

SCALABLE MULTI-PERIOD OPTIMAL POWER FLOW  
ALGORITHMS FOR  
ACTIVE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS

By

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A dissertation submitted in partial fulfillment of  
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To the Faculty of Washington State University:

The members of the Committee appointed to examine the dissertation of ARYAN RIT-WAJEET JHA find it satisfactory and recommend that it be accepted.

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## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

TBA

SCALABLE MULTI-PERIOD OPTIMAL POWER FLOW  
ALGORITHMS FOR  
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Abstract

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August 2026

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TBA

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
ACKNOWLEDGMENT . . . . .	iii
ABSTRACT . . . . .	iv
LIST OF TABLES . . . . .	vi
LIST OF FIGURES . . . . .	vii
1 FIGURES AND TABLES . . . . .	2
1.1 Examples of a figure . . . . .	2
REFERENCES . . . . .	3
APPENDIX	
A Branch Flow Model: Relaxations and Convexification . . . . .	5
B Abstracts: Optimization-based Methods for solving MP-OPF . . . . .	7
C Abstracts: Dynamic Programming Methods for solving MP-OPF . . . . .	8
D Abstracts: Differential Dynamic Programming . . . . .	9
E Models: Battery Model for Multi-Period OPF . . . . .	12

# LIST OF TABLES

A.1	Table describing the variables involved in the Branch Flow Model equations.	5
A.2	Table describing the Branch Flow Model equations. . . . .	6
E.1	Description of Grid Parameters . . . . .	12
E.2	Description of Branch Flow Model Variables . . . . .	13
E.3	Values, Lower Bounds and Upper Bounds on BFM Variables . . . . .	13
E.4	Description of Battery Variables . . . . .	14
E.5	Values, Lower Bounds and Upper Bounds on Battery Variables (Part 1/2) .	16
E.6	Values, Lower Bounds and Upper Bounds on Battery Variables (Part 2/2) .	17

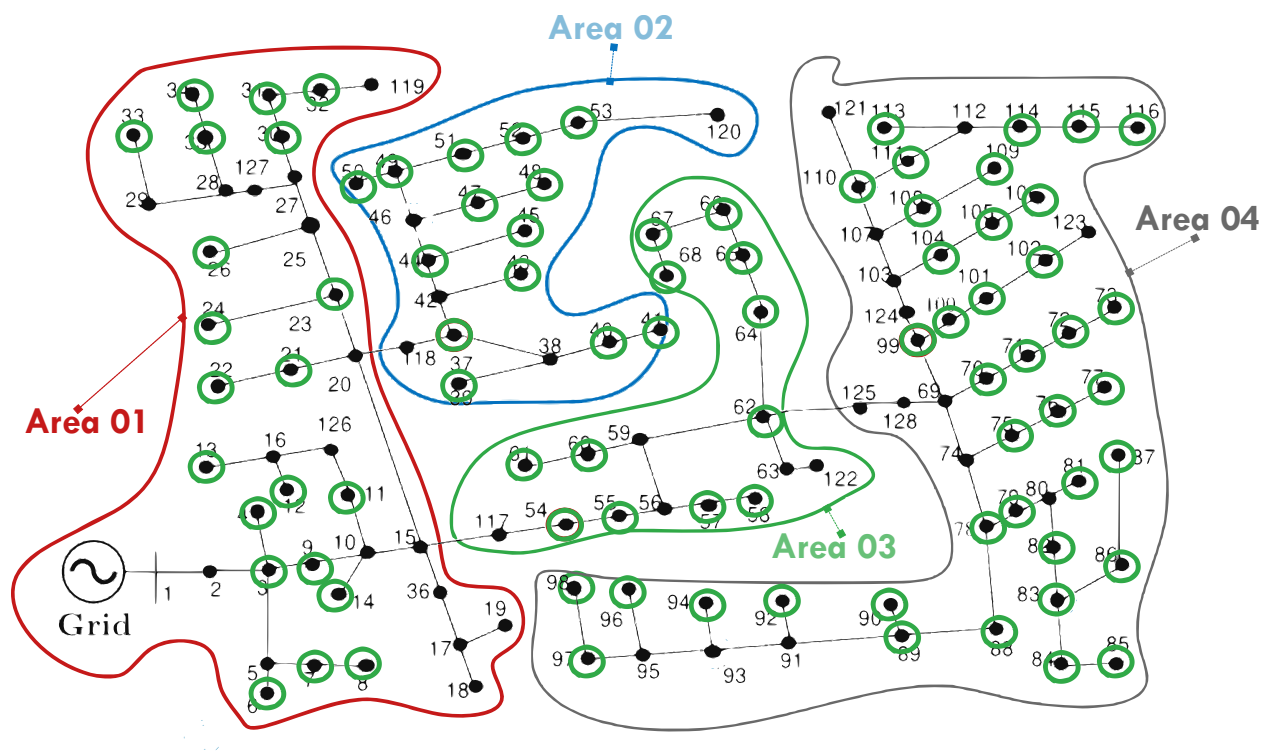
# LIST OF FIGURES

1	IEEE 123 Node System divided into four areas with DER nodes labelled. . .	1
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## Dedication

TBA



**Figure 1** IEEE 123 Node System divided into four areas with DER nodes labelled.

# Chapter One

## FIGURES AND TABLES

### 1.1 Examples of a figure

# REFERENCES

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## APPENDIX

# Appendix A

## Branch Flow Model: Relaxations and Convexification

In [2] the authors came up the Relaxed Branch Flow Model, and showed that in the case of Tree/Radial networks, the Relaxed Model can solve for the unique optimal solution, including the bus angles, and in the case of weakly meshed networks, there is a mechanism for extracting the bus angles from the relaxed solution, to find out its unique solution, if it exists.

Legend for Table A.2:

TABLE A.1 Table describing the variables involved in the Branch Flow Model equations.

Symbol	Meaning
$p_j, q_j$	Real, Reactive Power flowing from bus $j$ into the network.
$P_{ij}, Q_{ij}$	Real, Reactive Power flowing in branch $(i, j)$ (sending-end).
$I_{ij}, l_{ij}$	Complex Current flowing in branch

TABLE A.2 Table describing the Branch Flow Model equations.

Equation #	Equation	Unknowns	Knowns	No. of Equations
13	$p_j = \Sigma P_{jk} + \Sigma(P_{ij} - r_{ij}l_{ij}) + g_jv_j$	$1 \times p_0$	$n \times p_j$	$(n + 1)$
		$m \times P_{ij}$	$m \times r_{ij}$	
		$m \times l_{ij}$	$(n + 1) \times g_j$	
		$n \times v_j$	$1 \times v_0$	
14	$q_j = \Sigma Q_{jk} + \Sigma(Q_{ij} - x_{ij}l_{ij}) + b_jv_j$	$1 \times q_0$	$n \times q_j$	$(n + 1)$
		$m \times Q_{ij}$	$m \times x_{ij}$	
		$m \times l_{ij}$	$(n + 1) \times b_j$	
		$n \times v_j$	$1 \times v_0$	
15	$v_j = v_i + (r_{ij}^2 + x_{ij}^2)l_{ij} - 2(r_{ij}P_{ij} + x_{ij}Q_{ij})$	$m \times P_{ij}$	$b \times r_{ij}$	$m$
		$m \times Q_{ij}$	$m \times x_{ij}$	
		$m \times l_{ij}$	$1 \times v_0$	
		$n \times v_j$		
16	$l_{ij} = \frac{P_{ij}^2 + Q_{ij}^2}{v_j}$	$m \times P_{ij}$		$m$
		$m \times Q_{ij}$	$1 \times v_0$	
		$m \times l_{ij}$		
		$n \times v_j$		
13 to 16		$1 \times p_0$	$n \times p_j$	$2(n + 1 + m)$
		$1 \times q_0$	$n \times q_j$	
		$m \times P_{ij}$	$m \times r_{ij}$	
		$m \times Q_{ij}$	$m \times x_{ij}$	
		$m \times l_{ij}$	$(n + 1) \times g_j$	
		$n \times v_j$	$(n + 1) \times b_j$	
			$1 \times v_0$	
		$2(n + 1 + m)$	$4n + 2m + 3$	$2(n + 1 + m)$

# Appendix B

## Abstracts: Optimization-based Methods for solving MP-OPF

In [5], the authors use a two-step paradigm for solving the MP-OPF problem, by first solving for a more relaxed SOCP problem for the all of the time-steps in a horizon, and using the SOC values from its solution, solve for the NLP OPF problem for every time-step in parallel.

In [4], they prove that for 'realistic' systems, appending an additional 'complementarity' cost function to the original objective function, Simultaneous Charging and Discharging (SCD) in the optimal solution is avoided, and that the Mixed-Integer SOCP problem of AC-OPF with energy storage can be relaxed into a regular SOCP problem without violating the battery physics in the optimal solution.

In [8], the authors present a linear approximation based on Taylor's second order terms of a grid with various components associated with nonlinear and mixed-integer decision variables, and use a *Successive Linear Approximation* algorithm to tighten the relaxation to capture the nonlinearity of the original system.



# Appendix C

## Abstracts: Dynamic Programming

### Methods for solving MP-OPF

In [1], the authors use a Differential Dynamic Programming approach, which involved usage of Forward and Backward passes made over a sequence of time-steps, doing a back-and-forth between computation for one time-step, say  $t$ , by making some assumptions on any variables required from the next time-step  $t + 1$ , and then updating the assumed values at  $t$ , once new values for the  $t + 1$  time-step have been made.

# Appendix D

## Abstracts: Differential Dynamic Programming

In [6], the authors lay out the framework on how Differential Dynamic Programming can be utilized to solve a Mutli-Stage Uncertain Optimal Control problem programmatically.

$$J(x_0, 0) = \min_{\substack{u_j \in U_j \\ j=0,1,\dots,N-1}} \mathbb{E} \left[ \sum_{j=0}^{N-1} \{L(x_j, u_j, j)\} + G(x_N, N) \right] \\ s.t. \tag{D.1}$$

$$x_{k+1} = f(x_k, u_k, k) + \sigma_{k+1} \xi_{k+1}$$

$$k = 0, 1, \dots, N-1$$

$$J(x_N, N) = G(x_N, N) \tag{D.2}$$

$$J(x_k, k) = \min_{u_k \in U_k} \mathbb{E} [J(x_{k+1}, k+1) + L(x_k, u_k, k)] \tag{D.3}$$

$$\bar{x}_{k+1} = f(\bar{x}_k, \bar{u}_k, k) \tag{D.4}$$

$$\bar{x}_0 = x_0$$

$$f(x_k, u_k, k) = f(\bar{x}_k, \bar{u}_k, k) + f_x \delta x_k + f_u \delta u_k \\ + \frac{1}{2} f_{xx} (\delta x_k)^2 + \frac{1}{2} f_{uu} (\delta u_k)^2 \tag{D.5}$$

where

$$\delta x_k = x_k - \bar{x}_k$$

$$\delta u_k = u_k - \bar{u}_k$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\delta x_{k+1} &= f(x_k, u_k, k) + \sigma_{k+1}\xi_{k+1} - f(\bar{x}_k, \bar{u}_k, k) \\
\text{or, } \delta x_{k+1} &= f_x \delta x_k + f_u \delta u_k + \frac{1}{2} f_{xu} (\delta x_k) (\delta u_k) \\
&\quad + \frac{1}{2} f_{xx} (\delta x_k)^2 + \frac{1}{2} f_{uu} (\delta u_k)^2 + \sigma_{k+1} \xi_{k+1}
\end{aligned} \tag{D.6}$$

Similarly,

$$\begin{aligned}
L(x_k, u_k, k) &= L(\bar{x}_k, \bar{u}_k, k) + L_x \delta x_k + L_u \delta u_k \\
&\quad + \frac{1}{2} L_{xx} (\delta x_k)^2 + \frac{1}{2} L_{uu} (\delta u_k)^2
\end{aligned} \tag{D.7}$$

and,

$$J(x_k, k) = J(\bar{x}_k, k) + J_x \delta x_k + \frac{1}{2} J_{xx} (\delta x_{k+1})^2 \tag{D.8}$$

# Appendix E

## Models: Battery Model for Multi-Period OPF

All subscripts  $j$  for a variable imply the node in the power grid (for node  $j$ ). All superscripts  $t$  refer to the time period number  $t$ .

TABLE E.1 Description of Grid Parameters

Variable	Description
$\mathcal{N}$	Set of all nodes. $\mathcal{N} = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$
$\mathcal{L}$	Set of all branches. $\mathcal{L} = \{1, 2, \dots, l\} = \{(i, k)\} \subset (\mathcal{N} \times \mathcal{N})$ .
$\mathcal{D}$	Set of all nodes containing DERs. $\mathcal{D} \subset \mathcal{N}$
$\mathcal{B}$	Set of all nodes containing storage. $\mathcal{B} \subset \mathcal{N}$
$\Delta t$	Duration of a single time period. Here $\Delta t = 15 \text{ min.} = 0.25 \text{ h.}$
$T$	Prediction Horizon Duration. Total number of time-intervals solved for as part of one instance of MP-OPF.

TABLE E.2 Description of Branch Flow Model Variables

Variable	Description
$p_j^t$	Fixed Real Power Generation minus Fixed Real Power Load. Here, $p_j^t = p_{Dj}^t - p_{Lj}^t$ . A known (predicted) value $\forall t, j$ .
$q_j^t$	Fixed Reactive Power Generation minus Fixed Reactive Power Load. Here, $q_j^t = -q_{Lj}^t$ . A known (predicted) value $\forall t, j$ .
$p_{Dj}^t$	Real Power Generated by DERs
$p_{Lj}^t$	Real Power Demand
$q_{Lj}^t$	Reactive Power Demand

TABLE E.3 Values, Lower Bounds and Upper Bounds on BFM Variables

Variable	Value or Limits	Description
$P_{DER_{Max}}$	$\sim [2, 20]$ kW	$P_{Rated}$ of corresponding DER.
$ q_{B_{Max}} $	$\sim [1, 10]$ kVAr	$q_{D_{Rated}}$ of corresponding DER.
$V_{min}$	$0.95 pu$	
$V_{Max}$	$1.05 pu$	
$v$	$[V_{min}^2, V_{Max}^2]$	Squared magnitude of nodal voltage

In [4, 5], the batteries are modelled using four state/control variables, which are:

TABLE E.4 Description of Battery Variables

Variable	Description	Dimension	Dimension $pu$
$B_{n,t}$	State of Charge (SOC) of Battery after the $t$ -th time interval.	$[kWh]$	$[pu\ h]$
$P_{n,t}^c$	Average Charging Power of the Battery during the $t$ -th time interval.	$[kW]$	$[pu]$
$P_{n,t}^d$	Average Discharging Power of the Battery during the $t$ -th time interval.	$[kW]$	$[pu]$
$q_{B_{n,t}}$	Average Reactive Power Output from the Battery Inverter during the $t$ -th time interval.	$[kVAr]$	$[pu]$

where,

$t \in \{1, 2, \dots, T\}$  The index of the discretized time intervals, where  $t$  represents the  $t$ -th time interval of duration  $\Delta t$ .

$n \in \mathcal{N}$  The node  $n$  is an element of the set of all nodes in the power grid  $\mathcal{N}$ . Note that  $n$  can be used both as an iterator or as the total number of nodes in the grid (i.e. the cardinality of  $\mathcal{N}$ ), and its meaning should be obvious from context.



TABLE E.5 Values, Lower Bounds and Upper Bounds on Battery Variables  
(Part 1/2)

Variable	Value or Limits	Description
$P_{Max}$	$\sim [2, 20]$ kW	$P_{Rated}$ of corresponding DER.
$ q_{B_{Max}} $	$\sim [1, 10]$ kVAr	$q_{D_{Rated}}$ of corresponding DER.
$P_d, P_c$	$[0, P_{Max}]$	
$q_B$	$[-q_{B_{Max}}, q_{B_{Max}}]$	Currently linearly modeled (is actually quadratic)
$E_{Rated}$	$P_{Max} \times 4$ h	4 h of one-way Charging/Discharging at Maximum Power
$B$	$[0.30E_{Rated}, 0.95E_{Rated}]$	2.4 h of one-way Charging/Discharging at Maximum Power
$B_0$	$0.625E_{Rated}$	Batteries start with an SOC value in the middle of their SOC range.
$\eta_d, \eta_c$	0.95	

TABLE E.6 Values, Lower Bounds and Upper Bounds on Battery Variables  
(Part 2/2)

Variable	Value or Limits	Description
$\alpha$	1e-3	Coefficient of auxiliary objective function penalizing SCD. Value depends on the magnitude of the loss term in the objective function
$\gamma$	50	Coefficient of auxiliary objective function penalizing deviation of final SOC value from a reference.

<sup>1</sup> A note on  $\alpha$ : Too big a value of  $\alpha$  would reduce both  $P_c$  and  $P_d$  terms to zero, whereas too small a value would not penalize SCD, causing physically infeasible solutions.

# Optimization Equations

## Original Problem: Mixed-Integer Nonlinear Optimization Model - Full Horizon

$$\min_{P_{ij}^t, Q_{ij}^t, v_j^t, l_{ij}^t, q_{D_j}^t, B_j^t, P_{c_j}^t, P_{d_j}^t, q_{B_j}^t} \sum_{t=1}^T \sum_{(i,j) \in \mathcal{L}} (r_{ij} l_{ij}^t) \quad (\text{E.1})$$

s.t.

$$p_j^t = \sum_{(j,k) \in \mathcal{L}} P_{jk}^t - \sum_{(i,j) \in \mathcal{L}} \{P_{ij}^t - r_{ij} l_{ij}^t\} - P_{d_j}^t + P_{c_j}^t \quad (\text{E.2})$$

$$q_j^t = \sum_{(j,k) \in \mathcal{L}} Q_{jk}^t - \sum_{(i,j) \in \mathcal{L}} \{Q_{ij}^t - x_{ij} l_{ij}^t\} - q_{D_j}^t - q_{B_j}^t \quad (\text{E.3})$$

$$v_j^t = v_i^t + \{r_{ij}^2 + x_{ij}^2\} l_{ij}^t - 2(r_{ij} P_{ij}^t + x_{ij} Q_{ij}^t) \quad (\text{E.4})$$

$$l_{ij}^t = \frac{(P_{ij}^t)^2 + (Q_{ij}^t)^2}{v_i^t} \quad (\text{E.5})$$

$$B_j^t = B_j^{t-1} + z \Delta t \eta_c P_{c_j}^t - (1 - z) \Delta t \frac{1}{\eta_d} P_{d_j}^t \quad (\text{E.6})$$

$$B_j^0 = 0.5(soc_{max} + soc_{min}) E_{Rated} = 0.625 E_{Rated} \quad (\text{E.7})$$

$$B_j^T = B_j^0 \quad (\text{E.8})$$

$$where, \quad (\text{E.9})$$

$$(i, j) : \text{Branch connecting nodes } i \text{ and } j \quad (\text{E.10})$$

$$p_j^t = p_{D_j}^t - p_{L_j}^t \quad (\text{E.11})$$

$$q_j^t = -q_{L_j}^t \quad (\text{E.12})$$

$$t = \{1, 2, \dots, T\} \quad (\text{E.13})$$

$$z = \{0, 1\} \quad (\text{E.14})$$

# (Integer Constraint Relaxed) Naive Brute Force Full Optimization

## Model - Full Horizon

$$\min_{\substack{P_{ij}^t, Q_{ij}^t, v_j^t, l_{ij}^t, \\ q_{D_j}^t, B_j^t, P_{c_j}^t, P_{d_j}^t, q_{B_j}^t}} \sum_{t=1}^T \sum_{(i,j) \in \mathcal{L}} (r_{ij} l_{ij}^t) \quad (\text{E.15})$$

$$+ \alpha \sum_{t=1}^T \sum_{j \in \mathcal{B}} \left\{ (1 - \eta_c) P_{c_j}^t + \left( \frac{1}{\eta_d} - 1 \right) P_{d_j}^t \right\} \quad (\text{E.16})$$

$$+ \gamma \sum_{j \in \mathcal{B}} \left\{ (B_j^T - B_{ref_j})^2 \right\} \quad (\text{E.17})$$

s.t.

$$p_j^t = \sum_{(j,k) \in \mathcal{L}} P_{jk}^t - \sum_{(i,j) \in \mathcal{L}} \{P_{ij}^t - r_{ij} l_{ij}^t\} - P_{d_j}^t + P_{c_j}^t \quad (\text{E.18})$$

$$q_j^t = \sum_{(j,k) \in \mathcal{L}} Q_{jk}^t - \sum_{(i,j) \in \mathcal{L}} \{Q_{ij}^t - x_{ij} l_{ij}^t\} - q_{D_j}^t - q_{B_j}^t \quad (\text{E.19})$$

$$v_j^t = v_i^t + \{r_{ij}^2 + x_{ij}^2\} l_{ij}^t - 2(r_{ij} P_{ij}^t + x_{ij} Q_{ij}^t) \quad (\text{E.20})$$

$$l_{ij}^t = \frac{(P_{ij}^t)^2 + (Q_{ij}^t)^2}{v_i^t} \quad (\text{E.21})$$

$$B_j^t = B_j^{t-1} + \Delta t \eta_c P_{c_j}^t - \Delta t \frac{1}{\eta_d} P_{d_j}^t \quad (\text{E.22})$$

$$B_j^0 = 0.5(soc_{max} + soc_{min}) E_{Rated} = 0.625 E_{Rated} \quad (\text{E.23})$$

$$\text{where,} \quad (\text{E.24})$$

$$(i, j) : \text{Branch connecting nodes } i \text{ and } j \quad (\text{E.25})$$

$$p_j^t = p_{D_j}^t - p_{L_j}^t \quad (\text{E.26})$$

$$q_j^t = -q_{L_j}^t \quad (\text{E.27})$$

$$t = \{1, 2, \dots T\} \quad (\text{E.28})$$

## Previous Simulations

### Step 2: Full Optimization Model - Single Time Step Greedy Approach

$$\min_{P_{ij}^t, Q_{ij}^t, v_j^t, l_{ij}^t, q_{Dj}^t, B_j^t, P_{c_j}^t, P_{d_j}^t, q_{B_j}^t} \sum_{(i,j) \in \mathcal{L}} (r_{ij} l_{ij}^t) + \alpha \sum_{j \in \mathcal{B}} \left\{ (1 - \eta_c) P_{c_j}^t + \left( \frac{1}{\eta_d} - 1 \right) P_{d_j}^t \right\} \quad (\text{E.29})$$

s.t.

$$p_j^t = \sum_{(j,k) \in \mathcal{L}} P_{jk}^t - \sum_{(i,j) \in \mathcal{L}} \{P_{ij}^t - r_{ij} l_{ij}^t\} - P_{d_j}^t + P_{c_j}^t \quad (\text{E.30})$$

$$q_j^t = \sum_{(j,k) \in \mathcal{L}} Q_{jk}^t - \sum_{(i,j) \in \mathcal{L}} \{Q_{ij}^t - x_{ij} l_{ij}^t\} - q_{D_j}^t - q_{B_j}^t \quad (\text{E.31})$$

$$v_j^t = v_i^t + \{r_{ij}^2 + x_{ij}^2\} l_{ij}^t - 2(r_{ij} P_{ij}^t + x_{ij} Q_{ij}^t) \quad (\text{E.32})$$

$$l_{ij}^t = \frac{(P_{ij}^t)^2 + (Q_{ij}^t)^2}{v_i^t} \quad (\text{E.33})$$

$$B_j^t = B_j^{t-1} + \Delta t \eta_c P_{c_j}^t - \Delta t \frac{1}{\eta_d} P_{d_j}^t \quad (\text{E.34})$$

$$B_j^0 = 0.5(\text{soc}_{\max} + \text{soc}_{\min}) E_{\text{Rated}} = 0.625 E_{\text{Rated}} \quad (\text{E.35})$$

$$\text{where,} \quad (\text{E.36})$$

$$(i, j) : \text{Branch connecting nodes } i \text{ and } j \quad (\text{E.37})$$

$$p_j^t = p_{Dj}^t - p_{Lj}^t \quad (\text{E.38})$$

$$q_j^t = -q_{Lj}^t \quad (\text{E.39})$$

$$t = \{1, 2, \dots, T\} \quad (\text{E.40})$$

## Step 1b: Initialisation Lossless Optimization Model WITH Batteries

### - Single Time Step Greedy Approach

$$\min_{P_{ij}^t, Q_{ij}^t, q_{Dj}^t, B_j^t, P_{cj}^t, P_{dj}^t, q_{Bj}^t} \sum_{(i,j) \in \mathcal{L}} \left\{ r_{ij} \frac{(P_{ij}^t)^2 + (Q_{ij}^t)^2}{v_{0i}^t} \right\} + \alpha \sum_{j \in \mathcal{B}} \left\{ (1 - \eta_c) P_{cj}^t + \left( \frac{1}{\eta_d} - 1 \right) P_{dj}^t \right\} \quad (\text{E.41})$$

s.t.

$$p_j^t = \sum_{(j,k) \in \mathcal{L}} P_{jk}^t - \sum_{(i,j) \in \mathcal{L}} (P_{ij}^t) - P_{dj}^t + P_{cj}^t \quad (\text{E.42})$$

$$q_j^t = \sum_{(j,k) \in \mathcal{L}} Q_{jk}^t - \sum_{(i,j) \in \mathcal{L}} (Q_{ij}^t) - q_{Dj}^t - q_{Bj}^t \quad (\text{E.43})$$

$$v_{0j}^t = v_{0i}^t - 2(r_{ij} P_{ij}^t + x_{ij} Q_{ij}^t) \quad (\text{E.44})$$

$$B_j^t = B_j^{t-1} + \Delta t \eta_c P_{cj}^t - \Delta t \frac{1}{\eta_d} P_{dj}^t \quad (\text{E.45})$$

$$B_j^0 = 0.5(soc_{max} + soc_{min})E_{Rated} = 0.625E_{Rated} \quad (\text{E.46})$$

$$\text{where,} \quad (\text{E.47})$$

$$(i, j) : \text{Branch connecting nodes } i \text{ and } j \quad (\text{E.48})$$

$$p_j^t = p_{Dj}^t - p_{Lj}^t \quad (\text{E.49})$$

$$q_j^t = -q_{Lj}^t \quad (\text{E.50})$$

$$t = \{1, 2, \dots, T\} \quad (\text{E.51})$$

## Step 1a: Initialisation Lossless Optimization Model WITHOUT Batteries - Single Time Step Greedy Approach

$$\min_{P_{ij}^t, Q_{ij}^t, v_j^t, q_{D_j}^t} 0 \quad (\text{E.52})$$

s.t.

$$p_j^t = \sum_{(j,k) \in \mathcal{L}} P_{jk}^t - \sum_{(i,j) \in \mathcal{L}} P_{ij}^t \quad (\text{E.53})$$

$$q_j^t = \sum_{(j,k) \in \mathcal{L}} Q_{jk}^t - \sum_{(i,j) \in \mathcal{L}} Q_{ij}^t \quad (\text{E.54})$$

$$v_j^t = v_i^t - 2(r_{ij}P_{ij}^t + x_{ij}Q_{ij}^t) \quad (\text{E.55})$$

$$\text{where,} \quad (\text{E.56})$$

$$(i, j) : \text{Branch connecting nodes } i \text{ and } j \quad (\text{E.57})$$

$$p_j^t = p_{D_j}^t - p_{L_j}^t \quad (\text{E.58})$$

$$q_j^t = -q_{L_j}^t \quad (\text{E.59})$$

$$t = \{1, 2, \dots, T\} \quad (\text{E.60})$$

A simple metric called  $P_{Save}$  gives an indication of the effect of power generated by batteries and DERs which offset substation power (indirectly flowing it via its parent area if it is not directly connected to the substation).

Its formula is as shown:

$$P_{Save} = 100\% * \left( \frac{\sum_{j \in \mathcal{B}} (P_{d_j} - P_{c_j})}{P_{12} + \sum_{j \in \mathcal{D}} P_{DER_j} + \sum_{j \in \mathcal{B}} (P_{d_j} - P_{c_j})} \right) \quad (\text{E.61})$$

Here are some key definitions used in this thesis, which have been aligned as per NERC's/NREL's technical documents [3, 7]:

- Inverted-Based Resources (IBR) [7]

- Grid Following Interters (GFL): Depend on an external constant voltage source to generate current [3]. They *track* an AC Voltage Waveform
- Grid Forming Inverters (GFM): Generate their own constant voltage [3]. They *generate* their own AC Voltage waveform. Actually have been in use in off-grid power systems for decades. NERC Inverter-based Resource Performance Working Group (IRPWG) proposed a unified definition: “An inverter that maintains a constant voltage phasor in the transient and sub-transient time frames”