ELEC-E8424 DISTRIBUTED GENERATION TECHNOLOGIES, 10.11.2020

Power Electronic Converters in Power Systems

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Power electronic converters in power systems

Content

- Converters for distributed generation
- What kind of functionality is needed in order to connect distributed generation to power grid?
- Simulation studies

Power electronic converters in power systems

At the end of this session students will be able to answer the following questions

- What are the main features required from the converter to connect distributed generation to the grid?
- What is the main purpose of standards and grid codes?
- What is the most important content of the grid codes from the converter point of view?
- What are the different operators that are involved in wind park studies and what are their interests?

Why renewables?

- The use of electricity is growing at a rapid pace especially as emerging economies industrialize and register strong economic growth
- Today, renewables account for an increasing share of the energy mix and make, in some countries, and important contribution to meeting carbon reduction targets
- Wind and solar power generation can significantly contribute to the big challenge of meeting these growing needs while addressing environmental impact
- In 2018, the total electrical energy production in the world was 26 730 TWh*
  - Wind + solar PV: 1 800 TWh* (6.7 %)

651 GW ≈ 216

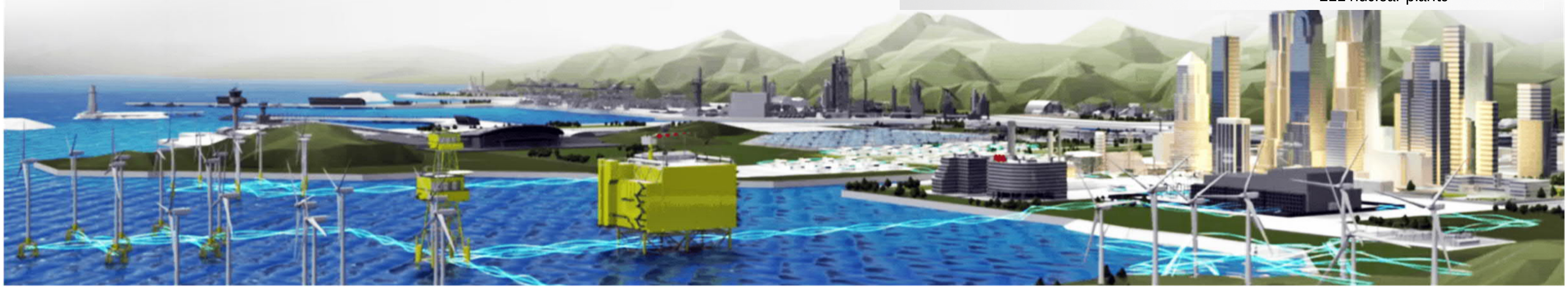
59,7 GW installed in 2019**

The equivalent of 216 nuclear plants

634 GWp ≈ 211

116,9 GW installed in 2019***

The equivalent of 211 nuclear plants



* IEA, Accessed: November 6, 2020. https://www.iea.org/statistics/

** WWEA. (2020). Global cumulative installed wind power capacity from 2001 to 2019 (in megawatts). Statista. Statista Inc.. Accessed: November 6, 2020. https://www.statista.com/statistics/268363/installed-wind-power-capacity-worldwide/

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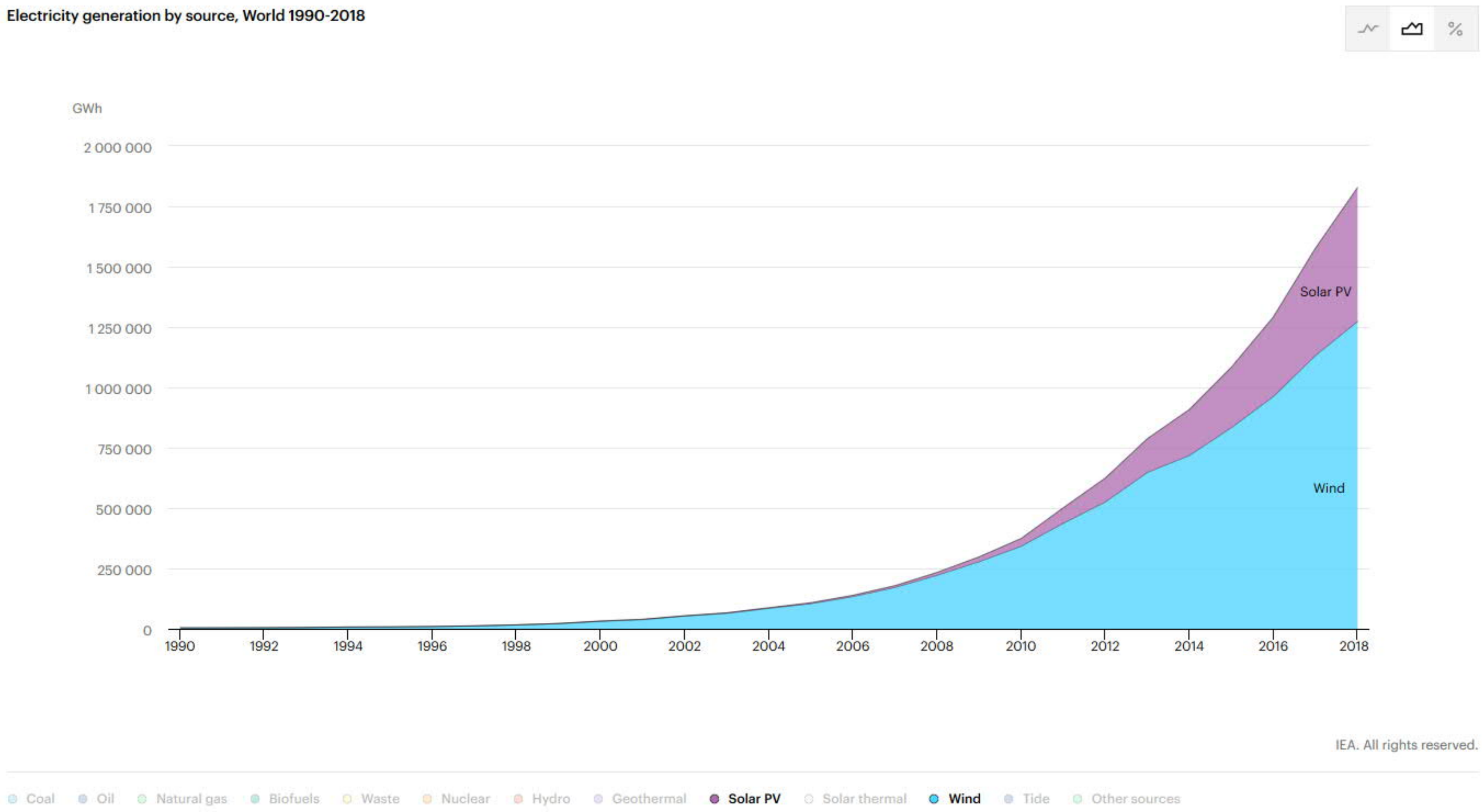
Electricity generation by source, Wind and Solar PV



Source: IEA https://www.iea.org/statistics/

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- Wind and solar power generation can significantly contribute to the big challenge of meeting these growing needs while addressing environmental impact
- In 2018, the total electrical energy production in the world was 26 730 TWh*
  - Wind + solar PV: 1 800 TWh* (6.7 %)
  - Coal: 10 160 TWh* (38.0 %), natural gas 6 150 TWh* (23.0 %), hydro 4 320 TWh* (16.1 %)

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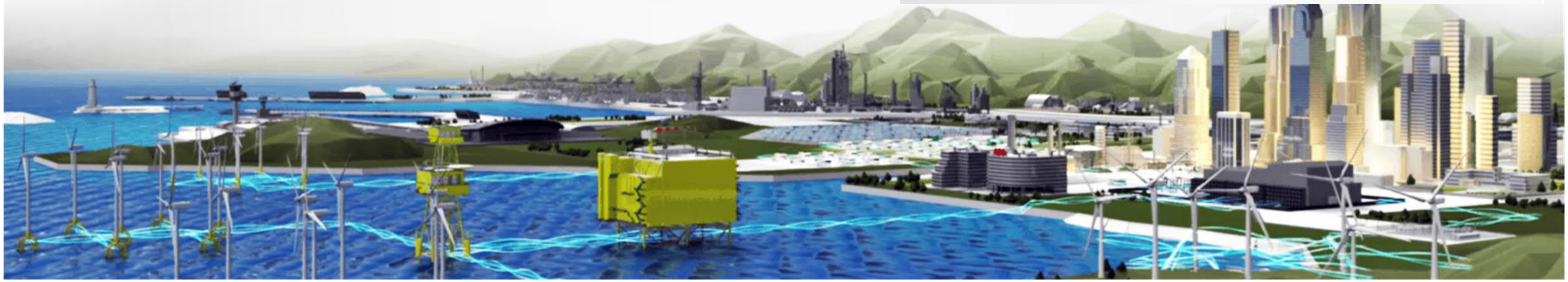

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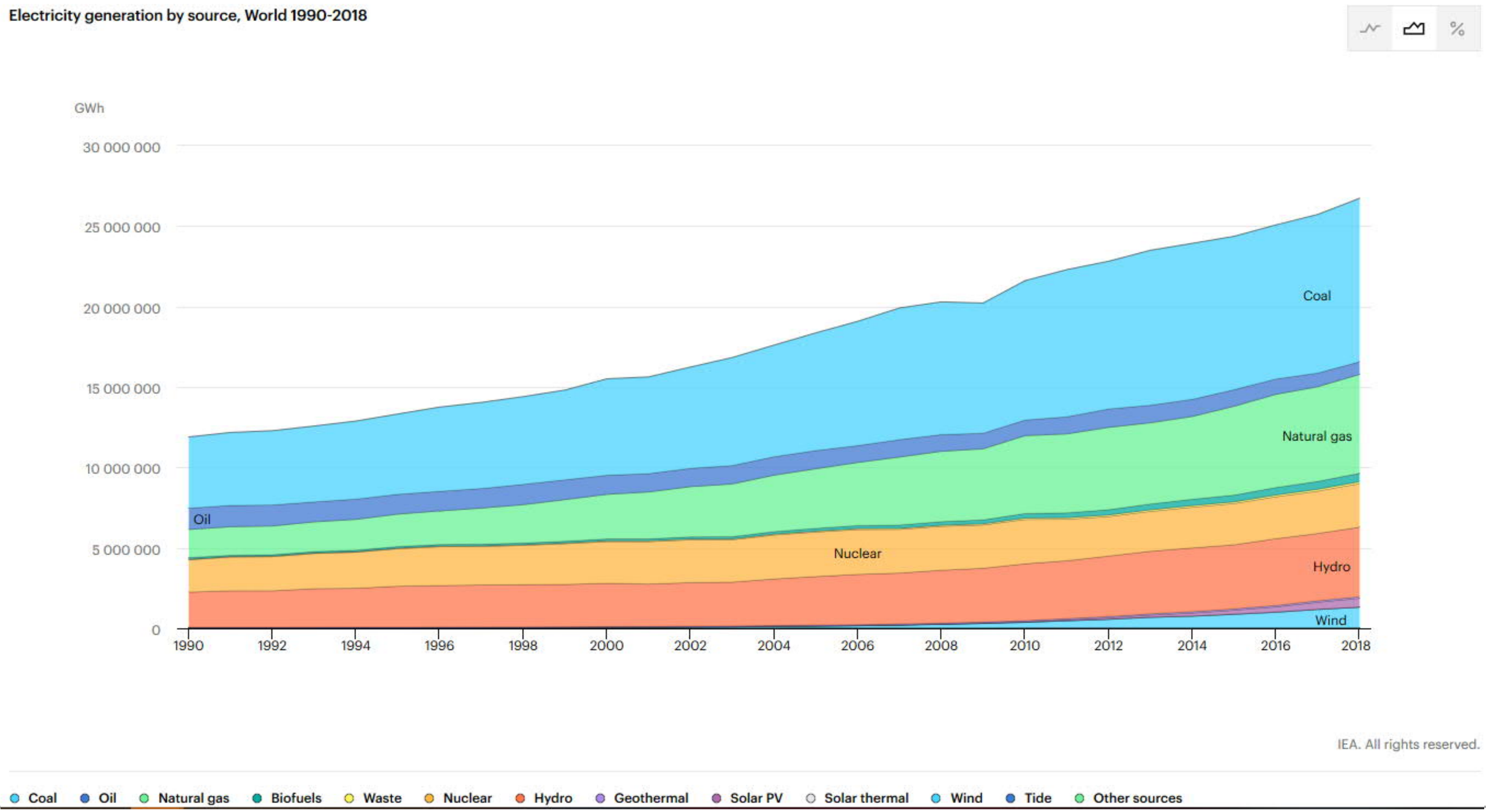
Electricity generation by source



Source: IEA https://www.iea.org/statistics/

Wind turbine nacelle

ABB Products for wind turbines

Wind turbine converters

Low Voltage Converter

- Onshore or offshore turbines
- IGBT power modules
- Air and liquid-cooled models
- Fault-ride-through
- Reactive power
- Support for different grid codes
- Doubly-fed converter
  - 0.6 to 6 MW
- Full power converter
  - 0.8 to 6 MW

Medium Voltage Converter

- Onshore or offshore turbines
- IGCT power modules
- 4 to 12 MW
- Liquid-cooled
- Support for different grid codes
- Harmonic elimination control algorithm

Control of distributed generation

[Edris Pouresmaeil: Control and Operation of Grid-Connected DC/AC Converters]

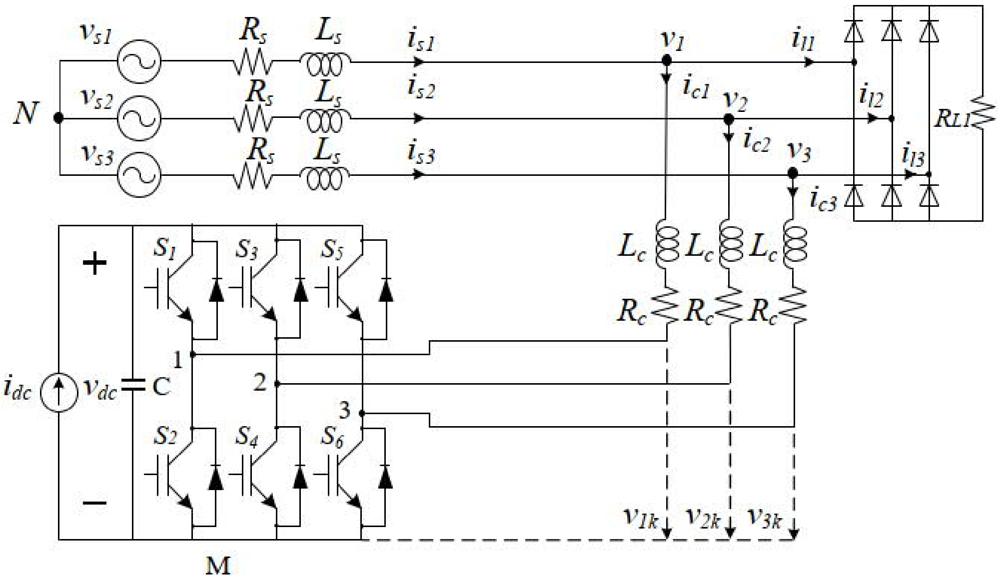


Fig. 4.1. General model of a grid-connected converter.

ABB Solar inverters

String inverters

Single and three-phase string inverters for residential and commercial use as well as for decentralized industrial and utility-scale PV power plants

2 to 60 kW

Energy storage solutions

Single-phase string inverter and energy storage system for residential use

3.6 to 4.6 kW

ABB Solar inverters

Central inverters

For large commercial and utility-scale PV power plants

100 to 2000 kW

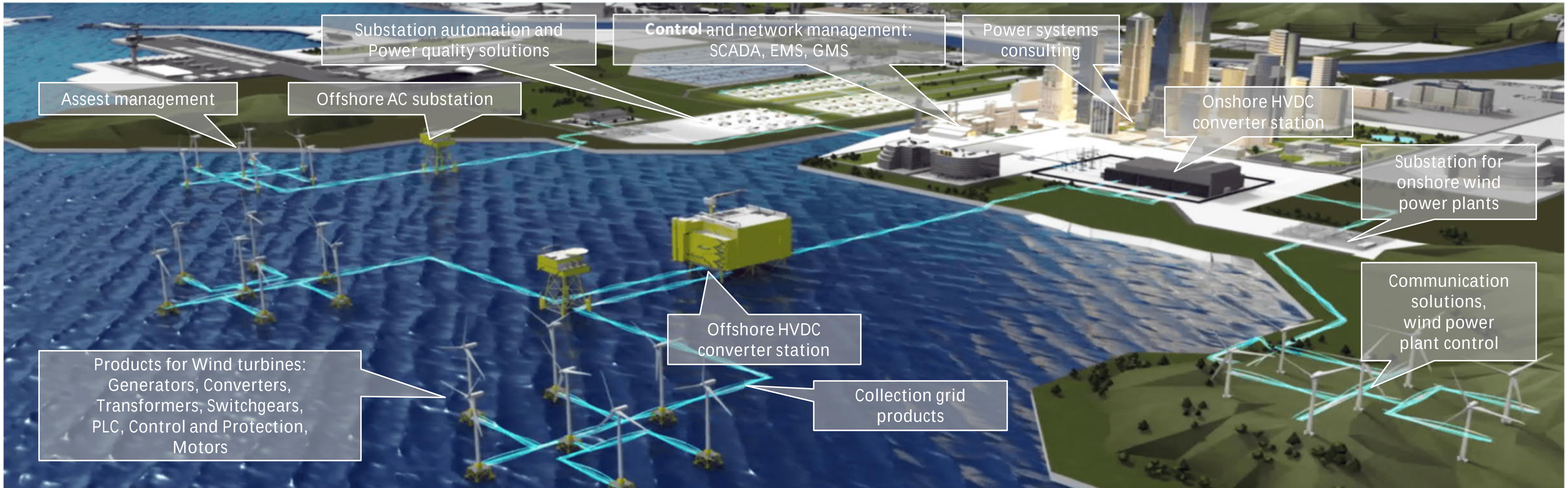
Turnkey stations

Plug-and-play housings with inverters and MV components
Inverter stations for indoor inverters
MV stations for outdoor inverters and inverter stations

770 kW to 4 MW

Power system with distributed generation

Products and systems for renewables



EMS: Energy Management System
HVDC: High-voltage Direct Current
GMS: Generation Management System
PLC: Programmable Logic Controller
HVAC: High-voltage Alternating Current
SCADA: Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition

What kind of functionality is needed in order to connect distributed generation to power grid?

Standards and Grid Codes

Renewables and distributed generation in power systems

Renewable energy sources and distributed generation is connected to the power system through power electronic converters

- Electrical characteristics of power electronic converter is completely different from the traditional (rotating) generators
  - Controlled current or voltage sources vs. synchronous machine with back emf
  - EMI and EMC
  - Operation during faults?
    - Fault current capacity
    - Disconnection?

→ Coordination is required = grid codes and standards

- Define rules and guidelines to required actions needed to design and connect power plants to the grid

The requirements are, in principle, similar both for distributed generation (i.e. power electronics based) and traditional power plants

- Distributed generation is required to participate maintaining the stability of the grid and to ”ride through” the faults

Renewables and distributed generation in power systems

Current status and the future

Increase in the amount of distributed generation in comparison to traditional generation brings new challenges

- Generation changes from rotating machines to power electronics based systems
  → new challenges, since the characteristics of the generators is different. E.g. inertia in power system is reduced
- Limited fault current capacity
  → protection issues
- Unpredictable energy production
  → energy storages, demand response

Control of distributed generation

[Edris Pouresmaeil: Control and Operation of Grid-Connected DC/AC Converter]

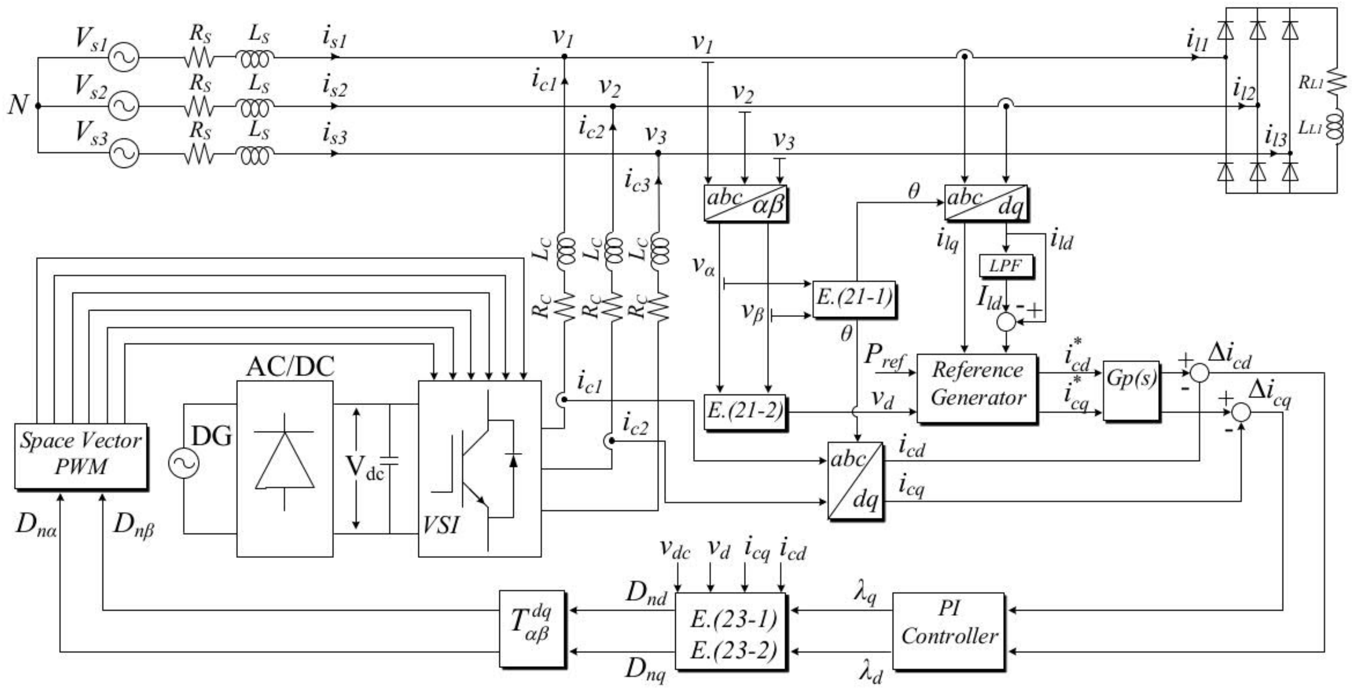
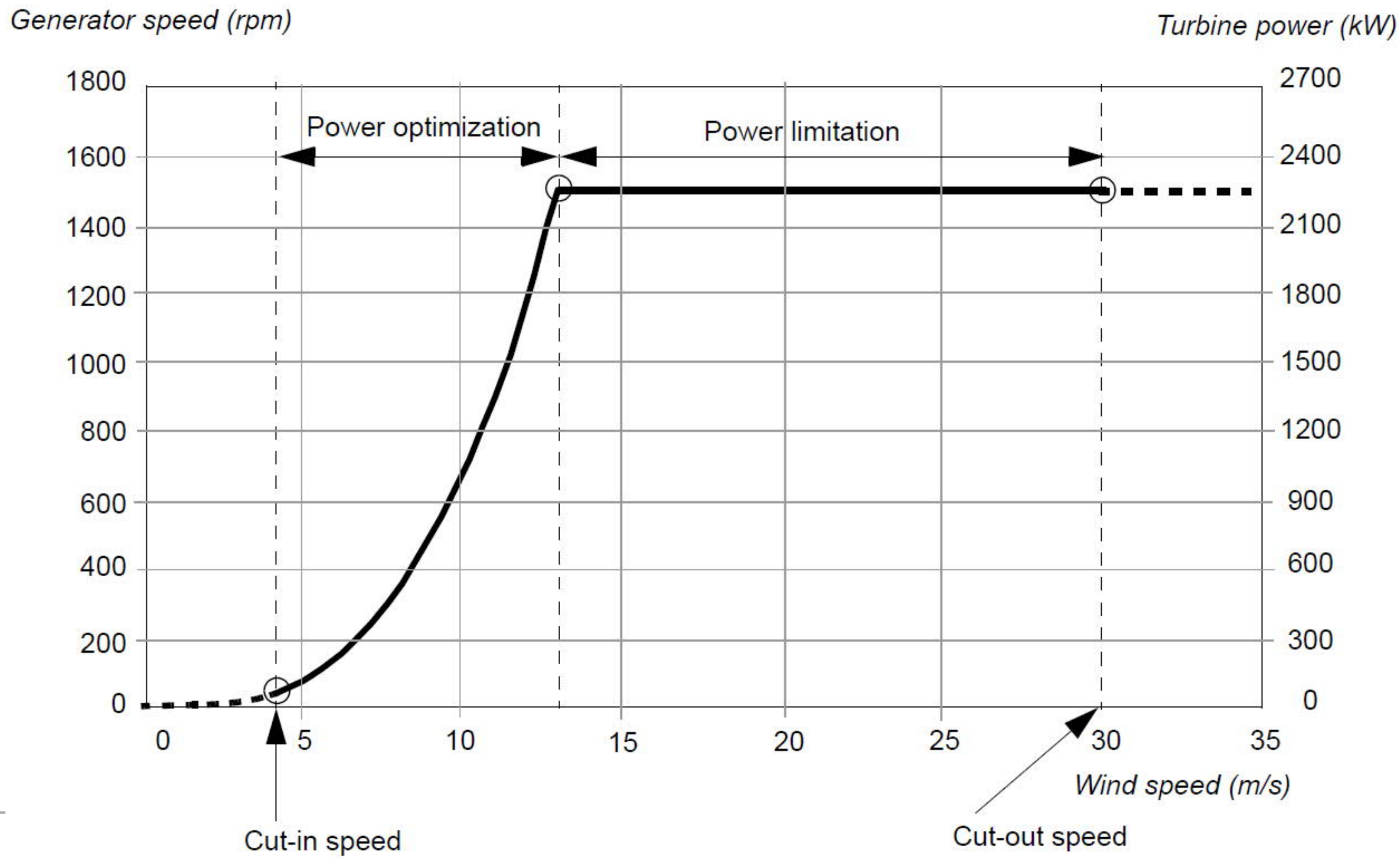
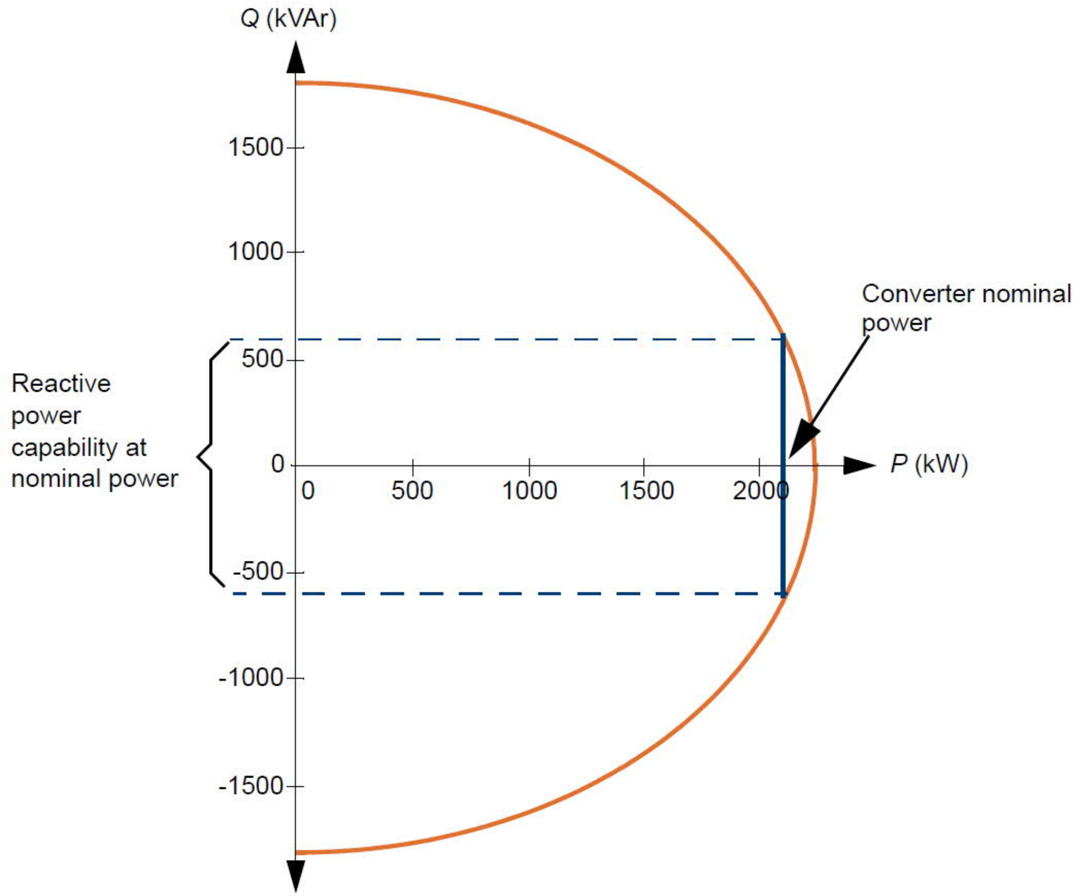


Fig. 4. 5. General schematic diagram of the proposed control strategy for DG system.

Typical wind turbine curve



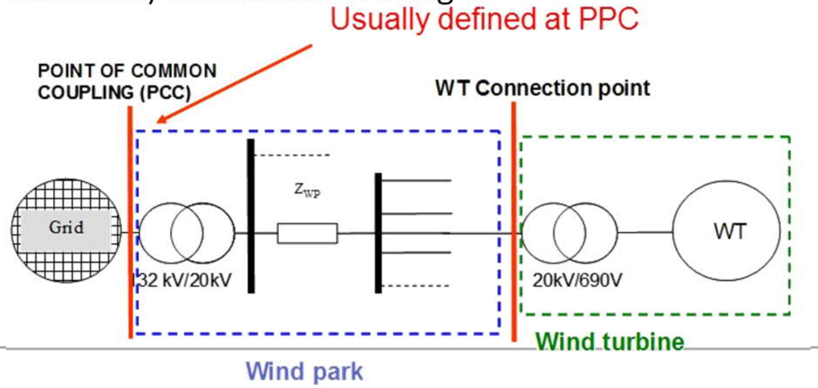
Grid converter operation area



Standards and grid codes

Standards

- Standards define rules for safety, design, installation, operation, and e.g. parameters related to power quality
- Fulfilling a certain standard maybe a requirement made by public authority
- Standards are specific to area (e.g. IEC in Europe, and IEEE in U.S.)
- Standard may consider a single equipment or a system (installation) connected to the grid



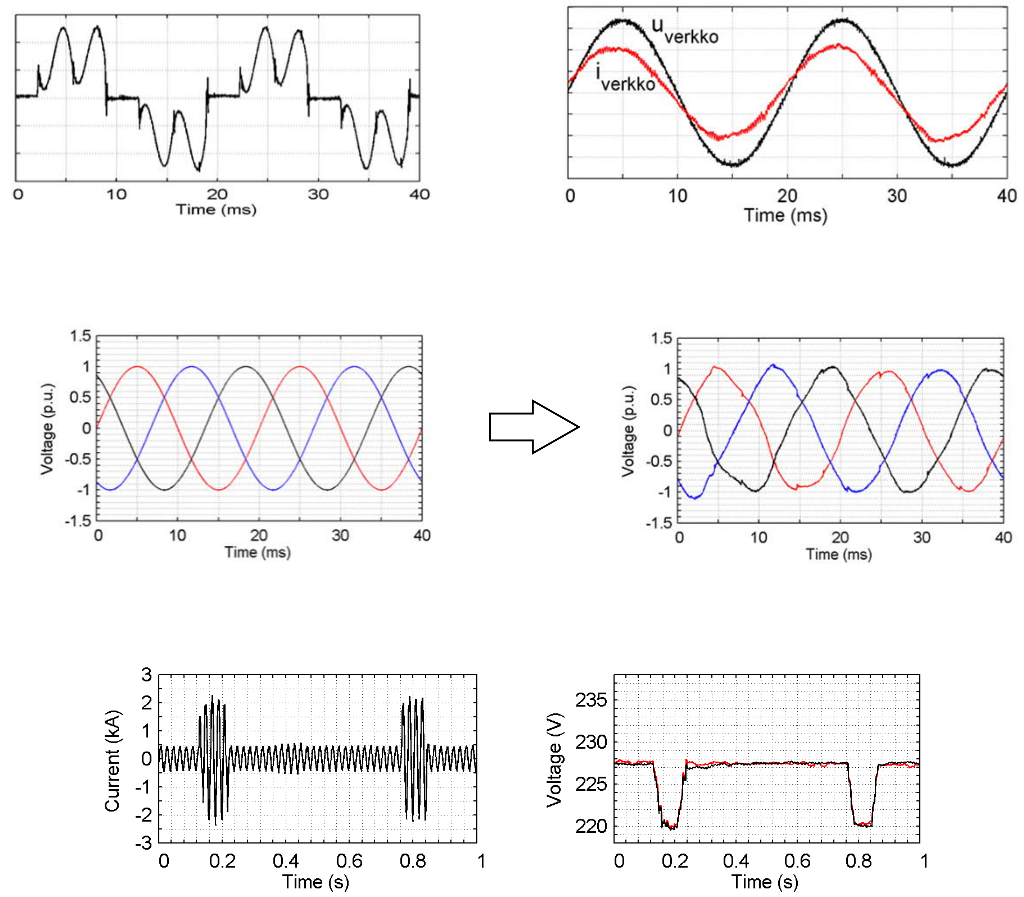
Grid codes

- Grid codes define technical minimum requirements for the power plants connected to the grid
- The content is grid (country/region) specific
- Define responsibilities and rights of energy producers, consumers and system operators
- Needed to secure safety, stability, efficiency and reliability
- Reflect the structure and status of the transmission system
  - e.g. grid structure, technology used, grid strength, properties of production and consumption
- Converter HW and SW – must be designed to match the grid code requirements even though individual component cannot comply with the code

Example of standards

Harmonic standards

- Harmonics
  - Voltage distortion due to grid impedance
  - Increased power losses
  - Resonance excitation
  - Flicker



Example of standards

Harmonic standards

- Harmonic contents defined as e.g.
  - IEC Standard 61400-21
  - IEEE519
  - Typically harmonic contents report is requested by customer (current/voltage) before ordering

Table 10-3—Current Distortion Limits for General Distribution Systems (120 V Through 69 000 V)

Maximum Harmonic Current Distortion in Percent of I_L						
Individual Harmonic Order (Odd Harmonics)						
I_{sc}/I_L	<11	$11 \le h < 17$	$17 \le h < 23$	$23 \le h < 35$	$35 \le h$	TDD
<20*	4.0	2.0	1.5	0.6	0.3	5.0
20<50	7.0	3.5	2.5	1.0	0.5	8.0
50<100	10.0	4.5	4.0	1.5	0.7	12.0
100<1000	12.0	5.5	5.0	2.0	1.0	15.0
>1000	15.0	7.0	6.0	2.5	1.4	20.0

Even harmonics are limited to 25% of the odd harmonic limits above.

Current distortions that result in a dc offset, e.g., half-wave converters, are not allowed.

* All power generation equipment is limited to these values of current distortion, regardless of actual I_{sc}/I_L.

where
I_{sc} = maximum short-circuit current at PCC.
I_L = maximum demand load current (fundamental frequency component) at PCC.

Grid codes

Main requirements in the grid codes concentrate on the following topics

- Operational limits for the frequency and voltage
- Control of power
- Control of reactive power
- Ac-voltage control
- Low voltages during faults
- Rapid voltage changes

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Grid code requirements (the most essential ones)

Operational limits for frequency

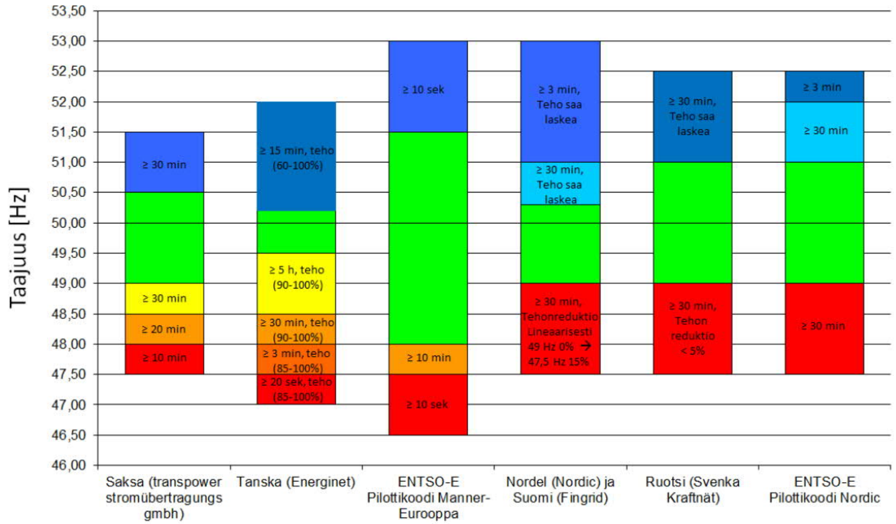
Frequency of the power system is a “global” (grid specific) quantity

Frequency reflects the balance between energy production and consumption

Over- and underfrequency e.g. increases thermal stresses in generator windings, reduces life time of insulation

The figure illustrates operational limits for the frequency

- Green color in the fig refers to the normal operation conditions
- Other colors define conditions with minimum operational time required



Kuva 4.1. Kantaverkkoyhtiöiden ja kantaverkkoyhteistyöjärjestöjen vaatimat taajuuden toiminta-alueet tuulivoimaloille. (TRANS 2009; Energinet 2010a; FIN 2009; SvK 2005; NORD 2007; ENTSO-E CODE)

[Vainikka J.-P. (2011) ”Hajautetun tuotannon verkkoonliittäminen – verkkokoodit ja käytännön toimet”, M.Sc thesis, LUT]

Grid code requirements (the most essential ones)

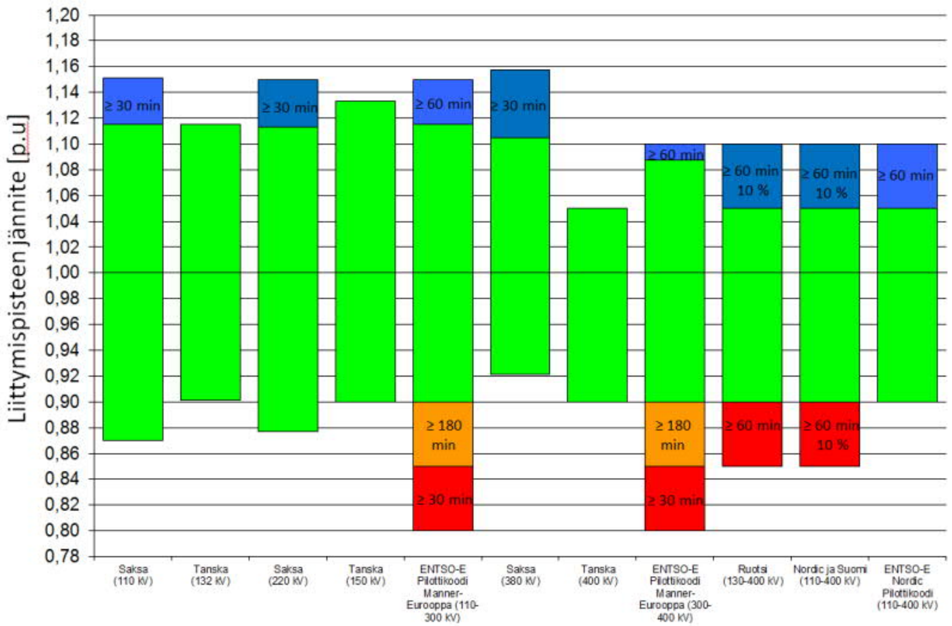
Operational limits for voltage

In comparison to the frequency, power system voltage can be controlled only locally through reactive power production /consumption

- Why we can control voltage through the reactive power?

Distributed generation is required to be able to operate within pre-determined voltage conditions

- Green color in the fig refers to the normal operation conditions
- Other colors define conditions with the minimum operational time required



Kuva 4.2. Kantaverkkoyhtiöiden ja kantaverkkoyhteistyöjärjestöjen vaatimat jännitteen toiminta-alueet siirtoverkkoon liitettäville tuulivoimaloille. (TRANS 2009; Energinet 2010a; FIN 2009; SvK 2005; NORD 2007; ENTSO-E CODE)

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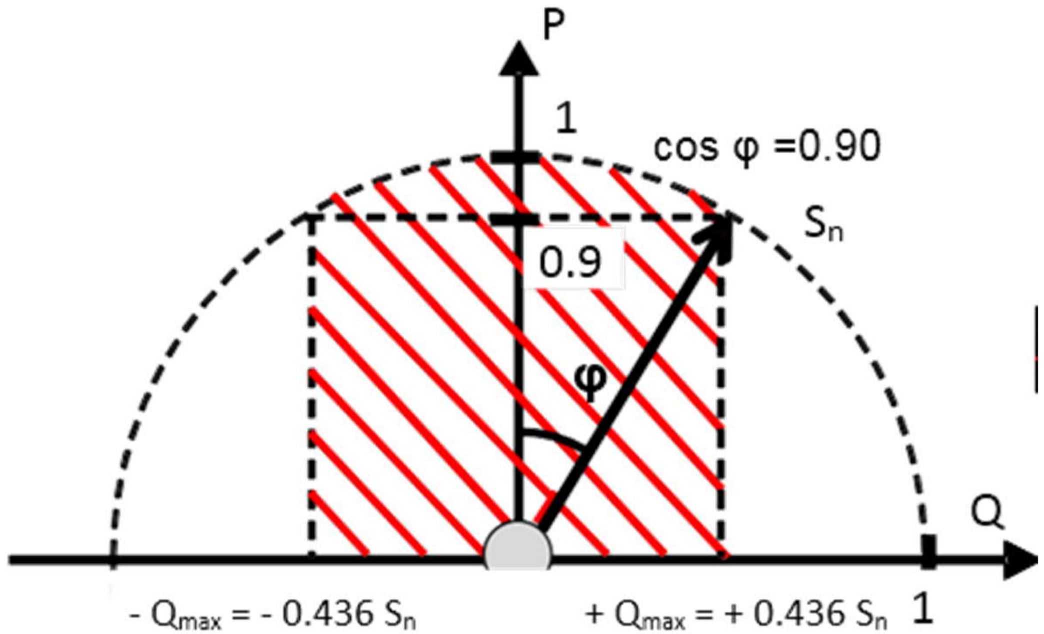
Grid code requirements (the most essential ones)

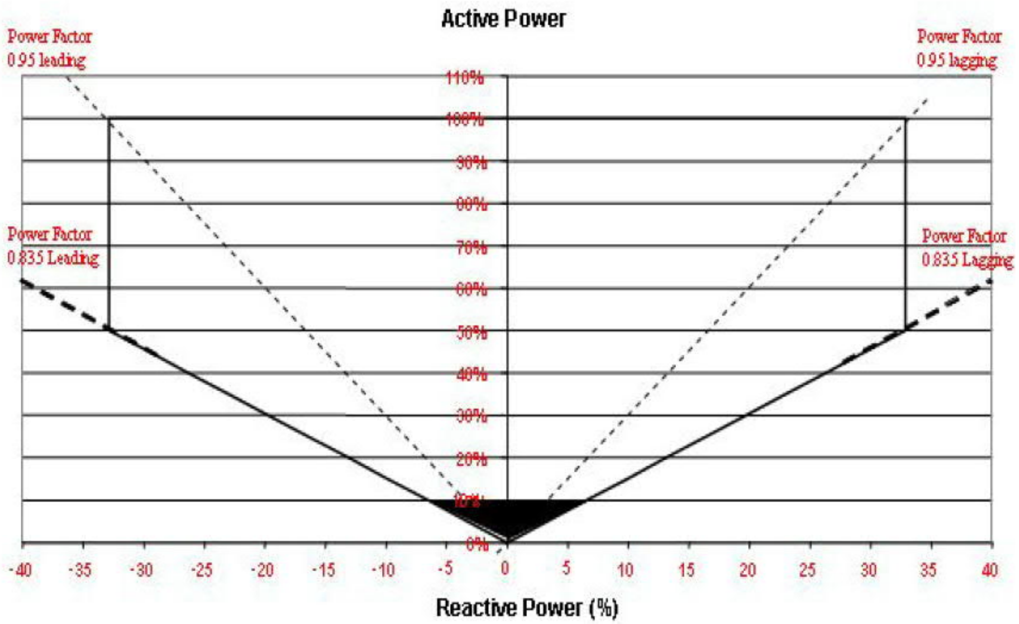
Reactive power production during normal operation

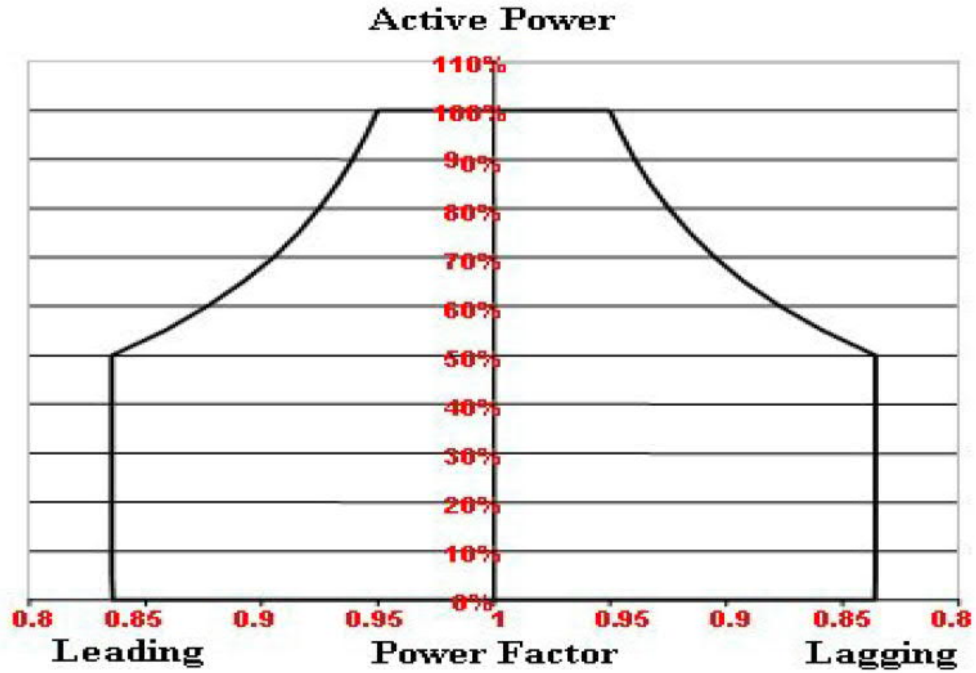
- Reactive power can be used to control the voltage in PCC
  - Reactive power production increases the voltage
  - Reactive power consumption dercreases the voltage
- Grid codes typically define power factor
- Typically PQ-curve requested by customer before ordering and performance tested during turbine test campaign



Grid code requirements (the most essential ones)

Reactive power production during normal operation: Example from Ireland grid code v.3.4 (2009)





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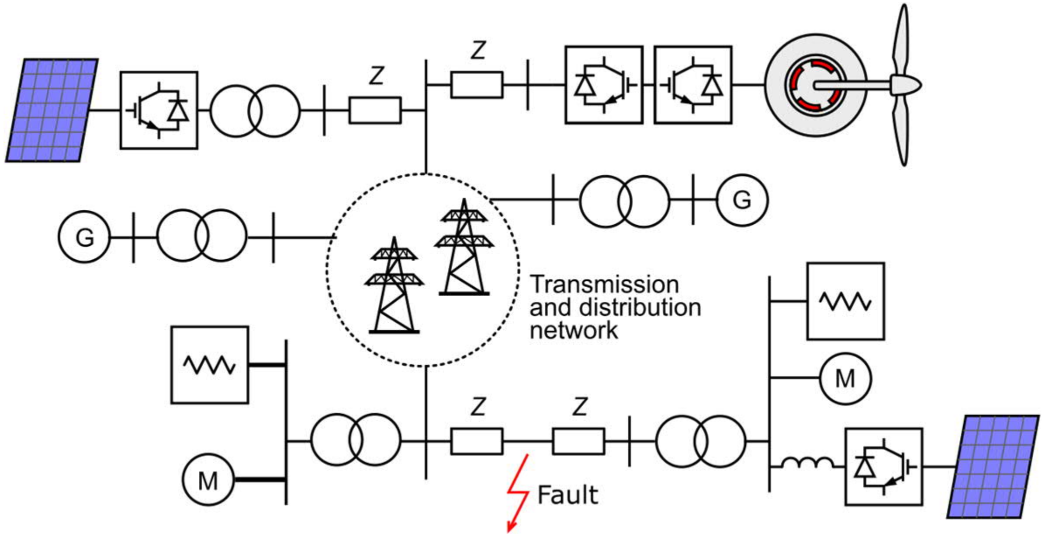
Grid code requirements (the most essential ones)

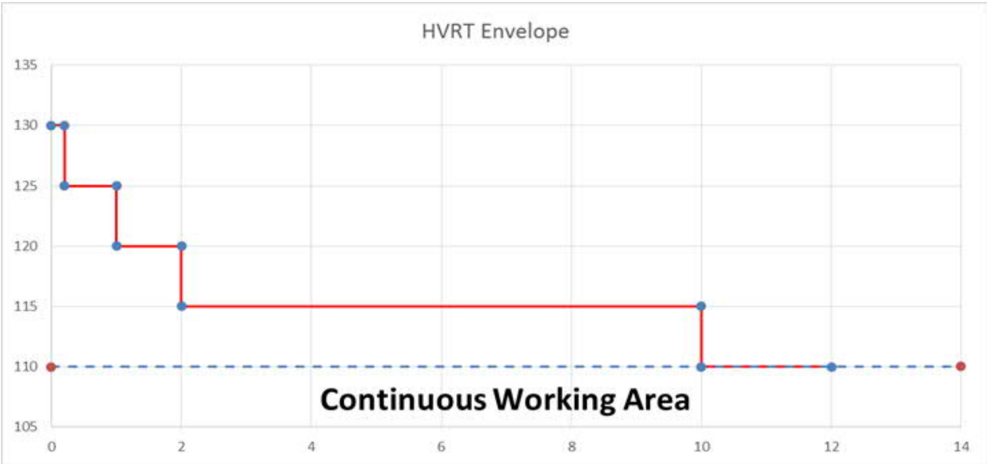
Fault ride through (FRT) – voltage dips and swells

- Temporary changes in voltage level
  - Typical duration 10 ms – 1 min
- Voltage dip: remaining voltage 1 – 90 % nominal voltage
  - Typical depth 10 – 15 %
  - Sources
    - Short-circuit faults in grid (e.g. line-to-line faults, line-to-ground faults)
    - Starting of large (induction) motors
- Voltage swell
  - Sources
    - Lightning strokes
    - Switching operations
    - Sudden load reduction
    - Single-phase short-circuits
    - Non-linearities

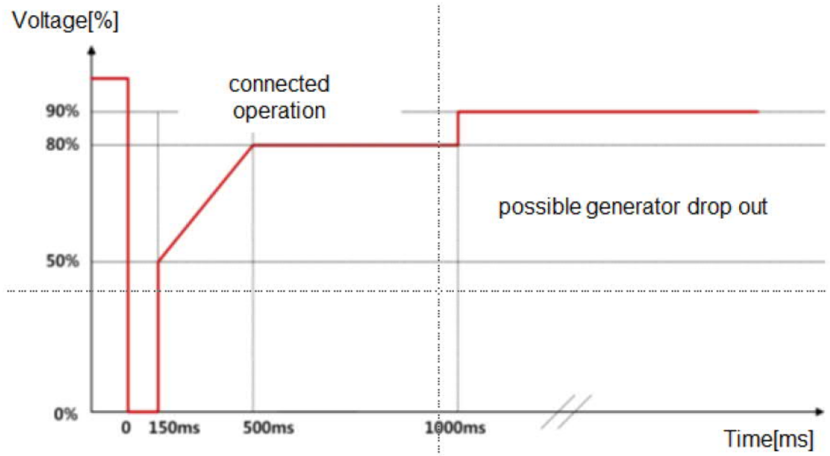


Grid code requirements (the most essential ones)

- Voltage dip (LVRT – low voltage ride through) and voltage swell (HVRT – high voltage ride through) envelopes
  - Define limits within which the converter needs to stay connected
  - Typically tested during turbine FRT (fault ride through) test campaign



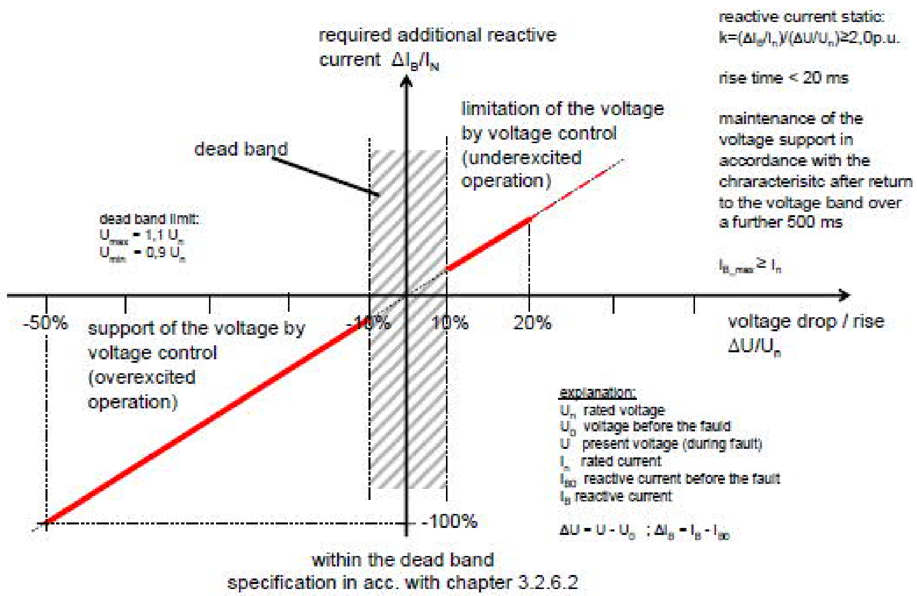
An example of the HVRT envelope



An example of the LVRT envelope

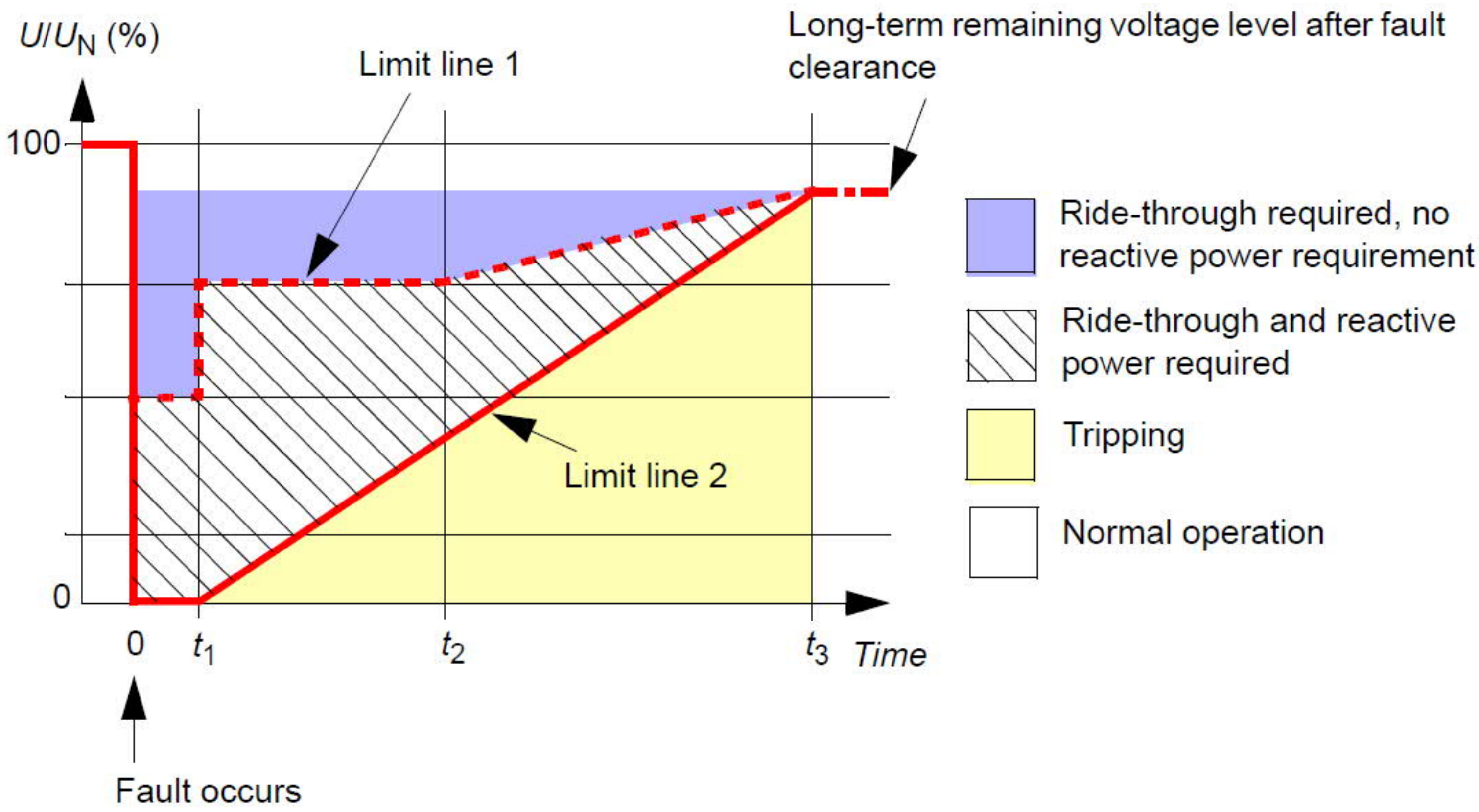
Grid code requirements (most essential ones)

- Essential to support the grid during dips
  - If the power plant disconnects from the grid during dips, the dips may be larger and even grid stability may be affected
- Reactive / active power production during fault ride through (FRT)
  - Typically tested during turbine FRT test campaign

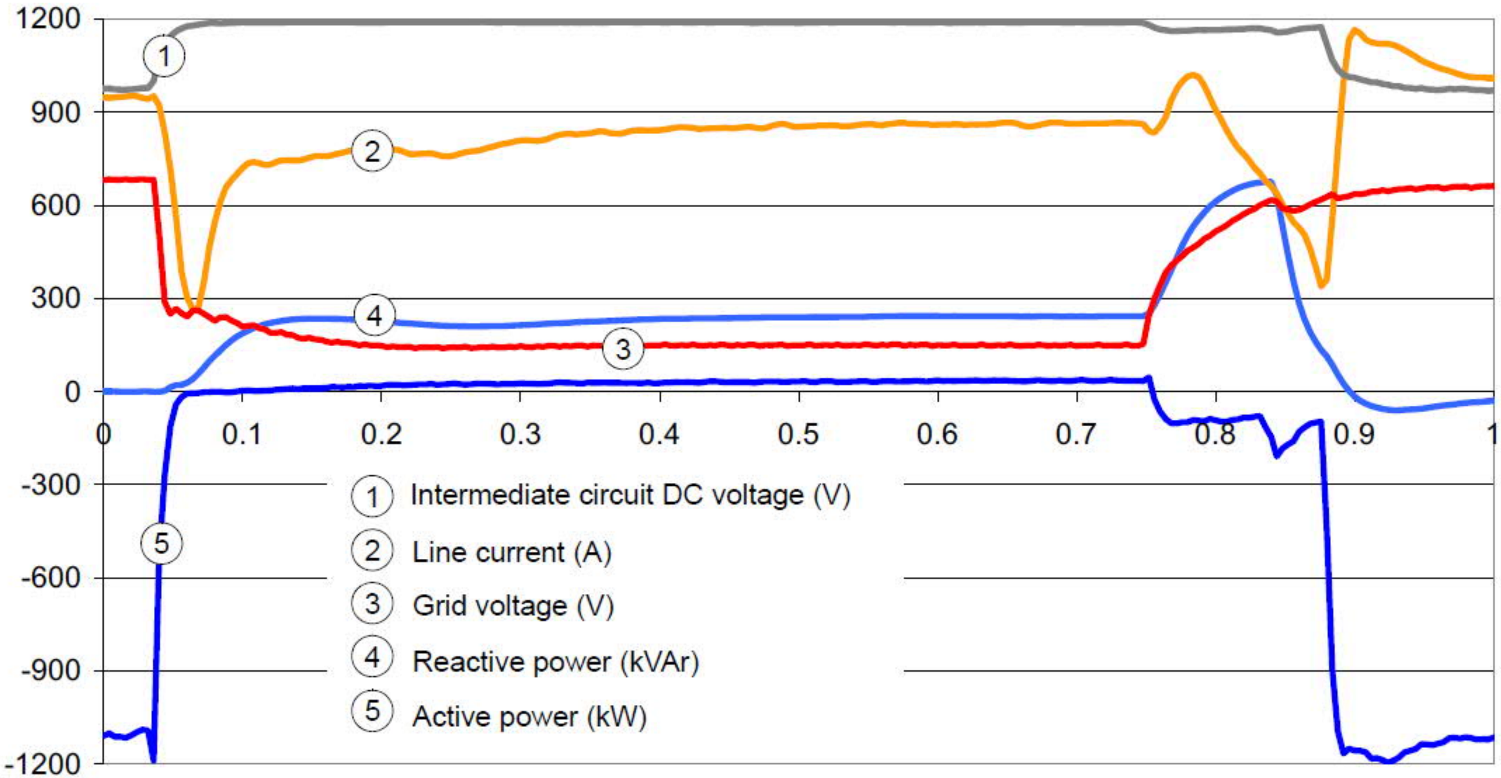


An example of power production during FRT

Grid codes – Fault Ride-Through



Fault Ride-Through – Grid side values



Generator side values depend on the turbine system and converter options (U_{DC} overvoltage control or brake chopper)

Simulations

Simulations

In renewables business different operators have different needs to simulations

– Converter manufacturer, turbine manufacturer, park investor, transmission system operator (TSO)

Converter manufacturer

- FW development and verifications
  - Converter behaviour can be verified in cases that cannot be (easily) captured in automated tests or before doing testing with the actual converter
    - PQ testing
    - FRT testing (voltage dips, swells and sequences of the two)
    - Weak grid operation
    - Grid resonances
    - Switching events (e.g. compensators, auto-reclosure)

Customer needs

System level simulations (transmission system owner, park investor)

- Grid faults and disturbances simulations
- Grid code compliance studies
- Stability studies
- Wind park grid integration studies, eg. SSCI (sub synchronous control interactions)

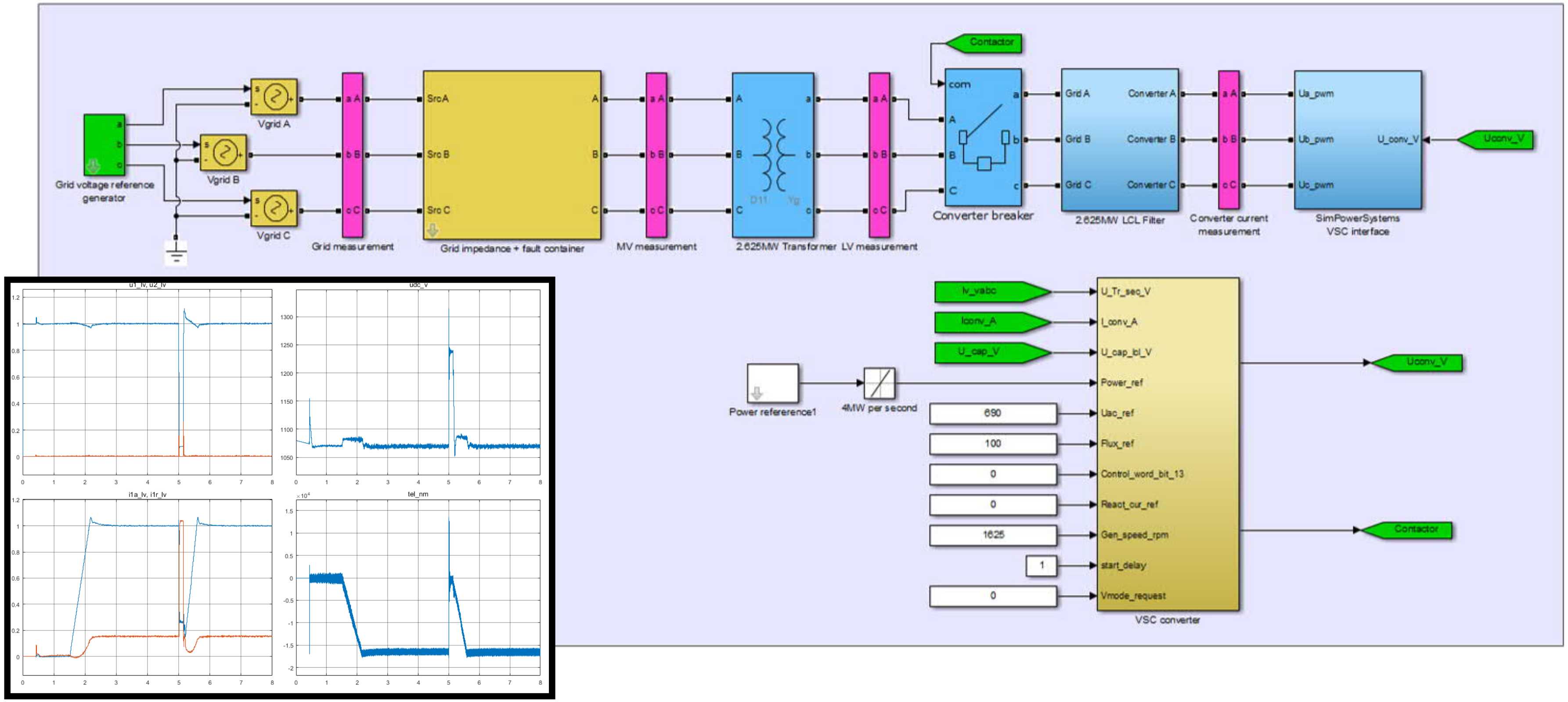
Turbine manufacturer

- Wind turbine manufacturers incorporate the converter model into their turbine simulation model and use it for their own studies
- Drive train stress studies
- Field problem solving
- Verification of FW-specification phase: Turbine OEM verifies that converter FW fulfils the functional specification

Examples of model use cases

Simulations for R&D

Actual control FW, configurable grid with transformers, cables, other converters etc.



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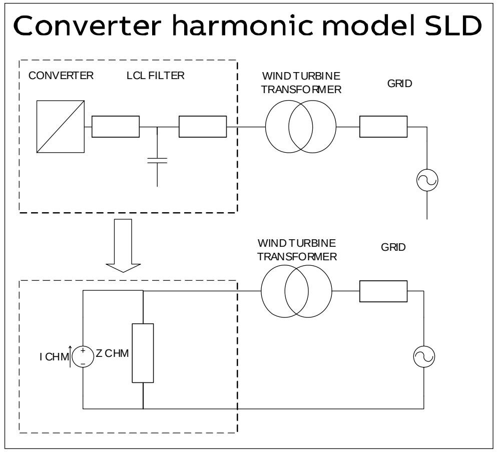
Harmonic model of the converter

Harmonic model used in wind farm design and dimensioning

Particularly critical for offshore

Norton equivalent impedance and harmonic current injection

Simulation platform independent



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