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Modeling and Analysis of a DC Electrical System and Controllers for Implementation of a Grid-Interactive Building

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Abstract: As the penetration of photovoltaic (PV) systems on building rooftops increases, the accumulated effect of the rooftop PV power outputs on electric network operation is no longer negligible. Energy storage resources (ESRs) have been used to smooth PV power outputs, particularly when building load becomes low. In commercial buildings, the batteries of plug-in electric vehicles (PEVs) can be regarded as distributed ESRs. This paper proposes a DC electrical system in a commercial building that enables PEVs to compensate for rooftop PV power fluctuation and participate in tracking signals for grid frequency regulation (GFR). The proposed building system and associated controllers are modeled considering steady-state and dynamic operations of the PV system and PEV batteries. Simulation case studies are conducted to demonstrate the performance of the proposed building system under various conditions, determined by such factors as the maximum voltage, minimum state-of-charge, and desired charging end-time of PEVs batteries.

1. Introduction

As the penetration of renewable energy sources (RESs) has been growing continuously, it becomes more difficult to maintain real-time balance between power generation and load demand and consequently to regulate grid frequency within an acceptable range [1]. In particular, small- and medium-sized photovoltaic (PV) systems have continued to be installed on rooftops of residential or commercial buildings and provide power to electric networks particularly when building load becomes low. In distribution networks, the accumulated power output of rooftop PV systems is no longer negligible [2,3]. For reliable operation of traditional distribution networks, grid operators have devised regulations that require the maximum capacity of rooftop PV systems to be limited below minimum demand of building load, for example, in the United States [4] and South Korea [5,6]. Specifically, it was reported in [4] that a 300-kW PV system was installed on the rooftop of a convention center, located in Boulder, Colorado. For the installation of the PV system, dynamic inverters were installed to reduce the PV energy output particularly when the convention center cannot consume the PV energy. Therefore, to further increase the maximum capacity of rooftop PV systems, energy storage resources (ESRs) are often connected to AC or DC electrical systems in buildings.

In the meantime, based on the average short driving distance of a vehicle, it is predicted that many plug-in electric vehicles (PEVs) spend most of time in parking lots while being plugged into an electric system of a commercial building. With proper implementation of battery chargers, PEVs can then act as behind-the-meter batteries that compensate for excess, intermittent power output of PV systems. Batteries have fast dynamic response suitable for high frequency and high power

cycling operation. The lifetime degradation of PEV batteries is mainly affected by deep depth of discharge encountered while driving, rather than small swings of state of charge (SOC) [7,8]. Therefore, PEVs enable cost-effective compensation for intermittent output power of PV systems or random variations in load demand [9,10]. It implies that commercial buildings become important aggregators of PV systems and PEV batteries, which can coordinate with a central load dispatching center or local control centers to improve operational stability of AC networks [10].

In regard to a building electrical system, it is shown in [11] that DC-DC converters have the advantage of achieving higher efficiency of power conversion than AC-DC inverters. This makes a strong argument for investigating the benefits of directly coupling DC power sources with DC energy storage resources: for example, PV systems and PEVs, respectively. In addition, Table 1 shows a general comparison of the energy densities of PV generators and PEV batteries, which implies that PEV batteries can be significantly recharged for commuting by PV systems. The comparison supports the application of PV systems to PEV charging. Therefore, this paper presents a DC electrical system in a commercial building that includes a rooftop PV generator and multiple PEVs. The proposed system structure and control scheme enable the power fluctuation of the rooftop PV generator to be mitigated or hidden from grid operators. Furthermore, individual PEV batteries are capable of being charged or discharged with different input or output power under various conditions, determined by such factors as initial SOC levels and the limitations on maximum voltage and minimum SOC. The proposed electrical system also can allow the building to act as an intermediate aggregator of the PEVs and actively participate in the ancillary service provision for grid frequency regulation (GFR) in an isolated power system. It should be noted that for analysis in time scales of seconds, averaged-circuit dynamic models or steady-state operating equations of power electronic devices and controllers have been adopted in this paper. Simulation case studies are then performed in MATLAB/SIMULINK (R2011b) to analyze the operation of the proposed building system.

Table 1. Energy density comparison of PV system and PEV battery [11–15].

Device	Energy Density Per Unit Area
PV	1. Typical insolation in the United States: 4 $kWh/m^2/day$~6.5 $kWh/m^2/day$. 2. Average efficiency of commercial solar panels: 10% (typical)~20% (high-end). 3. General efficiency of DC/DC converters: 95%. → PV output energy density per unit area: **0.475 kWh/m^2/day**.
PEV	1. PEV battery capacity: from 8 kWh to 28 kWh. 2. Average area for a vehicle: 16.8 m^2 (25~30 m^2 if aisle and circulation areas are included). → PEV battery energy density per unit area [1]: **0.542 kWh/m^2**.

[1] Assuming that its initial SOC level is set to 20%.

In previous papers, several DC electrical systems have been proposed particularly for residential buildings. For example, the structure and operation of DC nanogrid were introduced in [3] to implement sustainable home where one PV generator and one PEV were included. The main concern in [3] was to improve the transient response of the PEV converter to disturbance and consequently stabilize the DC link voltage by using a droop-control scheme. In addition, controlling the input power of PEV batteries has been widely studied to provide ancillary services to AC or DC microgrids and distribution networks. For example, the response of PEVs to frequency control signals was investigated in [16–25]. Specifically, a proportional controller and a high-pass filter were used to adjust the PEV input power in [16,17], respectively, to reduce the battery power capacity required for a stabilized frequency control. A participation factor of PEVs was also determined using statistical data, to reflect their aggregated dynamic response in PFC [18]. In [19], PEVs responded to PFC signals mainly via vehicle-to-grid (V2G) methods. V2G control was further investigated for ancillary service provision and cost-effective battery energy management [20]. In [21,22], the V2G control was applied to support frequency control, considering the battery charging demand. The charging-rate control of PEVs was

studied to coordinate with PEV agent policies [23]. Sophisticated frequency control schemes for PEVs have been further reported to improve frequency stability, for example, by using fuzzy logic or distributed data acquisition [24,25].

However, the aforementioned papers analyzed the effects of PEVs without consideration of the batter voltage variations and the electrical systems of residential or commercial buildings, where the PEVs are expected to be parked for most of the day. The co-operation of individual, small-scale PEV batteries still needs to be comprehensively considered to enable the building electrical system to act as a large-scale grid-interactive ESR, which can be better controlled under the supervision of an independent system operator (ISO). In fact, as the penetration of behind-the-meter ESRs continues to increase, ISOs will encounter difficulties in simultaneously controlling a number of small-scale ESRs [26]. A new type of electrical system in a building, as well as building-level and device-level controllers, will be necessary to achieve reliable ancillary service provision of behind-the-meter ESRs. Therefore, the main contributions of this paper are as follows:

- Unlike the previous papers [16–25], this paper has comprehensively modeled a DC electrical system for use in a commercial building, where the PEVs, PV systems, and DC loads are coordinated to improve the electricity grid operation under various conditions, characterized by the physical characteristics of the DC components.
- Compared to the building system in [27], the proposed electrical system has the advantages of: (1) directly charging PEV batteries with PV output power, which results in a decrease in power conversion loss; (2) reducing the requirements of communications systems between an ISO and individual PEV owners; and (3) easily including additional DC sources, ESRs, and loads.
- Few papers have included building-level controllers for the input power control of PEV chargers. In this paper, the coordination of the building- and device-level controllers, including the PEV charger controllers, has been developed such that the commercial building can act as an intermediate aggregator between an ISO and multiple PEV owners and, consequently, operate as a large-scale stationary ESR, particularly from the viewpoint of the ISO. The coordination also enables the building electrical system to effectively hide the rooftop PV power fluctuation from the ISO.
- The new control scheme of PEV chargers has been developed in this paper. The controller enables the power input of the building electrical system to successfully follow the reference input while not leading to the overvoltages of PEV batteries. In addition, even when PEV battery voltages are close to the maximum limits, the control scheme enables the power input to gradually change from the reference input, which prevents sudden variations in the power outputs of conventional generators.

This paper is organized as follows: Section 2 describes the individual power devices and corresponding controllers; Section 3 explains the building- and device-level controllers; Section 4 describes the results of simulation case studies; and Section 5 provides conclusions. It should be noted that, in this paper, well-known models of the power devices and controllers are adopted to demonstrate the feasibility of the proposed building system. The models are briefly reviewed in Section 2 to explain the configuration of the proposed building system and the coordinated scheme of the building- and device-level controllers, which are the main focus in this paper. In addition, note that designing optimal pricing schemes (e.g., [28–33]) to reward the contributions of the proposed grid-interactive building is beyond the scope of this paper.

2. Modeling of the Proposed DC Electrical System in a Commercial Building

A new electrical system configuration inside a commercial building, as well as its building-level and device-level controllers, is developed to address the practical difficulties in the implementation of grid-interactive buildings, which result from not only the limited battery power and energy capacities of individual PEVs but also an increase in their penetration. Specifically, the proposed electrical

system consists mainly of three devices: for example, an AC-DC bidirectional converter, a rooftop PV generator, and PEV batteries, which are connected to a common DC link in parallel. The proposed system structure and control scheme have been generalized such that additional PV generators, PEVs batteries, and controllable or uncontrollable building loads can be easily included.

As shown in Figure 1, the AC-DC converter acts as an interface between the AC distribution network and the DC electrical system in a building, which enables the commercial building to act as a large-scale inverter-interfaced ESR, as well as an intermediate aggregator, under the control of central or local dispatching centers. It is well known that behind-the-meter ESRs have the huge potential to provide various ancillary services (e.g., grid frequency/voltage regulation and spinning reserve provision) to AC networks. However, as the penetration of behind-the-meter ESRs continues to increase, it is expected that an ISO will encounter difficulties in simultaneously controlling a number of small-scale ESRs in buildings, which are usually distributed over a wide range of location. These may be with respect to the number of communication links required, the integration of the various communication protocols, or the real-time processing of transferred data [26,34,35]. As an intermediate aggregator, the proposed building system can be effectively used to mitigate the requirements of ISO's communications systems.
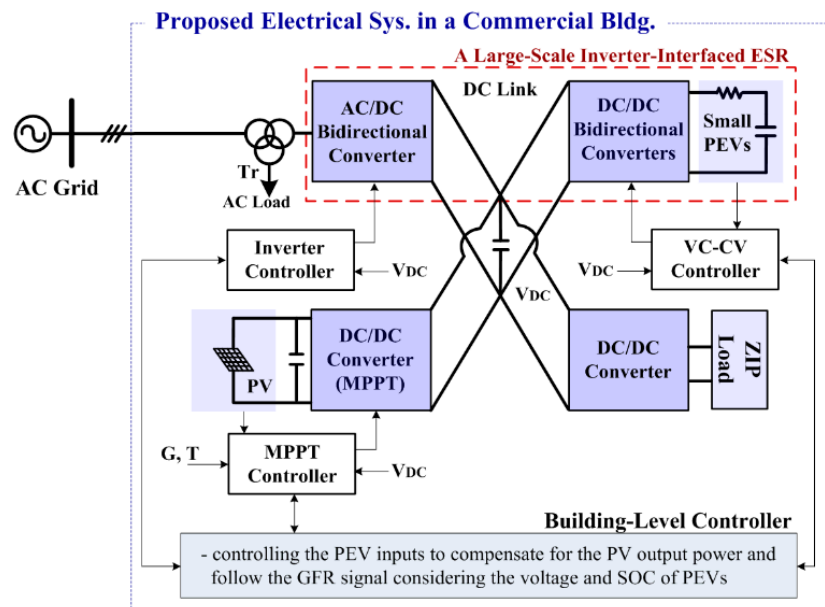
Figure 1. A simplified schematic diagram of the proposed DC electrical system in a commercial building.

In addition, the proposed building system can resolve the issues (e.g., power conversion loss and electrical system complexity) resulting from the current "DC-AC" route: for example, from DC sources or loads to AC distribution grid via small, individual AC-DC converters. The potential of multi-terminal DC electrical systems was investigated in [11,36] to improve energy conversion efficiency in residential and commercial buildings. For example, data centers often include a number of servers, which inherently operate on DC and require an uninterruptible power supply in the form of energy storage resources that also operate on DC [36]. The proposed DC system can be easily adopted for data centers, which will significantly reduce the power conversion loss resulting from the operation of a number of servers. In [37,38], advanced (e.g., peer-to-peer) communication technologies have been studied to make multi-terminal DC systems more robust and practical particularly in coordination with DC microgrids; however, it is not further discussed in this paper for brevity.

2.1. AC-DC Bidirectional Converter and Rooftop PV System

Figure 2 presents an averaged-circuit dynamic model of the AC-DC converter and its duty ratio controller. The converter is capable of not only rectifying the AC power for the PEV battery charging but also delivering the DC power from the PV generator and PEV batteries in a V2G mode to the AC network [39,40]. Specifically, as shown in Figure 2b, the *d*-axis current reference i_{d_ref} is generated from the PI controller to maintain the DC link voltage V_{DC} as constant, whereas the *q*-axis current reference i_{q_ref} is adjusted to regulate the reactive power Q_{inv} and consequently the power factor at the input port of the inverter. The duty ratios d_d and d_q are then determined using the current references, as shown in Equation (1) where the term $3\omega L/V_{DCref}$ is added to reduce the cross-coupling between the *dq*-axis currents i_d and i_q. This enables the currents to be independently controlled to regulate V_{dc} and Q_{inv}, respectively. In particular, perfect decoupling is achieved in steady state when V_{DC} is equal to V_{DCref} at a specified line frequency. To complete the converter modeling, Equations (2) and (3) are considered based on the averaged-circuit model shown in Figure 2b. For simplicity, it is assumed in this paper that the converter operates with unity power factor (i.e., $Q_{inv} = 0$) and the AC distribution network is three-phase balanced.
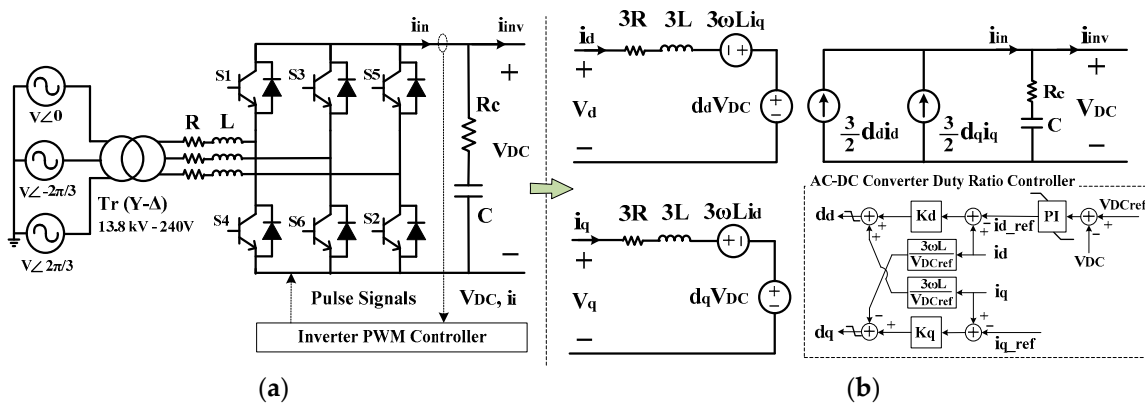

Figure 2. (**a**) AC-DC bidirectional converter; and (**b**) its averaged model and duty ratio controller.

$$d_d = K_d\left(i_d - i_{d\_ref}\right) + \frac{3\omega L}{V_{DCref}}i_q, \ d_q = K_q\left(i_q - i_{q\_ref}\right) - \frac{3\omega L}{V_{DCref}}i_d \tag{1}$$

$$\frac{di_d}{dt} = \frac{1}{3L}\left(v_d - 3Ri_d + 3\omega Li_q - d_d V_{dc}\right), \ \frac{di_q}{dt} = \frac{1}{3L}\left(v_q - 3Ri_q - 3\omega Li_d - d_q V_{dc}\right) \tag{2}$$

$$\frac{dv_c}{dt} = \frac{3}{2C}\left(d_d i_d + d_q i_q\right) - \frac{i_{inv}}{C}, \ V_{DC} = v_c + R_c\left(\frac{3}{2}\left(d_d i_d + d_q i_q\right) - i_{inv}\right) \tag{3}$$

In addition, the PV system is modeled as a parallel connection of series-wired PV modules, one of which can be represented using a controlled current source as shown in Figure 3a. The I_{pvm}-V_{pvm} characteristic equations of the PV module are presented in [41,42]. The PV system is connected in parallel to the common DC link through a DC-DC boost converter. Although a comprehensive (e.g., switch-level) model of the converter can be adopted, the simple, steady-state model considering power conversion loss [43] is still appropriate for the analysis in the time horizon focused on in this paper, as discussed in Section 4. Figure 3b then shows the incremental conductance method [44], which is adopted to control the duty ratio of the DC-DC converter for the maximum power point tracking (MPPT). In this paper, the incremental duty ratio is differently determined according to the slopes for the left and right side of the P_{PV}-V_{PV} curve.
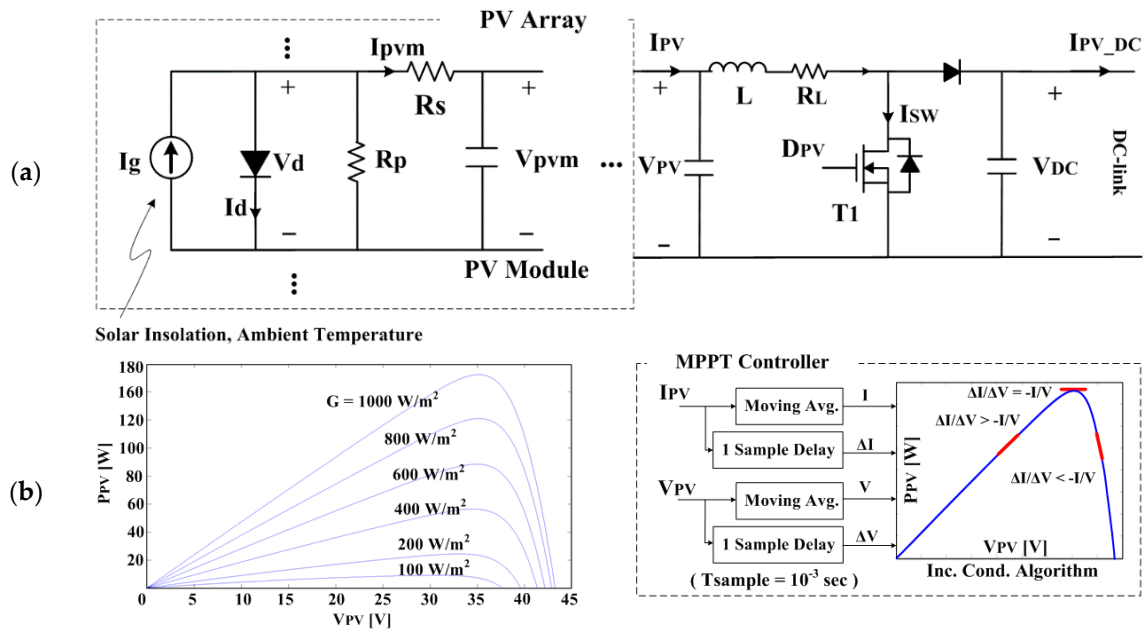
Figure 3. (**a**) Equivalent circuit model of a PV generator; and (**b**) the DC-DC converter controller for MPPT.

2.2. PEV Battery and DC-DC Buckboost Converte

(a)　Discharging ($I_{EV} \leq 0$)

$$V_{EV} = V_0 - k\frac{Q_{rated} \cdot it}{Q_{rated} - it} + k\frac{Q_{rated}}{Q_{rated} - it}I_{EV} + A \cdot \exp(-B \cdot it), \qquad (4)$$

(b)　Charging ($I_{EV} > 0$)

$$V_{EV} = V_0 - k\frac{Q_{rated} \cdot it}{Q_{rated} - it} + k\frac{Q_{rated}}{it + 0.1Q_{rated}}I_{EV} + A \cdot \exp(-B \cdot it), \qquad (5)$$

where

$$it = -\frac{1}{3600}\int_{t_0}^{t} I_{EV}(\tau)\, d\tau + Q_{rated} \cdot (1 - SOC_{init}). \qquad (6)$$

In this paper, the PEVs are used to compensate for the fluctuation of the PV power output and the rapidly-varying component of the GFR signal. Several battery models were provided in [42,45,46] with similar characteristics. In particular, as shown in Figure 4, a voltage source was adopted and controlled by Equations (4)–(6) [46]. The parameters used in Equations (4) and (5) were extracted from a battery manufacturer datasheet to calculate the SOC and voltage corresponding to time-varying charging or discharging current.

The voltage-source model of the PEV battery was then compared with the experimental battery model in [45], particularly with respect to the discharging curves, as shown in Figure 5. Specifically, Figure 5 shows a decrease in the internal voltage of the battery cell for a decrease in the normalized SOC level (i.e., from 1 to 0). The red line and blue dotted line represent the discharging curves obtained from Equations (4)–(6) and from [45], respectively. In [45], the comprehensive experimental study was conducted to propose the electrical circuit model of a polymer Li-ion battery and extract its parameter values. Therefore, the discharging curves can be applied to the same type of Li-ion batteries. Note that in Figure 5, a battery cell was considered with the maximum voltage of approximately 4.1 V, whereas in Section 4, PEV battery packs were considered with the maximum voltage of 393 V and the rated capacities of 16 kWh, 18 kWh, and 20 kWh [47,48].
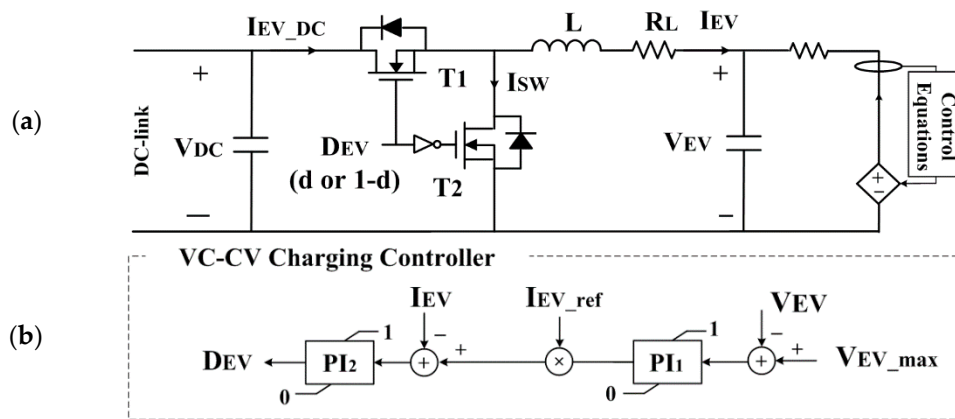
Figure 4. (**a**) PEV battery connected to the DC link via a DC-DC converter; and (**b**) the VC-CV controller.
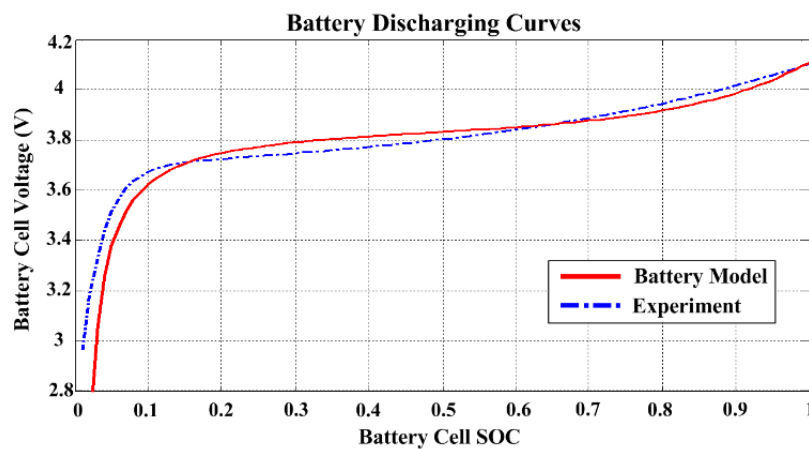

Figure 5. Comparison between simulation result and experimental data.

The PEV battery is charged or discharged according to the direction of the current flowing through the DC-DC converter. In this paper, the converter operates in the buck mode when charging and in the boost mode when discharging the battery. The PEV charger is mathematically modeled as Equations (7) and (8) using the circuit topology shown in Figure 4. Note that the PEV charger is connected to the common DC link in parallel with other PEV chargers in the proposed DC electrical system.

$$V_{EV} = D_{EV}V_{DC} - I_{EV}R_L, \ I_{EV\_DC} = D_{EV}I_{EV} + I_{SW}, \tag{7}$$

$$P_{EV} = V_{EV}I_{EV}, \ P_{EV,loss} = V_{DC}I_{EV\_DC} - P_{EV}, \tag{8}$$

where $I_{EV} > 0$ and $D_{EV} = d$ for charging, and $I_{EV} < 0$ and $D_{EV} = 1 - d$ for discharging.

The internal resistance of the battery often causes overvoltage before the battery is fully recharged, unless the charging current is reduced. To prevent the overvoltage, the constant-current and constant-voltage (CC-CV) controller was discussed in [49,50]. Unlike the conventional CC-CV controller, a variable-current and constant-voltage (VC-CV) charging scheme has been developed in this paper, as shown in Figure 4b, to both prevent the overvoltage and allow the bidirectional flow of time-varying input current. Specifically, for the actual voltage V_{EV} lower than the maximum voltage V_{EV_max}, the output value of the PI$_1$ controller is fixed to 1, such that the battery input power can follow the reference power given from the building or grid operators. When V_{EV} increases to V_{EV_max}, the charging current I_{EV} starts decreasing. Therefore, the VC-CV controllers enable the PEV batteries to be continuously charged to the maximum limit of SOC without the overvoltage problem, while compensating for the PV output power and the GFR signal. The VC-CV controllers

are coordinated with the building-level controllers, which enables the commercial building including small-scale PEV batteries to act as a large-scale ESR, as discussed in Section 3.2.

3. Coordination between Building- and Device-Level Controllers

3.1. Building Power Controller (BPC) and PEV Power Distributor (PPD)

Figure 6 presents a simplified schematic diagram of the proposed DC electrical system in a commercial building that includes the AC-DC bidirectional converter, rooftop PV generator, PEV batteries, and DC building loads. Note that the building system still includes AC loads, as shown in Figure 1. Each device has its own controller, as discussed in Section 2. Moreover, the proposed DC electrical system has building-level controllers to adjust and distribute the total power reference to each PEV based on its battery conditions. Specifically, the Building Power Controller (BPC) adjusts the power flowing into or from the DC electrical system, given the state of the PEV batteries. The BPC determines the reference P_{EV_ref} of the total charging/discharging power of the batteries, considering the power reference P_{b_ref} given from the grid operator and the output power P_{PV} of the rooftop PV system. For example, the BPC decreases P_{EV_ref} when the internal voltage V_{EV} of all the PEV batteries increase to the maximum limit V_{EV_max}. Consequently, the input power P_b of the AC/DC converter is reduced autonomously but slowly, which allows a grid operator to change the power outputs of conventional thermal generators without imposing significant mechanical stress in a transient state. Although P_b does not follow P_{b_ref}, the proposed DC electrical system still enables the PEV batteries to compensate for the short-term fluctuation of P_{PV}, as well as the high-frequency component of P_{b_ref}. Therefore, it is expected that the frequency deviation is still reduced in the AC network including a number of the grid-interactive buildings. Note that the BPC does not decrease P_{EV_ref} when P_{PV} decreases more than the total amount of the battery input power that has to be reduced by the VC-CV controllers. Furthermore, at least one PEV has V_{EV} lower than V_{EV_max}, the BPC allows the DC electrical system to control P_b to follow P_{b_ref} again.

Another building-level controller developed in this paper is the PEV Power Distributor (PPD), which enables the grid operator or, more likely, building owner to assign different charging power references to individual PEVs particularly when the PEV batteries can be sufficiently charged by the controllable input power P_b of the building and the intermittent output power P_{PV} of the rooftop PV system. Specifically, it has been assumed in this paper that the grid operator or building owner determines the references based on the initial SOC level SOC_{init} and desired charging end-time t_d, as shown in Equation (9), to ensure the sufficient SOC levels after t_d^m.

$$r_m = \frac{\left(1 - SOC_{init}^m\right)/t_d^m}{\sum\limits_m \left(1 - SOC_{init}^m\right)/t_d^m}, \text{ for } m = 1, 2, \ldots, M, \tag{9}$$

where m is the index of the PEV and M is the total number of the PEVs that participate in the PV output power compensation and grid frequency regulation. Consequently, r_m represents the relative priority of a PEV in determining charging or discharging power. It should be noted that the grid operator or building owner may determine the initial values of r_m differently, which allows some PEV batteries to get more involved in the ancillary service provision than other batteries. As the PEV batteries continue to be charged, r_m will be automatically adjusted depending on the battery conditions, which are characterized by the maximum voltage limit V_{EV_max} and minimum SOC limit SOC_{min}; it has been comprehensively explained in Section 3.2. Different values of r_m do not significantly affect the proposed operation of the building electrical system and controllers. If PEV owners do not want to compensate for the PV power fluctuation or participate in the ancillary service provision, they will determine the PEV power inputs on their own. Such PEV owners are equivalent to conventional building loads, which can be modeled as the ZIP loads shown in Figure 6.
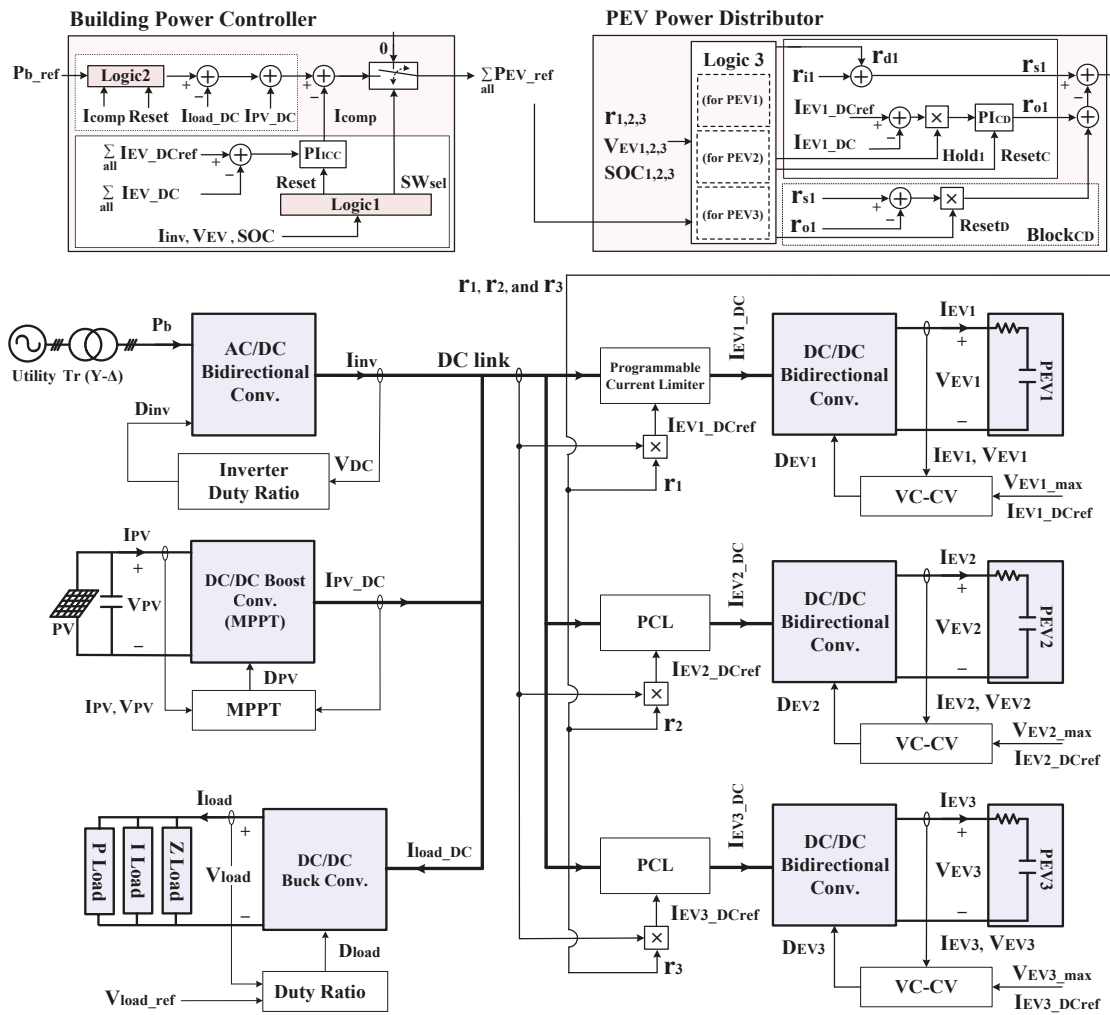
Figure 6. Proposed DC electrical system and coordination of building- and device-level controllers.

In addition, when V_{EV} of PEV$_m$ increases to V_{EV_max}, the VC-CV controller reduces its input power. The PPD then distributes the surplus power to other PEVs for $n \neq m$ based on their initial ratios $r_{n \neq m}$, so as to enable the total building input to continuously follow P_{b_ref}. Note that the desired and actual charging end-time of the PEV batteries may differ mainly because of intermittent P_{PV}. For the discharging mode of the PEV batteries, the overall operations of the BPC and PPD are similar with those for the charging mode discussed above. The difference is that the PPD decreases the ratio r_m of the PEV$_m$ to 0 when its SOC decreases to SOC_{min}. When r_m of all PEVs become equal to 0, the BPC allows P_{PV} to flow to the AC distribution grid through the AC-DC bidirectional converter, so as to maintain the power balance in the DC link.

3.2. Overall Operation of the Proposed DC Electrical System in a Commercial Building

The coordination between the device- and building-level controllers enables the building electrical system to successfully respond to the time-varying input power reference P_{b_ref}, while maintaining the energy balance in the DC link. Specifically, the complete set of operations of the BPC and PPD are summarized in Tables 2 and 3, where L is the number of the PEVs available for energy storage (i.e., $V_{EV} < V_{EV\_max}$ and $SOC > SOC_{min}$), and j and k are the indices of the PEVs L and $(M-L)$, respectively. In addition, the surplus power in the DC electrical system P_{sur} is given by

$$P_{sur} = P_b + P_{PV} - \sum_j P_{EVj} - P_{load}. \tag{10}$$

**Table 2.** Set of operation of the Building Power Controller (BPC).

PEV Conditions	Input Power P_b of the Building Electrical System
(A) $L > 0$	1. $P_b = P_{b\_ref}$.
(B) $L = 0$ (charging)	1. If $P_{sur} = 0$, then maintain P_b at P_{b_ref}. 2. Otherwise, decrease P_b. 3. If L becomes eqaul to or more than 1 when P_{b_ref} decreases to $P_b \pm \Delta P$, then set P_b equal to P_{b_ref}.
(C) $L = 0$ (discharging)	1. $P_b = -P_{PV}$. 2. If $L \geq 1$ when P_{b_ref} increases positive, then set P_b equal to P_{b_ref}.

Table 3. Set of operation of the PEV Power Distributor (PPD).

PEV Conditions	Input Power Ratios ($r_{i,j}$) of PEV Batteries
(D) $L = M$	1. Maintain all r_j as constant.
(E) $0 < L < M$	As proportional to the initial values of r_j, 1. (Charging): decrease r_k and increase r_j. 2. (Discharging): decrease r_k to 0 and increase r_j.
(F) $L = 0$	1. (Charging): maintain all r_k as constant. 2. (Discharging): maintain all r_k at 0.

In Equation (10), P_{sur} is equal to 0 where V_{EV} of all PEVs are maintained equal to or lower than V_{EV_max}.

As shown in Figure 6, the BPC includes the Logic$_1$ block, which activates the signals of Reset and SW$_{sel}$ for the conditions of (B)-3 (or (C)-2) and (C)-1 in Table 2, respectively. The Logic$_2$ block prevents the fluctuation in P_b, which results from the intermittent P_{PV}, particularly when V_{EV} of all PEVs are close to V_{EV_max}. Therefore, P_b changes to P_{b_ref} for $|P_{b\_ref} - P_b| \leq \Delta P$, which was set to 760 W in this paper, as explained in Table 2 for the condition of (B)-3. Figure 7 shows the specific schematic diagrams of the Logic$_1$ and Logic$_2$, which were implemented using MATLAB/SIMULINK (R2011b).
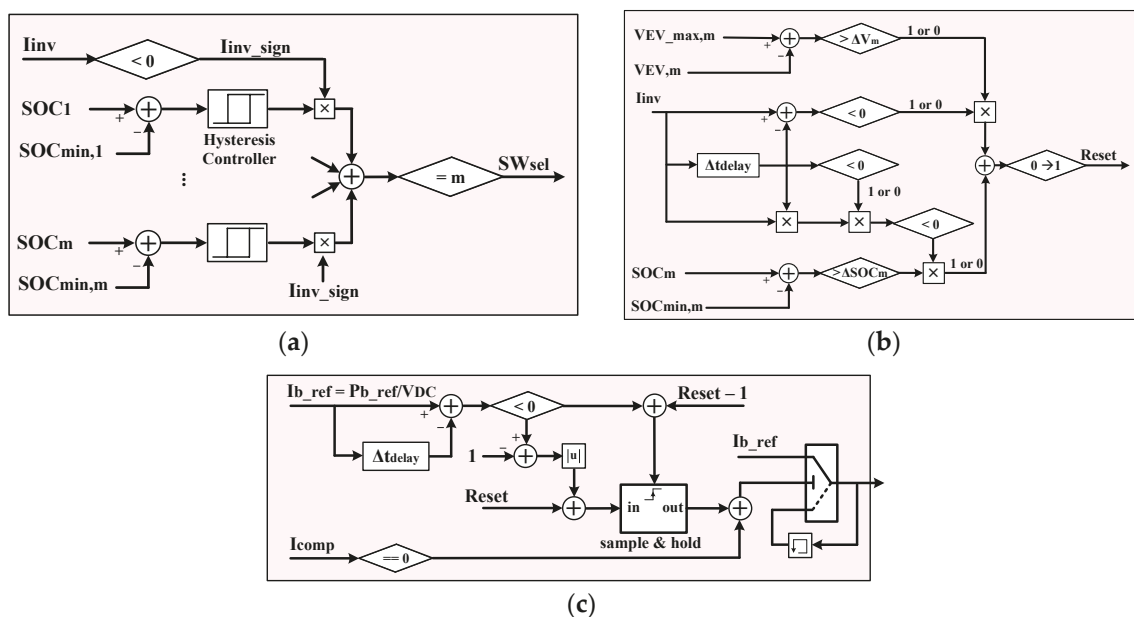
Figure 7. Schematic diagrams of the controllers in the: (**a**,**b**) Logic$_1$; and (**c**) Logic$_2$ blocks in the BPC.

In the PPD, the initial values of the ratios r_m are calculated using Equation (11) in advance, and the actual values of r_m are reduced by the PI$_{CD}$ controller when V_{EV} increases to V_{EV_max} for charging or by the Block$_{CD}$ when SOC_m decreases to SOC_{min} for discharging. For other PEVs still available for energy storage resources, the incremental ratios r_{dm} are determined by

$$r_{dj} = r_j \sum_{q \in (M-L)} (r_{mq} - r_q) / \sum_{p \in L} r_{mp} \quad \text{for } j \in L, \tag{11}$$

where L and $(M\text{-}L)$ are the set of the indices j and k, respectively. In addition, r_{mp} and r_{mq} are the initial ratios r_m of PEV$_p$ and PEV$_q$, respectively. This corresponds to the conditions of (E)-1 and (E)-2 in Table 3. The Reset$_C$ is activated when the PEV owners override the ratios r_j, and r_{dj} are then set to 0. Similarly, the signals of Hold$_m$ and Reset$_D$ aim to fix r_j as described by (F)-1 and (F)-2 in Table 3, respectively.

The PPD is assumed to operate with programmable current limiters (PCLs), as shown in Figure 8. Although there are several circuit models of PCLs for application to battery chargers [51–53], controlled current sources were adopted in this paper for simplicity; i.e., the source outputs are determined as the multiplication of the total charging (or discharging) power and the ratios r_m of PEVs. In Figure 8, the numbers indicate the order of the signal activations, for example, when the input power of PEV$_3$ decreases to prevent the battery overvoltage. The input power of PEV$_1$ and PEV$_2$ then increases proportional to r_1 and r_2 to make P_b track P_{b_ref} continuously. Note that Figure 8 represents an example for a commercial building with constant PEV charging demand and no rooftop PV output power.
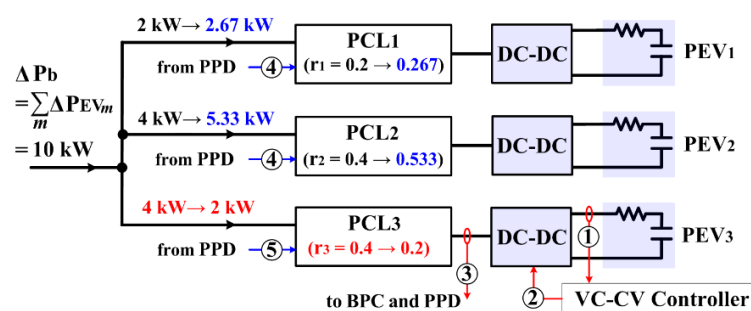

Figure 8. Operating example of the programmable current limiters (PCLs).

For the practical implementation of the centralized, coordinated control scheme in the building, real-time communications systems are required particularly to obtain the information, for example, on the battery conditions (e.g., voltages and SOC levels) and PV output power. Most commercial buildings have been already equipped with modern communications systems using Internet. In particular, IoT-based sensors have sufficient sampling rates and capabilities of communicating with centralized building energy management systems (BEMSs) directly or through multi-agent sub-controllers [38,54–56]. Furthermore, conventional current and potential transformers (CTs and PTs) can be cost-effectively installed in electricity distribution panels of commercial buildings. The signal ports of CTs and PTs can be easily connected with auxiliary devices for data sampling, signal processing, and communication. Moreover, battery management systems (BMSs) have been already used for various grid-side applications [57–59], which means that they also can be easily applied to building-side applications.

The proposed building electrical system and associated controllers are capable of avoiding undesirable interactions among various DC components. Specifically, the rooftop PV system is inherently equivalent to the DC current source. The PEV batteries essentially act as the DC current sinks in the charging mode and as the DC current sources in the discharging mode. On the other hand, the AC-DC bidirectional converter can naturally act as the DC voltage source. Therefore, the proposed building system consists of the DC voltage source where DC current sources and sinks are connected

in parallel. It allows the DC current sources and sinks to be controlled independently, as long as the DC link voltage is stably maintained at the rated value. With regard to the building control scheme, the AC-DC converter measures the DC-link voltage and maintains it at the rated value by balancing the building input power P_b and the net load demand $\sum_{all} P_{EV} + P_{load} - P_{PV}$ in the building. As discussed above, the power balance is achieved through the coordination with the building-level and device-level controllers of the DC components.

4. Simulation Case Studies and Results

To analyze the operation of the proposed grid-interactive building, simulation case studies were performed under various conditions determined by: (Case 1) the maximum limitation on PEV battery voltage; (Case 2) the fluctuation of PV output power; (Case 3) the minimum limitation on battery SOC; and (Case 4) the time-varying GFR signal. Considering the modeling complexity and computational time, the building electrical system is modeled using three representative PEVs, as shown in Figure 6, and the case studies were conducted with one-hour simulation time. Three is the minimum required to test whether the proposed coordination of building- and device-level controllers, discussed in Section 3, can be successfully applied to the building system including several PEVs. The rated capacities of the PEV chargers and batteries can be easily adjusted in the building system model. Therefore, each PEV model can be used to represent a group of PEVs that have the same profiles with respect to V_{EV_max}, S_{init}, and t_d. The building system specifications are presented in Table 4, slightly modified based on [60,61]. The specifications can be determined considering the number and capacities of the PEV batteries. For the case studies, the SOC_{init} of the PEV batteries were arbitrarily set to 0.5, 0.65, and 0.35 for the corresponding t_d^m chosen as 1 h, 1.75 h, and 2.17 h, with consideration of the simulation time. This led to r_m as 0.5, 0.2 and 0.3, respectively. In addition, for the interconnection of the DC electrical system to a 240-V, 60-Hz power grid, V_{DC} was determined as 600 V based on the previous studies [62–64]; it was set to a rather high value mainly to reduce the line power loss. Different values of r_m and V_{DC} can be adopted for the case studies.

Table 4. Detailed specifications on the proposed DC electrical system in a commercial building.

Devices	Specifications	
AC-DC Bidirectional Converter	S_{inv_rated} = 40 [kVA], V = 240 [V], f_{rated} = 60 [Hz], V_{DC_rated} = 600 [V], R = 0.0113 [Ω], L = 0.09 [mH], C = 4 [mF], R_c = 0.01 [Ω].	
Rooftop PV System	Module	P_{pvm_rated} = 150 [W], V_{prm_rated} = 34 [V], I_{prm_rated} = 4.4 [A], V_{ocr} = 43.4 [V], I_{scr} = 4.8 [A].
	Array	N_s = 13, N_p = 18, P_{PV_rated} = 35 [kW].
PEV Battery	Q_{rated} = 16, 18, and 20 [kWh], V_o = 395.8 [V], V_{EV_rated} = 340 [V], R = 0.17225 [Ω], K = 0.0458 [V/Ah] or [Ω], A = 25.67 V, B = 0.1275 [1/Ah].	

4.1. Case 1: Charging PEV batteries with constant P_{b_ref} for $P_{PV} = 0$

In the proposed DC electrical system, the PEVs were charged with constant power inputs. Considering the voltage margin of 2.8 V, V_{EV_max} was set to 393 V. In Figure 9a, when V_{EV1} increased to V_{EV1_max} at $t = t_1$, the VC-CV controller of PEV$_1$ decreased I_{EV1} to prevent overvoltage. The PPD and PCLs then distributed the surplus power to PEV$_2$ and PEV$_3$ by Equation (11); i.e., $I_{EV2,3}$ and $r_{2,3}$ increased for the time period of $t_1 \leq t \leq t_2$. Figure 9a,b show the similar profile of the PEV charging for the period of $t_2 \leq t \leq t_3$ when V_{EV2} also increased to V_{EV2_max}. When V_{EV} of all the PEVs became equal to V_{EV_max} at $t = t_3$, $r_{1,2,3}$ did not change further, unless the building or PEV owners intended to. I_{EV} and hence P_{EV} continuously decreased to 0 by the BPC, as all the SOC increased close to 1.

In addition, Figure 9c shows that I_b was equal to I_{b_ref} for $L \geq 1$. When L decreased to 0 at $t = t_3$, the BPC gradually reduced I_b, regardless of I_{b_ref}, to maintain the energy balance in the common DC link. Note that the DC-link voltage V_{DC} was successfully regulated within 600 V $\pm$ 0.5 V during the simulation time period of one hour.
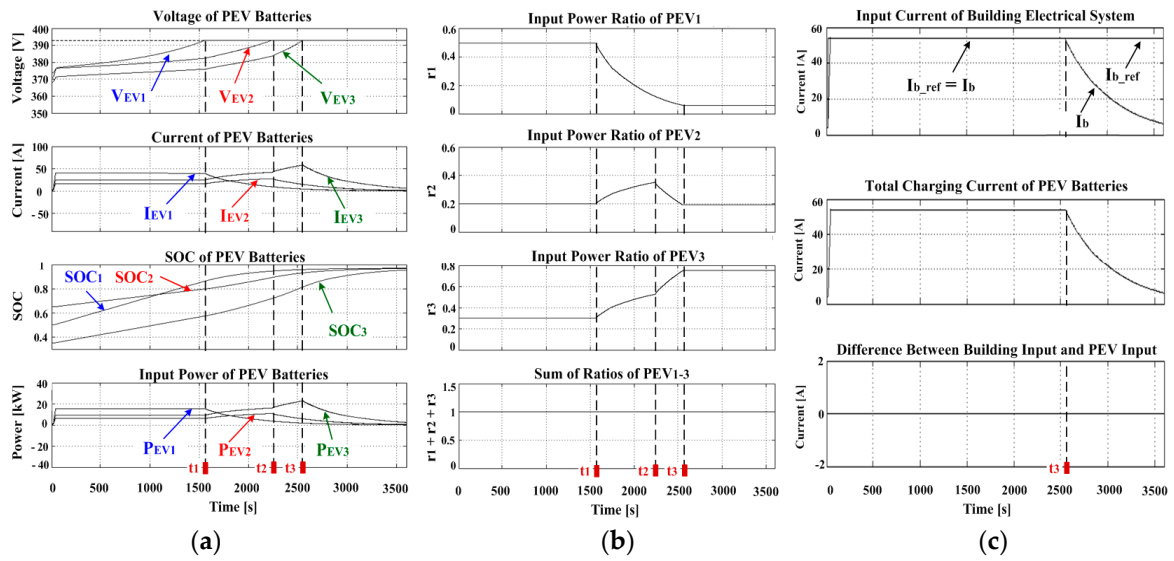
Figure 9. (**a**) PEV charging profiles; (**b**) PEV input power ratios; and (**c**) variations in I_{b_ref}, I_b, and $\Sigma_m I_{EVm}$.

4.2. Case 2: Sequential Changes in P_{b_ref} wiht Intermittent P_{PV}

In Case 2, the short- and long-term variations in solar insolation were considered as shown in Figure 10a, which can be often observed in a moderately cloudy day. The PV system voltage did not significantly change because of the intrinsic characteristics of the P_{PV}-V_{PV} curve; therefore, the variation in the PV output power was similar to that in the insolation. In addition, the sequential step changes in P_{b_ref} and hence I_{b_ref} were considered as shown in Figure 10b. Specifically, I_{b_ref} changed from positive to negative values to analyze the proposed DC electrical system acting as a power load and then a power source. In Figure 10b, I_b successfully followed I_{b_ref} for $0 \leq t \leq t_4$, when at least one PEV was capable of compensating for the PV power fluctuation. For $t_4 \leq t \leq t_6$, the BPC then gradually reduced I_b and occasionally maintained it as constant when the reductions of P_{PV} mitigated the battery overvoltage. This is consistent with the condition of (B)-1 in Table 2.
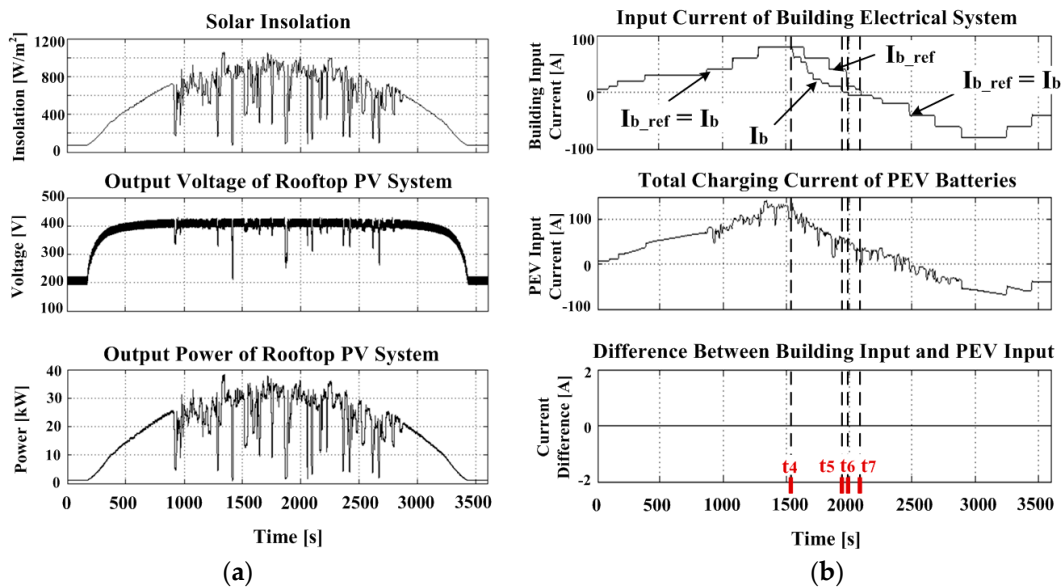
Figure 10. (**a**) Rooftop PV system operating profiles; and (**b**) variations in I_{b_ref}, I_b, and $\Sigma_m I_{EVm}$.

At $t = t_5$, the building electrical system started providing the AC distribution network with net power whose magnitude was determined based on the operating conditions of the PV system and PEV batteries. After $t = t_7$, I_b followed I_{b_ref}, again under the condition of (B)-3 in Table 2. Even during the time period of $t_4 \leq t \leq t_7$ when I_b was deviated from I_{b_ref}, the high-frequency component of the PV output power still could be compensated for by all the PEVs and hidden from the ISO. The slow and smooth change of I_b can then be easily compensated for by large generators regulating AC grid frequency.

In addition, Figure 11 shows the corresponding charging and discharging profiles of the PEVs. It can be seen that the short-term fluctuation of the PV power was reflected on I_{EV} and consequently V_{EV}; however, its effect on SOC swing was negligible.
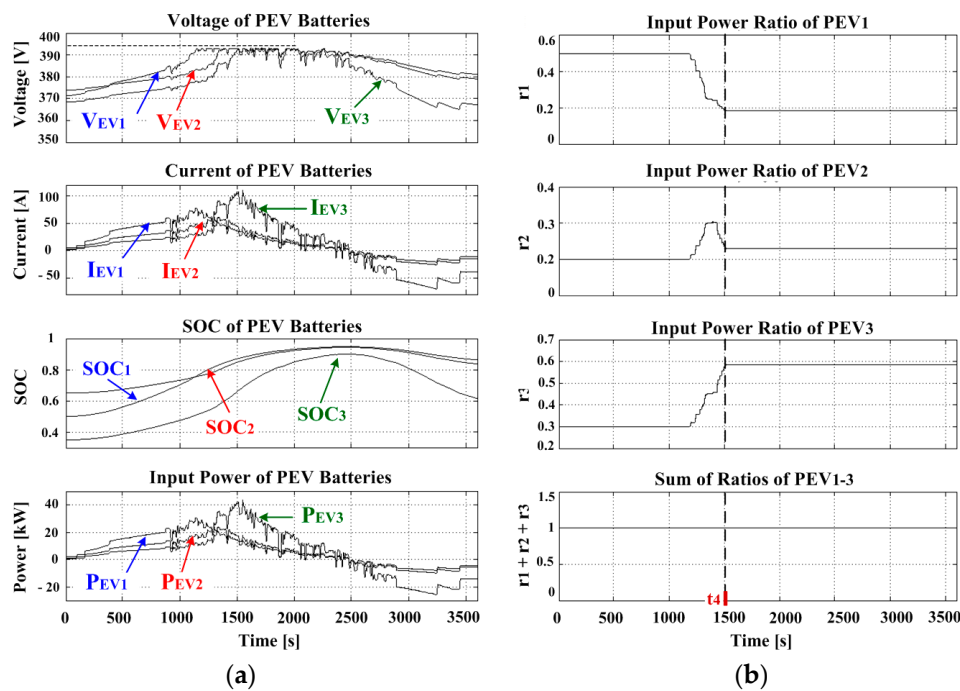

Figure 11. (**a**) PEV charging profiles; and (**b**) PEV input power ratios.

4.3. Case 3: Discharging PEVs Batteries to SOC_{min}

All the PEV batteries were discharged to SOC_{min} in Case 3. In Figure 12a, when SOC_3 decreased to SOC_{min} at $t = t_8$, the PPD almost immediately reduced $|I_{EV3}|$ to 0 and distributed the surplus discharging power reference to PEV$_1$ and PEV$_2$; note the increases in $|I_{EV1}|$ and $|I_{EV2}|$ at $t = t_8$. It was repeated until all the SOC reached to the minimum limits at $t = t_{10}$. For $t_{10} \leq t \leq t_{11}$, the PEVs stayed in an idle state. Therefore, the PV output power flew to the AC network through the AC-DC bidirectional converter, which is consistent with the condition of (C)-1 in Table 2. This is also equivalent to a conventional operating scheme of grid-connected PV generators. At $t = t_{11}$ when I_{b_ref} increased to a positive value, the PEV batteries started being charged and became available for energy storage resources again, which enabled I_b to follow I_{b_ref}. At $t = t_{11}$, the ratios r_m for all $m = 1, 2,$ and 3 were then reassigned upon the calls of PEV owners.

Since the DC-link voltage was successfully maintained almost constant at 600 V for all the cases (e.g., see Figure 12b), the charging power profiles were very similar with the charging current profiles, as shown in Figures 9a and 11a. Therefore, the variations in the SOC levels can be estimated based on the variations in the current inputs of the PEV batteries. The requirement on the DC-link energy balance was satisfied, which also can be seen in Figure 9c or Figure 10b, where the total current flowing into the DC link was compared with the total current flowing out from the DC link.
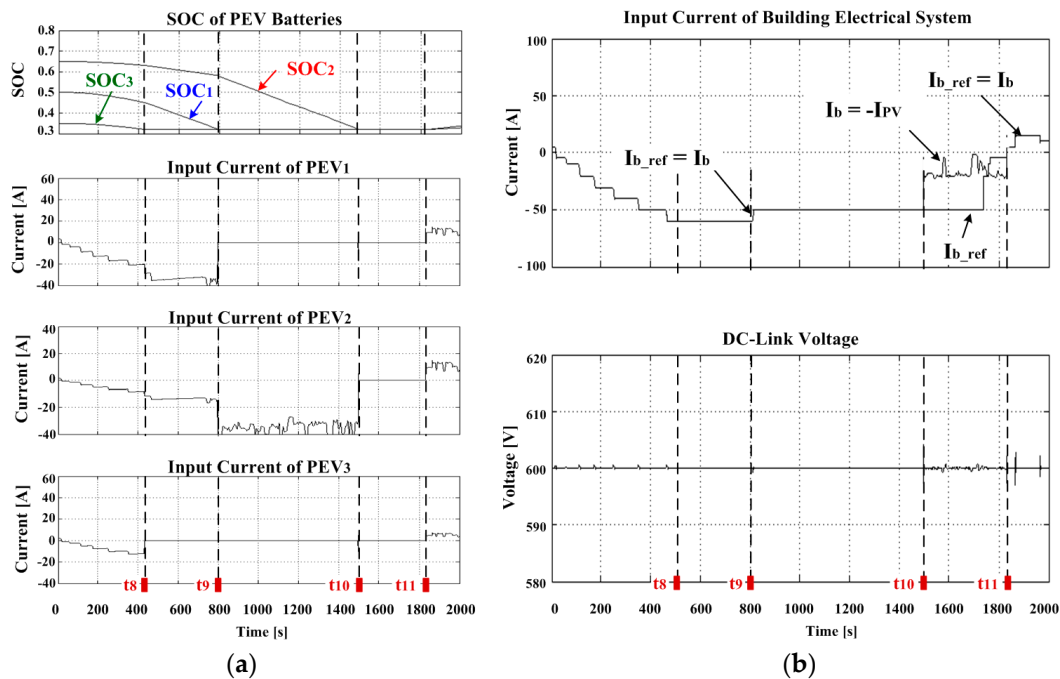
Figure 12. (**a**) PEV charging profiles; and (**b**) the input current and DC voltage of the AC-DC converter.

4.4. Case 4: Adding the Time-Varying GFR Signal P_{reg} to P_{b_ref}

In Case 4, it was assumed for simplicity that a number of the grid-interactive building systems are included in an AC network [16–25], where PEV batteries participate in the grid frequency with conventional generators. This assumption is rational particularly for microgrids, where small- and large-scale consumers are often encouraged to participate in various demand response programs. The proposed DC electrical systems could respond to the high-frequency component $P_{reg}(t)$ of the GFR signal due to the fast time responses of the AC-DC bidirectional converter and PEV batteries, whereas conventional thermal generators were responsible for the remaining component of the signal. The conventional thermal generators were modeled using the second-order transfer functions [65,66]. The primary frequency control signals were then continuously produced using proportional (P) controllers at locations where the generators and individual buildings were connected to the AC network, whereas the secondary frequency signals were updated and delivered to the generators and buildings every 2 s.

Figure 13a,b then shows the input currents of the DC electrical system and the grid frequency deviations, respectively, for (*top*) $P_{reg}(t) = 0$ and (*bottom*) $P_{reg}(t) \neq 0$. For the case of $P_{reg}(t) \neq 0$, the building acted as a large-scale inverter-interfaced ESR, as shown in Figure 1, providing the GFR ancillary service. The comparison in Figure 13b represents that, for a time-varying load demand profile, the frequency deviation was reduced to less than 34% when the building systems coordinated with the conventional generators. The SOC levels of all the PEVs were not significantly affected by the regulation current P_{reg}, mainly because of energy neutrality; i.e., the long-term average of GFR signals is close to 0. Note that the individual building systems still enabled the PEVs to compensate for the intermittent output power of the rooftop PV system, while providing the ancillary service.
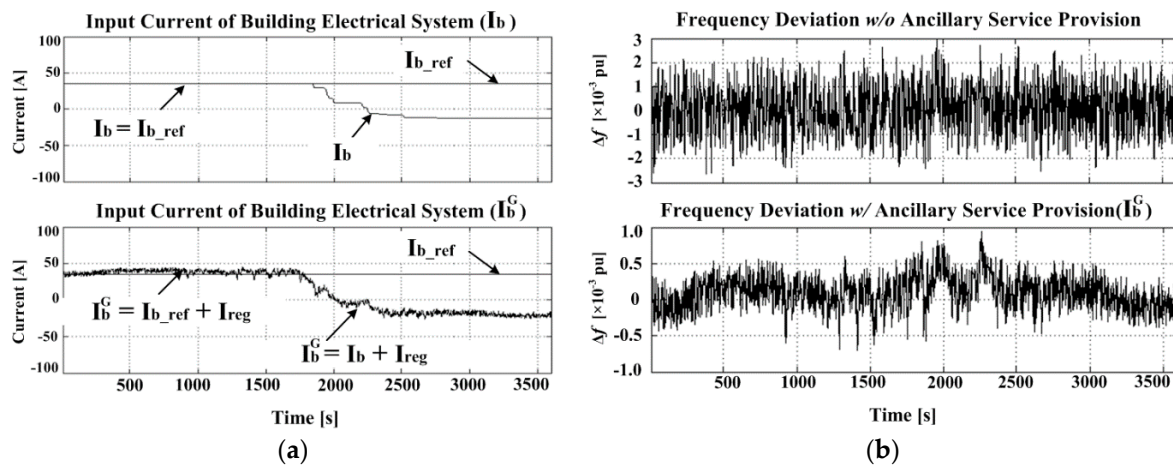
Figure 13. (**a**) Input currents of the proposed DC electrical systems; and (**b**) the frequency deviation in the AC network for (top) $P_{reg} = 0$ and (bottom) $P_{reg} \neq 0$.

5. Conclusions

This paper proposed a new configuration for the DC electrical system in a commercial building, as well as the coordinated operating scheme of the building- and device-level controllers. The proposed electrical system was comprehensively modeled considering the steady-state and dynamic operations of the AC-DC bidirectional converter, rooftop PV array, PEV batteries, and AC and DC building loads. The coordination of the building- and device-level controllers was then developed such that the DC electrical system was capable of compensating for the rooftop PV output fluctuation and following the time-varying GFR signals given from the grid operator by actively controlling the power inputs of multiple PEV batteries. Even when the internal voltages of the PEV batteries are close to the maximum limits, the input power of the electrical system is gradually deviated from the reference input power, which allows the grid operator to control conventional generators without imposing significant mechanical stress in a transient state. The simulation case studies were performed under various conditions, determined by such factors as V_{EV_max}, P_{PV}, SOC_{min}, t_d, and P_{reg}. The study results demonstrated that the proposed DC electrical system operated as intended, enabling the commercial buildings to act as important aggregators between the grid operator and PEV owners and consequently improve the grid frequency stability.

Further work is still required, particularly on the implementation of the proposed building system. In particular, using a real-time simulator, a hardware-in-the-loop simulation (HILS) platform will be implemented in a laboratory environment to analyze the effects of the proposed grid-interactive building on the charging/discharging profiles of PEV batteries and the real-time operation of AC networks. The HILS platform is expected to become an effective method for prototyping, testing, and integrating the proposed building system into various AC networks.

Conflicts of Interest: The author declares no conflict of interest.

Abbreviations

The following abbreviations are used in this manuscript:

BEMS	Building energy management system
BMS	Building management system
BPC	Building power controller
CC-CV	Constant-current and constant-voltage
DER	Distributed energy resource

ESR	Energy storage resource
GFR	Grid frequency regulation
IC	Incremental conductance
ISO	Independent system operator
MPPT	Maximum power point tracking
PCC	Point of common coupling
PCL	Programmable current limiter
PEV	Plug-in electric vehicle
PLL	Phase-locked loop
PPD	PEV power distributor
PV	Photovoltaic
RES	Renewable energy source
SOC	State of charge
VC-CV	Variable-current and constant-voltage
V2G	Vehicle-to-grid

Set

ref, rated, loss, max, min	Subscript for reference, rated, loss, maximum, and minimum values

AC-DC Bidirectional Converter

v_d, v_q	dq-axis voltages converted from the three-phase voltages (i.e., v_a, v_b, and v_c) at the input port of the inverter
i_d, i_q	dq-axis input currents of the inverter
d_d, d_q	dq-axis duty ratios of the inverter
K_d, K_q	dq-axis duty ratio constants (set to 0.2)
v_α, v_β	$\alpha\beta$-axis voltages converted from v_a, v_b, and v_c using Clarke Transform
f, ω	Frequency [Hz, rad/s] of v_a, v_b, and v_c
V	RMS magnitude of v_a, v_b, and v_c
θ_{da}	Angle by which d-axis leads the phase-a axis
V_{DC}	DC link voltage of the inverter
v_c	Voltage across the equivalent capacitance in the DC link of the inverter
R, L	Equivalent line resistance and inductance seen from the inverter
Rc, C	Equivalent resistance and capacitance of the DC link of the inverter
$s_{1\text{-}6}$	Inverter switching signals
i_{in}, i_{inv}	Currents flowing into and from the DC link of the inverter
Q_{inv}	Reactive power input of the inverter
S_{inv_rated}	Rated capacity of the inverter

Rooftop PV System

$I_{pvm}, V_{pvm}, P_{pvm}$	Output current, voltage, and power of the PV module
N_s, N_p	Number of modules in series- and parallel-wired strings
I_{PV}, V_{PV}, P_{PV}	Output current, voltage, and power of the PV system
R_p, R_s	Equivalent parallel and serial resistances of the PV module
G, T	Insolation given to the PV module and temperature of the PV module
V_d, I_d	Voltage across and current flowing through the diode in the PV module
I_g, I_o	Generated PV module current and reverse saturation current
L, R_L	Equivalent inductance and resistance of the PV converter
D_{PV}	Duty ratio of the PV converter
I_{SW}, I_{PV_DC}	Currents flowing through the switch and to the DC link
I_{scr}, V_{ocr}	Nominal short-circuit current and open-circuit voltage
q	Charge of an electron, 1.602×10^{-19} C
k	Botzmann's constant, 1.381×10^{-23}
a	Ideality factor, 1.3
E_g	Bandgap energy of semiconductor (1.12 eV for the polycrystalline Si at 25 °C)
k_I	Current coefficient (0.0032 A/K)
$\varepsilon_V, \varepsilon_I$	Voltage and current tolerance for the duty ratio control using the IC algorithm

PEV Battery Charger

I_{EV}, V_{EV}, P_{EV}	Input current, voltage, and power of the PEV battery
D_{EV} (*d* or 1-*d*)	Duty ratio of the PEV charger
I_{SW}, I_{EV_DC}	Currents flowing through the switch and from the DC link
L, R_L	Equivalent inductance and resistance of the PEV charger
R	Equivalent internal resistance of the PEV battery
V_o	Constant voltage of the PEV battery
Q_{rated}	Rated capacity of the PEV battery
k	Polarization constant
A, B	Exponential zone amplitude and time constant
SOC_{init}	Initial SOC level of the PEV battery

Building Electrical System

P_b, I_b	Input power and current of the building electrical system
t_d	Desired charging end-time
r_m	Ratio of the input power of the *m*-th PEV to the total charging power
r_{dm}	Incremental ratios of r_m
V_{load}, I_{load}, P_{load}	Input voltage, current, and power of the DC loads
D_{load}	Duty ratio of the DC converter for the DC loads
P_{sur}	Surplus power in the DC electrical system
M	The number of the PEVs that make the contract to be used as grid-interactive ESRs
m, n	Indices of the PEVs M
L	The number of the PEVs that are available for grid-interactive ESRs
j, k	Indices of the PEVs L and (M-L)
$SWsel$, $Reset$	Command signals for internal operations of the BPC
$Reset_C$, $Reset_D$, $Hold_m$	Command signals for internal operations of the PPD
P_{reg}, I_{reg}	Input power and current of the building for the ancillary service provision
I_b^G	Total input current of the building considering the ancillary service provision
Δf	Grid frequency deviation

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