

# Supercapacitor energy storage system for fault ride-through of a DFIG wind generation system

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## ARTICLE INFO

### Article history:

Received 26 November 2011

Received in revised form 7 February 2012

Accepted 5 March 2012

Available online 5 April 2012

### Keywords:

Wind energy system

DFIG

Supercapacitor energy storage

STATCOM

Wind energy grid integration

## ABSTRACT

The doubly fed induction generators (DFIGs) are preferred over other variable speed generators because of their advantages in terms of economy and control. One of the problems associated with high wind power penetration DFIG systems, however, is the inability of their converters to work properly under extreme low voltage conditions. This article presents a decoupled  $P$ - $Q$  control strategy of a supercapacitor energy storage system, interfaced through a STATCOM, for low voltage ride through as well as damping enhancement of the DFIG system. The STATCOM meets the reactive power need under the depressed voltage condition, while the supercapacitor caters to the real power unbalance. An extensive dynamic model of the DFIG system including a supercapacitor DC-DC buck-boost converter and the STATCOM circuit has been developed. The fault ride-through capability of the generator has been investigated for a severe symmetrical three-phase to ground fault on the grid bus. Simulation results suggest that the proposed decoupled control of the supercapacitor STATCOM control strategy can help the DFIG ride through extreme low voltage conditions for significant duration. The proposed control strategy also damps the electromechanical transients, and thus quickly restores normal operation of the converters.

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## 1. Introduction

Among several fast growing wind turbine technologies, variable speed wind turbines utilizing doubly fed induction generators (DFIGs) are gaining popularity because of their higher energy transfer capability from wind, reduction of flicker by adjusting the shaft speed and flexible controls [1–3]. With such drive system wide range of variable speed constant frequency operation is possible with independent control capabilities of real and reactive power [4]. The stator of a wind turbine driven DFIG is directly connected to the grid while the rotor is connected through a back-to-back converter and a DC link capacitor. The frequency of the rotor injected voltage is adjusted depending on the turbine speed change to obtain constant frequency at the stator terminals [5,6]. Since the DFIG stator is directly connected to the grid via a step-up transformer and the rating of the grid-side and rotor-side converters is limited, the DFIG is quite sensitive to any grid disturbance [7]. Also, the existence of a sophisticated, multi-loop control structure of the converters makes the DFIG based wind power system prone to undesirable dynamic interaction with the grid [8].

Low voltage ride-through (LVRT) capability is of special interest in a wind power generator system that employs a doubly fed induction generator. LVRT grid code standards of power utilities

specify a minimum voltage profile that a wind farm should be able to ride-through. Although the operation of a DFIG wind turbine is satisfactory under balanced grid voltage conditions, there exists potential for a significant reduction in power output due to a low network voltage during grid disturbances. Under such conditions, the electromagnetic transients of the DFIG give rise to high over-currents to avoid disconnection in the semiconductors [9–11]. Different authors have reported solutions oriented to enhance fault ride-through capabilities. Many of these are based on implementing controllers in the rotor and grid side converters [11]. Some deal with reduction of high rotor inrush current observed during grid faults while others are based on limiting electromagnetic torque oscillations when a generator is subjected to a voltage dip [12]. The application of energy storage devices such as flywheel energy storage [13], superconducting magnetic energy storage [14,15] and battery energy storage [16] to smoothen wind power fluctuations have been reported. Capacitor energy storage for variable speed permanent magnet synchronous generators has been considered to damp out power oscillations [17]. Capacitor energy storage has also been reported to improve the voltage profile for fixed speed cage generators [18]. Storage of the excess energy of the generator during a low voltage condition and its utilization in the post-disturbance regime is suggested to improve the voltage profile [19]. Low voltage ride-through of permanent magnet synchronous generators with a current controlled voltage source converter was proposed in [20]. With increased wind penetration a variety of problems including voltage instability may require coordinated study on voltage control

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## Nomenclature

$P_m$	power output of wind turbine	$\omega_e$	generator voltage angular frequency
$V_w$	wind speed	$V_{st}, I_{st}$	STATCOM voltage and injected current
$\beta$	pitch angle	$R_{st}, L_{st}$	resistance and inductance of STATCOM circuit
$\lambda$	tip speed ratio	$V_{dcs}, C_{dcs}$	DC link voltage and capacitance of STATCOM
$d-q$	subscripts for direct–quadrature axes	$V_{sc}, I_{sc}$	supercapacitor voltage and current
$r, s$	subscript to represent rotor and stator quantities	$L_{sc}, C_{sc}$	supercapacitor inductance and capacitance
$R_s, X_s$	resistance and reactance of the DFIG stator	$P_{st}, Q_{st}$	real and reactive power of STATCOM
$R_r, X_r$	resistance and reactance of the DFIG rotor	$X_d, X_q$	synchronous reactance ( $d$ axis, $q$ axis)
$R_a, L_a$	stator side filter resistance and reactance	$X_m$	DFIG stator–rotor mutual reactance
$C, V_c$	DFIG converter capacitance and voltage	$I_{st}$	STATCOM current
$m_1, m_2$	modulation indices	$R, X$	transmission line resistance and reactance
$\alpha_1, \alpha_2$	converter voltage phase angles	$H_g, H_t$	inertia constant of generator and turbine
$s$	slip of DFIG	$D_g, D_t$	damping coefficient of generator and turbine
$\omega_o, \omega_e$	base and electrical angular frequency		
$\omega_r, \omega_t$	generator rotor, turbine angular speeds		

and reactive power planning [21]. Since the power ratings of DFIG converters are generally not very large, and also because low voltage conditions may not allow the controllers located in the feedback circuit to act properly, additional short-duty energy storage devices installed at the DFIG terminals would be helpful.

Enhancement of DFIG system performance under low voltage conditions with additional real and reactive power support is considered in this article. A supercapacitor energy storage system interfaced through a STATCOM is used for this purpose. The organization of the article is as follows: Section 2 describes the model of the DFIG wind system. The STATCOM supercapacitor model is given in Section 3 followed by supercapacitor energy storage control design procedure in Section 4. Section 5 presents the simulation results and conclusions are drawn in Section 6.

## 2. DFIG wind turbine system model

Fig. 1 illustrates the DFIG wind power generation system connected to the grid through a step-up transformer and its transmission network. A back-to-back converter, consisting of two sub-converters VSC-1 and VSC-2, is connected in the rotor circuit. VSC-1, the grid-side converter, is connected to the generator stator through a transformer and filter circuit having resistance  $R_r$  and inductance  $L_r$ . The rotor side converter, VSC-2, is employed to control rotor voltage  $V_r$  whose frequency is adjusted according to the turbine speed so as to produce stator voltage  $V_s$  at the desired grid frequency. The supercapacitor controller is connected to the generator end of the transmission line. The models for the different components are given in the following [22].

### 2.1. The doubly fed induction generator

From the Park's transformation of the voltage–current–flux relationships of an induction machine operating under generator mode, the  $d-q$  components of stator and rotor currents can be expressed as,

$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{i}_{sd} \\ \dot{i}_{rd} \end{bmatrix} = Z \begin{bmatrix} \omega_o R_s & 0 & \omega_e X_s & -\omega_e X_m \\ 0 & \omega_o R_r & -s\omega_o X_m & -s\omega_o X_m \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} i_g \\ i_r \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \omega_o v_{sd} \\ \omega_o v_{rd} \end{bmatrix} \quad (1)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{i}_{sq} \\ \dot{i}_{rq} \end{bmatrix} = Z \begin{bmatrix} \omega_e X_s & \omega_e X_m & \omega_o R_s & 0 \\ s\omega_o X_m & s\omega_o X_r & 0 & \omega_o R_r \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} i_g \\ i_r \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \omega_o v_{sq} \\ \omega_o v_{rq} \end{bmatrix} \quad (2)$$

Here the subscripts  $s$  and  $r$  stand for stator and rotor voltages ( $v$ ) and currents ( $i$ ) along the  $d-q$  axes. The state vector comprises of the  $d-q$  components of stator and rotor currents arranged as,

$i_g = [\dot{i}_{sd} \dot{i}_{rd} \dot{i}_{sq} \dot{i}_{rq}]'$ . The matrix  $Z$  and slip  $s$  in the above, respectively, are given as,

$$Z = \begin{bmatrix} -X_s & -X_m \\ -X_m & -X_r \end{bmatrix}^{-1}, \quad s = \frac{\omega_o - \omega_r}{\omega_o} \quad (3)$$

The DFIG stator terminals always supply real power to the grid at sub-synchronous as well as super-synchronous speed. The rotor circuit delivers power to the grid at super-synchronous speed, while the grid supplies the rotor under sub-synchronous conditions. A list of symbols is given in the Nomenclature.

### 2.2. The electromechanical system

A two-mass model for the turbine generator system is adopted since a high inertia wind turbine is connected to a low inertia DFIG rotor with a relatively soft shaft. The dynamic equations of the two-mass representation are expressed as,

$$2H_t \frac{d\omega_t}{dt} = P_m - K_s \theta_s - D_t \Delta\omega_t \quad (4)$$

$$2H_g \frac{d\omega_r}{dt} = K_s \theta_s - P_e - D_g \Delta\omega_r \quad (5)$$

$$\frac{d\theta_s}{dt} = \omega_o (\omega_t - \omega_r) \quad (6)$$

In the above,  $\theta_s$  is the shaft torsion angle,  $K_s$  is the shaft stiffness,  $H$  and  $D$  are the inertia and damping coefficients, respectively of turbine and generator; subscripts  $t$  and  $g$  refer to the turbine and generator quantities, respectively. The generator electrical output  $P_e$  is given as,

$$P_e = X_m \dot{i}_{rq} \dot{i}_{sd} - X_m \dot{i}_{rd} \dot{i}_{sq} \quad (7)$$

The mechanical power input to the generator supplied by the turbine is,

$$P_m = \frac{1}{2} \rho A C_p(\lambda, \beta) V_\omega^3 \quad (8)$$

Here  $\rho$  is the air density and  $A$  is the swept area by the turbine blades. The power coefficient  $C_p$  is expressed as a function of tip speed ratio  $\lambda$  and the blade pitch angle  $\beta$  [23],

$$C_p(\lambda, \beta) = 0.5176 \left( \frac{116}{\lambda_i} - 0.4\beta - 5 \right) e^{-\frac{21}{\lambda_i}} + 0.0068\lambda \quad (9)$$

$$\frac{1}{\lambda_i} = \frac{1}{\lambda + 0.08\beta} - \frac{0.035}{\beta^3 + 1}$$

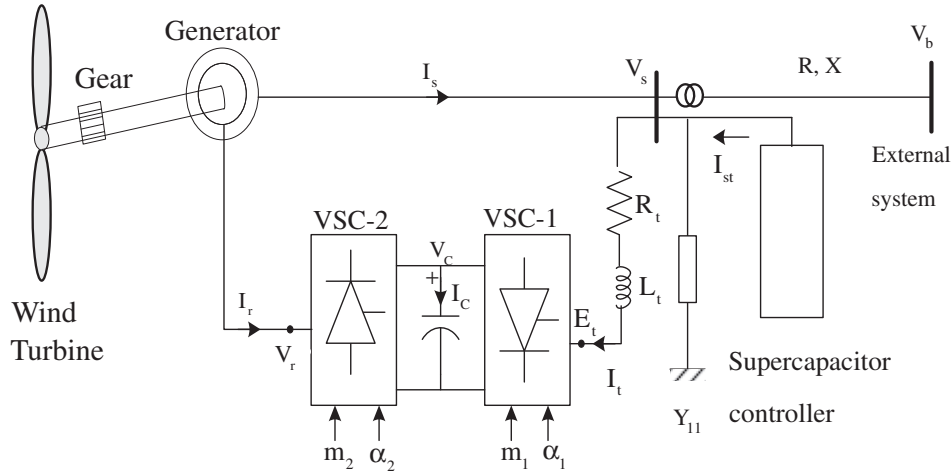


Fig. 1. DFIG system configuration.

### 2.3. The converter system

Expressing the  $d$ - $q$  components of the grid side converter current in the form  $I_t = i_{td} + ji_{tq}$ , the dynamic equations for the transformer-filter circuit can be written as,

$$\frac{d}{dt} \begin{bmatrix} i_{td} \\ i_{tq} \end{bmatrix} = \frac{\omega_o}{L_t} \begin{bmatrix} -R_t & (1 - \Delta\omega_e)L_t \\ -(1 - \Delta\omega_e)L_t & -R_t \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} i_{td} \\ i_{tq} \end{bmatrix} + \frac{\omega_o}{L_a} \begin{bmatrix} v_{sd} & -e_{tq} \\ v_{sq} & -e_{td} \end{bmatrix} \quad (10)$$

The currents and voltages are broken up in  $d$ - $q$  quantities as,  $I_t = i_{td} + ji_{tq}$ ,  $V_s = v_{sd} + jv_{sq}$ , and  $E_t = e_{td} + je_{tq}$ . Neglecting the converter losses, power balance gives the DC link voltage equation as,

$$\frac{dV_c}{dt} = \frac{1}{C} [m_1 \cos \alpha_1 i_{td} + m_1 \sin \alpha_1 i_{tq} + m_2 \cos \alpha_2 i_{rd} + m_2 \sin \alpha_2 i_{rq}] \quad (11)$$

The grid-side and rotor-side voltages are related to the DC link voltage  $V_c$  through,

$$\begin{aligned} e_{td} &= m_1 V_c \cos \alpha_1 & v_{rd} &= m_2 V_c \cos \alpha_2 \\ e_{tq} &= m_1 V_c \sin \alpha_1 & v_{rq} &= m_2 V_c \sin \alpha_2 \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

In the above,  $m_1$ ,  $m_2$ ,  $\alpha_1$ ,  $\alpha_2$  are the modulation indices ( $m$ ) and phase angles ( $\psi$ ) of the two converter voltages. Current supplied by the DFIG stator can be written as,

$$I_s = (V_s - V_b)Y_{12} + V_s Y_{11} + I_t - I_{st} \quad (13)$$

$Y_{12} = g_{12} + jb_{12}$  is the transmission line admittance (reciprocal of  $R + jX$ ),  $Y_{11} = g_{11} + jb_{11}$  is the local load admittance,  $V_b$  is the grid voltage, and  $I_{st}$  is the current injected by the STATCOM. Expressing the quantities in the stationary  $d$ - $q$  reference frames, a relationships between the generator voltage bus voltage, generator current, and the STATCOM current is obtained as,

$$\begin{aligned} v_{sd}(g_{11} + g_{12}) - v_{sq}(b_{12} + b_{11}) &= V_b g_{12} + i_{sd} - i_{td} + I_{std} \\ v_{sd}(b_{12} + b_{11}) + v_{sq}(g_{11} + g_{12}) &= V_b b_{12} + i_{sq} - i_{tq} + I_{stq} \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

## 3. The energy storage system model

### 3.1. The supercapacitor-STATCOM

Fig. 2 shows the connection diagram of the supercapacitor-STATCOM system connected to the generator terminals having voltage  $V_s$ . The STATCOM performs two tasks; it caters to the short term reactive need of the system and also acts as an interface for the supercapacitor. The supercapacitor is connected to the

STATCOM through a bi-directional DC-DC buck-boost converter. The operation of the buck-boost converter is controlled by varying the duty ratio through  $S_1$  and  $S_2$ . The supercapacitor is modeled through an ideal capacitance ( $C_{sc}$ ) and an equivalent series resistance ( $R_{sc}$ ) as shown in the figure.  $R_{sc}$  accounts for resistive losses in the dielectric, plate material, and the electrolytic solution. The STATCOM current and voltage are related through,

$$L_{st} \frac{dI_{st}}{dt} + R_{st} I_{st} = V_{st} - V_s \quad (15)$$

where  $V_{st} = mV_{DC} \angle \psi + \theta_s$ , and  $V_s = V_s \angle \theta_s$ .  $V_{DC}$  is DC link voltage of the STATCOM;  $m$  and  $\psi$  are the modulation index and phase angle of the STATCOM converter, respectively. Expressing the STATCOM voltage along the synchronously rotating  $d$ - $q$  frame coordinates and normalizing the quantities, (15) can be written as,

$$\begin{bmatrix} i_{std} \\ i_{stq} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{-\omega_o R_{st}}{L_{st}} & \frac{\omega_e}{\omega_o} \\ -\frac{\omega_e}{\omega_o} & \frac{-\omega_o R_{st}}{L_{st}} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} I_{std} \\ I_{stq} \end{bmatrix} + \frac{\omega_o}{L_{st}} \begin{bmatrix} mV_{DC} \cos(\psi + \theta_s) - v_{sd} \\ mV_{DC} \sin(\psi + \theta_s) - v_{sq} \end{bmatrix} \quad (16)$$

Considering the converter to be lossless, the power balance equation will result in the capacitor voltage equation,

$$\frac{dV_{dcs}}{dt} = -\frac{m}{C_{dcs}} (I_{std} \cos(\psi + \theta_s) + I_{stq} \sin(\psi + \theta_s)) - \frac{I_{sc}}{C_{dcs}} \quad (17)$$

where  $I_{sc}$  is the supercapacitor current and  $C_{dcs}$  is the capacitance of the DC link.

Referring to Fig. 2, the supercapacitor current is related to the supercapacitor voltage  $V_{sc}$  through,

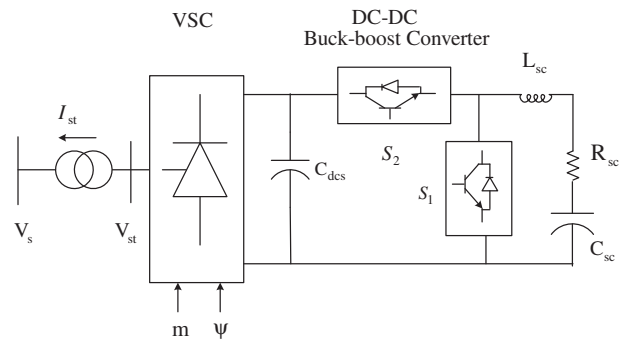


Fig. 2. Supercapacitor system connected to DFIG bus.



terminal voltage of 1.05 pu. When the system is subjected to low voltage, the system dynamic performance deteriorates giving rise to oscillations. The system variables remain within acceptable limits for fault durations of up to 120 ms, beyond which there is total voltage collapse. In this article we present the results for a 250 ms symmetrical fault at the grid bus. A 250 ms three-phase to ground fault at the grid is a particularly intense disturbance compared to the critical case (120 ms). The dynamic responses are compared for the cases with and without the proposed supercapacitor STATCOM decoupled control strategy. The parameters of the DFIG and supercapacitor STATCOM system are given in the Appendix A. The values of the drive-train parameters are taken from Akhmatov [26].

Figs. 5–8 show the variations of induction generator terminal voltage, power output, speed and the stator current variations for a three phase to ground fault of 250 ms duration at the grid bus. In the absence of supercapacitor STATCOM control the generator terminal voltage falls steeply as shown in Fig. 5 and the power output becomes virtually zero (Fig. 6). This causes the machine to accelerate rapidly and the rotor speed continues to grow as shown in Fig. 7. The drastically reduced voltage at the generator stator and rotor circuits pushes the generator armature current to a very large value (Fig. 8). Examination of the stator current response without supercapacitor energy storage control indicates the possibility of stator current reaching as high as 2.5 pu. Moreover, there is significant harmonic content in the stator current.

The response recorded with the proposed decoupled  $P$ - $Q$  control of the supercapacitor STATCOM energy storage unit shown in Fig. 5 (solid line) indicates that the generator terminal voltage is maintained near the normal value even during the fault. The post fault oscillations in the power output, generator speed and stator current are effectively removed by the supercapacitor control as can be seen in Figs. 6–8. Normal operating conditions are restored in less than 5 s.

The core function of the proposed control operation in the DFIG system is to maintain a constant DC-link capacitor voltage. Since the generator terminal voltage becomes significantly depressed for a severe low voltage condition at the point of common coupling, the converter DC-link voltage progressively falls without the supercapacitor control as shown in Fig. 9. This, in turn, causes malfunction in the converter circuitry controls and hence causes the over-currents in the system. It can be observed in Fig. 9 that the proposed decoupled controller smoothly raises the DC-link voltage slightly above 1 pu.

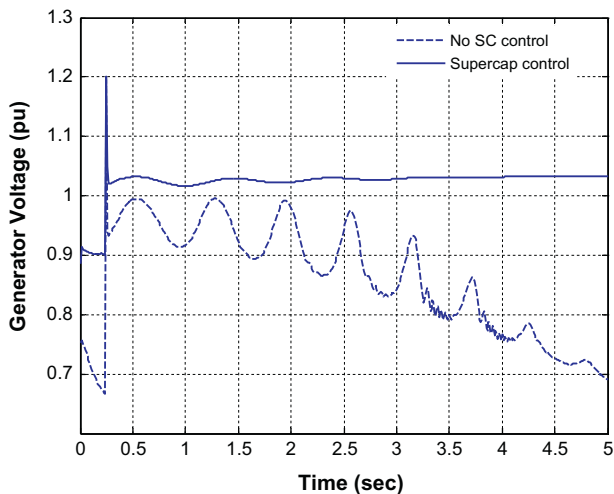


Fig. 5. DFIG terminal voltage following a 250 ms three-phase to ground fault at the grid bus, with and without additional supercapacitor control.

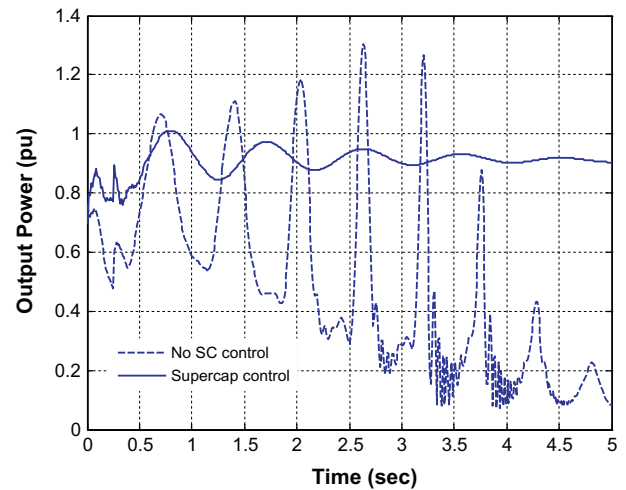


Fig. 6. DFIG power output variations following a 250 ms symmetrical three-phase to ground fault corresponding to Fig. 5.

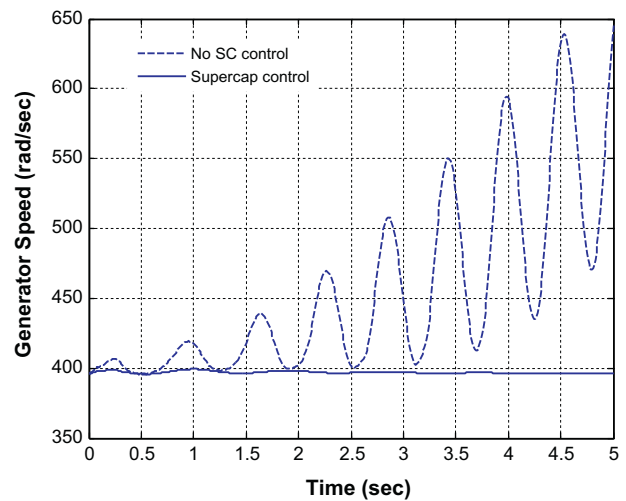


Fig. 7. DFIG rotor speed variations following a 250 ms three-phase to ground fault on the grid bus, with and without additional supercapacitor control.

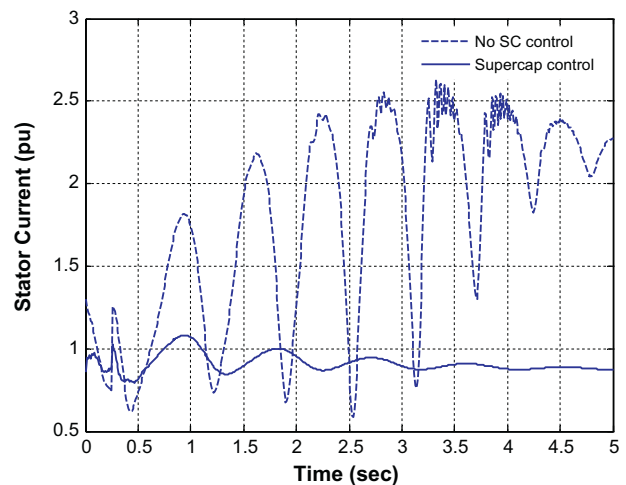


Fig. 8. DFIG stator current variation following a 250 ms three-phase to ground fault at the grid, with and without additional supercapacitor control.

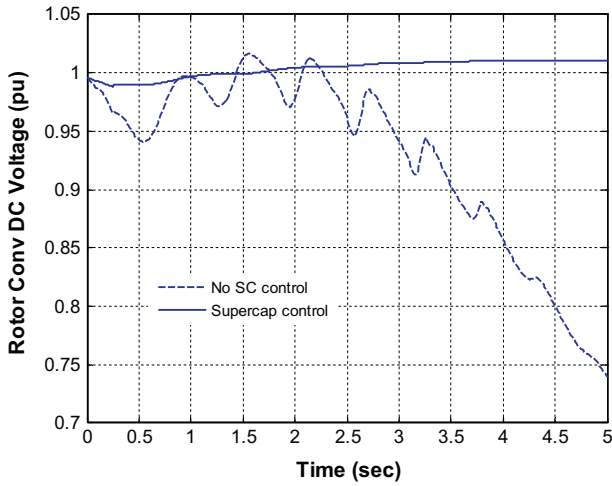


Fig. 9. DC capacitor voltage variation of the DFIG following a 250 ms three-phase to ground fault on the grid bus.

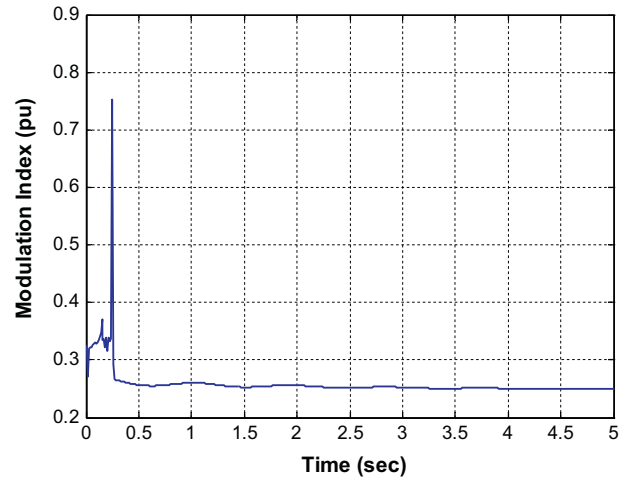


Fig. 12. Modulation index of the STATCOM voltage following a 250 ms three-phase to ground fault on the grid bus, with supercapacitor control.

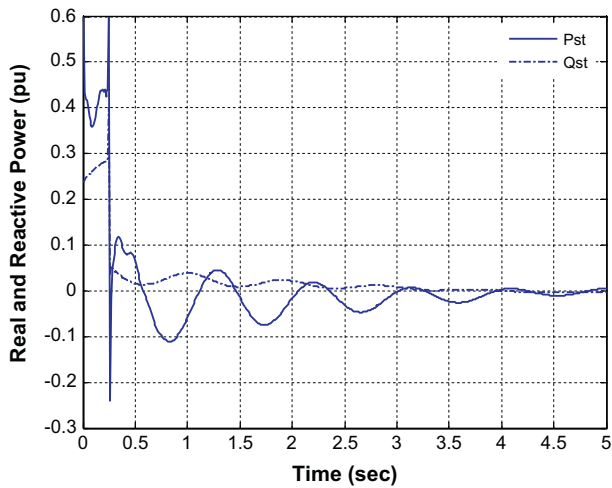


Fig. 10. Real and reactive power supplied by the supercapacitor STATCOM energy storage system following a 250 ms symmetrical three-phase fault to ground at the grid bus.

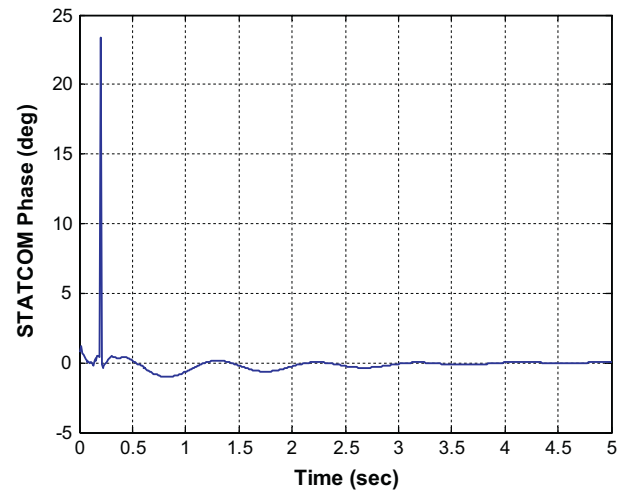


Fig. 13. Phase angle of the STATCOM voltage following a 250 ms three-phase to ground fault with supercapacitor control.

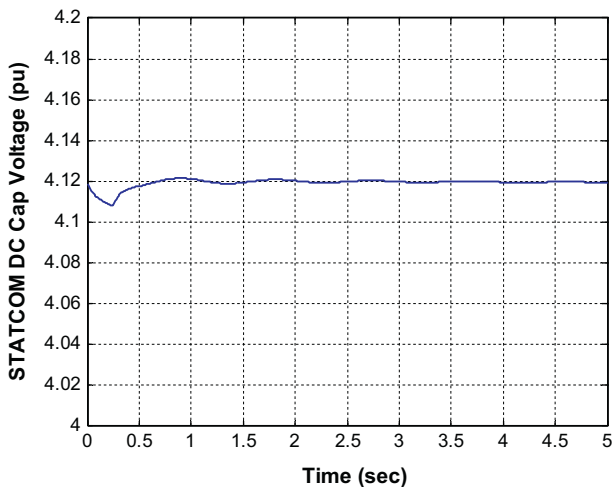


Fig. 11. DC capacitor voltage of the STATCOM converter following a 250 ms three-phase to ground fault at the grid bus.

The variations of real and reactive power supplied by the supercapacitor STATCOM energy storage device are shown in Fig. 10. During the fault, the supercapacitor absorbs the excess generator power. The supercapacitor at that stage acts as a load. As the system condition changes, supercapacitor energy flow alternate between receive and supply modes as is indicated in the figure. The DC link voltage of the STATCOM, shown in Fig. 11, plays an important role in real and reactive power exchange by keeping its voltage more or less constant during the transient period.

Figs. 12 and 13 show the variations of modulation index ( $m$ ) and phase angle ( $\psi$ ) of the STATCOM voltage when the decoupled  $P$ - $Q$  controls are activated through the energy storage devices. It can be seen that aside from the spike at the time of fault clearing, the control excursions are very small for this severe low voltage condition. It indicates that the controller can tackle worse scenarios without risking saturation.

## 6. Conclusions

Enhancement of fault ride-through for a doubly fed induction generator wind generator system with the help of supercapacitor and STATCOM energy storage device is investigated in this article. A very detailed dynamic model of the system including the turbine,

the generator, the DFIG converters, the buck–boost converters of the supercapacitor and the STATCOM has been employed to design the energy storage system control strategy. It has been observed that the proposed controller helps the DFIG to ride through severe low voltage conditions to the satisfaction of the grid codes established by the most electrical utilities. The STATCOM compensates for the reactive power unbalance in the system, thus helping the generator to ride through the low voltage condition. The supercapacitor meets the real power need, by absorbing or delivering power as required by the system, thus improving the damping profile. The amount of real and reactive power supplied by the supercapacitor and STATCOM, respectively, are not large and the excursions of the internal controls of the STATCOM are very low avoiding the possibility of saturation.

### Acknowledgments

The authors would like to acknowledge the support provided by the King Abdulaziz City for Science & Technology (KACST) through the Science and Technology Unit at King Fahd University of Petroleum & Minerals for funding this work through Project #11-ENE1632-04 as part of the National Science, Technology and Innovation plan.

### Appendix A

The parameter values are in per unit, *except stated otherwise*.

#### A.1. DFIG

$r_s$	0.00473	$x_s$	3.418	$\rho$	1.225 kg/m <sup>3</sup>
$r_r$	0.024	$x_r$	3.418	Blade radius	13.5 m
$R_a$	1	$x_m$	3.289	Gear ratio	1:23
$X_a$	0.1	$R$	0.8	$A$	577 m <sup>2</sup>
$C$	1	$X$	1	$V_w$	9 m/s
$H_g$	0.5 s	$H_t$	2.5 s	$D_g = D_t$	0
$g_{11}$	0.4023	$b_{11}$	0.0242		

#### A.2. STATCOM and supercapacitor

$R_{st} = 0.01$ pu	$L_{st} = 0.15$ pu	$C_{dc} = 1$ pu		
$L_{sc} = 0.18$	$R_{sc} = 0.1$	$C_{sc} = 350$	$K_{pv} = 12.64$	$K_{iv} = 0.786$
$K_{pi} = 395.04$	$K_{ii} = 438780$	$\tau_{sc} = 0.00028135$		

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