

Solving non-convex economic dispatch with prohibited zones using artificial fish swarm optimization

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Abstract

In this paper, a novel approach is proposed to solve the non-convex and discontinuous economic dispatch (ED) problem of power system with thermal power plants. All the practical constraints (loss constraint, generators ramp rate constraints and network constraints) are considered for solving the ED problem. Here, the proposed ED problem is solved by considering the generators with valve point loading (VPL) effects and prohibited operating zones (POZs) effects. In this paper, to solve this practical ED problem, an evolutionary based Artificial Fish Swarm Optimization Algorithm (AFSOA) is utilized. The AFSOA is a global search algorithm based on the characteristics of fish swarm and its autonomous model. The detailed algorithm with its flow chart is presented in this paper. To show the effectiveness of the proposed ED approach, 3 test systems (3, 6 and 20 generating unit systems) are considered. The obtained results are compared with other algorithms reported in the literature.

Keywords: Economic Dispatch; Fuel Cost; Network Constraints; Valve Point Loading; Prohibited Zones; Evolutionary Algorithm.

Nomenclature

a_i, b_i, c_i Fuel cost coefficients of thermal generators.
 F_T Total cost/operating cost of generation (\$/hr).
 N_G Total number of generators.
 P_{Gi} Active power generation from i^{th} thermal generator.
 C_i Fuel cost function of i^{th} thermal generator.
 d_i, e_i Factors for the valve point loading (VPL) effects on i^{th} generator.
 $P_{Gi,j}^l, P_{Gi,j}^u$ Lower and upper limits of j^{th} prohibited zone for i^{th} generator.
 z_i Number of prohibited operating zones (POZs) of i^{th} generator.
 $P_{Gi}^{\min}, P_{Gi}^{\max}$ Minimum and maximum limits of power output from i^{th} generator.
 P_D Total power demand in the system.
 P_{loss} Transmission losses in the system.
 B_{ij}, B_{i0}, B_{00} Transmission loss coefficients/ B coefficients.
 P_{Gi}^0 Power output from i^{th} generator in previous hour.
 $R_i^{\text{down}}, R_i^{\text{up}}$ Ramp down and ramp up limits of i^{th} generator.
 S_{Li} Power flow through i^{th} transmission line.
 S_{Li}^{\max} Thermal/maximum power flow limit of i^{th} transmission line.
step Step range/ maximum step size of an artificial fish.
 δ Congestion factor of artificial fish.
 X_i Position within the scope of the vision of the fish.
 X^{opt} Optimal position.
 n_f Number of artificial fish.
 X_c Center of the swarm.
 d_{visual} Perceiving range of an artificial fish.

1. Introduction

The use of electricity is indispensable and the demand for electricity is increasing day-by-day. The quality of electricity is stated in terms of constant voltage, frequency and uninterrupted power supply at minimum cost. The quantity of coal and the cost of coal used in the generation of power in a thermal plant is directly dependant on the power output produced. Hence, to deliver the power at minimum cost, there is a requirement to reduce the amount of fuel used. This simple solution for this is the use of more efficient generating units. But, there is a certain maximum limit for the efficiency of the generating units. Therefore, for a particular power output, the operating schedule with the distribution of load demand among various generating units, which results in optimum generating cost is required. Obtaining such appropriate schedule is the economic dispatch (ED) problem. The purpose of the traditional ED problem is to find the most economical schedule of the generating units while satisfying load demand and operational constraints. This involves the allocation of active power between the generating units, as the operating cost is insensitive to the reactive loading of a generator [1].

In the literature, there are several methods proposed for solving the ED problem. A distributed consensus-based approach to solve the ED problem with generator constraints and transmission losses is proposed in [2]. Reference [3] presents a review on inaccuracy issues related to solve the practical formulation of the ED problem. Reference [4] presents cuckoo search algorithm for solving both convex and non-convex ED problems of fossil fuel fired generators considering transmission losses, multiple fuels, valve-point loading (VPL) and prohibited operating zones (POZs) effects. An exchange market algorithm for solving ED problem is

proposed in [5]. An algorithm inspired on the T-Cell model of the immune system is proposed in [6] to solve the ED problem. Combined economic/environmental dispatch treats the economic and environmental impact as competing objectives and this problem is solved in [7]. An improved differential evolution (DE) to the solve ED problem of thermal generating units with non-smooth/non-convex cost functions due to VPL, taking into account the transmission losses and non-linear generator constraints such as POZs is proposed in [8]. Reference [9] applies a number of PSO variants to the dynamic economic emission dispatch (DEED) problem. Reference [10] proposes a modified version of social spider algorithm and its application to solve the non-convex ED problem. Chaotic bat algorithm is proposed in [11] and hybrid grey wolf optimizer is proposed in [12] are used to solve the non-linear and discontinuous ED problem.

A diffusion particle optimization algorithm is proposed in [13] for solving a dispatch model that considers fuel, emissions control and wind power cost. A self-adoptive learning with time varying acceleration coefficient-gravitational search algorithm is proposed in [14] to solve a highly nonlinear, non-convex, non-smooth, non-differential, and high-dimension ED problem. Reference [15] proposes a combined model of multi-objective dynamic economic and emission dispatch problem. An orthogonal learning competitive swarm optimizer is proposed in [16] for solving the ED problem. Reference [17] presents a comprehensive review on the uses of different optimization techniques to solve the combined economic and emission dispatch problem.

The aim of this paper is to investigate the applicability of Artificial Fish Swarm Optimization Algorithm (AFSOA) for solving the conventional and practical ED problem with non-convex discontinuous objective function. The AFSOA is tested on three standard test systems that are extremely difficult or impossible to solve by using the standard techniques due to the non-continuous, non-convex and highly nonlinear solution space of the problem.

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows. Section 2 presents the problem formulation of conventional and practical economic dispatch (ED) problem. The description of Artificial fish swarm optimization algorithm (AFSOA) is presented in Section 3. Simulation results and discussions are presented in Section 4. Finally, Section 5 presents the contributions with concluding remarks.

2. Economic dispatch (ED): problem formulation

The objective of ED problem is to determine the optimal combination of power outputs of all the generating units to minimize the total fuel cost while satisfying several equality and inequality constraints. Hence, the ED problem is a constrained optimization problem and it can be expressed as [18],

Minimize,

$$F_T = \sum_{i=1}^{N_G} C_i(P_{Gi}) \quad (1)$$

Subject to a number of power systems network equality and inequality constraints.

Each generator cost function ($C_i(P_{Gi})$) establishes the relationship between the power injected to the system by the generator and the incurred costs to load the machine to that capacity. Generally, the fuel cost function is considered as a smooth quadratic functions and it is depicted in Figure 1.

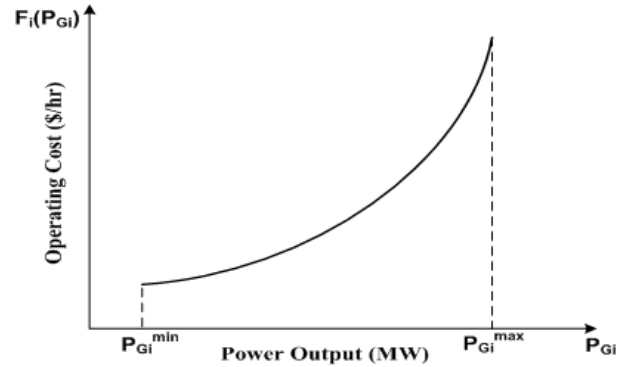


Fig. 1: Smooth Quadratic Fuel Cost Curve of Thermal Generator.

Mathematically, the Smooth Quadratic Cost Function of A Generating Unit Can Be Expressed As [19],

$$F_T = \sum_{i=1}^{N_G} C_i(P_{Gi}) = \sum_{i=1}^{N_G} (a_i + b_i P_{Gi} + c_i P_{Gi}^2) \quad (2)$$

2.1. ED considering valve point loading (VPL) effects

In steam power plants, several steam valves are used in turbine for controlling the power output of generators. Opening the valve-point effects would lead to a sudden increase in loss and causes ripples in input-output curve and consequently causes cost function non-smooth. The generator cost function is obtained from a data point taken during the heat run tests when input and output data are measured as the unit slowly varies through its operating region [20]. The VPL effect of a generator is depicted in Figure 2.

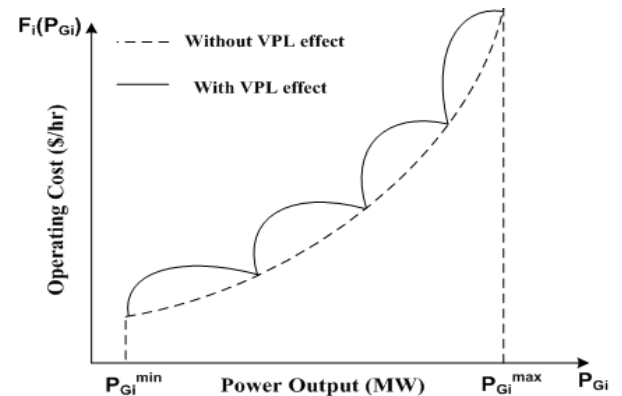


Fig. 2: Fuel Cost Curve of Generators with VPL Effects (with 4 Steam Valves).

Mathematically, the VPL effect is expressed as [21],

$$F_T = \sum_{i=1}^{N_G} C_i(P_{Gi}) = \sum_{i=1}^{N_G} [a_i + b_i P_{Gi} + c_i P_{Gi}^2 + |d_i \times \sin\{e_i \times (P_{Gi}^{\min} - P_{Gi})\}|] \quad (4)$$

2.2. ED considering prohibited operating zones (POZs) effects

The POZs are the range of power output of a generator where the operation causes undue vibration of the turbine shaft bearing caused by closing or opening of the steam valve, and makes the cost curve discontinuous in nature. This might cause damage to the shaft and bearings. Therefore, in order to achieve best economy, the operation of generators in such regions is avoided [22]. The POZs effect of generators is depicted in Figure 3.

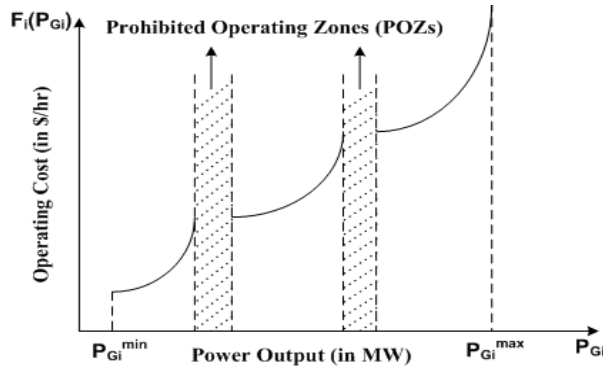


Fig. 3: Fuel Cost Curve of Generators with POZs Effects.

Mathematically, the POZs constraints are represented by,

$$P_{Gi} \in \begin{cases} P_{Gi}^{\min} \leq P_{Gi} \leq P_{Gi}^1 \\ P_{Gi,j-1}^u \leq P_{Gi} \leq P_{Gi,j}^l, j=2, 3, \dots, z_i \\ P_{Gi,z_i}^u \leq P_{Gi} \leq P_{Gi}^{\max} \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

2.3. Equality and inequality constraints

2.3.1. Equality constraint

The power balance/equality constraint reduces the system to a basic principle of equilibrium between total system generation and total system loads. According to this, the total generation must be equal to the total system demand plus the transmission losses in the system, and it is expressed as,

$$\sum_{i=1}^{N_G} P_{Gi} = P_D + P_{\text{loss}} \quad (5)$$

To calculate P_{loss} , B coefficients method is used in this paper, and it is formulated by,

$$P_{\text{loss}} = \sum_{i=1}^{N_G} \sum_{j=1}^{N_G} P_i B_{ij} P_j + \sum_{i=1}^{N_G} P_{Gi} B_{i0} + B_{00} \quad (6)$$

2.3.2. Inequality constraints

a) Power Generation Constraint:

The operating region of generator is restricted by,

$$P_{Gi}^{\min} \leq P_{Gi} \leq P_{Gi}^{\max} \quad (7)$$

b) Ramp Rate Constraints:

Generally, the power output from the generator is assumed to be adjusted instantaneously. But, in practice, the ramp rate limits restrict the operating region of generator. Therefore, by including the ramp rate limits, the equation (7) becomes,

$$\max(P_{Gi}^{\min}, P_{Gi}^0 - R_i^{\text{down}}) \leq P_{Gi} \leq \max(P_{Gi}^{\max}, P_{Gi}^0 + R_i^{\text{up}}) \quad (8)$$

c) Network/Power Flow Constraint:

The power flow through the transmission line is limited by the thermal capability of the circuit and it is expressed as,

$$S_{Li} \leq S_{Li}^{\max} \quad (9)$$

The presented objective function with constraints is solved by using the Artificial Fish Swarm Optimization Algorithm (AFSOA), and the description of AFSOA is presented next:

3. Artificial fish swarm optimization algorithm (AFSOA)

The AFSOA is a meta-heuristic algorithm, which is a comparatively topical accumulation to the pasture of natural computing, that has rudiments enthused by the societal behaviors of natural swarms, and associates with evolutionary computation. It has an extensive application in multifaceted optimization domains, and currently a foremost research focus, contribution an unconventional to the more established meta-heuristic techniques that may applied in many of the identical domains [23].

AFSOA has several characteristics that are similar to genetic algorithm (GA) such as sovereignty from incline in sequence of purpose occupation, the capability to resolve multifaceted nonlinear high dimensional exertion [23]. Furthermore, they canister accomplish closer convergence swiftness and entail the minority parameters to bend. Whereas, the AFSOA does not seize the crossover and mutation processes utilize in GA, so it could achieve more simply.

In nature, the fish can find out the more nutritious area by individual search or following other fish, the area with much more fish is commonly most nutritious. The fundamental idea of the AFSOA is to reproduce the fish behaviors such as praying, swarming, and following with local search of fish individual for attaining the global optimum. Fish habitually reside within the place having a lot of food. Therefore, the behaviors of fish is imitated based on this attribute to come across the global optimum, which is the indispensable inspiration of the AFSOA. In this paper, the artificial fish denotes the decision variables used in the optimization problem. The power output from each generating unit forms the artificial fishes. Various steps that are involved for the implementation of AFSOA is described next.

3.1. Initialization

The position of each artificial fish denotes a possible potential solution. They are the decision variables used in the optimization problem. The current position (X_i) can be represented as [24],

$$X_i = (X_{i1}, X_{i2}, X_{i3}, \dots, X_{in}) \quad (10)$$

Where i is number control variables, X_i denotes an initial solution, n is number fishes in the swarm (i.e., swarm length).

3.2. Fitness function evaluation

The fitness function (FF) is formulated as a function of current position (X_i) and it is expressed as,

$$FF_i = f(X_i) \quad (11)$$

The position is defined by different behaviors of fish and they are described as follows:

3.3. Preying behaviour

This fundamental biological behavior tends to the food. Let the condition of artificial fish is X_i , choosing a state X_j inside its sensing range arbitrarily. Suppose X_j is superior to X_i , then move to X_j , otherwise to the selected arbitrarily condition X_i . Determine whether to meet the forward conditions, repeated several times, if still not satisfied forward conditions, then move one step randomly. The food concentration in this position of fish is stated as the objective function value. The distance between the artificial fish is [25-26] expressed as,

$$d_{ij} = \|X_i - X_j\| \quad (12)$$

$$X_j = X_i + (d_{\text{visual}} \cdot \text{rand}()) \quad (13)$$

Where d_{visual} is the distance through which the artificial fish can see (i.e., perceiving range/visual distance) [27], and $\text{rand}()$ produces random numbers between 0 and 1.

$$X_i^{(t+1)} = X_i^t + \left(\frac{X_j - X_i^t}{\|X_j - X_i^t\|} \cdot \text{step} \cdot \text{rand}() \right) \quad (14)$$

Where step is the maximum distance that a fish can move in one movement.

3.4. Swarming behaviour

Let the current position of artificial fish is X_i and ($d_{ij} < d_{\text{visual}}$). Then, ($n_f < \delta$) indicates that the partners have more food and less crowded. Artificial fish has a tendency to move towards the center of the swarm, to ensure the presence of swarm around it and to avoid any potential danger. Now, the updated position is given by [28],

$$X_i^{(t+1)} = X_i^t + \left(\frac{X_c - X_i^t}{\|X_c - X_i^t\|} \cdot \text{step} \cdot \text{rand}() \right) \quad (15)$$

3.5 Following behaviour

Let the state of artificial fish is X_i exploring its optimal state X^{opt} from the visual neighbors. Suppose, the number of partners of X^{opt} is ($n_f < \delta$) indicates that near distance have more food, not too crowded and can move further. Otherwise, perform the prey behavior by using the equation (13) [28].

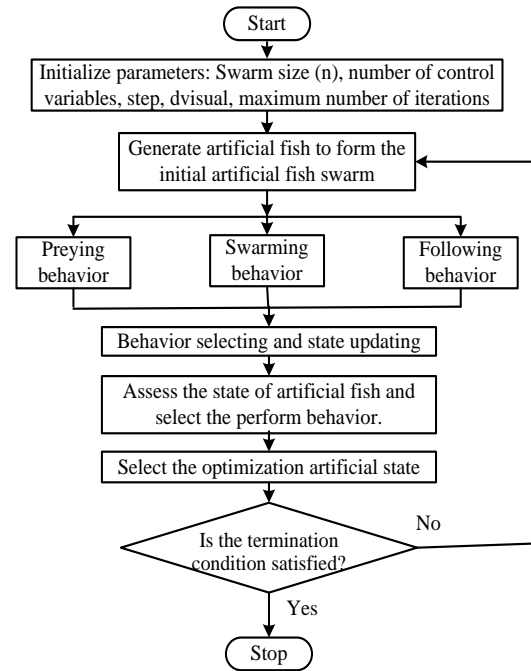


Fig. 4: Flow Chart of Artificial Fish Swarm Optimization Algorithm (AFSOA).

4. Results and discussion

To show the effectiveness of the proposed ED approach, 3 test systems, i.e., 3, 6 and 20 generating unit systems are considered in this paper. Here, the AFSO algorithm is used to solve the proposed non-convex and discontinuous ED problem. The parameters considered in this paper are: Population size is 60, step is 1 and the maximum number of iterations are 200.

4.1. Simulation results on 6 bus - 3 generator system

The data required for performing the ED problem is taken from [29]. Here, the ED is performed by considering 3 power demands, i.e., P_D are 300MW, 850MW and 1150MW. The ED problem is solved using the enhanced genetic algorithm (EGA), differential evolutionary algorithm (DEA) and AFSOA.

Table 1 presents the scheduled power outputs and the objective function values for the 6 bus - 3 generator system by varying the power demands. When P_D is 300MW, the obtained total operating cost using EGA, DEA and AFSO algorithms is 3353.23\$/hr, 3352.96\$/hr and 3351.84\$/hr, respectively, and also the total transmission losses obtained are 2.14MW, 1.95MW and 1.84MW, respectively. From this, it can be observed that the obtained transmission losses and the objective function values are optimum using the AFSOA. This can also be observed by varying the P_D to 850MW and 1150MW.

Table 1: Scheduled Power Outputs and Objective Function Values for 6 Bus System

P_D (MW)	Solution Approach	Scheduled Power Generation			Power Loss (MW)	Total Generation (MW)	Operating Cost (\$/hr)
		P_{G1} (MW)	P_{G2} (MW)	P_{G3} (MW)			
300	EGA	150	102.14	50	2.14	302.14	3353.23
	DEA	150	101.95	50	1.95	301.95	3352.96
	AFSOA	150	101.84	50	1.84	301.84	3351.84
850	EGA	429.89	303.75	132.53	16.17	866.17	8303.13
	DEA	429.51	302.46	133.42	15.29	865.39	8302.42
	AFSOA	393.04	344.50	121.48	15.05	865.02	8288.86
1150	EGA	595.20	400	184.17	29.37	1179.37	11261.96
	DEA	594.82	400	184.25	29.07	1179.07	11260.75
	AFSOA	599.86	400	178.69	28.55	1178.55	11258.24

4.2. Simulation results on IEEE 30 bus - 6 generator system

In this case, the required data of IEEE 30 bus - 6 generator system is taken from [30] and the B-coefficients are calculated using the procedure described in [31]. The obtained B-coefficients are given by,

$$B = \begin{bmatrix} 0.0001 & 0.0 & 0.0 & 0.0 & 0.0002 & 0.0001 \\ 0.0 & 0.0004 & 0.0002 & 0.0003 & 0.0005 & 0.0004 \\ 0.0 & 0.0002 & 0.0008 & 0.0007 & 0.0005 & 0.0006 \\ 0.0 & 0.0003 & 0.0007 & 0.0008 & 0.0007 & 0.0007 \\ 0.0002 & 0.0005 & 0.0005 & 0.0007 & 0.0018 & 0.0008 \\ 0.0001 & 0.0004 & 0.0006 & 0.0007 & 0.0008 & 0.0010 \end{bmatrix}$$

In this case, two load demands 220MW and 283.4MW are considered, and they are solved using EGA, DEA and AFSA algorithms. Table 2 presents the scheduled power outputs and objective function values for IEEE 30 bus system.

When the load demand of 220MW is considered, then the obtained optimum operating cost using EGA, DEA and AFSA algorithms are 590.65\$/hr, 589.91\$/hr and 587.53\$/hr, respectively, and the optimum system losses are 7.48MW, 7.42MW and 6.70MW, respectively. From these simulation results, it can be observed that the AFSA algorithm has presented the better results compared to EGA and DE algorithms. This can also be seen from the power demand of 283.4MWs.

Table 2: Scheduled Power Outputs and Objective Function Values for IEEE 30 Bus System

Scheduled Generation and Objective function value	Power Demand (P _D)=220MW			Power Demand (P _D)=283.4MW		
	EGA	DEA	AFSOA	EGA	DEA	AFSOA
P _{G1} (MW)	138.02	137.49	137.26	189.55	189.31	189.24
P _{G2} (MW)	36.17	36.68	36.19	47.43	47.55	47.31
P _{G3} (MW)	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00
P _{G4} (MW)	16.29	16.25	16.20	19.56	19.41	19.40
P _{G5} (MW)	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.11	10.09	10.00
P _{G6} (MW)	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00
Power Loss (MW)	7.48	7.42	6.70	10.25	9.96	9.55
Total Generation (MW)	227.48	227.42	226.70	293.65	293.36	292.95
Operating Cost (\$/hr)	590.65	589.91	587.53	806.14	803.44	801.16

4.3. Simulation results on 20 generating units system

The data required for performing the ED problem on 20 generating units is taken from [32]. Here, the ED is performed by considering 2 power demands, i.e., P_D is 1200MW and 3600MW. The ED problem is solved using the enhanced genetic algorithm (EGA), differential evolutionary algorithm (DEA) and AFSA algorithms.

Table 3 presents the scheduled power outputs and the objective function values for the 20 generating unit system by varying the

power demands. When P_D is 1200MW, the obtained total operating cost using EGA, DEA and AFSA algorithms is 36134.6\$/hr, 36059.3\$/hr and 35971.8\$/hr, respectively, and also the total transmission losses obtained are 29.29MW, 28.04MW and 22.30MW, respectively. From this, it can be observed that the obtained transmission losses and the objective function values are optimum using the AFSA algorithm. This can also be observed by varying the P_D to 3600MW.

Table 3: Scheduled Power Outputs and Objective Function Values for 20 Generating Unit System

Scheduled Generation and Objective function value	Power Demand (P _D)=1200 MW			Power Demand (P _D)=3600MW		
	EGA	DEA	AFSOA	EGA	DEA	AFSOA
P _{G1} (MW)	150	150	150	600	600	600
P _{G2} (MW)	50	50	50	200	200	200
P _{G3} (MW)	50	50	50	161.45	164.45	166.20
P _{G4} (MW)	50	50	50	200	200	100
P _{G5} (MW)	50	50	50	160	160	160
P _{G6} (MW)	20	20	20	100	100	100
P _{G7} (MW)	86.96	84.90	74.11	125	125	125
P _{G8} (MW)	50	50	50	150	150	150
P _{G9} (MW)	50	50	50	200	200	200
P _{G10} (MW)	30	30	30	150	150	150
P _{G11} (MW)	152.24	153.29	155.62	300	300	300
P _{G12} (MW)	217.64	217.64	227.42	500	500	500
P _{G13} (MW)	66.45	66.45	61.29	160	160	160
P _{G14} (MW)	20	20	20	130	130	130
P _{G15} (MW)	25	25	25	185	185	185
P _{G16} (MW)	31.00	30.76	27.89	65.29	57.29	49.07
P _{G17} (MW)	30	30	30	85	85	85
P _{G18} (MW)	30	30	30	120	120	120
P _{G19} (MW)	40	40	40	120	120	120
P _{G20} (MW)	30	30	30	100	100	100
Power Loss (MW)	29.29	28.04	22.30	211.72	206.4	200.28
Total Generation (MW)	1229.30	1228.05	1222.3	3811.7	3811.7	3800.3
Operating Cost (\$/hr)	36134.6	36059.3	35971.8	86612.2	86580.9	86430.8

5. Conclusion

In this paper, a practical economic dispatch (ED) problem is solved considering the valve point loading (VPL) and prohibited operating zones (POZs) effects. From the literature, it can be observed that it is impossible to handle all the types of non-convexities that arise in practical power systems using the conventional optimization techniques. Hence, the Artificial Fish Swarm Optimization Algorithm (AFSOA) is used in this paper to solve the proposed ED problem. All the constraints, i.e., loss constraint, generators ramp rate constraints and network constraints are considered in this paper. The simulation results are performed on standard 3, 6 and 20 generating unit systems, and the obtained results show the effectiveness of the proposed approach.

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