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Published in: Sustainable Energy Technologies and Assessments

DOI (link to publication from Publisher): 10.1016/j.seta.2024.103622

Publication date: 2024

Link to publication from Aalborg University

Citation for published version (APA):

Daryani, N., Zare, K., Tohidi, S., Guerrero, J. M., & Bazmohammadi, N. (2024). Optimal construction of microgrids in a radial distribution system considering system reliability via proposing dominated group search optimization algorithm. Sustainable Energy Technologies and Assessments, 63, 103622. Article 103622. https://doi.org/10.1016/i.seta.2024.103622

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Optimal Construction of Microgrids in a Radial Distribution System Considering System Reliability via Proposing Dominated Group Search Optimization Algorithm

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Abstract: In contemporary electrical networks, reliability stands as a paramount attribute. Since the introduction of distributed generation (DG) and microgrid (MG) concepts has considerably changed the structure of distribution networks, it is necessary to consider reliability aspects while going toward modern smart grids. This study introduces a novel methodology focusing on the partitioning of radial distribution systems into distinct MGs, strategically aimed at minimizing energy not supplied (ENS) to fortify overall system reliability. Two types of faults are considered including DG and busbar failures, and the impact of each kind of fault is investigated. Besides, a new Markov model is proposed to evaluate the reliability of DGs and MGs. Given the stochastic nature of the majority of DGs, the incorporation of energy storage systems (ESSs) can significantly enhance system performance. Therefore, this paper dedicates attention to exploring optimal ESS placement. To address the complex challenge of optimizing system partitioning, a modified version of the group search optimization (GSO) algorithm, named dominated GSO (DGSO) is proposed. The PG&E 69-bus distribution system is studied with two different structures to accurately investigate the effectiveness of the proposed partitioning approach on the system reliability. Moreover, the optimal number of MGs to be constructed within the intended system is determined.

Keywords System Partitioning; Reliability; Microgrid; Distributed Generation; Energy Storage

System; Dominated Group Search Optimization Algorithm.

Nomenclature

AGSO	Adaptive Grou	up	Search	num _{DG}	Number	of	DGs	in	the
	Optimization Algorithm			Distribution System					
a	Number of Boundary Lines			num _{Bus}	Number	of	Busbars	in	the
BG	Biomass Generator				Distributio	on Sy	stem		
BL	Boundary Line			num _{MG}	Number	of	MGs	in	the
b	Number of Inst	alled	Energy		Distributio	on Sy	stem		
	Storage Systems			num Up-MG	Number of	f Ups	tream N	/IGs	
DER	Distributed Energy	Resou	rces	P _{DG}	Active Por	wer	Generat	ed by	DG
DG	Distributed Genera	tion			Unit				
DGSO	Dominated Gro	oup	Search	PDF	Probability	y Dis	tributio	n Func	tion
	Optimization Algo	rithm		PSO	Particle Swarm Optimization				i
ENS	Energy Not Suppli	ed		PV	Photo Vol	taic			
ENSDG	ENS Caused by	DG H	Failures	RES	Renewable	e Ene	ergy Res	ource	S
	within a MG			r	Repair Tin	ne			
ENS_{MG}	ENS Caused by B	usbar F	Failures	SAIDI	System	Aver	age Ir	ıterrup	otion
	within a MG				Duration I	ndex			
ENS' _{MG}	ENS Caused by B	usbar H	Failures	SAIFI	System 2	Aver	age Ir	ıterrup	otion
	in Upstream MG				Failure Inc	lex			
ESS	Energy Storage Sy	stem		WT	Wind Turk	oine			
ES _{Place}	Place for Insta	lling	Energy	X _P	Position of	f the	Produce	er	
	Storage System			X _{P,R}	Position	of t	he Pro	oducer	of
GA	Genetic Algorithm				Rangers				
GSO	Group Search	Optim	nization	Xs	Position of	f the	Scroung	ger	
	Algorithm			Ι	Failure Ra	te			
LC	Load Curtailment			т	Repair Rat	te			
Μ	Number of busbar	rs in up	ostream	ρ	Probability	y of	Each	Gener	ated
	MG.				State for S	tocha	astic Pa	ramete	ers
MG	Microgrid								
Ν	Number of States C	Generat	ed for a						
	Stochastic Paramet	ter to E	stimate						
	its Value								

1

2 1. Introduction

During the last two decades, distribution systems has been undergoing considerable changes due
to the vast integration of DERs. Development of DG technologies facilitates the local supply of

system consumers [1, 2]. Accordingly, distribution systems can be divided into smaller zones 1 where each zone might rely either on its local production or on power exchange with surrounding 2 zones, which gives rise to the concept of MGs. A MG is known as a cluster of loads, DERs, and 3 ESSs with two operating modes, namely grid-connected and islanded modes [3, 4]. MGs can bring 4 5 many advantages to distribution systems, but dividing a large distribution system into several 6 smaller MGs increases the complexity of the system operation [5]. System partitioning includes determination of boundaries between MGs and allocation of DERs to each MG, which are essential 7 requirements for power system planning. The optimal allocation of DG units within a distribution 8 9 system has been comprehensively studied to improve various aspects of the system such as minimizing system losses, improving voltage stability, and reducing environmental pollution [6-10 10]. 11

If MGs in a distribution system are optimally designed and the boundaries between them are 12 accurately determined, superior performance and control of the smart grid will be obtained. The 13 concept of self-adequacy is introduced in optimal MG construction studies, since increasing the 14 internal supply capacity will result in improving the independent performance of the MG. Hence, 15 minimizing the amount of power flows between MGs is considered as the objective of the planning 16 17 optimization problem [11-14]. Although the MGs with high supply adequacy operate appropriately in the electricity markets, their power quality, reliability and stability may not be satisfactory. 18 19 Moreover, the optimal number of MGs is not taken into account in the existing studies. In addition 20 to the supply adequacy concept, the consumer-side properties are also taken into account in optimal MG construction studies. Noteworthy, improving the consumer-side properties leads to more 21 22 customer satisfaction which is of high importance in the modern competitive electricity markets. 23 To this end, increasing the load factor and decreasing the load variance of constructed MGs are considered the goals of the optimal system partitioning problem in [15]. Despite the acceptable
power quality which is obtained by improving the consumer-side properties, investigating the
effect of the probable faults on the system operation is also of high importance. The reliable
performance of the system under fault conditions, as well as the system's ability to recover from
the faults and return to the stable operation, are impressive aspects that are not considered in the
above-mentioned studies. Moreover, the number of MGs to be constructed is not optimized.

Reliability is known as a significant index for evaluating the electrical networks whereas various 7 indices have been proposed to assess the system reliability [16, 17]. The optimal design of MGs 8 9 in a distribution system improves the system reliability which is rarely taken into account in the literature. In [18], SAIFI and SAIDI as widely-used indices for measuring the system's reliability, 10 are minimized while the optimal places for connect/disconnect switches between MGs are 11 determined. Such objective functions are optimized in [19] by considering optimal placement of 12 DGs, ESSs, and reactive resources in a multi-MG system. However, optimizing both DG allocation 13 and MG construction as well as determining the optimum number of MGs are essential in 14 reliability evaluation of smart grids. Investigating more reliability indices leads to more 15 comprehensive studies. When it comes to smart grids, the conventional formulations for reliability 16 17 indices should be revised to be applicable in MGs context. Simultaneous operation of several MGs and interactions between them besides the impacts of working in grid-connected or islanded modes 18 should be considered. Failure occurrence in a MG can affect the normal and reliable operation of 19 20 other zones which is rarely taken into account in previous investigations. DGs, as the local electricity resources, play an important role in enhancing the independency of modern distribution 21 22 systems. Therefore, considering the effect of DGs interruptions on the system reliability is an

important issue that is missed in the existing studies. Accordingly, appropriate models are required
 to account for failures in the MGs and DGs in distribution systems reliability analysis.

In this paper, optimal MG construction is studied to improve system reliability. To this end, the 3 total amount of ENS is minimized by the optimal placement of interconnection switches between 4 MGs. ENS is the amount of energy that is not delivered to the customers when a failure happens 5 6 in the system [20]. It is worthy to evaluate system ENS as a measure that indicates the ability of a system in supplying loads during fault conditions. Two types of failures are considered in this 7 paper: DG failures and busbar failures. The impact of each failure on the whole system is 8 9 investigated and the total ENS is calculated. The optimal ESS placement is also carried out which results in improved utilization of DG capacities and enhanced system performance. Further, a new 10 Markov model is used to assess the reliability of installed stochastic DG units. As the reliable 11 performance of the upstream MG(s) would considerably influence the downstream zones, it is 12 important to assign suitable reliability indices for upstream MGs. To this end, a new Markov model 13 14 is proposed to assess the reliability of upstream zones and evaluate the whole distribution system reliability. Since the interactions between MGs extremely affect the system reliability, the 15 optimum number of MGs to be constructed in the distribution system is also determined in this 16 17 paper. Noteworthy, the impacts of probable external failures (such as storms) on the system reliability are not taken into account in this paper. 18

Due to the existence of redundant connections in power systems and complexity of the required calculations, heuristic optimization algorithms are proposed to find the solution [21, 22]. GSO is a robust heuristic algorithm that operates based on animals group living manner, especially group searching behavior [23]. Various improved versions of GSO algorithm have been proposed and implemented in power system studies representing appropriate performance in finding solutions [24-27]. A novel improved version of GSO algorithm named as DGSO algorithm is used in this
 paper. Comprehensive search, appropriate convergence speed, and reaching satisfactory solutions
 are the main properties of the applied DGSO approach [15]. According to the obtained results for
 optimal placement of switches and ESSs, DGSO algorithm represents reasonable performance.

5 The rest of this paper is organized as follows; In Section 2, the problem formulation is presented 6 and, the proposed DGSO algorithm is described comprehensively in Section 3. The 7 implementation procedure of optimization method is provided in Section 4. Simulation results are 8 reported in Section 5 alongside the analysis and evaluations. Ultimately, conclusions are presented 9 in Section 6.

10

11 **2.** Problem Formulation and Reliability Evaluation

Two types of failures are considered in a MG, namely DG and busbar failures. From a MG's point of view, each fault can cause ENS within the damaged MG or other neighboring zones. Therefore, a new Markov model is proposed in this paper in order to appropriately model each system component and facilitate the reliability evaluations. This section is dedicated to explain the proposed Markov models, reliability evaluations, and ENS formulations.

17 2.1. ENS Caused by DG Failures

The generated power of DG units can be stochastic or constant. The injected power by DGs is consumed by the local loads and the surplus power is absorbed by the installed ESSs to be released during peak load times. When a DG unit fails, it is disconnected from the rest of the system to prevent fault propagation. Therefore, the amount of ENS caused by a failure in a DG unit is equal to its generated energy. Considering the stochastic generation, the ENS value due to DG failures in a distribution system is calculated as [29]:

1
$$ENS_{DG} = \sum_{i=1}^{num_{DG}} ENS_{DG_i} = \sum_{i=1}^{num_{DG}} \lambda_{DG_i} * r_{DG_i} * (\sum_{n=1}^{N} \rho_n * P_{DG_{i,n}})$$
 (1)

It is noteworthy that the probabilistic studies should be carried out to calculate the generated power 2 of DGs with stochastic nature. These investigations involve the assignment of an appropriate PDF 3 4 to each stochastic parameter. The selected PDF, in conjunction with available historical data, facilitates the derivation of several estimated values and their associated probabilities for future 5 6 occurrences. Furthermore, the determination of failure rates and repair times of DG units is 7 essential. To achieve this, a Markov model, as introduced in prior works [28, 29], is employed, where it is assumed that each DG unit consists of several components operating in series. Thus, 8 9 any failure within a component results in the overall failure of the DG unit. Considering the 10 normal/failure states for DG components and determining their failure rates and repair times, a 11 Markov model is formulated, encompassing diverse probable states. Subsequently, the failure rate and repair time corresponding to each DG unit are obtained. The requisite formulations are 12 expounded in the appendix. 13

14 2.2. ENS Caused by Busbar Failure in a MG

According to the structure of radial distribution networks, failure in a busbar leads to disconnection 15 of all downstream parts from the grid. When it comes to smart grid studies, if a busbar in a MG 16 17 fails, all the downstream parts will be separated from each other and the MG goes to islanded mode. Such MG is divided into two parts. The upstream parts of the failed busbar remain connected 18 to the rest of the grid whereas the DG units installed in the downstream part are disconnected from 19 the network to prevent any damage. Accordingly, the loads in the downstream part of the islanded 20 21 MG experience a lack of power supply. The ENS caused by busbar failures within a MG is 22 calculated as:

1
$$ENS_{MG} = \sum_{j=1}^{num_{MG}} ENS_{MG_j} = \sum_{j=1}^{num_{MG}} \sum_{i=1}^{num_{BUS,j}} \lambda_i * r_i * LC_{i,j}$$
 (2)

2 Besides, $LC_{i,j}$ represents the amount of load curtailment in the j^{th} MG due to the outage of the i^{th} 3 busbar. Moreover, $num_{bus,j}$ is the number of busbars located in the j^{th} MG.

4 2.3. ENS Caused by Busbar Failure in Upstream MGs

5 When a busbar fails, all the downstream MGs are separated from each other and start operating in 6 islanded mode. Thus, the DG units installed in downstream MGs should supply the consumers. 7 Hence, if the involved DGs are capable of supplying the total loads, there will be no ENS in such 8 zones. Otherwise, the load curtailment will be inevitable. The amount of ENS is equal to the energy 9 demand which cannot be supplied by the installed DGs. Therefore, ENS in a MG caused by the 10 busbar failures in upstream zones is equal to:

11
$$ENS'_{MG} = \sum_{j=1}^{num_{MG}} ENS'_{MG_j} = \sum_{j=1}^{num_{MG}} (1 - \eta_j) \sum_{i=1}^{num_{UP-MG,j}} \lambda_i * r_i * LC_j$$
 (3)

where η_j is a probability index to show the ability of the *j*th MG to supply the total installed loads. 12 It is noteworthy that η_i is derived by dividing the count of states where the power generated by 13 DGs in MG_i surpasses the load demand, by the total number of states during a year. λ_i and r_i denote 14 the failure rate and repair time attributed to busbar failures in the i^{th} upstream MG, respectively. 15 16 The calculations for λ_i and r_i , are facilitated by an efficient Markov model proposed in this paper. When it comes to reliability evaluations of a downstream MG, the structure of distribution system 17 and the placement of MGs should be considered. This paper explores two distinct structural 18 possibilities: single branch and multi-branch radial distribution systems. The requisite 19 formulations are provided in the appendix. It is worth mentioning that for the inclusion of line 20

1 failures in the reliability analysis, a parallel procedure to that of busbar failure can be followed.

2 However, in the sake of brevity of the paper, it is not further discussed in this study.

3 2.4. ENS Calculation and Objective Function Formulation

As previously stated, the failure of a DG unit within a MG results in its disconnection from the entire grid, allowing the remaining components of the system to proceed with normal operations. Hence, DG failure is regarded as an internal failure. On the other hand, a busbar failure leads to its disconnection from the upstream grid. This implies that each MG suffers from its internal busbar failures and also from the faults occurring in upstream busbars. Accordingly, the total system ENS is calculated as follows.

$$10 \begin{cases} Internal ENS = \sum_{i=1}^{num_{DG}} ENS_{DG_i} + \sum_{j=1}^{num_{MG}} ENS_{MG_j} \\ External ENS = \sum_{i=1}^{num_{MG}} ENS'_{MG_i} \\ Objective Function = Total ENS = Internal ENS + External ENS \end{cases}$$

$$(4)$$

11

12 **3. Optimization Algorithm**

Since recent decades, heuristic optimization algorithms are developed in all kinds of forms [30, 31]. Heuristic algorithms operate based on searching strategies. The more efficiency of the searching method, the more authority of reaching global optima. Hence, various heuristic optimization algorithms are proposed, improved, and used for optimization problems [32, 33].

This study employs a modified version of GSO algorithm, designated as DGSO algorithm. The GSO algorithm, recognized for its robustness, has shown commendable performance in addressing non-linear, non-convex, and complex problems of power systems. Operating within the GSO framework, members are categorized into three groups: a producer, scroungers, and rangers. At each iteration, the GSO member with the best fitness value is selected as the producer, utilizing its vision ability to explore neighboring points for potential better solutions. Scroungers are directed towards the producer, because it is more probable to find better solutions in the producer vicinity. Rangers, on the other hand, undertake random walks across the search space to ensure a comprehensive search.

6 AGSO algorithm, a recent proposed version of GSO [25], elects the ranger member with the best position as the "Producer of Rangers" and equipped it with vision ability 7 as well as the main "Producer". Hence, the probability of finding better opportunities is 8 9 increased. According to the conventional AGSO algorithm, the decision for each scrounger to follow a specific producer is random, potentially leading to missed 10 opportunities within the closer producer's vicinity. Addressing this issue, DGSO 11 algorithm is proposed which is equipped with smart scroungers. The scroungers of 12 DGSO can decide whether to follow the producer or the producer of rangers according 13 to their distances. Therefore, the distance of each scrounger from available producers is 14 calculated. If the mentioned scrounger is closer to the main producer, it should follow 15 the same producer. Otherwise, it should walk through the producer of rangers. To find 16 the nearest producer and joining it, a scrounger should move as follows [15]: 17

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbf{18} \quad \begin{cases}
X_{S,i}^{k+1} = X_{S,i}^{k} + r \circ \left(\left| X_{P}^{k} - X_{S,i}^{k} \right| \right) & \left| X_{P}^{k} - X_{S,i}^{k} \right| < \left| X_{P_{R}}^{k} - X_{S,i}^{k} \right| \\
X_{S,i}^{k+1} = X_{S,i}^{k} + r \circ \left(\left| X_{P_{R}}^{k} - X_{S,i}^{k} \right| \right) & \left| X_{P_{R}}^{k} - X_{S,i}^{k} \right| < \left| X_{P}^{k} - X_{S,i}^{k} \right| \end{cases} \tag{5}
\end{aligned}$$

19 where k is representative for the iteration number.

20

21 4. Implementation of the Proposed Method

22 In this section, the implementation procedure of the proposed methods and

mathematical formulations for the reliability evaluations are elaborated. According to 1 the proposed DGSO method, each member of the optimization algorithm is a vector of 2 decision variables including the potential boundary lines between the MGs and places 3 for installing ESSs. The group members of DGSO algorithm can be formed as 4 $[BL_1, BL_2, \dots, BL_a, ES_{place, 1}, ES_{place, 2}, \dots, ES_{place, b}].$ Moreover, the number of 5 scroungers, rangers, and iterations are set to 25, 25, and 100, respectively. The 6 implementation process of the proposed method for the system partitioning is depicted 7 8 in the flowchart shown in Fig.1.



1 5. Simulation Results and Numerical Analysis

This section presents the simulation results and assesses the effect of implementing the 2 proposed partitioning method on system reliability. Initially, the analysis assumes a 3 distribution system comprising a single branch, followed by the consideration of a 4 distribution network with multiple branches. The PG&E 69-bus distribution system is 5 6 selected as the test system. The required data including the system structure, connected loads, and impedances of lines are provided in [34]. The siting and sizing of installed 7 DGs are illustrated in the appendix as Table.B.1. WTs and PV modules are the 8 9 stochastic DGs whereas BGs are the constant ones. The calculations of generated power by the DGs and consumed power by the loads are sourced from [12]. Besides, 10 the relevant reliability information including failure rate and repair time of system 11 busbars and installed DGs are available in [28, 35]. On the other hand, the mentioned 12 test system is considered with a different structure where all busbars are linearly 13 arranged within a single branch. Notably, the analysis of the single branch structure is 14 pursued to ensure a more precise evaluation. It is assumed that the clustered zones must 15 encompass a minimum of three busbars and a single DG unit to qualify as a MG. 16 Within each MG, the installed DGs/ESSs are mandated to supply a minimum of 20% 17 of the internal load demand during the normal operational conditions, ensuring an 18 19 acceptable level of supply adequacy within the partitioned zones. The ESS configuration comprises two batteries, each with the maximum power limit of 200 kW. 20

Furthermore, an Indian high order radial distribution system with 85 busbars is taken into account in the third case to more distinctly illustrate the impact of optimal MG partitioning on the system reliability. The required data including the connections between busbars, involved loads, etc. is available in [36]. The rated values of operating
 DGs and the installing places of DERs are also represented in [37].

3 5.1. Case.1

In this case, a single branch form of the considered radial distribution system is
studied. The obtained results including the virtual cut set lines between MGs, optimal
places for ESSs in addition to calculated values for ENS are reported in Table.1.
Moreover, the calculated amounts of ENS caused by internal and upstream failures are
depicted in Fig.B.1, and Fig.B.2, respectively. Consequently, Fig.2 represents the
obtained values for the system total ENS.

10		Table.1: Optimization results corresponding to Case.1					
	MG Num	Boundary Lines	ESS Places	ENS - Internal Failures (MWh/year)	ENS - External Failures (MWh/year)	Total ENS (MWh/year)	
	2	52	10, 47	128.8064	10.5476	139.354	
	3	18, 52	34, 54	88.577	47.7746	136.3516	
	4	8, 30, 52	54, 60	61.5159	74.9305	136.4464	
	5	8, 23, 38, 52	14, 17	49.6902	87.3342	137.0244	
	6	8, 17, 30, 41, 52	22, 27	44.8056	93.5519	138.3575	
	7	7, 17, 21, 37, 52, 57	56, 61	44.4347	94.0934	138.5281	
	8	8, 17, 21, 34, 42, 51, 57	40, 50	39.4643	100.2912	139.7555	





Increasing the number of MGs in a single branch radial distribution system, the size of 1 constructed zones decreases and, the number of upstream MGs increases. According to 2 Fig.B.1, the number of components located in each zone decreases which means that 3 the amount of ENS caused by internal failures reduces. Besides, the number of 4 constructed MGs in the upstream part increases which enhances the ENS caused by the 5 upstream failures as depicted in Fig.B.2. Hence, an optimal number of MGs could be 6 determined, aiming to minimize the total system ENS. Fig.2 indicates that constructing 7 three MGs represents the optimal design for the considered distribution system. A 8 9 schematic representation of the system, featuring three optimally clustered MGs and the strategically located ESSs, is depicted in Fig.3 (a). Noteworthy, assuming the 10 absence of MGs results in a total ENS of 153.835 MWh/year due to system failures. 11 System partitioning prevents fault propagation, resulting in 10% reduction in the ENS. 12 Further, optimal ESS placement significantly enhances the system performance. Since, 13 installed ESSs absorb the surplus energy during non-peak hours, and release it when 14 the system power demand increases. To indicate the superior performance of the 15 proposed DGSO algorithm, the obtained results for constructing three MGs by using 16 GA, PSO, conventional GSO, AGSO and DGSO algorithms are compared, as provided 17 The convergence procedures corresponding to in Table.2. various optimization 18 techniques are illustrated in Fig.3 (b). Evidently, the convergence rate of the proposed 19 The DGSO 20 DGSO algorithm markedly surpasses that of alternative algorithms. algorithm, as proposed, demonstrates superior performance relative to alternative 21 methods. Its notable strengths lie in the reaching to more appropriate solutions, the 22 23 execution of a comprehensive search, and a commendable optimization speed.

Optimization Algorithm	Internal ENS (MWh/year)	External ENS (MWh/year)	Total ENS (MWh/year)	time (sec)
GA	89.8811	48.3447	138.2258	19
PSO	90.7694	48.7774	139.5468	21
GSO	90.7688	48.7824	139.5512	17
AGSO	88.7627	47.8211	136.5838	14
DGSO	88.577	47.7746	136.3516	14

Table.2: Comparison of obtained results for Case.1 by various optimization algorithms







Fig.3. Schematic results corresponding to Case.1

1

5.2. Case.2 2

In this case, the PG&E 69-bus distribution test system is studied. After implementing 3 the optimization procedure, optimal values for control variables are obtained, as 4 provided in Table.3. 5

To indicate the performance of proposed DGSO algorithm, the MG partitioning 6 problem is solved by other optimization techniques including PSO, GSO, and AGSO 7 algorithms, too. The obtained results for constructing 5 MGs in the considered multi-8 branch distribution system are reported in Table.4. Noteworthy, constructing more than 9 8 MGs is impossible due to solution infeasibility and the violation of operational 10 constraints. 11

12

Table.3: Optimization results corresponding to Case.2.

MG Num	Boundary Lines	ESS Places	ENS - Internal Failures (MWh/year)	ENS - External Failures (MWh/year)	Total ENS (MWh/year)
2	61	41, 44	59.8226	0.6518	60.4744
3	10, 61	32, 46	53.7537	4.3248	58.0785
4	10, 15, 61	47, 63	52.196	5.1855	57.3815
5	10, 15, 20, 61	39, 44	51.3971	5.6047	57.0018
6	10, 12, 20, 29, 61	14, 32	51.6792	5.3830	57.0622
7	9, 11, 15, 20, 55, 61	34, 50	37.6845	19.2477	56.9323
8	6, 10, 14, 20, 31, 57, 61	41, 45	34.1664	22.5760	56.7424

13

Table.4: Comparison of obtained results for Case.2 by various optimization algorithms.

Optimization Algorithm	ENS - Internal Failures (MWh/year)	ENS - External Failures (MWh/year)	Total ENS (MWh/year)
PSO	52.7432	6.1114	58.8546
GSO	53.566	6.3332	59.8992
AGSO	51.6171	6.002	57.6191
DGSO	51.3971	5.6047	57.0018

Fig.4 (a) illustrates the system's total ENS corresponding to various number of MGs. According 1 to the results, increasing the number of MGs in such distribution system reduces the ENS caused 2 by internal faults, because the number of components in each zone decreases. In a multi-branch 3 distribution system, where the constructed zones are dispersed across different branches rather 4 than linearly arranged, the impact of increasing the number of MGs on ENS resulting from 5 6 upstream failures can either elevate or remain constant. According to Fig.4 (a), total amount of the system ENS has a downward trend and then, it remains constant. Consequently, multiple optimal 7 numbers of MGs may exist, indicating that the optimal count for the studied distribution system is 8 9 equal to 5 or more. However, the definitive determination of the optimal number of MGs necessitates the consideration of additional criteria such as construction cost, required 10 infrastructures and etc. Fig.4 (b) presents a schematic representation of the considered distribution 11 system, optimally partitioned into five MGs with the best reliability indices. 12



14 15



1 2

3

Fig.4. Schematic results corresponding to Case.2

4 5.3. Case.3

This case is dedicated to optimal partitioning of an 85-bus radial distribution system to increase 5 6 the reliability aspects. Implementing the proposed method in a high-order system leads to more accurate investigations and more explicit analysis. The considered network is a multi-branch radial 7 8 distribution system including several loads and DG units which can inject only real power. It is assumed that DGs are previously installed in suitable places considering the system performance. 9 By implementing the optimization procedure, optimal boundaries between MGs are obtained. The 10 total amount of ENS corresponding to various number of MGs is depicted in the appendix as 11 Fig.B.3. 12

From the reliability point of view, partitioning of a large distribution system into several smaller zones leads to a notable reduction in the total ENS and an enhancement in system reliability. As depicted in Fig.B.3, the increase in the number of MGs up to 7 significantly influences the system's ENS. However, beyond 7 MGs, the total ENS exhibits a near-constant trend. Therefore, it could be claimed that constructing 7 or more MGs would be suitable for the studied 85-bus distribution system considering reliability features. Noteworthy to mention, constructing more than 10 MGs is considered impractical based on the assumed operational constraints.

8

9 6. Conclusions

This research presents a novel methodology aimed at partitioning extensive distribution systems 10 into multiple MGs to enhance system reliability by minimizing ENS resulting from DGs and 11 busbar failures. The conventional ENS formulations were modified to account for failure impact 12 within individual MG components and their influence on neighboring MGs. Additionally, optimal 13 placement of energy storages was considered to maximize the utilization of installed DGs. The 14 study introduced the DGSO algorithm, an enhanced version of the group search optimization 15 algorithm, utilizing intelligent scroungers to facilitate an exhaustive search, yielding superior 16 17 solutions. The proposed approach's efficacy was evaluated across three distinct case studies: a single-branch radial distribution system, the PG&E 69-bus system, and an Indian 85-bus test 18 system. The results identified an optimal number of MGs for the single-branch distribution system, 19 20 while the multi-branch radial system indicated multiple potential values for MG count. The promising outcomes observed in implementing the partitioning strategy within the Indian 85-bus 21 22 radial distribution system underscore its practical applicability. This study primarily focuses on 23 mitigating ENS resulting from two specific system failures during network partitioning into MGs.

- 1 While the research acknowledges the importance of examining additional potential system failures
- 2 and their impact on system performance through the assessment of diverse reliability indices or
- 3 the introduction of new measures, it emphasizes the relevance of this work primarily to radial
- 4 distribution systems. Furthermore, as future research, investigating the influence of MG
- 5 construction on the reliability of circular systems is suggested.

6 Acknowledgement

7 This research is supported by a research grant of the University of Tabriz (S.3044)

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Appendix A

✓ ENS Caused by Failures of WTs and PV modules

In this paper, the reliability of installed WTs and PVs is taken into account and the ENS caused by their failure is calculated. To do so, it is assumed that a WT consists of three main components including WT generator, AC/DC rectifier, and DC/AC inverter and, other parts of the WT are assumed to operate completely reliable [28]. On the other hand, a PV module consists of PV array, DC/DC converter, and DC/AC inverter. By considering normal/failure operation of DG components, knowing the failure rate and repair time of each component, and extracting an appropriate Markov model, the reliability indexes of WTs and PVs are calculated as follows [29]:

$$\lambda_{WT} = \lambda_{WG} + \lambda_{\text{Re}c} + \lambda_{Inv} \tag{A.1}$$

$$\mu_{WT} = \frac{1}{r_{WT}} = \frac{\lambda_{WG} + \lambda_{\text{Re}c} + \lambda_{Inv}}{\left[\left(1 + \frac{\lambda_{WG}}{\mu_{WG}} \right)^* \left(1 + \frac{\lambda_{\text{Re}c}}{\mu_{\text{Re}c}} \right)^* \left(1 + \frac{\lambda_{Inv}}{\mu_{Inv}} \right) - 1 \right]}$$
(A.2)

$$\lambda_{PV} = \lambda_{Array} + \lambda_{Conv} + \lambda_{Inv} \tag{A.3}$$

$$\mu_{PV} = \frac{1}{r_{PV}} = \frac{\lambda_{Array} + \lambda_{Conv} + \lambda_{Inv}}{\left[\left(1 + \frac{\lambda_{Array}}{\mu_{Array}} \right)^* \left(1 + \frac{\lambda_{Conv}}{\mu_{Conv}} \right)^* \left(1 + \frac{\lambda_{Inv}}{\mu_{Inv}} \right) - 1 \right]}$$
(A.4)

✓ Single-Branch Radial Distribution System

Assuming that the radial distribution network consists of only one branch, the system busbars are allocated tandem. The schematic of this structure is illustrated in Fig.A.1 (a). For partitioning such systems, MGs would be sited one after the other. If a busbar failure occurs in upstream MGs, all the downstream MGs will be disconnected from the grid. From the reliability point of view, each

upstream MG could be considered as a component consisting of several busbars operating in series with each other. By using the proposed Markov model and assuming the equal failure rates and repair times for all distribution system busbars, the required parameters are calculated as follows:

$$\lambda_{UP-MG} = \lambda_1 + \lambda_2 + \dots + \lambda_M = M * \lambda \tag{A.5}$$

$$\mu_{UP-MG} = \frac{1}{r_{UP-MG}} = \frac{\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 + \dots + \lambda_M}{\left[\left(1 + \frac{\lambda_1}{\mu_1} \right)^* \left(1 + \frac{\lambda_2}{\mu_2} \right)^* \dots * \left(1 + \frac{\lambda_M}{\mu_M} \right) - 1 \right]}$$
(A.6)

$$\mu_{UP-MG} = \frac{1}{r_{UP-MG}} = \frac{M^* \lambda}{\left[\left(1 + \frac{\lambda}{\mu} \right)^M - 1 \right]}$$
(A.7)

where λ_{Up-MG} , μ_{Up-MG} , and r_{Up-MG} indicate the failure rate, repair rate, and repair time corresponding to the busbar failures in an upstream MG, respectively.

✓ Multi-Branch Radial Distribution System

If a multi-branch radial distribution system is studied, the impact of busbar failures in upstream MGs on the downstream zones will be different. When the amount of ENS caused by the upstreamside failures is calculated, the upstream busbars will be in the same path connecting the main grid and downstream zone or not. The branches located in the same path are considered as components that are operating in series which means failure occurrence in one of such busbars leads to disconnection of the downstream zone from the main grid. Fig.A.1 (b) shows the schematic of a radial distribution system with two MGs. MG2 is located in downstream part of MG1. Since MG1 consists of several branches, failure occurrence in some busbars (buses 1-6) will lead to islanded operation of MG2. Then, λ_{Up-MG} , μ_{Up-MG} , and r_{Up-MG} indices are calculated as follows, where M_{Path} is the number of busbars located in the path connecting the MG to the main grid.

$$\lambda_{UP-MG} = \lambda_1 + \lambda_2 + \dots + \lambda_{M_{Path}} = M_{Path} * \lambda$$
(A.8)

$$\mu_{UP-MG} = \frac{1}{r_{UP-MG}} = \frac{\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 + \dots + \lambda_{MPath}}{\left[\left(1 + \frac{\lambda_1}{\mu_1} \right)^* \left(1 + \frac{\lambda_2}{\mu_2} \right)^* \dots * \left(1 + \frac{\lambda_{MPath}}{\mu_{MPath}} \right) - 1 \right]}$$
(A.9)

$$\mu_{UP-MG} = \frac{1}{r_{UP-MG}} = \frac{M_{Path} * \lambda}{\left[\left(1 + \frac{\lambda}{\mu} \right)^{M_{Path}} - 1 \right]}$$
(A.10)



Fig.A.1. Schematic representation of a radial distribution system

Appendix B

Table.B.1: Spec	: Specifications of installed DGs for Case.1 and Case.2 [15].				
DG Type	Installing Places	Ratings (kW)			
WT	16, 25, 34, 49, 52, 55	50, 50, 50, 50, 75, 75			
PV Modules	17, 26, 44, 50, 53, 65	25, 50, 25, 25, 25, 25			
BG	48, 51, 54, 57	150, 150, 150, 100			





