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Definition and Classification of Terms for HVDC Networks

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Abstract:
A systematic terminology for the field of HVDC networks has been developed, closing the gap between the well-established terminologies from AC power systems and HVDC technology. The most relevant items, topologies and concepts have been given clear and unique defined names, and these have been classified in a systematic way.

The motivation for this work has been to help to reduce the communication problems that are emerging when power system engineers talk to HVDC technology engineers. The main guidelines underpinning the approach taken here is to minimise conflicts with the mentioned two existing terminologies and with existing publications on HVDC networks. A significant effort has been made to make the terminology "future-proof" not only covering today's HVDC technology but also potential future developments like large meshed HVDC grids and high power HVDC-HVDC converters.

Index Terms:
- HVDC Grids
- HVDC Networks
- HVDC Power Systems
- Multi-Terminal HVDC
- Super Grid

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1. Introduction
The scientific community has gained a strong interest in the field of High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) networks. In most publications these are referred to as HVDC grids or HVDC systems. The entire field of research is at the moment lacking a systematic terminology, as there are two existing fields merging: Electrical power systems (AC) and HVDC technology. This can result in communication problems, as many terms in use do not have a clear and unique definition.

The North Sea Offshore and Storage Network (NSON) Initiative [1] has identified this lack of a terminology and definition of terms as problematic for the development of the electrical infrastructure in the North Sea region, and therefore worked to develop the missing terminology, which is presented in this article and may be likened to taxonomies used in other fields such as zoology and computer science. In the presentation that follows, the terms that are defined here are written in italics.

1.1. Simplifications
In this article, a single-line-representation of all HVDC infrastructure is used. This is necessary to enable for a systematic view upon the network topology, without having to go into technical detail.

What is referred to here as one DC bus is in technical detail either two busses (e.g. positive and negative poles) or three busses (additional ground), and one DC transmission line might take the form of one conductor (with a ground or sea return), two (positive and negative poles) or three conductors (for positive and negative poles plus a metallic earth return). A particular HVDC system is described as having one single voltage level, even though, for example, an asymmetric monopole has a different voltage at the return (e.g. -150 kV / 0 kV). These details are, however, not in focus in this article.

All converters in the discussion presented below are regarded as ideal converters. Only the input and output are considered, and all technical details of the internal topology including intermediate voltage levels are disregarded.

Very short transmission lines are ignored. Two busses that are co-located and directly connected (by a very short transmission line) are combined into one equivalent bus (e.g. the conductors connecting converter terminals of a back-to-back system). Only lines beyond negligible length are considered as lines.

1.2. Visualisations
The concepts are visualised with figures using the symbols explained in Error! Reference source not found.Error! Reference source not found.

PLACE FIGURE 1 HERE

The CIGRE B4 DC Test Grid [2] drawn with this simplified visualisation scheme is shown in Figure 2. This can be compared with the regular electrical drawing of the same grid, shown in Error! Reference source not found. in Section[4]

PLACE FIGURE 2 HERE

2. Definitions for HVDC Networks
The relevant definitions for HVDC networks are given in this section.

2.1. HVDC Networks
A HVDC network is an electrical network that utilises high DC voltage does not need to be purely based on DC can also include conversion through intermediate AC stages (DC-AC-DC conversion), but it cannot include AC transmission lines. A network consisting of AC and DC transmission lines (such as the interconnected European electric power grid) is a hybrid AC+DC network. Hybrid AC+DC networks are not the focus here.
In this definition a distinction is made between two types of HVDC networks: HVDC systems and HVDC grids.

2.1.1. HVDC System
A HVDC system is an autonomous HVDC network, which operates with a single high DC nominal voltage. In a HVDC system, all busses (defined in Section 2.3) are directly connected by conductors. Protection devices like circuit breakers can be series connected within a HVDC system, even though that is not really a direct conductor connection. An example of a HVDC system is shown in Figure 3.

PLACE FIGURE 3 HERE

To be regarded as part of a single HVDC System, any DC-DC power converters must be series connected between two busses within that HVDC system. This is the case if these two busses are directly connected by conductors, meaning there is a direct connection path between the busses in parallel to the DC-DC converter, creating a loop within the HVDC system (controllable mesh, Section 2.4.2). Without that parallel direct connection path, the DC-DC converter would split the HVDC system into two HVDC systems connected by the converter.

A HVDC system can only have one nominal voltage level, due to the direct conductor connection. This is similar to a synchronous AC power system, which can only have one frequency.

If a short-circuit appears within a HVDC system, the voltage collapses in the entire HVDC system, if this is not prevented by a protection system, which quickly separates the faulty part from the healthy part. This is why large HVDC systems would have demanding requirements towards the protection system. This short-circuit behaviour is one of the most relevant differences between HVDC systems and HVDC grids.

A HVDC system can stand alone, or it can be part of a HVDC grid. In that case, it could also be referred to as a HVDC sub-system, to highlight the fact that it is not standing alone.

2.1.2. HVDC Grid
A HVDC grid is an interconnected HVDC network, consisting of two or more HVDC systems, which can be referred to as sub-systems in that case. Unlike a HVDC system, a HVDC grid does not require direct conductor connection of all busses. A HVDC grid can therefore (but does not need to) have multiple voltage levels, connected by power converters. A similarity to AC can be observed when regarding interconnected AC grids, consisting of several synchronous (sub-) systems which can (but do not need to) have multiple frequencies. In the European AC grid, all (sub-) systems have the same frequency (50 Hz), but in the Japanese AC grid, the two (sub-) systems have different frequencies (50 Hz and 60 Hz). An example of a HVDC grid (consisting of two HVDC systems) is shown in Figure 4.

PLACE FIGURE 4 HERE

Different HVDC systems can be counted as belonging to the same HVDC grid if:

- They are connected by a DC-DC converter
- They connect to the same AC station via AC-DC converters (see supernode, Section 2.3.5)

As stated, the HVDC grid can also include conversion through intermediate AC stages (DC-AC-DC conversion), but it cannot include AC transmission lines.

If a short-circuit appears within a HVDC grid, the voltage does not collapse in the entire HVDC grid, but only in the affected HVDC (sub-) system. This is why large HVDC grids do not necessarily have as demanding requirements towards the protection system as large HVDC systems do, since the sectioning of a HVDC grid into several smaller HVDC (sub-) systems can avoid a short-circuit from critically disturbing the entire HVDC grid. This advantage of a HVDC grid requires sufficient fault-blocking capabilities of all converter interfaces between the HVDC (sub-) systems.
The word 'grid' somehow implies the presence of loops (defined in Section 2.4). However, a large HVDC network consisting of several HVDC systems with several voltage levels, but without any loops, could theoretically be realised in the future. Such a non-looped HVDC network with a tree-like structure should theoretically not be called a grid, as it lacks the characteristic loops of a grid. However, AC distribution systems are often also called 'distribution grids', even though many distribution systems do not have loops. It seems that the word 'grid' has already been used for non-looped networks for many years, so the use of the word 'grid' for networks without loops has to be accepted.

In several publications, large HVDC systems are called HVDC grids, even though they do not consist of at least two HVDC (sub-) systems. This is done without stating clearly what the difference is exactly between a large HVDC system and a HVDC grid. However, it can generally be observed that the term HVDC system is mostly used for smaller well-defined HVDC networks, while HVDC grid often refers to future larger HVDC networks like the envisioned European Super Grid.

2.2. Edges
An edge generally is a connection between two vertices, as known from graph theory. Regarding HVDC networks, an edge is defined as a connection between two busses of that network or the connection of one bus of that network with the external world.

This connection to the external world could be to an AC system, to a source (generation) or to a sink (load). For a HVDC system (not for a HVDC grid), it could also be the connection to another HVDC system by a DC-DC converter.

Parallel edges that connect to the same busses on both ends (e.g. double circuit lines, parallel converters) are seen as one edge of the network (observable when comparing Figure 2 with Error! Reference source not found.). This is relevant in the context of connection points (defined in Section 2.3.1).

2.2.1. Branch
A branch of a HVDC network is an edge that connects two busses of that network. Branches should have some 'significant' length or should connect locations which are electrically separate. If two busses are directly connected by a conductor with 'insignificant' length, they appear as one bus from a network point-of-view.

Branches are generally either HVDC lines or DC-DC converters. A HVDC transmission line always connects two busses of a HVDC network, so it is a branch of that network. A DC-DC converter connecting two busses, which belong to the same HVDC system, is also a branch of any type of HVDC network. A DC-DC converter connecting two busses, which do not belong to the same HVDC system, is a more complicated case, treated in Section 2.2.3.

Examples of branches are shown in Error! Reference source not found..

PLACE FIGURE 5 HERE

2.2.2. Terminal
A terminal of a HVDC network is an edge that connects one bus of that network with the external world (anything that is not part of the HVDC network). Terminals act as sources and/or sinks, or in other words as inputs and/or outputs to or from the HVDC network.

In most cases, a terminal is a connection of a HVDC network to a power converter. However, other non-converter-type terminals are theoretically possible (e.g. DC load, DC generator), but these are not common, especially at high DC voltage.

All AC-DC converters are terminals to any type of HVDC network (shown in Error! Reference source not found.). A DC-DC converter connecting two busses, which do not belong to the same HVDC system, is a more complicated case, treated in Section 2.2.3
When considering the entire complete hybrid AC+DC grid, only generation and load would remain as terminals, while all converters become branches. However, the focus here is on HVDC networks and not on hybrid AC+DC networks.

**PLACE FIGURE 6 HERE**

*Terminals* are the points of the network where most of the inflow and outflow (current/power) is located. Concerning current, this flow-based definition holds very well for HVDC systems. Only small amounts of current enter and leave the HVDC system at branches. This is the leakage current on transmission lines and the difference between input and output current of a DC-DC converter (which is small for a DC-DC converter with the same voltage level on both sides). For HVDC grids with different voltage levels, this flow-based definition only holds when using per unit values. This is because of the significant difference between input and output current of a DC-DC converter connecting two different voltage levels (which disappears when converting to per unit).

Concerning power, this flow-based definition is not as exact as for currents. This is due to the transmission losses on the lines (mostly power losses, very little current losses). However, when considering power, HVDC grids with different voltage levels can be considered without having to look at per unit values.

It is important to distinguish between busses and terminals. These two terms are often confused, as the majority of existing HVDC systems has one terminal per bus. Based on the definition of a terminal as given here, a terminal is treated as an edge because of the net flow through it, whereas a bus has net flow of zero.

### 2.2.3. HVDC System Terminal / HVDC Grid Branch Duality

A special case that needs extra attention is a DC-DC converter, which connects to two different HVDC systems (shown in [Error! Reference source not found.]). This would typically be the case, when two different voltage levels are connected.

**PLACE FIGURE 7 HERE**

Regarding the HVDC grid (which includes both HVDC systems), the DC-DC converter appears as a branch of the grid (just like any other DC-DC converter). Regarding the two HVDC systems, the DC-DC converter appears as a terminal for both systems (unlike other DC-DC converters than can appear as a branch within one HVDC system).

#### 2.3. Busses

A bus is a point in the HVDC network where two or more edges are connected. Different types of busses are defined here. In graph theory the term 'vertex' is used for what here is called a bus.

**PLACE FIGURE 8 HERE**

Theoretically, any point on any line (e.g. a cable joint) could be seen as a connection point of two line segments. Whether such connection points are relevant to be considered or not depends highly on the specific study case.

**PLACE FIGURE 7 HERE**

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Theoretically, any point on any line (e.g. a cable joint) could be seen as a connection point of two line segments. Whether such connection points are relevant to be considered or not depends highly on the specific study case.
Connection points are not significant for power flow calculations, as the flow out of the first edge is exactly the flow into the other edge. There is no degree of freedom, so connection points (unlike the other bus types) need not add to the complexity of a power flow calculation.

2.3.2. Node
A node is a bus where at least three edges meet, and at least one of the edges has to be a terminal.

A bus appears as a node in both types of HVDC network if it has an edge, which connects to something outside the HVDC grid, and not just to another voltage level (which is part of the HVDC grid but not of the HVDC system). This usually means a connection to AC.

Examples of busses, which are nodes for both types of HVDC networks, are shown in Error! Reference source not found..

PLACE FIGURE 9 HERE

2.3.3. Hub
A hub is a bus where at least three branches meet, and where no terminals are connected. A hub here refers to a DC hub as a constituent part of a HVDC network, and not to any kind of AC bus. There are similarities with the term 'tee point' as used for AC networks.

A bus appears as a hub in both types of HVDC networks if it does not have an edge, which connects to something outside the HVDC system, not even to another voltage level (which is part of the HVDC grid but not of the HVDC system). DC-DC converters can be connected to a hub, if they are internal to the HVDC system, meaning that they connect to the same HVDC system on both ends. They are therefore branches of that HVDC system and not terminals.

Examples of busses, which appear as hubs for both types of HVDC networks, are shown in Error! Reference source not found.. The DC-DC converters shown in the examples are internal to the HVDC system.

PLACE FIGURE 10 HERE

2.3.4. HVDC System Node / HVDC Grid Hub Duality
The definitions of nodes and hubs are identical for HVDC grids and HVDC systems, but the definitions of edges (branches or terminals) are not identical. This duality of branches and terminals in the case of DC-DC converters (explained in Section 2.2.3) results also in a duality of nodes and hubs. A bus with an edge, which is a dual terminal/branch edge, can be (but does not need to be) a dual node/hub bus.

A bus...

- where at least three edges meet
- where at least one of the edges is a dual branch/terminal edge
  (DC-DC converter connecting to another HVDC system)
- that has no connection to something outside the HVDC grid

...appears as a node for the HVDC system, but at the same time appears as a hub for the HVDC grid.

This is due to the fact that the DC-DC converter appears as a terminal to the HVDC system but as a branch to the HVDC grid. Examples are shown in Error! Reference source not found..

PLACE FIGURE 11 HERE
However, it should be noted that:

- all buses that are nodes of a HVDC grid also appear as nodes of the corresponding HVDC system, but not vice versa.
- all buses that are hubs of a HVDC system also appear as hubs of the corresponding HVDC grid, but not vice versa.

### 2.3.5. Supernode

A supernode is not really a bus, but rather a cluster of buses. It consists of at least two (DC) buses and one AC station, where the buses are connected to the same AC station through AC-DC converters. Supernodes are especially relevant in the context of pseudo-meshes (defined in Section 2.4.3).

Examples of supernodes can be seen in Error! Reference source not found.. The left-hand example shows a supernode connecting two buses of the same HVDC system, while the right-hand example shows a supernode connecting to different HVDC systems. All the converters shown are terminals, as they are AC-DC converters.

PLACE FIGURE 12 HERE

If the two DC buses of a supernode have the same voltage level, a switch could be placed between them, being able to short-circuit them together. This would turn the supernode into a regular node (with two parallel AC-DC converters). It enables the flexible reconfiguration between node and supernode state, depending on what is better for the specific power flow situation.

A connection to two distant AC stations in the same AC system (synchronous area) does not qualify as a supernode, as it would include significant geographical transmission distance on the AC side into the supernode, which is in conflict with the 0-dimensional "point" character of a bus. For this definition, geographical distance is used instead of electrical distance. Within an AC station, there is almost no geographical distance, but the electrical distance usually is significant, due to the transformer series inductance.

A supernode can be seen as part of a HVDC network, even though it might contain an intermediate AC stage. The supernode (one AC station bus and two AC-DC converter edges) has some similar properties as an edge (DC-DC converter). It connects two DC buses and controls the flow between them. However, it does not fully behave like an edge, as the inflow on one side does not need to be equal (or almost equal) to the outflow of the other side.

Many dedicated DC-DC converter topologies also contain an intermediate AC stage (which is normally not operated at a typical AC system nominal frequency such as 50Hz). This does not, however, qualify as supernode as the AC bus is only an AC 'connection point' between the two converter stages, without AC 'node' characteristics. The DC-DC converter with an intermediate AC stage therefore truly behaves like an edge, while the supernode only shares some properties with an edge.

### 2.4. Loops

A loop is a circular structure of branches within a HVDC network. A loop is referred to as a cycle in graph theory. The different types of loops are defined here.

#### 2.4.1. Mesh

A mesh is a loop within a HVDC system, where no power electronic converters are inserted in series into the loop, so all flows follow Ohm's and Kirchhoff's laws. The power flow in a mesh cannot be fully controlled. A mesh is shown in Error! Reference source not found..
2.4.2. **Controllable Mesh**

A controllable mesh is a loop within a HVDC network, where flows can be controlled by at least one DC-DC converter inserted in series into the loop as a branch. Examples for controllable meshes are shown in Error! Reference source not found..

The definition of a controllable mesh is identical for HVDC grids and HVDC systems. However, a controllable mesh of a HVDC grid can consist of different HVDC lines at different voltage levels belonging to different HVDC systems, which all are part of the same HVDC grid (as shown on the right of Error! Reference source not found.). This is a realistic scenario for future HVDC grids that will consist of several voltage levels.

2.4.3. **Pseudo-Mesh**

A pseudo-mesh is a loop within the HVDC network, which contains at least one supernode (Section 2.3.5). This means that not the entire loop is DC, but it is closed through a DC-AC-DC connection with two AC-DC converters and one AC station. Examples of pseudo-meshes are shown in Error! Reference source not found..

The definition of a pseudo-mesh is identical for HVDC grids and HVDC systems. However, a pseudo-mesh of a HVDC grid can consist of different HVDC lines at different voltage levels belonging to different HVDC systems, which all are part of the same HVDC grid (as shown on the right of Error! Reference source not found.). This is a likely scenario for future HVDC grids that will consist of several voltage levels.

If the loop would consist of AC and DC transmission lines, it is not regarded as a DC pseudo-mesh. It would be a hybrid AC+DC loop [5], but these are not considered here, as they do not belong to HVDC networks but to hybrid AC+DC networks.

3. **Properties of HVDC Systems**

The main attributes of a HVDC system are its complexity (in the sense of the number of inputs and outputs), its topology and its size. These three important aspects are classified here.

3.1. **HVDC System Complexity**

The input-output complexity of a HVDC system depends on the number of terminals. A distinction is generally made between two-terminal systems and multi-terminal systems.

3.1.1. **Two-Terminal HVDC System**

A two-terminal system is a HVDC system with two terminals. Only the number of terminals is specified, and it does not say anything about the number of busses and branches. However, systems with two busses and one transmission line are most common (Section[0]). Some possible two-terminal systems are shown in Error! Reference source not found..

The term two-terminal system also includes back-to-back converters with a single DC bus and no transmission line (e.g. first stage of Tres Amigas [6]). However, such a system can also be considered as an AC-AC converter.

A two-terminal system can also have three or more busses. An example of this is when both cables and overhead lines are applied.
The term "point-to-point HVDC system" is often used synonymously for two-terminal system. This is, however, not correct since a two-terminal back-to-back system is not a point-to-point system. A point-to-point system requires 'significant' geographical distance between the points. For this definition, geographical distance is used instead of electrical distance. Within a back-to-back system, there is almost no geographical distance, but the electrical distance can be significant, e.g. if there is a DC series inductor.

3.1.2. Multi-Terminal HVDC System

A multi-terminal system is a HVDC system with at least three terminals. Only the number of terminals is specified, and it does not say anything about the number of busses and branches. Any number of terminals (including zero) can be located at a bus. Some examples of multi-terminal systems are shown in Error! Reference source not found.

PLACE FIGURE 17 HERE

The term multi-terminal system also includes multi-terminal back-to-back converters with a single DC bus and no transmission line (e.g. Shin-Shinano [7], described in Section 3.2.1). A multi-terminal system can be a point-to-point system if at least one of the two busses with terminals has more than one terminal (e.g. one AC-DC converter and one DC-DC converter). Two terminals of a HVDC system are considered to be at the same bus, if they are geographically co-located, as explained in Section 1.1.

3.2. HVDC System Topologies

The different HVDC system topologies are defined here.

3.2.1. Back-to-back HVDC System

A back-to-back HVDC system is a HVDC system with a single bus and no branches (examples shown in Error! Reference source not found.).

PLACE FIGURE 18 HERE

It usually has two terminals (left part of Error! Reference source not found.), but also a system with three terminals has been realised (right part of Error! Reference source not found., e.g. Shin-Shinano [7]). More than three terminals are theoretically also possible, but this has never been applied yet, and it seems challenging to imagine an application where such a system would be the appropriate technical solution.

3.2.2. Point-to-Point HVDC System

A point-to-point HVDC system is a system where all terminals are located at exactly two busses. This implies a minimum requirement of at least two busses. Examples of point-to-point systems are shown in Error! Reference source not found.. A point-to-point system can also have three or more busses. This would typically appear when both cables and overhead lines are applied, leading to additional connection points (seen in the lower two examples of Error! Reference source not found.).

PLACE FIGURE 19 HERE

The term "point-to-point" HVDC system is often used synonymously for "two-terminal" HVDC system. This is however not correct:
• Not every two-terminal system is a point-to-point system. If both terminals are located at the same bus (back-to-back system), the two-terminal system is not a point-to-point system.
• Not every point-to-point system is a two-terminal system. A point-to-point system can be a multi-terminal system if at least one of the two busses with terminals has more than one terminal (e.g. one AC-DC converter and one DC-DC converter). This is shown in Error! Reference source not found. (the two point-to-point systems on the right are multi-terminal systems).

The term "point-to-point" system therefore contains no information about the number of terminals, but it rather relates to the HVDC system topology. This confusion originates from the fact that most of the existing HVDC systems are point-to-point two-terminal HVDC systems.

3.2.3. Radial HVDC system
A radial HVDC system is a multi-terminal HVDC system with no loops, and with at least three busses that have at least one terminal each. A radial HVDC system has exactly one branch less than the number of busses. Radial systems have the structure of a mathematical tree, as known from graph theory. All branches of a radial system need to be transmission lines, as a DC-DC converter 'branch' would split the system into two systems, forming one grid. Examples are shown in Error! Reference source not found..

PLACE FIGURE 20 HERE

3.2.4. Pseudo-Meshed HVDC System
A pseudo-meshed HVDC system is a multi-terminal HVDC system with at least one pseudo-mesh and with no controllable meshes or meshes. Examples are shown in Error! Reference source not found..

PLACE FIGURE 21 HERE

No pseudo-meshed HVDC system exists or is planned at the moment of writing.

3.2.5. Controllable-Meshed HVDC System
A controllable-meshed HVDC system is a multi-terminal HVDC system with at least one controllable mesh and with no simple meshes. Examples are shown in Error! Reference source not found..

PLACE FIGURE 22 HERE

No controllable-meshed HVDC system exists or is planned at the moment of writing.

3.2.6. Meshed HVDC System
A meshed HVDC system is a multi-terminal HVDC system with at least one mesh. Examples are shown in Error! Reference source not found..

PLACE FIGURE 23 HERE

No meshed HVDC system exists or is planned at the moment of writing.

3.3. HVDC System Size
In the literature, there is often reference to 'large' HVDC systems (e.g. [8]). There are some attributes which are granted to a 'large' HVDC system, but there usually is no definition of when a HVDC system
is large. Some other technical phenomena become relevant only for 'very large' HVDC systems, but also here a definition is usually missing.

The terms 'large' and 'very large' are more often used in combination with HVDC grids rather than with HVDC systems. This is mostly based on the general consensus that large and very large HVDC networks will likely be HVDC grids consisting of several HVDC (sub-)systems.

3.3.1. Large HVDC system

A HVDC system can be considered large if its power flows are so large that a failure of the HVDC system would cause a severe disturbance for the connected AC grids. This especially relates to the primary control reserves or frequency containment reserves of the AC grids. A failure of a line or converter always needs to be acceptable within the security margins, but keeping reserves for the failure of a large HVDC system could not normally be justified. A large HVDC system rather needs sophisticated control and protection systems to avoid this scenario. This indicates advantageous properties of a large HVDC grid compared to a large HVDC system, since a HVDC grid is more robust and has less strict protection requirements [5].

There is no clear limit when a HVDC system can be considered large. However, a simple 'rule of thumb' can be proposed: "A HVDC system is large if the sum of all converter power ratings is one order of magnitude larger than the power rating of a single converter."

3.3.2. Very large HVDC system

A HVDC system can be considered very large when the power rating of the largest converter station is insignificant compared to the sum of all converter power ratings. In this case heavily centralised control concepts, e.g. where a single converter is operated as slack bus, become questionable. Very large HVDC systems are not foreseen in the near future.

There is no clear limit when a HVDC system can be considered very large. However, a simple 'rule of thumb' can be proposed: "A HVDC system is very large if the sum of all converter power rating is two orders of magnitude larger than the power rating of a single converter."

4. Example: The CIGRE B4 DC Test Grid

The CIGRE B4 DC Test Grid [2] (shown in Error! Reference source not found.) is given as an example to explain the definitions.

PLACE FIGURE 24 HERE

It is a HVDC grid, consisting of three HVDC systems (DCS1, DCS2 and DCS3). DCS1 and DCS2 are displayed in light blue and DCS3 in dark blue.

All the AC-DC converters are terminals. All the transmission lines are branches. The DC-DC converter at location B1 is a branch, because it is connected to the same HVDC system (DCS3) on both ends. The DC-DC converter at location E1 is a dual terminal / branch. It appears as a terminal to both of the HVDC systems at each end (DCS2 and DCS3) but it appears as a branch to the HVDC grid.

The bus types of the CIGRE B4 DC Grid Test System are specified in Error! Reference source not found.. The HVDC grid contains two supernodes, at locations A1 and B2. Bus Bb-E1 is a dual hub / node.

PLACE TABLE I HERE

The HVDC systems DCS1 and DCS2 do not contain loops. DCS3 contains a mesh and a controllable mesh. The HVDC grid contains all three HVDC systems, and since it contains DCS3, it automatically also contains the mesh and the controllable mesh from DCS3. However, the HVDC grid also contains a
pseudo-mesh which is formed by the HVDC systems DCS2 and DCS3, together with the two supernodes A1 and B2. It should be noted that a HVDC grid can contain a pseudo-mesh even though none of its constituent HVDC subsystems contains one (as explained in Section 2.4.3). The loops are specified in Error! Reference source not found.  

PLACE TABLE II HERE

The defined properties of HVDC systems are given in Error! Reference source not found. 

PLACE TABLE III HERE

5. Acknowledgement
This publication is a result of work by the North Sea Offshore and storage Network (NSON) Initiative, which is an activity of the European Energy Research Alliance (EERA) Joint Programme (JP) on Wind Energy (http://www.eera-set.eu/eera-joint-programmes-jps/wind-energy).

6. References

7. Biographies
Til Kristian Vrana graduated from the Academic School of the Johanneum in 2001 in Hamburg/Germany. He received his bachelor in electrical engineering and information technology in 2005 and his master in electric power engineering in 2008, both at RWTH Aachen University in Aachen/Germany. He achieved his doctoral degree in 2013 at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology NTNU in Trondheim/Norway. Currently he is working as a research scientist in the energy systems department at Sintef Energi in Trondheim/Norway.
Keith Bell is the ScottishPower Professor of Smart Grids at the University of Strathclyde. He joined the University in 2005 having previously gained his PhD at the University of Bath and worked as an electrical engineering researcher in Manchester and Naples, and as a system development engineer in the electricity supply industry in Britain. He is Chartered Engineer, a co-Director of the multi-disciplinary UK Energy Research Centre (UKERC), an invited expert member of CIGRE Study Committee C1 on System Development and Economics and a member of the Council of the IET Power Academy, an initiative to promote electric power engineering as a graduate career in the UK.

Poul Ejnar Sørensen received the M.Sc. degree in Electrical Engineering in 1987 from the Technical University of Denmark. In 1987, he was employed as researcher at the Wind Energy Department of Risø National Laboratory. He currently holds the position as professor in Wind Power Integration and Control at the Technical University of Denmark. His research in wind power integration and control include a variety of technical disciplines including power system control and stability, dynamic modelling and control of wind turbines and wind farms, and wind fluctuation statistics. He has many years of experience with standardisation, and is currently the convener of IEC 61400-27 on Electrical Simulation Models for wind power.

Tobias Hennig was born in Meiningen/Germany and received the Master Degree in Electrical Engineering (with distinction) from the University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany. Since 2013 he is working at the Department Transmission Grids at Fraunhofer IWES, Institute for Wind Energy and Energy System Technology in Kassel, Germany. His project works are dealing with power system stability of electrical grids with high penetration of renewable energy sources. His current research interests are planning and operation aspects of large-scale offshore and continental power systems including HVDC applications.

8. Pictures

![Figure 1: Symbols](image1.png)
Figure 2: The CIGRE B4 DC Test Grid

Figure 3: HVDC system

Figure 4: HVDC grid
Figure 5: Branches

Figure 6: Terminal

Figure 7: HVDC system terminal - HVDC grid branch

Figure 8: Connection points
Figure 9: Nodes

Figure 10: Hubs

Figure 11: HVDC system nodes – HVDC grid hubs
Figure 12: Supernodes

Figure 13: Mesh

Figure 14: Controllable meshes
Figure 15: Pseudo-meshes

Figure 16: Two-terminal HVDC systems

Figure 17: Multi-terminal HVDC systems

Figure 18: Back-to-back HVDC systems
Figure 19: Point-to-point HVDC systems

Figure 20: Radial HVDC systems
Figure 21: *Pseudo-meshed HVDC systems*

Figure 22: *Controllable-meshed HVDC systems*

Figure 23: *Meshed HVDC systems*
### 9. Tables

**Table I: Bus types of the CIGRE B4 DC Test Grid**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bus type</th>
<th>Supernode</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bm-C1</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bm-A1</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bb-A1</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bb-C2</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bb-D1</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bb-B4</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bb-B1</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bb-B1s</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bb-E1</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bm-E1</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bb-B2</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bm-B2</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bb-B3</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bm-B5</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bm-F1</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table II: Loop types of the CIGRE B4 DC Test Grid**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Involved busses</th>
<th>Mesh</th>
<th>Controllable-mesh</th>
<th>Pseudo-mesh</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bb-B1</td>
<td>Bb-B1</td>
<td>Bb-B1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bb-B4</td>
<td>Bb-A1</td>
<td>Bb-B1s</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bb-A1</td>
<td>Bb-C2</td>
<td>Bb-E1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bb-B1</td>
<td>Bb-D1</td>
<td>Bm-E1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bb-E1</td>
<td>Bm-F1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bb-B1s</td>
<td>Bm-B5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bb-B1</td>
<td>Bm-B3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bm-B2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bb-B2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bb-B4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bb-B1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table III: HVDC system properties of the CIGRE B4 DC Test Grid**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HVDC system</th>
<th>Complexity</th>
<th>Topology</th>
<th>Size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DCS1</td>
<td>Two-terminal</td>
<td>Point-to-point</td>
<td>Not large</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DCS2</td>
<td>Multi-terminal</td>
<td>Radial</td>
<td>Not large</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DCS3</td>
<td>Multi-terminal</td>
<td>Meshed</td>
<td>Large</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>