Optimal sizing of a stand-alone hybrid power system via particle swarm optimization for Kahnouj area in south-east of Iran

S.M. Hakimi*, S.M. Moghaddas-Tafreshi**

K.N. Toosi University, Department of Power Engineering, Seyed Khandan, Tehran, P.O. Box. 16315-1355, Iran

**Corresponding author. Tel.: +98 9124798639; fax: +98 2188462066.
** Corresponding author.
E-mail addresses: sm_hakimi@yahoo.com (S.M. Hakimi), tafreshi@eetd.kntu.ac.ir (S.M. Moghaddas-Tafreshi).

1. Introduction

The major application of the stand-alone power system is in remote areas where utility lines are uneconomical to install due to terrain, the right-of-way difficulties or the environmental concerns. According to the World Bank, more than 2 billion people live in villages that are not yet connected to utility lines [1]. These villages are the largest potential market of the hybrid stand-alone system using fuel cell with wind for meeting their energy needs.

In previous studies, the optimal sizing problem is solved for wind-fuel cell hybrid system [2], and for wind-solar-fuel cell hybrid system [3]. Furthermore the optimal sizing of wind-solar-battery hybrid system is performed by means of genetic algorithms [4], in these studies optimal sizing of hybrid power system using genetic algorithm [5] and optimal sizing of grid connected hybrid power system [6] were investigated. In this paper, the optimal sizing of a wind-fuel cell hybrid system is considered. The system uses the biomass to produce its required hydrogen.

The optimization is carried out via Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO) algorithm. Generation of hydrogen by the reformer causes a higher reliability for the system.

In this paper we first consider the hybrid power system and then the cost of the system presented by an objective function. Then we review PSO algorithm and finally some simulation results are presented. This study is performed for Kahnouj site in south-east Iran. It is located in a village with a population of 2000. The waste is used to produce hydrogen. This village is far from the grid.

2. Description of the hybrid system components

2.1. Wind turbine

The outlet energy of a turbine could calculate from its power–speed curve. Such a curve is illustrated in Fig. 1 [4].

The power of the wind turbine is described in terms of the wind speed by Ref. [7],

\[
\begin{align*}
0 & < V_{\text{cut-in}} \wedge V > V_{\text{cut-off}} \\
P_{\text{WG-max}} \times \left((V - V_{\text{cut-in}})/(V_{\text{rated}} - V_{\text{cut-in}})\right)^{\frac{3}{2}} & \leq V_{\text{cut-in}} \leq V < V_{\text{rated}} \\
P_{\text{WG-max}} \times \left(\frac{P_{\text{in}}}{P_{\text{rated}} - P_{\text{out}}} \times (V - V_{\text{rated}})\right) & \leq V \leq V_{\text{cut-off}}
\end{align*}
\]

(1)

In which $V_{\text{cut-in}}$ cut-in wind speed [m/s]; $V_{\text{cut-off}}$ cut-out wind speed [m/s]; $V$ wind speed [m/s]; $V_{\text{rated}}$ nominal wind speed [m/s]; $P_{\text{WG-max}}$ maximum power of wind turbine [kw]; and $P_{\text{turb}}$ power of...
wind turbine in cut out wind speed [kw]. In this analysis, Bergey Wind Power’s BWC Excel R/48 is considered. It has a rated capacity of 7.5 kw and provides 48 V dc as output. Cost of one unit considered is 19.4 $k while replacement and maintenance cost are taken as 7.5 kw and provides 48 V dc as output. Cost of one unit considered is 3.4 kwh/m3 in the standard conditions and its density is around 0.09 kg/m3. Therefore, the amount of energy yielded per kg by hydrogen is

\[
\frac{3.4 \text{(kwh/m}^3\text{)}}{0.09 \text{(kg/m}^3\text{)}} = 37.8 \text{(kwh/kg)}
\]

Therefore,

\[
\text{Energy produced by the fuel cell (kwh)} = \text{consumed hydrogen(kg)} \times \eta_{fc} \times 37.8
\]

\(\eta_{fc}\) is the efficiency of the fuel cell.

The capital cost, replacement costs and operational cost are taken as 3$k, 2.5$k and $0.02/h for a 1-kw system, respectively. Fuel cell lifetime and efficiency are considered to be 5 years (5a) and 50%, respectively [7].

In this analysis Ballard fuel cell is considered [8].

2.3. Electrolyzer

Electrolysis to dissociate water into its separate hydrogen and oxygen constituents has been in use for decades, primarily to meet industrial chemical needs. Considering an efficiency of 90 percent for the electrolyzer. The amount of energy used to produce 1 kg hydrogen is calculated:

\[
\text{Energy consumed by the electrolyzer} = \left(\frac{3.4 \text{(kwh/m}^3\text{)}}{0.09 \text{(kg/m}^3\text{)}}\right) \times 100 = 41.97 \text{kwh/kg}
\]

The weight of hydrogen produced per hour is calculated by dividing the amount of energy flowed from the wind turbine to the hydrogen tank.

\[
\text{Hydrogen produced (kg)} = \frac{1 \times P_{\text{wg,el}} \text{(kwh)}}{41.97 \text{(kwh/kg)}}
\]

In this analysis Avalence electrolyzer is considered [9]. In this analysis, a 1-kw system is associated with 2$k capital, 1.5$k replacement and $20/year maintenance cost and efficiency considered as 90% [7].

2.4. Anaerobic reactor

Anaerobic reactor is a natural process that takes place in the absence of oxygen. The anaerobic reactor provides efficient two-stage digestion of wet biomass. Fig. 2 illustrates this process [10].

The municipal waste is gathered daily and fed to the anaerobic reactor to produce methane.

2.5. Reformer

Hydrogen can be produced from methane using high temperature steam. This process is called steam methane reforming [25]. In this study, MAHLER reformer is considered [11].

It is assumed that the residential area has a population of 2000, and each person produced 600 g waste per day. The hydrogen produced by the waste is constant per day. Furthermore, the hydrogen produced by the waste is 50 kg which equivalent to 1890 kwh.

In this study, anaerobic reactor and reformer are considered as one system. Such that, the waste and hydrogen are its input and output respectively. The relation between the weight of waste and the weight of resultant hydrogen is as follows:

\[
H_2(kg) = 0.0454(waste(kg))
\]

The capital, replacement and O&M costs for 1 kg hydrogen per day are 1.55$k, 1.35$k and $100 respectively. The lifetime of reformer and anaerobic reactor are 20 years (20a).
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