

Concepts Learnt for MPhil

Fergus Willsmore

April 13, 2018

Contents

1	Glossary	3
2	Electric Current	3
3	AC vs DC	3
4	DC power flows	4
5	Loading-dependent system	5
6	Bienstock 2016	6
6.1	Chapter 4	6

1 Glossary

interconnection system conveys power from generators to demand locations (loads).

transmission system carries power at high voltages, typically over long distances.

distribution system distributes power within a local geographical area at low voltage.

buses represent the nodes of the network and may house generators and others represent where a distribution system (a load) is attached.

lines represent the power lines used to transmit power between buses.

transformers are used to convert between different voltages.

real power P is the power actually supplied to the load.

reactive power Q is the power that bounces back and fourth between the load and generator (energy lost due to electric and magnetic fields).

complex power S is the effective power produced by alternating current, $S = P + iQ$.

resistance r is the force against the flow of current offered by the material of the conductor.

reactance x is the resistance offered by inductors and capacitors with respect to time.

impedance z is the effective resistance to alternating current, $z = r + ix$.

conductance g

susceptance b

admittance $y = g + ib$

2 Electric Current

Electrical flow can be thought of as the movement of electrons through a surface, referred to as the *current* (I). The movement of charge is provoked by the *voltage* (V) of an electrical circuit. The voltage creates a potential electrical difference such that the negatively charged electrons flow within the circuit. This is best thought of as electrical potential energy, such that as voltage is increased more force is required to hold the electrons in a fixed position. Once released the electron will accelerate toward the positive pole resulting in the conversion of electrical potential energy into heat and kinetic energy. The idea of *electric power*, combines the elements *current* and *voltage* such that

$$P = V \times I \tag{1}$$

expressed in watts. There are two distinct types of power flows, namely *direct current* (DC) and *alternating current* (AC). The simpler of the two is DC power, where the electrons always flow in the same direction (such as battery operated circuits). In a battery operated circuit the electrons always move from the negative pole to the positive pole. However in an AC circuit, the direction of current periodically changes, which gives rise to complex behaviour.

3 AC vs DC

Electrical *current* is the flow of electrons through a surface measured as a rate. There are two different types; alternating current and direct current. The main distinction between the two is that

the flow of electrons for DC is linear, *i.e.*, the electrons (- charge) will move directly to the positive charge, whereas in AC the direction of flow alternates direction periodically with fixed frequency. The benefits of DC is that it is more efficient at electrical transmission over short distances due to the linear flow and limited power loss. However, the benefit of AC is that the voltage can be easily changed by a transformer thus allowing high voltage transmission for larger distances. Therefore the majority power is sourced from AC generators.

4 DC power flows

The AC power flows along line k, m are described by the complex quantity $p_{km} + iq_{km}$ such that

$$p_{km} = |V_k|^2 g_{km} - |V_k||V_m|g_{km} \cos \theta_{km} - |V_k||V_m|b_{km} \sin \theta_{km} \quad (2)$$

$$q_{km} = -|V_k|^2(b_{km} + \frac{1}{2}b_{km}^{sh}) + |V_k||V_m|b_{km} \cos \theta_{km} - |V_k||V_m|g_{km} \sin \theta_{km}. \quad (3)$$

These are complex equations that lead to quadratic power flows which can lead solutions that do not converge. Hence it is typical to approximate these AC flows with DC flows that lead to a system of linear equations which can easily be solved.

- Under normal conditions $|V_k| \approx 1$ for each bus k
- Under normal conditions $|\theta_{km}|$ is small for each line (k, m)
- For any line (k, m) , its resistance is much smaller than its reactance *i.e.* $r_{km} \ll x_{km}$.

Using these approximations in the (active) power flow, we obtain

$$p_{km} = \frac{\theta_k - \theta_m}{x_{km}}. \quad (4)$$

It is convenient to write the system in matrix form

$$P = \mathcal{B}\theta, \quad (5)$$

where P is the vector of power injections and \mathcal{B} is called the bus susceptance matrix defined by

$$\mathcal{B}_{km} = \begin{cases} \sum_{km} x_{km}^{-1} & m = k \\ -x_{km}^{-1} & \text{for any line } km \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \quad (6)$$

A direct calculations shows that

$$\mathcal{B} = NYN^T \quad (7)$$

where the diagonal entries of Y represent the susceptance of each line and N is the node-arc incidence matrix defined by

$$N_{i(k,m)} = \begin{cases} 1 & i = k \\ -1 & i = m \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \quad (8)$$

Two conditions arise from Kirchoff's laws, namely the sum of power injections over all buses must be zero *i.e.* $\sum_k P_k = 0$ and that the line flows out of bus k must equal the power injected at bus k *i.e.* $Np = P$ where $p = YN^T\theta$ is the active power flow. We wish to obtain a unique power flow solution p for the given power injections P . However in the construction of N it can be seen that the columns will sum to zero. This means that N does not have full rank, in fact it has rank exactly $(n - 1)$. Therefore without loss of generality remove the last column of N to obtain \tilde{N} which has full rank. In this setting $\tilde{\mathcal{B}} = \tilde{N}Y\tilde{N}^T$ is invertible and defines the equivalent system $\tilde{N}p = \tilde{P}$. Under the assumption that $\sum_k P_k = 0$, the unique vector of feasible flows p is given by

$$p = Y\tilde{N}^T(\tilde{N}Y\tilde{N}^T)^{-1}\tilde{P}. \quad (9)$$

5 Loading-dependent system

Consider a system where each line j has an initial load L_j chosen uniformly from $[L^{min}, L^{max}]$. Additionally there exists a threshold L^{fail} such that if at any stage during the cascade $L_j \geq L^{fail}$ the line j is outaged. The cascade is initiated by some initial disturbance which adds the load D onto every line. The initial disturbance is chosen such that there is at least one initial outage that satisfies

$$L_j + D \geq L^{fail},$$

that will start the cascade event. Power that is redistributed, due to each line failure event, places more stress on the (unfailed) lines. This effect is approximated such that each line failure results in an increase of P to every (unfailed) line. Define M_i to be the number of line failures in stage i and then the number of component failures prior to stage t is given by

$$S_{t-1} = \sum_{i=0}^{t-1} M_i.$$

Using this notation the lines that fail at stage t (given they haven't failed in a previous stage) of the cascade satisfy

$$L_j + D + S_{t-1}P \geq L^{fail}.$$

However it has proved constructive to investigate the system of normalised load flows. Under normalisation the initial load of each line j is

$$\ell_j = \frac{L_j - L^{min}}{L^{max} - L^{min}},$$

such that $\ell_j \in [0, 1]$. Also define the normalised power increment and normalised initial disturbance to be

$$p = \frac{P}{L^{max} - L^{min}} \text{ and } d = \frac{D + L^{max} - L^{fail}}{L^{max} - L^{min}},$$

where the quantity $L^{max} - L^{fail}$ present in the numerator of d translates the initial disturbance based on the relationship between L^{max} and L^{fail} . Note that in this setting if at any stage $\ell_j \geq 1$ line j fails. Now that the cascade model has been constructed we wish to observe the distribution of the size S of a cascade event. It is convenient to relate the distribution of number of failures with the normalised parameters by writing

$$P(S = r) = f(r, d, p, n).$$

First consider the distribution of M_0 . In the initial stage the independent probability of failure is d for each line. Therefore the probability that k lines initially fail is given by

$$P(M_0 = k) = \binom{n}{k} d^k (1 - d)^{n-k}.$$

Therefore given k initial failures, in the second stage we have $\ell_j \in [0, 1 - d]$ and from the formulas, $d = \frac{kp}{1-d}$ and $p = \frac{p}{1-d}$. Conditioning on the initial number of failures and using the law of total probability we arrive at the recursive relation

$$\begin{aligned} f(r, d, p, n) &= P(S = r) \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^r P(S = r | M_0 = k) P(M_0 = k) \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^r \binom{n}{k} d^k (1 - d)^{n-k} f(r - k, \frac{kp}{1-d}, \frac{p}{1-d}, n - k). \end{aligned}$$

Notice the sum omits $k = 0$ as if there are no initial events then there is no cascade and is therefore just zero. Performing induction on r demonstrates that the number of component failures has a quasi-binomial distribution. The base case $r = 0$

$$f(0, d, p, n) = (1 - d)^n \quad \forall d, n, p \text{ s.t. } d + np < 1,$$

satisfies the form of the quasi-binomial. Assume that the condition holds for all cascade sizes $m < r$ such that

$$f(m, d, p, n) = \binom{n}{m} d(d + mp)^{m-1} (1 - d - mp)^{n-m} \quad \forall d, n, p \text{ s.t. } d + np < 1.$$

The substitution into the recursive formula can be made

$$\begin{aligned} f(r, d, p, n) &= \sum_{k=1}^r \binom{n}{k} d^k (1 - d)^k \binom{n-k}{r-k} \frac{kp}{1-d} \left(\frac{rp}{1-d} \right)^{r-k-1} \left(1 - \frac{rp}{1-d} \right)^{n-r} \\ &= \binom{n}{r} (1 - d - rp)^{n-r} \sum_{k=1}^r \binom{r}{k} \frac{k}{r} d^k (rp)^{r-k} \\ &= \binom{n}{r} d(d + rp)^{r-k-1} (1 - d - rp)^{n-r}. \end{aligned}$$

This verifies that the distribution of the number of component failures is quasi-binomial. Note that this is under the assumption that D and P are small enough such that the cascade stops before all lines fail. Under this same constraint, assume there exists constants θ and λ such that as $n \rightarrow \infty$ the relations $nd = \theta$ and $np = \lambda$ hold. This distribution can be approximated in the following way,

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} P(S = r) &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n!}{r!(n-r)!} d(d + rp)^{r-k-1} (1 - d - rp)^{n-r} \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n!}{r!(n-r)!} \frac{1}{n^r} \theta(\theta + r\lambda)^{r-1} \left(1 - \frac{d - rp}{n} \right)^{n-r} \\ &= \theta(\theta + r\lambda)^{r-1} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n!}{r!(n-r)!} \frac{1}{n^r} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 - \frac{d - rp}{n} \right)^n \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 - \frac{d - rp}{n} \right)^{-r} \\ &\approx \theta(\theta + r\lambda)^{r-1} \frac{e^{-(\theta + r\lambda)}}{r!}, \quad 0 \leq r \leq n-1, \end{aligned}$$

to be a generalised Poisson distribution. This expression is the distribution of the number of individuals produced in a branching process, where initial generation of individuals is Poisson with parameter θ and the following generations are Poisson with parameter λ . This provides a suitable method to obtain estimates of the parameters θ and λ from forced outage data.

6 Bienstock 2016

6.1 Chapter 4

There is some disagreement in the initial point of cascade. The initial line failure should not trigger a cascade as the system should be N-1 safe, therefore still in a controlled position. However if co susceptible lines also fail then the cumulative outages begin to grow slowly. At some point, the cumulative loss of power lines is so rapid that no control is possible. The initial point of cascade for our purposes is from the initial line failure as this leads to the uncontrollable state.

A common theme in the survey of large-scale blackouts, seemed to be that the initial line failure had a large capacity (such as 345kV). The redistribution of power flows seemed to put stress on other high capacity lines causing sag and heat leading to them also tripping. The Italian blackout was a bit different, in that Italy is a big importer of power. This means that the generation of power within Italy is very limited (similar to SA situation). A loss of an importing line caused a cascade which quickly lead to “synchronism loss” (frequency instability) causing the island to blackout.

Prior modelling techniques have outlined a few features of cascade failure such as line tripping due to overloads is primarily used, focus on slow cascade processes (ideally start slow then fast), DC approximation to power flows and ignore short-term dynamics (such as islanding).

Cascade model 1, aims to capture the idea of upgrading equipment after failure. In the case of lines, this would be increasing their rating (capacity). This models this long term cascade behaviour, but the short term cascade model is based on non-decreasing probability function. In the first instance that a line becomes overloaded

$$P(\text{line } j \text{ becomes outaged}) = h^0(|f_{j,t}|/U_{j,t}^{\max}) = c \quad (10)$$

for all lines j . Then after redistribution overloaded lines outage with probability $h^1 > c$. Another quantity pointed out is average relative line load on a given day t ,

$$\bar{M}_t = \frac{\sum_j M_{jt}}{m} \quad (11)$$

where m indicates the number of lines. It was found that for a given μ the systems seems to tend toward a long term “dynamic equilibrium”. This suggests that for a constant rate of demand growth line upgrades is not sufficient to avert blackouts.

Island dynamics appear to require complex modelling techniques in terms of the physical dynamics of electricity flow and operating decisions. The main factor deciding the fate of the island is the deficit between the demand and generation. Small deficits can be managed by increasing generation up until capacity, whereas larger deficits will result in island wide blackout due to severe overload (protective mechanism). The initial model presented is a linear program to model economical redispatch of the generators with high penalty on load shedding. Alternatively, Pfitzner (2011) recognises that redispatch optimisation problems in islanding is not efficient enough for operating decisions. New outputs for generators in the island are set due to the ratio of demand to generation. In the event that demand is too high causing overload in generators, load is shed by intentionally tripping lines. The aim of which is to reduce the overall size of the cascade. The tripping rule (A1) trips the overloaded line with minimum flow achieved the best results.