

# An Overview of Applications of DSTATCOM

Avinash Purandare, Dr. N. Gopalakrishnan, Dr. Y.P. Nerkar, Hrishikesh Mehta

Department of Electrical Engineering, PVG's College of Engineering and Technology, Pune, India.

## Abstract

Distribution STATic COMPensator (DSTATCOM) is used to mitigate many current quality problems like harmonics elimination, power factor correction, load balancing, noise cancellation and voltage quality problems like sag, swells, impulses, voltage unbalances, fluctuations. Many research papers have been critically studied and applications of DSTATCOM are classified into suitable categories. Typical applications in these categories are presented in this paper.

**Keywords:** DSTATCOM, VSI, SRF, PSO

## INTRODUCTION

In present day distribution systems, major power consumption has been in reactive loads, such as induction motors used in industrial, commercial and domestic sectors. These loads draw currents at lagging power-factor and therefore gives rise to reactive power burden in the distribution system. Whenever there is an increase in large inductive load, line current increases causing increase in line voltage drop and power loss. This causes a decrease in bus voltage. As other loads connected on the same bus get lower voltage, their performance is affected. Hence it is necessary to maintain the bus voltage constant.

Excessive reactive power demand increases feeder losses and reduces active power flow capability of the distribution system whereas unbalancing in loads affects the operation of transformers and generators [1]. A DSTATCOM can be used for compensation of reactive power and unbalanced loading in the distribution system. The new technologies in solid state devices and their use in control of equipment have led to the power quality (PQ) problems. PQ problems are of major concern in the distribution system which leads to decrease in efficiency of the system and a serious attention is to be given to the increase in pollution of distribution systems. The ever increasing deployment of nonlinear loads such as solid state power converters in medical equipment, fluorescent lighting, renewable energy systems, office and household equipment, arc furnaces, high frequency transformers, etc. inject harmonics into the system and decrease the quality of power. Moreover, due to unbalanced three phase or single phase loads, the nature of voltage waveforms in the distribution system is distorted which eventually affects the performance of equipment. DSTATCOM has been used to mitigate many PQ problems like harmonic pollution power factor correction, load balancing, noise cancellation, sag, swells, impulses, unbalances and fluctuations in voltage.

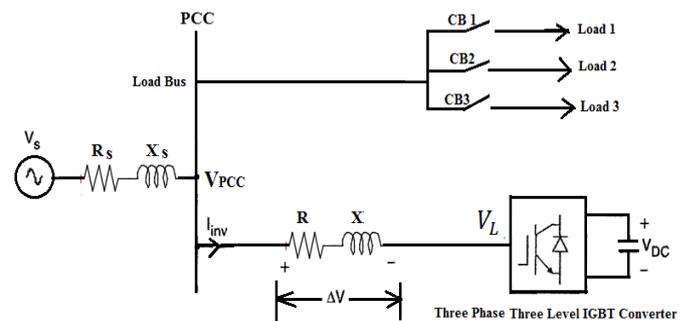
This paper presents a comprehensive review of different applications of DSTATCOM. Many research papers have

been consulted and the applications are classified into four categories: 1. Harmonic reduction; 2. Voltage control; 3. Load balancing; and 4. Reactive power compensation.

## PRINCIPLE OF OPERATION OF DSTATCOM

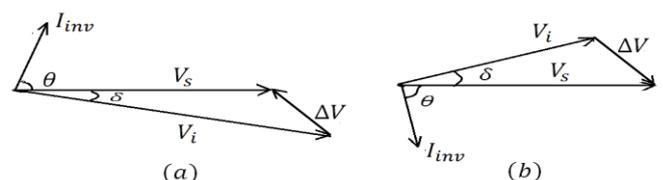
DSTATCOM is a 3-phase, multilevel IGBT based voltage source inverter connected to load bus through a shunt transformer (refer Fig. 1.), represented by X which is per phase value of equivalent reactance of shunt transformer connecting DSTATCOM to the point of common coupling (PCC) and R represents total loss in the inverter and coupling transformer.

The real power exchange between the DSTATCOM and PCC is governed by phase angle between the inverter output fundamental voltage and PCC voltage. This real power supplies the losses in the DSTATCOM circuit. The reactive power exchange is determined by difference in amplitude between the inverter and PCC voltages which results in the voltage compensation at the PCC.



**Figure 1:** Single line Diagram of 3-phase, multilevel VSI based DSTATCOM

Fig. 2(a) and Fig. 2 (b) show the phasor representation at the fundamental frequency for leading and lagging VAR compensation respectively[2].



**Figure 2:** Phasor representation of VAR compensation (a) Leading VAR Compensation (b) Lagging VAR Compensation

When an inductive load on supply system increases, the load voltage decreases. The DSTATCOM senses this decrease of voltage and supplies capacitive reactive power to the load bus

so that voltage across load is brought closer to the nominal value depending on the power rating of DSTATCOM.

Referring to Fig.2(a), the VSI output fundamental voltage  $V_i$  lags A.C. source voltage  $V_s$  by angle  $\delta$  and the inverter output current  $I_i$  lags the voltage drop across the reactor ( $\Delta V$ ) by nearly 90 deg. since  $R \ll X$ . Active power flows from PCC to VSI at lagging  $\delta$  whereas  $I_i$  is leading  $V_{pcc}$  by an angle  $\theta$ .

When a capacitive load is switched on, there is an increase in load voltage which is sensed by DSTATCOM and it absorbs reactive power thereby maintaining load voltage closer to the nominal value.

Referring to Fig. 2(b), the VSI output fundamental voltage  $V_i$  leads PCC voltage  $V_{pcc}$  by angle  $\delta$  and the inverter output current  $I_i$  leads the voltage drop across the reactor ( $\Delta V$ ) by nearly 90 deg. since  $R \ll X$ . Active power flows from PCC to VSC at leading  $\delta$ .  $I_i$  is lagging  $V_{pcc}$  by an angle  $\theta$ .

## LITERATURE SURVEY

Various PQ problems such as poor voltage regulation, harmonics, load balancing, poor power factor, excessive neutral current, voltage flicker, voltage sag and swell are of common occurrence due to the voltage injected by the wind generators into grid. These problems have been tackled by various researchers [3-14]. Many predictive current control strategies are proposed for DSTATCOM to improve power quality in distribution system [15-34]. Use of DSTATCOM to control voltage in distribution system in an interactive manner is contributed by various researchers [35-60]. Compensation of harmonics in smart grids is dealt in [61]. A practical control strategy provided through a distributed control mode by using more than one DSTATCOM is proposed in [62]. The control of a synchronous reluctance generator (SYRG) driven by a biogas biomass diesel engine as a prime mover in a distributed Power Generating system is reported in [63]. Various researchers have proposed a coordinated control of distributed generators (DGs) and DSTATCOM in a microgrid [64-81]. Many other researchers have worked in the areas of microgrid and converter interfaced micro sources [82-98]. Reactive compensation in distribution network is also studied by various researchers [99-105].

## APPLICATIONS OF DSTATCOM

This is classified into following categories-

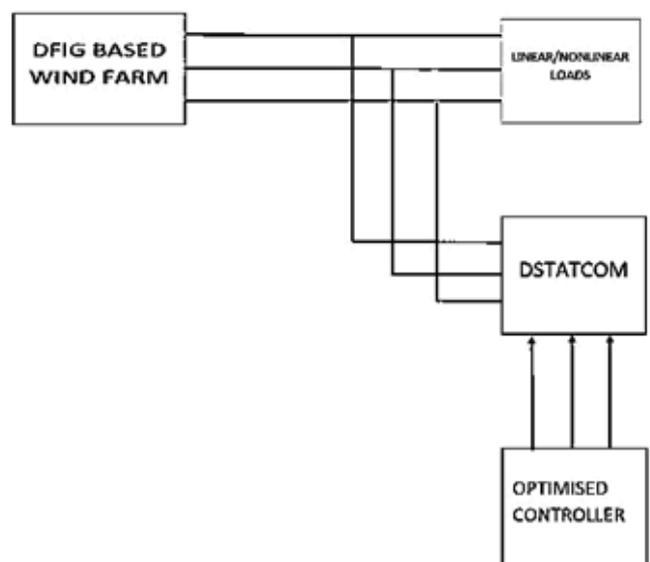
1. Harmonic reduction;
2. Voltage control;
3. Load balancing and
4. Reactive power compensation

### 1. HARMONIC REDUCTION

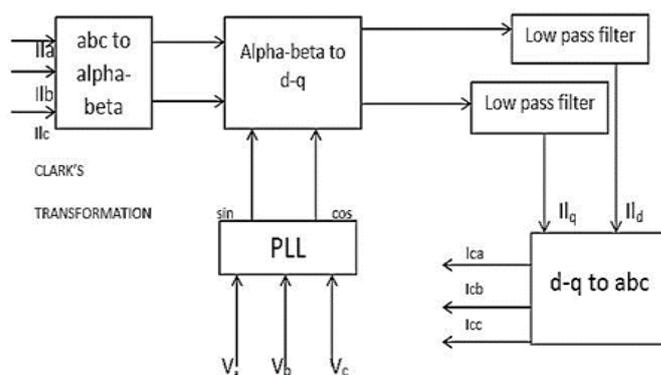
#### A) Wind Farm

When wind generators are connected to grid, various power quality problems such as poor voltage regulation, harmonics, load balancing, poor power factor, excessive neutral current,

voltage flicker, voltage sag and swell are of common occurrence. These lead to serious problems such as system frequency oscillations and change in power line capability. To minimize these effects a DSTATCOM with wind farm [3] is shown in Fig. 3(a).The DFIG based wind farm is operating in the islanding mode. A Synchronous Reference Frame (SRF) based technique (ref. Fig. 3(b)) is employed and the gains of PI controller are optimized using Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO) technique.



(a)



(b)

**Figure 3.** DSTATCOM with wind farm (a) Schematic diagram of the system, (b) Block diagram of SRF technique

A flow chart of PSO is shown in Fig. 4. PSO algorithm works by having a population (called a swarm) of candidate solutions (called particles). These particles are moved around in the search-space according to a few simple formulae. It is a population based optimization technique. Each particle keeps track of its coordinates in the problem space which are associated with the best solution (fitness) that has been achieved so far. This is called the  $p_{best}$ . The PSO concept consists of changing the velocity of each particle towards its  $p_{best}$  and  $g_{best}$ .

Initially a population of random solutions is considered. Each particle is assigned a random velocity with which they start flying in the search space. The previous best position of the particles are kept in memory by each particle. This previous best value is known as  $p_{best}$ . The fundamental concept behind this technique is that the particles always follow their respective  $p_{best}$  and  $g_{best}$  positions at each time.

The performance of the DSTATCOM depends on the proper tuning of the controllers. A detailed knowledge of the complex mathematical model of the system is required to determine the values of the control parameters accurately. In order to simplify this process computational control techniques are applied. The conventional PI controllers are tuned at a particular operating condition. It may not work well when the operating point changes. To overcome the problem the gains of the PI controller are optimized by PSO. PSO technique is being used to determine the optimal parameters of the two PI controllers in the current control and voltage control blocks.

To determine the optimum control parameters with the help of PSO, the four control parameters of PI controllers  $K_{p1}$ ,  $K_{p2}$ ,  $K_{i1}$  and  $K_{i2}$  are considered as four dimensions of the swarm.

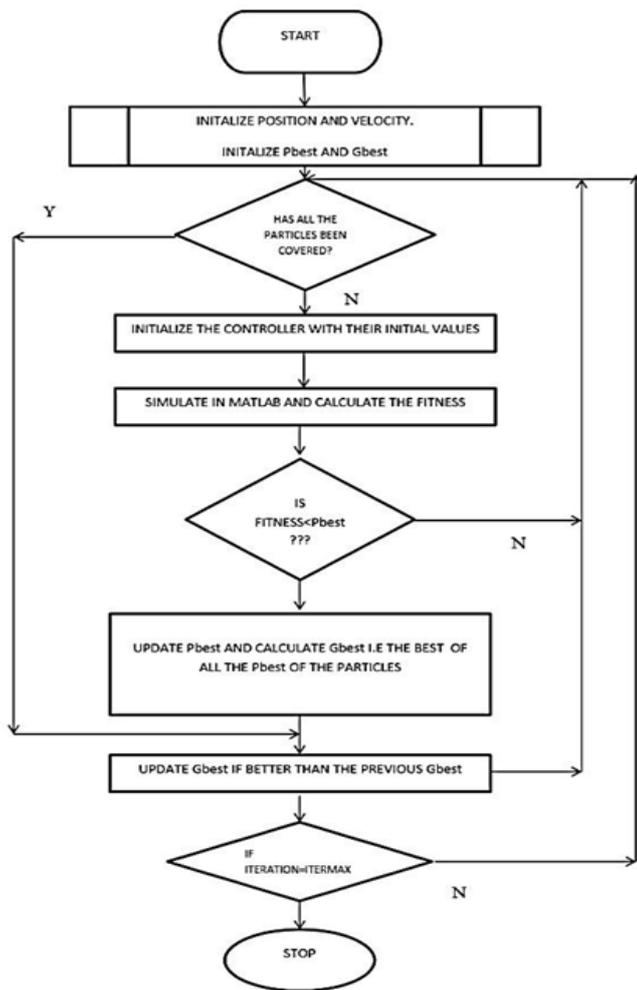


Figure 4. Flow chart of PSO

Simulation study of the model with linear and nonlinear loads [3] has shown that introduction of DSTATCOM minimizes the injection of voltage harmonics injected in the system. In case of non-linear loads voltage THD without DSTATCOM is found to be 154.6% and with optimized DSTATCOM 19.33%.

B) Predictive Current Control of DSTATCOM

Many predictive current control strategies are proposed for DSTATCOM to improve power quality in distribution system [15-34]. Unlike classical control schemes, the proposed method [15] neither requires current PI controllers nor modulators at switching signal generation stage. The discrete-time model of the converter, filter and terminal voltage are used to predict the future behavior of the compensating currents for each of the eight possible switching states. The control method decides a switching state in which the actual currents are closer to their references. Fig.5 shows the basic control structure of proposed control strategy which consists of one positive sequenced detector, low pass filters (LPF1 and LPF2) and arithmetic calculators. The average power is obtained by filtering instantaneous power  $p_{inst}$  through LPF2. LPF1 is used to extract the fundamental from distorted voltage at PCC.

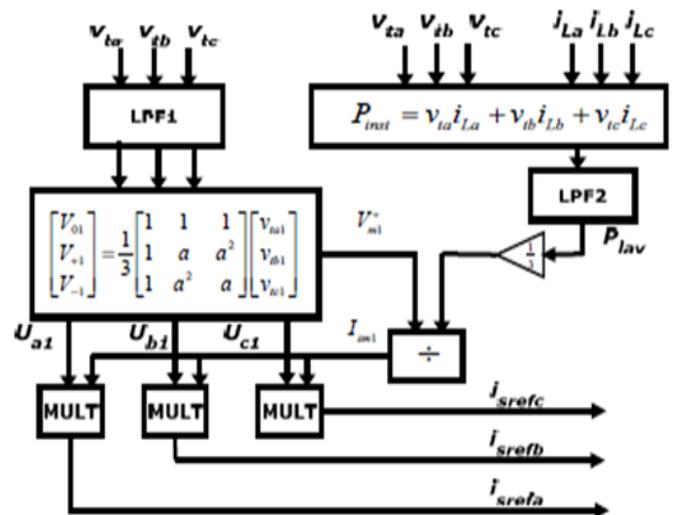


Figure 5. Control structure of proposed controller [15]

The performance of the proposed controller is evaluated based on three different cases.

- Case1- Balanced Source and balanced Non-Linear load
- Case2- Balanced Source and Unbalanced Non-linear load.
- Case3- Balanced distorted Source and Unbalanced Non-linear load.

With this control scheme it has been found that THD of load compensation is well within the allowable range of IEEE standards (5% maximum) with achievement of unity P.F. Table I presents comparative analysis of source current THDs for three different types of controllers.



B) DSTATCOM in Smart Grids

Power quality in smart grids can be improved by DSTATCOM which compensates the voltage sags, unbalanced voltages and voltage harmonics caused by unbalanced loads and nonlinear loads [61]. The compensation of the voltage sags is carried out by injecting reactive power, while the voltage harmonics and voltage imbalances are reduced by canceling out the harmonics and the imbalances of the grid current. The control scheme is designed in the synchronous reference frame with a nested control structure which contains PI controllers and resonant regulators. These regulators are tuned at the harmonic frequencies to be eliminated and can be implemented to incorporate an update of those frequencies. Fig. 6 shows equivalent circuit of a DSTATCOM connected to the grid at the point of common coupling.

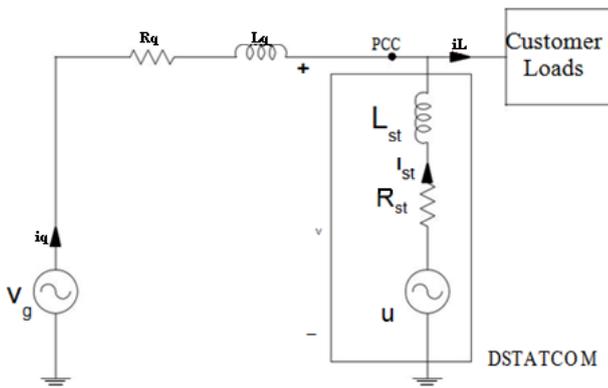


Figure 6. Single-phase equivalent circuit of a DSTATCOM connected to the grid [61]

Fig. 7. shows the control system of the DSTATCOM current for both axes (i.e., the inner control loops), where P(s) is a transfer function derived from the model (1), and R<sub>pi</sub>(s) and k<sub>pi</sub> are an integral regulator and a proportional constant with which to control the DC values of the DSTATCOM current for the d and q axes (i.e., the positive sequence of the fundamental harmonic in the three-phase system) [61].

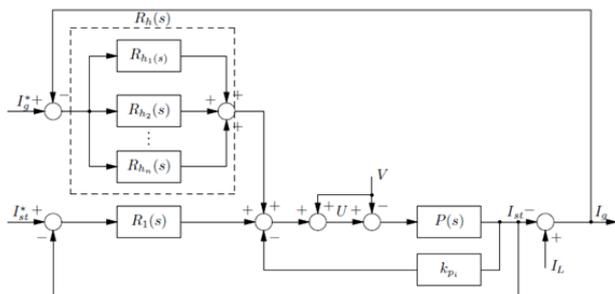


Figure 7. Configuration of the current control system for d and q axes without distinction [61]

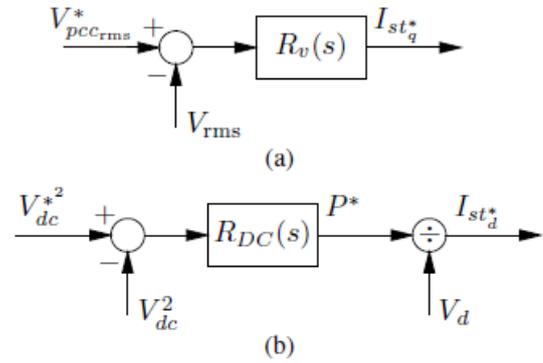


Figure 8. Control schemes for (a) RMS voltage at the PCC (b) Voltage of the DC capacitor [61]

Fig. 8. shows the outer control loops used to control the voltage at the PCC, and to maintain the voltage of the DC capacitor constant, respectively. These outer control chains are designed to be slower than the inner control loop. Thus allowing a decoupled design of the different control systems. The controller of the PCC voltage R<sub>v</sub>(s) generates the reference of the q-axis current I<sub>stq</sub>(s) from the comparison of the reference RMS value of the PCC voltage V<sub>pccrms</sub>(s) and the RMS measure of the voltage at the PCC V<sub>rms</sub>(s). The regulator R<sub>DC</sub>(s) generates the active power reference P\*(s) by using the difference between the variables V<sub>dc</sub>(s) and V<sub>dc</sub><sup>2</sup>(s). The reference for the d-axis current I<sub>std</sub>(s) is obtained by dividing the active power reference by the d component voltage at the PCC V<sub>d</sub>(s). Both regulators R<sub>v</sub>(s) and R<sub>DC</sub>(s) are PI controllers which are designed using the pole placement technique with the following transfer functions:

$$\frac{d}{dt} \begin{bmatrix} i_{std} \\ i_{stq} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{R_{st}}{L_{st}} & \omega_1 \\ -\omega_1 & -\frac{R_{st}}{L_{st}} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} i_{std} \\ i_{stq} \end{bmatrix} + \frac{1}{L_{st}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u_d - v_d \\ u_q \end{bmatrix} \quad (1)$$

$$p = v_d i_{std} + v_q i_{stq} = v_d i_{std} \quad (2)$$

The current reference I<sub>st</sub>(s) is provided by the control systems depicted in Fig. 8(a). A feedforward term of the PCC voltage V(s) is added to improve the transient response of the closed-loop system. In order to cancel out imbalances and harmonics in the grid current, the control system also includes various resonant regulators with a generic transfer function:

$$q = -v_d i_{stq} + v_q i_{std} = -v_d i_{stq} \quad (3)$$

where C<sub>a</sub>(s) is a phase-lead compensator, and the parameter ω<sub>hn</sub> of C<sub>b</sub>(s) is the angular frequency of the harmonic to be eliminated. The regulator R<sub>hn</sub>(s) has a band pass structure. This minimizes, up to certain limits, the interaction between regulators that can be added in parallel, and simplifies the control design, which can easily be carried out by using frequency response techniques. As the goal is to eliminate the imbalances and harmonics of the grid current, the reference I<sub>g</sub>(s) must be zero. The overall resonant regulator R<sub>h</sub>(s) is therefore calculated as:

$$p_{C_{DC}} = -\frac{1}{2} C \frac{d(v_c)^2}{dt} \quad (4)$$



4. REACTIVE POWER COMPENSATION

A) Single phase operation of microgrid

Various researchers have proposed a co-ordinated control of distributed generators (DGs) and DSTATCOM in a microgrid [64-81]. The power flow and voltage at different locations of the feeders are communicated to the DSTATCOM to modulate the reactive compensation. The single phase DSTATCOM compensates for the reactive power deficiency in phase while the DGs supply maximum available active power. The maximum available active power is fixed to a value lower than maximum active power to increase reactive power injection capability of the DGs. It is shown that the proposed method can always ensure acceptable voltage regulation [64].

Fig. 11 shows the system under consideration with three feeders' sections where DGs and loads are connected. The loads and DGs are suffixed with the phase on which it is connected with (as DG<sub>1a</sub>), to represent the first DG connected to phase a. It is assumed that the DGs are Voltage Source Converter (VSC) interfaced. In grid connected mode, the DGs supply the maximum power available while the utility supplies any additional power required by the loads. During islanded operation, the total power demand is supplied by the DGs. It is assumed that if the power demand in the islanded mode is more than the total power output of the DGs, loads are partly shed to meet the power balance. Loads are represented by  $L_{d1a}, L_{db1}$  etc. The locations of the single-phase compensating devices (DSTATCOM) are indicated as DSTATa, DSTATb and DSTATc. Feeder impedance is also considered.

DSTATCOM can provide the required voltage support and power quality improvement. In [75], a DSTATCOM is proposed to alleviate variation of both positive-sequence and negative-sequence voltages at the fundamental frequency. Moreover, a DSTATCOM can provide microgrid a ride through capability during transients [76]. But the active power and reactive power in a low voltage network are strongly coupled and regulation in voltage should consider both the real and reactive power flow [77].

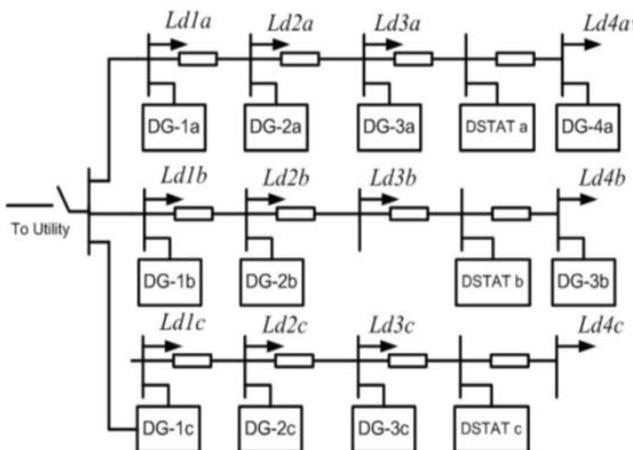


Figure 11. Microgrid System under consideration

An excellent study for compensation of reactive power and unbalance caused by various loads in distribution system is presented in [78]. It covers the instantaneous reactive power method with a synchronous reference frame method. Power quality improvement in a four-wire electric distribution system is shown in [79]. A Current-Controlled Voltage Source Inverter (CC-VSI) with a DC bus capacitor is used as a DSTATCOM. The DSTATCOM improves the supply power factor, eliminates harmonics, provides load balancing and improves the load terminal voltage at the Point of Common Coupling (PCC). The DC bus voltage of the DSTATCOM and three phase voltages at PCC are used as feedback signals for PI controllers. The operation of DSTATCOM can be done by either voltage control or in current control mode [80]. In the voltage control mode, the DSTATCOM can force the voltage of a distribution bus to be balanced sinusoids. In the current control mode, it can cancel distortion caused by the load. In a microgrid, the DGs operate with voltage control and to achieve reactive power coordination with the DGs, it is desirable to control the DSTATCOM in voltage control. In single phase operation, where the feeders are geographically far apart, it is not always possible to achieve reactive compensation by three phase devices at proper location. A coordinated control of the DGs and DSTATCOM needs exchange of information and require a communication infrastructure. Communication setup is increasingly being deployed to meet utility needs for distributed energy resources [81]. Using communication, it would be possible to improve the voltage support with DSTATCOM and DGs. During high loading period, the DGs reach their reactive power limits and the voltage falls below the acceptable regulation limit. With a frequent load change and continuous change in power generation of the DGs, it is important that the reactive compensation act promptly with change in voltage. As the power flow in the line has impact on the voltage, it would be beneficial to modulate the reactive compensation based on the power flow in the line. The main contribution of the paper lies in improving reactive compensation with coordinated control of DGs and DSTATCOM with communication in loop for a microgrid. The proposed control ensures stable fast acting reactive power compensation within voltage regulation limit based on power flow. Converter control with integrated communication network demonstrates stable operation while data traffic analysis shows the communication network requirements and limitations for this purpose. Many other researchers have worked in the areas of microgrid and converter interfaced micro sources [82-98]. Reactive compensation in distribution network is also studied by various researchers [99-105].

FUTURE TRENDS

The DSTATCOM can practically solve voltage and current related power quality problems such as harmonic elimination, load balancing, voltage regulation, power factor correction and neutral current compensation in distribution system. However, the high cost of DSTATCOM is the main obstacle for its wide implementation especially for developing countries trying to improve power quality of power system. Hence in future extensive research work needs to be

undertaken by researchers to reduce the cost of DSTATCOM without affecting the performance efficiency. Also use of neural networks in control techniques of DSTATCOM is likely to be widely used in the future. Renewable energy (RE) penetration into the electric utility grid is increasing day by day and intermittent nature of these resources affects the quality of supplied power. The weather conditions such as wind speed variations and variable solar insolation affect the power output of RE sources. Implementation of DSTATCOM in RE based power system are required to be explored more. In future an important area of research would be the deployment of DSTATCOM in charging stations for hybrid and electric vehicles.

## CONCLUSION

A comprehensive literature review of applications of DSTATCOM in distribution system is presented in this paper. The power flow between the DSTATCOM and PCC is controlled by controlling the phase angle between the inverter output voltage and voltage at PCC. Typical applications of DSTATCOM include mitigation of many PQ problems like harmonic pollution power factor correction, load balancing, noise cancellation, sag, swells, impulses, unbalances and fluctuations in voltage. It can be concluded from this paper that DSTATCOM is a versatile equipment for power quality improvement in distribution system. The future trends in applications of DSTATCOM are also indicated.

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