

## Optimum Network Reconfiguration using Grey Wolf Optimizer

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### Abstract

*Distribution system Reconfiguration is the process of changing the topology of the distribution network by opening and closing switches to satisfy a specific objective. It is a complex, combinatorial optimization problem involving a nonlinear objective function and constraints. Grey Wolf Optimizer (GWO) is a recently developed metaheuristic search algorithm inspired by the leadership hierarchy and hunting strategy of grey wolves in nature. The objective of this paper is to determine an optimal network reconfiguration that presents the minimum power losses, considering network constraints, and using GWO algorithm. The proposed algorithm was tested using some standard networks (33 bus, 69 bus, 84 bus and 118 bus), and the obtained results reveal the efficiency and effectiveness of the proposed approach.*

**Keywords:** reconfiguration, power loss, grey wolf optimizer, radial distribution networks

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### 1. Introduction

A power system can be divided to different phases, generation phase, transmission phase and distribution phase. The distribution phase is the important one that presents liaison between transmission system and consumer. Distribution networks are in many cases exploited in a radial configuration [1], power flux has just a way to transit from source to load. Radial configuration allows insuring easily network maintenance and fast fault detection with short-term network restoring. To move from a configuration to another it is enough to change switchers states (opened or closed) so as to reduce active losses, balance loads between feeder or maximize, in case of line fault the number of restored customers[2]. Distribution network reconfiguration was proposed the first time by A. Merlin *et al* [3]. The distribution network reconfiguration is considered as a non-linear and/or discreet combinatory programming problem. To determine an optimal reconfiguration, one has to perform a sequence of adequate commutation operation by considering all aspects of network constraints (technique, security and topology) [4]. Distribution network reconfiguration can minimize active losses [5].

To determine optimal distribution network reconfiguration, different methods based meta-heuristic optimization proposed in literature as, Modified Tabu Search Algorithm [6]. Modified PSO Algorithm[7,8]. Adaptive Particle Swarm Optimization [9]. Genetic Algorithm [10]. Artificial Bee Colony Algorithm [11]. Differential Evolution[12]. Artificial Immune Systems [13]. Gravitational Search Algorithm [14]. Harmony Search algorithm [15]. Hybrid Big Bang-Big Crunch Algorithm [16]. Biogeography Based Programming Algorithm [17]. Cuckoo Search Algorithm [18]. Runner-root Algorithm [19]. Stochastic Dominance Concepts [20]. In this paper, a metaheuristic technique called (GWO) based on graphs theory is proposed to find the optimal reconfiguration of an electrical network in order to minimize active losses. This is concretized by an adequate adjustment of switches states. The remainder is organized as follows: The second section is dedicated to distribution network reconfiguration problem, definitions and methods associated. In the third section, we gives the mathematical programming model of the proposed problem. In the fourth section, we shows the application of GWO technique to network reconfiguration problem. The fifth section presents some simulation results relative to standard networks.

## 2. Problem Formulation

### 2.1. Objective Function

In distribution network level, active losses reduction can be established by network topology changing. Active power losses, due to current flow in an electrical conductor, is given by (1)

$$P_{loss} = \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^N \{A_{ij}(P_i P_j + Q_i Q_j) + B_{ij}(Q_i P_j - P_i Q_j)\} \quad (1)$$

$$\text{with } A_{ij} = \frac{R_{ij} \cos(\delta_i - \delta_j)}{V_i V_j} \text{ and } B_{ij} = \frac{R_{ij} \sin(\delta_i - \delta_j)}{V_i V_j}$$

where  $P_i, Q_i$  refer to active and reactive power at bus  $i$ .

$P_j, Q_j$  refer to active and reactive powers at bus  $j$ .

$R_{ij}$  is the branch resistance between buses  $i$  and  $j$ .

$V_i/\delta_i$  are voltage and angle at bus  $i$ .

$V_j/\delta_j$  are voltage and angle at bus  $j$ .

$N$  represents the number of buses in the network.

To insure a steady operation of the network is necessary to respect network exploitation constraints such as equality and inequality constraints given in the following section.

### 2.2. Equality Constraints

Its defined by load flow equations, corresponding to one operation point of the network, for a given load and generation. They are given as follows:

$$\begin{cases} P_{Gi} - P_{Li} = \sum_{j=1}^{N_{bus}} V_i V_j Y_{ij} [G_{ij} \cos(\theta_{ij}) + B_{ij} \sin(\theta_{ij})] \\ Q_{Gi} - Q_{Li} = \sum_{j=1}^{N_{bus}} V_i V_j Y_{ij} [G_{ij} \sin(\theta_{ij}) - B_{ij} \cos(\theta_{ij})] \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

where:  $Y_{ij} = G_{ij} + jB_{ij}$  is the admittance matrix corresponding to buses  $i$  and  $j$ .

### 2.3. Inequality Constraints

The nodal voltages in all network remains within admissible limits, which are given by

$$V_{imin} \leq V_i \leq V_{imax} \text{ for } i = 1 \dots N \quad (3)$$

where:  $V_{imin}$  and  $V_{imax}$  are the extremal (Min/Max) voltages of  $i^{th}$  bus.

(i) The transiting currents are limited by the line thermal limits so that

$$S_{li} \leq S_{limax} \text{ for } i = 1 \dots NB \quad (4)$$

where  $S_{li}$  is the apparent power flow at distribution system lines between buses  $i$  and  $j$ ,  $S_{limax}$  is permitted rating of lines  $ij$ .

### 2.4. Radiality Constraint

This constraint is relative to network topology that indicates radiality conservation of exploitation schemes, so there is no power loop in the scheme[21].

### 2.5. Connectivity Constraint

Obviously, it is necessary to have all buses under electrical voltage.

## 2.6 Constraints-Handling Mechanism

### 2.6.1. Equality Constraints

In distribution networks, Newton-Raphson and Gauss-Seidel methods are not more appropriate to solve the power flow problem because, in cases, they diverge due to different typical characteristics related to transmission network where, the configuration is generally radial with, high ratio  $R/X$  [22]. For that reason, backward-forward sweep (BFS) technique is used in this work to analyze the power flow.

**2.6.2. Inequality Constraints**

Physical problems enclose generally constraints that have to be fulfilled. The constraints' set defines the feasible set. Indeed, a solution that not verify one or many constraints is said to be non-feasible and cannot be considered as ideal solution, even if it optimizes the objective function. Therefore, penalty function is necessary to favor feasible solutions. Hence the objective function must be replaced by the following function see [23-26].

$$F^{Penalized} = F + \sum_{i=1}^{N_{bus}} K_v (V_i - V_i^{lim})^2 + \sum_{i=1}^{N_{line}} K_s (S_{Li} - S_{Li}^{lim})^2 \tag{5}$$

where:  $F$  is the objective function value,  $V_i^{lim}$  and  $S_{Li}^{lim}$  are expressed as:

$$V_i^{lim} = \begin{cases} V_i^{max} & \text{if } V_i > V_i^{max} \\ V_i^{min} & \text{if } V_i < V_i^{min} \\ V_i & \text{if } V_i^{min} \leq V_i \leq V_i^{max} \end{cases} \tag{6}$$

$$S_{Li}^{lim} = \begin{cases} S_{Li}^{max} & \text{if } S_{Li} > S_{Li}^{max} \\ S_{Li}^{min} & \text{if } S_{Li} < S_{Li}^{min} \\ S_{Li} & \text{if } S_{Li}^{min} \leq S_{Li} \leq S_{Li}^{max} \end{cases} \tag{7}$$

Where:  $K_v$  and  $K_s$  represent the penalty factors which are selected as 10.000.

So, a penalty function is used (for topology constraints) in the case of existing power loops or isolated loads as follows:

$$F_n^{penalized} = K_m \cdot N_m + K_i \cdot N_i \tag{8}$$

where  $N_m$  is the existing power loops number,  $N_i$  is the number of isolated loads,  $K_m$  and  $K_i$  are penalty factors.

**3. Grey Wolf Optimizer Algorithm**

S\_Mirjalili *et al*, proposed a novel population based meta-heuristic optimization algorithm namely "Grey Wolf Optimizer" [27]. The main inspiration of this algorithm is the social leadership and hunting technique of grey wolves. Similarly to other meta-heuristics, it initializes the process by a set of random candidate solutions (wolves). During every iteration, the first three best wolves are considered as ( $\alpha$ ), ( $\beta$ ), and ( $\delta$ ) which lead other wolves ( $\omega$ ) toward promising zones of the search space.

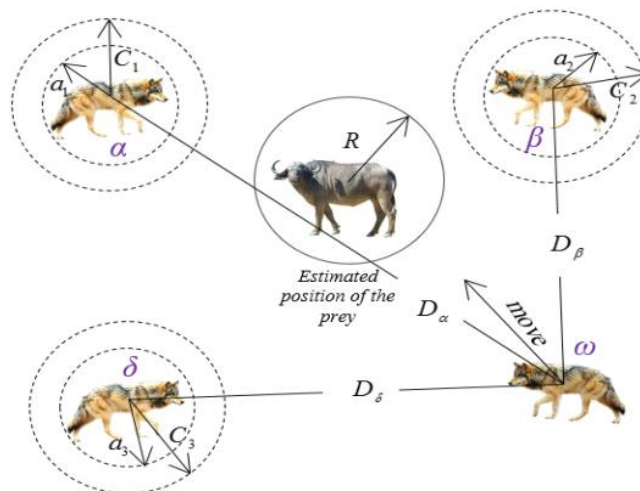


Figure 1. GWO algorithm strategy

Grey wolves tend to encircle the prey when the hunt. The encircling behavior can be formulate as follows:

$$\vec{X}(t+1) = \vec{X}_p(t) - \vec{A} \cdot |\vec{C}\vec{X}_p(t) - \vec{X}| \quad (9)$$

$$\vec{A} = 2\vec{a} \cdot \text{rand}_1 - \vec{a} \quad (10)$$

$$\vec{C} = 2 \cdot \text{rand}_2 \quad (11)$$

where:  $t$  is the iteration number,  $\vec{A}$  and  $\vec{C}$  are the coefficient vectors,  $\vec{X}$  the prey position vector,  $\vec{X}_p$  refers to the grey wolf position vector.  $\text{rand}_1$  and  $\text{rand}_2$  are random vectors in the interval  $[0, 1]$  and the variable  $\vec{a}$  decreases linearly from 2 to 0 with iteration steps given by

$$\vec{a} = 2 - t/t_{max} \quad (12)$$

Is worth noticing that each mega wolf is required to update its position with respect to  $\beta$ , and  $\delta$  simultaneously as follows:

$$\vec{D}_\alpha = |\vec{C}_1\vec{X}_\alpha(t) - \vec{X}| \quad (13)$$

$$\vec{D}_\beta = |\vec{C}_2\vec{X}_\beta(t) - \vec{X}| \quad (14)$$

$$\vec{D}_\delta = |\vec{C}_3\vec{X}_\delta(t) - \vec{X}| \quad (15)$$

$$\vec{X}_1 = \vec{X}_\alpha - \vec{A}_1 \cdot (\vec{D}_\alpha) \quad (16)$$

$$\vec{X}_2 = \vec{X}_\beta - \vec{A}_2 \cdot (\vec{D}_\beta) \quad (17)$$

$$\vec{X}_3 = \vec{X}_\delta - \vec{A}_3 \cdot (\vec{D}_\delta) \quad (18)$$

$$\vec{X}(t+1) = (\vec{X}_1 + \vec{X}_2 + \vec{X}_3)/3 \quad (19)$$

It was argued by S\_Mirjalili *et al* that the parameters  $A$  and  $C$  force the grey wolf optimizer algorithm to explore and exploit the search space [27]. Half of the iterations is devoted to exploration ( $|A| > 1$ ) and the rest is used for exploitation ( $|A| < 1$ ). The parameter  $C$  also changes randomly to solve the local optima stagnation during optimization.

#### 4. Application of the GWO to the Proposed Problem

##### 4.1. Decision variables

Because of the design of the network, the fundamental loops are numbered from 1 to  $BL$ , respectively. One switch from every  $BL$  loops is opened to keep the network radial with considering constraints. This contributes to reduce the generation of non feasible configurations during each steps of the algorithm.

$$X = [Sw_1, Sw_2, \dots \dots Sw_{BL}] \quad (20)$$

where:  $X$  is the state variables and  $Sw_i$  represents the open switch number that is selected from the  $i^{\text{th}}$  fundamental loop. So, the size of  $X$  is equal to the number of distribution system fundamental loops. The number of network fundamental loops is identical to the tie switches number. Moreover, Figure 2 show the encoding of individuals, where each candidate switch is denoted by discrete integer corresponding to the respective loop vector. Figure 3 shows the flow chart for Grey Wolf Optimizer algorithm.

$$S_{w_1} \in FL_1 \quad S_{w_2} \in FL_2 \quad \dots \quad S_{w_i} \in FL_i \quad \dots \quad S_{w_{BL}} \in FL_{BL}$$

Figure 2. Individuals structure

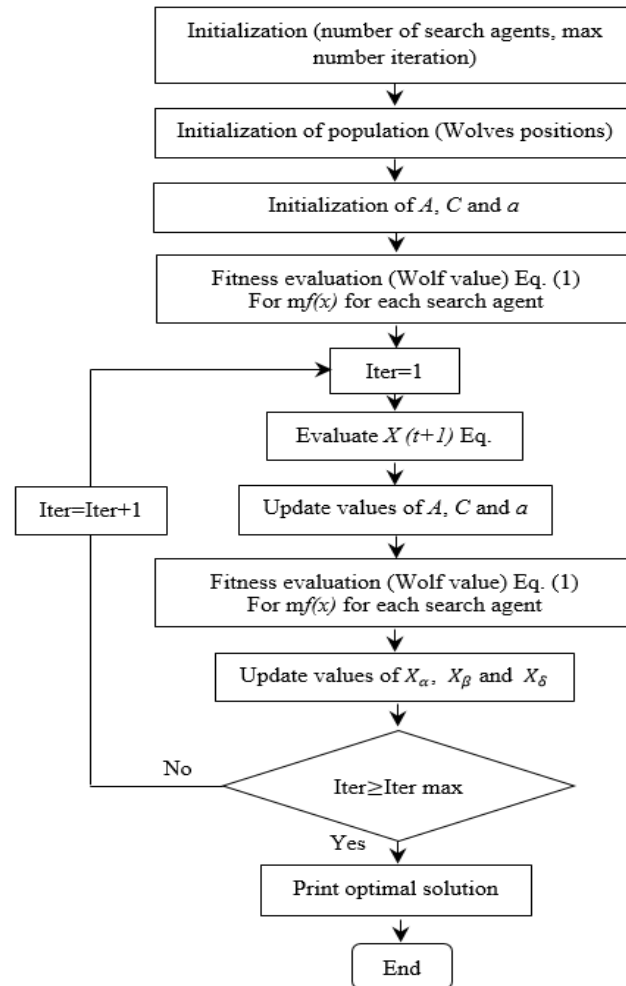


Figure 3. Flow chart for GWO algorithm

#### 4.2. Proposed Method Steps

The pseudo codes the GWO algorithm are given by following steps:

Step 1: Define the input data including the system base configuration, branch impedance and bus data (load real and reactive power) and switches devices states.

Step 2: Initialize GWO parameters (maximum number iterations  $iter$ ), (population size,  $PS$ ), and (vectors variables  $\vec{a}$ ,  $\vec{A}$  and  $\vec{C}$ ).

Step 3: Run load flow analysis using BFS technique, for each control variables vector. According to the results of the distribution load flow, evaluate the fitness function value  $F_{obj}(X)$  (1) and (5).

Step 4: Update leader wolves  $X_\alpha$ ,  $X_\beta$ , and  $X_\delta$  (the first three best search agents).

Step 5: Use (10), (11) and (12) to calculate the coefficient vectors ( $\vec{a}$ ,  $\vec{A}$  and  $\vec{C}$ ).

Step 6: Update the wolves position using (9).

Repeat procedure from step 3 to step 6 up to maximum number iteration. The last  $X_\alpha$  present the solution of problem.

**5. Simulations and Discussion**

In order to test the efficiency of the proposed technique, the application is performed on some standard networks with different sizes such as 33\_bus network [28], 69\_bus [29], 84\_bus [30] and 118\_bus [31].

From the comparison of the second and the fifth columns in Table 1, we can see that, for all test system, the total active power losses are reduced significantly *after reconfiguration*. Figure 4, represent the voltage profiles of all test systems. So, we can note that, for all nodes, the voltage levels of the radial distribution systems are improved and placed in an acceptable margin. The results obtained using GWO method is compared with Particle Swarm Optimization(PSO) method and the results are given in Table 2.

Table 1. Result of Simulation

Test System	Before Reconfiguration		After Reconfiguration			
	Real Power Loss (kW)	Minimum node voltage (pu)	Branches switched out	Real Power Loss (kW)	Minimum node voltage (pu)	Loss reduction (%)
33_bus	202.66	0.9131	7-14-9-32-37	139.51	0.9378	31.16
69_bus	224.78	0.9092	14-70-69-58-61	99.58	0.9427	55.70
84_bus	531.81	0.9285	55-7-86-72-88-89-90-83-92-39-34-40-62	470.32	0.9532	11.56
118_bus	1297.86	0.8688	42-12-23-51-48-58-39-95-71-74-97-107-85-109-34	905.19	0.9322	30.26

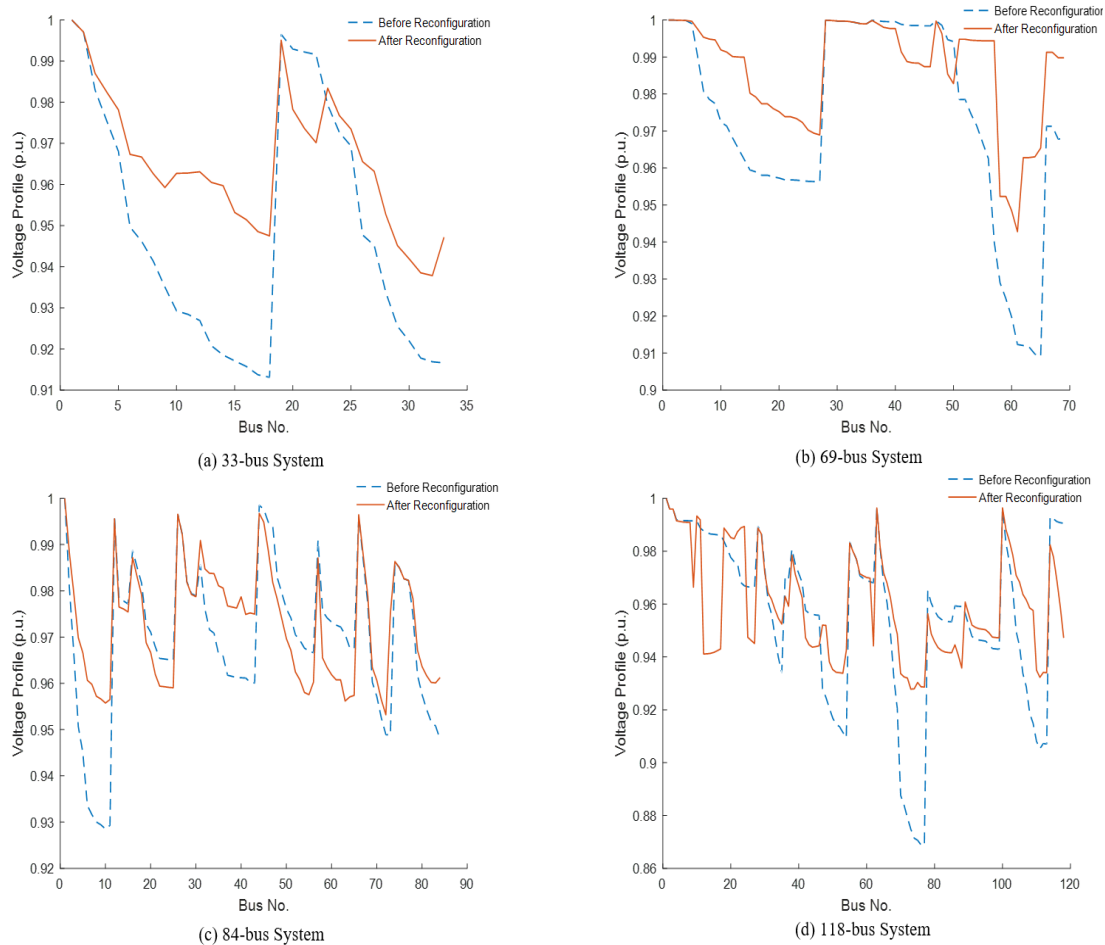


Figure 4. Voltage profile before and after reconfiguration

Table 2. Comparisons of Average with Previous Method

Test system	Methods	Optimal configuration	Real power loss (kW)	Minimum node voltage (pu)
33-bus	PSO	7-14-9-32-37	142.12	0.9336
	Proposed GWO	7-14-9-32-37	139.51	0.9378
69-bus	PSO	13-70-69-58-61	99.67	0.9427
	Proposed GWO	14-70-69-58-61	99.58	0.9427
84-bus	PSO	61-7-86-72-13-89-90-82-92-39-34-42-54	476.91	0.9503
	Proposed GWO	55-7-86-72-88-89-90-83- 92-39-34-40-62	470.32	0.9532
118-bus	PSO	42-119-32-52-47-60-39-125-128-73-71-82-130-108-23	949.61	0.9122
	Proposed GWO	42-12-23-51-48-58-39-95-71-74-97-107-85-109-34	905.19	0.9322

## 6. Conclusion

This paper presents GWO technique to determine the optimal distribution network configuration. The objective function considered in this study is, minimizing active losses under technique and topologic constraints. This technique is based on Grey Wolf Optimizer which, was tested on different standard networks (33\_bus, 69\_bus, 84\_bus and 118\_bus). Compared to PSO method, the simulation results proved the superiority of the proposed method (GWO) in terms of robustness and quality improvement.

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