



# Article Robust Model Predictive Control Paradigm for Automatic Voltage Regulators against Uncertainty Based on Optimization Algorithms

Mahmoud Elsisi <sup>1,2</sup>, Minh-Quang Tran <sup>1,3</sup>, Hany M. Hasanien <sup>4</sup>, Rania A. Turky <sup>5</sup>, Fahad Albalawi <sup>6</sup>, and Sherif S. M. Ghoneim <sup>6,\*</sup>

- <sup>1</sup> Industry 4.0 Implementation Center, Center for Cyber–Physical System Innovation, National Taiwan University of Science and Technology, Taipei 10607, Taiwan; mahmoud.elsisi@mail.ntust.edu.tw (M.E.); minhquang.tran@mail.ntust.edu.tw (M.-Q.T.)
- <sup>2</sup> Department of Electrical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering at Shoubra, Benha University, Cairo 11629, Egypt
- <sup>3</sup> Department of Mechanical Engineering, Thai Nguyen University of Technology, 3/2 Street, Tich Luong Ward, Thai Nguyen 250000, Vietnam
- <sup>4</sup> Electrical Power and Machines Department, Faculty of Engineering, Ain Shams University, Cairo 11517, Egypt; hany\_mohamed@eng.asu.edu.eg
- <sup>5</sup> Electrical Engineering Department, Faculty of Engineering and Technology, Future University in Egypt, Cairo 11835, Egypt; rania.turky@fue.edu.eg
- <sup>6</sup> Department of Electrical Engineering, College of Engineering, Taif University, Taif 21944, Saudi Arabia; F.albiloi@tu.edu.sa
- Correspondence: s.ghoneim@tu.edu.sa

**Abstract**: This paper introduces a robust model predictive controller (MPC) to operate an automatic voltage regulator (AVR). The design strategy tends to handle the uncertainty issue of the AVR parameters. Frequency domain conditions are derived from the Hermite–Biehler theorem to maintain the stability of the perturbed system. The tuning of the MPC parameters is performed based on a new evolutionary algorithm named arithmetic optimization algorithm (AOA), while the expert designers use trial and error methods to achieve this target. The stability constraints are handled during the tuning process. An effective time-domain objective is formulated to guarantee good performance for the AVR by minimizing the voltage maximum overshoot and the response settling time simultaneously. The results of the suggested AOA-based robust MPC are compared with various techniques in the literature. The system response demonstrates the effectiveness and robustness of the proposed strategy with low control effort against the voltage variations and the parameters' uncertainty compared with other techniques.

Keywords: automatic voltage regulator; evolutionary techniques; model predictive control; robustness

# 1. Introduction

Stability of the terminal voltage represents a critical issue in the implementation of advanced electrical grids such as microgrids and smart grids due to the diversity of the generation systems [1,2]. The electrical devices are manufactured at the specified voltage recorded in each country and can stand a little variation in the voltage; otherwise the device is damaged or the lifetime of the device decreases [3]. The voltage of the generator can be stabilized through the automatic voltage regulator (AVR) [4]. The improvement of the voltage response with high damping characteristics and zero steady-state error faces a great challenge due to the uncertainty of the AVR system.

Recently, various control strategies have been applied to the AVR systems such as the traditional proportional-integral-derivative (PID) controller,  $H\infty$  control strategy, sliding mode control, fuzzy logic (FL) control, and artificial neural network (ANN) [5–7]. In [8], a PID controller is introduced based on the whale optimization algorithm (WOA) and water



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**Copyright:** © 2021 by the authors. Licensee MDPI, Basel, Switzerland. This article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license (https:// creativecommons.org/licenses/by/ 4.0/). cycle algorithm (WCA) for an AVR. The parameters of the PID controller are obtained by the WOA and the WCA based on minimizing the integral square error. The anarchic society optimization (ASO) algorithm is utilized based on minimizing the integral time absolute error in order to adjust the gains of the PID controller for an AVR system in [9]. In [10] a PID controller based on the cuckoo search algorithm (CSA) is performed for an AVR system. In [11,12], a tree seed algorithm (TSA) and an improved kidney-inspired algorithm (KIA) are utilized for the tuning of the PID controller of AVR. Furthermore, the AVR controller is tuned by an intelligent algorithm inspired based on the propagation, refraction, and breaking operations, and named a water wave optimization (WWO) in [13]. However, the PID controller is a traditional controller and cannot stand for the systems control constraints, voltage variations, and disturbances [14]. In [15,16], Jaya optimization algorithm (JOA) and gradient-based optimization (GBO) algorithm are introduced for the tuning of a fractional-order PID controller for AVR. In addition, a fractional-order PID including derivative with filter factor is adjusted based on equilibrium optimizer (EO) for AVR in [17]. In [18,19], a fractional PID controller for an AVR system is designed using particle swarm optimization (PSO) algorithm. The fractional representation for the PID terms requires complex mathematical forms and increases the order of the AVR system. In [20], a sliding mode control (SMC) is dedicated for voltage control in a microgrid. In [21], a SMC with  $H\infty$  control is introduced for the voltage regulation of a two-level grid under different load conditions. The chattering due to the fast switching during the control law represents the main issue against the implementation of the SMC approach. Furthermore, the H $\infty$  controller doubles the order of the system which leads to unaccepted performance in some load conditions. A FL control approach is dedicated to voltage regulation in a distribution network [22]. In [23], a gain-scheduling control scheme combining with FL control is performed for the voltage regulation in a microgrid including distributed generations (DGs). A FL control approach is introduced for the voltage regulation of power transformers in [24]. The application of the FL control systems requires proper adjusting for the membership functions to provide the good performance. Furthermore, the FL control requires an expensive computing power that leads to complications in the implementation process. The voltage regulation is carried out for grid-tied solar photovoltaics (PV) based on an adaptive neuro-fuzzy inference system (ANFIS) combining with PID controller in [25]. In [26], ANN is dedicated to voltage control in a distributed power system. A voltage regulation scheme is introduced for a buck converter utilizing an ANN combined with a predictive controller in [27]. The main issue against the implementation of the ANNs is demonstrated in the availability of the proper training data to prove a good performance. Among the recent control approaches, model predictive control (MPC) is demonstrated as an optimization-based control strategy to handle the control constraints and parameters uncertainty to provide good performance in different engineering applications [28–33]. In [34], stabilization of the voltage fluctuation is carried out by utilizing an MPC for power distribution systems. Distributed MPC is utilized to stabilize voltages within permissible limits in a connected power system [35,36]. In [37], an MPC is dedicated to voltage regulation with the distributed generators (DGs) conjunction. Centralized MPC is introduced for voltage control in a distributed power system in [38]. However, proper tuning is necessary for MPC parameters including; the prediction horizon, control horizon, sampling time, and the weighting factors to enhance the system performance [39,40]. Artificial intelligence (AI) algorithms can deal with the optimization issue of the controller gains to enhance the system performance [41,42]. The trapping in a local minimum and the adjustable factors represent the main challenge against the implementation of the AI algorithms. Among AI algorithms, an algorithm termed arithmetic optimization algorithm (AOA) is developed as an effective optimization algorithm utilizing few adjustable factors and a global search strategy [43–45]. There are different versions of AOA utilized for various engineering problems [46–50]. In this paper, the original AOA is selected to tune the parameters of the MPC because this algorithm requires few adjustable parameters that enhance the performance of the AVR with a fast convergence rate and overcome the trapping in local optima

issue instead of other algorithms. The aforementioned optimization algorithms do not take into account the AVR parameters uncertainties in a systematic strategy. The robustness issue represents the main challenge to the AVR system due to the uncertainties of the parameters. The robustness issue means that the controller must tackle the uncertainties of the plant parameters.

This paper solves the MPC robustness issue by handling the parameters' uncertainty of the AVR according to derived frequency-domain constraints using the Hermite–Biehler theorem. The gains of the MPC are tuned based on the AOA, while the expert designers use the trial-and-error methods to achieve such a target. The suggested AOA is applied to adjust the MPC by minimizing a developed figure of demerit (FoD) objective function. The developed FoD objective function can accomplish the decreasing of the response settling time and the voltage maximum overshoot simultaneously. The suggested AOA-based robust MPC is evaluated with the recent works for AVR including PID controller based on the artificial bee colony (ABC) algorithm [51], non-dominated sorting genetic algorithm II (NSGA II) [52], multi-objective extremal optimization (MOEO) [53], future search algorithm (FSA) [54], and robust multi-objective PID controller [55]. Several tests are conducted to emphasize the robustness characteristic of the suggested AOA-based robust MPC against the variations of the voltage and the parameters' uncertainty.

The following points conclude the main contributions of this research work,

- A new robust control strategy is introduced for the AVR to handle the parameters uncertainty issue and voltage variations.
- The stability of the perturbed AVR system is proved according to derived frequencydomain constraints using the Hermite–Biehler theorem during the design of MPC.
- The factors of the MPC are tuned based on an intelligent algorithm named AOA rather than the trial-and-error methods.
- A developed figure of demerit objective function is introduced to handle the decreasing of the response settling time and the voltage maximum overshoot simultaneously.
- The proposed AOA-based robust MPC is compared with ABC algorithm [51], NSGA II [52], MOEO algorithm [53], FSA [54], and robust multi-objective PID controller [55].
- The system response confirms the robustness characteristic of the developed AOA-based robust MPC against the variations of the voltage and the parameters' uncertainty compared with other techniques.

The manuscript is structured as follows: Section 2 formulates the AVR model with MPC. Section 3 describes the robust MPC Formulation. Section 4 introduces an overview about the arithmetic optimization algorithm. Section 5 presents the results and the discussions of the AVR system. At the end, the conclusion of the proposed work is provided in Section 6.

#### 2. Description of AVR System

The AVR is utilized to regulate the voltage, in which a constant voltage can be obtained by taking the fluctuating voltage. The AVR system can improve the stability of the dynamic generator angle and maintain the operation of the machine through steady-state stability. In addition, the regulation of the DC excitation voltage is utilized to ensure that the permissible limit of the terminal voltage remains for the synchronous machine. Figure 1 illustrates the proposed scheme of the AVR system [4]. It shows that the AVR system consists of an amplifier node, exciter component, generator part, and sensor module. In this study, linear models are utilized for all four components of the AVR system instead of nonlinearity sources and exciter saturation limits. A diagram of a stationary excitation system with the controlled rectifier excitation type is presented in Figure 1a. In this system, the static rectified is controlled to regulate the excitation power. The excitation current is directly applied to the main generator via a slip ring. In order to obtain the actual values of the current and voltage without the noise, the sensor module including the potential transformer (PT) and current transformer (CT) is designed as shown in Figure 1a. Moreover, a block diagram of developed predictive controlled AVR system is presented in Figure 1b. All components of the AVR system are expressed by first-order transfer functions represented by the system gains and time constants [4,56]. A linear state-space form can be derived for AVR from the transfer functions of its components where the state vector " $x(t) = [V_s(t) V_t(t) V_e(t) V_a(t)]$ " as in Equations (1) and (2),

$$\mathbf{x} = A\mathbf{x} + B\mathbf{u} \tag{1}$$

 $y = cx \tag{2}$ 

where,

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{1}{T_S} & \frac{K_S}{T_S} & 0 & 0\\ 0 & -\frac{1}{T_G} & \frac{K_G}{T_G} & 0\\ 0 & 0 & -\frac{1}{T_E} & \frac{K_E}{T_E}\\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -\frac{1}{T_A} \end{bmatrix},$$
$$B = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{K_A}{T_A} \end{bmatrix}^T,$$
$$C = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix},$$

- $V_s(t)$  The output voltage from the measuring device
- $V_t(t)$  The terminal voltage of the generator
- $V_e(t)$  The exciter voltage
- $V_a(t)$  The amplifier voltage.



**Figure 1.** Scheme of AVR system (**a**) static excitation system and (**b**) structural diagram of AVR with the MPC controller.

# 2.1. Formulation of AVR for MPC

The following discrete model in Equations (3) and (4) for the AVR system with sampling time 'Ts' is considered [57],

$$x(k+1) = A_d x(k) + B_d u(k)$$
 (3)

$$y(k) = C_d x(k) \tag{4}$$

An embedded integrator is combined with the above model in order to provide zero steady-state error as described in Equations (5) and (6),

$$x_a(k+1) = A_a x_a(k) + B_a \Delta u(k) \tag{5}$$

$$y(k) = C_a x_a(k) \tag{6}$$

where,

$$\begin{aligned} x_a(k) &= \begin{bmatrix} \Delta x(k)^T & y(k) \end{bmatrix}^T ,\\ \Delta x(k) &= x(k) - x(k-1),\\ \Delta u(k) &= u(k) - u(k-1), \text{ and} \end{aligned}$$
$$A_a &= \begin{bmatrix} A_d & 0_{4 \times 1} \\ C_d A_d & 1 \end{bmatrix}, B_a &= \begin{bmatrix} B_d \\ C_d B_d \end{bmatrix}, C_a &= \begin{bmatrix} 0_{4 \times 1}^T & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

The MPC formulation utilizes the derived new model in Equations (5) and (6), named the augment model, to adjust the incremental control signal ' $\Delta U$ ' within a specific control horizon '*C*' in order to predict the system outputs for a certain prediction horizon '*P*' as described in Equation (7),

$$Y = F x_a(k) + \Psi \Delta U \tag{7}$$

where,

$$Y = [y(k+1), y(k+2), ..., y(k+P)]^{T}$$
  
$$\Delta U = [\Delta u(k), \Delta u(k+1), ..., \Delta u(k+C-1)]^{T}$$

and

$$\Psi = \begin{bmatrix} C_{d}A_{d} & C_{d}A_{d}^{2} & \dots & C_{d}A_{d}^{P} \end{bmatrix}^{T}$$

$$\Psi = \begin{bmatrix} C_{a}B_{a} & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ C_{a}A_{a}B_{a} & C_{a}B_{a} & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ C_{a}A_{a}^{P-1}B_{a} & C_{a}A_{a}^{P-2}B_{a} & \dots & C_{a}A_{a}^{P-C}B_{a} \end{bmatrix}$$

## 2.2. Obtaining the Control Law of MPC

The target of the MPC is to track the reference terminal voltage " $V_{ref}$ " by obtaining the optimal control signal utilizing the following cost function in Equation (8),

$$J = (R_s - Y)^T Q_w (R_s - Y) + \Delta U^T R_w \Delta U$$
(8)

where  $R_s = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & \cdots & 1 \end{bmatrix}^T V_{ref} = \overline{R_s} V_{ref}$ ,  $Q_w = q_w \times I_{P \times P}$ ,  $R_w = r_w \times I_{C \times C}$ , I represents a unit diagonal matrix. The minimization of the error and control signal is governed by positive weights ' $q_w$ ' and ' $r_w$ ' respectively. By substituting Equation (7) for Equation (8), the cost function can be formulated in Equation (9),

$$J = (R_s - Fx_a(k))^T Q_w(R_s - Fx_a(k)) - 2\Delta U^T \Psi^T Q_w(R_s - Fx_a(k)) + \Delta U^T (\Psi^T Q \Psi + R_w) \Delta U$$
(9)

The optimal control solutions can be formulated by deriving the partial derivative of *J* according to  $\Delta U$  as described in Equation (10),

$$\frac{\partial J}{\partial \Delta U} = -2\Psi^T Q_w (R_s - F x_a(k)) + 2 \left(\Psi^T Q_w \Psi + R_w\right) \Delta U \tag{10}$$

To get the optimal control action that can minimize *J*, we set the partial derivative of *J* to zero as shown in Equation (11),

$$\frac{\partial J}{\partial \Delta U} = 0 \tag{11}$$

The optimal control law can be derived by solving Equations (10) and (11) together; then the optimal control law can be defined as shown in Equation (12),

$$\Delta U = \left(\Psi^T Q_w \Psi + R_w\right)^{-1} \Psi^T Q_w (R_s - F x_a(k))$$
(12)

Then, the first control point in the predicted control vector is utilized to obtain the output, and the other control actions are ignored according to the receding horizon strategy as described in Equation (13),

$$\Delta u(k) = \overbrace{\left[\begin{array}{ccc} 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \end{array}\right]}^{C} (\Psi^{T} Q_{w} \Psi + R_{w})^{-1} \Psi^{T} Q_{w} (\overline{R_{s}} V_{ref} - F x_{a}(k))$$

$$= K_{y} V_{ref} - K_{mpc} x_{a}(k)$$
(13)

where,

and

$$K_{mpc} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \end{bmatrix} (\Psi^T Q_w \Psi + R_w)^{-1} \Psi^T Q_w F$$

$$K_y = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \end{bmatrix} (\Psi^T Q_w \Psi + R_w)^{-1} \Psi^T Q_w \overline{R_s}$$

Then, the closed-loop form system can be derived by substituting  $\Delta U(k)$  from Equation (13) in the augmented model of Equation (5) as shown in Equation (14),

$$x_{a}(k+1) = A_{a}x_{a}(k) + B_{a}(K_{y}V_{ref} - K_{mpc}x_{a}(k))$$
  
=  $(A_{a} - B_{a}K_{mpc})x_{a}(k) + B_{a}K_{y}V_{ref}$  (14)

The eigenvalues of the closed-loop form in Equation (14) can be obtained by solving the closed-loop characteristic polynomial in Equation (15),

$$P = det[\lambda I - (A_a - B_a K_{mpc})] = 0$$
<sup>(15)</sup>

#### 3. Robust MPC Formulation

The uncertainty of the AVR parameters, such as time constants and gains, stand for the main issue against the MPC to provide good performance. In this paper, all nominal values ' $K_A = 10$ ,  $T_A = 0.1s$ ,  $K_E = 1$ ,  $T_E = 0.4s$ ,  $K_G = 1$ ,  $T_G = 1s$ ,  $K_S = 1$ , and  $T_s = 0.01s'$  [51–55] of the system time constants and gains are assumed to be uncertain around its nominal value 'N°' by an uncertainty radius ' $\delta_N = 10\%$ ' within the interval  $[(1 - \delta_N)N^\circ \quad (1 + \delta_N)N^\circ]$ . Thus, the state matrix 'Aa' of the AVR system is a perturbed matrix because it is expressed by the system's time constants and gains. Thus, this uncertainty problem must be taken into account by adjusting the MPC gains ' $K_{mpc}$ '. To handle this uncertainty issue, we define the closed-loop characteristic polynomial in Equation (15) as defined in Equation (16),

$$P = det[\lambda I - (A_a - B_a K_{mpc})] = b_5 \lambda^5 + b_4 \lambda^4 + b_3 \lambda^3 + b_2 \lambda^2 + b_1 \lambda + b_0 = 0$$
(16)

where *P* is the closed-loop characteristic polynomial of the AVR system. However, the uncertainty of the system time constants and gains will generate a family of polynomials including the nominal polynomial. In addition, the parameters  $(b_0, \ldots, b_5)$  of the polynomial '*P*' will have bounded uncertainty as,  $b_i \in [\alpha_i \quad \sigma_i], i = 0, \cdots, 5$ . To derive the constraints that can ensure the stability of the generated family of plants from the perturbed polynomial '*P*', we substitute  $\lambda = j\omega$  in Equation (16) and assume  $\eta = \omega^2$  then the perturbed polynomial '*P*' can be defined in Equation (17),

$$P(j\eta) = H(\eta) + j\omega Q(\eta) \tag{17}$$

where the even terms of  $P(j\eta)$  are included in  $H(\eta)$  as defined in Equation (18) and the odd ones are included in  $Q(\eta)$  as defined in Equation (19).

$$H(\eta) = b_0 - b_2 \eta + b_4 \eta^2 \tag{18}$$

$$Q(\eta) = b_1 - b_3 \eta + b_5 \eta^2 \tag{19}$$

Considering the uncertainty interval ' $b_i \in [\alpha_i \ \sigma_i]$ ,  $i = 0, \dots, 5'$ :

$$\overline{H}(\eta) = \rho_0 - \alpha_2 \eta + \rho_4 \eta^2 \tag{20}$$

$$H(\eta) = \alpha_0 - \rho_2 \eta + \alpha_4 \eta^2 \tag{21}$$

and

$$\overline{Q}(\eta) = \rho_1 - \alpha_3 \eta + \rho_5 \eta^2 \tag{22}$$

$$Q(\eta) = \alpha_1 - \rho_3 \eta + \alpha_5 \eta^2 \tag{23}$$

The frequency bands of  $H(\eta)$  are defined by listing the roots of  $\overline{H}(\eta)$  in Equation (20) and  $H(\eta)$  in Equation (21) ascending. Likewise, the frequency bands of  $Q(\eta)$  are given by listing the roots of  $\overline{Q}(\eta)$  in Equation (22) and  $Q(\eta)$  in Equation (23) in ascending as illustrated in Figure 2. The following lemmas describe the properties of the frequency bands.



Figure 2. The alternation schematic of the frequency bands.

**Lemma 1.** The polynomial 'P' is stable if the roots of  $\overline{H}(\eta)$ ,  $H(\eta)$ ,  $\overline{Q}(\eta)$ , and  $Q(\eta)$  are positive and real.

**Lemma 2.** The frequency bands of 'H' and 'Q' are continuous and confined by the roots of the interval polynomials  $\overline{H}(\eta)$ ,  $H(\eta)$ ,  $\overline{Q}(\eta)$ , and  $Q(\eta)$  for 'H' and 'Q' frequency bands for continuous perturbations  $\alpha_i \leq b_i \leq \rho_i$ .

The stability constraints for the perturbed polynomial are defined by the following theorem.

**Theorem 1.** The polynomial 'P' that has uncertainty factors is stable for interval  $\alpha_i \leq b_i \leq \rho_i$  if the frequency bands of 'H' and 'Q' are alternate without overlapping. These stability constraints of the perturbed polynomial 'P' of the AVR system that ensure the alternating and non-overlapping for the frequency bands are concluded as follows as defined in Equations (24)–(26),

$$min(\eta_{q_1}, \eta_{q_3}) > max(\eta_{h_1}, \eta_{h_3})$$
 (24)

$$min(\eta_{h_1}, \eta_{h_3}) > max(\eta_{q_2}, \eta_{q_4})$$
 (25)

$$\min(\eta_{q_2}, \eta_{q_4}) > \max(\eta_{h_2}, \eta_{h_4}) \tag{26}$$

**Proof.** The frequency-domain constraints in Equations (24)–(26) that confirm the stability of the perturbed polynomial are a part of Kharitonov's theorem and were demonstrated by Argoun [58,59]. Moreover, Hermite–Biehler theorem derived the alternate condition [60].  $\Box$ 

#### 4. Arithmetic Optimization Algorithm Overview

Arithmetic optimization algorithm (AOA) is a new meta-heuristic approach that uses the distribution behavior of four basic arithmetic processes such as addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division in solving optimization processes [43]. The AOA can be summarized as follows: firstly, the search phase is required to be chosen by using the math optimizer accelerated (MOA) function as shown in Equation (27),

$$F_{MOA}(I_c) = A_{min} + I_c \times \left(\frac{A_{max} - A_{min}}{I_M}\right)$$
(27)

where  $F_{MOA}(I_c)$  describes the mean value of the MOA function calculated at the current iteration  $I_c$ .  $I_M$  is the total iterations of the MOA function.  $A_{min}$  and  $A_{max}$  represent the minimum and maximum values of the MOA function. Based on the calculated values of  $F_{MOA}(I_c)$ , it can be decided whether the exploration or exploitation phase of the AOA is selected.

#### 4.1. Exploration Stage

The exploration stage is used to randomly explore the search region to determine a better solution using two methods: multiplication search strategy and the division search strategy. Equation (28) represents the exploration operator of the AOA. It is assumed that r1 is a random number with the condition of  $r_1 > F_{MOA}$ . The modeled behaviors of the multiplication or division operators for the position updating process are shown in Equation (28),

$$x_{i,j}(I_c+1) = \begin{cases} Best(x_j) \div (M+\varepsilon) \times [(U_j - L_j) \times \mu + L_j], \ r_2 < 0.5\\ Best(x_j) \times M \times [(U_j - L_j) \times \mu + L_j], \ otherwise \end{cases}$$
(28)

where  $x_{i,j}(I_c + 1)$  presents the *i*th solution in the next iteration.  $Best(x_j)$  is the best solution that can be obtained at the *j*th position.  $r_2$  stands for a random value.  $U_j$  and  $L_j$  denote the upper and lower bound values at the *j*th location, respectively.  $\varepsilon$  performs the small integer value and  $\mu$  is a control coefficient for optimal search. The math optimizer probability value '*M*' at the current iteration can be calculated using Equation (29),

$$M(I_c) = 1 - \left(\frac{I_C^{1/\alpha}}{I_M^{1/\alpha}}\right)$$
(29)

where  $\alpha$  presents a sensitive coefficient that can be determined experimentally.

#### 4.2. Exploitation Stage

The exploitation stage utilizes addition and subtraction operators to define a better solution under the condition of  $r_1 \leq F_{MOA}$ . The searching strategy based on the exploitation phase is formulated by Equation (30),

$$x_{i,j}(I_c+1) = \begin{cases} Best(x_j) - M \times [(U_j - L_j) \times \mu + L_j], r_3 < 0.5\\ Best(x_j) + M \times [(U_j - L_j) \times \mu + L_j], otherwise \end{cases}$$
(30)



The structure diagram of the AOA is detailed in Figure 3.

Figure 3. The structure diagram of the AOA.

#### 5. Results and Discussion

In this part, the suggested AOA is dedicated to design a robust MPC that handles the frequency domain constraints derived from Hermite–Biehler theorem. The proposed AOA requires few adjustable parameters that enhance the performance of the AVR with a fast convergence rate and overcome the trapping in local optima issue instead of other algorithms. Then, the effectiveness and robustness of the suggested technique are validated by comparing the designed robust MPC based on AOA with ABC [51], NSGA-II [52], MOE [53], FSA [54], and multi-objective PID [55]. The tuning of the MPC parameters such as the sample time 'Ts', the control horizon 'C', the prediction horizon 'P', the control weight factor 'rw', and the output weight factor 'qw' are performed by AOA based on a developed fitness function that can confirm decrease of the voltage maximum overshoot and the response settling time simultaneously as well as achieving the frequency domain constraints. The developed fitness function is named figure of demerit (*FoD*) and it is formulated as defined in Equation (31),

$$FoD = (1 - e^{-\phi})(M_o + e_{SS}) + e^{-\phi} \times (t_s - t_r)$$
(31)

The frequency domain constraints are,

$$\min(\alpha_{q_1}, \alpha_{q_3}) > \max(\alpha_{h_1}, \alpha_{h_3})$$
$$\min(\alpha_{h_1}, \alpha_{h_3}) > \max(\alpha_{q_2}, \alpha_{q_4})$$
$$\min(\alpha_{q_2}, \alpha_{q_4}) > \max(\alpha_{h_2}, \alpha_{h_4})$$

where  $M_o$  represents the terminal voltage maximum overshoot, while  $e_{ss}$  stands for the response steady-state error, ts is the response settling time, and tr is the response rise time.  $\phi$  is a weighting factor utilized to equalize the decreasing process of the voltage maximum overshoot and the response settling time during the optimization process. When  $\phi > 0.7$ , the AOA focuses on minimizing the voltage maximum overshoot. While the optimization algorithm focuses on minimizing the response settling time at  $\phi < 0.7$ . In this paper,  $\phi$  is chosen equal to 0.7 because at  $\phi = 0.7$ , the two parts " $(1 - e^{-\phi})$  and  $e^{-\phi}$ " of the fitness function are equal " $(1 - e^{-\phi}) = e^{-\phi} \approx 0.5$ " and the optimization algorithm can equalize the decreasing process of the voltage maximum overshoot and the response settling time

during the optimization simultaneously. The utilized parameters of the AOA to perform the tuning process are "population size = 100 and iteration number = 50". The optimization process is carried out on MATLAB R2019b by personal computer intel CORE i7 and has 8 g RAM. The following pseudo-code in Algorithm 1 summarizes the main steps to design the robust MPC based on AOA.

Algorithm 1. The pseudo-code of the main steps to design the robust MPC based on AOA

- 2: Confirm the frequency domain constraints
- 3: Run the AVR system with MPC
- 4: Determine the FoD function in Equation (31)
- 5: **while** (current iteration < iteration<sub>max</sub>)
- 6: **Perform** the searching procedure of AOA technique
- 7: **Confirm** the frequency domain constraints
- 8: **Run** the AVR system with MPC
- 9: **Determine** the FoD function in Equation (31)
- 10: Select the minimum value of the FoD index
- 11: **Update** the solutions of AOA population
- 12: **end** while
- 13: **Print** the best gains of the MPC
- 14: Stop

The parameters of the designed robust MPC are based on AOA, the parameters of other controllers, and the corresponding values of the FoD function are listed in Table 1. Figure 4 presents the FoD values in a bar chart based on the proposed AOA-based robust MPC and other techniques. Table 1 and Figure 4 show that the proposed AOA-based robust MPC has the minimum FoD value compared with other methods in the literature. The eigenvalue locations of the AVR based on the proposed AOA- robust MPC are presented in Figure 5. It is shown from this figure that the proposed AOA- robust MPC can stabilize the AVR system and make all eigenvalue locations inside the unit circle. Furthermore, Figure 6 shows the frequency domain bands based on the proposed AOA- robust MPC. The frequency-domain bands alternate and do not overlap, as shown in Figure 6, which proves the robustness of the designed MPC against the AVR parameters uncertainty.

Table 1. Controller parameters based on each algorithm and the corresponding objective value.

Controller Type	Controller Gains	FoD Value
ABC-based PID	$k_p = 1.6524, k_i = 0.4083, k_d = 0.3654$	1.5844
NSGA-II-based PID	$k_p = 2.7666, k_i = 0.4991, k_d = 0.5008$	1.1335
MOEO-based PID	$k_p = 0.8503, k_i = 0.7473, k_d = 0.3874$	0.3895
FSA-based PID	$k_p = 0.6450, k_i = 0.4730, k_d = 0.2550$	0.0805
Multi-objective PID	$k_p = 0.612, k_i = 0.463, k_d = 0.2$	0.0878
Proposed AOA based robust MPC	$T_s = 0.012, C = 4, P = 30, r_w = 0.01, q_w = 1$	0.0574

Several comparisons between the proposed AOA- robust MPC and other techniques are done to eliminate the performance and the robustness of the suggested strategy including; unit step reference for the terminal voltage, different references for the terminal voltage, and controller gains and system parameters uncertainty. Figures 7 and 8 show the voltage response based on the proposed AOA-based robust MPC and each technique in case of unit step reference for the terminal voltage at the nominal AVR parameters. Figure 9 shows the control effort of the proposed AOA-based robust MPC and each technique. Table 2 records the damping characteristics and the maximum control signal due to the proposed AOA-based robust MPC and each technique. Table 2 records the damping characteristics and the maximum control signal due to the proposed AOA-based robust MPC and each technique. Table 2 records the damping characteristics and the maximum control signal due to the proposed AOA-based robust MPC and each technique. Table 2 records the damping characteristics and the maximum control signal due to the proposed AOA-based robust MPC and each technique, the voltage maximum overshoot, and the maximum control signal respectively, using the

<sup>1:</sup> **Initialize** AOA technique

proposed AOA-based robust MPC and each technique. It is concluded from Figures 7-12 and Table 2 that the suggested AOA-based robust MPC can provide the best damping response with less control effort compared with other techniques. Furthermore, different references for the terminal voltage are applied, as is clear in Figure 13, to emphasize the capability of the suggested AOA-based robust MPC against voltage variations. The voltage response based on the proposed AOA-based robust MPC and each technique in case of different step references are depicted in Figures 14 and 15. It is concluded from these figures that the suggested AOA-based robust MPC still provides the best damped voltage response compared with other techniques against reference variations. In Figures 16 and 17, simultaneous uncertainties of  $\pm 10\%$  in AVR time constants and perturbation of  $\pm 10\%$  of controller parameters are handled respectively. Figures 16 and 17 show that the proposed AOA-based robust MPC has a negligible change in the voltage response that proves the robustness of the designed MPC against the parameters' uncertainty.



Figure 4. The fitness function values based on the proposed AOA-based robust MPC and other techniques.



Figure 5. The eigenvalue locations of the AVR based on the proposed AOA- robust MPC.



Figure 6. The frequency domain bands based on the proposed AOA- robust MPC.



Figure 7. The terminal voltage based on the proposed AOA-based robust MPC and each technique in case of unit step reference.



**Figure 8.** Combination of voltage responses based on the proposed AOA-based robust MPC and each technique in case of unit step reference.



Figure 9. The control signals using the proposed AOA-based robust MPC and each technique.

Controller Type	t <sub>s</sub> (s)	M <sub>0</sub> (%)	u <sub>max</sub> (p.u)
ABC-based PID	3.0939	24.9592	38.19
NSGA-II-based PID	1.9894	40.5778	52.85
MOEO-based PID	0.8995	6.6678	39.59
FSA-based PID	0.4417	1.0460	23.14
Multi-objective PID	0.4783	1.5164	20.61
Proposed AOA based robust MPC	0.2444	1.2862	13.52

Table 2. The voltage maximum overshoot, settling time, and maximum control signal.



**Figure 10.** The settling times of the voltage response using the proposed AOA-based robust MPC and each technique.



**Figure 11.** The maximum overshoot of the voltage response using the proposed AOA-based robust MPC and each technique.



Figure 12. The maximum control signal using the proposed AOA-based robust MPC and each technique.



Figure 13. Voltage variations profile in case of different reference steps.



Figure 14. The terminal voltage based on the proposed AOA-based robust MPC and each technique in case of different step references.



**Figure 15.** Combination of voltage responses based on the proposed AOA-based robust MPC and each technique in case of different step references.



**Figure 16.** The terminal voltage based on the proposed AOA-based robust MPC and each technique in case of  $\pm 10\%$  variations in time constants.



**Figure 17.** The terminal voltage based on the proposed AOA-based robust MPC and each technique in case of  $\pm 10\%$  variations in controller gains.

## 6. Conclusions

A new robust control strategy is introduced in this paper to design the MPC gains. Uncertainties in the AVR parameters are tackled utilizing a set of frequency-domain conditions that are capable of diminishing all expected perturbations. The gains of the MPC are tuned by the AOA as a new effective evolutionary algorithm. The tuning process handles the frequency domain conditions to confirm the stability of the perturbed system. The performance of the voltage response is improved based on a developed objective function that tackles the decreasing of the voltage maximum overshoot and the response settling time simultaneously. Various test cases include voltage variations and parameters uncertainty are created to emphasize the performance of the suggested AOA-based robust MPC. Furthermore, the proposed control strategy is evaluated with other methods in the literature. The results emphasize the superiority and simplicity of the suggested robust control strategy to cope with all parametric uncertainties compared with other complicated mathematical and graphical approaches. Furthermore, the proposed robust control strategy can be applied to different engineering applications in future work.

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