



Sources' Response for supplying energy of a residential load in the form of on-grid hybrid systems



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ABSTRACT

Because of the nonrenewable conventional sources of energy and rising of energy prices, these kinds of energy sources are not responsible to meet increasing of demand any more. So the use of on-grid hybrid systems for their unique characteristics has increased. These forms of organizations would result in reducing of transmission losses, pollution and the ability to exert energy management. This report introduces an economic model for the fuel cell, photovoltaic panels and wind turbine. Three sources of energy beside the local grid can respond to all variations of demand. Since sources of energy should change their productions according to the demand variations, we call it sources' response. The model consists of the cost of supplying energy, cost of recovered thermal energy from the fuel cell, wind turbine power production cost, solar power generation cost, cost of exchange power with the local grid and the cost of maintenance. Finally, it is trying to minimize total cost by the help of three different evolutionary planning methods. Encouraging results promise the use of hybrid systems in supplying residential load in near future.

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Introduction

Due to the removing subsidized energy prices in Iran and rising cost of energy, is there any way to reduce household spending in supplying thermal and electrical power or not? Nowadays, renewable-energy sources such as solar, wind, biomass and geothermal energy are used as a source of clean energy because of their low costs, absence of losses and ignoble emission. Since the nature of some renewable-energy sources is unpredictable, using of multiple production units (Hybrid systems) is a suitable case to meet the requirement of demand [1,2]. These systems can be on-grid or off-grid. Off-grid systems always need battery to respond to load and source changes. Battery usage not only makes the system more complicated and expensive, but also reduces the efficiency of electricity generation to 20% or more. Therefore, in this paper, the battery cannot be found. However, grid-connected systems can be supplied by local grid and are able to exchange electricity with it. These systems use, the local grid as a mechanism for unlimited storage. It will be seen from the results that the use of grid-connected hybrid systems is one of the most efficient and most cost-effective ways to reduce household spending for supplying its load.

Nowadays, researchers are studying the possibility of using hybrid systems in supplying the required power. For instance, in

[3] electrical demand of the biggest island of Turkey was examined to realize how it could be possible to supply that with renewable-energy sources. In [4] hybrid system is used to satisfy the thermal and electrical load requirements. In [5] the viability of adding wind turbines to an existing diesel plant of a remote area in Saudi Arabia was studied. Another feasibility study is described in [6], where hybrid systems supplied by hydrogen are evaluated for applications in Newfoundland, Canada. So in most of these studies, and also [7], hybrid electricity generation systems are often considered less costly and more reliable than systems that rely on an individual source of energy. Wind or photovoltaic energy sources, due to the fluctuating behavior, employ as the sole source of power supply. But, they can be used with local grid or fuel cell and make a powerful hybrid system to response load changes. Recently, the combined use of renewable-energy sources, especially FCPP has become increasingly fascinating [8]. So in the paper a combination of grid-connected wind-photovoltaic and FCPP in the form of CHP system can be considered as a potential choice to satisfy electrical and thermal demand of a residential house. In such a kind of system, wind turbine and photovoltaic output power is considered as a negative load and would be added to the residential load.

Three different evolutionary algorithms (GA, PSO and ICA) are used to minimize total cost of the system. By minimizing the total cost, the amount of power that the fuel cell should produce can be determined. In the paper, different tariffs for selling and buying of electricity are intended to see the response of each algorithm

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Nomenclature

$C_{el,pi}$	purchasing electricity tariff from Grid at interval i (\$)	P_r	rated electrical output power of wind turbine (kW)
$C_{EL,pi}$	the daily cost of purchasing electrical energy from the local grid (\$)	P_{rs}	rated power of solar panel (0.11 kW)
$C_{el,si}$	tariff for selling electricity (\$/kW h)	$P_{th,i}$	recovered thermal energy from FCPP at interval i
C_f	price of natural gas for FCPP (\$/kW h) = 0.04	$P_{th-storage,i}$	thermal energy saving at interval i
$C_{fuel,i}$	daily cost of fuel (\$)	$P_{th-storage}$	thermal energy saving at the end of the day
C_{n2}	fuel price for residential load (\$/kW h) = 0.06	$P_{PV,i}$	PV panel power production at interval i (kW)
$C_{Gas,pi}$	the daily cost of purchasing gas (\$)	$P_{WT,j}$	wind turbine electrical power production at interval j (kW)
C_{Mnt}	maintenance cost (\$/kW h)	PLR	part load ratio $PLR_i = P_{FC,i}/P_{FC}^{max}$
$C_{O\&M}$	daily operation and maintenance cost (\$)	r_i	mean solar radiation at interval i
$C_{th,s}$	thermal energy selling price (\$/KW h)	R_C	a certain radiation point set usually as 150 (W/m ²)
i,j,k	time intervals	R_{STD}	solar radiation in the standard environment set usually as 1000 (W/m ²)
$I_{EL,si}$	daily income from selling electric energy to the local grid (\$)	$r_{TE,i}$	thermal to electrical ratio at interval i
$I_{TH,si}$	daily income from sale of thermal energy (\$)	T	the length of time interval (h) = 0.1
$L_{el,i}$	electrical load demand at interval i (kW)	t_{off}	time the FCPP has been off (h)
$L_{th,i}$	thermal load demand at interval i (kW)	T_{off}	FCPP off time (number of intervals)
Δp_D	lower limit of the ramp rate (kW)	τ	FC cooling time constant (h)
Δp_U	upper limit of the ramp rate (kW)	U	FCPP on-off status, $U = 1$ for running, $U = 0$ for stopping.
MDT	minimum down-time (number of intervals)	V_i	cut in wind speed (m/s)
MUT	minimum up-time (number of intervals)	V_o	cut out wind speed (m/s)
N^{max}	maximum number of starts–stops	v_j	wind speed at interval j (m/s)
$n_{start-stop}$	number of starts–stops of FCPP	V_r	rated wind speed (m/s)
p_a	power of auxiliary devices (kW)	α	hot startup cost (\$)
p^{max}	maximum limit of generating power (kW)	β	cold startup cost (\$)
p^{min}	minimum limit of generating power (kW)	η_i	fuel cell electrical efficiency (%)
$P_{FC,i}$	FCPP electrical power productions at interval i (kW)	$\eta_{st,th}$	thermal storage efficiency (%)
P_{FC}^{max}	maximum power production of fuel cell		

toward changes of tariffs. Selling tariffs are always considered lower than purchasing tariffs so that the grid is willing to buy electrical power from the hybrid system. For thermal power, the same procedure is used except that thermal energy with lower price sell to neighbors not to the grid.

In the paper, three different strategies have been used, and the most effective one is selected. In all of them, local grid and the hybrid system are used for supplying the electric load, but in the first strategy, we don't have any thermal recovery from FCPP. In the second one, we have thermal recovery while in the last strategy, we use thermal storage tank to store thermal energy and reused it according to the system economy. Finally, the best strategy is selected and will be compared with the time that only the fuel cell is connected to the grid to show that the hybrid system performs better than a single source system.

The remaining part of the paper is organized as follows: Section 'Type of proposed FC, PV and WT unit' gives a complete structure of the system besides the type of FC, WT and PV unit. Formulation of the economic model is presented in subsection of 'Type of proposed FC, PV and WT unit'. The solution methodology and evolutionary algorithm with its parameter adjustments are explained in Section 'Evolutionary programming based solution methodology'. Test and results are presented in Section 'Test and results'. Conclusions are discussed in Section 'Conclusion'.

Type of proposed FC, PV and WT unit

Fuel cell

Proton Exchange Membrane (PEM) fuel cells for having a lot of advantages such as: high efficiency (35%–45%), low to zero emissions, quiet operation, high reliability, modularity, scalability, quick installation and the ability to be placed on any site in the

distribution system without geographic limitations [9–12] show great promise for use in hybrid systems. All of these advantages lead to a deep study of this type of fuel cell for supplying the residential load.

PEM fuel cell approximately operates with 35% efficiency. The efficiency is slightly lower at full load compared to low load operation. According to [13] at full load, the FCPP produces thermal energy roughly equal to the electrical energy. In [13] efficiency and thermal energy to electrical energy ratio curves have been developed completely Fig. 1.

Technical specification data for the fuel cell is shown in Table 1.

The thermal energy to electrical energy ratio and the efficiency are functions of the part load ratio. Part load ratio can be obtained from (1).

$$PLR_i = P_{FC,i}/P_{FC}^{max} \quad (1)$$

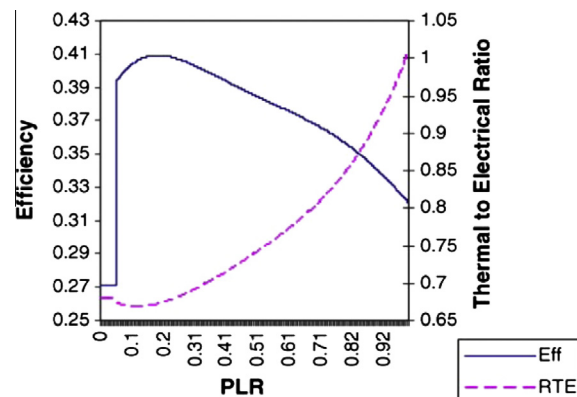


Fig. 1. Performance curves of FCPP.

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