The IEEE European Low Voltage Test Feeder

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I. Objective

The Test Feeders Working Group of the Distribution System Analysis Subcommittee of the Power Systems Analysis, Computing, and Economics (PSACE) Committee has published several test feeders [1] and released a roadmap for high-priority development of new test cases [2]. The current test cases are focused on North American style systems and provide only static power flow results. The purpose of this test feeder is to provide a benchmark for researchers who want to study low voltage feeders, which are common in Europe, and their mid- to long-term dynamic behaviors. Time-series power flow solutions for this test feeder are provided using OpenDSS [3] and GridLAB-D [4].

II. Introduction

The current test cases are focused on North American style systems; however it is common outside of North America to see low-voltage distribution systems, both radial and meshed. It is important to make sure that tools support both dominant styles of distribution system configuration. This test case seeks to fill a benchmark gap by presenting a number of common low-voltage configurations.

In distribution research and planning, it is becoming more readily apparent that time-series solutions, rather than static power flow solutions, are required to capture the mid- to long-term dynamic behavior evident in many technologies. Proper evaluation of products or concepts such as Volt Var Optimization (VVO), coordinated regulator and capacitor controls, energy storage, or photovoltaic requires an element of time to truly understand the behavior.

The European low voltage test case was developed to meet the needs, which has the following features:

1. The test feeder is at the voltage level of 416 V (phase-to-phase), which is typical in the European low voltage distribution systems.

2. Load shapes with a one-minute time resolution over 24 hours are provided for time-series simulation.

3. Time-series simulation results over a one-day period and static power flow calculation results at some key moments are provided.

III. The Case Description

The low voltage test feeder is a radial distribution feeder with a base frequency of 50 Hz. The feeder is connected to the medium voltage (MV) system through a transformer at substation. The transformer steps the voltage down from 11 kV to 416 V. The main feeder and laterals are at the voltage level of 416 V. The one-line diagram of the test feeder is shown in Fig. 1. The bus coordinates are given in the *Buscoords.csv* file.

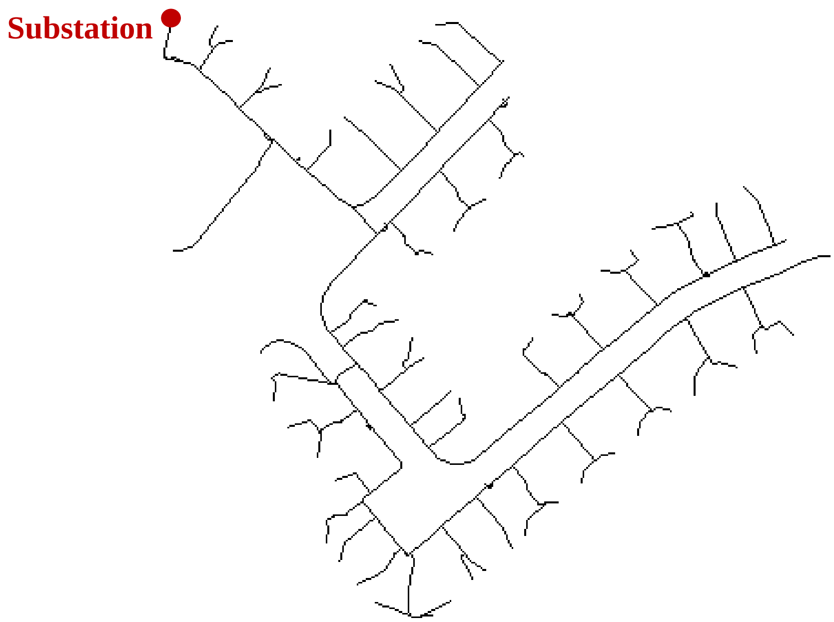


Fig. 1. One-line diagram of the European low voltage test feeder.

The MV system is modeled as a voltage source with an impedance. The data for the source is given in the *Source.csv* file. The impedance is specified by short circuit currents.

Source impedance
[Source]
Voltage=11 kV
pu=1.05
ISC3=3000 A
ISC1=5 A

Impedance is specified by three-phase and single-phase short circuit currents.

The three-phase transformer at substation has a rated MVA of 0.8, rated voltages of 11/.416 kV, and a delta/grounded-wye connection. The resistance and reactance of the windings are 0.4% and 4% (use the kVA and kV base of the high-voltage winding), respectively. The data for transformer is given in the *Transformer.csv* file.

Distribution lines are defined by line codes and their length. Line codes are specified by sequence impedances and admittances. The data for lines and line codes are given in the *Lines.csv* and *lineCodes.csv* files, respectively.

# Line definitions						
Name	Bus1	Bus2	Phases	Length	Units	LineCode
LINE1	1	2	ABC	1.098	m	4c_70

# Line Codes defined by matrix values								
Name	nphases	R1	X1	R0	X0	C1	C0	Units
2c_.007	3	3.97	0.099	3.97	0.099	0	0	km
2c_.0225	3	1.257	0.085	1.257	0.085	0	0	km
2c_16	3	1.15	0.088	1.2	0.088	0	0	km

Ohms, Series Impedance form

nF, Nodal Admittance form

Loads are modeled as constant PQ ones. For each load, the base load is specified using kW and power factor (PF). Load shapes are also defined for time-series simulation. Data for loads and load shapes are given in the *Loads.csv* and *LoadShapes.csv* files.

Load Shapes

# Loads									
# Model 1 is constant PQ									
Name	numPhase	Bus	phases	kV	Model	Connectic	kW	PF	Yearly
LOAD1	1	34	A	0.23	1	wye	1	0.95	Shape_1
LOAD2	1	47	B	0.23	1	wye	1	0.95	Shape_2
LOAD3	1	70	A	0.23	1	wye	1	0.95	Shape_3

Each load shape is linked to a .csv file that defines the load profile.

Load Profiles

# Load Shapes				
Name	npts	minterval	File	useactual
Shape_1	1440	1	Load_profile_1.csv	TRUE
Shape_2	1440	1	Load_profile_2.csv	TRUE
Shape_3	1440	1	Load_profile_3.csv	TRUE

Load profiles are defined by a matrix with two columns. The first column specifies the time, while the second column specifies the multiplier values. A portion of the *Load_profile_1.csv* file is shown below.

time	mult
0:01:00	0.036
0:02:00	0.036
0:03:00	0.036
0:04:00	0.036
0:05:00	0.036

Multiplier Values

The kW value of a load at a specific time is determined by its base kW and multiplier values. Take LOAD1 as an example, its base kW value is 1 and the value of multiplier at time 00:01:00 is 0.036. Therefore, the kW value of LOAD1 at time 00:01:00 is 1×0.036=0.036.

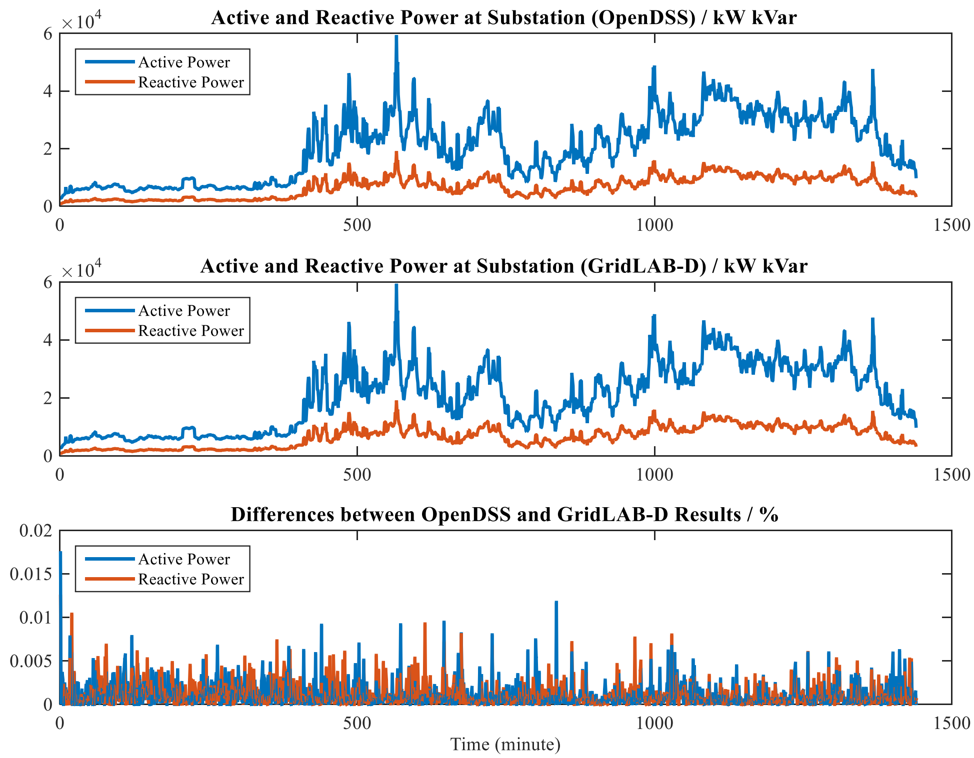
IV. Results

1. Time-series simulation

Time-series load shapes for the 55 loads served by the test feeder are provided with a one-minute time resolution over a one-day period. Time-series simulations are performed using OpenDSS and GridLAB-D, respectively. The curves of the active and reactive power at the substation over 24 hours (1440 minutes) are shown in Fig. 2(a). The magnitude of voltage at LOAD1 (phase A), LOAD32 (phase C), and LOAD53 (phase B) over the one-day period are shown in Fig 2(b). Results provided by OpenDSS and GridLAB-D are compared, the differences between them are shown in Table I and Fig 2.

Table I
Maximum differences in time-series simulation results from OpenDSS and GridLAB-D

Variable	P_a	Q_a	P_b	Q_b	P_c	Q_c
Difference (%)	0.0435	0.2080	0.1006	0.1121	0.0639	0.1013
Variable	$P_{3\phi}$	$Q_{3\phi}$	V_{load1}	V_{load32}	V_{load53}	
Difference (%)	0.0176	0.0126	4.6×10^{-4}	7.9×10^{-4}	7.6×10^{-4}	



(a)

(b)

Fig. 2. Time-series simulation results: (a) active and reactive power at substation and (b) load voltages.

2. Snapshot Simulation

Snapshots of power flow at the following moments are captured:

- time = 00:01:00, i.e., the initialization of the simulation, as well as the off-peak moment,
- time = 09:26:00, i.e., the on-peak moment, and
- time = 24:00:00, i.e., the end of the simulation.

The active and reactive power at the substation at the three moments are shown in Table II. The maximum and minimum voltages are shown in Table III. Results from OpenDSS and GridLAB-D are provided.

Table II
Active and Reactive Power at Substation – Snapshot Simulation Results

Time			Phase A	Phase B	Phase C	Total
00:01:00 (off-peak)	Active Power (kW)	OpenDSS	1.0572	0.927	0.8153	2.7994
		GridLAB-D	1.0569	0.9266	0.8154	2.7989
	Reactive Power (kVar)	OpenDSS	0.3475	0.3044	0.2678	0.9198
		GridLAB-D	0.3472	0.3046	0.2679	0.9197

09:26:00 (on-peak)	Active Power (kW)	OpenDSS	17.9072	35.2927	6.1837	59.3836
		GridLAB-D	17.9067	35.2935	6.1837	59.384
	Reactive Power (kVar)	OpenDSS	5.4897	11.5328	2.0971	19.1196
		GridLAB-D	5.4895	11.533	2.097	19.1195
24:00:00	Active Power (kW)	OpenDSS	3.7201	3.6648	2.3369	9.7218
		GridLAB-D	3.7201	3.6649	2.3368	9.7218
	Reactive Power (kVar)	OpenDSS	1.2189	1.2048	0.7678	3.1914
		GridLAB-D	1.2189	1.2047	0.7677	3.1914

Table III
Maximum and Minimum Bus Voltages – Snapshot Simulation Results

Time			Phase A	Phase B	Phase C
00:01:00 (off-peak)	Max Voltage (V)	OpenDSS	252.165	252.166	252.169
		GridLAB-D	252.1647	252.166	252.1691
	Min Voltage (V)	OpenDSS	251.909	251.946	252.023
		GridLAB-D	251.9092	251.9464	252.0229
09:26:00 (on-peak)	Max Voltage (V)	OpenDSS	251.901	251.443	254.73
		GridLAB-D	251.9008	251.4426	254.7302
	Min Voltage (V)	OpenDSS	245.577	238.367	251.952
		GridLAB-D	245.5769	238.3686	251.9521
24:00:00	Max Voltage (V)	OpenDSS	252.113	252.105	252.134
		GridLAB-D	252.1126	252.1051	252.1336
	Min Voltage (V)	OpenDSS	251.08	251.109	251.805
		GridLAB-D	251.0798	251.1091	251.8049

Detail results can be found in the *Solutions* folder.

Reference:

[1] IEEE PES Distribution Systems Analysis Subcommittee Radial Test Feeders [Online], Available: http://ewh.ieee.org/soc/pes/dsacom/testfeeders.html.
[2] R. C. Dugan, W. H. Kersting, S. Carneiro, R. F. Arritt, and T. E. McDermott, "Roadmap for the IEEE PES test feeders," *IEEE Power Systems Conference and Exposition*, pp.1-4, March 2009.
[3] Electric Power Research Institute, OpenDSS, Distribution System Simulator [Online], Available: http://sourceforge.net/projects/electricdss/.
[4] U.S. Department of Energy at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, GridLAB-D, Power Distribution Simulation Software [Online]. Available: http://www.gridlabd.org/.