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# Determination of the required Power Response of Inverters to provide fast Frequency Support in Power Systems with low Synchronous Inertia

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**Abstract:** Decommissioning of conventional power plants and the installation of inverter-based renewable energy technologies decreases overall power system inertia. This reduction in system inertia has an impact in the power system frequency response when an imbalance between generation and load occurs, increasing the rate of change of frequency (RoCoF) of the system. In a future scenario where renewables are predominant in power systems and due to the natural variability of the resource, imbalances of 40% or more are prompt to happen. When a system is islanded or operates as such and combined with low inertia, it may lead to frequency collapse. This expected high values of RoCoF shorten the response time needed before load shedding or generation curtailment take place and a subsequent possible black out occurs. Through the simulation of two scenarios with different primary reserve response, the requirements for the fleet of connected inverters was determined in terms of activation time and total power to be provided in order to avoid load shedding. This activation time was determined to be the time at which frequency would reach the load shedding value, known as critical time. With such value and knowing the time required for the synchronous reserve to deploy the imbalance power, a simple expression based on nullifying RoCoF at the critical time was obtained for the required inverter based fast power reserve. It was obtained that full activation time for inverter fast power reserve with penetration above 80% of inverter based generation would need to be between 50-500 ms for imbalances up to 40%; meaning that current frequency measurement techniques and renewable deployment times would not ensure system stability under the foreseen future possible power system conditions. A power ramp in the order of 300% the load per second is necessary for fast power reserve to maintain frequency within the allowed limits.

**Keywords:** frequency support, flexibilization, renewables, inverters

## 0. How to Use this Template

### 1. Introduction

### 2. Results

#### 2.1. Analysis of Critical Time

When the simplified and the extended models of the IEEE benchmark are compared for the estimation of critical time, it is noticed a higher deviation in the low range of RoCoF. This due to the fact that in this range of RoCoF the critical time is long enough to allow the governor response activation of the respective synchronous machines representation. Therefore it can be stated that the simplifications made in the model have a greater influence on the results for low values of penetration of IBG and low power imbalances; in this sense, the simplifications become less significant as the RoCoF increases in such a manner that the activated synchronous primary reserve is not relevant in frequency support.

In the range of RoCoF higher than 2 Hz/s, the critical time trend for the European grid-scale and the simplified IEEE model get closer each to other as RoCoF increases. Therefore under high RoCoF conditions in any of the models, the primary reserve does not significantly counteract the frequency drop [16]. Figure 5 1 demonstrates that primary reserve can be neglected for determination of the critical time when the combination of inverter-based generation and load imbalances would lead to high values of RoCoF; as RoCoF increases, the approximation of critical time as  $1(\text{Hz})/\text{RoCoF}$  narrows the difference with the results obtained from simulations [14]. Nevertheless, such simplification applies to the simplified IEEE model and the European island. Hence, the influence of all the dynamics and machine components, such as generator exciter and damping windings, seems to improve the critical time; extending up to a 34% the calculated time with the simplified approach. Damping torque in swing equation [7, 8] was not considered for the IEEE simplified model; the inclusion of such may lead to more precise times when compared with the extended model.

Due to the fact that the characteristics of the interconnected scenario provided by ENTSOE were assumed to be the same than the resulting islands after a severe event; the results for the European island can be understood as the behavior of the whole European system with bigger perturbations. The dimensioning scenario assumes a power imbalance of 3 GW, which corresponds to a 2% of the 150 GW load [1]. If in future a bigger dimensioning case is utilized, then synchronous response would not be enough to balance the system before load shedding occurs. Table 5 1 exhibits the required time when the dimensioning scenario is increased up to 10% for different IBG penetration.

**Table 1.** :Critical time for European-scale case given in seconds.

IBG share (%)	Load Imbalance (%)							
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
20	-	-	6.081	4.517	3.629	3.050	2.638	2.316
40	-	6.226	4.169	3.215	2.628	2.222	1.934	1.705
60	7.142	3.639	2.623	2.062	1.698	1.451	1.263	1.122
80	2.753	1.744	1.277	1.018	0.843	0.722	0.628	0.559
92	1.109	0.700	0.514	0.406	0.338	0.288	0.252	0.224
95	0.697	0.436	0.322	0.254	0.211	0.179	0.157	0.140

## 2.2. Analysis of Synthetic Inertia and Fast Power Reserve

### 2.2.1. Effect Synthetic Inertia on Frequency

In this section are presented the results of the simulations carried out in the simplified IEEE model and the European model with the implementation of synthetic inertia control to a part of the wind share of the IBG. The frequency nadir for such systems is illustrated in figures XXX and XXX. In such figures no additional balancing power is supplied to the system appart from the power fed by the synchronous share.

Insert the figures here

this as caption For the acceleration constant corresponding to the 80% of the IBG, the frequency nadir reaches values lower than 49 Hz with power imbalances starting at  $\sim 7\%$ . this as caption At 80% ( $\sim 2.5s$ ) of IBG frequency nadir reaches 48.73 Hz with only  $\sim 3\%$  of imbalance.

Insert figures with synthetic inertia here.

In any of the cases UFLS is not avoided for all combination of variables (imbalance and acceleration constant). It can also be observed that frequency nadir under 49 Hz are reached for imbalances bigger than 14% combined with shares of IBG above 80%. simpl

In the same manner than fig, in fig XXX the synthetic inertia is not enough for withstanding severe imbalances under high penetration of inverter based generators. At 80% of IBG, the frequency nadir reaches 48.89 Hz with an imbalance of 3%.

An enhanced performance is achieved in the simplified IEEE model as depicted in FIGIRE XXX. The reason behind this, is the faster response of the synchronous share present in the system, which perfomes conjointly with the synthetic inertia to improve over all frequency response performance. In Figure XXX can be observed how power is deployed in a few seconds in the simplified IEEE model, whereas in the European model the response is always limited to fully deploy in  $\sim 30s$ .

Insert figure of the power response and freq response over time

Figure 4 9 and Figure 4 10 indicate the frequency response obtained of the system with an non-synchronous generation of 80% for different load imbalances. In Figure 4 9 can be observed how the frequency drops below 49 Hz with a 10% of imbalance, when no IBFPR or synthetic inertia is used as frequency support estrategy. In the same figure, the frequency responses for different levels of synthetic inertia is presented.

It is noticed the improvement in FIG XXX in the response with the implementation of synthetic inertia with each contribution of wind energy to the non-synchronous generation. UFLS is avoided for every share of synthetic inertia, assuming that primary reserve takes place after SI. As the imbalance increases, the effectiveness of the synthetic inertia decreases, depending on the contribution of wind power to the inverter based generation. Figure 4 10 shows how a contribution of wind power of 40% from the inverter based generation is capable of avoiding UFLS. Nevertheless the share of 80% begins with a low rate of frequency decrement, the frequency sudenly drops below 49 Hz. This is due to the high amount of synthetic inertial power when compared to the load imbalance. This situation leads to UFLS after the 10 s because frequency has been sustained during that time by the synthetic inertial power. Since 10 seconds is the assumed time limit for exceeding nominal turbine power rate; the synthetic inertial power, which has a big contribution to counteract the power imbalance, is switched off as depicted in Figure 4 11. On the other hand, when a higher imbalance occurs and the synthetic inertial response is saturated, due to the limitation of 10% of rated power, the mechanical power increases at 10 seconds, having a less severe impact the switching off of the inertial response.

### 2.2.2. Effect of Power Ramp Response on Frequency

The contribution from the ramping power in diminishing system RoCoF during the inception of the perturbation until the critical time was disregarded when  $EQ:tcr$  was calculated. Assuming an instant switching of the IBFPR at critical time, the frequency nadir would be 49 Hz. Nevertheless, a

ramp power response was assumed instead. Therefore the calculated power ramp, when applied to the unbalanced system, commonly exhibits a frequency nadir higher than 49 Hz, due to the contribution of the ramping period. In this sense, it can be inferred that the longer the ramping period, the higher frequency nadir will be obtained. Here again the relevance of the prompt activation in time of the IBFPR. On the other hand, with the faster IBFPR activation, the ramp slope and the steady power output (Inverter based power reserve) can be diminished compromising frequency nadir. When the activation does not takes place instantaneously, frequency nadir and therefore system stability can be compromised for some combination of system inertia and load imbalance. When a comparison is established between all the calculated power ramp slopes in per unit (pu), it is noted that with high penetration of non-synchronous power in the power system, the required power to ensure no UFLS have a consistent trend between the three models, and a close proximity in the values for RoCoF in the range of 2 to 5 Hz/s is observed between both IEEE models. Such trends can be seen in Figure 5 2. A bigger amount of power ramp slope is needed in all the range of RoCoF for the European case. After inspecting Equation XXX, it is noticed that the IBFPR is affected by the factor  $1 - t_{cr}t_{nadir}$ , then as nadir time increases, IBFPR increases as well. The nadir time for the European case, due to the action of the self-regulation and primary reserve deployment of 30 seconds, is in the range of 3-12 seconds (6 seconds for 80% IBG penetration) whereas the nadir time for the simplified IEEE model is between 1-3 seconds as listed in table XXXX.

### 2.2.3. Fast Power Reserve

So far, the power ramp required to avoid load shedding has been found for both IEEE 9 bus models with a fast governor response and for the European-scale model with conventional primary reserve response. Hence, the IBFPR at critical time which remain constant after the critical time, would be accounted as the fast power reserve.

Table 5 2: Fast power reserve in per unit for European case IBG share (3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 20 - - 0.025 0.038 0.049 0.060 0.070 0.081 40 - 0.016 0.030 0.041 0.052 0.063 0.073 0.083 60 0.005 0.024 0.035 0.045 0.056 0.066 0.077 0.087 80 0.016 0.028 0.039 0.049 0.062 0.070 0.080 0.09 92 0.021 0.033 0.043 0.054 0.064 0.074 0.084 0.094 95 0.024 0.035 0.045 0.055 0.065 0.075 0.085 0.096

For imbalances higher than 3% the fast power reserve has to cover all the imbalance. The observed offset from the one to one relation is due to the load reduction caused by the frequency drop (load self-regulation). The dashed line represents the one to one proportion. In the case of the IEEE grid; the simplified model exhibits a permanent offset from the dashed line of around 0.05 pu, this due to the action of a faster governor response. Therefore, it can be said that in such scenario, the conventional governor response of synchronous machines would cover 5% of the imbalances starting at 8%. Since the values for nadir time are not independent from the imbalance in the Extended model, due to the non-linearity of the model, the calculated power reserve tend to equalize the whole imbalance. As imbalance increases, the critical time decreases and the nadir time increases, this makes the reducing factor  $t_{cr}/t_{nadir}$  from Equation 3-2 to decrease and narrows the difference between the calculated reserve and power imbalance. Similarly as critical time was presented in Table 5 1 the required fast power reserve in the European context is shown in Table 5 2 for extraordinary events

As IBG increases the closer to the imbalance the fast power reserve needs to be. As it was demonstrated in the result section; with a faster conventional reserve, reduction in fast power reserve can be observed.

### 2.3. Synchronizing effect, lack of damping torque and implications

When the IEEE model was implemented using SIMULINK-SIMSCAPE blocks, in order to incorporate all system component dynamics; system instability was found for low inertia values in the system and due to high imbalances (with no IBFPR). In non-linear systems, the stability is not only determined by the equivalent transfer function but also it is dependent on the inputs or sources [7, 22]. In this sense the loss of stability due to huge load imbalances is explained by the

non-linearity of the system. When the system is perturbed by a small change in one of the state variables in such a way that the system returns to its initial state or remains close to it; a linearization of the system can be performed and a so called small signal stability analysis can be performed [7]. In the simulations it was found how the extended model is unstable for imbalances above 15% with a penetration of non-synchronous generation of 85%, corresponding to a system acceleration time constant of 2.1 seconds. The diminishing of synchronous machines, and the dependency of system frequency and voltage signal from them, lead to a very weak network, where synchronizing and damping torque, which are inherent characteristics of synchronous machines are not enough to stabilize the system (assuming that such excursion of frequency and rotor speed would be allowed to happen) [7]. Although the implementation of IBFPR contributes keeping synchronous machine on step, low frequency oscillations in the rotor speed/frequency response are observed. These oscillations are created by the lack of damping torque which is provided mainly by the synchronous machines, through damping windings, field exciter and Power System Stabilizer (connected to the machines exciter). For the simplified IEEE model and the European island, only transfer functions describing an equivalent system governor were modeled. Hence in such approaches, the effect and dynamics of synchronous generator's exciters and inter-machine interaction were not taken into account. The before mentioned factors influence greatly small signal stability [7, 8]. Even though the scope of this thesis is to analyze the power-time characteristics needed to avoid frequency collapse; oscillations associated to big perturbation were observed but they could not be addressed by the simple injection of power to the system. Also in the IEEE model, when a penetration of 95% of inverter based generation and 2% of load imbalance are considered, UFLS is not reached but the system becomes unstable as shown in Figure 5.6 and Figure 5.5. From penetrations levels above 85% complete frequency stability is not ensured with the injection of fast power reserve, only UFLS on the first 10 seconds approximately. Then the system becomes unstable with increasing amplitude oscillations. It is important to note that ENTSOE in its EUROPEAN interconnected scenario, determined that there is no UFLS when an unbalance of 2% with high contribution of non-synchronous generation occurs. Nevertheless, no inter-machine interaction was considered and therefore a similar effect as the one in Figure 5.6 could be experienced.

### 3. Discussion

Authors should discuss the results and how they can be interpreted in perspective of previous studies and of the working hypotheses. The findings and their implications should be discussed in the broadest context possible. Future research directions may also be highlighted.

### 4. Materials and Methods

The transitory frequency response of the system and therefore its stable and reliable operation after a perturbation, depends on the inherent characteristics of the power system and the counteraction measurements engaged automatically by the power system. As the share of inverter based generation increases, the more sensible to instability the power system becomes. In this sense the added inverter based fast power reserve must be capable of maintaining transitory frequency value within the allowed limits. Two terms commonly found in the literature of power system stability will be used along this section:

- **Inertia constant ( $H$ ):** It has units of seconds (s) and it is the ratio of the kinetic energy stored in the rotating masses of the generators ( $E_k$  in MWs) and its nominal capacity ( $S_{nom}$  in MVA).
- **Acceleration time constant ( $T_a$ ):** It also has the units of seconds (s) but this is the ratio of double the kinetic energy (MWs) and generators nominal power output ( $P_{nom}$  in MW). Acceleration time constant is a measure of the robustness before disturbances of the system. It could be interpreted as the required time to remove the kinetic energy from the rotating masses of the generators connected in a grid at the rate of the supplied power load. Hence, the higher the

time constant, the higher the kinetic energy available. As the share of synchronous generations decreases, this constant decreases proportionally.

With  $f$  as frequency,  $f_0$  as nominal frequency and  $\Delta P$  as power imbalance the swing equation can be expressed as follows:

$$\frac{df}{dt} = \frac{\Delta P * f_0}{2 * H * S_{nom}} = \frac{\Delta P * f_0}{T_a * P_{nom}} = \frac{\Delta P * f_0}{2 * E_k} \quad (1)$$

In this paper, the inertia constant  $H$  is used for the description of synthetic inertia in wind turbines, whereas the system acceleration constant  $T_a$  is used to express the whole system inertia related to the load in terms of real power.

#### 4.1. Synthetic Inertia

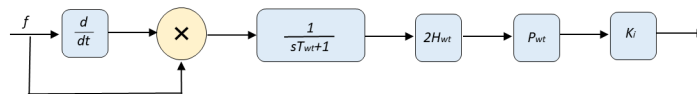
Synthetic inertia is one of the new techniques that manufactures and researchers are considering to tackle with the low inertia problem in power systems [Gevorgian.2017][GeneralElectricInternational.2013]. Frequency support through synthetic inertia was considered with the following assumptions [dreidy2017inertia][nesje2015need]:

1. Power output from synthetic inertia is limited to 10% of wind turbine nominal power.
2. Due to mechanical and thermal stresses, the additional power can be delivered only for a maximum time of 10 s.
3. It is assumed that all wind turbines operate at its maximum power output. The value of 1.5 MW was selected for such purpose.
4. In order to avoid wind turbine stall, the removed kinetic energy from the blades (injected to the grid in electrical form) it is limited to half [E.MuljadiV.GevorgianandM.Singh:NREL.2012].

An adequate control system is needed so the stored energy in the rotating blades can be extracted from the wind turbine. From the expression of power as the derivative of energy stored in the blades (2), the rate of energy extracted from the wind turbine can be obtained, considering that the rotational speed changes in time ref.

$$P_{pu}(t) = 2 * H_{wt} * \omega_{pu}(t) * \frac{d\omega_{pu}(t)}{dt} \quad (2)$$

Where  $H_{wt}$  is the turbine inertia constant and  $\omega_{pu}$  the rotational speed in per unit.



**Figure 1.** Representation of equation (2) in the model. In the figure it can be seen the insertion of a filter at the output of the multiplication block. A constant block  $K_i$  adjusts the initial response in the model. Since equation (2) is given in pu, the output is multiplied by a constant  $P_{wt}$  representing the rated power of the turbine.

Typical values for inertia constant of wind turbines are not openly available from the manufacturers to the public. Hence an approximate value was calculated with the utilization of an equation which relates nominal power and inertia constant for wind turbines [GonzalezRodriguez.2007].

$$H_{wt} \approx 1.87 * P_{nwt}^{0.0597} \quad (3)$$

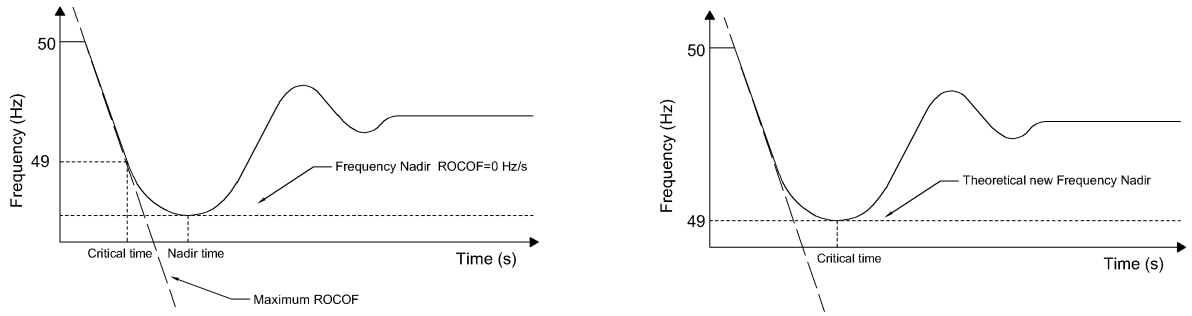
For a wind turbine with nominal power output of 1.5 MW the value of  $H$  corresponds to 4.37 s [Wu.2013]. It is assumed that all the wind turbines deliver their nominal power output. A rated rotational speed of 18 rev/min was considered [28]. To avoid the wind turbine to stall, a reduction of 5 rev/min it is allowed by the implementation of the control system. This change of rotational speed equals a change of 3 MWs reduction on kinetic energy out of a total of 6 MWs.

**Table 2.** : Constants for implementation of synthetic inertia

$T_{wt}$	$H_{wt}$ (s)	$P_{wt}$ (MW)	$K_i$
1	4.37	$1.5 * n_{wt}^1$	10

#### 4.2. Inverter based fast Power Reserve

When a power system is subjected to a negative power imbalance and it is assumed that no load is rejected at UFLS frequency, this continues dropping below 49 Hz. The time at which the system frequency equals the UFLS value is then called critical time. This is the maximum available time for the inverter based reserve to deploy the required power to the system.

**(a)** Typical frequency response leading to UFLS**(b)** Desired frequency response avoiding UFLS

**Figure 2.** In (a) the frequency response goes below the 49 Hz leading to UFLS at the critical time, whereas in (b) the IBFPR is applied avoiding ULFS. In this case the power imbalance is compensated at the critical time by the inverters.

In the critical condition that would lead to load shedding, it is expected from the IBFPR to at least to counteract the RoCoF at the critical time, as illustrated in Figure 2b. Recalling equation (1); it is necessary that the machine's accelerating power (power imbalance) become zero at the critical time.

$$P_a(t_{cr}) = P_{mech} - P_{elec} + P_{IBFPR} = 0 \quad (4)$$

Where  $P_a$  is accelerating power,  $P_{mech}$  is mechanical power,  $P_{elec}$  is electrical power load,  $t_{cr}$  is the critical time and  $P_{IBFPR}$  is inverter based fast power reserve. From the assumption of a linear mechanical power deployment is given from the synchronous machines governors, the rate of change in mechanical power, after a power imbalance  $\Delta P$ , is given by  $\Delta P / t_{nadir}$ , where  $t_{nadir}$  represents the time at which the frequency nadir occurs. Given the power balance at the critical time,  $t_{cr}$ ; the IBFPR response must be equal to  $P_{elec} - P_{mech}$ , being  $P_{elec}$  equal to  $\Delta P$ .

Substituting  $P_{mech}$  by  $\Delta P * t_{cr} / t_{nadir}$  and  $P_{elec}$  by  $\Delta P$  in (4), the following expression is obtained for the  $P_{IBFPR}$  at time  $t_{cr}$ :

$$P_{IBFPR}(t_{cr}) = \Delta P * (1 - t_{cr} / t_{nadir}) \quad (5)$$

It is assumed that  $P_{IBFPR}$  remains with a constant power output after  $t_{cr}$  long enough to stabilize the system frequency. The result of the previous equation represents the slope of the power output since the inception of the incident until the critical time, which with the implementation of IBFPR, it will be not any longer critical but rather it will be the new desired frequency nadir time.

$$P_{IBFPR}(t) = \frac{\Delta P * (1 - t_{cr} / t_{nadir}) * t}{t_{cr}} \quad (6)$$

According to the obtained expression; it can be realized that the desired power response from the inverters depends exclusively on parameters which cannot be directly measured from the grid



connection point. In a real situation the values of  $\Delta P$ ,  $t_{nadir}$  and  $t_{cr}$  cannot be known in advance, representing this factors a challenge in the implementation of this ideal power response. Those values are dependent on the grid characteristics, the primary conventional reserve deployment time and the overall system inertia [orum2015future]. Thus two main cases are considered for the remaining analysis with the intent of covering a wider range of systems with different characteristics and dimensions.

#### 4.3. Simulation Cases

As presented in the previous section, the values of critical time and frequency nadir time depend on the system imbalance and primary reserve deployment time. In spite of assessing the influence of the grid size and the primary reserve characteristics, two main cases are considered. In both cases is assumed that the initial steady frequency is the nominal 50 Hz.

- **Small scale grid case:** For the evaluation of this case typical governor data is considered in a well-known and studied benchmark grid topology as the WSCC model, also known as the IEEE 9 bus model. Synchronous reserve deployment is in the order of a few seconds due to governor response [kundur1994power][sundaram2008comparing].

Scenario A - Simplified Model: The power system is represented by an equivalent single machine model in which losses are neglected. It is investigated the critical time for inverters' activation and the required IBFPR is also determined. Furthermore, the impact of synthetic inertia and the frequency measurement delay in frequency response is analyzed.

Scenario B - Extended Model: All the power system components (transmission lines, transformers, exciters and governors of the three generators) and its dynamic characteristics are considered in the IEEE 9 bus model.

- **Large scale grid case:** The European grid scale in which all the synchronous machines are modeled and simplified as one single machine, provided with the characteristic expected from the overall system. Synchronous primary reserve deployment is in the order of  $\sim 30$  s [ENTSOE.2016][hultholm2015optimal]. Island frequency response is assumed to be the same that the European response analyzed by ENTSOE [ENTSOE.2016].

#### 4.4. Simplified IEEE 9 bus Model

As a first step to evaluate the impact of inverter based generation and power imbalances in the grid, the whole system is simplified as one single generating unit; neglecting all losses in the system (Transformers, transmission lines and generators) with the assumption that the mechanical output of the prime mover is the same than the electrical power output at generator terminals. Table 2 provides a summary of the elements comprising the base model.

**Table 3.** Elements of the IEEE 9 bus model.

	Quantity
Buses	9
Transformers	3
Transmission Lines	6
Generators	3
Load	315 MW

Figure 3 is the block representation of the swing equation (1), it only differs in the fact that blocks representing the inverter based generation have been included. The mechanical power is represented by the output of a steam turbine governor model, which is used to represent the synchronous machine

[Anderson.2002]. When equilibrium is lost, the accelerating power is multiply by the transfer function  $1/(2 * H * S)$ , where  $H$  is the machine's inertia constant and  $S$  is the machine's power rating. From (1) this product equals the derivative of frequency, therefore an integrator block is added to obtain the frequency response [kundur1994power][john1994power][ogata1999ingenieria]. A feedback loop is added and an error signal obtained from the reference frequency so the synchronous machine can react as frequency deviates from nominal.

**Figure 3.** Simplified representation of the IEEE 9 bus model. Blocks linked by the solid line represent the conventional swing equation given by (1). Represented with dotted lines, the respective frequency signals to the blocks of IBFPR and synthetic inertia, which add power to the system.

The values of kinetic energy and time constants of a synchronous machines of 835 MVA were selected to represent the synchronous response, with the load of 315 MW the system acceleration time constant is 14 s, which is approximately today's Europe acceleration constant [ENTSOE.2016]. This is the base scenario where an 100% synchronous generation is assumed. For the sake of evaluating the impact of the penetration of inverter based generation; the values of lower capacity generators were selected, diminishing in the sense the total system inertia [Anderson.2002].

Even though load imbalances up to 40% were simulated in each inertia scenario, for estimation of the critical time the power capacity limit of the generators was disregarded. The negative imbalance was simulated by increasing the system load. A block diagram representing the system shown in Figure 3 was implemented in SIMULINK with different combinations of power imbalance and system inertia.

#### 4.5. Extended IEEE 9 bus Model

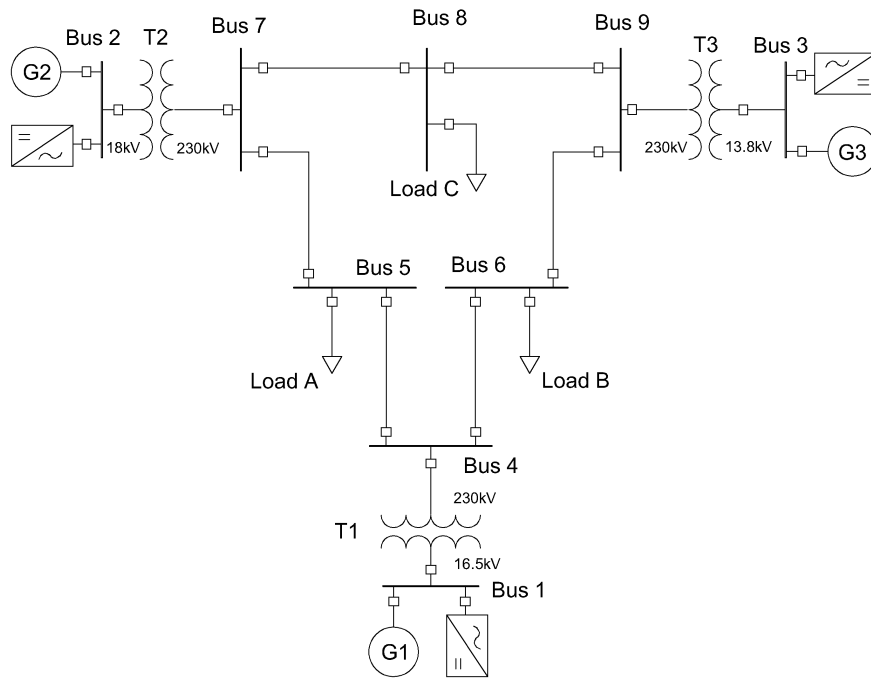
Since it is desired to compare the results obtained in 4.4 against some model that takes into account the whole system components, losses and dynamics; An extended representation of the IEEE 9 bus model was implemented in SIMULINK [delavari2018simscape]. In this representation, simulations for different values of system inertia and load imbalance were performed, similarly as it was done with the simplified representation of the model. Figure 4 shows the extended IEEE 9 bus grid architecture with IBG added.

In order to evaluate the validity of the equation describing the IBFPR needed to avoid ULFS, the IEEE model was modified with the insertion of ideal controlled power sources blocks, which were set up to inject power into the grid accordingly to the simulated scenario. Therefore, no means of frequency measurement were included and only IBFPR was assessed. Similarly as it was done in section 4.4, the total acceleration time constant of the system equals 14 s. Hence the same kinetic energy should be distributed among the three generators' rotating masses in the extended model as in the simplified representation. From (7) it can be easily calculated that the system kinetic energy with 14 s is 2205 MWs (100% synchronous generation).

$$T_{sys} = (2 * E_k) / P_{load} \quad (7)$$

Due to the fact that inverter based generation reduces the system kinetic energy; for different levels of inverter based generation, the generators nominal capacity values were kept constant and the inertia constant of each machine multiplied by the synchronous share factor  $f_{ss}$ . The total kinetic energy of the system is the summation of all units. In such manner the synchronous generators in the initial state of equilibrium represent both power sources, inverter based plus synchronous.

In order to start the simulations in steady state, a load flow calculation of the grid was carried out with the objective of calculating the initial conditions for the exciter and prime mover models. Table 3



**Figure 4.** One line diagram of the IEEE 9 bus model. The inverter based frequency response has been added At the same bus of the generating units.

summarizes the main values for setting system initial conditions; acquired from the power flow tool provided by SIMSCAPE.

**Table 4.** : Steady state initial conditions of the system

Bus number	Bus Type	Voltage (pu)	Active Power (MW)	Reactive Power (MVar)
1	Slack	1.04 /0°	72.2	25.64
2	PV	1.025 /9.83°	163	8
3	PV	1.025 /4.63°	85	-9.41
5	PQ	0.9949 /-4.42°	125	50
6	PQ	1.01211 /-4.16°	90	30
8	PQ	1.0172 /0.17°	100	35

#### 4.5.1. IBFPR Representation

The IBFPR was modeled as controlled current sources. These controlled sources inject active power according to the load imbalance and system inertia simulated. The continuous measurement of voltage is required in order to determine the amount of current needed to supply the requested power. The IBFPR will have symmetrical and balanced characteristics. Due to this reason, the magnitude and angle of the current phasor will be obtained from the positive sequence of the measured voltage. From the definition of complex power and voltage symmetrical components in three phase systems (8), the positive sequence component of phase voltage and line current are obtained [john1994power].

$$S_{3\phi}^1 = 3 * V_{LN}^1 * \bar{I}_L^1 \quad (8)$$

This equation is valid for RMS values of voltage and current; nevertheless the measured voltage values and the sought current values are given in peak values, the equation for power and current become:

$$S_{3\varphi}^1 = \frac{3 * V_{LNpeak}^1 * I_{Lpeak}^{-1}}{2} \quad (9)$$

$$I_{Lpeak}^1 = \frac{2 * S_{3\varphi}^1}{3 * V_{LNpeak}^1} \quad (10)$$

With the help of the  $\mathbf{a}$  operator ( $-0.5 + j\sqrt{3}$  or  $1/120^\circ$ ) the values of the positive sequence component of phase voltage can be obtained.

From  $V_a + V_b + V_c = 0$  and  $V_a^1 = \frac{V_a + aV_b + a^2V_c}{3}$ :

$$\begin{aligned} V_a^1 &= \frac{V_a + aV_b - a^2V_b - a^2}{3} \\ &= \frac{V_a * (1 - a^2) + aV_b * (1 - a)}{3} \end{aligned}$$

308 Since  $V_{an}^1 = \frac{V_a^1}{\sqrt{3}/30^\circ}$ ,  $\sqrt{3}/30^\circ = 1 - a^2$  and  $\sqrt{3}/-30^\circ = 1 - a$  then after some algebraic  
309 manipulation the expression for  $V_{an}^1$  becomes:

$$V_{an}^1 = \frac{V_a - a^2V_b}{3} \quad (11)$$

310 With the obtained expressions for the positive sequence of phase voltage (11) and complex power  
311 (9), the needed current (10) to supply the IBFPR related to the measured voltages can be implemented  
312 in SIMULINK as depicted in FIGUREXXX. The ramping function will last until the critical time is  
313 reached, afterwards, the IBFPR output will remain constant.

#### 314 4.6. Large Scale Case: Europe Power System

315 Under normal operation ENTSOE has reported values of RoCoF in the range of 5-10 mHz/s  
316 for power outages of 1 GW in the current interconnected power system. If an imbalance event  
317 of more than 3 GW occurs with depleted primary reserve, extraordinary values of frequency and  
318 RoCoF might be reached. After serious disturbances the Continental European Power System has  
319 experienced RoCoF between 100 mHz/s and 1 Hz/s. Imbalances of 20% or more along with RoCoF  
320 greater than 1 Hz/s have been determined by experience to be critical [ENTSOE.2016]. ENTSOE  
321 has determined that under the case of the reference scenario (The loss of 3 GW generation with 150  
322 GW load and 2%/Hz self-regulation) in the interconnected operation, the influence of inverter based  
323 generation, and therefore the reduction of system inertia would not jeopardize system stability. Due  
324 to the expected increase of non-synchronous generation in the future, international power trade and  
325 renewables variability; ENTSOE estates in its future split reference scenario that the power system  
326 must be capable of withstanding imbalances greater than 40% with RoCoF of 2 Hz/s or higher. Under  
327 these circumstances the resulting islands must avoid load shedding. Hence, only the split scenario is  
328 considered for further analysis.

329 When considering the system blackout of November 4th 2006, in which four electric islands  
330 resulted from the European system split; system blackout due to under frequency was experienced  
331 in the so known western area. This island, at the moment of split, had approximately a load of 190  
332 GW (27% more than the low load scenario of ENTSOE ) [ucte2007final]. For its comparable 'size' and  
333 the uncertainty of knowing beforehand the resulting islands after a major contingency, the selected  
334 load for simulation was the same as the ENTSOE reference scenario as well as the primary reserve  
335 deployment time. To simulate the behavior of the resulting island in the European split scenario; a  
336 simplified approach was selected. Similarly as it was done with the simplified block model for the  
337 IEEE 9 bus model, in the equivalent European representation all the synchronous generation will

be represented by a single machine, which will provide governor response when a perturbation takes place. Additional to the synchronous response, a load response of 2% was added to the model, which means that for every Hertz reduced or augmented, the load will reduce or increase by a 2% [ENTSOE.2016].

In order to fit the behavior of the system to the modeled by ENTSOE, an additional block was added the IEEE simplified model in the steam turbine governor; this was done with the intention of adjusting the time response of the primary reserve as much as possible to the desired one. With this approach, the primary power reserve can be easily tuned with the assistance of the Control System Tuner App available in MATLAB. The period of time of utmost interest for analysis is from the inception of the power imbalance and the nadir time. Therefore, the system must perform as similar as possible in this region compared to the ENTSOE reference, whereas after the nadir time, the disparity between responses can be neglected. In the European scale the reserves must be completely deployed within 30 s after the occurrence of the disturbance.

#### 4.6.1. System Parameters

A power system of  $n$  number of synchronous machines is assumed; having each of them a capacity  $S$  in MVA, a nominal power  $P_{nom}$  in MW. Assuming that each machine operates at a de-load factor  $dl$  of  $P_{nom}$ ; with an acceleration constant equal to  $T_{nom}$  then the number of machines  $n$ , for the load  $P_{syncload}$ , served by synchronous machines is:

$$n = \frac{P_{syncload}}{P_{nom} * dl} \quad (12)$$

Then the time acceleration constant of the system  $T_{sys}$  can be obtained as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} T_{sys} &= \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n P_i * T_i}{P_{LOAD}} \\ &= \frac{n P_{nom} * T_i}{P_{LOAD}} \\ &= \frac{P_{syncload} * T_{nom}}{P_{LOAD} * dl} \\ &= \frac{Syncshare * T_{nom}}{dl} \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

In this sense the system time acceleration constant can be calculated with a synchronous share of 100%, resulting in  $T_{sys} = 12.5$  s with values of  $T_{nom} = 10$  s [ENTSOE.2016][Anderson.2002], and a de-load factor  $dl = 0.8$ . The values of the additional block in the model are set in order to have a step response with 2% overshoot and a time constant of 8 seconds [ogata1999ingenieria]. Considering only the swing equation, as done in the model, it can be demonstrated that the RoCoF and therefore the frequency response of the system is only dependent on the percentage of load imbalance and the system acceleration time constant. From the definition of RoCoF as  $\frac{df}{dt} = \frac{\Delta P * f_0}{2 * E_k}$  and  $T_{sys} = \frac{2 * E_k}{P_{LOAD}}$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{df}{dt} &= \frac{\Delta P * f_0}{P_{LOAD} * T_{sys}} \\ &= \frac{\Delta P_{pu} * f_0}{P_{LOAD} * T_{sys}} \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

In (14) the value of  $\Delta P_{pu}$  is the normalized value of power imbalance having as base power the value of load  $P_{LOAD}$ . As shown in the equation, when only the swing equation is considered, the frequency response is only dependent on system acceleration constant and the relative value of imbalance. This

relative value of imbalance varies during time, depending on load response to change on frequency and the response of primary reserve of the system.

## 5. Conclusions

This section is not mandatory, but can be added to the manuscript if the discussion is unusually long or complex.

## 6. Patents

This section is not mandatory, but may be added if there are patents resulting from the work reported in this manuscript.

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## Abbreviations

The following abbreviations are used in this manuscript:

MDPI	Multidisciplinary Digital Publishing Institute
DOAJ	Directory of open access journals
TLA	Three letter acronym
LD	linear dichroism

## Appendix A

### *Appendix A.1*

The appendix is an optional section that can contain details and data supplemental to the main text. For example, explanations of experimental details that would disrupt the flow of the main text, but nonetheless remain crucial to understanding and reproducing the research shown; figures of replicates for experiments of which representative data is shown in the main text can be added here if brief, or as Supplementary data. Mathematical proofs of results not central to the paper can be added as an appendix.

## Appendix B

All appendix sections must be cited in the main text. In the appendixes, Figures, Tables, etc. should be labeled starting with ‘A’, e.g., Figure A1, Figure A2, etc.

407 **Sample Availability:** Samples of the compounds ..... are available from the authors.

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