

**Voltage Flicker Mitigation of Wind Farm Using a STATCOM**

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**Abstract**—this paper investigates the use of static synchronous compensator (STATCOM) to mitigate the voltage flickers or voltage fluctuations of wind farm equipped with wind turbine driving squirrel cage induction generators. 60MW wind turbine generator system is connected to grid through step up transformer and transmission line. Conventional PI control scheme is adopted for controlling of STATCOM. The MATLAB based simulation result shows that STATCOM significantly reduces the voltage flickers caused by wind speed variation and enhance the power quality of the system.

**Index Terms**-- static synchronous compensator (STATCOM); wind farm; induction generator; voltage control; system stability.

**I. INTRODUCTION**

Wind energy is indirect form of solar energy. Wind is generated due to unequal heating of earth surface and water, thus wind is geographically and climatically uncontrollable source of green energy. These days due to technology advancement and cost reduction, wind energy has become the fastest growing renewable source of energy [1].

Wind turbine produces active power with significant fluctuations due to wind speed variation [3]. The electrical power output of wind turbine is directly proportional to cube of the wind speed. Thus small change in wind speed causes the major disturbance in the power output of wind farm. These power fluctuation causes voltage flickers or voltage fluctuations. Because of power quality requirement from the utilities these voltage flickers must be mitigated as soon as possible. If voltage flickers increases beyond the prescribe limit, the wind farm is disconnected from the grid.

Voltage flicker mitigation can be achieved by using dynamic reactive compensation. The most commonly used dynamic reactive compensators are STATCOM and static Var compensator (SVC) [3]. The STATCOM has several advantages over SVC. STATCOM has faster response time (1-2 cycles) and superior voltage support capability. STATCOM provides system voltage support by supplying or absorbing active power into system [6].

In this paper, we studies the use of static synchronous compensator (STATCOM) in wind farm enhancing voltage regulation, reactive power control and voltage flicker mitigation. PI control scheme is used for controlling purpose of STATCOM. The simulation results are carried out in MATLAB to examine the performance of wind farm, with and without use of STATCOM.

**II. SYSTEM DESCRIPTION**

Single line diagram of wind farm system is shown in fig.1. A 60 MW wind farm is connected to grid through step up transformer and transmission network of 200 Km. To reduce the voltage fluctuation and improve the power factor of overall system compensating capacitor is connected near the wind farm at 11 KV bus, it provides 23 MVar reactive power to the system. However because of slow response time of these devices, do not satisfactorily address the dynamic issues of wind farm. A 30 MVar STATCOM is used as a dynamic reactive compensator and it is connected at 132 KV bus.

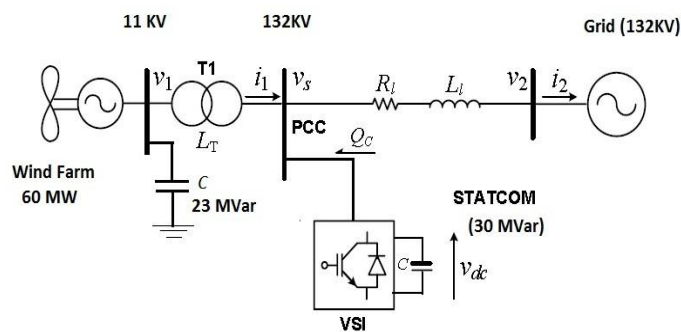


Figure 1. Single line diagram of wind farm energy system connected to grid

The parameters of system components are as follows. Lumped SCIG: rated power = 60 MW, rated stator voltage = 11KV, stator resistance = 0.0108pu, rotor resistance = 0.01214 pu, stator leakage inductance = 0.107 pu, rotor leakage

inductance = 0.1407 pu, mutual inductance = 4.4 pu, lumped inertia constant 3s; Transformer T1: turns ratio = 11/132 KV, equivalent leakage inductance = 0.025 pu; STATCOM: DC link capacitor = 300μF, DC link voltage = 40 KV.

### III. WIND FARM MODELING

Wind farm consists of number of wind turbine, SCIG set grouped together at a location to produce the electricity. In wind turbine energy generation system squirrel cage induction generator driven by a wind turbine through a mechanical shaft system and operate at a certain wind speed. Gear box connects the low speed wind turbine shaft to the high speed IG shaft

The mechanical power produced by a wind turbine is given by

$$P_w = \frac{1}{2} \rho A_r V_w^3 C_p(\lambda, \beta) \quad (1)$$

Where  $\rho$  is the air density in  $kg/m^3$ ,  $A_r$  is the blade impact area in  $m^2$ ,  $V_w$  is the wind velocity in m/s and  $C_p$  is the power coefficient of the employed wind turbine [9].

From eq. 1 the relation between power output and wind speed can be easily understood.

### IV. STATCOM MODELLING

The STATCOM consists of a VSC and a storage capacitor connected in shunt to a system bus through coupling transformer. The six pulse PWM IGBT VSC model is shown in fig. 2. The purpose of STATCOM in system to get fast and smooth voltage control, this is why IGBT based VSC is used in STATCOM model [3]. The inductance connected in all three branches to eliminate the high frequency harmonics in VSC AC side current.

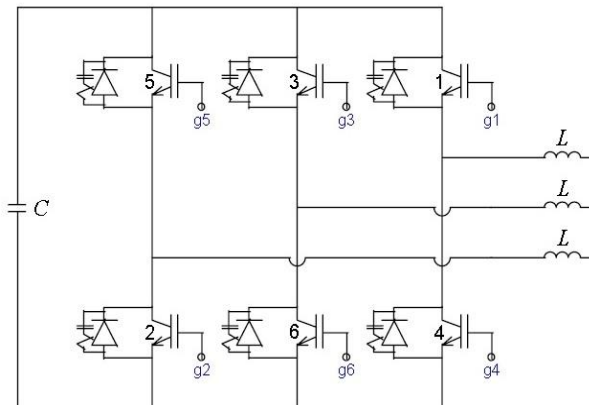


Figure 2. Six pulse PWM IGBT VSC model

The basic equivalent circuit of STATCOM is shown in fig. 3. Where  $V_c$  is VSC output voltage and  $V$  is rms value of AC system bus. If  $V$  and  $V_c$  equal in magnitude and phase no reactive power exchange take place between STATCOM and line. Due to the disturbances, if magnitude of  $V$  become lower than  $V_c$ , reactive power is supplied by STATCOM to line, until unless it reaches to its normal value. The amount of reactive power supplied is given by -

$$Q_c = \frac{V(V_c - V)}{X_T} \quad (2)$$

If the magnitude of  $V$  become higher than  $V_c$ , reactive power is absorbed by STATCOM from the line. Thus STATCOM provide better reactive power control to the system connected.

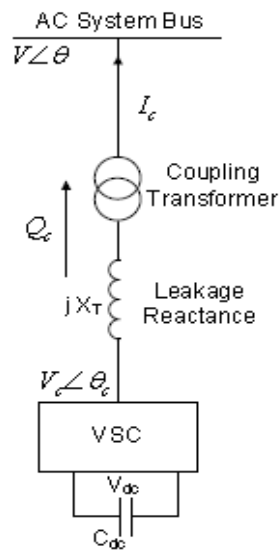


Figure 3 Basic circuit of STATCOM

### V. SIMULATION RESULTS

Fig. 4 shows the wind speed variation with time. Wind speed is varied range from 5-13 m/s with average value of 10 m/s. Wind speed variations applied for 12 seconds. When these wind speed variations are subjected to wind turbine, it causes power fluctuations. These power fluctuation results voltage flickers which are clearly shown in fig 5.

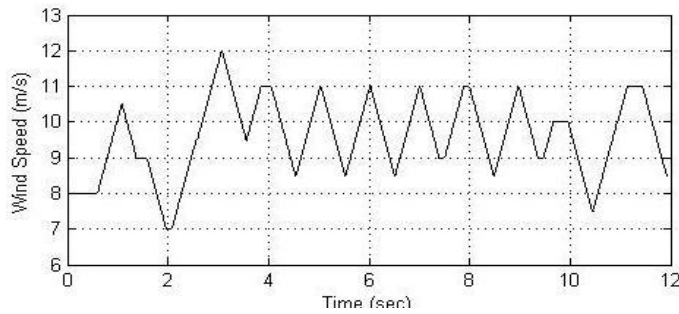


Figure 4. Wind speed variations for 12 sec

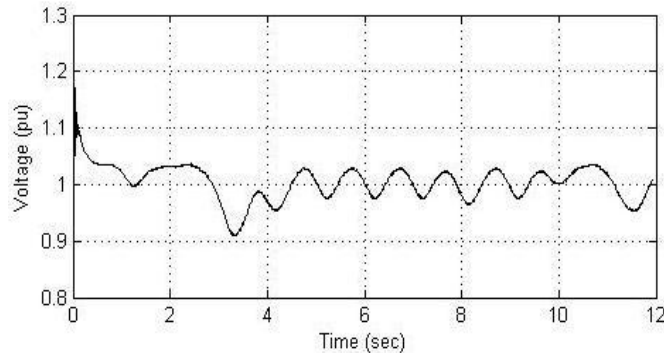


Figure 5. Voltage fluctuations due to wind speed variation (without STATCOM)

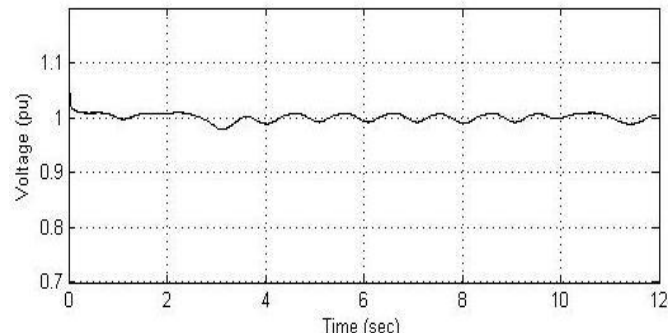


Figure 6. Voltage profile with STATCOM

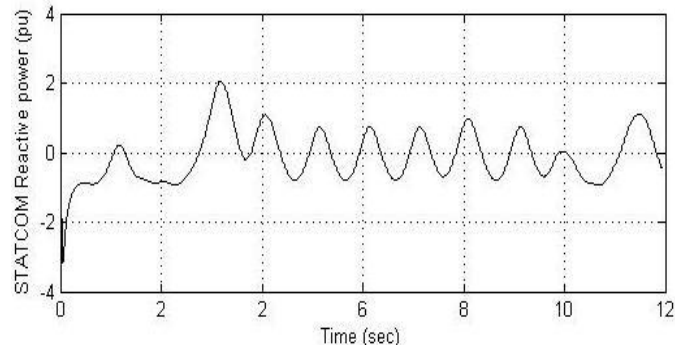


Figure 7. Reactive power supplied by STATCOM

Fig. 5 shows the voltage magnitude wave form (with respect to time) without using any dynamic reactive compensator (STATCOM). It is clearly visible that voltage fluctuations are significantly high. The magnitude voltage varies from 91 % to 103 % of its base value (ie. 1 pu). These voltage fluctuations do not obey the power quality requirement from utilities. These fluctuations may have adverse effect on weak power system network connected.

Voltage fluctuations are significantly reduced with the application of STATCOM in the system, which can be clearly seen from fig. 6. The voltage fluctuations are mitigated to range of value 0.99-1.005 pu (ie. -1 % to +0.5 %). Thus the overall power quality of the system has improved. STATCOM supply or absorb the reactive power, according to system requirement. If voltage goes below base value, STATCOM supplying reactive power and vice versa, it could be clearly seen from fig. 7.

## VII. CONCLUSIONS

Wind is climatically and geographically uncontrollable source of renewable energy. Wind speed variation causes voltage flickers or voltage fluctuations. These voltage fluctuations could not be taken care by using fixed capacitive compensation, alone. To rectify these power quality issues dynamic reactive compensators (STATCOM) are used. STATCOM has very fast time response characteristics, due to which, voltage fluctuations mitigation can be achieved effectively. The reactive power supplied by STATCOM varies with the voltage fluctuation level. Thus it can say that, wind farm power quality can be enhanced by using STATCOM.

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#### VII BIOGRAPHIES



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