

# Distribution Planning Based on Reliability and Contingency Criteria

Sandeep Chakravorty, Smarajit Ghosh

**Abstract**—Conductor layout plays a vital role in distribution planning. Here in this paper we suggest the distribution planning by the means of Analytical Hierarchy Process (AHP) where we take into consideration some aspects of reliability such as miles of conductor, feeder failures, customer interruption, maximum interruption, estimated relative cost. The results of the discussed techniques will lead to a configuration of substation that will minimize substation construction cost. It will further lower long range distribution expenses as it will lead to optimum feeder path. The application of the proposed methodology to a case study is presented.

**Keywords**—Power distribution planning, AHP technique, optimization methods.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Decision making features occurs in all the fields of the human activities such as scientific and technological and affects every sphere of the life. Engineering design, which entails sizing, dimensioning, and detailed element planning is also not exempt from its influence.

Normally, any engineering problem will have large number of solutions out of which some of are feasible and some are infeasible. The designer's task is to get the best solution out of the feasible solutions.

The available literature consists of work of only few researchers on the field of distribution planning. Most of them are based on mathematical programming such as transportation, transshipment algorithms [8, 9], mixed integer programming [10], dynamic programming [11] etc. Unfortunately only near optimal solutions have been obtained by these mathematical programming methods because almost every method has made some approximations on the model of distribution planning, moreover these methods are often complicated and time consuming.

In the work done by K.K.Li and T.S. Chung [3] genetic algorithm have been used to find the optimum location of substation to meet the load demands of 13 load points whose coordinates and MVA demands are given.

Similar work has been carried out by Belgin Turkay and Taylan Artac [1], work has also been carried out by J.F.Gomez *et.al.*, [2].

In all the above cases planning of laying the feeders or distribution planning has been done either by man machine interface or heuristic algorithm. The papers further don't take into consideration aspects of reliability which are very much

essential in power distribution factors such as line down, transformer out of service, interruption, estimated relative cost etc. Here in this paper we suggest the distribution planning by the means of Analytical Hierarchy Process (AHP) where we take into consideration some aspects of reliability such as miles of conductor, feeder failures, customer interruption, maximum interruption, estimated relative cost.

A complete survey of the proposed techniques for the solution of the planning problem of primary distribution circuits can be found in [15] and [16]. Initially the proposed methods were mainly based upon the generation and evaluation of possible solutions, oriented to small size problems, and requiring important efforts for the production of the alternatives to be evaluated. Among these the heuristic zone valuation and the generation of service areas methods may be mentioned. They rely completely upon the experience of the planning engineer and have the disadvantage that the best alternative may not be considered.

The planning problem of primary distribution networks has been basically stated as a classical mixed integer linear programming problem, where an objective function that includes both the investment and the operation cost of the network, is minimized subject to technical constraints related with the characteristics of the electric service [17]. This formulation includes binary variables linked to the fixed costs associated to some of the decision variables as well as linear approximations to represent the variable costs.

Stated as such the classical branch and bound techniques [17] have a natural application. Although the continuous research and improvement of these techniques keeps them as an alternative always to be considered, the linear approximations as well as the combinatorial complexity of the problem question their application to electric systems of real dimensions due to the requirements of excessive computing resources. This is the main reason for the application of alternative approaches, such as those classified as metaheuristic methods that are able to locate good solutions with reduced computational effort.

In order to reduce the computation requirements of the branch and bound optimization technique, the identification of the set of variables that affects most of the results was proposed in order to reduce the complexity of the mathematical model [16] however a linear approximation of the variable costs is required and excessive solution times are reported as the number of binary variables increases.

Heuristic search methods have been developed [17], [18], showing faster performance than the conventional optimization techniques but with some limitations in the goodness of the solutions to the problem that are obtained.

In [20] an open loop planning procedure is proposed where

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an expert system based upon the use of geographical information is applied to automate the selection of the primary and secondary circuit routes. GA's have also been applied to the solution of this problem, reducing the solution time and enhancing the obtained results [15], [18], [21], [22], [23]. In [22] a solution methodology based upon a GA is proposed for the design of primary distribution circuits considering multiple system expansion stages, where a special coding procedure is proposed to reduce the number of unfeasible solutions evaluated by the algorithm. These methodologies have been improved significantly. An evolutionary programming algorithm is presented in [25], considering the uncertainties of the possible scenarios. In [16] and [24] the potential of the GA's is shown in comparison with classical optimization techniques to solve the planning problem in a very complete and detailed formulation considering the nonlinearity of the cost function, the limits of the voltage magnitudes and a term in the objective function to take into account the reliability of the system, reporting significant improvements in the solution times. An integer variable coding scheme was used to facilitate the consideration of different conductor sizes and substation sizes also new genetic operators were proposed to improve the performance of the algorithm. In [26] the approach is expanded to consider the multiple development stages as well as multiple objectives. In [31] an evolutionary approach is applied to the design of a medium voltage network using a detailed model of the network. All the suggest methods fail to take into consideration aspects of reliability. This new methodology suggests a distribution planning technique taking into consideration aspects of reliability.

## II. PROPOSED METHODOLOGY

Figure 1 and figure 2 show two different configurations for feeder layout to reach the same customer points. Each node represents 100 customers (identical in both feeder layouts). Both feeders have a failure rate of once per year per mile. A fuse protects the rest of the feeder from outages behind every node. Numbers shown at the middle of each segment are the expected failures for that segment. Numbers shown at nodes are the total customer interruptions/year expected at that node assuming the protection works. Although simplified, this example illustrates well both the concept and the typical magnitude of differences in costs and reliability between layouts. The reason for the difference is due to variations in the extent of outages that can be expected on the feeders.

Now for determining whether node N3 and N4 to be connected as shown in fig 1 or as shown in fig 2 we make use of the Analytical Hierarchy Process (AHP). AHP is a multi-criteria decision making process that allows working with both numerical factors and those that are un-tangible and subjective. It provides a structured way to determine the weighting factors for each criterion and applies the weights to the comparison of alternatives. AHP uses pair wise comparisons of design concepts to convert a statement ("this is vary important", "this is not so important") into a numerical value.

To determine the conductor layout following factors have been considered:

a). Miles of conductor.

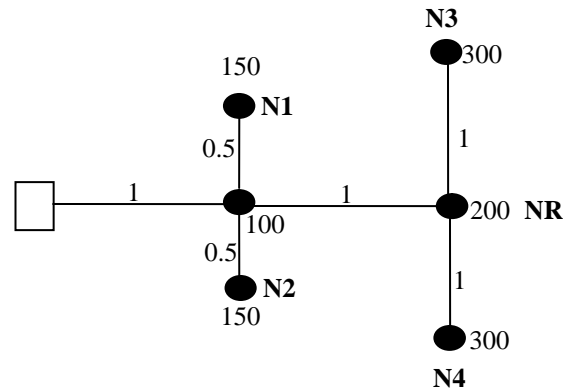


Figure 1

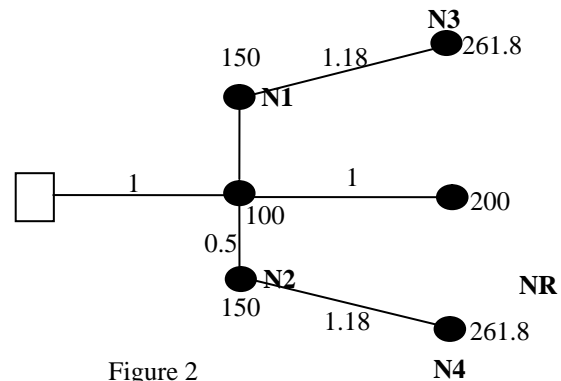


Figure 2

□ substation

● node

Table: 1 (Reliability related differences between the feeder layouts shown in Fig 1 and Fig 2)

Statistic	Fig 1 layout	Fig 2 layout	Difference
Miles of conductor	5.00	5.24	+4.8%
Feeder failures/yr.	5.00	5.24	+4.8%
Customer interr./yr.	1200	1124	-6.76%
Maximum interr.cust.	3.00	2.62	-12.6%
Estimated relative cost	1.00	1.03	+3.0%

b). Feeder failures/year.

c). Customer interruption/year.

d). Maximum interruption/customer.

e). Estimated relative cost.

In deciding how much more strongly does this criterion influence the outcome than the other criterion a nine point scale has been used (1 indicates equal importance; 3 indicates moderate importance; 5 indicates strong importance; 7 indicates very strong importance; 9 indicates extreme importance)

**Applying AHP:**

**Determining weighing factors:**

	Miles of conductor	Feeder failures/yr	Customer interruption/year	Maximum interruption/customer	Estimated relative cost
Miles of conductor	1	1/3	1/5	1/7	1/9
Feeder failures/yr	3	1	1/3	1/5	1/7
Customer interruption/year	5	3	1	1/3	1/5
Maximum interruption/customer	7	5	3	1	1/3
Estimated relative cost	9	7	5		1

**Normalization matrix for criteria:**

	Miles of conductor	Feeder failures/yr	Customer interruption/year	Maximum interruption/customer	Estimated relative cost
Miles of conductor	0.04	0.02	0.021	0.030	0.062
Feeder failures/yr	0.12	0.06	0.035	0.043	0.079
Customer interruption/year	0.2	0.18	0.105	0.071	0.111
Maximum interruption/customer	0.28	0.30	0.315	0.214	0.186
Estimated relative cost	0.36	0.42	0.524	0.641	0.559

**Priority vector for criteria:**

Miles of conductor =  $(0.04 + 0.020 + 0.021 + 0.030 + 0.062)/5 = 0.0346$   
 Feeder failures/yr. =  $(0.12 + 0.061 + 0.035 + 0.043 + 0.079)/5 = 0.0676$   
 Customer interruption/yr. =  $(0.2 + 0.184 + 0.105 + 0.071 + 0.111)/5 = 0.1342$   
 Maximum interruption/customer =  $(0.28 + 0.306 + 0.315 + 0.214 + 0.186)/5 = 0.2602$   
 Estimated relative cost =  $(0.36 + 0.428 + 0.524 + 0.641 + 0.559)/5 = 0.5024$

**Determining weighing factors taking into consideration miles of conductor:**

NR	NR	N1
N1	1	3
	1/3	1

**Normalization matrix:**

NR	NR	N1
N1	3/4	3/4
	1/4	1/4

**Priority vector:**

$NR = (3/4 + 3/4)/2 = 3/4$   
 $N1 = (1/4 + 1/4)/2 = 1/4$

**Determining weighing factors taking into consideration feeder failures/yr.:**

NR	NR	N1
N1	1	3
	1/3	1

**Normalization matrix:**

NR	NR	N1
N1	3/4	3/4
	1/4	1/4

**Priority vector:**

$NR = (3/4 + 3/4)/2 = 3/4$   
 $N1 = (1/4 + 1/4)/2 = 1/4$

**Determining weighing factors taking into consideration customer interruption/yr:**

NR	NR	N1
N1	1	1/9
	9	1

**Normalization matrix:**

NR	NR	N1
N1	1/10	1/10
	9/10	9/10

**Priority vector:**

$NR = (1/10 + 1/10)/2 = 1/10$   
 $N1 = (9/10 + 9/10)/2 = 9/10$

**Determining weighing factors taking into consideration maximum interruption/yr:**

NR	NR	N1
N1	1	1/7
	7	1

**Normalization matrix:**

NR	NR	N1
N1	1/8	1/8
	7/8	7/8

**Priority vector:**

$NR = (1/8 + 1/8)/2 = 1/8$   
 $N1 = (7/8 + 7/8)/2 = 7/8$

**Determining weighing factors taking into consideration estimated relative cost:**

NR	NR	N1
N1	1	3
	1/3	1

**Normalization matrix:**

NR	NR	N1
N1	3/4	3/4
	1/4	1/4

**Priority vector:**

$NR = (3/4 + 3/4)/2 = 3/4$

$$N1 = (1/4 + 1/4)/2 = 1/4$$

Finally we complete the AHP matrix:

$$NR = (3/4) \times 0.0346 + (3/4) \times 0.0676 + (1/10) \times 0.1342 + (1/8) \times 0.2602 + (3/4) \times 0.5024$$

$$= 0.026 + 0.051 + 0.013 + 0.032 + 0.377 = 0.499$$

$$N1 = (1/4) \times 0.0346 + (1/4) \times 0.0676 + (9/10) \times 0.1342 + (7/8) \times 0.2602 + (1/4) \times 0.5024$$

$$= 0.009 + 0.017 + 0.121 + 0.228 + 0.126 = 0.501$$

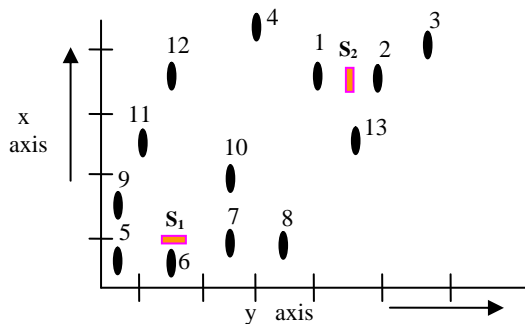
So we choose the feeder layout as shown in fig 2

### III. CASE STUDY

Let us have a system where thirteen load points are present which are to be fed from two substations depending on the capacity and the load demands. The layout of feeders for feeding the thirteen load points depends on the following factors:

- Miles of conductor.
- Feeder failures/year.
- Customer interruption/year.
- Maximum interruption/customer.
- Estimated relative cost.

Substation location has been obtained by the use of genetic algorithm stated in [33]. The distribution layout is done using AHP technique. The pictorial representation of the problem is as shown in fig 1.



- indicates load points
- indicates substation

Figure 3 (Representation of the problem)

Results of genetic algorithm allots load points (7 10 8 6 11 9 12 5) to substation 1 and load points (13 1 4 2 3) to substation 2 and gives the optimum location of substation 1 as (3 2) and that of substation 2 as (9 7). Now for determining the conductor layout we apply the AHP technique. Load point 1 being close to substation 2 we connect load point 1 to substation 2. Now to decide whether load point 2 needs to get connected to substation 2 or to load point 1 we apply AHP as shown below:

#### Applying AHP:

##### Determining weighing factors taking into consideration miles of conductor:

	Sub 2	Node 1
Sub 2	1	3
Node 1	1/3	1

##### Normalization matrix:

	Sub 2	Node 1
Sub 2	3/4	3/4
Node 1	1/4	1/4

##### Priority vector:

$$\text{Sub 2} = (3/4 + 3/4)/2 = 3/4$$

$$\text{Node 1} = (1/4 + 1/4)/2 = 1/4$$

##### Determining weighing factors taking into consideration feeder failures/yr.:

	Sub 2	Node 1
Sub 2	1	3
Node 1	1/3	1

##### Normalization matrix:

	Sub 2	Node 1
Sub 2	3/4	3/4
Node 1	1/4	1/4

##### Priority vector:

$$\text{Sub 2} = (3/4 + 3/4)/2 = 3/4$$

$$\text{Node 1} = (1/4 + 1/4)/2 = 1/4$$

##### Determining weighing factors taking into consideration customer interruption/yr:

	Sub 2	Node 1
Sub 2	1	1/7
Node 1	7	1

##### Normalization matrix:

	Sub 2	Node 1
Sub 2	1/8	1/8
Node 1	7/8	7/8

##### Priority vector:

$$\text{Sub 2} = (1/8 + 1/8)/2 = 1/8$$

$$\text{Node 1} = (7/8 + 7/8)/2 = 7/8$$

##### Determining weighing factors taking into consideration maximum interruption/yr:

	Sub 2	Node 1
Sub 2	1	1/7
Node 1	7	1

##### Normalization matrix:

	Sub 2	Node 1
Sub 2	1/8	1/8
Node 1	7/8	7/8

##### Priority vector:

$$\text{Sub 2} = (1/8 + 1/8)/2 = 1/8$$

$$\text{Node 1} = (7/8 + 7/8)/2 = 7/8$$

##### Determining weighing factors taking into consideration estimated relative cost:

	Sub 2	Node 1
Sub 2	1	3
Node 1	1/3	1

##### Normalization matrix:

	Sub 2	Node 1
Sub 2	3/4	3/4
Node 1	1/4	1/4

**Priority vector:**

$$\text{Sub 2} = (3/4 + 3/4)/2 = 3/4$$

$$\text{Node 1} = (1/4 + 1/4)/2 = 1/4$$

Finally we complete the AHP matrix:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Sub 2} &= (3/4) \times 0.0346 + (3/4) \times 0.0676 + (1/8) \times 0.1342 + \\ &(1/8) \times 0.2602 + (3/4) \times 0.5024 \\ &= 0.503 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Node 1} &= (1/4) \times 0.0346 + (1/4) \times 0.0676 + (7/8) \times 0.1342 + \\ &(7/8) \times 0.2602 + (1/4) \times 0.5024 \\ &= 0.496 \end{aligned}$$

So we connect the load point 2 to substation 2.

Proceeding in the manner stated above we get the conductor layout as shown in fig 2.

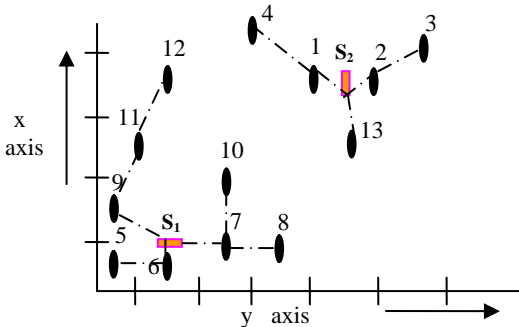


Figure 4 (Showing the final conductor layout from the substations)

**IV. CONCLUSION**

Experts rating on various factors such as

- i). Miles of conductor.
- ii). Feeder failures/year.
- iii). Customer interruption/year.
- iv). Maximum interruption/customer.
- v). Estimated relative cost.

are to be considered before deciding the conductor layout in distribution planning system. Conventional techniques for suggestion of conductor layout do not take into consideration such factors and decisions of experts. Here to meet the given drawback we have suggested an AHP technique for deciding the layout of the feeder path.

The method gives an optimum conductor layout considering the stated factors.

**V. DISCUSSION**

Here in the suggested method of AHP options keeps on increasing as we go from one node to another, thus increasing the matrix size. For connection of node 2 we have with us two options either to connect it to substation 2 or to node 1 whereas while considering the connection for node 3 we will have with us three options, connect to either substation 2 or node 1 or node 2. This turns out to be a major drawback while dealing with number of nodes. We can further think of taking into account such factors and experts decision while deciding the optimum location of the substations.

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