A Review on Hybrid Microgrids

Karan Gupta 1, Himani Mahajan 2, Kanika Gupta 3, Shivani Puri 4, Shayan Chauhan 5, Akash 6, Aijaz Ahmed Dar 7

Abstract: In the current scenario, the energy demand of domestic, commercial and industrial sector is increasing day by day, creating challenges and setting a limit on power generation using conventional energy sources[1]. The solution to this problem lies in shifting the power generation from conventional energy resources to renewable energy resources (RES)[2], which are more efficient, cost effective and reliable. To utilise the potential of RES properly, a systematic approach is taken which outlooks the generation and connected loads as a subsystem or a microgrid. However, the setback for this technology is that RES are intermittent in nature. In order to address this problem, a new approach of hybridisation of RES to back up each other is in use. In this paper, PV-battery microgrid, PV-hydro-battery-microgrid, PV-wind-battery microgrid have been elucidated.

Keywords: microgrid (MG), microsources, Distributed generation (DG), photovoltaics (PV), Renewable Energy Sources (RES), Maximum Power Point Tracking (MPPT), Battery Energy Storage (BES).

I. INTRODUCTION

Microgrid is a localized group of electricity sources and loads that normally operates connected to and synchronous with the traditional wide area synchronous grid (macrogrid), but can also disconnect to "island mode" — and function autonomously as physical or economic conditions dictate [3]. In this way, a microgrid can effectively integrate various sources of distributed generation (DG), especially Renewable Energy Sources (RES) - renewable electricity, and can supply emergency power, changing between island and connected modes. Microgrid also consist of energy storage systems e.g. batteries and energy generation sources like turbines and fuel cells can also be added to increase the reliability of the system. Multiple simulation tools and optimization tools [4] exist to model the economic and electric effects of Microgrids. A widely used economic optimization tool is the Distributed Energy Resources Customer Adoption Model (DER-CAM) from Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. Another frequently used commercial economic modelling tool is Homer Energy, originally designed by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory. There are also some power flow and electrical design tools guiding the Microgrid developers. The Pacific Northwest National Laboratory designed the public available GridLAB-D tool and the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) designed OpenDSS to simulate the distribution system (for Microgrids). A professional integrated DER-CAM and OpenDSS version is available via BankableEnergy. A European tool that can be used for electrical, cooling, heating, and process heat demand simulation is EnergyPLAN from the Aalborg University in Denmark.

II. PV-BATTERY-BASED MICROGRID

This microgrid consists of a combination of PV array with batteries and this, in turn, is connected to utility grid. The solar PV array is made of modules, which are connected in series and in parallel. The generation of stable, maximum, continuous energy from the PV array is achieved through MPPT technique. The simulation of microgrid should be done in such a way that supply from solar PV and the BES is preferred over utility grid.

![Power consumption based on solar insolation](image-url)
III. ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS

A. Battery Energy Storage (BES)

The batteries used are for storage of renewable energy generated which is left unutilized at that time. Also, BES is used for supplying surplus power at peak load condition [6]. Average discharge voltage of various batteries is shown in Table 1 [7]:

| Battery type                  | Battery voltage/V | Explanation                                      |
|------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Lead-acid battery            | 2.0               | The most economical and practical                |
| Nickel cadmium battery       | 1.2               | Memory function                                  |
| Ni-MH secondary battery      | 1.2               | Sensitivity to temperature change                |
| Lithium ion battery          | 3.4               | Safety, No lithium metal                         |
| Lithium polymer battery      | 3.0               | Lithium metal                                    |

Fig.2. cost analysis of various grid back up systems [8]

Energy storage systems consist of flywheel, lithium battery, fuel cell, hydrogen storage batteries, etc.

Fig.3. Classification of energy storage systems [8]

Fig.4. applications of energy storage systems [5]
IV. ISOLATED RURAL WITH PV-BATTERY SYSTEM

The fig 5 shows an estimate of the load demand supplied by a PV-battery system.

![Diagram of PV battery system](image)

**Fig.5. PV battery system[8]**

**Table 2 demand and supply of solar power[8]**

| Energy Source     | Solar PV – 4.3kW |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Storage           | Lead Acid battery – 19kWh |
| Connected Load    | 4.4 kW           |
| Distribution Voltage | 48V dc (Safety Voltage for distribution) |

The system above shows how a PV array of 4.3 KW and battery bank of 19 KWh is used to supply a peak load of 2.0 KW.
V. PV-HYDRO-BASED HYBRID MICROGRID

As the name suggests, this system consists of PV-hydro battery hybrid microgrid. PV being of intermittent nature, post a problem to the optimal sizing [9] of the energy storage. The minimum required battery size, depends on the critical load that the MG must be proficient of serving when the solar energy is inaccessible. This makes the storage oversized. However, in the proposed MG, hydro too supports the critical load, so the battery size is reduced. Also, initial and operational expenses, are low and maintenance necessity is also less.[10] The small hydro power plants in distant regions is known as a favorable energy source to produce electricity. The small hydro system up to 100 kW rating does not require governor control based turbine prime mover and restricts down the cost of the turbine. The generator used in the small hydro has many variations [11-14]. Synchronous generator [11], permanent magnet synchronous generator [14], synchronous reluctance generator and self-excited induction generator (SEIG) [13,14], are some of them. However, the most cost effective, efficient, rugged, and easy to use generator in the small hydro system is SEIG. Also, the maintenance necessity is also less in comparison to its synchronous counterpart. SEIG has the drawback that it demands reactive power or magnetizing current for producing the desired terminal voltage. Therefore an excitation capacitor bank provides magnetizing current for regulating the terminal voltage of generator [15]. The hydro based generating system operates in almost constant power mode so that if the load changes the frequency and voltage also changes from their reference values. PV battery hydro based MG is used for low voltage and supplies power to small community of customers.

The proposed microgrid consists of 2 energy sources i.e. Hydro and PV with BES.

Benefits:
The proposed MG has the following distinctive features:

It adds stiffness and inertia to the system voltage and adds reliability to the system.

During the period of a load change, the controller estimates the load power demand and total generated power. If the load demand is more than the generated power, the controller draws the remaining power from the battery to balance the power demand. Similarly, for light load condition, the battery takes the extra power to maintain the frequency of the system.

The proposed MG mitigates the negative impacts of solar PV array caused by the intermittent nature of the solar irradiance. Due to this intermittency, the power generated by the solar PV array changes continuously. Therefore, the storage battery absorbs power fluctuations and maintains the frequency of the MG.

The simulation of the microgrid should be done in such a way that energy supply from PV—hydro-battery system is preferred over the utility grid, thereby, decreasing the reliance on conventional energy resources.

For example; In Qinghai area, China, there is an isolated power grid in Yushu County [16]. In 2010, the grid is run by 2 hydro power stations with potential of 12.8MW, but the available power in dry season (from October to March) will reduce 50%. The peak demand in winter is 13MW and the peak time appears between 8:00pm-11:00pm. Therefore, a 2MW PV station with battery is prearranged in the power grid and shown in fig 7.

![Fig.7 2 MW PV station with battery [16]](image-url)
In designing a hydro/PV system, there are 4 main concerns including energy demand, peak power demand, battery lifetime and generation cost on kWh basis.

VI. PV-WIND BASED HYBRID MICROGRID

This microgrid comprises of PV-Wind-battery system. PV and wind are both intermittent sources so can be coupled with BES to increase the efficiency of the system.

Simple estimate of load shifting using microgrid:

![Diagram of PV-wind based hybrid microgrid](image)

The fig.9 above shows the connection of wind turbine of 10 KW, solar panel of 5 KW and battery to the utility grid, all being connected to the residential loads. BR1, BR2 are the switches connected to utility grid and battery respectively.

This microgrid works in 2 modes, i.e.

A. Mode 1: Connected to Utility Grid i.e. BR1 closed [17].

1) Case 1: Let us assume that the residential load is 13.85 KW

Adjusting the wind speed as 10 m/s using slider, the wind power generated is 7.08 KW.

Adjusting the solar insolation as 1000 W/m², the solar power generated is 4.95 KW.

In such a case, the battery will supply the additional power required i.e. 2 KW (approx).

In this way, the total load demand of the residential area can be met using RES and in spite of being connected to the main grid, no supply is done via macrogrid.

2) Case 2: Let us assume that the residential load is reduced to 6.71 KW.

Wind power = 7.08 KW
Solar power = 4.95 KW

Now, their combined generation exceeds than the residential load demand.

In such a case, the extra generation will be used to charge the battery.

3) Case 3: Let us assume that the residential load increases to such a high value that microgrid sources are sufficient to meet the energy demands. In the case, the electricity will be supplied using combination of microgrid and utility grid.
B. Mode 2: **Disconnected From The Utility Grid i.e. BR1 Opened.**
In islanded mode, the microsources will keep supplying the residential loads to maintain continuity and thereby increasing the reliance and efficiency of the system.

VII. **CHALLENGES**

A. Current harmonics and unbalance;
B. Voltage fluctuation and flicker;
C. Poor frequency stability;
D. Transient voltage and current surge [6]

VIII. **CONCLUSION**

The above paper shows the combination of various microsources in a hybrid microgrid system and how the load shifting is desired. The above microgrid systems can be used as a boon to overpower the outages in the city. The backing up of one renewable source by the other also adds efficiency to the system, making them self-reliable. Microgrids, if become a reality, can be used to provide green and clean electricity and can prove to be a step ahead towards the goal of sustainable development.

IX. **REFERENCES**

[1] Ellabban, O., Abu-Rub, H., Blaabjerg, F.: ‘Renewable energy resources: current status, future prospects and technology’, Renew. Sustain. Energy Rev., 2014, 39, pp. 748–764
[2] Bull, S.R.: ‘Renewable energy today and tomorrow’, Proc. IEEE, 2001, 89, (8), pp. 1216–1226
[3] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Microgrid
[4] https://new.abb.com/power-converters-inverters/solar/microgrid-solutions/mgs100
[5] Serban, I., Marinescu, C.: ‘Control strategy of three-phase battery energy storage systems for frequency support in microgrids and with uninterrupted supply of local loads’, IEEE Trans. Power Electron., 2014, 29, (9), pp. 5010–5020.
[6] Jinan Wang.: “Research and Analysis of Micro-grid Power Quality”, AIP Conference Proceedings 2066, 020053 (2019).
[7] Rangan Banerjee: “Microgrids in india : status and future”,IIT Bombay.
[8] Atia, R., Yamada, N.: ‘Sizing and analysis of renewable energy and battery systems in residential microgrids’, IEEE Trans. Smart Grid, 2016, 7, (3), pp. 1204–1213.
[9] Seema Kewat, Bhim Singh, Ikhlaiq Hussain: ‘Power management in PV-battery-hydro based standalone microgrid’, IET Journals.
[10] Sobhan, N.: ‘Automatic generation control and monitoring the mechanism of micro hydro power plant with impulse turbine and synchronous generator’. Proc. Int. Conf. on Robotics and Artificial Intelligence, 2016, pp. 175-179
[11] Nicy, C.F., Punitharaji, R.: ‘Isolated wind-hydro hybrid system using permanent magnet synchronous generator and battery storage with fuzzy logic controller’. Proc. Int. Conf. on Green Computing Communications and Electrical Engineering (ICGCCCE), 2014, pp. 1–6
[12] Rathore, U.C., Singh, S.: ‘Power quality control of SEIG based isolated pico hydro power plant feeding non-linear load’. IEEE 6th India Int. Conf. on Power Electronics (ICPE), 2014, pp. 1–5
[13] Tamrakar, I., Shilpakar, L., Fernandes, B., et al.: ‘Voltage and frequency control of parallel operated synchronous generator and induction generator with STATCOM in micro hydro scheme’, IET Gener. Transm. Distrib., 2007, 1, (5), pp. 743–750
[14] Scherer, L.G., Tambara, R.V., de Camargo, R.F.: ‘Voltage and frequency regulation of standalone self-excited induction generator for micro-hydro power generation using discrete-time adaptive control’, IET Renew. Power Gener., 2016, 10, (4), pp. 531–540
[15] Xu Honghua, Wang Yibo,: ‘Research and Practice of Designing Hydro/Photovoltaic Hybrid Power System in Microgrid’
[16] Dr Shra : ‘Real time studies of effect of renewable energy sources in microgrid’