This is an alternative to the *InvControl* element for *PVSystem*. It is based on the autonomously adjusting reference voltage option from the latest version of Clause 5.3.3 (Voltage-reactive power mode) in IEEE Standard 1547 [1]. In Figure 1, the set-point or reference voltage, V_{ref}, is not a constant value but rather tracks the grid voltage, V_{sys}, with a time constant, τ_{ref}, that is adjustable between 300s and 5000s. V_{ref} is still limited to the range 0.95 to 1.05 pu of the nominal voltage, V_N, as required in the standard. There is another time constant in Figure 1, τ_{OL}, for the open-loop response time that is adjustable up to 90s. Q_{hi} and Q_{lo} are now defined to give preference to reactive power over real power [1].

The gain value, *K*, offers a simplified version of the piecewise linear volt-var curve from the standard. For *ExpControl*, there is no deadband, so the piecewise linear curve simplifies to the example shown in Figure 2. For more details and examples, see [2].

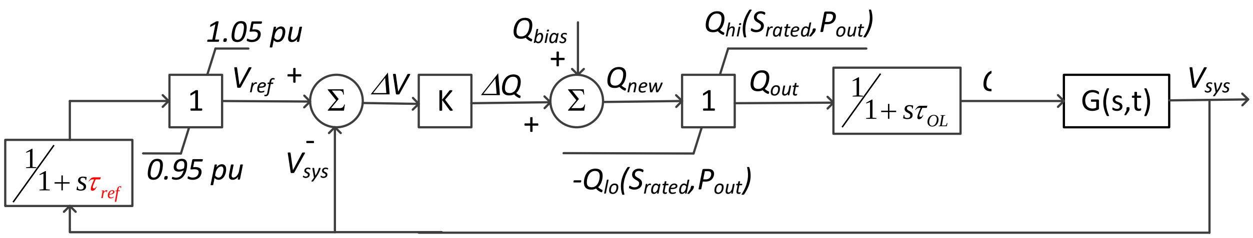

Figure 1: Control block diagram of the autonomously adjusting V_{ref} with time constant τ_{ref}.

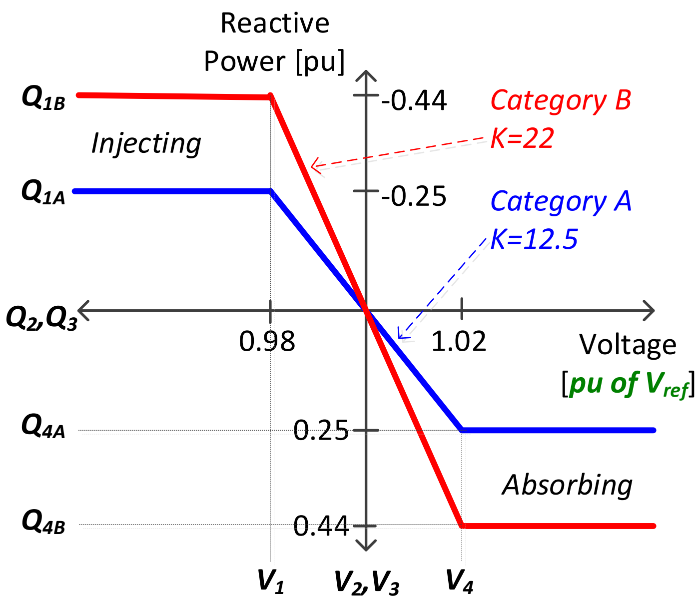

Figure 2: Translating K to the parameters of Figure H.4 of the standard [1], using passive sign convention on Q.

Key Parameters of ExpControl

The *ExpControl* does not require linkage to a piecewise linear curve. Its most important parameters are:

- Slope – the gain, *K*, in Figure 1. The default value of 50 is usually stable, but higher than the maximum allowed value of 22 for Category B inverters [1].
- VregTau – the time constant, τ_{ref}, in Figure 1. The default value of 300s is recommended.

- DeltaQ_factor – still under investigation; this reactive power “acceleration factor” may need to be specified at 0.2 to 0.3.
- Tresponse – with reference to Figure 1, this is the time for the change in Q_{sys} to reach 90% of the commanded change in Q_{out}. Defaults to 0 for backward compatibility, but should otherwise be set to 10s for Category A inverters or 5s for Category B inverters. Tresponse = 2.3 τ_{OL}. (The *InvControl* LPFtau attribute is similar, but defined for 95% response instead of 90% response.)
- PreferQ – if required, curtail P to meet the commanded Q_{out}. Defaults to false for backward compatibility, but new models should specify true, as required in [1].
- Qbias – an optional steady-state dispatch of reactive power, indicated in Figure 1. In per-unit of each controlled *PVSystem* kva rating. Negative to absorb Q, positive to inject Q. Defaults to 0. If linked to an external reactive power dispatcher, this would be the signal input connection.

The following parameters are less commonly specified:

- Vreg – initial V_{ref} in per-unit of the PVSystem’s voltage rating; this is less important because it will dynamically adjust to each PVSystem’s terminal voltage early in the simulation.
- VregMin – leave at the default 0.95 pu
- VregMax – leave at the default 1.05 pu
- QmaxLag – prefer use of *PVSystem kvarLimit*, unless the absorption and injection capabilities are different.
- QmaxLead – prefer use of *PVSystem kvarLimit*, unless the absorption and injection capabilities are different.
- PVSystemList – usually left blank to control all *PVSystem* components in the model
- Basefreq – as with other OpenDSS components
- Enabled – as with other OpenDSS components
- Like – as with other OpenDSS components
- EventLog – used to debug control actions in the case of non-convergence

The circle-diagram limits on Q, as depicted in Figure H.2 of [1], have not yet been implemented. The ExpControl was initially developed before [1], and it keeps the name V_{reg} in place of V_{ref}.

Example

The test circuit in Figure 3 was analyzed in [2] and distributed with OpenDSS under the sub-directory *Examples/ExpControl*. You can run the following example by pasting lines 1-26 into an OpenDSS script window. Note that line 3 should be modified to match the example installation directory on your own computer, so that OpenDSS can find the included *Hours.csv*, *VshapeHi_dss*.csv and *pcloud.csv*.

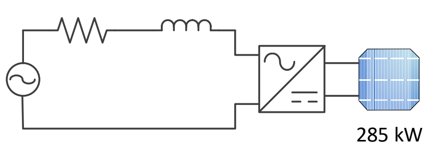

Figure 3: Single-phase test circuit representing one phase of a utility-scale PV about 15 miles from the substation

```
1   Clear
2   New Circuit.CloudAdap
```

```
3  cd c:\opendss\distrib\examples\expcontrol
4  New Loadshape.Vshape npts=1441 interval=0
5  ~ hour=(file=Hours.csv) mult=(file=VshapeHi_dss.csv)
6  New Loadshape.Cloud npts=86401 sinterval=1
7  ~ csvfile=pcloud.csv action=normalize
8  New Vsource.Vth1 bus1=2a basekv=.240 R1=0.0083 X1=0.0215 phases=1
9  ~ daily=Vshape
10 New line.line1   bus1=2a bus2=3a switch=yes phases=1
11 New PVSystem.PV1 bus1=3a phases=1 kV=.240 irradiance=1 pmpp=285 kVA=300
12 ~ daily=Cloud %cutin=0.1 %cutout=0.1 varfollowinverter=true kvarlimit=132
13 new monitor.pv1v  element=line.line1   terminal=2 mode=96
14 new monitor.pv1pq element=PVSystem.PV1 terminal=1 mode=65 PPolar=NO
15 new monitor.pv1st element=PVSystem.PV1 terminal=1 mode=3
16 set controlmode=static
17 set maxcontroliter=1000
18 set voltagebases=[.415692]
19 CalcV
20 New ExpControl.pv1 deltaQ_factor=0.3
21 ~ vreg=1.0 slope=22 vregtau=300 Tresponse=5 // EventLog=Yes
22 solve mode=daily number=86400 stepsize=1s
23 plot type=monitor obj=pv1pq channels=[1,2] bases=[300,300]
24 plot type=monitor obj=pv1st channels=[5]
25 plot type=monitor obj=pv1v channels=[1] bases=[240]
```

Lines 4-5 and 7-8 implement a grid voltage that varies even in the absence of solar power fluctuations. The case can be repeated with unity power factor, by commenting out lines 20-21. Figure 4 plots the *PVSystem* output and some voltages of interest. To the right, V_{ref} starts at 1 per-unit, and quickly adapts to the grid voltage, V_{sys} or V_{unity}, which is about 1.03 per-unit. The reactive power, Q, is zero during the initial adaptation of V_{ref} because there is no real power output, P, during this time, coupled with *varfollowinverter*=true in line 12. From about 1030 through 1600 hours, P fluctuates and this causes voltage fluctuation. At unity power factor, the V_{unity} fluctuations are about 3%. The V_{sys} fluctuations are mitigated to about 1% by the *ExpControl*, with approximately zero net Q integrated over the day. The V_{ref} signal follows and smooths the V_{sys} fluctuations by using *ExpControl*.

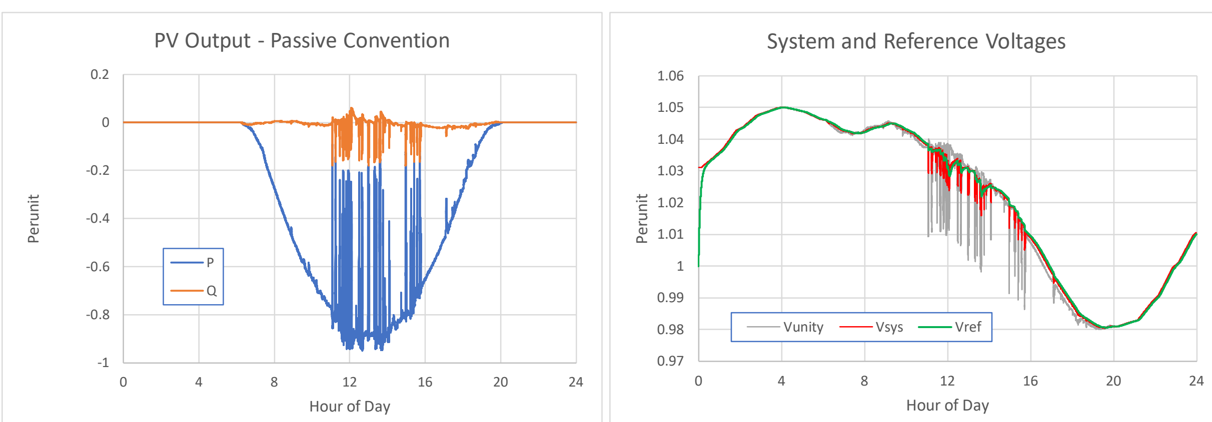

Figure 4: ExpControl produces near-zero net reactive power over time (left), while suppressing voltage fluctuations around the system voltage (right).

At around 2000 hours, P cuts out, but the value of *Q* is already close to zero because V_{sys} is close to V_{ref}. In other cases, the sudden cut-out of *Q* may lead to a significant voltage step. This might be mitigated with *varfollowinverter*=false, or by ramping *Q*, which is not currently required in [1].

Comparison to InvControl and CA Rule 21 Smart Inverters

In California's Rule 21, phase 1 smart inverters have a function comparable to *InvControl* mode=VOLTVAR, while phase 3 smart inverters have a function comparable to *InvControl* mode=DYNAMICREACCURR [3]. These are denoted VV and DRC, respectively. The VV mode gives preference to real power, while the DRC mode may give preference to either real or reactive power. The DRC mode may be used either in conjunction with VV, or exclusively. One difference between DRC and *ExpControl* is that DRC uses a windowed moving average, while *ExpControl* uses the exponential time delay. The VV mode in *InvControl* also has the option for a windowed moving average on V_{ref}, but this option was not adopted in CA Rule 21.

Of the CA Rule 21 options, "Dynamic Reactive Current Support Mode" in phase 3 is the closest to *ExpControl*. It should give preference to reactive power, and should not be combined with phase 1's "Dynamic Volt/Var Operations".

Of the *InvControl* options, uncombined DRC is the closest to *ExpControl*.

Use with Storage Elements

As is the case with *InvControl*, the *ExpControl* cannot be used with *Storage*, only with *PVSystem*. However, the voltage control capabilities it represents from [1] would apply equally well to storage systems. In a future version, both *InvControl* and *ExpControl* may be linked to *Storage* in OpenDSS. In the meantime, the following workaround can be used to implement reactive power control of storage systems:

- Add a parallel *PVSystem* with negligible real power (*Pmpp*), but *kva* rating equal to the storage system's reactive power rating, leaving *kvarLimit* unspecified. Let *VarFollowInverter* default to False, so the inverter can supply rated Q throughout the day.
- Attach *ExpControl* to the fictitious *PVSystem* to implement voltage/reactive power control on the storage system.

The same workaround applies to *InvControl*. A sample input listing fragment follows; it's part of a larger model in which a small impedance separates the *bess1* bus from the *pcc1* bus.

```
new Storage.bess1 bus1=bess1 phases=3 kV=13.2 kWrated=6000
~  kva=7000 kWhrated=48000 kWhstored=24000 dispmode=follow daily=cycle
New PVSystem.bess1 bus1=pcc1 phases=3 kV=13.2 irradiance=0.5 pmpp=1
~  kva=3600 varfollowinverter=false
New ExpControl.bess1 pvsystemlist=(bess1) deltaQ_factor=0.3
~  vreg=1.0 slope=22 vregtau=300 Tresponse=5
```

References

[1] IEEE, "IEEE Standard for Interconnection and Interoperability of Distributed Energy Resources with Associated Electric Power Systems Interfaces," *IEEE Std 1547-2018 (Revision of IEEE Std 1547-2003),* pp. 1-138, 2018.

[2] T. E. McDermott and S. R. Abate, "Adaptive Voltage Regulation for Solar Power Inverters on Distribution Systems," presented at the IEEE Photovoltaic Specialists Conference (PVSC-46), Chicago, 2019.

[3] California Energy Commission. (2017). *Rule 21 Smart Inverter Working Group Technical Reference Materials*. Available: https://www.energy.ca.gov/electricity_analysis/rule21/