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*CORRESPONDENCE Haoheng Li, ⊠ ephoen@mail.scut.edu.cn

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Fault current limiting control of full-scale wind power generators based on switched bang-bang scheme

Kankai Shen¹, Jingyi Li¹, Yaozhong Zhang¹, Haoheng Li²* and Yang Liu²

¹Power China Huadong Engineering Corporation Limited, Hangzhou, China, ²School of Electric Power Engineering, South China University of Technology, Guangzhou, China

This paper proposes a fault current limiting scheme (FCLS) for full-scale wind power generators based on logic bang-bang funnel control (LBFC). Different from the convention methods such as frequency droop control and sliding control, which design the control strategy according to the specific fault currents, LBFC is able to restrict various fault current within acceptable range in the shortest time, and it is robust to system nonlinearities and external disturbances. The control signal of the LBFC is bang-bang with the upper and lower limits of control variables. In the model of full-scale wind power generators connecting with the power grid, LBFC is designed to control the switches of inverter bridges when over-current is detected, and a vector controller is applied during the normal operation. Time-domain simulations were conducted with PSCAD, and the performance of LBFC was validated.

KEYWORDS

bang-bang funnel controller, fault current limiting, switching control, wind turbine generator, wind turbine

1 Introduction

Energy transition brings great challenges to the stable operation of the power grid. The transient stability of large-scale wind power penetrated power systems (WPPS) is increasingly influenced by the dynamics of wind power plants (Wang et al., 2015). Renewable power sources are connected to power grids through flexibly controlled power electronics inverters (Liu et al., 2017), which introduce completely different dynamics into power grids in comparison with synchronous generators (SGs) (Li et al., 2020). Under an extreme event, an effective control system of wind power generators can enhance the reliability of wind power generation and prevent wind farms from tripping, which helps to alleviate the power unbalance and improve the transient stability of large scale WPPSs. The reliability of future renewable energy generation is the major challenge for the development of renewable power sources (Enslin, 2016; Wu et al., 2023). To ensure that the power system can operate stably and has strong anti-disturbance ability. Much research has been done to meet these expectations and challenges.

The concept of Frequency Droop Control was initially introduced in Chandorkar et al. (1993) for regulating the operation of parallel-connected inverters in autonomous AC power grids. This control scheme involved determining the frequency and magnitude of the inverter voltage vectors using active power-frequency



droop and reactive power-voltage droop characteristics, as outlined in Behera and Saikia (2022); Silva et al. (2022). The primary objective of this approach was to make the parallel-connected inverters mimic the load-sharing behavior of traditional SGs to maintain a stable frequency and voltage in the external power grid (Li et al., 2021). However, it was observed that this frequency and voltage droop method exhibited a sluggish and oscillatory transient response (Guerrero et al., 2004).

To address these limitations, a phase angle droop control mechanism was introduced in Marwali et al. (2004) for the management of autonomously operating inverter-interfaced power grids. In this strategy, the regulation of the phase angle of the inverter voltage vector, as opposed to the system frequency, was accomplished by employing an active power-phase angle droop characteristic. This was done to ensure the proper distribution of loads among the parallel-connected inverters. An examination of the small-signal stability of inverter-interfaced power grids with phase angle droop controllers was carried out in Marwali et al. (2007), which affirmed the necessity of substantial angle droop gains for maintaining appropriate load sharing, especially in situations of system weakness. However, it's important to note that elevated droop gains can have an adverse impact on the overall stability of the system.

Furthermore, various nonlinear control techniques, such as fuzzy control (Jabr et al., 2011), sliding mode control (Martinez et al., 2012), and model predictive control Liu and Kong (2014) have also been applied for the integral control of the wind turbine. To ease the uncertainty and volatility caused by high penetration of renewable energy, the robustness and demand defence of grid were researched (Wang et al., 2024). Although



these nonlinear control methods have superior robustness to the nonlinearity and parameter uncertainty of the WPPS in contrast with linear control schemes, none of them has ever employed the maximum control energy of the converters of the permanent magnet synchronous generator (PMSG) in its control law.

In terms of improvements at the algorithmic aspect, some novel methods were used to study the stability of renewable energy generation (Chen L. et al., 2024; Liu et al., 2024). A method of combining multi-step reconfiguration with many-objective reduction is applied to deal with the power loss and load peak-valley fluctuation in distribution network (Li J. et al., 2024). Based on the neural network of dynamic recognition and autoreservoir (Liu J. et al., 2023), the load fluctuation can be predicted. In addition, methods such as artificial intelligence and deep reinforcement learning have also been applied to study the potential of renewable power systems in terms of operation (Li et al., 2023; Li Y. et al., 2024).

Combining the advantages of linear and nonlinear control methods and exploring the potential of the already existing control system of the PMSG, bang-bang control scheme is employed here for the integral control of the PMSG to enhance the transient stability of large-scale WPPSs (Chen X. et al., 2024). The bang-bang control scheme has ever been used for the excitation control of synchronous generators in Kobayashi and Ichiyanagi (1978). The bang-bang control law is derived by solving the canonical equation of the system's Hamiltonian, which, in turn, necessitates the computation of the Hamiltonian's derivatives. Yet, the need for precise system parameters and the intricate nature of the Hamiltonian have unquestionably impeded its implementation within extensive power systems (Chen et al., 2023). A bang-bang funnel controller (BBFC) is proposed for the nonlinear system having arbitrary known relative degree (Liberzon and Trenn, 2013). Apart from the existing researches, the design of the BBFC does not require the detailed system information, and the system nonlinearity, uncertainty and the impact of external disturbances are considered (Liu et al., 2016b; Liu Y. et al., 2023). It involves logic calculation only, which facilitates its application in the computationally burdened control systems (Kang et al., 2015). Based on the advantages of inherently robust nature due to its model-free design, a LBFC of PMSG is proposed in this paper for limiting the fault current (Chen X. et al., 2024).

The contributions of the fault current limit method proposed in this paper can be summarized as follows:

- The proposed BBFC method is performed in nature coordinates with simple structure based on logical module. And it inherently robustness due to its model-free design, which brings convenience to its application.
- Benefit from the characteristics of logical switches, BBFC method has a natural advantage in fault current limiting and operates without the utilization of angular information from phase lock loop (PLL), rotational transformation.

To summarise, the paper is structured as follows. Section 2 introduces the model of PMSG and describes the type 4 wind turbine model in PSCAD. Moreover, the LBFC for fault current rejection is derived in Section 3. Comparative simulation results of the test system under the combination of LBFC and vector control alone under the disturbance of current fault scenarios are given in Section 4. Based on the results of the time-domain simulation, conclusions are drawn in Section 5, followed by the Appendix.

2 Modelling of wind turbine system

In a full-scale wind power generator, the stator of the PMSG is connected to the grid through a back-to-back converter, machineside converter (MSC) and grid-side converter (GSC), as shown in Figure 1. During operation, changes in wind speed lead to variations in the rotor speed of the generator. The output frequency of the stator winding depends on the rotor speed. To ensure the rated frequency of the three-phase voltages and currents generated by the wind power generator, it is necessary for the MSC to convert alternating current into direct current, which is then converted back into rated frequency alternating current by the GSC, thereby achieving variable-speed constant-frequency operation. For the control aspect, vector control is used for both the MSC and GSC to achieve current decoupled control. The outer loops of MSC are active power loop and AC voltage loop. The outer loops of GSC are dc voltage loop and reactive power loop. Both sides introduced the PLL to obtain synchronous phase angle. And the switching logic can also be obtained in Figure 1. The wind turbine is a core component in the energy conversion of the full-scale wind power generator. This section models the wind power generation (WPG) system comprised of the mathematical models of the wind turbine and the PMSG.

2.1 Model of wind turbine

A wind turbine consists of several components capable of converting kinetic energy into electrical energy. The blades on the wind turbine can convert wind energy into mechanical energy,



TABLE 1 Parameters of WPG system.

Parameter	Value	Parameter	Value	Parameter	Value
$f_{\rm req}$	60 Hz	K_{p_ω}	0.5	$L_{ m filter1}$	0.335 mH
S _{base}	200 MVA	K _{p_pitch}	10	V_{dc_base}	1.45 kV
$V_{ m base}$	33 kV	K _{i_pitch}	0.01	R _{filter2}	0 Ω
V _{source}	230 kV	$V_{ m rated_pM}$	0.69 kV	$I_{qrefMin}$	-1.5 p.u
Ν	100	$I_{qrefMax}$	1.5 p.u	x_q	1.11 p.u
R _{filter1}	1.332 Ω	$I_{drefMax}$	1.5 p.u	I _{drefMin}	-1.5 p.u
C _{filter1}	700 uF	ρ	$1.2kg/m^{3}$	v _w	10 m/s
R	50 m	x _d	0.55 p.u	ε_0^+	0
x_{kd}	0.62 p.u	x_{kq}	1.175 p.u	$arphi_0^+$	0.3



which is then transmitted through the drive system to the generator, where it is further transformed into electrical energy. Therefore, the wind turbine is a primary and critical component of a WPG system, directly impacting the efficiency of wind power generation. According to aerodynamic principles, it is possible to express the airflow power as Equation 1.

$$P_w = \frac{1}{2}\rho A v_w^3 \tag{1}$$

where ρ represents air density, under normal conditions, $\rho = 1.2kg/m^3$; A denotes swept area; v_w is wind speed.

The blades capture wind power can be expressed as Equation 2.

$$P_m = \frac{1}{2}\rho A v_w^3 C_p \tag{2}$$

where C_p denotes wind energy utilization coefficient. According to the Betz limit, the maximum theoretical value of this coefficient is 0.59. The sweep area *A* of the wind turbine is only related to the physical size of the wind motor, air density is equal to 0.2 generally. Under the wind speed is given, the wind energy utilization coefficient C_p determines the power obtained by wind turbine.

When the blade rotates, the ratio of the tip speed to the input wind speed is defined as the tip speed ratio λ . λ can be





indicated as Equation 3.

$$\lambda = \frac{\omega_m R}{v_w} \tag{3}$$

where ω_m represents the angular velocity of the blade, *R* represents blade radius.

For variable pitch wind turbine, C_p can be expressed as Equation 4.

$$C_p(\lambda,\beta) = 0.5176 \left(\frac{116}{\lambda_i} - 0.4\beta - 5\right) e^{-\frac{21}{\lambda_i}} + 0.0068\lambda$$
(4)

where β represents pitch angle, λ_i is determined by Equation 5.

$$\frac{1}{\lambda_i} = \frac{1}{\lambda + 0.08\beta} - \frac{0.035}{\beta^3 + 1}$$
(5)

Through computing P_m , according to Equation 6, the output torque of wind turbine is obtained and inputs into the PMSG.

$$T_m = \frac{P_m}{\omega_m} \tag{6}$$

2.2 Modelling of PMSG equivalent model

PMSG uses permanent magnet material to replace the excitation winding, and the permanent magnet generates rotor excitation,

which is a brushless motor. Since there is no rotor winding, its size and weight are greatly reduced, and there is no rotor winding loss.

Figure 2 shows the equivalent model of PMSG. The time domain model of PMSG in the stationary coordinate system can be represented by voltage equation, flux equation and rotor motion equation. The three-phase stator winding voltage equation can be described as Equation 7.

$$\begin{cases} u_{sa} = R_s i_{sa} + p\psi_{sa} \\ u_{sb} = R_s i_{sb} + p\psi_{sb} \\ u_{sc} = R_s i_{sc} + p\psi_{sc} \end{cases}$$
(7)

where u_{sa}, u_{sb}, u_{sc} represent three-phase winding phase voltage; i_{sa}, i_{sb}, i_{sc} represent three-phase winding phase current; $\psi_{sa}, \psi_{sb}, \psi_{sc}$ denote three-phase winding flux linkage; $p = \frac{d}{dt}$. Three phase winding flux equation can be written as Equation 8.

$$\begin{bmatrix} \Psi_{sa} \\ \Psi_{sb} \\ \Psi_{sc} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} L_{aa} & L_{ab} & L_{ac} \\ L_{ba} & L_{bb} & L_{bc} \\ L_{ca} & L_{cb} & L_{cc} \end{pmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} i_{sa} \\ i_{sb} \\ i_{sc} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \Psi_{fa} \\ \Psi_{fb} \\ \Psi_{fc} \end{bmatrix}$$
(8)

where L_{aa} , L_{bb} , L_{cc} are three-phase winding inductance; $M_{ab} = M_{ba}$, $M_{ac} = M_{ca}$, $M_{bc} = M_{cb}$ denote mutual inductance between three phase windings; ψ_{fa} , ψ_{fb} , ψ_{fc} denote the flux linkage between the





system on bus 1.



Dynamics of WPG system obtained in the case when three-phase current fault happened on bus 1 under the switching control of vector control and BBFC. (A) Three-phase voltages measured on bus 1. (B) Three-phase currents measured on bus 1. (C) Active power output of WPG system. (D) Reactive power output of WPG system on bus 1.

rotor and the stator, which can be described as Equation 9.

$$\begin{bmatrix} \psi_{fa} \\ \psi_{fb} \\ \psi_{fc} \end{bmatrix} = \psi_f \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta \\ \cos \left(\theta - \frac{2\pi}{3} \right) \\ \cos \left(\theta + \frac{2\pi}{3} \right) \end{bmatrix}$$
(9)

According to the theory of permanent magnet motor, the motor motion equation can be written as Equation 10.

$$J\frac{d\omega_m}{dt} = T_e - T_m - B_m \omega_m \tag{10}$$

where T_m represents input mechanical torque, which can be acquired in (6), T_e denotes mechanical torque of PMSG; $B_m = 0$ is coefficient of rotational viscosity.

In the static coordinate system, the uneven air gap leads to the asymmetry of the fixed rotor magnetic field structure, and the projection of the rotor flux on the three-phase stator winding is related to the rotor position Angle. The mathematical model of the synchronous motor is a set of nonlinear time-varying equations related to the instantaneous position of the rotor, which is difficult to analyze and control. After Park transformation, the stator winding is equivalent to the d and q axis winding and the rotor winding are relatively stationary, so that the inductance parameters of the d and q axes become fixed, and the stator voltage, current and flux vector are all constant direct flow that is relatively stationary with the rotor. In PSCAD, the modeling of WPG system can be realized by applying coordinate transformation.

3 Fault current limiting control

3.1 Logical-based bang-bang funnel control (LBFC) design

The three-phase full-bridge inverter's topology is described in Figure 3, and all of the symbols utilized in the subsequent LBFC design process are defined in Table 1.

Obviously, the states of S_{jP} and S_{jN} are reversed, let S_{jP} serves as the working state of the switches on j - phase and rewrite it as S_j^b , $S_i^b \in \{0, 1\}$. Then the three-phase inverter modelling in this paper can



Dynamics of WPG system obtained in the case when three-phase current fault happened on bus 2 under the switching control of vector control. (A) Three-phase voltages measured on bus 1. (B) Three-phase currents measured on bus 1. (C) Active power output of WPG system. (D) Reactive power output of WPG system on bus 1.

be written as follows Equation 11.

$$\begin{cases} L_{filter} p i_{Lj} = V_{dc} S_j^b + u_{ON} - R_{filter} i_{Lj} - v_j \\ C_{filter} p u_{Cj} = i_{Lj} - i_j \\ u_{ON} = -\frac{V_{dc}}{3} \left(S_a^b + S_b^b + S_c^b \right) \end{cases}$$
(11)

where u_{ON} denotes the voltage between point O and N, u_{Cj} represents the filter capacitor voltage. The output current of the inverter would need to be controlled in this paper. As a result, the differential Equation 11 has to be stated in general linear single-input, singleoutput (SISO) form (Liberzon and Trenn, 2013). Then i_{Lj} is both the system's output y_j and one of the state variables, which have been set as $X_j = [i_{Lj}, u_{Cj}]$. The control variable of the system is defined as $u_j = S_j^b$. Thus the j – *phase* system in the inverter can be given by Equations 12, 13.

$$\begin{cases} pX_j(t) = F(X_j) + G(X_j)u_j(t) \\ y_j(t) = h_j(t) \end{cases}$$
(12)

where

$$F(x_j) = \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{1}{L_{filter}} \left(R_{filter} x_1 + \frac{V_{dc}}{3} S_k^b + \frac{V_{dc}}{3} S_l^b + v_j \right) \\ \frac{1}{C_{filter}} \left(x_1 - i_j \right) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$G(x_j) = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{2V_{dc}}{3L_{filter}} \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$h_j(t) = x_1(t)$$
(13)

where *k* and *l* indicate the two phases aside from j - phase, their operation states S_k^b and S_l^b are treated as constant variables during discussing j - phase to allow the independence of logic switching control for each phase.

The order of the LBFC varies depending on the relative degree r of the system. Specifically, the relative degree of control objective $h_j(t)$ with respect to system's input $u_j(t)$ is to differentiate output $h_j(t)$ until input $u_j(t)$ explicitly appears in $h_j^r(t)$, namely, as Equation 14.

$$.h_{j}^{(r)}(t) = \mathcal{L}_{F}^{r}h_{j}(t) + \mathcal{L}_{G}\mathcal{L}_{F}^{r-1}h_{j}(t)u_{j}(t)$$
(14)



when $\mathcal{L}_G \mathcal{L}_F^{r-1} h_j(t) \neq 0$ holds. Thus, the approach for determining the relative degree of system (12) is shown in Equation 15.

$$h_{j}^{(1)}(t) = \mathcal{L}_{F}h_{j}(t) + \mathcal{L}_{G}h_{j}(t)u_{j}(t)$$

$$= -\frac{R_{filter}}{L_{filter}}x_{1}(t) - \frac{V_{dc}S_{k}^{b} + V_{dc}S_{l}^{b} + 3v_{j}}{3L_{filter}}$$

$$+ \frac{2V_{dc}}{3L_{filter}}u_{j}(t)$$
(15)

Therefore, it has r = 1 and the first-order LBFC would be adopted here. The switching logic of the first-order LBFC can be simply defined as Equation 16.

$$q(t) = \mathcal{G}\left(e(t), \varphi_0^+ - \varepsilon_0^+, \varphi_0^- + \varepsilon_0^-, q(t-)\right)$$

= $\mathcal{G}\left(e(t), \overline{e}, \underline{e}, q(t-)\right)$
= $\left[e \ge \overline{e} \lor \left(e > \underline{e} \land q(t-)\right)\right]$
 $q(0-) \in \{true, false\}$ (16)

where $q(t) \in \{true, false\}$, having $q(t-) \coloneqq \lim_{\varepsilon \to 0} q(t-\varepsilon)$, is the switching logic's output deduced by the tracking error $e(t) = i_{Lji}$. The chosen funnel boundaries are shown by φ_0^{\pm} , ε_0^{\pm} represent the safety distances, and the upper trigger \overline{e} and lower trigger \underline{e} are made up of these two. The BBFC enables to limit the fault current in

the funnel through logical switching control. The funnel boundaries can be obtained by several simulation trials, combining with the limit value of current. In most instances, the value of ε_0^{\pm} is set as 0. The scheme of LBFC in PSCAD can be described by Figure 4.

The scheme of LBFC in PSCAD can be described by Figure 4. On the basis of $\mathcal{L}_g h_{ji}(t) = \frac{2V_{dei}}{3L_{filter}} > 0$, the control law of the LBFC designed to suppress the inverter outlet currents is given as Equation 17.

$$S_{j}^{b}(t) = \begin{cases} 0, \text{if } q(t) = \text{true} \\ 1, \text{ if } q(t) = \text{false} \end{cases}$$
(17)

3.2 Switching strategy design

The state-dependent strategy \mathcal{T} , depicted in Figure 1, is the foundation upon which the switching control scheme created for the overcurrent suppression of the PMSM power system operates. It is explained in Figure 5.

Assume that following a short-circuit malfunction at the system, the absolute value of any j - phase current at the inverter's outlet is $|e_j(t)|$. Then the switching strategy is stated as that the inverter bridge arm switching control switches from the GSC Control to LBFC if

 \mathcal{T}_1 is satisfied and switches from the LBFC to the GSC Control on condition that \mathcal{T}_2 is satisfied, where \mathcal{T}_1 and \mathcal{T}_2 are illustrated as follows (Liu et al., 2016a):

 $\mathcal{T}_1:\{|e_j(t)| \ge \emptyset\}, \mathcal{T}_2: \{\text{The switching frequency of the control signal generated by ad LBFC reaches its maximum} \lor \{\text{Signal for fault clearance, it can be } \overline{V}_{tj} > \tau\}$ where \emptyset, τ are design parameters of the switching strategy of the system, \overline{V}_{tj} is the three phase voltage of the short-circuit point.

4 Simulation verifications

PMSG power system is a part of WPG system. In order to verify the effectiveness of fault current rejection through LBFC, time domain simulations of the system considering electromagnetic transients were performed in PSCAD. In the test system, the simulation time is set to 3 s, three-phase current faults happened in 1.5 s on bus 1 and bus 2 separately, and faults were cleared after 90 ms, the type 4 wind turbine model is shown in Figure 6. At the WPG system outlet A, a multimeter is used to measure the voltage, current, active power and reactive power of the turbine output. The voltage and current are measured by unit value, and the active power and reactive power are measured by named value. The result when the system runs stably is displayed in Figure 7.

4.1 A three-phase current fault occurred on bus 1 of the WPG system at 1.5 s

On bus 1 at t = 1.5s, a three-phase current fault occurred. Figures 8, 9 display the dynamics of WPG system. Where the WPG system in Figure 9 is equipped with LBFC during current fault, and system in Figure 8 is only under the vector control. Due to the current fault of three-phase, the magnitudes of bus voltages dropped, and the three-phase voltages measured on bus 1 are shown in Figures 8A, 9A. Fault was cleared after 90 ms. During the current fault time, the short-circuit currents of the system without LBFC reached 3 times the nominal current value, as shown in Figure 8B.

In contrast, the switching control of vector control and LBFC had an optimizing effect on WPG system during fault time. When the short-circuit current was up to the switching criterion $\hat{\omega}$, the inverter bridge arm switching control was switched from the vector control to the LBFC, which in turn controlled the current the set boundary values φ_0^- to φ_0^+ , as seen in Figure 9B, which represented that BBFC was able to control the fault current. Furthermore, with the magnitudes of bus voltages declined, the active power both in Figures 8C, 9C decreased. As presented in Figures 8D, 9D, WPG system's reactive power output fluctuated following the voltages' volatility when system converted from LBFC to vector control.

4.2 A three-phase current fault occurred on bus 2 of the WPG system at 1.5 s

Similarly, three-phase-to-ground fault occurred on bus 2 at 1.5*s*. The dynamics of WPG system were displayed in Figures 10, 11. When a three-phase current fault occurred at 1.5*s*, the three-phase voltages decreased and were close to zero during the fault

time, as seen in Figures 10A, 11A. WPG system in Figure 10 utilized vector control only, while system in Figure 11 employed the switching control of vector control and LBFC. The results were the same as above content, LBFC could operate effectively, it could control the fault current of WPG system, as displayed in Figures 10B, 11B. The fault was cleared after 90 ms, when the system switched from LBFC to vector control, and voltage and current oscillations occurred during this process, which also caused active and reactive power fluctuations, as seen in Figures 10C, D and Figures 11C, D.

5 Conclusion

This paper has proposed a FCLS for the full-scale wind power generators based on LBFC. The GSC is controlled in a switched manner with the LBFC and a vector controller. When fault currents are detected, the control system of GSC switches from vector controller to LBFC, which generates independent control signals for the three-phase bridge arms.

Simulation results, obtained in the case when bus 1 and bus 2 happen three-phase-to-ground current fault on the test system, have verified that switching control in conjuction with the LBFC could enhance the dynamics of system during fault and restrain the fault current effectively. LBFC's fault current rejection avoided prolonged overcurrent, reduced the pressure on the power grid under the fault. In contrast to the original Type 4 wind turbine model in PSCAD, the switching control in conjuction with the LBFC could maintain the three-phase fault current at a low value, about 0.5 times the rated value, where 3 times the rated value without LBFC. Meanwhile, considering the simple structure and excellent ability of limiting fault current, LBFC could be applied into the area of PV system, electrochemical energy storage system and flywheel energy storage system, which helps to reduce the harm of overcurrent to the system. With the switching from LBFC to vector control after fault disappeared, the WPG system would experience an oscillation, leading to the fluctuation of voltage and current in a short time, which is also the inspiration for the future study considering the harmonic stability of the co-ordinated control of vector control and LBFC.

In terms of the difficulties of practical application, the communication delays will put forward potential challenges for the implementation of the LBFC. The sensor accuracy can also impact the performance of the LBFC, and the error of current measurement weakens the effectiveness of the controller.

Data availability statement

The raw data supporting the conclusions of this article will be made available by the authors, without undue reservation.

Author contributions

KS: Methodology, Writing-original draft. JL: Software, Writing-original draft. YZ: Validation, Writing-original draft. HL: Writing-original draft. YL: Writing-review and editing.

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