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SUMMER SCHOOL "ENABLING DRES TO OFFER ANCILLARY SERVICES" 20TH – 24TH SEPTEMBER 2021

The Solution for Voltage Regulation in MV and LV Distribution Grids

Dr. Georgios C. Kryonidis // 22-09-2021



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The Solution of Voltage Regulation in MV and LV Distribution Grids

Outline

- Problem Formulation
- State-of-the-art solutions
- The EASY-RES approach for the voltage regulation in MV grids
- Bi-objective optimal voltage regulation
- The EASY-RES approach for the voltage regulation in LV grids

Problem Formulation

Conventional (passive) distribution grids

Design assumption: Unidirectional power flow scheme from utility to end-users **Operational objective**: Maintain voltages within permissible limits (EN 50160^[2])

Means of achieving (MV grids)

Substation/feeder capacitors Step voltage regulators (SVRs)

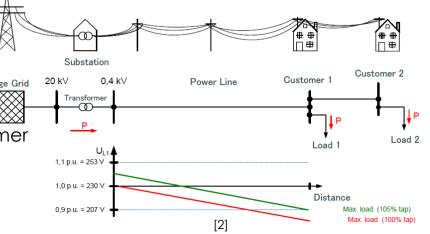
On-load tap changer (OLTC) of HV/MV transformer

Means of achieving (LV grids)

Off-load tap changer of MV/LV transformer

[1] Voltage Characteristics of Electricity Supplied by Public Distribution Networks, Standard EN 50160, 2010.

[2] B. Ernst, EPIA-EDSO for Smart Grids Conference on Grid Management



Problem Formulation

Transition to active distribution grids

Advent of distributed generation (DG)

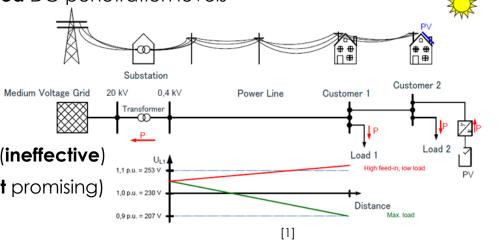
New operational challenges: Bidirectional power flow \rightarrow overvoltages

Important limiting factor towards increased DG penetration levels

Possible (conventional) solutions Grid reinforcement (unaffordable cost)

Use of conventional network equipment (ineffective)

Active participation of DG units (the most promising)



Active vs Reactive power for voltage regulation

Active power-based methods

Generation curtailment [1]

Demand response (DR) ^[2]

Use of energy storage systems [3]

Reactive power-based methods (Volt/Var problem)

Use of the available reactive power of DG units [4]

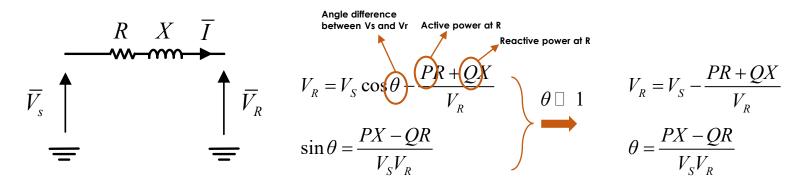
[1] R. Tonkoski, L. A. C. Lopes, and T. H. M. El-Fouly, "Coordinated active power curtailment of grid connected PV inverters for overvoltage prevention," IEEE Trans. Sustain. Energy, vol. 2, no. 2, pp. 139–147,

[2] Q. Xie, H. Hui, Y. Ding, C. Ye, Z. Lin, P. Wang, Y. Song, L. Ji, and R. Chen, "Use of demand response for voltage regulation in power distribution systems with flexible resources," IET Gener., Transm. Distrib., vol. 14, no. 5, pp. 883–892, 2020.

[3] Y. Guo, Q. Wu, H. Gao, X. Chen, J. Østergaard, and H. Xin, "MPC-based coordinated voltage regulation for distribution networks with distributed generation and energy storage system," IEEE Trans. Sustain. Energy, vol. 10, no. 4, pp. 1731–1739, 2019.

[4] Y. Wang, T. Zhao, C. Ju, Y. Xu, and P. Wang, "Two-level distributed volt/var control using aggregated PV inverters in distribution networks," IEEE Trans. Power Del., vol. 35, no. 4, pp. 1844–1855, 2020.

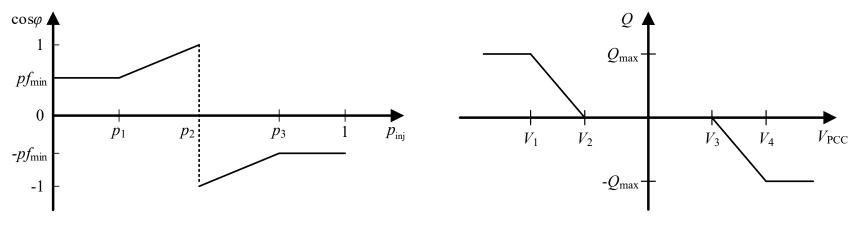
Active vs Reactive power for voltage regulation



R > X (LV grids) \rightarrow Active power is more effective than reactive power X > R (MV grids) \rightarrow Reactive power is more effective than active power

In any case, **priority** should be given to the **reactive power** against active power to **minimize/avoid** generation curtailment, storage utilization, DR usage

Decentralized control schemes



Power factor with respect to active power injection ^{[1],[2]}

Reactive power with respect to the PCC voltage ^{[2],[3]}

[1] Technische Richtlinie Erzeugungsanlagen am Mittelspannungsnetz, "Richtlinie füur anschluss und parallelbetrieb von erzeugungsanlagen am mittelspannungsnetz, ausgabe juni 2008," Bundesverband der Energie-und Wasserwirtschaft e.V. (BDEW), Tech. Rep., June 2008.

[2] Comitato Elettrotecnico Italiano, "Regola tecnica di riferimento per la connessione di Utenti attivi e passivi alle reti AT ed MT delle imprese distributrici di energia elettrica," Tech. Rep. CEI 0-16, Sept. 2014.

[3] North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), "Interconnection requirements for variable generation," Tech. Rep., Sept. 2012.

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State-of-the-art solutions

Decentralized control schemes

Main drawbacks

cosφ(P)

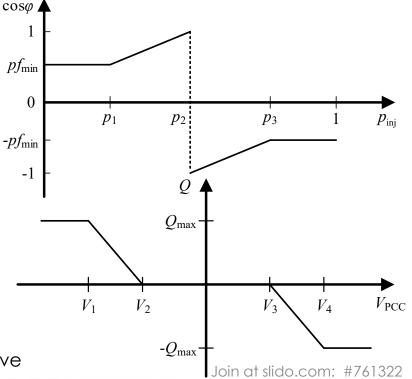
Reactive power is always **non-zero** Network operating condition is **ignored**

Q(V)

The reactive power exchange is activated **before** exceeding network voltages

Uncoordinated operation in a distribution grid

Need to add a system-oriented operational objective



Optimal voltage regulation (Volt/Var problem)

Mathematical Formulation

$$\min P_{loss} = \min \sum_{i \in N} \sum_{j \in N} \left[a_{ij} \left(P_i P_j + Q_i Q_j \right) + \beta_{ij} \left(Q_i P_j - P_i Q_j \right) \right] \longrightarrow \text{Objective function}$$

$$P_i = V_i \sum_{j \in N} \left[V_j \left(G_{ij} \cos\left(\theta_i - \theta_j\right) + B_{ij} \sin\left(\theta_i - \theta_j\right) \right) \right]$$

$$Q_i = V_i \sum_{j \in N} \left[V_j \left(G_{ij} \sin\left(\theta_i - \theta_j\right) - B_{ij} \cos\left(\theta_i - \theta_j\right) \right) \right]$$

$$Nodal \text{ power injections}$$

$$P_i = \sum_{j \in N} P_{ij} = P_{g,i} - P_{c,i}$$

$$Q_i = \sum_{j \in N} Q_{ij} = Q_{g,i} - Q_{c,i}$$

$$\alpha_{ij} = \frac{R_{ij}}{V_i V_j} \cos(\theta_i - \theta_j)$$

$$\beta_{ij} = \frac{R_{ij}}{V_i V_j} \sin(\theta_i - \theta_j)$$
 Au

D

xiliary coefficients

 $Q_{\min,i} \leq Q_{g,i} \leq Q_{\max,i}$ $V_{\min} \leq V_i \leq V_{\max}$ Operating constraints

constraints

Optimal voltage regulation (Volt/Var problem)

Current approach^[1]: Use a centralized controller that solves the optimal voltage regulation problem (near optimal solution)

Main drawbacks

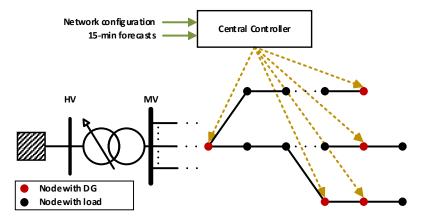
Complete knowledge of network parameters

Susceptible to single-point failures

Perfect forecast is needed

Computationally intensive process (especially in large-scale, unbalanced grids)

[1] K. E. Antoniadou-Plytaria, I. N. Kouveliotis-Lysikatos, P. S. Georgilakis, and N. D. Hatziargyriou, "Distributed and decentralized voltage control of smart distribution networks: Models, methods, and future research," IEEE Trans. Smart Grid, vol. 8, no. 6, pp. 2999–3008, Nov. 2017.



Distributed control schemes

Category 1: Offline implementation [1]-[4]

Use of **distributed algorithms (ADMM)** to iteratively solve an optimization problem During the solution process, **no control actions** are performed by DG units After the algorithm is converged, DG units **switch** to a new operation point Application under fast, time-varying operating conditions **highly questionable**

[1] Y. Wang, T. Zhao, C. Ju, Y. Xu, and P. Wang, "Two-level distributed volt/var control using aggregated PV inverters in distribution networks," IEEE Trans. Power Del., vol. 35, no. 4, pp. 1844–1855, 2020.

[2] C. Feng, Z. Li, M. Shahidehpour, F. Wen, W. Liu, and X. Wang, "Decentralized short-term voltage control in active power distribution systems," IEEE Trans. Smart Grid, vol. 9, no. 5, pp. 4566–4576, 2018.

[3] P. Li, C. Zhang, Z. Wu, Y. Xu, M. Hu, and Z. Dong, "Distributed adaptive robust voltage/var control with network partition in active distribution networks," IEEE Trans. Smart Grid, vol. 11, no. 3, pp. 2245–2256, 2020.

[4] Z. Tang, D. J. Hill, and T. Liu, "Fast distributed reactive power control for voltage regulation in distribution networks," IEEE Trans. Power Syst., vol. 34, no. 1, pp. 802–805, 2019.

Distributed control schemes

Category 2: Online implementation [1]-[5]

The reactive power of DG units is **updated** at each iteration (**online ADMM**) by **combining local measurements** and **information** received by neighbouring DG units

Small convergence speed

Assumptions on network modeling. Linearized network models are used

[1] Y. Wang, M. H. Syed, E. Guillo-Sansano, Y. Xu, and G. M. Burt, "Inverter-based voltage control of distribution networks: A three-level coordinated method and power hardware-inthe-loop validation," IEEE Trans. Sustain. Energy, vol. 11, no. 4, pp. 2380–2391, 2020.

[2] Z. Tang, D. J. Hill, and T. Liu, "Distributed coordinated reactive power control for voltage regulation in distribution networks," IEEE Trans. Smart Grid, vol. 12, no. 1, pp. 312-323, Jan. 2021.

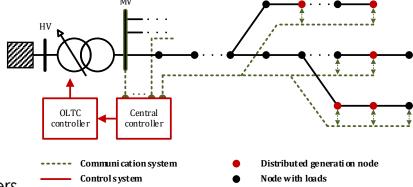
[3] X. Hu, Z. W. Liu, G. Wen, X. Yu, and C. Liu, "Voltage control for distribution networks via coordinated regulation of active and reactive power of DGs," IEEE Trans. Smart Grid, vol. 11, no. 5, pp. 4017–4031, 2020.

[4] H. J. Liu, W. Shi, and H. Zhu, "Distributed voltage control in distribution networks: Online and robust implementations," IEEE Trans. Smart Grid, vol. 9, no. 6, pp. 6106–6117, 2018.

[5] J. Li, C. Liu, M. E. Khodayar, M. Wang, Z. Xu, B. Zhou, and C. Li, "Distributed online VAR control for unbalanced distribution networks with photovoltaic generation," IEEE Trans. Smart Grid, vol. 11, no. 6, pp. 4760-4772, Nov. 2020.

Optimal voltage regulation in MV grids

Motivation: Develop a new voltage control method with reduced computational complexity that minimizes network losses [1]



Main characteristics

Hybrid centralized/decentralized method

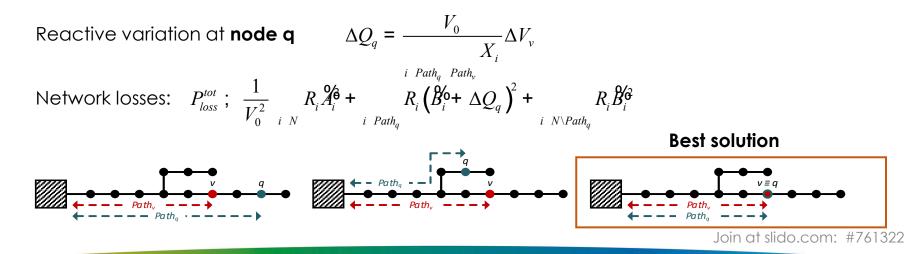
Participation of **industrial/commercial** customers

Central controller that **coordinates** the operation of DG units, specific MV loads, and OLTC of the HV/MV transformer

Optimal voltage regulation in MV grids

Theoretical Background

Voltage regulation at **node v** by modifying the reactive power at **node q** (3 cases) Use **LinDistFlow** equations to evaluate the **impact** of the location of **node q** on voltage regulation and network losses



Optimal voltage regulation in MV grids

Main concept

Step 1: Find the node with the **maximum** network voltage **Best candidate** for overvoltage (regulating node)

Step 2: Check for overvoltage

Step 3: Absorb reactive power

Step 4: Termination criteria

Voltage is finally regulated

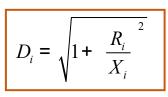
Maximum network voltage **moves** to another node



Optimal voltage regulation in MV grids

Participation of DG units

Need to be **oversized** to provide reactive power even under **maximum generation** conditions



Safe side

Participation of MV loads

To overcome the limited reactive power availability of DG units

In case the maximum network voltage occurs at a consumption node

Optimal voltage regulation in MV grids

On-load tap changer (OLTC) operation

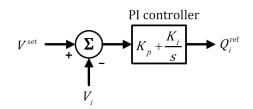
 $tap^{t+1} = tap^{t} - 1, \quad \text{if } \mathbf{V}^{t+1} \quad V_{\min} \quad \&\& \mathbf{V}^{t} \quad V^{set}$ $tap^{t+1} = tap^{t} - 1, \quad \text{if } \mathbf{V}^{t+1}_{mv} > V_{\min} \quad \&\& \left(\mathbf{V}^{t} < V_{\min} \mid \mid \mathbf{V}^{t+1} < V^{set}\right)$ $tap^{t}, \quad \text{otherwise}$

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The EASY-RES Approach

Optimal voltage regulation in MV grids

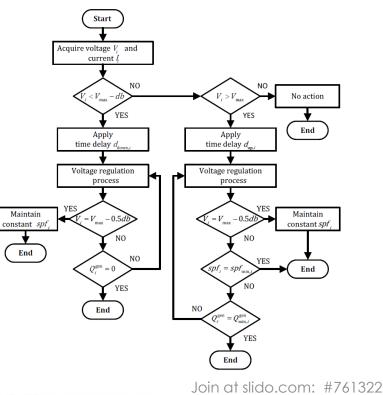
Implementation of the proposed concept (DG units) Step 1: Acquire local measurements Step 2: Address overvoltage with a time delay Determined by the central controller Coordinate the response of DG units



Step 3: Additional termination criterion

Network section power factor

Avoid **unnecessary** reactive power consumption



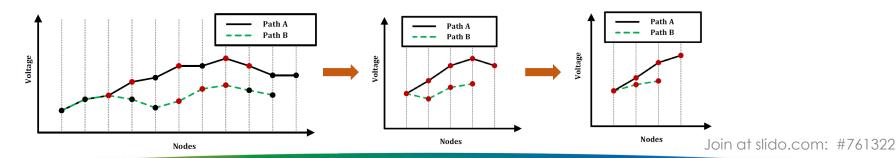
Optimal voltage regulation in MV grids

Time delay determination

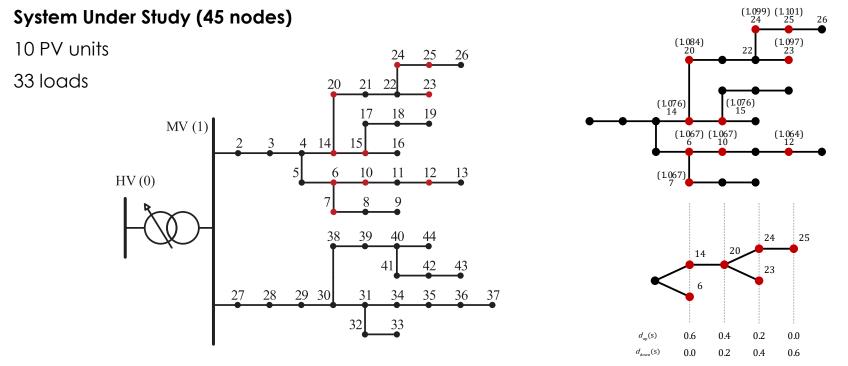
Network voltages are **structured** in a **tree** presenting the same topology with the network **Tree simplification** by omitting nodes to form a strictly increasing voltage profile

The following conditions should be met

Equal time delays to the DG units of the same level nodes
 In each path, time delays are sorted based on the voltages



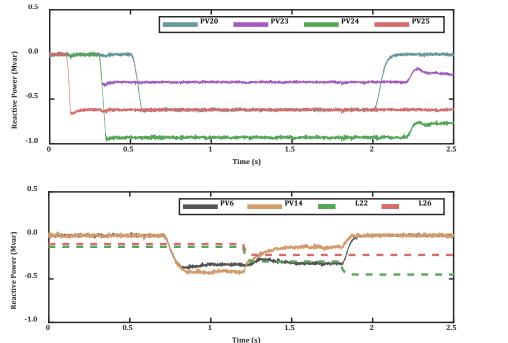
Optimal voltage regulation in MV grids

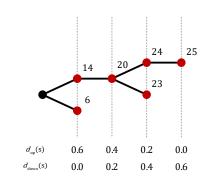


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Optimal voltage regulation in MV grids

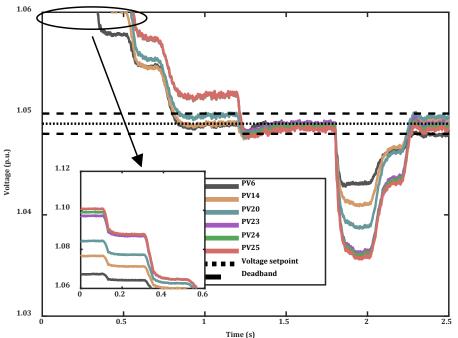
Short-term evaluation

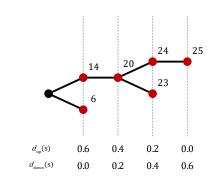




Optimal voltage regulation in MV grids

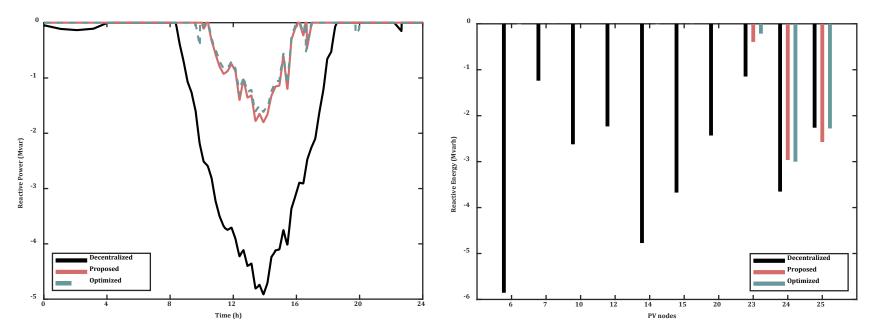
Short-term evaluation





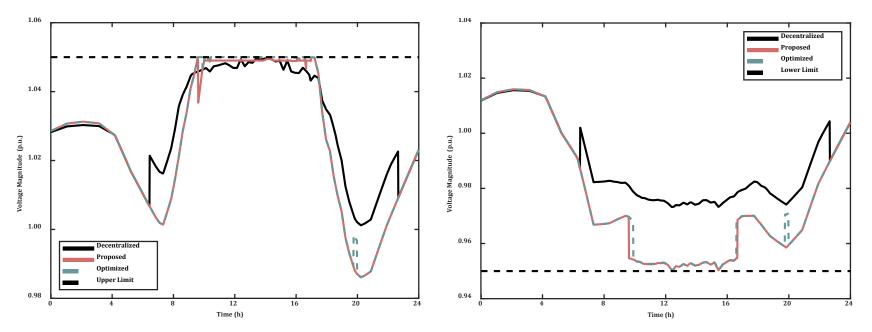
Optimal voltage regulation in MV grids

Long-term evaluation



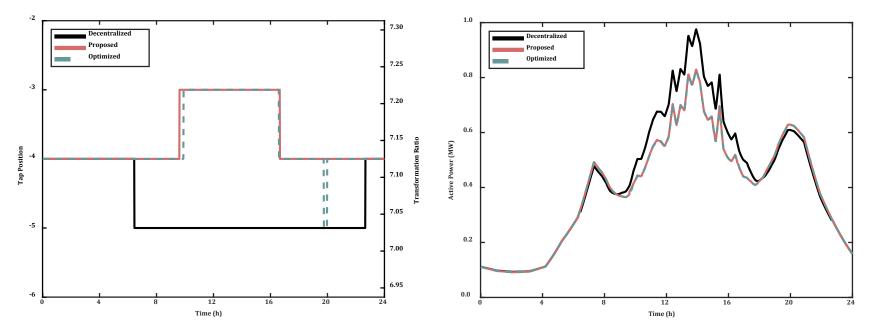
Optimal voltage regulation in MV grids

Long-term evaluation



Optimal voltage regulation in MV grids

Long-term evaluation



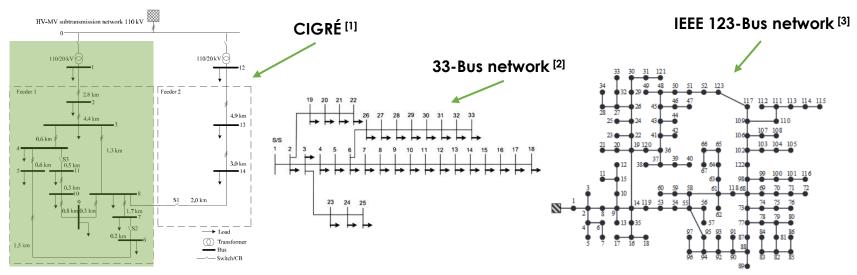
Optimal voltage regulation in MV grids

Long-term evaluation

	Daily energy losses (MWh)			
	Decentralized	Proposed	Optimized	
45-Bus	10.309	9.596	9.579	
Diff. (%)	+7.62	+0.18	0.00	

Optimal voltage regulation in MV grids

Verification of the proposed solution using benchmark MV networks



[1] ITask Force C6.04, "Benchmark systems for network integration of Renewable and distributed energy resources," Tech. Brochure 575, CIGRÉ, Apr. 2014.

[2] M. E. Baran and F. F. Wu, "Network reconfiguration in distribution systems for loss reduction and load balancing", IEEE Trans. Power Del., vol. 4, no. 2, pp. 1401 - 1407, Apr. 1989.

[3] X. Chen, W. Wu, and B. Zhang, "Robust restoration method for active distribution networks, "IEEE Trans. Power Syst., vol. 31, no. 5, pp.4005–4015, Sept 2016.

Optimal voltage regulation in MV grids

Verification of the proposed solution using benchmark MV networks

Daily energy losses (MWh)				
	Decentralized	Proposed	Optimized	
CIGRÉ	16.666	13.350	13.306	
Diff. (%)	+25.25	+0.33	0.00	
33-Bus	3.474	3.042	3.028	
Diff. (%)	+14.73	+0.46	0.00	
123-Bus	17.37	16.88	16.87	
Diff. (%)	+2.96	+0.06	0.00	

D. H. / AAA/LA

Superior performance compared to optimization-based methods in terms of low computational complexity and immunity to forecast errors

Outperforms the well-established decentralized methods due to the coordinated operation among DG units, Loads and OLTC

Bi-objective optimal voltage regulation (OVR)

Mathematical Formulation

$$\min w_{1}Taps + w_{2}E_{loss} = \min w_{1}\sum_{i\in T} \left| tap^{t} - tap^{t-1} \right| + w_{2}\sum_{i\in T}\sum_{i\in N}\sum_{j\in N} \left[a_{ij}^{t} \left(P_{i}^{t} P_{j}^{t} + Q_{i}^{t} Q_{j}^{t} \right) + \beta_{ij}^{t} \left(Q_{i}^{t} P_{j}^{t} - P_{i}^{t} Q_{j}^{t} \right) \right]$$
 Objective function
$$P_{i}^{t} = V_{i}^{t}\sum_{j\in N} \left[V_{j}^{t} \left(G_{ij} \cos\left(\theta_{i}^{t} - \theta_{j}^{t}\right) + B_{ij} \sin\left(\theta_{i}^{t} - \theta_{j}^{t}\right) \right) \right]$$
Nodal power injections
$$P_{i}^{t} = P_{g,i}^{t} - P_{c,i}^{t}$$

$$Q_{i}^{t} = V_{i}^{t}\sum_{j\in N} \left[V_{j}^{t} \left(G_{ij} \sin\left(\theta_{i}^{t} - \theta_{j}^{t}\right) - B_{ij} \cos\left(\theta_{i}^{t} - \theta_{j}^{t}\right) \right) \right]$$
Nodal power injections
$$Q_{i}^{t} = Q_{g,i}^{t} - Q_{c,i}^{t}$$

$$P_{i}^{t} = V_{hv}^{t} / \left[m \left(1 + tap^{t} \delta / 100 \right) \right]$$
OLIC operation
$$a_{ij}^{t} = \frac{R_{ij}}{V_{i}^{t}V_{j}^{t}} \cos\left(\theta_{i}^{t} - \theta_{j}^{t}\right)$$
Auxiliary coefficients
$$V_{\min} \leq V_{i}^{t} \leq V_{\max}$$

$$V_{\min} \leq V_{i}^{t} \leq V_{\max}$$

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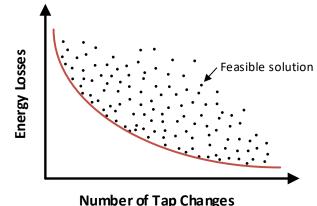
Auxiliary coefficients

Bi-objective optimal voltage regulation

Derivation of the Pareto-front solutions

Main control variables

Reactive power of DG units OLTC of HV/MV transformer



Drawbacks of the solutions proposed in the literature [1]-[3]

Increased computational complexity

Time-consuming process

Sensitive to forecast errors

[1] W. Sheng, K. y. Liu, S. Cheng, X. Meng, and W. Dai, "A trust region SQP method for coordinated voltage control in smart distribution grid," IEEE Trans. Smart Grid, vol. 7, no. 1, pp. 381–391, Jan. 2016.

[2] Y. Tang, K. Dvijotham, and S. Low, "Real-time optimal power flow," IEEE Trans. Smart Grid, vol. 8, no. 6, pp. 2963–2973, Nov. 2017.

[3] Z. Yang, H. Zhong, A. Bose, T. Zheng, Q. Xia, and C. Kang, "A linearized OPE model with reactive power and voltage magnitude: A pathway to improve the MW-only DC OPF," IEEE Trans. Power Syst., vol. 33, no. 2, pp. 1734–1745, Mar. 2018.

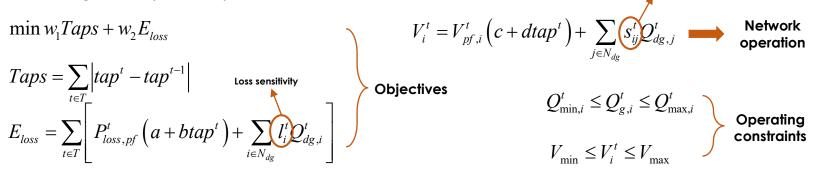
Bi-objective optimal voltage regulation

Two-stage solution ^[1]

First stage

Sensitivity theory is employed to linearize the network operation

The linearized OVR problem is **solved** multiple times to obtain the **candidate** OLTC operating plans (COOPs)



[1] G. C. Kryonidis, C. S. Demoulias and G. K. Papagiannis, "A Two-Stage Solution to the Bi-Objective Optimal Voltage Regulation Problem," in IEEE Transactions on Sustainable Energy, vol. 11, no. 2, pp. 928-937, April 2020.

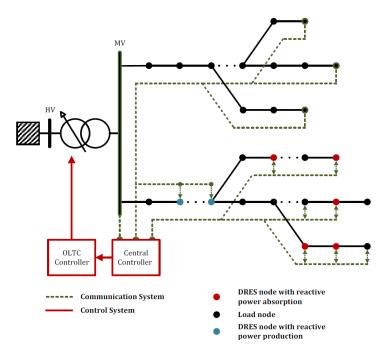
Bi-objective optimal voltage regulation

Two-stage solution^[1]

Second stage

For each **COOP**, an **enhanced** version of the EASY-RES approach for the voltage regulation is **used** aiming to **minimize** the network losses

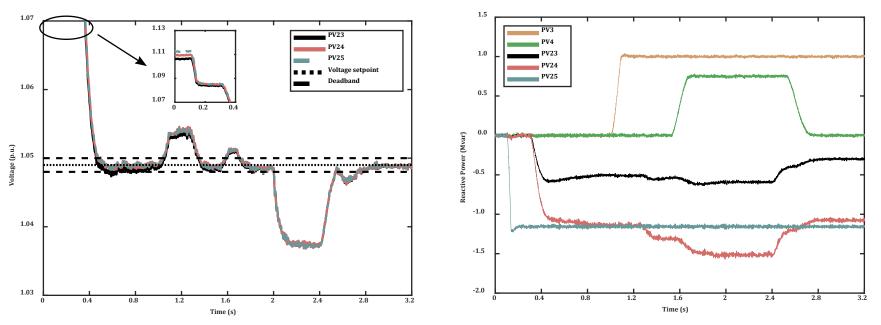
Finally, the Pareto-front is obtained and DSOs have a clear overview of the trade-off between the optimization objectives to **decide** the most preferable solution



[1] G. C. Kryonidis, C. S. Demoulias and G. K. Papagiannis, "A Two-Stage Solution to the Bi-Objective Optimal Voltage Regulation Problem," in IEEE Transactions on Sustainable Energy, vol. 11, no. 2, pp. 928-937, April 2020.

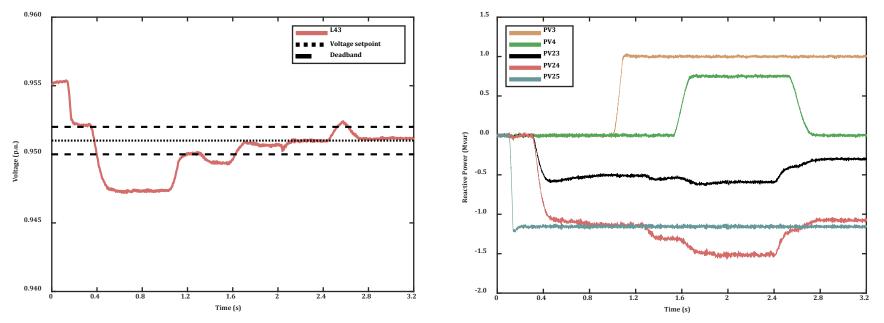
Bi-objective optimal voltage regulation

Short-term evaluation

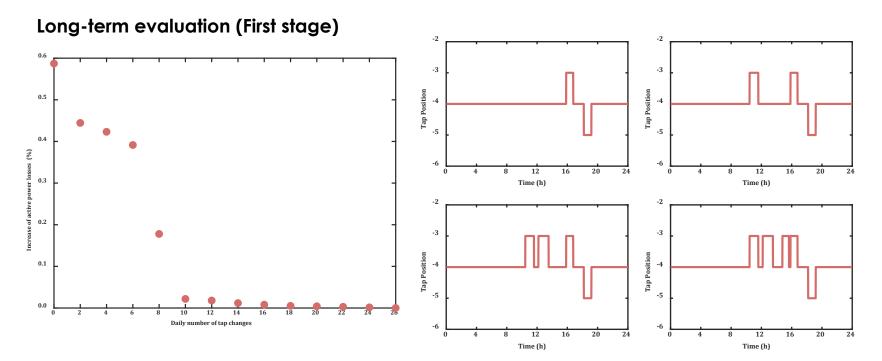


Bi-objective optimal voltage regulation

Short-term evaluation

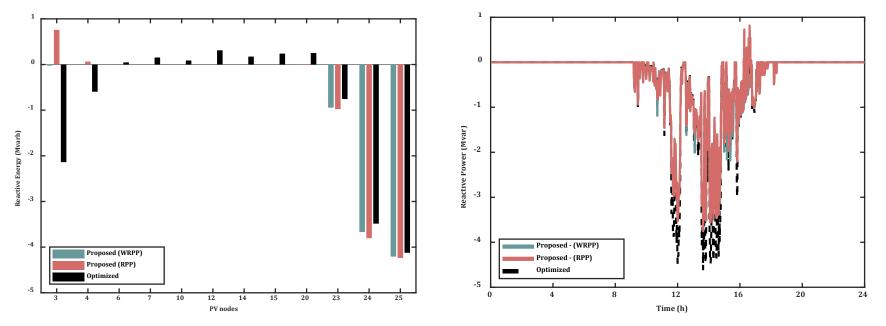


Bi-objective optimal voltage regulation



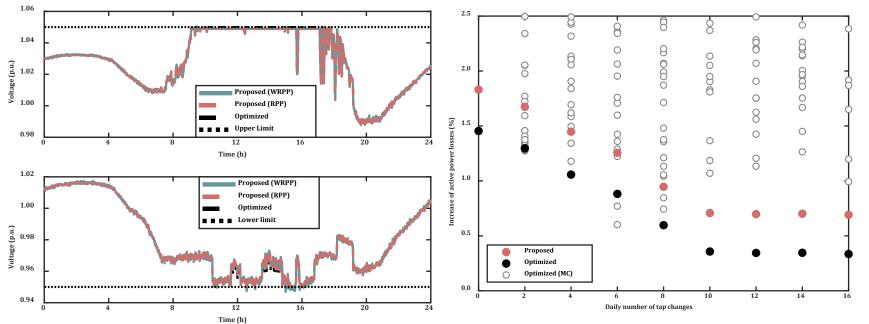
Bi-objective optimal voltage regulation

Long-term evaluation (Second Stage)



Bi-objective optimal voltage regulation

Long-term evaluation (Second Stage)



Optimal voltage regulation in LV grids

Motivation: Address the **increased DG oversizing** in LV grids needed to implement the EASY-RES approach developed for MV grids

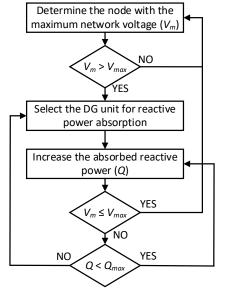
Main idea ^[1]: Additional help from neighboring DG units

Main concept

Step 1: Determine the node with the maximum network voltage

- Step 2: Check for overvoltage mitigation
- Step 3: Select the DG unit that will tackle the overvoltage
- Step 4: Overvoltage mitigation process (positive-sequence)
- Step 5: Check if voltage is regulated

Step 6: Check is there is available reactive power



[1] G. C. Kryonidis et al., "Distributed Reactive Power Control Scheme for the Voltage Regulation of Unbalanced LV Grids," in IEEE Transactions on Sustainable Energy, vol. 12, no. 2, pp. 1301-1310, April 2021

Optimal voltage regulation in LV grids

Condition to be met during the selection process

DG unit with available reactive power DG unit with maximum dV/dQ sensitivity factor

Distributed implementation

Every DG unit **broadcasts** continuously its PCC voltage across the LV network (every time slot f_b)

Clear overview of the voltages at the most critical network nodes

DG prioritization

Starting from the node with the **maximum** sensitivity factor

Use of time-delays between two sequential activations (t_d)

 $t_b < t_r < t_d$: where t_r is the response time of each DG unit

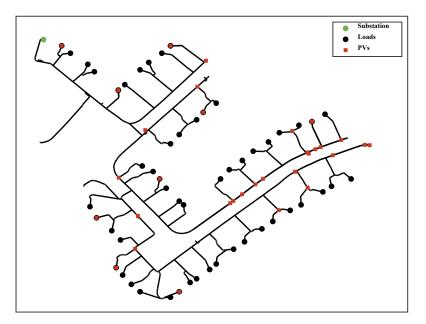
Optimal voltage regulation in LV grids

System under study (IEEE European LV test feeder)

55 single-phase loads 32 three-phase PV units

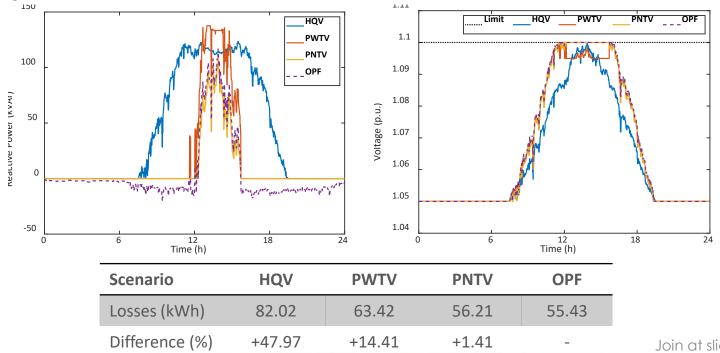
Examined scenarios

HQV: Decentralized Q(V) PWTV: Proposed with target voltage (TV) PNTV: Proposed without TV OPF: Centralized solution



Optimal voltage regulation in LV grids

Long-term evaluation



EASY-RES // The Solution for Voltage Regulation in MV and LV Distribution Grids

The Consortium





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EASY-RES // The Solution for Voltage Regulation in MV and LV Distribution Grids

Thank you!

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Assuming the voltage regulation in a distribution grid with X > R, the reactive power is

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The decentralized Q(V) droop method leads to

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In the EASY-RES approach for the voltage regulation of MV grids, scope of the OLTC is to

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In the EASY-RES approach for the bi-objective optimal voltage regulation of MV grids, the linearized grid model is used

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The EASY-RES approach for LV grids aims to regulate

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