

Optimized Dispatch Schedule for Autonomous Grids in Isolated Islands

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Abstract. The rapid development of wind power provides a new solution for power supply of isolated island. However, due to the intermittent and stochastic nature of renewable energy resources (RES), the energy storage unit (ESU) is required for power grid reliability. This paper proposed an automatic programming method for autonomous grid in isolated islands. The sea water pumped storage plant serves as ESU to counter-balance the fluctuations of RESs. The penetration level of RES and the profit of the Island system operator (ISO) increase significantly. With the geographical and historical data of an island in China, the effectiveness of the proposed method is testified.

1 Introduction

The conventional power supply solution of isolated island is diesel units. This type of generators consume heavy oil, which is not only expensive but also pollutional. Recent years, the renewable energy resources (RESs) have provided a new and promising solution for power generation in isolated islands.[1,2] However, RESs is not stable[3]. The output of RESs is stochastic and intermittent.[4] In an autonomous grid, which lacks of spinning reserve capacity, the energy storage unit (ESU) is needed to stabilize the output of RESs and secures the reliability of power supply.[6,8] Whereas for small islands (less than 1 MW), Battery energy storage systems (BESS) seem to be the viable choice[5], pumped storage plants, as the most technically mature solution, are suitable for large and medium islands with appropriate geographical conditions.[7]

The introduction of joint operation of pumped storage plant and wind farm has been discussed in several publications.[9-15] However, in the current researches, there are no studies specific to the pumped storage plant operating in islands. In an autonomous island, the reserve capacity is far less than that in mainland. The lack of reserve capacity will impair the ability to remain power balance when the RES output fluctuates. If the Island System Operator (ISO) wants an autonomous grid working in high RES penetration level, the dispatch schedule must be viable and robust, which not only consume as much RES output as possible, but also guarantee power balance when RES output fluctuates.

In this paper, an automatic programming method for the joint operation schedule of pumped storage plant and wind farm is proposed. Based on the day ahead

predictions of the wind farm production, the programming method generates the optimized operation schedule and achieves the minimum cost. Meanwhile, the water level limitations, spinning reserve limitations and power balance will be secured. Based on the historical data of the output of the wind farm, several typical scenarios are calculated and the effectiveness of the proposed programming method is verified.

2 Autonomous Grid in Island

Figure 1 shows the system configuration of the grid. It includes a wind farm, a pumped storage plant, a diesel unit and the load. The wind farm represent RESs with uncertainty. It can also be replaced by solar or other form of RESs. The pumped storage plant works in two operational modes depend on the wind farm production and power consumption of load. If the pumped storage plant works as a hydraulic turbine, it releases water of upper reservoir and generates power. If the pumped storage plant works as a pump, it absorbs power and draw water from the ocean. In this way, the pumped storage plant stabilizes the stochastic output of wind farm. The DU is a controllable power source and compensates the margin between wind farm production and load demand.

The typical dispatch operates as the following steps:

Step 1: The wind farm reports the forecasting of production in the next 24 hours based on the weather, temperature, etc.

Step 2: The dispatch centre collects the reported productions from the wind farm and forecasts the power load curve in the next 24 hours.

Step 3: Based on the both predicted data, the dispatch centre calculated the optimized operation schedules of the

pumped storage plant, diesel units and wind farm, according to the proposed programming method.

Step 4: The wind farm, diesel units and pumped storage plant carry out the operation scheduled and the fluctuations will be compensate by diesel units.

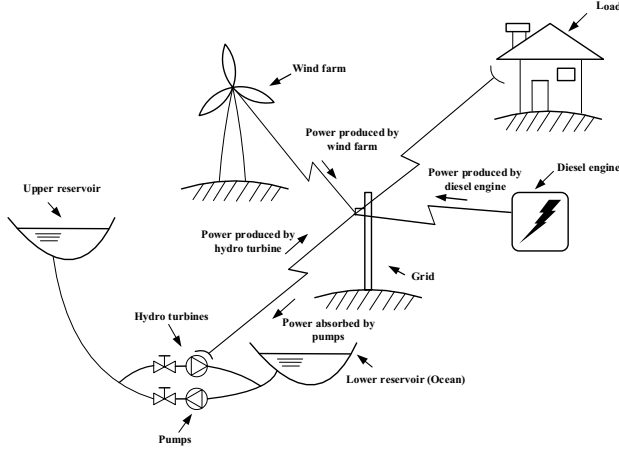


Figure 1. The schematic layout of an autonomous grid in islands

3 The Optimized Dispatch Schedule

3.1 Optimization Target

The optimization target of the dispatch centre is to achieve the minimum cost of power generation. RESs, such as wind power, solar, usually cost far less than diesel units. Therefore, the power grid should consume as much power of RESs as possible. The start up and shut down cost of the diesel units are very small, which can be ignored in the day ahead schedule.

Considering the rapid fluctuations of the RESs, the day ahead dispatch schedule is calculated in step of every 15 minutes.

$$f_c = \max \sum_{i=1}^{96} [\lambda_i (W_i + T_i + D_i - P_i) - C_{su} P_i^{su} - C_{sd} P_i^{sd} - \rho D_i] \quad (1)$$

where, f_c represents the total profit of the ISO in a day; W_i represents the output of the wind farm in period i ; T_i represents the produced power when the pumped storage plant working as a hydraulic turbine in period i ; P_i represents the absorbed power when the pumped storage plant working as a pump in period i ; D_i represents the output of the diesel units in period i ; λ_i represents the electrical market price in period i ; C_{su} and C_{sd} represent the start up and shut down cost of a pump unit; P_i^{su} and P_i^{sd} represent the number of the pumps which start up or shut down in the period i ; ρ represents the fuel cost of a diesel unit.

3.2 Constraints

The production of the wind farm is mainly affected by wind speed at that time. Adjusting the pitch angle of the wind turbine, the output of wind farm can be reduced.

$$0 \leq W_i \leq \bar{W} \quad (2)$$

$$0 \leq W_i \leq W_i^f \quad (3)$$

where, \bar{W} represents the installed capacity of the wind farm; W_i^f represents the maximum production of the wind farm in period i ;

The operation of the pumped storage plant is bounded by the geographical conditions. The output is related to the water level of the upper reservoir. To ensure the regulating ability, the water level of the upper reservoir must remain in a certain range. The pump storage plant in an island uses ocean as the lower reservoir. The water level variations are much smaller than the traditional pumped storage plant, which is very convenient for the design of hydraulic turbine.

$$H_i = H_{i-1} + \frac{P_{i-1} \cdot \Delta t \cdot \eta_P}{\rho_w \cdot g \cdot \hat{H} \cdot S} - \frac{T_{i-1} \cdot \Delta t}{\rho_w \cdot g \cdot \hat{H} \cdot S \cdot \eta_T} \quad (4)$$

$$H_{\min} \leq H_i \leq H_{\max}, \forall i \in \{1, 2, \dots, 96\} \quad (5)$$

$$|H_0 - H_{96}| \leq \delta (H_{\max} - H_{\min}) \quad (6)$$

where, the H_i represents the water level of the upper reservoir in the period; Δt represents the duration of a period i ; η_P represents the efficiency of pumped-storage plant when it works as a pump; η_T Efficiency of pumped-storage plant when it works as a hydraulic turbine; ρ_w represents the density of the sea water; \hat{H} represents the effective height of the upper reservoir; S represents the area of the upper reservoir; δ represents the maximum proportion of capacity variation of the upper reservoir.

Equation (4) specifies the relationship between the power production and the water level variation. The upper reservoir is simplified as a stylidium, otherwise the constraints will be nonlinear and unable to solve. Equation (5) signifies that the water level must remain in a certain range at all time. Equation (6) signifies that the water level variation in a day should not exceed the maximum proportion, otherwise the regulating ability will be jeopardized.

$$0 \leq P_i^{on} \leq (1 - f_i^T) \cdot N \quad (7)$$

$$0 \leq T_i^{on} \leq f_i^T \cdot N \quad (8)$$

$$0 \leq P_i^{su} \leq (1 - f_i^T) \cdot N \quad (9)$$

$$P_i^{su} \leq N - P_{i-1}^{on} \quad (10)$$

$$P_i^{sd} \leq P_{i-1}^{on} \quad (11)$$

$$P_i^{on} = \sum_{k=1}^i (P_k^{su} - P_k^{sd}) \quad (12)$$

$$P_i^{on} \cdot P_{\min} \leq P_i \leq P_i^{on} \cdot P_{\max} \quad (13)$$

$$T_i^{on} \cdot T_{\min} \leq T_i \leq T_i^{on} \cdot T_{\max} \quad (14)$$

where, N represents the total number of the hydraulic turbines; P_i^{on} represents the number of operating pumps in period i ; T_i^{on} represents the number of operating hydraulic turbines in period i ; P_i^{su} represents the number of hydraulic turbines which start up in period

i ; P_i^{sd} represents the number of hydraulic turbines which start up in period i ; f_i^T is a binary variable which represents whether the pumped storage plant can work as a hydraulic turbine or not in period i ; P_{min} and P_{max} represent the input power limits when pumped-storage plant works as a pump; T_{min} and T_{max} represent the generation power limits when pumped-storage plant works as a hydro turbine.

Equation (7) and (8) signify the boundary of the operating pumps or turbines. The pumped storage plant should not draw and release water at the same time. The common efficiency of a pumped storage plant is about 75% percent. To generate and absorb power at the same time will waste electricity. In some researches, this constraint is expressed as follows:

$$\sum_{i=1}^{96} (P_i^{on} \cdot T_i^{on}) \leq 0 \quad (15)$$

Equation (15) equivalents Equation (7) and (8), and seems more elegant. However, a quadratic constraints would complicate the problem and significantly exacerbates the calculation burden. In this paper, a binary variable f_i^T is added to ensure the pumped storage plant would not generate and absorb power at the same time.

$$D_i = L_i + P_i - T_i - W_i \quad (16)$$

$$0 \leq D_i \leq \bar{D} - D_r \quad (17)$$

where, D_i represents the output of the diesel unit in period i ; L_i represents the power load of the island in period i ; \bar{D} represents the installed capacity of the diesel units; D_r represents the capacity of diesel units serving as the spinning reserve.

Equation (16) indicates that the diesel units compensate the mismatch between power demand and power production of RESs. Equation (17) ensures that there is enough reserve to deal with the fluctuations of RESs.

4 Case Study

At present, there are no pumped seawater hydro storage (PSHS) in China. The only PSHS is the one in Okinawa, Japan. In this paper, we presume a pumped storage plant is built in Nanji Island, China, and solve the problem with YALMIP [16] and IBM ILOG Cplex to verify the validity of the proposed method.

Nanji Island is far away from the mainland and not inter-connected. The power supply of the island is covered by diesel units. In the year 2012, a testing project of micro grid is built in this island. The power demand of the island is estimated to be 2MW in the year 2016. The daily power load curve and output forecasting curve is show in Figure 2.

According to the proposed programming method, the optimal operating schedules for pumped storage plant and diesel units are shown in Figure 3 and Figure 4. The variations of water level of the upper reservoir is shown in Figure 5.

Table 1. The parameters of power grid in offshore island

Sea water pumped storage plant	Maximum instantaneous power (MW)	1.2
	Energy Storage (MWh)	8
	Number of Turbines	2
	Maximum instantaneous power of a turbine(kW)	550
	Minimum instantaneous power of a turbine (kW)	450
	Start up or shut down cust (\$)	20
	Efficiency	0.75
	Water level(m)	210
	The lowest water level(m)	180
Wind farm	Installed capacity(MW)	2.5
	Installed capacity (MW)	1.8
Diesel units	Spinning reserve(kW)	500
	Cost (\$/kWh)	0.3
	Electricity charge	23:00-9:00(\$/kWh) 0.17 9:00-23:00(\$/kWh) 0.34

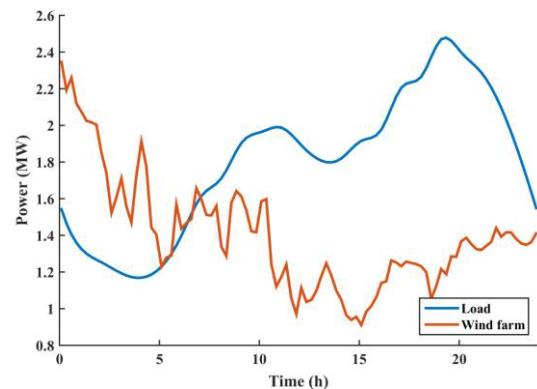


Figure 2. Daily load curve and output of wind farm

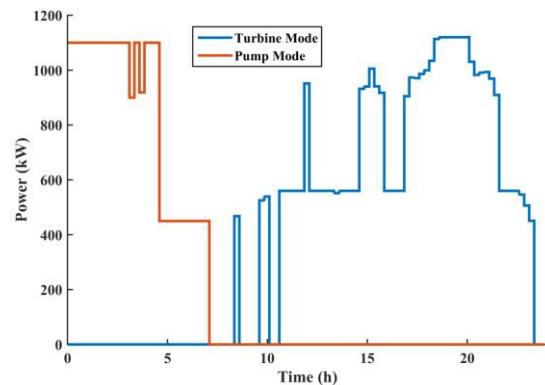


Figure 3. The output curve of HSPS in pump mode and turbine mode

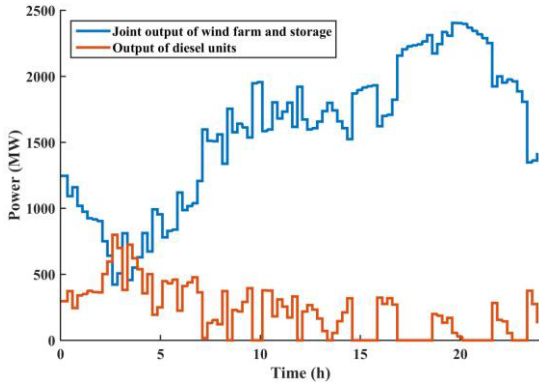


Figure 4. The output curve of wind-storage joint system

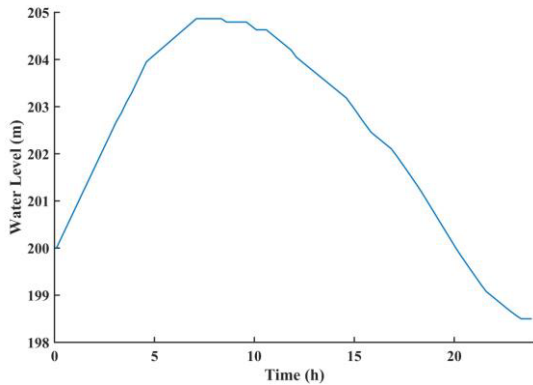


Figure 5. The variations of the water level of upper reservoir

As we can see in this case, the wind farm replaces the diesel units as the main generator. The cost of electricity is much smaller. However, the output of the wind farm is highly random and stochastic, this programming method must be testified under various circumstances. Based on the historical data of wind speed, several typical scenarios of wind farm are shown in Figure 6.

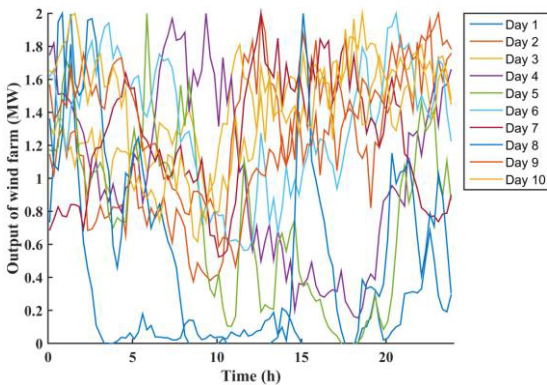


Figure 6. The wind power output in multiple typical scenarios

The profit of the typical scenarios is shown in Table 2. In various different scenarios, the programming method is proved to be effective. The profit with HSPS is significantly higher than without HSPS. With the energy storage unit, the penetration level of RESs increases and the cost of diesel units is much smaller.

Table 2 The profits in typical scenarios

No.	Electricity charge (\$)	Without HSPS		With HSPS		
		cost of diesel units (\$)	Profit (\$)	Start up of shut down cost (\$)	cost of diesel units (\$)	Profit (\$)
1	12313	10301	2012	160	7795	4358
2	12490	4051	8439	100	2855	9535
3	12378	2364	10014	140	1557	10682
4	12211	5028	7182	100	3300	8811
5	12312	6822	5490	120	4760	7432
6	12326	3646	8680	80	1831	10415
7	12410	3871	8539	120	2475	9815
8	12346	7655	4692	200	5138	7008
9	12356	3618	8738	100	1897	10359
10	12451	3313	9138	80	1715	10656

5 Conclusion

This paper proposes an automatic programming method for optimal dispatch of autonomous grid in isolated islands. The pumped storage plant is applied as the energy storage system to counter-balance the fluctuations of the RESs. The penetration level of the RESs increases significantly, and the production of diesel units is much smaller. Meanwhile, with diesel unit serving as the spinning reserve, the reliability of the autonomous grid is not jeopardized. The proposed programming method is suitable for isolated islands with the potential of RES and geographical advantage of pumped storage plant. To improve the robustness of the programming method is the next step of our research.

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