

Solving the Economic Load Dispatch Problem in Power System with Inequality Constraints Using MPSO

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Abstract: Modified Particle swarm optimization (MPSO) is applied to allot the active power among the generating stations satisfying the system constraints and minimizing the cost of power generated. The viability of the method is analyzed for its accuracy and rate of convergence. The economic load dispatch problem is solved for six unit system using MPSO for both cases of neglecting and including transmission losses. The optimization technique is constantly evolving to provide better and faster results. The economic load dispatch (ELD) plays a important role in operation of power system to decrease the power consumption and to fulfill the load demand in such a way to minimize the total generation cost and satisfying the equality and inequality constraints.

Keywords: Economic Load Dispatch (ELD), generator constraints, Emission constraints, Particle swarm optimization (PSO), Modified particle swarm optimization (MPSO).

1. INTRODUCTION

With large interconnection of the electric networks, the energy crisis in the world and continuous rise in prices, it is very essential to reduce the running costs of electric energy. A saving in the operation of the power system brings about a significant reduction in the operating cost as well as in the quantity of fuel consumed. The main aim of modern electric power utilities is to provide high-quality reliable power supply to the consumers at the lowest possible cost while operating to meet the limits and constraints imposed on the generating units and environmental considerations. These constraints formulates the economic load dispatch (ELD) problem for finding the optimal combination of the output power of all the online generating units that minimizes the total fuel cost, while satisfying an equality constraint and a set of inequality constraints. Traditional algorithms like lambda iteration, base point participation factor, gradient method, and Newton method can solve this ELD problems effectively if and only if the fuel-cost curves of the generating units are piece-wise linear and monotonically increasing. Practically the input to output characteristics of the generating units are highly non-linear, non-smooth and discrete in nature owing to prohibited operating zones, ramp rate limits and multifuel effects. Thus the resultant ELD becomes a challenging non-convex optimization problem, which is difficult to solve using the traditional methods. Methods like dynamic programming, genetic algorithm, evolutionary programming, artificial intelligence, and particle swarm optimization solve non-convex optimization problems efficiently and often achieve a fast and near global optimal solution. Among them MPSO was developed through simulation of a simplified social system, and has been found to be robust in solving continuous non-linear optimization problems. The MPSO technique can generate high-quality solutions within shorter calculation time and stable convergence characteristics.

2. ECONOMIC DISPATCH PROBLEM FORMULATION

A. Basic Economic Dispatch Formulation:

Economic load dispatch is one of the most important problems to be solved in the operation and planning of a power system, the primary concern of an ELD problem is to determine the generated power of all on-line generating units which minimize the total fuel cost as well as minimizing the environmental emission of the system, while satisfying equality and inequality constraints. The ED problem objective function can be formulated mathematically as given in eq. (1) and (2).

$$F_T = \text{Min } f(F_i(P_i)) \dots \dots \dots (1)$$

$$f(F_i(P_i)) = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \times p_i^2 + b_i \times p_i + c_i \dots \dots \dots (2)$$

Where, f is the objective function, a_i , b_i and c_i are the cost coefficients. n is the number of generating unit.

B. Constraints:

A. system constraints:

Equality constraints:

The equality constraints are the basic load flow equations of active and reactive power.

N

$$\sum P_i = P_D + P_L = 0 \dots \dots \dots (3)$$

$i = 1$

$$P_L = \sum_{j=0}^n P_i B_{ij} P_j \dots \dots \dots (4)$$

Where, P_D , P_L is the total system demand & line loss respectively. B_{ij} Line loss elements.

Inequality constraints:

Generator Limits

Generation output of each unit should lie between maximum and minimum limits as given in (5)

$$P_{\min} \leq P \leq P_{\max} \dots \dots \dots (5)$$

Where, P_i is the output power of i th generator.

B. Cost function:

The generated real power P_{Gi} has a major real power generation can be raised by increasing the prime mover torque which requires an increased expenditure of fuel. The reactive generations Q_{Gi} do not have any significant influence on C_i because they are controlled by controlling the field excitation. The individual production cost C_i of generator units is therefore for all practical purposes considered a function only of P_{Gi} , and for the overall production cost C , we thus have

$$\sum_{i=1}^N C_i(P_{Gi}) \dots \dots \dots (6)$$

Let C_i represents the cost function.

C. Emission coefficients: The Emission cost (Kg/h) of the i^{th} generating unit is described as in eq. (7).

$$F(E_i(P_i)) = \sum_{i=1}^n d_i \times p_i^2 + e_i \times p_i + f_i \dots \dots \dots (7)$$

Where, d_i , e_i and f_i are the emission co-efficient of the i^{th} unit.

3. PROBLEM FORMULATION

The objective of the economic load dispatch problem is to minimize the total fuel cost. MPSO is initialized with a group of random particles (solutions) and then searches for optima by updating generations. In every iteration, each particle is updated by following two "best" values. The first one is the best solution (fitness) it has achieved so far. This value is called p_{best} . Another "best" value that is tracked by the particle swarm optimizer is the best value, obtained so far by any particle in the population. This best value is a global best and called g_{best} . This best value is a global best and called g_{best} . After finding the two best values, the particle updates its velocity and positions according to the following equations.[2]

$$V_i^{(k+1)} = w * V_i^{(k)} + C_1 * rand() * (pbest_i - P_i^{(k)}) + C_2 * rand() * (gbest_i - P_i^{(k)})$$

$$P_i^{(k+1)} = P_i^{(k)} + V_i^{(k+1)}$$

In the above equation, The term $rand() * (pbest_i - P_i^{(k)})$ is called particle memory influence.

The term $rand() * (gbest_i - P_i^{(k)})$ is called swarm influence. In the above equation, C1 generally has a range (1.5,2) which is called as the self-confidence range and C2 generally has a range (2, 2.5) which is known as the swarm range. $V_i^{(k)}$ which is the velocity of the i th particle at iteration 'i' should lie in the pre-specified range (Vmin,Vmax). The parameter Vmax determines the resolution with which regions are to be searched between the present position and the target position. If Vmax is too high, particles may fly past good solutions. If Vmax is too small particles may not explore sufficiently beyond local solutions. Vmax is often set at 10-20% of the dynamic range on each dimension.

The constants C1 and C2 pull each particle towards pbest and gbest positions. Low values allow particles to roam far from the target regions before being tugged back. On the other hand, high values result in abrupt movement towards, or past, target regions. Hence the acceleration constants C1 and C2 are often set to be 2.0 according to past experiences.

The inertia constant can be either implemented as a fixed value or can be dynamically changing. This parameter controls the exploration of the search space. Suitable selection of inertia weight 'ω' provides a balance between global and local explorations, thus requiring less iteration on average to find a sufficiently optimal solution. As originally developed, ω often decreases linearly from about 0.9 to 0.4 during a run. In general, the inertia weight w is set according to the following equation,

$$W = W_{max} * \frac{W_{max} - W_{min}}{ITER_{max}} * ITER$$

Where W -is the inertia weighting factor

W_{max} - maximum value of weighting factor

W_{min} - minimum value of weighting factor

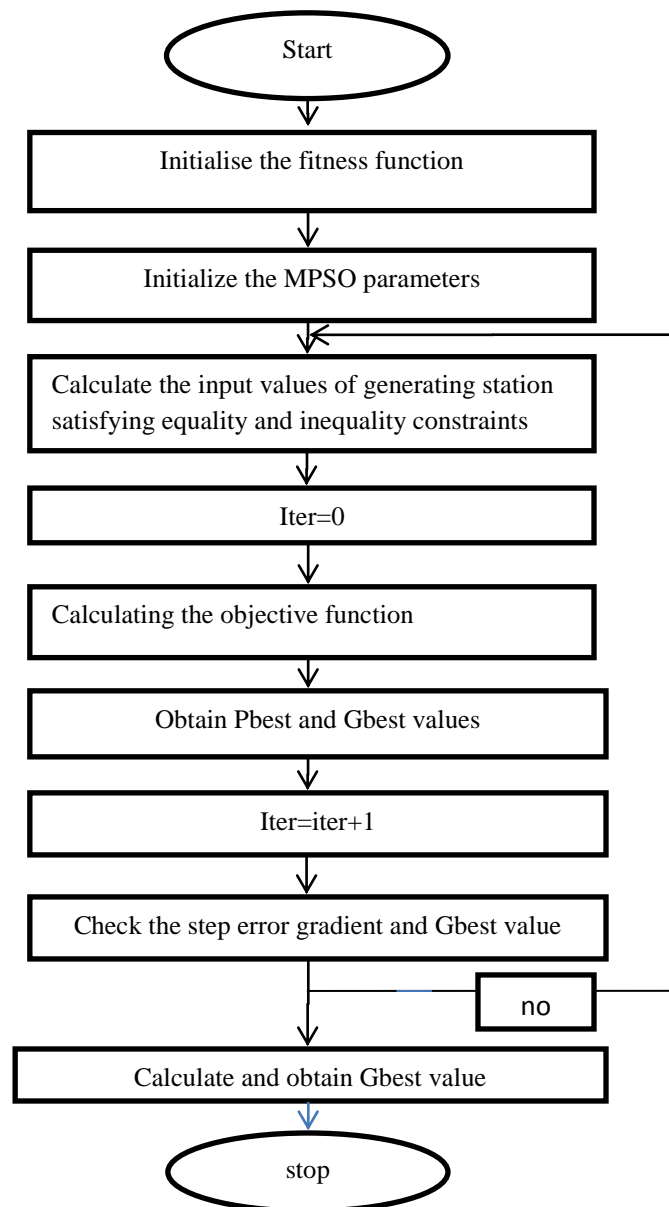
ITER – Current iteration number

$ITER_{max}$ -Maximum iteration number.

4. MPSO METHOD TO ECONOMIC LOAD DISPATCH

1. Initialize the Fitness Function ie. Total cost function from the individual cost function of the various generating stations.
2. Initialize the MPSO parameters Population size, C1, C2, W_{MAX} , W_{MIN} , error gradient etc.
3. Input the Fuel cost Functions, MW limits of the generating stations along with the B-coefficient matrix and the total power demand.
4. At the first step of the execution of the program a large no(equal to the population size) of vectors of active power satisfying the MW limits are randomly allocated.
5. For each vector of active power the value of the fitness function is calculated. All values obtained in an iteration are compared to obtain Pbest. At each iteration all values of the whole population till then are compared to obtain the Gbest. At each step these values are updated.
6. At each step error gradient is checked and the value of Gbest is plotted till it comes within the pre-specified range.
7. This final value of Gbest is the minimum cost and the active power vector represents the economic load dispatch solution.

5. FLOW CHART OF MPSO METHOD



Advantages of MPSO:

1. It only requires a fitness function to measure the 'quality' of a solution instead of complex mathematical operation like gradient or matrix inversion. This reduces the computational complexity and relieves some of the restrictions that are usually imposed on the objective function like differentiability, continuity, or convexity.
2. It is less sensitive to a good initial solution since it is a population-based method.
3. It can be easily incorporated with other optimization tools to form hybrid ones.
4. It has the ability to escape local minima since it follows probabilistic transition rules
5. It can be easily programmed and modified with basic mathematical and logical operations
6. It is in-expensive in terms of computation time and memory.
7. It requires less parameter tuning.

6. RESULTS

Table I Optimal Scheduling of Generators of a Six-unit system by MPSO Method (Loss neglected case).

SI No.	POWER DEMAND (MW)	P1(MW)	P2(MW)	P3(MW)	P4(MW)	P5(MW)	P6(MW)	TOTAL FUEL COST (Rs/hr)
1	800	28.74013	10.00002133	123.2588	126.933	260.04	251.028	40675.9682
2	900	32.51634594	10.79475825	143.6746427	142.9868715	287.1309084	282.8964732	45464.08097
3	1000	36.11488234	15.98564928	163.1347857	158.4553349	312.9788852	313.3304625	50363.69128

Table II Comparison of results between Conventional method and MPSO method for Six-unit system (Loss Neglected Case).

SI.No.	Power Demand (MW)	Conventional Method (Rs/Hr)	MPSO Method (Rs/Hr)
1	800	40675.97	40675.9682
2	900	45464.08	45464.08097
3	1000	50363.69	50363.69128

Table III C. Optimal Scheduling of Generators of a Six-unit system by MPSO Method (Loss included case).

SI No	Power Demand (MW)	P1 (MW)	P2 (MW)	P3 (MW)	P4 (MW)	P5 (MW)	P6 (MW)	TOTAL FUEL COST (Rs/hr)	Loss, PL (MW)
1	800	32.59768442	14.48845674	141.5664943	136.0037228	257.6848641	242.9892988	41896.62871	25.33052121
2	900	36.86889028	21.08289623	163.9647439	153.2207934	284.1119384	272.7371403	47045.15634	31.98640267
3	1100	48.04821465	38.25727999	222.1471275	198.3931315	325	315	57870.36512	46.84575365

Table IV D. Comparison of results between Conventional Method and MPSO method of a Six- unit system (Loss included Case).

SI No.	Power Demand (MW)	Conventional Method (Rs/Hr)	MPSO Method (Rs/Hr)
1	800	41896.63	41896.62871
2	900	47045.16	47045.15634
3	1100	57871.60	57870.36512

7. CONCLUSION

MPSO method was employed to solve the ELD problem for six unit system. The MPSO algorithm showed superior features including high quality solution, stable convergence characteristics. The solution was close to that of the conventional method but tends to give better solution in case of higher order systems. The comparison of results for the test cases of six unit system clearly shows that the proposed method is indeed capable of obtaining higher quality solution efficiently for higher degree ELD problems. The convergence tends to be improving as the system complexity increases. Thus solution for higher order systems can be obtained in much less time duration than the conventional method. The reliability of the proposed algorithm for different runs of the program is pretty good, which shows that irrespective of the run of the program it is capable of obtaining same result for the problem. Many non-linear characteristics of the generators can be handled efficiently by the method. The MPSO technique employed uses a inertia weight factor for faster convergence. The inertia weight is taken as a dynamically decreasing value from W_{max} to W_{min} at and beyond $ITER_{max}$.

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