

11-28-2020

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Recommended Citation

El-Saadwi, Magdy Mohamed; Hassan, A .; and Ebrahim, R. (2020) "Evolutionary Approach-Based Methodology for Egyptian Utility Restoration.," *Mansoura Engineering Journal*: Vol. 34 : Iss. 2 , Article 19. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.21608/bfemu.2020.125976>

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An Evolutionary Approach-Based Methodology for Egyptian Utility Restoration

استعادة الشبكة الكهربائية المصرية لوضع ما قبل الخطأ باستخدام
منهجية الطرق التطويرية

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ملخص البحث:

إن عملية استعادة النظام الكهربى لوضع ما قبل الخطأ بعد حدوث عملية إطلام كامل هي عملية معقدة بسبب العديد من العوامل ، بما فيها أسباب حدوثها وظروف العمل الغير طبيعية لحلها وعدم القدرة على التنبؤ لما يمكن حدوثه، وبالنسبة للشبكات الكبرى فيجب أن يكون لديها عدد من السيناريوهات والأدوات المختلفة للتعامل مع هذه المشكلة. وهذه الأدوات تحدد بشكل كبير سرعة وفاعلية استعادة النظام الكهربى، ومن أهم العوامل المؤثرة مدى الاعتماد على الكمبيوتر أو الخبرة البشرية خلال عملية الاستعادة، حيث يكون هناك خيار بين الاعتماد الأساسى على الخبرة البشرية أو الاعتماد الكامل على برامج الكمبيوتر. وحيث أن عملية استعادة النظام الكهربى من العمليات النادرة الحدوث فإن المشغل مهما كانت خبراته العملية يقع تحت العديد من الضغوط أثناء عملية الاستعادة حيث يجب أن تتم العملية بأسرع ما يمكن مع ضرورة الاهتمام بالكثير من التفاصيل والقيود الفنية. وعلى الجانب الآخر فإن التطور الكبير فى برمجيات الذكاء الاصطناعى وأجهزة الكمبيوتر أدى إلى ضرورة الاتجاه نحو الأتمتة الكاملة لعملية استعادة النظام الكهربى بحيث يصبح المشغل مجرد مشرف أو متابع لعملية الاستعادة.

من الناحية الرياضية يمكن اعتبار عملية استعادة النظام هي عملية أمثلة مركبة يحكمها العديد من القيود الخطية وغير الخطية، وتعتبر تقنية الطرق التطويرية من أفضل تقنيات الذكاء الاصطناعى بسبب سرعتها العالية فى حل برامج الأمثلة المعقدة. فى هذا البحث تم استخدام تقنية الطرق التطويرية لحل مشكلة استعادة منظومة كهربية كبيرة، وتم تطبيق إحدى هذه الطرق لاستعادة جزء من شبكة جمهورية مصر العربية بعد عملية إطلام كامل، وقد أثبتت النتائج التى تم الحصول عليها إمكانية هذه الطريقة فى الوصول إلى حل سريع ودقيق ولا يعتمد على الخبرات السابقة للقائمين بالتشغيل، مما يحقق مميزات عديدة عند استخدامها فى مراكز التحكم فى الشبكات الكبرى.

Abstract

Restoration of a large electric grid after a partial or complete system blackout is a difficult task complicated by many factors, including unknown cause, abnormal operating conditions, infrequently used procedures and unpredictable system configurations. Large utilities must have different scenarios and tools to deal with this problem. The coordination and overall organization of the several aspects of the restoration process will largely determine the effectiveness of the restoration and its speed of progress. The most basic determinants of this organization are the relative roles played by the operator and the computer. Thus there arises a choice between two basic organizing principles: operator dominated principle or computer dominated principle. In actual power system operation, severe restoration situations occur infrequently. Therefore, when they do occur, operators have had little first-hand, on-the-job experience. Even so, they are under pressure to restore the system as quickly as possible, while paying close attention to many technical details. On other hand the great progress in both artificial intelligence software and computer hardware, increases the tendency to fully automated the restoration problem, so that the operator plays the role of an observer or supervisor.

In mathematical terms, the restoration problem may be described as a multi-objective, multi-stage, combinatorial, nonlinear, constrained optimization problem. Evolutionary Approach (EA) technique is one of the most promising artificial intelligence techniques because it is proven to be both very fast and effective when applied to a diverse set of optimization problems.

In this paper a proposed Evolutionary Approach-based methodology is used to solve the restoration problem of a large electric system with multiple generation units and transmission loops. The methodology is applied to restore a sector of Egyptian Utility after a complete blackout. The obtained results show effectiveness and validity of the proposed methodology compared to pure human experience in Egyptian National Energy Control Center.

Keywords:

Power System Restoration; Evolutionary Approaches; Power Flow; Egyptian Utility

1. Introduction

Power system blackouts are rare events [1, 2]. However, when they occur, the effects on commerce, industry and everyday life of the general population can be quite severe. In the aftermath of a blackout, a subject of critical importance is the rapidity with which electric service is restored [3]. Blackouts are caused by a variety of phenomena. The causes include weaknesses in the infrastructure, storms, the general climate and human error. The consequences can be far ranging: disruption to industry, transport problems and a variety of social and political effects [2].

Restoration of a large and interconnected grid from a complete shutdown is a highly complex operation involving many technical and non-technical constraints. Most operating companies are maintaining restoration procedures based on certain operating philosophies, practices, and familiarity with power plant restart and power system operation.

The coordination and overall organization of the several aspects of the restoration process will largely determine the effectiveness of the restoration and its speed of progress. The most basic determinants of this organization are the relative roles played by the operator and the computer. Increasing sophistication in analysis and computational programs, including those derived from artificial intelligence, raises the computer to a significance somewhat comparable to that of the operator. Thus there arises a choice between two basic organizing principles: operator dominated principle or computer dominated principle.

In order to improve the system restoration when a system blackout occurs many utilities contain pre-established restoration procedures and guidelines to advise the system operator to restore the system. However, these restoration guidelines and procedures have not enabled the system operator to achieve successful restoration plans when unforeseen restoration scenarios are encountered. The

main factor that explains this lack of success is that after the occurrence of a wide-area disturbance the system operator is under intense pressure to restore the system in the minimum time possible. The inability to deal with this pressure and the appearance of unexpected restoration scenarios not covered in the restoration guidelines are known to lead the system operators to unsuccessful restoration attempts and the prolongation of the system disturbance.

On the other hand, the great progress in both artificial intelligence software and computer hardware increases the tendency to fully automate the restoration problem.

At that situation practical and generic computer tools to support system dispatchers in their decision-making have been recently proposed. The restoration strategy should include optimization techniques to minimize available un-served loads subject to constraints during restoration, use of tie lines, and time to restoration [4].

In mathematical terms, power system restoration problem is a very complex combinatorial problem that can be formulated as a multi-stage, non-linear, continuous and binary constrained optimization problem. The main objective of the restoration process is to restore service to loads as quickly as possible keeping a feasible configuration.

Many approaches have been applied to the power system restoration problem such as expert systems, mathematical programming and evolutionary strategy [5]. In fact, the application of these techniques to power system restoration problem, especially the mathematical programming approach, has been limited to a small number of publications. Actually most of these approaches are validated using radial power systems or distribution systems.

In [3, 6, 7 and 8] authors presented expert system for power system restoration. But, the approach was formulated and tested in a radial test system. In [9, 10, 11, and 12] authors presented mathematical programming approaches, but their

approaches were limited to small and simple cases.

In [7, 13, 14, and 15], authors proposed evolutionary strategy approaches to deal with that problem. D. Kirschen [7] presented a multi-agent approach to power system restoration; the approach was validated and tested on a radial power system. A.S. Bretas, et.al [15], presented an artificial neural network approach for power system restoration. The proposed approach is very complex and not reliable enough for real time restoration process.

The EA technique is one of the most promising artificial intelligence techniques because it is proven to be both very fast and effective when applied to a diverse set of optimization problems. The technique is based on a simple concept, and it can be easily implemented with computer codes. It has attracted many researchers' attention and has been applied with great success to fairly broad engineering problems [16].

In this paper a proposed EA-based methodology is used to solve the restoration problem of a large electric system with multiple generation units and transmission loops. The methodology is applied to restore a sector of Egyptian Utility after a complete blackout.

2. Evolutionary Approaches

Evolutionary Approach (EA) is the collective name for a range of problem-solving techniques based on principles of biological evolution, such as natural selection and genetic inheritance. These techniques are being increasingly widely applied to a variety of problems, ranging from practical applications in industry and commerce to leading-edge scientific research. The basic idea behind all these EA variants is commonly the same from a unifying viewpoint. On availability of a population of individuals, natural selection, which is based on the principle of survival of the fittest following the existence of environmental pressures, is exercised to choose individuals that could better fit the environment. The operations involved are as

follows. Given a fitness function to be optimized, a set of candidate solutions is randomly generated. The candidate solutions are assessed by the fitness function that indicates an abstract of fitness measure. Based on the fitness values, fitter candidate solutions have a better chance to be selected to seed the next generation [17].

As explained in [18] one of the main advantages of EA is that it is conceptually simple and easy to use. An EA process normally covers random initialization of a population of candidate solutions, followed by some iterative variation and selection strategy, and by evaluation of candidate solutions in accordance with a performance index. This process is relatively simple, as compared with, for example, model-based approaches that deal with complicated mathematical formulation of the system under scrutiny. The applicability of EA is broad and comprehensive, covering most problems that can be cast as an optimization task. These Approaches seem to be particularly suited for multi-objective, combinatorial, nonlinear, constrained optimization problem because they process a set of solutions in parallel, possibly exploiting similarities of solutions by recombination. Zitzler and Thiele, [19] suggest that multi objective search and optimization might be a problem area where EA's do better than other blind search strategies.

Evolutionary techniques mostly involve metaheuristic optimization algorithms such as:

- evolutionary algorithms (comprising genetic algorithms, evolutionary programming, evolution strategy and genetic programming)
- swarm intelligence (comprising particle swarm optimization and ant colony optimization)

3. Proposed Methodology

To simplify the solution of restoration problem, a proposed EA-based methodology is suggested. In this paper the Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO) technique is

used in numerical application as an example of the EA technique. The proposed methodology is divided into three main components as shown by Figure 1.

- i. **Input Component:** this component is a module which deals with input data: network data, topology configuration, and data for EA technique.
- ii. **Solution Techniques Component:** this component consists of three modules and it will be explained in details in the following section. The three modules are: sub topology list module, power flow module and particle swarm optimization module.

- iii. **Output Component:** this component gives the solution results of new topology configuration.

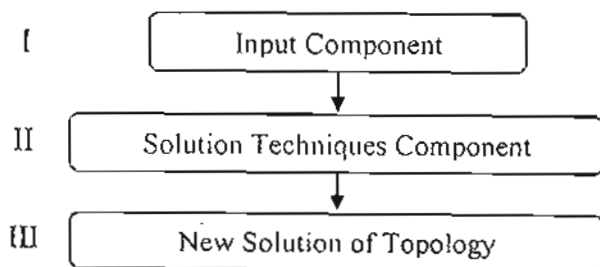


Figure 1 Main components of the proposed methodology

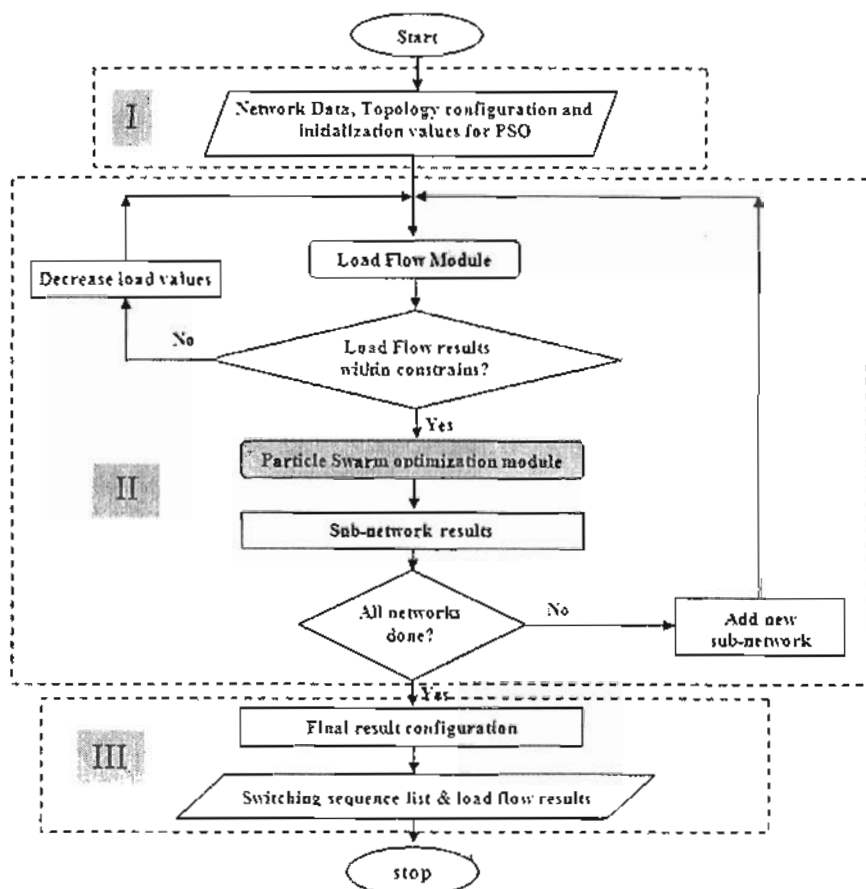


Figure 2 Flow chart of the proposed methodology

Figure 2 explains a flow chart of the proposed methodology. All components of the methodology interact to present the switching action sequence. And this could lead to restore the system after the blackout. In general, the approach is to sectionalize the power system into a number of subsystems

and restore the whole blackout area step by step based on objective function and constraints of each sub area.

3.1. Input Component

In this section each element and all data included in the problem are defined and prepared.

- **Network data**

The main elements of a power system are generator, buses, transformers, loads, and transmission lines and circuit breakers.

- **Topology configuration**

At this part the network is mapped as a graph and the connections between its components (elements and circuit breakers) are described and listed.

- **PSO initialization values**

PSO starts with a population of random solutions particles in a D-dimension space. The particle position is represented by $x_i = (x_{i1}, x_{i2}, \dots, x_{iD})$. Each particle keeps track of its coordinates in hyperspace, which are associated with the best solution it has achieved so far. The value of the fitness for particle i (p_{best}) is also stored as $p_i = (p_{i1}, p_{i2}, \dots, p_{iD})$, it initially random values. The global version of the PSO keeps track of the overall best value (g_{best}), and its location, also it obtains values of (g_{best}), for every particle in the population [16, 20].

3.2 Solution Technique Components

The solution technique of the problem is divided into three modules:

- i. Sub topology list module*

In this module the available restored paths are checked, the least path is choose after executing power flow and PSO techniques.

- ii. Power flow module*

Power Flow is used for steady state solution of an electric power utility. The power flow analysis for a certain electric power system under a desired operating condition is a simulation of this system, through mathematical equations, that will provide the real and reactive power flow through the system voltage and angles of its buses. This information will determine if any equipment of the power system is operating under unacceptable conditions or violating any constraints.

- iii. PSO module*

This module solves the optimization problem to selected minimum path, and that algorithm can be illustrated by the following steps:

Step1: For each particle, evaluate the desired optimization fitness function (objective function (minimum unserved load)) in D variables .

Step2: Compare particle's fitness evaluation with its initial p_{best} . If current value is better than initial p_{best} , then set p_{best} equal to the current value, and P_i equals to the current location X_i in D-dimensional space .

Step3: Change the velocity and position of the particle according to Equations (1) and (2).

Step4: A stopping criteria of the algorithm is usually a sufficiently good fitness or a maximum number of iterations

3.3. Output Component

It shows the result clearly, easily and saves the best network topology configuration, the voltages profile during the restoration process, power generated by the generation units at each stage, the total load served increases with the stages, and power flows through the transmission lines and transformers at each stage.

4. Proposed Methodology for Egyptian Utility Restoration

Currently, the restoration in Egyptian NECC is performed step-by-step and mostly manually, based on pre-established guidelines and operating procedures. As power systems continue to grow in size and complexity, the amount of time required to restore power to customers in the aftermath of a blackout reaches a level which produces unacceptable economic and social costs for an industrialized society.

This section shows the description, formulation and results obtained from applying the proposed PSO technique to restore a sector of Egyptian Utility.

4.1 Problem Formulation

The problem of restoration is formulated as an optimization problem; the objective function is to maximizing the served loads subjected to power balance and power flow constraints. Also control and state variables limits are considered.

Conditions of switching operation formulation of variables as controlled variables are considered as shown in Table 1.

Table 1 Conditions of Switching Operation (Control Variables)

Variable	Condition (State)	Variable type
Transmission lines, transformers and generation units	On or Off	Binary variables
Load restored	Yes or No	Binary variable
Load percent	0%, 25%, 50%, 75% or 100%	Discrete variables
Voltages magnitude at PV buses including the slack bus		Continuous variables
Real power at PV buses excluding the slack bus		Continuous variables

The above variables determine the network configuration and the values of the control variables needed to perform a power flow analysis to the current system topology. The following variables are the state variables:

- Real and reactive power balance from power flow.
- Voltage magnitude at PQ buses.
- Power flow through transmission lines and transformers.
- Reactive power generation at PV buses including the slack bus.
- Real power generation at the slack bus.

4.2 System Description

The proposed methodology is applied to a sector of Egyptian Utility. The National Energy Control Center has divided the Egyptian Utility into seven zones. The studied system represents the Middle Delta zone. This zone consists of fourteen buses;

five of that fourteen are generation buses. The loads are connected to twelve buses.

Figures 3, 4 illustrate the studied zone where the generation plants (shown by Fig. 3) Domiata, Mahmoudia, Damanhur, Talkha, and Abu Soltan are connected to buses 1 to 5 respectively. There are 17 transmissions lines connected the buses and operate at 220 kV. Figure 3 shows the single line diagram of the studied zone, whereas the system detailed data are given in Appendix A [21, 22].

4.3. Control Variables

The network parameters are modeled for PSO. These parameters are represented as control variables. There are fifty-five control variables for the studied sector. The first five positions of the control variables vector are the states of the five generation units. The next twelve control variables represent the states of the loads. The control variables that represent the transmission lines state are the next seventeenth variables. These thirty-four control variables are discrete binary variables and were handled using the PSO model as a binary variables.

The next twenty-one control variables are continuous variables and are handled using the PSO model for continuous variables. Each control variables vector or particle was evaluated according to the algorithm described in [23]. The control variables in the position from thirty-five, to thirty-nine are the voltage magnitudes of the generation units G1, G2, G3, G4 and G5, respectively. These control variables are adjusted in the limit range specified (0.9 to 1.1 pu). The forty to forty-three control variables are the real power generation in MW of generation units G2, G3, G4 and G5, respectively. These control variables were adjusted in the limit ranges specified for each generation unit. The last twelve control variables vector are the load percent of each load. These variables were adjusted in the discrete range (0%, 25%, 50%, 75% and 100%)

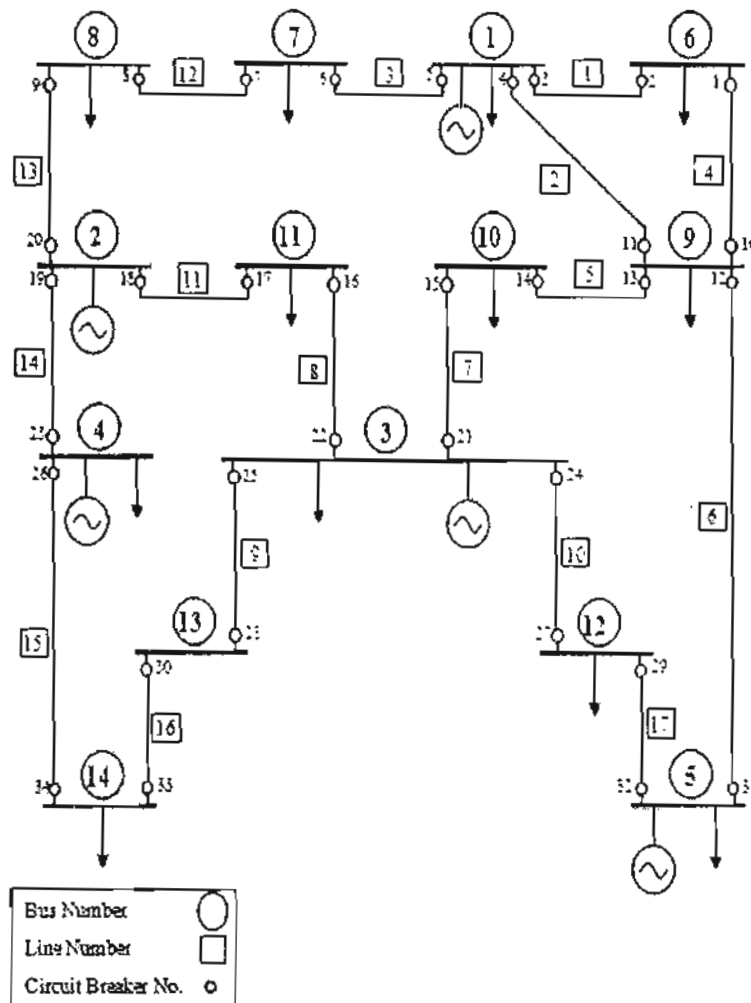


Figure 3 Single Line Diagram of the Studied Sector

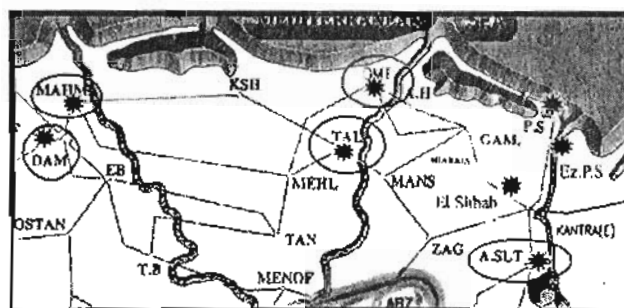


Figure 4 Generation Plants of the Studied Sector

5. Results

Based on the concept of multi-areas the system will be restored in multi-stages. The restoration process proposed was applied to a completely collapsed system. Therefore, all system devices were switched off. The following tables show the results obtained in each stage.

Table 2 shows the sequence of the restoration path. For each stage only one

switching operation was performed. This table illustrates that the system is totally restored after 17 stages, and for every stage part of the network and the load would be restored. The sequence of restoring the whole system starts with connecting the generation unit G1 which is considered as the reference. In the second stage the load L1 and L6 through transmission line L1-6 are restored and so on. Once the restoration

Table 3 Voltage Profile during the Restoration Process

stage	Bus Voltage Magnitudes (pu)													
	V1	V2	V3	V4	V5	V6	V7	V8	V9	V10	V11	V12	V13	V14
1	1.0					0.99								
2	1.0						0.939							
3	1.0								0.984					
4	1.0					0.984			0.968					
5	1.0						0.9003		0.9582					
6	1.0				1.0				0.942					
7	1.0								0.929	0.9842				
8	1.0	1.0					0.928	0.920						
9	1.0				0.9				0.958			0.97		
10	1.0				1.0				0.9502			0.9397		
11	1.0		0.9						0.97	0.905				
12	1.0	0.9891					0.9826	0.9814			0.9891			
13	1.0			1.0	1.0				0.983					0.943
14	1.0		1.0		1.0				0.9754			0.985		
15	1.0		1.0						0.98	0.979	0.938			
16	1.0		1.0						0.989	0.989			0.996	
17	1.0			1.0	1.0				0.977				0.999	0.987

Table 4 Active and Reactive Power Generated at each Stage

stage	Generation Power P(MW) and Q(MVar)									
	PG1	QG1	PG2	QG2	PG3	QG3	PG4	QG4	PG5	QG5
1	111.193	75.418								
2	110.239	82.083								
3	83.220	54.617								
4	166.76	115.64								
5	402.44	268.29								
6	317.2	203							600	182.79
7	217.336	193.448								
8	175.99	138.9	317	99.46						
9	104.9	112.9							600	107.9
10	417.09	271			1250	452				
11	775	568	317.4	284			495	280		
12	130	135	314	219						
13	687	346					1250	145.5	600	146.6
14	512.7	147.7			1250	142.2				
15	360.4	379.1			1250	318.9				
16	293.2	54.4	317.4	116.4	495	288.13				
17	213.369	112.076					1250	465.2	600	465.2

6. Conclusion

Restoring a power system after a partial or complete collapse in a minimal amount of time presents a very complex problem.

This paper presents an evolutionary approach-based methodology to solve power system restoration problem. The proposed methodology can be used to solve the restoration problem of large electric systems with multiple generation units and transmission loops.

The methodology is applied to restore a sector of Egyptian Utility after a complete blackout. Currently, the restoration in Egyptian NECC is performed step-by-step and mostly manually, based on pre-established guidelines and operating procedures.

Results show effectiveness and validity of the proposed EA-based methodology compared to pure human experience in Egyptian NECC. The technique can help decision makers in the Egyptian NECC of how to restore the network after full or partially black out events.

In the future work authors intended to apply that technique in a real time for large utilities.

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8. Appendix

Studied 220 kV Sector Data [21]

Table A-1 Generation Units Data

Bus	Min. MW	Max. MW	Min. MVAR	Max. MVAR
Demyat	0	1200	0	800
Mahmodyea	0	317.4	0	211
Talkha	0	1250	0	830
Damanhour	0	495	0	330
Aboitan	0	600	0	350

Table A-2 Bus Data

Bus	Type	Voltage kV	Load MW	Load MVAR
1	PV	220	280	117
2	PV	220	0	0
3	PV	220	156	111
4	PV	220	102	5
5	PV	220	499	216
6	PQ	220	183	57
7	PQ	220	81	56
8	PQ	220	178	139
9	PQ	220	55	36
10	PQ	220	128	94
11	PQ	220	120	82
12	PQ	220	340	31
13	PQ	220	0	0
14	PQ	220	117	87

Table A-3 Branch Data

From	To	R p.u	X p.u	B/2 p.u	Rating MVA
1	6	.00187	.01372	.0845	220
1	9	.004944	.03624	.2232	176
1	7	.011266	.08258	.5088	176
6	9	.004944	.03524	.2232	176
9	10	.008509	.06237	.38417	176
9	5	.018727	.13727	.8454	220
10	3	.002546	.01866	.11498	176
3	11	.0135	.049418	.2225	132
3	13	.021375	.01083	.3523	132
3	12	.024375	.1235	.5495	220
11	2	.00618	.0627	.279	132
7	8	.0042136	.03088	.19027	165
8	2	.01053	.0772	.4755	165
5	4	.005175	.01894	.0853	132
4	14	.00945	.04788	.15578	132
14	13	.01035	.05244	.1706	132
12	5	.028425	.1425	.4636	220