



Faculty of Electrical Engineering

**IMPACTS OF SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEM ON DISTRIBUTION
NETWORK PERFORMANCE**

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Master of Science in Electrical Engineering

2017

**IMPACTS OF SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEM ON DISTRIBUTION NETWORK
PERFORMANCE**

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**A thesis submitted
in fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Science
in Electrical Engineering**

Faculty of Electrical Engineering

UNIVERSITI TEKNIKAL MALAYSIA MELAKA

2017

DECLARATION

I declare that this thesis entitled “Impacts of solar Photovoltaic system on distribution network performance” is the result of my own research except as cited in references. The thesis has not been accepted for any degree and is not concurrently submitted in candidature of any other degree.

Signature :

Name : LAU CHEIW YUN

Date :

APPROVAL

I hereby declare that I have read this thesis and in my opinion this thesis is sufficient in terms of scope and quality for the award of Master of Science in Electrical Engineering.

Signature :

Name : ASSOC. PROF. DR. GAN CHIN KIM

Date :

DEDICATION

Special gratitude to my beloved parent, Lau Leong Sin and Lim Lai Keng for their enduring love, tenacity and patience throughout all my walks of life. And also to my siblings, Lau Cheiw Yuet and Lau Chin Kiat who have motivated and supported me throughout my life. I love you all.

ABSTRACT

With the growth in energy demand and the depletion of fossil fuels, renewable energy resources have been seen as one of the most promising ways to sustain the future energy needs. However, the integration of renewables into the existing distribution networks can cause potential network problems. The issue is particularly acute if the renewable energy is generated from solar photovoltaic (PV) system with high variability. In this regard, this thesis deals with the modelling of a typical Malaysian distribution network that aims to analyze the impact of PV integration at distribution networks level. More specifically, the number of tap change for On-Load Tap Changer (OLTC) transformers is evaluated under various weather conditions; PV penetration levels as well as PV installed locations. The weather conditions were further categorized using variability index. In this way, the impact of solar variability can be properly assessed. The correlations of network losses and PV penetration levels have also been comprehensively analyzed. It is also important to highlight that actual solar PV generation data of various time resolution were collected and used in this work. This maintains the actual intermittency nature of PV generation. Furthermore, case studies have been performed for both low and medium voltage networks. The results suggest that sudden voltage variation and reverse power flow are the main concern of PV integration on the distribution network. The presented study shows that network losses are at the minimum level with a 50% PV penetration level. In addition, the findings suggest that high solar variability day could increase the tap change operations as much as 274% in average as compared to the network without PV system. In addition, a year-round analysis further suggests that the total annual tap change may operate 164% more frequently in average than a network without PV system.

ABSTRAK

Dengan pertumbuhan dalam permintaan tenaga dan kekurangan bahan api fosil, sumber tenaga boleh diperbaharui telah dijadikan sebagai salah satu cara yang paling digalakan untuk mengekalkan keperluan tenaga masa depan. Walaubagaimanapun, integrasi tenaga boleh diperbaharui pada rangkaian pengedaran yang sedia ada boleh menyebabkan masalah pada rangkaian. Isu-isu bertambah buruk sekiranya tenaga yang boleh diperbaharui yang dihasilkan daripada system solar fotovoltan (PV) dengan kepelbagaian yang tinggi. Dalam hal ini, tesis ini berkaitan dengan pemodelan rangkaian pengedaran Malaysia biasa yang bertujuan untuk menganalisis kesan integrasi PV di peringkat sistem pengedaran. Lebih khusus lagi, bilangan operasi On-Load Tap Changer (OLTC) telahpun dinilai dalam pelbagai keadaan cuaca; tahap penembusan PV serta lokasi PV dipasang. Keadaan cuaca telah dikategorikan menggunakan indeks kepelbagaian. Dengan cara ini, kesan kebolehubahan solar boleh dinilai dengan teliti. Profil voltan dan kerugian rangkaian juga dianalisis secara menyeluruh. Ia juga penting untuk fokus pada data generasi PV solar sebenar pelbagai resolusi masa telah dikumpulkan dan digunakan dalam kerja ini. Ini mengekalkan keadaan alam semula jadi yang sebenar bagi generasi PV. Tambahan pula, kajian kes telah dijalankan untuk kedua-dua rangkaian voltan rendah dan sederhana. Kajian ini menunjukkan bahawa variasi voltan secara tidak dijangkai dan aliran kuasa terbalik adalah isu utama integrasi PV pada rangkaian pengagihan. Kajian menunjukkan bahawa kerugian rangkaian adalah dalam tahap minima dengan 50% tahap penembusan PV. Di samping itu, kajian ini juga mencadangkan bahawa hari kebolehubahan solar yang tinggi akan menambahkan bilangan operasi OLTC dengan sebanyak 274% sebagai purata berbanding dengan rangkaian yang tiada pemasangan PV. Selain itu, analisis tahunan mencadangkan bahawa bilangan operasi OLTC tahunan bertambah sebanyak 164% dalam purata berbanding dengan bilangan operasi OLTC dalam rangkaian yang tiada pemasangan system PV.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First and foremost, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my main supervisor, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Gan Chin Kim for his essential guidance, supervision, support and encouragement on both practical and scientific manners from the initial towards the completion of this thesis.

I would also like to express my deepest acknowledgment to Mr. Mohamad Fani bin Sulaima and Mr. Kyairul Azmi bin Baharin, my co-supervisor and the lecturer for their guidance and support and motivation in completing this research work. Sincere gratitude also goes to my research mentor from Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), Prof. Dr. Zainal bin Salam for his valuable suggestion and useful ideas in all nice discussions. Special thanks for the research funding (FRGS(RACE)/2013/FKE/TK3/1F00199) and scholarship (ZAMALAH UTeM) from the Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia and UTeM in supporting this research work.

My sincere appreciation also extends to all my colleagues in solar research laboratory especially Ms. Sa'adah binti Daud and Ms. Nur Faziera binti Napis for their assistance and companionship at various critical occasions. My sincere thanks also goes to my beloved friend Mr. Zhang Guo-Bo for his enduring love and passion support throughout this work.

Last but not least, I would like to express my ultimate thanks go to my beloved parents and siblings for their moral and outstanding support in completing this thesis.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
DECLARATION	
APPROVAL	
DEDICATION	
ABSTRACT	i
ABSTRAK	ii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	iii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	iv
LIST OF TABLES	vii
LIST OF FIGURES	x
LIST OF APPENDICES	xv
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xvi
LIST OF PUBLICATIONS	xviii
CHAPTER	
1. INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background	1
1.2 Problem statement	2
1.3 Research objectives	4
1.4 Research scope	5
1.5 Thesis outline	5
2. LITERATURE REVIEW	7
2.1 Introduction	7
2.2 Distribution network	9
2.3 PV system	11
2.3.1 PV module characteristic	11
2.3.2 Grid-connected PV systems	14
2.4 Cloudy types, speed, and shapes	16
2.4.1 Cloudy types	16
2.4.2 Cloud speed (CS)	17
2.4.3 Cloud shape	18
2.5 Solar irradiance	20
2.5.1 Solar variability	21
2.5.2 Solar variability classification	24
2.5.3 Relationship between solar variability and PV output power	26
2.6 Impacts of passing-cloud on the distribution network connected with PV system	27

2.6.1	Power fluctuation	27
2.6.2	Voltage fluctuation	31
2.6.3	Power losses	37
2.6.4	Voltage regulators	38
2.7	Voltage Regulating devices On-Load Tap Changer (OLTC) transformers	40
2.7.1	Impacts of solar variability on OLTC operations	42
2.8	Summary	42
3.	PROJECT METHODOLOGY	44
3.1	Introduction	44
3.2	Validation of the network with OpenDSS	45
3.2.1	IEEE 4-bus test feeder	45
3.2.2	Validation result for IEEE 4 bus test feeder	46
3.3	Network modeling	48
3.3.1	Cable modeling	50
3.3.2	Transformers modeling	51
3.3.3	Demand modeling	52
3.3.4	PV System modeling	55
3.4	OLTC basic control setting	57
3.5	Simulation for the base case	60
3.6	Impact of weather conditions on network performance on LV and MV sides	61
3.6.1	Evaluation of OLTC tap change frequency	67
3.7	Impact of weather conditions on network performance on MV side	76
3.8	Annual analysis for tap change on LV and MV sides	77
3.9	Summary	77
4.	RESULT AND DISCUSSION	78
4.1	Introduction	78
4.2	Base case	78
4.2.1	Power demand profiles	78
4.2.2	Voltages profiles	80
4.2.3	Tap changers	81
4.2.4	Network losses	83
4.3	Impact of weather conditions on network performances on LV side	84
4.3.1	Evaluation of OLTC tap change frequency	85

4.3.2	Evaluation of network losses under various penetration levels on LV network	99
4.4	Impact of weather conditions on network performance on MV side	102
4.4.1	Evaluation of OLTC tap-change frequency	102
4.4.2	Evaluation of network losses under various penetration levels on MV network	117
4.5	Annual analysis for tap change on LV and MV sides	122
4.6	Summary	125
5.	CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH	128
5.1	Conclusion and research contributions	128
5.1.1	Modeling of Malaysian distribution network	128
5.1.2	Quantification of the impact of weather conditions	129
5.1.3	Evaluation of the impact of solar PV integration on distribution network	130
5.3	Significance of results	130
5.4	Recommendation for future works	132
	REFERENCES	133
	APPENDICES	149
	Appendix A1	149
	Appendix A2	154
	Appendix B1	156
	Appendix B2	160
	Appendix C	167

LIST OF TABLES

TABLE	TITLE	PAGE
2.1	Normal conditions for LV and MV systems	10
2.2	Different types of grid-connected PV systems	15
2.3	Types of clouds	17
2.4	Cloud shape type	19
2.5	Clear Sky Index (CSI) with sky conditions	23
2.6	Categories for daily variability conditions based on the CI and VI	25
3.1	Validation of OpenDSS 4-bus test feeders phase voltages with IEEE test results	47
3.2	Validation of OpenDSS 4-bus test feeders phase currents with IEEE test results	48
3.3	Cable type and size that used in this studied network	50
3.4	Line code for different types of cables used in the modeled network	51
3.5	Technical parameters for transformers of the modeled network	51
3.6	Transformers coding in OpenDSS	52
3.7	UTeM's PV system model	56
4.1	Number of tap changes for OLTC on transformers at MV and LV sides	83

4.2	Detailed of the daily energy consumption and network losses without PV	84
4.3	Number of tap changes of OLTC 3 on a sunny day and a cloudy day	87
4.4	Percentages of daily tap changes for five categories of solar variability day	88
4.5	Percentages of tap change with different TD setting under five different solar variability day	94
4.6	Number of tap changes on the specific feeder D	98
4.7	Number of tap changes for randomly allocated PV system	98
4.8	Effects of PV allocation on OLTC's tap changes frequency under different solar variability days	99
4.9	Total losses with the variation of percentages of PV penetration level on a sunny day at LV side of the modeled network	100
4.10	Number of tap changes of MV transformer (OLTC 1) on a sunny day and a cloudy day PV profiles	103
4.11	Number of tap changes of MV transformer (OLTC 2) on a sunny day and a cloudy day PV profiles	103
4.12	Number of tap changes of LV transformer (OLTC 3) on a sunny day and a cloudy day PV profiles	104
4.13	Percentage of tap changes of MV transformers and LV transformer compared with base case	105
4.14	Number of tap changes on LV transformer	122
4.15	Number of tap changes for MV transformers	124

4.16	Summary of the tap operations at LV side of the network	126
4.17	Summary of the tap operations at MV side of the network	126
4.18	Percentages of annual increment at LV side	127
4.19	Percentages of annual increment at MV side	127

LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE	TITLE	PAGE
2.1	Equivalent circuit of a single PV cell	12
2.2	I-V characteristic with irradiance variation	13
2.3	I-V characteristic curve with temperature variation	14
2.4	Grid-connected PV components	15
2.5	Transfer function from irradiance (G) to inverter output power (P_{inv})	26
2.6	Sun irradiance versus PV's power output	28
2.7	12-hour PV power generation	29
2.8	Experimental setup for three-phase LV distribution network	30
2.9	PV's power output and voltage profiles with 0%, 50% and 90% of PV penetration levels	32
2.10	PV's power output and voltage fluctuations	33
2.11	Load demand and PV generation (a) summer (b) winter	35
2.12	Voltage profiles on (a) summer (b) winter	36
2.13	Relationship between PV output power with sun radiation	37
2.14	Equivalent diagram and OLTC representation	40
2.15	OLTC basic arrangement	41
3.1	4-bus test feeder	46

3.2	The generic distribution network in Malaysia	49
3.3	Daily residential demand pattern with five-minute resolution	54
3.4	Daily aggregated five-minute resolution MV demand profiles	54
3.5	Thin film rooftop PV system	55
3.6	Inverter room for data collection purpose	56
3.7	Connection of PV systems at LV side	57
3.8	Relationship of three basic OLTC's control settings	59
3.9	Flowchart of base case simulation	61
3.10	5-min resolution of a sunny day PV generation profile	62
3.11	5-min resolution of a cloudy day PV generation profile	62
3.12	1-min resolution PV generation profile on clear sky day	64
3.13	1-min resolution PV generation profile on overcast day	65
3.14	1-min resolution PV generation profile on mild variability day	65
3.15	1-min resolution PV generation profile on moderate variability day	66
3.16	1-min resolution PV generation profile on high variability day	66
3.17	The flowchart of the weather conditions simulation	68
3.18	Flowchart of the case studies with the different PV penetration level	70
3.19	Flowchart of TD settings variation	72
3.20	Flowchart of the effect of time resolution	74
3.21	Flowchart of the effect of PV system allocation	76
4.1	MV transformers loading	79
4.2	LV transformers loading	79
4.3	Voltage profiles on MV side	80

4.4	Voltage profiles on LV side	81
4.5	Tap change at MV side	82
4.6	Tap change at LV side	82
4.7	Transformers loading at transformers 3 on a sunny day and a cloudy day	86
4.8	Tap position of OLTC at transformers 3 on a sunny day and a cloudy day	86
4.9	Number of tap changes per day versus five different sample days	88
4.10	Number of tap changes versus percentages of PV penetration	90
4.11	The relationship between PV penetration level with number of tap changes for five sample of PV generation profiles	91
4.12	Number of tap changes versus TD settings	92
4.13	Number of tap changes of LV transformer versus different TD setting with five categories of solar variability samples	94
4.14	Number of tap changes with different time resolution generation	96
4.15	Relationship between number of tap changes with time resolution for five categories PV profiles	97
4.16	Relationship between losses and large PV penetration level on a sunny day	101
4.17	Number of tap changes of MV transformers and LV transformer with five different solar variability profiles	105
4.18	Number of tap changes with different percentages of PV penetration level for MV transformers and LV transformer on a sunny day	106

4.19	Number of tap changes with different percentages of PV penetration level for MV transformers and LV transformer on a cloudy day	107
4.20	Number of tap changes for MV transformer 1 versus PV penetration level under five different solar variability profiles	108
4.21	Number of tap changes for MV transformer 2 versus PV penetration level under five different solar variability profiles	108
4.22	Number of tap changes for LV transformer 3 versus PV penetration level under five different solar variability profiles	109
4.23	Number of tap changes for MV transformers (OLTC 1 & 2) and LV transformer (OLTC 3) on a sunny day profile	110
4.24	Number of tap changes for MV transformers (OLTC 1 & 2) and LV transformer (OLTC 3) on a cloudy day profile	110
4.25	Number of tap changes of MV transformer 1 versus TD settings under five different solar variability profiles	111
4.26	Number of tap changes of MV transformer 2 versus TD settings under five different solar variability profiles	112
4.27	Number of tap changes of LV transformer 3 versus TD settings under five different solar variability profiles	112
4.28	Number of tap changes of MV transformers and LV transformer with different time resolution on a sunny day	114
4.29	Number of tap changes of MV transformers and LV transformer with different time resolution on a cloudy day	114

4.30	Number of tap changes for MV transformer versus PV time resolution under five different solar variability profiles	116
4.31	Number of tap changes for MV transformer versus PV time resolution under five different solar variability profiles	116
4.32	Number of tap changes for LV transformer versus PV time resolution under five different solar variability profiles	117
4.33	Network losses with different PV penetration level on a sunny day and a cloudy day	118
4.34	Network losses versus PV penetration level on a clear sky day	119
4.35	Network losses versus PV penetration level on an overcast day	120
4.36	Network losses versus PV penetration level on a mild variability day	120
4.37	Network losses versus PV penetration level on a moderate variability day	121
4.38	Network losses versus PV penetration level on a high variability day	121

LIST OF APPENDICES

APPENDIX	TITLE	PAGE
A1	IEEE 4-bus test feeder system	149
A2	OpenDSS codes for IEEE 4-bus test feeder	154
B1	Parameters for the modelled distribution network in Malaysia	156
B2	OpenDSS & MATLAB codes for the modelled network in Malaysia	160
C	Publications	167

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AC	Alternating Current
BW	Bandwidth
CI	Clearness Index
COM	Component Object Model
CSI	Clear Sky Index
CSV	Comma-Separated Value
CT	Current Transformers
DC	Direct Current
DG	Distributed Generation
DHI	Diffuse Horizontal Irradiance
DLL	Dynamic Link Library
DNI	Direct Normal Irradiance
EPRI	Electrical Power Research Institute
EU	European
FiT	Feed in Tariff
GHI	Global Horizontal Irradiance
IEC	International Electrotechnical Commission
IEEE	Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers
I_p	Primary Current

LDC	Line Drop Compensation
LV	Low Voltage
MATLAB	Matrix Laboratory
MV	Medium Voltage
MW	Mega Watt
NERC	North America Electric Reliability Corporation
NERL	National Renewable Energy Laboratory
NLTC	No-Load Tap Changers
OLTC	On-Load Tap Changers
OpenDSS	Open Distribution System Simulator
p.u.	Per Unit
PV	Photovoltaic
RE	Renewable Energy
SEDA	Sustainable Energy Development Authority Malaysia
ST	Surunhanjaya Tenaga
TD	Time Delay
TNB	Tenaga Nasional Berhad
UNITEN	Universiti Tenaga Nasional
U_p	Primary voltage
U.S.	United States
UTeM	Univeristi Teknikal Malaysia Melaka
VI	Variability Index
VT	Voltage Transformers
WVM	Wavelet Variability Model

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

Journal

- [1] Lau, C. Y., Gan, C. K., Baharin, K. A., & Sulaima, M. F. (2015). A review on the impacts of passing-clouds on distribution network connected with solar photovoltaic system. *International Review of Electrical Engineering (I.R.E.E.)*, 10(3), 449–457. (Scopus-indexed)
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Conference

- [3] Lau, C. Y., Gan, C. K., Tie, C. H., Baharin, K. A., & Sulaima, M. F. (2015). Passing-cloud effects of solar photovoltaic system on distribution network voltages. *2015 9th International Power Engineering and Optimization Conference (PEOCO)*, 551–555.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The world heavy reliance on fossil energy resources has brought numerous impacts on the environment such as climate change due to greenhouse gas emissions. To address this matter, Renewable Energy (RE) sources, such as solar, wind, biomass, tidal, and ocean thermal are being exploited as alternatives. Among these, the solar Photovoltaic (PV) appears to be the most promising option due to its inexhaustible resource from the sun. Driven by the governmental support and the advancement in PV technology, the number of PV installations have increased dramatically in the past few years. According to the futuristic expansion plans from various countries such as China, India, Germany, US, California, and Canada, there are many PV power projects installed with high PV capacity (Wong & Wills 2011; Bondre & Nambiar 2011; Grigoleit et al. 2014; Elkind et al. 2013; Small 2011). Furthermore, the total expected PV power generation capacity targeted in Europe is 84.4 GW by 2020 (Pearsall 2011).

In the Malaysia context, the introduction of Feed-in Tariff (FiT) scheme in year 2011 has prompted an increasing number of grid-connected PV system installation in Malaysia (KeTTHA 2011). In addition, a total of 985 MW of RE generations is targeted by the year 2015. In terms of PV development target, a total of 190 MW is expected to be connected to the utility grid by the year 2020 (The Economic Planning Unit 2010). The relative large integration of PV system in the distribution grid is expected to cause some network problems. For instance, the output of the PV panels is heavily depending on the solar irradiance level. In this regard, the