

Applying Improved Droop Control to Hybrid Microgrid Control

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Abstract

Hybrid microgrid consists of AC and DC grids, in which the interlinking converter is used to connect AC and DC microgrids. The droop control scheme is widely applied to hybrid microgrid control including interlinking converter because it can be used to control power in hybrid microgrid without communication. However, the existing steady-state error in conventional droop control might affect to the power quality of sensitive load. Therefore, the improved droop control scheme is proposed in this study, in which the steady-stated error is removed by using an additional PI regulator. Various simulation scenarios in term of load variations are performed in the MATLAB/Simulink environment to verify the control performance of proposed control scheme. Simulation results show that the frequency and DC voltage are controlled stably by using improved droop control scheme.

Keywords: *Hybrid microgrid, AC grid, DC grid, Interlinking converter, Improved droop control*

1. Introduction

Microgrids have been widely investigated in distribution power systems owing to their advantages such as high reliability of power supplies and low environmental impacts. In general, microgrids compose distributed energy resources (DERs) including renewable energy sources (RESs), distributed energy storage systems (ESSs), and local loads [1–3]. AC microgrids are well-established configurations that correspond with the conventional power systems. In AC microgrids, it is necessary to use the DC-AC or AC-DC power conversions, because there is a variety of DC loads as well as RESs that generate DC power such as photovoltaic or need a DC link to transfer power such as wind or solar farm. Therefore, DC microgrids have been introduced to eliminate these power conversions that cause the significant energy losses. DC microgrids can bring the benefits in terms of efficiency, cost, and energy losses [4–7]. However, AC microgrids are still dominant owing to the majority of the power grids being AC types. Therefore, hybrid microgrids with a link between AC and DC microgrids have become interesting in recent studies, because they can employ the advantages of both microgrids [8–10].

Hybrid microgrids can be operated in grid-connected or islanded modes. In the grid-connected mode, hybrid microgrids control power flow between hybrid microgrids and utility grid through the point of common coupling (PCC). On the other hand, in the islanded mode, hybrid microgrids control power flow between the AC and DC microgrids through an interlinking converter. The frequency in AC microgrids and DC voltage in DC microgrids are maintained stably in the acceptable ranges by the interlinking converter [11–12]. In general, the droop control scheme is widely applied for the control system of the interlinking converter, because it can be used for sharing power among different sources without communication [13–15]. However, the limitation of the droop control

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scheme is the existing steady-state error that might affect to the power quality of the sensitive loads [16].

In this study, an improved droop control scheme is proposed to remove the steady-state error of the conventional droop control scheme. In the normal condition, the improved frequency and DC voltage droop control scheme are applied to the BESS and to the controllable DC sources, respectively. When the BESS or DC sources cannot supply sufficiently power, the interlinking converter is used to control the frequency or DC voltage. In this study, various simulation scenarios in term of load variations are performed in MATLAB/Simulink environment to test the performance of the proposed control scheme.

2. Hybrid Microgrid Structure

The hybrid microgrid consists of the AC grid, DC grid, and the interlinking converter that connects the AC and DC grids, as shown in Figure 1. Table 1 shows the rated power of each component in the hybrid microgrid. The AC grid is composed of two battery energy storage systems (BESSs), diesel generator, and variable load. Besides, the DC grid is composed of two controllable DC sources and variable load. BESSs and controllable DC sources are operated respectively based on frequency droop control and DC voltage droop control to maintain frequency and DC line voltage. The interlinking converter controls power flow between AC and DC grids, which depends on the status of power supplies in AC and DC grids.

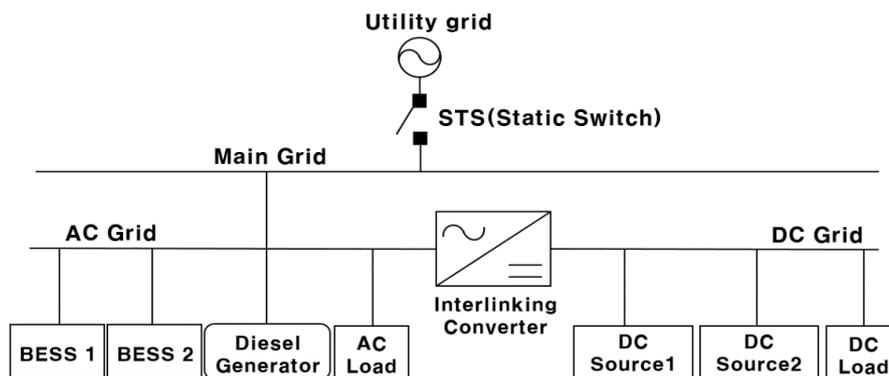


Figure 1. Structure of the Hybrid Microgrid

Table 1. Rated Power of Components in the Hybrid Microgrid

Component		Rated Power
AC Grid	BESS 1	50 kW
	BESS 2	30 kW
	Variable AC Load	100 kW ~ 180 kW
	Diesel Generator	70 kW
DC Grid	DC Source 1	40 kW
	DC Source 2	30 kW
	Variable DC Load	30 kW ~ 90 kW
Interlinking Converter		40 kW

3. Control of the Hybrid Microgrid

3.1. Improved Droop Control Scheme

In general, a conventional droop control scheme is used to share power among the multiple sources without communication. The frequency and DC voltage are controlled according to P-f droop characteristic and I-V droop characteristic as given in (1) and (2). Such the conventional droop control scheme always has a steady-state error, as shown in (3) and (4).

$$f_1 - f_0 = K_f(P_1 - P_0) \quad (1)$$

$$V_{dc,1} - V_{dc,0} = R_V(I_1 - I_0) \quad (2)$$

$$\delta = f^* - f \quad (3)$$

$$\varepsilon = V_{dc}^* - V_{dc} \quad (4)$$

where K_f is frequency droop characteristic, R_V is DC voltage droop characteristic, δ and ε are the steady-state errors of frequency and DC voltage, respectively.

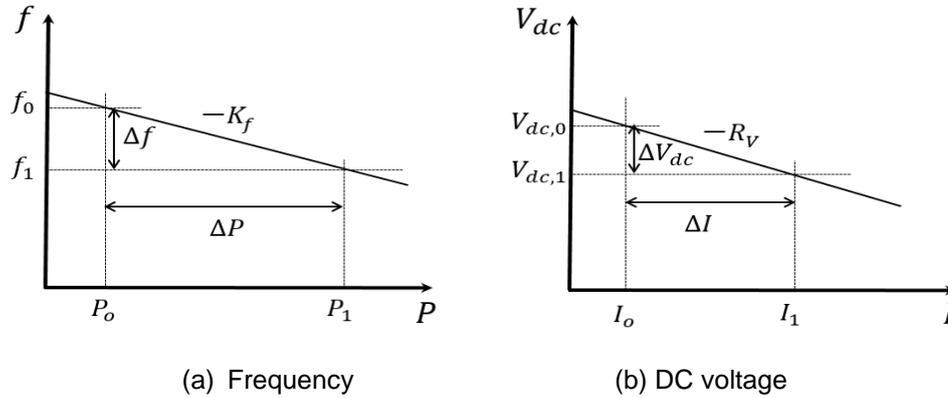


Figure 2. The Conventional Droop Control Scheme

In this study, the improved droop control scheme is based on the conventional droop control scheme. An additional PI controller is used in the improved droop control scheme to compensate the steady-state error that occurs in the conventional droop control, as given in (5) and (6).

$$f^{**} = \left\{ \delta k_p + \delta \frac{k_i}{s} \right\} + f^* - PK_f \quad (5)$$

$$V_{dc}^{**} = \left\{ \varepsilon k_p + \varepsilon \frac{k_i}{s} \right\} + V_{dc}^* - I_{dc}R_V \quad (6)$$

where f^{**} and V_{dc}^{**} are compensated frequency and DC voltage, respectively, k_p and k_i are gain values of a PI controller.

3.2. Proposed Control Scheme for BESSs and Controllable DC Sources

Generally, the control systems of BESSs and controllable DC sources are based on vector-controller technique with inner current and outer control loops using PI regulators. The improved frequency or DC voltage droop control is applied to outer control loop as shown in Figures 3 and 4, respectively. The frequency of AC grid is controlled through the d-axis current in the BESSs. Stable frequency of AC grids and DC voltage of DC grid

correspond to balance between power supplies and power demands, which can be achieved by using the improved droop control scheme.

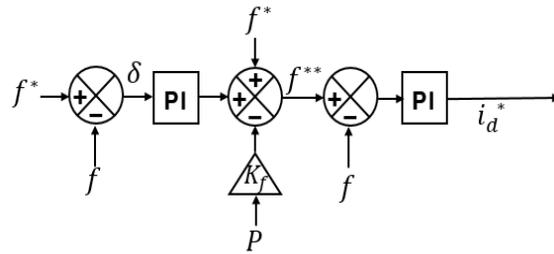


Figure 3. Improved Frequency Droop Control of the BESS

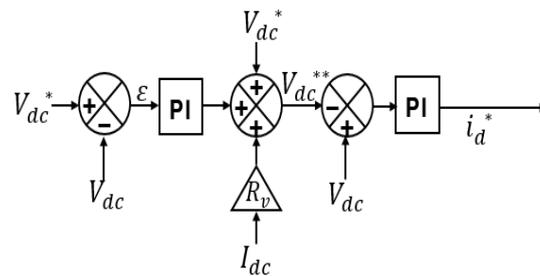


Figure 4. Improved DC Voltage Droop Control of the Controllable DC Source

3.3. Control of the Interlinking Converter

In this study, the interlinking converter is used to connect the AC and DC grids, which can controls the frequency of AC grid or DC voltage of DC grid. The control block diagram of the interlinking converter is shown in Figure 5. The status of power in AC and DC grids is represented by state of the hybrid microgrid that defines the control objective such as frequency or DC voltage. For example, if AC load is larger than AC power supply and the DC grid has surplus power, the power is transferred from the DC grid to the AC grid by interlinking converter using improved frequency droop control. On the other hand, if DC load is larger than DC power supply and the AC grid has surplus power, the power in AC grid is transferred to DC grid by using improved DC voltage droop control. However, if the total load of the hybrid microgrid is larger than a total power supply of the hybrid microgrid, the load in hybrid microgrid is shed to maintain stably frequency and DC voltage.

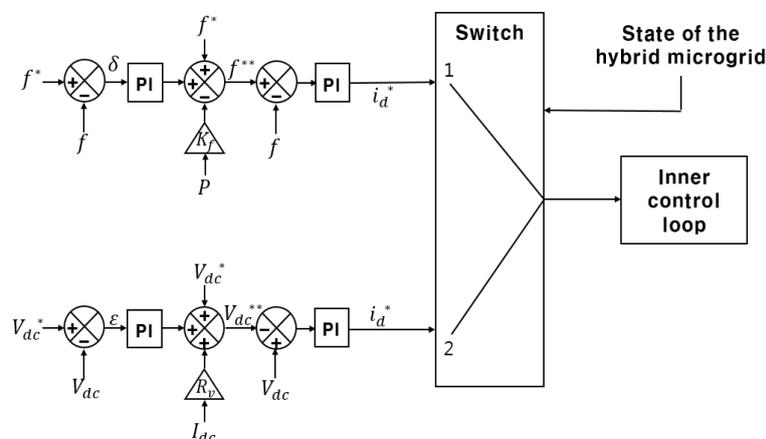


Figure 5. Control Block Diagram of the Interlinking Converter

4. Simulation Results

In this study, various simulation scenarios shown in Table 2 are used to test the performance of proposed control scheme. In three cases, hybrid microgrid is operated in islanded mode at 5 s.

Table 2. Simulation Scenarios

Case	State of the hybrid microgrid
1	Variation of AC load from 120 kW to 180 kW at 15 s, DC Load 30 kW
2	Variation of DC load from 60 kW to 90 kW at 15 s, AC Load 100 kW
3	Variation of AC load from 120 kW to 180 kW at 15 s Variation of DC load from 30 kW to 50 kW at 25 s

4.1. Case 1: Load Variation in AC grid

In case 1, the hybrid microgrid is switched to islanded mode at 5 s and AC load is changed from 120 kW to 180 kW at 15 s. Figure 6 shows the power supply and load of the AC grid. At 5 s, the hybrid microgrid is switched to islanded mode and two BESSs are operated based on improved frequency droop control. The AC load increased at 15 s leads to the lack of power supply in AC grid. Therefore, the power from the DC grid is transferred to the AC grid by interlinking converter based on improved frequency droop control. Figure 7 shows the power supply and load of DC grid. After increasing AC load, two controllable DC sources generates more power and this power is transferred to AC grid through the interlinking converter. Consequently, the frequency and DC voltage, which are maintained stably at 60 Hz and 800 V, respectively, are shown in Figure 8.

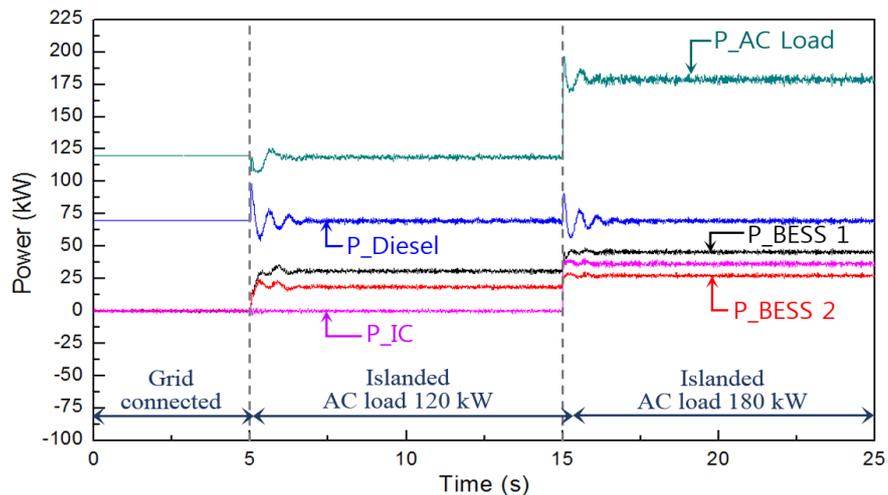


Figure 6. Power in AC Grid

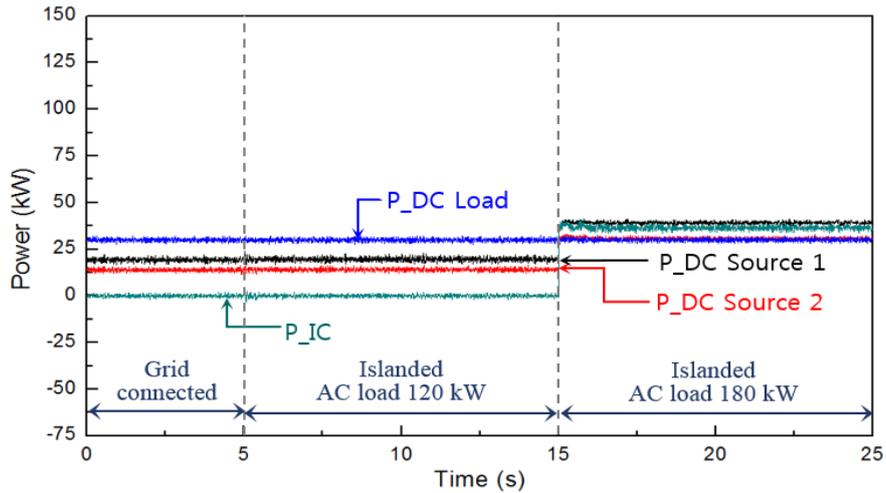


Figure 7. Power in DC Grid

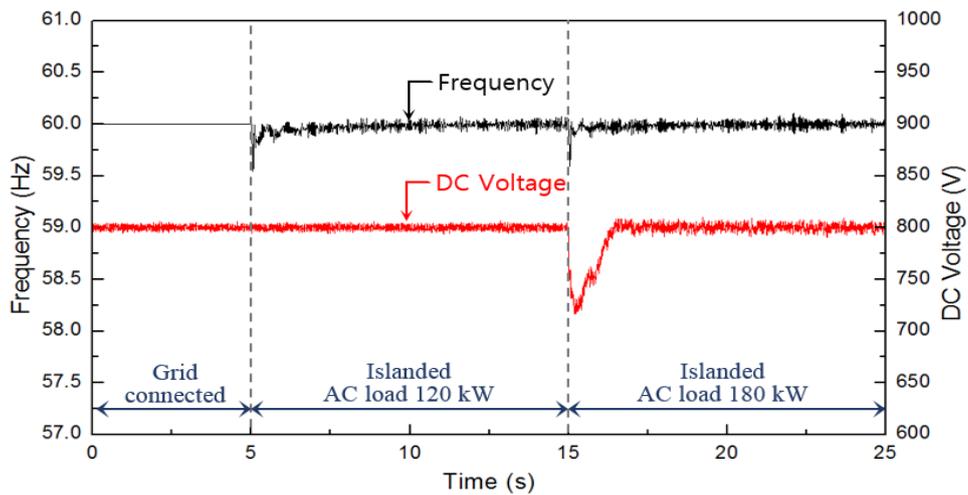


Figure 8. Frequency and DC voltage in the hybrid microgrid

4.2. Case 2: Load Variation in DC grid

In case 2, the hybrid microgrid is switched to islanded mode at 5s and DC load is changed from 60 kW to 90 kW at 15s. Figure 9 shows the power supply and load of the AC grid. At 5s, the hybrid microgrid is switched to islanded mode and two controllable DC sources are operated based on improved DC voltage droop control. The DC load increased at 15s leads to the lack of power supply in DC grid. Therefore, the power from the AC grid is transferred to the DC grid by interlinking converter based on improved DC voltage droop control. Figure 10 shows the power supply and load of DC grid. After increasing DC load, the power is transferred to DC grid through the interlinking converter. Consequently, the frequency and DC voltage, which are maintained stably at 60 Hz and 800 V, respectively, are shown in Figure 11.

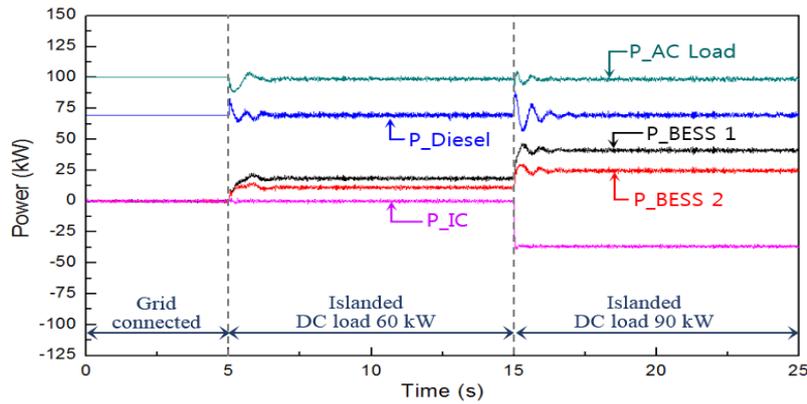


Figure 9. Power in AC Grid

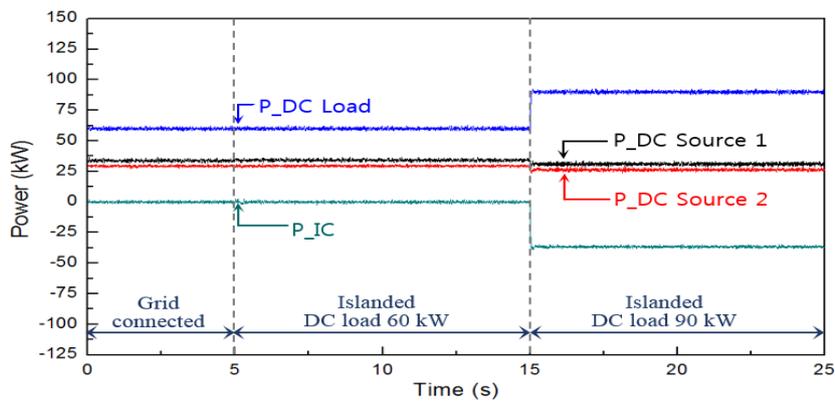


Figure 10. Power in DC Grid

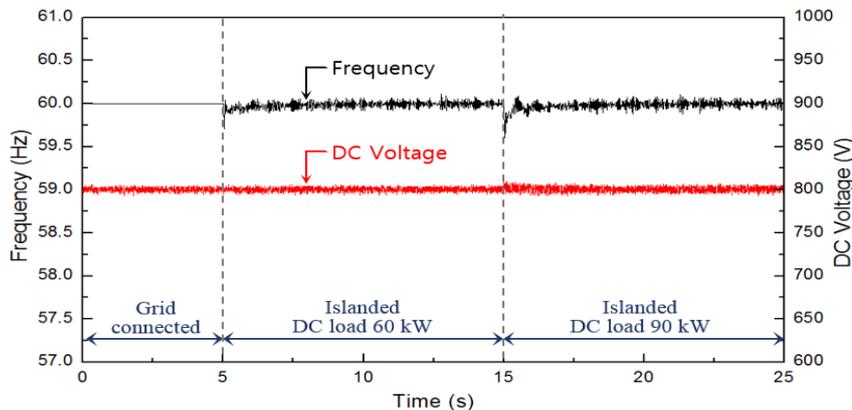


Figure 8. Frequency and DC Voltage in the Hybrid Microgrid

4.3. Case 3: Overload in the Hybrid Microgrid

In case 3, the hybrid microgrid is switched to islanded mode at 5s, AC load is changed from 120 kW to 18 kW at 15s, and DC load is changed from 30 kW to 50 kW at 25s. Figure 12 shows the power supply and load of the AC grid. At 5s, the hybrid microgrid is switched to islanded mode and two BESSs are operated based on improved frequency droop control. At 15s, after increasing AC load, the power from the DC grid is transferred to the AC grid by interlinking converter based on improved frequency droop control. DC load is increased at 25 s followed by the shortage power in the hybrid microgrid. Figure 13 shows power supply and load of the DC grid. Two controllable DC sources generate more output power because the AC load is increased at 15 s. In addition, the DC load

increased at 25 s leads to shortage power in hybrid microgrid. Therefore, in order to maintain stably frequency and DC voltage, the load in hybrid microgrid is shed at 25.5 s, as shown in Figure 14.

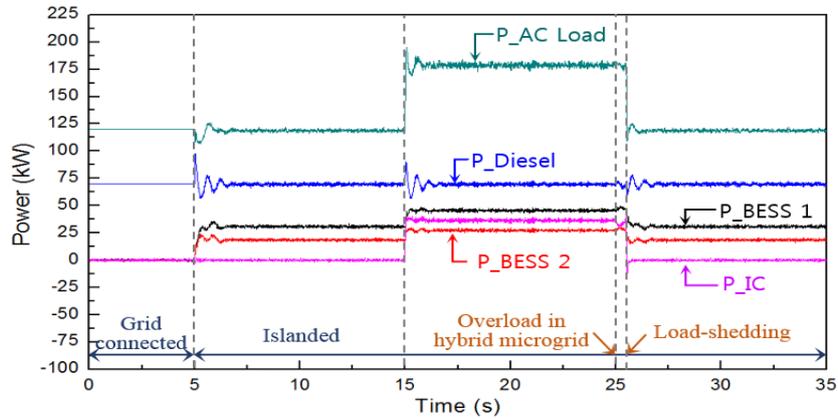


Figure 12. Power in AC Grid

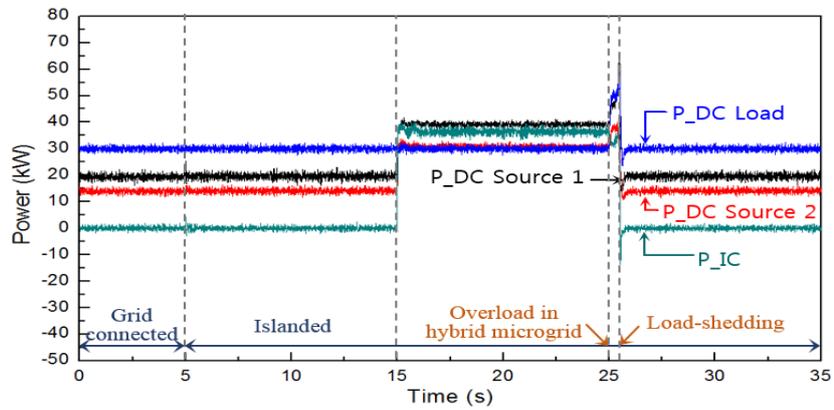


Figure 13. Power in DC Grid

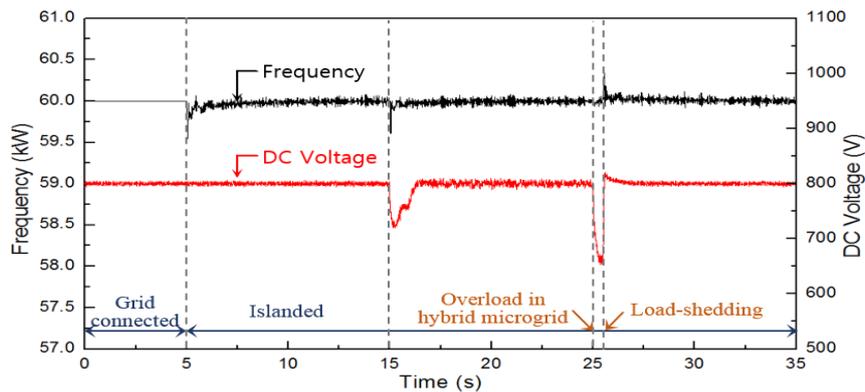


Figure 14. Frequency and DC Voltage in the Hybrid Microgrid

5. Conclusion

In this study, the improved droop control scheme was proposed to control frequency and DC voltage of the hybrid microgrid. The control performance of the hybrid microgrid was tested using MATLAB/Simulink. From simulation results, it was found that frequency and DC voltage of hybrid microgrid are maintained stably by using proposed

control scheme. Depending on the load variation, the control system of interlinking converter was switched to frequency or DC voltage control. For example, when AC load was larger than power supply of the AC grid, the improved frequency droop control was applied to interlinking converter to transfer active power from the DC grid to the AC grid. Besides, when DC load was larger than power supply of the DC grid, the improved DC voltage droop control was applied to interlinking converter to transfer active power from the AC grid to the DC grid. Moreover, when the total load of the hybrid microgrid was larger than total power supply of the hybrid microgrid, the load in hybrid microgrid was shed to maintain stably frequency and DC voltage.

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