

Economic dispatch - shift factor evaluation and load profile power flow simulations in Excel VBA macro

Abstract. Calculating shift factor (SF) with power injection is essential for dispatch demand network analysis. Similarly, load profile simulation in an electrical power flow network is essential to determine powers and voltages transmission in the network. Many available specialized commercial software packages for this purpose are expensive and licensed. The purpose of this paper is to present the solution of the above two mentioned problems simply and in readily available Microsoft Excel Visual Basic Applications (VBA) Macros. Efforts are made here not to describe the theory behind electrical dispatch demand and power flow networks, but to describe VBA Macro programming for this purpose. Further, the website link for the application program is provided for teaching, learning, and expansion of the program.

Streszczenie. Obliczanie współczynnika przesunięcia (SF) z podaniem mocy jest niezbędne do analizy sieci zapotrzebowania na wysyłkę. Podobnie symulacja profilu obciążenia w sieci przepływu energii elektrycznej jest niezbędna do określenia transmisji mocy i napięć w sieci. Wiele dostępnych specjalistycznych komercyjnych pakietów oprogramowania do tego celu jest drogich i licencjonowanych. Celem tego artykułu jest przedstawienie rozwiązania powyższych dwóch problemów w sposób prosty i w łatwo dostępnych makrach Microsoft Excel Visual Basic Applications (VBA). Podejmowane są tutaj wysiłki, aby nie opisywać teorii stojącej za zapotrzebowaniem na przesył energii elektrycznej i sieciami przepływu mocy, ale aby opisać w tym celu programowanie VBA Macro. Ponadto udostępniono łącze internetowe do programu użytkowego umożliwiające nauczanie, uczenie się i rozszerzanie programu. (**Ekonomiczna dystrybucja - ocena współczynnika przesunięcia i symulacje przepływu mocy profilu obciążenia w makrze Excel VBA**)

Keywords: Economic dispatch; shift factor; load profile; power flow; Excel VBA macro.

Słowa kluczowe: ekonomiczna dystrybucja energii, Excel VBA makro.

Introduction

Excel is widely used as a spreadsheet tool for data storage, accounting, finance in the business organization. And is less used for engineering application which requires repetitive and iterative programming approaches for algebra and matrix equations, complex numbers, optimization specially in Electric power related field. The Excel programming capabilities are available with embedded VBA Macro tool to tackle engineering related problems. The work presented in [1] shows network flow model to determine how much power should be allowed to flow across each transmission lines with minimal losses. In [2] "Microsoft Excel based Power System Load Flow Analysis" (MSEBPSLF) is presented, which is used by teachers, undergraduate, graduate students and practicing engineers, who are interested in using spreadsheet tool for carrying out load flow analysis. In [3] the objective of the power-flow problem is described to calculate the voltage magnitudes and phase angles at each bus or node in a given power system using Gauss-Seidel or the Newton-Raphson methods to determine the power flows in a small-scale power system. In [4] an Example of Using Microsoft Excel Solver for Power Network Calculations is presented. In [5], the authors present radial distribution method with HV forward and backward convergence. Excel spreadsheet related electric market problems and examples are excellently presented in [6].

However, in all above references most of the works are accomplished in Excel spread sheet and VBA macro programming was not applied. In this paper basic work for economic dispatch (ED) describe in [6], [7] is implemented in Excel Macro and shows a new method to find inverse power injection for binding transmission constraints. Further the one-point load power network calculations in [4] is extended to one day load profile data network calculation with Excel Macro programming techniques.

Economic dispatch

The In era of open electric sale market, the suppliers and bidders are bound to meet the customer demand in least expensive way. The term ED is used to define the

interest of all parties involved in electric market sale. ED calculation method is based on sensitivity factors to approximate the change of branch power flow depending on the change of nodal generation or outage of another branch. Values of sensitivity factors can be obtained by calculation based on the solving DC circuit. Factors are divided into two basic types depending on the type of modeled outage – GSF (Generation Shift Factor) and LODF (Line Outage Distribution Factor) [8]. All SFs are computed relative to the reference or swing bus. GSF shows how the flow in the branch will change if the injection at the bus changes by one MW. SF gives the fraction of a change in injection at bus i that appears on branch k , Figure 1.

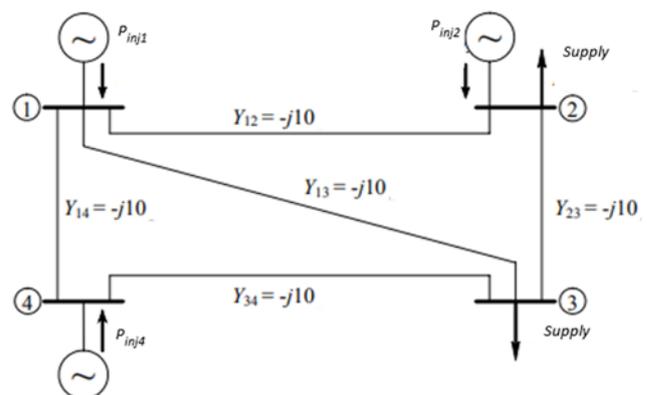


Fig.1. Four bus (i) and five Branch (k) network

A. Economic dispatch formulation

ED problem formulation is defined by objective function shown in equation (1) - Minimize total P_{gi} generation cost for $i=1, 2, \dots, N$ injection bus, C_i is incremental energy price of P_{gi} at Generation injection bus i . P_{lj} in equation (2) system balance is defined $\sum P_{gi} = \sum P_{lj}$ for demand load $j=1, 2, \dots, L$. In equation (3) S_{ki} is a SF from branch k to the bus i is less than transmission limit, T_k of k th branch

that defined by equation (4) for lower and upper generators limits.

$$(1) \quad \text{Min} \sum_{i=1}^N C_i \cdot P_{gi},$$

$$(2) \quad \sum_{i=1}^N P_{gi} - \sum_{j=1}^L P_{ij} = 0, \text{Losses} = 0$$

$$(3) \quad \sum_{i=1}^N S_{ki} \cdot P_{gi} \leq T_k^{\max}, k = 1, 2, \dots, K$$

$$(4) \quad \sum_{i=1}^N S_{ki} \cdot P_{gi} \leq T_k^{\max}, k = 1, 2, \dots, K$$

Shift factor (Excel sheet 1)

Simple four (N) bus and five (M) Branch network [7] shown in Figure 1 is used in this paper to demonstrate VBA macro programming techniques. Once the macro programming is understood it is possible to extend the network and improve the programming techniques described here.

Table 1 and 2 are filled in Excel spreadsheet by observing the impedance and power in network branches. For admittance matrix in Table 3, Excel VBA 'shift factor' macro program [9] is used.

Note the reduction of DC power flow Ybus (4x4) matrix dimension to B (3x3) is necessary for power flow equations. The reasons being that the Ybus (4x4) matrix is not a full rank matrix and its inverse is not possible. By removing first row and column of Ybus and considering it as '0' reference, full rank condition is fulfilled for inversion. SF [7] for all five branches with increase in injection at bus 2 and decrease injection at bus 3 is given as:

$$(5) \quad \begin{bmatrix} S_{1,23} \\ S_{2,23} \\ S_{3,23} \\ S_{4,23} \\ S_{5,23} \end{bmatrix} = (\underline{D} \times \underline{A}) [\underline{B}]^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$D_{5 \times 5}$ is a matrix, which has diagonal elements of susceptance in Table 1, and zeros non-diagonal element. Matrix $A_{5 \times 3}$ is incidence arc matrix given in Table 2 range ("Q8:S12"). Which shows power entering the bus as negative and leaving bus (node) as positive, excluding the reference bus 1. Matrix $B_{3 \times 3}$ is admittance matrix given in Table 3 range ("D17:F19"). Column matrix at right is $P_{gi} = P_{inj}$ input in Figure 3 range ("O33:O36"). Resulting Shift factor output (SFxP_{inj}) shown in Table 4 Range ("L21:L25") [9]. Appendix I shows the 'shift factor' macro flow chart.

A. Long economic dispatch and transmission limit for case $S_{M,23}$

Once the SF is determined and with given cost C_i , supply P_{gi} , demands P_{lj} and limits P_{gi}^{limits} in Figure 3, the ED problem can be easily solved with Excel solver in Figure 2. Transmission limit is a constraint of transmission branch as shown in Table 4. Since the limits (T_{\min}, T_{\max}) exceeds the SF, they are not binding. Binding multiple branches for ED problem reduces the flow and change the economic cost. Button in Figure 2 is used to activate macro 'shift_factor_solver' for SF evaluation. Appendix I shows 'shift_factor_solver' macro flow chart.

Table 1. Branch impedance and admittance

R \ C	C	D	E	F
5	No. Bus = 4		No. Branch = 5	
7	From	To	Input Z=0+jX =COMPLEX(0,0.1,"j")	Susceptance Y= 1/jX =IMDIV (1, E8)
8	1	2	0.1j	-10j
9	1	3	0.1j	-10j
10	1	4	0.1j	-10j
11	2	3	0.1j	-10j
12	3	4	0.1j	-10j

Table 2. Admittance matrix jB with Macro

R \ C	C	P	Q	R	S
	6	Node	2	3	4
	7	Branch			
	8	1 to 4	0	0	-1
	9	1 to 2	-1	0	0
	10	2 to 3	1	-1	0
	11	4 to 3	0	-1	1
	12	1 to 3	0	-1	0

Table 3. Admittance matrix jB with Macro

R \ C	C	D	E	F
	17	20i	-10i	0
	18	-10i	30i	-10i
	19	0	-10i	20i

Shift
Factor
Macro

Fig 2. Activation button

Table 4. SF and transmission line flow limits [7]

R \ C	I	J	K	L	M	N
	T_{\min}		Branch	SF* P_{inj}		T_{\max}
21	-10	<=	1 to 4	0.125	<=	10
22	-10	<=	1 to 2	-0.375	<=	10
23	-10	<=	2 to 3	0.625	<=	10
24	-10	<=	4 to 3	0.125	<=	10
25	-10	<=	1 to 3	0.250	<=	10

B. Economic dispatch and transmission limit general case

Solution of general ED problem equation (1) for network in Figure 1 is shown in Figure 4. The P_{gi} and P_{lj} inputs are shown in Figure 4. Demand at buses 2 and 3 is 70MW and 100MW respectively. Generation at buses 1, 2 and 4 are evaluated by optimizer to solve on base of lowest cost and generation P_{gi}^{min} and P_{gi}^{max} limits. Due to lowest cost C2, cell("N34") shows that after 70MW demand at bus 2, excess of 80MW (150MW = P_{g2}^{max}) is produced for bus 3. The solver minimizes total cost cell("F36"). In Table 5, the new SF is shown for general ED case with no binding limit constrains.

By binding the T_{\max} for branch (1 to 2) 2 and (1 to 3) 3 from $T_{\max}=100$ to $T_{\max}=50$ and 30 respectively total reduction will be 18.750+37.50 = 56 MW. The 'shift_factor_solver' is invoked again to update SF to new limits in Table 6. Button in cell ("A32:B35") is to activate macro 'shift_factor_solver' for ED evaluation.

Table 5. Binding SF with transmission limits

T_{\min}		Branch	SF* P_{inj}	T_{\max}
-10	<=	1 to 4	33.750	<= 100
-10	<=	1 to 2	50.000	<= 50
-10	<=	2 to 3	-1.250	<= 100
-10	<=	4 to 3	33.750	<= 100
-10	<=	1 to 3	30.000	<= 30

Least square inverse power injection

Binding SF in Table 6 can be solved to determine the P_{inj} . However, matrix $q(5 \times 3)$ in equation (7) is non square matrix and cannot be inverted. Using pseudoinverse method, we can compute a "best fit" (least squares) solution for new P_{inj}^* .

Table 6. SF and transmission line flow limits for general case

R	C					
	I	J	K	L	M	N
21	T_{min}		Branch	$SF \cdot P_{inj}$		T_{max}
21	-10	<=	1 to 4	33.750	<=	100
22	-10	<=	1 to 2	68.75->50	<=	100->50
23	-10	<=	2 to 3	-1.250	<=	100
24	-10	<=	4 to 3	33.750	<=	100
25	-10	<=	1 to 3	67.5->30	<=	100->30

$$(6) \quad SF^* = (\underline{D} \times \underline{A}) [\underline{B}']^{-1} * P_{inj}^*$$

$$(7) \quad P_{inj}^* = [q'q]^{-1} q'b$$

where

$$(8) \quad q = (\underline{D} \times \underline{A}) [\underline{B}']^{-1}$$

$$(9) \quad b = SF^*$$

New P_{inj}^* is evaluated using equation (7) in Figure 5 Range ("N41:N44") for transmission binding constraint as shown in Table 6. As expected, total supply is reduced by $170-56=114\text{MW}$ to bus 2 and 3. The solver again assign the lowest P_{gi} cost of production. Constrained optimization in Figure 5 is invoked by button in Cell("A42:B44") and Macro ' $P_{inj_Limit_const}$ '. Appendix I shows the flow chart of later macro.

Excel VBA Macro

Binding VBA Macro is very useful tool for Excel spread sheet programming. Like all other programming language, it automates the coding for repetitive programming and keep visual spread sheet clean and tidy. It is enabled in Excel from file-> options-> Add-ins 'Analysis ToolPak - VBA' <https://www.excel-easy.com/vba/create-a-macro.html>. After installing in Excel 2019 a 'developer' tab is added in the main ribbon. Macro prompt is visible under this tab. If files from [9] is downloaded and opened, then Macro developed for this paper will be visible and can be opened with 'Edit' option.



Fig.3. Economic dispatch solver for $S_{M,23}$ with button 'Network Solver Macro' activate the solver



Fig.4. Economic dispatch solver for general solution

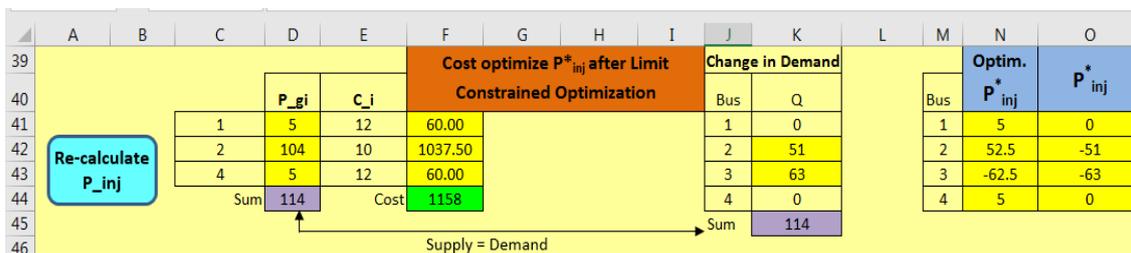


Fig.5. Economic dispatch solver for inverse injection evaluation

It is not possible to discuss all aspect of VBA programming here; <https://www.excel-easy.com/vba.html> but some basic interaction between spread sheet and Macro will be discussed for benefit of beginners. Data such as 'No. Branch' in Table 1 can be read in macro from spreadsheet using $bus = \text{Range}("D5")$ or $B = \text{Range}("F8:F12")$ to read susceptance in Table 1.

To write from Macro to spread sheet, $\text{Range}("L20").\text{Offset}(i,0).\text{Value} = \text{Ans}(i,1)$ will write SF to Table 5 with iterative 'i' from 1 to 5(branches). The ' $\text{Offset}(i,0)$ ' start

writing from $i=1$, at Cell("L21") and '0' column offset until $i=5$ or Cell("L25"). To learn further about macros used in this application, use 'Breakpoint' command in debugging mode and use 'f8' step into command and observe changes in spread sheet at each step. <https://www.excel-easy.com/vba/examples/debugging.html>.

ED minimization solver

VBA Solver can be invoked from Excel after installation from file-> options-> Add-ins 'Solver Add-In' or writing

directly in macro as in this paper. Excel solver is used in two macros 'shift_factor_solver' and 'P_{inj}_Limit_const'. All the solver parameters are to be described such as SetCell:="\$F\$36",MaxMinVal:=2, ByChange:=" \$D\$33:\$D\$35, \$L\$21:\$L\$25,\$N\$33:\$N\$36", Engine:=1, EngineDesc:="GRG Nonlinear" followed by the constraints in equation (2) - equation (4) which are given in Table 4 Cell("I21:I25") and Cell("F21:F25"). SetCell:="\$F\$36"=SUM(F33:F35) is the cost minimization cell eq(1a) in Figure 3-4, MaxMinVal:=2 is to set the solver to minimum value by changing variables "\$D\$33:\$D\$35, \$L\$21:\$L\$25, \$N\$33:\$N\$36", in Figure 3 - 4 and Table 4. Engine:=1, EngineDesc:="GRG Nonlinear" is used to select Generalized Reduced Gradient method, in which solver determines the slope of objective function at every step change of "ByChange" variables. Appendix I describe the flow chart of solver used in this paper.

Load profile simulation (Sheet 2)

To demonstrate Excel Macro programming for load profile to determine voltages and steady state power flow in network Figure 6. Here similar point load power network calculations [4] are performed repeatedly over one day load profile data with 15min interval. Load data (p.u) is injected to PQ bus P_{p3} in cell (F11:G11) with other data as shown in Figure 6. Power flow in network expressing P_{t,i} real and Q_{t,i} reactive power is given as:

$$(10) \quad P_{t,i} = \sum_{j=1}^N |U_i||U_j| (G_{ij}\cos(\theta_i - \theta_j) + B_{ij}\sin(\theta_i - \theta_j))$$

$$(11) \quad Q_{t,i} = \sum_{j=1}^N |U_i||U_j| (G_{ij}\sin(\theta_i - \theta_j) - B_{ij}\cos(\theta_i - \theta_j))$$

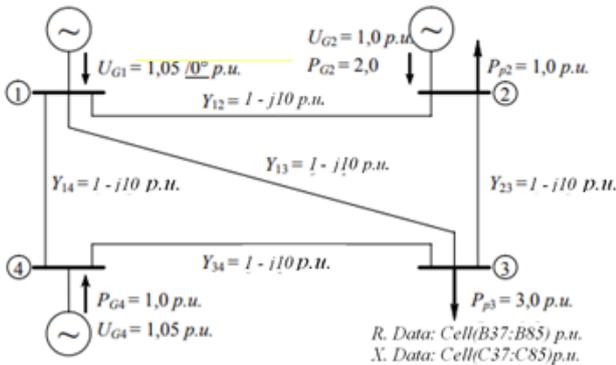


Fig.6. Load profile power flow 1 network

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
8	Bus	Theta, rad	U _i	P _{gi}	Q _{gi}	P _{pi}	Q _{ci}	Theta _i [°]
9	Swing bus 1	0.0000	1.0500			0.0000	0.0000	
10	PV bus 2		1.0000	2.0000		1.0000	0.0000	
11	PQ bus 3			0.0000	0.0000	0.5653	0.0652	
12	PV bus 4		1.0500	1.0000		0.0000	0.0000	

Fig.7. Power flow data simulation input and output table for four bus and five branch

Indexes *i* and *j* are; from and to nodes notations and *t* is the time stamp of profile load data P_{t, p3} at bus 3 with increment of ΔT=15 min for total T=48 steps. Other power and load parameters except P_{t, p3} are kept constant as shown in Figure 7. Empty fields are the variables of network which are evaluated by the solver. Conductance matrix B_{4x4} is given at Cell("G16:J19") and susceptance matrix G_{4x4} is given in at Cell("B16:E19") in sheet 2. P_{t, p3} injection is shown in Cell ("F11:G11). Load profile data is stored in Cell("B37:C85") and transferred to cell ("F11:G11") at each time stamp. The Solver is run at each time stamp and table in Figure 6 is populated with buses power flow data which

are transferred to Cell("D37:I58") before new data is transferred and whole cycle is repeated until the load data ends at 48Tth step at Cell("B85:C85").

GRG solver is programmed in macro 'gridsim' and iteratively solved at each T=48 time stamps of load profile data. Power flow expressions in equation (10) and equation (11) are entered in Figure 8 - 9, Cell(C23:C26) for P_{t,i=1...4} and Cell(G23:G26) for Q_{t,i=1...4}. In Figure 8 - 9 error difference ΔP_{t, i} between injected power and computed power in each bus and similarly reactive power differences ΔQ_{t,i} are given.

$$(12) \quad \Delta P_{t,i} = P_{t,i} - P_{t,i}^*$$

$$(13) \quad \Delta Q_{t,i} = Q_{t,i} - Q_{t,i}^*$$

Solver GRG will solve the power flow equations (12) and (13) according to load profile input P_{t, p3} at bus 3 by balancing P_{t,i} = P_{t,i}^*} and Q_{t,i} = Q_{t,i}^*} and making ΔP_{t,i} = ΔQ_{t,i} = 0. P_{t,i}^*} and Q_{t,i}^*} are current computed values by the solver. Equations (12) and (13) can be represented with Cell(C29:C32)= Cell(D9:D12)-Cell(F9:F12)-Cell(C23:C26) and Cell(G29:G32)= Cell(E9:E12)-Cell(G9:G12)-Cell(G23:G26) respectively. The objective function to minimize errors in equations (12) and (13) is shown Figure 9 cell("J24") as:}}}}

$$(14) \quad error = \sqrt{\sum_{t=1}^4 \Delta P_{t,i}^2 + \sum_{t=1}^4 \Delta Q_{t,i}^2}$$

Load profile data P_{t, p3}, swing bus P_{t, g1} real and Q_{t, g1} reactive power plots are shown in Figure 11. Appendix II shows the flow chart of load profile 'gridsim' macro.

	B	C
22		Pi(x)
23	P1	3.7860
24	P2	1.0000
25	P3	-5.6530
26	P4	1.0000
27		
28		Δ Pi(x)
29	P1	0.0000
30	P2	0.0000
31	P3	0.0000
32	P4	0.0000

Fig.8. Real power P_i Input and ΔP_i difference

	F	G
22		Qi(x)
23	Q1	1.3947
24	Q2	-0.0598
25	Q3	-1.0000
26	Q4	0.9955
27		
28		Δ Qi(x)
29	Q1	0.0000
30	Q2	0.0000
31	Q3	0.0000
32	Q4	0.0000

Fig.9. Reactive power Q_i Input and ΔQ_i difference

	J
23	Error
24	1.99E-08

Fig.10. Objective function cell

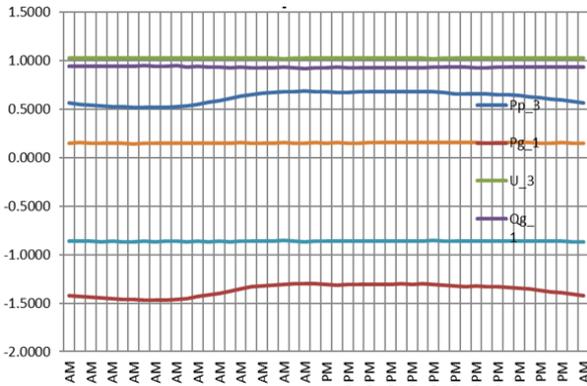


Fig.11. Load profile and voltages at load and generated buses for four bus and 5 branch network shown in Figure 6.

A. Load profile simulation 2

Five bus and seven branch power networks shown in Figure 12 is simulated for the same load as in sec.7.0. All baseMW=100MW, baseMVA =100MVA and baseMVAR =100KVA values are considered at $V = 1$ p.u. for simulation purpose.

Profile load injection is made at PQ bus P_{p4} cell(F12:G12) in Figure 12. Other generations and loads are kept at steady state as shown in Figure 13. Results of simulation with all traces of generation and load data is shown in Figure 14.

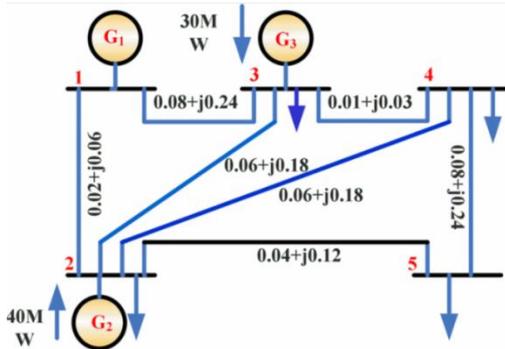


Fig.12. Five bus and seven branch network with load profile input at bus 4

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
8	Bus	Theta, rad	U_i	P_{gi}	Q_{gi}	P_{pi}	Q_{pi}	Theta.[°]
9	Swing bus 1	0.0000	1.0600			0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
10	PV bus 2		1.0450	0.4000		0.2000	0.1000	
11	PV bus 3		1.0300	0.3000		0.2000	0.1500	
12	PQ bus 4			0.0000	0.0000	0.5660	0.1500	
13	PQ bus 5			0.0000	0.0000	0.6000	0.4000	

Fig.13. Power flow data simulation input and output table for five bus and seven branch network

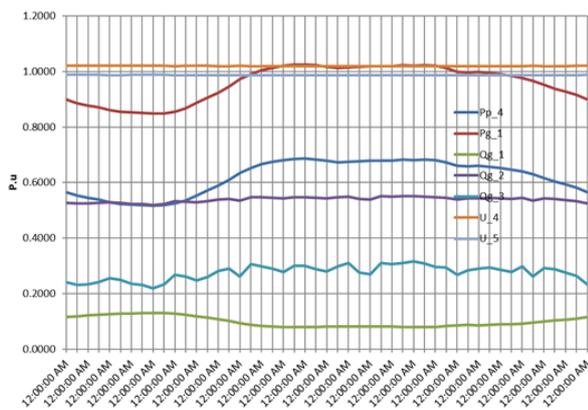
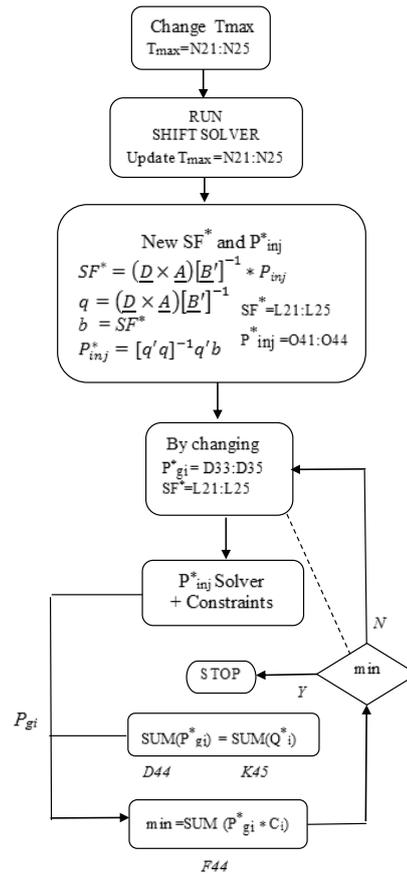


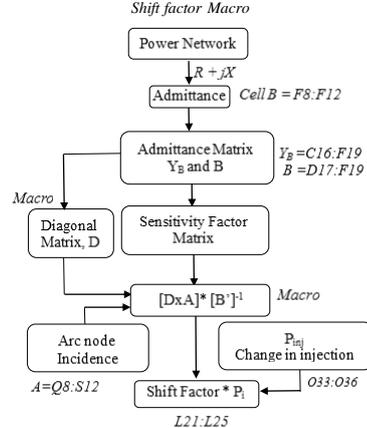
Fig.14. Load profile and voltages at generated and loads for five bus and seven branch network in Figure 12

Appendix I

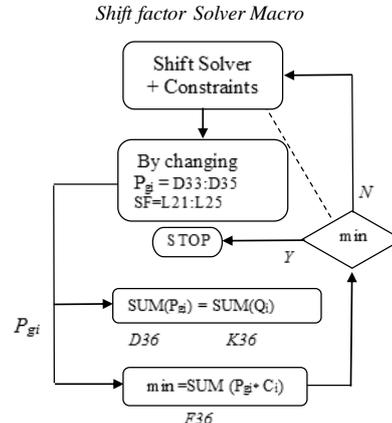
P_{inj}^* TRANSMISSION LIMIT CHART Pinj Limit Const Macro



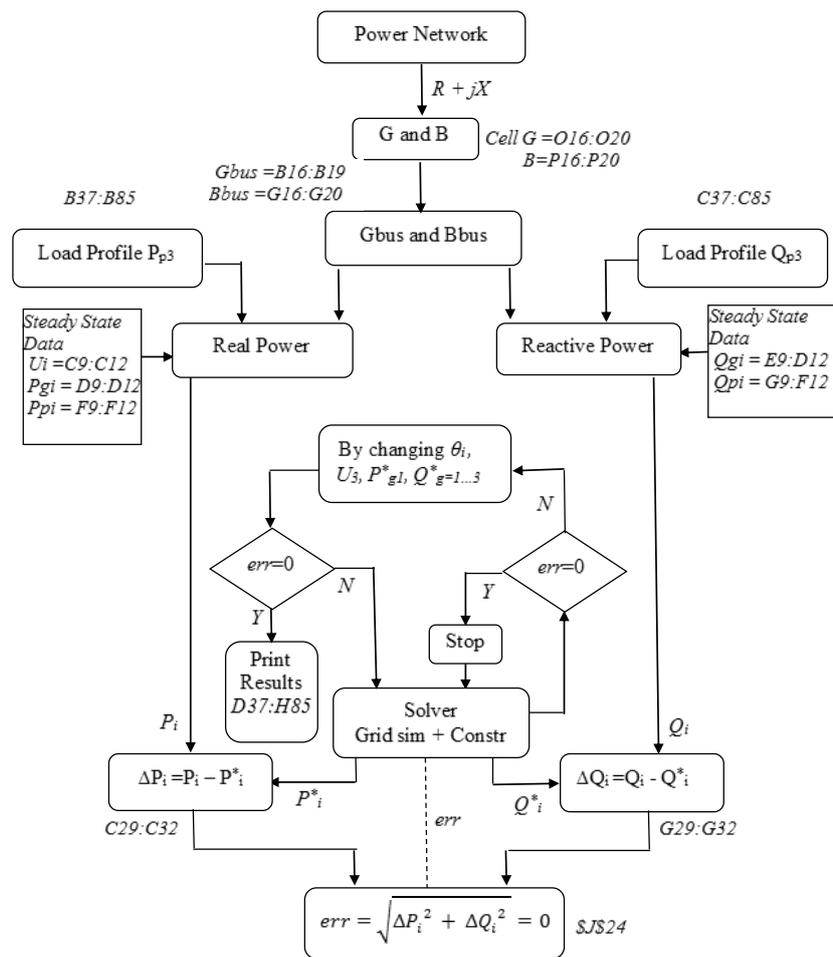
COST OPTIMIZATION CHART



SHIFT SOLVER CHART



LOAD PROFILE CHART
gridsim macro



Conclusion

The work presented in this paper demonstrate application of Excel macro to analyze ED problem and simulate load profile data with power flow equations.

The work describe here is extension of work available in literature [1]–[4], [7], [9]. However due to conciseness many other important aspects of macros used in this work cannot be described. To encourage and support readers, all excel macro are shared in link [9]. Although the network demonstrated in this work are simple, but after going through the provided macros codes complex network can be analyzed and ED macro can be further expanded with additional code to include locational marginal pricing (LMP) and shadow prices.

Acknowledgement

The authors would like to thank the Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia (MOHE) for funding this research. The MOHE has fully funded this research through the Fundamental Research Grant Scheme (FRGS), with the project code: FRGS/1/2020/TK0/UNITEN/03/4.

REFERENCES

- [1] S. Acharya and A. Tewari, "Spreadsheet Implementation for Optimization of Power flow Network Problem: A Case Study of Kathmandu Valley," *SCITECH Nepal*, vol. 14, no. 1, pp. 44–49, 2019.
- [2] R. Ramkhelawan, "Power System Load Flow Analysis using Microsoft Excel – Version 2," vol. 12, no. 1, pp. 1–20, 2019.
- [3] M. Lau and S. Kuruganty, "The use of spreadsheets in teaching the power-flow problem," *ASEE Annu. Conf. Expo. Conf. Proc.*, 2009.
- [4] Č. Zeljković and M. Gaćanović, "an Example of Using Microsoft Excel Solver for Power Network Calculations," *Phd.Etfbl.Net*, no. August 2006, 2017.
- [5] M. K. S. Sastry, R. Roopchand, and R. Chhetri, "Power distribution system load flow using microsoft excel," *Proc. - 2014 4th Int. Conf. Commun. Syst. Netw. Technol. CSNT 2014*, pp. 954–959, 2014.
- [6] N. S. Rau, *Optimization principles: Practical applications to the operation and markets of the electric power industry*. 2003.
- [7] "EE251 - Downloads." [Online]. Available: <http://home.eng.iastate.edu/~jdm/ee458/ee458schedule.htm>. [Accessed: 18-Apr-2021].
- [8] A. Kumar and S. C. Srivastava, "AC power transfer distribution factors for allocating power transactions in a deregulated market," *IEEE Power Eng. Rev.*, vol. 22, no. 7, pp. 42–43, Jul. 2002.
- [9] "Load profile paper - Google Drive." [Online]. Available: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1SLDqo_d2DGJJ2-uKc8UBTK5o4EABz5Be. [Accessed: 18-Apr-2021].