

# Frequency-Coupled Impedance Modeling of Virtual Synchronous Generators

Kai Shi , Yu Wang , Yuxin Sun, Peifeng Xu , and Feng Gao

**Abstract**—The impedance of the virtual synchronous generator (VSG) is an effective method to analyze the dynamic interactions between the VSG and the grid. For the existence of power controllers and asymmetric inner-loop controllers in the d- and q-axis, there are couplings in the output sequence impedance of VSG. Although the couplings are relatively small, they still have a significant impact on the stability performance. However, there is no result published on this aspect up to now. To bridge this gap, a sequence impedance model based on harmonic linearization is established in this paper, which explicitly reveals the mirror frequency effect (MFE) in VSG. Subsequently, the relationships between the power controllers and the MFE are demonstrated. Finally, simulation results verify the feasibility and correctness of the theoretical analysis presented above.

**Index Terms**—Virtual synchronous generator, stability analysis, power controllers, sequence impedance model, mirror frequency effect.

## I. INTRODUCTION

WITH the energy crisis and environmental destruction being prominent, the renewable energy and distributed power generation have received more and more attention in the world. A significant share of conventional fossil fuel-based power plants has been replaced with renewable energy resources. Unlike the case that the rotating parts of synchronous machines inherently provide inertia to the system, the application of a large number of power electronic converters makes the whole power system characterized by low inertia [1]. Power electronics have faster dynamics than conventional controllers for both active and reactive power support, meanwhile the unexpected issue on the frequency stability of power system is introduced for the lack of physical inertia [2], [3]. To deal with this problem, the virtual synchronous generator (VSG) technology was proposed and put into practice in the European project “VSYNC” [4]. It emulates the behavior of a traditional synchronous generator (SG) to provide adjustable inertia and damping as well as frequency and

voltage support, which improves the permeability of distributed generation. At present, the practical applications of VSG have involved a variety of fields such as photovoltaic power plants [5], AC/DC microgrids [6], and wind power generation [7].

Nevertheless, some undesirable phenomena such as synchronous frequency resonance, synchronous instability, and the low-frequency oscillation problem may also occur in VSG dominated power systems [8]–[11], which could degrade the performance of VSG and even bring in the instability of the system. The impedance model has been developed to address the stability challenges in VSG. In [12], [13], the state-space model based on small-signal approach was applied to analyze the control parameters by the eigenvalue and sensitivity. But there were too many variables involved. For instance, the small-signal model of the virtual synchronous machine (VSM) in [12] had 19 state variables, which gave 19 eigenvalues for this system. When the parallel units are considered, the order of system will be multiplied up, which would challenge the model feasibility and controller calculation. In [14], [15], a small-signal model of VSG was built in synchronous rotating reference frames (SRRFs). However, it cannot be used when AC system is unbalanced since the steady operation point of the small-signal system will no longer be DC constant. The harmonic linearization method [16] overcomes the above limitations by modeling three-phase impedance directly in the phase domain. The calculated impedance can handle both balanced and unbalanced systems, has clear physical interpretations and can be directly measured. So far, the method has been applied to model output impedance of various nonlinear systems. In [17], the sequence impedance model of VSG did not involve inner loops control. In [18], the VSG was decoupled into positive- and negative-sequence subsystems without considering the mirror frequency effect (MFE) [19].

In the existing impedance model, the inner loops of VSG are assumed to be identical. However, the power loops and  $dq$ -axis components are closely related, and the change of control parameters will affect the degree of system asymmetry. Even in a balanced system, positive- and negative-sequence will be coupled due to the coupling terms. The disturbance generated by the power controllers has great influence on the error of coordinate transformation. In this case, VSG cannot be assumed to be a mirror frequency decoupled (MFD) system, otherwise it would lead to an erroneous of the equivalent impedance. The normal Nyquist criterion is no longer applicable, and the generalized Nyquist criterion (GNC) should be utilized instead [20].

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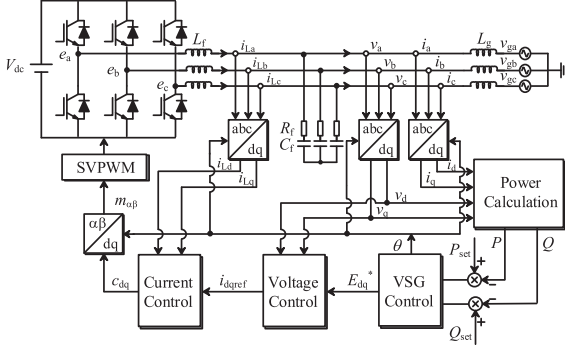


Fig. 1. Topology block diagram of VSG.

To explicitly reveal the MFE brought by the power controllers and inner-loop controllers in the VSG, a sequence impedance model is deduced by harmonic linearization in this paper. The impedance-based stability criterion is used to analyze which factors are closely related to the MFE and further investigate their impacts on the system stability. The close correlations between the power loops and coupling terms are discussed thoroughly, and subsequently validated in time domain simulations under different conditions. The results show that the MFE plays an important role in stability analysis and cannot be ignored.

## II. DESCRIPTION OF VSG

Fig. 1 illustrates the topology of the VSG. In Fig. 1,  $V_{dc}$  is the DC-side voltage of VSG and can be regarded as a constant;  $e_a$ ,  $e_b$  and  $e_c$  are the inner electric potentials of VSG;  $i_{La}$ ,  $i_{Lb}$  and  $i_{Lc}$  are the output currents of VSG;  $i_a$ ,  $i_b$  and  $i_c$  are the grid-connected currents;  $v_a$ ,  $v_b$  and  $v_c$  are the output terminal voltages of VSG;  $L_f$ ,  $C_f$  and  $R_f$  are the filter inductance, filter capacitance and damping resistance respectively;  $L_g$  is the inductance on the grid side;  $v_{ga}$ ,  $v_{gb}$  and  $v_{gc}$  are the grid voltages.

Fig. 2 depicts the specific control diagram of the VSG. The active and reactive power control loops of VSG can imitate the operation principles of mechanical and electrical part of a real SG respectively. And the mathematical model of the active and reactive power controller of VSG can be expressed as follows:

$$T_{set} + (\omega_n - \omega_v)D_p - T_e = Js\omega_v \quad (1)$$

$$T_e = \frac{P_e}{\omega_v} \approx \frac{P_e}{\omega_n} \quad (2)$$

$$T_{set} = \frac{P_{set}}{\omega_v} \approx \frac{P_{set}}{\omega_n} \quad (3)$$

$$\omega_v = s\theta \quad (4)$$

$$Q_{set} + (V_0 - V)D_q - Q_e = KsE_m \quad (5)$$

where  $J$  and  $K$  are the virtual moment of inertia and voltage coefficient respectively;  $\omega_v$  and  $\omega_n$  are the output angular frequency of VSG and the rated angular frequency of the grid respectively;  $T_{set}$  and  $T_e$  are the reference torque and the electromagnetic torque respectively;  $D_p$  and  $D_q$  are the damping and the voltage-drooping coefficient respectively;  $P_{set}$  and  $Q_{set}$  are the active and reactive power reference;  $V_0$ ,  $V$ , and  $E_m$  are the amplitudes

of the rated voltage, the output voltage, and the inner electric potential respectively.

The instantaneous output active and reactive power of VSG can be calculated as

$$\begin{cases} P_e = 1.5(v_d i_d + v_q i_q) \\ Q_e = 1.5(v_q i_d - v_d i_q) \end{cases} \quad (6)$$

where  $v_d$  and  $i_d$  are the output voltage and current on  $d$ -axis respectively, and  $v_q$  and  $i_q$  are the output voltage and current on  $q$ -axis respectively.

The modulation wave of VSG is determined by the active and reactive power loop, and the voltage of the modulation wave can be expressed as follows:

$$\begin{cases} e_{am} = E_m \sin \theta \\ e_{bm} = E_m \sin \left( \theta - \frac{2}{3}\pi \right) \\ e_{cm} = E_m \sin \left( \theta + \frac{2}{3}\pi \right) \end{cases} \quad (7)$$

where  $e_{am}$ ,  $e_{bm}$  and  $e_{cm}$  are the three-phase modulation waves of VSG.

As shown in Fig. 1, the relationships among the inner electric potential, the output terminal voltage and the output current of VSG can be obtained as follows:

$$\begin{bmatrix} e_a \\ e_b \\ e_c \end{bmatrix} = \left( \frac{L_f C_f s^2}{1 + C_f R_f s} + 1 \right) \begin{bmatrix} v_a \\ v_b \\ v_c \end{bmatrix} + L_f s \begin{bmatrix} i_a \\ i_b \\ i_c \end{bmatrix} \quad (8)$$

## III. MIRROR FREQUENCY EFFECT IN VSG

Since the MFE cannot be neglected due to  $P/Q$  controls and  $dq$  controls in the VSG [21], a small signal at frequency  $f_p + f_1$  injected to the point of common coupling (PCC) will lead to a corresponding signal at frequency  $f_p - f_1$ . The signals at frequency  $f_p + f_1$  and  $f_p - f_1$  are mirror-frequency signals and symmetric about the fundamental frequency  $f_1$  [22], [23]. For clarity, the signals at frequency  $f_p + f_1$  are called “positive-sequence” signals and the signals at frequency  $f_p - f_1$  are called “negative-sequence” signals.

Mirror frequency coupling is introduced when the system includes the following [19]:

- 1) PLL;
- 2) converter current controllers with unequal structure and/or parameter values in the  $d$ - and  $q$ -axis;
- 3) dc-link voltage control systems;
- 4) active and reactive power controllers;
- 5) salient-pole synchronous machines.

Therefore, in the time domain, after adding the small-signal perturbations, the output terminal voltage and current of phase A can be expressed as follows:

$$v_a(t) = V_1 \cos(2\pi f_1 t) + V_p \cos(2\pi(f_p + f_1)t + \varphi_{vp}) + V_n \cos(2\pi(f_p - f_1)t + \varphi_{vn}) \quad (9)$$

$$i_a(t) = I_1 \cos(2\pi f_1 t + \varphi_{i1}) + I_p \cos(2\pi(f_p + f_1)t + \varphi_{ip}) + I_n \cos(2\pi(f_p - f_1)t + \varphi_{in}) \quad (10)$$

where  $V_1$ ,  $V_p$  and  $V_n$  are the amplitudes of the fundamental voltage, the positive- and negative-sequence voltage perturbation respectively;  $I_1$ ,  $I_p$  and  $I_n$  are the amplitudes of the fundamental

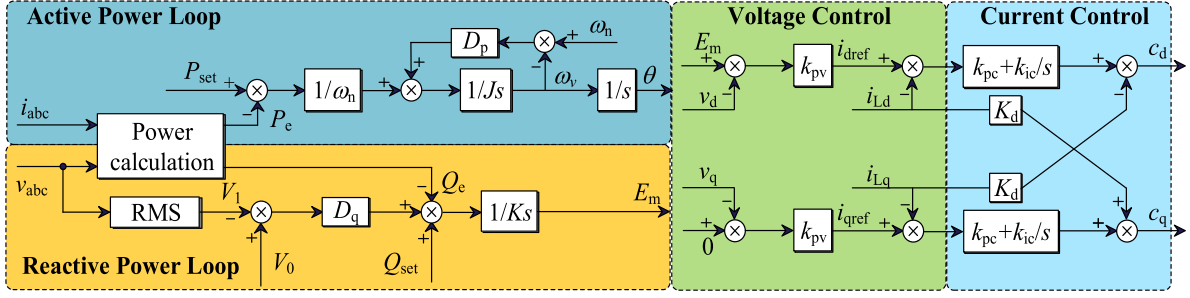


Fig. 2. Control block diagram of VSG.

current, the positive- and negative-sequence current response respectively;  $f_1$ ,  $f_p$  and  $f_n$  are the fundamental frequency, the positive- and negative-sequence perturbation frequency respectively;  $\varphi_{vp}$  and  $\varphi_{vn}$  are the initial phase angles of the positive- and negative-sequence voltage perturbation respectively;  $\varphi_{i1}$ ,  $\varphi_{ip}$  and  $\varphi_{in}$  are the initial phase angles of the fundamental current, positive- and negative-sequence current response respectively.

In the frequency domain, (9) and (10) can be written as follows:

$$\mathbf{V}_a[f] = \begin{cases} \mathbf{V}_1, & f = \pm f_1 \\ \mathbf{V}_p, & f = \pm(f_p + f_1) \\ \mathbf{V}_n, & f = \pm(f_p - f_1) \end{cases} \quad (11)$$

$$\mathbf{I}_a[f] = \begin{cases} \mathbf{I}_1, & f = \pm f_1 \\ \mathbf{I}_p, & f = \pm(f_p + f_1) \\ \mathbf{I}_n, & f = \pm(f_p - f_1) \end{cases} \quad (12)$$

where  $\mathbf{V}_1 = V_1/2$ ;  $\mathbf{V}_p = (V_p/2)e^{\pm j\varphi_{vp}}$ ;  $\mathbf{V}_n = (V_n/2)e^{\pm j\varphi_{vn}}$ ;  $\mathbf{I}_1 = (I_1/2)e^{\pm j\varphi_{i1}}$ ;  $\mathbf{I}_p = (I_p/2)e^{\pm j\varphi_{ip}}$ ;  $\mathbf{I}_n = (I_n/2)e^{\pm j\varphi_{in}}$ .

The small-signal behavior of VSG from its ac terminals can be described by an admittance matrix as

$$\begin{bmatrix} I_p(s + j\omega_1) \\ I_n(s - j\omega_1) \end{bmatrix} = - \begin{bmatrix} Y_{pp}(s) & Y_{pn}(s) \\ Y_{np}(s) & Y_{nn}(s) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} V_p(s + j\omega_1) \\ V_n(s - j\omega_1) \end{bmatrix} \quad (13)$$

As shown in the above equation, the diagonal elements  $Y_{pp}$  and  $Y_{nn}$  in the admittance matrix  $\mathbf{Y}_{PN}(s)$  correspond to the positive- and negative-sequence admittance respectively, while the non-diagonal elements reflect the frequency-coupling relationship in the VSG.

#### IV. ANALYTICAL MODELLING

After the Park's transformation, the frequency-domain output voltage (11) and current (12) can be written as follows:

$$\mathbf{V}_{d1}[f] = \begin{cases} V_1, & \text{dc} \\ \mathbf{V}_p + \mathbf{V}_n, & f = \pm f_p \end{cases} \quad (14)$$

$$\mathbf{V}_{q1}[f] = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{dc} \\ \mp j\mathbf{V}_p \pm j\mathbf{V}_n, & f = \pm f_p \end{cases} \quad (15)$$

$$\mathbf{I}_{d1}[f] = \begin{cases} I_1 \cos \varphi_{i1}, & \text{dc} \\ \mathbf{I}_p + \mathbf{I}_n, & f = \pm f_p \end{cases} \quad (16)$$

$$\mathbf{I}_{q1}[f] = \begin{cases} I_1 \sin \varphi_{i1}, & \text{dc} \\ \mp j\mathbf{I}_p \pm j\mathbf{I}_n, & f = \pm f_p \end{cases} \quad (17)$$

By substituting (14)-(17) into (6) and utilizing the frequency-domain convolution theorem, the active power and the reactive power in the frequency domain can be obtained as follows:

$$\mathbf{P}_e[f] = \begin{cases} 1.5V_1I_{dr}, & \text{dc} \\ 3(\mathbf{V}_1\mathbf{I}_p + \mathbf{V}_1\mathbf{I}_n + \mathbf{I}_1^*\mathbf{V}_p + \mathbf{I}_1\mathbf{V}_n), & f = \pm f_p \end{cases} \quad (18)$$

$$\mathbf{Q}_e[f] = \begin{cases} -1.5V_1I_{qr}, & \text{dc} \\ 3(\pm j\mathbf{V}_1\mathbf{I}_p \mp j\mathbf{V}_1\mathbf{I}_n - \mathbf{I}_2^*\mathbf{V}_p - \mathbf{I}_2\mathbf{V}_n), & f = \pm f_p \end{cases} \quad (19)$$

where  $\mathbf{I}_2 = (I_1/2)e^{\pm j(\varphi_{i1} - \pi/2)}$ , the superscript symbol “\*” denotes the complex conjugate.

On the basis of the active power controller of the VSG in Fig. 2, the phase angle  $\theta$  can be obtained as follows:

$$\theta = M(s) \left( \omega_n D_p + \frac{P_{set}}{\omega_n} - \frac{P_e}{\omega_n} \right) \quad (20)$$

where  $M(s) = 1/(Js^2 + D_p s)$ .

By substituting (18) into (20), the expression of  $\theta$  in the frequency domain can be obtained as follows:

$$\theta[f] = \begin{cases} M(s) \left[ \omega_n D_p + \frac{P_{set}}{\omega_n} - \frac{1.5V_1I_{dr}}{\omega_n} \right], & \text{dc} \\ -\frac{3M(s)}{\omega_n} (\mathbf{V}_1\mathbf{I}_p + \mathbf{V}_1\mathbf{I}_n + \mathbf{I}_1^*\mathbf{V}_p + \mathbf{I}_1\mathbf{V}_n), & f = \pm f_p \end{cases} \quad (21)$$

For the sake of the phase angle perturbation  $\Delta\theta$ ,  $\theta$  can be described as  $\theta = \theta_1 + \Delta\theta$ , where  $\theta_1$  is the phase angle of the fundamental voltage, and  $\Delta\theta$  is a small perturbation by the disturbance voltage. Thus,  $\Delta\theta$  in the frequency domain can be obtained from (21) as follows:

$$\Delta\theta[f] = -\frac{3M(s)}{\omega_n} (\mathbf{V}_1\mathbf{I}_p + \mathbf{V}_1\mathbf{I}_n + \mathbf{I}_1^*\mathbf{V}_p + \mathbf{I}_1\mathbf{V}_n), \quad f = \pm f_p \quad (22)$$

Because  $\Delta\theta$  is a small perturbation,  $\sin\theta$  can be deduced by an approximate treatment as

$$\sin\theta = \sin(\theta_1 + \Delta\theta) \approx \sin\theta_1 + \Delta\theta \cos\theta_1 \quad (23)$$

Then, by substituting (22) into (23),  $\sin\theta$  in the frequency domain can be further derived as follows:

$$\sin\theta[f] = \begin{cases} \mp \frac{j}{2}, & f = \pm f_1 \\ -\frac{3M(s \mp j\omega_1)}{2\omega_n}(\mathbf{V}_1 \mathbf{I}_p + \mathbf{V}_1 \mathbf{I}_n + \mathbf{I}_1^* \mathbf{V}_p + \mathbf{I}_1 \mathbf{V}_n), & f = \pm(f_p + f_1) \\ -\frac{3M(s \pm j\omega_1)}{2\omega_n}(\mathbf{V}_1 \mathbf{I}_p + \mathbf{V}_1 \mathbf{I}_n + \mathbf{I}_1^* \mathbf{V}_p + \mathbf{I}_1 \mathbf{V}_n), & f = \pm(f_p - f_1) \end{cases} \quad (24)$$

In the same way, based on the reactive power controller of the VSG,  $E_m$  can be obtained as follows:

$$E_m = D(s)(Q_{set} - Q_e) + V_0 \quad (25)$$

where  $D(s) = 1/(Ks + D_q)$ .

By substituting (19) into (25),  $E_m$  in the frequency domain can be expressed as follows:

$$\mathbf{E}_m[f] = \begin{cases} V_0, & \text{dc} \\ -3D(s)(\pm j\mathbf{V}_1 \mathbf{I}_p \mp j\mathbf{V}_1 \mathbf{I}_n - \mathbf{I}_2^* \mathbf{V}_p - \mathbf{I}_2 \mathbf{V}_n), & f = \pm f_p \end{cases} \quad (26)$$

Set the  $d$ - and  $q$ -axis reference voltage as

$$\begin{cases} v_{dref} = E_m \\ v_{qref} = 0 \end{cases} \quad (27)$$

When  $\Delta\theta$  is considered, the output voltage in the SRRF is as follows:

$$\begin{cases} v_d = v_{d1} + \Delta\theta v_{q1} \\ v_q = -\Delta\theta v_{d1} + v_{q1} \end{cases} \quad (28)$$

Based on (14)-(15) and (28), the output voltages in the frequency domain can be derived as follows:

$$\mathbf{V}_d[f] = \begin{cases} V_1, & \text{dc} \\ \mathbf{V}_p + \mathbf{V}_n, & f = \pm f_p \end{cases} \quad (29)$$

$$\mathbf{V}_q[f] = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{dc} \\ \frac{3M(s)V_1}{\omega_n}(\mathbf{V}_1 \mathbf{I}_p + \mathbf{V}_1 \mathbf{I}_n + \mathbf{I}_1^* \mathbf{V}_p + \mathbf{I}_1 \mathbf{V}_n) \\ \mp j\mathbf{V}_p \pm j\mathbf{V}_n, & f = \pm f_p \end{cases} \quad (30)$$

Similarly, the output currents are as follows:

$$\mathbf{I}_d[f] = \begin{cases} I_1 \cos \varphi_{i1}, & \text{dc} \\ \mathbf{I}_p + \mathbf{I}_n - \frac{3M(s)I_{qr}}{\omega_n}(\mathbf{V}_1 \mathbf{I}_p + \mathbf{V}_1 \mathbf{I}_n + \mathbf{I}_1^* \mathbf{V}_p + \mathbf{I}_1 \mathbf{V}_n), & f = \pm f_p \end{cases} \quad (31)$$

$$\mathbf{I}_q[f] = \begin{cases} I_1 \sin \varphi_{i1}, & \text{dc} \\ \mp j\mathbf{I}_p \pm j\mathbf{I}_n + \frac{3M(s)I_{dr}}{\omega_n}(\mathbf{V}_1 \mathbf{I}_p + \mathbf{V}_1 \mathbf{I}_n + \mathbf{I}_1^* \mathbf{V}_p + \mathbf{I}_1 \mathbf{V}_n), & f = \pm f_p \end{cases} \quad (32)$$

Combined with the voltage given in the (27), the output of the voltage loop, namely the input of the current inner loop, can be obtained as follows:

$$\begin{cases} i_{dref} = k_{pv}(v_{dref} - v_d) \\ i_{qref} = k_{pv}(v_{qref} - v_q) \end{cases} \quad (33)$$

where  $k_{pv}$  is proportional gain of voltage controller.

In the same way, the output of the current inner loop can be obtained as follows:

$$\begin{cases} c_d = G_i(s)(i_{dref} - i_{Ld}) - K_d i_{Lq} \\ c_q = G_i(s)(i_{qref} - i_{Lq}) + K_d i_{Ld} \end{cases} \quad (34)$$

where  $G_i(s)$  is the transfer function of the PI current regulator;  $K_d$  is decoupling term.

Hence, the expressions of  $c_{dq}$  in the frequency domain can be derived as (39)-(40).

According to the inverse Park's transformation,  $c_{abc}$  in the stationary frame can be obtained as follows:

$$\begin{bmatrix} c_a \\ c_b \\ c_c \end{bmatrix} = T^{-1}(\theta_{PLL}) \begin{bmatrix} c_d \\ c_q \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \approx T^{-1}(\theta_1) \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -\Delta\theta & 0 \\ \Delta\theta & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} c_d \\ c_q \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad (35)$$

where

$$T^{-1}(\theta_1) = \begin{bmatrix} \cos\theta_1 & -\sin\theta_1 & 1/2 \\ \cos(\theta_1 - 2\pi/3) & -\sin(\theta_1 - 2\pi/3) & 1/2 \\ \cos(\theta_1 + 2\pi/3) & -\sin(\theta_1 + 2\pi/3) & 1/2 \end{bmatrix} \quad (36)$$

And  $c_{d1}$  and  $c_{q1}$  are as follows:

$$\begin{bmatrix} c_{d1} \\ c_{q1} \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \approx \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -\Delta\theta & 0 \\ \Delta\theta & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} c_d \\ c_q \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad (37)$$

That is to say,

$$\begin{cases} c_{d1} = c_d - \Delta\theta c_q \\ c_{q1} = \Delta\theta c_d + c_q \end{cases} \quad (38)$$

Based on (22) and (39)-(40), as shown at the bottom of the next page,  $c_{dq1}$  in the frequency domain can be derived as (41)-(42), as shown at the bottom of the next page. Furthermore, the inner electric potential in the frequency domain can be obtained as (43), as shown at bottom of the next page. After that, based on (8) and (43), the impedance can be derived as (44)-(47), as shown at the bottom of the next page, where

$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{A} = \mathbf{V}_1 \mathbf{I}_p + \mathbf{V}_1 \mathbf{I}_n + \mathbf{I}_1^* \mathbf{V}_p + \mathbf{I}_1 \mathbf{V}_n \\ \mathbf{B} = \pm j\mathbf{V}_1 \mathbf{I}_p \mp j\mathbf{V}_1 \mathbf{I}_n - \mathbf{I}_2^* \mathbf{V}_p - \mathbf{I}_2 \mathbf{V}_n \\ Y_c(s) = \frac{C_f s}{1 + R_f C_f s} \\ Z_f(s) = \frac{L_f C_f s^2}{1 + R_f C_f s} + 1 \end{cases} \quad (48)$$

The relationships between the voltage and the current are as follows:

$$\mathbf{V}_p = \begin{cases} -Z_{pp} \mathbf{I}_p, & f = f_p + f_1, \text{ Pos.} \\ -Z_{pn} \mathbf{I}_n, & f = f_p - f_1, \text{ Neg.} \end{cases} \quad (49)$$

$$\mathbf{V}_n = \begin{cases} -Z_{np} \mathbf{I}_p, & f = f_p + f_1, \text{ Pos.} \\ -Z_{nn} \mathbf{I}_n, & f = f_p - f_1, \text{ Neg.} \end{cases} \quad (50)$$

And the admittance model can be derived from the output impedance matrix as follows:

$$\begin{bmatrix} Y_{pp} & Y_{pn} \\ Y_{np} & Y_{nn} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{Z_{nn}}{Z_{pp}Z_{nn}-Z_{pn}Z_{np}} & \frac{-Z_{pn}}{Z_{pp}Z_{nn}-Z_{pn}Z_{np}} \\ \frac{-Z_{np}}{Z_{pp}Z_{nn}-Z_{pn}Z_{np}} & \frac{Z_{pp}}{Z_{pp}Z_{nn}-Z_{pn}Z_{np}} \end{bmatrix} \quad (51)$$

## V. SIMULATION VERIFICATION

In order to verify the proposed mathematical model, a time-domain simulation model is built in Matlab/Simulink according to the VSG structure in Fig. 1. The system parameters are provided in Table I.

Fig. 3 depicts the frequency responses of output impedance. It is obvious that the impedance measurement results are in good accordance with the theoretical results, which verifies the correctness of the sequence impedance model. It can be found that the amplitudes of the four curves near the fundamental frequency are basically the same. This implies that the off-diagonal elements cannot be ignored.

Fig. 4 plots the impedance responses of different virtual inertia. It can be found from the impedance curves that the adjustment of  $J$  has no fundamental change to the output impedance of the system. Overall, the variation of  $J$  has a weak effect on the output impedance. However, there is obvious amplitude and

$$C_d[f] = \begin{cases} \begin{aligned} & -G_i(s)I_{dr} - K_d I_{qr} - G_i(s)Y_c(s)V_1 \\ & \left\{ [-3D(s)\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{V}_p - \mathbf{V}_n] k_{pv} - \mathbf{I}_p - \mathbf{I}_n + \frac{3M(s)I_{qr}\mathbf{A}}{\omega_n} \right\} G_i(s) - K_d \left[ \mp j\mathbf{I}_p \pm j\mathbf{I}_n + \frac{3M(s)I_{dr}\mathbf{A}}{\omega_n} \right] \end{aligned} & \text{dc} \\ \begin{aligned} & -G_i(s)Y_c(s)(\mathbf{V}_p + \mathbf{V}_n) - K_d Y_c(s) \left[ \frac{3V_1 M(s)\mathbf{A}}{\omega_n} \mp j\mathbf{V}_p \pm j\mathbf{V}_n \right] \end{aligned} & f = \pm f_p \end{cases} \quad (39)$$

$$C_q[f] = \begin{cases} \begin{aligned} & -G_i(s)I_{qr} + K_d I_{dr} + K_d Y_c(s)V_1 \\ & \left\{ \left[ -\frac{3V_1 M(s)\mathbf{A}}{\omega_n} \pm j\mathbf{V}_p \mp j\mathbf{V}_n \right] k_{pv} \pm j\mathbf{I}_p \mp j\mathbf{I}_n - \frac{3M(s)I_{dr}\mathbf{A}}{\omega_n} \right\} G_i(s) + K_d (\mathbf{I}_p + \mathbf{I}_n - \frac{3M(s)I_{qr}\mathbf{A}}{\omega_n}) \end{aligned} & \text{dc} \\ \begin{aligned} & +K_d Y_c(s)(\mathbf{V}_p + \mathbf{V}_n) - G_i(s)Y_c(s) \left[ \frac{3V_1 M(s)\mathbf{A}}{\omega_n} \mp j\mathbf{V}_p \pm j\mathbf{V}_n \right] \end{aligned} & f = \pm f_p \end{cases} \quad (40)$$

$$C_{d1}[f] = \begin{cases} \begin{aligned} & -G_i(s)I_{dr} - K_d I_{qr} - G_i(s)Y_c(s)V_1 \\ & \left\{ [-3D(s)\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{V}_p - \mathbf{V}_n] k_{pv} - \mathbf{I}_p - \mathbf{I}_n \right\} G_i(s) + jK_d (\pm \mathbf{I}_p \mp \mathbf{I}_n) - G_i(s)Y_c(s)(\mathbf{V}_p + \mathbf{V}_n) \end{aligned} & \text{dc} \\ \begin{aligned} & +jK_d Y_c(s)(\pm \mathbf{V}_p \mp \mathbf{V}_n) \end{aligned} & f = \pm f_p \end{cases} \quad (41)$$

$$C_{q1}[f] = \begin{cases} \begin{aligned} & -G_i(s)I_{qr} + K_d I_{dr} + K_d Y_c(s)V_1 \\ & \left\{ \left[ -\frac{3V_1 M(s)\mathbf{A}}{\omega_n} \pm j\mathbf{V}_p \mp j\mathbf{V}_n \right] k_{pv} \pm j\mathbf{I}_p \mp j\mathbf{I}_n \right\} G_i(s) + jG_i(s)Y_c(s)(\pm \mathbf{V}_p \mp \mathbf{V}_n) + K_d Y_c(s)(\mathbf{V}_p + \mathbf{V}_n) \end{aligned} & \text{dc} \\ \begin{aligned} & +K_d (\mathbf{I}_p + \mathbf{I}_n) \end{aligned} & f = \pm f_p \end{cases} \quad (42)$$

$$\mathbf{C}_a[f] = \begin{cases} \begin{aligned} & \frac{-G_i(s \mp j\omega_1)I_{dr} - K_d I_{qr} - G_i(s \mp j\omega_1)Y_c(s \pm j\omega_1)V_1}{2} \pm j \frac{[-G_i(s \pm j\omega_1)I_{qr} + K_d I_{dr} + K_d Y_c(s \mp j\omega_1)V_1]}{2} & f = \pm f_1 \\ & \frac{-3k_{pv}G_i(s \mp j\omega_1)D(s \mp j\omega_1)\mathbf{B}}{2} - \frac{j3k_{pv}G_i(s \mp j\omega_1)V_1 M(s \mp j\omega_1)\mathbf{A}}{2\omega_n} - [G_i(s \mp j\omega_1) - jK_d] \mathbf{I}_p & f = \pm(f_p + f_1) \\ & \frac{-[G_i(s \mp j\omega_1)Y_c(s \pm j\omega_1) - jK_d Y_c(s \pm j\omega_1)] \mathbf{V}_p - k_{pv}G_i(s \mp j\omega_1)\mathbf{V}_p}{2} & f = \pm(f_p - f_1) \\ & \frac{-3k_{pv}G_i(s \pm j\omega_1)D(s \pm j\omega_1)\mathbf{B}}{2} + \frac{j3k_{pv}G_i(s \pm j\omega_1)V_1 M(s \pm j\omega_1)\mathbf{A}}{2\omega_n} - [G_i(s \pm j\omega_1) + jK_d] \mathbf{I}_n & \\ & \frac{-[G_i(s \pm j\omega_1)Y_c(s \mp j\omega_1) + jK_d Y_c(s \mp j\omega_1)] \mathbf{V}_n - k_{pv}G_i(s \pm j\omega_1)\mathbf{V}_n}{2} & \end{aligned} \end{cases} \quad (43)$$

$$Z_{pp}(s) = \left\{ \left[ \frac{-j3k_{pv}G_i(s-j\omega_1)V_1 M(s-j\omega_1)}{2\omega_n} - \frac{j3k_{pv}G_i(s-j\omega_1)D(s-j\omega_1)}{2} \right] \mathbf{V}_1 - G_i(s-j\omega_1) + jK_d - L_f(s+j\omega_1) \right\} \\ \times \left[ \frac{-j3k_{pv}G_i(s-j\omega_1)V_1 M(s-j\omega_1)}{2\omega_n} \mathbf{I}_1^* + \frac{3k_{pv}G_i(s-j\omega_1)D(s-j\omega_1)}{2} \mathbf{I}_2^* - k_{pv}G_i(s-j\omega_1) - G_i(s-j\omega_1)Y_c(s+j\omega_1) \right]^{-1} \\ + jK_d Y_c(s+j\omega_1) - Z_f(s+j\omega_1) \quad (44)$$

$$Z_{pn}(s) = \left[ \frac{-j3k_{pv}G_i(s-j\omega_1)V_1 M(s-j\omega_1)}{2\omega_n} + \frac{j3k_{pv}G_i(s-j\omega_1)D(s-j\omega_1)}{2} \right] \mathbf{V}_1 \\ \times \left[ \frac{-j3k_{pv}G_i(s-j\omega_1)V_1 M(s-j\omega_1)}{2\omega_n} \mathbf{I}_1^* + \frac{3k_{pv}G_i(s-j\omega_1)D(s-j\omega_1)}{2} \mathbf{I}_2^* - k_{pv}G_i(s-j\omega_1) - G_i(s-j\omega_1)Y_c(s+j\omega_1) \right]^{-1} \\ + jK_d Y_c(s+j\omega_1) - Z_f(s+j\omega_1) \quad (45)$$

$$Z_{np}(s) = \left[ \frac{j3k_{pv}G_i(s+j\omega_1)V_1 M(s+j\omega_1)}{2\omega_n} - \frac{j3k_{pv}G_i(s+j\omega_1)D(s+j\omega_1)}{2} \right] \mathbf{V}_1 \\ \times \left[ \frac{j3k_{pv}G_i(s+j\omega_1)V_1 M(s+j\omega_1)}{2\omega_n} \mathbf{I}_1 + \frac{3k_{pv}G_i(s+j\omega_1)D(s+j\omega_1)}{2} \mathbf{I}_2 - k_{pv}G_i(s+j\omega_1) - G_i(s+j\omega_1)Y_c(s-j\omega_1) \right]^{-1} \\ - jK_d Y_c(s-j\omega_1) - Z_f(s-j\omega_1) \quad (46)$$

$$Z_{nn}(s) = \left\{ \left[ \frac{j3k_{pv}G_i(s+j\omega_1)V_1 M(s+j\omega_1)}{2\omega_n} + \frac{j3k_{pv}G_i(s+j\omega_1)D(s+j\omega_1)}{2} \right] \mathbf{V}_1 - G_i(s+j\omega_1) - jK_d - L_f(s-j\omega_1) \right\} \\ \times \left[ \frac{j3k_{pv}G_i(s+j\omega_1)V_1 M(s+j\omega_1)}{2\omega_n} \mathbf{I}_1 + \frac{3k_{pv}G_i(s+j\omega_1)D(s+j\omega_1)}{2} \mathbf{I}_2 - k_{pv}G_i(s+j\omega_1) - G_i(s+j\omega_1)Y_c(s-j\omega_1) \right]^{-1} \\ - jK_d Y_c(s-j\omega_1) - Z_f(s-j\omega_1) \quad (47)$$



TABLE I  
PARAMETERS OF VSG

Parameter	Value
Virtual inertia ( $J$ )	0.058 kg·m <sup>2</sup>
VSG voltage coefficient ( $K$ )	6.5
Rated voltage amplitude ( $V_0$ )	311.3 V
Rated angular frequency ( $\omega_n$ )	314.2 rad/s
Active, reactive power reference ( $P_{\text{set}}, Q_{\text{set}}$ )	7 kW, 300 Var
P-f, Q-V Droop coefficient ( $D_p, D_q$ )	5, 320
Proportional gain of voltage controller ( $k_{pv}$ )	1.2
Proportional gain of current controller ( $k_{pi}$ )	6
Integral gain of current controller ( $k_{ii}$ )	0.1
Virtual impedance ( $R_v, L_v$ )	0.05 $\Omega$ , 4 mH
DC voltage ( $V_{dc}$ )	800 V
VSG switching frequency ( $f_n$ )	10kHz
Fundamental frequency ( $f_i$ )	50Hz
LC filter ( $L_f, C_f$ )	3 mH, 10 $\mu$ F
Grid inductance ( $L_g$ )	10 mH

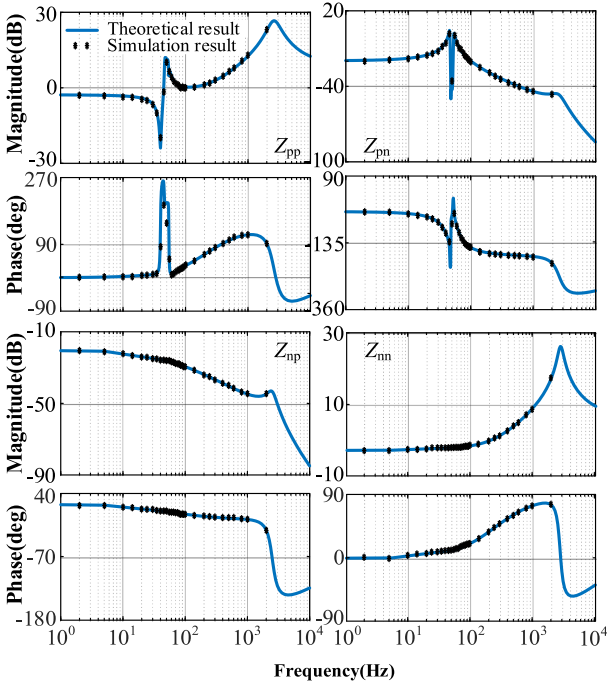
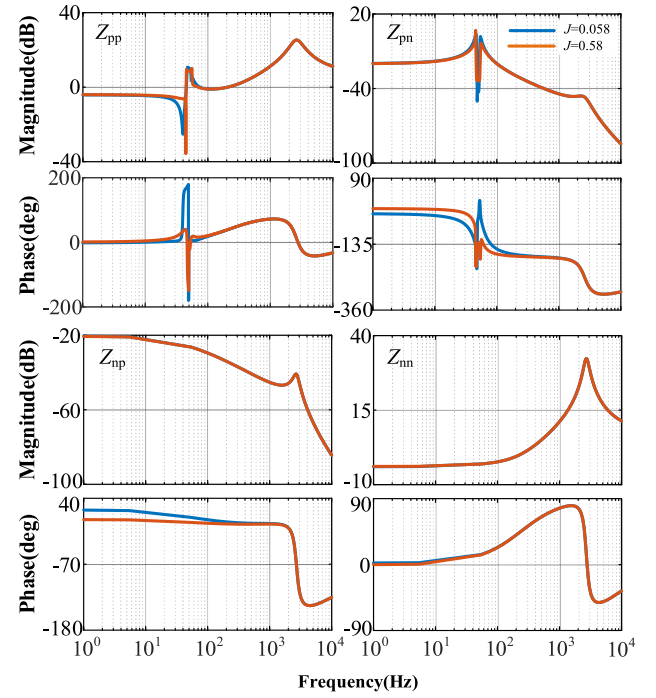
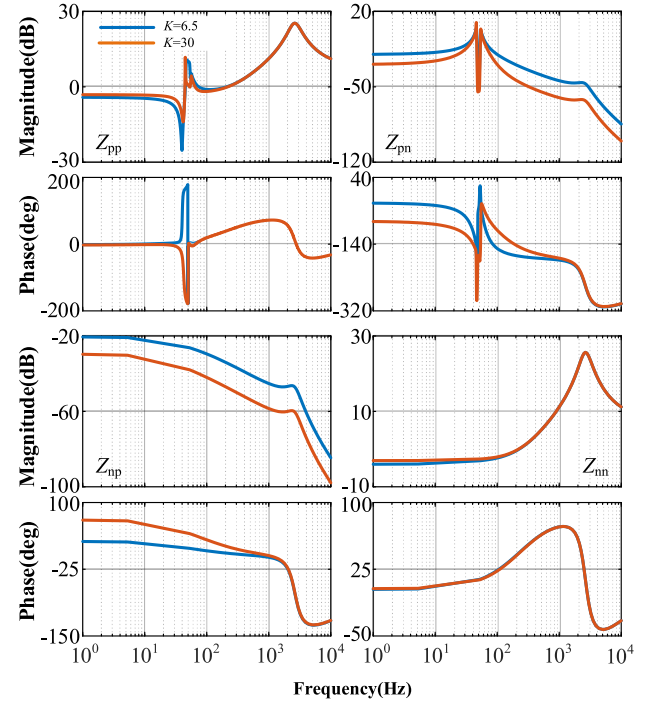


Fig. 3. Frequency responses of output impedance.

phase fluctuation at the fundamental frequency, which might lead to insufficient phase margin and destabilize the system.

Fig. 5 compares the frequency responses of different voltage coefficient. It can be observed that the positive- and negative-sequence impedance do not change significantly, while the amplitude in off-diagonal elements is decreased significantly as  $K$  increases. This implies that the value of  $K$  may affect the frequency-coupling degree of the system and a larger value of  $K$  is beneficial to reduce the coupling terms.

Fig. 6 plots the frequency responses of output impedance when  $k_{pv}$  is increased from 1 to 5. The amplitude and phase of diagonal impedance near the fundamental frequency are decreased obviously, indicating that an excessive  $k_{pv}$  may contribute to the instability of the system.

Fig. 4. Frequency responses of output impedance as  $J$  changes.Fig. 5. Frequency responses of output impedance as  $K$  changes.

The GNC has been widely applied to the asymmetric impedance matrices for stability analysis [24]. Considering the off-diagonal elements in the admittance matrix, the impedance ratio is given by

$$\mathbf{L}(s) = \mathbf{Y}_{PN}(s) \mathbf{Z}_g(s) \quad (52)$$

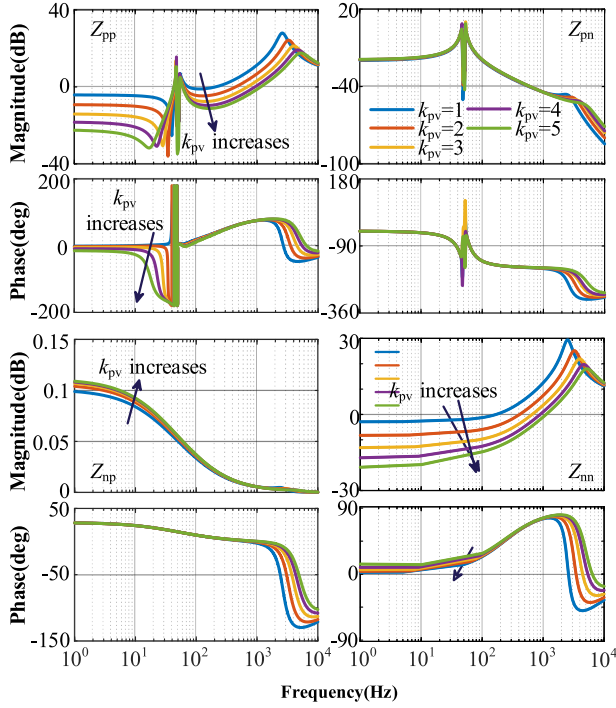


Fig. 6. Frequency responses of output impedance as  $k_{pv}$  increases.

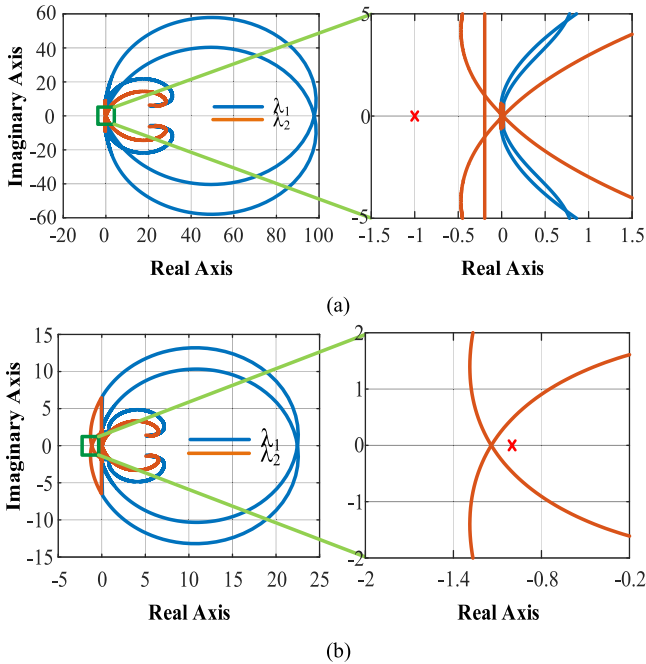


Fig. 7. Nyquist diagrams for the eigenvalues of  $\mathbf{L}(s)$  as  $L_g$  changes. (a)  $L_g = 0.01$  H. (b)  $L_g = 0.002$  H.

where  $\mathbf{Z}_g(s) = \text{diag}\{j2\pi(f_p + f_1)L_g, j2\pi(f_p - f_1)L_g\}$ .

Fig. 7 compares Nyquist diagrams of the eigenvalues of  $\mathbf{L}(s)$  with different SCRs. It can be observed that the characteristic loci encircle  $(-1+j0)$  when  $L_v$  decreases from 10mH (SCR = 6.5) to 2mH (SCR = 33), indicating the system is unstable.

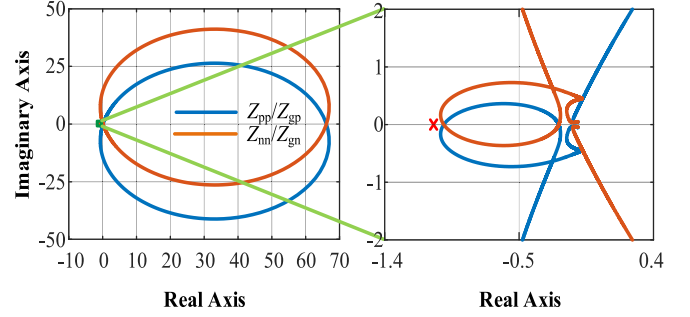


Fig. 8. Nyquist diagrams for impedance ratios when  $L_g = 0.002$  H.

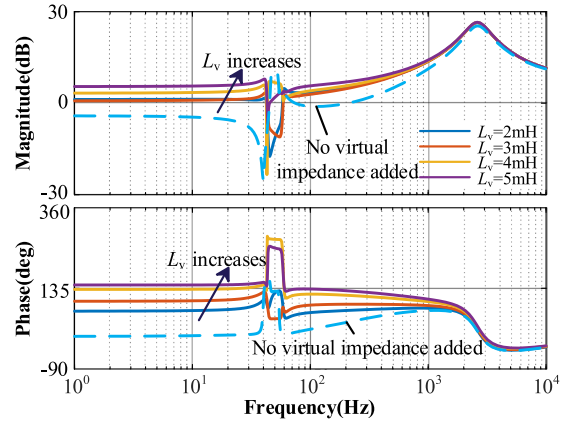


Fig. 9. Frequency responses of  $Z_{pp}(s)$  after adding virtual impedance.

If the frequency-coupling characteristics in VSG are ignored, the positive- and the negative-sequence impedance are mutually decoupled. In this case, the impedance ratio is the grid impedance divided by the output impedance [25]. The Nyquist plots of impedance ratio are shown in Fig. 8. It can be seen that the Nyquist curves are not bypassed  $(-10)$ , indicating that the system can operate stably. This conclusion is contrary to that in Fig. 7(b). The analysis using the existing model fails to predict instability, as the couplings are neglected. It is revealed that the coupling terms has great significance for stability analysis.

Fig. 9 shows the frequency responses of positive-sequence impedance when virtual impedance is added to the VSG. It is clear that there is a significant increase in the amplitude and phase of the VSG, and this trend becomes more obvious as  $L_v$  increases. Hence, the addition of virtual impedance is beneficial to enhance the robustness of the system. Nevertheless, the excessive virtual inductor will degrade the decoupling performance. Experiments have verified that there exists a threshold grid inductance ( $x_{g'cr}$ ). And virtual inductor is not needed when  $x_g > x_{g'cr}$  [26]. Therefore, comprehensive consideration should be given.

The time-domain simulations of PCC voltage and current are shown in Fig. 10. Two sets of proportionality coefficient, i.e.,  $k_{pv} = 1$  and  $k_{pv} = 5$ , are tested in Fig. 10(a) and (b). It is clear that the voltage and current are distorted when  $k_{pv}$  is increased to 5, which closely correlate with the simulation results in Fig. 6. When  $L_g$  is decreased to 2mH, the waveform

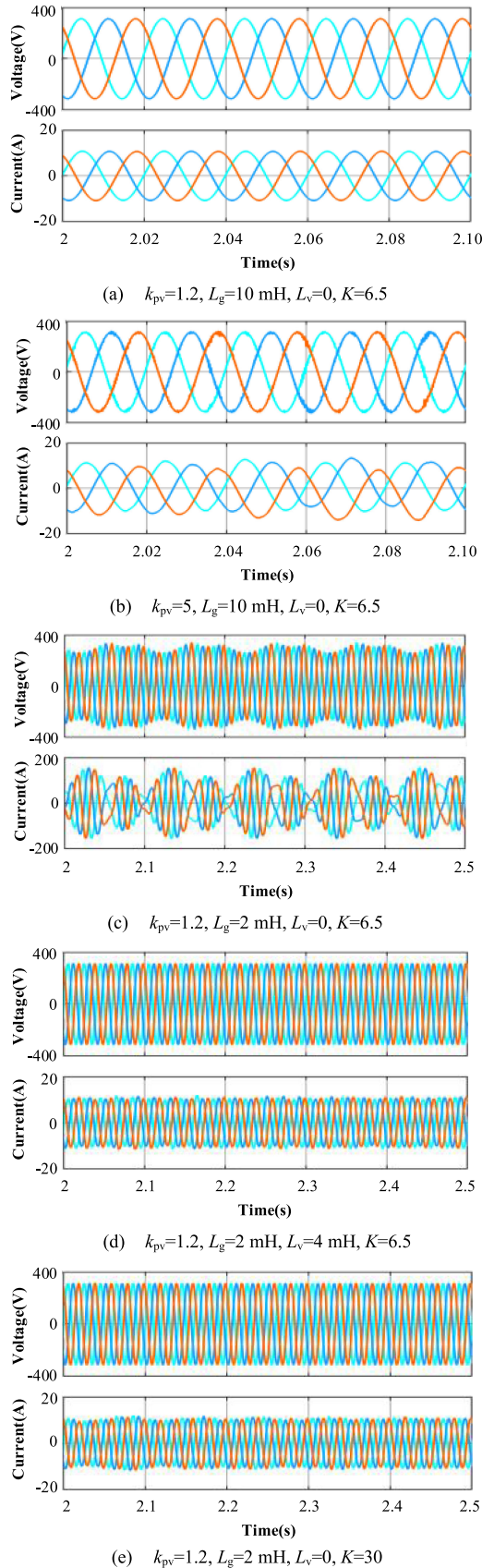


Fig. 10. Simulated PCC voltage and current under different cases.

in Fig. 10(c) shows an unstable operation, matching with the simulation result in Fig. 7(b). After adding virtual impedance, the waveform in Fig. 10(d) has been greatly improved. As shown in Fig. 10(e), raising the value of  $K$  has the similar effect due to the decrease of the couplings. The time-domain simulations are consistent with the stability analysis above.

## VI. CONCLUSION

The MFE in VSG was discussed in this paper, and the sequence impedance model of VSG was established based on harmonic linearization, which covered every detail of both power loops and control scheme. The mathematical relationships between different control parameters and the output impedance were revealed. With the help of the analytical model, this paper adopted the impedance responses and GNC to analyze the stability of the VSG. And the following conclusions were drawn:

- 1) The MFE in VSG has great significance for stability analysis and cannot be ignored. The sequence impedance model with considering couplings is more precise and can predict the exact stability boundary.
- 2) As the SCR of the system increases, the system is prone to instability.
- 3) The addition of virtual impedance can increase the amplitude and phase of the diagonal elements obviously, while has no effects on off-diagonal elements. Therefore, it is beneficial to enhance the robustness of the system.
- 4) There is a close relationship between the power controllers and the MFE, and the variation of control parameters (eg, the virtual moment of inertia  $J$  and voltage coefficient  $K$ , which are the kernel parameters in VSG) will affect the frequency-coupling degree of VSG.

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