terminal voltage and active power [13],

$$Q_{wt}^{\min} = f_Q^{\min}(P_{wt}, V_{wt}), \quad Q_{wt}^{\max} = f_Q^{\max}(P_{wt}, V_{wt}). \quad (15)$$

The functions f_Q^{\min} and f_Q^{\max} are nonlinear, which can be either expressed as the piece-wise affine functions or look-up tables. For the former case, Q_{wt}^{\min} and Q_{wt}^{\max} can be calculated based on the explicit form of the functions. For the latter case, Q_{wt}^{\min} and Q_{wt}^{\max} can be derived according to the interpolation. In this study, the former case is used.

By defining $Q_{wt}^{\min 0}$ and $Q_{wt}^{\max 0}$ as the minimum and maximum Var capacities at the operating point. Q_{wt}^{\min} and Q_{wt}^{\max} at the k th step can be predicted based on the Taylor approximation,

$$Q_{wt}^{\min}(k) \approx Q_{wt}^{\min 0} + \frac{\partial f_Q^{\min}}{\partial P_{wt}} \Delta P_{wt}(k) + \frac{\partial f_Q^{\min}}{\partial V_{wt}} \Delta V_{wt}(k), \quad (16)$$

$$Q_{wt}^{\max}(k) \approx Q_{wt}^{\max 0} + \frac{\partial f_Q^{\max}}{\partial P_{wt}} \Delta P_{wt}(k) + \frac{\partial f_Q^{\max}}{\partial V_{wt}} \Delta V_{wt}(k). \quad (17)$$

The calculation of the Var capacity sensitivities in (16)-(17) are described in Section IV-B.

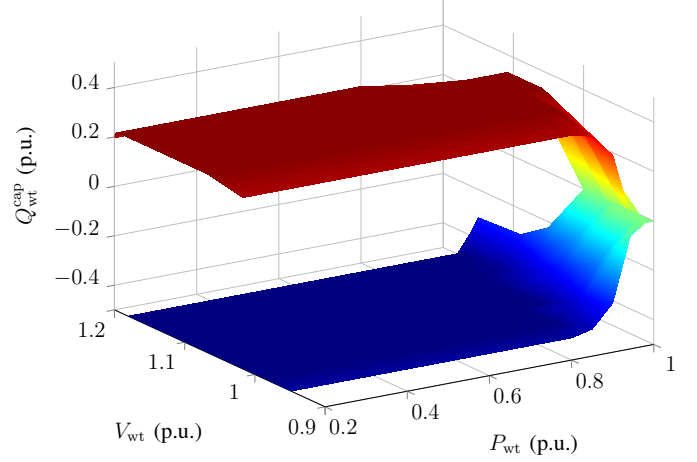


Fig. 4. PQ capacity curve of a full-converter WTG.

2) *SVC/SVG*: For SVCs/SVGs, the constraints include,

$$Q_s^{\min} \leq \Delta Q_s + Q_s^0 \leq Q_s^{\max}, \quad (18)$$

$$V_s^{\min} \leq V_s^{ref} \leq V_s^{\max}, \quad (19)$$

where Q_s^{\min} and Q_s^{\max} are the minimum and maximum Var capacities of SVCs/SVGs, respectively, V_s^{\min} and V_s^{\max} are the minimum and maximum feasible voltages.

IV. SENSITIVITY CALCULATION

In this section, the calculations of voltage sensitivities and Var capacity sensitivities are described.

A. Voltage Sensitivity

Conventionally, the voltage sensitivity coefficients are calculated through an updated Jacobian matrix derived from the Newton-Raphson (NR) method for the load-flow solution. However, sometimes, the low X/R ratio of the wind farm network makes the NR method fail to converge in solving the load-flow problem [22]. Moreover, the Jacobian matrix is dependent on the operation conditions and needs to be rebuilt and inverted for every change, which makes it impractical for real-time controllers [23].

An analytical computation method for calculating the sensitivity coefficients was developed in [23] to improve the computation efficiency. It was initially applied in the radial distribution system. Since the collector system of wind farms has a similar network topology, this method is adopted in this study.

Consider a wind farm with N_b buses, \mathcal{N} is defined as the bus set, $\mathcal{N} \triangleq \{1, 2, \dots, N_b\}$. The apparent power injection S can be calculated by,

$$\bar{S}_i = \bar{V}_i \sum_{j \in \mathcal{N}} (Y_{bus}(i, j) V_j), \quad (20)$$

where i and j are the bus indices, Y_{bus} is the admittance matrix, \bar{S} and \bar{V} are the conjugates of S and V , respectively. The partial derivatives of \bar{S}_i at Bus $i \in \mathcal{N}$ with respect to

active power P_l and reactive power Q_l at Bus $l \in \mathcal{N}$ can be derived as (21) and (22), respectively,

$$\frac{\partial \bar{S}_i}{\partial P_l} = \frac{\partial \{P_i - jQ_i\}}{\partial P_l} = \frac{\partial \bar{V}_i}{\partial P_l} \sum_{j \in \mathcal{N}} Y_{\text{bus}}(i, j) V_j + \quad (21)$$

$$\bar{V}_i \sum_{j \in \mathcal{N}} Y_{\text{bus}}(i, j) \frac{\partial V_j}{\partial P_l} = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } i = l. \\ 0, & \text{else.} \end{cases}$$

$$\frac{\partial \bar{S}_i}{\partial Q_l} = \frac{\partial \{P_i - jQ_i\}}{\partial Q_l} = \frac{\partial \bar{V}_i}{\partial Q_l} \sum_{j \in \mathcal{N}} Y_{\text{bus}}(i, j) V_j + \quad (22)$$

$$\bar{V}_i \sum_{j \in \mathcal{N}} Y_{\text{bus}}(i, j) \frac{\partial V_j}{\partial Q_l} = \begin{cases} -j1, & \text{if } i = l. \\ 0, & \text{else.} \end{cases}$$

The system of (21) is linear to the unknown variables $\frac{\partial \bar{V}_i}{\partial P_l}$, $\frac{\partial V_i}{\partial P_l}$ and (22) is linear to the unknown variables $\frac{\partial \bar{V}_i}{\partial Q_l}$, $\frac{\partial V_i}{\partial Q_l}$. According to the theorem in [23], (21) and (22) have a unique solution for radial electrical networks.

Once $\frac{\partial V_i}{\partial Q_l}$, $\frac{\partial \bar{V}_i}{\partial Q_l}$ are obtained, the partial derivatives of the voltage magnitude $\frac{\partial |V_i|}{\partial Q_l}$ can be calculated by,

$$\frac{\partial |V_i|}{\partial P_l} = \frac{1}{|V_i|} \text{Re}(\bar{V}_i \frac{\partial V_i}{\partial P_l}), \quad \frac{\partial |V_i|}{\partial Q_l} = \frac{1}{|V_i|} \text{Re}(\bar{V}_i \frac{\partial V_i}{\partial Q_l}). \quad (23)$$

B. Var capacity sensitivity

If the analytical expressions of f_Q^{\min} and f_Q^{\max} are known, the analytical equation of the sensitivities ($\frac{\partial f_Q^{\min}}{\partial P_{\text{wt}}}$, $\frac{\partial f_Q^{\min}}{\partial V_{\text{wt}}}$, $\frac{\partial f_Q^{\max}}{\partial P_{\text{wt}}}$ and $\frac{\partial f_Q^{\max}}{\partial V_{\text{wt}}}$) can be derived. If the lookup table of the PQ curve is available, the sensitivities can be approximately derived according to the interpolation, such as,

$$\frac{\partial f_Q^{\min}}{\partial P_{\text{wt}}} = \frac{f_{\min}(P_{\text{wt}}^0 + \Delta P_{\text{wt}}, V_{\text{wt}}^0) - f_{\min}(P_{\text{wt}}^0, V_{\text{wt}}^0)}{\Delta P_{\text{wt}}}. \quad (24)$$

The other sensitivity coefficients can be calculated in a similar way.

V. MPC PROBLEM FORMULATION

In this section, the cost functions and the constraints of the MPC are formulated for the two designed control modes.

The sampling period of the WFC is t_s and the prediction period is t_p . Compared with the time constants of the fast Var devices, t_s is larger, which is normally in seconds. In order to capture the fast dynamics, the sampling period of the prediction should be smaller. Thus, t_s is further divided into n_s steps. Accordingly, the total number of prediction steps can be calculated by $n_p = \frac{t_p}{t_s} n_s$.

A. Normal mode

If all the measured bus voltages of the wind farm are within their thresholds, i.e. $\|V_{\text{poc}}^0 - V_{\text{poc}}^{\text{ref}}\| \leq V_{\text{poc}}^{\text{th}}$ and $\|V_{\text{wt}}^0 - V_{\text{wt}}^{\text{ref}}\| \leq V_{\text{wt}}^{\text{th}}$, the WFC will operate in this mode. V_{poc}^0 is the measured voltages at the POC. V_{wt}^0 is the vector of the WTG bus voltages, defined as $V_{\text{wt}}^0 \triangleq [V_{\text{wt}_1}^0, V_{\text{wt}_2}^0, \dots]^T$. $V_{\text{poc}}^{\text{ref}}$ is the reference value from the system operator (typically 1.0 p.u.) and $V_{\text{wt}}^{\text{ref}}$ is the nominal voltage of each WTG (typically 1.0 p.u.). $V_{\text{poc}}^{\text{th}}$ and $V_{\text{wt}}^{\text{th}}$ refer to the thresholds of V_{poc} and V_{wt} , respectively. $V_{\text{poc}}^{\text{th}}$ differs according to different requirements of grid codes.

1) *Cost function:* The control objective of this mode is threefold. Firstly, the fatigue loads of WTGs are minimized. In this study, only the fatigue load of the drivetrain is considered. The shaft torque T_s is transferred through the gearbox. Since the gearbox is a vulnerable component, the oscillation of T_s may create micro-cracks in the material and lead to the component failure. The load alleviation can be realized by reducing the deviation of T_s , i.e.

$$\text{Obj1} = \sum_{k=1}^{n_p} \|\Delta T_s(k)\|_{W_{T_s}}^2, \quad (25)$$

where $\Delta T_s(k) \triangleq T_s(k) - T_s^0$ and W_{T_s} is the weighting factor. Based on (2), T_s can be derived by,

$$T_s = \mathbf{C}_{\text{wt}}^p x_{\text{wt}} + \mathbf{D}_{\text{wt}}^p P_{\text{wt}}^{\text{ref}} + \mathbf{F}_{\text{wt}}^p, \quad (26)$$

$$\mathbf{C}_{\text{wt}}^p = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\eta_g J_g K_{\theta T_r}}{J_t} & \frac{\eta_g^2 J_g K_{\omega_r T_r}}{J_t} & \frac{\eta_g^2 J_r P_{\text{wt}}^0}{J_t \mu (\omega_g^0)^2} & 0 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\mathbf{D}_{\text{wt}}^p = \frac{1}{\mu \omega_g^0}, \quad \mathbf{F}_{\text{wt}}^p = \frac{\eta_g^2 J_g K_{v_w T_r} v_w^0}{J_t}.$$

Secondly, the deviation between the measured voltages of the wind farm and their references (ΔV_{poc} , ΔV_{wt}) shall be minimized, i.e.

$$\text{Obj2} = \sum_{k=1}^{n_p} (\|\Delta V_{\text{poc}}(k)\|_{W_{\text{poc}}}^2 + \|\Delta V_{\text{wt}}(k)\|_{W_{\text{wt}}}^2), \quad (27)$$

where W_{poc} and W_{wt} are their weighting factors. Since V_{poc} is more concerned in this study, $W_{\text{poc}} > W_{\text{wt}}$. $\Delta V_{\text{poc}}(k)$ and $\Delta V_{\text{wt}}(k)$ are affected by the active and reactive power injection of SVCs/SVGs and WTGs, which can be calculated by,

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta V_{\text{poc}}(k) &= V_{\text{poc}}^0 + \frac{\partial |V_{\text{poc}}|}{\partial P_{\text{wt}}} \Delta P_{\text{wt}}(k) + \frac{\partial |V_{\text{poc}}|}{\partial Q_{\text{wt}}} \Delta Q_{\text{wt}}(k) \\ &\quad + \frac{\partial |V_{\text{poc}}|}{\partial Q_s} \Delta Q_s(k) - V_{\text{poc}}^{\text{ref}}, \end{aligned} \quad (28)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta V_{\text{wt}}^{\text{pre}}(k) &= V_{\text{wt}}^0 + \frac{\partial |V_{\text{wt}}|}{\partial P_{\text{wt}}} \Delta P_{\text{wt}}(k) + \frac{\partial |V_{\text{wt}}|}{\partial Q_{\text{wt}}} \Delta Q_{\text{wt}}(k) \\ &\quad + \frac{\partial |V_{\text{wt}}|}{\partial Q_s} \Delta Q_s(k) - V_{\text{wt}}^{\text{ref}}. \end{aligned} \quad (29)$$

Thirdly, the fast dynamic Var support capabilities shall be maximized to deal with potential disturbances. It is implemented by minimizing the Q_s to its middle level of the operating range $Q_s^{\text{mid}} = 0.5(Q_s^{\text{max}} + Q_s^{\text{min}})$. The Var shortage will be compensated by the slower Var devices (WTGs) for maintaining the voltage of buses throughout the wind farm, i.e.

$$\text{Obj3} = \sum_{k=1}^{n_p} \|Q_s^{\text{pre}}(k) - Q_s^{\text{mid}}\|_{W_s}^2, \quad (30)$$

where W_s refers to its weighting factor.

According to (25), (27) and (30), the cost function is expressed by,

$$\min_u (\text{Obj1} + \text{Obj2} + \text{Obj3}), \quad (31)$$

To be noticed, since all the measured voltages of the wind farm are within the thresholds, it is not necessary to compromise the active power control performance to support voltage. Therefore, in order to guarantee the active power control performance, the term Obj1 for the fatigue load minimization has a higher priority, W_{T_s} should be set large enough. The reactive power is mainly used to minimize the voltage deviation ($\Delta V_{poc}, \Delta V_{wt}$).

The weighting factors can be decided by the sensitivity analysis. In this study, the priority ranking is Obj1 > Obj2 > Obj3. Accordingly, the weighting factors can be selected by,

$$\left(\frac{\partial T_s}{\partial u}\right)^2 W_{T_s} > \left(\frac{\partial V_{poc}}{\partial u}\right)^2 W_{poc} > \left(\frac{\partial V_{wt}}{\partial u}\right)^2 W_{wt} > \left(\frac{\partial Q_s}{\partial u}\right)^2 W_s.$$

2) *Constraints*: Besides the local operation constraints of WTGs and SVCs/SVGs in (11)-(19), P_{wf}^{ref} specified by the system operator shall be tracked which can be implemented as an equality constraint,

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n_{wt}} P_{wt_i}^{ref} = P_{wf}^{ref}. \quad (32)$$

Moreover, the control inputs u can only be updated at the sampling point. Therefore, the values within the sampling period are kept constant,

$$u(i \cdot n_s + k) = u(i \cdot n_s), \quad (33)$$

$$i \in [0, n_p - 1], k \in [0, n_s - 1].$$

B. Emergency mode

If any measured bus voltage violates its threshold, i.e. $\|V_{poc}^0 - V_{poc}^{ref}\| > V_{poc}^{th}$ or $\|V_{wt}^0 - V_{wt}^{ref}\| > V_{wt}^{th}$, the WFC will operate in this mode.

1) *Control objective*: The control objective of this mode is correcting the violated bus voltage within the limits to avoid potential cascading failures. The cost function is expressed by,

$$\min_u \sum_{k=1}^{n_p} (\| \Delta V_{poc}(k) \|_{W_{poc}}^2 + \| \Delta V_{wt}(k) \|_{W_{wt}}^2). \quad (34)$$

Compared with the cost function of the normal mode, it is necessary to compromise the active power control performance to support the voltage. Therefore, the fatigue load minimization term (Obj1) and the fast Var reserve maximization term (Obj3) are removed from the cost function to relax the constraints of the active and reactive power. In that case, the active and reactive power can be fully explored to contribute to voltage support.

Different from (27), the weighting factors in (34) have two value settings according to the voltage condition. The larger value is set to the weighting factor if the corresponding voltage violates its limit, which accelerates the recovery of the voltage.

2) *Constraints*: The constraints of the emergency mode are identical to these of the normal mode.

The formulated MPC problem can be transformed to a standard Quadratic Programming (QP) problem. By commercial QP solvers, it can be efficiently solved in milliseconds which is suitable for online optimizations [24].

C. Hysteresis loop

When the WFC switches between these two modes, chattering may occur. In order to efficiently suppress the chattering, a hysteresis loop is used in this study. The hysteresis loop is realized by setting different voltage thresholds according to the mode switching conditions. Considering the protection configuration of WTGs (typically 0.9 ~ 1.1 p.u.) and operation margins, the threshold value settings are listed in Table I.

TABLE I
THRESHOLD VALUES

	Nomral⇒Emergency	Emergency⇒Normal
V_{poc}^{th}	0.02 p.u.	0.01 p.u.
V_{wt}^{th}	0.08 p.u.	0.07 p.u.

The control block diagram for the implementation is shown in Fig. 5. The voltage deviations within the wind farm, $\|V_{poc}^0 - V_{poc}^{ref}\|$ and $\|V_{wt}^0 - V_{wt}^{ref}\|$, are fed into the hysteresis loops. Based on the hysteresis rules and the thresholds in Table I, the switch signals S_{mod1} and S_{mod2} can be derived. According to the mode definition, the mode switch signal S_{mod} can be decided: (1⇒Normal, 0⇒Emergency).

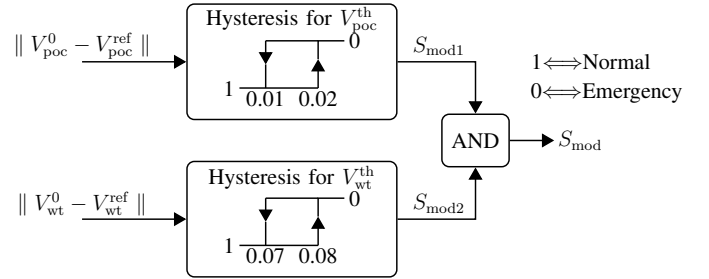


Fig. 5. Block diagram of the hysteresis loop.

VI. CASE STUDY

A wind farm, comprised of 20×5 MW full-converter WTGs and $1 \times \pm 5$ MVar SVG, is used for the case study. Its configuration is shown in Fig. 1. The wind farm is integrated into the IEEE 14 bus system and the connected bus is Bus 03, which is located at the terminal of the grid, as shown in Fig. 6. The wind field modeling considering turbulences and wake effects for the wind farm was generated from SimWindFarm [15], a toolbox for dynamic wind farm model, simulation and control.

In order to smooth out the wind power variation, the wind farm is required to limit the power production ramp rate by many system operators [25]. In this paper, the ramp rate control is applied in the WFC. The maximum ramp rate is set 10% of the installed capacity per minute (10 MW/min).

Two case scenarios are defined to test the efficacy of the proposed WFC, which represent the low and high power production operations, respectively. In both scenarios, the results of the optimal controller, where the active and reactive power are decoupled and controlled separately ('SEP'), are

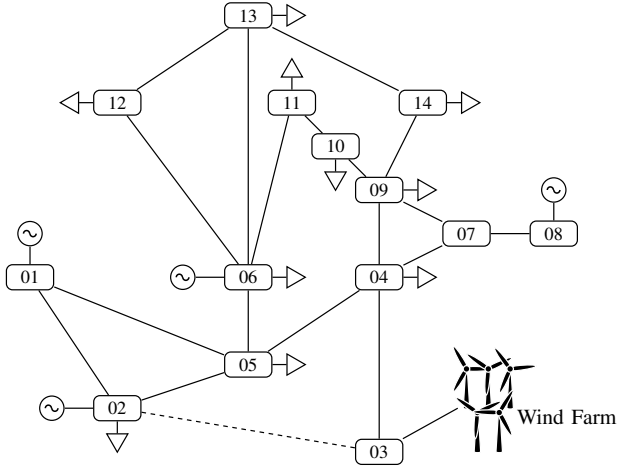


Fig. 6. IEEE 14 bus system with wind farm.

compared with those of the proposed combined MPC based WFC ('COM'). For the SEP, the active power references, P_{wt}^{ref} , are derived by solving the optimal problem,

$$\min_{P_{wt}^{ref}} (\text{Obj1}).$$

The reactive power references, including Q_{wt}^{ref} and V_s^{ref} , are derived by solving the optimal problem,

$$\min_{Q_{wt}^{ref}, V_s^{ref}} (\text{Obj2} + \text{Obj3}).$$

Here, the definitions of Obj1, Obj2, and Obj3 are the same with these in (25), (27), and (30). The coupling parts, such as $\frac{\partial |V_{poc}|}{\partial P_{wt}}$ in (28) and $\frac{\partial |V_{wt}|}{\partial P_{wt}}$ in (29), are neglected.

The sampling period t_s is set as 1 s, which is further divided into 5 small steps: $n_s = 5$. The prediction horizon t_p is set as 5 s. The simulation time is 240 s.

A. Case Scenario 1: Low power production

In Case 1, the simulation period is 0 ~ 120 s. The power production of the wind farm P_{wf} for both controllers (SEP and COM) and the available wind power P_{wf}^{avi} are shown in Fig. 7. It can be observed that P_{wf} of both controllers are almost identical, which strictly track the specified ramp rate limit and increases from 65 MW to 87 MW within the range of P_{wf}^{avi} .

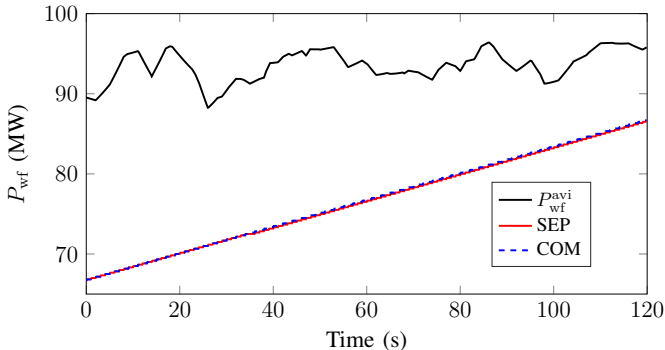


Fig. 7. Power production of the wind farm for Case 1.

Due to the low P_{wf} , from the whole wind farm point of view, the Var capacities of WTGs are large, which implies more Var reserves and voltage support capability. The voltages at two representative buses are used to illustrate the voltage condition of the wind farm, including V_{poc} and V_{wt_15} , which is located at WT15, the furthest bus along the feeder (see Fig. 1). As shown in Fig. 8, all the voltage deviations are within their thresholds and the WFC operates in the normal mode.

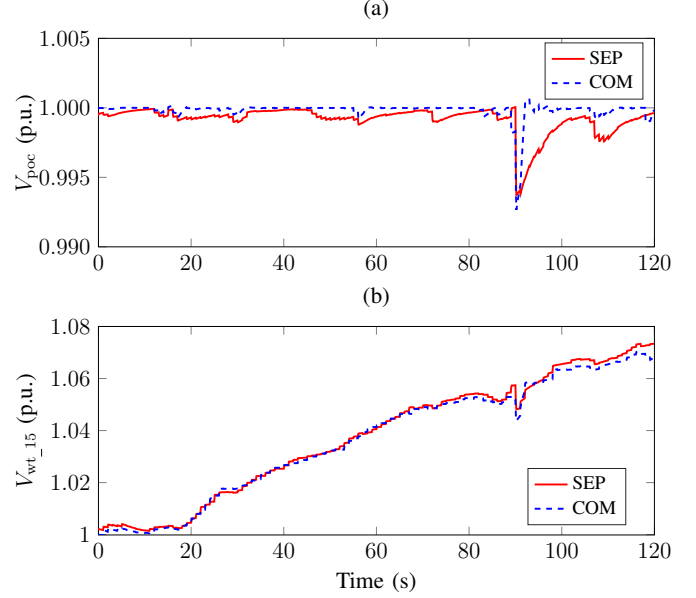


Fig. 8. Voltages at POC and WT15 for Case 1.

The Damage Equivalent Load (DEL) based on Miner's rule is used to evaluate the fatigue load minimization. By means of the toolbox MCrunch [26], the DELs of the whole wind farm for both controllers are calculated and listed in Table II, which are almost the same. It implies the same control performances of the load minimization for both controllers.

TABLE II
DEL OF WIND FARM

	SEP	COM
DEL in MNm	43.08	43.10

Since $W_{poc} > W_{wt}$, V_{poc} of both controllers are regulated quite close to its reference value $V_{poc}^{ref} = 1$ p.u., as shown in Fig. 8(a). Comparably, the voltage deviation with COM is smaller. Even for a sudden change due to the power fluctuation, the recovery of V_{poc} to V_{poc}^{ref} is faster. Due to the power increase, the voltage V_{wt_15} increases. The increase rate of COM is smaller. Therefore, considering the impact of active power on the voltage, COM shows better voltage controllability.

The Var output of the SVG Q_s for both controllers are shown in Fig. 9. In this case, $Q_s^{mid} = 0$. As the slow Var reserve of WTGs is enough for the voltage support, only small Q_s is detected for both controllers. Q_s of COM is smaller, which means more fast Var capacity is reserved.

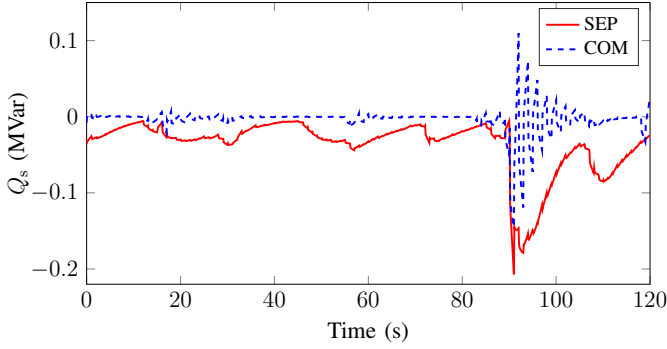


Fig. 9. Var output of the SVG Q_s .

B. Case Scenario 2: High power production

In Case 2, the simulation period is 120 ~ 240 s. The available wind power P_{wf}^{avi} and P_{wf} for both controllers (SEP and COM) are shown in Fig. 10. It can be observed that P_{wf} of both controllers are almost identical, which ranges from 87 MW to 100 MW, close to the capacity limit.

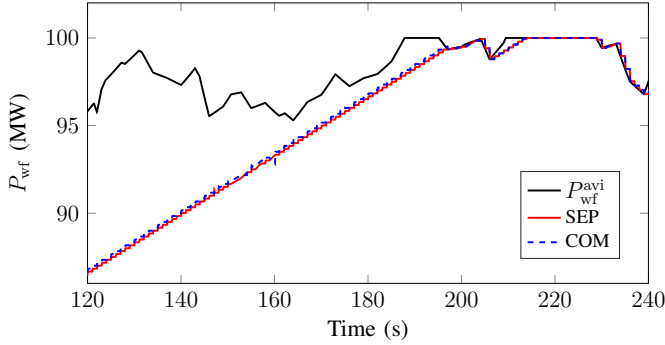


Fig. 10. Power production of the wind farm for Case 2.

Since P_{wf} is high, the active power of several WTGs is high, which may significantly affect their Var capacities. By defining,

$$Q_{wt}^{sum} \triangleq \sum_{i=1}^{N_{wt}} Q_{wt,i}, Q_{wt}^{s_min} \triangleq \sum_{i=1}^{N_{wt}} Q_{wt,i}^{min}, Q_{wt}^{s_max} \triangleq \sum_{i=1}^{N_{wt}} Q_{wt,i}^{max},$$

where Q_{wt}^{sum} denotes the total Var production of WTGs, $Q_{wt}^{s_min}$ and $Q_{wt}^{s_max}$ are the lower and upper limits of the total Var capacity of WTGs, respectively. Their simulation results are shown in Fig. 11. It can be observed that the Var capacity range of COM is larger than that of SEP, especially during the periods $t_1 = 201.3\text{ s} \sim 207.6\text{ s}$ and $t_2 = 232.2\text{ s} \sim 236\text{ s}$. For SEP, due to the decoupled active and reactive power control, Q_{wt}^{min} and Q_{wt}^{max} can't be predicted. There are sudden decreases of the total Var capacity in t_1 and t_2 . Accordingly, the voltage support capability are reduced in these periods. For COM, Q_{wt}^{min} and Q_{wt}^{max} can be predicted based on the predictions of P_{wt} and V_{wt} . The possible Var shortage is considered in the MPC. Therefore, the total Var capacity is kept stable for the whole period.

The voltage results are shown in Fig. 12. For SEP, V_{poc} is often beyond its operation limits [0.98 p.u., 1.02 p.u.] (Fig.

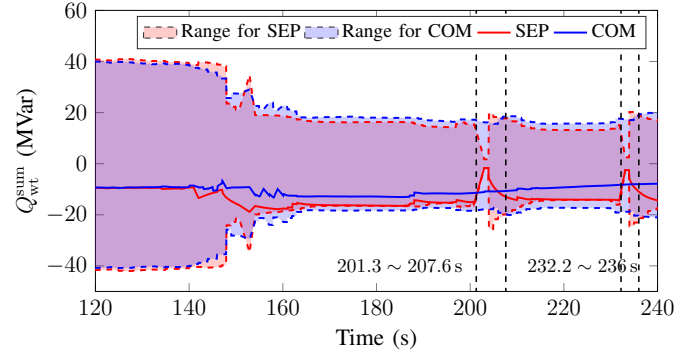


Fig. 11. Var capacity of WTGs.

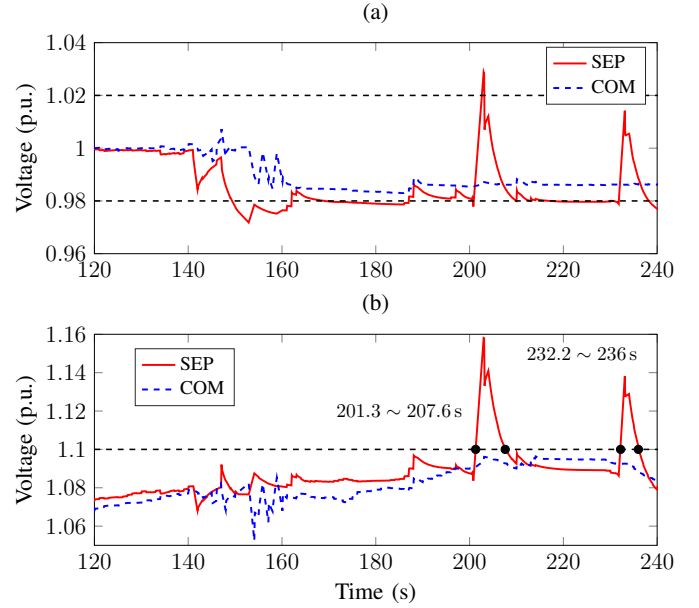


Fig. 12. Voltages at POC and WT15 for Case 2.

12(a)). Due to the shortage of the Var reserve, V_{wt_15} breaks the protection limit (1.1 p.u.) during t_1 and t_2 , which will trigger the protection devices in real operation and may cause a cascading failure (Fig. 12(b)). For COM, the voltage deviations are smaller. V_{poc} is always regulated within its limit. V_{wt_15} is never beyond the protection limit.

C. Case Scenario 3: Different X/R ratios

Due to the low X/R ratio, the active power change has an impact on the voltage variation. In this study, $X/R = 0.65$. The significance of the impact is largely dependent on the X/R ratio. In this case, the control performances between SEP and COM for different X/R ratios are compared. The standard deviation of the voltage at the POC, $\sigma(\Delta V_{poc})$, is used as a representative index to quantify the control performance. The results are listed in Table III. It can be observed that with the decrease of X/R ratio, the impact becomes more significant. The $\sigma(\Delta V_{poc})$ of SEP increases from 0.0025 p.u. to 0.0117 p.u.. Compared with SEP, COM can significantly reduce the $\sigma(\Delta V_{poc})$. The reduction ranges from 28.0% to 38.6%.

TABLE III
COMPARISON OF $\sigma(\Delta V_{\text{poc}})$

$\sigma(\Delta V_{\text{poc}})$	SEP	COM	Reduction
$X/R = 1.50$	0.0025 p.u.	0.0018 p.u.	-28.0 %
$X/R = 1.00$	0.0101 p.u.	0.0068 p.u.	-32.7 %
$X/R = 0.65$	0.0114 p.u.	0.0070 p.u.	-38.6 %
$X/R = 0.50$	0.0117 p.u.	0.0084 p.u.	-28.2 %

VII. CONCLUSION

In this paper, the MPC based combined WFC is developed to optimally coordinate the active and reactive power regulation devices with different time constants for better voltage control. Two control modes are designed according to the voltage conditions. For the normal mode, without disturbing the active power control performances, including tracking the power reference of the wind farm and minimizing the fatigue loads, the active and reactive power is optimally coordinated to minimize the voltage deviation of the buses, especially the voltage of the POC, and maximize the fast Var capacity to handle the potential disturbance. For the emergency mode, the regulation of the violated voltages back to their limits is the only control objective. The potential of the active and reactive power for the voltage support is fully utilized. The case studies show the proposed combined scheme can efficiently coordinate the power regulation devices and significantly improve the voltage controllability and stability of the wind farm. The practical concerns for the application of a real wind farm system, including the communication delay and on-line model identification, will be studied in the future work.

APPENDIX

The derivation of the state space model of SVC/SVG for the proposed WFC, (8), can be divided into three steps.

Step 1: Calculation of Q_s^{ref} .

Substitute (6) and (7) into (5), (5) can be transformed into,

$$Q_s^{\text{ref}} = Q_s^0 + K_{p-s}(V_s^{\text{ref}} - V_s^0 - \frac{\partial|V_s|}{\partial Q_s} \Delta Q_s - \frac{\partial|V_s|}{\partial P_{\text{wt}}} \Delta P_{\text{wt}} - \frac{\partial|V_s|}{\partial Q_{\text{wt}}} \Delta Q_{\text{wt}}) + K_{i-s} V_{\text{int}}. \quad (35)$$

By defining

$$\Delta V_s^0 \triangleq V_s^0 - \frac{\partial|V_s|}{\partial Q_s} Q_s^0 - \frac{\partial|V_s|}{\partial P_{\text{wt}}} P_{\text{wt}}^0 - \frac{\partial|V_s|}{\partial Q_{\text{wt}}} Q_{\text{wt}}^0,$$

Equation (35) can be transformed into,

$$Q_s^{\text{ref}} = Q_s^0 + K_{p-s}(V_s^{\text{ref}} - \frac{\partial|V_s|}{\partial Q_s} Q_s - \frac{\partial|V_s|}{\partial P_{\text{wt}}} P_{\text{wt}} - \frac{\partial|V_s|}{\partial Q_{\text{wt}}} Q_{\text{wt}}) - K_{p-s} \Delta V_s^0 + K_{i-s} V_{\text{int}}. \quad (36)$$

Step 2: Derivation of the differential equation of Q_s .

Equation (4) can be transformed into the following differential equation,

$$\dot{Q}_s = -\frac{1}{\tau_s} Q_s + \frac{1}{\tau_s} Q_s^{\text{ref}}, \quad (37)$$

Substitute (36) into (37),

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{Q}_s = & -\frac{1}{\tau_s} (1 + K_{p-s} \frac{\partial|V_s|}{\partial Q_s}) Q_s + \frac{K_{i-s}}{\tau_s} V_{\text{int}} + \frac{K_{p-s}}{\tau_s} V_s^{\text{ref}} \\ & - \frac{K_{p-s}}{\tau_s} \frac{\partial|V_s|}{\partial P_{\text{wt}}} P_{\text{wt}} - \frac{K_{p-s}}{\tau_s} \frac{\partial|V_s|}{\partial Q_{\text{wt}}} Q_{\text{wt}} + \frac{Q_s^0}{\tau_s} - \frac{K_{p-s}}{\tau_s} \Delta V_s^0. \end{aligned} \quad (38)$$

Step 3: Derivation of the differential equation of V_{int} .

Equation (7) can be transformed into the following differential equation,

$$\dot{V}_{\text{int}} = (V_s^{\text{ref}} - V_s). \quad (39)$$

Substitute (6) into (39),

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{V}_{\text{int}} = & (V_s^{\text{ref}} - V_s) \\ = & V_s^{\text{ref}} - V_s^0 - \frac{\partial|V_s|}{\partial Q_s} \Delta Q_s - \frac{\partial|V_s|}{\partial P_{\text{wt}}} \Delta P_{\text{wt}} - \frac{\partial|V_s|}{\partial Q_{\text{wt}}} \Delta Q_{\text{wt}} \\ = & V_s^{\text{ref}} - \frac{\partial|V_s|}{\partial Q_s} Q_s - \frac{\partial|V_s|}{\partial P_{\text{wt}}} P_{\text{wt}} - \frac{\partial|V_s|}{\partial Q_{\text{wt}}} Q_{\text{wt}} - \Delta V_s^0. \end{aligned} \quad (40)$$

Based on (38) and (40), the state space model of SVC/SVG can be derived,

$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{Q}_s \\ \dot{V}_{\text{int}} \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{A}_s \begin{bmatrix} Q_s \\ V_{\text{int}} \end{bmatrix} + \mathbf{B}_s V_s^{\text{ref}} + \mathbf{E}_s P_{\text{wt}} + \mathbf{F}_s Q_{\text{wt}} + \mathbf{G}_s,$$

with

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{A}_s = & \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{1}{\tau_s} (1 + K_{p-s} \frac{\partial|V_s|}{\partial Q_s}) & \frac{K_{i-s}}{\tau_s} \\ -\frac{\partial|V_s|}{\partial Q_s} & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{B}_s = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{K_{p-s}}{\tau_s} \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \\ \mathbf{E}_s = & \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{K_{p-s}}{\tau_s} \frac{\partial|V_s|}{\partial P_{\text{wt}}} \\ -\frac{\partial|V_s|}{\partial P_{\text{wt}}} \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{F}_s = \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{K_{p-s}}{\tau_s} \frac{\partial|V_s|}{\partial Q_{\text{wt}}} \\ -\frac{\partial|V_s|}{\partial Q_{\text{wt}}} \end{bmatrix}, \\ \mathbf{G}_s = & \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{K_{p-s} \Delta V_s^0}{\tau_s} + \frac{Q_s^0}{\tau_s} \\ -\Delta V_s^0 \end{bmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

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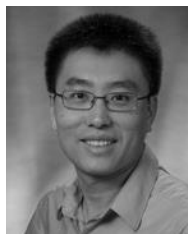
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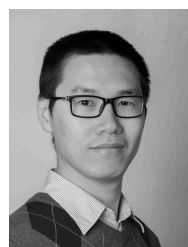
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