

Single-Loop Optimization for Losses Minimization in Medium-Voltage Power Distribution System

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Abstract— One important goal during the reconfiguration of a medium-voltage power distribution network is to minimize the active-power losses of the system. Therefore, the objective function of an optimization problem would represent the total power losses of the distribution system, by considering only the active component of power losses while ignoring the reactive part. Constraints would be load flow, voltage drop, and the network configuration. In this paper, losses problem during the reconfiguration of a medium-voltage power distribution system have been minimized using a single-loop optimization method, whereas the load-flow analysis has been performed by utilizing the Newton-Raphson method. The optimization method was aimed to minimize the active-power losses of the system by formulating the problem as a matter of network reconfiguration. The solution scheme has been begun with a mesh distribution-network which had been obtained previously by assuming all the switches to be closed and then opened sequentially to eliminate loops. The optimization results showed that in a 21-bus distribution system there had been 10800 combinations, in which the lowest power losses occurred under the combination of NO 23, NO 21, NO 22, NO 24, NO 25, whereas the combination of NO 7, NO 10, NO 20, NO 15, NO 20, resulted in the power losses of 0.1676 per unit, being equal to 16.76 kVA at the base power of 100 kVA.

Keywords— Losses minimization; power distribution system; single loop optimization.

I. INTRODUCTION

The primary distribution network is a part of the electric power transmission system, extending from the medium-voltage substation to the primary winding-part of the distribution transformer. It can be represented by the diagram in Fig. 1.

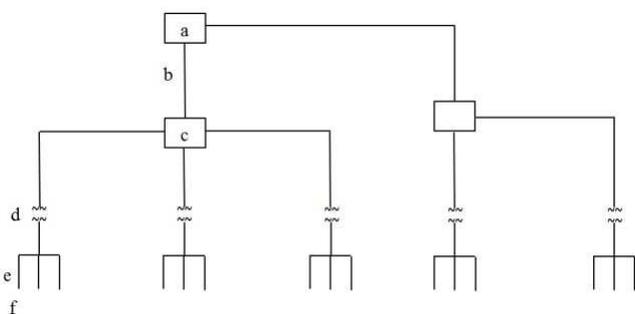


Fig. 1 Diagram of a primary distribution network [1]

As seen in Fig. 1, the first layer *a* represents the substations or switchyards, being linked using the primary distribution line *b* to the busbars *c*, and furthermore the distribution transformers *d*, secondary distribution network *e*, and the load/customers *f*. Such system is defined as a

radial system, although it can be in a closed-loop or mesh network.

In a power delivery system, the distribution system occupies the most important place. Its service quality can be guaranteed if several requirements, such as continuity of service (related to disturbance conditions) and flexibility to load growth (under normal operating conditions), are met. However, it is not a simple matter to fulfill all those requirements in a distribution system, considering the variability of the technical and economic aspects of all load conditions. This is due to differences in load density and load placement situations, which in turn leads to high losses of power from the network and overloads on the network.

Some researchers have attempted to minimize the power losses of the system by formulating the problem as a matter of reconfiguring the distribution network [2]-[14]. Initial works on the network reconfiguration to reduce the losses was presented in [4]-[8]. The proposed solution was started from the distribution system mesh, which had been previously obtained by assuming all switches to be closed and opened sequentially to eliminate the loop.

The next study was conducted by using some methods which were based solely on the development of empirical formulas to access the reduction of power losses associated with the switch operations and by introducing some rules to reduce the number of switch selection operations [5]. Based

on the development of the method in [5], the research in [6] created a heuristic method by introducing two approaches to the power-flow during the system load transfer.

Other research papers specifically proposed the optimization and heuristic methods for the reconfiguration of distribution networks by including current constraints and feeder voltages [10]-[12]. The compensation principle was based on the power-flow technique to ensure that the strength of the weak distribution-network mesh could be modeled more accurately. A two-level algorithm concept which was based on the modified and simulated annealing techniques and the use of epsilon-constraint method (ϵ) to solve the distribution network reconfiguration problem was introduced in [13]-[14].

II. MATERIAL AND METHOD

A. Power-Flow Analysis

The method proposed in this article was based on the use of power-flow analysis using the Newton-Raphson method [15]-[29] and holomorphic embedding method [26]-[29]. The power-flow study is aimed at calculating the voltage, current, and power at various locations of a power system under steady-state operation, whether in existing condition or to be expected to occur in the future. In a power system, the power flows from the generating plants to the customer's locations through a transmission system. In this process, many things need attention including the voltage of each bus, the active and reactive power flow (in MW and MVAR) of each line, and others.

Each bus in a power network system includes the values of active power (P), reactive power (Q), the magnitude of the voltage (E), and the phase angle (θ). These variables are required to evaluate the performance of the power system and to analyze the generation and loading conditions. In the power-flow equation, two of those variables are known, whereas the others are to be determined.

The buses in a power system can be classified into three types of bus [17]-[20]:

- Load Bus (PQ bus)
- Generator Bus (PV bus)
- Swing/slack Bus

The known components in a load bus are the active power P and the reactive power Q, while the quantities to determine are the voltage E and the phase angle θ . In a generator bus, the known components are the magnitude of voltage E and the active power P, whereas the quantities to determine are the phase angle θ and the reactive power Q. In a slack bus, the known components are the magnitude of the voltage E and the phase angle θ , whereas the unknowns are the active power P and the reactive power Q.

Generally, in the power-flow study, there is only one swing bus. The swing bus serves to supply the lack of active power P and the reactive power Q in the system. The power system comprises several buses interconnected with each other. The electric power which is injected by the generator into certain bus can be absorbed not only by the load connected to the bus but also by the load on another bus. The excess of power on one bus will be transferred through the transmission line to other power-deficient buses.

B. The Prevailing Equations in Power-Flow Analysis

By referring to Fig. 2, the relationship among parameters and variables in a power system can be expressed in the form of admittance as expressed in Eq. (1) [17],[18].

$$I_{bus} = Y_{bus} E_{bus} \quad (1)$$

where

I_{bus} : current matrix on each bus

Y_{bus} : admittance matrix

E_{bus} : voltages matrix on each bus

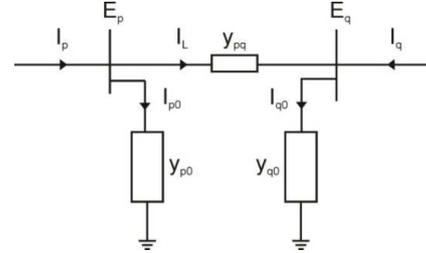


Fig. 2 Model of a transmission line for power-flow calculation ([17]-[20])

Computation iteration must be carried out to find out the value of the voltage on each bus. Iteration is to be done until the results difference between two consecutive iterations is less than or equal to some predetermined error value. The obtained result will be the voltage values on each node. The power on each bus is also to be computed iteratively. Eq. (2) represents the power calculation on each bus [17]-[21].

$$P_p + jQ_p = E_p \times I_p^* \quad (2)$$

where

P_p : active power on the p-bus

Q_p : reactive power on the p-bus

E_p : voltage on the p-bus

I_{pq} : current from the p-bus

Besides determining the power on each bus, load-flow analysis also serves to find the losses during the power transmission from the generating stations to the load centres. As being referred in Fig. 2, the line current I_{pq} is found on the p-bus and the associated positive direction of current is from p to q, as expressed in Eq. (3).

$$I_{pq} = I_L + I_{p0} = y_{pq}(E_p - E_q) + y_{p0}E_p \quad (3)$$

where

I_L : current on the line between the pth-bus and the qth-bus

I_{p0} : current on the line of half-line charging

y_{pq} : line admittance between the pth-bus and the qth-bus

y_{p0} : half-line charging

E_q : voltage on the qth-bus

Oppositely, the line current I_{qp} is measured on the qth-bus and the associated positive direction of current is from q to p, as expressed in Eq. (4).

$$I_{qp} = -I_L + I_{q0} = y_{qp}(E_q - E_p) + y_{q0}E_q \quad (4)$$

The complex power S_{pq} from the pth-bus to the qth-bus, and S_{qp} from the qth-bus to the pth-bus, are expressed in Eqs. (5) and (6).

$$S_{pq} = E_p \times I_{pq}^* \quad (5)$$

$$S_{qp} = E_q \times I_{qp}^* \quad (6)$$

The power losses in the line p - q are obtained from the algebraic sum of power in Eqs. (5) and (6), as stated in Eq. (7).

$$S_{Lpq} = S_{pp} + S_{qp} \quad (7)$$

so that the total power losses of the considered line containing n buses can be represented by Eq. (8).

$$S_{LT} = \sum_{p=1}^n \sum_{q=1}^n S_{Lpq} \quad (8)$$

where

S_{Lpq} : power losses of the line between the p^{th} -bus and the q^{th} -bus

S_{LT} : total power losses

C. The Utilization of Newton-Raphson Method

The problem of load-flow analysis can be solved using the Newton-Raphson method [15]-[21]. It is performed by exploring a number of nonlinear equations which represent the active and reactive powers as functions of the voltage magnitude and phase angle. The power on the i^{th} -bus can be formulated as:

$$P_i - jQ_i = E_i^* I_i = E_i^* \sum_{k=1}^n Y_{ik} E_k \quad (9)$$

By separating the real part from the imaginary part, the following equations are obtained.

$$P_i = \text{Re} \left\{ E_i^* \sum_{k=1}^n Y_{ik} E_k \right\} \quad (10)$$

$$Q_i = \text{Im} \left\{ -E_i^* \sum_{k=1}^n Y_{ik} E_k \right\} \quad (11)$$

Both the nonlinear equations for the P_i and Q_i become the principal equations in the load-flow analysis using the Newton-Raphson method. Two nonlinear equations are resulted on each bus. The active and reactive powers are known, whereas the magnitude and the phase-angle of the voltage are to be found on all buses except the slack bus. The voltage of the slack bus is known and kept constant so that there are $2(n-1)$ equations to be solved in the load-flow calculation. The flowchart to find the bus voltage using the Newton-Raphson method is given in Fig. 3.

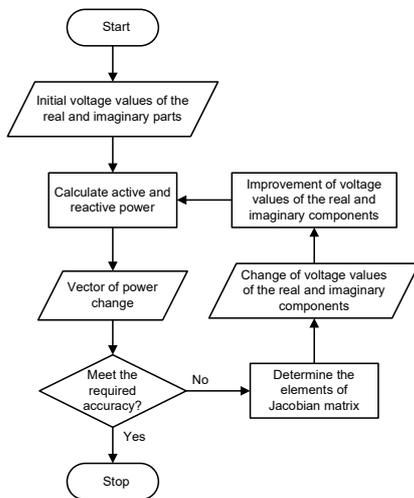


Fig. 3 A flow-chart to find the bus voltage using the Newton-Raphson method

D. Single-Loop Optimization Method

Using the known data, the simulation of power flow calculation is done using Newton-Raphson and Holomorphic Embedding method. Power flow analysis simulation is done using following steps:

- 1) Determining the number of buses to be simulated
- 2) Collecting the data of active and reactive powers on each bus
- 3) Modeling the system based on the related single-line diagram
- 4) Assigning the value of each component according to the data source
- 5) Determining the error value to be considered for iteration in load-flow analysis
- 6) Performing the load-flow analysis using the Newton-Raphson method
- 7) Performing the load-flow analysis using the Holomorphic Embedding method
- 8) Performing the analysis on the results, computation time and complexity for single-loop optimization method.

The load-flow analysis results are furthermore used to explore and elaborate the main focus of the research problem, including the computation time as well as the implementation complexity of the single-loop optimization method by using the objective function and the network constraints as follows:

$$\text{Min } [P] = \sum R_f I_f^2 \quad (12)$$

Subject to:

Radial configuration constraint

$$\prod \lambda_{fi} = 1 \quad (13)$$

Drop voltage constraint

$$\Delta V_{ij} \leq \Delta V_{ij,\text{max}} \quad (14)$$

Load flow constrain

$$S_{ij} \leq S_{ij,\text{max}} \quad (15)$$

where

P : power losses of the network system

ΔV_{ij} : voltage drop on the line i - j

S_{ij} : load flow on the line i - j

$\prod \lambda_{fi}$: radiality of the primary distribution network system (λ_{fi} is 0 if switch is closed, 1 if switch is open)

The algorithm to solve the problem of distribution network reconfiguration for power losses minimization using the single-loop optimization method can be explained as follows:

- 1) Solving the radial distribution network problem.
- 2) Creating a loop by switching on the NO switches if power losses minimization is desired.
- 3) Determining the optimum flow of the loop obtained in Step 2.
- 4) Computing the load-flow using topology technique or Newton-Raphson methods
- 5) Restoring the radial configuration of the distribution network
- 6) Repeating the step 3 until all switches in each section of the transmission line resulting in the lowest power losses.

The detail steps of power losses minimization using the single-loop optimization method based on the topology technique calculation are given in the flowchart of Fig. 4.

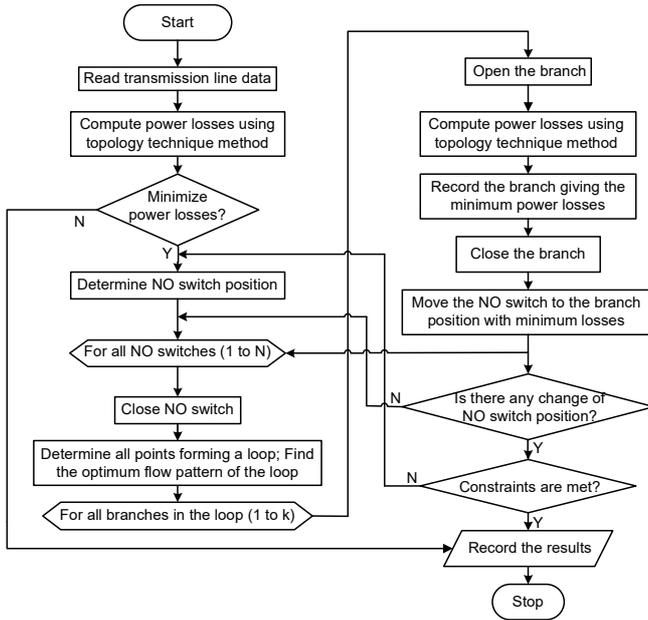


Fig. 4 A flow-chart of the single-loop optimization method for distribution network reconfiguration

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

As a case study of the implementation of the proposed method, a system with 21 buses has been taken. Fig. 5 indicates the initial configuration of the 21-bus electrical distribution system, whereas Fig. 6 represents its containing loops.

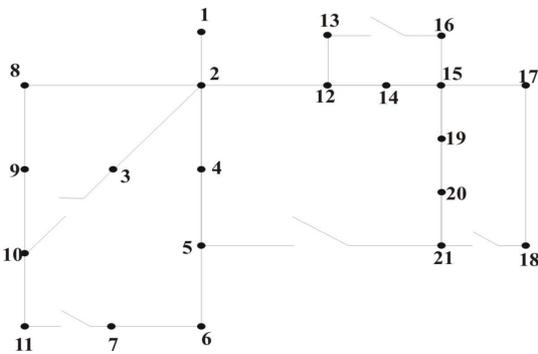


Fig. 5 The initial configuration of the 21-bus electrical distribution system

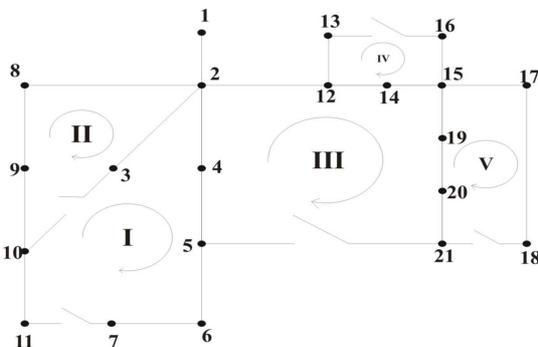


Fig. 6 The initial configuration of the 21-bus electrical distribution system with loops

The single-line diagram contains Normally-Open (NO) and Normally-Close (NC) switches, with buses are indicated with numbers, as shown in Fig. 7.

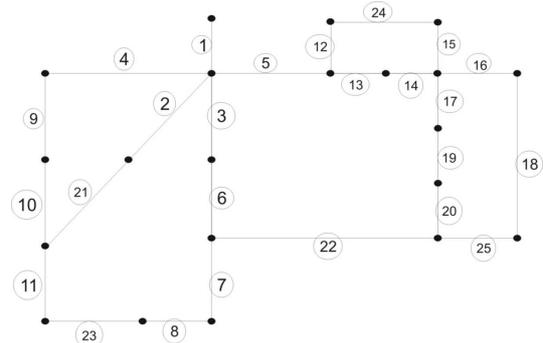


Fig. 7 The initial configuration of the 21-bus electrical distribution system being completed with branch numbers

A. The Considered 21-bus Network System

As shown in Fig. 5, the system contains 21 buses, consisting of one generator-bus, 20 load-buses, and 25 distribution lines. The generator of the distribution system comprises one swing bus. Bus #1 is the swing bus, and the other buses are the bus load (PQ bus).

The parameters of lines between buses in the 21-bus system are given in Table 1. The data consist of resistance (R), reactance (X), and the half-line charging ($1/2 y_c$), all being in per units.

TABLE I
DATA OF THE LINES BETWEEN BUSES

Sending bus	Receiving bus	R (p.u.)	X (p.u.)	$1/2y_c$
1	2	0.000153	0.000145	0.000000
2	3	0.000969	0.000922	0.000000
2	4	0.005733	0.005454	0.000000
2	8	0.000728	0.000692	0.000000
2	12	0.000585	0.001423	0.000000
4	5	0.000958	0.000912	0.000000
5	6	0.000915	0.000870	0.000000
6	7	0.001084	0.001031	0.000000
8	9	0.001155	0.001098	0.000000
9	10	0.001318	0.001254	0.000000
10	11	0.000706	0.000672	0.000000
12	13	0.001670	0.001589	0.000000
12	14	0.001896	0.001803	0.000000
14	15	0.001496	0.001423	0.000000
15	16	0.001806	0.001718	0.000000
15	17	0.002105	0.002001	0.000000
15	19	0.001197	0.001138	0.000000
17	18	0.001906	0.001813	0.000000
19	20	0.001347	0.0007885	0.000000
20	21	0.002713	0.002577	0.000000
3	10	0.002000	0.002000	0.000000
5	21	0.002000	0.002000	0.000000
7	11	0.002000	0.002000	0.000000
13	16	0.002000	0.002000	0.000000
18	21	0.002000	0.002000	0.000000

Data of the generator and load-buses of the system are presented in Table 2. It also shows the respective type of each bus. The bus #1 is the load bus (PQ bus), the bus #2 is the generator (PV bus), whereas the bus #3 is the swing bus.

The voltage value is given in per unit (p.u.), whereas the power is stated in kVA. The per unit value of power has been obtained using the base power (kVA base), which was 100 kVA.

TABLE II
DATA OF GENERATOR AND LOAD OF EACH BUS

#Bus	Bus type	Voltage		Generator Output		Load Power	
		Re	Im	Ac-tive	Reac-tive	Active	Reac-tive
1	3	1.000	0.000				
2	1			0.000	0.000	3.300.000	2.045.156
3	1			0.000	0.000	159.800	99.034
4	1			0.000	0.000	176.800	109.570
5	1			0.000	0.000	214.200	132.748
6	1			0.000	0.000	204.000	126.427
7	1			0.000	0.000	88.400	54.785
8	1			0.000	0.000	54.400	33.714
9	1			0.000	0.000	95.200	58.999
10	1			0.000	0.000	139.400	86.392
11	1			0.000	0.000	119.000	73.749
12	1			0.000	0.000	98.600	61.106
13	1			0.000	0.000	68.000	42.142
14	1			0.000	0.000	79.050	48.996
15	1			0.000	0.000	65.450	40.562
16	1			0.000	0.000	90.100	55.839
17	1			0.000	0.000	79.900	49.517
18	1			0.000	0.000	129.200	80.070
19	1			0.000	0.000	53.550	33.187
20	1			0.000	0.000	23.800	14.749
21	1			0.000	0.000	122.400	75.856

B. Results of Simulation

Using the 21-bus system, the optimization calculation has been carried out in 10800 iterations or 10800 combinations of NO-NC switch, whose results sample capture is given in Table 3. The load-flow calculation resulted in the total power losses of each switches combination based on the 21-bus distribution system data.

TABLE III
RESULTS OF LOAD-FLOW ANALYSIS IN 10800 ITERATIONS

Iteration Number	Combination (NO Switch)					Total power losses (p.u.)
1	2	2	3	12	16	0.279599571
2	2	2	3	12	17	0.264238272
3	2	2	3	12	18	0.268361768
4	2	2	3	12	19	0.258894693
..
..
5091	7	10	20	15	18	0.17847474
5092	7	10	20	15	19	NaN
5093	7	10	20	15	20	0.167617282
..
..
10797	23	21	22	24	18	0.202061193
10798	23	21	22	24	19	0.197077195
10799	23	21	22	24	20	0.195766852
10800	23	21	22	24	25	0.194214272

NaN = Not-a-Number

There was one switches combination which produced the smallest power losses value among all combinations. The

table shows that the most optimal values of power and voltage drop have been obtained in the 5093-th iteration. Besides, the obtained voltage values have been more evenly distributed during the last steps of iteration.

Another example of simulation results is given in Table 4. Twenty samples have been taken. The error value being determined during the simulation was 0.001, whereas the maximum number of iterations was 10. It can be seen that there were three possible outcomes, which were large total power losses condition, optimum power losses condition, and undefined conditions in the combination No. 4, 12, 15, and 19. The optimum losses condition was found in the combination No. 10 with total power losses value 0.167617282 p.u.

TABLE IV
RESULTS OF LOAD-FLOW ANALYSIS IN 20 ITERATIONS

Iteration Number	Combination (NO Switch)					Total power losses (p.u.)
1	2	2	3	12	16	0.279599571
2	2	4	5	14	25	0.806401251
3	3	9	13	12	16	0.498578032
4	3	10	6	12	16	-
5	6	2	5	12	16	0.517329756
6	6	9	22	15	25	0.195046748
7	6	21	19	14	19	0.207177022
8	7	4	13	12	25	0.359873968
9	7	9	13	15	16	0.254982007
10	7	10	20	15	20	0.167617282
11	8	4	5	14	18	0.445180898
12	8	9	13	14	16	-
13	11	2	3	12	16	0.577017357
14	11	21	22	15	16	0.226978389
15	21	2	3	15	16	-
16	21	10	3	14	25	0.671530719
17	21	21	22	15	16	0.188040877
18	23	2	3	12	16	0.492005299
19	23	2	13	14	16	-
20	23	21	22	24	25	0.194214272

IV. CONCLUSIONS

The discussion of the research results presented in this article brings to some conclusions the single-loop optimization of 21-bus medium-voltage distribution network resulted in 10800 iterations or combinations of NO-NC switches. It has been also concluded that not all the resulted combinations could be analyzed because of the limitation produced by accumulative rounding errors during the iterations. The combination giving the smallest power losses has been on the 10th combination, being composed of NO7, NO10, NO20, NO15, NO20, with 0.1676 per unit of power which is equal to 16.76 kVA on the base power of 100 kVA. The method proposed in this article is to be recommended to the national electricity grid company.

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