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Control Analysis of Building-Integrated Photovoltaic System

Marwa Ben Saïd-Romdhane, Sondes Skander-Mustapha and Ilhem Slama-Belkhodja

Abstract

In this chapter, a photovoltaic system integrated into the building is investigated. The studied structure includes also a battery energy storage system. The overall system is connected to a four-wire AC bus, with the possibility to supply single-phase and three-phase loads. Each equipment is interfaced with a dedicated power converter. This chapter examines the technical operation of all structure components and gives a detailed mathematical study of the DC/AC power converter control in case of two modes, namely, grid connected mode and standalone mode. The investigated control is based on resonant controller. The resonant controller parameters tuning, which is based on the generalized stability margin criterion, is detailed in this chapter. To prove the performance of the proposed control algorithm, several simulation tests developed under PSIM software were performed and then validated by experimental results.

Keywords: photovoltaic systems, battery energy storage system, building microgrid, DC/AC power converter control, standalone mode, grid connected mode

1. Introduction

Nowadays, rooftop photovoltaic systems (PV) and building-integrated photovoltaic (BIPV) systems are becoming well known and commonly used. The growth of these installations is due to their environmental advantages in addition to their social and economic benefits. Indeed, since building electricity consumption accounts for a large proportion of a country's overall consumption, and tends to increase further for the coming years, local generation offers an ideal solution [1–4].

Regarding the obstruction of PV systems' fluctuating aspect, it can be derived in various ways. The integration of battery energy storage system (BESS) is considered as efficient and complementation solution, mainly for standalone microgrids [5]. Urban photovoltaic systems are usually connected to the distribution network, but the operation in standalone is also possible [6, 7].

In order to ameliorate the PV system efficiency, an adequate control strategy should be introduced. In the literature, several control techniques are developed: integral proportional regulators, resonant correctors, hysteresis correctors, sliding mode controls, predictive controls, and so on [8–11].

This chapter investigates the operation of PV system devoted to building application. It gives an overview of the control of all integrated power converters and then explains in details the control of the DC/AC power converter in both operation modes, namely, standalone mode and grid connected mode. For the grid connected mode, the control must ensure that the AC bus voltage remains within the acceptable range, and for standalone mode the DC/AC converter is controlled to inject generated PV power into the AC-link.

This chapter first outlines overall system description, followed by a review of each power converter control. A detailed mathematical study is dedicated to the DC/AC converter control in grid connected and autonomous modes. Simulation results and experimental validation are subsequently presented.

2. System description

The building solar system structure is given in **Figure 1**. It is composed of a PV panels in parallel with a battery energy storage system which are linked to a DC bus, a DC/AC power converter, and an LCL filter interfacing between DC and AC bus. Single- and three-phase linear and nonlinear loads are connected to the AC bus.

The linear building loads are modeled by a resistive load, and the nonlinear ones are modeled by a rectifier connected to a capacitive filter at the DC side. This model is conformed to many building loads, similar to televisions, personal computers, and fluorescent lamp ballast [12]. In case of three-phase balanced loads, the neutral current is zero, but since several building loads are single phase and include electronic converters, their waves include harmonics which induce a nonzero neutral current. Regarding neutral wire, the more common considered structures are presented in **Figure 2**. The first structure is based on DC-link neutral point where the neutral wire is generated via two identical capacitors (**Figure 2a**). In the second structure, the neutral wire is generated through a Delta/Star grounded transformer as shown in **Figure 2b** [13]. As to the third configuration, it is based on four-leg

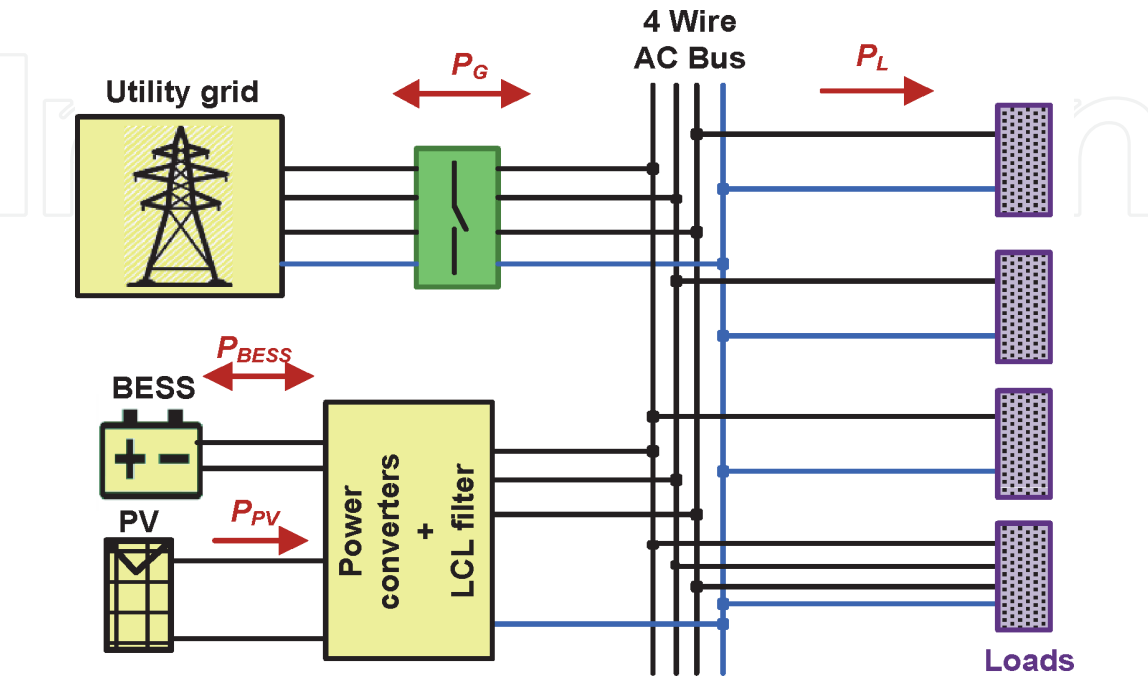


Figure 1.
Photovoltaic system including BESS.

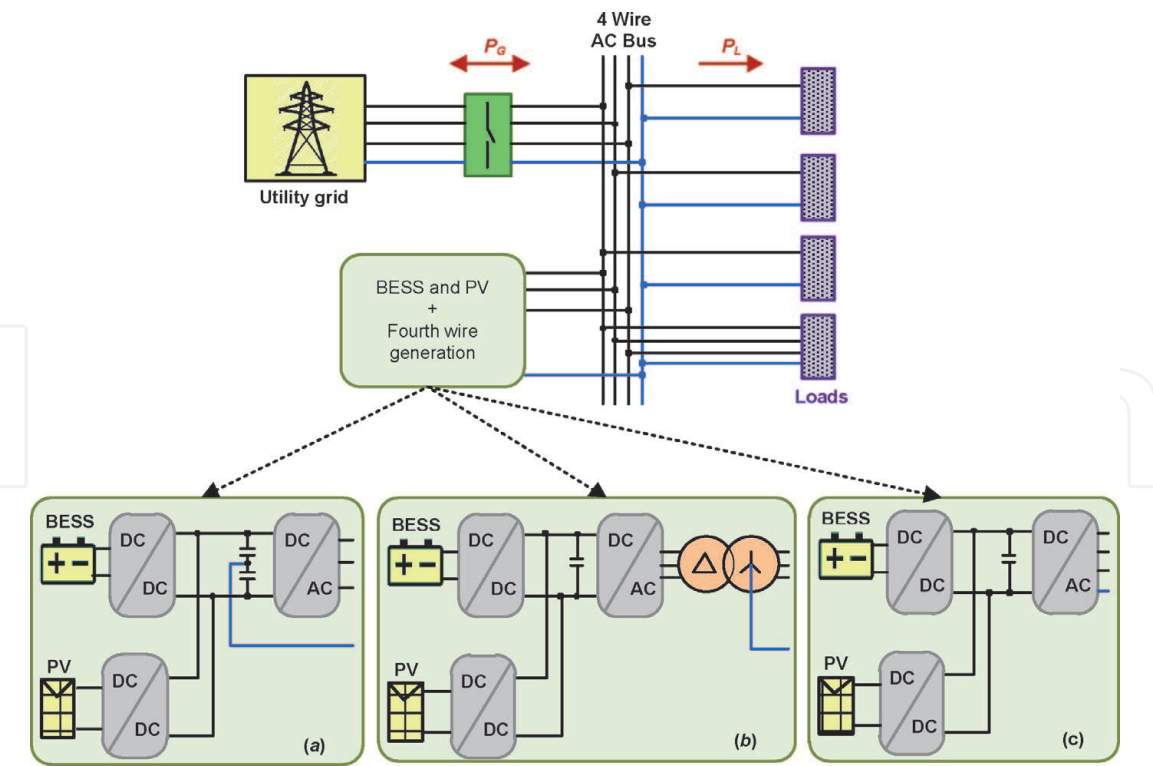


Figure 2.
Different structures that integrate the fourth wire.

power converter (**Figure 2c**) [14–16]. In this chapter the structure with transformer is adopted.

The PV system presents two operating modes according to the grid state:

- Grid connected mode: this mode is activated when the grid is available. In this case, the power surplus is injected into the grid, and if the consumption is superior to local generation, the power flow will be directed from the grid to loads and eventually to charge batteries according to their stat of charge (SOC).
- Standalone mode: this mode is activated when the grid is absent. In this case, building loads are supplied first by the PV system then if necessary by the BESS. In case of power deficit, the shedding of non-priority loads is carried out.

3. Power converter control

An overview of the control of each converter presented in **Figure 2b** is subsequently presented.

3.1 BESS DC/DC converter control

Batteries are frequently integrated to PV systems thanks to their special energy characteristics. Indeed, batteries have a high energy density, which ensure long time of stable operation. The charging time and number of cycles depend on the adopted technology.

The battery power flow is bidirectional. In discharge mode, the power is supplied by battery, and in charging mode, the power is absorbed by battery. For both modes, the state of charge limits should be respected to not affect the battery lifetime.

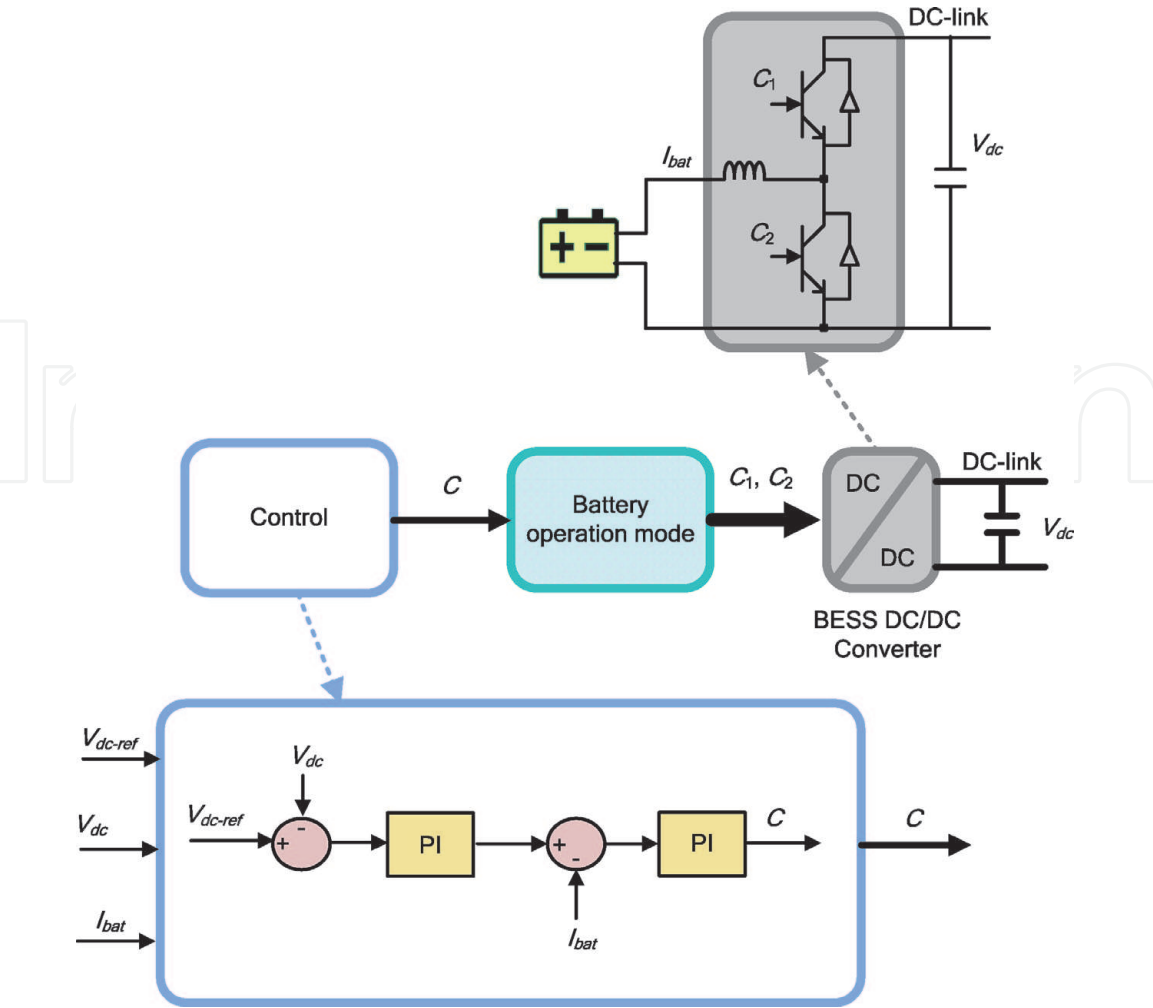


Figure 3.
Control strategy of BESS.

The BESS incorporates a DC/DC power converter that manages battery operation modes according to the appropriate control. A cascade control is adopted, the inner loop regulates the battery current, and the external one regulates the DC-link voltage.

The switches C_1 and C_2 (**Figure 3**) are controlled individually. In case of battery charging, C_1 is controlled and in case of battery discharging, C_2 is controlled.

3.2 PV DC/DC converter control

The structure of the two-stage power conversion is adopted for the PV system; this configuration is commonly privileged in the majority of the PV systems. The difference with the conventional structure is that the V_{dc} regulation is ensured by the BESS. As to the control of the DC/DC converter, it aims to ensure Maximum Power Point Tracking (MPPT) (which corresponds to the peak point of the power versus the voltage curve). In the case of this study, the Perturbation and Observation (P&O) algorithm is applied. The inputs of the P&O algorithm are the solar radiation G and the temperature T as shown in **Figure 4**.

3.3 DC/AC converter control

3.3.1 Modeling of the DC/AC converter

The output of the DC/AC and the LCL filter are modeled in single phase as shown in **Figure 5**. According to this figure, the obtained results are expressed as follows:

$$V_c = V_i - L_1 I_{L1} s \tag{1}$$

$$I_c = I_{L1} - I_{L2} \tag{2}$$

$$V_c = \frac{1}{C_f s} I_c \tag{3}$$

Based on Eq. (3), the transfer function between the current I_{L1} and the voltage $(V_i - V_c)$ is given by the following equation:

$$\frac{I_{L1}}{V_i - V_c} = \frac{1}{L_1 s} \tag{4}$$

According to Eqs. (2) and (3), the transfer function between the voltage V_c and the current $(I_{L1} - I_{L2})$ is expressed as follows:

$$\frac{V_c}{I_{L1} - I_{L2}} = \frac{1}{C_f s} \tag{5}$$

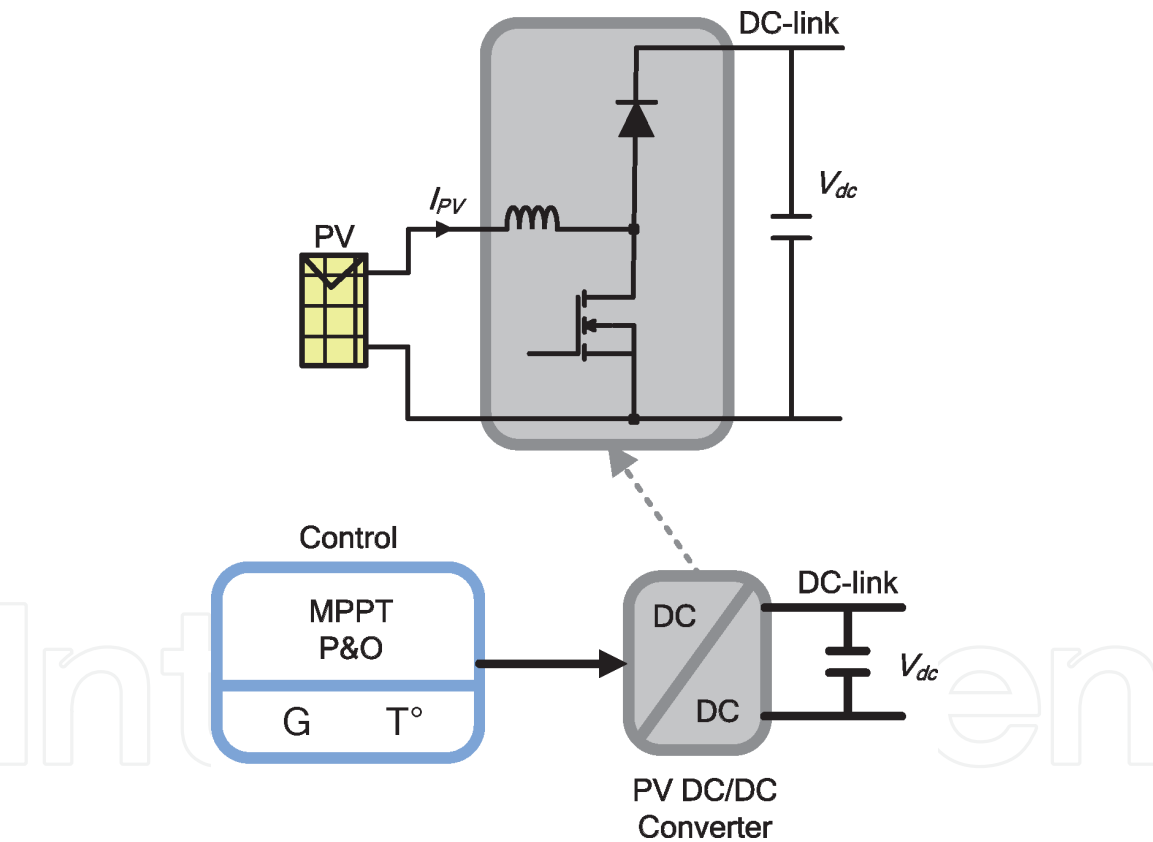


Figure 4.
Control of the PV DC/DC converter.

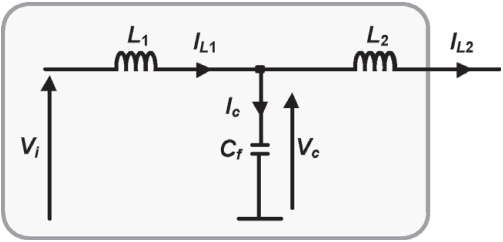


Figure 5.
LCL filter single-phase modeling.

The transfer functions given by Eqs. (4) and (5) allow the deduction of the system block diagram given by **Figure 6**.

3.3.2 Control of the DC/AC converter

3.3.2.1 Standalone mode

In standalone mode, the DC/AC converter control ensures that the LCL filter capacitor voltages are equal to their references. In that case, the converter control includes two cascade loops as shown in **Figure 7**. The external loop is based on a resonant controller RC_1 used to regulate the voltage across the LCL filter capacitor. This loop generates at its output the reference current I_{c-ref} . This current will be added to the current I_2 to provide the inner loop reference current I_{1-ref} . The inner loop is based on a resonant controller, and in this work, it simplified to a simple gain G . In the following, the tuning of the parameters of the voltage external loop and the current inner loop will be presented and detailed.

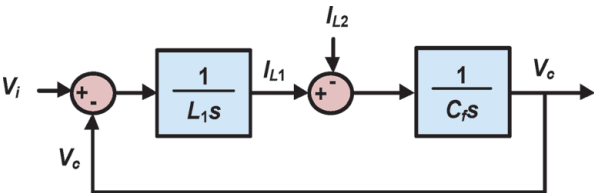


Figure 6.
System filter block diagram.

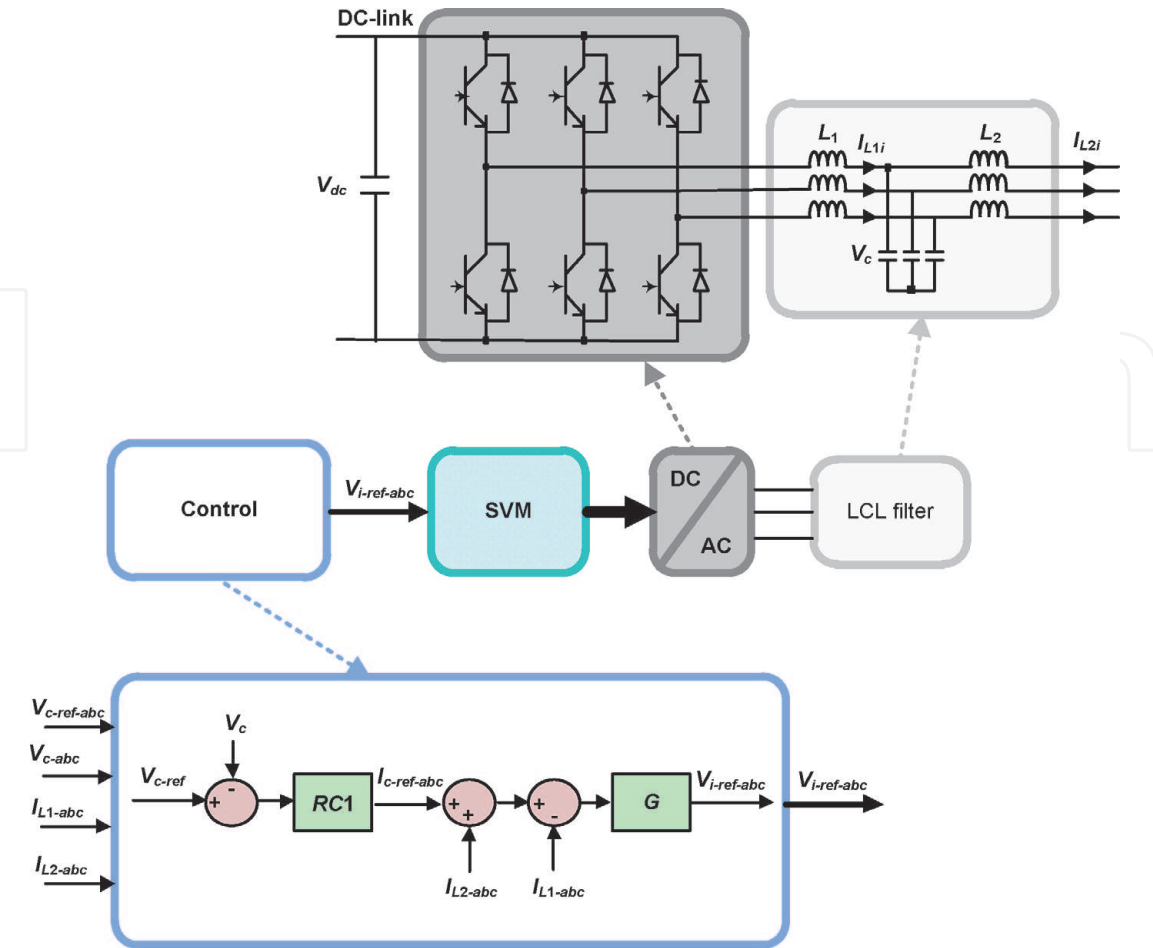


Figure 7.
Control strategy of DC/AC converter in the case of standalone mode.

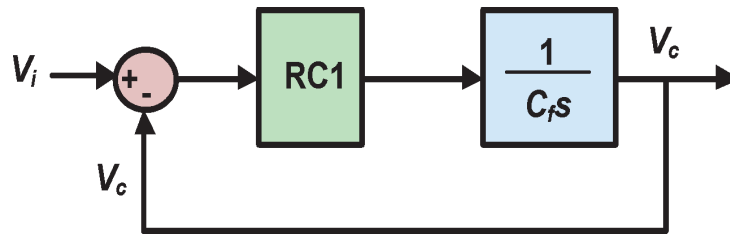


Figure 8.
Block diagram of the external voltage loop.

3.3.2.1.1 Tuning of the external loop resonant controller RC_1

For simplification reasons, it is assumed that the internal current loop is faster than the external voltage loop. Thus, it can be approximated equal to the unity by associating it with the PWM function. The following block diagram is then obtained for the determination of the external voltage loop resonant controller parameters as presented in **Figure 8**.

According to **Figure 4**, the open and closed-loop system transfer functions are expressed by Eqs. (7) and (8), respectively. Note that the transfer function of the resonant controller RC_1 is given by Eq. (6):

$$F_{CR1}(s) = \frac{c_{2c}s^2 + c_{1c}s + c_{0c}}{s^2 + \omega_0^2} \quad (6)$$

$$F_{OL-V_c}(s) = \frac{V_c}{V_{c-ref} - V_c} = \frac{c_{2c}s^2 + c_{1c}s + c_{0c}}{C_f s^3 + C_f \omega_0^2 s} \quad (7)$$

$$F_{CL-V_c}(s) = \frac{V_c}{V_{c-ref}} = \frac{c_{2c}s^2 + c_{1c}s + c_{0c}}{C_f s^3 + c_{2c}s^2 + (C_f \omega_0^2 + c_{1c})s + c_{0c}} \quad (8)$$

The method chosen for the resonant controller parameters tuning is based on the generalized stability margin criterion [17, 18]. The reference polynomial P_{GSM_c} defined by this criterion is expressed as follows:

$$P_{GSM_c}(s) = \lambda_c(s + r_c)(s + r_c + j\omega_{ic})(s + r_c - j\omega_{ic}) \quad (9)$$

where λ_c , r_c , and ω_{ic} are the factorization coefficient, the abscissa, and the ordinate in the complex plane. On the other hand, the system characteristic polynomial is deduced from Eq. (8), and it is expressed as follows:

$$P_c(s) = C_f s^3 + c_{2c}s^2 + (C_f \omega_0^2 + c_{1c})s + c_{0c} \quad (10)$$

According to the generalized stability margin criterion, the resonant controller parameters are tuned by identifying the characteristic polynomial of the closed-loop system $P_c(s)$ with the reference polynomial $P_{GSM}(s)$ as shown in Eq. (11):

$$P_{GSM_c}(s) = P_c(s) \quad (11)$$

The identification of $P_{GSM}(s)$ and $P_c(s)$ allows the deduction of the current inner loop resonant controller parameters as shown in the following equation:

$$\begin{cases} c_{2c} = 3r_c\lambda_c \\ c_{1c} = \lambda_c(3r_c^2 + \omega_{ic}^2) - C_f\omega_0^2 \\ c_{0c} = \lambda_c(r_c^3 + r_c\omega_{ic}^2) \\ \lambda_c = C_f \end{cases} \quad (12)$$

We choose r_c equal to 200 and ω_{ic} equal to ω_g . For C_f equal to 30 μ F, the resonant controller RC_1 parameters are given by the following equation:

$$\begin{cases} c_{2c} = 0.018 \\ c_{1c} = 3.6 \\ c_{0c} = 832.17 \end{cases} \quad (13)$$

For the obtained resonant controller parameters, **Figure 9** shows the pole maps of $F_{CL-Vc}(s)$. As shown in this figure, the system is stable and the expected stability margin r_c is obtained. **Figure 10** shows the Bode diagram of $F_{OL-Vc}(s)$. This figure shows that the obtained gain margins G_m and P_m are equal to infinity and 72.8° , respectively. **Figure 11** presents the gain of $F_{CL-Vc}(s)$ and shows that the bandwidth of the external voltage loop is equal to 24 Hz. It should be noted here that the larger is the bandwidth, the faster is the system.

3.3.2.1.2 Tuning of the inner loop gain G

According to **Figure 6**, the block diagram of the current inner loop is given by **Figure 12**.

According to **Figure 12**, the open and closed-loop transfer functions are given by Eqs. (14) and (15), respectively:

$$F_{OL-IL1}(s) = \frac{I_{L1}(s)}{I_{L1-ref}(s) - I_{L1}(s)} = \frac{G}{L_1 s} \quad (14)$$

$$F_{CL-IL1}(s) = \frac{I_{L1}}{I_{L1-ref}} = \frac{1}{\frac{L_1}{G}s + 1} = \frac{1}{1 + \tau_i s} \quad \text{where} \quad \tau_i = \frac{L_1}{G} \quad (15)$$

The inner current loop must ensure a response time much smaller than the external voltage loop. To this purpose, the gain G is selected so that the real part of the inverse of the closed-loop time constant τ_i is greater than the stability margin chosen for the tuning of the voltage external loop ($r_c = 200$) as shown in Eq. (16).

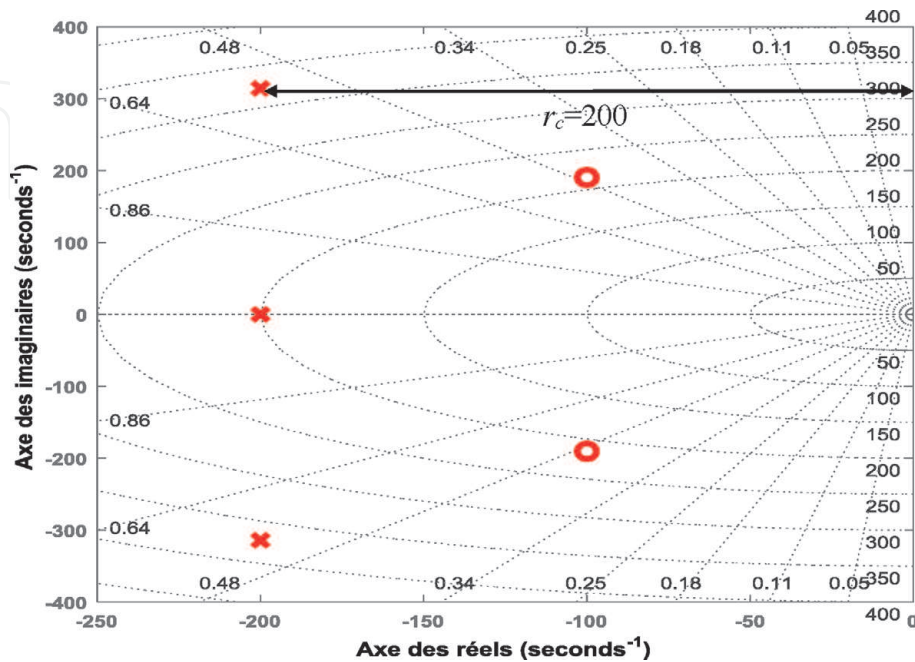


Figure 9.
Pole map of $F_{CL-Vc}(s)$.

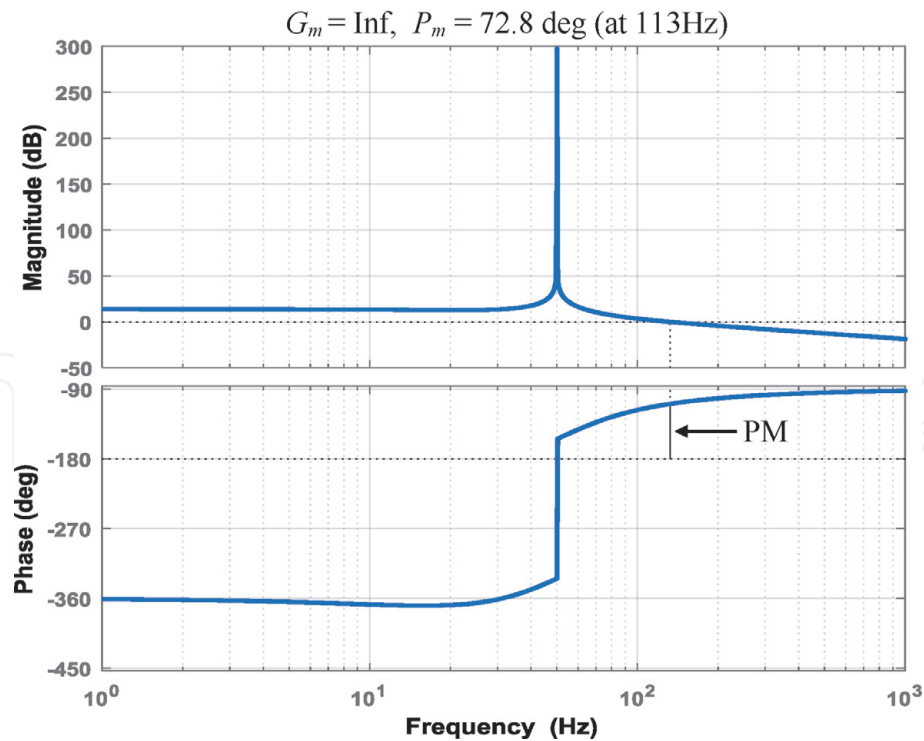


Figure 10.
Bode diagram of $F_{OL-Vc}(s)$.

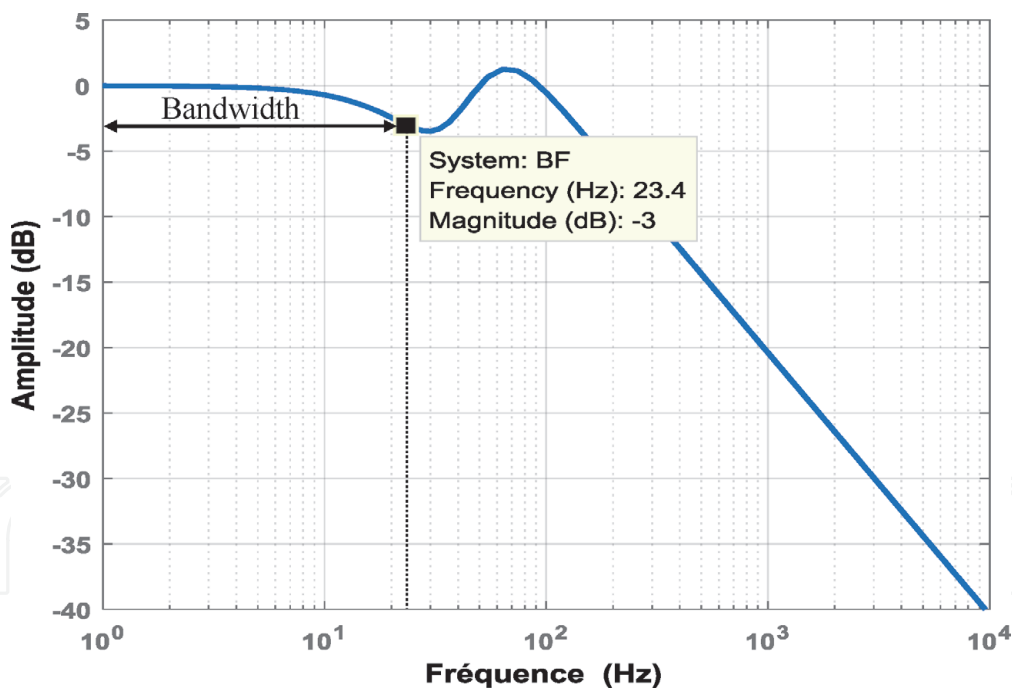


Figure 11.
Bode diagram of $F_{CL-Vc}(s)$.

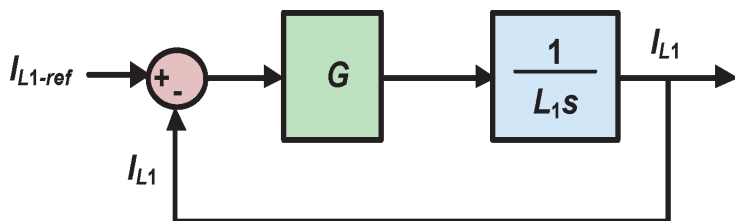


Figure 12.
Block diagram of the inner current loop.

$$\frac{1}{\tau_i} \gg 100 \Rightarrow \frac{G}{L_1} \gg 100 \Rightarrow G \gg 0.1 \tag{16}$$

We select G equal to 10. For this value, **Figures 13** and **14** present the pole maps of $F_{CL-IL}(s)$ and the Bode diagram of $F_{OL-IL}(s)$, respectively. These figures show that

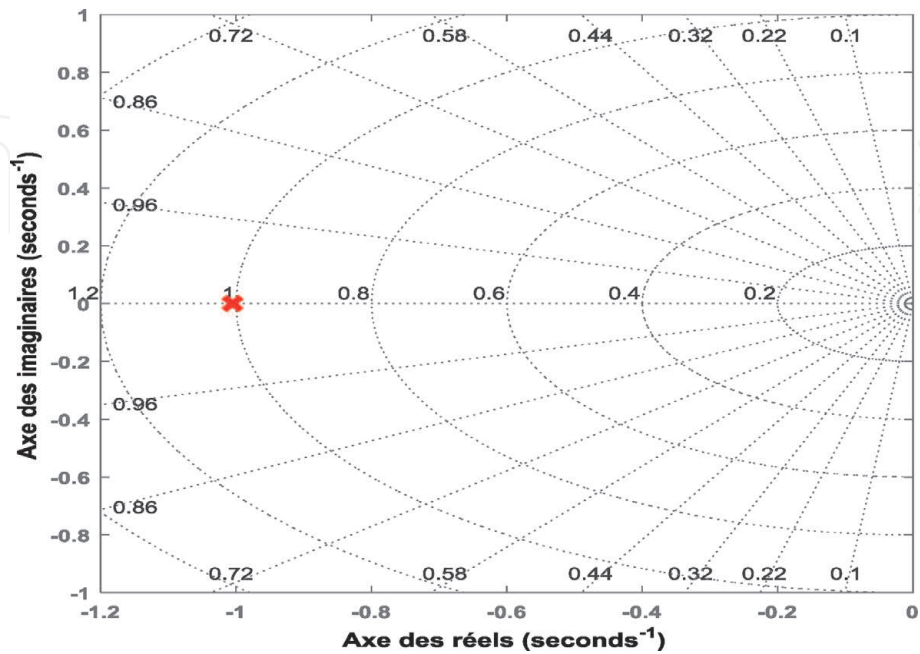


Figure 13.
Pole map of $F_{CL-IL}(s)$.

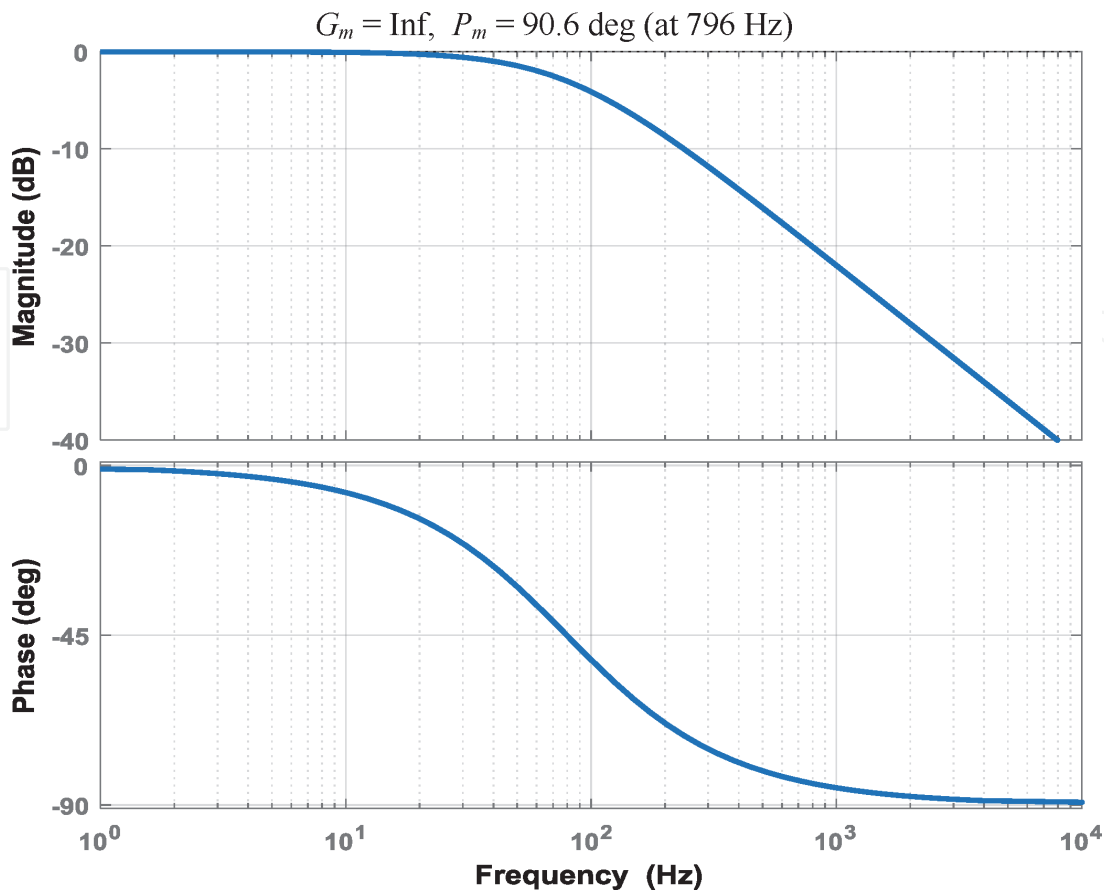


Figure 14.
Bode diagram of $F_{OL-IL}(s)$.

the system is stable and the obtained G_m is equal to infinity and the P_m is equal to 90.3° . **Figure 15** presents the gain of $F_{CL-IL}(s)$ and shows that the bandwidth of the inner current loop is equal to 785 Hz. This value is much higher than the bandwidth of the voltage external loop and shows that the current inner loop is much faster than the voltage external loop.

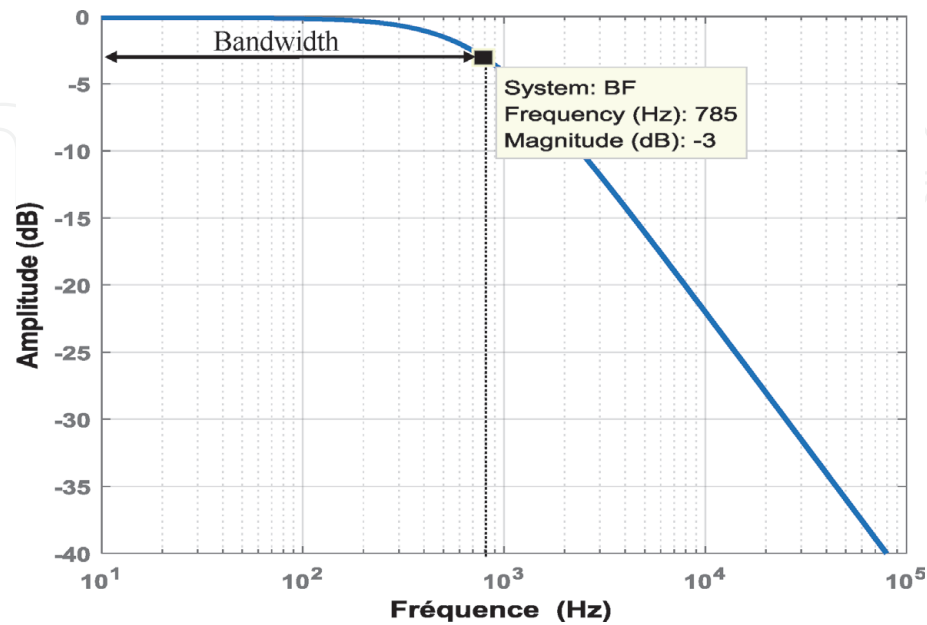


Figure 15.
Bode diagram of $F_{CL-IL}(s)$.

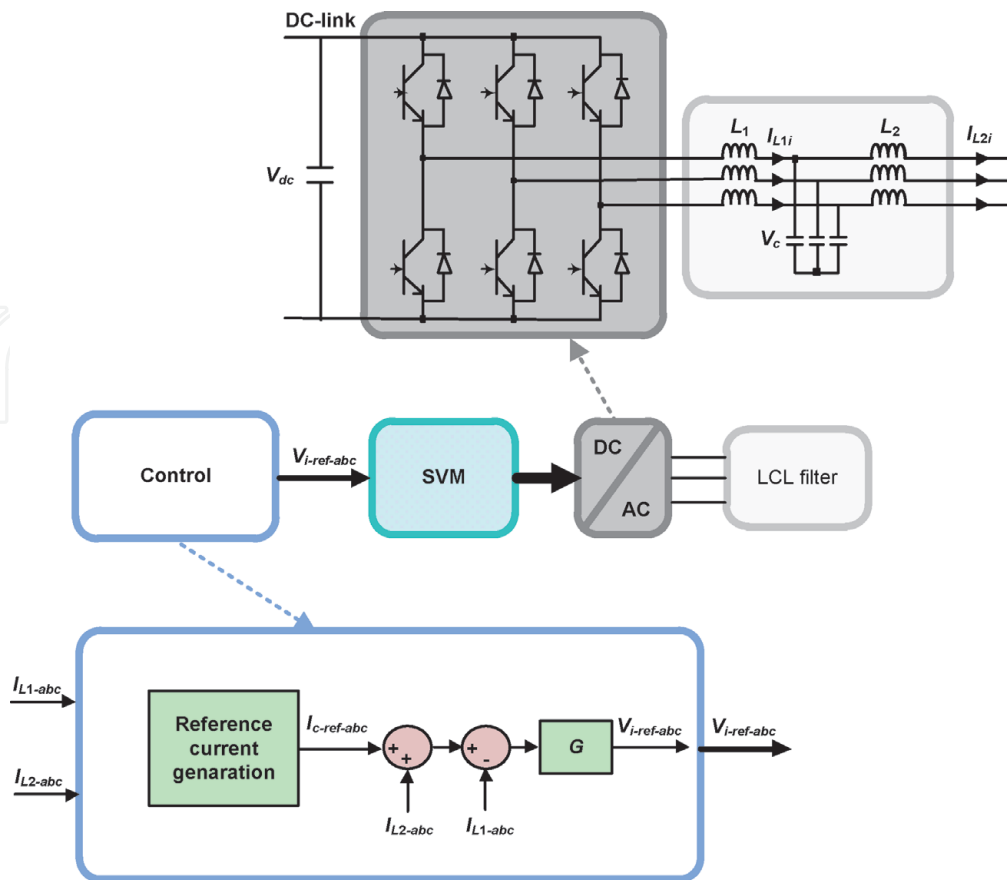


Figure 16.
Control strategy of DC/AC converter in case of grid connected mode.

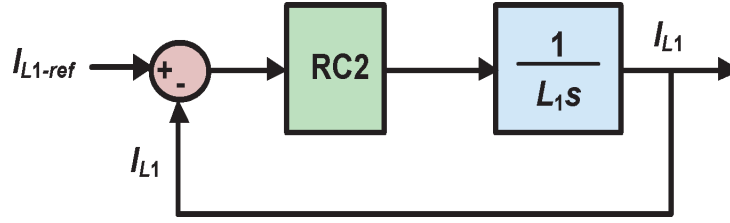


Figure 17.
Block diagram of the current loop.

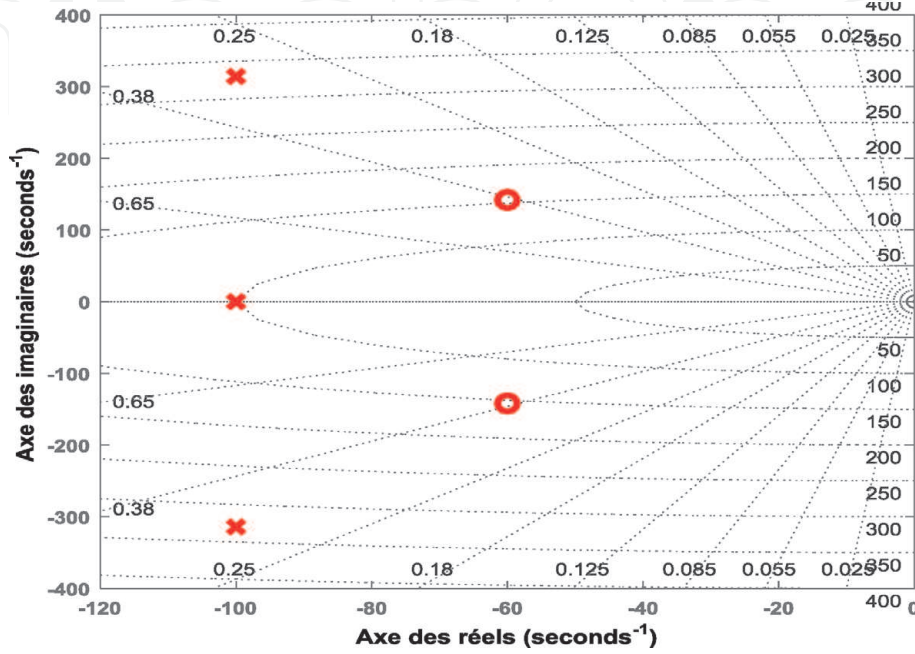


Figure 18.
Pole map of $F_{CL-i}(s)$.

3.3.2.2 Grid connected mode

In grid connection operation mode, the DC/AC converter controls power exchange with grid. In this mode, only the current loop is controlled. This loop is based on a resonant controller as shown in **Figure 16**.

The simplified block diagram of the current loop is given by **Figure 17**.

Based on **Figure 17**, the open and closed-loop transfer functions are given by Eqs. (18) and (19), respectively. The transfer function of the resonant controller RC_2 is given by Eq. (17):

$$F_{CR2}(s) = \frac{i_{2i}s^2 + i_{1i}s + i_{0i}}{s^2 + \omega_0^2} \quad (17)$$

$$F_{OL-i}(s) = \frac{I_{L1}}{I_{L1-ref} - I_{L1}} = \frac{i_{2i}s^2 + i_{1i}s + i_{0i}\omega_0^2}{L_1s^3 + L_1\omega_0^2s} \quad (18)$$

$$F_{CL-i}(s) = \frac{I_{L1}}{I_{L1-ref}} = \frac{i_{2i}s^2 + i_{1i}s + i_{0i}}{L_1s^3 + i_{2i}s^2 + (L_1\omega_0^2 + i_{1i})s + i_{0i}} \quad (19)$$

For the tuning of the internal loop resonant controller, the generalized stability margin criterion is considered. The system characteristic polynomial $P_i(s)$ is deduced from Eq. (19), and it is expressed as follows:

$$P_i(s) = L_1s^3 + i_{2i}s^2 + (L_1\omega_0^2 + i_{1i})s + i_{0i} \tag{20}$$

The identification between the system characteristic polynomial $P_i(s)$ and the generalized stability margin criterion reference polynomial $P_{GSMi}(s)$ [Eq. (21)] and the resonant controller RC_2 parameters are deduced as in Eq. (22):

$$P_{GSMi}(s) = \lambda_i(s + r_i)(s + r_i + j\omega_{ii})(s + r_i - j\omega_{ii}) \tag{21}$$

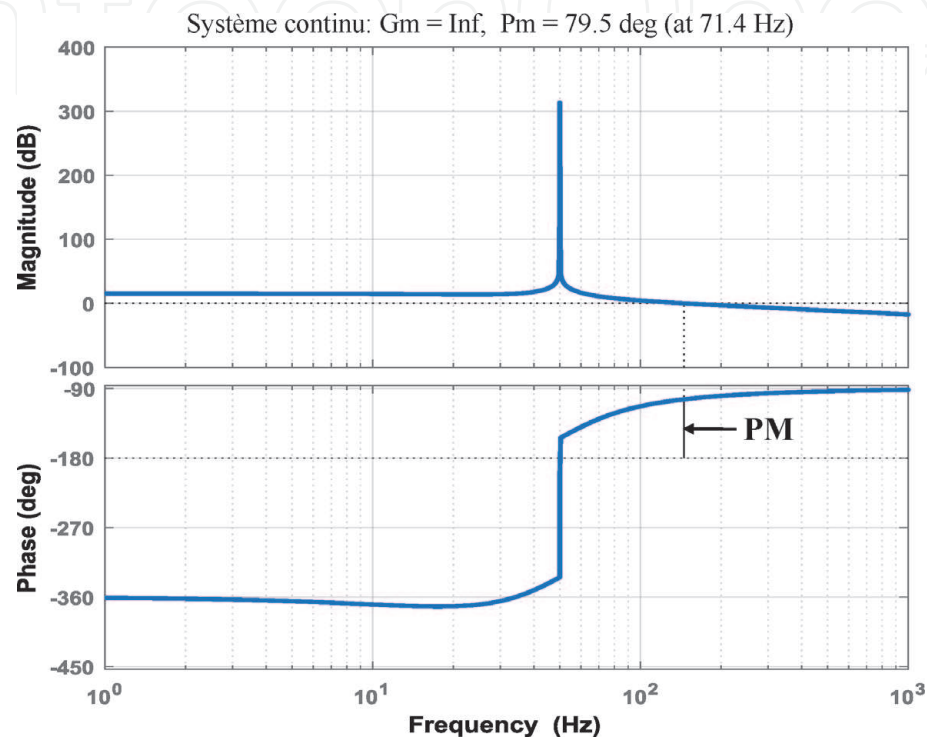


Figure 19.
Bode diagram of $F_{OL-i}(s)$.

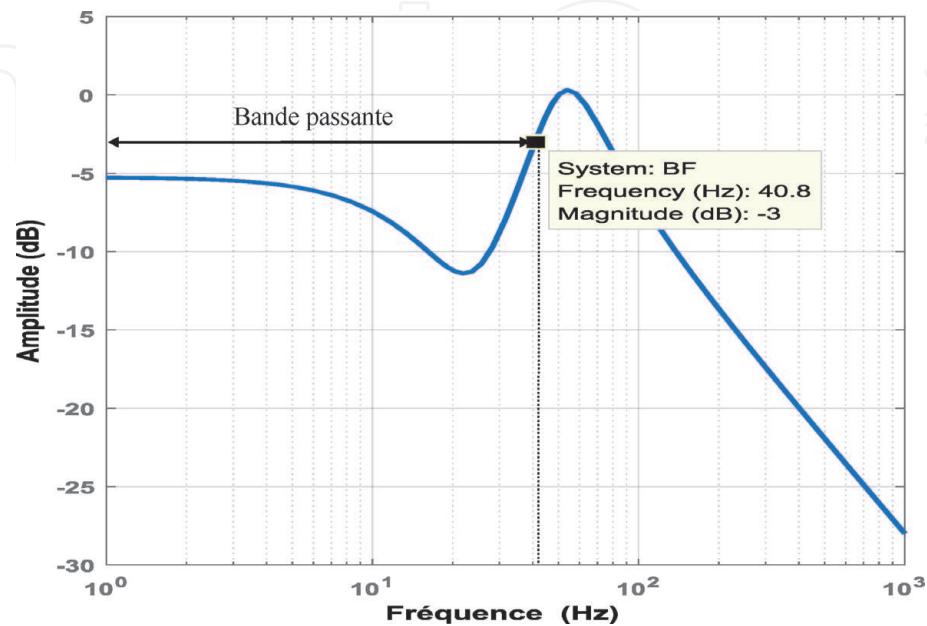


Figure 20.
Bode diagram of $F_{CL-i}(s)$.

$$\begin{cases} i_{2i} = 3r_i\lambda_i \\ i_{1i} = \lambda_i(3r_i^2 + \omega_{ii}^2) - L_1\omega_0^2 \\ i_{0i} = \lambda_i(r_i^3 + r_i\omega_{ii}^2) \\ \lambda_i = L_1 \end{cases} \quad (22)$$

We choose r_i equal to 100 and ω_{ii} equal to ω_g . For L_i equal to 2 mH, the resonant controller RC_2 parameters are given by the following equation:

$$\begin{cases} i_{2i} = 0.5 \\ i_{1i} = 60 \\ i_{0i} = 11870 \end{cases} \quad (23)$$

For the obtained resonant controller parameters, **Figure 18** shows the pole map of $F_{CL-i}(s)$. Based on this figure, the stability margin r_i is equal to the desired one. **Figure 19** gives the bode diagram of $F_{OL-i}(s)$. As mentioned on this figure, the gain margins G_m and P_m are equal to infinity and 79.5° , respectively. **Figure 20** presents the gain of $F_{CL-i}(s)$ and shows that the bandwidth of the internal current loop is equal to 40.8 Hz.

4. Simulation results

Several simulation tests developed under PSIM software were done. **Figure 21** presents the LCL filter capacitor voltage in islanded mode for different values of voltage reference $V_{c-ref-abc}$. As shown in this figure, the obtained voltages are equal to their references. **Figure 22** presents the power injected into the AC bus during 24 hours; this power corresponds to the PV generation. In this case all the batteries are considered to be charged to their SOC_{max} . The deduced reference current is presented in **Figure 23**.

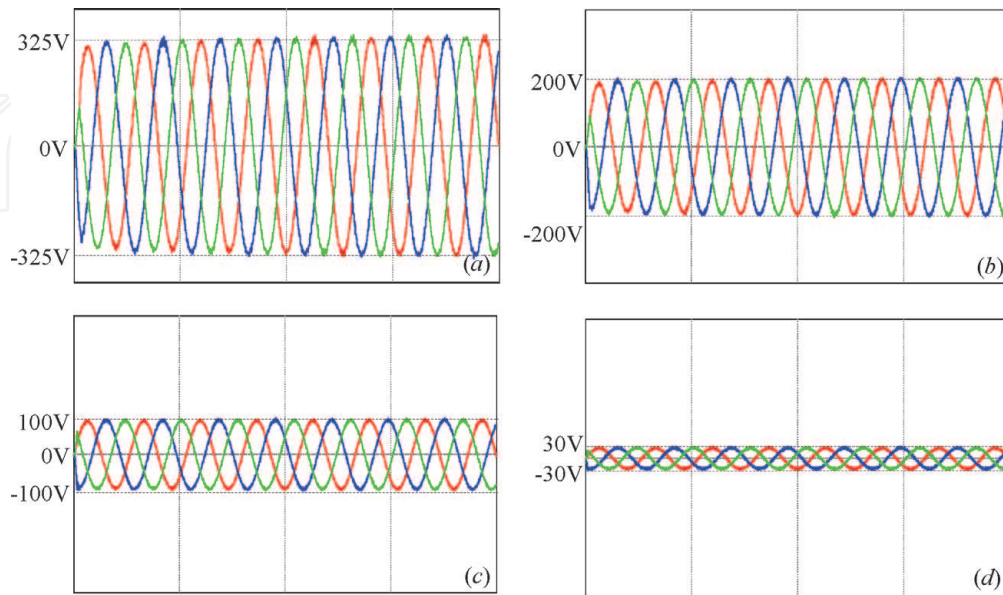


Figure 21.

LCL filter capacitor voltage in islanded mode for different values of voltage reference $V_{c-ref-abc}$: (a) $V_{c-ref-abc} = 325$ V, (b) $V_{c-ref-abc} = 200$ V, (c) $V_{c-ref-abc} = 100$ V, and (d) $V_{c-ref-abc} = 30$ V.

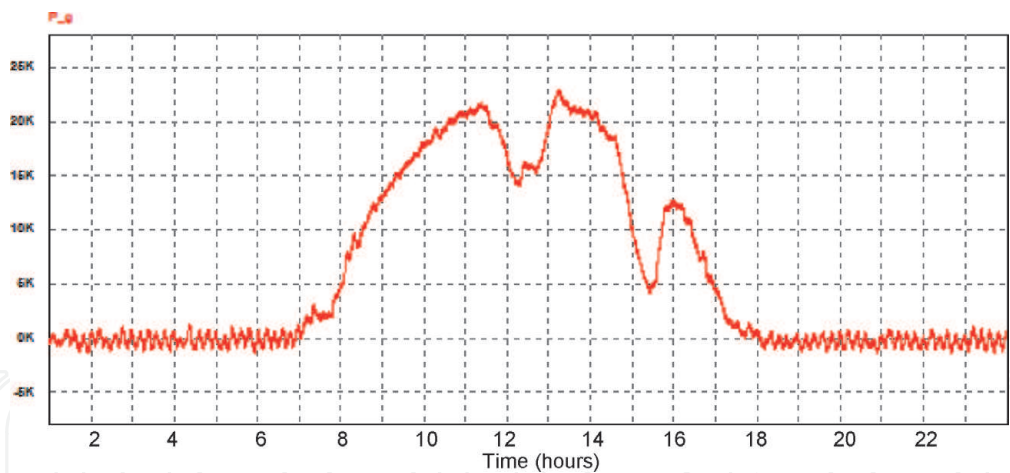


Figure 22.
Power injected into AC bus in case of connected mode.

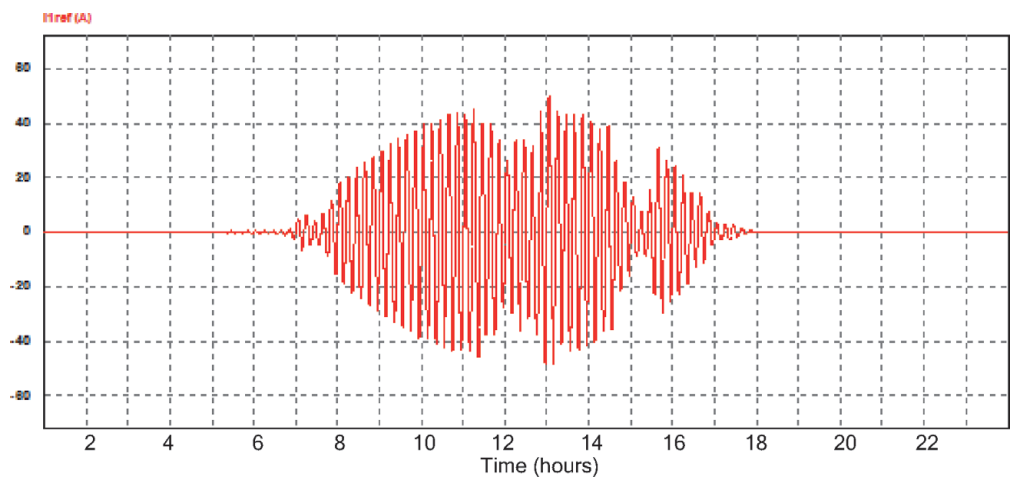


Figure 23.
Reference current in case of connected mode.

5. Experimental results

Figure 24 shows the experimental test bench. The used AC/DC converter is from SEMIKRON. Currents and voltages are censored via LEM LV25 and LEM 55LP, respectively, as given in **Figure 24**. The control algorithm is implemented on the STM32F4 Discovery. The acquisition time is set to 100 μ s. **Figure 25** presents the LCL filter capacitor voltage in islanded mode for different values of voltage reference $V_{c-ref-abc}$. As shown in this figure, the obtained voltages are equal to their references.

6. Conclusion

In this chapter, the control of power converters integrated in building solar system is investigated. The studied system is composed of a PV panel in parallel with a battery energy storage system which are linked to a DC bus, a DC/AC power converter, and an LCL filter interfacing between DC and AC bus. Single- and three-phase linear and nonlinear loads are connected to a four-wire AC bus.

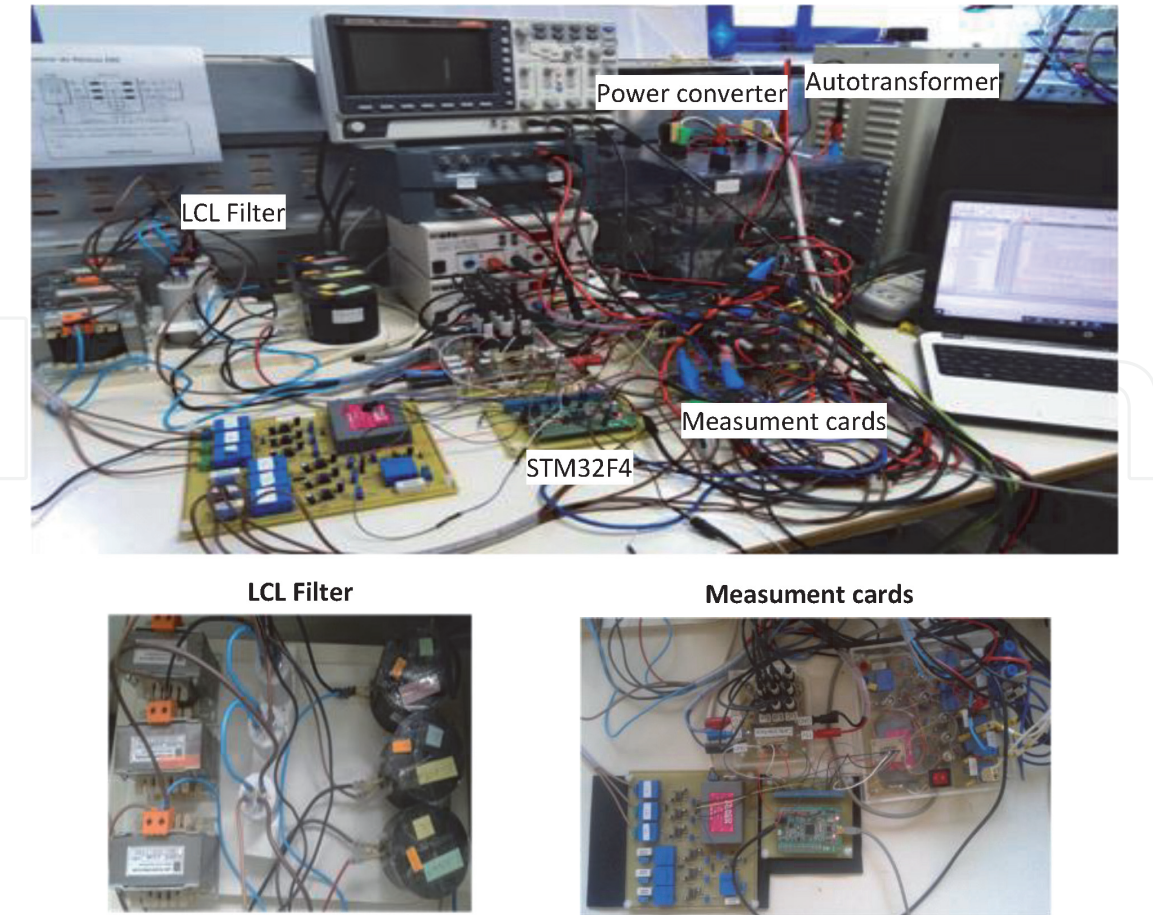


Figure 24.
Experimental test bench.

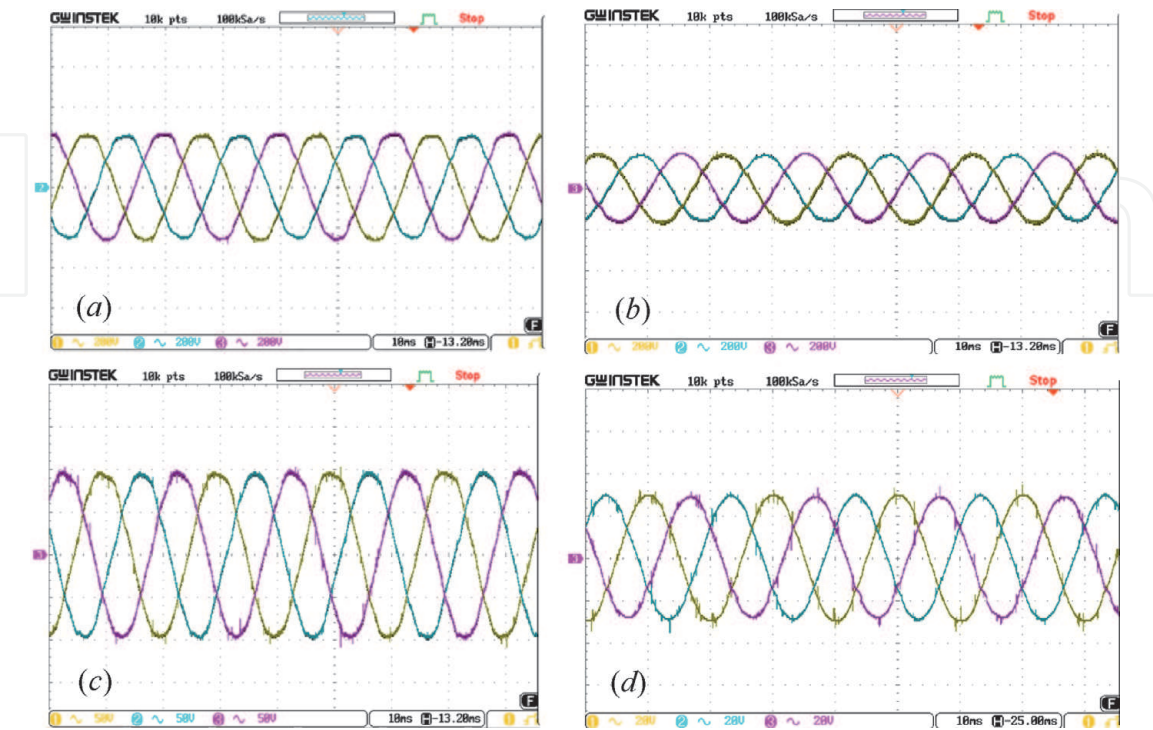


Figure 25.
Experimental results for LCL filter capacitor voltage in islanded mode for different values of voltage reference $V_{c-ref-abc}$: (a) $V_{c-ref-abc} = 325$ V, (b) $V_{c-ref-abc} = 200$ V, (c) $V_{c-ref-abc} = 100$ V, and (d) $V_{c-ref-abc} = 30$ V.

The neutral wire is generated through a Delta/Star grounded transformer. An overview of the control of each power converter is presented. This chapter focuses on the control of the DC/AC power converter. The resonant controller is adopted. A set of simulation and experimental tests were done to show the efficiency of the studied control algorithm.

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