

Optimal Overcurrent Relay Coordination Using Hybrid Genetic Algorithm and Linear Programming Method

[Hasan Can Kılıçkiran, İbrahim Şengör, Hüseyin Akdemir, Bedri Kekezoğlu]

Abstract—Power systems are exposed to various faults, such as phase-phase, phase-ground, 3-phase-ground during their operations. Due to fault type and location, some part of the system cannot be supplied when a fault occurs. Moreover, this issue not only reduces power quality parameters but also increases total energy cost of the system. Overcurrent relays are widely used tools for detecting and clearing fault in power systems. In addition to this, relays must be operated in a harmony whilst fault occurs. The coordination among relays can be quarantined by arranging their characteristics through adjusting their parameters. In conventional approach, operation characteristics of relays depend on two variables namely, pick up current (I_p) and time multiplier settings (TMS). In recent decades, several studies about optimization of relay coordination problem have been done. Since relay coordination problem is a non-convex optimization problem, most of studies has been used heuristic optimization techniques such as Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO), Genetic Algorithm (GA), Ant Colony Optimization (ACO). In this paper, relay coordination problem is solved by a hybrid Genetic Algorithm and Linear Programming (GALP) method. Both GA search space and computational effort is reduced using GALP. Hybrid method is tested on IEEE 14-Bus Test System. GALP and GA is programmed in MATLAB while DigSILENT Power Factory program is used to obtain values of power system parameters. Results show that GALP can converge to optimal solution faster than GA and increase in Distributed Generation (DG) capacity causes a rise in the total relay operating time.

Keywords—relay coordination, power systems, optimization, genetic algorithm, linear programming, hybrid, distributed generation

I. Introduction

Power systems are designed for supplying electrical energy from electric power plants to the end-users in a reliable and secure way [1]. However, some part of power systems can be interrupted by system faults that occur due to natural causes, unexpected load variations or equipment breakdowns [2]. Relays are most commonly used power system equipment in order to clear faulted part and to bring the system back into normal operating conditions as quickly as possible. Among relay types, directional overcurrent relays (DOCRs) are widely preferred type of overcurrent relays because of their low cost.

A key aspect of power system protection is relay coordination. Therefore, in recent decades there has been an increasing interest in optimal relay coordination problem. The main purpose of relay coordination optimization problem is to minimize relay operating time while ensuring coordination of relays in case of system faults [3]. The problem is fundamentally depends on two DOCRs settings, namely pickup current setting (I_p) and time multiplier setting (TMS). Linear programming or nonlinear programming are the two ways that are used to formulate optimal relay coordination problem [4]. In linear approach I_p settings are assumed to be pre-determined and the rest of the problem is solved using linear programming (LP) technique. A considerable amount of papers has been published that evaluates optimal relay coordination as a linear programming problem [5]–[9]. On the other hand, two settings are considered as continuous variables in nonlinear approach and problem is solved using nonlinear programming (NLP) technique [15]. Much of current literature on optimal relay coordination problem pays particular attention on population based methods. Genetic Algorithm (GA) [10], Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO) [11] and Evolutionary Algorithm (EA) [12] are the most popular ones with researches. The main advantages of such techniques are the convergence of the global optimal solution accurately. In addition to abovementioned methods, several hybrid methods are developed in recent years. Hybrid Genetic Algorithm and Linear Programming (GALP) and Genetic Algorithm and Non-Linear Programming (GANLP) are the most promising ones among these methods.

In this paper, hybrid GALP method is used for solving relay coordination problem of 14-Bus IEEE power system. For this purpose 14-Bus IEEE power system is simulated in DigSILENT/PowerFactory software. Based on load-flow and short-circuit calculations of system, optimal relay settings is determined by hybrid GALP algorithm. Additionally, Distributed Generation (DG) effect on relay coordination is investigated by connecting DGs with different size to the power system.

The rest of paper is organized as follows: Second section explains formulation of relay coordination problem. Third section presents GALP method. Sequentially, fourth section gives details about studied power system. Finally, simulation results are presented in section five and section six concludes the paper.

II. Problem Formulation

The main objective of optimal relay coordination problem is to operate the relays in minimum time while ensuring coordination between relays. The objective function is defined as follows [13]:

$$\min \sum_{j=1}^M \sum_{i=1}^N t_{ij} \quad (1)$$

where t is the operating time of relay, i is relay number, j is faulted location, N and M are total relay number and total fault number that are considered, respectively [14]. While objective function is minimized following constraints do not be exceed.

A. Relay Characteristics

Several different examples that is used to calculate relay characteristics can be found in the literature. In this paper, inverse time characteristic specified in IEC standards is used. Characteristic function of DOCRs is given in (2). All relays are assumed to be identical and operated by standard identical characteristic [15].

$$t = \frac{0.14 \times TMS}{\left(\frac{I_i}{I_p}\right)^{0.02} - 1} \quad (2)$$

In (2), t is relay operating time, TMS and I_{set} is time multiplier and pickup current settings respectively while I_i is short circuit current that is flowing through seconder winding of current transformer of relay.

B. Constraints of Relay Settings

Relay setting parameters inherently have borders that constraint relay operating time directly. In order to keep relay parameter in their practical limits, following constraint is used while constructing optimization problem.

$$TMS_{\min} \leq TMS \leq TMS_{\max} \quad (3)$$

$$I_{p_{\min}} \leq I_p \leq I_{p_{\max}} \quad (4)$$

In Inequality (3), TMS limits are determined through permissible range given by relay manufacturer. In this paper TMS range is assumed to be between 0.05-1.2. Similarly, I_p parameter is determined based on relay upper and lower bounds. Moreover, maximum load current and minimum short circuit current that are flowing through relay have to be considering to avoid unintended operations.

C. Coordination Constraints

Relays are always operated with their back-up pairs in power systems in order to guarantee proper operation in case of system faults. Therefore, when a relay is assigned to operate against a particular fault, another relay is also assigned with a delay for the same fault. The term ‘‘Coordination Time Interval (CTI)’’ is used to refer this delaying period and usually taken as 0.3.

$$t_b^F - t_p^F \leq CTI \quad (5)$$

In Equation (5), t_b and t_p are indicate back-up and primary relay operation time against a near-end fault respectively. This condition must be met for all faults that can be occurred in power system.

III. Hybrid GA and LP Method

The main purpose in this method is to decompose the optimization problem into two sub-problems. First sub-problem is solved using GA while the second part with LP. By evaluating problem in two steps computational efficiency is increased. The flowchart of the algorithm can be seen from Fig. 1. In the first step, GA is implemented in order to determine I_p values. The GA process is continued until all randomly created I_p values are obtained. Then, problem turns into a linear problem with known I_p values and unknown TMS values. Once the linear problem obtained, LP solver is used and optimal TMS values are determined, and LP phase ends. The LP solver function is called as many as total chromosome number in one iteration. Afterwards, algorithm returns to GA process and continues from where it breaks. Equation (2) is used to calculate fitness of chromosomes. If there is any chromosome with TMS or I_p values out of limits, penalty value is added to its fitness function and possibility of being in next generation for this

TABLE I. OPERATING TIMES and CONVERGED ITERATION NUMBERS

Connected DG Size	Total Operating Time of Last Population		Operating Time of Best Individual		Converged Iteration Number	
	GA	GALP	GA	GALP	GA	GALP
No DG	22812	20255	19,02	19,28	223	34
12 MVA	26541	22474	22,54	22,18	145	48
36 MVA	28171	23787	23,01	22,76	193	42
60 MVA	30354	24199	23,38	23,074	150	44

III. Conclusion

In this paper, the DG effect on DOCR coordination is investigated. For this purpose, IEEE 14-Bus Test System is modelled in DIGSILENT/PowerFactory software and problem is solved based on load and short circuit currents. Two different method namely, GA and GALP, is implemented to optimal relay coordination problem. As a result, total operating time of relays is increased when total connected DG capacity increase. Additionally, GALP method is converged to optimal solution faster than GA. Moreover, last population obtained by GALP includes more proper individuals compared to GA. Mitigating the negative DG effect on relay coordination problem is considered as future work.

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