

Frequency Quality Assessment of GFM and GFL Converters and Synchronous Condensers

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Abstract—This paper compares the impact of different conventional and emerging technologies and control strategies on frequency quality. We study, in particular, the long-term dynamic performance of grid-forming (GFM) and grid-following (GFL) inverter-based resources (IBRs) as well as conventional synchronous machines. Extensive simulations and several realistic scenarios consider both short-term and long-term aspects of frequency quality. It is shown that, while overall GFM IBRs significantly improve frequency quality, a combination of GFL IBRs providing frequency support such as wind and batteries, and synchronous condensers, might be enough to meet similar frequency quality standards. Another result of the paper is that the need for automatic generation control (AGC) becomes less clear in GFM IBR-dominated grids from a frequency quality perspective.

Index Terms—Frequency quality, frequency control, GFM, GFL, synchronous machines.

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Motivation

Frequency quality refers to the ability of a power system to maintain frequency within secure/defined limits during normal and abnormal operating conditions [1]. The integration of variable non-synchronous renewable energy sources (RES) coupled with increased market integration and dynamics is challenging the frequency quality management task leading in some instances to poor frequency quality [2], [3]. This is particularly the case of systems that do not actively utilize RES for frequency control or have limited number of battery energy storage systems (BESS) that provide excellent fast (e.g., < 1s response time) primary frequency control (PFC). For instance, despite the Continental European (CE) power system being one of the biggest interconnected systems in the world, in 2023, it exceeded for the first time the annual target of less than 15,000 minutes outside ± 50 mHz range (15,389 minutes, i.e., more than 10.5 days of cumulative time) [1].

A promising technology capable of addressing poor frequency quality is grid-forming control (GFM) of converters [4], [5]. However, there are still many open practical research questions on how GFM compares to other technologies such as grid-following (GFL) inverter-based resources (IBRs), namely, GFL BESS and wind, and synchronous generators and synchronous condensers. This paper aims at filling this gap by bringing together industry and academic expertise. For instance, while the results of the paper are based on

an IEEE benchmark power system, they closely represent the dynamic behavior of real-world power systems such as the All-Island power system (AIPS) of Ireland. This is done by considering representative realistic scenarios, simulation setups and frequency quality parameters.

B. Literature Review

The vast majority of existing literature and, in particular, literature on GFM, focuses on short-term aspects of frequency quality. In the short term, the focus is on frequency stability, which is evaluated based on a variety of metrics, for example, the rate of change of frequency (RoCoF); and frequency Nadir and Zenith. Less attention is given to long-term aspects of frequency quality such as the standard deviation of the frequency, σ_f ; and minutes outside relevant frequency range [6], [7]. Reference [8] assesses the short-term performance of different GFM control architectures, including GFM virtual synchronous machine (VSM) and droop, in dealing with frequency stability challenges. In the same vein, the authors in [9] demonstrate that GFM inverters enhance the frequency stability through their inertial response, but also by providing system strength to nearby IBRs and, thus, improving their fault ride through performance. Reference [10] shows that while GFM IBRs can replace synchronous machines, the type of control influences the frequency behavior, especially in the short-term response. However, a common shortcoming of the aforementioned references is the lack of industry perspective.

C. Contributions

This paper addresses the above limitations and brings the following main novel contributions.

- A systematic and in-depth analysis and comparison of impact of GFM on frequency quality. In particular, the impact of GFM on long-term frequency quality is, for the first time, thoroughly studied and discussed.
- The paper shows that while GFM improves almost all aspects of frequency quality, similar standards could be achieved by a combination of GFL devices and synchronous machines such as GFL BESS and synchronous condensers, respectively.
- The paper shows that the role of automatic generation control (AGC) for frequency quality reduces in GFM-dominated grids indicating a need to revisit its purpose.

D. Organization

The paper is organized as follows. Section II presents the power system model based on stochastic differential algebraic equations. Section III discusses the results including for both normal and abnormal operating conditions. Section IV draws the main conclusions and outlines future work directions.

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II. MODELING

A. Stochastic Differential-Algebraic Equations

We model the power system as a set of differential-algebraic equations:

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{\mathbf{x}} &= \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \boldsymbol{\eta}), \\ \mathbf{0} &= \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \boldsymbol{\eta}),\end{aligned}\quad (1)$$

where $\mathbf{f} : \mathbb{R}^{l+m+n} \mapsto \mathbb{R}^l$, and $\mathbf{g} : \mathbb{R}^{l+m+n} \mapsto \mathbb{R}^m$ are the differential and algebraic equations; $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^l$ is the vector of state variables; $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^m$ is the vector of algebraic variables; $\boldsymbol{\eta} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ represents stochastic processes. These equations represent the transmission system, synchronous machines, converters, and controllers. For GFM controllers we utilize two setups, namely a droop control (model REGFM_A1 [11]) and GFM VSM (model REGFM_B1 [12]).

Stochastic processes (e.g., wind speed) $\boldsymbol{\eta}$ are modeled as the following set of stochastic differential equations (SDEs):

$$\dot{\boldsymbol{\eta}} = \mathbf{a}(\boldsymbol{\eta}) + \mathbf{b}(\boldsymbol{\eta}) \odot \boldsymbol{\xi}, \quad (2)$$

where $\mathbf{a} : \mathbb{R}^n \mapsto \mathbb{R}^n$, and $\mathbf{b} : \mathbb{R}^n \mapsto \mathbb{R}^n$ are the vectors of so-called *drift*, and *diffusion* terms, respectively; $\odot$ represents the element-wise product of two vectors; and $\boldsymbol{\xi}(t)$ is the time derivative of the Wiener process $\mathbf{W}(t)$:

$$\boldsymbol{\xi}(t) dt = d\mathbf{W}(t), \quad (3)$$

where $\mathbf{W} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ is a vector of uncorrelated standard Wiener processes i.e., the elements of $\mathbf{W}(t)$, say $W_i(t)$, $i = 1, \dots, n$, are uncorrelated.

Equations (2) are SDEs that can be formally integrated to obtain:

$$\boldsymbol{\eta}(t) = \boldsymbol{\eta}(t_o) + \int_{t_o}^t \mathbf{a}(\boldsymbol{\eta}(s)) ds + \int_{t_o}^t \mathbf{b}(\boldsymbol{\eta}(s)) \odot d\mathbf{W}(s). \quad (4)$$

In (4), the drift term can be integrated with respect to time along with (1) with any conventional numerical integration scheme, for example, trapezoidal method. On the other hand, the diffusion term has to be treated differently as it depends on the Wiener processes $d\mathbf{W}(t)$, the increments of which are stochastic and (possibly) unbounded. In this work, the stochastic integral is usually represented as an Itô's integral, and is integrated using Itô's calculus [13], [14].

III. CASE STUDY

We employ the IEEE 9-bus power system to validate the effectiveness of different technologies and control strategies on frequency quality. Numerous realistic scenarios are considered with extensive time domain simulations performed using Dome [15]. The simulations cover both normal and abnormal system conditions and are evaluated based on real-world frequency quality metrics such as RoCoF, Zenith, σ_f and minutes outside ± 100 mHz. Additionally, given that not all transmission system operators (TSOs) employ an AGC and the fact that even when AGC is employed different resources operate under it, all scenarios are run with and without AGC similar to [16]. This is a useful comparison, in particular, for TSOs not currently employing an AGC but could consider it

in the future such as EirGrid/SONI in Ireland/Northern Ireland and NESO in Great Britain (GB).

Table I summarizes all the scenarios considered. A brief description of each of them is also provided below.

- *1 - Conventional*: Conventional power systems without wind generation. Synchronous generators have a ± 15 mHz governor dead-band (fdb_{conv}). Represent conventional power systems with synchronous generators operating or not under AGC (setpoints issued every 2s) such as the CE power system (with AGC) and the GB/AIPS (without AGC).
- *2 - GFL Wind ± 200 mHz*: Have replaced the conventional synchronous generator connected at bus 3 with a wind power plant which implements a 5-th order doubly-fed induction generator with voltage, pitch angle, maximum power point tracking (MPPT) controller and PFC with dead-band of ± 200 mHz (fdb_{wind}). To be able to provide up and down regulation, we assume wind is operating 20% below its MPPT (i.e., curtailed). In terms of AGC, conventional generators always operate under it while wind does (with AGC) or does not participate (without AGC). This represents most of the CE system.
- *3 - GFL Wind ± 15 mHz*: Same as Scenario 2 but with PFC dead-band of wind reduced to ± 15 mHz (known as active power control (APC) On in the AIPS). This represents the AIPS where APC is enabled regularly.
- *4 - GFL Wind & Condenser*: Same as Scenario 3 but now we have also installed a synchronous condenser (at bus 4) modeled as a synchronous generator with zero active power and no turbine governor. Moreover, the condenser has same inertia constant as the synchronous generator connected at bus 2. This could represent the AIPS in the near future if the TSOs decide to install an AGC (synchronous condensers are already installed).
- *5 - GFL BESS ± 200 mHz*: Similar to Scenario 3 but now we have also installed a BESS (at bus 4) with PFC dead-band (fdb_{bess}) of ± 200 mHz (provides primary voltage control as well) [17], and conventional generators operate (with AGC) or not (without AGC) under AGC. The latter case currently represents the AIPS while the former case could represent the AIPS in the near future if an AGC was to be installed.
- *6 - GFL BESS ± 15 mHz*: Same as Scenario 5 but with BESS having a PFC dead-band of ± 15 mHz. This represent GB where BESS provide PFC services with ± 15 mHz dead-band, and in the near future could represent the AIPS as well.
- *7 - GFL BESS & Condenser*: Same as Scenario 6 but now we have also installed a synchronous condenser. Could represent both GB and the AIPS.
- *8 - GFM VSM*: Same as Scenario 1 but now we have replaced a conventional synchronous generator connected at bus 2 with a GFM VSM that operates or not under AGC. This could represent power systems where GFM has started to be implemented such as Australia [18].
- *9 - GFM Droop*: Same as Scenario 8 but now we implement GFM droop instead of GFM VSM.

TABLE I: Summary of scenario description.

Scenario	GFL Wind Generation	APC	fdb _{wind} (mHz)	fdb _{conv} (mHz)	GFL BESS	fdb _{bess} (mHz)	AGC conv/wind/GFM	Load/Wind Ramps	Load Noise	Wind Noise	Condenser	GFM BESS VSM/Droop
Without AGC												
1 - Conventional	No	–	–	± 15	No	–	–	Load	Yes	–	–	–
2 - GFL Wind ±200 mHz	Yes	Off	± 200	± 15	No	–	conv.	Both	Yes	Gaussian	–	–
3 - GFL Wind ±15 mHz	Yes	On	± 15	± 15	No	–	conv.	Both	Yes	Gaussian	–	–
4 - GFL Wind & Condenser	Yes	On	± 15	± 15	No	–	conv.	Both	Yes	Gaussian	✓	–
5 - GFL BESS ±200 mHz	Yes	On	± 15	± 15	Yes	± 200	–	Both	Yes	Gaussian	–	–
6 - GFL BESS ±15 mHz	Yes	On	± 15	± 15	Yes	± 15	–	Both	Yes	Gaussian	–	–
7 - GFL BESS & Condenser	Yes	On	± 15	± 15	Yes	± 15	–	Both	Yes	Gaussian	✓	–
8 - GFM VSM	No	–	–	± 15	No	–	conv.	Load	Yes	–	–	VSM
9 - GFM Droop	No	–	–	± 15	No	–	conv.	Load	Yes	–	–	Droop
10 - GFL Wind & GFM VSM	Yes	On	± 15	± 15	No	–	conv.	Both	Yes	Gaussian	–	VSM
11 - GFL Wind & GFM Droop	Yes	On	± 15	± 15	No	–	conv.	Both	Yes	Gaussian	–	Droop
With AGC												
1 - Conventional	No	–	–	± 15	No	–	conv.	Load	Yes	–	–	–
2 - GFL Wind ±200 mHz	Yes	Off	± 200	± 15	No	–	conv. & wind	Both	Yes	Gaussian	–	–
3 - GFL Wind ±15 mHz	Yes	On	± 15	± 15	No	–	conv. & wind	Both	Yes	Gaussian	–	–
4 - GFL Wind & Condenser	Yes	On	± 15	± 15	No	–	conv. & wind	Both	Yes	Gaussian	✓	–
5 - GFL BESS ±200 mHz	Yes	On	± 15	± 15	Yes	± 200	conv.	Both	Yes	Gaussian	–	–
6 - GFL BESS ±15 mHz	Yes	On	± 15	± 15	Yes	± 15	conv.	Both	Yes	Gaussian	–	–
7 - GFL BESS & Condenser	Yes	On	± 15	± 15	Yes	± 15	conv.	Both	Yes	Gaussian	✓	–
8 - GFM VSM	No	–	–	± 15	No	–	conv. & GFM	Load	Yes	–	–	VSM
9 - GFM Droop	No	–	–	± 15	No	–	conv. & GFM	Load	Yes	–	–	Droop
10 - GFL Wind & GFM VSM	Yes	On	± 15	± 15	No	–	conv. & GFM	Both	Yes	Gaussian	–	VSM
11 - GFL Wind & GFM Droop	Yes	On	± 15	± 15	No	–	conv. & GFM	Both	Yes	Gaussian	–	Droop

- **10 - GFL Wind & GFM VSM:** This combines Scenario 3 and Scenario 8 where we have replaced two synchronous generators with a wind power plant (connected at bus 3) with PFC dead-band of ± 15 mHz and a GFM VSM (connected at bus 2), respectively, where the latter is or not under AGC.
- **11 - GFL Wind & GFM Droop:** This is same as Scenario 10 but instead of GFM VSM we implement GFM droop.

A. Abnormal Conditions

One of the main concerns for TSOs and, in particular, for those that operate relatively small islanded power systems, is how to deal with frequency stability or short-term aspects of frequency quality such as keeping RoCoF, Nadir and Zenith within predefined limits following large contingencies/imbalances [19]. In this context, here we consider the loss of load connected at bus 6. Note that while this represents a significant contingency due to the load loss representing almost 30% of total load, it is realistic for some power systems such as the AIPS. As over-frequency is an increasing concern for TSOs, this case study also aims at providing recommendations on how TSOs may deal with this emerging challenge (i.e., TSOs have traditionally been concerned of under-frequency events).

Figure 1 shows relevant frequency traces whereas Table II presents the results for all scenarios. The scenarios that include a GFM device (i.e., Scenarios 8, 9, 10 and 11) lead to an excellent frequency response performance. In contrast, conventional power systems (Scenario 1) suffer larger frequency deviations in terms of Zenith but not RoCoF necessarily due to a lot of inertia. These can be better seen in Table II. Note that RoCoF is calculated over a rolling window of 500 ms which is a standard in the industry.

Comparing GFM control strategies, that is, GFM VSM and GFM droop, it appears that GFM VSM leads to a slightly better performance in terms of Zenith and RoCoF (e.g., Zenith of 50.28 and RoCoF of 0.42, Scenario 8, compared to Zenith of 50.31 and RoCoF of 0.51 Hz/s, Scenario 9). In addition to Zenith, time to Zenith (T_{zenith}) and RoCoF metrics, we show

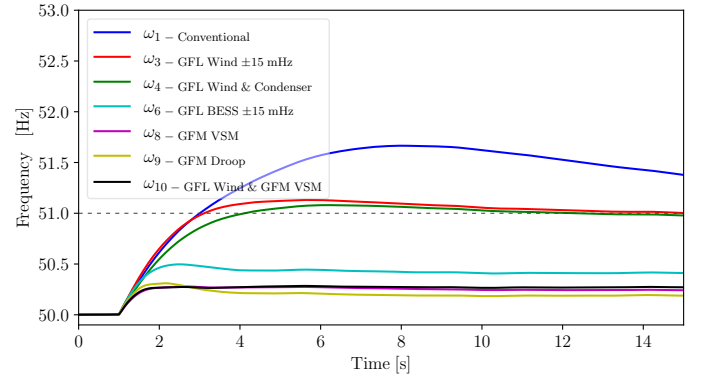


Fig. 1: Frequency trace comparison for contingency event without AGC (loss of load at bus 6).

in Table II also the time to restore (T_{restore}) frequency within defined ranges such as ± 200 mHz as is the case in the AIPS. In contrast to Zenith and RoCoF results, GFM droop outperforms GFM VSM in terms of T_{restore} . In Table II, Scenarios are also classified as “Insecure” or “Secure” if these metrics are outside or inside operational limits for the AIPS system (e.g., Zenith limit of 51 Hz and RoCoF limit of 1 Hz/s).

Another interesting result is that related to impact of PFC dead-band of wind and BESS. Specifically, it appears that there is no significant difference on frequency stability if the dead-band of wind PFC is ± 200 mHz or ± 15 mHz (Scenarios 2 and 3). For instance, if APC is On (dead-band of ± 15 mHz) leads to a RoCoF of 0.72 Hz/s while when APC is Off leads to a RoCoF of 0.73 Hz/s. This is not the case for BESS (Scenarios 5 and 6) where it can be seen that having a narrow dead-band, in this case ± 15 mHz, leads to improved Zenith and RoCoF (i.e., from 0.70 Hz/s to 0.63 Hz/s). This is considered useful information for TSOs looking into the management of PFC settings to deal with frequency stability such as the GB and Irish TSOs [20].

The cases with and without AGC lead to very similar results except time to restore frequency within the ± 200 mHz range (T_{restore}). This is to be expected considering AGC is a slow controller compared to PFC, in particular, PFC of IBRs such as BESS. This is another useful information for TSOs

considering installing an AGC. In other words, if frequency restoration is not an issue for TSOs, then an AGC may not be needed at all from a short-term frequency quality or frequency stability perspective. The impact of AGC on long-term frequency performance is discussed in the next section.

Looking at the contingency results, we can conclude that while GFM appears to significantly improve frequency stability, a combination of GFL devices such as wind and BESS and synchronous condensers (i.e., Scenarios 6 and 7) lead to similar and acceptable frequency performance (e.g., Zenith below 50.5 Hz and RoCoF below 0.60 Hz/s). For this reason, the choice between GFM or GFL plus synchronous condensers might be more economical or driven by other issues such as system strength rather than for short-term frequency quality. However, our opinion, which is based on the results of this paper, is that TSOs operating small islanded systems should consider integration of GFM to increase robustness of their systems against large contingencies.

TABLE II: Results for contingency events.

Scenario	Zenith (Hz)	T_{zenith} (s)	RoCoF (Hz/s)	T_{restore} (s)	Security
Without AGC					
1 - Conventional	51.66	6.97	0.66	No rest.	Insecure
2 - GFL Wind ± 200 mHz	51.25	4.79	0.73	49.0	Insecure
3 - GFL Wind ± 15 mHz	51.13	4.62	0.72	45.52	Insecure
4 - GFL Wind & Condenser	51.08	5.19	0.59	45.47	Insecure
5 - GFL BESS ± 200 mHz	50.60	1.58	0.70	No rest.	Insecure
6 - GFL BESS ± 15 mHz	50.49	1.50	0.63	No rest.	Insecure
7 - GFL BESS & Condenser	50.47	1.73	0.53	No rest.	Insecure
8 - GFM VSM	50.28	1.63	0.42	23.47	Secure
9 - GFM Droop	50.31	1.16	0.51	3.44	Secure
10 - GFL Wind & GFM VSM	50.28	4.58	0.44	93.66	Secure
11 - GFL Wind & GFM Droop	50.30	0.89	0.54	21.62	Secure
With AGC					
1 - Conventional	51.62	6.76	0.66	17.84	Insecure
2 - GFL Wind ± 200 mHz	51.23	4.59	0.73	30.02	Insecure
3 - GFL Wind ± 15 mHz	51.10	4.55	0.72	27.90	Insecure
4 - GFL Wind & Condenser	51.05	5.0	0.59	28.05	Insecure
5 - GFL BESS ± 200 mHz	50.60	1.60	0.70	66.08	Secure
6 - GFL BESS ± 15 mHz	50.49	1.50	0.63	39.80	Secure
7 - GFL BESS & Condenser	50.47	1.74	0.53	39.83	Secure
8 - GFM VSM	50.28	1.63	0.42	19.61	Secure
9 - GFM Droop	50.31	1.16	0.51	3.24	Secure
10 - GFL Wind & GFM VSM	50.28	4.56	0.44	28.20	Secure
11 - GFL Wind & GFM Droop	50.30	0.89	0.54	12.07	Secure

B. Normal Conditions

Long-term frequency quality which is mainly related to normal operating conditions is more often than not overlooked in the literature despite TSOs dedicating of lot of time and effort to keep it within defined standards [1]. In this context, this section aims to fill this gap. To do so, we perform long-term dynamic stochastic simulations namely 24h, and quantify long-term frequency quality using different metrics such as σ_f , asymmetry of σ_f namely $\Delta\sigma_f$, and minutes outside ± 100 mHz [16]. In particular, we have introduced realistic wind and demand ramps and noise. The detailed model of stochastic disturbances is given in [16].

Figure 2 illustrates the results for same scenarios as in the previous section using a random window in the simulation, whereas Table III provides detailed results for all scenarios. Similar to contingency events, Figure 2 and Table III suggest that, overall, GFM significantly also improves long-term frequency quality. For instance, Scenario 8, 9, 10 and 11 that include GFM devices show very small σ_f , $\Delta\sigma_f$ (almost by

an order of magnitude) and zero minutes outside ± 100 mHz range when compared with other relevant scenarios such as Scenario 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 that involve GFL devices such as wind and BESS and synchronous condensers. As a matter of fact, and for comparison, Scenarios 3 to 7 show more or less same σ_f as the Nordic, AIPS and CE systems [1].

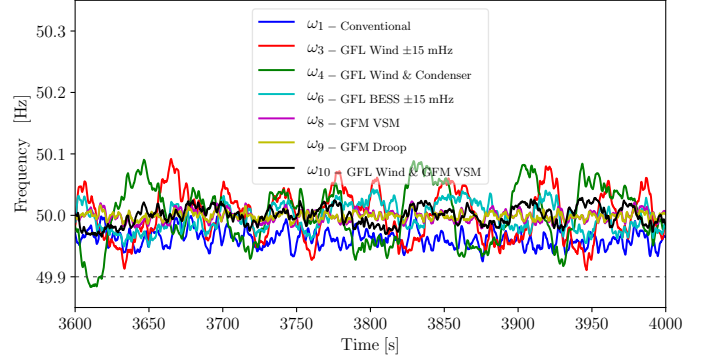


Fig. 2: Frequency trace comparison for normal conditions without AGC.

Another interesting result is that GFM droop (e.g., Scenario 9) appears to slightly outperform GFM VSM (e.g., Scenario 8) in terms of σ_f and $\Delta\sigma_f$. This is different to the contingency results where GFM VSM slightly outperformed GFM droop in terms of Zenith and RoCoF. These results suggest that TSOs facing challenges with frequency stability may consider the installation of GFM VSM devices while others that suffer from poor long-term frequency quality may consider GFM droop devices, assuming the economics are same or very similar. Note that we are aware that with proper tuning different GFM control strategies, and even GFL devices such as BESS, may lead to same or similar results but this is outside of the scope of this paper (i.e., we have done little to no tuning compared to published parameters in [11], [12]).

While the cases with AGC generally lead to lower σ_f , $\Delta\sigma_f$ and minutes outside ± 100 mHz range, the differences are not significant. In fact, there are many scenarios without AGC, for example, all GFM Scenarios (8-11) and Scenarios with BESS devices with ± 15 mHz PFC dead-band (Scenarios 6 and 7) that lead to zero minutes outside ± 100 mHz range. These results really question the importance of AGC in IBR-dominated grids and, in particular, in GFM IBR-dominated grids due to their excellent inertial and PFC capability and, in turn, increased frequency quality.

IV. CONCLUDING REMARKS

This paper provides a comprehensive assessment of the impact of conventional and emerging power technologies and control strategies on frequency quality. The scenarios included in the case study consider GFM and GFL IBRs, as well as synchronous generators and synchronous condensers.

Extensive dynamic simulations and realistic scenarios on the IEEE 9-bus system lead to conclude that GFM significantly outperforms other technologies (e.g., synchronous generators/condensers and GFL wind) in terms of both short and long-term aspects of frequency quality such as dealing with Zenith, RoCoF and σ_f . Despite this, a combination of these other technologies, for example, GFL wind, BESS

TABLE III: Results for normal conditions.

Scenario	Mean (Hz)	σ_f (Hz)	σ_{f-} (Hz)	σ_{f+} (Hz)	$\Delta\sigma_f$ (Hz)	Outside $\pm 100\text{mHz}$ (mins)	< 49.9 Hz (mins)	> 50.1 Hz (mins)
Without AGC								
1 - Conventional	49.99	0.02490	0.02572	0.0240	0.0017	0	0	0
2 - GFL Wind ± 200 mHz	50.00	0.03715	0.03709	0.03821	0.00011	5.83	3.47	2.35
3 - GFL Wind ± 15 mHz	50.00	0.03922	0.03939	0.03905	0.00034	10.46	6.60	3.85
4 - GFL Wind & Condenser	50.00	0.03731	0.03772	0.03690	0.00081	8.93	6.78	2.15
5 - GFL BESS ± 200 mHz	50.01	0.0511	0.0456	0.0539	0.0083	13.73	7.17	6.55
6 - GFL BESS ± 15 mHz	50.00	0.03204	0.02693	0.03499	0.00805	0	0	0
7 - GFL BESS & Condenser	50.00	0.03169	0.02655	0.03465	0.00809	0	0	0
8 - GFM VSM	50.00	0.009478	0.009499	0.009459	0.000040	0	0	0
9 - GFM Droop	50.00	0.00627	0.00628	0.00627	0.000016	0	0	0
10 - GFL Wind & GFM VSM	50.00	0.01424	0.01420	0.01428	0.000082	0	0	0
11 - GFL Wind & GFM Droop	50.00	0.01005	0.01006	0.01004	0.000018	0	0	0
With AGC								
1 - Conventional	50.00	0.02165	0.02164	0.02165	0.000013	0	0	0
2 - GFL Wind ± 200 mHz	50.00	0.03545	0.03542	0.03549	0.000061	5.01	3.32	1.69
3 - GFL Wind ± 15 mHz	50.00	0.03546	0.03565	0.0352	0.00036	7.94	5.91	2.03
4 - GFL Wind & Condenser	50.00	0.03421	0.03436	0.03407	0.00028	6.32	4.54	1.78
5 - GFL BESS ± 200 mHz	50.00	0.0395	0.0397	0.0393	0.00039	12.23	7.75	4.48
6 - GFL BESS ± 15 mHz	50.00	0.0221	0.0222	0.0220	0.00019	0	0	0
7 - GFL BESS & Condenser	50.00	0.02168	0.02179	0.02158	0.00021	0	0	0
8 - GFM VSM	50.00	0.00945	0.00948	0.00943	0.000047	0	0	0
9 - GFM Droop	50.00	0.00626	0.00627	0.00625	0.000017	0	0	0
10 - GFL Wind & GFM VSM	50.00	0.01398	0.01393	0.0140	0.00091	0	0	0
11 - GFL Wind & GFM Droop	50.00	0.00985	0.00984	0.00986	0.000021	0	0	0

and synchronous condensers, lead to lower but acceptable frequency performance compared to GFM. For this reason, the choice between GFM and GFL plus synchronous condensers may be driven by economics or by other system issues such as system strength [21].

Another insightful result of the paper is that the frequency control role and importance of AGC in GFM IBR-dominated grids becomes less evident due to GFM providing excellent inertial and PFC and, thus, reducing the need for AGC. But we believe that the question whether AGC is needed at all or not deserves further detailed considerations. These include: (i) Applying AGC in a real-world power system model and testing its effectiveness under different operating conditions similar to this work; (ii) AGC benefits with regard to enabling cross-border balancing energy exchange and imbalance netting process; (iii) AGC benefits in terms of helping maintain scheduled power flows between different balancing control areas (tie-line active power control); (iv) AGC benefits in terms of removing or, at least, significantly reducing the need for issuing manual dispatch instructions; (v) AGC support with automatic time error control (in jurisdictions where it is still performed); and last but not least (vi) Role and benefits of AGC in self vs central dispatch systems. These aspects will be considered in future work.

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