**Anomaly Detection and Resilience Engineering Integration for Improved Rural Minigrid Operation**

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# **INTRODUCTION**

## 1.1 Problem Contextualization

More than 1.4 billion people worldwide do not have access to electricity. Roughly 85% of these people live in rural areas and a large proportion live in Africa [1]. To date many utilities and governments have been unable to meet the energy needs of rural areas, as the focus has often been on meeting the demand of major industries or highly-populated urban areas. [2]

In the contemporary landscape of energy systems, minigrids have emerged as pivotal infrastructures, particularly in remote or off-grid areas, offering a decentralized and sustainable solution to electricity provision. However, ensuring the reliable operation of minigrids amidst diverse challenges poses a significant concern. Anomalies, ranging from equipment malfunctions to extreme weather events, can disrupt normal operations, leading to service interruptions and potential safety hazards. Addressing these challenges necessitates not only robust anomaly detection mechanisms but also a holistic approach that integrates principles of resilience engineering.

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Fig.1: Share of the population with access to electricity (2020).

Data compiled from multiple sources by World Bank

## 1.2 Scope and Objectives of the Thesis

The primary objective of this work is to develop a comprehensive understanding of how resilience engineering concepts can inform and improve anomaly detection strategies by leveraging insights from resilience engineering literature and methodologies, this study aims to enhance the robustness and adaptability of anomaly detection algorithms, thereby bolstering the overall resilience of minigrid operations.

Through the analysis of an Open-Source dataset concerning a photovoltaic production plant, an EDA Exploratory Data Analysis and the implementation of an Anomaly Detection algorithm will be carried out in order to highlight critical points in the system.

The aim of this thesis work is to structure a multidisciplinary and multiobjective approach in which the resilience engineering framework is applied to a photovoltaic energy production system. By fostering a deeper understanding of the interplay between resilience engineering and minigrid operations, this research endeavors to inform future strategies for enhancing the reliability and sustainability of decentralized energy systems.

## 1.3 Relevance of Resilience Engineering in Minigrids

Resilience engineering, a paradigm rooted in the fields of safety and systems engineering, emphasizes the ability of systems to adapt and recover from disruptions while maintaining essential functions. By shifting the focus from preventing failures to managing and mitigating their consequences, resilience engineering offers a promising framework for enhancing the performance and reliability of complex systems like minigrids. This thesis seeks to explore the application of resilience engineering principles to the domain of anomaly detection within minigrids.

## 1.4 Thesis Structure

This thesis will commence with a review of the existing literature on resilience engineering, anomaly detection techniques, and their application in energy systems, with a specific focus on minigrids. Subsequently, it will propose a conceptual framework that integrates resilience principles into the design and implementation of anomaly detection systems tailored to minigrid environments.

## **11. Bibliography**

[1] International Energy Agency (IEA). (2010) Energy Access: How to make mod-ern energy access universal.

[2] *Increasing Rural Energy Access through Mini-Grids,* (2014) Knowledge Note of CIF Climate Investment Fund