

Phase-selection algorithms to minimize cost and imbalance in U.S. synthetic distribution systems

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Abstract-

The increasing penetration of distributed energy resources (DERs) has driven a push toward new algorithms and tools for distribution system operation and planning; however, there is a lack of publicly available electrical distribution test systems at the large scale-multi-feeder, multi-substation-which are required for realistically evaluating the performance and scalability of these new developments. This paper presents a Reference Network Model (RNM) aimed to plan large-scale, U.S.-style, synthetic distribution systems. Special emphasis is placed on two algorithms that allow multi-phase feeder design: (1) a method to select the most suitable number of phases for each section considering the connected customers, and (2) a method to assign phases to the users to provide near-balanced phasing while maintaining realistic levels of imbalance. The performance of the developed algorithms is verified by comparing the obtained system designs with the original IEEE 8,500-node test feeder and the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) J1 feeder.

Index Terms- Power distribution; System planning; Reference Network Model; Representative networks; Synthetic networks; Phase imbalance

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