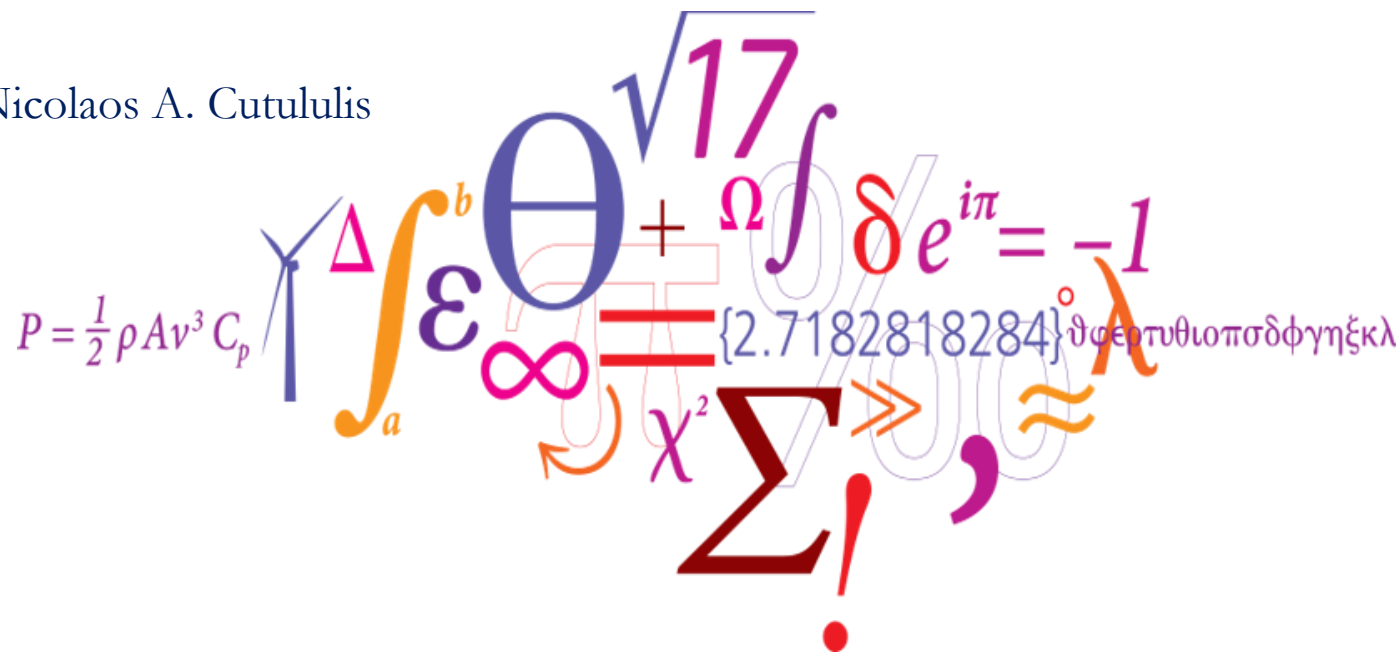


# Virtual Resistor for Sequential Greenstart of Wind turbine and Offshore network

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# Motivation

High volume integration of RES far from loads  
Increased trans-national power exchanges  
Decreased Var reserve due to SG replacement  
Power electronics EMT, Inertial decoupling  
Uncontrolled Islanding, Protection settings re-design  
Complicated grid operation: stability, reliability

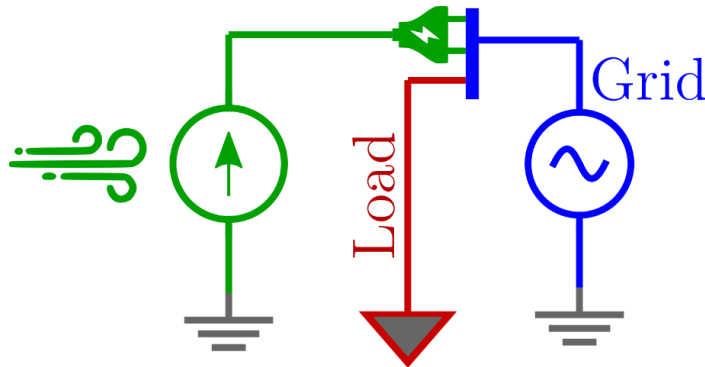
Increased risk of wide-area blackouts  
eg: South Australia 2017, UK 2019

Large OWPPs with modern WT's can address Blackstart requirements targeted conventionally to large thermal plants (ENTSO-E codes)

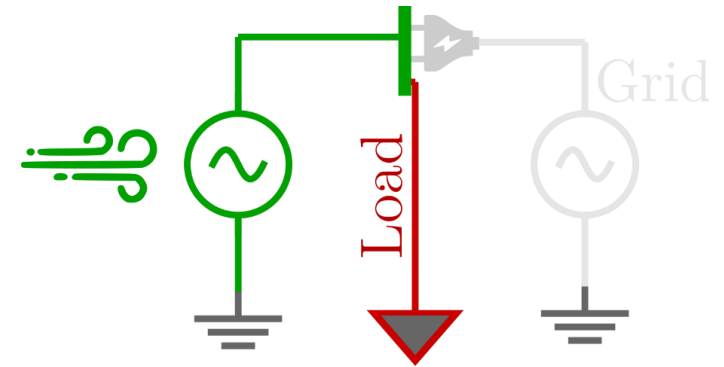
Steady winds far-from-shore, thus *lesser availability-uncertainty*  
*Fast, fully-controlled, high-power, green* blackstart capability of VSC-HVDC OWPP  
*Advanced V/f control functionalities* from state-of-art PE interface of modern WT's

Gap...

➤ Grid Following



→ Grid Forming



Grid forming / Blackstart-able WT's

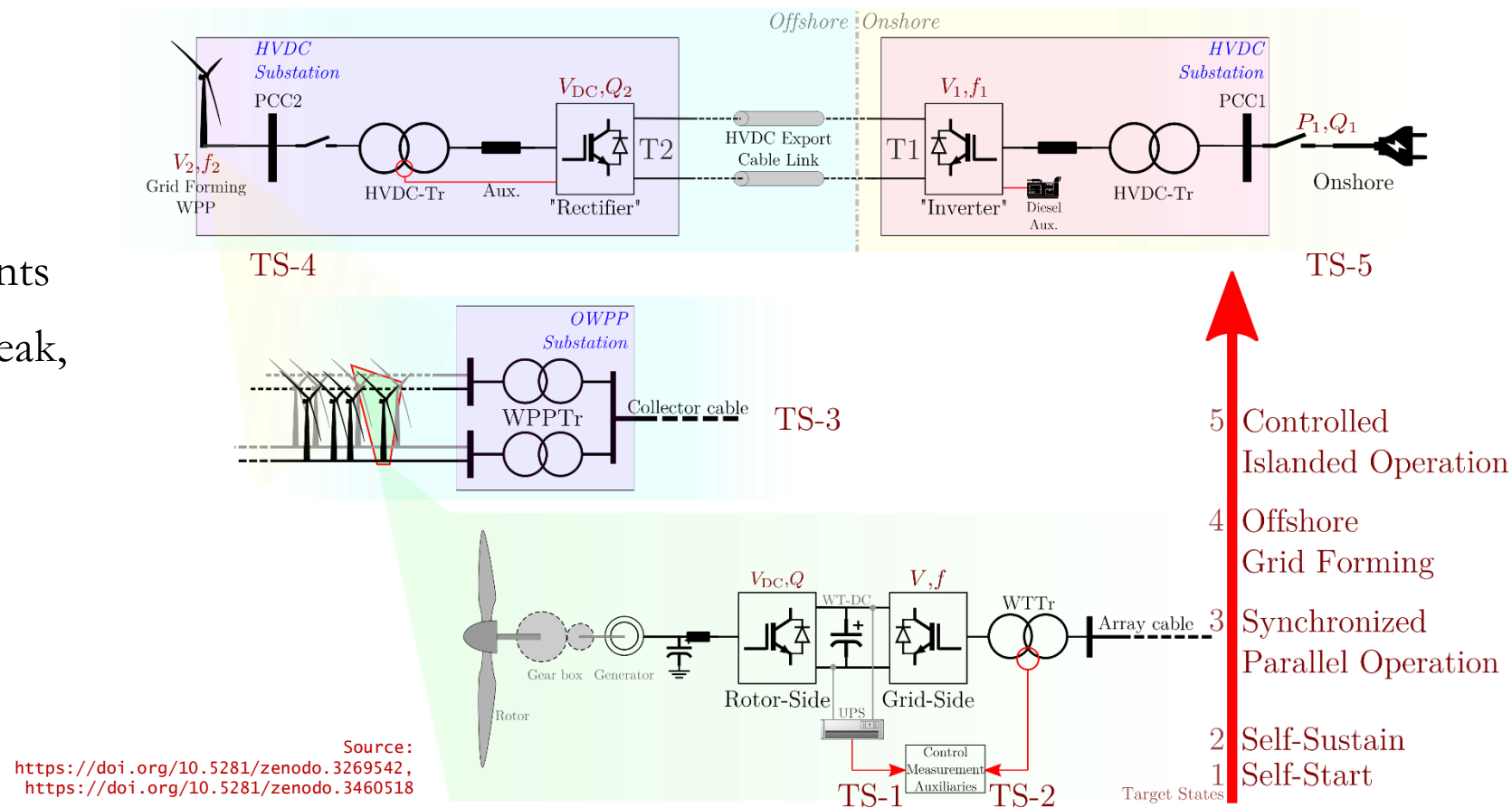
Voltage source  
rather than traditional current source

No waiting for end of network reconstruction; *controlled islanding* to ensure continuity of power supply  
Reduce the overall impact of a blackout event: *reduced restoration time & unserved load*  
Replace *backup offshore diesel generator* for auxiliary power & energization  
Cost benefits, reduced shipping downtime, increased reliability & CO2 displacement.

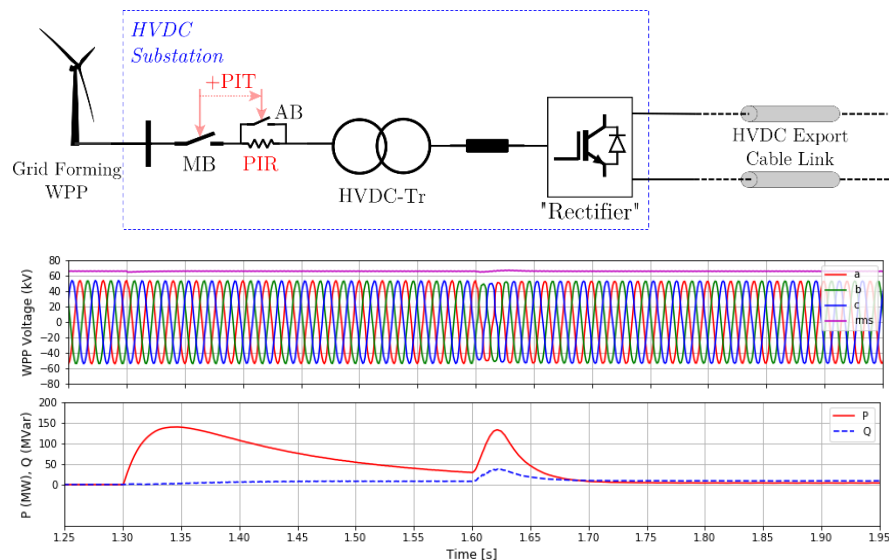
# Greenstart

## Challenges...

- Cable charging var
- Transformer inrush
- Synchronization transients
- Offshore grid: weak, power electronics rich
- Market

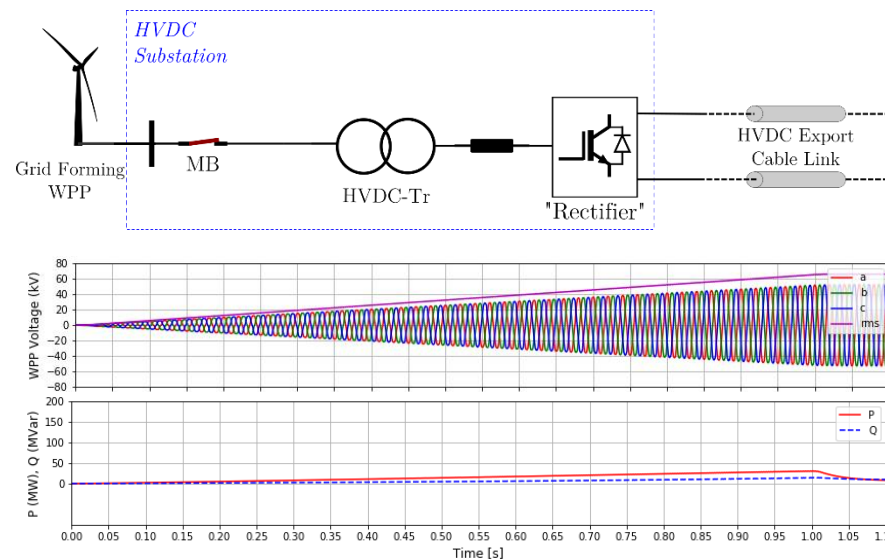


# Hard v Soft



- Higher peak
- Enhanced robustness after initial transient
- Easier detection of failed component

Source: <https://doi.org/10.36227/techrxiv.12948737.v1> (pre-print)

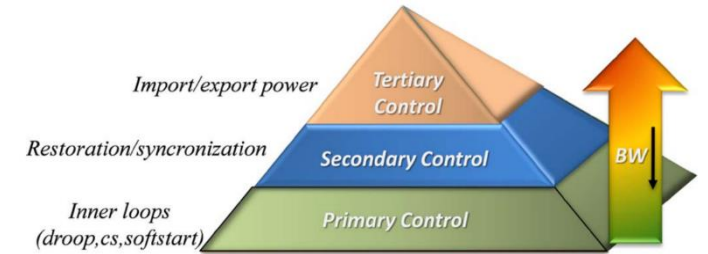


- Lower peak
- Longer upstream exposure to  $0 < V < 0.9\text{pu}$
- Increased aux power
- Lesser fault current for protection

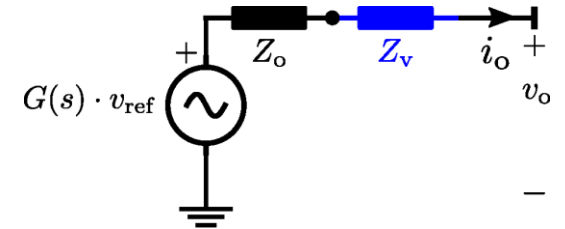
# Virtual soft-starter

Source: <https://doi.org/10.1109/TIE.2010.2066534>

- Microgrids & converters
  - Hierarchical multi-level control
- Virtual impedance loop in converter control
  - Emulate SG inductive behaviour
  - Reactive current sharing
  - Harmonic load compensation
  - Hot-swap operation
  - No loss in efficiency
- Reduce overcurrent spikes at start-up
  - Like PIR but smooth variation for ‘softer’ transient
  - Mimic soft-starter in FSWT



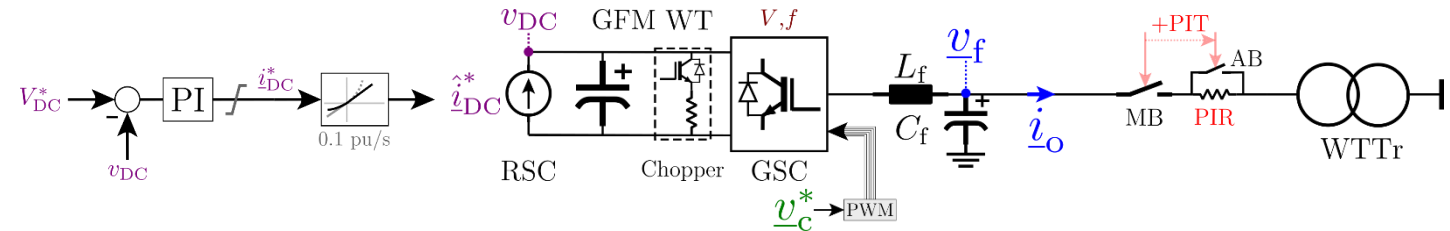
$$v_o = v_{\text{ref}} - i_o Z_v$$



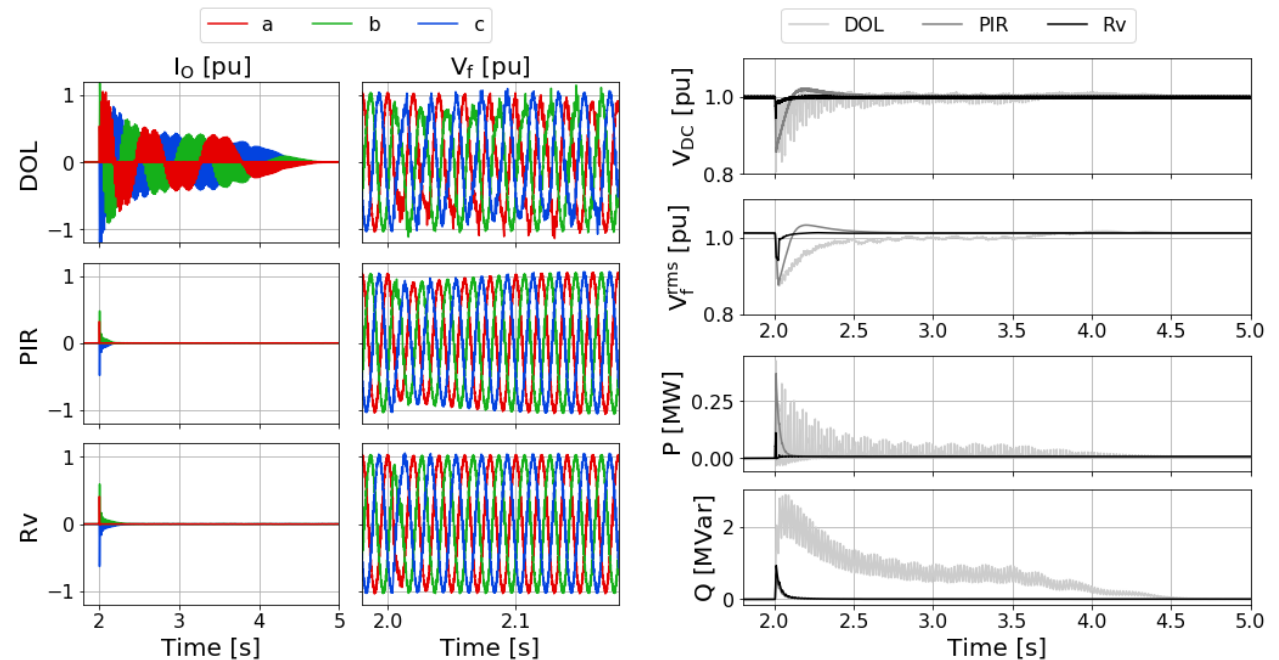
$$r_v(t) = \begin{cases} 0, & t < t_o \\ R_i e^{-\frac{t-t_o}{T}}, & t \geq t_o \end{cases}$$

# Proof of Concept

- DOL vs PIR vs  $R_v$ 
  - PIR =  $R_i = 0.8$  pu
  - PIT =  $5T = 0.2$  s

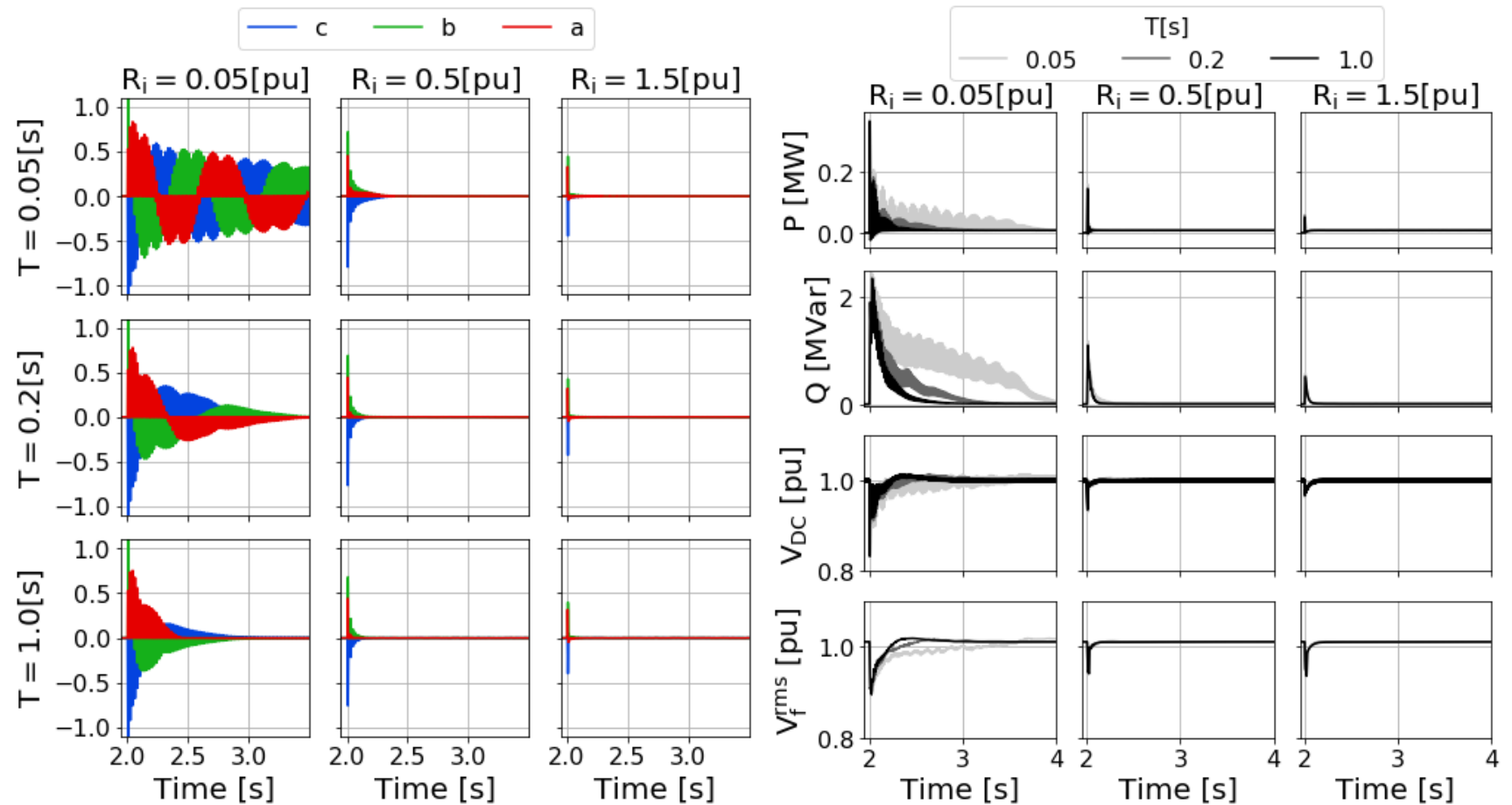


- Reduction in transient inrush current peak amp & settling time.
- Lesser transient distortion in 3ph volt & recovers faster for  $R_v$ .
- Smaller volt drops & power peaks for  $R_v$ .



# Sensitivity analysis

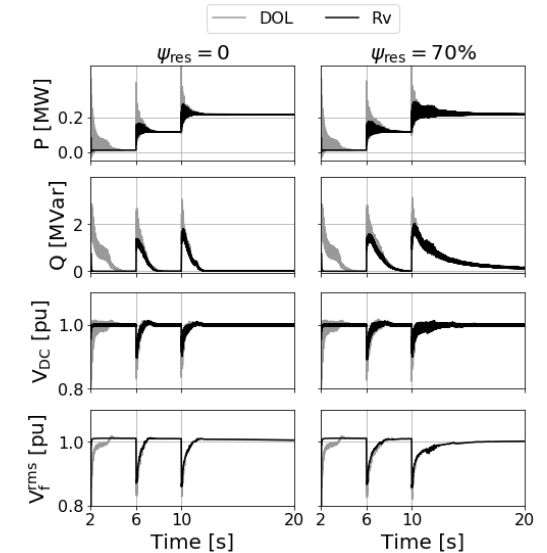
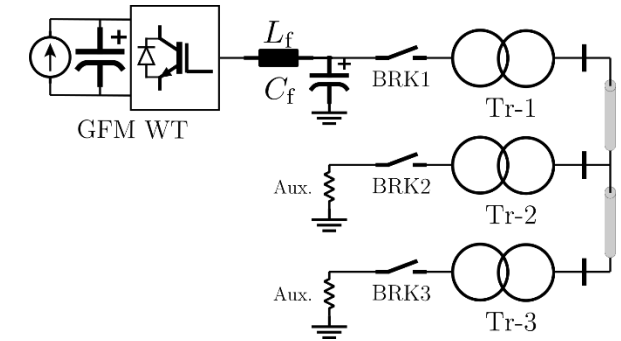
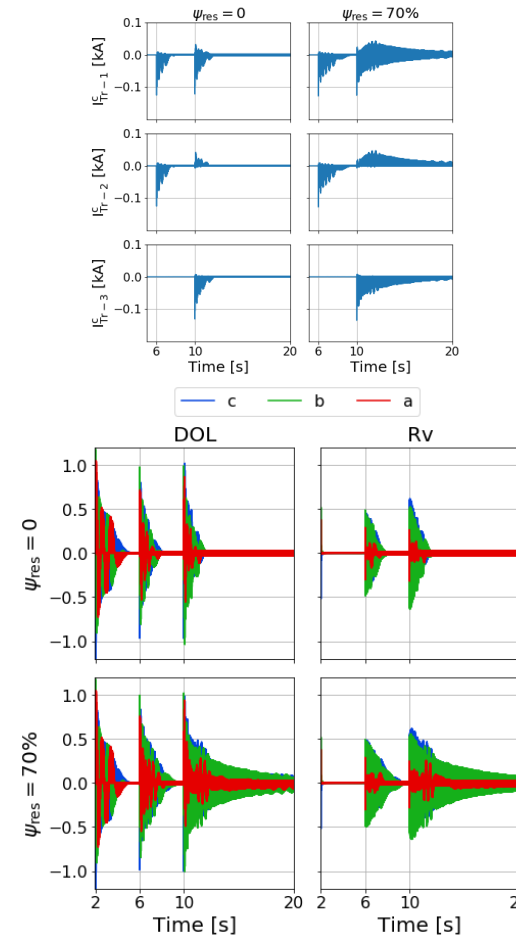
- $R_i$ ,  $T$  varied
- Inrush current peak reduced for larger  $R_i$ .
- Transient damps faster for larger  $T$ , effect is more visible at lower  $R_i$ .






# String energization

- Inrush, Sympathetic interaction
- $R_i = 1$  pu,  $T = 0.06$  s
  - Residual flux = 0 (best), 70% (worst)
- Tr-1 inrush significantly reduced (as shown before) but for subsequent downstream trafos Tr-2,3 only reduction in peak with no impact on duration of decay, esp worst case flux.
- Transient power peaks and voltage dips are reduced in both cases.





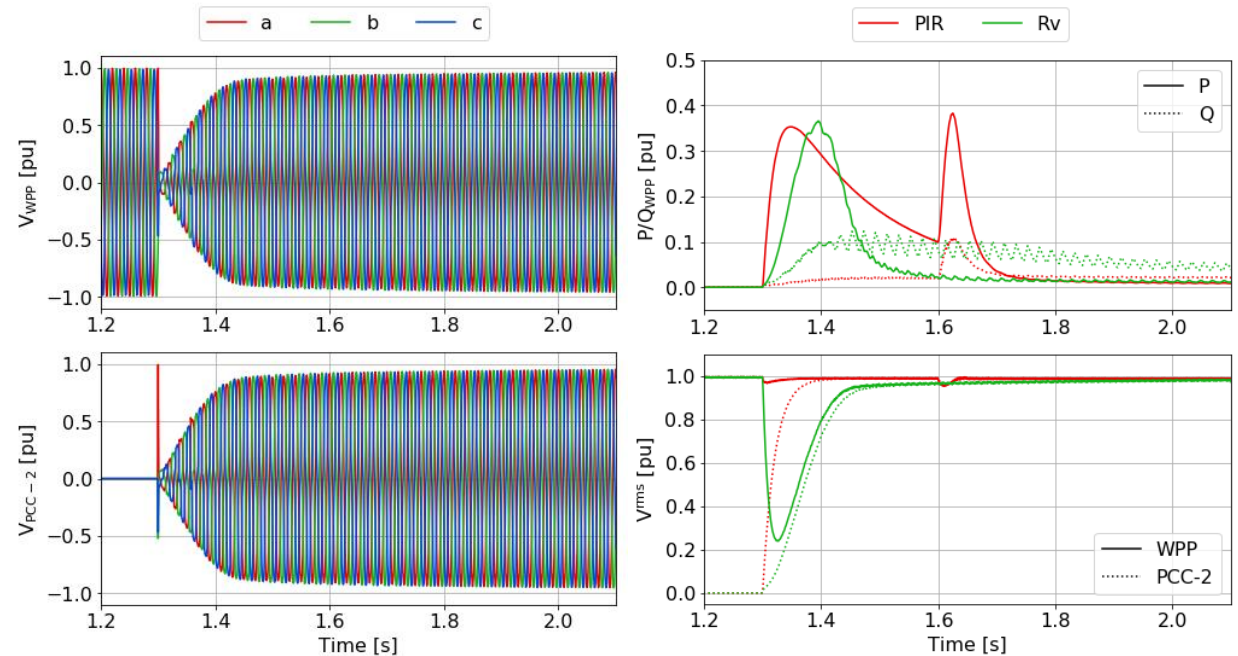
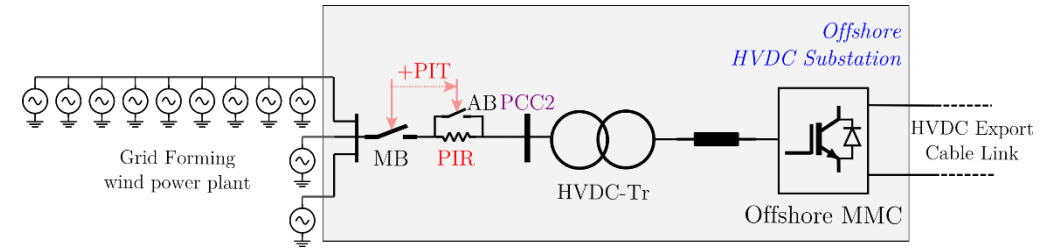
# At WPP level

- PROMOTiON D3.7  (400 MW WPP)

➤  $PIR = 120 \text{ Ohm}$ ,  $PIT = 0.3 \text{ s}$

➤  $R_i = 1.5 \text{ pu}$ ,  $T = 0.06 \text{ s}$


- Mimics soft-start
- Transient peak reduced & no second peak as in PIR.
- Higher volt dip as internal resistance.
  - Volt drop  $\sim$  fault; Protection settings to be changed (as in conventional soft-start)



# Conclusions

- Virtual soft-starter can reduce the inrush transients during transformer energization by grid-forming wind turbine, similar to a pre-insertion resistor.
  - Can eliminate PIR in hard-switching, without any loss of fault selectivity as in soft-start case.
  - Brunt of the transient born by WT-DC link, thus rotor-side control is essential in governing the dynamics.
- Sensitivity analysis results give insight into how the virtual resistance value can be chosen.
- Virtual resistance can reduce transient current peak during energization of downstream transformers in a string by grid forming wind turbine.
  - Worst case 70% residual flux leads to significant sympathetic inrush that lasts for sustained period of time, with virtual resistance effective only in reducing the peak amplitude.
- Virtual resistance method can also be used to minimize the inrush transient during the large offshore transformer energization, when implemented at the WPP level.
  - However, due to the nature of the method being similar to conventional soft-start, protection settings need to be changed to avoid the voltage dip triggering under-voltage trip relays.

# THANK YOU



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