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VOLTAGE SOURCE CONVERTER-BASED FACTS AND THEIR ROLE IN ENHANCING POWER SYSTEM STABILITY: A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW

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Abstract

Breaking innovations in power electronic devices which are alternative to long-distance alternating current transmission line has provided better solution in driving the transition of power systems toward a carbon-free paradigm while maintaining the current standards of quality, efficiency, and resilience. Thus, application of Voltage Source Converter (VSC) based Flexible Alternating Current Transmission System (FACTS) devices such as Static Synchronous Compensators (STATCOM) and Static Synchronous Series Compensator (SSSC) have been widely recognized as most advanced and powerful tools in providing a veritable way to control the stability in power system during disturbance This study therefore, focuses on reviewing these aspects through comprehensive study of integration of STATCOM and SSSC controller in power system

Keywords: Power Systems, Voltage Source Converter, STATCOM, SSSC, Stability. FACTS

I. INTRODUCTION

In a deregulated power system, the electric power demand is increasing everyday due to the increasing number of consumers with the addition of sensitive power-electronic equipments which may lead to overloads, loss of generation and constant power failure [1]. This high demand of electricity has made the power management to operate power system closer to their limits than ever before which has affected the power system expansion plans and subject it to transient instability, which also resulted in limited supply of reactive power from synchronous generators during disturbance [2,3,4]

One of the most common technical solutions in dealing with the high demand of electricity and to improve the transient stability is the construction of new transmission lines, but the process is both time-consuming and costly, and may cause short and long-term disruptions to the environment [1, 5]t. Also, incorporation of power generators such as Therm0-Electric Generators (TEGs) and wind generation bring great innovation to transmission expansion planning, but it is necessary to measure and characterise their performance, to understand their dynamic behaviour

and interaction with the other parts of the power system for effective planning [3, 6, 7]

However, application of Voltage Source Converter (VSC) based Flexible Alternating Current Transmission System (FACTS) devices such as STATCOM, SSSC have been widely recognized as most advanced and powerful tools in providing a veritable way to control the transient instability in power system during disturbance [4,7] These VSC devices employ selfcommutated DC to AC converters, using Gate Turn-Off (GTO) thyristors, which can internally generate capacitive and inductive reactive power for transmission

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line compensation, without the use of capacitor or reactor banks. They provide unprecedented levels of flexibility and speed of response in comparison with traditional electromechanical devices. The STATCOM provides fast voltage control, reactive power control and power oscillation damping features. The SSSC also improves voltage and transient stability, and effectively improves damping of power oscillations [5, 8,-10].

Their importance has increased due to the increased awareness of energy conservation and quality of supply on the part of the power utility as well as power consumers. The FACTS technologies therefore allow for improved power transfer capabilities of the transmission system operation compared to the construction of new transmission lines [11-15]. However, proper control strategies to identify critical buses in the power system for optimal placement of the VSC is very much useful for power system monitoring and expansion to prevent possible voltage instability and to meet the increasing loads, as improper controller strategies will lead to non-optimal placement of the VSC which could increase the system instability and thwarting the power system expansion planning

A. Power System Stability

Power system stability is the capability of power system, for a given initial operating condition, to maintain an operating equilibrium point after being subjected to a disturbance, with most system variables bounded so that practically the entire system remains intact. It deals with the ability to control the voltage level within a narrow band around normal operating voltage. Also, it can be defined as ability of synchronous machine to remain in synchronism with one another after disturbances at various locations in the system. These disturbances could be faults, load changes, generator outages, line outages, voltage collapse or some combination of these [1]. The three major factors contributing to power system instability are: load dynamics, generation and transmission system limitations. In load dynamics, system instability occurs when the load dynamics attempt to restore power consumption beyond the capability of the transmission network and the connected generation [3, 16]. This results in increasing the reactive power consumption which would cause the voltage to drop much further. However, in generation limits, if a disturbance occurs and as a result, some of the generators hit their field or armature current timeoverload capability limits, there will not be enough reactive power to support the system voltage. While in transmission system limits, the voltage would drop across the highly inductive transmission lines. This voltage drop limits the power transfer capability and voltage support of the transmission line [11, 17-20].

These instability factors have evolved through continuing growth in voltage and power rating due to the load demand. Hence, a classification of the problem of power system stability has become necessary. This is a key issue which needs to be_clearly understood to be able to properly design, operate and control an electrical power system. Thus, power system stability can be classified into steady-state stability, transient stability and dynamic stability as shown in Figure 1 [1, 21].

Also, power system stability can be classified as voltage stability (transients, voltage drop, voltage imbalance, short duration and long duration variations), rotor angle stability (waveform distortion such as; dc offset, harmonics, inter harmonics, notching, and noise) and frequency stability (short term and long

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term stability) and as shown in Table 1 The former is the stability of the system under conditions of gradual or relatively slow change in load while the second refers to the maximum power transfer possible through a point without losing stability with sudden and large changes in the network conditions. However, the main difference between them is that voltage stability depends on the balanced of reactive power demand and generation in the system where as the rotor stability mainly depends on the balanced between real power generation and demand [1, 7, 20, 21]

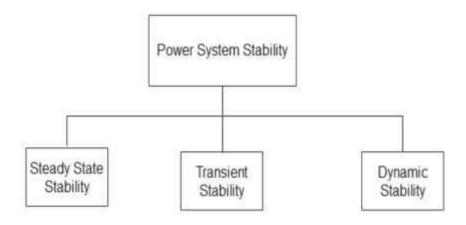


Figure 1: Classification of Power System Stability

Table 1: Power System Stability Classification

	Power System Stability	
Voltage Stability	Rotor Angle Stability	Frequency Stability
Transient	Waveform Distortion	Short Term Stability
Voltage Drop	Small-disturbance	Long Term Stability
Voltage Imbalance	Angle Stability	
Short Duration Variation Long Duration Variation	Transient Stability	

B. Flexible Alternating Current Transmission System

Flexible Alternating Current Transmission System (FACTS) controllers are power electronic based controller circuit configuration and are very effective in regulating power flow on AC transmission lines. FACTS devices are an evolving technology to help electric utility companies. With the applications of FACTS technology, bus voltage magnitude and power flow along the transmission lines can be more flexibly

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controlled. The main objectives of FACTS are to increase the useable transmission capacity of lines and control power flow over designated transmission routes [3, 16, 19]

Depending on its arrangement and how it will be installed in the power system, FACTS controllers can be classified into four categories as [1, 8, 16]

- **Series device:** Series devices are used to enhance the stability of electric power system. The device operates as variable capacitive or inductive impedance such as Thyristor Controlled Series Capacitor or Compensator (TCSC) and Static Synchronous Series Compensator (SSSC) that can be adjusted in series with the transmission line to damp oscillation in the system
- **ii. Shunt device:** The shunt devices are used to enhance the stability of electric power system. It is variable impedance such as capacitor, reactor or power electronic based variable source such as Static Var Compensator (SVC) and Static Synchronous Compensator (STATCOM), which is shunt connected with the transmission line to improve the oscillation damping in the system
- **iii. Combined series-series device:** Combined series-series devices: This device could be a combination of separate series controllers, which are controlled in a coordinated manner in a multiline transmission system. It could also be a unified controller, in which series controllers provide independent series reactive compensation for each line but also transfer real power among the lines via the power link. This include: High Voltage Direct Current

VSC (HVDC VSC) **iv. Combined shunt-series device:** The combined shunt-series devices: This device combines separate shunt and series controllers in a coordinated manner. The devices inject voltage in series in the line with the series part and current into the system with the shunt part. This include; Thyristor Controlled Phase Shifting Transformer (TCPST) and Unified Power Flow Controller (UPFC). In addition, there are two generations for realization of FACTS controllers: Thyristor-controlled group and Voltage Source Converter (VSC) group

II. VOLTAGE SOURCE CONVERTER GROUP FACTS DEVICES

The Voltage Source Converter (VSC) group FACTS device is the most advanced type among the FACTS controllers, employs self-commutated DC to AC converters, using Gate TurnOff (GTO) thyristors, which can internally generate capacitive and inductive reactive power for transmission line compensation, without the use of capacitor or reactor banks. It can supply required reactive current even at low values of the bus voltage and can be designed to have in built short term overload capability. The converter with energy storage device can also exchange real power with the system. The VSC devices include Static Synchronous Series Compensator (SSSC), Static Synchronous Compensator (STATCOM) and High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) VSC device among others [2, 4, 9, 17]

A. Static Synchronous Series Compensator

The Static Synchronous Series Compensator (SSSC) is a series voltage source equipped with a source of energy in the DC link that can supply or absorb the reactive and active power to or from the line. The SSSC is one of the most used FACTS devices for power transmission series compensation. It can be considered

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as a synchronous voltage source as it can inject an almost sinusoidal voltage of variable and controllable amplitude and phase angle, in series with a transmission line. [3, 20, 21]

The basic configuration of a SSSC is shown in Figure 2. It consists of a solid state VSC which generates a controllable alternating voltage at fundamental frequency. The injected voltage is almost in quadrature with the line current. A small part of the injected voltage that is in phase with the line current provides the losses in the inverter. Most of the injected voltage, which is in quadrature with the line current, provides the effect of inserting an inductive or capacitive reactance in series with the transmission line. The variable reactance influences the electric power flow in the transmission line [13, 17]

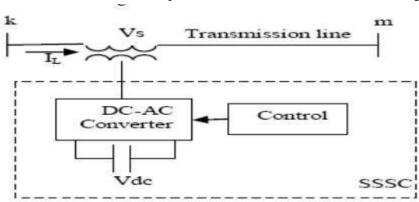


Figure 2: .Basic Configuration of Static Synchronous Series Compensator

The SSSC compensation level can be controlled dynamically by changing the magnitude and polarity of injected voltage and the device can operate both in capacitive and inductive mode (Maryam, 2012). In the practical applications of the SSSC, it may be used to control any of the following parameters; the active power flow of the transmission line, reactive power flow of the transmission line, bus voltage and impedance of the transmission line [2, 20].

The active power flow contraints of SSSC is given in Equations (1) to (3) as [17]:

$$P_{ij} - P_{ij}^{ref} = 0 \qquad (1) \ P_{ij} = V_i^2 g_{ii} - V_i V_j \left(g_{ij} \cos \mathbb{Z}_{ij} + b_{ij} \sin \mathbb{Z}_{ij} \right) - V_i V_{se} \left(g_{ij} \cos \mathbb{Z}_{ij} + b_{ij} \sin \mathbb{Z}_{ij} \right) - V_i V_{se} \left(g_{ij} \cos \mathbb{Z}_{ij} + b_{ij} \sin \mathbb{Z}_{ij} \right)$$

$$\cos \left(\mathbb{Z}_i - \mathbb{Z}_{se} \right) + b_{ij} = \sin \left(\mathbb{Z}_i - \mathbb{Z}_{se} \right)$$

$$(2) \ 1 \ g_{ii} = g_{ij}, \ b_{ii} = b_{ij}, g_{jj} = g_{ij}, \ b_{jj} = b_{ij}$$

$$Z_{se}$$

$$(3)$$

Also, the reactive power flow control constraint is given in Equation (4) as:

$$O_{ii} - O_{ii}^{ref} = 0 \tag{4}$$

The bus voltage control constraint is given in Equation (5) as:

$$V_i - V_i^{\text{ref}} = 0$$
, $V_i^{\text{ref}} - V_i = 0$ (5)

In reactance control, V_{se} is regulated to control equivalent reactance of the SSSC to a specified reactance reference as in Equation (6):

$$X c - X c^{ref} - 0$$
 (6)

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where; P_{ij} is the active power flow, P_{ij}^{ref} is the specified active power flow control reference along the line between bus j and i., V_{se} and Z_{se} are the voltage source and impedance sources respectively. g and b are SSSC conductance and susceptance, respectively, Q_{ij}^{ref} is the SSSC specified reactive power flow reference, Q_{ij} is the branch reactive power flow, V_i^{ref} and V_j^{ref} are the bus voltage references, X_i^{ref} is the function of state variables V_i , V_j and V_{se} , X_i^{ref} is the reference reactance

In addition, the SSSC is typically applied to correct the voltage during a fault in the power system. Thus, some of advantages of employ SSSC in power system during normal conditions are [4, 21]:

- i. Power factor correction through continuous voltage injection and in combination with a properly structured controller.
- ii. Load balancing in interconnected electric power networks. iii. It can also help to cover the capacitive and reactive power demand.
- iv. Power flow control and
- v. Reduces harmonic distortion by active filtering.

B. Static Synchronous Compensator

The Static Synchronous Compensator (STATCOM) is a VSC electronic device with Gate Turn Off (GTO) thyristor and Direct Curent (DC) capacitor coupled with a step down transformer as shown in Figure 3 [5, 18, 21]

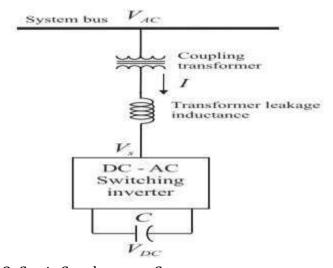


Figure 3: Static Synchronous Compensator

The STATCOM is a capable of generating or absorbing reactive power in a dynamic fashion. The controller exists for both high-voltage transmission application and low voltage distribution system. It improves the damping power oscillation in transmission system, and provides the desired reactive power compensation of a power system. The STATCOM employs solid state power switching devices, providing rapid controllability of the voltage magnitude. The AC voltage difference across the leakage reactance is regulated to produce reactive power exchange between the STATCOM and the power system, the objective is to regulate the AC voltage at the bus bar as to improve the voltage profile of the power system [3, 19].

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The basic principle of STATCOM operation is as follows. The VSC generates a controllable Alternating Current AC) voltage source behind the leakage reactance. The exchange of reactive power between the converter and the AC system can be controlled by varying the amplitude of the 3-phase output voltage. If the amplitude of the output voltage is increased above that of the utility bus voltage, then current flows through the reactance from the converter to the AC system and the converter generates capacitive-reactive power for the AC system. If the amplitude of the output voltage is decreased below the utility bus voltage, then the current flows from the AC system to the converter and the converter absorbs inductive-reactive power from the AC system [4, 20, 21].

However, if the output voltage equals the AC system voltage, the reactive power exchange is zero, in which case the STATCOM is said to be in floating state. The reactive and the real-power exchange between the STATCOM and the AC system can be controlled independently of each other. Any combination of real power generation or absorption is achievable if the STATCOM is equipped with an energy-storage device of suitable capacity [3].

Typical applications of the STATCOM are [5, 8, 13]

- i. Effective voltage regulation and control; ii. Improvement of steady-state power transfer capacity; iii. Improvement of transient stability margin;
- iv. Damping of power system oscillations;
- v. Damping of sub-synchronous power system oscillations'
- vi. Flicker control and
- vii. Power quality improvement,

In addition, there are mainly two models of STATCOM that have been well tested in power systems for power flow solution. They are the Current Injection Model (CIM) and the Power Injection Model (PIM). The CIM model the STATCOM as a current source connected in shunt to the bus for voltage magnitude control. Whereas, the PIM model the STATCOM as shunt voltage source behind an equivalent reactance or impedance, which is also referred to as Voltage Source Model (VSM). This steady state PIM of STATCOM has proved reliable when incorporated in power systems [2, 10,12].

The PIM mathematical model of STATCOM in power flow algorithms are given in Equations (7) to (10) [12,

17]:
$$V_{STC} = V_k + Z_{SC} I_{STC}$$
 (7)
 $I_{STC} = I_N - Y_{SC} V_k$ (8)
 $I_N = Y_{SC} V_{STC}$ (9)
 $S_k = V_{STC} V_{SC}^* V_k^* - V_k^2 Y_{SC}^*$ (10)

The active and reactive power equations of the STATCOM are given in Equations (11) and

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converter, V_{STC}^* is STATCOM reference voltage, I_N is Norton current, I_{STC} is STATCOM current, and V_k is bus voltage, δ_{STC} is STATCOM phase angle, Y_{STC}^* is STATCOM reference admittance, G_{STC} is STATCOM conductancem θ_k is the firing angle,

III. RELATED WORKS ON APPLICATION OF FACTS ON POWER SYSTEM

Significant efforts have been directed at examining the integration of VSC of TACTS controller into electrical power. Table 2 provides a summary of the reviewed studies, highlighting their methods and limitations. <u>Table 2: Summary of various</u> research and their limitations

Author/Year	Title of the Paper	Algorithm used	Shortcoming
Bera et al (2010) [1]	Tuning of excitation	Mode	The method was
	and TCSC based	controllability and	l not efficient
		Genetic Algorithm	enough for optimal
			solutions of
A .1 /57	mid cd p	A1 '-1 1	Cl
Author/Year	Title of the Paper	Algorithm used	Shortcoming
stabilizers for multi mad	chine power system		transient stability of power system.
Sidhartha (2010) [2]	Modelling, simul	ation coded genetic	The model was not
Real and Optimal Tunnin	ng of SSSC-based	algorithm	sufficient enough to
Controller in a MultiMac	chine Power system		find optimum solution
			for transient stability
			in transmission system.
Badran and Abulanwar	Dynamic Performance	Dynamic	The approaches
(2011) [3]	Comparison between p	performance index	failed to guarantee transient stability of restoration actions

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Ambafi et al (2012) [4]	Performance Evaluation of PSS and STATCOM on Oscillation Damping of a North-Central Power Network of Nigeria Gr System		The convergence ability of the method used was not efficient.
Safari et al (2013) [5]	Controller Design of STATCOM for Power System Stability Improvement	optimization	gThe approach failed to guarantee transient stability of restoration actions.
Sasongko et al. (2013) [6]	Multi-Objective Function GA for Modal Optimal Control Design in PSS and UPFC Power Oscillation Damping Coordination	Genetic algorithm	The crucial issues regarding PSS and POD control schemes and the necessary improvement that needed to be addressed were not highlighted
Siddiqui and Del (2014) [7]	O Voltage Stability Improvement using STATCOM and SVC	Voltage stabilit margin	yThe approach failed to guarantee transient stability of restoration actions.

Author/Year	Title of the Paper	Algorithm used	Shortcoming
Berrouk et al (2014) [8	3] Applications of Shunt	Newton-Raphson	The approach was not
	FACTS Controller for it	terative technique	sufficient enough to
	Voltage Stability		find optimum solution
	Improvement		for transient
	stability in		
	transmission system.		

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Poonia and Shekhawa	tModeling of	Review on trnsier	ntThe study was only
(2016) [9]	STATCOM and SVC for Power System Steady State Operation and Enhancement of Transient Stability of a Multi-Machine Power System by STATCOM	n	based on review, no practical system was implemented.
Abubakar et al (2018)Enhancement of Powe	rMultiple ban	dThe crucial issues
[10]	Quality and Transient Stability Margin in Coordination with UPFC and MB-PSS Controller	-	regarding PSS and POD control schemes and the necessary improvement that needed to be addressed were not highlighted.
Salman et al., (2021)Improvement the V	oltage stabilit	yThe system
[11]	voltage stability margi of power system using the optimal values of C FACTS devices	n margin factor an the Voltage	dgenerator power limit and their
Joseph and Dattes	hComparative Survey of	f Comparative stud	yThe result was
(2018) [12]	STATCOM and SVC Integration for Power System Stabi		inconclusive as the STATCOM model used was not specified in the study
Nkan et al (2019) [13]	Investigating the Steady State Stability of the Nigerian 48- Bus Systems using FAG Devices	Continuation of power flow CTS	The approach could not be guaranteed for global optimal solution for optimal placement of FACTS devices.

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Author/Year	Title of the Paper	Algorithm used	Shortcoming
Gandotra and Pal (2022) [14]	comprehensive revie on FACTS application in power system	woptimal placemen onno practical systei	t based on review, m was implemented.
Sayed et al (2019) [15]	Compensation SVC and STATCOM for Enhance the Power System Quality	ndbased on review, i practical system v	
Kalunta and Ngwu (2022) [16]	VSC-HVDC system in Nigerian 330kV power	voltage violation erto indicator find rtfor transient stal system	_
Chodura et al., (2023) [17])Investigation of the impact of embedded VSC-HVDC active and reactive power control on power system stability	capability condpermanent fault	offailed to guarantee
Nkan et al., (2023) [18]	[Optimum location of shunt FACTS devices for enhancement of power system loadability	power flow and ofVoltage Stabilit	ylimit and their
Ojo et al., (2023) [19]	An optimal placement of STATCOM controller on text transmission network	Optimization st(PSO)	The system generator power limit and their optimal operating conditions were not considered

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Alajrash	et	al.,	(2024)A	A comprehensiveReview		onThe study was only	
[20]			review	of FAC	TS	placement of	based on review, no
			devices	s in	moder	nFACTS devices	practical system was
			power	power systems:		implemented.	
			addres	addressing power			
			quality	, optim	ıal		

Author/Year	Title of the Paper	Algorithm used	Shortcoming
placement, and stability			The approach was
Ekpa et al., (2024) [21]	Power transfer	R-square with	not sufficient enough
capability enhancement (Genetic Algorithm		to
of the Nigerian 330kv	(GA) network with	SVC	find optimum
			solution for stability
			analysis

IV. RESULTS OF THE REVIEWS

This research provides an in-depth review of various applications of FACTS controller methods for improving stability of electrical power system. Different approaches have been employed to analyze, predict, identify and find solution to system stability and system collapse. Each technique has tried to solve the problem with various objectives and constraints. However, most of the techniques employed showed a non -linear behavior near the collapse point and in the presence of system control limits, they are computationally expensive, especially for very large power systems as several matrix and vector manipulations are required. Moreover, several of the existing techniques experience malfunctions caused by blinding issues, leading to failures in system protection with application of FACTS controller. Consequently, there is a clear need for a reliable method that ensures an optimal and accurate solution for power system stability with the VSC controller. This help to maintain the system power quality (PQ) for efficient compensation of the voltage imbalances in order to meet the load growth

V. CONCLUSION

This study reviews the benefits, challenges, and impacts of integrating VSC type of FACTS controller such as STATCOM and SSSC into electrical power systems. VSC FACTS controller offers advantages such as improved system reliability, reduced line losses, enhanced voltage and stability. Thus, the reviews verified the effectiveness of the applications of STATCOM and SSSC controllers in improving the stability of power system during disturbances..

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