

Impact of Delays on a Consensus-based Primary Frequency Control Scheme for AC Systems Connected by a Multi-Terminal HVDC Grid

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Outline

- 1 Problem addressed
- 2 Theoretical contributions
- 3 Empirical contributions
- 4 Conclusions

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- 1 Primary frequency control
- 2 Multi-terminal HVDC system
- 3 Consensus-based control scheme
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Primary frequency control

- Frequency control: Limit frequency variations and restore balance between generation and load demand
- Primary frequency control:
 - Time scale: a few seconds
 - Local adjustment of generators' power output
 - Based on locally measured frequency
 - Primary reserves: generators' power output margin
- Larger synchronous area:
 - More generators participating in the primary control
 - Smaller frequency deviations

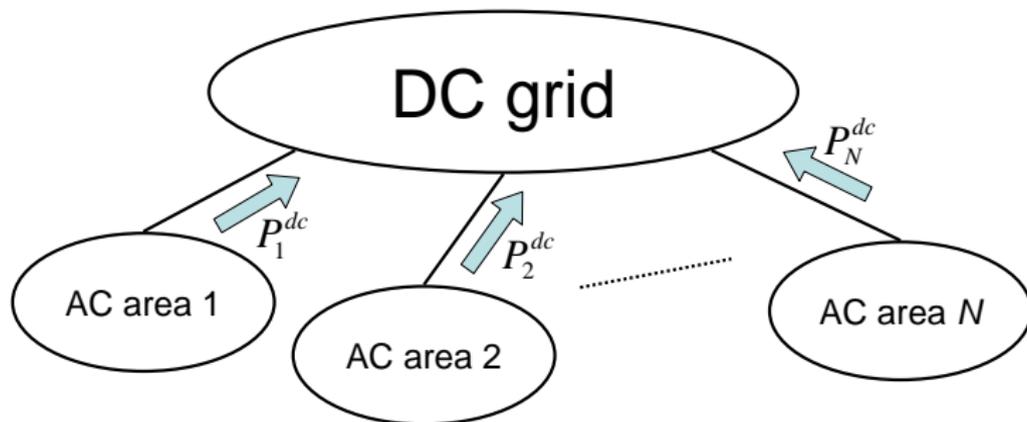
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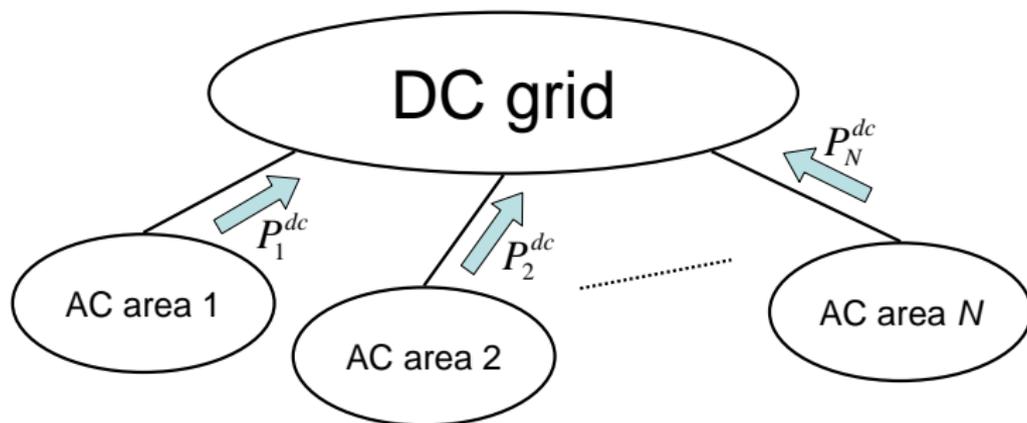
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Multi-terminal HVDC system



- Generally, P_i^{dc} are supposed to track pre-determined power settings.
- Frequencies are independent among AC areas.
 - Primary frequency control is independent from one area to another.

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A control scheme proposed in an earlier work

- Control objective: Sharing primary frequency reserves among non-synchronous areas by imposing that $\Delta f_1(t) = \dots = \Delta f_N(t)$.
- Control variables: $P_i^{dc}, \dots, P_{N-1}^{dc}$

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$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dP_i^{dc}(t)}{dt} = & \alpha \sum_{k=1}^N b_{ik} (\Delta f_i(t) - \Delta f_k(t)) \\ & + \beta \sum_{k=1}^N b_{ik} \left(\frac{d\Delta f_i(t)}{dt} - \frac{d\Delta f_k(t)}{dt} \right) \end{aligned}$$

- $i = 1, \dots, N - 1$, where
 - $\Delta f_i(t)$: Frequency deviation of area i from its nominal value.
 - α and β : integral and proportional control gain.
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Delay modeling

- Sources of delays: measurement, transmission, computation, application
- Assumption: identical regardless of AC areas and communication links
- Dynamics of the effective power injections

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Theoretical results on system stability

- Assumptions:
 - Constant losses within the DC grid
 - Communication graph of the frequency information access among AC areas: connected, undirected, constant in time.
 - Linearized model
- Stability results on the impacts of the delays:
 - Unique equilibrium point:
Following a step change in the load of one of the AC areas, there is a unique equilibrium point: $\Delta f_1 = \Delta f_2 = \dots = \Delta f_N$.
 - Nyquist criterion for the special case where all the AC areas have identical parameters.

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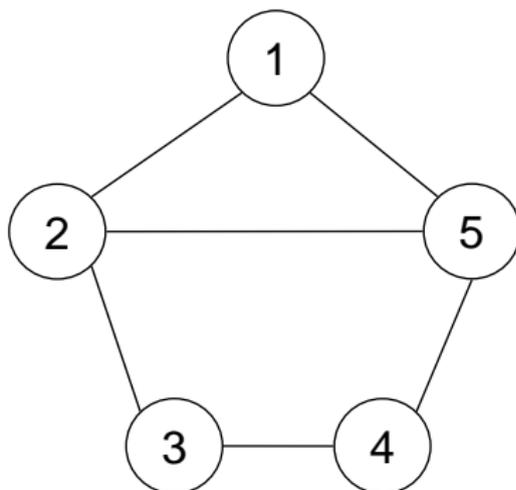
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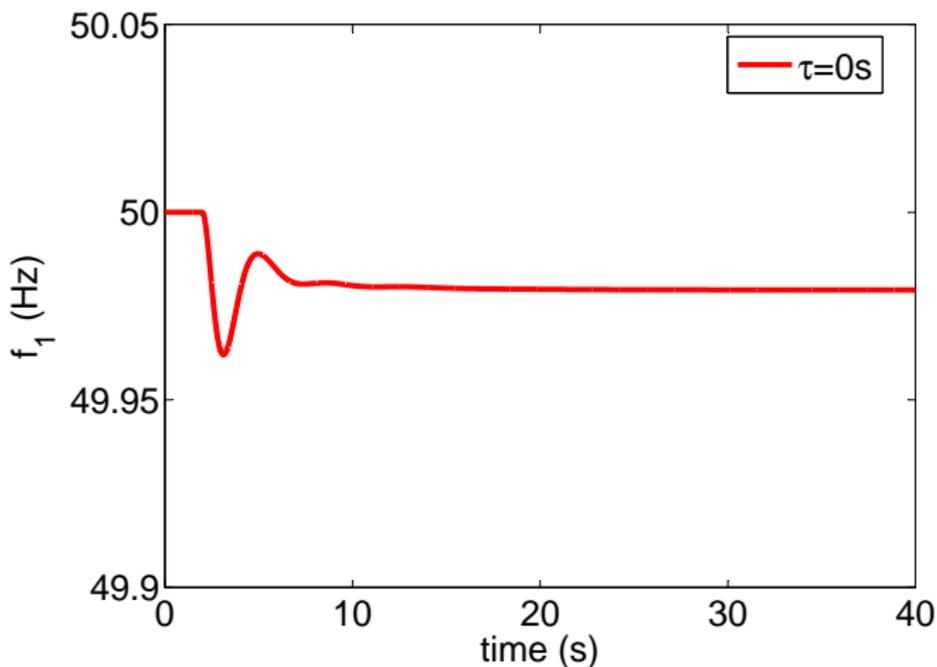
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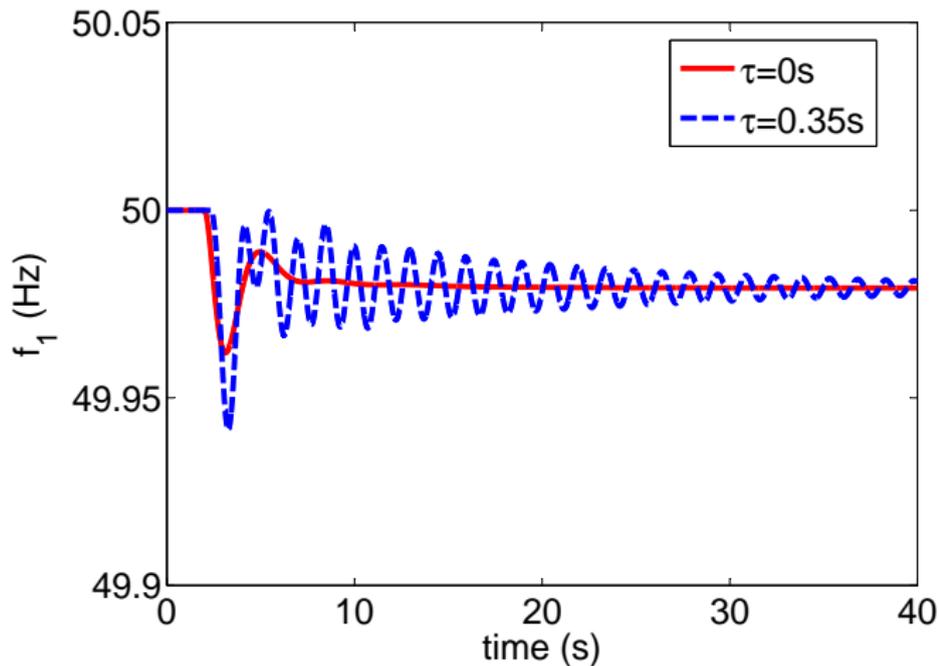
Benchmark system

- An MT HVDC system with 5 areas: Each area is modeled by an aggregated generator and a load.
- Communication graph:
 - A circle: an area
 - An edge: a communication channel between the two areas

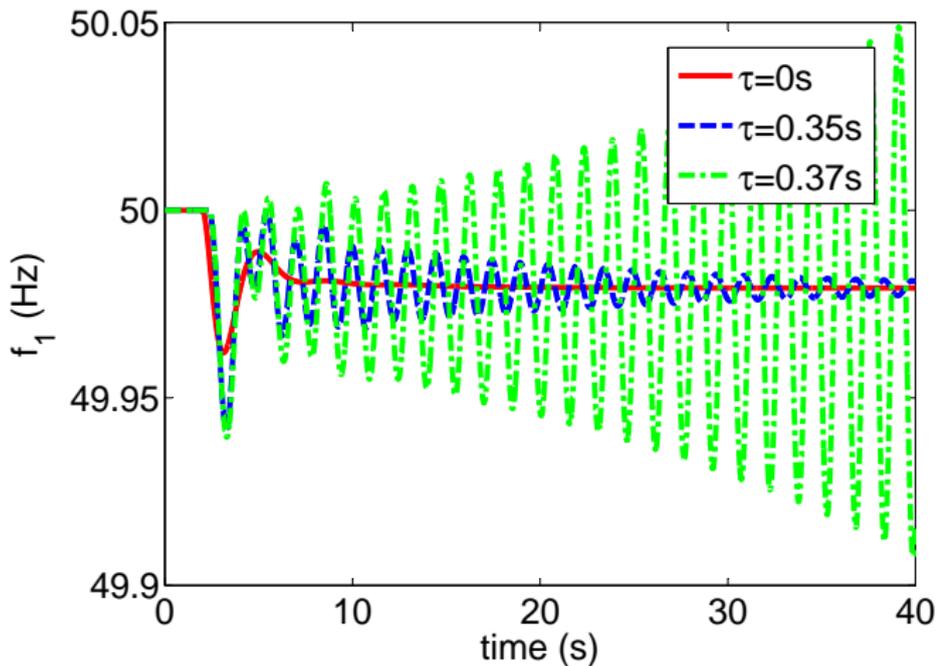


Simulation result: No delays



Simulation result: $\tau = 0.35\text{s}$ 

Simulation result: $\tau = 0.37\text{s}$



Stability criterion

We define the following stability criterion:

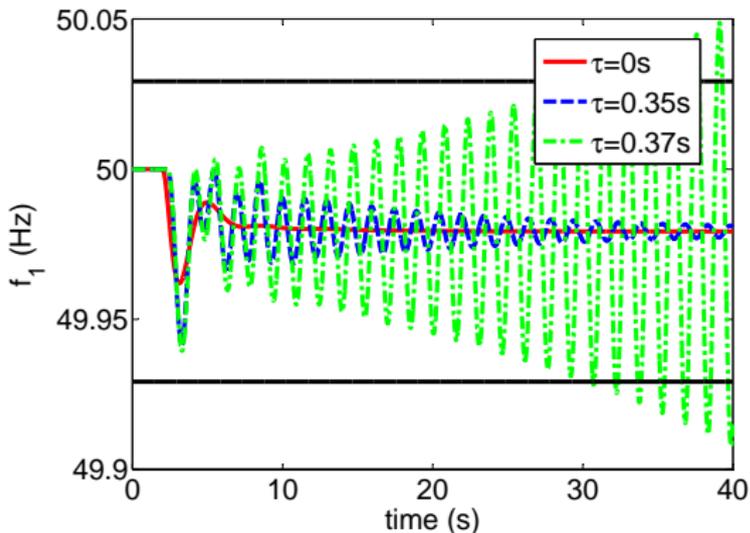
The system is classified as stable if, 20 seconds after the step change in the load, all the AC areas' frequency deviations remain within $\pm 50\text{mHz}$ around f^e , i.e.,

$$|\Delta f_i(t) - \Delta f^e| \leq 50\text{mHz}, \forall i \text{ and } \forall t > 22\text{s}$$

where f^e is the common value to which the frequency deviations of all AC areas converge when no delays is considered.

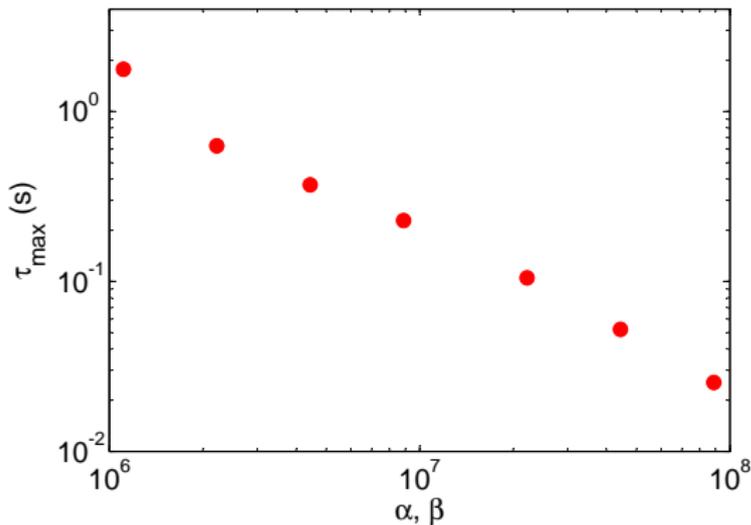
Stability criterion

- The $\pm 50\text{mHz}$ band around f^e is represented by the two horizontal lines.
- Unstable when $\tau = 0.37\text{s}$.

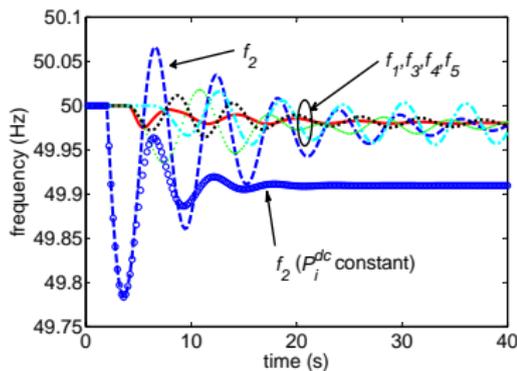


Maximum acceptable delay

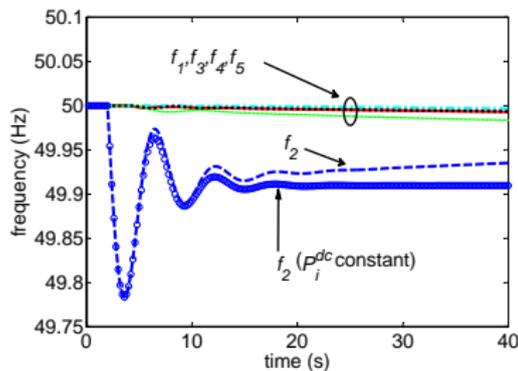
- For certain α, β , there exists a maximum acceptable delay, denoted by τ_{\max} , beyond which the system is unstable.
- Evolution of τ_{\max} as a function of the controller gains (assuming that $\alpha = \beta$):



Oscillations of frequencies when $\tau = 2s$



$$\alpha = \beta = 1 \times 10^6$$



$$\alpha = \beta = 1 \times 10^5$$

Conclusions

- Practical issue (impact of delays) in the implementation of a previously proposed control scheme.
- Theoretical results:
 - Unique equilibrium point for the general case
 - Nyquist criterion for a special case
- Simulation results:
 - Frequency oscillations in the presence of delays
 - Relation between the maximum acceptable delay and the controller gains
- Perspectives:
 - Theoretical: extension to the general case
 - Practice: benchmark system with more details

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