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# Solution of Optimal Reactive Power Dispatch by Fire Fly algorithm

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**ABSTRACT:** This study presents an efficient and reliable evolutionary-based approach, termed as Fire Fly Algorithm (FFA), to solve the optimal reactive power dispatch (ORPD) problem of power system. The performance of the proposed FFA is examined and tested, successfully, on standard IEEE-30 test power systems for the solution of ORPD problem in which control of bus voltages, tap position of transformers and reactive power sources are involved. The objective function considered is either minimisation of active power transmission loss or that of total voltage deviation or enhancement of voltage stability index. The results offered by the proposed FFA are compared with those offered by other evolutionary optimisation techniques surfaced in the recent state-of-the-art literature. Simulation results indicate that the proposed FFA yields superior solution over the other recently surfaced popular techniques in terms of effectiveness and convergence speed.

**KEYWORDS:** Reactive Power Dispatch, Fire Fly Algorithm, Loss

### I. INTRODUCTION

Optimal reactive power dispatch problem is one of the difficult optimization problems in power systems. The sources of the reactive power are the generators, synchronous condensers, capacitors, static compensators and tap changing transformers. The problem that has to be solved in a reactive power optimization is to determine the required reactive generation at various locations so as to optimize the objective function. Here the reactive power dispatch problem involves best utilization of the existing generator bus voltage magnitudes, transformer tap setting and the output of reactive power sources so as to minimize the loss and to enhance the voltage stability of the system. It involves a non linear optimization problem. Various mathematical techniques have been adopted to solve this optimal reactive power dispatch problem. These include the gradient method, Newton method and linear programming. The gradient and Newton methods suffer from the difficulty in handling inequality constraints. To apply linear programming, the input-output function is to be expressed as a set of linear functions which may lead to loss of accuracy. Recently global optimization techniques such as genetic algorithms have been proposed to solve the reactive power flow problem. A genetic algorithm is a stochastic search technique based on the mechanics of natural selection. In this paper, genetic algorithm is used to solve the voltage constrained reactive power dispatch problem. The proposed algorithm identifies the optimal values of generation bus voltage magnitudes, transformer tap setting and the output of the reactive power sources so as to minimize the transmission loss and to improve the voltage stability. The effectiveness of the proposed approach is demonstrated through IEEE-30 bus system. The test results show the proposed algorithm gives better results with less computational burden and is fairly consistent in reaching the near optimal solution.

In this paper, FFA is applied for achieving enhanced computational speed and improved convergence profile of ORPD problem on standard IEEE-30 bus power system. The simulation results yielded by the proposed FFA technique are compared with those offered by the other computational intelligence-based techniques.



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## II. PROBLEM FORMULATION

ORPD problem is, mainly, concerned with either minimisation of PLoss or that of TVD or improvement of VSI, satisfying various equality and inequality constraints.

### Minimisation of $P_{loss}$ :

The general formulation of Ploss minimisation problem may be expressed as follows :

$$\begin{aligned} \text{minimize } J_1(x_1, x_2) &= \text{minimize } P_{loss} \\ &= \sum_{K=1}^{NL} [G_k(V_p^2 + V_q^2 - 2V_pV_q \cos\delta_{pq})] \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

subject to

$$\begin{cases} g(X_1, X_2 = 0) \\ h(X_1, X_2 \leq 0) \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

where  $J_1(x_1, x_2)$  is the active power transmission loss minimisation function,  $X_1$  is the vector of dependent variables consisting of load voltages ( $V_{L1}, \dots, V_{LN_{PQ}}$ ) generators' reactive powers ( $Q_{G1}, \dots, Q_{GN_{PV}}$ ) and transmission line loadings ( $S_{L1}, \dots, S_{LN_L}$ )  $X_2$  is the vector of control variables consisting of generators' voltages ( $V_{G1}, \dots, V_{GN_{PV}}$ ) transformers' tap settings ( $T_1, \dots, T_{N_T}$ ) and reactive power injections ( $Q_{C1}, \dots, Q_{CN_C}$ ).  $G_k$  is the conductance of branch  $k$ ,  $V_p, V_q$  are voltages of the  $p$ th and the  $q$ th buses, respectively and  $\delta_{pq}$  is the voltage angle difference between buses  $p$  and  $q$ . Therefore  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  may be expressed as

$$X_1 = [V_{L1}, \dots, V_{LN_{PQ}}, Q_{G1}, \dots, Q_{GN_{PV}}, S_{L1}, \dots, S_{LN_L}] \quad (3)$$

$$X_2 = [V_{G1}, \dots, V_{GN_{PV}}, T_1, \dots, T_{N_T}, Q_{C1}, \dots, Q_{CN_C}] \quad (4)$$

where  $N_{PV}$  is the number of generator buses,  $N_{PQ}$  is the number of load buses,  $N_L$  is the number of transmission lines,  $N_T$  is the number of tap setting transformer branches and  $N_C$  is the number of capacitor banks.

### Minimisation of TVD:

The general formulation of TVD minimisation objective may be stated as in (5)

$$\text{minimize } J_2(x_1, x_2) = \text{minimize TVD} = \sum_{P=1}^{N_{PQ}} |V_p - V_p^{ref}| \quad (5)$$

where  $J_2(x_1, x_2)$  is the TVD minimisation objective function,  $V_p$  is the voltage at bus  $p$  and  $V_p^{ref}$  is the desired value of the voltage magnitude of the  $p$ th bus, taken as 1 pu.

### Improvement of VSI:

The general objective of VSI improvement problem may be stated as in (6)

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Minimise } J_3(X_1, X_2) &= \text{Minimise } (L_{max}) \\ &= \min[\max(LK)], \quad K=1,2 \dots N_{PQ} \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

where  $L_k$  is the voltage stability indicator (L-index) of the  $k$ th node. The value of  $L_k$  may be written as

$$L_k = \left| 1 - \sum_{p=1}^{N_{PV}} m_{qp} \frac{V_p}{V_q} < \{\lambda_{pq} + (\theta_p - \theta_q)\} \right| \quad (7)$$

where  $M_{qp}$  are the  $(p, q)$ th components of the sub-matrices obtained from partial inversion of  $Y_{bus}$  matrix.

The value of  $M_{qp}$  is given by (8)

$$M_{qp} = -[Y_{qq}]^{-1} [Y_{qp}] \quad (8)$$

where  $\lambda_{pq}$  is the phase angle of  $M_{qp}$ ,  $\theta_p, \theta_q$  are phase angles of the  $p$ th and the  $q$ th bus voltages, respectively,  $Y_{qq}$  is the self-admittance term of the  $q$ th bus and  $Y_{qp}$  is the mutual admittance between the  $q$ th and  $p$ th buses.

### Equality constraints:

constraints representing the load flow equations given by (9)



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$$\begin{cases} P_{Gp} - P_{Lp} = \sum_{q=1}^{NB} V_p ||V_q (G_{pq} \cos\delta_{pq} + B_{pq} \sin\delta_{pq}) \\ Q_{Gp} - Q_{Lp} = \sum_{q=1}^{NB} V_p ||V_q (G_{pq} \sin\delta_{pq} - B_{pq} \cos\delta_{pq}) \end{cases} \quad (09)$$

where  $P_{Gp}$ ,  $Q_{Gp}$  are injected active and reactive powers, at the  $p$ th bus, respectively,  $P_{Lp}$ ,  $Q_{Lp}$  are active and reactive power demands, at the  $p$ th bus, respectively,  $G_{pq}$ ,  $B_{pq}$  are transfer conductance and susceptance, between the  $p$ th and the  $q$ th buses, respectively and  $NB$  is the number of buses.

## Inequality constraints:

### i. Generator constraints:

For all the generator voltages (including slack bus), real and reactive power outputs (including slack bus) must be restricted within their lower and upper limits as stated in (10)

$$\begin{cases} V_{Gp}^{\min} \leq V_{Gp} \leq V_{Gp}^{\max}, p = 1, 2, \dots, N_{PV} \\ V_{Gp}^{\min} \leq Q_{Gp} \leq Q_{Gp}^{\max}, p = 1, 2, \dots, N_{PV} \end{cases} \quad (10)$$

### ii. Transformer constraints:

Transformer tap settings must be within their specified lower and upper limits as presented in (11)

$$T_{Gp}^{\min} \leq Q_{Gp} \leq Q_{Gp}^{\max}, p = 1, 2, \dots, N_T \quad (11)$$

### iii. Shunt VAR compensator constraints:

Reactive power outputs of shunt VAR compensators must be restricted within their lower and upper limits as written in (12)

$$Q_{Cp}^{\min} \leq Q_{Cp} \leq Q_{Cp}^{\max}, p = 1, 2, \dots, N_C \quad (12)$$

### iv. Security constraints:

These include the constraints on voltages at load buses and transmission line loadings. Each of these constraints must be within their lower and upper operating limits, as expressed in (13) and (14), respectively

$$V_{Lp}^{\min} \leq V_{Lp} \leq V_{Lp}^{\max}, p = 1, 2, \dots, N_{PQ} \quad (13)$$

$$S_{Lp} \leq S_{Lp}^{\max}, p = 1, 2, \dots, N_L \quad (14)$$

## III. FIREFLY ALGORITHM FIREFLY IN NATURE

Fireflies or glowworms are the creatures that can generate light inside of it. Light production in fireflies is due to a type of chemical reaction. This process occurs in specialized light-emitting organs, usually on a firefly's lower abdomen. It is thought that light in adult fireflies was originally used for similar warning purposes, but evolved for use in mate or sexual selection via a variety of ways to communicate with mates in courtships. Although they have many mechanisms, the interesting issues are what they do for any communication to find food and to protect themselves from enemy hunters including their successful reproduction. The pattern of flashes is often unique for a particular species of fireflies. The flashing light is generated by a chemical process of bio luminescence. However, two fundamental functions of such flashes are to attract mating partners or communication, and to attract potential victim. Additionally, flashing may also serve as a protective warning mechanism. Both sexes of fireflies are brought together via the rhythmic flash, the rate of flashing and the amount of time form part of the signal system. Females respond to a male's unique pattern of flashing in the same species, while in some species, female fireflies can mimic the mating flashing pattern of other species so as to lure and eat the male fireflies who may mistake the flashes as a potential suitable mate. The light intensity at a particular distance from the light source follows the inverse square law. That is as the distance increases the light intensity decreases. Furthermore, the air absorbs light which becomes weaker and weaker as there is an increase in the distance. There are two combined factors that make most fireflies visible only to a limited distance that is usually good enough for fireflies to communicate each other. The flashing light can be formulated in such a way that it is associated with the objective function to be optimized. This makes it possible to formulate new meta-heuristic algorithms.



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The firefly algorithm (FFA) is a meta-heuristic algorithm, inspired by the flashing behaviour of fireflies. The primary purpose for a firefly's flash is to act as a signal system to attract other fireflies. Now this can idealize some of the flashing characteristics of fireflies so as to consequently develop firefly inspired algorithms. For simplicity in describing our new Firefly Algorithm (FFA), there are the following three idealized rules. On the first rule, each firefly attracts all the other fireflies with weaker flashes. All fireflies are unisex so that one firefly will be attracted to other fireflies regardless of their sex. Secondly, attractiveness is proportional to their brightness which is inversely proportional to their distances. For any two flashing fireflies, the less bright one will move towards the brighter one. The attractiveness is proportional to the brightness and they both decrease as their distance increases. If there is no brighter one than a particular firefly, it will move randomly. Finally, no firefly can attract the brightest firefly and it moves randomly. The brightness of a firefly is affected or determined by the landscape of the objective function. For a maximization problem, the brightness can simply be proportional to the value of the objective function. Other forms of brightness can be defined in a similar way to the fitness function in genetic algorithms. Based on these three rules, the basic steps of the firefly algorithm (FFA) can be summarized as the pseudo code shown below.

## PSEUDO CODE OF THE FFA:

### Begin FFA Procedure;

Initialize algorithm parameters:

MaxGen: the maximal number of generations

$\gamma$ : the light absorption coefficient

r: the particular distance from the light source

d: the domain space

Define the objective function of  $f(x)$ , where  $x = (x_1, \dots, x_d)^T$

Generate the initial population of fireflies or  $x_i$  ( $i=1, 2, \dots, n$ )

Determine the light intensity of  $I_i$  at  $x_i$  via  $f(x_i)$

**While** ( $t < \text{MaxGen}$ )

**For**  $i = 1$  to  $n$  (all  $n$  fireflies);

**For**  $j = 1$  to  $n$  (n fireflies)

**If** ( $I_j > I_i$ ), move firefly  $i$  towards  $j$ ; **End if**

Attractiveness varies with distance  $r$  via  $\exp[-\gamma r^2]$ ;

Evaluate new solutions and update light intensity;

**End for j;**

**End for i;**

Rank the fireflies and find the current best;

**End while;**

Print the results;

**End procedure;**

In the firefly algorithm there are two important issues of the variation of light intensity and the formulation of the attractiveness. For simplicity, it is assumed that the attractiveness of a firefly is determined by its brightness which in turn is associated with the encoded objective function of the optimization problems. On the attractiveness of the FFA the main form of attractiveness function or  $\beta(r)$  can be any monotonically decreasing functions such as the following generalized form of

$$\beta(r) = \beta_0 e^{-\gamma r^m} \quad (11)$$

where  $r$  or  $r_{ij}$  is the distance between the  $i^{\text{th}}$  and  $j^{\text{th}}$  of two fireflies.

$\beta_0$  is the attractiveness at  $r = 0$  and  $\gamma$  is a fixed light absorption coefficient. The distance between any two fireflies ' $i$ ' and ' $j$ ' at  $x_i$  and  $x_j$  is the Cartesian distance as follows:

$$r_{ij} = \|x_i - x_j\| = \sqrt{\sum_{k=1}^d (x_{ik} - x_{jk})^2} \quad (15)$$



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where  $x_{ik}$  is the  $k^{\text{th}}$  component of the  $i^{\text{th}}$  firefly ( $x_i$ ). The movement of a firefly 'i' is attracted to another more attractive (brighter) firefly 'j', is determined by

$$x_{i+1} = x_i + \beta_0 e^{-\gamma \cdot r_{ij}^2} (x_j - x_i) + \alpha(\text{rand} - 0.5) \quad (16)$$

where the second term is due to the attraction while the third term is the randomization with  $\alpha$  being the randomization parameter. Rand is a random number generator uniformly distributed in the range of [0, 1]. For most cases in the implementation,

$$\beta_0 = 1 \quad \text{and} \quad \alpha = [0,1]$$

Furthermore, the randomization term can easily be extended to a normal distribution  $N(0, 1)$  or other distributions. The parameter  $\gamma$  characterizes the variation of the attractiveness, and its value is crucially important in determining the speed of the convergence and how the FFA behaves. In most applications, it typically varies from 0.001 to 100.

## IV. SIMULATION RESULTS

FFA based results of the ORPD problem for Ploss, TVD and L-index minimisation objective of this test system is presented in Table 1. These results are compared with those offered by the algorithms such as KHA and CKHA.

Table.1. Best control variable settings for power loss, TVD and L-index minimisation.

Control variables	KHA [18]	CKHA [18]	Proposed	Proposed	Proposed
			FPA For Loss Minimization	FPA For TVD Minimization	FPA For L-index Minimization
$V_{G1}$	1.05	1.05	1.05	1.05	1.05
$V_{G2}$	1.0381	1.0473	1.0278	1.0256	1.02389
$V_{G5}$	1.011	1.0293	1.0293	1.0238	1.0229
$V_{G8}$	1.025	1.035	1.028	1.016	1.012
$V_{G11}$	1.05	1.05	1.05	1.05	1.05
$V_{G13}$	1.05	1.05	1.05	1.05	1.05
$T_{11}$	0.9541	0.9916	0.9686	0.9538	0.947
$T_{12}$	1.0412	0.9538	1.9538	1.9486	1.9369
$T_{15}$	0.9514	0.9603	0.9331	0.9327	0.9347
$T_{36}$	0.9541	0.967	0.948	0.946	0.946
$QC_{10}$	0.0089	0.0092	0.0092	0.0091	0.0097
$QC_{12}$	0	0	0	0	0
$QC_{15}$	0.0141	0.0153	0.0148	0.0139	0.0127
$QC_{17}$	0.04989	0.0497	0.0495	0.0492	0.0482
$QC_{20}$	0.0314	0.0302	0.0301	0.03	0.03
$QC_{21}$	0.0345	0.05	0.045	0.043	0.041
$QC_{23}$	0.0241	0.0134	0.0234	0.0281	0.0238
$QC_{24}$	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05
$QC_{29}$	0.0107	0.0121	0.0111	0.0118	0.0116
Ploss, MW	3.65	3.24	<b>3.20</b>	3.52	3.70
TVD, pu	1.3415	1.3364	1.3852	<b>1.3252</b>	1.3583
L-index, pu	0.1425	0.1402	0.1413	0.1424	<b>0.13866</b>

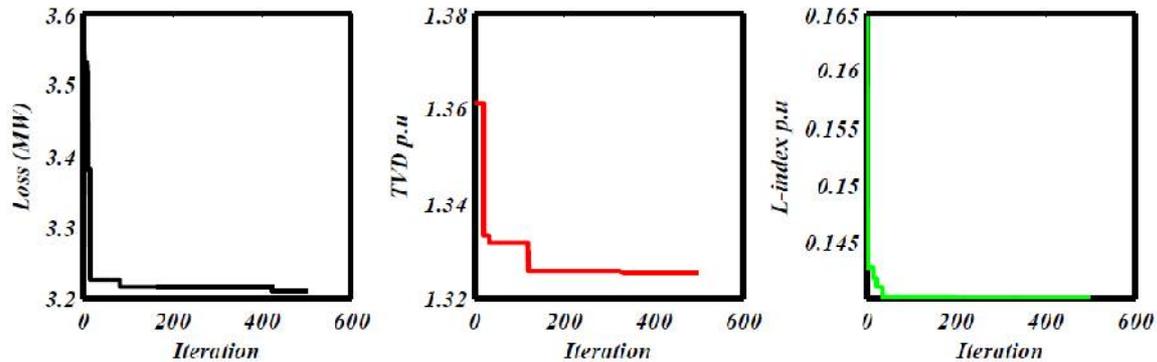


Figure.1. Convergence characteristics of loss, TVD and L-index minimization

## V. CONCLUSION

In this paper, FFA is proposed to solve the ORPD problem of power system having varying degree of dimensions and complexities. To check the superiority of the proposed FFA, it is tested on standard IEEE-30 bus power system. Simulation results, as offered by the proposed FFA is compared with other popular techniques recently reported in the recent state-of-the-art literatures and it is proved that this method having better efficiency, flexibility and good stability.

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