

Hybrid Voltage Control Model for Hybrid Renewable Energy System Using Artificial Bees Colony Algorithm

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Abstract

This paper proposed a hybrid control model-based voltage control of Hybrid Energy System (HES) that includes both solar and wind energy conversion systems. The proposed hybrid voltage control model is the combination process of both the Artificial Bees Colony algorithm (ABC) and Proportional Integral controller (PI). The novelty of the proposed method is intelligent foraging behavior of honey bee swarm, which provides random reduction and ability to adapt complex optimization problems. Here, the ABC optimizes the gain parameters under various operating conditions using the minimized Square Error (SE). It considers the actual voltage outcome of the buck converter and the set point voltage. By using the optimized gain parameters, the PI controller is operated. Each separate energy conversion system is controlled by the separate proposed hybrid voltage control model. The proposed method is implemented in MATLAB/Simulink platform and the performance is verified using the comparative analysis with the existing techniques. The comparison results prove the superiority of the proposed method.

Keywords

HES, ABC, PI, SE, Voltage

1. Introduction

Rapid depletion of non-renewable resources worldwide and release of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere have

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contributed to global warming which has necessitated an urgent search for alternative energy sources to cater to the present day's demand [1]-[3]. More importantly, these non-renewable energy resources are quickly dwindling and will no longer be available in the near future due to rapid exploitation [4]. Alternative energy technologies, like wind- and solar-based energy generation systems, are receiving national and worldwide attention owing to the rising rate of consumption of nuclear and fossil fuels [5]. Renewable energy has the potential for infinite use by end users with improved control devices and techniques [6]. With their advantages of being abundant in nature and nearly nonpolluting, renewable energy sources have attracted wide attention [7] [8]. These renewable energies are motivated by a will to reduce green-house gases (GHG) emissions and the increase of fuel prices that drives up the prices of energy [9]. There are several ways by which electricity can be generated locally using renewable sources such as solar, wind, biogas, etc. [10].

Hybrid Renewable Energy Systems (HRES), combine two or more complementary renewable sources like wind and solar and one or more conventional sources like diesel generator [11], and equipment for the storage of energy [12]. Hybrid Renewable Energy Systems are usually more reliable and less costly than other type of renewable systems that rely on a single source of energy [13]-[15]. HRES is becoming popular for stand-alone power generation in isolated sites due to the advances in renewable energy technologies and power electronic converters which are used to convert the unregulated power generated from renewable sources into useful power at the load end [16]. One of the most promising applications of renewable energy technology is the installation of hybrid energy systems in remote areas, where the grid extension is costly and the cost of fuel increases drastically with the remoteness of the location [17].

A hybrid system can supply power AC or DC or both. Component or system control or both is used to regulate the overall system operation [18]. The appropriate selection of the hybrid system's components, its optimal sizing and operation control are essential and challenging steps in hybrid energy systems and minimizing the equivalent pollutant emissions of the hybrid system is one more objective [19]. There are many optimization algorithms applied to calculate the capacity allocation for the renewable energy based hybrid power system. In addition, more control models are used to control the frequency deviation and optimal operation [20].

This paper proposed a hybrid control model-based voltage control of Hybrid Energy System (HES) that includes both solar and wind energy conversion systems [21]-[23]. The proposed hybrid voltage control model is the combination process of both the Artificial Bees Colony algorithm (ABC) and Proportional Integral controller (PI). The novelty of the proposed method is intelligent foraging behavior of honey bee swarm, which provides random reduction and ability to adapt complex optimization problems. Here, the ABC optimizes the gain parameters under various operating conditions using the minimized Square Error (SE). It considers the actual voltage outcome of the buck converter and the set point voltage. By using the optimized gain parameters, the PI controller is operated. Each separate energy conversion system is controlled by the separate proposed hybrid voltage control model [24]-[32].

2. HES with Proposed Voltage Control Model

The HES consists of three main parts such as wind energy conversion system, solar energy conversion system and full bridge inverter. The structure of the HES with proposed voltage control model is described in **Figure 1**. The wind energy conversion system is comprised of permanent magnet synchronous generator, uncontrolled full bridge rectifier and buck converter proposed hybrid voltage control model. The solar energy conversion system contains solar panels and buck converter with proposed hybrid voltage controller. Both the systems are connected to the three phase full bridge inverter using the inter phase transformer. The control pulses of the full bridge inverter are attained from the Sinusoidal Pulse Width Modulation (SPWM) scheme. The outcome of the inverter is three phase sinusoidal AC voltage, which is allowed to serve the load via three phase step up transformer.

The wind turbine converts wind speed into mechanical energy using wind turbines shaft of the generator. The buck converter of the wind energy conversion system is controlled by the proposed hybrid voltage controller. It tracks the reference voltage and adjusts the output voltage to the reference voltage.

PV cells, which are electrical devices, convert light energy to electrical energy. The energy that is obtained from solar PV panels is sustainable. This semiconductor panel absorbs photons from sunlight and releases electrons from atoms and so a potential difference is generated. This makes a current flow in the material to neglect the potential difference and hence the electricity is captured.



Figure 1. Structure of the HES with proposed control model.

The outcomes of both the systems are connected to the inter phase transformer, which is used to absorb voltage difference between DC voltages of two converters at any instant and ensures independent operation without any circulating current [33]. The three phase full bridge inverter is used to give the three phase AC sinusoidal voltage to the load via three phase transformer. The three phase full bridge inverter is designed by six controlled switches, which have been controlled by the SPWM scheme.

Proposed hybrid voltage control model

This section describes the proposed hybrid voltage control model, which is the combination of both the ABC algorithm and PI controller. The ABC algorithm works based on the foraging performance of honey bees for solving numerical optimization problems [34] [35]. It is one of the swarm intelligence optimization algorithms. Generally, ABC consists of three phases such as employed bee phase, onlooker bee phase and scout bee phase. Their efficient determination of food sources improves the reliability of ABC. Here, the ABC algorithm optimizes the proportional gain k_p and Integral gain k_1 parameters of the PI controller by using the objective function, *i.e.*, minimization of Square Error (SE). The actual output voltage of the buck converter and the set point voltage are considered as the input parameters of the ABC. From the optimized parameters, the PI controller has been operated. In contrast, gain constants are determined only once in conventional controllers and so they can be operated only at restricted operating point changes. This makes these controllers unsupportive where robust performance is required. Initially, the gain parameters are randomly generated with the required limit, which is described in the following Equation (1).

$$X_i = X_i^{\min} \le X_i \le X_i^{\min}, \quad \forall i = 1, 2...n$$

$$\tag{1}$$

where, $X_i = \begin{bmatrix} k_P^i, k_I^i \end{bmatrix}$ are the gain parameters; the employed bee attains elite fitness function from Equation (2) and the onlooker bee improve the velocity of the input populations using Equation (3).

$$F(E) = \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \left(\Delta V_i \right)^2 \right\}$$
⁽²⁾

$$V_{i,j} = X_{i,j} + F(E)_{i,j} \left(X_{i,j} - X_{k,j} \right)$$
(3)

where, $(\Delta V_i)^2 = (V_i^{ref} - V_i^{act})^2$, $\forall i = 1, 2...n$ is the SE; k = (1, 2, 3...n) and j = (1, 2, 3...n) are the randomly chosen indices. From the onlooker bee, the probability formula for selecting the nectar source can be expressed as follows,

probability =
$$\frac{F(E)}{\sum_{i=1}^{n} F(E)}$$
 (4)

If better solutions are not achieved, abandon the solutions and produce the random number of scout bee solutions using the following Equation (5).

$$x_{i}^{j} = x_{\min}^{j} + rand [0,1] (x_{\max}^{j} - x_{\min}^{j})$$
(5)

Then, the fine fitness of new food sources are determined using Equation (2) and the best solution refers to optimal gain parameters. The steps to find the optimal gain parameters to tuning the PI controller using ABC algorithm are explained below.

Steps of the ABC algorithm:

Step 1: In the first step, initialization of all the parameters of the algorithm, such as input parameters' limits and random population N limits are done. Here, the actual output voltage of the buck converter and the set point voltage are applied as the input.

Step 2: Randomly generate the gain parameters k_p and k_l according to the specified limit, which is attained in the employed bee phase.

Step 3: The random solutions are applied in the fitness Equation (2) and find the best solution.

Step 4: The neighborhood search of the onlooker bee phase varies to velocity of the input population using Equation (3) to determine solutions.

Step 5: Categorize the obtained solutions as best solution set and worst solution set.

Step 6: Determine the neighborhood search space size for every best solution set and generate solutions from the selected neighborhood search space.

Step 7: When there could not be best solution set from onlooker bee phase, discard the solutions and fill it with random scout bee solutions, which can be generated using Equation (4).

Step 8: Find the best solution from each set and determine the associated fuel cost to meet load demand.

Step 9: Check the stopping criterion. If satisfied, terminate the search, else go to step 10.

Step 10: Assign the new population to generate new solutions. Go to Step 2.

Once the process is finished, the ABC is ready to give the optimum tuning parameters for the PI controller. The output of the ABC is varied according to the variation in outcome of the buck converter (Figure 2).

3. Results and Discussion

The proposed method is implemented in MATLAB. Here, the PMSG wind turbine and PV system are utilized for testing the proposed hybrid voltage control technique. The effectiveness of the proposed model effectiveness is analyzed by comparing with that of the conventional technique. The implemented model of HES is described in the following Figure 3.

The line voltage measured at the output of the inverter is shown in Figure 4. Figure 5 is segregated into three sections and labeled as (a), (b) and (c) for output voltage, output current and output power of the wind turbine. The WECS rectifier output DC voltage, current and power using proposed method are explained in Figure 6. The attained total DC voltage is applied to the full bridge inverter via interphase transformer.

The solar plant DC outcomes using proposed hybrid voltage control technique are measured in the 0.04 second simulation time, which are depicted in Figure 7. Here, the DC output voltage and current of the solar plant are illustrated in Figure 8(a) and Figure 8(b) respectively. The output dc power is explained in Figure $\mathbf{8}(\mathbf{c})$. The performance of the proposed method is compared with that of the normal PI controller, which is described in the following section.



Figure 2. PI controller with ABC algorithm.



Figure 3. HES with controller model





The DC line voltages of the inverter performance using proposed hybrid technique and normal PI controller are compared in **Figure 9**. The upper curve illustrates the inverter voltage using the proposed technique and the lower curve shows the inverter voltage using the PI controller. Here, the AC voltage lies between the -60 V, 0 and 60 V but the PI controller technique has unstable voltage levels at the end of the operating condition compared to the proposed technique. The phase voltage of the inverter comparison is depicted in **Figure 10**, which is tested under 0.945 second simulation time. The upper curve represents the inverter phase voltage using the proposed hybrid voltage control technique, which has the line voltage 230 V and 120° phase shift for each phase. The lower curve signifies the inverter phase voltage using the PI controller, which has also the amplitude same as that of the proposed method but the phase shift differs from the proposed technique and shows high distortion.

The waveforms obtained from the wind turbine using the proposed technique and the PI controller technique are explained in **Figure 10**, which is segregated in to three segments and labeled as (a), (b) and (c) for output voltage, output current and output power respectively. Figure 10(a) illustrates wind turbine output voltage comparison. Here, the wind turbine voltage has the minimum distortion and settling time compared to those of the PI controller.



Figure 5. Waveform analysis of wind turbine using proposed technique (a) Output voltage (b) Output current and (c) Output power.



Figure 6. Waveform of WECS rectifier using proposed technique (a) Output voltage and (b) Output current.

The WECS rectifier performances using different techniques like the proposed hybrid voltage control method and the PI controller technique are explained in Figure 11, which is classified into two labels such as Figure 11(a) for output voltage comparison and Figure 12(b) for output current comparison. It is seen that the PI controller has high rise time, peak overshoot and settling time compared to those of the proposed technique. The



Figure 7. Inverter output voltage comparison.



Figure 8. Waveform analysis of solar plant using proposed technique (a) Output voltage (b) Output current and (c) Output power.



Figure 9. Inverter phase voltage comparison.



Figure 10. Waveform comparison of wind turbine (a) Output voltage (b) Output current and (c) Output power.







Figure 12. Waveform comparison of solar plant (a) Output voltage (b) Output current and (c) Output power.

waveform comparison of solar plant is explained in Figure 13. Figure 12(a) describes the DC output voltage of the solar plant. Here, the solar plant output voltage using the PI controller has 0.004 second rise time and settled at the 0.02 second. The proposed voltage control technique has 0.003 second rise time with 0.005 second settling time. Figure 12(b) explains the solar plant output DC current comparison and Figure 12(c) describes the solar plant output power comparison. It clearly shows that the PI controller technique does not exactly



control the distortions present in the solar plant outcome compared to the proposed technique. On the other hand, the proposed voltage control technique effectively maintains the stability of the system. Then the inverter output AC voltage THD spectrum is analyzed in the above Figure 14. In Figure 14, the inverter voltage THD spectrum using the PI controller is explained, which consists of 4.09% of THD that explains the inverter output voltage spectrum using the proposed voltage control technique. It is seen that the proposed method has 0.97% of THD. From the comparison analysis, we can finalize that the proposed method effectively maintains the system stability with low harmonics.

4. Conclusion

In the paper, proposed study introduced hybrid control model-based voltage control of HES. Both the most pop-

ular renewable sources of energy, solar energy source and wind energy source, were individually modeled and then combined to represent a distributed generation system in the Simulink model. The DC buck converters for HES have been designed to supply the generated voltage with stability to the load under various operating conditions using the proposed control model. In the proposed control model, PI controller had worked based on the optimized gain parameters obtained from the ABC algorithm. The effectiveness of the proposed method had been evaluated by comparative analysis with different conventional control techniques. The modeled distributed generation system had been verified by generated phase voltages for its conversion efficiency with total harmonic ration of voltage (THD) at 0.97%. The effectiveness of the proposed method had been proved by the obtained simulation results and comparative analysis.

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