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Article

Minimization of Load Variance in Power Grids—Investigation on Optimal Vehicle-to-Grid Scheduling

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Received: 16 September 2017; Accepted: 3 November 2017; Published: 16 November 2017

Abstract: The introduction of electric vehicles into the transportation sector helps reduce global warming and carbon emissions. The interaction between electric vehicles and the power grid has spurred the emergence of a smart grid technology, denoted as vehicle-to-grid-technology. Vehicle-to-grid technology manages the energy exchange between a large fleet of electric vehicles and the power grid to accomplish shared advantages for the vehicle owners and the power utility. This paper presents an optimal scheduling of vehicle-to-grid using the genetic algorithm to minimize the power grid load variance. This is achieved by allowing electric vehicles charging (grid-to-vehicle) whenever the actual power grid loading is lower than the target loading, while conducting electric vehicle discharging (vehicle-to-grid) whenever the actual power grid loading is higher than the target loading. The vehicle-to-grid optimization algorithm is implemented and tested in MATLAB software (R2013a, MathWorks, Natick, MA, USA). The performance of the optimization algorithm depends heavily on the setting of the target load, power grid load and capability of the grid-connected electric vehicles. Hence, the performance of the proposed algorithm under various target load and electric vehicles' state of charge selections were analysed. The effectiveness of the vehicle-to-grid scheduling to implement the appropriate peak load shaving and load levelling services for the grid load variance minimization is verified under various simulation investigations. This research proposal also recommends an appropriate setting for the power utility in terms of the selection of the target load based on the electric vehicle historical data.

Keywords: electric vehicles; energy management; load variance; optimal scheduling; optimization; vehicle-to-grid

1. Introduction

Electric vehicles (EVs) have gained popularity due to their emission free and fuel independence characteristics. Governments across the nations have established several schemes and organizations to facilitate the electrification process of roadway vehicles in terms of the technology, market, policy and finance. The efforts from numerous parties have successfully stimulated the deployment of the EV market. The recent Global EV Outlook report showed improved signs of EV adoption. In the near

future, the global EV stock is predicted to reach more than one hundred million by the year 2050 [1–5]. As a result, the anticipated large scale of EV charging will bring technical challenges to the power grid. Extensive studies on the harmful impacts of large scale EV charging on the power grid had been performed. The potential impacts include the overloading of power equipment, harmonics, voltage drop, voltage instability and power losses [6–16]. A review in [17] concluded that the main impact of EV integration into the power grid was the overloading issue, which further led to equipment overheating and rapid aging issues. Meanwhile, the grid power quality was assessed under various EV penetration and charging level scenarios in [18,19]. The results revealed that a large number of fast charging EVs would introduce serious voltage deviations and voltage instability problems.

EVs utilize relatively large capacity batteries as their energy source for the vehicle propulsion. Hence, the large scale of the grid-connected EVs can be considered as an enormous distributed energy storage in the power grid. Moreover, the potential of EVs to share energy with the power grid has created a new opportunity to improve the system reliability and sustainability. This concept, known as Vehicle-to-Grid (V2G) technology, was firstly introduced by Kempton and his research team in [20–24]. The authors proposed the adoption of V2G technology to improve the reliability of the power grid, as well as to facilitate the large scale integration of renewable energy [20]. The economic potential of EVs in providing energy support to the power grid was also studied by Kempton in [25]. The findings assured a significant revenue stream to the EV fleet for providing the V2G support. For a more accurate revenue estimation, the authors had developed a calculation model in [26] to evaluate the cost and profit in providing V2G support, mainly in the form of peak load shaving, spinning reserves and energy regulation services. Kempton and his research team also paid attention to the willingness of people to pay for EVs and their attributes in [27]. The research results suggested that EV cost needs to be reduced significantly in order to have higher EV adoption in the marketplace. Additionally, V2G management strategies and implementation steps were proposed in [28] to assist the transition of V2G technology.

The potential of the V2G concept has urged other research and development in the supporting technology for V2G application. The literature has presented many potential benefits for the power grid by adopting V2G technology. These benefits include peak load shaving, load levelling, grid voltage regulation, improvement in energy efficiency and mitigation of renewable energy intermittency [29–32]. For instance, a Vehicle-to-Home (V2H) concept was presented in [33], where EVs collaborated with the renewable energy in a smart home system to minimize the pollution, fossil fuel depletion and investment cost. In addition, a study in [34] utilized EVs to support the autonomous operation mode of microgrids. During the transition to separate from the power grid, the available EVs were used by the system frequency controller as a buffering feature to stabilize the microgrid operation.

Nevertheless, the V2G implementation requires frequent charging and discharging processes which can cause extra deterioration to the EV batteries [35]. This downside has created a strong social barrier that can prevent public support for the V2G concept. Hence, optimal V2G charging and discharging scheduling with compensated incentives given to the participating EV owners will be especially crucial for the realization of this technology. Research has been carried out to develop the optimal planning and scheduling for the proper V2G execution. The complexity in managing the large amount of energy exchange between the power grid and EVs represents a challenge for a power utility. The first logical step to implement the V2G technology was proposed in [36]. The proposed unidirectional spinning reserve V2G algorithm was able to modulate the EV charging rate according to a Preference Operating Point (POP), where the minimal preliminary investment and EV batteries degradation were achieved.

On the other hand, the bidirectional V2G technology has tremendous flexibility to accomplish the EV scheduling according to the preferences of the EV owners and power grid requirements. Many researchers have proposed EV scheduling that utilizes the Grid-to-Vehicle (G2V) and Vehicle-to-Grid (V2G) operations to help the power grid in achieving various benefits [37–39]. From the economic standpoint, the authors in [40,41] emphasized the maximization of power utility profit

while developing the V2G algorithm. Meanwhile, the minimization of power system losses is also a popular topic in the V2G application. In [42], EVs were used as reactive power resources to reduce the power grid energy losses. Furthermore, V2G technology was also utilized to maximize the renewable energy generation by solving the renewable energy intermittency issue [43,44]. Intelligent optimization algorithms were proposed by the authors in [45–47] to solve the renewable energy intermittency problem while maximizing the power grid energy efficiency.

Various optimal V2G scheduling strategies have been introduced in the literature to minimize the power grid load variance [48,49]. This concept is well known for its effectiveness in reducing power grid operation losses [50]. In general, this is achieved by enabling the grid-connected EVs to absorb the extra electricity during the power grid valley load period and feed the energy back to the power grid during the peak load period [51–54]. For instance, a V2G scheduling algorithm was proposed in [55] to perform power grid load shaving and valley filling operations using grid-connected EVs. The operation was achieved by regulating the power grid load at the target load pre-determined in the scheduling algorithm. A similar demand side management concept was adopted in [56], where considerable savings and emissions reduction were demonstrated by the results. Meanwhile, the authors in [57] proposed a peak shaving algorithm to reduce the peak demand of the power grid. The application of this algorithm has shown good potential in extending the lifespan of transformers, as well as maintaining a healthy grid operation voltage profile. Another peak shaving strategy was introduced in [58,59], which provided dynamic adjustments in EVs discharging rate without affecting the battery usage for EV traveling purpose. This strategy limited the maximum load demand by utilizing the extra energy in the grid-connected EVs for power grid support. In these literatures, many of the proposed V2G scheduling for power grid load variance minimization utilized a preset target loading in the scheduling algorithm. Nevertheless, most of the related studies have not discussed the methodology used in determining these targets. Inaccurate setting of this target loading will reduce the effectiveness of the V2G algorithm to achieve the minimization of load variance. The selection of this target loading can be a challenging task, as the power grid and grid-connected EVs are dynamic in nature. Thus, this paper will focus on the development of a V2G optimization algorithm, as well as analyzing the influence of different target load curves on the performance of the proposed algorithm.

This paper presents a G2V/V2G optimization algorithm, which is focused on the minimization of grid load variance by performing load levelling and peak load shaving using the available grid-connected EVs. During the event where the actual power grid loading is lower than the target loading, EVs are allowed to receive charging power from the power grid. This G2V operation falls under the load leveling scenario. Meanwhile, when the actual power grid loading is larger than the target loading, EVs are encouraged to discharge for power grid support. This V2G operation is called the peak load shaving scenario. In general, this paper will present the proposed algorithm, which consists of G2V and V2G operations as the V2G optimization algorithm. The V2G algorithm instructs EV charging and discharging operations according to the proposed objective function with the aim of minimizing the difference between the actual power grid loading and target loading. The V2G optimization algorithm includes thorough consideration of both power grid and EV constraints. The algorithm can also deliberate the V2G scheduling by considering the uncertain mobility characteristics of EVs, which have random initial State of Charge (SOC) and grid connection duration, as well as the dynamic grid connection probability. In addition, extensive analyses are conducted to investigate the effect of different target load curves and various average initial SOC of EV batteries on the performance of the proposed V2G optimization algorithm. A performance index was introduced to compare and evaluate the success rate of each optimized scenario. Then, a proper selection of the V2G target load curve based on the average initial SOC of the available grid-connected EV batteries is recommended. In summary, the contributions of this paper include: (i) the development of a V2G optimization algorithm to minimize grid load variance via peak load shaving and load levelling, and (ii) a performance analysis of the proposed V2G optimization under various target load and average initial SOC of EV batteries.

The rest of the paper is organized into sections. Section 2 describes the power grid model for the implementation of V2G optimization algorithm. In Section 3, the detailed formulation of the objective function, constraints and optimization algorithm are presented. The simulation results to validate the effectiveness of the proposed V2G optimization algorithm are discussed in Section 4. Section 5 concludes the paper.

2. Power Grid Model for V2G Implementation

The implementation of V2G technology requires extensive planning and careful management in order to ensure the reliability of the power grid. In the initial stage of the V2G implementation, the V2G location shall be well planned for the proper V2G application. For instance, the quantity of EV mobility within the V2G location is crucial for the practicality of V2G technology. In this paper, an adequate quantity of the grid-connected EVs was required to ensure the proper amount of EV batteries' storage capacities was available to absorb or deliver the power during the interaction with the power grid. This is to ensure an average distributed amount of EVs shall be accessible within the V2G location throughout the day. Thus, the selected V2G location shall be a relatively large township, which consisted of both residential and commercial areas to ensure a sufficient and consistent EV mobility throughout the day. Figure 1 presents an intelligent township for the V2G implementation consisting of the commercial offices, residential areas and smart V2G car parks. The components to realize the V2G technology are also shown in Figure 1. For instance, the township was equipped with the dual communication system across all the commercial loads, residential loads and smart V2G car parks with the local aggregator. Furthermore, the bidirectional V2G chargers were installed in the smart V2G car parks, which allowed each EV to charge from and discharge to the power grid.

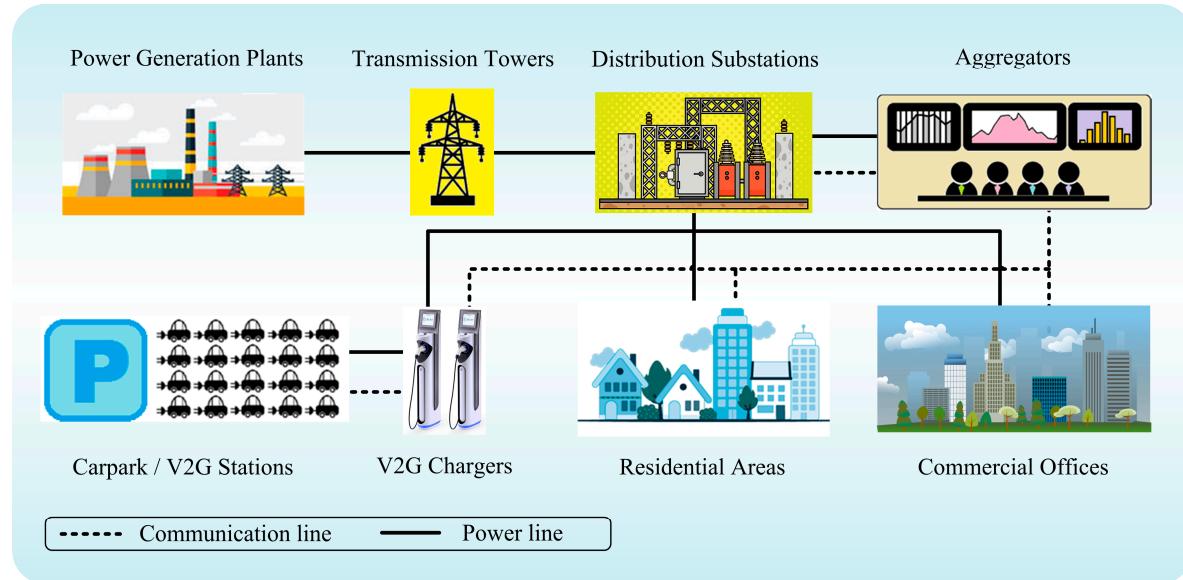


Figure 1. Intelligent Vehicle-to-Grid (V2G) township.

Figure 2 shows the single-line diagram of a generic township used in this paper for the implementation of V2G technology. The generic township was a typical radial configured power distribution grid. This township had a total of 200 units of the commercial offices and 800 units of the residential condominiums. The maximum demand for each commercial office was 15 kW, whilst 10 kW for each residential condominium. All the loads within the generic township were supplied via the 22 substations, where each substation had a step down transformer rated at 1 MW. Several assumptions were made for the V2G optimization algorithm and are listed as follows:

- All the residential, commercial and EV loads were evenly distributed to each substation in the proposed generic township.

- The town had a total of 1800 EV mobility daily, which includes EVs from the generic and nearby townships.
- The smart car parks had sufficient parking spaces equipped with the bidirectional V2G chargers.
- The aggregator had the appropriate bidirectional communication system to monitor the load profile of each substation and access the information of each EV, such as the EV availability and SOC level of EV battery.
- The aggregator was given the full authority to manage and control the amount of power sharing between the EVs and power grid.

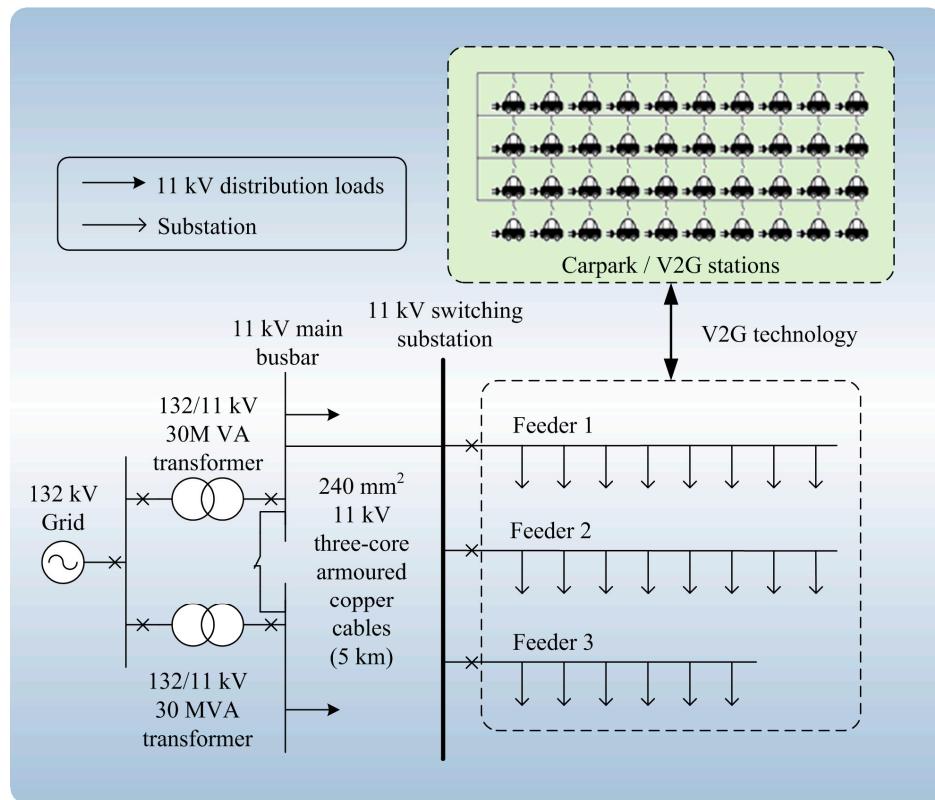


Figure 2. Single-line diagram of a generic township.

3. Problem Formulation

The implementation of V2G technology in the power grid usually involves multiple conflicting objectives, which are plagued with numerous uncertainties and nonlinearities. Therefore, the utilization of the optimization technique is crucial to execute the V2G concept in the power grid. In this paper, the Genetic Algorithm (GA) optimization technique is employed to solve the V2G optimization problem. This section discusses the objective function and constraints for the optimization problem.

3.1. Objective Function

In this paper, the proposed V2G optimization algorithm has the objective to optimize the grid-connected EV charging and discharging power in order to minimize the power grid load variance. A generalized daily power load curve is depicted in Figure 3. Besides, the desired grid loading is achieved by performing peak load shaving and load levelling to minimize the variance between the power grid loading and target loading as illustrated in Figure 3. The proposed V2G optimization algorithm is performed by enabling the EV charging during the period where the power grid loading is less than the target loading (G2V operation). On the contrary, EVs are required to discharge the energy from the batteries when the power grid loading is larger than the target

loading (V2G operation). No power flows between the EVs and power grid when the target loading is equal to the power grid loading. Equations (1) and (2) express the objective function in terms of grid load variance, target loading, charging and discharging rate:

$$\min \Delta P = P_{\text{target}}(t) - P_{\text{load}}(t) - P_{\text{EV}}(t) \quad (1)$$

$$P_{\text{EV}}(t) = \begin{cases} \left(\sum_{n=1}^N A_n K_n \right) \times P_{\text{EV,charging}} & , \text{when } P_{\text{load}} < P_{\text{target}} \\ \left(\sum_{n=1}^N A_n K_n \right) \times P_{\text{EV,discharging}} & , \text{when } P_{\text{load}} > P_{\text{target}} \\ 0 & , \text{when } P_{\text{load}} = P_{\text{target}} \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

where ΔP is the grid load variance, t is time, P_{target} is the target loading, P_{load} is the existing load of the power grid, P_{EV} is the total power of EV loads/sources, n is the EV index, N is the maximum EV index, A_n is the availability of n th EV for the V2G application, K_n is the indicator of n th EV for V2G application, $P_{\text{EV,charging}}$ is the EV charging rate, and $P_{\text{EV,discharging}}$ is the EV discharging rate. In Equation (1), the grid load variance (ΔP) was minimized by optimizing the number of grid-connected EV to charge or discharge during valley load and peak load period, respectively. The determined optimal grid-connected EV numbers are then reflected in the indicator of n th EV for V2G application (K_n). Meanwhile, A_n refers to the availability of n th EV to the power grid prepared for the V2G application. This variable depends on the dynamic EV mobility characteristics, where the detailed EV grid-connection probability is discussed in Section 3.2.3. In the condition where K_n and A_n are available, the n th EV will be instructed to charge or discharge the battery.

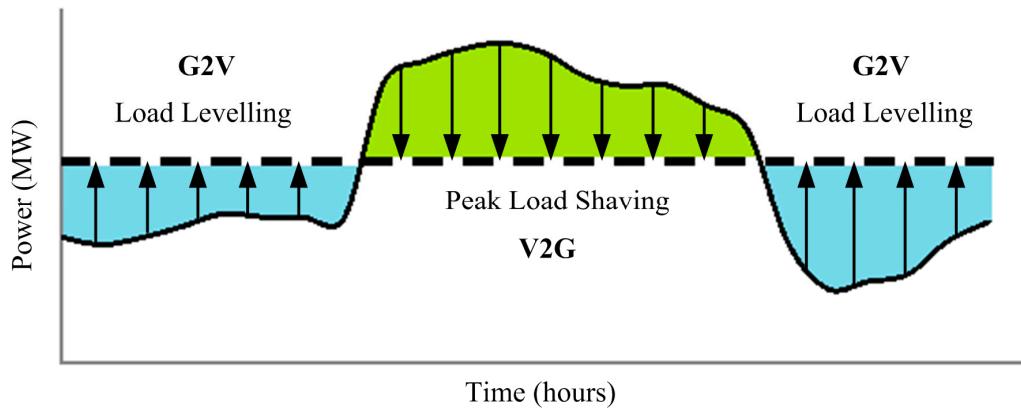


Figure 3. The concept of peak load shaving and load levelling.

3.2. Optimization Constraints

The operation of V2G system is restricted under plenty of system constraints and uncertainties. Therefore, the proposed V2G optimization algorithm required the compliance with these power grid and EV constraints.

3.2.1. Power Balance

The important power grid constraint to be considered in the proposed V2G optimization algorithm is the power balance between the grid generation and demand. The supplied power from the generation plants and distributed EV battery sources must satisfy the power grid load and EV charging demands:

$$P_{\text{grid}}(t) + \sum_{n=1}^N A_n K_n P_{\text{EV,discharging}}(t) = P_{\text{load}}(t) + \sum_{n=1}^N A_n K_n P_{\text{EV,charging}}(t) \quad (3)$$

where P_{grid} is the active power from the generation plant.

3.2.2. SOC of EV Battery

The SOC level of EV battery is one of the EV constraints which must be kept within certain limits during the V2G operation. It is important to establish these limits for two reasons. The first reason is to protect the health of the battery. Studies show that the SOC level of a lithium ion battery should best to be limited to a 60% swing (between 30% and 90% or 25–85%) to minimize the battery health degradation [60,61]. The second reason to keep the SOC level of the EV battery within certain limits is to reserve a certain amount of energy for the EV travel usage. Therefore, by taking both reasons into consideration, each EV is prevented from discharging if the battery SOC is lower than the SOC_{\min} which is set at 55%. Meanwhile, the EV charging process is only allowed if the SOC level of each EV battery is below the SOC_{\max} , which is set at 90% to prevent the battery overcharging issue. Both of the EV charging and discharging processes are allowed if the battery SOC is within the SOC_{\min} and SOC_{\max} :

$$SOC_n \leq SOC_{\min}, \text{ allow for charging only} \quad (4)$$

$$SOC_{\min} \leq SOC_n \leq SOC_{\max}, \text{ allow for charging and discharging} \quad (5)$$

$$SOC_n \geq SOC_{\max}, \text{ allow for discharging only} \quad (6)$$

where SOC_n is the battery SOC for n th EV.

3.2.3. EV Grid Connection Probability

The feasibility of V2G technology requires EVs to be connected to the power grid. Nevertheless, each EV can be connected to the power grid at different arrival and departure times in the car park, which will lead to the dynamic EV mobility characteristics [62–69]. Hence in this paper, the EV grid connection probability is estimated based on the driving behaviour of the township's residents and commercial workers. In Figure 4, the EV grid connection probability of the residential car park showed that more EVs are available in the car park, since the beginning of the day until 06:00 o'clock in the morning.

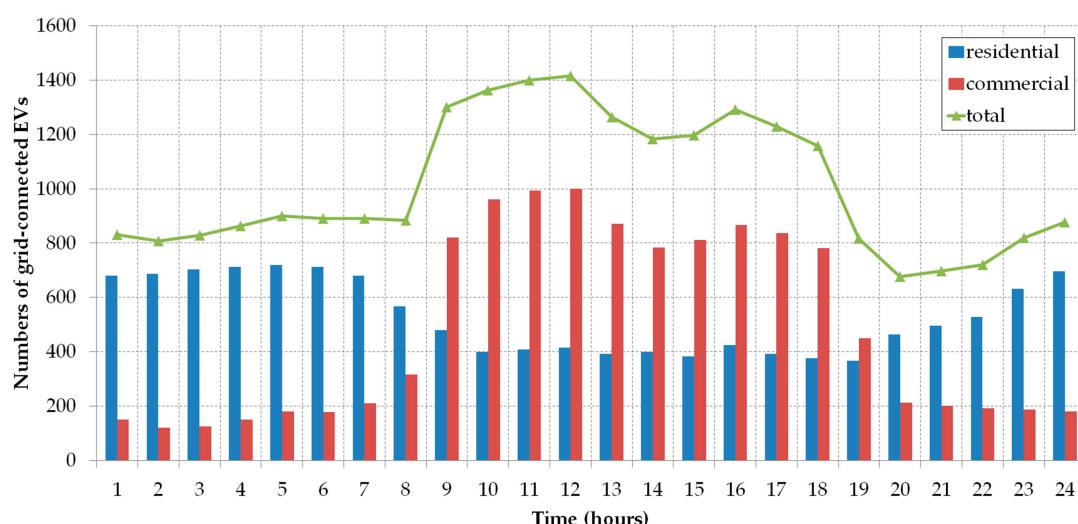


Figure 4. Electric Vehicle (EV) grid connection probability of the township.

Later on, most of the EV owners are away to their workplaces and schools. From 18:00 o'clock onwards, the residents started to return home and occupied the residential car park. On the other hand, the EV grid connection probability of the commercial car parks depicted that most of the parking spaces are occupied during the daytime office hours. Other than these periods, the commercial car park is almost empty. The combination of the EV grid connection probability of the residential and commercial car parks gave the total EV availability in the proposed generic township, as shown in Figure 4.

$$A_n = 1, \text{ when } n\text{th EV was connected to the power grid} \quad (7)$$

$$A_n = 0, \text{ when } n\text{th EV was not connected to the power grid} \quad (8)$$

3.2.4. EV Power Exchange Rate

The power exchange rate between the EV batteries and power grid shall be restricted within a safe margin to protect the safety and health of EV batteries throughout the power exchange periods. A common EV battery available in the market is considered in this research. The EV battery used in this paper a lithium-ion battery, which has the rated capacity of 50 Ah. The power exchange rate of each EV battery is limited below 3.3 kW, which is the typical power rating for slow charging:

$$P_{EV,\text{charging}} \leq P_{EV,\text{max}} \quad (9)$$

$$P_{EV,\text{discharging}} \leq -P_{EV,\text{max}} \quad (10)$$

where $P_{EV,\text{max}}$ is the maximum EV exchange rate.

3.3. Optimization Algorithm

The proposed V2G optimization algorithm is implemented in MATLAB software tool (R2013a, MathWorks, Natick, MA, USA) as shown in Figure 5.

In order to handle a large number of parameters, the GA optimization technique is adopted. The GA is an iteration method that is capable of searching for the global optimal solution within an execution time limit. Furthermore, the GA is inspired by the living organism evolutionary process, which requires the representation of a potential solution as the genetic chromosome. A proper fitness function is utilized to compute and evaluate the score of this genetic chromosome. After the evaluation, the GA principle is repeated again to reproduce a new generation of chromosome until this iteration converges to an optimal solution.

In the initial stage of the proposed V2G algorithm, the system parameters are obtained and updated into the database. With this information, the GA algorithm evaluates the fitness function of the grid load variance minimization, which later produce the next generation of solution. The evaluation repeated itself until the iteration converged to an optimal EV charging or discharging power. This optimization process is bound by the power grid and EV constraints. Meanwhile, the V2G optimization algorithm is executed for every hour.

With respect to the constraint limits, the proposed V2G optimization algorithm performed the peak load shaving and load levelling services by utilizing the EV battery storages in order to minimize the load variance, as it is shown in Figure 5.

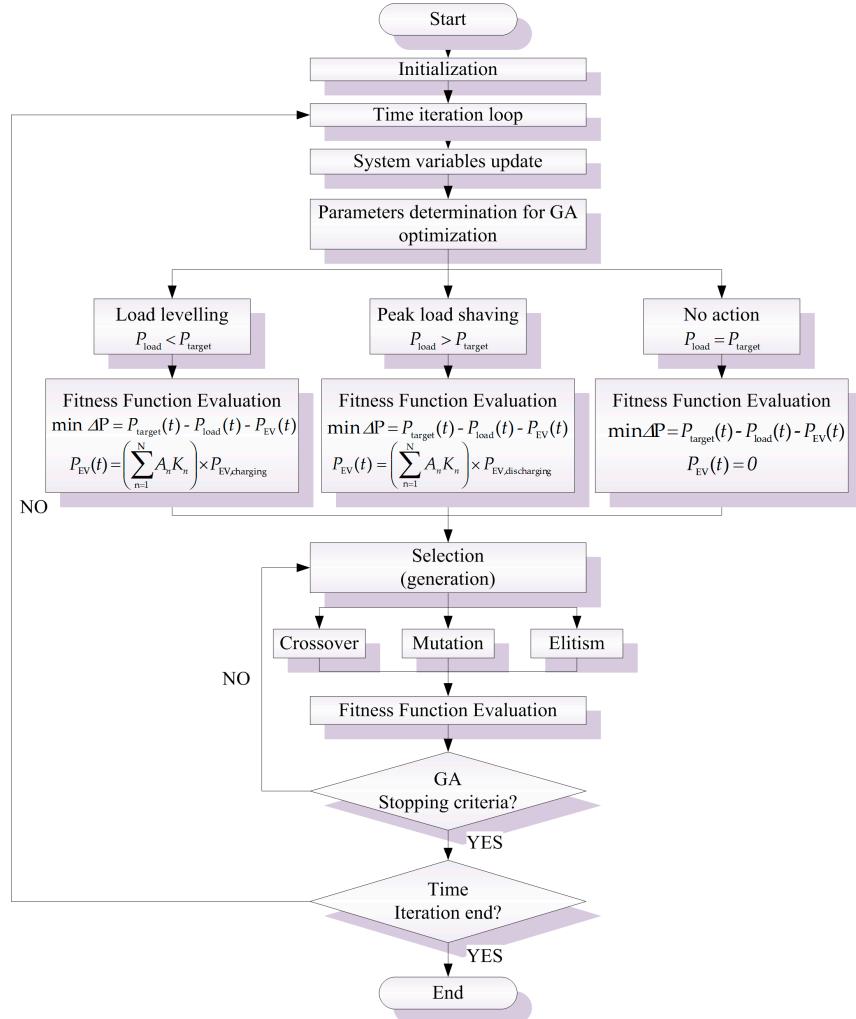


Figure 5. Flowchart for the proposed V2G optimization algorithm.

4. Results and Discussion

In this section, the feasibility of the proposed V2G optimization algorithm that was investigated under different scenarios was elaborated. Various average initial SOC of EV batteries ($SOC_{i,ave}$) and target load curve in percentage (TLC_{pct}) were considered to examine the performance of the proposed V2G optimization algorithm. The definitions of the $SOC_{i,ave}$ and TLC_{pct} are shown in Equations (11) and (12), correspondingly:

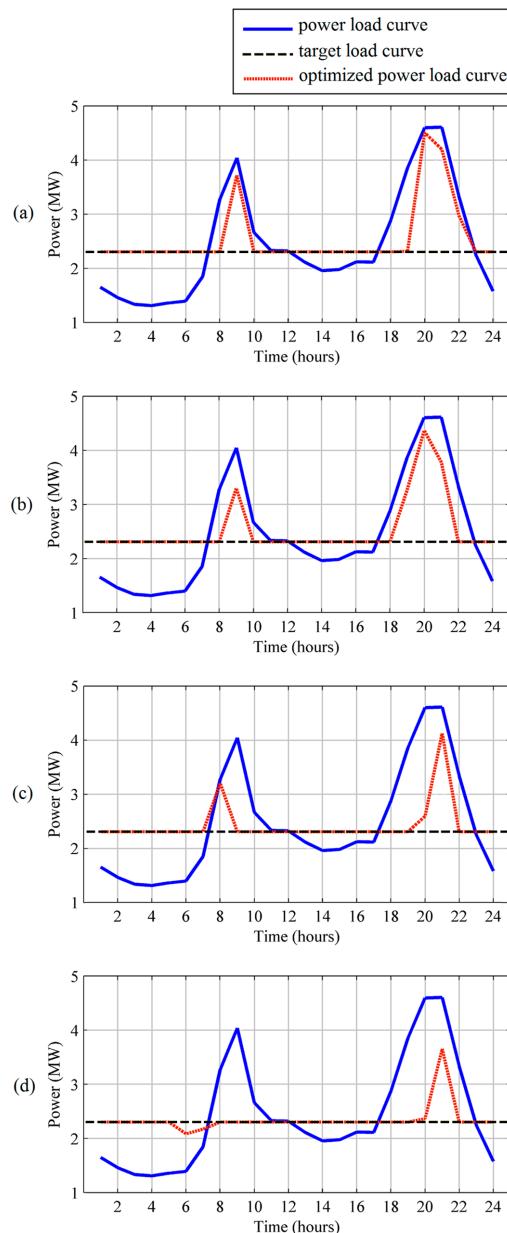
$$\text{Average initial SOC of EV Batteries } (SOC_{i,ave}) = \frac{\sum_{n=1}^N K_n A_n SOC_n}{N} \quad (11)$$

$$\text{Percentage of Target Load Curve } (TLC_{pct}) = \frac{\text{target load curve}}{\text{peak load}} \times 100\% \quad (12)$$

All the scenarios were conducted in the generic commercial-residential township as depicted in Figure 2. Figures 6–8 present the comparison between the optimized power load curves and original power load curves, where the TLC_{pct} were set at 50%, 55% and 60%, respectively. In each scenario, different $SOC_{i,ave}$ of 40%, 50%, 60%, 70% and 80% were applied. Based on the preset values of the $SOC_{i,ave}$ and TLC_{pct} , different optimized power load curves were acquired with the implementation of the proposed V2G optimization algorithm. For instance, the scenario in Figure 6a shows that the $SOC_{i,ave}$ was set at 40% and the TLC_{pct} was kept at 50% of the peak loading of the power load curve. Since the $SOC_{i,ave}$ was low, the proposed V2G optimization algorithm can perform the load levelling service by the EV charging operation, but not the EV discharging operation for the peak load

shaving service. In contrast, reversed outcomes can be observed for scenario in Figure 8e due to higher $SOC_{i,ave}$ and TLC_{pct} .

The consideration of various values of $SOC_{i,ave}$ and TLC_{pct} had led to different optimization results. In certain scenarios, the optimized load curves were not completely flat due to the fact the required energy demand for peak load shaving and load levelling services exceeded the available energy capacity of the EV batteries. In other words, EV batteries cannot supply or absorb the required energy for the minimization of grid load variance. Therefore, an index denoted as Performance Index was introduced to allow better comparison among the optimized power load curves. The Performance Index indicated the percentage of successful operations of the peak load shaving, load levelling or combination of both to achieve the preset target load curve over a day. The Performance Index can range from zero to one, where greater value indicates higher successful rate. Table 1 presents the Performance Index of the proposed V2G optimization algorithm for all the scenarios depicted in Figures 6–8. Three sets of the Performance Index were calculated for peak load shaving, load levelling and both services together.



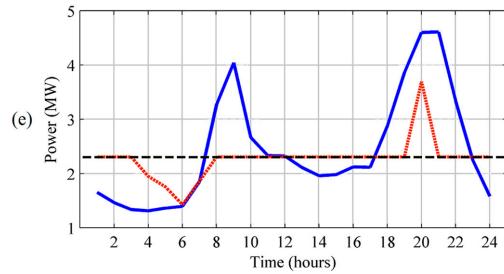


Figure 6. Optimized power load curves with 50% TLC_{pct} and $SOC_{i,ave}$ of (a) 40%, (b) 50%, (c) 60%, (d) 70% and (e) 80%.

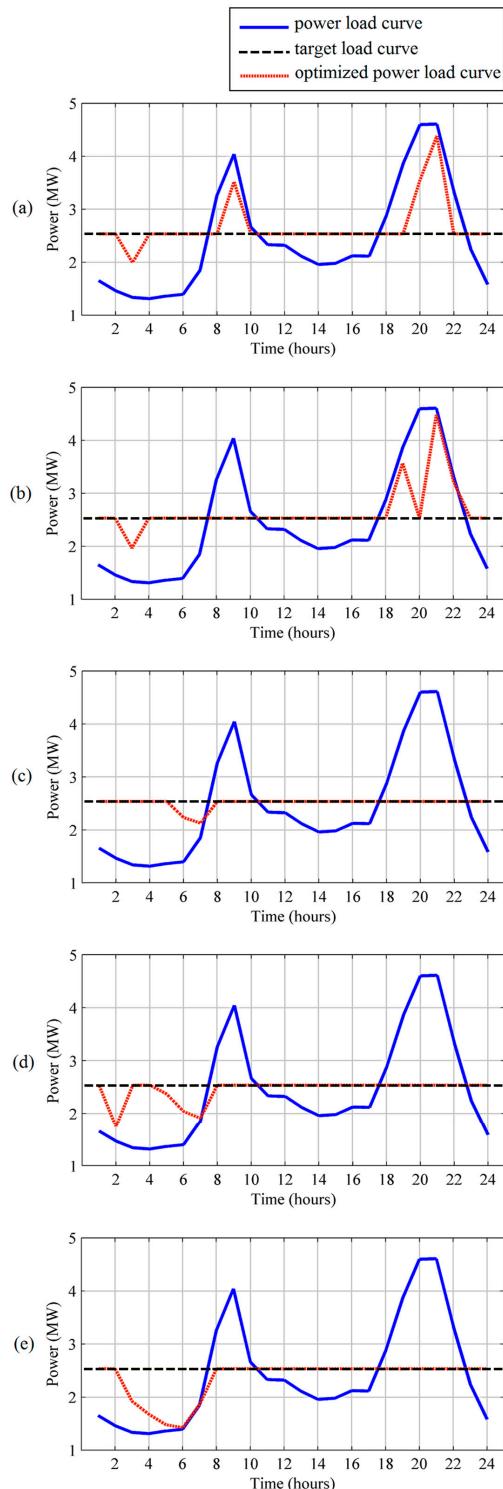


Figure 7. Optimized power load curves with 55% TLC_{pct} and $SOC_{i,ave}$ of (a) 40%, (b) 50%, (c) 60%, (d) 70% and (e) 80%.

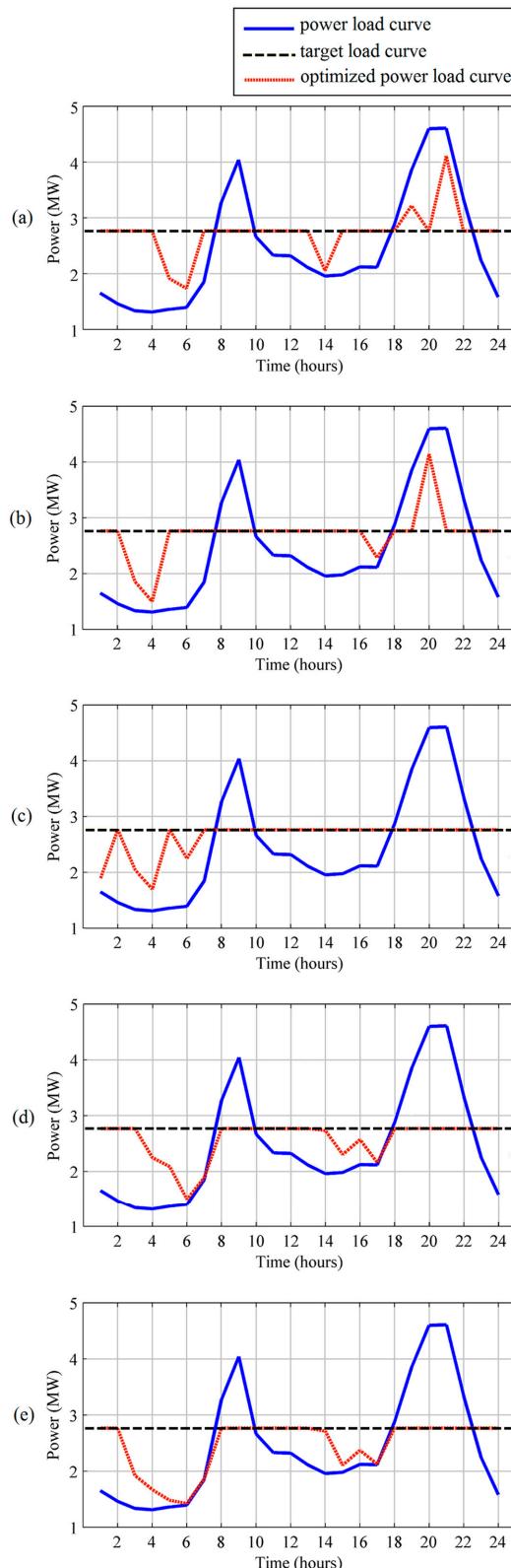


Figure 8. Optimized power load curves with 60% TLC_{pct} and $SOC_{i,ave}$ of (a) 40%, (b) 50%, (c) 60%, (d) 70% and (e) 80%.

With reference to the Performance Index in Table 1, the capability of peak load shaving was enhanced while the capability of load levelling was reduced with the increase of $SOC_{i,ave}$. These situations were due to the increase in the available EV energy to be discharged for the peak load shaving, as well as the reduced need of EV batteries to receive charging from the power grid and thus limited the load levelling. Likewise, the occurrence of similar trends can be determined with the increase of the TLC_{pct} , where more peak load shaving service can be accomplished while fewer load levelling can be achieved using the proposed optimization algorithm. The reason was due to the required EV discharging energy for the peak load shaving was greatly reduced when the set point of TLC_{pct} was increased. However, the load levelling became more difficult to be achieved due to the significant increase of energy required to be charged into the EV batteries.

Table 1. Performance Index of the V2G optimization algorithm under various scenarios.

Region	Percentage of Target Load Curves (TLC_{pct})	Average Initial SOC of EV Batteries ($SOC_{i,ave}$)				
		40%	50%	60%	70%	80%
Peak load shaving	50%	0.429	0.496	0.724	0.870	0.872
	55%	0.571	0.590	1.000	1.000	1.000
	60%	0.751	0.809	1.000	1.000	1.000
Load levelling	50%	1.000	1.000	1.000	0.956	0.713
	55%	0.953	0.950	0.937	0.818	0.623
	60%	0.830	0.826	0.791	0.694	0.526
Overall	50%	0.667	0.706	0.839	0.905	0.806
	55%	0.785	0.792	0.965	0.898	0.789
	60%	0.805	0.821	0.858	0.793	0.679

Other than the two individual set of Performance Index values for peak load shaving and load levelling, the overall Performance Index shows the success percentage for both peak load shaving and load levelling. The shaded region of the overall Performance Index in Table 1 indicates the best TLC_{pct} to be selected with respect to the $SOC_{i,ave}$. Figures 9 and 10 illustrate the Performance Index under various scenarios and gives a clearer perception on the overall optimized scenarios. The peak point in Figure 10 shows the best optimized scenario with the overall Performance Index of 0.965, which dropped under the 60% of $SOC_{i,ave}$ and 55% of TLC_{pct} category. This has verified that the selection of target loading for the V2G optimization algorithm played a significant role in ensuring the performance of the algorithm.

A detailed analysis on the best scenario is further presented in Figure 11. With the implementation of the proposed V2G optimization algorithm, the achieved optimized power load curve for the category of 60% of $SOC_{i,ave}$ and 55% of TLC_{pct} is shown in Figure 11a. The optimized power load curve has almost met all the target loadings throughout the day, except during the periods from 05:00 to 08:00 o'clock.

Figure 11b presents a clearer insight to explain the operations during these periods. The bar graphs in the positive and negative regions in Figure 11b depict the maximum available capacity of the EV batteries and stored energy for the load levelling and peak load shaving, correspondingly. These bar graphs were obtained by considering all the constraint limits as specified in Section 3.2 and therefore, served as the limits for the optimization process. The curve shown in Figure 11b presents the optimized EV charging and discharging power required to achieve the optimized power load curve as shown in Figure 11a. During the periods from 05:00 to 08:00 o'clock, the optimized EV charging power had reached the maximum limit of the available capacity of EV batteries for the load levelling service. Consequently, the load levelling service was not completely achieved in the optimization process.

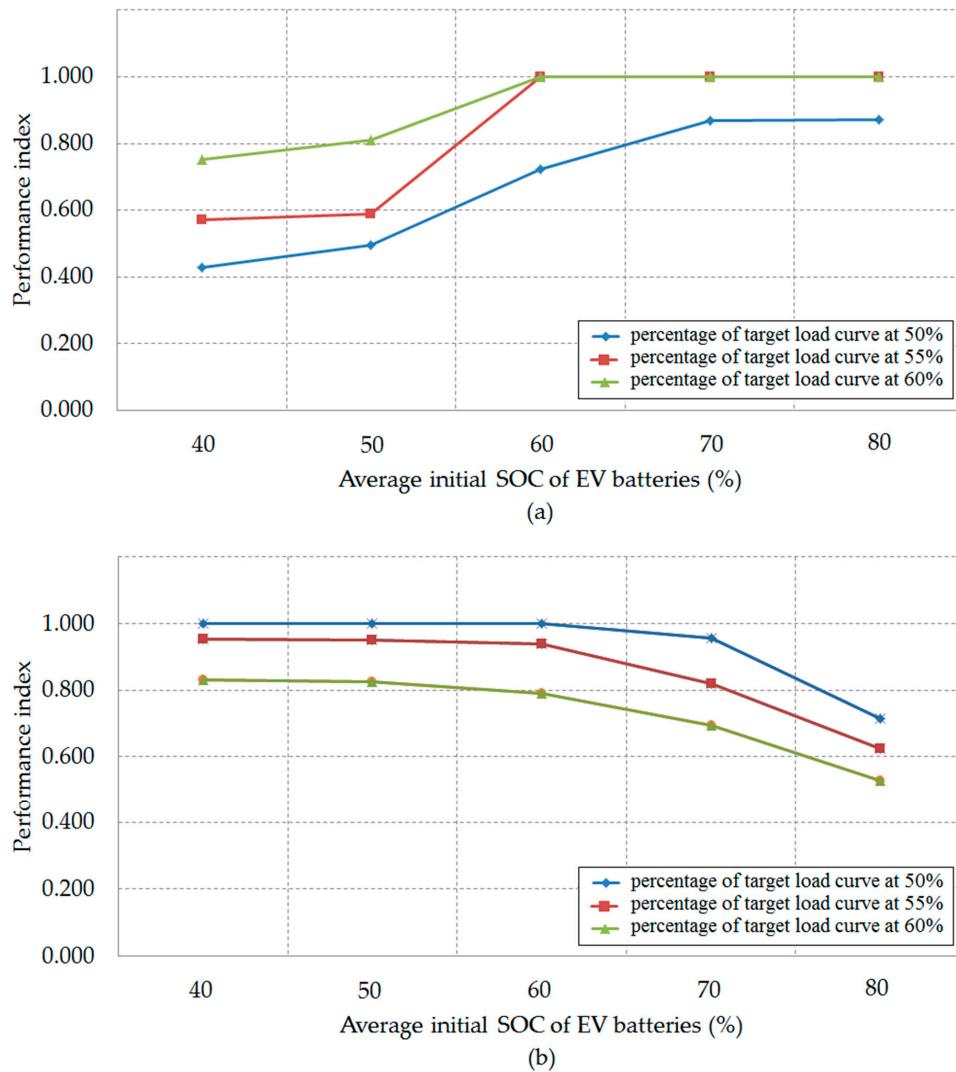


Figure 9. Performance Index under various scenarios: (a) peak load shaving and (b) load levelling.

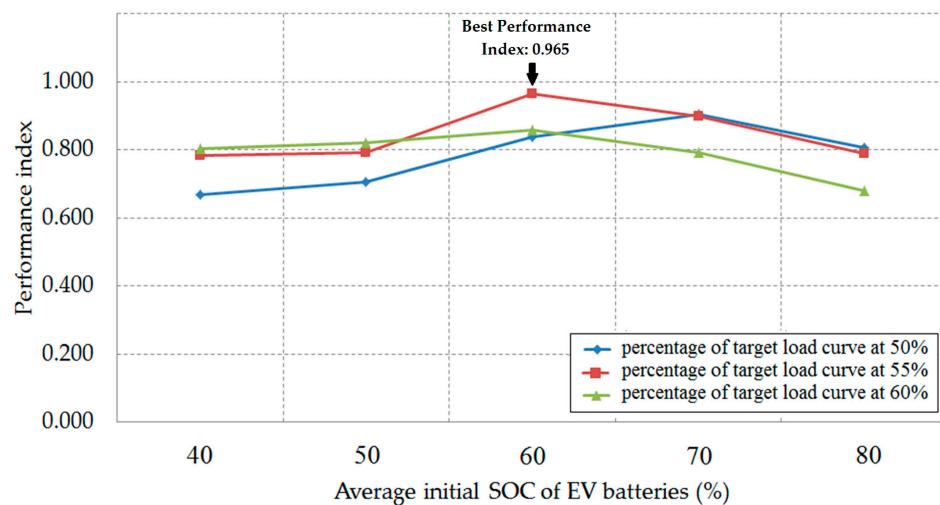


Figure 10. Overall Performance Index under various scenarios.

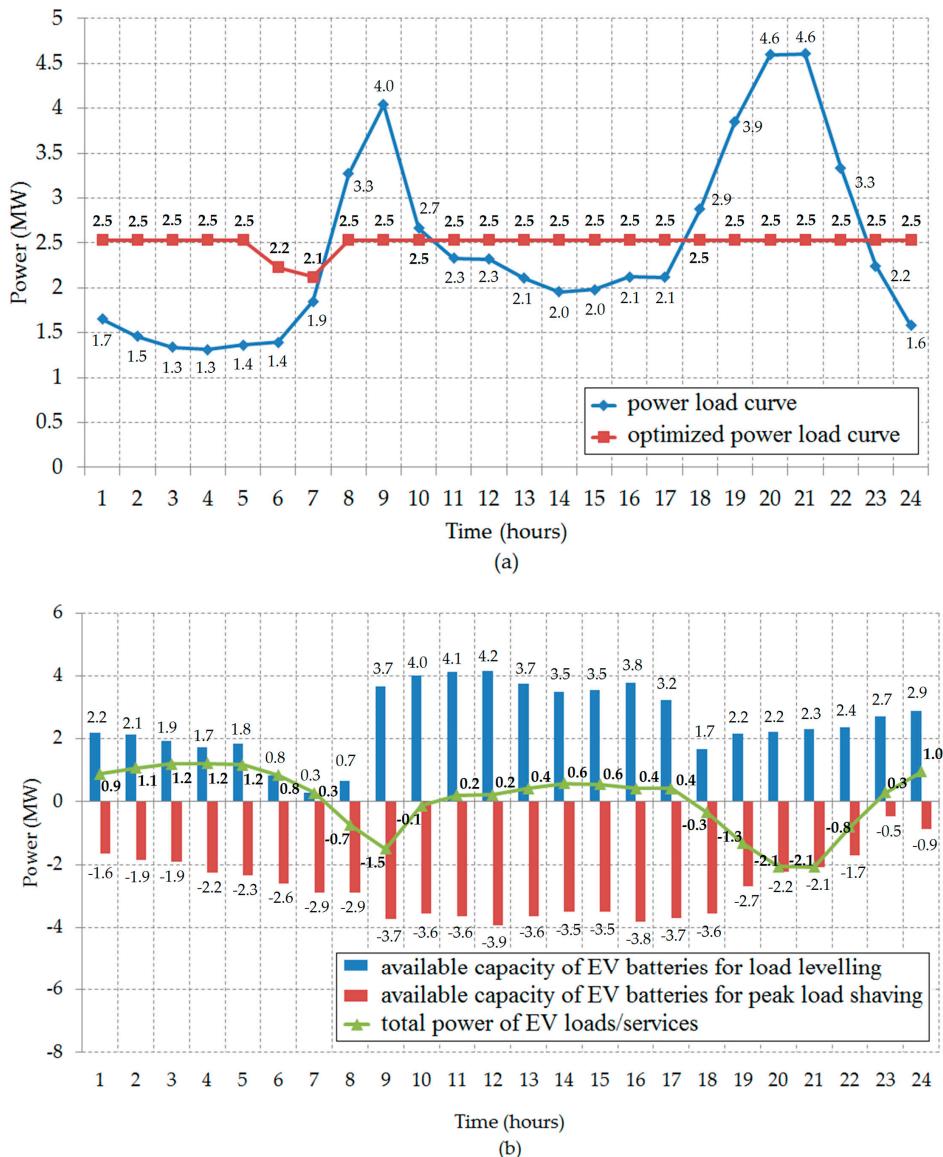


Figure 11. Detailed description of the best optimized scenario: (a) optimized power load curve (b) optimized EV charging and discharging power within constraint limits.

Figure 12 shows the SOC status of some random selected EVs under the best optimized scenario. During the load levelling periods, all the EVs experienced the charging process, except for the EVs with the SOC level higher than the SOC_{max} of 90%. Meanwhile, all the EVs discharged their battery energy during the peak shaving periods, due to having all the SOC levels of EV batteries higher than the SOC_{min} of 55%. Another observation from Figure 12 is that the EVs participating in the V2G optimization program had the tendency to reach to a similar SOC level at the end of the optimization process. These findings indicated that the proposed V2G optimization algorithm can flatten the power load curve with respect to the pre-determined SOC constraints.

The performance of the proposed V2G optimization algorithm was compared with other algorithms in the latest literature. A comparative parameter defined as the percentage improvement of peak and valley load difference, P_i was introduced to assess the algorithm performances that were conducted under different scopes and conditions. The formulation of P_i is expressed in (13):

$$P_i = \left| \frac{P_{d,after} - P_{d,before}}{P_{d,before}} \right| \times 100\% \quad (13)$$

where $P_{d,after}$ is the peak and valley load difference after V2G optimization and $P_{d,before}$ is the peak and valley load difference before V2G optimization.

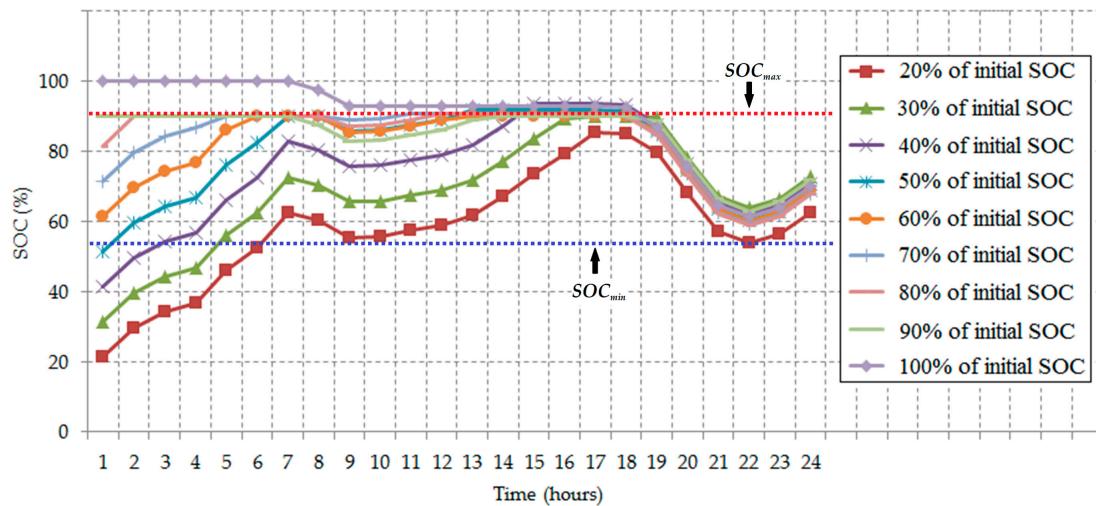


Figure 12. The SOC status of random selected EVs under the best optimized scenario.

Both $P_{d,after}$ and $P_{d,before}$ can be calculated using equations (14) and (15), respectively:

$$P_{d,after} = P_{p,after} - P_{v,after} \quad (14)$$

$$P_{d,before} = P_{p,before} - P_{v,before} \quad (15)$$

where $P_{p,after}$ is the peak load value after V2G optimization, $P_{v,after}$ is the valley load value after V2G optimization, $P_{p,before}$ is the peak load value before V2G optimization, and $P_{v,before}$ is the valley load value before V2G optimization.

The V2G algorithm proposed in [55] was capable of performing peak shaving and valley filling control. The power grid loading before the implementation of V2G algorithm had $P_{p,before}$ of 1090 MW and $P_{v,before}$ of 855 MW. With the execution of V2G algorithm, the power grid loading presented $P_{p,after}$ of 1080 MW and $P_{v,after}$ of 950 MW. Hence, the computed P_i using (13) was 44.68%. A similar investigation was conducted for the researches in [56,57], where the computed P_i acquired was 46.89% and 36.84%, respectively. The analysis was also investigated on the best scenario (V2G optimization with 60% of SOC_{ave} and 55% of TLC_{pct}) in this paper. The power grid loading before the implementation of the proposed V2G algorithm presented $P_{p,before}$ of 4.6 MW and $P_{v,before}$ of 1.3 MW. Meanwhile, the power grid loading after the employment of the V2G algorithm achieved $P_{p,after}$ of 2.5 MW and $P_{v,after}$ of 2.1 MW. Thus, P_i was acquired to be 87.88%. By comparing with the other literatures, the proposed algorithm in this paper shows a better performance in terms of the percentage improvement of peak and valley load difference. The details of the comparative analysis are presented in Table 2.

Table 2. Comparative analysis of the proposed algorithm with other approaches for grid load variance minimization.

Parameter	Ref. [55]	Ref. [56]	Ref. [57]	Proposed Algorithm
$P_{p,before}$ (MW)	1090	188	0.56	4.6
$P_{v,before}$ (MW)	855	98	0.37	1.3
$P_{d,before}$ (MW)	235	90	0.19	3.3
$P_{p,after}$ (MW)	1080	159.8	0.49	2.5
$P_{v,after}$ (MW)	950	112	0.37	2.1
$P_{d,after}$ (MW)	130	47.8	0.12	0.4
P_i (%)	44.68	46.89	36.84	87.88

5. Conclusions

This paper has presented the development of a V2G optimization algorithm with the objective of minimizing the grid load variance by utilizing the grid-connected EVs to provide the peak load shaving (V2G) and load levelling services (G2V). The proposed algorithm was examined under various scenarios of varying TLC_{pct} and $SOC_{i,ave}$ while complying with the crucial constraints, such as the grid power balance, initial SOC of EV battery, EV grid connection probability and EV grid connection duration. The simulation results had verified the effectiveness of the proposed algorithm in achieving the objective of the grid load variance minimization in all scenarios. A Performance Index was introduced in this paper to provide an excellent indication on the overall performance of the proposed V2G optimization algorithm. The best optimized scenario was achieved at 55% of TLC_{pct} and 60% of $SOC_{i,ave}$, with a Performance Index of 0.965. Moreover, all the participated EVs had complied with the preset SOC limits and tended to reach to a similar SOC level at the end of the V2G scheduling. This analysis aims to serve as a recommendation for the selection of TLC_{pct} based on the available historical data of $SOC_{i,ave}$. As a future work, the optimal energy scheduling of an integrated system of EVs and renewable energy resources will be investigated.

Author Contributions: All authors contributed equally for the decimation of the research article in current form.

Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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