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Article

# The Study of Fuzzy Proportional Integral Controllers Based on Improved Particle Swarm Optimization for Permanent Magnet Direct Drive Wind Turbine Converters

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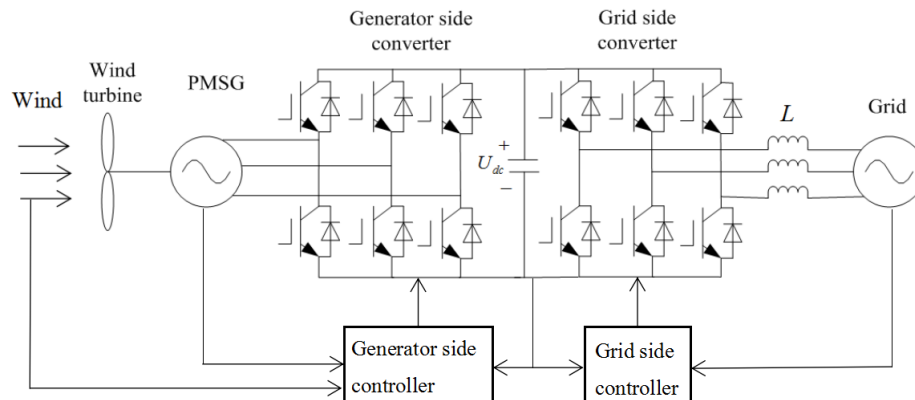
**Keywords:** permanent magnet direct drive (PMDD) wind turbine; converter; particle swarm optimization (PSO); fuzzy PI controller

## 1. Introduction

With the decrease in conventional energy reserves and increased concerns about environment pollution in recent years, it has become a primary mission for most countries to take actions to find new kinds of clean and renewable energy for use. Wind power is one of the main clean and renewable energy sources, and its penetration in the energy market has kept increasing in the past 20 years. The US Department of Energy aims to achieve 20% of wind energy penetration in the utility market by the end of 2030 [1]. The European Wind Energy Association reported that the goal is to generate 26%–34% of the electricity from wind by 2030 [2]. China's wind industry is forecasted to reach 216.6 gigawatts (GW) in 2020 and at least 310.2 GW of installed capacity by 2030 [3]. The historic increase trend of wind energy is illustrated in [4]. It is undoubtable that the global wind energy market will steadily grow in the future.

Considering the large wind turbines installed worldwide, they are typically classified into two types: one is with a geared generator concept, such as those equipped with doubly-fed induction generators (DFIGs) and the other is based on a direct drive mechanism such as those using permanent magnet generators. Each of them has advantages and disadvantages, as discussed in [5]. Their

comparison in general was given in [4]. The direct drive wind energy conversion system (WECS) based on permanent magnet synchronous generators (PMSGs) is one of the promising wind power generation systems. Its advantages include higher reliability, better thermal characteristics, lower mass per kilowatt output power, lower weight, and a smaller generator size [4]. A typical PMSG wind power system configuration is illustrated in Figure 1. The wind turbine converts the kinetic energy of the wind into mechanical energy and the mechanical energy is converted into electrical power through the PMSG. The output of the PMSG is connected to the grid through a full-scale back-to-back converter. This converter system is composed of both the generator side converter and the grid side converter. It is an AC/DC/AC converter.



**Figure 1.** Permanent magnet direct drive (PMDD) wind turbine system.

As a key component in the interconnection of the generator and power grid in the permanent magnet direct drive (PMDD) wind turbines, the converter is supposed to not only control the generator but also transfer high quality power to the grid, and it is also required to realize the low voltage ride-through if needed [6]. Therefore, it is necessary to have an effective control strategy for the converter. Generally, the generator side converter and the grid side converter are controlled separately. The generator side converter is used to control the generator speed based on the maximum power theory by taking into account the generator current, consequently the DC voltage at the dc link will vary according to the wind speed. The grid side converter is to control the DC voltage by taking into account the grid voltage and current. Both converters are usually controlled by the proportional integral (PI) method [7], which is simple and practical. PI control, however, doesn't have parameter optimization functions. The parameters of a PI controller cannot be adjusted in response to changes in the external conditions. Therefore, many scholars have made efforts to investigate new control methods. New control techniques and strategies associated with different converter architectures have been proposed and studied for different purposes. These new control techniques include fuzzy logic based control [8], adaptive control [9], linear quadratic control [10] like the disturbance accommodating control (DAC) [11] developed by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) in the U.S.A. and tested in the Controls Advanced Research Turbine (CART) [12], quantitative feedback theory (QFT) control [13], Linear Parameter Varying (LPV) control [14],  $H_\infty$  based control [15], sliding mode variable structure cascade control [16], state feedback control [17], predictive control [18], artificial neural network (ANN)-based control [19], and different hybrid approaches such as combination of fuzzy model and genetic algorithm (GA) and recursive least-squares (RLS) optimization methods, combination of fuzzy ANN and particle swarm optimization (PSO) algorithm, hybrid of classic control and evolutionary strategy algorithm, hybrid of ANN and fuzzy inference system (FIS), combination of PI and sliding mode control (SMC), integration of model predictive control (MPC) and evolutionary computation, embedding fuzzy controller into model reference adaptive control framework and so on [20]. The advantages and shortcomings of each of these control techniques are summarized in Table 1.

**Table 1.** Comparison of various control techniques applied to wind turbines.

Control techniques	Advantage	Disadvantage
Fuzzy logic [21]	Maximizing the harvested power from the wind; improved dynamic response; fuzzy controller is more flexible.	Context dependence on the wind site features, wind turbine types, etc.; requiring quite consistent <i>a priori</i> knowledge; may not guarantee an optimal response [22].
Adaptive	Does not need <i>a priori</i> information about the bounds on those uncertain or time-varying parameters of a dynamic system, mainly for pitch control, turbine and generator shaft torque control.	Require an adequate initialization of the controller parameters and detailed system data [23].
Linear quadratic	Linear quadratic performance indicator is regarded as the objective function to determine the relationship between variables.	The resulting control is not optimal, but it is feasible and effective.
Quantitative feedback theory (QFT) [21]	For robust control; effective for nonlinear systems with parameter uncertainty using both linearized and nonlinear model.	Based on the frequency-domain analysis; requires a lot of computational and graphical analysis.
Linear parameter varying (LPV)	Nonlinear dynamic system, only the parameters are variable, commonly used measure performance based on norm, stable and robust control.	Complex modeling; a large amount of calculation; complex control strategies.
$H_\infty$	Good robust control; the design idea is clear, especially for multi-input multi-output system to use.	Theory complexity; large calculation cost and limited parameter change scope.
Sliding mode variable structure cascade control	Fast response, simple, robust.	Prone to buffeting.
State feedback control	Fully reflect the characteristics of the internal system; effectively improve the system performance.	State variables often cannot be measured directly from outside of the system; as a result, its implementation is often more complex.
Predictive control	Convenience for modeling, not require in-depth understanding of the internal mechanism of the process; robust control.	Stability constraints may affect the achievement of the control performance and it will also affect the real-time algorithm. For nonlinear systems, state trajectory generation tends to be more difficult.
Artificial neural network (ANN)-based control	With parallel processing and self-learning ability.	Requires a lot of training samples to train the network; preparation of datasets for ANN training is largely user- dependent; ANN models do not yield explicit mathematical formulae [24].

Among the control techniques summarized in Table 1, fuzzy logic control is a basic modern control method that is often used. Its advantages include that it does not require complicated mathematical calculations and it can cope well with uncertainties and nonlinearities, as discussed in many research articles. Reference [25] is one of them, for example, where PI and fuzzy controllers were tested to extract the maximum power from the wind. Simulation results were given to show the performance of the proposed fuzzy control system in maximum power points tracking (MPPT) in a WECS under various wind conditions. In [26], the fuzzy logic based voltage and speed controller for autonomous PMSG-WECS was discussed, where the dynamic performance of the proposed controller was tested under the situations of decreasing, increasing and constant wind speed with balanced/unbalanced non-linear load. In [8], a fuzzy-logic based MPPT method for a standalone wind turbine system was proposed. The hill climb searching (HCS) method was used to achieve the MPPT of the PMSG wind turbine system. In [27], two fuzzy controllers were proposed. The first one is dedicated to the MPPT of a variable speed PMSG wind turbine and the second fuzzy controller has the objective to manage both the production and the storage of electricity for optimum performance of the system in respect of load demand. A sliding mode voltage control strategy was proposed in [28] for capturing the maximum wind energy based on fuzzy logic control, which was illustrated to have higher overall control efficiency than the conventional proportional integral derivative (PID) control. In [29], fuzzy logic is implemented to determine the torque command by using the inertia of a wind turbine. The inputs of the fuzzy logic are given by the operating point of the rotational speed of the PMSG and the difference between the wind turbine torque and the generator torque. With this method, the generator torque is smoothed and kinetic energy generated by the inertia of the wind turbine is used to smooth the PMSG power fluctuations. A novel control strategy based on fractional-order PI<sup>μ</sup> controller for the variable-speed operation of wind turbines with PMSG and full-power converters is given in [30] where the SMC strategy is applied as it can present some attractive features in wind turbine control and operation. One of these features is the robustness to parametric uncertainties of the WECS as well as to grid disturbances [31]. Li *et al.* [32] presented a direct-current based d-q vector control technique by integrating fuzzy, adaptive and traditional PID control technologies into an optimal control configuration. The proposed control approach was demonstrated to have superior performance in various aspects and to be effective not only in achieving the desired PMSG control objectives but also in improving the overall system performance. A short technical review of WECSs is given in [33] where the control strategies of controllers for both DFIG-WECS and PMSG-WECS and various MPPT technologies for efficient production of energy from the wind are discussed. It is clearly shown that to develop new control strategies for various controllers applied to different platforms of wind turbines is still a developing trend. It is noted that the most suitable and optimized solutions/approaches to extracting maximum power of the installed systems are each of an *ad-hoc* nature, rather than generalized solutions [33].

In order to meet the requirements of high precision and fast response of PMDD wind turbines, this present paper proposes a fuzzy PI controller based on an improved PSO. Different from other references like [20] and [34], four parameters of the fuzzy controller including the quantization factors of  $k_e$  and  $k_{ec}$ , and scale factors of  $k_{up}$  and  $k_{ui}$ , are optimized at the same time using the improved PSO. The parameters of the fuzzy controller can be adjusted in real time according to environment changes to improve the robustness and precision of the controller for achieving the control target. Overshoot and regulating time are two indicators for evaluating the merits of the controller when wind speed step changes occur [35]. As wind speed varies continuously, Root-Mean-Square Error (RMSE) is used to measure the deviation of the calculated values with the reference value. The validity of the control algorithm developed has been verified through simulation for a 2 MW PMSG-WECS.

## 2. Analysis of Converter Control Strategy

The running of the PMDD wind power generation system can be divided into three states including starting, MPPT and constant power production. This paper focuses on the MPPT stage

when the wind speed is mainly below the rated wind speed. At this time, the rotational speed of the generator needs real-time adjustment according to the wind speed so as to realize the tracking control of maximum power [36]. For higher efficiency of the wind turbines, the rotor flux orientation vector control method is applied to the generator side converter control. At the same time, when the wind speed and external circumstances change, the voltage orientation control strategy is used to control the grid side converter in order to maintain the voltage stability of the DC side capacitance and realize the decoupling control of active power and reactive power. Space vector pulse width modulation (SVPWM) [37] is adopted in both the generator side converter and the grid side converter control.

### 2.1. The Control Strategy of Generator Side Converter

The generator side converter generally adopts vector control based on rotor flux orientation [38]. The  $d$ -axis is oriented to the direction of the rotor flux, and  $q$ -axis is  $90^\circ$  ahead of  $d$ -axis. Assuming the direction of current flowing into the generator is positive, the  $d$ -axis and  $q$ -axis components of inductance of the stator winding are equal to  $L_s$ , the voltage equation of the stator of PMSG in synchronous rotating  $d$ - $q$  coordinate system can be expressed as:

$$\begin{cases} u_d = R_s i_d + L_s \frac{di_d}{dt} - \omega_r L_s i_q \\ u_q = R_s i_q + L_s \frac{di_q}{dt} + \omega_r L_s i_d + \omega_r \psi_f \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

where,  $u_d$ ,  $u_q$ ,  $i_d$ , and  $i_q$  are  $d$ -axis and  $q$ -axis components of the stator's terminal voltage and current;  $R_s$  and  $L_s$  are resistance and inductance of stator winding, respectively;  $\omega_r$  is electrical angular velocity of generator; and  $\psi_f$  is flux linkage of the rotor.

When  $i_d$  is zero (i.e.,  $i_d^* = 0$ ), the electromagnetic torque of PMSG,  $T_e$ , is:

$$T_e = \frac{3}{2} N_p i_q \psi_f \quad (2)$$

where,  $N_p$  is the pole pairs of generator.

PMDD wind turbines don't have gear boxes. The wind wheel is directly connected with the generator rotor through the rotation shaft so that the generator rotor speed is equal to the speed of the wind wheel. The mathematical model of transmission system of PMDD wind turbines can be expressed as:

$$\frac{d\omega_m}{dt} = \frac{1}{J} (T_e - T_m - B\omega_r) \quad (3)$$

where,  $\omega_m$  is mechanical angular velocity of rotor;  $J$  is moment of inertia of rotor;  $B$  is damping coefficient; and  $T_m$  is mechanical torque of wind turbine.

Equation (2) shows that the electromagnetic torque  $T_e$  can be controlled by controlling  $i_q$ . Equation (3) shows that the rotor speed  $\omega_m$  can be further controlled by controlling  $T_e$  to realize the tracking control of maximum power.

Equation (1) gives that the stator currents,  $i_d$  and  $i_q$ , are coupled with each other. The precise linearization control can be achieved by decoupling of  $i_d$  and  $i_q$  through the feed-forward compensation of  $\omega_r L_s i_q$  and  $-\omega_r (L_s i_d + \psi_f)$ . Define:

$$\begin{cases} u_d^* = R_s i_d + L_s \frac{di_d}{dt} = u_d + \omega_r L_s i_q \\ u_q^* = R_s i_q + L_s \frac{di_q}{dt} = u_q - \omega_r L_s i_d - \omega_r \psi_f \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

They can be calculated through the PI controller as:

$$\begin{cases} u_d^* = k_{pd}(i_d^* - i_d) + k_{id} \int (i_d^* - i_d) dt \\ u_q^* = k_{pq}(i_q^* - i_q) + k_{iq} \int (i_q^* - i_q) dt \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

where,  $i_d^*$  is the current reference value of  $i_d$ , and  $k_{pd}$ ,  $k_{id}$ ,  $k_{pq}$  and  $k_{iq}$  are constants.

The control of the generator side converter is designed as shown in Figure 2. Using the vector control strategy of rotor flux orientation with  $i_d^* = 0$ , the double-closed loop control system including outer speed loop and inner current loop can be established. To obtain good dynamic performance, the new proposed controller is adopted in the speed closed-loop and PI controller is adopted in the current closed-loop. The speed  $\omega_{ref}$  can be obtained according to the best tip-speed-ratio  $\lambda_{opt}$  ( $\lambda_{opt} = \omega_{ref} R/v$ , where  $R$  is radius of wind turbine rotor,  $v$  is wind speed); and then compared with the measured speed,  $\omega_m$ . The current reference value  $i_q^*$  can be obtained by the speed loop controller through adjusting the electromagnetic torque. Through the actually measured phase current,  $i_d$  and  $i_q$  can be calculated through the Clarke transform and Park transform. After comparing  $i_d^*$  with  $i_d$ ,  $i_q^*$  with  $i_q$ ; the deviations are adjusted by the inner current loop of PI controller. The voltages,  $u_d^*$  and  $u_q^*$ , are then obtained, and  $u_d$  and  $u_q$  can be calculated. After conversion,  $u_\alpha$  and  $u_\beta$  can be known. In such a way as mentioned above, the generator side converter can be controlled through SVPWM.

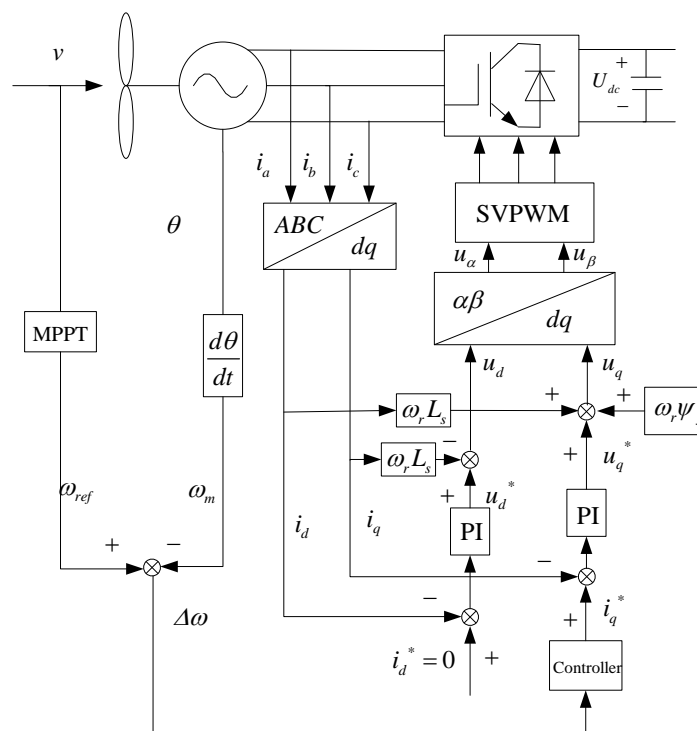


Figure 2. Control schematic of the generator side converter.

### 2.2. The Control Strategy of Grid Side Converter

For the grid side converter, this present paper adopts an oriented vector control technique based on the grid voltage. The basic control objectives are: (1) ensuring the stability of DC voltage and (2) ensuring the power up to the standard to incorporate into the grid.

In this study, the direction of grid side voltage vector is selected as  $d$  axis and  $90^\circ$  ahead of the direction of the voltage vector is as  $q$  axis. Then the voltage equation of grid side converter can be written as follows [39]:

$$\begin{cases} u_{gd} = -L_g \frac{di_{gd}}{dt} - R_g i_{gd} + \omega_g L_g i_{gq} + V_{gd} \\ u_{gq} = -L_g \frac{di_{gq}}{dt} - R_g i_{gq} - \omega_g L_g i_{gd} + V_{gq} \end{cases} \quad (6)$$

where,  $R_g$  and  $L_g$  are the grid side equivalent resistance and inductance, respectively;  $u_{gd}$  and  $u_{gq}$  are the control voltage components of  $d$ -axis and  $q$ -axis, respectively, in grid side converter;  $i_{gd}$  and  $i_{gq}$  are grid side current components of  $d$ -axis and  $q$ -axis, respectively;  $V_{gd}$  and  $V_{gq}$  are the grid voltage components of  $d$ -axis and  $q$ -axis, respectively;  $\omega_g$  is synchronous electrical angular velocity of the grid.

For  $V_{gq} = 0$  and  $V_{gd} = |V_g|$ , the active power and reactive power delivered to the power grid can be expressed as:

$$\begin{cases} P_s = \frac{3}{2}(V_{gd}i_{gd} + V_{gq}i_{gq}) = \frac{3}{2}V_{gd}i_{gd} \\ Q_s = \frac{3}{2}(V_{gq}i_{gd} - V_{gd}i_{gq}) = -\frac{3}{2}V_{gd}i_{gq} \end{cases} \quad (7)$$

Regardless of converter power loss, the DC side capacitor voltage can be expressed as:

$$CU_{dc} \frac{dU_{dc}}{dt} = P_{gen} - P_s \quad (8)$$

where,  $C$  is capacity value;  $U_{dc}$  is voltage of the DC side capacitor;  $P_{gen}$  is the active power output of the generator side converter.

From Equations (7) and (8), it is known that the active power can be controlled by controlling the  $d$ -axis component,  $i_{gd}$ , DC voltage is further controlled, and finally the stability of DC voltage is realized. The output reactive power can be controlled by controlling the  $q$ -axis component,  $i_{gq}$ . If  $i_{gq}$  is zero, the control of unity-power factor can be established.

Equation (6) shows that  $i_{gd}$  and  $i_{gq}$  are coupled with each other. Decoupling control of  $i_{gd}$  and  $i_{gq}$  can be realized by feed-forward compensation of  $-(\omega_g L_g i_{gq} + V_{gd})$  and  $\omega_g L_g i_{gd}$  ( $V_{gq} = 0$ ), which is similar to the control of generator side converter. Define:

$$\begin{aligned} u_{gd}^* &= L_g \frac{di_{gd}}{dt} + R_g i_{gd} \\ u_{gq}^* &= L_g \frac{di_{gq}}{dt} + R_g i_{gq} \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

They can also be calculated through PI controller as shown below:

$$\begin{cases} u_{gd}^* = k_{pgd}(i_{gd}^* - i_{gd}) + k_{igd} \int (i_{gd}^* - i_{gd}) dt \\ u_{gq}^* = k_{pgq}(i_{gq}^* - i_{gq}) + k_{igq} \int (i_{gq}^* - i_{gq}) dt \end{cases} \quad (10)$$

where,  $k_{pgd}$ ,  $k_{igd}$ ,  $k_{pgq}$  and  $k_{igq}$  are selected constants of PI controller.

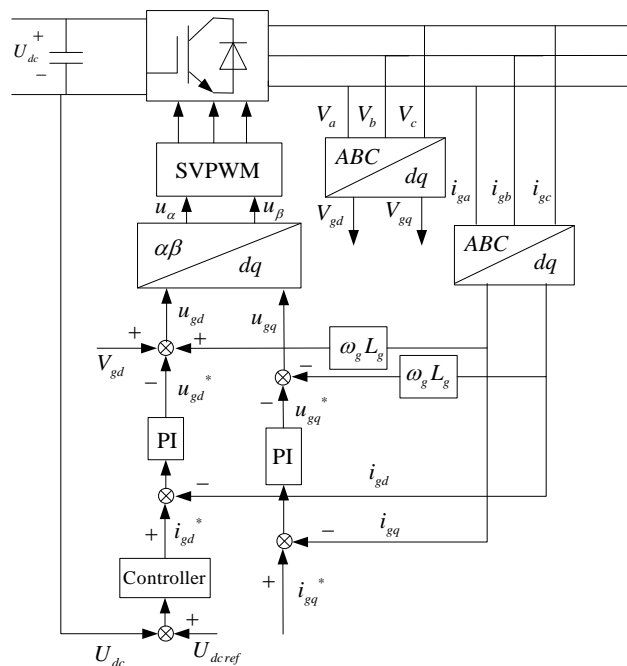


Figure 3. Control schematic of the grid side converter.



The control of grid side converter is designed as shown in Figure 3. Using the grid voltage orientation control strategy, the grid side control is a double-closed loop system including an outer voltage loop and inner current loop. The proposed controller is adopted in the voltage closed loop and PI controller is adopted in the current closed-loop. Through the comparison of DC bus voltage  $U_{dc}$  with the given reference voltage,  $U_{dcref}$ , the current  $i_{gd}^*$  can be obtained by adjusting the controller.  $i_{gd}^*$  and  $i_{gq}^*$  can be set up through transforming of the converter output current. For  $i_{gq}^* = 0$ ,  $u_{gd}^*$  and  $u_{gq}^*$  can be obtained. Similarly,  $V_{gd}$  can be obtained through transformation of the three-phase voltages  $V_a$ ,  $V_b$  and  $V_c$ ; and then the output voltages  $u_{gd}$  and  $u_{gq}$  can be calculated. After conversion,  $u_\alpha$  and  $u_\beta$  can be obtained. In such a way, the grid side converter can be controlled through SVPWM.

### 3. Fuzzy PI Controller of the Converter Based on Improved Particle Swarm Optimization

#### 3.1. The General Fuzzy PI Controller

The “controller” as shown in Figures 2 and 3 can be a PI controller, fuzzy PI controller or another new type of controller (like the fuzzy PI controller based on improved PSO). As mentioned above, the PI controller is simple and practical; however, it doesn't have parameter optimization functions. In order to overcome the shortcomings of the PI controller, people usually use the fuzzy PI controller in the converter outer loop. The general structure of the fuzzy PI controller is shown in Figure 4. In order to achieve good control performance, the fuzzy PI controllers are designed for the generator side converter and the grid side converter. They both have two inputs and two outputs. The error and the error rate of the reference speed and the actual speed are the inputs to the generator side controller and the outputs are the variations of the speed loop PI parameters. The error and the error rate of the reference voltage and the actual voltage are the inputs to the grid side controller and the outputs are the variations of the voltage loop PI parameters. The membership functions of the controllers all adopt triangle membership functions. After determining the reasonable quantization factors and scale factors of input variables and output variables, the parameters of PI controller based on the fuzzy rules can be adjusted. In this paper, the quantization factors are represented by  $k_e$  and  $k_{ec}$ , and the scale factors are expressed by  $k_{up}$  and  $k_{ui}$ , respectively, see Figure 4.

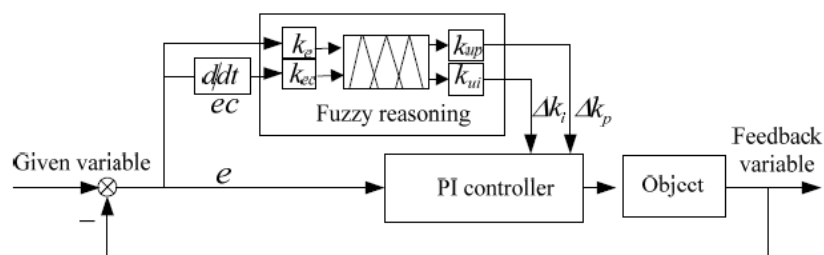


Figure 4. Structure of fuzzy PI controller.

The fuzzy PI controller does not require a precise mathematical model of controlled object, and is suitable for nonlinear systems. It has strong robustness with appropriate fuzzy control rules [26], but the fixed fuzzy control is usually not the best under all kinds of states due to the instability of the system input. Thus the fuzzy control rules or parameters need to be automatically adjusted and modified during operation in order to get the best control [40], which, however, cannot be achieved by a general fuzzy PI controller. Therefore, in this paper, the fuzzy control parameters (quantization factors of  $k_e$  and  $k_{ec}$ , scale factors of  $k_{up}$  and  $k_{ui}$ ) are dynamically regulated using improved PSO for the fuzzy controller as described below. The designed controller is called fuzzy PI controller based on IPSO, which ensures the fuzzy controller will have optimal parameters automatically when the wind changes suddenly.

### 3.2. Improved Particle Swarm Optimization

As a new kind of global optimization algorithms, PSO was first proposed by Eberhart and Kennedy in 1995 [41]. Compared with other optimization techniques such as the ones based on genetic algorithms (GA) and ANNs, PSO has the merits of high search speed, high efficiency, easy to find the optimal solution, less set parameters, *etc.* It has been widely utilized due to its simple structure. The PSO as well as the PSO combined with fuzzy logic or genetic algorithms have been reported to be applied to power systems for various purposes, for example, for reactive power planning [42], Automatic Generation Control (AGC) of multi-area power systems with different energy resources [43], compensation of parametric and non-parametric uncertainties arising in modern power systems [44], enhancing power quality [45], damping of power system oscillations [46], and long-term generator maintenance scheduling [47]. The application of PSO to wind turbine control problems has been mentioned [48], but the research work found is limited.

The main idea of the PSO is to find the optimal solution of a complicated problem through iterations by initialization of a group of random particles. The particles update themselves by tracking two extrema in each iteration. One is the optimal solution produced by the self-iteration of particles namely individual extremum  $p_{\text{best}}$  and the other is the globally optimal solution, namely the global extremum  $g_{\text{best}}$ .

The position and velocity of particles are updated according to the following equations:

$$V(k+1) = V(k) + c_1 r_1(k)(p_{\text{best}}(k) - P(k)) + c_2 r_2(k)(g_{\text{best}}(k) - P(k)) \quad (11)$$

$$P(k+1) = P(k) + V(k+1) \quad (12)$$

where  $V$  is velocity of the particle;  $c_1$  and  $c_2$  are learning factors (in general,  $c_1 = c_2 = 2$ );  $r_1$  and  $r_2$  are random numbers between 0 and 1;  $P$  is position of the particle; and  $k$  is the current iteration number.

The previous research shows that the optimization effect becomes better when the basic velocity  $V$  is multiplied by the inertia weight coefficient  $w$  [49], so that the PSO formula of the velocity can be written as:

$$V(k+1) = wV(k) + c_1 r_1(k)(p_{\text{best}}(k) - P(k)) + c_2 r_2(k)(g_{\text{best}}(k) - P(k)) \quad (13)$$

In the initial stage of optimization, a large inertia weight is beneficial to strengthening the global search ability of the algorithm; but in the later stages of optimization, a small inertia weight can strengthen the local search ability. This present paper adopts the method of calculating the inertia weight coefficient,  $w$ , according to number of iterations,  $k$ :

$$w(k) = w_{\text{max}} - \frac{w_{\text{max}} - w_{\text{min}}}{N} \times k \quad (14)$$

where,  $w_{\text{max}}$  is the maximum and  $w_{\text{min}}$  is the minimum value of the inertia weight coefficient;  $N$  is the maximum number of iterations.

In the same way, in order to allow the algorithm to search in the whole optimization space and avoid falling into local minima, and enhance the algorithm convergence speed and accuracy in the late, this present paper adjusts the learning factors in the searching process according to the following:

$$\begin{aligned} c_1 &= c_{1\text{max}} - \frac{(c_{1\text{max}} - c_{1\text{min}})}{N} \times k \\ c_2 &= c_{2\text{min}} + \frac{(c_{2\text{max}} - c_{2\text{min}})}{N} \times k \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

where,  $c_{\text{max}}$  is the maximum and  $c_{\text{min}}$  is the minimum value of the corresponding factor,  $c$ .

Here, an improved PSO (IPSO) is defined by Equation (13) associated with Equations (12), (14) and (15). During the updating, the particle position  $P$  and velocity  $V$  are restricted in the allowable range. When the maximum number of iterations or the performance index is reached, the output  $g_{\text{best}}$  is the global optimal solution.

### 3.3. The Design of Fuzzy PI Controller Based on Improved Particle Swarm Optimization

The structure of an adaptive fuzzy PI controller based on IPSO is shown in Figure 5. The specific steps of realization of the PSO are as follows [50]:

- (1) Initializing the particle swarm. The initial position and velocity of every particle are randomly generated in the allowable range. Then the individual extremum  $p_{best}$  is the initial position and global extremum  $g_{best}$  is the optimal value of the individual extremum.
- (2) By bringing the initial values into Equations (12)–(15); new position and velocity of the particle (for next iteration) will be determined. A new individual extremum and global extremum can be then obtained after calculating the fitness function  $F = \int t(e(t))^2 dt$ . If the new global extremum is better than the last one, the global extremum is updated with the new one.
- (3) Particles continue searching in the search space until the performance index of the system is satisfied or the maximum number of iterations is reached. After that, the program stops and the particle position renders the optimal values of the four parameters of  $k_e$ ,  $k_{ec}$ ,  $k_{up}$  and  $k_{ui}$  of the fuzzy controller. Otherwise, the program goes back to step (2) for further searching.

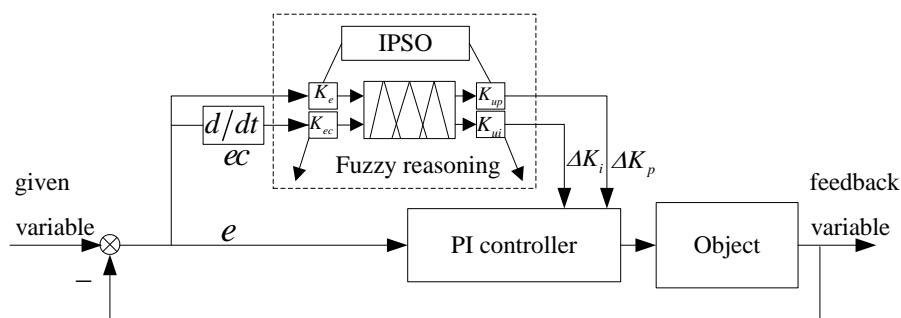


Figure 5. Structure of the fuzzy PI controller based on improved particle swarm optimization (PSO).

## 4. Simulation Analysis

### 4.1. Simulation Model

Through the analysis of PWM converter control, in this paper the simulation model of the whole unit is built using Matlab/Simulink. The quantization factors and scale factors of the fuzzy controller are optimized by the improved PSO to guarantee the tracking of the optimized rotating speed and the stability of the DC voltage.

The simulation parameters of the wind turbines are: radius of wind turbine rotor,  $R = 38.7$  m; rated wind speed,  $v = 12$  m/s; air density,  $\rho = 1.225$  kg/m<sup>3</sup>; the best tip-speed-ratio,  $\lambda_{opt} = 8$ ; equivalent moment of inertia,  $J = 500$  kg·m<sup>2</sup>; rated power is 2 MW; number of pole pairs of generator,  $Np = 40$ ; inductance  $L_s = L_g = 2.56$  mH; stator resistance,  $R_s = 0.01$  Ω; grid side equivalent resistance,  $R_g = 80$  Ω; flux of permanent magnet,  $\psi_f = 1.67$  Wb; viscosity coefficient of transmission,  $B = 0.005$  N/(m/s).

According to [49,51], we select a range that contains the corresponding parameter value of one parameter of the fuzzy controller. Then the initial value of the IPSO can be determined in that range. The length of the selected interval has little effect on the optimization results, but has an impact on the optimization time. Of course, in order to save time, a small interval may be selected. As a result, the improved PSO parameters of generator side converter are selected as:  $w = 0.8$ – $1.2$ ;  $c_1 = 2.5$ – $5.0$ ;  $c_2 = 0.5$ – $2.5$ ;  $N = 20$ ; the number of particles is 10. The initial position of one particle is  $[k_e(0), k_{ec}(0), k_{up}(0), k_{ui}(0)]$ , the components are random numbers between  $[0, 0.6]$ ,  $[0, 0.2]$ ,  $[5, 40]$  and  $[50, 300]$ , respectively. The initial velocity of one particle is  $[v_e(0), v_{ec}(0), v_{up}(0), v_{ui}(0)]$ , the components are of random numbers between  $[-0.02, 0.02]$ ,  $[-0.02, 0.02]$ ,  $[-4, 4]$  and  $[-30, 30]$ , respectively.

Similarly, the improved PSO parameters of the grid side converter are selected as:  $w = 0.8\text{--}1.2$ ;  $c_1 = 2.5\text{--}5.0$ ;  $c_2 = 0.5\text{--}2.5$ ;  $N = 30$ ; the number of particles is 10. The components of the initial position of one particle are random numbers between  $[0, 0.25]$ ,  $[0, 0.01]$ ,  $[0, 10]$  and  $[0, 50]$ , respectively. The components of the initial velocity of one particle are random numbers between  $[-0.025, 0.025]$ ,  $[-0.001, 0.001]$ ,  $[-1.000, 1.000]$ , and  $[5.000, 5.000]$ , respectively.

#### 4.2. Analysis of Simulation Results

When the wind speed suddenly changes, a comparison of control effects among the IPSO-fuzzy PI controller, the conventional PI controller ( $k_{pd} = k_{pq} = 550$ ,  $k_{id} = k_{iq} = 5000$ ,  $k_{pgd} = k_{pgq} = 10$ ,  $k_{igd} = k_{igq} = 100$ , these parameters are obtained by trial and error method) and the fuzzy PI controller (generator side:  $k_e = 3/10$ ,  $k_{ec} = 6/100$ ,  $k_{up} = 110/6$ ,  $k_{ui} = 1000/6$ , grid side:  $k_e = 6/500$ ,  $k_{ec} = 6/2000$ ,  $k_{up} = 20/6$ ,  $k_{ui} = 20/6$  (these parameters are obtained by calculation and tests) can be made. An extreme case is used to demonstrate the response of the controller. The changing of wind speed is shown in Figure 6. The wind speed is 8 m/s before  $t = 1$  s and increases suddenly to the rated speed 12 m/s at  $t = 1$  s, then it remains till at  $t = 2$  s, it increases suddenly to 14 m/s, and then it remains till at  $t = 3$  s, then it decreases suddenly to 10 m/s.

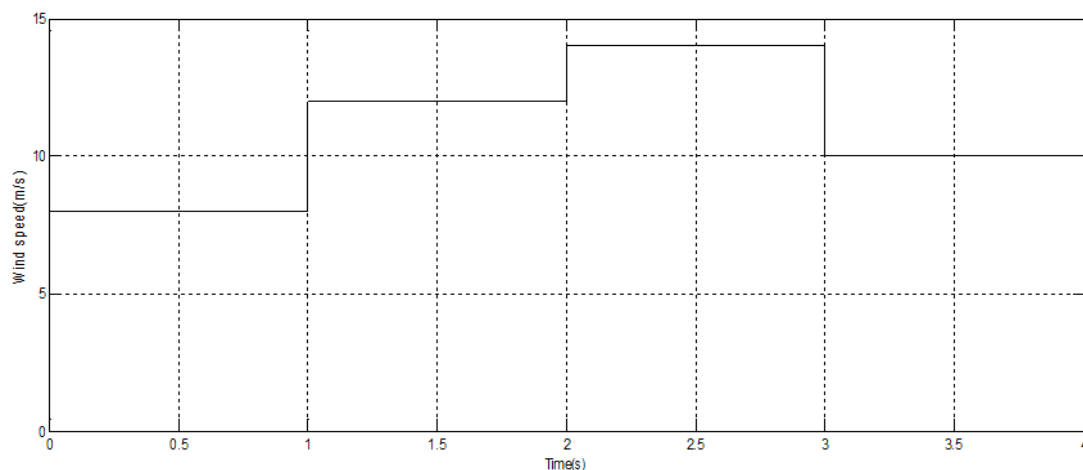


Figure 6. Changing of wind speed.

Comparisons of generator speed change and DC voltage change among IPSO-fuzzy PI controller, fuzzy PI controller and conventional PI controller are shown in Figures 7 and 8.

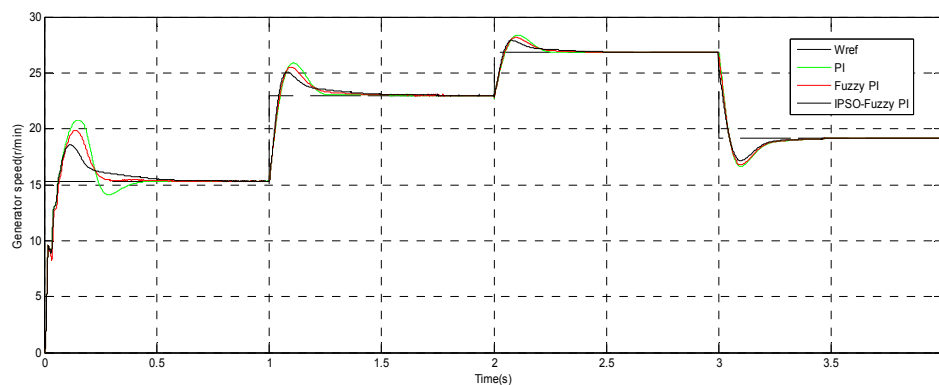


Figure 7. Changing of generator speed.

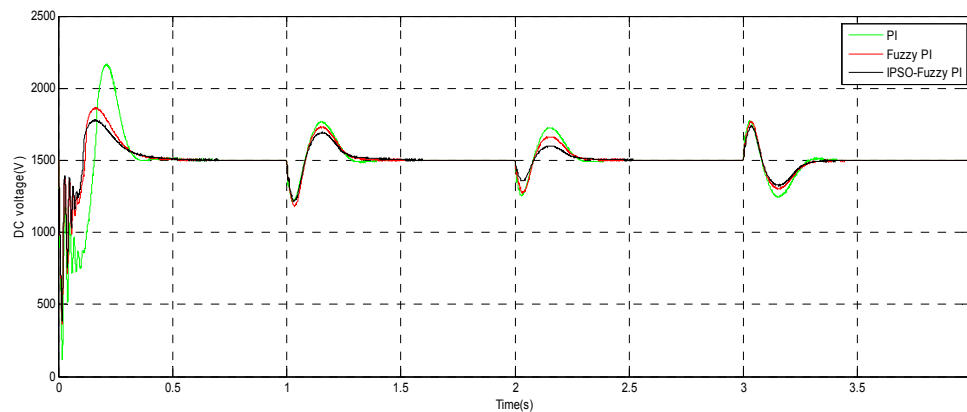


Figure 8. Changing of DC voltage.

The overshoot and regulation time of the generator speed controlled by the three controllers are shown in Figure 7 and Table 2. It can be seen that the control for achieving the generator rated speed is realized by the generator side converter when the step change of wind velocity occurred. The overshoot and regulation time of the IPSO-fuzzy PI controller are less than that of the fuzzy PI controller and conventional PI controller. The overshoot given by the IPSO-fuzzy PI controller is reduced 3.3% compared with the fuzzy PI controller and 4.8% from the PI controller while the regulation time is reduced 41 ms from the fuzzy PI controller and 51 ms from the PI controller, respectively, when the wind speed changes suddenly from 8.0 m/s to 12.0 m/s. The overshoot given by the IPSO-fuzzy PI controller is reduced 1.8% by comparing with the fuzzy PI controller and 2.7% from the PI controller while the regulation time is reduced 45 ms from the fuzzy PI controller and 55 ms from the PI controller, respectively, when the wind speed changes suddenly from 12.0 m/s to 14.0 m/s. The overshoot given by the IPSO-fuzzy PI controller is reduced 4.3% compared with the fuzzy PI controller and 6.2% from the PI controller while the regulation time is reduced 39 ms from the fuzzy PI controller and 48 ms from the PI controller, respectively, when the wind speed changes suddenly from 14.0 m/s to 10.0 m/s.

Table 2. Overshoot and regulation times of the generator speed.

Wind speed (m/s)	Overshoot (%)			Regulating time (s)		
	PI	Fuzzy PI	IPSO-Fuzzy PI	PI	Fuzzy PI	IPSO-Fuzzy PI
8	36.2	29.5	18.4	0.399	0.233	0.203
12	12.5	11	7.7	0.183	0.173	0.132
14	6.7	5.8	4.0	0.179	0.169	0.124
10	12.3	10.4	6.1	0.182	0.173	0.134

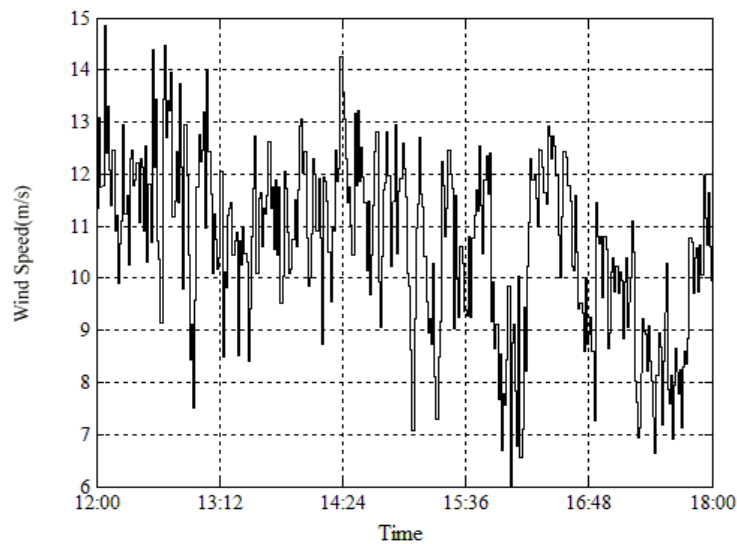
The overshoot and regulation time of the DC voltage controlled by the three controllers are shown in Figure 8 and Table 3. The control effect of IPSO-fuzzy PI controller can be clearly observed to have less overshoot and faster regulation. The overshoot given by the IPSO-fuzzy PI controller is reduced to 12.6% from 15.3% and 17.7% compared with the fuzzy PI controller and the PI controller while the regulation time is reduced to 0.234 s from 0.239 s and 0.242 s from the fuzzy PI controller and the PI controller, respectively, when the wind speed changes suddenly from 8.0 m/s to 12.0 m/s. The overshoot given by the IPSO-Fuzzy PI controller is reduced to 6.5% from 10.9% and 15.1% in comparison with the fuzzy PI controller and the PI controller while the regulation time is reduced to 0.233 s from 0.236 s and 0.240 s from the fuzzy PI controller and the PI controller, respectively, when the wind speed changes suddenly from 12.0 m/s to 14.0 m/s. The overshoot given by the IPSO-fuzzy PI controller is reduced to 9.5% from 13.1% and 16.9% in comparison with the fuzzy PI controller and the PI controller while the regulation time is reduced to 0.241 s from 0.249 s and 0.258 s from the fuzzy

PI controller and the PI controller, respectively, when the wind speed changes suddenly from 14.0 m/s to 10.0 m/s.

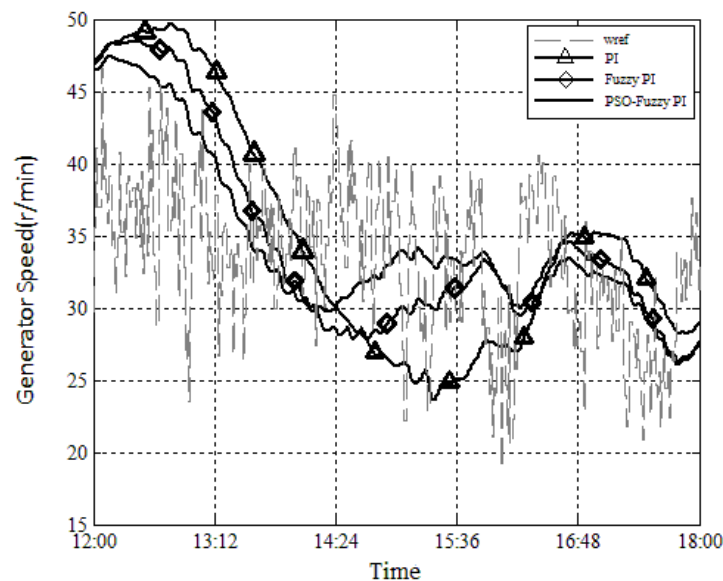
**Table 3.** Overshoot and regulation times of the DC voltage.

Wind speed (m/s)	Overshoot (%)			Regulating time (s)		
	PI	Fuzzy PI	IPSO-Fuzzy PI	PI	Fuzzy PI	IPSO-fuzzy PI
8	44.4	24.1	18.5	0.312	0.308	0.3
12	17.7	15.3	12.6	0.242	0.239	0.234
14	15.1	10.9	6.5	0.240	0.236	0.233
10	16.9	13.1	9.5	0.258	0.249	0.241

Figure 9 shows actual wind speed data collected in a wind farm. Comparisons of generator speed change and DC voltage change among the IPSO-fuzzy PI controller, fuzzy PI controller and conventional PI controller are shown in Figures 10 and 11.



**Figure 9.** The actual wind speed.



**Figure 10.** Generator speed changing at actual wind speed.

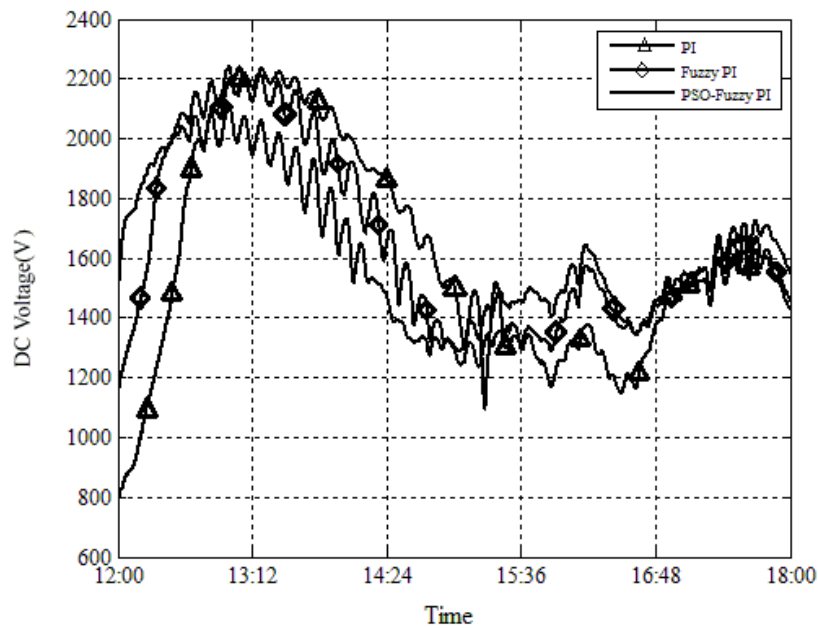


Figure 11. DC voltage changing at actual wind speed.

In Figure 10, the RMSE of the IPSO-fuzzy PI controller is 6.38 r/m, while the RMSEs of the fuzzy PI controller and the PI controller are 7.35 r/m and 8.56 r/m. In Figure 11, the RMSE of the IPSO-fuzzy PI controller is 239.01 V, while the RMSEs of the fuzzy PI controller and the PI controller are 304.61 V and 360.67 V. When RMSE is smaller, the output of the controller is closer to the ideal reference value. The obtained RMSEs also show the advantages of the IPSO-fuzzy PI controller.

## 5. Conclusions

In this paper, a new way of combining the PSO and fuzzy control is discussed. This strategy gives full play to the rapidity of improved PSO by global optimization of the four parameters of the fuzzy PI controller. The new method is used in the control of the generator side and grid side converter for a PMDD wind turbine. Compared with the PI controller and fuzzy PI controller, the proposed fuzzy PI controller based on IPSO not only meets the requirements under the situation when wind speed changes suddenly, but also ensures the fuzzy PI controller to have optimal parameters to achieve the optimum control, which makes the adjustment process faster.

Based on the simulation, the specific results have been observed and discussed in Section 4.2 in terms of overshoot and regulation time of generator speed and DC voltage for different ranges of wind speed change. It is evidenced that the IPSO-fuzzy PI controller can give better performance than a fuzzy PI controller or PI controller when there is a sudden change of wind speed in power production.

With the actual wind speed recorded from a wind farm in the simulation, the RMSE of the generator speed given by the IPSO-fuzzy PI controller is reduced to 6.38 r/m from 7.35 r/m and 8.56 r/m by comparing with the fuzzy PI controller and the PI controller while the RMSE of the DC voltage is reduced to 239.01 V from 304.61 V and 360.67 V from the fuzzy PI controller and the PI controller, respectively.

This paper focuses only on the new control strategy of a wind turbine converter for the MPPT stage when the wind speed is mainly below the rated level. There is potential to extend the study to other stages. Meanwhile, the actual operation of the system may drop in grid voltage or load imbalance, but the present paper only considers the normal situation. Moreover, the IPSO also needs time to run and it might require new hardware to be installed in practical implementation. As a result, when implementing the controller in reality in a microprocessor, the calculation speed of the microprocessor needs to be higher in order to complete the complex arithmetic operations during the



wind speed sampling interval. In fact, however, the wind speed is usually sampled every minute in the current industry practice, completing the intelligent control algorithm in microprocessor in such a short time is difficult so that, in actual operation, enquiry tables should be generated offline according to different simulations and then the microprocessor can query the lookup table online. How much or how long after the wind speed change before using the IPSO needs to be tested and verified before the real application. Therefore, further research will be pursued on practical application of the developed fuzzy PI controller based on improved PSO.

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**Conflicts of Interest:** The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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