Innovative Reviews in Engineering and Science, ISSN: 3048-8745 Vol. 2, No. 1, 2025 (pp. 34-44)

REVIEW ARTICLE **ECEJOURNALS.IN**

Next-Gen Power Systems in Electrical Engineering

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KEYWORDS:
Energy Management Systems;
Power Electronics;
Renewable Energy Integration;
Smart Grid Technologies;
Sustainable Energy Infrastructure;
Wide-Bandgap Semiconductors

ARTICLE HISTORY:
Submitted : 18.07.2024
Revised : 28.11.2024
Accepted : 15.12.2024

https://doi.org/10.31838/INES/02.01.04

ABSTRACT

Next-generation power systems in electrical engineering represent a paradigm shift towards more efficient, reliable, and sustainable energy infrastructure. This abstract explores the advancements and innovations in power systems that are shaping the future of electrical engineering. The integration of renewable energy sources, such as solar, wind, and hydroelectric power, alongside advancements in energy storage technologies, is revolutionizing the generation, transmission, and distribution of electrical power. Smart grid technologies enable real-time monitoring, control, and optimization of power systems, enhancing reliability and resilience while facilitating the integration of distributed energy resources. Moreover, advancements in power electronics, including wide-bandgap semiconductors and solid-state transformers, enable higher efficiency and greater flexibility in power conversion and control. Microgrids, energy management systems, and demand response strategies further enhance the efficiency and resilience of next-generation power systems, enabling dynamic adaptation to changing energy demands and grid conditions. Additionally, the emergence of electric vehicles and vehicle-to-grid (V2G) integration introduces new opportunities for grid stabilization and demand-side management. Next-gen power systems in electrical engineering are poised to address the challenges of climate change, energy security, and grid modernization, while paving the way for a sustainable and decentralized energy future. Continued research and development in this field will drive further innovations and advancements, ensuring the transition to a cleaner, more reliable, and resilient electrical grid..

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How to cite this article: Ristono A, Budi P. Next-Gen Power Systems in Electrical Engineering. Innovative Reviews in Engineering and Science, Vol. 2, No. 1, 2025 (pp. 34-44).

INTRODUCTION

The field of power electrical engineering is crucial for meeting the ever-increasing global demand for reliable and sustainable energy. As we strive to integrate renewable energy sources like solar energy and address challenges like powering electric vehicles, next-generation power systems are emerging to enhance energy efficiency, control, and communication. These cutting-edge technologies encompass power electronics and conversion, system optimization and management, as well as updated policy and regulatory frameworks. Collaborations between industry and academia are driving innovations that tackle obstacles while harnessing renewable energy through intelligent circuits and renewable integration.Electrical power systems are the backbone of modern life, enabling all the technology that organizations and individuals rely on to function within society.These systems are at the heart of humanity's accomplishments, and the need for them will only continue to grow in the future.Few other products have benefits that so measurably demonstrate their value as sophisticated electrical power systems. The power system serves as the backbone of our electrical infrastructure, converting energy sources such as coal and diesel into the electricity we rely on daily.It is comprised of six essential components: power plants, transformers, transmission lines, substations, distribution lines, and distribution transformers.Each component plays a crucial role in the efficient flow of energy from generation to consumption, ensuring that electricity reaches its intended destinations reliably.[1-4]

A. Components and Architecture

Key components of the power system include synchronous generators (which produce electricity), transformers (which regulate voltage), circuit breakers (which protect against electrical faults), and conductors (which transmit electricity).The system's architecture involves generating substations, transmission substations, sub-transmission substations, and distribution substations, each serving a specific purpose in the generation, transmission, and distribution of electricity.

B. Importance in Modern Society

To imagine life without electrical power systems is virtually impossible, as it would be nearly unrecognizable compared to the life most people currently lead.For businesses, a reliable electrical power system is essential for uninterrupted operations, while individuals have strong expectations for systems that can accommodate new and innovative technology with increasing power demands.As the world becomes more interconnected, advanced power systems can be considered a milestone in human evolution, ushering in a new era where life before their ubiquity is not within living memory.[5-7]

Emerging Trends and Technologies

A. Renewable Energy Integration

The increasing adoption of renewable energy sources like wind and solar power presents challenges for power grids, as their intermittent nature leads to significant fluctuations in electricity generation as in Fig. 1.During periods of high renewable output, surplus energy may exceed demand, while periods of low output can strain conventional power plants and grid infrastructure. Effectively integrating renewables requires innovative solutions to address these variabilities. One approach is improving weather forecasting and energy modeling tools to better predict renewable energy production, enabling grid operators to plan and respond accordingly. Smart grids, which use digital technologies and sensors to monitor and manage energy flow from various sources in real-time, can also help balance supply and demand across the grid.However, in the long run, power systems with high shares of variable renewable generation will necessitate a re-thinking of traditional design, operation, and planning practices from both technical and economic perspectives.This may involve deploying innovative technologies and operation modes, particularly in mini-grids and island systems.

B. Energy Storage Solutions

Energy storage systems play a crucial role in integrating renewable energy by storing surplus electricity during periods of overproduction and discharging it when demand exceeds supply.This helps shift energy to high-demand periods, provide grid services like frequency control or spinning reserve, and enable sector coupling by supplying stored energy as heat, cold, or synthetic fuels. Various energy storage technologies are being explored, including electro-thermal energy storage, power-to-X solutions, liquid air energy storage, compressed air energy storage, and molten salt energy storage.Advancements in energy storage can significantly enhance the reliability, sustainability, and economic viability of renewable energy integration.

C. Smart Grid Technologies

Smart grids represent a transformative opportunity for the energy industry, promising improved reliability, availability, and efficiency that contribute to economic and environmental sustainability.Key benefits of smart grids include more efficient electricity transmission, quicker restoration after power disturbances, reduced operational costs for utilities (and ultimately lower costs for consumers), reduced peak demand, increased integration of large-scale renewable energy systems, better integration of customer-owned power generation (including renewables), and improved security. Smart grids add resiliency to power systems by enabling automatic rerouting during equipment failures or outages, minimizing disruptions.They also promote energy efficiency and increased awareness of the connection between electricity use and environmental impact, while enhancing national security through greater reliance on domestic, resilient energy sources. To facilitate the clean energy transition and accommodate the electrification of various sectors, substantial investment

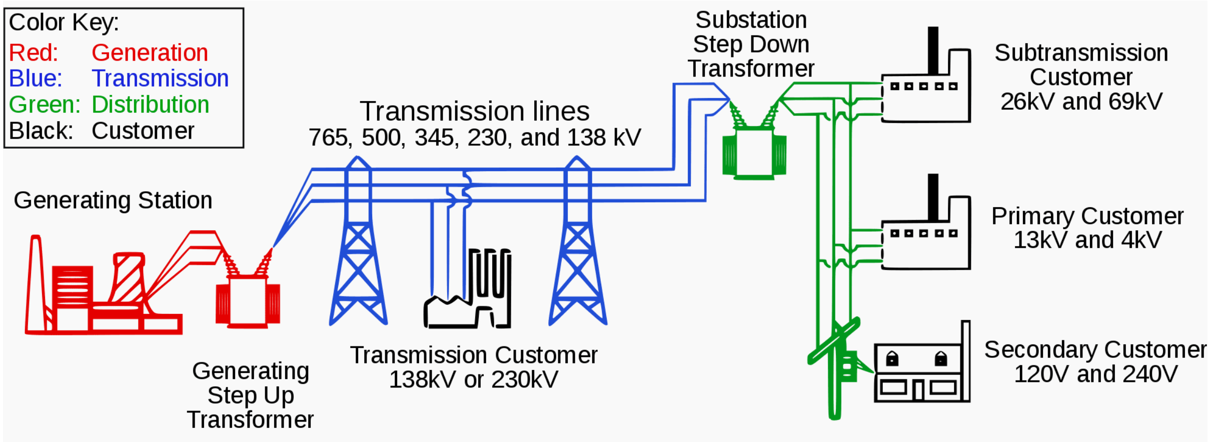


Fig. 1: The Structure of Electric Power Systems

in smart grid technologies is required, particularly in emerging markets and developing economies.Several major economies have announced substantial funding for grid modernization and digitalization initiatives.[8-9]

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

A. Grid Modernization and Resilience

Electric power distribution systems generally do not come under the jurisdiction of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and, as a result, are not required to comply with North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) standards pertaining to cybersecurity, except in a few cases.This lack of regulation has led to inadequate attention being given to the cybersecurity requirements of Intelligent Electronic Devices (IEDs) used in distribution systems. However, distribution systems are more vulnerable to cyber-attacks as most of the IEDs used in these systems are not physically secured.If a coordinated attack takes place, it can have far-reaching impacts on the distribution system as well as the rest of the power system.The IEDs located outside substations do not have any physical protection, and these devices may be mounted at eye level on poles, making them easily accessible as in Fig. 2.

A hacker can gain access to the wireless communications network by simply opening the cabinet door and disconnecting the control's Ethernet port, then connecting their laptop to the modem.With this access, the hacker can command load tap changer (LTC) controls and regulator controls to raise voltage levels and switch all capacitor banks to the ON position, potentially raising the voltage on the distribution circuit by 25 to 30%, causing severe damage to distribution transformers and consumer electronics equipment.If such an attack is coordinated across various substations, the overall damage can total millions of dollars. Similarly, a hacker with access to the communications network can cause widespread power outages by commanding distribution reclosers and sectionalizing switches to open.Modern protection, monitoring, and control systems in electric power systems with advanced communication capabilities are vulnerable to cyber-attacks.It is crucial to apply cybersecurity standards to IEDs integrated into substations and feeder equipment to ensure secure communications.Advanced cybersecurity features, such as RADIUS for authentication, authorization, and accounting, and IPSec VPN tunneling for secure communications via shared networks, can be incorporated into IEDs to provide secure communications inside and outside distribution substations.[10-11]

Grid transformation has its challenges, including distributed energy resources (DERs) management for system reliability, electric vehicle (EV) charging and energy storage distribution and management, interconnection of varied devices, applications, and systems, incompatibility of existing legacy systems with modern systems, and cybersecurity, data, and asset security. Substation modernization challenges can usually be categorized into three main areas: capital expenditure (CapEx), resources, and time.

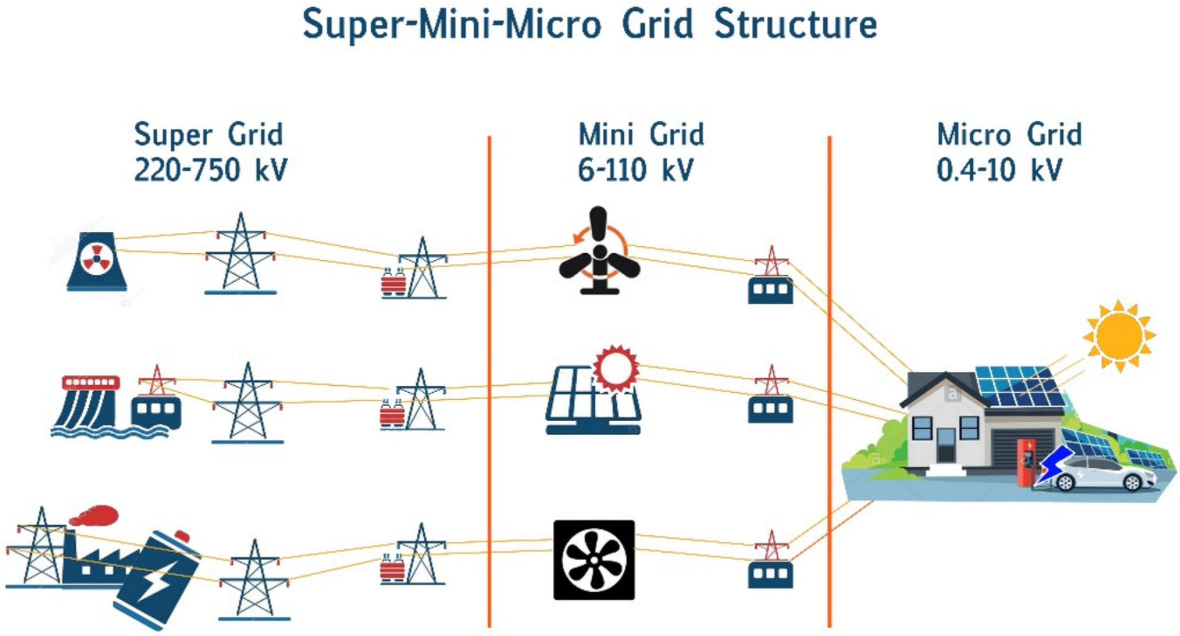


Fig. 2: Super mini grid structure

CapEx involves justifying the investments, resources involve having the right skill set and training, and time involves obtaining regulatory approvals and managing the deployment process. Grid modernization demands efficient orchestration of edge workloads for real-time decision-making in energy distribution.This shift to edge computing offers a disruptive opportunity, enhancing grid reliability and unlocking data-driven insights.The future substation platform will serve as a communication hub, seamlessly orchestrating smart devices and applications, and redefining the energy landscape for a resilient and intelligent power grid.

B. Cybersecurity and Data Protection

Cybersecurity is the practice of protecting power systems from unauthorized access, manipulation, or sabotage. Cyberattack scenarios in power systems include attacks on Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) and control systems, exploitation of remote access vulnerabilities, zero-day exploits targeting power system software, advanced persistent threats (APTs), supply chain attacks, insider threats, and physical attacks on infrastructure.These attacks can result in operational disruptions, unauthorized access, data manipulation, and power outages.

Cybersecurity principles in power systems include defense in depth, risk management, least privilege, continuous monitoring, incident response and recovery, security awareness and training, secure development and maintenance, and collaboration and information sharing. By implementing these principles, power systems can establish multiple layers of security, identify and mitigate risks, limit access privileges, monitor system activities, respond to incidents, educate personnel, ensure secure development and maintenance of software and firmware, and foster collaboration for enhanced cybersecurity. These principles work together to create a resilient and secure power system environment. Cybersecurity tools used in power systems include firewalls, intrusion detection/prevention systems, security information and event management (SIEM) tools, antivirus/anti-malware software, vulnerability scanners, security orchestration, automation, and response (SOAR) platforms, encryption tools, and penetration testing tools.These tools help protect power systems by establishing network defenses, detecting and responding to threats, monitoring and analyzing security events, mitigating malware risks, identifying vulnerabilities, automating incident response, ensuring data confidentiality and integrity, and simulating attacks for security validation as shown in Fig. 3.

Ensuring business continuity in the event of a cybersecurity threat is essential.Lessons from Russia's cyber attack on Ukraine are still being learned, but part of Ukraine's ability to continue operations in light of a massive breach was their ability to work around

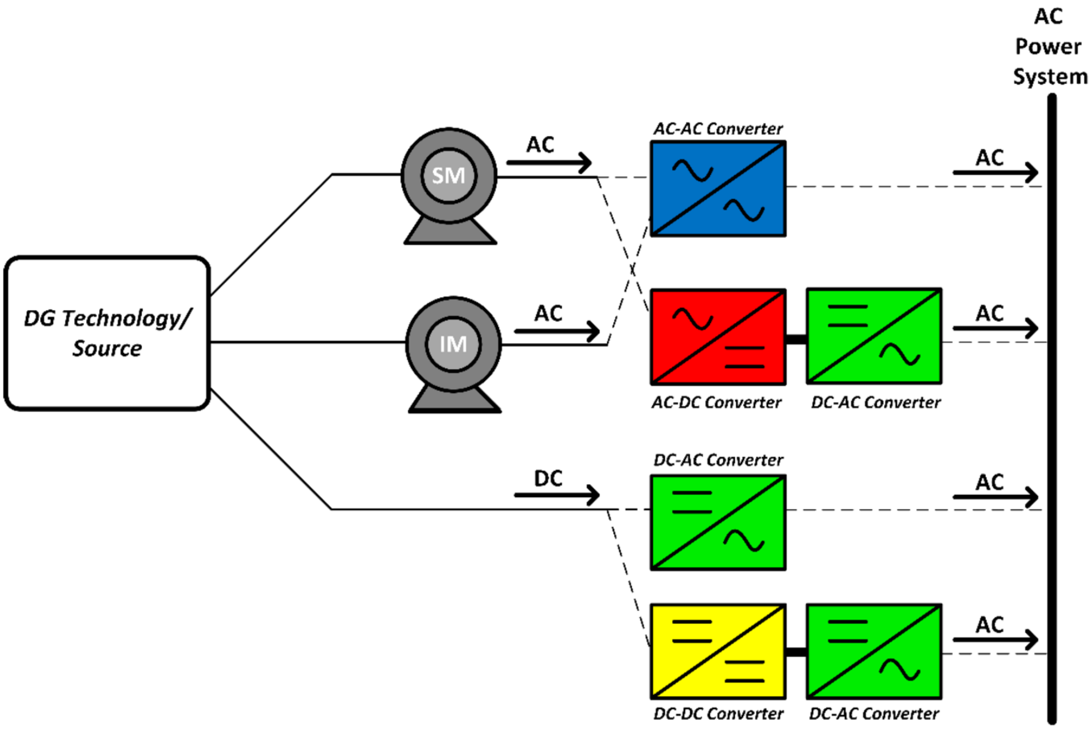


Fig. 3: Power Electronics for Modern Sustainable Power systems

the affected systems.This means preparing for a breach by planning in advance, conducting emergency response exercises for various scenarios, and preparing contingencies will be as essential as mounting an effective defense. A systematic approach to assess cyber risks, foster a performance-based cybersecurity culture, frame cybersecurity guidelines, and promote physical preparedness and resilience is suggested.Smart grid security needs intelligent networks for Internet of Things (IoT) solutions against the possibility of cyber-threats in the energy sector.Thus, there is an urgent requirement for an automated Enterprise Grade CCTV camera threat scanning tool to secure the IoT ecosystem.Specialized and advanced technology security solutions should be embedded in IoT devices like CCTV IP cameras, network video recorders (NVRs), Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) receivers, and smart energy meters for automated threat assessment solutions to find vulnerabilities and weaknesses in IoT devices.[12]-[14]

C. Environmental and Sustainability Considerations

Sustainable electrical engineering focuses on developing renewable electricity sources such as wind and solar power, systems for integrating renewable power into the grid, hybrid and electric vehicles, and energy-efficient lights, motors, appliances, and heating and cooling systems. Depending on the courses selected, sustainability area coursework can provide additional understanding of topics in energy generation, control systems, energy resource management, and environmental issues, while satisfying the requirements for a Certificate in Sustainability. Electrical engineers completing coursework in the computer interest sustainability focus area find employment in the renewable energy industry, the electric and hybrid electric vehicle industry, power utilities, consulting, and more generally, anywhere energy efficiency is a concern. Courses related to sustainable energy conversion, sustainable systems, introduction to environmental science, and introduction to sustainability are typically required for a Certificate in Sustainability.

NEXT-GENERATION POWER SYSTEMS

A. Distributed Generation and Microgrids

If energy is lost by simply moving it through long transmission lines, then logic tells us that if we can use the energy closer to where it is generated, the better off we are.The concepts of distributed energy and microgrids are based on that notion - that it is better when energy is generated and managed closer to the point of use. A microgrid is simply a “small scale grid.”It does the same thing as the larger regional and national grids, but on a geographically more limited scale.It can be connected to the main grid, but once it obtains the power, it manages it through a smaller, more localized grid.Alternatively, the microgrid can have its own generation capability. Our distributed energy and power business helps big energy consumers, like businesses and hospitals, to use energy more efficiently and become small-scale energy producers by installing energy efficiency measures, adding technologies like solar panels and combined heat and power, or by using their backup generators at periods of high demand.We can help them to design, install, and manage these assets by connecting them to our energy control centers as explained in Fig. 4.

From here, we can help smooth out the peaks in demand that put pressure on the network.During these spikes, our distributed energy customers can actually earn money by generating energy, reducing their consumption, or delaying their energy use.We’re also seeing major developments in battery storage.This will help big energy users to better manage how and when they take energy from, or export it back to the grid.[15-16]

B. Advanced Control and Monitoring Systems

Power grids are traditionally monitored using a combination of human operators and automated systems. The monitoring and control of the power grid is typically centralized at a control center, which may be operated by a utility or a regional transmission organization. At the control center, operators use specialized software to monitor the flow of electricity across the power grid

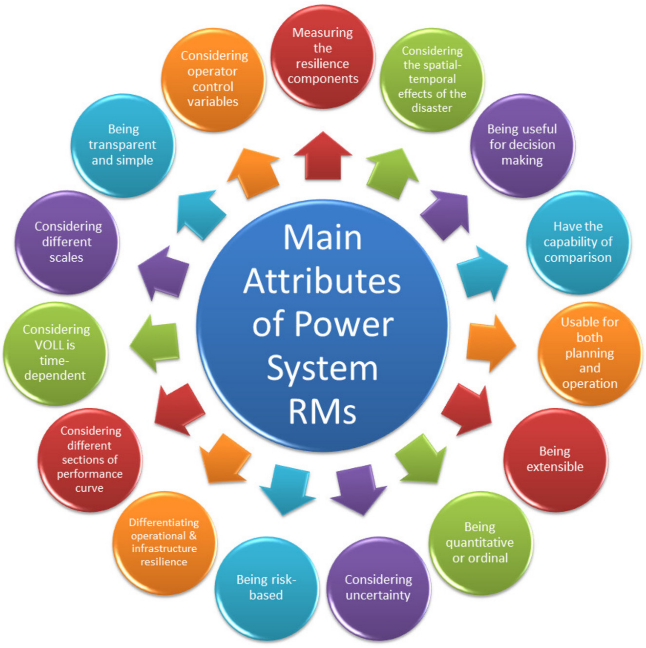


Fig. 4: Power Systems Resilience Metrics

and to respond to changes in supply and demand in real-time.They also monitor the status of power generation equipment, transmission lines, and distribution systems to identify and respond to issues as they arise.

In addition to the human operators, power grids are also monitored by a variety of automated systems. These may include sensors and monitoring equipment that provide real-time data on the status of the grid, such as voltage levels, current flows, and equipment temperature.Advanced software systems can use this data to predict and prevent problems before they occur, allowing operators to take proactive measures to maintain the stability and reliability of the power grid. Safegrids IGS is a type of advanced monitoring system that uses advanced technology to improve the monitoring and protection of power grids.It is designed to provide real-time situational awareness of power grid conditions and to help operators identify and respond to potential problems before they lead to outages or other disruptions. One of the key features of Safegrids IGS is its use of machine learning and artificial intelligence algorithms to analyze large amounts of data from power grid sensors and other monitoring equipment.These algorithms can detect anomalies and patterns in the data that may indicate potential issues, and can alert operators to take corrective action.

Another important feature of Safegrids IGS is its ability to provide predictive analytics.By analyzing historical data and current conditions, the system can identify potential problems before they occur and provide recommendations for preventive maintenance or other measures to avoid outages. Safegrids IGS also includes a range of visualization and reporting tools that help operators understand the current state of the power grid and identify trends or patterns that may indicate potential problems.This can help operators make more informed decisions and respond more quickly to issues as they arise. By providing real-time monitoring and predictive analytics, Safegrids IGS can help utilities prevent power outages and other disruptions.This can help reduce the costs associated with repairs, compensation to customers for lost power, and other related expenses. By identifying potential problems before they occur, Safegrids IGS can help utilities optimize their maintenance schedules and reduce unnecessary maintenance costs.This can help extend the life of power grid equipment, reduce downtime, and lower overall maintenance expenses. By providing detailed information on the performance and health of power grid equipment, Safegrids IGS can help utilities manage their assets more effectively.This can help utilities make more informed decisions about equipment replacement, repair, and maintenance, and can help optimize the use of existing assets.[17].

C. Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning Applications

AI/ML techniques hold significant potential for enhancing power system applications; however, they are not omnipotent as in Fig. 5.It is crucial to acknowledge their limitations and understand that they may not be able to address all challenges in the power system domain. Various factors must be considered that influence the implementation, adoption, and effectiveness of AI/ML

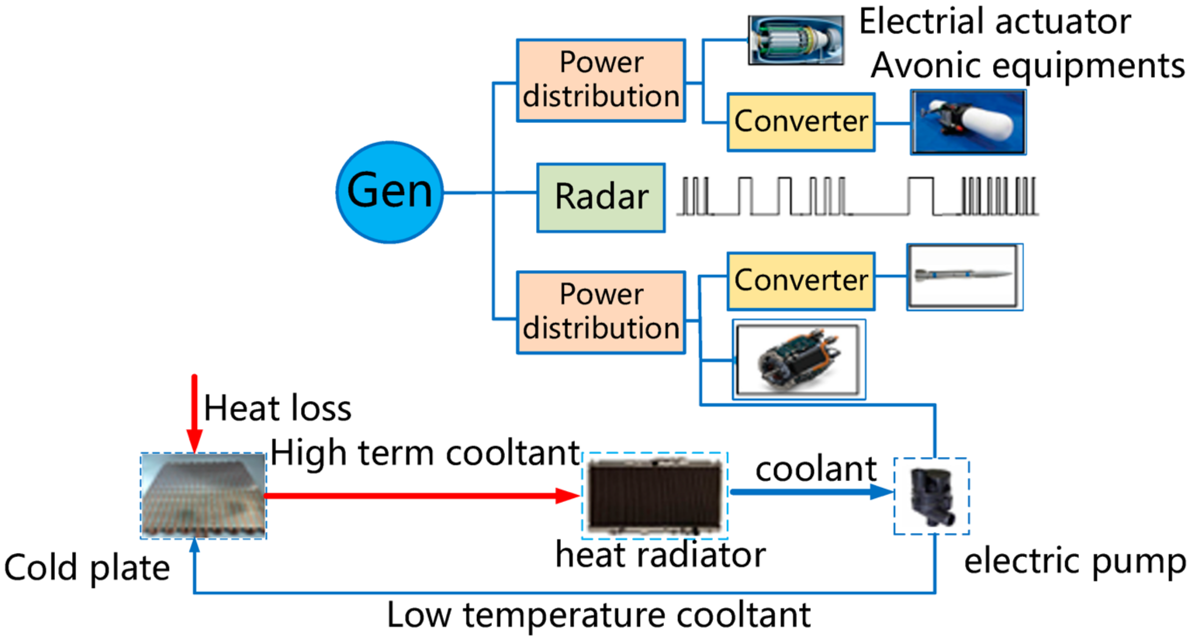


Fig. 5: Architecture Optimization and Energy Management Technology

solutions, including but not limited to safety, security, transparency, and trustworthiness. Additionally, the incorporation of advanced human-machine interfaces is essential, as it enables humans to validate the effectiveness of AI/ML solutions while remaining actively engaged, fostering trust in AI/ML deployment. AI/ML techniques have emerged as a transformative force to alleviate these challenges, heralding a new era of efficiency, reliability, and innovation.This report aims to provide an overview of state-of-the-art AI/ML technologies.More importantly, it aims to show their application and impacts on the planning and operation of power systems, the future opportunities that they present, and the challenges that accompany their integration into power systems. An examination of various ML techniques, including supervised, unsupervised, and reinforcement learning, forms the backbone of our exploration.We will discuss the representative applications of these techniques in power system management, spanning from fault detection, asset management and predictive maintenance, to oscillation detection [18]-[19].

5. POWER ELECTRONICS AND CONVERSION

Power electronics and conversion play a pivotal role in the development of next-generation power systems, enabling efficient energy conversion, transmission, and control.

A. Power Converter Technologies

A significant breakthrough in power converter design has been achieved by researchers at Kobe University, resulting in higher efficiency, lower cost, and reduced maintenance requirements.The direct current voltage boost converter they developed has the potential to contribute significantly to the advancement of electric and electronic components across various sectors, including power generation, healthcare, mobility, and information technology. Boost converters are ubiquitous components that convert low-voltage direct current (DC) input into high-voltage DC output, making them essential for devices that harvest energy from sunlight, vibrations, or power medical devices and hydrogen-fueled cars.The main principle behind boost converters is rapidly switching between two states in a circuit: one that stores energy and another that releases it.The faster the switching, the smaller the components can be, enabling device downsizing. However, this also increases electromagnetic noise and heat production, which can deteriorate the converter's performance.[20]

The Kobe University team has combined high-frequency switching (about 10 times higher than before) with a technique called "soft switching," which reduces electromagnetic noise and power losses due to heat dissipation, while also reducing the number of components, thereby keeping costs and complexity low. The soft switching technique ensures that the switch transitions happen at zero voltage, minimizing heat loss during the brief period when the switch is not completely closed, and both voltage and current are present across the switch. The team's new circuit design, presented in the IEEE Transactions on Power Electronics, incorporates "resonant tank" circuits that can store energy during the switching period, resulting in much lower losses. Additionally, they use a compact and efficient "planar transformer" design with flat components printed onto a circuit board, offering both good thermal performance and high efficiency.The snubberless design achieved an unprecedented energy efficiency of up to 91.3% for a MHz drive with a high voltage conversion ratio, which is more than 1.5 times higher than existing designs, while significantly reducing electromagnetic noise.The team aims to further increase efficiency by reducing the power dissipation of the magnetic components used.

B. High-Voltage DC Transmission

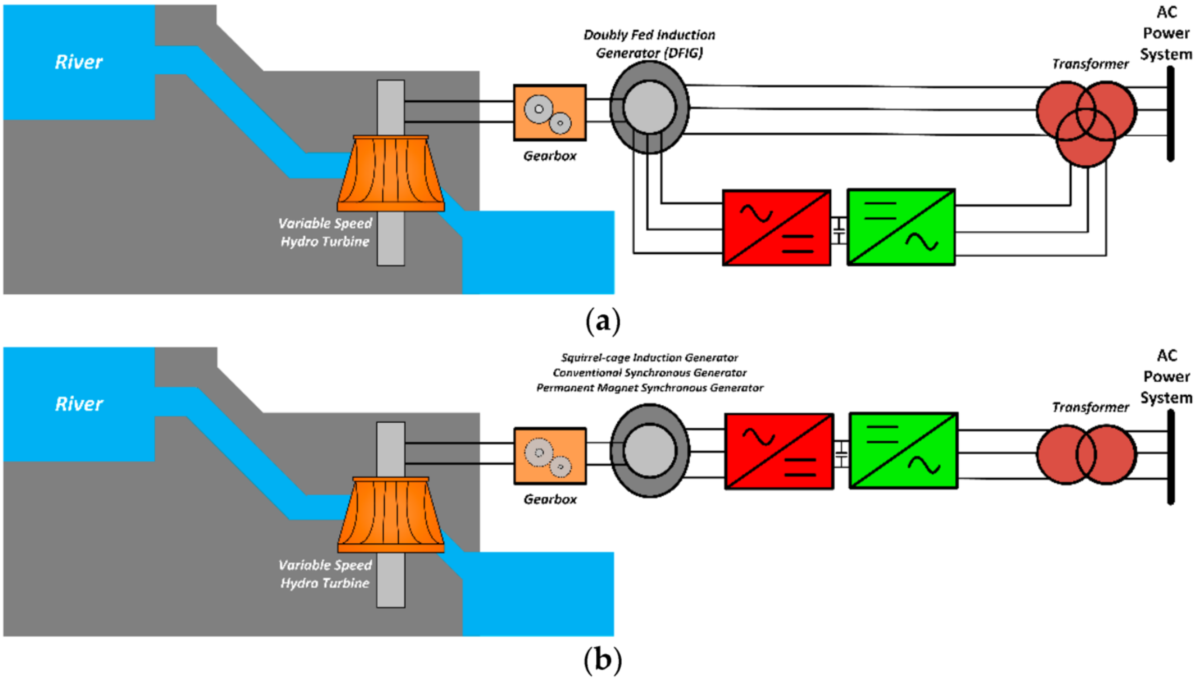
High-voltage direct current (HVDC) electric power transmission systems use direct current (DC) for transmitting electric power over long distances, in contrast to the more common alternating current (AC) transmission systems.HVDC lines are commonly used for long-distance power transmission because they require fewer conductors and incur less power loss than equivalent AC lines.HVDC also allows power transmission between unsynchronized AC transmission systems, and since the power flow through an HVDC link can be controlled independently of the phase angle between source and load, it can stabilize a network against disturbances due to rapid changes in power. The modern form of HVDC transmission uses technology developed extensively in the 1930s in Sweden (ASEA) and Germany. High voltage is used to reduce the energy lost in the resistance of the wires, as doubling the voltage will deliver the same power at only half the current.Practical conversion of power between AC and DC became possible with the development of power electronics devices such as mercury-arc valves and, starting in the 1970s, power semiconductor devices including thyristors, integrated gate-commutated thyristors (IGCTs), MOS-controlled thyristors (MCTs), and insulated-gate bipolar transistors (IGBT).[21]

The development of thyristor valves for HVDC began in the late 1960s, with the first complete HVDC scheme based on thyristor being the Eel River scheme in Canada, built by General Electric and operational in 1972. Voltage-source converters (VSCs), widely used in motor drives since the 1980s, started appearing in HVDC in 1997 with the experimental Hellsjön–Grängesberg project in Sweden, and by the end of 2011, this technology had captured a significant proportion of the HVDC market. A long-distance, point-to-point HVDC transmission scheme generally has lower overall investment cost and lower losses than an equivalent AC transmission scheme.HVDC transmission may also be selected for other technical benefits, such as transferring power between separate AC networks and automatically controlling power flow between them to support either network during transient conditions, without the risk of a major power-system collapse in one network leading to a collapse in the second.However, the required converter stations are expensive and have limited overload capacity, and at smaller transmission distances, the losses in the converter stations may be bigger than in an AC transmission line for the same distance as given in Fig. 6.

At the heart of an HVDC converter station is the converter, which performs the conversion between AC and DC and is inherently capable of rectification (AC to DC) and inversion (DC to AC), although many HVDC systems are optimized for power flow in only one direction.Early HVDC systems used electromechanical conversion (the Thury system), but all HVDC systems built since the 1940s have used electronic (static) converters, divided into two main categories: line-commutated converters (LCC) and voltage-sourced converters or current-source converters. A major drawback of HVDC systems using line-commutated converters is that the converters inherently consume reactive power, as the AC current flowing into the converter from the AC system lags behind the AC voltage, causing the converter to absorb reactive power, behaving like a shunt reactor, regardless of the direction of active power flow.All power electronic converters generate some degree of harmonic distortion on the AC and DC systems to which they are connected, and HVDC converters are no exception. With the recently developed modular multilevel converter (MMC), levels of harmonic distortion may be practically negligible, but with line-commutated converters and simpler types of VSCs, considerable harmonic distortion may be produced on both the AC and DC sides of the converter [22].

C. Flexible AC Transmission Systems

Flexible Alternating Current Transmission Systems (FACTS) are a family of power-electronic-based devices designed for use on AC transmission systems to improve and control power flow and support voltage.FACTS devices are alternatives to traditional electric grid solutions and improvements, where building additional transmission lines or substations is not economically or logistically viable. In general, FACTS devices improve power and voltage in three different ways: shunt compensation of voltage (replacing the function of capacitors or inductors), series compensation of impedance (replacing series capacitors), or phase-angle compensation (replacing generator droop-control or



(a)

(b)

Fig. 6: HVDC flow

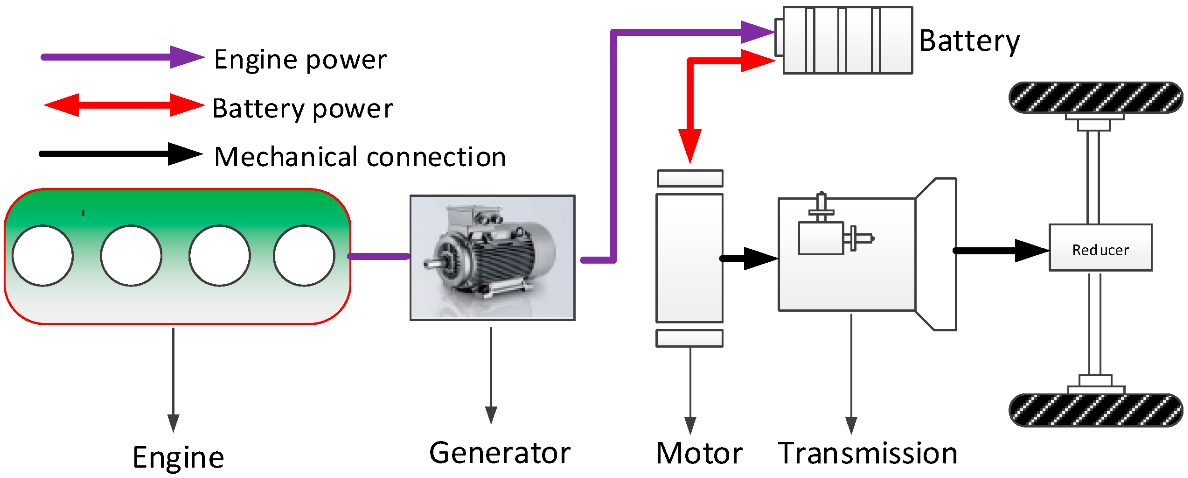


Fig. 7: Energy Management Strategies for Hybrid Electric Vehicles

phase-shifting transformers).The FACTS family initially grew out of the development of High-Voltage Direct-Current (HVDC) conversion and transmission, which used power electronics to convert AC to DC to enable large, controllable power transfers. The most common type of FACTS device is the Static VAR Compensator (SVC), which uses thyristors to switch and control shunt capacitors and reactors, respectively.Another type of shunt compensation is the Static Synchronous Compensator or STATCOM, which combines power electronics in series with a reactor to form a Voltage-Sourced Converter (VSC), connected to an AC system to form a STATCOM.

One type of series compensation is the Thyristor-Controlled Series Capacitor (TCSC), which combines the Thyristor-Controlled Reactor (TCR) from an SVC in parallel with a traditional fixed series capacitor.A VSC can also be used as a series compensation device if it's connected across the secondary winding of a series-connected transformer, forming a Static Synchronous Series Compensator (SSSC), offering the benefits of a smaller reactor than in a TCSC and lower harmonic production compared to a TCR. The most straightforward phase angle compensation device would be to replace the tap changer on a Phase-Angle Regulator (PAR) with thyristors to switch portions of the winding in and out, forming a Thyristor-Controlled Phase-Shifting Transformer (TCPST). Another way to form a TCPAR is to separate the Excitor and Booster transformer and control their secondaries with separate sets of power electronics, linked through a DC bus, typically using GTO Thyristors or IGBTs, forming a Unified Power Flow Controller (UPFC).The UPFC can control all three parameters that affect power control: shunt voltage, line impedance, and phase angle, making it a versatile solution for power flow control. Siemens Energy supports customers worldwide with innovative FACTS solutions to help them address the challenges of energy transitions.Their FACTS portfolio includes devices like Static Var Compensators (SVCs) and SVC PLUS® (STATCOM) that provide reactive power, enhance reliability, reduce blackout risk, and regulate the power factor.The Mechanical Switched Capacitor with Damping Network (MSCDN) is a simple solution for voltage control and network stabilization on a steady-state basis.[22]

Siemens Energy also offers synchronous condenser solutions and the SVC PLUS® FS (Frequency Stabilizer) to provide inertia and short-circuit power for the grid due to the discontinuation of conventional power plants as illustrated in Fig. 7.The SVC PLUS® Frequency Stabilizer stores energy in super capacitors and releases it whenever the grid needs it, avoiding frequency drops and enabling further renewable power integration into the network. The Unified Power Flow Controller (UPFC PLUS) is Siemens Energy's latest innovation for load flow control, with an additional function for voltage control.Siemens Energy's MVDC PLUS® medium-voltage DC solution is a powerful system for managing future distribution grids and regional transmission networks, providing power flow control, long-distance transmission, increased feed-in, transmission autonomy, and grid connection.

POWER SYSTEM OPTIMIZATION AND MANAGEMENT

A. Load Forecasting and Demand Response

Load forecasting is the process of predicting how much electricity will be needed at a given time and how that demand will affect the utility grid.It is used to ensure that enough power is available to meet consumption needs while avoiding waste and inefficiency. Accurate load forecasting ensures there is enough electric power supply to meet demand at any given time, thereby maintaining the balance and stability of the power grid. With that reliability comes greater efficiency as well as cost savings.Load forecasting allows utilities to better manage their resources through demand response programs, which shift usage by incentivizing consumers to reduce their electricity use during high-usage times. These programs incentivize people to reduce or shift their energy consumption during peak load times, helping to balance supply and demand without needing to bring additional, potentially less sustainable, generation sources online. Accurate load forecasting is crucial for smarter, more flexible grids, and future energy systems. It will enable more sophisticated grid management strategies that can accommodate distributed energy resources, electric vehicles and other new technologies. Load forecast data may also be used in strategic planning decisions such as capacity expansion, infrastructure development and maintenance scheduling.

B. Energy Management and Optimization Algorithms

Accurate load forecasting ensures there is enough electric power supply to meet demand at any given time, thereby maintaining the balance and stability of the power grid. With that reliability comes greater efficiency as well as cost savings.Load forecasting allows utilities to better manage their resources through demand response programs, which shift usage by incentivizing consumers to reduce their electricity use during high-usage times. Load forecast data may also be used in strategic planning decisions such as capacity expansion, infrastructure development and maintenance scheduling.For example, this data can highlight the optimal location of new power plants or transmission lines, ensuring that future demand can be met.

C. Virtual Power Plant Concepts

A Virtual Power Plant (VPP) is a network of decentralized, medium-scale power generating units as well as flexible power consumers and storage systems.Depending on the particular market environment, VPPs can accomplish a whole range of tasks. In general, the objective is to network distributed energy resources such as wind farms, solar parks, and Combined Heat and Power (CHP) units, in order to monitor, forecast, optimize and trade their power.This way, fluctuations in the generation of renewables can be balanced by ramping up and down power generation and power consumption of controllable units. The control system is the technological core of the Virtual Power Plant.All assets, that are networked in the VPP, can be efficiently monitored, coordinated and controlled by the central control system.Control commands and data are transmitted via secured data connections which are shielded from other data traffic due to encryption protocols.The control system stores all the data needed to calculate the optimal operation schedules for electricity producers and consumers. In addition to operating every individual asset in the VPP along an optimized schedule, the central control system uses a special algorithm to adjust to balancing reserve commands from transmission system operators, just as larger conventional power plants do.The bidirectional data exchange between the individual plants and the VPP not only enables the transmission of control commands. It also provides real-time data on the capacity utilization of the networked units.For example, the feed-in of wind energy and solar plants, as well as consumption data and electricity storage charge levels, can be used to generate precise forecasts for electricity trading and scheduling of the controllable power plants.

CONCLUSION

The exploration of next-generation power systems is crucial for the future of the energy industry. This article has provided an overview of the key components and technologies associated with distributed generation and microgrids, advanced control and monitoring systems, and power converter technologies. It has also discussed the importance of addressing challenges related to grid modernization, cybersecurity, and environmental considerations.As the energy landscape continues to evolve, collaborative efforts between industry, academia, and regulatory bodies will be essential in fostering innovation, promoting sustainability, and addressing the diverse challenges associated with next-generation power systems. Through comprehensive research, knowledge sharing, and the development of appropriate regulatory frameworks, the path towards a more efficient, reliable, and environmentally responsible energy infrastructure can be paved.

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