

MODELLING AND DYNAMIC PERFORMANCE OF INVERTER BASED GENERATION IN POWER SYSTEM STUDIES: AN INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONNAIRE SURVEY

ON BEHALF OF CIGRE C4/C6.35/CIRED

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ABSTRACT

Due to the increasing penetration level of Inverter Based Generation (IBG) over the last years, there has been much effort on the development of IBG models for power system dynamic studies. Therefore, CIGRE and CIRED established the joint working group CIGRE C4/C6.35/CIRED: “Modelling and dynamic performance of inverter based generation in power system transmission and distribution studies” with the aim of collecting the present best practices in the industry on modelling of IBG for power system dynamic studies, with the focus on PhotoVoltaic (PV) systems. For that purpose, a questionnaire was developed and distributed to utilities and system operators around the world. This paper summarizes some of the key findings and observations and identifies prevalent information about: 1) the type of IBG technology that is modelled (e.g. wind, PV, etc.); 2) the used IBG models (individual or aggregated models); and 3) the type of the performed power system dynamic study. This survey supports utilities and system operators as well as research institutes and academia to benchmark their approach against the prevailing international industry practice.

INTRODUCTION

Nowadays, the electrical power system is undergoing fundamental changes due to the ever increasing penetration of Inverter Based Generation (IBG). The dynamic characteristic of IBG, such as wind or PhotoVoltaic (PV) generation, is fundamentally different from conventional synchronous generators, and thus the dynamic performance of the system following disturbances might change due to the increasing impact of IBG. Therefore, studies are required that analyze the impact of high penetration levels of IBG on the dynamic performance of the system. In this context, the selection of the IBG model type is crucial for the analysis.

There are many levels of models used for all types of power system components. On the one hand, there are detailed models of IBG, also referred to as individual models. On the other hand, there are simplified models that represent an aggregation of IBG, also referred to as aggregated models. However, since all models have limitations, the selection of the model type is crucial based on the objectives of the study.

Different types of models for IBG have been developed over the last years. Two industry working groups were established, one within the Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) [1], and another within the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) [2], in order to develop generic models of different types of IBG. Some of those models have been already implemented in widely used commercial power system analysis software tools [3], [4]. However, these generic models are still not widely used yet by the industry.

In 2013, the new Joint Working Group (JWG) CIGRE C4/C6.35/CIRED: “Modelling and dynamic performance of inverter based generation in power system transmission and distribution studies” was established, to look at some of these evolving issues. One of the tasks of the JWG is to identify the present industry practice on modelling of IBG, with the focus on PV generation. For that purpose, a comprehensive questionnaire was distributed to utilities and system operators around the world. This paper summarizes some of the key findings.

The aim of this paper is not necessarily to recommend the application of any specific dynamic model for a specific power system dynamic study, but, rather, to identify what dynamic models are presently applied and to provide some real pictures on their application.

SURVEY

Organization

The original questionnaire that was distributed to the utilities and system operators consists of four categories, whereas this paper focuses on the results of two of them. The two categories and the corresponding questions to each of them are listed in Table I. Further findings and observations of the original questionnaire can be found in [5].

Category 1 sorts the IBG technology and its modelling by type. The participants of the survey could select between different technologies, such as wind or PV generation, micro turbines, fuel cells or battery energy systems. This category reveals which type of IBG technology is modelled by utilities and system operators for power system dynamic studies.

Category 2 describes the type of model that is presently used by the utility and system operator for a specific type of power system dynamic study. In this category two types of models are classified, namely individual models and aggregated models. A detailed comparison between individual and aggregated models is provided in the next section, titled: "Type of models". Furthermore, category 2 refers to 14 different types of power system dynamic studies, including well known phenomena such as frequency stability, short-term and long-term voltage stability as well as transient and small-disturbance angle stability.

Participants

Potential survey participants were selected by the JWG members and contacted via e-mail. The considered utilities and system operators were either Transmission System Operators (TSOs), or utilities and system operators that operate both, transmission and distribution systems. However, Distribution System Operators (DSOs) were not included in the results of this paper, because the responses show that power system dynamic studies are barely conducted by DSOs.

The developed questionnaire was sent to 63 utilities and system operators around the world between spring 2015 and summer 2016. Out of these 63 contacted utilities and system operators, 45 replied to the JWG. Hence, the response rate of 71 % was reached. The 45 received questionnaires from utilities and system operators came from 21 countries on five continents. The participants mostly operate an interconnected grid, and only a few operate an isolated small grid. The system sizes vary from small-scale power systems (a few megawatts) to large-scale power systems (several gigawatts).

It should be noted that software vendors, consultancies, research organizations and academia are not included in the interviewees. Out of the 45 received questionnaires, 35 came from TSOs, and 10 came from utilities and system operators that operate both, transmission and distribution systems.

Table I: Survey categories and questions

No.	Category	No.	Question
1	Type of the inverter based generation technology and its modelling	1.1	Which of the following inverter based generation technologies do you model for power system dynamic studies?
		1.2	Wind
		1.3	Photovoltaic
		1.4	Micro turbine
		1.5	Fuel cell
		1.5	Battery energy system
2	Type of model used for a specific type of power system dynamic study		What type of model do you use for a specific type of power system dynamic study?
		2.1	Frequency stability (large system)
		2.2	Short-term voltage stability (seconds)
		2.3	Short-circuit provision from inverter based generation
		2.4	Low voltage ride-through
		2.5	High voltage ride-through
		2.6	Transient stability with balanced faults
		2.7	Transient stability with unbalanced faults
		2.8	Long-term voltage stability (minutes) ¹
		2.9	Small-disturbance angle stability
		2.10	Unintentional islanding
		2.11	Transients including switching transients
		2.12	Control system interactions (high frequency)
		2.13	Control system interactions (low frequency)
2.14	Protection coordination		

¹Voltage fluctuations at steady state is not considered as long-term voltage stability.

TYPE OF MODELS

Usually, power system dynamic studies are examined in various system sizes, such as studies in a local power system or in a bulk power system. Therefore, various types of models are applied. In general, there are many levels of models used for all types of IBG. This paper focuses on individual and aggregated models of IBG, as explained in the following sub-sections.

Individual models

In this paper, individual models of IBG are defined as: 1) one model for each generator/inverter; or 2) one model for a group of generators/inverters within the same power plant/park/farm. For a dynamic study in a local power system, an individual model is more likely to be applied.

Individual models of large-scale power plants of inverter based generation

Individual models of large-scale power plants which consist of a group of generators/inverters are not likely to be modelled individually even for power system dynamic studies in the local network. Because not only the generator/inverter type but also the manufacturer can be the same, the single-machine equivalent model, as recommended by, e.g., WECC [6], can be used for local power system dynamic studies. Therefore, the IBG plant is represented by the collector system equivalent, the step-up transformer equivalent and the generator/inverter equivalent [7], as shown in Figure 1. Additionally, this model may also be used for bulk power system studies.

Individual models of small-scale distributed systems of inverter based generation

If the system is not too large, individual models of small-scale distributed systems may explicitly represent each generator/inverter, load, line, etc. (the distribution system) individually for the local power system dynamic study, as depicted in Figure 2. It should be noted that the structure of the network in Figure 2 is just an example.

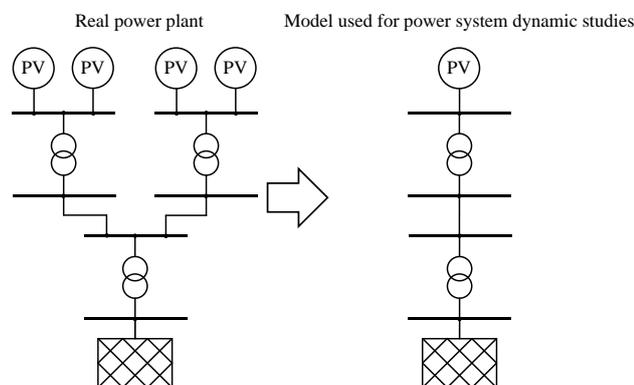


Figure 1: Individual model of a large-scale photovoltaic plant (adapted from WECC [6]).

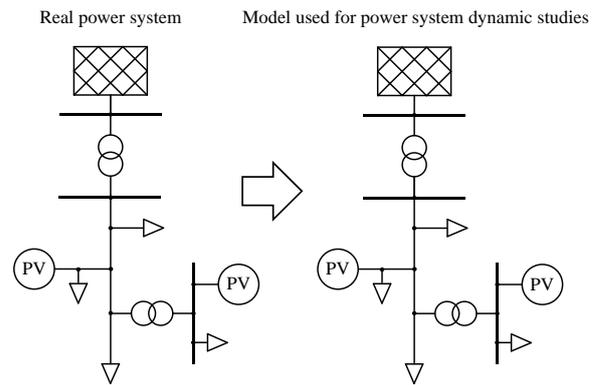


Figure 2: Individual model of small-scale distributed photovoltaic systems.

Aggregated models

In this paper, aggregated models of IBG are defined as the lumped model, which represents the dynamic behaviour of the system in an aggregated manner. For a dynamic study in a bulk power system, an aggregated model is more likely to be applied.

Aggregated models of small-scale distributed systems of inverter based generation

Small-scale distributed systems of IBG, e.g., residential PV, can be represented as an aggregated model, as recommended by, e.g., WECC [6], for bulk power system dynamic studies. Therefore, the distribution system is modelled with the equivalent impedance, the load equivalent and the generator/inverter equivalent, as illustrated in Figure 3. The goal is to capture the impact of small-scale distributed IBG, lumped at the transmission level, on the bulk system performance. However, there are still no widely accepted aggregated dynamic models for small-scale distributed IBG. In this context, the most recent work has been done by WECC [8], but it is presently under review and discussion for further changes.

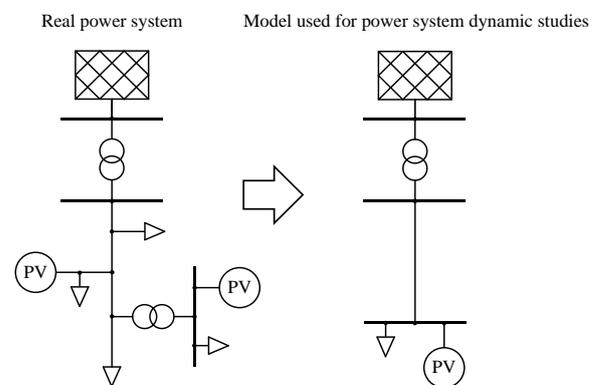


Figure 3: Aggregated model of small-scale distributed photovoltaic systems (adapted from WECC [6]).

RESULTS

Category 1: Type of the inverter based generation technology and its modelling

Category 1 is about the predominant IBG technologies that are modelled by utilities and system operators and the results are shown in Figure 4. It can be concluded that wind and PV generation are predominantly modelled for power system dynamic studies with 76 % and 67 %, respectively. Furthermore, 24 % of the participants model battery energy systems, and only 9 % and 7 % model micro turbines and fuel cells, respectively.

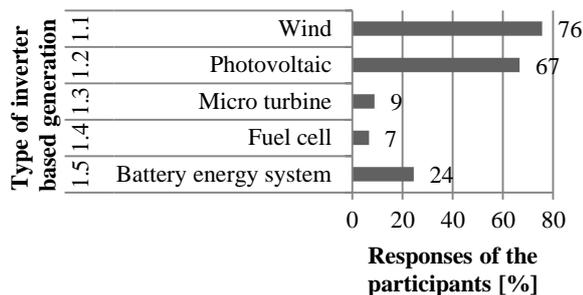


Figure 4: Question 1: Which of the following inverter based generation technologies do you model for power system dynamic studies?

Category 2: Type of model used for a specific type of power system dynamic study

Category 2 is about the type of model that is used by utilities and system operators for a specific type of power system dynamic study and the results are depicted in Figure 5. In general, it can be seen that the application of individual models for IBG is slightly higher than the application of aggregated models, and reaches 59 % in average, as indicated in the last row of the figure.

The share of aggregated models is slightly higher for high voltage ride-through and transient stability studies, compared to the average value. These results are identical to the aforementioned observations because those dynamic studies are typically performed in a bulk power system.

The share of individual models is slightly higher for voltage stability and control system interactions studies, compared to the average value. These results are identical to the aforementioned observations because those dynamic studies are typically performed in a local power system.

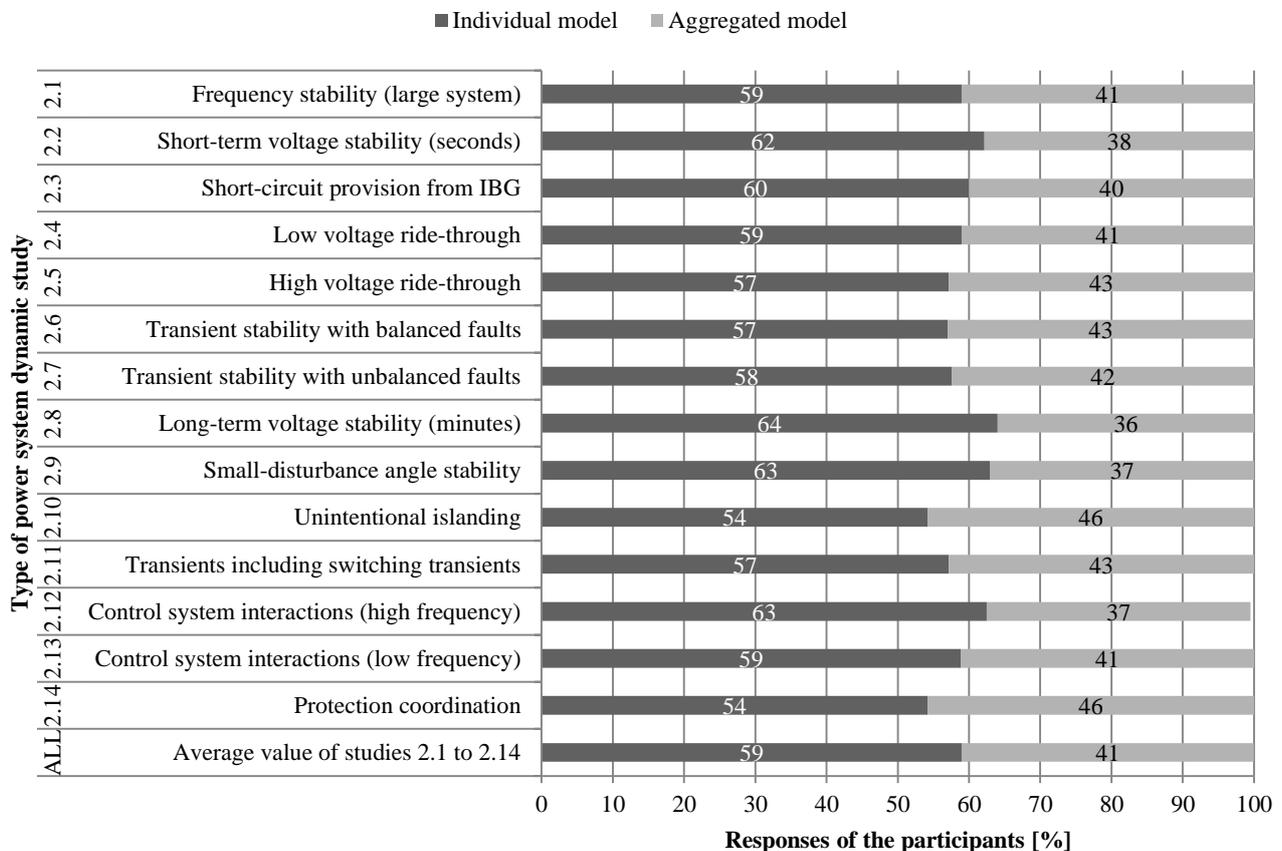


Figure 5: Question 2: What type of model do you use for a specific type of power system dynamic study?

CONCLUSIONS

The aim of this paper is not necessarily to recommend the application of any dynamic model for a specific type of power system dynamic study, but, rather, to identify what dynamic models are presently applied and to provide some fundamental information on their use.

The main contributions and key findings of this paper can be summarized as:

- Wind and PV generation is very likely to be modelled by utilities and system operators for power system dynamic studies with 76 % and 67 %, respectively.
- 59 % of the utilities and system operators apply individual models instead of aggregated models for power system dynamic studies.

In general, an individual model for IBG is typically used for the analysis in the local power system of, e.g., protection coordination, unintentional islanding, short-circuit provision from IBG, transients including switching transients, long-term and short-term voltage stability and control system interactions (low and high frequency).

On the other hand, an aggregated model for IBG is typically used for the analysis in the bulk power system of, e.g., frequency stability, low voltage and high voltage ride-through, transient stability (with balanced and unbalanced faults) and small-disturbance angle stability.

However, for specific power system dynamic studies the aforementioned application of the different types of models might also be used vice versa.

It can be concluded that every type of model has advantages and disadvantages and the adequate model type needs to be selected depending on the type of power system dynamic study and the power system condition (e.g. weak system conditions with very low short-circuit ratio or strong system conditions with high short-circuit ratio).

The results of the questionnaire emphasize the clear message for the necessity and importance of the use of IBG models. Furthermore, the final technical brochure of the CIGRE JWG C4/C6.35/CIRED will give guidance in selecting adequate models for IBG for specific power system dynamic studies.

With these contributions the paper supports utilities and system operators as well as research institutes and academia to benchmark their approach against the prevailing international industry practice.

Acknowledgments

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