A Review of Recent Developments in Nonlinear Optimization of Electric Power Systems

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PSERC Webinar March 10, 2015

Motivation

US Annual Electricity Generating Capacity Additions and Retirements



U.S. Energy Information Administration, Annual Energy Outlook 2019.

The Legacy Grid



http://teeic.anl.gov/er/transmission/restech/dist/index.cfm



New computational tools are needed to economically and reliably operate electric grids with significant renewable generation.

The Power Flow Equations

Model the relationship between the voltages and the power injections.

AC power flow equationsVoltages: $V_i = |V_i| \angle \theta_i$ $P_i = |V_i| \sum_{k=1}^n |V_k| \; (\mathbf{G}_{ik} \cos(\theta_i - \theta_k) + \mathbf{B}_{ik} \sin(\theta_i - \theta_k))$ $Q_i = |V_i| \sum_{k=1}^n |V_k| \; (\mathbf{G}_{ik} \sin(\theta_i - \theta_k) - \mathbf{B}_{ik} \cos(\theta_i - \theta_k))$

- Central to many power system optimization and control problems.
 - Optimal power flow, unit commitment, voltage stability, contingency analysis, transmission switching, etc.

$$\begin{aligned} & \underset{|V|,\theta}{\min} \sum_{i \in \mathcal{G}} \left(c_{2i} P_{Gi}^{2} + c_{1i} P_{Gi} + c_{0i} \right) & \textbf{Generation Cost} \\ & \text{subject to} & P_{Gi}^{\min} \leq P_{Gi} \leq P_{Gi}^{\max} \\ & Q_{Gi}^{\min} \leq Q_{Gi} \leq Q_{Gi}^{\max} \\ & V_{i}^{\min} \leq |V_{i}| \leq V_{i}^{\max} \\ & \theta_{ik}^{\min} \leq \theta_{i} - \theta_{k} \leq \theta_{ik}^{\max} \\ & |S_{flow,ik}| \leq S_{flow,ik}^{\max} \\ \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & P_{i} = |V_{i}| \sum_{k=1}^{n} |V_{k}| \left(\mathbf{G}_{ik} \cos\left(\theta_{i} - \theta_{k}\right) + \mathbf{B}_{ik} \sin\left(\theta_{i} - \theta_{k}\right) \right) \\ & Q_{i} = |V_{i}| \sum_{k=1}^{n} |V_{k}| \left(\mathbf{G}_{ik} \sin\left(\theta_{i} - \theta_{k}\right) - \mathbf{B}_{ik} \cos\left(\theta_{i} - \theta_{k}\right) \right) \end{aligned}$$

A Disconnected Feasible Space

• Five-bus example problem [Bukhsh, Grothey, McKinnon, & Trodden '13]



[Molzahn '17]

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Another Disconnected Space



$$P_{i} = |V_{i}| \sum_{k=1}^{n} |V_{k}| (\mathbf{G}_{ik} \cos(\theta_{i} - \theta_{k}) + \mathbf{B}_{ik} \sin(\theta_{i} - \theta_{k}))$$
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- Advantages:
 - Fast and reliable solution using linear programming.
- Disadvantages:
 - No consideration of voltage magnitudes or reactive power.
 - Approximation error.

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Current Practice



Methods for Handling Nonlinearities

Local optimization

Recent successes in Dept. of Energy ARPA-E Grid Optimization Competition

Approximation





Convex relaxation



Convex restriction



Local Optimization

- Seek a "*local solution*" that is superior to all nearby points but possibly inferior to more distant points.
- Dependent on the initialization.



- Two main classes of tools:
 - Interior point methods (e.g., Ipopt).
 - Sequential quadratic programming methods (e.g., SNOPT).

- Security-Constrained AC Optimal Power Flow problem
 - Jointly optimize the generators' real power outputs and voltage magnitude setpoints.
 - N-1 preventative security requirements.

• Security-Constrained AC Optimal Power Flow problem



• Security-Constrained AC Optimal Power Flow problem

minimize Piecewise Linear Generation Cost



- Security-Constrained AC Optimal Power Flow problem
 - Jointly optimize the generators' real power outputs and voltage magnitude setpoints.
 - N-1 preventative security requirements.
- Key challenges:
 - Problem size: up to 30,000 buses and 10,800 contingencies.
 - Nonlinearity from the AC power flow equations.
 - Complementarity conditions from generator limits.

















Final Results

 Top teams reliably output solutions for large-scale systems with low generation cost and small constraint violation penalties.

Final Results

LEADERBOARD - CHALLENGE 1 - FINAL EVENT

Division 1

Division 2

Division 3

Division 4

Updated: 2/12/2020

*Top 10 Placement

Organization: Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory Team Name: gollnlp Team Lead: Cosmin G. Petra 1 1 Omar DeGuchy, Members: Ignacio Andres Aravena Solis, Deepak Rajan Organization: Lehigh University Team Name: GO-SNIP Team Lead: Frank Edward Curtis 2 2 4 3 Daniel Kenneth Molzahn, Members: Andreas Waechter, Ermin Wei, Elizabeth Wong Organization: Georgia Institute of Technology GMI-GO Team Name: 2 7 3 3 Team Lead: Xu Sun Santanu Subhas Dey, Amin Gholami, Members: Kaizhao Sun, Shixuan Zhang Organization: individuals Team Name: BAT 2 8 6 5 Team Lead: Andrew George Telyatnik Oleg Michailovich Strelnikov Members: individuals Organization: Team Name: gravityx 6 5 6 4 Team Lead: Nathan Lemons Members: Hassan Lionel Hijazi

Local Solver (Ipopt used by at least four of the

top five teams)

Final Results

• Top teams reliably output solutions for large-scale systems with low generation cost and small constraint violation penalties.

Takeaway: State-of-the-art nonlinear solvers are capable of jointly optimizing real power and voltage magnitude setpoints in security-constrained AC optimal power flow problems!

Methods for Handling Nonlinearities

• Local optimization



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- Approximate nonlinearities using assumptions regarding typical system characteristics.
- DC power flow for transmission systems.

$$P_{i} = |V_{i}| \sum_{k=1}^{n} |V_{k}| (G_{ik} \cos (\theta_{i} - \theta_{k}) + \mathbf{B}_{ik} \sin (\theta_{i} - \theta_{k}))$$

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- DC power flow for transmission systems.
- Linearized DistFlow for distribution systems. [Baran & Wu '89]

$$\begin{split} \|V_{i}\|^{2} & \|V_{k}\|^{2} \\ \downarrow & \downarrow \\ i \\ P_{ik} + jQ_{ik} \\ k \\ & \downarrow \\ P_{km} + jQ_{km} \\ & \downarrow$$

- Approximate nonlinearities using assumptions regarding typical system characteristics.
- DC power flow for transmission systems.
- Linearized DistFlow for distribution systems. [Baran & Wu '89]
- Many recently proposed alternatives!



Optimal Adaptive Approximations

• Compute linear approximations that minimize the worstcase error for a specific system and operating range



[Mühlpfordt, Molzahn, Hagenmeyer, & Misra PowerTech'19]

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The solution to the relaxation matches the solution to the non-convex problem \rightarrow Zero Relaxation Gap

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The solution to the relaxation does not match the solution to the non-convex problem → Non-zero Relaxation Gap

- Relax nonlinearities using less stringent conditions in order to enclose the non-convex feasible space within a larger convex space.
- Three main advantages over local solution algorithms:
 - 1. Bounds the optimal objective value.
 - 2. Provides a sufficient condition for infeasibility.
 - 3. Solutions which satisfy an easily checkable conditions are guaranteed to be globally optimal.



D.K. Molzahn and I.A. Hiskens, "<u>A Survey of Relaxations and Approximations of the Power Flow</u> <u>Equations</u>," *Foundations and Trends in Electric Energy Systems*, vol. 4, no. 1-2, pp. 1-221, Feb. 2019.

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Example: The QC Relaxation

• Based on the polar form of the power flow equations:

$$P_{ik} = g_{ik} |V_i|^2 - g_{ik} |V_i| |V_k| \cos(\theta_i - \theta_k) - b_{ik} |V_i| |V_k| \sin(\theta_i - \theta_k)$$
$$Q_{ik} = -(b_{c,ik}/2 + b_{ik}) |V_i|^2 - g_{ik} |V_i| |V_k| \sin(\theta_i - \theta_k) + b_{ik} |V_i| |V_k| \cos(\theta_i - \theta_k)$$

Trilinear monomials in variables representing $|V_i|$, $|V_k|$, and convex envelopes for $\cos(\theta_i - \theta_k)$ or $\sin(\theta_i - \theta_k)$: $|V_i| \cdot |V_k| \cdot \cos(\theta_i - \theta_k)$,

 $|V_i| \cdot |V_k| \cdot \sin(\theta_i - \theta_k)$.

[Coffrin, Hijazi & Van Hentenryck '15]

Example: The QC Relaxation

 Constructs convex envelopes around the sine and cosine functions in the power flow equations with polar voltages.



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- Branch-and-bound algorithms



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Applications of Convex Relaxations

(Five Examples)

1. Global Solution via Spatial Branch-and-Bound

- 1. Segment the feasible space into adjoining subregions.
- 2. In each subregion, compute an upper bound using a local solver and a lower bound using a relaxation.
- 3. Eliminate subregions whose lower bounds are greater than an upper bound obtained in any other subregion.
- 4. Iterate until finding an upper bound that is sufficiently close to the least lower bound.



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2. Certify Power Flow Insolvability

Compute upper bounds on the maximum achievable loading.



[Molzahn, Lesieutre, & DeMarco '13]

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Upper bound from



• Avoid constraint violations by enforcing a security margin, interpreted as tightened constraints.



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[Molzahn & Roald '18]

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[Molzahn & Roald '18]

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 Avoid constraint violations by enforcing a security margin, interpreted as tightened constraints.



[Molzahn & Roald '18]
3. Robust Optimal Power Flow

 Avoid constraint violations by enforcing a security margin, interpreted as tightened constraints.





Robust OPF Example

[Molzahn & Roald '18]

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Robust OPF Example
6-bus system "case6ww"

[Molzahn & Roald '18]

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4. Certify Distribution Grid Security

- For specified ranges of variable power injections, use convex relaxations to certify that limited measurements and control are sufficient to preclude constraint violations.
- Certify security if upper bounds on worst-case violations are within desired operational limits.



- 1. Use convex relaxations to construct an enclosing polytope.
- 2. Sample points inside the polytope.
- 3. Calculate the power flow solutions at each sampled point.
- 4. Classify feasible and infeasible points.



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- Compute convex regions that are completely contained within the non-convex feasible space.
- Based on fixed-point theorems.
- Dependent on a base point.



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• Goal: Compute a path between operating points that is guaranteed to avoid constraint violations.



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Figures courtesy of Dongchan Lee

[Lee, Turitsyn, Molzahn, & Roald '20] 101/112

• Goal: Compute an operating point that is robust to variations in the net power injections.



• Goal: Compute an operating point that is robust to variations in the net power injections.



Power injection variability results in constraint violations

Figures courtesy of Dongchan Lee

[Lee, Turitsyn, Molzahn, & Roald, to be submitted] 103 / 112

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Conclusion

Four approaches for handling power system nonlinearities:



Capabilities of each are useful for different applications.

D.K. Molzahn and I.A. Hiskens, "<u>A Survey of Relaxations and Approximations of the Power Flow</u> <u>Equations</u>," *Foundations and Trends in Electric Energy Systems*, vol. 4, no. 1-2, pp. 1-221, Feb. 2019.



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