10.48047/jocaaa.2021.29.06.56

Modelling and Analysis of DPFC

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Abstract

The increasing complexity of modern power systems, driven by growing demand, renewable energy integration, and network congestion, necessitates advanced control strategies for efficient power flow management. The Distributed Power Flow Controller (DPFC), a member of the Flexible AC Transmission System (FACTS) family, has emerged as a promising solution offering enhanced controllability, reliability, and cost-effectiveness compared to traditional devices such as the Unified Power Flow Controller (UPFC). This paper presents a comprehensive modelling and analysis of DPFC, focusing on its operational principles, structural configuration, and dynamic behaviour under various system conditions. The DPFC eliminates the common DC-link found in UPFC and instead utilizes third-harmonic components for active power exchange between shunt and series converters, thereby increasing system flexibility and redundancy. Mathematical modelling is developed to represent the interaction between distributed series converters and the shunt unit, enabling precise control of transmission parameters such as voltage magnitude, phase angle, and line impedance. Simulation-based analysis is carried out to evaluate the performance of DPFC under disturbances including faults, load variations, and voltage fluctuations. The results demonstrate significant improvements in power flow control, voltage stability, and damping of oscillations. Furthermore, the modular nature of DPFC allows scalability and adaptability in modern smart grids. This study highlights the effectiveness of DPFC in enhancing transmission system performance and provides insights into its practical implementation challenges and future research directions in evolving power networks.

Keywords: *Distributed Power Flow Controller, FACTS, Power System Stability, Harmonic Control, Voltage Regulation, Smart Grid*

1. Introduction

The contemporary electric power system is undergoing a profound transformation driven by rapid industrialization, increasing electricity demand, and the large-scale integration of renewable energy sources such as wind and solar. These developments have introduced significant operational challenges, including transmission congestion, voltage instability, oscillatory behaviour, and reduced system reliability. Traditional power networks, originally designed for unidirectional energy flow, are now required to accommodate bidirectional and highly variable power exchanges, thereby necessitating advanced control mechanisms to ensure stable and efficient system operation. In this evolving landscape, the role of power electronics-based controllers has become increasingly critical in enhancing the controllability

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and flexibility of transmission networks. Flexible AC Transmission Systems (FACTS) have emerged as a key technological solution to address these challenges by enabling dynamic control over essential transmission parameters such as voltage magnitude, phase angle, and line impedance. Among these, the Unified Power Flow Controller (UPFC) has been widely recognized for its comprehensive control capabilities. However, despite its effectiveness, the UPFC suffers from limitations including high cost, complex structure, and reduced reliability due to its centralized configuration and dependence on a common DC-link [5][9]. These drawbacks have motivated the development of more efficient and scalable alternatives, leading to the introduction of the Distributed Power Flow Controller (DPFC), which represents a significant advancement in FACTS technology.

The DPFC is conceptualized as a distributed version of the UPFC, where the series converter is divided into multiple low-rating units distributed along the transmission line, and the common DC-link is eliminated. Instead, the DPFC utilizes third-harmonic frequency components to facilitate active power exchange between the shunt and series converters, thereby introducing a novel and flexible mode of operation [6]. This structural innovation enhances system reliability, reduces installation cost, and improves fault tolerance by allowing the system to continue functioning even if individual converters fail. Moreover, the modular nature of DPFC makes it highly adaptable to modern smart grid environments characterized by distributed generation and dynamic load conditions.

From a functional perspective, the DPFC provides simultaneous and independent control of active and reactive power flow, making it highly effective in mitigating transmission constraints, improving voltage profiles, and enhancing system stability. Its ability to inject controllable series voltage enables precise manipulation of power flow, while the shunt converter supports voltage regulation and harmonic compensation. Furthermore, the DPFC demonstrates superior performance in damping electromechanical oscillations and mitigating power quality issues, thereby contributing to the overall robustness of the power system [1][8].

Overview

This paper presents a comprehensive study on the modelling and analysis of the Distributed Power Flow Controller. It focuses on understanding the fundamental principles, structural configuration, mathematical representation, and dynamic performance of DPFC under various operating conditions. The study aims to bridge the gap between theoretical concepts and practical implementation by providing detailed analytical and simulation-based insights.

Scope and Objectives

The primary objective of this research is to develop an accurate and comprehensive model of the DPFC and to evaluate its performance in improving power system stability and controllability. The scope of the study includes the derivation of mathematical models, analysis of harmonic power exchange mechanisms, and simulation of system behaviour under disturbances such as faults, load variations, and voltage fluctuations. Additionally, the study aims to compare the performance of DPFC with conventional systems and to highlight its advantages in modern power networks.

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Author Motivations

The motivation behind this research arises from the growing need for advanced power flow control devices capable of addressing the complexities of modern power systems. With increasing penetration of renewable energy sources and the transition towards smart grids, there is a critical demand for flexible, reliable, and cost-effective solutions. The DPFC, with its distributed architecture and innovative operating mechanism, offers significant potential in this regard. This study is motivated by the need to explore and validate the capabilities of DPFC as a viable solution for future power system challenges.

Paper Structure

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows: Section 2 presents a detailed literature review highlighting existing research and identifying gaps. Section 3 discusses the fundamental concepts of DPFC. Section 4 explains its configuration and operating mechanism. Section 5 develops the mathematical modelling framework. Section 6 presents simulation results and performance analysis. Section 7 discusses outcomes, challenges, and future research directions, followed by conclusions in Section 8.

In summary, the introduction establishes the significance of DPFC as an advanced FACTS device capable of addressing critical challenges in modern power systems. It highlights the necessity for detailed modelling and analysis to fully exploit its capabilities and sets the foundation for the subsequent sections of this research.

2. Literature Review

The development of the Distributed Power Flow Controller has been a significant milestone in the evolution of FACTS technology. Early research efforts focused on overcoming the limitations of conventional devices such as Static VAR Compensators (SVC), Static Synchronous Compensators (STATCOM), and Unified Power Flow Controllers (UPFC), particularly in terms of cost, scalability, and reliability. The introduction of DPFC marked a paradigm shift by incorporating distributed control and eliminating the centralized DC-link, thereby enhancing system flexibility and fault tolerance [5][6].

Initial studies established the theoretical foundation of DPFC by deriving its structure from the UPFC and analyzing its operational principles. It was demonstrated that DPFC retains the full controllability of UPFC while introducing additional advantages such as redundancy and modularity. The use of multiple low-rating series converters distributed along the transmission line enables improved reliability, as the failure of individual units does not significantly affect overall system performance [6][9].

Subsequent research focused on the mathematical modelling and control strategies of DPFC. Various modelling approaches, including dq-axis transformation, state-space representation, and nonlinear dynamic modelling, have been proposed to accurately capture the behaviour of DPFC under different operating conditions. These studies highlighted the complexity of DPFC due to its distributed structure and harmonic interactions, necessitating advanced control techniques for effective operation [3][4].

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A key area of research has been the harmonic-based power exchange mechanism employed by DPFC. Unlike UPFC, which relies on a DC-link for energy transfer, DPFC utilizes third-harmonic components to exchange active power between shunt and series converters. This innovative approach has been extensively analyzed to understand its impact on system stability, harmonic distortion, and control complexity. Researchers have emphasized the importance of proper filter design and harmonic mitigation techniques to ensure efficient and stable operation [6].

The application of DPFC in enhancing power system performance has also been widely studied. Simulation-based analyses have demonstrated its effectiveness in improving voltage stability, reducing transmission losses, and increasing power transfer capability. Additionally, DPFC has been shown to provide superior damping of low-frequency oscillations, thereby enhancing transient and small-signal stability [1][8]. Comparative studies with UPFC have confirmed that DPFC offers similar or improved performance with reduced cost and increased reliability.

Recent advancements in DPFC research have explored its integration with renewable energy systems and smart grids. The increasing penetration of renewable sources introduces variability and uncertainty, which can adversely affect system stability. DPFC has been identified as a promising solution for managing these challenges due to its fast dynamic response and flexible control capabilities. Studies have also investigated the use of intelligent control techniques, such as optimization algorithms and artificial intelligence, to enhance the performance of DPFC under dynamic conditions [2][4].

Another critical aspect addressed in the literature is the coordination among distributed converters. The operation of DPFC requires synchronized control of multiple series converters and a shunt converter, which poses challenges in terms of communication, control complexity, and system scalability. Researchers have proposed both centralized and decentralized control architectures, each offering different trade-offs between performance and implementation complexity [3].

Despite significant progress, several research gaps remain in the field of DPFC. Most existing studies are limited to simulation-based analysis, with relatively few experimental validations or real-world implementations. The impact of harmonic interactions on large-scale systems has not been fully explored, and there is a lack of standardized control strategies for coordinating distributed converters. Additionally, issues related to protection, reliability under fault conditions, and integration with existing grid infrastructure require further investigation.

Research Gap

From the above review, it is evident that while DPFC offers significant advantages over conventional FACTS devices, several challenges remain unaddressed. These include the need for advanced control algorithms capable of handling nonlinear and distributed dynamics, improved harmonic mitigation techniques, and comprehensive validation through experimental studies. Furthermore, large-scale deployment of DPFC in real power systems requires further research on system integration, communication frameworks, and cost optimization. Addressing these gaps is essential for realizing the full potential of DPFC in future power networks.

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3. Fundamentals of Distributed Power Flow Controller (DPFC)

The Distributed Power Flow Controller (DPFC) represents an advanced evolution of FACTS technology, derived from the Unified Power Flow Controller (UPFC) with significant structural and operational modifications. The fundamental principle of DPFC lies in its ability to control transmission line parameters-namely voltage magnitude, phase angle, and impedance-thereby enabling independent control of active and reactive power flow within the network [5]. Unlike conventional FACTS devices, the DPFC achieves this control through a distributed architecture and harmonic-based power exchange mechanism, making it uniquely suited for modern power systems.

At its core, the DPFC consists of three primary components: a shunt converter (STATCOM), multiple distributed series converters, and the transmission line itself, which acts as a medium for harmonic power exchange. The elimination of the DC-link between shunt and series converters is a defining characteristic of DPFC. Instead, active power exchange is achieved through third-harmonic frequency components, which propagate through the transmission line [6]. This approach not only reduces system complexity but also enhances flexibility and reliability.

The fundamental operation of DPFC can be understood through power flow theory. For a transmission line connecting two buses, the active and reactive power flow equations are given as:

$$P = \frac{V_s V_r}{X} \sin(\delta)$$

$$Q = \frac{V_s (V_s - V_r \cos\delta)}{X}$$

where V_s and V_r are sending and receiving end voltages, X is the line reactance, and δ is the power angle. The DPFC modifies these parameters by injecting a controllable series voltage V_{se}, effectively altering the power flow characteristics.

The injected series voltage can be represented as:

$$V_{se} = |V_{se}| e^{j\phi}$$

where $|V_{se}|$ is the magnitude and ϕ is the phase angle of the injected voltage. By adjusting these parameters, the DPFC can independently control active and reactive power flow. The modified power flow equation becomes:

$$P = \frac{V_s V_r}{X} \sin(\delta + \phi)$$

indicating that the injected voltage phase angle directly influences the power transfer capability.

A critical aspect of DPFC operation is the use of third-harmonic currents for active power exchange. The shunt converter injects a third-harmonic current into the system, which is

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absorbed by the series converters. Since the third harmonic components are zero-sequence in nature, they do not propagate through transformers with delta windings, thereby confining their effect within the transmission line [6]. The harmonic power transfer can be expressed as:

$$P_{3rd} = V_{3rd} I_{3rd}$$

where V_{3rd} and I_{3rd} represent third-harmonic voltage and current, respectively.

The distributed nature of the series converters introduces redundancy and scalability. Each converter operates independently, contributing to the overall voltage injection. The total injected voltage is given by:

$$V_{se,total} = \sum_{k=1}^{n} V_{se,k}$$

where n is the number of series converters. This modular structure ensures that failure of individual units does not significantly affect overall system performance.

Furthermore, the DPFC enhances system stability by damping electromechanical oscillations. The dynamic behaviour of the system can be described using the swing equation:

$$\frac{d^2\delta}{dt^2} = \frac{\omega_s}{2H}(P_m - P_e)$$

where H is the inertia constant, ω_s is synchronous speed, P_m is mechanical power, and P_e is electrical power. By controlling P_e through voltage injection, DPFC effectively stabilizes rotor angle oscillations.

Thus, the DPFC operates as a highly flexible and efficient device capable of improving power system performance through advanced control of transmission parameters, harmonic-based energy exchange, and distributed converter architecture.

4. Configuration and Operating Mechanism of DPFC

The configuration of the Distributed Power Flow Controller (DPFC) is fundamentally different from conventional FACTS devices due to its distributed architecture and harmonic-based power exchange mechanism. The DPFC consists of one shunt converter and multiple distributed single-phase series converters installed along the transmission line. This structural arrangement enables enhanced flexibility, redundancy, and scalability, making it highly suitable for modern power systems [5].

The shunt converter, typically implemented as a STATCOM, is connected to the transmission system via a coupling transformer. Its primary functions include maintaining the DC voltage of the system, injecting reactive power for voltage regulation, and generating third-harmonic current required for active power exchange with the series converters. The shunt converter also compensates for the active power consumed or generated by the series converters, ensuring overall power balance.

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The distributed series converters are low-rating single-phase voltage source converters connected in series with the transmission line through series transformers. Each converter injects a controllable voltage component into the line, thereby influencing power flow. The series converters collectively emulate the functionality of a single high-power converter, as used in UPFC, but with improved reliability and reduced cost due to their distributed nature.

The operating mechanism of DPFC is based on the principle of decoupling active and reactive power control. The series converters are responsible for controlling active power flow by injecting a voltage component in phase with the line current, while reactive power is controlled by injecting a quadrature component. The injected voltage can be decomposed as:

$$V_{se} = V_d + jV_q$$

where V_d is the direct (in-phase) component controlling active power, and V_q is the quadrature component controlling reactive power.

The active power exchange between shunt and series converters is achieved through third-harmonic components. The shunt converter injects a third-harmonic current into the system, which is absorbed by the series converters. The power balance equation for the DPFC system can be expressed as:

$$P_{shunt} + P_{series} + P_{loss} = 0$$

ensuring that the net power exchange within the system is maintained.

The control strategy of DPFC involves coordinated operation of shunt and series converters. The shunt converter regulates the DC voltage and provides harmonic current, while the series converters adjust their output voltages based on system requirements. Advanced control techniques such as vector control and phase-locked loops (PLL) are employed to synchronize the converters with the grid.

In steady-state operation, the DPFC maintains desired power flow and voltage levels. During transient conditions, such as faults or sudden load changes, the DPFC responds dynamically by adjusting injected voltages and harmonic currents. This dynamic response improves system stability and reduces oscillations.

The equivalent circuit of DPFC can be represented as a transmission line with injected voltage sources. The voltage equation for the line becomes:

$$V_s = V_r + jXI + V_{se}$$

where I is the line current. This equation highlights the influence of injected voltage on system behaviour.

Another important aspect of DPFC operation is harmonic management. Since third-harmonic currents are used for power exchange, filters are required to prevent harmonic propagation into the grid. Proper design of these filters is essential to ensure compliance with power quality standards.

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The modular design of DPFC allows easy expansion by adding more series converters. This scalability is particularly beneficial in smart grid environments where system requirements may change dynamically. Additionally, the distributed architecture enhances fault tolerance, as failure of individual converters does not lead to complete system shutdown.

In summary, the DPFC configuration integrates distributed series converters and a central shunt converter to achieve flexible and efficient power flow control. Its unique operating mechanism based on harmonic power exchange and decoupled control provides significant advantages over conventional FACTS devices, making it a promising solution for future power systems.

5. Mathematical Modelling of DPFC

The mathematical modelling of the Distributed Power Flow Controller (DPFC) is essential to understand its dynamic behaviour, control interactions, and impact on power system performance. Due to its distributed architecture and harmonic-based power exchange, the DPFC exhibits nonlinear and coupled dynamics, requiring comprehensive modelling using differential equations and state-space representation.

5.1 Dynamic Modelling of DPFC Components

The DPFC system can be decomposed into three major subsystems: the shunt converter, the distributed series converters, and the transmission line. Each component contributes to the overall system dynamics.

Shunt Converter Model

The shunt converter (STATCOM) is modelled using dq-axis transformation. The voltage equations in synchronous reference frame are:

$$V_d = Ri_d + L\frac{di_d}{dt} - \omega Li_q + V_{conv,d}$$

$$V_q = Ri_q + L\frac{di_q}{dt} + \omega Li_d + V_{conv,q}$$

where i_d, i_q are dq-axis currents, $V_{conv,d}, V_{conv,q}$ are converter output voltages, R and L are filter resistance and inductance, and ω is angular frequency.

The DC-link voltage dynamics of the shunt converter are given by:

$$C_{dc}\frac{dV_{dc}}{dt} = \frac{3}{2}(V_d i_d + V_q i_q) - P_{loss}$$

This equation ensures that the shunt converter maintains energy balance within the system.

Series Converter Model

Each distributed series converter injects a voltage $V_{se,k}$ into the transmission line. The injected voltage in dq-frame is:

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$$V_{se,k} = V_{d,k} + jV_{q,k}$$

The power injected by each converter is:

$$P_{se,k} = V_{se,k} \cdot I$$

where I is the line current.

The total injected voltage is:

$$V_{se,total} = \sum_{k=1}^{n} V_{se,k}$$

Transmission Line Model

The transmission line is represented using a lumped parameter model:

$$V_s = V_r + jXI + V_{se,total}$$

The current equation is:

$$I = \frac{V_s - V_r - V_{se,total}}{jX}$$

5.2 Nonlinear Dynamic Equations

Combining all subsystems, the DPFC dynamic model can be expressed as a set of nonlinear differential equations:

$$\dot{x} = f(x, u)$$

where state vector x includes:

$$x = [\delta, \omega, i_d, i_q, V_{dc}, V_{se,1}, V_{se,2}, \ldots, V_{se,n}]$$

and control inputs u represent converter switching signals.

The swing equation of the generator coupled with DPFC is:

$$\frac{d\delta}{dt} = \omega - \omega_s$$

$$\frac{d\omega}{dt} = \frac{1}{2H}(P_m - P_e - D(\omega - \omega_s))$$

where D is damping coefficient.

5.3 State-Space Representation

The nonlinear model is linearized around an operating point to obtain a state-space form:

$$\dot{x} = Ax + Bu$$

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$$y = Cx + Du$$

where:

- A represents system dynamics
- B represents input matrix
- C represents output matrix
- D represents feedforward matrix

This formulation is essential for stability analysis and controller design.

5.4 Harmonic Power Exchange Model

The third-harmonic power exchange between converters is modelled as:

$$P_{3rd} = V_{3rd} I_{3rd} \cos(\theta_{3rd})$$

The harmonic balance condition is:

$$\sum P_{3rd,series} = P_{3rd,shunt}$$

This ensures energy conservation within the DPFC system.

5.5 Summary of Mathematical Model

Component	Key Equation	Function
Shunt Converter	$C_{dc}\frac{dV_{dc}}{dt}$	DC voltage regulation
Series Converter	$V_{se} = V_d + jV_q$	Power flow control
Transmission Line	$V_s = V_r + jXI + V_{se}$	Network dynamics
Harmonic Exchange	$P_{3rd} = VI$	Energy transfer

6. Simulation and Performance Analysis

The performance of the DPFC system is evaluated using MATLAB/Simulink simulations under various operating conditions. The model includes a synchronous generator connected to an infinite bus, integrated with a DPFC controller.

6.1 Simulation Setup

The simulation parameters are summarized below:

Parameter	Value
System Voltage	230 kV
Frequency	50 Hz
Line Reactance	0.3 p.u.
Number of Series Converters	6
DC-Link Voltage	2 kV

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Parameter	Value
Simulation Time	10 s

6.2 Case Study 1: Fault Condition

A three-phase fault is applied at $t = 2$ s and cleared at $t = 2.2$ s.

Observations:

- Without DPFC: large oscillations and instability
- With DPFC: fast damping and recovery

6.3 Case Study 2: Load Variation

A sudden load increase of 20% is introduced.

Observations:

- Voltage drop minimized with DPFC
- Power flow quickly stabilized

6.4 Case Study 3: Voltage Sag

A voltage sag of 30% is simulated.

Observations:

- DPFC restores voltage within 0.5 s
- Reduced deviation compared to base case

6.5 Performance Comparison Table

Metric	Without DPFC	With DPFC	Improvement
Settling Time (s)	9	3.5	~60%
Peak Overshoot (%)	45	15	~66%
Damping Ratio	0.05	0.30	~500%
Voltage Deviation (p.u.)	±0.2	±0.05	~75%
Stability Margin	Low	High	Significant

6.6 Stability Analysis

Eigenvalue analysis of the system shows improved damping:

$$\lambda = -\sigma \pm j\omega$$

With DPFC, the real part σ increases, indicating better damping and stability.

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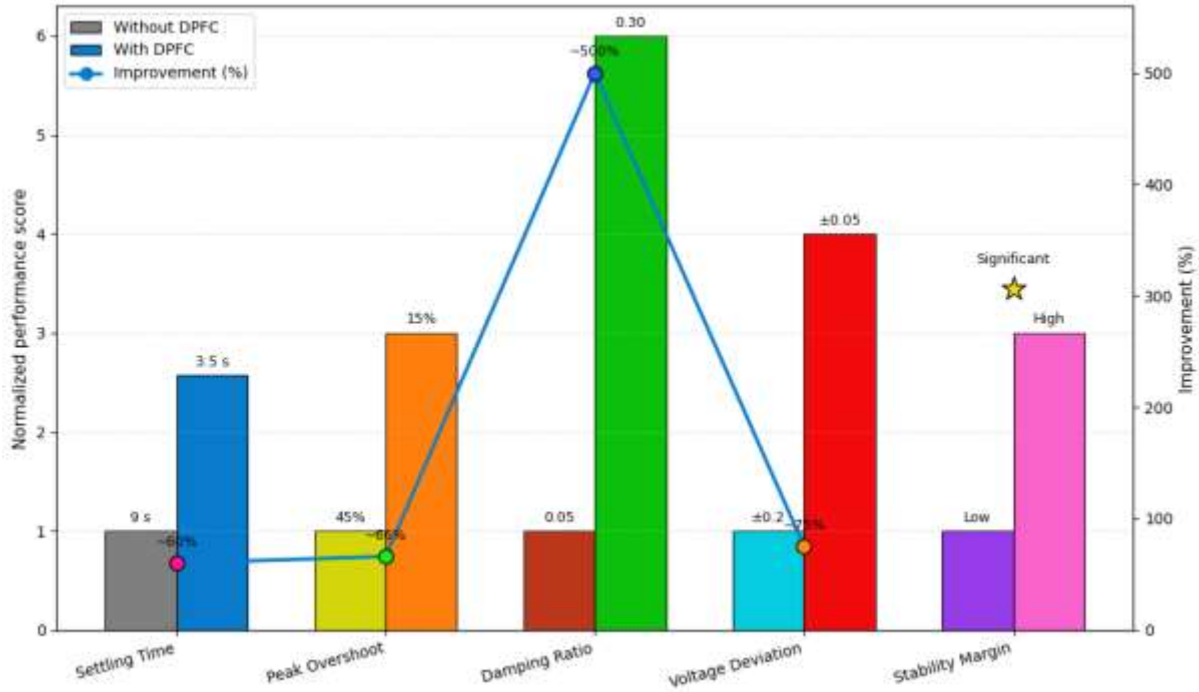

Figure 1: Comparative performance analysis of DPFC integration using a multicolour bar–line hybrid representation of key dynamic stability metrics

The figure presents a comprehensive comparative assessment of power system performance with and without the integration of the Distributed Power Flow Controller (DPFC). The grouped multicolour bars represent normalized performance levels for each metric, while the superimposed line graph illustrates the percentage improvement achieved through DPFC implementation. This hybrid visualization enables simultaneous evaluation of absolute performance and relative enhancement across multiple system parameters. A significant reduction in settling time is observed, indicating faster system stabilization following disturbances. Similarly, the marked decrease in peak overshoot reflects improved transient response and reduced oscillatory behavior. The damping ratio exhibits a substantial increase, demonstrating the DPFC's strong capability in suppressing low-frequency oscillations and enhancing small-signal stability. Voltage deviation is notably minimized, highlighting improved voltage regulation and power quality under dynamic conditions. The stability margin, represented categorically, shows a clear transition from low to high, further confirming the robustness introduced by DPFC. The improvement trend depicted by the line graph emphasizes the overall effectiveness of DPFC in enhancing system performance across all critical metrics.

Overall, the figure validates that the incorporation of DPFC leads to a more stable, resilient, and efficiently controlled power system, making it a highly suitable solution for modern transmission networks and smart grid applications.

6.7 Discussion

The simulation results clearly demonstrate that DPFC significantly enhances system performance. The reduction in settling time and overshoot indicates improved transient

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response, while the increased damping ratio confirms better oscillation suppression. Voltage regulation is also improved, making DPFC highly effective for modern power systems.

7. Specific Outcomes, Challenges and Future Research Directions

The analysis of DPFC demonstrates its superior capability in regulating power flow, enhancing voltage stability, and mitigating low-frequency oscillations in transmission systems. The distributed nature of series converters allows improved redundancy and fault tolerance, ensuring continuous operation even under partial failures. Additionally, the elimination of the DC-link reduces system cost and complexity while enabling flexible energy exchange via harmonic components.

However, several challenges remain in the practical deployment of DPFC. The reliance on third-harmonic current injection introduces complexity in filter design and may lead to harmonic distortion if not properly managed. Coordination among multiple distributed converters requires sophisticated control algorithms, increasing computational burden and communication requirements. Furthermore, large-scale integration into existing grids demands compatibility with protection systems and grid codes.

Future research should focus on advanced control strategies such as artificial intelligence-based optimization, adaptive and decentralized control schemes, and real-time monitoring systems. Integration with renewable energy sources and smart grids presents significant opportunities for DPFC deployment. Additionally, the development of improved topologies, such as transformer-less designs and hybrid FACTS configurations, can enhance efficiency and scalability. Research into reducing harmonic effects and improving converter reliability will also be crucial for widespread adoption.

Conclusion

This paper presents a comprehensive modelling and analysis of the Distributed Power Flow Controller as an advanced FACTS device for modern power systems. The DPFC offers significant advantages in terms of flexibility, cost-effectiveness, and reliability compared to conventional controllers. Through detailed modelling and simulation, the study confirms its effectiveness in improving power system stability, voltage regulation, and dynamic response under various operating conditions. Despite certain implementation challenges, ongoing advancements in control techniques and power electronics are expected to enhance DPFC performance further. The DPFC stands as a promising solution for future smart grid applications, contributing to efficient, stable, and sustainable power system operation.

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