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Synchronization of isolated microgrids with renewable energy sources under distorted voltages

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I. Introduction

Motivation

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- Colombia is a privileged country in terms of wide access to natural resources.
- High levels of solar radiation are complemented with richness of hydraulic resources spread all over the country.
- Particular features of local geography makes difficult to provide electricity to communities at certain rural zones.
- In isolated (i.e. non interconnected) areas it is typical the use of low-power generator-sets to attend electric power demand.

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- Reasons motivating the latter include the need of technical and technological tools to handle the intermittency and volatility of non conventional energies.
- Poor performance of commercial equipment operating at low power rates (power quality of cheap generator-sets).
- The development of low-cost, microgeneration systems including renewable sources, becomes an interesting topic for R&D projects supporting economical and social development at rural zones.

II. Isolated microgrid under study

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- The performance of conventional generators operating at low-power and the volatility of renewable sources constitute challenges (from the technical and technological viewpoint) to achieve that goal.

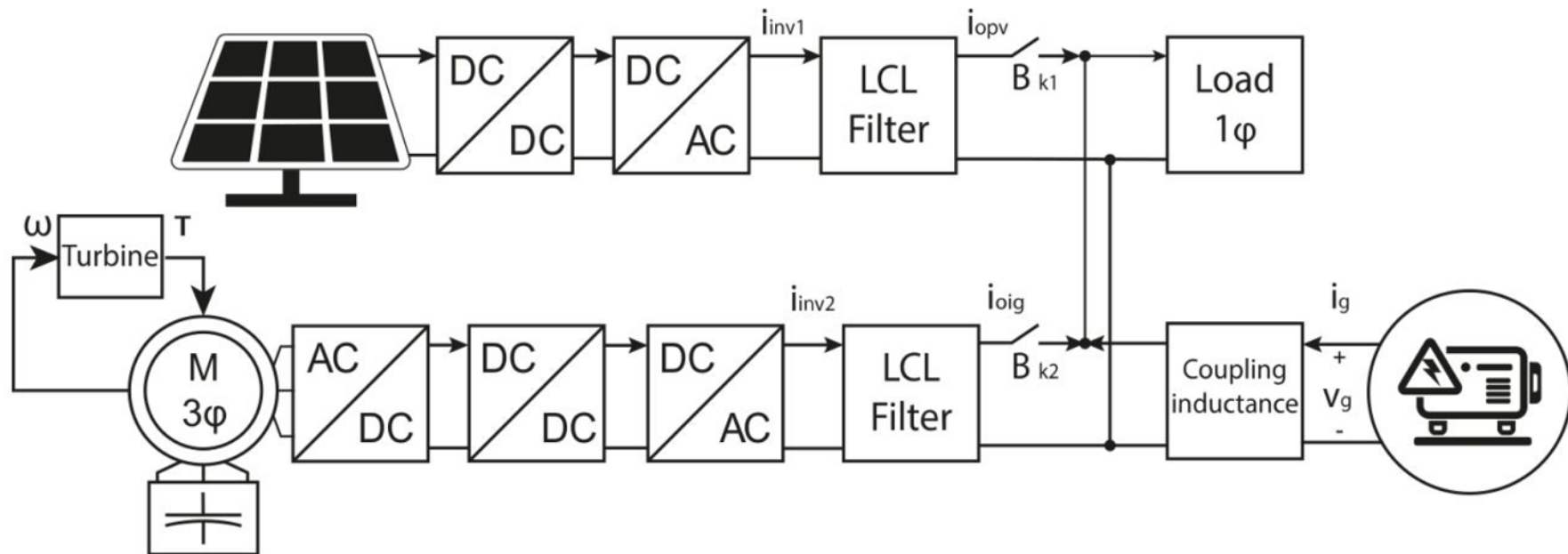
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- The performance of conventional generators operating at low-power and the volatility of renewable sources constitute challenges (from the technical and technological viewpoint) to achieve that goal.
- Besides the local control of every source, a more complicated situation becomes their parallel interconnection as a grid, requiring a high degree of synchronization.

Problem statement

Problem statement

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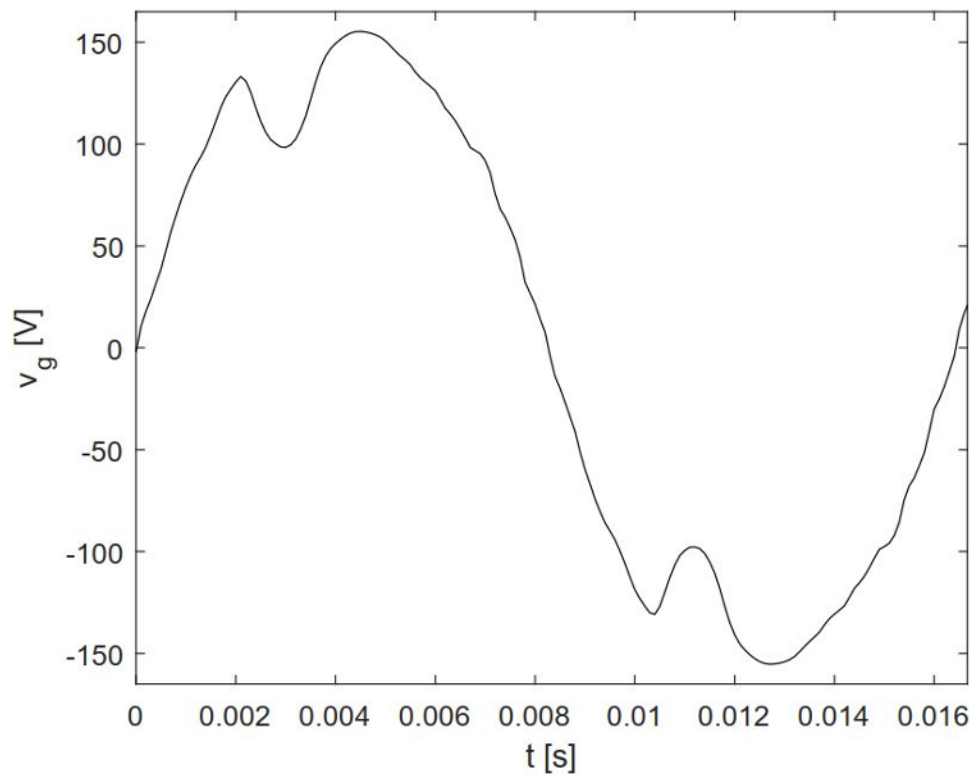
Problem statement

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Problem statement

Problem statement



Problem statement

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Problem statement

How to achieve synchronization of sources in an isolated microgrid including renewable resources, where the reference generator is a generator-set with harmonic content?

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- LCL type filter couplings.

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- Further work is currently developed on a real prototype of the system.

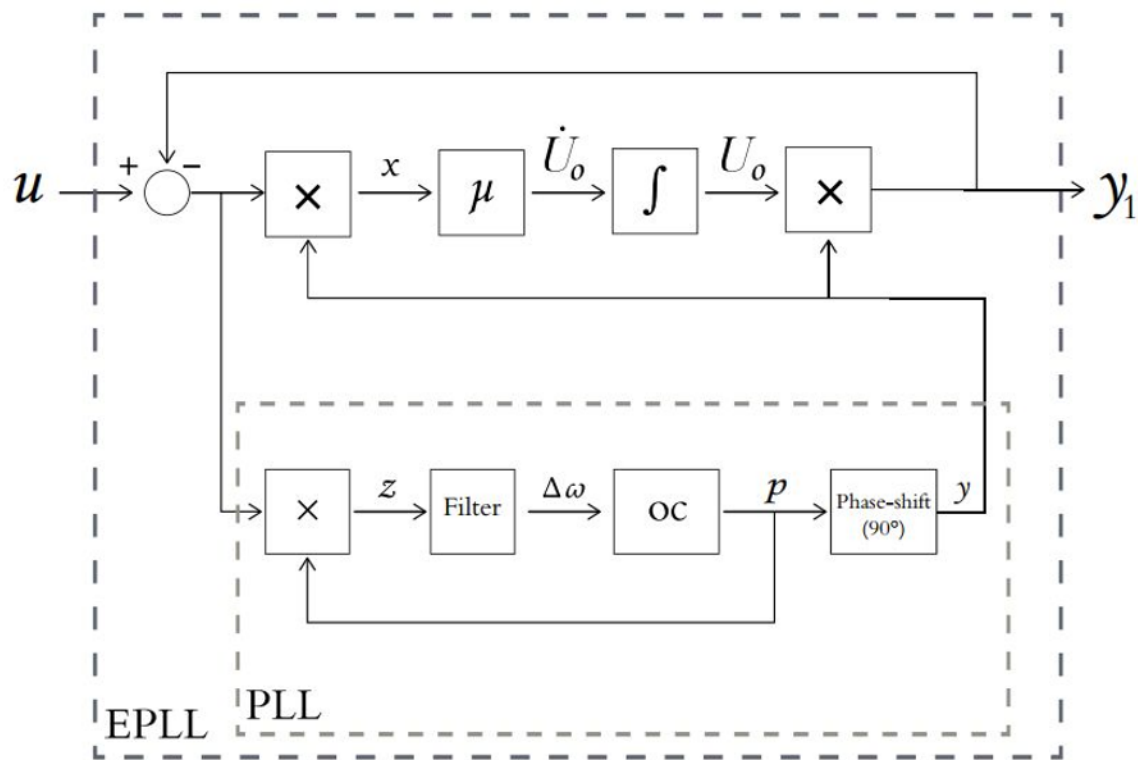
III. Synchronization strategy

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- PLLs were originally developed for applications in telecommunication systems. However, same ideas can be extended to synchronization of power generators.
- A conventional PLL tracks the phase of a sinusoidal signal, assuming there are not variations in amplitude and frequency parameters.
- A robust approach in practice is the so-called Enhanced PLL (EPLL), being able to recover the phase and amplitude of the original sinusoidal signal.



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- PLLs are based on sinusoidal waveforms and then bandpass filtering was applied to the reference waveform (i.e. output voltage of the generator-set) to extract its fundamental component.
- Moreover, frequency variations in the reference waveform are captured by the EPLL constituting an adaptive correction for the filter.

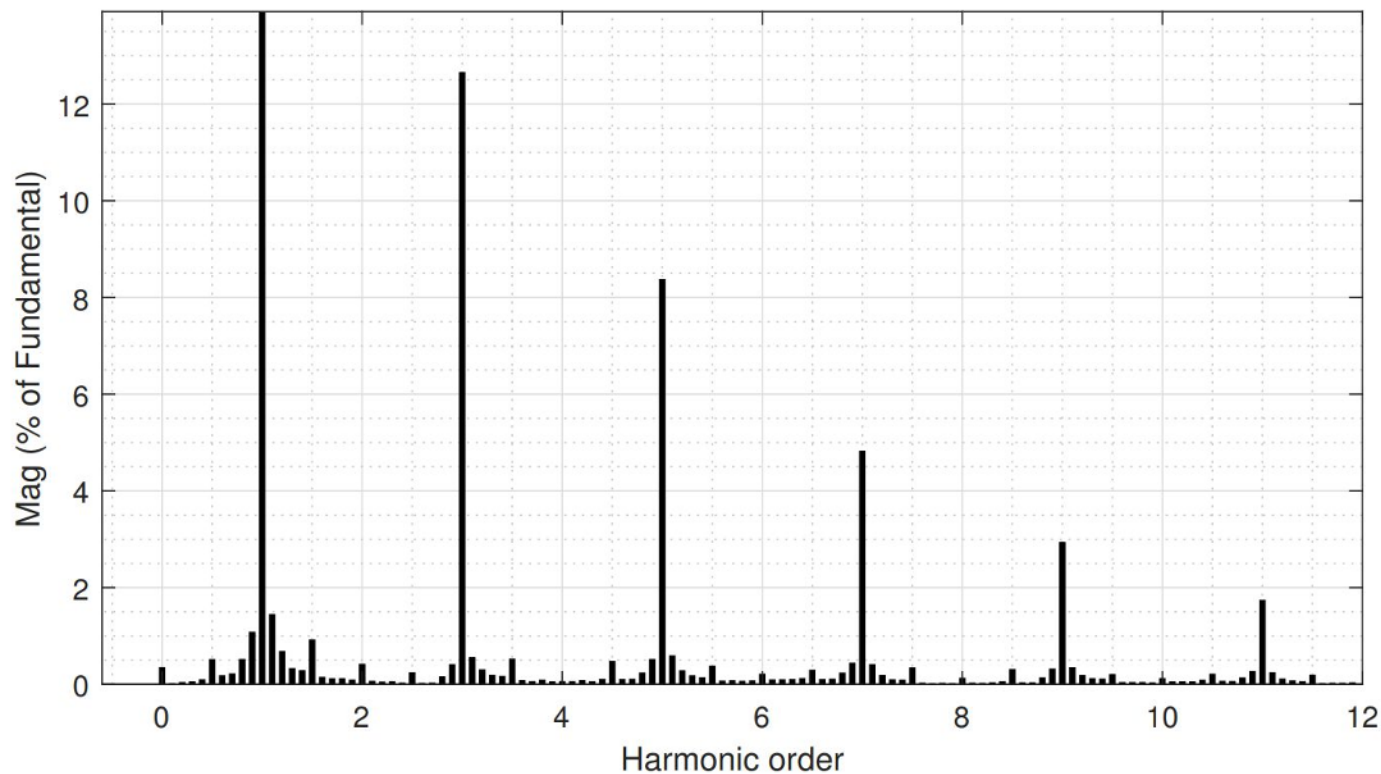
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- The sinusoidal waveform at the output of the EPLL block is fed as the reference signal of a double-loop resonant controller regulating current and voltage values at the output of each power inverter.

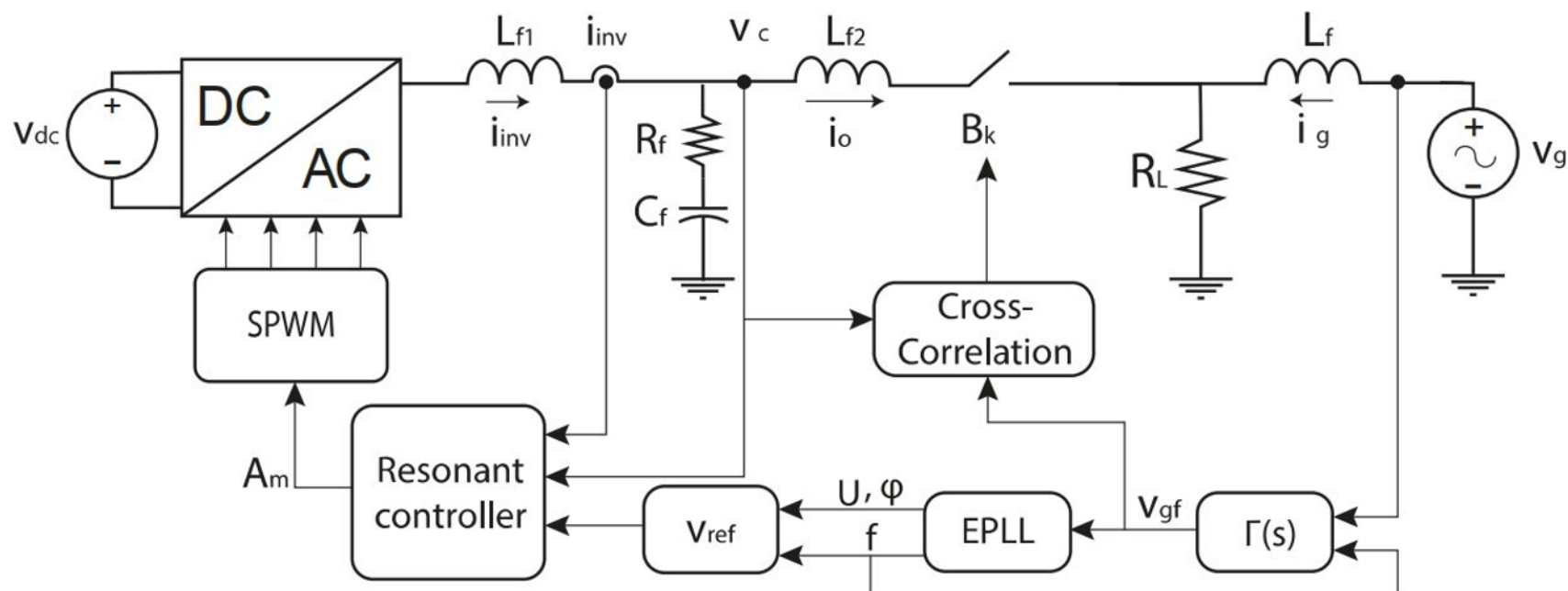
- The interconnection of sources is conditioned to values of a cross-correlation index (Pearson's correlation coefficient), measuring the similarity between the output signal of the power inverter and the filtered version of the voltage reference.

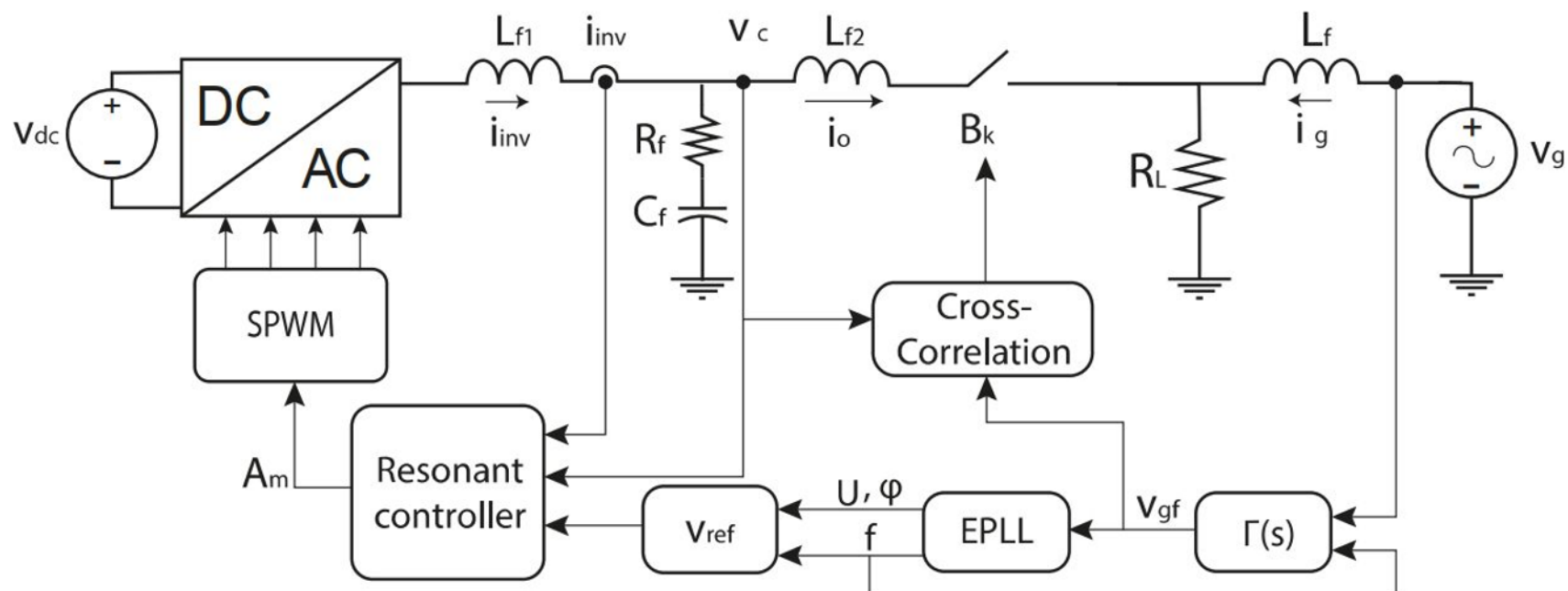
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$$\rho = \frac{\sigma_{V_c V_g}}{\sigma_{V_c} \sigma_{V_g}},$$

being $\sigma_{V_c V_g}$ the covariance of (V_c, V_g) , σ_{V_c} the standard deviation of V_c and σ_{V_g} the standard deviation of V_g .







$$\Gamma(s) = \frac{ks}{s^2 + 2\zeta\omega_n s + \omega_n^2}$$

IV. Results

Simulation scenario

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- The general scenario starts at $t = 0$ with the generator-set feeding a load of 1.5 kW.

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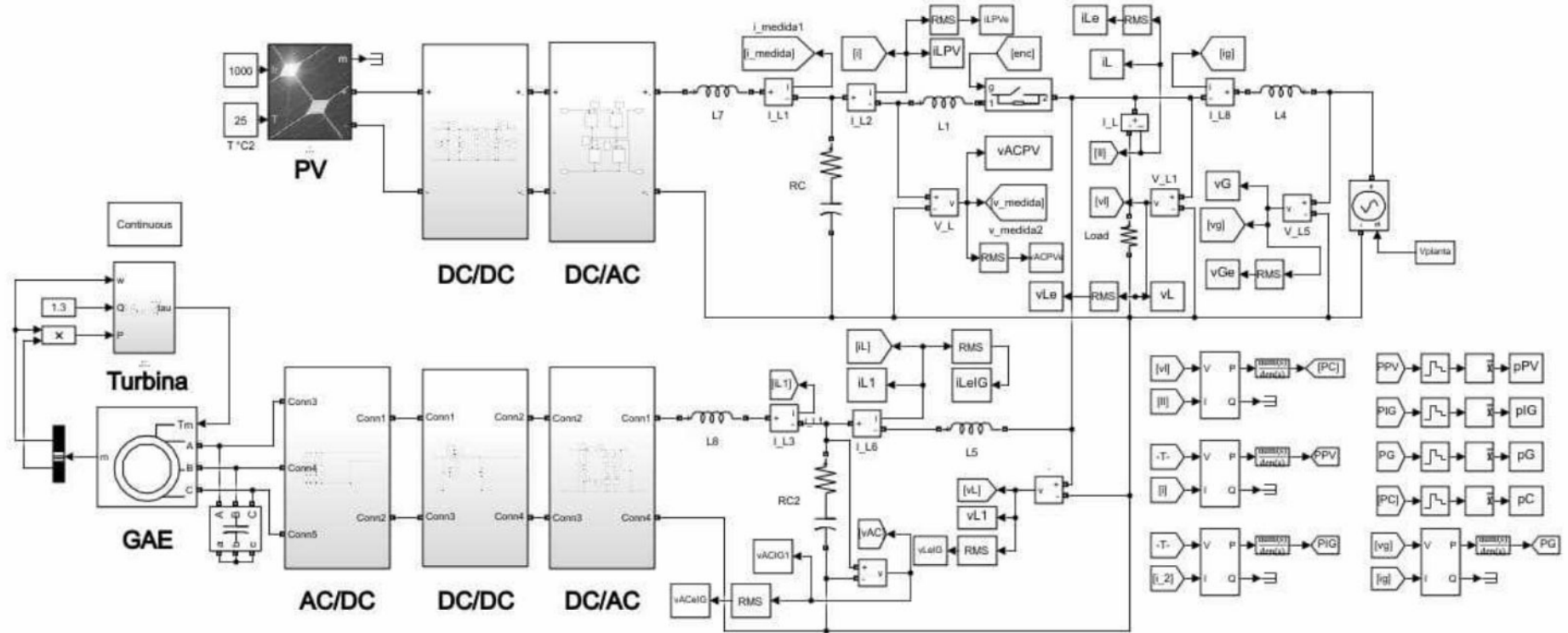
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- for $t = 3$, a perturbation is applied to the reference voltage, altering its amplitude, frequency and phase.
- Results allow to confirm that synchronization is recovered in spite of disturbances.

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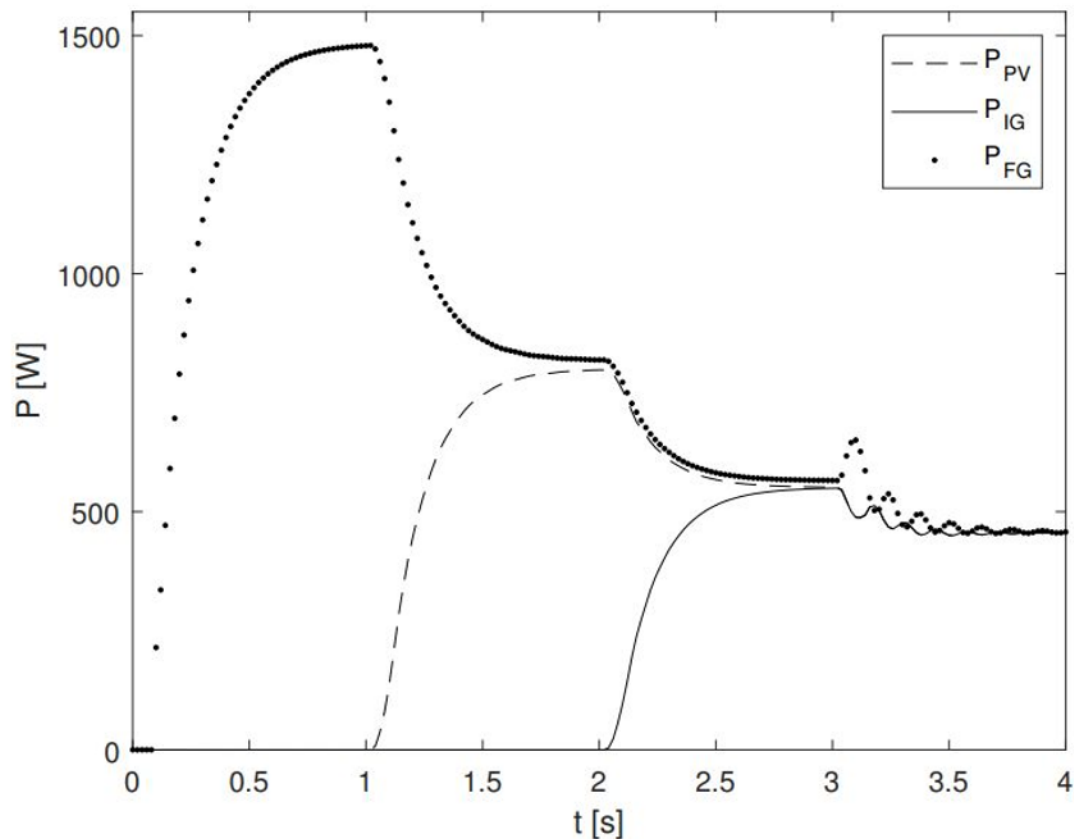
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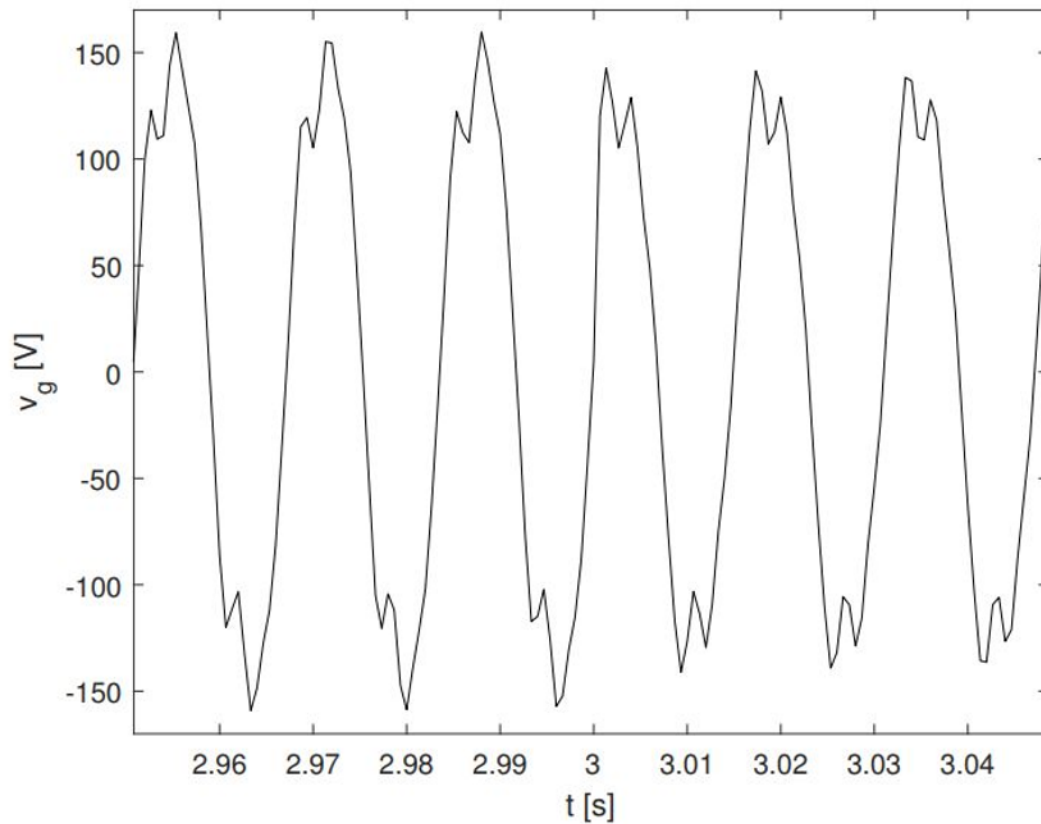
Power sharing

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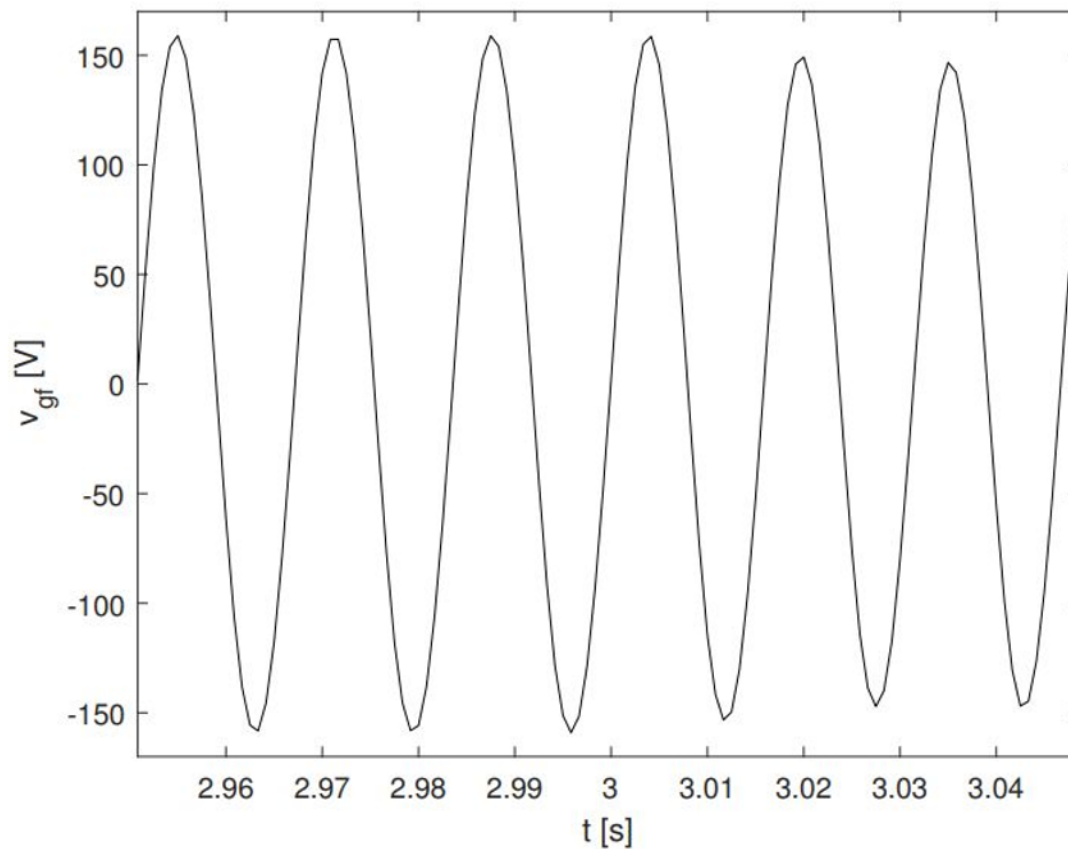
Power sharing



Filtering

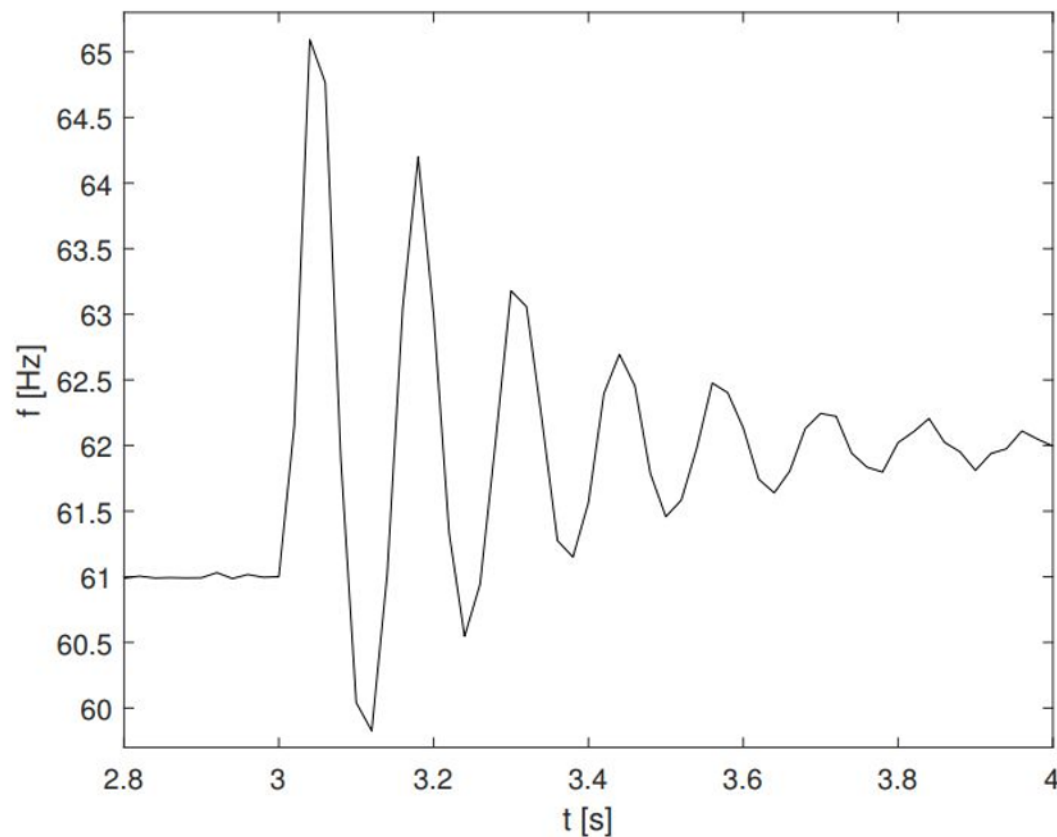


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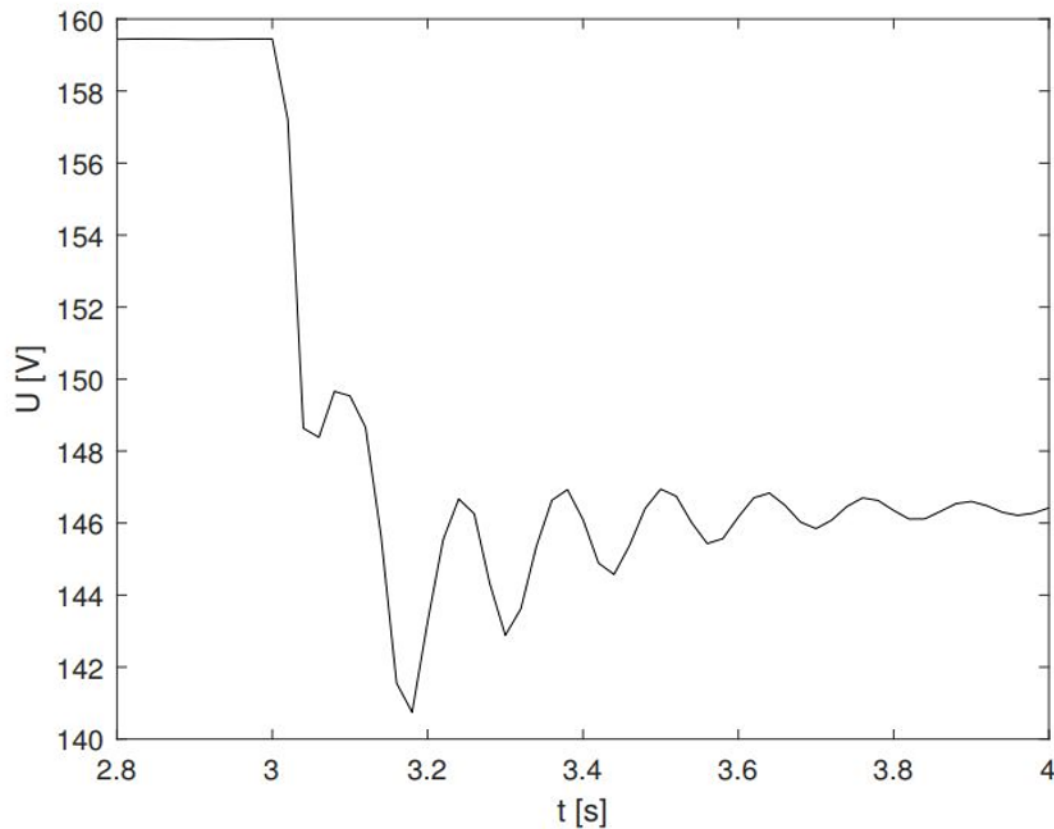
Parameters

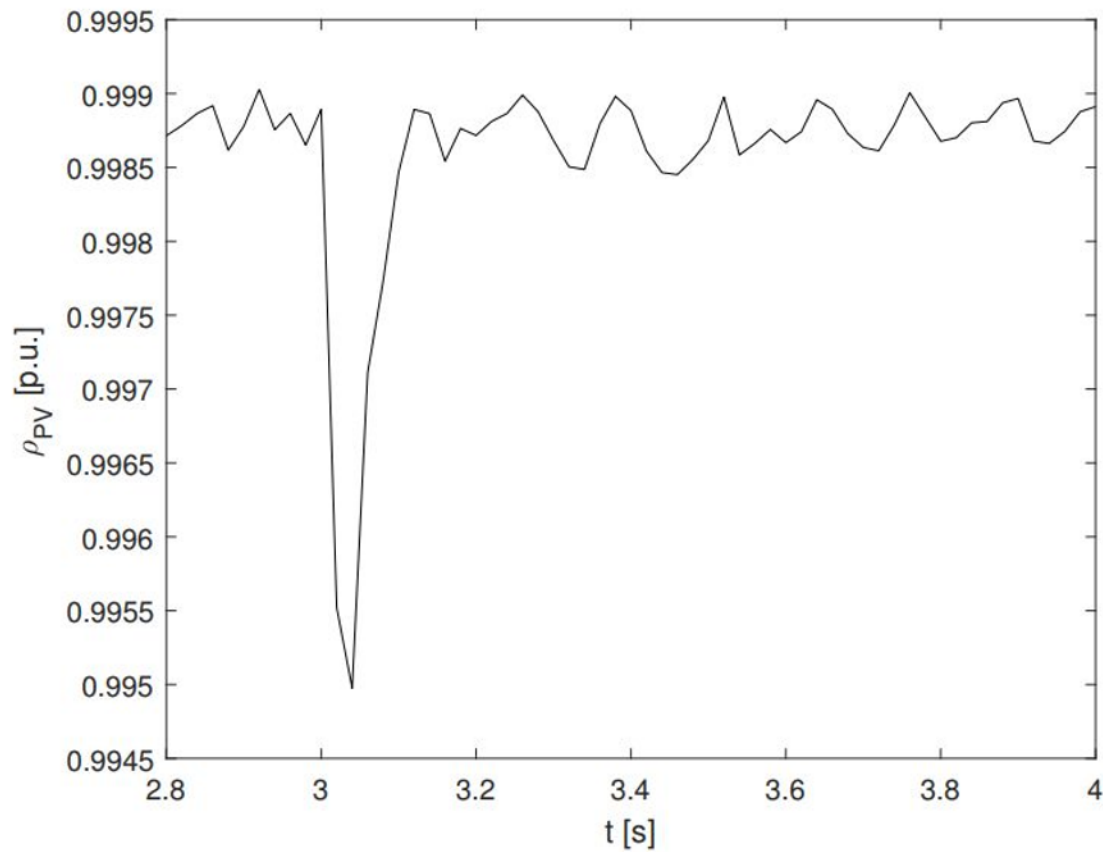
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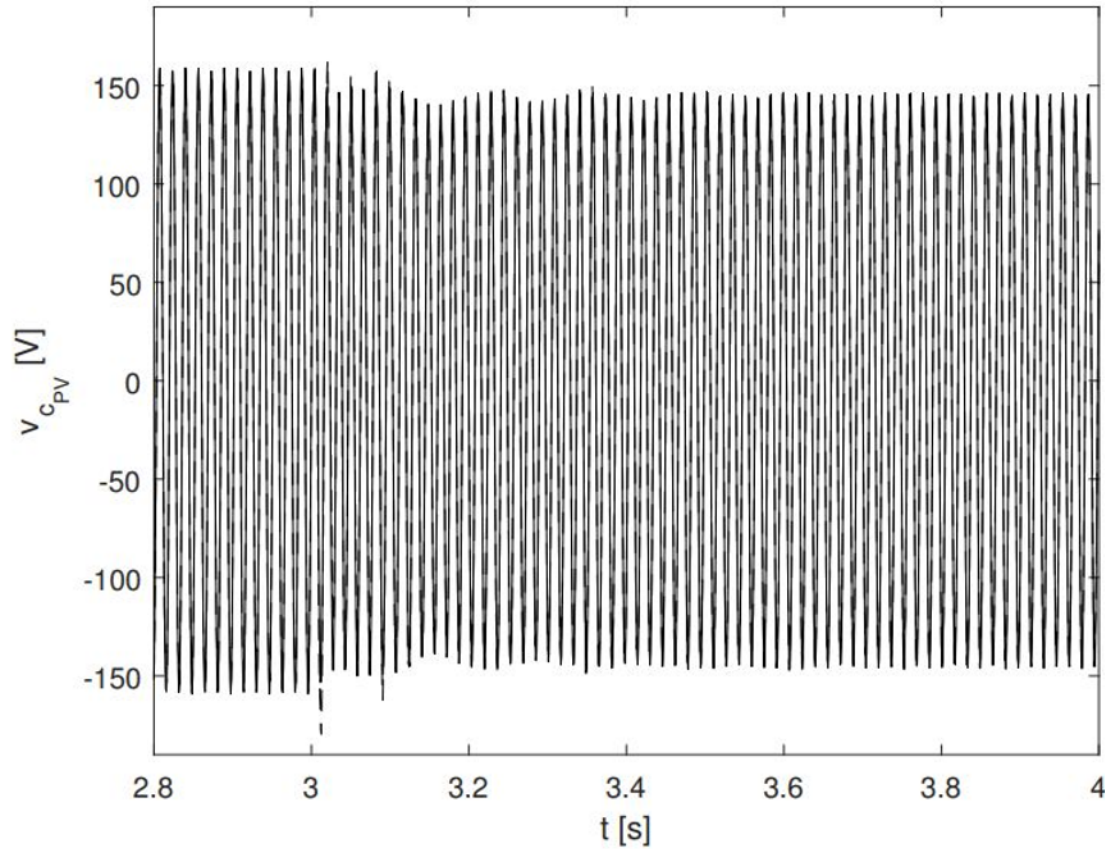


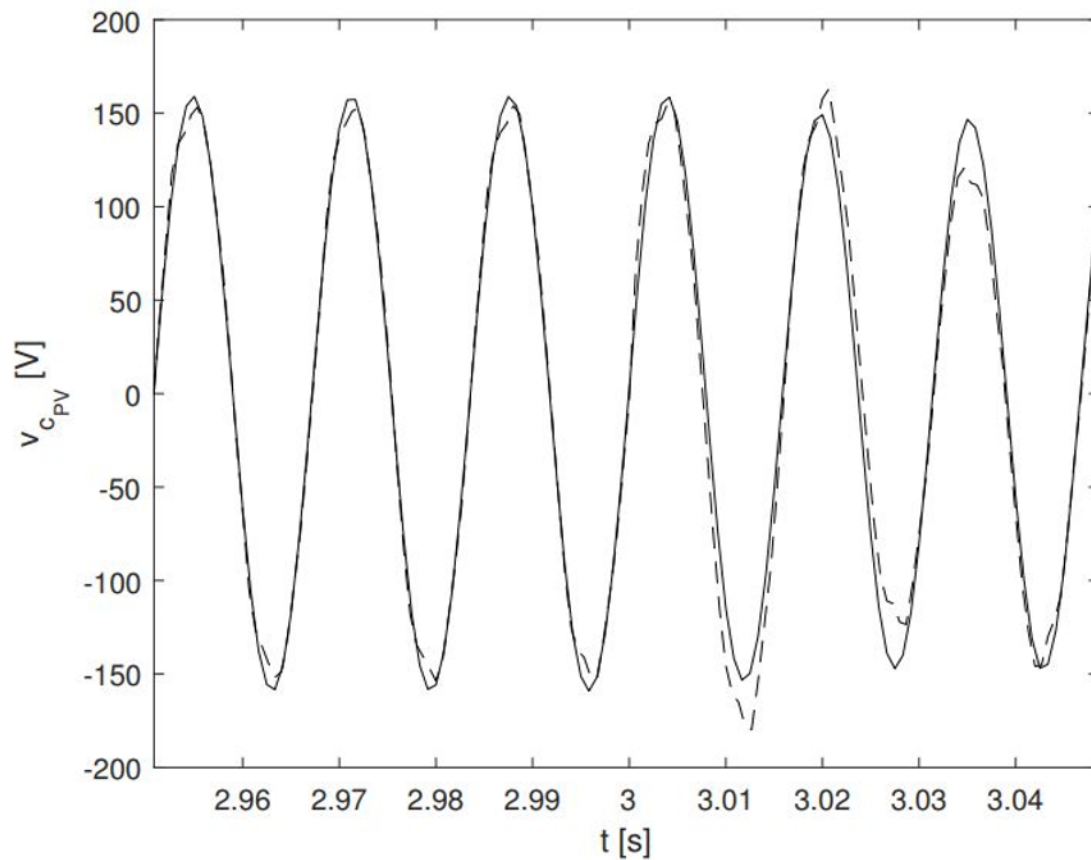
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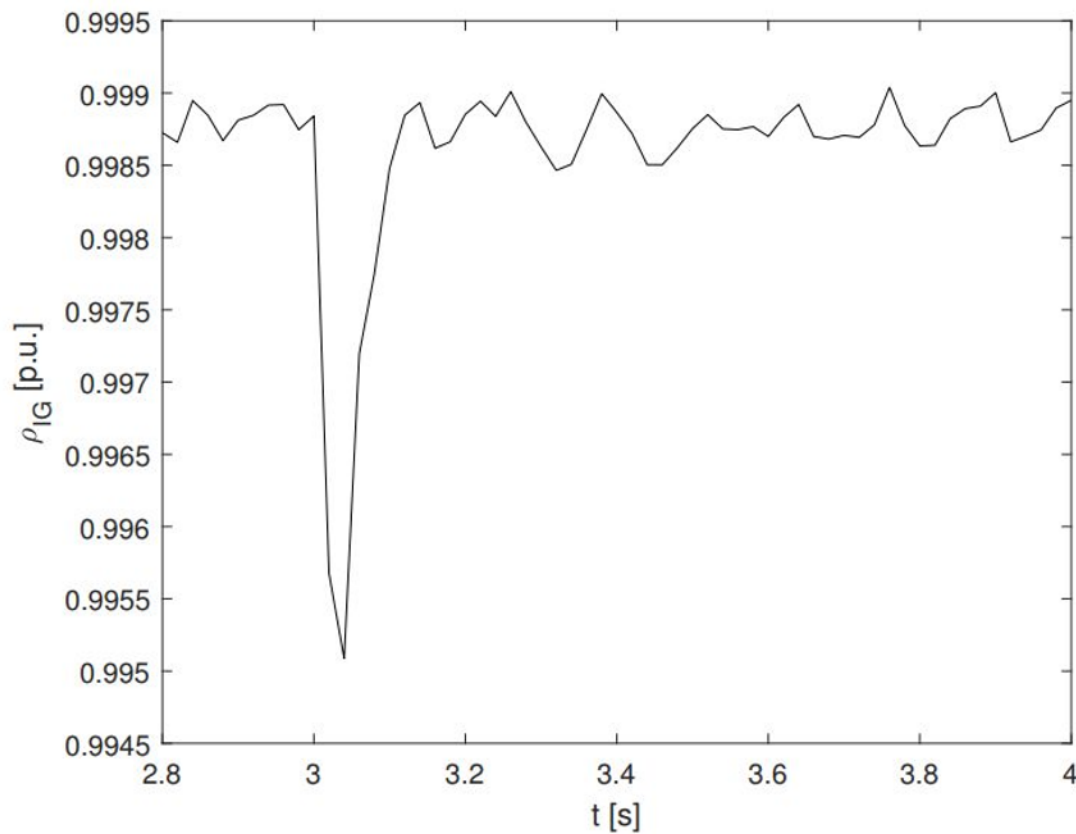
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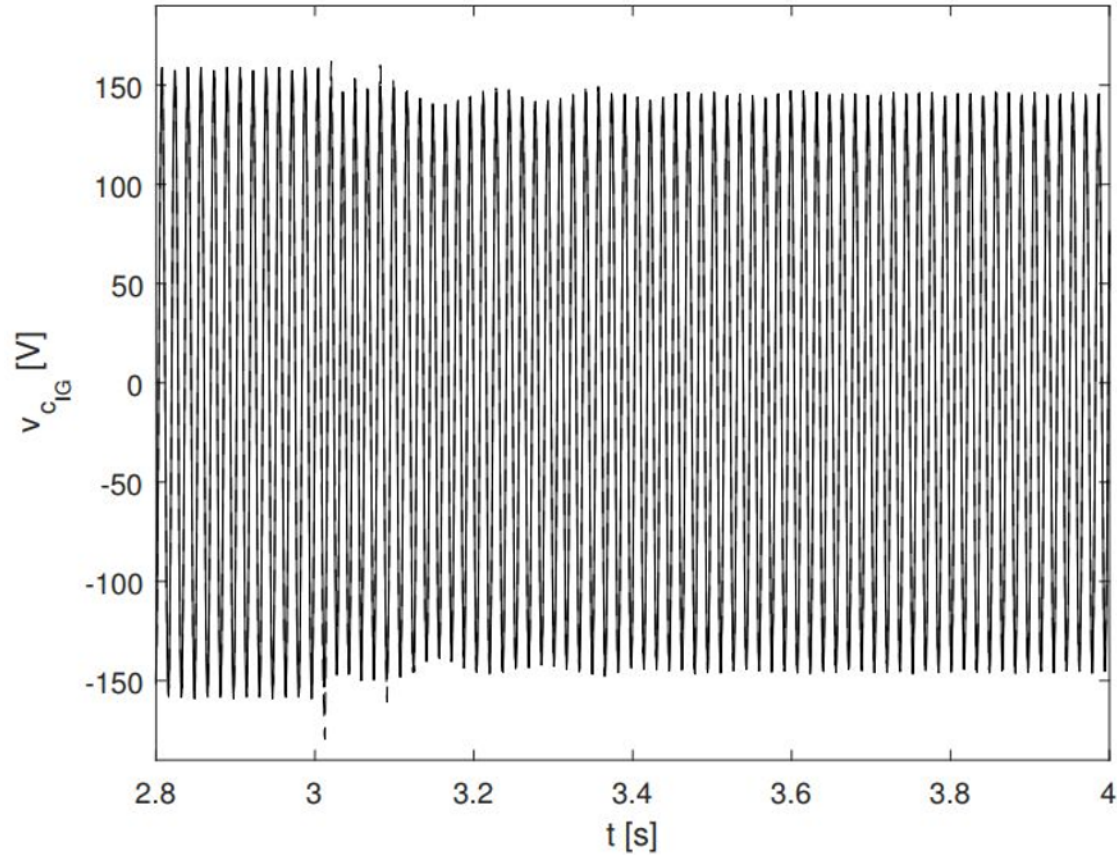


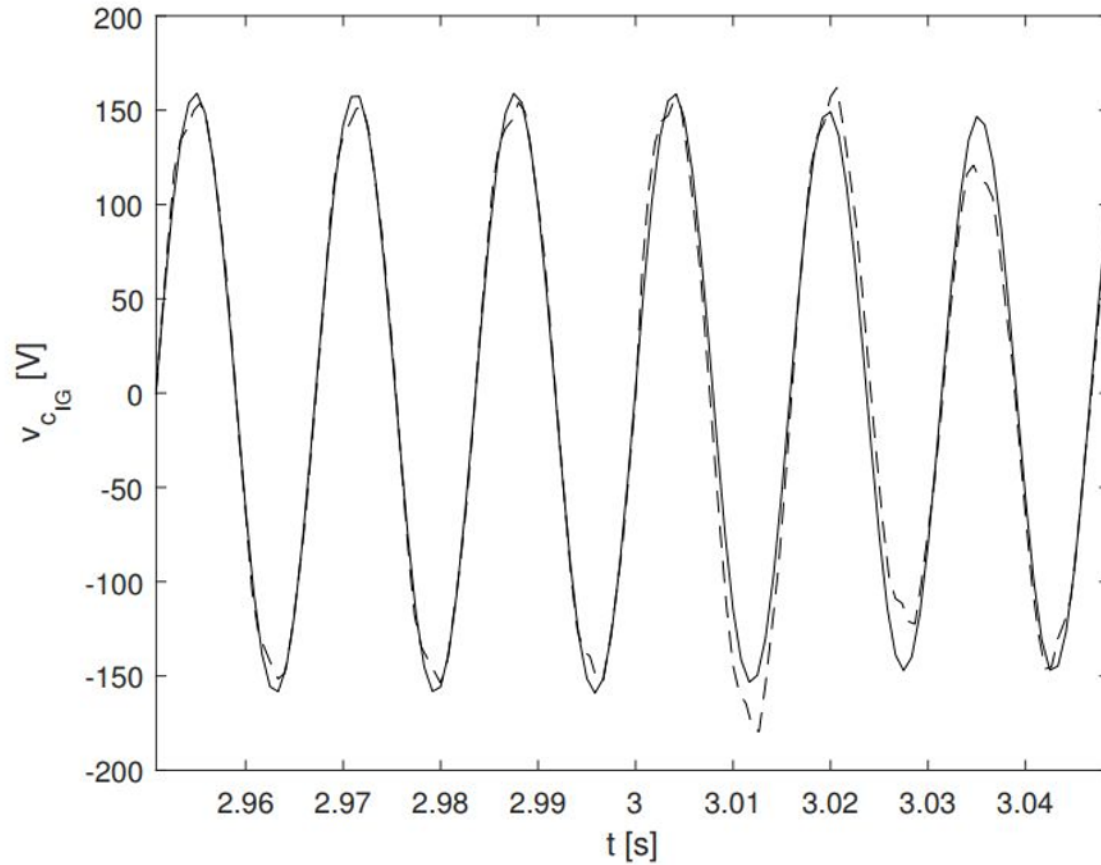












V. Conclusions

Concluding remarks

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- A synchronization scheme composed of an EPLL, an adaptive bandpass filter and a cross-correlation index, has been proposed to perform interconnection of sources in an isolated microgrid combining renewable resources with a generator-set including harmonic content.

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- Simulation results unveiled the robustness of the proposed scheme to disturbances applied to parameters of the voltage reference signal.
- Ongoing work is currently devoted to experimental verification of the proposed synchronization strategy on a laboratory prototype built at the Universidad Industrial de Santander.

Acknowledgements

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Questions?

Thank you for your attention !!!

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