

Modal Analysis of a PMSG-Based DC Electrical Power System in the More Electric Aircraft Using Eigenvalues Sensitivity

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Abstract—This paper deals with the modeling and small signal stability analysis of a DC-distribution electrical power system (EPS) sourced by a permanent magnet synchronous generator (PMSG). The topology employed here is one of the main candidates for future more-electric aircraft (MEA). A detailed mathematical model is developed and comprehensive EPS modal analysis is performed. Eigenvalue sensitivity and participation factor are utilized in order to assess the effect of machine and control parameters, as well as system operating conditions, on EPS stability. Furthermore, this paper also presents comparative analysis of system models with and without the inclusion of system cabling. This crucial analysis shows that the tendencies in stability behavior can be significantly different with and without cabling. It is therefore shown that system simplification, by removal of cabling, can deliver remarkably misleading results. Time domain simulations are carried out to support the theoretical analysis. The comprehensive analysis presented in this paper provides EPS designers with an extremely useful methodology for the selection of appropriate EPS parameters at the early design stages.

Index Terms—Modal analysis, stability, eigenvalue sensitivity, more electric aircraft, DC power distribution.

I. INTRODUCTION

With increasing concern about environmental protection, the development of a “more electric” system to replace the conventional mechanical and hydraulic power for vehicles has become popular in recent years. This concept has been widely accepted in transportation including automotive, ship and aircraft power systems [1], [2]. The electrical power system (EPS) is a hot topic for researchers in the more electric aircraft (MEA). Various alternative architectures are investigated in [3]. Among all the candidates, DC EPS is the most promising for the future MEA application due to several advantages such as high efficiency, reduced weight and the absence of reactive power compensation devices [4], [5].

The modal analysis method [6]-[11] including participation factor, damping ratio and oscillation frequency is an efficient tool to identify the physical nature of modes, extract the critical modes and analyse the dynamic response. It has been

widely applied to power grids [6] and doubly-fed induction generator (DFIG) based wind power generation systems [7]-[11]. Participation factor analysis is beneficial for identifying the mode type and analysing the participation degree of state variables on the given eigenvalues [8], [11]. Thus, it provides an efficient tool for power system stabilizer (PSS) design [6] and controller tuning [7].

Moreover, sensitivity analysis has wide applications in power system modeling and analysis [12]-[21]. The eigen-sensitivity theory was introduced in [12] and was used as a small signal stability assessment tool in a turbine/governor system and PSS design. Repeat computation for the eigenvalues with varying parameters is avoided which not only predicts the movement of the dominant modes of the system but also reduces the computation burden, especially in a large-scale power system. In [15], comprehensive modal analysis including participation factor and eigenvalue sensitivity analysis with respect to machine and control parameters is performed for a DFIG-based wind turbine system. In [16], the small signal stability of an EPS with increased photovoltaic (PV) generation is examined using eigenvalue sensitivity with respect to system inertia. It shows that increased PV and DFIG-based penetration generation may render the system unstable as the damping of the critical modes is reduced. The study of sensitivity provides useful guidance for analysis, planning, and operation of power systems. It was successfully applied for optimal tuning of control parameters [17], [18], determining locations of compensating devices, for damping improvement and stability enhancement such as capacitor compensation and FACTS devices [14].

Permanent magnet machines have been widely used in aircrafts and hybrid electric vehicles due to their high power density, high efficiency, fast dynamic response and improved reliability. Compared to a DFIG-based generation system, permanent magnet synchronous generators (PMSGs) have some unique properties such as having a constant flux linkage established by the permanent magnets. Control strategies for high speed PMSG-interfaced converters are also different. Varying machine speeds, which give rise to different generation frequencies, may impact the system stability. Transmission lines are not negligible in such microgrid structures and may influence the system dynamic and steady-state performance. Thus, their effect on stability is uncertain without systematic analysis. One cannot simply apply the results obtained from a DFIG system to the targeted PMSG-based MEA EPS. Several publications have studied the stability of the EPS in the MEA using small-signal analysis [22]-[24]. In [23], small signal stability analysis of a hybrid EPS for the MEA is presented. The effect of control

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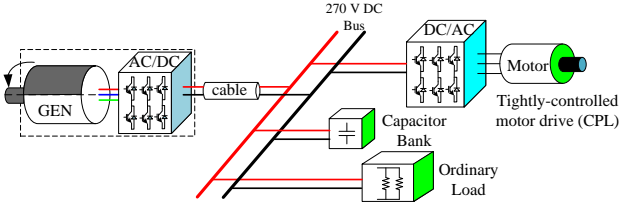


Fig. 1. Configuration of the studied system in the MEA.

bandwidth, circuit component parameters and operating conditions on stability is discussed using the eigenvalue loci. However, the eigenvalues need to be calculated repetitively with varying parameters. So far, there are few published reports dealing with comprehensive modal analysis using eigenvalue sensitivity and participation factor for the MEA EPS, especially for the potential DC EPS. A systematic analysis and design framework are required to ensure EPS stability, desired performance and robustness.

The main contributions of this paper can be summarized as follows:

(1) A nonlinear mathematical model and the corresponding linearized model for a generalized PMSG-based MEA EPS are developed.

(2) Analysis of the impact on EPS stability of the key parameters (machine parameters, cable lengths, flux-weakening and DC current controllers, as well as operating parameters such as the generator speed and the load power) has been carried out through investigation into the system eigenvalues sensitivity and corresponding participation factors.

The paper is organized as follows. Section II defines the EPS configuration and develops the corresponding mathematical model. In Section III, based on the developed model, analysis is performed which includes computation of eigenvalue sensitivities with respect to different system parameters. In order to mimic practical operation, the DC cable impedance is taken into account in this section. Section IV reassesses the influence of parameters uncertainty by ignoring the cables. Comparative eigenvalue sensitivities studies with regard to some key EPS parameters are presented. Nonlinear model time-domain simulations are performed in Section V in support of the major findings of this study. Section VI draws together the conclusions of the paper.

II. SYSTEM CONFIGURATION AND MATHEMATICAL MODEL

The representative DC-distribution MEA EPS architecture includes two main PMSGs taking power from the main engine and another PMSG driven by an auxiliary power unit (APU) [26]. Depending on the flight scenario and EPS operational regime, the system can be operated with only one active source, or with multiple sources feeding the same DC bus. A multi-generator EPS is a very complex task for eigenvalue sensitivity analysis and not possible to include in a single paper. Hence, a single PMSG-based generation EPS is investigated in this paper. The generalized EPS representation utilized in this paper is shown in Fig. 1. The PMSG provides power through an active front-end (AFE) rectifier to the main bus and loads. The on-board loads are represented by conventional resistive loads and by constant power loads

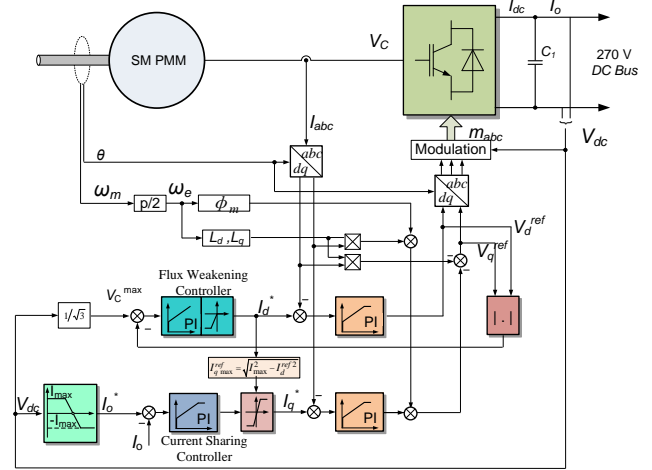


Fig. 2. Control scheme utilized in the studied system [25].

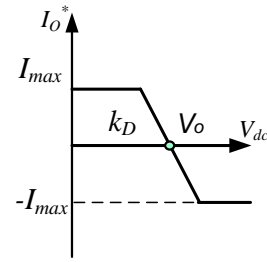


Fig. 3. Droop characteristic.

(CPL) associated with tightly controlled power-electronic converters. The capacitor bank is installed on the main 270 V bus. The PMSG-controlled AFE utilizes the engine mechanical power and converts it to the electric power to supply the EPS DC link. Classical vector control is used for the generator and converter to achieve decoupled control of active and reactive power [27], [28].

Fig. 2 illustrates the control scheme of the system consisting of an inner loop for current control in the dq reference frame, a flux weakening controller for high speed operation of the PMSG and a DC current controller for active power regulation. To ensure appropriate current sharing between parallel modules, a droop characteristic that operates on individual modules is used. The control design process is discussed in detail in [25]. A full-order model based on this structure is developed below.

Droop control is employed in line with the I-V characteristic shown in Fig. 3. The slope of the curve in the linear section is k_D and the reference current (I_o^*) is calculated corresponding to the bus voltage (input). In steady state, one can obtain the DC current reference as follows,

$$I_{oi}^* = (V_o - V_{dc})k_D \quad (1)$$

where V_{dc} is an actual DC-link voltage and V_o is the nominal voltage for the main bus (270 V in this study). A comprehensive model for the representative droop-controlled PMSG-based EPS is developed below.

A. PMSG and Converter Model

The synchronously rotating reference frame has been widely used to model the PMSG [27], [28]. The converter is also

modelled based on this frame in this paper. The dynamic equations for PMSG in the dq frame are as follows [29]:

$$\begin{cases} \frac{di_d}{dt} = \frac{1}{L_d}(-v_d - R_s i_d + \omega_e L_q i_q) \\ \frac{di_q}{dt} = \frac{1}{L_q}(-v_q - R_s i_q - \omega_e L_d i_d - \omega_e \varphi_m) \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

where v_d, v_q : d -axis, q -axis component of stator voltage; i_d, i_q : d -axis, q -axis component of stator current; L_d, L_q : d -axis, q -axis inductance; R_s : stator resistance; φ_m : flux linkage of permanent magnet; ω_e : electrical rotor angular velocity.

In this study, a surface-mounted PMSG is used, thus the machine inductances in the d -axis and q -axis are identical ($L_d = L_q = L_s$) [30]. The machine speed and torque (i.e. q -axis current) will define the d -axis current in order to limit the machine voltage by appropriate defluxing. The load power has a significant simultaneous effect on both the q -axis and the d -axis current which can be seen from (3):

$$\begin{cases} v_c = \sqrt{v_d^2 + v_q^2} \\ i_{dc} = \frac{3}{4}(d_d i_d + d_q i_q) \\ d_d = \frac{v_d}{0.5v_{dci}}, \quad d_q = \frac{v_q}{0.5v_{dci}} \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

where d_d, d_q are the modulation indexes in corresponding directions; v_c is the ac side voltage of the converter; i_{dc} is the output DC current flowing into the capacitor. Maximum allowable phase currents are determined by the inverter and machine ratings. Maximum voltage is dependent on the available DC-link voltage and modulation method. The voltage and current limitations can be written as follows by neglecting stator resistance and the transient terms [31].

$$\begin{cases} \omega_e \sqrt{(L_s i_q)^2 + (L_s i_d + \varphi_m)^2} \leq V_c^{\max} \\ \sqrt{I_d^2 + I_q^2} \leq I_c^{\max} \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

where V_c^{\max} and I_c^{\max} are the maximal phase voltage amplitude at the fundamental frequency and maximal phase current, respectively.

According to the control block diagram shown in Fig. 2, it is possible to derive equations (5) where $X_{vci}, X_{ioi}, X_{idi}, X_{iqi}$ are the states associated with the PI controllers for the flux weakening, DC current, and dq -axes current controllers, respectively:

$$\begin{cases} \dot{X}_{vci} = V_c^{\max} - v_c \\ \dot{X}_{ioi} = i_o^* - i_o \\ \dot{X}_{idi} = K_{vci} X_{vci} + K_{vcp} v_c^{\max} - K_{vcp} v_c - i_d \\ \dot{X}_{iqi} = K_{ioi} X_{ioi} + K_{iop} i_o^* - K_{iop} i_o - i_q \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

Here i_o is the load current (out of the bus capacitor); i_o^* is the reference of the DC current calculated by droop; $K_{vci}, K_{vcp}, K_{ioi}$ and K_{iop} are the integral gains and proportional gains for the flux weakening controller, and DC current controller, respectively (see Appendix A).

B. DC-Link Model

The dynamics on the DC-link can be expressed as:

$$\frac{dv_{dc}}{dt} = \frac{1}{C_1}(i_{dc} - i_o) \quad (6)$$

If we ignore the impedance of the DC cable between the converter and the main DC bus, v_{dc} is equal to the main bus voltage (v_b). The nominal voltage of the main bus is 270 V, but the acceptable steady state range is between 250 V and 280 V as defined in standard MIL-STD-704F [32]:

$$250 \text{ V} \leq V_b \leq 280 \text{ V} \quad (7)$$

C. Load Model

As mentioned above, the load is represented by a combination of resistive load and constant power load:

$$P_L = P_{res} + P_{cpl} = \frac{V_b^2}{R_{res}} + P_{cpl} \quad (8)$$

where P_{cpl} and P_{res} are the total power of the CPL and resistive load, respectively. Hence, one can derive:

$$i_o = \frac{v_b}{R_{res}} + \frac{P_{cpl}}{v_b} \quad (9)$$

From (2)-(9), a set of state equations to represent the entire system can be established as:

$$\dot{X} = f(X, U) \quad (10)$$

where X and U are the vectors with respect to the state and input variables which are defined as $X = [v_{dc}, i_d, i_q, X_{vci}, X_{ioi}, X_{idi}, X_{iqi}]^T$. The nonlinear system equations are linearized around the equilibrium point to obtain a set of linearized dynamic equations. They can be formulated in state-space as follows:

$$\dot{\hat{X}} = A \hat{X} \quad (11)$$

The derived system matrix A is too large and awkward to present here. In many practical cases the DC cable impedances cannot be neglected, especially in low voltage DC power networks. The simplified schematic for the system with cable included is depicted in Fig. 4. Since the parasitic capacitance is much smaller than the bus capacitance (C_b) and the local capacitance (C_l), the cabling is represented by series R_C - L_C branch in this section. Two more state variables (the line current i_{Lc} and bus voltage v_b) are added to the entire system; the corresponding equations can be derived as follows:

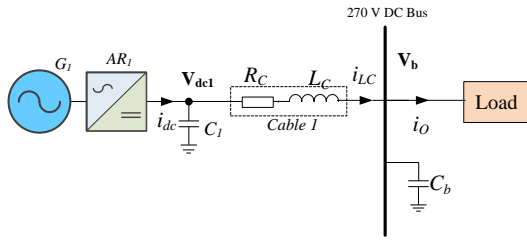


Fig. 4. Configuration of the studied system with cabling included.

$$\begin{cases} \frac{di_{Lc}}{dt} = \frac{1}{L_c} (v_{dc1} - R_c i_{Lc} - v_b) \\ \frac{dv_b}{dt} = \frac{1}{C_b} (i_{Lc} - i_o) \end{cases} \quad (12)$$

where v_{dc1} and v_b are the voltage across the local capacitor and bus capacitor, respectively.

The whole system becomes 9th-order and it can be formulated as in (13);

$$\dot{\hat{X}}_C = A_C \hat{X}_C \quad (13)$$

where the entire system matrix A_C is shown in Appendix B. $X_C = [v_{dc1}, v_b, i_{Lc}, i_{db}, i_{qp}, X_{vcib}, X_{ioib}, X_{idb}, X_{iq}]^T$.

III. MODAL ANALYSIS-SINGLE MACHINE SYSTEM

In practice, the system parameters such as generator inductance and resistance, control system parameters and operating conditions (machine speed, load power, etc) vary during operation. Any such change affects the system eigenvalues. In order to estimate the eigenvalue change tendency without calculating the eigenvalues repetitively, a sensitivity analysis should be undertaken. This section deals with a comprehensive modal analysis including participation factor and eigenvalue sensitivity.

Eigenvalues calculated from the state matrix may be real or complex. The complex eigenvalues can be expressed in conjugate pairs as follows:

$$\lambda_i = -\sigma_i \pm j\beta_i \quad (14)$$

The damping ratio and oscillation frequency corresponding to mode λ_i can be defined as:

$$\xi_i = \frac{\sigma_i}{\sqrt{\sigma_i^2 + \beta_i^2}}, \quad f_{osci} = \frac{|\beta_i|}{2\pi} \quad (15)$$

Participation factor analysis aids in the identification of how each state variable affects a given mode. It is a measure of the relative participation of the k^{th} state variable in i^{th} mode. It can be computed from the eigenvector matrices as follows:

$$p_{ki} = \frac{|w_{ki} \parallel v_{ik}|}{\sum_{k=1}^n |w_{ki} \parallel v_{ik}|} \quad (16)$$

where w_{ki} , v_{ik} are the k^{th} element in the left and right eigenvector corresponding to the i^{th} eigenvalue. In general,

the participation degree of the k^{th} variable in the i^{th} mode is measured by p_{ki} . As discussed in [15], p_{ki} can also be regarded as the sensitivity of λ_i with respect to the k^{th} diagonal element of state matrix [6].

Eigenvalue sensitivity is used to measure the rate and direction of the mode movement due to variations in system parameters. The eigenvalue sensitivity of a mode (λ_i) with respect to an uncertain parameter μ can be calculated as follows:

$$\frac{\partial \lambda_i}{\partial \mu} = \frac{w_i^T (\partial A / \partial \mu) v_i}{w_i^T v_i} \quad (17)$$

where w_i and v_i are the left and right eigenvector corresponding to the eigenvalue λ_i respectively.

The nominal system parameters used in this analysis are shown in Appendix A. Table I lists the eigenvalues of the studied system and the corresponding damping ratio and oscillation frequency for each mode. The modes $\lambda_{1,2}$ are poorly damped and regarded as the dominant modes. Table II illustrates the participation factor of the state variables. It is seen that the DC state variables (v_{dc1} , i_{Lc} , v_b) exhibit substantial participations in the dominant modes, whereas the other states participate in $\lambda_{1,2}$ weakly. Cable parameters will have a direct influence on the DC state variables. This explains why the cable impedance has strong influence on the modes $\lambda_{1,2}$. The effect of cable impedance is assessed in this section together with the other aforementioned parameters.

A. Effect of Cable Parameters

It is assumed that the cable length is 5 m. Nominal values of cable resistance and inductance are defined as 0.6 mΩ/m and 0.2 μH/m respectively. Table III lists the eigenvalue sensitivities with respect to the cable inductance and cable resistance (calculated by (17)). The 2nd column in the table shows the standardized unit for the eigenvalue sensitivities calculation corresponding to the variable in the 1st column. For instance, the eigenvalue sensitivities of modes $\lambda_{1,2}$ with regard to a 1 μH increment of L_C are $1569 \pm 26440i$. This value means that an increase of inductance will shift the real part of the eigenvalue in a positive direction. Therefore, cable inductance has a significant adverse impact on stability as the eigenvalues $\lambda_{1,2}$ will move towards to the right half plane (RHP) at a fast rate with increased L_C . In contrast, an increment of cable resistance is helpful for stabilizing the system as better damping is obtained and the dominant eigenvalues move further towards left. Figs. 5 and 6 illustrate the movement of the critical eigenvalues with respect to varying cable inductance and resistance. The dominant modes ($\lambda_{1,2}$) change significantly compared to the other modes. Increasing cable inductance (L_C) results in the system being less damped (the poles move towards the RHP). It can be clearly seen that the eigenvalue plots in Figs. 5 and 6 match the aforementioned analysis (Table III).

B. Effect of Generator Parameters

The key parameters of the PMSG considered are the synchronous inductance (L_s), stator resistance (R_s) and flux linkage of permanent magnet (ϕ_m).

(1) Synchronous Inductance

TABLE I
EIGENVALUES, DAMPING RATIO AND OSCILLATION FREQUENCY OF
THE STUDIED SYSTEM WITH CABLES

Mode	Eigenvalue	Damping ratio	Oscillation frequency(Hz)
$\lambda_{1,2}$	-193.7±52355i	0	8333
$\lambda_{3,4}$	-5429±7719i	0.58	1229
$\lambda_{5,6}$	-2910±4838i	0.52	770
$\lambda_{7,8}$	-1797±1507i	0.77	240.3
λ_9	-1871	1	0

TABLE II
PARTICIPATION FACTORS OF THE STUDIED SYSTEM WITH CABLES

Mode	\hat{v}_{dc1}	\hat{v}_b	\hat{i}_{Lc}	\hat{i}_d	\hat{i}_q	\hat{X}_{vci}	\hat{X}_{toi}	\hat{X}_{idi}	\hat{X}_{iqi}
$\lambda_{1,2}$	0.13	0.34	0.48	0	0.03	0.01	0	0	0
$\lambda_{3,4}$	0.07	0.09	0	0.17	0.22	0.12	0.02	0.15	0.14
$\lambda_{5,6}$	0.07	0.06	0	0.2	0.23	0.08	0.03	0.14	0.19
$\lambda_{7,8}$	0.22	0.15	0	0.07	0.04	0.08	0.31	0.02	0.1
λ_9	0.08	0.05	0	0.21	0	0.33	0.25	0.08	0.01

TABLE III
EIGENVALUE SENSITIVITIES FOR SINGLE GENERATOR SYSTEM WITH CABLES

Variable	Standardized unit	$\lambda_{1,2}$	$\lambda_{3,4}$	$\lambda_{5,6}$	$\lambda_{7,8}$	λ_9
L_C	1 μ H	1569±26440i	-62.9±3.75i	-7.14±10.4i	1.45±2.41i	0.055
R_C	1 m Ω	-506.4±27.93i	5.2±3.7i	1.6±0.11i	0.022±0.026i	-0.46
L_S	1 μ H	-22.99±0.4i	68.56±26.94i	22.57±3.1i	4.31±2.51i	9.5
R_S	1 m Ω	-7.55±21.09i	1.72 ±4.86i	-7.8±0.31i	2.47±4.64i	-5.4
ϕ_m	1 mV*s/rad	60.2±50.7i	-10±88.6i	-0.6±25.9i	-25.37±1.974i	19.9
K_{vcp}	1	-3280.2±8118.6i	8400.54±447.1i	-330.99±605.52i	1379.84±922.2i	-1614.22
K_{vci}	1	-0.05±0.02i	-0.13±0.56i	-0.24±0.09i	0.11±0.14i	0.14
K_{iop}	1	20.03±5040.51i	-100.83±2949.25i	1549.36±3035.6i	-4287.54±943.8i	5637.96
K_{ioi}	1	-0.08±0.02i	0.52±0.31i	0.4±0.10i	0.38±1.56i	-2.45
C_b	1 mF	225.44±87093i	-4404.55±1887.96i	-974.8±1094.77i	1324.5±494.12i	-424
P_{cpl}	1 W	0.01±0.06i	-0.02±0.00i	0.01±0.02i	-0.01±0.00i	0.01
P_{res}	1 W	-0.03±0.06i	-0.02±0.02i	0.01±0.03i	-0.02±0.01i	0.01
ω_e	1 rad/s	0.2±0.26i	0.06±0.02i	-0.3±0.11i	-0.01±0.07i	0.08
k_d	1	-144.3±15.36i	128.1±127.42i	174.4±160.88i	-253.5±79.64i	180.57

As shown in Table III, the eigenvalue sensitivities of modes $\lambda_{1,2}$ with regard to a 1 μ H increment of L_S are $-22.99 \pm 0.4i$. In other words, an increase of inductance will shift the real part of the eigenvalue in a negative direction. Hence, the EPS will be better damped and its stability margin will increase.

(2) Stator Resistance

From the results shown in Table III, it can be concluded that the effect of PMSG resistance is not significant. This is because the sensitivities of all eigenvalues, with respect to R_S , are relatively small. In other words, the eigenvalues are almost identical for systems with differing R_S values. This is due to the fact that the stator resistance is quite small and as a result the voltage drop on the stator resistor is much smaller than the coupling terms in (1). Thus, its contribution to the operating point is insignificant compared to the machine inductance.

(3) Flux Linkage of Permanent Magnet

A small increment of flux linkage will significantly compromise the damping since the dominant modes ($\lambda_{1,2}$) will move towards left half plane (LHP). It can be inferred from (4) that a more negative i_d is needed to keep ac side voltage (V_c) constant, in the high speed region, if ϕ_m is increased. It is obvious that ϕ_m cannot be decreased arbitrarily for a manufactured machine; however this result may be useful for generator and EPS designers.

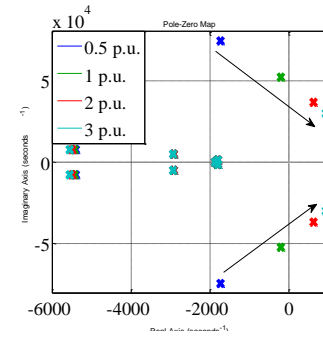


Fig. 5. Eigenvalue movement with respect to cable inductance (L_C) variation.

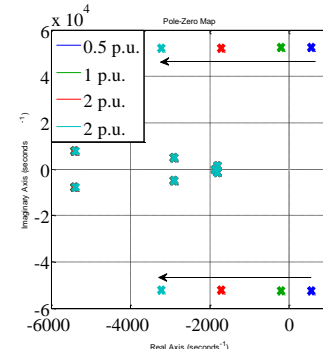


Fig. 6. Eigenvalue movement with respect to cable resistance (R_C) variation.

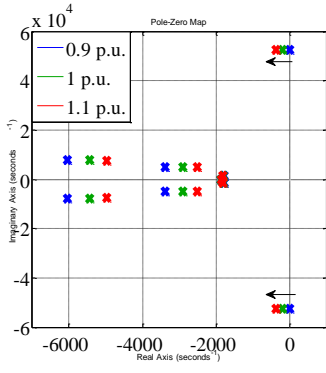


Fig. 7. Eigenvalue loci with respect to varying synchronous inductance.

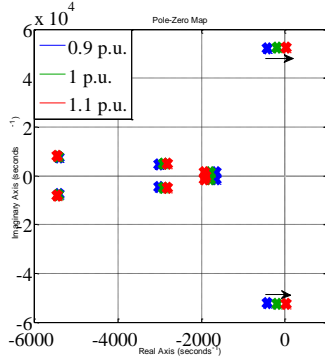


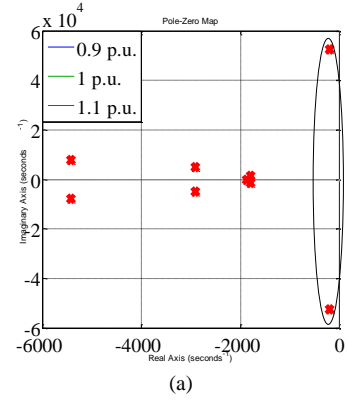
Fig. 8. Eigenvalue loci with respect to varying flux linkage of permanent magnet.

In summary, from the results in Table III, it can be concluded that the machine parametric uncertainties, or parameter variations, have a significant influence on EPS stability (except for stator resistance). The system stability margin is improved with increased machine inductance. On the other hand, a small decrease in the flux linkage of the permanent magnet is helpful for stabilizing the entire system.

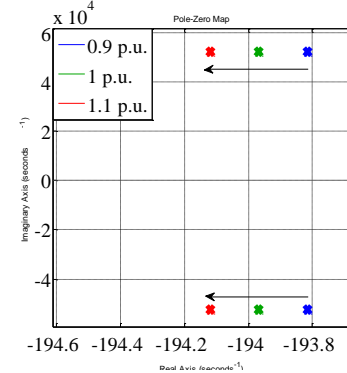
The previous numeric eigenvalue sensitivity analysis is validated by the pole movement plots above. Figs. 7 and 8 show the eigenvalue plots with regard to different values of synchronous inductance and permanent magnet flux linkage respectively. It can be seen in Fig. 7 that dominant modes move to the left with increased L_s . On the contrary, the critical eigenvalues move into the RHP if the flux linkage of permanent magnet is increased. The eigenvalue plots therefore match the previously detailed analysis (Table III). This demonstrates the feasibility and efficacy of eigenvalue sensitivity analysis. The pole movement with respect to stator resistance variation is shown in Fig. 9. The movement rate is much slower compared to the pole movement shown in Figs. 7 and 8. Again, this therefore agrees with the values listed in Table III.

C. Effect of Control Parameters

Due to the required fast dynamic response of the entire system, the inner current loops (i_d , i_q loops) are designed with a 1 kHz bandwidth and a 0.707 damping factor. Thus, the analysis in this paper is focused on flux-weakening control and DC current control. The corresponding control parameters are



(a)



(b)

Fig. 9. Eigenvalue loci with respect to varying stator resistances. (a) Overview. (b) Zoomed area of dominant poles.

given in Appendix A. Table III displays the eigenvalue sensitivities with regard to the proportional gain and integral gain of the flux weakening controller (K_{vcp} , K_{vci}) and the DC current controller (K_{iop} , K_{ioi}). A small increment in the proportional gain of the flux weakening controller K_{vcp} (within a limited range) leads to $\lambda_{1,2}$ shifting to the left. However, the increase of K_{vcp} is limited by $\lambda_{3,4}$ moving towards right semi-plane which will lead to instability. In the case of the DC current controller, the dominant modes will move towards RHP with increased K_{iop} . Overall, it can be concluded that the proportional gains of the flux weakening and current sharing controllers have a significant impact on system stability.

D. Effect of Output Bus Capacitance

In line with practical MEA EPS, the local capacitor (C_l) is fixed to 1 mF. The eigenvalue sensitivity with regard to bus capacitance (C_b) can be seen from Table IV. Critical eigenvalues will move to the left when C_b is increased from 0.2 mF to 0.4 mF and then move to the right (towards the RHP) when C_b is more than 0.4 mF. In other words, beyond a certain bus capacitance, an increased C_b will decrease the damping due to the dominant modes.

Thus, the system stability cannot be improved by simply increasing C_b . As the eigenvalue sensitivities, with respect to 2 mF or 3 mF C_b , are reduced compared to the case of 1 mF C_b , it can be inferred that all the modes including the critical modes will gradually converge to a single point in the s-plane.

TABLE IV
FIRST-ORDER EIGENVALUE SENSITIVITIES WITH DIFFERENT BUS CAPACITANCES

C_b	$\lambda_{1,2}$	$\lambda_{3,4}$	$\lambda_{5,6}$	$\lambda_{7,8}$	λ_9
0.2mF	-5358±164500i	-3714±1258i	-1545±1411i	1585±630.8i	-319.2
0.3mF	-736.5±86530i	-3211±1468i	-1520±914.5i	1574±382.6i	-296.7
0.4mF	657.7±5434i	-2813±1601i	-1470±498.3i	1488±153i	-270.8
1mF	1148±11390i	-1567±1609i	-564.8±382.9i	688±294.5i	-135.5
2mF	548.5±3155i	-804.8±951.6i	-50.1±198i	240.8±205.4i	-50.7
3mF	299.7±1443i	-447.9±596i	0.4±85.7i	120.1±137.6i	-25.4

E. Effect of Operating Conditions

Load power and generator speed are the main concern when considering EPS operating conditions. It can be seen in Table III that higher speed operation deteriorates the system stability as $\lambda_{1,2}$ and $\lambda_{3,4}$ move towards the RHP with increase of machine speed. The less damped modes, $\lambda_{1,2}$, will also approach the RHP if load power is increased. This is therefore a good match with the well-known CPL property that negative incremental impedance compromises system stability [33], [34].

IV. MODAL ANALYSIS WITHOUT CABLES

In many cases, cables are neglected in the modelling process in order to simplify the analytical result. However, this section will show that this may lead to inaccurate, and sometimes even incorrect, outcomes and conclusions. Here the system model without cabling is reassessed using the same procedure detailed previously. Based on the matrix in (13), eigenvalues, the relevant damping ratios and the oscillation frequencies for this case are shown in Table V. In addition, Table VI illustrates the new participation factors. It can be seen that modes $\lambda_{1,2}$ are the least damped modes (see Table V) and they are mainly associated with the DC link voltage and q -axis current. $\lambda_{3,4}$ are more associated with the d -axis current and λ_7 is mainly related to flux-weakening controller and DC current controller.

Table VII lists the eigenvalues sensitivities for the system without cables. It can be observed that the influences of some parameters on stability are the opposite of those found previously with cabling included, as will be discussed below.

A. Effect of Generator Parameters

In contrast to the system with cables included, the real part of the eigenvalue sensitivity of mode $\lambda_{1,2}$, with regard to the machine inductance (L_S), is now positive. Hence the system stability degrades with an increase in stator inductance. As for the flux linkage, an increment of φ_m will now shift the eigenvalues to the left. This is again opposite to the conclusion drawn from Table III.

B. Effect of Control Parameters

It shows in Table VII that the critical modes $\lambda_{1,2}$ will move dramatically to the imaginary axis with a small increment of K_{vcp} . In other words, a small increment in proportional gain for flux-weakening controller will lead to instability. This is opposite to the cabled case in which a small K_{vcp} can stabilize the system (shown in Table III).

C. Effect of Operating Conditions

As the machine speed mainly affects the d -axis current when the generator is operating in the flux-weakening region, $\lambda_{3,4}$ are the dominant modes related to the machine speed. It can be seen that the participation factor of i_d in modes $\lambda_{3,4}$ is the largest one among all the modes. Although increased machine speed renders less damping for $\lambda_{3,4}$, the damping of the critical modes $\lambda_{1,2}$ is increased. Overall, it can be found that the increment of the speed is beneficial for reinforcing the damping of the entire system. Again this is opposite to the previous findings in Table III.

V. SIMULATION STUDIES

As discussed in [22], functional models are well suited to tasks such as the investigation of EPS stability. Therefore, in support of the analysis in the previous sections, time domain simulations are presented in this section which utilize non-switching functional models of the EPS shown in Fig. 1. The simulation scenario assumes that the load power (CPL) increases step-wise every 0.01 s as detailed in Appendix C. Simulation studies have been carried out for single generator systems with cables and without cables.

A. Single Generator System without Cables

First, simulations are carried out to test the system without cabling included. Results with respect to the effect of the stator inductance (L_S) and permanent magnet flux linkage (φ_m) on stability are shown in Figs. 10 and 11. L_S is 99 μH p.u. and φ_m is 0.03644 V*s/rad p.u. (See Appendix A). It can be seen from Fig. 10 that if L_S is increased to 1.1 p.u. instability occurs when the load power exceeds 40 kW. However, under the same test, the system is stable with L_S set at 0.9 p.u.

Fig. 11 shows the results for variation of the permanent magnet flux linkage. It can be seen that at 0.9 p.u. the system becomes unstable under high load power (30 kW) whilst at 1.1 p.u. the system remains stable.

Fig. 12(a) and (b) show the dynamic responses obtained when varying the proportional gains of the flux-weakening and DC current controllers. As expected from the previously detailed analytical analysis, it shows that the EPS is very sensitive to variations in the proportional gain of the flux-weakening controller, K_{vcp} . After $t = 0.12$ s, instability is observed if K_{vcp} is increased from 0 to 3. From Fig. 12(b) it can be seen that the system becomes unstable when K_{iop} is changed from 0.4 to 0.8 at $t = 0.14$ s.

TABLE V
EIGENVALUES OF THE STUDIED SYSTEM WITHOUT CABLES

Mode	Eigenvalue	Damping ratio	Oscillation frequency (Hz)
$\lambda_{1,2}$	$-1765 \pm 10836i$	0.16	1724
$\lambda_{3,4}$	$-2823 \pm 6034i$	0.42	960
$\lambda_{5,6}$	$-3034 \pm 660i$	0.98	105
λ_7	-1556	1	0

TABLE VI
PARTICIPATION FACTORS OF THE STUDIED SYSTEM WITHOUT CABLES

Mode	\hat{V}_{dc}	\hat{I}_d	\hat{I}_q	\hat{X}_{vci}	\hat{X}_{ioi}	\hat{X}_{idi}	\hat{X}_{iqi}
$\lambda_{1,2}$	0.27	0.09	0.31	0.1	0.04	0.05	0.13
$\lambda_{3,4}$	0.05	0.38	0.06	0.18	0.01	0.24	0.08
$\lambda_{5,6}$	0.17	0.02	0.07	0.13	0.18	0.17	0.25
λ_7	0.08	0.1	0	0.1	0.7	0.02	0

TABLE VII
FIRST-ORDER EIGENVALUE SENSITIVITIES FOR SINGLE GENERATOR SYSTEM WITHOUT CABLES

Variable	Standardized unit	$\lambda_{1,2}$	$\lambda_{3,4}$	$\lambda_{5,6}$	λ_7
L_S	1 μH	$70.4 \pm 64.85i$	$-6.84 \pm 12i$	$12.66 \pm 4.66i$	1.16
R_S	1 m Ω	$14.73 \pm 9.85i$	$-12.2 \pm 0.4i$	$1.65 \pm 5.51i$	-3.67
φ_m	1 mV*/s/rad	$-33.68 \pm 200.73i$	$27.03 \pm 67.7i$	$-11.67 \pm 9.21i$	10.84
K_{vcp}	1	$12070.87 \pm 1852.17i$	$-178.46 \pm 2411.1i$	$988.34 \pm 543.24i$	-1079.1
K_{vci}	1	$0.07 \pm 0.58i$	$-0.46 \pm 0.11i$	$0.1 \pm 0.05i$	0.11
K_{iop}	1	$5076.15 \pm 6544.32i$	$-577.36 \pm 3010.22i$	$-2907.7 \pm 1408.3i$	5537
K_{ioi}	1	$1.24 \pm 0.67i$	$0.03 \pm 0.28i$	$-0.17 \pm 1.71i$	-2.19
C_i	1 mF	$-1320.4 \pm 13176.1i$	$-3589.32 \pm 1772.45i$	$1751 \pm 543.17i$	-658
P_{cpl}	1 W	$0.02 \pm 0.04i$	$-0.02 \pm 0.03i$	$0.02 \pm 0.01i$	-0.01
P_{res}	1 W	$0.00 \pm 0.02i$	$-0.01 \pm 0.03i$	$-0.01 \pm 0.02i$	0.01
ω_e	1 rad/s	$-0.27 \pm 0.75i$	$0.18 \pm 0.19i$	$-0.12 \pm 0.08i$	-0.03
k_D	1	$350 \pm 660i$	$-89.4 \pm 2.22i$	$-40.24 \pm 139i$	0.82

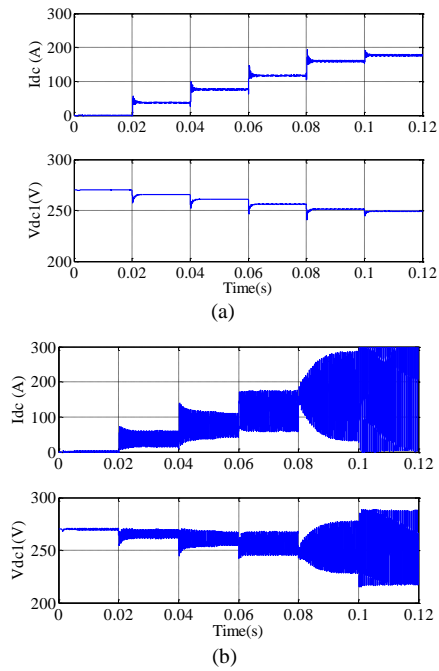


Fig. 10. Simulation results for different machine inductances. (a) $L_S = 0.9$ p.u. (b) $L_S = 1.1$ p.u.

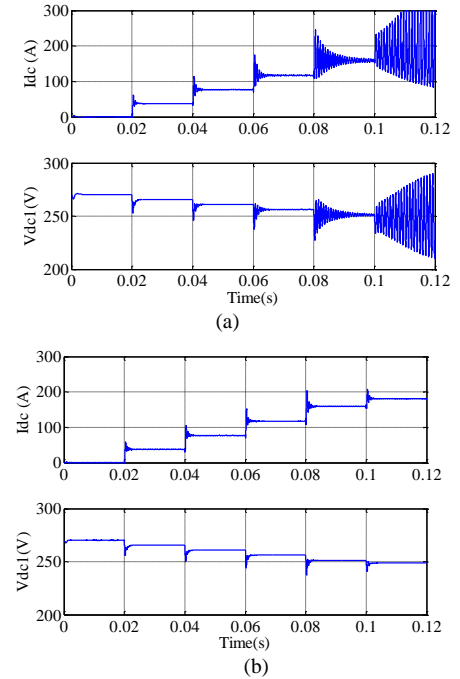


Fig. 11. Simulation results for different permanent magnet flux linkages. (a) $\varphi_m = 0.9$ p.u. (b) $\varphi_m = 1.1$ p.u.

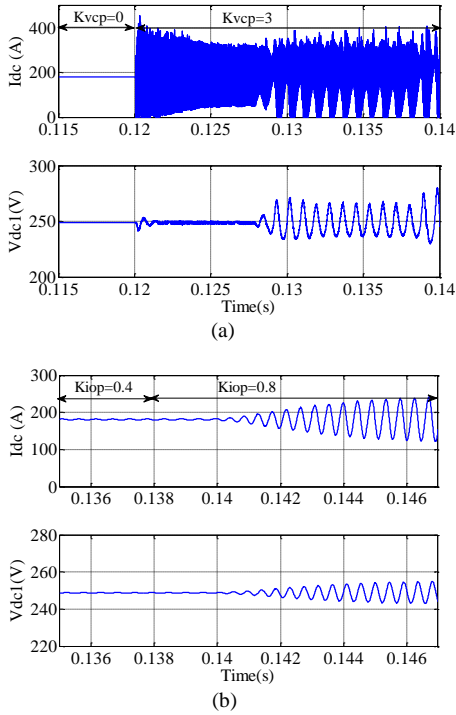


Fig. 12. Simulation results for control parameter variation. (a) K_{vcp} is changed from 0 to 3. (b) K_{iop} is changed from 0.4 to 0.8.

Fig. 13 shows the effect of generation speed on stability. In this case 0.5 mF is used for the local capacitor (C_l). Fig. 13(a) shows the machine speed and the stator current in both d and q axes. Fig. 13(b) presents the DC link current and voltage waveforms. Onset of instability can be observed in Fig. 13(a) at low generation speed (< 15 krpm), which confirms the findings in the previously detailed analytical analysis (in Section IV).

B. Single Generator System with Cables

Simulations were also performed using the single generator system shown in Fig. 4 with cabling included. Figs. 14 and 15 show the effect on the system with cabling included when generator parameters are varied. The local capacitor (at the output of the rectifier) is set to 1 mF. A small bus capacitance (0.13 mF) is used within the system model in order to demonstrate the effect of capacitance on system behavior.

Compared to the results in Fig. 10, it can be seen in Fig. 14 that in this case, with L_S set at 1.1 p.u., the system does not exhibit instability. On the contrary, the system with 0.9 p.u. L_S exhibits instability under high loads. This is opposite to the case without cabling included, as expected from the previous analytical analysis. Fig. 15 shows that the system with 0.9 p.u. φ_m now remains stable under a high power load. However, the system with 1.1 p.u. φ_m shows oscillations when the load is approaching full power after $t = 0.08$ s. Again, as expected, this is opposite to the case without cabling included.

Fig. 16 shows the results for generator speed variation from 12 krpm to 32 krpm. It can be seen that in the high speed region the whole system destabilizes. This again confirms the findings presented in Table III.

Fig. 17 confirms that the system can be stabilized at high speed by a bus capacitance C_b of 0.5 mF. This emphasizes that

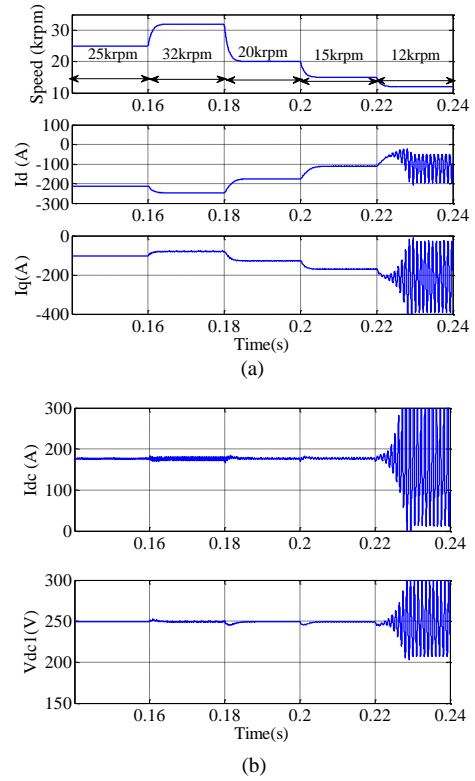


Fig. 13. Simulation results for varying machine speeds ($C_b = 0.5$ mF). (a) Machine speed and stator current in dq axes. (b) DC current and voltage.

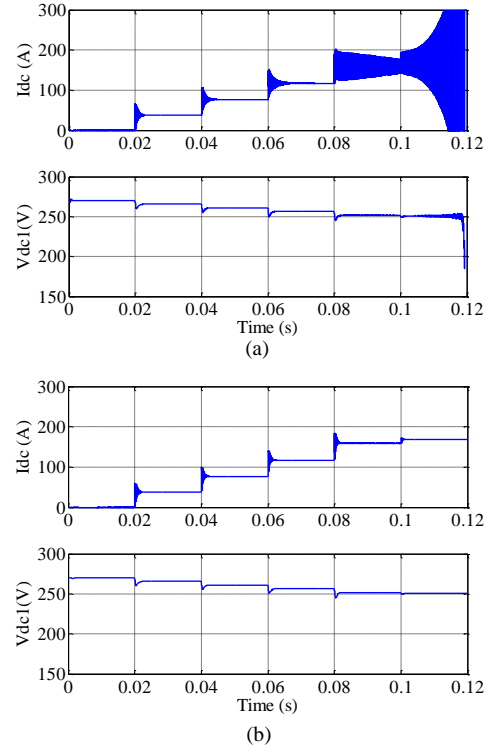


Fig. 14. Simulation results for different machine inductances. (a) $L_S = 0.9$ p.u. (b) $L_S = 1.1$ p.u.

an appropriate bus capacitance should be selected in order to reinforce the damping of the entire system. This is consistent with the findings in Table IV.

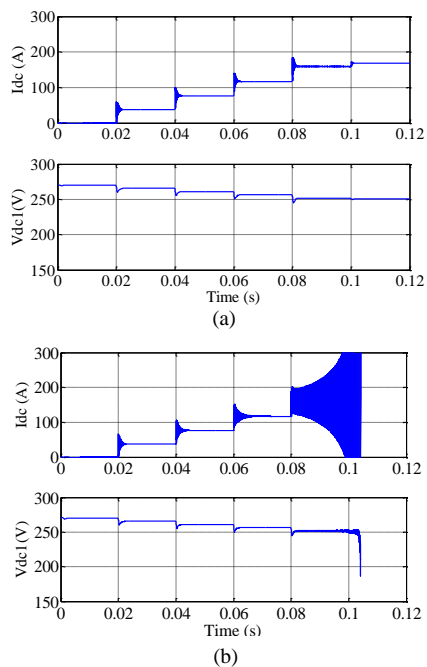


Fig. 15. Simulation results for different permanent magnet flux linkages. (a) $\phi_m = 0.9$ p.u. (b) $\phi_m = 1.1$ p.u.

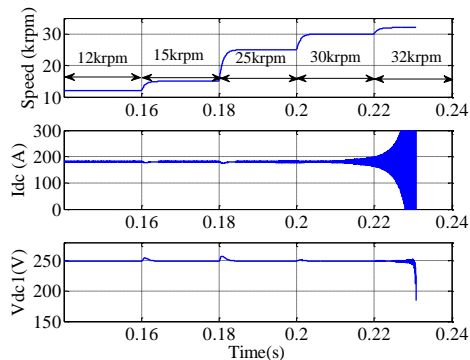


Fig. 16. Simulation results for varying machine speeds ($C_b = 0.13$ mF).

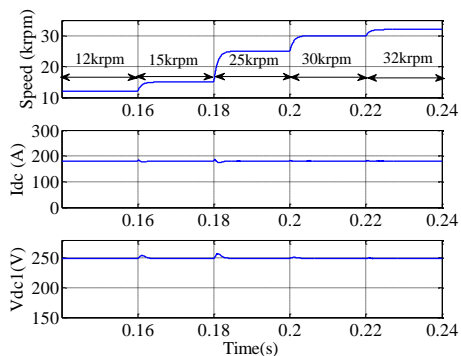


Fig. 17. Simulation results for varying machine speeds ($C_b = 0.5$ mF).

VI. CONCLUSION

This paper employed a DC EPS as a research objective which is a promising configuration for future MEA. A comprehensive modal analysis of a PMSG based MEA EPS

has been performed. Analysis of participation factors, damping ratios and oscillation frequencies helps to understand the system characteristic. Within the analysis cable impedance was taken into consideration and the corresponding modal analysis shows that some parameters have opposite impacts on stability when cabling is ignored. The impact of parameter variation on system stability was illustrated using eigenvalue sensitivity. The applied method significantly reduces the computation burden as repetitive calculation of eigenvalues is not needed. By utilization of this technique, the effect of parameter variation on EPS behaviour, tendencies and direction of modal shift can be presented in a convenient and illustrative form. Generator parameters, control parameters and operating conditions were varied to demonstrate their effects on small signal stability. Time-domain simulations using a non-linear functional model of the example EPS have been carried out to verify analytical results.

It can be concluded that in order to obtain accurate system characteristics, cable influence cannot be neglected. Overall, the comprehensive analysis conducted in this paper offers insightful guidance for parameter optimization and system stability prediction in practical applications.

APPENDIX A

THE EPS PARAMETERS

Category	Parameter	Symbol	Value
PMSG	Machine resistance	R_S	1.058 m Ω (1 p.u.)
	Machine inductance	L_S	99 μ H (1 p.u.)
	Permanent magnet flux linkage	ϕ_m	0.03644 V*s/rad (1 p.u.)
	Number of poles	p	6
	Nominal power	P_N	45 kW
Cable	Local capacitor	C_l	1 mF
	Cable resistor	R_C	3 m Ω (0.6 m Ω /m)
	Cable inductor	L_C	1 μ H (0.2 μ H /m)
Main bus	Bus Capacitor	C_b	0.5 mF
Droop characteristic	Nominal voltage	V_o	270 V
	Droop slope	k_D	8.5
Stator current loop	Proportional gain	K_{idp}, K_{iqp}	0.8785
	Integral gain	K_{idv}, K_{iqv}	3908
Flux weakening control	Proportional gain	K_{vcp}	0
	Integral gain	K_{vci}	5000
DC current control	Proportional gain	K_{iop}	0.4
	Integral gain	K_{ioi}	600

APPENDIX B

STATE MATRIX A_c OF SINGLE GENERATOR SYSTEM

$$A_c = \begin{bmatrix} A & F_1 & F_2 \\ L & -\frac{R_{c1}}{L_{c1}} & -\frac{1}{L_{c1}} \\ 0 & \frac{1}{C_b} & -\frac{1}{C_b} * \left(\left(\frac{2}{R_{res}} - \frac{P_{cpl}}{V_b^2} \right) \right) \end{bmatrix}$$

where $L=[1/L_{c1}, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0]$.

F_1 and F_2 are the column vectors consisting of control parameters and operating points.

APPENDIX C

SIMULATION EVENTS FOR LOAD POWER

Time (s)	Load(kW)	Time (s)	Load(kW)
0-0.01	0	0.05-0.06	41
0.01-0.02	10	0.06-0.07	42
0.02-0.03	20	0.07-0.08	43
0.03-0.04	30	0.08-0.09	44
0.04-0.05	40	0.09-0.10	45

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