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# Analysis of Voltage and Frequency Stability of Electric Power System Network with Photovoltaic-Based Generation Penetration

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Abstract — The operation of Distributed Generation (DG) with renewable energy sources integrated with distribution networks through microgrids poses challenges in terms of operation and control. If this is left unchecked, it can have a negative impact on system security and reliability in terms of voltage and frequency stability that will be disrupted because of frequent variations in power production and loading levels. This study investigates voltage and frequency stability in microgrids because of the penetration of DG with photovoltaic (PV) renewable energy sources in the power system using the Virtual Synchronous Generator (VSG) control technique. The VSG is a control alteration that enhances the capabilities of the power system so that voltage and frequency stability can be preserved and improved. The VSG control method with additional damping controllers that increase inertia with additional virtual inertia is used to simulate the speed of restoration of voltage and frequency stability of the power system due to the penetration of PV-based power plants. The simulation results show that at the time of penetration of PV-based power plants in the power system, there is a momentary instability in voltage and frequency, but it is immediately damped by VSG control and can be quickly restored so that the stability of voltage and frequency is maintained.

Keywords – Distributed Generator, Renewable Energy, Voltage Stability, Frequency Stability, Virtual Synchronous Generator Control

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## I. INTRODUCTION

4 The demand for electrical energy is increasing quickly in accordance with growth in the economy. In the development of electric power systems, electric energy service providers are required to be able to supply electrical energy on demand with good quality. Because conventional energy resource reserves, especially fossil fuel, are rapidly diminishing, power generation utilizing renewable energy resources has become one of the most exciting issues to research in recent years. Furthermore, traditional fossil fuels emit a high level of pollution and contribute to an increase in the Glasshouse effect. Renewable energy sources include wind, solar, and clean water-based power

generating sources, on the other hand, are pollution-free. These problems lead to a new trend of electrical energy generation at the distribution level using non-conventional/renewable energy generation such as wind power, solar cells, fuel cells, mini-hydro and others. Therefore, fuels with renewable energy-based energy sources can replace conventional fossil fuels for power generation such as oil, coal, and natural gas [1].

Clean and fast-growing renewable energy sources have considerable availability to utilize and are not costly. However, the uncertain nature of renewable energy sources poses challenges in terms of operation and control when integrated with existing grids. If left

uncontrolled, this can have a negative impact on the security and reliability of the system [2], [3], [4], [5], [6], [7].

The usage of Distributed Generation (DG) can improve overall system efficiency, minimize transmission losses, decrease pollution, and assure the continued operation of electrical energy distribution. However, the drastic increase in the use of DG creates problems in the form of voltage and frequency stability that will be disturbed due to rapid changes in generation and loading levels [8], [9]. In the case of an imbalanced condition, a proper control approach can recover the stability of the system. In operation, DG is linked to the distribution network via a microgrid.

In the research conducted on reference [8], [10] the control scheme for microgrid based on droop control is discussed. However, in contrast to Synchronous Generators (SGs), droop control based DGs still lack inertia, which is adversely affecting the frequency dynamics. To overcome the lack of inertia, a control technique that effectively generates virtual inertia and damping through an electronic inverter is developed. The development of electronic inverters based on special control techniques is called Virtual Synchronous Generator (VSG) [9], [11], [12], [13], [14], [15], [16], [17], [18].

In this study, to control the stability of voltage and frequency in the event of penetration of power plants with PV sources in the power system network, the Virtual Synchronous Generator (VSG) control technique is used with an additional damping controller so as to increase inertia with additional virtual inertia. The VSG control approach is used in simulations to assess the recovery rate of voltage and frequency stability of the power system according to the penetration of PV-based power plants.

## II. RESEARCH METHOD

### II.1. Distributed Generation

The term "distributed generation" (DG) refers to a small-scale power-producing technology that is positioned near load centers. The DG energy sources could be classified as renewable (wind, solar, hydro, biomass) or non-renewable (diesel, steam, fuel cell). Because of its distributed location, DG can be connected with the distribution system to meet the load demand. The advantages of DG technology include improving the voltage profile and efficiency of electric power distribution. However, the addition of DG can also have a negative impact on frequency and voltage due to rapid changes in generation levels when disturbances occur [8].

### II.2. Microgrid

Microgrid is a unified control consisting of several DGs and interconnected loads. Microgrids can operate through two modes of operation, namely grid-connected and disconnected from the main grid, which namely islanding [8], [19]. The goal of

microgrids is to deliver electric power sustainably, economically, and safely with intelligent monitoring, control, and recovery technologies [20].

Microgrids integrate with power systems and information systems, having the capability of delivering electrical power back to the larger network during failures in the grid or power outages. Microgrid networks are more sensitive due to the lack of inertia, so when load changes occur, frequency deviations can result, which can degrade the stability of the microgrid [21].

### II.3. Virtual Synchronous Generator

DG based on renewable energy sources connected to the main power system through electronic inverters [22]. In comparison to normal synchronous generation, the electronic inverter responds quickly, and the control is quite flexible. In the case of a disturbance, synchronous generators offer the required inertia and damping for stabilizing the power system. Electronic inverters, on the other hand, lack inertia and damping properties. The absence of inertia and damping in electronic inverters causes severe stability problems when a fault or disturbance occurs [11], [16].

Addressing the disadvantage of these electronic inverters [23], a special control technique was developed that effectively generates virtual inertia and damping through an electronic inverter. Virtual Synchronous Generator (VSG) is an electronic inverter that uses a specific control technique. VSG was designed to duplicate the dynamic behaviors of a synchronous generator. VSG functions, however, have restrictions, such as fluctuations in active and reactive power regulation and rapid frequency variations. VSGs are more adaptable and simpler to operate than synchronous generators. VSG characteristics can be modified in real-time, providing great flexibility when compared to synchronous generators.

VSGs are designed to integrate and enhance the stability of power systems based on renewable energy sources. A simple VSG, however, cannot ensure the stability of renewable energy source-based electric power systems. Hence, various modifications and refinements are made in VSG control to improve the stability of the system [13].

### II.4. Structure of the VSG

Figure 1 depicts the DG's block diagram, which includes the VSG structure. In Figure 2 the simple structure of a VSG can be seen.

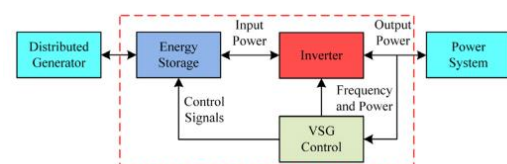


Figure 1. Distributed Generator's Block Diagram

including VSG structure

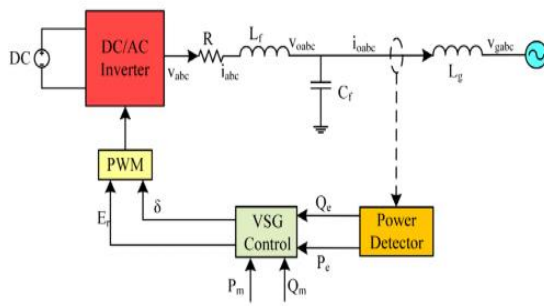


Figure 2. Simple structure of the VSG

VSG consists of DG unit, energy storage, DC/AC converter, filter circuit, governor, and grid [11], [16]. While the electricity from the DG and storage of energy is supposed to represent the prime mover's input torque, the DC/AC converter is believed to be an electromechanical energy transformer connecting the stator and rotor. The electromotive force of the VSG is thus represented by the fundamental component of the electrical voltage midpoint. The value of the resistance and inductance of the filtering unit indicates the impedance of the stator winding.

According to Figure 2,  $V_{abc}$  dan  $i_{abc}$  are the inverter's alternating current side voltage and current, respectively.  $V_{oabc}$  dan  $i_{oabc}$  are the LC filter voltage and current,  $V_{gabc}$  is the grid voltage. While  $R$ ,  $L_f$  and  $C_f$  are filter resistance, inductance, and capacitance, respectively.  $L_g$  is the gridline inductance,  $E_r$  and  $\delta$  are the internal potential amplitude and phase angle of the VSG,  $V$  and  $\theta$  are the voltage amplitude and phase angle of the VSG terminals.  $P_e$ ,  $P_m$ ,  $Q_e$ , and  $Q_m$  is the active power and reactive power generated by the VSG.

VSGs are typically installed between distributed sources of energy and electrical power systems, as seen in Figure 1. As a result, specific control mechanisms that imitate the electromagnetic and mechanical movements of a synchronous generator are an important aspect of VSG development. It is also in charge of active power and frequency modulation, as well as reactive power and voltage management.

The simple swing equation of the SG is used as the core part of the VSG, as described in Equation (1):

$$J \frac{d\omega}{dt} = T_m - T_e - D (\omega - \omega_r) \frac{d\delta}{dt} = \omega \quad (1)$$

- where:
- $\omega$  = virtual angular frequency
  - $\omega_r$  = reference angular frequency
  - $T_m$  = mechanical torque
  - $T_e$  = electromagnetic torque
  - $\delta$  = power angle
  - $D$  = damping coefficient
  - $J$  = moment of inertia of the rotor

The electrical formulation of the synchronous

generator's stator is simulated without taking consideration of the electromagnetic connectivity between the stator and rotor while modeling the electromagnetic features of SG for VSG, and can be expressed as Equation (2):

$$L_f \frac{di_{abc}}{dt} = e_{abc} - V_{abc} - Ri_{abc} \quad (2)$$

The active power loop of the VSG simulates the SG's main frequency regulation, damping, and inertia to determine the reference phase and frequency of the signal being modulated. The reactive power loop, which simulates the voltage regulation of the SG, calculates the modulating signal amplitude. The VSG is built around the general and basic swing equation of the SG, and is expressed as Equation (3):

$$P_m - P_e = 2J \frac{d\omega}{dt} - D (\omega - \omega_r) \quad (3)$$

- with:  $P_m$  = inverter input power  
 $P_e$  = inverter output power

The coefficient of virtual damping was crucial in keeping the VSG's speed equal to the grid frequency. Equation (4) describes the mathematical formulas for the VSG's active power loop, which includes the VSG fundamental governor.

$$J \frac{d\omega}{dt} = \frac{P_m}{\omega} - \frac{P_e}{\omega} - D (\omega - \omega_r) \quad (4)$$

The mathematical equation for the VSG reactive power loop can be expressed in Equation (5):

$$K \frac{dE_r}{dt} = Q_m - Q_e + k_q (V_r - V) \quad (5)$$

- where:  $K$  = inertia coefficient of reactive power  
 $E_r$  = virtual electromotive force  
 $Q_m$  = reactive power reference  
 $Q_e$  = reactive power output  
 $K_q$  = reactive power coefficient-voltage droop  
 $V$  = output voltage amplitude  
 $V_r$  = voltage amplitude rating

### II.5. VSG Control Operation

The input/output control of VSG is attained by the corresponding working mechanism of the inverter on its interface. The control method is the joint control of active power and reactive power control, voltage and frequency control, and droop control. In general, the strategy of applying control to the system depends on the type of operation of the power system.

The characteristics of the inverter and VSG are almost the same, the only difference is that the VSG replicates the characteristics of the SG through its control algorithm and has the further benefit of additional virtual inertia to the system [21]. There are

two classifications of VSG control algorithms: active and reactive power control and voltage and frequency control.

The VSG's active and reactive power loops are depicted in Figure 3. The active power-frequency control strategy is represented in Figure 4, and the reactive power-voltage control approach is depicted in Figure 5.

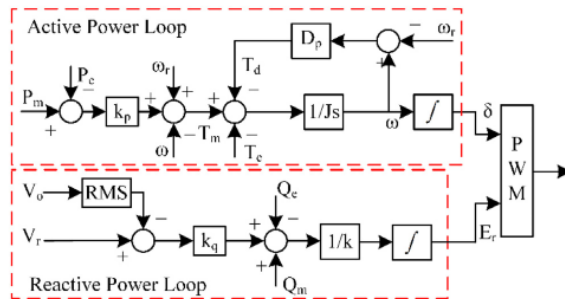


Figure 3. Active power and reactive power loops of the VSG

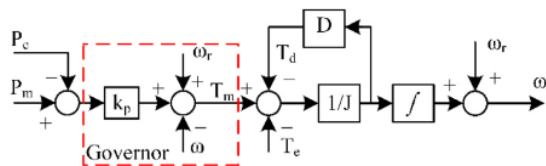


Figure 4. VSG structure for active power and frequency control with simple governor

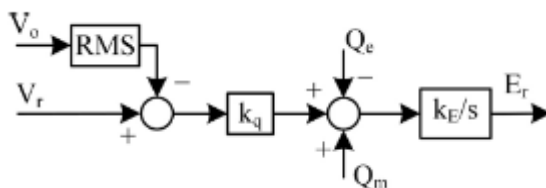


Figure 5. VSG control for reactive power and voltage control

Currently, most VSG control techniques utilize active power and active reactive power control methods due to their simplicity [11], [16], [24]. The advantage of this method is the ability to distribute active power according to its capacity when the VSG is operated in parallel. When operating in the grid connection model, the reactive power controller unit failed to meet the power demand, so an additional unit is needed to increase the reactive power controller functions. Thus, it can provide the desired reactive power supply to the system.

Furthermore, as compared to active power management, reactive power control can easily be impacted by line impedance, load variations, and other factors, causing control results to depart from the needed characteristics and, eventually, leading to reactive power distribution inaccuracy. To suppress the impedance and load fluctuation effects, various

control modifications are introduced. For example, adaptive parameter estimation and selection techniques, and virtual impedance control methods to reduce output voltage. These techniques are effective to control and get a better effect for VSG reactive voltage control.

### II.5.1. Frequency control - active power

According to Equation (3), active power control could be accomplished by adjusting the frequency change. To suppress frequency fluctuations, the DG can modify its reference power in response to frequency changes. The damping unit, contrary, causes the DG to decrease oscillation.

### II.5.2. Voltage Control - reactive power

The reactive power-voltage control structure is equivalent to the traditional SG control system. The characteristics of reactive power-voltage gain are determined by the value of  $k_q$ . According to equation (5), reactive power is gradually managed by reducing its impact on the system under specific situations. This control loop incorporates proportional and integral controllers, which are used to control the output voltage based on the changed reference value. It should be mentioned that the primary elements for replicating the SG characteristics are the energy storage system and the electronic inverter. In addition, an extra damping controller is used to inhibit the system's frequency oscillation. Figure 6 depicts the VSG with an additional damping control.

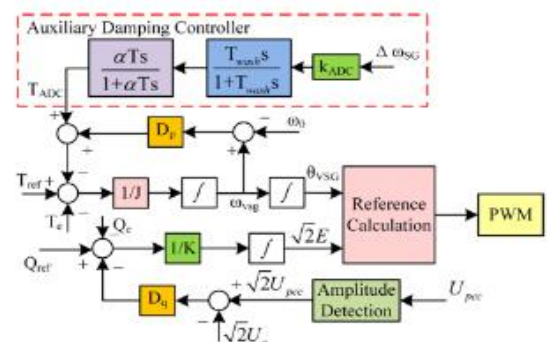


Figure 6. VSG with additional damping control

### II.6. VSG for PV system

Distributed power sources, such as PV are mostly connected to the power distribution grid through electronic inverters [25]. In general, PV power systems are categorized as low-voltage and medium-voltage distribution power systems. When multiple PV power systems are connected to each other or to the grid, there will be special difficulties on the power quality and stability of the power system [1], [11].

Particularly, the VSG of a PV power system can demonstrate a frequency dynamic response similar to that of the SG. However, unlike the SG, the power converter is not able to absorb/deliver any kinetic energy, thus requiring an extra energy storage system. Therefore, it is required the implementation and

coordination of energy storage system control in the VSG of PV power systems.

Figure 7 shows the application of VSG in a distributed power system with RE. The grid-connected PV through DC/DC converter with MPPT and energy storage system is illustrated in Figure 8. [1], [26]. The MPPT mode controls the PV to maximize the power output. The energy storage system is applied to smoothen the active power output and reduce the negative impact on the grid.

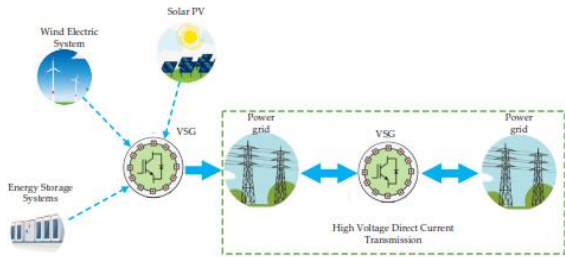


Figure 7. VSG application on distributed power system with RE

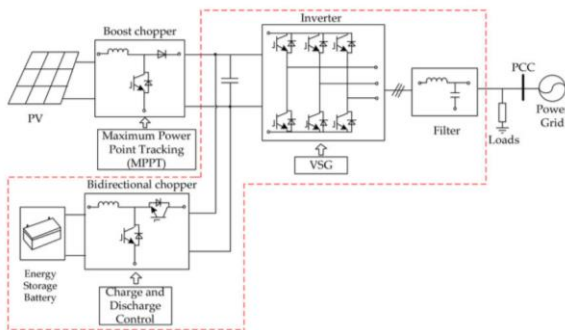


Figure 8. Solar PV system with MPPT and energy storage system

### III. RESULT

To investigate the effect of VSG control on voltage and frequency stability during the penetration of PV-based systems in the power system, simulations were made using MATLAB/SIMULINK. In Figure 9 and Figure 10, it can be seen the voltage and frequency response of the grid when PV penetration occurs in the system.

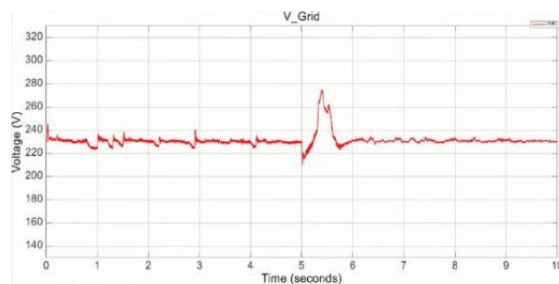


Figure 9. Grid voltage response during PV penetration

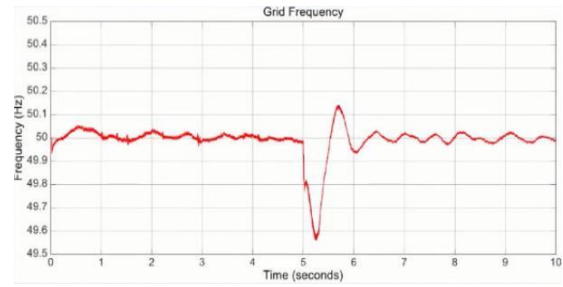


Figure 10. Grid frequency response during PV penetration

In Figure 11 and Figure 12, voltage and frequency responses of the grid can be clearly depicted when PV penetration occurs, and load is applied.

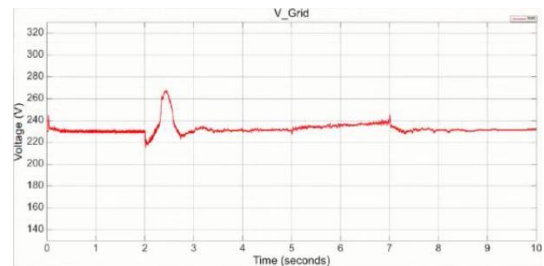


Figure 11. Grid voltage response during PV penetration and load addition

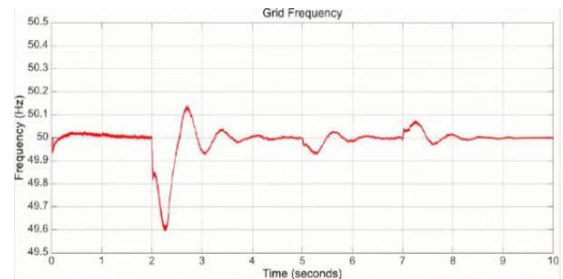


Figure 12. Grid frequency response during PV penetration and load addition

In Figure 13 and Figure 14, it can be seen the voltage and frequency response of the grid during PV penetration in the system with VSG and without inertia.

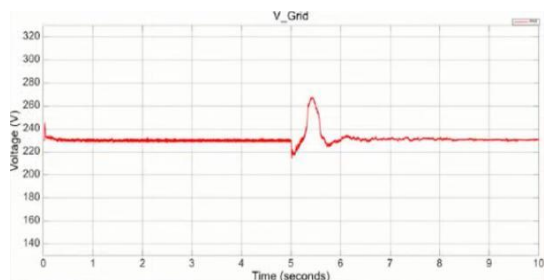


Figure 13. Grid voltage response during PV penetration with VSG and without inertia

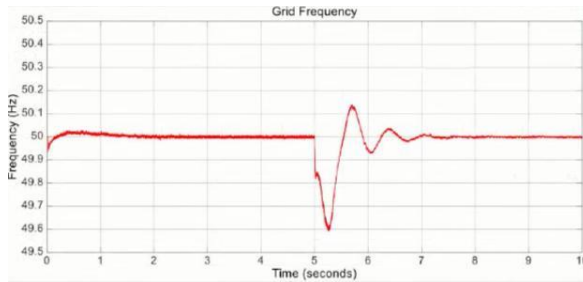


Figure 14. Grid frequency response during PV penetration with VSG and without inertia

In Figure 15 and Figure 16, it can be seen the voltage and frequency response of the grid when PV penetration occurs in a system with VSG and inertia.

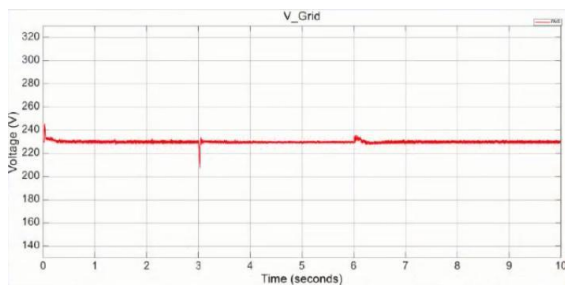


Figure 15. Grid voltage response during PV penetration with VSG and inertia

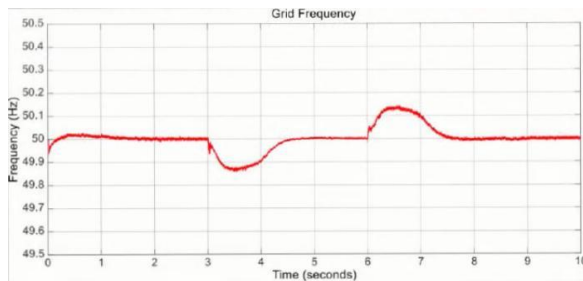


Figure 16. Grid frequency response during PV penetration with VSG and inertia

#### IV. DISCUSSION

In the research conducted on reference [8], [10] the control scheme for microgrid based on droop control is discussed. However, in contrast to Synchronous Generators (SGs), droop control based DGs still lack inertia, which is adversely affecting the frequency dynamics. The use of VSGs with additional damping controllers that can increase inertia with additional virtual inertia has been proven to reduce voltage and frequency fluctuations caused by the penetration of PV sources in the power system.

From Figure 9 and Figure 10, it can be observed the voltage and frequency response of the grid when PV penetration occurs in the system. At the 5<sup>th</sup> second, the amplitude of voltage and frequency were affected significantly by the penetration of the PV.

From Figure 11 and Figure 12, voltage and frequency responses of the grid can be clearly depicted when PV penetration occurs, and load is applied. At the

2<sup>nd</sup> second, as the result before, the amplitude of voltage and frequency fluctuated during the penetration. At the 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> second, the load connected to the system. This load addition also affected the amplitude of voltage and frequency.

From Figure 13 and Figure 14, the voltage and frequency response of the grid during PV penetration in the system with VSG and without inertia can be observed. Although VSG has been added to the system, the voltage and frequency still fluctuate, as be seen in the 5<sup>th</sup> second. The combination of PV penetration with VSG can provide active voltage control and help mitigate voltage fluctuations caused by intermittent PV generation. On the other hand, the absence of inertia can make the grid voltage response more sensitive to changes in power injections.

Figure 15 and Figure 16, illustrate the voltage and frequency reaction of the grid when PV penetration occurs in a system with VSG and inertia. The voltage and frequency fluctuations caused by PV penetration are well dampened, as depicted at the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> seconds. This occurs due to the addition of VSG with inertia.

#### V. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

This research introduced the use of Virtual Synchronous Generator (VSG) control technique with an additional damping controller. The VSG control can provide additional virtual inertia to control the stability of voltage and frequency during the penetration of PV-based power plants into the power system network. The results showed that during the penetration of PV-based power plants into the power system, there was a momentary instability in voltage and frequency. However, by implementing VSGs and inertia-enhancing technologies, PV penetration can be managed more effectively, enabling smoother grid integration, and maintaining grid stability, both in terms of voltage and frequency. Hence, the stability of voltage and frequency was well-maintained.

Advanced control techniques for VSGs that effectively duplicate the inertia and damping behavior of synchronous generators could be discovered in the future. The challenging thing in the research is the investigation on how these control strategies can be optimized to address both short-term frequency stability and longer-term voltage stability.

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