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Multi-Purpose Coordinated Control of Distributed Energy Resources in Transactive AC Microgrids

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On the 22nd of September 2021, at 8:00 am, the public defense of the DOCTORAL THESIS entitled as **MULTI-PURPOSE COORDINATED CONTROL OF DISTRIBUTED ENERGY RESOURCES IN TRANSACTIVE AC MICROGRIDS**, by AUGUSTO MATHEUS DOS SANTOS ALONSO, was carried out remotely (by video conference). The Evaluation Committee was constituted by Prof. Dr. GILBERT BERGNA-DIAZ (Chairperson - Virtual Participation) from the Department of Electric Power Engineering / NTNU, Prof. Dr. SIMONE BUSO (Virtual Participation) from the Department of Information Engineering / University of Padova, Prof. Dr. JOHAN DRIESEN (Virtual Participation) from the Department of Electrical Engineering (ESAT-ELECTA) / KU Leuven, Prof^a. Dr^a. BIRGITTE BAK-JENSEN (Virtual Participation) from the AAU Energy / Aalborg University, Prof. Dr. RICARDO QUADROS MACHADO (Virtual Participation) from the Department of Electrical Engineering / University of São Paulo – Campus São Carlos. After the presentation by the PhD candidate and the examination by the Evaluation Committee members, the candidate received the final concept of **APPROVED**. Finally, this record was drawn-up, being later read, approved and signed by the Evaluation Committee chairperson.



Prof. Dr. GILBERT BERGNA-DIAZ

I dedicate this PhD thesis to my parents, Dirce and Mauro, for their endless support, which has allowed me to pursue my dreams so far in life.

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Abstract

Pervasive penetration of distributed energy resources (DERs), usually constituted by renewable energy sources and/or storage systems along with their interfacing inverters, are pushing AC electrical grids toward a power electronics-based paradigm. Although the presence of DERs in power grids brings more flexibility of operation and the decentralization of energy generation allows us to obtain more efficient power dispatch, it is imperative to achieve proper control over the existing inverters to support the synergistic integration of multiple electric apparatuses. This is particularly true from the perspective of inverter-dominated AC microgrids (MGs), which rely on the implementation of coordination strategies to adequately exploit DERs to support controlled power dispatchability, power quality interventions, as well as accessibility to energy markets.

Within such a context, this thesis presents a coordinated control strategy capable of supporting multiple operation modes for transactive AC MGs through a model-free, plug-and-play and topology-independent steering of inverters. Such a control approach, namely Generalized Current-Based Control (GCBC), is capable of accommodating inverters of assorted operational natures, being of a dispatchable (d-DER) or non-dispatchable (nd-DER) nature, relying on a centralized unit and on low-bandwidth communication links. By flexibly coordinating DERs, the strategy supports the implementation of active current sharing among inverters, also endowing compensation of reactive currents, as well as offering distributed and selective harmonic mitigation. In addition, the control approach is capable of coping with intermittent energy generation profiles, which are typical of nd-DERs. As another feature, the proposed coordination strategy provides proportional current sharing without being affected by line impedance parameters, in contrast to the conventional droop control method. Above all, the GCBC strategy is capable of managing an interconnected MG to operate as a single controllable entity, providing full controllability over its power dispatch to an upstream grid, allowing it to trade energy services in transactive energy markets.

The merits of the GCBC strategy are thoroughly assessed throughout this thesis by means of simulation and experimental results, based on multiple MG prototypes focusing on the low-voltage (LV) perspective, ensuring that the method is feasible for implementation in real-life applications. Numerous MG scenarios are evaluated, such as under limited power capabilities, considering the presence of non-ideal voltage waveforms, as well as upon communication issues, ensuring that the GCBC approach endures operation under adverse conditions. Moreover, it is experimentally demonstrated that the method is also capable of improving voltage quality in weak LV MGs

of homogeneous features, as an indirect outcome of the proportional sharing of non-active currents.

Lastly, advanced control functionalities are devised by flexibly adapting the GCBC strategy, endowing LV MGs with the capacity to shape their operation to behave as a variable and selective resistor, which supports a more efficient operation of the distribution grid and favors the damping of harmonic resonances. As another advanced functionality, distributed compensation of active and reactive unbalanced currents is also possible, based on concepts from the Conservative Power Theory. Moreover, voltage regulation can be ensured for the MG by means of an automatic scheme incorporating the GCBC, allowing the possibility to concomitantly increase energy exploitation from nd-DERs. Finally, considerations on the integration of optimization methods highlight that further capabilities can be formulated upon the adoption of the GCBC strategy.

Sammendrag

En omfattende integrasjon av distribuerte energikilder (DERer), som består av fornybare energisystemer med tilhørende omformere, representerer et paradigmeskifte for AC strømmnett i form av økt bruk av kraftelektronikk. Selv om bruken av DERer i lavspenningsnettet muliggjør en mer fleksibel drift av nettet, og desentralisering av energikildene tillater en økt effektivitet, er det helt avgjørende å ha tilstrekkelig kontroll over eksisterende omformere for å utnytte potensialet i dem. Dette gjelder særlig for omformerdominerte mikronett, som er avhengige implementering av koordinerte strategier for å utnytte DERer til kontrollert kraftregulering, forbedring av spenningskvalitet, samt tilgjengelighet til elektrisitetsmarkedet.

Denne avhandlingen presenterer en koordinert reguleringsstrategi for mikronett. Strategien kan levere flere systemtjenester, og reguleringen legger til rette for plug-and-play av omformere, uavhengig av topologien til nettet. Denne strategien, kalt Generalized Current-Based Control (GCBC), kan integrere omformere basert på både regulerbare (d-DER) og ikke-regulerbare (nd-DER) energikilder. Strategien er avhengig av en sentralisert kontrollenhet samt et kommunikasjonssystem med lav båndbredde. Ved hjelp av fleksibel koordinering av DERer støtter strategien deling av aktive strømmer mellom omformere, kompensasjon av reaktive strømmer, samt tilbyr distribuert og selektiv harmonisk demping. I tillegg kan strategien håndtere intermitterende energi-produksjonsprofiler, som er typiske for nd-DERer. I motsetning til den konvensjonelle statikk-metoden er den foreslåtte strategien også i stand til å gi proporsjonal strømdeling uten å være påvirket av linjeimpedansparametere. Fremfor alt er GCBC-strategien i stand til å styre et sammenkoblet mikronett for å fungere som én enkelt kontrollerbar enhet, samt å ha full kontrollerbarhet over kraftutvekslingen med et overliggende nett, slik at mikronettet kan handle energitjenester i bilaterale energimarkeder.

Aspektene ved GCBC-strategien blir grundig gjennomgått i denne avhandlingen ved hjelp av simulering og eksperimentelle resultater, basert på flere lavspente (LV) mikronett-prototyper, for å sikre at metoden er mulig å implementere i ekte applikasjoner. Flere mikronett-scenarier blir evaluert, for eksempel ved begrenset effekt, under ikke-ideelle spenningsforhold, samt ved kommunikasjonsproblemer. Dette sikrer at GCBC-strategien fungerer også under ugunstige forhold. Videre er det eksperimentelt demonstrert at metoden er i stand til å forbedre spenningskvaliteten i svake LV mikronett, noe som er et indirekte resultat av proporsjonal deling av ikke-aktive strømmer.

Til slutt utvikles avanserte kontrollfunksjoner ved fleksibel tilpasning av GCBC-strategien, hvilket gir LV mikronett muligheten til å oppføre seg som en variabel og selektiv motstand, som støtter en mer effektiv drift av distribusjonsnettets og bidrar til

demping av harmoniske resonanser. En annen avansert funksjonalitet er distribuert kompensasjon av aktive og reaktive ubalanserte strømmer, basert på konsepter fra «Conservative Power Theory». Videre kan spenningsregulering utformes for mikronettet ved hjelp av en strategi som inkluderer GCBC, slik at man samtidig kan øke energiutnyttelsen fra nd-DERer. Betrachninger rundt integrering av optimaliseringsmetoder fremhever at ytterligere funksjonalitet fortsatt kan legges til ved bruk av GCBC-strategien.

Resumo

A contínua expansão do uso de recursos energéticos distribuídos (REDs), normalmente constituídos de fontes de energia renovável e/ou sistemas de armazenamento com seus respectivos inversores de potência, tem incorporado a eletrônica em potência como panorama para redes elétricas CA. Embora a presença de REDs em tais redes traga maior flexibilidade de operação e a descentralização da geração de energia possibilite despacho de potência mais eficiente, é essencial que se imponha um controle adequado sob inversores para garantir uma operação harmoniosa com os múltiplos dispositivos elétricos existentes. Tal requerimento é de particular importância em microrredes CA com alta imersão de inversores, as quais requerem a implementação de estratégias de controle coordenado para adequadamente explorar REDs, visando obter controlabilidade perante despacho de potência, intervenções para melhoria da qualidade da energia, e também acessibilidade a mercados de energia.

Dentro de tal contexto, esta tese de doutorado apresenta uma estratégia de controle coordenado capaz de prover múltiplos propósitos operacionais para microrredes CA com características transativas. Tal abordagem rege a operação de inversores sem necessitar conhecimento prévio das características da microrrede, independentemente da topologia elétrica, e ofertando operacionalidades *plug-and-play*. Esta estratégia, nomeada *Generalized Current-Based Control* (GCBC), é capaz de acomodar inversores de características diversas, sendo de natureza despachável (d-RED) ou não-despachável (nd-RED), com base em uma unidade centralizadora e em canais de comunicação de banda estreita. Através da coordenação flexível de REDs, a estratégia suporta a implementação de compartilhamento de correntes ativas, tão bem quanto a compensação de correntes reativas, além da mitigação distribuída e seletiva de harmônicos. Ademais, a estratégia de controle é complacente com perfis intermitentes de geração de energia, os quais são comuns em nd-REDs. Além disso, outra vantagem se refere à capacidade de prover compartilhamento de correntes entre inversores de forma proporcional às suas capacidades, sem interferência das características de impedâncias de linha, diferente do método convencional de controle *droop* (i.e., controle por inclinação). Acima de tudo, a estratégia GCBC é capaz de gerenciar uma microrrede CA interconectada para operar como uma entidade única controlável, provendo controlabilidade total sob seu despacho de potência para a rede de distribuição, permitindo a negociação de serviços energéticos em mercados de energia transativos.

Os méritos da estratégia GCBC são amplamente avaliados ao longo desta tese, por meio de simulação e resultados experimentais, com base em múltiplos protótipos

de microrrede com foco em baixa tensão, garantindo que o método é viável a implementações práticas reais. Diversos cenários de microrrede são analisados, tal como sob limitação de capacidades de potência, considerando a presença de tensões não ideais, e também perante complicações relacionadas à comunicação de dados, certificando que a estratégia GCBC é capaz de operar sob condições adversas. Ainda, demonstra-se através de resultados experimentais que o método de controle é capaz de prover melhoria da qualidade da tensão em microrredes fracas de baixa tensão que apresentam características homogêneas, como um resultado indireto do compartilhamento proporcional de correntes não ativas.

Finalmente, funcionalidades de controle avançadas são flexivelmente derivadas com base na abordagem GCBC, possibilitando que uma microrrede seja capaz de modelar sua operação para se comportar como um resistor variável e seletivo, o qual suporta uma operação mais eficiente da rede de distribuição, ainda favorecendo o amortecimento de ressonâncias harmônicas. Como outra funcionalidade avançada, compensação distribuída de correntes ativa e reativa de desbalanço pode ser também ofertada, com base em conceitos advindos da Teoria de Potência Conservativa. Ademais, regulação de tensão pode ser implementada para microrredes, com base em um esquema de controle automático incorporando a estratégia GCBC, possibilitando ainda uma exploração de energia aprimorada para nd-REDs. Por último, considerações sob a integração de métodos de otimização também ressaltam que funcionalidades adicionais podem ser formuladas com base na adoção da estratégia GCBC.

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List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

AC	Alternating Current
APC	Active Power Curtailment
AVG	Average
CB	Circuit Breaker
CCM	Current Controlled Mode
CPT	Conservative Power Theory
D	CPT's Distortion Power
d-DER	Dispatchable DER
DC	Direct Current
DER	Distributed Energy Resource
DFT	Discrete Fourier Transform
DRA	Demand Response Aggregator
DSO	Distribution System Operator
DSP	Digital Signal Processor
DST	Distribution System Transformer
ESS	Energy Storage System
GCBC	Generalized Current-Based Control
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
LC	Inductive and Capacitive Output Filter
LCL	Inductive-Capacitive-Inductive Output Filter
LPF	Low-Pass Filter
LV	Low-Voltage

MAF	Moving Average Filter
MG	Microgrid
MG-TES	Microgrid Transactive Energy System
MGO	Microgrid Operator
N	CPT's Unbalance Power from
nd-DER	Non-dispatchable DER
P	CPT's Active Power
P2P	Peer-to-Peer
PCC	Point-of-Connection
PF	CPT's Power Factor
PLL	Phase-Locked-Loop
PoC	Point-of-Connection of a DER
PRep	Proportional-Repetitive
Pres	Proportional-Resonant
Q	CPT's Reactive Power
RES	Renewable Energy Source
RLS	Resistive Load Synthesis
RMS	Root Mean Square
SCS	Sinusoidal Current Synthesis
SG	Smart Grid
SoC	State-of-Charge
TES	Transactive Energy System
THD _i	Total Harmonic Distortion of a Current
THD _v	Total Harmonic Distortion of a Voltage
TSO	Transmission System Operator

UI Utility Interface

VCM Voltage Controlled Mode

VPP Virtual Power Plant

X/R Ratio Between Inductance and Resistance of Line Impedances

List of Symbols and Variables

\star	Refers to the main experimental setup (single-phase MG)
\dagger	Refers to the experimental setup from Section 5.8 (three-phase MG)
$3ph$	Refers to the experimental setup from Section 6.4 (three-phase MG)
\parallel	In-phase component
\perp	Quadrature component
INV	Refers to the simulation circuit of Section 4.4.2
$\alpha_{h\parallel}$	GCBC in-phase scaling coefficient for harmonic order h
$\alpha_{h\perp}$	GCBC quadrature scaling coefficient for harmonic order h
γ_{Na}	Percentage of compensation for the active unbalanced current parcel
γ_{Nr}	Percentage of compensation for the reactive unbalanced current parcel
γ_{OV}	Activation variable of the active and reactive voltage control
γ_{RLS}	Activation variable of the RLS-based coordination approach
θ_{1m}	Synchronization angle for the fundamental component
θ_{hm}	Synchronization angle for harmonic component at order h
θ_s	Phase shift of a waveform
ω_o	Fundamental angular frequency
ω_j	Angular frequency at a DER j
δ_1	Constant for the regulation of steps in current dispatch
B	A MG node from the main simulation testbench
C_f	Capacitor of LC and LCL filters
$i(t)$	Time-domain current
i^{DER}	Time-domain current of a DER

i^{DER*}	Time-domain reference current of a DER
i^{Grid}	Time-domain current of the grid
i^{P*}	Time-domain reference current for active power injection
i^o	Time-domain output current of a DER at its PoC, or at the MG PCC
i_c	Time-domain capacitor current
i_{a_m}	Fryze's time-domain active current of a phase m
i_{na_m}	Fryze's time-domain non-active current of a phase m
i_{Anc}^*	Time-domain reference current for ancillary service provision
i_{ESS}^*	Time-domain reference current for an ESS
$i_{a_m}^b$	CPT's balanced active current of a phase m
$i_{r_m}^b$	CPT's balanced reactive current of a phase m
$i_{a_m}^u$	CPT's unbalanced active current of a phase m
$i_{r_m}^u$	CPT's unbalanced reactive current of a phase m
I_{Col}	Collective current
I_{RMS}	RMS current
I_h^*	Reference peak current to be shared by DERs at harmonic order h
I_h^{DERj}	Peak current of a DER j at harmonic order h
I_{nom}^{DERj}	Nominal peak current of a DER j
$I_{1 max}^{DERj}$	Maximum active current generated by a DER j
$I_{1 sto}^{DERj}$	Maximum active current stored by a DER j
I_h^{DERt}	Total peak current of DERs participating in the GCBC at harmonic order h
\hat{I}_h^{DERt}	Estimated total peak current of DERs at harmonic order h
I_{nom}^{DERt}	Total nominal peak current of DERs participating in the GCBC
$I_{1 max}^{DERt}$	Total maximum peak current of DERs participating in the GCBC
$I_{1 sto}^{DERt}$	Total stored peak current of DERs participating in the GCBC

I_h^{Grid}	Peak current of the grid at harmonic order h
I_h^{Grid*}	Reference peak current for the grid at harmonic order h
$\overline{I_{1 }^{Grid}}$	Upper limit for the active current dispatch of the MG
$\overline{I_{1\perp}^{Grid}}$	Upper limit for the reactive (inductive) current dispatch of the MG
$\underline{I_{1 }^{Grid}}$	Lower limit for the active current absorption of the MG
$\underline{I_{1\perp}^{Grid}}$	Lower limit for the reactive (capacitive) current dispatch of the MG
I_h^L	Peak current of loads, considering losses and non-participating DERs
$I_h^{L(b)}$	Balanced component of I_h^L after CPT decomposition
$I_h^{L(u)}$	Unbalanced component of I_h^L after CPT decomposition
I_h^{UI}	Peak current of the UI at harmonic order h
I_h^{UI*}	Reference peak current for the UI at harmonic order h
$\sqrt{\Delta I}$	Total current capability of all DERs participating in the GCBC
$\sqrt{\Delta I^{DER_j}}$	Total current capability of a DER j
ΔI	Quadratic total current capability of all DERs at actual step of the GCBC
ΔI_{old}	Quadratic total current capability of all DERs at previous step of the GCBC
j	j -th DER ($j=1,2,3,\dots,J$)
k	Actual control cycle
f_s	Sampling frequency
f_{sw}	Switching frequency
f_{GCBC}	GCBC algorithm interruption frequency
K_P	Proportional gain
K_I	Integral gain
K_f	Repetitive gain
K_{damp}	Gain of the active damping loop
L_B	Load connected to a node B

L_i	Inverter-side inductor of LC and LCL filters
L_g	Grid-side inductor of a LCL filter
m	Refers to phase m of an electric circuit
P^{Fryze}	Fryze's active power
P_{max}^{DERj}	Maximum active power of a DER j
P_{nom}^{DERj}	Nominal active power of a DER j
Q_{max}^{DERj}	Maximum (inductive) reactive power of a DER j
Q_{min}^{DERj}	Maximum (capacitive) reactive power of a DER j
Q_{nom}^{DERj}	Nominal reactive power of a DER j
r_{dDERs}	Proportion ratio among d-DErs
v^{Grid}	Time-domain voltage of the grid
v^{DERj}	Time-domain voltage of a DER j at its PoC
V_{RMS}^{DERj}	RMS phase voltage of a DER j at its PoC
V_{RMS}^{Grid}	RMS phase voltage of the grid
V_{Col}	Collective voltage
\bar{V}	Average of RMS voltages
\bar{V}^{lim}	Threshold for overvoltage detection
\bar{V}_{lower}^{lim}	Critical limit for undervoltage condition
\bar{V}_{upper}^{lim}	Critical limit for overvoltage condition
T_D	Time delay
T_s	Sampling time
T_{GCBC}	GCBC algorithm interruption time
x_h	Unitary reference signal at harmonic order h
Z_L	Line impedance

Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 Background and Motivation

Decarbonization is a growing trend in the energy sector [1], and renewable energy generation plays a vital role in supporting such an energy transition [2], pushing electric power systems toward new operational and economic paradigms [3]. The immediate request to integrate renewable energy sources (RESs) into electrical grids is tied to benefits, such as the decentralization of generation, which increases the reliability in power dispatch [4]. In addition, integration of RESs provides a more diverse energy matrix that favors economic gains [5]. Nevertheless, as the proliferation of RESs increases, previously unknown technical and policy-related challenges arise [6], demanding research into new operational and regulatory strategies [7] for electric power systems.

Typically, RESs are small-scale energy generators that operate interconnected to electrical grids, by means of power electronic converters. Such an incorporation of power interfacing devices to RESs is part of the concept of distributed energy resources (DERs) [8]. In fact, DERs may also comprise energy storage systems (ESSs), and other complementary embedded technologies and functionalities, such as communication interfaces and remote control capabilities [9]. Hence, although RESs are in the spotlight of the actual energy transition [3], their potential benefits to electric systems cannot be fully exploited without the conceptualization of DERs.

In AC electrical systems, DC-AC power converters (i.e., so-called inverters) are the main electronic units of DERs in relation to the provision of controlled power conversion from RESs (e.g., photovoltaic- (PV) and wind-based generators), as well as from ESSs. A schematic of an inverter-based DER connected to an AC power system is depicted in Fig. 1.1. Converting power through inverters is possible due to their power electronics infrastructure [10], which allows the possibility to modulate voltage and current waveforms through the commutation of power switches. Concomitantly, the control algorithms embedded to such inverters are the ones responsible for dictating the operational features of DERs [11], adapting their voltages and currents according to energy generation and grid quantities. For instance, DERs can be managed to pursue local or global goals [12], leading to enhanced operation at their particular electric

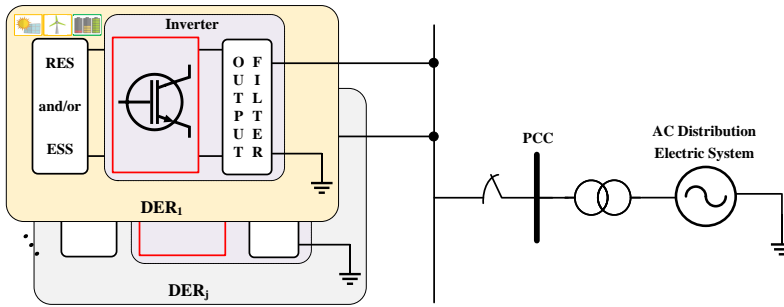


Figure 1.1: Schematic of a DER composed of a RES or ESS, and its inverter connected to an AC distribution system.

nodes, or at their entire interconnected grid, respectively.

Conventional inverters existing within DERs are commonly designed to only process active power, providing a dispatch of RESs' generated energy to the electrical grid. However, in recent years, led by the trend for *Smart Grids* (SGs) [12, 13], the concept of smart inverters has enlightened new perspectives on the purpose of such equipment [14, 15]. Beyond the provision of active power conversion, smart inverters (also called multifunctional inverters) offer the possibility to employ their rated capabilities in services related to power conditioning and grid support [16]. Thus, flexible implementation of power quality interventions, and more sophisticated power distribution planning strategies have become possible [17].

To implement such a perspective, the control flexibility of inverter-based DERs can be exploited to offer ancillary functionalities, such as voltage support to the grid [18], compensation of power oscillations and unbalanced currents [14], mitigation of reactive and harmonic components [19], and many others [15]. Moreover, since information and communication technologies (ICTs) are intrinsic to SGs, communication features are becoming compulsory for inverters [8]. This consequently allows them to support remote control and interoperability, while broadening their applications to scenarios of cooperative and coordinated operations [14, 20].

As more and more multifunctional abilities are being incorporated into electrical grids, especially from the perspective of low-voltage (LV) power systems, the locally-oriented operation of inverters is doomed to become obsolete. This occurs because operation of DERs under individualized perspectives (i.e., purely local) does not take into account the status of other equipment or the overall needs of the grid. Moreover, non-coordinated DER actions may interfere with the proper functioning of their neighboring inverters [21], as well as impairing grid stability [22]. To corroborate such undesired effects of interacting DERs, one can observe issues like the multi-timescale coupling among their control loops [23], and the generation of circulating currents

caused by the lack of synergy during their parallel operation [21].

On the other hand, as reinforced in [23], if proper coordination among multifunctional inverters is formulated, more reliability and robustness can be achieved from both local and global operational perspectives. Thus, the coordinated control of DERs not only offers enhanced use of inverters' power capabilities, but also decreases the undesired side-effects of their local functioning. Furthermore, proper coordination of ancillary services devised by smart inverters dispersed over AC grids can even optimize the profitability of prosumers (i.e., DERs' owners that also comprise local consumption) [24]. Moreover, this also supports the offering of energy management features to benefit entities at power system levels [25].

The importance of coordinating inverters is further evidenced in the so-called weak grids, which are power systems comprising low short-circuit ratio and small inertia constant [26]. In such a scenario, the significant presence of DERs potentially affects the grid capability to maintain steady and compliant voltage profiles. Consequently, this results in a chain effect that may interfere with the adequate operation of loads and grid-tied converters [26], as well as potentially lead to the propagation of non-idealities (e.g., harmonic distortions) [27] to adjacent distribution grids [28].

This condition is particularly frequent, and critical, in weak microgrids (MGs), which are defined by [29] as power systems that: *i*) present clearly established electrical boundaries; *ii*) comprise a considerable amount of loads and interconnected DERs; *iii*) have the capability to act as a single controllable entity, with respect to its point-of-connection (PCC) with an upstream grid (see Fig. 1.1); and that *iv*) are able to operate both interconnected and islanded (i.e., under autonomous mode [30]). Given all the particularities of MGs, their design, operation and management have been extensively explored in the literature [31, 32, 33, 34], often converging on the conclusion that proper coordination of DERs is imperative.

Since ICT is being widely incorporated into the infrastructure of electric grids, along with the fact that MGs can be interpreted as individual entities, smartness can also be extended to how such systems behave and operate. Smart MGs, for instance, are systems that are intelligently self-sufficient (i.e., internally exploiting their resources to be fully independent) [35]. Moreover, they are capable of dynamically interacting with external agents to optimize internal and external financial and operational objectives [36].

As a result, if a smart MG is flexibly modeled and managed to act according to market and technical requirements, it can accordingly take part in controlled energy transactions [37]. Hence, smart MGs possess the means to interact with external agents (e.g., the distribution system operator (DSO), aggregators or other MGs) to trade market-regulated energy services. Among the examples of such services provided

by LV MGs, one can find controllable power dispatchability [25], and power quality support to achieve more robust operation of distribution grids [38].

The summary presented in Fig. 1.2 represents the scalable complexity of how the context of RESs and SGs is impacting on how equipment (such as inverters) and power systems (such as MGs) are evolving and interacting with other entities. It can be noted that, although each of the previous discussions may be seen as an independent topic, all concepts are fundamental pieces of the overall infrastructure of real SGs. Although the practical model of SGs is complex, extending from consolidated concepts like automation and digitalization, up to emerging ideas such as the energy internet [39], it can be first realized by intelligently operating equipment that supports basic principles, such as interoperability.

The background of this PhD thesis is also immersed within the multidisciplinary context found in Fig. 1.2. By assimilating different SG concepts, the scope of this thesis encompasses the idea of how multiple technological principles (e.g., smart inverters, coordinated control, energy services) can be integrated to obtain the flexible operation of MGs. Beyond basic management features, the consideration of non-ideal operational conditions is also of interest to this thesis, not to mention the importance of accounting for market-oriented applicability. Thus, in summary, the grounds of this thesis take into consideration the employment of smart inverters as potential tools to improve the management of MGs, under diverse operational conditions, also investigating possibilities to broaden the provision of ancillary energy services focusing on the LV perspective.

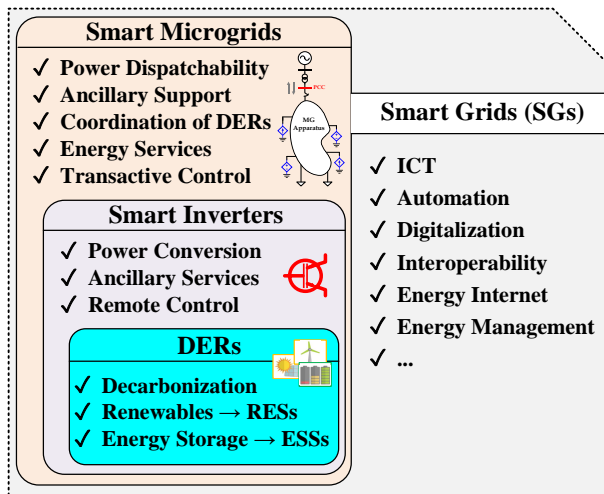


Figure 1.2: Background context of DERs, smart inverters and MGs within the scenario of SGs.

1.2 Main Goals and Contributions

1.2.1 Main Goals of the PhD Thesis

This PhD thesis is grounded in the perspective of a smart AC MG comprising a significant amount of DERs of different natures, considering that their inverters have the capability to operate as multifunctional devices offering ancillary services. The targeted scenario holds homogeneous features, indicating that DERs, loads and line impedances are fairly evenly distributed throughout the MG. In addition, since a MG acts most of the time under the interconnected mode [5], this thesis also focuses on the features of its operation as a single-controllable entity, assessing how it can contribute to the support of an upstream distribution network.

Based on the above-mentioned conceptualization, the major objective of this thesis is to develop a coordinated control strategy to allow transactive and multi-purpose steering of DERs dispersed over an AC MG, focusing on the LV perspective. The transactive control aspect of such a strategy [40] is intended to support the possibility for the MG to trade energy services with external agents. Consequently, the flexibility to achieve market-oriented management over active power dispatchability, in addition to the extended provision of ancillary services, is offered. Furthermore, the proposed multi-purpose feature relates to the fact that, beyond providing controllable power extraction from DERs, distributed compensation of unwanted current components, as well as voltage regulation, can be pursued.

Another goal of this thesis is to ensure that the proposed coordination of inverters is valid under non-ideal operational scenarios, such as non-sinusoidal voltages, abnormal voltage scenarios, as well as under ICT-related issues. Such goals imply that, by providing flexible steering of DERs in a MG, both local and global objectives related to power exploitation, power quality, grid support, and market-oriented actions can be obtained.

The main goals of this thesis are explicitly highlighted as follows. They specify the idea of developing a coordinated control strategy that grants:

1. *Model-free formulation and flexible implementation*

In order to deploy the strategy, features that facilitate its real implementation are desirable, for the sake of practicality and commercial attractiveness. Hence, a goal is set by developing a strategy that is: *i)* topology independent, *ii)* model-free, and *iii)* plug-and-play.

The topology independence of the strategy strives to make it applicable to AC MGs, regardless if they are based on single- [41], three-phase, or other poly-phase circuits [42]. The model-free aspect implies that knowledge of MG parameters (e.g., line impedance characteristics, location of DERs or loads, features

of transformers, etc.) are not essential for the adequate and proportional steering of DERs [43]. In addition, the plug-and-play feature relates to the self-adjusting capability of the control strategy to dynamically rearrange the coordination of inverters during changes in the MG;

2. *Adjustable active power conversion*

Since the main purpose of DERs is to inject active power into grids, it is important to achieve controllability over such functionality. Thus, energy exploitation can efficiently occur without affecting grid performance. Additionally, as power generation profiles may be intermittent or limited, variability in the local operation of DERs should be supported. Lastly, DERs of a dispatchable (e.g., endowing ESSs) and non-dispatchable (e.g., PV- or wind-based) nature may exist (i.e., herein denoted as d- and nd-DERs), so that the strategy must cope with their synergistic operation;

3. *Distributed compensation of unwanted currents*

In AC MGs, reactive, harmonic and unbalanced current components are tied to the lowering of energy efficiency and deterioration of power quality [27]. Hence, the control strategy intends to exploit dispersed inverters to also provide distributed compensation of reactive currents, as well as selective mitigation of harmonics. The compensation of unbalanced currents is also considered for particular implementations;

4. *Operation upon adverse scenarios*

In general, LV MGs are known to be weak systems, in which voltage waveforms cannot always be ideal (i.e., sinusoidal with constant magnitude). Consequently, the goal of ensuring that the proposed coordinated control strategy presents robust operation under non-ideal scenarios is accounted for. In particular, this thesis presents an assessment of the control approach upon scenarios of distorted voltages, as well as considering voltage ride-through challenges. Another research target is to demonstrate the features of the strategy under the occurrence of ICT-related issues, such as faulty communication links and delays in data transmission;

5. *MG dispatchability and support to transactive control*

The key factor in the MG participation in energy transactions [37] is the ability to achieve full power dispatchability. This thesis has the objective of demonstrating that, by adequately coordinating DERs, the energy flow at the MG PCC can be regulated to achieve decoupled active, reactive and harmonic controllability. Consequently, access to market-oriented transactions of active power flow is individually possible. In addition, the reactive and harmonic power flow

control at the PCC can support the planning of power dispatch for the upstream grid and provide high power factor operation, respectively, being interpreted as marketable energy services. Finally, full controllability over active and non-active currents at the PCC also offers the possibility for the MG to operate under self-consumption mode [44] (i.e., neither depending on the upstream grid, nor significantly affecting its operation).

6. *Voltage regulation capability*

While exploiting DERs in distribution systems, it is important to ensure that voltage profiles are maintained within acceptable ranges [8], foremost in the internal nodes of the MG. With this in mind, this thesis also strives to develop a coordinated control strategy that sustains the regulation of voltage profiles, if overvoltage conditions occur internally to the MG. The availability of several DERs to contribute to voltage regulation is also taken into account.

7. *Experimental validations*

Since the development of the coordinated control strategy reaches the power electronics layer, it is important to validate the applicability of the proposed functionalities to real-life implementations. As a result, beyond demonstrating computational simulations, laboratory scale prototypes have been set up to experimentally assess the performance of the coordination approach.

1.2.2 Contributions of the PhD Thesis

This thesis explicitly presents the following scientific and nonscientific contributions, which are also evidenced by the scientific publications presented in Section 1.3:

Scientific Contributions

1. The development of a centralized strategy that provides multi-purpose coordinated control of inverters in transactive MGs. The coordination approach, so-called Generalized Current-Based Control (GCBC), is formulated based on the analysis of electrical currents flowing within the MG, also considering power exchange interactions with the upstream distribution grid at the PCC. The GCBC encompasses all the features previously explained in Section 1.2.1 for goal 1, while also endowing control capabilities to achieve goals 2 to 5.
2. A systematic assessment of the features of the proposed coordination approach is realized, by means of computational simulations and extensive experimental work, being carried out on multiple simulation testbenches and laboratory-scale MG prototypes. Beyond evaluating non-ideal scenarios of operation, comparative studies with another well-known coordination strategy (i.e., droop control

[31]) are conducted to highlight the particularities and contributions of the proposed method;

3. An innovative approach is proposed to devise a resistive shaping for the PCC of an interconnected MG, considering that the upstream distribution grid operates while suffering from distorted voltages. The method provides high power factor operation and, upon the existence of resonant components, it supports harmonic resonance damping, which minimizes deterioration of voltage quality. In addition, the control approach holds improved performance when compared to strategies that aim to fully mitigate harmonic currents;
4. A method to steer DERs to achieve distributed and decoupled compensation of unbalanced currents in MGs, without requiring the implementation of virtual impedance control loops [31], nor the extraction of sequence components. Such an approach incorporates the Conservative Power Theory (CPT) [45] for generating reference currents for the compensation purposes;
5. Taking advantage of the MG power dispatchability, an automatic voltage regulation scheme is formulated. It is demonstrated that the energy exploitation of non-dispatchable inverters can be enhanced without optimization algorithms, while ensuring that overvoltage conditions are mitigated internally to the MG. This occurs by the synergistic active and reactive power control of d- and nd-DERs. Additionally, the proposed strategy allows the possibility to integrate DERs into voltage regulation regardless of their location in the MG;
6. An extended outlook on the power dispatchability of transactive MGs is presented, demonstrating that multiple ancillary services can be provided. Moreover, a transactive control framework for MGs is designed, relying on the steering of DERs to offer the flexible provision of energy services in the power system level, thus supporting accessibility to electricity markets.

Nonscientific Contributions

1. Two main contributions relate to UNESP/Sorocaba-Brazil. The first one concerns the implementation of two experimental MG prototypes being: *i*) one composed of three-phase inverters; and *ii*) one devised by the realization of technical improvements in a previously existent single-phase platform. Beyond the fact that both testbenches can be used in future research, they lead to the second contribution, which is the incorporation of these experimental infrastructures into the activities executed for the thematic project "*Interdisciplinary Research Activities in Electric Smart Grids*" [46], which is funded by FAPESP;
2. Two last contributions relate to NTNU/Trondheim-Norway. This PhD thesis is also a direct outcome of the "*Norwegian-Brazilian Collaboration on*

Power Theories and Cooperative Control for Renewable Energy Integration (NB_POCCREI)" project [47], which was funded by the the *Research Council of Norway*. Additionally, the interactions resulting from this thesis led to a Cotutelle agreement for a double degree PhD, taking part in strengthening the scientific cooperation between NTNU and UNESP.

1.3 List of Publications

During the three-year period of this PhD project, the main scientific findings have been published in the following journal and conference articles. Such publications present results obtained as a direct outcome of this PhD research, also comprising additional contributions in correlated topics.

Journal Papers:

- J.1) **A. M. S. Alonso**, D. I. Brandao, E. Tedeschi, and F. P. Marafao, "Resistive Shaping of Interconnected Low-Voltage Microgrids Operating Under Distorted Voltages," *IEEE Transactions on Industrial Electronics*, 2021. **Accepted**
- J.2) **A. M. S. Alonso**, L. O. Arenas, D. I. Brandao, E. Tedeschi, and F. P. Marafao, "Automatic Overvoltage Control of Distributed Energy Resources Supporting Enhanced Energy Exploitation in Interconnected Microgrids," *IEEE Transactions on Sustainable Energy*, 2021. **Under Review**
- J.3) **A. M. S. Alonso**, J. H. Oliveira, D. I. Brandao, J. P. Bonaldo, H. K. M. Paredes, and F. P. Marafao, "A Multifunctional Grid-Tied Inverter for Two-Phase Three-Wire Networks Based on the Conservative Power Theory," *IEEE Transactions on Power Delivery*, 2021. **Under Review**
- J.4) **A. M. S. Alonso**, D. I. Brandao, E. Tedeschi, and F. P. Marafao, "Distributed Selective Harmonic Mitigation and Decoupled Unbalance Compensation by Coordinated Inverters in Three-Phase Four-Wire Low-Voltage Networks," *Electric Power Systems Research*, vol. 186, pp. 1–14, 2020.
- J.5) **A. M. S. Alonso**, D. I. Brandao, T. Caldognetto, F. P. Marafao, and P. Mattavelli, "A Selective Harmonic Compensation and Power Control Approach Exploiting Distributed Electronic Converters in Microgrids," *International Journal of Electrical Power & Energy Systems*, vol. 115, pp. 1–15, 2020.
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- J.9) D. I. Brandao, W. M. Ferreira, **A. M. S. Alonso**, E. Tedeschi, and F. P. Marafao, “Optimal Multiobjective Control of Low-Voltage AC Microgrids: Power Flow Regulation and Compensation of Reactive Power and Unbalance,” *IEEE Transactions on Smart Grid*, vol. 11, no. 2, pp. 1239–1252, 2020.
- J.10) D. I. Brandao, L. S. Araujo, **A. M. S. Alonso**, G. L. dos Reis, E. V. Liberado, and F. P. Marafao, “Coordinated Control of Distributed Three- and Single-Phase Inverters Connected to Three-Phase Three-Wire Microgrids,” *IEEE Journal of Emerging and Selected Topics in Power Electronics*, vol. 8, no. 4, pp. 3861–3877, 2020.

Conference Papers:

- C.1) **A. M. S. Alonso**, L. O. Arenas, R. T. Hock Jr., H. Guillard Jr., H. K. M. Paredes, F. A. S. Goncalves, and F. P. Marafao, “Experimental Implementation of a Single-Phase Microgrid: A Flexible Resource for Research and Educational Activities,” in *2021 IEEE 16th Brazilian Power Electronics Conference (COBEP)*, 2021. **Accepted**
- C.2) **A. M. S. Alonso**, F. Göthner, D. I. Brandao, F. P. Marafao, and E. Tedeschi, “Power- and Current-Based Control of Distributed Inverters in Low-Voltage Microgrids: Considerations in Relation to Classic Droop Control,” in *2020 15th International Conference on Ecological Vehicles and Renewable Energies (EVER)*, 2020, pp. 1–10.
- C.3) **A. M. S. Alonso**, L. C. Afonso, D. I. Brandao, E. Tedeschi, and F. P. Marafao, “Considerations on Communication Infrastructures for Cooperative Operation of Smart Inverters,” in *2019 IEEE 15th Brazilian Power Electronics Conference and 5th IEEE Southern Power Electronics Conference (COBEP/SPEC)*, 2019, pp. 1–6.
- C.4) **A. M. S. Alonso**, H. K. M. Paredes, J. A. O. Filho, J. P. Bonaldo, D. I. Brandao, and F. P. Marafao, “Selective Power Conditioning in Two-phase Three-Wire Systems Based on the Conservative Power Theory,” in *2019 IEEE Industry Applications Society Annual Meeting*, 2019, pp. 1–6.
- C.5) **A. M. S. Alonso**, D. I. Brandao, F. P. Marafao, and E. Tedeschi, “Coordinated Control of Parallel Power Conditioners Synthesizing Resistive Loads in Single-Phase AC Microgrids,” in *2019 21st European Conference on Power Electronics and Applications (EPE ’19 ECCE Europe)*, 2019, pp. 1–9.

- C.6) **A. M. S. Alonso**, D. I. Brandao, E. Tedeschi, and F. P. Marafao, “Distributed Harmonic Compensation in Single-Phase Low-Voltage Microgrids,” in *XXII Brazilian Conference on Automation (CBA)*, 2018, pp. 1–8.

The above-mentioned publications support multiple chapters of this thesis, and they can be mapped according to Table 1.1. Moreover, it is highlighted that the following three additional papers are currently being written: *i)* one journal paper, being an extension of "C.2", which has been invited for possible publication in *IEEE Transactions on Industry Applications*; *ii)* one journal paper comprising the results from Section 5.5; and *iii)* one conference paper composed of discussions presented in Chapter 2.

Table 1.1: Mapping of publications to chapters.

Chapter	2	3	4	5	6
Journal	-	<i>J.3, J.4, J.5, J.8</i>	<i>J.4, J.5, J.7, J.10</i>	<i>J.5</i>	<i>J.1, J.2, J.4, J.6 J.8, J.9, J.10</i>
Conference	-	<i>C.2, C.3, C.6</i>	<i>C.1, C.2, C.6</i>	<i>C.6</i>	<i>C.4, C.5</i>

1.4 Structure of the Thesis

Besides its introductory part, this thesis is structured into six additional chapters, aiming at plainly conveying the ideas and contributions comprised within the proceeding discussions.

Firstly, in Chapter 2, the transactive aspect of MGs is presented. The concept of Transactive Energy Systems (TESs) is introduced, and the MG power dispatchability is discussed as a means to offer energy services, constituting a market-oriented outlook.

Chapter 3 explains the MG and DER topologies considered within this thesis, and it presents the basic formulation of the proposed multi-purpose coordination of DERs (i.e., the GCBC approach). The hierarchical control infrastructure of the strategy, as well as its flexibility to control multiple current components, is thoroughly explained.

The multiple functionalities and transactive features of the GCBC strategy are demonstrated in Chapter 4, in which extensive simulations and experimental results are discussed. Moreover, additional operational considerations, such as the MG transition modes and a comparison with the droop control approach, are discussed.

Adverse operational scenarios, such as under distorted voltages, upon ICT-related issues, and consideration of the matter of power coupling among DERs, are assessed in Chapter 5. The goal of the discussions in this chapter is to show that the GCBC approach is flexible and resilient for implementation in weak LV MGs.

Advanced control functionalities related to the resistive shaping of MGs, distributed compensation of unbalanced currents, and voltage regulation capabilities are provided in Chapter 6. Moreover, a brief discussion about the integration of optimization approaches to the coordination strategy is also given.

Lastly, Chapter 7 presents the final conclusions of the PhD thesis, and offers proposals for the development of future works.

Chapter 7

Conclusions

7.1 General Conclusions

In this thesis, a multi-purpose coordinated control strategy has been presented to flexibly steer inverter-based DERs, focusing on the scenario of LV MGs participating in transactive energy markets. Such a control approach, namely GCBC, relies on a hierarchical architecture, and it uses a centralized unit (i.e. the MGCC) to adjust the operation of inverters according to the desired MG operational goals.

The GCBC strategy is formulated based on the analysis of peak currents flowing within the MG, and it presents a model-free feature, which provides a means to coordinate DERs without previous knowledge of the MG's physical parameters (e.g. line impedances values). A synergistic interaction between both dispatchable and non-dispatchable inverters is supported by the GCBC, guaranteeing that the strategy can cope with realistic scenarios of LV MGs. In addition, the coordinated steering of DERs allows the MG to achieve internal objectives, also offering operational functionalities that support the energy planning of an upstream distribution grid.

The multifaceted perspective of transactive MGs was discussed in Chapter 2, pointing out their multiple possibilities of interactions in energy markets, under both financial and technical aspects. Besides this, a transactive control framework was presented to clarify the participation of MGs as market players, as well as highlighting their technical role in the scenario of cellular electric systems. Moreover, an extended outlook on ancillary functionalities was discussed, situating MGs as key players in the provision of grid-supporting energy services.

The infrastructure of the considered LV MG topology was presented in Chapter 3, explaining the scope of application of this thesis. The elementary local control infrastructures of nd- and d-DERs were briefly presented, showing that they can offer active power conversion from RESs or ESSs, and that smart inverters can also support the provision of ancillary services. The three-layer hierarchical architecture of the GCBC strategy was explained in detail, highlighting how the approach steers DERs, as well as explaining how the MG interacts with external agents. Additionally, the basic formulation of the GCBC strategy was also discussed, demonstrating that the analysis of peak currents can offer current sharing capabilities for DERs, as well as

showing that the MG can be controlled as a single dispatchable entity.

Multiple purposes of operation for the MG were exemplified in Chapter 4, by means of simulation and experimental results. It has been demonstrated that the GCBC strategy allows us to control inverters to pursue active and reactive current sharing, supplying loads and alleviating the upstream grid from this burden. Moreover, the purpose of achieving distributed and selective compensation of harmonic currents has been demonstrated, by itself and while integrated into the control of fundamental currents. Thus, beyond controlling inverters to compensate non-active currents, the GCBC offers to the MG the possibility of operating under full self-consumption mode. Yet, as intermittency is inherent to distributed generation systems, the strategy can cope with variable generation profiles.

The MG power dispatchability has also been explored in Chapter 4, giving support to the major transactive aspect of the MG, which is related to energy trading capability. Both absorption and dispatch of active currents can be controlled at the MG PCC, as long as DERs present sufficient energy generation and nominal capabilities to support the intended goal. Yet, such a feature is conditional on the fact that MG contractual constraints should always be obeyed, as well as compliance with grid codes. Furthermore, reactive power dispatch can be offered either independently or concomitantly to active power control, giving more flexibility for the MG to sell energy services in transactive markets. Chapter 4 has also demonstrated that the MG functionalities offered by the GCBC strategy are not affected by the features of line impedances, guaranteeing that proportional sharing of currents occurs among DERs, in contrast to strategies such as the conventional droop control.

Since LV MGs are usually weak systems, they are susceptible to operating under non-ideal scenarios. Hence, Chapter 5 highlighted the particularities of the GCBC approach when inverters operate under limited power ratings. Additionally, it has been demonstrated that the strategy endures operation when voltages are highly distorted, as well as that it presents voltage ride-through capabilities. Another interesting feature related to the adoption of the GCBC strategy, particularly for homogeneous MGs, is that it provides voltage quality improvement as an indirect outcome of the proportional sharing of non-active currents. Finally, considerations on stability, communication matters and power coupling are concluded in Chapter 5, indicating that the GCBC presents operational concerns that, although not critical from a stability standpoint, need to be taken into account prior to deploying the strategy.

Advanced control functionalities have been presented in Chapter 6, providing enhanced operational features for LV MGs. It has been demonstrated that, based on a few adaptations of the GCBC strategy, the MG can be shaped to operate as a variable resistor when voltage distortions exist, allowing high power factor operation at the PCC, and supporting the damping of harmonic resonances. Voltage regulation has

also been devised in Chapter 6, by means of an automatic approach that provides coordinated Volt/Watt and Volt/VAR actions, allowing us to minimize the curtailment of active power from nd-DERs. Finally, an approach based on the CPT was incorporated into the GCBC, providing a means to achieve distributed compensation of unbalanced active and reactive currents.

In summary, the overall conclusion of this thesis is that the GCBC strategy allows the possibility of offering multiple functionalities for LV MGs. Both internal and external operational purposes of MGs can be considered while exploiting DERs, and the integration of technical and market-related objectives can be taken into account. Thus, the control approach can be seen as an innovative alternative to coordinate DERs in MGs, contributing to the movement of the electric sector towards the implementation of smarter grids.

7.2 Future Works

The following scientific aspects have been identified as prospective topics for future works, aiming at expanding and giving continuity to the contributions found within this PhD thesis.

- a) **Optimal regulation of the MG operation:** Even though multiple operational purposes can be offered by the GCBC strategy, MGs must dynamically adjust their goals according to real-life oriented market indexes and energy generation forecasts [220]. Thus, optimal approaches [66, 217] can be devised to efficiently exploit the capabilities of DERs, steering them to better attend to the needs of the MG. Multi-objective actions can be modeled for the MG, allowing the possibility to optimize its internal usage of energy, as well as improving economic profitability for prosumers and the MG manager;
- b) **MG power dispatchability supporting cellular electric systems:** The coordinated control strategy proposed in this thesis allows us to flexibly adjust the MG power dispatchability, also shaping the PCC to emulate different behaviors for the upstream grid. Consequently, the external interactions of the MG can be included in the energy planning horizon of cellular electric systems (i.e., power systems comprising multiple interconnected and supervised MGs, such as in cluster topologies [52, 55]). Such operability can incorporate controllable provision of distributed energy generation in an utility scale. Moreover, ancillary services can be offered under the power system perspective, supporting voltage and frequency regulation, congestion management, as well as power quality improvement;
- c) **Coordination of single- and three-phase DERs arbitrarily connected to three-phase MGs:** Although in this thesis simulation and experimental results only con-

sidered either single- or three-phase inverters, LV MGs commonly present DERs based on both topologies. Similarly to [68] and [71], the GCBC strategy can be extended to accommodate both single- and three-phase inverters in three-phase MGs to support the sharing of fundamental currents. Additionally, distributed compensation of harmonic currents using both inverter topologies, which has been rarely studied in the literature, can be investigated based on the GCBC strategy;

- d) **Coordination of DERs under asymmetrical voltages:** Asymmetries in voltages often occur in weak grids, and the coordination of DERs should take that issue into account. Further studies can be conducted using the GCBC strategy to understand how DERs can be steered to mitigate voltage unbalances, as well as to shape the MG PCC to achieve different operational behaviors, such as the one of balanced conductances or susceptances [148];
- e) **Redesign the GCBC strategy following a distributed control architecture:** Since the GCBC strategy relies on a centralized architecture, the existence of the MGCC is unavoidable. Nevertheless, if the calculation required to attain control references can be performed under a distributed architecture [226], multi-purpose control can be supported without a central agent. Thus, improved reliability can be achieved, as communication issues become less critical;
- f) **Fair voltage regulation:** The automatic voltage regulation scheme proposed in Section 6.3 coordinates d-DERs only proportionally to their nominal ratings and generation capabilities. Consequently, the natural discrepancy occurring among their voltage magnitudes, which is caused by voltage drops through line impedances, is not taken into account. Hence, if the concept of fair overvoltage [205] control is incorporated to the GCBC strategy, all d-DERs (i.e., even those placed close to the DST) can contribute to voltage regulation proportionally to their voltage magnitudes. This feature would allow us to obtain a more equalized voltage profile for all nodes of the MG.

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