

# Comparative Analysis of Linear vs. Nonlinear Multi-Period OPF Models for Active Distribution Systems

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**Abstract—**

**Index Terms—**Battery energy storage systems, distribution system, optimal power flow, distributed energy resources.

## I. INTRODUCTION

## II. PROBLEM FORMULATION

### A. Notations

In this study, the distribution system is modeled as a tree (connected graph) with  $N$  number of buses (indexed with  $i$ ,  $j$ , and  $k$ ); the study is conducted for  $T$  time steps (indexed by  $t$ ), each of interval length  $\Delta t$ . The sets of buses with DERs and batteries are  $D$  and  $B$  respectively, such that  $D, B \subseteq N$ . A directed edge from bus  $i$  to  $j$  in the tree is represented by  $ij$  and the set for edges is given by  $\mathcal{L}$ . Line resistance and reactance are  $r_{ij}$  and  $x_{ij}$ , respectively. Magnitude of the current flowing through the line at time  $t$  is denoted by  $I_{ij}^t$  and  $l_{ij}^t = (I_{ij}^t)^2$ . The voltage magnitude of bus  $j$  at time  $t$  is given by  $V_j^t$  and  $v_j^t = (V_j^t)^2$ . Apparent power demand at a node  $j$  at time  $t$  is  $s_{L_j}^t = (p_{L_j}^t + jq_{L_j}^t)$ . The active power generation from the DER present at bus  $j$  at time  $t$  is denoted by  $p_{D_j}^t$  and controlled reactive power dispatch from the DER inverter is  $q_{D_j}^t$ . DER inverter capacity is  $S_{D_{R_j}}$ . The apparent power flow through line  $ij$  at time  $t$  is  $S_{ij}^t = (P_{ij}^t + jQ_{ij}^t)$ . The real power flowing from the substation into the network is denoted by  $P_{Subs}^t$  and the associated cost involved per kWh is  $C^t$ . The battery energy level is  $B_j^t$ . Charging and discharging active power from battery inverter (of apparent power capacity  $S_{B_{R_j}}$ ) are denoted by  $P_{c_j}^t$  and  $P_{d_j}^t$ , respectively and their associated efficiencies are  $\eta_c$  and  $\eta_d$ , respectively. The energy capacity of the batteries is denoted by  $B_{R_j}$ , and the rated battery power is  $P_{B_{R_j}}$ .  $soc_{min}$  and  $soc_{max}$  are fractional values for denoting safe soc limits of a battery about its rated state-of-charge (soc) capacity. The reactive power support of the battery inverter is indicated by  $q_{B_j}^t$ .

### B. MPCOPF with Batteries

The OPF problem aims to minimize two objectives as shown in (1). The first term in (1) aims to minimize the total energy cost for the entire horizon. Including the ‘Battery Loss’ cost as the second term ( $\alpha > 0$ ) helps eliminate the need for binary (integer) variables typically used to prevent

simultaneous charging and discharging. The resulting OPF problem is a non-convex optimization problem [1].

$$\min \sum_{t=1}^T \{f_0^t + f_{SCD}^t\} \quad (1)$$

where

$$f_0^t = C^t P_{Subs}^t \Delta t$$

$$f_{SCD}^t = \alpha \sum_{j \in B} \left\{ (1 - \eta_c) P_{c_j}^t + \left( \frac{1}{\eta_d} - 1 \right) P_{d_j}^t \right\}$$

Subject to the constraints (2) to (12) as given below:

$$\sum_{(j,k) \in \mathcal{L}} \{P_{jk}^t\} - (P_{ij}^t - r_{ij} l_{ij}^t) = (P_{d_j}^t - P_{c_j}^t) + p_{D_j}^t - p_{L_j}^t \quad (2)$$

$$\sum_{(j,k) \in \mathcal{L}} \{Q_{jk}^t\} - (Q_{ij}^t - x_{ij} l_{ij}^t) = q_{D_j}^t + q_{B_j}^t - q_{L_j}^t \quad (3)$$

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

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

$$P_{Subs}^t \geq 0 \quad (6)$$

$$v_j^t \in [V_{min}^2, V_{max}^2] \quad (7)$$

$$q_{D_j}^t \in \left[ -\sqrt{S_{D_{R,j}}^2 - p_{D_j}^t{}^2}, \sqrt{S_{D_{R,j}}^2 - p_{D_j}^t{}^2} \right] \quad (8)$$

$$B_j^t = B_j^{t-1} + \Delta t \eta_c P_{c_j}^t - \Delta t \frac{1}{\eta_d} P_{d_j}^t \quad (9)$$

$$P_{c_j}^t, P_{d_j}^t \in [0, P_{B_{R_j}}], \quad B_j^0 = B_j^T \quad (10)$$

$$q_{B_j}^t \in [-\sqrt{0.44} P_{B_{R,j}}, \sqrt{0.44} P_{B_{R,j}}] \quad (11)$$

$$B_j^t \in [soc_{min} B_{R,j}, soc_{max} B_{R,j}] \quad (12)$$

A branch power flow model, given by (2) to (5), is used to represent power flow in distribution system. Constraints (2) and (3) model the active and reactive power balance at node  $j$ , respectively.

The KVL equation for branch  $(ij)$  is represented by (4), while the equation describing the relationship between current magnitude, voltage magnitude and apparent power magnitude

TABLE I: Parameter values

Parameter	Value
$V_{min}, V_{max}$	0.95 pu, 1.05 pu
$p_{DR_j}$	$0.33p_{LR_j}$
$S_{DR_j}$	$1.2p_{DR_j}$
$P_{BR_j}$	$0.33p_{LR_j}$
$S_{BR_j}$	$1.2P_{BR_j}$
$B_{R_j}$	$T_{fullCharge} \times P_{BR_j}$
$T_{fullCharge}$	4 h
$\Delta t$	1 h
$\eta_c, \eta_d$	0.95, 0.95
$soc_{min}, soc_{max}$	0.30, 0.95
$\alpha$	0.001

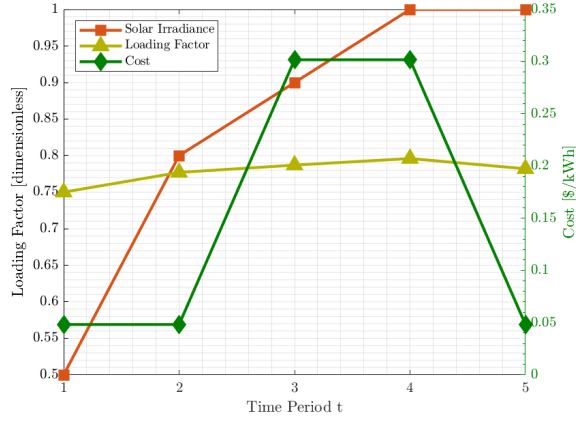


Fig. 1: Forecasts for demand power, irradiance and cost of substation power over a 5 hour horizon

for branch  $(ij)$  is given by (5). Backflow of real power into the substation from the distribution system is avoided using the constraint (6). The allowable limits for bus voltages are modeled via (7). (8) describes the reactive power limits of DER inverters. The trajectory of the battery energy versus time is given by (9) (this is a time-coupled constraint). Battery charging and discharging powers are limited by the battery's rated power capacity, as given by (10). (10) also says that the initial and final energy levels for battery must be the same at the end of the optimization time horizon. Every battery's reactive power is also constrained by the corresponding inverter's rated capacity, modeled in (11). For the safe and sustainable operation of the batteries, the energy  $B_j^t$  is constrained to be within some percentage limits of the rated battery SOC capacity, modeled using (12)

### III. CASE STUDY DEMONSTRATION

TABLE III: ACOF feasibility analyses - 5 hour

Metric	MPDOPF	OpenDSS
Full horizon		
Substation real power (kW)	4308.14	4308.35
Line loss (kW)	76.12	76.09
Substation reactive power (kVAR)	656.24	652.49
Max. all-time discrepancy		
Voltage (pu)	0.0002	
Line loss (kW)	0.0139	
Substation power (kW)	0.3431	

TABLE II: Comparative analyses between BFM-NL and LinDistFlow - 5 time-period horizon

Metric	BFM-NL	LinDistFlow
Largest subproblem		
Decision variables	3150	1320
Linear constraints	5831	2451
Nonlinear constraints	635	265
Simulation results		
Substation power cost (\$)	576.31	576.30
Substation real power (kW)	4308.28	4308.14
Line loss (kW)	75.99	76.12
Substation reactive power (kVAR)	574.18	656.24
PV reactive power (kVAR)	116.92	160.64
Battery reactive power (kVAR)	202.73	76.01
Computation		
Number of Iterations	-	5
Total Simulation Time (s)	521.25	49.87

TABLE V: ACOF feasibility analyses - 10 hour

Metric	MPDOPF	OpenDSS
Full horizon		
Substation real power (kW)	8544.04	8544.40
Line loss (kW)	148.94	148.87
Substation reactive power (kVAR)	1252.03	1243.36
Max. all-time discrepancy		
Voltage (pu)		0.0002
Line loss (kW)		0.0132
Substation power (kW)		0.4002

TABLE IV: Comparison between Nonlinear BFM and LinDistFlow - 10 hour

Metric	Nonlinear BFM	LinDistFlow
Largest subproblem		
Decision variables	6300	2640
Linear constraints	11636	4891
Nonlinear constraints	1270	530
Simulation results		
Substation power cost (\$)	1197.87	1197.87
Substation real power (kW)	8544.28	8544.04
Line loss (kW)	148.67	148.94
Substation reactive power (kVAR)	1092.39	1252.03
PV reactive power (kVAR)	222.59	139.81
Battery reactive power (kVAR)	388.52	310.94
Computation		
Number of Iterations	-	5
Total Simulation Time (s)	4620.73	358.69

## IV. CONCLUSIONS

### V. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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