

A Hybrid Renewable Energy Model For Medina City of Saudi Arabia Using Integer Linear Programming

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Abstract: This paper describes modelling of hybrid renewable energy systems using a mathematical approach. This approach chiefly emphasizes on integrating two renewable energy sources viz the solar energy and wind energy. It focuses the need for hybrid power generation and estimation of their annual power generation. For the purpose of analysis a suitable location, Medina city in Saudi Arabia is being considered. This approach involves the concept, loss of power supply probability to minimize the initial capital investment. A Feasible solution is being arrived in presenting the integration of these renewable energy sources in a complementary way which is a technically feasible and financially viable. The conclusion of proposed method can be directly adapted, since the numbers of units are pure integer numbers. As a consequence determining the optimal energy source to be installed leads to determine the required number of units from each source. This has been modelled as an integer linear programming problem where the decision variables should be pure integer numbers. With minimal cost to get maximum economical power output from hybrid renewable source 5PV panel and 25 Wind Turbine can be used.

Key words: Integer Linear Programming, Hybrid Energy, PV system, Wind Turbine, Graphical Analysis

I. Introduction

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) is one of the most prominent countries in the Middle East with a population of 25.7 million with a total area of 2.2 million square kilometres. The country lies between latitude of 17.5 °N and 31 °N and longitude of 36.6 °E and 50 °E. It has about 260 billion barrels of oil reserves, comprising about one-fifth of the world's proven total petroleum reserves. In the wake of the growing importance of the building sector in terms of energy consumption and carbon emissions, it is essential for the KSA to shift towards energy efficient technologies [1]. KSA receives one of the highest solar irradiation intensity on the earth. The region is attracting the attention of people to harvest this solar energy for their nations. In this context, this paper explores the need of Hybrid renewable energy by promoting their implementation in the country. The dependency of energy generation on the Hybrid renewable energy like solar and wind energy is unpredictable because the energy generation would merely depend on the weather and climate of the chosen location with in combination with load duration of the location [2]. The optimum sizing of the number of photovoltaic (PV) panels and the wind generators is very much necessary to achieve an optimized hybrid system. The utilization of the efficient optimized hybrid energy system would reduce the cost of per kilo watt hour (unit) energy generated further ensuring reliability of the hybrid energy system. Various optimization techniques such as the mathematical programming, graphical analysis and iterative modelling have been recommended by researchers. A graphical construction technique for figuring the optimum combination of battery and PV array in a hybrid Solar-wind system has been presented by Borowy and Salameh 1996 [2]. The system operation is simulated for various combinations of PV array and battery sizes and the loss of power supply probability (LPSP).

The land elevation in the KSA varies between 0 and 2600m above the mean sea level. The East and the West coasts of the KSA are located on the Arabian Gulf and Red Sea, respectively. The vast open land experiences high intensities of solar radiation and long hours of sunshine duration. Solar energy-based appliances are being used at the Royal Commission of Yanbu and Jubail. The world's first and the largest grid-connected PV facility was developed and tested at Solar Village situated on the outskirts of Riyadh, the capital city of Saudi Arabia.

This paper analyses the benefit of a Hybrid power generation system. In regards to wind, offshore-wind energy of the mainland coasts of Saudi Arabia is more useful, than the known onshore wind resources. The study of wind speed data on an offshore meteorological station to find the annual variation of wind speed, frequency distribution, energy yield and consequent opportunity for reduction in emission of greenhouse gases. The annual mean wind measured at Abu Ali Island, the offshore location, was 5.43 m/s. which is larger than the 4.9 m/s measured over the same period at Abu Kharuf, the nearby inland location [3]. Larger wind speeds were found in winter months than in summer months at both locations. The prevailing wind direction was found to be North (N), North West (NW) and North East (NE). In terms of solar energy, the KSA is one of the richest countries in the world as it has 3245 sunshine hours per year with an annual solar radiation more than 2.0 MWh/m² per year [4] on horizontal surface.

II. Data Collection

The aim of this study is to chiefly emphasize the need of hybrid energy systems keeping in view the depletion of natural resources in the country and to reduce emission of green house gases. The Medina city of KSA having latitude of 24.55 degrees and longitude 39.72 degrees is chosen for the purpose of analysis [4].

The approach of analysis is a mathematical technique called integer linear programming which is composed of integer units. The approach clearly shows N_1 , number of units PV panels needed to combine with N_2 number of units of the wind energy to arrive at a feasible solution.

S Rehman et al [4], gave the Global solar radiation data for Medina city is 2.32 MWh/m²-yr. The wind speed for Medina city is 3 meters per second according to [5].

III. Estimation of Annual Photovoltaic Energy for Medina City

According to the manufacturers data specifications the energy produced by a PV panel over a period of time depends mainly on some important factors [6] which include.

1. Type of the cell, whether Monocrystalline or thin film
2. Maximum power rating P_{max}
3. Solar irradiance of the location.
4. Season and hour of the day.
5. Shadowing obstructions if any
6. Climatic conditions of the location
7. Inclination of the panel etc.

The global formula used for estimation of the electricity generated in output of a photovoltaic system [6] is

$$E = A \times r \times H \times PR \quad (1)$$

where

E = Energy in kilo watt hours (kWh)

A = Area of the PV panel in (m²).

r = PV panel yield in percentage. (It is calculated by electrical power (in kWp) of one PV panel divided by its area)

H = annual average solar radiation on tilted panel (shadings not included)

PR = performance ratio is the coefficient for losses lies between 0.5 to 0.9, default value = 0.75).

We used equation (1) to estimate the Electrical Power of one PV panel taking following values

A = 1.6 m².

r for 250 W peak power with 1.6 m² area is 15.6 %.

H for Medina City = 6356 w/m²[7]

PR = 0.75

Substituting all these values in equation (1) we get

$$E_{ph} = 118984 \text{ W/year or } 119 \text{ kWh/year}$$

The annual power produced by one PV panel can be estimated according to [8], taking into consideration that one watt of peak power produces an annual energy of about 2 kWh [9].

The solar energy generated by one silicon crystalline panel of area 1.6 m² as per the equation (1), can be estimated to have a peak power of 119 kWh. So a single PV panel produces about 238 kWh/year.

IV. Estimation of Annual Wind Turbine Energy

The power generated by a wind turbine can be estimated by using the following expression [10]

$$P_{\text{Turbine}} = \frac{1}{2} C_p \rho \pi R^2 V^3 \quad (2)$$

Where,

C_p is the operating efficiency factor in percentage

ρ the density of air at sea level, which is about 1.2 kg/m³.

R is the blade radius in meters

V is the wind speed in m/sec.

The performances of the wind turbine may be improved by increasing the wind speed by changing the height.

Speed of wind at height h is given by, $V = V_0 \times (h/h_0)^\alpha$ (3)

Where,

V_0 - the wind speed at the reference height (10m).

h - Hub height

h_0 - the reference height which is usually 10 m

α - the power law exponent usually taken as 1/7.

The wind speed measured in the Medina city with latitude 24.55 degree and longitude 39.72 degree at height 10 meters after referring to 101,407 records as 3 m/sec [4].

The wind speed is calculated at elevated height of 30 m using equation (3) and taking blade diameter of wind turbine as 2 m and at operating efficiency of 20%. At this height its value is 3.5 m/s.

The estimated power of a wind turbine is nearly 16 watt, taking above values and using equation (2) If we assume that wind turbine produces expected power of 1625 hours per year then the annual wind energy (E_w) is obtained as 26 KWh/year.

In the location where the measures have been obtained, the average value of the wind speed over 27 years is about 2.5 m/s which means that the site is not very interesting for wind turbine exploitation. Nevertheless, there are some elevated site which are more windy.

Thus, if we consider small wind turbine with a blade diameter of 2.5 m and an operating efficiency factor C_p = 20% at a reference average wind speed of 3.9 m/sec, then elevated only at 35 m height, we obtain a wind speed of about 4.66 m/s.

This gives an estimated power (P_{Turbine}) of about 60 Watts. If we assume that the wind turbine produces the expected power of 1625 hours per year, then it would produce about 97 kWh/ year renewable wind energy (E_w).

V. Modelling Hybrid Systems in Terms of Integer Linear Programming

The problem of optimal repartition of renewable energies can be fixed as follows.

Consider some renewable energy sources such as: PV panel with unit cost C₁; Wind turbine with unit cost C₂ and the demand of energy (D).

The problem can be formulated as a linear programming [8] if there are two or more constraints. But since the energy of each source is constituted from specified units, this leads to add additional constraints on the decision variables that should be pure integer numbers.

If we consider hybrid model of two renewable energy sources the solar energy and wind energy. The problem consists of optimizing the number of PV panels (N₁) and wind turbines units (N₂) for desired demand of energy.

Therefore, the problem can be converted into an optimization program known as integer linear programming problem that requires pure integer solutions for decision variables N₁ and N₂.

An initial general formulation consists of minimizing a cost function (Z_T) while satisfying the demand (D). If the unit costs of each renewable unit is C_i and its annual production is E_i. The problem can be expressed as follows:

$$\min Z_T = \sum_{i=1}^n C_i N_i$$

$$D = \sum_{i=1}^n E_i N_i$$

$$N_i \geq 0$$

N_i integers

In fact the integer linear programming problems are more difficult than the linear programming problems. So to overcome it, the branch and bound technique [11] is being used to solve it in parts.

For simpler case with two decision variables, graphical representation can help to analyze and solve the problem if a solution exists.

VI. Case Study

In our study we will consider the example of a small PV/Wind hybrid system. The estimated energy produced by a PV panel (one unit) is E_{ph} = 119 kWh / year and the estimated energy produced by a wind turbine (one unit) is E_w = 97 kWh / year

+If we assume a cost of 4 \$ per Watt of peak power, then the unit cost of a PV panel is around C₁ = 238 \$.

On the other hand, the cost of the wind turbine can be estimated at about C₂ = 100\$

For simplicity, we may only consider in this analysis the investment for capital cost of the hybrid system which may involve the number of PV panels (N₁) and the number of wind turbines (N₂). This capital cost which is the objective function has to be minimized,

$$\text{i.e. } \min Z_T(\$) = C_1 \times N_1 + C_2 \times N_2 \quad (4)$$

If we assume an electrical demand D (kWh/year), and to meet this demand, we need to use a certain number of PV panels and a certain number of wind turbines.

This leads to satisfy the following constraint:

$$E_{ph} \times N_1 + E_w \times N_2 = D \quad (\text{kWh/year}) \quad (5)$$

In integer linear programming problems, it may be difficult to find out a feasible solution that meets this equality constraint. So, one need to extend the field of feasible solutions by replacing the equality (5) by the inequality constraint such as

$$E_{ph} \times N_1 + E_w \times N_2 \geq D \text{ (kWh/year)} \quad (6)$$

VII. Case Analysis

Let's assume $C_1 = 238\$$ and $C_2 = 100\$$,

then the objective function Z_T can be expressed as follows:

$$\min Z_T = 238 \times N_1 + 100 \times N_2 \dots \dots \dots (7)$$

Let's assume $E_{ph} = 119 \text{ kWh / year}$ and $E_w = 97 \text{ kWh / year}$ and an electrical demand D of about 3020 kWh/year. Thus, the problem can be expressed as a pure integer linear programming problems as follows:

$$\min Z_T = 238 N_1 + 100 N_2$$

$$\text{Subject to } 119 N_1 + 97 N_2 = 3020 \quad (8)$$

$$N_1, N_2 \geq 0$$

$$N_1, N_2 \text{ integers}$$

The solution gives an objective function value as 3690\$ with 5 PV panel (N_1) and 25 Wind Turbines (N_2).

The graphical analysis is presented below, where X axis represents N_1 and Y axis represent N_2 .

The graph being plotted between objective function Z (Eq. 7) and equality constraint D (Eq. 8) for different value of Z . We need to find the point of intersection between them, where N_1 and N_2 should be integers. If there are many points which meet the criteria then we select the points which correspond to minimal value of Z .

In the example under consideration the optimal value correspond to point M where $Z = 3690\$$, with $N_1 = 5$ and $N_2 = 25$, which has been already verified by numerical method.

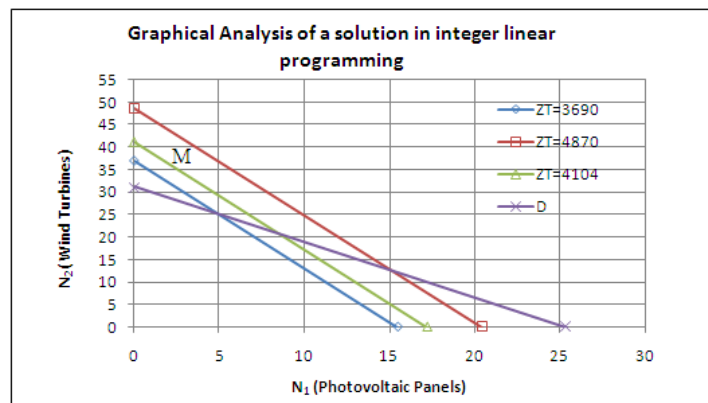


Fig 1

VIII. Sensitivity Of Solution

Let's analyse the sensitivity of the solution of the integer program with the equality constraint (8) with respect to a small change in coefficient characterising the annual wind energy production of a wind turbine unit (E_w) as shown in the Table 1

Table 1: Sensitivity of the solution with E_w

Annual Wind Energy Production (E_w)	Objective Function (Z_T , \$)	PV Panels (N_1)	Wind Turbine (N_2)
93	5008	16	12
94	4104	8	22
95	4870	15	13
96	No Solution	--	--
97	3690	5	25

It may be notice that integer program is very sensitive, under some circumstances to a small change with respect to an energy unit such as E_w . It is clear from equation 8 that at $E_w = 96 \text{ kWh/per year}$ the problem has no solution, i. e. graphically there is no interaction between equality constraint and the objective function that corresponds to a point with integer coordinates.

As a result, the designer should take into consideration, the supervision of the solution as well as the analysis of its sensitivity before deciding to choose the appropriate result.

IX. Conclusion

In this study we presented optimization of number of energy sources for a hybrid energy system of solar and wind energy for Medina city of Saudi Arabia for economical production of energy. We used integer linear programming technique where decision variables should be pure integers, for optimization and it is verified by graphical method.

In order to obtain optimal energy number of units from each source must be determined. The problem has been modelled as an integer linear programming where decision variables should be pure integer numbers.

The developed model directly links the group of inputs parameter. The parameters depend on wind speed, solar irradiation and day duration etc.

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