

# Transmission Loss Minimization Using SVC Based on Particle Swarm Optimization

<sup>1</sup>Siti Amely Jumaat

<sup>1</sup>Faculty of Electrical and Electronics Engineering  
Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia  
86400 Parit Raja, Batu Pahat, Johor, Malaysia  
[amely@uthm.edu.my](mailto:amely@uthm.edu.my)

<sup>2</sup>Ismail Musirin, <sup>3</sup>Muhammad Murtadha Othman,

<sup>4</sup>Hazlie Mokhlis

<sup>2,3</sup>Faculty of Electrical Engineering  
Universiti Teknologi MARA Malaysia  
40450 Shah Alam, Malaysia

<sup>2</sup>[I\\_musirin@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:I_musirin@yahoo.co.uk), <sup>3</sup>[mamat505my@yahoo.com](mailto:mamat505my@yahoo.com)

<sup>4</sup>Department of Electrical Engineering

Faculty of Engineering  
University of Malaya  
<sup>4</sup>[hazli@um.edu.my](mailto:hazli@um.edu.my)

**Abstract**— This paper describes optimal sizing of static var compensator (SVC) based on Particle Swarm Optimization for minimization of transmission losses considering cost function. Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO) is one of the artificial intelligent search approaches which has the potential to solve such a problem. For this study, static var compensator (SVC) is chosen as the compensation device. Validation through the implementation on the IEEE 26-bus system shows that the PSO is found feasible to achieve the task. The simulations results are compared with those obtained from the Bee Algorithm (BA) technique in the attempt to highlight its merit.

**Keywords-** FACTS devices, optimal sizing, particle swarm optimization, transmission loss, minimization, static var compensator.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Nowadays, the demands for electrical energy have increased continuously yearly. The installation of new transmission networks or new power plants can solve these demands. However, there are some limitations to develop new system, i.e. installation cost, environment impact and pollution control, and the land acquisition. One of alternative solutions to respond to the demands is by using flexible alternating current transmission system (FACTS). The FACTS is a concept proposed by N.G. Hingorani [1] as a well-known term for higher controllability in power systems by means of power electronics devices. FACTS devices can provide benefits in increasing system transmission capacity and power flow control flexibility and rapidity [2].

Population base, cooperative and competitive stochastic search algorithms are very popular in this recent year in the research area of computational intelligence. Genetic Algorithm (GA) [6] and Evolutionary Programming (EP) [7] techniques are found to be established search algorithms and has been successfully implemented in solving the complex

problem effectively. PSO algorithm originally is developed by Kennedy and Eberhart based on the social behaviors of animal swarms (e.g. bird blocks and fish schools) [17]. PSO applied for solving various optimization problems in electrical engineering [2, 3, 18-20].

Optimal locations of different types of FACTS devices in the power system has been attempted using different EP techniques such as Hybrid Tabu Search and Simulated Annealing (TS/SA), GA, Repetitive Power Flow method (RPF), BA and Fuzzy decision making and PSO. The maximum increase in system loadability is achieved by GA and PSO techniques with an optimal numbers of five TCSCs devices in the system. From the results it is shown that TCSC device has improved the line flows even to their thermal limits [3]. With multitype of FACTS devices installed; the reduction in total generator of fuel cost is more than the individual installed FACTS devices [4]. The hybrid TS/SA converges at a faster computation time. In [5], BA does not require external parameters such as cross over rate and mutation rate. BA gives better result in terms of speed of optimizations and accuracy of the results. BA needs the large number of trials. On the other hand, GA based approach is proposed to determine the suitable types of FACTS devices and evaluate the total costs system [6]. EP in [7] is used to identify the location of four FACTS devices. Optimal Power Flow using GA can also be used to obtain the optimal locations of SVCs. The results shown that this method can be used to minimize the total cost function, including generations cost of power plants and investments costs in [8]. In [9], GA and PSO are used to optimize the parameters of TCSC. However, PSO have more advantageous than the GA. PSO gives a better balanced mechanism and better variation to the global and local exploration abilities. Moreover, it can be applied to solve various optimization problems in power system such as power

system stability enhancement and capacitor placement problems [10].

This paper presents PSO technique for loss minimization in power system by using SVC. PSO was adopted to optimize the SVCs sizing to be installed in power transmission network. Placement of SVC is done empirically as the pilot study. The PSO and BA techniques which performed on the IEEE 26-bus RTS have indicated that the proposed methods are found to be crucial in loss minimization scheme.

## II. MATERIAL AND METHODS

Flexible AC Transmission Systems (FACTS) devices have several types namely: thyristor controlled static compensator (TCSC), static var compensator (SVC), unified power flow controller (UPFC), static compensator (STATCOM), and thyristor controlled phase shifter transformer (TCPST) [11-12]. The SVC is a shunt type FACTS device which defined as a shunt connected static var generator or absorber whose output is adjusted in order to exchange the capacitive or inductive current to maintain or control specific parameters of the power system, typically the bus voltage [13]. The SVC can inject or absorb its reactive power ( $Q_{SVC}$ ) at a chosen bus. It injects reactive power into the system  $Q_{SVC} < 0$  and absorbs reactive power from the system if  $Q_{SVC} > 0$  [14]. The working range of SVC is between +10MVar and +100MVar [21]. The SVC is modeled as a generator or absorber of reactive power as shown in figure 1. It is modeled as an ideal reactive power injection at bus  $i$ , as shown in figure 2. The injected power at bus  $i$  is: [15 - 16].

$$\Delta Q_{is} = Q_{SVC} \quad (1)$$

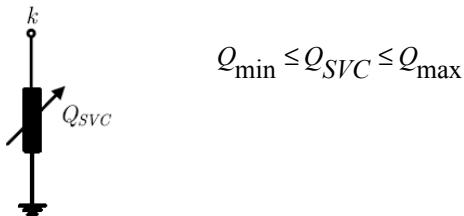


Figure 1 Block diagram of SVC

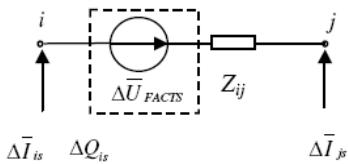


Figure 2 Mathematical model of SVC

### A. Cost of Installation

The cost of installation of SVC devices has been mathematically formulated and given by the following equation [2, 12]:

$$IC = C_{SVC} \times S \times 1000 \quad (2)$$

Where

$IC$  = the installation cost of SVC devices in [US\$],

$C_{SVC}$  = the cost of SVC devices in [US\$/KVar]

Installation of SVC device can be calculated using the cost function given by [2, 6, 15].

$$C_{SVC} = 0.0003S^2 - 0.3051S + 127.38[\text{US\$KVar}] \quad (3)$$

$$S = |Q_2 - Q_1| \quad (4)$$

here

$S$  = operating range of SVC in [MVar]

$Q_1$  = reactive power flow through the branch before SVC installation.

$Q_2$  = reactive power flow through the branch after SVC installation.

## III. PARTICLE SWARM OPTIMIZATION (PSO)

The PSO provides a population-based search procedure in which individuals called particles and changes their positions. The position of each particle is presented in X-Y plane. Each particle moves to the new position using velocity according to its own experience as called  $P_{best}$ .  $G_{best}$  is the overall best value obtained so far by any particle in the population. By time to time, the PSO consists of velocity changes of each particle towards its  $P_{best}$  and  $G_{best}$  [18-19]. Each particle tries to modify its current position and velocity according to the distance between its current position and  $P_{best}$ , and the current position and  $G_{best}$ . After finding the best values the particle updates its velocity and position. Velocity of each particle can be modified by equation (5) [2, 3, 20].

$$v_i^{k+1} = w \times v + c_1 \times rand_1 \times (P_{best,i} - s_i^k) \\ + c_2 \times rand_2 \times (G_{best,i} - s_i^k) \quad (5)$$

where

$v_i^{k+1}$  = velocity of particle  $i$  at iterations

$w$  = weight function

$c_1$  and  $c_2$  = weight coefficient both equal to 2

$rand_1$  and  $rand_2$  = random number between 0 and 1

$s_i^k$  = current position of particle  $i$  at iteration  $k$

$P_{best,i}$  = best position of particle  $i$ -th up to the current iteration

$G_{best,i}$  = best overall position found by the particle up to the current iteration.

Weight function is given by (6) [2, 3, 14, 20]

$$w = w_{\max} - \frac{w_{\max} - w_{\min}}{iter_{\max}} \times iter \quad (6)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} w_{\max} &= \text{initial weight equal to } 0.9 \\ w_{\min} &= \text{initial weight equal to } 0.4 \\ iter_{\max} &= \text{maximum iteration number, and} \\ iter &= \text{current iteration number.} \end{aligned}$$

The new position can be modified (7)

$$s_i^{k+1} = s_i^k - v_i^{k+1} \quad (7).$$

The computation procedure for the developed PSO algorithm takes the following steps [10]:

Step 1: Generation of initial condition of each particle.

Initial searching point ( $s_i^0$ ) and velocities ( $v_i^0$ ) of each particle are usually random within it range. The current searching point is set to  $P_{best}$  for each particle. The best evaluated value of  $P_{best}$  is set to  $G_{best}$ , and the best value is stored.

Step 2: Evaluation of searching point of each particle.

The objective function is evaluated for each particle. If the value is better than the current  $P_{best}$  of the particle, the  $P_{best}$  value will be replaced by the current value. If the  $P_{best}$  value is better than the current  $G_{best}$ ,  $G_{best}$  will be replaced by the best value and the best value is stored.

Step 3: Modification of each search point.

The current searching point of each particle is updated using (5), (6) and (7).

Step 4: Checking the exit condition.

The current iteration number reaches the pre-determined maximum iteration number as the stopping criterion. Otherwise the process proceeds to step 2.

#### IV. TEST RESULTS

In order to realize the effectiveness of the proposed PSO technique, the IEEE 26-bus system was tested in order to find the optimal sizing of SVC. The line data and the bus data of the IEEE 26-bus system are given in [21]. The parameters of the optimization algorithm are listed in Table 1 [2, 3, 14, 20].

TABLE I  
PARAMETERS OF OPTIMIZATIONS TECHNIQUES

Parameters	PSO
Population Size	5, 10, 15, 20
Inertial Weight, $w$	0.9 - 0.4
Constant, C1	2
Constant, C2	2
Number of iteration	50
Rand1	0 to 1
Rand2	0 to 1

The SVC installations in the transmission system to reduce the transmission loss in the system have been conducted at several load conditions subjected to buses 6, 10, and 13. The simulation was done in MATLAB and several buses were subjected to load variations in order to realize the effect of SVCs installation with PSO as the optimization approach. Three SVCs were installed at bus 9, 22, and 24 and assigned as  $x_1$ ,  $x_2$  and  $x_3$ . These buses are the weak load buses in the system; having among the lowest in maximum loadability condition [21].

*A. Transmission Loss Reduction with SVC Installations.*

Results for transmission loss reduction when load i.e. buses 6, 10 and 13 are subjected to load variation are tabulated in Table 2, 3 and 4. The sizing of SVCs to achieve loss reduction at several loading conditions can be referred to the same table.

TABLE 2  
TRANSMISSION LOSS REDUCTION LOAD VARIATION AT BUS 6.

Loading Condition (Mvar)	Total Power Loss (MW)		SVC sizing (Mvar)	Cost SVC (US\$/KVar)	$10^3$ (US\$)
	without SVC	with SVC			
10	15.3850	14.4923	70.1274 53.3082 35.7547	127.1079	11.3470
20	15.4610	14.5013	93.6702 15.6589 37.6245	127.0875	12.1970
30	15.5420	14.4873	89.7408 33.1746 51.7156	127.0585	13.4010
40	15.6270	14.4634	92.7904 38.7134 35.5901	127.0254	14.7810
50	15.7160	14.4918	77.3363 33.2339 27.9203	127.0070	15.5480

For instance in Table 2 with loading condition of 50MVar, the transmission loss has been reduced from 15.7160MW to 14.4918MW. In order to achieve this, the sizing of SVCs are 77.3363MVar, 33.2339MVar, and 27.9203MVar as indicated in the table. The cost of installation at this scenario is 15.5480 thousand US\$. From Table 2 it is observed that the value of transmission losses is decreased rapidly and the cost of installation is increased accordingly as the reactive power loading is increased. It is also shown that, with the installation of SVC the transmission loss of the bus for all loading condition has been reduced significantly. It is pretty obvious that, with the installation of SVC optimized using PSO, the transmission losses has been able reduced at all loading conditions.

TABLE 3  
TRANSMISSION LOSS REDUCTION LOAD VARIATION AT BUS 10

Loading Condition (Mvar)	Transmission Loss (MW)		SVC sizing (Mvar)	Cost SVC (US\$/KVar)	IC $10^3$ (US\$)
	without SVC	with SVC			
10	15.6050	14.4564	37.9996 68.1471 49.0322	127.0300	145.910
20	15.6820	14.3921	53.4529 62.2557 36.3690	126.9869	163.800
30	15.7650	14.4944	52.1386 38.2926 67.7320	126.9928	161.360
40	15.8540	14.5080	92.2504 92.4660 71.8296	126.9699	170.900
50	16.3940	14.4811	80.8699 45.4359 31.2545	126.7975	242.550

The sizing of SVCs to achieve optimal loss reduction at several loading conditions can also be referred to Table 3. For instance, at loading condition of 50MVar the transmission loss has been reduced from 16.3940MW to 14.4811MW. In order to achieve this, the sizing of SVCs are 80.8699MVar, 45.4359MVar and 31.2545MVA as indicated in the Table 3. The cost of installation at this scenario is 242.550 thousand US\$. From Table 3 it is observed that the value of transmission losses is decreased while the installation cost is increased accordingly as the reactive power loading is increased.

The results of SVCs sizing to achieve optimal loss reduction at several loading conditions subjected to bus 13 can be referred to Table 4. For instance, at loading condition of 50MVar, the transmission loss has been reduced from 15.7160MW to 14.5014MW. In order to achieve this value the sizing of SVCs are been proposed as 57.0969MVar, 48.6924MVar, and 28.6442MVar as indicated in the Table 4. The cost of installation at this scenario is 153.510 thousand US\$. Similar phenomenon can be observed in this case where by; Table 4 it is observed that the value of transmission losses is decreased and the cost of installation is increased accordingly as the reactive power loading is increased.

#### B. Comparative Studies with Other Technique

Comparative studies were conducted with respect to the results obtained using BA [21]. The results are tabulated in Table 5, 6 and 7 for load subjected to buses 6, 10 and 13. In Table 5 at loading condition of 10MVar; PSO managed to reduce the transmission loss from 15.3850MW to 14.4390MW, while BA managed to reduce the transmission loss to 14.3712MW. The same scenarios can be observed as well with 20MVar and 30MVar. It is shown that, BA

technique can be optimizing the transmission loss lower than PSO. However the different results can be observed at load condition of 40MVar and 50Mvar. From Table 5, at loading condition of 50MVar; PSO managed to reduce the transmission loss from 15.7160MW to 14.5014MW, while BA managed to reduce the transmission loss to 14.5919MW. From this simulation shows that the result using by PSO is lower than the BA it which indicates the capability of PSO throughout the process.

TABLE 4  
TRANSMISSION LOSS REDUCTION LOAD VARIATION AT BUS 13

Loading Condition (Mvar)	Transmission Loss (MW)		SVC Sizing (Mvar)	Cost SVC (US\$/KVar)	IC $10^3$ (US\$)
	without SVC	with SVC			
10	15.3850	14.4390	77.7170 80.2714 51.6117	127.0916	120.230
20	15.4610	14.4790	94.4202 22.5720 45.4510	127.0807	124.800
30	15.5420	14.5014	88.7872 52.0765 22.7202	127.0628	132.230
40	15.6270	14.4825	92.2982 24.6392 48.5287	127.0317	145.380
50	15.7160	14.5014	57.0969 48.6924 28.6442	127.0117	153.510

TABLE 5  
TRANSMISSION LOSS REDUCTION LOAD VARIATION AT BUS 6  
PERFORMED USING PSO AND BA

Loading Condition (Mvar)	Transmission Loss (MW)		
	without SVC	PSO	BA
10	15.3850	14.4390	14.3712
20	15.4610	14.4790	14.4141
30	15.5420	14.5014	14.4576
40	15.6270	14.4825	14.5297
50	15.7160	14.5014	14.5919

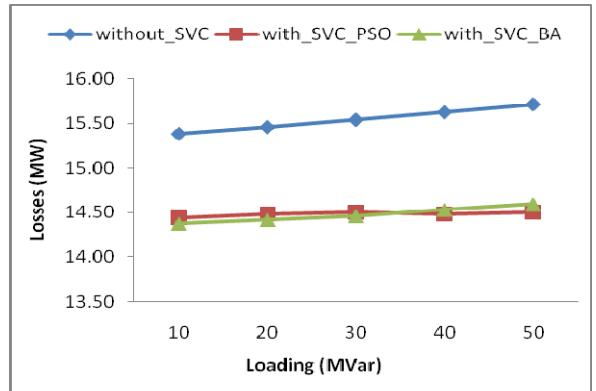


Figure 6: Results for transmission losses load variation reduction at bus 6 performed using PSO and BA

On the other hand, Figure 6 illustrates the transmission loss in the system when the load at bus 6 is gradually increased. This is in fact exhibitory the profiles of transmission loss variation performed using PSO and BA. Both PSO and BA are comparable.

In Table 6, at loading condition of 10MVar; PSO managed to reduce the transmission loss from 15.6050MW to 14.4564MW, while BA able to reduce the transmission loss to 14.4722MW. The same scenarios can be observed at 20MVar and 30MVar. It is shown that, BA technique can be minimize the transmission loss lower than PSO. However the different results can be observed at load condition of 40MVar and 50Mvar. From Table 6, at loading condition of 50MVar, PSO managed to reduce the transmission loss from 16.3940MW to 14.4811MW, while BA managed to reduce the transmission loss to 14.5155MW. It is shown that the result by PSO is lower than BA. Figure 7 illustrates the transmission loss in the system when the load at bus 10 is gradually increased.

TABLE 6  
TRANSMISSION LOSS REDUCTION LOAD VARIATION AT BUS 10  
PERFORMED USING PSO AND BA

Loading Condition (Mvar)	Transmission Loss (MW)		
	without SVC	PSO	BA
10	15.6050	14.4564	14.4722
20	15.6820	14.3921	14.4731
30	15.7650	14.4944	14.4868
40	15.8540	14.5080	14.5201
50	16.3940	14.4811	14.5155

Similar phenomenon observed at bus 13. In Table 7, at loading condition of 10MVar, PSO able to reduce the transmission loss from 15.3850MW to 14.4923MW, while BA able to reduce the transmission loss to 14.3446MW. The same scenarios can be observed at 20MVar and 30MVar. However the different results can be observed at load condition of 40MVar and 50Mvar. From Table 7, at loading condition of 50MVar, PSO able to reduce the transmission loss from 15.7160MW to 14.4918MW, while BA able to reduce the transmission loss to 14.5822MW. Figure 8 illustrates the transmission loss in the system when the load at bus 13 is gradually increased. It is shown that PSO able minimize the transmission loss better than BA when loading condition is greater than 30MVar.

## V. CONCLUSION

An approaches for transmission loss reduction by using SVC installation via PSO and BA as the optimization techniques are presented. Source code of PSO optimizations technique was developed to determine the optimal sizing of SVC in order to minimize the losses in the transmission

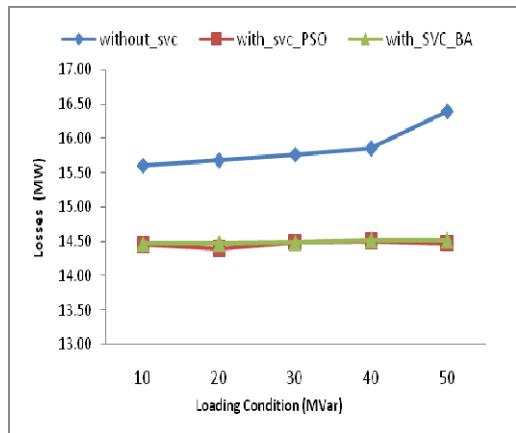


Figure 7: Results for transmission losses reduction load variation at bus 10 performed using PSO and BA

TABLE 7  
TRANSMISSION LOSS REDUCTION LOAD VARIATION AT BUS 13  
PERFORMED USING PSO AND BA

Loading Condition (Mvar)	Transmission Loss (MW)		
	without SVC	PSO	BA
10	15.3850	14.4923	14.3446
20	15.4610	14.5013	14.3854
30	15.5420	14.4873	14.4543
40	15.6270	14.4634	14.5022
50	15.7160	14.4918	14.5822

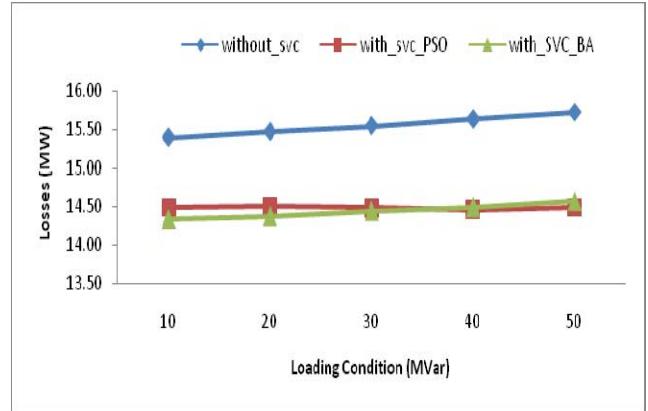


Figure 8: Results for transmission losses reduction load variation at bus 13 performed using PSO and BA

system. Besides that, the cost of installation is considered in the system. Tests are performed on the IEEE 26 bus RTS. Result shows that the implementations of PSO and BA have reduced the transmission losses of the system indicating it as a feasible technique to perform the losses optimizations.

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## BIOGRAPHIES



Intelligent techniques.

**Siti Amely Jumaat** graduated from the Institut Tun Hussein Onn (ITTHO-UTM) with honours degree in BSc. Electrical Eng. in 2001 and MEng. (Power), UTM in 2003. She is currently is pursuing a PhD in power system at Universiti Teknologi MARA, Malaysia. Her research interests include power system stability, facts devices and Artificial



techniques, distributed generator and artificial intelligence.

**Associate Professor Dr. Ismail Musirin** obtained Diploma of Electrical Power Engineering in 1987, Bachelor of Electrical Engineering (Hons) in 1990; both from Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, MSc in Pulsed Power Technology in 1992 from University of Strathclyde, United Kingdom and PhD in Electrical Engineering from Universiti Teknologi MARA, Malaysia in 2004. His research interest includes power system stability, optimization



**Dr. Muhammad Murtadha bin Othman** received his B.Eng. (Hons) from Staffordshire University, England in 1998; M.Sc from Universiti Putra Malaysia in 2000 and PhD from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia in 2006. He currently lectures at the UniversitiTeknologi MARA, Malaysia. His area of research interests are artificial intelligence, transfer capability assessment and reliability studies in a deregulated power system.



**Dr. Hazlie Bin Mokhlis** received M.Sc. degree from Malaya University and Ph.D degree in 2009 from Manchester University, United Kingdom. His research interest is Electrical power system (Transmission and Distribution) Power quality, stability, EMC & Islanding