

Advanced Control for Energy Management of Grid-Connected Hybrid Power Systems in the Sugar Cane Industry ^{*}

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Abstract: This work presents a process supervision and advanced control structure, based on Model Predictive Control (*MPC*) coupled with disturbance estimation techniques and a *finite-state machine* decision system, responsible for setting energy productions *set-points*. This control scheme is applied to energy generation optimization in a sugar cane power plant, with non-dispatchable renewable sources, such as photovoltaic and wind power generation, as well as dispatchable sources, as biomass. The energy plant is bound to produce steam in different pressures, cold water and, imperiously, has to produce and maintain an amount of electric power throughout each month, defined by contract rules with a local distribution network operator (*DNO*). The proposed predictive control structure uses *feedforward* compensation of estimated future disturbances, obtained by the Double Exponential Smoothing (*DES*) method. The control algorithm has the task of performing the management of which energy system to use, maximize the use of the renewable energy sources, manage the use of energy storage units and optimize energy generation due to contract rules, while aiming to maximize economic profits. Through simulation, the proposed system is compared to a *MPC* structure, with standard techniques, and shows improved behavior.

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Keywords: Disturbance Estimation, Model Predictive Control, Decision System, Microgrids, Renewable Sources.

1. INTRODUCTION

Energy generation in efficient ways is a key element for achieving greater goals aiming sustainable and eco-friendly development. The current foundations on energy generation are about to change in a profound way: affordable fossil fuel reserves are decreasing each year whereas, at the same time, energy demands grow in every country.

Notably, in the instance of this work, the Brazilian energy scenario will be taken into account, for the country has an immensely diversified energy matrix, as seen on Ministério de Minas e Energia (2015). The sugar cane processing plants, studied in González (2011), are, as well, particularly significant to this study, given the importance of sugar-ethanol power plants in the Brazilian energy setting and knowing that these are mostly established in high insolation sites, they become potential candidates to be managed as distributed power plants of hybrid sources, as seen in Costa Filho (2013), considering biomass, biogas, solar and wind power energy.

The optimization of a hybrid energy generation system, with the reuse of the sugar cane residues coupled with the

use of other renewable sources, external to the plant, as photovoltaic panels and wind turbines, is discussed herein. The studied energy plant is based on a real sugar cane power plant and has to attend to process electric and steam demands and, also, ensure a pre-established multi-objective energy sales contract with the local Distribution Network Operator (*DNO*).

The control of hybrid generation and storage, including renewable and non-renewable sources, is a significant issue to be studied in order to allow the optimal management and operation, carrying out a coordination between legal standards, minimal environmental standards and state of the art techniques Ferrari-Trecate et al. (2004). Recent works have brought to light *MPC*-based control structures used for energy management of microgrids (a set of generators, loads and storage units that operate together, in isolated mode, or connected to the main grid) with renewable sources. Valverde et al. (2013) shows a *MPC*-controlled hydrogen-based domestic microgrids; Garcia-Torres and Bordons (2015) also refer to optimal generation for renewable microgrid; Mendes et al. (2016) propose *MPC* structure for energy management of experimental microgrids, coupled with hydrogen storage systems.

Solar radiation and wind speed present frequent changes due to climatic issues, and its stochastic behavior repre-

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