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Method for real-time power management of a grid-tied microgrid to extend storage lifetime and reduce cost of energy

US 9020649 B2

ABSTRACT

A management framework is disclosed that achieves maximum energy storage device lifetime based on energy storage device life estimation and the price of energy.

IMAGES (6)



Publication number	US9020649 B2
Publication type	Grant
Application number	US 13/543,818
Publication date	Apr 28, 2015
Filing date	Jul 7, 2012
Priority date	Jul 18, 2011
Also published as	US20130024042
Inventors	Ratnesh Sharma , Babak Asghari , Syed Ali Poumousavi Kani
Original Assignee	Nec Laboratories America, Inc.
Export Citation	BiBTeX , EndNote , RefMan
	Patent Citations (9), Non-Patent Citations (2), Classifications (10)
External Links:	USPTO , USPTO Assignment , Espacenet

DESCRIPTION

This application claims priority to Provisional Application Ser. No. 61/508,860 filed Jul. 18, 2011, the content of which is incorporated by reference.

BACKGROUND

The present invention relates to power management for microgrids.

Microgrid is an emerging technology which promises to achieve many simultaneous goals for power system stakeholders, from generator to consumer. Its framework offers a mean to capitalize on diverse energy sources in a decentralized way, while reducing the burden on the grid by generating power close to the consumer. Since microgrid with distributed generation (DG) systems fall within city load centers (<69 kVA) at electric utility substations, near feeders, within neighborhoods, and at industrial, commercial, and residential customer locations [2], storage devices such as battery are necessary to: Manage electric grid peak demand, Improve reliability and outage mitigation, compensate for intermittent power generation from DGs, Provide ancillary services specifically in islanded mode of operation, and Increase electric grid load factor and utilization via the smart grid.

As a result, storage devices are immediate components of microgrids as a mean to achieve high penetration of intermittent renewable energy resources into the grid. The desired size of the energy storage device for distributed energy storage systems (DESS) application is 25-200 kW 1-phase and 25-75 kW 3-phase while its duration and desired lifetime are 2-4 hours and 10-15 years, respectively. The desired values in the case of commercial and industrial (C&I) energy management are 50-1000 kW in size, 3-4 hours duration, and 15 years lifetime [2]. Based on these facts, different battery technologies, such as Lithium-Ion batteries, can be promising candidate for these applications.

The available power from renewable energy components, particularly wind

CLAIMS (19)

What is claimed is:

1. A method for power management of a microgrid with energy storage device that includes charging and discharging modes, the method comprising:

receiving power data from different generation sources, storage state of charge and the storage discharge pattern;

estimate storage lifetime and determining cost of energy from the energy storage device;

allocating desired power between the energy storage device and a power grid to minimize cost of energy through reduced grid power or feed-in-tariff while maximizing storage lifetime based on a final energy cost; and

determining an equivalent uniform annual cost (EUAC) for an annualized cost of the battery (Levelized Cost of Energy).

2. The method of claim 1, comprising updating every minute with fresh data for future estimation.

3. The method of claim 1, comprising determining a primary management decision about power flow between generation resources and the energy storage unit based the information from different generation assets, energy storage device state of charge (SOC) and availability of the grid.

4. The method of claim 1, comprising determining a secondary management decision of discharging battery or purchasing extra power from the grid and extending the energy storage device lifetime based on a final price of energy.

turbine, is highly variable and somewhat random. Consequently, batteries in hybrid power systems, whether in DESS or C&I energy management applications, experience a very irregular pattern of charge and discharge cycles. On the other hand, it is well-known that battery life depends on discharge pattern. Therefore, managing discharge pattern is a promising approach to battery life maximization. Since one can say that maximum battery lifetime can be achieved (i.e. the nominated lifetime) when it always kept idle, there should be a rational definition for maximum lifetime of the battery. In this research, this term is defined as the maximum possible battery lifetime by taking the cost of energy in to consideration at each time step of management. In other words, the maximum battery lifetime is beneficial as long as the cost of the energy provided for the customer is minimum at the time of management.

While storage provides necessary buffer to support the intermittency and unreliability of renewable and other stochastic generation, it is also the most expensive element of the microgrid. This demands real-time power management to guarantee the maximum possible storage lifetime based on the final cost of energy.

SUMMARY

In one aspect, a management framework to achieve maximum battery lifetime based on battery life estimation and the price of energy.

In another aspect, a method for power management of a microgrid with a battery includes receiving power data from different generation sources, battery state of charge and the battery discharge pattern; estimate the battery lifetime and determining cost of energy from the battery; and allocating desired power between the battery and a power grid to minimize the cost of energy while maximizing battery lifetime based on a final energy cost.

In yet another aspect, the real-time power management framework receives required data from different generation sources and battery state of charge and the discharge pattern of the battery at the time of management, then tries to estimate the battery lifetime and consequently calculates the cost of energy from the battery based on that. Finally, it attempts to share the desired power between the battery pack and the grid in order to minimize the cost of energy for the consumer which happens to be the best battery lifetime that is achievable in our system, based on the final energy cost. The management system is updated every minute with fresh data for future estimation.

Implementations of the foregoing aspects can include one or more of the following. The system supports intelligent power management system for energy storage in local distribution networks. The power management system operates based on unique characteristics of electric energy storage devices interconnected to utility distribution networks. The power management system focuses primarily on the life aspect of energy storage and improves lifetime of a storage unit by minimizing its operation and operation time. The system only charges/discharges the storage unit at specific time schedules. The system also limits the maximum operation time of a storage unit within each time interval (e.g. hour, day, month, . . .). Lifetime of a storage unit is increased by indirectly by imposing constraints on its operational power. The system limits the minimum discharge power of a storage unit thus reduces its operational time. The system limits the maximum discharge power of a storage unit to less than its nominal value thus reduces the deteriorating impact of high power discharges on the battery lifetime. The system only discharges the storage unit if the utility connection is lost due to a grid failure thus reduces the storage unit operation time. The system only charges/discharges the storage unit if certain conditions about time and power in the network are met. The system only discharges the storage unit if both utility electric price (in \$/kWh) and demand in the network (in kW) are above certain values thus reduces the utilization time of the storage unit.

One embodiment provides a closed-loop operation. In this embodiment, the power management system is equipped with direct measurement and/or

5. The method of claim 1, comprising improving lifetime of the energy storage device by imposing constraints on the energy storage device operational power.

6. The method of claim 1, comprising discharging the energy storage device only if the utility connection is lost due to a grid failure or if the cost of energy stored in the energy storage device is lower than that in the grid to reduce energy storage device operation time.

7. The method of claim 1, comprising monitoring State of charge (SOC) depth of discharge (DOD) measurement to ensure the energy storage device is operating in a predetermined range.

8. The method of claim 1, comprising monitoring temperature of the energy storage device to ensure the energy storage device is operating within the recommended range.

9. The method of claim 1, comprising monitoring a state of health measurement of the energy storage device to ensure the energy storage device is operating within the recommended range.

10. The method of claim 1, comprising estimating discharge power of the energy storage device in a control time-step based on a forecast of generation and demand levels in the grid.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein the EUAC cost includes energy storage device replacement cost, energy storage device capital cost, energy storage device O&M cost, energy storage device replacement cost, interest rate, inflation rate and useful project lifetime.

12. The method of claim 1, comprising cost of energy from energy storage device (CEB) is by adding charging cost of energy storage device to the energy storage device usage cost.

13. The method of claim 1, comprising estimating energy storage life using particle swarm optimization (PSO) or genetic algorithm.

14. The method of claim 1, comprising determining each likely discharge event in the future individually and determining the impact of individual discharge events on a storage life.

15. The method of claim 1, comprising charging the energy storage device if excess generation is available in the grid, and if sellback is allowed and the energy storage device is fully charged, exporting excess power to the grid.

16. The method of claim 1, comprising checking grid status to achieve a reliable and efficient real-time control during primary power management and applying secondary power management to remove a power shortage or reduce cost of energy as necessary.

17. The method of claim 1, comprising estimating a discharge current and DOD of the energy storage device if it is going to be used to meet the power shortage;

estimating battery life (i.e. degradation) and determining energy storage device replacement cost during the useful lifetime of the project;

determining an equivalent uniform annual cost (EUAC) for an annualized cost of energy storage device;

determining energy storage device usage cost from the EUAC; and

determining a cost of energy from battery (CEB) by adding the charging cost of energy storage device to the energy storage device usage cost.

estimation tools for energy storage performance and other parameters in the network. Output commands from the management system are updated in discrete time intervals based on the feedback signals from sensor/estimator modules. The system can be solely based on direct measurement of certain energy storage parameters. The power management system objective is to keep battery parameters within the pre-specified limits. The State of charge (SOC) (depth of discharge (DOD)) of a storage device measurement is continuously monitored SOC (DOD) to ensure it is within the recommended range. In case of any breach of SOC limits, the power management system halts the energy storage operation until necessary actions are taken by the user. The system continuously monitors temperature of a storage device to ensure it is within the recommended range. In case of any breach of temperature limits, the power management system halts the energy storage operation until necessary actions are taken by the user.

The system also provides State of health measurement (SOH). The system continuously monitors SOH of a storage device to ensure it is within the recommended range. In case of any breach of SOH limits, the power management system halts the energy storage operation until necessary actions are taken by the user. The system can be based on direct measurement as well as estimation of some parameters related to the energy storage unit. If the estimated operational conditions of the energy storage are out of recommended range, the management system will not operate the storage unit. The system also estimates discharge power of the storage unit in the next control time-step based on forecast of generation and demand levels in the network. If the estimated discharge power is out of recommended range, the management system will not operate the storage unit. Depth of discharge and discharge current of the storage unit in the next control time-step is estimated based on forecast of generation and demand levels in the network, current value of depth of discharge and battery voltage. If the estimated depth of discharge and/or discharge current is out of recommended range, the management system will not operate the storage unit. The system estimates the life of the storage unit at each control time-step and halts the energy storage operation if it is close to end of its life. In one embodiment, particle swarm optimization (PSO) can be used to find the most accurate life estimation. Non-heuristic methods can be used to find the most accurate life estimation. The system can be based on direct measurement as well as estimation of some parameters related to the energy storage unit. The management system regulates the future operational condition of the storage unit based on measured/estimated parameters.

Charging conditions of the storage unit can be controlled to optimize battery life. The system ensures the battery is charged at a slow rate to enhance the battery lifetime. The system regulates temperature of the storage unit. The system regulates discharging condition of the storage unit. The system accumulates all information related to the discharge history of a storage unit over time and makes future discharge decision based on accumulated information. The system evaluates each likely discharge event in the future individually and makes decision based on the impact of individual discharge events on the storage life. The system regulates discharge events of a storage unit to achieve a certain objective function in the network. The system only discharges the battery if the accumulated impact of the new discharge event and all previous discharge events result in a storage life of greater than or equal to a pre-specified number of years. The system regulates discharge events of a storage unit to minimize the cost of energy for the end-user. The system focuses primarily on reducing cost of consumed energy through the operation of energy storage units.

The system can handle secondary power management activation when needed. In case of any shortage in the local generation (negative mismatch power), the primary power management system triggers the secondary power management unit to remedy the shortage either by importing power from the grid or discharging the battery (or both). Input parameters to the primary power management unit include DG output powers, load demand, battery state of charge (SOC), and scheduled imported power from the grid (if any). The primary power management unit checks the status of the network every minute to achieve a reliable and efficient real-time control of the system. If necessary, secondary power management is then triggered to decide on how to remove the power shortage in the network. The secondary real-time power management decides on how to remove the power shortage in a network. The unit compares the cost of electricity from the battery and from the grid (or other sources) in real-time to identify energy source with the lowest cost. The system receives the grid price signal from the utility or other energy providers to be used for the purpose of cost comparison. Dynamic storage cost calculation is done—the secondary power management unit continuously updates the cost of energy from the energy storage unit based on historical data about the operation of the storage unit as well as its estimated operation in the future.

Advantages of the preferred embodiment may include one or more of the following. The system manages battery life and battery power without complicated, slow, and time consuming techniques. The advantages are achieved without requiring detailed information about battery performance which is not usually available in battery datasheets. The system can perform small estimation intervals, with reduced error. The system is also valid for a wide range of batteries. The system provides top-level supervisory control which can be used in different applications such as distributed energy storage systems (DESS) and commercial and industrial (C&I) energy management systems. The system globally addresses battery discharge pattern

18. The method of claim 1, comprising determining if a energy storage device state SOC is less than a predetermined value and setting a grid power to $P_{grid}=P_{scheduled-grid}+P_{mismatch}$

wherein $P_{mismatch}=P_{DG}+P_{scheduled-grid}-P_{load}$

and wherein $P_{mismatch}$ is the mismatch power between the generation and the demand, P_{DG} is total distributed generation output powers, $P_{scheduled-grid}$ is the scheduled power from the grid, P_{load} is the demand in a distribution network.

19. The method of claim 1, comprising determining if an energy storage device state SOC is greater than the predetermined value and setting a grid power to $P_{grid}=P_{scheduled-grid}+P_{mismatch}$ and placing the energy storage device in an inactive state.

which determines the battery aging characteristics. The system provides real-time management of a hybrid energy system and addresses the management problem to minimize battery replacement.

While the system is geared toward battery management, it is also applicable for a real-time management framework for a grid-tied microgrid based on storage life and cost estimation.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1A shows an exemplary system with power management units.

FIG. 1B shows an exemplary diagram with a general structure of the power management unit.

FIG. 2 shows an exemplary process executed by the primary management unit.

FIG. 3 shows an exemplary battery life estimator.

FIG. 4 shows an exemplary system with a secondary management system.

FIG. 5 shows an exemplary process in the secondary management system.

DESCRIPTION

FIG. 1A shows an exemplary system with power management units. In FIG. 1A, a management framework **10** controls a primary management (PM) system **20** and a battery life estimator (BLE) **30**. Batteries are usually equipped with battery management system (BMS) which is defined as any electronic device that manages a rechargeable battery (cell or battery pack), by monitoring its state, calculating secondary data, reporting that data, protecting it, controlling its environment, and/or balancing it. However, there is no real-time supervisory power management system on the top level of microgrid to regulate battery discharge in order to maximize its lifetime. While battery is usually the most expensive part of such systems at the time of installation, and needs frequent replacement despite other components, a real-time power management seems tremendously helpful to guarantee the appropriate use of battery. Generally, real-time management strategy performs at a smaller time interval, e.g., every few seconds or minute. Results of such systems are the power share between different generation and storage assets.

In one hand, real-time management operates on existing system with certain amount of DG resources and storage devices. On the other hand, it is well known that power from PV and wind is almost free after installation because of no fuel cost. Thus, it is beneficial to capture all available power from wind and PV. Therefore, the real-time management problem is reduced to power sharing between battery and grid. Grid power is available from the grid at time-of-use rates, and is limited to a maximum of 40 kW. The reason could be a weak distribution system, lack of enough generation, and/or low capacity of different equipment such as overhead lines and/or transformer. As mentioned earlier, the purchased power from the grid is scheduled a day ahead as unit commitment problem. In this study, the authors are not dealing with the unit commitment problem. Therefore, the scheduled power from the grid is considered as a known input parameter in the management system. The battery will be charged only in the case of excess power from PV and wind. In other words, battery will not be charged by the power purchased from the grid.

Replacement cost is the most effective factor in the CEB calculation. Based on the discharge pattern, batteries need to be replaced periodically to maintain system performance. Therefore, it can be concluded that the CEB depends on battery aging which directly depends on discharge pattern. As a result, the power management should decide upon the discharge pattern and the associated lifetime and cost. Since maximum possible life of the battery occurs when battery is kept idle (which is not reasonable), there should be a competing objective. final cost of energy is considered as the competing objective in this paper. The general schematic block-diagram of the energy management unit (EMU) with different components of grid-tied system is shown in FIG. 1. In order to calculate the cost of energy from the battery, it is anticipated to calculate the number of its replacements during the lifetime of the project. As a result, it is required to estimate the battery lifetime based on the discharge pattern up to the point of management. Therefore, the management strategy starts with the battery lifetime estimation, which is shown as Battery Life Estimator (BLE) unit. Consequently, the CEB will be estimated, in \$/kWh. Eventually, the decisions will be made based on the defined secondary management (SM) strategy between battery and grid. Any scenario, such as the ones defined in this study or heuristic optimization, can be defined as SM block for battery discharging.

Since the overall management system is responsible for both charging and discharging of the battery, the framework is broken into two hierarchical steps as follows:

Primary Management (PM) 20: In this step, primary decisions about power flow between generation resources and the energy storage unit will be made based the information from different generation assets, battery state of charge (SOC) and availability of the grid. This part of the management is shown as the PM **20** in FIG. 1A.

Secondary Management (SM): Whenever discharging battery or purchasing extra power from the grid is required, the decision will be made by the scenarios in order to extend the battery lifetime based on the final price of energy for the

customers.

Varying depths of discharge and varying rates of discharge are considered as two primary determinants of battery life in this technique. Assuming the presence of environmental controls, temperature-based battery aging can be ignored. A feature of this technique is that it bases its analysis on battery performance and cycle life data provided by the manufacturer, supplemented by a limited amount of empirical test data. The present battery lifetime estimator also eliminates the need for an electrochemical model of the battery. The principle ideas of this technique are introduced in the following embodiments:

Embodiment 1

Each cell has a finite life. It will reach the end of its useful life when the cumulative effective ampere-hours of individual effective ampere-hours corresponding to a series of discharge events equals the rated charge life of the cell. The rated charge life is given as:

$$\Gamma_R = L_R \cdot D_R \cdot C_R \quad (1)$$

Embodiment 2

The actual charge life of the cell is a function of the DoD. Therefore, the effective ampere-hour discharge in a given discharge event may be more or less than the actual discharge based on the actual DoD. In order to determine this functional relationship, the following function has been used to perform the best fit to the cell cycle life data vs. DoD

$$L = u_2 \cdot (D_R D) u_0 \cdot \exp \left(u_1 \cdot (1 - D_R D) \right) \quad (2)$$

Different methods can be applied to perform the curve fitting. Two different methods have been used in this study including particle swarm optimization (PSO) and non-linear least square (NLLS) method from MATLAB curve fitting toolbox. PSO, as a heuristic optimization technique, is able to achieve optimal solution in a small fraction of a second. Also, NLLS is a popular regression method.

Embodiment 3

The charge life of the cell, Γ , drops whenever the cell is discharged at a rate faster (higher discharge current) than the rated rate. Furthermore, the reduction in life will have a close functional relationship to the observed reduction in ampere-hour capacity with increasing discharge rate Error! Reference source not found. This effect can be expressed fairly accurately by the following two-parameter function:

$$d_{eff} = (C_R C_A) v_0 \cdot \exp \left(v_1 \cdot (1 - C_R C_A) \right) \cdot d_{act} \quad (3)$$

Since battery manufacturers typically conduct battery life testing at a single discharge rate, usually the rate for which the cell's rated capacity is given, enough data is not available to determine the parameters v_0 and v_1 . Therefore, the effect of discharge rate will be estimated using a simplified form of Eq. (3) where v_0 is set equal to 1 and v_1 is set to 0:

$$d_{eff} = (C_R C_A) \cdot d_{act} \quad (4)$$

In order to calculate C_A related to each discharge event, 1-D cubic spline interpolation has been applied in this study. Using (2) and (4), the effects of DoD and discharge rate are combined simply by multiplying the factors as follows:

$$d_{eff} = (D_A D_R) u_0 \cdot \exp \left(u_1 \cdot (1 - D_A D_R) \right) \cdot (C_R C_A) \cdot d_{act} \quad (5)$$

Eq. (5) gives the effective discharge for a single discharge event. In order to estimate the lifetime of a battery which has been exposed to a series of discharge patterns, accumulative effective discharge is required. Finally, lifetime of the battery can be calculated as follows:

$$L_{time} = L_R \cdot D_R \cdot C_R \sum_{i=1}^n d_{eff, i} \cdot T \quad (6)$$

The equations are used in the battery life estimator **30** of FIG. 1A.

Turning now to FIG. 1B, an exemplary diagram illustrating a general structure of the power management unit is shown. A hierarchical (primary and secondary management units) approach makes it easy to prioritize different tasks of the management system based on their importance. The system includes a primary management system **102** that receives inputs **100** such as DG outputs, load demand, storage SOC, and scheduled power availability from the grid, among others. The primary management unit communicates on a frequent basis with the secondary management unit **106**, which receives as inputs **104** the battery data including discharge current, depth of discharge, estimated storage life, storage energy cost and grid price, among others. The real-time power management framework enables cost-of-energy based discharge pattern for storage device to maximize its lifetime. The supervisory real-time power management framework guarantees the maximum possible battery lifetime based on the final price of energy, \$/kWh.

In FIG. 1B, the real-time power management framework receives required data from different generation sources and battery

state of charge and the discharge pattern of the battery at the time of management, then tries to estimate the battery lifetime and consequently calculates the cost of energy from the battery based on that. Finally, it attempts to share the desired power between the battery pack and the grid in order to minimize the cost of energy for the consumer which happens to be the best battery lifetime that is achievable in our system, based on the final energy cost. The management system is updated every minute with fresh data for future estimation.

FIG. 2 shows an exemplary process executed by the primary management unit. In this process, the system determines if a power mismatch exists (202). If not, the process performs secondary management (FIG. 5). Alternatively, process determines if the SOC is less than full (206). If so, the process sells excess power to the grid and places the battery in an inactive mode (208). From 206, if the battery is less than full, the battery is charged (210).

In primary real-time power management, the power management unit acts as a master unit for the overall power management system. The system evaluates general status of power flow in a distribution network. The system collects and analyzes real-time data about the generation level and demand to calculate the mismatch power in the network as follows:

$$P_{\text{mismatch}} = P_{\text{DG}} + P_{\text{scheduled-grid}} - P_{\text{load}}$$

where P_{mismatch} is the mismatch power between the generation and the demand, P_{DG} is total distributed generation output powers, $P_{\text{scheduled-grid}}$ is the scheduled power from the grid, P_{load} is the demand in the distribution network. The system only charges the battery if excess generation is available in the network (mismatch power is positive. If sellback is allowed and the battery is fully charged, excess generation can also be exported to the grid.

Different methods can be used to perform curve fitting on battery characteristics which are provided by the battery manufacturer or obtained from experiments. Curve fitting can be used to define analytical functions describing the behavior of a battery to be used during the battery life estimation process. One embodiment uses particle swarm optimization (PSO) as a heuristic optimization technique to achieve optimal solution in a small fraction of a second and is a curve fitting tool compatible with exponential nonlinear battery characteristics in terms of cycle lives versus depth of discharges. Therefore this technique is used instead of other conventional curve fitting tools such as non-linear least square (NLLS) method in battery life estimation applications.

FIG. 3 shows an exemplary battery life estimator 310. Data such as initial capital, O&M cost for storage, inflation, interest rate, and replacement cost of battery is collected in block 312 and provided to an equivalent uniform annual cost (EUAC) model calculator 314 that determines annual costs over the project lifetime and sends the information to a battery usage cost (BUC) unit 316. The output of unit 31 is combined with the charging cost by adder 318 to arrive at the cost of energy from the battery in unit 320.

One embodiment generates an equivalent uniform annual cost (EUAC) model: FIG. 3 shows input parameters and steps to calculate cost of energy from a battery in the secondary management unit. The secondary power management unit first estimates corresponding discharge current and DOD of the battery if it is going to be used to meet the power shortage. These parameters are then used in the battery life estimator (BLE) unit to update the estimated life of the battery shown in step 1 in FIG. 3. Output of BLE unit determines the battery replacement cost during the useful lifetime of the project. Battery replacement cost along with other necessary parameters such as battery capital cost, battery O&M cost, nominal interest rate and inflation rate and useful project lifetime are passed to the equivalent uniform annual cost (EUAC) calculator block which calculates the annualized cost of battery. Battery usage cost is then calculated from the output of EUAC calculator block. Finally cost of energy from battery (CEB) is calculated by adding the charging cost of battery to the battery usage cost.

Next, the Cost of Energy from Battery (CEB) Calculation is detailed. The number of battery replacements over the lifetime of the project can be calculated from the estimated battery life. In this study, the following cost model is used to calculate the CEB. In one embodiment, the cost of charging the battery is zero is assumed to be free.

$$AC = RBC \times \{ [CC + RC \times SFF(i, Y_{\text{rep}})] \times CRF(i, Y_{\text{proj}}) \} + RBC \times O \times MC \times (1 + f)^n \quad \text{where, } \square \\ \square (7) \square SFF(i, Y_{\text{rep}}) = \sum_{n=1}^{NO_{\text{rep}}} \frac{1}{(1+i)^n} \times Y_{\text{rep}} \quad (8) \square CRF(i, Y_{\text{proj}}) = \frac{i \times (1+i)^{Y_{\text{proj}}}}{(1+i)^{Y_{\text{proj}}} - 1} \quad (9) \square i = (i_{\text{nom}} - f) / (1 + f) \quad (10)$$

The capital cost of battery is dependent on its application. For commercial building application in the range of 25-50 kWh, it is \$4240/kWh in average (the actual price varies from \$2800 to \$5600/kWh). Since the capital cost includes cost of battery, power electronics, cost of installation, step-up transformer, smart-grid communication and controls, and grid interconnection to utility, the replacement cost is considered to be 60% of the capital cost in one implementation.

For O&MC, one exemplary value is equal to \$50/kAh/year. Additionally, the nominal annual interest and inflation rates are assumed to be 3.5% and 1.5%, respectively. In order to compare the cost of electricity from battery with that from grid, the cost of battery is translated to \$/kWh instead of \$/year. Thus, the cost of electricity from battery is expressed as follows:
 $CEB = AC / (8760 \times RBC) [\$/kWh] \quad (11)$

The system can perform Cost-based Energy storage dispatch: By comparing CEB with the grid price, the cheaper source of

energy either from the battery or from the grid is detected and will be used to supply the power shortage in the network. Once a decision is made to discharge the battery, target discharge power can be set equal to the minimum of power shortage and maximum discharge power capability of the battery.

Decision making process in the secondary power management unit is visually presented in FIG. 4, which shows an exemplary system with a secondary management system **350**. In this system, the secondary management system **350** receives utility rates **330** and the cost of energy from the battery CEB **320**. The secondary management system **350** then dispatches commands to the battery system.

The real-time power management framework enables cost-of-energy based discharge pattern for storage device to maximize its lifetime. A top-level supervisory real-time power management framework has been developed in order to guarantee the maximum possible battery lifetime based on the final price of energy, \$/kWh. The hierarchical (primary and secondary management units) approach makes it easy to prioritize different tasks of the management system based on their importance.

Different methods can be used to perform curve fitting on battery characteristics which are provided by the battery manufacturer or obtained from experiments. Curve fitting is necessary in order to define analytical functions describing the behavior of a battery to be used during the battery life estimation process.

One embodiment uses particle swarm optimization (PSO) as a heuristic optimization technique is able to achieve optimal solution in a small fraction of a second and is a curve fitting tool compatible with exponential nonlinear battery characteristics in terms of cycle lives versus depth of discharges. Therefore this technique is used instead of other conventional curve fitting tools such as non-linear least square (NLLS) method in battery life estimation applications.

FIG. 5 shows an exemplary process in the secondary management system **350**. First, the system determines if the battery state SOC is greater than 20% (**300**). If not, the process sets grid power to $P_{grid} = P_{scheduled-grid} - P_{mismatch}$ (**302**). The mismatch power calculation is determined as follows: A primary power management system which collects and analyzes real-time data about the generation level and demand to calculate the mismatch power in the network as follows:

$$P_{mismatch} = P_{DG} + P_{scheduled-grid} - P_{load}$$

where $P_{mismatch}$ is the mismatch power between the generation and the demand, P_{DG} is total distributed generation output powers, $P_{scheduled-grid}$ is the scheduled power from the grid, P_{load} is the demand in the distribution network.

From **300**, if the SOC is greater than 20%, the process determines CEB as discussed above (**310**) and then checks if C_g is greater than CEB (**312**). If not the process updates grid power as $P_{grid} = P_{scheduled-grid} + P_{mismatch}$ and places the battery in an inactive state (**314**). Alternatively, the battery is discharged (**316**).

Various implementations of the foregoing system are described next. The system supports intelligent power management system for energy storage in local distribution networks. The power management system operates based on unique characteristics of electric energy storage devices interconnected to utility distribution networks. The power management system focuses primarily on the life aspect of energy storage and improves lifetime of a storage unit by minimizing its operation and operation time. The system only charges/discharges the storage unit at specific time schedules. The system also limits the maximum operation time of a storage unit within each time interval (e.g. hour, day, month, . . .). Lifetime of a storage unit is increased by indirectly by imposing constraints on its operational power. The system limits the minimum discharge power of a storage unit thus reduces its operational time. The system limits the maximum discharge power of a storage unit to less than its nominal value thus reduces the deteriorating impact of high power discharges on the battery lifetime. The system only discharges the storage unit if the utility connection is lost due to a grid failure thus reduces the storage unit operation time. The system only charges/discharges the storage unit if certain conditions about time and power in the network are met. The system only discharges the storage unit if both utility electric price (in \$/kWh) and demand in the network (in kW) are above certain values thus reduces the utilization time of the storage unit.

One embodiment provides a closed-loop operation. In this embodiment, the power management system is equipped with direct measurement and/or estimation tools for energy storage performance and other parameters in the network. Output commands from the management system are updated in discrete time intervals based on the feedback signals from sensor/estimator modules. The system can be solely based on direct measurement of certain energy storage parameters. The power management system objective is to keep battery parameters within the pre-specified limits. The State of charge (SOC) (depth of discharge (DOD)) of a storage device measurement is continuously monitored SOC (DOD) to ensure it is within the recommended range. In case of any breach of SOC limits, the power management system halts the energy storage operation until necessary actions are taken by the user. The system continuously monitors temperature of a storage device to ensure it is within the recommended range. In case of any breach of temperature limits, the power management system halts the energy storage operation until necessary actions are taken by the user.

The system also provides State of health measurement (SOH). The system continuously monitors SOH of a storage device to ensure it is within the recommended range. In case of any breach of SOH limits, the power management system halts the energy storage operation until necessary actions are taken by the user. The system can be based on direct measurement as

well as estimation of some parameters related to the energy storage unit. If the estimated operational conditions of the energy storage are out of recommended range, the management system will not operate the storage unit. The system also estimates discharge power of the storage unit in the next control time-step based on forecast of generation and demand levels in the network. If the estimated discharge power is out of recommended range, the management system will not operate the storage unit. Depth of discharge and discharge current of the storage unit in the next control time-step is estimated based on forecast of generation and demand levels in the network, current value of depth of discharge and battery voltage. If the estimated depth of discharge and/or discharge current is out of recommended range, the management system will not operate the storage unit. The system estimates the life of the storage unit at each control time-step and halts the energy storage operation if it is close to end of its life. In one embodiment, particle swarm optimization (PSO) can be used to find the most accurate life estimation. Non-heuristic methods can be used to find the most accurate life estimation. The system can be based on direct measurement as well as estimation of some parameters related to the energy storage unit. The management system regulates the future operational condition of the storage unit based on measured/estimated parameters.

Charging conditions of the storage unit can be controlled to optimize battery life. The system ensures the battery is charged at a slow rate to enhance the battery lifetime. The system regulates temperature of the storage unit. The system regulates discharging condition of the storage unit. The system accumulates all information related to the discharge history of a storage unit over time and makes future discharge decision based on accumulated information. The system evaluates each likely discharge event in the future individually and makes decision based on the impact of individual discharge events on the storage life. The system regulates discharge events of a storage unit to achieve a certain objective function in the network. The system only discharges the battery if the accumulated impact of the new discharge event and all previous discharge events result in a storage life of greater than or equal to a pre-specified number of years. The system regulates discharge events of a storage unit to minimize the cost of energy for the end-user. The system focuses primarily on reducing cost of consumed energy through the operation of energy storage units.

The system can handle secondary power management activation when needed. In case of any shortage in the local generation (negative mismatch power), the primary power management system triggers the secondary power management unit to remedy the shortage either by importing power from the grid or discharging the battery (or both). Input parameters to the primary power management unit include DG output powers, load demand, battery state of charge (SOC), and scheduled imported power from the grid (if any). The primary power management unit checks the status of the network every minute to achieve a reliable and efficient real-time control of the system. If necessary, secondary power management is then triggered to decide on how to remove the power shortage in the network. The secondary real-time power management decides on how to remove the power shortage in a network. The unit compares the cost of electricity from the battery and from the grid (or other sources) in real-time to identify energy source with the lowest cost. The system receives the grid price signal from the utility or other energy providers to be used for the purpose of cost comparison. Dynamic storage cost calculation is done—the secondary power management unit continuously updates the cost of energy from the energy storage unit based on historical data about the operation of the storage unit as well as its estimated operation in the future.

Storage devices are an integral part of any microgrid, technically and economically. Also, batteries are always known as the most expensive part of microgrids. The foregoing power management framework for a grid-tied microgrid with battery as storage device extends the battery life and reducing the cost of the energy for the consumer. The management framework to achieve maximum battery lifetime based on battery life estimation and the price of energy. In one embodiment for the grid-tied microgrids which include wind turbine and PV solar panels as generation assets and Li-Ion battery as storage device, the system is optimally designed using HOMER® with real wind speed, solar radiation, grid electricity price, and load demand data. A dynamic model of each component for the designed system is developed in MATLAB/Simulink®. Various power management strategies are then implemented on the dynamic model of the microgrid with actual data for a year. Simulation results show that both goals have been achieved through the power management framework within three different scenarios.

PATENT CITATIONS

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CLASSIFICATIONS

U.S. Classification	700/286 , 700/298 , 702/63
International Classification	H02J3/38 , H02J9/00 , H02J7/34
Cooperative Classification	H02J7/34 , H02J3/381 , Y04S20/224 , H02J9/00

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