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# Mix-Mode Energy Management Strategy and Battery Sizing for Economic Operation of Grid-Tied Microgrid

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## Abstract

This paper presents a novel ‘mix-mode’ energy management strategy (MM-EMS) and its appropriate battery sizing method for operating the microgrid at the lowest possible operating cost. The MM-EMS is developed by combining three proposed operating strategies, namely “continuous run mode”, “power sharing mode” and “ON/OFF mode” for a 24h time period. The objective functions for the proposed strategies are solved using linear programming (LP) and mixed integer linear programming (MILP) optimization methods. A sizing method using the particle swarm optimization (PSO) technique to determine the optimal energy capacity of battery energy storage (BES) in kWh is also presented. Since the size of the BES influences the microgrid’s operating cost, the energy management strategy (EMS) and BES capacity are simultaneously optimized. The proposed MM-EMS and battery sizing method were first validated. Then, the variation of optimal battery capacity for different battery state of charge (SOC) levels is analyzed. The variation of microgrid’s associated costs for different battery’s

25 initial state of charge (SOC) levels is analyzed as well. Finally, a recommendation on the choice  
26 of initial SOC level during the start of the day for the economic operation of microgrid is also  
27 suggested.

## 28 **Keywords**

29 Energy management, battery storage, battery sizing, microgrids and particle swarm optimization  
30 (PSO).

## 31 **1. Introduction**

32 The conventional power system distribution network is currently undergoing a major change due  
33 to the addition of microgrids. The benefits of using microgrids include the fact that it is capable  
34 of supplying loads with negligible losses, reduce fossil fuel consumption, and postpone  
35 investment in a distribution system. Connecting intermittent sources such as solar photovoltaic  
36 (PV) generators and wind turbines in the grid-connected microgrid introduces challenges in  
37 various technical aspects, such as power quality, protection, generation dispatch control, and  
38 reliability. Challenges caused by these intermittent sources render the battery energy storage  
39 (BES) an indispensable source [1]. When a grid connected microgrid consists of two or more  
40 dispatchable source, it is necessary for the grid operator to run it economically. If battery energy  
41 storage (BES) is one of the dispatchable sources, it is essential that an appropriate size of BES is  
42 installed for the optimal microgrid operation.

43 A power management and battery sizing algorithm is proposed for a grid connected microgrid,  
44 consisting of PV, diesel generator, and BES in [2]. However, the battery size is not optimum,  
45 because the algorithm does not consider economic operation of microgrid. A smart energy  
46 management system based on matrix real-coded genetic algorithm is proposed in [3] for  
47 economic operation of grid connected microgrid. The optimal operation of grid connected

48 microgrid is presented in [4,5], where the microgrid's economic dispatch problem is solved by  
49 minimizing the microgrid's operational cost using mesh adaptive direct search (MADS)  
50 algorithm. Mixed integer linear programming (MILP) is used to solve the economic dispatch of  
51 microgrid sources in [6]. An optimal energy management is presented in [7], where the objective  
52 is to minimize the generation cost of the grid connected microgrid. The economic dispatch  
53 problem is solved using mixed integer quadratic programming (MIQP). Similarly, the sizing of  
54 battery energy storage is carried out in [8], where the economic dispatch problem is solved using  
55 linear programming (LP). Apart from solving the energy management problem using numerical  
56 methods, metaheuristic methods are used to solve energy management problem found in [9-12].  
57 The energy management problem from the aforementioned references is based on one particular  
58 strategy. Moreover, in few papers, the optimal sizing of battery storage is not taken into account.  
59 Energy storage devices play a crucial role in the economic operation of microgrid. Battery  
60 storage can take advantage of time of use tariffs, where it can be an effective option when the  
61 power purchasing price from the utility grid is high. Therefore, the accurate sizing of battery  
62 source is essential to ensure a microgrid's economic operation. The sizing of BES involves  
63 determining the optimal energy capacity in kWh with the aim of reducing microgrid's daily  
64 operating cost. An optimal sizing of battery storage for microgrid is presented in [13]. The  
65 optimal sizing of battery energy storage using improved bat algorithm is presented in [14].  
66 Genetic algorithm based method for sizing battery storage is proposed in [15]. The energy  
67 management system in this paper is based on fuzzy expert system. In [16], matrix real-coded  
68 genetic algorithm (MRCGA) is used to determine the optimal energy capacity of BES. In a  
69 recently published article [17], the battery size is evaluated in order to minimize the microgrid's  
70 operation cost. The sizing problem was solved using Grey Wolf Optimizer (GWO). The energy

71 management problem solved in aforementioned references is based on a single operating  
72 strategy. The battery sizing methods presented in these references is focused on one particular  
73 energy management strategy, which may not incur the lowest operating cost.

74 The prominent focus of most work in literature pertaining to this subject was on solving  
75 economic dispatch for microgrid sources using a single operating strategy. It is possible that the  
76 microgrid might operate at lower operating cost in the case of a newly designed operating  
77 strategy. There are only a few works in literature that accounted for the sizing of battery storage,  
78 which is an important aspect of economic operation of a microgrid. In addition the papers in the  
79 literature discuss battery sizing methods that considers the economic operation of microgrid for  
80 one particular strategy. Therefore, in this paper an energy management strategy to operate the  
81 grid connected microgrid at the lowest possible operating cost is discussed. A method to estimate  
82 optimal BES size in kWh will also be presented. This work involves the development of an  
83 energy management using mix-mode operating strategy to operate the microgrid at the lowest  
84 possible operating cost. The proposed mix-mode operating strategy is developed by combining  
85 three proposed operating strategies, namely “continuous run mode”, “power sharing mode” and  
86 “ON/OFF mode” for a 24h time period. The objective functions for these operating strategies  
87 were minimized using linear programming (LP) and mixed integer linear programming (MILP)  
88 methods. The mix-mode operating strategy is based on combining the aforementioned strategies  
89 keeping the operating cost in mind. The non-linearity of the PV output power and load demand,  
90 daily grid electricity price profile, the price of the natural gas, as well as battery state of charge  
91 (SOC) limits were all taken into account in the development of this model. In this paper, the  
92 BES’s energy capacity for the microgrid under the proposed mix-mode operating strategy is  
93 solved using the PSO optimization technique. Due to the fact that the operating cost produced

94 using mix-mode strategy depends on the characteristics of battery storage, both the EMS and  
95 BES capacity needs to be simultaneously optimized. The discussion section will detail the,  
96 validation of the proposed MM-EMS and battery sizing method. Then, the variation of the  
97 optimal battery capacity for different battery state of charge (SOC) level is analyzed. Also, an  
98 analysis on variation of microgrid's operating cost (OC), battery's total cost per day (TCPD), and  
99 the combined cost of OC and TCPD will be carried out for different values of initial SOC levels.  
100 Finally, a recommendation is also suggested on choice of battery's initial SOC level during start  
101 of the day.

## 102 **2. Proposed 'Mix-Mode' Energy Management Strategy (MM-EMS)**

103 Operating the microgrid in more than one operating strategy is referred to as the mix-mode  
104 operating strategy. Three operating strategies, namely the continuous run mode, power sharing  
105 mode, and ON/OFF mode are proposed and explained in the following subsections.

### 106 **2.1 Proposed operating strategies**

107 The optimal generation dispatch for energy sources is calculated on an hourly basis to satisfy the  
108 load requirements considering hybrid system limits and constraints. The proposed operating  
109 strategies are explained in the subsequent sections.

#### 110 **2.1.1 Strategy 1: Continuous run mode**

111 In this operating mode, the power drawn from the utility grid is always zero. The fuel cell  
112 operates continuously during a 24h time period. The output power from the fuel cell depends on  
113 the load demand and output powers from the PV and battery storage. During this strategy,  
114 initially the output power from PV and battery is used to supply the load demand. If demand is  
115 not met, the fuel cell is optimally dispatched to satisfy the load demand. There are chances where  
116 the output power from the PV exceeds the load demand, and in this case, the battery is charged,

117 and the fuel cell is forcibly switched OFF. The objective function for this mode is to reduce the  
 118 daily operating cost, which can be expressed as:

$$119 \quad obj1 = Minimize \left[ C_{gi} \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{P_{FCi}}{\eta_i} + \beta(P_{BATi}) \right] \quad (1)$$

120 where,

121  $C_{gi}$  is natural gas price to supply the fuel cell in dollars per kilowatt-hour

122  $P_{FCi}$  is fuel cell power at time interval 'i'

123  $\beta$  is taken as  $1 \times 10^{-6}$  to obtain the dispatch solution of  $P_{BATi}$

124  $P_{BATi}$  battery power at time interval 'i';

125 If  $P_{BATi}$  is positive battery discharges mode, if  $P_{BATi}$  is negative battery charging mode

126  $\eta_i$  is cell efficiency of SOFC at time interval 'i' which is given as,

$$127 \quad \eta_i = \frac{\left( \frac{V_{stack(i)}}{N} \right)}{E^o} \quad (2)$$

128  $E^o$  is standard electrochemical potential which is 1.482 volt/cell

129  $V_{stack}$  is fuel cell output stack voltage at instant 'i'

130  $N$  is number of cell in fuel cell stack

131 At any given time instant 'i', the sum of the power generated from the distributed sources should  
 132 be equal to the load, which can be expressed as:

$$133 \quad P_{PVi} + P_{BATi} + P_{FCi} = P_{Li} \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, 24 \quad (3)$$

134 The power produced from PV is uncontrollable. The fuel cell and battery is modeled as a  
 135 variable controllable source, which should be operated within the prescribed limits for a 24h time  
 136 period. The constraints for the controllable source are given as:

137 
$$P_{FC\min} \leq P_{FCi} \leq P_{FC\max} \quad i = 1,2,\dots,24 \quad (4)$$

138 The constraints related to battery energy level and allowable charge/discharge power considered  
 139 for this work will be explained in Section 3.

140 **2.1.2 Strategy 2: Power sharing mode**

141 In this power sharing mode, the utility grid, battery source, and fuel cell are all optimally  
 142 scheduled to supply power to the load demand. The battery source is charged when the output  
 143 power from the PV exceeds that of the load demand. The objective function for the power  
 144 sharing mode is to reduce the daily operating cost, which can be expressed as:

145 
$$obj2 = \text{Minimize} \left[ C_{gi} \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{P_{FCi}}{\eta_i} + C_{ei} (P_{Li} - P_{neti}) + \beta (P_{BATi}) \right] \quad (5)$$

146 where,

147  $C_{ei}$  tariff of electricity purchased in dollar per kilowatt-hour

148  $P_{Li}$  is the load demand at interval ‘ $i$ ’

149  $P_{neti}$  is the net power produced at interval ‘ $i$ ’

150 At any instant of time ‘ $t$ ’, the summation of total generated power from PV, fuel cell, battery  
 151 source and utility grid should be equal to the total load demand.

152 
$$P_{PVi} + P_{BATi} + P_{FCi} + P_{Gi} = P_{Li} \quad i = 1,2,\dots,24 \quad (6)$$

153 Since the microgrid operates at the distribution level, the excess power from the microgrid is  
 154 utilized to charge the battery. This is necessary to avoid the power from being injected to grid,  
 155 which will activate the reverse power flow relay installed at the point of common coupling  
 156 (PCC). The power imported from the grid at time instant ‘ $i$ ’ can be used to charge the battery or



157 supply the load. Therefore, considering the power drawn from the grid as a constraint which can  
 158 be expressed as,

$$159 \quad P_{Gi} \geq 0 \quad i = 1,2,\dots,24 \quad (7)$$

160 Moreover, the boundary constraints for fuel cell given in eq.(4) are taken into account for this  
 161 strategy. The limitations related to battery energy level and allowable charge/discharge power  
 162 considered for this work will be explained in Section 3.

### 163 **2.1.3 Strategy 3: ON/OFF mode**

164 In this strategy, the objective is to obtain an optimal ON/OFF schedule for the fuel cell, utility  
 165 grid, and battery source, thereby minimizing the microgrid's operating cost. Here, the output  
 166 power from both the PV and battery source supplies the load demand. Any deficit in the power  
 167 required by the load is delivered by optimally dispatching fuel cell and the utility grid. In this  
 168 operating strategy, when the fuel cell is switched ON, it is forced to run at its rated output power.  
 169 For the rest of the time, the fuel cell is switched OFF. Since the fuel cell is switched ON/OFF, a  
 170 binary switching variable is introduced to enhance control over the fuel cell. The objective  
 171 function for this ON/OFF mode is given as:

$$172 \quad obj3 = Minimize \left[ S(i) \left( C_{gi} \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{P_{FCi}}{\eta_i} \right) + C_{ei} (P_{Li} - P_{neti}) + \beta (P_{BATi}) \right] \quad (8)$$

173 Where  $S(i)$  is a switching function, which takes the value of 0 or 1. When  $S(i)$  is 1, the fuel cell is  
 174 operated at its rated capacity. When  $S(i)$  is 0, the fuel cell is switched OFF. Therefore, during the  
 175 time of the fuel cell operation, its output is constant.

176 At any given time instant 'i', the sum of power generated from the distributed sources and utility  
 177 grid should be equal to the load, which can be expressed as:

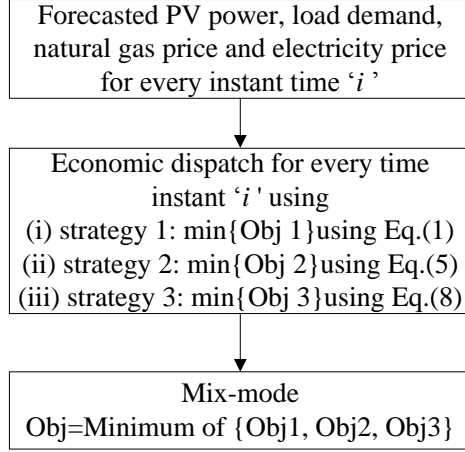
178 
$$P_{PVi} + P_{BATi} + (P_{FCi})S(i) + P_{Gi} = P_{Li} \quad i = 1,2,\dots,24 \quad (9)$$

179 Since the fuel cell is forced to run at its rated capacity, the operating range of fuel cell is either  
180 zero or at its rated capacity. The boundary constraint for utility grid power eq.(7) is also  
181 considered. The limitations related to battery energy level and allowable charge/discharge power  
182 considered for this work will be explained Section 3.

## 183 **2.2 Development of mix-mode operating strategy**

184 This section explains the development of “*mix-mode*” operating strategy. The primary objective  
185 of mix-mode operating strategy is to dispatch power from the distributed sources to the varying  
186 load with lower daily operating cost. The idea of mix-mode strategy is presented in Fig. 1.  
187 Initially the forecasted PV output power and load demand for the time instant ‘*i*’ is considered.  
188 For the given time instant with the PV power, load demand, prices of electricity and natural gas  
189 as inputs, the economic dispatch problem is solved for the three proposed strategies. *Obj1*, *Obj2*,  
190 and *Obj3* are the obtained objective functions for strategy 1, strategy 2 and strategy 3,  
191 respectively, for the given time instant ‘*i*’. The lowest value of the three objective functions  
192 should deliver the lowest operating cost. Therefore, the optimal dispatch values corresponding to  
193 the lowest objective function is selected and provided as a reference to the distributed generators  
194 present in the microgrid. The aforementioned steps are repeated for every time instant ‘*i*’ and this  
195 microgrid is operated for 24h time period.

196



197

198

Fig.1. Mix-mode operating strategy

199

### 3. Optimal sizing of battery source for MM-EMS: Problem formulation

200

On top of the proposed energy management strategy, optimal sizing of BES for MM-EMS is also

201

formulated. To obtain the optimal battery sizing, the initial capital cost (CC) of BES should be

202

considered. Total cost per day for BES ( $TCPD_{BAT}$ ) is the function of initial capital cost of BES.

203

The optimal BES sizing is obtained by minimizing the total cost function, which is a summation

204

of the daily operating cost of microgrid and BES's  $TCPD_{BAT}$ . The daily operating cost of the

205

microgrid ( $Obj$ ) is obtained from the previous section by operating the microgrid in the mix-

206

mode operating strategy. Therefore, the total cost function formulated for this problem can be

207

given as:

208

$$MinF(X) = \sum_{i=1}^{24} Obj(i) + TCPD_{BAT} \quad (10)$$

209

Here, the  $TCPD_{BAT}$  for a particular battery energy rating will be same for all the three strategies.

210

The expression for  $TCPD_{BAT}$  is given as,

211

$$TCPD_{BAT} = \frac{1}{365} \left( \frac{r.(1+r)^{Lt}}{(1+r)^{Lt} - 1} . CC \right) \quad (11)$$

212

$$CC = C_P . \bar{P} + C_E . \bar{E} \quad (12)$$

213 where  $CC$  is the capital cost of the battery source, and  $C_P$  and  $C_E$  are specific costs associated  
 214 with the battery source's power and energy capacities, respectively.  $r$  is interest rate for financing  
 215 the battery source,  $Lt$  is the battery source's lifetime and  $\bar{E}$  and  $\bar{P}$  are rated energy and power  
 216 capacities of the BES.

217 The proposed sizing problem is solved subjected to constraint given below,

218 **(a) Battery constraints:**

219 The charge in the BES must be bounded between,

$$220 \quad E_{BAT}^{\min} \leq E_{BAT} \leq E_{BAT}^{\max} \quad (13)$$

221 where  $E_{BAT}$  is the energy stored in the battery at the end of instant 'i' in kWh.

222  $E_{BAT}^{\min}$ ,  $E_{BAT}^{\max}$  are minimum and maximum charges to be maintained for battery storage

223 **Discharging mode:**

224 Constraint limited to release of energy from battery source is given as,

$$225 \quad E_{BAT,i} = \max \left\{ \left( E_{BAT,i-1} - \Delta t \cdot P_{BAT,i} / \eta_{discharge} \right), E_{BAT}^{\min} \right\} \quad (14)$$

226 **Charging mode:**

227 Constraint limited to energy stored in the battery source is given as,

$$228 \quad E_{BAT,i} = \min \left\{ \left( E_{BAT,i-1} + \Delta t \cdot P_{BAT,i} \cdot \eta_{charge} \right), E_{BAT}^{\max} \right\} \quad (15)$$

229 In addition to the limitation in charging/discharging levels, the maximum and minimum  
 230 discharging/charging power is also given as,

$$231 \quad P^c_{BAT,i} \leq P_{BAT,i} \leq P^d_{BAT,i} \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, N \quad (16)$$

232 where,

$$233 \quad P^c_{BAT,i} = \max \left\{ P_{BAT,\min}, \left( E_{BAT,i-1} - E_{BAT}^{\max} \right) / \eta_{charge} \cdot \Delta t \right\} \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, N \quad (17)$$

$$234 \quad P^d_{BAT,i} = \min \left\{ P_{BAT,\max}, \left( E_{BAT,i-1} - E_{BAT}^{\min} \right) \eta_{discharge} / \Delta t \right\} \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, N \quad (18)$$

235  $\Delta t$  is the commitment period which is 1h in this paper

236 The proposed battery sizing problem should fulfill the aforementioned constraints in Eq.(13)-  
237 (18) for solving the energy management strategy proposed in Section 2.

#### 238 **(b) Dispatchable distributed generator constraints**

239 The PV source is uncontrollable, and its output depends on solar radiation. The operating output  
240 of other dispatchable sources should be limited within the minimum and maximum limits. The  
241 operating limits of the fuel cell and utility grid for the proposed strategies are provided in  
242 corresponding Sections 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.1.3.

#### 243 **4. Proposed sizing method**

244 In the ordinary form, solving the optimal BES sizing for the proposed mix-mode operating  
245 strategy is a complex optimization problem. Therefore, the particle swarm optimization (PSO)  
246 technique, which is a population based optimization technique, is used to solve the battery sizing  
247 problem. The economic dispatch problems proposed in the three strategies are solved using  
248 linear programming (LP) and mixed-integer linear programming (MILP) optimization  
249 techniques. The objective functions for the strategy 1 and strategy 2 for continuous run and  
250 power sharing modes have been modeled as a linear function of microgrid's distributed sources  
251 output power. Therefore, for strategy 1 and strategy 2, the optimization problem is solved using  
252 the linear programming (LP) solver “*linprog*” in MATLAB, which can be expressed as:

$$253 \quad \min_x f^T obj \text{ subjected to } \begin{cases} A.x \leq b \\ Aeq.x = beq \\ lb \leq x \leq ub \end{cases} \quad (19)$$

254 where:  $f$ ,  $x$ ,  $b$ ,  $beq$ ,  $lb$  and  $ub$  are vectors;  $A$  and  $Aeq$  are matrices.

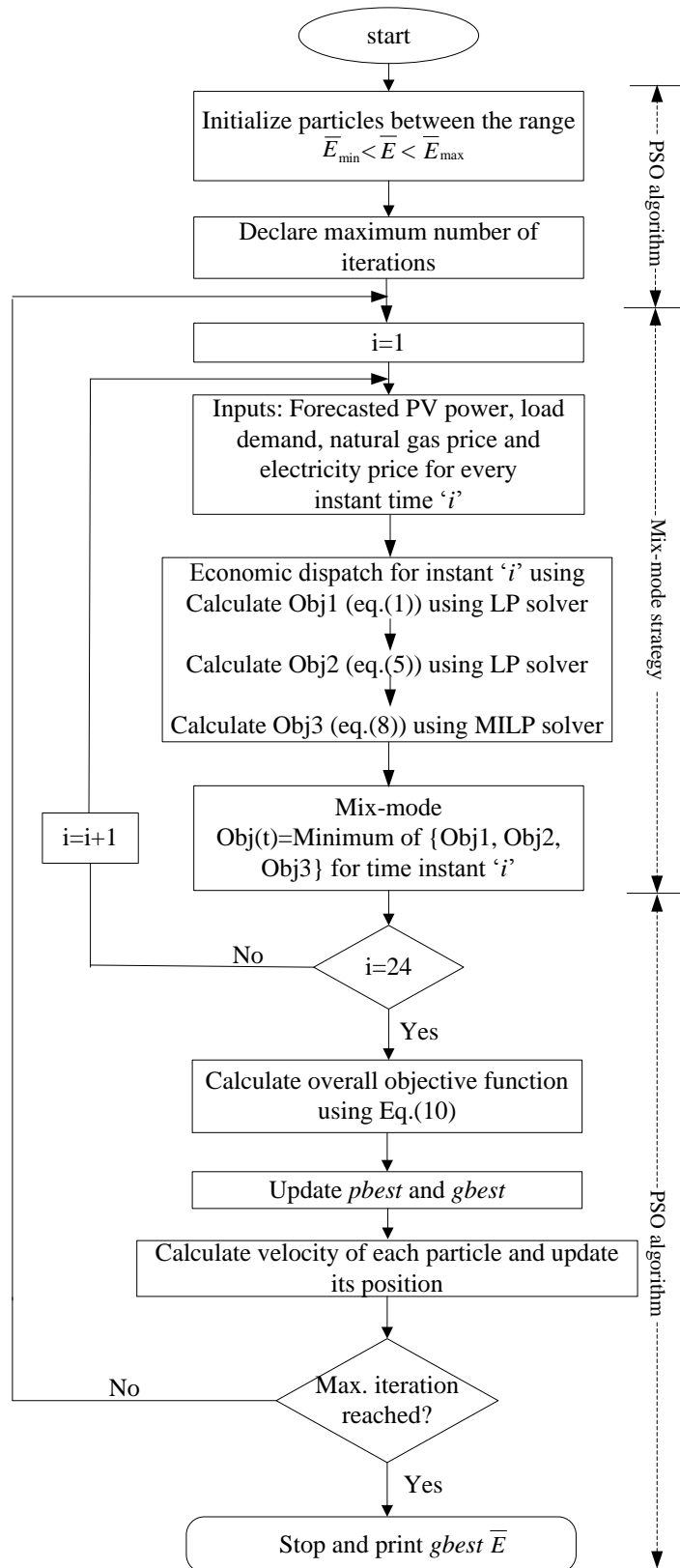
255 The objective function for strategy 3 has been modeled as a mixed integer linear function of the  
 256 microgrid's distributed sources output power, where the switching function for the fuel cell  
 257 generator in Eq.(8) is an integer. Therefore, the objective function is modeled as a mixed integer  
 258 linear programming (MILP). This MILP problem can be solved using MILP solver “*intlinprog*”  
 259 in MATLAB. The “*intlinprog*” finds minimum of a problem by considering the constraints  
 260 specified by,

$$261 \quad \min_x f^T obj \text{ subjected to } \begin{cases} x(int\ con) \\ A \cdot x \leq b \\ A_{eq} \cdot x = b_{eq} \\ l_b \leq x \leq u_b \end{cases} \quad (20)$$

262 where:  $f$ ,  $x$ ,  $intcon$ ,  $b$ ,  $beq$ ,  $lb$  and  $ub$  are vectors;  $A$  and  $Aeq$  are matrices.

263 The BES's energy capacity for the microgrid under the proposed mix-mode operating strategy is  
 264 solved using PSO. Simultaneously, the economic dispatches for three strategies are performed  
 265 using linear programming and mixed-integer linear programming optimization techniques. In  
 266 support of this, the flowchart of the proposed battery sizing method is presented in Fig.2.

267



268

269

Fig. 2. Flowchart of the proposed sizing method for mix-mode energy management strategy

270 The proposed methodology is based on 24h microgrid operation. To perform the sizing of battery  
271 source, 24h data for the following variables are required: forecasted PV output power, load  
272 demand, natural gas price and utility grid electricity price. As the first step in the proposed  
273 method, the particles between the range is declared to be,

$$274 \quad \bar{E}_{\min} < \bar{E} < \bar{E}_{\max} \quad (21)$$

275 The value of  $\bar{E}_{\min}$  and  $\bar{E}_{\max}$  is set according to the microgrid's characteristics. In this paper, the  
276 value of  $\bar{E}_{\min}$  and  $\bar{E}_{\max}$  is set as 100 kWh and 3,000 kWh, respectively. It means that the search  
277 space for PSO is between the range of [100 kWh, 3,000 kWh]. The power capacity of the battery  
278  $\bar{P}$  is fixed to 100 kW in this paper. Initially, particles between the search ranges are generated  
279 randomly. Then, for each particle, the economic dispatch is solved for every time instant 't' for  
280 the three proposed operating strategies. The operational constraint for the battery source, fuel  
281 cell, and utility grid is considered while solving the economic dispatch problem. From the three  
282 solved objective function for time instant 't', the lowest objective function is selected and  
283 explained in Section 2.2. This procedure is repeated for the 24h time period. Then the objective  
284 function (*Obj*) for a 24h time period solved using mix-mode strategy is summed with the  
285  $TCPD_{BAT}$  to obtain the overall cost function. This procedure is repeated for all of the particles.  
286 Once the objective functions for all the particles are evaluated, the particles personal best (*pbest*)  
287 and global best (*gbest*) is updated. Then, the velocity of each particle is updated, and based on  
288 the velocity, the new position of the particles is obtained. Thus, the whole process is repeated  
289 until the maximum number of iterations is reached. When the number of iteration reaches its  
290 maximum, the system prints the optimal value of BES capacity  $\bar{E}$  in kWh.

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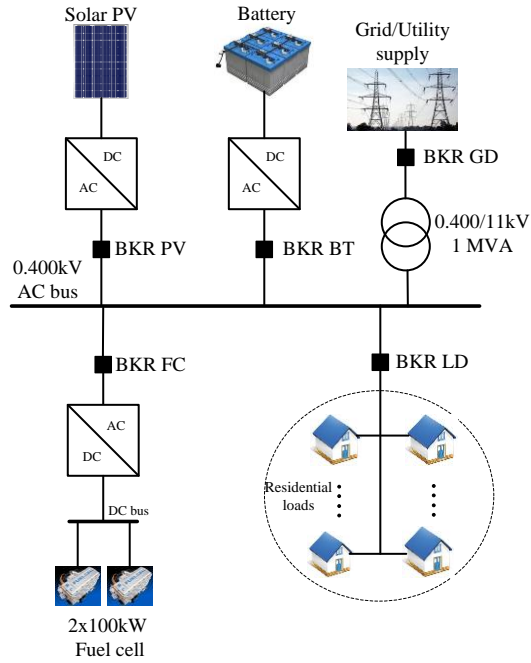
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## 293 5. Case studies and results discussion

294 To assess the validity of the proposed mix-mode energy management strategy and the proposed  
295 battery sizing method, a low voltage grid connected microgrid shown in Fig. 3 is considered. The  
296 grid connected microgrid consists of 200 kW solar PV, two identical 100 kW solid oxide fuel  
297 cell, and a battery bank operated parallel with the load. The minimum and maximum operating  
298 range of the single fuel cell unit is fixed as 10 kW and 100 kW, respectively. Operating outside  
299 the operating range will reduce the fuel cell's life [18]. The technical specification considered for  
300 modeling solid oxide fuel cell is taken from [19]. Utility grid electricity pricing and natural gas  
301 pricing is shown in Fig.4 and is obtained from [20]. The forecasted PV output power and load  
302 demand for 24h time horizon is considered for this work. The microgrid uses lead-acid battery,  
303 while the specific costs associated with the BES's power capacity ( $C_P$ ) and energy capacity ( $C_E$ )  
304 are set as \$234/kW and \$167/kWh, respectively [15]. The battery lifetime and interest rate for  
305 financing the battery source are set as 3 yrs and 6%, respectively. The charging and discharge  
306 efficiency are same and are set to 95%.  $P_{BAT,min}$  and  $P_{BAT,max}$  of the battery is set as -100 kW and  
307 100 kW, respectively. The minimum and maximum level of SOC for the battery should be  
308 maintained within 20% and 100%, respectively. To reflect this in the optimization,  $E_{BAT}^{min}$  and  
309  $E_{BAT}^{max}$  are minimum and maximum level of charge that should be maintained, which is set as 20%  
310 of  $\bar{E}$  and 100% of  $\bar{E}$ , respectively.

311 As a first step the superiority of the proposed mix-mode operating strategy in reducing the  
312 overall microgrid's operating cost for a particular battery capacity is presented. Then, the  
313 proposed battery sizing method is validated by comparing it to the trade-off method. The  
314 variation of the optimal battery sizes for different battery's initial SOC levels is presented. With  
315 this, an analysis on variation in microgrid's operating cost is also carried out.

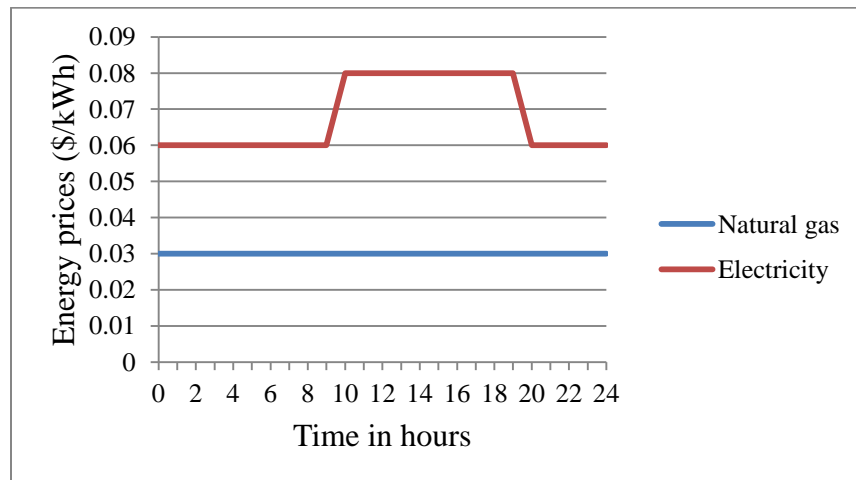


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Fig.3 Microgrid test system



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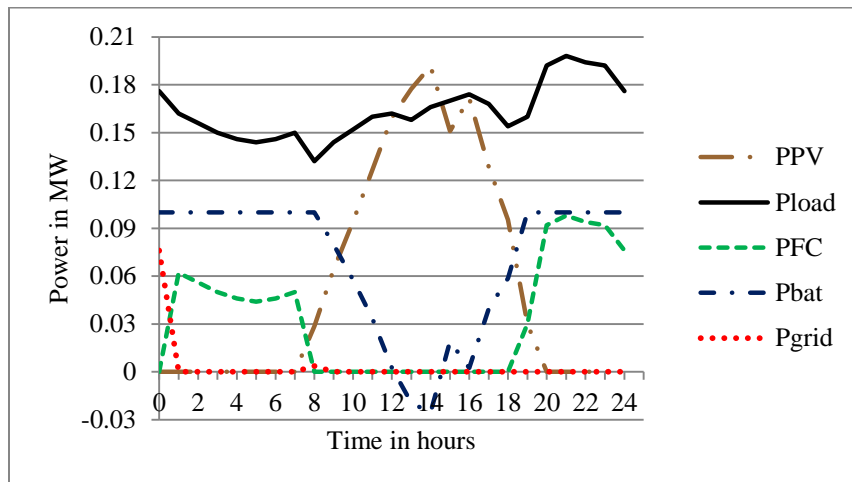
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323

Fig.4. Utility energy prices in (\$/kWh)

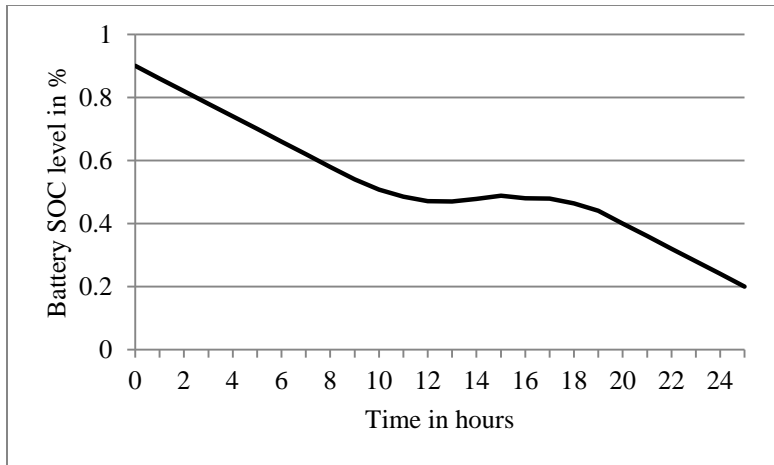
324 **5.1 Comparison of the proposed mix-mode operating strategy with other operating**  
325 **strategies**

326 In this section, the superiority of the proposed mix-mode energy management strategy is  
327 validated for the microgrid model presented in Fig. 3. In this study, since the battery source is  
328 considered, the optimal size of the battery is determined using the proposed sizing method. The  
329 initial SOC level of the battery during the start of the day is kept at 90%. The battery size is  
330 optimized within the range [100 kWh, 3,000 kWh], considering all the battery and distributed  
331 sources constraint. The optimal battery capacity for this case is found to be 2,497.6 kWh. The  
332 results of the optimal dispatch values for the distributed sources in the microgrid for mix-mode  
333 strategy are presented in Fig. 5. Fig. 6 show the battery state of charge (SOC) level maintained  
334 within its limit.



335  
336 Fig.5. Optimal output of distributed source in microgrid for mix-mode strategy

337



338

339

Fig.6. Battery SOC level for mix-mode operating strategy

340

341 A comparison on the daily operating cost for the proposed mix-mode strategy with other

342 strategies is tabulated in Table 1.

343

Table 1 Comparison of daily operating cost

	Strategy 1: Continuous run mode	Strategy 2: Power sharing mode	Strategy 3: ON/OFF mode	Mix-mode
Operating cost in \$	1,880.8	1,003.5	1,073.6	978.8768
FC operating hours	24	14	4	13
Grid operating hours	0	1	11	2

344

345 The results from Table 1 shows that operating the microgrid in continuous run mode is more

346 expensive. The fuel cell is also forced to run for the 24h time period. The operating cost of

347 microgrid is found to be less when the microgrid is operated under the power sharing mode when

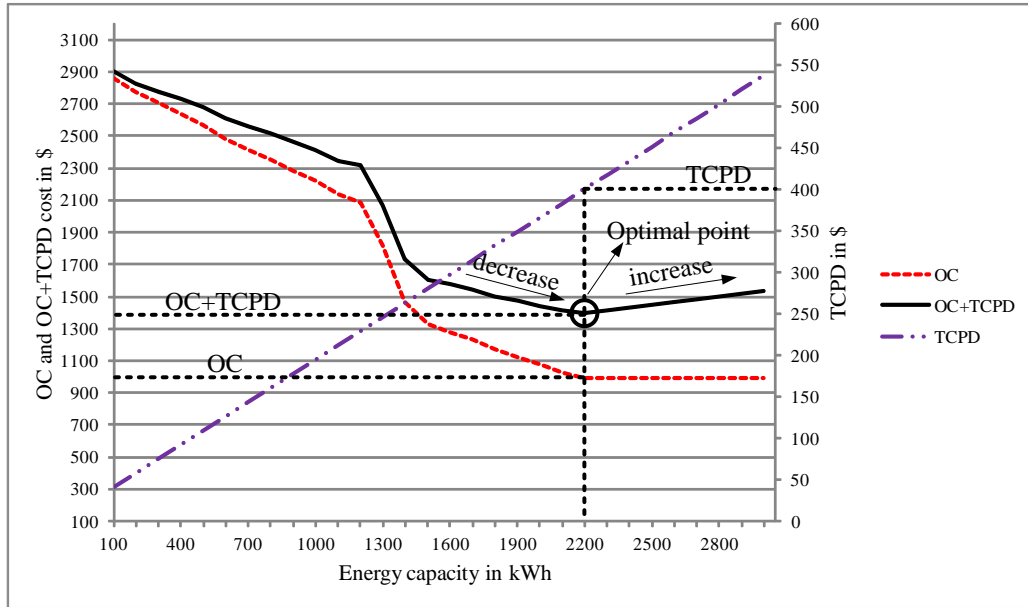
348 compared to the ON/OFF mode. However, the fuel cell is operated for 14h, which exceeded the

349 ON/OFF mode where the fuel cell is forced to run at its rated capacity for only 4h. The

350 advantage of operating the microgrid in the ON/OFF mode is that, when the fuel cell is forced to  
351 run at the ON/OFF mode, the excess power can be used to charge the battery source. Moreover,  
352 the run time of fuel cell is less during the ON/OFF mode, which will increase its calendar life.  
353 The overall operating cost of the microgrid for the proposed mix-mode operating strategy is less  
354 than other operating strategies. This proves that operating a microgrid in different operating  
355 strategies for 24h time period will incur the lowest operating cost.

## 356 **5.2 Validation of the proposed battery sizing method**

357 In this section, the validation of the proposed battery sizing method is carried out. The proposed  
358 battery sizing method is validated with the “trade-off” method. Trade-off method can be used to  
359 find the approximate battery storage capacity in kWh. For this purpose, the operating cost (OC)  
360 of the microgrid, battery’s TCPD, and sum of OC and TCPD cost is plotted for different values  
361 of the battery’s energy capacity. Since the minimum and maximum range of the battery energy  
362 capacity for this work is [100 kWh , 3,000 kWh], the  $OC$ ,  $TCPD_{BAT}$ , and  $(OC+TCPD_{BAT})$  are  
363 plotted in Fig.7 for different energy capacities between these ranges on regular intervals. Fig. 7 is  
364 plotted by taking into account the initial charge of the battery being equal to 100% of the battery  
365 capacity, which is the initial SOC level of the battery during the start of the day taken as 100% in  
366 this case.



367

368

Fig.7 Optimal value of energy capacity in kWh using trade-off method

369

The operating cost (OC) of the microgrid is very high for lower battery capacities. As the battery

370

capacity increases, the OC of the microgrid decreases. This is due to the availability of sufficient

371

battery source for an economical microgrid operation. On the other hand, as the battery capacity

372

increases, the battery's TCPD cost also increases. This is because the TCPD of the battery is

373

directly associated with battery's installation cost. Therefore, with an increase in the battery

374

capacity starting from 100 kWh, the sum of operating cost (OC) and battery's TCPD, which is

375

the combined cost of *OC* and *TCPD*, tend to decrease. With the increase in battery capacity at

376

one point, the OC of the microgrid attains a minimum value, from where it does not decrease and

377

remains constant for further increment in battery capacity. In this instant, the readers can notice a

378

sudden change from a decreasing to an increasing trend in the combined cost of *OC* and *TCPD*

379

costs. The point where a sudden change in the trend happens to be the optimal point, where the

380

combined cost *OC+TCPD* is quite less. The point where the combined cost of *OC* and *TCPD* is

381

less is encircled in Fig. 7, for which the corresponding battery capacity is found to be 2,200

382

kWh. Here, the optimal battery capacity is obtained by a trade-off between microgrid's *OC* and

383 battery's TCPD costs. The approximate operating cost (OC) of the microgrid for the optimal  
384 value is plotted, and it is found to be \$ 1,000, while the TCPD cost associated with the battery is  
385 approximately \$ 400. Therefore, the total combined cost of OC and TCPD from the Fig. 7 is  
386 closer to \$ 1,400 per day. That is the point encircled in Fig.7, where it is closer to \$ 1,400 per  
387 day. It can be noted from Fig. 7 that further increase in battery capacity beyond the 2,200 kWh  
388 increases the combined cost of OC and TCPD, which is due to the increase in battery's TCPD  
389 cost. On the other hand, it can be noticed that the OC of the microgrid remains constant for  
390 further increase in battery capacity beyond 2,200 kWh. Choosing any value below 2,200 kWh  
391 will increase the microgrid's operating cost.

392 In this paper, we propose an accurate method to determine optimal battery size using the PSO  
393 optimization technique necessary for economic operation of microgrid. The microgrid is  
394 operated in a mix-mode operating strategy. In this case, the battery size and operating cost of the  
395 microgrid are simultaneously optimized. The battery capacity is optimized by considering the  
396 initial SOC level during start of the day as 100%. The optimal value of battery capacity  
397 optimized using PSO is found to be 2,185.4 kWh. Table 2 provides a comparison between the  
398 optimal value of battery capacity obtained using the trade-off method and the proposed sizing  
399 method. In the table, the OC, TCPD and OC+TCPD costs obtained from the proposed sizing  
400 method is compared with the trade-off method. The capacity of the battery and costs tabulated  
401 for the proposed sizing method is very close to the values obtained using the trade-off method.  
402 From the table, it is clear that the proposed battery sizing method is accurate enough to calculate  
403 the battery capacity in kWh for the economic operation of the microgrid.

404

405 Table 2 Comparison of optimal value obtained using trade-off method and proposed sizing  
 406 method

	Trade-off method	Proposed sizing method
Optimal battery capacity (kWh)	2,200	2,185.4
OC (\$)	1,000	978.8768
TCPD (\$)	400	398.0547
OC+TCPD (\$)	1,400	1,376.9315

407  
 408

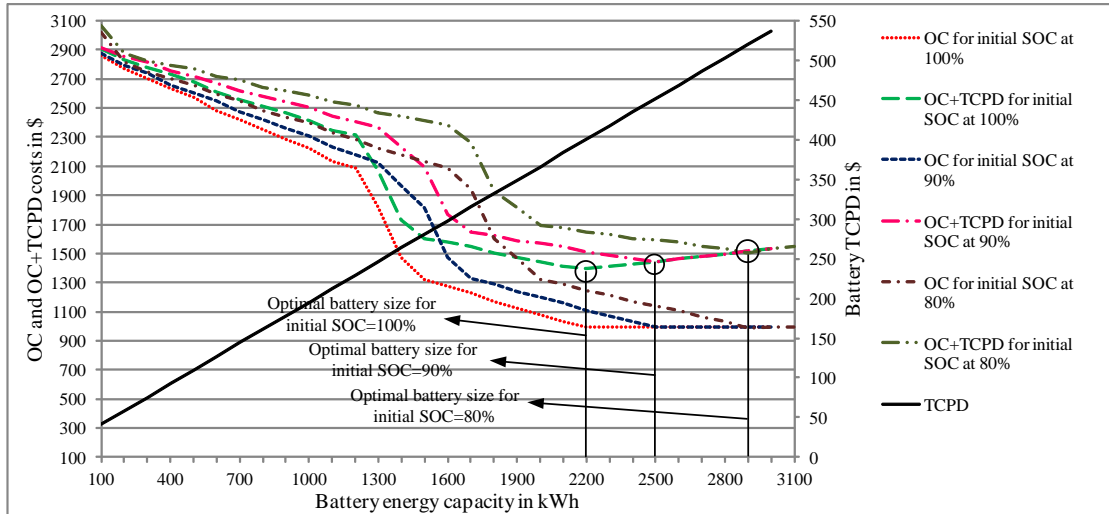
409 **5.3 Analysis of variation in optimal energy capacity of battery source for initial SOC levels**  
 410 **100%, 90% and 80% during start of the day**

411 The main advantage of adding battery source in the microgrid is to maintain stability, improve  
 412 power quality, and facilitate the integration of renewable sources [21-24]. In this case, the  
 413 optimal battery capacity required for the economic microgrid operation is evaluated by  
 414 considering the initial SOC of the lead acid battery to be 100%, 90%, and 80% during the start of  
 415 the day. Therefore, the optimal battery capacity  $\bar{E}$  for each of the initial SOC level is optimized  
 416 within the range [100 kWh , 3,000 kWh] using the proposed battery sizing method.

417 The optimal values of the BES are found to be 2,185.4 kWh, 2,497.6 kWh and 2,913.9 kWh  
 418 when the battery initial SOC levels are 100%, 90% and 80% respectively during the start of the  
 419 day. This is validated using the trade-off method by plotting various costs against different  
 420 battery capacity ranging between [100 kWh , 3,000 kWh].

421 The results for the optimal energy capacity using the trade-off method when the microgrid is  
 422 operated under mix-mode strategy, considering the battery source with initial SOC levels as  
 423 100%, 90% and 80% during the start of the day are presented in Fig.8. The optimal values are  
 424 attained for the lowest value of combined cost of OC and TCPD is found to be 2,200 kWh, 2,500  
 425 kWh and 2,900 kWh for initial SOC cases of 100%, 90%, and 80% respectively.





426

427 Fig. 8. Optimal value of energy capacity in kWh using trade-off method for initial battery SOC at  
 428 100%, 90% and 80%

429 From Fig.8, it can be noted that the microgrid's operating cost (OC) and the combined cost of  
 430 OC and TCPD is not same when the battery source initial SOC levels during start of the day are  
 431 100%, 90% and 80%. The OC and combined cost of OC and TCPD is very much decreased  
 432 when the battery initial SOC level during the start of the day is 100%. In other words, if the  
 433 battery's initial SOC level is very large, the operating cost of the microgrid is reduced to its  
 434 lowest value. Fig.8 shows that the operating cost of the microgrid settles to a constant value of  
 435 the battery's optimal capacity value. For example, in the case of the battery initial SOC level  
 436 100%, the operating cost settles at an approximate value of \$ 1,000 at 2,200 kWh. Similarly, for  
 437 cases of initial SOC levels at 90% and 80%, the operating cost settles down to a constant value  
 438 of \$ 1,000 at optimal values of 2,500 kWh and 2,900 kWh, respectively. A clear comparison  
 439 between the optimal values obtained for different battery initial SOC levels for the trade-off  
 440 method and the proposed sizing method is presented in Table 3.

441

442

443 Table 3. Comparison of optimal value obtained using trade-off method and proposed sizing  
 444 method for battery initial SOC levels 100%, 90% and 80%

Initial SOC at	Trade-off method			Proposed sizing method		
	100%	90%	80%	100%	90%	80%
Optimal battery capacity (kWh)	2,200	2,500	2,900	2,185.4	2,497.6	2,913.9
OC in \$	1,000	1,000	1,000	978.8768	978.8768	978.8768
TCPD in \$	400	450	520	398.0547	451.4934	522.7506
OC+TCPD in \$	1,400	1,450	1,520	1,376.9315	1,430.3702	1,501.6274

445  
 446 Table 3 show that with decreasing levels of the battery’s initial SOC level during the start of the  
 447 day, the battery’s optimal capacity increases. Therefore, in order to reduce the microgrid’s  
 448 operating cost to its lowest value with less battery initial cost, it is suggested that the optimal  
 449 battery capacity with higher initial SOC be used during the start of the day. This will reduce the  
 450 microgrid’s operating cost with less battery initial cost.

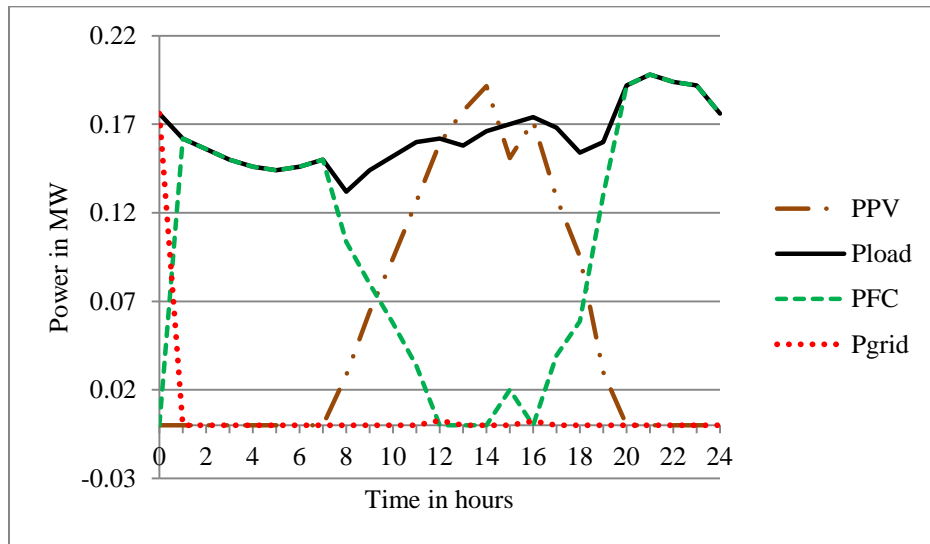
451 **5.4 Analysis of variation of microgrid’s operating cost for different initial SOC levels**  
 452 **during start of the day**

453 This section will analyze the variation in the microgrid’s operating cost for different initial SOC  
 454 levels during the start of the day. Prior to the analysis, it is necessary that the microgrid’s  
 455 operating cost in the absence of battery energy storage, be evaluated. Hence, this section is  
 456 divided into two sub-sections, (i) microgrid operation without battery source, and (ii) microgrid  
 457 operation with battery source having initial SOC levels at 100%, 70%, and 50% during the start  
 458 of the day.

459 **5.4.1 Microgrid operation without battery energy storage**

460 This section discusses the operation of grid connected microgrid without battery source. All the  
 461 distributed sources present in the microgrid, including utility grid, should satisfy the forecasted  
 462 load demand for the 24h time period. In this case, there may be instances where the output power

463 from the PV may exceed the load demand. Since the battery source is unavailable for charging  
464 the excess power, a load resistor is modeled to ground the excess power. By load demand and  
465 maximum available power from the distributed sources, the results for the microgrid operation  
466 for mix-mode are presented in Fig. 9.



467

468 Fig.9 Optimal operation of microgrid without battery source

469 The total operating cost of the microgrid in this case is \$ 3,332/day. Since there is no battery  
470 source available to deliver ancillary service, the maximum available power from the fuel cell and  
471 utility grid is drawn by the load. This forces the fuel cell to extend its operating hours by 20h.

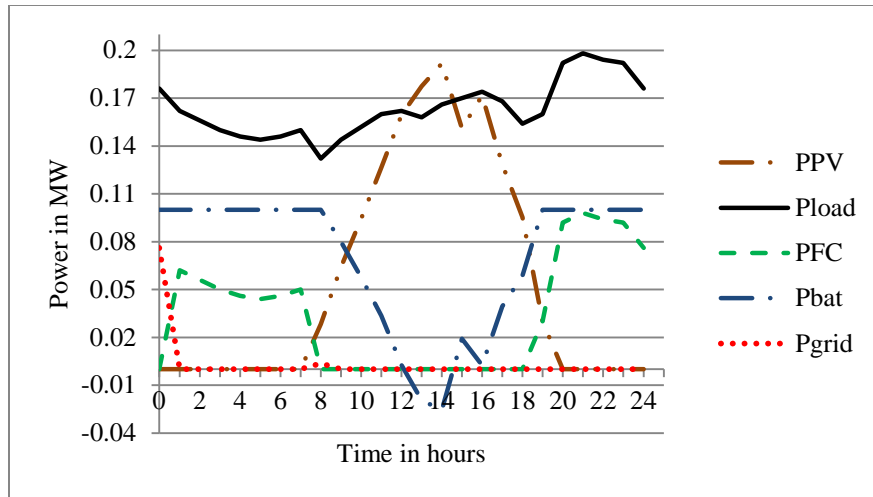
472 Overall, since no battery is employed, the microgrid rely on power from the fuel cell and the  
473 utility grid. Furthermore, the fuel cell operating hours exceeds that of the utility grid operating  
474 hours. This is because the power drawn from the fuel cell is cheaper than power purchased from  
475 the utility grid. There are instances where utility grid is scheduled instead of the fuel cell. During  
476 the entire 24h operating time, the utility grid is optimally scheduled for 3h.

477

478

479 **5.4.2 Microgrid operation with battery source having initial SOC levels at 100%, 70% and**  
480 **50% during start of the day**

481 The lead-acid battery is added to the microgrid test system for this case study. During the early  
482 morning hours, since the battery source is cheap, it will effectively be used to supply the varying  
483 load. There is no chance of the battery charging during the early morning hours that is before the  
484 sun-rise. Keeping the initial battery cost in mind, the initial SOC of the battery during the start of  
485 the day is set to 100%. The results in Fig. 10 portray the optimal dispatch values of the  
486 distributed sources in the microgrid when the battery initial SOC level is 100% during the start of  
487 the day. The optimal battery capacity for this case is found to be 2,185.4 kWh. During the early  
488 morning hours that is before the sun-rise, the power to the load is managed by battery, fuel cell,  
489 and the utility grid. During the day, when PV power is present, the battery source is efficiently  
490 managed to supply the load or charge when PV power exceeds the load demand. During this  
491 period of operation, the power from the fuel cell and utility grid are quite low, or in some cases  
492 zero for the majority of the time period. This is due to the availability of cheaper battery power.  
493 During the evening hours along the side of battery source the fuel cell is also used to supply the  
494 load. The power drawn from the utility grid is zero during this time, because the power purchase  
495 cost from the utility grid is very high than the cost of power drawn from battery source and fuel  
496 cell. From Fig. 11, it is clear that the battery SOC level is kept within the limits.

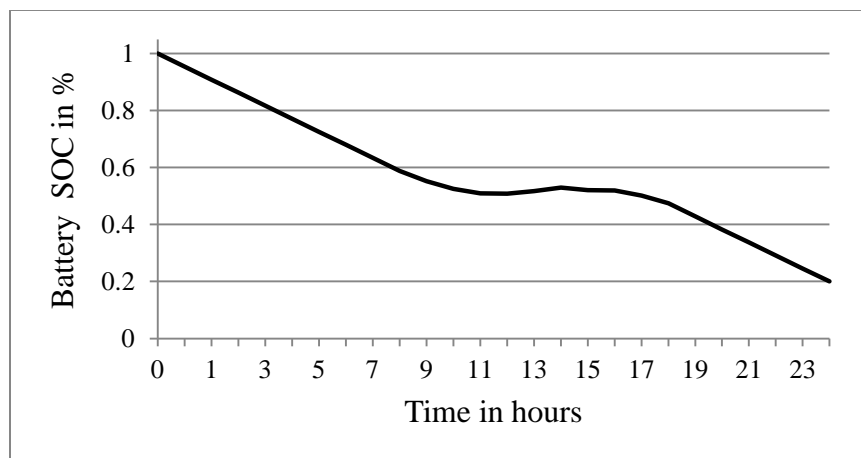


497

498 Fig.10 Optimal output of distributed source in microgrid for when battery initial SOC at 100% of

499

2,185.4 kWh



500

501 Fig.11. Battery SOC level for mix-mode operating strategy when battery initial SOC at 100% of

502

2,185.4 kWh

503 A battery size of 2,185.4 kWh is the optimal capacity when the initial SOC is at 100% during the

504 start of the day. It is our interest to set the initial SOC level to 70% and 50% during the start of

505 the day for the battery size of 2,185.4 kWh and observe the operation of the microgrid and

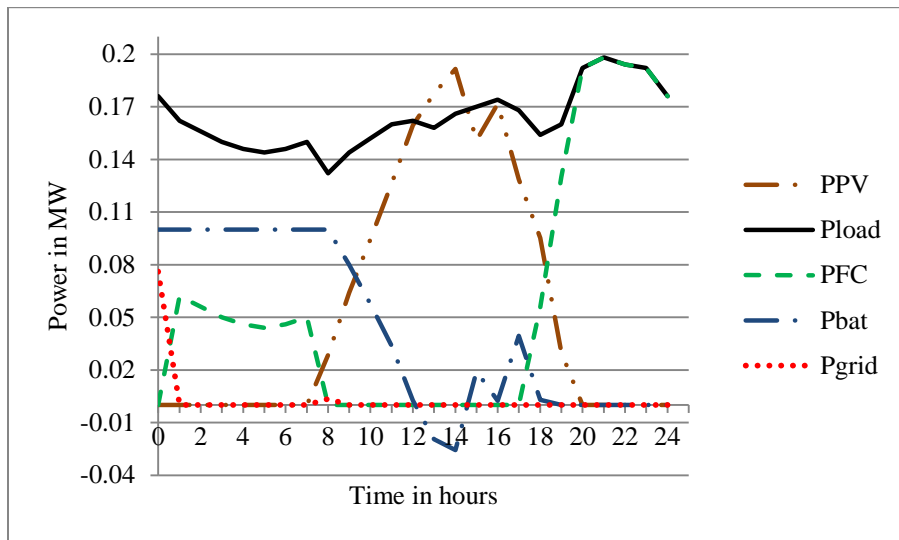
506 calculate its operating cost. Fig. 12 and Fig.13 shows the optimal dispatch values and battery

507 SOC level when the battery initial SOC level is set to 70% of 2,185.4 kWh during the start of the

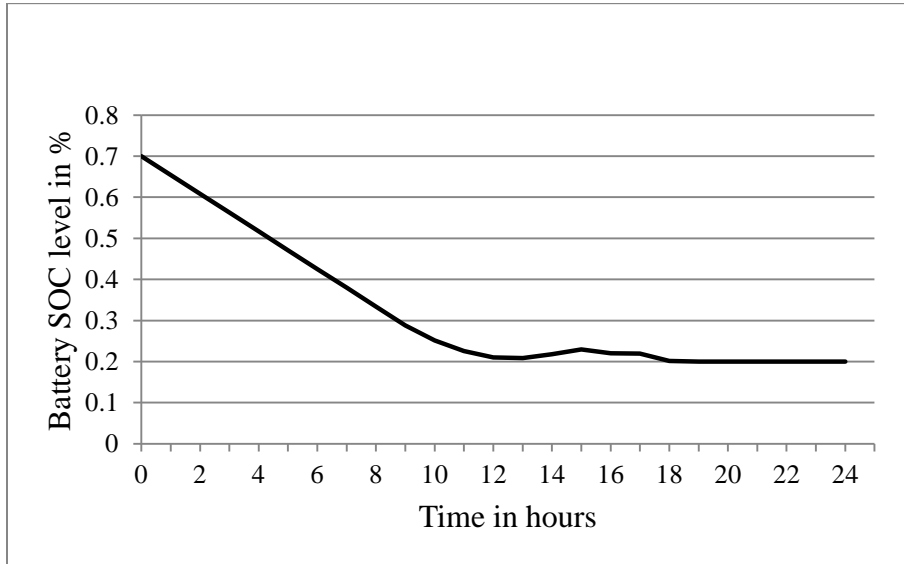
508 day. Similarly, Fig.14 and Fig15 shows the optimal dispatch values and battery SOC level when  
509 the battery initial SOC level is set to 50% of 2,185.4 kWh during start of the day.

510 The discharging action of battery in each time step of the day is restricted to how much it charges  
511 in previous hours. It can be noticed from Fig.10, Fig.12 and Fig.14 that when the initial SOC is  
512 high during the start of the day the battery operates for longer hours. On the other hand, when the  
513 initial SOC level of the battery is set low, the battery operating hours is less due to the scarcity of  
514 charge in the battery source. When the initial SOC is 70% in Fig.12, the battery operating hours  
515 is found to be less, and the battery is completely switched OFF during the night hours. Similarly,  
516 when initial SOC is 50% in Fig.14, the battery is switched OFF during night hours and even for  
517 few hours during the day-time. For cases of lower initial SOC levels, particularly during night  
518 hours, the second unit of the fuel cell is switched ON to supply power to varying load, since the  
519 power drawn from utility grid is more expensive. A brief comparison of the microgrid's  
520 operating cost without and with battery source with different initial SOC levels are presented in  
521 Table.4. The operating cost of the microgrid without battery source is determined to be  
522 \$3,332/day. The microgrid operating cost with optimal battery source of 2,185.4 kWh having an  
523 initial SOC at 100% at the start of the day is \$ 978.8768/day. This means that operating the  
524 microgrid with optimal battery sizing reduces the overall operating cost by 70% for a single day.  
525 This is due to the availability of the battery source, and therefore, the battery operating hours is  
526 increased to 22h. On the other hand, with the same optimal battery size where the initial SOC is  
527 set at 70% during the start of the day, it will reduce the overall operating cost by only 55% for a  
528 single day. Moreover, this increases the fuel cell operating hours to 14h, and reduces the battery  
529 operating hours to 18h. For an initial SOC of 50% during the start of the day case, the operating  
530 cost of the microgrid is \$ 2,335.3/day, where the savings is only 30% for a single day, which is

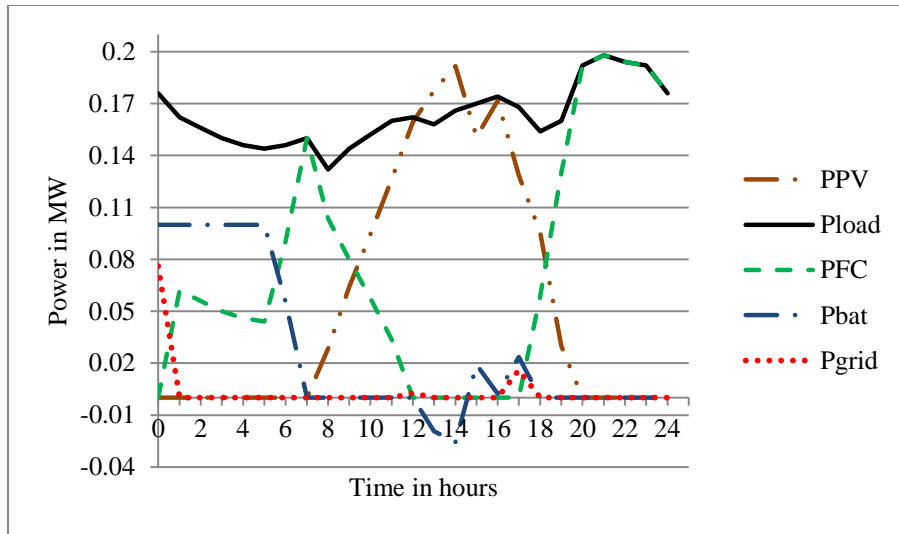
531 even lesser than the higher initial SOC cases. In this case, the fuel cell and utility grid operating  
532 hours are increased to 18h and 3h, respectively while the battery run time is reduced to 10h.



533  
534 Fig.12 Optimal output of distributed source in microgrid for when battery initial SOC at 70% of  
535 2,185.4 kWh



536  
537 Fig.13. Battery SOC level for mix-mode operating strategy when battery initial SOC at 70% of  
538 2,185.4 kWh

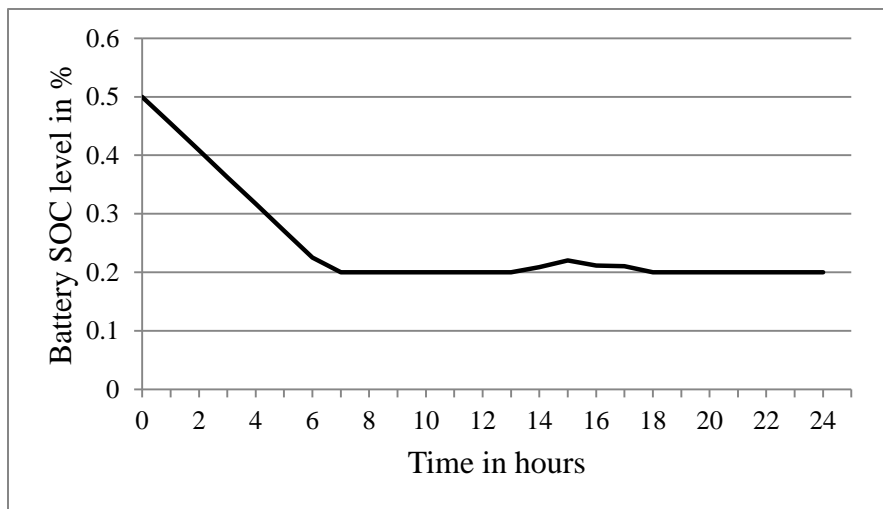


539

540 Fig.14 Optimal output of distributed source in microgrid for when battery initial SOC at 50% of

541

2,185.4 kWh



542

543 Fig.15. Battery SOC level for mix-mode operating strategy when battery initial SOC at 50% of

544

2,185.4 kWh

545

546

547

548



549

Table 4. Comparison of operating cost with and without battery case.

	With battery source			Without battery source
Optimal BES capacity (kWh)	2185.4			-
Battery initial SOC level	100%	70%	50%	-
Operating cost in (\$/day)	978.8768	1,491	2,335.3	3,332
Fuel cell operating (hr)	13	14	18	20
Grid operating (hr)	2	2	3	3
Battery operating (hr)	22	18	10	-
Savings in operating cost in %	70%	55%	30%	-

550

551

552 Table 4 shows that if the battery source is optimal with higher initial SOC during the start of the  
553 day, there is a significant reduction in microgrid’s operating cost. Moreover, the fuel cell  
554 operating hours will also be reduced, which will increase its calendar life. During the microgrid  
555 mix-mode operation, the utility grid operating hours is lower as the power purchase cost from the  
556 utility grid is very high.

557 From the discussions, it can be concluded that,

558 (i) Operating the microgrid under the proposed mix-mode operating strategy can effectively  
559 reduce the its operating cost.

560 (ii) Including battery source in the microgrid will reduce the daily operating cost.

561 (iii) Installing optimal battery capacity with higher initial SOC is highly recommended because  
562 the optimal battery capacity with higher initial SOC will reduce the daily operating cost with  
563 lowest battery’s capital cost.

564 (iv) Installing battery capacity with higher initial SOC reduces fuel cell and utility grid operating  
565 hours.

566 There is no recommendation found in literature on settings of the initial battery SOC level for  
567 microgrid operation. Based on the results depicted in Fig.8 and Table 3 it is highly recommended  
568 that the battery capacity with higher initial SOC be used during the start of the day. This will

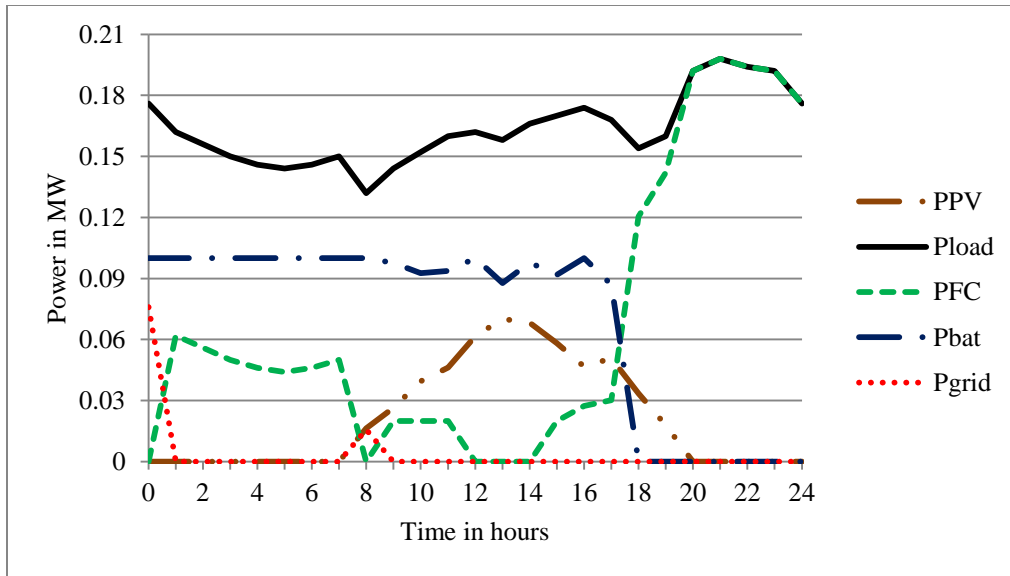
569 reduce the microgrid's operating cost with less battery capital cost, which is the battery's TCPD.  
570 When there is no possibility of battery charging during the start of the day's operation, it is  
571 highly recommended that the initial SOC of the battery be set to 100%. If there are any possible  
572 charging events, then the battery initial SOC can be set to 90% - 95%.

### 573 **5.5 Analysis on variation of microgrid's operating cost considering uncertainty in PV** 574 **output power**

575 Output power from the solar PV plant is uncertain and relies on solar radiation, which is  
576 intermittent in nature. As a result of this, considerable effect in microgrid's operating cost and  
577 battery source operation can be found. Therefore, in this section an analysis on variation of  
578 microgrid's operating cost and battery source operation is carried out for changes in the PV  
579 output power. In this analysis, the energy capacity of the lead-acid battery source, evaluated in  
580 Section 5.4.2 for the initial SOC level of 100%, is considered. Hence, the energy capacity of the  
581 battery source considered for this analysis is 2,185.4 kWh, and the initial SOC level during the  
582 start of the day is set to 100% as recommended in Section 5.4.2.

583 The optimal battery capacity of 2,185.4 kWh is evaluated for a particular PV output power  
584 pattern. This analysis is carried out to study the variation of microgrid's operating cost and  
585 battery source operation when the PV output power changes. Two PV output power patterns, (i)  
586 PV output power from the solar plant during winter and (ii) PV output power from the solar plant  
587 during summer are considered for the study.

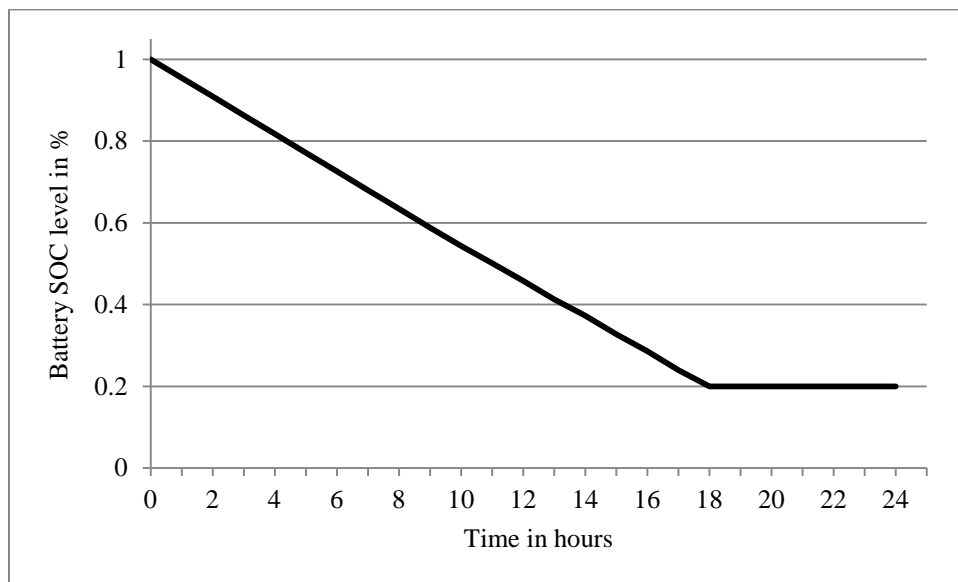
588 Results in Fig.16 shows the optimal dispatch values of the distributed sources in the microgrid  
589 for a day in winter, with its corresponding battery SOC level plotted in Fig.17.



590

591

Fig.16 Optimal output of distributed source in microgrid during a day in winter



592

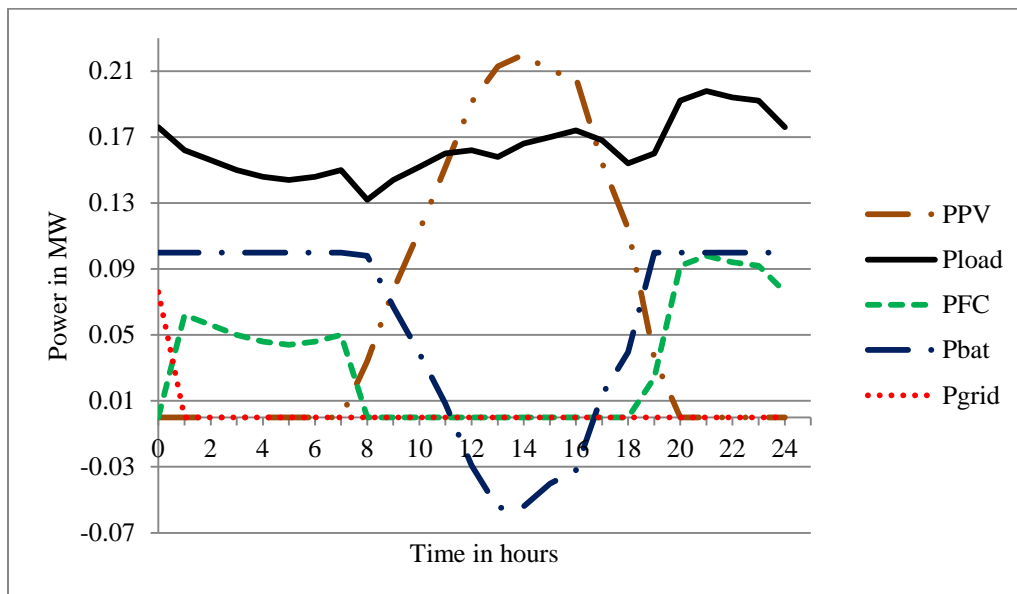
593

Fig.17 Battery SOC level for a day in winter

594 During the early morning hour that is before the sun-rise, the power to the load is managed by  
 595 the battery source, fuel cell, and the utility grid. The utility grid is utilized because the power  
 596 drawn from the utility grid is cheap in morning hours. During the day hours, the power to the  
 597 varying load is managed by PV output power, battery, and fuel cell. Since the PV output power  
 598 is less during the winter, the battery source is forced to discharge in-order to manage the load

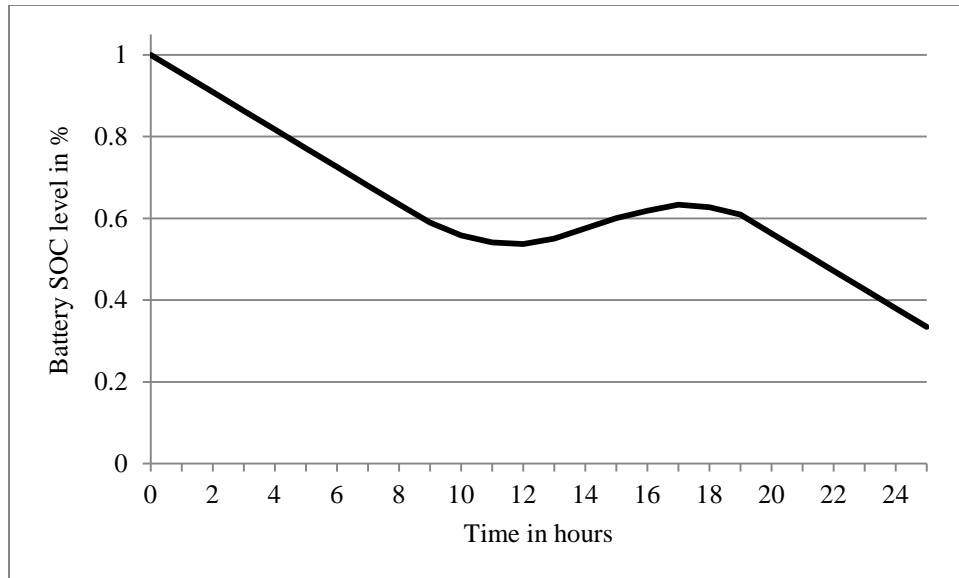
599 demand. It is also evident from Fig.16, that the fuel cell dispatches power for few hours during  
 600 the day to manage power to the load demand. During these hours, the power drawn from the  
 601 utility grid is kept at zero, considering its cost. Since the power from the battery is cheap, it is  
 602 utilized most of the time during the day, and since the PV output power is less than the load,  
 603 there are no battery charging instances. During evening hours, the battery power is unavailable  
 604 because the SOC level has reached its minimum level due to the fact that the battery source is  
 605 effectively utilized during the day hours. Therefore, during evening hours, fuel cell is effectively  
 606 utilized to supply power to varying load demand. As a result of this, both the fuel cell units are  
 607 switched ON to supply the varying load. The power from the utility grid is kept at zero due to the  
 608 cost of power produced from the fuel cell is being less compared to the power drawn from the  
 609 utility grid.

610 Fig.18 and Fig.19 are the optimal dispatch values of microgrid's sources and battery SOC level  
 611 for a day in summer respectively.



612

613 Fig.18 Optimal output of distributed source in microgrid during a day in summer



614

615

Fig.19 Battery SOC level for a day in summer

616

During the early morning hours, the load demand is supplied by the power from utility grid,

617

battery source, and fuel cell. The utility grid is utilized because the power drawn from the utility

618

grid is cheap during the morning hours. During the day, when PV power is available, the battery

619

source is effectively managed in order to supply power to the load demand. The power from the

620

PV plant is high during the summer, and there are instances where the PV output power

621

exceeded the load demand. As a result of this, during these instances, the battery source operates

622

in the charging mode. During the day, since the availability of the PV power is high, the power

623

drawn from the utility grid and fuel cell is zero, and as a result of this, the fuel cell operating

624

hours is reduced. During the evening hours, the varying load demand is supplied by the battery

625

source and fuel cell. Since the battery source is charged for few hours during the day, it is

626

effectively utilized to supply power during the evening hours. As a result of this, only one fuel

627

cell unit is utilized to manage the load demand. During the evening hours, the power drawn from

628

the utility grid is zero.

629 A comparison on microgrid’s operating cost and microgrid sources operating hours are presented  
630 in Table 5 for a day for both winter and summer seasons.

631 Table 5. Comparison of microgrid’s operating cost and microgrid sources operating hours

Optimal BES capacity (kWh)	2185.4	
Battery initial SOC level	100%	
	Winter	Summer
Operating cost in (\$/day)	2,413.630	925.510
Fuel cell operating (hr)	20	13
Grid operating (hr)	2	1
Battery operating (hr)	17	20

632 It can be noticed that the microgrid’s operating cost is very much reduced during the day in the  
633 summer compared to winter. This is due to the availability of PV power during the day of  
634 summer. During the summer, the availability of PV output power is more and the large amount  
635 of load demand during the day hours is taken care of by the power from the PV plant.  
636 Simultaneously, there are instances of battery charging during the day time when the PV output  
637 power exceeded the load demand. As a result of this, the charged battery power is effectively  
638 utilized during the evening hours, which reduces the microgrid’s operating cost for the day in  
639 summer. Due to this reason the battery operating hours is increased to 20h during the day in  
640 summer. Since the battery power is available for longer hours, it eventually contributes to the  
641 reduction in utility grid and fuel cell operating hours, and the utility grid and fuel cell operates  
642 for 1h and 13h, respectively, during the day in summer.

643 On the other hand, the output power from the PV plant is lesser during winter, and the battery  
644 source is effectively utilized during the day hours to supply power to the varying load demand.  
645 Since the power from the PV plant is lesser than the load demand, there are no charging  
646 instances for battery source. As a result of this, the battery source is unavailable during the  
647 evening hours. Therefore, the battery source’s operating hours is reduced to 17h. In order to

648 supply power to the load during the evening hours, both the units of fuel cell were forced to  
649 supply power to the varying load demand. Since the availability of battery source is less in the  
650 winter, the fuel cell and utility grid's operating hours increased to 20h and 2h, respectively. As a  
651 result of this, the microgrid's operating cost is increased to \$ 2,413.63/day during the day of the  
652 winter.

## 653 **6. Conclusion**

654 In this paper, a mix-mode energy management strategy (MM-EMS) for operating the microgrid  
655 at the lowest operating cost and optimal battery sizing method for economic microgrid operation  
656 is presented. The mix-mode operating strategy is worked out by solving economic dispatch  
657 problem for three proposed strategies, namely continuous run mode, power sharing mode, and  
658 ON/OFF mode. Linear programming and mixed integer linear programming optimization  
659 techniques were used to solve the energy management problem. With this, a method to find  
660 optimal battery size for the microgrid operating under mix-mode strategy was also presented.  
661 The battery sizing problem was solved using the PSO optimization technique. The battery's  
662 capital cost, its energy and power constraints, and distributed generator's operational limits were  
663 taken into account while solving this problem.

664 Compared to other operating strategies, operating the microgrid under mix-mode operating  
665 strategy would eventually reduce the microgrid's daily operating cost. Moreover, the proposed  
666 battery sizing method was highly accurate in determining the optimal size of battery energy  
667 storage for economic operation of the microgrid. The variation of the optimal battery capacity  
668 with different sets of initial SOC levels was analyzed, and based on the analysis, it was found  
669 that the optimal battery capacity increased as we selected lower initial SOC levels during the  
670 start of the day. It was also found that the optimal battery capacity with higher initial SOC level

671 reduced the microgrid's operating cost effectively with lower battery initial cost. Furthermore,  
672 variation to the microgrid's operating cost against different SOC levels was analyzed. It was  
673 found that as the initial SOC level during the start of the day was reduced, a significant reduction  
674 in savings in the microgrid's operating cost became evident. Based on the results, a  
675 recommendation on the choice of initial SOC level during the start of the day for an economical  
676 operation of a microgrid was suggested. Finally, an analysis on variation of microgrid's  
677 operating cost considering uncertainty in PV output power was carried out. It was found that the  
678 availability of PV power from solar photovoltaic plant influenced the microgrid's operating cost  
679 and battery source's operation.

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