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The phenomenon and suppression strategy of overvoltage caused by PV power reverse flow

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In the current distribution network's energy structure, photovoltaic (PV) occupies a high proportion. However, the access of a high proportion of PV will lead to the phenomenon of reverse power flow in the distribution network, and then the problem of line overvoltage. When the reverse power flow increases, the problem of line overvoltage also worsens, which endangers the normal operation of power system. To solve this problem, this paper starts with the voltage rise theory of distribution network lines. Firstly, through strict mathematical derivation, it compares the influence of main network line parameters and distribution network line parameters on the voltage rise, and summarizes a simple calculation equation for the voltage rise of the distribution network with high proportion PV. Then, according to the mechanism of voltage rise and the principle of inverter control, considering the economy and practicability of the overvoltage suppression strategy, a reverse power flow overvoltage suppression strategy of a system with high proportion PV is proposed. Finally, a PV system model simulating a small village is used to verify the effectiveness of the proposed overvoltage suppression strategy.

KEYWORDS

distributed PV, reverse power flow, distribution network, overvoltage suppression, inverter

1 Introduction

The most widely used energy in the power system is fossil energy, but fossil energy has caused serious environmental pollution and energy loss. Under the pressure of the energy crisis and environmental degradation, most countries have increased their efforts to develop renewable energy. India has set a target of increasing the share of renewable energy in total power generation to 40% by 2030 (Elavarasan et al., 2020). Europe has enacted legislation to reduce EU (European Union)'s emissions by at least 55% by 2030 (Heubl, 2021). Among various renewable energies, photovoltaic (PV), which can be divided into centralized PV and distributed PV according to the installation method, is relatively mature. Distributed PV is favored because of its easy installation and small footprint. However, compared with the traditional power grid, there are many new problems in the distribution network with a high proportion of PV access. For example, after distributed PV access to the

distribution network, it will lead to power factor reduction, grid-connected voltage increase, three-phase voltage imbalance increase, line loss changing, and other problems. Some papers have studied these problems (Fan et al., 2023; You et al., 2018; Tan et al., 2018; You et al., 2017; Quintero et al., 2014; Yan and Saha, 2012; Hung et al., 2014; Shah et al., 2015; Ding et al., 2016; Xie et al., 2024a; Xie et al., 2024b).

A large number of papers have studied the problem of voltage fluctuation in power systems with high PV permeability (Hernández et al., 2007; Le Dinh and Hayashi, 2013; Alam et al., 2012; Aramizu and Vieira, 2013). analyzed the problems of voltage rise, voltage imbalance, reverse power flow through simulation, and found that the voltage stability of the system became weaker and weaker with the increasing proportion of PV (Thomson and Infield, 2007; Demirok et al., 2009). studied the effects of PV connection location, intermittency of solar radiation, and increased PV permeability on the reverse flow voltage. The results show that the high light-voltage permeability significantly changes the voltage distribution and increases the grid-connected voltage (Kawabe and Tanaka, 2015; Tamimi et al., 2013). suggest that the limited reactive power regulation capacity of photovoltaics is an important factor in causing voltage problems. Considering that PV would affect the power loss and voltage fluctuation of the distribution network (Olivier et al., 2016; Kumar and Bhimasingu, 2015; Liu et al., 2016; Zhan et al., 2016; Wang et al., 2022; Hasheminamin et al., 2015), proposed a strategy to accurately select and optimize the PV position (Kawabe et al., 2017; Islam et al., 2017; Islam et al., 2018; Tafti et al., 2020; Nasir et al., 2019; Anand et al., 2013; Rui et al., 2020), proposed common overvoltage suppression strategies, but these strategies are generally used to improve the voltage stability of the grid or suppress voltage fluctuation. There is no good solution to the problem of voltage rise caused by high proportion PV access.

Through the analysis of the above papers, it can be found that most papers use the simulation strategy to analyze the impact of the high proportion of distributed PV on the operation of the distribution network, and there are few relatively simple and economic strategies to solve the voltage rise caused by the high proportion of PV access. Although some papers employ mathematical derivation and theoretical analysis to investigate this problem, they fail to account for the difference in line parameters between the distribution network and the main network (whether $X \gg R$ or not?). In addition, most of the papers only discuss the influence of PV ratio on the operating characteristics of the system subjectively and do not investigate the effect of the change of PV permeability on the system operating indicators quantitatively.

Therefore, starting from the difference between the main network and the distribution network line parameters, this paper firstly proposes a new calculation method for the voltage rise level of the distribution network with a high-proportion PV access through strict mathematical derivation, and then specifically proposes the reverse power flow overvoltage suppression strategy for the system. The main contributions are as follows:

- (1) According to the calculation equations of the main operation indicators of the power grid, a grid-connected voltage calculation deviation for the distribution network with high-proportion PV access is conducted based on the parameter conditions of distribution network line ($X \gg R$ is not valid).
- (2) Aiming at the voltage rise caused by reverse power flow in the distribution network with high proportion PV, an overvoltage suppression strategy is proposed based on the control loop of the distributed PV system, which is guided by economy and practicability.
- (3) Simulation scenario is set to verify the effectiveness of the overvoltage suppression strategy.

The main structure of this paper is as follows. Section 2 compares the influence of different line parameter conditions on the calculation of voltage deviation of distribution network with high-proportion PV access and puts forward the calculation strategy of voltage deviation under the condition of distribution network line parameters. The overvoltage suppression strategy is proposed in Section 3, and Section 4 sets a simulation model to verify the effectiveness of the overvoltage suppression strategy.

2 The calculation method of voltage deviation considering the parameters of distribution network lines

At present, the indicators of the power system are calculated according to the main network's situation that is $X \gg R$, so the resistance value can usually be omitted and approximate results can be obtained. However, this strategy is not suitable for the distribution network because $X \gg R$ is not valid. Ignoring the resistance will lead to serious calculation error. To solve this problem, this chapter analyzes the differences between the main network condition ($X \gg R$) and the distribution network condition ($X \gg R$ is not valid) in the calculation of grid voltage parameters, summarizes the inapplicability of the main network condition ($X \gg R$) in the calculation of distribution network indicators, and puts forward an accurate calculation strategy for the voltage of the junction point in the high-proportion PV access distribution network.

2.1 Voltage calculation in transmission network

Many papers have shown that a high proportion of grid-connected PV will lead to changes in voltage. Therefore, the research on voltage deviation mainly focuses on the voltage difference between the grid-connected side and the main network side. As shown in Figure 1, the difference between U_G and U_L is the voltage deviation. Since both voltages are vectors, the difference can be expressed by the longitudinal component ΔU and the transverse component δU , as follows:

$$\Delta U = \frac{P_L R + Q_L X}{U_L} \quad (1)$$

$$\delta U = \frac{P_L X - Q_L R}{U_L} \quad (2)$$

According to the main network parameter conditions, $X \gg R$, the resistance R can be omitted, and Equation 3 and Equation 4 are obtained. It can be concluded that the active power determines the

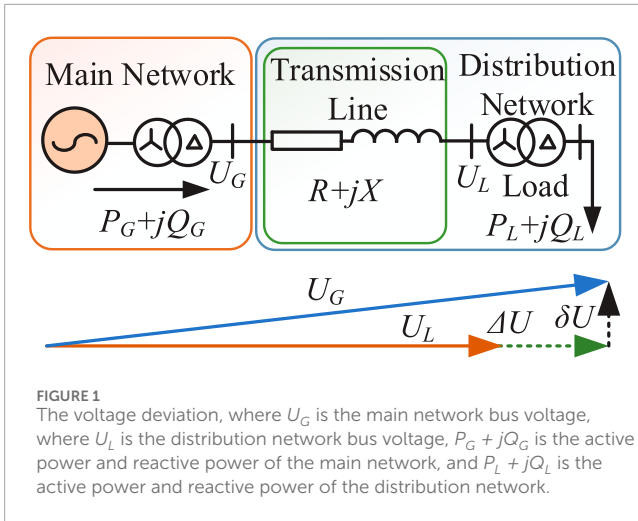


FIGURE 1 The voltage deviation, where U_G is the main network bus voltage, where U_L is the distribution network bus voltage, $P_G + jQ_G$ is the active power and reactive power of the main network, and $P_L + jQ_L$ is the active power and reactive power of the distribution network.

voltage phase angle difference δU , and the reactive power determines the voltage amplitude difference ΔU . This conclusion is accurate and practical in the main network.

$$\Delta U = \frac{Q_L X}{U_L} \tag{3}$$

$$\delta U = \frac{P_L X}{U_L} \tag{4}$$

2.2 Voltage calculation in distribution network

Unlike the main network, the condition $X \gg R$ does not hold in the distribution network. Therefore, the distribution network's voltage deviation can only be calculated by Equations 1, 2. There is no strict proportional relationship between active power and voltage amplitude difference, or reactive power and voltage phase angle difference, and the four indexes are coupled with each other. Therefore, the distribution network's voltage deviation cannot be calculated simply by the main network condition.

Obviously, in the distribution network with a high proportion PV access, if the main network condition, $X \gg R$, is still used, the calculation result will be seriously affected. The analysis is as follows.

After considering distributed PV access, the calculation equations of voltage deviation are as follows:

$$\Delta U = \frac{(P_L - P_{PV})R + Q_L X}{U_L} \tag{5}$$

$$\delta U = \frac{(P_L - P_{PV})X - Q_L R}{U_L} \tag{6}$$

It can be seen from Equation 5 and Equation 6 that the voltage deviation will change after distributed PV is integrated into the distribution network, and the calculation of voltage deviation is closely related to X/R . The calculation

of voltage deviation under different line parameters will be analyzed below.

2.2.1 The analysis of main network conditions is adopted

If the main network condition $X \gg R$ is used, the resistance is ignored and the following equation is obtained:

$$\Delta U = \frac{Q_L X}{U_L} \tag{7}$$

$$\delta U = \frac{(P_L - P_{PV})X}{U_L} \tag{8}$$

According to Equations 7, 8, when P_{PV} changes, the transverse component δU changes, which determines the voltage phase angle difference, while the longitudinal component ΔU does not change, which determines the voltage amplitude difference. Therefore, when the output power of PV changes, the distribution network does not have the problem of voltage rise at the PV junction point, or the voltage rise is very small. The relationship between voltage deviation and P_{PV} is shown in Figure 3. The voltage amplitude of the PV access point changes little ($\Delta U_1 = \Delta U_2 = \Delta U_3$) with the increase of P_{PV} , while the phase difference changes significantly. When the PV ratio exceeds 100% ($P_{PV} > P_L$), the voltage phase difference, shown as the δU_3 in Figure 3, changes from positive to negative. This is contrary to actual voltage variation.

2.2.2 The analysis of distribution network conditions is adopted

If $X \gg R$ do not hold, the longitudinal and transverse components of the voltage are coupled to the active and reactive power. Calculating the voltage deviation becomes more complicated. According to the definition of the longitudinal and transverse components of voltage, the following equations can be obtained.

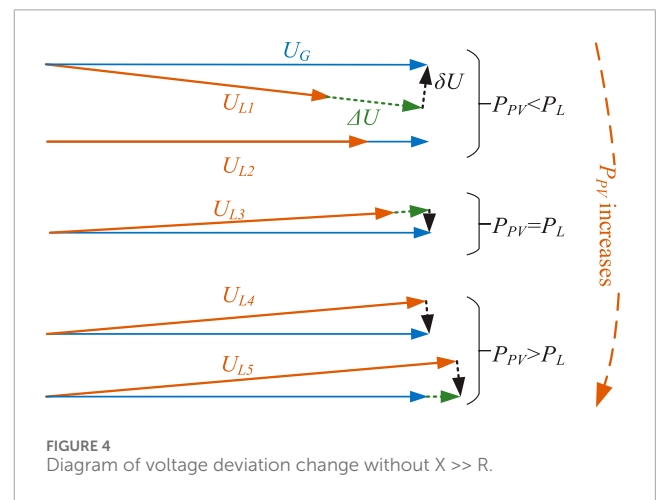
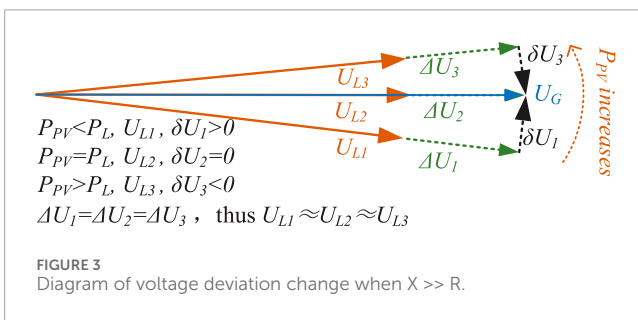
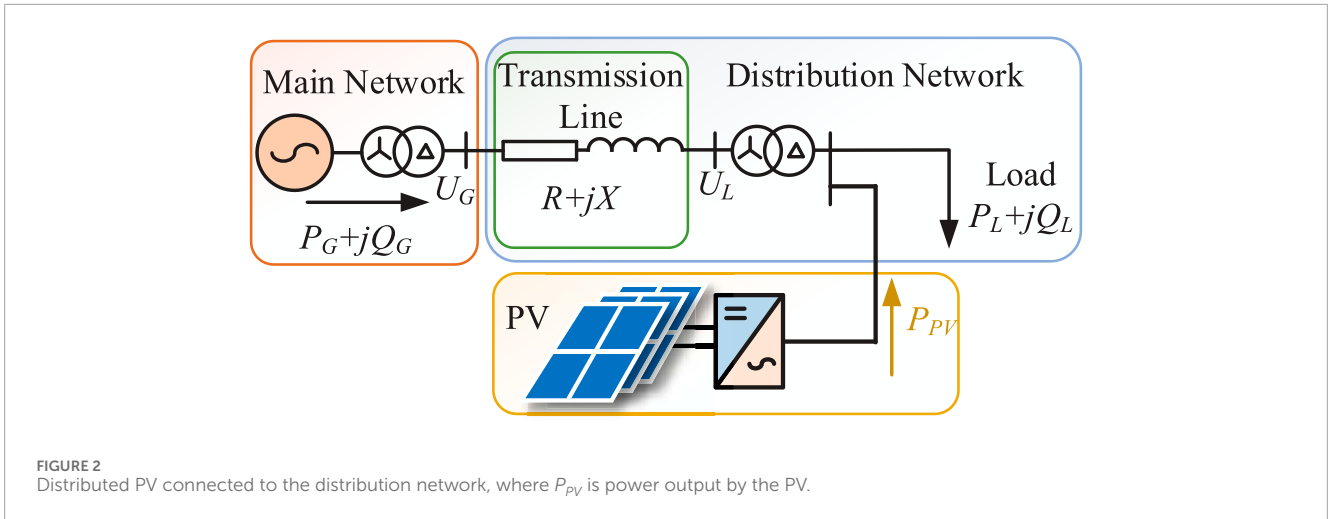
$$(U_L + \Delta U)^2 + (\delta U)^2 = U_G^2 \tag{9}$$

By introducing Equation 5 and Equation 6 into Equation 9, PV grid-connected voltage can be obtained as follows:

$$\begin{cases} U_L^2 = \frac{U_G^2 - 2(xR + Q_L X) + \sqrt{-(2xX - 2Q_L R)^2 + U_G^2 [U_G^2 - 4(xR + Q_L X)]}}{2} \\ x = P_L - P_{PV} \end{cases} \tag{10}$$

As can be seen from Equation 10, the PV junction voltage U_L is a quantity that changes significantly with the change of PV output power P_{PV} . When the P_{PV} changes, not only the transverse component of the voltage deviation changes, but also the longitudinal component of the voltage deviation changes, which is different from the trend shown under the condition of $X \gg R$. Therefore, in the subsequent theoretical calculation of the voltage deviation, the precise calculation strategy of the junction voltage in the high-proportion PV access distribution network, as shown in Equation 10, will be adopted.

As can be seen from Equation 10, with the gradual increase of the PV access ratio, the voltage at the grid-connected PV continues to rise. When P_{PV} is 0, $U_L < U_G$. When the proportion of PV



is significantly larger, $U_L > U_G$. **Figure 4** shows the changes of voltage deviation when $X \gg R$ is not valid with the increase of PV output. When P_{PV} is slightly less than P_L , the voltage phase difference changes from positive to negative. When P_{PV} is slightly greater than P_L , $U_L = U_G$. The grid-connected voltage increases with the increase of P_{PV} , with no upper limit. By comparing **Figure 3** and **Figure 4**, it can be seen that there is a great difference obtained by whether applying $X \gg R$ or not. With a high proportion PV connected to the grid, the phenomenon of overvoltage always occurs at the connecting point, which will cause adverse effects on power system operation. Therefore, a corresponding overvoltage suppression strategy concerning the problem will be put forward in the next chapter.

3 The suppression strategy of overvoltage caused by PV power reverse flow

There are many strategies to suppress overvoltage of the power system, and the common strategy is to set reactive power compensation. When reactive power compensation is added to a new energy system, it is inescapable to increase construction costs. In particular, the scenario considered in this paper is the distribution network, and the PV systems connected are all small-capacity and distributed. If a large number of reactive power compensation devices are installed, unnecessary economic losses

will be caused. Therefore, this paper starts with the control link of the PV inverter, and realizes the inhibition effect of overvoltage by regulating the reactive power outer loop, so as to improve the economy under the premise of ensuring the safety of the power grid.

3.1 PV grid-connected inverter control link

Figure 5 shows the structure of the inverter's double closed-loop control system. The system consists of an outer loop for controlling DC voltage and an inner loop for controlling the active and reactive current of the three-phase inverter.

In the mathematical model of a three-phase inverter under the two-phase synchronous rotating coordinate system (d, q), the current component of the d - q axis is not only controlled by the corresponding variables but also affected by the cross-coupling quantities ωLi_q and ωLi_d , which increases the difficulty of controller design. The cross-coupling quantity can be eliminated by the strategy of feedforward decoupling control, and the current i_d and i_q can be adjusted without static

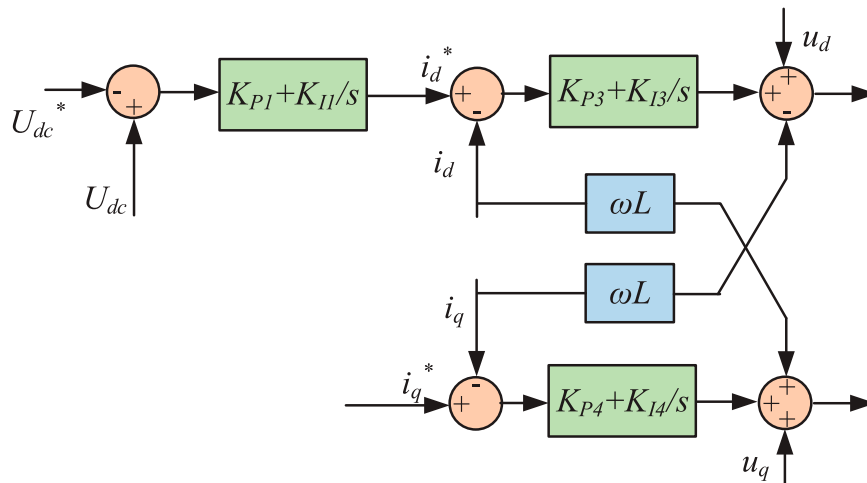


FIGURE 5 The double closed-loop control of the inverter, where U_{dc} is actual DC voltage of inverter, i_d is d-axis current, i_q is q-axis current, K_p is proportional parameter, K_i is integral parameter, u_d is d-axis voltage, u_q is q-axis voltage.

difference by the PI regulator. Thus, the governing equation for the d - q component is:

$$\begin{cases} u_d^* = -\left(K_p + \frac{K_i}{s}\right)(i_q^* - i_q) - \omega L i_d + e_q \\ u_q^* = -\left(K_p + \frac{K_i}{s}\right)(i_d^* - i_d) + \omega L i_q + e_d \end{cases} \quad (11)$$

As can be seen, MPPT in PV inverter generates reference DC voltage U_{dc}^* , which produces a difference compared with PV output DC voltage U_{dc} . This difference is controlled by PI and generates a reference current i_d^* on the d -axis. Similarly, i_q^* is generated by the difference between reactive power and reactive power reference value on the q -axis. The reference current i_q^* on the q -axis is usually set to 0. After the three-phase AC current flows through real-time sampling, it is converted into d - q axis components and compared with d and q -axis reference currents respectively. After the error is decoupled, it is controlled by the PI regulator. According to Equation 11, the reference voltage u_d^* and u_q^* of the d - q axis are obtained, and the inverter can adjust SVPWM according to the reference voltage.

3.2 Overvoltage suppression strategy

The control system, shown in Figure 5, is composed of an outer voltage loop and an inner current loop, and is divided into d - q axis, among which the q -axis is generally considered to achieve the function of controlling voltage. Therefore, we choose to control the reactive power by setting the reference current value of q -axis to suppress overvoltage. The overvoltage suppression strategy is described as follows:

- (1) The inverter regularly monitors the voltage of the connecting point and compares it with rated voltage of the grid;
- (2) When voltage of the connecting point is higher than rated voltage of the grid, reduce the reactive power by increasing the reference value of q -axis current, which can be supported by

Equation 13 and Equation 10. Equation 13 can be obtained by putting $(Q_L - Q_{PV})$ into the Q_L of Equation 10. Equation 13 is shown as follows:

$$Q = -i_q \times u_d + i_d \times u_q \approx -i_q \times u_d \quad (12)$$

$$\begin{cases} U_L^2 = \frac{U_G^2 - 2(xR + yX) + \sqrt{-(2xX - 2yR)^2 + U_G^2 [U_G^2 - 4(xR + yX)]}}{2} \\ x = P_L - P_{PV} \\ y = Q_L - Q_{PV} \end{cases} \quad (13)$$

Make $U_L = U_G$ to obtain the reference value of reactive power Q_{PV} . Bring Q_{PV} into Equation 12, find the q -axis current i_q , make the q -axis current reference value $i_q^* = i_q$, and then achieve control;

- (3) When the connecting point voltage is restored to rated voltage of the grid under the control of q -axis current, keep $i_q^* = i_q$;
- (4) When the connecting point voltage is lower than the rated voltage of the power grid, Equation 13 can be applied to modify the q -axis current reference value as well.

It is worth noting that in practical applications, due to the interference of external reactive devices and the internal control of inverter, the effect of the modification of q -axis current reference value on the voltage is not as obvious as in theoretical calculations. Therefore, referring to the voltage control effect of the transformer variable tap, each change of the q -axis current reference value can be set to the constant Δi_{q-c} . Add step 5 as follows:

- (5) After step (2), if the connecting point voltage is still higher than rated voltage of the grid, increase the q -axis current reference value to Δi_{q-c} . After the voltage is stabilized, the relationship between the connecting point voltage and rated voltage of the grid can be monitored again. If the two are similar, there is

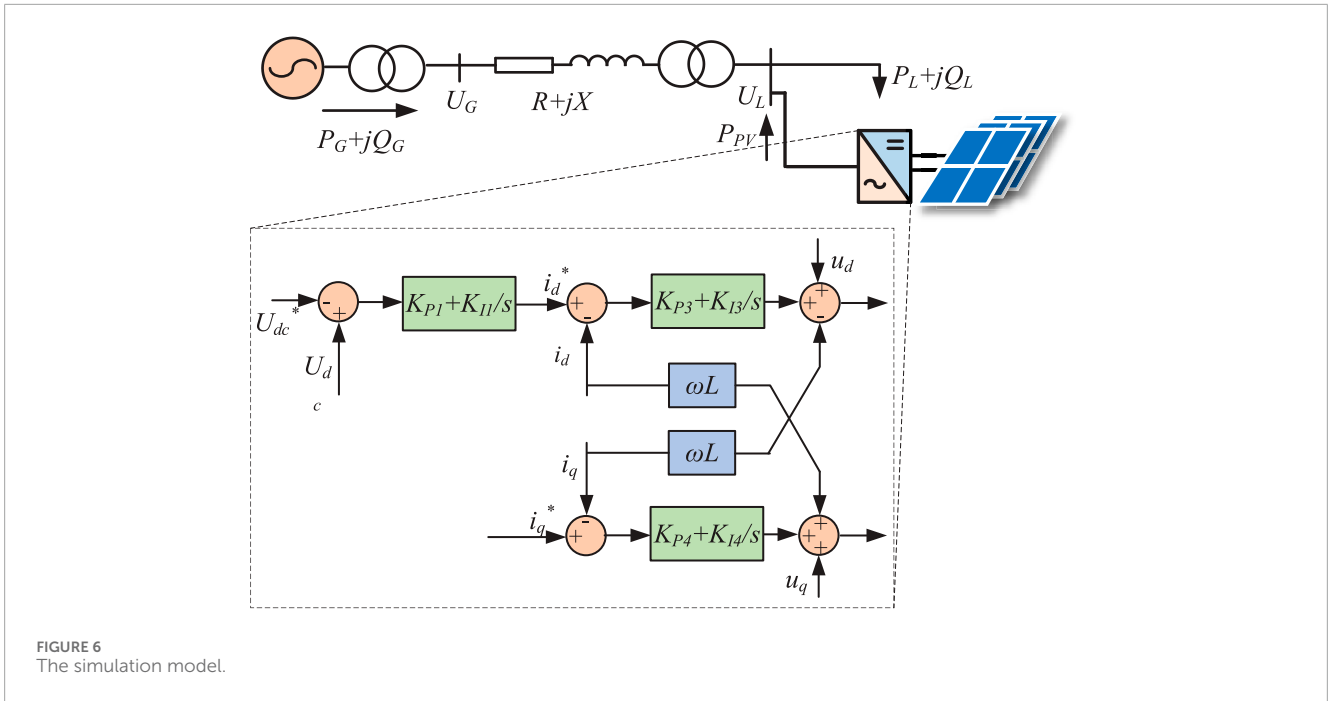


FIGURE 6 The simulation model.

no need for further control; if there is still a large gap, the Δi_{q-c}^* will be adjusted again. The Δi_{q-c}^* will be adjusted n times until the voltage of connecting point returns to allowable value range.

4 Simulation verification

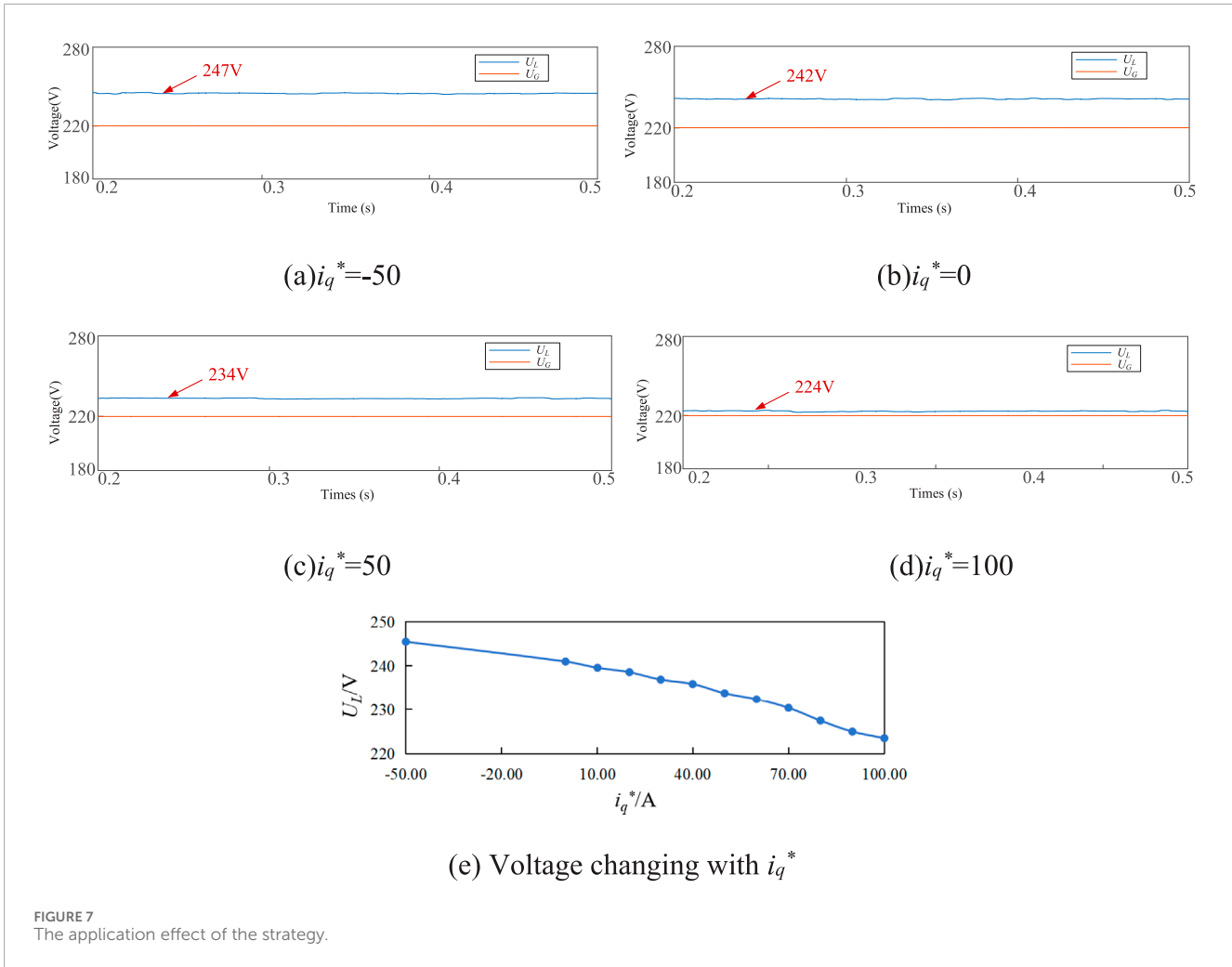
In order to verify the effectiveness of the overvoltage suppression strategy mentioned above, a simulation model is built in Simulink, as shown in the Figure 6. In the model, the PV inverter uses the control strategy shown in Figure 5, and applies the overvoltage suppression strategy proposed in Section 2.2. The construction of the model utilizes the actual data of a distribution network in a small village in Shandong province. By setting different PV output power, the model simulates the change of PV system output in a natural day, and then verifies the effectiveness of the proposed overvoltage suppression strategy. Table 1 lists the main parameters of the model.

As can be seen from Table 1, when the rated power of the PV system is emitted, the PV power is higher than the load power, so the active power flow direction in the transmission line is from the distribution network to the main network, and U_L points to U_G in Figure 6, which is called reverse flow. Reactive power flows from the main network to the distribution network, with U_G pointing to U_L in Figure 6. According to the above theoretical analysis, the reverse flow of active power will lead the voltage of the distribution network to be higher than that of the main network. But due to the forward flow of reactive power, the voltage difference will be suppressed to some extent. To achieve the purpose of overvoltage suppression, we apply the strategy proposed in Section 2.2 and continue to increase the reactive power of the forward flow.

TABLE 1 Parameters of the simulation model.

Parameters		Value
Distribution Network	Voltage	380 V
PV	Rated active power	97 kW
	Rated reactive power	25kVar
Load	Rated active power	74 kW
	Rated reactive power	37kvar
Transmission Line	resistance	1Ω
	inductance	0.25×10^{-3} H

Figure 7 shows the effect diagram of overvoltage suppression with this strategy. Figures 7A–D is the voltage image under different values of q -axis current reference value i_q^* , and (e) is the voltage change trend diagram. When the q -axis current reference value i_q^* is -50 A, it can be seen that the distribution network voltage U_L is 246 V at this time, which exceeds the rated phase voltage of the line by more than 10%, and overvoltage suppression is required. To better demonstrate the application effect of the strategy, the q -axis current reference value is first set to 0 when the strategy is applied, that is, the PV system does not output reactive power, and the voltage of the distribution network exceeds the rated phase voltage by 10%. Then let $\Delta i_{q-c}^* = -10$ A, adjust the q -axis current reference value step by step, it can be seen that with the gradual increase of the q -axis current reference value, the distribution network voltage U_L gradually decreased, when $i_q^* = 100$ A, U_L dropped to 223.5 V, the overvoltage can be ignored. Therefore,



the overvoltage suppression strategy proposed in this paper is effective.

5 Conclusion

In this paper, the reverse power flow phenomenon of a high proportion PV access system is deeply studied. Firstly, a new calculation strategy for the voltage rise, caused by the reverse power flow in the distribution network with a high proportion PV access, is proposed by doing strict mathematical derivation from the difference of line parameters between the main network and the distribution network. Then, according to the mechanism of voltage rise and the principle of inverter control, considering the economy and practicability, an overvoltage suppression strategy of a system with high proportion PV access is put forward. Finally, a PV system model simulating a small village is used to verify the effectiveness of the proposed overvoltage suppression strategy. The overvoltage caused by reverse power flow decreases from 10% above the rated voltage at the beginning to 1.5%, which indicates that the proposed overvoltage suppression strategy is practical and effective to the distribution network with a high proportion PV access.

Data availability statement

The original contributions presented in the study are included in the article/supplementary material, further inquiries can be directed to the corresponding author.

Author contributions

YX: Writing–original draft. QL: Writing–original draft. LY: Writing–original draft. KY: Writing–original draft. ZW: Writing–original draft. JL: Writing–original draft. HF: Writing–original draft.

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Conflict of interest

Authors YX, QL, LY, KY, and ZW were employed by State Grid Taian Power Supply Company.

The remaining authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

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data collection and analysis, decision to publish, and preparation of the manuscript.

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