

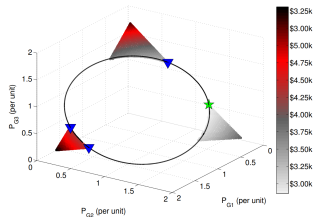
A Fixed-Point Algorithm for the AC Power Flow Problem

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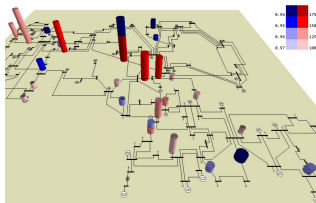
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Background



Optimal power flow [1]



Contingency analysis [2]



Power system expansion [3]



Renewable generation integration [4]

Background

The AC power flow problem

Given a balanced three-phase transmission system at steady-state, compute the bus voltage phasors such that total power generation = total load demand + losses.

- Formulated by a set of nonlinear equations known as the **power flow equations**

Standard algorithm: Newton-Raphson

- Advantages: simple to implement, fast (quadratic convergence rate)
- Disadvantages: extremely sensitive to initial condition choice, limited theoretical guarantee of convergence

Alternative: fixed-point algorithms

Motivation

Origin of the proposed algorithm: the lossless fixed-point power flow (FPPF) and lossy DC power flow (L-DCPF) [5]–[7]:

- reformulate the power flow equations from the standard $g(\xi) = 0$ form into an equivalent fixed-point form $\xi = f(\xi)$
- start from a ξ_0 , iteratively compute $\xi_{k+1} = f(\xi_k)$ until $\|\xi_{k+1} - \xi_k\| \leq \epsilon$
- One example of many other fixed-point based solvability studies/algorithms

Properties of FPPF and L-DCPF:

- highly robust with theoretical guarantees for select system topologies
- restricted to the following simplified contexts
 - ▶ FPPF: lossless power flow
 - ▶ L-DCPF: decoupled active power flow
- Neither accounts for the existence of nonzero transformer phase-shifts or the distributed slack bus model

Objectives

Practically...

Derive a fixed-point algorithm for the full AC power flow problem, i.e., with **loss**, **coupling** and other transmission system parameters

- fewer simplifying assumptions
- more useful algorithm

Theoretically...

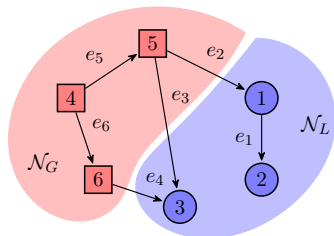
The fixed-point algorithm should allow us to derive sufficient conditions for the existence and uniqueness of the desired power flow solution

- Starting point: 2-bus system (✓)
- Next: radial systems (✗)
- Finally: meshed systems (✗)

Graph modelling of an AC transmission system

Weakly connected bidirected graph

- each node models a bus
 - ▶ $\mathcal{N} = \mathcal{N}_L \cup \mathcal{N}_G$: the set of buses
 - ▶ $|\mathcal{N}_L| = n$ and $|\mathcal{N}_G| = m$
- each edge models a branch
 - ▶ Π -model + transformer
 - ▶ $\mathcal{E} = \mathcal{E}^{\ell\ell} \cup \mathcal{E}^{g\ell} \cup \mathcal{E}^{gg}$: the set of edges
- weak connectivity \implies number of cycles $n_c = |\mathcal{E}| - (n + m - 1)$
- possibly different forward and backward edge weights w^+, w^-

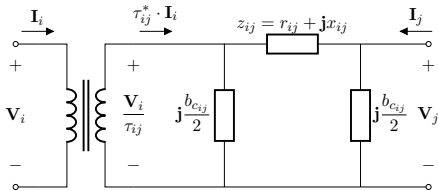


Three important graph matrices

- incidence matrix
 $A \in \{-1, 0, 1\}^{(n+m) \times |\mathcal{E}|}$
- cycle matrix $C \in \{-1, 0, 1\}^{|\mathcal{E}| \times n_c}$
- asymmetrically weighted incidence matrix $\Gamma \in \mathbb{R}^{(n+m) \times |\mathcal{E}|}$
- important property: $AC = 0$

Branch Modelling

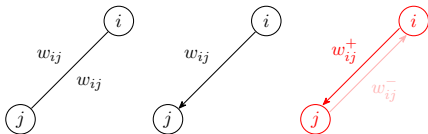
Branch model



(phase-shifting) transformer + Π -model

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{I}_i \\ \mathbf{I}_j \end{bmatrix} = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \frac{y_{ij} + \mathbf{j} \frac{b_{c_{ij}}}{2}}{t_{ij}^2} & -\frac{y_{ij}}{\tau_{ij}^*} \\ -\frac{y_{ij}}{\tau_{ij}} & y_{ij} + \mathbf{j} \frac{b_{c_{ij}}}{2} \end{bmatrix}}_{=: \mathbf{Y}_{ij}} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{V}_i \\ \mathbf{V}_j \end{bmatrix}$$

Bidirected edge model



Why asymmetrical edge weights

For the general system with $n + m$ buses...

- We get the G_{ij}, B_{ij} from the off-diagonal entries of $\mathbf{Y} = \mathbf{G} + \mathbf{jB}$
- Nonzero phase-shift $\implies \tau_{ij} \neq \tau_{ij}^* \implies G_{ij} \neq G_{ji}$ and $B_{ij} \neq B_{ji}$
- Asymmetry \implies need the Γ matrix

The AC Power Flow Problem

The Power Flow Equations w./ Distributed Slack Bus

$$\begin{aligned}\bar{P}_i + \alpha_i P_{\text{slack}} &= \sum_{j=1}^{n+m} \boxed{V_i V_j G_{ij}} \boxed{\cos(\theta_i - \theta_j)} + \boxed{V_i V_j B_{ij}} \boxed{\sin(\theta_i - \theta_j)} & i \in \mathcal{N} \\ Q_i &= \sum_{j=1}^{n+m} \boxed{V_i V_j G_{ij}} \boxed{\sin(\theta_i - \theta_j)} - \boxed{V_i V_j B_{ij}} \boxed{\cos(\theta_i - \theta_j)} & i \in \mathcal{N}_L\end{aligned}$$

Known Variables

- Power injection: $\bar{P}_i \ \forall i \in \mathcal{N}$ and $Q_i \ \forall i \in \mathcal{N}_L$
- Participation factor: $\alpha_i \ \forall i \in \mathcal{N}$
- Gen. voltage mag.: $V_i \ \forall i \in \mathcal{N}_G$
- Admittance: $G_{ij} + \mathbf{j}B_{ij} \ \forall (i, j) \in \mathcal{E}$

Unknown Variables

- Bus voltage phase: $\theta_i \ \forall i \in \mathcal{N}$
- Load voltage mag.: $V_i \ \forall i \in \mathcal{N}_L$
- Gen. reactive power injection: $Q_i \ \forall i \in \mathcal{N}_G$
- Total network loss: $P_{\text{slack}} \geq 0$

Vectorizing the Power Flow Equations I: Voltage Products

Partitioned variables

$$V = \begin{bmatrix} V_L \\ V_G \end{bmatrix}$$

$$B = \text{Im}\{Y\} = \begin{bmatrix} B_{LL} & B_{LG} \\ B_{GL} & B_{GG} \end{bmatrix}$$

Open-circuit voltage magnitude

$$V_L^\circ = -B_{LL}^{-1} B_{LG} V_G, \quad V^\circ = \begin{bmatrix} V_L^\circ \\ V_G \end{bmatrix}$$

Normalized voltage magnitudes

$$v = [V_L^\circ]^{-1} V_L, \quad g(v) = \begin{bmatrix} v \\ \mathbb{1}_m \end{bmatrix}$$

Handling voltage products $V_i V_j$ using the incidence matrix A

Let $A = A^+ - A^-$. For all forward edge $(i, j) \in \mathcal{E}$,

$$h_{(i,j)}(v) := \begin{cases} v_i v_j & \text{if } (i,j) \in \mathcal{E}^{\ell\ell} \\ v_j & \text{if } (i,j) \in \mathcal{E}^{g\ell} \\ 1 & \text{if } (i,j) \in \mathcal{E}^{gg} \end{cases} \implies h(v) := \left[(A^+)^T g(v) \right] (A^-)^T g(v)$$

Vectorizing the Power Flow Equations II: Admittance

- Nonzero transformer phase-shift $\implies G_{ij} \neq G_{ji}, B_{ij} \neq B_{ji}$
- Need to incorporate both G_{ij}, G_{ji} and B_{ij}, B_{ji} depending on whether (i, j) or (j, i) is the forward edge

Branch stiffness matrices

$$D_G^+ = [V_i^\circ V_j^\circ G_{ij}]_{(i,j) \in \mathcal{E}}$$

$$D_G^- = [V_i^\circ V_j^\circ G_{ji}]_{(i,j) \in \mathcal{E}}$$

$$D_B^+ = [V_i^\circ V_j^\circ B_{ij}]_{(i,j) \in \mathcal{E}}$$

$$D_B^- = [V_i^\circ V_j^\circ B_{ji}]_{(i,j) \in \mathcal{E}}$$

Handling $V_i V_j G_{ij}, V_i V_j B_{ij}$ products

$$[V_i V_j G_{ij}]_{(i,j) \in \mathcal{E}} = D_G^+[h(v)]$$

$$[V_i V_j B_{ij}]_{(i,j) \in \mathcal{E}} = D_B^+[h(v)]$$

$$[V_i V_j G_{ji}]_{(i,j) \in \mathcal{E}} = D_G^-[h(v)]$$

$$[V_i V_j B_{ji}]_{(i,j) \in \mathcal{E}} = D_B^-[h(v)]$$

Branch quantity to bus quantity

$$\Gamma_B := A^+ D_B^+ - A^- D_B^-$$

$$|\Gamma_B| := A^+ D_B^+ + A^- D_B^-$$

$$\Gamma_G := A^+ D_G^+ - A^- D_G^-$$

$$|\Gamma_G| := A^+ D_G^+ + A^- D_G^-$$

Vectorizing the Power Flow Equations III

Handling the sinusoidal terms

- Branch-wise phase difference $\theta_i - \theta_j \implies$ vectorized by $A^T \theta$
- $\cos(\theta_i - \theta_j) \implies \mathbf{cos}(A^T \theta)$, $\sin(\theta_i - \theta_j) \implies \mathbf{sin}(A^T \theta)$ (!)

Handling the loss P_{slack}

- Known participation factors $\alpha_i \geq 0$, $\forall i \in \mathcal{N}$

$$\alpha := \begin{bmatrix} \mathbb{0} \\ \alpha_G \end{bmatrix} \implies \exists R \in \mathbb{R}^{(n+m) \times (n+m-1)} \text{ s.t. } \begin{cases} \text{rank}(R) = n + m - 1 \\ R^T \alpha = \mathbb{0} \end{cases}$$

Vectorized Power Flow Equations

$$R^T \bar{P} = R^T [V^\circ][g(v)][G_{ii}][V^\circ]g(v) \\ + R^T |\Gamma_G| [h(v)] \mathbf{cos}(A^T \theta) + \underbrace{M_B}_{M_B := R^T \Gamma_B} [h(v)] \mathbf{sin}(A^T \theta)$$

$$Q_L = -[V_L^\circ][v][B_{ii}]_L [V_L^\circ]v + \Gamma_{G_L} [h(v)] \mathbf{sin}(A^T \theta) - |\Gamma_{B_L}| [h(v)] \mathbf{cos}(A^T \theta)$$

Fixed-Point Reformulation I: Active Power Flow Eq's

Change of variables

- $\psi := \sin(A^T \theta) \implies \cos(A^T \theta) = \sqrt{1 - [\psi]\psi} =: \eta$
- Must have $\|\psi\|_\infty \leq 1$

Vectorized active power flow equation

$$R^T \bar{P} = R^T ([V^\circ][g(v)][G_{ii}][V^\circ]g(v) + |\Gamma_G|[h(v)]\eta) + M_B[h(v)]\psi$$

Lemma 4.1

If all off-diagonal entries of B are strictly positive (Asm. 2.2), then M_B has a right inverse M_B^\dagger such that $M_B M_B^\dagger = I$.

Fixed-point active power flow equation

$$\psi = \underbrace{[h(v)]^{-1} M_B^\dagger R^T (\bar{P} - [V^\circ][g(v)][G_{ii}][V^\circ]g(v) - |\Gamma_G|[h(v)]\eta)}_{\text{particular soln.}} + \underbrace{[h(v)]^{-1} K x_c}_{\text{hom. soln.}}$$

- ψ is a function of v, η and x_c

Fixed-Point Reformulation II: Loop Flow Constraint

To recover θ from ψ :

$$\psi = \mathbf{sin}(A^T \theta) = \mathbf{sin}(A^T \theta + 2\pi k), \quad k \in \mathbb{Z}$$

Key property of the cycle matrix C :

$$AC = \mathbb{0} \implies C^T A^T \theta = C^T \mathbf{arcsin}(\psi) = \mathbb{0}$$

Consequence: loop flow constraint

$$C^T \mathbf{arcsin}(\psi) \bmod 2\pi = \mathbb{0}$$

The cycle slack variable x_c in ψ must satisfy this constraint!

Solving for x_c

- Constraint already in root-finding form
- Newton-Raphson: $x_c^{k+1} = x_c^k - (J_c^k)^{-1} C^T \mathbf{arcsin}(\psi)$

Fixed-Point Reformulation III: Reactive Power Flow Eq's

Vectorized reactive power flow equation

$$Q_L = -[V_L^\circ][v][B_{ii}]_L[V_L^\circ]v + \Gamma_{G_L}[h(v)]\psi \\ - |\Gamma_{B_L}|[h(v)]\eta$$

- $\eta := \sqrt{\mathbb{1} - [\psi]\psi}$

Nodal Stiffness Matrix

$$S := \frac{1}{4}[V_L^\circ]B_{LL}[V_L^\circ]$$

- (Asm. 2.1) B_{LL} invertible
- S invertible

Consequence of Lemma 4.2

$$-[V_L^\circ][v][B_{ii}]_L[V_L^\circ]v - |\Gamma_{B_L}|[h(v)]\mathbb{1}_{|\mathcal{E}|} = 4[v]S(\mathbb{1}_n - v)$$

Fixed-point reactive power flow equation

$$v = \mathbb{1}_n - \frac{1}{4}S^{-1}[v]^{-1} (Q_L - \Gamma_{G_L}[h(v)]\psi - |\Gamma_{B_L}|[h(v)](\mathbb{1}_{|\mathcal{E}|} - \eta))$$

Fixed-Point Reformulation IV: Main Result

Theorem 4.1

If Assumptions 2.1–2.2 hold, then the following statements are equivalent:

- (V_L, θ) solves the vectorized power flow equations

$$\begin{aligned} R^T \bar{P} &= R^T [V^\circ] [g(v)] [G_{ii}] [V^\circ] g(v) \\ &\quad + R^T |\Gamma_G| [h(v)] \cos(A^T \theta) + M_B [h(v)] \sin(A^T \theta) \\ Q_L &= -[V_L^\circ] [v] [B_{ii}]_L [V_L^\circ] v + \Gamma_{G_L} [h(v)] \sin(A^T \theta) - |\Gamma_{B_L}| [h(v)] \cos(A^T \theta) \end{aligned}$$

- (v, ψ, x_c) satisfy → Fixed-point eq's for (v, ψ)

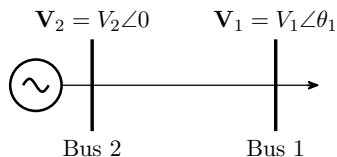
$$\begin{aligned} v &= \mathbb{1}_n - \frac{1}{4} S^{-1} [v]^{-1} (Q_L - \Gamma_{G_L} [h(v)] \psi - |\Gamma_{B_L}| [h(v)] (\mathbb{1}_{|\mathcal{E}|} - \eta)) \\ \psi &= [h(v)]^{-1} M_B^\dagger R^T (\bar{P} - [V^\circ] [g(v)] [G_{ii}] [V^\circ] g(v) - |\Gamma_G| [h(v)] \eta) \\ &\quad + [h(v)]^{-1} K_{x_c} \end{aligned}$$

$$\mathbb{0}_{n_c} = C^T \arcsin(\psi) \bmod 2\pi$$

→ Loop-flow constraint for x_c

where $\eta := \sqrt{\mathbb{1} - [\psi] \psi}$.

Two-Bus Power Flow I: Preliminaries



One-line diagram of the two-bus system; transformer tap ratio $\tau = t \exp(\mathbf{j}\theta_s)$ and transmission line parameters g, b, b_c not shown

Two-bus system constants

- $\bar{t} := t - 1$
- $\tilde{g} := \frac{g \cos \theta_s - b \sin \theta_s}{\bar{t} + 1}$
- $\tilde{b} := \frac{b \cos \theta_s + g \sin \theta_s}{\bar{t} + 1}$
- $\hat{b} := b - \frac{b_c}{2}$
- $\rho := g/\hat{b}$
- $\tilde{\rho} := \tilde{g}/\tilde{b}$
- $\tilde{\gamma}_P := \frac{\bar{P}_1}{\tilde{b} V_1^\circ V_2^\circ}$
- $\tilde{\gamma}_Q := \frac{Q_1}{\tilde{b} V_1^\circ V_2^\circ}$

FPPF algorithm update rule

$$\xi_{k+1} = F_\mu(\xi_k) = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{-\tilde{\gamma}_P}{x_k + 1} + \rho(x_k + 1) - \tilde{\rho}\sqrt{1 - \psi_k^2} \\ \frac{\tilde{\gamma}_Q}{x_k + 1} - \tilde{\rho}\psi_{k+1} + \sqrt{1 - \psi_{k+1}^2} - 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \psi_{k+1} \\ x_{k+1} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \psi_{k+1} \\ v_{k+1} - 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Perturbation vector $\mu = [g \quad b_c \quad \bar{t} \quad \theta_s]^\top$

Two-Bus Power Flow II: The Nominal Case ($\mu = 0$)

Loading margin and constants

- $\tilde{\gamma}_P, \tilde{\gamma}_Q \implies \gamma_P, \gamma_Q$
- Asm. 5.2: $0 < \gamma_P^2 - \gamma_Q < \frac{1}{4}$
- $k_2^- := 1 - \sqrt{\frac{1}{2} + \gamma_Q + \sqrt{\frac{1}{4} + \gamma_Q - \gamma_P^2}}$
- $k_1^- := -\frac{\gamma_P}{1 - k_2^-}$

FPPF update rule

- $\mu = 0: F_\mu \implies F_0$

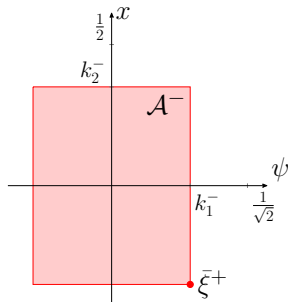
$$\xi_{k+1} := \underbrace{\left[\begin{array}{c} -\frac{\gamma_P}{x_k + 1} \\ \frac{\gamma_Q}{x_k + 1} + \sqrt{1 - \psi_{k+1}^2 - 1} \end{array} \right]}_{F_0(\xi_k)}$$

Nominal system results

(Theorems 5.1-5.2, Corollary 5.1)

If Asm. 5.2 holds, then

- $\mathcal{A}^- := \{\xi : |\psi| \leq k_1^-, |x| \leq k_2^-\}$ is F_0 -invariant
- F_0 is a contraction on \mathcal{A}^-
- High-voltage soln.: $\bar{\xi}^+ = [k_1^- \quad -k_2^-]^\top \in \mathcal{A}^-$



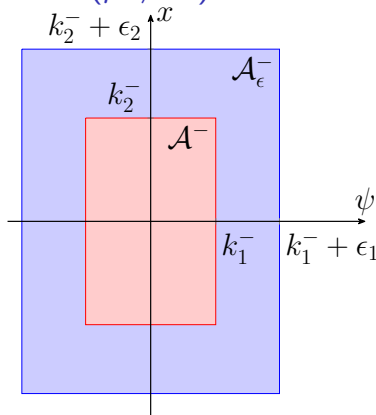
Two-Bus Power Flow III: The Full Case ($\mu \neq 0$)

The F_μ -invariant set \mathcal{A}_ϵ^-

- Constructed using \mathcal{A}^- with additional constants $\epsilon = (\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2) > 0$

$$\mathcal{A}_\epsilon^- := \{\xi : |\psi| \leq k_1^- + \epsilon_1, |x| \leq k_2^- + \epsilon_2\}$$

- Propositions 5.1-5.2: if μ is sufficiently small, then there exists $\epsilon > 0$ such that \mathcal{A}_ϵ^- is F_μ -invariant



Full system results

For sufficiently small μ , F_0 is a contraction on \mathcal{A}_ϵ^- , so

- the unique high-voltage soln. is in \mathcal{A}_ϵ^-
- FPPF always converges to this soln. from any $\xi_0 \in \mathcal{A}_\epsilon^-$

Numerical Results I: Convergence

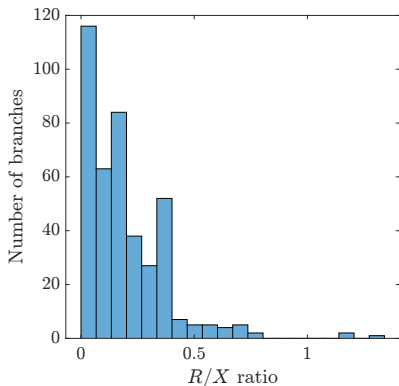
Numerical Results I: Convergence

Number of iterations required for convergence

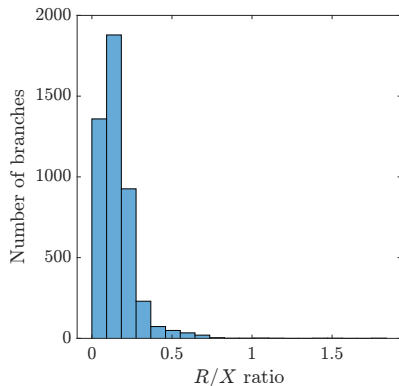
Test case	Base loading			High loading		
	NR	FDLF	FPPF	NR	FDLF	FPPF
9 bus system	4	6	8	5	29	22
30 bus system	3	11	18	6	28	22
PEGASE 89	4	9	10	6	26	23
118 bus system	4	11	11	6	33	25
300 bus system	5	15	33	6	33	33
PEGASE 1354	5	11	42	5	25	42
RTE 1888	/	61	33	/	76	33
RTE 1951	/	55	32	/	58	32
RTE 2868	/	49	43	/	46	44
PEGASE 2869	5	11	42	6	29	42
PEGASE 9241	6	17	46	6	23	47

Numerical Results II: Effect of R/X Ratio

System data: distribution of branch R/X ratios



300 bus system

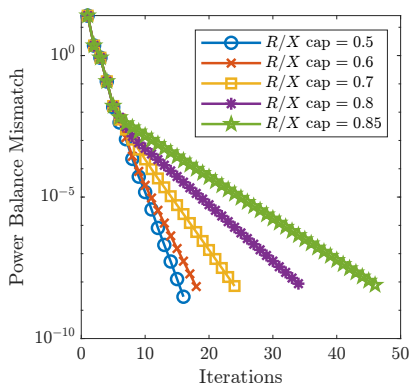


PEGASE 2869 bus system

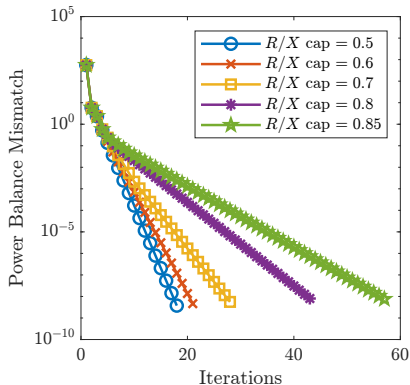
Number of branches with high R/X ratio

- 300 bus system: 3 out of 411 total branches
- PEGASE 2869 system: 5 out of 4582 total branches

Numerical Results II: Effect of R/X Ratio



300 bus system; mismatch

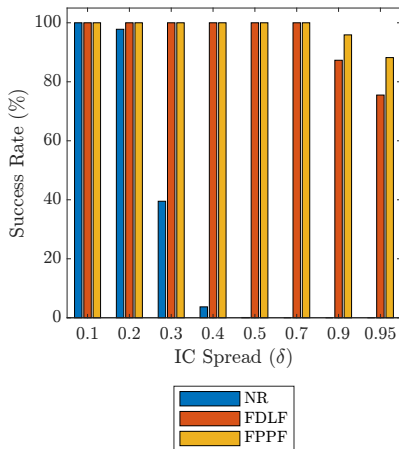


PEGASE 2869 bus system; mismatch

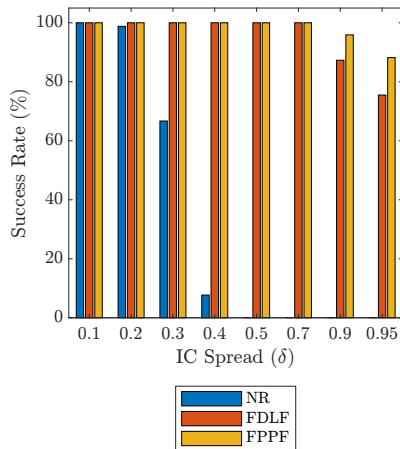
- Iterations required to converge \uparrow as R/X ratio cap \uparrow
- Algorithm fails when the cap is too high (1.00 for 300 bus system and 1.01 for 2869 bus system)

Numerical Results III: Sensitivity to Initialization

- **Goal:** test algorithm success rate (%) under random initial load bus voltage magnitudes, generated uniformly from $[1 - \delta, 1 + \delta]$
- Higher success rate as δ increases \implies more robust



30 bus system, high loading



118 bus system, high loading

Conclusions

A new fixed-point algorithm for the AC power flow problem

- Extends the lossless FPPF & L-DCPF algorithms in the literature
- Allows phase-shifting transformers & distributed slack bus setup in the system
- More robust against initial voltage magnitude variations than NR, FDLF

A framework to study the solvability of the full power flow equations

- Bidirected graph model accomodates realistic transmission line and transformer parameters
- Sufficient conditions for two-bus power flow solvability, using the language of invariance sets and contraction mapping

Future Work

Practically

- Optimize the implementation of the algorithm
- Further investigate the effect of high branch R/X ratio on the algorithm convergence/divergence
- Investigate the causes of the $\|\psi\|_{\infty} \leq 1$ constraint violation

Theoretically

- Potentially revise the fixed-point reformulation to explicitly include R/X information
- Generalize the two-bus power flow solvability conditions to N -bus systems
- Produce tighter and/or constructive sufficient solvability conditions for the two-bus power flow problem

The End

Thank you!

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