Transmission Topology Optimization

APPLICATION IN OPERATIONS, MARKETS, AND PLANNING DECISION MAKING

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Current Congestion Management Impacts

Annual US Impacts - Costs: \$4-8 billion Reliability: overloads 5-20% of the time Wind and Solar: 2-17% curtailments

Example from Southwest Power Pool



Topology Optimization Software

Software automatically finds reconfigurations to route flow around congested or overloaded elements ("*Waze for the transmission grid*").



Case Study 1: SPP Operations Congestion, Overload, Wind Curtailment Relief



7-Bus Example: All Lines Closed



7-Bus Example Results: Before and After

Before: all lines Closed Case Hourly Cost 130 MW 80 MW 18186 \$/h 40 Mvar AGC ON 80 WWW Bus 3 Bus 30 Mivar 1.05 pu 7 40 新MW 20 Mvar 6 MW AGC ON 100% B MVA 220 #MW 130 MW AGC ON 40 Mvar 200 MMW 0 Myar -Bus 7 G 200 HMW 291 MW 188 MMW 0=0 0 Mvar AGC ON AGC ON

Generation	All lines closed	Line 3-4 open		
Bus 1	80 MW	0 MW		
Bus 2	220 MW	296 MW		
Bus 4	6 MW	0 MW		
Bus 6	188 MW	220 MW		
Bus 7	291 MW	270 MW		
Total	785 MW	786 MW		

\$40/MWh

\$17,733
\$18,186

\$15/MWh

After: line 3-4 Opened



Reconfiguration Practice

Traditional/Today

- Employed on an ad-hoc basis
- Reconfigurations are identified based on staff experience
- Reconfiguration development is a time-consuming process
- The transmission grid flexibility is underutilized



With Topology Optimization

- Software identifies reconfiguration solution *options* to select
- Fast identification: 10 s 2 min
- Facilitate training of new operators
- Take full advantage of grid flexibility
- Achieve better outcomes



Transmission Topology Optimization Software

- We developed topology control algorithms (TCA) for optimizing transmission network topology with DOE ARPA-E support.
 - Designed to operate with existing systems and software (EMS, OMS, MMS).
 - *Decision Support*: Multiple options proposed, impacts evaluated for each option.
 - *Reliability*: Connectivity constraints including max admissible load radialized, contingency constraints, voltage criteria met.
 - *Speed*: Meets solution times that align with operations timeframes.
 - *High-Definition*: Handles operations (node-breaker, EMS) cases.
 - Reconfiguration Types: Line switching (open/close), bus-tie and bypass breaker state.
 - Look-Ahead: Optimization decisions with "topology continuity" constraints.
 - *Market Optimization*: SCED and SCUC co-optimized with transmission configuration.
- With PJM staff, we tested and assessed the TCA impacts in a simulated environment replicating PJM market operations and outage coordination.
- With ERCOT staff, we performed assessments on operations planning cases.
- NewGrid has developed NewGrid Router, the first production-grade topology decision support software tool, based on the TCA technology.

Reconfigurations Meet N-1 Reliability Criteria

As part of the reconfiguration search, *NewGrid Router* runs contingency analysis to ensure that the new configurations are feasible (*e.g.*, do not cause new contingency violations).



Topology Optimization Applications

Business Process

- Long-term planning
- Seasonal contingency planning
- Outage coordination
- Day-ahead market optimization
- Real-time market optimization
- Intra-day operations

Objectives

- ✓ Adapt to emergency system conditions
- Increase grid resilience
- Avoid load shedding
- Enable conflicting outages
- ✓ Train new staff
- ✓ Increase transfer capability
- Relieve flow violations
- Minimize congestion costs
- Reduce wind curtailments

Increased Grid Resiliance

- Resilience: "ability to reduce the magnitude and/or duration of disruptive events."
 - NewGrid Router identifies grid reconfigurations to:
 - Quickly adapt the grid to the disruptive event conditions
 - Minimize impacts by more quickly relieving overloads and consumer disconnections
 - Expedite recovery from events by providing more operational options.
- Case Study: <u>15-18 July, 2013 Extreme Heat Wave in PJM with Key Outages [Ref. 16]</u>



PJM Real Time Prices, 18/7/2013, 15:30 (pjm.com)

Fully relieve overloads by diverting flow around them, and increase import capacity to N Ohio

Sources:

National Infrastructure Advisory Council (NIAC), *Critical Infrastructure Resilience Final Report and Recommendations*, 2009, pages 2-11. http://www.pjm.com/~/media/committees-groups/committees/mrc/20130829/20130829-item-13-hot-weather-operations-presentation.ashx

Case Studies Overview

Topology optimization finds highly beneficial reconfigurations.

Case 1. Constraint Loading Relief in Operations – SPP

- Full overload and wind curtailment relief under recent real-time conditions, Refs. [1]-[3].
- Case 2. Congestion Cost Relief in Real Time Markets PJM
 - Co-optimization of topology and dispatch provides 40-70% congestion cost relief, Refs. [14], [17].
- Case 3. Additional Transfer Capacity in Days-Ahead National Grid UK
 - Increased transfer capability 3-12% for critical constraints under severe outages, Refs. [6], [7].
- Case 4. Constraint Mitigation Plan in Seasonal Planning ERCOT
 - Identified new seasonal plan that avoids load shedding, Ref. [5].
- Case 5. Long-Term Planning Applications SPP
 - Avoided up-to 243 MW of load shedding for severe NERC TPL-001 planning events, Ref. [3].

Additional analyses to date (Appendix 1):

- ERCOT Relief of most frequent market constraint in 2014-2015, Ref. [8].
- PJM operations: Relief of critical historical base-case overloads, Ref. [16].
- PJM DA markets: 30-50% congestion cost relief, Ref. [6].

See the list of references in Appendix 2.

Case Study 1: SPP Operations Constraint Flow Relief in SPP

- SPP selected real-time snapshots with high congestion/overloads on focus constraints.
- NewGrid Router identified reconfiguration options, SPP validated them on the EMS.
- Feasible Solution: meets pre- and postcontingency criteria, validated in the EMS
- Preferred Solution by SPP, in addition:
 - Loading on any new constraints below 95%
 - Comprises a single action below 345 kV
 - Radializes less than 30 MW of load
 - Provides at least 10% relief



Best Solution by Constraint



Case Study 2: Congestion Relief in PJM RT Markets Historical PJM RT Market Models

- As part of the ARPA-E TCA project, we simulated the impacts of topology optimization on PJM RT markets.
- Models based on one operational power flow real-time snapshot per hour for three representative historical weeks of average conditions in 2010 summer, shoulder (fall), and winter weeks. Data used from the power flows:
 - Transmission topology, branch parameters, initial voltage state.
 - External system conditions (*e.g.*, interchange, reciprocal flowgate use).
 - Nodal load levels; unit commitment for all units.
 - Dispatch of hydro, wind, landfill, nuclear, and RMR thermal units.
- Generation economic and transmission constraint data from operations and historical market conditions.
- Model dimensions: up to 15,200 nodes and 650 dispatchable thermal PJM units, about 4,700 monitored branches and 6,100 single and multi-element contingencies.

Case Study 2: Congestion Relief in PJM RT Markets Impacts on PJM Real Time Market

Weekly Real-Time Market Congestion Cost Savings



Case Study 3: National Grid UK Operations Planning Increased Transfer Capability in Great Britain

- National Grid and Brattle studied the potential to increase transfer capability and reduce constraint management costs with topology optimization.
- Iteratively and collaborative analysis:
 - National Grid identified historical outage scenarios where thermal limits had been active on major (zonal) "boundary constraints."
 - Brattle identified reconfigurations for them.
 - National Grid assessed the reconfiguration impacts and provided feedback.
- Decision variables: line switching, substation reconfigurations, phaseshifting transformer settings.



Source: Electricity Ten Year Statement 2015, National Grid, November 2015, Figure 3.1.

Case Study 4: ERCOT Seasonal Operations Planning Efficient Contingency Plan Development

Topology optimization enabled ERCOT to replace a legacy contingency plan that relied on load shedding, with a new plan that avoids customer interruptions under a transmission outage condition.

- "A Constraint Management Plan (CMP) is a set of pre-defined... transmission system actions... executed in response to system conditions to prevent or to resolve... transmission security violations or to optimize the transmission system." *
- "ERCOT will employ CMPs to facilitate the market use of the ERCOT Transmission Grid, while maintaining system security and reliability in accordance with the Protocols, Operating Guides and North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) Reliability Standards." *
- ERCOT has been using topology optimization software to support the CMP review and development since 2017 [Ref. 1]:
 - Identified an alternative solution to a plan that would have required load shedding.
 - New plan avoids customer interruptions under a transmission outage in northern Texas.
 - Helped verify that the plans selected are the most effective solutions.

^{*} ERCOT Nodal Protocols, Section 2, September 14, 2017, page 2-11.

Case Study 5: SPP Long-Term Planning Avoiding Non-Consequential Load Loss

- NERC allows load shedding as part of the *Corrective Action Plan* (CAP) for specified planning events involving multiple transmission outages that would otherwise result in NERC TPL-001-4 violations.*
- SPP identified three severe multiple-contingency events** (P6, P7 and Extreme) for which the CAPs rely on substantial load shedding (re-dispatch is ineffective).
- We found corrective reconfigurations for all three cases that:
 - <u>Relieve the violations without load shedding</u>.
 - Do not cause other violations.

* NERC Standard TPL-001-4 — Transmission System Planning Performance Requirements.

** P6 Events involve two sequential, overlapping single contingencies. P7 Events are multiple contingency as a result of a common structure or other single failure. Extreme Events include loss of a transmission corridor, of an entire substation or power plant, or of multiple elements due to a regional event or critical cyber attack. See NERC Standard TPL-001-4.

Case Study 5: SPP Long-Term Planning Avoiding Non-Consequential Load Loss

Case	Flow on Violated Branch		Avoided	No. of				Radialized
Study	Initial	With Solution	Load Loss	Actions	No. of New Constraints			Load
Туре	[% of Rating]	[% of Rating]	[MW]		>95% flow	>100% flow	<0.9 pu volt	[MW]
P6 Event	129%	86%	243	2	1	0	0	65
P7 Event	107%	94%	55	2	0	0	0	0
Extreme Event	113%	97%	151	1	1	0	0	0

Concluding Remarks Options for Transmission System Operators

- Topology optimization solutions and analyses are available as a consulting service.
 - Feasibility and exploratory studies.
 - Benefit assessment analyses.
 - Assessment of impacts on resource revenues and demand costs.
- NewGrid Router is available for licensing from NewGrid.
- Possible applications:
 - Quickly identify switching solutions to address reliability and congestion events efficiently.
 - Improve grid resilience: identify reconfigurations to best deal with disruptive events.
 - Minimize the impacts by relieving overloads and consumer disconnections.
 - Expedite the recovery by providing more operational options.
 - Adapt system configuration as flow patterns change:
 - Increased wind and solar generation.
 - Retirement of legacy thermal units.
 - Manage transmission outages.
 - Address high load growth in load pockets.

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Dr. Pablo A. Ruiz, a senior consultant at The Brattle Group, is an electrical engineer with over ten years of experience in electric power systems and markets analysis and research. He specializes in power operations, planning and market design under high levels of renewable penetration, modeling and analysis of electricity markets, and advanced technologies for the power grid.

Dr. Ruiz is also an Associate Research Professor at Boston University, where he served as the Principal Investigator for the DOE ARPA-E Topology Control Algorithms project, leading a team of researchers from seven institutions in the development of transmission topology control technology. This technology is being used to develop decision support and simulation tools by NewGrid Inc., a software company co-founded by Dr. Ruiz.

Dr. Ruiz has published journal articles and has presented at international conferences on renewables integration and uncertainty management, power flow analysis, operating reserve requirements and valuation, transmission system operations and expansion and unit commitment.

Prior to joining Brattle, Dr. Ruiz was an Associate Principal at Charles River Associates (CRA) and a Power Systems Engineer at AREVA T&D, and has held Research and Teaching Assistant positions at the University of Illinois and at Universidad Tecnológica Nacional. Dr. Ruiz holds a Ph.D. in Electrical and Computer Engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

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PJM Real Time Prices, 18/7/2013, 15:30 (pjm.com)





Source: http://www.pjm.com/~/media/committees-groups/committees/mrc/20130829/20130829-item-13-hot-weather-operations-presentation.ashx

The South Canton 765/345 kV transformer was severely congested, even overloaded, on July 15, 17 and 18, 2013.

- Unplanned generation outages in the area: 2700 MW.
- PJM deployed demand response (DR) to lower congestion in the area (650 MW).
- There were four 138 kV line post contingency overloads in the area as well.



Source: http://www.pjm.com/~/media/committees-groups/committees/mrc/20130829/20130829-item-13-hot-weather-operations-presentation.ashx

We automatically found reconfigurations that fully relieved historical PJM overloads under worst-case conditions.

- In our analysis, transmission topology was the only variable allowed to be modified to relieve overloads
 - Due to the extreme conditions for that day, the dispatch was kept the same as the initial EMS dispatch to capture any additional generation operation constraints not captured in the case
- TC was able to divert flow away from the transformer and fully relieved the base case and post contingency overloads in the area
- TC application would have reduced the required DR deployment.
- Voltage profiles with and without reconfigurations were very similar.

Appendix 1: ERCOT Historical Constraint Relief

- The Lon Hill-Smith 69 kV line was the most frequent constraint in ERCOT in 2014-2015.
 - Constraint was binding during almost 6,000 real-time market intervals (5 minutes) in 2014.
 - Congestion was caused by increased demand due to oil and gas activity in the Eagle Ford Shale.
 - A transmission upgrade in the area solved the congestion after May 2015.
- Constraint monitors Lon Hill Smith 69 kV line for the double outage of:
 - Lon Hill to Orange Grove 138 kV,
 - Lon Hill to North Edinburg 345 kV.



Figure 40: Most Frequent Real-Time Constraints

Source: ERCOT ETWG Dec 2016 Meeting presentation (Ref. [3]) brattle.com | 27

Appendix 1: ERCOT Historical Constraint Relief Solution Search Criteria and Results

- ERCOT Operations Planning provided a 2015 Summer Peak case for reconfiguration analysis, which had a 24% violation on the contingency constraint.
- The topology optimization software searched for topology changes that would relieve the constraint violations while:
 - Keeping the generation dispatch fixed (for demonstration purposes only; allowing for dispatch changes could enable more or better solutions),
 - Limiting additional violations (pre- or post-contingency, thermal or voltage).
- The solutions would be implemented in corrective mode.
 - Corrective mode—implement the reconfigurations after the occurrence of the specified contingency, should it occur, to avoid the post-contingency overload.
 - The reconfiguration does not worsen potential contingency overloads for a subsequent contingency (N –1–1).
- Sample reconfiguration found effectively increases local system capacity by 20% (under the conditions analyzed):
 - Close one 69 kV tie and open one 69 kV line,
 - Relieves the 24% (14 MVA) violation, causing a 4% (2 MVA) violation on another 69 kV line.

Appendix 1: ERCOT Historical Constraint Relief Reconfiguration Alternative



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