

Approaches to investigate complex grid scenarios by means of novel PHIL methods'

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- Intro
- Topologies of LV Grids
- Interfacing Algorithms for PHIL
- Complex Real-Time System Approach
- Conclusions Outlook



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Introduction

This work is a motivated by real problems arising from industry projects and on-going cooperation with PV inverter manufacturer as well as distribution network operators (DNOs) on a national and international level.

Target: Determination / enactment to integrate more renewable energy strategies from a technological, economical and not least political point of view.

Various scenarios are of interest and underlie certain applicable safety and quality standards, respectively (LV, MV).

- Safety standards: DIN VDE V 0124-100 (LV), FGW TR3 Rev. 23 (MV)
- Quality standards: VDE-AR-N4105:2011-08 (LV), FGW TR3 Rev. 22 (MV)

Profound knowledge and actual discussions in optimization or prototyping projects of PV inverters referred to state-of-the-art problems are adducted for an expanding range of application of possible PHIL tests .



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Topologies of LV Grids





The implementation of PHIL tests environment enforces the use of a dedicated power amplifation units (PA).

- Inherent 'closed-loop originality' of PHIL simulation characterised by:
 - Time delay introduced by real-time system (RTS)
 - Dynamic behaviour of the PA
 - Choice of interface algorithm (IA)
 - Measurement equipment used (I/O, transducers)
- Consequences:
 - Stability considerations (Nyquist criterion)
 - Choice of IA (accuracy, stability, ...)
 - Choice of PA (availability, use case, costs, ...)
- Power Interfaces (PIs) have to chosen according to the application in PHIL



Topologies of LV Grids





Low voltage grid topology translated into PHIL simulation system:

- MIMO ITM PIs (ITM)
 - 3-ph grid simulation
- Grid impedances (Node a/b)
 - Neutral impedances in hardware (air coils and resistances)
 - Line impedances in PHIL (VROPS)
- PV inverters

- Single phase units (4kW, 230V/50Hz)
- PQ control method implemented: Q(U)
- Sourced by PV array simulators (PVAS3) in hardware



Modelling of Components

Modelling different filter designs:

Signal Filters:

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- Used for feedback current/voltage filtering
- By default in the system control loop
- Examples: typically LP and BP filters
- AC Grid Filters:
 - Different Topologies used (standard literature)
 - By default connected to PHIL simulation
 - Examples: typ. Pi- or T section filters implemented
- Power Output Filters:
 - Output filter of the bridge (depending on topology)
 - Get activated during simulation (relais)
 - Examples: typ. LC or LCL filters



 \rightarrow see Viehweider A, Lauss G, Lehfuss F. System Theoretic Aspects of Stability Determination on Linear Power Hardware-in-the-Loop Simulations. Elsevier IJEPES-S-10-00636.







Modelling of Components

Modelling of the different PQ control methods of PV inverters:

- Fixed power factor (absolute, relative set-value)
- Cosφ(P) control
- Cosφ(U) control
- Q(U), Q(P)
- Dynamic control (free programmable)

PQ control parameter for the Q(U)method implemented:

- Averaging time (grid cycles): [1; 64]
- Reactive gradient (ΔQ / Δt) [5; 200]



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PQ Control Results









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Interfacing Algorithms for PHIL



SISO interface algorithms -Voltage & Current (DIA) Type

- ITM ... current controlled voltage source (driven by the measured current at HuT)
- PCD ... characterized by considering an impedance that exists on the software as well as on the hardware side of the simulation
- DIM ... insertion of an additional impedance on the software side only (damping impedance)



MIMO interface algorithms -Voltage & Current Type

- ITM → robust method, easy to implement (reduced accuracy)
- PCD → additional hardware necessary
- DIM → equal damping impedance on soft- and hardware side; not realistic assumption



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UseCase – Controller in LV Grids

Open Loop controller testing

Delay / packet losses (stochastic)

Grid data, measured load and generators profiles













SIMTECH laboratory - concept

The new AIT SimTech Laboratory offers an excellent environment for testing, verification and R&D in the field of large scale DG/RES integration, and Smart Grids applications.

- DR component and systems testing with highly flexible grid and primary energy source (e.g. PV) emulation
- Electrical interconnection, functionality and performance testing according to standards
- Simultaneous testing of power and communication interfaces of DR components
- Power-Hardware-in-the-loop (PHIL) environment
- Simulation and testing of single components and whole generation systems / plants
- Emulating smart grids scenarios

AIT SimTech Laboratory (to be inaugurated end 2012)





SIMTECH laboratory – electrical

- Grid simulation
 - 2 independent high bandwidth Grid Simulation Units: 0..480 V ; 3~, 800 kVA
 - 3 independent laboratory grids, which can be operated in grounded/isolated mode
 - 3-phase balanced or unbalanced operation
 - Capabilities to perform LVRT and FRT testing
- DC Sources
 - 5 independent dynamic PV-Array Simulators: 1500 V, 1500 A, 960 kVA
- Line impedance emulation
 - Adjustable line impedances for various LV network topologies: meshed, radial or ring network configuration
- 23.03.2012

- Adjustable loads for active and reactive power
 - Freely adjustable RLC loads up to 1MW, 1MVAr (cap. and ind.)
 - component laboratory with highly flexible grid and primary energy source (e.g. PV) emulation (LV up to 800 kVA)
 - Parallel & serial components



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SIMTECH laboratory – mechanical

- Environmental simulation
 - Test chamber for performance and accelerated lifetime testing
 - Full power operation of equipment under test inside chamber
 - Max. footprint of equipment under test: 3,60 x 2,60 x 2,80 m LxWxH
 - Temperature range -40° C..+120° C
 - Humidity range: 10%..98 % r.H.
- General Specification
 - Floor space: 400 m²
 - Indoor and Outdoor test areas suitable for ISO containers

- Power Hardware-in-the-loop (PHIL) environment
 - Multicore Opal-RT Real-Time Simulator
 - P-HIL and C-HIL experiments at full power in a closed control loop
- DAQ and Measurement
 - Multiple high precision Power Analyzers with high acquisition rate
 - Simultaneous sampling of asynchronous multi-domain data input





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Conclusions

- Different components in single and three phase lv grids are under investigation; focus is on stability issues for active / reactive power control issues
- Nowadays, not all LV topologies can be run/translated into PHIL simulation setup; complexity of MIMO systems are challenging (stability).
- In Future, more complex lv grid scenarios should be able to be modeled and run in PHIL simulation (MIMO, advanded IA)



Outlook:

- More detailled investigations on PHIL test components (modeling) will be done in order to optimize simulation characteristics (stability, accuracy, BW, ...)
- Comparison with real tests (lab, field) will give a better understanding and represents a verification.



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Thank you very much for your attention!



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