

**ARTICLE**

# Research on the Impacts of the Inertia and Droop Control Gains from a Variable-Speed Wind Turbine Generator on the Frequency Response

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**ABSTRACT**

System frequency must be kept very close to its nominal range to ensure the stability of an electric power grid. Excessive system frequency variations are able to result in load shedding, frequency instability, and even generator damage. With increasing wind power penetration, there is rising concern about the reduction in inertia response and primary frequency control in the electric power grid. Converter-based wind generation is capable of providing inertia response and primary frequency response; nevertheless, the primary frequency and inertia responses of wind generation are different from those of conventional synchronous fleets; it is not completely understood how the primary frequency and inertia responses affect the given system under various disturbances and available kinetic energy levels. Simulations are used to investigate the influences of inertia and droop control strategies on the dynamic frequency responses, particularly the index of the second frequency drop under various disturbance and wind conditions. A quantitative analysis provides insight into setting of inertia and droop control coefficients for various wind and disturbance conditions to facilitate adequate dynamic frequency responses during frequency events.

**KEYWORDS**

Wind power; inertia control; droop control; frequency stability

## 1 Introduction

The ability of an electric power system to maintain its frequency at an acceptable level is crucial for power system reliability [1]. To this end, an electric power system is required to provide adequate frequency responses (inertia response, primary frequency response and so on) against disturbances; otherwise, frequency variations might lead to load shedding, frequency instability, and even generator damage [2]. The inertia response of synchronous generators is the inherent response by injecting (or extracting) kinetic energy into (or from) the rotating masses of the generator, which is beneficial for slowing the speed of system frequency deviation. Primary frequency control increases or decreases the mechanical power of a synchronous generator according to its



frequency excursions by using a turbine governor, which is beneficial for boosting the frequency nadir and stabilizing the system frequency.

Variable speed wind turbine generators including doubly-fed induction generator (DFIG, Type III) and full-scale converter wind turbine generators (Type IV) rarely contribute to primary frequency response; this is because they are not synchronous with the power grid [3–5]. The lower system inertia and displacements of primary frequency response result in the large rate of change of frequency and low frequency nadir. This may translate to a decline in the stability and reliability of power system. Accordingly, variable speed wind turbine generators should support dynamic frequency response so that wind energy penetration can be heightened while preserving the reliability of power system [6,7].

Many studies have been investigated temporary frequency support function strategies that release stored rotational kinetic energy produced by the rotating masses of a variable speed wind turbine generator to support dynamic frequency response [8–16]. These strategies add additional loops to the rotor side converter (RSC) controller of a DFIG based on the measured frequency: the rate of change of frequency ( $df/dt$ ) loop and system frequency excursion, these strategies are named as inertia control and droop control strategies, respectively [8–10]. The performance of inertia control strategy with various control coefficients is studied in [11]. This shows that the inertia control strategy can only provide temporary power support to improve the maximum  $df/dt$  and does not greatly contribute to the improvement of the frequency nadir. The study of [12] investigated the influences of converter current limits and auxiliary loop parameters on inertia control under rated wind speed. The capability to supply temporary excess active output power support for a DFIG was quantified in [13,14]. This research demonstrated that high wind conditions retain large capability to provide temporary output power. In [15,16], the authors analyzed dynamic frequency response with various inertia and droop control coefficients. They demonstrated that large control coefficients conduce to improve the maximum  $df/dt$  and frequency nadir. Nevertheless, few researches have examined how various wind speed conditions impact the second frequency drop. Moreover, few studies have addressed how various sizes of disturbance impact dynamic frequency response.

This paper focuses on analyzing the impact of the inertia and droop control coefficients from a DFIG on dynamic frequency response. To this end, simulations with various wind conditions and disturbances are performed by using different control coefficients based on an electromagnetic transient program (restructured version simulator).

## 2 Fundamental Features of Inertia and Droop Control Strategies from a DFIG

This section addresses the fundamental features of the inertia control strategy and droop control strategy. In addition, this paper analyzes the temporary active power support capability of employing the rotational kinetic energy stored in the rotating masses of a DFIG without de-loading operation. Figs. 1 and 2 show the structures of the inertia and droop control strategies.

### 2.1 Inertia Control Strategy of a DFIG

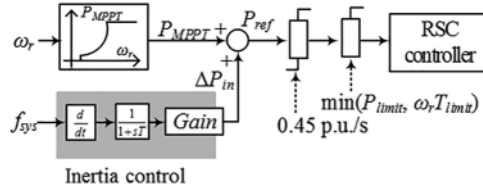
As shown in Fig. 1, the features of inertia control strategy are similar to those of the inertia response of conventional synchronous generators, which release the kinetic energy from the turbine to arrest the frequency decline.

To perform inertia control from a DFIG, a supplementary control on the basis of  $df/dt$  is included combined with the maximum power point tracking (MPPT) control loop in the RSC

controller. The output of the inertia control strategy,  $\Delta P_{in}$ , is given by:

$$\Delta P_{in} = -K_{in} \cdot f_{sys} \cdot \frac{df_{sys}}{dt} \quad (1)$$

where  $K_{in}$  is the coefficient of the inertia control strategy and  $f_{sys}$  means the measured system frequency in p.u.,  $df_{sys}/dt$  is the rate of change of the frequency.

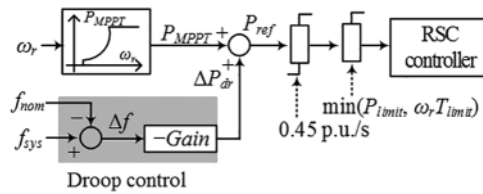


**Figure 1:** Structure of the inertia control strategy

The inertia control strategy is able to inject active power into the grid according to  $df_{sys}/dt$ . Short and quick active power injection benefits the dynamic frequency response by essentially limiting the maximum  $df_{sys}/dt$ . This means that, during the initial stage of a frequency contingency,  $df_{sys}/dt$  is large value so that the output power of the inertia control strategy is large. Nevertheless, with time,  $df_{sys}/dt$  decreases and becomes zero at a new steady state. As a result, the contribution to improving the frequency nadir is poor, as shown in Fig. 3. Furthermore,  $df_{sys}/dt$  changes its sign from negative value to positive value after the frequency rebounding. Such an effect has an adverse impact on improving the frequency nadir and may result in a large second frequency drop.

## 2.2 Droop Control Strategy of a DFIG

As shown in Fig. 2, the features of the droop control strategy are similar to those of the governor response of conventional synchronous generators, which increases the mechanical input power based on the measured rotating speed deviation. Unlike in the governor response, the droop control strategy from DFIGs releases kinetic energy from rotating masses rather than reserve power.



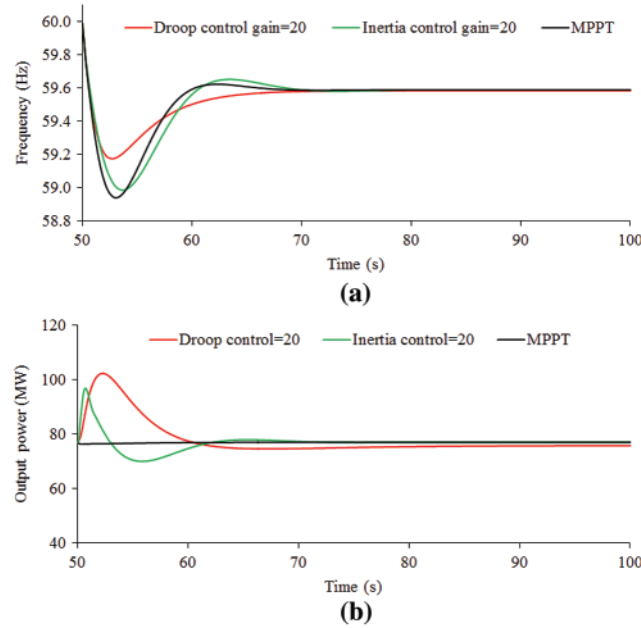
**Figure 2:** Structure of the droop control strategy

To perform droop control from a DFIG, an additional control loop is included on the basis of frequency deviation and combined with the MPPT control loop. The output of the droop control strategy loop ( $\Delta P_{dr}$ ) can be given as:

$$\Delta P_{dr} = K_{dr} (f_{sys} - f_{nom}) = K_{dr} \Delta f \quad (2)$$

where  $K_{dr}$  means the gain of the droop control strategy and  $f_{nom}$  denotes as the nominal frequency.

The power injected to the grid from the droop control loop strongly depends on the frequency deviation. As shown in Fig. 3, the injected power around the frequency nadir is sufficiently large to improve the frequency nadir effectively. Nonetheless, the drawback of this control method is that the power injected during the initial stage of a frequency contingency is small so that the contribution for support for the maximum  $df/dt$  is limited.



**Figure 3:** Results following a loss of synchronous generator when DFIG performs inertia and droop control strategies. (a) System frequency; (b) Output of the wind power plant

### 2.3 Temporary Output Power Support Capability of a DFIG

The rotational kinetic energy stored in the rotating turbine of a DFIG ( $E_{DFIG}$ ) can be represented as:

$$E_{DFIG} = \frac{1}{2} J_{DFIG} \omega_r^2 \quad (3)$$

where  $J_{DFIG}$  means the moment of inertia of a DFIG.  $\omega_r$  means the rotor speed of a DFIG.

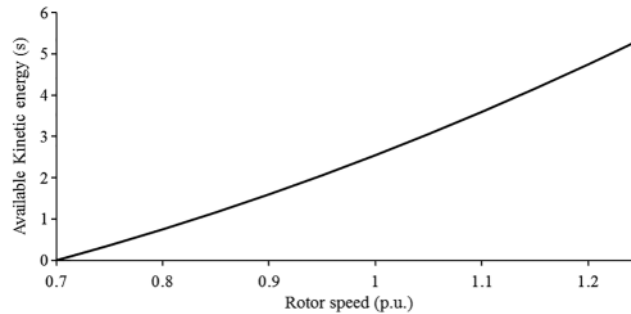
The available kinetic energy of a DFIG can be given as:

$$\begin{aligned} E_{DFIG} &= \frac{1}{2} J_{DFIG} (\omega_0^2 - \omega_{\min}^2) \\ &= H_{DFIG} (\omega_0^2 - \omega_{\min}^2) \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

where  $H_{DFIG}$  means the inertia constant of a DFIG.  $\omega_0$  and  $\omega_{\min}$  represent the rotor speed of a DFIG prior to disturbance and the minimum rotor speed limit. In this study, the kinetic energy

of a DFIG is normalized by its rated capacity; thus, the unit of the normalized kinetic energy is seconds [17].

Fig. 4 displays the temporary output power support capability of a DFIG. From Fig. 4 and (4), it is evident that the temporary output power support potential of a DFIG is proportional to the rotor speed. This means that the available kinetic energy of a DFIG during the high speed region of the rotor is greater than that during the low speed region.



**Figure 4:** Available kinetic energy of a DFIG

As in (1) and (2), short and quick active power injection relies on the frequency measurements and control coefficients; the frequency measurements including the  $d f/dt$  and frequency deviation are dependent on the power system conditions and sizes of disturbance, which are uncontrollable. Hence, a dynamic frequency response is primarily determined by the control coefficients of inertia control strategy and droop control strategy. To improve dynamic frequency response, it is important to understand how various wind speed conditions impact the second frequency drop and how various sizes of disturbance impact dynamic frequency response.

### 3 Model System

The model system shown in Fig. 5 is used to investigate the performance of the system regarding the impact of the control coefficients of the inertia and droop control strategies on the dynamic frequency response. It includes a DFIG-based wind power plant and an electric power grid including five synchronous generators, and static and motor loads are modeled. Six SGs are included in the model system: two 100-MVA SGs, two 150-MVA SGs, and two 200-MVA SGs. For simplicity, all SGs are modeled as steam turbine generators, and the droop gains are set to 5%. The inertia time constants of the SGs are set to 5 s for the 200 MVA SGs, 4.3 s for the 150 MVA SGs, and 4 s for the 100 MVA SGs.

#### 3.1 Conventional Synchronous Generators

To benchmark the power system with a low ramping ability, all conventional synchronous generators are modeled as steam turbine generators. Fig. 6 shows the IEEE G1 steam governor model, as in [18]; and the droop setting for the synchronous generator are set to 5%, which is the typical droop setting of the steam turbine. Moreover, secondary frequency control of conventional synchronous generators is not considered because the timeframe of the secondary frequency control is significantly more than that of primary frequency control; as a result, the system frequency is not fully recovered to 60 or 50 Hz.



$c_p$  retains a maximum value ( $c_{p, \max}$ ) at the optimal  $\lambda$  ( $\lambda_{opt}$ ) when  $\beta = 0^\circ$ . At  $\lambda_{opt}$ , a DFIG can extract the maximum power from wind. Substituting (8) in (5), the active power reference for MPPT operation,  $P_{MPPT}$ , can be represented as:

$$P_{MPPT} = \frac{1}{2} \rho \pi R^2 \left( \frac{\omega_r R}{\lambda_{opt}} \right)^3 c_{p, \max} = k_g \omega_r^3 \quad (9)$$

where  $k_g$  represents a constant coefficient of MPPT operation and is set to 0.512.

The power reference for inertia control or droop control strategy is limited by the maximum power limiter and rate of change of power limiter to protect the DFIG. The maximum power limiter is set to 110% of the nominal active power of a DFIG, as in [3]; the rate of change of power limiter is set to 0.45 p.u./s, as in [3,20].

The DFIG calculates the grid frequency used for inertia and droop control without the additional information from a higher level controller. Moreover, inertia time constant for a 5-MW DFIG is set to 5 s including 4 s of induction generator and 1 s of the wind turbine. The detailed parameters are shown in Table 1.

**Table 1:** Parameters of the DFIG

	Values	Units
Nominal stator voltage	2.3	kV
Nominal active power	5.0	MW
Magnetizing reactance	2.9	p.u.
Stator leakage reactance	0.18	p.u.
Rotor resistance	0.016	p.u.
Rotor leakage reactance	0.16	p.u.
Stator resistance	0.023	p.u.
Stable operating range of $\omega_r$	0.70–1.25	p.u.
Rated, cut-in, and cut-out speeds	11, 4, and 25	m/s

#### 4 Simulations with Various Control Coefficients of the Inertia and Droop Control on the Dynamic Frequency Response

To investigate the impact of the control coefficients of the inertia and droop control on the dynamic frequency response, the maximum rate of change of frequency, value of the frequency nadir, and second frequency drop are compared under different wind conditions and disturbances.

As a disturbance, SG5, which is supplying 70 and 110 MW, is assumed to be tripped out at 50 s. 8 and 10 m/s are considered as various wind conditions in all simulation results.

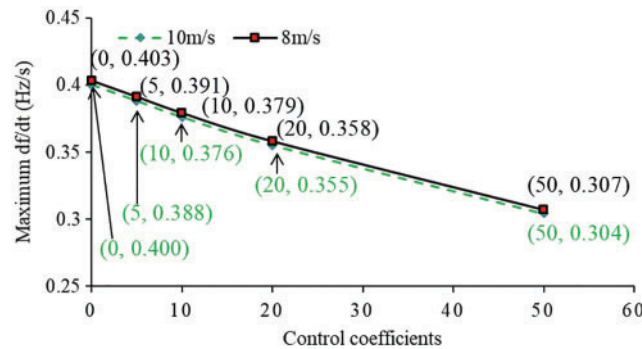
##### 4.1 Effects of the Available Kinetic Energy and Control Strategies on Dynamic Frequency Response

The kinetic energy available of a DFIG differs from low wind conditions to high wind conditions. Thus, this subsection describes the effects of 10 and 8 m/s on the performance of inertia and droop control strategies when using various control coefficients.

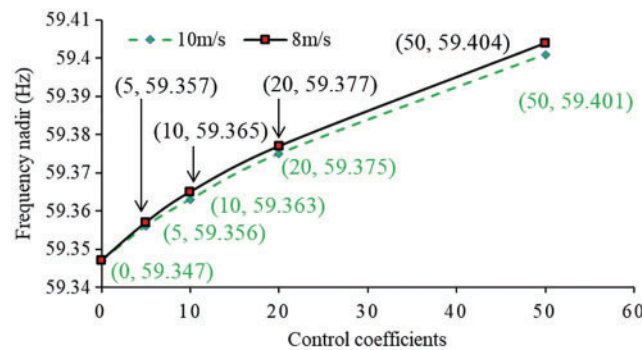
#### 4.1.1 Effects of the Inertia Control Strategy from a DFIG with the Wind Speeds of 8 and 10 m/s

The effects of inertia control strategy coefficient  $K_{in}$  on the dynamic frequency response with various wind speeds are showed in Figs. 7–10. In this case, only inertia control strategy is applied on the DFIG.

In the case of 10 m/s (green line), increasing the control coefficient from zero to 50, the frequency nadir is improved from 59.347 to 59.401 Hz; the maximum  $df/dt$  is reduced from  $-0.400$  to  $-0.304$  Hz/s. For 8 m/s (black line), the frequency nadir is improved from 59.347 to 59.404 Hz; the maximum  $df/dt$  is reduced from  $-0.403$  to  $-0.307$  Hz/s. These indices are plotted in Figs. 7 and 8. The frequency nadir and maximum  $df/dt$  of 10 m/s are almost the same as those in 8 m/s. This is because the incremental powers of inertia control strategy with various wind conditions are almost the same calculated by using (1). The basic observation is that under various wind conditions, increasing the coefficient of inertia control strategy has a definitely positive influence on the dynamic frequency response including the frequency nadir and maximum  $df/dt$ .



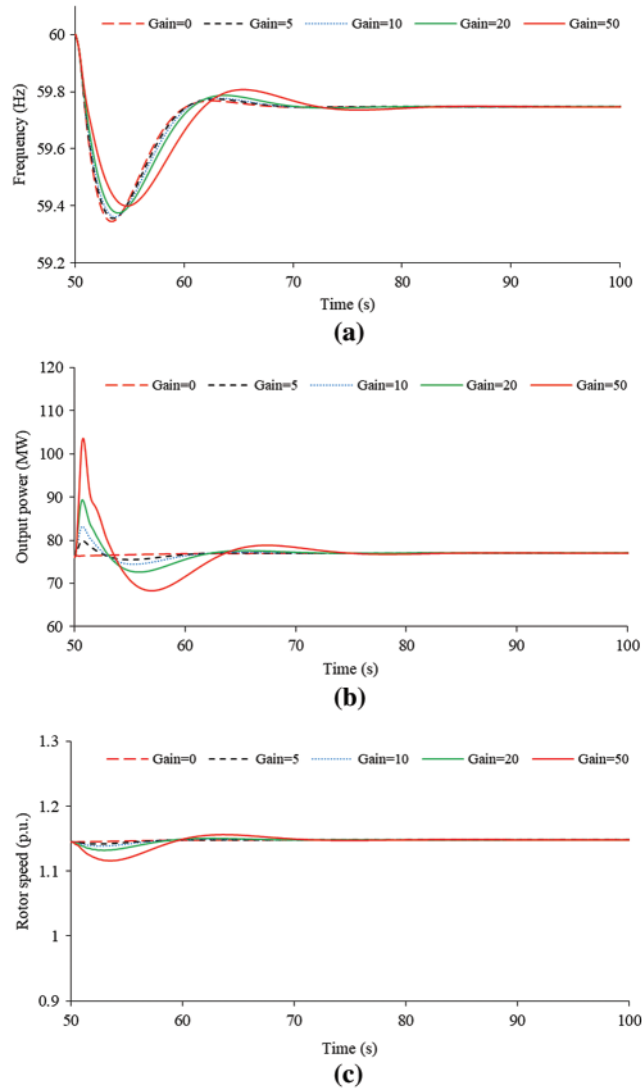
**Figure 7:** Absolute value of maximum  $df/dt$  with different inertia control coefficients



**Figure 8:** Frequency nadirs with different inertia control coefficients

The results of output power and rotor speed of a DFIG are illustrated in Figs. 9 and 10. The increasing coefficients of inertia control strategy boost the peak output power and the rotor speed reduction. Therefore, with the increasing coefficients of inertia control, the dynamic frequency response becomes better.





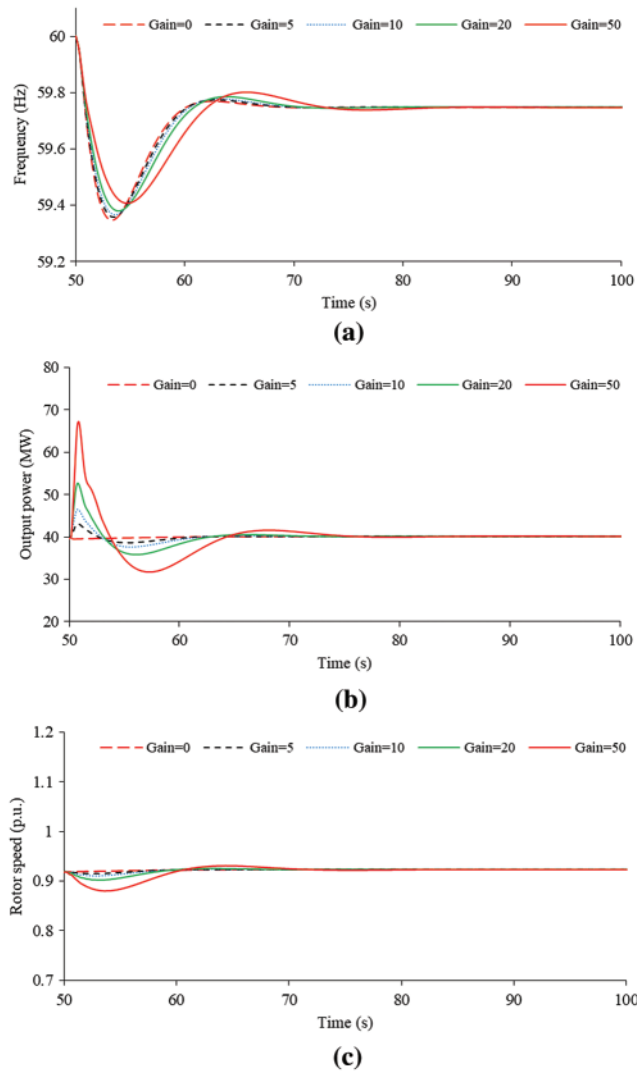
**Figure 9:** Simulation results of inertia control strategy using various control coefficients under the wind speed of 10 m/s: (a) System frequencies; (b) Active powers; (c) Rotor speeds

#### 4.1.2 Effects of the Droop Control Strategy from a DFIG with the Wind Speeds of 8 and 10 m/s

In this case, only droop control strategy is applied on the RSC controller of a DFIG. The effects of droop control strategy coefficient  $K_{dr}$  on the dynamic frequency response with various wind speeds are showed in Figs. 11–14.

As shown in Figs. 11 and 12, the control coefficient increases from zero to 50, the maximum  $df/dt$  is reduced from  $-0.400$  to  $-0.339$  Hz/s for the case of 10 m/s and from  $-0.403$  to  $-0.342$  Hz/s for the case of 8 m/s. The first frequency nadir is increased from 59.347 to 59.621 Hz for the case of 10 m/s and from 59.347 to 59.629 Hz for the case of 8 m/s. Nevertheless, for the case of 8 m/s, the second frequency nadirs (SFN) are caused when the coefficient is set to 40 and 50, which are 59.473 and 59.473 Hz, respectively and are lower than the first frequency nadir. The reason is that over-deceleration of the rotor speed, which results in a severe second frequency

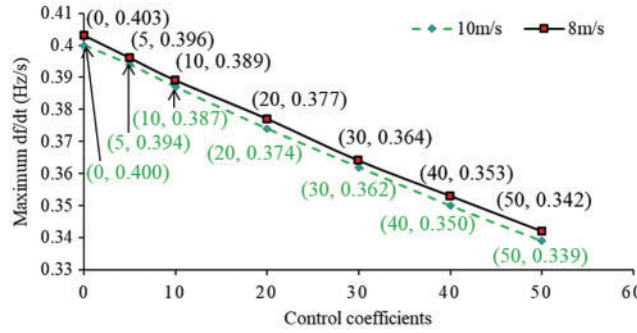
drop, is caused (see Fig. 14c). In addition, the output power is limited by the torque limit so that the frequency nadir of 10 m/s is slightly lower than that of 8 m/s (when the coefficient is set to 50). The basic observation is that increasing the coefficient of droop control strategy has a definitely positive influence on the dynamic frequency response including the frequency nadir and maximum  $d f/dt$ . However, increasing coefficient of droop control beyond 30 cannot substantially contribute to the frequency nadir, even though it still improves the maximum  $d f/dt$  when the wind speed is low. Furthermore, as the control coefficient increases, the second frequency nadir becomes low.



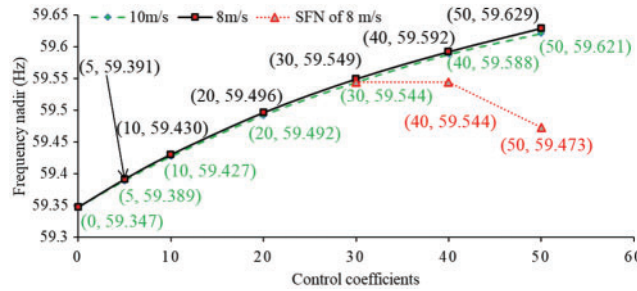
**Figure 10:** Simulation results of inertia control strategy using various control coefficients under the wind speed of 8 m/s: (a) System frequencies; (b) Active powers; (c) Rotor speeds

Compared to inertia control strategy, even though the same coefficient is applied, the droop control strategy is able to improve the frequency nadir, but it is deficient in improving the

maximum  $df/dt$ . As the available kinetic energy becomes less, the likelihood of causing second frequency nadir becomes larger and further deteriorates the frequency nadir.



**Figure 11:** Absolute value of maximum  $df/dt$  with different droop control coefficients



**Figure 12:** Frequency nadirs with different droop control coefficients

#### 4.2 Effects of the Disturbances and Control Strategies on Dynamic Frequency Response

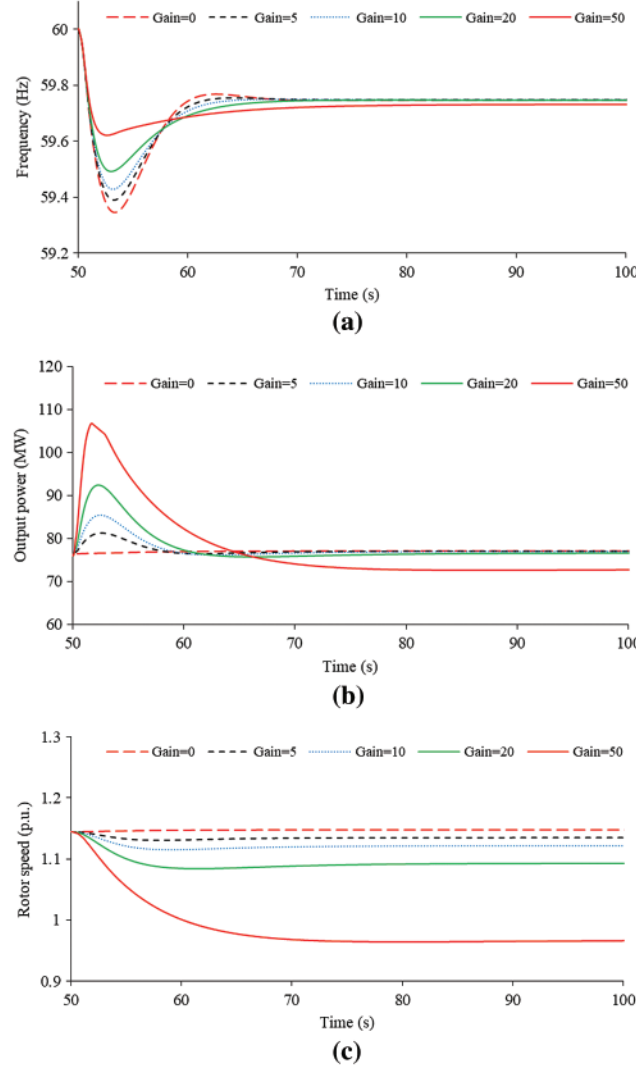
The performance of dynamic frequency response is affected by a larger power output of the tripped generator, which results in a lower frequency nadir and large maximum  $df/dt$ . This subsection investigates the performance of inertia and droop control strategies when using various control coefficients for a case with the same wind condition as that in previous subsection, but a larger generator generating 110 MW is tripped out from the power grid.

##### 4.2.1 Effects of the Inertia Control Strategy from a DFIG with the Wind Speeds of 8 and 10 m/s

The effects of inertia control strategy coefficient  $K_{in}$  on the dynamic frequency response with various wind speeds are showed in Figs. 15 and 16.

In the case of 10 m/s, increasing the control coefficient from 0 to 50, the frequency nadir is improved from 58.939 to 59.030 Hz; the maximum  $df/dt$  is reduced from  $-0.643$  to  $-0.524$  Hz/s. For 8 m/s, the frequency nadir is improved from 58.939 to 59.042 Hz; the maximum  $df/dt$  is reduced from  $-0.646$  to  $-0.529$  Hz/s, as shown in Figs. 15 and 16. The frequency nadir and maximum  $df/dt$  of 10 m/s are almost the same as those in 8 m/s. This is because the incremental powers of inertia control strategy with various wind conditions are almost the same. The basic observation is that even for a large disturbance, increasing the coefficient of inertia

control strategy has a definitely positive influence on the dynamic frequency response including the frequency nadir and maximum  $df/dt$ .



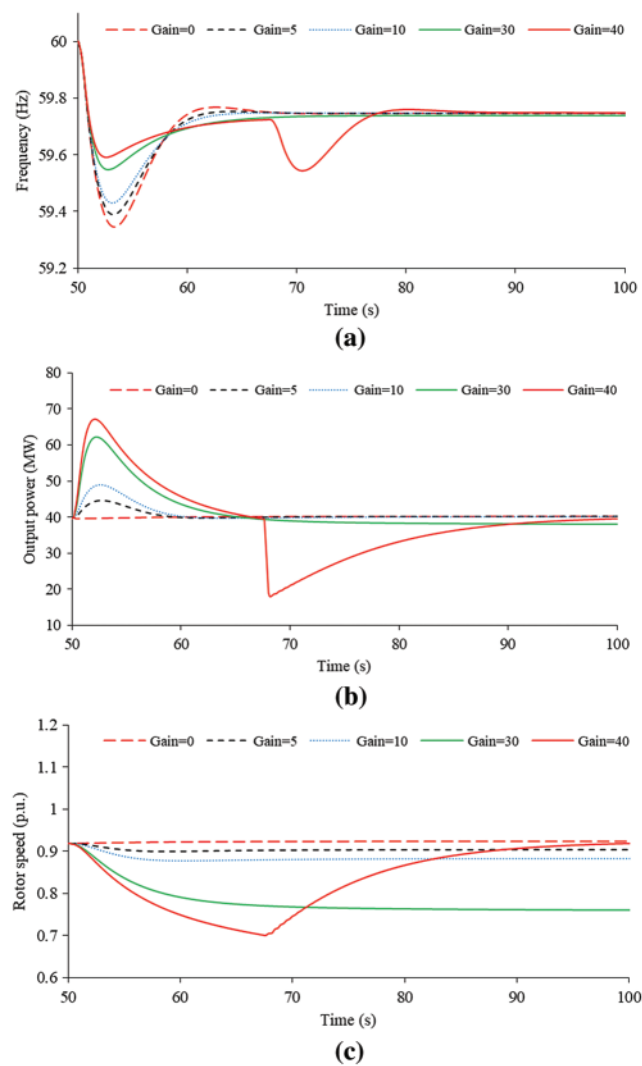
**Figure 13:** Simulation results of droop control strategy using various control coefficients under the wind speed of 10 m/s: (a) System frequencies; (b) Active powers; (c) Rotor speeds

#### 4.2.2 Effects of the Droop Control Strategy from a DFIG with the Wind Speeds of 8 and 10 m/s

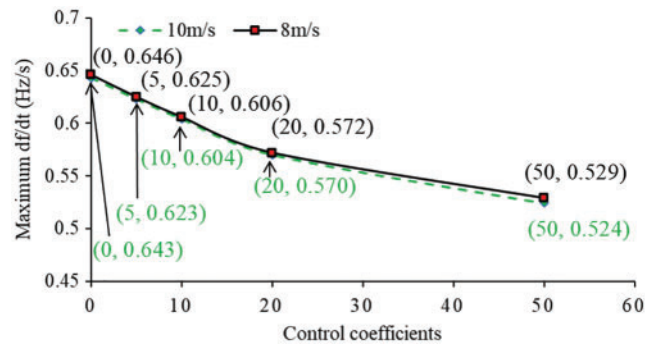
The influences of droop control strategy coefficient  $K_{dr}$  on the dynamic frequency response with various wind speeds are showed in Figs. 17 and 18.

As shown in Figs. 17 and 18, the control coefficient increases from 0 to 50, the maximum  $df/dt$  is reduced from  $-0.634$  to  $-0.542$  Hz/s for the case of 10 m/s and from  $-0.646$  to  $-0.546$  Hz/s for the case of 8 m/s. The first frequency nadir is increased from 58.939 to 59.226 Hz for the case of 10 m/s and from 58.939 to 59.342 Hz for the case of 8 m/s. Nevertheless, the second frequency nadir is caused when the coefficient is set to 50, which is 59.102 Hz for 10 m/s;

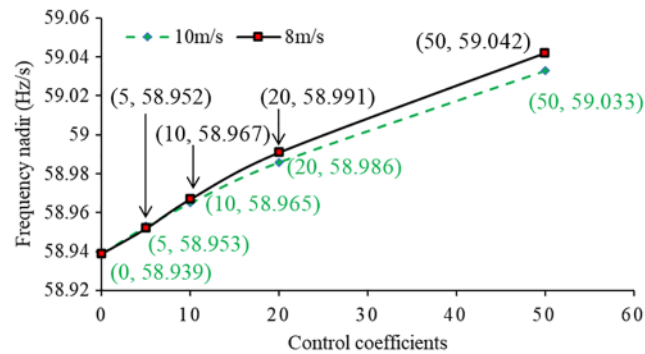
the second frequency nadirs are caused when the coefficients are set to 40 and 50 for 8 m/s, which are 59.277 and 59.158 Hz, respectively. They are all lower than the first frequency nadir. The reason is that over-deceleration of the rotor speed is caused due to a large disturbance. In addition, the output power is limited by the torque limit referred to power so that the frequency nadir of 10 m/s is lower than that of 8 m/s when the control coefficients are set to 30, 40, and 50. The basic observation is that increasing the coefficient of droop control strategy has a definitely positive influence on the dynamic frequency response including the frequency nadir and maximum  $df/dt$ . However, increasing coefficient of inertia control beyond 30 cannot substantially contribute to the frequency nadir, even though it still improves the maximum  $df/dt$  for a low wind speed. Furthermore, as the control coefficient increases, the second frequency nadir becomes low. With the size of disturbance becomes large, more kinetic energy is released from the DFIG. The likelihood of causing second frequency nadir becomes larger and further deteriorating the frequency nadir, particularly for a low wind speed.



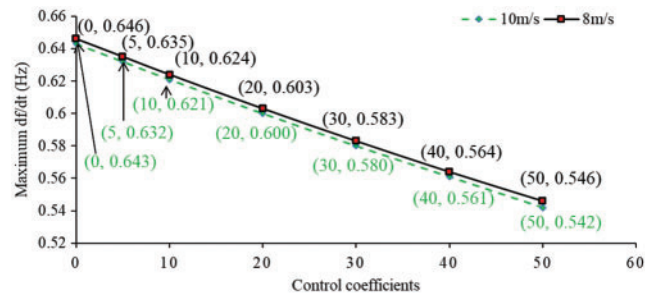
**Figure 14:** Simulation results of droop control strategy using various control coefficients under the wind speed of 8 m/s: (a) System frequencies; (b) Active powers; (c) Rotor speeds



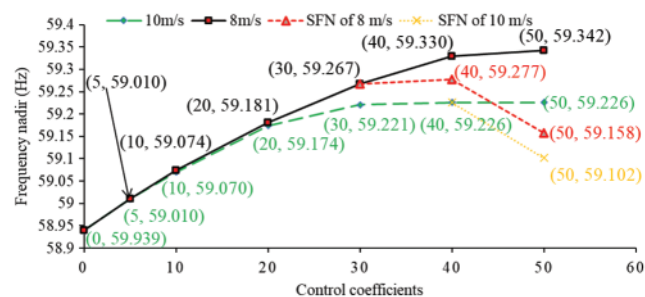
**Figure 15:** Absolute value of maximum  $df/dt$  with different inertia control coefficients



**Figure 16:** Frequency nadirs with different inertia control coefficients



**Figure 17:** Absolute value of maximum  $df/dt$  with different inertia control coefficients



**Figure 18:** Frequency nadirs with different inertia control coefficients

## 5 Conclusions

The main objective of this research is to assess the influences of inertia and droop control coefficients on the dynamic frequency response with various wind conditions and disturbances. To this end, simulations with various wind conditions and disturbances using different control coefficient were performed.

Quantitative simulation results indicate that with the same control coefficient, the inertia control strategy is able to improve the maximum  $df/dt$ ; whereas, the droop control strategy is able to improve the frequency nadir. For different disturbances and wind conditions, increasing the coefficients of the inertia control strategy and droop control strategy has a definitely positive influence on the dynamic frequency response including the frequency nadir and maximum  $df/dt$ . However, increasing the droop control coefficient beyond some point (which varies with different disturbances and wind conditions) does not substantially contribute to the frequency nadir, even though it still improves the maximum  $df/dt$ . For a low wind speed, the likelihood of causing a second frequency drop becomes large. For a high wind speed, the output power might be limited by the torque limit so that the contribution to improving the frequency nadir decreases.

A DFIG has a wide operating range compared to those of conventional synchronous generators. The available kinetic energies of a DFIG at 10 and 8 m/s are 1.62 and 2.67 s, respectively, which are 3.32 times and 5.48 times those of a synchronous generator with the same inertia constant that of a DFIG. Different wind conditions retain various available kinetic energies so that the control coefficients of inertia and droop control strategies should be set to different values. Hence, to utilize a DFIG to sufficiently support dynamic frequency response, a control coefficient that varies with the available kinetic energy and disturbance should be suggested.

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**Conflicts of Interest:** The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest to report regarding the present study.

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